



Huntingdonshire Moth & Butterfly Group

Newsletter No 1

April 1996

Sightings, rumours of sightings, sales, wants and exchanges should be sent to :—
Andrew Booth, 55, Avenue Road, St. Neots, Cambs, PE19 1LJ. Phone 01480 472076.

Spring butterfly sightings

Butterfly records have been scarce during March, but warmer weather over Easter seems to have brought them out, with Brimstones, Peacocks, Small Tortoiseshells seen in reasonable numbers. Commas have also survived the harsh winter well, with several sightings during April.

Elsewhere in the country, Red Admirals have been seen as early as January in Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Sussex. Keep a lookout for Camberwell Beauties, as some of

last summer's record migration may have survived our winter. In Belgium one was discovered hibernating in a garden shed on January 6th, and the same individual was seen a week later sunning itself in the garden.

In this county, the first butterfly of the year was spotted by on February 27th, a Small Tortoiseshell, seen by Teresa Dickerson, in Eynesbury, St. Neots. February 27th was a mild, sunny day with a light breeze.

Next season's indoor meetings

Provisional dates are:

Wednesday 2nd October 1996

Wednesday 11th December 1996

Wednesday 12th February 1997

Wednesday 9th April 1997

The April meeting will be member's evening, so bring slides, specimens, livestock, any other items of interest.

One of the other dates will be to cover the results of the Belgium trip, but so far the theme of the other two are undecided. Anyone interested in giving a talk should contact Barry Dickerson on 01480 475689.

New British Moth

A new moth, discovered on Jersey, is the first macro moth from the island to be added to the British list for 100 years, according to local radio.

Dryobota labecula, to be known as the Oak Rustic, is a Noctuid common on the continent, and was first found on Jersey several years ago. The record has only recently been confirmed.

A full report of the find will appear in the Entomologist's Record in the near future.

Belgian Trip

Hu..M.B.G. members who have paid the initial deposit of £25 for the trip to the Belgian Ardennes, (July 5th-7th) should pay the second deposit (a further £50) as soon as possible. Peter Rowlings would like to have the money by mid May (not mid June as originally stated) in order to ensure the booking of the minibus, and the Channel Tunnel tickets.

Quiz Result

For those who missed the April meeting, the annual quiz, set by last year's winner Paul Waring, was won by Nick Greatorex - Davies with the impressive score of 34 points, out of a possible maximum score of around 44. Most of the contestants failed to pass 20 points. Nick's prize was a pair of coffee mugs, and of course the honour of setting next year's quiz. Start researching butterfly transects now...

Summer Field Meeting

A field trip to see British butterflies this summer has been proposed. To discuss this, there will be a meeting at Barry's house (27 Andrew Road, Eynesbury, St. Neots) on Thursday May 16th, at 8pm. Members interested in attending should contact David Evans on 01487 814176. It is likely the trip would be late July or early August, to see Purple Emperor, various Fritillaries and possibly the Silver Studded Blue, in southern England.

Thanks to Barry Dickerson, Teresa Dickerson, Paul Waring, Matthew Rowlings, Peter Rowlings and Nick Greatorex - Davies, who supplied information for this newsletter.

● The next newsletter is due for publication around the middle of July. Information should be sent to the address at the top of the page.