

Goodbye Maitland, 1908 - 2001

"His knowledge and scholarship will be irreplaceable." *John Langmaid*



Maitland speaking to Zoe Ringwood and Colin Plant at the 24 February meeting

A. Maitland Emmet MBE, TD, MA, HON. FRES, FLS: some personal tributes

All of us who attended Essex Moth Group's annual meeting and exhibition on 24 February were surprised, but very pleased, to welcome Maitland Emmet, the doyen of British lepidopterists. Although wheelchair bound after recent serious illness and in his 93rd year, Maitland had insisted that he should make a special effort to be once more with his many friends. We are indeed grateful to David Corke for ensuring that this wish was fulfilled.

So it was with the deepest regret that we learned only a week later that Maitland had died on 3 March following an operation for an abdominal condition. Before entering hospital, Maitland had said how greatly he enjoyed his day with Essex moth group of which he had been an active member since its inception in 1996. He was also a long-serving member of the Essex Lepidoptera Panel, being microlepidoptera recorder for Essex and a noted national expert. He was acknowledged as a world authority on the leaf-mining Nepticulidae.

We remember with affection that Maitland motored from his home in Saffron Walden in February 2000 at the age of 91 especially to be with us for the Moth Group's annual meeting at Horsley Cross, showing once again his great dedication to his lifelong interest in the Lepidoptera.

A prolific writer of papers and articles in the entomological journals, Maitland was also author of *A field guide to smaller British Lepidoptera*; *The smaller moths of Essex* and joint editor of the on-going Harley Books series *The moths and butterflies of Great Britain and Ireland*. He had completed his work on the forthcoming volume 4 just before his death.

Those who worked closely with Maitland over a period of 40 years will always remember his prompt and courteous response to any query about moth identity or distribution and his unflagging zeal in the field. His meticulous searches for microlepidoptera, particularly the leaf-miners, led to many new records not only for Essex but nationally.

Maitland's contribution to entomological knowledge, history and study is immense and his passing leaves a huge gap. Maitland's wife Katie, who died in 1994, enthusiastically shared many of his field searches and expeditions.

Don Down, another colleague who shared Maitland's interest in the life histories of the smaller moths, wishes to be associated with this appreciation. *Joe Firmin*

Other tributes you've sent:

"He leaves a very big gap and is an example to us all." *Paul Waring*

"I'm very saddened to hear this." *Jon Clifton*

"We're very sorry to hear of his departure. Best wishes and condolences to his friends and family." *David Dutton and Moira Jackson*

"What a loss to the moth community." *Robin Howard*

"Such a sad loss to us all." *Gordon W. Sadler*

"Maitland was a major figure in the development of the Field Club and his honorary membership was a recognition of the esteem in which he was held". *Peter Allen*

"It is a huge loss to the entomological community as well as his family." *Mark Tunmore*

"I'm very glad he was able to attend the Essex Moth Group meeting, my understanding was that he thoroughly enjoyed the day". *Mark Parsons*

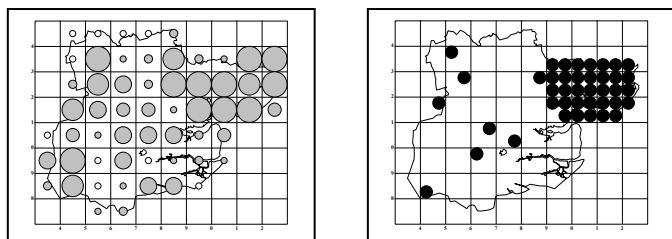
Meeting on 24 February 2001

67 people attended our 4th annual meeting at Tendring Hundred Water Services' Horsley Cross centre and our thanks to the staff, Sue Bob and Gordon, for once again making it such a success. Chris Gibson gave a talk on recording moths in gardens in a way to produce more meaningful data and offered the suggestion of keeping detailed records, perhaps of a few key species, so that long-term population trends can be measured. This provoked a lively discussion. Zoe Ringwood gave results of her *borellii* study so far, which included some fascinating new revelations. Females oviposit on grasses near to the foodplant and are very sedentary; the moth flies a little earlier than first thought, and there is a high larval mortality rate with no obvious cause.

Basil Harley explained why he first became involved as a printer, and showed examples of books he has published, including photocopied images of the plates from volume 4 (which allowed us to confirm an *Ethmia terminella* specimen, new to VC18 - helping to identify moths before it's even published!). An excellent slide show from Ian Rose and others, plus talks from Jon Clifton and Reg Fry, and the usual *trying to catch Don Down out competition* rounded off the day. Maitland Emmet was present, Master holding court surrounded by acolytes. The following was announced...

The Moths of Essex

This is to be the next county guide, part of the *Lopinga Books* series, and will cover both macros and micros. David Corke outlined the project, showed examples of maps and layout, and invited comments at the above meeting. It is to include maps, flight times, local foodplants and photos of as many species as possible. The distribution maps will carry pre-1990 records as shaded 10km squares,



*Species per 10km square and post-1990 distribution of Stigmella aurella**

and post-1990 records as either 5km square dots (micros) or tetrads (macros) - small ones to indicate single specimens, larger ones to indicate multiple records.

Foodplants are those noted in Essex only, so we will be hopefully enlisting help from experienced field workers such as Joe and Don. Flight times will be gathered from data sent by traps such as those at North Chingford, Theydon Bois and Dovercourt, and sites such as Stour Wood and others where detailed information has been submitted long-term. Photos will be available from people such as Ian, Chris and Don, who have extensive libraries of Essex examples. The daunting task of converting older maps from *SME* and *LMBE* into digital form is already under way.

A few outstanding records from last year:

0473 *Acrolepiopsis assectella* Jaywick, Midway 20 August (J. Young)

0717 *Ethmia terminella* Thundersley, West Wood 29 June (D.G. Down). **New to VC18**

0939 *Aethes tessarana* Jaywick, Midway 2 July (J. Young).

0948 *Aethes margaritana* Lexden Gathering Grounds 21 July (A. Cook)

1374a *Sclerocoena acutellus* Bradwell, Curry Farm 15 June (A.J. Dewick). **New to Essex**

2275 **Dusky-lemon swallow** occurred at St Osyth on 22, 23, and 25 September, and 4 and 7 (2) October (R.W. Arthur).

The ALS 'What Bulb Guide' Jon Clifton

To reduce confusion, we have kept this guide to the more widely used moth trapping lamps used today. Mention therefore of high powered MV bulbs (400w and above) and metal halide lamps are not discussed.

125w MV bulb. This is the standard moth trappers' bulb, used by most enthusiasts. It is a bright, high intensity lamp that will maximise the catch. It does run hot and will need protection from 'cold' spring and autumn rain or summer downpours! i.e. putting a coffee pot over the bulb to protect from the elements.

80w MV bulb. Like the 125w bulb but is far less used. Some argument recently has centred on these bulbs attracting more moths inside the trap as opposed to outside the trap, which may be the case in enclosed catchment areas such as woodland. Very little difference in brightness between this and the 125w.

160w Blended bulb. This is another lamp not widely used but which does have its advantages. Blended meaning quite simply half (80w) tungsten light and half (80w) MV. It is a little warmer in the glow emitted but its advantage is that it does not need a choke unlike to two previously mentioned lamps, also meaning that if you are venturing abroad, you will not need that heavy 2/3kg choke. The disadvantages are that it will not catch as much as the 125w MV and will run even hotter.

125w Black bulb. A very expensive piece of equipment and one that does not justify the price spent in our minds. Used in built up areas and so will not disturb the neighbours, it emits a very low blue glow. It does not catch anywhere as near as MV bulbs and runs very hot indeed, therefore any rain and the likelihood of damage is high.

15w actinic lamps. This type of bulb has many advantages over the MV type bulb and although it will not catch as much as these it will catch as much and more than the 125w black bulb. Similar to the type of 'fly zapper' unit used in chip shops emitting a blue glow, they run cool compared to MV lamps therefore do not need protection from rain, they are ideal in built up areas because of the low powered blue less intense glow. They can also be run from a car battery making portability an option if surveying areas without mains and use of a generator is out of the question. This unit is now being used widely by nature reserves for this such purpose.

Anglian Lepidopterist Supplies can offer all of these lamps' electrical components. See 'Contacts'

Cnephasia search

Several of us are making a special search this year for *Cnephasias*, those small grey tortrix moths which are usually passed off as one of three species. We want to examine specimens critically to see exactly what the status is. Please collect any examples you come across and pass them to me for dissection.

Stop press

Joe informs me of a humming-bird hawk-moth at Manningtree on 14 March, the earliest one he has seen. For the record, the only other March records I have information for was Chadwell St Mary on 14 March 1991 by C. D. Wells, and at Colchester on 9 March 1995 by J. Heath.

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 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. Because of foot and mouth disease, some events may not go ahead, so check before attending.

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)

June 22nd Oak Hill Farm, Theydon Bois. Meet at 8.30pm, on B172 just outside village. Power available; possible access to surrounding Epping Forest. (Tim Green - see contacts).

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)

21 July Coggeshall, West Street, TL846226. Meet at 20.30 (phone Jon Young 01255 432134)

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*

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:

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

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).

Tim Green day 01992 815605, 01277 890474 evening, mobile 07951 704041

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

Anglian Lepidopterist Supplies (ALS) PO box 232, Northwich Delivery Office, CW8 3FG (01263 862068 www.angleps.btinternet.co.uk)

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*maps produced by using DMAP, a mapping programme developed by Dr A. Morton