

[Note - this is a recreated version as only original located has been a rich text file without photos or tables – SDW 13/02/25]

## **Problems, problems, problems....**

Recordership problems earlier in the year have now been resolved. Thanks are due to Colin Plant for holding the fort for a few months. I have now processed all records that were sent to him and have dealt with records recently received.

Issue of the newsletter has been something of a headache. Although a volunteer offered to take this on, nothing was forthcoming and in the end that person felt unable to produce anything. I will endeavour to get smaller newsletters out when time and energy permits. Please check the window at the end of this newsletter and let me know if you disagree with the total left in your account.

Following a spell of poor health, Maitland has sadly had to retire as county microlepidoptera recorder. The Essex Field Club will now have to appoint his replacement, but until such time I'm happy to fulfil this task (on a temporary or permanent basis). If other names are put forward the EFC will of course need to decide the best solution. Maitland has acted as recorder for over 20 years and his retirement will be sorely felt.

The planned update to *Lepidoptera of northeast Essex* has been abandoned, but if you would like the systematic section let me know. This runs to about 50 pages so will only be available by floppy disk or via an email attachment. Discussion is under way regarding *Moths of Essex*, working title for a possible addition to the *Lopinga* series of books.

## **Hylands Park, Chelmsford**

Mark Hanson is keen to have some recording done at this large and varied area, which is just to the south-west of Chelmsford. Currently the only records on the database are those of breeding hornet moth *Sesia apiformis* by the Wilkinsons in 1999 and 2000. Traps can safely be left overnight and power is available from the stable block. Let me know if you are interested.

## Review of 2000

Records have continued to flow despite the troubles mentioned above. Below are a selection of those received so far. I hope to get a report ready for the EFC soon, so any additions or amendments should be forwarded to me as soon as possible.

0144 *Nemophora fasciella* Colchester, The Moors 13 June, C. Gibson.

0321a *Phyllonorycter platani* Colchester garrison, larval mines on London plane *Platanus hybrida*, on 13 October, B. Goodey. New to VC19.

0381 **Large Red-belted Clearwing** *Synanthedon culiciformis* Chalkney Wood 14 June, N. Cuming. First Essex record since c.1960.

0557 *Coleophora gardesanella* Dovercourt, Oakley Road 28 July, C. Gibson.

0627 *Biselachista scirpi* Dovercourt, Oakley Road 5 July, C. Gibson.

0650 *Esperia oliviella* Stour Wood, 21 July, D.G. Green; Marks Tey, 24 July, N. Cuming.

0670 *Depressaria daucella* Plaistow, garden 23 March, G. Martin.

0772 *Teleiodes fugitivella* Dovercourt, Oakley Road, two between 8 July and 17 July, C. Gibson.

0809 **Hollyhock Seed Moth** *Pexicopia malvella* Dovercourt, Oakley Road 26 July, C. Gibson.

1018 *Cnephasia communana* Dovercourt, Oakley Road 20 May, C. Gibson.

1019 *C. conspersana* Dovercourt, Oakley Road 27 July, C. Gibson.

1095 *Apotomis sororculana* Great Leighs, Mann Wood, 30 June, D. Boyle/BM(NH).

1195 *Eucosma lacteana* Dovercourt, Oakley Road, 5 between 18 and 19 August, C. Gibson.

1222 *Strophedra nitidana* Stour Wood, 21 July, D.G. Green.

1234 *Pammene regiana* Grays Chalk Pit 12 August, I. Kimber.

1403a **Duponchelia fovealis** Kirby-le-Soken 17 March, P. Bergdahl. Second from this site, the first was in September 1997. Possibly imported with nursery house plants.

1545 **Clouded Yellow *Colias croceus*** Canvey Island, 16 June, a mated pair, D.G. Down.

1681 **Clay Triple-lines *Cyclophora linearia*** Epping Forest, Oak Hill Farm, seven between 7 June and 20 June, T. Green.

1736 **Royal Mantle *Catarhoe cuculata*** Dovercourt, Oakley Road 3 July, C. Gibson.

1972 **Convolvulus Hawk-moth *Agrius convolvuli*** Bicknacre 2 August, J. Dobson; Mersea Island, 25 September, J. Hoy per J. Firmin; Epping, Crows Road 29 September, T. Gray per C.W. Plant; Theydon Bois 2 October, J.G. Green.

1973 **Deaths-head Hawk-moth *Acherontia atropos*** Great Braxted, Tiptree Road, larva 25 August, J. Torino per A. Cook; Marks Tey, North Lane 1 September, A. Cook.

1978 **Pine Hawk-moth *Hyloicus pinastri*** Occurred this year at Theydon Bois, Dovercourt, Langenhoe, Markshall Estate (Coggeshall), Lexden Gathering Grounds (Colchester), Bradwell (Braintree), Langenhoe, Pods Wood (Tiptree), and Broaks Wood (Gosfield).

1987 **Bedstraw Hawk-moth *Hyles gallii*** Felsted 19 July, G. Geen.

2039 **Red-necked Footman *Atolmis rubricollis*** Lexden, Buntings Meadow 17 June, R.W. Arthur and J. Firmin *et al.*

2043 **Orange Footman *Eilema sororcula*** Epping Forest, Oak Hill Farm, six between 9 May and 1 July, T. Green; Weeleyhall Wood, three on 12 May, R. Gooding; Theydon Bois 15 June, J.G. Green.

2070 **Nine-spotted *Amata phegea*** L. Clacton-on-Sea area 24 July, R. Goodson per P. Smith. Second UK record, and new to Essex. A full account appears in *The Entomologist's Record* vol. 112: 6.

2076 **Kent Black Arches *Meganola albula*** Walton-on-Naze, Woodberry Way 1 August, P. Smith.

2105 **Dotted Rustic *Rhyacia simulans*** Langenhoe, Tawnies Meadow 3 July, H. Owen.

2113 **Stout Dart *Spaelotis ravida*** Ingatestone, 13 August, G. Smith.

- 2127 **Triple-spotted Clay** *Xestia ditrapezium* Dovercourt, Oakley Road 13 July, C. Gibson.
- 2137 **Great Brocade** *Eurois occulta* Dovercourt, Oakley Road 4 September, C. Gibson.
- 2194 **White-point** *Mythimna albipuncta* Brightlingsea, Ford Farm 15 August, D. Scott; St Osyth, Daltes Lane 13 September, R.W. Arthur.
- 2195 **Delicate** *M. vitellina* Kirby-le-Soken 30 September, P. Bergdahl. (See also Nat. Moth Night).
- 2202 **L-album Wainscot** *M. l-album* Kirby-le-Soken 17 July, P. Bergdahl; St Osyth, Daltes Lane 13 September, R.W. Arthur; Dovercourt, Oakley Road 23 September, C. Gibson.
- 2203 **White-speck** *M. unipuncta* Kirby-le-Soken 25 August, P. Bergdahl.
- 2223 **Toadflax Brocade** *Calophasia lunula* Dovercourt, Oakley Road 30 May, C. Gibson.
- 2230 **Feathered Brindle** *Aporophyla australis pascuea* Little Oakley, Rectory Road 23 September, G. Slater.
- 2295 **Marbled Green** *Cryphia muralis impar* Dovercourt, Oakley Road two between 26 July and 13 August, C. Gibson.
- 2304 **Orache Moth** *Trachea atriplicis* West Bergholt, Chapel Lane 19 June, P.J. Smith.
- 2365 **Fisher's Estuarine** *Gortyna borelii lunata* Landermere 23 September, J.B. Fisher.
- 2400 **Scarce Bordered Straw** *Helicoverpa armigera* Jaywick, Midway 30 September, J. Young.
- 2403 **Bordered Straw** *Heliothis peltigera* North Chingford 28 June, B. Pateman.
- 2428 **Golden Twin-spot** *Chrysodeixis chalcites* Great Horkesley 12 November, B. Harley.
- 2436 **Dewick's Plusia** *Macdunnoughia confusa* Jaywick, 12 September, J. Wilde/J. Young.
- 2444 **Gold Spangle** *Autographa bractea* Felsted 17 July, G. Geen. Second Essex record, and new to VC19 (the first was Bob Dewick's at Curry Farm, Bradwell-on-Sea on 23 July 1993).

2475 **Waved Black** *Parascotia fuliginaria* reappeared at Theydon Bois, J.G. Green, and North Chingford, B. Pateman, and at a new locality, Epping Forest, Oak Hill Farm 26 June, T. Green.

2480 **Buttoned Snout** *Hypena rostralis* Chelmsford, Cheviot Drive 1 June, G. Wilkinson.

2495 **Olive Crescent** *Trisateles emortualis* Occurred at least three times at Stour Wood, including possible larvae on 23 September (J. Spence/J.E. Chainey).

2165 **Small Ranunculus** *Aetheria dysodea* larvae at Stanford-le-Hope, 1 August, D.G. Down/G. Bailey; and Grays Chalk Pit, 1 to 12 August D.G. Down/I. Kimber.

### National Moth Night, 2000

Although data is still being processed, here are a few Essex facts and figures from this event:

	Total	South Essex (VC18)	North Essex (VC19)
<b>Records</b>	<b>531</b>	175	356
<b>Species</b>	<b>115</b>	72	93
<b>Micros</b>	<b>25</b>	9	22
<b>Macros</b>	<b>90</b>	63	71
<b>Total Moths</b>	<b>1839</b>	559	1280
<b>Sites</b>	<b>31</b>	9	22
<b>People</b>	<b>54</b>	13	41
<b>Traps/lamps</b>	<b>43</b>	14	29

Not a bad return, given the late date and a strong south-easterly breeze. In all, over 300 species were recorded up and down the country, including a healthy number of migrants. A full report is to appear in *Atropos*. A few Essex highlights were *Acleris sparsana* at Epping Forest (G. Martin); *Vanessa cardui* painted lady at Two Tree Island (D. G. Down); *Orthonama obstipata* gem and *Mythimna l-album* L-album wainscot at Dovercourt (C. Gibson); *M. albipuncta* white-point at Lawford (I. C. Rose); *M. vitellina* delicate and, perhaps the star of the night, *Gortyna borelii lunata* Fisher's estuarine at Landermere (J.B. Fisher); and *Aporophyla australis pascuea* feathered brindle at Little Oakley (G. Slater).

***Rheumaptera cervinalis* (Scop.), the Scarce Tissue in 2000** Dave Warner

Brian Goodey's checklist in David Corke's Butterflies of Essex gives a rating of local and low density for the above moth. This is perfectly in accordance with my experience over many years. Only one or two (sometimes none) appeared at my light when I was in possession of a large garden at Gosfield. My present garden at Earls Colne is very small with high walls and has continued with these numbers for years until this season. Over a period of one week in May I was visited by five moths of this species. In conversation with two fellow members of the moth group I discovered that, between the three of us, we had recorded ten *cervinalis* this year.

I would be very interested to hear (via the newsletter), if other members have noticed an increase in population of this species, possibly due to the popularity of various *Berberis* shrubs amongst gardeners etc.

**Programme for 2001**

These are events we are aware of but may not necessarily have arranged. Please treat as provisional and contact the leader before attending. Thanks to Joe for organising the Friday night surveys. If you know of any other events please let me know and I'll include them.

***Please note that you attend these meetings at your own risk. We cannot be held responsible for any accidents, injuries or loss of property.***

**24 February** Annual indoor meeting.

**20 April** Old Hall Marsh NR. Meet at car park at 8.30pm. (Joe Firmin)

**18 May** Marks Hall, Coggeshall. Meet at car park at 8.30pm. (Joe Firmin)

**15 June** Pod Wood, Tiptree. Meet at entrance at 8.30pm. (Joe Firmin)

**29 June** Old Hall Marsh NR. Meet at car park at 8.30pm. (Joe Firmin)

**13 July** Cudmore Grove CP, East Mersea. Meet at car park at 8.30pm. (Joe Firmin)

**10 August** Great Bentley village green. Meet at the play park at dusk, trapping opposite the road amongst the 'wildlife area'. (Jon Clifton)

**11 August** \*National Moth Night\*. Venues to be decided.

The theme of this year's event is to try and find the White-spotted pinion *Cosmia diffinis*, so sites should be near to where elms grows. The most recent records in Essex are Purfleet,

Dolphin Quarry, 1982; Brightlingsea, gravel working, 1983; Elsenham, Abrey Buxton N.R., 1995; and Saffron Walden, 1997.

**17 August** Broaks Wood, Gosfield. Meet at car park at 8.30pm. (Joe Firmin)

**7 September** Marks Hall, Coggeshall. Meet at car park at 7.30pm.. (Joe Firmin)

**Contacts:**

**Lepidoptera records for Essex; Newsletter editor.** B. Goodey, 298 Ipswich Road, Colchester, Essex. CO4 4ET. (01206 841224, or Mobile 07941133944). email: brian.goodey@dial.pipex.com

**BC butterfly records.** V. Perrin, 13 Pettitts Lane, Dry Drayton, Cambs. CB3 8BT

**Coleoptera records** N. Cuming, 33 Holly Road, Colchester CO3 5QL (01206 330019).

**Other Order records.** J. P. Bowdrey, Fair View, Colchester Road, Thorpe-le-Soken, Essex. CO16 0LB (01255 862507).

**Photos.** Moth Group enquiries I. C. Rose, Yaffles, School Lane, Mistley, Essex. CO11 1HN.

**Web Site** [www.aave45.dial.pipex.com/](http://www.aave45.dial.pipex.com/)

**EMG Chairman.** General Moth Group enquiries. J. Firmin, 55 Chapel Road, West Bergholt, Essex. CO6 3HZ (01206 241389).

**\*\*\*Please let Joe know if you are coming to the indoor meeting on 24 February\*\*\***