



# Huntingdonshire Moth & Butterfly Group

Newsletter No 3

September 1996

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.

## 1996: a good year for migrants

### Moths

Several **Hummingbird Hawkmoths** have been reported, mainly in August. They have been spotted in Milton, Bluntisham, St. Neots, Alconbury, Alconbury Weston & Abbotsley.

The **Rush Veneer** has continued to turn up in light traps through the summer, and in August three **Bordered Straws** were found in gardens in St. Neots. Amongst the notable non migrants, 2 **Butterburs** and a **Saltern Ear** came to light in Meaple. And of course, the **Silver Y's** continue to swarm everywhere.

### Winter Meetings:— Update

Once again we have secured Woodhurst village hall for our winter meetings. Dates are as follows:

#### October 2nd 1996

David Shepherd of the JNCC will be giving a lecture on the species recovery programme.

#### December 11th 1996

Belgian night. Members who visited the Ardenne this summer are invited to bring photographs and exhibits from the trip.

#### February 12th 1997

Ian Woivod of the Rothamsted Research Station will be giving a talk on the Rothamsted moth trapping survey.

#### April 9th 1997

Members evening. Bring your slides, specimens, livestock or other items of interest. Last year's quiz winner, Nick Greatorex-Davis will be setting this year's quiz. As has become customary, we also hope to have a buffet.

As you can see, this season we have invited two experts from outside the group to speak to us. It would be appreciated if members make a special effort to attend these meetings, as both speakers will be travelling long distances to be with us. Let us make them think that their journeys have been worthwhile. Any interested friends will also be welcome at these meetings.

Thanks to Stephen May, Rob Partridge, Malcolm Simpson, Mick Beeson, Howard Hillier, Barry Dickerson & David Evans, who have all contributed information for this newsletter.

### Butterflies

While this has undoubtedly been a **Painted Lady** year, perhaps the best for a century or more, other migrants have also visited us. Several members have reported **Clouded Yellows**, sightings of which are summarised below:

	J	Jy	Au
Milton:	1		
Holme Fen:			1
Little Paxton:		1	4
St. Neots:	1		1
Grafham Water:			6
Other:			1

A **White Letter Hairstreak** was identified from a garden in the village of Wistow. This is believed to be a new record for the site. The **Purple Hairstreak** has been found at Little Paxton Pits. Several specimens were seen on the Turkey Oaks during August.

The isolated **Marbled White** colony at St. Neots railway station still survives, with more individual butterflies seen than in any year since they were discovered there in 1992.

Again it seems a few **Camberwell Beauties** have made the journey across the North Sea. One was found, asleep, on a washing line of clothes, in Bedfordshire.

### Reminders

Members are reminded that subscriptions are due in October. They remain at £3, or £4 joint membership, and can be paid at the meeting on October 2nd, or by post to Barry (Address below).

Articles are wanted for the annual report. The last date for submission is January 31st 1997, but if you can send any pieces earlier than this, it would be much appreciated. Send your articles to Barry Dickerson, 27, Andrew Road, Eynesbury, St. Neots, Cambs, PE19 2QE.

### Thursley Common

The trip to Thursley Common, attended by eleven people, was a success. The morning was spent on Thursley Common, where, amongst others, the **Silver Studded Blue**, the **Grayling**, and the **Purple Hairstreak** were seen. During the afternoon it was decided to visit Oaken Wood, a few miles away, where **Silver Washed Fritillaries** were on the wing in good numbers. Also there was the **White Admiral**, **Purple Hairstreak**, **Marbled White** and **Wood White**.

### Wanted

The electrics and lamps supplied with the cardboard type Open University moth traps. Must be in working order. Phone Barry (01480 475689) after 6pm.

● This is the last H.M.B.G. newsletter for 1996. The next newsletter will be published in April 1997.

Information should be sent to the address at the top of the page.