

Black Hairstreak
Photo: Nick G-D



Newsletter No 25

Huntingdonshire Moth & Butterfly Group

Blomer's Rivulet
Photo: Charles Fletcher (Yorks)



July 2004

Please pass any items of interest for the Autumn newsletter to the current editor: Nick Greatorex-Davies, 28 Old pound Close, Hemingford Grey, Huntingdon PE28 9DY, Tel: 01480 301 685, email: ngd@ceh.ac.uk.

Apologies for the lateness of this newsletter - I have been away for half of June and half of July and simply ran out of time!!

----- Good year for Black Hairstreak -----

Black Hairstreaks (*Satyrrium pruni*) seem to have had their best year for many years in Monks Wood. Reports included many from staff at Monks Wood who saw them in several locations during the second and third weeks of June. One observer reported seeing a 'mating swarm' with 10 to 12 individuals seen in close proximity at a time. The butterfly was also seen for the first time in Bevill's Wood (over the road from Monks Wood) by Mick Yates as he walked the butterfly transect in the second and third weeks of June. The first report of the season was from Bob and Darren Frost who saw the butterfly on 6th June. By the week beginning 21st June Black Hairstreak seemed to be over in Monks Wood and no more were reported despite searches. Elsewhere Barry Dickerson reports Black Hairstreak as late as 29th June in Brampton Wood. According to the literature the last week in June and first in July is the peak time of the short flight period of this species and this certainly used to be the case in Monks Wood. In recent years the peak flight period has been at least two weeks earlier than this and the butterfly has gone by July.

Remaining moth trapping events in 2004

August 13th (Fri.): **Woodwalton Fen**. Meet at 7.30pm.

September 10th (Fri.): **Woodwalton Fen**. Meet at 6.00pm.

Nine members attended the June 6th **Butterfly trip** to **Little Scrubs Meadow** and **Twyford Woods** in Lincolnshire. Several Marsh fritillaries were seen at the first site but no Wood White. Grizzled and Dingy Skippers were seen at Twyford Woods. The July 25th trip to **Holkham** (for Dark Green Fritillary) and **Buxton Heath** (for Silver-studded Blue) was cancelled due to poor weather.

As usual **moth trapping events** have been very variable with regards to numbers of moths caught. The July 18th meeting at Brampton Wood had to be cancelled due to rain. However the most recent moth trapping night at **Woodwalton Fen** (July 16th) was very successful and 111 macro-moth species were recorded. At present (still quite a few tinies to be dissected) the full list for the night (including micros) stands at 177 species but Barry expects the final list to reach 200.

Bedstraw Hawk-moth in Ramsey Heights

On 17th June Austin and Sue Wallis trapped a Bedstraw Hawk-moth in their garden moth trap.

BAP species news

Buttoned Snout larvae at new sites

Larvae of the Buttoned Snout (*Hypena rostralis*) have been found recently at a further four new sites in the vice-county: **Hilton**, **Great Paxton (River Lane)**, **Offord** and **Godmanchester (Cow Lane Pits)**.

Two Wood Whites seen

On 14th June a **Wood White** was seen in **Brampton Wood** by Colin Drage and Brian Garner.

On 28th June a second **Wood White** (female) was seen and potted by Pam Moorhouse east of Saul's Gate along the south edge of **Monks Wood**. She brought it into CEH Monks Wood for its identity to be confirmed. It was later released where it was found. This is the first record for the wood since the species was introduced in 1984. The species survived until 1988 but has not been seen since.

The most likely explanation for the presence of these two individuals is that they were released by someone rearing the species.

Two new county records

A **Blomer's Rivulet** was listed among the moths identified from the Monks Wood Rothamsted trap for 2003.

David Griffiths of Earith recorded the Pyralid **Pediasia contaminella** in his garden trap (confirmed by Barry). This is a local species of dry grassy habitats in southern Britain.

2004/2005 Winter meetings have been arranged as follows:

Wednesday 6th October: Nick Greatorex-Davies: *The moths of Monks Wood*

Wednesday 1st December: Chris Gerrard: *The Great fen Project*.

Wednesday 9th February: Martin Davies: *Butterflies across Europe*.

Wednesday 8th April: Members evening and quiz night, this time quiz to be set by the 2003 quiz winner! Bring slides, specimens and other items of interest.

Meetings are held at the **Hinchingbrooke Countryside Centre** in Hinchingbrooke Country Park and start at 8.00pm

● **The next newsletter is planned for September 2004. Please send any items for inclusion to Nick G-D**