The Butterfly Observer

Cornwall Butterfly Conservation Newsletter No. 45



Garden Tiger - a declining species. Penhale Sands, 20th June 2009. Photo © P.H. Boggis

Butterfly Conservation

Winter 2010

Editorial

Firstly, in the last issue on pages 21 and 22, Dunsford Reserve is mentioned as East Devon instead of mid Devon. Also on page 20, the Yellow-tail moth larva should of course be the Knot Grass. My apologies for these mistakes.

This is the last issue I shall be producing and editing. It has been an enjoyable exercise albeit somewhat daunting at times.

In this bumper issue (32 pages) there are several controversial articles which I felt needed an airing - see pages 8-11.

More migrant/emigrant Red Admirals are discussed on pages 7 and 8 with an observation from Derek Spooner.

John Worth, our County Recorder for butterflies, has published two 1 kilometre square maps of all butterfly records from 2001 to 2009 - see pages 12 -13

Page 13 also sees Patrick Saunders discussing the Seaton Valley Local Nature Reserve - a very informative article.

A piece entitled, 'In the Depths of Winter' can be found on page 16 whilst Jim Barker reports on the results of the new transect system known as the Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey (WCBS) on pages 18-20.

Forthcoming field meetings can be found on pages 22-28 with detailed accounts of each site compiled by Lee Slaughter our Field Trip Organiser.

The British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) March programme can be found on pages 29 and 30.

Finally, a reminder of National Moth (& Bat) Night can be found at the bottom of page 20 and Tim & Sandy Dingle's 'Garden Open' day on page 21. ~ Ed.

Chairman's Report – Winter 2010.

Many thanks for a great turn out at the AGM with the added interest this year of Zoe Randle who gave us a lovely talk on the National Moth Recording Scheme along with the attendance of Julia Goldsworthy MP who gave us a chance to speak to her on the issues that concern Butterfly Conservation in Cornwall, which she patiently listened to and took away for further investigation.

Maybe it would be a good idea next year to start the meeting a little earlier with a couple of relevant workshops before the business part of the day. Many good ideas were suggested for the future, with more emphasis this year on moths which will be discussed at our next committee meeting on 2nd March 2010.

Looking back, I make it three poor summers in a row, so surely we're in for a good one this year - let's hope we get lucky. I hope we will all also try to attend some of the more interesting moth events.

Our thanks also to Tim Dingle for a very interesting slide and talk on his area at the edge of the Millook Valley near Bude. I suggest we have a planned field trip there this year (still to be arranged).

At the AGM a question was asked concerning the distribution of the Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary. From recent searches it looks like the butterfly is doing very well everywhere along the coast of Cornwall except a large stretch of seemingly good maritime grassland from the Lizard Point to way past Mevagissey (c. 20 miles) where no known colonies have been seen of this butterfly - and that is a bit strange as it is doing well everywhere else on the coast in Cornwall - so more searches will need to be carried out in 2010. It has been a year of changing fortunes for butterflies and 2010 will go down in our books as the cold winter after the cold summer, again not worth a celebration of

good weather in summer or winter, as we look out today on fields of deep cold water. Let us hope it changes soon, not forgetting the middle of England has had it much worse than us for the second time this year.

We already know that the Marsh Fritillary has suffered dramatic losses after counting their webs this autumn. The general consensus I'm sure will be that June and July were 8 weeks of cold, wet weather and for all spring breeding butterflies that had just laid minute eggs which would hatch into pin-head size caterpillars, it was probably either drown or simply die of lack of warmth and opportunity to feed and digest food. This is probably true for other species that were trying to breed during the same wet period last summer. We can only hope for a better season in 2010. Wouldn't it be great to experience another one of those halcyon years of perfect weather to get us back on track?

On a more positive note, work parties have been beavering away at some 5 sites this winter, managing vegetation for our crucial rare species. The most recent was last week at Luckett where 16 people attended a working party, braving the weather between some very heavy rain (one volunteer even brought along their baby!) The site is now in pristine condition so well done all concerned, again a very enjoyable day - just as last year. Of course without this generous band of dedicated people, the butterfly would have probably disappeared by now.

Moving on to another team of workers, BTCV has a programme of management days on Bodmin Moor as part of the Blisland Commons Scheme and has already been very active at De Lank Quarry and Fellover Brake. Tim Dingle organised a day at Bunny's Hill with North Cornwall District Council but unfortunately hit poor weather, as also this week at the new site behind the St. Breward Post Office which belongs to Tim Hutton.

There will be more work parties, for instance, Paul Browning is organising a day for Grizzled Skippers at West Goss Moor. My Duchy College students have been able to join in on these which has meant another 10 people per day working with BTCV towards their qualification in vegetation management so at last we are beginning to try and make that big difference of creating more habitat per year than is lost to natural succession.

This is the sort of effort we have built up over the last couple of years to keep on top of management in Cornwall. This is not bad, as a few years ago, nothing ever seemed to happen. We are on the positive side, creating habitat fit for living, breeding butterflies and learning all the skills to go with actually doing what is needed at a cost to no one but ourselves. We supply our own food, petrol, tools, expertise and most of all enthusiasm and energy, so feel proud to be involved and helping.

I hope to see all your shining faces at all of the old sites, hopefully in good weather, for many more interesting and enjoyable field trips this coming year!

~ Phil Harris, February 2010.

Please note deadlines for contributions are as follows:

- Winter issue: 1st. February
- Spring issue: 1st. May
- Autumn issue: 1st. September

Many thanks for your co-operation. ~ Ed.

Cornwall Butterfly Conservation Annual General Meeting.

The Annual General Meeting of the above Branch was held at Cornwall Wildlife Trust's Headquarters, Allet on Saturday 16th January 2010.

1. Apologies were given by Tim Dingle and Jim Curnow.

2. The minutes of the meeting held on 17th January 2009 were accepted as a correct record and there were no matters arising.

3. The Chairman welcomed everyone to our 17th AGM. He was delighted to see many new faces along with the regulars and noted that again we had a full house. He was also very pleased that Dr. Zoe Randle from HQ had come all the way from Dorset to give us a presentation and that Julia Goldsworthy, MP for Falmouth and Camborne was also able to be with us. Butterfly news was mixed again. Last year we had the third poor July and August in succession, offset by a reasonable spring and excellent June with an Indian summer and then record low temperatures this winter. The erratic weather was inevitably going to be bad news for some butterflies, particularly where existing populations were isolated and numbers already low, although interestingly, declines are not always related to weather as some problems continue to be site rather than species specific and could be more associated with unsympathetic management. He reported that there had been an excellent programme of Field Trips with some proving really productive in terms of butterflies and moths recorded when we were lucky with the weather. The Painted Lady invasion had been spectacular although the wet summer and sheer volume of caterpillars devouring food-plants had militated against the numbers of expected offspring being of similar magnitude. Phil then said he wished to start a debate about the best way forward for the Branch. It is a decade since our Butterfly Atlas was compiled and it now seems appropriate to review progress. Where are the gaps in recording? Have all the hours and mileage devoted to conservation work and butterfly monitoring been worthwhile? Should we now be stricter about prioritising work for the future which might mean being ruthless in abandoning sites which are not sustainable? Are there additional species of concern identified in recent years on which we should be focusing efforts? The Committee will need to get its head round all these issues but it is clear that a worthwhile audit of the situation in Cornwall will require more members getting involved. It was suggested that it would be helpful to have a map on the website with a record of the year's sightings as this might help to target our efforts appropriately.

4. Paul Browning presented the accounts for the financial year 1st April 2008 to 31st March 2009 and these were adopted. The opening balance on 1st April 2008 was £2,973.34 and the closing balance on 31st March 2009 was £3,653.68. Total credits were £1,512.94 and total debits were £832.60. The present amount in the bank stands at £4,027.78. As we have come to the end of the decade Paul also reviewed the accounts since the Branch started. A suggestion was made that we look at spending money on a digital projector.

5. Jim Barker, Phil Boggis, Maggie Goodere, Carly Hoskin, Chris Hyland, Lee Slaughter and Adrian Spalding submitted themselves for re-election to the Commit tee. Paul Browning, Phil Harris and Steve Hoskin retired in rotation but also submitted themselves for re-election. The block election of the committee mem-

bers was proposed and carried unanimously. Four new committee members, Paul Brewer, Keith Wilson, Jo and Shaun Poland were proposed and seconded and duly elected to the Committee.

6. There being no other proposals, the following were confirmed by the meeting as:

Chairman	Phil Harris
Treasurer	Paul Browning
Secretary	Maggie Goodere

7. Points raised under AOB included the following:

- Adrian Spalding reported back on the Large Blue Project and gave us the good news that an Officer had been appointed for a 2 year project concentrating on the North Coast, encouraging farmers to go into Higher Level Stewardship in ways that would enhance the habitat for this butterfly. The Large Blue will always struggle if there are only a couple of suitable sites and this year the existing population has been badly affected by the poor weather. He agreed to submit an article about this to the magazine.
- Jim Barker gave an excellent short presentation with the results from both the Squares and Transect monitoring illustrated graphically. He hoped that more people would get involved this year and particularly wanted more recorders in East Cornwall.
- Two concerns were directed at Julia Goldsworthy, both in relation to wildlife protection. Firstly, there was the issue raised by Sally Foster regarding the lack of flexibility with regard to SSSI notifications. Often original notifications were not based on systematic surveys and rare species (particularly invertebrates) were not necessarily included. In addition, there seems to be no provision for regular reviews of the original notification which might reflect changes in status of species and subsequent identification of protected species which were not originally included. If we do not take account of the wide range of species inhabiting an SSSI and their interdependence, insensitive management, in order to maintain a particular habitat, regardless of the consequences for individual species, sometimes occurs. Examples of when this has had serious implications for wildlife include over-grazing or over-zealous scrub and tree clearance resulting in the loss of BAP species and disturbance of the eco-system. Julia agreed to research the basis for the original notification and the opportunities for review. Secondly, Dick Goodere raised concerns regarding legislation to protect butterflies and its enforcement. He gave an example of someone in the Land's End area challenged by a member of the public when observed catching and chloroforming butterflies which were understood to include Silver Studded Blues (one of 12 butterfly species protected by the Countryside and Wild Life 1981 Act Schedule 5 Section 9.) Dick asked if all butterflies on the UK BAP list should be similarly protected, whether anyone had experience of the Wildlife Police in action and indeed how often the law actually is enforced in relation to invertebrates. This sparked a lively debate including reservations expressed about tightening up the law over....

because this might mean certain species could not be netted or even photographed at close range. It was suggested that if BC members were challenged in bona fide situations it was important not to be defensive but to show permits from land owners and explain exactly why nets were being used. Julia said she could make use of the House of Commons Library to find out more information about the Act's implementation and she also said she was happy to be contacted if there were concerns which could not be resolved in relation to Government Departments or the Local Authority. The Chair thanked Julia for showing such interest and she said she was happy to meet with members of the Committee at a future date if we felt she could be of help.

- There was a suggestion from the floor that perhaps we should consider a publication on moths similar to our Butterfly Atlas. It was generally felt that this would be too mammoth a task but Adrian Spalding did say he might be interested in contributing to some sort of publication in relation to the rarer Cornish moths
- Tim Dingle's Open Day which is part of the National Garden Scheme and will raise money for CBC will take place on June 27th this year.

8. A short break followed when refreshments were served and the raffle drawn.

9. Dr. Zoe Randle gave a presentation entitled "Millions of Moths Counted and Mapped" during which she gave an account of the 4 year BC Project encouraging greater recording of moths which is due to end next August. The project focused mainly on macro moths of which there are about 900 species in the UK. They are extremely important indicators of change in the environment. Unfortunately 2/3rd of species have declined in the last 35 years and total numbers are also down by 1/3rd with a disproportionate decrease in the south of 45%. Some fairly common species such as the Garden Tiger have declined by 80%. There had been enormous media coverage which had done an excellent job in raising public awareness of moths and their diversity. Millions of records had been submitted which hopefully can be used to influence Biodiversity Action Plans and Government policy in relation to the environment. It was pointed out by members of the audience that there has been a growing interest from CBC members in moths and that it makes sense for day flying moths to be noted and records submitted by butterfly enthusiasts. As the remit of Butterfly Conservation covers both butterflies and moths it was suggested by members of the audience that we should write to Butterfly Conservation suggesting that its name should be changed to Butterfly and Moth Conservation as this would help raise the profile of moths.

10. Paul Browning gave an illustrated talk about the habitat management carried out by volunteers in recent years on conservation days with the aim of preserving some of our endangered butterflies. He explained how conditions had improved on the Goss Moor site for the Grizzled Skipper by enabling the wild strawberry plants to flourish as vegetation is cleared. Work on the Deer Park site to save the Heath Fritillary, after initial success, has not in the end proved worth the effort. Excess vegetation, which increasingly took over between clearance days, together with very poor weather have contributed to the butterfly's demise but the fact that the site is so small and isolated gave it very little chance. The Committee has suggested

with regret that we abandon our conservation days to allow the hazel to grow up over a number of years in order to get rid of other vegetation such as Rosebay Willow-herb and Bracken and then review the situation but there is no point in reintroducing the Heath Fritillary until optimum conditions are in place. Paul also mentioned the clearance work carried out at De Lank Quarry to help the Pearl-bordered Fritillary. This was initiated by Sally Foster and the site is now a regular commitment for BTCV. Their conservation work has proved of real benefit for a variety of butterflies. There was great hope for a new BTCV project for Bodmin Moor but we have just heard a funding bid has been rejected. This is an area with rich bio-diversity which needs considerable support and so there is great disappointment.

11. Phil Harris closed the meeting by thanking all our presenters and everyone who had attended.

~ Maggie Goodere (Secretary)

Red Admiral Influx.

Last September I received an e-mail from Derek Spooner which arrived just too late for inclusion in the last issue. In his e-mail Derek describes an influx of Red Admirals at Looe. This news prompted me to contact Roger Lane, our Migrant Officer, to see what he had to say, Derek's e-mail and Roger's reply follow:

~ Ed.

From Derek Spooner:

There has been a massive influx of Red Admirals in Looe. This morning (12th September 2009) I counted over 100 on the Wooldown in East Looe in ten minutes. Yesterday there were a lot on the beach. This coincides with light easterly winds. Would these be immigrants, or is this a local population explosion? Either way, it is spectacular - there are even more than there were Painted Ladies earlier in the year!'

P.S. I read somewhere that it was a poor year for Red Admirals. Not any more!

Roger Lane's reply:

Derek, your high numbers of Red Admirals at Looe coincide, more or less with those in my field note-book. I spent most of the September 2009 days in coastal areas trying to sort the immigrants from the emigrants! What is not widely realised is that mid-September is the time of maximum movement for the Red Admiral, in that the emigration of our home-bred Red Admirals is at its peak, but by no means over, and it often coincides with waves of immigrants, as you suggest.

When this occurs it is CHAOS on the coast, especially ivy-clad cliffs. Once alighted it is almost impossible to know which are immigrants or emigrants. It seems, from my note-book, that the two days prior to your sightings, it was almost totally sunny, and you note that a light easterly was blowing, THE ideal conditions for immigration (which goes on until at least 1st November, on 3 occasions in the last decades). My own note-book shows I recorded just under 200 Red Admirals over....

on 10th September 2009; c. 175 Red Admirals on 11th and 65+ Red Admirals on the 12th September 2009, with lesser numbers both before and after those dates, (all on or near the coast). This does suggest an 'arrival', but where from? With the ideal conditions you describe (light easterlies, with sunny skies), and the situation you describe, I suggest the majority were recently arrived immigrants. These do not normally spend much time on beaches or near the coast but fly inland for nectar and woodland territories but may have been exhausted after a long flight, perhaps from Northeastern Europe.

I have a slight advantage having spent a whole year (1995) observing Red Admiral migration every day of the spring, summer and autumn (up to the 7th November) from the same spot ! That year the largest and latest emigration was on 31st October 1995 (c. 70 southwest) and the latest immigration on 1st November 1995 (c. 50 northeast), but north-ward movement of these continued, on sunny days only, until 7th November ! There really is no problem in telling the immigrants from the emigrants, since they flew either northeast or northwest, none in east - west quadrants, but that was 1 kilometre inland from the coast, away from the chaos at the beaches!

If you wish to be sure in similar circumstances look upward and see if they are coming in-off-the-sea, thus immigrants. I consider the bulk of emigrants leave early in the morning, in suitable conditions.

Best wishes,

Roger Lane, (CBC Migrant Officer).

There now follows a report sent in by our Secretary Maggie Goodere, who was in contact with a lady who suspected that someone was collecting and killing protected species.

An alternative view is expressed in an emotive article about the use of nets by Lee Slaughter, a former chairman, and is currently our Field Trip Organiser and cares passionately about butterflies. I feel we all probably fall into one camp or the other on these issues, and few 'sit on the fence', I therefore invited Lee to comment on the article. In conclusion, I have included an editorial comment - seeking to bring together what appears to be diametrically opposed opinions.

~ Ed.

Number One Lady Detective.

I just wanted to pay tribute to the courage and persistence of a gallant member of the public who contacted me earlier this summer. Out on a walk from Sennen with husband and dog along the coastal path not far beyond the Land's End complex, she spotted a man netting butterflies and then killing them. When confronted, the man said he was doing it for his collection. She pointed out that it was much better to enjoy them in the wild but to no avail. She then followed him back to the car park at Land's End, hoping to get his registration number. She waited while he had a snack but no sign of a car so followed him to the bus stop. Her husband and dog caught the bus home in the opposite direction while she got on the other bus still on his trail until they reached Penzance. Unfortunately she had to abandon

her mission when he boarded a train. She then contacted the Wildlife Police who could do nothing in this case but advised anyone coming across similar situations to ask the individual to produce a permit from the landowner.

Apparently it is illegal to take wildlife from sites without the owner's permission. If any of us encounter this man or someone acting in a similar manner it would be sensible to call the Police by mobile phone if unsatisfied with his response when challenged. ~ Maggie Goodere

Often just simply waving a net around is enough for some to 'see red' for both the 'accused' and the 'accuser'. Lee Slaughter's article illustrates the point:

'The Net'.

Here we go again! The isolated collector picked on for NOT breaking the law as far as I see it. I do not know of any butterfly species found near Land's End that are fully protected under section 5 of the 1981 Wildlife & Countryside Act. He was probably doing nothing other than collecting Common Blues or Meadow Browns or other reasonably common species! If he'd been found collecting the Heath Fritillary from Greenscoombe Woods, Luckett then that would have been a different matter altogether. I get fed up to the back teeth with, in my opinion, completely ignorant self policing members of the public chipping in and spouting the law for something that a harmless individual has undertaken as a hobby/scientific study just because they are doing their bit to see that 'The Net' is punished! 'The Net' is the problem! We don't seem to get any negative feedback from fellow 'moth-ers' or people attending moth nights when someone has to take home a moth for positive ID or as a voucher specimen! Why? Because I believe 'The Net' is hated, usually by the older generation and those who have no knowledge of the real reason why our wildlife, as well as our butterflies, have declined so dramatically over the last 60 years.

When I was 10 years old and lived in London my father took me to the New Forest in the spring of 1975 to look for Brimstone butterflies as I had never seen one alive before. I carried a small home-made butterfly net as I could not afford anything else and after not too long, saw a beautiful yellow male Brimstone flying next to some woodland and I chased after it but could not catch it! I was then aware of two well dressed middle-aged ladies on horseback a few yards away who then proceeded to shout abuse at me and tell me off in no uncertain terms for attempting to catch the butterfly! As well as being branded cruel and wicked, I was left quite upset! I always remember their 'snooty' voices too, and their judgemental attitude. I composed myself and carried on, eventually catching another male Brimstone which I took home with me to London to set. I still have that butterfly now, 35 years later. My enthusiasm is now aimed at helping conserve Cornwall's butterflies as well as forming a digital collection of images of Britain's butterflies. I also wonder how many insects or other small forms of wildlife those two 'snooty' women killed with their horses' hooves on that spring day in 1975 compared to my taking that one Brimstone? I'm also glad that that incident did not kill my love for these beautiful insects.

Returning to 'The Net'; if the day ever comes when nets are not welcomed on our branch's butterfly field meetings, that will be the day that I cease to attend

over....

them! Fortunately that is not likely, however some BC branches I believe, under no circumstances, allow nets at any of their field meetings! I think the organisers of these events are, in my opinion, nothing more than empire builders and self appointed Wildlife Police Enforcement Officers. In 17 years of organising, arranging and attending Cornwall's Butterfly field meetings I have yet to come across anyone at all who is offended at the carrying of nets at our meetings! We have come across quite a few who are surprised that we allow them and they are often enthralled at the extra moths or the odd butterfly with a variable marking that otherwise would have scooted off at speed and not been seen by those attending. This makes me think that society has placed 'The Net' into the politically incorrect bin together with most other good things in the last 20 years or so!

I would like to meet with the gentleman concerned who was accosted at Land's End, then harassed and followed. I would certainly be interested in what he was collecting as there is a possibility that he may have been studying local forms or geographical variation in some common species such as the Meadow Brown. This can only be undertaken by highly skilled experts and knowledgeable enthusiasts who study the noticeable but also tiny differences in the variation in markings caused by local climate, topographical and landscape influences. There is a far better chance I could learn infinitely more from this harassed individual than from this lady dog walker.

I am now fortunate to have a slightly better net than all those years ago in the New Forest. On our field meetings, I feel I am often the lively individual who goes off the beaten track to find those hidden moths flying in the opposite direction, or that special butterfly which no one can get near to net. I then place them carefully in a pill-box and return to the field meeting to pass around the large number of enthralled enthusiasts who often attend our field meetings. Absolutely no-one has yet complained to me, and all we ever get are many, many compliments from lovely people who we have helped to enrich their knowledge of butterflies and moths in Cornwall and make their day out with us extra special! Would this lady and her dog have been so helpful? Maybe she should have had a word with the Land's End complex owners as to why they turned this special area into a theme park. However, few people come to see the wildlife, but only, in my opinion, the extravaganza now built there that does absolutely nothing to help local wildlife and the local environment/countryside!

~ Lee Slaughter. (Cornwall Butterfly Conservation Field Meeting Officer) and proud carrier of a Watkins & Doncaster butterfly kite net.

Editorial Comment.

Apparently it seems that the person in the Land's End area seen killing specimens was probably not breaking the law with regard to perhaps the only scheduled butterfly under the Wildlife and Countryside Act that is possibly found there, namely the Silver-studded Blue. This species is only protected to the extent that it must not be sold. (*Section 9 Part 5 (a) - selling, offering for sale, possessing or transporting for the purpose of sale (live or dead animal, part or derivative) and Section 9 Part 5 (b) - advertising for buying or selling live or dead animal, part or derivative).* Please see the following links:

http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/reports_law.php and:
http://www.buglife.org.uk/conservation/policy/tableofinvertebratespeciesonthewildlifeandcountrysidelaw
However, I believe he should have had permission from the land-owner except perhaps if he was on common land. Some codes of practice have been written as a guide to 'good behaviour'. I think the trampling down of small colony sites by avid sightseers is to be discouraged as well as of course, the collecting of sensitive and fully protected species.

There are valid reasons to collect specimens but collecting nowadays is frowned upon as good digital photography has taken its place - this especially so as our habitats are further eroded so as not to support lepidoptera in the numbers they have previously. These declines are not generally the fault of the over zealous collector, but because of severe habitat loss, fragmentation and detrimental agricultural practice. It has to be said however, that only specimens, not photographs, are acceptable for formal scientific investigation (that required by the Natural History Museum for example).

There are two schools of thought about nets and collecting. As long as collecting is for sound scientific study, I see no reason to hinder the odd taking of specimens for correct identification (especially micro moths). There is still, I believe, a place for reference collections and I have had recourse on a number of occasions to view them for taxonomic and identification purposes. I would not want to see this outlawed! Sense must surely prevail here but I fear that with exponential declines in future years, we will all be unable to access, in the wild, even some of our more common species that occur at the present! Some have an interest in rearing specimens for scientific study and indeed to breed through a species is a rewarding and informative pastime which has added immensely to our knowledge of the various species of lepidoptera.

Our branch, as far as I'm aware, does not generally frown upon the use of nets at our field meetings. Unless there are confusing species out at the same time, it is not generally necessary to use a net. However, in Cornwall, over a fair proportion of the season, we do have similar species flying (depending on the site) and for this reason we have quite often used nets to correctly identify what we see. A number of people have a general interest in lepidoptera beyond just butterflies and I would never discourage them from bringing along a net. Indeed to do so would be seen as most restrictive and officious and I am sure some would never attend our meetings again. There are however, sound reasons not to disturb gravid females. Netting may prevent their proper ovipositing or prevent it altogether.

My view is that we ought not to open a ‘Pandora’s box' no matter how deeply we may feel about the various aspects of taking specimens. As I've said before, small colonies and sensitive areas should be protected and very often are through Wildlife Wardens etc. Where blatant infringements have taken place, our only recourse is, as has been suggested, to involve the Wildlife Police and I believe we all should know who they are and how to contact them.

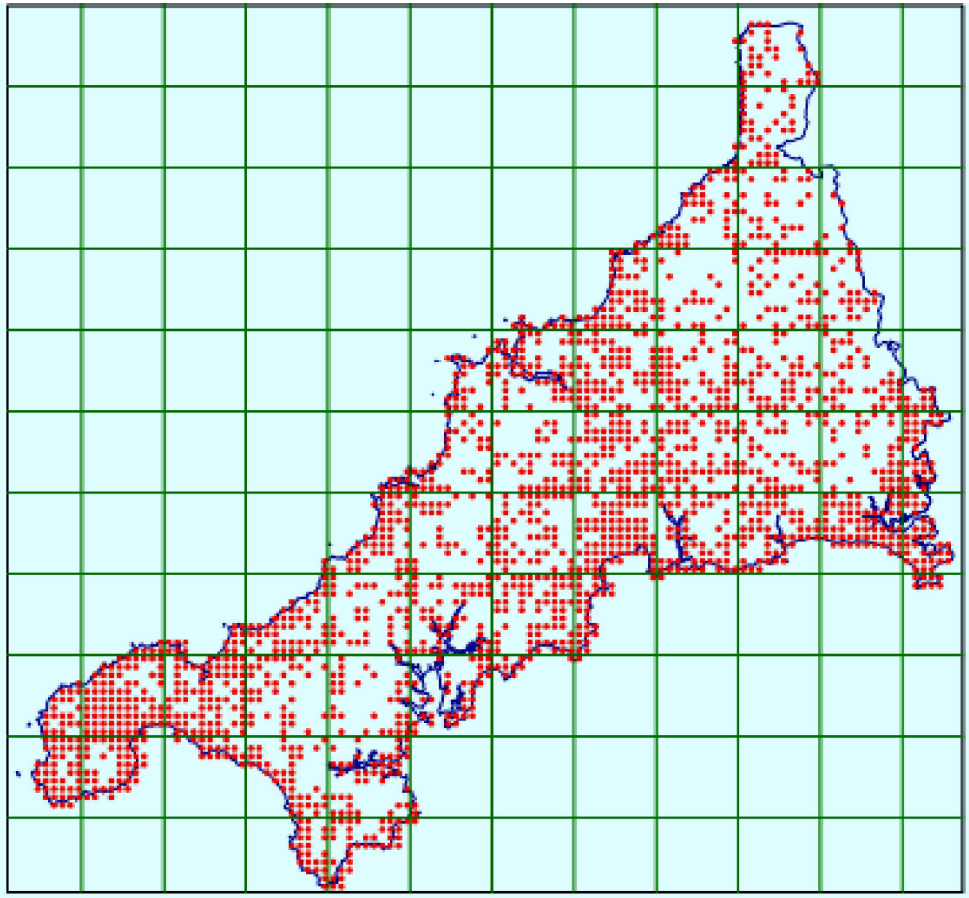
I think it is fair to say that we all fall into one camp or the other on these issues. Probably few 'sit on the fence'. My view, rightly or wrongly, is that we ought to, where necessary, 'live and let live' for the sake of good harmonious relations.

~ Ed.

Butterfly records 2001- 09.

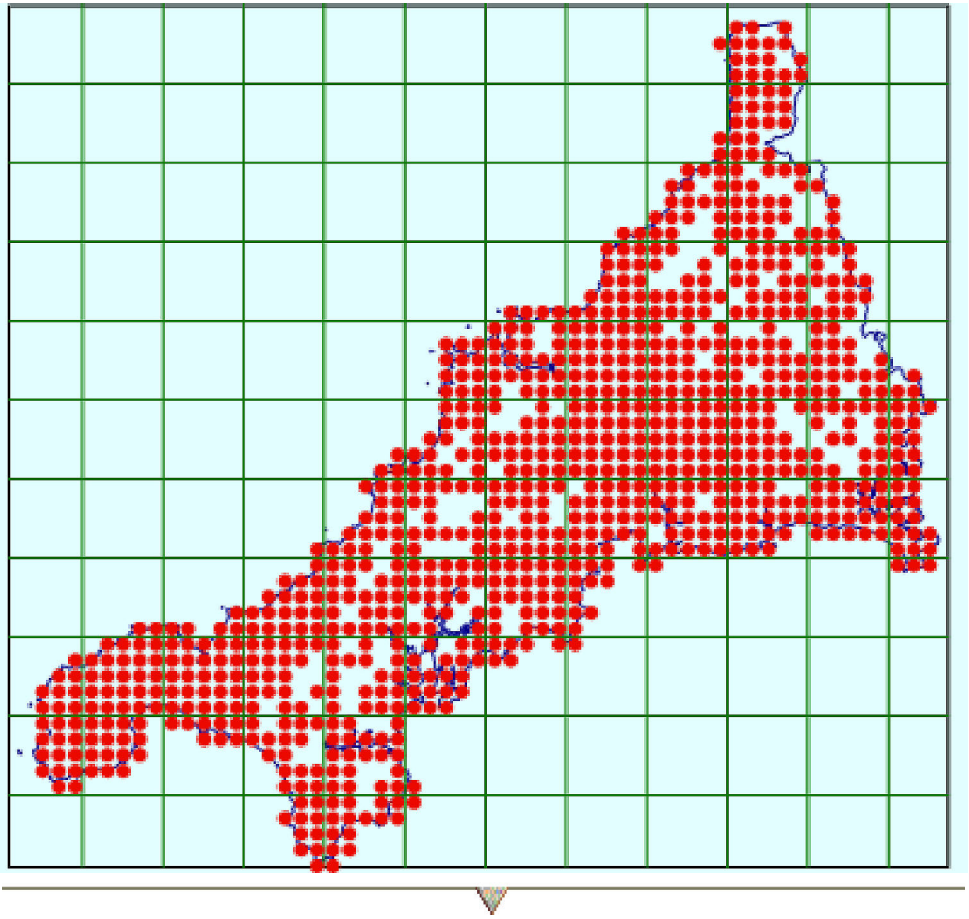
From John Worth our County Butterfly Recorder.

All butterfly records since (and including) 2001. I did look at a map with all records but it is just a mass of dots. This is about the clearest I can get. A total of 52397 records in 1981 km. squares.



On page 13 is the tetrad map, for comparison, which looks better but is less useful (892 tetrads).

Our thanks to John for all the years of valuable work done in this important area of butterfly recording - often a thankless task that I personally feel can so often be taken for granted. *~ Ed.*



Seaton Valley Local Nature Reserve.

By Patrick Saunders.

Background

Seaton Valley (SX3054) is a river valley area between Seaton and Hessenford on the south Cornish coast about 3 miles east from Looe. The valley itself has a range of habitats of interest for wildlife. This article mainly refers to the area covered by the Local Nature Reserve. The northern end of the Local Nature Reserve (L.N.R.), towards Hessenford, mainly consists of various woodland habitats with dry oak woodland on the slopes and wetter alder/willow carr in the valley bottom. The southern end of the L.N.R. includes the remaining more open areas with dry and wet grassland and bare ground habitats and wet and dry scrub. Outside the L.N.R. there are also some woodlands of interest including semi natural oak woodland and conifer plantations on previously ancient woodland along with some grassland and scrub areas. over....

Rare Species and Habitats.

Historically, the Seaton Valley has been quite well recorded by members of the Caradon Field and Natural History Club and quite a large number of interesting species have been recorded.

A snapshot of some of the rare insects recorded at Seaton:

Species Name	Location	Status	Presence/Absence
Marbled White	Seaton L.N.R.	Local in Cornwall	Present
Pearl-bordered Fritillary	Seaton L.N.R.	BAP priority	Occasional- was colony in wider valley
High Brown Fritillary	Seaton L.N.R.	BAP priority	No longer present
Andrena proxima (a solitary bee)	Seaton L.N.R.	Red Data Book	Present
Dingy Skipper	Seaton L.N.R.	BAP priority	Present
Grizzled Skipper	Seaton	BAP priority	No longer present
Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary	Seaton	BAP priority	No longer present
Galium Carpet (*Epirrhoe galiata*)	Seaton	BAP priority	Recorded in valley area?
Dot Moth (*Melanchra persicariae*)	Seaton	BAP priority	Recorded in valley area?
Grey Dagger (*Acronicta psi*)	Seaton	BAP priority	Recorded in valley area?
Marsh Fritillary	Seaton	BAP priority	Has been recorded, although seems suspect
Eucera longicornis (long horned bee)	Hessenford	BAP priority	No longer present, likely to have declined from wider valley
Nomada hirtipes (a solitary bee)	Hessenford	Red Data Book	May be present in wider area

From the butterfly perspective, one of the interesting areas was apparently Kev-eral wood. There was a colony of the very rare **Grizzled Skipper** (*Pyrgus malvae*) **Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary** (*Boloria selene*). and **Pearl- bordered Fritillary** (*Boloria euphrosyne*). This area is outside the L.N.R. and these colonies have been destroyed by afforestation with conifer trees. **Pearl-bordered Fritillary** was seen in 2009 in the valley bottom although the habitats in the L.N.R. are now not really suitable, and the individual was probably a stray.

High Brown Fritillary (*Argynnis adippe*) is nationally declining and did occur in the valley. It was subject to a reintroduction in the 1990s.There probably is no longer the bracken and woodland ride habitats to support it and much of the broadleaved woodland within the valley is now quite shady and unmanaged

Dingy Skipper (*Erynnis tages*) occurs in the valley bottom and along the coast. The areas supporting **Dingy Skipper** are also good for **Marbled White** (*Melanargia galathea*). These represent the best areas for a number of other invertebrates and within these areas is the high quality and species rich grassland. Species such as **Long-winged Coneheads** (*Conocephalus discolor*) and the **Wasp Spider** (*Argiope bruennichi*) have been recorded. Unimproved grassland plants of interest include **Yellow Bartsia** *Parentucellia viscose* and **Red Bartsia** (*Odonities verna*). The more open ponds and temporary water bodies can be good for dragonflies. The immigrant **Red-veined Darter** (*Sympetrum fonscolombii*) has been seen in Seaton. The migrant Hawker (*Aeshna mixta*) can be abundant here.

From a protected habitat point of view, Seaton has a number of Bio-diversity Action Plan (BAP) priority habitats including 'Wet Woodland', 'Lowland Meadows' and a recent BAP priority habitat, 'Open Mosaic Habitats on Previously Developed Land'. The latter two are the most interesting for butterflies and other bugs. The last is a new category brought in to protect brownfield sites (sites with a history of industry or development). Seaton probably wouldn't be thought of as a brownfield site but creation of a caravan site at least 20 years ago brought hard standing and disturbed conditions. These have created interesting and rich habitats both botanically and for invertebrates. Ironically it is these sorts of artificial habitats which are vital for conservation of some of our native species.



Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Murrayton, South Cornwall.
Photo © P. Saunders

Change in the Valley.

As can be seen from the species list there has been a great decline in wildlife interest in the wider valley.

The site is now being covered with willow, birch and alder scrub, after its creation in 1997, and this has drastically reduced the remaining open habitats. Whilst this could be considered a 'natural' succession, it is however, resulting in a large decline in the bio-diversity of the site. With the remaining open areas so fragmented, they must be barely large enough to support viable populations. The main area of open meadow is actually outside the L.N.R.



Speckled Bush Cricket, Seaton Valley.
Photo © P. Saunders

The past Local Authority were very pro-active and thoughtful in setting up the reserve, and very proactive about interpretative works and access, but an authority with a very limited budget with lots of competing interests meant that conservation management was not adequately tackled.

over....

My Heretical Views.

'One Cornwall' is now in charge of the site and I feel it could be one of the easier sites to turn round with enough will, particularly when so many of the unprotected sites have been lost. Cornwall County staff are being very supportive and are interested in records from the site. I have, along with County staff, been organising some volunteer workdays. Authorities do have a statutory duty to protect biodiversity. I feel it is probably only going to be with the pressure of enough local people suggesting to Authorities that local biodiversity matters, that this duty will be taken seriously.



Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Murrayton, South Cornwall. Photo © P. Saunders

Everyone probably has a view on which council service could be cut to pay for what they consider important. I personally don't quite understand why 'neat amenity' is so important. Why not cut some of the amenity areas less frequently and use the money or time on the nature reserve. Why not consider the feasibility of coppicing nature reserves, cut on rotation, for small power and heat plants or, providing both adhere to a strict management plan agreed by ecologists, allow local communities to cut and collect firewood for free, ensuring that the wildlife benefits as well as the community.

In the Depths of Winter.

By Phil Boggis (CBC Moth Officer).

During these cold, dank days of winter it is heartening to find signs of life amongst our lepidoptera. The Herald (*Scoliopteryx libatrix)*, a fairly common species, is one of the few noctuid moths that hibernate and can often be found during the winter months in outhouses, cellars, barns, caves, even holes in the ground such as under manhole covers and are fond of congregating in numbers. The specimen illustrated on page 17 fluttered down onto my basement stairs in December just before the really cold weather set in. It can be seen after hibernation from March to June, and again from late July to November in two generations, depending on locality, so the ones you see in March are already 4 or 5 months old! It is a moderately common species but less so in Scotland. It inhabits woodland, marshes, commons, parks and gardens where the larvae feed on a number of trees such as Sallow, Willow, Aspen, Osier and Poplar. The moth, with its scalloped edges, can resemble a dead or dying leaf and can be quite cryptic. In the autumn the adult is often seen at night feeding on Ivy blossom and overripe blackberries. The moth is, not surprisingly, attracted to sugar or a treacle patch, lovingly provided

as bait by the lepidopterist. It also comes in small numbers to light traps. I would like to believe that the moth is called the Herald because its appearance in March heralds the coming spring.

Another moth frequently seen indoors during the winter months, but probably overlooked because of its small size, is *Mompha divisella* (it does not have an English name). The moth has a wingspan of between 10 and 13mm which, for a micro-moth, is quite large! The moths emerge in August and can be found, after hibernation, till May. The specimen illustrated below was seen flying towards my basement light on the 15th January this year. I have seen this moth a number of times over the past 12 years in my house. The dates are: 15th Oct.1998, 8th Nov. 2002, 25th Feb. 2003. Its distribution is said to be widespread but local in England as far north as Cumbria. There is one generation a year and the larvae feed in the stems of Broad-leaved Willowherb, Marsh Willowherb and other Willowherbs, causing a gall which is generally situated at one of the nodes and is about the size of a large pea. Galls are probably caused by the larvae irritating the plant as they eat away at the pith in the hollow stems. The moth can be found in damp woodland, shaded situations, waste ground and open areas.



The Herald moth, St. Austell, 15th December 2009.
Photo © P. H. Boggis



***Mompha divisella*, St. Austell, 15th January 2010.**
Photo © P. H. Boggis

Another moth I have found in my basement in the depths of winter is the small case-bearing clothes moth *Tinea dubiella* and as the name implies, the larvae will probably eat your woollen garments if given half a chance. It is truly one of those 'small brown jobbies' that I have often heard referred to and is very similar to *Tinea pellionella.* They are so similar that genitalia dissection is advised to separate them, but it is my opinion that those found in Cornwall are mostly *Tinea dubiella.*

Walk with the Butterflies.

By Jim Barker (CBC Transect Co-ordinator).

How many species of butterfly have you seen in 2009? How many species have been seen in Cornwall in 2009? Let us do a count, starting with the Wider Countryside Scheme squares (WCS). This is one of the official Butterfly Conservation methods of collecting butterfly data. The squares are walked at least twice a year, in July and August. We managed to cover 5 of the 20 allocated and three more different squares under a separate allocation, were walked by bird watchers.

		SPECIES		
Family	Name	Transect	Squares	Either
Skippers	Large	✓	✓	✓
	Small	✓		✓
	Essex			
	Dingy			
	Grizzled			
Nymphalids	Red Admiral	✓	✓	✓
	Comma	✓	✓	✓
	Peacock	✓	✓	✓
	Small Tortoiseshell	✓	✓	✓
	Painted Lady	✓	✓	✓
	White Admiral			
Whites	Large	✓	✓	✓
	Small	✓	✓	✓
	Green veined	✓	✓	✓
	Orange-tip	✓		✓
	Brimstone	✓		✓
	Clouded Yellow		✓	✓
	Wood White			
Browns	Meadow	✓	✓	✓
	Gatekeeper	✓	✓	✓
	Wall	✓	✓	✓
	Speckled wood	✓	✓	✓
	Small Heath	✓		✓
	Grayling	✓		✓
	Marbled white	✓		✓
Blues	Common	✓	✓	✓
	Holly		✓	✓
	Silver studded			
	Large			
	Small Copper	✓	✓	✓
	Brown Argus			
Fritillaries	Small pearl	✓		✓
	Pearl			
	Dark Green	✓		✓
	Silver washed			
	Marsh			
	Heath			
	High Brown			
Hairstreaks	Purple Hairstreak			
	Green Hairstreak	✓		✓
	Brown Hairstreak			
	White Letter	Query: Phil Harris thinks it could be in East Cornwall		
	eg: Peacock	Ubiquitous		
	eg:Silver studded	Special locations only		
	eg:Marbled white	Not everywhere		
	eg:Wood White	Uncertain if this is still in Cornwall		

The Cornish list has been colour coded to give an idea of how likely you are to see a butterfly. Nineteen species were seen on the squares. Now let us add the transect results.

Transects are picked by the walker while the squares are randomly allocated by Butterfly Conservation. They are walked weekly from April to September. We have 14 transects registered with Butterfly Conservation two of which are walked for the Pearl-bordered Fritillary only. Thanks to the National Trust and Sally Foster's efforts, we have gained four new ones in Penwith and there is a possible new one at De Lank Quarry. Steeple Wood in St.Ives has also counted for the first time this year. Bunny's Hill gave a nil return this year and some of the other results are not yet in. Looking at the table, there are 26 species

covered, making 27 over both schemes.

Finally, I have added some sightings from local Butterfly Conservation walks as reported in the last Butterfly Observer. This then leaves us with the following species on the list. Some of these could have been covered by later walks (e.g. Heath Fritillary, Dingy and Grizzled Skippers) and the Purple Hairstreak can definitely be seen at Godolphin Woods if you know the Oak tree to shake. At least

Transects

	Name		Bodmin B	Bunny's H	Butterfly L	Cape C	Gwithian C	Kenidjack	Lundy B	Steeple W	Treen	Trevean	Tuckingmill	Watchouse
	Grid reference:		SX066666	SX11767	SW518378	SW3522318	SW587413	SW358325	SW958798	SW518388	SW396223	SW411356	SW095774	SX435492
Family	Name													
Skippers	Large	✓	2		0	6	0	3		3	1	0		7
	Small	✓	2		4	0	0	4		1	3	0		35
	Essex													
	Dingy													
	Grizzled													
Nymphalids	Red Admiral	✓	24		13	1	18	5		6	10	2		40
	Comma	✓	29		0	0	5	0		0	0	0		
	Peacock	✓	0		1	0	4	1		1	2	0		18
	Small Tortoiseshell	✓	0		17	4	9	4		1	1	2		2
	Painted Lady	✓	75		151	215	81	343		49	61	229		107
	White Admiral													
Whites	Large	✓	84		29	2	53	11		20	52	3		90
	Small	✓	29		7	2	85	12		0	1	0		43
	Green veined	✓	2		3	0	35	0		2	0	0		5
	Orange-tip	✓	0		1	0	3	0			1	0		0
	Brimstone	✓												12
	Clouded Yellow													
	Wood White													
Browns	Meadow	✓	167		117	94	194	83		68	135	36		164
	Gatekeeper	✓	26		48	2	110	8		15	17	1		186
	Wall	✓	0		1	6	2	11		3	4	0		34
	Ringlet	✓	113		35	0	31	4		18	0	16		35
	Speckled wood	✓	265		183	1	239	34		58	0	53		235
	Small Heath	✓				4	0	11			1	9		4
	Grayling	✓				1	0	0			12	0		0
	Marbled white	✓												40
Blues	Common	✓	1		1	69	9	77		6	27	0		57
	Holly	✓	0			0	0	0		2	0	0		0
	Silver studded													
	Large													
	Small Copper	✓	4		1	8	12	7		7	6	0		9
	Brown Argus													
Fritillaries	Small pearl	✓				16	0	12			34	9		
	Pearl													
	Dark Green	✓					1							
	Silver washed													
	Marsh													
	Heath													
	High Brown													
Hairstreaks	Purple Hairstreak													
	Green Hairstreak	✓												1
	White Letter Hairstreak													
	Brown Hairstreak													
	Name		Bodmin B	Bunny's H	Butterfly L	Cape C	Gwithian C	Kenidjack	Lundy B	Steeple W	Treen	Trevean	Tuckingmill	Watchouse

one Brown Argus was seen at Penhale Sands. This leaves us with just a few unlikely species. John Worth told me that a Wood White had been recorded in the Luxulyan valley (this year?) However the White Admiral, Large Blue, the two hairstreaks and the Essex Skipper are very unlikely. If you do see any then please let John Worth know as all such records are valuable.

What is a tetrad? Phil Harris asked the AGM how many tetrads were not covered by recorders. So I got out the OS maps and had a look to see which of the 10km squares were covered by transects and squares. This is the result: SS 1, SW 13 and SX 12 (21 if we count the vacant squares) - a total of 26 but that's if we could fill all the Wider Countryside Scheme squares. Some of our local branch walks cover others and John Worth has some productive recorders in yet others but we still need more. So to finish, can you add a tetrad to our list please? Ideally, by over....

walking an uncovered WCS square or setting up a transect, but any tetrad walk is valuable to the Cornwall branch. May I encourage you to get your boots on, pick up the binoculars, pen and notepad and get out there... our butterflies need you. I will be walking, trying to see all on the Cornwall list, apart from the ones marked in blue, in 2010.

Before you start 'Googling' 'WCS' both Jim and I believe the official title, Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey (WCBS) is a bit of a mouthful so here it has been shortened to the Wider Countryside Scheme (WCS)
~ Ed.

Tetrads

Walkers / Grid ref / Family	Name	Recorded	JC	SB	PB	RC	MG	CS	JF	RM		Totals	Sites
Skippers	Large	✓							11			11	1
	Small												
	Essex												
	Dingy												
	Grizzled												
Nymphalids	Red Admiral	✓	2	5	11	8	12	45	11	1		95	8
	Comma	✓				1	3	1		1		6	4
	Peacock	✓			2	1		1	1			5	4
	Small Tortoiseshell	✓				1			3	1		5	3
	Painted Lady	✓		18	12	33	4		16	2		85	6
	White Admiral												
Whites	Large	✓	3	8	5	59	7	24	18	11		135	8
	Small	✓	3	4	3	10	13	11		3		47	7
	Green veined	✓	1		4	5	1		1			12	5
	Orange-tip												
	Brimstone												
	Clouded Yellow	✓						2				2	1
	Wood White												
Browns	Meadow	✓		2	14	10	9		30			65	5
	Gatekeeper	✓		1	2	18	5	13	81	3		123	6
	Wall	✓		1	1	7			3			12	4
	Speckled wood	✓	40	35	41	40	1	22	90			269	7
	Ringlet	✓			1		1					2	2
	Small Heath	✓							1			1	1
	Grayling												
	Marbled white												
Blues	Common	✓			1	2					3		
	Holly	✓		1							1		
	Silver studded												
	Large												
	Small Copper	✓		1	1	4			1		7		
	Brown Argus												
Fritillaries	Small Pearl												
	Pearl												
	Dark Green												
	Silver-washed												
	Marsh												
	Heath												
	High Brown												
Hairstreaks	Purple Hairstreak												
	Green Hairstreak												
	White-letter Hairstreak												
	Brown Hairstreak												
Totals			49	76	98	199	56	119	267	22	11		72



National Moth (& Bat) Night 2010

A date has now been fixed for the next National Moth Night, the annual celebration of moths and moth recording which is run by Atropos and Butterfly Conservation.

NMN2010, the twelfth such event, will take place on the night of Saturday 15th of May. Please see our Field Trips on page 24 for details. The theme of NMN2010 will be moths and bats. If you have a bat detector, please bring it along and we hope someone who is an expert will be able to identify the sounds emitted from the bats. Please be sure to book this date in your diary now. Booking is essential: Visitors (other than Cornwall Moth Group participants) please phone Hannah Dorking (Events Secretary) on 01872 861032.

Garden Open for Butterflies

THE BARN HOUSE
HIGHER PENHALT,
POUNDSTOCK

Take the Millook road by the Widemouth Manor Hotel and follow the signs on the day.

Sunday 27th June
11 – 5





As well as an interesting and colourful garden, there is a walk on which a variety of butterflies should be seen. There will be a Butterfly Conservation display and plant stall.

CREAM TEAS

CBC Butterfly and Moth Field Meetings 2010.

Saturday 24th April – 10:30am – Murrayton Monkey Sanctuary, Millendreath, nr. Looe.

This is a special early visit to the Millendreath to Seaton coastal footpath to search for Britain's earliest flying Pearl-bordered Fritillary butterflies which will take in some brilliant scenery looking out to sea on this excellent habitat for this rare species. Yes! You can see the Pearl-bordered Fritillary in April in Cornwall given reasonable weather. This unique habitat, some of which is an ancient landslip, provides the ideal microclimate needed for this species to be on the wing up to 3 weeks earlier than elsewhere in Cornwall! This is only the second field meeting to be especially arranged here so don't miss this opportunity to see this for yourself. Walking boots are a must due to steep terrain and bring food and drink too. Access is through strictly private land at Murrayton Monkey Sanctuary which will be closed so all attending should be ready to be guided through to the cliff path by the leader at 10:30am from the Monkey Sanctuary car park. If the weather on this date is unsuitable, then the walk will be rearranged for the following day (Sunday, 25th April) also at 10:30am and you should phone Paddy Saunders to confirm you will attend the following day. If the meeting has to be held on Sunday, 25th April then we may have to start at Seaton in the car park at O/S Map Ref: SX304545 and then go along the cliff path to Millendreath. This will be confirmed by phoning Paddy Saunders the previous evening if the meeting is cancelled on Saturday, 24th April due to inclement weather. Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Speckled Wood, Green-veined White, Small Copper, Common Blue, Orange-tip and possible Dingy Skipper will hopefully be seen today.
Leader – Paddy Saunders.
Meet at map ref. SX285546 in Murrayton Monkey Sanctuary car park or if held on Sunday 25th April then meet in car park in Seaton at map ref – SX304545.
For full details and directions phone Paddy Saunders on 01503 262567.

Saturday 24th April – 8:00pm until 10:00pm – Cotehele, St Dominick, nr. Saltash.

Moth trapping for the Full Bloom Festival at Cotehele House, National Trust,
Please bring a torch, something to kneel/sit on and warm clothing.
Leader – Phil Boggis.
Meet at map ref. SX423685 in the pubic car park at Cotehele House.
For full details and directions phone Phil Boggis on 01726 66124.

Sunday 25th April – 11:00am to 4:00pm – Cotehele, St. Dominick, nr. Saltash. Full Bloom Festival, Cotehele House:

Admission charges: Adults: £5.20, Children: £2.60, Families: £13 (free for National Trust members).
A celebration of springtime orchards and all they have to offer. Come and visit the beautiful orchards at Cotehele; enjoy a picnic beneath the trees, join a bug hunt, examine moths caught at the moth trap the evening before, make a bee house, write a poem or just relax and enjoy the sights sounds and smells of an orchard in bloom.

For full details please contact Kate Merry (National Trust) Tel: 01458 253752, Mobile: 07776 463 022 or e-mail: kate.merry@nationaltrust.org.uk or phone Phil Boggis on Tel. 01726 66124.

Sunday 9th May – 11:00am to 1:00pm – West Goss Moor, Nr. Indian Queens; then for 1:30pm moving on to Perransands/Penhale Sands, nr. Perranporth.

The course of this old railway line harbours one of only two surviving colonies in Cornwall. We will be looking for egg laying female Grizzled Skippers with a note to recording their egg laying sites. Dingy Skippers should also be seen! At 1:00pm we conclude this visit to drive to Rose village at the edge of Perransands/Penhale Sands to walk down to the sand dunes to look for Cornwall's other populations of Grizzled Skippers which although highly localised will hopefully be found in suitable looking habitat amongst this vast dune complex. We hope to possibly find the special aberration called *'taras'* which is sometimes found at this locality amongst some of the Grizzled Skipper colonies. Other species which should be found include Brown Argus, Wall Brown, Dingy Skipper, Common Blue, Small Copper and Orange-tip.
Leader – Paul Browning.
Meet at 11:00am at map ref. SW931599 on lay-by along the OLD A30. At 1:30pm meet at SW774553 in lay-by on edge of road opposite the turning to Rose village by entrance to footpath onto sand dunes.
For details and directions phone Paul Browning on 01736 763677.

Wednesday 12th May – 8:30pm – Bat & Moth Night - Tehidy Country Park (South Drive)
Organised by Cornwall Council (Environment & Heritage).

Attendance: Adults and Children Free (NB: hot drinks may be purchased at Tehidy Country Park Café, so bring some change) but no dogs allowed.
Public event starts at 8:30pm so any CMG members bringing a moth-trap should get there at least ½ hour before to set up.
There should be a number of Cornwall Moth Group member's traps operating just inside the Woods to the west of the car park from dusk to midnight (or just after). Please bring a torch, stout footwear and warm clothes for walking between the trap sites and a portable seat if you need one. Moths will be collected throughout the evening as they come in to the lights, and be available in keep-nets or specimen pots for viewing and photography.
Leader – Alison Clough (Countryside Officer [West], Cornwall Council)
Booking is Essential: Please phone Cornwall Council on 0300 1234202 or email aclough@cornwall.gov.uk
Meet at map ref. SW650433, South Drive Car Park, Tehidy Country Park.
For further details phone Tony James (Cornwall Moth Group) on 01736 763705 or e-mail: records@cornwallmothgroup.org.uk

Saturday 15th May – 2:00pm – Bunny's Hill, nr. Cardinham, Bodmin Moor.

Bunny's Hill is an easily accessible site and is one of the best places in Cornwall to

over....

see the Pearl-bordered Fritillary butterfly at close quarters. Please do bring your camera as photography is comparatively easy at this locality. Brimstones are usually seen together with Small Heath, Holly Blue, Orange-tip and possible Dingy Skipper. There is plenty of easy parking available.
Leader – Lee Slaughter.
Meet at map ref. SX117675 at fork in road.
For details and directions phone Lee Slaughter on 01726 817505.

Saturday, 15th May 2010 – 8:30pm – National Trust Trelissick Gardens, Feock, nr.Truro.
Organised by Cornwall Moth Group & National Trust.

National Moth (and Bat) Night. Attendance is free to all ages with wheelchair access along paths by the moth lights. Any CMG members bringing a moth-trap should get there at least ½ hour before to set up. Follow the Moth Group signs into the gardens, and there should be a number of Cornwall Moth Group member's traps operating on the lawns adjacent to the paths in amongst the Woodland areas from dusk to midnight (or just after). Please bring a torch for walking between traps and a portable seat if you need one. Moths will be collected throughout the evening and be available in keep-nets or specimen pots for viewing and photography. This site has a range of interesting species. If you have a bat detector, please bring it along and we hope someone who is an expert will be able to identify the sounds emitted from the bats. Booking is essential: Visitors please phone Hannah Dorking (Events Secretary) on 01872 861032. CMG and Cornwall Butterfly Conservation Members intending to come along, please contact Tony James 01736 763705.
Leader – Tony James.
Meet at Trelissick Gardens car park map ref. SW838396 - go right through to the walled area at the bottom of the car park and follow the Moth Group signs.

Saturday 22rd May – 1:00pm – Fellover Brake, Tuckingmill, St. Breward.

This site still holds one of Cornwall's finest colonies of the nationally threatened Pearl-bordered Fritillary butterfly which can be seen over a wide area of well managed bracken covered hillside. Walking boots are essential as the site slopes quite steeply and can be quite uneven in places. Orange-tip and Brimstone should also still be on the wing.
Leader – Phil Harris.
Meet at map ref. SX089779, in small lay-by at Gam Bridge.
For details and directions phone Phil Harris on 07845 984426.

Saturday 29th May – 1:00pm – Breney Common, nr. Lanlivery.

Our annual visit to probably Cornwall's largest Marsh Fritillary colony. Good numbers of this species should be seen together with Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Small Heath, Brimstone, Green Hairstreak and always a few interesting moths too! Photography is almost always easy here so do bring your camera and good walking boots.
Leader – Phil Boggis.
Meet at map ref. SX053610, Breney Common car park.
For details and directions phone Phil Boggis on 01726 66124.

Saturday 5th June – 1:00pm – Carkeet (River Vale Farm), Bodmin Moor.

A new locality, which during 2008 has turned up one of Cornwall's largest Marsh Fritillary colonies! Good numbers of this species should be seen together with Small Pearl-Bordered Fritillary. Photography is usually easy with Marsh Fritillaries, so do bring your camera and Wellington boots as this privately owned site is usually quite wet underfoot!
Leader – Phil Harris.
Meet at map ref. SX215728, at edge of road by track running North East sign-posted Carkeet Farm.
For details and directions phone Phil Harris on 07845 984426.

Saturday 12th June – 1:00pm – Greenscoombe Woods, Luckett.

One of Britain's rarest and most threatened butterflies, the Heath Fritillary, still exists in Cornwall in the specially managed habitat, at its original main Cornish colony at Greenscoombe Woods, Luckett after it became extinct there after 2002. After it's re-introduction to parts of the woodlands in the summer of 2006 it has become re-established and re-colonised it's former habitat which has been much improved by clearance and management work. We are very grateful to local recorder and expert on this species, Richard Vulliamy who will lead us around showing us the best areas to observe them and advise what past and current management work is being carried out for the benefit of this threatened species. The butterfly is breeding well now at Greenscoombe Woods and it is always a joy for enthusiasts from Cornwall, Devon and often much further a-field to visit these woods to marvel at the many Heath Fritillary butterflies that would be seen throughout June every year. Bring a drink and your camera.
Leader – Richard Vulliamy.
Meet at map ref. SX389737 in Luckett Village car park.
For details and directions phone Richard Vulliamy on 01579 370411.

Saturday 19th June – 2:00pm Perran Sands and Penhale Sands, nr. Perran-porth.

A midsummer ramble over Britain's highest sand dunes complex to see large numbers of freshly emerged Silver-Studded Blues. We would also hope to see Large Skippers, Small Skippers, Meadow Browns, Common Blues, Dark Green Fritillary, Scarlet Tiger moth and Humming-bird Hawk-moth. This event always turns up unexpected surprises in moths or butterflies. Please bring a drink, a sun hat, sun protection and good walking boots.
Leaders – Lee Slaughter and Phil Boggis.
Meet at map ref. SW774553 in lay-by on edge of road opposite the turning to Rose.
For details and directions phone Lee Slaughter on 01726 817505 or Phil Boggis on 01726 66124.

Friday 25th June – 9:00pm – Pont's Mill, nr. St. Blazey, Par.
Mid-summer Moths at Pont's Mill.

A moth evening of recording together with Cornwall Moth Group and The Friends

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of Luxulyan Valley. This event will begin at dusk and you should bring a torch and wrap up well. Plenty of easy parking is available in the main Pont's Mill car park. Past moth-ing events here have bought in a list exceeding 125 different species of moth for one evening's recording at a single locality!
Leader – Phil Boggis.
Meet at map ref. SX073562 in the free car park at the end of the single track road.
For details and directions phone Phil Boggis on 01726 66124.

Friday 2nd July – 9:30pm – Kilminorth Woods, West Looe Valley, Looe. Midsummer Mothing for the Scarce Merveille Du Jour Moth.

We have high hopes of seeing this RDB3 moth here again near the oak trees that it breeds on. The sedentary Scarce Merveille Du Jour moth has almost certainly continuously bred in the West Looe Valley since shortly after the last Ice Age! This meeting is organised by Cornwall Moth Group. The moth light will be on from dusk until late but meet at 9:30pm. Please bring a torch and wrap up well.
Leader – Phil Boggis,
Meet at map ref. SX248538 at entrance to Lower Kilminorth Woods, sharp left 250 yards before Looe Bridge coming from a Westerly direction on the main road.
For full details and directions phone Phil Boggis on 01726 66124.

Saturday 3rd July – 11:00am Upton Towans, nr. Hayle.

A delightful walk through the extensive coastal dunes between Gwithian and Hayle at Upton Towans. Previously the site for the manufacture of dynamite, this is a fascinating area for those who have an interest in industrial archaeology. We expect to see an abundance of newly emerged Dark Green Fritillaries and the last of the season's Silver-Studded Blues as well as the more common summer flying species of butterflies and moths. The 2nd brood of Small Heaths should now be in evidence and we would like everyone to look out for the Brown Argus and Grayling which recently have all but disappeared from this area. Please bring a packed lunch, drink, sun cream, and good walking boots or rainwear if weather is unsettled.
Leaders – Dick & Maggie Goodere,
Meet at map ref. SW579398 at entrance by gate to the CWT area.
For full details and directions phone Dick or Maggie Goodere on 01736 753077.

Saturday 10th July – 10:30am Penlee Battery CWT Reserve & Penlee Point (Possibly Moving on to Seaton during the afternoon).
This event is held in conjunction with Caradon Field and Natural History Club (CFNHC).

This reserve usually has excellent numbers of Marbled Whites which are absent from mid and West Cornwall but often more than 100 can be seen here without much trouble. Small Heath, Gatekeepers, Large and Small Skippers and possible Dark Green Fritillary should also be seen. Six-belted Clearwing and Thrift Clearwing moths will be searched for with pheromone lures here. We may move on to Seaton during the afternoon to search for Clouded Yellows at a location where they have been observed over-wintering as well as further searches for Six-belted Clearwing moths again followed by a walk up the Seaton Valley to see Silver-washed Fritillary and possible Purple Hairstreak.

Leader – Leon Truscott,
Meet at map ref. SX436491 in Penlee Battery car park.
For full details and directions phone Leon Truscott on 01752 812023.

Saturday 17th July – 1:00pm Bunny's Hill, nr. Cardinham, Bodmin Moor – Also Treslea Downs.

We will be searching for Dark Green Fritillaries and keeping an eye out for the remote possibility of High Brown Fritillaries too! Silver-washed Fritillaries will also be on the wing as well as Grayling butterflies at Treslea Downs, just 2 miles distant from Bunny's Hill. There must be new discoveries to be made at both these two valuable sites as they are only normally visited in May for the Pearl-bordered Fritillary.
Leader – Phil Harris,
Meet at map ref. SX117675 Bunny's Hill at fork in road.
For details and directions phone Phil Harris on 07845 984426.

Sunday 18th July – 1:00pm Cabilla Wood, Glyn Valley, nr. Bodmin (C.W.T.Reserve).

We look forward to seeing many beautiful Silver-washed Fritillary butterflies in this well managed woodland together with the bright summer form '*hutchinsoni'* of the Comma butterfly with plenty of Ringlets, Gatekeepers, new brood Brimstones and Summer brood Holly Blues. There are always various day flying moths to be seen in this wood so there may be new discoveries awaiting.
Leader – Dave Conway,
Meet at map ref. SX128653 by sawmill.
For details and directions phone Dave Conway on 01208 77686.

Saturday 7th August – 11:00am Kynance Cove, nr. The Lizard.

Be prepared for a beautiful walk at this famous locality for lepidoptera. We would certainly hope to see most of the following species: Grayling, Dark Green Fritillary, Clouded Yellow (including 'Helice'), Small Heath, 2nd brood Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Common Blue, Wall Brown, Gatekeeper, Painted Lady and Red Admiral. Please bring a packed lunch, drink, sun-cream and good walking boots. Park in main Kynance Cove car park and meet near the toilet block at the southern end of the car park.
Leader – Phil Boggis,
Meet at map ref. SW688132 in main Kynance Cove car park.
For full details and directions phone Phil Boggis on 01726 66124.

Sunday 8th August – 11:00am Gwennap Head and Porthgwarra.

This locality is situated within 4 miles of Land's End, the most south-westerly point on the English mainland and should produce an abundance of butterflies. We should see Grayling, Dark Green Fritillary, Clouded Yellow (including Helice), Small Heath, 2nd brood Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Common Blue, Wall Brown, Gatekeeper, Painted Lady and Red Admiral. This is a new transect for 2010 and the land is being partly managed by the RSPB for the Chough. Please bring a packed lunch,

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drink, sun cream and good walking boots. Park in Porthgwarra car park where there is a cafe and toilets.
Leader – Jim Barker,
Meet at map ref. SW372218 in main Porthgwarra car park.
For full details and directions phone Jim Barker on 01736 794134.

Sunday 15th August – 11:00am Gwithian Green, & then onto Gwithian Towans, nr. Hayle.

A high summer visit to this local nature reserve which is managed and monitored carefully by a number of enthusiasts locally. Later on we will venture further onto Gwithian Towans. Across the two sites with different habitats we should see Common Blues, Meadow Browns, Gatekeepers, Small Skippers, Small Heaths, Wall Brown, maybe 2nd brood Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary and late flying Dark Green Fritillary as well as other summer flying and hopefully migrant species. We will explore the dunes during the afternoon searching for the Brown Argus and Grayling, both of which have become very scarce here and do not seem to have been noted for a couple of seasons in this vicinity. Good walking boots, packed lunch and sun cream are all essential.
Leader – Sally Foster
Meet at map ref. SW586412 close to the track entrance. Heading from Portreath towards Hayle on the B 3301 coast road, past Godrevy and take the track to your left just before Gwithian and meet in the small car park on Green Lane.
For further details ring Sally Foster on 01736 753259.

Thursday 9th September – 7:30pm – Bat & Moth Night – Tehidy Country Park (South Drive)
Organised by Cornwall Council (Environment & Heritage).

Attendance: Adults and children free (NB: hot drinks may be purchased at Tehidy Country Park Café, so bring some change) but no dogs allowed.
Public event starts at 7:30pm so any CMG members bringing a moth-trap should get there at least ½ hour before to set up.
There should be a number of Cornwall Moth Group member's traps operating just inside the woods to the west of the car park from dusk to midnight (or just after). Please bring a torch, stout footwear and warm clothes for walking between the trap sites and a portable seat if you need one. Moths will be collected throughout the evening as they come in to the lights, and be available in keep-nets or specimen pots for viewing and photography.
Leader – Alison Clough (Countryside Officer [West], Cornwall Council)
Booking is essential. Please phone Cornwall Council on 0300 1234202 or email aclough@cornwall.gov.uk
Meet at map ref. SW650433, South Drive Car Park, Tehidy Country Park.
For further details phone Tony James (Cornwall Moth Group) on 01736 763705 or e-mail: records@cornwallmothgroup.org.uk

~ Lee Slaughter – Field Trip Organiser, February 2010.

British Trust for Conservation Volunteers - March Programme

For all those who can make it and are reasonably fit and well, outlined below are BTCV's (British Trust for Conservation Volunteers) Conservation Days for March. We would be glad of some help with particular emphasis on the days at De Lank/De Lank Quarry an important butterfly conservation site.

Tues 2nd March – De Lank Quarry
Pick ups – Tuckingmill and Redruth Railway

Weds 3rd March – De Lank Quarry
Pick ups – Tuckingmill and Redruth Railway

Thurs 4th March – West Bassett Stamps

Fri – 5th March – St Mawgan-in-Meneage Chruchyard – we will be doing some hedgelaying on the boundaries of the churchyard
Pick ups – Tuckingmill and Redruth Railway

Sat 6th March – Site TBC – we will be running conservation tasks at one of the old mining sites around the Camborne/West Cornwall area
Pick ups – Tuckingmill 10am and Railway Station 10.10am

Tues 9th March – De Lank – We will be carrying out some habitat restoration here for the Pearl Bordered Fritillary Butterfly.
Pick ups – Tuckingmill and ???

Weds 10th March – Mawgan Porth – This is a great site up above Mawgan Porth. We are going to be carrying out some grassland restoration .
Pick ups – Tuckingmill and Redruth Railway

Thurs 11th March - TBC
Pick ups – Tuckingmill and ????

Fri 12th March TBC
Pick ups – Tuckingmill and ???

Tues 16th March – Gwithian Towans – we will be carrying out some work here to help enhance this Special Site of Scientific Interest
Pick ups Tuckingmill and Camborne Railway Station

Weds 17th March – Carrack Gladden (Carbis Bay) – we will be carrying out some work here to restore this Special Site of Scientific Interest
Pick ups – Tuckingmill and Camborne Railway

Thurs 18th March – Carrack Gladden (Carbis Bay) – we will be carrying out some work here to restore this Special Site of Scientific Interest
Pick ups – Tuckingmill and Camborne Railway

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Fri 19th March – Carrack Gladden (Carbis Bay) – we will be carrying out some work here to restore this Special Site of Scientific Interest
Pick ups – Tuckingmill and Camborne Railway

Tues 23rd March – West Bassett Stamps – some clearance work to help with the West Cornwall SSSI management
Pick ups – Tuckingmill and Camborne Railway

Weds 24th March – Churchyard – we will be continuing our successful Churchyard work
Pick ups – Tuckingmill and ???

Thurs 25th March TBC
Pick ups – Tuckingmill and ???

Fri 26th March – Gwithian Towans – we will be carrying out some work here to help enhance this Special Site of Scientific Interest
Pick ups Tuckingmill and Camborne Railway Station

Tues 30th March – Lethean Towans– we will be carrying out some work here to help enhance this Special Site of Scientific Interest
Pick ups Tuckingmill and Camborne Railway Station

Weds 31st March – Churchyard – this is the last day of this successful project, if you want to do some good in a churchyard with us, now is your last chance.

How you can join us.
Taking part is easy; just get a registration form and fill it in. Then phone in to book on to any task by 4.30pm the previous day. For registration forms, bookings or more details on travel reimbursement contact: **Betty 01209 610610.**
Pick ups ***nearly always*** **from Tuckingmill at 9am; Redruth or Camborne railway at 9.10am (see programme for other pick ups/times)**
PACT: Tom 01209 610100
PACT Mobile: 07764 655615
Young People programmes Vicky 01209 610100
Youth and Schools: Claire 01209 610100
NVQ Training: Darren 01209 610600
General enquiries, New Deal Placements & **Training courses**: Betty 01209 610610
Local website: http://www.btcv.org.uk/cgi-bin/office_opps_ind.cgi?ref=116;region=sw
website: www.btcv.org

Finally, Kate Merry (Orchard Project Officer for the National Trust) has asked me to publish the 'Full Bloom Festival' details at Cotehele House. Cotehele will be hosting the Cornwall Moth Group the previous evening and it is hoped to trap some moths for viewing to the general public the next day. Please note this event is free for National Trust members.

Join us for the Full Bloom Festival - a celebration of orchards in the springtime

National Trust

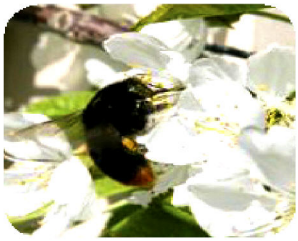
Where: Cotehele - St Dominick, nr Saltash, Cornwall PL12 6TA

When: Sunday 25th April 2010 from 11am - 4pm

Admission: Adults £5.20, Children £2.60, Families £13.00 FREE for National Trust members







Come and spend the day in the beautiful orchards at Cotehele. Go on a bug hunt, make a bee house, join in our communal poetry project, picnic under the trees or just relax and enjoy the sights, sounds and smells of an orchard in bloom... See you there!

NATURAL ENGLAND

COUNTDOWN 2010 SAVE BIODIVERSITY

Part of the Conserving & Restoring Traditional Orchard, England Project. Joint funded by the National trust and Natural England's Countdown 2010 Fund

The opinions expressed in the articles of this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Cornwall Branch, or Butterfly Conservation.

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