

THE CAMBRIDGE STATISTICS DISCUSSION GROUP
PLEASE NOTE EARLIER THAN USUAL START TIMES!!

Tuesday 4th March 2003 7:00 FOR 7:30

Anglia Polytechnic University,
East Road, Cambridge

The Influence of a Warming Climate on the Phenology of Plants and Animals

Tim Sparks

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Monks Wood

Abstract: In November 1995 I made a presentation to the CSDG entitled "Phenology: 25 decades of dodgy data" and reported on my first few years of phenological research. Since then many megabytes of phenological data have flowed across my screen and phenology, the timing of events, has received much publicity and promotion including the establishment of a network of several thousand recorders. The volume of available data is staggering and covers a wide range of species and events. Historic data sets show us how species fluctuated in line with climate and data from international colleagues demonstrate that change is widespread. This will be a graph-rich presentation of results covering a number of species, locations and time-spans. The overwhelming conclusion is that the natural world is already responding to a warming climate.

Speaker: Tim has had an unconventional higher education. After graduating through the Institute of Statisticians, he gained a distance learning MSc in Applied Statistics through Sheffield City Polytechnic followed by a distance learning MSc in Operational Research from (the renamed) Sheffield Hallam University. More recently he was awarded a PhD for his phenological work from Sheffield Hallam University. Tim has worked as a statistical consultant for the CEH (formerly the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology) since 1991. He deals with a wide range of topics, but has specific interests in woodland and hedgerow ecology and, especially, phenology. He runs the UK Phenology Network jointly with the Woodland Trust (www.phenology.org.uk).

Directions: The venue is Room 9 situated in the basement of the Ruskin Building. Enter APU by 'back' entrance at the end of MacKenzie Road turning off Mill Road to the left as you leave the city (note if driving, to avoid one way system, take Guest Road, turning right at the end. APU entrance appears on your left). Please note there is now no parking on site at the Cambridge campus. There is limited availability in the nearby streets (take pot luck), a small car park further up Mill Road or the multistorey off East Road. Once in the back entrance turn left passing the archway on your right hand side, enter the next main double door along with 'Ruskin Building' written above. Admittance to building may be difficult after 7:30pm.

Provisional Next Meetings:

10th April – Mike Streater (Eastern Region Public Health Observatory).

7th May - Peter Wadhams (Scott Polar) on 'Statistical Properties of Sea Ice Thickness - is the Arctic Ice Disappearing?'

14th October – Peter Treasure (Strangeways Research Laboratory).

Supper: Some members eat before a talk at the University Centre meeting in the downstairs bar at 5-45PM. All welcome !

Subscriptions: of 4 pounds per member are now due for the 2002-2003 session.

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