

Essex Moth Group

Newsletter 39 Summer 2007



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

It's been a while since the last newsletter was published (autumn, in fact) and in the intervening time some important changes have taken place. Dave Allen has agreed to become the new County Recorder and the appointment was recently ratified by the Essex Field Club. He has also agreed to take on the newsletter and has bought some web space to hopefully restart the web site.

The contact details are:

Dave Allen, 33 Old Forge Road, Layer-de-la-Haye, Essex CO2 0JT
Telephone: (01206 734357)
Email: dja153@tesco.net

Dave's on dial-up at the moment, so you should not send large attachments to him at present although he hopes to change to broadband shortly.

By Dave's own admission he is not a moth expert, so images and specimens you want identifying should still come to me. You can also send me lists you want checking for validation reasons before Dave puts them on the database.

Once up to speed, Dave will of course make his own arrangement for dealing with records and the newsletter. The funds and SAEs for the printed versions of the latter have been passed to him, so check the box below to make sure you have sufficient funds to continue to receive it. A few of you have in the past provided large envelopes which go beyond the postal charges in place at this time, for these I have provided an extra stamp.

I would like to extend to Dave my thanks and pass on the group's appreciation for taking on the above tasks.

There have been a few records on note in this, at times, difficult year weather-wise plus a few stragglers from last year (marked inside []). Here's a selection:

380 **Red-tipped Clearwing** in a poly-tunnel at Brightlingsea, 7 June 2007 (David Scott). Second recent record and the first in vc19 since before 1960.

484 *Epermenia aequidentellus* Writtle College, 16 July 2005 (Brian Goodey) was the first Essex and this has been followed by larvae at Jaywick in May 2007 (Jon Young), the first breeding record.

586 *Coleophora adjunctella* Layer-de-la-Haye, 24 May 2007 (Peter Pyke). First county record since 1978.

[964a *Cochylis molliculana* Guide Woods, Hockley, 4 September 2006 (Graham Bailey) - new to VC18, second Essex record]. Magdalen Laver, 19 June 2007 (T. Green).

[952 *Commophila aeneana* Willow park, Langdon Reserve, 16 June 2006 (Graham Bailey) third recent locality]

[1223 *Pammene splendidulana* Heron Gardens, 4 June 2006 (Graham Bailey) second recent record]

1374a *Scleroconia acutellus* Little Hallingbury, 24 June 2007 (Janice Green). Third Essex record; first for VC19

1376 **Small Magpie** Great Dunmow, 27 March 2007 (Dave Perry). Exceptionally early for this species

[1797 **Autumnal Moth** Guide Woods, Hockley, 14 November 2006 (Graham Bailey). First *confirmed* Essex record older records not accepted because of lack of specimens.]

[1814 **Lead-coloured Pug** Guide Woods, Hockley, 18 June 2006; Great Bull Wood, Hockley 2 July 2006 (Graham Bailey). Second and third recent records, the first is Don Down's colony at Belfairs Wood, Hadleigh]

1984 **Humming-bird Hawk-moth** One flying in sunshine over a track leading to Miller's Farm, Great Wakering on 15 February 2007 (John Threadgold)

2075 **Small Black Arches** Five adults in a private woodland near Maldon, 23 June 2007 (Russell Neave). First Essex record since 1934 and thought to be extinct. This is a nationally scarce species so please check those Least black arches carefully!

[2488a **Plumed Fan-foot** South Woodham Ferrers, 16 October 2006 (Bill Coster). Second Essex record]

The Dragonflies of Essex

Ted Benton and John Dobson. Lopinga Books/Essex Field Club, £20. 228 pages.

Dragonflies are not moths but nonetheless they are still reasonably interesting and many people enjoy searching for them. Essex has twenty-three established breeding species...compared with 38 for the UK as a whole, and this book covers each in wonderful detail. There are also chapters dealing with morphology and life cycle, habitats and history of recording, as well as an appendix on which species might be expected in the future. This is a well produced work with excellent colour photos throughout, highly recommended.

Available at some local bookshops, museums and wildlife centres or apply directly from John Dobson (tel.: 01254 224405) or email johndobson@mammals.fsnet.co.uk).

Bat and Moth Evening

I am organising a "Bat and Moth Evening" at Queens Park Country Park in Billericay (for which I am the Ranger) on 19th September and I am looking for a moth expert (or two?) to attend as a 'local expert' to give a short talk, and then to identify the catch later on (after the bat walk). We could of course pay expenses.

Chris Huggins, Norsey Wood Information Centre (01277 624553) chris.huggins@basildon.gov.uk

The annual Fisher's Estuarine Moth larval feeding sign and Hog's Fennel survey at Beaumont Quay will be taking place on Thursday 12th July, meeting in the parking area (TM 189241) at 10am. The survey will take approximately 1.5 to 2 hours to complete. As you are all aware, the survey is important in determining the impact of the revised mowing regime on the abundance of both the moth and Hog's Fennel. For those of you that are keen to be involved in helping to monitor the newly established Hog's Fennel sites, I will be conducting a training session at The Naze starting at 1pm on the same day. We will be meeting in The Naze car park (TM 265234). Please contact Zoe on 07854 075095, 01245 424200 or zoe.ringwood@writtle.ac.uk for further information.

Many thanks, Zoe Ringwood

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Butterfly records: Val Perrin, 13 Pettitts Lane, Dry Drayton, Cambs. CB3 8BT 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

Lopinga Books: www.lopinga.co.uk

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

Funds for receiving the newsletter – if this is ticked please send SAEs to Dave.