



North East England Branch



President Sir David Attenborough CH. FRS

SAVING BUTTERFLIES, MOTHS AND OUR ENVIRONMENT

Newsletter No 29.

April 2014



Butterfly Conservation

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Thank you to all who have contributed to this edition of our Newsletter. Our new members might like to know that there are two Newsletters each year and we are always delighted to include any articles, letters, photos or drawings that any member cares to submit.

If you have a question or observation on a butterfly or moth related subject, how about writing to our LETTERS PAGE; or if you are electronic, send an e-mail.

Copy dates are unquestionably:

1st March.....April Edition

1st September.....November Edition

Contributions should be sent to the Editor at this address:

21 West Acres, Alnwick, Northumberland NE66 2QA

E-mail jacquelinebeaven@btinternet.com

The Committee of North East England Branch would be very interested to hear from any Members who have ideas and suggestions for site visits, conservation opportunities or anything of interest within the Branch area.

Any Member of the Branch who has a particular skill to offer, and feels able to give their services, would also be welcomed.

A list of Committee members can be found on the back page of this Newsletter.

Cover Photograph by kind permission of Lloyd Currie. An early Peacock at Seahouses.

2013 was a year of widespread butterfly recovery and across the country recorders involved in the Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey counted more than twice the number of butterflies per survey than in 2012. This was not true for all species and last year's exceptionally cold spring badly affected those butterflies and moths which emerge at that time of the year.

For the last three years I've contributed to the Annual Butterfly Summary by writing the notes for the Green Hairstreak butterfly. 2011 was an exceptional year for the butterfly and five hundred and twenty-six individuals were recorded. In 2012 the dull wet weather in April and May resulted in a dramatic reduction and only ninety-six were recorded. Last year there were only sixteen reports of Green Hairstreaks and forty-seven individuals were recorded. It may be assumed that the poor weather affected this butterfly but this can only be confirmed by this spring's records. Those sheltered sunny spots where Bilberry grows are well worth checking during April and May for this charming species.

As you may have read in the article by Dr Tom Brereton, Butterfly Conservation Head of Monitoring, Butterfly conservation is concerned about how mild this winter has been because the increased activity of pathogens makes the immature stages of butterflies and moths susceptible to diseases. Recording becomes increasingly important as we try to monitor the effects of more extreme weather events such as this winters flooding.

Accompanying this newsletter you will have received your copy of the Annual Butterfly Summary. This brings together the records submitted from casual sightings, transect walkers and other organisations. Although a number of us contribute to this summary by writing notes on individual species the work of compiling and editing

the report has been undertaken by Roger Norman and Steve le Fleming, the branch's butterfly recorders. Recording is a major contribution to butterfly conservation and the butterfly summary provides us with a record of all the recording in our region for the previous year. Roger has been responsible for editing the last five annual summaries and as you will have read in April's newsletter after ten years as County Recorder for Butterflies in Northumberland he is stepping down. Roger has made an immense contribution to the branch.

In recent newsletters we have discussed the option of an electronic version. Butterfly Conservation's HQ is supporting branches in producing newsletters more economically. With this and a large numbers of new members, the committee has decided to continue to send out two mailings a year with electronic versions of the newsletter available via the website. The annual report will continue to be posted to members with the spring newsletter. The newsletter remains the best way for the committee to communicate with members and for local ideas and information to be shared.

Ken Dawson is another long serving committee member who has decided that this is an appropriate time for him to retire from the committee. Ken was one of the founder members of the Northeast England Branch of Butterfly Conservation and has stepped in and chaired the committee on a number of occasions. I have appreciated Ken's support since I joined the committee and am sure he will continue to support the work of the branch.

During the past year I have been pleased to welcome Steven Lowther, Helen McDonald, Coralie Niven and Stephen Inglis to the branch committee. Steven Lowther is the new Butterfly Recorder for Northumberland. With recent resignations the branch still has vacancies for a newsletter editor and a membership secretary.

Included in this newsletter are the details of our AGM and Members Day which is going to be held on Sunday 6th July at Gibside. We are working with the National Trust staff at Gibside to hold what promises to be an interesting day covering recording both butterflies and moths. I'm delighted that Jim Asher, the next Butterfly Conservation Chairman is going to be our afternoon speaker and judge of our photographic competition. I hope you are able to join us. Please email me (apwebb@uwclub) if you are planning to attend the members day as this will help our planning.

Many UK species need a warm spring and summer this year to give them the best chance of sustaining a recovery. Your help in monitoring butterflies and moths will play its part in helping assess whether we are reversing butterfly declines and rebuilding a healthy countryside. Please look on our website or contact me or any member of the committee if you would like advice on where to see butterflies or moths in the Northeast of England.



The Branch Archive	Roger Norman
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In a recent newsletter I asked for copies of old newsletters and Annual Butterfly Summaries so as to assemble a complete archive of the Branch's publications before some of these were lost in the mists of time. I am pleased to say that thanks to generous offers from several members, we now have a complete archive of all our newsletters and annual summaries. In particular, Ken Dawson, Jaci Beaven and Hew Ellis all kindly donated original copies. This means that there is now a complete archive at the library of the Natural History Society of Northumbria at the Great North Museum: Hancock in Newcastle.

Anyone who is a member of the Natural History Society will have seen an article in the latest issue of their magazine *Roebuck*, about the library. If you are not a member, the good news is that this is free and open to everyone and is the major collection of material on the natural world in the region. In particular it covers the natural history of our region. If you wish to visit, call the Museum on 0191 222 6765 or email to gnmlibrary@twmuseums.org.uk. The opening hours are 10.00 – 4.00 on weekdays in university term times and 1.00 – 4.00 in vacations.

I also have a complete set of publications if anyone wants to consult them, although some of these are photocopies.

North East Transects for 2013	Brian Denham
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2013 produce reports from forty-one transects. Two of which were new for 2013 and one not recorded, which had previously been recorded. As could be expected 2013 produced much better results than the previous years.

As a rough guide: the approx.total number of butterflies recorded for all North East Transects were 2013 – 40400, 2012 – 13500, 2011 – 18100, 2010 – 23900, 2009 – 24400. Lets hope this year is better.

Except where recorders do not have computers and with one exception, all records have been successfully entered on the new “On line” system. Where recorders do not have computers I have continued to enter the data from their paper records. Even this is less laborious than the old system. The only common errors that occurred were due entering data against the wrong butterfly on the list of UK butterflies. This error occurred when instead of creating a species list for a particular site, the full list of UK butterflies was used. When entering data it is best to create a list of butterflies normally seen at that site.

Occasionally we get a report of a rare butterfly which has not

previously been recorded on a transect. When this happens the identity of the butterfly needs to be verified. The best form of verification is a photograph. The following list is of rare butterflies which, if they appear on your transect require verification. If this happens on your transect please contact Steve Le Fleming – lsklef@aol.com who will send you a form to complete regarding the butterfly.

Rare Lepidoptera in North East England include the following: Monarch, Grizzled Skipper, Brimstone, Pale Clouded Yellow, Small Blue, Northern Brown Argus on new sites, Camberwell Beauty, Large Tortoiseshell, any Fritillaries on new sites, Queen of Spain Fritillary, Marbled White and Grayling on new sites, Gatekeeper, and Large Heath on new sites, also any other species not included on the North East England list, or appearing to be an exotic escapee.

As usual we will be issuing Summary of Butterflies recorded in 2013. This included not only butterflies recorded on transects but the casual records sent in by members and non members. So if you are not already doing so, please send in your records of butterflies you have seen either just off your transect or elsewhere in the countryside. This can be done by email or by post. An e mailable recording form can be downloaded from the group web site.

Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey 2014 Brian Denham

2014 will be the fourth year of the WCBS and once again I am asking for volunteers to record butterflies on allocated 1km squares. In 2013 only six 1km squares were recorded and it would be great to improve on this figure in 2014. The requirement is to make a minimum of two visits to your 1km square during July and August with optional visits from May until August. North East England Branch has been allocated twenty-four – 1km. squares which have been chosen randomly to gain a representative sample of the branch regions and their habitats.

The survey is NOT designed to replace transects, but to compliment them by collecting different data on common and widespread species that we suspect are fairing differently outside nature reserves and SSSI's and therefore the survey has to be random to get a representative picture of the countryside.

The basic requirement for surveying a 1km square is to create two survey lines approx. 1 km long, 500m apart and approx. 250m in from the edge of the square. Pairs of survey lines are to run N-S or E-W.

It is appreciated that this is the ideal situation and most sets of survey lines will be an approximation of this requirement. The two survey lines are to be divided into 5 - 200m. long sections and the butterflies seen, identified with the 200m section in which they were seen.

It is important not to reject squares on the grounds that they appear uninteresting. Squares containing few species are just as valuable as squares with many species.

It is intended that the recorded data will be sent electronically to Butterfly Conservation via the website. However if you do not have access to a computer the data can be recorded on paper record sheets, which will be supplied. At the end of the recording period the completed paper record sheets are to be forwarded to Brian Denham (See below for address) who will enter the data.

The above is a very broad outline of the survey method. If you decide that you would like to help in this survey then please provisionally select a suitable 1 km. square from the following list and inform Brian Denham of your decision and choice. I will then arrange for more detailed instructions to be sent to you. Only when you have studied the detailed instructions and confirmed that you wish to carry on with the survey will we finally allocate the 1 km. square you have selected

Should you decide, after studying the detailed instruction, that you do not wish to carry on with the survey, we would be sorry, but we would hope that you would continue recording a transect and/or sending in casual records.

The following is the list of Ordnance Survey four figure grid reference numbers of remaining twenty-four - 1 km. squares we have been allocated. Previously allocated square have already been removed from the list.

NU 0934 - 0436

NT 9222 - 9935

NY 6869 - 7189 - 7482 - 8583 - 8974 - 9085 - 9796 - 6859 - 6869 -
9971 - 6662 - 8063 - 8961 - 9582 - 9796

NZ 0825 - 2024 - 2075 - 2159 - 3934 - 0953 - 4234

In a case where the survey work proves impossible in a large part of the square you have been allocated, e.g. because it is physically impossible to visit or access is not granted please contact Brian Denham who may be able to provide an alternative square.

It's not difficult, does not take up a lot of time and the records are very useful to Butterfly Conservation - Please give it a try!

Contacts:-

Survey Champion North East England

Brian Denham

1 Swaledale Ave.

Darlington

DL3 9AJ

brian.denham@ntlworld.com

Tel: 01325 263449 Mobile: 079 694 595 97



A few weeks ago, I qualified for my state pension, and since achieving early retirement in 2011, I've had time to reflect on what has gone before, and what I want to do with my new-found freedom.

I joined Butterfly Conservation twenty years ago, and since I turned up at a North of England Branch AGM at around that time, I've been a member of the committee. At that time, much of the lead came from the Cumbrian, not least owing to some of the iconic butterfly species to be found there. However, we were fortunate in the North East to have an eminent scientist and good communicator in Sam Ellis, who eventually became chairman of the North East England Branch.

Around ten years ago, we were also lucky to recruit Jaci Beaven as Newsletter Editor and Membership Secretary. She did this initially from High Wycombe, and filled a big part of the vacuum left by Ian Waller, whose dynamism and resourcefulness we lost when he left the area. Not long after that, we also 'lost' Sam, who took up a B.C. staff post as Regional Development Officer. I didn't have a lot on my 'duty list' at the time, and when they turned to look at me, I reluctantly agreed to become chairman, until somebody more suitable appeared.

Being a 'chairman' did not come naturally to me. I am often spontaneous and somewhat impulsive. Tact and diplomacy are not my best attributes; therefore co-ordinating a disparate group of specialists did present challenges. I'm a native of West Yorkshire, and although I like to think I 'escaped' to the North East, I've never quite lost the propensity for blunt speaking and grumpiness...

I know my tendency to 'rattle cages' and 'ruffle feathers', (sometimes necessary to get results in my working life), didn't please everybody! I was therefore relieved when Cliff Evans agreed to take over.

Cliff retired two years ago, and again reluctantly, I stood in as chairman. Fortunately this didn't last long, and I was more than happy to hand over to Peter Webb.

My decision to drop out of the committee was confirmed quite recently, mainly due to the recruitment of four new members. It's good to be able to opt out without leaving gaps to be filled. I'm also something of a 'Luddite' within a world that's increasingly dependent on information technology. I hope I can continue to take an active part within the Branch, on projects such as The Spetchells and Belsay School grounds, outings and events. I also hope I'll have enough time to learn about moths.

Butterfly Walk around Weetslade Country Park Come along for a guided walk around Weetslade Country Park, just north of Gosforth, Newcastle, on Sunday 13 July. This is a former mine site which has been converted into a country park. It is an excellent place for grassland butterflies and a variety of day flying moths. Meet at Weetslade car park at 11:00am – Grid Reference NZ260723. Contact David Stebbings for more details.

2013 MOTH REPORT County Durham, VC66 Keith Dover

The early Spring species hardly put in an appearance due to the very unseasonal weather with Orthosias, (Quakers, Drabs and Hebrew Character) in very low numbers, this sorry state being reported throughout the country with very poor numbers everywhere. This was the position until the beginning of June. Midsummer, the weather improved dramatically and so did moth numbers, so from the gloom of earlier in the season numbers of moths began to rise along with temperatures and everyone became very busy indeed.

The increased numbers did not give any "first for county" records until I was emailed with a record for BLACKNECK *Lygephila pastinum*. Mr G. Roberts was fortunate while photographing Marbled White *Melanargia*

galathea at Wingate Quarry he was able to obtain a good photograph of this first record for County Durham on 15 July 2013.



BLACKNECK *Lygephila pastinum* WAVED BLACK *Parascotia fuliginaria*

A few days later I received another email from Mr Edward Pritchard working at RSPB Saltholme, attached to his email was a good photograph of the even more unlikely WAVED BLACK *Parascotia fuliginaria* which was taken on 21 July 2013 in the Robinson Trap at the visitor centre, possibly a migrant, although the moth has been recorded in Yorkshire

MICRO – MOTHS First County records



0586

1473

0586 *Coleophora adjunctella* taken at light by Robert Woods at No.4 Brinefield, Billingham on 03 July 2013. Gen-det by Harry Beaumont.

1437 *Acrobasis consociella* taken at light by Julie Mason in Stockton on 26 July 2013, Photographed and later confirmed by C H Fletcher.



1193

1193 *Eucosma tripoliana* taken at light by Robert Woods at No. 4 Brinefield, Billingham on 01 August 2013. Gen-det by Robert Woods. Photograph Tom Tams



0200

0200 *Psychoides filicivora* Daytime observation of larval spore mass on Hart's-tongue Fern by Robert Homan at Durham City riverbanks on 16 November 2013

The above record was followed up by Tim Barker and Keith Dover with a visit to the Durham site on 24 November 2013 where three larvae were retained, photographed, the adult moths emerging 14/15 March 2014. Photographed and released to the original site.



P. filicivora larva



One interesting adventive turned up 23 September 2013. Mr M Sharp recorded an adult BOXWORM *Diaphania perspectalis* at Van Vliet Flower Importers, Team Valley, Gateshead, therefore it is fair to believe this to be probably imported on *Buxus*.

Other notable Moths recorded in 2013

Ectoedemia intimella

Paraswammerdamia albicapitella

Coleophora striatipennella

Coleophora saxicolella

Depressaria badiella

Monochroa lucidella

Monochroa tetragonella

Chrysoesthia sexguttella

Chionodes fumatella

Scrobipalpa samadensis

Brachmia blandella

Celypha cespitana

Gypsonoma oppressana

Grapholita janthinana

Agriphila latistria

Ovendenia lienigianus

Archanara geminipuncta Twin-spotted

Wainscot



Dragonfly Recorder

The long-serving dragonfly recorder for Northumberland and Durham. Harry Eales, is standing down from that role. If anyone is interested in taking over from him, please contact him. He would be delighted to chat to you and explain what is involved.

He can be contacted on 01207 560 732 or at harryeales@talktalk.net

North East England Branch of Butterfly Conservation

**Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of
North East England Branch of Butterfly Conservation
will be held on Sunday 6 July 2014**

**at Gibside National Trust,
as part of Members' Day.**

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**The Chairman and Treasurer will give reports,
as will Conservation Officers and Recorders.**

**This will be followed by the election of Committee Members.
Questions will be taken if they are submitted, in writing, to the
Chairman twenty-one days before the meeting.**

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Members' Day.

**All Members are invited to bring their original photographs
of British Butterflies and Moths (no larger than 7" by 5")
for a competition to be judged by our Guest Speaker,
Dr Jim Asher.**

**Dr Asher is Chairman Elect of Butterfly Conservation, current
Chairman of both Upper Thames Branch and the National
Conservation Committee and a Trustee of the Society.
He is a keen and talented photographer and co-author of
"The Millennium Atlas of Butterflies of Britain and Ireland"
as well as other books and reports.**

North East England Branch of Butterfly Conservation

MEMBERS' DAY AND AGM

To be held at Gibside National Trust

Rowlands Gill

On Sunday 6 July 2014.



Programme

Arrive at 10.00am

Unveil the Overnight Moth Trap

11.00am. Moth Matters with Guest Mike Cook
from The Garden Moths Scheme

12.30pm. Lunch

1.30pm. Annual General Meeting

2.00pm. North East England Butterfly Report

2.30pm. Guest Speaker Dr. Jim Asher,
Chairman Elect of Butterfly Conservation.

There will be a photographic competition

4.00pm Close.

0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0

Please notify Peter Webb if you intend to attend.

Bring a picnic, although food is available in the Café at
Gibside. The Day is free to members but you will need
your Butterfly Conservation Membership Card at
Admissions.

More Work on the Spetchells

Ken Dawson

On 12 January, Dave Stebbings and his dedicated team of volunteers joined me at the top of the chalk banks, where we did some 'scrub-bashing' to create more open spaces for butterflies. This time, we concentrated on the large stand of Swedish Whitebeam that had been planted in the 1970s, as well as removing some of the invasive prostrate form of *Cotoneaster*. We left the tree stumps at a minimum height of approx. 1 ft., which the Council workers have agreed to reduce to ground level and treat with herbicide. We piled the cut branches at the rear of the plantation, where they should provide some shelter, and habitat for invertebrates. The ground beneath the area we cleared is mostly free of undergrowth, and might therefore be suitable for an attempt to introduce Birds Foot Trefoil. I am trying to work out a successful way to do this.

The weather was fortunately dry, but a cold wind made itself felt, and by mid afternoon, we decided to call it a day. We then walked along to the second chalk bank at the east end of the site, to see if it might also have potential for improvement. We did find one open area, in a good position for sun and shelter. However, some parts of it were solid and rock-like, where the chalk had compacted, and we suspected that this was the earliest to be deposited. I did find Dingy Skipper on this heap, about twenty years ago on the south-facing side, which is now much overgrown. However, I intend to visit the site regularly this year, to check for butterflies in the open areas.

The National Butterfly Recorders' Meeting.

Roger Norman

On the 22 March, the annual meeting for butterfly recorders was held in Birmingham. This meeting is open to everyone, both members and non-members, interested in the recording of butterflies and is advertised on the national website. It is held at the Birmingham and Midland Institute in the centre of Birmingham and close to New Street

Station. The meeting opened with an update on the Butterflies for the New Millennium scheme by Richard Fox of BC, the national co-ordinator, to which we contribute all our records, both casual and from transects. It has been running from 1995, still going strong and hopefully will continue to in the future. There was then an update on developments in the UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme by Tom Brereton of BC which covers all the transects walked by so many people nationwide and by over forty people in the northeast with a 50-year overview from David Roy of the NERC Centre for Ecology and Hydrology.

There were two updates on atlases, one for northeast England by myself and one for Sussex, a branch with a smaller area and a larger membership. A run-down on the recording and conservation activities in Northern Ireland was given by Catherine Bertrand, BC's only full time employee there. Work there has had to start from a very low base. The final presentation was from Mike Bonsall of University of Oxford on using Transect results to study butterfly population dynamics. The conclusion from his work was that some species exhibited density-dependent behaviour, whereby populations at a low ebb tended to increase and populations at a high level tended to decrease. These species were generally the "Browns". However, of much greater conservation concern over the long-term were species that exhibited different behaviour, whereby low levels of population tended to have poor productivity. These colonies appeared to need low-level immigration from other colonies for long-term survival. The species in this category were generally the fritillaries, on which much conservation work by BC is focused. There was an attendance of just over one hundred people, it is subsidised by BC and is free, apart from £5 for buffet lunch. The problem for those of us in the northeast is of course, the distance, the cost of travel, and the very early start if travelling on the day.

The first night of December last year was a mild one. Mild enough to encourage me to put the moth trap out. I was amazed the next morning to find the trap covered in small drab Moths. When I counted there were fifty-one male Winter Moths inside and on the outside of the trap. Although I have found the almost wingless female Winter Moths in the past searching last year proved unsuccessful.

The little moth which flutters weakly across the road in front of the car on a winters evening is familiar to many people but has a remarkable life history. Although often abundant it is an amazing creature capable of flying at temperatures close to or even below freezing, having a flightless female yet being able to increase its range to such an extent that it is found abundantly across the country where the caterpillars are the favoured food of many small birds.

Flight requires warm, powerful muscles as can be seen by watching a large moth vibrating it wings to warm its muscles so it can create enough wing strokes to sustain flight. So how do these small moths fly in such cold conditions? With the help of the internet I discovered an article from an American University by J H Marden in the Journal of Experimental Biology.(Evolutionary adaption of contractile performance in muscle of ectothermic winter flying moths)

According to the JH Marden the structure of the Winter Moth gives it a low wing- loading (low total weight divided by a large wing area) The moths also have a high flight muscle ratio and these strong muscles combined with few wing beats allow them to operate in very low temperatures as they seek the scent of female emitted pheromones. Without the need of bulky flight muscles flightless females can fill their bodies with eggs. A flight model by Marden suggests if a female were to fly again with even weak flight it would have a 17% reduction in the number of eggs it could carry. At another time of the year flightless females would be victims to birds and other predators but

during the winter moths there are fewer insectivorous birds seeking food.

Winter Moths don't only rely on the adults to increase their range although I have read reports of flightless female moths finding their way into a moth trap still attached to the male.

In common with some other species Winter Moths use a method of dispersal called "ballooning" during the early larval stage. The small caterpillars climb up a tree, produce a length of silk thread and then use the wind to travel.

Membership Matters

Jaci Beaven

Yes! I'm still here - they moved the goal posts and delayed the AGM until July. Plus the Committee have not yet found anyone to replace me! Any Offers?

Welcome to all those new Members of the Branch who have joined us since the last Newsletter and those who have re-joined, welcome back.

Ms C Blyth

Ms V Coy and Mr V Robins

Ms M Forster

Mr R Gilhespy

Mr and Mrs W M Horsely

Mr S Keeney

Mr M S Kirby

Miss R Mansfield

Mrs S Mordey

Mrj and Mrs J Palmer

Mr B Petrie

Mr G and Mrs A Siggers

Mrs L Smith

Hexham

Washington

Hexham

Gosforth

Hartlepool

Darlington

Wetherby, West Yorkshire

Stockton-on-Tees

Chester-le-Street

Whitley Bay

Whickham

Roker, Sunderland

Newcastle-upon-Tyne

Don't forget to send in your casual records at the end of the season.
Good butterfly hunting!

Safety Notice for All Butterfly Conservation Events

As with any other activity, there are hazards in the countryside and everyone taking part in a Field Trip or Working Party has a responsibility, for their own safety and that of others. We always ensure that our events present no greater hazard than any other walk in the countryside, but please note and act on the following:

1. The leader will provide a briefing on the trip before setting out, with details of any known hazards, and will give advice on what to do in an emergency. Please listen carefully.
2. At the briefing, let the leader know if a) you have a mobile telephone and are able to take it with you on the walk, and b) if you have a first aid qualification.
3. Wear appropriate clothing and footwear. Stout shoes are a minimum requirement for any walk.
4. In sunny weather take a hat, use sun cream or protection for exposed skin. Make sure that you have adequate food and liquid to drink with you.
5. When on a walk, look out for any hazards – rabbit holes, fallen or hanging branches, barbed wire, boggy areas etc.
6. Children are welcome on our walks, but if under the age of 16 must be accompanied by at least one adult for two children. It is the responsibility of the accompanying adult(s) to ensure that the trip is within the children's capability.
7. Dogs are normally welcome on our walks, but must be kept under control.
8. If you are uncertain about any details of the trip, ring the leader/contact in advance. If you decide to leave the trip early, please tell the leader.
9. Take care at all times and above all ENJOY YOURSELF.

How to Submit Moth Records



Over 1200 species of moth have been recorded in our region, some common and widespread, others represented by very few, or in some cases, only a single record. Submitting records of moths helps to improve our understanding of the distribution and abundance of these fascinating insects and to enable potential problems they may be experiencing to be detected. Separate databases are maintained for Durham and Northumberland and records should be submitted to the appropriate recorder depending on where they are made.

In all cases the following information should be recorded:

Species name:	Please indicate scientific and (where there is one) common names.
Location:	Where the moth was recorded.
Grid reference:	Ideally a six-figure grid reference for the location.
Vice County:	66 for Durham, 67 for South Northumberland and 68 for North Northumberland.
Date :	For light trapping records the convention is that the date should be that of the evening when the trap is set rather than the morning when it is emptied.
Recorder:	Name of the person who caught/observed the moth(s).
Determiner:	The name of the person who identified the moth(s) (if different to the recorder)
Life cycle stage:	i.e. adult, pupa, caterpillar or egg.
Quantity:	The number of each species recorded.
Method:	Type of trap, field record, or how the moth was caught.
Durham (Vice County 66)	

Records should be submitted to either of the joint moth recorders for Durham:

Keith Dover

4 Lindisfarne Avenue
Chester-le-Street, Co. Durham

e-mail: k.dover879@btinternet.com

Tim Barker

Tap and Spike, 27 Front Street
Framwellgate Moor, Durham

e-mail: tim@tapandspile.co.uk

A spreadsheet for the submission of moth records for County Durham can be downloaded from

www.northeast-butterflies.org.uk/recording

Northumberland (Vice County 67 and Vice County 68)

Records should be submitted to **Tom Tams**, the moth recorder for Northumberland,

191 Links Road, Tynemouth, Northumberland. Tel: 0191 272 8499

e-mail: tomsphotos@hotmail.co.uk or recorder@northumberlandsmoths.org.uk

Full details for submitting records in Northumberland, including a downloadable spreadsheet are given at www.northumberlandmoths.org.uk.

Validation

It is important that records are accurate and based on correct identifications and one of the responsibilities of the County Recorders is to scrutinise submitted records and check that this is the case. For any records of rare species, easily confused species or records of species that are outside their usual geographic range or flight period they may ask for supporting evidence to be supplied before the record is accepted. Suitable evidence may include good quality photographs, or sight of the actual specimen (moths can be kept captive for a day or two in a pot in a cool place without being harmed).

Submitting Butterfly Records in 2014 – 2015

Records are the bedrock of conservation and the North East Branch welcomes records of all species, for all dates and places, and of course for all forms.

From 2010 there will be two ways of sending your records in. For those without a home computer, the existing yellow paper casual record sheets will continue unchanged. However, if you have a PC, the Branch would urge you to send in your records using a spreadsheet such as Microsoft Excel. Each record should occupy one line and the format of the spreadsheet should look something like the following example:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Name/s of recorder/s	NZ274423	Palace Green, Durham City	22-Aug-2014	Large White	7	
2	Name/s of recorder/s	NZ196858	Morpeth (riverside)	24-Sep-2014	Peacock	2	Very worn
3	Name/s of recorder/s	NZ2514	Baydale Beck Darlington	1-Jul-2014	Comma	1	<i>Hutchinsoni</i> form

Column A – Recorder/s names.

Column B - Grid reference, which should be two letters, (NT, NU, NY or NZ), followed by four or six numbers. The first two (or three) numbers are the Easting, read from the top or bottom of OS maps, the last two, (or three) numbers represent the Northing, read from either side of the map.

Column C - Site name. For obscure place names please include a nearby town or village.

Column D – Date (please try to follow the format shown)

Column E - The name of the species seen.

Column F - The number seen. The actual number is preferred rather than the letter system. For larva (L), ova (O), pupa (P) or mating (M) records, please use the code letter provided, optionally adding numbers seen.

Column G - For any comments you may wish to add.

Optionally, you can add a habitat code to column H if you wish.

A blank spreadsheet, with the date formatted, is available by contacting the recorders. Electronic records are most easily sent as an email attachment. However, you can also send them in by post on CD or memory stick. The deadline for records to be included, and credited, in the 2014 Annual Report is 30 November 2014. Depending on where you live, please send records to:

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Steve Le Fleming

✉ 7 Albert Street
Durham,
DH1 4RL

☎ 0191 386 7309

✉ : lsklef@aol.com

NORTHUMBERLAND

Stephen Lowther

✉ 16 Clarence Street
Bowburn, Durham
DH6 5BB

☎ 0191 377 0682

✉ : stelow4@live.co.uk

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Butterfly Conservation

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