

The Butterfly Observer

Cornwall Butterfly Conservation Newsletter No. 40



Pearl-bordered Fritillary ♀ Bunny's Hill, Bodmin,
17th May 2008. Photo © Lee Slaughter.



**Butterfly
Conservation**

Spring 2008

Editorial

The second half of this newsletter, commencing on page 13, is taken up with a fascinating report on Cornish butterflies a century ago. Submitted by Malcolm Lee, it makes interesting reading in places!

Of course, the case of the four legged Red Admirals is solved (see pages 5-8). Thank you to all those who contributed towards this discussion pointer.

The Grizzled Skipper site at Goss Moor has benefited from some clearance work and the butterfly has been seen there by a number of our members recently. A full report by Paul Browning can be found on page 8.

More Thyme planting at the Large Blue site can be found in a report on page 9 and still up on the North coast, Dave Conway mentions an interesting site at Delabole along with some others around the county - see opposite page.

Fears of losing the Pearl-bordered Fritillary at Bunny's Hill are dispelled in an article on page 11, although other sites may not have fared so well.

I have been asked to mention something about links and URL's to our static website and Yahoo! Groups discussion pages (see page 4).

Many from the west of the county may not be familiar with the site at Minadew Brakes, Kingsand. A beautiful morning was had by all - see report on page 10.

More news from Headquarters can be found on pages 21 - 23 and last but not least, Roger Lane gives us his usual migrant report, which was just too late for inclusion in the last issue (see page 4).

~ Ed.



Chairman's Report, Spring 2008

Yo, hi there folks. I can't really complain about the weather this week as there were at least 4 very sunny days and good temperatures. Has summer started? And yes, it is completely different from last year when we were spoilt. Perhaps this year is more normal and a good summer will follow.

At this moment, the 8th May 2008, we've just returned from searching on private land near the village of St. Breward, for the Pearl-bordered Fritillary. This is a new habitat for us where there is outstanding warmth, wild flowers and violets but due to the late season, the Pearl-Bordered Fritillary was not flying, so it will have to be checked again - maybe next week. Our thanks to Sally Foster for arranging this trip.

I hope you all heard a brilliant interview by Paul Browning on Radio Cornwall 2 weeks ago explaining all the things that can go wrong or right with butterflies at Gwithian Towans. We all must thank Paul for doing a brilliant interview at short notice and at an early hour in the morning to publicise our concerns of a very poor breeding season last year and how we will be vigilant this year to record any shortfalls in numbers etc. Apart from that it's now summer so let us enjoy it if the rain gods are on our side!

~ Cheers Phil.

Some Interesting Butterfly Sites in North Cornwall.

CABILLA WOOD. Map ref. SX135653. Situated just north of the A38 and 1.5 miles east of Bodmin Road Station, is a CWT reserve with a range of habitats in a deciduous woodland with an extensive Forestry Commission mixed woodland to the west of the reserve. Park at SX 128653, by the large forestry entrance, walk up the track heading east, past the sawmill on your left and take the lower track which runs parallel to the River Fowey for about half a mile.

Regular walks along this track between 2005 and 2007 produced the following species (with maximum numbers on a single visit):

Silver-washed Fritillary (25) Peacock (6) Red Admiral (3) Large White (4) Small Tortoiseshell (1) Brimstone (18) Orange Tip (6) Green-veined White (11) Small White (11) Clouded Yellow (2) Comma (8) Speckled Wood (36) Meadow Brown (76) Ringlet (51) Gatekeeper (18) Small Copper (1) Holly Blue (7) Common Blue (2). Apart from the spectacular Silver-washed Fritillary the most unusual sighting was of a single Marbled White on 21st July 2006 on the forestry track 200m north of the car parking area.

TRESLEA DOWNS. Map ref. SX137685. This is an extensive area of unfenced moorland situated about one mile east of Cardinham village. The most productive areas were burnt in 2004 to the east and northwest of the road running north to Maidenwell. Several visits to these regenerating areas, between 2005 and 2007, revealed large numbers of Grayling, Gatekeeper and Meadow Brown; moderate numbers of Ringlet, Small Heath and Small White and smaller numbers of Painted Lady, Red Admiral, Small Skipper, Large Skipper and Small Copper. At SX 138688, in the valley on the western side, is a reported site for the Marsh Fritillary.

DELABOLE QUARRY. Map ref. SX077836 - situated at the south east end of Delabole village on the B3314. Park in the visitors car park (free) at the Reception Centre and walk north east for about 300m to a recently erected stone circle. A thirty minute visit to this well vegetated mound, on 29th July 2007, revealed a thriving colony of 30+ Marbled White with lots of Meadow Brown and Gatekeeper and moderate numbers of Ringlet, Small Skipper and Small White. Below the stone circle mound are extensive slate tips supporting lots of Grayling. This site is much easier to access than Brae Hill or Rock Dunes if you want close views of Marbled White as well as plenty of attractive Grayling in a perfectly camouflaged setting.

~ Dave Conway, March 2008.

This site, or somewhere very near, has been mentioned by Barry Ofield in the autumn 2007 issue of The Butterfly Observer, no.38, on page 16.

~ Ed.

Please note deadlines for contributions are as follows:

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

2008-Earliest Season Yet?

While the Cornwall species list for January and February 2008 remains at: Brimstone, Red Admiral, Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock and Comma (I believe), these few species perhaps belie what has been arguably the earliest year ever(?) for January/February sightings, at least in southern Britain. For anyone without a computer, I believe these are the earliest dates for sightings in 2008, as at the 29th February 2008:

| | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Brimstone | 8 th January 2008 | Wilts |
| Large White | 12 th February 2008 | Hants |
| Small White | 8 th February 2008 | Hants |
| Holly Blue | 9 th February 2008 | Hants |
| Red Admiral | 1 st January 2008 | Kent |
| Painted Lady | 25 th January 2008 | Hants |
| Small Tortoiseshell | 25 th January 2008 | Yorks |
| Peacock | 6 th January 2008 | Leics & Sussex |
| Comma | 26 th January 2008 | Sussex |
| Speckled Wood | 26 th January 2008 | Devon |

Many of these Hampshire records at least are 'multiple', i.e. whites probably not all emerged from under glass, and 3+ Holly Blues certainly didn't!

~ Roger Lane, Migration Officer, 29th Feb 2008.

The Cornwall Butterfly Conservation Yahoo! Groups Website

I've been asked to furnish some information about our Yahoo! Groups website. For many, the following will be 'old hat', but for some of you, a new experience.

Firstly, all web sites and pages have a URL defined as:

Uniform Resource Locator (URL). This is the address that defines the route to a file on the Web or any other Internet facility. URLs are typed into your browser's address bar to access Web pages. URLs are also embedded within the pages themselves to provide the hypertext links to other pages.

An example of this is our *Yahoo! Groups* URL at:

<http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/cornwall-butterfly-conservation> (HTTP = Hyper Text Transport Protocol)

As you can see, it is often in blue and underlined and, when embedded into Microsoft WORD or any other Word processing document or web page, can be double left clicked with your mouse button, whereupon you will be directed straight to our homepage (if you are on line already). If not, a dial-up request box might be shown on your computer ready to dial up and connect to that URL address. You could also 'cut and paste' the URL into your browser's address bar and press 'enter' to go straight there.

The following addresses are both found on the back (near the bottom) of all our recent Butterfly Observer newsletters as also is our static website.

www.cornwall-butterfly-conservation.org.uk (WWW = World-Wide Web)

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

The Yahoo! Groups, as the name implies, is open to all who sign up as a discussion group member. This is a simple process entailing giving your name and contact details and a username and password along with whether you would want to receive other people's 'postings' in your e-mail or not. The postings are simply 'letters' posted on the site giving one's views etc. on the current topic of conversation (or anything else for that matter.) It could be to draw attention to a photo of a butterfly you have just posted onto the 'photo' page which, incidentally, is for members only. If you become a member, you must remember to 'log-in' with your user name and password, which you first provided when you joined. On this subject, you could post, for instance, a whole series of photos as an album and name it 'Fritillaries at Deer Park'. You could also post a file about a recent sighting or a report about a field trip, if you wished – the possibilities are endless.

As you can see, it is more than just a 'chat room', it is a valuable resource where you can exchange reports, data, photos, maps as well as the usual subject 'threads' which the site defaults to when opened by a non-member. (They would be able to view the 'threads' - subjects under discussion, but could not join in themselves).

I wish you all a pleasant browsing experience on our Yahoo! Groups this summer, along with all those butterflies that are going to be seen this season!

~ Phil Boggis, March 2008.



Apparently 4 - Legged Red Admirals.

Not surprisingly, I had a number of responses from readers regarding four legged Red Admirals featured in the last issue. (I wondered whether it would be a good discussion point - and so it proved to be).

I begin first with Nick Picozzi's informative and interesting article and on behalf of all our readers, I would like to thank Nick for the effort and time he has put into this article.

~ Ed.

Apparently 4 - legged Red Admirals - a response.

Like your correspondent Charles Bradshaw-Smith in *The Butterfly Observer* Newsletter 39, I was also initially intrigued some years ago by seeing Red Admirals apparently with 4 legs. However, reference to Richard Lewington's excellent illustrations in his *Pocket Guide to the Butterflies of Great Britain and Ireland* (British Wildlife Publishing, 2003), clearly showed this to be a feature not just of the Red Admiral but all listed as Nymphalidae (fritillaries, admirals, tortoiseshells etc.) and Satyridae (the 'browns' such as Ringlet and Meadow Brown). An illustra-

tion in Chinery's *Field Guide to the Insects of Britain and Northern Europe* shows that the front legs of both families are much reduced in size and greatly modified, those of the male being covered in sensory hairs. This has given rise to the common name of 'brushfooted' butterflies for these families. Professor Dick Vane-Wright in his BMNH 2003 publication *Butterflies* goes further. He considers that there is actually just the one family, Nymphalidae, comprising 11 sub families (two of which are the Nymphalinae and the Satyrinae). There are around 7000 species in the family and all display the 'brushfooted' characteristic.

Since the forelegs of the Nymphalidae are clearly not used for walking, I became interested to find out what, if any, function they may serve. A simple enough question you might think but one to which there seems to be no clear answer. A search of the Internet (try Google 'forelegs nymphalidae') soon came up with many references. The best stated that the forelegs of the male Nymphalidae are covered in hair-like scales and are held tucked up against the body whereas those of the female retain trichoid sensilla and are used for testing potential oviposition sites by scraping or 'drumming' (quoted from p287 in *Lepidoptera, Moths and Butterflies* edited by Niels P Kristensen, Vol. 4, Part 35 of the *Handbook of Zoology, Arthropoda: Insects*).

I then contacted Professor Vane-Wright and have paraphrased his reply here:

The common ancestor of the Nymphalidae, which probably lived 70 million years ago, had a characteristic morphological feature, which is unique to this huge family, namely the longitudinal tricharinate ridges found on the ventromesial surface of the antennae. [Bit of a mouthful, but for a fine photograph of these ridges scroll down to Nymphalidae at:

<http://www.ndsu.edu/ndmoths/ndmoths/Family%20key/keySPF2a.htm>

In addition, the ancestral form also had partially reduced forelimbs. Less extreme foreleg reduction also occurs in the Lycaenidae (coppers, blues etc.) and Riodinidae (Duke of Burgundy), which are the closest in common ancestry to the Nymphalidae. The Nymphalidae have a worldwide distribution ranging from the exotic, tropical 'birdwings' (Heliconiinae) and morphos (Morphinae) to our own, temperate zone Red Admiral (Nymphalinae) and Meadow Brown (Satyrinae). All 11 sub-families of the Nymphalidae have greatly reduced forelimbs, in some cases so much so as to be considered vestigial. This further degree of reduction of the forelimbs from those of the ancestral form would have evolved independently but in parallel to differing degrees between and within each sub family. Professor Vane-Wright was not aware that the forelegs of the male, which are always shorter than those of the female, performed any vital function; if they do, it is unknown. Those of the female appear to be used as chemo-sensory devices for scratching and testing plants to determine their suitability for oviposition, but there is little definitive work on this. However, as all the other butterflies and moths appear to use chemo-receptors on the tarsi and proboscis for the same purpose, there seems to be no obvious advantage to the nymphalid system. For a general discussion and further references on how butterflies select oviposition sites, see page 70 of F.S.

Chew & R.K. Robbins, 1984 (Egg-laying in butterflies, pp. 65-79 in Vane-Wright, R.I. & Ackery, P.R. (eds.), *The Biology of Butterflies*, Academic Press, London). Finally, foreleg reduction is in fact found to some extent in the great majority of butterflies, except for the skippers, swallowtails and whites.

So, all-in-all a fascinating subject and one that is wide open for further study. As the Professor wrote, there is still so much we do not know, even about some very basic questions regarding butterfly biology.

I am greatly obliged to Professor Vane-Wright for responding to my query and to Dr. Mark Young for references, which pointed me in the right direction.

N. Picozzi ~ April 2008.

Paul Browning, our Treasurer wrote:

When is a leg not a leg?

The extract from Charles Bradshaw-Smith's e-mail to John Worth and Roger Lane (Butterfly Observer no. 39), regarding 4-legged Red Admirals, raises some interesting questions. All insects, we are told, have 6 legs, and perhaps this is true; it's just that with many butterflies some of these so-called legs are not used for standing or walking (yet alone running, jumping or swimming), and this raises the question of whether they should be spoken of as legs at all, despite their origins.

Leaving aside this linguistic conundrum however, it can be said that the butterflies belonging to the family Nymphalidae, which include the Red Admirals, all walk on 4 legs. In this family the two front limbs or appendages are reduced in size and are usually kept tucked up against the thorax, making them "invisible", hence the 4 legs seen by Charles and his wife.

As a point of interest, apart from the Nymphalids (which now include the "browns"), all of the butterflies seen in this country, with the exception of Duke of Burgundy males, walk and rest on 6 legs (unless of course they have had the misfortune to lose one or two). Male Duke of Burgundy butterflies (Dukes of Burgundy?) walk and rest on 4 legs; the females however, like all the other members of the Lycaenidae family, still walk around on 6. Assuming our present understanding of butterfly evolution is correct, I wonder what advantages were gained by these males, that would offset the loss of a perfectly good pair of walking legs.

~ Paul Browning, March 2008.

And our County Recorder's reply:

The Mystery of the Four-legged Red Admirals Solved!

An E-mail from John Worth to Charles Bradshaw-Smith

Hi Charles,

I was away on holiday when your email arrived and I am afraid I didn't look at them too closely until now. Red Admirals do have six legs, it is just that the front legs
continued over.....

are so small that it just looks as if they have only four legs. I have no idea why, and can only think that perhaps they are not needed in the adult stage so have shrunk in size.

Apologies if other people have already replied.

All the best, John (Worth)

Conservation Work Day for the Grizzled Skipper

On Sunday the 27th January work was done at the Grizzled Skipper site on Goss Moor. It is one of the two known sites supporting Grizzled Skippers in Cornwall and much of the habitat previously used there by the skipper has slowly become unsuitable for the butterfly.

The work, which consisted of a large amount of scrub clearance, was done



Grizzled Skipper ab. Taras. Photo © P. H. Boggis

by 4 volunteers working for Natural England (NE) under the leadership of Nick Marriott (NE) together with 4 members of the Cornwall Butterfly Conservation branch and two people who came along with an interest in seeing what we were doing on the site and who happily joined in.

Towards the end of the afternoon Nick concluded a very enjoyable and successful day's work by painting the cut willow stumps with chemicals to prevent re-

growth. Mark (NE) and Martin Davey (NE) were also on site and offered to clear away the cut vegetation at a later date, as well as to scrape off some of the grass and moss that has grown over a stretch of track that was frequently used by the skippers a few years ago; this should encourage the re-growth of wild strawberry, the main food-plant of the caterpillars of the Grizzled Skipper on Goss Moor. Our thanks go to all those involved in the work.

It is planned that, with Rail Track's permission as owners of much of the site, at least one day a year will be spent trying to bring the habitat into optimum condition for Grizzled and Dingy Skippers, both of which now have priority conservation status under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. Should you visit the site between late April and early June next year and see Grizzled or Dingy Skippers flying there, it would be useful if you would report such sightings to me, Paul Browning (tel. 01736 763677), remembering exactly where you saw them and what they were doing; the more we know about the behaviour and distribution of the butterfly on this site the better we shall be able to manage it.

~ Paul Browning, March 2008.

Spring Planting of Thyme at the Large Blue Site.

New areas of scrub have been cleared at the Large Blue site in North Cornwall ready for Thyme planting to enable the Large Blue to colonise further inland and up the steep south-facing slope. For several years now, the Thyme has been generously donated by staff at the Eden Project. Derek Lord, heading the team at Pentire-glaze, commented on how healthy the plants were and also how well they had become established.



Derek Lord seen here inspecting a crate of Thyme plants ready for planting out by the team of volunteers (pictured below).

A record number of eggs were recorded last July at the site which bodes well for the success of the butterfly this season despite last year's exceptionally wet summer. On the first day of planting (24th April), approximately 800 were planted across the south slope with quite a few hundred to be planted the week after, making well over a thousand in total.

~ Phil Boggis, April 2008.



From left to right, Susanne Frost, Catherine Larman, Jocelyn Margatroyd, Jack Stratfold, Derek Lord and not forgetting Derek's four- legged friend, Molly.

Field Trip to Minadew Brakes, Kingsand - 3rd May 2008

Our first field trip of the season found a small number of us braving a somewhat windy and cool morning, albeit with long spells of sunshine, to find the **Pearl-bordered Fritillary**. Although, Dave Gibbon assured us he had spotted some the day before, all those netted for inspection proved to be **Small**



Seen here enjoying lunch and a well earned rest are from left to right: Mandy and Dave Allan, Dave Gibbon, Leon Truscott, Phil Harris and Steve Bassett and not forgetting Phil Harris's dog, Lou? Who seemed more interested in Leon's lunch than the photographer!

Cydia succedana (a tiny moth always seen swarming around Gorse at this time of year, and is very common), **Brown Silver-line** (the larvae feed on Bracken) and **Speckled Yellow**. There were one or two moths that, although they had not escaped our attention, flew off into the bushes and could not be positively identified. A female **Holly Blue** was found resting on some Bramble and was most compliant about her picture being taken (see right).

~ Phil Boggis, May 2008.

Pearl-bordered Fritillaries.

Other species observed before we traipsed back up the hill to our cars for lunch, were: **Red Admiral**, **Speckled Wood**, **Green Hairstreak**, **Holly Blue**, **Peacock**, **Small Copper**, **Wall Brown** and **Small White**. I believe Dave had one or two other species logged that he had seen before we had arrived. Moths seen included the **Red Twin - spot Carpet**,



Holly Blue ♀ Minadew Brakes, 3rd May 2008.
Photo © P. H. Boggis

Field Trip to Bunny's Hill

Lee Slaughter informed me that although the weather on the 17th May was generally very wet indeed over most parts of the region, there was a break in the clouds over Bunny's Hill long enough for photographs to be taken of a



Pearl-bordered Fritillary ♀ Bunny's Hill, Bodmin,
17th May 2008. Photo © L. Slaughter

recently emerged female Pearl-bordered Fritillary. Lee has kindly Emailed one for inclusion here.

The next day was sunny and warm, so I took my family along to see what turned up and, in the usual spot where the Pearl-bordered Fritillaries can be found, I saw at least 4 males flying in their usual characteristic way just around knee height, seeking nectar on Violet (*Viola canina*). (see photo below).

In the last few years Bunny's Hill has benefited from quite a consid-

erable amount of scrub clearance and burning. Whole areas which were once impenetrable gorse, some 10 to 12 feet high in places, have now been cut down, enabling easier access. This management will also aid the spread of Common Dog Violet along the pathways and into the cleared areas. The photos below illustrate just how high the Gorse had grown before it was burnt.

~ Phil Boggis, May 2008.



Pearl-bordered Fritillary ♂ Bunny's Hill, 18th May
2008. Photo © P. H. Boggis



Field Trip to St. Breward Quarry.

It is always pleasing to find another site for the Pearl-bordered Fritillary, so a number of CBC members and friends met at the St. Breward Quarry car park on the 8th May in expectation of finding this butterfly in a recently cleared and managed area within the disused quarry enclaves. Unfortunately none were found but Phil Harris (see report on page 2), commented that the site looked just about right and it is within a mile or two of the strong colony at Fellover, Tuckingmill. Pictured right and below is the group taking their lunch-break beside the quarry pond.



Pictured here from left to right are: Dick Goodere, Malcolm Lee, Maggie Goodere and Sally Foster.



Pictured from left to right are: Helen Oakes, Phil Harris, John Gregory, Veronica Read, Joyce Gregory, John Worth (in front), Bernard Hocking and Roger Jones.

suffusion in the hindwing. Sadly, as the specimen was being transferred to a tub for examination, it was accidentally damaged. (The tub's bottom was being offered to the moth - a mistake that can often happen!) ~ Phil Boggis, May 2008.

Hysterophora maculosana ♀
Photo re-printed by kind permission.

Of special interest to the 'mothers' amongst us was a specimen of *Hysterophora maculosana*. A small Tortrix moth whose larva feeds on the seed-capsules of Bluebell. Although common generally, not that many have been recorded in Cornwall. It is of no surprise that this female, illustrated below, was taking an interest in the widely scattered clumps of Bluebell found on the site. The female is differentiated from the male mainly by its wholly greyish hindwing, whereas the male has a whitish



Cornwall's Butterflies a Century Ago

In 1906, the first major work on the Cornish butterfly fauna was published within that monumental tome *The Victoria History of the County of Cornwall* edited by William Page (Butterflies pp 203-7). It was written by Professor James Clark MA. DSc. ARCS., Principal of the Central Technical Schools for Cornwall in Truro. This was not the first county review, which was done by William Edward Baily in 1894, but it was the first detailed account which can be compared with the distribution today. Extracts have been included within modern works, but readers will be interested in seeing the complete paper, which has been scanned from my own copy.

Of our resident species, only the Comma was not recorded in 1906. This first arrived in Cornwall during 1933, following a remarkable and well documented expansion over the previous 20 years from its refuge in the Welsh Borders. Clark's bland comment that the Silver-Studded Blue occurs 'regularly at Perranporth' is interesting. Were the impressive numbers observed at Penhale today so commonplace 100 years ago as to deserve this simple comment, or have numbers increased there since the beginning of the 20th century?

Some common names have changed over the last century. The Heath Fritillary was more popularly referred to as the Pearl Border(ed) Likeness in Victorian times, but Clark gives both. The old name for the Marsh Fritillary was the Greasy Fritillary. The Meadow Brown and Gatekeeper were then known as the Large and Small Meadow Brown, respectively. The Ringlet was the Wood Ringlet, and the Holly Blue was the Azure Blue. Clark's scientific name for Painted Lady is shown as *A. cardui*. This seems to be a simple error for *V. cardui*, *Vanessa* being the genus he recorded for the butterflies before and immediately after this species.

The scientific names and place names are as Clark recorded, and, apart from highlighting the common species names, adding modern species names where they differ, inserting notes on some of his species' accounts, the text is as he wrote. All additions are within square brackets so that they are readily distinguishable from Clark's work.

~ Malcolm Lee, April 2008.

Professor James Clark's 1906 Report

Lepidoptera

The Lepidoptera of the county have always been a favourite study with the majority both of resident and of visiting entomologists, and the workers in consequence have been numerous. The earliest county lists are those of Dr. Cocks for Falmouth and of Mr. William Noye for Penzance. Mr. J. J. Reading, in his account of the Lepidoptera of the Plymouth district in the *Transactions of the Plymouth Institute* for 1861, included a number of valuable data from the south-east of the county. In 1882 Mr. E. P. Marquand published his 'Lepidoptera of West Cornwall' in the *Transactions of the Penzance Natural History and Antiquarian Society*, and between 1884 and 1890 further contributions appeared on the same subject and in the same *Transactions* by Mr. E. A. Atmore, Mr. A. H. Jenkin, Mr. H. W. Vivian, and Messrs. J. C. and C. W. Dale. The Lepidoptera of Scilly attracted the attention of Mr. R. Adkin, the Rev. H. Harpur Crewe, Mr. F. Jenkinson, and Mr. F. Norgate, while Mr. H. Jenner Fust published some interesting records for the mainland. Then in the *Transactions of the Penzance Natural History and Antiquarian Society* for 1894 Mr. W. E. Baily, in a paper entitled 'Lepidoptera of

Cornwall and of the Islands of Scilly', summed up practically all the work of previous writers, added many observations of his own, and incorporated the data supplied in MS. by the Rev. T. A. Marshall for East Cornwall, by Mr. R. V. Tellam for the country round Bodmin, and by the Messrs. Marquand for the Penzance district, along with some notes sent in by Mr. A. Rashleigh and Mr. F. Jenkinson.

In the preparation of the accompanying list the writer wishes to express his indebtedness to the late Mr. W. E. Baily and to the late Rev. T. A. Marshall for many unpublished county records, and to Mr. H. Goss for notes on north coast Lepidoptera. In addition to much admirable work by his pupils he further gratefully acknowledges annotated lists from the Rev. G. Lupton Allen for Millook and for Launceston; from Mr. A. Kenelm Peter for the country round Poundstock; from the late Mr. G. Marryat for Looe; from that prince of collectors, Mr. R. V. Tellam, for Mid-Cornwall; from his colleague Mr. W. A. Rollason for the Truro district; and from Mr. A. J. Spiller for Godolphin. Specimens and notes have also been kindly given to the writer or placed at his disposal by many county observers, chief among whom are Mr. J. D. Enys and Mr. Howard Fox.

Rhopalocera

The **Swallow-tail** (*Papilio machaon*) is not a native, but various attempts have been made to establish it in the county. Noye, Baily, and others have at different times set freshly-emerged specimens at liberty, and turned down pupae, but in all cases the insects have quickly disappeared. On 5 August, 1905, Howard Fox saw one crossing Trebah beach on the Helford River, probably a specimen accidentally introduced.

Sir Charles Lemon reported an example of *Parnassius apollo* [= **Apollo**] captured near one of his greenhouses at Carclew, but suggested it had been introduced in the pupa stage in a batch of plants from the Continent.

Of the **Black-veined White** (*Aporia crataegi*) two specimens were recorded by F. H. Davey from the Falmouth district. One of these, fresh but mutilated, was brought to him by the captor in 1892 from the valley of the Kennall, near Ponsanooth; the other, taken in the St. Mawes district, he found in a local collection in 1894.

The **Large and Small Cabbage Whites** (*Pieris brassicae* and *P. rapae*) are abundant throughout the county, and occasionally do considerable damage to the different members of the cabbage family. In 1899 some Honesty grown for the market near Penzance was much disfigured, and a quantity of seedling wallflowers practically destroyed, by *P. brassicae*. Early in September, 1891, an immense cloud of this species came in near the Lizard, and for the next day or two, hundreds of thousands of dead insects were washed up on the beach.

The **Green-veined White** (*P. napi*) is common on the whole, though in some districts it is rather scarce. It never occurs in such quantities as to be a serious pest, the only mischief attributed to it during the last six years being the partial destruction of a crop of watercress near Bodmin in 1900.

The beautiful **Orange-tip** (*Anthracis cardamines*) is usually very common, but for some years females have been unaccountably scarce. Though usually single-brooded, specimens of a second emergence were seen and captured by Baily on 28 August, 1897, at Marazion. The larvae feed on cruciferae, and especially on the seed pods. In 1900 it attacked the pods of some seeding broccoli at Penzance, and in 1902 did some damage to seeding Brompton Stocks at Liskeard.

The delicate **Wood White** (*Leucophasia sinapis*) is in most seasons not uncommon in the sheltered partly-wooded valley of Millook, near Bude, and in the adjoining copses. It

was obtained near Launceston over forty years ago by Reading, and has been recently taken in that neighbourhood by Rollason and others. It occurs somewhat sparingly on the edge of woods round Bodmin. A single specimen at Doublebois in 1900 and one near Looe in 1902 are the only other trustworthy records to hand.

The **Pale Clouded Yellow** (*Colias hyale*) is variable in its occurrence, but is always rare, and many years may pass without a single specimen being recorded for the county. It was taken at Whitsand Bay east in 1857 and again in 1892, when several were captured at Saltash. One was captured that same year in the vale of the Kennal, near Ponsanooth, and several by Baily near St. Burian in the Land's End district. In 1900, the year of the great invasion in the eastern counties, it was taken near the mouth of the Seaton River and on Budock Bottoms. At least two have been taken in the Bude district, several about Lostwithiel, two at Falmouth, one at the Lizard, and one at Marazion.

The **Clouded Yellow** (*Colias edusa*) is in some years abundant, in others seldom seen, and has been recorded from almost every district in the county. In 1877 it was in some localities extraordinarily abundant. In 1892 it was much more widely spread, but evidently nowhere plentiful, at least west of Par. In 1897 it was very common about Godolphin, Spiller taking forty one morning on Praa Green. In 1899 it was again abundant on the clover fields about Godolphin, and in 1900 it occurred in great numbers from Truro westwards. Near Falmouth that year it literally swarmed during the last week of August and the first week of September. The female variety, *helice*, together with intermediate forms, occurred sparingly with the type, Rollason taking eleven specimens, all in perfect condition, freshly emerged, and on several occasions before their wings were perfectly dried, and yet in spite of careful search he failed to find any pupa cases either of this or of the type.

Writing in 1893, Baily says that the **Brimstone** (*Gonepteryx rhamni*) was plentiful in the east of the county, but grew rapidly scarce towards the west, and that it had never been found beyond Penzance. Nowadays it is not only common about Truro, but is plentiful as far west as Godolphin, and is by no means rare in suitable localities in the Land's End peninsula.

The **Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary** (*Argynnis selene*) is a somewhat local species, but widely distributed and in places common. Its headquarters in the county seem to be St. Martin's Wood, Looe, where some years it is abundant. It is usually fairly plentiful on Millook Common and about Poundstock, and occurs in favoured spots along the southern half of the county, but is rare west of Helford and in the district of the Lizard.

The **Pearl-bordered Fritillary** (*A. euphrosyne*) is also somewhat local, and its county distribution seems to be practically identical with that of the previous species. About Truro it is in most years decidedly commoner, but has not been recorded from the Lizard district at all.

The **Dark Green Fritillary** (*A. aglaia*) is common in most years along the north coast from Hennacliff to Tintagel, at Newquay, Perranporth, and St. Agnes. It often occurs plentifully here and there on the moors. In 1900 it was common near Cardinham, in 1902 at Trebartha, and some years ago was taken in considerable numbers near Liskeard. In the southern half of the county it is much more local than the two preceding species, and does not seem to have been taken in the Truro district at all. Spiller says it is very rare north of Helston, but common at the Lizard.

The **High Brown Fritillary** (*A. adippe*) is apparently very local. It occurs not unfrequently in the valley at Millook, and from there sparingly to Wainhouse Corner (Goss). It is also

recorded from the large woods in the east of the county, and appears to be common some years about Doublebois and Bodmin. From Truro westwards it is a rare casual.

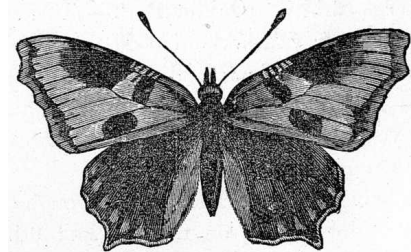
The **Silver-washed Fritillary** (*A. paphia*) is in some years fairly common in the Millook district and in the woods by the Tamar. It is frequently recorded along the southern half of the county. In the west its headquarters are at Trevanno Wood, Sithney. It is also common in a little wood at Cury Cross to the south of Helston.

The **Greasy Fritillary** (*Melitaea aurinia*) [= **Marsh Fritillary**] is very local, and does not seem to be common anywhere in the county. It occurs sparingly in places on the Lynher, and is not infrequent on a hill near the Cheesewring, where, according to Bignell, the specimens are much brighter in colour than those from the south of Devonshire. It has been taken near Looe, once by Tellam in the north of Bodmin, twice near Wadebridge, and once by Rollason near St. Austell.

The **Pearl-bordered Likeness or Heath Fritillary** (*M. athalia*) is at times abundant at St. Martin's Wood, near Looe, but seems to be scarce elsewhere. On 1 July, 1902, five or six were seen on *Veronica chamaedrys* [= Germander Speedwell] in a clearing in the American garden at Trebartha. It has been found occasionally in the southern half of the county as far west as Par, but is probably commoner than it seems to be, as it varies its haunt from year to year. It has been once reported from the neighbourhood of Falmouth.

The **Large Tortoise-shell** (*Vanessa polychloros*) is evidently nowhere common in the county, but is taken occasionally all along the south from Mount Edgumbe to Paul and St. Burian, near the Land's End. In the Poundstock district two or three specimens are taken almost every year, and it has also occurred at Mawgan and at Newquay.

The **Small Tortoise-shell** (*V. urticae*) is abundant all over the county and at Scilly from early spring till late autumn. Specimens have been not infrequently seen in December and January. Spiller has reared a thousand Cornish-laid specimens yearly at Godolphin



for three years, and from among them has obtained all forms recorded in Newman, including the form approaching *ichnusa*, the banded form approaching the Japanese *connexa*, and the remarkable abnormal form No. 3.

[This is from (left) found on page 52 of Newman's *British Butterflies*, showing

abnormal form No. 3, akin to ab. *semiichnu-soides* of Russwurm.]

The **Peacock** (*V. io*) is common throughout the county and in some years is locally very abundant. It varies much in size. At one particular spot in the Liskeard district a very small form has been taken four seasons out of the last five which Staudinger accepted as the variety *ioides*. Spiller has taken an aberration at Godolphin with the right fore-wing fawn-coloured.

The **Camberwell Beauty** (*V. antiopa*) has been twice taken in the county. In the beginning of June, 1832, F. Holmes, Oxford, captured a weather-beaten specimen at Tregothnan, details of which will be found in the first volume of *The Ibis*. On 2 January, 1901, T. J. Porter of Hayle, when out shooting on Higher Spargo in Mabe, caught a fine specimen with his cap in the field called Sunny Corner. Charles Fox of Trebah, in the adjoining parish of Constantine, saw a Camberwell Beauty in his grounds many years ago, and another appears to have been seen in the valley of the Fowey above Lostwithiel.

The **Red Admiral** (*V. atalanta*) is common and generally distributed save on the moorland. In some autumns it is locally most abundant. In the first week of October, 1902, there must have been over four hundred at one time in a neglected orchard near Callington. This glorious sight lasted for several days. One calm sunny afternoon that same autumn there were two or three hundred at the ivy blossom on Launceston Castle.

The fitful and erratic **Painted Lady** (*A. cardui*) was plentiful over the greater part of the county up till a few years ago, but lately has become scarce, at least in the south and west of the county. In a good year it is still common about Poundstock and Millook, and one rarely sees a clump of Hemp Agrimony without one of these beautiful insects in attendance. In July, 1903, it was very common on St. Mary's, Scilly. In 1894 Spiller found several hundreds at Tremearne Cliffs that had just arrived from the south-east, with a few stragglers still coming in from the sea. They had a washed-out appearance and were much exhausted, as they allowed themselves to be picked up off the grass without resistance. They seemed to rest as well on the water as on land.

Of the three authenticated specimens of the American *V. huntera* [= **American Painted Lady**] captured in England, one in beautiful condition was taken by Miss C. L. Pole-Carew on 20 September, 1876, at Antony, near Tor Point, and recorded by Bignell in *The Entomologist*, ix, 255. There is no doubt it was an accidental introduction.

The **White Admiral** (*Limenitis sybilla*) appears to have been common at Godolphin early last century; but R. James, writing from Penzance to W. P. Cocks of Falmouth in 1849, says he had not seen one for nearly twenty years.

The capture of two specimens of *Danais archippus* [= **Monarch**] in the south of England in 1876 drew the attention of most entomologists to the extraordinary world-wide immigration of this American species. On 21 September, 1885, R. J. Anderson saw two and captured one at Trevilly, near the Land's End (*Entomologist*, xviii, 290). On 17, 24, and 29 of the same month A. H. Jenkin took three and saw a fourth near the Lizard, and Miss Rogers captured one at Penzance a few days later in the same year. In August, 1886, one was taken at the Lizard. Since that date no further occurrences have been recorded for the county, and the last appearance of the insect in England was in October, 1890. There seems to be no doubt that the specimens taken were all genuine emigrants and not cases of 'assisted passage'.

The occurrence of the **Purple Emperor** (*Apatura iris*) in the county rests on its reputed capture by a railway official near Bodmin some years ago, but the writer has not been able to trace either captor or specimen.

The **Marbled White** (*Melanargia galatea*) is confined to very restricted areas within which it is in some seasons common. It has been established in Werrington Park, Launceston, for at least fifty years, and in 1901 was unusually plentiful there. Bignell found it at Penhale, Egloskerry, in 1882, and it was taken there in 1899. At one particular spot on the Trebartha estate it is in most years quite common. In and about 1875 there was a flourishing colony at Trerice, Newlyn East, but it entirely disappeared many years ago, though two examples were captured in the valley of the Gannel in 1902. This appears to have been its most westerly settlement in the county. Stray specimens have at long intervals been recorded from the south of the county from St. Germans to Par, and in 1905 a sadly battered female was taken near Falmouth.

The **Speckled Wood** (*Pararge egeria*) is common and in many places abundant throughout the county except on the moors. It is plentiful in almost every shady lane and round the shaded margins of most of the woods in the east and middle, and more

generally diffused in the west. It does not seem to have been previously recorded from Scilly, but was taken on a wall near Great Grimsby, Tresco, in April, 1903. There are three and occasionally four emergences in the year, the first brood frequently appearing about Godolphin and Penzance before the end of March.

The sun-loving **Wall** (*P. megaera*) is common all over the county, and is the roadside butterfly par excellence. The sunny side of the Cornish hedgebanks suits it admirably, and it is often plentiful on warm dry grass, on sheltered sunny hillsides, and around protected coves on the south coast. At present it does not appear to be so abundant as it was fifteen years ago. Spiller says that about Godolphin it is triple-brooded in most years, the emergences occurring in early May, in July, and in October.

The **Grayling** (*Satyrus semele*) is abundant on the high heath land, the commons, and the sunny parts of the cliff from Morwinstow to Dizzard Head, and common on most of the heath and dry waste land of the county generally. On sheltered broken cliff land on the south coast it is often present in great numbers, but sits so close baking itself in the sun that it might easily be overlooked.

The **Large Meadow Brown** (*Epinephile janira*) [= **Meadow Brown**] is abundant both on the mainland and at Scilly. Very small specimens are occasionally taken about Ludgvan and Gulval in the third and fourth week in August in perfectly fresh condition, which Barrett thought probably belonged to a partial second brood. Many of the Scillonian specimens are richer in colour and more velvety in texture than the type. Bleached forms and varieties with extra ocelli on the upper wings are taken by Spiller every year at Godolphin.

The **Small Meadow Brown** (*E. tithonus*) [= **Gatekeeper**] shows a marked affection for a Cornish hedgebank covered with a tangle of bramble canes. It is common and widely distributed over the county, but is neither so general nor so abundant as the preceding species. Bleached examples and varieties with bi- and tri-pupilled ocelli occur at Godolphin, and in 1903 Spiller took a melanic form there with two extra ocelli.

The **Wood Ringlet** (*E. hyperanthes*) [= **Ringlet**] is local, but fairly common. About Poundstock and Millook it is usually common on the shady side of the taller hedgebanks and among the woods; and for several years has been plentiful in one particular haunt in the valley of the Gannel. In 1902 it was abundant near the bottom of the Cascade Wood, Trebartha, and round the upper pond. It occurs on the banks of the Tamar and the Lynher, and in colonies along the southern half of the county as far west as Falmouth. Casual specimens have been taken in the Land's End district.

The **Small Heath** (*Coenonympha pamphilus*) is common and generally distributed throughout the east and north-east of the county, fairly common in the middle, and local in the west.

The **Brown Hairstreak** (*Thecla betulae*) has been taken twice and seen occasionally by the Rev. G. Lupton Allen at Millook, and A. K. Peter describes it as fairly common some years about Poundstock. At least three single specimens have been captured around Bude and one at Kilhampton. Two were obtained at Trebartha in 1902, and it has been taken in the valley of the Lynher.

The **Green Hairstreak** (*T. rubi*) is fairly common but local in the east, somewhat scarce as a rule in the middle, and rare in the west of the county. In good years it is of frequent occurrence about Millook and Launceston, in 1902 it was common at Trebartha, and is often taken at Saltash and Whitsand Bay East. It was fairly common in 1901 near Liskeard and Looe, plentiful in 1903 about Boscastle, and was taken at Lostwithiel and

at Bodmin. Rollason reports it from Polperro and Truro, and Miss Snell has sent in specimens from St. Agnes. Spiller has taken two specimens at Godolphin, Marquand one near Penzance, and Mrs. Clark one at Hayle.

The **Purple Hairstreak** (*T. quercus*) is common and locally abundant in the east of the county and about Millook, is not infrequently taken about Liskeard and Bodmin, but is scarce further west. It has been recorded by Rollason from St. Austell and Burngullow, and by Spiller round the oaks at Godolphin, but has not been found in the Penzance district.

The **Small Copper** (*Polyommatus phloea*s) is common and generally distributed throughout the county. It is in some seasons remarkably abundant in places along the south coast. Silvery white, pale golden, and black varieties have been found at various times, and Spiller chronicles one from Godolphin with the left fore-wing quite white.

The **Silver-studded Blue** (*Lycaena aegon*) seems to be practically restricted to the western half of the county. It is locally not uncommon on the moorlands of the Land's End country, is common on all the heaths and downs of the Lizard peninsula and of the Breage and Sithney parishes, is not infrequently obtained most seasons about Falmouth and Truro, and occurs regularly at Perranporth. Only occasional specimens have been recorded east of Burngullow, chiefly from Looe and Whitsand Bay. The females vary much in colour, some being almost indistinguishable from *L. minima*, while others show a great deal of blue.

The **Brown Argus** (*L. astrarche*) is local and apparently nowhere common in the county. It has been taken at Perranporth, Mithian, and for the last three years at Carbis Bay. In the south it appears to be commonest at Praa Green, but has been taken occasionally at Godolphin and once or twice about Penzance. Reading found it in the extreme east of the county nearly fifty years ago, but there is no recent record.

The **Common Blue** (*L. icarus*) is generally distributed, and in most districts abundant, especially near the sea. Colour variations are numerous.

Though there is no chalk in the county the **Chalk Hill Blue** (*L. corydon*) has been obtained several times. Stephen Clogg found it tolerably abundant on the railway banks near Terras, Pill, and other places (Newman, *British Butterflies*, 132). Baily reported the occurrence of a single specimen at Paul, near Penzance; and Marryat took two near Whitsand Bay East.

[The exact note on p132 of Edward Newman's *British Butterflies* is – 'Cornwall. Railway banks near Terras, Pill, and other places, tolerably abundant: I am rather surprised at its occurrence here, as there is no chalk near - *Stephen Clogg*'.

Stephen Clogg (1812 - 1887) was a surgeon and doctor who lived in East Looe for most of his life. The comma between Terras and Pill suggests two separate places, but this would be Terras Pill, about a mile north of East Looe at the southern end of the old Liskeard & Looe Union Canal (SX 249556). The railway, which ran alongside the canal, was opened in December 1860. Clogg published several articles on butterflies and moths in Cornwall between 1864 and 1869 in Edward Newman's new journal, *The Entomologist*. He also provided Newman with an annotated local list for his *British Butterflies*, published in 1871, where Clogg was referred to as 'my valued correspondent' (p37). Clogg's notes would be relating to the late 1860s, when the railway was in its first decade. He was clearly surprised to find the Chalk Hill Blue there, and at several places along these railway banks. Most likely, the species was introduced with limestone materials used in the making of the railway, and managed to establish a few short lived

colonies.

Clark's comments relating to St Martin's Wood, Looe, under Small PB and Heath Fritillary, are straight lifts from Clogg's notes in Newman's *British Butterflies*.]

The **Azure Blue** (*L. argiolus*) [= **Holly Blue**] occurs from Kilkhampton and Whitsand Bay to Penzance. It is somewhat local, but common, and in many places often abundant. The spring brood is always the most plentiful, and in bad seasons the autumn brood may not appear at all. In the wet August of 1903, for instance, not a single specimen could be found in a favoured haunt near Newquay, where hundreds had been seen the previous year.

The discovery of the **Large Blue** (*L. arion*) in abundance near Bude at the close of the eighties¹ by Messrs. Waterhouse² was a subject of keen interest to entomologists, as it had become extinct in its famous Northamptonshire haunts nearly twenty years before, was supposed to have died out on the Cotswolds, and had apparently disappeared from the hills of the South Devon coast, near Bolt Head and Kingsbridge. In some notes kindly sent by him to the writer of this article, Goss says:-



Although not forming part of this article, it is heartening to know that the Large Blue is again flying in its old haunts in N. Cornwall. Seen here, taking a well earned rest after climbing the steep-sided slope at the Large Blue introduction site after completing a transect, are John Ruppertsbery (left) and Lee Slaughter. (No smiles as we were exhausted!) Photo taken 21st June 2006) ~ Ed.

I first met with it in Cornwall, near Millook, a few miles south-west of Bude, in the first week of July, 1902³. It was abundant in several localities between Bude and Boscastle from the middle to the end of June, 1893, and I again met with it in various localities on the north coast in June, 1896, and again in July, 1902. In the latter year it had established itself in two or three new localities, though its numbers near Millook had been reduced by the enclosure and cultivation of many acres of common land and the consequent destruction of its food plant (wild thyme).

In spite of wholesale destruction at the hands of so-called entomologists the species is still common in several localities, and is establishing new colonies about Tintagel and beyond⁴.

[¹ F W Frohawk's memoirs, written in the 1940s, record that his friend E A Waterhouse discovered the Large Blue at Millook in July 1891, rather than 'at the close of the eighties'. The first Cornish specimens were exhibited by E A Waterhouse at the Entomological Club meeting on 11th December 1891 (*The Entomologist* 25:51). Such rarities would surely have been shown at the earliest opportunity, giving support to the 1891 date.

² The reference to 'Messrs Waterhouse' presumably meant both E A Waterhouse and

his brother E O Waterhouse, a respected entomologist at the British Museum. Frohawk's memoirs and the Entomological Club meeting report confirm it was E A Waterhouse alone who discovered it here.

³ This must be an error for 1892, which would then make sense with the rest of Goss' comments.

⁴ In July 1902 Goss wrote 'It was satisfactory to find it in two or three new localities, in one of which I had "turned out" many females in 1896' (*Ent. Mon. Mag.* 38:220). At this time, collectors often released surplus insects at likely sites, and this suggests it may have been Goss who was responsible for 'establishing new colonies', rather than any natural expansion. He had found the Large Blue in almost every steep sided valley from Bude to Boscastle, so '...and beyond' would have referred to sites south west of Tintagel. The coastal area between Tintagel and Port Isaac is a series of steep south facing valley slopes, of which Backways Cove by Trebarwith Strand was a known Large Blue site, and undoubtedly one of the 'new localities' found by Goss in 1902. A later site was two miles west of Port Isaac at Epphaven Cove/Trevan Point, with records from the 1930s to 1963. Whilst no data has come to light from the other remote valleys between these sites, it would seem unlikely that it was absent, as Large Blue colonies have been recorded from almost every valley in the similar topography north of Boscastle, right up to Brownsham, near Clovelly, in Devon.]

The **Small Blue** (*L. minima*) has been thrice recorded for the county, but in the first two cases the voucher specimens proved to be colour variations of the female of *L. aegon*. Last year two examples in perfect condition were obtained near Saltash,

The **Duke of Burgundy** (*Nemeobius lucina*) was discovered in 1900 in a sunny glade in one of the larger eastern woods, and has occurred there sparingly every year since. This appears to be its only haunt in the county.

The **Grizzled Skipper** (*Syrichthus malvae*) is fairly common throughout the county, but somewhat local.

The **Dingy Skipper** (*Nisoniades tages*) is not uncommon about Millook, Trebartha, and Bodmin. Rollason has taken it at Burngullow, and it is not infrequently captured about Truro, Falmouth, and Penzance.

The **Small Skipper** (*Hesperia thaumas*) is common throughout the greater part of the county, but does not seem to have been recorded for the Truro district.

The **Large Skipper** (*H. cyloanus*) is common in congenial localities in the east and middle of the county and of frequent occurrence in the west.

A single specimen of the **Silver-spotted Skipper** (*Hesperia comma*), a female in faultless condition, was taken by Marryat at Whitsand Bay East in July, 1890.

Some News from Headquarters:

Humming-bird Hawk-moth and Painted Lady online survey with BBC Radio 4

Butterfly Conservation has developed an exciting online survey of these two migrant species in association with Radio 4's major series World on the Move and as part of the Garden Moths Count initiative. The survey will run throughout

2008 on the Butterfly Conservation website and gives us a great opportunity to raise awareness and engage with the general public. Anyone who sees a Humming-bird Hawk-moth or Painted Lady butterfly can use the simple but amazing interactive mapping on the website to zoom in on satellite images (down to the scale of your own garden) and log their sightings. This will enable us to track the arrival in the UK of these wonderful creatures on their journey from North Africa and southern Europe, and then to map their spread here during the summer. We are also keen to hear observations of interesting behaviour (such as courtship, mating, egg laying, plants used for nectaring, reverse migration in the autumn or hibernation) which can be recorded in a comments box in the online recording system. What we do know about the migration of these spectacular insects comes from observations over the centuries from amateur recorders, but there is still much to learn and we hope that the public will help in 2008.

We would be very grateful to Branches for help in promoting this survey to the public using newsletters, websites, talks, local press opportunities etc. We will be producing some attractive promotional posters and hope that Branch committee members will be willing and able to get these displayed in suitable public places, such as garden centres, libraries, nature reserve visitor centres etc. The posters will be distributed to Branch in the next month. Many thanks in advance and let's hope it is a good year for migrants!

Insect stamps

You may like to know that the Post Office is producing a series of stamps in April on *Insects: Action for Species*. We have worked with them to include two butterflies: Adonis Blue and Silver-spotted Skipper; and the Barberry Carpet Moth. The presentation pack contains information on Butterfly Conservation.

They can be purchased via:

http://www.royalmail.com/portal/rm/shop?catId=9300091&pageId=shp_prdlist&category=cat62620006

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Jayne Herbert, our web-mistress, is offering her Web Design and Hosting facilities. We thank her for all she does for our website.

~ Ed.

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And Finally:

Garden Moths Count is an exciting nationwide survey to discover which amazing moths and caterpillars live in our gardens. Anyone can take part, young or old, and you don't need to be an expert.



See **www.mothscount.org** to find out how to:

- **attract** moths in simple fun ways
– using a torch or fizzy drink!
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- **tell** us which ones you find and put your garden on the moth map!

Find out what moths are in your own backyard and help wildlife conservation!

Garden Moths Count is part of the Moths Count project, led by Butterfly Conservation, which aims to improve knowledge and conservation of moths in the UK. For more details about the project, including many other activities to join in, see the project website at **www.mothscount.org**



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Heritage

The opinions expressed in the articles of this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Cornwall Branch, or Butterfly Conservation.

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