

# Essex Moth Group

Newsletter 37 [www.essexmoths.org.uk](http://www.essexmoths.org.uk)



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

There didn't appear to be much point in issuing a newsletter earlier in the year, with it being such a miserable spring and early summer, but things have now changed. First a brief look at last year's most important records.

## Review of 2005

- 36a *Ectoedemia heringella* Great Horkesley, mines on evergreen oak, 29 March (Tony Prichard). **New to Essex**  
122 *Opostega spatulella* Writtle College, 25 May (Martin Heywood, Brian Goodey). **First British record since 1877**  
232 *Monopis monachella* Dovercourt, 1 September (Chris Gibson). **New to Essex**  
365 *Phyllonorycter comparella* Jaywick, mines on poplars, 3 October (Jon Young). **New to Essex**  
394 *Glyphipterix forsterella* Epping Forest, 8 June (Dave Perry). **New to Essex**  
552 *Coleophora lassella* Writtle College, three, 27 - 29 May (Martin Heywood, Brian Goodey). **New to Essex**  
1051 *Acleris logiana* Stour Wood, 11 July (Tony Davis). **New to Essex**  
1208 *Pseudococcyx posticana* Woodford Green, 2 May (Robin Barfoot). Fourth county record; **new to vc18**  
1454b *Dioryctria sylvestrella* Magdalen Laver, 28 August (Tim Green). **New to Essex**  
1771a *Cypress Carpet* Little Oakley, 1 July (Gerry Slater et al). Second county record; **new to vc19**  
2292 *Tree-lichen Beauty* Woodford Green, 29 July (Robin Barfoot). **New to vc18**

## Writtle (2005 survey)

I'm continuing to look at last year's sample from the Writtle Rothamsted trap and have reached mid-August. The following scarce/under-recorded/notable species have come to light:

445 *Ocnerostoma friesei* – on two occasions; 488 *Goniodoma limoniella* – normally a coastal species; 497 *Coleophora badiipennella*; 512 *Coleophora binderella*; 539 *Coleophora conspicuella*; 566 *Coleophora sternipennella*; 583 *Coleophora tamesis* - twice; 632 *Cosmiotes consortella* - twice; 633 *Cosmiotes stabilella* - twenty adults on nine dates; 740 *Monochroa hornigi* – also twenty adults on nine dates; 790 *Chionodes fumatella*; 815 *Scrobipalpa nitentella*; 816 *Scrobipalpa obsoletella*; 830 *Caryocolum fraternella*; 843 *Approaerema anthyllidella* – on three occasions; 1110 *Bactra furfurana*

Of equal interest is the information regarding flight times for some of the commoner micros. 607 *Elachista canapennella*, for example, occurred on virtually every night from 12 April to 15 August, an amazingly extended flight period.

## 2006 Highlights

A Queen of Spain fritillary was seen at Ingatestone on 6 July by Graham Smith, but generally butterflies have fared poorly during the first half of the year.

- 36a *Ectoedemia heringella* Colchester Castle and Frating Abbey, 17 February (J. Clifton). Second and third county records  
173 *Festoon* Hockley Woods, twenty on 2 July (Graham Bailey)  
230 *Monopis crocicapitella* Roger Payne reports two properties, one in South Benfleet the and other at Leigh-on-Sea, suffering from an infestation of this species (a sample of which was dissected by BG). The larvae are apparently unknown  
233 *Monopis fenestrata* Magdalen Laver, 12 June (Tim Green)

285 *Caloptilia azaleella* Woodford Green, 9 June (Robin Barfoot). Second from site

370 **Hornet Moth** Stansted Airport area, 27 June (David Sampson); Westcliff-on-Sea, 3 July, empty pupae on poplar probably of this species (Graham Bailey). To be confirmed

373 **Currant Clearwing** Kirby-le-Soken, 12 June (Paul Bergdahl)

371 **Lunar Hornet Moth** Harlow, 23 June (per Joan Childs). Third post-2000 record

445 *Ocnerostoma friesei* Woodford Green, 5 May (Robin Barfoot, BG). First post-1990 record

670 *Depressaria daucella* Woodford Green, 1 April (Robin Barfoot). Fourth recent record

671 *Depressaria ultimella* Maldon, 24 April (Simon Wood, BG)

867 *Brachmia inornatella* Dovercourt, 19-20 June 2006 (Chris Gibson). First record since 1988

929 *Gynnidomorpha vectisana* Layer-de-la-Haye, 26 May (Peter Pyke, BG). 3rd post-2000 record

1027 *Neosphaleroptera nubilana* Thundersley (Don Down, BG). Second post-1985 vc18 record

1051 *Acleris logiana* Oak Hill Farm, 30th March (Tim Green). **New to vc18**

1163 *Zeiraphera ratzeburgiana* Little Hallingbury, 4 July (Janice Green, BG)

1223 *Pammene splendidulana* Rayleigh, 4 June (Graham Bailey, BG). First county record for 20 years

1272 *Pammene aurana* Dovercourt, 19-20 June (Chris Gibson). First vc19 record since 1997

1356a *Evergestis limbata* Kirby-le-Soken, 25 June and two on 6 July (Paul Bergdahl, BG). **New to Essex**. This is a migrant although recently it seems to have colonised parts of Kent and Sussex. A During a period of migrant activity, one turned up in Suffolk on 23 June (Matthew Deans/Tony Prichard, pers comm.), but these three at the same Essex address suggests it may sometimes be imported. The larva is stated to feed on cruciferae.

449 *Elegia similella* Hockley Woods, three, 5 July (Graham Bailey, John Dawson). Very few records from south-east Essex

1495 *Marasmarcha lunaedactyla* Magdalen Laver, 4 July (Tim Green). Last recorded at Saffron Walden in 1986 and 1997. Usually regarded as a chalkland species, it's presence in the Epping area is a bit of mystery.

1642 **Lappet** Langenhoe Marsh, five on 5 July (Joe Firmin, Ian Rose); Basildon, 7 July (Les Steward); Rayleigh, 8 July (Graham Bailey)

1720 **Gem** Rayleigh, 28 May 2006 (Graham Bailey, BG)

1807 **Grass Rivulet** Jaywick 12 June (Jon Young). The previous three recent records are also from this area, Bradwell in 1984 and 1994, and St Osyth in 2002

1888a **Dorset Cream Wave** Woodford Green, 2 July (Robin Barfoot). **New to Essex**. This may be only the second UK record.

1979 **Lime Hawk-moth** Beaumont-cum-Moze, 6 June (Ben Fisher). An unusually-marked individual where the median fascia on the left-hand wing is greatly reduced. See below.

1984 **Humming-bird Hawk-moth** A number of these, including Tolleshunt d'arcy, 14 April (Andy Cook); Mistley, 23 May (Ian Rose); Jaywick, two 15 June (Jon Young); Bradwell St Peters, 16 June (Graham Smith); Little Hallingbury, three on 19 June (Janice Green); Maldon, 24 June (Simon Wood)

1990 **Striped Hawk-moth** Barling, 17 June (per Don Down); Hockley Woods, 18 June (Graham Bailey)

1992 **Small Elephant Hawk-moth** Could almost be described as common! Little Hallingbury, 10 June (Janice Green); Dovercourt, 15 June (Chris Gibson); Bradwell-on-Sea, 16, 30 (two) June (Tony Cussen); Colchester, Buntings Meadow 16 June (Joe Firmin, Ian Rose, Philip Smith); Woodford Green, 18 June (Robin Barfoot); Brightlingsea, three on 22 June (Colin Plant); Jaywick, 27 June (Jon Young)

1999 **Lobster Moth** Great Dunmow, 17 June (Dave Perry)

2109 **Lesser Yellow Underwing** Tolleshunt Major, 28 April (Howard Knott). Incredibly early.

2039 **Red-necked Footman** Hockley Woods, two on 2 and 5 July (Graham Bailey, John Dawson), perhaps suggestive of a temporary colony?

2183 **Blossom Underwing** Kirby-le-Soken, 31 March (Paul Bergdahl); Ingatestone, 3 April (Graham Smith)

2194 **White-point** A good number of these, including: Beaumont-cum-Moze, 3 June, a melanic (Ben Fisher); Mashbury, 16 June, (Maira Tarrant); Rayleigh, 17 June (Graham Bailey); Maldon, 19 June (Russell Neave); Jaywick, 19 and 27 June (Jon Young); Maldon, 24 June (Simon Wood); Oak Hill Farm, 25 June (Tim Green); Great Leighs, 29 June (Greg Bond)

2195 **Delicate** Oak Hill Farm, 29 June (Tim Green)

2223 **Toadflax Brocade** Woodford Green 1, 7, 12, 18, 20 June and two larvae on purple toadflax on allotments at Walthamstow, 6 July (Robin Barfoot)

2236 **Pale Pinion** Great Leighs, 14 April (Greg Bond); Daws Hall, 17 May (Iain Graham)

2380 **Treble Lines** Alder car, Lawford, ninety to mv on 9 June (Ian Rose)

2400 **Scarce Bordered Straw** Great Dunmow, 15 June (Dave Perry)

2403 **Bordered Straw** Woodford Green, 18 June (Robin Barfoot); Dovercourt, 26 June (Chris Gibson); Bradwell-on-Sea, 23 June (Tony Cussen)

2404 **Eastern Bordered Straw** Steeple, 3 June (Clive Harding, Don Down). Second Essex record

2465 **Four-spotted** Strehall Church, 2 July (Stephen Patmore, per Tony Moverley)

2475 **Waved Black** Magdalen Laver, 2 July (Tim Green)

2495 **Olive Crescent** Mistley 3 July (Ian Rose). Second from this site (the first was in 1999) and third from Mistley

## The state of Britain's larger moths

Butterfly Conservation and Rothamsted Research, 2006. From BC, Manor Yard, East Lulworth, Dorset BH20 5QP £5 + £1.50 p&p.

This is a worthwhile attempt to analyse forty years of data from the Rothamsted trap network, to highlight population trends of some of our moths and to present the findings in a way that the general public (and media!) can easily understand.

The general results are somewhat alarming, echoing what long-term recorders have been voicing for some time – that moths are declining, affecting breeding bird numbers, etc etc. These declines are somewhat geographic, with south and east England being the worst affected (the north of England and Scotland has seen some increases). And of course some moths have increased during this period, such as dingy, buff and orange footman. It's important to realise some of the moths highlighted are still common, abundant even, but they have still declined in the past few decades. What this report seeks to do is make use of an important and available data source rather than rely on opinions which may lack factual evidence. Here are those species which have declined by over 70% (classed by the report as 'vulnerable', with those in bold as 'endangered'):

Ghost Moth; Pale Eggar; Lackey; Oak Hook-tip; Buff Arches; Oak Lutestring; Small Emerald; Blood-vein; Mullein Wave; Oblique Carpet; **Dark-barred Twin-spot Carpet**; Shaded Broad-bar; **Dark Spinach**; **Spinach**; Small Phoenix; Pretty Chalk Carpet; Dark Umber; **Grass Rivulet**; Streak; Broom-tip; Latticed Heath; **V-Moth**; August Thorn; **Dusky Thorn**; **September Thorn**; Brindled Beauty; **Figure of Eight**; Garden Tiger; White Ermine; Buff Ermine; Cinnabar; **White-line Dart**; **Garden Dart**; **Double Dart**; **Autumnal Rustic**; Small Square-spot; Dot Moth; Broom Moth; **Hedge Rustic**; Feathered Gothic; Powdered Quaker; Shoulder-striped Wainscot; Minor Shoulder-knot; Sprawler; Deep-brown Dart; Green-brindled Crescent; Dark Brocade; Flounced Chestnut; Brown-spot Pinion; Beaded Chestnut; Centre-barred Sallow; Sallow; **Dusky-lemon Sallow**; Grey Dagger; Knot Grass; Mouse Moth; Light Arches; Dusky Brocade; Large Nutmeg; Rosy Minor; Ear Moth; Rosy Rustic; Crescent; Large Wainscot; Rustic; Mottled Rustic

Essex records support most of these findings, but for a few no appreciable change appears to have taken place and some, such as sprawler and dusky-lemon sawfly, appear to have increased. Long-term recorder Jon Young at Jaywick mostly favours the findings but disagrees with buff ermine ('becoming more abundant'), light arches and large wainscot, there being a good breeding habitat close by.

## Microlepidoptera of Europe volume 4 – Pyraloidea 1

B. Goater, M. Nuss, W. Speiel. Apollo Books, Stenstrup, Denmark, 2005. Around £60 plus p&p

This work covers the first batch of pyralid families, including the grass moths, china-marks and (most importantly!) the *Scoparia* – *Eudonia* group. It's a high-quality production and will mostly appeal to serious leppers, especially those who visit the Continent or who sample catches from traps and want to identify often worm specimens. For this they may want to refer to the excellent genitalia plates, many of which are photographs of actual specimens, and what a joy they are! Earlier books in this series relied on often poorly-drawn preparations which caused as much confusion as help, but this volume is in a different league. The colour plates of set adults are superb, offering both natural size and for the Scopariinae 1x7 times magnification.

There are several more pyralid books in preparation and it's wonderful to see this family at last being covered adequately.

## Die Oecophoridae s.1. Mitteleuropas

Z. Tokár, A. Ivovsky, P. Slamka. Bratislava, 2005. Text in German. Around £30, including p&p.

This latest edition to the moths of central Europe covers a large and important group, the Oecophoridae, which contains a number of large and obvious species, but not the *Depressaria* or *Agonopterix* which will be covered in the second volume. If you already have MBGBI vol. 4 (1) and don't record on the Continent, this will probably be of limited value but, as with all moths, the more books you have the better! This work shows an increase in quality over some of the earlier volumes in the series and the plates of adults and those of the

genitalia are very good. The authors manage to cram an awful lot into each slim volume and the lack of English text not really a major problem.

### **Fisher's estuarine surveys - Zoe Ringwood**

I have arranged two dates for surveying Fisher's Estuarine Moth at Beaumont Quay this year to monitor the impact of the revised EA mowing regime.

Tuesday 19th September and Tuesday 3rd October (meet at 8:30pm) - night time transect survey to record the abundance and behaviour of the adult moth (survey will take 1.5 to 2 hours).

We will be meeting at the parking bay opposite Quay Farm (Grid reference: TM 189241) for each monitoring session.

The surveys are dependent on weather and interested members should contact Zoë Ringwood on 01245 424200 (ext. 25524) or 07854 075095 or by email [zoe.ringwood@writtle.ac.uk](mailto:zoe.ringwood@writtle.ac.uk) to give their details so that they can be contacted in case of cancellation.

### **Nation moth recording scheme**

The Heritage Lottery Fund looks set to allow a grant to help establish and initially help run the national (UK) recording scheme for macro-moths. Once finally agreed the project should start to swing into action during the autumn. The organisers extend their thanks to those who have contributed funds so far. If you have not yet donated but would like to make a contribution, there is still time. Please email David Bridges, the Head of Fundraising [butterfly0@btinternet.com](mailto:butterfly0@btinternet.com) and he will be happy to send you a donation form.

### **Harley Books**

Harley Books are delighted to announce the sale of their series, *The Moths and Butterflies of Great Britain and Ireland*, to Apollo Books Aps, Kirkeby Sand 19, DK-5771 Stenstrup, Denmark; Tel. 00 45 62 26 37 37; Fax. 00 45 62 26 37 80; email: [apollobooks@vip.cybercity.dk](mailto:apollobooks@vip.cybercity.dk); website: [www.apollobooks.com](http://www.apollobooks.com).

With three of the ten volumes yet to be published – Volumes 5, 6 and 8 – Apollo Books, who are leading publishers of multi-volume works on European and world entomology, plan to complete the series. Dr K.P. Bland, Pelham-Clinton Curatorial Fellow at the National Museums of Scotland, Edinburgh, an associate editor and a contributing author to two volumes in the series, has been appointed editor.

All standing orders are being passed to Apollo Books and henceforward all matters relating to sales of this work, including orders for published volumes, should be referred to them. Apollo Books will continue to use Harley Books' distributors and therefore British orders will be despatched from the UK.

Orders for all Harley Books' other titles should continue to be sent to Harley Books.

### **New plume**

There is a new plume to look out for, *Emmelina argoteles*. Jeff Higgott has caught two specimens from Wicken Fen, Cambridgeshire, near enough to us to be of interest, especially those in north-west Essex. There are no identification features to separate it from *monodactyla*, however if you catch a smallish specimen of this plume (especially from marshes or other watery habitats you can pass it to me for dissection. It's possible that *argoteles* is more widespread than the two records suggest, but as *monodactyla* is a moth most people would tend to ignore, it could remain undetected.

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**Butterfly records:** Val Perrin, 13 Pettitts Lane, Dry Drayton, Cambs. CB3 8BT [valperrin@doctors.org.uk](mailto:valperrin@doctors.org.uk)

**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).

**Harley Books:** [www.harleybooks.com](http://www.harleybooks.com)

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