

Butterfly Conservation Cambridgeshire & Essex

BRANCH NEWSLETTER



Dark Green Fritillary (Speyeria aglaja)

Photo: Ian Watts

Butterfly Conservation Cambridgeshire & Essex Newsletter – Autumn 2023

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Editor vacancy

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Editor's notes... Welcome

Welcome to the
Cambridgeshire and Essex
Butterfly Conservation
newsletter for Autumn 2023.



AGM

Firstly we have the AGM coming up in the 14th November 7pm start. Apart from the Branch Admin there will be a talk on Butterfly Parasites and an update on the Chequered Skipper project.

Topic: Cambs and Essex Branch of BC AGM
Time: Nov 14, 2023 7:00pm

Join Zoom Meeting

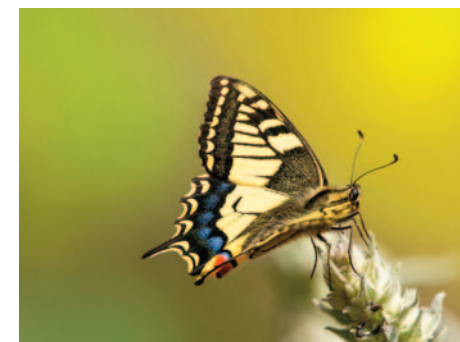
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Meeting ID: 857 0576 1874

My run in with a pest ...

Whilst on holiday in Croatia I was casually looking at the leaves of a lemon tree growing in a pot in the garden which had clearly been eaten by a caterpillar. A neighbour saw me and said 'pest' when I showed him the damage. I quickly found the culprit – the picture at the top – and if you're not sure what it might turn into ... it's one of these. Never a pest in my garden !!



The Summer of Twenty Three – Recorders reports

After last summer's blistering and record-breaking temperatures there was a slight nervousness that this year would see sharp declines in certain species, especially ones that only had a single brood, and where the caterpillars might be vulnerable to the food plant drying out.

The year following the drought of 1976 saw this happen, and although temperatures were higher last year the drought was shorter, broken by good rain in August. It was difficult to judge whether this year would be similar.

Cambridgeshire Recorder's Report – Ed Pollard

Some species certainly got off to a slow start. Early reports showed the three Whites were in very low numbers, and Commas and Peacocks were barely seen at all.

On the positive side, the Adonis Blue have now spread along the entire length of Devils Dyke, while the Small Blue had a record count on Magog Down.

Later in the year, as we got a clearer picture, Black Hairstreak had a record year, Dingy and Grizzled Skipper had a reasonable year, and male and female Chalkhill Blue were seen on Magog Down, indicating that they were colonising this location.

Black Hairstreak numbers at Brampton Wood have been very encouraging. This is the location where we have winter work-parties, cutting back Brambles and older Blackthorn to allow younger shoots to grow more vigorously, which is a requirement of this (fussy) butterfly. 173 was the high count this year and every year of the last six has been above average, highlighting the success of our targeted conservation.

This butterfly used to be found in a relatively small number of suitable woods from Oxfordshire to West Cambridgeshire and even recently published books have not alluded to the fact that it has now been 'discovered' in many southern counties where it has, no doubt, been illegally introduced.

The Chequered Skipper project had a 'modest' year. This butterfly requires lush vegetation on damp ground, and in fact, it died out the year after the long



Adonis Blue
Polyommatus bellargus

drought of 1976. Its re-introduction was ambitious and but this summer it was seen to have spread widely over the release area, but only in relatively low numbers. Having survived last year's extreme heat, we are hoping that this year's rainier summer will help it thrive.

Essex Recorder's Report – Rob Smith

The cooler spring meant a late start but there were good numbers of Small Copper, Small Heath and Wall Brown. Similar to Cambs, the three whites were reduced in number, but Green Hairstreak numbers were good in Essex.

The Grizzled Skipper situation at One Tree Hill is analysed on page 12.

Later in the summer Wall Brown were sighted in several new locations, including some further inland, which is a trend we will watch with interest.

Brown Argus and Gatekeeper had a good year, but numbers of Ringlet are down and Common Blue numbers 'crashed'.

Holly Blue, Red Admiral and Peacock have had a fantastic year, despite the concern about Peacock, earlier.

Our Heath Fritillary colony at the Hadleigh Great Wood complex ... 183 were seen at Hockley Wood and 38 at Hadleigh Great Wood, with 72 in Pound Wood.

This butterfly needs our constant close attention as, within a few years, with no work parties, the coppiced woodland it requires to survive in would disappear, subsumed by fast growing shrubs and sprouting trees. This is a continual effort by our branch to ensure our small colonies continue

So, please, if you can spend a few hours on a Sunday after Christmas in January helping to do a little

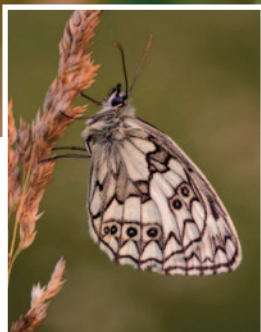
'Woodland husbandry' it would be great to report that we were 'on track' with our coppicing work. If you want a reminder email or more information then Jo Yarker will be glad to answer questions and she will be collecting names. All tools supplied ... etc.



Red Admiral
Vanessa atalanta

This summer's star attraction – for this season at least, it became common

Butterfly mysteries...



Marbled White is one of the species which is increasing within our branch area, both in distribution and abundance. Only a few years ago it was restricted to a few known localities but now it's not unusual to see them in any rural lane in Essex and Cambridge.

The mystery attached to this butterfly is that it seems the caterpillar feeds on any of several species of grass, especially Cock's-foot, Yorkshire Fog, Tor grass and Timothy but sometime during the caterpillar stage, it needs to feed on Red Fescue.

The butterfly has aposematic colouring, which is nature's way of advertising a creature's unpalatability to predators and this, and others, such as the male orange tip, is always created through the caterpillar food plant. The cream-markings on the wings contain flavonoids derived from Red Fescue but these are only mildly toxic, and it's been suggested that the colouring 'scheme' is more relevant to its camouflage while roosting, rather than as a warning to alert predators of its low level of distasteful poison.

These flavonoids also make the butterfly more visible to potential mates thanks to the ultra-violet within the white areas on the wings.

Research has also shown that the ingestion of Fescue grasses by caterpillars results in the consumption of the Acremonium fungus, which in turn, leads to a build up of Loline, another toxic chemical distasteful to birds, which remains in the body into the adult stage.

Despite this, there is no evidence that the female chooses egg laying habitat that particularly includes Red fescue. That seems to happen by luck... something of a mystery.

Greener Grasses ...

The following is a list of butterflies which are relatively common and which will quite likely visit any rural garden – Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper, Ringlet, Marble White, Speckled Wood, Large, Small and Essex Skipper, Small Heath and someone, somewhere in Cambs and Essex, will also see Wall.

One thing they all have in common is that they all have caterpillars that feed on grass. The problem is ... is that the grass most commonly found in your lawn – Rye grass – is not the grass they need to lay their eggs on, and, in fact, of the 160 species of grass found in the UK, the vast majority will not be appropriate caterpillar food, as they are all, to a lesser or greater degree, 'species specific' about the grass they will eat.

With this in mind, it becomes important to recognise the main species to establish what you have, and also, what is absent, if you want to help our butterflies and encourage them to stop in your garden rather than fly through.

These are the main species of grass and their butterflies:



Red Fescue
Festuca rubra

Red Fescue – a very fine leaved grass which grows well in shadier areas, and is occasionally deliberately sown to thrive in darker areas of gardens and public places.

Meadow Brown, Gate Keeper, Marbled White, and Grayling – if we had any.

Sheep's Fescue – a fine leaved grass forming dense tufts with flowers in early summer emerging well above the leaves.

Meadow Brown, Gate Keeper, Marbled White, Grayling, and 80% of Small Heath eggs laid on this.



Sheep's Fescue
Festuca ovina



Downy Oat-grass
Avenula pubescens

Downey Oat Grass – grows to 1m tall, with long narrow leaves soft to the touch due to a fine layer of hairs on them. The inflorescence consists of spikelets that are arranged in a panicle.

Meadow Brown.

Cock's Foot – this grows in dense tufts. It's key characteristic is a flattened stem base which separates this grass from others. *Leaves are grey-Green, *the flower-head is distinctly one sided, *grows 15 -140cm tall.

Meadow Brown, Marbled White – but Marbled White also requires Red or Sheep's Fescue sometime during the caterpillar period of its life-cycle but we're not sure exactly how, or when this needs to take place, Ringlet, Speckled Wood, Wall, Large Skipper, Essex Skipper and occasionally Small Skipper.



Cocksfoot
Dactylis glomerata



Common Couch
Elytrigia repens

Common Couch Grass – spikelets, up to 2 cm long, with 3-8 florets, arranged alternatively on both sides of the stem.

Speckled Wood, Ringlet.



False-brome
Brachypodium sylvaticum

False Brome Grass – has nodding flower spikes up to 20cm. The flower heads are slender, drooping and very short.

Meadow Brown, Ringlet, Speckled Wood, Wall and occasionally Large Skipper and Small Skipper.

Timothy – grows to 150cm with a dense cylindrical seed head 5-15 cm long. The leaves are flat and narrow.

Marbled White, occasionally Small Skipper.



Timothy Grass
Phleum pratense



Tor grass
Brachypodium pinnatum

Tor-grass – grows to 50cm. The flowers grow in dense clusters and are usually pale yellow.

Marbled White and occasionally Essex Skipper.



Yorkshire fog
Holcus lanatus

Yorkshire Fog – an grow to 1m. The flowers are tipped with a purplish-red tinge.

Marbled White, Speckled Wood, Wall.



Wavy-hair Grass – a carpet-forming perennial grass with thread like yellowish-green leaves.

Wall.



Wavy hair-grass
Deschampsia flexuosa

Meadow Fox Tail – grows over 1m tall with long flower spikes – up to 9cm – which give it its name.

Essex and Small Skipper – both occasional.

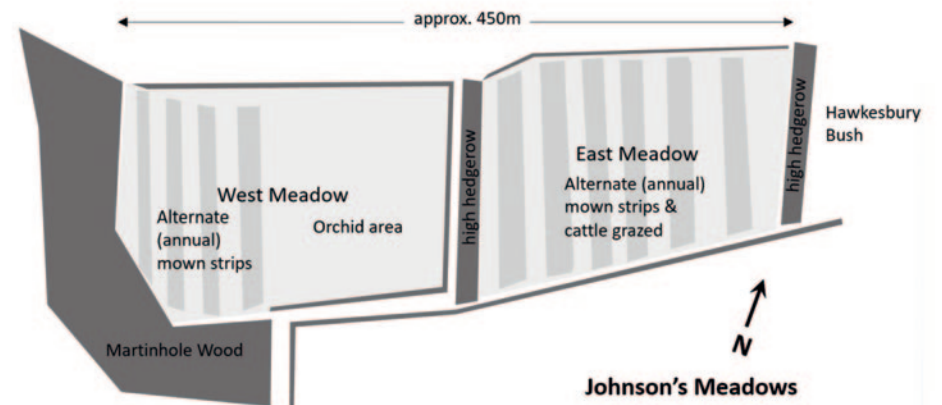


Meadow foxtail
Alopecurus pratensis

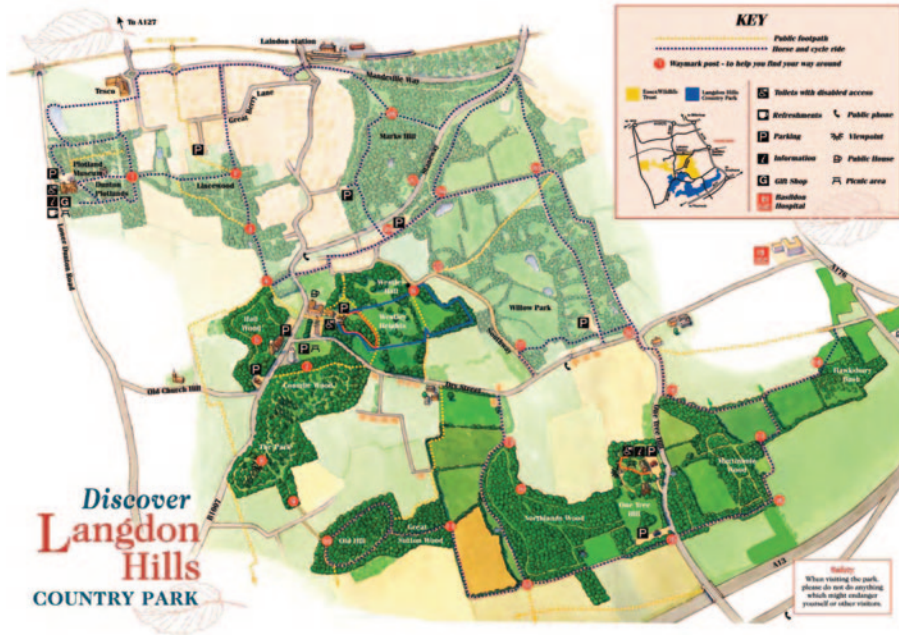
Almost all the grasses are food plant to at least two species and these might well be in the caterpillar stage at different times or hibernating differently. The Skippers for instance, hibernate high up the grass stem while the Meadow Brown does so at ground level. The point I'm making here is that cutting regimes will invariably interfere with the life-cycle at some stage so, unless you are trying to create a habitat for one preferred species, the only way to ensure there is always appropriate habitat for all off these species is to divide your plot into two or three areas with at least one patch remaining undisturbed over a 12 month period – a complete life-cycle.

Photographic monitoring of the Grizzled Skipper (*Pyrgus malvae*) at One Tree Hill, Langdon Hills Country Park

In 2016, the Heath Fritillary *Melitaea athalia* was in a critical condition at the Hadleigh Great Wood site. The peak count was only 7. Numbers had fallen so low that the then Essex Wildlife Trust warden, Ashley Pinnock, began to photograph every individual adult that he saw during his regular monitoring. He found that each one had subtle differences in their markings and wing damages to the point where he was confident in identifying individuals throughout the course of the flight period. From this, he could track their movements through the wood and record their longevity. Only 11 individuals were identified during the flight period from 15th June to the 5th July, but one particular female was found to persist for 15 days. Some moved considerable distances within the wood.



Inspired by this, in Spring 2021 I attempted something similar with the Grizzled Skipper *Pyrgus malvae* at One Tree Hill Country Park, which is believed to be the last remaining colony in the county. The last at nearby Willow Park were recorded in 2016 and the population was well known for its form *taras*, an aberrant where the white markings on the upper forewing merge. In addition, 3 other described forms were found at Willow Park in 2011 by David Newland (Smith 2012).



This year's photographic study of the relic population at One Tree Hill however, does not display this form, but nevertheless all individuals display a unique set of markings that make identification of individuals possible. By using my own photographs and those submitted via the Butterfly Conservation branch sightings page, iRecord, and email, it was hoped that some observations could be made, similar to that of the Heath Fritillary in 2016.

The Grizzled Skipper is a small butterfly, with a wingspan of about 25mm. It is well camouflaged; its upper wings most resembling the blossoming heads of Ribwort Plantain *Plantago lanceolata*. Both sexes will spend a lot of time basking and nectaring but are easily disturbed and a careful approach is needed. The males are territorial and will often return to the same vicinity

when disturbed. However, females when disturbed, are more likely to disperse. This tendency makes them less likely to be photographed and, as with some other butterfly species, they are already naturally outnumbered by the males.



The flight area at One Tree Hill is essentially two south-facing meadows of unimproved grassland, with some slight overspill in the area of scrub to the east, known as Hawkesbury Bush. The two meadows are known as Johnson's West and East, sometimes referred to as Johnson's One and Two, respectively. Between the meadows is a bound aggregate path with hedgerows either side. The hedgerow to the east is very high, with mature trees, and may present a significant barrier to movement between each meadow for some of the smaller grassland species.

The western half of the West meadow is mown annually in rotational strips about 12-15 metres wide. The remainder of the west meadow is known for its orchids and is mown annually. The East Meadow is less steep and is mown in wider rotational strips, about 20 metres in width. It is then grazed by cattle; a management method more associated with the Grizzled Skipper. The population at Langdon Hills has always been of low density, but the rotational strips appear to work well. Females lay their eggs on Creeping Cinquefoil

DATE	MAY												JUNE																								
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
counts, each mdw	west	2		4				1	1										2	1	2	2	0		1		2		1	1	1			2			
	east	0																	0	1		1	2		2		2		2								
identified individuals (M = male, F = female, U = unsexed) w = west meadow, e = east meadow	M1	w	w																																		
	M2						w																														
	M3								w																												
	U1																			w																	
	F1																			w	w																
	M4																				w																
	M5																																				
	M6																																				
	F2																																				
	M7																																				
	M8																																				
	F3																																				

Potentilla reptans within the mown strips. The foodplant is very prominent in early spring as the adjacent vegetation is low. This short sward is essential for larval growth, as the sparse sward produces considerable radiant heat from patches of bare ground, from which the developing larvae benefit. However, the effects of drought can be a problem as the summer progresses. Adjacent scrubby vegetation of the Rosaceae family is believed to be required should the Creeping Cinquefoil become desiccated.

As adults emerge from the taller, unmown strips from the year before, it feels less perilous to walk the mown strips, particularly early in the flight period. The taller vegetation of the unmown strips probably provide a degree of shelter, as does Martinhole Wood; and it is the bottom south-west corner of the West meadow that seems most-favoured by egg laying females. Generally, the West meadow is favoured by observers as it has provided higher counts within a relatively smaller area.

Some adults have been observed in the eastern half of the West meadow in previous years, when there has been a strong easterly breeze. The adjacent hedgerows offering good shelter. However, this area provides unfavourable habitat and it is likely that this, and the adjacent hedgerows, hinder movement between the two meadows.

2021

April 2021 was cold, but an initial visit made to west meadow on the 27th as first sightings have been made in April in previous years. However, no adult Grizzled Skippers were seen and the habitat had limited flowering plants, suggesting that it was still too early. The first sightings eventually came on the 9th May, followed by up to 4 adults on the 11th June. However, a long period of poor weather struck during the middle of May and it wasn't until the 28th May that the first female was positively identified. The last sightings were made on the 12th June, probably both females in the West meadow, although these could not be photographed.

A good proportion of observed butterflies were photographed and a total of 12 individual adults were identified. 8 were male, 3 were female and 1 was unsexed. Emergence occurred first on the West meadow (although this is the more-often visited), with only 4 individuals coming from the East Meadow, all males.

Only 3 individuals were photographed more than once, 'Male 1' in the West meadow and 'Male 5' in the East Meadow. Both were seen over 3-day periods.



'Female 1' – 28/05/2021, ©R Mellis



'Female 1' – 07/06/2021, ©D Tuck



'Male 5' – 31/05/2021, ©R Smith



'Male 5' – 02/06/2021, ©R Smith

Photographers: John Bright, Steve Drake, Reg Mellis, Karl Price, Rob Smith, Denis Tuck, Alan Waddoups.

However, 'Female 1' was photographed 4 times in the West meadow over a period of 12 days. There were no instances of the same adult being photographed in both meadows.

Whilst the establishment of the number of individuals may appear somewhat academic, the surveying method could be intensified to pinpoint female ovipositing habitat preferences, male longevity and their territorial preferences. However, its greater value may be to show the degree of movement of individuals and their ability to disperse and potentially recolonise former sites such as Hawkesbury Bush, Bells Hill Meadow and ultimately, Willow Park, which is one kilometre to the North-west and separate by unfavourable habitat. If a degree of movement can be demonstrated, particularly with females in a small population, then targeted management can be justified in outlying habitat.

References: SMITH, R. (2012). *Butterfly Report 2011. Essex Naturalist (New series) 29: 48-50*

Some Like It Hot...

It is fairly easy to assume that the hotter the weather, the better it is for butterflies. Generally speaking, hotter countries have more butterfly species than colder ones – I can tell you that Iceland has zero resident species while Croatia, for example, has 450 – and you expect to see more butterflies on warm days than colder ones.

On the isles of Shetland, (a nice pub quiz question) there is only one resident butterfly. Not quite as exciting as you might think ... the Large White. For personal safety it might be best to accept 'Cabbage White' for a pub quiz in Harlow.

However, as in all things biology, it isn't so straightforward. The first message here is that warmer weather has many 'knock on' effects. It generally means less rain, and a higher level of transpiration by plants, which effectively means that nature needs more rain just to stand still. Any temperature that deviates from the average affects the butterfly. The adult butterfly, of course, is only one stage of its life and for the rest of the time, during the egg, larva or chrysalis stage, it's likely to be avoiding direct sunlight. Butterflies which are univoltine – a single brood – often face the problem that they must synchronise their flight time, or more accurately their egg laying season, with the availability of their host plant. You might assume that, in warmer weather, both the butterfly and plant would be 'early' but the environmental triggers for plants to flower are differently weighted to the ones that butterflies use to time their hatching. For plants, day length is a much more significant factor but temperature and environmental signals are important as well. For butterflies the primary trigger to hatch are environmental. Temperature plays a key role while the photoperiod is less important. Even normal weather variations can



Shetland Isles only resident butterfly

cause butterflies to emerge one or two weeks later or earlier than average.

Butterflies such as the Fritillaries, even if the larvae hibernate at an early stage in its growth, need healthy, lush plants, and the female chooses these very carefully. In dry years, if the plants shrivel early due to spring drought, females will leave the colony area in search of better breeding sites or just lay fewer eggs. Research on the Marsh Fritillary and its habitat has shown that the size of Scabious plants after a dry year, is 30% smaller than after average rainfall. The results are that fewer caterpillars can survive, and those that do may be smaller and/or less healthy.

Continual increased temperatures can also push butterflies to higher altitudes and more northerly latitudes. In doing so, such species may find that, over time, they run out of suitable habitat. Butterflies may also shift towards multiple generations. The Wall has noticeably suffered from this trend. The butterfly becomes out of sync with the seasons and is unable survive the winter.

One behavioural change is that warmer weather may increase dispersal. Butterflies which require quite specific habitat and disperse, are often unable to find such suitable habitat and become 'lost'. Others, more general in their habitat requirements – for example, the Comma – are enjoying an expanding range.



Comma
Polytonia c-album



Another 'weather factor' is the lifespan, on average, of adult butterflies. In a study on Marsh Fritillary adults, the average days as an adult ranged between 15 in warmest year and 22 in the coolest year, a study completed over a 20 year period. This is just a small list of some of the negatives to a warming environment and there are many scientific documents which have researched the impact of climate change.



Searching for Hairstreak number Five (continued)...

by Ian Watts

The distribution of the UK's hairstreak species is quite varied and, as such, very few Butterfly Conservation branch areas can boast breeding populations of all five. In an exciting development last year – with a summer sighting of an adult Brown Hairstreak (*Thecla betulae*) in Chigwell Row, Essex and the winter discovery of Brown Hairstreak eggs in nearby Claybury Park – the Cambridgeshire and Essex branch may have joined this small club.

Never widely found and only sporadically recorded in Cambridgeshire and Essex, the Brown Hairstreak has been largely absent from these counties for more than a century. Though its return is not a complete surprise (the Brown Hairstreak has been expanding its range into suburban London in recent years), the species has arrived earlier than many would have predicted. Hopefully these recent sightings and discoveries herald a new era for this beautiful species in our branch area.

Nationally, the recent trend for the Brown Hairstreak shows a stable distribution but a decline in abundance. However, there have been localised expansions in range and this has been quite noticeable in parts of the Home Counties and the suburban fringes of south, west and north-west London. Members of the Herts & Middlesex branch (Liz Goodyear, Andrew Middleton and others) have been particularly active in tracing this development and have



Photograph: Ian Watts

conducted numerous winter egg searches to locate where the Brown Hairstreak is now active. It is this map plus some recent adult sightings close to our branch area (in particular, records from Enfield in 2021 and Rotherhithe in 2022) that have placed Essex firmly in the frame for the next stage of the Brown Hairstreak's colonisation.

In July 2022, an adult Brown Hairstreak was seen and photographed in Chigwell Row. This was in the immediate aftermath of the record hot weather and strong winds, a period during which there had been a number of unusual butterfly sightings. As such, it wasn't clear how significant the Hairstreak sighting might be. However, in December, Andrew Middleton conducted an extensive search of nearby Claybury Park and located 4 Brown Hairstreak eggs. Subsequent searches in the wider area revealed a further 4 eggs, all within the park. This discovery clearly placed the Chigwell Row sighting in a different light and the Brown Hairstreak could now be seen as a resident breeding species. Further developments in 2023 provide further encouragement. In July, an adult female was seen and photographed in Ponders End, very close to the Essex border. Also this summer, an adult was photographed at the Rainham Marshes RSPB reserve near Purfleet.

As far as I know, there have not be any sightings of adult butterflies at Claybury

Park this summer but the habitat there appears well suited and it is not unusual for this species to remain largely invisible whilst establishing itself. The experience of Herts & Middlesex is that nascent localised populations can remain unseen for a number of years, even when eggs are found each winter. The Brown Hairstreak doesn't exist in large tightly-packed colonies but is a landscape level species and isolated sightings and low density egg finds are characteristic signs of this species extending its range. Time will tell whether Claybury becomes an established site but the recent range expansion through west and north-west London has shown that colonised areas can show very low level egg counts for a few years prior to becoming more firmly established. It will be fascinating to see how many eggs are found when the egg searching season resumes this winter.

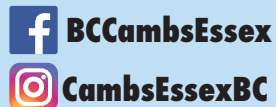
Brown Hairstreak egg surveys

If any members are interested in helping the search for eggs this winter, please contact me via email (ian@ianwatts.co.uk).



Hairstreak egg easily visible amongst bare twigs in Winter

Join us on social media for local updates and share your photos and sightings of moths and butterflies.



Field Trips

Ian Watts led a group of a dozen or so people to track down the Green Hairstreak, now well established, on **Wansted Flats**. Despite not quite perfect weather it was obviously good enough as many were seen.

A group led by Ian Watts again, met at the carpark to tour **Brampton Woods** looking for the elusive Black Hairstreak. And the best place to see them? In the carpark !

The group did eventually do a tour of the woods where they saw others and then viewed the results of our winter work party, where we try to create the right habitat for these butterflies to thrive.

As an experiment, a field trip took place in **Epping Forest**, meeting at 5.30 pm. The result ... excellent. Dozens of Purple Hairstreak were seen in the oaks nearby, again in spite of poor weather.

How's this for an optimistic field trip? Ian Watts led half a dozen hopeful members to **Claybury Park** to try and see the Brown Hairstreak in Essex. To have the best chance, 8.30am was the chosen start time and after several hours no sightings were noted. However those that went were treated to a slightly unexpected sight – that of many Purple Hairstreak feeding at low level in the early morning.

The Purple Emperor has spread right across our counties and Vince and Louise Lee organised a field trip to **Chippenham Fen** to try and record this butterfly. Several moth traps were placed around the area the night previously and these were collected and opened for everyone to see. Several Silver Barred Moths – the one on our Branch Logo – were seen and plenty of everything else you might expect. After an hour or so identifying the hundreds of trapped moths, the group toured the area and particularly enjoyed seeing many day-flying Scarlet Tiger Moths as they went. Sadly, no-one saw a Purple Emperor, but at least everyone enjoyed a walk in beautiful nature.



Silver Barred
Deltote bankiana



Scarlet Tiger
Callimorpha dominula

Declining moths...



It is quite easy to upbeat about everything by concentrating on the positives, and ignoring the negatives. Over the last few years we've seen increases in the numbers of several high profile moths and historic rarities, often spreading and breeding here from the continent, such as the Convolvulus Hawk moth, Blue Underwing and Jersey Tiger moths. But below the headlines is a long list of moths which are slowly getting rarer. One of my neighbours has kept records of moths in the same location, going back 20 years and he has picked out a list of moths, in blocks of 5 years to create an average, whose numbers have fallen at least 30% in that time. This isn't in anyway a scientific report, but 'back-ground noise', just an

Summary by species by year for Magdalen Laver

Code	Vernacular	2004-2008	2009-2013	2014-18	2019-2023
65.009	Buff Arches	96	208	13	18
69.006	Privet Hawk-moth	144	127	43	42
70.051	Red Twin-spot Carpet	249	241	44	36
70.061	Common Carpet	436	219	97	119
70.074	July Highflyer	30	66	39	2
70.107	November Moth	243	67	51	72
70.126	Small Waved Umber	213	174	66	92
70.144	Green Pug	145	85	62	18
70.173	Lime-speck Pug	214	137	31	94
70.207	Clouded Border	118	130	53	24
70.237	Early Thorn	171	142	90	42
70.28	Clouded Silver	212	260	67	33
72.013	Yellow-tail	88	88	13	18
72.045	Common Footman	4128	3276	852	790
72.053	Fan-foot	52	114	57	12
73.012	Burnished Brass	295	156	85	64
73.096	Uncertain	5270	6969	1527	2205
73.102	Brown Rustic	445	605	269	114
73.113	Angle Shades	527	147	110	147
73.131	Flounced Rustic	115	84	36	34
73.162	Dark Arches	1867	1377	513	698
73.163	Light Arches	228	188	49	76
73.182	Sallow	55	67	26	15
73.206	Blair's Shoulder-knot	120	132	42	23
73.216	Dun-bar	383	364	142	143
73.267	Bright-line Brown-eye	1038	512	254	180
73.27	Dot Moth	42	39	24	0
73.274	Cabbage Moth	114	43	27	37
73.319	Turnip Moth	879	654	162	461
73.328	Flame	1145	1365	310	165
73.329	Flame Shoulder	1407	1046	450	539
73.336	Red Chestnut	99	69	11	36
73.346	Least Yellow Underwing	139	97	40	48
73.348	Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing	2349	2385	955	844
73.358	Six-striped Rustic	71	39	27	10
73.361	Double Square-spot	426	1009	242	66
74.003	Short-cloaked Moth	45	61	11	18

Average per year over every 5 years



indication that all isn't well with what we might consider our most common moths and butterflies.

It's all in the name ...

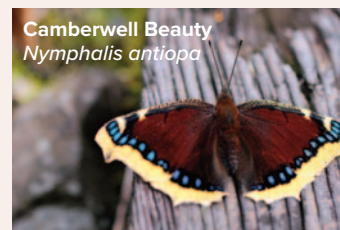
I was explaining to my 4 year old granddaughter that some butterflies were badly named. So she kindly agreed to rename them for me.

Common Blue (it's not common) became '**Blue Beauty**'.

Duke of Burgundy Fritillary (it's not a fritillary) became '**Brown Twinkler**'.

Small Skipper (there are three others the same size and shape) became '**Baby Yellow Wings**'.

Marbled White (it's a Brown, not a White) became '**White Blackstar**'.



Camberwell Beauty (named after the location in South London where they were thought to live, but were actually arriving whilst

hibernating among imported Scandinavian timber) became '**Star Polkadot**'.

I'm not suggesting any of these names are taken up. 😊 Ed.



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Butterfly Conservation is a national charity with well over 40,000 members and clear aims.

- 1) Recover threatened butterflies and moths
- 2) Increase the numbers of widespread species
- 3) Inspire people to understand and deliver species conservation
- 4) Promote international conservation actions.

In addition to this, it manages 30 separate sites around the country, home to some of our rarest species. All the actions and activities of Butterfly Conservation ultimately support the delivery of these core aims.

www.butterfly-conservation.org



Butterfly Conservation

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