

Book review ● Buchbesprechung ● Analyse

HARDY, Peter B.: Butterflies of Greater Manchester.

20.9 × 14.8 cm, [4] + 127 pp., 16 black-and-white habitat photographs, 15 colour photographs printed inside front and rear covers, 170 figs. [read: maps], paperback. Published by PGL Enterprises, Sale, Cheshire, 1998. ISBN 0-9532374-0-0. To be ordered from: PGL Enterprises, 10 Dudley Road, GB-Sale, Cheshire M33 7BB, United Kingdom. Price: £ 9,- excl. postage.

Urban landscapes are frequently dismissed as wastelands for wildlife. The present atlas of the butterflies of Greater Manchester clearly demonstrates that such a picture is far from true. While surrounding rural areas become quickly impoverished as a result of modern agricultural practice there are, on the other hand, sites throughout Manchester with a butterfly diversity as rich as that of rural areas beyond its boundary.

The Introduction deals with survey methods, Manchester environments, species richness and distribution, distribution changes and conservation. Then follows a chapter on species accounts proper: for each species, short paragraphs deal resp. with habitats, host plants, broods, distribution and behaviour. A table lists the species recorded in the 7 × 5 km zone, indicating the number of 100 m squares in which each species has been recorded in 1994-1997; a next one lists the nectar sources noted during 1996 and 1997 with both the species number as well as the average number of specimens per day, while a third one lists the usage of nectar sources by each single butterfly species. Then follows a list of references (50 entries). The remainder (more than half) of this work is devoted to the various maps.

This book is unique in the way maps at different scales are presented. Distribution maps are shown for each of the 27 butterflies and 2 burnet moths, either resident or not, that have been reported from 1980 on in the area considered, using the standard "tetrad" units of 2 × 2 kilometres; older records are mapped to 10 km square. Further maps of environmental features as urban cover, the road system and various open areas that are either potentially suitable or unsuitable as habitat, are presented. Mapping at smaller scales of butterfly distributions, down to 100 metre square level, is also shown, alongside with various environmental parameters. Finally, for a 3 × 2 km zone within a 7 × 5 km zone, maps for species and for their host plant habitats are presented for 100 × 100 meter squares.

The author deserves our congratulations for having presented original first hand data in a most useful and innovative way, setting a standard for future studies on wildlife in city areas. This nice little book will be of interest to naturalists, conservationists and nature lovers.

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Zoologisch-Botanische Datenbank/Zoological-Botanical Database

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