

This issue contains a summary of last year's highlights and will form the basis of the report in the *Essex Naturalist*. Please check your records and let me know of any errors or omissions. With ever more to get through, I've reduced names to initials where recorders are concerned. Please note my post code has changed to CO4 0ET

2002 - early records

Although it's only March we've already had some interesting reports. The first moth of the year was *Epiphyas postvittana*, at Frinton-on-Sea on 1 January (BL). I have previous records for this flying in all months from March to November. A number of **Indian Meal Moth** *Plodia interpunctella* have been found in dried chillies at Magdalen Laver, 8 February (TG), the seventh post-1990 Essex record. A **Silver Y** was trapped on 13 January at Tolleshunt D'Arcy by AC, a small dark specimen of the type JY feels may successfully over-winter. First butterfly of year was a **Red Admiral** on 29 January, at the edge of a wood near Terling (DB); and a welcome **Small Tortoiseshell** was in Colchester town centre on 8 February (AT), so at least some have survived from last year.

At EWT Shoeburyness Ranges reserve NH has found larval cases of *Coleophora maritimella*, on sea rush, on 15 February, the first Essex record since 1984. The pyralid *Duponchelia fovealis* has appeared at Dunmow on 15 February, on the outside of DP's window, and at North Chingford on 24 February at BP's home (new to VC18). These are the third and fourth Essex records of this species which is associated with nurseries and in particular house plants. DP describes his house and garden as being like "Wyevale Central!". The two previous Essex records were both from PB's Kirby-le-Soken home in 1997 and 2000.

Annual Moth Group Meeting

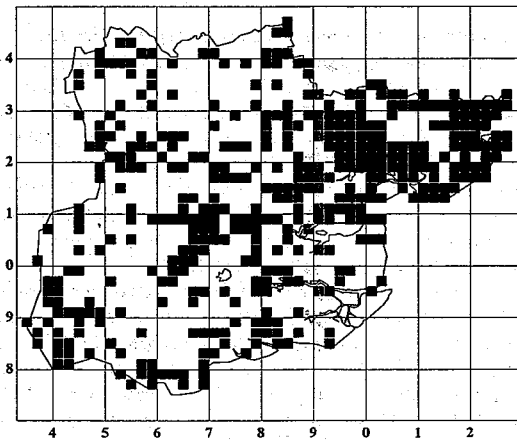
Our fifth annual indoor meeting took place on 9 February at Horsley Cross and attracted 68 members. Main speaker was David Agassiz, who talked about invading moths, the subject of his chapter in MBGBI volume 3, and Zoe Ringwood updated us on the recent findings of her **Fisher's Estuarine Moth** studies. Basil Harley brought examples of the eagerly-awaited MBGBI volume 4 and Jon Clifton was there with items of equipment. Slides from Ian Rose, Don Down and others were a highlight though towards the end we had to fairly zip through them because of lack of time. We saw an example of the new **Langmaid's Yellow Underwing** and tips of how to spot it in the field. We raised £110 and after a contribution of £50 for food was able to donate £60 towards *The moths of Essex*. A few people felt some aspects of the day were too tecky, so if you would like to see any subjects covered next year please let us know. Our thanks to Sue, Bob and Gordon for the catering and Essex Water Services for the hall.

Biodiversity Grant Scheme

The Cambridge and Essex Branch of Butterfly Conservation is undertaking an English Nature funded 3 year project on the **Buttoned Snout** starting in April. The main trust of the project is the autecology of the species, but Mark Parsons at BC head office is also keen to survey its occurrence in Essex. To that end the Branch is keen to get any interested parties involved in either part of the project. I hope to be sending survey and behavioural observation forms to all parties who have already found the species and anyone else interested. Paul Waring (Consultant on the project) will be running training sessions later on in the year for people who would like to be involved but have no experience of the species. This is a very important project and your help and experience will be invaluable part of it. If you are interested please contact either Brian Goodey 01206 841224, e-mail brian.goodey@dia1.pipex.com or myself on 01604 844927, e-mail rfg@writtle.ac.uk or rfield8633@aol.com. Thanks, Robin Field (Branch Organiser Cambs & Essex Branch of BC)

Moths of Essex - update

Work on the flight charts is now complete and comprise of a third of a million observations. A few surprises have emerged, such as the Rivulet which in Essex appears to be double-brooded (in Skinner it is stated to have just one generation). This is backed by observations in Herts, Suffolk, and results from National Moth Night. Zoë Ringwood has completed her chapter on Fisher's Estuarine Moth, the superb front cover painting by Alan Harris is done, and the first batches of slides from Ian Rose and Chris Gibson have been scanned with others to follow. There is a cut off date of 30 April for getting your lists to me for inclusion in the book, after which only important records will be considered. To date we have data from 623 sites since 1990 from the following tetrads:



Advanced orders are now being taken at a discounted price. We need as many of these as possible to offset the cost of production. In addition to the form with this newsletter you can order on line at www.lopinga.co.uk or go to our web site. Many thanks to the organisations who have pledged their support.

EMG News Group launched

Following the success of the Suffolk Moth Group's news group we've launched our own, thanks to help from Tony Prichard. The idea of the group is to allow members to informally chat to each other via e-mail. Thus observations, perhaps the sudden appearance of migrants or questions regarding identification or a query of unusual flight time (aided by our links with the Suffolk and Hertfordshire groups), can rapidly be shared across the county. The service is not intended to carry lengthy garden lists but highlights are welcome. I have no control over the contents of the messages and will keep the news service going for the really important events. If you'd like to join let me know and I'll add you to the list.

2001 Highlights

And so on to last year, which proved to be our busiest year. 2001 yielded: c. 10,000 records of 877 species from 194 sites by 98 recorders. Membership of the group stands at 115 people.

- 0004 *Micropterix aruncella* Colchester, High Woods CP, 28 May (BG). 2nd recent Essex site
- 0022 *Ectoedemia louisella* Dovercourt, 30 July (CG, BG). Fourth post-1990 record
- 0128 *Phylloporia bistrigella* Tiptree Heath, 29 May (BG). First post-1990 record
- 0153 *Adela fibulella* Colchester, High Woods CP, 28 May (BG). Third recent Essex site
- 0171 Narrow-bordered five-spot Burnet *Zygaena lonicerae* New colonies were located at

Langdon NR, 30 June (AM); West Bergholt, 3 July (PJS); Alresford, 8 July (RC).

0173 *Festoon Apoda limacodes* Pods Wood, Tiptree, twelve on 26 June (JF et al); Great Braxted, Tiptree Road, 2 July (JT); Great Totham, garden, three from 6 to 21 July (PP); Colchester, Greenstead, 20 July (JA)

0237 *Niditinea fuscella* Dovercourt, three from 5 to 21 August (CG, BG). 4th post-1990 record

0256 *Leucoptera spartifoliella* Dovercourt, 26 July (CG). Fourth post-1990 record

0273 *Bucculatrix thoracella* High Woods, 26 May (BG); Dedham, 14 October, larvae (JC)

0361 *Phyllonorycter trifasciella* Dovercourt, Oakley Road, 2001 (CG)

0368 *Phyllocnistis unipunctella* Tolleshunt D'Arcy, 23 August (AC, BG); Dovercourt, 1 September (CG)

0374 *Yellow-legged Clearwing Synanthedon vespiformis* Phyllis Currie NR, 23 June and Langdon NR, Willow Park, 8 July (AM)

0379 *Red-belted Clearwing Synanthedon myopaeformis* St Osyth, 2 July (RA)

0382 *Six-belted Clearwing Bembecia icneumoniformis* Canvey Island, six between 12 July and 20 July (DGD)

0424 *Yponomeuta evonymella* An estimated 2000 adults at Watt Tyler CP, Pitsea on 16 July (PH). Many other records across the county in smaller numbers, making 2001 the best year since 1989.

0428 *Yponomeuta rorrella* Epping Forest, 2 July (TG, BG); Dovercourt, 29 July (CG)

0430 *Yponomeuta plumbella* Dovercourt, 30 July (CG). Third post-1990 record

0465 *Plutella porrectella* Beaumont-cum-Moze, 30 July (JBF); Dovercourt, 18 August (CG); North Chingford, 30 August (BP) fourth post-1990 record

0516 *Coleophora trifolii* Dovercourt, 16 June (CG). 3rd post-1990 record; 2nd post-1990 site

0520 *Coleophora fuscicornis* Colchester, High Woods CP, 28 May. First British inland record. 4 August, larvae common, including one feeding on meadow vetchling *Lathyrus pratensis*, a previously unrecorded foodplant (BG)

0573 *Coleophora atriplicis* Dovercourt, 2001 (CG). First Essex record since 1987

0585 *Coleophora maritimella* Shoeburyness Ranges EWT, larval cases on Sea Rush, 15 February (NH). First Essex record since 1984

0596 *Elachista poae* Dovercourt, 25 July (CG). First post-1990 record

0701 *Agonopterix ocellana* Epping Forest, Oak Hill Farm, 7 March (TG); St Osyth, (RA). 4th & 5th recent sites

0702 *Agonopterix assimilella* Dovercourt, 2 September (CG)

0705 *Agonopterix umbellana* Dovercourt, 6 September (CG). The only know post-1990 site in Essex

0724 *Metzneria lappella* Jaywick, Midway, 6 July (JY, BG); Dovercourt, five from June to July (CG)

0770 *Teleiodes proximella* Tiptree Heath, 29 May (BG). First post-1990 record

0777a *Bryotropha dryadella* Grays, March, larvae on mosses (DJLA, RH). **New to Essex**

0780 *Bryotropha similis* Dovercourt, 14 August (CG, BG). Second post-1990 record

0800 *Gelechia rhombella* Dovercourt, 31 July and 3 August (CG, BG). Second post-1990 record

0873 *Blastobasis lignea* Dovercourt, 150 per night in late July-early August (CG). This confirms an upward trend in numbers for this species in recent years, whereas its relative *B. decolorella* has become less numerous over the same time.

0891 *Mompha sturnipennella* High Woods CP, larval galls, 21 May (JB)

0903 *Chrysoclista linneella* Dovercourt, Oakley Road, 29 July (CG, BG)

0949 *Aethes dilucidana* Dovercourt, Oakley Road, 31 July and 15 August (CG)

0950 *Aethes francillana* Frinton-on-Sea, 4 July (BL)

0952 *Commphila aeneana* Colchester, High Woods CP, 3 to 19 June (BG). A stunning golden-yellow tortrix, last seen in Essex at Foulness in 1982

0999 *Adoxophyes orana* Dovercourt, 25, 28 and 29 August (CG). Third post-1990 record

1022 *Cnephasia pasiuana* Dovercourt, three on 26 July, one on 27 July (CG). Third post-1990 record

- 1026 *Exapatte congelatella* North Chingford, 31 October (BP). First Essex record since 1977
- 1050 *Acleris kochiella* Mistley, 2 April (IR); St Osyth, 7 July (RA); Boreham, 12 September (GE)
- 1061 *Acleris literana* Epping Forest, Oak Hill Farm, 28 March and 21 April (TG). Fourth recent site, all in South Essex
- 1104 *Endothenia quadrimaculana* Dovercourt, 8 July (CG). Sixth post-1990 record
- 1153 *Epinotia sordidana* Dovercourt, 28 September (CG). First record since c. 1975
- 1171 *Gyponoma minutana* Jaywick, 4 July, larvae on white poplar (JY); Dovercourt, four in June and July (CG)
- 1243 *Grapholita pallifrontana* Colchester, High Woods CP, 28 May (BG). Third Essex record and first since 1982, suspected on a new foodplant as wild liquorice is not found here (TT, pers. com.)
- 1368 *Loxostege sticticalis* Frinton-on-Sea, 24 June (BL); Copperas Wood, 20 September (PS, GS); Langenhoe, 21 September (HO); Dovercourt, 24 September (CG); Epping Forest, 25 September (TG); Felsted, September (GG)
- 1370 *Sitochroa palealis* Frinton-on-Sea, 28 July (BL); Thundersley, 30 July (DGD); Layer-de-la-Haye, 16 August (PP); Dovercourt, August (CG); Maldon (SW)
- 1408 *Palpita unionalis* Lawford, Grange Road 5 and 11 September (AL)
- 1429 *Melissoblyptus zelleri* Canvey Island, 23 July (DGD)
- 1441 *Oncocera semirubella* Canvey Island, 23 July (DGD); Beaumont-cum-Moze, July (JBF)
- 1449 *Elegia similella* Great Braxted, 2 July (JT); Epping Forest, 2 July (TG, BG), Dovercourt, 18 July (CG, BG). It is possible these are migrants/vagrants
- 1632 *Pale Eggar Trichiura crataegi* Roxwell, 1 September, (MH); Skippers Island, 1 September (RM); Tolleshunt Darcy, garden, 7 September (AC)
- 1677 *Birch Mocha Cyclophora albipunctata* Tiptree Heath, 29 May (BG)
- 1678 *Blair's Mocha Cyclophora puppillaria* Epping, Oak Hill Farm, 15 August (TG, BG); Thundersley, 18 October (DGD) First and second records since 1983
- 1681 *Clay Triple-lines Cyclophora linearia* Stanway, Colchester, 27 June (SG). Also occurred at known locations of Theydon Bois and Epping Forest
- 1688 *Tawny Wave Scopula rubiginata* Landernere, 3 August (JBF)
- 1716 *Vestal Rhodometra saccharia* Lawford, 14 August (AL); Brightlingsea, 12 October (DS); Theydon Bois, 13 and 30 October (JG); Magdalen Laver, 13 October (TG); Felsted, 13 October (GG); Langenhoe, 29 October (HO); St Osyth, 31 October (RA)
- 1718 *Oblique Striped Phibalapteryx virgata* Dovercourt, Oakley Road 5 August (CG). Fifth county record
- 1720 *Gem Orthonama obstipata* Thundersley, 14 October (DGD); St Osyth, 17, 20 and 22 (two) October (RA); Dovercourt, 25 October (CG); Frinton-on-Sea, 30 October (BL)
- 1722 *Flame Carpet Xanthorhoe designata* Great Braxted, 11 June (JT); Epping, 14 June (TG); Tolleshunt Darcy, 19 June (AC); Lawford, 16 July and 5 August (IR); Mistley, 11 August (IR); Woodford Green, 11 August (RB); Felsted, 14 August (GG); St Osyth, 3 September (RA)
- 1754 *Phoenix Eulithis prunata* Dunmow, 27 May and 28 July (DP); Jaywick, 28 June (JY); Great Braxted, 23 July (JT); Dovercourt, five in July (CG); Stour Wood, 11 August (JC)
- 1760 *Red-green Carpet Chloroclysta siterata* Occurred at North Chingford; Thundersley; Theydon Bois (72 since 1997); St Osyth; Epping Forest (70 since 2000); Rayleigh; South Woodford; Frinton-on-Sea; Langenhoe, Mistley and Felsted
- 1771 *Juniper Carpet Thera juniperata* Thundersley, Woodend Close, nine in October (DGD)
- 1778 *May Highflier Hydriomena impluviata* Lexden Gathering Grounds, 26 May (AC et al). A stunning example, later released. Recent records suggest an increase in numbers and range
- 1788 *Scarce Tissue Rheumaptera cervinalis* Examples appeared at Roxwell, Colchester, Langenhoe, Roxwell and Abberton
- 1790 *Tissue Triphosa dubitata* South Essex, 18 January, adult in hibernation in outbuilding (DGD). First post-1990 record
- 1792 *Dark Umber Philereme transversata* Felsted, 24 and 25 July (GG); Mashbury, 27 July (MT)

- 1793 **Cloaked Carpet** *Euphyia biangulata* Langdon Hills, 13 July (PH); Stour Wood, 21 July (PS)
- 1800 **Northern Winter Moth** *Operophtera fagata* Theydon Bois, two between 5 and 11 November (JG); Epping Forest, five between 16 November and 4 December (TG); Felsted, 10 December (GG); St Osyth, December (RA)
- 1813 **Haworth's Pug** *Eupithecia haworthiata* St Osyth, two from June to July (RA); Frinton-on-Sea, 4 July (BL); Felsted, seven between 4 and 31 July (GG)
- 1815 **Cloaked Pug** *Eupithecia abietaria* Frinton-on-Sea, 26 June and 5 July (BL, RA). First county records since 1892
- 1844 **Ochreous Pug** *Eupithecia indigata* Frinton-on-Sea, 18 June (BL)
- 1846 **Narrow-winged Pug** *Eupithecia nanata* Clacton, Gorse Lane, 13 June (PJS); Tiptree Heath, larvae, 23 May (JF et al); Theydon Bois, 14 August (JG)
- 1851 **Golden-rod Pug** *Eupithecia virgaureata* Great Bentley, 10 August (JC). Confirmed by dissection
- 1855 **Cypress Pug** *Eupithecia phoeniceata* Frinton-on-Sea, three between 29 July and 20 August (BL); St Osyth, 17 and 29 August (RA)
- 1885 **Clouded Magpie** *Abraxas sylvata* Beaumont-cum-Moze, 3 July (JBF); Colchester, Greenstead, 23 July and 1 August (JA)
- 1897 **V-Moth** *Macaria wauaria* Abberton, 22 July (AK); Skipper's Island, July (RM)
- 1911 **Large Thorn** *Ennomos autumnaria* Recorded at five sites: Brightlingsea, Dovercourt, Felsted, Layer-de-la-Haye and Mashbury
- 1949 **Square Spot** *Ectopis consonaria* Epping Forest, Oak Hill Farm, 15 May (TG). First Essex record since 1966. It was feared that this moth may have died out so this record, from a former locality, is very welcome. Larvae feed on a variety of trees, so its absence in other woodlands is something of a mystery
- 1972 **Convolvulus Hawk-moth** *Agrilus convolvuli* Feering, Inworth Road, 20 September (TB per CG); Theydon Bois, 29 October (JG)
- 1978 **Pine Hawk-moth** *Hyloicus pinastri* Occurred at nine sites, the most productive being Theydon Bois with a total of four during July (JG)
- 1984 **Humming-bird Hawk-moth** *Macroglossum stellatarum* Manningtree 14 March, (JF); Walthamstowe, Lockwood Reservoir, 29 March (EG); Stanway Green, 30 May (AT); Felsted, 21 and 24 July (GG); Theydon Bois, 23 July (JG); Wyldingtree Farm, 24 July (AS); Clacton, 28 July and 16 August (PJS); Mistley, 29 July and 19 September (IR); St Osyth, 3 September (RA); Frinton-on-Sea, 4 September (BL); Thundersley, 8 September (DGD); Dovercourt, 2 October (CG); South Woodford, 6 October (GL); Bradwell-on-Sea, a total of 68 adults and two larvae between 2 April and 14 October (AD & SD - *Atropis* 15)
- 1987 **Bedstraw Hawk-moth** *Hyles gallii* Mashbury, 27 July (MT); Langley Upper Green, 29 July (EP)
- 1992 **Small Elephant Hawk-moth** *Deilephila porcellus* Clacton, Gorse Lane, 27 June (PJS); Beaumont-cum-Moze, 9 July (JBF)
- 1999 **Lobster Moth** *Stauropus fagi* Nine sites this year: Theydon Bois, Woodland Way; Epping Forest, Oak Hill Farm; Great Leighs; Mann Wood; Pods Wood, Tiptree; Layer-de-la-Haye; Colchester, Oliver's Orchard; Shut Heath Wood; Maldon, Memory Close and Great Braxted
- 2010 **Scarce Prominent** *Odontotia carmelita* Epping Forest, Oak Hill Farm, 6 May (TG). Third post-1990 record, others being Bradwell in 1994 and Thundersley in 1996
- 2039 **Red-necked Footman** *Atolmis rubricollis* St Osyth, Daltes Lane, two, 26 June (RA); Lawford, 27 June, (IR); Beaumont-cum-Moze, 3 July (JBF). Two were also seen at Ipswich, Suffolk on 26 June (per AP). When you think of the number of traps operating (and their limited pulling power), these few must have represented much larger numbers, possibly running into the thousands. At this time, in late June, we had a number of silver barred which presumably came from the same point of origin
- 2043 **Orange Footman** *Eilema sororcula* Reported from eleven sites this year. A few years ago this was considered a scarce insect, but since 2000 TG has recorded eighty-two at Oak Hill

- Farm near Epping Forest! Recently reported from 19 sites
- 2045 **Hoary Footman** *Eilema caniola* Wix, 28 July (CB, JR). New to Essex
- 2058 **Cream-spot Tiger** *Arctia villica* West Bergholt, well inland, 18 June (PJS). From five other sites this year, including twenty adults at Grange Road, Lawford (AL)
- 2062 **Water Ermine** *Spilosoma urticae* Had a very good year, appearing at Pods Wood, Tiptree; Layer-de-la-Haye; Little Oakley, Rectory Road; Felsted; and an Abberton, garden. At Maldon in his garden trap, SW recorded eighteen between 20 and 29 June, and twelve more were attracted to CG's Dovercourt lamp
- 2076 **Kent Black Arches** *Meganola albula* St Osyth, 30 June (RA); Langdon Hills CP, 13 July (PH); Rayleigh, Cedar Close, 22 July (AM); Walton-on-Naze, 25 July (PS)
- 2081 **White-line Dart** *Euxoa tritici* Felsted, 13 July (GG); St Osyth, Daltes Lane, 31 July, 1 and 5 August (RA)
- 2085 **Archer's Dart** *Agrotis vestigialis* St Osyth, Daltes Lane, 23 August (RA)
- 2093 **Sand Dart** *Agrotis ripae* Frinton-on-Sea, 4 July (BL); Dovercourt, two in July (CG)
- 2108 **Lunar Yellow Underwing** *Noctua orbona* Beaumont-cum-Moze, 14 August (JBF)
- 2119 **Pearly Underwing** *Peridroma saucia* Stanway Green, 12 September (AT); Brightlingsea, 27 September (DS); Lawford, 11 October (IR); Little Oakley, 11 October (GS); Felsted, 13 October (GG); Dovercourt, October (CG); St Osyth, 25, 27 and 30 October (RA)
- 2127 **Triple-spotted Clay** *Xestia ditrapezium* Dovercourt, 20 July (CG). This is the only post-1990 Essex site
- 2137 **Great Brocade** *Eurois occulta* Theydon Bois, 6 August 2001 (JG)
- 2184 **Northern Drab** *Orthosia opima* Jaywick, 12 and 13 May (JY); Dovercourt, 12 and 13 May (CG); Wivenhoe, 19 May (PE); St Osyth, Daltes Lane, six from 23 April to 7 May (RA); Skipper's Island (RM)
- 2187 **Common Quaker** *Orthosia cerasi* Theydon Bois, 24 October (JG, TG) and...
- 2190 **Hebrew Character** *Orthosia gothica* Lawford, 23 October (AL). Two incredibly out of season quakers
- 2194 **White-point** *Mythimna albipuncta* St Osyth, eleven from 5 June to 28 September (RA); Lawford, seven between 1 June and 28 September (AL); Dovercourt, 14 August (CG); Layer-de-la-Haye, 16 and 24 August (PP); Boreham, 19 August (GE, SW); Abberton, 23 August (AK); Landernere, two on 24 August (JBF); Wivenhoe, 30 August (MJ, DD); Little Oakley, 2 and 6 September (GS); Mistley, 12 September (IR); Frinton (BL)
- 2195 **Delicate** *Mythimna vitellina* Dovercourt, 5 October (CG); St Osyth, 8 and 10 October (RA); Steeple, 20 October (DGD)
- 2202 **L-album Wainscot** *Mythimna l-album* St Osyth, Daltes Lane, 3 October (RA)
- 2223 **Toadflax Brocade** *Calophasia lunula* Dovercourt, 26 May (CG). Second from site. The first was 30 May last year, so there may be an undiscovered colony nearby, supported by another at Dovercourt on 30 May (DMA per PS)
- 2275 **Dusky-lemon Sallow** *Xanthia gilvago* Layer-de-la-Haye, 21 September (PP); St Osyth, Daltes Lane, eight between 24 September and 21 October (RA); Great Dunmow, 28 September (DP); Maldon (SW)
- 2295 **Marbled Green** *Cryphia muralis impar* Kirby-le-Soken, 22 July (PB); Dovercourt, 31 July and 17 August (CG)
- 2370 **Twin-spotted Wainscot** *Archanara geminipuncta* St Osyth, Daltes Lane, six between 22 July and 23 August (RA); Felsted, 1 August (GG); Stour Estuary, RSPB, 11 August (JC); Manningtree, water works, three on 11 August (RG); Dovercourt, ten during August (CG)
- 2371 **Brown-veined Wainscot** *Archanara dissoluta* St Osyth, 22 July (RA); Felsted, 27 July (GG); Dovercourt, August (CG); Abberton, 16 August (AK)
- 2385 **Small Mottled Willow** *Spodoptera exigua* St Osyth, Daltes Lane, 5 October (RA)
- 2399 **Bordered Sallow** *Pyrhnia umbra* Langdon Hills C.P., 13 July (PH); Maldon (SW)
- 2400 **Scarce Bordered Straw** *Helicoverpa armigera* Dovercourt, 18 and 25 October (CG)
- 2413 **Silver Barred** *Deltote bankiana* Tolleshunt Darcy, 26 June (AC); St. Osyth, 27 June (RA); Jaywick, 30 June (JY); Maldon, 7 July (SW)
- 2439 **Gold Spot** *Plusia festucae* Dovercourt, 24 August (CG)

- 2449 **Dark Spectacle** *Abrostola triplasia* St Osyth, eleven between 23 June and 16 September (RA); Frinton-on-Sea, 26 June (BL); Little Oakley, 27 October (GS)
- 2463 **Burnet Companion** *Euclidia glyphica* Epping Forest, eight; 3 June (TG); Langdon N.R., 30 June (AM)
- 2465 **Four-spotted Tyta** *luctuosa* West Bergholt, Chapel Road, 29 July (JF); Felsted, Bannister Green, 30 July (GG). These were probably vagrants
- 2466 **Blackneck** *Lygephila pastinum* Felsted, 22 July (GG)
- 2475 **Waved Black** *Parascotia fuliginaria* Layer-de-la-Haye, 18 July (DA); Theydon Bois 22 July (JG)
- 2478 **Bloxworth Snout** *Hypena obsitalis* Little Oakley, Rectory Road, 5 October (GS, IR, PS). Specimen photographed. New to Essex. From the photograph this appears to be a cracking specimen. Probably a migrant/vagrant
- 2480 **Buttoned Snout** *Hypena rostralis* Recorded from Chelmsford; Mistley; Rayleigh; Basildon; Epping Forest; Copperas Wood; and South Woodford. In South Essex on 18 January, thirty adults were found hibernating in outbuilding (DGD), and larvae were collected from hop at Dovercourt on 7 July and adults emerged on 31 July (CG, BG)
- 2484 **Pinion-streaked Snout** *Schrankia costaestrigalis* St Osyth, Daltes Lane, 25 and 29 August (RA)
- 2491 **Shaded Fan-foot** *Herminia tarsicrinalis* Beaumont-cum-Moze, 3 July (JBF); St Osyth, Daltes Lane, 8 July (RA)
- 2495 **Olive Crescent** *Trisateles emortualis* Frinton-on-Sea, 5 July (BL), possibly a wanderer; Mistley, 6 July (PP) - a new site, though it is only a few miles from its stronghold and the two locations are more or less connected by oaks, due to a railway line

Recorders:

JA=J. Aird; DJA=D. Agassiz; DA=D. Allen; DMA=D. Anthony; RA=R. Arthur; CB=C. Balchin; RB=R. Barfoot; TB=T. Barritt; PB=P. Bergdahl; JB=J.P. Bowdrey; DB=D. Boyle; JC=J. Clifton; AC=A. Cook; RC=R. Cottrill; AD=A. Dewick; SD=S. Dewick; DGD=D. Down; DD=D. Dutton; GE=G. Ekins; PE=P. Ensom; JF=J. Firmin; JBF=J.B. Fisher; GG=G. Geen; CG=C. Gibson; BG=B. Goodey; RG=R. Gooding; EG=E. Goodyear; JG=J. Green; TG=T. Green; SG=S. Grimwade; PH=P. Harris; NH=N. Harvey; MH=M. Heywood; RH=R. Heckford; MJ=M. Jackson; AK=A. Kettle; AL=A. Lansdown; GL=G. Law; BL=B. Lock; AM=A. Maisey; RM=R. Marsh; HO=H. Owen; PP=P. Parmenter; BP=B. Pateman; DP=D. Perry; EP=E. Ponting; AP=A. Prichard; PP=P. Pyke; IR=I. Rose; JR=J. Rowland; DS=D. Scott; AS=A. Senior; GS=G. Slater; PS=P. Smith; PJS=P.J. Smith; TT=T. Tarpey; MT=M. Tarrant; AT=A. Thompson; JT=J. Torino; SW=S. Wood; JY=J. Young

Programme for 2002

These are events we are aware of. 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

Please contact Joe Firmin on 01206 241389 before attending Chalkney and Old Hall.

Chalkney Wood, near Earls Colne, meet at Forest Enterprise Car park at TL872280

Friday 14 June starting at 8.30pm

Friday 12 July starting at 8.30 pm

Friday 16 August starting at 8.00pm

Old Hall Marsh RSPB reserve, near Tollesbury. Meet at reserve car park

Friday 19 April starting at 8.00pm

Friday 13 September starting at 8.00pm

National Moth Night

Tim Green has kindly offered to host this event on 15 June at Epping Forest. Bring your traps and let's make a night of it.

The moths and butterflies of Great Britain and Ireland, volume 4 (parts 1& 2)

Last, but certainly not least, volume 4 has arrived! This is a momentous occasion - the families covered, the Gelechiidae, Oecophoridae and relatives, fill the final gap in the literature for many of us who in the past have had to refer to a mixture of old and recent journals and foreign books to try and identify them. The gelechids especially are not for the faint of heart, but now we can see what is out there and just as important what is *not* out there, enabling identification to be done with more confidence. This volume more than any other has been a Herculean labour of love and it is most unlikely a British work covering these families will be produced in our life time again, so try to forget the expense - if your interest in moths is ever likely to extend to these micros you'll need to buy both parts, and the price being asked by retailers is £150. Believe it or not this is a bargain, but if you're prepared to wait until Autumn the paperbacks will be much cheaper.

One or two small problems are evident and there is a supplied correction sheet of errors and updates which you can cut up and glue into the appropriate place. For the plates of adults, some people might raise the photos versus paintings debate but I find both styles equally as helpful or baffling, and Richard Lewington's work is of high quality. Equally, Michael Robert's genitalia figures are amongst the best I've seen in any work. At the beginning of the series, genitalia drawings were supplied only if essential for the identification of a species, but as things have evolved they have rightfully become a necessity and a vital tool.

This volume is dedicated to Maitland Emmet and is a fitting tribute to his work and enthusiasm for this book and indeed the series as a whole. It is also a tribute to the work of Basil and Annette Harley and co-author John Langmaid, their accuracy and insistence on getting things right before going to print. Available from Harley Books, Martins, Great Horkesley, Colchester, Essex, CO6 4AH

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