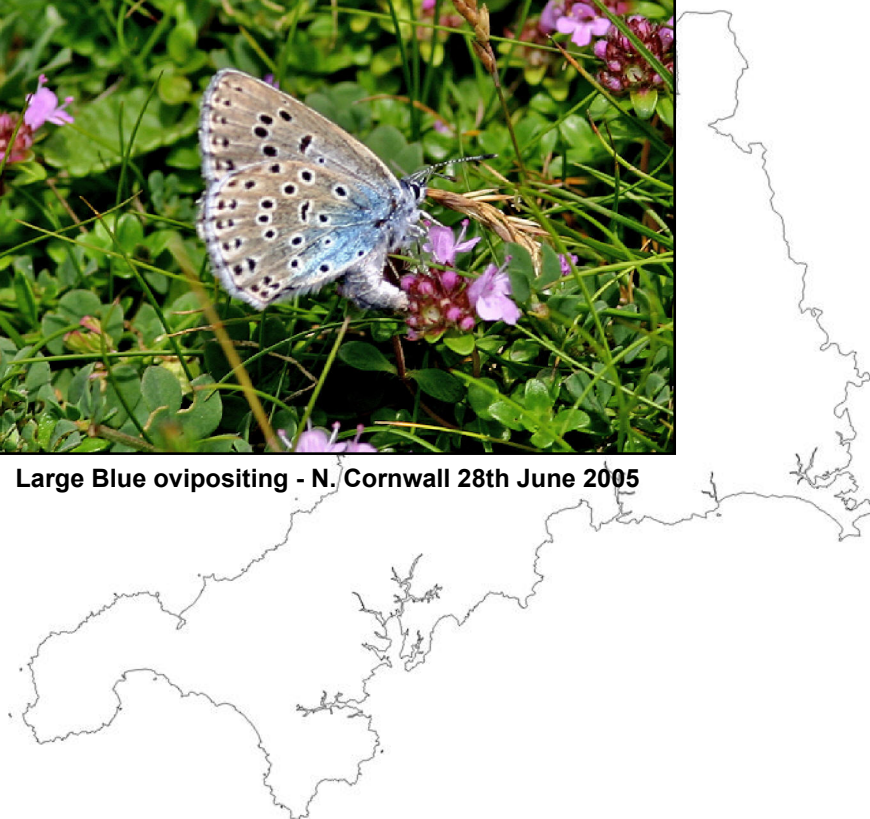


The Butterfly Observer

Cornwall Butterfly Conservation Newsletter No. 33



Large Blue ovipositing - N. Cornwall 28th June 2005



**Butterfly
Conservation**

Winter 2006

Editorial

In this issue there are a few articles held over from the autumn including details of a trip to the Large Blue site during late June last year in order to complete some transect work for the National Trust.

In the last issue the article entitled '*A Summary of the Large Blue introduction in North Cornwall*' was in fact written on behalf of the Large Blue Committee and not by me. My apologies to Dave Simcox and Derek Lord for this error.

As the Cornwall Branch Moth Officer, may I encourage some of you to participate in National Moth night this year? I know many butterfly enthusiasts tend to be 'larks' and moth enthusiasts, 'owls', however, if the weather is good I think you will find it will be well worth the effort. This year NMN is being held on Sat. 23rd September. Details can be found at:

<http://www.mothnight.info/www/> and also events around the county will be posted on the Cornwall Moth Group website at: <http://www.cornwallmothgroup.org.uk/> when details have been finalised.

Finally, if you have a computer and are able to submit articles in Microsoft Word, it would be most appreciated. The font is Arial12 and the page margins are 0.5 inches all round but don't worry if this is too complicated, any Word format will do!

Phil Boggis

Cornwall Butterfly Conservation Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the above Branch was held at Truro Town Hall on Thursday 10th November 2005.

1. Apologies were received from Paul Browning and sympathies conveyed from the meeting for his recent bereavement.
2. The minutes of the meeting held on 11th November 2004 were accepted as a correct record. There were no matters arising.
3. The Chairman extended a welcome to those attending, particularly Caroline Bulman from Head Office, then gave his report:
 - From an entomologist's point of view, 2005 was not a spectacular year, with no great events, like the mass emergence of the Silver Studded Blue seen in 2004.
 - Migrant butterflies were conspicuous by their absence, probably due to the wind patterns early in the year. Small numbers of Painted Ladies and Clouded Yellows were recorded but there were no large migrations of these species, but the Humming Bird Hawk Moth was in evidence, together with good numbers of Red Admirals, which

probably gives support to the theory that the insects do over-winter here in some stage of their life cycle.

- During August large numbers of immigrants were being recorded with Clouded Yellows, Red Admirals and Painted Ladies being sighted throughout the West Country.
- The storms which hit America from September onwards obviously deposited more Monarch butterflies in the South West and only a few fortunate people were able to observe them.
- From a personal point of view the year was a disappointing one as an unfortunate injury to my leg meant that I was only able to attend one field trip during the year.
- There will be several changes to the Committee this coming year. First of all our erstwhile Treasurer, Steve Bassett, has decided to hang up his pen and cheque book, and we all owe Steve our sincere thanks for his efforts over the past eight years.
- For myself, I will be standing down as Chairman and I would like to thank everyone for their help during the last two years.
- The other major change is that John Worth will be no longer producing our Observer Magazine, but both he and John Wachter have done an excellent job and our thanks go to them for all their efforts in the past.
- Phil Boggis has agreed to take over the production of the Magazine and we are confident that it will be in excellent hands.
- The Cornwall Butterfly Conservation Website is now up and running and our thanks must go to Jayne Herbert for all her hard work in setting up the site for us.
- Two of our older and enthusiastic members, Bill and Mary Tout, passed away during the year and will be sadly missed.

Barry Ofield (Outgoing Chairman)

Please note deadlines for contributions are as follows:

- ♦ Winter issue: 1st. February
- ♦ Spring issue: 1st. May
- ♦ Autumn issue: 1st. September

Many thanks for your co-operation.

~Ed.

4. In the absence of the Treasurer no statement of accounts was available at this meeting. The balance at the time of handover to the new Treasurer was £3,288-99. A statement of accounts is available on request.

5. Phil Boggis, Sally Foster, Maggie Goodere Phil Harris, Roger Lane, Lee Slaughter, Adrian Spalding and John Worth submitted themselves for re-election to the Committee. Paul Browning, Steve Hoskin, Steve Bassett and Barry Ofield retired in rotation but also submitted themselves for re-election. The block election of the Committee was proposed and carried unanimously.

6. There being no other proposals, the following were confirmed by the meeting as:

Chairman	Phil Harris
Treasurer	Paul Browning
Secretary	Maggie Goodere

7. Tim Dingle representing the Fritillary Action Group promoted the work of this multi agency group and acknowledged the contribution from Cornwall Butterfly Conservation in keeping it going. The Group is concerned about the whole range of fritillaries and does practical work as well as having a strategic function. Some work has been carried out in the Bodmin area on the Pearl Bordered Fritillary and the Marsh Fritillary is receiving some attention. There is concern that we do not lose sight of some of the others. The Heath Fritillary is a particular interest of Cornwall Butterfly Conservation (as outlined later in Barry Ofield's Presentation) but we were advised to look out for Dark Green Fritillary sites and Small Pearl Bordered sites as other counties have recently lost this latter butterfly. Sally Foster distributed the press release re the scrub clearance day at the De Lank quarry which is very important as there is a good network of sites in this area.

8. Adrian Spalding brought to the attention of the meeting the importance of the North Atlantic Coast Project which has the aim of working with landowners to restore the flatlands and coast back to what it was 140 years ago with the aim of increasing biodiversity and with a focus on the Large Blues. There is 1-2 million pounds set aside for the first

part of the project

which will be managed by North Cornwall District Council and commences in January 2006 initially concentrating on the south west of Tintagel. and north of Bude area. An advertisement has gone out for a Development Officer.

9. A short break for refreshments was taken during which time the raffle was drawn. A total of £48 was taken from this and other sales.

10. The new Chairman then introduced Barry Ofield who gave the annual presentation, illustrated by slides, on Cornwall Butterfly Conservation's work to save the Heath Fritillary

He outlined the history of the sites near Luckett and the disappearance of most of the butterflies after the landowners planted conifers which severely shaded the sites, restricting flight paths and contributing to the reduction of food plants such as plantain and germander speedwell. Unfortunately the decline of the Heath Fritillary was not noticed until it was too late and by 2003 the butterfly was extinct on the Greenscoombe site. On the Deer Park site about 48 were counted last year. Those remaining at Deer Park together with the population at Lydford, Devon are the only surviving colonies of a probable distinct race of this species.. Following a meeting in February 2004 between English Nature, The Duchy and Butterfly Conservation, much work has been accomplished in terms of cutting down trees to restore the flight path. Work parties have pulled bracken and willow herb and distributed plantain seed and attempts have been made to get rid of the crab spider. As a result of this preparatory work it was decided to reintroduce the Heath Fritillary to Greenscoombe. Barry and Tom Sleep are now involved in a breeding programme using butterflies from Lydford and Barry gave a fascinating account of the process. Of particular interest was the appearance of a second brood which has now gone into hibernation and there was speculation as to whether this happens in the wild. If all goes well, about 1000 butterflies should be due for release next year. Further work parties are planned to improve the site at Deer Park

After the presentation, questions were taken and the Chairman thanked Barry Ofield for his very absorbing talk and also for his work as Chairman for the past 2 years.

Maggie Goodere (Secretary)

Reprint from Headquarters' Press release:

News: Press Information

Cornish quarry is haven

for threatened butterfly

November 2005

Further Information:

Sally Foster

Butterfly Conservation Tel: 01736 753259 Email:
jsf@fastpilots.com

Lester Cowling

Publicity Officer

Butterfly Conservation Tel: 01929 406008 Mobile:
07976 363546 Email:

lcowling@butterflyconservation.org

Amateur conservationists gathered in a Cornish quarry to help make it a haven for one of Britain's most endangered butterflies.

The once common Pearl-bordered Fritillary is already extinct in much of southern England, including Dorset and Somerset. The Cornish branch of Butterfly Conservation and the Cornwall Fritillaries Action Group are determined that's not going to happen in Cornwall where the Pearl-bordered is still clinging on, but is down to a mere seven sites.

Volunteers gathered at De Lank Quarry on the edge of Bodmin Moor (*November 17 2005*) to try to work on habitat improvements for the butterfly. The work party was organised by Sally Foster of the Cornish branch of Butterfly Conservation and David Hazelhurst, the Bodmin Moor Conservation Officer for English Nature. Sally said: "The Pearl-bordered has undergone devastating losses. It is vital that it survives in Cornwall."

The butterfly is normally associated with woodlands and bracken slopes. Changes in woodland management and grazing over recent years have been blamed for its decline. However, quarries such as De Lank can also provide an ideal habitat. De Lank Quarry is the source of the silver-grey granite used in many famous buildings and statues including the Lady Diana Memorial and currently the Eden Sculpture. Sally said: "We are extremely grateful to De Lank owners Ennstone Precast for their support and for allowing us access to those areas where active quarrying is no longer going on and for supplying machinery to cut back scrub."

The quarry is adjacent to South Penquite Farm, which provides visitors with an insight into farming and where there are also Pearl-bordered Fritillaries. Farmer Dominic Fairman said farm and quarry are working hand-in-hand to ensure the butterfly's survival. He added: "It is a

unique partnership, but that's because this is a very important challenge."

Volunteers helping out included students from the Duchy College in Camborne. With others, they are ensuring that the disused part of the quarry has everything the Pearl-bordered Fritillary needs, including the violets that its caterpillars feed on.

Seven out of 10 species of British butterfly are in decline, with the Pearl-bordered have seen a 30 per cent decrease in the last seven years. Butterflies have gained increased significance in recent years. They are much more sensitive to change than birds and many other forms of wildlife. That means they can act as indicators of global warming and they are also good barometers of biodiversity, telling us when nature is in balance.

Sally said: "We are so grateful to all those who have been helping us. We welcome any volunteers to help with future work. Butterfly enthusiasts throughout the UK are watching what is going on here in Cornwall. We are not going to let them down."

Notes:

Butterfly Conservation is the largest conservation charity of its type in Europe with over 12,000 members in the UK. Its aim is the conservation of butterflies, moths and their habitats. The Society runs conservation programmes on over 60 threatened species of butterfly and moth, organises national butterfly recording and monitoring schemes, and manages over 25 nature reserves. For further details, see Butterfly Conservation's website: www.butterfly-conservation.org

1. The **Cornish branch of Butterfly Conservation** is an entirely voluntary organisation and undertakes surveying and monitoring butterflies and moths in Cornwall. Their website is: www.cornwall-butterfly-conservation.org.uk
2. The **Cornwall Fritillaries Action Group** has the support of English Nature; The Environment Agency; BTCV, the UK's largest conservation charity for volunteers; Duchy College (Rosewarne Group) Camborne, where NVQ environmental conservation students led by tutor Phil Harris are making a difference in Cornwall while learning countryside skills.
3. BTCV is the UK's largest conservation charity for volunteers. BTCV Cornwall has carried out hundreds of habitat improvement projects on Goss Moor and Bodmin Moor.

4. English Nature is the independent government agency that champions the conservation of wildlife throughout England. Telephone: 01733 455190 or email: press@english-nature.org.uk
5. Butterfly survey work on South Penquite Farm and De Lank Quarry has been funded by English Nature and the Countryside Agency through Defra's Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund in recognition of the partnership between the farm and De Lank Quarry. This is part of a major ecological survey of the farm which has included soil, plant, invertebrate and bird surveys and follows an archaeology and geological assessment of the site.

Butterfly Conservation is registered in England No. 2206468 and is a registered charity No. 254937.

Mid Cornwall Moors - New Conservation Area

English Nature, soon to be called Natural England, has approached the committee with a view to Cornwall Butterfly Conservation being a 'partner' with them regarding a new conservation site south of Tregonhay Farm, mid Cornwall.

The exact details of this relationship with Cornwall Butterfly Conservation have yet to be finalised. English Nature's Martin Davey was invited to our committee meeting this January to explain some of the details about the EU's Life Nature funding and how the site was surveyed and found to harbour a colony of the Marsh Fritillary. The site which forms a patchwork of marsh and scrub in an area known as the mid Cornwall Moors will be primarily managed for this butterfly with additional advice from the various wildlife organisations. English Nature has kindly undertaken the more substantial work of scrub clearance, fencing, car parking and arranging cattle grazing. It is envisaged that Cornwall Butterfly Conservation members will provide information mainly in the form of surveys, transects and larval web counts as well as the possibility of the appointment of voluntary wardens from our group.

A number of committee members met Martin last November at a site meeting where he outlined some of the forthcoming plans and detailed the extent of the site and its access. Martin went on to explain that suggestions by Adrian Spalding, our Conservation Officer, as early as the mid 1990's planted the first seeds of an idea which added impetus when the Marsh Fritillary was found there by a survey group. The landowner also offered the site for use other than farming and subsequently English Nature bid successfully for international funding (the Marsh Fritillary being a declining species all over Europe).

Phil Boggis

Obituary

It is with sadness that I report the deaths, last year, of Bill and Mary Tout. They both passed away within a short time of each other and will be sadly missed. (Please refer to our outgoing Chairman's report). Mary, I know had observed and photographed all the British orchids and most of the British butterflies in the wild. One of her excellent photographs, that of the Small Tortoiseshell, can be found gracing the pages of *A Cornwall Butterfly Atlas*. They had been members since Cornwall Butterfly Conservation's inception in 1993 and were regular and cheerful participants at many of our field meetings.

Ed.

Further Information from Headquarters

In Memoriam Donations

A donation to Butterfly Conservation is a wonderful lasting tribute to anyone who gained pleasure from Butterflies and Moths during their life time. Every donation in memory of a loved one will help save the butterflies and moths from which they derived so much enjoyment.

Here are just a few examples of what can be achieved from donations in memory:

- A donation of £100 will provide one days' vital habitat management on one of our reserves.
- A donation of £300 will buy a moth trap, so volunteers can carry out on going survey work.
- A donation of £500 will enable us to run a training event for landowners and farmers on better land management for butterflies and moths.

There are many ways to give in memory. For example, you could make a donation to Butterfly Conservation instead of buying flowers for a funeral. You can make a one-off donation at any time, or you can donate on a regular basis, for instance to commemorate a loved ones birthday or an anniversary. If you would like to make a donation in memory of a loved one, then their

(Continued on next page).

name will be written in the In Memoriam book, which is held in the reception at the Lulworth Office. If you would like to write a few words about your loved one, we would be happy to include these in the book as well. We will send a certificate to each donor marking the gift. We will also, with the permission of the family, mention the donation in our annual review.

In Memoriam gifts can be arranged through funeral directors or direct to Butterfly Conservation. All donations, no matter how small, are gratefully received and acknowledged.

If you would like further information or would like to discuss your gift in person please contact Christine Simpson on 0870 7744309 or email csimpson@butterfly-conservation.org

Thank you for thinking of us at this time.

Christine Simpson, Butterfly Conservation, Manor Yard, East Lulworth, Wareham, BH20 5QP

A New BRIMSTONE Aberration? A Pastel -Yellow Male of the Species.

During the last 20 years I may have seen some 1,000 Brimstones and amongst these there have been just c.10 of a distinct 'pastel' variety. Until 1995, when I studied butterflies every single day, one nectared close to me in the garden. Only then, after the first 10 years had elapsed (and I had usually passed-off the variety as "an unusual female"), did I realise that this was a distinct variety of the male, albeit rather subtle.

Most c.5 (!) of the certain specimens have been seen after 1995 although not every year (nor brood). Furthermore they have been seen at a minimum of three different localities each in different years, thus it is far from common, however to our few (?) Brimstone watchers it is distinct whereas the female (pale greenish-white) is relatively easy to differentiate from males and Large Whites. This new variety of the male may come as a surprise, since being pastel yellow, it must often be passed-off as "either a faded male or female". However, one needs to be in a Brimstone rich area - such as Pontsmill (the only place I have twice seen the variety - in different years). I have not mentioned it until now since no books gave reference to it, nor had anyone else mentioned seeing one however a recent occurrence gives me good reason to print a note on their very existence.

After some 2 years without seeing one, I was at Pontsmill on 20th April 2005 and contrasting the coloration of male and female Brimstones, two of which were in close proximity, when along came the male pastel-yellow variety! Hence all three were in view together. There was NO DOUBT, to me that this was the typically consistent pastel shade of the male which I had seen so few times in the past. What brought matters to a head was the next time I visited Pontsmill on 12th May 2005. It had unfortunately clouded over entirely since the morning and I was talking to the owner, Peter Trebilcock about what I had missed earlier! As an afterthought, I asked if he had happened to see any unusual Brimstones recently. To my surprise he smiled and told me there had been a 'strange' one that very morning - the first of the type that he had seen. When asked to describe it, he gave a perfect description of 'my' pastel-yellow variety! Thus he was only the second person other than me to mention ever seeing one (and he has at least 10+ sightings most days). I do not suggest for a moment that this was another one, but no doubt the same as that I saw on 20th April 2005, patrolling its territory as males do. Nevertheless, the presence of a distinct variety had, at last, been noted by another observer!

Basically there is little to describe apart from an overall 'toning-down' of the normal bright yellow, to a pastel yellow. Both the upper fore-wing, hind-wing and the under-wings being similar. They may be in pristine condition and there is no question of them being simply faded. Otherwise they appear 'normal' although none have yet been caught for minute examination. However, at least they exist. Please make sure the one you saw and passed over as a 'strange' male OR female was not this male variety.

Please report any you may see to my address below:

R. Lane. 25,Warwick Drive, Bucklers Village, Holmbush. ST. AUSTELL PL25 3JJ

Email: RogerLane65@aol.com

Prof. J. Wachter suggested that the specimen observed could have been a type of a hermaphrodite. Roger concluded that this had not occurred to him but it could indeed be so.

Ed.

More Winter Red Admirals

I was surprised & delighted whilst leaving our local agricultural & potato suppliers at Par, Cornwall at 12:50pm on 19th December, 2005 to see an immaculate Red Admiral flying around an Ivy covered wall adjoining the pavement outside in the winter sunshine. The temperature was 10 deg. C. (50 deg. F.) & felt quite mild. I am convinced that despite its fresh appearance that this specimen had awoken from a partial hibernation locally. It beats all the trumped up "excitement" of Christmas any day!!! A friend (Patrick Saunders) also advised me that he saw a Red Admiral near Looe on 2nd January 2006 (also a mild & fairly sunny day) but he did not get a close view of it's condition this species therefore can sometimes be seen in flight during any month of the year here in "sunny" Cornwall!

Lee Slaughter...Par, Cornwall.

Roger Lane sent a specimen which he found close to death, to Lee Slaughter. It was a partial 2nd generation Dark Green Fritillary found at Penhale Sands on the 4th October 2004. Lee confirmed its identity as a slightly smaller than normal specimen.

Barry Ofield reports that of the stock of Heath Fritillaries taken from Devon for re-introduction at Greenscoombe Wood, a number have gone through to a partial 2nd generation. (reference the Chairman's report). Who would look for Heath Fritillaries and Dark Green Fritillaries in September or October?

Paul Browning reported Painted Ladies in the Helston area on the 22nd July and Kynance on the 29th July 2005.

Moth and Butterfly Field Trip Reports 2005

I think it can be stated that many of us are first and foremost, lepidopterists and then secondarily, butterfly or moth enthusiasts. Whatever the case may be, for me moths usually take pride of place over butterflies. There are always the exceptions though! Hence you may find me taking more notice of those 'little brown jobbies' as I overheard

one person saying, than those bright and beautiful things we call butterflies. Europeans do not generally make a distinction between the two. Having said that however, and not to seemingly contradict myself, I include records for both with equal enthusiasm.

Greenscoombe Wood, Lockett (4th June 2005)

The weather promised fair but turned out to be rather a disappointment. It was cloudy and rather cool with only a few bright spells. John Gregory being his usual observant self, found caterpillars of the **Frosted Orange – *Gortyna flavago*** and **Mother of Pearl – *Pleuroptya ruralis***, both on Nettle. The Frosted Orange larva causes the top of the nettle shoots to turn down in characteristic fashion making its presence obvious. Of note were three species of **Micropterigidae** namely,



Figure 1. *Nemophora degeerella*, Greenscoombe Wood, 4th June 2005. Photo © P. H. Boggis.

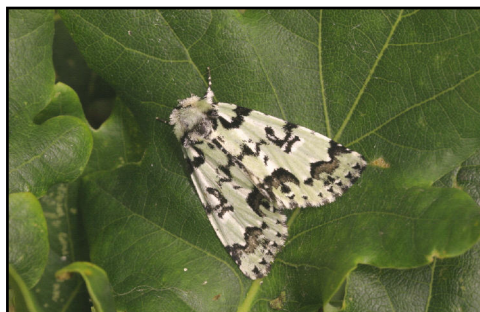


Figure 2. Scarce Merveille du Jour, Kilminorth Woods, 24th June 2005. Photo © P. H. Boggis.

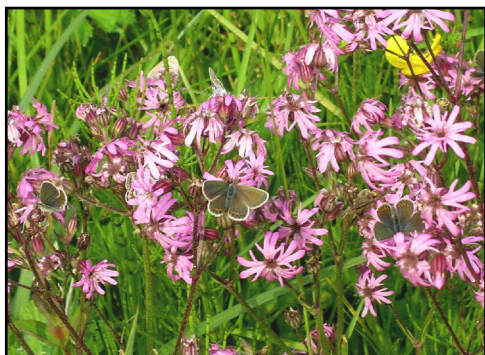


Figure 3. Silver-studded Blues on Ragged Robin, Penhale Sands, 25th June 2005. Photo © P. H. Boggis.



Figure 4. Blue-bordered Carpet, Poltesco, The Lizard, 27th July 2004. Photo © P. H. Boggis.

M. caltella, *M. tunbergella* and *M. aruncella*. The target species, **Argent and Sable** was not found, it making rather a cursory appearance here in the east of the county. The lack of butterfly sightings was also quite apparent, with sightings of **Speckled Wood**, **Green-veined White**, **Brimstone**, **Small Copper** and **Common Blue** and none in any numbers.

Some Cornwall Butterfly Conservation members took the opportunity to sow some plantain seed ready for the re-introduction of the **Heath Fritillary** this year. To many outside the county, this may come as quite a surprise, especially since one or two of our party, last year, met some who were looking for the **Heath Fritillary** and were guided to Greenscoombe Wood by inappropriate information still to be found on some web sites! I hope the waste of time and effort was not too upsetting for them. Thanks are due to Tom Sleep and Barry Ofield for their efforts in the re-introduction program also to the Duchy Foresters and English Nature along with Headquarters for retrieving the situation with tree and scrub clearance and ride management. Sterling work was done here but it is a salutary reminder for all concerned never to get complacent about this butterfly even when, as in this case, our guard was down during a period when the butterfly, in some seasons, appeared to be doing well! Lee Slaughter took a photo of an aberration at Deer Park on the 27th June first seen during the morning of the 14th as a freshly emerged specimen (see figure 7, page 18).

Moths being my first interest, I leave this part of the article with a photo of *Nemophora degeerella* (fig.1, page 12) which attracted quite some considerable photographic attention from our Cornwall Moth Group members. Again, Lee Slaughter's pin-sharp vision spotted this one!

Lower Kilminorth Woods (West Looe valley) – 24th June 2005

A further CMG meeting was arranged after the discovery in this woodland complex, during June 2004, of the Red Data Book species, the **Scarce Merveille du Jour – *Moma alpium*** by Paul Wakelin and Leon Truscott. I was anxious to re-visit this site again this year to discover if the moth existed further along the ride and into the woods. A visitor from Manchester, Peter Clarke came along to join in the 'action' and after most had left at midnight, he discovered one, caught in the beam of his head-torch.. It fluttered down onto his sheet just as he was packing it away! (Photo, fig..2, page 12). This didn't surprise me as this moth has a habit of settling in the herbage at the side of the light trap and only emerging when disturbed later in the night. The moth appears to prefer

single large oaks probably more than 100 to 150 years old. The Cornish Ancient Tree Forum highlighted this at their inaugural meeting two years ago so I trust other environmental agencies etc. will take note of these important trees and safeguard felling.

We had six light traps active with 111 species recorded. I didn't pack up until 4.30 am with a meeting at Penhale Sands the next day; or should I say the same day. I went home exhausted but happy with a photograph of the target species.

Penhale Sands – 25th June 2005

The weather was kind to us with sunny spells developing - bringing out the butterflies. The meeting was well attended with about 21 people turning up – many thanks to all who supported us. I had left my camera at home so commandeered Malcolm Lee's assistance on the photographic front which he kindly accepted. From last year's reports I was looking forward to seeing many **Silver-studded Blues** and was not disappointed when I was called over to a clump of Ragged Robin to find perhaps 150 or so specimens nectaring. When disturbed they flew up in a cloud. A photograph of 28 **Silver-studded Blues** on a single flower head of Cow Parsley is illustrated (fig. 9, page 18) taken by Lee Slaughter in 2004. Also nice to see, was a pristine specimen of the **Dark Green Fritillary**, and of course the regular sighting of the **Scarlet Tiger** in the same spot as last year also seen was the **Cream-spot Tiger**, both always a hit with the visitors. Lee Slaughter once again using his exceptional sight spotted a freshly emerged male Silver-studded Blue, wings still not fully expanded being attended by ants - a rare observation? (Fig. 5, page 18)

Poltesco, The Lizard - 1st July 2005

This meeting also arranged by the Cornwall Moth Group was to discover whether the **Clouded Magpie** still exists since its discovery here by Robin Howard in 1996. The moth is similar to the **Magpie** but it has fewer black spots but also patches of grey on the forewing. It is an elm/wych elm feeder and there is plenty at Poltesco. We were disappointed not to re-discover the moth on this and a later occasion. The moth, as far as I know, still inhabits Pelyn Wood near a large wych elm but the wood is no longer accessible to the public. What did turn up was a fresh specimen of the **Lunar-spotted Pinion – *Cosmia pyralina*** - a close cousin of the **White-spotted Pinion – *Cosmia diffinis*** which is a Cornish BAP species and was targeted last August). On page 12, figure

4, is a photo of the **Blue-bordered Carpet** – found here in numbers and elsewhere in the west of the region but not the east - one of my favourites.

National Moth Night, Cabilla Wood CWT Reserve, Glynn Valley - 9th July 2005

One of the target species for National Moth Night last year was the **Double Line – *Mythimna turca*** (figure 12 below). It was discovered here in 2004 at another Cornwall Moth Group meeting so it was worth coming back again for National Moth Night 2005. We were not disappointed when someone new to the group pointed out this brown looking moth, asking what it was. Later in the evening, another tried to drown itself in a cup of coffee (Double Line that is)! 122 species were recorded and overall it was a busy and successful evening, the weather being perfect, warm and dry throughout.

Large Blue Transect, North Cornwall - 21st and 28th June 2005

Speaking personally, a rather disappointing Large Blue Committee meeting report (see autumn 2005 issue) dulled what is always an enjoyable transect count for this butterfly. The site suffers from scrub encroachment – always difficult to manage even though the National Trust under the excellent leadership of Derek Lord have done an admirable job; however, all is not well despite the best laid plans. This year, I believe upwards of twenty sightings of this magnificent butterfly were reported; however, numbers are not what they should be. The report details the possible reasons for this but it's certainly not through a lack of effort.

Lee Slaughter spotted an aberration known as **ab. *supra-impunctata* Oberthür, 1896 + *marginata* le Chamberlin** - ref. the Cockayne



**Figure 11. Large Blue male ab. *supra impunctata* Oberthür, 1896. + *marginata* le Chamberlin. N. Cornwall, 21st June 2005.
Photo © P. H. Boggis.**



**Figure 12. Double Line, Cabilla Wood CWT Reserve, NMN, 9th July 2005.
Photo © P. H. Boggis.**

coll., Natural History Museum. Dark and small in appearance, the butterfly was almost mistaken for something entirely different. (See figure 11 opposite).

On my next visit with Lee on the 28th June and joined by John Ruppensburg, we had the pleasure of spotting a female **Large Blue** ovipositing on thyme. A photo of the egg itself is shown on page 18 figs. 6 & one ovipositing may be found on the front cover. The butterfly visited every patch of thyme in its flight path, laying a single egg on a single flower per patch, tucking the egg between the sepal and the immature petals of an opening flower-head. The butterfly never laid more than one egg per patch of thyme, which was most noticeable. Forgive my ignorance but is this an indication of a cannibalistic trend in the early instars?

Lee Slaughter using those super eyes of his observed two Blues squabbling. One turned out to be a **Silver-studded Blue** (figs. 8 & 10, page 18 and also mentioned in the last issue of *Butterfly Observer* thus confirming Malcolm Lee's suspicions that this is a new Cornish site for this species after he saw one here in 2004.

In the Spring 2006 issue there will be a report on the **Six-belted Clearwing** to pheromone lure in Cornwall.

Phil Boggis, CMG Moth Officer 18th July 2005.

Field Trips - 2006

SUNDAY 14th MAY AT 11.00AM - BUNNY'S HILL, NEAR CARDINHAM.

The first of two superb breeding localities for the Pearl-bordered Fritillary we will visit today. This is a fairly level site so is not too strenuous but walking boots should be worn. Close up photography of this species is often possible at this location so bring your camera. Dingy Skipper, Brimstone, Holly Blue and Small Heath should also be seen. Plenty of easy parking available. Meet at SX117675 at fork in road.

At approx. 1.00pm we will have a packed lunch (you will need to bring your own) and then we will all drive across Bodmin Moor to Fellover Brake, Tuckingmill, near St. Breward. Parking at Gam Bridge (SX089779) at approx. 2.00pm. We will walk up the public footpath onto Fellover Brake. Hopefully we will see dozens of Pearl-bordered Fritillaries as we did on the 2004 field trip where they were all freshly emerged.

Leader - Phil Harris. For details and directions ring Phil Harris on 07845 984 426.

SATURDAY 3rd JUNE - 1.00PM, BRENEY COMMON NATURE RESERVE, LANLIVERY.

Join us on our annual visit to this famous Marsh Fritillary colony. Small Heath, Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary and Green Hairstreak will also be on the wing and will hopefully be seen today. **Leader - Phil Harris. Meet in car park at SX053610. For details phone Phil Harris on 07845 984 426.**

(continued over)

SATURDAY 10th JUNE - 1.00PM - DEER PARK WOOD, NR. BROADGATE, 2 MILES WEST OF LUCKETT, EAST CORNWALL.

An excellent opportunity to see the beautiful and fully protected Heath Fritillary butterfly at our only remaining colony in Cornwall. Photography of this species is extremely easy and given good weather, Heath Fritillaries are often seen basking and flitting between the flowers. Meet at SX389737 - Luckett village car park.

Leader - Paul Browning. For details ring Paul on 01736 763677.

SATURDAY 17th JUNE 2006 AT 1.00PM - PERRAN SANDS AND PENHALE SANDS, NR. PERRANPORTH.

A midsummer walk over Britain's highest sand dune system to see the large numbers of freshly emerged Silver-studded Blues. We would also hope to see Large Skipper and Dark Green Fritillary butterflies and Scarlet Tiger moths. Please bring a drink, sun protection and good walking boots.

Meet at SW774553 in lay-by on edge of road opposite turning to Rose.

Leaders - Phil Boggis and Lee Slaughter. For full details and directions ring Phil Boggis on 01726 66124 or Lee Slaughter on 01726 817505.

SATURDAY 8th JULY - 11.00AM - BUNNY'S HILL, NR. CARDINHAM.

A ramble across this special site will hopefully produce sightings of the Dark Green Fritillary, Silver-washed Fritillary, Gatekeeper, summer brood Commas of the 'Hutchinsoni' type, Ringlet and, Large and Small Skippers. We should afterwards head on into Cardinham Woods to see what can be seen at this time of year. Bring walking boots and packed lunch.

Meet at SX117675 near fork in road.

Leader - Phil Harris. For details and directions ring Phil on 07845 984 426.

SATURDAY 12th AUGUST - 11.00 AM - KYNANCE COVE, NR. THE LIZARD.

Be prepared for a beautiful morning's stroll at this famous locality. We would certainly hope to see most of the following species: Grayling, Dark Green Fritillary, Clouded Yellow, Small Heath, Common Blue, Wall Brown, Gatekeeper, Painted Lady, Red Admiral and possibly 2nd brood Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary.

Leaders - Phil Boggis and Lee Slaughter. For full details and directions ring Phil on 01726 66124 or Lee Slaughter on 01726 817505.

SUNDAY 27th AUGUST - 11.00AM - PRESTON DOWN, NR. PAIGNTON AND ORLEY COMMON NR. IPPLEPEN, DEVON.

A joint field meeting courtesy of our neighbours, Devon Branch of Butterfly Conservation. We hope to see the Brown Hairstreak at both sites and hopefully the Brown Argus, Purple Hairstreak and other late summer species still on the wing.

Directions: Exit A380 (the Torbay Ring Road) at Preston Down Roundabout. The roundabout is named and Preston is signposted. Proceed left onto Preston Down Road and after 1.2 miles there's a sharp right bend then left. Immediately on the right is a low stone wall with views of the sea. Park at roadside. Access to Preston Down is through a gap in the stone wall. Map ref. SX890624.

After lunch at 2.00pm meet at Orley Common car park near Ipplepen at map ref. SX827665 on the right just west of Ipplepen village when travelling towards Torbryan. Bring a packed lunch and binoculars.

Leader - Maurice Edmonds. For details/directions ring Maurice on 01803 524376



Figure 5. Silver-studded Blue attended by ants after emergence, Penhale Sands, 25th June 2005. Photo © L. Slaughter.



Figure 6. Large Blue ovum on Thyme, N. Cornwall, 28th June 2005. Photo © P. H. Boggis.



Figure 7. Heath Fritillary ab. Deer Park Wood, 27th June 2005. Photo © L. Slaughter.

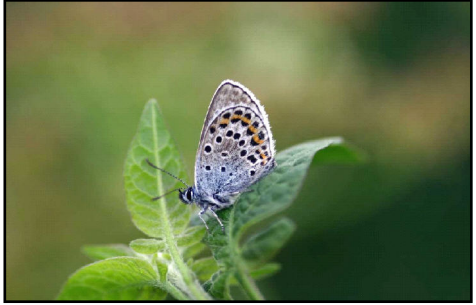


Figure 8. Silver-studded Blue, Large Blue site, N. Cornwall, 28th June 2005. Photo © P. H. Boggis.



Figure 9. Silver-studded Blues on a single flower-head of Cow Parsley, Penhale 16th June 2004. Photo © L. Slaughter.



Figure 10. Silver-studded Blue, Large Blue site, N. Cornwall, 28th June 2005. Photo © P. H. Boggis.

Cornwall Butterfly Conservation Committee and contacts

Chairman: Phil Harris

59 Carnarthen Street, Camborne. TR14 8UP 07845 984 426 (mobile)
phil.harris@duchy.ac.uk

Secretary: Maggie Goodere

3 Churchtown Road, Gwithian, Hayle. TR27 5BX (01736) 753077

Treasurer & Membership Secretary: Paul Browning

Penhale Jakes Farm, Ashton, Helston. TR13 9SD (01736) 763677

Newsletter & Moth Officer: Phil Boggis

6 Tremena Gardens, St. Austell. PL25 5QH (01726) 66124
phil.boggis@btinternet.com

Field Trip Organiser: Lee Slaughter

2 Trinity Street, St. Austell. PL25 5LY (01726) 817505 (ex dir)
Leelisa1998@aol.com

Conservation Officer: Adrian Spalding

Tremayne Farm Cottage, Praze-an-Beeble, Camborne. TR14 9PH (01209) 831517

Recorder: John Worth

20 St. Clare Flats, Penzance. TR18 2PR (01736) 362438
jowan@tiscali.co.uk

Transect Co-ordinator: Sally Foster

Teal Cottage, 21 Churchtown Road, Gwithian, Hayle. TR27 5BX (01736) 753259

Butterfly Migration Officer: Roger Lane

25 Warwick Drive, Buckler's Village, Holmbush, St. Austell. PL25 3JJ (01726) 67944
RogerLane65@aol.com

Steve Hoskin

25 Coulthard Drive, Breage, Helston. TR13 9PF (01326) 563462

Barry Ofield

Oakland Cottage, Pendoggett, St. Kew, Bodmin. PL30 3HQ (01208) 880616
Bofie@homecall.co.uk

Steve Bassett

36 Rectory Road, St. Stephen, St. Austell, PL26 7RJ..... (01726) 824161
steve.bassett@tiscali.co.uk

Cornwall Branch Website: www.cornwall-butterfly-conservation.org.uk

Cornwall Butterfly Conservation Yahoo! Groups:

<http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/cornwall-butterfly-conservation>

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