

# Essex Moth Group

Newsletter 31 September 2004 [essexmoths.org.uk](http://essexmoths.org.uk)



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

Three new species have been added to the Essex list. *Monopis fenestratella*, a denizen of nests, is regarded as being a rare in Britain with just a handful of records. *Tinagma balteolella* is a migrant/colonist whose larvae feed on viper's bugloss, and *Cydia amplana* is also a migrant/colonist which appears to have a toe hold in the UK. There are two more possible new species, both macros — an unidentified *Nola* sp. (see article) and a possible example of **Langmaid's Yellow Underwing**, which has yet to be confirmed.

From information and specimens so far processed, the following records have, metaphorically (or indeed actually) come to light:

## Migrants & Wanderers

- 1262 *Cydia amplana* Dovercourt, 7 August (Chris Gibson). **New to Essex**
- 1408 *Palpita unionalis* St Osyth, 21 August (Reg Arthur)
- 1716 *Vestal* Magdalen Laver, 11 August (Tim Green)
- 1972 **Convolvulus Hawk-moth** EWT Abbots Hall, 29 July (Karl Goodbun); Chrishall, 14 August (Phil Jenner)
- 1973 **Death's-head Hawk-moth** Parkeston, 20 July (Peter Smith)
- 2137 **Great Brocade** Dunmow, 16 August (Dave Perry)
- 2152 **White Colon** Jaywick, 29 July (Jon Young)
- 2194 **White-point** Maldon, 31 May (Russell Neave); Earls Colne, 25 June (Joe Firmin); St Osyth, June and fifty-six in August (Reg Arthur); West Bergholt 2 August (Joe Firmin); Jaywick, 9 August (Jon Young); Wix, 28 August (Chris Balchin, Jan Rowland).
- 2202 **L-album Wainscot** Kirby-le-Soken, 12 July (Paul Bergdahl)
- 2323 **Reddish Light Arches** Magdalen Laver, 4 July (Tim Green, Dave Perry). Third post-1990 record.
- 2400 **Scarce Bordered Straw** Jaywick, 19 August (Jon Young)
- 2447 **Scarce Silver Y** Frinton-on-Sea, 5 August (Barbara Lock); Magdalen Laver, 14 August (Tim Green). Third & fourth post-1990 records.
- 2494 **Clay Fan-foot** Canvey Island, 6 August (Graham Bailey, Don Down). First record since mid-1970s. Searched for again in case of a resident population.

## Butterflies

- 1545 **Clouded Yellow** between Heybridge and Goldhanger, fifteen 15 August (George Catchpole)
- 1584 **White Admiral** High Woods CP, Colchester, 19 July (Ernie Wells, Richard Moulson and Mick Nicholls - BCTV volunteers). Also seen at usual localities of Stour/Copperas Woods and Friday Wood
- 1607 **Dark Green Fritillary** Danbury, 8 August (John Dobson)

## Macros

- 162 **Goat Moth** Abbots Hall, larva squashed by car (car a write-off), 7 September (Adrian Knowles).
- 373 **Currant Clearwing** Colchester, Halstead Road, 13 June (Ray Ruffell, Andy Cook)
- 379 **Red-belted Clearwing** Stanway, 27 July (Nigel Cuming)
- 382 **Six-belted Clearwing** Old Hall Marshes, 7 August (Nigel Cuming)
- 1658 **Oak Lutestring** Epping Forest, 24 August (Tim Green); Hockley Woods, 7 September (Graham Bailey). Fifth & sixth post-1990 sites.
- 1903 **Barred Umber** Fobbing, 14 June (R.J. Hills). First Essex record since 1981.
- 1992 **Small Elephant Hawk-moth** Epping Forest, 28 May (Tim Green); Theydon Bois, two, 24 June (Jean Green); Jaywick, 17 June (Jon Young)
- 2057 **Garden Tiger** Jaywick, 10 August (Jon Young). No larvae seen this year at Jaywick.
- 2131 **Square-spotted Clay** Chrishall, six between 1 and 6 August (Phil Jenner)
- 2165 **Small Ranunculus** Chelmsford, 16 July (Stephen Wilkinson); Woodford Green, 10 September (Robin Barfoot) – well away from the south Essex coast where it is resident; Benfleet, 29 July (Peter Livermore). During August Don Down and Graham Bailey were successful in finding larvae/adults at Hadleigh, Southend, Westcliff-on-Sea, Rayleigh, and Canvey Island.

2223 **Toadflax Brocade** Dovercourt, seven adults on 31 May; 4, 13,15 and 17 June; 3 and 5 July (Chris Gibson). Larvae have been found in two sites in Suffolk on common toadflax (per Tony Prichard, Nigel Cuming) and will undoubtedly be found in Essex if searched for.

2291 **Coronet** Walton-on-Naze, 7 August (Reg Arthur). First confirmed record since 1986.

2292 **Tree-lichen Beauty** St Osyth, 8 August (Reg Arthur)

2295 **Marbled Green** Kirby-le-Soken, 13 July (Paul Bergdahl)

2317 **White-spotted Pinion** Langenhoe, larva 25 May (Paul Waring et al); adults 7 and 17 August (Hugh Owen); Brightlingsea, 14 August (David Scott)

2330 **Dusky Brocade** St Osyth, 27 July (Reg Arthur). Formerly a common moth, this species seems to have significantly declined in the past few years.

2463 **Burnet Companion** Roxwell Pit, 13 June (Stephen Wilkinson); Canvey Island, 19 June (Don Down)

2465 **Four-spotted** Littlebury, six adults 29 May (Richard Fowling per John Dawson); Coggeshall, A120, a female netted on convolvulus, 27 July (Peter Pyke); Langenhoe, 27 July (Hugh Owen); Chrishall, 6 August (Phil Jenner)

2491 **Shaded Fan-foot** Lawford, 25 June (Anne Lansdown)

## Micros

20 *Ectoedemia decentella* North Chingford, 27 July (Bryon Pateman). Second post-1990 site

22 *Ectoedemia louisella* Jaywick, mine on field maple, 21 August (Jon Young)

233 *Monopis fenestratella* Stanway, 10 June (Dave Owen, Brian Goodey). **New to Essex**

281 *Caloptilia populetorum* Epping Forest, 2, 4 and 19 August (Tim Green)

296 *Calybites phasianipennella* Epping Forest, 24 and 25 August (Tim Green). Second and third records

397 *Glyphipterix thrasonella* Epping Forest, Copley Plain, ten adults on 15 June (Tim Green, Dave Perry). First county record since 1986.

399 *Tinagma balteolella* Beckton, 17 May (Colin Plant). **New to Essex**

430 *Yponomeuta plumbella* Magdalen Laver 3 and 4 August (Tim Green); Dunmow, 4 August (Dave Perry)

458 *Ypsolopha alpella* Stanway, 14 July (Dave Owen); Epping, 18 August (Tim Green)

459 *Ypsolopha sylvella* Epping, 18 August (Tim Green)

501 *Coleophora siccifolia* Jaywick, case on apple, 6 August (Jon Young)

520 *Coleophora fuscicornis* Abberton Reservoir, 21 July (Neil Harvey), second inland site; St Osyth, Howlands Marsh, 8 July (Reg Arthur, Neil Harvey). Both sites refer to larval cases.

521 *Coleophora conyzae* Pods Wood, Tiptree, 27 July (Dave Owen, Brian Goodey)

577 *Coleophora artemisicolella* Layer-de-la-Haye, 15 July (Peter Pyke, Brian Goodey)

689 *Agonopterix ciliella* Dovercourt, 22 July (Chris Gibson). First post-1990 record.

736 *Monochroa lucidella* Stanway, 30 July (Dave Owen, Brian Goodey). Second post-1990 record

742 *Monochroa lutulentella* Stanway, 16 June (Dave Owen, Brian Goodey). The only other recent record was Saffron Walden in 1991

746 *Chrysoesthia drurella* Great Braxted, 23 May 2004 (Julian Torino) Third post-1990 record.

748 *Ptocheuusa paupella* Jaywick, mines affecting three fleabane plants, 14 August (Jon Young)

757 *Recurvaria nanella* Stanway, 21 July (Dave Owen); Layer-de-la-Haye, 24 July (Peter Pyke)

764 *Pseudotelphusa scalella* Epping Forest, 25 May (Tim Green). Fourth post-1990 record.

797 *Neofaculta ericetella* Epping Forest, various locations, 22 May to 8 June (Tim Green)

814 *Scrobipalpa ocellatella* Jaywick, tower area, breeding 21 June (Jon Young)

825 *Phthorimaea operculella* Jaywick, 13 August (Jon Young). Second county record.

830 *Caryocolum fraternella* Stanway, 4 August (Dave Owen, Brian Goodey).

903 *Chrysoclista linneella* Dunmow, 14 June (Dave Perry)

926 *Phalonidia manniana* Epping Forest, 10 July (Tim Green)

983 *Choristoneura hebenstreitella* Woodford Green, 7 June (Robin Barfoot); Epping Forest, 8 June (Tim Green).

1014 *Isotrias rectifasciana* Epping Forest, Furze Ground, 28 May (Jon Clifton, Tim Green)

1099 *Endothenia marginana* Stanway, 14 July (Dave Owen, Brian Goodey). Third post-1990 record.

1157 *Crociosema plebejana* Jaywick, five between 13 and 23 July and larvae on mallow (Jon Young)

1171 *Gypsonoma minutana* Jaywick, 22 July (Jon Young)

1198 *Eucosma pauperana* Magdalen Laver, 1 May (Tim Green). Third post-1990 site.

1233 *Pammene aurita* Dunmow, 5 August (Dave Perry)

1247 *Grapholita funebrana* Stanway, 12 July (Dave Owen, Brian Goodey)

1269 *Cydia conicolana* Magdalen Laver, 6 June (Tim Green). Second post-1990 site.

1275 *Dichrorampha flavidorsana* Colchester, 15 August (Marion Goodey); Layer-de-la-Haye, 7 August (Peter Pyke). Both records are of adults swept from tansy.

1441 *Oncocera semirubella* New sites at Jaywick, 24 July (Jon Young); Dunmow, 8 August (Dave Perry); Little Hallingbury, 11 August (Janice Green). Evidence of spreading inland. Frequent in south and south-east Essex.

1464 *Gymnancyla canella* Woodford Green, 10 August (Robin Barfoot). First record away from the north-east.

1496 *Cnaemidophorus rhododactyla* North Chingford, 12 July (Bryon Pateman); Great Holland Pits, 16 July (Reg Arthur, Peter Smith). Ten post-1990 sites.

### **A new *Nola* for Essex?**

*Brian Goodey & Tim Green*

An unidentified macro moth was caught on the outside of Tim Green's actinic trap (3x20 Watt ReptiSun) at Oak Hill Farm, Epping Forest on the night of 5th June. From an image taken of the moth by Tim the nearest fit was Kent Black Arches, but there seemed too many differences for it to be an aberrant of that species. Tim agreed to send me the specimen and I dissected a Kent Black Arches to see how closely the genitalia matched. The answer was, not very well. Other representatives of the British Nolidae were eliminated. Tim checked his records but found little evidence of migrant activity in early June.

A photo of the resulting slide was sent to Colin Plant for his opinion and, via Colin, to Norman Hall, who has experience of European Nolidae. There are differences between the Epping specimen and likely candidates, not only in the genitalia but also in the wing pattern. *Nola chlamitulalis* would appear to be the closest match, and Norman points out that *Nola* genitalia are especially prone to distortion during preparation. Even so, for it to be *N. chlamitulalis* it would have to be a form he has not seen before.

Interestingly *N. chlamitulalis* is found throughout Iberia (as well as the Mediterranean, north Africa, and across central and eastern Europe into western Asia) and may have found its way to Epping via cork oak from Portugal in the same way that the Epping pug is presumed to have done in 2002. To help this theory, Martin Corley states that *N. chlamitulalis* is quite frequent in Portugal. He adds, "The cork importation sounds very plausible. Cork is harvested in the middle of summer and then collected up and stacked, often for considerable periods. During this time it would be easy for larvae to enter stacks and pupate. The main areas for both cork oak and *N. chlamitulalis* are in the centre and south of Portugal. This is of course not proof of anything, but it would be significant if they did not occupy the same parts of the country."

A foodplant of *N. chlamitulalis* is *Teucrium* sp., and wood sage *Teucrium scorodonia* is fairly common in the Epping area, so could it colonise our country? There is a reference in *The moths and butterflies of Great Britain and Ireland* volume 9 which mentions a single specimen in a light-trap in Jersey on 16 July 1963 (Channel Island records are excluded from Bradley's 2000 checklist), so it is not impossible that *N. chlamitulalis* could reach Britain unaided.

Further work may prove the identification of the Epping specimen and we are hopeful of obtaining material from France for comparison. But even if it does prove to be *N. chlamitulalis*, should it be placed on the British list on the strength of the above evidence? It's probably time we looked at the British list and included only those species that are truly native, those which can support themselves unaided all year-round, and those that are regular migrants.

### **Hornet Robberfly**

This large and distinctive fly has become scarce in Essex and a survey next year being organised by Mark Iley (Essex Biodiversity Project Officer) aims to try and find localities in south Essex. Recent reports are confined to the extreme south of the county, with pre-1950 records in other parts of Essex. The best place to search is cow pats from late July and early September. Further info can be obtained from Mark on 01621862975 marki@essexwt.org.uk, or by going to [www.essexfieldclub.org.uk/hornet\\_robber\\_fly.htm](http://www.essexfieldclub.org.uk/hornet_robber_fly.htm)

### **\*Volunteers Please\***

#### **Fisher's Estuarine Moth work party (with Zoe Ringwood)**

*Saturday 20th November starting at 10:30 at Holland Haven Country Park, meeting in the overflow car park at TM 214171.*

The aim of the day will be to plant out batches of hog's fennel which Zoe has been rearing (and hopefully, in due time, encourage the moth to extend its range). It will be an all day affair, but people can stay as long as they are able to. Please wear sturdy footwear and bring gloves and a spades if you have them (Zoe will be bringing some with her for those that don't have any). Please bring lunch. There are three separate sites at Holland Haven which will be planted but it is unlikely that all can be done on one day.

### **Lattice Heath survey**

To the 31 August you have supplied records of 2,924 latticed heaths from 34 sites. Appearances were noted on 74 nights (out of a possible 124) from late April to the end of August. There are three clear highs, in mid-May (peaking with 22 on the 16<sup>th</sup>), mid-July (254 on the 20<sup>th</sup>), and late August (363 on the 28<sup>th</sup>). The

highest numbers were coastal, from Maldon northwards extending into south Suffolk. Half of all sites were inland, where numbers were more typically ones or twos.

The year compares favorably to that of 2003 when 1,277 specimens were reported from 31 sites. There was just one clear peak in 2003, from mid to late August.

Numbers are remaining high in the first week or so of September, so it's not over yet. This is the eighth year we've been collecting data and I'd like to thank everyone for taking part.

Brian Goodey