

# ESSEX MOTH GROUP

# ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

## 2025

Compiled by Dougal Urquhart



**SLENDER BURNISHED BRASS**

*Thysanoplusia orichalcea*

**3<sup>RD</sup> November 2024**

**Photo – Stephen Dewick**

**Curry Farm, Bradwell**

**First Essex record.**

**ESSEX MOTH GROUP**  
**ANNUAL MEETING AND EXHIBITION**  
**THE CORDITE ROOM, WAT TYLER C.P. VISITOR CENTRE**  
**SATURDAY 1st MARCH**  
**2025 PROGRAMME**

10.30.....**RECEPTION / REFRESHMENTS**

DONATION £10, PAY ON ARRIVAL

10.45.....**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**DOUGAL URQUHART**, ESSEX MOTH GROUP COORDINATOR

11.00.....**GAVIN PRICE** - THE MOTHING JOURNEY

11.45.....**GRAHAM BAILEY** – MOTHS OF SOUTH-EAST ESSEX

12.30.....**CINDY LAWES** – MOTHS OF BRADWELL BIRD OBSERVATORY

1.00.....**LUNCH** – CHANCE TO CHAT WITH FRIENDS

2.00.....**SAM CHAMBERLIN** – MOTHS OF DAWS HALL NATURE RESERVE

2.30.....**DAVID COUSINS** – MOTHING NEAR GREAT DUNMOW AND BEYOND

3.00.....**NEIL MURPHY** – MOTHS THROUGH THE YEAR

3.30.....**DOUGAL URQUHART** – MIDDLEWICK RANGES UPDATE AND ITS MOTHS

4.00.....**LAST REFRESHMENTS** AND A CHANCE TO CHAT WITH FRIENDS

5.00.....**PARK CLOSES – DON'T GET LOCKED IN!**

**THANKYOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT AND  
GOOD LUCK WITH THE NEW MOTHING SEASON!**

Welcome to the annual newsletter of the Essex Moth Group. The Group was first formed in 1996 and is now entering its 29th year.

The newsletter is important to the Essex Moth Group and shows the important moth recording work that members carry out across the county of both the common species and the scarcer species too. Some reports detail interesting trends in populations. The newsletter also allows other members to share their account of the previous mothing season, to share their sightings as well as their moth images too.

As group co-ordinator, thank-you to all those members who have contributed an article for this newsletter. It's great to see the variety of reports from around the county ranging from the experienced members to the beginners to mothing. There are some fascinating accounts and some great moths described in the reports, illustrated with some excellent images. The newsletter is a helpful way of seeing various trends in moth populations as new species spread across the county, as well as reading about those species that are declining in numbers. All the reports from around the county in the newsletter are summarised each year in the Moth Highlights report published in the Essex Field Club's annual journal of the Essex Naturalist. I trust members will find this newsletter an interesting read. The articles have had very little editing and are read as they were sent in. All images have been credited, usually to the right-hand side of the page with the initials of the photographer.

Apologies in advance for any spelling or grammar errors especially with the scientific names!

If you want to share any other ideas about the Moth Group, you can contact me – Dougal Urquhart as the Moth Group coordinator on 07494866157 or at – [dougalurquhart57@gmail.com](mailto:dougalurquhart57@gmail.com);

Information about the Essex Moth Group can be found on the Essex Moth Group website at [www.essexfieldclub.org.uk/portal/p/Essex+Moth+Group](http://www.essexfieldclub.org.uk/portal/p/Essex+Moth+Group). Help is needed with keeping these pages updated.

At present the moth County Recorder for Essex is Peter Harvey and whilst Peter is more than happy to continue to deal with records, we need a moth specialist to come forward to manage identification requests and organise and promote recording in the county.

Contact Peter at: [grayspeterharvey@gmail.com](mailto:grayspeterharvey@gmail.com);

## **ESSEX MOTH GROUP FACEBOOK PAGE**

The Moth Group Facebook page was started in July 2017 by Simon Wood and has been well used and visited by many members and other moth enthusiasts. Plenty of moth pictures have been posted both of known and unknown identity, providing opportunities for discussion – which is exactly what it is there for. As of February 2025, the Group had 523 members who had joined the Facebook group – over fifty new members joining in the last twelve months shows that interest in moths continues to grow.

This is an informal discussion group relating to all things mothy within Essex, UK, VC18 and VC19. All sightings and identification queries are very welcome. When posting a photograph, it would be most helpful to have an idea of the size of the moth, whether at rest or wings-span and of course a date and location for the record.

## SUBMITTING MOTH RECORDS

Firstly, if you do not send in your records to Essex Field Club, PLEASE DO! All data is vitally important. Thus, for example local moth recorders have recently won a significant planning battle in north Essex in front of a Planning Inspector, resulting in an important precedent for amateur recording in the Planning System. The two best ways of submitting data are Mapmate (<https://www.mapmate.co.uk>) or by using the Essex Field Club Moth template which can be found on the website in the menu on the right hand side of the screen (see screen shot A).

Secondly, before recording and sending in your records please ensure that where necessary your data has been **VERIFIED BY A RECOGNISED EXPERT AND THAT THIS INFORMATION IS ADDED TO EACH RECORD**. To check out whether your record requires verification each species is graded. Verification grades can be viewed on the Essex Field Club website by searching and displaying the species account in question (see attached screen shot B). If you click on Verification Grade a link will take you to the Butterfly Conservation Verification Guidelines which explains each Grade in detail. For adult moths there are Grades 1, 2, 3 and 4 and a simplified description of each is given below.

Grade 1 species can, unless well out of range or recorded at an unusual time of year, be recorded without verification. Otherwise, it will be necessary to provide good photos or perhaps even retain a specimen

Grade 2 species are those easily confusable with other species. Good quality photos or even a specimen will be required if the observer is unfamiliar with the species. Worn examples may not be identifiable (unless retained for genital dissection (GD)). **PLEASE ADD TO YOUR DATA THE DETAILS OF WHO VERIFIED YOUR RECORD, ON WHICH PLATFORM (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, private email etc.) AND THE DATE.**

Grade 3, this will be a very scarce species and require either a very good set of photos and/or a specimen. **PLEASE ADD TO YOUR DATA THE DETAILS OF WHO VERIFIED YOUR RECORD, ON WHICH PLATFORM (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, private email etc.) AND THE DATE.**

Grade 4 moths require genital dissection (GD) . **PLEASE ADD TO YOUR DATA THE DETAILS OF WHO VERIFIED (by microscopic examination) YOUR RECORD AND THE DATE.**

If species specific verification is not received some species can none-the-less be recorded as 'aggregate' species, for example the Marbled Minor agg. (comprising Marbled, Tawny Marbled and Rufous Minors) and Common Rustic agg. (comprising Common and Lesser Common Rustics). This is still useful data. I can provide a full list of aggregates if required.

If you have any queries at all, please ask.

SCREEN SHOT A

County Recorders  
County Data  
What's on now  
Recorders partnership  
Datasearch  
Membership  
Our Archive Project  
Collections  
Help the Club  
Your surveys  
Publications  
Essex biodiversity  
Essex geodiversity  
Resources  
Post your news

Clifden Nonpareil  
Lepidoptera: macromoths: Erebidae

Monthly/Weekly charts  
create taxon report

Amazon Donates

Visit Our Centre

We are closed due to the Covid-19 situation, but we are otherwise normally open to the public at our centre at Wat Tyler Country Park every Saturday, Sunday and bank holiday 11am-4pm, check. We are also normally open on Wednesday 10am-4pm.

Submit Records  
Download template

Moth template

Join with the T...

Main record what's

Records: 19  
First Record: 2017  
Latest Record: 2021

1992-on hectads: 14  
Pre-1992 hectads: 0  
Total hectads: 14  
Additional Phenology Data

Images  
Clifden Nonpareil  
upload a new image

Catocala fraxini (Clifden Nonpareil)

1990 on  
1970-1999  
pre 1970

Tortricodes alternella  
find out more...

THE ESSEX FIELD CLUB



The Essex Field Club  
the leading society for wildlife and geology enthusiasts in Essex, England, UK.

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Register  
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County Recorders  
County Data  
What's on now  
Recorders partnership  
Datasearch  
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Our Archive Project  
Collections  
Help the Club  
Your surveys  
Publications  
Essex biodiversity  
Essex geodiversity  
Resources  
Post your news  
Video about the Club

Species Account for *Mesapamea secalis*

previous species | next species **SCREEN SHOT B** Missing records?

*Mesapamea secalis* (Linnaeus, 1758) 73.169 ⓘ  
Common Rustic  
Lepidoptera: macromoths: Noctuidae

Monthly/Weekly charts  
create taxon report

Verification Grade: Adult: **Adult: Dissection required**

Records: 4011  
First Record: 1992  
Latest Record: 2021

1992-on hectads: 52  
Pre-1992 hectads: 35  
Total hectads: 87  
Additional Phenology Data

Images  
Common Rustic *Mesapamea secalis*

Support  
Essex Field Club  
When you shop at  
smile amazon.co.uk  
Amazon Donates

Visit Our Centre

We are closed due to the Covid-19 situation, but we are otherwise normally open to the public at our centre at Wat Tyler Country Park every Saturday, Sunday and bank holiday 11am-4pm, check. We are also normally open on Wednesdays 10am-4pm.

Submit Records  
Download template

## EFC WEBSITE - SOME INFO.

PETER HARVEY

### MAPMATE

The EFC will continue to use MapMate, which is crucial for the running of our website species database. The software will continue to work anyway, but other people/organisations are likely to take over aspects such as taxonomic patches to keep names up to date. Butterfly Conservation for example have committed to managing moth taxon updates after Mark Yeates MapMate self-funded private support for users with paid up support to the end of February 2026. The EFC uses MapMate and Schemes software created by Teknica Ltd to automatically upload new and edited records from our own MapMate database to the Records table on the website and these data are used to populate the species pages. Our Records database table is also the source of our own records used in the datasearch outputs. MapMate and the Schemes software enable our recording and website to effectively manage the very large amount of species data we maintain for our historical Watsonian biological vice-counties of South and North Essex recording area. Mark Yeates (MapMate Ltd) closed down the business side of MapMate on 30 November 2024 after designing, running and supporting MapMate since its creation 25 years ago. Mark stated that "Users will be supported, updated, and the infrastructure maintained (funded privately) until the last licence has expired during October 2026. During 2025, important aspects of the program (like making taxon update patches) will be passed on to any interested parties. Hopefully over this time you can decide what's next for your recording or continue using MapMate for as long as our recording community (and Windows!) supports it". Butterfly Conservation has already taken on responsibility for updating the MapMate Lepidoptera Taxa Library and will continue to manage this until further notice. If necessary the role could be taken on for other taxonomic groups at a county or regional level, and we could manage this ourselves if necessary, but it will be better for us to wait and see whether this is resolved nationally through the MapMate Support Group. Moving forward, MapMate should continue to work until at least Microsoft support Windows 11 comes to an end, and there is no reason why this would not continue afterwards. The Club will therefore continue to use MapMate to maintain our county records and upload records to the website. EFC Council also funded the bulk purchase of 100 new MapMate licences with support until 28 February 2026 and we can offer these to members who currently do not use MapMate for their recording. Although any new software takes time to get used to, the use of MapMate should be quite straightforward and we can also offer support and hopefully also training course sessions at the Green Centre to cover more advanced use (most likely Wednesdays / Saturdays). In the future, I can provide most support for EFC members using MapMate.

## **ON-LINE WEBSITE SUBMISSION OF RECORDS**

Early last year I developed a new website record submission facility to allow direct submission of records for all groups via the website, but it needs thorough testing and some further development before going live. We would also need to resolve how we would deal with the consequent on-going quality control issues, not least of which is the work required to validate and verify records, which would require input from county recorders and/or other competent specialists. The system can be developed to include verification difficulty notes for different groups and e.g. different data options for different groups. The system can be further developed to include verification difficulty notes for more different groups and e.g. the automatically recording different data options for different groups in fields like the Method, Stage, Status or Structural Habitat etc, the upload of more than one photo to aid verification. There could be related pages that provide an introduction to the taxonomic group, any general or specifics on identification difficulties and guidance, recording etc. The online record submission is nearly ready to go live and could be used to record all groups, and could be adapted to automatically record different options for different groups. The main issue, as always, is the resultant verification issues and processes. You can test the draft set up at <https://www.essexfieldclub.org.uk/portal.php/p/Test+-+Species+Search> and <https://www.essexfieldclub.org.uk/portal.php/p/Test+-+Species+Account> There is also a test page "My Verification Online Records" available to logged-on verifiers in your "My Stuff" page which needs to be further developed. There is also a page link available to logged-on members "My Records" in your "My Stuff" which allows you to find all your records in the main Records table recorded by you. You first need to set which names in the Records table refer to you. Also please submit contributions to the Essex Naturalist e.g. updates on county recording in your group and submit records either as MapMate sync files or using the MapMate import-friendly format available as a template to download from the right pane of the website. The EFC have 100 Mapmate licences and Peter would like to encourage active recorders to use and if necessary small courses could be run at the Green Centre on Wednesdays or occasional Saturdays.

## **GENITAL DETERMINATION SERVICE**

**CHRIS LEWIS**

The Essex Moth Group is grateful that Chris Lewis has agreed to offer a Genital Determination Service. I have set out in full his terms below which the EMG Panel feel are very reasonable and reflect the time necessary to carry out each determination. If you would like to contact him please see the email address below.

### **Genital determination service**

**Chris Lewis 2/7/2022**

#### **Charges:**

- Identification only - £10
- Identification + slide preparation + photographic evidence - £25
- For return of specimen / slide add £5
- Payment using the 'Donate' button on the British Lepidoptera website (it is on the Home page and the Blog page) <https://britishlepidoptera.weebly.com/> <https://britishlepidoptera.weebly.com/blog>
- Send notification of payment by email to [britishlepidoptera@gmail.com](mailto:britishlepidoptera@gmail.com) together with suspected identification of specimen and preferably also a photograph of the live moth.

#### **Notes:**

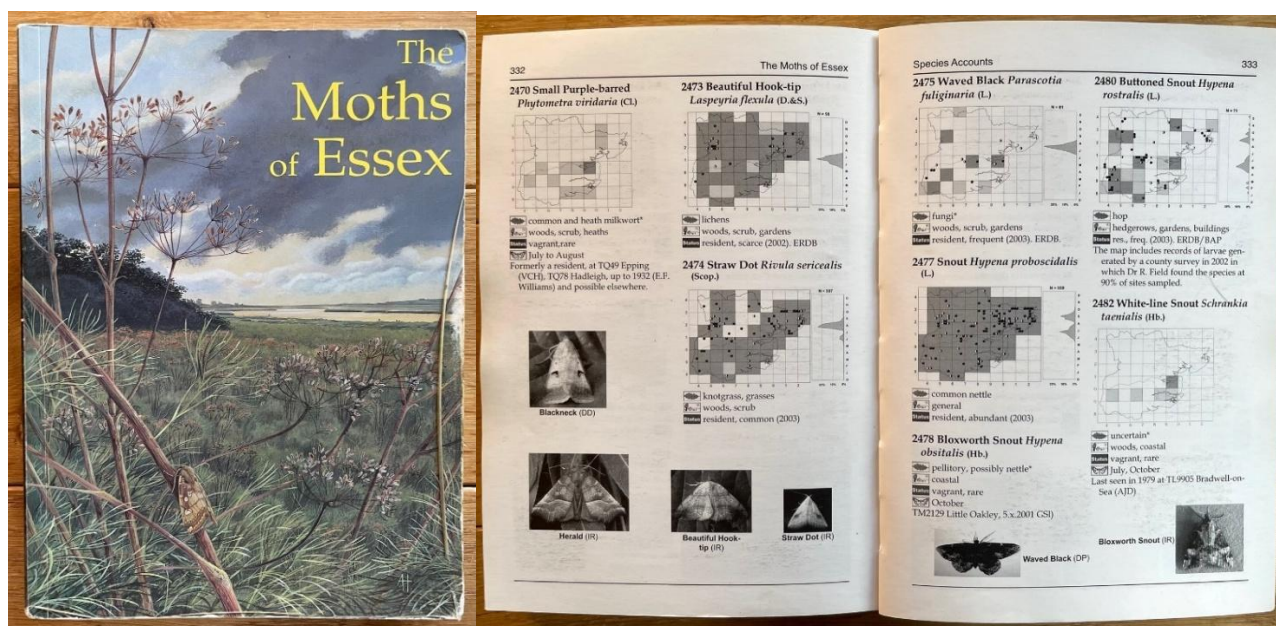
- If photographic evidence / slide preparation is contingent on identity of specimen send identification only fee in first instance and state that photographic evidence / slide prep may be wanted for specified identities.
- If return of specimen / slide required remember to include return address with email and or specimen.
- If the specimen turns out to be an extreme rarity / first for Essex I will make a slide and provide photographic evidence free of additional charge. (For this purpose, I will be the sole arbiter of what constitutes an extreme rarity!)
- In the event that slide preparation / return of slide is not required by the sender, I reserve the right to prepare and retain a slide for my own collection.
- I reserve the right to present photographs taken by me of any specimen sent on the British Lepidoptera website or in any other publication.
- Whilst I will make some effort to keep turn-around times short, this will be somewhat dependent on the volume of work to be done and it is likely that most dissections will be done in the late autumn and winter.

## ESSEX MOTH GROUP ANNUAL INDOOR MEETINGS

This year's annual meeting is the 27<sup>th</sup> one held by the Essex Moth Group since the first one was held in Ian Rose's house in Lawford in 1996. The Group then held its meetings in the Anglian Water building at Horsley Cross for several years before then moving to the Venture Scout Centre in Lawford for about nine more years up until 2013. The Group then needed to find a new venue for 2014 and so we met at the Green Centre at Wat Tyler Country Park – the home of the Essex Field Club. Annual meetings were held there up to 2020 just before Covid struck and with the pandemic this meant no meetings were possible in 2021 or 2022. Since 2020 the Green Centre has not been available for us, so we have been pleased to be gathering further along the road at the Wat Tyler CP visitor centre, in the Cordite Room for the third time. Our thanks to the Facilities Support team at Wat Tyler CP, Basildon Borough Council, for allowing us to meet here. Thanks to Piccadilly Whip Catering for providing refreshments and the buffet lunch.

## COPIES OF THE MOTHS OF ESSEX BOOK

## DOUGAL URQUHART



Brian Goodey's book written in 2004 is still an invaluable reference guide to the distribution of all moths that have been recorded in Essex. There has been a stockpile of spare copies stored over the years in the publisher's house of David Corke. He contacted me in 2023 asking to take the boxes of books off his hands. The books are free to anyone who wants one. Spare copies will be brought along to the annual meeting for members to take away. I still have more boxes in storage in West Mersea, so contact me if you'd like a free copy.

## ESSEX FIELD CLUB EXHIBITION AND SOCIAL, DEC 2024

The Essex Moth Group again had a stand at the popular Essex Field Club's annual Exhibition and Social event in the Green Centre at Wat Tyler CP on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024. It's always a worthwhile event, meeting and talking to many old and new moth enthusiasts.

## MOTH GROUP NOTHING EVENINGS

There will be some nothing sessions this coming summer, details will be posted on Facebook nearer the time. Two sessions already planned jointly with Colchester Natural History Society will be at Cymbeline Meadows, Colchester on Wed 11<sup>th</sup> June 2025 and then Tiptree Heath on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> Aug 2025. Timings and access details will be posted on Facebook.



9 Lepidopteran species were added to the Essex list in 2024.

			Finder	Gen. Det			Grade
12.024	<i>Cephimallota crassiflavella</i>	<b>Red-headed Bee Moth</b>	Chris Williams	Mike Dale	17/7/2024	Light	4
15.066	<i>Phyllonorycter strigulatella</i>	<b>Grey Alder Leaf-miner</b>	Daniel Blyton		6/9/2024	Actinic + Synergetic	2
27.0021	<i>Oegoconia novimundi</i>	<b>New World Yellowneck</b>	Bill Crooks	Chris Lewis	1/9/2024	MV Light	4
34.008	<i>Cosmopterix scribaiella</i>	<b>Reed Beauty</b>	Tom Lantaff		29/5/2024	Synergetic	3
45.033	<i>Merrifieldia leucodactyla</i>	<b>Thyme Plume</b>	Tom Lantaff		30/7/2024	Actinic	3
49.0965	<i>Cochylimorpha woliniana</i>	<b>Wormwood Straw</b>	Mark Telfer	Peter Hall	June 2022	Reared	4
70.1271	<i>Horisme radicularia</i>	<b>Cryptic Fern</b>	Chris Lewis	Chris Lewis	9/7/2024	MV Light	4
70.2841	<i>Pungeleria capreolaria</i>	<b>Banded Pine Carpet</b>	Clive Atkins		14/5/2024	Light	3
73.004	<i>Thysanoplusia orichalcea</i>	<b>Slender Burnished Brass</b>	Stephen Dewick		3/11/2024	Light	3

1. *Cephimallota crassiflavella* (Red-headed Bee Moth), Colne Point, 17/07/2024 – Chris Williams



*Cephimallota crassiflavella* and its female genitalia. Images by Mike Dale

2 *Phyllonorycter strigulatella* (Grey Alder Leaf-miner), Earls Colne, 06/09/2024 – Daniel Blyton



*Phyllonorycter strigulatella*. Images by Daniel Blyton

3. *Oegoconia novimundi* (New World Yellowneck), Dagenham, 01/09/2024 – Bill Crooks



*Oegoconia novimundi*. Image by Bill Crooks

4 *Cosmopterix scribaiella* (Reed Beauty), Benfleet Downs, 29/05/2024 – Tom Lantaff



*Cosmopterix scribaiella*, image by Tom Lantaff, posted Essex Moth Group Facebook, 01/06/2024

5. *Merrifieldia leucodactyla* (Thyme Plume), South Benfleet, 25/07/2024 – Tom Lantaff



*Merrifieldia leucodactyla*. Image by Tom Lantaff

6. *Cochylimorpha woliniana* (Wormwood Straw), Tilbury, June 2022, **First for Britain** – Mark Telfer



*Cochylimorpha woliniana*. Image by Peter Buchner, copied from Lepiforum

7. *Horisme radicularia* (Cryptic Fern), Heydon chalk pit, 09/07/2024 – Chris Lewis



Left – **Cryptic Fern**, Ham Fen, Kent, 10/08/2010; upper centre – **Cryptic Fern**, Heydon Chalk Pit, 09/07/2024; lower centre – **Fern**, Foulness, 13/06/2020; right upper – forewing apex of **Cryptic Fern**; right lower – forewing apex of **Fern**. Images by Chris Lewis



**8. *Pungeleria capreolaria* (Banded Pine Carpet), St Osyth, 14/05/2024 – Clive Atkins**



**Banded Pine Carpet** (males). Left – image by Clive Atkins posted on Essex Moth Group Facebook on 15/05/2024. Right – image by Pete Merrett, posted on Essex Moth Group Facebook, 11/09/2024

There was a second Essex record on 11th September when one was found on the window of Design Coalition in Ongar.

**9. *Thysanoplusia orichalcea* (Slender Burnished Brass), Bradwell, 03/11/2024 – Stephen Dewick**



**Slender Burnished Brass.** Image by Stephen Dewick

Chris Lewis - On behalf of the Essex Moth Group verification panel

Full summary will be posted on Facebook shortly and will also appear in the next Essex Naturalist.

**DARK SKIES TEST CASE**

**CHARLES CLOVER, DEDHAM VALE SOCIETY**

It was announced on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025 that the Dedham Vale Society and Campaign for National Parks had won their test case against the Secretary of State over the failure of an Inspector to apply the current duty to conserve National Landscapes and National Parks when giving permission for the car park development and lighting at Manningtree train station.

As a result the planning permission is quashed and will have to be reconsidered. The case will impact all official bodies in all ten National Parks and 34 National Landscapes in England, including National Grid and Ofwat, and has far-reaching implications for the way development is managed in our National Landscapes and National Parks in the future. The government caved in three days after the DVS counsel Ben Fullbrook, sent in a formidable skeleton argument. There will be no further court hearing in February but instead a consent order was issued, approved by the judge which says the Inspector made “an error of law” and the result “might have been different” if the statutory duty to “conserve and enhance” the landscape had been applied. The government is paying DVS costs up to a cap of £35,000 but these are likely to exceed that amount with DVS paying the excess.

The biggest impact is national and immediate – a shot across the bows of all official bodies thinking of doing any work in protected landscapes warning them to consider it properly. In terms of Manningtree station development it is not the end of the road. There will be more legal work to ensure the Inspector’s decision is reconsidered according to the new duty and that Tendring District Council recommences its enforcement proceedings to make the Manningtree development properly landscaped and its lighting

consistent with a dark sky area. It is not known how much this will cost, so it is a relief the DVS fighting fund is now in good shape, thanks to all. We will report back in due course.

This battle united the Vale to a truly heart warming degree in a common cause with Dedham and East Bergholt parish councils making significant and very generous donations to the fighting fund along with a couple of major local businesses, other parish councils and more than a hundred individual members and friends of the DVS. This unanimity might be needed again.

Central to the win was the brilliant legal work of Richard Buxton Solicitors and our counsel, Ben Fullbrook, whom DVS would recommend wholeheartedly on all planning issues. The DVS committee would like to thank everyone for rising to the occasion and for their great generosity. Thankyou for playing a part in this historic victory!

*Extract from an email circulated to members of the Dedham Vale Society and other generous donors on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025, written by Charles Clover, Chairman of the Dedham Vale Society.*

## ESSEX FOUR-SPOTTED MOTH 2024

SHARON HEARLE

The Four-spotted Moth *Tyta luctuosa* can occasionally appear in moth traps across Essex as a migrant usually towards the end of July. Where it is resident, the moth can be found during the day often in good numbers in early June and again in July. The preferred habitat for the moth is arable farmland with the thinnest chalky soil in open, exposed landscapes, possibly one of the biggest threats is tree and hedge planting. In addition, the lack of verge mowing is continuing the trend towards rank verges with no bare ground and limited Field Bindweed. This species appears to thrive best in areas with regular ground disturbance. Four-spotted is listed as one of our threatened species vulnerable to extinction. There is a long history of the moth the NW corner of Essex near Littlebury and Great Chesterford and over the border in Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire. Butterfly Conservation has been undertaking 15-minute timed counts at known locations and advising landowners and advisors about conservation needs.

### Results in 2024

The season was very slow and a single were first seen on 6.5.24 in Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire with the Essex records as follows

17.6.2024 Wendens Ambo 1

17.6.2024 Audley End 3

Numbers were low in 2024 and other known sites around Littlebury and Great Chesterford visited were negative. In contrast counts in 2023 were much higher with 11 Four-spotted seen in 15 minutes on 14.6.23 at Wendens Ambo. Visits for the second brood in Essex on 17 July were negative but 3 were seen on 31.7.24 at a site near Peterborough which was a hot day so perhaps the second brood was late this year.

If anyone can help with Four-spotted timed counts in 2025 in this part of North Essex please do get in touch with Butterfly Conservation - [info@butterfly-conservation.org](mailto:info@butterfly-conservation.org)



(S.H.)



Ron Waters, Mark Hows and I, visited Old Hall Marshes RSPB reserve on a 13<sup>th</sup> April on a chilly evening with a westerly breeze and clear sky. Ten traps were set up close to the reserve car park and moth activity was slow with just over 25 species noted by the time we packed up at 1am. We were successful with the target species **Sloe Carpet**, noting nine of them, some still coming in as we packed up. Other species included a fresh female **Emperor**, **Dotted Chestnut**, **Powdered Quaker**, **Frosted Green**, **Pebble Prominent**, **Least Black Arches**, **Ruby Tiger** and a larva of **Cream-spot Tiger**.



Sloe Carpet



Emperor Moth

DU

CYMBELINE MEADOWS, COLCHESTER, MOTH EVENING

DOUGAL URQUHART

Members of the Colchester Natural History Society and Essex Moth Group met for the first time at Cymbeline Meadows for a mothing evening on 6<sup>th</sup> June, by invitation of the Colchester City Council's countryside team. The council-owned farm sits alongside the river Colne and has a nice mix of arable, pastures, meadows and woodland. Seven of us set up nine traps in various locations and although it was another chilly and clear night typical of the cold spring, we managed 60 species of 207 individuals. Species of interest were several **Blotched Emeralds**, **Burnished Brass**, **Pine Hawkmoth**, **Small Clouded Brindle**, **Silver Y**, **Silver Ground Carpet**, **Cypress Carpet**, **Pretty Chalk Carpet** and **Shears**. The most numerous micro was the **Green Oak Tortrix** with 25 in Tom Lantaff's trap. Maybe a modest evening's reward because of the clear sky but we all felt the site was worth a return visit in the future. Thanks to CCC ranger Nick Shimwell for assisting us.



Blotched Emerald



Burnished Brass

DU

A single 125W MV Robinson trap was operated in the garden, with an additional 15W actinic trap operated from the beginning of April until the end of November. Regular species not recorded this year included **Spurge Hawk-moth** *Hyles euphorbiae* and **Dewick's Plusia** *Macdunnoughia confusa*. This could be attributable to the removing of the Lavender borders and replacing with younger plants, these borders being a regular nectaring stop for *Plusiinae* sp. Two species that were absent for the second-year running were **Feathered Brindle** *Aprophyla australis* and **Waved Black** *Parascotia fuliginaria*. Again, unfavourable weather conditions are likely to have contributed to their absence.

**Table 1.** Monthly totals of the more regular immigrant species.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	T
<b>Diamond-back Moth</b> <i>P. xylostella</i>	0	0	0	1	9	10	47	9	2	5	2	0	<b>85</b>
<b>*European Corn-borer</b> <i>O. nubilalis</i>	0	0	0	0	0	5	49	28	8	0	0	0	<b>85</b>
<b>Rusty-dot Pearl</b> <i>U. ferrugalis</i>	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	2	18	30	0	<b>54</b>
<b>Rush Veneer</b> <i>N. noctuella</i>	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	<b>5</b>
<b>Humming-bird Hawk-moth</b> <i>M. stellatarum</i>	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Vestal</b> <i>Rhodometra sacraria</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>Gem</b> <i>Orthonama obstipata</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	14	0	<b>21</b>
<b>Silver Y</b> <i>A. gamma</i>	0	0	0	0	28	3	19	4	3	2	3	0	<b>62</b>
<b>Bordered Straw</b> <i>Heliothis peltigera</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>Scarce Bordered Straw</b> <i>Helicoverpa armigera</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	4	1	0	<b>7</b>
<b>*Tree-lichen Beauty</b> <i>C. algae</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	16	0	0	0	0	<b>20</b>
<b>Delicate</b> <i>M. vitellina</i>	0	0	0	0	1	15	11	11	65	85	6	0	<b>183</b>
<b>Pearly Underwing</b> <i>Peridroma saucia</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Dark Sword-grass</b> <i>A. ipsilon</i>	0	0	0	2	0	0	3	9	1	12	15	0	<b>42</b>

\*Records likely to be associated with local breeding populations.



**Banded Pine Carpet**



**Bright Wave**



**Radford's Flame Shoulder C.A.**

**New Micro's** for site were as follows:

**Maple Seed Dot** *Etainia lousiella* One 3<sup>rd</sup> September.  
**Birch Gall Moth** *Lampronia fuscata* One 18<sup>th</sup> July.  
**Pale Maple Stilt** *Caloptilia honoratella* Single 28<sup>th</sup> August.  
**Beautiful Silver-mark** *Bisigna procerella* One 27<sup>th</sup> July.  
**Chervil Brown** *Depressaria sordidatella* One 11<sup>th</sup> July.  
**Dark Seedhead Moth** *Apodia martinii* One 4<sup>th</sup> August.



**Dark Streaked Tortrix** *Acleris umbrana* One 15<sup>th</sup> February.  
**Pine Marble** *Piniphilia bifasciana* One 25<sup>th</sup> June.  
**Pied Grey** *Eudonia delunella* One 23<sup>rd</sup> June.  
**Marbled Fern** *Musotima nitidalis* Singles 28<sup>th</sup> July and 1<sup>st</sup> October.



**Beautiful Silver-mark**



**Pale Maple Stilt**



**Maple Seed Dot**



**Dark Streaked Tortrix**



**Pied Grey**



**Marbled Fern**

C.A.

### **Notable Micros**

**Saltern Tuft** *Bucculatrix maritima* One 12<sup>th</sup> August.  
**White Marked Stilt** *Calybites phasianipennella* One 5<sup>th</sup> September.  
**Blackthorn Tip Moth** *Argyresthia spinosella* Singles 13<sup>th</sup> May and 2<sup>nd</sup> June.  
**Straw Yellowneck** *Oegoconia caradjai* One 8<sup>th</sup> September.  
**Cream-spot Bark Moth** *Dasycera oliviella* One 28<sup>th</sup> July.  
**Tufted Blackthorn Moth** *Luquetia lobella* One 20<sup>th</sup> June.  
**Powdered Buff** *Agonopterix curvipunctosa* Three 15<sup>th</sup> February and one 4<sup>th</sup> August.  
**Estuarine Buff** *Agonopterix putridella* Single 11<sup>th</sup> August.  
**Vetch Moth** *Aproaerema anthyllidella* One 20<sup>th</sup> July.  
**Hollyhock Seed Moth** *Pexicopia malvella* Singles 22<sup>nd</sup> June and 14<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> July.  
**Burdock Seedhead Moth** *Metzneria lappella* Singles 25<sup>th</sup> June 19<sup>th</sup> July and 1<sup>st</sup> August.  
**Knapweed Seedhead Moth** *Metzneria metzneriella* Two 24<sup>th</sup> June, two 9<sup>th</sup> July singles 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> July, one 3<sup>rd</sup> August.  
**Silver-barred Moss-moth** *Oxypteryx wilkella* One 13<sup>th</sup> August.  
**Mouse-ear Groundling** *Caryocolum marmorea* Singles 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> August.  
**Barred Groundling** *Caryocolum blandella* One 3<sup>rd</sup> August.  
**Black-spot Casebearer** *Coleophora hemerobiella* One 6<sup>th</sup> August.  
**Dingy Hedge Grey** *Neosphaleroptera nubilana* Fifteen 18<sup>th</sup> June.  
**Cereal Tortrix** *Cnephasia pumicana* Singles 19<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> July and 1<sup>st</sup> August.  
**Saltern Straw** *Gynnidomorpha vectisana* One 13<sup>th</sup> August.  
**Short-barred Straw** *Aethes dilucidana* One 16<sup>th</sup> August.  
**Narrow-barred Straw** *Aethes francillana* Three 24<sup>th</sup> June.  
**Burdock Straw** *Aethes rubigana* One 11<sup>th</sup> July.  
**Marsh Lance** *Bactra furfurana* Singles 29<sup>th</sup> July and 11<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> August.  
**Saltern Lance** *Bactra robustana* One 29<sup>th</sup> May and three 3<sup>rd</sup> June.  
**Tree Mallow Tortrix** *Crociosema plebejana* Singles 11<sup>th</sup> August and 2<sup>nd</sup> September.  
**Shaded Tortrix** *Eucosma obumbratana* Singles 29<sup>th</sup> June 16<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> July.  
**Saltern Tortrix** *Eucosma tripoliana* One 14<sup>th</sup> August.  
**Lettuce Tortrix** *Eucosma conterminana* One 3<sup>rd</sup> August.  
**Mugwort Moth** *Dichrorampha simpliciana* Singles 20<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> July 16<sup>th</sup> August.  
**Rusty Acorn Piercer** *Cydia amplana* One 28<sup>th</sup> July.  
**Gorse Knot-horn** *Pempelia genistella* One 20<sup>th</sup> August.  
**Tufted Oak Knot-horn** *Acrobasis tumidana* One 9<sup>th</sup> August.



**Olive-tree Pearl** *Palpita vitrealis* Twelve between 31<sup>st</sup> August and 9<sup>th</sup> November.

**Marbled Yellow Pearl** *Evergestis extimalis* Singles 19<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> July 12<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> August.

**Dark-bordered Pearl** *Evergestis limbata* Singles 7<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> June 12<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> July and 28<sup>th</sup> August.

**Rolled Grass-moth** *Pediasia contaminella* Singles 28<sup>th</sup> July and 4<sup>th</sup> August.

**Saltern Grass-moth** *Pediasia aridella* One 26<sup>th</sup> July.



**Black-spot Casebearer**



**Estuarine Buff**



**Grey Orache Minor**



**Rusty Acorn Piercer**



**Blossom Underwing**



**Clancy's Rustic**

### New Macro's

**Pale Eggar** *Trichiura crategi* One 24<sup>th</sup> August.

**Banded Pine Carpet** *Pungeleria capreolaria* One 14<sup>th</sup> May.

**Bloxworth Snout** *Hypena obsitalis* One 5<sup>th</sup> February found in outhouse.

**Radford's Flame Shoulder** *Ochopleura leucogaster* Nine between 10<sup>th</sup> October and 2<sup>nd</sup> November.



**Clouded Buff**



**Gem**



**Oak Rustic**

CA

### Notable Macro`s

**Channel Island's Pug** *Eupithecia ultimaria* Singles 17<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> June and 1<sup>st</sup> August.

**Sloe Carpet** *Aleucis distinctata* Two 8<sup>th</sup> and one 11<sup>th</sup> April.

**Sussex Emerald** *Thalera fimbrialis* One 16<sup>th</sup> July.

**Clouded Buff** *Diacrisia sannio* One 12<sup>th</sup> August.

**Reed Dagger** *Simyra albovenosa* One 20<sup>th</sup> July.

**Plumed Fan-foot** *Pechipogo plumigeralis* Eight between 19<sup>th</sup> July and 12<sup>th</sup> August.

**Clancy's Rustic** *Caradrina kadenii* Eleven between 11<sup>th</sup> July and 1<sup>st</sup> November.

**Porter's Rustic** *Athetis hospes* Single 4<sup>th</sup> September.

**Fisher's Estuarine Moth** *Gortyna borelli* Twenty-Four between 12<sup>th</sup> August and 3<sup>rd</sup> October.

**Oak Rustic** *Dryobota labecula* Singles 26<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> October and 13<sup>th</sup> November.

**Blossom Underwing** *Orthosia miniosa* One 29<sup>th</sup> March.

**Lunar Yellow Underwing** *Noctua orbona* Singles 26<sup>th</sup> June and 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> September.

**Kent Black Arches** *Meganola Albula* Singles 17<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> July and two 19<sup>th</sup> July.



**Pale Eggar**



**Scarce Bordered Straw** (C.A.)

### Records of Bombus recorded at traps

**Brown-banded Carder Bee** *Bombus humilis* Single at actinic 6<sup>th</sup> July.

### Additional local records of interest

**Spurge Hawk-moth** *Hyles euphorbia* No adults recorded but eight larvae at a new site.

**Bright Wave** *Idaea ochrata* Five adults locally.

## **WEST MERSEA BACK GARDEN 2024**

**DOUGAL URQUHART**

Moth trapping was carried out on 69 nights with 181 species of macro moth being recorded. This is an average total compared with the last few years although the quantity of individuals is down. Many of the spring nights were clear and chilly which seems to have become the norm in recent springs. The mothing was unremarkable during the year, despite wasps setting up their nest five metres from the trapping spot.



**Barred Red**



**Gold Spot**



**Dasycera oliviella**

DU



A **Brindled Beauty** was the first moth of note for the garden on 18<sup>th</sup> March, a **Pine Beauty** on the 29<sup>th</sup> March with another one on 5<sup>th</sup> April with an **Oak Nycteoline**. A **Nut-tree Tussock** on the 14<sup>th</sup> April was a new for the garden as was a nice **Barred Red** on the 16<sup>th</sup> May. The first *Dasycera oliviella* of the season was recorded on 29<sup>th</sup> May and then eight more times up to 22<sup>nd</sup> July. The first *Evergestis limbata* was on 4<sup>th</sup> June with other individuals on six other nights up to mid July, then three more nights in late August/ early September. Only two **Clancy's Rustics** were noted in the early summer with two on 1<sup>st</sup> July, then the second generation peaked on 3<sup>rd</sup> October with eight. A **Festoon** was on the 13<sup>th</sup> July then **Scarce Silver Lines** and the first **Plumed Fanfoot** of the summer was on 14<sup>th</sup> - this was recorded on eight more nights up to 12<sup>th</sup> August. An **Oak Eggar** was on 17<sup>th</sup> July, **Leopard Moth** on 18<sup>th</sup> with a **Pine Hawk**, while a **Lackey**, **Rosy Footman** and **Fen Wainscot** were on 19<sup>th</sup>. **Magpie Moths** were on 20<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> July with a **Black Arches** on 26<sup>th</sup>. The first *Palpita vitrealis* was noted on the 27<sup>th</sup> July – recorded on five nights in total up to 28<sup>th</sup> October. Also on the 27<sup>th</sup> July was *Metalampra italica*, while a **Tawny-barred Angle** was on 30<sup>th</sup> July.

**Gypsy Moths** peaked at four on 5<sup>th</sup> August, also that night an **Oak Processionary** and 15 **Tree-lichen Beauties**. A **Sallow Kitten** was on the 11<sup>th</sup> August, another **Tawny-barred Angle** on 12<sup>th</sup>, **Cream-bordered Green Pea** on 16<sup>th</sup> and **Sandhill Rustic** on 21<sup>st</sup>. **Old Lady** was noted on 28<sup>th</sup> August, also 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> September, **Dusky Thorn** on 2<sup>nd</sup> September and then a fine looking **Gold Spot** on the 5<sup>th</sup> September. A **Dark Swordgrass** was on 6<sup>th</sup>, **Scarce Bordered Straw** on 3<sup>rd</sup> October, two **Delicates** and a **Dark Swordgrass** on the 6<sup>th</sup> October. Another **Delicate** was on the 9<sup>th</sup> October with **Rusty-dot Pearl**, then **Delicate** on the 21<sup>st</sup> October with a **Scarce Bordered Straw** and a **Merveille du Jour**, then **Gem**, two **Delicate** and **Scarce Bordered Straw** on 23<sup>rd</sup> October. The first *Musotima nitidalis* was recorded on 25<sup>th</sup> October. The mothing season wound down in November with a **Clancy's Rustic** on 2<sup>nd</sup> with a **Rusty-dot Pearl**, then **Dark Swordgrass**, **Silver Y**, **Rusty-dot Pearl** and four **Diamond-back moths** on 5<sup>th</sup>, *Crociosema plebejeana* on the 6<sup>th</sup> and again on 11<sup>th</sup> when there was also **Cypress Carpet**, **Rusty-dot Pearl** and a late **Diamond-back moth**.



*Palpita vitrealis*



Rosy Footman



*Musotima nitidalis*

DU

The weather in 2024 was far from ideal for moths on many evenings, especially during the first half of the year, culminating in a really cold June. That said, the moths did eventually bounce back, though numbers were down generally. I found the Noctuids were particularly affected - I caught very few **Large Yellow Underwing** (*Noctua pronuba*) and hardly any **Silver Y** (*Autographa gamma*), for example, and many moth-ers lamented the low numbers of the 'Sallows', which brighten up the year following the often rather repetitive late summer catches. Most of my 'regular' moths did eventually turn up, even if a bit later than usual, but some species were absent, such as **Small Elephant Hawk-moth** (*Deilephila porcellus*). Migrants weren't particularly plentiful either, so no rare North African moths for me this year!

Due to the poor weather, trapping away from home was disappointingly infrequent, with only eight of the one-hundred and eleven sessions out and about within the county. (I did manage to also trap sixteen times whilst holidaying outside of Essex.) Two of the remote trapping sessions were phenomenal though - more on these in a moment. At home I had nine sessions resulting in no moths ('blanks', or as some moth-ers are now calling them, 'Wogans'), unsurprisingly including the very first and very last sessions of the year. Continuing to reach identifications through genital determinations was particularly rewarding though - any such 'gen. det.' included here are marked **GD**.

### Home

Despite the often unfavourable weather, I managed to catch or spot many new species in my garden. The best of these was also an Essex first - **Phyllonorycter strigulatella** (Grey Alder Leaf-miner), although currently this identification is not absolutely certain. This came to light in my Earls Colne garden on 6th September. It's quite surprising that this species has not been recorded in the county before as it has been found in all adjacent counties, though its distribution is apparently very localised. The larvae feed on Grey Willow or Creeping Willow, neither of which I have managed to identify locally yet (though this may be partly due to my poor botanical knowledge!).

Another impressive garden catch was **Endothenia ustulana** (Bugle Marble) **GD**. A pair of these arrived to light on 26th June. This is quite a dark moth, but up close it is sumptuously marked. It has only been recorded in the county once before, in 1905, and doesn't seem to be widely recorded anywhere in the UK. As it is very similar to *E. nigricostana*, and potentially both species are present in the same habitats, it may be "a species hiding in plain sight", thinks Simon Wood. One to look out for in 2025. On the same night I also had two other new species for me - **Bactra furfurana** (Marsh Lance) and the difficult to pronounce **Phtheochroa inopiana** (Fleabane Drab), as well as twenty species that were 'new for year'. The moths were finally coming out to play!



*Endothenia ustulana*

D.B.

Other 'lifers' that I had in my garden during the year were as follows (all to light, unless stated otherwise): **Ysophya ustella** (Varied Ochre) on 14th Feb, which I was surprised I'd not caught up with before; **Caloptilia hemidactyla** (Scarce Maple Stilt) **GD** on 20th Mar and only the second Essex record for this species, with the third record turning up in my greenhouse the next day; **Phyllonorycter pastorella** (Royal Leaf-miner), a pair turning up in my now famous greenhouse on 8th April, a species only first recorded in the UK in 2014 and still considered to be very scarce in Essex; **Nemapogon granella** (Corn Moth) **GD**, found on my garden waste bin on 5th Apr; **Coleophora ibipennella** (Oak Case-bearer) **GD** on 26th Jun;

***Coleophora spinella*** (Apple and Plum Case-bearer) GD on 14th Jul; **Dark Umber** (*Philereme transversata*) on 15th Jul; ***Cydida fagiglandana*** (Beech Mast Piercer) on 16th Jul; ***Acleris logiana*** (Pale Birch Tortrix) and ***Palpita vitrealis*** (Olive-tree Pearl) on 24th July; ***Platytes alpinella*** (Hook-tipped Grassmoth), a very snazzy moth, on 28th Jul; ***Ancylosis oblitella*** (Saltmarsh Knot-horn) on 23rd Aug, with another one being caught on 6th Sep; **Fern** (*Horisme tersata*) and ***Anania crocealis*** (Fleabane Pearl) on 1st Sep; ***Endonthenia marginana*** (Bordered Marble) GD on 5th Sep; **Dark Spectacle** (*Abrostola triplasia*) on 6th Sep - I've been excitedly checking so many dark Spectacles only to have my hopes dashed, so finally getting this moth was a very special moment; ***Tachystola acroxantha*** (Ruddy Streak) on 18th Sep, a long overdue moth for me; ***Elachista alpinella*** (Marsh Sedge-miner) GD, not a very common moth in Essex, on 21st Sep; and **Scarce Bordered Straw** (*Helicoverpa armigera*) on 2nd Oct, another long overdue species for me.



*Caloptilia hemidactyla*



*Phyllonorycter pastorella*



*Nemopogon granella*



Dark Umber



*Palpita vitrealis*



*Anania crocealis*



*Platytes alpinella*



*Ancylosis oblitella*



*Elachista alpinella*

D.B.

Away from the trap, I hung out various Clearwing lures in my garden again during the late spring and summer, including three new ones I'd purchased during the winter. The results of the old lures were as successful as the year before with the lure for Six-belted Clearwing (*Bembecia ichneumoniformis*) still not attracting any of its target species. I also had no success with two of the new lures, those for Hornet Moth (*Sesia apiformis*) and, not surprisingly, Dusky Clearwing (*Paranthrene tabaniformis*). However, the lure for **Lunar Hornet Moth** (*Sesia bembeciformis*) an instant success. So much so, I felt a little disappointed packing the lure up for its next stint in the freezer, so soon after giving it its maiden airing!

I was very happy to finally find feeding signs of ***Etainia louisella*** (Maple Seed Dot), on Maple (*Acer campestre*) keys during early September. I have been looking out for these signs on Maple keys for a while now, but it was especially nice to find my first ones in my garden. The Field Maple in my garden had a major 'haircut' in the autumn as it was getting so large and encroaching on the neighbour at the back. I hope my Maple feeding moth species (including *Etainia louisella* and *Caloptilia hemidactyla*) won't have been too severely affected.

There were many notable moths that weren't new to me too. ***Prays citri*** (Citrus Ermel), which I first trapped in my garden last year (only the second record for the county at the time) was trapped twice, on 10th and 17th July. These were definitely different individuals as the first was very worn and so retained for GD. So probably a small breeding population exists near me, though I am not sure which of my neighbours has an



Olive tree. The local garden centre has several, and some are quite old/large but they are about 1.5 miles away, as the moth flies. Will be interesting to see if these last many more years as the few *Zelleria oleastrella* (Olive Spinner) I trapped in my garden only managed two seasons before disappearing.

A very welcome moth in my garden was **Canary-shouldered Thorn** (*Ennomos alniaria*) that came to light on 31st July. This was simply because it is a beautiful, if somewhat comical, looking moth which I had trapped in my garden the first year or two of nothing but not since. It is always good to see any species after an absence of a few years.



Mines of *Etainia louisella*



*Prays citri*



Canary-shouldered Thorn

D.B.

Other garden highlights were: a female **Dotted Border** (*Agriopis marginaria*) on 16th Feb, which is the first time I have found one of the flightless moths in my garden; **Dyseriocrania subpurpurella** (Common Spring Jewel) on 5th Apr, **Argyresthia spinosella** (Blackthorn Tip Moth) on 12th May, **Triaxomera parasitella** (Brindled Fungus Moth) on 19th May, **Coleophora albidella** (Sallow Pistol Case-bearer) GD on 26th Jun, **Acrobasis tumidana** (Tufted Oak Knot-horn) on 13th Aug, and **Coleophora versurella** (Pale Orache Case-bearer) GD on 1st Sep, all species I had only trapped out of my garden before; **Purple Thorn** (*Selenia tetralunaria*) on 8th Apr, which like Canary-shouldered Thorn was a moth I'd not seen in my garden for a few years, although I had trapped them on field trips every now and then; a female **Emperor Moth** (*Saturnia pavonia*) that emerged in mid-April from a 2021 pupa, and which was then used to lure some males the following day before being released; a female **Oak Eggar** (*Lasiocampa quercus*) and a **Jersey Tiger** (*Euplagia quadripunctaria*) on 31st Jul; **Pyrausta purpuralis** (Common Purple and Gold), on 23rd Aug, a lovely crambid that I don't see that regularly despite its common name suggesting otherwise; **Gem** (*Nycterosea obstipata*), only my second (a male), and my usual yearly quota of a single **Frosted Orange** (*Gortyna flavago*) on 3rd Sep; the gorgeous and diminutive **Gypsonoma minutana** (Small Brindled Tortrix) and only my third **Lyonetia prunifoliella** (Blackthorn Blister Moth), both on 6th Sep (a further *Lyonetia prunifoliella* was seen on 20th Sep); Old Lady on 15th Sep - one of my favourite moths; and a very worn **Lunar Yellow Underwing** (*Noctua orbona*) GD on 19th Sep, only my fifth garden record. These were all to light except the Dotted Border (*Agriopis marginaria*) which was found on an evening when a moth trap was running, but nowhere near the trap. Bizarrely, there were two males at the trap noted before I found the female - is actinic light more attractive to the males than the female's pheromones?!



Dotted Border (f + m)



*Triaxomera parasitella*



*Lyonetia prunifoliella*

D.B.

Great Willowherb (*Epilobium hirsutum*) appeared in my garden for the first time I could remember. It's a very impressive 'weed' with a long flowering period. The few plants present were seen to be smothered in leafmines. I presumed these were one of the *Mompha* spp. Two leaves with mines containing larvae were collected late June/early July to rear through but this resulted in one parasitic wasp emergence and one

failed emergence. A further two mines were then collected and in mid-July both resulted in the emergence of a **Mompha langiella** (White-spot Mompha). I have only seen this moth twice in previous years, once in a local cemetery and once in my greenhouse.

And finally, I found my first case of **Case-bearing Clothes Moth** (*Tinea pellionella*), found walking about the kitchen wall on 21st Feb.

### Away

Now to those two marvellous nights trapping outside my garden on organised field trips. The first one was on 20th July at Carver Barracks airfield, Wimbish, a large expanse of acid grassland in the north-west of the county. The evening looked very unpromising initially, with a mainly clear sky and temperatures falling fast, but thankfully it clouded over and after a slow start the moths started arriving (still mainly in ones and twos of each species, as was the case generally, everywhere, throughout the year). There were just three of us trapping, with Fiona Hutchings, our host and organiser of the event, also present as an observer. I ran my two traps (a Robinson with 125MV bulb and a Skinner with a pair 26W actinic bulbs and 22W synergetic green ring bulb), one on hardstanding near a small ancient woodland, the other nearby on the edge of grassland.

Finishing up in the early hours (after 3am, I seem to remember), my total species count was around 130 - very impressive as I rarely get over 100 on a single night anywhere. Not surprisingly with this number of species and as the habitat was not my usual habitat type, I trapped several 'lifers', of which the star of the night was **Depressaria badiella** (Varied Brown), a species with very few records in Essex. It is similar to other *Depressaria* spp. so may be under-recorded rather than rare. Another moth that got me excited was **Oncocera semirubella** (Rosy Knot-horn), though it was the dullest one ever and nowhere close to matching its alternative name, 'Rhubarb and Custard'. Other new species for me on this field trip were:

**Platyptilia gonodactyla** (Triangle Plume), **Epinotia solandriana** (Varied Birch Roller), **Athrips mouffetella** (Honeysuckle Grey), and **Eucosma campoliliana** (Pied Tortrix). Other stand-out moths from Carver Barracks were: **Coleophora conspicuella** (Knapweed Case-bearer), seen previously as a larva in its case, this was my first sighting as an adult; my second **Epiblema foenella** (White-foot Moth), the first one only being trapped in my garden the year before; **Lunar Yellow Underwing** (*Noctua orbona*); **Stenoptilia pterodactyla** (Brown Plume); and several **Drinker** (*Euthrix potatoria*) and **Magpie Moth** (*Abraxas glossulariata*), species that are always a pleasure to see.



*Depressaria badiella*



*Oncocera semirubella*



*Triangle Plume*



*Epinotia*

*solandriana*



*Athrips*

*mouffetella*



*Eucosma*

*campoliliana*



*Coleophora*

*inconspiculella*

D.B.

Though this evening was wonderful, the field trip at Fingringhoe Wick on 1st August was truly magnificent. Like Carver Barracks, the weather wasn't ideal as we started to survey the site for trap locations, with quite a steady breeze blowing in from the saltmarsh in the areas where I was wanting to set up. However, the

wind dropped and even if conditions could have been better, the habitat was clearly very rich in moths. The turnout of moth-ers was also large, which meant visiting others' traps was very time-consuming.

The star moth for me, with at least three individuals seen, and also caught by David Cousins during this trip, was ***Neofriseria singula*** (Mottled Groundling), a scarce species with a pRDB 1 status in Essex, with only three previous records, the latest from 1980. In addition to this, amongst the other 111 species trapped were a mammoth twenty-one additional 'lifers' for me, several being coastal / saltmarsh species: **Crescent** (*Helotropha leucostigma*), **Fen Wainscot** (*Arenostola phragmitidis*), **Small Rufous** (*Coenobia rufa*), **Small Seraphim** (*Pterapherapteryx sexalata*), **Southern Wainscot** (*Mythimna straminea*), **Twin-spotted Wainscot** (*Lenisa geminipuncta*), **White-line Dart** (*Euxoa tritici*), **Acrobasis tumidana** (Tufted Oak Knot-horn), **Agriphila inqunatella** (Barred Grass-moth), **Batia lambdella** (Tawny Crescent), **Caloptilia populetorum** (Black-dot Stilt), **Coleophora deviella** (Blite Case-bearer) GD, **Coleophora hemerobiella** (Black-spot Case-bearer), **Coleophora salinella** (Sea-purslane Case-bearer) GD, **Eucosma conterminana** (Lettuce Tortrix), **Eucosma obumbratana** (Shaded Tortrix), **Oxypteryx wilkella** (Silver-barred Moss-moth), **Notocelia roborana** (Large Rose Shoot Moth), **Pempelia genistella** (Gorse Knot-horn), **Recurvaria leucatella** (White-barred Apple Moth), and **Scrobipalpa instabilella** (Purslane Moth) GD.



Crescent



White-line Dart



Southern Wainscot



Small Rufous



*Pempelia*  
*genistella*



*Acrobasis*  
*tumidana*



*Batia*  
*lambdella*



*Coleophora*  
*hemerobiella*



*Neofriseria*  
*singula*



*Recurvaria*  
*leucatella*



*Oxypteryx*  
*wilkella*



*Caloptilia*  
*populetorum*

D.B.

There were plenty of other great moths at Fingringhoe Wick, including ones I don't see often such as: **Rosy Rustic** (*Hydraecia micacea*); **Agdistis bennetii** (Saltmarsh Plume), seen just once before, in my garden; **Agonopterix nervosa** (Burnt-tip Buff) which I thought I had trapped before somewhere but can't find any details, so may actually be 'lifer' #23; **Clepsis spectrana** (Cyclamen Tortrix); **Eucosma campoliliana** (Pied Tortrix), seen for the first time at Carver Barracks less than two weeks before; and **Gynnidomorpha vectisana** (Saltern Straw) GD, which I trapped at a site in Maldon the year before, though technically the gen. det. for that one wasn't possible with any certainty.

Other organised moth field trips resulted in less numbers (especially the one to Cymbeline Meadows, Colchester in early June when the temperature was incredibly low, making for an awful evening's trapping, despite this looking a promising site) but there were three other field trips worth a mention in this report. The first was to Markshall Arboretum on 22nd Jun, which provided two new moth species for me - **Clouded Brindle** (*Apamea epomidon*) and **Grey Arches** (*Polia nebulosa*). The second was the annual trip to Tiptree Heath, on 7th Aug which resulted in four new micro species for me - **Gelechia nigra** (Black Gelechia) **GD**, a scarce resident in the county and Essex RDB listed with only one post-1980 record, **Anacampsis blattariella** (Birch Roller) **GD**, **Caloptilia robustella** (Shaded Oak Stilt) **GD** and **Ypsolopha parenthesella** (White-shouldered Ochre). The two gelechids were new species for the site, as was the **Acrobasis tumidana** (Tufted Oak Knot-horn) that I also trapped.



*Gelechia*  
*nigra*



*Anacampsis*  
*blattariella*



*Ypsolopha*  
*parenthesella*

D.B.

The last moth field trip worth noting was different in that no traps were taken. Even nets were not allowed, for this trip was to survey for adult **Fisher's Estuarine Moth** (*Gortyna borelii*) at a coastal location, late September, in North Essex - a moth with legal protection status (Schedule 5, Wildlife and Countryside Act). After a tentative search by the four of us for what seemed like half an hour, but which no doubt was much less time, one of the others spotted one and before too long we'd found several. What a gorgeous moth, and quite a good size too. It was a great privilege to see them, and to witness how the re-introduction of the species to this site, not that long ago, has clearly been a success.

As I am already late with this report (as usual) I'll wrap up with a few records that were of interest to me from the miscellany that included netting, potting, leaf-mining (yes, I know, this isn't a real word) and simply stumbling upon moths on non-moth field trips and impromptu solitary outings. Most were new species for me. These are, as follows: **Phyllonorycter tristrigella** (Elm Leaf-miner) and **Phyllonorycter viminiella** (Willow Leaf-miner), both February emergences from leafmines collected in Earls Colne the previous October from Elm and a narrow-leaved Willow respectively; various 'day-flying moths' were found during visits to local sites in late Spring/early Summer including several 'lifers' - **Glyphipterix forsterella** (Woodland Sedge-moth) and **Micropterix aruncella** (White-line Pollen-moth) in Chalkney Wood, Earls Colne on 24th May, **Grapholita compositella** (Meadow Tortrix) in Hoe Wood, Aldham on 27th May (as well as several 'Geoffs'), **Orthotaenia undulana** (Dusky Marble) and more **Micropterix aruncella** at Fordham Hall Estate on 2nd Jun, and **Burnet Companion** (*Euclidia glyphica*) at Millennium Green, Earls Colne on 15th Jun; **Chrysoesthia sexguttella** (Orange-spotted Miner), swept from the edge of saltmarsh during an Essex Field Club meeting on Northey Island on 29th Jun; a pair of **Lunar Hornet Moths**, in cop on a Sallow, seen on another Essex Field Club meeting, at a private reserve in Felsted on 13th Jul; vacant mines of **Cosmopterix zieglerella** (Hop Beauty) found on Hop (*Humulus* sp.) in two locations in Earls Colne during September, which was the first time I'd seen these - having Hop plants growing in my garden, I have been looking out for mines of this fast spreading micro for a while now; three other records via vacant leafmines were for **Antispila petryi** (Dogwood Cutter), **Heliozela resplendella** (Alder Cutter) and **Stigmella luteella** (Short-barred Dot), found on Dogwood, Alder and Birch respectively, in Millennium Green, Earls Colne at the end of September/beginning of October - all three of these species have not been recorded much in Essex but are likely to be more common than the records suggest; a tenanted leaf mine on Dog Rose was **Ectoedemia angulifasciella** (Angle-barred Rose Dot), found in mid-October near the River Colne, on the edge of Colne Engaine.





*Glyphipteryx*  
*forsterella*



*Micropteryx*  
*aruncella*



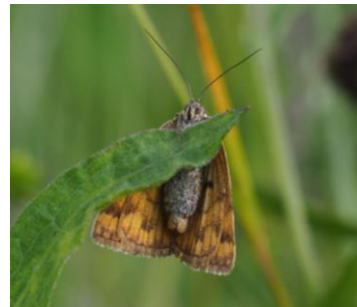
*Chrysoesthia*  
*sexgutella*



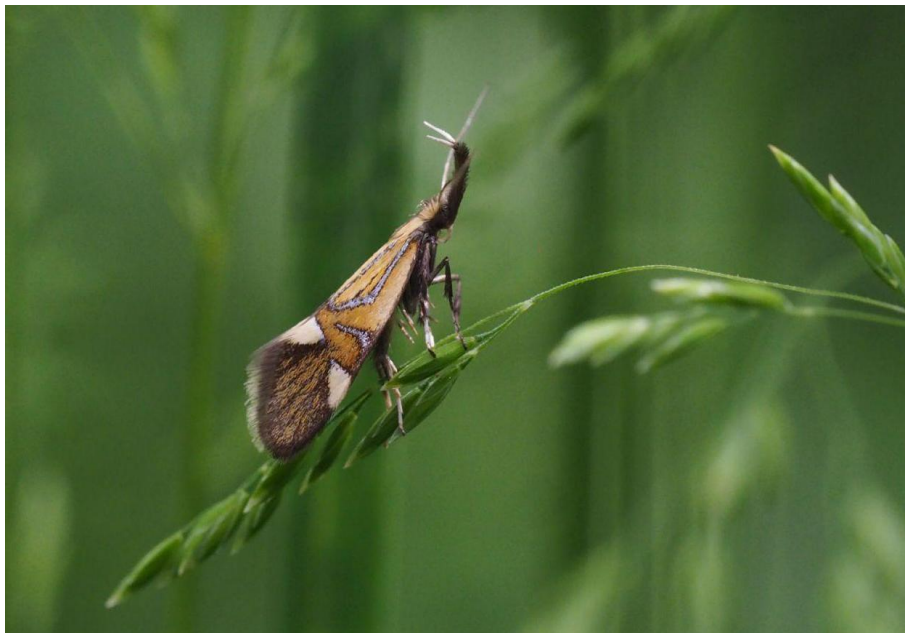
*Grapholita compositella*



*Orthotaenia undulana*



Burnet Companion



'Geoff'

D.B.

Now I've written up this report I can see 2024 was actually a pretty good year!



We moved into our current house in the south of Great Dunmow in March 2023. We are positioned on the edge of an area of deciduous woodland (mostly hornbeam, hawthorn and oak), with a handful of pines at the southern edge of the wood bordering arable farmland (sugar beet), and an area of fairly overgrown meadow that is dotted with numerous willow saplings as well as calcareous flora. This woodland and meadow stretches west for about half a mile to the Flitch Way, the old railway line that used to run between Bishop's Stortford and Braintree, and is now maintained as a wildlife friendly walking and cycle route.

My garden is on the east side of my house, and so the house does obstruct some wanderers from the woods, and my trapping location is therefore also overlooked by the neighbours behind; thus I stick to actinic light in the garden. I use a Robinson Twin Actinic trap with 2 x 20w Wemlite bulbs and I run the trap on any favourable night throughout the year, as well as a few unfavourable ones. I also use pheromone lures, usually to target new species for the garden.

I don't have much evidence to go on to know if 2024 represented a good year for my garden having only lived here for a short period of time, but like many others, I found it a year that was bookended by a fairly decent early Spring and Autumn, but a particularly poor early Summer, especially in late May and June. All in all, I recorded 452 species, of which 237 were macro-moths and 215 were micro-moths.

Nothing in the winter months was actually pretty fruitful in 2024, and I'd added 33 species to the garden year list by the end of February. The best of these was my first **Elm Tortrix** *Acleris kochiella* on 14<sup>th</sup> February, but also noteworthy were good numbers of **Small Brindled Beauty** *Apocheima hispidaria*, **Spring Harbinger** *Tortricodes alternella* and my earliest ever **Oak Beauty** *Biston strataria* on 3<sup>rd</sup> February. Another pleasing record was my first local **Lead-coloured Drab** *Orthosia populeti* on 28<sup>th</sup> February, presumably wandering from the Aspen stands along the Flitch Way.



Oak Beauty

*Acleris kochiella*

Small Brindled Beauty

I was pleased also to recognise the larva of the Essex RDB Listed **Narrow Lichen Case-bearer** *Dahlica triquetrella* on 2<sup>nd</sup> February as it slowly climbed the wall by my trap. I had identified these a year ago but at my previous address just a few hundred yards away, so nice to know that they are present in my new garden too. Away from the garden, a targeted trip to the Naze on 31<sup>st</sup> January brought me my first **Gorse Leaf-miner** *Phyllonorycter ulicicolella* – a few suspected mines were found among the more straggly patches of gorse but pleasingly the one that I took home to check contained a live larva. A rare moth in Essex but no doubt under-recorded.

*Dahlica triquetrella**P. ulicicolella* mine*P. ulicicolella* larva

D.C.

March was quite mild throughout, and I trapped every other night on average. The 14<sup>th</sup> March finally delivered my first ever **Pine Beauty** *Panolis flammea*, a superb moth. I struggle to rear any moths, but especially those from leaf-mines collected the previous autumn. I was very pleased therefore to see a pristine **Five-spot Dot** *Ectoedemia quinquella* sitting on the side of its Winter container on the morning of the 15<sup>th</sup>.



**Pine Beauty**



***Ectoedemia quinquella***

DC

The end of the month saw the first mild Spring-like days so out went the pheromone lures for the first time this year. The NIG lure was the first to see success, with **Common Thorn Leaf-miner** *Phyllonorycter oxyacanthae* and **Brown Apple Leaf-miner** *Phyllonorycter blancardella* both fairly regular over that period. A fantastic surprise though came on the 3<sup>rd</sup> April with a lifer to the FUN lure – **Shining Oak Tortrix** *Pammene splendidulana*. A beautiful tortrix, and not one that comes to light so pheromone lures the way to go for these.



***Pammene splendidulana***

DC

The lures continued to bring most interest to the garden through April, with **Oak Gall Moth** *Pammene argyrana* to its own lure and **Cryptic Apple Leaf-miner** *Phyllonorycter hostis* now appearing at the NIG lure. A particularly muggy night on 13<sup>th</sup> April coaxed out a few new moths for the year but a **Sandy Carpet** *Perizoma flavofasciata* seemed ludicrously early.

Another trip to the Naze on 18<sup>th</sup> April and this time I decided to walk along the residential areas of the seafront, mostly botanising. A decent patch of Black Horehound was host to at least 20 **Woundwort Case-bearer** *Coleophora lineolea*. I took a couple home to rear and had success a while later in July.

I joined my Dad and a friend nominally on a birding trip on 4<sup>th</sup> May but these days my eyes are often scanning the vegetation for signs of moth larvae rather than looking skyward. Bowers Marsh near Pitsea was our first port of call, and I spotted the larval tents of **Mugwort Plume** *Hellinsia lienigianus* on one Mugwort plant at the side of the footpath. Interesting, I checked another 10-15 plants and couldn't see any larval signs, but this plant had at least 5 tents, so they presumably don't travel far from where the eggs are laid. Later, we moved to Rainham Marsh and after getting my fill of a Woodchat Shrike (some birds are still irresistible), I noticed a small dark moth with spectacular antennae sitting among the vegetation. **Plumed Bagworm** *Epichnopterix plumella* is a real speciality of the south of the county, and I was very pleased to see my first.



***C. lineolea*** larval case



***C. lineolea*** adult



***Epichnopterix plumella*** DC

In May, things really did start to slow down, and I spent the last week away in Scotland so no trapping was done at home. There were a few highlights though, including more success to the lures with **Scarce Oak Gall Moth** *Pammene albuginana* to FUN on 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. A few **Chocolate-tip** *Clostera curtula* were nice, and of course, the first records for the year of **Puss Moth** *Cerula vinula*, **Lime Hawk-moth** *Mimas tiliae* and **Figure of 80** *Tetthea ocularis* are always welcome.

The first Essex Moth Group trip that I could attend this year fell midweek after returning from north of the border. Unfortunately, the weather didn't play ball and a cold clear night wasn't conducive to big numbers. Cymbeline Meadows in Colchester looks a great site though and we'll hopefully be able to trap there again on a warmer night at some point! With very few moths venturing to the traps, I decided it may be best to search among the trees and shrubs to see if any were perched in sight. This did help slightly, and the best find was a lovely **Double Orange-spot** *Pammene aurana*, a lifer for me.



***Pammene aurana***

DC

My best record of the year was (as they so often are) a completely chance encounter on 9<sup>th</sup> June. I was unsuccessfully trying to rear through **Small Elm Case-bearer** *Coleophora badiipennella* that I had found the week before, but the only elm near to me are 2 trees bordering the northern side of the farmer's field west of my house. I gathered some leaves and as I was doing so I noticed that I kicked up a micro moth which landed on the vegetation right in front of me. It looked interesting so I quickly potted it up and had a good look at it at home.

I could see that it was an Elachista, and one of the group with the yellow/whitish fascia. Gen-det revealed it to be **Yellow-barred Grass-miner** *Elachista gangabella*, only the 2<sup>nd</sup> modern record for Essex and the first since 1981. A very nice surprise and it goes to show the importance of keeping pots with you at all times!





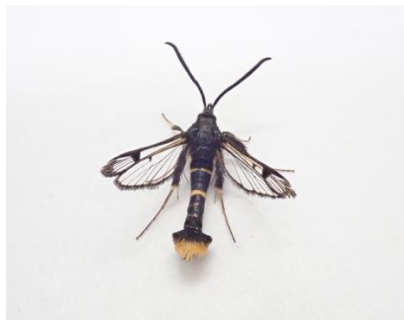
*Elachista gangabella* DC

My wife often messages me while I'm at work to say that she's found a moth and popped it in a pot for me to check when I'm home. Usually they're fairly run-of-the-mill fare that I had probably already seen, but on 12<sup>th</sup> June she messaged and said – "it's small but it's very pretty." Intrigued, I asked her to send a photo and it turned out to be the fantastic **Hedge Beauty** *Alabonia geoffrella*. Not rare across the county but considerably more unusual the further west and north you go in Essex, and the first I'd seen locally. As an example of how poor the trap was at this time of year, I see from my notes that on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> June I managed 8 species, and 18 moths in total. I beat that on most passable winter trapping efforts. Definitely the worst summer trapping I've experienced.

I had caught most of the likely Clearwings at home in 2023, but failed to get **Orange-tailed Clearwing** *Synanthedon andrenaeformis*. I had the VES lure out for a few days and then on 19<sup>th</sup> June two males arrived. The weather was starting to improve, and by 24<sup>th</sup> June it felt a lot better for garden mothing with a muggy night in store. Finally, the moths arrived in their droves and among the far better numbers of common moths were a few goodies. The best of these was an unusually marked Tineid which after gen-det was confirmed as **Brindled Nest Moth** *Niditinea striolella*. A scarcely recorded moth which lives as a larva within bird's nests and a new record for me.



*Alabonia geoffrella*



**Orange-tailed Clearwing**



*Niditinea striolella* DC

The same night brought in a plain-grey Coleophora. Anyone who has been mothing with me knows that I have a weird affection for Coleophoridae, and this was one I didn't expect in my garden at all – **Larch Case-bearer** *Coleophora laricella* (confirmed by gen-det). I have never found a single Larch tree anywhere in Dunmow so a wanderer from somewhere!

I have been increasingly taking an interest in other taxa this year and was keen to join up with one of the Essex Field Club day trips to learn more from the group and to target a few Coleophora that I suspected would be present on the saltmarsh that we would have access to as part of the trip to Northey Island near to Maldon. Armed with my sweep net, I swept various saltmarsh plants and had luck with the stunning **Sea-lavender Case-bearer** *Coleophora limoniella* from Sea-lavender, **Saltern Case-bearer** *Coleophora atriplicis* from Sea-purslane and **Blite Case-bearer** *Coleophora deviella* from Annual Sea-blite.



***Coleophora limoniella***



***Coleophora atriplicis***



***Coleophora deviella*** DC

Back at home, and moving into July, the mothing was steady without being spectacular. One of the more notable things for me this summer was the number of **Leopard Moth** *Zeuzera pyrina* that were coming to light in this period. Usually a moth I catch 1 to 2 of per year, this year I had at least 2-3 every night peaking with 7 of them on the very warm night of 19<sup>th</sup> July. Being such weak fliers, I was constantly having to rescue them from predators such as Spiders and Harvestmen, but they were a constant companion this year, and are such a great moth to show to non-mothing people when they play dead!

The 17<sup>th</sup> July saw a new micro to my garden trap and a lifer for me. Another *Elachista* but quite different from the *E. gangabella* from earlier in the year. This was **Canary-grass Miner** *Elachista maculicerusella*, not in perfect condition but still distinctive with its dark spots on a whitish wing.

Being an even numbered year, **Sallow Clearwing** *Synanthedon flaviventris* can be targeted using the SAL lure. In 2022, there was a real buzz about the spread of records of what had previously been considered a Clearwing of the West and South of Britain. I managed to trap 1 that summer in my previous garden and so I was keen to try again this year. Fantastically, 3 came to the lure on 18<sup>th</sup> July, and another on 26<sup>th</sup>, and so they seem to be firmly established in Dunmow, most likely among the willows in the meadow. I'll be on the lookout for larval signs from now on.



**Leopard Moth**



***Elachista maculicerusella***



**Sallow Clearwing**

DC

The following day (19<sup>th</sup>) was a good night for micros in the home trap with 2 **Poplar Needle-moth** *Batrachedra praeangusta*, **White-marked Tortrix** *Acleris holmiana* and **Elm Grey** *Carpatolechia fugitivella* all scarce for me locally. One micro that I potted though I didn't recognise at all and I had to hit the books because I couldn't even guess which family it may belong to! I landed upon the *Sorhagenia* group as being the most similar but I don't think I'd looked at them twice before in the book. Not the most intricately marked of moths, but Nationally Scarce A, and only feeding on Buckthorn. This one was confirmed by gen-det as **Buckthorn Shoot-borer** *Sorhagenia rhamniella*.



***Sorhagenia rhamniella***

DC

More good micros were starting to turn up as we approached the end of July and numbers in general were good. The highlights of this period were all micros and saw a number of new garden records including **Black-spot Case-bearer** *Coleophora hemerobiella*, **Poplar Maze-miner** *Phyllocnistis unipunctella*, **Burnished Copper** *Roeslerstammia erxlebelli* and **Blackthorn Gelechia** *Gelechia scotinella*. **Pine Leaf-mining Moth** *Clavigesta purdeyi* is annual here and another of my favourites.



***Coleophora hemerobiella***



***Roeslerstammia erxlebelli***



***Clavigesta purdeyi***

All attention soon turned to the much anticipated trip to Fingringhoe Wick as arranged by Jonathan on 1<sup>st</sup> August, which I suspected may be an excellent night and proved to be so. Unbelievably, I had 17 lifers at Fingringhoe showing the value of trapping in such a well-managed reserve for wildlife. There were so many highlights, but of course the main attractions were **White-spotted Pinion** *Cosmia diffinis* and **Ground Lackey** *Malacosoma castrensis*. A single **Dog's-tooth** *Lacanobia suasa* was new for me, and the charismatic **Silver-barred Moss-moth** *Oxypteryx wilkella* were numerous. I also enjoyed catching and subsequently identifying yet another Coleophora, this time **Sea-purslane Case-bearer** *Coleophora salinella*, one of the eventual 21 Coleophorids I saw this year in the county.

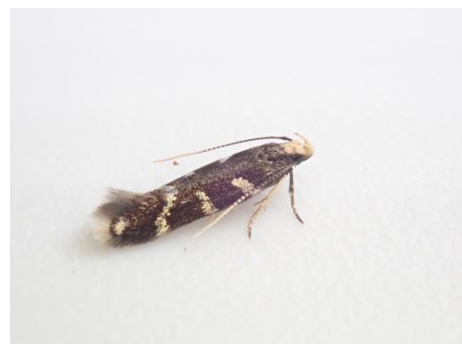
The best record of the night though turned out to be a fairly scruffy Gelechid. Daniel Blyton messaged me a few days later and asked if I had trapped a Gelechid at one of my traps that looked similar to a moth he had taken at his trap. I had as it happened but hadn't at that point got round to gen-detting it. I realised from his excitement that it must be something of interest so was very pleased that once I had accessed the genitalia, it did not look akin to any Bryotropha or Gelechia that I had dissected before. He was, of course, quite right in his identification of the moth as **Mottled Groundling** *Neofriseria singula*, and I was delighted that mine was the same. With no records since 1980 in the county, and very few in the surrounding counties, these are notable records and represent the second occasion in 2 years that Dan and I have caught a male and female on the same night at the same location of an extremely rare moth for Essex. Field trapping really cannot be beaten.



**White-spotted Pinion**



**Dog's-tooth**



***Oxypteryx wilkella***

DC





***Neofriseria singula***

DC

I often find August a relatively slow month for trapping in my garden, with many nights just seeing a repeat of the same moths night after night. This year didn't really change my opinion, but there were a few notable moths to record. **White-point** *Mythimna albipuncta* is usually a very common moth all summer long here, but the first this year didn't turn up until 14<sup>th</sup> August, and even then was only followed by a few in September, far down on usual numbers. **Dusky Thorn** *Ennomos fuscantaria* though go from strength to strength, with a high count for my garden of 27 on the same night.

I had noticed that various people were catching their first **Comfrey Ermine** *Ethmia quadrillella* this year, and I was not to be left out – my first arrived on the 11<sup>th</sup>. **Speckled Bittersweet Moth** *Acrolepia autumnitella* is annual in small numbers in my garden, but I wasn't sure about a worn example that also arrived on 14<sup>th</sup>. I retained it for gen-det, and I was glad I did as it resulted in my first **Leek Moth** *Acrolepiopsis assectella*.



***Ethmia quadrillella***



***Acrolepiopsis assectella***

DC

The autumn months brought the first real chance of migrant action in my notoriously poor migrant garden. 4<sup>th</sup> September saw my first garden **Rush Veneer** *Nomophila noctuella* visit my trap along with one of what turned out to excellent numbers all autumn long of the now presumably resident **Clancy's Rustic** *Caradrina kadenii*. Harking back to 2022, the 5<sup>th</sup> saw a mini-invasion of **Beet Moth** *Scrobipalpa ocellatella* with 4 in the Robinson. For the 2<sup>nd</sup> year running I was pleased to record both **Short-barred Ochre** *Ypsolopha alpella* and **Long-barred Ochre** *Ypsolopha sylvella* as well, both hopefully resident in the large oaks out the front.

One thing I have improved on over the last couple of years is gen-detting, and I am confident enough now to tackle other people's moths where needed. Jonathan Norgate took an interesting Cyclophora to light in his garden at the beginning of September and asked me to verify it due to the possible confusion between **Jersey Mocha** (a rare migrant) and the second brood of **Clay Triple-lines** (a relatively common resident moth). I was pleased to confirm it as a male **Jersey Mocha**, only the 2<sup>nd</sup> record for the county. Well done Jonathan, a superb record.



**Jersey Mocha**

DC

I couldn't resist a trip down to Fisher's Green reserve near Waltham Abbey but just in Essex to see the **Striped Shieldbugs** *Graphosoma italicum* there on 17<sup>th</sup> September. They were very obliging on the dead hemlock stems near to the visitor centre, but of equal interest to me were the numerous leafmines on both the Dogwood (**Dogwood Cutter** *Antispila petryi*) and on the White Poplar (**Poplar Leaf-miner** *Phyllonorycter comparella*). I managed to net one of the Phyllos from the tree, and also reared another through a week later.

I had Jonathan to thank again for my next new moth, and one I have wanted to see for a few years now, ever since I moved into the county. **Fisher's Estuarine Moth** *Gortyna borelii* is a real speciality of our coastline, restricted to patches of Hog's Fennel. Jonathan had located a population that was accessible so I joined him along with a few others on 22<sup>nd</sup> September and after a nervous wait as dusk descended, adult males started to fly around in search of females who had clambered to the tops of stems ready for mating. A wonderful night's mothing, and fantastic to see that such an important species is faring so well.



**Fisher's Estuarine Moth**



**Fisher's Estuarine Moth**

DC

The good migrant conditions were continuing and even my garden saw some action with my first Essex **Olive-tree Pearl** *Palpita vitrealis* coming to light on 6<sup>th</sup> October. The 16<sup>th</sup> October saw the first record of **Dusky-lemon Sallow** *Cirrhia gilvago* for my garden, but sadly deceased within a spider's web. The following day my first and overdue garden **Mallow** *Larentia clavaria* also made an appearance. **Red-line Quaker** *Leptologia lota* is another moth I record in small numbers annually, but I had to include this one as I've never seen one so fresh!



*Palpita vitrealis*



**Mallow**



**Red-line Quaker**

DC

The rest of the autumn and beginning of winter saw some good catches but no surprises. I still await a **November Moth** that isn't *Epirrita dilutata* and other surprising absentees from my garden and previous garden include the fast-spreading **Delicate** *Mythimna vitellina*, **Dwarf Pug** *Eupithecia tantillaria*, **Brown-spot Pinion** *Agrochola litura*, **Hedge Rustic** *Tholera cespitis* and some common migrants such as **Scarce Bordered Straw** *Helicoverpa armigera* and even **Dark Swordgrass** *Agrotis ipsilon*!

The best thing about mothing though is that there's always something new to target. I already can't wait for 2025.

#### TIPTREE HEATH - 7/8/24

DOUGAL URQUHART

The annual joint mothing evening by the Colchester Natural History Society and Essex Moth Group took place on 7<sup>th</sup> August with the usual good support from Friends of Tiptree Heath in attendance. Eight of us set up a number of traps in and around the heath and despite the cloudy and breezy conditions, the final tally was 164 species. Many thanks to fellow moth-ers who brought interesting moths from their traps back to pass round the assembled enthusiasts of nearly 20 folk. The most interesting species was a **Langmaid's Yellow Underwing** to Daniel's trap and confirmed later. Three **True Lover's Knots** were noted from the heathland and other typical heathland species were **Heath Elder**, **Gorse Knot-horn** and **Heather Knot-horn** were also typical for the site. Other interesting species were **Jersey Tiger**, **Elephant Hawkmoth**, **Gold Spot**, **Dusky Thorn**, **September Thorn**, **Rosy Footman**, **Birch Mocha**, **Small Rivulet**, **Pearly Underwing**, **Vapourer**, **Oak Eggar**, 14 **Gypsy Moths** and **Oak Processionary**. Micros noted were the ERDB **Rolled Grass-moth** *Pediasia contaminella*, **Marbled Fern**, **Rusty Acorn Piercer** and **Tufted Oak Knot-horn** *Acrobasis tumidana*. Thanks as always to Joan Pinch for hosting us.



**Gold Spot**



**Jersey Tiger**



**Tiptree Heath**

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I would like to begin by once again thanking Maureen and John Bissell for allowing trapping in the Wood and their hospitality and company. We also have a small band of Maldon moth-ers who periodically help out in the mornings, as well as Ellie their dog who provides added entertainment.

I have altered the way I have written my write-up this year and have gone for a month by month account. I have concentrated on rarer species and those that are newly recorded in the wood. A year of low numbers of moths, even if the diversity was good. Indeed, with a total of exactly 600 species recorded during 2024, this was the best year ever for the site, beating the previous best year of 2023 (595). In all, 9 species were recorded new to the site. The site total now stands at 912 species since recording started in earnest in 2018.

Some new species for the site were also recorded from specimens held from previous years.

Numbers of species recorded in each month shows a very typical pattern of occurrence, although note that no trapping took place in March due to holidays and weather.

Month	Total species in month	New species for site in month
January	14	0
February	26	0
March	No trapping	0
April	84	1
May	83	1
June	290	10
July	303	12
August	264	9
September	130	3
October	76	2
November	29	1
December	4	0

### January

The 15 species recorded included a very early female **Red-Green Carpet** responding to the very mild night on 19th January.

### February

A reasonable month with an early **Oak Nycteoline** on 15th. The same night, the first **Shoulder-stripe** noted in the Wood since 2018 arrived in the traps, as did a single **Early Oak Gall Moth** *Pammene giganteana*.

### March

No trapping

### April

A respectable 84 species during the month with one new for the Wood. As is typical, the first of the day flying longhorns were out and about in the month, with *Adela reaumurella* in particular having an exceptional emergence this year with the largest numbers seen in all the 30+ years that Maureen has known the wood. There were no unusual longhorns noted otherwise and the bagworms noted in the month were all run of the mill for the site. A couple of Gracillariidae put in early appearances - **Shaded Oak Stilt** *Caloptilia robustella* (GD) on 13th and **Maple Stilt** *Caloptilia semifascia* (GD) on 11th, the first a new brood and the second probably having over-wintered. A very worn looking moth when checked proved to be the Nationally Scarce, **Scarce Oak Stilt** *Povolnya leucapennella* (GD) on 13<sup>th</sup> April, presumably straight out of hibernation. It was the second site record after one on 3rd August 2022. A **Diamond-back Moth** on 11th was the earliest for the Wood by almost a month, although it was generally a poor year. A

couple of *Elachista* turned up in the traps, with the Wood's third record of **Pearly Grass-miner** *Elachista apicipunctella* (GD) on 11th and a worn **Common Grass-miner** *Elachista canapennella* (GD) on 13th. **Shining Oak Tortrix** *Pammene splendidulana* (30th) and **Oak Gall Moth** *Pammene argyrana* (11th and 13th) both made their almost annual appearances. The first Hawkmoth of the year, a **Poplar Hawkmoth** made its appearance on the last day of the month, a week earlier than the previous earliest for the site whilst just three **Sloe Carpet** were recorded (one on 11th and two on 13th) with the first date being the second earliest the species has been seen here (earliest 4th in 2019). A very early **Gypsy Moth** popped into the traps on 30th. A **Silver Y** on 13th was the second earliest for the site (earliest 8th in 2019) but it did not translate into a particularly good year for the species with records on just eight nights and the maximum count on any one night being just two! Having largely missed the Orthosia, it was pleasing to find a rather worn individual that on GD proved to be **Blossom Underwing**, a first for the site, whilst the second earliest **Least Black Arches** turned up on 11th (earliest, 6th in 2019).



**Birch Bagworm**



**Scarce Oak Stilt**



**Blossom Underwing** SW

## May

As far as rarities and unusual records, apart from a **Puss Moth** on 8th, which was new for site, it was a rather quiet month with 83 species recorded and just the one new one. The first **Birch Bagworm** *Proutia betulina* of the year were noted on 11th, and the first of a year's total of two **Treble-spot** *Telechrysis tripuncta* was noted on 18th with a further record on 3rd July. This species remains relatively rare in Essex but there have been hints of an increase in recent years. An **Alder case-bearer** *Coleophora binderella* case was observed on vegetation on 18th. **Small Bluebell Beauty** *Hysterophora maculosana* is a rare species in south Essex (VC18) but Hazeleigh is a stronghold. They do not often come to light and the best way to find them is usually sweep-netting over Bluebells which produced the lone 2024 record of one on 9th May. The first hints of a lack of moths, and especially macros was evidenced by the low numbers appearing in the trap towards month end.

## June

As mentioned just a sentence ago the lack of moths really became obvious during June and continued into July. Diversity remained good with 290 species in the month but total specimens was very poor and quite a few species only appeared in ones and twos rather than tens. However, ten new species for the Wood were recorded.

The month started with very small worn moth in the bottom of one of the traps on 3rd, which proved to be **Small Oak Blotch-miner** *Tischeria dodonaea* (GD), the first record of an adult from the site, all previous records being mines. The species has now been recorded since 2021 at Hazeleigh and is clearly well established as mines were found three times from late summer. I have now found mines both at this site, my mother's house in Little Baddow and Ironworks Meadow, near Heybridge. The only other modern site for the species is Eight Ash Green - surely it is more widespread? That said the only records prior to those in 2021 were in 1906 and 1894. A single **Cyan Marbled** *Stenoptinea cyaneimarmorella* was caught on 25th June with a couple more noted in July. The species has been recorded since 2021 when the first was noted on 11th July. Another species from the clothes moth family was new to the site when one was noted on 17th with others on 25th and 28th - **Raptor Nest Moth** *Monopis fenestratella*. It is a rare species in the county with the only other records from Boreham, Magdalen Laver and Stanway. Another new species for the Wood, and seemingly overdue, was **Willow Stilt** *Caloptilia stigmatella* on 25th with two further records coming later in the year.

The resident **Scarce Spindle Ermine** *Yponomeuta irrorella* was noted on the nights of 23rd, 25th and 27th whilst **Purple-washed Tip Moth** *Argyresthia semifusca* was noted on 25th and **Oak Bark Moth** *Argyresthia glaucinella* appeared on 27th. The recent colonist of the Wood **Beautiful Silver-mark** *Promalactis procerella* had a good year with the first one of the year appearing on 17th and being noted

on three further dates in July. Although predominantly found in the south-east of the county, this one will surely spread over the next few years. The attractive **Cream-spot Bark Moth** *Dasycera oliviella* is common in the Wood and appeared to have a good year with records on a total of ten nights between 3rd June and 2nd August, the best year for the species since trapping began. Just the third site record of **Hollyhock Seed Moth** *Pexicopia malvella* was noted on 21st with a further record in July. A rather drab, unmarked Gelechiid in the traps on 22nd proved to be a new for site, **Meadowsweet Borer** *Monochroa lutulentella* (GD) whilst the next night produced **Elm Grey** *Carpatolechia fugitivella*. Hazeleigh is an excellent site for the uncommon **Pied Oak Moth** *Pseudotelphusa scalella* with the first of the year noted on 3rd and others on 17th, 22nd and 23rd.

Coleophora appeared in good numbers during the month and included two new for the site, **Buff Rush Case-bearer** *Coleophora caespititiella* (GD - on 3rd and 24th) and **Grey Rush Case-bearer** *Coleophora glaucicolella* (GD - on 25th and again on 28th August), whilst the second to fourth records of **Agrimony Case-bearer** *Coleophora follicularis* (GD) occurred on 3rd, 22nd and 25th). **Tufted Oak Moth** *Dystebenna stephensi* is not uncommon in the Wood and appeared to have a good year with the first record on 25th June and four further records during July.



**Beautiful Silver-mark**



**Pied Oak Moth**



**Barred Elm Dot** SW

As for the Tortricids, June was reasonably productive with a couple of new species for Hazeleigh. The Wood is a good site for **White-barred Tortrix** *Olindia schumacherana* but there was just one record this year, on 22nd. **Rose Tortrix** *Archips rosana* was noted on 17th, 22nd and 23rd with the rare Essex species, **Wood Tortrix** *Choristoneura diversana* appearing on 22nd with the second record of the rather nondescript Cnephasia-like **Dingy Hedge Grey** *Neosphaleroptera nubilana* on 17th (GD). The distribution of **White-marked Tortrix** *Acleris holmiana* has a remarkably northern distribution in the county and Hazeleigh is the only modern site in the south/VC18 where it is relatively common, with the first of the year on 25th with another on 27th and two further records in July. Another species which seems to be increasing rapidly in the south of England and Essex turned up for the first time in the Wood on 25th - **Dark-streaked Button** *Acleris umbrana*. Hedge Woundwort *Stachys sylvatica* is relatively rare in Hazeleigh with only a couple of patches around the Wood. On the 16th, on a whim but not hopeful of success, I thought it worth checking out the patches for **Hedge Marble** *Endothenia nigricostana* and bingo, there was one sitting in full view. And concluding the Tortricids, **Little Oak Tortrix** *Strophedra nitidana* was recorded on 3rd.

So on to the Pyralids/Crambids, and June was rather quiet for the more interesting species. There were records of **White-barred Knot-horn** *Elegia similella* on four dates, 19th, 22nd, 23rd and 25th, one record of **Beautiful Pearl** *Agrotera nemoralis* this year with one on 23rd whilst the site's second record of **Pied Grey** *Eudonia delunella* on 3rd. **Dark-bordered Pearl** *Evergestis limbata* arrived in the UK during the mid-1990s and spread over much of southern England. It arrived in Hazeleigh in 2022 (4 records) was recorded three times in 2023 and four times this year with the first record on 17th and another on 23rd (and subsequent records in July on 17th and 22nd and one on 28th August).

After the first three records (of eight moths) in 2023, **Mocha** was recorded on a total of nine nights, with the first on 3rd and a further four records in July and four in August. A much overdue addition to the site list was the **Great Oak Beauty** that turned up on 3rd.

There were three records of the resident **Four-dotted Footman** in June, on 23rd, 25th and 27th whilst **Sycamore** another long overdue species was finally added to the site list on 25th. I was absolutely delighted to find a **Rosy Marbled** on 23rd, a species that I last saw some 40 years ago in my parent's garden in Little Baddow. During the present century, the species has only been recorded somewhat intermittently from eight locations across mainly southern Essex. Goodey (2004) noted that it was "once found at a number of sites but now probably restricted to Epping Forest. It was last seen in the Danbury Ridge area, a former stronghold, in 1991". There is thus hope that the Danbury Ridge population remains to



be refound, Hazeleigh is after all an outlier of that large wooded area. After the first records in 2022 and with a total of eight records from 17th, it seems that **Delicate** has likely colonised the Wood and is now resident.

The **Small Black Arches** population in Hazeleigh remains the only one outside Dorset/Hampshire/Berkshire. 2024 was not a good year for the species with a total of 48 recorded on one nights between 17th and 22nd July with a maximum of 13 on 27th. The table below highlights the catches since 2018 and the contrast between each year.

Year	Total count	No. of nights	Average count	Peak count	First date	Last date	Range
2024	48	9	5.33	13	17th June	22nd July	36 days
2023*	42	4	10.50	17	22nd June	7th July	16 days
2022	206	6	34.33	76	16th June	18th July	33 days
2021	145	5	29.00	45	26th June	26th July	31 days
2020	46	5	9.20	36	13th June	7th July	25 days
2019	106	12	8.83	35	22nd June	25th July	34 days
2018	67	8	8.38	25	14th June	19th July	36 days
Average	94	7	15.08	35	19th June	18th July	30 days
*Limited trapping late June to mid July							



**Rosy Marbled**



**Dusky Plume**



**Agrimony Case-bearer**



**Sycamore Seed Dot**



**Maple Leaf-miner**



**Treble-spot Flat-body** SW

## July

Despite the 303 species recorded during the months, overall numbers of moths remained very low although towards the end there was perhaps a hint of improvement. An impressive 12 species were added to the Hazeleigh list during the month.

**Small Oak Blotch-miner** *Tischeria dodonaea*, was noted on a couple of dates, 29th and 31st and **Cyan Marbled** *Stenoptinea cyaneimarmorella* were in the traps on 17th and 22nd. Just the second site record of **Rufous Fungus Moth** *Nemapogon ruricolella* occurred on 29th. **Willow Stilt** *Caloptilia stigmatella* on 29th was the second of the year and for the site whilst **White-marked Stilt** *Calybites phasianipennella* had a general poor year with the sole record being on 24th. The 19th saw **Oak Bark Moth** *Argyresthia glaucinella* in the traps. **Blackthorn Blister Moth** *Lyonetia prunifoliella* was until relatively recently considered extinct in the UK, but has had a remarkable reverse of fortune and is now considered widespread. In Hazeleigh this year, the first record was on 17th June and a further six records followed before the last on 28th August, its best year in the Wood. GD confirmed the fourth site record of **Barred Yellowneck** *Oegoconia deauretella* whilst three records of **Beautiful Silver-mark** *Promalactis procerella* point to its residency in Hazeleigh now.

Another **Hollyhock Seed Moth** *Pexicopia malvella* on 24th July was the second of the year and fourth for the site, yet another overdue species was added to the Hazeleigh list on 17th - **Dark Moss-moth** *Bryotropha affinis* whilst **Silver-barred Moss-moth** *Oxypteryx wilkella* on 24th was the first since 2019 when three were recorded (with two in 2018). **Blackthorn Gelechia** *Gelechia scotinella* (GD) on 17th was the fourth for the site and first of two this year.

The Coleophora had a good run in July, including the addition of three new species to the Hazeleigh list - **Birch Case-bearer** *Coleophora milvipennis* (GD) on 17th, **Apple & Plum Case-bearer** *Coleophora spinella* (GD) on 17th and **Large Orache Case-bearer** *Coleophora adspersella* (GD) with two on 22nd and one on 29th. Other Coleophora recorded (all GD) during the month were *Coleophora prunifoliae* (17th - second site record) and *Coleophora alcyonipennella* (27th and 29th).

Two Elachista were added to the site list in the month - **Meadow Grass-miner** *Elachista consortella* (24th and 29th (two)) and **Southern Grass-miner** *Elachista stabilella* (31st July), all GD. As mentioned previously **Tufted Oak Moth** *Dystebenna stephensi* had a good year in the wood with four July records, on 19th, 22nd, 24th and 29th. Another species having a better than average year was **Barred Groundling** *Caryocolum blandella* which was observed on nine nights between 19th July and 19th August.

Hazeleigh does not see too many plume moths so each one that turns up is looked at carefully. Thus **Dusky Plume** *Oidaematophorus lithodactyla* was finally added to the site list on 19th, just the fifth species of plume on the site list.

Those masters of all looking like one another, the Cnephasia, are always present in reasonable numbers so it was only a matter of time before a couple more species were added to the Hazeleigh site list (all GD) - **Cereal Tortrix** *Cnephasia pumicana* (19th) and **Buff Grey Tortrix** *Cnephasia longana* (19th and 29th). **White-marked Tortrix** *Acleris holmiana* was noted on 17th and 22nd with another overdue new for the site **Small Rufous Tortrix** *Acleris aspersana* on 24th. More in a vague hope than anything else I put the lure for **Sallow Clearwing** *Synanthedon flaviventris* out whilst we went through the traps. Given the minimal willow around the wood I was not expecting much so when, early afternoon I notice a clearwing in the lure trap, I expected it to be another species, but it was not! Numbers of **Marbled Grass-moth** *Catoptria verellus* have appeared to decline since they first colonised the Wood, with record on just four nights in July (19th, 22nd, 24th and 31st) and in just ones and twos. Time will tell if this is just a blip or trend. **Rolled Grass-moth** *Pediasia contaminella* has expanded its range in recent year across Essex and is now regular in Hazeleigh but just one was noted in 2024, on 22nd.

After the single early June record **Mocha** was noted on four days in July - 22nd, 24th, 29th and 31st with further records in August. A big surprise and new for site was **Channel Island Pug** on the last day of the month. It has the distinction of being one of the more distinct pugs but none-the-less was not yet on the radar for the site list. The species has now been noted at five sites in the county, two inland and three on the coast. I could not work out where the nearest tamarisk, the species' food plant, was to Hazeleigh but it must be some distance so the species is clearly wandering a long way as it appears to expand its range. A **Round-winged Muslin** was just the third site record and the first since 2019, whilst the newly arrived **Plumed Fanfoot** appeared for the fourth consecutive year with records on 17th, 22nd and 29th. And to end the month's summary **Dark Crimson Underwing** appeared for its sixth consecutive year with records on 19th and 24th.



Channel Island's Pug



Narrow-winged Pug



Porter's Rustic



Comfrey Ermine



Pellitory Beauty



Dark Crimson Underwing  
SW

### August.

The month produced 264 species, of which nine were new for site. Numbers of moths recovered a bit with macros particularly relatively more numerous than previous months.

The month started with a new for site, **Sycamore Seed Dot** *Etainia decentella* on 2nd whilst at the end of the month a further mine of **Small Oak Blotch-miner** *Tischeria dodonaea* was found on 28th. Another species that took its time before making its way onto the Hazeleigh List was **Case-bearing Clothes Moth** *Tinea pellionella* (GD) which were noted on 2nd and 28th. After the three records of **Scarce Dark Fungus Moth** *Nemapogon falstrella* last year, just one was noted this year, on 5th. A tiny inconspicuous moth in the trap on 28th, proved to be **Yarrow Tuft** *Bucculatrix cristatella* (GD), one more new for the site whilst the same night the Wood's fourth **Clover Stilt** *Parectopa ononidis*. The rather smart looking **Small Oak Leaf-miner** *Phyllonorycter lautella* dropped in on 28th and talking of smart, the tiny jewel of a micro **Pellitory Beauty** *Cosmopterix pulchrimella* was recorded for the third time in the Wood on 2nd.

**Blackthorn Gelechia** *Gelechia scotinella* (GD) was noted for the second time this year on 2nd.

The last of the years **Grey Rush Case-bearer** *Colephora glaucicolella* (GD) appeared on 28th whilst **Glasswort Case-bearer** *Colephora salicorniae* (GD) was noted on 5th (2), 11th and 28th. A new Elachista for the site was **Oblique-barred Grass-miner** *Elachista adscitella* (GD) on 5th whilst a **Meadow Grass-miner** *Elachista consortella* were recorded on 28th. The black and white **Comfrey Ermine** *Ethmia quadrillella* made its second site appearance on 2nd.

One of the most glaring omissions from the site list finally made it onto the 19th, **White-faced Straw** *Neochylis dubitana*. **Rusty Acorn Piercer** *Cydia amplana* was noted on four nights, 2nd, 5th, 11th and 19th.

**Rosy Knot-horn** *Oncocera semirubella* has increased significantly across the county but it remains a favourite to find in the traps, but with just one record on 28th, it was a poor year in the Wood where it has been recorded annually since 2021. Another much increased species that had a second poor year in a row was **Saltmarsh Knot-horn** *Ancylosis oblitella* which also dropped into the trap on 28th.

**Mocha** was recorded on four nights during the month, 2nd, 5th, 11th and 19th, with the species recorded on a total of nine nights in 2024 (three in 2023). **Narrow-winged Pug** was new for the Wood on 28th as was **Olive-tree Pearl** which was long expected. The site's second **Rest Harrow** showed up on 11th, the previous one being on 7th August 2020.



Given the concern over the inexorable colonisation of the county by **Oak Processionary** it is worth tabulating the records since the first record in the wood on 6th August 2019 -

	No. of nights with records	Peak nightly count
<b>2019</b>	1	1
<b>2020</b>	1	1
<b>2021</b>	2	1
<b>2022</b>	3	1
<b>2023</b>	4	2
<b>2024</b>	5	17

Two **Pinion-streaked Snout** on 19th and 28th were just the second and third site records, the first being on 14th June 2018 whilst a **Gold Spot** on 11th was the fourth site record and finally, a **Pearly Underwing** on 28th was a first for the site.

### September

A typically much quieter month but to be honest it seemed a lot quieter than normal with little to get very excited about, although of the 130 species recorded three were new for the Wood.

**Pear Leaf Blister Moth *Leucoptera malifoliella*** mines were found on Hawthorn on 20th, a new species for the site. Two other new species for the Wood were and adult **Bindweed Sleeper *Bedellia somnulentella*** on 1st and the first of the years' two **Porter's Rustic *Athetis hospes*** again on 1st. Although there had been a few Essex records this year, it wasn't really on the radar.

**Meadow Grass-miner *Elachista consortella*** (GD) was noted on 18th and 20th.

There were no big counts of **Tufted Oak Knot-horn *Acrobasis tumidana*** this year with numbers mostly creeping into double figures (around 100 were noted on 17th August 2023). Records spanned the period 17th July -1st September (2023 - 17th July - 25th September) with the species being noted on 13 nights (12 in 2023).



**Rest Harrow**



**Beautiful Juniper Piercer**



**Case-bearing Clothes Moth**  
SW

## October

A total of 76 species were noted with two new to the site.

Mines of **Barred Elm Dot** *Stigmella ulmivora* were found on elm on 6th, a new species for Hazeleigh and overdue too, the same day that the second record of **Beautiful Elm Dot** *Stigmella lemniscella* was noted on elm very close by. A couple of days later checks of the only significant Dogwood *Cornus sanguinea* stand in the wood confirmed the continuing presence of **Dogwood Cutter** *Antispila petryi*, where it was first found in 2023. The third site and also year's record of **Willow Stilt** *Caloptilia stigmatella* was on 7th. Another surprise was in the traps on the morning of 8th October, with a worn **Beautiful Juniper Piercer** *Cydia interscindana* the first record for Hazeleigh and only the third site at which it has been recorded in the county. It is a Juniper feeder of which there is none near to Hazeleigh so presumably this one was 'spreading its wings'...

We thought we had missed out on **Clifden Nonpareil** but one made it into the traps on the night of 15th October to make it three years in a row for the species in the Wood. We initially thought it a bit weather worn but then we realised bits of its wing were at the bottom of the trap - it had survived the attentions of a Hornet *Vespa crabro*! **Autumnal Rustic** had, until 2023-24 been a really rare moth in the Wood. However, with four records in 2023 and a couple more in 2024 but just two records in the period 2018-2022, its fortunes seem to be looking up.

There was the odd period of migrant activity during the month with **Olive-tree Pearl** add four more records during the month (7th, 15th, 25th (two) and 29th (two)) to the site's first record in August. Two **Gem** turned up on 15th, the third record for the Wood with a **Scarce Bordered Straw** on 7th being just the second site record after one in 2022 and remarkably another **Porter's Rustic**.

## November

Just 29 species were recorded, one of which was new and with trapping very limited, the lone notable record came from some 'mining' whilst wandering around the Wood with mines of **Dewberry Dot** *Ectoedemia rubivora* found on 2nd proving to be the last new species of the year for Hazeleigh.

## December

**Zimmermannia atrifrontella** has been recorded as an adult (GD) previously for the site and mines which were attributed to *Zimmermannia atrifrontella/longicaudella* also found at one location in the Wood in 2021. It was pleasing therefore to find further mines in a different location in the Wood on 20th.

## REPORT FROM CURRY FARM, BRADWELL

STEPHEN DEWICK

2024 was yet another excellent year for immigrants but the fortunes of our resident species were decidedly varied. Whilst at long last, **Wall Browns** seem to be coming back strongly, **Small Tortoiseshells** have almost completely disappeared now with just two individuals noted, one in February and one in July. January got off to a good start with **Winter Moth**, **Mottled Umber** and **Chestnut** on the 1<sup>st</sup> and **Pale Brindled Beauty** the following night. On the 3<sup>rd</sup>, three **Red Admirals** and a **Peacock** were seen and an extremely early **Hebrew Character** came to light.

Whilst the exceptionally warm February weather brought large numbers of immigrants into the South West, a single male **Dark Sword-grass** on the 16<sup>th</sup> was our only moth of note. Two **Brimstones** were active on the 15<sup>th</sup>, a **Small Tortoiseshell** and a **Comma** on the 16<sup>th</sup> and no less than six **Red Admirals** were nectaring together at Cherry Plum blossom on the morning of the 29<sup>th</sup>.

Another **Dark Sword-grass** appeared in the trap on the 10<sup>th</sup> of March and on the 25<sup>th</sup>, a **Bloxworth Snout** was a welcome addition to the Bradwell list. Once again, 'earliest evers' were interesting features of spring with a **Speckled Wood** seen on the 26<sup>th</sup> and a **Green-veined White** on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

Our first **Great Prominent** since May 1990 was in the trap on the 12<sup>th</sup> of April with an incredibly early **Dewick's Plusia** on the very same night. As a **Humming-bird Hawk**-moth was then seen egg-laying on lady's bedstraw on the 13<sup>th</sup> an immigrant source seemed likely for all three of these moths. 2024 will certainly be remembered for the huge numbers of The **Delicate** seen, (949 in total) the first on the 27<sup>th</sup> of May.

In daylight on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June a **Beautiful Marbled** was flying about. On the 9<sup>th</sup> of July the first *Palpita vitrealis* of the year was in the trap and on the 20<sup>th</sup>, both **Light Crimson Underwing** and *Sciota rhenella* were further additions to the Bradwell list. August highlights included a **Brussels Lace** on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, a **Dark Crimson Underwing** on the 13<sup>th</sup> and a **Golden Twin-spot** the following night.



**Light Crimson Underwing**



***Euchromius ocella***

SD

Immigrant activity continued apace in September with a **Porter's Rustic** on the 8<sup>th</sup>, an astonishing catch of no less than 65 **Delicates** on the 14<sup>th</sup> and a superb *Euchromius ocella* on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

An unprecedented catch of 32 *Palpita vitrealis* on the 7<sup>th</sup> of October together with a single *Spolodea recurvalis* on the 31<sup>st</sup> were the highlights of the month. On the 16<sup>th</sup> of October, in a strange daytime display, a **Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing** continually flew around and over an area of bushes, for at least five to ten minutes.

A **Slender Burnished Brass** on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November was yet another first for Bradwell; a real surprise in a year when nationally there were few. Other November highlights included around 20 **Red Admirals** nectaring at Elaeagnus and Buddleia blossom on the 11<sup>th</sup> and a record late **Holly Blue** on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

A male and a female **Brimstone** were seen to emerge almost simultaneously from Elaeagnus on the 16<sup>th</sup> of December and four **Red Admirals** and a **Comma** were flying on Christmas Eve. Finally, an active **Large Yellow Underwing** was in the trap on the 27<sup>th</sup>, a single **Red Admiral** nectared at Elaeagnus blossom on the 30<sup>th</sup> and an exceedingly late **Oak Rustic** came to the trap that night.



This was an interesting year in our Boreham garden with a further 21 species added to the species list with eight of these confirmed from previous years bringing the total to 975. Even though we were away for extended periods in February May and August it was still pleasing to record over 76 nights 8,150 moths of 441 species, albeit somewhat lower totals than recent years. I also continued survey work for the N.T. on Danbury Ridge at Blake's Wood and Lingwood Common as well as Boreham Chantry Field N.R. and Boreham Seabrook's orchard (abandoned).

#### Nights trapped in our Boreham garden during 2024

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
2	1	0	4	2	12	14	0	5	22	12	2

It was an excellent autumn for migrants, the best since 2022. In addition some common species appeared in record year count numbers and included, **Garden Grass Moth** *Chrysoteuchia culmella* 1883, **Red-green Carpet** 72, **Black Rustic** 114, **Blair's Shoulder-knot** 58 and **Merveille du Jour** 152. Several species had exceptionally low numbers compared to the last 5 years and included **Box-tree Moth**, **Jersey Tiger**, **Common Wainscot** and **White-point**. However, I may have missed peak emergence times this year.

#### Boreham garden new for site in 2024



Four-spotted Footman



Radford's Flame Shoulder

#### Boreham garden new for site in 2024

21 species were added to the Garden list in 2024 with 8 of these from previous years. As would be expected the majority were Micros and confirmed by GD. Just two were Macros and both likely migrants, they were **Four-spotted Footman** and the long overdue Radford's Flame Shoulder. The garden total now stands at 975.

NFS nationally scarce or rare Micros included **Black Clothes Moth** *Nemapogon fasttriella* and **Maple Stilt** *Caloptilia hemidactylella*. I am also finding an increase in Birch related species as several trees in neighbours gardens mature, this included NFS **Large Spring Jewel** *Eriocrania semipurpurella*, **White Birch Tortrix** *Acleris logiana* and **Birch Pistol Case-bearer** *Coleophora betulella*.

As with many previous Boreham garden records coastal species were often represented in the catch, this included a belated record of **Saltern Tuft** *Bucculatrix maritima* from August 2015.

ABH No	Common name	Scientific name	Sex	Date	Confirmaton
2.007	Large Spring Jewel	<i>Eriocrania semipurpurella</i>	M	21/04/2024	GD by C. Lewis
5.001	Sorrel Cap	<i>Opostega salaciella</i>	M	21/06/2021	GD by C. Lewis
7.0120	Sandy Longhorn	<i>Nematopogon schwarziellus</i>		12/06/2023	me
12.019	Rufous Fungus Moth	<i>Nemapogon ruricolella</i>	M	30/06/2024	GD by C. Lewis
12.020	Variegated Fungus Moth	<i>Nemapogon variatella</i>		11/07/2020	GD by G.J. Smith

12.0221	Black Clothes Moth	<i>Nemapogon falstriella</i>		21/08/2023	GD by C. Lewis
14.003	Saltern Tuft	<i>Bucculatrix maritima</i>		22/08/2015	Checked by me
15.013	Scarce Maple Stilt	<i>Caloptilia hemidactylella</i>	M	19/07/2023	GD by C. Lewis
15.049	Blackthorn Leaf-miner	<i>Phyllonorycter spinicolella</i>	M	01/08/2024	GD by C. Lewis
15.064	Nut Leaf Blister Moth	<i>Phyllonorycter coryli</i>	M	30/04/2024	GD by C. Lewis
33.002	Comfrey Ermine	<i>Ethmia quadrillella</i>		30/07/2024	me
35.018	Black Rhomboid Grey	<i>Hypatima rhomboidella</i>		30/07/2024	me
35.161	Hazel Bud Moth	<i>Parachronistis albiceps</i>		26/06/2024	me
37.053	Birch Pistol Case-bearer	<i>Coleophora betulella</i>	M	22/06/2024	GD by C. Lewis
49.086	White Birch Tortrix	<i>Acleris logiana</i>		09/10/2024	me
49.090	The Minister	<i>Eulia ministrana</i>	M	31/05/2023	me
49.149	White-shouldered Marble	<i>Apotomis turbidana</i>	M	26/06/2024	GD by C. Lewis
49.151	Willow Marble	<i>Apotomis capreana</i>	M	22/07/2019	GD by G J. Smith
49.311	Dingy Daisy Moth	<i>Dichrorampha aeratana</i>	M	25/06/2024	GD by C. Lewis
72.041	Four-spotted Footman	<i>Lithosia quadra</i>	M	06/10/2024	me
73.330	Radford's Flame Shoulder	<i>Ochropleura leucogaster</i>		91/11/2024	me

Those species highlighted in Yellow are those previously identified but omitted from the site total.

Other new moths of note included the beautiful black and white **Comfrey Ermine** *Ethmia quadrillella*. This is a local species primarily found in E & SE England. There were other records in Essex during the year suggesting range expansion or dispersal. With Hazel shrubs growing well in our next-door garden it is likely that a passing **Hazel Bud Moth** *Parachronistis albiceps* was attracted. The scarce species **Dingy Daisy Moth** *Dichrorampha aeratana* was trapped next to our wildflower lawn that has a high density of Ox-eye Daisy.



**Comfrey Ermine** *Ethmia quadrillella*



**Rufus Fungus Moth** *N. ruricolella*



**Sandy Longhorn** *N. schwarziellus*



**Saltern Tuft** *Bucculatrix maritima*





**Birch Pistol Case Bearer** *C. betulella*



**White Birch Tortrix** *Acleris logiana*



**Hazel Bud Moth** *P. albiceps*



**The Minister** *Eulia ministrana*



**Dingy Daisy Moth** *Dichrorampha aeratana*



**White-shouldered Marble** *A. turbidana*

### The 10 most numerous species trapped in 2024

ABH No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	No. of moths	Rank 2024	Rank 2023	Rank 2022	Rank 2021
63.080	<b>Garden Grass Veneer</b>	<i>Chrysoteuchia culmella</i>	1883	1	4	-	-
73.342	<b>Large Yellow Underwing</b>	<i>Noctua pronuba</i>	975	2	1	1	2
73.093	<b>Clancy's Rustic</b>	<i>Caradrina kadenii</i>	220	3	-	-	-
73.193	<b>Lunar Underwing</b>	<i>Anchoscelis lunosa</i>	177	4	-	-	-
73.317	<b>Heart and Dart</b>	<i>Agrotis exclamationis</i>	167	5	6	5	4
73.224	<b>Merveille du Jour</b>	<i>Griposia aprilina</i>	152	6	-	-	-
73.162	<b>Dark Arches</b>	<i>Apamea monoglypha</i>	122	7	-	-	-
18.001	<b>Diamondback Moth</b>	<i>Plutella xylostella</i>	116	8	-	-	-
73.233	<b>Black Rustic</b>	<i>Aporophyla nigra</i>	114	9	-	-	-
73.359	<b>Setaceous Hebrew Character</b>	<i>Xestia c-nigrum</i>	107	10	5	-	-



The results have been unexpected with much reduced numbers of previously common species. 6 of the 10 have not been in this table before and only **Heart and Dart** and **Large Yellow Underwing** have been recorded over the previous three years. **Clancy's Rustic** has gone from being recorded for the first time in October 2019 to 220 moths in 2024. It will be interesting to see whether these observations are duplicated elsewhere or are mainly a local phenomenon.

### Boreham migrants

	Scientific name	July	September	October	November	Total
<b>Rusty Dot Pearl</b>	<i>Udea ferrugalis</i>	-	1	27	14	<b>2</b>
<b>Plumed Fan-foot</b>	<i>Pechipogo plumigeralis</i>	5	1	3	-	<b>9</b>
<b>European Corn Borer</b>	<i>Ostrinia nubilalis</i>	2	-	-	-	<b>2</b>
<b>Diamondback Moth</b>	<i>Plutella xylostella</i>	22	7	63	24	<b>116</b>
<b>Rush Veneer</b>	<i>Nomophila noctuella</i>	-	2	4	1	<b>7</b>
<b>Olive-tree Pearl</b>	<i>Palpita vitrealis</i>	-	3	12	3	<b>18</b>
<b>Vestal</b>	<i>Rhodometra sacraria</i>	-	1	2	-	<b>3</b>
<b>Convolvulus Hawk-moth</b>	<i>Agrilus convolvuli</i>	-	-	2	-	<b>1</b>
<b>Four-spotted Footman</b>	<i>Lithosia quadra</i>	-	-	1	-	<b>1</b>
<b>Gem</b>	<i>Nyctosea obstipata</i>	-	-	2	2	<b>4</b>
<b>L-album Wainscot</b>	<i>Mythimna l-album</i>	1	2	35	1	<b>39</b>
<b>Silver Y</b>	<i>Autographa gamma</i>	41	12	10	15	<b>78</b>
<b>Dewick's Plusia</b>	<i>Macdunnoughia confusa</i>	1	-	1	-	<b>2</b>
<b>Delicate</b>	<i>Mythimna vitellina</i>	5	3	23	2	<b>33</b>
<b>Oak Rustic</b>	<i>Dryobota labecula</i>	-	-	-	1	<b>1</b>
<b>Dark Sword-grass</b>	<i>Agrotis ipsilon</i>	-	1	8	8	<b>17</b>
<b>Scarce Bordered Straw</b>	<i>Helicoverpa armigera</i>	-	2	17	5	<b>24</b>
<b>Clancy's Rustic</b>	<i>Caradrina kadenii</i>	-	4	203	13	<b>220</b>
<b>White-point</b>	<i>Mythimna albipuncta</i>	-	-	1	1	<b>2</b>
<b>Radford's Flame Shoulder</b>	<i>Ochropleura leucogaster</i>	-	-	-	1	<b>1</b>
<b>Turnip</b>	<i>Agrotis segetum</i>	17	13	25	15	<b>70</b>
<b>Large Yellow Underwing</b>	<i>Noctua pronuba</i>	12	22	898	43	<b>975</b>
<b>Small Mottled Willow</b>	<i>Spodoptera exigua</i>	-	-	1	-	<b>1</b>
<b>Pale Mottled Willow</b>	<i>Caradrina clavipalpis</i>	5	6	17	4	<b>32</b>
<b>Angle Shades</b>	<i>Phlogophora meticulosa</i>	2	1	7	17	<b>27</b>
<b>Totals</b>		<b>113</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>1373</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>1737</b>

Some records may be associated with local breeding populations

It was a very quiet first half of the year for migrants but by late summer conditions for immigration were excellent and it proved to be the best for species and numbers since 2022. Migrants were recorded at every trapping session throughout the autumn even when winds were not apparently suitable. This did suggest the onward dispersal of moths that had arrived in previous days.

Some migrants such as **Silver Y**, **Rush Veneer** *Nomophila noctuella*, **White-point**, **Vestal** *Rhodometra sacraria* and **Convolvulus Hawk-moth** were in unusually low in numbers. While **Olive-tree Pearl** *Palpita vitrealis*, **Dark Sword-grass**, **Gem**, **Delicate**, **Scarce Bordered Straw**, **Clancy's Rustic** and **Large Yellow Underwing** were recorded in record numbers. I was delighted to trap NFS **Four-spotted Footman** and **Radford's Flame Shoulder**. Both species I had been hoping to record for several years.

I also recorded my 3<sup>rd</sup> record of **Oak Rustic** on a migrant rich night on the 10<sup>th</sup> November. I also recorded 2 **Convolvulus Hawk-moths** and a **Small Mottled Willow**, both species unusually scarce nationally in 2024. Overall I logged 1737 migrants/possible migrants between July and the end of November. As in past years light winds from the SE or SW produced the largest migrant catches. These being enhanced when accompanied by rain and usually a day or more after significant catches in coastal areas in the S or SW of the UK. I also found the weather maps and associated comments by Steve Nash on FB Migrant Lepidoptera invaluable. I also increased the proportion of synergetic bulbs from the usual actinics and this had a positive influence on the garden catches of **Gem**, **Olive-tree Pearl** and **Plumed Fan-foot**.

Other scarce Boreham Moths recorded in 2024 included the **Gorse Wanderer** *Brachmia blandella* which may have flown in from Danbury Ridge and **Red-eyed Buff** *Agonopterix ocellana*, a *Salix* specialist that is likely to have originated in the Chelmer Valley south of the village.

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**Gorse Wanderer** *Brachmia blandella*



**Red-eyed Buff** *Agonopterix ocellana*

## BLAKE'S WOOD NATIONAL TRUST 2024 MOTH REPORT

GRAHAM EKINS

This was the second full year of moth recording at this important ancient actively coppiced woodland. I carried out 14 surveys between the 25<sup>th</sup> January and 15<sup>th</sup> October and used a mixture of battery and genny powered traps, using mainly low power synergetic and actinic UV light sources. The smallest catch was on the 25<sup>th</sup> January with 22 moths of 11 species and the highest was 1176 moths of 137 species on the 24<sup>th</sup> June. The survey species total reached 521 an increase of 106 species over the year. The overall moth total since the start of the surveys reached 13,634, an increase of 7,367 during 2024.

As in 2023 traps were set at dusk and emptied at or before dawn in Hornbeam and Sweet Chestnut compartments as well as areas near the car park that were not coppiced and contained veteran Oak trees. The moth trap locations were plotted digitally. Any new category 4 species were confirmed by genital dissection. A copy of the report and confirmed species data was passed to the National Trust and also uploaded to the Essex Field Club database.

Trapping for the second year indicated that the site has significant populations of **Grey Arches**, **Suspected**, **Great Oak Beauty**, **Large Emerald** and **Golden Brown Fern Moth** *Musotima nitidalis*. Also significant populations of scarce Hornbeam, Birch, Sweet Chestnut and Oak related Micros.

I have listed below species of particular interest that were not listed in the 2023 report.

**Key:Taxon No.;National status/Essex;Common name/Scientific name;Date(s) Verification**

ERD-Essex Red data; NSA/B Nationally Scarce; - indicates no comment made

15.027	NSA/ERD	Hornbeam Parornix	<i>Parornix carpinella</i>	12/04/2024	(GD)
15.037	Local	Hornbeam Leaf-miner	<i>Phyllonorycter tenerella</i>	05/04/2024	
15.075	-/-	Common Birch Leaf-miner	<i>Phyllonorycter ulmifoliella</i>	15/04/2024	
15.082	-/Scarce	Shining Alder Leaf-miner	<i>Phyllonorycter klemannella</i>	20/07/2024	
21.002	pRDB1/Scarce	Blackthorn Blister Moth	<i>Lyonetia prunifoliella</i>	31/07/2024	
28.001	pRDB2/Scarce	Beautiful Silver-mark	<i>Promalactis procerella</i>	20/07/2024	
49.042	Local/Scarce	Dingy Hedge Grey	<i>Neosphaleroptera nubilana</i>	24/06/2024	(GD)
49.047	Local/-	Bluebell Moth	<i>Eana incanana</i>	24/06/2024	(GD)
49.054	Local/ERD	Scarce Grey Tortrix	<i>Cnephasia genitalana</i>	31/07/2024	(GD)
49.073	Local/-	Viburnum Tortrix	<i>Acleris schalleriana</i>	04/02/2024	
49.076	-/ERD	Tufted Tortrix	<i>Acleris cristana</i>	04/02/24&31/07/24	
49.085	Local/-	Elm Tortrix	<i>Acleris kochiella</i>	20/07/2024	
49.143	NSA/Scarce	Apple Marble	<i>Eudemis porphyra</i>	20/07/2024	
49.151	Local/-	Willow Marble	<i>Apotomis capreana</i>	24/06/2024	
49.186	-/-	Teasel Marble	<i>Endothenia gentianaeana</i>	24/06/2024	(GD)
49.225	-/Scarce	Larch Bud Moth	<i>Spilonota laricana</i>	31/07/2024	(GD)
49.231	-/-	Large Birch Roller	<i>Epinotia brunnichana</i>	24/06/2024	(GD)
49.233	-/Scarce	Varied Birch Roller	<i>Epinotia solandriana</i>	31/07/2024	(GD)
49.248	-/-	Nut Bud Moth	<i>Epinotia tenerana</i>	31/07/2024	
49.249	-/-	Black-marked Tortrix	<i>Epinotia ramella</i>	20/07/2024	
49.362	NSB/-	Early Oak Gall Moth	<i>Pammene giganteana</i>	19/03/24&05/04/24	
49.363	Local/-	Oak Gall Moth	<i>Pammene argyrana</i>	12/04/2024	(GD)
49.376	Local/-	Tawny Sycamore Piercer	<i>Pammene aurita</i>	31/07/2024	
62.053	NSB/-	Saltmarsh Knot-horn	<i>Ancylosis oblietella</i>	31/07/2024	
63.059	NSB/-	Dark-bordered Pearl	<i>Evergestis limbata</i>	24/06/24&20/07/24	
63.102	-/ERD	Chequered Grass-moth	<i>Catoptria falsella</i>	31/07/2024	
70.148	-/ERD	Maple Pug	<i>Eupithecia inturbata</i>	31/07/2024	
70.281	NS/ERD	Sloe Carpet	<i>Aleucis distinctata</i>	05/04/24&20/04/24	
72.057	Not Evaluated	Plumed Fan-foot	<i>Pechipogo plumigeralis</i>	31/07/2024	
73.035	NS/ERD	Reed Dagger	<i>Simyra albovenosa</i>	31/07/2024	
73.114	-/-	Small Angle Shades	<i>Euplexia lucipara</i>	24/06/2024	
73.197	-/ERD	Dotted Chestnut	<i>Conistra rubiginea</i>	29/02,01/04&12/04/24	
73.241	-/-	Pine Beauty	<i>Panolis flammea</i>	14/03/2024	
73.243	-/-	Blossom Underwing	<i>Orthosia miniosa</i>	01/04/2024	
73.344	NS/ERD	Lunar Yellow Underwing	<i>Noctua orbona</i>	24/06/2024	





**Reed Dagger**



**Pine Beauty**



**Blossom Underwing**



**Dotted Chestnut**



**Sloe Carpet**



**Chequered Grass Moth *Catoptria falsella***



**Maple Pug**



**Early oak Gall Moth *Pammene giganteana***



**Varied Birch Roller *Epinotia solandriana***





**Scarse Grey Tortrix** *Cnephasia genitalana*



**Larch Bud Moth** *Spilonota laricana*



**Hornbeam Parornix** *Parornix carpinella*



**Dingy Hedge Grey** *Neosphaleroptera nubiana*



**Bluebell Moth** *Eana incanana*



**Hornbeam Leaf-miner** *Phyllonorycter tenerella*

## LINGWOOD COMMON NATIONAL TRUST, DANBURY RIDGE 2024

GRAHAM EKINS

I carried out 3 surveys in March, April and June in an area with various *Calluna* species interspersed with young Gorse and Birch. I also placed a trap in nearby Oak woodland. Numbers of species were limited but the records were significant as several have a very limited distribution in Essex. The survey species total increased to 219, 86 more than in 2023. Several scarce Heather and Gorse related species were recorded including **Heather Neb** *Aristotelia ericinella*, **True Lover's Knot**, **Narrow-winged Pug** and **Gorse Knot-horn** *Pempelia genistella*. The widespread Bracken which is being actively controlled had high populations of **Golden-brown Fern Moth** *Musotima nitidalis* and **Brown Silver-lines**.

Other moths of note included:

Key:Taxon No.;	National status/Essex;	Common name	Scientific name
17.008	Local	Scarce	<b>Short-barred Ochre</b> <i>Ypsolopha alpella</i>
32.030	Common	Scarce	<b>Burnt-tip Buff</b> <i>Agonopterix nervosa</i>
35.003	Local	Essex Red Data	<b>Meadow White-barred</b> <i>Aproaerema larseniella</i>
35.061	Local	Common	<b>Pale Seedhead Moth</b> <i>Ptocheuusa paupella</i>
35.073	Nationally Scarce B	Essex Red Data	<b>Dock Streak</b> <i>Monochroa palustrellus</i>
35.107	Local	Essex Red Data	<b>Tufted Oak Roller</b> <i>Psoricoptera gibbosella</i>
35.148	Local	Common	<b>Elm Grey</b> <i>Carpatolechia fugitivella</i>
45.039	Local	Essex Red Data	<b>Citron Plume</b> <i>Hellinsia carphodactyla</i>
49.014	Local	Common	<b>Brown Oak Tortrix</b> <i>Archips crataegana</i>
49.087	Local	Common	<b>Lichen Tortrix</b> <i>Acleris literana</i>
49.148	Nationally Scarce B	Essex Red Data	<b>Scarce Willow Marble</b> <i>Apotomis lineana</i>
49.151	Local	Common	<b>Willow Marble</b> <i>Apotomis capreana</i>
49.343	Migrant	Common	<b>Rusty Acorn Piercer</b> <i>Cydia amplana</i>
62.033	Migrant	Common	<b>Tufted Oak Knot-horn</b> <i>Acrobasis tumidana</i>
65.008	Common	Common	<b>Peach Blossom</b> <i>Thyatira batis</i>
70.119	Common	Common	<b>Dark Umber</b> <i>Philereme transversata</i>
70.148	Common	Essex Red Data	<b>Maple Pug</b> <i>Eupithecia inturbata</i>
70.281	Nationally Scarce	Essex Red Data	<b>Sloe Carpet</b> <i>Aleucis distinctata</i>
72.037	Common	Common	<b>Round-winged Muslin</b> <i>Thumatha senex</i>
72.047	Common	Essex Red Data	<b>Hoary Footman</b> <i>Eilema caniola</i>
73.024	Common	Common	<b>Marbled White Spot</b> <i>Protodeltote pygarga</i>
73.058	Common	Common	<b>Mullein</b> <i>Cucullia verbasci</i>
73.151	Common	Essex Red Data	<b>Webb's Wainscot</b> <i>Globia sparganii</i>
73.254	Common	Common	<b>Antler Moth</b> <i>Cerapteryx graminis</i>
74.004	Common	Common	<b>Least Black Arches</b> <i>Nola confusalis</i>



**Heather Neb** *Aristotelia ericinella*



**Gorse Knot-horn** *Pempelia genistella*



**Narrow-winged Pug**



**True Lover's Knot**





**Antler**



**Peach Blossom**



**Tufted Oak Roller** *Psorocoptera gibbosella*



**Tufted Oak Knot-horn** *Acrobasis tumidana*



**Citron Plume**



**Dock Streak** *Monochroa palustrellus*

A modest number of garden sessions (12) resulted in 375 species of which 10 were new. There were 4 new macros, overdue **White-spotted Pug** *Eupithecia tripunctaria* and **Broad-barred White** *Hecatera bicolorata*, along with **Webb's Wainscot** *Globia sparganii* and **Plumed Fan-foot** *Pechipogo plumigeralis* the latter two seemingly becoming more regular away from the traditional coastal regions. New micros were **Birch Stilt** *Caloptilia betulicola*, **Short-barred Ochre** *Ypsolopha alpella*, **Sycamore Seed Dot** *Ectoedemia decentella*, **Regal Piercer** *Pammene regiana*, **Treble-spot** *Telechrysis tripuncta* and **Thistle Root-borer** *Epiblema scutulana*. Of species unrecorded since 2020 a second ever **Mullein Wave** *Scopula marginepunctata* (2<sup>nd</sup> Sept. last record June 2018), a second **Willow Stilt** *Caloptilia stigmatella* (2<sup>nd</sup> Aug. last record 2016), a second **Sulphur Pearl** *Sitochroa palealis* (2<sup>nd</sup> Aug. last record 2018), a third **Brown China-mark** *Elophila nymphaeata* (26<sup>th</sup> July last record 2016), a fourth **Southern Apple Moth** *Recurvaria nanella* (19<sup>th</sup> July last record 2018), a third **Common Knapweed Tortrix** *Eucosma hohenwartiana* (26<sup>th</sup> June last record 2019), a fourth **Small China-mark** *Cataclysta lemnata* (26<sup>th</sup> June last record 2018) and a second **Great Tortrix** *Choristoneura hebenstreitella* (3<sup>rd</sup> June last record 2014). Pheromones were not used in 2024 and 3 specimens were dissected but did not turn out to be new for the garden.

The garden list is nominally at 804 species after 11 years of trapping although I now suspect some of the earlier records now need to be revisited and critically reviewed for mis-identification and also possible incorrect data entry. Only one Essex Moth Group field session at Tiptree Heath was attended which once again was a great evening, yielding several specialist heathland species across all the traps.



Great Tortrix



Obscure Wainscot



Webb's Wainscot



White-spotted Pug



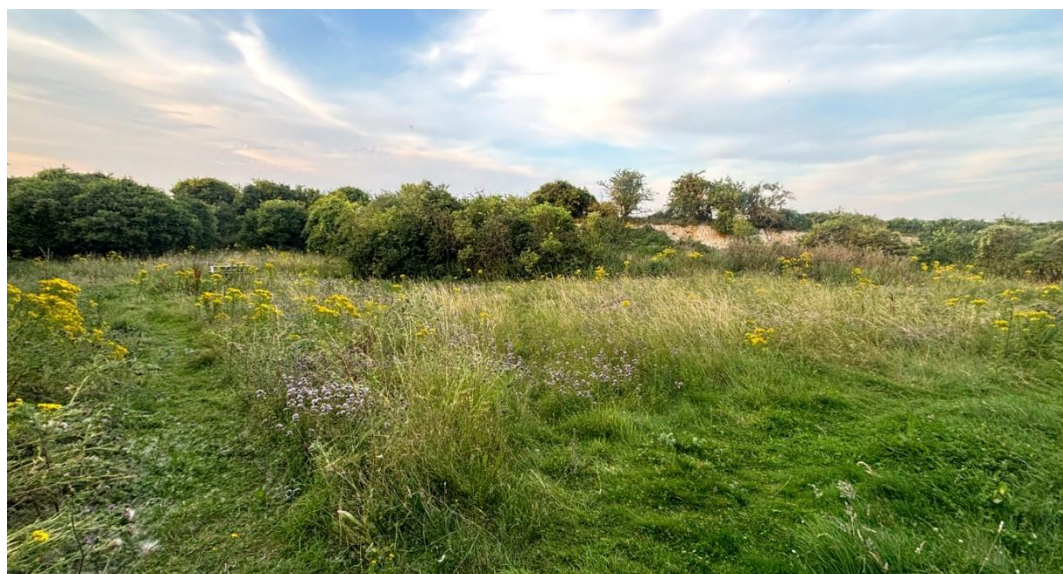
Oncocera semirubella

AR

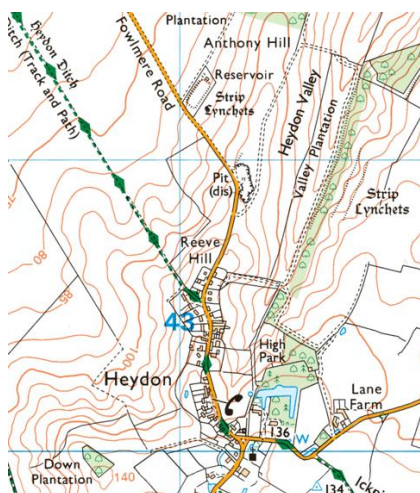
Further afield I attended a 5 day Moth course in Somerset at Halsway Manor in the Quantocks during June and whilst the weather was cooler than we would have liked, 3 new macros for me were seen (**Beautiful Brocade** *Lacanobia contigua*, **Smoky Wave** *Scopula ternata* and **Double Line** *Mythimna turca*) along with 2 new micros.

Thanks and appreciation must go to both the members of the Essex Moth Panel who are doing a great job and also to Chris Lewis for his swift dissection work.





Heydon is ~7km south of Duxford, ~7km east of Royston and ~7km west of the M11. Following redrawing of the county boundaries, politically it is now in Cambridgeshire, but for the purposes of biological records it remains in North Essex (vice county 19). A chalk pit has been present on this site for at least 200 years. It was recognized as a County Wildlife Site in 1998, with work by local residents since 2022 to encourage flora that had diminished over the intervening years. Early in 2024 the Essex Moth Group was approached with a view to surveying the site for its lepidopteran fauna. I volunteered to do the work.



The bulk of the pit is grassland with many wild flowers, notably marjoram, common ragwort, knapweed and creeping thistle. The grassy area is surround by scrub, predominantly hawthorn, elder and dogwood, but also blackthorn and buckthorn. There is only one large mature tree – an ash.

A chalk wall edges the pit on the south and east, and a minor road forms its western boundary.

I made 7 visits to Heydon in 2024. On each occasion I set 3x 125W mercury vapour Robinson traps and 2x 20W actinic Heath traps and stayed on site overnight.

Date	11/04	22/05	26/06	09/07	30/07	13/08	19/09
Species	17	36	139	100	131	125	49
Moths	33	105	514	346	507	423	332

**326** Lepidopteran species were found. The highlights shown below include 4 Red Data Book species, 11 Nationally Scarce species, a rare migrant and several other species that while not nationally scarce are rare in Essex.

### The highlights

All the images below are of specimens found at Heydon in 2024.

I note here for further investigation that two species listed below (*Coleophora squamosella* and *Cochylidia heydeniana*) have blue-fleabane (*Erigeron acer*) as their larval foodplant and another two species



(*Coleophora conyzae* and *Hellinsia carphodactyla*) have ploughman's spikenard (*Inula conyzae*) as their larval foodplant. Neither of these are listed in the plants of Heydon referred to above. The species are presented in taxonomic order. The number in brackets after the date indicates the number of individuals found on that date.



15.0131 ***Caloptilia honoratella***

(Pale Maple Stilt) 30/07/2024 (1)

A recent colonist, first recorded in Britain in 2017 and spreading rapidly.

10<sup>th</sup> Essex record. Larval foodplant: sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*)

32.026 ***Agonopterix kaekeritziana*** (Knapweed Buff) 30/07/2024 (3), 13/08/2024 (1)

(left image below). This species is not uncommon at a national level but is rare in Essex, these being the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> records for Essex. Larval foodplant: knapweed spp. (*Centaurea nigra/scabiosa*).



32.044 ***Depressaria douglasella*** (Carrot Brown) 30/07/2024 (1)

(right image above) **Nationally Scarce B.** 3<sup>rd</sup> record for Essex. Larval foodplants: wild carrot (*Daucus carota*), wild parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*).



33.002 ***Ethmia quadrilella***

(Comfrey Ermine) 30/07/2024 (1)

**Nationally Scarce B.** 21<sup>st</sup> record for Essex. It has a variety of foodplants none of which is in the list of the plants of Heydon – though common comfrey (*Symphytum officinale*) is not likely to be far away.

34.012 ***Sorhagenia rhamniella*** (Buckthorn Shoot-borer) 26/06/2024 (1), 30/07/2024 (5)

The 3 British *Sorhagenia* species cannot be reliably distinguished on external features. *S. rhamniella* has buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*) and alder buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*) as its larval foodplants (the former is present at Heydon, the latter is not).



[Nationally Scarce A.](#)

3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> records for Essex, the last in 1997.

Identifications by genital determination (4 male, 2 female).

The genital images are available at [British Lepidoptera](#)

34.013 ***Sorhagenia lophyrella*** (Buckthorn Bud-borer) 09/07/2024 (1)

*S. lophyrella* also has buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*) as its larval foodplant



[Nationally Scarce A.](#)

3<sup>rd</sup> record for Essex, the last in 1996.

Identification by genital determination (male).

The genital images are available at [British Lepidoptera](#)

35.026 ***Acompsia cinerella*** (Cinereous) 26/06/2024 (2), 09/007/2024 (1), 30/07/2024 (6)

(left image below) A common species in many parts of the UK but rare in Essex, these being the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> records. Its larvae feed on mosses



35.037 ***Thiotricha subocellea*** (Marjoram Case-bearer) 09/07/2024 (1)

(right image above) [Nationally Scarce B.](#) 5<sup>th</sup> record for Essex. Larval foodplants: marjoram (*Origanum vulgare*), water mint (*Mentha aquatica*), thyme (*Thymus polytrichus*)

35.059 ***Metzneria aprilella*** (Flame Seedhead Moth) 09/07/2024 (1)

(left image below) [Nationally Scarce B.](#) 3<sup>rd</sup> record for Essex. Larval foodplant: greater knapweed (*Centaurea scabiosa*)



35.098 ***Gelechia scotinella*** (Blackthorn Gelechia) 30/07/2024 (2)

(right image above) **Red Data Book**. 13<sup>th</sup> record for Essex. Larval foodplant: Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*). Identification by genital determination.



37.036 ***Coleophora conyzae***

(Spikenard Case-bearer) 09/07/2024 (1)

**Nationally scarce B.**

23<sup>rd</sup> Essex record

Larval foodplant: ploughman's spikenard (*Inula conyzae*)



37.085 ***Coleophora squamosella***

(Blue-fleabane Case-bearer)

13/08/2024 (1)

**Red Data Book.**

4<sup>th</sup> record for Essex, the last in 1986.

Larval foodplant: blue-fleabane (*Erigeron acer*).

Identification by genital determination – genital images available [here](#).

37.104 ***Coleophora adpersella*** (Large Orache Case-bearer) 09/07/2024 (1)

**Nationally Scarce B.** 35<sup>th</sup> Essex record. Larval foodplants: grass-leaved orache (*Atriplex littoralis*), sea purslane (*Halimione portulacoides*). Identification by genital determination. Specimen in poor condition, no images retained. Despite the moth and its foodplants having saltmarsh as their primary habitat there are as many inland as coastal Essex records.

38.007 ***Elachista subocellea*** (Brown-barred Grass-miner) 09/07/2024 (1)

(left image below) **Nationally Scarce B.** 2<sup>nd</sup> Essex record, the 1<sup>st</sup> in 1980. Larval foodplant false brome (*Brachypodium sylvaticum*)



45.039 ***Hellinsia carphodactyla*** (Citron Plume) 13/08/2024 (2)

(right image above) Rare in Essex; 15<sup>th</sup> record for Essex. Larval foodplant: ploughman's spikenard (*Inula conyzae*). Identification by genital determination.





49.131 ***Cochylidia heydeniana***  
(Blue-fleabane Straw) 09/07/2024 (1)  
**Nationally Scarce A.**  
37<sup>th</sup> record for Essex.  
Larval foodplants: blue fleabane  
(*Erigeron acris*), Canadian fleabane  
(*Conyza canadensis*)  
Identification by genital determination.  
Genital images available [here](#)

49.187 ***Endothenia oblongana*** (Plantain Marble) 13/08/2024 (1)

(left image below) Rare in Essex. 15<sup>th</sup> record for Essex. Larval foodplants: common knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*). Very similar to other *Endothenia* species and probably overlooked for that reason. Identification by genital determination.



49.262 ***Phaneta pauperana*** (Scarce Rose Tortrix) 11/04/2024 (1)

(right image above) **Red Data Book**. 7<sup>th</sup> record for Essex. Larval foodplant: dog rose (*Rosa canina*)

62.013 ***Uncinus obductella*** (Marjoram Knot-horn) 09/07/2024 (25), 13/08/2024 (6)

**Red Data Book**. 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> records for Essex. Larval foodplant marjoram (*Origanum vulgare*)



62.021 ***Oncocera semirubella*** (Rosy Knot-horn) 09/07/2024 (2)

**Nationally Scarce B**, but common at my regular trapping sites on Foulness (so no images from Heydon).  
Larval foodplants: common bird's-foot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), white clover (*Trifolium repens*).

63.076 *Euchromias ocella* (Silver-spotted Veneer) 19/09/2024 (1)

Rare migrant. 4<sup>th</sup> record for Essex, last in 1995



70.056 *Catarhoe cuculata* (Royal Mantle) 26/06/2024 (2)

Rare in Essex. 18<sup>th</sup> record for Essex, the last in 2013. Larval foodplant: bedstraws (*Galium* spp).



## Plans for 2025

Any nothing plans are weather dependent especially early and late in the year.

1. It would be good to fill date gaps, so I will try to plan visits for late March, late April/early May, early June, mid-July, late August/early September, October.
2. I will try to make a daytime visit in June to document clearwings, butterflies and other day-flyers.
3. I will try to target the following species most of which are nationally scarce and either rare in Essex or which have not been recorded in Essex but seem possible, if somewhat aspirational:
  - a. *Merrifieldia baliodactylus* (Dingy White Plume) Jul/Aug – feeds on marjoram and I'm fairly sure I overlooked it in 2024.
  - b. *Digitivalva perlepidella* (Spikenard Moth) May/Jun – depends on whether ploughman's spikenard can be confirmed on site.
  - c. *Acompsia schmidtellus* (Marjoram Snout) Jul/Aug – no Essex records
  - d. *Elachista triseriatella* (Least Grass-miner) Jun/Jul
  - e. *Phtheochroa sodaliana* (Pied Buckthorn Beauty) Jun
  - f. *Ancylis unculana* (Buckthorn Hook-wing) Jun/Jul – no Essex records
  - g. *Paratalanta pandalis* (Bordered Pearl) Jun – feeds on marjoram
  - h. *Paratalanta hyalinalis* (Knapweed Pearl) Jun/Jul

In 2024 we trapped on 49 nights recording in total 5870 moths of 377 species and 13 aggs. This was twice as many traps as usual mainly due to joining the national January and February Challenges and Iona's Nocturnal Parasitoids Sampling Project. There was an increase of 1000 moths recorded but the number of species remained about the same. Our site total since joining the group in 2019 is 584 species and 15 aggs.

We had very little migrant activity but did trap our first *Palpita vitrealis* - **Olive-tree Pearl** which although common in the west of the county has fewer records in the east where we are.

We continued to have success with the lure traps with *Pammene agnotana* the **Hawthorn Bark Tortrix** to a SKI lure recorded on the 8<sup>th</sup> April and confirmed by C. Lewis by gen det. A rare moth with pRDB 1 status and only 3 records in Essex up to the end of 2023.

The nationally scarce **Sallow Clearwing** *Synanthedon flaviventris* was trapped in a SAL lure on the 10<sup>th</sup> of July. Another moth with few Essex records but increasing due to the use of lures.



**Pammene agnotana**



**Sallow Clearwing**

On the evening of 31<sup>st</sup> May we put our TAB lure next to the *Nemapogon variatella* colony for an hour and trapped 15 moths. It is the first time we had used a lure to attract them. We had 1 gen detted by Chris Lewis who confirmed it as *N. variatella*. Our first male as all our previous ones gen detted have been female. He also confirmed a moth from a light trap around the same time as a female *N. variatella*. It was larger in size than usual and grey headed. There are few records of this species in Essex and nationally it has PRDB 3 status.



**Nemapogon variatella - male**



**Nemapogon variatella – female**

RL

On the 28<sup>th</sup> August we had a *Psychoides filicivora* – **Common Fern Moth** to the SAL lure. A new moth for us and with scattered records across Essex. Another new on for us was the **Orange-tailed Clearwing** *Synanthedon andrenaeformis* which came to the VES lure on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> July. Increasingly common in Essex but not previously recorded anywhere near us.

Away from lures **Black-spotted Chestnut** was a new moth for us recorded on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> January, 10<sup>th</sup> of February and 31<sup>st</sup> October. There may be a colony around Brentwood as Anne Jacobs also recorded the moth in this area. There were only 14 records in Essex up to the end of 2023.





**Orange-tailed Clearwing**



**Black-spotted Chestnut**

Daytime sighting new for site were *Endothenia nigricostana* - **Hedge Marble** on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May, *Epiblema cirsiiana* - **Knapweed Root-borer** on the 25<sup>th</sup> May which was confirmed by gen det and *Telechrysis tripuncta* – **Treble-spot** on the 7<sup>th</sup> June. All of which have relatively few records in Essex. *Acompsia schmidtellus* - **Marjoram Snout** was recorded in a light trap on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June. Our previous 2 sightings were during the day in our poly tunnel. There are 4 records other than ours in Essex.



***Endothenia nigricostana* - Hedge Marble**



***Acompsia schmidtellus*- Marjoram Snout**

Two moths that have been increasing in Essex and moving farther west reached us this year. *Evergestis limbata* - Dark-bordered Pearl on the 29<sup>th</sup> June and 19<sup>th</sup> July and *Acrobasis tumidana* - Tufted Oak Knot-horn on the 27<sup>th</sup> August. As others have noted the moth numbers seemed to be down in 2024. Despite this we had a good year as along with above moths we had some common moths we had not previously seen. These included like Sandy Carpet, Bordered Pug, Lackey, *Aethes rubigana* – Burdock Straw and *Eucosma campoliliana* – Pied Tortrix.



***Evergestis limbata* – Dark-bordered Pearl**



**Lackey**

RL

As always we are indebted to the panel and all the members of the Essex Moth Group Facebook site for their help, useful advice, support and interesting posts through out the year. Hoping for a good year's mothing in 2025 for everyone.

In 2024 moth-trapping occurred on 17 nights:

7715 moths of 448 species were observed, including day-flyers.

8 Red Data Book species were recorded this year. 4 Species were new for me.

32 species were added to the Foulness list, and 2 misidentified species removed, bringing the total number of species of Lepidoptera for which I have a record of occurrence on Foulness to **756**.

The new species included 4 seconds for Essex, 2 thirds for Essex and a further 2 species with less than 10 Essex records.



Figure 1: *Sciota rhenella*, Foulness, 29/06/2024, 2<sup>nd</sup> record for Essex

***Sciota rhenella*** (Poplar Knot-horn) has white poplar (*Populus alba*) as a larval foodplant. Although I have listed Bennett's Butt as the trapping site for 29<sup>th</sup> June, I had set a Heath trap amongst the poplars near White City (TR029934) and it was this trap that attracted the 3 specimens of this species. Until 2022 it was considered rare migrant to south-east England with 24 British records; subsequent records in 2022 and 2023 from East Kent suggested colonisation. The first record for Essex was in West Mersea in 2023. The 3 specimens from a row of poplars on Foulness Island in 2024 suggest it is now breeding in Essex.



Figure 2: left - *Ectoedemia agrimoniae*, Foulness, 29/06/2024, 2<sup>nd</sup> record for Essex; right - *Leucospilapteryx omissella*, Foulness, 17/08/2024

Trapping sites and totals are shown in the table below.

Date	Site	Grid ref	No. of moths	No. of species
30 <sup>th</sup> March	Burwood	TR000910	40	8
13 <sup>th</sup> April	Bennetts Butt	TR041944	168	24
4 <sup>th</sup> May	Bennetts Butt	TR041944	57	15
18 <sup>th</sup> May	Bennetts Butt	TR041944	109	42
25 <sup>th</sup> May	Sharpsness Head	TQ989887	357	59
22 <sup>nd</sup> June	Sharpsness Head	TQ989887	335	93
29 <sup>th</sup> June	Bennetts Butt	TR041944	832	167
13 <sup>th</sup> July	Bennetts Butt	TR041944	678	89
19 <sup>th</sup> July	Sharpsness Head	TQ989887	469	132
20 <sup>th</sup> July	East Newlands	TR032948	443	111
27 <sup>th</sup> July	Rugwood	TR011912	345	102
3 <sup>rd</sup> August	Bennetts Butt	TR041944	728	165
10 <sup>th</sup> August	Bennetts Butt	TR041944	2066	135
17 <sup>th</sup> August	Sharpsness Head	TQ989887	735	118
21 <sup>st</sup> September	Bennetts Butt	TR041944	155	32
2 <sup>nd</sup> November	Rugwood	TR011912	106	23
30 <sup>th</sup> November	Bennetts Butt	TR041944	92	13

1440 of the 2066 moths trapped on 10<sup>th</sup> August were Smoky and Common Wainscots.



Figure 3: left - *Pammene regiana*, Foulness 25/05/2024; right - *Apomyelois bistratella*, Foulness, 10/08/2024, 3<sup>rd</sup> record for Essex.

In the lists that follow where more than one specimen was obtained on any date the number of specimens is in brackets following the date, and “gen.det.” indicates that the identification was confirmed by genital examination.

#### The new species:

- 04.093 *Ectoedemia agrimoniae* (Agrimony Dot) 29/06/2024. RDB. 2<sup>nd</sup> record for Essex (gen.det.)
- 15.021 *Leucospilapteryx omissella* (Mugwort Stilt) 17/08/2024 (2). NS-B
- 19.010 *Digitivalva pulicariae* (Fleabane Moth) 03/08/2024. 3<sup>rd</sup> record for Essex
- 27.003 *Oegoconia deauratella* (Barred Yellowneck) 20/07/2024 (gen.det.)
- 35.085 *Athrips mouffetella* (Honeysuckle Grey) 03/08/2024
- 35.156 *Recurvaria nanella* (Southern Apple Moth) 27/07/2024 (2). NS-B
- 37.008 *Coleophora adjectella* (Southern Case-bearer) 19/07/2024. NS-A. 9<sup>th</sup> record for Essex (gen.det.)
- 37.011 *Coleophora badiipennella* (Small Elm Case-bearer) 20/07/2024 (gen.det.)
- 37.016 *Coleophora spinella* (Apple & Plum Case-bearer) 29/06, 19/07/2024 (gen.det.)
- 49.105 *Gynnidomorpha vectisana* (Saltern Straw) 19/07/2024 (gen.det.)
- 49.237 *Epinotia signatana* (Black-streaked Tortrix) 22/06/2024
- 49.375 *Pammene regiana* (Regal Piercer) 25/05/2024
- 62.018 *Sciota rhenella* (Poplar Knot-horn) 29/06/2024 (3) recent colonist. 2<sup>nd</sup> record for Essex (gen.det.)
- 62.022 *Pempelia genistella* (Gorse Knot-horn) 29/06, 19/07/2024 NS-B
- 62.039 *Apomyelois bistratella* (Phoenix Knot-horn) 10/08/2024 NS-B. 3<sup>rd</sup> record for Essex. (gen.det.)
- 63.063 *Scoparia basistrigalis* (Chequered Grey) 20/07/2024 (gen.det.)
- 63.071 *Eudonia lineola* (Coast Grey) 20/07/2024 NS-B. 2<sup>nd</sup> record for Essex. (gen.det.)
- 63.119 *Musotima nitidalis* (Marbled Fern) 27/07/2024
- 71.001 *Thaumetopoea processionea* (Oak Processionary) 03/08, 10/08/2024 (2)
- 72.048 *Eilema pygmaeola* (Pigmy Footman) 03/08/2024 RDB. 6<sup>th</sup> record for Essex
- 73.023 *Plusia putnami* (Lempke’s Gold Spot) 17/08/2024 (2) 2<sup>nd</sup> record for Essex
- 73.053 *Cucullia chamomillae* (Chamomile Shark) 13/04, 04/05/2024 (2)
- 73.128 *Amphipoea oculea* (Ear Moth) 19/07/2024 (gen.det.)
- 73.353 *Xestia baja* (Dotted Clay) 21/09/2024



Figure 4: Chamomile Shark, Foulness, 13/04/2024



A review of the list found a further 8 common species that had been recorded on Foulness in previous years, but which had not been added to the list.

- 16.005 *Yponomeuta rorella* (Willow Ermine)
- 49.038 *Clepsis consimillana* (Rufous Tortrix)
- 49.223 *Rhopobota naevana* (Holly Tortrix)
- 49.234 *Epinotia abbreviana* (Brown Elm Tortrix)
- 70.036 *Cyclophora punctaria* (Maiden's Blush)
- 70.074 *Hydriomena furcata* (July Highflyer)
- 70.240 *Odontopera bidentata* (Scalloped Hazel)
- 73.142 *Coenobia rufa* (Small Rufous)

*Elachista albidella* was identified as new for Foulness (and Essex) in 2023, but this was a misidentification and has been removed from the list. *Scrobipalpa samadensis* was listed as new for Foulness in 2022 but this was also a misidentification and has been removed from the list.

#### **Red Data Book species (Nationally Endangered, Vulnerable or Rare)**

- 04.093 *Ectoedemia agrimoniae* (Agrimony Dot) 29/06/2024 (gen.det.)
- 37.047 *Coleophora amethystinella* (Tare Case-bearer) 18/05 (2), 25/05/2024 (15)
- 37.079 *Coleophora aestuariella* (Kent Blite Case-bearer) 03/08/2024 (2) (gen.det.)
- 37.091 *Coleophora deviella* (Blite Case-bearer) 19/07, 27/07/2024 (gen.det.)
- 49.274 *Eucosma metzneriana* (Mugwort Tortrix) 19/07/2024
- 70.296 *Aplasta ononaria* (Rest Harrow) 10/08 (4), 17/08/2024 (4)
- 72.048 *Eilema pygmaeola* (Pigmy Footman) 03/08/2024
- 73.027 *Deltote bankiana* (Silver Barred) 29/06/2024 (4)



Fig 5: Pigmy Footman, Foulness, 03/08/2024



Fig 6: Gypsonoma minutana, Foulness, 20/7/2024

#### **Nationally Scarce A (found in 30 or fewer 10km squares of the National Grid)**

- 35.113 *Scrobipalpa salicorniae* (Glasswort Moth) 19/07/2024 (gen.det.)
- 37.008 *Coleophora adjectella* (Southern Case-bearer) 19/07/2024 (gen.det.)
- 37.075 *Coleophora salinella* (Sea-purslane Case-bearer) 10/08/2024 (gen.det.)
- 38.043 *Elachista scirpi* (Saltern Rush-miner) 20/07/2024 (2) (gen.det.)
- 45.022 *Cnaedimophorus rhododactyla* (Rose Plume) 29/06/2024
- 66.004 *Malacosoma castrensis* (Ground Lackey) 13/07, 19/07, 27/07, 03/08 (2)
- 73.132 *Luperina nickerlii* (Sandhill Rustic) 03/08, 17/08/2024 (17)

### Nationally Scarce B (31-100 10km squares of the National Grid)

- 15.021 *Leucospilapteryx omissella* (Mugwort Stilt) 17/08/2024 (2)  
27.002 *Oegoconia caradjai* (Straw Yellowneck) 19/07, 20/07/2024 (gen.det.)  
35.032 *Pexicopia malvella* (Hollyhock Seed Moth) 29/06, 19/07/2024 (2)  
35.096 *Chionodes fumatella* (Smoky Groundling) 19/07, 03/08/2024 (2)  
35.114 *Scrobipalpa instabilella* (Purslane Moth) 22/06, 29/06, 19/07/2024 (gen.det.)  
35.115 *Scrobipalpa nitentella* (Coast Orache Miner) 19/07, 20/07, 03/08/2024 (gen.det.)  
35.156 ***Recurvaria nanella*** (Southern Apple Moth) 27/07/2024 (2)  
37.017 ***Coleophora prunifoliae*** (Sloe Case-bearer) 29/06/2023 (gen.det.)  
37.095 ***Coleophora trochilella*** (Verge Case-bearer) 20/07/2024 (gen.det.)  
37.104 ***Coleophora adpersella*** (Large Orache Case-bearer) 03/08/2024 (gen.det.)  
37.108 ***Coleophora salicorniae*** (Glasswort Case-bearer) 19/07, 20/07, 27/07, 03/08, 10/8 (2) 17/8 (2)  
49.112 ***Eupoecilia ambiguella*** (Vine Moth) 19/07, 20/07 (6), 03/08/2024  
49.122 *Aethes dilucidana* (Short-barred Straw) 27/07, 10/08, 17/08/2024 (2)  
49.197 *Bactra robustana* (Saltern Lance) 25/05, 22/06 (3), 29/06, 19/07, 20/07 (2), 27/07 (2)  
49.219 *Thiodia citrana* (Canary Tortrix) 22/06/2024 (6)  
49.278 *Gypsonoma minutana* (Small Brindled Tortrix) 20/07/2024 (3)  
49.327 *Cydia microgrammana* (Rest-harrow Piercer) 25/05/2024 (2)  
62.021 ***Oncocera semirubella*** (Rosy Knot-horn) 29/06 (2), 19/07 (3), 03/08 (2), 10/08, 17/08 (2)  
62.022 ***Pempelia genistella*** (Gorse Knot-horn) 29/06, 19/07/2024 NS-B  
62.053 ***Ancylosis oblitella*** (Saltmarsh Knot-horn) 19/07, 20/07, 17/08/2024 (6)  
70.028 ***Scopula emutaria*** (Rosy Wave) 22/06, 29/06, 13/07, 17/08/2024 (6)  
73.055 ***Cucullia asteris*** (Star-wort) 29/06 (12), 13/07, 19/07, 03/08 (3), 10/08/2024  
73.161 ***Apamea oblonga*** (Crescent Striped) 29/06, 19/07, 10/08, 17/08/2024 (2)  
73.291 ***Mythimna pallens favicolor*** (Matthew's Wainscot) 13/07 (2), 19/07, 03/08, 10/08 (4)

### Recent Colonists (migrants that are now breeding in UK)

- 62.017 ***Sciota adelphella*** (Willow Knot-horn) 19/07/2024  
62.018 ***Sciota rhenella*** (Poplar Knot-horn) 29/06/2024 (3)  
63.119 ***Musotima nitidalis*** (Marbled Fern) 27/07/2024  
71.001 ***Thaumetopoea processionea*** (Oak Processionary) 03/08, 10/08/2024 (2)  
72.011 ***Lymantria dispar*** (Gypsy Moth) 03/08 (2), 17/08 (2)  
72.057 ***Pechipogo plumigeralis*** (Plumed Fan-foot) 19/07 (2), 03/08 (2), 10/08/2024  
73.295 ***Mythimna vitellina*** (Delicate) 22/06 (12), 29/06 (32), 13/07 (4), 20/07, 17/08 (2), 21/09 (50), 02/11/2024 (2)

Another rather strange year weatherise with predictable consequences for both our diurnal and nocturnal Lepidoptera, some fairing particularly badly as a result of these unseasonal fluctuations. However, early in the season I certainly had better than average numbers of some species to my garden trap in Rayleigh. There were some milder nights in March and April, and even on 28th February I had six **Oak Beauties**, the most I've noted in a single night. Other species doing well locally were the **Frosted Green**, 16 on 4<sup>th</sup> April, and **Lunar Marbled Brown**, 20 on 8<sup>th</sup> April - these are easily my highest garden totals for both of these insects.

There were a number of nights in late spring when moth totals were well down, and this generally included both macro and micro species. It appears that the situation started to improve from mid-summer and it was encouraging to record five new macro species for the year, as well as a modest number of new micros. With regards to the larger moths, it was most heartening to discover a female **Fox Moth** nestling at the bottom of the trap, and she had also deposited a number of ova on an egg carton. Most of these hatched and were fed on bramble leaves until about a third grown when I released the majority of them in suitable habitat nearby. Also nice to report a couple of **Puss Moth** and also a female **Emperor** moth on the night of 5<sup>th</sup> April, the latter being a very rare visitor here. Other new arrivals were a number of **Langmaid's Yellow Underwing** in early August, a **Dark Crimson Underwing** on 15<sup>th</sup> August and a **Streak** on 2<sup>nd</sup> November. The last mentioned turned out to be a most welcome find as I utilised a different type of trap and light system with this species firmly in my sights with consideration for the prevailing weather that evening - and my plan worked!

Proving that some clearwing species are far more prevalent than previously thought, I used both the AND and VES lures to excellent effect in our humble garden, with a total of at least eleven **Orange-tailed Clearwings** drawn to the pheromone traps in less than thirty minutes. I'm not sure where these insects are breeding in my vicinity, but there is definitely Wayfaring Tree and Guelder rose growing in the nearby Wheatley Wood, although it is some distance from our house. I now have a couple of other Clearwing species in my sights just to see if they can also make it to our garden! No recording took place for ten days in late July/early August, and also about eighteen days in late September/early October.

New Colonists With climate change moving on apace, there will inevitably be winners and losers in the natural world. The generally warmer seasons have seen new species moving around and hopefully establishing themselves in new territories, thereby following a trend already set by many Lepidoptera. The **Delicate** is one such species, and although I only noted a total of six individual moths here (and four in 2023), I had only noted one in the previous twenty or so years. Some recorders closer to the coast than me had many times this number, so all being well I may encounter similar figures on my local patch. It also appears that the **Mocha** has a breeding population in the woodland just over the back from me and I logged a total of five insects from the two broods. These are probably now using the abundant planted Field Maple in Wheatley Wood, so this is a most welcome development for a most attractive little moth.

Another possible species that may be colonising locally is the **Jersey Mocha**, my second garden record occurring on 14th August after an earlier one in late July 2022. With the larvae feeding on oak it is not beyond the realms of possibility that this could turn up more frequently in the future in our county. The night of 15<sup>th</sup> August yielded a lovely **Dark Crimson Underwing** in the trap, which is most pleasing after the **Light Crimson Underwing** the previous summer. A few years back I would never have believed anyone if they had told me that I would catch both of these former New Forest specialities in the garden! Now I just need a **Clifden Nonpareil** to grace our garden to complete the trilogy!

Belated Migrants Most migrant records for me were generally quite late in the year, with the majority of *Palpita vitrealis* in the latter part of October, and a stunning female **Four-spotted Footman** on 7<sup>th</sup> September. The *Crociosema plebejana* on 25<sup>th</sup> October could possibly be a migrant as it occurred at the time of heightened activity for species heading for our shores. In addition, three male **Gem** were added to my moth totals for the year, with the last noted on 10<sup>th</sup> November. It was unusual to see very few **Silver Y** in the latter part of the year, but small numbers in May and June appeared locally as well as in the garden.





***Acleris umbrana***



***Aethes rubigiana***



***Pseudosciaphila branderiana***



***Blastobasis rebeli***



**Centre-barred sawfly - orange**



***Coleophora amethystinella***



***Crocoidesoma plebejeana***



***Dasycera oliviella***



***Diurnia lipsiella***



**Eyed hawk**



**Hoary Footman**



***Nemopogon koenigi***



**Pale Eggar larva**



***Pammene regiana***



***Phyllocnistis xenia***

**GB**

Rayleigh garden - Micro moths

*Acleris literana* - 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> March

*Callisto denticulella* - 12<sup>th</sup> May

*Grapholita lobarzewskii* - 14<sup>th</sup> May

*Coleophora amethystinella* - 14<sup>th</sup> (6) and 17<sup>th</sup> May (8), 20<sup>th</sup> May (4), 25<sup>th</sup> May and 7<sup>th</sup> June

*Platyedra subcinerea* - 14<sup>th</sup> May

*Choristoneura hebenstreitella* - 25<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> May (3), 29<sup>th</sup> May (4), 9<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> (2) June

*Triaxomera parasitella* - 3<sup>rd</sup> June

*Acleris bergmanniana* - 7<sup>th</sup> June

*Vitula biviella* - 25<sup>th</sup> June

*Blastobasis rebeli* - 9<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> (2) and 24<sup>th</sup> (2) July and 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> August

*Nemapogon koenigi* - 11<sup>th</sup> July

*Recurvaria nanella* - 12<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> July and 5<sup>th</sup> August

*Metalampra italica* - 18<sup>th</sup> July

*Aethes rubigana* - 19<sup>th</sup> July

*Caloptilia honoratella* - 19<sup>th</sup> July (GD)

*Acrobasis tumidana* - total of 21 moths between 4<sup>th</sup> August and 2<sup>nd</sup> September, with 3 noted on both 12<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> August

*Ancylosis oblitella* - 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> August

*Ptocheuusa paupella* - 15<sup>th</sup> August (2)

*Coleophora saxicolella* - 28<sup>th</sup> August (GD)

*Palpita vitrealis* - 31<sup>st</sup> August and 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> October and 1<sup>st</sup> November

*Apodia martinii* - 1<sup>st</sup> September

*Ypsolopha alpella* - 1<sup>st</sup> September

*Ypsolopha sylvella* - 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> September

*Acleris umbrana* - 16<sup>th</sup> October

*Crociosema plebejana* - 25<sup>th</sup> October

Rayleigh garden - Macro moths

**Dotted chestnut** - 4<sup>th</sup> April (2)

**Emperor Moth** (female) - 5<sup>th</sup> April

**Puss Moth** - 12<sup>th</sup> April and 2<sup>nd</sup> May

**Sloe Carpet** - 8<sup>th</sup> April

**Mocha** - 5<sup>th</sup> May, 25<sup>th</sup> June and 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> August

**Buttoned Snout** - 20<sup>th</sup> May

**Fox Moth** (female) - 29<sup>th</sup> May

**Delicate** - 3<sup>rd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> September

**Pine Hawkmoth** - 23<sup>rd</sup> June

**Brown Scallop** - 25<sup>th</sup> June (2)

**Orange-tailed Clearwing** (by day) - 25<sup>th</sup> June - 8 to AND lure, 3 to VES lure, both in pheromone traps

**Obscure Wainscot** - 29<sup>th</sup> June

**Dotted Fan-foot** - 29<sup>th</sup> June

**Ruddy Carpet** - 1<sup>st</sup> July

**Blackneck** - 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> July

**Dark Umber** - 9<sup>th</sup> July

**Lappet** - 11<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> July

**Jersey Tiger** - total of 46 moths from 15<sup>th</sup> July to 21<sup>st</sup> August. This included the best nights of 11<sup>th</sup> August (9), 12<sup>th</sup> August (6) and 14<sup>th</sup> August (6). This is far and away my best year for this species, with the moths from most nights released in nearby woodland and therefore most are unlikely to be re-captures.

September thorn - 19<sup>th</sup> July, 6<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> August

**Yarrow Pug** - 20<sup>th</sup> July

**Hoary Footman** - 20<sup>th</sup> July (GD - male)

**Langmaid's Yellow Underwing** - total of fourteen moths identified between 5<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> August

**Pale Eggar** - 6<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> August. Several larvae found in the spring on blackthorn at the nearby Wheatley Wood.

**Sharp-angled Peacock** - 8<sup>th</sup> August

**Peach Blossom** - 12<sup>th</sup> August

**Sandhill Rustic** - 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> August

**Gold Spot** - 13<sup>th</sup> August (2)

**Jersey Mocha** - 14<sup>th</sup> August (GD)

**Dark Crimson Underwing** - 15<sup>th</sup> August

**Orange Sallow** - 17<sup>th</sup> August and 19<sup>th</sup> September (2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> garden records)

**Frosted Orange** - 5<sup>th</sup> September

**Four-spotted Footman** (female) - 7<sup>th</sup> September

**Centre-barred Sallow** - 7<sup>th</sup> September, unusual orange aberrant form

**Dewick's Plusia** - 19<sup>th</sup> September

**Figure of Eight** - total of 48 moths from 15<sup>th</sup> October to 2<sup>nd</sup> November, best nights being 16<sup>th</sup> October (8), 28<sup>th</sup> October (6) and 30<sup>th</sup> October (10). During the spring the larvae were common and easy to find in the nearby Wheatley Wood where the blackthorn hedgerows provide abundant larval food plant.

**Gem** - 16<sup>th</sup> October, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> November

**Pine Carpet** - 20<sup>th</sup> October and 3<sup>rd</sup> November

**Streak** - 2<sup>nd</sup> November

#### Shotgate Woodland, nr. Wickford

In May 2024 I discovered an area of land that appears excellent for a wide variety of wildlife, and as I don't have an official name for it, I have christened this site 'Shotgate Woodland'. Unfortunately, it appears much of it is threatened with destruction due to the building of new houses. It is situated at Shotgate, just to the east of Wickford in SE Essex and has an abundance of scrub, wild flowers and mostly planted secondary woodland.

I only discovered the site on Google Earth late in 2023 whilst searching new places to explore that might be important habitats for wildlife. Although it is close to where I live in Rayleigh, I had no idea of its existence and despite the weather being mostly overcast on my initial visit, I soon realised that this was a most impressive place and could contain a wide variety of wildlife, especially with regards to the birds and insects. During 2024 I visited a dozen times during the day and have been delighted with what I have seen and found so far. I have noted and recorded well over a hundred species of Lepidoptera, including five species of **Clearwing**, namely **Red-belted**, **Yellow-legged**, **Red-tipped**, **Orange-tailed** and also the very scarce **Sallow Clearwing**. The location absolutely abounds with wild flowers and nectar sources, such a vital part of our landscape that is so rapidly disappearing. In August there were masses of fleabane, wild carrot, ragwort and golden rod in flower. Earlier in the spring the ground abounded with vetches galore of various types, and also spear and creeping thistle, and then black knapweed, teasel and a wide and abundant variety of grasses and sedges.

It would be a catastrophe if it is lost to yet another housing development as I believe it would make an excellent Nature Reserve. I have not used a moth trap here to record the moths, but I expect more localised species such as **Sloe Carpet**, **Lappet** and **Figure of 8** should be breeding due to the incredible amount of blackthorn and hawthorn scrub that is present. There are good paths around the site, with a public footpath running roughly east-west across the area. There do not appear to be any areas of standing water, but the infant (and still tidal) R. Crouch is very close just to the north. I have found numerous moth larvae just by a searching and beating, and this includes **Eyed** and **Poplar hawkmoths**, and at least nine larvae of the **Puss Moth**, which exceeds even the likes of Canvey Wick which is a designated SSSI! I'm sure there must be some important wildlife found here, and amongst the birds I have noted Sparrowhawk, Kestrel and Buzzard, and numerous warblers earlier in the summer as the dense scrub and woodland would provide a great deal of food and nesting possibilities. I have also noted Slow worm on two occasions, a brief view of an Adder as well as Common Lizard.

Regarding the new housing, possibly in the site's favour are the large pylons and power lines that cross part of the grassland and woodland areas. There is also a sewage treatment works to the north of the site and an industrial area of sorts to the east, with public footpath access to this from the road. The flowering plants have been alive with bees, butterflies and a great variety of other insects and my initial thoughts of this being an incredible wildlife habitat have proved to be true. The plantations are mostly oak, but with a good mix of cherry, maple, and some birch and aspen here and there. Other trees and shrubs present include hazel, sallow, dog rose, guelder rose and dogwood. The initial building plans are for up to 270 homes, although I believe part of the site might be preserved to some extent due to the proximity of the pylons and sewage works.

In October 2024 I noted that some areas of scrub and plantation woodland were being cleared, although it is an area outside of the ground that I had explored. I'm hoping they don't go any further for the time being, but I intend to get back and assess the situation in the next month or so.

Due to the amazing array of wild flowers and insects noted here, I informed several organisations who might be interested in the site and its current predicament. These included Buglife, Essex Wildlife Trust, Essex Field Club and the Wickford Wildlife Society, with the last named seemingly unaware of this wonderful wildlife haven on their doorstep.





Pine carpet



Pine Hawk



*Platyhedra subcinerea*



Poplar hawk



Puss Moth



Ruddy carpet



September moth



Sallow Clearwing



Sloe carpet



Streak



Tawny-barred Angle



*Triaxomera parasitella*



Fleabane in flower



Shotgate woodland



Shotgate woodland

GB



The overall site location is as follows:

1 km sq – TQ7693

100m – roughly centre of site – TQ766935

The site has access at the following grid reference locations:

Access from Alicia Walk (residential road) on the west side of site at two places;

TQ76409359 and TQ76409357

Also access from the access road to the sewage treatment works at TQ76879355

Species noted from site include the following:

#### Larvae

**Puss Moth** – at least nine larvae in various instars; **Poplar Hawkmoth** – one; **Eyed Hawkmoth** – one;

**Gypsy Moth** – 4+; **Cinnabar** – 20+; **Buff-tip** – 25+.

#### Adult moths

*Dasycera oliviella* 16<sup>th</sup> June; *Acleris holmiana* 14<sup>th</sup> July; *Epichnopterix plumella* 27<sup>th</sup> May; *Metalampra italica* 17<sup>th</sup> August; *Alabonia geoffrella* 27<sup>th</sup> May; *Diurnia lipsiella* 24<sup>th</sup> October; *Coleophora amethystinella* 27<sup>th</sup> May + 2<sup>nd</sup> June; *Epinotia signatana* 14<sup>th</sup> July; *Grapholita compositella* 2<sup>nd</sup> June + 7<sup>th</sup> August; **Red-tipped Clearwing** 16<sup>th</sup> June (8) + 24<sup>th</sup> June (3); **Sallow Clearwing** 14<sup>th</sup> July; **Orange-tailed Clearwing** 24<sup>th</sup> June (7); **Red-belted Clearwing** 24<sup>th</sup> June (5); **Yellow-legged Clearwing** 16<sup>th</sup> June (5), 24<sup>th</sup> June (6) + 14<sup>th</sup> July; *Sitochroa palealis* – various dates (5); **Small Scallop** 14<sup>th</sup> July (4); **Blue-bordered Carpet** 16<sup>th</sup> June (4).

#### Other Field Trips

Due to some on-going health issues I only completed two moth trapping sessions during 2024 that were away from the garden, and both at locations that I know well and have trapped at for many years. My first excursion was to a privately owned part of Hockley Woods on the evening of 23<sup>rd</sup> June.

There are many speciality moths that I've found here, but not too many made themselves known on this occasion. The most notable were **Grey Arches** (3), Brindled White-spot, **Lead-coloured Pug**, *Eana incanana*, *Pseudosciaphila branderiana* (**Aspen marble**), *Acleris logiana* and *Pammene regiana*.

In addition, I spent a late evening at a privately owned Nature Reserve near Hadleigh where I have permission to do moth recording. The 27<sup>th</sup> July turned out to be a rather poor evening, but at least there were some new species such as *Rhyacionia pinicolana* (5), *Pempelia genistella*, *Morophaga choragella* and *Scoparia basistrigalis*. Macro moths included **Slender Brindle**, **Buff Arches**, **Small Scallop** and **Plumed Fan-foot**.

## DISCOVERY OF THE LIQUORICE PIERCER *Grapholita pallifrontana* IN SOUTH ESSEX

Chris Tyler-Smith and Yali Xue ([ylxcts@gmail.com](mailto:ylxcts@gmail.com))

*Grapholita pallifrontana* Lienig & Zeller 1846 (the Liquorice Piercer) is a pRDB3 Tortrix moth that recorders are unlikely come across by chance, but is of interest and concern because of its rarity and vulnerability. It has a single known larval foodplant, *Astragalus glycyphyllos* (Wild Liquorice), which is itself uncommon, and the adult moths appear to remain close to the foodplant and fly only on sunny afternoons.

Cambs. CMR Bill Mansfield suggested a few years ago that we look for this moth in Cambridgeshire because there was a concentration of Wild Liquorice sites near our home in Linton close to the Cambs./Essex border, and this resulted in a successful county survey of foodplant and moth (*Ent. Rec. J. Var.* **136**, 189-199). We learned two key lessons from this work: first, botanists have impressively detailed records of plant locations, often at a resolution of 10 m, which they are happy to share with curious entomologists; and second, adult *G. pallifrontana* are difficult to spot, but their larvae, which feed inside Wild Liquorice seedpods and darken patches of the pod that are visible from the outside, are easy to find whatever the weather and time of day. The larvae develop from a buff colour through pink to red; together with their brown head, black prothoracic plates and foodplant, these characteristics are diagnostic (see Figure). We therefore developed a strategy of using botanists' Wild Liquorice records to visit recorded sites in June when Wild Liquorice is in flower and easiest to find, and then again in early August when larval feeding signs are detectable.

While *G. pallifrontana* has been well-documented in North Essex (VC19) from the time Maitland Emmet discovered it in 1982, it had not been recorded from South Essex (VC18). We therefore used botanical records from Ken Adams to make a list of known Wild Liquorice sites in VC18, and visited them at flowering time on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2024. Wild Liquorice is a long-lived perennial and we re-found it at sites in three tetrads where it had been recorded 10-20 years ago in the Thurrock region. A return visit on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2024 when larvae are detectable discovered *G. pallifrontana* in all three tetrads, and these records are now included on the Essex Field Club website

<https://www.essexfieldclub.org.uk/portal.php/p/Species+Account/s/Grapholita+pallifrontana>.

This survey adds a new vice-county to the distribution of *G. pallifrontana*, but there is plenty more to do. Many Wild Liquorice sites in VC19 remain to be investigated for *G. pallifrontana*, and do readers know of any additional Wild Liquorice in VC18? Beyond establishing the full current distribution of *G. pallifrontana*, measures to conserve and expand its distribution are starting. Several aspects of its life cycle remain unclear: do the larvae spend the winter "in the seedpod or in the soil" (Sterling *et al.* (2023) *Field Guide to the Micro-moths of Great Britain and Ireland*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition), and where do they pupate? We collected seedpods in winter from the known Little Chesterford site and looked through more than 1000 without finding any hibernating larvae, and also dug the soil around the plants at suitable times (with permission from the local council) without finding any pupae.

We would be happy to hear from readers about any of these topics via our email address [ylxcts@gmail.com](mailto:ylxcts@gmail.com).

A more detailed report of our findings will be published in *Ent. Rec. J. Var.* early in 2025.





**Wild Liquorice plants**



**Wild Liquorice flowers**



**Seedpods with larval feeding signs**



**Seedpods with larval exit holes**



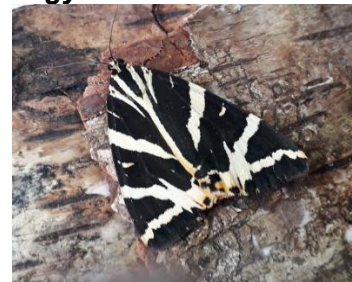
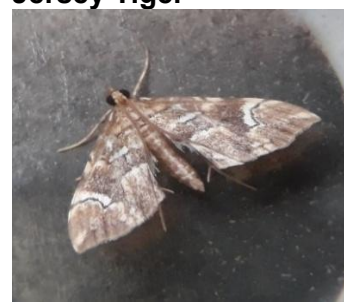
**Opened seedpod with mid-stage larva**



**Opened seedpod with late-stage larva**



The season started with usual variety of sp including **Brindled Beauty** 14/2/24/, **Pale Brindled Beauties** ,**Oak Nyctieolines**, **Common Quakers**, **Hebrew Characters** and *T. alternellas* **Brindled Pugs** appeared in March together with a **Herald** to brighten things up on 12/3, as well as **Grey Shoulder-knots**, **Early Greys**, **Clouded Drabs** and an *Agonopterix alstromeriana* 20/3. New species & notables throughout rest of year were **Obscure Wainscot** 28/6, **Sallow** 1/9, **Clay Triple Lines** 19/8, **Lunar-spotted Pinion** 5/7 & 13/ 8 **Plumed Fan-foot** 7/8, *Argyresthia semitestacella* 8/9. **Delicate** 23/9. **Clancy's Rustic** increased dramatically to 46 between 1/6 to 29/9 from first appearance couple of year's ago. & **White Points** 1/7 – 16/9, **Beaded Chestnut** 2/10, **Sprawler** 31/10 and *Musotima nitidalis* on 2/11, **Merville-du-Jour** always nice to see with just 8 between 21/10 – 8/11. **L-album Wainscot** still increasing. *T. acroxantha* still very common although *Postvittana* numbers down. **Jersey Tigers** down a bit with 89 during the summer and **Box Moths** also reduced with 18. Only 2 sps of hawkmoths trapped , **Poplar Hawkmoth** 28/5, 6/6 and single **Eyed-Hawkmoth** 13/6. **Gypsy Moth** just 7 and the other pest **Oak Processionary** 30.

**Delicate****Clancy's Rustic****Argyresthia semitestacella****Eyed Hawkmoth****Herald****Jersey Tiger****Least Black Arches****Merveille du Jour****Musotima nitidalis****Pale Brindled Beauty****Plumed Fan-foot****White-point**

RB

2024 was the 28<sup>th</sup> year of recording moths in my garden in Magdalen Laver, near Harlow, Essex. The garden is unremarkable and features a large area of lawn, some of which has been left unmown for much of the year and has either a late summer or autumn cut. There are many, mature shrubs, several hedges, fruit trees and rather overgrown herbaceous borders. The garden is one of a row of twelve and is surrounded by arable farmland with surrounding hedgerows, a variety of mature trees and a few small areas of plantation woodland. One significant loss during 2024 was of a veteran oak that finally died a year ago and was removed from the field edge by the farmer. During the year, most recording took place in the garden where light traps and pheromone traps were operated daily. Casual recording of moths encountered at windows, outside lights and in outbuildings was augmented by searches for early stages and leaf mines.

The garden list now stands at 959 species of moth. Of these, 123 have been recorded only once with a further 71 only being recorded twice. 172 species have not been recorded in the last 5 years and 109 species have been absent for the past 10 years.

From all sites, using all recording methods and recording all life stages, 563 species of moth were logged in 2024. This was a big increase compared to 2023 (470 species).

### **Light Trapping**

A variety of light traps (MV Skinner, MV Robinson, 2x24w Actinic Skinner, 2x20W Compact Actinic Robinson, 2x2W LED Skinner, 10W LED Skinner) were operated in the garden on 246 nights, ranging between 1 and 5 traps per night to give a total of 774 'trap-nights'. Altogether, 17,854 moths of 508 species were recorded in garden light traps. This was considerably more than in 2023, when only 12,408 of 428 species were recorded and probably partly due to the higher trapping effort during the summer months.

**Table 1 – Light Trapping regime and summary results (2023 data in brackets)**

Month	Nights trapped	Nights missed	Traps x Days	Species recorded	Total Moths
January	23 (17)	8 (14)	46 (34)	7 (0)	15 (0)
February	17 (28)	12 (0)	46 (56)	20 (15)	346 (48)
March	18 (21)	13 (10)	51 (42)	23 (22)	319 (316)
April	20 (18)	10 (12)	60 (36)	44 (15)	352 (118)
May	21 (21)	10 (10)	60 (42)	95 (52)	747 (197)
June	16 (11)	14 (19)	55 (22)	152 (188)	1,519 (3,699)
July	17 (17)	14 (14)	42 (34)	242 (186)	4,357 (2,433)
August	30 (15)	1 (16)	136 (30)	271 (181)	6,652 (2,588)
September	20 (17)	10 (13)	89 (34)	134 (132)	3,382 (3,173)
October	18 (26)	13 (5)	54 (52)	64 (71)	984 (760)
November	18 (17)	12 (13)	51 (34)	42 (14)	122 (54)
December	28 (26)	3 (5)	84 (52)	9 (8)	29 (22)
<b>Total</b>	<b>246 (234)</b>	<b>120 (131)</b>	<b>774 (468)</b>	<b>508 (428)</b>	<b>17854 (12408)</b>

The results in Table 1 show that trapping was carried out on a similar number of nights as 2023, but the number of traps per night was higher. This was mainly due to the summer use of two LED traps in addition to the main MV/Actinic traps. Comparing the results for each month, the number of species recorded in 2024 was higher than 2023 in all months except June and October. The total moths recorded was higher in 2024 in all months except June. July and August numbers were much higher than 2023.

### **Pheromone Trapping**

After the successes over the last five years, I carried out pheromone lure trapping on most days that I was in the UK. With a wide range of lures available and the high probability of non-target captures, many lures were deployed outside the flight-time of the intended target. Trapping was carried out using commercially available funnel traps in the garden between February and December on a total of 187 days. Lures for 113



different target species were deployed during the year. As lures were used in separate traps simultaneously, a total of 4,843 'trap days' were achieved. The traps were checked in the early morning and then subsequently several times each day.

A total of 574 individual moths of 89 species were recorded in pheromone traps and a monthly summary is shown in Table 2. The number of species and total moths recorded in 2024 was higher than in 2023. The use of pheromone traps added three new species to the garden list.

**Table 2 - Pheromone trapping regime and summary results (2023 data in brackets)**

Month	Days Trapped	Traps x Days	Species recorded	Total Moths
February	9 (14)	56 (28)	0 (0)	0 (0)
March	19 (31)	337 (334)	7 (5)	67 (18)
April	20 (26)	621 (800)	7 (7)	29 (55)
May	26 (21)	1,066 (919)	11 (17)	32 (44)
June	9 (18)	406 (422)	21 (35)	82 (123)
July	17 (14)	633 (532)	30 (28)	111 (129)
August	28 (15)	1,537 (570)	39 (17)	224 (49)
November	28 (0)	123 (0)	4 (0)	16 (0)
December	31 (0)	64 (0)	1 (0)	13 (0)
Total	187 (139)	4,843 (3,605)	89 (75)	574 (418)

Some selected records from pheromone trapping are shown in Table 3 below. Several new associations were identified although contamination cannot be ruled out despite the attempts to thoroughly clean the traps when lures were changed. This is especially likely where singles of common species are recorded on one occasion only. Of particular note were the 84 **Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing** (*Noctua fimbriata*) that came to seven different lures. The most effective for this species were the lures for **Carnation Tortrix** (CAR), *Clepsis spectrana* (SPE) and *Yponomeuta* spp. (*evonymella* & *padella*). I hardly get any males of this species in the light traps, so to see this many was quite a surprise. Eight species of clearwing were most welcome with **Hornet Clearwing** being the only species on the garden list that wasn't seen this year. It isn't clear whether a **Blossom Underwing** recorded at the NIG (*Cydia nigricana*) lure was a real response, but for a low density rare visitor to the garden (2 previous records) to find its way into a funnel trap would seem quite a coincidence. One to look out for in future years.

**Table 3 – Selected records from pheromone trapping**

Family	Species recorded	Qty	Lure target species
Nepticulidae	<i>Stigmella aceris</i>	1	<i>Orthosia gracilis</i>
Nepticulidae	<i>Stigmella aurella</i>	1	<i>Grapholita prunivora</i>
Heliozelidae	<i>Antispila metallella</i>	2	<i>Prays oleae</i>
Heliozelidae	<i>Antispila petryi</i>	15	<i>Prays oleae</i>
Tineidae	<i>Nemapogon koenigi</i>	2	<i>Nemapogon inconditella</i> , VES
Tineidae	<i>Nemapogon ruricolella</i>	6	<i>Synanthedon vespiformis</i>
Tineidae	<i>Nemapogon clematella</i>	1	<i>Nemapogon granella</i>
Tineidae	<i>Triaxomasia caprimulgella</i>	1	<i>Sesia bembeciformis</i>
Tineidae	<i>Monopis crocicapitella</i>	1	<i>Sesia bembeciformis</i>
Tineidae	<i>Psychoides verhuella</i>	2	<i>Synanthedon flaviformis</i>
Bucculatricidae	<i>Bucculatrix ulmella</i>	1	<i>Synanthedon formicaeformis</i>
Gracillariidae	<i>Euspilapteryx auroguttella</i>	1	<i>Cacoecimorpha pronubana</i>
Gracillariidae	<i>Phyllonorycter oxyacanthae</i>	59	BLA, NIG, CYZEB

Gracillariidae	<i>Phyllonorycter blancardella</i>	12	BLA ,NIG
Gracillariidae	<i>Phyllonorycter hostis</i>	7	BLA, NIG
Gracillariidae	<i>Phyllonorycter corylifoliella</i>	2	<i>Phthorimaea operculella</i>
Gracillariidae	<i>Cameraria ohridella</i>	8	<i>Cameraria ohridella</i>
Yponomeutidae	<i>Yponomeuta cagnagella</i>	13	<i>C. pronubana</i> , <i>Y. evonymella</i>
Yponomeutidae	<i>Yponomeuta rorella</i>	2	<i>Agrotis segetum</i> , SAL
Ypsolophidae	<i>Ypsolopha mucronella</i>	1	<i>Leucania loreyi</i>
Glyphipterigidae	<i>Glyphipterix simpliciella</i>	5	<i>Orthosia gracilis</i>
Argyresthiidae	<i>Argyresthia cupressella</i>	7	<i>Palpita vitrealis</i>
Lyonetidae	<i>Lyonetia clerkella</i>	6	<i>Lyonetia clerkella</i>
Oecophoridae	<i>Crassa unitella</i>	1	<i>Cacoecimorpha pronubana</i>
Oecophoridae	<i>Esperia sulphurella</i>	1	<i>Trichoplusia ni</i>
Depressariidae	<i>Agonopterix alstromeriana</i>	1	<i>Trichoplusia ni</i>
Gelechiidae	<i>Scrobipalpa costella</i>	20	<i>Scrobipalpa ocellatella</i>
Gelechiidae	<i>Tuta absoluta</i>	2	<i>Tuta absoluta</i>
Choreutidae	<i>Anthophila fabriciana</i>	16	<i>Sesia bembeciformis</i>
Tortricidae	<i>Ditula angustiorana</i>	1	<i>Sesia bembeciformis</i>
Tortricidae	<i>Archips rosana</i>	1	<i>Archips rosana</i>
Tortricidae	<i>Endothenia nigricostana</i>	6	<i>Endothenia quadrimaculana</i>
Tortricidae	<i>Enarmonia formosana</i>	9	<i>Enarmonia formosana</i>
Tortricidae	<i>Epiblema foenella</i>	1	<i>Pammene argyrana</i>
Tortricidae	<i>Cydia ulicetana</i>	1	<i>Cydia medicaginis</i>
Tortricidae	<i>Grapholita funebrana</i>	24	FUN, MOL, ARG & Others
Tortricidae	<i>Grapholita janthinana</i>	22	JAN, STR, & Others
Tortricidae	<i>Pammene giganteana</i>	16	FUN, MOL, ARG, SUS
Tortricidae	<i>Pammene argyrana</i>	2	FUN, SKI
Tortricidae	<i>Pammene agnotana</i>	1	<i>Pammene argyrana</i>
Sesiidae	<i>Pennisetia hyaeiliformis</i>	17	<i>Pennisetia hyaeiliformis</i>

**Table 3 (cont.)**

Family	Species recorded	Qty	Lure target species
Sesiidae	<i>Sesia bembeciformis</i>	5	<i>Sesia bembeciformis</i>
Sesiidae	<i>Synanthedon formicaeformis</i>	4	<i>Synanthedon formicaeformis</i>
Sesiidae	<i>Synanthedon flaviventris</i>	2	<i>Nem.granella</i> & <i>S.loranthi</i>
Sesiidae	<i>Synanthedon andrenaeformis</i>	1	<i>Synanthedon vespiformis</i>
Sesiidae	<i>Synanthedon myopaeformis</i>	26	CUL, MYO, <i>granella</i> , <i>incondit.</i>
Sesiidae	<i>Synanthedon vespiformis</i>	3	<i>Synanthedon vespiformis</i>
Sesiidae	<i>Synanthedon tipuliformis</i>	1	<i>Synanthedon tipuliformis</i>
Zygaenidae	<i>Zygaena filipendulae</i>	6	<i>Zygaena viciae</i>
Crambidae	<i>Udea ferrugalis</i>	1	<i>Trichoplusia ni</i>
Crambidae	<i>Crambus lathoniellus</i>	1	<i>Synanthedon tipuliformis</i>
Drepanidae	<i>Cilix glaucata</i>	1	<i>Agrotis segetum</i>
Saturniidae	<i>Saturnia pavonia</i>	7	<i>Saturnia pavonia</i>
Geometridae	<i>Idaea trigeminata</i>	1	<i>Malacosoma neustria</i>
Geometridae	<i>Idaea aversata</i>	1	<i>Synanthedon tipuliformis</i>
Geometridae	<i>Operophtera brumata</i>	18	<i>Operophtera brumata</i>

Geometridae	<i>Gymnoscelis rufifasciata</i>	1	<i>Sesia bembeciformis</i>
Noctuidae	<i>Pterostoma palpina</i>	1	<i>Agrius convolvuli</i>
Erebidae	<i>Lymantria dispar</i>	5	Various (contamination?)
Erebidae	<i>Orgyia antiqua</i>	17	<i>Orgyia antiqua</i>
Erebidae	<i>Euplagia quadripunctaria</i>	2	<i>Arg.conjugella, Cyd.zebeana</i>
Noctuidae	<i>Abrostola tripartita</i>	1	<i>Agrotis segetum</i>
Noctuidae	<i>Macdunnoughia confusa</i>	2	<i>Trichoplusia ni</i>
Noctuidae	<i>Autographa gamma</i>	20	ARG, NI & orichalcea
Noctuidae	<i>Panemeria tenebrata</i>	1	<i>Leucania loreyi</i>
Noctuidae	<i>Cryphia algae</i>	1	<i>Synanthedon loranthe</i>
Noctuidae	<i>Hoplodrina octogenaria</i>	1	<i>Leucania loreyi</i>
Noctuidae	<i>Mesoligia furuncula</i>	12	<i>Sesamia nonagrioides</i>
Noctuidae	<i>Orthosia miniosa</i>	1	<i>Cydia nigricana</i>
Noctuidae	<i>Orthosia gothica</i>	1	<i>Acrolepiopsis assectella</i>
Noctuidae	<i>Mythimna albipuncta</i>	1	<i>Phthorimaea operculella</i>
Noctuidae	<i>Noctua fimbriata</i>	84	7 different lures
Noctuidae	<i>Noctua interjecta</i>	5	<i>Ephestia elutella</i> & <i>L. loreyi</i>
Noctuidae	<i>Noctua janthina</i>	5	5 different lures
Noctuidae	<i>Noctua janthe</i>	2	<i>Nem.granella, S. loranthe</i>
Noctuidae	<i>Xestia c-nigrum</i>	4	<i>Nem.granella, LUN &amp; loranthe</i>

### Other records in the garden

A total of 37 species of moth were encountered in the garden without targeted trapping attempts. None were new to the garden but quite a number were not recorded in either light or pheromone traps, many of which were recorded as early stages or leafmines.

### 2024 compared to previous years

The total of 19,481 adult moths and 564 species recorded in the garden using all methods was significantly above the 14-year average (2011-2024) of 15,243 moths and 468 species. See Table 4 below.

The total of 27 new species added to the garden list was very pleasing and was the highest number of additions since the lockdown year of 2020 when 49 additions were made. Pheromone trapping accounted for 3 (11%) of the new species, whilst 24 were trapped at light.

**Table 4 – Annual totals of adult moths recorded in the garden.**

Year	Species recorded (All methods)	Total Moths	New species for garden	New species from lures	Lure % of additions
2024	564	19,481	27	3	11%
2023	470	12,913	6	1	17%
2022	529	15,393	17	3	18%
2021	482	14,885	15	3	20%
2020	572	20,494	49	20	41%
2019	432	14,270	17	7	41%
2018	461	17,032	18	5	28%
2017	414	10,943	6	0	
2016	381	13,597	11	0	
2015	418	12,173	10	0	
2014	420	13,942	2	0	
2013	519	19,435	21	0	
2012	400	9,993	11	0	
2011	494	18,849	39	0	
<b>Average 2011-2024</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>15,243</b>	<b>18</b>		





***Stigmella samaiatella***



***Triaxomera parasitella***



***Haplotinea insectella***



***Psychoides verhuella***



***Caloptilia honaretella***



***Oegoconia quadripuncta***



***Melalampira italica***



***Coleophora badiipennella***



***Coleophora lassella***



***Coleophora gardisennella***



***Elachistis consortella***



***Acleris umbrana***



***Acleris asperana***



***Aethes beatricella***



***Endothenia oblongana***

TG

## New Species for the Garden

Of the 28 new species for the garden, 22 were micros and 6 were macros. Amongst the micros, there were three new *Coleophora* spp. and 5 new tortricid spp. Dates and methods are shown for all the new species in Table 5 with further comments below.

**Table 5 – New species recorded in the garden in 2024.**

Code	New species	Qty	Dates	Method
4.062	<i>Stigmella samiatella</i> *	1f	14-Aug	Robinson (125 MV)
12.012	<i>Triaxomera parasitella</i>	1	20-Jun	Robinson (125 MV)
12.047	<i>Psychoides verhuella</i> *	2m	17-Jun	SAL Pheromone Lure
27.001	<i>Oegoconia quadripuncta</i> *	1f	03-Aug	Robinson (125 MV)
28.008	<i>Metalampra italica</i>	1	12-Aug	Robinson (125 MV)
33.002	<i>Ethmia quadrillella</i>	1	31-Jul	Robinson (125 MV)
35.045	<i>Bryotropha basaltinella</i> *	1m	16-Aug	Robinson 2x20W Blacklight

**Table 5 (cont.)**

Code	New species	Qty	Dates	Method
35.093	<i>Mirificarma mulinella</i> *	1m	31-Aug	Robinson 2x20W Blacklight
37.011	<i>Coleophora badiipennella</i> *	3f 1m	19-Jul - 12 Aug	Light traps
37.077	<i>Coleophora lassella</i> *	1m	02-Aug	Robinson (125 MV)
37.096	<i>Coleophora gardesanella</i> *	2f	16-Jul	Robinson 2x20W Blacklight
38.048	<i>Elachista consortella</i> *	1m	22-Sep	Robinson (125 MV)
49.075	<i>Acleris umbrana</i>	1	18-Jul	Robinson 2x20W Blacklight
49.078	<i>Acleris aspersana</i> *	1m	25-Jul	Robinson (125 MV)
49.123	<i>Aethes beatricella</i> *	1f	23-Jun	Skinner 2w LED
49.187	<i>Endotheria oblongana</i> *	1m	16-Aug	Robinson 2x20W Blacklight
49.242	<i>Epinotia nanana</i> *	1m	23-Jun	Robinson (125 MV)
52.009	<i>Synanthedon flaviventris</i>	2	19, 30-Jul	SYLOR & NEGRA Lures
62.039	<i>Apomyelois bistriatella</i> *	1m	31-Aug	Robinson (125 MV)
62.047	<i>Assara terebrella</i>	1	15-Jul	Skinner Trap (2x24W Actinic)
63.023	<i>Anania verbascalis</i>	1	12-Aug	10W LED Skinner (ALS)
63.059	<i>Evergestis limbata</i>	1	28-Jul	Robinson (125 MV)
70.233	<i>Ennomos quercinaria</i>	1	15-Aug	Skinner 2w LED
72.073	<i>Eublemma parva</i>	1	14-Aug	Robinson 2x20W Blacklight
73.048	<i>Panemeria tenebrata</i>	1	12-May	MYLOR Pheromone Lure
73.196	<i>Conistra rubiginosa</i>	1	13-Feb	Robinson 2x20W Blacklight
73.330	<i>Ochropleura leucogaster</i>	1	05-Nov	Robinson 2x20W Blacklight

Species marked with \* have had at least one example confirmed by GD.

**4.062 *Stigmella samiatella* (Chestnut Dot).** A female (GD) in the MV trap on 14-Aug of this widespread and generally common species.

**12.012 *Triaxomera parasitella* (Brindled Fungus Moth).** A single specimen (not dissected) in the MV trap on 20-Jun. Another common moth that was good to catch up with at last.

**12.047 *Psychoides verhuella* (Hart's-tongue Moth).** 2 males (GD) in the Lure trap for Sallow Clearwing during the evening & overnight on 17-Jun. Only 6 sites for this species in the database with no clear pattern of distribution.

**27.001 *Oegoconia quadripuncta* (Four-spotted Yellowneck).** A female (GD) in the MV trap on 03-Aug. Another relatively widespread and common moth and the 3<sup>rd</sup> species from the genus to be recorded in the garden.

**28.008 *Metalampra italica* (Italian Bark Moth).** One at MV on 12-Aug. A species only known from the UK over the last 20 years. It has been rapidly expanding its range and was probably overdue an appearance in the garden.



**33.002 *Ethmia quadrillella* (Comfrey Ermine).** One in the MV trap on 31-Jul. A species that has been turning up with increasing frequency over the last 3 years with 2024 seeing the most to date and 25 of the 35 records in the database being in 2022 or later.

**35.045 *Bryotropha basaltinella* (Dark-spotted Moss-moth).** A male (GD) in the Actinic Robinson on 16-Aug. Only 6 sites in the county of this possibly overlooked moss-feeding species.

**35.093 *Mirificarma mulinella* (Gorse Streak).** A male (GD) on 31-Aug at actinic light. This was a surprise and seemingly out of habitat for a gorse/broom feeding species. There are a few old records from the west of the county but most recent records are in the Colchester area. There are 32 records from 16 sites.



***Ethmia quadrillella***



***Bryotropha basaltinella***



***Mirificarma mulinella***



***Epinotia nanana***



***Pammene agnotana***



***Elegia similella***



***Apomyelois bistriatella***



***Assara terebrella***



***Anania verbascalis***



***Evergestis limbata***



**Sandy Carpet**



**Sallow Clearwing**

TG





Sloe Pug



August Thorn



Plumed Fan-foot

TG

**37.011 *Coleophora badiipennella* (Small Elm Case-bearer).** Four (GD 3f, 1m) between 19-Jul and 12-Aug. Another relatively common elm-feeding species recorded from 18 tetrads spread across the county.

**37.077 *Coleophora lassella* (Toad Rush Case-bearer).** A male (GD) in the MV trap on 02-Aug. A nationally scarce (Nb) species and the third Essex site. 15 of the 17 records were from the trap at Writtle College (Goodey, 2005-2011) and the only other was at Pound Wood in 2019 (Chris Lewis). Most Suffolk and Norfolk records are coastal, but it is known from inland areas in Herts & Middlesex. Colin Plant (Herts/Middx Moths) considers the inland records are likely to be wanderers from sub-maritime habitats. Toad Rush isn't a plant I'm familiar with in the area.

**37.096 *Coleophora gardesanella* (Small Streaked Case-bearer).** 2 Females (GD) were trapped in my Actinic Robinson on 16-Jul. This is a Nationally Scarce (Na) species with very few records from neighbouring counties. This is the third site in Essex following several records from Dovercourt (Chris Gibson) and one on Foulness (Chris Lewis).

**38.048 *Elachista consortella* (Meadow Grass Miner).** One male (GD) on 22-Sep. Another Nationally Scarce (Nb) species although almost certainly under-recorded. The 10 sites in Essex are widely scattered but the majority of records are from dissected adults in the Writtle trap.

**49.075 *Acleris umbrana* (Dark-streaked Button).** A single specimen to the actinic trap on 18-Jul. This Nationally Scarce (Na) species seems to be increasing and spreading from the south in the county. First recorded in Hockley Woods 2020, there have been 13 subsequent records from 9 other sites – 2022 (1), 2023 (2), 2024 (10).

**49.078 *Acleris aspersana* (Small Rufous Tortrix).** A male (GD) in the MV trap on 25-Jul. A relatively widespread and common polyphagous species in the county, but one that has eluded me to date.

**49.123 *Aethes beatricella* (Broad-barred Straw).** A female (GD) at LED on 23-Jun. Another common and widespread species (85 records from 42 sites). A species that feeds on Hemlock and Alexanders, the former rare and the latter absent in the immediate area.

**49.187 *Endothenia oblongana* (Plantain Marble).** A male (GD) in the Actinic Robinson on 16-Aug. A generally local species that feeds on Ribwort Plantain and is scarce in Essex with only 14 records from 13 scattered sites.

**49.242 *Epinotia nanana* (Small Spruce Tortrix).** A male at MV light on 23-Jun. A Nationally Scarce (Nb) species associated with Norway or Sitka Spruce. There are 13 records in the Essex database from just 5 recent sites (post-2000).

**52.009 *Synanthedon flaviventris* (Sallow Clearwing).** 2 males recorded at Pheromone traps on 19-Jul and 30-Jul. Despite the SAL lure being deployed in the garden during this period, both specimens came to lures targeting other species (*Nemapogon granella* & *Synanthedon loranthe*). Arrival time was afternoon (1400-1800) in both cases. A species that reportedly only flies in even years. There are now 14 records from 6 sites in Essex, 5 in 2022 and 9 in 2024.

**62.039 *Apomyelois bistriatella* (Phoenix Knot-horn).** One male (GD) in the MV Robinson on 31-Aug. This is a Nationally Scarce (Nb) species usually associated with heathland where it feeds on the fungus, *Daldinia vernicosta*, growing on burnt gorse or birch. There are just 4 Essex records in the database, the others being on Foulness (2024), Little Waltham (2022) and Friday Woods (1983). Quite how or why this species visited my garden is far from clear, although Suffolk Moths states 'An uncommon species in Suffolk that can arrive as an immigrant'.

**62.047 *Assara terebrella* (Dark Spruce Knot-horn).** A single specimen in the Actinic Skinner on 15-Jul. Another Nationally Scarce (Nb) species, with the larva feeding within spruce cones. There are 11 records from 10 scattered sites in the county, with 3 of these being in the last 3 years. It is more frequently seen in neighbouring Herts/Middx, Suffolk and Norfolk where there are also signs of recent expansion or colonisation.

**63.023 *Anania verbascalis* (Wood Sage Pearl).** One in the LED Heath Trap on 12-Aug. A Nationally Scarce (Nb) species feeding on Wood Sage and with a distinctly eastern distribution in East Anglia. There are also records from Boreham and older records from the Thames estuary. There are 49 Essex records from 19 tetrads in the database.

**63.059 *Evergestis limbata* (Dark-bordered Pearl).** One at MV on 28-Jul. A recent colonist with an eastern distribution both in Essex and East Anglia as a whole. 301 Essex records from 49 tetrads reflect the recent expansion. The few recent records from central and north-western areas of the county have been in the last few years. Very few, but recent, records from Herts.

**70.233 *Ennomos quercinaria* (August Thorn).** One at LED on 15-Aug. I was surprised to record this as new for the garden as it is a species I hadn't realised was on the missing list. Like others of its family it appears to have undergone a period of decline but maybe increasing in recent years.

**72.073 *Eublemma parva* (Small Marbled).** One at an actinic Robinson trap on 14-Aug. This was only the 11<sup>th</sup> record and 7<sup>th</sup> site in the Essex database for this scarce southern European migrant.

**73.048 *Panemeria tenebrata* (Small Yellow Underwing).** One recorded at a pheromone trap for Cosmopolitan (*Mythimna loreyi*) during the morning of 12-May. Elsewhere, this species has been repeatedly recorded at pheromone traps for the Summer Fruit Tortrix (*Adoxyphytes orana*). Widespread and common in grassland habitat.

**73.196 *Conistra rubiginosa* (Black-spotted Chestnut).** One at Actinic Robinson on 13-Feb. Just the 15<sup>th</sup> record and 4<sup>th</sup> site in the Essex database for this steadily colonising species that became established in Kent in 2011. Elsewhere, it seems to have colonised all surrounding counties.

**73.330 *Ochropleura leucogaster* (Radford's Flame Shoulder).** One at the Actinic Robinson on 05-Nov. After several years of closely examining Flame Shoulders in the hope of detecting my first Radford's, this one instantly stood out. There are 8 records from 5 sites, all since 2018. This is an immigrant species that has been turning up with increasing frequency across much of the South and maybe becoming established.

#### **New species recorded elsewhere in Essex for the first time in 2024.**

I recorded two species new for me but outside the garden in Essex during 2024. Both were recorded as leafmines.

**15.0131 *Caloptilia honoratella* (Pale Maple Stilt).** Several vacated leafmines were found on Sycamore on 24-Sep and 25-Sep at Magdalen Laver Churchyard. As no larvae were present and a couple of larval leaf-folds were empty, rearing wasn't possible. The identification was achieved due to the distinctive nature of the upper-surface mines with silvery diverticulae. Andy Banthorpe was able to verify the determination from photos. All other 10 Essex records from 6 sites are of adults.

**34.005 *Cosmopterix zieglerella* (Hop Beauty).** Numerous (vacated) mines were discovered on 02-Sep on Hop in the carpark of the Moorhen Pub in Harlow. Hop is a common plant along the tow path and surrounding hedges. 15 of the 26 records in the database are of the distinctive mines and there are 19 recorded sites.

#### **Other noteworthy species recorded in the garden.**

**12.044 *Haplotinea insectella* (Shining Fungus Moth).** 1 male (GD) at actinic Robinson on 16-Jul. Second garden record and first since 2019. 6<sup>th</sup> Essex Record.

**49.369 *Pammene agnotana* (Hawthorn Bark Tortrix).** 1 male (GD) in Pheromone trap for *Pammene argyrana* on 09-May. 2<sup>nd</sup> site record and 4<sup>th</sup> Essex record.

**62.010 *Elegia similella* (White-barred Knot-horn).** 1 at LED Skinner trap on 18-Jun. 3<sup>rd</sup> site record and first since 2007.

**70.138 *Perizoma flavofasciata* (Sandy Carpet).** 3 between 12-May and 14-May. First garden records since 2019.

**70.143 *Pasilphila chloerata* (Sloe Pug).** 1 on 20-May. 2<sup>nd</sup> garden record and first since 2019. Declining species.

**70.232 *Ennomos autumnaria* (Large Thorn).** 1 on 31-Aug. 1<sup>st</sup> garden record since 2014. Declining species.

**72.057 *Pechipogo plumigeralis* (Plumed Fan-foot).** 5 between 24-Jul and 08-Oct. A recent arrival in this area of the county. 6<sup>th</sup> garden record and 1<sup>st</sup> since 2022.

**73.037 *Acronicta tridens* (Dark Dagger).** 1 on 28-Jul. 1<sup>st</sup> garden record since 2014.

**73.126 *Amphipoea fucosa* (Saltern Ear).** 1 male (GD) on 15-Aug. 3<sup>rd</sup> site record and 1<sup>st</sup> since 2009. There are only a handful of inland sites.

**73.137 *Arenostola phragmitidis* (Fen Wainscot).** 1 on 20-Jul. 3<sup>rd</sup> garden record and 1<sup>st</sup> since 2015.

**73.347 *Noctua janthina* (Langmaid's Yellow Underwing).** 15 between 03-Aug and 01-Oct. 5 at Pheromone traps (all different lures), 10 at light. Only 2 previous records were in 2021.



**Large Thorn**



**Small Yellow Underwing**



**Small Marbled**



**Dark Dagger**



**Saltern Ear**



**Fen Wainscot**



**Black-spotted Chestnut**



**Radford's Flame Shoulder**



**Langmaid's Yellow Underwing  
TG**



2024 was a moderately good year for me in my Dagenham garden. It didn't reach the highs of 2022 but numbers of species and individuals exceeded that of last year. I also managed to record 28 new species for the garden, bringing the garden total up to 617 (something I never expected to achieve in this urban environment. I wasn't able to trap much October-December due to work being done on the house, which resulted in far fewer 'winter moths' than I usually get during that period, a few of which I missed out completely on such as Barred Sallow, Feathered Thorn, Large Ranunculus, Acleris sparsana, November Moth agg, Red-line Quaker, Yellow-line Quaker & Winter Moth.

### SUMMARY

Year	2024	2023	2022	2021
Number of times trapped	207	200	242	257
Total moths either trapped or observed	11130	10932	15398	9552
Total micro species recorded	241	229	267	223
Total macro species recorded	162	153	180	178
New for garden	28	43	111	202
Total garden species up to end of year	617	589	546	435
Number of known garden species not seen in year	214	217	97	29
Species trapped/observed only once during year	112	98	106	98
Highest number of moths in one night	277	306	326	203
Highest number of different species in one night	85	88	106	66

### TOP TEN SPECIES IN 2024 BY NUMBERS

Common Plume	664
Light Brown Apple Moth	576
Pale Mottled Willow	537
Australian Orange-tip	415
Riband Wave	326
House Moss-moth	310
Double-striped Pug	275
Beautiful Plume	261
Least Carpet	232
Brown House-moth	222

### TOP TEN RECORDED SPECIES IN 2024

Light Brown Apple Moth	118
Common Plume	116
Double-striped Pug	115
Pale Mottled Willow	104
Beautiful Plume	100
Australian Orange-tip	99
Brown House-moth	72
White-shouldered House-moth	72
Pale-backed Detritus Moth	71
Meal Moth	65

### Monthly Totals for 2024

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Species	5	13	25	50	108	178	226	193	120	33	13	5
Individuals	12	75	214	315	765	1602	3595	2756	1596	134	56	10

### Mothing Highlights of 2024 in my Dagenham Garden

Of the moths that were new to my garden in 2024 some were quite significant.

On Sept 1st I spotted an *Oegoconia* species at the actinic trap. These cat 4 moths are fairly common in my garden and I normally record them as an agg but this one looked slightly different, so I decided to send it off to Chris Lewis for genital determination. I was pleasantly surprised to discover that it was a **New World Yellowneck** (*Oegoconia novimundi*) and a first record of the species for Essex. With very few, if any records in neighbouring counties it may well be hiding in plain sight so perhaps one to look out for in 2025.

A significant record also determined by Chris Lewis was a female **Goat Willow Leaf-miner** (*Phyllonorycter dubitella*) that came to an actinic light over a white sheet on 26th August. This was the first Essex record since 1990 with only two other records before that in 1986 and 1983. As it can easily be confused with other willow leaf-miners it has been classified a category 3 in Essex though interestingly it's cat 2 in Suffolk and cat 4 in Norfolk.

Another surprise was a **Juniper Berry Piercer** (*Pammene juniperana*) that turned up in a HYL (*Pennisetia hylaeiformis* - **Raspberry Clearwing**) lure in June. The only other Essex records are by Alec Undrill from his garden near Colchester in 2022 & 2023. Why one would turn up in a HYL lure is a mystery but I'm hoping that it was in my

garden because it was attracted to my juniper tree, which also seems to have a thriving population of another piercer; the **Beautiful Juniper Piercer** (*Cydia interscindana*).

A **Sallow Clearwing** (*Synanthedon flaviventris*) came to SAL lure four times in July over a two-week period, comprising of at least two separate individuals. This species was new to Essex in 2022 with half a dozen records and with none in 2023 it seems to have a two-year cycle on even years. This is borne out by records from other counties.

Three **Willow Y Moth** (*Pammene populana*) came to NIG lure on 18th Aug, 30th Aug and 14th Sept with photographs suggesting it was three separate individuals. The species was new to Essex in 2020 with a record by Simon Wood from his Heybridge garden and this remains the only other record.

On 5th Apr a small *Caloptilia* landed on the white sheet at the side of my gazebo that I didn't recognise, which turned out to be **Dark Alder Stilt** (*Caloptilia falconipennella*). This was the eighth Essex record with six of those being in the last two years suggesting it is expanding its range deeper into Essex.



**New World Yellowneck**  
(*Oegoconia novimundi*)



**Goat Willow Leaf-miner**  
(*Phyllonorycter dubitella*)



**Juniper Berry Piercer** (*Pammene juniperana*)



**Sallow Clearwing**  
(*Synanthedon flaviventris*)



**Willow Y Moth**  
(*Pammene populana*)



**Dark Alder Stilt**  
(*Caloptilia falconipennella*)  
(B.C.)

I was delighted to get a **Reddish Light Arches** (*Apamea sublustris*) on 3rd June that came to my actinic skinner trap, a relatively rare moth in Essex with only eight records since 2003. I also had **Light Arches** (*Apamea lithoxylaea*) in my actinic trap on 25th June and 3rd July, which was another new for garden species. Other notable species new to my garden in 2024 were:

#### Micros

**Orange-tipped Nest Moth** (*Tinea semifulvella*) 26th May

**Yellow-dotted Stilt** (*Euspilapteryx auroguttella*) 16th July

**Comfrey Ermine** (*Ethmia quadrillella*) 31st July

**Striped Sorrel Moth** (*Aroga velocella*) 26th June

**Tare Case-bearer** (*Coleophora amethystinella*) 24th May

**Cyclamen Tortrix** (*Clepsis spectrana*) 22nd July

**Small Rufous Tortrix** (*Acleris aspersana*) 5th Aug

**Hedge Hook-wing** (*Ancyliis achatana*) 28th June

**Brindled Poplar Tortrix** (*Epinotia nisella*) 16th July

**European Pepper Moth** (*Duponchelia fovealis*) 12th Aug

**Maple Dot** (*Stigmella aceris*) 31st Aug



## Macros

**Festoon** (*Apoda limacodes*) 23rd July (technically a micro despite its size)

**Streamer** (*Anticlea derivata*) 11th Apr

**Clouded Border** (*Lomaspilis marginata*) 25th July

**Rosy Footman** (*Mittochrista miniata*) 11th July

**Nut-tree Tussock** (*Colocasia coryli*) 5th Apr & 1st Aug

**Mullein** (*Cucullia verbasci*) 8th Apr

**Scarce Bordered Straw** (*Helicoverpa armigera*) 2nd Oct

**Campion** (*Sideridis rivularis*) 20th May

**Delicate** (*Mythimna vitellina*) 17th Sept



**Reddish Light Arches**  
(*Apamea sublustris*)



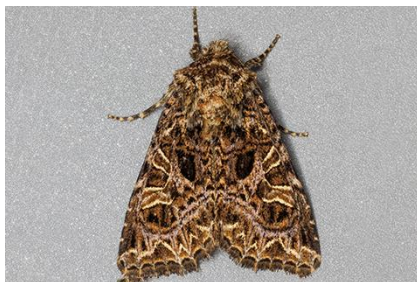
**Light Arches**  
(*Apamea lithoxylaea*)



**Streamer**  
(*Anticlea derivata*)



**Clouded Border**  
(*Lomaspilis marginata*)



**Campion**  
(*Sideridis rivularis*)



**Delicate**  
(*Mythimna vitellina*) B.C.



**Mullein**  
(*Cucullia verbasci*)



**Nut-tree Tussock**  
(*Colocasia coryli*)



**Scarce Bordered Straw**  
(*Helicoverpa armigera*)



**Brindled Poplar Tortrix**  
(*Epinotia nisella*)



**Comfrey Ermine**  
(*Ethmia quadrillella*)



**Hedge Hook-wing**  
(*Ancylis achatana*) BC





**European Pepper Moth**  
(*Duponchelia fovealis*)



**Cyclamen Tortrix**  
(*Clepsia spectrana*)



**Maple Dot**  
(*Stigmella aceris*)



**Hawthorn Parornix**  
(*Parornix anglicella*)



**Yellow-dotted Stilt**  
(*Euspilapteryx auroguttella*)



**Tare Case-bearer**  
(*Coleophora amethystinella*)



**Orange-tipped Nest Moth**  
(*Tinea semifulvella*)



**Small Rufous Tortrix**  
(*Acleris aspersana*)



**Striped Sorrel Moth**  
(*Aroga velocella*)

B.C.

Hawk-moths were in short supply for me in 2024, with only single visits from a **Lime Hawk-moth** (8th June), **Privet Hawk-moth** (11th July) & **Elephant Hawk-moth** (6th Aug). I would normally expect over 20 visits from up to 7 species.

## GARDEN BREEDERS

We have always had a good selection of native plants and a varied type of habitat in our garden to encourage wildlife of all types and this has resulted in quite a few moths breeding here. From good numbers of **Sulphur Bark Moth** (*Esperia sulphurella*) emerging from the wood piles each Spring to **Beautiful Juniper Piercer** (*Cydia interscindana*) and **Cypress Tip Moth** (*Argyresthia cupressella*) breeding in our juniper tree, the latter hanging on fine threads from the tree during its larval stage to **Fig-leaf Skeletoniser** (*Choreutis nemorana*) decimating the fig bush leaves while seemingly increasing the fruit yield for most of the Summer (I say fig bush rather than fig tree as it's about 1.5m high and 2m wide). **Mother of Pearl** (*Patania ruralis*) and **Nettle-tap** (*Anthophila fabriciana*) seem to be doing rather well in the nettle patch, and I suspect **Plumed Fan-foot** (*Pechipogo plumigeralis*) have made a home in the ivy dotted around the garden as I can often find one lurking around there if I search. Our pyracantha continues to produce lots of **Firethorn Leaf-miner** (*Phyllonorycter leucographella*), the cherry tree and small apple tree has multiple mines of **Apple Leaf-miner** (*Lyonetia clerkella*) and **Light Brown Apple Moth** (*Epiphyas postvittana*) each year, the honeysuckle gives us **Banded Honeysuckle Leaf-miner** (*Phyllonorycter trifasciella*) and the dreaded bindweed is home for **Bindweed Sleeper** (*Bedellia somnulentella*) and **Common Plume** (*Emmelina monodactyla*). **Small China-mark** (*Cataclysta lemnata*), **Ringed China-mark** (*Parapoynx stratiotata*) and **Water Veneer** (*Acentria ephemerella*) emerge from our small pond each year. Numerous **Angle Shades** (*Phlogophora meticulosa*) caterpillars can be found feeding amongst the geraniums at night and results in regular visits by the adults during the year. The same can be said for Lesser Yellow Underwing (*Noctua comes*) caterpillars where on one occasion I found 37 feeding during one short check in the evening. In May I found one that is unmistakable, a **Vapourer** (*Orgyia antiqua*) caterpillar. I kept this one through to a wingless adult female that was mated with after I took the top off the container for an hour to reduce condensation, despite me being around at the time and not noticing any activity in or around the container. She laid numerous eggs that hatched into tiny caterpillars, which I kept for a while to give them a good start before releasing them around the garden.

## Migrants, Naturalised and adventives during 2024

Taxon	Common Name	Status	Recs	Indiv
<i>Caloptilia honoratella</i>	Pale Maple Stilt	Migrant	2	2
<i>Plutella xylostella</i>	Diamond-back Moth	Migrant	43	66
<i>Prays peregrina</i>	London Stowaway	Adventive	1	1
<i>Cydia amplana</i>	Rusty Acorn Piercer	Migrant	7	7
<i>Cadra cautella</i>	Dried Currant Moth	Adventive	1	1
<i>Ostrinia nubilalis</i>	European Corn-borer	Naturalised/Migrant	3	4
<i>Udea ferrugalis</i>	Rusty-dot Pearl	Migrant	2	3
<i>Udea fulvalis</i>	Rufous Pearl	Migrant	7	7
<i>Duponchelia fovealis</i>	European Pepper Moth	Migrant/Adventive	1	1
<i>Cydalima perspectalis</i>	Box-tree Moth	Naturalised/Migrant	15	37
<i>Musotima nitidalis</i>	Marbled Fern	Adventive	5	5
<i>Rhodometra sacraria</i>	Vestal	Migrant	2	2
<i>Thera cupressata</i>	Cypress Carpet	Migrant	11	11
<i>Thaumetopoea processionea</i>	Oak Processionary	Migrant	7	10
<i>Lymantria dispar</i>	Gypsy Moth	Migrant	26	84
<i>Pechipogo plumigeralis</i>	Plumed Fan-foot	Migrant	12	13
<i>Macdunnoughia confusa</i>	Dewick's Plusia	Migrant	9	11
<i>Autographa gamma</i>	Silver Y	Migrant	54	157
<i>Helicoverpa armigera</i>	Scarce Bordered Straw	Migrant	1	1
<i>Cryphia algae</i>	Tree-lichen Beauty	Naturalised/Migrant	35	159
<i>Caradrina kadenii</i>	Clancy's Rustic	Migrant	27	46
<i>Mythimna vitellina</i>	Delicate	Migrant	1	1
<i>Agrotis ipsilon</i>	Dark Sword-grass	Migrant	1	1
<i>Noctua janthina</i>	Langmaid's Yellow Underwing	Migrant	1	1

## Nationally scarce and Red DATA book during 2024

Taxon	Common Name	Status	Recs	Indiv
<i>Etainia decentella</i>	Sycamore Seed Dot	Nationally Scarce B	11	12
<i>Nemapogon variatella</i>	Variegated Fungus Moth	pRDB3	1	1
<i>Triaxomasia caprimulgella</i>	Tree Hollow Moth	pRDB1	1	1
<i>Bucculatrix cristatella</i>	Yarrow Tuft	Nationally Scarce B	1	1
<i>Parectopa ononidis</i>	Clover Stilt	Nationally Scarce B	1	1
<i>Caloptilia cuculipennella</i>	Privet Stilt	Nationally Scarce A	3	3
<i>Caloptilia falconipennella</i>	Dark Alder Stilt	Nationally Scarce B	1	1
<i>Phyllonorycter dubitella</i>	Goat Willow Leaf-miner	Nationally Scarce B	1	1
<i>Ethmia quadrillella</i>	Comfrey Ermine	Nationally Scarce B	1	1
<i>Cosmopterix zieglerella</i>	Hop Beauty	Nationally Scarce B	1	1
<i>Cosmopterix pulchrimella</i>	Pellitory Beauty	Nationally Scarce A	19	22
<i>Pexicopia malvella</i>	Hollyhock Seed Moth	Nationally Scarce B	3	4
<i>Platyedra subcinerea</i>	Mallow Seed Moth	Nationally Scarce B	17	23
<i>Athrips rancidella</i>	Cotoneaster Webworm	pRDB2	3	3

<i>Gelechia senticetella</i>	Cypress Gelechia	Nationally Scarce B	37	92
<i>Scrobipalpa ocellatella</i>	Beet Moth	Nationally Scarce B	1	1
<i>Recurvaria nanella</i>	Southern Apple Moth	Nationally Scarce B	32	81
<i>Coleophora amethystinella</i>	Tare Case-bearer	pRDB2	1	1
<i>Phtheochroa schreibersiana</i>	Gold Cloak	pRDB1	1	1
<i>Grapholita lobarzewskii</i>	Small Fruit Moth	Nationally Scarce A	2	2
<i>Pammene giganteana</i>	Early Oak Gall Moth	Nationally Scarce B	1	2
<i>Pammene suspectana</i>	Ash Bark Tortrix	pRDB2	7	13
<i>Pammene populana</i>	Willow Y Moth	Nationally Scarce B	3	3
<i>Synanthedon flaviventris</i>	Sallow Clearwing	Nationally Scarce	4	4
<i>Vitula biviella</i>	Pine-blossom Knot-horn	Nationally Scarce A	1	1

Of the garden species that visited during 2024, 112 paid just a single visit and of the current 617 garden species 132 have only ever been recorded once. Many of those were only observed outside the traps, which makes me wonder how many new species I may have missed by not being there at the time.

### Pheromone trapping

I deployed fourteen pheromone traps around the garden throughout the Spring, Summer and Autumn months using a variety of lures, producing 143 records of 254 moths. Lures deployed that produced results: ABS, AND, API, ARG, CUL, EMP, FAG, FOR, FUN, HOR, HYL, JAN, LUN, MOL, MYO, NI, NIG, POM, SKI, SOF, TAB, TIP, VES, VIT.

From the results obtained it seems clear that some pheromones linger far longer than expected. This is shown by the **Gypsy Moth** (*Lymantria dispar*), which came to traps containing four different lures multiple times despite their own lure LYM not being deployed this year. All traps are washed in warm soapy water between use and the last time any of them would have contained the LYM lure was 2023 or 2022.

It's also probable that some by-catches are a result of close proximity to light traps, colour of the pheromone trap or just plain chance.

### Species trapped by lure 2024

Species	Lure(s)
<i>Agrotis puta</i>	NI
<i>Aphomia sociella</i>	POM, HOR, SKI
<i>Autographa gamma</i>	NI
<i>Caradrina kadenii</i>	POM
<i>Cydia interscindana</i>	POM, MYO
<i>Cydia pomonella</i>	POM
<i>Cydia ulicetana</i>	FAG
<i>Endotricha flammealis</i>	API
<i>Ephestia woodiella</i>	HOR
<i>Grapholita funebrana</i>	ARG, FUN, MOL
<i>Grapholita janthinana</i>	JAN, MYO, NIG
<i>Grapholita lobarzewskii</i>	SKI
<i>Grapholita tenebrosana</i>	ARG, FUN
<i>Gymnoscelis rufifasciata</i>	MOL
<i>Hadena bicruris</i>	HOR
<i>Hofmannophila pseudospretella</i>	NIG
<i>Lymantria dispar</i>	API, CUL, SOF, TAB
<i>Macdunnoughia confusa</i>	NI

Species	Lure(s)
<i>Nemapogon cloacella</i>	API, HOR, TAB
<i>Pammene argyrana</i>	FUN
<i>Pammene aurita</i>	ABS, API, MYO, NIG, TAB, TIP, VIT
<i>Pammene giganteana</i>	MOL
<i>Pammene juniperana</i>	HYL
<i>Pammene populana</i>	NIG
<i>Pammene regiana</i>	FUN
<i>Pammene suspectana</i>	ARG, MOL
<i>Phyllonorycter blancardella</i>	NIG
<i>Phyllonorycter cerasicolella</i>	NIG
<i>Pterostoma palpina</i>	NIG
<i>Saturnia pavonia</i>	EMP
<i>Synanthedon andrenaeformis</i>	AND
<i>Synanthedon formicaeformis</i>	FOR
<i>Synanthedon myopaeformis</i>	AND, CUL, MYO, TAB
<i>Synanthedon tipuliformis</i>	SOF
<i>Synanthedon vespiformis</i>	AND, VES
<i>Triaxomasia caprimulgella</i>	LUN



