

# Butterfly Conservation Upper Thames Branch

## Moth Sightings Archive - July to December 2009

~ Thursday 31st December 2009 ~

*Final Moth Species Count for 2009 = 811 (437 Macro moths, 374 Micros)*

*Dave Wilton sent the following report on 27th December:* "On 12th December a **Northern Winter Moth** made a welcome appearance at a lit window here at *Westcott, Bucks*. Two evenings later we had five **Winter Moths** and a **Mottled Umber**, once again to lit windows, but the subsequent cold snap seems to have put paid to any further moth activity. Just before Christmas Peter Hall completed a final batch of identifications for me of "difficult moths" from earlier in the year so I can now give you one more update to the UTB species list before it closes for 2009. It comprises just the one macro-moth, **Lesser Common Rustic** (*Chinkwell Wood 23rd July*), along with the following micro species: **Acleris schalleriana** (*Westcott 26th October*), **Agonopterix angelicella** (*Bernwood 5th August*), **Anacamptis populella** (*Finemere Wood 11th August*), **Bryotropha similis** (*Bernwood 5th August*), **Bucculatrix ulmella** (*Finemere Wood 11th August*), **Cnephasia genitalana** (*Waddesdon Manor 13th August*), **Coleophora striatipennella** (*Westcott 12th August*), **Dioryctria abietella** (*Westcott 10th August*), **Eudonia truncicolella** (*Bernwood 17th August*), **Gelechia senticetella** (*Westcott 30th July*), **Grapholita janthinana** (*Chinkwell Wood 23rd July*), **Opostega salaciella** (*Westcott 22nd July*), **Phyllonorycter geniculella** (*Finemere Wood 25th July*), **Phyllonorycter harrisella** (*Finemere Wood 11th August*), **Phyllonorycter ulmifoliella** (*Bernwood 8th September*), **Phylloporia bistrigella** (*Bernwood 28th July*), **Psoricoptera gibbosella** (*Bernwood 5th August*), **Stigmella samiatella** (*Finemere Wood 11th August*), **Swammerdamia caesiella** (*Bernwood 5th August*) and **Tinea pellionella** (*Westcott 12th August*). **Stigmella samiatella** was a county first for Bucks, while **Gelechia senticetella** and **Opostega salaciella** were second and third county records respectively."

*Peter Hall provided the following:* "This link: <http://lepidoptera.fw.hu/emn/emn6/emn6.htm> will enable you to view provisional data submitted to Ladislaus for the **2009 European Moth nights survey**. The participants are being asked to report their provisional data to EMN-headquarters as soon as possible (collector name/names, country, locality/localities, number of days per locality, number of species exactly or approximately per locality - please "macro nocturnal moths only = Macroheterocera", that means neither Microlepidoptera nor butterflies!). Special thanks to those who have already done so. The deadline for submission of data either to the regional EMN-Ambassador or to EMN-headquarters: 1st March 2010."

*Dave Maunder reported the following on 14th December:* "A few more moths seen around *Aylesbury* recently were:- **Mottled Umber** (4) and **Winter moths** (8). Not much variety, I'm afraid, but nice to see good variation in markings of the Mottled Umbers - one of my favourite winter species."



Mottled Umber  
Photo © Dave Maunder



Mottled Umber  
Photo © Dave Maunder

~ Sunday 13th December 2009 ~

**Tony Towner sent the following update today, 13th December:** "November sightings at the *Dolphin school in Hurst, Berks*. All attracted to lighted windows unless otherwise stated: *03/11 - Winter Moth* (1), *12/11 - Feathered Thorn* (12), **Scarce Umber** (3), **Winter Moth** (2) and **Sprawler** (12). December sightings at the school: *02/12 - Winter Moth* (2), **Scarce Umber** (2). *04/12 - December Moth* (1), found indoors."

**Adam Bassett sent this news on 9th December:** "A couple of micros that came to house lights (*Marlow Bottom, Bucks*) and have had the identity confirmed by Peter Hall: **Caloptilia cuculipennella** (*12 Sept*) and **Monopis obviella** (*5 Dec*)."



Caloptilia cuculipennella  
Photo © Adam Bassett

**Dave Maunder sent this report on 7th December:** "A few more moths seen in Bucks recently include: **Mottled Umber** (1); **Winter Moths** (15); **Silver Y** (1, on 2nd); **Grey Shoulder-knot** (1, on 30th), all in *Aylesbury* and **Brick moth** (1, 6th - see photo below) on a tree-trunk in *Pepperbox Wood near Hampden Bottom*. I found it at the base of a tree on Sunday and, as it was so worn, I contacted Peter Hall who helped me identify it - according to his records, Brick can occasionally be found through to December, even January - I've never found one after October before so I was quite pleased with this record!"



Brick  
Photo © Dave Maunder

**Dave Wilton reported the following on 6th December:** "I've seen very little at Westcott for a couple of weeks now, just the occasional **Winter Moth**. However, in a last-minute spurt to get us past this year's target, Peter Hall has been working overtime at his microscope in order to confirm the following sightings for me, all of which date from late-June and July. The only macro-moth was **Yarrow Pug** (Westcott 15th July), the second time that I've had this "Notable B List" species in the garden. There are few Bucks records and it is presumably under-recorded because it looks so similar to other species. This shows the benefit of keeping the occasional unidentifiable pug for closer inspection! New micros for the UTB list include: **Aethes cnicana** (Bernwood 12th July), **Anacampsis blattariella** (Bernwood 12th July), **Batrachedra pinicolella** (Westcott 28th June), **Borkhausenia fuscescens** (Westcott 20th July), **Choristoneura heibenstreitella** (Rushbeds 8th July), **Coleophora anatipennella** (Westcott 28th June), **Coleophora glaucicolella** (Westcott 28th June), **Coleophora lutipennella** (Rushbeds 8th July), **Coleophora serratella** (Bernwood 15th July), **Cosmiotes freyerella** (Westcott 13th July), **Donacaula forficella** (Finemere 10th July), **Eana incanana** (Rushbeds 8th July), **Epinotia abbreviana** (Westcott 28th June), **Epinotia tenerana** (Rushbeds 8th July), **Grapholita funebrana** (Westcott 8th July), **Parachronistis albiceps** (Westcott 28th June), **Piniphila bifasciana** (Waddesdon 20th July), **Pseudatemelia josephinae** (Finemere 10th July) and **Scoparia basistrigalis** (Rushbeds 8th July)."



Yarrow Pug  
Photo © Dave Wilton

~ Tuesday 1st December 2009 ~

*Nigel Partridge sent the following on 26th November:* "I've just noticed this one isn't on this year's species list: **Bordered Pug**, 27-07-09, Loosley Row, Bucks."



Bordered Pug  
Photo © Nigel Partridge

~ Wednesday 25th November 2009 ~

*Nigel Partridge sent this sighting on 22nd November:* "Scarce Umber, 20-11-09, Loosley Row. Thanks to Peter Hall for confirming the ID."



Scarce Umber  
Photo © Nigel Partridge

*Adam Bassett reported as follows on 22nd November:* "A rather worn **Scarce Umber** came to my porch light in *Marlow Bottom, Bucks* on *November 20th*."

*Dave Maunder sent the following on 21st November:* "An update today from the Willows in *Aylesbury, Bucks* - one **Winter Moth** at Dormer Close."

~ Thursday 19th November 2009 ~

*Dave Maunder reported the following on 16th November:* "A couple of recent sightings here in *Aylesbury, Bucks* have been:- my first (and probably last!) **Hummingbird Hawkmoth** of this year on the *15th*, disturbed from a pile of bean-poles on my allotment in town and a **Feathered Thorn** seen today."

*Peter Hall sent this update on 16th November:* "On *30th October*, trapping at *Moorend Common in Bucks*, Martin Albertini and I trapped **Autumnal, November** (both determined by dissection), **Red-green Carpet, Merveille du Jour, Mottled Umber, Chestnut, Sallow, Acleris emargana, Ypsolopha parenthesella** and **Diurnea lipsiella**."

**John Parsons sent the following sighting on 15th November:** "Today (15/11/09) on *Greenham Common in Berks*, I found this **Scarce Umber**."



Scarce Umber  
Photo © John Parsons

**~ Friday 13th November 2009 ~**

**Dave Maunder sent this update on 12th November:** "Some more moths seen around *Aylesbury, Bucks* recently were:- **Sprawler** (2 - 4th + 9th); **Blair's Shoulder-knot** (1); **Chestnut moth** (1); **Mottled Umber** (1); **Feathered Thorn** (1); **Winter moths** (4 - 2 on 4th, 2 on 11th) and **Emmelina monodactyla** (4)."

**~ Sunday 8th November 2009 ~**

**Dave Wilton sent the following report today, 8th November:** "Moth numbers at *Westcott, Bucks* have been dwindling fast now that the weather has turned colder. On *5th November* the Robinson brought in **December Moth** (2), **Red-green Carpet** (1), **Feathered Thorn** (3), **Sprawler** (5), **Green-brindled Crescent** (1, ab. capucina) & **Red-line Quaker** (2). On *7th November* I ran an actinic light but that only managed **Feathered Thorn** (1), **Sprawler** (1), **Red-line Quaker** (1) & **Yellow-line Quaker** (1), although I did disturb **Emmelina monodactyla** (1) and **Silver Y** (1) earlier in the day whilst sweeping up leaves."

**Dave Maunder sent his latest update on 3rd November:** "Some more moth sightings in *Aylesbury, Bucks since the 15th October* have been:- **Sprawler** (2); **Green-brindled Crescent** (2); **Red-line Quaker** (4); **Pale Mottled Willow** (1); **Blair's Shoulder-knot** (1); **Barred Sallow** (1); **Vapourer Moth** (1, on 19th); **Red-green Carpet** (1); **November moths agg.** (12). Unfortunately I was away in west Cornwall all last week during all the mild weather so missed all the local action, but on the drive home Saturday evening (31st October) I saw at least 9 **Feathered Thorns** in my headlamps as I came back through Oxfordshire! I saw 13 Fox Moth larvae near Lands end while in Cornwall, plus a very late specimen of Six-spot Burnet near Cape Cornwall - unusual! - but not much else down there!"



***Nigel Partridge reported the following on 3rd November: "Caloptilia betulicola, 30-10-09, Loosley Row, Bucks.*** Thanks to Peter Hall and John Langmaid for the ID."

***David Redhead sent the following report on 1st November:*** "On the morning of *Friday 30th October* our porch contained two **Feathered Thorn** and a **Silver Y**. I think one of the Feathered Thorns has taken up permanent residence because, as far as I am aware, it has not moved from one of the panes of glass in our front door where it still resides at the time of writing, midday Sunday 1st November."

~ **Saturday 31st October 2009** ~

***Derek Brown reported the following:*** "I had a new moth in the garden at *Beenham, Berks* last night (*30th October*) - a **Cypress Carpet**."



Cypress Carpet  
Photo © Derek Brown

***Colin Williams reports that a moth trap at Warburg BBOWT NR in Oxon on the night of 28th October (in mild weather) produced the following:*** "1 male **Plumed Prominent** - National Scarce A sp - obvious highlight, 59 **Sprawler**, 1 **Red-green Carpet**, 1 **Merveille du Jour**, 8 **Satellite**, 1 **Yellow-line Quaker**, 1 **Red-line Quaker**, 1 **Green-brindled Crescent**, 4 **Chestnut**, 19 **Feathered Thorn**, 1 **Sallow** and 5 **November moth spp.**"

~ **Friday 30th October 2009** ~

***David Redhead ran two overnight moths traps at the Harcourt Arboretum at Nuneham Courtenay, Oxon, on 28th October:*** "A 15W actinic Heath trap situated at the meeting point of the woodland, parkland and meadows pulled in 6 **Sprawler**, 3 **Yellow-line Quaker** and singletons of **Chestnut**, **Feathered Thorn** and **November Moth agg.** The 125MV Robinson in the Arboretum itself did better with 9 **Sprawler**, 7 **November Moth agg.**, 4 **Spruce Carpet**, 2 **Brick**, 2 **Feathered Thorn** and singletons of **Chestnut**, **Dark Chestnut**, **Green-brindled Crescent**, **Rush Veneer**, **Satellite** and **Yellow-line Quaker** but the most numerous species was **Hornet**, of which there were eighteen!"

***Alastair Driver sent this report on 28th October:*** "More of a quality rather than quantity session for me with the Robinson Trap at home in *Sonning (Berks)* last night, *27th October*. **Hoary Footman** was new for my parish records and **Red-green Carpet** and **Red-line Quaker** were new for my garden list. Also caught a

pristine **Common Wainscot** and 5 specimens of **November Moth agg.**"



Hoary Footman  
Photo © Alastair Driver



Red-green Carpet  
Photo © Alastair Driver

**Dave Wilton ran his garden moth trap in Westcott, Bucks on 27th October:** "I got my first **Sprawler** of the year amongst 21 species which came to the garden trap. Caught in nearby woodland that same night was a **Juniper Carpet**, my first sighting of a moth which is rather uncommon in the county. Peter Hall has kindly supplied me with another batch of micro-moth determinations from earlier in the year. All of them were caught in the disused railway cutting east of *Winslow, Bucks* which has been the subject of so much attention from us this year. New for the UTB list are: **Coleophora binderella**, **Coleophora spinella**, **Coleophora trifolii**, **Dichrorampha alpinana**, **Epinothia signatana**, **Metzneria metzneriella** (*all 2nd July*), **Acleris aspersana**, **Bryotropha senectella**, **Coleophora sternipennella**, **Eudonia mercurella**, **Monochroa lutulentella**, **Monopis weaverella**, **Paraswammerdamia albicapitella**, **Parornix betulae**, **Phyllonorycter messaniella**, **Swammerdamia pyrella** (*all 31st July*) and **Acleris comariana** (*31st August*). That helps us on our way to this year's target but it looks as though it will still be a difficult one to reach!"



Sprawler  
Photo © Dave Wilton



Juniper Carpet  
Photo © Dave Wilton

**Tony Towner reported the following on 27th October:** "As part of their Science week at the *Dolphin school in Hurst, Berks*, I was asked to give a talk on moths to some of the children. This seems to have stimulated an interest in moths for some of them as they keep on finding specimens around the school grounds for me to identify. Also they have newly discovered a "Moth wall" which has a powerful floodlight at the apex and attracts many specimens which are still there in the morning. Here are some of the findings for October:

*12th October* - **Sallow** (1) : **Cypress Carpet** (1) : **Figure of Eight** (1).

*15th* - **Mallow** (2) : **Sallow** (4) : **Green Brindled Crescent** (3) : **Red-line Quaker** (1) : **Figure of Eight** (3) : **Feathered Thorn** (1) : **Yellow-line Quaker** (1) :

**Merveille du Jour (4) : Light Brown Apple moth (1).**

**19th - Red-green Carpet (1) : Green Brindled Crescent (1) : November Moth  
agg (1) : Red-line Quaker (1) : Yellow-line Quaker (1) : Large Yellow  
Underwing (1).**

**20th - Satellite (1).**

**23rd - Spruce Carpet (2) : Brindled Green (1).**

**26th - Blair's Shoulder-knot (4) : Feathered Thorn (3) : November Moth agg (3)  
: Sallow (1)."**



Cypress Carpet  
Photo © Tony Towner



Satellite  
Photo © Tony Towner



Spruce Carpet  
Photo © Tony Towner

**David Redhead has managed to run two overnight garden moth traps in Littlemore, Oxon, recently:** "They've added 6 species to my 2009 garden list - **Brick, Feathered Thorn, Green-brindled Crescent, Merveille du Jour & Yellow-line Quaker** (all on the **21st October**) and **Red-line Quaker (25th)**. Other species caught were **Chestnut, Common Marbled Carpet, Large Wainscot, Large Yellow Underwing, Pinion-streaked Snout, Red-green Carpet, Snout** and **Spruce Carpet** plus, as yet unidentified, thirteen **November Moths agg.**"

**~ Saturday 24th October 2009 ~**

**Here's the latest news from Dave Wilton:** "While there might still be plenty of moths out there in the right conditions, it is no great surprise that new species for the year are very difficult to come by now. **Finemere Wood, Bucks on 23rd October** produced 175 moths of 18 species but there was nothing of great interest apart from some of the totals: **Ypsolopha parenthesesella (2), Blastobasis lacticolella (1), Acleris emargana (2), Acleris rhombana (6), Common Marbled Carpet (2), Red-green Carpet (6), Spruce Carpet (4), November Moth agg (25), Feathered Thorn (14), Figure of Eight (80), Satellite (6), Green-brindled Crescent (2), Merveille du Jour (5), Chestnut (12), Brick (5), Yellow-line Quaker (1), Red-line Quaker (1) and Sallow (1)**. At least the Figure of Eights stopped me getting bored! To my garden trap at **Westcott, Bucks on 21st October** I got 67 moths of 22 species, with the highest total being **Beaded Chestnut (11)**. The only notable items were **Dusky-lemon Sallow** (my 16th of the season) and a second-brood **Dark Arches**. At **Chinkwell Wood, Bucks** that night I got a fresh **Flame Shoulder**, presumably a third-brood specimen, while another came to my garden trap at **Westcott on 24th October** which is the latest I've ever recorded the species."

**Alastair Driver sent the following update to his recent trapping of the Streak:** "What I suspect is the same unfortunate specimen of the **Streak** that I trapped twice a week or so ago, came to my porch light on **Friday 23rd October** and this



time I got a photo (see below). It's looking a bit tired and worn now and I expect it'll be glad to see the back of me!"



The Streak  
Photo © Alastair Driver

**Peter Hall sent this news today:** "Have managed to look at the octavals of the Novembers caught last night and can report that at *Dancersend (Bucks)* on the *23rd October* I trapped both **November moth** and **Pale November moth.**"

**Ched George reported the following on 19th October:** "I had a **Juniper Carpet** to my *Radnage, Bucks* garden MV trap last night, *18th October*, which is only the 2nd record I have. Also a **Merveille du Jour.**"

~ **Sunday 18th October 2009** ~

**Alastair Driver sent this report on 17th October:** "Had a bash with the Robinson Trap in the garden at home in *Sonning, Berks* on *15th October*, because it seemed a bit milder. Catch very poor though, with a sum total of 9 moths of 5 species! The highlight was my first **Streak** of the year, but apart from that just **Large Yellow Underwing**, **Lesser Yellow Underwing**, **Setaceous Hebrew Character** and **Shuttle-shaped Dart**. On checking my Mapmate database I see that I caught my first specimen of the Streak on 20th Oct 1996 and that there are no records on there since 2002 - although there are several records for my corner of Berkshire."

**Dave Maunder reported the following from Aylesbury, Bucks on 15th October:** "Quite a nice night's catch in my garden m.v. last night, *14th*, including:- **Barred Sallows** (2); **Brick moth** (1); **Yellow-line Quaker** (1); **Red-line Quakers** (3); **Blair's Shoulder-knot** (2); **Large Ranunculus** (1); **Silver Y** (1); **Shuttle-shaped Darts** (2); **Common Marbled Carpets** (2); **Light-brown Apple Moths** (5). A couple of other moths found locally in the last couple of days were:- **Merveille du Jour** (1); **Barred Sallow** (1); **Sallow moth** (1); **Feathered Thorn** (1); **November moth agg.** (7)."



Merveille du Jour  
Photo © Dave Maunder

~ Wednesday 14th October 2009 ~

***This exciting news came via Martin Harvey on 13th October: "School child finds moth new to Britain in Berkshire! Katie Dobbins, a six-year-old from Upper Basildon, found a moth last week that she thought looked unusual. She got her dad to report it via the iSpot website, where I was able to suggest that it might be the *Euonymus Leaf-notcher (Pryeria sinica)*. This was subsequently confirmed by Martin Honey of the Natural History Museum, and is a moth never before recorded in the UK as far as we know. Its native range stretches across much of Asia, but has also been introduced into the USA.***



*Pryeria sinica*  
Photo © Julian Dobbins

***Dave Maunder ran his garden m.v. trap in Aylesbury, Bucks on 11th October:***

"I caught:- **Figure of 8** (1, the first I've found here in Aylesbury since my trapping days of the 80's!); **Red-line Quaker** (1); **Blair's Shoulder-knot** (2); **Pale Mottled Willow** (1); **Straw Dot** (1 - a late specimen!); **Large Yellow Underwing** (2); **Willow Beauty** (1); **Common Marbled Carpet** (1); ***Cacoecimorpha pronubana (Carnation Tortrix)*** (1) and **Light-brown Apple Moth** (13). Some other Aylesbury sightings recently include:- **Barred Sallow** (2); **Blair's Shoulder-knot** (2); **Vapourer moth** (3); **Muslin moth larvae** (2); **Pale Tussock larva** (1); **Large Ranunculus** (1); **Sallow moth** (1); **Brick moth** (1)."

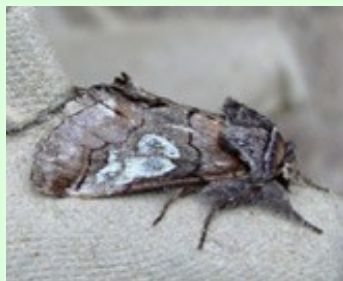


Figure of Eight  
Photo © Dave Maunder



Brick  
Photo © Dave Maunder

**Adam Bassett says he had a better catch on October 9th in his Marlow Bottom, Bucks garden trap than in recent weeks:**

"However, I still only had 47 macro moths of 18 species, but showing how rarely I actually trap this late in the year, 4 of these were new for the garden and a further 2 were new for the year: **Red-green Carpet** (1), **Common Marbled Carpet** (6), **Spruce Carpet** (1), **Feathered Thorn** (1), **Willow Beauty** (1), **Large Yellow Underwing** (4), **Black Rustic** (3), **Blair's Shoulder-knot** (3), **Green-brindled Crescent** (1), **Merveille du Jour** (2), **Large Ranunculus** (1), **Chestnut** (1), **Red-line Quaker** (2), **Beaded Chestnut** (5), **Lunar Underwing** (1), **Barred Sallow** (11), **Angle Shades** (1), **Snout** (2)."



Green-brindled Crescent  
Photo © Adam Bassett



Large Ranunculus  
Photo © Adam Bassett



Merveille du Jour  
Photo © Adam Bassett



Red-line Quaker  
Photo © Adam Bassett

**~ Sunday 11th October 2009 ~**

**Dave Wilton sent this report today, 11th October:** "Catching up with my recent sightings, at *Chinkwell Wood near Brill, Bucks* on *28th September* I had **Feathered Thorn** and **Green-brindled Crescent** which were new for me for the year, while a single **Marbled White Spot** also came to the trap there (another unexpected second brood!). Here in the garden at *Westcott, on 29th September* I had **Udea ferrugalis/Rusty Dot Pearl** and **Mallow** while on *6th October* I got **Galleria mellonella/Wax Moth** and the first three examples of **November Moth agg.** (exact species still to be determined). Another visit to the disused railway cutting east of *Winslow, Bucks* on *10th October* produced a very pleasing 27 species, of which **Ypsolopha sylvella**, **Figure of Eight**, **Merveille du Jour** and **Yellow-line Quaker** were amongst several welcome additions to the site list. Going back in time, Martin Harvey has kindly inspected a male Forester sp moth which I took from a site near *Lambourn, Berks* back on *29th May* in order to try and determine which of the three species it is that lives there. It has proved to be **Cistus**

**Forester**, the first Berkshire record for 26 years."

**Tom Stevenson sent this sighting for his garden in Benson, Oxon:** "A new one for my garden - a **Twenty-plume Moth** trying to get in the front door tonight (*10th October*). Rather poor picture attached - photographed from underneath."



Twenty-plume Moth (*Alucita hexadactyla*)  
Photo © Tom Stevenson

**Ched George sent the following news on 10th October:** "Just noted the lack of **Feathered Thorn** sightings. I had one round our front door light in *Radnage, Bucks* on *September 30th*."

**National Moth Night - Jan Haseler sent this report on 9th October:** "All the trap lists are now in for the Berkshire Moth Group's National Moth Night event on *Friday 18th September* at *Sheepdrove Organic Farm, near Lambourn* (<http://www.sheepdrove.com/>). In all, 36 species were identified, including **Deep-brown Dart**, **Brown-spot Pinion**, **Beaded Chestnut**, **Frosted Orange**, **Bulrush Wainscot** and **Large Wainscot**. The event was attended by 20 people. A full report can be seen on the Berkshire Moth Group's website - [click here](#)."

**Nigel Partridge reported the following on 8th October:** "Attracted to the house lights at *Loosley Row, Bucks* last night (*07-10-09*) were: **Brick**, **Yellow-line Quaker**, **Mompha subbistrigella** and **November Moth agg** (*Epirrita dilutata*)."



Yellow-line Quaker  
Photo © Nigel Partridge

~ **Tuesday 6th October 2009** ~

**David Redhead says his overnight garden moth trap in Littlemore, Oxon on 3rd October gave a poor return of just six macro-moths:** "However, they did contain the 200th addition to my 2009 garden macro-moth list, a **Barred Sallow**, alongside 2 **Common Marbled Carpet** and singletons of **Lesser Yellow Underwing**, **Sallow** and **Snout**."

~ Friday 2nd October 2009 ~

**Dave Wilton reported the following on 28th September:** "Uncommon second broods seem to be the order of the day at the moment. I had a **Heart & Dart** to light at *Westcott* on *23rd September* and, having already recorded **Small Emerald** and **Light Emerald** earlier this month (see 26th September update), I caught a fresh **Blotched Emerald** in *Finemere Wood* on *27th September*. Finemere also produced **Figure of Eight (first adult)**, while at *Westcott* on *27th September* I got **Cypress Pug** (a first for the garden) and **Red-line Quaker**."



Blotched Emerald  
Photo © Dave Wilton



Cypress Pug  
Photo © Dave Wilton

~ Saturday 26th September 2009 ~

**Nigel Partridge, Loosley Row, Bucks caught a Beaded Chestnut** on *24-09-09*. "Also attracted to the trap on the same night was a very late **Common Pug**."

**National Moth Night - Derek Brown reported the following:** "I had 24 species of macromoth in the trap at *Beenham (Berks)* on the *19th September*, including four new for the year - **Large Ranunculus**, **Brindled Green**, **Beaded Chestnut** and new for the garden a **Deep-brown Dart**."



Beaded Chestnut  
Photo © Derek Brown



Deep-brown Dart  
Photo © Derek Brown

**National Moth Night - Dave Wilton sent the following report:** "New for the year on *16th September* at *Westcott* was **Pink-barred Sallow**.

*On 18th September (NMN) I took two traps to the disused railway cutting near Salden Wood, east of Winslow, Bucks.* Noteworthy amongst the 30 species caught there were **Autumnal Rustic**, **Brindled Green**, **Barred Sallow** and the largest female **Bulrush Wainscot** I've ever seen. While in the cutting I found vacated leaf-mines of **Stigmella lapponica** on birch.

*In the garden at Westcott on 18th* I got 41 species, including **Bordered Beauty**, **Pale Pinion** and **Beaded Chestnut**.

*On 19th September Peter Hall and I trapped in Bernwood Forest* and amongst the species caught there were **Epinotia trigonella**, **Small Emerald**, **Grey Pine Carpet**, **Spruce Carpet**, **Light Emerald**, **Brick**, **Orange Sallow**, **Small Wainscot** (which was by far the most abundant moth seen) and **Oak Nycteoline**. Finding one Emerald species in Bucks during the second half of September was noteworthy, but getting two was completely unexpected!

*At Westcott on the 19th* I had a good selection of moths, comprising 44 species in all, but there was little of note apart from **Acleris rhombana** and **Dark Chestnut** which were first sightings for me for this autumn. As an experiment I ran both an MV trap (125wt) and an actinic trap (twin-30wt) in the garden for the two National Moth Nights. I got broadly similar results from each of them on the first night although with more species coming to the MV, but on the second night the actinic out-performed the MV by a significant margin (207 moths of 35 species compared to 155 of 30 species) which was not what I expected to happen."



Autumnal Rustic  
Photo © Dave Wilton



Bulrush Wainscot  
Photo © Dave Wilton



Light Emerald (top) &  
Small Emerald (bottom)  
Photo © Dave Wilton

**National Moth Night - Peter Hall ran traps in his garden in Ballinger, Bucks and also in York's Wood, Bucks on 19th September: "The catch in Ballinger was as follows:** Blastobasis adustella, Epiphyas postvittana, Acleris variegana, Acleris hastiana, Epinotia ramella, Nomophila noctuella, Common Marbled Carpet, Green Carpet, Brimstone Moth, Dusky Thorn, Large Yellow Underwing, Lesser Yellow Underwing, Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing, Small Square-spot, Setaceous Hebrew Character, Square-spot Rustic, Common Wainscot, Deep-brown Dart, Black Rustic, Brindled Green, Centre-barred Sallow, Lunar Underwing, Sallow, Copper Underwing, Svensson's Copper Underwing, Burnished Brass and Snout.

*The York's Wood trap produced:* Ypsolopha sylvella, Ypsolopha parenthesesella, Carcina quercana, Pandemis corylana, Acleris laterana, Acleris emargana, Apotomis betuletana, Epinotia ramella, Epinotia nisella, Common Marbled Carpet, Grey Pine Carpet, Spruce Carpet, Green Carpet, Brimstone Moth, Canary-shouldered Thorn, Dusky Thorn, Large Yellow Underwing, Lesser Yellow Underwing, Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing, Setaceous Hebrew Character, Square-spot Rustic, Black Rustic, Brindled Green, Centre-barred Sallow, Lunar Underwing, Sallow, Svensson's Copper Underwing, Small Wainscot, Oak Nycteoline, Burnished Brass, Silver Y and Snout."

**National Moth Night - Peter Hall and Martin Albertini ran a moth trap at Dancersend on 18th September with the following results:** Ypsolopha parenthesesella, Agonopterix arenella, Hypatima rhomboidella, Blastobasis adustella, Pandemis corylana, Pandemis cinnamomeana, Pandemis heparana, Acleris laterana, Acleris variegana, Apotomis betuletana, Epinotia ramella, Epinotia nisella, Common Marbled Carpet, Spruce Carpet, Green Carpet, Pretty Chalk Carpet, Brimstone Moth, Dusky Thorn, Large Yellow Underwing, Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing, Setaceous Hebrew Character, Square-spot Rustic, Common Wainscot, **Deep-brown Dart**, Brown-spot Pinion, Centre-barred Sallow, Lunar Underwing, Barred Sallow and **Pink-barred Sallow**.

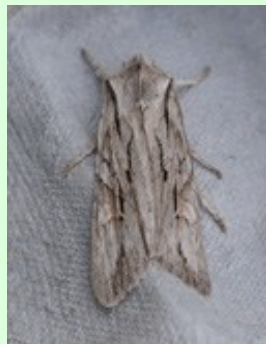
**David Redhead ran his garden moth trap in Littlemore, Oxon on 16th September:** "With the temperature falling to 8.4C, last night's garden moth trap (on 16th) produced just 9 macro-moth species but one was an addition to my 2009 garden list - **Large Wainscot**. The other species were **Large Yellow Underwing** (9), **Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing** (3), **Burnished Brass** (2), **Setaceous Hebrew Character** (2), **Small Square-spot** (2), **Snout** (2), **Square-spot Rustic** (2) and **Copper Underwing** (1)."

~ Wednesday 23rd September 2009 ~

**National Moth Night - Nigel Partridge reported the following: "Brown-spot Pinion, 18-09-09, Loosley Row, Bucks."**

**National Moth Night - Adam Bassett ran his garden moth trap in Marlow Bottom, Bucks:** "My traps for NMN were very uninspiring. My only migrant, which were the target, was 1 **Plutella xylostella (Diamond-backed moth)** on 18th September. **Acleris sparsana (18/9)** and **Barred Sallow (19/9)** were new for the year."

**National Moth Night - Derek Brown reported as follows:** "I had 19 species of macromoth in the garden at **Beenham (Berks)** on 18th September, including 3 new for the year: **Lunar Underwing**, **Oak Lutestring** and **Blair's Shoulder-Knot**."



Blair's Shoulder-knot  
Photo © Derek Brown



Oak Lutestring  
Photo © Derek Brown

**National Moth Night - Tom Stevenson ran his garden moth trap in Benson,**

**Oxon on 18th September:** "The results of moth trapping with my 25w Blacklight Blue Skinner trap in my garden on the night of **18th September** are as follows. No marked moths were found I am afraid: **Large Yellow Underwing 3, Brimstone 1, Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing 1, Rosy Rustic 1, Setaceous Hebrew Character 1, Lunar Underwing 2, Shuttle-shaped Dart 1 and Square-spot Rustic 1.**"

**Dave Maunder sent this update on 19th September:** "As well as the Lilac Beauty caught at my garden m.v. in **Aylesbury** on **17th** (see below), I also got:- **Large Ranunculus (1); Lunar Underwing (1); Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing (1); Large Yellow Underwings (15); Lesser Yellow Underwings (14); Angle Shades (1); Burnished Brass (1); Vine's Rustics (5); Setaceous Hebrew Characters (5); Willow Beauty (1); Common Marbled Carpets (2); Garden Carpet (1) and Light-brown Apple Moths (25+).** Also today, **19th September**, at security lamps near Fairford Leys football fields I found:- **Frosted Orange (1); Angle Shades (1) and Square-spot Rustic (1).**"



Lilac Beauty  
Photo © Dave Maunder



Frosted Orange  
Photo © Dave Maunder

**~ Friday 18th September 2009 ~**

**This news came from Dave Maunder on 17th September:** "I've just got a female **Lilac Beauty** at my garden m.v. trap in **Aylesbury** - is this known to be second brooded in Bucks?"

**Nigel Partridge sent the following on 17th September:** "One more for this year's list: **Large Ranunculus**, 16-09-09, Loosley Row."

**On 13th September Dave Wilton's garden trap at Westcott managed 208 moths of 40 species:** "It included **Dark Sword-grass (2)** and **Dusky-lemon Sallow (2)**, while the same date produced a **Red Underwing** at **Rushbeds Wood**. The sad state of the horse chestnut trees in this part of Bucks at the moment, partly due to **Cameraria ohridella**, reminded me that now is a good time to look for leaf mines created by some of the smallest micro-moth species. Many active mines of **Phyllonorycter coryli** (on hazel) as well as vacated mines of **Stigmella microtheriella** (on hazel) and **Caloptilia syringella** (on ash) were noted during a brief search of the small car park at **Rushbeds** on the **13th**. Found in the garden at **Westcott** on **16th September** were many active mines of **Lyonetia clerkella** (on cherry and blackthorn), **Phyllonorycter leucographella** (on pyracantha) and **Stigmella aurella** (on bramble) along with a couple of vacated mines of **Stigmella ulmivora** (on elm). The six small triangular "markings" just about visible on the first three segments behind the head of the caterpillar of **Lyonetia clerkella** illustrated below are actually its legs."





Stigmella aurella  
Photo © Dave Wilton



Lyonetia clerkella  
Photo © Dave Wilton

**Dave Maunder reported the following on 16th September:** "After seeing Dave Wilton's report of **Light Emerald**, I can report two recent sightings here in **Aylesbury**, one on **12th** and one on **14th September** at separate locations - my first autumn sightings of this species! Also seen recently were:- **Red Underwings** (3); **Orange Sallow** (1, 1st); **Centre-barred Sallows** (4); **Angle Shades** (2); **Pale Tussock larva** (1); **Buff-tip larvae** (3 batches)."

**~ Monday 14th September 2009 ~**

**Derek Brown sent this report today:** "On **Friday 11th September** I had a new moth for the year in the garden at **Beenham, Berks** and which doesn't seem to be on the UTB list to date, namely a **Mallow**."



Mallow  
Photo © Derek Brown

**Tom Stevenson ran two 25w blacklight blue traps at Ewelme, Oxon on 13th September:** "The traps produced: **Oak Hook-tip** 1, **Flame Shoulder** 1, **Green Carpet** 1, **Rosy Rustic** 2, **Centre-barred Sallow** 2, **Large Yellow Underwing** 4, **Common Wainscot** 4, **Setaceous Hebrew Character** 1, **Lesser Yellow Underwing** 1, **Smoky Wainscot** 1, **Six-striped Rustic** 1, **Willow Beauty** 1, **Common Marbled Carpet** 1 and **Lunar Underwing** 1."

**Alastair Driver sent the following reports:** "I set the moth trap in the garden at home in **Sonning, Berks** on **8th September**. Only caught 11 macro species, but new for my parish records was **Cypress Pug** and new for the garden list was **Barred Sallow**. On **12th September** I had a good trapping session at **Ali's Pond LNR**. Amongst the huge numbers of **Large Yellow Underwings** and **Square-spot Rustics**, were firsts of the year for me of **Black Rustic**, **Brindled Green**, **Rosy Rustic** and **Copper Underwing**."

**Adam Bassett says he had fairly usual fare in his Marlow Bottom, Bucks trap on September 11th: "Brindled Green and Frosted Orange** were new for the garden year list. A **Hummingbird Hawkmoth** visited the patio flowers briefly on *Sept 10th.*"

**Dave Wilton sent the following on 12th September:** "The last week hasn't produced much to write home about. In *Bernwood Forest on 8th September* the only noteworthy item was a **Light Emerald**, the first time I've recorded a second-brood specimen. Here at *Westcott on 9th September* I got my first **Sallow** of the year, while on *11th September* the garden trap managed a respectable 199 moths of 40 species but the only new one was a single **Lunar Underwing**. My first fresh **Red-green Carpet** of the autumn, a rather battered **Bordered Beauty** and another second-brood **Light Emerald** were the only other things of interest."

**David Redhead writes:** "On *Wednesday 9th September* I saw my second **Hummingbird Hawkmoth** of the year nectaring on a garden buddleia in *Church Lane, Kidlington, Oxon.*"

~ **Tuesday 8th September 2009** ~

**Adam Bassett sent this report today:** "3 **Black Rustics** were new for my *Marlow Bottom, Bucks* garden year-list on *September 7th*, whilst a single **Nomophila noctuella (Rush Veneer)** provided a bit of migrant interest. A very fresh looking **Hypsopygia costalis (Gold Triangle)** was also my first of the year, albeit a late one."

**Nigel Partridge had an Orange Sallow** come to his garden moth trap in *Loosley Row, Bucks* last night (7-09-09).

**Dave Wilton reported the following on 6th September:** "Another visit to the disused railway line east of *Winslow, Bucks* on *31st August* produced a pleasing 70 species from two traps, although the only ones which might still be new to the UTB list were **Centre-barred Sallow, Feathered Gothic** and **Pale Eggar**. Garden trap results here at *Westcott, Bucks* aren't brilliant at the moment, either in terms of diversity or overall numbers, and unlike previous years I don't seem to have been over-burdened with either Large Yellow Underwings or Square-spot Rustics yet. The overnight catch on *5th September* was fairly typical: **Swammerdamia sp** (1), **Hofmannophila pseudospretella/Brown House Moth** (2), **Blastobasis adustella** (3), **Epiphyas postvittana/Light Brown Apple Moth** (1), **Acleris variegana/Garden Rose Tortrix** (1), **Celypha lacunana** (2), **Nomophila noctuella/Rush Veneer** (1), **Eudonia angustea** (1), **Blood-vein** (1), **Yellow Shell** (1), **Common Marbled Carpet** (3), **Green Carpet** (1), **Double-striped Pug** (1), **Brimstone Moth** (3), **Flame Shoulder** (2), **Large Yellow Underwing** (9), **Lesser Yellow Underwing** (4), **Setaceous Hebrew Character** (18), **Square-spot Rustic** (29), **Common Wainscot** (3), **Black Rustic** (1), **Centre-barred Sallow** (1), **Orange Sallow** (1), **Copper Underwing** (1), **Svensson's Copper Underwing** (2), **Flounced Rustic** (2), **Frosted Orange** (4), **Burnished Brass** (4), **Silver Y** (2), **Beautiful Hook-tip** (1) and **Snout** (11). It was particularly nice to see Orange Sallow return after an absence of a couple of years, although with the larval foodplant (lime) present both in the garden and surrounding the adjacent churchyard in our village, it is perhaps odd that I don't see it more often. To take us past the 700 species milestone, Peter Hall has kindly confirmed another batch of (mostly) micro-moths caught by me earlier in the year: **Archips crataegana** (*Bernwood 22/6*), **Argyresthia glabratella** (*Chinkwell Wood 21/6*), **Argyresthia spinosella** (*Finemere 30/5*), **Clepsis consimilana** (*Westcott 1/6*), **Clepsis**

**spectrana** (Westcott 28/6), **Cnephasia asseclana** (Finemere 13/6), **Cochylimorpha straminea** (Bernwood Meadows 24/5), **Coleophora albidella** (Finemere 13/6), **Coleophora alcyonipennella** (Salden 24/5), **Coleophora alticolella** (Bernwood 22/5), **Coleophora caespititiella** (Finemere 30/5), **Coleophora discordella** (Salden 24/5), **Coleophora kuehnella** (Bernwood 22/6), **Coleophora lineola** (Bernwood 16/6), **Coleophora lusciniaepennella** (Chinkwell Wood 21/6), **Coleophora peribenanderi** (Westcott 9/6), **Elachista adscitella** (Chinkwell Wood 21/6), **Eudonia pallida** (Finemere 13/6), **Gypsonoma sociana** (Bernwood 22/6), **Mompha raschkiella** (Brill 28/5), **Olindia schumacherana** (Chinkwell Wood 21/6), **Paraswammerdamia nebulella** (Westcott 22/6), **Pempelia formosa** (Westcott 28/6), **Phyllonorycter coryli** (Bernwood 22/5), **Platyptilia gonodactyla** (Westcott 25/5), **Pseudosciaphila branderiana** (Finemere 13/6), **Strophedra nitidana** (Bernwood 16/6) and the macro **Wormwood Pug** (Westcott 19/6)."



Black Rustic  
Photo © Dave Wilton



Orange Sallow  
Photo © Dave Wilton

~ Sunday 6th September 2009 ~

**Adam Bassett sent this report on 4th September:** "A few new ones for my *Marlow Bottom, Bucks* garden year list - **Centre-barred Sallow** on *August 29th* and **Tawny Speckled Pug** and **Feathered Gothic** on *August 31st* - unfortunately with the latter, a hornet had got in the box and only left me its wings! **Svensson's Copper Underwing** on *September 3rd.*"

**Nigel Partridge sent the following from Loosley Row, Bucks on 3rd September:** "Last night (*2nd September*) was very wet and windy so I didn't consider it worth putting the trap out. I did put on the outside light though and amongst the few to arrive was this **Feathered Gothic**."



Feathered Gothic  
Photo © Nigel Partridge

***This news came from Ched George on 3rd September:*** "I had 12 **Feathered Gothic** to my *Radnage* trap in Bucks on *31st August*."

***Colin Williams reports that*** an evening BBOWT mothing session at their *Avery's Pightle reserve in Berks* on *1st September* produced 19 species including a single **Centre-barred Sallow**.

***John Ward-Smith reported the following on 1st September:*** "Whilst surveying for dragonflies yesterday, *31st August*, I came across a splendid caterpillar at *Swinley Brick Pits, Berks*. It was impressive in size and covering the ground at a really good speed for a caterpillar. I had no idea what it was but David White has kindly identified it as the **larva of Goat Moth**, a BAP priority species."



Goat Moth larva  
Photo © John Ward-Smith

**T**

***Jim and Colleen Watts had a Hummingbird Hawkmoth*** in their garden in *Whitchurch, Bucks*, early in the morning of *31st August*.

***Dave Wilton sent this report on 31st August:*** "On returning from holiday in Portugal at the weekend I received the good news that a "county first" for Bucks had been confirmed while I was away. On *13th August* in the grounds of *Waddesdon Manor* I'd caught what I thought might be a **Devon Carpet** and on *17th August* I trapped another in *Bernwood Forest*. Both specimens were sent to Peter Hall for inspection. They did indeed turn out to be that species and Peter himself has subsequently caught a possible third at Dancersend. The moth has previously been confined to the south and west of the UK (distribution maps for this and other macro-moth species are now available on the BC Moths Count Project web-site: go to [www.mothscount.org](http://www.mothscount.org) and click on the "Maps" tab). However, this year it seems to have crept stealthily into other areas, including Cumbria and Yorkshire as well as Bucks, so if you find a strange-looking Small Phoenix or what might appear to be a second-brood Water Carpet, take a second look (and, most importantly, a photograph!)."



Devon Carpet  
Photo © Dave Wilton

**Peter Hall reported the following:** "I had **Centre-barred Sallow** at *Dancersend in Bucks* on *27th August* and a **Feathered Gothic** on the same date. At *Black Park in Bucks* on *31st August*, new for this year were **Oak Lutestring**, **Neglected Rustic** and **Ypsolopha alpella**."



Oak Lutestring  
Photo © Peter Hall



Neglected Rustic  
Photo © Peter Hall

~ Sunday 30th August 2009 ~

**Ian Stevenson sent the following report:** "Just to let you know that whilst conducting a heathland rapid assessment at BBOWT's *Broadmoor Bottom Reserve* on *26th August*, we disturbed a **Heath Rustic**."

**Adam Bassett sent this report from Marlow Bottom, Bucks:** "I put my trap on after dark on *August 25th* and an hour later c10pm noticed a Footman on a nearby lounge window. Imagine my surprise in finding it was a **Hoary Footman**. I believe that this is the 3rd Bucks record following one in Chorleywood in September 2008 and one at the same site in August this year. **Six-striped Rustic** was also new for the garden list."



Hoary Footman  
Photo © Adam Bassett



Hoary Footman  
Photo © Adam Bassett

**On 24th August David Redhead saw his first Hummingbird Hawkmoth** of the year on the feral buddleias near his house in *Littlemore, Oxon*.

**Tom Stevenson sent this report on 28th August:** "This is the list from trapping at *Ewelme Watercress beds, Oxon* on *11th August* using a 125 W mv Skinner and two 25w Blacklight Blue Skinners under the supervision of Mike Wilkins: **Poplar Grey 2, Dun-bar 2, Agapeta hamana 1, Chequered Fruit-tree Tortrix 1, Light Brown Apple Moth 2, Brown China-mark 1, Mother of Pearl 6, Single-dotted Wave 2, Flame Carpet 1, Common Carpet 1, Yellow Shell 1, Lime-speck Pug 2, Tawny Speckled Pug 2, Treble-bar 1, Yellow-barred Brindle 1, Brimstone**

Moth 2, Dusky Thorn 2, Scalloped Oak 1, Willow Beauty 1, Poplar Hawk-moth 2, Sallow Kitten 1, Pebble Prominent 1, Swallow Prominent 1, Pale Prominent 1, Yellow-tail 1, Dingy Footman 1, Common Footman 1, Ruby Tiger 1, Shuttle-shaped Dart 4, Flame Shoulder 17, Large Yellow Underwing 28, Lesser Yellow Underwing 1, Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing 1, Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing 43, Least Yellow Underwing 2, Small Square-spot 1, Setaceous Hebrew Character 61, Champion 1, Brown-line Bright Eye 1, Clay 1, Common Wainscot 17, Dark / Grey Dagger 2, Copper Underwings 3, Mouse Moth 2, Straw Underwing 13, Dark Arches 1, Cloaked Minor 3, Common Rustic agg. 5, Rosy Rustic 1, Uncertain 2, Spectacle 3 and Straw Dot."



Flame Carpet  
Photo © Tom Stevenson



Sallow Kitten  
Photo © Tom Stevenson



Tawny Speckled Pug  
Photo © Tom Stevenson

~ Saturday 23rd August 2009 ~

**Dave Maunder sent this update on 22nd August:** "Here are some of my better sightings from the last few weeks here in [Aylesbury, Bucks](#) - **Coxcomb Prominent** (1); **Pale Prominent** (2); **Iron Prominent** (2); **Swallow Prominent** (2); **Poplar Hawk-moth** (1 - 18th); **Gold Spot** (1 - 6th - garden m.v.); **Old Lady moths** (3 - 20th - garden m.v.); **Bulrush Wainscot** (1 - 7th); **Magpie Moths** (2 - both in garden m.v.); **Lime Hawk-moth larva** (1 - on Cherry tree outside my house - Cherry not mentioned as food-plant in Skinner!); **Red Underwing** (1 - 2nd). [Also at Grangelands reserve on 9th August](#) I found 3 **Striped Lychnis larvae** - all fully grown. I've also reared a few Hawk-moth larvae to show my children (see photos below)."

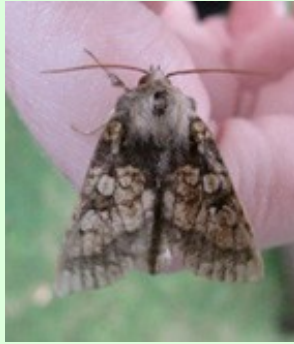


Eyed Hawkmoth larva  
Photo © Dave Maunder



Lime Hawk-moth (top) and Poplar Hawk-moth larvae  
Photo © Dave Maunder

**May Webber sent the following from Long Hanborough near Witney, Oxon on 20th August:** "I saw **Frosted Orange** wasn't on the species list for 2009. I think this may be it!"



Frosted Orange  
Photo © May Webber

**Adam Bassett ran his trap in Marlow Bottom, Bucks, for the first time in over 2 weeks on August 17th:** "I caught a rather uninspiring 75 macro moths of 30 species, of which 23 were **Large Yellow Underwings**. New year ticks were **Orange Swift, Pretty Chalk Carpet, Dusky Thorn, Pebble Prominent, Flounced Rustic** and **Old Lady**. Surprisingly, 1 Old Lady actually entered the trap, 1 ended up in the lounge and the other flew off! However, best of all was a **White-point**, which is a new addition to the garden list - picture below. Micros included **Caloptilia semifascia** which appears to be new for the UTB year list. On **20th August**, a **Hummingbird Hawk-moth** was nectaring on verberna in the garden in the evening."



White-point  
Photo © Adam Bassett

**Nigel Partridge reported the following:** "One more for this year's list - **Beech-green Carpet**, 17-08-09, Loosley Row, Bucks. Thanks to Peter Hall for confirming the ID."

**Dave Ferguson sent the following:** "I didn't know what this was when I first saw it flying at **Yoesden Bank** on **14th August**, but it turned out to be a **Yellow Shell** taken by a **Robber Fly**."



Robber Fly and Yellow Shell  
Photo © Dave Ferguson

**Alastair Driver trapped again at Ali's Pond LNR in Sonning, Berks on 13th and 14th August:** "I caught a total of 51 macro-species over the two nights. New for my parish records were **Crescent** and **White-point** and new for the site records were **Lesser Treble-bar** and **Maple Prominent**. Firsts for the year for me were **Swallow Prominent**, **Square-spot Rustic** and **Tawny Speckled Pug**."

**Ben Carpenter went to the Holies in West Berks on 14th August:** "I recorded 6 *Mecyna flavalis*, 7 **Silver-Y**, 2 **Lime-speck Pug**, 3 *Pyrausta purpuralis*, 1 *Pyrausta nigrata* and a **Pyrausta despicata** with one of these at Lardon as well."



*Pyrausta despicata*  
Photo © Ben Carpenter

**~ Saturday 15th August 2009 ~**

**Peter Horn sent the following sighting:** "Moth sighting **Sun 9 Aug 2009** - **Clouded Magpie** (resting) in the **Chess Valley** (Holloway Lane) nr Chenies, Bucks, TQ 02 98. Spotted by Heather Thomas and photographed by my son Jonathan on his mobile phone!"





Clouded Magpie  
Photo © Jonathan Horn

**Dave Wilton reported the following on 12th August:** "The trap list for my garden at *Westcott, Bucks on 10th August* was fairly typical of current results and included the following: **Bucculatrix thoracella** (1), **Phyllonorycter schreberella** (1), **Yponomeuta evonymella** (1), **Ypsolopha scabrella** (1), **Plutella xylostella** (2), **Epermenia falciformis** (1), **Hofmannophila pseudospretella** (1), **Carcina quercana** (3), **Agonopterix alstromeriana** (1), **Blastobasis adustella** (9), **Batrachedra praeangusta** (1), **Limnaecia phragmitella** (1), **Pandemis heparana** (5), **Epiphyas postvittana** (1), **Acleris forsskaleana** (1), **Acleris variegana** (1), **Celypha striana** (1), **Celypha lacunana** (1), **Epinotia nisella** (1), **Cydia splendana** (1), **Chrysoteuchia culmella** (2), **Crambus perlella** (1), **Agriphila straminella** (8), **Agriphila tristella** (12), **Catoptria falsella** (4), **Acentria ephemerella** (3), **Pleuroptya ruralis** (14), **Hypsopygia costalis** (1), **Trachycera advenella** (5), **Emmelina monodactyla** (1), **Blood-vein** (9), **Single-dotted Wave** (1), **Riband Wave** (6), **Shaded Broad-bar** (1), **Common Carpet** (2), **Yellow Shell** (1), **Purple Bar** (1), **Small Phoenix** (1), **Small Waved Umber** (1), **Lime-speck Pug** (1), **White-spotted Pug** (1), **Treble-bar** (1), **Lesser Treble-bar** (1), **Magpie** (2), **Brimstone** (35), **Canary-shouldered Thorn** (3), **Early Thorn** (1), **Willow Beauty** (7), **Common Wave** (4), **Poplar Hawk-moth** (1), **Swallow Prominent** (2), **Pale Prominent** (2), **White Satin** (1), **Dingy Footman** (14), **Common Footman** (1), **Shuttle-shaped Dart** (1), **Flame Shoulder** (53), **Large Yellow Underwing** (28), **Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing** (35), **Small Square-spot** (1), **Setaceous Hebrew Character** (6), **Six-striped Rustic** (1), **Smoky Wainscot** (2), **Marbled Beauty** (2), **Mouse Moth** (1), **Straw Underwing** (3), **Dun-bar** (1), **Dark Arches** (3), **Common/Lesser Common Rustic** (3), **Flounced Rustic** (1), **Ear Moth sp** (1), **Bulrush Wainscot** (1), **Nut-tree Tussock** (1), **Silver Y** (3), **Spectacle** (4) and **Straw Dot** (48). The Ear Moth will unfortunately require dissection to confirm the exact species, as will a number of additional micros which included my first probable **Dioryctria abietella** of the year. **Zelleria hepariella** was a new addition to the garden list on *3rd August*, while another visit to *Finemere Wood, Bucks on 11th August* produced little of interest although **Agonopterix liturosa** and **Hypatima rhomboidella** may still be new to the UTB list. Finally, the harbingers of autumn are starting to appear now. I got my first **Square-spot Rustic** of the year at *Waddesdon, Bucks on 13th August* and a **Rosy Rustic** at *Westcott on 14th August*. Having **Dark Sword-grass** to light on both of those nights was also a reminder to keep a particular eye open for migrant species from now on. The night of the *14th August* also produced my fourth garden **Gold Spot** of the year, unprecedented numbers for a species that last appeared here in 2006."

**Peter Hall reported the following recent sightings in Bucks:**

*"Dancersend 31st July:* **Argyresthia sorbiella**, **Yponomeuta sedella**.

*Ballinger Common August 3rd:* **Six-striped rustic**, **Trachycera suavella**.

*Aston Clinton Ragpits August 3rd: **Aethes smeathmanniana**.*

*Stoke Common August 5th: **Agriphila geniculea, Epinotia ramella, Agriphila inquinatella, Narrow-winged Pug, Dotted Clay**.*

*Ballinger Common August 9th: **Cypress Pug** (second county record), **Galleria mellonella**.*

*Dancersend August 10th: **Square-spot Rustic, Argyresthia bonnetella, Agonopterix liturosa**.*

*Ivinghoe Hills August 11th: **Antler, Agonopterix kaekeritziana**."*



Antler Moth  
Photo © Peter Hall

**~ Wednesday 12th August 2009 ~**

***This news just in from Colin Williams:*** "A group of BBOWT staff ran a mothing session overnight *Tues 11th August* at *Warburg NR, Oxon*. The obvious highlight was two **Square-spotted Clays**."

***David Redhead found a Red Underwing*** on his landing window in *Littlemore, Oxon* on Tuesday morning, *11th August*.

***Martin Albertini reported as follows on 10th August:*** "On *5th August* Peter Hall and I went to *Stoke Common, Bucks, SU9885* (heathland) during the very warm and humid period. Very quickly we had thousands of water boatmen to the lights, but moths were a bit slow to arrive. However, we ended up with 57 macromoths, including **Small Chocolate-tip**, which appears to be the first Bucks record for around 70 years. Better still was the pyralid moth **Pempelia genistella** which was the first record for Bucks. Both of these seem to be firsts for the UTB all time list, although they occur on the East Berkshire heaths. Other species of interest were: **Chevron, Dingy Shell, Peacock moth, Beautiful Yellow Underwing (first adult)**."

***This report came from Alastair Driver on 10th August:*** "Had a good session with the Robinson Trap at *Ali's Pond (Sonning, Berks)* on *8th August*, catching 36 macro species in total. **Square-spotted Clay** and **Birch Mocha** were new for my parish records. **September Thorn** was a new site record and firsts for the year for me were **Pebble Hook-tip, Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing** and **Mouse Moth**. Also in the trap was a *stramineola* form of **Dingy Footman**."



Pebble Hook-tip  
Photo © Alastair Driver



Square-spotted Clay  
Photo © Alastair Driver

**David Redhead sent the following report on 9th August:** "In spite of some overnight rain my garden moth trap (in [Littlemore, Oxon](#)) of the **5th August** produced twice the number of macro-moths as the one four nights earlier but the minimum overnight temperature was nearly 5 degrees C higher. The most numerous was the **Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing** with 14 and there were four additions to my 2009 garden list - **Lychnis, Straw Underwing, Svensson's Copper Underwing & Twin-spotted Wainscot.**

*On the following evening Eleanor Slade and I set up nine 6W Heath traps in the grounds of Tubney House, the headquarters of Oxford University WildCRU.* This was to produce some exhibits for an open day being held there the following day. We set them up in torrential rain and I left site at 6pm like a drowned rat, Eleanor did not get away until after 9pm as her car's alternator decided to take this moment to die. Later that evening and still in the pouring rain I set up my garden trap in the forlorn hope of augmenting what I feared would be a very meagre catch back at Tubney. It was still raining heavily when I went to bed at 11pm and there was still a touch of rain in the air when I opened my garden catch the next morning. To my amazement it was stuffed full of moths and I did not even have to delve too far to add another species to my 2009 garden list - **Black Arches.** Having picked Eleanor up on the way, the Tubney traps proved equally fruitful and the contents went down well at the open day with the two **Poplar Hawkmoths**, augmented by ten from my garden, proving a great hit - they are very good at sitting on people's fingers without getting too excited. The full content of the Tubney House traps was - Black Arches 5, **Brimstone** 5, **Chocolate-tip** (Eleanor's favourite) 3, **Common Carpet** 1, **Copper Underwing** 1, **Coxcomb Prominent** 1, **Dingy Footman** 7, **Drinker** 1, **Dun-bar** 5, **Ear** 4, **Flame Shoulder** 17, **Large Twin-spot Carpet** 3, **Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing** 3, **Lime-speck Pug** 1, **Mother of Pearl** 27, **Nut-tree Tussock** 2, **Poplar Hawkmoth** 2, **Red Twin-spot Carpet** 2, **Riband Wave** 1, **Ruby Tiger** 1, **Scalloped Oak** 1, **Scarce Footman** 1, **Silver Y** 2, **Small Phoenix** 2, **Snout** 2, **Straw Dot** 3, **Tawny-barred Angle** 1, **White-spotted Pug** 1, **Willow Beauty** 1.

Lastly, the **Ear Moths** trapped by the Shotover Wildlife Mothing Group on **13th, 16th & 18th July** (see my last report below) have been confirmed by Martin Townsend."

~ **Thursday 6th August 2009** ~

**Alastair Driver reported as follows on 6th August:** "I had a good session last night (**5th August**) with the Robinson trap in the garden at home in [Sonning \(Berks\)](#) - before the heavens opened again! New for my garden list was **Dingy Footman** and new for my yearlist were **Turnip Moth, Orange Swift, Straw Underwing, Flame Carpet, Lime-speck Pug, Yellow-tail, Shaded Broad-bar, Scorched Carpet** and **Dusky Thorn.**"

**Dave Ferguson sent the following on 5th August:** "Yesterday morning (4th August) Mrs F was gazing out of the kitchen window at the garden (*Beaconsfield, Bucks*), as is her wont, when she saw a Robin on the potting table picking up and dropping a large green grub. On inspection this proved to be the full-grown **larva of an Eyed Hawkmoth**. It seemed to be unharmed so I placed it near our apple tree and wished it luck. This is the first record for the garden."

**Chris Iles sent the following on 4th August:** "The photo below is of a possible **Hornet Moth workings** at *Binsey, Oxon*. Unfortunately I had left my lures at home in Somerset...!"



Hornet Moth workings?  
Photo © Chris Iles

**David Redhead says his overnight garden moth trap in Littlemore, Oxon on 1st August contained the lowest number of macro-moths since late May:**

"However it did add four species to my 2009 garden list - **Canary-shouldered Thorn**, **Crescent**, **Lesser-spotted Pinion** and **Lesser Yellow Underwing**. The remainder of my catch of 22 macro species and just 54 individuals was **Large Yellow Underwing** 7, **Dun-bar** 6, **Swallow Prominent** 6, **Dingy Footman** 5, **Small Phoenix** 4, **Common/Lesser Common Rustic** 3, **Copper Underwing** 3, **Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing** 3, **Buff Ermine** 2, **Chocolate-tip** 2, **Pale Prominent** 2 and singletons of **Dingy Shears**, **Flame Shoulder**, **Poplar Hawkmoth**, **Scalloped Oak**, **Single-dotted Wave**, **White Satin** and **Yellow-tail**. Meanwhile the micros put in their highest total to date for 2009 with a single **Small Magpie** being augmented by an estimated 175 **Mother of Pearl** (even so a pale shadow of my all time record of 500 on the 28th July last year).

*Another UTB 2009 first from the Oxford University WildCRU/Earthwatch project, caught in Stroud Copse on 19th July*, are two melanic **Maple Pugs** My garden trap on the 26th July contained a normal form. All three were recently identified by Martin Townsend.

*On the 19th July another trap to the east of Stroud Copse also produced* two **Least Yellow Underwing**. The field work for this project concluded at the end of July during which some 15,000 macro-moths were marked and released with recapture rates up to 7% being achieved. So detailed information has been obtained on the movement of some 900 moths across a fragmented woodland landscape.

*The Shotover Wildlife Mothing Group held their third session for 2009 from 12th July to 20th July during which 904 macro-moths were captured.* Two 6W Heath traps were run each of the nine nights with their position being varied between six strategically selected locations. Seven moths made up two-thirds of the catch - **Dun-bar** 223, **July Highflyer** 98, **Yellow-tail** 95, **Common Footman** 56, **Dingy Footman** 53, **Mottled Beauty** 44 and **Engrailed** 31. Of the other 67 species caught the most notable were 15 **Ear Moth** (pending confirmation of id) (13th, 16th & 18th), 4 **Grass Emerald** (12th & 16th July), 2 **Slender Pug** (17th & 18th), 3 **Scalloped Hook-tip** (12th & 15th) and 5 **Svensson's Copper Underwing** (17th)."

**Adam Bassett ran his moth trap in Marlow Bottom, Bucks, for the first time in 2 weeks on August 1st:** "Conditions weren't great and I only trapped 75 macro moths of 29 species. Of these, **Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing** and **Straw Underwing** were new year ticks, whilst **Barred Hook-tip**, **Mocha**, **Small Waved Umber** and **Lesser Swallow Prominent** were my first second generation. I have attached a picture (see below) of a rather peculiarly marked **Maiden's Blush**, showing a dark terminal band and a rather pretty micro, **Nemapogon clematella**, which was new to me - thanks to Martin Albertini for identifying this."



Maidens Blush  
Photo © Adam Bassett



Nemapogon clematella  
Photo © Adam Bassett

~ Sunday 2nd August 2009 ~

**Nigel Partridge, Loosley Row (Bucks) reported the following on 1st August:** "I was looking at this year's UTB moth species list and noticed that **Ypsolopha scabrella** isn't on there. My first record of this species for this year is 09-07-09."

**31st July - Dave Maunder saw these moths in Aylesbury (Bucks) recently:** "Of note were:- **Drinker moth** (1) - first I've found in Aylesbury for years! - also **Bulrush Wainscot** (2 - 1 on 16th, 1 on 28th); **Least Carpet** (1); **Poplar Hawk larva** (1); **Herald moths** (2, plus 3 larvae in various instars); **White Satin** (2); **Yellow-tail** (7) and **Dusky Sallow** (2)."



Bulrush Wainscot  
Photo © Dave Maunder



Drinker  
Photo © Dave Maunder

**Ben Carpenter reported the following on 27th July:** "I have managed to get round to sorting out my records for the last month or so. I have the following moths:  
My colleague, Dominic Woodfield took a trip up to the **Holies and Lardon Chase** on the **1st July** and encountered amongst other things, 1 **Mecyna flavalis** at the Holies.  
I took a trip up to the **Holies, Lardon Chase** and **Lough Down** on **16th July**. At the

Holies the following were found: at least 25 **Mecyna flavalis**. Lardon Chase revealed 2 **Silver-y's**.

Moths recently found in the garden at *Nuneham Courtenay (Oxon)* include:

*On the 21st July*, 1 **Endotricha flammealis**, 1 **Mother of Pearl**, 1 **V-Pug** and 1 **Red/Dark-barred Twin-Spot Carpet**.

*On the 22nd July*, 1 **Udea prunalis**.

*On the 23rd July*, 1 female **Bee Moth**

*On the 24th July*, 1 **Mother of Pearl**, 1 **Small Magpie**, 1 **Flame Shoulder** and 1 **Nut-tree Tussock**."



Mecyna flavalis  
Photo © Ben Carpenter

*Dave Wilton sent this update on 29th July*: "On *27th July* my garden trap at *Westcott, Bucks* produced **Nomophila noctuella (Rush Veneer)** and **Canary-shouldered Thorn** as new for the year, while on *28th July* **Udea lutealis** was found on the house wall by our outside light. That night Peter Hall and I trapped in *Bernwood Forest* and amongst the 120+ species caught were micromoths **Acleris laterana**, **Apotomis betuletana**, **Caloptilia alchimiella**, **Caloptilia stigmatella**, **Coleophora hemerobiella**, **Evergestis pallidata**, **Mompha propinquella** and **Ypsolopha scabrella**. Of interest amongst the larger moths were **Barred Rivulet**, **Large Emerald**, **Oak Eggar**, **Old Lady**, **Scalloped Hook-tip**, **Scarce Silver-lines** and **Waved Black**.



Barred Rivulet  
Photo © Dave Wilton



Oak Eggar  
Photo © Dave Wilton

"

Peter Hall has also kindly confirmed a batch of micromoths for me covering the first few months of this year and details of those still new to the UTB list are as follows: **Acleris hastiana** (*Westcott 23/2*), **Acleris kochiella** (*Westcott 25/2*), **Ancylis mitterbacheriana** (*Bernwood 22/5*), **Aproaerema anthyllidella** (*Westcott 13/5*), **Caloptilia falconipennella** (*Salden 30/3*), **Carpatolechia proximella** (*Bernwood 20/5*), **Cnephasia communana** (*Westcott 13/5*), **Coleophora albicosta** (*Bernwood 22/5*), **Cydia strobilella** (*Chinkwell 1/5*), **Elachista**

**apicipunctella** (Chinkwell 1/5), **Elachista humilis** (Bernwood 20/5), **Epiblema trimaculana** (Bernwood 22/5), **Epinotia subocellana** (Bernwood 20/5), **Epinotia tedella** (Westcott 2/4), **Epinotia tetraquetra** (Bernwood 22/5), **Heliozela hammoniella** (Finemere 15/4), **Incurvaria oehlmanniella** (Bernwood 22/5), **Lobesia reliquana** (Bernwood 20/5), **Mompha jurassicella** (Westcott 12/1), **Monopis laevigella** (Waddesdon 13/5), **Pammene fasciana** (Rushbeds 24/4), **Pammene germana** (Rushbeds 12/5), **Parornix anglicella** (Westcott 11/4), **Parornix finitimella** (Finemere 22/4) and **Phyllonorycter oxyacanthae** (Westcott 12/4). Illustrated below are the tiny gracillariid *Caloptilia falconipennella* from the disused railway cutting adjacent to Salden Wood and the tortrix *Cydia strobilella* from Chinkwell Wood at Brill. Both sightings were second county records for Bucks."



*Caloptilia falconipennella*  
Photo © Dave Wilton



*Cydia strobilella*  
Photo © Dave Wilton

~ Tuesday 28th July 2009 ~

**Nigel Partridge reported the following moth species on 27th July:** "I think this is another new one for this year's list - **Phyllonorycter spinicolella**, 20-07-09, *Loosley Row*. Thanks to Peter Hall for the ID."

**Dave Wilton sent the following update on 27th July:** "I've been a bit lax about sending in sightings lately, due mainly to being way behind with my "admin"! A wet day has enabled me to catch up and a brief scan through my trap lists suggests that the following Bucks sightings might still be new to the UTB list: **Ypsolopha nemorella**, **Brachmia blandella**, **Cydia splendana**, **Mere Wainscot** (all *Finemere Wood 10th July*); **Ypsolopha sylvella**, **Zeiraphera isertana**, **Scalloped Hook-tip** (all *Shabbington Wood 12th July*); **Bryotropha terrella** (*Westcott 13th July*); **Eucosma campoliliana** (*Westcott 15th July*); **Cloaked Minor** (*Oakley Wood 15th July*); **Acleris variegana**, **Acrobasis consociella**, **Agriphila tristella**, **Lobesia abscisana**, **Least Yellow Underwing** (all *Westcott 22nd July*); **Acleris emargana**, **Apotomis capreana**, **Epinotia nisella**, **Epinotia solandriana** (all *Rushbeds Wood 22nd July*); **Morophaga choragella**, **Ypsolopha vitella** (both *Chinkwell Wood 23rd July*); **Pandemis corylana** (*Finemere Wood 25th July*). Peter Hall tells me that *Ypsolopha vitella* is a good find for Bucks, possibly only the second county record. *Chinkwell Wood on 23rd July* also produced a most unexpected **Beautiful Snout**, the fourth known Bucks sighting of this heathland species in 2009 (and about as far as you can get in the county from its caterpillar's foodplants of bilberry and heather). With a decline of 97% between 1968 and 2002, the 2006 Butterfly Conservation and Rothamsted Research report into the state of Britain's larger moths placed the **Double Dart** at joint second place on its list of "endangered" moth species, so it has been gratifying to bump into several of them locally this season. Illustrated below are two of three individuals found along the disused railway line east of *Winslow on 2nd July*, while others were trapped at

*Dancersend on 4th July and Rushbeds Wood on 8th July."*



Scalloped Hook-tip  
Photo © Dave Wilton



Ypsolopha vitella  
Photo © Dave Wilton



Beautiful Snout  
Photo © Dave Wilton



Double Darts  
Photo © Dave Wilton

**~ Sunday 26th July 2009 ~**

**David Redhead's overnight garden moth trap in Littlemore, Oxon, on 24th July contained a **Bulrush Wainscot**, a UTB first for 2009.**

**Chris Iles had a late evening walk around Hartslock, Oxon, on July 22nd:** "Along with the butterflies, and the most interesting sighting, was a **Chalk Carpet** moth by the fence at the top of the orchid slope - not the sort of thing you come across every day."

**~ Wednesday 22nd July 2009 ~**

**David Redhead wrote as follows on 22nd July:** "I think I have overlooked reporting a 2009 UTB first - a **Dingy Shell** caught in my overnight garden moth trap (*Littlemore, Oxon*) on the *11th July* - an all-time first for my garden although I suspect I may have caught it before but dismissed it as an uncooperative micro - it is noted for never opening its wings whilst it is settled."

**Eleanor Slade reported the following on 22nd July:** "Another new moth from the WildCRU/Earthwatch traps - a **Straw Underwing** caught in the sheep fields around *Wytham, Oxon* on the night of the *20th July*. Other new ones for our traps were a **Dusky Sallow** caught on the *19th July* and an **Olive** on the *21st July*."

**Adam Bassett sent the following on 20th July:** "First **Hummingbird Hawkmoth** of the year feeding on our garden buddleia this morning in *Marlow Bottom, Bucks*. Also I ran the garden trap on *July 18th* and got 149 moths of 46 macro species. Nothing unusual, although both **Large Twin-spot Carpet** and **Purple Clay** were new for the garden list. **August Thorn** was still the most numerous, closely followed by **Dun-bar** and **Riband Wave**. New for the year list were: **Dwarf Cream**



Wave, Shaded Broad-bar, White-spotted Pug, Brown-line Bright-eye, Grey/Dark Dagger, Common Rustic egg and Silver Y and my first second generation Nut-tree Tussocks. The only new micro noted was *Ypsolopha dentella* (Honeysuckle moth)."

*Alastair Driver reported the following on 20th July:* "A few micros to belatedly report from my trapping session on *15th July* in Sonning (see report below) - many thanks to Peter Hall for help with the id - *Ypsolopha dentella*, *Catoptria pinella*, *Trachycera advenella*, *Parapoynx stratiotata*, *Celypha striana*, *Eucosma cana*, *Archips podana*, *Rhyacionia pinicolana*."



*Celypha striana*  
Photo © Alastair Driver



*Rhyacionia pinicolana*  
Photo © Alastair Driver

*Dave Ferguson reported as follows on 19th July:* "For the third year running a *Svensson's Copper Underwing* has roosted on our garage in *Beaconsfield, Bucks*. I also found a Mullein larva at *Grangelands* on *18th July*."



Mullein larva  
Photo © Dave Ferguson

*Nigel Partridge writes:* "Here is one more for the list: *Balsam Carpet*, *12-07-09, Loosley Row*. Thanks to Peter Hall for help with the ID."



Balsam Carpet  
Photo © Nigel Partridge

~ Thursday 16th July 2009 ~

*Alastair Driver sent this today, 16th July:* "Just back from a week's moth trapping on Bardsey Island, North Wales (218 Garden Tigers in the trap on one of the nights!). Moth numbers much more modest last night (*15th July*) here at home in *Sonning (Berks)*, but the variety was as good. Firsts for the year for me were Ruby Tiger, Least Carpet, Mottled Pug, Blood-vein, Single-dotted Wave, Maple Prominent, **Dusky Sallow** and Ear Moth agg. The latter was also a new garden record."

*Eleanor Slade sent the following on 15th July:* "Two more potential firsts for the UTB list from the WildCRU/Earthwatch traps are: **Lesser-spotted Pinion** caught on the night of *Sunday 12th in Stroud copse* and two fresh **Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwings**, one caught in *Stroud* the other on the southern edge of *Wytham woods* last night *14th July.*"

*Peter Hall reports that 8 people attended the moth event at Dancersend reserve on 4th July:* "The night was cooler than preceding nights, but in the end 194 species of moth were recorded – 70 micros and 124 macros and sleepy, but happy people left for home at around 4am with the birds singing. Daggers, Minors and quite a few micros were identified via dissection. Macros which are new to the UTB Species List are: **Grey Arches, Lappet, Rufous Minor** and micros: **Aethes rubigana, Ancyliis unculana, Cnephasia incertana, Cnephasia stephensiana, Coleophora flavipennella, Coleophora ibipennella, Elachista atricomella, Epiblema rosaecolana, Eulamprotes atrella, Gypsonoma dealbana, Helcystogramma rufescens, Nemapogon cloacella, Scoparia ambigualis, Scoparia subfusca, Stenoptilia bipunctidactyla, Stenoptilia pterodactyla, Thiotricha subocellea and Ypsolopa parenthesesella.**

*Also, on 10/7/2009 at Bradenham in Bucks,* I counted 22 **Striped Lychnis larvae**. It's slightly early for this moth, but I guess the warm weather has encouraged their growth. Many of the larvae were quite large."

*Colin Williams reports that a 'mothathon' was held at the BBOWT Warburg reserve in Oxon on Fri 10th and Sat 11th July:* "It produced a total of 119 species (103 macro and 16 identified micros). Highlights included August Thorn, Brown Scallop, Great Oak Beauty, Leopard Moth, Lunar-Spotted Pinion, Maple Prominent, Peach Blossom, Reddish Light Arches, Scorched Carpet, **September Thorn**, Short-cloaked Moth and Small Purple-barred."

~ Monday 13th July 2009 ~

*Mick & Wendy Campbell visited Homefield Wood in Bucks on 12th July:* "We were surveying the Silver-washed Fritillary colony but also checked some of the Dark Mullein plants. We only found one Striped Lychnis caterpillar though."



**Adam Bassett sent some more moth records from Marlow Bottom, Bucks:**  
**"July 10th - 203 moths of 54 macro species. The most interesting was probably the 47 August Thorns (picture of some below), which were probably recently emerged. Purple Thorn and Early Thorn were also my first of the second generation. New year ticks were: Leopard moth, Yellow Shell, Dingy Footman, Chinese Character, Slender Brindle, Clay, **Waved Black** and **Epinotia brunnichana**. Courtesy of Peter Hall the following 2 micros are currently new to the UTB year list: **Athrips mouffetella** and **Spilonota ocellana**."**



August Thorns  
Photo © Adam Bassett

**Dave Maunder sent the following:** "I've had 8 more specimens of Small Ranunculus here in **Aylesbury, Bucks** over the last week or so - 7 in my garden, on Valerian and Buddleia flowers (1 in moth trap) and one by a lamp in Fairford Leys - so, not such a rare species here this year, perhaps? A few other moths seen around here include:- Magpie (1); Sycamore (2); Peppered moths (3); Gothic (1); Silver y (4); Early Thorn (3); Scalloped Oak (3); Swallow-tailed moth (2); Poplar Grey (1); Buff Ermine (2) and a Diamond-back Moth on my Vipers bugloss at night."

**Nigel Partridge, Loosley Row, Bucks writes:** "One more for this year's list - **Small Scallop, 08-07-09.**"

**Eleanor Slade sent these reports:** "Another species not on the list yet is the **Bordered Beauty** - I caught one individual of this on the **3rd July** in a small fragment of woodland outside **Wytham (Oxon)** near the river. Also, the WildCRU/Earthwatch traps have generated another first - a **Double Lobed** caught on the **08/07/09** and a White Satin Moth. We also caught our first male Ghost moth. Notable captures for us overnight on **09/07/09** included Small Bloodvein, Privet Hawkmoth and a Lesser Yellow Underwing."

**~ Wednesday 8th July 2009 ~**

**David Redhead reported the following on 8th July:** "Some more moth trap reports from the Oxford University WildCRU/Earthwatch project in and around Wytham Woods. August Thorn caught in two traps on **5th July** and a Large Emerald in another trap. Two very early Copper Underwings were

caught on **30th June** but the actual species was not determined, a third caught on the **5th July** proved to be the **Copper Underwing (first adult).**"

**On 4th July at the Purple Emperor field meeting** Jim Asher spotted an Orange Moth in the rideside vegetation at Bernwood.



Orange Moth  
Photo © Jim Asher



Orange Moth  
Photo © Wendy Wilson

**Derek Brown had a new moth for his garden in Beenham, Berks:** "It was a **Sharp-angled Carpet** on the **19th June** (confirmed by Martin Harvey)."



Sharp-angled Carpet  
Photo © Derek Brown

**Martin Townsend reports that he had another Small Ranunculus** in his garden in **Littlemore, Oxon on 6th July**, this time on the door (about a metre from the Red Valerian!).

**Adam Bassett, Marlow Bottom, Bucks sent these moth records for July 3rd:** "165 moths of 52 macro species - usual stuff, but year ticks included: Buff Arches, Least Carpet, Single-dotted Wave, July Highflyer, **August Thorn** (I seem to get these regularly from the first half of July, although Townsend says they fly from mid August - September Thorn is much less regular here), Black Arches, Scarce Footman and Short-cloaked Moth. Also a *conversaria* form of Mottled Beauty."

**Mick A'Court sent these recent records on 5th July: 29/06/09 -** My Butlers Cross garden produced 40 macro species including 3 Swallow-tailed Moths, 3 Light Arches, 1 Beautiful Hook-tip, 1 Clay and 1 Small Angle Shades.

**01/07/09 -** My Butlers Cross garden produced 50 macro species including 1 Elephant Hawk Moth, 2 Large twin Spot Carpets, 1 Herald, 1 Lobster Moth, 1 Clay Triple Lines, 1 Purple Bar and an interesting Garden Carpet variation, see photo (thanks to Martin Harvey & Peter Hall for their comments on that one).

**04/07/09 -** Private wood in west Bucks produced 42 macro species including

1 Black Arches, 5 Small Dotted Buff, 6 Scalloped Oaks, 1 Early Thorn, 1 Dwarf Cream Wave, 1 Dingy Shears, 1 Olive Moth, 2 Lackeys and 1 Large Emerald."



Brown Scallop  
Photo © Mick A'Court



Garden Carpet variant  
Photo © Mick A'Court

**John Parsons visited Greenham Common, Berks, on 5th July:** and found caterpillars of **Beautiful Yellow Underwing** and **Cinnabar moth**.



Beautiful Yellow Underwing caterpillar  
Photo © John Parsons



Cinnabar caterpillar  
Photo © John Parsons

**Nigel Partridge ran his garden moth trap in Loosley Row, Bucks on 3rd July:** "Amongst the catch on **03-07-09** were the following, one of which I think is new for the list: *Hypsopygia costalis*, Small Blood-vein, Dingy Footman, Small Rivulet, **Marbled Beauty** and Common Lutestring."

**David Redhead writes:** "Another UTB first appears to be the **Black Arches** we caught in **Stroud Copse, Oxon**, on the **2nd July** - this beats the previous earliest UTB record for this species by a week (10th July 2008). All four traps in Stroud Copse contained at least one Scarlet Tiger Moth and one contained six - further proof of what a good season this species is having."

**Peter Hall sent the following reports:** "The recent warm weather resulting in balmy nights, proved excellent moth trapping conditions. The following species are new to the UTB list:

**Ballinger 28th June:** ***Agriphila straminella*, *Argyresthia goedartella*, *Argyresthia pruniella*, *Emmetia marginata*, *Eudemis profundana*, *Phycita roborella*.**

**Dancersend 29th June:** **Common Lutestring, *Argyresthia retinella*, *Cochylis hybridella*, *Hedya ochroleucana*.**

**Bradenham 30th June:** **Dark Dagger (via dissection), Grey Dagger (via dissection), Pine Hawk, Royal Mantle, True Lover's Knot, *Ancylis achatana*, *Argyresthia albistria*, *Cochylis dubitana*, *Coleophora deauratella*, *Eucosma hohenwartiana* (group), *Platyptilia paliodactyla*, *Ptycholomoides aeriferanus*,**

**Ypsolopha sequella.**

**Bacombe Warren 28th June:** Large Emerald, Red-necked Footman, Satin Beauty, Merrifieldia baliodactylus, Pandemis cinnamomeana, Pempeliella dilutella, Sophronia semicostella, Teleiodes luculella.

**Aston Clinton Ragpits 2nd July:** Acleris forsskaleana, Caloptilia robustella, Metzneria lappella, Paratalanta hyalinalis."

~ Sunday 5th July 2009 ~

**Dave Wilton sent these sightings on 3rd July:** "Identifying the garden moth-trap results here at **Westcott, Bucks** during the recent heat-wave has been a time-consuming activity. Not that I'm complaining, mind you! On 28th June there were 1,090 moths of 160 species in the Robinson, while on 30th June there were more but I've no idea how many. The moths refused to settle and counting proved impossible with many being lost each time I tried to extract an egg-tray. Species from **28th June** which may still be new to the UTB list included **Lyonetia clerkella**, **Yponomeuta evonymella**, **Carcina quercana**, **Blastodacna hellerella**, **Acleris holmiana**, **Rhopobota naevana**, **Calamatropha paludella**, **Hypsopygia costalis**, **Conobathra repandana**, **Small Blood-vein**, **Grey Pug** and **Olive**, while those from **30th June** included **Batia lunaris**, **Limnaecia phragmitella**, **Phycitodes binaevella** and Small Emerald. On **2nd July** I recorded this year's first Hummingbird Hawk-moth and **Vapourer** in the garden during the daytime. While we were having our evening meal outside on **3rd July** a single Scarlet Tiger paid a visit to our lime tree which is currently in flower and attracting a variety of insects. Two Scarlet Tigers in a week (the other came to the trap on the 28th) may not be quite as impressive as Martin Harvey's sightings in his local pub garden but they were very welcome nonetheless, considering that I've never before seen the species locally since we moved here nine years ago! **A three-hour trapping session along the disused railway line east of Winslow on 2nd July produced** 108 macro species and somewhere in excess of 60 micro species. Best of the bunch were Chimney Sweeper, Maple Prominent and Double Dart, while **Acleris bergmanniana**, **Sitochroa palealis**, **Shaded Broad-bar**, **Small Rivulet**, **Magpie**, Lesser Yellow Underwing, Slender Brindle and **Small Wainscot** were also new for me for the year. The Chimney Sweeper is normally a day-flying species so maybe the light was situated close to its chosen roosting site (a Small Skipper also entered one of the traps). It was nice to be able to count 18 "glow-worms", females of the beetle Lampyris noctiluca, along the old track-bed."

**Martin Albertini reports:** "There was a **Beautiful Snout** in the **Burnham Beeches, Bucks** (SU9484) Rothamstead trap **1 July 2009**. This is an unexpected site for it as the larvae are bilberry feeders so it is probably a wanderer from the East Berks heaths. The only sites in Bucks where you'd expect to find it are in the NE on the sandy heaths where there is lots of bilberry."

**Adam Bassett writes:** "This one is currently new to the 2009 UTB list, I found an **Old Lady moth** in **Marlow (Bucks)** this morning, **3rd July**. Unfortunately it was a road casualty."

**Eleanor Slade sent the following on 2nd July:** "On an African theme - on the night of **Tuesday 30th June** the Earthwatch/WildCRU traps caught a Leopard moth and a **Shark** and last night (**1st July**) an Elephant Hawk-moth and a Garden Tiger. Both nights we also caught several **Slender Brindles** and on

the **30th June** a **Lesser Yellow Underwing**, which might be new to the list I think. One of my team also thought that they caught a Copper Underwing, which we will try and confirm for sure."

**David Redhead ran his moth trap overnight on the 30th June in Littlemore, Oxon:** "My Robinson moth trap was mysteriously interfered with and the cover was slightly misplaced - the local fox family (four cubs) are the suspected culprits - but it still contained over 240 macro-moths from 68 species. New to my garden list for 2009 were Blue-bordered Carpet, Coronet, Currant Pug, Engrailed, Gold Spot, Miller, Pinion-streaked Snout, Scarce Footman, Shears, Sycamore, White Satin and Yellow-tail. It also contained 10 Scarlet Tiger moths - we are now regularly seeing them in the garden and lane but getting double figures in the moth trap is unprecedented (previous maximum 2). Also my first Mother of Pearl arrived - just four but I will run my coming traps with apprehension at the numbers that I might have to estimate. **On 1st July** I ran my 15W Heath trap on the edge of the marshland near our house and it caught what you might expect - 8 Southern Wainscot, 5 Drinker Moth and 1 Obscure Wainscot. The exception to the rule was a Buff Arches, although there are some brambles (one of its foodplants) growing on the edge of the marshland."

**The Oxford University WildCRU/Earthwatch project continues to be a great success and is coming up with some interesting catches and recaptures:** Four 6W Heath traps strategically placed around **Stroud Copse** (a southern outlier of Wytham Woods) on the night of **28th June** produced the following 35 unequivocal macro-moth species: Barred Straw, Beautiful Hook-tip, Blackneck, Blotched Emerald, Blue-bordered Carpet, Brimstone Moth, Burnished Brass, Clouded Brindle, Common Emerald, Common Footman, Common Wainscot, Coronet, Dark Arches, Dingy Shears, Double Square-spot, Drinker, Dun-bar, Engrailed, Flame Shoulder, Heart & Dart, Herald, July Highflyer, Large Yellow Underwing, Light Emerald, Mottled Beauty, Peach Blossom, Riband Wave, Scarlet Tiger, Single-dotted Wave, Small Fan-foot, Smoky Wainscot, Snout, Swallow-tailed Moth, Turnip Moth, Yellow-tail. Other traps, in and around **Wytham Woods**, have produced the following potential firsts for the 2009 UTB list: **26th June - Dingy Footman (first adult), 28th June - Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing, 29th June - Muslin Footman, Sandy Carpet, Endotricha flammealis, Euzophera pinguis and Pleuroptya ruralis (Mother of Pearl).**

**Colin Williams sent the following report on 1st July:** "I've been intending to submit records for some time, so here goes. As BBOWT's Reserves Ecology Officer, I occasionally have the opportunity to trap on our reserves.

**The most recent session was at Warburg, Oxon on 26/06/09:** 55 species trapped in one MV Robinson trap. Highlights: 37 Buff Arches, 2 Pretty Chalk Carpet, 15 Beautiful Hook-tip, 2 **Great Oak Beauty** (several recent records from the reserve), 1 Peach Blossom, 2 Small Yellow Wave, 1 Lunar-spotted Pinion, 1 Lilac Beauty, 2 Blotched Emerald.

**Also a trap 30/06 in my back garden in Cowley, Oxford.** A staggering 63 species in one MV Robinson trap - previous highest count for garden was 33 species! Highlights: 34 !! Scarlet Tiger Moth - there seems to be a real strong population of the species in this part of Oxford. I see many in flight over the garden during the day. **Small Emerald**, Scarce Silver Lines, Sycamore, Cabbage Moth, Clay, Small Dusty Wave, Miller, Light Arches, Small Fan-footed Wave. Also 3 moths still potted to identify."

~ Wednesday 1st July 2009 ~

***Martin Harvey writes:*** "The Scarlet Summer continues! Reports of Scarlet Tiger seem to be coming in from lots of areas this year. This evening Nina and I were at the Bernard Arms in Great Kimble and there were at least half-a-dozen Scarlet Tigers floating round the pub garden. It seems that this new colony is well-established in the village. A fantastic sight and I can thoroughly recommend the pub as a place to moth-watch at leisure!"

***Over the weekend Adam Bassett, Marlow Bottom (Bucks) trapped 340 macro moths of 61 species:*** "Both **Scarce Silver-lines** on **26th June** and **Golden Plusia** on **27th June** were new for the garden. In addition, the following were year ticks: **June 26th:** Peach Blossom, Common Emerald, Phoenix, Dark Umber, Lilac Beauty, Scalloped Oak, Swallow-tailed Moth, Iron Prominent, **Buff Footman**, Common Footman, Flame, Dot Moth, Light Arches, Reddish Light Arches, Beautiful Hook-tip. **June 27th:** Scorched Carpet, Dun-bar."



Scarce Silver Lines  
Photo © Adam Bassett



Golden Plusia  
Photo © Adam Bassett

***Derek Brown sent this report on 28th June:*** "Several new moths for the year in our garden at **Beenham (Berks)** this weekend including a Phoenix which is new for the garden list. I also had a Rosy Footman. First I've seen for a few years."



Rosy Footman  
Photo © Derek Brown

***Tom and Ian Stevenson ran two moth traps overnight at Ewelme Watercress beds Local Nature Reserve on 27th June:*** "Both traps were 25w blacklight blue energy saving bulbs. Of interest when putting them out at dusk we were entertained by about 20 Ghost Moths "dancing" over a small meadow. The results of the trapping were: Barred Straw 4, Barred Yellow 1, Beautiful Hook-tip 1, Bright-line Brown Eye 1, Brown Rustic 2, Buff Ermine 1, Buff Tip



1, Burnished Brass 1, Clouded Border 1, Common Footman 3, Common Swift 1, Common Wainscot 6, Coronet 4, Dark Arches 2, Dot Moth 1, Flame 3, Flame Shoulder 3, Green Pug 1, Heart and Dart 2, Hebrew Character 1, Ingrailed Clay 9, Large Fruit Tortrix 1, Large Yellow Underwing 7, Light Emerald 1, Minor (agg.) 1, Poplar Grey 1, Ruby Tiger 1, Rustic Shoulder-knot 1, Small Magpie 1, Small Square Spot 1, Spectacle 1, Treble Lines 1, Turnip 1, Uncertain 4 and Willow Beauty 4. A total of 75 moths of 35 species."

*Alastair Driver had a personal record-breaking night with the Robinson trap at Ali's Pond LNR in Sonning on 26th June:* "I trapped 48 macro species, pipping the 47 species trapped at the same location on 17th June 2006. New for my parish records were July Highflyer and Pale-shouldered Brocade and new for the site was Common Emerald. Firsts for the year for me were Light Arches, Dun-bar, Miller, **Pine Carpet**, Small Fan-foot, Bird's Wing, Peppered Moth, Mottled Beauty, Light Emerald, Fan-foot, Buff Arches, Burnished Brass, Double Square-spot, Dark Dagger agg, Common White Wave, Dark Sword-grass, Uncertain, Sycamore, Angles Shades, Clay and Rustic."

*Nigel Partridge sent the following from Loosley Row in Bucks: "16-06-09, **Acentria ephemerella**. Thanks to Peter hall for the ID on this one, it had me stumped. 26-06-09, **Archips xylosteana**."*

*David Redhead sent the following on 27th June:* "It was no surprise that last night's (26th June) garden moth trap in *Littlemore, Oxon*, produced my best catch of the year to date with 199 macro-moths from 59 species with a Lunar-spotted Pinion being an all-time first for my garden. It was nice to see a Lobster Moth and a Lilac Beauty again, as I have only ever caught them both once before. The rest of the macros were Mottled Beauty (19), Snout (17), Uncertain/Rustic (16), Light Emerald (13), Dingy Shears (11), Double Square-spot (11), Flame (11), Beautiful Hook-tip (6), Burnished Brass (6), Buff Arches (5), Dun-bar (5), Riband Wave (5), Flame Shoulder (4), Smoky Wainscot (4), Treble Brown Spot (4), Barred Straw (3), Large Yellow Underwing (3), Mottled Rustic (3), Small Fan-footed Wave (3), Straw Dot (3), Blood-vein (2), Brimstone Moth (2), Common White Wave (2), Garden Carpet (2), Green Arches (2), Heart & Dart (2), Poplar Grey (2), **Single-dotted Wave** (2) and singletons of Bright-line Brown-eye, Buff Ermine, Clouded Border, Common Emerald, Common Footman, Common Wave, Drinker, Fan-foot, Green Pug, Heart & Club, July Highflyer, Light Arches, Marbled Minor agg, Middle-barred Minor, Pale Prominent, Peach Blossom, Peppered Moth, Poplar Hawkmoth, Shuttle-shaped Dart, Small Square-spot, Spectacle, Spruce Carpet, Swallow-tailed Moth, Tawny-barred Angle, Turnip Moth, V Pug and Willow Beauty. Also some pyralids, **Ebulea crocealis**, *Eurrhpara hortulata* (12), **Phlyctaenia coronata**, *Udea Olivalis* (9) and **Udea Prunalis**. My 15W Heath trap on the edge of the nearby marshland caught Drinker (2), Mottled Beauty, Southern Wainscot and **Scoparia pyralella**.

*Eleanor Slade supplied another first sighting for the UTB 2009 Species List from the Oxford University WildCRU/Earthwatch Project in and around Wytham Woods - a **July Highflyer** caught on 20th June."*