

Herefordshire Newsletter

No. 19

March 2025

Chairman's Report

News from the West Midlands Branch Committee of Butterfly Conservation has been rather mixed lately. Changes in the way Head Office handle branches and their volunteers led to a committee meeting in December and again in March. The introduction of Assemble the BC volunteers register and changes to branch finance have led to the resignation of two long term committee members. Sadly, Natalie Norton the West Midlands Landscape Officer has left BC following the ending of her three-year fixed term contract. She is now employed by Shropshire Wildlife Trust, and we wish her well. Her loss may be felt more in Herefordshire than elsewhere because Eywas Harold is the only one of the West Midland's five reserves owned and managed solely by Butterfly Conservation and its volunteers. The Spring edition of the Comma is about to go to the printers and will be arriving at your door shortly. It holds more information about these matters and others, another cracking edition. The event calendar pages give information on upcoming organised events throughout the region.



Our Branch Members Day is heading for Herefordshire this year, following last year's well attended meeting held in North Shropshire. Bodenham Parish Hall has been booked for the event on Saturday the 4th of October from 11.00am to 3.00pm. Two excellent speakers have been arranged. Matthew Oates will give a talk on the Purple Emperor. A lifelong naturalist, author and presenter and National expert on the species. He wrote the 2020 book called His Imperial Majesty about the Purple Emperor. He suspects that the species has already expanded its range into Herefordshire, and I am sure he will be giving tips on how to survey for it. His most recent work, a Butterfly's Spotters Guide published in March



Purple Emperor



**Butterfly
Conservation**

Saving butterflies, moths and our environment

this year should be available for purchase and could possibly be signed by the author. The pocket-sized guide is suitable for children and adults. The other speaker is our own Martyn Davies who has agreed to talk about some of the butterflies and moths of Herefordshire. I was impressed to see that he had recorded a new migrant moth species for Herefordshire and indeed the West Midlands last year when *Evergestis limbata*, the Dark-bordered Pearl, came to his Hereford City garden light trap. (See later note— ed)

Talking to a neighbouring farmer he commented how the present weather reminded him of the weather during the Covid lockdown of 2020. Hard to believe that was five years ago. For us nature lovers it was a shock to be virtually imprisoned in our own homes, especially in good weather. Our gardens became more important to us and resulted in an increase in garden butterfly and moth recording. I am sure it made us appreciate our freedom more when it returned. It reminded me of the 2001 foot and mouth restrictions and how after constructing a huge pyre to burn hundreds of animal carcasses the men called at my cousin's house and asked if they could borrow a match because none of them smoked!



Oak Beauty often found in traps at this time of year.

This year I have already seen a male Orange-tip flying along a field edge a sure sign of Spring, although the moth trap was not too busy this morning after a ground frost. Hopefully weather conditions will remain favourable and produce a better recording season for Lepidoptera than last year.

Mike Southall

West Midlands Branch AGM

Saturday, 4th October 2025

Bodenham Village Hall on A417

11.00am - 3.00pm

Guest Speakers - Matthew Oates - *Is the Purple Emperor in Herefordshire?*

Martyn Davies - *Some Butterflies and Moths of Herefordshire*

The Business of the AGM will be completed as quickly as possible so more time for the talks, questions and other conversations!!!! More like a member's day, should be a good day

Editor's Ramblings Happy New Year a little belatedly but heartfelt just the same, last year's butterfly and moth counts were well down on previous years for many species affected by the weather and there have been dire forebodings for the future. It may well be the case for some species and any recovery they can make could take some years and need even more help from conservationists. However, as one of the team of three led by Bob Hall, Rachel Mailes and I see the records that people submit by i-record and the year has got off with good numbers of records for Brimstones and the four Nymphalids that hibernate Comma, Peacock, Red Admiral and Small Tortoiseshell all turning up. Surprisingly and earlier than usual I have had reports of Orange Tips flying on 28th March, although not in Herefordshire but neighbouring Worcestershire and even more surprisingly I have had a Holly Blue in my own garden on the eastern side of Hereford City on 25th March and again on the 26th; I have never seen a Holly Blue this early before. It is always worth remembering that every species, whatever it is from a micromoth to a Blue Whale wants to survive, so don't give up hope, get out and look when you can, enjoy and record.

On the subject of recording we still want you to look for the following species:

Green Hairstreak

Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary

White Admiral

White-letter Hairstreak

For those of you who keep Herefordshire Newsletters Issue 17 is the one where we first made this request, a copy of this newsletter is available on the West Midlands Branch web site at:

<https://westmidlandsbutterflyconservation.wordpress.com>

along with a lot more information about these species. At this point I want to mention another request which is for some volunteers to walk along the first part of the Offa's Dyke path heading south out of Kington towards Hanter Hill, last year a group of us went on a walk there to look for Green Hairstreak and Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary and found both, The Small Pearl-bordered Fritillaries were mostly flying on Hanter Hill which is in Radnorshire but they did cross the border into Herefordshire. Four days after our visit there was a serious fire on the hillside where we had seen the Fritillaries and we would like some volunteers to go up there from the middle of May until the middle of June and see if the butterflies are still there. It doesn't matter which side of the border they are on, more importantly have they survived. If you can get up there please do so and let me know by email or phone of your visit and success or otherwise in finding them. Fingers crossed they survived!

Bob Hall (County Butterfly Recorder), Peter Hall (County Moth Recorder) and myself have been working with Emma Gardner who is the principal ecologist at Herefordshire Biological Records Office based in Rotherwas on the 'LNRS - Local Nature Recovery Strategies'. Herefordshire Council has the responsibility for this.

The purpose of this process is to identify the species which the LNRS can best support.

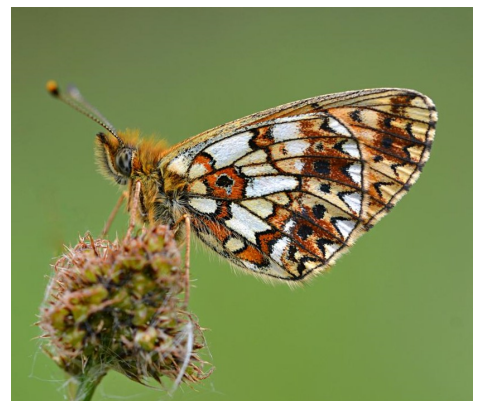
The information provided will be used to:

- identify those species for which, whilst important, the LNRS is not the appropriate mechanism to support species recovery*
- identify a smaller list of species that need bespoke conservation actions, without which they could not recover*
- place species into habitat assemblages where possible – groupings where the same actions will benefit multiple species*

This is an ongoing process and we have attended two meetings so far, the second (Bob and me) specifically on the butterflies and I know that they hope to meet up with Peter Hall when



Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary



he comes down for a visit in July. More information when we have it. The four species mentioned above are all on the list for further investigation which means recording in the first instance. One piece of information we suggested was that they could plant disease resistant elms when the opportunity arises for White-letter Hairstreak, Comma and some of the elm specific moths.

The West Midlands Branch of Butterfly Conservation will hold its AGM in Herefordshire this year, we move it around within the four counties and the Metropolitan Authority and it is our turn this year – do make a note in your diary and try to get to the meeting. It is not a dry AGM but more of a member's day and we have Matthew Oates coming to look at the Purple Emperor and its potential for being a Herefordshire Species. The other speaker is an inhabitant of Herefordshire these days and has been for over 50 years.

If you live in Radnorshire but have a Herefordshire postal address and/or "HR" postcode you will automatically receive this newsletter and, hopefully, this will continue. You can however, join the West Midlands Branch as at least one family has intimated they would like to do by either paying an extra subscription or asking Head Office to allocate you to that branch. Get the best of both worlds and join both.

Martyn Davies

Your Local Officers and Work Party Organisers.

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

Moth Officer Robin Hemming robinhemming@btinternet.com 01568 797351

County Moth Recorder Peter Hall peter.herefordcmr@gmail.com

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01432 850623

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266703

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

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

Beryl Petters 1926 – 2024 A Tribute

Beryl was born in Wimborne Dorset in March 1926, She grew up in the mining village of Ogmor Vale in Wales. After school, she worked in a bookshop in New Milton, Hampshire. She loved dancing and in 1947 met her soon to be husband, Guenter Petters, a German Prisoner of War. They were married in 1954, and their daughter, Ann, was born in 1957.

In the mid 1980's, Guenter and Beryl moved to Yarpole where she continued to enjoy wildlife. Initially, birds, but her interest changed to mammals and then butterflies. Beryl was involved with Butterfly Conservation for many years. She sent in records from Bircher Common and Wigmore Rolls well into her nineties with huge numbers of Wood White from Wigmore being particularly memorable.

Bob Hall

With thanks to Ann Millard for biographical information.

I think this is the first time I have included an 'in memoriam' in the newsletter, but Beryl was well-known to many people and we felt that it was right and proper that we acknowledge all of her efforts with monitoring and conserving Butterflies. Ed

Pearl-bordered Fritillaries at Ewyas Harold Common 2024

The number Pearl-bordered Fritillaries counted by BC volunteers in the monitoring compartments in 2024 was 189. This was a number commensurate with the average annual count over the past ten years and showed a small increase of 43 over the previous year's count (see table below). This was good news given the general downward trend in the fate of butterflies nationwide. The peak of emergence occurred between 12th and 15th of May 2024.

The butterfly conservation group, led by Dean Fenton, continued to undertake management on both Ewyas Harold Common and the adjacent BC Reserve. This work focussed on the control of scrub and bracken in the main butterfly breeding areas and laying of a hedge on the boundary between the two sectors. This work was supplemented by the cutting of 'tramlines' through the bracken to encourage the production of violets, essential as a food source for the butterfly larvae.

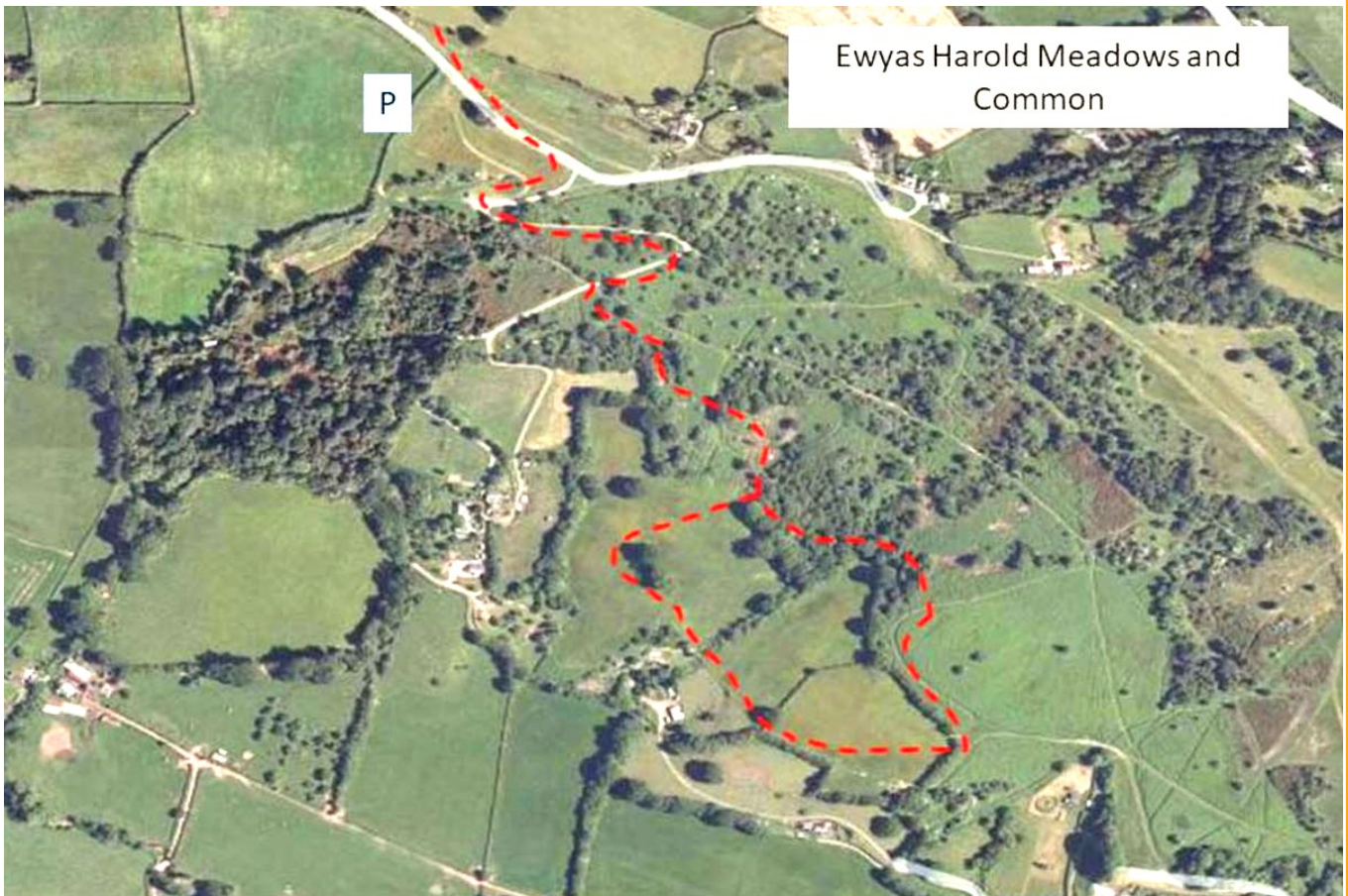
Work parties on the Common and the adjacent BC Butterfly Reserve will resume in September 2025. Dates will be posted in *The Comma*. Meet at 10am at the cattle grid at the top Cwm Hill end of Ewyas Harold Common (SO382302). Approach from Abbey Dore off the B4347 at SO384306.

Ian Hart

As ever we are grateful to Ian and Dean for continuing work on this wonderful site in the south west of the county. I have said this before but in my opinion both the common and the BC reserve are well worth a visit at any time of the year but obviously if you want to see Pearl-bordered Fritillaries then May would appear to be the best time. Park at the Dorstone end, grid reference mentioned above, and enjoy the walk and the views.—Ed



Pearl-bordered Fritillary



BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION - WEST MIDLANDS REGION
EWYAS HAROLD COMMON
PEARL BORDERED FRITILLARY COUNTS

Cpt	2015a	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
A	4 (12/05)	3 (12/05)	3 (07/05)	10 (19/05)	4 (12/05)	10 (26/04)	13 (11/05)	8 (13/05)	1 (20/05)	1 (12/05)
B	48 (12/05)	21 (16/05)	10	17	20	31 (26/04)	10 (16/05)	11 (13/05)	14 (20/05)	12 (12/05)
C	7 (12/05)	0	1	3	8	1 (26/04)	11 (11/05)	1 (13/05)	1 (20/05)	1 (12/05)
D	14 (12/05)	8 (16/05)	7	3	6	12 (26/04)	1 (11/05)	3 (13/05)	6 (20/05)	6 (12/05)
E	1 (12/05)	4 (12/05)	3	9	16	12 (26/04)	13 (16/05)	5 (13/05)	12 (20/05)	11 (12/05)
F	2 (12/05)	1 (12/05)	1	1	3	3 (26/04)	3 (16/05)	2 (13/05)	0	0
G	6 (12/05)	4 (16/05)	4	4	9	19 (26/04)	4 (16/05)	6 (13/05)	8 (20/05)	3 (12/05)
H	2 (12/05)	0	0	0	6	6 (26/04)	1 (16/05)	1 (13/05)	1 (20/05)	1 (12/05)
I	0	1 (12/05)	1	4	6	4 (26/04)	0 (16/05)	2 (13/05)	3 (20/05)	5 (12/05)
J	4 (12/05)	2 (12/05)	2	4	10	11 (26/04)	4 (16/05)	0 (13/05)	6 (20/05)	1 (12/05)
K	4 (12/05)	0	55	5	15	12 (26/04)	1 (16/05)	4 (13/05)	4 (20/05)	2 (12/05)
L	5 (12/05)	7 (16/05)	7	5	16	11 (26/04)	7 (16/05)	4 (13/05)	8 (20/05)	1 (12/05)
Area 2			1	6	0	n/a	0	n/a	n/a	n/a
Area 13	13 (12/05)	32 (12/05)	58	148	71c	48 (06/05)	7 (11/05)	9 (13/05)	40 (20/05)	75 (15/05)
Area 14		12 (12/05)	3	0	0	n/a	0	n/a	n/a	n/a
Area 15			14	127	34	28 (06/05)	4 (16/05)	24 (13/05)	42 (20/05)	70 (15/05)
Herp Area	2 (12/05)	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Totals	112	95b	120	346	224	208d	79	80	146	189

Maximum number recorded in each compartment 2015-2024

Note: Prior to 2011 the peak flight period from the records occurs from 12 May to 20 May in each year, with 9 of the 12 compartments having peaks in the period 14-15 May. In 2011, however, the peak occurred early on 28 April, whilst in 2012 and 2013 the peak occurred on 22 May due to a cold and late Spring. In 2020 the peak was very early, approx. 26-27 April.

a) Counts undertaken by Wessex Environmental Services (Clarke & Green) under contract.

b) Over 100 individuals counted by BC South Wales Branch Members.

c) Area 13 part-cut by Commoner for bedding in winter 2018/19.

d) An under-estimate. There were many more butterflies in Areas 13 and 15 at the peak period, but the weather intervened to undertake a count.

Records compiled by Ian Hart.

Butterfly Walk Ewyas Harold Common and BC Reserve

Come and join with some members of the City Group, Hereford Wildlife Trust for an afternoon on Ewyas Harold Common.

Sunday, 11th May 2025

For more essential information see later page with walk details and the essential booking information.



Pearl-bordered Fritillary

Each year for the last few years now I have received for the October issue a very full review of the moths recorded in the county from the county recorded - Peter Hall. At the end of 2024 he requests records from all of the recorders in Herefordshire and then proceeds to enter them onto the a national database, this takes time and he aims to finish it by 31st March 2025. The number of records that go in is phenomenal, I sent him records of over 2,200, moths mostly from my garden; other recorders will have sent him far more! So for a full report we have to wait until Peter has had time to analyse the results. In the meantime here is a report from Robin Hemming of the moths in his garden in Bodenham which gives an indication of both the unpredictability of this fascinating activity but also the pleasure that it can bring.

We will excuse him the reference to his holiday in the Scilly Isles but when you have a "Death's Head Hawk-moth" in your trap you are allowed to both enjoy and celebrate. Thanks Robin.

Editor

Some reflections and highlights of my 2024 moth year.

2024 was a year that never really delivered of its promise. I record moths regularly in my Bodenham garden moth traps. The results are always a reflection of both the weather and the changing climate conditions. The year started well, with a mild spring and no real cold periods. In early March I recorded a Small Eggar and a Lead-coloured Drab. Small Eggars only emerge if conditions are right and can remain as pupae for several years until they get a mild spring. They have only been recorded in the Bodenham area in Herefordshire and are rare. Mid March I recorded my first migrant species of 2024 with a very early Dark Sword Grass.



Small Eggar



Lead-coloured Drab



Dark Sword-grass



Silver Cloud

April saw the first of a record number of Silver Clouds, their UK stronghold being the Wye Valley. The mild Spring continued into May, with a very good showing of Puss Moths and all three species of the Kittens (Poplar, Sallow and Aspen). The common Hawkmoths appeared and on May 12th my second ever Dewick's Plusia, a species just beginning to colonise the

county. At the end of May a Lilac Beauty graced my trap, a lovely moth I hadn't recorded for several years. It used to be regular.



Puss Moth



Dewick's Plusia



Lilac Beauty

The Summer was poor for moths. Mainland Europe was experiencing record heat. Sadly, while they basked, we endured record cloud cover and persistent North and Easterly winds which blocked most of the immigrant species arriving. June produced four species of Clearwing moth in my garden: Lunar Hornet Moth, Yellow-legged Clearwing, Red-belted Clearwing and Currant Clearwing. The latter being new for the site. A Red-necked Footman was my first for 10 years here. In early July there were glimpses of migrant activity with both European Corn Borers and Olive-tree Pearls appearing, after the rare occasions when Southerly winds brought the moths into South West England. Garden Tiger Moths still hang on here in Bodenham and Waved Blacks thrive on the rotting wood I leave around. Two Least Carpets, a Kent Black Arches and Obscure Wainscott appeared, all species spreading North with global warming.



Red-necked Footman

Least Carpet



Olive-tree Pearl

Kent Black Arches



Waved Black

Obscure Wainscott



A Pine Hawkmoth here and another at Brampton Bryan confirmed this handsome species has spread throughout the county. August produced two more migrant Olive-tree Pearls plus several Pammene spiniana, a micro formerly considered extinct in Herefordshire that has been regular in my garden in recent years.

September and early October were quiet but still produced some interesting species, most notably several Clifden Nonpareil, my second Herefordshire Radford's Flame Shoulder, a Delicate, Scarce Bordered Straw and three White-points – all migrants or colonists only just appearing in mid Herefordshire.



Delicate



White Points



Radford's Flame
Shoulder



Scarce Bordered
Straw



Death's-head Hawk-moth

My Scilly holiday in mid October was plagued by clear nights, full moons, and gales but did lead to my moth highlight of the year with a magnificent Death's-head Hawk-moth, a long dreamed of first for me!

On returning from Scilly, the blocking weather conditions finally changed, allowing a settled, Southerly airstream. This period in late October into early November has become an excellent time for moth trapping in recent years. The long hoped for immigrants flooded into the moth trap for two weeks from October 26th. During that period I recorded a total of 243 immigrant moths, involving 18 species. Nothing was new but the numbers were unprecedented. They included 59 Olive-tree Pearls, 2 Vestals, 2 Gems, 29 Radford's Flame Shoulders, 1 Pearly Underwing, 15 Dark Sword Grass, 17 Delicates, 2 Scarce Bordered Straws, 3 L-Album Wainscotts.



Gem



Pearly Underwing



Vestal

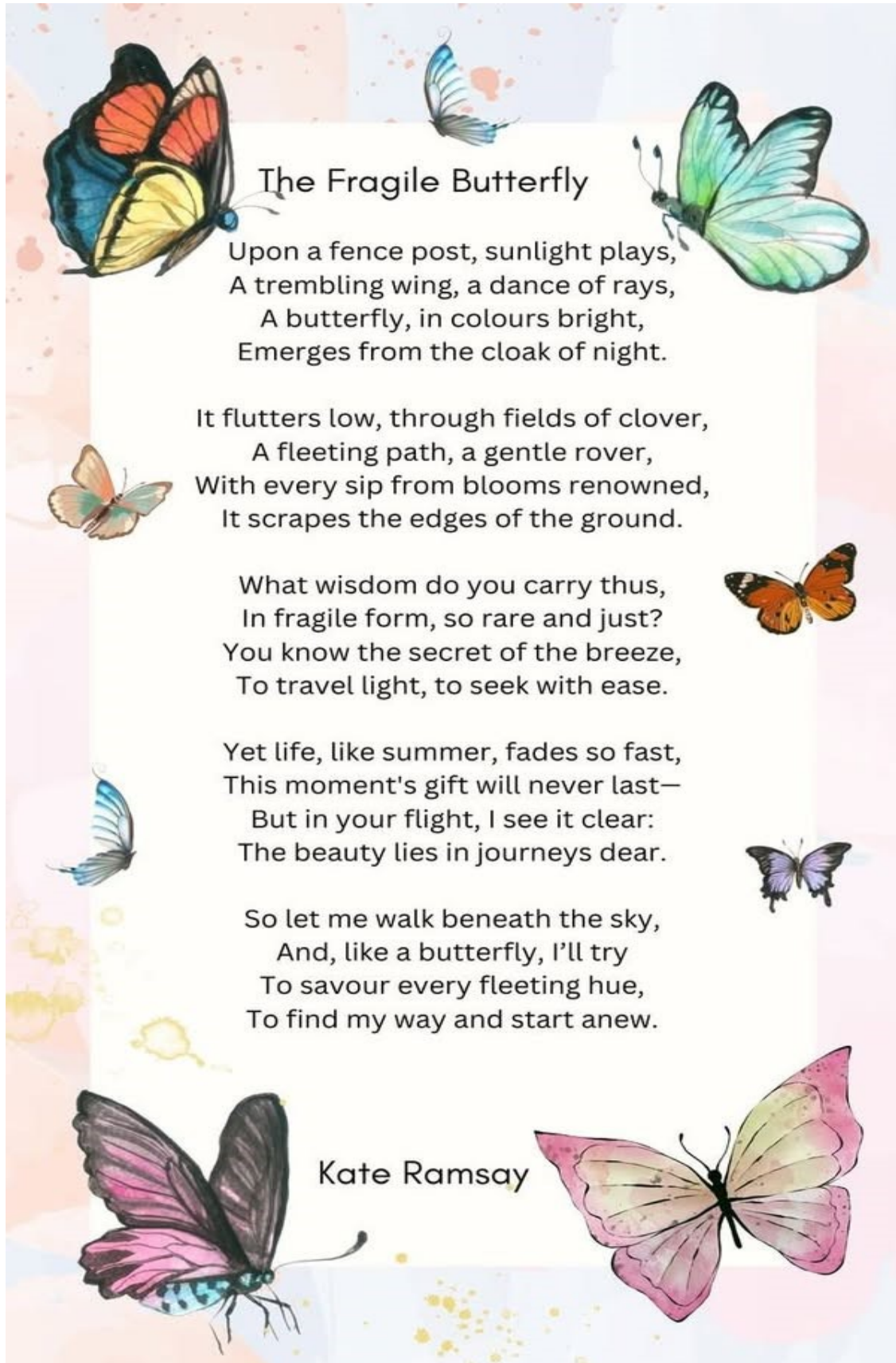
I just wonder what sort of year 2024 might have been if the weather had delivered a few periods of Southerly winds during the Summer. Whilst I enjoyed the highlights of the year, it was an exceptionally poor year for our resident moth species and butterflies. It was the species thriving under global warming that provided most highlights. It is much harder to define the species which failed to appear and to identify the long term downward trends. It is true to say, "You don't know what you've got 'til it's gone." All our insects are under huge pressure from pollution, land management, insecticides and – above all – climate change.

Robin Hemming

All those new or rare species within the county turning up in 2024 more than helps to maintain the interest! Unfortunately I could not include photographs of all of the moths mentioned, however, some of those not included have featured in previous issues before. The website "West Midlands Moths" will provide you with photographs and information.

Photographs courtesy of UK Moths, West Midlands Moths and Butterfly Conservation.

Over the nine years that we have been producing the Herefordshire Group Newsletter I have asked for and received contributions and artwork for publication, if you have a talent for illustrating, poetry or just relating a special event or moment featuring moths or butterflies I would love to hear from you ready for issue 20 due out in October. The following appeared on the Butterflies and Moths of the West Midlands Facebook group site. Hope nobody minds me including it here!



Records of all species are vital for our work, such as LNRS work taking place at the moment and mentioned in the editor's ramblings earlier, being able to target the less common species close to where they already exist can be vital. The records you make are, therefore, extremely useful. In the following report I have illustrated the Butterflies we would ask you to look out for especially Ed

Herefordshire Butterfly Records 2024

Skippers **Dingy Skipper** and **Grizzled Skipper** are still both very restricted in their distribution, with 9 records for Dingy only from Ewyas Harold Common while Grizzled has been found at The Doward as well as Ewyas Harold Common. 29 records for **Large Skipper** which are quite widespread in the county. 41 records for **Small Skipper** with a maximum count of 27 from Mowley Valley and 15 from Garway Common. A few records of **Essex Skipper**, but this species is almost certainly under-recorded on account of difficulty in identification.

Whites There were over 100 records of **Brimstone**, but the summer brood was low in number. Plenty of **Orange Tips** in April and May with a large count of **11** from Viv Quinn. There were over 120 records for **Green Veined White** with a max count of 17 from Devereux Park. **Large White** were again common with a high count of 20 from Wigmore. There were over 140 records of **Small White** with a high count of 14 from Wellington. **Wood White** have had a very poor year even in their strongholds of Wigmore Rolls (max 9) and Haugh Wood. Wood White were also recorded in Mowley Wood. There were no records of **Clouded Yellow**.

Browns. **Gatekeeper** had a good year with over 140 records. There was a high count of 35 from Haugh Wood. **Meadow Brown** also had a good year with nearly 200 records including an astonishing count of 100 from Tom Oliver at Urishay Court Farm. **Ringlets** (max 25 from Haugh Wood and Mowley Valley) also had a good breeding season. There were good counts of 35 **Marbled White** from Urishay and 30 from Newton St Margarets. A Total of 42 records submitted. **Speckled Woods** were widespread with a high count of 18 from Pinnacle Hill Malvern. There was 3 records of **Wall** from Herrock Hill, Mowley Valley and Olchon Valley. Low numbers of **Small Heath** records from Hergest Ridge Hill (max 30) and other spots near Kington.

Fritillaries. There was a maximum count of 5 **Dark Green Fritillary** from Hanter Hill, with smaller numbers seen at Ewyas Harold Common, only 4 records in 2024. **Pearl bordered Fritillary** numbers were good at Ewyas Harold Common with a high count of 168. This is the only site in the county apart from the re-introduction site on the southern part of the Malverns. There, 27 mating pairs were seen following a further re-introduction. **Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary** were recorded from Hanter Hill with a high count of 3. There were 26 records for **Silver Washed Fritillary**: they had a fair season with a high count of 12 from Wigmore Rolls.

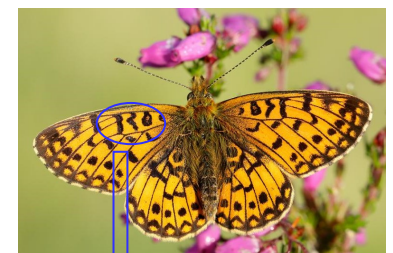
Nymphalidae There were over 100 records for **Comma** with a high count of 5. **Red Admiral** have had a most wonderful late season extending well into autumn with over 200 records. There were 41 records for **Painted Lady**. Plenty of **Peacocks** with a high count of 49 from Robin Hemming at Dymock Woods, 41 from Wigmore and 30 plus in Haugh Wood. **Small Tortoiseshell** numbers too were generally low with only 64 records for the whole season.



Dingy Skipper above
Grizzled Skipper below

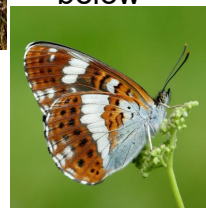


Wood White above



The '730' mark
on the leading
edge of the left
forewing

White
Admiral
below

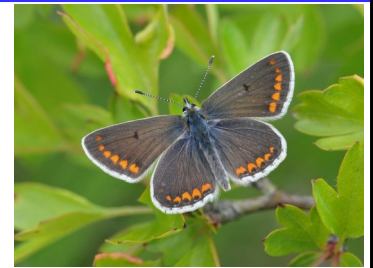


White Admiral: only two records this year from The Doward and Dymock Woods.

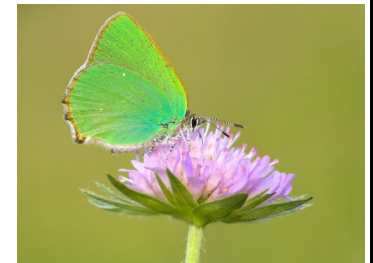
Blues There were plenty of early records of **Holly Blue** but a poor 2nd brood. There was a high count of 8 from Haugh Wood South. **Common Blue** had a very poor year in most places; Tom Oliver had a high count of 5 from Urishay Court Farm, compared with a 100 in 2023. There were 2 records for **Green Hairstreak** from Hergest Ridge and Malvern. **Purple Hairstreak** were recorded from Kempley, Haugh Wood and Marcle Ridge, but only 7 records all told. **White letter Hairstreak** were not seen in Haugh Wood but 2 were recorded from Holywell Dingle. An egg was found at Mowley Wood. There were 3 records of **Brown Argus**. **Small Copper** were seen in small numbers in late summer, totalling 26 records.

Summary Undoubtedly, the wet weather in the early part of the year had an impact on insect larvae and adults. Wet weather in June would have affected the breeding success of at least some of the early butterflies and impacted on the numbers of 2nd or summer brood.

These Herefordshire butterflies are in great trouble: Brown Argus, Dingy Skipper, Grizzled Skipper. Common Blue, Green Hairstreak, White letter Hairstreak, Small Pearl bordered Fritillary, Small Tortoiseshell and Wood White. Butterfly Conservation declared a Butterfly Emergency in September after announcing the results of the Great Butterfly Count. This showed huge declines in many species. The average number of butterflies seen was down to 7 from 12 in 2023. Suspicion also falls on the continuing use of neonicotinoid pesticides which have major long term impacts on many insects.



Brown Argus



Green Hairstreak



White-letter Hairstreak

Acknowledgements.

Many thanks to all recorders for submitting their records. There are now too many of you to be mentioned individually!

Verification. Thanks to Rachel Mailes and Martyn Davies for their great assistance in checking records.

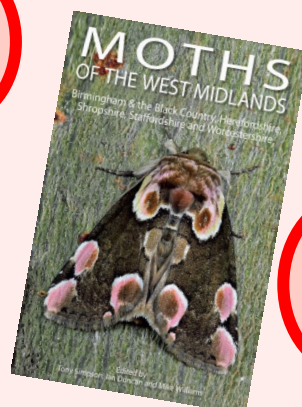
Bob Hall Herefordshire Recorder Butterfly Conservation Jan 2025

Website www.westmidlands-butterflies.org.uk

Special Offer!



£15



£20

I have managed to obtain some more copies of both books, these are available to callers to collect by prior arrangement - save the postage next time you are in Hereford. All money direct to Conservation work

martyn.davies808@gmail.com

01432 266703

Also available at the AGM

Evergestis limbata

A look through the photographs from 2024 of moths I still needed to identify produced this photograph taken from my moth trap on the 26/6/24. Checking the **West Midlands Moth** website and much to my surprise it wasn't there! Further search of the internet including the **UK Moths** website revealed that it was *Evergestis limbata*. Id confirmed by the County Moth recorder and a first record for the West Midlands. Quite a surprise.

A search on the internet came up with the following information:

Hants Moths – “A local species found on rough ground in southern England. Since its arrival on the Isle of Wight in 1994, numbers have increased throughout the early 21st century and it is now established as a breeding species across southern England.”

Since then it has spread and been recorded in Berkshire, Kent, Suffolk, Norfolk and as far North as Leicestershire but with big gaps in its distribution and now it has turned up in Hereford. Was this a migrant from the continent or has it just not been recorded anywhere although it exists there in the counties between Berkshire and Herefordshire or Leicestershire and Herefordshire?

This spread and colonization of the species is probably a further example of the effect of Global warming.



Martyn Davies

Come and Join Us!

Ewyas Harold Common, Wigmore Rolls and Haugh Wood (2)

We are in the process of organizing four walks this summer, three will be joint walks with members of the City Group of the HWT.

1. Ewyas Harold Common

2pm Sunday, 11th May 2025

Joint with City Group, HWT

Meet at the North-Western End of the common just inside the Cattle Grid. SO 381302. Looking for Pearl-bordered Fritillary and Grizzled Skipper

2. Wigmore Rolls

2pm Saturday, 14th June 2025

BC Members Only (and Friends!)

**Site is up lane off A4110. Turn left opposite schools in Wigmore if travelling North. Parking : Pull into small lay-by where Forestry Com steel barrier can be seen. Parking at SO 397688
Looking for Wood white.**

3. Haugh Wood North
10.30am Sunday, 13th July
Joint with City Group, HWT

Meet in the Forestry Commission Car Park at the top of the hill on the Mordiford - Woolhope Road SO592365

We thought it would be good to make a point of offering the opportunity for members of BC and HWT who find Butterfly Identification less easy to come along and spend some time with some experienced Butterfly watchers. No prior knowledge needed and everyone welcome.

4. Haugh Wood South
2.00pm Sunday, 13th July
Joint with City Group, HWT

Meet in the Forestry Commission Car Park at the top of the hill on the Mordiford - Woolhope Road SO592365

Last Years walk here saw over 20 species of Butterfly, so come along and pray for good weather and hopefully the count will be as good as last year if not better. White-letter Hairstreak, Marbled White, Purple Hairstreak

N.B. To attend any of the Joint BC/HWT (all except 2. Wigmore Rolls) you must register with HWT on the events page of the Herefordshire Wildlife Trust .

Ewyas Harold Saturday Work Parties

Once a month on the 3rd Saturday of the month

Start at 10:00am

Saturday 20th Sep, 18th Oct, 15 Nov, 20 December 2025

Saturday 17 Jan, 21 Feb, 21 Mar 2026

Meeting Location for all groups

Meet at the northern Cwm Hill end of Ewyas Harold Common adjacent to the top cattle grid at OS SO382302. Approach from Abbey Dore off the B4347 at OS SO384306.

Bring gloves, hand tools, lunch and a drink.

Contacts

To attend a Saturday work party please contact Dean Fenton fenton@littleburyfarm.co.uk Ian Hart yellowrattle4@aol.com

Early Records for 2025 - Rachel, Bob and I are already having plenty of records to verify this year, which is very encouraging. Amongst these are some very early records for some species. In my 40+ years of watching butterflies in Herefordshire I have never recorded Holly Blues in March before but one visited my garden on the 26th March this year and another (same one?) on the 27th. So far the following species have been recorded.

Brimstone 17th January

Comma 3rd March

Holly Blue 26th March

Large White 27th March

Orange Tip 28th March

Peacock 19th January

Red Admiral 12th January

Small Tortoiseshell 2nd March

Small White 24th March

Just to show the opposite view, today, 1st April, I recorded my first March Moth in the garden and was informed that it was a late record for the species which has normally appeared in February in recent years!



Holly Blue



March Moth

Are you involved in organizing an event and would like a speaker or a display stand, manned or unmanned?

Display material and boards are available to borrow in Herefordshire. Contact me and I will see if we can help out. martyn.davies808@gmail.com



P.S. You don't get the car!





Perisama canoma



Perisama comnena



Perisama philinus

Perisama humboltii



Perisama morona

Variation on a Theme

The genus *Perisama* in Bolivia and Peru



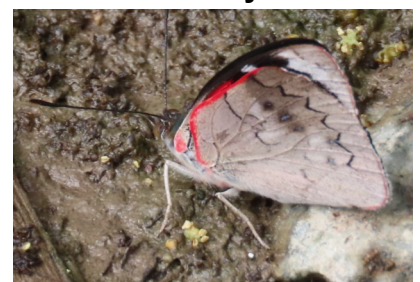
Perisama vitringa



Perisama vaninka



Perisama labasii left and above



Martyn Davies

Between them Bolivia and Peru have over 3,500 species of Butterfly, so to say you can be spoilt for choice is an understatement. From the magnificent Morphos to the tiny Jewelmasks and every shape colour and size in between, the range is fantastic. Some species, however, attract you for some less obvious reason and one such genus for me was the genus *Perisama*; something about them. My visit to Bolivia introduced me to *P. morona* although I failed to identify it at the time; unusual colours, one fleeting glimpse and only one photograph gave it an air of mystery. Peru in 2024 yielded 7 additional species and frequent sightings of some of them, which coupled with their brilliant upper wing colouring and an ability to identify them at last helped cement my interest. But look at the variation in stripes and spots within the family - it was this variation on the theme that made them easier to identify. It was a pleasant experience to look at these pictures in January.