

One question likely to be asked relates to the possibility of different species being able to retain their individual characteristics after mixing at any one site. Take the case of females which are well lunulated, a "southern" characteristic, and yet are also more likely to have vars *albiannulata* or *albisignata*, both involving extra white scales, a "northern" trend. In aggregate, particularly with lunulation which is easier to count, the figures do give sensible results, but the above variables are jumbled up as far as individuals are concerned. A well lunulated female is perfectly capable of exhibiting *albiannulata* and there is no trend relating these two aspects which are quite random. So there is a tension present which does not equate with the preservation of individual sub-species in their original form.

Maps 1 and 2 compare the conclusions reached by OH-G and Smyllie respectively. OH-G involves *agestis* and *allous*, while Smyllie adds the intermediate zone. Without the very adequate data collected by OH-G and his colleagues this comparison would not have been possible. My hope is that these conclusions represent a few steps forward rather than backward in the road to understanding more about our butterfly fauna. This understanding should help us to be more aware of, and therefore more caring for, our present heritage.

References

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Broad-bordered Bee hawks in October (*Hemaris fuciformis* L.; Lep.: Sphingidae)

Mr Ron Hoblyn witnessed two of these moths feeding at *Nicotiana* flowers in his garden at Santon Dowham, Suffolk, on 4th October 1994. The species has long been known to frequent the rides and open spaces of Thetford Forest and adjoining breckland, where in June and July it could be seen at Viper's Bugloss blossom. In recent years moths have appeared at garden flowers in locations well away from the forest, and larvae and eggs in the forest on honeysuckle in sunny situations as well as in shady woodland. Whatever its national status may be, this species continues to do well here and has enjoyed some very good seasons.— G.M. HAGGETT, Meadows End, Northacre, Caston, Norfolk.



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