

BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS IN PEMBROKESHIRE (VC 45) IN 1986 - R ELLIOTT

(Extracted from Dyfed Invertebrate Group Newsletter, No. 5, March 1987)

The very cold and wet weather in the spring of this year caused delays in the time of emergence of many species and in some cases reduced the numbers of adults in flight. There was a single record of a Small Tortoiseshell *Aglais urticae* near Nevern on 17 March, otherwise all butterfly records for 1986 occur between May and September with a few odd ones in October.

Orange Tips *Anthocharis cardamines*, often seen as early as mid-April in good years, did not appear until mid to late May in 1986. Clouded Yellows *Colias croceus* were recorded at Pwllgwylog in July and at Carew in September. Purple Hairstreaks *Quercusia quercus* were recorded at four localities in the county and Green Hairstreak *Callophrys rubi* at six localities. Small Copper *Lycaena phlaeas* and Brown Argus *Aricia agestis* both seemed less common than in previous years although Common Blues *Polyommatus icarus* seemed to be around in normal numbers, at least on the coast. Holly Blues *Celastrina argiolus* were recorded in both May and August in small numbers.

Among the Vanessids, the Peacock *Inachis io* seemed to have been the most affected by the bad conditions in the early part of the year and none were recorded until September when they were seen near Pembroke, Haverfordwest and Milford Haven. Small numbers of Small Tortoiseshells *Aglais urticae* were seen throughout July and August and into September but numbers were below those expected. Red Admirals *Vanessa atalanta* were seen throughout the county from mid-June until mid-October but again numbers were lower than usual.

Six Fritillary species were recorded during 1986. A High Brown Fritillary *Argynnis adippe* was seen by Jack Donovan at 21/9606 on 30 June (the only record for the year) and Marsh Fritillaries *Eurodryas aurinia* were recorded at 21/9026 by Alan Hansen (no date) and at 22/0030 by Ken Longstaff 6 July. The other four species, Pearl-bordered Fritillary *Boloria euphrosyne*, Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary *Boloria selene*, Silver-washed Fritillary *Argynnis paphia* and Dark Green Fritillary *Argynnis aglaja* were all seen in the expected numbers and places. Dingy Skippers *Erynnis tages* were recorded by Alan Hansen in the Haverfordwest area.

The most interesting of the moth species were Humming-bird Hawk Moths *Macroglossum stellatarum* at 22/0305 in July, 22/1246 in August and 22/1830 in September and a single Death's Head Hawk Moth *Acherontia atropos* seen at Moylegrove (22/1044) in early August.

In total, 32 species of butterfly and 103 species of macro-moth were recorded in the county during 1986. Despite the adverse conditions at the start of the year the number of species recorded was about normal although numbers of some species were reduced.