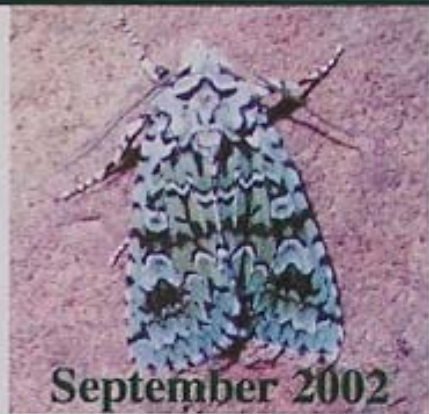


Huntingdonshire Moth & Butterfly Group

Newsletter No 21

September 2002



ANOTHER SPARSE YEAR

2002 has seen butterfly numbers lower than ever, with the 'garden' butterflies, particularly the **Small Tortoiseshell** & **Comma** especially scarce.

Migrant lepidoptera have been few and far between this year, but there have been a fair few **Painted Ladies** on the wing in the latter part of the summer. A **Clouded Yellow** was seen at Little Paxton Pits on September 1st, with others seen in September in Monk's wood & Barleycroft Pits.

Moth numbers are also down across the county, apart from a few isolated good nights on good sites. One exception seems to be the **White Spotted Pinion**. This local speciality seems to have been one of the few species to have a good year. It has been recorded again on most of its old haunts, as well as one new site, and in most cases, in good numbers. 25 were recorded in one night across two sites on August 16th. This seems to support the theory that this moth is either increasing its range, or is more widespread than once thought. It has also been recorded in Bedfordshire for the first time since 1985.

National Moth

Night

Next year's event is scheduled for April 12th. Hu.M.Bu.G hope to record at Hinchingsbrooke Country Park, although this is yet to be confirmed. The advantage of this site is that should we suffer our usual saturated spring, it should be possible to trap on some of the hard surfaces in the park.

Large Blue

It is still hoped to visit Dorset during the summer of 2003, to see the Large Blue. However, at the time of writing, the group has still not received permission to visit the site. Numbers are in any case likely to be restricted, and may be on a first come, first served basis.

As always, pieces for the annual report, short or long, are appreciated.
Send to Barry, preferably by the end of January at the latest.

Winter

For the second year, our winter meetings will take place at the smaller meeting room at Hinchingsbrooke Country Park. The door is open from 7.45pm, with proceedings getting underway by 8.00pm. Subs are due at the first meeting, £5 single, & £6 joint.

The line up is as follows.

Wednesday October 2nd 2002: Nick Greatorex-Davies & Barry Dickerson. Dissection Workshop. A fun introduction to identifying moths by dissection. Microscopes, equipment and moths all provided.

Come along and have a go!

Wednesday December 4th 2002: Peter Rowlings. Butterflies and moths from the Mediterranean.

Wednesday February 12th 2003: Nick Greatorex-Davies. Micro moths.

Wednesday April 9th 2003: Member's night. Bring slides, specimens and other items of interest. Take part in devious but entertaining quiz!

Other Dates

AES annual exhibition, Kempton Park,
Saturday October 5th
BENHS exhibition: Saturday November 9th

The End...?

The Hu.M.Bu.G. newsletter comes to an end with this, its' 21st issue. Unless, that is, any member would like to take over, in which case, you have until April to volunteer. Any takers?