



Huntingdonshire Moth & Butterfly Group

Newsletter No 6

September 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.

Woodwalton Fen

Following the success of the moth trapping programmes in June and July, there will be a third such event, on Saturday September 27th. With an earlier start, and fewer traps set, (and therefore fewer moths to record and set free at the end) it is anticipated that we should be finished around midnight, not five or six in the morning, as on the two previous occasions.

Meet at the reserve entrance at 5.00pm, contact Barry on 01480 475689 for full details, and so you can be contacted if the event is cancelled due to bad weather.

Winter Meetings 1997-98

Woodhurst Village Hall

October 1st: Peter Rowlings, Butterflies and Moths of Britain & Europe.

December 10th: Paul Waring, Butterflies and Moths of Belize.

February 11th: To be announced

April 8th: Members evening, Hu.M.B.G. quiz and buffet.

All meetings start at 8pm.

Other useful dates

AES, Saturday October 4th, Kempton Park Racecourse.

Midlands Entomological Fair at Kettering Leisure Village Arena, Sunday

December 7th. This is the livestock show which has been held in Leicester. The Granby Halls have been demolished, so this is the new permanent venue, with 2 shows a year. The Spring fair will be on Sunday 22nd March 1998.

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

A mixed year for butterflies and moths

In contrast to 1996, this year has given us few migrants. **Painted Ladies** have been virtually absent, and even the **Silver Y** much scarcer than usual. However, there have been some notable sightings Hunts and Cambs. A **Bedstraw Hawkmoth** was captured in a light trap in Mepal on July 5th, and two **Great Brocades** came to light at Paxton Pits on August 6th, with another at Sawtry on August 8th. Except for a population restricted to highland Scotland, this is an uncommon migrant species. Other sightings outside our area include a **Hummingbird Hawkmoth** in Sussex, a **Clouded Yellow** in Eastbourne and a **Swallowtail** at traffic lights in Diss, Norfolk on August 14th. The nearest broadland site is about 30 miles from there.

Though many native butterflies and moths appear reduced in numbers this year, perhaps due to the very wet weather during the second half of June, there have been some notable exceptions. **Peacocks** were exceptionally common during July and the first part of August, and as they declined they were replaced by large numbers of **Small Tortoiseshells**, having their best year since the population explosion of 1991. The **Holly Blue** has been much in evidence throughout the season, and an influx of **Small Whites** and **Large Whites** in July has led to these also being plentiful.

Reminders

○ **Membership subscriptions are now £4 for single, and £5 for joint, and are due at the October 1st meeting.**

○ **Time is running out for entries for our photography competition, with the closing date also October 1st. Full details appeared in Newsletter #4, in April.**

Moth Boxes

The plastic boxes favoured by moth trappers have been reduced in price. They are now 25 pence each. This includes VAT, and p&p. They are 57x38x23mm (the size of this item). If enough members are interested, Barry will arrange a joint order. Call him if you would like some, as soon as possible and by the October 1st meeting at the latest.

● **This is the last newsletter for 1997. The first for 1998 will be published in April, shortly after the Hu.M.B.G. meeting of that month.**