

# **ESSEX MOTH GROUP**

**ANNUAL NEWSLETTER**

**2019**

**COMPILED BY DOUGAL URQUHART**



**MERVEILLE DU JOURS, RAYLEIGH, 16/10/18**

**GRAHAM BAILEY**

**ESSEX MOTH GROUP**  
**ANNUAL MEETING AND EXHIBITION**  
**THE GREEN CENTRE, WAT TYLER COUNTRY PARK**  
**SATURDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> FEBRUARY**  
**2019 PROGRAMME**

10.30.....**RECEPTION / REFRESHMENTS**

DONATION £10, PAY ON ARRIVAL

10.45....**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

DOUGAL URQUHART, ESSEX MOTH GROUP COORDINATOR

11.00.....**LUCIA CHMUROVA** – (PROJECT DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, B.C.)

REARING LEPIDOPTERA IN MADAGASCAR & KENT'S MAGNIFICENT MOTH  
PROJECT UPDATE

12.00.....**ANDY & MELISSA BANTHORPE** – (COUNTY MOTH RECORDERS FOR BEDS)

WHAT'S INTERESTING ABOUT BEDFORDSHIRE?

1.00.....**LUNCH** – CHANCE TO CHAT WITH FRIENDS

2.00.....**RICHARD DENNISON** – UK MOTH MEDLEY

2.30.....**GRAHAM BAILEY** – SOUTH ESSEX MOTHS IN 2018

3.00.....**DOUGAL URQUHART** – MOTH CHANGES AT CUDMORE GROVE

3.30.....**CHRIS LEWIS** – 2018 AUTUMN MOTH MIGRATION ON ISLES OF SCILLY

4.00.....**LAST REFRESHMENTS** AND A CHANCE TO CHAT WITH FRIENDS

5.00.....**PARK CLOSES – DON'T GET LOCKED IN!**

**THANKYOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT AND GOOD LUCK**  
**WITH THE NEW MOTHING SEASON!**

Welcome to the annual meeting of the Essex Moth Group, now into its 23<sup>rd</sup> year since first starting up in 1996. This is the sixth meeting to be held at the Green Centre at Wat Tyler Country Park after the switch of venue from Lawford in the north of the county. We are indebted to the Essex Field Club for helping to subsidise the cost of hosting this annual meeting. It would be much more expensive for members if it the meeting was held anywhere else in the county.

We thank Peter Harvey of the Essex Field Club for arranging that the Group are able to meet here in the Green Centre, and also for arranging the buffet lunch with the caterers and all the other logistics.

Also a thankyou to Peter for printing off the programme for members to read at the meeting.

The annual meeting and the newsletter are important to the Essex Moth Group. They both demonstrate the important moth recording work that members carry out across the county of both the common species and the scarcer species too. The annual meeting is the only day-time opportunity where members can meet up with fellow moth enthusiasts to share their experiences and sightings. The newsletter also allows other members to share their account of the previous mothing season, share their sightings as well as their moth images too.

As group co-ordinator, a big thankyou to all those members who have either put together a talk for the meeting, compiled an article for this newsletter, or just attended the meeting at Wat Tyler – in some cases some kind folk have helped with all three! Maybe under the duress of arm-twisting and succumbing to some gentle persuasion, the meeting has a full programme and the newsletter is the usual detailed account. The support has been great and much appreciated throughout the year.

The moths of Essex will appreciate our time and attention!

I trust members will find this newsletter an interesting read. The articles have had very little editing and are read as they were sent in. As chief collator, I've tried to keep the articles compact whilst including the many images sent in and to help keep the length of the whole newsletter down to a minimum number of pages. I've tried to include as many images as possible and apologise if not every one has been shown. All images have been credited, usually to the right-hand side of the page and sometimes with the initials only. I also apologise for any spelling or grammar errors especially with the scientific names. I also apologise for any perceived relaxing of the usual scientific report writing protocol!

If you want to share any other ideas about the Moth Group, you can contact me – Dougal Urquhart as the Moth Group coordinator on 07494866157 or at – [dougalurquhart57@gmail.com](mailto:dougalurquhart57@gmail.com);

There is an email Yahoo Group on Essex Moths where moth sightings and other topics are posted. To join this you can either email Brian Goodey at – [essexmoths@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:essexmoths@dsl.pipex.com); Reg Fry at [reg.a.fry@btinternet.com](mailto:reg.a.fry@btinternet.com); or Tony Prichard at [tony.prichard@btinternet.com](mailto:tony.prichard@btinternet.com); One of these moderators will then invite you onto the email forum.

Information about the Essex Moth Group can be found on the Essex Moth Group website at [www.essexfieldclub.org.uk/portal/p/Essex+Moth+Group](http://www.essexfieldclub.org.uk/portal/p/Essex+Moth+Group). Help is needed with keeping these pages updated.

At present the moth County Recorder for Essex is Peter Harvey and whilst Peter is more than happy to continue to deal with records, we need a moth specialist to come forward to manage identification requests and organise and promote recording in the county. Contact Peter at: [grayspeterharvey@gmail.com](mailto:grayspeterharvey@gmail.com);

## **ESSEX MOTH GROUP FACEBOOK PAGE**

The Moth Group Facebook page was started in July 2017 by Simon Wood and has been well used and visited by many members and other moth enthusiasts. Plenty of moth pictures have been posted both of known and unknown identity, providing opportunities for discussion – which is exactly what it is there for. As of February 2019 the Group had 138 members who had joined.

This is an informal discussion group relating to all things mothy within Essex, UK, VC18 and VC19. All sightings and identification queries are very welcome. When posting a photograph, it would be most helpful to have an idea of the size of the moth, whether at rest or wings-span and of course a date and location for the record.

## **ESSEX MOTH GROUP ANNUAL MEETING 2018**

The Moth Group held its 22<sup>nd</sup> annual meeting at the Green Centre at Wat Tyler on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2018 – the fifth year running to be held at this venue. Forty members attended the day and heard a variety of moth related topics both home and abroad.

The main speaker was Les Evans-Hill from Butterfly Conservation who provided an update on the forthcoming Larger Moths Atlas with brief descriptions of selected species. There were also talks by Graham Ekins on Inland Moth Migration at his Boreham garden, Andrew Hoppit the Forestry Commission Oak Processionary Project Officer told us about the threats posed by the moth and control measures needed. After lunch Andrew Raybould described the moths he encountered in the Lot area of France, Zoe Ringwood updated us on the Fisher's Estuarine Moth Project, Graham Bailey told us about the moths he trapped in south Essex during 2018, finally Rob Smith described his local patch of Mill Green Common.

## **ESSEX FIELD CLUB EXHIBITION AND SOCIAL 2018**

The Essex Moth Group had a stand at this popular annual exhibition at the Green Centre on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December, manned by Dougal for the fifth year. There were sixty different stands by different wildlife organisations and there was a turnout of about 138 visitors to come and browse the stands. There was the usual tasty buffet lunch and the opportunity to socialise with folk.



Alongside the Moth Group stand was another moth stand manned by Graham Bailey with lots of colourful moth images of moths trapped in south Essex at places such as Belfairs NR and Hockley Woods.



## **BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION NEWS**

### **NATIONAL MOTH NIGHT – 26-28 SEPTEMBER 2019**

Moth Night 2019 will be an extra special event as it marks the 20th Anniversary of Moth Night! The dates have been set so please make a note in your diaries and calendars for 26 to 28 September 2019. There are two themes, the first being Clifden Nonpareil, a species that has recently recolonised Britain and is expanding its range rapidly in southern England, as well as seemingly becoming more frequent as an immigrant. The second theme is moth migration. As with previous Moth Nights you do not have to follow the themes, but can do your own thing such as going trapping to a new place, organising a public moth event or simply have friends and family over to share your passion for moths and show them the light!

### **WHAT'S FLYING TONIGHT?**

Want to know which moth species might be on the wing tonight in your area? Now you can find out easily using What's Flying Tonight. This free online tool, developed by the Centre for Ecology & Hydrology and Butterfly Conservation, makes use of millions of NMRS records to provide an illustrated list of the larger moth species seen at this time of year in your area. With moth images, flight charts and the frequency that each species has been recorded (based on your location and the date), What's Flying Tonight can help with species identification making it great for beginners and for moth-ers recording in unfamiliar territory.

What's Flying Tonight is designed to work like an app from a smartphone or tablet, but will also work from a computer. It can automatically use the GPS in your device to locate the correct moth records, but you can also manually change the date and location.

Try What's Flying Tonight here [https://shiny-apps.ceh.ac.uk/whats\\_flying\\_tonight/](https://shiny-apps.ceh.ac.uk/whats_flying_tonight/);

### **ATLAS OF BRITAIN AND IRELAND'S LARGER MOTHS UPDATE**

We are continuing work on the forthcoming Atlas of Britain and Ireland's Larger Moths. The regional verifiers and Butterfly Conservation staff who kindly undertook the important task of examining the distribution maps and phenology charts have unearthed a copious number of potentially erroneous and missing records. These are continuing to be queried with County Moth Recorders, hence the final atlas dataset has not yet been finalised. Once we have the final dataset, species distribution trends will be calculated using occupancy modelling. New abundance trends from the Rothamsted Insect Survey (RIS) are also being calculated. Species accounts have been drafted, but will require further editing once the final NMRS species distribution trends and RIS abundance trends have been produced.

We have experienced several delays towards the publication of the atlas, which is perhaps inevitable with a project of this magnitude. This is a landmark publication, the first of its kind and ultimately the quality of the information in the atlas is paramount. As a result, we expect to publish the atlas in late spring 2019, slightly later than anticipated.

Not only will the atlas be a substantial resource for moth recorders, conservation groups and others interested in the natural world, it will also help underpin action to conserve our larger moth fauna, provide an understanding on how species are faring, will reveal new avenues for research, raise the profile of this fascinating group of insects and encourage further recording.

## HUGH OWEN – AN EMG LOSS

The Essex Moth Group recently lost a long-standing member in Hugh Owen who sadly died on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2018 aged 74, after losing his battle with pancreatic cancer. Hugh was active in mothing for many years both in his garden formerly at Langenhoe, latterly at Bulmer near Sudbury, as well as being a regular attendee at mothing sessions elsewhere in the Colchester area. He was involved in the Essex Moth Group right from the start in 1996 and attended many of the annual meetings from the early days at Horsley Cross and then at Lawford.

*Pictured on right of lamp, along with Ian Rose, Joe Firmin and Dave Barnard (Pic-DU)*



He also had a great interest in all kinds of wildlife and was a regular attendee of indoor and outdoor meetings of the CNHS, the Colchester EWT group and was also very involved in the Colchester RSPB group – helping his wife Veronica chair it for several years. Our paths were always crossing at indoor meetings and we would happily exchange wildlife sightings whether moths, butterflies or birds. Hugh was very modest, friendly and warm, easy to talk with and always happy to share his knowledge. His wildlife watching in north Essex spanned several decades and he contributed a lot of important sightings and records. Whilst he lived at Langenhoe he was the closest moth-er to me on Mersea, so we were often comparing mothing sightings.

When Hugh moved to Langenhoe in 1992, he started turning his five acres of garden and meadow into a wildlife haven. There was a lot of back-breaking work digging out ditches, mowing the 3 acre meadow, cutting down bramble, trimming hedgerows, as well as looking after the 2 acre garden. He regarded himself as an enthusiastic but not dedicated moth trapper with trappings each year of around 50 nights and always bringing the trap inside by 12.30am at the latest. By the time Hugh and Veronica downsized to Bulmer in 2013, the garden lepidoptera list since 1996 stood at a very respectable 399 macro moths, 249 micro-moths, as well as 28 species of butterfly – (including a mega Camberwell Beauty!) He thought that if only he stayed at Langenhoe a little bit longer he could have notched up one more micro and one more macro, just to round the totals up!

The importance of Hugh's garden for moths reached national importance when a white-spotted pinion was discovered there in 2002. Together with a white spotted pinion also being discovered in Chalkney Wood that same summer, these records constituted the species being rediscovered in NE Essex. For the next ten years, Hugh hosted the Essex Moth Group to his garden every early August and most years members were rewarded just before midnight with a sighting of at least one white-spotted pinion. If energy levels during the mothing evening waned, they soon perked up after a welcome coffee and slice of cake in Hugh's conservatory! In May 2004 Paul Waring was invited to the garden to search for larvae and along with Joe Firmin, Ian Rose and Philip Smith, a larval spinning in the form of some elm leaves forming a tent was eventually found after an hour. The spinning was 1.5m above the ground near the edge of an elm copse. Joe thought this was the first ever larva found in Essex and Paul suggested that it was the first time larva had occurred on small and immature elms in the absence of any tall elms.

This is the second year of moth trapping sessions in six of Colchester Borough Councils Public Parks, Local Nature reserves and Open Spaces (see Cervus 87 p22 for details of the 2017 programme). Trapping was carried out at the same locations as last year, details of conditions on the night at each being set out below –

***Hilly Fields Local Nature Reserve - 15<sup>th</sup> May 2100hrs-0000hrs***

This was a month earlier than our first trapping session last year. Cold and mostly clear, the temperature dropping to c12C. The four MV lights were located in the plantation and near to the ponds on the north side of the reserve.

***Lexden Springs Local Nature Reserve - 5<sup>th</sup> June 2100hrs-0000hrs***

Unfortunately, this was a very chilly and clear night with a northerly breeze, the temperature dropping quickly to 9C. The seven MV lights were located at various points around this small reserve.

***Gosbecks Archaeological Park – 19<sup>th</sup> June 2100hrs-0100hrs***

A very warm and sticky, overcast night, temperatures dropping to 16C. The sound of distant male Lions sounding off over the Park at the Zoo gave the evening a rather African quality! The five traps were located along the south boundary of the Conservation Grasslands.

***Spring Lane Nursery Meadow - 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2100hrs-0100hrs***

This was another mostly clear night with temperatures dropping to 15C. The seven MV lights were located all around the meadow.

***Westlands Country Park, Stanway Green - 17<sup>th</sup> July 2100hrs-0100hrs***

A mostly clear night with the temperature dropping to 15C. The two MV lights were located in the SW corner of the Park.

***Lexden Park Local Nature Reserve - 21<sup>st</sup> August 2000hrs-0000hrs***

This was the only meeting that had to be rearranged due to poor weather (last years' one was also moved twice so it appears jinxed!). The night was mostly clear with a light breeze and temperatures dropping to 15C. The five traps were located along the boundary of meadow and woodland to the east.

The year 2018, at least until August, proved to be an excellent year for moths with exceptional numbers arriving at light from mid-June through to the end of July.

In all, an exceptional total of 333 species were identified over the six meetings (300 in 2017), despite the two earliest meetings recording limited numbers due to timing and cold weather. As in my report last year, I have produced a table showing individual totals for each meeting, together with a breakdown of the number of scarcer species at each site. The percentage figure in brackets is the number of scarcer species as a percentage of the total number of species recorded at each site.

	<i>Species</i>	<i>UK ERDB species</i>	<i>ERDB species</i>	<i>National Na species</i>	<i>National Nb species</i>	<i>Nationally local species</i>
<i>Gosbecks</i>	177	1 (0.6%)	10 (5.7%)	1 (0.6%)	3 (1.7%)	30 (17.0%)
<i>Spring Lane</i>	143	0	4 (2.8%)	0	2 (1.4%)	27 (18.9%)
<i>Westlands</i>	131	0	6 (4.6%)	0	3 (2.3%)	21 (16.0%)
<i>Lexden Park</i>	68	0	2 (2.9%)	0	1 (1.5%)	10 (14.7%)
<i>Hilly Fields</i>	51	0	1 (2.0%)	0	0	13 (25.5%)
<i>Lexden Springs</i>	51	0	0	0	0	3 (5.9%)
<b>All sites</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>1 (0.3%)</b>	<b>18 (5.4%)</b>	<b>1 (0.3%)</b>	<b>8 (2.4%)</b>	<b>66 (19.9%)</b>

Nationally Scarce Na – recorded in 16-30 10km squares in Great Britain since 1<sup>st</sup> January 1980

Nationally Scarce Nb – recorded from 31-100 10km squares in Great Britain since 1<sup>st</sup> January 1980

Nationally local – 101-300 10km squares in Great Britain since 1960

Essex Red Data Book (ERDB) – qualifying criteria are quite complicated and I would suggest those interested

refer to the Essex Field Club website for a detailed explanation -

<http://www.essexfieldclub.org.uk/portal/p/Essex+Red+Data+List+--+criteria+for+inclusion>

In essence each species is considered a rare county resident!

There will be a new and definitive atlas of British Lepidoptera in (hopefully) 2019. It is likely to show significant changes of status for many species so relative “rarity” of many species will undoubtedly change.

The following table identifies the number of species recorded from one site, two sites etc. In all, 50.5% of all species were reported from just one site, a remarkably similar figure to last years 51.3%.

	<i>One site</i>	<i>Two sites</i>	<i>Three sites</i>	<i>Four sites</i>	<i>Five sites</i>	<i>Six sites</i>
<i>No. of species</i>	168	82	52	22	7	2
<i>UK RDB</i>	1	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Na</i>	1	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Nb</i>	7	0	1	0	0	0
<i>UK Local</i>	43	10	9	2	1	0
<i>ERDB</i>	15	1	2	0	0	0
<i>Migrants</i>	2	1	0	1	0	0

Over the two years a very impressive total of 406 species has been recorded. The ten most common species over those two years, by occurrence, were

1. **Brimstone, Flame Shoulder** (12 out of 12 traps over two years)
2. **Large Yellow Underwing** (ten out of 12 ditto)
3. **Celypha lacunana, Maiden's Blush, Yellow Shell, Latticed Heath, Willow Beauty, Straw Dot, Spectacle** (nine out of 12 ditto)



### Notable species

#### **UK Red Data Book**

*Herminia tarsicrinalis* **Shaded Fan-foot** One at Gosbecks (also ERDB)

#### **Nationals Scarce B (Nb)**

<i>Dasycera oliviella</i>	One at Gosbecks (also ERDB)
<i>Parectopa ononidis</i>	One at Lexden Park (also ERDB)
<i>Apotomis lineana</i>	One at Spring Lane (also ERDB)
<i>Evergestis limbata</i>	Two at Gosbecks
<i>Pediasia contaminella</i>	One at Lexden Park (also ERDB)
<i>Platytes alpinella</i>	One at Westlands (also ERDB)
<i>Apoda limacodes</i> <b>Festoon.</b>	Noted at three sites (also ERDB)
<i>Macrochilo cribrumalis</i> <b>Dotted Fan-foot</b>	One at Gosbecks (also ERDB)
<i>Meganola albula</i> <b>Kent Black Arches</b>	One at Westlands (also ERDB)



**RED-NECKED FOOTMAN**



**EVERGESTIS LIMBATA**



**SHADED FAN-FOOT (S.W.)**

#### **Essex Red Data Book species**

<i>Yponomeuta rorrella</i> <b>Willow Ermine</b>	One at Westlands
<i>Bryotropha terrella</i>	One at Gosbecks
<i>Coleophora hemerobiella</i>	One at Hilly Fields
<i>Spatalistis bifasciana</i>	One at Gosbecks
<i>Strophedra nitidana</i>	One at Spring Lane
<i>Nephopterix angustella</i>	One at Gosbecks
<i>Anania perlucidalis</i>	Recorded at three sites
<i>Eudonia pallida</i>	One at Gosbecks
<i>Pediasia contaminella</i>	One at Westlands
<i>Platytes alpinella</i>	One at Westlands
<i>Atolmis rubricollis</i> <b>Red-necked Footman</b>	One at Gosbecks
<i>Macrochilo cribrumalis</i> <b>Dotted Fan-foot</b>	One at Gosbecks
<i>Laspeyria flexula</i> <b>Beautiful Hook-tip</b>	Singles at Gosbecks and Spring Lane
<i>Meganola albula</i> <b>Kent Black Arches</b>	One at Westlands



**APOTOMIS LINEANA**



**PEDIASIA CONTAMINELLA**



**ASSARA TEREURELLA (S.W.)**

### **Nationally local species**

The **Maiden's Blush** *Cyclophora punctaria* was the most widespread of the Nationally local species, being recorded at five sites, with **Oak Nycteoline** *Nycteola revayana* and **Least Carpet** *Idaea rusticata* recorded from four. Eight species were recorded from three sites and ten at two.

### **Migrants**

It was another poor year for those species considered to be migrants in the UK.

**Silver Y** *Autographa gamma* was recorded from four sites, **Diamond-back Moth** *Plutella xylostella* from two and **White-point** *Mythimna albipuncta* and **Tree-Lichen Beauty** *Cryphia algae* from one site each. The latter are probably now resident in the area.

### **Conclusions**

Two year recording has now taken place. Such trapping sessions are but a snap-shot of the Lepidoptera fauna but it is clear that all the sites in the care of Colchester Borough Council are extremely important as far as the moths are concerned with 406 species recorded in just 12 trapping sessions over two years. Presumably the sites will be equally important for other taxa.

Trapping will take place again in 2019 at each of the sites and further information on times and dates will be published in due course.

Thanks to all those who turned up with their traps over the year – David Barnard, Graham Ekins, Alan Emmerson, Andrew Raybould, Gerry Slater, Ian Turner and Dougal Urquhart, to those members who turned on the night to watch proceedings and of course to Colchester Borough Council Ranger, Carla Davis, for inviting us.

## **TOADFLAX BROCADE, KIRBY-LE-SOKEN**

**GEOFF EMPSON**

This year, for the first time, in June I had several **Toadflax Brocade** *Calophasia lunula* in my trap here in Kirby-le-Soken. On 9<sup>th</sup> September my wife, Isabel, was tidying in the front garden when she found a caterpillar and called me. Referring to the larva section of Manley I soon identified it as a **Toadflax Brocade**. A further search of the garden revealed a total of five of these wee beasties, four on **Purple Toadflax** *Linaria purpurea* and this one, which went on to disappear beneath the stone. The purple toadflax has been flowering all summer long and was just brown stalks and shrivelled leaves so I assume the caterpillars were soon to pupate.



**TOADFLAX BROCADE LARVA**



**TOADFLAX BROCADE (PICS G.E)**

A single 125W MV Robinson trap was run throughout the season, with an additional 125W MV and single 15W actinic traps operated from the beginning of May until the end of October. No traps were operated from 17<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> May and from 4<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> August. Numbers of regular migrants were noticeably down on previous years.

Highlights included **Scythris limbella** in July, **Spoladea recurvalis** in October and **White – Speck** *Mythimna unipuncta* in November.



SCYTHRIS LIMBELLA



WHITE-SPECK (PICS – CA)

**Table 1.** Monthly totals of the more regular immigrant species.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	T
<b>Diamond-back Moth</b> <i>P. xylostella</i>	0	0	0	6	16	55	126	10	19	2	9	0	<b>243</b>
<b>*European Corn-borer</b> <i>O. nubilalis</i>	0	0	0	0	1	18	4	0	0	0	0	0	<b>23</b>
<b>Rusty-dot Pearl</b> <i>U. ferrugalis</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	5	0	0	<b>9</b>
<b>Rush Veneer</b> <i>N. noctuella</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	2	2	0	<b>7</b>
<b>Humming-bird Hawk-moth</b> <i>M. stellatarum</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	<b>4</b>
<b>Vestal</b> <i>R. saccharia</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Gem</b> <i>N. obstipata</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Ni Moth</b> <i>T. ni</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>Silver Y</b> <i>A. gamma</i>	0	0	0	0	43	98	162	29	29	3	1	0	<b>365</b>
<b>Bordered Straw</b> <i>H. peltigera</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>Scarce Bordered Straw</b> <i>H. armigera</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>*Tree-lichen Beauty</b> <i>C. algae</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	1	0	0	0	0	<b>24</b>
<b>Small Mottled Willow</b> <i>S. exigua</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>Delicate</b> <i>M. vitellina</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	4	0	0	<b>10</b>
<b>Pearly Underwing</b> <i>P. saucia</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>Dark Sword-grass</b> <i>A. ipsilon</i>	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	6	4	3	2	0	<b>17</b>

\*Records likely to be associated with local breeding populations.

The main local highlights of the season were as follows:

***Agonopterix purpurea*** Singles on 14 April and 15 October.

***Agonopterix curvipunctosa*** Two on 11 April and a single on 6 April.

***Anarsia innoxia*** One on 14 June.

***Brachmia inornatella*** A single record on 1 June, on the same date as previous year (the first site records were in 2016).

***Commophila aeneana*** Three males and a single female on 8 June.

***Eucosma metzneriana*** A single on 13 June and two on 1 July.

***Oncocera semirubella*** Singles recorded on 16 July, 22 August and 19 September..

***Evergestis limbata*** Singles on 5 and 12 July, 17 August and 9 September new to the site in 2016.

**Sloe Carpet** *A. distinctata* A total of six recorded between 12 and 26 April.

**Waved Black** *P. fuliginaria* Two on 6 July.

**Plumed Fan-foot** *P. plumigeralis* Single on 15 October

**Dewick's Plusia** *M. confusa* A single record of a male on 31 July.

**Toadflax Brocade** *C. lunula* Following records of larva in 2016 and 2017, the first record of an adult at light on 15 July, with the first larva on Common Toadflax *Linaria vulgaris* on 29 July.

**Porter's Rustic** *P. hospes* Single on 21<sup>st</sup> August

**Dotted Chestnut** *C. rubiginea* Single on 11 April.

**Small Ranunculus** *H. dysodea* Three recorded in July, with larva found on 29 July.

**Delicate** *M. vitellina* Six in September and four in October was a good total for site.

**White-speck** *M. unipuncta* Single on 11 November was new for site.

**Kent Black Arches** *M. albula* A total of fourteen recorded between 5 July & 20 July, the highest annual total for the site to date.

After the discovery of **Southern Migrant Hawker** *Aeshna affinis* at the site last year, it was pleasing to see the first male appear nearby on 7 July. Sightings continued until 20 August with a maximum of four males recorded from three different areas; interestingly a male appeared at a 15W actinic trap on 13 July. Another significant Odonata occurrence event was the discovery of a male **Southern Emerald Damselfly** *Lestes barbarus* on 7 July, with a different individual at the same site on 9 July.



DEWICK'S PLUSIA



PORTER'S RUSTIC

(PICS – C.A.)

For over 50 years I have been a birdwatcher and travelled many miles in Essex, but decided to add a new hobby to my CV. For some months I had wondered what moths might frequent my small garden in Eight Ash Green. My small plot measures about 5m x 10m but does back onto very large gardens with a small stream/ditch between them and me, which always has running water, although only a light trickle in summer. Also there is a great diversity of trees, bushes and shrubs either side of me, plus beyond the large gardens there is an allotment area, heathland and a playing field, therefore plenty of scope for a wide variety of moths.

At the end of June 2018, with the help of my brother-in-law Alan Sibley, a keen moth recorder, who loaned me a trap I ventured into the unknown. I was absolutely staggered, overwhelmed and very pleased with my first trapping on the 27.6.2018. I couldn't believe the number of moths that were in the pot. 16 in total with 15 different species. Two nights later 28 moths and 15 species. Unfortunately I found it difficult to cope with the micros and the majority were let go unchecked, as I was spending a lot of time on the macros, just thumbing through the books trying to identify them. In the following weeks the numbers grew. I had my own Heath Trap, 40w, and was achieving 100 moths and more but still releasing unchecked several micros. I was spending up to 4 hours identifying the macros and more obvious micros. I had never, in my wildest dreams, expected this kind of result. Slowly I became more experienced and had a rough idea where to look in the books. I still found it very challenging and exciting when a new species cropped up, but was still finding the micros very difficult. I know I have probably made some mistakes on identification, however they were honest mistakes and I realise now I should have taken more photographs of some species. On the photography front I now use my mobile phone camera and have a new microscope, which also takes photos which are downloadable to the computer. I just have to remember to use them before I release the moths! In 6 months of 2018, I recorded over 1600 moths and 240 different species, the highlights of which were one macro and one micro, namely **Cypress Carpet** and *Oncocera semirubella*. These were just special moments during a very eventful half year. I would like to thank Alan Sibley for this invaluable help and his experience and guidance on some of my trappings, which I couldn't identify. Am I looking forward to the coming months? You bet!

This brings me to a thought for the Essex website. I believe it would be helpful to newcomers like myself if there was an article available which had guidance notes and tips on the mothing process and moth identification and recording. Who to approach if you cannot identify a moth. Contact details for specialists of micros or macros? A mention about a recording sheet, a reminder to photograph anything unusual for authenticating their records. I give thanks to the Internet, and especially the Norfolk Moth Society, whose website is very informative. It advises you what might be about on a particular night, this information being built up from their records compiled over many years. Is it possible for Essex to do the same, as they have a massive record data-base. This is a great help in knowing what to expect in a given week or month? I do realise that to do this you would probably need a specialist IT person, and this would be costly.



I managed to trap 10 times in 2018 from April to the end of September and then normally I have stopped because Birding has always taken top priority in October. However in 2018 encouraged by the fact that the numbers of moths per trap night had been the best for some time and that I had also not seen one of my favourite moths **Merveille du Jour** for some time I decided to trap in October when previously I had caught the odd one or two.

My trap is sited at the front of my bungalow in a covered paved alcove 2.5 meters wide and 1.5 meters deep facing north onto my large front garden and then into mainly oak copse on the Grimes Dyke. I put a large mirror behind it to reflect the light outwards.

So I put the trap out at dusk on the 10<sup>th</sup> until daylight on the 11<sup>th</sup> and was pleased and slightly amazed to get 151 moths of 26 species including 12 **Merveille du Jour**. A friend who had never seen a **Merveille du Jour** then asked me if it was possible to trap again so I put the trap out at dusk until daylight this time on the 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup>.

Contrary to normal convention the 13<sup>th</sup> has always been a lucky number for me and so it proved as on the morning of the 14<sup>th</sup> as I went to the trap it was obvious that it was going to be good as the walls around it were covered with moths including 9 **Merveille du Jour**.

In the end it was quite incredible as we ended up with 202 moths of 44 species including 19 **Merveille du Jour**. However star place went to my first **Dewick's Plusia** and my first **Box-tree Moth**.

Also probably less welcome were two stinky beetles *Nicrophorus humator* and *Nicrophorus interruptus*.



MERVEILLE DU JOUR



DEWICK'S PLUSIA



BOXWORM

(PICS - APT)

The 2019 plan is to try and trap always on the 13<sup>th</sup> of the month. Who knows we may get back to the now almost mythological summer nights like July 2001 when I caught 680 moths of 60 species. Although perhaps as it then took me until 15.00 hours to process the catch maybe not.

LANGENHOE MOTHING 18<sup>TH</sup> MAY

SOUTHERN WAINSCOT (D.U.)

Five members of the Essex Moth Group were invited by Ian Perkins of the MOD to take part in two bioblitz weekends on 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> May and 28<sup>th</sup> July 2018. One session was cancelled because of rain and one session had a low catch due to blanket of mist descending. In total 133 individuals of 42 species were recorded, sessions coordinated by Graham Ekins.

LANGENHOE MOTHING 28<sup>TH</sup> JULY

WHITE-SPOTTED PINION (D.U.)

The pleasant surprise during the mothing session on 28<sup>th</sup> July was seeing two very smart looking **White-spotted Pinions** sitting on the white sheet late evening. Although **White-spotted Pinions** had not been recorded here before, the prospects were promising as there are still elm spinneys and hedgerows on the ranges. The site is also halfway between the two other known pinion locations of Langenhoe farm and Fingringhoe NR.

Other moths of interest recorded in the three sessions were **Fox Moth**, **Light Brocade**, **Antler** and **Southern Wainscot**.

Ian Perkins of the MOD's conservation committee is keen to see more wildlife recording carried out on their land-holdings. More mothing sessions are being planned for 2019 and members interested in helping out can wait to hear later this spring what dates have been finalised.



Trapping continued at Cudmore Grove Country Park during 2018 for the thirteenth consecutive year with traps operating on 66 nights from the beginning of April till the end of November. There were 248 species of macro moth recorded during the season, up by 15 from the 233 macros recorded during 2017 when traps operated on 64 nights.

The cold weather at the end of the winter seemed to delay spring and after lots of clear nights in spring, the summer season will be remembered for the heatwave and the warm nights. Late summer and the early autumn period was a mixed bag of weather while October brought a few warm and mild evenings followed by a number of clear and cool nights in November.

The first moth of note was a **Blossom Underwing** on 10<sup>th</sup> April, also recorded on four other nights in mid-April. The first **Sloe Carpet** was trapped on 13<sup>th</sup> April with a second one trapped by Chris Williams at the park on 17<sup>th</sup> April. The now annual **Dotted Chestnut** appeared on 14<sup>th</sup> April while an all-night session with Chris on the 17<sup>th</sup> during a clear night coincided with the peak of the Quakers with 2 **Twin-spot Quaker**, **Powdered Quaker**, 100 **Common Quakers**, 25 **Small Quakers** as well as the only **Northern Drab** of the season.



BLOSSOM UNDERWING



SLOE CARPET



NORTHERN DRAB (D.U.)

**Sand Dart** was noted on 21<sup>st</sup> May and also 25<sup>th</sup> May when there was also a **Cream-spot Tiger**. The most **Cream-spot Tigers** were just four seen on 30<sup>th</sup> May, while the first **Beautiful Hook-tip** was noted on 28<sup>th</sup> May – the first of several dates. The most notable **Hawkmoth** night was on 6<sup>th</sup> June with four **Elephant Hawkmoth**, 4 **Poplar Hawkmoth**, 2 **Privet Hawkmoth** and an **Eyed Hawkmoth**. After a fortnight's absence for holiday in the second half of June, the end of the month saw two **Beautiful Hook-tips**, **Rosy Footman** and an *Evergestis limbata* on the 30<sup>th</sup>. Two **Beautiful Hook-tips** again on the 2<sup>nd</sup> July along with **Sand Dart** and a **Starwort**. A warm evening on 5<sup>th</sup> July was ideal for moths with 66 macro species recorded including 8 **Beautiful Hook-tips**, **Festoon**, **Ground Lackey**, **Bordered White**, **Rosy Footman**, **Fen Wainscot**, **Coronet** as well as the first **Boxworm** moth of the year. **Festoon** and 2 **Beautiful Hook-tips** were noted on the 8<sup>th</sup> July along with **Peach Blossom**, **Large Emerald** and an **Orange Moth**. On the 17<sup>th</sup> July **Kent Black Arches**, **Tree-lichen Beauty** and a **Rosy Footman** were trapped, while on the 19<sup>th</sup> there was **Black Arches**, 2 **Tree-lichen Beauties**, **Beautiful Hook-tip** and also the second **Boxworm** moth of the year. Another **Festoon** appeared on the 21<sup>st</sup> as did 5 **Sandhill Rustics** and 3 **Tree-lichen Beauties**.

An **Oak Processionary** moth was trapped on the 23<sup>rd</sup> July, the first site record for this species currently expanding its range northwards through the county, also six **Sandhill Rustics** and 2 **Tree-lichen Beauties** that night. **Sandhill Rustics** seemed to have a good season through August peaking at 70 on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Three more **Tree-lichen Beauties** were on the 31<sup>st</sup> July as was the pretty micro *Oncocera semirubella*. A **Hummingbird Hawkmoth** was observed on the 4<sup>th</sup> visiting a buddleia bush in the car park. Single **Coronets** were trapped on 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> August while on the 8<sup>th</sup> the first **Tawny-barred Angle** for the site was recorded, and a **Large Thorn** also noted. A **Dog's Tooth** on the 9<sup>th</sup>, **Antler** on the 14<sup>th</sup> as was the first Hornet found in a moth trap here. A **Red Underwing** was found resting on the outside of one of the park buildings on 14<sup>th</sup> August. **Large Thorn** occurred again on the 17<sup>th</sup>, then two on the 20<sup>th</sup> and one on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, while a **Tawny-barred Angle** was also recorded a second time on the 18<sup>th</sup>. A **Peach Blossom** and **Orange Sallow** were joined by the migrants of **Dark Sword-grass** and 10 **White-points**. Another **Peach Blossom** was noted on the 28<sup>th</sup>, a **Lilac Beauty** was a nice sight on 30<sup>th</sup> while a **Red Underwing** was on a park building on the 4<sup>th</sup> September.

After a mid-September break for some holiday, mothing resumed in early October and didn't disappoint. By the morning of 3<sup>rd</sup> October after a mild but breezy night, the trap was filled with 25 species of about 500 individuals mainly 200 **Lunar Underwings**, 160 **Setaceous Hebrew Character** and 100 **Square-spot Rustics**. Also noted were 8 **Autumnal Rustics**, **Flounced Chestnut** and the second *Oncocera semirubella* of the year. Chris Williams joined me on the 5<sup>th</sup> October although the clouds soon cleared and mist descended late evening. Highlights included **Merveille du Jour**, **Dusky-lemon Sallow**, **Pink-barred Sallow**, 30 **L-album Wainscots**, **Dark Sword-grass**, a late **Mouse Moth** and **Boxworm Moth**.



**PALPITA VITREALIS**



**VESTAL**

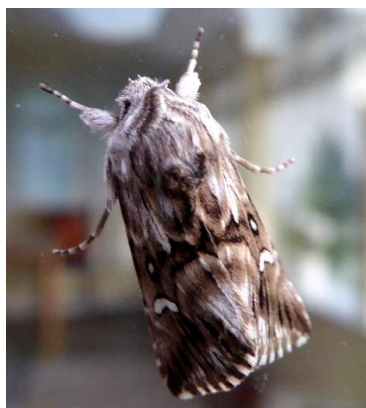


**SCARCE BORDERED  
STRAW (D.U.)**

On the 10<sup>th</sup> October a **Delicate** and the graceful *Palpita vitrealis* were migrants of note, while **Dusky-lemon Sallow** and a **Streak** were also noted. Another **Merveille du Jour** and **Streak** on the 11<sup>th</sup>, two **Dark Sword-grass** and a **Streak** on the 12<sup>th</sup>, while more migrants dropped in on 16<sup>th</sup> with **Vestal**, **Scarce Bordered Straw**, **Delicate** and a **Rusty-dot Pearl**. The last autumn interest was on the 17<sup>th</sup> when **Merveille du Jour**, **Delicate** and a **Streak** were noted on the 17<sup>th</sup> October. The last session of note was the catch of 15 **December Moths** on the 23<sup>rd</sup> November.

Whilst Chris Williams was camping at the Fen Farm caravan site in East Mersea for a couple of nights in mid-April, he set a moth trap up on the site and was pleased to find a **Sloe Carpet** on 17<sup>th</sup>. A new Mersea location for the moth, 700m to the west of Cudmore Grove.





Notable moth sightings elsewhere in East Mersea came from Marion Potifar in Shop Lane who has started logging moths at her porch light. First Island record of **Toadflax Brocade** on 28/5 - shown left.

**Sloe Carpets** on 8/4 & 19/4 – one shown right

(PICS – M.POTIFAR)

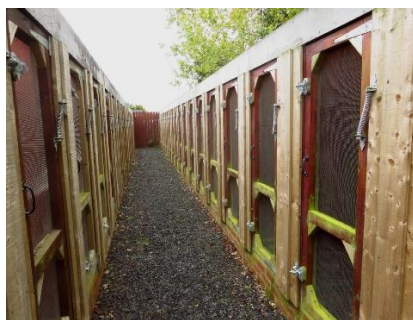


Caterpillars that caught the eye on Mersea were **Ground Lackeys** on the saltmarsh at West Mersea on 1<sup>st</sup> June - left

Woolly Bear caterpillar of **Garden Tiger** found in long grass at Cudmore Grove on 14<sup>th</sup> May- right (PICS – D.U.)



## FISHER'S ESTUARINE MOTH LARVAE



I was notified by Zoe Ringwood that there was a batch of **Fisher's Estuarine** Moth larvae that were ready at Colchester Zoo to introduce to the existing stand of Hog's Fennel at Cudmore Grove Country Park. On 2<sup>nd</sup> May I met up with Glen Fairweather at the Zoo who has been managing the rearing of the moth in specially constructed cages, some with large bins with Hog's fennel as shown in photo. Some of the eggs laid on the grass blades were already close to hatching and in quick need to get out onto site. Seven blades with eggs were taken to Cudmore and placed in clumps of Hog's fennel, for the second year running. Despite surveying for frass in August, no signs were found, and neither were any adults found on the wing on 5<sup>th</sup> October during a torchlight search with Chris Williams.



## OLD HALL SLOE CARPETS

DOUGAL URQUHART

The **Sloe Carpet** appears to have had a better spring in 2018 with reports coming in from several locations across the county. The biggest catch was at Old Hall Marshes RSPB reserve on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2018 when 33 **Sloe Carpets** were lured into one of 19 traps dotted about the field on the east side of the car park. Graham Ekins and myself brought traps along to join the many traps brought by both Dave Grundy and Chris Williams. It was a typically cool and clear spring night. Also noted were **Northern Drab**, **Dotted Chestnut** and several **Water Carpets**. *Picture shows a trap at Old Hall Marshes next to blackthorn bush with blossom. (PIC. D.U.)*



## TIPTREE HEATH

DOUGAL URQUHART



The Friends of Tiptree Heath invited the Essex Moth Group to Tiptree Heath on the 25<sup>th</sup> July for their popular annual mothing evening. It is always a well attended meeting by the Friends and there is always a nice selection of moths to admire. Around 50 species were noted including **Festoon**, **Coronet**, **Tree-lichen Beauty**, **Black Arches** and a **Poplar Hawkmoth** that seemed to get quite attached to one of the younger attendees! (PIC. D.U)

## RASPBERRY CLEARWING *Pennisetia hylaeiformis* Chalkney Woods 15/7/18. S.WOOD

Carla Davis and I had decided to take a rather late visit to Chalkney Woods to search for **Purple Emperor**. It was a very hot day and despite being quite late in their season a **Purple Emperor** did show as well as good numbers of **White Admirals**. Whilst keeping our eyes out for the Emperors Carla happened to see something fly past her which she described as a bit hornet like but not quite right...This intrigued me and sent alarm bells ringing, so we immediately went off in pursuit. Incredibly, we found the insect flying a little distantly ahead of us and it was obviously a clearwing. What was even more amazing was that it turned out to be a **Raspberry Clearwing**. The species was first discovered in north Hertfordshire/south Cambridgeshire in

2007 and appears to be slowly spreading into neighbouring counties, this representing about the fourth Essex record, all from the north-west of the County. (PIC – S.WOOD)



I was to run trap/s on 172 nights as previous, I run a combination of a 30w twin tube system and a 12volt Heath, this later item was a posted gift from a Moth/ Birder/ Entomologist Mr P Miles who I came to know as the neighbour to our holiday rental in Wales. located just 100yds from a nesting Red Kite! That gentleman, with whom we were to travel abroad on joint holidays, would NEVER ever discuss or even acknowledge their existence at the site, numbers being so very low back then, now one can see them from our back doors in Essex, success in deed.

Trapping commenced on 1st Jan one of 19 blank nights over the year. My first discovery of note for the year was on walking down stairs first thing in the morning on the 5th Feb.

*Duponchelia fovealis* 1403a (courtesy Stephen Rolls and Peter Williams.) this was followed by a second one on the 14th their source a Xmas gift of a pot plant, which still survives to this day.

Also around this period I was to find a succession of Bagworm larval on the south and west facing house walls, credits as above. I was to find over the summer period that putting an umbrella over the trap during periods of rain was well received by Leaf Miners, albeit they were difficult to locate in the seam folds at times.



Jersey Tiger 2067

22/07/2018

**JERSEY TIGER**



**FOUR SPOTTED FOOTMAN**

Moths of note over the year include **Waved Black** 28/6 (5th year in last 10), **Small Yellow Wave** (3rd year in last 10), **Sandy Carpet** 23/06, **Mocha** 14/8, **Tree-lichen Beauty** 01/08, **L-album Wainscot** 15/10, **Four-spotted Footman** 12/10, **Gothic** 11/09, **Jersey Tiger** 22/07 (lifer for me whilst seen by the dozen else were in the county?), *Cydalima perspectalis* 20/09, *Schoenobius gigantella* 24/07, **December Moth** 04/11.

In conclusion may I express my thanks to all those of you who continue to give me encouragement, help and support with my findings. Thank You all



*Narycia duplicella* 175 08/02/2018  
**NARYCIA DUPLICELLA**



**DUPONCHELIA FOVEALIS**



**BAGWORM LARVA (A.S.)**



## Introduction

Hazeleigh Wood, or Hazeleigh Hall Wood to give it its full name, is an ancient Oak and Hornbeam woodland located about 2km south-west of Maldon. It was listed in the Domesday Book as *Halesheiam*, which translates as 'Hægel's wood or clearing'. Not too much is known of its history until Victorian times when several eminent local naturalists made visits to the wood, including some sugaring trips; these visits were described in the Essex Field Club publications...more research into the written record will take place in due course.

Like all ancient coppiced woodlands, coppicing was abandoned in Hazeleigh soon after WWII. Around 25 years ago, the opportunity to purchase most of the wood came to John and Maureen Bissell, the current owners. They have proceeded to return the wood to traditional woodland management methods with rotational coppicing and charcoal production. The use of motorised wheeled vehicles is limited to a small tractor restricted to the few tracks in the woodland – all timber is man-handled to the tracks to ensure the ground layer is not disturbed.



## CHARCOAL BURNER IN HAZELEIGH

Predominantly of oaks (mostly Pendunculate but with Sessile and some Turkey) and Hornbeam, the wood also has a significant Hazel understory in parts (note that the Wood's name does not appear to come from the plant even though it is present in good quantities). Ash is also reasonably common, and there is also Holly, Wild Service, Midland Hawthorn, Yew and a very few willow. Around the outside edges of the wood, in the "hedge line", are small stands of English Elm. The wood does not have any Beech, limes, conifers, Dogwood, Privet, Aspen or Alder.

The ground flora is full of ancient woodland indicator species and include Bluebells, Butcher's Broom, Climbing Cordyalis, Dog's Mercury, Wood Violets, Moschatel, Three-nerved Sandwort, Wood Anemone and Yellow Archangel.

The lack of certain species of tree and shrub clearly limit the number of species resident in the wood but as will be seen below, concerted trapping at the site in 2018 revealed an incredible diversity of species.

## Previous recording

After the Victorians, the next moth trapping was not carried out until the early 2000s by Russell Neave and myself, with the **Small Black Arches** being first recorded in 2007, the first Essex record since 1934 (from Hadleigh Great Wood). It has subsequently proved to be a fairly common resident in Hazeleigh. Up until the end of 2017, trapping was carried on less than ten occasions, most often during the summer months.

## 2018

In 2018, with the enthusiastic agreement of Maureen and John, it was decided to trap throughout the year as much as possible. Almost from the start, three traps were deployed at various points in the wood, a 240W MV, a 125W MV and an 80W actinic. Later in the year, from September onwards, these were not moved around the site as an, as yet, unsolved electric problem with the generator, meant we had to rely on mains electricity, although this did little to reduce the catches.

In all, trapping took place on 41 nights between 15<sup>th</sup> March and 15<sup>th</sup> November.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Nights trapped	0	0	2	6	5	6	5	3	7	5	2	0

A few species were added when walking around the wood in daytime whilst some, mostly leaf miners, have yet to be identified.

In all, 464 species were identified throughout the year with the ten most numerous moths being:

Log No.	Latin Name	English Name	Total moths	Nights caught	Average catch	UK status
63.0 93	<i>Agriphila straminella</i>		1079	6	180	Common
73.1 93	<i>Omphaloscelis lunosa</i>	Lunar Underwing	1036	8	130	Common
49.3 41	<i>Cydia splendana</i>		902	14	64	Common
73.2 45	<i>Orthosia cruda</i>	Small Quaker	880	6	147	Common
49.0 59	<i>Tortrix viridana</i>	Green Oak Tortrix	855	8	107	Common
49.0 15	<i>Archips xylosteana</i>	Variegated Golden Tortrix	775	11	70	Common
02.0 01	<i>Dyseriocrania subpurpurella</i>		508	7	73	Common
62.0 34	<i>Acrobasis repandana</i>		458	9	51	Common
65.0 14	<i>Cymatophorina diluta</i>	Oak Lutestring	418	12	35	Local
49.0 60	<i>Aleimma loeflingiana</i>		376	7	54	Common

In terms of the species that occurred in traps on the most trapping nights, the list is quite different with only *Cydia splendana* occurring in both lists.

Log No.	Latin Name	English Name	Nights caught	Total moths	Average catch	UK status
73.194	<i>Conistra vaccinii</i>	Chestnut	20	271	14	Common
73.342	<i>Noctua pronuba</i>	Large Yellow Underwing	19	155	8	Common
31.001	<i>Carcina quercana</i>		18	131	7	Common
73.293	<i>Mythimna impura</i>	Smoky Wainscot	17	58	3	Common
73.359	<i>Xestia c-nigrum</i>	Setaceous Hebrew Character	17	108	6	Common
49.166	<i>Celypha lacunana</i>		16	107	7	Common
73.343	<i>Noctua fimbriata</i>	Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing	15	47	3	Common
72.003	<i>Hypena proboscidalis</i>	Snout	14	40	3	Common
70.226	<i>Opisthograptis luteolata</i>	Brimstone Moth	14	55	4	Common
49.341	<i>Cydia splendana</i>		14	902	64	Common

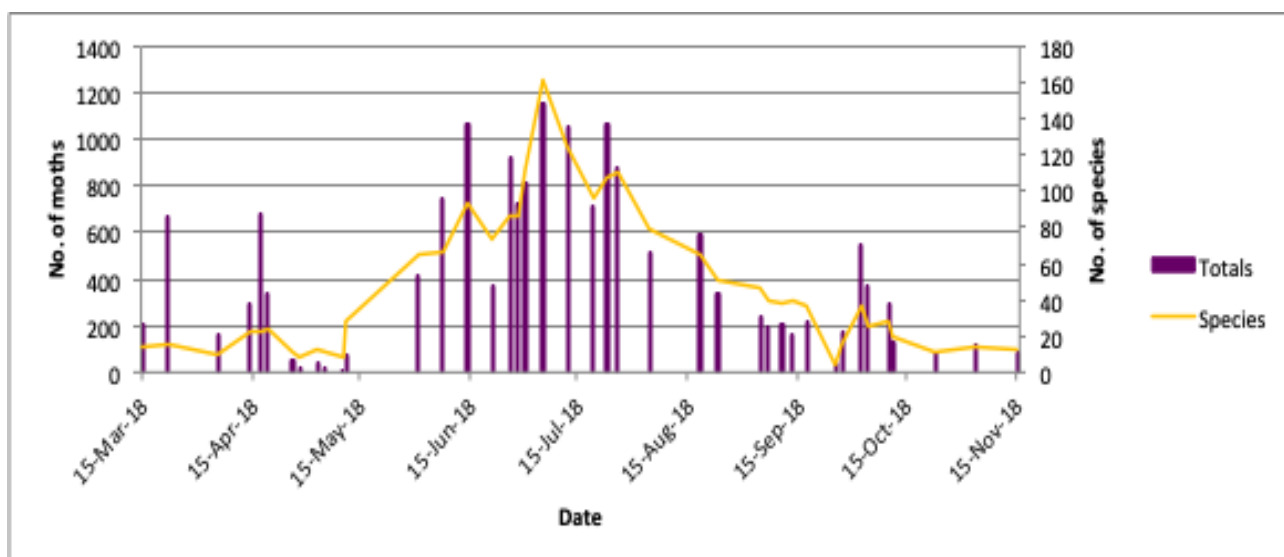
Looking at the numbers, there were 12 nights on which the count of an individual species was in excess of 200. These were:

Log No.	Latin Name	English Name	Date	Count
73.245	<i>Orthosia cruda</i>	Small Quaker	22 <sup>nd</sup> March	448
49.059	<i>Tortrix viridana</i>	Green Oak Tortrix	14 <sup>th</sup> June	408
63.093	<i>Agriphila straminella</i>		23 <sup>rd</sup> July	400
02.001	<i>Dyseriocrania subpurpurella</i>		17 <sup>th</sup> April	390
73.193	<i>Omphaloscelis lunosa</i>	Lunar Underwing	2 <sup>nd</sup> October	385
49.059	<i>Tortrix viridana</i>	Green Oak Tortrix	7 <sup>th</sup> June	337
49.015	<i>Archips xylosteana</i>	Variegated Golden Tortrix	26 <sup>th</sup> June	299
73.193	<i>Omphaloscelis lunosa</i>	Lunar Underwing	4 <sup>th</sup> October	264
63.093	<i>Agriphila straminella</i>		19 <sup>th</sup> July	258
49.341	<i>Cydia splendana</i>		18 <sup>th</sup> August	252
63.093	<i>Agriphila straminella</i>		26 <sup>th</sup> July	215
49.060	<i>Aleimma loeflingiana</i>		14 <sup>th</sup> June	202

In excess of 100 species were recorded on five nights: 23<sup>rd</sup> July (107); 26<sup>th</sup> July (110); 30<sup>th</sup> June (112); 12<sup>th</sup> July (125); 5<sup>th</sup> July (162).



The graph below shows moth abundance in terms of catch totals and species totals.



Using the 'UK Status' provided by Mapmate (and adding Essex Red Data Book status), the records break down into the following categories:

Vagrant or Accidental	Rare migrant	pRDB 1	RDB 2	pRDB 3	N a	N b	Migrant	Local	Common	ERD B
1	1	1	1	2	3	18	7	89	341	17

Abbreviations:

pRDB1 Species likely to appear in the Red Data Book and be categorised as endangered.

RDB2 Species appears in the Red Data Book and is categorised as vulnerable.

pRDB3 Species likely to appear in the Red Data Book and be categorised as rare.

Na Species is nationally notable and has been recorded in 16–30 ten kilometre squares in Great Britain.

Nb Species is nationally scarce and has been recorded in 31 – 100 ten kilometre squares in Great Britain.

## ERDB Essex Red Data Book Species

Note that ERDB species appear in more than one status category.

Some of the more interesting records are detailed below:

### Vagrant or Accidental

72.011 **Gypsy Moth** *Lymantria dispar* – probably in the act of colonisation of the area, this is the first I have caught locally. One on 26<sup>th</sup> July.



### Rare Migrant

73.082 **Tree-lichen Beauty** *Cryphia algae* – again not technically a vagrant or accidental any more in this area as it has rapidly colonised over the last few years. Six moths recorded on three nights.

### pRDB1

21.002 *Lyonetia prunifoliella* – singles were caught on 5<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> July, potentially firsts for Essex, although I believe there may be an earlier claim that I heard a whisper about. Was rare, and indeed thought extinct in the UK, but now apparently rapidly recolonising, presumably from Europe where it is common.



### RDB2

72.081 **Dark Crimson Underwing** *Catocala sponsa* – A very worn and battered individual came to light on 4<sup>th</sup> September. This was almost certainly a migrant, although if another turns up this year that status may be rethought! Only the third Essex record since 1950. This is also a UK BAP species.



### pRDB3

37.054 *Coleophora currucipennella*

ERDB— A case of this species was found on 13<sup>th</sup> June on Hornbeam.



43.007 *Scythris limbella* ERDB – One came to light on 23<sup>rd</sup> July. Apparently always very rare in Essex it was last seen at Grays in 1983.



### Na

28.020 *Dasycera oliviella* – Two on 23<sup>rd</sup> July and one on 26<sup>th</sup> July.

73.132 **Sandhill Rustic** *Luperina nickerlii* – One individual of this coastal species came to light on 4<sup>th</sup> August; the Blackwater estuary is barely 3km away as the moth flies.

74.001 **Small Black Arches** *Meganola strigula* – Occurred on eight trapping nights and totalled 67 individuals with a peak of 25 on 5<sup>th</sup> July.



### Nb

15.001 *Parectopa ononidis* ERDB – One on 18<sup>th</sup> August.



17.006 *Ypsolopha horridella* – Two on 18<sup>th</sup> August.

35.079 *Eulamprotes wilkella* ERDB –  
Three on both 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> July.



45.040 **Mugwort Plume** *Hellensia*  
*lienigianus* – Singles on 19<sup>th</sup> July and 4<sup>th</sup>  
August



49.360 *Pammene splendidulana* – One on 19<sup>th</sup> April.

53.001 **Festoon** *Apoda limacodes* – A total of 31 trapped on four nights with a peak of 23 on 5<sup>th</sup> July.

62.021 *Oncocera semirubella* ERDB – One on 2<sup>nd</sup> October was presumably a migrant.

62.022 *Pempelia genistella* – One on 5<sup>th</sup> July

62.055 *Homoeosoma nebulella* – Two on 26<sup>th</sup> June

63.112 *Platytes alpinella* ERDB – One on 26<sup>th</sup> July

70.186 **Yarrow Pug** *Eupithecia millefoliata* – One on 23<sup>rd</sup> July

70.281 **Sloe Carpet** *Aleucis distinctata* – One on 14<sup>th</sup> and two on 19<sup>th</sup> April. This is also a UK BAP species.

72.052 **Dotted Fan-foot** *Macrochilo cribrumalis* – A total of four record on three nights with two on 5<sup>th</sup> July

72.066 **Waved Black** *Parascotia fuliginaria* – One on 21<sup>st</sup> June

73.151 **Webb's Wainscot** *Globia sparganii* – Singles on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> July

73.197 **Dotted Chestnut** *Conistra rubiginea* – A total of four over three nights with two on 14<sup>th</sup> April.

73.344 **Lunar Yellow Underwing** *Noctua orbona* – One on 28<sup>th</sup> June. This is also a UK BAP species.

74.022 **Kent Black Arches** *Meganola albula* – One on 5<sup>th</sup> July.



## Migrants

A generally poor year with a total of just nine **Silver Y** *Autographa gamma*, a **Dark Sword-grass** *Agrotis ipsilon* and 22 **Diamond-back Moth** *Plutella zylotella*. Additionally, a total of 17 **White-point** *Mythimna albipuncta* were caught but most of these must now be resident locally. Despite the poor show, there were some surprises:

49.343 *Cydia amplana* – One on 23<sup>rd</sup> August. About the eighth Essex record of this increasing migrant.

72.041 **Four-spotted Footman** – One on 27<sup>th</sup> September.

63.103 *Catoptria verellus* ERDB - A total of eight recorded between 28<sup>th</sup> June and 12<sup>th</sup> July with a peak of three on 12<sup>th</sup> July. This was a major surprise as there have just been a handful of Essex records in recent years. It appears that this species is established in Hazeleigh Wood. Its UK status is a rare migrant although it is probably resident on the Suffolk coast (Raymond Watson *pers. comm.*).



## Local

Seven ERDB species were recorded during the year:

32.003 *Luquetia lobella* – One on 14<sup>th</sup> June.

49.058 *Spatalistis bifasciana* – Singles on 7<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> June

62.032 *Nephopterix angustella* – Two on 26<sup>th</sup> July

62.065 *Ephestia parasitella* – One on 13<sup>th</sup> September

63.075 *Eudonia pallida* – A total of six between 7<sup>th</sup> June and 10<sup>th</sup> September, the latter presumably a second brood.

63.079 *Calamotropha paludella* – Singles on 14<sup>th</sup> June and 26<sup>th</sup> July

63.120 *Schoenobius gigantella* – One on 5<sup>th</sup> July.

## Common

A further three ERDB species were recorded:

49.367 *Pammene fasciana* – A total of 14 over four nights between 19<sup>th</sup> July and 4<sup>th</sup> August.

63.020 *Anania perlucidalis* – Singles on 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> June

63.102 *Catoptria falsella* – A total of 22 caught over eight nights between 19<sup>th</sup> July and 13<sup>th</sup> September.

## Conclusions

Hazeleigh Wood is arguably one of the premier woodland sites in the County for lepidoptera. Despite the absence of several key species of trees, a total of 464 species in one year is exceptional. With so many species of Conservation interest occurring in the first year of intensive trapping, we are awaiting the arrival of the 2019 season with great anticipation.

## Acknowledgements

I would like to thank John and Maureen Bissell for allowing me to trap in Hazeleigh Wood and for the copious amounts of black coffee and hot cheese pitta breads! Maureen is now hooked on mothing and joins me every morning to empty traps.

**ALL PHOTOS BY SIMON WOOD**

2018 was another outstanding year for scarce immigrant moths but nearly all of the usually common species were in low numbers. Resident butterflies certainly benefitted greatly from the hot dry weather in June and July and one of the most remarkable features of the season was the abundance of abnormally late records.

Although only 2.5mm of rain fell here in June, overall rainfall was very close to the long-term average with March in particular being especially wet.

The butterfly season began with a **Red Admiral** on the 16th January, a **Comma** on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and a female **Brimstone** on the 28<sup>th</sup>. **Small Tortoiseshell** followed on 12<sup>th</sup> February and **Peacock** on the 17<sup>th</sup> of the month.

March will long be remembered for its periods of extreme cold, rain and snow although conditions did relent at times. Amongst the residents April was most notable for its **Large Tortoiseshell** sightings between 18<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> although May was really their season with appearances almost daily between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of the month.

There were a record 21 **Four-spotted Footman** between the 28<sup>th</sup> June and 10<sup>th</sup> October and *Catoptria verellus* also excelled with no less than 16 between the 28<sup>th</sup> June and 15<sup>th</sup> July. The first **Painted Lady** of the season finally appeared here on the 5<sup>th</sup> July and on 15<sup>th</sup> (after an absence of exactly 21 years) a **Ruddy Carpet** was in the trap. A large brightly coloured fritillary was viewed for at least ten minutes on the 18<sup>th</sup>, but frustratingly, once again no photos were obtained. On this occasion **Silver-washed Fritillary** seemed the most likely bet. Interestingly, our first *Anania verbascalis* since 1972 was in the moth trap that very morning so possibly a fairly general movement of species was underway. After the excellent weather in June and July, cooler conditions and rain in August resulted in a decidedly disappointing month. However, as autumn arrived fortunes again improved with a **Pale Eggar** on the 7<sup>th</sup> September, the first of 12 **Clancy's Rustic** on the 16<sup>th</sup> and a remarkably late **Elephant Hawk- moth** on the 26<sup>th</sup>.



CLANCY'S RUSTIC

BEAUTIFUL MARBLED  
(S.DEWICK)

October was an exceptional month for scarce immigrants but also for a substantial emergence of both **Brown Argus** and **Common Blue** in the latter part. On the 13<sup>th</sup> a *Spoladea recurvalis* appeared and the 15<sup>th</sup> was undoubtedly the most remarkable night we have had here so far. Not only had two more *recurvalis* arrived but also **Beautiful Marbled** and **Radford 's Flame Shoulder** were added to the Bradwell list. One can only speculate about the possible origins of unseasonably late individuals of **Yellow-tail**, *Pempelia genistella* and a curiously pale *Endotricha flammealis* also at this time. Similarly, what about the **Buff Ermine**, **Canary-shouldered Thorn** and **Burnished Brass** during the following nights! On the 18<sup>th</sup> the first of eight **Oak Rustic** were recorded adding yet another species to the Bradwell list. No less than seven **Brown Argus**, three **Common Blues** and a **Holly Blue** were counted as late as 25<sup>th</sup> October and although numbers then fell substantially at least three **Brown Argus** and one **Common Blue** were still present on the 31<sup>st</sup>. A record late **Common Blue** was photographed on the 8<sup>th</sup> November and a much observed female **Brown Argus** was still active on the 13<sup>th</sup>, a full three weeks later than our previous latest record.



**RADFORD'S FLAME SHOULDER**



**RED ADMIRAL** seen flying on Xmas Day  
(S.DEWICK)

Not to be outdone by the residents at this time two **Painted Ladies** suddenly appeared on the 8<sup>th</sup> November and one of these nectared at the yellow buddleia almost daily until late on the morning of the 17<sup>th</sup> when it suddenly disappeared. In addition there was a **Riband Wave** on the 5<sup>th</sup>, a **Light Arches** on the 11<sup>th</sup> and the seasons only examples of **White-speck** on the 12<sup>th</sup> and **Gem** on the 14<sup>th</sup>. December was remarkable for its **Red Admiral** sightings; 15 days out of the first 25 but it was the **Silver Y** on the 28<sup>th</sup> and a **Spring Usher** on the 30<sup>th</sup> which closed out the year.

## **BOREHAM MOTHS 2018**

**GRAHAM EKINS**

2018 was a memorable year here in Boreham with a record 567 species trapped in our garden recording site, 20 more than the previous record year in 2015. This was 73% of the 777 moths species we have so far identified. Due to being away I did not start trapping until the 6<sup>th</sup> April with the last session on the 10<sup>th</sup> December. Overall I trapped on 103 nights between April and December with maximum effort being between April and August. I was also away for 4.5 weeks in the autumn and so I no doubt missed several species.

46 new species were identified, only 8 of these were Macros. This ratio has become the norm here in Boreham for the last decade.

The breakdown of trapping effort was as follows:

Month	April	May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Days trapped	17	14	14	20	13	2	6	11	6	103
New Macro	-	-	1	6	-	-	-	-	1	8
New Micro	3	5	9	19	3	-	-	-	-	39
<b>Total New Moth species</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>47</b>

The incredibly warm, settled and dry weather in the summer produced record catches with great diversity but surprisingly low numbers of migrants compared to recent years. Not one Small Mottled Willow, Bordered Straw or Scarce Bordered Straw was trapped. The other normally common species were all very scarce. However, **Dark Sword-grass** were more common than recent years and I also trapped a *Palpita vitrealis* on the 12<sup>th</sup> October.



**Latticed Heath** numbers were reduced compared to the last 3 years but 68 were logged between the 18<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> August with a peak of 45 on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

13 Essex Macro Red Data Book species (ERDB) were recorded of which **Beautiful Hook-tip** *Laspeyria fexula*, **Toadflax Brocade** *Calophasia lunula*, **Buttoned Snout** *Hypena rostralis*, **Sandhill Rustic** *Luperina nickerlii demuthi*, **Silky** *Chilodes maritima* and **L-Album Wainscot** *Mythimna l-album* have all shown a steady increase over the last 5 years. Other notable Macro RDB species trapped included **Sloe Carpet**, **Rest Harrow**, **Dotted Fan-foot** and **Mathew's Wainscot** (NFS).



**SLOE CARPET**



**REST HARROW**



**CORONET**

29 Essex Micro Red data Book species were logged of which 5 were new for Boreham, all are rare or very scarce, they are *Psoricoptera gibbosella*, *Ectoedemia sericopeza* (3<sup>rd</sup> site record), *Oncocera semirubella*, *Monopis imella* and *Epinotia demarniana*.



**ECTOEDEMIA SERICOPEZA**



**ONCOCERA SEMIRUBELLA**



**MONOPSIS IMELLA**

Of note was confirmation of a previously overlooked new species for the County, *Aethes hartmanniana* on the 13<sup>th</sup> June 2015 (gd). This is still the only Essex record. Also, after being new for Essex in 2017, I trapped 2 more of the beautiful micro *Metalampra italica*. With several other recent Essex records it does suggest that a population has become established in the County. With a predominance of Anti-cyclonic conditions during the summer it was not a surprise to catch a number of primarily coastal species including 3 **Saltmarsh Plumes**, **Sandhill Rustic**, *Anania crocealis* and *Cnephasia conspersana*.



**STRATHMOPODA PEDELLA**



**ANANIA CROCEALIS**



**SANDHILL RUSTIC**



**OAK PROCESSIONARY  
(PICS – G.EKINS)**



I was also delighted to catch 2 species previously trapped as long ago as 2002, they included **Gold Spot** and *Ancylosis oblitella*.



**ANCYLOSIS OBLITELLA**



**GOLD SPOT**



**SALTMARSH PLUME  
( G. EKINS)**

Colourful and scarce new Micros included *Oncocera semirubella* and the incredible looking *Stathmopoda pedella*, both trapped in July.

Macros proved to be very interesting with the long overdue and impressive **Coronet** *Craniophora ligustri*. I trapped the first on the 22<sup>nd</sup> July and by early September the total had reached 22! I guess the weather conditions were ideal for dispersal of this rapidly increasing species across nearby Counties. Another one long overdue was **Jersey Tiger** *Euplagia quadripunctata*, with huge numbers being trapped in southern Counties this summer I did expect they would arrive, this also applied to the appearance of seven **Oak Processionary Moths** *Thaumetopoea processionea*. **Toadflax Brocade** *Calophasia lunula*, and **Tree-lichen Beauty** *Cryphia algae*, scarce just 5 years ago continue to increase with 12 of the former and 25 of the latter logged. For the first time indications of a second brood of *Calophasia lunula* in September and October. **Boxworm Moth** *Cydalima perspectalis* is now a nightly catch from mid-July after the first record just 3 years ago. I mentioned earlier that it was an exceptional summer for me with many days exceeding 100 species, this started with 107 on the 1<sup>st</sup> July increasing to 132 species and 1300 moths the following day. The peak was 141 species with 16 New for Year on the 22<sup>nd</sup> July with the last 100+ species on the 26<sup>th</sup> July.

## **MID-ESSEX GARDEN MOTHING**

**ANDREW RAYBOULD**

2018 saw a record number of species in the garden (between Great Leighs and Boreham, NW of Chelmsford) of 429 (2018 – 324). Up to 3 traps were run on 44 nights mainly from April to November with 69 new additions to the garden list (19 macros, 50 micros) a few of which were found during the day with a net. 4 pine species were trapped for the first time, **Pine Beauty** (May), *Rhyacionia pinicolana* (June), *Lozotaeniodes formosana* and **Pine Carpet** (both July). Also of note was a male **Four-spotted Footman** (9/7/2018) and a very surprising 2 **Salt-Marsh Plumes** (21/7/2018). It is approximately 10 miles to Maldon as the moth flies. Daytime searching around the garden and ditches as well as some unmanaged grassland opposite produced several firsts including **Mother Shipton** (May), *Nemophora fasciella* (3/6/2018 - a scarce Essex moth) and *Pammene aurana* (24/5/2018). **Hornets** were a big problem in 2018 with up to 40 in the traps at times, hopefully 2019 will be better. The garden list now stands at 629 species.



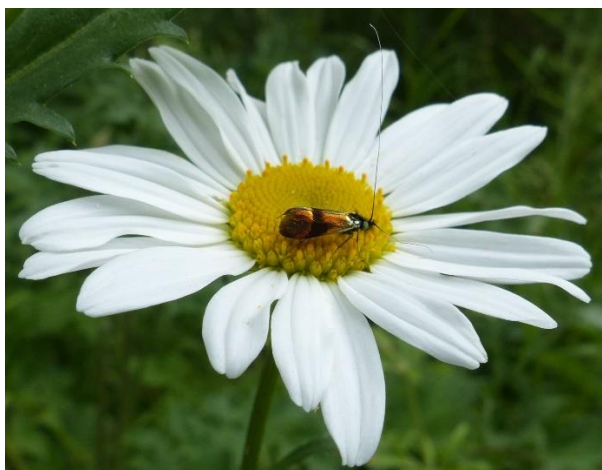
**PINE BEAUTY**



**FOUR-SPOTTED FOOTMAN**



**MOTHER SHIPTON**



**NEMOPHORA FASCIELLA**



**PAMMENE AURANA** (Pics. A. Raybould)

## **INGATESTONE REPORT**

**GRAHAM SMITH**

I have been trapping moths in my garden at Ingatestone since 1991 and have been adding records to the EFC database since around that time. Unfortunately, I have used a variety of traps during that period, including a 400W mercury vapour bulb, which lit up the entire village. When used at Bradwell St Peter's it not only attracted a lot of moths but also the local coastguards. My interest at the beginning was aesthetic rather than scientific, and still is to some extent, but this inconsistent use of trap types means that I have missed the opportunity to plot trends over a 27-year period. Even after this length of time I still regularly catch new macro-moths for the garden and am now up to 350+. I have yet to work out the exact figure. Although I did not start trapping in 2018 until May, due to a run in (if that's the word) with sciatica, nine new species turned up in the trap during the following few months, as follows:

**Alder Moth:** May 22<sup>nd</sup>. The most likely source of this species is The Grove, half a mile distant as the moth flies, the nearest Ingatestone gets to an Alder carr, where willows and Downy Birch also occur  
**Great Prominent:** May 25<sup>th</sup>. An oak feeder, scarce in Essex. My only previous record in this area was at nearby Mill Green in 1993.

**Scallop Shell:** 14<sup>th</sup> July. A beautiful species that may also have wandered from The Grove, or even Mill Green, where Aspen and willows are found. It seems to be largely confined to NE Essex.

**Brown Silver Lines:** 4<sup>th</sup> June. Common wherever Bracken grows, which fortunately is not in my garden.

**Brown-line Bright Eye:** July 1<sup>st</sup>. A generalist feeder and widespread in Essex. Long overdue.

**Gypsy Moth:** 27<sup>th</sup> July. A species moving out of the London area. Graham Ekins predicted its arrival in my garden two days before it happened!

**Peacock:** 6<sup>th</sup> August. A local species associated with heathland and which feeds on birch, an abundance of which occurs in the area.

**Brick:** 18<sup>th</sup> October. Another widespread species that has taken its time to get here. Feeds on a wide range of trees.

**Barred Hook-tip:** 10<sup>th</sup> September. A Beech feeder. The nearest trees are in the gardens of the great and the good at Fryerning.

## WOODFORD GREEN MOTH REPORT 2018

ROBIN BARFOOT

For me 2018 became the year of the **Jersey Tiger** with 300 taken against the previous high of 57 in 2017. It could be that the larvae have been feeding and overwintering on the masses of bramble and nettles in the garden but have yet to find any.

*Cydelima perspectalis* – numbers have again decreased to only 129 from 250 in 2017 with 3 of them being the dark brown form. There also seem to be 2 forms of the usual white moth one with and other without a black basal streak above the trailing edge of fore wing but not sure if these have ever been given specific names



BOXWORM WITHOUT STREAK



BOXWORM WITH STREAK (R.BARFOOT)

As suggested previously the decrease could be due to lack of available foodplant which had been eaten to shreds by the larvae as well as neighbours replacing their tatty and dead box hedges etc with other shrubs. I noticed that a local plant nursery didn't seem to stock Box last year

**Oak Processionary Moth** increased to 19 from only a couple last year and another potential pest species the **Gypsy Moth** still making appearances with 13 males taken.

Other moths on the increase were **White-point** with 10 recorded against the usual 1 or 2 and **L-Album Wainscot**, only trapped for first time recently, reached 7. The micro *Tachystoma acroxantha* was also noticeable up in numbers from the occasional ones and twos over the last few years





**GOLD SPOT**



**MARBLED GREEN**

**(R.BARFOOT)**

Over 25 new species were recorded including **Marbled Green** (9 Aug) and although I photographed it I've mislaid the specimen so this will probably not be acceptable as an Essex record (photo attached). A very attractive **Gold Spot** (27 July), **Light Brocade** (1 July), **Maple Prominent** (8 July) and **Beaded Chestnut** (15 Oct) helped take the total for my suburban garden to over 700 confirmed records but I still have many more micros to dissect for id. On 20<sup>th</sup> August *Mompha langiella* was trapped, confirmed by Colin Plant, status uncertain in Essex.

I am seeing fewer **Hawk moths** recently with only **Large Elephant**, **Poplar** and **Lime** occurring in small numbers. **Brimstones** and **Red-green Carpets** also seemed to be in short supply

The same can't be said for **Wasps** and **Hornets** (not the moth) as they plagued me in the late summer with 22 **Hornets** trapped in one night (Aug 26) forcing me to use wasp Killer insecticide spray on that occasion to save getting stung. They usually settle down and can be carefully removed in plastic specimen pots. **Hornet** numbers were well over 150 and **Wasps** 100's if not 1000's. Luckily I didn't get stung once last year.

## **LEPIDOPTERA REPORT – FOULNESS 2018**

**CHRIS LEWIS**

In May 2018 I obtained a specimen of *Pammene obscurana* at Chobham Common, Norfolk. This led to a re-examination of a specimen identified as this species obtained on Foulness in May 2012. The Foulness specimen was re-identified as the first Essex record of *Pammene agnotana* – a Red Data Book species, first recorded in Britain in 1961, with a few subsequent records in SE England and East Anglia. More information on this species can be found here:

<https://britishlepidoptera.weebly.com/369-pammene-agnotana.html>

In 2018 moth-trapping occurred on 11 nights between 7<sup>th</sup> April and 1<sup>st</sup> November. The traps were mostly sited on the Bennetts Butt road (TR042943).

5092 moths of 305 species were recorded, 28 of which were new for Foulness. This brings the total number of species of Lepidoptera for which I have a record of occurrence on Foulness to **639**.

This was a particularly good year for rarer moths on Foulness, with 3 Red Data Book species, 22 Nationally Scarce species and 2 scarce migrants recorded.

I have a photographic voucher for nearly all the species listed. These and others are presented on my moth website [britishlepidoptera.weebly.com](http://britishlepidoptera.weebly.com).



Scarce species recorded in 2018 are shown in bold in the cumulative list presented below:

Status Uncertain:

35.0191 *Anarsia innoxia* – 1 on 24/06/2017

This species was confirmed to be British, in a paper published in March 2017, based on a specimen from my garden in Westcliff-on-sea, trapped on 01/07/2015, and presented on my moth website – more information at <https://britishlepidoptera.weebly.com/0191-anarsia-innoxia.html>

Red Data Book species (Nationally Endangered, Vulnerable or Rare)

35.082 *Eulamprotes immaculatella* – 1 on 05/08/2012 – S England & N Scotland – FIRST FOR ESSEX

**37.047 *Coleophora amethystinella*** – 1 on 08/05/11 – previously only known to occur in North Essex (and 1 record from Hampshire), this was the first Essex record South of the Blackwater. At least 10 netted by day from grasses in the Bennets Butt rides on 22/05/2016 and at least 20 on 04/06/2016; 6 on 27/05/2017; **1 to light on 20/05/2018, 1 netted at dusk and 1 to light on 02/06/2018**

37.079 *Coleophora aestuariella* – 1 on 01/08/2015 – saltmarsh in SE.England (possibly only the 3<sup>rd</sup> record for Essex)

49.271 *Eucosma rubescana* – 1 on 08/06/2008 – saltmarsh in Kent, Essex & Suffolk

49.274 *Eucosma metzneriana* – 1 on 27/06/2015 – recent colonist, possibly breeding in Kent (possibly 7<sup>th</sup> record for Essex); 1 on 11/06/2016; 1 on 24/06/2017

**70.296 *Aplasta ononaria* (Rest Harrow)** – 1 on 09/08/2015 – breeds very locally in Kent, occasional migrant (possibly 5<sup>th</sup> record for Essex); **9 on 03/08/2018, 1 on 11/08/2018, 1 on 18/08/2018.**



Figure 1: 8 Rest Harrow together (1 got away) - surely an Essex record count

73.027 *Deltote bankiana* (Silver Barred) – 1 on 13/06/2009; 1 on 10/07/2010; 2 on 30/06/2013; 1 on 07/06/2014; 1 on 04/07/2015

**73.132 *Luperina nickerlii* (Sandhill Rustic) – 2 on 15/08/2015; 2 on 13/08/2016; 1 on 26/08/2017; 6 on 03/08/2018, 4 on 11/08/2018, 5 on 18/08/2018; 6 on 08/09/2018**

Nationally Scarce A (found in 30 or fewer 10km squares of the National Grid)

07.004 *Nemophora fasciella* – 1 on 11/06/2016 – S&E.England (potted by day on New England Island at ~TQ973906)

35.029 *Brachmia inornatella* – 1 on 13/06/2015 – fens & marshes in SE.England

38.043 *Elachista scirpi* 1 on 14/07/2013 – saltmarsh in England and Wales

**45.022 *Cnaemidophorus rhododactyla* 1 on 21/07/2018 – hedgerows with rose in SE England**

66.004 *Malacosoma castrensis* (Ground Lackey) – 1 on 10/07 and 31/07/2010; 1 on 19/08/2012 - Saltmarsh in SE England

**70.201 *Trichopteryx polycommata* (Barred Tooth-striped) – 1 on 03/04/10; 5 on 07/04/2018, 1 on 14/04/2018** - prefers areas with chalky soils.



**Figure 2: Barred Tooth-striped**

Nationally Scarce B (31-100 10km squares of the National Grid) or

Uncommon in Essex (UE):

04.012 *Stigmella aceris* 1 on 22/09/2013. UE and probably NS-B but status uncertain. This tiny moth with forewing length 2.2mm was first recorded in Britain in 1949, second record 1971, several subsequent records and now seems to be spreading but still scarce. It is on the Essex Field Club's Red Data List, which shows 14 previous Essex records.

**27.002 *Oegoconia caradjai* (NS-B) 1 on 28/07/2018**

32.044 *Depressaria douglassella* (NS-B) 2 on 26/08/2017

35.073 *Monochroa palustrellus* (NS-B) 3 on 14/07/2013, 1 on 21/07/2013; 2 on 12/07, 1 on 19/07/2014, 2 on 27/06/2015, 2 on 04/07/2015, 2 on 15/08/2015, 1 on 16/07/2016

37.003 *Coleophora limoniella* (NS-B) 1 on 14/07/2013 – saltmarsh in SE England

37.091 *Coleophora deviella* (NS-B) 1 on 23/07/11; 1 on 19/07, 1 on 26/07/2014 – saltmarsh in SE England

**37.104 *Coleophora adpersella* (NS-B) 1 on 05/08/2012 – S.England; 1 on 03/08/2018**

**49.122 *Aethes dilucidana* (NS-B) 2 on 03/08/2018, 1 on 11/08/2018**

49.219 *Thiodia citrana* (NS-B) 2 on 28/06/2008, 1 on 01/07/2008, 2 on 04/07/2009, 4 on 14/07/2013, 2 on 21/07/2013, 2 on 27/06/2015

**49.278 *Gypsonoma minutana* (NS-B) 1 on 21/07/2018**



**Figure 3: *Gypsonoma minutana***

49.380 *Pammene gallicana* (NS-B) 1 on 19/07/2014

52.002 *Sesia apiformis* (Hornet Moth) (NS-B) 1 on 25/07/09, 1 on 11/06/2011 – SE England

**62.053 *Ancylosis oblitella* (NS-B), 1 on 31/07 and 07/08/10; 1 on 06/08/2011; 1 on 26/08/2017; 20 on 03/08/2018, 2 on 11/08/2018; 3 on 18/08/2018; 3 on 08/09/2018 - Saltmarsh**

63.014 *Sitochroa palealis* (NS-B) 1 on 23/07/06, 1 on 05/08/07, 1 on 12/08/07, 1 on 20/07/08, 2 on 19/08/2012; 3 on 19/07, 3 on 26/07/2014 – S England and East Anglia

**63.109 *Pediasia contaminella* (NS-B) 1 on 30/07/11, 1 on 01/08/2015; 1 on 28/07/2018 – S England**

63.110 *Pediasia aridella* (NS-B) 1 on 27/06/2015 – saltings S&E England

63.112 *Platytes alpinella* (NS-B) 2 on 19/07/2014 – coastal dunes and shingle beaches S&E.England

**66.012 *Gastropacha quercifolia* (Lappet) (UE) 1 on 5,19/07/08; 4 on 03/07/10, 6 on 10/07/10, 1 on 17/07/10, 2 on 31/07/10, 2 on 21/07/2013; 10 on 12/07, 10 on 19/07/2014, 8 on 04/07/2015, 8 on 16/07/2016; 12 on 24/06/2017; 1 on 21/07/2018**

**70.028 *Scopula emutaria* (Rosy Wave) (NS-B) – 1 on 13/06/09; 2 on 03/07/10; 2 on 03/09/2011; 2 on 30/06/2013, 1 on 14/07/2013; 1 on 30/08/2014; 1 on 13/06/2015, 2 on 27/06/2015, 1 on 04/07/2015; 1 on 29/07/2017, 2 on 26/08/2017; 3 on 03/08/2018, 3 on 18/08/2018**

70.057 *Catarhoe rubidata* (Ruddy Carpet) (NS-B); 1 on 27/06/2015

**70.161 *Eupithecia virgaureata* (Golden-rod Pug) (UE); 1 on 18/08/2018**

**70.186 *Eupithecia millefoliata* (Yarrow Pug) (NS-B) 1 on 26/07/2014 – coastal from Dorset to Essex; 1 on 16/07/2016; 1 on 03/08/2018**

70.232 *Ennomos autumnaria* (Large Thorn) (NS-B) 2 on 01/09/08, 1 on 13/09/2008, 1 on 02/09/2012 – SE England

72.021 *Spilosoma urticae* (Water Ermine) (NS-B) 1 on 21/06/08 - coastal areas in SE England

**73.035 *Simyra albovenosa* (Reed Dagger) (NS-B) 2 on 26/07/08; 1 on 31/07 & 07/08/10; 2 on 21/07/2018 - reeds**

**73.055 *Cucullia asteris* (Star-wort) (NS-B) 1 on 30/06/07, 1 on 05/07/08, 2 on 26/07/08, 1 on 04/07/09; 1 on 22/05, 10/07 & 17/07/10; 1 on 30/07/2011, 2 on 05/08/2012; 10 on 14/07/2013, 6 on 21/07/2013; 1 on 12/07, 8 on 19/07, 4 on 26/07, 2 on 16/08/2014; 2 on 27/06/2015; 1 on 16/07/2016; 3 on 24/06/2017, 2 on 29/07/2017; 6 on 21/07/2018 – saltmarsh**

**73.082 *Cryphia algae* (Tree-lichen Beauty)** (Formerly a rare migrant, currently breeding in SE.England) 1 on 13/08/2011, 2 on 18/08/2012, 3 on 26/07/2014; **10 on 21/07/2018, 10 on 28/07/2018, 2 on 03/08/2018**

73.087 *Spodoptera exigua* (Small Mottled Willow) – 2 on 04/07/2015, 1 on 01/08/2015, 2 on 15/08/2015 – an uncommon migrant that had a bumper year in 2105

**73.151 *Globia sparganii* (Webb's Wainscot) (NS-B)** 1 on 07/09/2008; **1 on 21/07/2018, 1 on 03/08/2018** – S&E coasts

**73.161 *Apamea oblonga* (Crescent Striped) (NS-B)** 1 on 05/07/08, 1 on 04/07/09; 1 on 10/07/10; 3 on 23/07, 1 on 30/07/2011; 1 on 21/07/2013; 1 on 12/07, 2 on 19/07, 2 on 26/07/2014; 4 on 27/06/2015, 10 on 04/07/2015; **3 on 21/07/2018**– saltmarsh

73.183 *Cirrhia gilvago* (Dusky-lemon Sallow) (UE) 1 on 06/10/07

**73.197 *Conistra rubiginea* (Dotted Chestnut) (NS-B) - 1 on 07/04/2018**



**Figure 4: Dotted Chestnut**

**73.248 *Orthosia opima* (Northern Drab) (UE).** 3 on 14/04/07, 1 on 21,28/04/07; 3 on 26/04/08; 1 on 10/04/10, 2 on 24/04/10, 13 on 01/05/10; **1 on 07/04/2018**

**73.292 *Mythimna favicolor* (Mathew's Wainscot) (NS-B)** 1 on 28/06/08 – saltmarsh; 1 on 03/07/10, 2 on 10/07/10; 2 on 27/06/2015; **1 on 03/08/2018, 1 on 11/08/2018, 1 on 18/08/2018**

**73.300 *Mythimna l-album* (L-album Wainscot) (NS-B)** 1 on 15,22,29/09/07, 3 on 21/06/08, 2 on 05/07/08, 2 on 20/09/08, 1 on 13/06/09, 1 on 19/09/09; 1 on 03/07, 17/07, 31/07, 18/09, 02/10/10 and 3 on 09/10/10; 1 on 11/06, 03/09, 10/09, 2 on 17/09/2011, 12 on 16/09/2012; 1 on 22/09/2013; 2 on 03/10/2015; 2 on 24/09/2016; 2 on 24/06/2017; **1 on 08/09/2018**

74.002 *Meganola albula* (Kent Black Arches) (NS-B) 1 on 07/07/07; 3 on 04/07/09; 2 on 26/06/10, 3 on 03/07/10, 2 on 10/07/10; 6 on 14/07/2013; 1 on 12/07, 1 on 20/09/2014; 1 on 27/06/2015, 6 on 04/07/2015; 4 on 16/07/2016; 3 on 24/06/2017 - S&SE coasts

#### Scarce Migrants

**49.343 *Cydia amplana* (Vagrant Piercer) – 1 on 03/08/2018 – first recorded in Britain in 1990, 5 previous Essex records according to Essex Field Club website**

**72.030 *Euplagia quadripunctaria* (Jersey Tiger) – 1 on 11/08/2018**

73.076 *Helicoverpa armigera* (Scarce Bordered Straw) – 4 on 26/08/2017





**Figure 5: Jersey Tiger**

More common species new to Foulness in 2018

- 14.007 *Bucculatrix albedinella*
- 15.010 *Caloptilia stigmatella*
- 17.012 *Ypsolopha sequella*
- 49.097 *Cochylimorpha straminea*
- 49.110 *Agapeta zoezana*
- 49.322 *Dichrorampha plumbagana*
- 63.066 *Pyrausta aurata*
- 63.116 *Cataclysta lemnata* (Small China-mark)
- 65.002 *Watsonalla binaria* (Oak hook-tip)
- 66.001 *Poecilocampa populi* (December Moth)
- 70.083 *Thera cupressata* (Cypress Carpet)
- 70.086 *Electrophaes corylata* (Broken-barred Carpet)
- 70.133 *Perizoma alchemillata* (Small Rivulet)
- 70.211 *Macaria notata* (Peacock Moth)
- 71.022 *Ptilodon cucullina* (Maple Prominent)
- 72.010 *Lymantria monacha* (Black Arches)
- 73.047 *Craniophora ligustri* (Coronet)
- 73.246 *Orthosia populeti* (Lead-coloured Drab)

After such an exceptional summer, it's little wonder that a number of new moth species turned up in my corner of Essex. In addition, I had four months at home from the end of May to late September to appreciate what I may have been missing in previous years when holidays were taken at peak season. As well as my Rayleigh garden, I carried out recording sessions at three other localities near to my home. Two of these I know well and have permission to visit from the owners of the properties. However, the other is Hadleigh Great Wood which I hardly know at all from a moth recording perspective. With the assistance of Roger Payne and several others, we managed several moth recording evenings and obtained some excellent finds in the process. Nearly all of these sites were visited mostly between mid-June to mid-August, so there is still great potential to track down other species in spring and late summer through to the autumn.

The following are generally my moth highlights from the four locations where I carried out moth recording in 2018. Apart from my garden, there are two broadleaved woodland sites, and a mixed grassland and woodland site at Daws Heath close to Hadleigh.

### **GARDEN MOTHS, RAYLEIGH**

**Sloe Carpet** – 7-4, 11-4 (2), 13-4, 17-4, 19-4 (5), 21-4 (3). **Dotted Chestnut** – 13-4, 20-4, 13-10. **Acleris literana** – 19-4, 21-4. **Pine Beauty** – 19-4. **Tachystola acroxantha** – 21-5, 31-5. **Buttoned Snout** – 21-5. **Seraphim** – total of four from 21-5 to 14-6. **Lunar Thorn** – 27-5, 15-6. **Clay Triple-lines** – 29-5. **Bordered Sallow** – 31-5 (very early date). **Gold Spot** – 1-6 (very early) 7-6, 21-7, 3-8, 7-8, 12-8 (2). **Cypress Carpet** – total of 14 between 1-6 to 15-11, with four noted on 13-10. **Willow Beauty** – 1-6 (melanic). **Oegoconia quadripuncta** – 1-6, 12-7 (both 'gen det'); **Choristoneura hebenstrietella** – 6-6. **Toadflax Brocade** – 7-6, 4-9 (2). **Plutella porrectella** – 7-6. **Cochylis nana** – 7-6. **Celypha cespitana** – 15-6, **Dotted Fan-foot** – 19-6, 4-7, 7-7. **Blackneck** – 19-6, 29-6, 7-7, 15-7. **Acleris bergmanniana** – 19-6 (2). **Leopard Moth** – total of six from 23-6 to 27-7. **Festoon** – total of 40 from 23-6 to 21-7. **Vitula biviella** – 27-6. **Small Emerald** – 29-6, 7-7, 12-7. **Brown-line bight-eye** – 2-7. **Clouded Magpie** – 2-7. **Varied Coronet** – 2-7. **Piniphila bifasciana** – 2-7. **Coleophora follicularis** – 3-7 ('gen det'). **Recurvaria nanella** – 3-7. **Coronet** – 4-7, 19-7, 21-7. **Pine Hawk** – 4-7. **Cnaemidophorus rhododactyla (Rose Plume)** – 4-7, 5-7 (different moths). **Donacaula forficella** – 5-7. **Anarsia innoxia** – total of five from 5-7 to 24-7. **Eana incanana** – 5-7. **Fen Wainscot** – 5-7, 12-7, 19-7. **Four-spotted Footman** – 6-7 (male). **Lobescia abscisana** – 3-7, 6-7. **Caloptilia cuculipennella** – 6-7. **Aglossa pinguinalis (Large Tabby)** – 7-7. **Pyrausta despicata** – total of five from 9-7 to 6-8. **Suspected** – 9-7, 14-7. **Ypsolopha horridella** – 11-7. **Waved Black** – 11-7, 19-7. **Yarrow Pug** – 12-7. **Pediasia contaminella** – 15-7, 16-10. **Dark Umber** – 17-7, 19-7. **Twin-spotted Wainscot** – 19-7, 2-8, 4-8. **Garden Tiger** – 21-7 - first garden record since 2006. **Maple Pug** – 21-7, 22-7, 24-7, 26-7. **Eulamprotes atrella** – 22-7. **Acleris cristana** – 22-7, 24-7. **Nephopterix angustella** – 22-7, 26-7, 3-8 (2). **Silky Wainscot** – 22-7, 24-7. **Sharp-angled Peacock** – 26-7. **Dog's Tooth** – 26-7. **Cydia amplana** – total of eight of this migrant species from 26-7 to 14-8, with three noted on the last date. **Sitochroa palealis** – 26-7. **Apodia bifractella** – 26-7, 2-8, 6-8. **Plumed Fan-foot** – 27-7, 30-7, 3-8, 12-10, 13-10 – first garden records of this recent colonist to the UK. **Gypsy Moth** – 29-7, 2-8, 15-8. **Lesser Wax Moth** – 2-8. **Caloptilia semifascia** – 2-8, 14-9, 13-10. **Webb's Wainscot** – 2-8, 8-8. **Jersey Tiger** – 3-8 (my first Essex record). **Caryocolum** sp. – possibly *fraternella* – 7-8-18. **Cypress Pug** – 11-8. **Ptocheuusa paupella** – 12-8, 20-8, 9-7, 11-8. **Small Ranunculus** – 15-8, 18-8, 26-8, 27-8. **Pinion-streaked Snout** – 14-8. **Pale Eggar** – 20-8 (2), 27-8, 4-9. **Rosy Wave** – 22-8. **Argyresthia semitestacella** – 12-8, 8-9. **Ypsolopha sylvella** – 14-9, 13-10. **Ypsolopha alpella** – 30-8, 18-9. **Dusky-lemon Sallow** – 17-9. **Merveille du Jour** – total of eight from 8-10 to 25-10, with two noted on the nights of 16-10 and 25-10. I had only ever recorded a total of four of this species after sixteen years of garden trapping! **Beautiful Hook-tip** – second brood moths noted on 10-10 and 13-10 (2). **Clancy's Rustic** – 10-10. **Autumnal Rustic** – 11-10. **Treble Brown-spot** – 13-10 (second brood).

## DAWS HEATH, HADLEIGH (PRIVATE NATURE RESERVE)






*Semioscopis steinkellneriana* – 21-4 (2). *Elegia similella* – 16-6 (2). **Great Oak Beauty** – 16-6. *Spatolista bifasciana* - 23-6. **Dotted Fan-foot** – 23-6. **Rosy Minor** – 23-6. **Plumed Fan-foot** – 23-6. **Lesser Wax Moth** – 14-7. **Garden Tiger** – 14-7. **Festoon** – 14-7 (14). **Fen Wainscot** – 14-7. *Caloptilia betulicola* - 14-7. *Dasycera oliviella* – 14-7. *Eana incanana* – 24-7. **Barred Rivulet** – 24-7. **Gypsy Moth** – 24-7. *Syncopacna larseniella* – 24-7. **Currant Pug** -18-8. *Cochylidia implicitana* – 18-8. *Stenolechia gemmella* - 18-8. *Epermeria falciformis* – 18-8.

## HOCKLEY WOODS (GUIDEWOODS)

*Spatolista bifasciana* – 14-6, 18-6 (3), 30-6 (5). **Grey Arches** – 14-6 (3), 18-6 (5), 5-7. **Olive Crescent** – 14-6, 18-6, 30-6 (2), 17-7 (3). *Pseudosciaphila branderiana* 14-6 (4), 18-6 (3). *Epinotia subocellana* – 14-6. *Pseudatemelia subochreella* -14-6 (5+). *Elegia similella* – 18-6 (2). **Red-necked Footman** – 18-6. **Clay Triple-lines** – 18-6. **Coronet** – 18-6. **Lilac Beauty** -18-6. *Epinotia demarniana* – 18-6, 30-6. *Celypha cespitana* – 18-6. *Gypsonoma sociana* - 17-7. *Metalampra italica* – 30-6. **Festoon** – 5-7 (20). **Dotted Fan-foot** – 5-7. **Dark Umber** – 5-7. **Waved Black** – 5-7, 17-7 (2). **Four-spotted Footman** (female) - 5-7. *Catoptria verellus* – 5-7. *Bisigna procerella* – 17-7. *Eulamprotes atrella* – 17-7. *Eana incanana* – 17-7. *Roeslerstammia erxlebelli* – 20-8.

## HADLEIGH GREAT WOOD (BELFAIRS NATURE RESERVE)

*Anania fuscalis* – 15-6 (3), 7-7 (15), 20-7 (2). **Ghost Moth** (female) – 15-6. **Festoon** – 15-6 (2), 7-7 (30), 20-7. **Pine Hawkmoth** – 15-6. **Red-necked Footman** – 15-6. **Lead-coloured Pug** – 15-6 (3). *Morophaga choragella* – 15-6. *Elegia similella* – 7-7. **White-line Snout** – 7-7. **Fen Wainscot** – 7-7. **Four-spotted Footman** (male) - 7-7. **Waved Black** – 7-7. **Triple-spotted Clay** – 7-7. **Lesser Wax Moth** – 3-8. *Oncocera semirubella* – 3-8. **Gypsy Moth** – 3-8 (2). **Barred Rivulet** – 3-8. **Cypress Pug** – 3-8. **Small Emerald** - 3-8. **Birch Mocha** – 3-8. **Oak Processionary** – 3-8. *Musotima nitidalis* – 3-8, 13-10 (adventive species). *Anacamptis populella* - 3-8. *Argyresthia ivella* – 3-8. **Merveille du Jour** – 13-10. **Dotted Chestnut** – 13-10 (on ivy blossom).

		
GARDEN TIGER	GHOST MOTH	JERSEY TIGER
		
LEOPARD MOTH	LUNAR THORN	OLIVE CRESCENT

(PICS – G.BAILEY)


















		
<b>ACLERIS CRISTANA</b>	<b>ARGYRESTHIA IVELLA</b>	<b>BARRED RIVULET</b>
		
<b>BIRCH MOCHA</b>	<b>CALOPTILIA CUCUCIPENNELLA</b>	<b>BARRED SALLOW</b>
		
<b>CATOPTRIA VERELLUS</b>	<b>CHORISTONEURA HEBENSTREITELLA</b>	<b>CLOUDED MAGPIE</b>
		
<b>CNAEMIDOPHORUS RHODODACTYLA</b>	<b>COCHYLIDA IMPLICITANA</b>	<b>CYDIA AMPLANA</b>
		
<b>DASYCERA OLIVIELLA</b>	<b>DONACAUULA FORFICELLA</b>	<b>ELEGIA SIMILELLA</b>



		
<b>DOTTED CHESTNUT</b>	<b>DUSKY-LEMON SALLOW</b>	<b>EPERMENIA FALCIFORMIS</b>
		
<b>EPINOTIA DEMARNIARNA</b>	<b>EULAMPROTES ATRELLA</b>	<b>FOUR-SPOTTED FOOTMAN - male</b>
		
<b>FOUR-SPOTTED FOOTMAN -female</b>	<b>GYPSY MOTH</b>	<b>LEAD-COLOURED PUG</b>
		
<b>MUSOTIMA NITIDALALIS</b>	<b>OAK PROCESSIONARY</b>	<b>PEDIASIA CONTAMINELLA</b>
		
<b>PINE HAWKMOTH</b>	<b>PINION-STREAKED SNOOT</b>	<b>PLUTELLA PORRECTELLA</b>



		
Poss. <i>AGRIPHILA SELASELLA</i>	Poss TWIN-SPOTTED WAINSCOT	<i>PSUEDOSCIAPHILA BRANDERIANA</i>
		
<i>PTOCHEUUSA PAUPELLA</i>	<i>RECURVARIA NANELLA</i>	RED-NECKED FOOTMAN
		
ROSY MINOR	ROSY WAVE	SMALL EMERALD
		
<i>STENOLECHIA GEMMELLA</i>	SWALLOW & LESSER SWALLOW PROMINENTS	<i>TACHYSTOLA ACROXANTHA</i>
		
<i>VITULA BIVIELLA</i>	WHITE-LINE SNOUT	YARROW PUG



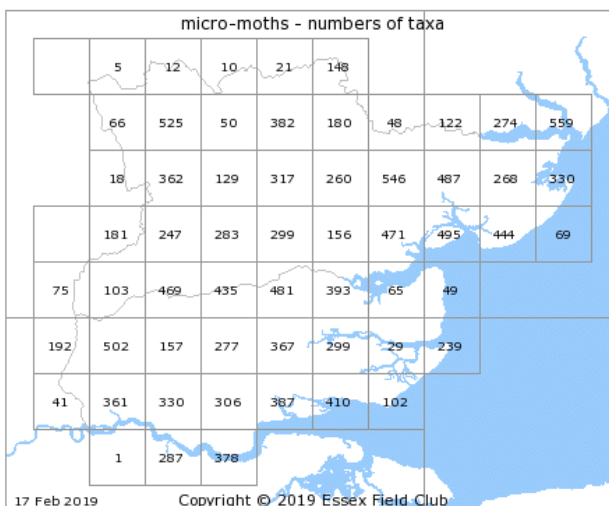
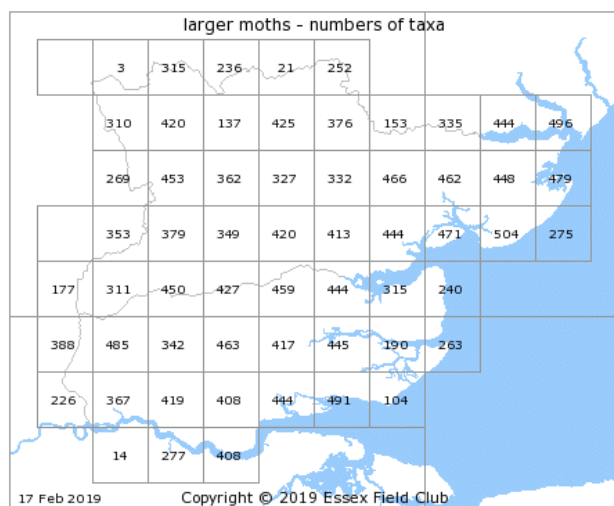
## Numbers of Lepidoptera records and taxa for the county at end Jan 2019

butterflies: 237,273 records for 45 species

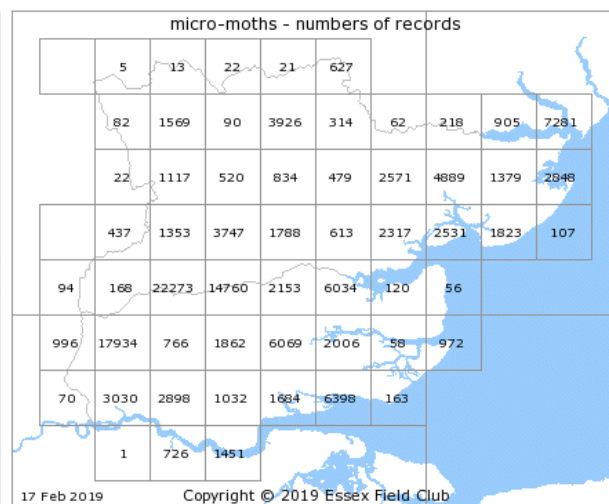
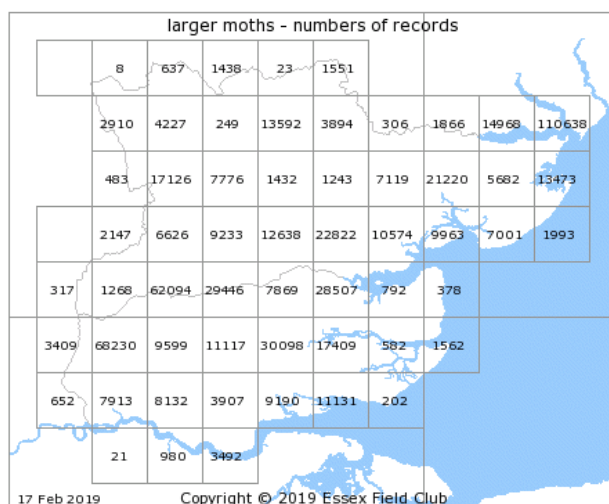
larger moths: 635,694 records for 669 species

micro-moths: 232,226 records for 1,122 species

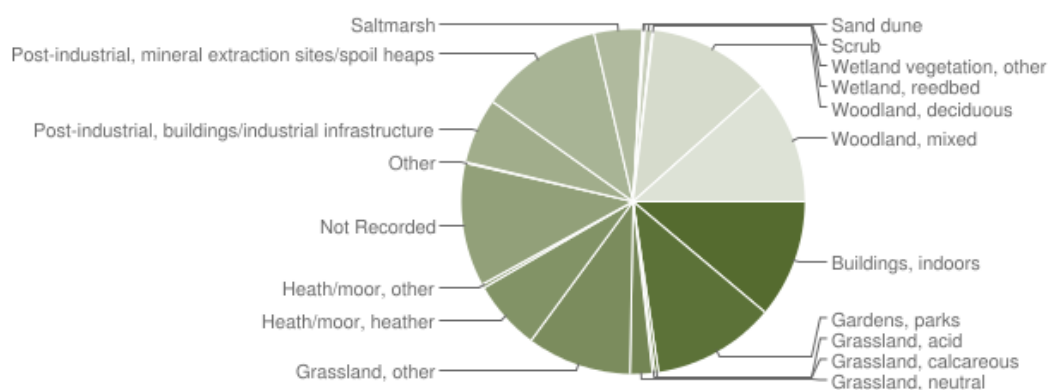
## Coverage: numbers of species recorded per hectad



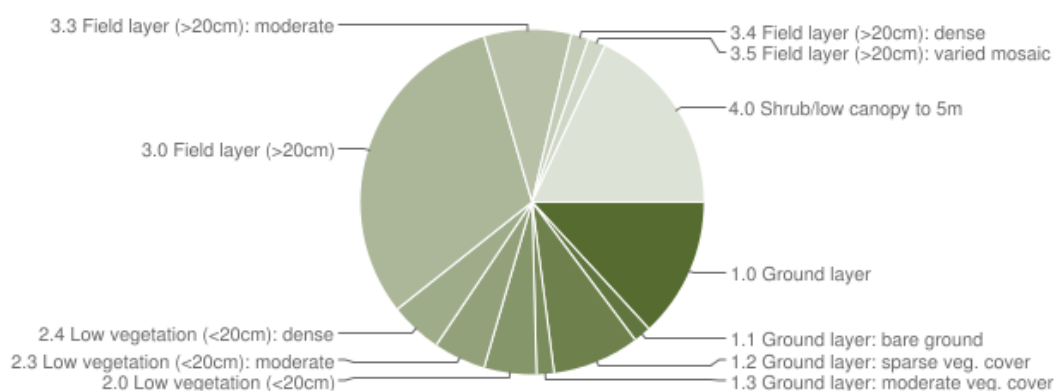
## Numbers of records submitted per 10km square



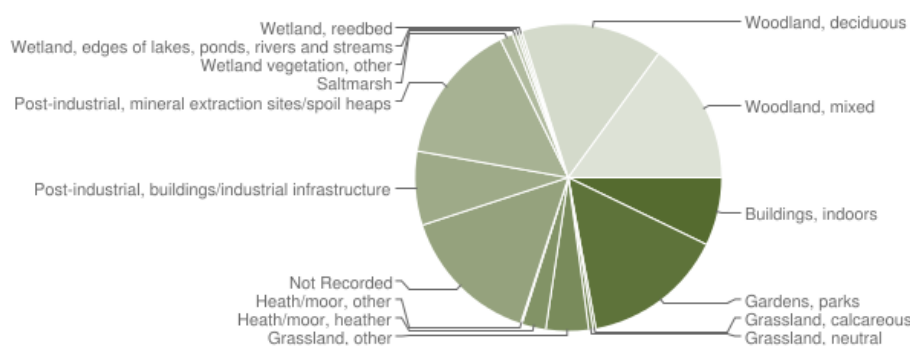
**Broad Habitat Data for: *Lepidoptera: macromoths*** based on 59,859 records and 404,598 individuals



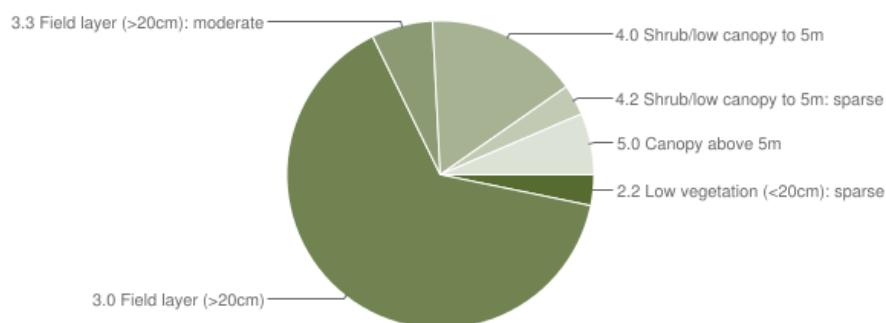
**Structural Habitat Data for: *Lepidoptera: macromoths*** based on 61 records and 103 individuals



**Broad Habitat Data for: *Lepidoptera: micromoths*** based on 27,361 records and 164,580 individuals



**Structural Habitat Data for: *Lepidoptera: micromoths*** based on 31 records and 66 individuals



## **A PLEA TO SUBMIT YOUR DATA IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO. AND DO YOU USE ESSEX MOTH DATA?**

Everyone can see the latest Essex distribution maps, phenology charts, habitat and other autecological information which has been provided to the County Recorder by recorders on the Essex Field Club website. Essex Moth Group members who provide records can also ask to be given access to the record data behind the dots on the maps, so that clicking on a dot then reveals the details of the records involved (ask Peter Harvey, [grayspeterharvey@gmail.com](mailto:grayspeterharvey@gmail.com)).

If you use these maps or any information provided by the county records but do not provide your own data, please be aware that this is unhelpful - information in the database comes from those who provide data, not from those who do not, and it is unreasonable to expect to use information if you are not prepared to provide your own.

## **SUBMITTING YOUR RECORDS**

Using the MapMate sync process, or an Excel record template provides much the best way to submit records. The template is available to download from [http:// www.essexfieldclub.org.uk/portal/p/Providing+Moth+Records](http://www.essexfieldclub.org.uk/portal/p/Providing+Moth+Records)

This is an Excel file which includes a reference taxon list and drop-down entries for some MapMate fields where consistency will help make use of the data in structured analyses. Your taxon entry is done by entering the 4-digit Bradley number or the "new" decimal-style 2013 checklist number\* - this helps ensure that typos are not created and that importing the records is a relatively painless process. This provides information on the last year recorded in Essex and also provides a direct link to the Essex Field Club Species Account page with map etc. Please make sure you are using an up-to-date template so that taxon names are up to date. The 2019 template should be ready soon.



## **Pheromone Trapping in Essex and Savoie (France) in 2018**

Tim Green

### **Introduction**

I have carried out limited sessions of pheromone trapping in my Magdalen Laver, Essex garden over the last five years, and to date had only managed to record Emperor Moths to the EMP lure. Despite twice in recent years getting the main set of 6 clearwing lures, and sporadically setting them up suspended in the recommended net bags, I had never been successful and until this year hadn't seen a single clearwing except newly emerged Hornet Clearwings on poplar trunks.

### **2018 Trapping**

During 2018, I made more of a concerted effort and purchased some plastic funnel traps, so that I could deploy multiple lures at the same time, keep them out for longer periods and hopefully retain attracted specimens when I wasn't in attendance. I spend a week or more per month in the French Alps (Savoie Department, SE France), so decided to try my luck there too. I decided to keep the clearwing traps out pretty much constantly during the summer with gaps in trapping corresponding to cross-channel travel. Each different lure was kept in the same trap throughout the season and was protected from rain by the shield on top of the trap.

I started with the EMP (Emperor Moth) lure in late April in France and successfully attracted a total of 7 males of this species on two occasions. On return to the UK, the garden produced 3 Emperors between 8th and 13<sup>th</sup> May.

On a later visit to France in the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of June, I was rewarded with my first four clearwing species, with the first appearing within minutes of setting the traps out. Red-belted, Yellow-legged, Six-belted and the non-British species *Chamaesphecia empiformis* were recorded.

Back in the UK during early July, to my amazement I recorded four species of clearwing in the garden within a few days of setting the traps out (Yellow-legged, Red-belted, Hornet and Raspberry). When I returned to France for the last two weeks of July, the clearwing season was in full flow and I added another five species to the list (Hornet, Raspberry, Dusky, Red-tipped and the non-British Oak Clearwing (*Synanthedon conopiformis*). Fairly staggering numbers of Six-belted were recorded in France with 105 individuals over 11 recording days. Some of these may well be re-trapped individuals as the traps were inspected at regular intervals (to allow some measure of flight time to be ascertained) and any trapped moths were released some 50m away.

It is well known that many of the clearwings respond to more than one pheromone lure and some appear to be attracted to mixtures of several. During this study, five species were recorded at more than one lure, with Raspberry Clearwing being recorded at three different

lures (FOR, VES and HYL, the specific lure). In France the Red-belted responded more to the CUL lure than the specific MYO lure. Full details are shown in Tables 1 and 2.

Encouraged by the success and ability to add new species to my garden lists, I obtained some more pheromone lures for other species (Gypsy Moth, Box Moth, Plum Fruit Moth (*Grapholita funebrana*), *Grapholita tenebrosana*, Summer Fruit Tortrix (*Adoxophyes orana*) and Oak Processionary) and set these out from 3<sup>rd</sup> August. Immediate positive results were achieved for Gypsy Moth and Plum Fruit Moth, with Box Moths being recorded after a couple of weeks when they began to emerge locally. No Pine Processionary or Summer Fruit Tortrix were recorded. Also there were no moths recorded at the TIP (*S. tipuliformis*, Currant Clearwing), SCO (*S. scoliaeformis*, Welsh Clearwing) lures.

### **“Non-target” Species Recorded**

Ten additional species were recorded in the traps in the UK and several as yet unidentified tineids were trapped in France. Some of these are likely to be accidentally trapped, but Cabbage Moths (4 separate records) to the EMP lure and the Mother of Pearl (2 records to the BOX lure) are considered to be likely positive pheromone responses. A full list of non-target species recorded is shown in Table 1.

### **Flight Times**

An attempt was made to record the approximate times that each species put in appearances at the traps. This has been studied by others and there seem to be clearly defined periods during each day when maximum responses are seen. Traps were inspected at approximate intervals of between one and three hours throughout the day. In summary, the species predominantly trapped in the morning were Hornet Clearwing and Six-belted, with Red-belted appearing in the middle of the day, Red-tipped during the afternoon and Yellow-legged, Raspberry, Oak and Dusky being late afternoon fliers. The four specimens of *Chamaesphecia empiformis* were recorded between 10:00 and 17:00, so no clear pattern. This species feeds on the locally common Cypress-leaved Spurge (*Euphorbia cyparissias*).

### **Summary**

The use of the pheromone traps gave me a total of 9 new clearwing species to the garden list in France and 5 for the UK (all UK species were recorded in France as well). All except the Hornet Clearwing were new species for me. A total of 195 Clearwings were trapped in France and 23 in The UK. In addition, The Gypsy Moth was a new species for my UK garden, so is either a recent colonist or has just been overlooked. I plan to repeat this during 2019 with as wide a range of lures that I can with the addition of some new sites to target other species.

Tim Green

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## Clearwings recorded in Savoie (France) 2018



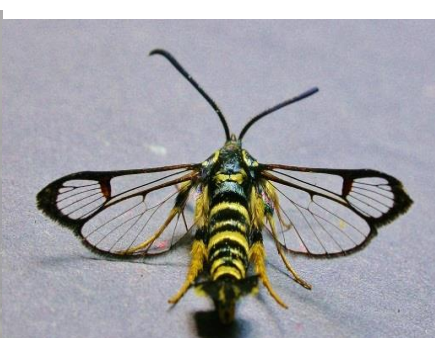
Raspberry Clearwing (*Pennisetia hylaeiformis*)



Dusky Clearwing (*Paranthrene tabaniformis*)



Red-tipped Clearwing (*Synanthedon formicaeformis*)



Yellow-legged Clearwing (*Synanthedon vespiformis*)



Oak Clearwing (*Synanthedon conopiformis*)



Six-belted Clearwing (*Bembecia ichneumoniformis*)



Red-belted Clearwing (*Synanthedon myopaeformis*)



*Chamaesphecia empiformis*



Pheromone Funnel Trap with Box moths (*Cydalima perspectalis*)



Hornet Moth (*Sesia apiformis*)



## Pheromone Trap Records 2018 - Le Villaret, Queige, Savoie (73), FRANCE

Code	Taxon	Vernacular	Lure	Date range	Records	Qty	(Peak) Time
<b><u>Clearwing Species</u></b>							
52.011	<i>Synanthedon myopaeformis</i>	Red-belted Clearwing	CUL	13 Jul - 19 Jul	7	23	10:00-16:00
52.011	<i>Synanthedon myopaeformis</i>	Red-belted Clearwing	MYO	21 Jun - 17 Jul	3	3	11:00-14:00
52.012	<i>Synanthedon vespiformis</i>	Yellow-legged Clearwing	VES	23 Jun - 08 Jul	7	37	15:30-20:30
52.002	<i>Sesia apiformis</i>	Hornet Moth	HOR	16-Jul	1	1	10:30
52.001	<i>Pennisetia hylaeiformis</i>	Raspberry Clearwing	FOR	13 Jul - 19 Jul	2	2	15:00-17:30
52.004	<i>Paranthrene tabaniformis</i>	Dusky Clearwing	TAB	14 Jul - 18 Jul	4	6	16:30-18:30
52.004	<i>Paranthrene tabaniformis</i>	Dusky Clearwing	OAK	13-Jul	1	1	17:30
-	<i>Synanthedon conopiformis</i>	Oak Clearwing	OAK	13-Jul	1	1	20:00
-	<i>Synanthedon conopiformis</i>	Oak Clearwing	TAB	13 Jul - 18 Jul	6	8	19:00-19:30
52.008	<i>Synanthedon formicaeformis</i>	Red-tipped Clearwing	FOR	13 Jul - 18 Jul	4	4	15:30-19:00
52.014	<i>Bembecia ichneumoniformis</i>	Six-belted Clearwing	API	21 Jun - 22 Jul	11	105	09:00-12:30
-	<i>Chamaesphecia empiformis</i>	-	HOR	21 Jun - 23 Jun	2	2	10:00-17:00
-	<i>Chamaesphecia empiformis</i>	-	API	21 Jun - 23 Jun	2	2	10:00-17:00
				<b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>195</b>	
<b><u>Other Species</u></b>							
68.001	<i>Saturnia pavonia</i>	Emperor Moth	EMP	26 Apr -28 Apr	2	7	17:00-18:30
				<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	

## Pheromone Trap Records 2018 - Magdalen Laver, Essex UK

Code	Taxon	Vernacular	Lure	Date range	Records	Qty	(Peak) Time
<b><u>Clearwing Species</u></b>							
52.011	Synanthedon myopaeformis	Red-belted Clearwing	MYO	07 Jul - 09 Jul	2	2	14:30
52.012	Synanthedon vespiformis	Yellow-legged Clearwing	VES	07 Jul - 28 Jul	4	5	16:00 - 18:00
52.002	Sesia apiformis	Hornet Moth	HOR	09-Jul	1	1	10:00
52.001	Pennisetia hylaeiformis	Raspberry Clearwing	HYL	09 Jul - 6 Aug	6	6	Afternoon
52.001	Pennisetia hylaeiformis	Raspberry Clearwing	VES	27 Jul - 04 Aug	8	9	17:30 - 20:30
				<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>23</b>	
<b><u>Other Species</u></b>							
68.001	Saturnia pavonia	Emperor Moth	EMP	08 May - 13 May	2	3	15:00 - 16:00
72.011	Lymantria dispar	Gypsy Moth	GYP	03 Aug - 20 Aug	12	33	All Day (1 night)
63.054	Cydalima perspectalis	Box-tree Moth	BOX	21 Aug - 13 Oct	6	8	Overnight
49.357	Grapholita funebrana	Plum Fruit Moth	FUN	03 Aug - 16 Sep	24	81	All Day/Night
				<b>Total</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>125</b>	
<b><u>Non-target Records</u></b>							
73.001	Abrostola tripartita	Spectacle	VES	29-Jul	1	1	Overnight
73.015	Autographa gamma	Silver Y	BOX	03-Aug	1	1	Overnight
63.038	Pleuroptya ruralis	Mother of Pearl	BOX	03 Aug - 06 Aug	2	2	Overnight
12.021	Nemapogon clematella		CUL	03 Aug - 06 Aug	1	1	Overnight
73.113	Phlogophora meticulosa	Angle Shades	CUL	30-Aug	1	1	Overnight
19.007	Glyphipterix simplicella	Cocksfoot Moth	EMP	14-May	1	1	Day
73.274	Mamestra brassicae	Cabbage Moth	EMP	14 May-25 May	4	4	Overnight
73.345	Noctua comes	Less. Yellow Underwing	OPM	30-Aug	1	1	Overnight
70.226	Opisthagraptis luteolata	Brimstone Moth	OPM	16-Aug	1	1	Overnight
70.141	Gymnoscelis rufifasciata	Double-striped Pug	SFT	18-Aug	1	1	Overnight
				<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	

