



Newsletter

No. 11

March 2021

Since I wrote my first article for the Herefordshire newsletter in October of last year the winter seems to have been a long drawn-out event. The sun is starting to gain some strength and a few butterflies are being sighted. My Garden Moth Scheme winter trapping included eight blank nights due to cold weather. Nevertheless, I still recorded 73 moths, of 24 species for the winter scheme. Hopefully, the colder winter will prove beneficial for our resident lepidoptera species. The recent update on the State of our Larger Moths reveals that some of our species which are declining in abundance are gaining in distribution. This may help to explain why I recorded four new

species of macro moth in my garden last year after more than twenty years of recording. For interest they were, Buttoned Snout, Chamomile Shark, Mocha and White Point. The most unexpected arrival to my garden was the micro *Pyrausta nigrata*, or Wavy-barred Sable. This was the first Worcestershire record of the species since 1899. It is known to be resident on the Gloucestershire part of Bredon Hill, Worcs. You never know what might turn up! I read that



there are old Herefordshire records for this species but more recent ones for the similarly beautiful and rare *Pyrausta cingulata* or Silver-barred Sable. Imagine the thrill of possibly rediscovering these day-fliers amongst the thyme, high on a Herefordshire hill walk. They are small and fast though, a similar size to a Mint Moth. Reading about peoples' success with pheromones last year, I have invested in a new set, to try and see some of our Clearwing species this summer.



Wavy-barred Sable -
Pyrausta nigrata

The planned Moth Atlas for the West Midland is progressing well and should be online before too long. It is promising to be a great resource to encourage moth recording throughout the region. Well done to all the county recorders and others who are verifying and uploading a vast amount of data and photographs onto the site. It should link to our butterfly website and vice versa. The new Moths of the West Midlands book is still available to purchase from www.naturebureau.co.uk

Meetings and work parties have been affected by the pandemic, but I hear reports of

good ride clearing work by contractors taking place at Haugh Wood, Herefordshire, and Grafton Wood in Worcs. It may be too late to catch up on some planned work this spring, but with restrictions easing it should allow for some outdoor events during the summer. We are planning an online AGM with a speaker still to be arranged sometime in May. Please see the spring edition of the Comma for upcoming events.

Hopefully, butterfly and moth recording can continue as normal later this year. In the meantime, stay safe and enjoy the spring butterflies and moths.

Mike Southall

Editors Ramblings

So what have you been doing through the lockdowns? I thought it would provide me with an opportunity to do some of the things I have always wanted to do but somehow I never had time to do them. Sometimes I found it very difficult to settle and on other occasions I achieved a great deal. But I guess like all of us you can't wait to get back to some sort of normality. The moth trapping season started for me on the 28th Feb when I had a Hebrew Character in the trap, since then I have trapped on at least 12 occasions and recorded eight species.

At least two people have used some of their spare time with paints or crayons and produced some lovely artwork so thanks to Heather Walker for her 'Butterflies of Haugh Wood', featured later in this document and Sarah Cadwallader for the three moths on this and the next page; all of these turn up regularly in traps in our county.

We had a distribution problem with Newsletter 10 and some of you will not have seen it yet. BC's head office were going to distribute by email to the majority of you and then photocopy to those without an email address, but unfortunately it didn't happen by the time you get this or soon after you will receive a copy of the Comma from the West Midlands Branch with instructions on how to get a copy if you haven't already managed it. I think with staff at Lulworth being furloughed and the remaining staff being overworked some glitch happened! The real problem is the Data Protection Act which stops BC letting me have email addresses, the cost of reproducing this and sending out by post would be prohibitive. Especially when you

realise that the last issue was the largest one yet running to twenty pages. Hopefully the system will work this time and you will all get a copy. They are all available to download from the West Midlands Branch Web Site.

It is a fact that I was worried when I thought about producing this issue and wondering if I





would get enough material to make a worthwhile newsletter for you. I hope when you have had chance to read it through you will find something of interest or something to inspire you to "Have a go!"

One thing is certain that I must thank the regular contributors which make it possible for me to produce any sort of newsletter. So thanks to Peter Hall, Robin Hemming, Mike Southall and Bob Hall who always come good with items for us to enjoy; and to Lucy Morton and Ian Hart who let me have the

latest information on the our reserve by Ewyas Harold Common and on the Fritillaries that fly there

Whilst on the subject of regular contributors, those of you who have been readers of these newsletters for five years will know that our chairman from Issue 1 - Issue 9 was Peter Seal; I am sad to report that Peter's wife, Sue passed away earlier this year and I am sure you will join me in passing on our condolences to him and his family. I know he will read this newsletter as soon as he can.

From time to time through this newsletter you will see this logo; Butterfly Conservation has been hit very hard like many charities because of the COVID pandemic, local and national recruiting opportunities and fundraising events have had to be cancelled and opportunities to spread the word by meeting with other wildlife groups, garden clubs and WI's, etc., have also gone. There are many opportunities for you to help from simply keeping a log of the butterflies in your garden or when you are able to get out for exercise, etc. Try to get involved with Moth trapping, it doesn't need to be an expensive purchase a white sheet with a light on it will bring some moths to your garden or sugaring part of a tree. You can always make a donation if you wish but we are as concerned with you being able to relax at home or getting out and about for your own physical and mental health until life returns to normal.



Martyn Davies

There are approximately 58 breeding species of butterfly in this country and over 2500 species of moth! Biologically they all belong to the same group of insects known as Lepidoptera - insects with scales covering at least part of their wings. Each year we publish a butterfly report usually in the October newsletter and a moth report, but because Peter Hall and Robin Hemmings, who compile the report, get the information through the winter we leave the moth report until the March issue in the following year. Not normally interested in moths? My advice is read this report and wonder at the variety of colour and shape in this fascinating other 'half' of the Insect group.

Moths in 2020—Part One

2020 was an interesting year in many ways. A reduction of away moth trapping sessions due to covid restrictions meant an increased amount of garden trapping and my garden list reached 832 species, which for 6 years of recording, isn't too bad I think. I added 33 species and already another one for 2021 (*Mompha divisella* – 6th county record and second this

century).

I'm also fairly up to date with the county database and everything that has been sent to me has now been vetted and included (a few rejected). I have made contact with Hereford ERC and live in eternal hope that I can meet up with them to exchange data and they seem quite keen for this to happen. Meanwhile, as of March 17th 2021 the county database stands at 528,558 records. I have a few small datasets still to add. The 500,000th record is from John Walshe and dated June 17th 2020 and is **Anania coronata**, which looking it up is called the Elder Pearl.



Mompha divisella

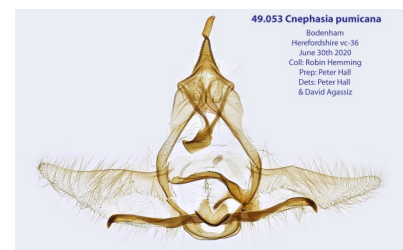
The On-line moth atlas is close to being ready. Data is being re-patriated at the moment to the website developer and once he's worked out how to attach a few million records and test it out, we're up and away. It will include records up to the end of 2019 for now with a view to run an update when 2020 records are all in and ready, maybe later in the year and the idea is to perform annual data updates to keep it current. You will all be allowed to upload your own photo's if you so desire. There is an option of becoming a Golden Cinnabar member which allows better viewing of the distribution maps. This will help with the running costs and I don't think there is a minimum nor maximum amount, so it shouldn't be too expensive for you.

We covered Clearwing moths in issue number 10, so I won't dwell too much on these. Just to say if you are looking at trying them out, the use of traps and pheromones last year by a few of us was stunningly successful and I recommend giving it a go. You can get all the bits and pieces from Anglian Lepidopterists' Supplies: www.angleps.com Remember to add which lure you used to any record in Comment please.

New or interesting species in the county in 2020. Well, we had a few and I reckon the county database now sits with 1615 species.

Gelechia senticetella. One of those small brown jobs and Helen Stace had one in her garden on June 26th, which I later confirmed via dissection. Larvae feed on Juniper and Cypresses.

Cnephasia pumicana. This species was fairly recently split from *Cnephasia pasiuana*, which is more commonly encountered, but as these two species seem to turn up in agricultural fields, which aren't top of the list as trapping sites, the numbers of records are fairly low. 31 county records for *pasiuana* and the new one for the county, *pumicana* now has 3 records. Two from Robin Hemming's garden (28th June and 2nd July) in Bodenham and also one from Checkley Common, also by Robin (18th July). Foodplant is not known. To be absolutely sure, I ran the dissections past national experts David Agassiz and John Langmaid. It was these two experts who first did the species split some years ago, so they should know! This group all pretty much look alike, so if there's an argument for dissection, this is it.



Sometimes the only way to be certain of the identity of a moth is to complete a dissection. This led to the species above being confirmed as a new species for Herefordshire.



Gypsonoma minutana

Gypsonoma minutana. A record from Cradley by Gail Hampshire. Gail supplied a good quality photo and expert Dave Wilton and I both agreed the species. July 23rd. Larvae feed on Poplars including Aspen.

***Spoladea recurvalis*. (Maize moth).** This one turned up in Robin Hemming's garden trap in Bodenham on 21st October. A migrant.



***Spoladea recurvalis*.
(Maize moth).**

***Cydalima perspectalis*. (Box moth).** It's here. Box hedge owners beware. I've ordered and received the pheromone lure for this species, so it will be interesting to see if it appears. John Tilby gets awarded the county first status with a record from Hereford for 26th June. Then Jim Wilkinson from Coughton for 31st July, then John Walshe again from Hereford from 24th August and finally Paddy Matthews from Longtown 22nd September. See how long its season is! I'm expecting plenty more in 2021. It is a very large and quite pretty micro-moth but can devastate box hedges along the way.

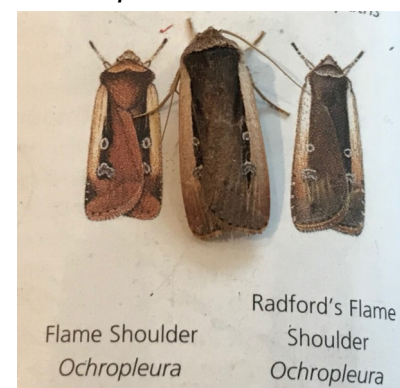


Cloaked Pug *Eupithecia abietaria*. This moth is pretty uncommon in the entire area and thought to be possibly a migrant. One turned up in the Mortimer Forest on 16th July trapped by myself and it was surrounded by its foodplant, so hopefully I can find it again this year in the same spot.

***Oxyptilus laetus* (Scarce Light Plume).** Not a county first, that was in 2019 when a male turned up at my garden moth trap on Bringsty Common. Normally thought to be a migrant, another turned up last year in the garden also, this time a female on the 15th June. So it may be breeding here. There are very few national records let alone local ones.

Twin-spotted Wainscot *Lenisa geminipuncta*. This one was a surprise and came to my garden moth trap on Bringsty Common. So much so I ran the adult past Martin Townsend and then dissected it to be absolutely sure. A nice female.

Radford's Flame Shoulder *Ochroleuca leucogaster*. This is a migrant and almost always found around the coast, so for Robin Hemming to get one in his garden moth trap on the 7th November in Bodenham was very surprising but a marvellous record nonetheless.



Peter Hall

Moths in 2020—Part Two

Following on from a wonderful settled Spring, the weather in 2020 was, though often good, quite varied with few very prolonged periods of hot sunny days and southerly air streams so conducive to good migration. It was good in the South-East of the UK but mostly left out the West and inland counties. Often clear skies led to cool nights and strong wind seemed an almost constant feature often from a North or East direction.

Often the richest period for immigration is October. In 2020 the winds were constantly in the North or NE for three weeks. It wasn't until the third week of October and into early November that the best spell of migrant moth activity happened. Apart from the aforementioned county firsts of **Radford's Flame Shoulder** and ***Spoladea recurvalis*** (the only 2020 UK record that I'm aware of), I recorded a late **Vestal**, several ***Udea ferrugalis*** (Rusty Dot Pearls), at least 5 ***Palpita vitrealis*** (Olive-tree Pearls), **Dark Sword Grass**, **Silver Y**, a **Gem**, and a late **Diamond-back** moth here at Bodenham. Don't put your traps away too early!



Vestal
Above



The Gem
Above



Palpita vitrealis
Upper Right



Convolutus Hawk-moth
Left

Dark Sword Grass
Lower Right



Other notable immigrant moths in Hereford in 2020 included Peter Hall's **Convolutus Hawkmoth** at Bringsty on Sept 2nd. This magnificent moth is now recorded almost annually in Herefordshire. To increase your chances of seeing one, try growing fragrant white Nicotianas or Ginger Lilies (*Hedychium gardnerianum*). These appear to be their favourite nectar sources. I also trapped Hereford's second **Beautiful Marbled** on August 14th at Bodenham.

John Walshe trapped the 7th County record of **Four-spotted Footman** in his Whitchurch garden. This I assume to be an immigrant.

John Walshe also had an **L-album Wainscot** at Whitchurch 18th October and John Tilby also took one in Hereford on 16th September. These are more likely colonists than immigrants. John's Whitchurch garden produced 2 **Kent Black Arches** on 25th June which is also spreading West.



Beautiful Marbled



Four-spotted Footman
Above



Kent Black Arches
Above
L-album Wainscot Right



Possibly the most exciting spreader is the **Clifden Nonpareil**. There were 15 records in Herefordshire in 2020, bringing the grand total to 27. With any luck, it may well become a



Clifden Non-pareil

regular sight. Who will be the first to get a **Dark Crimson Underwing**, another *Catocala* species that is spreading. Worcestershire had their first last year.

Spreading at a slower pace but nevertheless moving into the county; Steve Watkins caught the 5th county record of **Pine Hawk-moth** (his second in 2 years) at Lugwardine on 26th May. Martyn Davies had a **Privet Hawk-moth** in Hampton Dene.....a notable shift into the middle of the county.

An excellent record from Richard Clements in Bridstow was of a **Northern Drab** on 9th April. This is the 8th record and the first since 1988, so one to look out for. Do not be fooled by its name, it is not a Northern species but has a patchy distribution which includes South Wales and Southern central England. This occurred during the Beautiful Spring which may also have produced the **Glaucous Shears** as a wanderer to my Bodenham garden on 09th May.....others were seen in Worcestershire and

Staffs about that time. June 7th produced a **Dotted Rustic** in my Bodenham trap just a few months after John Walshe's September record the previous year in Hereford City. These are the first records since a flurry of records in the late 1980s.

Finally a second record of the tiny macro **Marsh-oblique Barred** on 24th July at Bodenham, 2 years and 3 days after my first. This is the county's fourth record and another inconspicuous species that is possibly under recorded.

Let's hope 2021 produces lots of exciting moth records.

Robin Hemming



Glaucous Shears



Northern Drab



Dotted Rustic

Thanks to Peter and Robin for this very full report and I hope that you might want to get involved in recording moths. If you are worried about identification Peter has nearly completed the database for the county and Moth Atlas so a picture with an email will always find him and help is at hand.
Editor



Welcome Back Lucy! I thought that this might be her last report on the work at our reserve at Ewyas Harold, but no we have at least two more to look forward to and with reserve manager Ian Hart's contributions we should all be able to see the progress here and on the common with the management and also the effect it has on the Fritillaries that are there. Good to have you continuing to work for us. Editor

Ewyas Harold Meadows Reserve and Ewyas Harold Common - Update March 2021

There are work tasks scheduled for Saturday April 10th and Saturday April 24th if lockdown eases and groups are able to meet. Because the birds will have well and truly started nesting by then the tasks will be either maintenance and repairs or looking for the first Pearl's to emerge, if the spring is warm. Please contact Ian Hart or Dean Fenton if you are interested in coming along to either of these tasks.



Volunteers working on Ewyas Harold Meadows reserve – 13 October 2020.

A contractor was employed by the Ewyas Harold Common Trust for 3 days with a brushcutter to cut and rake bramble and bracken in the Pearl bordered areas in February, this will hopefully encourage the violets to emerge. We are looking forward to the Pearl bordered Fritillaries emerging in a month or so's time and it will be interesting to see if these raked areas are used by the butterflies.

The Ewyas Harold Common Trust (EHCT) held the first AGM and 2 new Trustees were elected which is great news, there are now 9 Trustees. If you are interested in becoming more involved on the Common do contact

Sue Young, The EHCT Secretary, it would be great to have a West Midlands BC Branch Trustee.



Volunteers working in Area H and Area 14 – Saturday 19th December 2020

Thank you so much to all the volunteers for all their hard work!

Lucy Morton
Reserves Officer
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07503 220191

White Admirals in Haugh Wood

These fine butterflies have been in decline in Haugh Wood for a number of years.

There are two transect walks in Haugh, North and South, walked every week for 6 months between April 1st and September 30th by a group of volunteers, coordinated by Kate Wollen of Forestry Commission. The last record for White Admiral from the south side was 2016 and from the north 2010.

Imagine my surprise when Penny and I met, by chance, Skowron in July 2020 whilst out walking the north transect. These photos of White Admiral were taken by him on 21st June in the north side of the wood. The location is approx 300 metres east of the forest gate that leads to Joan's Hill meadow.

For transect walkers, turn right at the bottom of transect 6 instead of left.

I would love to receive some records of these spectacular insects with their graceful and gliding flight in 2021.

White Admirals's larval foodplant is honeysuckle. Males tend to spend much of their time basking on oak leaves and drinking honeydew produced by aphids.

Bob Hall



Once you have seen these butterflies in flight you won't forget them they seem to glide most of the time and only flap their wings to gain height or speed; it can make identification more certain. As Bob said above their larval foodplant is honeysuckle which you can see draped over some of the branches of many of the older, established trees in a wood. However, unlike many butterflies which prefer the more open sunny rides White Admirals prefer slightly more overgrown rides that still have plenty of honeysuckle at lower levels when looking for egg-laying sites.

They were known to be more widespread in the past and could turn up in some of the larger woods as far north as Berrington Hall but their range seems to have become more restricted to the south of the county and Queen's Wood, Dymock was the last place you were likely to see one in recent years. If they have returned to Haugh Wood then they have either been there all of the time for the last 5 or more years undetected or they have moved in from an adjacent wood. They are certainly strong flyers when necessary so to move from wood to wood is possible. If you are out and about please look out for them and if you see them let Bob Hall or myself know straight away and we can try and get out to check for the potential breeding sites where you recorded them and other nearby woods. Any help with finding these beautiful butterflies would be very welcome.

Martyn Davies



Mazarine Blue In Herefordshire

I was sent the following email from Bob who is listed nationally as the recorder for Butterflies in Herefordshire

"I have been sent this record of Mazarine Blue by Christine Taylor of Portsmouth Museum. Clearly a Mazarine Blue, but do either of you know where Henmor is ? Google maps has produced a blank,"

Hello,

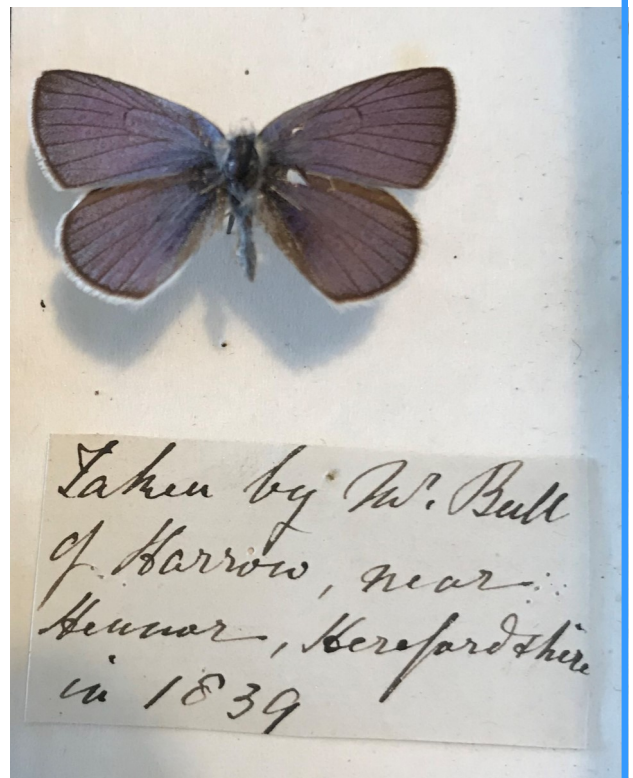
I am working through one of the collections held by Portsmouth Museum and came across this Mazarine Blue. I wasn't sure whether you had the record, also do you know where the location is [Henmor?]

Kind regards

Christine

Christine Taylor

Curator of Natural History



There are Butterfly records in Herefordshire going back to the early 1800's, included amongst these are records for Black-veined White, Mazarine Blue, Large Blue, Swallowtail and Map Butterfly. Many of these can be explained such as the Swallowtails coming in as pupae on reeds for thatching cottages, or deliberate releases as in the case of The Map. The Large Blue was circa 1864 and the Black-veined White early in the 20th Century; it finally disappeared from its last location in Kent in about 1920-30. The Mazarine Blue was probably an inhabitant on a small scale in the county. Basil Miles wrote a paper which was published in the "Transactions of the Wollhope Club" (Vol xliii 1983 part 3 – available on line) entitled "Past Aurelians and Lost Butterflies". In it Miles states "We have records from only two sites: 1832 Near Kimbolton (SO 548614): Edward Newman and Edward Doubleday obtained five specimens of the Mazarine Blue in a rich meadow on a hillside—the Horse Leasow meadow at Olden Barn (Howden) Farm now Olden Farm near Kimbolton." He goes on to add "1855 Near Croft Farm, West Malvern (SO 7546), 8 on the Herefordshire/Worcestershire border

Investigation by Robin Hemming and Bob Hall discovered that there is no Henmor in Herefordshire but that Hennor is a hamlet east of Leominster and close to Kimbolton! So that could indicate a colony near that area. Kimbolton later became the home of the Hutchinson family Thomas was Rector there and his wife Emma was a well known and respected entomologist of National Importance but she did not record it even though she searched for it. The pale version of the Comma Polygonia c-album "Hutchinsoni" is named after her.



The Mazarine Blue is quite common still over much of Europe where its larval foodplant is Red Clover. These two photographs were taken in a meadow close to my son's home village, Mohlin in North West Switzerland.



Identifying White Butterflies

Herefordshire has an abundance of White Butterflies and whether you are out enjoying a walk in the countryside or sitting in your garden enjoying a restful time they will be amongst the most common butterflies you encounter. Identification is often easy. if you have time to look, but sometimes it is best to take a photo with phone or camera in an attempt to make identification easier and sometimes you only see half of the butterfly, upper or lower and then it can start to get a bit more difficult.

So which species do we get In the county?

1. Marbled White - *Melanargia galathea*
2. Orange Tip - *Anthocharis cardamines*
3. Brimstone - female only - *Gonepteryx rhamni*
4. Large White - *Pieris brassicae*
5. Small White - *Pieris rapae*
6. Green-veined White - *Pieris napi*
7. Wood White - *Leptidea sinapis*
8. Southern Small White - *Pieris mannii* (Not yet but who knows)



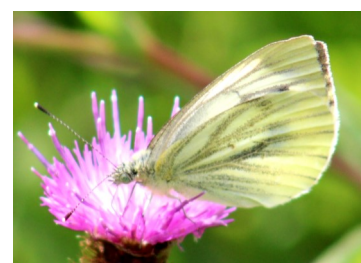
The Marbled White can appear to be a dirty white butterfly in flight

Marbled White So why have I started with the Marbled White when it isn't a white but a brown? The answer is easy although it belongs to the brown group of butterflies it is actually white and black in colour and when you see one flying fast across a piece of open grassland it can appear to be a "dirty white" butterfly; it is only when it lands that you can see the beautiful marbled colouring which is so distinctive. You may encounter it in most of the southern half of the county and it is, apparently, still spreading.

Orange Tip One of the first species to appear in any year, it may be seen in March in a warm spring. The problem is the female and not the much more obviously marked male with its bright orange wing tips.



The Male Orange Tip (left) and female (right). No problem here but look at the female upper-side and compare it to the Small White and the Green-veined white later in this article



The yellow & black scales form a mottled pattern on the Orange Tip (left), whereas they follow the veins of the hind wing on the Green-veined White (right)

The underside of the Orange Tip and the Green-veined White also have similarities; both have yellow and black scales on the white wings but the arrangement is different, See the pictures above right for the difference. It is worth pointing out that the underside of the hind wings of the Green-veined White offer a good way to differentiate between that species and the Small White.

Brimstone This is the bright sulphur yellow butterfly of early spring and summer found over most of the county now, however, if it is yellow it is a male the female is almost white with a very pale lemon tinge which in bright sunlight appears almost white. The distinguishing feature is the sharp angled wing extensions on the hind wing not found on any other white butterfly.

In size a female Brimstone (see photograph right) is very similar to a Large White, however. There is no black on the wings of a brimstone as there is on the Large White. Brimstones rarely if ever rest with their wings open whereas a Large White will in certain circumstances.



Wood White This is very much a speciality of Herefordshire and South Shropshire, it is also found on a number of BC reserves in

Worcestershire where it has been reintroduced over the last four/five years. It is

the smallest of the whites and always

looks as if flying is a real effort, and that it is, apparently, going to collapse into the undergrowth at any moment. That is until you have spent some time wandering up and down a ride waiting for one to settle to photograph it. They never rest with their wings open so the markings on the underside of the hind wings are the best guide to its identity. Whilst the ground colour is a pure white, there is a pattern of pale grey marbling which covers all of the hind wings.



Wood White

That leaves four on the list but the reality is that there are only three you are likely to encounter in Herefordshire. Butterfly watchers are looking out for a possible new species appearing in Britain - the Southern Small White, however, if it does it will most likely be in the S. East coastal region first of all. Its' spread across Europe over the last few years has been dramatic so it could appear here. However, I have included it here so that those of you who venture down to the South Coast may wish to check when you see small white butterflies on your walks! You could be the first to spot it!! Remember the Essex Skipper was only found in the Southern East Anglia and the South East Midlands for many years now it is found all over Herefordshire.

The other three species are all very common but there are ways of telling them apart, unfortunately sometimes it is less easy than we may hope for. If, for instance, I am in a built up area I look for Small White or Large White, however, out in the countryside especially in a damp meadow my first choice is usually "is it a Green-veined White?" If it has a distinct cream or yellowish colouring then I ask "Small White?" After that size comes into it; a Large White is bigger than the other two but the male Large Whites are smaller than the females so the difference is less pronounced. The whites often rest wings open so we will look at their upper-sides first.

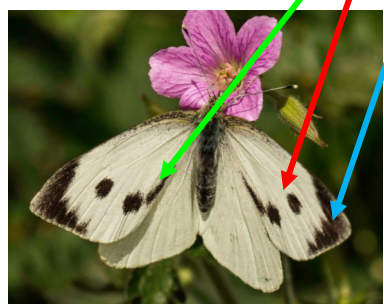
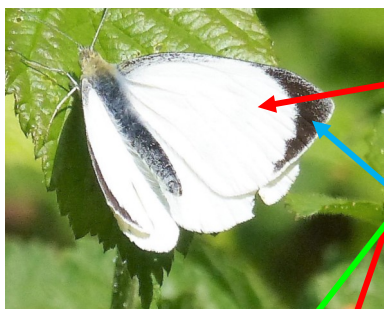
Large White Three things to look for here:

1. Male has no spots on the wing whereas the female does, usually two
2. There is often a black line at the inner edge of the forewing
3. The black edge to the forewings extends equally along the leading edge and outer margin of the wing

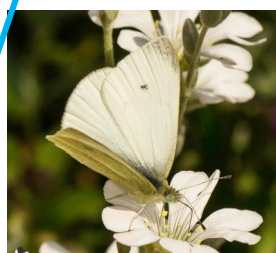
Number 3 above is useful when trying to identify the other species from each other and the female orange tip.

Small White This differs from the Large White:

1. in size being smaller
2. It may be a distinctly creamy white
3. The black edge to the wings does not extend down or along the outer margin as



Large White male (above) and female (below)



Small White male (left) and female (right)

it does on the wings of the Large White.

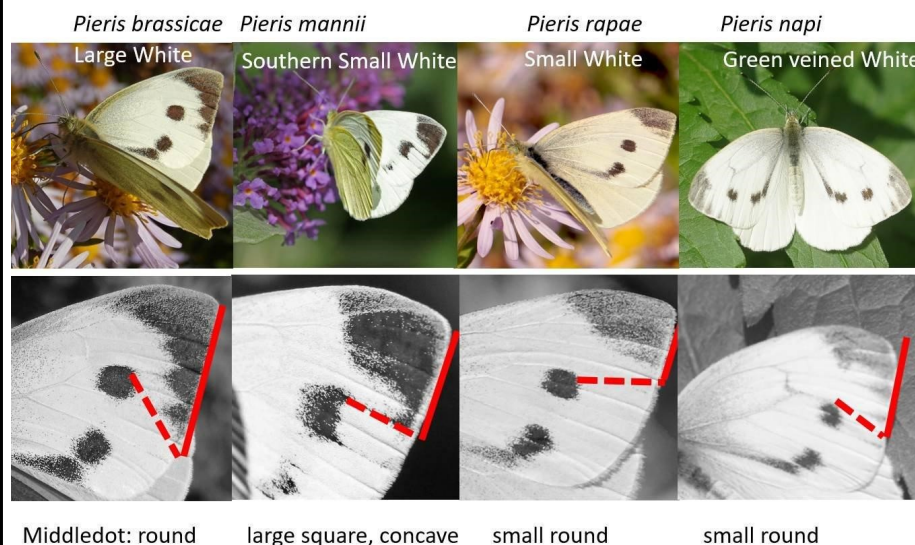
Green-veined White This butterfly is the same size as a small white and from above looks quite similar as well. So what do we look out for to tell them apart. The Green-veined White has:

1. The black edge to the forewing interrupted with breaks where the white colourings shows
2. The black border can produce distinct arrow or pointed marks.

The Green-veined White can be distinguished from the other two species by the yellow and black scales along its veins on the underside of its wings.

The Large White is larger and the Small White may be much more creamy coloured but even these are not completely reliable as Large Whites may have the creamy tinge. So I tend to rely on size.

Finally the Southern Small White. I found this illustration on the internet very useful and as you



can see from that our three native species have round dots whereas the dot of the Southern Small White is much more square, larger and has a concave edge on the trailing face.

Well there you have it and hopefully this helps you, despite the similarities between the Large and Small Whites most of the time size will enable you to sort them out. Best of Luck!

Martyn Davies

Your Local Officers and Work Party Organisers.

The following are officers of the West Midlands Branch and have specific responsibilities for Herefordshire.

Conservation Officer & Ewyas Harold Reserve Mgr Ian Hart yellowrattle4@aol.com 01981 510259

Moth Officer Robin Hemming robinhemming@btinternet.com 01568 797351

Butterfly Recorders Bob Hall & Ian Draycott randphall@gmail.com 01432 850623

Moth Recorder Peter Hall peter.herefordcmr@gmail.com

Newsletter Martyn Davies martyn.davies808@gmail.com 01432 266703

Regional Officers Rhona Goddard rgoddard@butterfly-conservation.org 01746 762364

Conservation Officer Lucy Morton lmorton@butterfly-conservation.org

These people are working to help the conservation of lepidoptera in Herefordshire - Thankyou



The following is part of a letter that I asked Peter Hall to post on the Hereford and Worcester Moth Blog, this he duly carried out for and I had a number of positive responses which is encouraging. However, I would like more so if any of you having read the information below and are interested in joining in - the more people and the larger the spread of traps the better. A set of instructions will be sent to all who have signed up in the next few days and a free pen! It sounds difficult but it really is not that hard or time-consuming. Ed

Hello

You have received this letter because you are on Peter Hall's database as having an interest in Lepidoptera and moths rather than, or as well as, the butterflies in particular. For the last three years I have been marking and releasing Elephant Hawk-moths as they appear in the Skinner Trap I run in my back garden within the Hereford City Boundary. Initially this was done in an attempt to see how many EH-m s I had, did I have 30 different one's or a far smaller number which I kept on recapturing? Each year I have been able to increase the number of times I have run the trap but with holidays and Grandchildren who live away from Hereford I needed lockdown to really increase my "Catching Effort". Even so my results do show differences year on year.

Last year two other people, later enhanced by a third, joined me as and when they were able to trap and mark, in an attempt to see if there was any difference in their parts of the city to mine but also in the hope that we might recapture those marked elsewhere. To my delight this happened, two specimens marked by me in Hampton Dene were recaptured in the Aylestone Hill area, a significant journey, even if not quite up to the standards of the Painted Lady or Monarch.

I am, therefore, writing to you to ask if you would like to join in with this little piece of research, either by:

1. Notifying me of any that are previously marked
2. Marking and releasing any that venture into your trap as well as notifying me of any previously marked

The more people that join in the better, we will have wider coverage and greater numbers of the moths flying around, so better chance of a marked one turning up elsewhere. Marking them is relatively straightforward and does not harm them and I will send out further details of how to mark and what to record, nearer the time. I will also provide a suitable pen, I have done this on other occasions with other species, White-letter Hairstreak and Violet Copper so have an idea of which works best.

Interested, then please contact me either via email martyn.davies808@mail.com or phone 01432 266703.

I will add you to my list and look forward to further contact sooner rather than later.

Thankyou

Martyn G Davies



Moth No 51 First marked on 1.7.19 and then recaptured two days later 3.7.19.

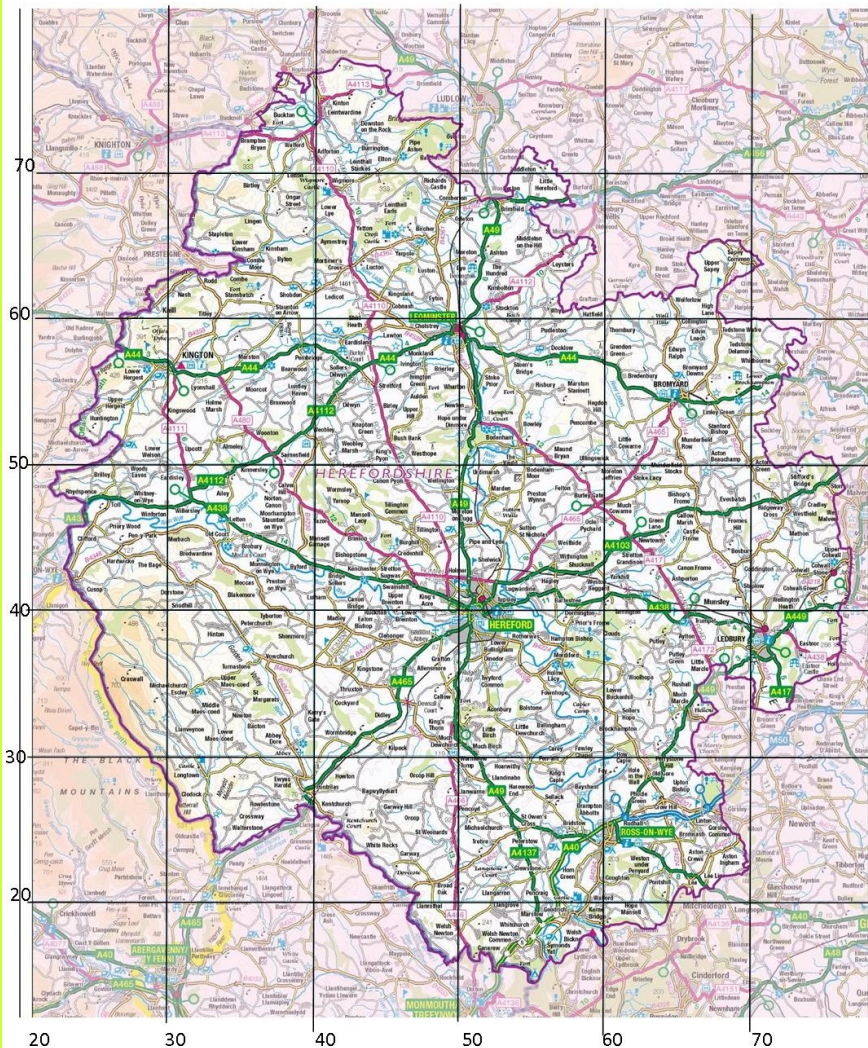




Herefordshire is a large county, 20% larger than neighbouring Worcestershire, it also has a small population 192,000 compared to Worcestershire's 592,000; so it is not surprising that the butterfly and moth records are less complete than many other counties. I hope that the on-going pandemic has not caused you, your friends or your relatives too many problems and that you have been spared fatalities! I know that personally I have missed the opportunity to go where I want when I want and at times this can be depressing but we have simply

had to put up with it. The moth trap has been a huge benefit giving me another interest and I used it more times last year than ever before, also the Elephant Hawk-moth Mark and Release experiment was very interesting. However, we will soon be able to move more freely (variants allowing!) and I would encourage you to do so if you wish! When you are out and about have a notebook or even a piece of paper and make a note of any butterflies you see and then either enter them on i-record or pass them on to Bob Hall or myself and we will add your records to the county database.

For the Millennium Atlas we targeted the peripheral areas of the county away from all of the well-known butterfly sites and so the county was well surveyed but that was 20 - 25 years ago and I feel that it is a good time to revisit some of



these again, under-recorded areas. Below is a list of the squares that I am writing about and if you can just make a couple of visits to one or two of them it will help with our efforts to keep an up to date database that reflects the state of the butterflies in our county. Some of the squares only have minimal amounts of Herefordshire in them so it would probably be more useful to

	37	47	57		
26	36		56	66	
25					75
24					
23					
22	32				
		41	51	61	

concentrate on the green squares rather than the amber ones. If you need any more information please contact me by email (or phone).

This is a way you can "Give Something Back" and hopefully enjoy yourself.

Thankyou

Martyn

