



# Huntingdonshire Moth & Butterfly Group



Please pass any items of interest for the summer newsletter to the current editor: Nick Greatorex-Davies, 28 Old pound Close, Hemingford Grey, Huntingdon PE28 9DY, Tel: 01480 301 685, email: [ngd@ceh.ac.uk](mailto:ngd@ceh.ac.uk).

## ----- Early migrants -----

Unusually there was a substantial influx of migrants in early and mid February. Details can be found on Steve Nash's website: [www.migrantmoth.com](http://www.migrantmoth.com). **Painted Ladies** were one of the features of this migration with 100s being seen across the southern English coastal counties particularly in the south-west but they reached as least as far as Huntingdonshire – one was seen by Matt Heard at Monks Wood on about 31<sup>st</sup> March.

More recently there appears to have been an influx of **Blossom Underwing** moths – with a number of reports on the egroup UKmoths. In Hunts. Brian Stone trapped one in his garden at Elton on 29<sup>th</sup> March. There was a similar influx in 1999 and as moths turned up away from known breeding locations it was concluded that they were probably migrants.

### Moth trapping events in 2004

- May 16<sup>th</sup> (Sun.):** **Hampton Newt Reserve** (Hunts Fauna & Flora Soc.). Meet at TL169937 at 6.00pm
- May 22<sup>nd</sup> (Sat.):** **Woodwalton Fen** (**National Moth Night**). Meet at 7.45pm.
- June 12<sup>th</sup> (Sat.):** **Little Paxton Pits** (Public event). Meet at 9.30pm.
- June 18<sup>th</sup> (Fri.):** **Woodwalton Fen**. Meet at 8.30pm.
- July 10<sup>th</sup> (Sat.):** **Hinchingsbrooke Country Park**. Meet at 9.00hrs. (*Please attend if possible as our efforts here mean a reduction in the rent for the hall for our meetings*).
- July 16<sup>th</sup> (Fri.):** **Woodwalton Fen**. Meet at 8.00pm.
- July 18<sup>th</sup> (Sun.):** **Brampton Wood** (Hunts Fauna & Flora Soc.). All day meeting to record all types of wildlife for a new book to be published next year. Starts at 10.00am and 2.00pm. Evening moth trapping start at 9.00pm.
- August 13<sup>th</sup> (Fri.):** **Woodwalton Fen**. Meet at 7.30pm.
- September 10<sup>th</sup> (Fri.):** **Woodwalton Fen**. Meet at 6.00pm.

**Woodwalton Fen - trapping results 16<sup>th</sup> April:** Six members enjoyed a nights trapping on the fen. 25 species were recorded including two **Powdered Quakers** and a **Mullein**. This is the first Mullein recorded on the Fen since the Victoria County History (VCH)

### Summer Butterfly trips

**June 6<sup>th</sup> Little Scrubs Meadow, Lincolnshire** to see **Grizzled Skipper, Dingy Skipper, Wood White and Marsh Fritillary**.

**July 25<sup>th</sup> Holkham, Norfolk** to see **Dark Green Fritillary**. It is hoped to visit another site on the same day to see **Silver-studded blue**.

For more details and to register your interest please contact Peter Rowlings on 01480 890 784

### BAP news

#### Square-spotted Clay caterpillar hunt

On 30<sup>th</sup> March Paul Waring led a group of 14 caterpillar hunters in search of Square-spotted Clay larvae at Monks Wood and later to Riddy Wood. It was a cool and clear evening but temperatures remained above freezing. Although caterpillars of several common Noctuid species were found, NO Square-spotted Clay larvae were found.

#### First Buttoned Snout of the season

A post-hibernation adult Buttoned Snout was flushed out of a leylandii hedge in Hemingford Grey during the daytime on 25<sup>th</sup> April (Nick G-D's garden). The moth is found here annually and in July 2003 larvae were found on Hop in a nearby garden. Hop has recently been planted in Nick's garden with the hope that the moth will soon be breeding on it. Soon after dark during May is a good time to search for adults of this moth. A net and torch is all that is required. Search near dense hedges or out-buildings where they may be roosting during the day.

**New VC record!** Results from the Monks Wood Rothamsted trap for 2003 were received recently. Among them were several notable records.: **Blomer's Rivulet** – one on 8/7, **NEW VC RECORD**, **Waved Carpet** – one on 28/5, 1<sup>st</sup> since VCH – another **BAP** species. Also: New to Monks Wood: **Pale Pinion** – 5 between 21/9 and 2/10 (spreading in UK), **Dotted Fanfoot** - one on 6/7 (occurs at Woodwalton Fen).

The following plea from Barry Dickerson who is very keen to get a better picture of the distribution of microlepidoptera in Hunts.:

## --- Please keep your micros!! ---

If you are a moth trapper but do not identify and record microlepidoptera, please would you keep a sample. If you run the trap most nights a weekly collection will do but please try and keep a sample of any that look different. Please be aware that some micromoths appear to look the same but are different species. Species of the genus *Cnephasia* are a good example of this with nine species occurring in Britain and eight of these looking very similar to one another! Please put the moths in a container labelled with the date of capture, location and your name. Moths can be killed humanely by placing them in a freezer for a while. Barry can supply containers if required.

- The next newsletter is planned for early July 2004. Please send any items for inclusion to Nick G-D.