



Huntingdonshire Moth & Butterfly Group

Newsletter No 5

July 1997

Sightings, rumours of sightings, sales, wants and exchanges should be sent to : —
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Poor Butterfly Year

The warm spring weather in April and May led to a number of summer butterflies being on the wing early, most notably the **Large Skipper**, first sighted on May 29th. But appalling conditions in the second half of June seem to have affected numbers. Particularly badly hit are the **Black Hairstreaks** in Brampton Wood, with only a few sightings reported to date.

New Moths in 1997

There have been a number new county records of moths in 1997: **Scarce Prominent**, in Gamlingay Wood (Hazelcroft) on April 24th, **Nemotogon clematella**, from larval mines collected in Waresley Wood, and **Plutella forectella**, in Hilton on May 3rd. Other notables include **Nemotogon wolffiella** from larval mines collected in Waresley Wood, the first since the Victorian County History, and **Commophila aeneana** in Monk's Wood, the only previous record being from the 1970's. Three **Small Elephant Hawkmoths** came to light in Hemmingford Grey in June, and another in July at Little Paxton Pits, a new record for the site. The moth trapping at Cow Lane Pits on July 5th recorded **Silky Wainscot**, **Southern Wainscot**, and **Bordered Beauty**.

Moth Trapping in Woodwalton Fen

Several Hu.M.B.G. members attended the moth trapping at Woodwalton Fen on June 14th. Despite intermittent rain, which became steady around 2.am, the night was a success, with several interesting species caught. These included **Silky Wainscot**, **Dotted Fanfoot**, **Gold Spot**, **Shoulder Striped Wainscot**, and **Satyr Pug**. Another such evening is planned for July 26th, and will include a barbecue in the car park of Ramsey Heights. Bring your own food, but equipment is provided. Ring Kevin Warrington on 01733 350771 to let him know if you will be there.

Exotic Hawkmoth in Hunts

A tropical moth, **Xylophanes pluto** was found, dead, in a box of fruit on St. Neots market in June. This moth is common in Brazil, through central America, and Florida.

Subscriptions

Due to rising costs, subscriptions for 1997-98 will increase to £4.00, and £5.00 for joint membership. These are due at our first winter meeting, on October 1st.

Photo Reminder

Hu.M.B.G. members are reminded that our first photo competition is running this summer, but Barry still hasn't had any entries. Closing date is October 1st. Full details in the last newsletter.

Emperor Washout

Unfavourable conditions may have contributed to the lack of **Purple Emperors** at Fermyn Wood, Northants on July 13th, though **White Admirals** were on the wing. A more detailed report on this trip will appear in the next Hu.M.B.G. annual report.

More Marbled White Colonies

A large colony of **Marbled Whites** has been discovered along the railway line between Abbot's Ripton and Huntingdon. Numerous individuals have been sighted there, and the colony may be responsible for the occasional strays found in Monk's Wood, which is close by. Four have also been seen in Woodwalton Marsh. The colony at St. Neots railway station, discovered in 1990, continues to thrive, and numbers there appear to have increased in the last two years.

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

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