

# Cheshire Moth Recording Group Newsletter

Issue 1

November 2000

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## Welcome!

Welcome to the first issue of the Cheshire Moth recording group newsletter. I hope to make this a fairly regular publication to keep you up to date with goings on in and around the county. If you know of anyone who may be interested in the group and hasn't received a copy of the newsletter please pass a copy on to them and ask them to contact me to be included on the distribution list.

If you have anything you'd like to contribute to future issues of the newsletter, please feel free to send me articles, notes etc. My contact details are included in the final section.

## Purpose of the Group

Last year Cheshire did not produce a macro moth report due to the lack of submitted records, although the situation has improved in 2000 with more new recorders submitting records. Steve McWilliam states on his web site;

'As many of you will have noticed, there was not a Cheshire Macro-moth report for 1998, other than for a short circular letter which I sent out at the end of 1998 in an attempt to stimulate an input of information from the small army of moth trappers and recorders which used to provide data for Ian Rutherford (the previous County Recorder). 1999 has been just as unsuccessful in terms of attracting moth records from this 'army'' So, lets get out and try and generate some records in 2001!

## Records

If you have *any* records of moths from Cheshire for the year 2000, please pass them on to the relevant recorder ASAP.

Steve McWilliam is the county macro moth recorder and Steve Hind is the county micro recorder. Remember that the Cheshire recorders cover the vice county not just the current county borders, so records from the Wirral and the pan-handle around the Stockport and Tameside areas should also be sent to the above people. Contact details are included at the end of this newsletter. Remember, garden records are just as important as records from field trips so please, please, please-send them in!

## Field Trips

I am aiming to try and organise some field trips next year, both daylight sessions and night-time light trapping sessions. All are welcome to attend. It doesn't matter if you don't have a generator, or even if you don't have a trap. Traps and generators are always available at field meetings. I generally run a sheet trap, and a couple of Skinners, so we can always work off my equipment. Initial plans are for two trips in early April:

- Little Budworth Country Park: Daylight session to look for Orange Underwing. We'll also do some larvae work. This will be followed by an evening light trapping session for things like Lunar Marbled Brown, Yellow Horned, and Oak Beauty.
- Leasowe, The Wirral: Daylight session in early April to look for Belted Beauty.

Full details of these trips and of other trips will be sent out early next year. Hopefully we will try and visit some well known sites and also some 'gap' sites which have not previously been visited.

Paul Hill writes;

'Butterfly Conservation have just launched their Regional Action Plan for the North West of England. This covers Cheshire, Lancashire and Cumbria and includes several moth species which are High Priority species. Three of the species listed are known to occur in Cheshire; Sandhill Rustic, Belted Beauty and Waved Carpet although even less is known about the status of the latter than the other two species. A fourth species, White Pinion Spotted could conceivably be found within the county. Hopefully we will be able to all work together to help find and conserve these species, either through the Cheshire Moth Recording Group or with Butterfly Conservation.

Cheshire Region Action Plans, based on the national Action Plans, will be written in due course and circulated to those interested and be included in the next issue of Countdown, the Cheshire Region Biodiversity Action Plan. Any body wishing to get involved further is invited to contact me'. (Address at end of newsletter).

Hopefully the group will be fully involved in assisting with work on these high priority species. The trip to look for Belted Beauty obviously fits into this project.

### **Reports on Meetings in 2000**

Three field meetings were held in 2000.

We visited Little Budworth on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2000. 55 species of macro moths were recorded. Highlights were species such as Grey Arches, Beautiful Carpet and Scarce Silver Lines. Steve Hind came along to the meeting and helped out enormously with the micro moths.

The grassland site at Haystack Lodge, Runcorn was visited on the 22<sup>nd</sup> July. Lots of Ruby Tigers and a number of The Herald at sugar added to the interest of the evening. A lot of valuable records were collected for the site.

We planned a workshop on leaf mines with Steve Hind for Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October which had to be cancelled due to the very wet and windy weather. However, the

Sunday dawned bright and sunny and Steve suggested a visit to Marbury Country Park. I phoned round but unfortunately no one was available. However, Steve and I visited the site and Steve taught me a huge amount about leaf mines and miners. In total 38 species were identified, 17 of which were new to the ten kilometre grid square. Hopefully a similar session will be organised next year. If so come along - I learnt a huge amount.

### **Things to do in the Winter Months**

The winter months are now on us. On mild nights, a few insects are still flying so it's well worth leaving the trap out in the garden. Otherwise is time to overhaul the equipment, service the generator and get ready for next year.

A few bits of recording can still usefully be done. After the leaf mining day with Steve Hind, I managed to find the mine of Phyllonorycter leucographella in Davenham. This insect feeds on pyracanthae, and since the plant is evergreen, the mines can be found during the winter. Look for a pale patch on the upper surface of the leaves. The patch should have a distinctive crease come fold down the centre. The moth is spreading into Cheshire so its worth checking the garden plants. If you find the moth let Steve Hind know.

Finally, I have a few things left from the past season that are awaiting identification via dissection and genitalia examination. If anybody is interested in learning how to do this please get in contact and we'll fix up a session. Hopefully a training workshop on genitalia identification will be organised in collaboration with **rECOrd** - The Local Record Centre for Cheshire, Halton, Warrington and the Wirral.

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### **Contacts and Web Sites**

- Steve McWilliam's web site on Cheshire Moths can be found at:

<http://www.consult-eco.ndirect.co.uk/entomol/chmoths>

- The Lancashire and Cheshire Entomology Society (LCES) can be found at:  
<http://www.consult-eco.ndirect.co.uk/entomol/lces>
- The Underwings (The junior section of the LCES) can be found at:  
<http://www.consult-eco.ndirect.co.uk/entomol/underwing>
- **rECOrd** – The Local Records Centre for Cheshire, Halton, Runcorn, Warrington and the Wirral can be found at:  
<http://www.record-lrc.co.uk>
- Records of macro moths should be sent to Steve McWilliam at:  
[stevemc@consult-eco.ndirect.co.uk](mailto:stevemc@consult-eco.ndirect.co.uk)
- Records of micros should be sent to Steve Hind at:  
[steve@hind1.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:steve@hind1.fsnet.co.uk)
- and submission of all biological records can be made to **rECOrd** at:  
[manager@record-lrc.co.uk](mailto:manager@record-lrc.co.uk)
- Butterfly Conservation can be found at:  
<http://www.butterfly-conservation.org>
- Cheshire Region Biodiversity Plans for butterflies can be found at:  
<http://www.papilio.co.uk>
- Paul Hill can be contacted via email [paul@papilio.co.uk](mailto:paul@papilio.co.uk) or via snail mail at Paul M Hill Natural History Services, 1 Clive Cottage, London Road, Allostock, Knutsford, Cheshire, WA16 9LT
- I can be contacted regarding field trips, items for the next newsletter etc. at:  
[a.wander@dl.ac.uk](mailto:a.wander@dl.ac.uk) or by snail-mail at 54A Hartford Road, Davenham, Northwich, Cheshire, CW9 8JF