

# Butterfly Conservation Upper Thames Branch

## Moth Sightings Archive - January to May 2008

~ Thursday 5th June 2008 ~

*Keith Mitchell, Stoke Goldington, sent this moth report on 4th June:* "The better conditions before the rain at the weekend produced garden firsts on **31st May**: **The Shears** and **Cochlylis atricapitana**, plus a **Lychnis**, new to UTB this year. Other moths caught: **Brimstone**, **Broken-barred Carpet**, **Buff-tip**, **Common carpet** (2), **Common Marbled Carpet** (2), **Common Swift** (8), **Epiblema cynosbatella**, **The Flame** (2), **Flame Shoulder** (4), **Garden Carpet**, **Garden Pebble** (2), **Green Carpet** (9) - a record, **Heart and Dart** (4), **Large Nutmeg** (24), **Light-brown Apple Moth** (2), **Marbled Minor** (6), **Middle-barred Minor** (2), **Mottled Pug** (4), **Pale Mottled Willow** (2), **Pale Tussock**, **Rustic Shoulder-knot** (11), **Scorched Wing**, **Setaceous Hebrew Character** (4), **Shuttle-shaped Dart**, **Small Magpie** (3), **Small Square-spot** (8), **The Spectacle** (3), **Swallow Prominent**, **Treble Lines** (4), **Vine's Rustic** (2) and **White Ermine** (2).



Lychnis  
Photo © Keith Mitchell

*Maureen Cross reported that the following moths were seen during the Lardon Chase Field Meeting on 31st May:* **Heart & Dart** 1, **Burnet Companion** 4, **Yellow Shell** 5, **Common Carpet** 1, **Mother Shipton** 2 and two grass moths **Thisanotia chrysonuchella** 16, **Crambus lathoniellus** 1.

*Ched George reported the following moths in his garden trap at Radnage, Bucks on 30th May:* **Small Waved Umber** (2), **Poplar Grey** and **Orange Footman** (2).

*Nigel Partridge found another moth which isn't on the sightings year list yet:* **Lime-speck Pug**, *Loosley Row, 30-05-08.*

*May Webber ran two moth traps in her garden near Witney, Oxon on 28th & 30th May:*

*28th May -* **Green Silver-lines** x1, **Common Marbled Carpet** x2, **Common Wainscot** x4, **Shuttle-shaped Darts** x4, **Treble Lines** x6, **Garden Carpet** x1, **Shears** x2, **Rustic Shoulder-knot** x1, **Clouded Silver** x1, **Flame Shoulder** x3, **Setaceous Hebrew Character** x1, **Scalloped Hazel** x1, **Silver-ground Carpet** x1,

Double-striped Pug x1, Vine's Rustic x1, Red-green Carpet (very raggy) x1, Water Carpet x1.

**30th May** - Green Carpet x6, Scorched Wing x2, Rustic Shoulder-knot x6, Brimstone Moth x1, Treble Lines x7, Flame Shoulder x8, Pale Tussock x5, Scalloped Hazel x1, Common Wainscot x9, Shuttle-shaped Dart x6, Shears x4, Heart and Dart x3, Setaceous Hebrew Character x2, Large Nutmeg x2, Marbled Minor agg.x2 (Darker Brown version being one of them), Common Marbled Carpet x2, Common White Wave x1, Swallow Prominent x1, Bright-line Brown-eye x1, White Ermine x1, Vine's Rustic x1, Red-green Carpet x1, Pebble Hook-tip x1, **Snout** x1, Pale Prominent x1.

**Dave Wilton spent three hours at Finemere Wood, Bucks on 29th May:** "The moth trap produced **Nemophora degeerella** (1), **Scrobipalpa costella** (1), **Teleiodes luculella** (1), **Ptycholoma lecheana** (1), **Celypha lacunana** (1), **Hedya pruniana/Plum Tortrix** (8), **Epiblema cynosbatella** (2), **Common Swift** (3), **Pebble Hook-tip** (2), **Chinese Character** (1), **Cream Wave** (7), **Silver-ground Carpet** (2), **Broken-barred Carpet** (4), **Green Carpet** (29), **Mottled Pug** (4), **Small White Wave** (1), **Seraphim** (1), **Clouded Border** (2), **Scorched Wing** (6), **Brimstone Moth** (5), **Scalloped Hazel** (1), **Pale Oak Beauty** (12), **Brindled White-spot** (5), **Common Wave** (6), **Common White Wave** (2), **Clouded Silver** (5), **Lime Hawk-moth** (1), **Eyed Hawk-moth** (1), **Poplar Hawk-moth** (1), **Pebble Prominent** (1), **Swallow Prominent** (1), **Coxcomb Prominent** (1), **Pale Prominent** (1), **Marbled Brown** (16), **Great Prominent** (1), **Pale Tussock** (16), **Orange Footman** (18), **White Ermine** (5), **Flame Shoulder** (5), **Small Square-spot** (9), **Alder Moth** (2, photo below), **Angle Shades** (1), **Treble Lines** (2), **Marbled White Spot** (10) & **Straw Dot** (3). My first **Marbled Minor sp** of the year was also trapped there, as were several other micro-moth species, all of which still require close inspection to confirm identity.

**Further new arrivals for this year to my garden trap at Westcott, Bucks have included:** **Hedya pruniana/Plum Tortrix** & **Peppered Moth** (both on **27th May**), plus **Elachista canapennella**, **Aproaerema anthyllidella**, **Acentria ephemerella/Water Veneer**, **Blood-vein**, **Scorched Wing**, **Elephant Hawk-moth**, **Flame**, **Common Wainscot** & **Middle-barred Minor** (all on **30th May**). The UTB field trip to **Lardon Chase, Berks** (see report above by Maureen Cross) on **31st May** produced daytime flying **Thisanotia chrysonuchella**, a visit to a private site further south in Berkshire in the afternoon added **Drab Looper**, while a trapping session that night in **BBOWT's River Ray Reserves** brought in more than 40 species which included **Elachista maculicerusella**, **Cataclysta lemnata/Small China-mark** and **Miller**."



Alder Moth  
Photo © Dave Wilton

~ Thursday 29th May 2008 ~

*This afternoon, Thursday 29th May, David Redhead found his first **Straw Dot** of the year on some grassland near his house in *Littlemore, Oxon.**

***Nigel Partridge says he had quite a good night's mothing at Loosley Row, Bucks on 27th May, before the storm arrived:** "A new species for our garden was a **Brindled White-spot** (*photo below*) which I don't think is on the list yet. Other species were: **Green Carpet, Angle Shades, Brimstone, Treble Lines, Orange Footman, Mottled Pug, Scalloped Hazel, Brown Rustic** and a micro that I've yet to get an ID on."*



Brindled White-spot  
Photo © Nigel Partridge

***Ched George ran his garden moth trap in Radnage on the night of 26th May and had his first Setaceous Hebrew Character** of the season.*

***On 26th May Adam Bassett reported that he ran his Marlow Bottom (Bucks) garden trap on May 23rd and caught 23 moths!** "1 **Mocha**, 1 **Vine's Rustic** and 1 **Buff-tip** are currently new to the list."*

***Alastair Driver set the Robinson trap in his garden at home in Sonning on 22nd May:** "I caught only 7 species but added **Marbled Brown** (*see photo at top of page*) to my garden list and **Setaceous Hebrew Character, Pale Prominent** and **Pale Tussock** to my yearlist. Then on *23rd May* I set the trap at a lovely property called Rose Garden in *Sonning* and caught 19 macro species. The following were new to my yearlist: **Least Black Arches, Flame Carpet** (*photo at top of page*), **Clouded Border** (*photo at top of page*), **Spruce Carpet, Light Brocade, Small Square-spot, Cabbage Moth, Shears, Green Carpet, Common Marbled Carpet, Treble-lines** and **Broken-barred Carpet**. Also caught the micro **Evergestis forficalis** (**Garden Pebble**)."*



Buttoned Snout  
Photo © Alastair Driver



Pale Prominent  
Photo © Alastair Driver



Evergestis forficalis  
Photo © Alastair Driver



Broken-barred Carpet  
Photo © Alastair Driver

**Dave Wilton sent this report of his recent moth sightings:** "Daytime fliers recorded in Bucks over the past couple of weeks have included **Opsibotys fuscalis** (14th May) at *BBOWT's Lapland Farm Meadows*, **Anthophila fabriciana/Nettle-tap Moth** & **Celypha lacunana** (both 17th May) near *Waddesdon Manor*, **Silver-Y** (18th May) in *BBOWT's River Ray Reserve*, **Lathronympha strigana** (19th May) near *Ludgershall*, **Crambus lathoniellus** (21st May) at *Grangelands*, the very pretty tortrix **Commophila aeneana** (22nd May) near the *Calvert* land-fill site and **Chimney Sweeper** (23rd May) near *Salden Wood*. New species for the garden trap at *Westcott* which may not yet have made the UTB list include **Scrobipalpa costella** (15th May), **Udea olivalis** & **Buff Ermine** (both 17th May) and **Eurrhypara hortulata/Small Magpie** and **Heart & Dart** (both 23rd May). On the latter date the tiny micro **Phyllonorycter leucographella** emerged from a leaf mine I'd found on one of our pyracantha bushes. It measured just under 3mm from head to wing-tip. Amongst the moths trapped at other sites have been **Poplar Lutestring**, **Clouded Border**, **Common Wave** & **Common White Wave** all at *Rushbeds Wood (BBOWT)* on 21st May and **Eulia ministrana** & **Epiblema cynosbatella** at a private site in *Kingswood* on 22nd May."



Commophila aeneana  
Photo © Dave Wilton



Phyllonorycter leucographella  
Photo © Dave Wilton



Poplar Lutestring  
Photo © Dave Wilton

**David Redhead was rather pleased when he examined the contents of his overnight garden moth trap on the morning of Friday 23rd May:** It was his best trap to date this year with 90 macro-moths from 36 species with 16 additions to his 2008 garden list. The newcomers were **Small Seraphim** (4), **Spectacle** (4), **Mottled Pug** (2), **Poplar Grey** (2), **Small Phoenix** (2), **Angle Shades** (1), **Chinese Character** (1), **Clouded-bordered Brindle** (1), **Common Pug** (1), **Common Swift** (1), **Freyer's Pug** (1), **Marbled Minor** spp (1), **May Highflyer** (1), **Rustic Shoulder-knot** (1), **Sandy Carpet** (1) & **Tawny-barred Angle** (1). Previous visitors were **Green Carpet** (17), **Treble Lines** (7), **Flame Shoulder** (5), **Chocolate-tip** (4),



**White Ermine (4), Common Marbled Carpet (3), Swallow Prominent (3), Brimstone (2), Clouded Silver (2), Common Carpet (2), Orange Footman (2), Pale Prominent (2), Pale Tussock (2), Poplar Kitten (2), Red Twin-spot Carpet (2), White-spotted Pug (2), Bright-line Brown-eye (1), Brown Rustic (1), Least Black Arches (1) & Mottled Beauty (1).** That evening he found a **Small Yellow Underwing** in the grassland between his house in Littlemore and the Oxford ring road - a first for this site.

**25th May - Ched George sent the following update:** "My overnight moth trap results for **22nd May** (see report below) also produced a form of **Eulia ministrana** which I have not seen before, hence the delay."

**Dave Ferguson's walk in the area of Black Park (Bucks) around the heathland on Saturday morning 24th May produced** about 20 **Speckled Yellows** and c10 **Common Heaths**.

**~ Saturday 24th May 2008 ~**

**Peter Holland (Wallingford) sent the following two reports today, 24th May:**

**"23 May 2008:** A Poplar Hawk-moth larva collected last year (2 September 2007) in Cholsey emerged from its pupa this evening - it turned out to be a female of the unusual buff-coloured form. I have never seen this variant before; it really is quite striking. I released it onto an apple tree in my garden (in Wallingford) where it immediately crawled up the trunk to about 3 metres. When checked in the morning it was still there, but now paired with a male **Poplar Hawk-moth** of the normal colouration (see photo).

**23 May 2008:** Ran my moth trap last night (**Wallingford**), finding: **Shuttle-shaped dart (7), Treble lines, Brindled Pug (2), Light Brocade (2), Garden Carpet, Spectacle, Green Carpet, Rustic Shoulder-knot (2), Common Pug.** Fortunately, a Poplar Hawk must have flown straight past, preferring to follow the scent of the female above!"



Poplar Hawkmoth pr.  
Photo © Peter Holland

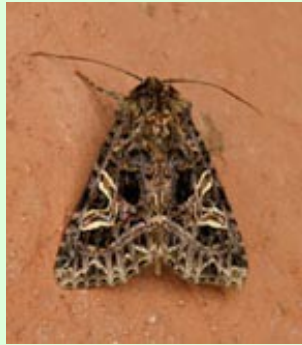
**Nigel Partridge sent this report on 24th May:** "This one is a new species for our garden - **Tinea trinotella** on **23-05-08**. Also on the same night, **Evergestis forficalis (Garden Pebble).**"



Tinea trinotella  
Photo © Nigel Partridge

**On 23rd May Ched George reported a daytime record of:** "A **Pale Oak Beauty** at *Saunderton* on the *13th May* followed by a **Cinnabar** on the *20th*. The night of the *22nd* brought an **Alder Moth, Silver-ground Carpet** and **Figure-of-eighty** to light in *Radnage* (plus 30 ichneumons - where are they all coming from?)."

**Keith Mitchell's Stoke Goldington garden moth trap on 22nd May produced a slightly greater variety than recently:** "It included **The Champion** (photo below), **Brimstone, Common Swift, Large Nutmeg, Pale Tussock, Small Square-spot, The Spectacle** and **Shuttle-shaped Dart.**"



The Champion  
Photo © Keith Mitchell

**Adam Bassett, Marlow Bottom (Bucks), sent this update on 23rd May:** "Unfortunately, almost a complete absence of mothing so far this year, with the trap only run once so far. However, I noticed the species list is missing **Pretty Chalk Carpet**, a moth which came to my kitchen window recently (*approx. May 14th*)."

**On Thursday morning, 22nd May, Upper Thames Branch members, David Redhead & Thomas Merckx assisted Earthwatch volunteers from HSBC Bank**, who are helping Oxford University Wild CRU to study the effects of woodland fragmentation and climate change on woodland species, identify the contents of six 6W Heath traps they had set up in *Wytham Woods* near Oxford. A total of 50 macro-moths from 17 species were identified including an **Ingrailed Clay** and a **Coronet**, which are both firsts for the UTB 2008 list.



Ingrailed Clay  
Photo © David Redhead

**Mike Wilkins did his Lardon Chase, Berks, transect on 22nd May:** "Along with the butterflies seen were the following moths - **Common Carpet**, several **Yellow Shells** and a **Common Swift**."

**Mick & Wendy Campbell visited Yoesden Bank on Wednesday 21st May:** Moths seen were **Mother Shipton** (1, fresh), **Burnet Companion** (5) and a **Treble-bar** (1) along with some unconfirmed Pyraustas.

**Tony Towner ran his Tilehurst, Reading, garden moth trap on the 9th May:** "Here are my sightings - **Waved Umber** (1), **Lime Hawkmoth** (2, both males), **Scalloped Hazel** (1), **Brimstone Moth** (7), **Light Brown Apple** (6), **Common Quaker** (1), **Foxglove Pug** (1), **Brindled Pug** (1 + 6 probables), **Aethes smeathmanniana** (1)."

~ Wednesday 21st May 2008 ~

**On 20th May, Peter Hall had *Argyresthia trifasciata*** in his garden in *Ballinger, Bucks*.

**Keith Mitchell sent this news on 20th May:** "I'm excited because I actually had a moth at the front door lights last night so it had to be photographed this morning - a **Mottled Pug**. The Skinner trap managed just 1 **Flame Shoulder** and 1 **Shuttle-shaped Dart** but we did have a frost in *Stoke Goldington (Bucks)*."



Mottled Pug  
Photo © Keith Mitchell

**On Sunday on 18th May, David Redhead noted a number of moths while out walking:** "After a few dismal days it was nice to see the sun shining this morning and my early morning dog walk in *Littlemore, Oxon*, produced two **Common Carpets** by 8:40am. Later in the morning Wendy and I went to *Chilswell Valley*, an outcrop of calcareous grassland immediately to the west of Oxford. 4 species of

moth were seen - six **Common Heath** and singletons of **Mother Shipton**, **Common Carpet** & **Lesser Treble-bar**. Back home in the garden our broad beans were playing host to a **Lesser Yellow Underwing caterpillar** and a **Pyrausta Aurata**. I think it is the year of the **Green Carpet** - at 7.45pm on **20th May** there were dozens flying above the nettles and coarse grass near my house. An order of magnitude greater than I have noticed in previous years. Not that many of them are all that green any more."



Lesser Treble-bar  
Photo © David Redhead



Lesser Yellow Underwing caterpillar  
Photo © David Redhead



Pyrausta Aurata  
Photo © David Redhead

**The following came from Mark Calway on 17th May:** "Amongst other seasonal moths in the garden trap (**Earley, Reading**) last night (**16th May**) I got one, **Aspilapteryx tringipennella**, which was new to my garden. The larvae of this micro feed on plantain - and my "lawn" comprises ribwort plantain instead of grass in places so perhaps it is a resident?? I also spotted these two moths, a **Small Dusty Wave** and **Argyresthia trifasciata**, in my garden between showers today, **Saturday 17th May.**"



Small Dusty Wave  
Photo © Mark Calway

Argyresthia trifasciata  
Photo © Mark Calway

**David Redhead sent the following report on 15th May:** "My overnight garden moth trap (**Littlemore, Oxon**) contained six additions to my 2008 list - two **Treble-lines** and singletons of **Bright-line Brown-eye**, **Brown Rustic**, **Mottled Beauty**, **Scalloped Hazel** & **Yellow-barred Brindle**. The books give June as the start of the flight period for Brown Rustic & Mottled Beauty and I have never caught them before in May - so perhaps a sign that the recent gorgeous weather has accelerated the season. Previous visitors were **Poplar Hawkmoth** (7), **Green Carpet** (5), **Flame Shoulder** (5), **Swallow Prominent** (5), **Chocolate-tip** (2) & **Orange Footman** (1). The number of Poplar Hawks is also exceptional for this time of year as I usually have to wait until July before I get this sort of number."





Yellow-barred Brindle  
Photo © David Redhead

**Peter Hall's garden moth trap in Ballinger, Bucks, on 10th May produced:** **Aspilapteryx tringipennella**, Brimstone Moth, Brindled Pug, Chinese Character, *Esperia sulphurella*, Flame Shoulder, Green Carpet, Hebrew Character, Nut-tree Tussock, Pale Pinion, Scalloped Hazel, **Small Fan-foot**, Small Phoenix, *Syndemis musculana*, Waved Umber, White Ermine, White-pinion Spotted and Yellow-barred Brindle.

**The following batch of moths came from Dave Maunder on 15th May:** "On 10th May I ran my garden m.v. trap (*Aylesbury, Bucks*) and caught:- Lime Hawk-moth (1); Least Black Arches (1); Buttoned Snout (1); Muslin moths (2); Swallow Prominent (1); Early Grey (1); Poplar Grey (1); Grey Dagger agg.(1); Spectacle moth (2); Pebble Hook-tip (1); Scalloped Hazel (1); Brimstone moths (11); Green Carpet (1); Garden Carpet (1); Double-striped Pug (1); Currant Pug (1). The day before I found numerous Horse Chestnut Leaf Miner Moths (*Cameraria ohridella*) on Chestnuts along Ellen road in Aylesbury, seemingly ovipositing on the leaves! And finally I found another Least Black Arches at Walton court shops on the 11th."



Buttoned Snout  
Photo © Dave Maunder



Swallow Prominent  
Photo © Dave Maunder



Scalloped Hazel  
Photo © Dave Maunder

**~ Saturday 17th May 2008 ~**

**The following moth species turned up in Nigel Partridge's garden on 13th May:** **Square Spot**, 13-05-08, Loosley Row.



Square Spot  
Photo © Nigel Partridge

**Keith Mitchell sent this news on 13th May:** "Not many moths flying outside, but on Monday morning (12th) I discovered this pristine **Scorched Carpet** on a wall inside the house!"



Scorched Carpet  
Photo © Keith Mitchell

**Dave Ferguson reported the following moth trap results:** "On 11th May after my moth trap had been running for an hour I decided to inspect it to see if it had actually caught anything. To my alarm a **Hornet** was ready to fall into the trap so I hurriedly switched it off. In the morning I gingerly inspected the egg boxes. No hornet (thank goodness), several **cockchafers** (as usual) and just one moth - an **Iron Prominent** (thanks to Martin Albertini for identifying it - the sideways view in the guide baffled me). A photo is below. Last night's trapping (13th May) produced 5 moths: **Flame Shoulder**, **Hebrew Character**, **Brimstone**, **Shuttle-shaped Dart** and **Treble Lines**. As the last isn't on your year list I assume it's the first."



Iron Prominent  
Photo © Dave Ferguson

**12th May - Dave Wilton says that things have continued to improve in his garden at Westcott:** "Each catch over the past week has produced a minimum of thirty species. Most of the new arrivals on the scene have already been covered by others, although **Hypsopygia costalis/Gold Triangle** and **Spectacle** (both 5th

May), **Cochylis atricapitana** & **Poplar Grey** (both *9th May*) and **Broken-barred Carpet**, **Mottled Pug** & **Clouded-bordered Brindle** (all *11th May*) may still be new to the UTB list. Away from the garden, a trapping session at *Finemere Wood* on *4th May* brought in 42 species, of which the micros **Incurvaria masculella** & **Syndemis musculana** are worth mentioning. The only other noteworthy moths there were **Plutella xylostella/Diamond-back Moth** (a pair, my first migrants of the year) and **Pine Beauty**. Another session at *Finemere Wood* with Peter Hall on *10th May* produced a similar number of species, including my first of **Pseudococcyx posticana**, **Phoenix**, **Clouded Silver**, **Lime Hawk-moth** & **Marbled Brown** for 2008. Moth species active or disturbed during the daytime in the disused railway cutting west of *Westcott Airfield* on *12th May* comprised **Adela reaumurella**, **Elachista argentella**, **Aethes hartmanniana** (awaiting confirmation), **Pyrausta purpuralis**, **Common Carpet**, **Green Carpet**, **Common Heath**, **Cinnabar** & **Burnet Companion**. The *Aethes* species tortrix was quite a stunner and is illustrated below. Further day-flying species seen on *13th May* included **Grass Rivulet**, **Common Carpet**, **Green Carpet** & **Small Yellow Underwing** at *Bernwood Meadows, Bucks* along with **Micropterix calthella** & **Glyphipterix simplicella/Cocksfoot Moth** at *Finemere Wood, Bucks*. The latter two species can be found by inspecting buttercup flowers."



*Aethes hartmanniana*  
Photo © Dave Wilton

**Mark Calway sent this news on 11th May:** "This weekend (10th and 11th May) the tiny plume moth **Adaina microdactyla** has been flying in my *Reading* garden during the day and the evening."

**David & Wendy Redhead went to Hartslock on the afternoon of 11th May:** "Along with the butterflies seen, and where the main concentration of wild strawberries are, I did come across a **Mother Shipton** and about 4 **Pyrausta nigrata**."

~ **Sunday 11th May 2008** ~

**On 10th May Tom Stevenson reported as follows:** "At last more than a single moth in my trap last night, *9th May*! **Pebble Hook-tip**, **Garden Carpet** (2), **Hebrew Character**, **Early Grey** and **Common Pug**. Hardly earth shattering but a couple new for the garden."



**This news came from Mark Calway yesterday, 10th May:** "I saw a male and a female **Small Yellow Underwing (*Panemeria tenebrata*)** today - *10 May 2008* near to J11 of the M4 (*Shinfield, Nr Reading*)."

**Keith Mitchell sent this report on 10th May:** "Moth numbers and variety in *Stoke Goldington (Bucks)* are decimated compared with previous years. In seemingly perfect conditions last night (*9th May*) my trap just managed: 1 Green Carpet, 7 Muslin, 11 Hebrew Character, 1 Chocolate Tip, 1 Early Grey, 1 late Clouded Drab (dark phase)."

**Ched George's Radnage (Bucks) moth trap gave: White-spotted Pug, Oak Hook-tip, White Ermine and Yellow-barred Brindle on 9th May.**

**David Redhead sent the following email on 9th May:** "The recent good weather at last seems to be having an effect on the moth population in my garden (*Littlemore, Oxon*) with a record catch last night, *8th May*, for the year of 41 macro-moths from 21 species including my first **Poplar Hawk-moth** of the year. Other firsts for the year were singletons of **Flame Carpet, Pale-shouldered Brocade, Red Twin-spot Carpet, V-Pug & White Ermine**. The most numerous was the **Swallow Prominent** with 6."



Poplar Hawk-moth  
Photo © David Redhead

**Alastair Driver set his Robinson trap in a large private garden in Sonning, Berks, for the first time on 7th May:** "I caught the following new to my yearlist : **Buttoned Snout** (only my second record for the parish), **Shuttle-shaped Dart, Swallow Prominent, Poplar Hawk-moth** and **Dark Sword-grass**. I also caught **Hebrew Character, Muslin Moth, Common Quaker, Brimstone Moth** and **Angle Shades**. Numbers are still well down on previous years and I presume that is due to last year's very wet summer which must have decimated adult survival and thus breeding."

**Nigel Partridge reports that things are continuing to improve in Loosley Row, Bucks:** "On *07-05-08* I had **Depressaria pastinacella/D.heraclei (Parsnip Moth), White Ermine, Bright-line Brown-eye, Garden Carpet** and **White-spotted Pug**."

**Mick & Wendy Campbell visited the BBOWT Reserve at Seven Barrows in Berkshire on 7th May and saw 3 Ruby Tigers, the third of which was trying to**



join in with this mating pair!



Ruby Tigers (mating pair)  
Photo © Wendy Campbell

**Peter Hall sent the following report:** "On *4th May* my *Ballinger* garden moth trap produced : *Alucita hexadactyla* (Twenty-plume), *Aphomia sociella* (Bee Moth), **Barred Hook-tip**, **Flame Carpet**, Brindled Pug, V-Pug, Double-striped Pug, Scorched Carpet, Brimstone Moth, Scalloped Hazel, Waved Umber, Lesser Swallow Prominent, Coxcomb Prominent, Lunar Marbled Brown, Pale Tussock, Orange Footman, Muslin, Least Black Arches, **Bright-line Brown-eye**, Common Quaker, Clouded Drab, Hebrew Character, Pale Pinion, Early Grey and Nut-tree Tussock."



Early Grey  
Photo © Peter Hall



Flame Carpet  
Photo © Peter Hall



Scorched Carpet  
Photo © Peter Hall

~ Saturday 10th May 2008 ~

**Dave Wilton and Dennis Dell visited Ivinghoe Beacon, Steps Hill and Pitstone Hill, Bucks on 7th May looking for butterflies.** "Day-flying moths included **Adela reaumurilla**, **Burnet Companion** & **Small Purple-barred**."

**Peter Holland wrote this on 7th May:** "I ran my moth trap in *Wallingford (Oxon)* for the first time this year on *27th April 2008* recording **Hebrew Character** (3), **Brimstone moths** (2), **Double-Striped Pug** (2), **Brindled Pug**, **Clouded Drab**, **Purple Bar** and **Pinion-Spotted Pug**. The latter is a Nationally Scarce species, recorded rarely in our area. Photograph below."



**On 7th May Nigel Partridge reported the following moths, all seen at Loosley Row, Bucks: Yellow-barred Brindle 03-05-08, *Alucita hexadactyla* 04-05-08, *Cameraria ohridella* 06-05-08 (daytime), Pale Tussock 06-05-08 and *Aphomia sociella* 06-05-08 (photo below). It seems very odd, when everything else has been so late this year, to catch *Aphomia sociella* this early. It was early June last year before I saw one."**



*Aphomia sociella*  
Photo © Nigel Partridge

**Danny Howard sent this news on 7th May: "Angle Shades and Currant Pug both seen in the garden (*Temple Cowley, Oxon*) on Sunday 5th May. The Angle Shades was newly hatched and drying its wings."**



Angle Shades  
Photo © Danny Howard

Currant Pug  
Photo © Danny Howard

**David Redhead ran his moth trap again in his Littlemore, Oxon garden on 5th May: "I located the trap in a new hotspot behind the veggie garden - but it did not prove so hot due to lower temperature than the previous night - 11 species again mainly singletons - 5 new for my garden this year - **Common Carpet, Green Carpet, Muslin Moth, Pale Tussock & Poplar Kitten**. Previous visitors : **Brimstone, Brindled Beauty, Least Black Arches (2), Nut-tree Tussock, Swallow Prominent (2) & Waved Umber**. (Poplar Kitten confirmed by Martin Townsend as it's a bit early and even so a bit the worse for wear.)"**



Muslin Moth  
Photo © David Redhead



Waved Umber  
Photo © David Redhead

**On a visit to the disused railway west of Westcott, Bucks on 5th May Dave Wilton recorded the following:** "Moths included **Esperia sulphurella**, **Pyrausta purpuralis**, **Common Carpet** & **Common Heath** (six seen, evenly split between males and females).

**Ched George sent this update on 5th May:** "Had a **Lobster Moth**, **Pale Prominent** and a **Clouded Brindle** in the **Radnage** trap on the night of the **4th May**. I have had an amazing 20 ichneumons come to light over the last 2 nights, too. Much work for Gavin Broad at the Natural History Museum, who is the curator of hymenoptera there."

**In spite of heavyish rain moving in overnight on 4th May, David Redhead ran his overnight garden moth trap in Littlemore, Oxon:** "I managed to add one species to my garden all time list - **Water Carpet** (1) - and nine to my 2008 list - **Waved Umber** (2) and singletons of **Brindled Pug**, **Chocolate Tip**, **Common Marbled Carpet**, **Double-striped Pug**, **Iron Prominent**, **Orange Footman**, **Pale Prominent** & **White-spotted Pug**. Another seven previous visitors brought the total macro-moth species count to 17 - **Swallow Prominent** (3), **Nut-tree Tussock** (2), and singletons of **Brimstone Moth**, **Hebrew Character**, **Clouded Drab**, **Least Black Arches**, **Seraphim**.

Also, I went to **Hartslock** on Friday afternoon, **2nd May**, and saw my first day flying macro-moth of the year - a **Common Carpet**."

**Peter Hall sent the following report on 4th May:** "3 MV traps and 1 Actinic were run at **Littleworth Common** on **Saturday May 3rd** as part of a Bucks Invertebrate Group meeting. Here are the results from 2 of the MV traps: **Brindled Pug**, **Orange Footman**, **Frosted Green**, **Yellow-barred Brindle**, **Maiden's Blush**, **Nut-tree Tussock**, **Great Prominent**, **Brown Silver-line**, **Pebble Prominent**, **Lesser Swallow Prominent**, **Pine Beauty**, **Chestnut**, **Hebrew Character**, **Pale Tussock**, **Grey Birch**, **May Highflyer**, **Eriocrania subpurpurella**, **Plutella xylostella**, **Epinothia immundana** and **Common Quaker**."

~ Tuesday 6th May 2008 ~

**Tom Stevenson ran his trap overnight on 3rd May:** "A 25w Blacklight Blue bulb sited under my car port in **Benson, Oxon**. Just a single moth - a **Shuttle-shaped Dart**."



Shuttle-shaped Dart  
Photo © Tom Stevenson

**Dave Wilton sent this moth report on 4th May:** "New species to my garden trap at *Westcott, Bucks* over the past few days have included **Chocolate-tip & Muslin Moth** (both *1st May*), **Currant Pug, Swallow Prominent & Mullein** (all *2nd May*) and **Spruce Carpet, Puss Moth & Knot Grass** (all *3rd May*). The Puss Moth is an addition to my all-time garden list. Day-flying species seen on 3rd May comprised **Cydia succedana** near *Greatmoor, Bucks* and **Grapholita jungiella, Pyrausta purpuralis** (confirmed) & **Common Heath** in the disused railway cutting *west of Westcott Airfield*. I took the MV trap to *Rushbeds Wood, Bucks* on 3rd May and my three hours there produced 118 moths of 43 species, by far the best session for variety that I've had anywhere so far this year. Species new to me for 2008 included **Pebble Hook-tip, Chinese Character, Small Phoenix, Common Pug, Small White Wave, Scorched Carpet, Grey Birch, White-pinion Spotted, Lesser Swallow Prominent, Pale Prominent, Orange Footman & Nut-tree Tussock (20).**"



Orange Footman  
Photo © Dave Wilton



Puss Moth  
Photo © Dave Wilton



White-pinion Spotted  
Photo © Dave Wilton

**Derek Brown had an early Green Carpet** overnight on *3rd May* at *Beenham (Berks)*.



Green Carpet



**Ched George visited a site near to Lodge Hill on 3rd May and recorded: Red Twin-spot Carpet 1, Pyrausta aurata 2.**

**30th April - Moths seen recently around Aylesbury by Dave Maunder include: Nut-tree tussock (1); Hebrew character (4); Light-brown apple moths (4), and Emmelina monodactyla (4).**

**~ Tuesday 29th April 2008 ~**

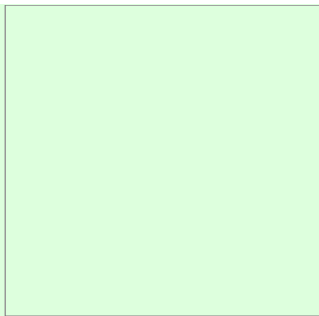
**The Berkshire Moth Group had a walk round Thatcham Reedbeds on 20th April. Jan Haseler sent this report today of their findings: 19 Scarlet Tiger caterpillars on comfrey leaves, 1 Angle Shades, 1 Balsam Carpet and 3 Psyche casta larvae.**

**Alastair Driver set the Robinson trap at Ali's Pond LNR in Sonning on Saturday night, 26th April: "I added to my (so far) pathetic year list: Lunar Marbled Brown, Pine Beauty, Clouded Drab, Nut-tree Tussock, Powdered Quaker and Brindled Pug."**

**Dave Wilton has been out and about with his moth traps again and sent this update on 28th April: "Nothing results have continued to show signs of improvement in woodland but elsewhere the season still seems reluctant to get going! On 24th April an actinic trap in my garden at Westcott, Bucks produced just six moths of four species, while on 26th April the same trap managed eleven moths of nine species but they included Epinotia immundana, Emperor (a female, my first ever to light) and Pebble Prominent. Three hours at Finemere Wood on 25th April brought in 127 moths of 27 species from three traps but the only new species for the year was Purple Thorn. However, trapping for the same length of time in a private wood at Kingswood, Bucks on 26th April with a single MV attracted 144 moths of 29 species: Eriocrania sp. (6), Semioscopis steinkellneriana (2), Pammene argyrana (1), Frosted Green (43), Shoulder Stripe (1), Streamer (1), Water Carpet (10), Red-green Carpet (1), Brindled Pug (9), V-Pug (1), Double-striped Pug (1), Seraphim (3), Brimstone Moth (1), Brindled Beauty (1), Waved Umber (1), Engrailed (3), Sallow Kitten (1), Swallow Prominent (1), Coxcomb Prominent (1), Lunar Marbled Brown (4), Great Prominent (2), Least Black Arches (4), Small Quaker (15), Common Quaker (19), Clouded Drab (1), Twin-spotted Quaker (1), Hebrew Character (4) and Chestnut (6). Contrast that with three hours at BBOWT's new River Ray acquisition at Gallowsbridge Farm, Bucks on 27th April where the MV only managed Agonopterix heracliiana (1), V-Pug (1), Double-striped Pug (1), Early Thorn (3), Flame Shoulder (2), Common Quaker (1), Clouded Drab (1), Powdered Quaker (1) and Hebrew Character (1). Even though the trap was placed in the only bit of decent shelter, this is mostly a very large, exposed grassland site with thrashed hedgerows so it is no real wonder the catch was low!"**

**~ Monday 28th April 2008 ~**

**Derek Brown's moth trap produced a few more moth species overnight on 26th April at Beenham: "In a few hours I had Brimstone, Small Quaker, Iron Prominent, Early Grey, Hebrew Character, Nut-Tree Tussock and Lunar Marbled Brown."**



Lunar Marbled Brown  
Photo © Derek Brown

***This report was sent by Ched George yesterday, 27th April:*** "Hopefully some of the following arrivals to my *Radnage (Bucks)* garden MV trap on the night of *April 26th*, make the first sightings list. **Acleris literana**, **Waved Umber** (typical form), **Purple Thorn**, **Engrailed**, **Double-striped Pug**. **Lunar Marbled Brown** arrived on the *23rd*. A second *Pale Pinion* arrived during the week, too. On the *22nd April* Martin Albertini and I recorded **Orange Underwing** moths (*id confirmed*) in *Oakend Wood near Denham*."

***Nigel Partridge reported the following moth species on Sunday 27th April:*** "Last night (*26-4-08, Loosley Row*) produced two new species: **Purple Thorn** and **Waved Umber**."

***Peter Hall's Ballinger garden moth trap on 25th April produced 14 moth species:*** **Double-striped Pug**, **Frosted Green**, **Muslin**, **Common Quaker**, **Clouded Drab**, **Hebrew Character**, **Early Thorn**, **Nut-tree Tussock**, **Twin-spotted Quaker**, **Lunar Marbled Brown**, **Powdered Quaker**, **Brindled Pug**, **Chinese Character**, *Eriocrania subpurpurella*.

***On Friday night, 25th April, David Redhead and Martin Townsend triangulated Heyford Hill Cottages with moth traps to produce some live specimens for a workshop Martin was running at the Oxfordshire Local Environmental Group Conference today (26th).*** Their strategy proved successful with a total of 43 macro-moths from 20 species being caught of which the prize exhibit was a pristine female **Emperor Moth** - only the second ever to be caught at this site. An all time first for the site was a **Grey Pine Carpet** and there were ten other firsts for the year - **Oak-tree Pug** 4, **Least Black Arches** 2, **Nut-tree Tussock** 2, **Brimstone** 1, **Flame Shoulder** 1, **Lunar Marbled Brown** 1, **Pebble Prominent** 1, **Red-green Carpet** 1, **Seraphim** 1 and **Swallow Prominent** 1. The catch was completed by **Common Quaker** 11, **Hebrew Character** 5, **Brindled Beauty** 2, **Clouded Drab** 2, **Early Grey** 2, **Small Quaker** 2, **Powdered Quaker** 1 and **Twin-spotted Quaker** 1. Also two micros awaiting definite identification. Three-quarters of the moths came from one of the traps - not in a position used before - perhaps the strategy does need rethinking! Minimum temperature 6.4C.



Emperor Moth f.  
Photo © David Redhead



Lunar Marbled Brown  
Photo © David Redhead

**Derek Brown sent this email on 25th April:** "I can't believe how badly the moth trapping in the garden at *Beenham (Berks)* has gone so far this year. Tonight, **25th April**, this **Iron Prominent** takes me onto only 10 species for the garden! One of only 3 moths last night. Where are they all!!"



Iron Prominent  
Photo © Derek Brown

**Nigel Partridge reported the following on 25th April:** "This one wasn't on the moth list last time I looked: **Agonopterix arenella**, **22-04-08, Loosley Row**. Thanks to Peter Hall for the confirming the ID."



Agonopterix arenella  
Photo © Nigel Partridge

**Welcome to the website new contributor David Church:** "This morning, **24th April**, I had a **Lime Hawk-moth** on the wall of my stone cottage in *North Newington, Banbury, Oxon*. I am by no means an expert and have taken a photograph (see below)."



Lime Hawk-moth  
Photo © David Church

**Dave Wilton sent these reports of some recent moth traps he's run:** "A female Emperor Moth emerged today, *21st April*, one of five pupae from 2006 that have over-wintered twice here at *Westcott, Bucks*. She was placed out in the garden at 5.30pm and attracted a "wild" local male **Emperor Moth** within 15 minutes. Conditions have been dire for the past few weeks but the slightly warmer weather of recent days seems to have started things moving again. I trapped until midnight at *Finemere Wood, Bucks* on *21st April* and got few moths, but amongst them were **Frosted Green** and **Lunar Marbled Brown**. My garden trap perked up at *Westcott, Bucks* on *22nd April*, bringing in 35 moths from 16 species which included **Phyllonorycter blancardella**, **Pseudoswammerdamia combinella**, **Mompha epilobiella** and **Flame Shoulder**. Of the rest, **Brimstone Moth**, **Brindled Beauty** and **Blossom Underwing** (only the second I've ever had here) were new to me for the year. Three hours spent at *Rushbeds Wood, Bucks* on *23rd April* were also slow going but the range of species showed signs of improvement with **Early Tooth-striped**, **Scalloped Hazel**, **Coxcomb Prominent**, **Scarce Prominent** and **Chocolate-tip** making appearances."



Lunar Marbled Brown  
Photo © Dave Wilton



Blossom Underwing  
Photo © Dave Wilton



Scarce Prominent  
Photo © Dave Wilton

~ **Friday 18th April 2008** ~

**David Redhead sent the following garden (Littlemore, Oxon) moth report on 15th April:** "The Pale/Tawny Pinion I caught overnight *3rd/4th April* (see report below) turned out to be a **Pale Pinion** which still appears to be an addition to the UTB list. Below are photos of the additions to my 2008 garden list during that moth trap and a subsequent one on *13th/14th*: **Brindled Beauty**, **Early Grey**, **Pale Pinion**, **Powdered Quaker** & **Red Chestnut**. Numbers very low owing to cold nights and just 5 macro-moths on 13th/14th April. *Then on 16th April David ran another overnight garden moth trap:* "The recent



series of cold nights seems to be having an unwanted effect on moth numbers in my garden. Last night's overnight garden moth trap, in spite of a slightly milder night (min temp 2.3C), produced just two moths - **Early Grey & Hebrew Character**. This is an all time low for an April moth trap in my garden!"



Brindled Beauty  
Photo © David Redhead



Early Grey  
Photo © David Redhead



Pale Pinion  
Photo © David Redhead



Powdered Quaker  
Photo © David Redhead



Red Chestnut  
Photo © David Redhead

**14th April - Lloyd Garvey disturbed this moth in his garden: Newbury, Berkshire, a Grey/Dark Dagger agg.**

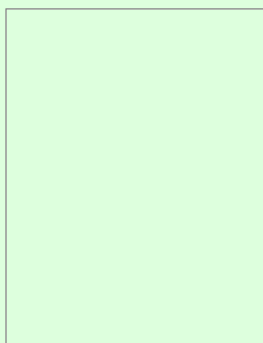


Grey/Dark Dagger  
Photo © Lloyd Garvey

**~ Sunday 13th April 2008 ~**

**13th April - A few more moths seen over the last few weeks by Dave Maunder in Aylesbury were: Oak Beauty (1), Early Grey (7), Dotted Border (3), Common Quaker (1), Diurnea fagella (1), Light-brown Apple Moth (1), and an Orange Underwing agg. seen flying through Hartwell cemetery on March 31st.**

**12th April - Lloyd Garvey and Keith Tomey (West Berks Ranger) did a small trapping session (2 hours) on Snelsmore Common, Berks, from 8:30pm to 10:30pm and got the following:** 38 Small Quaker, 9 Common Quaker, 1 Hebrew Character, 1 Oak Beauty, 3 **Oak-tree Pug**, 1 **Nut-tree Tussock**, 1 Pine Beauty, 1 March Moth, 1 Satellite, 1 Early Thorn, 2 Twin-spotted Quaker, 3 Clouded Drab and 1 *Diurnea fagella*.

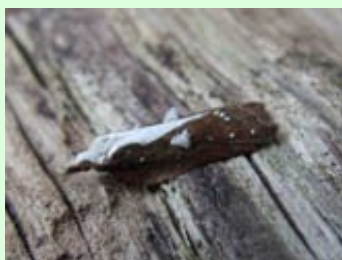


*Diurnea fagella*  
Photo © Lloyd Garvey

**~ Thursday 10th April 2008 ~**

**Jan Haseler sent this report on 8th April:** "We ran the moth trap in a wood at *Winterbourne, Berks* on *Friday 4th April* and took 14 species of moth, including 2 **Water Carpets**, 3 **Brindled Pugs** and a **Dotted Chestnut**."

**Alastair Driver set his Robinson trap at home in Sonning on Friday night 4th April:** "I caught the following: **Small Quaker (10)**, **Common Quaker (7)**, **Early Grey (2)**, **Hebrew Character (1)** **Double-striped Pug (1)** and the quirky little micro ***Acleris cristana* (1)** - see picture attached."



*Acleris cristana*  
Photo © Alastair Driver

**Ben Carpenter sent the following news on 5th April:** "I used to email moth sightings around Wolfson College a couple of years ago, but then we moved to a flat with no garden. However, we are now in a house with a garden, and so hopefully will be able to start moth trapping again (once the trap is fixed). Here are a few recent records from *Nuneham Courtenay* (5 miles south of Oxford): **Water Carpet** - 02/04/2008, **Early Grey** - 04/04/2008, **Small Quaker** - 04/04/2008, **Hebrew Character** - 04/04/2008, **Brimstone Moth** - 05/04/2008 (seen during day on shed)."

**Another report received from Dave Wilton on 5th April:** "Two more moth species new to me for the year have been **Streamer**, trapped in BBOWT's **River Ray Reserves in Bucks** on **3rd April**, and **Dotted Chestnut** (photo below) which came to my garden trap at **Westcott on 4th April**."



Dotted Chestnut  
Photo © Dave Wilton

**David Redhead ran a garden trap in Littlemore, Oxon, on 3rd April:** "A bit disappointed with the overall catch (min temp 5.9C) with 9 species and only 19 moths but my first **Brindled Beauty** and **Powdered Quaker** of the year. Below are photos of the Blossom Underwing and *Diurnea fagella* trapped at Bullington on 25th/26th March (see report below).



Blossom Underwing  
Photo © David Redhead

*Diurnea fagella*  
Photo © David Redhead

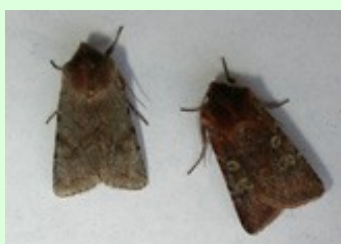
**Tony Croft sent this moth sighting report on 4th April:** "On **March 31st** Josie saw a **Brimstone Moth** at **Chinnor, Oxon**.

**3rd April - Eddie Napper sent the following moth trap report:** "On **01/04/08** I ran the trap again in my **Wokingham** garden but only 5 moths of 4 species. Highlight was a **Double-striped Pug**.



Double-striped Pug  
Photo © Eddie Napper

**3rd April - The poor weather during most of the second half of March meant that Dave Wilton found little new at Westcott, Bucks:** "Only **Double-striped Pug** (20th) and caterpillars of **Large Yellow Underwing** (26th) were added to my garden list for the year. **Rushbeds Wood (27th)** produced 174 moths from 15 species of which only **White-marked** was new. Seven were trapped, as opposed to only two of the usually more common **Red Chestnut** (see photo below). **Finemere Wood (31st)** was more productive with 270 moths of 23 species, including **Agonopterix ocellana, Water Carpet, Brindled Pug, Powdered Quaker** and **Tawny Pinion**. Some **Orange Underwing species** activity was noted at **Kingswood** on **31st March** with four examples seen flying around the tops of some aspens but they steadfastly refused to come down low for identification! On **2nd April** I ran a trap in the private woods there with the owner's permission and it brought in 65 moths of 16 species, including **Semioscopis steinkellneriana** and **Agonopterix alstromeriana**."



Red Chestnut & White-marked  
Photo © Dave Wilton

~ Monday 31st March 2008 ~

**Eddie Napper sent this news from Wokingham, Berks, yesterday 30th March:** "Despite the recent bad weather I have been putting out the trap without much success. However following another abandonment due to the heavy rain on **28th March** and on checking the trap the following morning I found an **Eriocrania subpurpurella**. I have attached a not very good photo."



Eriocrania subpurpurella  
Photo © Eddie Napper

**Overnight Tuesday 25th/Wednesday 26th March (min temp 4.3C) Stuart Jenkins and David Redhead ran a couple of moth traps at Bullingdon Prison. David sent this report:** "It produced 98 macro-moths from 11 species: **Small Quaker** 40, **Clouded Drab** 23, **Common Quaker** 15, **Hebrew Character** 8, **Lead-coloured Drab** 5, **Shoulder Stripe** 2, **Blossom Underwing** 1, **Chestnut** 1, **Early Thorn** 1, **Red Chestnut** 1 and **Twin-spotted Quaker** 1. There were also two species of micro-moth, **Diurnea fagella** 3 but the other one escaped before we



could identify it!".

~ Tuesday 25th March 2008 ~

**Dave Ferguson said he had his first moth of the year on 20th March:** "A **Pale Mottled Willow** managed to find its way into the bathroom of my house in *Beaconsfield, Bucks.*"

~ Monday 17th March 2008 ~

**15th March - Tony Towner sent his latest sightings:**

**"11th February 07:00** - Attracted to a lighted window at the *Dolphin school, Hurst* = 1 **Dotted Border** & 1 **Pale Brindled Beauty**.

**22nd February** - In my garden Moth trap at *Tilehurst* = 2 **Small Quakers** & 1 **Light Brown Apple Moth**.

**25th February 07:00** - Attracted to a lighted window at the *Dolphin school, Hurst* = 1 **Small Quaker**.

**13th March 19:45** - Attracted to the car park lights at the *Dolphin school, Hurst* = 1 **Oak Beauty**."

**Dave Wilton sent the following report on 15h March:** "Another trapping session at *Finemere Wood* on **13th March** produced 241 moths from 22 species but the only new ones were **Red-green Carpet** and **Early Thorn**. At *Westcott* on **14th March** I added another species to my all-time garden list with the appearance of the distinctive micro **Epermenia chaerophyllella**, illustrated below."



*Epermenia chaerophyllella*  
Photo © Dave Wilton

**12th March - Dave Maunder reported seeing a few more moths in Aylesbury during the last few weeks:** "Oak Beauty (1, on 12th March); Hebrew Character (1, on 29th Feb); **March moth** (1, also 29th); **Dotted Border** (28th Feb); *Emmelina monodactyla* (2); *Tortricodes alternella* (1) and **Epiphyas postvittana (Light Brown Apple Moth)** (1, on 23rd Feb). I also found a batch of **Vapourer moth eggs**."



Oak Beauty  
Photo © Dave Maunder

Hebrew Character  
Photo © Dave Maunder

Vapourer moth eggs  
Photo © Dave Maunder

~ Sunday 9th March 2008 ~

**On 7th March, in Derek Brown's garden at Beenham (Berks): Small Quaker (6), Common Quaker (1), Yellow Horned (1) and Early Grey (1).** Then on **8th March** at Beenham - **Hebrew Character (1)**.



Small Quaker & Common  
Quaker  
Photo © Derek Brown

Yellow Horned  
Photo © Derek Brown



Early Grey  
Photo © Derek Brown

Hebrew Character  
Photo © Derek Brown

**Dave Wilton sent the following report on 7th March:** "Further species caught in my garden trap at *Westcott, Bucks* over the past couple of weeks have included **Dotted Border** (27/2), **Clouded Drab** (28/2), **Grey Shoulder-knot** (2/3), **Oak Beauty** (6/3) and **Lead-coloured Drab** (6/3). Trapping sessions in local woodland have included trips to *Rushbeds on 2nd March* (173 moths of 17 species, including **Engrailed** and **Twin-spotted Quaker**) and *Finemere on 5th March* (343 moths of 16 species, of which 261 individuals were **Small Quaker!**). Finally, while visiting the Hodges' residence in *Steeple Claydon, Bucks on 29th February*, Stuart showed me two **Herald** moths which he'd found hibernating in his shed. The photographs below illustrate one of seven **Twin-spotted Quakers** from *Rushbeds* on 2nd March which had barely discernible spots, while the **Oak Beauty** was from my garden on 6th March and shows a particularly dark, almost melanic, individual."



Twin-spotted Quaker  
Photo © Dave Wilton



Oak Beauty  
Photo © Dave Wilton

**On 4th March Eddie Napper sent the following report:** "One late sighting on **23/02/08** - I ran the trap overnight in my garden in **Wokingham** with reasonable results including 1 each of **Oak Beauty**, **Pine Beauty** and **Grey Shoulder-knot**. On **03/03/08** outside the sports hall at the Holt School Wokingham was a **Twin spotted Quaker** on a wall near a security light. The earliest I 've seen one."



Pine Beauty  
Photo © Eddie Napper

**Martin Harvey saw a couple of micro-moths on Sunday 3 March:** "A male **Diurnea fagella** was on a tree trunk near the **Chilterns Ridgeway** path, and in my front room at home in **Great Kimble** the pretty **Esperia sulphurella** was flying around - its larvae feed inside dead wood so may have hatched from small logs by the fireplace. Photo attached for **Esperia sulphurella**."



Esperia sulphurella  
Photo © Martin Harvey

**Nigel Partridge reported two more sightings on 28th February:** "On **27-02-08**

at Loosley Row, Twin-spotted Quaker and **Diurnea fagella**."



Diurnea fagella  
Photo © Nigel Partridge

**Alastair Driver set the Robinson trap in his garden at Sonning, Berks, on 24th February:** "After foolishly believing the BBC when they said that it would be dry and mildish after 8 p.m. I set the trap and it then rained steadily for a couple of hours before I went to bed. I woke up to a sharp frost, so I was amazed to find 5 **Small Quaker** in the trap. Nothing else mind you, so they must be a particularly hardy little species!"

**Dave Wilton sent the following update on 24th February:** "Since my last report in January I've added **Tortricodes alternella** (29th Jan), **Hebrew Character** (9th Feb), **Agonopterix heracliiana** (13th Feb) and **March Moth, Small Quaker, Common Quaker** and **Chestnut** (all 22nd Feb) to this year's garden list at **Westcott**. I trapped at **Rushbeds Wood on 7th February** and got **Tortricodes alternella** (3), **March Moth** (2), **Pale Brindled Beauty** (2), **Dotted Border** (8, including one f. fuscata) and **Early Moth** (3). A better session at **Finemere Wood on 23rd February** produced **Tortricodes alternella** (91), **Acleris ferrugana/notana** (1), **Acleris cristana** (1), **Yellow Horned** (7), **March Moth** (6), **Shoulder Stripe** (5), **Small Brindled Beauty** (28), **Oak Beauty** (6), **Spring Usher** (5), **Dotted Border** (3), **Red Chestnut** (2), **Small Quaker** (4), **Lead-coloured Drab** (1), **Common Quaker** (4), **Satellite** (1) and **Chestnut** (7)."

**David Redhead ran his garden moth trap overnight on 23rd February:** "It produced a reasonable haul, owing to a minimum overnight temperature of 7.6C, consisting of 35 macro-moths from 9 species - **Common Quaker** (16), **Small Quaker** (6), **Twin-spotted Quaker** (4), **Hebrew Character** (3), **Oak Beauty** (2) and singletons of **Clouded Drab, Lead-coloured Drab, March Moth** and **Small Brindled Beauty**. The last is an addition to my all time garden list."





Common Quaker  
Photo © David Redhead



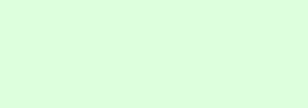
Hebrew Character  
Photo © David Redhead



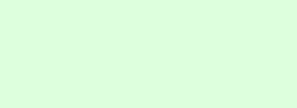
Lead-coloured Drab  
Photo © David Redhead



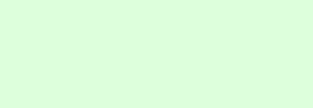
March Moth  
Photo © David Redhead



Small Brindled Beauty  
Photo © David Redhead



Twin-spotted Quaker  
Photo © David Redhead



**Derek Brown recorded two new species for the year at his home in Beenham (Berks):** "Several **Small Quakers** on the 22nd February and a **Satellite** on the 23rd February."



Satellite  
Photo © Derek Brown



Small Quaker  
Photo © Derek Brown

**~ Friday 22nd February 2008 ~**

**22nd February - Dave Maunder reported seeing the following moths in Aylesbury recently:** "Pale Brindled Beauties (4), Early moth (1), Chestnut moth (1), and **Emmelina monodactyla** (1) all in the first week of February. Then a **Common Quaker** (1, 20th - my first success in my garden m.v. trap this year!); also **Pale Brindled Beauty** (1, on 11th), **Dotted Border** (1, on 11th), **Emmelina monodactyla** (2, on 13th) and a **White-shouldered House moth (*Endrosis sarcitrella*)** (1, on 13th)."

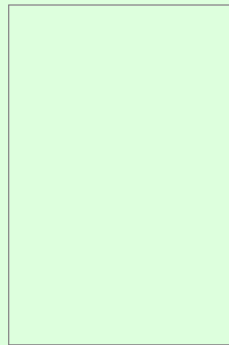


Common Quaker  
Photo © Dave Maunder

**11th February - news from Nigel Partridge about his latest moth sightings in Loosley Row, Bucks: "Amblyptilia acanthadactyla on 27-1-08 (thanks to Peter Hall for confirming the ID) and a March Moth on 10-02-08."**



Amblyptilia  
acanthadactyla  
Photo © Nigel Partridge



March Moth  
Photo © Nigel Partridge

**~ Thursday 7th February 2008 ~**

**The following are Tony Towner's first moths for 2008, sent in on 5th February:**

23rd January 18:00 - In the Caretaker's shed at the Dolphin school, Hurst = 1

**Brown House Moth.**

24th January 18:00 - In the Caretaker's shed at the Dolphin school, Hurst = 1 **Case-bearing Clothes Moth (*Tinea pellionella*)(unconfirmed record - usually requires dissection).**

26th January - In my garden Moth trap at Tilehurst = 1 **Hebrew Character**

4th February 07:00 - Attracted to a lighted window at the Dolphin school, Hurst = 1 **Pale Brindled Beauty.**

5th February 07:00 - Attracted to a lighted window at the Dolphin school, Hurst = 1 **Dotted Border.**

The two species of moth in the shed are a bit worrying as presumably my work overalls are in severe danger!! The Hebrew Character was a surprise in the garden moth trap, as previously I have never caught anything until March."

**Nigel Partridge added another record to his moth list on 30th January:**

"Thanks to Martin Albertini for the confirmation - **Acleris hastiana**, 23-01-08, Loosley Row."



Acleris hastiana  
Photo © Nigel Partridge

**Here are some recent moth sightings sent by Jan Haseler:**

"On a wall at Shinfield Park (Wed 30/1): 1 **Dotted Border**, 1 **Spring Usher**, 1 **Pale Brindled Beauty**.

At light at Tilehurst on 20/1: **Diamond-back Moth (*Plutella xylostella*)** (a tiny migrant, with no previous January records on the Berks Moth database)."

**David Redhead ran his garden moth trap in Oxford on Saturday 26th January:**

"As the overnight temperature was forecast to drop to only 6C I fired up my garden moth trap on Saturday evening for the second time this year. The next morning my thermometer showed the temperature had actually fallen to 3.5C during the night so I was pleasantly surprised to find eleven moths in the trap - 9 **Pale Brindled Beauty** and 2 **Spring Usher**. Both these species are 2008 additions to my all time garden list but then again I have never run my garden trap in January (or February) which just goes to show to get a full list it needs to be a year round activity. One of the Pale Brindled Beauties was noticeably darker than the others but I don't think it qualifies as the monacharia form."



Pale Brindled Beauty (dark specimen)  
Photo © David Redhead



Pale Brindled Beauty (light specimen)  
Photo © David Redhead



Spring Usher  
Photo © David Redhead

**Dave Maunder says he's managed to up his moth count to two recently:** "An **Early Moth** seen at Dormer close flats in Aylesbury on 21st, and two more **Pale Brindled Beauties** - one on 22nd and another today (27th)."



Pale Brindled Beauty  
Photo © Dave Maunder

**Alastair Driver sent this news on 27th January:** "I was awoken from my mothing hibernation last night (26th Jan) by the presence of an early specimen of **Hebrew Character** which had come to light at my porch window in Sonning (Berks). I must start thinking about trapping again now!"

**Derek Brown tried his garden moth trap in Beenham, Berks, on 25th January:** "I got a single **Spring Usher**. First moth of the year."



Spring Usher  
Photo © Derek Brown

**Dave Wilton sent the following on 24th January:** "Here at Westcott I had **Acleris hastiana** (1) and **Winter Moth** (3) to the garden trap on 10th January, **Agonopterix heracliiana** (1) to a lit window on 15th January and **Pale Brindled Beauty** (1), **Spring Usher** (1) and **Early Moth** (1) to the trap on 22nd January. The Spring Usher is a first-timer to the garden and comes as a bit of a surprise as we have no oaks adjacent to us. Sheltered woodland is best for moths at this time of year so, with another warm night in prospect, on 23rd January I decided to take the trap to Finemere. By midnight it had brought in 244 moths from 10 species: **Tortricodes alternella** (10), **Winter Moth spp** (5), **Small Brindled Beauty** (3), **Pale Brindled Beauty** (87), **Oak Beauty** (1, rather early), **Spring Usher** (122), **Dotted Border** (1), **Mottled Umber** (5), **Early Moth** (2) and **Chestnut** (8)."





Dotted Border  
Photo © Dave Wilton

Spring Usher  
Photo © Dave Wilton

Tortricodes alternella  
Photo © Dave Wilton

**Dave Maunder sent this report from Aylesbury on 21st January:** "My first and only moth of the year was a **Pale Brindled Beauty** seen on a block of flats near where I live, on 18th January. Let's hope the weather settles down a bit soon!"

**Helen Hyre took this photo on 16th January around 9.45am:** "This **Angle Shades** moth was sitting on a sunny wall in Miles Court, Bierton (Bucks), for about half an hour. The only way to get a good photo was to cast a shadow over it with the camera case!"



Angle Shades  
Photo © Helen Hyre

**John Parsons, Newbury, sent his first sightings for the 2008 season on 20th January:** "Bowdown Woods (Berks) today 20/01/08 several **Spring Usher** fluttering around."



Spring Usher  
Photo © John Parsons

**14/01/08 - So far this year Nigel Partridge reports seeing the following moth species at his home in Loosley Row:** **Mottled Umber** 2 (01-01-08), **Chestnut** 2 (10-01-08 & 13-01-08).

**~ Saturday 12th January 2008 ~**

**Martin Townsend reported his first moth of the year on 11th January:** "An **Early Moth** on my bedroom window (*Littlemore, Oxford*) as I type!"

**Dave Wilton's first moth of the year at Westcott was the tiny micro: Mompha**

**subbistrigella** (wing length just over 5mm) found flying around inside his house during the evening of *8th January*.



Mompha subbistrigella  
Photo © Dave Wilton

**David Redhead sent his first moth report for 2008 on 3rd January:** "On the moth front 4 species can already be claimed for 2008 :-

*1st January : Heyford Hill Cottages, Oxford* = 3 **Winter Moths** on the kitchen window this morning.

*1st January : RSPB Otmoor Reserve* = 2 **Blue-bordered Carpet Moth eggs** and 16 **Winter Moth eggs** found by UTB members whilst searching for Brown Hairstreak eggs.

*2nd January : Heyford Hill Cottages, Oxford* = an overnight garden moth trap (min temp 5.5C) produced 2 **Mottled Umber**, 1 **Pale Brindled Beauty** and 1 **Winter Moth**. Another **Winter Moth** and **Mottled Umber** were found on the kitchen window and in the porch respectively.

*3rd January : Heyford Hill Cottages* = no moths on kitchen window or in porch but overnight min temperature of 1.3C.

The Pale Brindled Beauty picture is a bit blurred as it would not keep still!"



Mottled Umber  
Photo © David Redhead



Pale Brindled Beauty  
Photo © David Redhead

**Peter Hall starts off the 2008 season with these moth sightings:** "At 2.43am on my front door in *Ballinger Common, January 1st*: **Winter Moth**. I did run the trap from midnight onwards, but it was empty in the morning. Also on 1st, in flight at *Champneys, Bucks*, a **Northern Winter Moth** (confirmed via dissection)."