



# Huntingdonshire Moth & Butterfly Group

Newsletter No 11

July 1999

Sightings, rumours of sightings, sales, wants and exchanges should be sent to :—  
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## New Moth Records

## Early Butterflies

Believe it or not, the spring and early summer of 1999 has been warmer and drier than for several years, and this has led to some early emergences, including:

- **Meadow Browns** from 2nd week June.
- A **Ringlet** at Grafham Water on 15th June.
- A **White Admiral** at Brampton Wood 18th June.
- A **Gatekeeper** on St. Neots Golf Course on 24th June.

Other notable sightings:  
• 2 **Wall Butterflies** by the railway at New England Bridge in May, and two others near Bluntisham around the same time.

- A **Grizzled Skipper** on the verge near the railway at Abbots Ripton Bridge on May 3rd.
- A **Wood White** at Brampton Wood on June 18th. This was probably a release, as there are very few recent records for this species in the county.

• The **Black Hairstreak** has also been early, the first being seen in Monks Wood in mid June, although one was seen in Brampton Wood as recently as July 2nd.

- A number of notable moth records have been reported in the county this year:
- A **Buttoned Snout** at Hemingford Grey on April 23rd, and another on May 9th.
- Several **Small Elephant Hawkmoths** on 13th June and 1st July at Hemingford Grey, and another near Ramsey on 10th June.
- A **Blossom Underwing** on 31st March at Hemingford Grey, the first since the VCR. Others have been seen in the country, including one each in Norfolk & Suffolk.
- A **Scarce Green Silver Lines** and an **Orange Footman**, also at Hemingford Grey in July.

## Winter Meetings

The dates for our winter meetings, which as usual will be at Woodhurst Village Hall, starting at 8pm, are as follows

- Wednesday 6th October 1999
- Wednesday 1st December 1999
- Wednesday 9th February 2000
- Wednesday 12th April 2000

As usual the April meeting is Members Night, so bring along any items of interest. Please also note that to date we have no speakers for the other three dates. Volunteers would be appreciated!

## Hu.M.B.G. Field Meetings

### National Moth Trapping Night Saturday 17th July 1999

As reported in April, all night traps will be run in support of this event at Monk's Wood. Meet at the main entrance at 7 p.m. prompt — important, or there will be no-one to let you in past the security gate. The warden has kindly given us permission to run a barbecue (one of the small disposable kind), so if you wish bring burgers, etc for cooking some time after midnight. Transport for equipment within the wood may be available, depending on the condition of the rides.

### Bentley Wood, Surrey Sunday 25th July 1999

As the Large Blue site is off limits this year (see last newsletter) the second Hu.M.B.G. trip of the summer will be to Surrey, to see the **Silver Washed Fritillary** and the **Silver Studded Blue**, and possibly others. Ring Peter on 01480 890784 or e mail at peter\_rowlings@stand-prod.com if you are interested in participating.



### The Marbled White

This butterfly seems still to be increasing in numbers, and spreading around Huntingdonshire. The colony near St. Neots railway station is still going strong, with the first one seen on June 25th, with several others since. Additionally, a single specimen was sighted at Little Paxton Pits on June 26th, the second successive year one has been seen there. Two further sites this year are Grafham Water, and St. Neots golf course, where one was spotted perched on a golf ball. Both these records are for July 2nd.

*Thanks to all those who have supplied information for this newsletter.*

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