



Butterfly
Conservation

Saving butterflies, moths and their habitats

The Suffolk Argus

The Newsletter of the **Suffolk** Branch of Butterfly Conservation

Purple Hairstreak eggs on Oak bud by Matt Berry



Brimstones and Buckthorn Project

Photos by Julian Dowding



Brimstone eggs



Brimstone larva, fully grown

Mimics, Monarchs and Miracles

Photos by David Healey



Hypolimnas misippus (male)
The Diadem or False Tiger

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New Members

We welcome the following new members who have joined the Branch and we look forward to meeting them at our events.

Mr J. Blake	Kettlebaston
Mrs D. Casonova	Mildenhall
Mr J. & Mrs O. Clarke	Great Saxham
Miss A. J. Connors	Harleston
Mrs K. Dowrick-Thompson	Tostock
Mr R. Etheridge	Framlingham
Mr A. & Mrs J. Leng	Theberton
Master B. Raby	Ipswich
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Butterfly Conservation

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Editorial

Peter Maddison

Snow blankets Suffolk. What better time to consider how butterflies survive the winter. Within the Newsletter we have some facts. Numb fingered and cold toed perhaps, but the satisfaction that work progresses well at Purdis Heath is warming for the work-party volunteers who have been active over the new year. We have a report which updates news from the Heath.

Warmth will be found in David and Ann Healey's article about their Madeiran holiday. Although they didn't have good weather, they did observe an exciting, vagrant, tropical butterfly.

The naming of unfamiliar butterflies can be tricky. The taking of field notes and sketches have become, to a great extent, a skill of the past. Today photography rules and, when followed up by the study of identification guides, has become an identification boon. Nonetheless the misnaming of a species, even a common species does happen. In the last edition of *The Suffolk Argus*, Vol 55, page 27 the Large Wall Brown was mistakenly named as the Lattice Brown. Apologies are due for this slip-up in the editorial process. In future photographs will be examined most carefully!

The new Butterfly Conservation and Suffolk Branch websites are active. We are keen for

our members to become involved with the Branch so our Branch site not only has a 'sightings' page that asks for your input, there is also a page concerning the Brimstone and Buckthorn project. Julian Dowding opens this Newsletter with information about this inter-active page. Recording butterflies is a vital part of our work. How else do we know what we've got, and where our conservation efforts can best be placed? Details of how to forward your sightings to the County Recorder are given on the website.

Enclosed with the Newsletter is our Events Programme. Events are open to all and you are encouraged to take part. Participating in a field event is an ideal way for those new to butterfly identification and recording to learn the basics, and those with experience to visit less frequented areas of the county and further afield. Note the dates in your diary now!

By the time the Newsletter is read a thaw will have set in and signs of spring will be showing. Emerging butterflies will be under starter's orders, so to help our understanding of the timing of that event Rob Parker has updated his chart of Flight Times of Suffolk Butterflies, which is to be found on the back cover. How many species will you record in 2013?

Editorial copy date

Contributions for the Summer edition of our newsletter are very welcome and should be sent to the Editor, Peter Maddison, no later than Sunday 19th May, 2013.

Any piece of writing considered to be of interest will be published and we also welcome line drawings, prints and photographs.

Contributions (preferably electronic) can be sent to the address on the Contacts page or by email to: prmaddison@yahoo.co.uk

Brimstones and Buckthorn update

Julian Dowding

Last year Suffolk Branch and Suffolk Naturalists' Society launched an exciting project to increase the distribution of Brimstone butterflies across Suffolk and to encourage wildlife gardening. We provided 1,135 Alder Buckthorn and Common Buckthorn whips, the food plant of Brimstones, to 242 individuals in order to attract this dazzling harbinger of spring. The bushes were planted out in gardens, schools, local patches, allotments and golf courses. Around 30 individuals had addresses over the borders in Essex, Cambridgeshire and Norfolk. The rest were in Suffolk.

A web-based map plotting these planting locations is now available for online viewing. Anybody involved with the project and also anybody simply interested in how the project is running can have a look using the following internet link:

www.greenwings.co/page/brimstones-buckthorn-2571. It should also soon be live on the branch website:

www.suffolkbutterflies.org.uk

Google Maps has been used for mapping, since it's something that most people with internet access will be familiar with and because it's free. It also offers interactivity. This means that anyone with an email account will be able to log in and interact i.e., add to the map, once they have received an 'invitation to collaborate' from us. Thus, in the next month or two we will be sending

out email or telephone invitations to all those who received bushes in the hope that recipients will check that their details on the map are correct and so that they can personally add further details on how their bushes are doing. You may like to provide us with more detailed information on where and how they have been planted, e.g. whether in full sun or shade, the type of soil etc. And later on, if you have any Brimstone sightings around or near your bushes, you can easily plot these too. We are also happy to receive any kind of grid reference if you have it, but it is not entirely necessary. For those without email or the desire to do this, we can do it for you. Please let us know if this is the case. People without bushes are still welcome to participate in the initiative by sending in details of Brimstone sightings. Please contact me and I will add your name and send you an invitation. For data protection purposes all locations have been plotted by postcode only, but clients can add their names if they wish.

Information gathered with your participation will also help us to build a clearer picture of the lives of Brimstones in Suffolk.



Buckthorn aftercare

All bushes planted last year will hopefully be thriving, given the amount of rain last year! However, it is important that for the first 3 years of their lives your bushes are well nurtured since, during this time, they are vulnerable to many things such as drought and because they can easily be outcompeted by other vegetation. Therefore we recommend the following advice:

1. Use a mulch or mulch mat around the base of each bush to help retain nutrients and moisture. (Dry winds in spring and drought in summer can both cause drying out and lead to the death of a bush).
2. Keep the base of bushes well cultivated and remove competing vegetation.
3. If grazing by rabbits or deer is a possibility, then protect with tree guards.
4. Prune back leaders by 1/3rd in the early years to encourage branching and to form the shape and height of the bush you want. In a small garden an ideal height would be to about 4-5 feet, but elsewhere you might

want your bushes to grow to their full potential. They will grow to about 12 feet tall.

5. Keep an eye on them during spring and summer for butterflies in the vicinity and evidence of egg laying or caterpillars. Females can appear very similar to a Large or 'Cabbage' White at first sight, but if you notice any pale cream / pale green butterfly showing an interest in your bushes, it is almost certainly a female Brimstone butterfly. It's also worth keeping an eye on all nectar sources, particularly in spring when nectar can be lacking. On warm early spring days, both male and female Brimstones will seek out plants such as Primroses, Red Deadnettle, Jacob's Ladder, Aubrietia and other wild and cultivated flowers.

Please feel free to contact me for further information. Email address: julian.dowding@ntlworld.com. Telephone Julian on 01473 436096 or mobile 07910170609

Early sightings

Overwintering butterflies were encouraged into flight during the mild spell in early January. On the 4th of the month Martin Rogers photographed a Peacock, which alighted on a tombstone inside St Mary's Church at Barking Tye, and on the 9th January Stella Wolfe watched a Peacock fly out of a Leylandii hedge at Hoxne. On the same day Neil Sherman recorded two Red Admirals flying in a sheltered glade at Purdis Golf Club, Ipswich.



Purdis Heath

Matt Berry

There has been quite a lot happening since I last wrote about Purdis Heath so here is an update. Whilst the Silver-studded Blues sit silently as the eggs that were laid in the summer, the monthly volunteer work parties to help them have gone well throughout the winter months. There has been an average group of eight hardy souls braving the cold to get outside and do some frontline conservation! The coldest of days was in January, when approximately 20 people attended the annual 'Megabash' event, hosted by the Greenways Project. Thanks to all their efforts the invading 'army' of scrub has been pushed back from significant areas of the site where the Ling and Bell Heather have suffered in recent years.



Scrub bashers

The fallen (small to medium Oak and Silver Birch trees) have been transformed into log and brash piles to help wildlife – e.g. as reptile refuges or places for Hedgehogs to hibernate. As in previous years we've also continued with our dead hedging, a method of staking and weaving smaller timber and branches to form a thick and fairly impenetrable linear feature. The benefits of such a feature are:

It provides valuable wildlife habitat – a safe place for some species of birds to nest / forage, a refuge and a safe transport network for reptiles and small mammals, a habitat for invertebrates and fungi to flourish and more besides!

It can help protect sensitive areas – We don't ever wish to stop people enjoying and using the site, however too many paths cutting through heather can be detrimental. By creating these hedge features we're subtly encouraging people to follow already existing paths, usually through the woodland that surrounds most of the heath.

A way to use the material – Because we want to take off most of the material from the open heath to reduce the leaching of nutrients into the soil, it helps that we can relocate much of it but without the need to burn it or use vehicles and lots of time to take it off site completely.

The work on site has also been boosted thanks to the recently launched Ipswich Heaths Project. Sharon Hearle, our Regional Officer for BC, has now begun work on the landscape level project across numerous remnant heathland sites in the east of Ipswich. The project is being funded by a WREN Biodiversity Action Fund grant of £117,000. Some of the grant money has already been spent on Purdis Heath, paying for tree work to be carried out by Ipswich Borough Council's Wildlife Team and Greenways Project. Money has also been spent on acquiring a set of tools that volunteers can use on the monthly work parties. Expect to hear far more about the project in the near future, for Purdis Heath and all the other sites included.



Post sharpening

Looking ahead at Purdis, I have started work on a five-year management plan for the site. This document will help steer the work we and other partners are doing on the site and give us clear goals for what we want to achieve for Silver-studded Blues and other heathland species. Once finished we will make it available on the Branch website, probably in the autumn.

We have also designated committee member Julian Dowding as Purdis Heath Site Warden. This voluntary role will, we believe, help in furthering our already well established and successful community engagement work. For instance, we expect



Building a dead hedge

Julian to continue with producing and displaying on site information, coordinating the monthly volunteer work parties, hosting wildlife events and perhaps setting up something to engage with the high numbers of dog walkers that visit the site – akin to the ‘Hounds of the Heath’ that Suffolk Wildlife Trust run at Knettishall Heath.

Volunteering opportunities are always available at Purdis. For example, during the spring and summer we will, of course, want to monitor the Silver-studded Blue population and also record other wildlife. If you’d like more information about getting involved in that, or wish to discuss other options for volunteering, please contact Julian on 01473 436096.



Purdis Heath notice: keeping the public informed

You'll have to join us at Purdis to read the notice!

Mimics, Monarchs and Miracles

David and Ann Healey

Hoping for at least 6 hours sunshine a day and temperatures between 17°C - 24°C we flew to Madeira early in November. What we got was a week of downpours, a dengue fever epidemic, floods, and roads all over the island blocked due to rock falls and landslides. It seemed Hurricane Sandy had stirred up a whole heap of trouble in the North Atlantic.

Butterflies were the last thing on our mind but while sitting by the edge of a small lawn, during a brief break in the weather, my wife Ann suddenly leapt up and exclaimed "What the heck was that!" Flying up from a Poinsettia in flower then settling back again was a large, exotic looking, dark butterfly with white patches on all its four wings with a halo of iridescent violet around each patch. We then noticed two others with less distinct iridescent violet and I assumed, quite wrongly at the time, that they were females when, in fact, they were rather worn, past their best males. They settled frequently on Ann's top and also settled on her outstretched hand as can be seen in the photographs (Page 2). She claimed a special connection with them, an intimacy which resulted in us being very upset when finally leaving them to come back to Suffolk.

They were seen on most days of our stay in exactly the same spot. We were in a garden of exotic plants from all round the world mixed with indigenous plants from the native laurel forest - the Winter Garden of the Quinta Splendida Hotel in Canico, just East of Funchal.

Other butterflies, which they chased off or visa versa, were Red Admirals (not the endemic Indian Red Admiral), Small Whites, Long-tailed and Lang's Short-tailed Blues. Also Monarchs *Danaus plexippus*, were very much in evidence; their gliding and tipping flight was a delight, almost soothing. We also saw caterpillars of *Danaus plexippus* feeding on milkweed which oozed milk the moment we gently broke a side stem.

Once back in the UK and having negotiated our way past the new malfunctioning electronic passport machine at Gatwick, as difficult a task as any migrant butterfly crossing an ocean, we contacted Rob Parker. He kindly identified our photographs of the exotic looking butterflies as male *Hypolimnas misippus*, also named The Diadem or False Tiger and put us in touch with John Tennent and Torben Larsen, among the top specialists on Spain/Canaries/Madeira and African butterflies respectively. We were on a steep learning curve and, a page of emails later, were filled in on what's known about them. Such can be the miracle of instant electronic communication quite different to our experience at Gatwick!

Sadly, we saw no females which look completely different and mimic African Monarchs *Danaus chrysippus* commonly called Plain Tigers. They do this, so we learnt, because African Monarchs contain a poison to most predators so are avoided by them. In the same way the female *Hypolimnas misippus* gains a similar protection even though they don't possess

the poison. This mimicry does seem a miracle of natural selection; as much a miracle as us spending a week with such 'friendly' vagrant butterflies.

On our return we checked out our photographs to see if any of the Monarch species *Danaus plexippus* we saw were possible female *Hypolimnas misippus* by comparing them with all the various mimics of African Monarch *Danaus chrysippus* subspecies found in the world but none fitted. Resident, not vagrant, female *misippus* generally mimics whatever the local phenotype of *chrysippus* happens to be.

Hypolimnas misippus is one of the most

widespread butterflies in the world having been recorded in most tropical countries. It is normally found in Tropical Africa, the West Indies, the USA, northern South America and various countries in South East Asia and parts of Australia. Notorious for fluctuating populations, wherever they turn up in the world, we can only hope that long standing colonies develop in Madeira and The Canaries instead of being rare occasional sightings as they have been up to now.

The Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey

An outline summary of the 2012 national survey shows that grass-feeding butterflies - Meadow Brown, Ringlet and Grayling - were recorded in greater numbers than in 2011. The results, published recently, suggest that the summer's wet weather, which encouraged grass to grow in abundance, benefitted the Meadow Brown so that twice as many were recorded in 2012 than in the previous year. Overall though, the count of butterfly species was poor.

Average number of butterflies recorded per 1km square transect survey:

2012 44 butterflies
2011 47 butterflies
2009 80 butterflies

Average number of species recorded per 1km square transect survey:

2012 4 species
2011 7 species
2009 8 species

In 2012 some species, such as Common Blue and Small Tortoiseshell, were down by 50% on the 2011 count.

If you would like to know more about volunteering to take part in the Suffolk WCBS, in which a survey will be held both in July and August, contact our local co-ordinator, Peter Dare peterxema@aol.com

A Magical week of 'mothing' at Minsmere

*Robin Harvey, RSPB Sites Manager, North Suffolk Reserves
(From Robin's blog entry in late October 2012)*

The awful spring and summer weather in 2012 has had a knock-on effect on invertebrates. In general it has been a poor year for moths and the lack of activity has meant a reduction in the amount of effort staff and volunteers have been devoting to moth trapping. A trap was run however, on the night of the 19th October during and after the staff and volunteers 'thank-you' party. The following morning I was surprised and delighted to discover a Red-headed Chestnut in it. This scarce migrant species has been recorded in Suffolk on a number of recent occasions but this is the first Minsmere record.

Inspired by this, staff and volunteers have been running traps every night this week in the hope of finding more goodies. We have not been disappointed! Conditions have been favourable for immigration with easterly winds coming directly across from the continent. These have resulted in major arrivals of migratory birds as well as a trickle of migrant moths. Amongst the expected resident species have been good numbers of Rush Veneer, plus single Silver Y, Dark Sword-grass and Gem. Nice, but not too exciting! The discovery of a Buttoned Snout on the outside wall of the volunteers' chalet yesterday morning was real cause for celebration though. This is not a migrant species, but it comes to light rather infrequently and most Suffolk records are of caterpillars on hop (the larval food plant). This was another new species for Minsmere and it took the Lepidoptera list to a tantalising 1099. So, there was just one

species to go to reach 1100. As we emptied the trap my thoughts were turning to what number 1100 would be (Death's Head Hawkmoth would be nice....).

With the trap emptied it was looking as though we would have to wait a while longer for the next 'first' for Minsmere. However, as the volunteers were tipping out the moths they discovered a small species on the side of the trap and brought it into the warden's office for identification. Amazingly it turned out to be a Purple Marbled, not only a first for the reserve, but also a first for Suffolk! This is another migrant species which is normally found in southern Europe and North Africa. The majority of British records to date have been on the south coast of England, so this individual is quite a way off course.

The excitement generated by something rare brought back memories of the first for Britain (subsequently named the Minsmere Crimson Underwing), which I found on the outside of the same trap at the same location in September 2004. Lightning can strike twice in the same place! Two years later another migrant species, the Many-lined, became the 1000th Lepidoptera species to be recorded on the reserve. With the wind increasing in strength and temperatures plummeting, I was brought back down to earth this morning when the trap contained just one moth. That's the way it goes though. As Forest Gump said, "You never know what you're gonna get...."

2012 - Some Personal Observations

Richard Stewart

The 2012 butterfly year was memorable, mainly for the wrong reasons.

Rob Parker will no doubt be analysing it in detail but here are a few personal observations:

1st March - a Small White was my first butterfly of the year, whereas in all previous years it has been an adult hibernating species.

6th June - no Dingy Skippers at Wordwell, despite searching all known sites: too late?

15th June - a walk along the old railway line between Aldeburgh and Thorpeness, one of the county's best inland butterfly sites, produced just two Speckled Woods.

23rd June - at last some Heath Fritillaries at Thrift Wood in Essex. The warden was very concerned on my first visit. They were over two weeks late, compared to normal.

At this date last year I had seen thirty different species - this year it was nineteen.

12th July - my first Small Tortoiseshell, in the Fynn valley. Last year it was 9th April and I had seen all five hibernating species by 23rd April.

29th July - first Brown Argus, over two

months later than in 2011.

11th August - no second brood Adonis Blue or Dingy Skipper at Denbies on the North Downs, usually present at this date. In our garden valerian flowered in greater profusion than ever before, but attracted just one Red Admiral, a few Silver Y's and no Hummingbird Hawkmoths.

12th September - a single late Scotch Argus at Aigas Wildlife Centre, near Inverness, brought my year total of species to thirty-eight, compared to forty-two in 2011. Amazingly a Small White ended the year, in our garden on 18th October. Previously the last sighting has been of an adult hibernating species.

Still, there were some highlights: Swallowtails plus a Chinese Water Deer and young at Wheatfen Broad, an abundance of Wall and Marbled White on the Sussex trip, close views of many Dark Green Fritillaries at Holkham NNR, the incredible numbers of Chalkhill Blues at Denbies on the North Downs, my first Suffolk Wall since 2009 and the memorable first visit to Pakenham Wood, with a long, sunlit glade full of gliding, courting and mating Silver-washed Fritillaries.

Big Butterfly Count

(from a recent BC newsletter)

Big Butterfly Count 2012 refused to be drowned by the rain and did rather well, considering the weather. Just under 27,000 people took part, completing 24,400 Counts. We've just heard the good news that Marks and Spencer will once again support Big

Butterfly Count in 2013 (20th July – 11th Aug 2013). Please take part yourself and encourage others, especially new recorders and the general public to get involved (www.bigbutterflycount.org).

Where do butterflies spend the winter?

Matt Berry (thanks go to BC Surveys Manager, Richard Fox for some of the text used in this article).

In the UK the winter can last several months. That is more than long enough for us humans to endure, but what about butterflies? Beautiful, yet considered to be ethereal summer sprites and often perceived of as fragile creatures.

Butterflies and moths rely mainly on external sources of heat to warm their bodies so that they can be active. Although many are adept at increasing their body temperature way above ambient air temperature by basking in sunshine or shivering (vibrating their flight muscles), when their surroundings are really cold, most butterflies and moths are forced to remain inactive.

So, not surprisingly, winter poses a problem for butterflies and (most) moths in temperate climates such as ours. It is difficult for them to get warm and, therefore, be active and so they have evolved ways of

dealing with this unfavourable season. Most species enter a dormant phase. This can be as an egg, larva, pupa or adult insect, dependent upon species.

Out of 57 species that are regular residents all year:

- 31 spend winter as a caterpillar
- 11 as a chrysalis
- 9 as an egg
- 5 as adults
- 1 "uniquely in the UK" as either caterpillar or chrysalis - the Speckled Wood*

Let's discuss one example, the Purple Emperor. It spends winter as a young caterpillar, almost motionless on a forked twig or close to a leaf bud of a Sallow tree, trying its best to stay hidden from those that might eat it! It mimics the appearance of its

Egg	Essex Skipper, Silver-spotted Skipper, Brown Hairstreak, Purple Hairstreak, White-letter Hairstreak, Black Hairstreak, Silver-studded Blue, Chalkhill Blue, High Brown Fritillary
Caterpillar	Chequered Skipper, Small Skipper, Lulworth Skipper, Large Skipper, Dinky Skipper, Small Copper, Small Blue, Brown Argus, Northern Brown Argus, Common Blue, Adonis Blue, Large Blue, White Admiral, Purple Emperor, Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Dark Green Fritillary, Silver-washed Fritillary, Marsh Fritillary, Glanville Fritillary, Heath Fritillary, Wall, Mountain Ringlet, Scotch Argus, Marbled White, Grayling, Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown, Ringlet, Small Heath, Large Heath, Speckled Wood [†]
Chrysalis	Grizzled Skipper, Swallowtail, Wood White, Real's Wood White, Large White, Small White, Green-veined White, Orange-tip, Green Hairstreak, Holly Blue, Duke of Burgundy, Speckled Wood [†]
Adult	Brimstone, Red Admiral, Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock, Comma

home exceedingly well and it takes people with a trained eye or very hungry birds to find them! But just pause to think how well adapted and tough this creature is to sit out all that winter has to throw at it and then just carry on noshing away on the Sallow once spring returns.

The Purple Hairstreak has a different strategy. It spends winter as an egg, tucked up at the base of Oak leaf buds. Here they are reasonably safe, though there is always the threat of parasitisation by microscopic wasps and flies to worry about! A lot of books purport these eggs to be laid singly, but my own studies have shown that this is not always so. I have often found them in pairs, trebles and even groups of five. One would think that in general a single egg had more chance of survival as it is less noticeable, though perhaps in groups one or more egg may benefit from being 'lost' in the crowd when parasites or other predators visit?

The statistics show that most species spend winter as a caterpillar. They are then a useful way of highlighting how important our grassland and meadow habitats are to butterflies, as a large proportion of those 31 species are reliant on grasses or other plants in meadow type habitats. That is why, when managing them, it is so important to leave some areas uncut over winter, as that is where so many of these caterpillars are trying to survive.

Butterflies indoors during winter

Among the butterflies, it is only the Small Tortoiseshell and Peacock that regularly overwinter inside houses. They come in

during late summer/early autumn, when it is still warm outside and our houses appear to provide suitably cool, sheltered, dry conditions.

However, come Christmas, when the central heating is cranked up, such butterflies may be awoken prematurely by high indoor temperatures. This presents a major problem for the butterfly as the outside weather conditions may be very hostile and there is little nectar available in gardens.

It is a problem for the concerned householder too. How best to help these poor, confused butterflies unwittingly tricked into thinking spring has come early. The best solution is to re-house the butterfly into a suitable location. Catch the butterfly carefully and place it into a cardboard box or similar, in a cool place for half an hour or so to see if it will calm down.

Once calmed down you might be able to gently encourage the sleepy butterfly out onto the wall or ceiling of an unheated room or building such as a shed, porch, garage or outhouse. Just remember that the butterfly will need to be able to escape when it awakens in early spring.

If you have no options at all for suitable hibernation places, then it would be best to keep the butterfly as cool as possible, to minimise activity, and then to release it outside during a spell of nice weather.

The Net Result

Richard Stewart

I ended my article about the use of butterfly nets in *The Suffolk Argus*, Vol 53 with the words 'I shall write to the company concerned'. In the meantime my old friend Wilfrid George wrote a memorable poetic response, then came a letter of twenty-one lines, personal, polite and well argued. Since I have already given my opinions I will just summarise the two main arguments given, to justify offering nets and a magnifying collecting pot to young naturalists. The first was 'they are a useful and affordable tool within the reach of most children and schools that allow school age children to get closer to butterflies - we feel this is important if the next generation of

lepidopterists are not to be put off because they lack experience of good field craft or the money to buy binoculars or a digital camera with a macro function'. Second was 'there is no evidence that collecting (let alone capture and release) has had any negative effects on butterfly populations except possibly at a handful of sites where extremely rare species scraped a living at marginal sites'.

I hope other readers will now add their opinions.

Close Focus Binoculars

Richard Stewart

I notice the Pentax Papilio binoculars, which focus down to 0.5 m, are increasingly in use at field meetings. Previous to our purchase, we used a close focus monocular which was fine but took ages to find the object. These Papilio binoculars allow such close focus that you can see scales, hairs and the beautiful colours and patterns of individual antennae. It now means I no longer need to get on my knees to positively identify species such as Brown Argus, Small and Essex Skipper. They can also, of course, be used to study other insects and flowers. They are also lightweight, with a choice of two magnifications.

With any product there are some drawbacks. The plastic caps can come away from the body, though so far we have had no problems. They are virtually useless at quickly picking up and identifying a bird at long range - but that isn't their purpose. Finally, they aren't waterproof but do have a soft case, anyway, how many of us look for butterflies in the rain?

We paid just over a hundred pounds each, some years ago. They will undoubtedly have risen in price since then but no doubt they will be cheaper online.

Migration mystery solved

Peter Maddison

In 2009 my wife and I were fortunate to be able to visit the Oyamel fir forests of Mexico to witness the clusters of overwintering Monarch butterflies. They were the final generation of Monarchs that had completed the 5000 miles round-trip migration to the Canadian borders and the generation that would begin the northern migration in the following spring.

High in the Mexican mountains the millions of butterflies that cascaded from the trees when the morning rays of sunshine warmed the glades were a sight never to be forgotten. And a sound never to be forgotten too. Yes, observers fell silent and stood in awe as the flutter of wings, muffled by the fir canopy, became an all-enveloping 'woosh' of surround-sound.

Little did we know then that on the eastern side of the Atlantic, Painted Lady butterflies complete an annual migration from Northern Africa as far as the Arctic Circle before returning to Africa. Scientists from Butterfly Conservation, the University of York, the NERC Centre for Ecology & Hydrology and Rothamsted Research have discovered what happens to Painted Ladies each autumn.

Revealed in Butterfly Conservation News: More than 60,000 public sightings of the butterfly during 2009 were collected across Europe, including radar images tracking butterfly movements across southern England, with 10,000 British observers taking part. Scientists discovered that the Painted Lady did indeed migrate south each autumn but made this return journey at high altitude out of view of butterfly observers on the ground. Radar records revealed that

Painted Ladies fly at an average altitude of over 500 metres on their southbound trip and can clock up speeds of 30 mph by selecting favourable conditions. The findings also revealed that the species undertakes a phenomenal 9,000 miles round trip from tropical Africa to the Arctic Circle – almost double the length of the famous migrations undertaken by Monarch butterflies in North America. The whole journey is not undertaken by individual butterflies but [as in the North American Monarch] is a series of steps by up to six successive generations so Painted Ladies returning to Africa in the autumn are several generations removed from their ancestors who left Africa earlier in the year.

Radar in Hampshire operated by Rothamsted Research revealed that around 11 million high-flying Painted Ladies entered the UK in spring 2009 with 26 million departing in autumn.

Richard Fox, Surveys Manager at Butterfly Conservation, and one of the report authors said, 'The extent of the annual journey undertaken by the Painted Lady butterfly is astonishing. This tiny creature weighing less than a gram with a brain the size of a pin head and no opportunity to learn from older, experienced individuals, undertakes an epic intercontinental migration in order to find plants for its caterpillars to eat. Once thought to be blindly led, at the mercy of the wind, into an evolutionary dead end in the lethal British winter, this amazing combination of mass-participation citizen science and cutting edge technology has shown Painted Ladies to be sophisticated travellers.'

White Admiral Dispersal

Mervyn Crawford

Having lived in Mildenhall for the past seventeen years, I have come to regard our local woodland as the butterfly 'hot-spot' of the area. This is in spite of the close proximity of two nature reserves – Aspal Close at Beck row and Cavenham Heath. In the list of good sites in which to see butterflies, it received a well-deserved mention in Richard Stewart's superb Millennium Atlas of Suffolk Butterflies. Leaving aside rare vagrants and the recently arrived duo, the Silver-washed Fritillary and majestic Purple Emperor, I have recorded here all the species on the Suffolk list with the obvious exceptions of the Silver-studded Blue and Dingy Skipper.

Geographically, the town is situated in quite a unique position at the intersection of three very distinct habitat types. To the north-west towards Littleport lies the rather flat and featureless fenland area, not quite the 'green-desert' for butterflies that one might assume. The north-east, in the direction of Thetford and Brandon, is all typical Breckland – a mosaic of predominantly coniferous forest and heathland – which is not only surprisingly rich in butterfly species, but supports a wide variety of moth species too. To the south it is typical intensively farmed arable Suffolk where, with a few exceptions, butterflies are fewer and rather predictable in their appearance. My three allotted squares for the Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey over the past four years have taken me into the centre of each of these three habitats.

The elegant White Admiral is probably regarded as the flagship species for these woods, and each year presents opportunities to study differing aspects of the butterfly's

distribution within the locality. Their favoured main ride is in the area known as Hurst Fen, which runs roughly parallel with and close to the cut-off channel and the A1065 Brandon road from the A11 Five-ways roundabout. However it is only accessible on foot or bicycle and could be easily missed by visitors to the area. Here the narrow path has small sunlit clearings in the strip of mainly Oak and Birch which borders the regimented rows of Pines making up most of the forest. A reasonable amount of Bramble exists, although it is in danger of being shaded out in several places when early morning is the best time to see and photograph the adults. One memorable year thirty two individuals were identified at 08.25 in the morning! However, it is the choice by the egg-laying females of the abundant thin, straggly, non-flowering growths of Honeysuckle suspended from many of the trees, including the Pines, which enables the species to flourish here.

The area has developed a reputation for producing the earliest emergences of the White Admiral in Suffolk, often being 10 – 14 days in advance of the eastern side of the county.

However, I have always perceived a threat to this colony's well-being in that the area of conifers adjacent to the favourite ride is rumoured to be clear-felled for timber at some point. The impact this



would have on these butterflies could be quite devastating in the short term. So some nine years ago, in order to assess the future prospects for survival, I started to do an annual winter survey of the numbers of small hibernating larvae, particularly in rides at some distance from Hurst Fen. This is not nearly as difficult as it might seem, as, in order to form hibernacula the tiny larvae fasten a Honeysuckle leaf with silk to the main stem. By mid-January at the latest, all other leaves will have fallen, leaving the occupied ones quite conspicuous. I carefully check that a larva is present without unfurling the leaf in any way.

Results show that females obviously roam undetected over quite a large area of Mildenhall Woods, as these larval 'tents' often turn up in isolated spots and rides where I have never observed an adult insect. I emailed our county recorder to say that I was expecting a considerable extension in the range of the species from just two tetrads into neighbouring ones. This prediction proved rather too optimistic. In 2009, in mid-June, I was also sure that I was going to claim another earliest record when two distinctively shaped pupae on a twig I had marked some four months previously were showing the black and white markings of the adult through the wing cases. The next day the same pupae were just empty cases,

but in spite of careful and prolonged searching no butterflies were seen until the end of the month. They had remained unobserved for two weeks and this perhaps offered a partial explanation as to why some examples already show signs of wear and tear when first seen each year. At the other end of the season in 2011,

White Admirals had all but disappeared from the Hurst Fen ride by the third week of July, yet a first very worn and tatty specimen turned up on my garden Buddleia at the end of the month. In 2012 I saw my first White Admiral south of the A11, near the protected Military Orchid site. A few years back a garden Buddleia in College Heath road also received repeated visits from two or three White Admirals.

This raises the inevitable question of how many butterflies escape the attention of even the most persistent recorder, even when they are known to be present in a locality. In spite of their early summer appearance I have not yet recorded a September second brood White Admiral even though I was assured in consecutive seasons by a lady rambler/jogger that they were there. A glance at our county on Google Earth reveals just how much open land has to be crossed for the colonisation of new woods by this and other species, but few butterflies ever seem to be observed whilst doing this. On the continent our British woodland species are by no means restricted to this habitat, and I have seen White Admirals, (not their 'Southern' relatives) in numbers at Lantana flowers in a very urbanised Mediterranean harbour on the French/Spanish border.

It may be hoped that the long-term future for the species is reasonably assured in Mildenhall. It could even benefit from some not too drastic thinning-out operations, so long as the foodplant is left fairly intact, but clear-felling adjacent to a localised colony is likely to reduce numbers at least initially. At the moment its spread in Suffolk is continuing, so it is once more possible to take that trip down memory-lane and photograph White Admirals together with Silver-washed Fritillaries on our home territory, one day perhaps even in Mildenhall.



**Butterfly Conservation Suffolk Branch
Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31st March 2012**

	2011/12	2010/11
INCOME		
Membership Subscriptions	£1,569.00	£1,311.00
Brimstones and Butterflies Private Donations 1	£670.00	
All Gift Aid (including on above)	£295.33	
Suffolk Naturalists Match Funding (Brimstones and Butterflies)	£500.00	
Bank Interest	£1.52	£1.12
Donations/General Fundraising	£890.00	£827.50
NFU		£78.89
Bank Charges Due for refund		£27.50
TOTAL INCOME	<u>£3,925.85</u>	<u>£2,246.01</u>
EXPENDITURE		
SNS Conference	£75.00	
Newsletter/Programme	£1,111.00	£1,208.35
AGM - hire of hall/Refreshments	£35.87	£25.00
Office Expenses/Petty Cash 2	£496.60	£245.13
Brimstones and Buckthorne costs incurred	£1,619.00	
Insurance 3	£4.93	£101.23
Purdis Heath Restoration	£55.00	£603.86
Travel expenses	£175.53	£233.22
SWT - Knettishall Heath Appeal	£100.00	£27.50
Bank Charges charged in error		
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>£3,672.93</u>	<u>£2,444.29</u>
SURPLUS/DEFICIT FOR YEAR	<u>£252.92</u>	<u>-£198.28</u>

- 1 Includes £150 Cheque dated March received April
- 2 Sue Sidle £455.08 plus £41.52 due to R Parker
- 3 2010/11 Insurance costs of £101.23 offset against subscriptions by BCHQ
2011/12 Insurance costs of £4.93 offset against subscriptions by BCHQ
- 4 Including £20.70 for SSB surveys (2011/12), previously identified separately and £57.96 due R Parker at year end

**Butterfly Conservation Suffolk Branch
Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2012**

	2011/12	2010/11
Balance 1st April	£1,208.99	£1,407.02
Surplus (deficit) for year	£252.92	-£198.28
Balance 31st March	<u>£1,461.91</u>	<u>£1,208.74</u>
Represented by:		
ASSETS		
Fixed Assets	£0.00	£0.00
Debtors		£106.39
Cash at Bank	£1,708.23	£1,244.36
Petty Cash	£403.16	£158.24
Total Assets	<u>£2,111.39</u>	<u>£1,508.99</u>
LIABILITIES		
Creditors		£300.00
NET WORTH	<u>£2,111.39</u>	<u>£1,208.99</u>

Note

NOTES	Cost	Book Value
1		
Fixed Assets		
Projector Table	£29.99	nil
Exhibition Tent	£100.00	nil
Display Stand	£229.12	nil
Generator	£630.00	nil
Dell Laptop	£1,178.53	nil
Dell Projector	£633.32	nil
Canon Printer	£98.01	nil
	<u>£2,898.97</u>	<u>nil</u>
2	£78.89	
Due from NFU, received 2011/12		
Bank charges refunded in 2011/12	£27.50	
3	£300.00	
Cheque presented in 2011/12		

Away Weekend in Sussex

Saturday 4th August, Edburton

Paul Johnson

For the first day of this away weekend, eleven of us met at the West Sussex village of Edburton. With the draw of the downs to the south and a network of meadows, copses and hedgerows extending away to the north, Edburton's a good place from which to seek most of Sussex's butterflies. It's a place too where the normal conventions and delineations of which species occur where can readily blur; where a Wall may be encountered by a wood edge or a Silver-washed Fritillary discovered feeding at Marjoram on open downland.

This morning, however, it simply felt sufficient to see some butterflies for the sky was familiarly sullen, the wind familiarly probing and the forecast (delivered, I felt, with an unnecessary frisson of excitement in the presenter's voice) familiarly bleak with its portent that by Sunday the south-east would be fully in the grip of a low pressure system. Meadow Browns were the first to materialise, proceeded by Common Blues and Essex Skippers. As the morning developed, we'd note Essex and Small Skippers in quite good numbers and in Sussex they had a pretty fair season – their larval foodplants growing well in the perpetually sodden conditions. The wet summer had also prolonged the Large Skipper's flight period and we saw a few of these too.

We continued to note butterflies characteristic of the hedgerow and field edge habitats through which we walked; Gatekeepers frequenting Knapweeds, Common Blues vivid against the yellow Fleabanes they visited, Speckled Woods, a few late season Ringlets, and later on a

Marbled White which fluttered up weakly from a long grass meadow. A Holly Blue sought shelter on a Blackthorn, its galvanized underwings seeming to almost illuminate the dark leaves amongst which it rested. At the end of this hedge line, a Gatekeeper alighted momentarily on a Creeping Thistle and very nearly fell victim to a Crab Spider's ambush. Away in the distance, a wheeling buzzard added avian interest whilst during the afternoon session the gruff call of a Raven would be heard.

Presently, we reached an extensive set-aside field. With Blackthorn the dominant hedgerow plant and stems of new growth poking up from the field itself, I felt this represented our strongest chance of locating a Brown Hairstreak – our earlier hedge line scans having proved unsuccessful. Unfortunately though, our arrival coincided with an increase in wind speed and as if to emphasize this a female Silver-washed Fritillary appeared to be virtually blown out of the woodland at the set-aside's northern boundary by a particularly strong gust.

At the far side of the field, it became apparent that a proportion of the Meadow Browns were unusually pale, appearing almost bleached in some cases. As these butterflies were otherwise in good condition, I suspect their pallor was *Partimtransformis* – a physiological defect which we'd also noted during the field trip to Downe Bank in Kent back in 2008 (pers comm. Rob Parker). Continuing this theme, we soon found three *caeruleopunctata* aberration Small Coppers, the extent of the diagnostic blue spotting differing markedly between each butterfly. Then, in cooling

contrast to the coppers' fire, a remarkably coloured and remarkably colourful female Common Blue; not the typical drab brown form, but a vivid butterfly, her upperwings imbued with rich, deep tones of Gentian Blue and Indigo. We wondered if this butterfly was an aberration too but eventually concluded otherwise. Nevertheless, she was the most admired butterfly of the morning – if not the whole day.

Lunch taken, we changed habitat from meadows to the downland of Edburton Hill; pausing to note a female Green-veined White engrossed amongst some dense vegetation, before ascending precipitous wooden steps and then a narrow path which had been thoughtfully lined with an assortment of stinging and thorn-bearing plants. Amongst the brambles, a lively Hutchinsoni Comma convinced for more than a moment in its fritillary impersonation whilst Speckled Woods moved amidst the margins of light and shadow.

Presently, we reached a grassy plateau broadly level with the upper branches of a stand of ash trees. It's a very good vantage from which to watch Brown Hairstreaks on the ash canopies and we duly paused here; most members electing to scan the tree tops whilst seated although in one notable case a position of near-horizontal repose was adopted! It was quiet here today though, and the cool wind flowing along the line of the downs maintained the ash leaves in a state of constant and unhelpful flux. At ground level, Stella did though discern what was to be the weekend's sole Brimstone.

Hairstreaks apparently absent, we picked up the path again. Meadow Browns and Gatekeepers passed by, along with unidentified skippers which weaved lower over the sward. Marbled Whites invariably

drew murmurs of appreciation as they flew past. Looking down, impressive stands of Hemp Agrimony were evident although they attracted no butterflies. Towards the summit, a Peacock sought a little extra warmth from the track bed before being briefly courted by a male Wall into whose territory it had strayed. Then, in what has been another lean year for butterfly migration, a Painted Lady was surprisingly but briefly seen.

The path changes both its course and nature at the top of Edburton Hill, running westwards and taking the form of a deep, steep-sided channel. Here, there were better opportunities to observe the four or five Wall butterflies which were active amongst the scree and scrambling vegetation. I say observe, but in reality much of our time was spent trying to track them as they flitted along ahead of us, wings held in a characteristic shallow V. When they did settle though, outstretched on the chalk, it was a timely reminder of what a fine and intricately-patterned species butterfly this is. Fortunately, they're still strong close to the Sussex coast although the situation is really quite different just a few miles inland.

As we gradually dropped back down towards the road, a Large White was noted and it was a measure of this species' scarcity in 2012 that we moved in swiftly to confirm its identity. Chalkhill Blues added an altogether different hue and a 21st species for the day. They're not particularly numerous at Edburton, probably constrained by the north-facing aspect here, although they were quite evident today as they fed upon knapweeds, clovers and one of the quintessential flowers of the Sussex downs, Round-headed Rampion. Presently, we found a Chalkhill Blue nectaring on a wild Clematis which is not a plant to ordinarily attract butterflies, especially on a site rich in

downland flowers. It was an interesting observation with which to conclude an interesting day.

Sunday 5th August, Mount Caburn and Beddingham Hill

Follow the downs eastwards from Edburton, and after fifteen miles the profile of Mount Caburn dramatically breaks the skyline. In Caburn's lee lies the village of Glynde, our starting point for the day's activities. Looking up to Caburn's summit, the sky was clearing and the wind fell only lightly on our faces.

A quiet lane led us away from Glynde and towards Caburn, although its slopes were hidden by copses and hedgerow trees. The three species of common white butterflies were soon noted along with Speckled Woods and Holly Blues. As elm trees grow strongly here, we double-checked bramble blossoms and stands of Creeping Thistle for White-letter Hairstreaks but without success. Later on, a visit to an elm-rich meadow in Glynde proved similarly fruitless; a rather disappointing outcome given the habitat, but not altogether surprising considering *w-album's* decidedly idiosyncratic character.

Presently, we left the lane and the outlook suddenly changed; to our right, a narrow ribbon of chalk constituted a steep, scrambling path to the Bronze Age earthworks just below Caburn's distinctive, almost domed summit. Above us, a pair of Peregrine Falcons flew, calling repeatedly to one another. Marjoram flowered in deep, luxuriant drifts which extended far along the lower slopes. A clear summer's sky framed the vista.

The first Marjoram stands harboured Small Coppers, Common Blues, Meadow Browns, Walls and Large Whites. Fresh summer

brood Peacocks were established here too, readily approachable as they nectared in a state of almost complete preoccupation. We would find them too feeding quietly on teasels and here – offset against the spiny, mauve-flowered heads – they really were quite stunning.

We proceeded along the rough tracks and little chalk channels which run along Caburn's base. With the change to more open habitat, Chalkhill Blues began to rise towards a position of preeminence – rivaled only by Meadow Browns which fly here in extraordinary numbers. Caburn's other chalk specialists eluded us though: Adonis Blues simply hadn't emerged (development slowed by the leaden summer), Small Blues have been diminished here by the removal of scrub and the shelter it offers, whilst the absence of Silver-spotted Skippers was perplexing and without clear explanation.

At Caburn's western perimeter, we dropped down into a sheltered compartment where Marjoram again attracted butterflies. Here, the tawny uppers of Commas, the false eyes of Peacocks and the velveteen sheen of fresh Red Admirals were periodically revealed as wings were opened and closed with the slow, deliberate – almost imperious – beats characteristic of these Vanessids. Then, retracing our steps back towards Glynde, a Marbled White and a Brown Argus were added. It had been an enjoyable morning, but one lacking in rarities. Over lunch, we hoped that Beddingham Hill would deliver.

A few miles to the south of Mount Caburn lies Beddingham Hill. We'd visited before in Spring 2010, but had spent most of that afternoon hunkered down in our cars as a storm swept through. Today, we were again detained in the car park but on this occasion it was to admire a Red Admiral, Comma and Large White feeding from a Buddleia.

Diversity quickly increased with Holly Blue, Marbled White and Large Skipper amongst others as we made our way past areas of scrubby vegetation. Before we'd reached open grassland, the species count was comfortably into double figures.

Descending to the valley floor, we detected a small butterfly which moved rapidly in a series of brief flights punctuated by similarly brief pauses upon the ground. One of these interludes was just long enough to confirm it as a Silver-spotted Skipper; a fine male with the sex brands applied boldly across the forewings, as if by over-zealous strokes of an eye-liner. Later, there were better opportunities to observe more of these effervescent skippers on Beddingham's western slopes where they'd periodically refuel at Stemless Thistles. One butterfly was also noted at rest for a number of minutes – an unusual occurrence for this species, particularly when the sun is warm upon its back. For Bob and Ann Carpenter who'd joined us from Norfolk, these were significant – and I hope memorable – sightings as the Silver-spotted Skipper represented the final species in their quest to see all of Britain's native butterflies.

After the field trip, Jim Foster emailed me an image of a Beddingham Hill Chalkhill Blue in which the forewings were heavily occluded by grey and the black line at the margin of the hindwings was unusually pronounced; as if applied with a 9B pencil rather than an HB. After Jim had diligently looked through the Natural History Museum's online Cockayne database, we concluded that it was most probably aberration *seminigra*. Jim's photo prompted me to wonder how many Chalkhill Blues at a strong site – and at Beddingham Hill that day they flew in numbers which quickly defied quantification – are aberrations. It would be interesting to devote an afternoon

trying to find out.

A few of us moved down to the slope base and here encountered a diminutive butterfly which moved deftly with shimmering wings amongst the long grass stems. Having patrolled its miniaturized territory, it alighted to reveal that the wings belonged to a Small Blue; a typically dapper male with glittering blue scales dusted over its slate-grey uppers.

To conclude, we moved to a sheltered coombe which leads in turn to a gully at Beddingham's eastern boundary. I'd hoped to find more Small Blues in the warm confines of the coombe, but instead, Walls guarded the entrance and continued to manifest themselves as we progressed eastwards. The sun was lower now and lengthening shadows were inundating the gully which we'd now reached. Sunlight still fell though upon the track bed and the lower slopes, and here butterflies were congregating in the diminishing pockets of warmth. Brown Argus, Small Coppers, Walls and skippers were slowing, becoming less watchful, more inclined to settle with wings held open. Common Blues had started to form communal roosts whilst Marbled Whites continued to enthrall with the tranquil yet effusive flight which is so much a part of their appeal. As we turned, with Marbled Whites floating up about us in twos, threes and fours, I don't think that any one of us felt in the grip of a low pressure system.

Species List: Small Skipper, Essex Skipper, Large Skipper, Silver-spotted Skipper, Small White, Large White, Green-veined White, Brimstone, Small Copper, Common Blue, Holly Blue, Brown Argus, Chalkhill Blue, Small Blue, Comma, Peacock, Red Admiral, Painted Lady, Silver-washed Fritillary, Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper, Ringlet, Speckled Wood, Wall, Marbled White, Small Heath.

Events 2013

Matt Berry

We've got plenty of events lined up for the spring and summer, including several old favourites, but also a few new ones which we hope might appeal to new and perhaps less experienced members and those with children. Read on for a few I've picked out as potential highlights.

Saturday 4th May. Spring butterfly watching for novices at Barnhamcross Common

Join Rob Parker (our Conservation & Recording Officer) and Sharon Hearle (our Regional Officer from BC) for an indoor training session and then put what you have learnt into practice during some practical butterfly watching out on the excellent Barnhamcross Common, located on the southern edge of Thetford.

Saturday 20th July or Sunday 21st July (TBC) with the RSPB at Minsmere

We're teaming up with the RSPB for a weekend of recording and family focused fun at their famous Minsmere reserve. The theme for the weekend will be butterflies, moths and dragonflies. The event is timed perfectly with the launch of the Big Butterfly Count so we'll be there to promote that and to help with guided walks and butterfly surveying. There will also be children's activities available at the discovery centre.

Saturday 27th July with Suffolk Wildlife Trust at Knettishall Heath

We'll be at one of Suffolk's newest and largest nature reserves for a day of family fun, hosting a collaborative event with the site Ranger. Activities will include guided butterfly walks, butterfly fun trail for

families, making butterfly masks and window decorations. We also hope to have a stand which will include displays of live caterpillars for children (and adults!) to observe and learn about.

August (date TBC) with the RSPB at their Flatford Mill Wildlife Garden

We're heading back to the wildlife garden at Flatford again this year, following a successful, if rather wet event there in 2012. We'll lead butterfly walks and have information about how you can make your garden attractive for butterflies, moths and a host of other wildlife. The RSPB hope to have a range of children's activities and there are also plans to have a selection of butterfly larval-host and nectar plants available to purchase on the day.

Would you like to take part in organising or delivering events?

If you would like to get more involved in the running of these or other events then we'd love to hear from you! All our events depend on volunteers and you can never have enough! You don't have to be an expert on butterflies or moths, a friendly disposition and an interest in the subject are more than adequate qualifications. The events listed above with the RSPB and SWT are the type of events where more help would be greatly appreciated. For example, being at the stand to speak to people and give out leaflets and membership forms, or helping with craft activities for children.

If you want to chat about getting involved please either email me at matt.berry1@sky.com or phone me on 07599243026.



Buttoned Snout



Purple Marbled

'Mothing' at Minsmere

Photos by Robin Harvey



Red-headed Chestnut

Sussex Weekend

Photos by Jim Foster



Edburton Hill



Beddingham Hill



Chalkhill Blue
ab seminigra



Mount Caburn showing
drifts of Marjoram



Silver-spotted Skipper

