



Huntingdonshire Moth & Butterfly Group

Newsletter No. 4

April 1997

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.

BUTTERFLIES ON THE WING EARLY

Spring 1997 has so far been mild and sunny, in contrast to last year. Since the icy weather over Christmas and the first half of January melted away, there have been a number of unusually early sightings of butterflies. A **Small Tortoiseshell** and a **Peacock** were seen together on the 28th of January, at Old Fletton, Peterborough and a **Red Admiral** was reported at Woodhurst on the 26th (Where our winter meetings are held). Both days were sunny, with light breezes and temperatures of around 7°C. On February 5th, a sunny day with a temperature of 10°C, a **Brimstone** was seen in Waresley Wood.

Orange Tips have been seen on the wing as early as March 31st, on St. Neots Golf course, and **Holly Blues** have also been out in numbers during the last week of March.

*A member of the Entomological Livestock Group reported seeing a **Red Admiral** at the Derby County v Aston Villa FA Cup tie on January 25th. It had apparently been roosting in one of the stands.

Photo Competition



There will be a photographic competition, details of which are listed below.

- Open to Hu.M.B.G. members only.
- Entry fee £1 per person.
- Maximum of two slides or prints per person, in the following categories:

i) Moths ii) Butterflies

(i.e. one photo in each category, or two moths, or two butterflies.) No caterpillars. Adult insects only, please.

- Prize: Boots vouchers for photographic equipment. Amounts dependent on number of entries.
- Closing date, 1st October 1997. (Our first winter meeting.)
- Entries to Barry Dickerson at 27 Andrew Road, Eynesbury, St. Neots PE19 2QE.
- Remember to write your name clearly on your entries.

Eddie John has kindly agreed to act as judge. Photographs will be shown at the December 10th meeting, when the winners will be announced and the prizes presented.

Dates for your diary...

Moth trapping in Woodwalton Fen

14th June: A search for number of red data book moth species which may or may not be present on this site. Meet by the bridge at 9.00pm. For further information ring Kevin Warrington on 01733 350771.

26th July: Also to look for red data book moths. The day begins at 3.00pm with a search for larvae. Meet by the bridge. At 6.00pm there will be a barbecue in the car park at Ramsey Heights (Bring your own food and drink. Barbecue equipment supplied.) Meet at 8.30 pm for the moth trapping. For further information ring Kevin Warrington on 01733 350771.

Cow Lane Pits afternoon

5th July: A joint meeting with the B.E.N.H.S. at Cow Lane Gravel Pits, Godmanchester. Meet at 2.30pm to record butterflies and day flying moths and at 9.00pm for light trapping. There may be a barbecue arranged in the evening, before the moth trapping gets under way. Contact Barry Dickerson on 01480 475689 for details.

1997 Summer Field Meetings

1:— July 13th

To see the **Purple Emperor** at Barnwell Wold in Northamptonshire. Contact Peter Rowlings on 01480 890784 if you are interested in going.

2:— August 2nd – 3rd

To Arneside, near Morecambe Bay, to see, amongst others, the **Scotch Argus**, **High Brown Fritillary**, **Dark Green Fritillary** and the **Northern Brown Argus**. As this location is some distance away, it will

be a weekend trip, travelling on Saturday morning, staying overnight in B&B accommodation, and returning on Sunday evening. There should be the opportunity to moth trap in the area on Saturday night. Because we need to book rooms as early as possible, a deposit of £10 is needed by 10th May at the latest, to Peter Rowlings, who is organising this trip. Total cost is likely to be in the region of £20-30, plus meals and a share of the petrol costs. Contact Peter on 01480 890784 if you would like to participate.

Quiz Result

The Hu.M.B.G. quiz, set by Nick Greatorex-Davies on April 9th was won by Barry, with a score of 30 out of a possible 50. Barry's prize (apart from the butterfly mug which he bought on behalf of the group), will be to set the 1998 quiz.

Thanks to all those who, directly or indirectly, have supplied information for this newsletter.

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