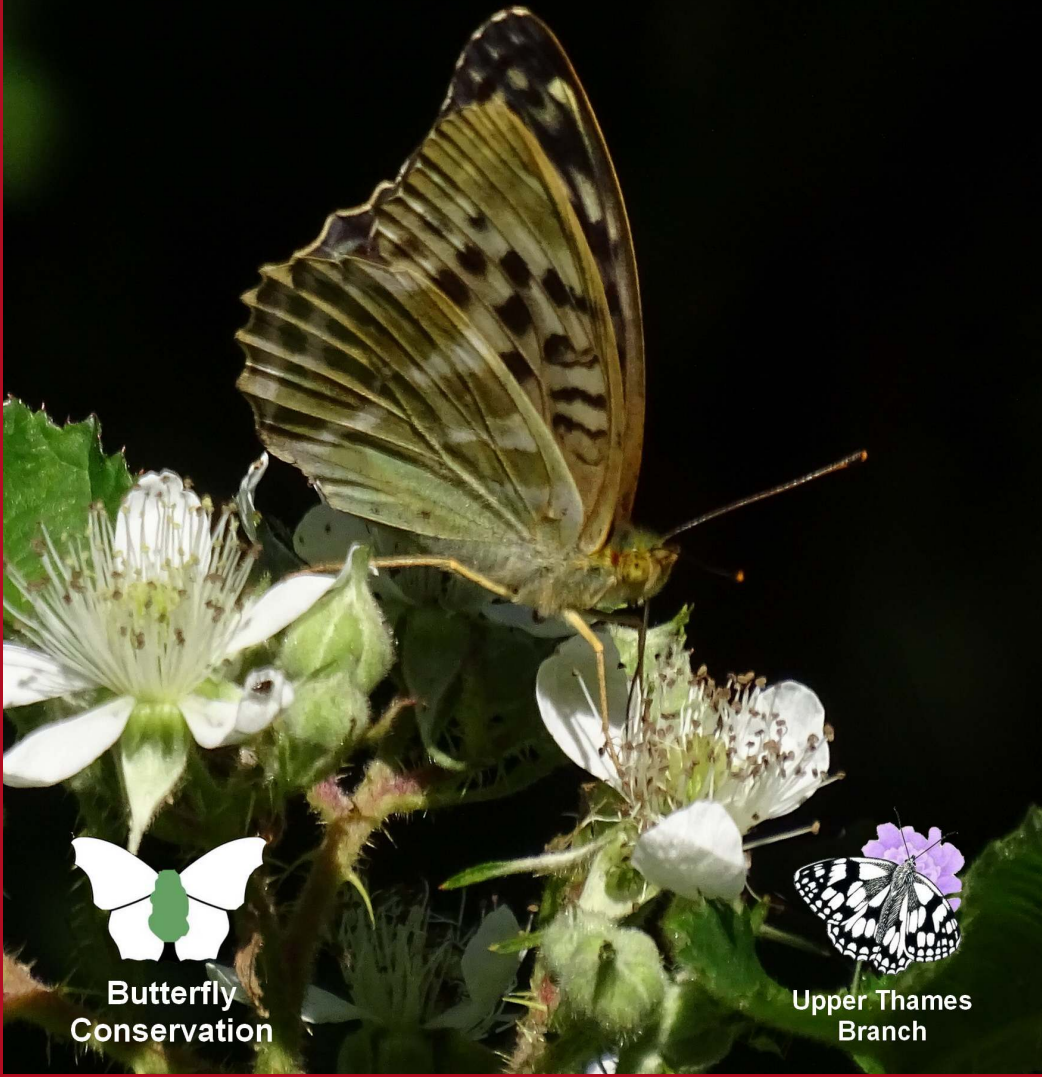


Hairstreak

No 112

Autumn 2021



Butterfly
Conservation

Upper Thames
Branch

This is the last Hairstreak under my editorial control. I would like to thank all the writers and photographers who have contributed their work to the magazine and to the proof readers who have done a difficult job so well. The next editor, Sally Hughes, has my very best wishes.

David Ferguson

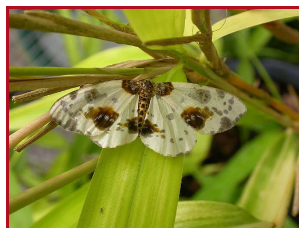
Summer Moths



Jerseys Tigers
John Clough



Treble Brown-spot
Dave Wilton



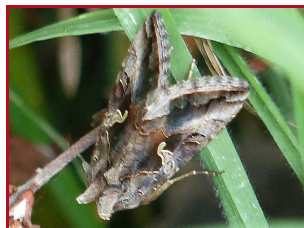
Clouded Magpie
Adam Basset



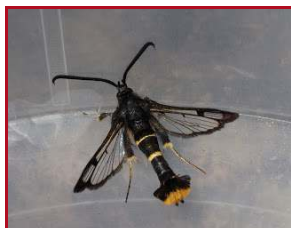
Tree-lichen Beauty
Martin Harvey



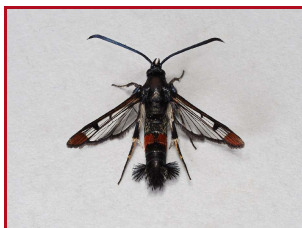
Small Ranunculus
Tim Clark



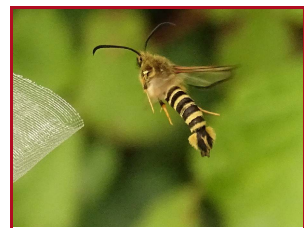
Silver Y
Steve Lockley



Orange-tailed Clearwing
Steve Trigg



Red-tipped Clearwing
Nic Hallam



Six-belted Clearwing
David Ferguson

Copy dates are: 1st January for Spring Issue
1st April for Summer Issue
1st August for Autumn Issue

Contact details are:
shughes@brookes.ac.uk

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Cover photo: Silver-washed Fritillary
f. *valezina* by David Ferguson

Background: Wapseys Wood landfill, Bucks

BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION
COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE, registered in England & Wales (2206468)
Registered Office: Manor Yard, East Lulworth, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 5QP
Charity registered in England (254937) and in Scotland (SCO39268)

It has been a strange year for butterfly and moth lovers: sightings of many of the year's earliest moths were flying before they were expected, and then a colder period in April, May and June pushed late spring and summer species later than anticipated. Perhaps worse than the timing, was the low number of many butterflies, especially in June. However, that changed for the better in July when sun, high temperatures and dry weather created ideal conditions for both butterflies and moths allowing many of us to enjoy sightings of very large numbers on our local nature reserves.

Garden sightings remain thin on the ground as too many gardens are inimical to most butterfly and moth species. Butterflies and moths are evolved to breed on the UK's native plants and they search for them and then hang around near these native plants. Gardens stocked with foreign plants may look beautiful to humans but have very little of interest to breeding butterflies and moths. Hopefully we at Butterfly Conservation can be as successful as the 'Bee People' have been in persuading gardeners to grow pollinator mixes. Whilst excellent for domesticated honey bees and some other wild bees, they are of relatively little use to butterflies and moths, being very largely foreign, annual plants. Very few UK butterflies and moths have larvae that feed on annuals. The UTB provide advice on planting for butterflies and moths at <https://www.upperthames-butterflies.org.uk/gardening>.

Last year, our membership services were limited so it is a delight to welcome members back to our free guided walks this year. Every one of these events has found the target species: a great credit to the walk leaders and the sharp-eyed attendees who often had poor weather to contend with.



A sunny walk at our reserve (Holtspur Bottom) needed to be split into groups of 11 such was the demand to see the reserve and key species present. Covid guidelines at that time suggested that 15 was a sensible maximum group size.

At the time of writing every butterfly species that flies regularly within the UTB area has been seen on the guided walks -- some peculiar ones that don't have been spotted as well! with the possible exception of the Brown Hairstreak. As this butterfly has only just emerged and flies until October, one of our walks will almost certainly connect with it later in the year. We welcome suggestions for walks. If you know of a good spot not in our programme, our Guided Walk organiser Peter Philp peterphilp@hotmail.co.uk would be delighted to hear from you.

I'm planning a full winter conservation work programme too. You'll find the proposed dates of our work mornings at Holtspur Bottom in this newsletter and



Planting vetch food plants into a golf course rough to increase the opportunities for Blue butterflies and Burnet moths.

online. Please check online to make sure that we have not made alterations to our timings and email or ring me for last minute checks in the event of bad weather. Every single butterfly and moth that you enjoy seeing was previously a caterpillar. If we don't create the conditions that caterpillars need, we will lose them. Butterflies and moths have already undergone massive population reductions as the UK becomes ever more inhospitable for caterpillars, with fewer places where the right plants grow under the correct conditions. Our work is an essential part of our conservation work and your help in increasing the number of suitable plants growing in suitable conditions is paramount.

This year our Members' Day and AGM will be conducted again through Zoom. As the advice about indoor meetings may change, we are reluctant to arrange an indoor meeting for the 100+ members that normally attend. Details of the day are listed in the newsletter. Indoor meetings still seem a little risky in the winter when ventilation will be very difficult if we want to keep warm so the committee are not planning any indoor meetings before spring 2022. We hope to hold a New Members' Day then and to welcome those who joined over the last two years.

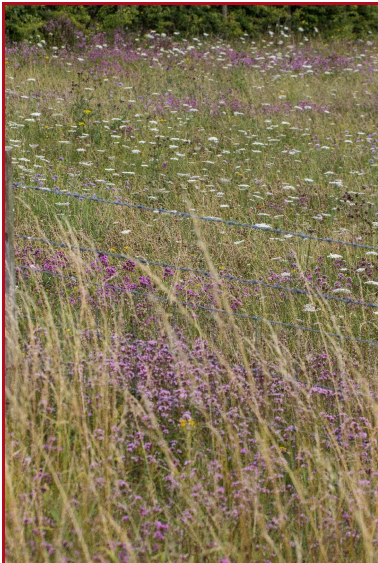
I hope that the summer and early autumn provide plenty of opportunities for you to get out and enjoy the sublime beauty of our nature reserves and the exquisite butterflies and moths that live there. Please record every sighting. Too often we hear impassioned calls for help to protect cherished sites from development which has already started. Local people tell us that many special species are found in these sites, but no one recorded these sightings so we cannot protect them. We, and our sister organisations, target our conservation efforts at the sites where we know of rare species and of a wide range of species. We can only do this effectively with knowledge from sightings and with your help on the ground.

Grasslands+

The campaign to protect grasslands against ill-informed tree planting and agricultural improvement.



A new campaign has been launched to raise awareness of grasslands and their vital role in assisting biological systems. Many plants and animals can only exist in grasslands and many types of grassland are combatting climate change as effectively as woodlands.



Chalk grassland at UTB BC's
Holtspur Bottom reserve
Nick Bowles

Many people know that planting trees can combat climate change by absorbing carbon dioxide. Fewer realise that some tree planting actually releases carbon dioxide and that grasslands can be nearly as effective. Tree planting will also make unimproved grassland habitat incapable of supporting the very rare plants and associated animals that thrive there, whilst having little positive effect on the absorption of Carbon Dioxide (CO₂).

An arable field which is planted with trees will absorb more CO₂ than the field would if it continued to be used for agriculture. Changing improved pasture grassland to woodland causes the absorption of 0.37 tonnes of CO₂ per hectare per annum (tCO₂-e ha⁻¹ yr⁻¹) in the early years of the trees' growth. Restoring the same pasture grasslands or arable land, to species rich grasslands causes the absorption of 4.03 (tCO₂-e ha⁻¹ yr⁻¹). Removing trees from lowland heath (like those in Berkshire) actually increases CO₂ uptake by even more: 4.42 (tCO₂-e ha⁻¹ yr⁻¹).¹

UK grasslands contain over 2,000,000,000 tonnes of CO₂ in their soils, and species rich grasslands (like the natural chalk grasslands of the Chilterns and some of the flood plain soils of the clay vales) contain the most, with intensively farmed pasture land containing the least. In contrast woodlands store most of their carbon in trunks and leaves. When these trees die and rot, or burn, much of the stored carbon is released.²

Furthermore, the species diversity in some of the UK's long-established grasslands is very special and cannot be sustained in woodlands, as the various organisms in the grasslands simply could not persist in the shady conditions of woodland. Ancient woodlands have very special diversity too, but newly planted woodlands will only develop this eclectic mix after hundreds of years. Hence the expression coined by many conservation groups about planting to absorb CO₂, "The right tree in the right place".

You can find out more about the Grasslands+ campaign at <https://grasslandsplus.org.uk/#about>

¹Natural England Research Report NERR043 Carbon storage by habitat: Review of the evidence of the impacts of management decisions and condition of carbon stores and sources 2012

²New research on carbon sequestration and grassland. Farm Carbon Toolkit 2016



Yoesden Bank, Bucks. BBOWT reserve
David Ferguson

Peter Cuss has organised a series of expeditions to find some of our rarest moths. His survey teams have been successful in finding adult Drab Looper, Heart Moth and Silvery Arches.

We also search for larvae of some species including the magnificent larvae of Striped Lychnis. At some sites the Dark Mullein that the larvae eat, and the larvae themselves, seem to be much more advanced than at others, but despite concerns that some sites are being searched a bit too late (after the larvae have pupated) the teams have recorded hundreds of larvae after searching thousands of Dark Mullein spikes.

Thanks to all the wonderful volunteers for devoting so much time to searching for these our rarest species of moth. Rest assured that all the data gleaned from your labour will be fed back to help with management at the various sites surveyed.

If you want to help with surveys and put something into conserving the butterflies and moths that we love so much; and which need help so badly, contact Nick Bowles
nick.bowles@ntlworld.com



A striped Lychnis larva on a flower spike of Dark Mullein

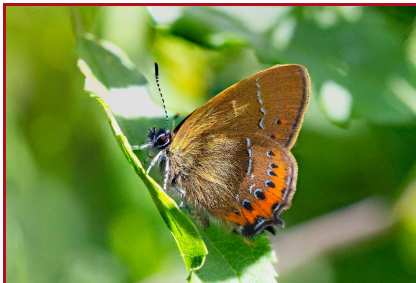


The Striped Lychnis survey team at Bradenham (Bucks.), where they searched for two and half hours, found over 5,000 flower stems and on them 130 larvae.

The Upper Thames branch has a large membership but even so we struggle to meet all the demands we get to help with conservation. Alone we would fail to achieve anything like that which we achieve through partnership. We have very good relationships with many organisations and private land owners. I would like to publicly thank them for the consideration they show us and the efforts they make to help diversify the wildlife on their land.

We get requests to help with physical conservation tasks, including with the planting of plants known to benefit butterflies and moths. Many landowners are surprisingly generous in the amount of land, time and money they devote to helping our wildlife.

One thing that always assists our partnership is a tour of the land and an assessment of small changes that could make a big difference.



Black Hairstreak



A group of golfers walk and hear about changes to their course designed to broaden the range and increase the numbers of butterflies and moths.



Farmland where the owners are keen to do more to diversify the already rich flora and thus the invertebrates that can live on site.

We are already working at three private sites to try and increase the potential for Duke of Burgundy and at two private sites to assist the Black Hairstreak; which has suffered so badly from HS2 ripping out Blackthorn hedges.

Few members currently seem confident about giving such advice so I'm exploring different ways to train members to assist in this crucial role.

If you have an interest in learning to assess the potential that land has to be more beneficial to conservation please contact me so that I know if I'm trying to run a course for 15 or 50 members.

Finding the Silver-studded Blues

Linda Seward



I'm not a golfer, but if the weather is fine and I'm feeling amenable I might go along with my husband to the Sunningdale Golf Club as it really is quite a beautiful place to spend an afternoon - and they make excellent sausages and iced coffee at the halfway hut. He plays golf and I look for fungi, flowers, bees and butterflies to photograph. Golf courses are excellent places to find unspoiled pockets of the natural world, as they are usually well managed and large areas are left untouched, except by golfers who lose their golf balls!

Sunday, June 20 was a lovely day and we met my son on the new course for a round of golf. I walked along the edges, calling out "good shot" from time to time so they knew I was still there, but my mind was focused on what I hoped to find - always an unknown, which makes life very exciting. That Sunday I discovered a gorgeous example of a Tawny Grisette (*Amanita fulva*) standing all alone in the rough. I'm the kind of photographer who gets down and dirty with my subject and this was no exception. I lost the family in the distance but found them in time for lunch.

After sausages, the men continued their game and while I was walking through a patch of heather, I noticed a flash of blue. I was thrilled as I was trying to take some good photos of blues for a newspaper article I was writing. I had to work quickly because there were golfers coming up behind me. I hastily took some long shots, then used the macro and got right down on the ground to take some close-ups. I noticed there were at least 20 of the butterflies flitting around, some posing just for me.

As I was shooting, I realised they weren't Common Blues, so thought they might be Chalkhill Blues as they weren't brilliant enough to be Adonis Blues. After I caught up with the men, I excitedly told my husband I found some Chalkhills and he said that was impossible as we weren't on chalk but in heather. That got me thinking....

I knew I had something special in the camera but it wasn't until I sat down with a large Pimm's after the match that I was able to take a good look at what I had. No, not Chalkhills. What could they be? I googled the Butterfly Conservation website and lo and behold, realised I had Silver-studded Blues (*Plebejus argus*). These were a "lifer" for me as I'd never seen them before. Exciting isn't the word for it. Thrilled? Yes indeed.

When I got home, I sent the photos to Nick Bowles who was helping me with my

article on butterflies that I was preparing for the Henley Standard, and which featured in that newspaper the week of July 8th. Nick forwarded the images to Grahame Hawker, vice chairman of the Upper Thames branch of Butterfly Conservation and UTB Silver-studded blue Species Champion. Grahame contacted me immediately to provide me with some facts about local colonies, and was extremely helpful and supportive. They were both pleased with my find, and I think Nick was more than a little bit jealous if truth be told.

After some research, I found that Silver-studded Blue butterflies are increasingly rare in the UK. They are so named because the underside of their wings brandish pale blue scales that cast a silvery reflection in bright light. They are sexually dimorphic, so males have blue upper wings bordered in brown, while the females are mostly brown, but often have bright orange lunules.



Adults can often be seen roosting on grass or bushes in late afternoon. Because they don't fly more than a maximum of 50 metres, colonies are quite immobile. This is also because of a symbiotic relationship that they have with ants (similar to other blues).

In exchange for a honeydew-type liquid consisting of amino acids and sugars that the caterpillars generate in abundance, two species of black ant, *Lasius niger* and *Lasius alienus* will protect Silver-studded Blues from parasites and predators. When ready to pupate, the caterpillars move into an underground cavity where they are sheltered by the ants until they emerge as butterflies. Indeed, the ants will even gather around brand-new butterflies to guard them as their wings dry. Because of this mutual benefit, colonies of Silver-studded Blues do not move far from the ants that help them.

Adult butterflies rarely live more than 4-5 days. Look for them on well-managed heathland as they need young heather and gorse on which to lay their single brood of eggs.

I contacted Sunningdale Golf Club to find out what they are doing to protect their Silver-studded Blues, or if they even knew they had them. They put me in touch with Gary Powell, the Senior Reserves Manager of Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (ARC) who wrote to say: "Silver-studded Blues are one of our most attractive species and always good to see. We carry out specific habitat management for Silver-studded Blues, via creating areas of short sward heather that they favour if created in the right places, often connected with cross-leaved heath and slightly damper areas. The provision of a range of different age classes and sizes of short heathers can sometimes produce very



Nick Bowles

large, impressive colonies. So in answer to your question regarding protecting them, they should be catered for by the habitat management and creation that we undertake as part of our package of small scale interventions that benefit heathland species.”

I also heard from Rob Free, the Weald Reserves Manager of the ARC who told me: “In recent years we have carried out an increased amount of heather cutting to break up the mature heathland sward and add structural diversity. Some of this work has been specifically targeted at areas where we have seen the blues, although the maintained fire rides, so useful for the larger site protection as circumstances sadly proved*, are also excellent habitat for them. As you no doubt know, in this part of the country they favour short, open heath sward preferably with a high proportion of bell heather. They should do very well for a time at least on higher, heathery ground on the burnt area. My impression is that over the last 12 years I have been in post they have increased on Sunningdale from just a few individuals...initially to a wider distribution over the west part of the SSSI and, I think, the odd record to the east. I did work for ARC in the 1990s as well but don't recall the blues at all on site then, though I do find you do tend not to look if not expecting to see something.”



Nick Bowles

So, this is all good news for the SSB's at Sunningdale Golf Course! However, Sunningdale Golf Course straddles two counties, and we have since found out that most of the colonies that they are managing are in Surrey. Nick decided it was ok to publish this article as the colony I found was only a stone's throw from the Berkshire border. We will be working with their conservationists to see if we can get more colonies to spread to the Berkshire side of the golf course. Watch this space!

*There was a devastating wildfire on Sunningdale Nature Reserve on August 7, 2020. Over 40 hectares of precious lowland heath habitat were burnt on the reserve together with an equal area east of the Chobham Road on the Common proper as the fire raged over the weekend. Sunningdale has been managed by ARC for almost 50 years and a great deal of time and effort has gone into restoring and maintaining the heath over that time.

Members' Photos

There will be an opportunity for members to show their photos at the Members' Day meeting via a facility on the Branch website.

UTB Members' Day and AGM 2021

The Members' Day and AGM will be held over two Saturdays using Zoom.

Saturday, 23rd October 2021 (Day One)

09.45 to 10.00	Login	David Roy
10.00 to 10.05	Introduction	Nick Bowles
10.05 to 10.35	Review of Upper Thames butterflies in 2021	Nick Bowles
10.35 to 11.05	AGM	Nick Bowles

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of last AGM and matters arising
3. Chairman's report
4. Treasurer's report
5. Election of officers
6. Any other business (previously notified)

11.05 to 11.25	Break	
11.25 to 12.10	Butterfly and Conservation Projects in Cumbria and Lancashire	Chris Winnick
12.10 to 12.30	Members' photos	Pete Thompson
12.30 to 12.40	Questions	
12.40	Close	

Saturday 30th October 2021 (Day Two)

09.45 to 10.00	Login	David Roy
10.00 to 10.05	Introduction	Nick Bowles
10.05 to 10.25	Review of Upper Thames moths in 2021	Peter Cuss
10.25 to 10.55	Our Regional Action Plan - progress so far	Steve Wheatley
10.55 to 11.30	Break	
11.30 to 12.15	The DECIDE project: A new approach to recording nature where it matters	Michael Pocock
12.15 to 12.30	Quiz	Peter Cuss
12.30 to 12.40	Questions	
12.40	Close	

The links are:

Saturday 23rd October 2021

<https://ukri.zoom.us/j/98869365148?pwd=R0RzMTRtcEJGK2lOaTZTSXpyVENBUT09>

Saturday 30th October 2021

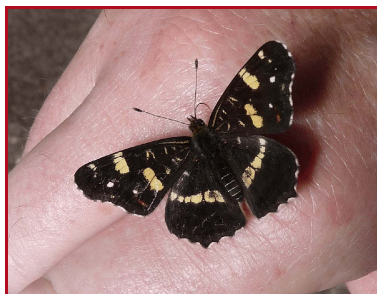
<https://ukri.zoom.us/j/95858532336?pwd=bmpXbDBVY2UxbTBMdVRwTWQvRWtkdz09>

When I were a lad I read EB Ford's classic New Naturalist book *Butterflies* from cover to cover. In it he mentioned the introduction of the Map butterfly *Araschnia levana* to the Forest of Dean by unknown hands and its subsequent destruction by one unnamed collector on the grounds that no non-native species should be allowed into the UK. This act was motivated by xenophobia rather than a regard for the integrity of the native fauna, unlike the rationale behind the relevant part of The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

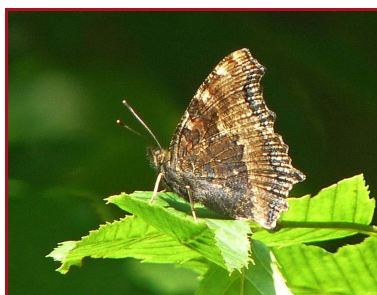
Section 14 of The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 deems it an offence to release or allow to escape into the wild 'any animal which is of a kind which is not ordinarily resident in and is not a regular visitor to Great Britain in a wild state.'

This applies to butterflies and moths as much as to Grey Squirrels and Coypus which throws up some interesting inconsistencies. A few years ago a species only recorded once before in the UK, the Scarce Tortoiseshell *Nymphalis xanthomelas*, appeared in double-figure numbers in the late summer. These numbers were presumably a fraction of the true numbers arriving in this country. The hope was expressed in 'Butterfly' magazine that they would survive the winter (they hibernate like Small Tortoiseshells) and breed and thus become an established UK species. The larval host plants are willows and poplars so there is no shortage of food although the Eastern European distribution suggests it wouldn't survive in the West, presumably because of some unknown climatic factor. In practical terms a natural colonisation by Scarce Tortoiseshells is no different from deliberately introducing the species into the UK, an illegal act.

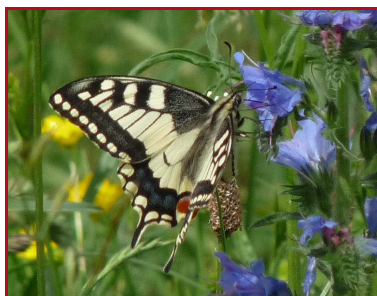
Whether the same law applies to the Continental Swallowtails *Papilio machaon gorganus* that have recently bred in Southern England is debatable. Here the situation is complicated by the presence of the British race of the same species, *Papilio machaon britannicus*. The Wildlife and Countryside Act makes no mention of species and subspecies so, presumably, an introduction of the Continental subspecies would not be illegal as the species is already present. However, the wisdom of introducing the Continental subspecies is



Map



Scarce Tortoiseshell



'Continental' Swallowtail
Papilio machaon gorganus

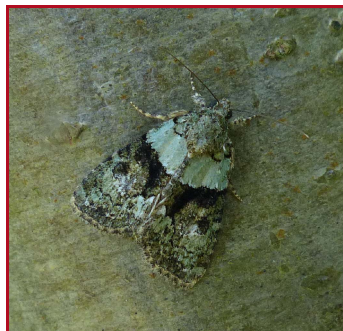
questionable. If the Continental butterflies reached as far as the Broads, where the British Swallowtails breed, they would presumably hybridise, thus destroying a unique subspecies. Perhaps we should kill all Continental Swallowtails found in the UK before they do harm. After all, the Spanish kill any visiting Ruddy Ducks in order to preserve the integrity of the native White-headed Duck population with which the Ruddies may hybridise.

Of course, the law is there for a reason. The accidental introduction of the Box-tree Moth *Cydalima perspectalis* in 2008 is a dramatic example of the devastation an introduction can cause. In its natural range in Asia it is controlled by a parasitic wasp, but here there is no natural predator, although it seems that Jackdaws are finding the caterpillars palatable. The temptation to introduce the predator should be strongly resisted. The introduction of the Cane Toad into Australia in 1935 is a salutary lesson. Introduced to control a beetle that attacked sugar cane it rapidly became a pest itself as it poisoned anything that ate it.

Meanwhile, the UK is being invaded by stealth. Dozens of alien moth species are crossing the channel every year and some have set up colonies here. The first 20th century record of Tree-lichen Beauty was in 1991, the first Dewick's Plusia was in 1951, the first Black-dotted Chestnut was in 2011 and the first Toadflax Brocade was in 1939. All are now resident in the UTB area. We await the stunning Beautiful Marbled to take up residency. Immigrants have already been seen.



Beautiful Marbled
Steve Lockley



Tree-lichen Beauty

Opinions expressed in this article do not necessarily reflect the views of the Branch or Butterfly Conservation.

Membership

Unfortunately I cannot report any new members for this edition of Hairstreak. I have not received any updates since February 2021. There is a problem with the database at Head Office which, to date, has not been resolved. Our current known membership is 2070.

Brenda Mobbs

Butterfly Conservation: Upper Thames Branch

Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31st March 2021

INCOME	2021			2020		
Membership						
Subscriptions	8715.00			8187.00		
Legacies/donations (inc. Gift Aid)	17201.33			2718.87		
Events/fundraising				555.00		
Atlas sales				0.00		
Other (grants)	700.00			960.00		
<i>Sub-total</i>		26616.33			12420.87	
Conservation						
Holtspur Reserve	683.88			1778.45		
Atlas donations	0.00			0.00		
<i>Sub-total</i>		683.88			1778.45	
Finance/Admin						
VAT Refund	550.62			45.41		
Holtspur Bank HLS	668.12			2007.31		
<i>Sub-total</i>		1218.74			2052.72	
Total income			28518.95			16252.04
EXPENDITURE						
Membership						
Newsletter	0.00			3760.15		
Events/fundraising	0.00			573.24		
Stock purchases	0.00			0.00		
Other						
<i>Sub-total</i>		0.00			4333.39	
Conservation						
Holtspur Reserve	0.00			925.09		
Atlas (postage)	0.00			0.00		
Equipment/Training	103.55			1730.10		
HLS re Holtspur Bank	668.12			2007.31		
Other Projects	11699.45			636.68		

Subs/donations	46.00			146.00		
<i>Sub-total</i>		12517.12			5446.18	
Finance/Admin						
Admin/Insurance	44.40			75.00		
VAT	0.00			357.40		
<i>Sub-total</i>		44.40			432.40	
Total expenditure			12561.52			10210.97
Net			15957.43			6041.07
Cash b/f						7881.99
Total cash available			15957.43			13923.06
STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS AT 31 MARCH 2021						
NET ASSETS						
Fixed assets (after		0.00			0.00	
Stock, debtors & creditors		0.00			0.00	
Cash		13923.06			13923.06	
Total			29880.49			13923.06
ALLOCATION OF NET ASSETS						
Endowment		0.00			0.00	
Restricted		1407.50			1407.50	
Designated		5900.00			5600.00	
Unallocated		22572.99			6915.56	
Total			29880.49			13923.06

If any member not attending the AGM has any questions on the accounts please email the Treasurer.

Winter Conservation Tasks 2021-2022

Much of our winter effort is at our own Holtspur Bottom reserve near Beaconsfield. You might combine a walk around the site with a brief session of work. Nobody has to work for the entire session but obviously you may. There are a variety of tasks and no great strength is required. Tools and full instructions are provided. **Please bring a drink and a snack.**

All work parties start at **10.00 a.m.** unless otherwise stated. At Holtspur Bottom they usually finish about 13.00 although in good weather conditions they may continue until about 14.00. Other work parties finish about 15.00.

PLEASE, **ALWAYS** CONTACT THE TASK LEADER IN ADVANCE.

Details frequently change according to weather, number of volunteers etc. The planned work and contact detail for each event will be shown on the Events page of the UTB website.

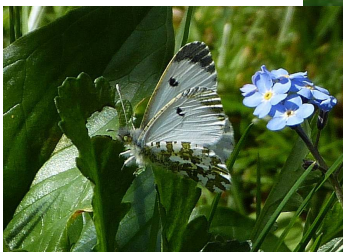
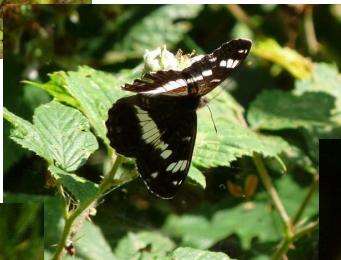
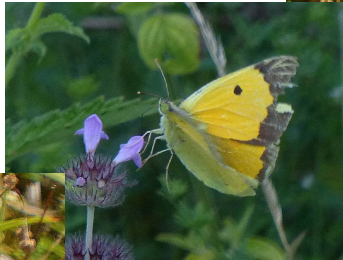
Holtspur Bottom Meeting point: SU918906 HP9 1BT	
Contact: Nick Bowles 01442 382276	All on Sunday
7 Nov 2021	Guided walk, planting, scrub control, & fence repair
5 Dec 2021	'Scrape' weeding, scrub control & hedge laying
9 Jan 2022	Fencing and hedging
23 Jan 2022	As above plus planting
23 Feb 2022	To be decided. Please check before attending

There will be many other conservation events through the winter and sites where we expect to work are listed below. Unfortunately, for a variety of reasons, the dates are not decided as we go to publication. Please check the Events page of the Upper Thames branch website for details as they become clear.

<https://www.upperthames-butterflies.org.uk/events>

Aston Upthorpe, Oxfordshire	Private site
Arcott, Oxfordshire	MOD land near Bicester
Bradenham, Buckinghamshire	National Trust
Buttlers Hangings, Buckinghamshire	Private site
Caversham Lakes, Reading	Private site
Maidenhead Thicket	National Trust
Milestone Wood, Reading	
Saunderton, Buckinghamshire	Private site
Strawberry Bank, Buckinghamshire	Private site
Westcott, Buckinghamshire	Private site
Upton disused rail track, Oxfordshire	SUSTRANS

Flying Butterflies



Photos: David Ferguson

In Buckinghamshire, the Bucks Invertebrate Group organise a lot of field trips which include studying butterflies and especially moths. Their list of field trips is available on their web site. <https://sites.google.com/site/bucksinvertebrategroup/Home>

In Berkshire, the Berkshire Moth Group hold regular meetings on the second Thursday of every month. They organise other events as well. Refer to their web site for details. <https://sites.google.com/site/berksmoths/Home>

Upper Thames Branch Website

www.upperthames-butterflies.org.uk

<http://butterfly-conservation.org/288/upper-thames-branch.html>

Have your butterfly sightings and photos posted on the website by sending them to: sightings@upperthames-butterflies.org.uk

Upper Thames Branch Moth Sightings Blog

<http://upperthamesmoths.blogspot.co.uk>

Follow us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/Butterflies.Berkshire.Buckinghamshire.Oxfordshire>

and Twitter - @UpperThamesBC

and Instagram - utb_butterfly_conservation

Holtspur Bottom Reserve

<http://www.holtspurbottom.info>

Upper Thames Branch Officers

Chairman Nick Bowles

01442 382276 nick.bowles@ntlworld.com

Vice-chairman & Conservation & Recording Chairman Grahame Hawker

Well Cottage, 22 Brimpton Common, Reading RG7 4RZ

0118 9814405 grahamehawker@hotmail.com

Hon Secretary & Branch Contact Dave Wilton

25 Burnham Road, Westcott, Aylesbury HP18 0PL

01296 658701 wilton@burnhamlodge.plus.com

Hon Treasurer Chris Woodrow

39 Old London Road, Benson, Wallingford OX10 6RR

01491 838637 lepidoptera45@btinternet.com

Membership Secretary Brenda Mobbs

01494 712486 bc.upperthames@gmail.com