



North East England Branch



President Sir David Attenborough CH. FRS DEDICATED TO SAVING WILD BUTTERFLIES AND THEIR HABITATS

Newsletter No 30.

November 2014



Butterfly Conservation

Company limited by guarantee, registered in England (2206468)

Registered Office: Manor Yard, East Lulworth, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 5QP

Charity registered in England & Wales (254937) and in Scotland (SCO39268)

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*Front cover: Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary by Steve Austin:
the winning entry in our Photography Competition 2014.*

Editorial

Hello.

I wanted to briefly introduce myself and the contents of this newsletter. I have taken over from Jaci Beaven who gave the North East branch 30 years of service in her roles as Newsletter Editor and Membership Secretary and was presented with an 'Outstanding Volunteer' award at this year's AGM by Dr. Jim Asher.

I have been a member of Butterfly Conservation for just a couple of years so am still somewhat of a 'novice' when it comes to butterflies and moths! I have always been curious about the natural world, an interest that grew out of living in this rural part of Northumberland all my life. I became interested in butterflies and moths after attending a moth night up in the Ingram Valley and a very impressive display at the British Bird Fair, Rutland, where I signed up to become a member.

Moving on to the newsletter, there are a few changes, although they are quite subtle. There is now a contents page, which will show some regular slots and seasonal articles and few new slots for highlights of the season for anyone who has seen something they wish to share and also an arts/photography/poetry section because this newsletter doesn't have to just be about reports.

This newsletter also features minutes from our AGM earlier this year and the winning entry and runners up for the 'Photography Competition 2014'.

Kind regards

Helen Passey

Chairman's Report: Peter Webb

I start my chairman's report by welcoming our new newsletter editor Helen Passey. I am very grateful to Helen for agreeing to edit the branch newsletter and am sure that all branch members will want to support her. Please ensure she has plenty of material to edit so the branch can continue to publish two newsletters each year. I know Helen would welcome any ideas you have on what should be included in the newsletter

For anyone with an interest in Butterflies one of the memorable images of this year will be of Peacocks, Red Admirals and Small Tortoiseshells congregating on Buddleja bushes. As autumn begins these butterflies are now nectaring on ivy blossom in preparation for their winter hibernation. We await the first warm spring days to see how many have survived.

Butterfly numbers have bounced back well this summer and many threatened species have recovered dramatically in habitats being managed as part of Butterfly Conservation's landscape-scale projects. The best way for branches and individuals to support this work is to donate to the Match Pot appeals which have enabled Butterfly Conservation to release large funds from the Landfill Communities Fund by making a 10% contribution from independent sources. This means that every £10 donated to Butterfly Conservation's Match Pot appeal can release £100 from the Landfill Communities Fund.

Butterfly Conservation is the largest contributor of biological records publicly available via the National Biodiversity Network Gateway .The records you send into the county recorders form part of this. Later in the year the branch will be publishing a Butterfly Atlas for this region which is based on over two hundred thousand records collected over many years. Compiling this summary has been a massive task and the branch is grateful to the members of the working group, and in particular Roger Norman for organising the publication. Copies of the new Butterfly Atlas will be available for sale later in the year with any profits going to Butterfly Conservation's Match Pot appeal.

The branch has welcomed 50 new members this autumn. Many of you will have taken part in a butterfly survey for the first time and will be new to the pleasure and excitement of going out and looking for butterflies and moths. Discovering butterflies and particularly species of moths can initially seem a daunting task. Please look on the national and branch websites or contact branch recorders or other committee members for help, particularly with identification. An emailed digital image is often a good starting point.

Included within this newsletter is a report on the members' day in July. Many thanks to all those who contributed, especially Helen McDonald and the staff at Gibside for providing such a good venue and to Mike Cook, Joe and Lynda Fean and Jim Asher for their excellent presentations. We aim to build on this success and have started planning for next year's members' day in July (Details in the spring newsletter).

All branch members are welcome to contribute reports or articles to the branch newsletter, website or Facebook. Our editor has introduced a new feature to the newsletter called "Highlights of the Season" this will be something to which we can all contribute by sending a very short account of a Butterfly or moth highlight. We hope this will encourage those members to contribute to the newsletter that may be put off by the idea of writing an article.

Highlights of the 2014 season

In mid-spring (April) Graham Beckwith sent the following submission:

"The following all seen at Rothbury on a lovely afternoon where I made a point of visiting the 2 areas identified in 2011 hoping for some early *Green Hairstreaks*: Below Ship Crag - Rewarded with 9 *Green Hairstreak*, glorious pristine *Emerald Green* beauties; 5 *Peacock*; 1 *Small Tortoiseshell*. I then moved through the birch wood to Brae Head (approx. 300m) where another colony of *Green Hairstreaks* was present in 2011 and saw another 8 pristine individuals, a further 4 *Peacock* and, during my walk between the 2 areas, at least 9 male *Emperor Moths* whizzing by in their search for females. Suffice to say, none stopped to pose for a photo. Along Hillside West I also saw a solitary female *Green-veined White*."

A little later in May, Keith Walton reported: "I had good numbers of *Green Hairstreak* on Muggleswick Park today. Part of the site is very easy to visit for anyone who wants to have good views of them. Park near the cattle grid NZ045485, track to Farm at Coal Gate, walk up the road towards Muggleswick (Dyke House- community centre with small windmill). Between the first and second telephone poles walk across the moor to the gorse bushes (about 100 ft. from the road) and check all these bushes. 25+ *Green Hairstreak* here very photogenic just sitting most of the time with occasional fights.

Into June and Carol Stamp reported a *Hummingbird Hawk-moth* in her garden at Bardon Mill. Another charismatic migrant to follow the previous day's *Clouded Yellow* at Weetslade!

Steve Austin visited Wingate Quarry in September where he saw 6 wall browns, 2 *Peacock* and 6 *Small Heath* as well as his first *Painted Lady* of the year. He also had a fleeting glimpse of what he was sure was a very late *Marbled White* (latest official record in our region is 26 August)but did not manage to find it again in order to get a photo.

Peter Webb reported his highlight of 2014. "In May I discovered a large numbers of *Green Hairstreak* flying in a new locality just west of Hamsterley Forrest. On a sunny afternoon in July I returned to an area close to the River Tees where I'd watched two butterflies flying high in an oak tree in 2013 which I thought were probably *Purple Hairstreak*. Initially no sign of *Purple Hairstreak* but was surprised to discover a *White -Letter Hairstreak* nectaring on a *Ragwort* flower. A short distance away I noticed another *White-Letter Hairstreak* perched at the top of a small *Wych Elm* sapling. Whilst photographing it I noticed two other butterflies on the same shrub. When I focussed the camera on them I was able to identify them both as *Purple Hairstreak*. (Map references of the sites are on the branch website).



"2014 was a memorable year for Peacocks and Red Admirals"

Minutes of the AGM

BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION NORTH EAST ENGLAND BRANCH

Minutes of Annual General Meeting and notes from the members held on 6th July 2014 at Gibside.

Moth Matters

Members started the day by examining the contents of the Gibside moth trap. Species recorded included Buff Arches, Burnished Brass, Green Arches, Plain Golden Y, Straw Dot and Mottled Beauty.

Garden Moths Scheme - Mike Cook NE Co-ordinator

Mike described how he had become interested in mothing and had taken over the role of co-ordinator of the Garden Moth Scheme (GMS). The GMS had started in the West Midlands in 2003 and by 2013 it had 313 participants in 12 regions of the UK. There are 13 members in the North East. The scheme, which stresses the importance of moths as indicators of the health of our cities and countryside is based on sound scientific principles and is accessed for research purposes, with to date two academic papers written based on the scheme's data. Members of the GMS are committed to trap for moths in a totally consistent way on the same day each week for 36 weeks. In the North East members record 317 core species. GMS is free, members receive a report of the survey each quarter and anyone new to mothing has support from the national and local group plus county moth recorders. Mike had calculated that anyone interested could start mothing for less than £300. Mike illustrated his talk with photos of some of the GMS target species and offered advice on identification and recording.

When we started Surveying Moths - Joe and Lynda Fearn

Lynda and Joe had started mothing by borrowing a moth trap. They had attended local mothing events and had made contact with other GMS volunteers. They were now into their second year of the GMS, were more confident in identifying moths and aware of where help was available.

National Moth Night - Peter Webb

Peter gave a brief report on National Moth Night and his experience of trapping in a wood close to the River Tees.

1. **Apologies** for absence were received from Steve Kirtley, and Keith Dover.
2. **Chairman's Report.** Peter Webb reported that branch membership is around 300. 200 people (not all members of Butterfly Conservation) are sending in records of butterfly sightings, the North East has active moth groups with around 100 people recording moth sightings and 38 transects are regularly walked. The branch produces two newsletters, annual butterfly and moth reports each year and has a well-maintained website. To involve members more in branch activities transect recorders had been encouraged to offer butterfly walks on their transects and a survey had been sent out to all the membership. Sadly the response to both of these had been poor. A decision by BC HQ not to reduce branch funding made it possible for the branch to continue to produce printed newsletters and annual reports. Branch priorities had been identified and these were reported on the branch action plan. Peter thanked the members of the committee who coordinate these activities for their efforts during the year. He thanked Jaci Beaven and Ken Dawson who had both resigned from the committee, for their contributions to the branch activities over many years. Jim Asher presented Jaci with her outstanding volunteer award.

3. Reports

Financial The financial report will be published in the Autumn newsletter.

Butterfly Recorders - Roger Norman reported a recovery in butterfly numbers recorded in 2013 when a late spring was made up by hot weather in July and August. He reported a number of unusual records including a count of 179 Dingy Skipper at Hendon Sidings and a Long-tailed Blue photographed in a garden at West Cornforth . The 2013 Butterfly Report had been sent to members in May.

Durham Conservation Officer - Mike Harris reported on progress on the Northern Brown Argos (NBA) survey and plans to concentrate surveys on the coastal sites working in partnership with the National Trust. The priorities were for survey work during July and remedial work to improve sites later in the year.

Northumberland Conservation Officer - Dave Stebbings reported on the progress he had made in building links for conservation work with other organisations ranging from large land owners to allotment owners. He stressed the need for community involvement in work parties and other activities.

Newsletter - The branch continues to produce two newsletters each year but will need to recruit a new editor following Jaci's resignation.

Website - Jonathan Wallace reported on the development of the website and the value of Facebook as a way of communicating with members.

4. Election of Officers and Committee Members

Chairman and Organiser- Peter Webb

Treasurer - Steve Kirtley

Membership Secretary - Peter Webb

Butterfly Recorder Northumberland - Stephen Lowther

Butterfly Recorder Durham - Steve Le Fleming

Conservation Officer Durham - Mike Harris

Conservation Officer Northumberland - Dave Stebbings

Webmaster - Jonathan Wallace

Transect and WCBS Co-ordinator - Brian Denham (excused meeting attendance)

Other committee members-Heather McDonald, Coralie Niven, Stephen Inglis and Roger Norman

The guest speaker for the afternoon was the chairman elect of Butterfly Conservation Dr Jim Asher. His talk on "The Challenges to Butterflies and Butterfly Conservation" was illustrated with his photographs and as a keen amateur photographer he offered practical advice on photographing butterflies. Using data from the national monitoring programme he illustrated the decline and movement north of some butterfly species. Butterfly Conservation currently has 23,000 members and 50 full time members of staff. 80% of its income is spent on conservation work more than other similar organisations. He identified support for its 31 branches as a priority for the organisation.

Jim thanked contributors to the photographic competition and had selected five pictures he described as outstanding. He named Steve Austin as the overall winner

Peter Webb

July 2014

Projects in the North East

15 Years' of the Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary in County Durham - Dave Liddle

In the late 90s the plight of Durham's Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary was brought to the attention of Durham County Council's countryside section by Sam Ellis of Butterfly Conservation. The butterfly was on the edge of extinction in this part of the country; only three small sites were known to exist.

Interested parties were brought together and before any plans were drawn up it was decided to check historical habitats and search for new possible sites throughout the Durham moorland fringes. After two years of searching we found three more small vulnerable colonies all within a short distance of the known areas (the A68 cluster). Work was then started to halt the decline of flora and fauna on the now monitored sections and improve the surrounding land that appeared suitable for colonization. Site work is now channelled through the Heart Of Durham project and now after several years of mixed results, and many thousands of violets plugs and nectar rich plants being planted, 2014 has shown a 50% increase in transect and casual recording numbers from the previous best in the last 15 years.

The Small Pearl can now be found in areas that have branched out from the original sites, after conservation works carried out by volunteers and land owners. To all these we say thank you.

The attempt to introduce the butterfly to a new site looks promising; time will tell if securing its future lies in controlled introductions to prepared and selected habitats.

Thanks must also go to charities and organisations that have funded this project.

Field Trips 2014

The Season ends on 40 - Graham Beckwith

It was Friday the 5th of September and 3 days since I checked the weather forecast in the hope of organising a day out to North Yorkshire in the hope of seeing some late Brown Argus.

I'd managed to secure a day off, Steve Austin was game but sadly the other third of our butterflying trio, Stephen Lowther, was unable to make it due to work commitments.

Steve's personal record was 36 species for the season, mine 38 and I was looking to hit a personal record of 40 so I knew I needed a Brown Argus and, in all likelihood, an elusive Holly Blue which seemed increasingly an unlikely.

The forecast was spot on and it was a beautiful 'blue sky' morning when Steve picked me up at 9 o'clock for a trip down the A19 to Thirsk and then east across North Yorkshire to Pickering. Another couple of miles to Thornton-le-Dale then "left here Steve up to Dalby Forest Park". We stopped at the entrance to the sawmill just short of the Dalby Forest Drive Toll and parked on the grass verge opposite.

Ellerburn Bank Nature Reserve was just a few hundred metres up the track past the sawmill. I knew Brown Argus were present at this site so there was a possibility of some still on the wing from the second generation. Armed with our cameras and tripods we headed up the lane and it wasn't long before we saw our first butterflies of the day; Speckled Wood were dancing along the track and through the foliage as if on invisible strings; Peacock were basking on the bare soil then gliding effortlessly to vie with Red Admiral for nectar on the profusion of Knapweed blooms.

Onwards to the Reserve, an enclosed south-facing limestone bank with that range of specialist flora oh so important to invertebrates. Just like back

home at Wingate and Bishop Middleham Quarries, this site held promise of some special butterflies.

We approached the kissing gate into the Reserve. "What's that" we cried in tandem as a large light greyish-looking butterfly flew through the gate and whizzed to the right before alighting amongst some Knapweed. A Painted Lady: rather thin on the ground this year, being only the second individual seen by both of us but the first of 3 seen here.

A few paces through the gate and what initially looked like a small, light greyish butterfly took flight just to my right. "Steve, that's got to be an Argus". After carefully stalking it, it landed just as the sun disappeared behind a cloud, affording us a few minutes to snap some decent photos. We could relax; we'd achieved our goal and bagged a Brown Argus.

Back and forth we traversed the site, being mindful of the important flora on this special reserve. What a morning as we encountered 5 Brimstone, along with good numbers of Red Admiral, Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock, Speckled Wood, 4 Wall Brown and singles of Comma and Green-veined White but no more Brown Argus.

Had we seen the last remaining individual on the site? It seemed so. How lucky was that?

We were ready for a spot of lunch but decided we would have another sweep along the top of the site by the embankment near the path. Lots of Rock Rose along this embankment I thought to myself. "I'll just have a look amongst the Rock Rose along the top of this bank Steve". We walked parallel, Steve slightly behind me; suddenly, out of nowhere it appeared. My first thoughts were "what kind of large yellow moth is that?" And for what seemed an age I stood with my mouth open. The penny dropped. "Steve, I've got a Clouded Yellow here" I yelled. "You're joking" was his rapid response before an excited (and desperate-sounding) "get out of the way I can't see it". "There it is" as it flew down onto the main site, stopping for seconds to feed before flying to the next available purple flower.

We had to get a photo of our first ever Clouded Yellow. Now I can picture those old butterfly collectors chasing back and forth, butterfly nets waving and swiping in the hope of catching their prize. Of course we had cameras but it must have been a sight to behold as we followed it as carefully as we dared through the site like a couple of paparazzi; left and right, up and down. Finally it settled on Knapweed flowers long enough to snap it, a gorgeous lemon yellow female Clouded Yellow.

We watched as it flew back along the site; how it stood out amongst the sea of purple Knapweed and Scabious blooms. Time for a well-earned lunch!

We never saw it again, nor any more Brown Argus despite another search after lunch but headed home 2 happy and very lucky butterfly enthusiasts.

Would you believe it? I hit that record 40 species mark and it was a Clouded Yellow that got me there.



Local News and Events

The Butterflies of North East England - a super new publication

About two years ago the North East Branch Committee decided to write a book about the current state of North East butterflies. To this end a sub-committee was set up to write and publish *The Butterflies of North East England*.

We felt there had been many changes in our region's butterflies since the last major work, *The Moths and Butterflies of Northumberland and Durham* by T.C. Dunn and J. D. Parrack, was published in 1986. Since that date we have seen some new species of butterflies become resident in the region, distribution patterns have changed and loss of habitat has reduced the range of some species. The new book is intended to bring up to date our knowledge of the 33 species of resident and migratory butterflies regularly found in the North East.

For each species there is a detailed account of its distribution, habitat requirements, history, present status and future outlook. There is a separate section on extinct species where old records exist of their former presence in the region and of vagrant species which appear occasionally. All this is illustrated with maps, graphs and photographs, plus there are superb line drawings of each species by Terry Coult.

At an early stage we thought we should try to involve local members in its writing and approached various people to help with the species descriptions. As a result the work is very much a branch effort, with many people involved in its writing. Thanks must go to all our contributors and also to Roger Norman who has acted as editor in chief and ensured the success of the project.

The Butterflies of North East England is due to be published in November 2014 by The Natural History Society of Northumbria based at the Great North Museum in Newcastle. Hopefully copies will be available for members to buy soon after this date.

Practical Conservation Tasks

Dave Stebbings (Conservation Officer for Northumberland) has arranged with the National Trust to do some work to benefit butterflies on the Wallington Estate near Scots Gap in Northumberland.

They are

16th November 2014

7th December 2014

These sessions will involve scrub removal at Greenleighton Quarry and Rothley Lake.

For each session the meeting point is the public car park at Greenleighton Quarry at 10:00am, and we would aim to finish around 2:30pm. The car park is along a minor road off the B6342 north of Scots Gap - Grid Reference NZ034916. All are welcome bring lunch and it is advisable to wear clothes you don't mind getting dirty. Work gloves and tools will be provided.

Saturday 22nd November: A Talk by Anne Porter: 'Heart of Durham Project' (AM)

Anne Porter from Durham Wildlife Trust will be giving a talk about the Heart of Durham project, in particular the work she has been involved with to encourage the Small Pearl-Bordered Fritillary.

This will take place at National Trust, Gibside on Saturday 22nd November, starting at 10.30am in the Bowes Room. All Butterfly Conservation members are welcome to come along, as well as National Trust volunteers.

Please check on the website for the most up to date list!

Look out for Butterflies and Moths this winter - Peter Webb

Most people associate Butterflies and Moths with warm summer days but at this time of the year some species will be coming into our houses or sheds to hibernate. Many people will be familiar with Peacock or Small Tortoiseshell hibernating in their bedrooms but there are also species of moths which come into our buildings for the winter. For example, the attractive Herald Moth is known to hibernate, sometimes in large numbers in barns, roofs, sheds and Outhouses. If a butterfly or moth has found a cool, dry place and is not moving it is recommended that you leave it alone until spring. However, during warm spells or after turning on the central heating a hibernating butterfly may become active. Releasing it outside in cold weather would probably kill it as it may be unable to find another suitable place to hibernate. To help them survive the winter put the butterfly in a box in a cool place away from direct sunlight. Make sure the box cannot get wet and cut a narrow slot so it can find its way out if it does become warm. Move the box outside to a sheltered spot in the early spring.

Even with this care your butterfly may not survive the winter. Many individuals die in the wild through, cold, starvation if they did not feed enough in the autumn or fungal infections if they hibernated in a damp place.



Herald Moth and Small Tortoiseshell disturbed from hibernation

Photography/Art/Poetry



Purple and White Letter Hairstreaks photographed in July on the Teesdale Way near Cotherstone.

(UK BAP status: Priority Species Butterfly Conservation priority: High)

Thank you to Peter Webb for submitting these.

Photography Competition Winner and Runners up

1st: Steve Austin - Pearl-bordered Fritillary

2nd: Robert Mawson - Elephant Hawk Moth

3rd: Kyra Wallace - Green Hairstreak

4th: David Atkinson - Hummingbird Hawk Moth

5th: Michael Eccles - Brimstone.



Winning Entrant -
Small Bordered Pearl Fritillary by Steve Austin



2nd Place: Green Hairstreak by
Kyra Wallace



3rd Place: Elephant Hawkmoth
by Robert Mawson



4th Place: Hummingbird Hawk Moth by David Atkinson

How to Submit Butterfly Records 2014/15

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 2011 Annual Report is 30 November 2011. Depending on where you live, please send records to:

DURHAM

Steve Le Fleming
7 Albert Street
Durham
DH1 4RL
0191 386 7309

NORTHUMBERLAND

Stephen Lowther
16 Clarence Street, Bowburn
Durham
DH6 5BB
0191 377 0682

How to Submit Moth Records 2014/15



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 Spile, 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@northumberlandmoths.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).

Butterfly Conservation Safety Note

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.

New Members

Welcome to all the following new members of the branch, we hope you enjoy the newsletters and look forward to any submissions you may have!

Dr T and Mrs J Murphy--Bishop Auckland
Mr and Mrs K Newton-- Bishop Auckland
Miss B Wilson --Northallerton
MRS M and Miss S Walker--Durham
Mr and Mrs D Higgins and Family--Birtley
Miss M Williams--Sunderland
Ms N Barr and Mr Marston—Newcastle
Mr and Mrs N Lofthouse--Newcastle
Miss R Mordecai--Sunderland
Miss J Lancaster--Alnwick
Miss H Coates --Crook
Mrs V Wilkinson--Washington
Mr N Tweddle --Shildon
Mrs J Herbert--Houghton Le Spring
Ms K Lavender--Sunderland
Miss S Linem--Sunderland
Mr and Mrs A Cunningham & Family--Shildon
Miss A Baggaley--Ashington
Mrs J Allison--Bishop Auckland
Miss L Marchbanks--Newcastle
Mr and Mrs P Elliot and Family--Durham
Ms A Kennedy--Newcastle
Mrs L Middleton-- Sunderland
Miss G Kirkbride--Gateshead
Dr R Harrington and Dr A Fletcher--Sunderland
Miss L Jaberzadeh--Washington
Mrs A Robson--Cramlington
Miss A Broughton--Stanley
Miss E Fisk--Peterlee
Miss G Vance--Whitley Bay
Mr and Mrs S Forster and Family--Chester Le Street

Mrs P Carmody--Chester Le Street
Mrs H Tiller--Gateshead
Miss S Gardner--Wallsend
Mr C Scrimoger--Whitley Bay
Mrs L Hislop--Wylam
Ms J Hipgrave--Gateshead
Mr and Mrs P McCreesh and Family--Consett
Mrs T Dawson-- Newcastle
Ms B White--Hexham
Mrs L Emerson--Chester Le Street
Ms G Armstrong--Newcastle
Mr D Watstell--Darlington
Mrs E Trotter--Newcastle
Miss A Donnelly--Blyth
Miss C Wilson--Newcastle
Miss S Wilson--Newcastle
Miss C Williams--Newton Aycliffe
Mr C P Hayday--Newcastle
Miss O Noble-Nesbitt--Gateshead
Mrs A Cuddigan--Wooler
Mr S Goodhart--Durham
Mrs S Embleton--Newcastle
Mrs F Pugh-- Hexham
Mr D Campbell and Miss N Bryon—Coxhoe

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 October November Edition

Contributions should be sent to the Editor at this address:

E-mail: passiflora2710@gmail.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.



North East England Branch

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