



Huntingdonshire Moth & Butterfly Group

Newsletter No 18

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Season Review

Moth numbers have generally been down this year. However, there have been three new county records; A **Webb's Wainscot** came to light at Grafton Water on July 30th (Barry Dickerson & Marion Palmann.) On August 21st Nick Greatorex-Davies recorded a **Nephoterix augustella** in his garden at Hemingford Grey, as well as the pyralid **Sciota adelphella** on July 5th. Other moths of interest include the Gem at Little Paxton (Ian Dawson) on August 17th, and two **Square-Spotted Clays** at Hazelcroft, Gamlingay Wood on the same date. There have been several reports of **Hummingbird Hawkmoths** in the county, whilst in Biggleswade, Beds, an albino **Large Yellow Underwing** was caught by Richard Revels in his garden trap.

Butterflies have also had a very poor year, with the exception of the **Holly Blue**, which appears to be on the "up" stage of its cycle. In Brampton Wood on August 28th many hundreds of **Green Veined Whites** were seen, mainly on scabious along the length of the main ride.

National Moth Night

Despite a brisk wind the trapping at Paxton Pits was fairly successful, though the **White Spotted Pinion** was not recorded. It was recorded at a new site in Hilton, as well as at Dry Drayton, Cambridgeshire, where ten specimens were counted. A few night afterwards, David Evans ran two lights in a wood near Abbot's Ripton, and recorded two, as well as about 40 hornets, many of whom hitched a ride home with him in the back of his truck.

2002's event will be on 15th June, when it is hoped to trap Woodwalton Fen and possibly Ramsey Heights Clay Pits, with the target moth being the **Concolorous**.

***** Large Blue *****

The trip took place on July 17th, and despite good weather and map references to promising sites, no Large Blues were seen. They were apparently present only in low numbers at the second site we visited. Admission to the main site where the introduction took place is limited, and by appointment only, but it is hoped to arrange this in the future. However, 2002 is already fully booked.

Meetings

Our winter meetings schedule kicks off in October at the new venue, the "Small Room" at Hinchingsbrooke Country Park's new Countryside Centre. Car parking is not in the main car park; drive down to the car park next to the building itself. The gates should be open by 7.45.

Dates for this winter are as follows:

Wednesday 3rd October 2001

An evening on moth trapping. Please bring your moth traps so we can compare designs. Advice for those who want to build their own traps and would like to help in recording our local moths. A little bit of fun & a little bit of science!

Wednesday 5th December 2001

Local butterflies past & present, by Barry Dickerson

Wednesday 13th February 2002

An update on the White spotted Pinion, and some tips on clearwing luring, by Paul Waring.

Wednesday 10th April 2002

Members night. Bring your slides, specimens, livestock and other items of interest. Buffet & the infamous Hu.M.B.G. quiz.

All meetings start at 8.00pm.

Other Dates

October 6th 2001

A.E.S. Exhibition

10th November 2001

B.E.N.H.S. Exhibition:

● The next newsletter is due for publication in April 2002. Information should be sent to the address at the top of the page.