



SWALLOW-TAIL BUTTERFLY



ORANGE TIP BUTTERFLY



CLOUDED YELLOW BUTTERFLY



BRIMSTONE BUTTERFLY



SILVER-WASHED FRITILLARY BUTTERFLY



COMMA BUTTERFLY



SMALL TORTOISESHELL BUTTERFLY



CAMBERWELL BEAUTY BUTTERFLY



PEACOCK BUTTERFLY



PAINTED LADY BUTTERFLY



RED ADMIRAL BUTTERFLY



GRAYLING BUTTERFLY

Wills for Quality

BUTTERFLIES & MOTHS

A SERIES OF 40

9
THE PEACOCK BUTTERFLY
(*Nymphalis io*)

This well-known butterfly is common throughout the greater part of the British Isles, being also distributed over the whole of Europe and parts of Asia. From the end of July and throughout August and September, it may be seen on flowery banks feasting on thistles, fleabane and scabious. The Peacock is especially fond of Buddleia, which is grown in so many gardens. When winter approaches it retires to barns and holes in trees, and frequently comes into houses, where it takes up a position on the ceiling or on a curtain; there it remains until March or April. The spiny black caterpillar feeds on nettle. The Peacock Butterfly measures about two-and-a-quarter inches across the wings.

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10
THE PAINTED LADY BUTTERFLY
(*Vanessa cardui*)

This cosmopolitan butterfly is a notorious migrant, usually reaching our shores in May, having travelled from southern Europe. In some years, however, the migration fails and then very few of the butterflies are to be seen. The Painted Lady often flies late in the evening, long after other species have gone to roost, and has even been observed by lighthouse keepers flying at night. It also has a habit of frequenting a particular stretch of ground and, even if disturbed, will return to the same spot time after time. The butterfly lays her eggs on thistles on which the caterpillars feed. The wing expanse of the Painted Lady is about two-and-a-half inches.

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11
THE RED ADMIRAL BUTTERFLY
(*Vanessa atalanta*)

This butterfly was known to early entomologists as "The Admirable." There is much controversy as to whether the Red Admiral really inhabits this country. Some of those seen early in the spring in the south-west of England may have done so, but as a rule migrants from the Continent reach us about May. The butterfly is distributed throughout the British Isles in rough fields where there are plenty of flowers such as scabious, snapweed and thistles. It is fond of coming into gardens to feast on Michaelmas daisies, and it particularly likes rotting fruit. The caterpillar feeds on nettle and constructs a little tangle of the leaves in which it lives. The wing expanse of the butterfly is two-and-a-quarter inches.

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12
THE GRAYLING BUTTERFLY
(*Eumenes semele*)

This butterfly, known many years ago as the "Rock Underwing" or "Tunbridge Grayling," occurs throughout the British Isles on heaths, dry fields and stony hillsides. The colour of the underside of the hind-wings varies greatly in different districts, so as to match the soil on which the butterfly settles. It is difficult to distinguish even when seen to settle only a few feet away. It folds its wings and lies over on its side; while we are looking for it, the butterfly suddenly rises, flies a few yards and disappears again. The caterpillar, which hatches in August, feeds on various grasses and is full-grown by the following June. The Grayling, the female of which we illustrate, measures two inches across the wings.

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5
THE SILVER-WASHED FRITILLARY BUTTERFLY
(*Argynnis pupina*)

This fine butterfly may be seen during July and August in many of the larger woods of the south-western counties, also in Wales and Ireland. It used to be abundant in the New Forest but of late years has become scarcer. Our picture shows the male; the female, which is larger and more spotted, produces two forms. The ordinary one, which is slightly more ochreous than the male, has the base of the fore-wings and almost the whole of the hind-wings greenish-olive. In the other form, which is practically confined to the New Forest, the ground colour is bronzy-green. The Silver-washed Fritillary is greatly attracted by bramble blossom. It measures about two-and-three-quarter inches across the wings.

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6
THE COMMA BUTTERFLY
(*Polygona c-album*)

This butterfly derives its English name from a white marking like a comma on the underside of the hind-wing. With its sharply angulated wings it might be taken for a painted specimen of the Small Tortoiseshell. The Comma had become very scarce in the south and east of England towards the end of the nineteenth century, but since 1930 it has reappeared in some numbers in most of its old localities. The butterfly emerges from August to October, and then goes into winter quarters until the following spring. It has two colour forms, one of them being of a much lighter yellow than the usual tawny shade. The caterpillar feeds on hop and nettle. The butterfly measures about two inches across the wings.

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7
THE SMALL TORTOISESHELL BUTTERFLY
(*Aglais urticae*)

The Small Tortoiseshell is one of the commonest of our British butterflies, and may be found almost everywhere in lanes, gardens and waste lands, where there are plenty of nettles. It has two broods in the year, the first in June and the second in August. Butterflies of the latter brood hibernate and frequently enter houses and take up a position on the ceiling, where they remain until tempted out by the first warm days of March. The butterflies are often to be seen in numbers on the blossoms of Buddleia and Michaelmas daisies. The eggs are laid on nettle and the caterpillars feed all together until just before they turn to chrysalises. The wing expanse of this butterfly is about two inches.

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8
THE CAMBERWELL BEAUTY BUTTERFLY
(*Nymphalis antiopa*)

It is somewhat remarkable that this butterfly should be only an occasional visitor to Britain, as it is abundant in Scandinavia and Germany. Our climate is chiefly responsible for its absence here, although it does visit us sometimes, the most likely months to see the butterfly being August and September. The appearance in Britain a few years ago of numbers of the Camberwell Beauty was found to be due to the release of specimens bred from Continental larvae; the attempt to naturalize it, however, was abandoned. The caterpillars feed on willow, birch and elm. When freshly emerged the outer margin of the butterfly's wings is ochreous but it becomes whiter after hibernation. The wing expanse is two-and-a-half to three inches.

Wills for Quality

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1
THE SWALLOW-TAIL BUTTERFLY
(*Papilio machaon*)

Our largest British butterfly is a most handsome insect, with black and yellow wings. Although now confined to the Cambridgeshire Fens and Norfolk Broads, it occurred formerly in various parts of southern England. The Swallow-tail appears at the end of May and again. If the season is favourable, in August. A remarkable variety, in which the black markings have completely replaced the yellow ground colour, has occurred in recent years. The Swallow-tail was known to early entomologists as "The Royal William." The caterpillar, which is bright green with an orange-spotted black stripe on each segment, feeds on the milk-parley. The butterfly measures from two-and-a-half to three-and-a-quarter inches across the wings.

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2
THE ORANGE TIP BUTTERFLY
(*Ericthe caradonides*)

Throughout May and June we can expect to meet with this attractive butterfly. It is found of flowery lanes and valleys where the lady's smock flourishes. The male is very conspicuous when on the wing, but when resting with its wings closed on a head of cow-parsley is just the reverse. The bluish-green caterpillar feeds on lady's smock, hedge mustard and rocket; it is not at all easy to see when sitting on the seed pods. The male Orange Tip is shown in the picture; the female is without the orange patches on the tips of the fore-wings. This butterfly occurs throughout England, Wales, southern Scotland and Ireland. The wing expanse is one-and-three-quarter inches.

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3
THE CLOUDED YELLOW BUTTERFLY
(*Colias croceus*)

The home of this butterfly is in southern Europe, whence it migrates northwards in varying numbers every spring. Its appearance in the British Isles is rather erratic, but should some of these strong-flying butterflies reach this country at the end of the year favourable, a very large second generation may result in August and September. In one of its great years the Clouded Yellow occurred all over the British Isles and even reached the Orkney Islands. The picture shows the male; the female produces two forms, one being similar to the male but with orange spots in the dark margins, while the other has the orange ground colour replaced by creamy-white. The caterpillar feeds on clovers. The wing expanse of this butterfly is about two inches.

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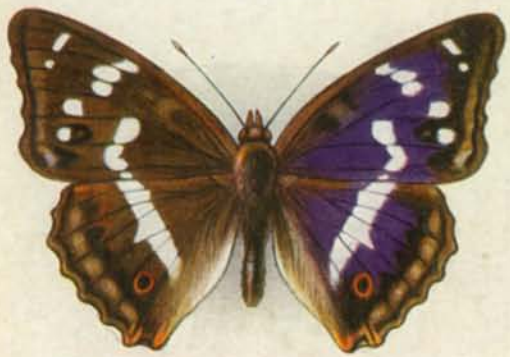
4
THE BRIMSTONE BUTTERFLY
(*Gonepteryx rhamni*)

The first warm days of spring induce this lovely butterfly to leave its winter quarters, where it has been resting in a dormant state since it emerged from the chrysalis in the late summer of the previous year. The Brimstone is very conspicuous when on the wing, but quite difficult to see when settled on a primrose with its wings closed. Our illustration shows the male; the female is of a pale greenish-white colour. The Brimstone, which occurs in the south of England, Wales and southern Ireland, measures about two-and-a-quarter inches across the wings. The caterpillar, which is of a bluish-green colour speckled with black, feeds upon the buckthorn in June and July.

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PURPLE EMPEROR BUTTERFLY

WILLS'S CIGARETTES



WALL BUTTERFLY

WILLS'S CIGARETTES



BROWN HAIRSTREAK BUTTERFLY

WILLS'S CIGARETTES



PURPLE HAIRSTREAK BUTTERFLY

WILLS'S CIGARETTES



SMALL COPPER BUTTERFLY

WILLS'S CIGARETTES



LARGE BLUE BUTTERFLY

WILLS'S CIGARETTES



ADONIS BLUE BUTTERFLY

WILLS'S CIGARETTES



LARGE SKIPPER BUTTERFLY

WILLS'S CIGARETTES



DEATH'S-HEAD HAWK-MOTH

WILLS'S CIGARETTES



EYED HAWK-MOTH

WILLS'S CIGARETTES



BROAD-BORDERED BEE HAWK-MOTH

WILLS'S CIGARETTES



PUSS MOTH

0 5cm

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21

THE DEATH'S-HEAD HAWK-MOTH
(*Acherontia atropos*)

This is the largest moth occurring in Britain. Although a native of southern Europe and North Africa, it frequently migrates northward, arriving in this country about May. It is more plentiful in some years than in others. Although known as early as 1634, it had no English name until 1773 when Wilkes called it the "jasmine Hawk Moth." Later it was known as the "Bee Tyger Hawk Moth," presumably because it sometimes goes into hives after the honey; it owes its present name to the skull-like marking on its thorax. The greenish-yellow caterpillar is about five inches long, and feeds chiefly on potato. The Death's-Head Hawk-moth appears about October and measures nearly five inches across the wings.

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22

THE EYED HAWK-MOTH
(*Smerinthus ocellata*)

This fine moth derives its name from the large eye-like spots on each hind-wing. It is common in the Southern Counties, but more local in the North, being also widely distributed in Ireland. The Eyed Hawk-Moth emerges about June and may sometimes be found sitting on fences and willow trunks; it is also attracted by light. When resting, it folds its fore-wings and leaves the edge of the hind-wings projecting, so that it resembles a dead leaf. The caterpillar, which is yellowish-green, has seven oblique whitish stripes on each side; the horn on its tail is bluish-green. It feeds on willow and apple. The Eyed Hawk measures about three-and-a-half inches across the wings.

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23

THE BROAD-BORDERED BEE
HAWK-MOTH
(*Hemaris fuciformis*)

It is a wonderful sight to stand by a clump of rhododendrons in the New Forest on a sunny morning early in June and to see this moth, which resembles a bumble bee, hovering near the blossoms. Make but the slightest movement and it has gone. It also visits flowers of bugle and ragged-robin. When freshly emerged, the wings are covered with dark greenish-grey scales, but as soon as the moth begins to vibrate its wings the scales fly off the border. Locally common in the South, the Bee Hawk does not occur north of Yorkshire. The caterpillar feeds in July and August on honeysuckle. The wing expanse of the moth is about two inches.

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24

THE PUSS MOTH
(*Cerura vinula*)

This large moth obtains its English name from its fluffy appearance, the body, thorax, and head being covered with long greyish-white hair. The male, which is rather smaller than the female, has the hind-wings whitish, while those of the female are more smoky. The Puss Moth, occurring throughout the British Isles in May and June, may sometimes be found sitting on poplar trunks. The very striking caterpillar, which feeds on poplar and willow, has the last segment transformed into two tails, from which it can extrude two thread-like filaments. When annoyed it lashes these about; they are presumed to be a protection against parasitic flies. The female moth measures about three-and-a-half inches across the wings.

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17

THE SMALL COPPER BUTTERFLY
(*Lycæna phlæas*)

Hot dry summers seem to suit this brightly-coloured little butterfly better than cool damp ones. In a favourable year it produces three broods in May, August and early October. It loves to sit on a flower in the sunshine, and has a habit of darting at every passing butterfly, and then returning to its perch. It frequents flowery banks in the Lowlands, and is even sometimes seen in the Highlands. It occurs throughout Great Britain in parks, woods, and the Caledonian Cairns. Sometimes, instead of being copper-coloured, the wings are silvery-white or cream-coloured. The green shining caterpillar feeds upon the leaves of sorrel. The butterfly measures about one inch across the wings.

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18

THE LARGE BLUE BUTTERFLY
(*Maculinea arion*)

Besides being our largest "Blue," this butterfly is also one of the scarcest. It formerly occurred in the Eastern Counties, but became extinct there, and now is only found in the south-west of England, where it appears in July and August. The black dashes on the wings vary greatly in size; the female is usually more heavily marked than the male. The caterpillar has a most interesting life-history; it feeds first of all on the flowers of thyme, but as autumn approaches it leaves an ant. The ant carries the caterpillar into its nest, where it remains and feeds upon the young ants, until it is full-grown in June. The wing expanse of the Large Blue Butterfly is one-and-five-eighths inches.

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19

THE ADONIS BLUE BUTTERFLY
(*Lysandra bellargus*)

Known in early times as the "Clifden Blue," this butterfly is one of the most beautiful of the British "Blues." When settled on a flower with its wings open it is really dazzling. To see a number of them together trying to catch the last rays of the setting sun is a sight not to be forgotten. The female is of a slaty blue-black colour and has a row of orange spots on the margins of the hind-wings; our illustration shows the male. The Adonis Blue, which appears in late May and early June and again in August and September, is confined to the chalk downs of the Southern Counties. The caterpillar feeds on horseshoe vetch. The wing expanse of the butterfly is one-and-one-eighth inches.

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20

THE LARGE SKIPPER BUTTERFLY
(*Ochlodes veneta*)

This very active little butterfly is found commonly in England, Wales, parts of Ireland, and the south of Scotland. Its flight is short but rapid, and when alighting on a leaf it has a trick of turning half round, raising its fore-wings and drooping its hind-wings. The Large Skipper appears from June to August and should be looked for on flowery banks, hillsides and woodland rides. The egg is laid on grass; the little caterpillar hibernates and completes its growth about May. The picture shows the male; the female differs in not having the oblique black streak on the fore-wings. The butterfly measures about one-and-one-eighth inches across the wings.

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13

THE PURPLE EMPEROR BUTTERFLY
(*Apatura iris*)

The beautiful iridescent purple sheen which the male Purple Emperor (illustrated) has on its blackish-brown wings is not due to pigment but to the effect of light on the wing scales. The female is slightly larger and browner, the white markings being rather wider than in the male. The Purple Emperor is now rather scarce but may still be seen in some of the larger woods in the south of England. It appears in July and loves to fly around the tops of oak trees. It is difficult to catch, but it occasionally comes to the ground, where decaying animal matter attracts it. The striking two-horned caterpillar feeds on sallow. The butterfly measures two-and-three-quarter inches across the wings.

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14

THE WALL BUTTERFLY
(*Pararge aegeria*)

As its name suggests, this butterfly loves basking in the sunshine on walls, stones and dry hedge-banks. It is more or less common throughout the British Isles, but for some unknown reason it became rather scarce in certain districts a few years ago; it seems however, to be increasing again. In ordinary seasons the Wall produces two broods, the first appearing in May or June, and the second in September, but only in a very hot summer. The greenish-white caterpillar feeds on grasses. The butterfly illustrated is a female, the male being slightly smaller and differing by having an oblique dark band on the fore-wings. The wing expanse of the female is about two inches.

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15

THE BROWN HAIRSTREAK BUTTERFLY
(*Thicia betulae*)

Many years ago the female of this butterfly was considered to be a separate species, and was known as the "Golden Hairstreak." The male has only a very small orange patch on each fore-wing. Though rather local, it occurs in quite a number of counties and also in Ireland. The Brown Hairstreak, which is on the wing in August and September, flies only in the sunshine, around scattered oaks in woodlands where there is plenty of blackthorn. The caterpillar, which is rather slug-like in appearance, feeds in May and June on blackthorn. It is pale green with yellowish lines on the back and sides. The picture shows the female Brown Hairstreak, whose wings measure just under one-and-a-half inches across.

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16

THE PURPLE HAIRSTREAK BUTTERFLY
(*Thicia quectis*)

This butterfly may be seen flitting about and settling on the leaves of the upper branches of oak trees on sunny days in July or August. It is not easy to capture, but in the afternoon it is more inclined to come down lower to feed on the honey-dew, which covers the leaves of the underwood during a hot summer. The Purple Hairstreak occurs in many of the larger oak woods in the British Isles. The wings of the male are of a deep indigo blue, bordered with black; our picture shows the female. The caterpillar feeds on oak in May and early June. The butterfly measures slightly under one-and-a-half inches across the wings.

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WILL'S CIGARETTES



BUFF TIP MOTH

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GARDEN TIGER MOTH

WILL'S CIGARETTES



HEART AND DART MOTH

WILL'S CIGARETTES



BROAD-BORDERED YELLOW UNDERWING MOTH

WILL'S CIGARETTES



DOT MOTH

WILL'S CIGARETTES



ORANGE SALLOW MOTH

WILL'S CIGARETTES



MULLEIN MOTH

WILL'S CIGARETTES



RED UNDERWING MOTH

WILL'S CIGARETTES



MALLOW MOTH

WILL'S CIGARETTES



ARGENT AND SABLE MOTH

WILL'S CIGARETTES



MAGPIE MOTH

WILL'S CIGARETTES



BRIMSTONE MOTH



Wills for Quality

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33 THE MALLOW MOTH

(*Larentia clavaria*)

Although the usual colour of the fore-wings is ochrus-brown, this species is sometimes of a light chocolate shade. This makes the fine white lines, with which the darker markings are bordered, appear very distinct. The moth is on the wing in September and October, and is rather more frequent in the Southern Counties than further north. This is due more to the presence or absence of the food-plant, the neighbourhood where it occurs. The Mallow flies freely in the evening but hides under foliage during the day. The longish green caterpillar feeds on mallow and hollyhock during the summer. The Mallow measures up to one-and-three-quarter inches across the wings.

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THE ARGENT AND SABLE MOTH

(*Eulybe hastata*)

In 1778 Harris gave this moth its present English name, but before that date it had been known as "The Mottled Beauty." As one might expect from a black and white moth, it varies considerably in its markings, and there are quite a number of named forms. The moth appears in May and June, and on sunny days flies in the afternoon among birch trees; it looks very beautiful when resting on a birch leaf. The Argent and Sable occurs throughout England, Wales, Scotland and parts of Ireland. The caterpillar, which is dark olive-green, with ochreous markings on the sides, feeds in July and August on birch. The moth measures about one-and-a-quarter inches across the wings.

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35

THE MAGPIE MOTH

(*Abraxas grossulariella*)

This moth, sometimes known as the "Currant Moth," is one of the most variable of the British species. In some specimens the wings are completely black except for a narrow white band near the base of the wings, while in others they are almost all white with only the orange band and the outer margins edged with black. By selective breeding the most extraordinary forms have been raised. The Magpie occurs in July and August throughout the British Isles. The caterpillar, which is creamy-white with black markings, is sometimes a pest on gooseberries and currants, and also on Eutyonyus; it also feeds on sloe and, in the Hebrides, on ling. The Magpie measures about one-and-three-quarter inches across the wings.

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36

THE BRIMSTONE MOTH

(*Opisthograhis luteolabata*)

This yellow moth with reddish markings along the front margin of the fore-wings is one of the commonest British species. It may be seen just at dusk flying along hedgerows and the borders of woods. In Durham and Cheshire white specimens have been recorded and orange-yellow forms are also known from Staffordshire. The Brimstone produces two broods in the year, and appears from April to August throughout this country, being also common in Ireland. The brownish stick-like caterpillar has a hump in the middle of the back and smaller projections lower down. Hawthorn, plum and sloe are its chief food plants. The moth measures just under one-and-a-half inches across the wings.

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29 THE DOT MOTH

(*Melanarcha persicariae*)

The white kidney-shaped marking, just tinged with brown in the centre, makes a great contrast to the blue-black colour of the fore-wings of this rather common moth. The Dot appears in July and August and occurs more commonly in the southern half of England than in the northern. It does not reach Scotland and is local in Ireland. The caterpillar is almost as striking in colour as the moth; it is pale green with darker green markings edged with white; sometimes it is brown with darker brown markings. It feeds on low plants and is common in gardens, and sometimes occurs in large numbers in waste places around London. The wing expanse of the Dot is about one-and-three-quarter inches.

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30

THE ORANGE SALLOW MOTH

(*Cynthia citrago*)

This moth, which has yellowish fore-wings crossed by two oblique brownish lines, is fairly constant as regards colour, but occasionally the yellow tint is replaced by reddish-orange and the inner cross line becomes darker and slightly thicker. The Orange Sallow appears in August and September and is locally distributed throughout the British Isles. The moth of late years has shown a tendency to become more common, partly owing to the increased planting of the broad-leaved lime on which the caterpillar feeds. When young the caterpillar conceals itself between two leaves, which it spins together, but when bigger it hides at the base of the tree trunk during the day. The wing expanse of the Orange Sallow is just under two inches.

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31

THE MULLEIN MOTH

(*Cucullia verbasca*)

The Mullein, which derives its English name from the plant on which the caterpillars feed, belongs to the family of the commonly known as "Sharks." So well do its markings blend with its surroundings that the Mullein is extremely hard to see when resting on a post or fence with its long narrow wings closed over its body. The moth, which appears in late April and May, is throughout England, Wales and parts of Ireland, but not in Scotland, except for the few well known to gardeners caterpillars that do well known to gardeners through the damage it does to cultivated plants, and this is greenish-white, spotted with black and lined with yellow. The moth measures about two inches across the wings.

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THE RED UNDERWING MOTH

(*Catocala nupta*)

With its red underwings exposed, this moth presents a very different picture from what it does when settled on a stone wall, willow trunk or telegraph post. The grey fore-wings then cover up the brightly coloured hind-wings, and it is extremely hard to see, so well does it match whatever it has chosen to rest on. Very occasionally specimens with smoky brown hind-wings have been recorded and one was taken near Colchester with the hind-wings bluish. The moth appears in August and September and occurs in the Eastern and Southern Counties. The caterpillar, of ashy-grey mottled with brown, feeds at night on willow and poplar. The wing expanse of the moth is about three-and-a-quarter inches.

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25 THE BUFF TIP MOTH

(*Platena bucephala*)

This handsome moth, with its silver-grey wings shaded with violet and tipped with buff, is one of our commonest species, and is found throughout the British Isles. When resting with its wings closed over its back, it is very hard to see. It will be noticed that the thorax is buff like the wing tips; consequently the moth's resemblance to a piece of rotten wood with freshly broken ends is remarkable. The caterpillars feed in masses on the leaves of various trees, though elm, oak and lime are perhaps the most favoured. They are often abundant in and around London. The female Buff Tip, illustrated, measures about two-and-a-half inches across the wings; the male is slightly less.

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THE GARDEN TIGER MOTH

(*Aricia carya*)

Most people at some time or another have seen this gaudy moth, which occurs throughout the British Isles. It is often found by day resting on plants in gardens and hedgerows. The Garden Tiger is most variable in its markings, no two specimens being exactly alike. Sometimes the white ground colour extends almost all over the upper-wings, while on the other hand the dark markings may be intensified so that hardly any white is visible. The hind-wings also vary: the scarlet may be replaced by orange or the spotting reduced or increased. The caterpillar, known as the Woolly-bear, is often seen crawling about from May to June, even in suburban gardens. The wing expanse of the moth measures up to three inches.

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27

THE HEART AND DART MOTH

(*Agrotis exclamationis*)

This common moth derives its English name from the markings on the fore-wing, which are supposed to represent a heart and a dart. There are several species in this family of moths which all have the dark streak or dash called a dart. The moth varies a good deal, sometimes all the markings being run together, forming a blackish streak; the female is usually darker than the male. The Heart and Dart appears in June and July and sometimes again in September. It is generally common in England, Ireland and the south of Scotland. The caterpillar feeds on many low plants and at times does much damage in gardens. The wing expanse of the moth is about one-and-a-half inches.

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THE BROAD-BORDERED YELLOW UNDERWING MOTH

(*Lamprolaima fimbria*)

This very handsome moth with the broad black border to the hind-wings does not come into houses and buzz about on the ceiling like its relative the Large Yellow Underwing; it is more of a woodland species. The colour of the fore-wings varies considerably in different specimens: in some it is pale ochre, in others olive-brown, while occasionally it reaches a deep mahogany tint. The moth occurs in June and July throughout most of the wooded part of the British Isles. The caterpillar, which is pale ochreous-brown, feeds on low plants until hibernation, but when it reappears in the spring it prefers the young shoots of willow and birch. The wing expanse of the moth measures two-and-a-quarter inches.

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LUNAR THORN MOTH



OAK BEAUTY MOTH



SIX-SPOT BURNET MOTH



LEOPARD MOTH



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THE LUNAR THORN MOTH

(*Selenia lunaria*)

This moth derives its name from the silver lunule (a crescent-shaped marking) in the centre of its wings. The Lunar Thorn sometimes produces two generations in the course of the year. The males of the second brood are somewhat lighter in colour than those of the first brood, while the females are yellower. The species varies in different parts of the country, a form from Derbyshire rather resembling the spring brood of the Purple Thorn, while in Scotland the reddish markings have a tendency to become purplish. The Lunar Thorn occurs in May and June and, though widely distributed throughout the British Isles, is rather local. The caterpillar feeds on birch and sloe. The Lunar Thorn Moth measures just over one-and-a-half inches across the wings.

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THE OAK BEAUTY MOTH

(*Biston strataria*)

The markings of this handsome moth are subject to a certain amount of variation; in some specimens the brown bands are narrower, while in others the black edging to the bands is intensified. The difference between the sexes is easily seen—the male, shown in the picture, has the antennae toothed like a comb, whereas in the female they are simple. The Oak Beauty, which is distributed over England, Wales and parts of Ireland, appears in March and April, and may be found during the day sitting on tree trunks and palings; the male is often attracted by light at night. The caterpillar, which feeds on oak, birch, elm and sloe, occurs from May to July. The wing expanse of the Oak Beauty is about two inches.

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THE SIX-SPOT BURNET MOTH

(*Zygena flitpendula*)

There are seven species of Burnet Moths occurring in Britain, of which the one illustrated is perhaps the most common. The Burnets live in colonies, so that when one is observed, others will almost certainly be found nearby. Sometimes the spots and the hind-wings are pink, yellow, orange or even brown instead of red, while occasionally the spots are confluent. The Six-Spot Burnet occurs throughout the British Isles during July and August on chalk downs, in rough meadows and on sand-hills near the sea. It flies in the bright sunshine, and is fond of feasting on thistle and scabious flowers. The caterpillar feeds on trefolds; the golden cocoon is a common object on grass stems. The wing expanse of the Six-Spot Burnet is about one-and-a-half inches.

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THE LEOPARD MOTH

(*Zeuzera pyrina*)

The picture shows a female of this rather striking-looking moth. Its whitish upper-wings are semi-transparent and covered with shaggy bluish-black spots. The Leopard Moth, which emerges in July, occurs in England from Cheshire to the Southern and Eastern Counties, and is rather plentiful in the suburbs of London. The male, which is smaller than the female, is attracted by light and is often found under street lamps. The caterpillar lives for two or three years and burrows in the stems or branches of elm, ash, lilac and hawthorn. It sometimes does considerable damage to young pear and apple trees. The male Leopard measures about two inches across the wings and the female up to three inches.

