

PEMBROKESHIRE LEPIDOPTERA IN 1987 - R ELLIOTT

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1987 was, for butterflies, an average year with most species recovering from the poor season in 1986 - in general, numbers were back to the normal expected level for most of the common species. Whilst Large Skippers *Ochlodes venata* and sSmall Skippers *Thymelicus sylvestris* were widely recorded there have still been no further records of Essex Skippers *T. lineolus* since Ivan Kruys reported sightings near Cilgwyn, Newport (22/0736) in 1974 and 1975 (Kruys 1974, 1975). This notable extension of range seems not to have been regarded by recent authors on butterfly distribution and further confirmation of its presence in Pembrokeshire would be most welcome.

Only a few Red Admirals *Vanessa atalanta* were seen in early summer and most sightings were from the later generation in July/August. There was a single record of Clouded Yellow *Colias croceus* when a male was seen on the coast path near St Brides (12/8011) on 2 September (O Lewis). Painted Ladies *Cynthia cardui* were seen mainly in August with late records at Kingsmoor (22/124068) in mid-December (P Brown) and Lawrenny (22/0107) on Christmas Day (A Poole). The earliest record of the year was for Peacocks *Inachis io* hibernating with herald moths *Scoliopteryx libatrix* in Scoveston Fort (12/943064) in January (J Bird).

On-site breeding was proven for Brown Hairstreak *Thecla betulae* when four eggs were found on blackthorn *Prunus spinosa* on the DWT reserve at West Williamston (22/0305) in December. A further search a few days later revealed more eggs on an adjacent site within the reserve. Previously this species had only been recorded once before on the reserve, in 1981 when a male and female were caught on the same day. A new colony of Small Blues *Cupido minimus* was discovered near Strumble Head (12/8941) in July by S B Evans and C Thomas and they also recorded a Green Hairstreak *Callophrys rubi* at the promontory fort near Pwll-deri (12/888386); the only other record for this species was at Rosebush (22/0729) in May (M J Clist).

Dark Green Fritillaries *Argynnis aglaja* were common in July in the Freshwater West area (11/8899) and on the Castlemartin range (11/9196) but there was only one record of Silver-washed Fritillaries *Argynnis paphia* - at Esgyrn Bottom (12/976347) on 6 July. *Small Pearl-bordered Fritillaries* were reported from five sites and the Welsh Peatland Invertebrate Survey (NCC) discovered two new colonies of Marsh Fritillaries *Eurodryas aurinia* - at St David's Airfield (12/788262) and Portheiddy Moor (12/808314).