

Essex Moth Group

Issue 26 2003



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

This edition lists the highlights of last year. Please check your records carefully and let me know if there are any corrections to be made. This list will form the basis of a report destined for the Essex Field Club's *Essex Naturalist*.

David Warner, RIP

It was announced at the February AGM that David Warner, one of our founder members, had passed away, aged seventy. Dave was an important and much respected personality in our group and contributed much towards our knowledge of Lepidoptera in Essex. He submitted 350 records to the database and, thanks to the 'Old School' way of pursuing his hobby, was able to help greatly with the list of larval food plants in *The moths of Essex*. Dave was a regular member of the Colchester Natural History Society's lamp sessions, where his wacky sense of humour did much to relieve the tedium on cold, unproductive nights. As an artist (his chosen profession before retirement) he designed our logo and designed the novel front cover of the CNHS's *Butterflies of Colchester and north-east Essex*, as well as editing that society's journal, *Nature in north-east Essex*. Dave will be greatly missed and we extend our sympathy to his wife June and daughter Vanessa.

The year so far...

2003 has started quite well. January saw a few micros on the wing earlier than would normally be expected and included *Argyrotaenia ljungiana* at Jaywick on the 4th (Jon Young), *Cacoecimorpha pronubana* at Colchester on the 18th (Brian Goodey), *Epiphyas postvittana* at St Osyth on the 1st (Reg Arthur), **Indian Meal Moth** at Dovercourt on the 10th (Chris Gibson) and the plume *Amblyptilia acanthadactyla* at Woodford Green on the 12th (Robin Barfoot). An early **Garden Carpet** was trapped at Boreham on 26 January (Graham Ekins). The previous earliest date I have for this species is April!

February proved to be rather cold and not much was reported, but March was better. **Light Orange Underwing** was evident at Friday Wood, Colchester, flying among aspens near the car park. This colony was discovered in the mid-1980s by Jon Young, but recent searches proved negative apart from a single adult of an *Archiearis* species seen here last year. This was not caught and confirmed, but I was able to net and photograph a perfect example on 23rd. Several people failed to see the moth at this site, showing how fickle recording can be. **Blossom Underwing** appeared in small numbers at Layer-de-la-Haye (Peter Pyke), a few miles south-west of a known colony, and on the coast at Dovercourt on 29 March (Chris Gibson) and a pair at Frinton-on-Sea on 15 April (Barbara Lock). Traditionally confined in Essex to a few inland sites dominated by scrub oak, these last two records are a surprise. A

Dotted Chestnut was trapped at Epping Forest on 10 March (Tim Green), the third Essex specimen. It seems likely to be in the process of colonising the county.

April so far has yielded an **Early Tooth-striped** at Kirby-le-Soken, on the 24th (Paul Bergdahl), several **Northern Drabs** at Dovercourt, between 20th and 23rd (Chris Gibson), and the micros *Caloptilia populetorum* at Colchester on the 16th (third post-1990 record), *Incurvaria pectinea* (third post-1990 record), and *Grapholita internana* (first post-1990 record) at Danbury Common on the 18 April (Brian Goodey, Peter Pyke). The latter flies around gorse (though it is easily missed among swarms of *Cydia succedana*) and always seems to have been scarce in Essex: there are just a couple of mid-eighties records from Colchester and Fingringhoe, where it seems to have disappeared. Finally, Chris Gibson has reported the first *Eudonia angustea* of the year, on the 24th. This is the second earliest date I have on record.

National Moth Night, 12 April 2003

So far I've received lists from 17 sites and these have yielded 374 moths of 39 species. Gardens fared poorly in the cold conditions, averaging just 6 – 7 species, but events held in woodland did better, with Epping Forest getting 18 species and Stour Wood, 20. The full species list so far is: *Eriocrania subpurpurella*, *Ypsolopha ustella*, *Elachista canapennella*, *Hofmannophila pseudospretella*, *Endrosis sarcitrella*, *Diurnea fagella*, *Agonopterix heracliana*, *A. subpropinquella*, *A. arenella*, *Epiphyas postvittana*, Scalloped Hook-tip, Frosted Green, March Moth, Shoulder Stripe, Brindled Pug, Double-striped Pug, Early Thorn, Oak Beauty, Dotted Border, Engrailed, Sloe Carpet, Lesser Swallow Prominent, Lunar Marbled Brown, Muslin Moth, Red Chestnut, Small Quaker, Lead-coloured Drab, Common Quaker, Clouded Drab, Twin-spotted Quaker, Hebrew Character, Mullein, Grey Shoulder-knot, Early Grey and Satellite. If you haven't done so, please send me your results as soon as possible.

Annual indoor meeting held at the Venture 2000 Centre, Lawford on 22 February 2003

This was another successful and busy event, thanks to the efforts of Bob, Sue, Gordon, Joe and Ian. Talks were given by Jon Clifton (equipment safety), Robin Field (Buttoned Snout), Zoe Ringwood (Fisher's Estuarine Moth) and Paul Waring (nationally scarce moths worth looking for in the area, such as four-spotted* and square-spotted clay). Slides were provided by Don Down, Ian Rose and Peter Smith. Every year we wonder how we're going to fill a whole day, and every year we run short of time! We made a small profit of £75 which will go towards the hire of a hall next year.

*If you're interested in searching for the four-spotted *Tyta luctuosa* in 2003, please contact me. Recent widely-spread records suggest vagrants, especially given the dates, though there is a perhaps a chance of residency in north-west Essex and possibly in the Abberton Reservoir area. Essex receives a good share of reports nationally, and Paul believes the chances of finding a colony is fair. Post-1990 records, all of single adults, are:

Date	1km2	Site
11 June 1997	TL8313	Witham, Whet Mead N.R.
1 July 1997	TL8836	Daws Hall N.R.
6 July 1997	TL9217	Layer Marney Tower
20 July 1997	TM0308	Bradwell St Peters
24 June 1998	TM2230	Dovercourt
24 July 1999	TL9618	Abberton Reservoir N.R.

20 July 2000	TL4938	Littlebury
29 July 2001	TL9627	West Bergholt
30 July 2001	TL6920	Felsted

Highlights of 2002

162 **Goat Moth** EWT Abbotts Hall, larvae, 26 August (GC, NH). First breeding records since pre-1975

175 **Narycia monilifera** Oak Hill Farm, Epping, 15 June (TG, BG). Third post-1990 record

229 **Monopis obviella** Epping Forest, Oak Hill Farm, four between 2 February and 22 March (TG). Unusually early dates

281 **Caloptilia populetorum** Boreham, 12 March (GE). **New to VC19 North Essex**

294 **Aspilapteryx tringipennella** Boreham, May (GE, JL). Third post-1990 record

313 **Acrocercops brongniardella** Dovercourt, July (CG). Became abundant in 1991 but vanished as fast as it had appeared. Records in 1996 at Stour Wood and last year at Friar's Grove Colchester are the only intervening records

321 **Phyllonorycter messaniella** Friar's Grove, Colchester, 25 March (BG). Exceptionally early date for adult

374 **Yellow-legged Clearwing** Thorpe-le-Soken, 7 August (JB). Adult and empty pupa on an oak tree damaged by a storm several years ago and now producing a sap run

379 **Red-belted Clearwing** Jaywick, Midway, 19 May (JY); Basildon, 24 July (PH) - both breeding in gardens; Hylands Park, July (MWH)

409a **Argyresthia trifasciata** Dovercourt, 18 May (CG); Boreham, 30 May (GE). New sites, third and fourth records

409b **Argyresthia cupressella** Boreham, 30 May (GE); Layer-de-la-Haye, June (DA). Fifth and sixth county sites

430 **Yponomeuta plumbella** Stanway, 26 July (DO). Fourth post-1990 record

435 **Zelleria hepariella** Epping Forest, Oak Hill Farm, 19 March & 4 April (TG, DP) **new to VC18 South Essex**; Langley Upper Green, 29 July and 1 August (EP), second VC18 site

451 **Ypsolopha mucronella** Great Dunmow, 27 March (DP); Magdalen Laver, 3 April (TG); Epping Forest, Oak Hill Farm, 15 April (TG)

497 **Coleophora badiipennella** Friday Wood, Colchester, 16 July (BG). Second post-1990 site

499 **Coleophora limosipennella** Pods Wood, Tiptree, 4 July (DO, BG); Friday Wood, Colchester, 16 July (BG); EWT Abbotts Hall, Tollesbury, 7 August (NH)

510 **Coleophora juncicolella** Epping Forest, Long Running, 17 April (JC, TG). Only two other recent sites: Saffron Walden and Hainault Forest

515 **Coleophora albitarsella** Layer-de-la-Haye, 27 July (PP, BG). Fifth post-1990 site

553 **Coleophora striatipennella** Great Horkesley, 15 June (BH, BG). Second post-1990 record

562 **Coleophora asteris** Dovercourt, 22 July (CG). Second post-1990 site

568 **Coleophora versurella** Tollesbury, Shinglehead Point, larvae, 6 May (AC, BG); Dovercourt, 25 June (CG). First & second post-1990 sites

573 **Coleophora atriplicis** Goldhanger, sea wall, 12 June (AC, BG). Second post 1990 record

607 **Elachista canapennella** Boreham, 24 April (GE, JL); Tolleshunt D'Arcy, 9 May (AC, BG). Third and fourth recent sites

631 **Cosmiotes freyerella** Dunmow, Bigods Lane, 4 April (DP, BG). Second post-1990 record

632 **Cosmiotes consortella** Dovercourt, May (CG). Second post-1990 record

633 **Cosmiotes stabilella** Dovercourt, 25 June (CG). Second post-1990 record

668 **Luquetia lobella** Stanway, 15 June (DO, BG); Dovercourt, 23 June (CG); Maldon, date not stated (SW). Second to fourth post-1990 records

671 **Depressaria ultimella** Boreham, May (GE, BG). Third county record and the first since 1987

719 **Ethmia quadrillella** Dovercourt, 29 July, 11 August and two on 13 August (CG). First records since 1986

726 **Metzneria metzneriella** Dovercourt, July (CG); Eastend Wood, Elsenham, 7 July (CP). Second & third post-1990 records, the other was at Saffron Walden in 1994

729 **Isophrictis striatella** Dovercourt, July (CG). Third post-1990 record

733 **Eulamprotes wilkella** Dovercourt, July (CG). First record since 1982

748 **Ptocheuusa paupella** Dovercourt, 15 August (CG). Fourth post-1990 site

758 **Recurvaria leucatella** North Chingford, July (BP); Stanway, 19 July (DO); Basildon, 8 August (MA). First records since 1988

772 **Carpatolechia fugitivella** Dovercourt, 14 July (CG). The only other post-1990 site is Saffron Walden

782 **Bryotropha senectella** Stanway, 26 July & 1 August (DO, BG); Layer-de-la-Haye, 14 August (PP, BG). Third & fourth post-1990 sites

796 **Aroga velocella** Layer-de-la-Haye, 6 August (PP, BG). Sixth post-1990 record

797 **Neofaculta ericetella** Epping Forest, Long Running, six between 17 and 21 April (JC, TG). First county records since 1980

801a **Gelechia senticetella** Dovercourt, 28 July (CG). Fourth post-1990 site

808 **Platyedra subcinerea** Layer-de-la-Haye, fifty-four adults from 15 May to 14 July (PP, BG). Fourth post-1990 site

829 **Caryocolum marmoreum** Dovercourt, 2 June (CG). Second county record, the first being at Colne Point in 1977

830 **Caryocolum fraternella** Layer-de-la-Haye 27 July (PP, BG). Second post-1990 site

832 **Caryocolum blandella** Stanway, 12 August (DO, BG). Third post-1990 record

844 **Syncopacma larseniella** High Woods, Colchester, 15 June (BG); Dovercourt, July (CG). Fourth & fifth post-1990 record

854 **Anacamptis blattariella** Stanway, 26 July (DO, BG). First post-1990 record

856 **Anarsia spartiella** Stanway, 6 and 14 July (DO). Fourth post-1990 record

903 **Chrysoclista linneella** Boreham, 2 June (GE, BG). Fourth post-1990 Essex site

921 **Phtheochroa inopiana** Dovercourt, July (CG). Fourth post-1990 record

951 **Aethes beatricella** Jaywick, 17 June (JY); Boreham, 28 June (GE). Sixth & seventh post-1990 records

959 **Cochylidia rupicola** Colchester, 29 July, ten adults around hemp agrimony (M & BG). Fourth Essex site and the first record since 1978. Also reported from Frinton-on-Sea on the same date (BL) and Dovercourt on 31 July (CG)

1007 **Capua vulgana** Iron Latch Meadow, Colchester, 17 May (DO, JF); Pods Wood, Tiptree, 20 May (DA, JF). Seventh and eighth post-1990 records

1043 **Acleris aspersana** - Dovercourt, July (CG). Fourth post-1990 record

1079 **Piniphila bifasciana** Eastend Wood, Elsenham, 6 August (CP). Second post-1990 record

1095 **Apotomis sororculana** Oak Hill Farm, Epping, 15 June (TG, BG). Second post-1990 record

1099 **Endothenia marginana** Eastend Wood, Elsenham, 6 August (CP). Second post-1990 record

1013 **Olindia schumacherana** Eastend Wood, Elsenham, 7 July (CP). Second post-1990 record

1110 **Bactra furfurana** Dovercourt, 6 June (CG, BG); Layer-de-la-Haye, 29 August (PP, BG). First and second county records since 1987

1118 **Ancylis uncella** Epping Forest, Long Running, 17 April (TG, JC). First county records since 1979

1120 **Ancylis mitterbacheriana** Oak Hill Farm, Epping, 15 June (TG, BG). Fourth post-1990 record

1126 **Ancylis badiana** Eastend Wood, Elsenham, 6 August (CP). Fourth post-1990 record

1157 **Crociosema plebejana** Jaywick, six adults from 17 June to 7 November (JY) - second Essex record, **new to VC19**; Layer-de-la-Haye, 21 August (PP, BG); Dovercourt, 26 August (CG)

1198 **Eucosma pauperana** Maldon, Memory Close, two in April (SW, BG). **New to VC18**. The only other recent site, in 1997, is Saffron Walden (AME)

1206 **Clavigesta sylvestrana** Dovercourt, 23 July (CG, BG). **New to Essex**. Larva feed on maritime pine, so its presence here a surprise

1246 **Grapholita tenebrosana** Dovercourt, 17 June (CG). Second post-1990 record

1259 **Cydia fagiglandana** Dovercourt, 25 June (CG). Fourth post-1990 site

1382 **Anania verbascalis** Layer-de-la-Haye, 2 August (PP, BG). Fourth post-1990 record

1465 **Nephoterix angustella** Boreham, 4 June (GE); Little Wigborough, Copt Hall, 21 July (JF, IR et al); Kirby-le-Soken, 28 August (PB)

1474 **Ephestia parasitella** Boreham, June (GE, BG); North Chingford, June (BP, BG); Stanway, 10 June (DO, BG); Beaumont-cum-Moze, 19 June (JBF); Layer-de-la-Haye, 20 June (PP, BG); Elsenham, Eastend Wood, 21 June (CP); Mistley, 28 June (PP, BG)

1497 **Amblyptilia acanthadactyla** Theydon Bois, 10 and 14 August (JG, BG); North Chingford, 28 September (BP)

1523 **Oidaematophorus lithodactyla** Dovercourt, 12 July (CG). Second post-1990 site - the other was at Jaywick in 1998

1550 **Small White** Jaywick, 27 December, freshly emerged outside (JY). Incredibly late or early!

1649 **Dusky Hook-tip** Kirby-le-Soken, 11 August (PB). Third Essex record and **new to VC19**. The other two, both from Bradwell-on-Sea, were on 8 August 1992 and 6 August 1997 (AJD)

1688 **Tawny Wave** Walton-on-Naze, 28 July (PS); St Osyth, Daltes Lane, 30 July (RA)

1716 **Vestal** North Chingford, 17 August (BP); Langdon Hills CP, two on 22 August (PH); Frinton-on-Sea, 3 September (BL)

1720 **Gem** North Chingford, 17 and 19 July (BP); Kirby-le-Soken, 28 August (PB); Magdalen Laver, 3 September (TG); Frinton-on-Sea, 13 September (BL); Rayleigh, 21 October (GB); Jaywick, 31 October & 1 November (JY); Langley, Upper Green, 31 October (EP); Takeley, 1 November (GS); Epping, Oak Hill Farm, 24 to 26 December (TG); Maldon, undated (SW)

1736 **Royal Mantle** Tolleshunt Darcy, 21 May (AC). Third post-1990 record

1761 **Autumn Green Carpet** Jaywick, 2 October (JY). First post-1990 record

1767 **Pine Carpet** St Osyth, Daltes Lane, 25 July (RA). Third post-1990 record

1807 **Grass Rivulet** St Osyth, Daltes Lane, 18 June (RA). Second post-1990 record

1885 **Clouded Magpie** Langenhoe, 29 July (HO, JF et al)

1940 **Satin Beauty** Mistley, 4 August (IR et al). Two were reported from the Writtle College Rothamsted trap in 1990 (per RF); the only other county records are both pre-1903 (VCH) from the Epping and Ongar areas.

1949 **Square Spot** Epping Forest, Oak Hill Farm, 17 May (TG). Four records from this locality since last year. There are no other Essex sites

1972 **Convolvulus Hawk-moth** EWT Abbotts Hall, 24 August (D. Smart per NH)

1978 **Pine Hawk-moth** New localities are Elsenham (CP), Great Totham (PP), Landermere (JBF), Langley (EP), Layer-de-la-Haye (PP), Little Oakley (GS) and Stansted Mountfitchet (GG)

1984 **Humming-bird Hawk-moth** Hadleigh C.P., 1 June (DD); Mistley, 15 June, 1, 4 and 13 September (IR); Epping, 20 June (IN); Stanway, 24 June and 7 October (LO); Lawford, 25 June (AL); Brentwood, 28 June (ML); Jaywick, 29 June & 4 July (JY); Rowhedge, 6 July (NH); Maldon, 13 July (SW); Great Totham, 28 July (PP); Little Oakley, 28 July (GS); Danbury, 2 August (JD); Bangers Green, Takeley, 27 June, 29 August and 30 September (AG, GS); Magdalen Laver, 1 Sept (TG); Langley Upper Green, 3 Sept (EP); EWT Abbotts Hall, 5 September (NH); Dovercourt, 8 September (CG); Frinton-on-Sea, 8 September (BL); Hockley, 9 September (J. Mann per NH); Halstead, 13 September (per NH)

1987 **Bedstraw Hawk-moth** Rayleigh, 7 August (GB); Dovercourt, 19 August (CG); Brentwood, 24 August (NA)

1990 **Striped Hawk-moth** Lawford, 2 September (AL). Fourth post 1990 record

2010 **Scarce Prominent** Epping Forest, Oak Hill Farm, 24 April (TG). Three from this site since last year

2041 **Dotted Footman** St Osyth, Daltes Lane, 19 July (RA). Fourth post-1990 site

2102 **Flame Shoulder** Layer-de-la-Haye, 12 March (PP). A very early date

2131 **Square-spotted Clay** Freewood, two adults feeding on teasel flowers, 9 August (JC, JS); Langley Upper Green, 14 August (EP). These bring the total to thirteen adults from this 10km square since 2001

2152 **White Colon** Little Oakley, 22 June (GS); Wix (CB, JR)

2165 **Small Ranunculus** Basildon, 7 and 26 July (PH)

2195 **Delicate** Jaywick, 3 October (JY)

2202 **L-album Wainscot** Jaywick, 26 September & 3 October (JY)

2223 **Toadflax Brocade** Dovercourt, 28 and 30 July (DMA, PS). Second and third from site, the first being on 30 May 2001. There are also two records from nearby Chris Gibson's garden, on 30 May 2000 and 26 May 2001

2260 **Dotted Chestnut** Great Dunmow, 12 March (DP). **New to Essex**; North Chingford, 18 April (BP) **new to VC18**

2275 **Dusky-lemon Sallow** New sites at Black Notley (GB), Langenhoe (HO), Langley, Upper Green (EP); Rayleigh (GB) and Stanway DO)

2276 **Pale-lemon Sallow** Epping Forest, Oak Hill Farm, 3 October (TG, DP)

2295 **Marbled Green** Frinton-on-Sea, 24 July (BL); Walton-on-Naze, 4 August (PS); Kirby-le-Soken, 17 August (PB); Dovercourt, 18 August (CG). There is also the probability of a population in the Langley Upper Green area with two reported on 24 July and 6 August by an experienced observer (EP)

2317 **White-spotted Pinion** Chalkney Wood, Earls Colne, 17 August (DW, JF, IR); Langenhoe, 19 August (HO, IR, JF). These probably point to previously unknown colonies and their discovery was one of the main highlights of 2002. Both sites will be investigated

this year to try and find evidence of larvae. Other recent sites are Elsenham in 1995 and Saffron Walden in 1997, so there could be a colony in north-west Essex.

2403 **Bordered Straw** Chingford, 20 June (RC); Dovercourt, Oakley Road, 24 June (PS); Jaywick, 27 June (JY); EWT Abbotts Hall, 27 June (GC); Lawford, 5 July (AL); Loughton, 21 August (RB); Little Oakley, 31 August (GS); Boreham, 7 September, two (GE)

2412 **Silver Hook** EWT Abbotts Hall, 17 June (GC, NH). Also occurred on 16 August 2001. First records since 1958, so there may be a breeding colony in the vicinity

2428 **Golden Twin-spot** Kirby-le-Soken, 3 September (PB); Wix, 11 October (CB, JR). Eighth & ninth post-1990 sites

2432 **Ni Moth** St Osyth, Daltes Lane, 28 August (RA); Langley Upper Green, 21 October (EP). Third & fourth post-1990 sites

2480 **Buttoned Snout** New sites at Boreham, 4 April (GE), and East Ham, larvae, 25 June (HV). Great Horkesley (BH), recorded most years from c.1991 to 2002 at TL9632, there being a large growth of hop nearby. A survey by Robin Field and Butterfly Conservation revealed larvae at forty-three sites across Essex, around 90% of those sampled

2475 **Waved Black** Epping, Oak Hill Farm, 23 July (DP, TG); St Osyth, Daltes Lane, 1 August (RA).; North Chingford, three in August (BP)

Programme:

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

May 9 (Friday) **Broaks Wood, Gosfield**

Meet at car park, 8.00pm. Contact Joe Firmin on 01206 241389

May 23 (Friday) **Chalkney Wood, Earls Colne**

Meet at Forest Enterprise car park, 8.00pm. Contact Joe Firmin on 01206 241389

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Beetle records: Nigel Cuming, 33 Holly Road, Colchester CO3 5QL (01206 330019).

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

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