

This posed a problem as RE had no equipment for setting the moth, but help was at hand from Paul Boswell, who collected the moth and Tony Dobson, who not only set the moth, but also took it to John Langmaid for confirmation. John kindly confirmed its identity and this was the first time it had been recorded in VC12. Until John discovered this species in South Hampshire (VC 11) in 1992 (*Ent. Gaz* **44**: 154), it was a moth known only from the Highlands of Scotland. On 26 April 2003 a group of lepidopterists, including MW, were trapping in a wood at the edge of Hook Common. The evening started with a torrential downpour, just as the traps were set, but then cleared up to allow trapping. MW was searching the trunks of some oak trees when he found what proved to be another example of *A. logiana* – the second for VC12. The identification was rapidly confirmed as Rob, Tony and Paul were by coincidence at the same event. Tony Dobson set this second specimen. Thanks are due to all those involved in the identification of these moths. – ROB EDMUNDS, 32 Woodcote Green, Calthorpe Park, Fleet, Hants, GU51 4EY (E-mail: r.edmunds@ntlworld.com) & MIKE WALL, 11 Waterloo Avenue, Basingstoke, Hants, RG23 8DL (E-mail: mike@bike2nature.co.uk).

Early butterfly dates in the Scottish Highlands in 2003

The April 2003 heat wave produced a number of early butterfly records in the Highlands. On 4 April a single Green-veined White *Pieris napi* (L.) visited *Primula dentata* flowers in our Muir of Ord garden. My previous earliest date was 9 April in 1974 at Torrin (O.S. grid reference NG 52) on the island of Skye.

The next day, 5 April, my wife and I visited Clash Wood (NH 507516), a local Scots pine and birch forest, as it seemed a likely habitat for the Kentish Glory. No *Endromis versicolora* (L.) were seen but, surprisingly, a female Common Blue *Polyommatus icarus icarus* (Rottemburg) was spotted sunning itself on the wide stony track at 12.50 GMT when the temperature was 18°C. After examining closely, it rose from the path and flew into the Scots pines. Quarter of an hour later and a couple of a hundred yards along the track, almost certainly another female was flying over the ling. I gave chase and had an excellent view of its upper-side as it came to rest on a young birch twig. This was an exceptionally early date for this species, my previous earliest being of a female on 30 May in 1968 at Ardmore (NC 15), NW Sutherland.

We visited the wood again on 7 and 10 April and later dates but did not see *icarus* here again until 25 June when a pair were visiting bird's-foot trefoil flowers in hot sunshine (temp. 23°C). However, we were rewarded on both the April dates with early male Green Hairstreaks *Callophrys rubi* (L.). My previous earliest date for this species was 23 April in 1974 at Elgol (NG 51) on Skye.

Also on 10 April at least three male and a female Orange-tip *Anthocharis cardamines* (L.) were found at Rosemarkie cliffs (NH 75) on the Black Isle, seventeen days before the previous earliest on 27 April in 1993 at Muir of Ord. The next occurrences were in our garden on 14 and 18 April, also early dates.

Single Red Admirals *Vanessa atalanta* (L.) were recorded on 14 and 17 April at Muir of Ord (NH 55) and Allt Grisean (NG 78) respectively, these being a month earlier than the previous earliest on 16 May in 1992 at Loch Broom, Ullapool (NH 18).

The Small Heath *Coenonympha pamphilus* (L.) made an appearance on 21 May at Kingussie (NH 70), Inverness-shire, three days earlier than the four noted in 1990 at Eathie (NH 76) on the Black Isle.

I think it is remarkable that, in forty years of recording in the Highlands, six species of butterfly should put in their earliest appearance in the year 2003. In addition, a naturalist friend, Sheila Mackay, had a Peacock *Nymphalis io* (L.) visiting primroses in her garden at Dingwall (NH 55) on 13 and 14 April. This was undoubtedly an overwintering specimen. This species is very rarely recorded in the north of Scotland, usually between June and October, but was noted at several localities around the Moray Firth in 2002.—DEREK C. HULME, Ord House Drive, Muir of Ord, Ross-shire IV6 7UQ.

***Chorosoma schillingi* (Hem.: Rhopalidae), new to Middlesex?**

On 8.viii.2000, I swept a specimen of this distinctive bug from a derelict and overgrown wharf on the River Thames at the outflow of 'Chelsea Creek' where it is overshadowed by the Lotts Road Power Station (O. S. grid reference TQ 265769). This is apparently the first record for Middlesex, vice-county 21.

Until the 1960s, *Chorosoma schillingi* was always regarded as a local coastal insect (apart from sites in the Breck) and was recorded from vice-counties Norfolk to Pembroke and Anglesey. It has recently been found increasingly at inland sites and since first being noted from Peterborough (Russell, W. E., 1967, *Ent. Gaz.* **19**:8), numerous notes have charted its apparent spread: e.g. Kirby, P., 1984, *Ent. Mon. Mag.* **120**: 177; Kirby, P., 1991, *Ent. Mon. Mag.* **127**: 250; Lane, S. A., 1988, *Ent. Mon. Mag.* **124**: 80; Nau, B.S., 1997, *Ent. Mon. Mag.* **133**: 261-262.

Many of these new localities are brownfield sites, including clay pits, gravel pits, sand quarries, railway cuttings, disused railway lines, chalk grassland, roads verges and grassy heathland (P. Kirby and D. Budworth, pers. comm.). Indeed, the last time I found this insect was on a scrappy railway embankment of the District Line at East Ham (TQ 425844, VC18, South Essex) on 8.vii.1999.

Recently, finding *Chorosoma* may have lost some of its novelty among hemipterists, and further inland records have perhaps not been published. However, there is very good evidence that the bug has not yet been found in land-locked Surrey (VC 17) or Middlesex (VC21). There is an active recording scheme for Pentatomoidea and Coreoidea (including Rhopalidae), in Surrey, for the forthcoming Surrey Wildlife Trust atlas, and no record is yet listed (R.D. Hawkins, pers. comm.). The Chelsea Creek locality is only the width of the Thames (about 200 metres) from Surrey, so it quite likely that it will eventually be found south of the Thames too, probably on a similar brownfield site.—RICHARD A. JONES, 135 Friern Road, East Dulwich, London SE22 0AZ (email: bugmanjones@hotmail.com).



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