



Huntingdonshire Moth & Butterfly Group

Newsletter No 9

September 1998

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.

New county records, etc.

Butterflies

Several specimens of the **Wall** have been seen in the county during August. This species has declined both locally and nationally in recent years, but perhaps these records mark the beginning of a resurgence for the species.

The **Painted Lady**, scarce since the boom summer of '96, has apparently been breeding at Little Paxton Pits. Four fresh insects were seen there on the 19th August.

Also at Little Paxton Pits: A single **Marbled White**, possibly the first recorded on the site, was seen on the 20th of July. The colony at St. Neots railway station had another very good year, and presumably this individual originated from there. The sites are about half a mile away from each other. It is hoped that a population will now establish itself at Paxton Pits.

Only one **Black Hairstreak** has been recorded from Brampton Wood. This is presumably due to the poor weather during June, the butterfly's main flight period.

Moths

All moth trappers report that this has been the poorest year for as long as they can remember, with species numbers down by around 50% on most evenings. However, there have been some notable records during the season:

Argrestia glaucinella at Highfield Spinney, near Eynesbury, St. Neots, on April 25th. New county record.

Buttoned Snout, on April 22nd at Hemingford Grey. Not a new county record, but probably the first since Victoria County History.

Cydia orobana at Woodwalton Marsh on June 19th. Second county record.

Assara terebrella on August 8th at Ramsey. New county record.

White Spotted Pinion. A new site for this local speciality, which came to light on August 8th, and again at two lights on the public moth trapping evening of the 14th. This is despite the scarcity of elm on the site.

A **Hummingbird Hawkmoth** was seen in a garden at Little Paxton in August.

Winter Meetings

These again all take place at Woodhurst village hall and begin at 8pm.

7th October: Greenhouse butterflies, Andrew Booth.

2nd December: A lepidopterist in the Poitou-Charente, Barry Dickerson. Plus a small celebration to mark the group's tenth anniversary.

10th February: The macro moths of Bedfordshire, Vic Arnold. Vic is a co-author of the recently published book "The Butterflies and Moths of Bedfordshire."

14th April: Members evening. The usual buffet and quiz (set this time by Bill Meek). Bring slides, specimens and other items of interest.

**Subscriptions are due at the October meeting, and remain at £4.00 per member, or £5.00 for a couple.

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

France '99

Are you interested in a week's moth and butterfly hunting in France? It may be possible to arrange a trip to the Poitou-Charente, which is about 25km east of Niort. Call Barry on 01480 475689 for full details, or come to his talk on the subject at the December meeting.

Look out for:

Clouded Yellows. Good numbers were seen in Cornwall towards the end of August, apparently migrating north east.

● This is the last newsletter for 1998. The first newsletter of 1999 will be published in April.