Butterfly Conservation Upper Thames Branch

Moth Sightings Archive - July to December 2010

~ Friday 31st December 2010 ~

Final Moth Species Count for 2010 = 909 (449 Macro moths, 460 Micros)

The following is Dave Maunder's final moth report for 2010: "Moths seen around Aylesbury, Bucks in late December were:- Mottled Umbers (2), Winter moths (66); Pale Brindled Beauty (1 - in my garden trap on 29th December)."

Dave Wilton sent this final round-up of moths for 2010: "Apart from the occasional Winter Moth, the only species seen here at Westcott, Bucks between my last report and the end of the year was a single December Moth which came to the lights of our conservatory windows on 30th December. Having belatedly realised that my species tally for Oakley Wood in Bernwood Forest was stuck on 399 for the year and with a night above freezing in prospect, on 31st December I took the Robinson trap to the main Oakley Wood car park and ran it there from 4.30 until 6.30pm to try and add at least one more new species. This was more than achieved, with five species being recorded: December Moth (1), Winter Moth (45), Northern Winter Moth (2), Mottled Umber (8) and Chestnut (2). A torchlight search of nearby oak trunks produced a further 96 Winter Moths, including three pairs 'in cop' and two other solo females. Roughly 10% of the males had malformed wings, something that may perhaps have been a side effect of all the snow and unusually severe temperatures over the previous few weeks.



Winter Moth female Photo © Dave Wilton

Peter Hall has continued to supply me with additional identifications of unknown micromoths trapped earlier in the year (thankfully, from his point of view, a task that has now been completed!). Moths new to the UTB list from here at *Westcott* were Phyllocnistis unipunctella (18th July), Phyllonorycter platanoidella (21st July), Opostega salaciella (1st August), Argyrotaenia ljungiana (7th August), Bryotropha affinis (11th August) & Phyllonorycter messaniella (23rd September), while from Bernwood Forest were Ectoedemia occultella, Stigmella sakhalinella (both 4th June), Ectoedemia subbimaculella (23rd June), Phyllonorycter ulmifoliella (1st July), Ectoedemia angulifasciella (7th July), Ectoedemia longicaudella (29th July), Coleophora saxicolella, Phyllonorycter quercifoliella, Stenoptilia bipunctidactyla (all 7th August), Ectoedemia

atrifrontella, Phyllonorycter salicicolella, Phyllonorycter trifasciella, Stigmella roborella (all 16th August) & Epinotia trigonella, Stenolechia gemmella (both 24th August). Caught elsewhere in Bucks were Bucculatrix ulmella (31st July) & Ypsolopha sylvella (30th September) in Finemere Wood; Cochylis molliculana & Euleioptilus carphodactyla (both 22nd August) in Moulsoe Old Wood; Cosmiotes consortella, Phyllonorycter oxyacanthae & Dichrorampha simpliciana (all 8th August) at Pilch Fields; Ectoedemia intimella (27th June), Phyllonorycter corylifoliella (30th July) & Cnephasia genitalana, Dioryctria abietella, Oegoconia quadripuncta (all 30th July) in Whitecross Green Wood; Eucosma obumbratana (3rd August) in Whitfield Wood."

Alastair Driver sent this sighting from Sonning, Berks on 21st December: "I found this freshly emerged but very unseasonal Evergestis forficalis (Garden Pebble) in my kitchen on 6th December. I suspect it emerged from the soil in a Poinsettia plant pot I had bought from a local garden centre the previous day, probably sensing that my kitchen temperature was akin to that of an English garden in August!"



Evergestis forficalis Photo © Alastair Driver

Adam Bassett reported the following on 20th December: "Thanks to Peter Hall for confirming a further batch of moths from the summer, all from my garden at Marlow Bottom, Bucks. There are a few that are new to the 2010 UTB list:

Acrocercops brongniardella (9 July), Coleophora coracipennella (9 July), Tinea pellionella (15 July) and Phyllonorycter messaniella (1 November)."

~ Sunday 19th December 2010 ~

Ched George sent this report on 18th December: "Peter Hall has just checked a moth that I gave him to look at after the Bucks Invertebrate Group (BIG) meeting at Radnage, Bucks, on 20th August and he has identified it is a Dioryctria sylvestrella (male), a first for Bucks."

This update came from Dave Maunder on 17th December: "Plenty more moths to report from Aylesbury, Bucks over the last week, although not many species! Winter moths (71); Scarce Umber (1); Mottled Umbers (4); Grey Shoulder-knot (1). Also on 12th December I ran my garden m.v. trap and got December moth (1) and a Winter moth. The milder spell of last weekend helped boost my December count a lot! Below is a photo of two particularly nicely marked Motted Umbers."



Mottled Umbers

Photo © Dave Maunder

The following update came from Dave Wilton on 13th December: "The very brief improvement in the weather on Saturday 11th December, tempted me to run an actinic trap in the garden here at Westcott, Bucks. The lamp was lit from dusk until 11pm, after which the skies cleared and the temperature plummeted below freezing once more, but in that time I was pleased to get quite a reasonable catch: December Moth (4), Mottled Umber (2) and Winter Moth (28, the largest number I've ever seen in the garden). Peter Hall is still working his way through some of the more "difficult moths" that I trapped earlier in the year and he has now confirmed a number that were trapped during July, of which guite a few are new to the UTB list. From Westcott were Acleris kochiella, Coleophora sternipennella (both 8th July), Agonopterix conterminella, Coleophora hemerobiella, Gelechia senticetella (all 18th July), Acleris aspersana (21st July) & Coleophora versurella, Gelechia rhombella (both 26th July). Elsewhere in Bucks, from Bernwood Forest were Anacampsis blattariella, Carpatolechia alburnella (both 7th July), Coleophora spinella, Gelechia nigra, Syncopacma larseniella, Trachycera suavella (all 11th July), Zeiraphera ratzeburgiana (20th July) & Ypsolopha alpella (29th July), from Leaches Farm were Cnephasia longana, Cnephasia pasiuana & Gelechia sororculella (all 6th July), from Moulsoe were Anacampsis populella, Eana incanana, Eudonia mercurella, Ypsolopha horridella (all 19th July) and from Pilch Fields were Lesser Common Rustic, Coleophora taeniipennella, Grapholita janthinana, Lobesia abscisana, Monochroa lucidella (all 9th July)."

Dave Maunder reported a few more moths from Aylesbury, Bucks on 11th December: "I didn't think I'd be sending you any more sightings this year after all this sub-zero weather, but after last night's brief rise in temperature to a heady 6 centigrade, I took a cycle-ride to Hartwell and back from Aylesbury on 11th December and found a good selection of overnight road casualties, which consisted of:- Brick moths (6 - late specimens!); Scarce Umbers (2) and Winter moths (8). This was a method of finding moths I perfected in my youth before I was able to drive! More moths found around Aylesbury this morning (11th) were:- Scarce Umber (1) and Winter moths (12). Amazing what a slight rise in temps will produce! Incidentally, I put out my garden m.v. lamp last night, but didn't get one moth!"

On 11th December Tom Stevenson sent the following from Benson, Oxon: "With the recent freeze I had given up on moths for 2010 but a Winter Moth was attracted to the lit hallway last night, 10th, trying to gain access."

~ Sunday 28th November 2010 ~

This update came from Dave Wilton yesterday, 27th November: "The last reasonable trapping session in the garden here at Westcott, Bucks was on 12th November when I got Caloptilia stigmatella (1), Agonopterix arenella (1), Blastobasis lacticolella (1), Acleris ferrugana (1), Acleris schalleriana (1),

December Moth (1), Red-green Carpet (2), Winter Moth (6), Feathered Thorn (1), Blair's Shoulder-knot (1) & Yellow-line Quaker (1). 13th November was a much chillier night and brought in only **December Moth** (1), **Winter Moth** (1), Scarce Umber (1) & Sprawler (1). I haven't run the trap since then and have seen only Mompha subbistrigella, an example found indoors on 18th November. plus Mottled Umber (18th November), December Moth (19th November) and Winter **Moth** (22nd November) all of which were singletons attracted to window lights after dark. However, Peter Hall has been busy identifying further moths for me from late June and early July and the following are new to the UTB list: from *Westcott* were Coleophora glaucicolella (26th June), Bryotropha senectella, Grapholita funebrana (both 28th June), Common Rustic, Eucosma conterminana (both 30th June), Satyr Pug, Coleophora ibipennella (both 4th July) and Coleophora prunifoliae, Ephestia parasitella (both 6th July); from Bernwood Forest were Valerian Pug & Carpatolechia notatella (both 1st July); recorded at Whitecross Green Wood were Coleophora discordella, Endothenia ustulana, Exoteleia dodecella & Piniphila bifasciana (all 27th June); seen at Whitfield Wood were Argyresthia glaucinella, Elachista adscitella, Epinotia signatana, Paraswammerdamia nebulella & Phtheochroa inopiana (all 2nd July). Valerian Pug is a notable species, for which there are only a handful of records from our three counties, while Argyresthia glaucinella was only the second county record for Bucks. There are also few Bucks records for Epinotia signatana, possibly because it is a fairly non-descript tortrix that could at first glance be confused with the more common Zeiraphera isertana."





Argyresthia glaucinella Photo © Dave Wilton

Epinotia signatana Photo © Dave Wilton

Dave Maunder reported the following on 22nd November: "A few more moths seen over the last week in Aylesbury, Bucks include:- Satellite moth (1); Yellow-line Quaker (1); Feathered Thorn (1); Winter moths (15 - most seen on 19th/20th); Emmelina monodactyla (1); Scarce Umber (1). Also on Saturday night, 20th November, I ran my garden m.v. lamp not expecting anything and got:- December moth (1), and a Scarce Umber - both firsts for my little suburban garden!"



From left: Scarce Umber & December Moth Photo © Dave Maunder

lan Stevenson reported the following on 8th November: "We have been accidentally using our porch light at the Warburg Nature Reserve, Oxon to do a spot of moth trapping and on 05/11/10 had 6 Plumed Prominents, a December moth, November moth spp, Mottled Umber and lots of Sprawlers including the interesting olive-brown coloured variation."





Plumed Prominent Photo © Ian Stevenson Photo © Ian Stevenson

Sprawler

Dave Wilton's latest updates are as follows: "My garden seems to have let me down for once! The night of 1st November here at Westcott, Bucks brought a massive fall of leaves from our garden lime and the sheet under the trap disappeared from view. The only moths caught were Blastobasis lacticolella (2), Acleris variegana (1), Feathered Thorn (3), Chestnut (1), Yellow-line Quaker (1), Beaded Chestnut (3) & Pale Mottled Willow (1), although there were loads of caddis, diptera and hymenoptera. I've yet to see December Moth in the garden this year; that and the slim possibility of Northern Winter are the only macros I'm likely to add now so the list here will probably be terminated at 275 for 2010. While that is one more than last year's total, making it the highest for four years, it is still not a patch on the 297 of 2006.

On 4th November a short visit to Kingswood, Bucks to search amongst fallen aspen leaves for mines of Ectoedemia argyropeza proved successful and four active larvae were brought home. It must be an under-recorded moth in the county because this was the first reported Bucks sighting since 1922! In addition, a single active larva of Stigmella atricapitella was found in a mine on a fallen oak leaf in the same area of Kingswood. It is believed that the larvae of these and some other leaf-mining micro-moth species use bacteria to fool a section of the decaying leaf into remaining photosynthetically active and thus continue to provide nourishment for them even after the leaf has fallen, hence the "green islands" visible in the photographs below.







Photo © Dave Wilton

Further ID confirmations have been received from Peter Hall of moths I sent to him for checking and several are new to the UTB list, taking us well past the target for 2010. Thanks to Peter, from my garden in Westcott, Bucks I can now add

Phycitodes maritima (2nd June), Coleophora alcyonipennella (8th June), Nematopogon metaxella, Paraswammerdamia albicapitella (both 11th June), Sloe Pug (16th June), Cochylis hybridella (20th June) and Argyresthia pygmaeella, Coleophora anatipennella, Epinotia abbreviana (all 24th June). Trapped in nearby *Finemere Wood* were **Epiblema cirsiana**, **Parornix betulae** (both 5th June) and Argyresthia semifusca, Bactra furfurana, Cedestis subfasciella, Coleophora kuehnella, Gypsonoma sociana, Monochroa lutulentella, Tischeria ekebladella (all 21st June). Pilch Fields near Great Horwood produced Coleophora striatipennella (9th June), Bernwood Forest added Aethes cnicana, Coleophora flavipennella, Elachista gangabella, Epinotia fraternana (all 17th June) and Rufous Minor, Coleophora albidella, Coleophora lusciniaepennella, Coleophora orbitella, Coleophora serratella, Gypsonoma oppressana (all 23rd June), while Moulsoe brought Scoparia basistrigalis (25th June). Bernwood continues to deliver exciting discoveries in that Epinotia fraternana is another new species for Bucks while Elachista gangabella is only the second record for the county."







Epinotia fraternana Photo © Dave Wilton



Sloe Pug Photo © Dave Wilton

David Redhead's first overnight garden moth trap of November (1st) in Littlemore, Oxon produced quite a good haul: "I had at least three additions to my 2010 garden list - three Yellow-line Quaker and singletons of December Moth & Grey Pine Carpet. This brings my 2010 macro-moth garden species list to 213 - an all-time record. Most numerous was Feathered Thorn with 13 and the also rans were Brick (3), Red-green Carpet (2), Spruce Carpet (2) and singletons of Large Wainscot & Red-line Quaker. There were also nine November Moth spp of which three males were microscopically examined - all turned out to be the November Moth. Two nights later (3rd November) the catch was much reduced but included my 214th macro-moth species of the year with two Scarce Umber. This morning, 12th November, I recorded the 215th macro-moth species for my garden in 2010 with a Sprawler sitting on our kitchen window. It was on the window most sheltered from the ferocious south-west wind during the night and was only the second time I have recorded it."

~ Tuesday 2nd November 2010 ~

02/11/10 - Dave Maunder reports that he's seen a few more moths over the last week or so in Aylesbury, Bucks: "They include:- Red Underwing (1, 20th October); Sallow moths (3); Brick moths (2); Grey Shoulder-knot (1); Blair's Shoulder-knots (3); Red-line Quakers (2); Green-brindled Crescent (1); Vapourer moth (1, 31st October); Large Yellow Underwing (1, 2nd November); Feathered Thorns (2); November moth sp. (6); Winter moth (1, 2nd); Brimstone moth (1, 20th); Emmelina monodactyla (1) and Light-brown apple moth (1)."

Dave Wilton sent this update on 31st October: "The last two weeks of trapping

at Westcott, Bucks have produced only one new species for the year, Acleris sparsana on 27th October. Unusually for me, I ran the garden trap for five days in a row between 26th and 30th October. Only about a dozen different species appeared each night but by the end of those five sessions the combined total had reached a pleasing 27 species: Agonopterix heracliana, Agonopterix arenella, Scrobipalpa costella, Blastobasis lacticolella, Acleris sparsana, Acleris variegana, Acleris hastiana, Red-green Carpet, November Moth sp, Feathered Thorn, Figure of Eight, Turnip, Large Yellow Underwing, Setaceous Hebrew Character, Sprawler, Black Rustic, Blair's Shoulder-knot, Merveille du Jour, Satellite, Chestnut, Brick, Red-line Quaker, Yellow-line Quaker, Beaded Chestnut, Barred Sallow, Sallow & Pale Mottled Willow. Thanks to Peter Hall, another batch of moths caught by me during two visits to Bernwood Forest in early June has now been confirmed and they include some very interesting species: Coleophora peribenanderi, Platyptilia gonodactyla & Strophedra nitidana (all Shabbington Wood on 2nd June) and Dark Dagger, Ancylis upupana, Caloptilia alchimiella, Capua vulgana, Cydia indivisa, Epinotia subocellana, Eucosma hohenwartiana, Eucosmomorpha albersana, Pseudotelphusa scalella & Triaxomera fulvimitrella (all Oakley Wood on 4th June). There are less than half a dozen previous Bucks records each for Eucosmomorpha albersana, Pseudotelphusa scalella, Strophedra nitidana & Triaxomera fulvimitrella, while the only previous Bucks record for Ancylis upupana is an undated one from the Victoria County History. As for the tortrix Cydia indivisa, it was not only a first for the county but a first for the UK too. Discerning readers may notice the similarity in appearance between this moth and Grapholita internana (see report for 19th October below) but we can assure you they are completely different species with completely different larval foodplant requirements. Such are the delights of trying to identify micro-moths!"





Ancylis upupana Photo © Dave Wilton

Cydia indivisa Photo © Dave Wilton

~ Wednesday 20th October 2010 ~

This came from Dave Wilton on 19th October: "There has been very little to report from mid-Bucks over the past week and in any case we're fast running out of possible new species now! On 9th October I had Pale November Moth confirmed at Pilch Fields near Great Horwood, followed on 13th October by an Autumnal Moth here at Westcott, while last night (18th October) my first Sprawler of the season joined 16 other species in the garden trap. Peter Hall has been hard at work over his microscope, though, so thanks to him I have some more micro-moths to add from late-May: Phyllonorycter coryli & Stigmella floslactella (both Moulsoe 23rd May), Cnephasia communana, Nematopogon schwarziellus & Rhyacionia pinivorana (all Whitecross Green 25th May), Epiblema costipunctana & Grapholita internana (both Greatmoor 28th May) and Epiblema scutulana (Doddershall wildflower meadows, Bucks, 30th May). Grapholita internana, which I found active during the daytime in some numbers on gorse, was a county first for





Epiblema costipunctana Photo © Dave Wilton

Grapholita internana *Photo* © *Dave Wilton*

Dave Maunder reported the following sightings on 16th October: "More autumnal moths caught in my garden trap in Aylesbury, Bucks two nights running this week were:- Pink-barred Sallow (1); Barred Sallow (1); Chestnut (1); Beaded Chestnuts (2); Red-line Quakers (3); Yellow-line Quaker (1); Green-brindled Crescent (1); Blair's Shoulder-knots (13); Pale Mottled Willow (1); Burnished Brass (1); Large Yellow Underwings (6); Lesser Yellow Underwing (1); Feathered Thorn (1); November Moth sp. (1); and Light-brown Apple Moths (4). Other moths seen at lights in Aylesbury include:- Sallow Moths (5); Brick Moths (3); Blair's Shoulder-knots (3); Angle Shades (1); Lunar Underwing (1); Common Marbled Carpet (1); November Moth sp. (6); Mottled Umber (1, an early specimen on 13th); Willow Beauty (1); Feathered Thorn (1)."

~ Wednesday 13th October 2010 ~

Karen Roberts sent the following on 9th October: "I put the trap out last night here in Penn, Bucks and identified the following with help from Peter Hall (I sent him some photos). Barred Sallow (3), Blair's Shoulder Knot, Chestnut (2), Yellow-line Quaker and Spruce Carpet."

Dave Maunder reported these moth sightings on 9th October: "I've had a couple of good nights trapping in my small suburban Aylesbury, Bucks garden the last two nights, the results being:- Black Rustics (6); Beaded Chestnuts (2); Barred Sallow (1); Sallows (5); Pink-barred Sallow (1); Red-line Quakers (2); Yellow-line Quakers (3); Lunar Underwing (1); Green-brindled Crescent (1); Blair's Shoulder-knots (6); Setaceous Hebrew Characters (4); Lesser Yellow Underwings (2); Large Yellow Underwings (12); Pale Mottled Willow (1); Canary-shouldered Thorn (1); Feathered Thorns (4); Red-green Carpet (1); Common Marbled Carpet (1); Pine Carpet (1); Garden Carpet (1); Willow Beauty (2); Diamond-back Moths (2); Gold Triangle (1); Light-brown Apple Moths (10). Some other moths seen at local lights include:- Red Underwing (1); Brick Moths (6); Barred Sallow (1); Sallow Moths (4); Pink-barred Sallow (1); Green-brindled Crescent (1); Angle Shades (2); Lunar Underwing (1); Blair's Shoulder-knots (3); Vapourer Moths (2); Mallow Moth (1 - The first I've seen in Aylesbury since the 70's!); Feathered Thorn (1); and Brimstone moth (1)."



Black Rustics Photo © Dave Maunder

Keith Mitchell sent this report on 9th October: "Last night (8th October) my garden trap in Stoke Goldington, Bucks revealed 2 Yellow-line Quaker, 49 Setaceous Hebrew Character, 4 Blair's Shoulder-knot, Barred Sallow, 10 Black Rustic, 7 Large Yellow Underwing, 2 Lesser Yellow Underwing, 4 Beaded Chestnut, Angle Shades, Vine's Rustic, Silver 'Y', Shuttle-shaped Dart and 2 Lunar Underwing."



Yellow-line Quaker Photo © Keith Mitchell

Dave Wilton sent this update on 9th October: "Amongst the moths new to this year's garden list at *Westcott, Bucks* over the last week have been **Yellow-line** Quaker on 4th October followed by November Moth (id confirmed) and Feathered **Thorn** both on *5th October*. Numbers have dropped off quite significantly now although there are still plenty of species out there on suitable nights. The full list for 7th October is fairly typical: Epiphyas postvittana (1), Acleris variegana (3), Hypsopygia costalis/Gold Triangle (1), Red-green Carpet (1), Common Marbled Carpet (4), Feathered Thorn (1), Turnip (2), Dark Sword-grass (1), Large Yellow Underwing (7), Lesser Yellow Underwing (2), Setaceous Hebrew Character (17), Square-spot Rustic (2), Common Wainscot (3), Black Rustic (1), Blair's Shoulder-knot (1), Green-brindled Crescent (1), Satellite (2), Redline Quaker (2), Yellow-line Quaker (1), Brown-spot Pinion (1), Beaded Chestnut (14), Lunar Underwing (10), Barred Sallow (1), Pink-barred Sallow (4), Sallow (1), Dusky-lemon Sallow (1), Rosy Rustic (1), Pale Mottled Willow (1) & Burnished Brass (1). The Brown-spot Pinion is only the second example ever seen in the garden, which seems odd for a supposedly common moth, while the Dark Sword-grass was an aberrant individual. Both are illustrated below. I ran a couple of traps on a farm near *Tingewick*, *Bucks* that same night and different species caught there were Blastobasis lacticolella, Epinotia nisella, Acleris rhombana, Eudonia pallida, November Moth, Willow Beauty, Shuttle-shaped Dart, Deep-brown Dart, Merveille du Jour, Brick, Frosted Orange, Beautiful Hook-tip & Snout. Further species seen in the garden trap at Westcott on 8th October included Acleris emargana, Celypha lacunana, Figure of Eight, Broadbordered Yellow Underwing, Brindled Green & Silver Y."





Brown-spot Pinion
Photo © Dave Wilton

Dark Sword-grass

Photo © Dave Wilton

David Redhead sent the following report on 8th October: "The first night of Shotover Wildlife's (Oxon) October session on 7th October produced just 14 macromoths from two 6W actinic traps - a surprisingly low total considering the mild night. The 12 species were Autumnal Rustic, Black Rustic, Chestnut, Common Marbled Carpet, Feathered Thorn, Green-brindled Crescent, Grey Pine Carpet, Grey Shoulder-knot, Lunar Underwing, Mottled Umber, Satellite & Snout."





Autumnal Rustic

Photo © David Redhead

Grey Shoulder-knot Photo © David Redhead

~ Thursday 7th October 2010 ~

David Redhead sent the following report on 6th October: "Last night's overnight garden moth trap (5th October, Littlemore in Oxon) produced my best ever return for October with 54 macro-moths from 21 species including two additions to my 2010 garden list - a Brick and three Red-line Quaker. Others were Large Yellow Underwing (10), Sallow (8), Snout (7), Pink-barred Sallow (4), Black Rustic (2), Blair's Shoulder-knot (2), Burnished Brass (2), Lunar Underwing (2), Redgreen Carpet (2), Setaceous Hebrew Character (2) and singletons of Angle Shades, Barred Sallow, Beaded Chestnut, Brown-spot Pinion, Bulrush Wainscot, Common Marbled Carpet, Frosted Orange, Satellite and Turnip. Frosted Orange seems to be having a good year as this is the eighth I have caught as opposed to my usual annual total of one or two. The Bulrush Wainscot was again a male (see photo) - until this year I had only ever caught females but both this year's garden specimens have been males as was the one I caught at Harcourt Arboretum."



Bulrush Wainscot m. *Photo* © *David Redhead*

~ Sunday 3rd October 2010 ~

David Redhead sent this update on 1st October: "I have two double centuries to report. On the 15th September Marc Botham, Richard Comont and myself ran 3 MV lights at the Harcourt Arboretum, Oxon and added four macro-moth species to the site list to bring the macro-moth total to 200, accumulated from 8 sessions over the last year. The additions were **Bulrush Wainscot, Centre-barred Sallow, Orange Sallow & Sallow.** One of the Orange Sallows was attracted to one of Marc's wine ropes from which, after a prolonged stay, it eventually fell to the ground where it was observed walking round in circles. Three subsequent overnight moth traps in my garden have added ten macros to my garden year list bringing the current total to 205. The additions were: 17th September - Sallow; 26th September - Barred Sallow, Beaded Chestnut, Brown-spot Pinion, Lunar Underwing & Pink-barred Sallow; 30th September - Black Rustic, Blair's Shoulder-knot, Dark Chestnut & Large Wainscot. The Dark Chestnut is also an addition to my all-time garden list and is my tenth new species of the year."



Orange Sallow Photo © David Redhead

Chris Bottrell reports that on 20th June in his garden at Merton, Oxon he trapped an unidentified crambid moth which has subsequently been confirmed by Martin Corley to be Sclerocona acutellus, a county first for Oxfordshire. It is an adventive species imported on reeds from central Europe. Chris has subsequently found out that a local thatcher stores material quite close by so this may well prove to be where the moth came from."



Sclerocona acutellus Photo © Chris Bottrell

This catchup was received from Dave Wilton on 29th September: "I've still been getting quite good numbers of moths to the garden trap at Westcott, Bucks on those nights where the temperature has remained above 10C, even if it has rained. Between 20 and 30 species and usually more than 100 individuals has been the norm over the past ten days or so. **Setaceous Hebrew Character** continues to appear in good numbers and has now overtaken **Heart and Dart** to become the garden's best performer this year, although Large Yellow Underwing is having a late surge and will give them both a run for their money. Autumn species added to the garden list for 2010 over the period have included Satellite & Beaded Chestnut (both 20th September), Barred Sallow (21st), Red-line Quaker (23rd), Red-green Carpet & Grey Shoulder-knot (both 26th), Blair's Shoulder-knot & Brindled Green (both 27th) and Green-brindled Crescent (first adult) (28th). Second-brood examples of Common Marbled Carpet, Lilac Beauty, Willow Beauty & Beautiful Hook-tip are now visiting the trap and I had another Light **Emerald** on the 27th. A trapping session in the car-park at Whitecross Green Wood, Oxon on 28th September produced nearly all of the expected autumn species as well as 16 examples of Figure of Eight. A late Oak Hook-tip was the only surprise."

Keith Mitchell reported the following on 28th September: "I was astonished to find attracted to my front door lights in ideal mothing conditions in Stoke Goldington, Bucks on 25th September, a Webb's Wainscot. This is a Nationally Scarce B moth; I can only find one other record on the UTB website (Aug 2008: Berks), so it was a major surprise. Its larvae are reputed to feed internally on the stems of Yellow Iris, Reed-mace and other water plants. We do have a small stream (ditch) which goes through the garden, with Water Parsley and Water Figwort close by, so it could be a local breeder. Thanks to Peter Hall and Martin Albertini for confirming the id and providing these Bucks stats: 26 records in the database, but only 6 sites, most records from Milton Keynes area. Earliest is 1978, but the majority are 2004 to date."







Webb's Wainscot Photo © Keith Mitchell

Nigel Partridge sent this sighting on 26th September: Blair's Shoulder-knot, 24-09-10, Loosley Row, Bucks.

Helen Hyre sent the following from Bierton, Bucks on 26th September: "On 25th September I was mowing the lawn at 5.30pm and suddenly came upon an Elephant Hawkmoth larva. Fortunately it made itself very obvious and I avoided it. Later it decided to move off again. This is my first sighting of 2010, normally there would have been more by now."



Elephant Hawkmoth larva Photo © Helen Hyre

This update came from Dave Wilton on 23rd September: "I've nothing new to report, but Peter Hall has kindly furnished me with some micro-moth confirmations from various sites in Bucks trapped earlier in the year. The following are new to this year's UTB list: Ancylis diminutana (Moulsoe 23rd May), Elachista apicipunctella (Westcott 5th May), Elachista canapennella (Westcott 28th April), Elachista humilis (Bernwood 18th May), Epinotia immundana (Finemere 19th May), Epinotia tedella (Bernwood 18th May), Epinotia tetraquetrana (Finemere 19th May), Eriocrania unimaculella (Rammamere Heath 24th April), Monopis weaverella (Westcott 20th May), Pammene regiana (Moulsoe 23rd May), Parornix anglicella (Bernwood 18th May), Parornix finitimella (Finemere 27th April), Phyllonorycter harrisella (Bernwood 18th May), Pseudococcyx posticana (Moulsoe 23rd May) and Swammerdamia caesiella (Bernwood 28th April)."







Pammene regiana Photo © Dave Wilton

On 22nd September Dave Maunder reported a few more moths found in Aylesbury recently: Sallow moths (5); Frosted Orange (2); Bordered Beauty (1); Flounced Rustic (1); Common Wainscots (3). Also in my garden m.v. trap I've caught:- Old Lady moth (1); Frosted Orange (1); Sallow Moth (1); Large Ranunculus (2); Feathered Gothic (1); Pale Mottled Willow (1); Lunar Underwings (2); Square-spot Rustics (4); Vine's Rustic (1); Turnip Moths (3); Orange Swift (1); Garden Rose Tortrix (2); Light-brown Apple Moths (16) and Small Dusty Wave (1)."





Sallow moths
Photo © Dave Maunder

Frosted Orange Photo © Dave Maunder

~ Monday 21st September 2010 ~

Nigel Partridge reported the following on 20th September: "A few more records from our garden in *Loosley Row, Bucks.* Some of these species are already on the list but these are my first sightings of the year.

17-09-10 - Large Ranunculus, Pale Mottled Willow, Deep-brown Dart.
18-09-10 - Beaded Chestnut, Caloptilia semifascia, Agonopterix purpurea.
Thanks to Peter Hall for confirming the ID of the last two.
19-09-10 - Brick, Barred Sallow, Brown-spot Pinion."

This report came from Dave Wilton on 20th September: "After several days of low overnight temperatures, during which my garden catches at *Westcott, Bucks* showed a marked reduction in moth numbers, things improved on 18th September when more than 30 species came to the actinic trap. They included a healthy selection of micros for the time of year: Plutella xylostella/Diamond-back Moth (1), Aproaerema anthyllidella (1), Archips podana (1), Epiphyas postvittana (1), Acleris rhombana (1), Acleris ferrugana/notana (1), Celypha lacunana (1), Epinotia nisella (1), Grapholita funebrana (1, but will need microscopic examination to confirm), Eudonia angustea (1), Hypsopygia costalis/Gold Triangle (1), Emmelina monodactyla (1), Garden Carpet (1), Brimstone Moth (1), Light Emerald (1, the second year in a row that I've had a second-brood example here), Turnip (3), Dark Sword-grass (1, the 11th garden specimen since 19th August), Large Yellow Underwing (38), Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing (1), Setaceous Hebrew Character (28), Square-spot Rustic (7), Common Wainscot (17), Deep-brown Dart (1), Black Rustic (3), Lunar Underwing (18), Pink-barred Sallow (1), Sallow (4), Dark Arches (1), Flounced Rustic (1), Pale Mottled Willow (1), Silver Y (1) and Snout (1). The night of 19th September was rather breezy so there were fewer micros to the trap, but the larger moths more than made up for it. Additional species comprised Mallow (1), Canary-shouldered Thorn (1). Lesser Yellow Underwing (4). Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing (3), Bright-line Brown-eye (1), Large Ranunculus (1, a firsttime visitor to the garden), Brick (1), Centre-barred Sallow (1), Dusky-lemon Sallow (1), Copper Underwing (1), Rosy Rustic (1), Frosted Orange (1) and Vine's Rustic (2)."





Large Ranunculus Photo © Dave Wilton

Mallow Photo © Dave Wilton

Tim Watts reported the following: "We saw a **Hummingbird Hawkmoth** on 19/09/10 in a friend's garden in *Waddesdon*, *Bucks."*

Dave Maunder sent this update on 18th September: "A few more moths seen in Aylesbury, Bucks this week include:- Red Underwings (2); Frosted Orange (1); Sallow moths (2); Centre-barred Sallow (1); Lunar Underwings (5); Large Ranunculus (1); Vine's Rustic (1); Small Dusty Waves (2). Below is a photo of this year's pupae I've reared to teach my 8-year old son his moths - he's learning fast, and very interested! It includes 7 Privet Hawk-moth 2 Eyed Hawk-moth, 1 Poplar Hawk-moth, 1 Elephant Hawk-moth and 2 Striped Lychnis."



Moth pupae (see details above) Photo © Dave Maunder

Mary Elford reported the following: "On 12th/13th and 18th/19th September there was a Large Rununculus in my garden trap here in Bampton, Oxon – definitely not the same one!"



Large Rununculus Photo © Mary Elford

Ched George recorded his first Black Rustic and Sallow of 2010 at MV in Radnage, Bucks on September 9th.

Dave Wilton sent the following reports: "Having bemoaned the lack of migrant moths recently (see 6th September report), things improved on 9th September when my garden actinic trap at Westcott, Bucks was visited by a rather weary-looking Vestal. The same night produced my first Lunar Underwing of the season, while on 10th September Dusky-lemon Sallow was added to the list. Finally, on 12th September, another three "new" species came to the garden trap: Deepbrown Dart, Sallow and Large Wainscot."



Vestal Photo © Dave Wilton

This report came from David Redhead on 11th September: "To date September has produced the following local observations:

Sunday 5th - My overnight garden trap in Littlemore, Oxon produced the second highest total of macro-moths for this year with 250 individuals from 26 species. The most numerous was Large Yellow Underwing with 68 and 16 Centre-barred Sallows set an all-time record. Two additions to my 2010 garden list were Dark Sword-grass & Bulrush Wainscot. The latter had me puzzled for some time as it was the first male I had ever caught and for some reason I forgot to photograph it! Thursday 9th - An unsuccessful visit to Otmoor to see a Brown Hairstreak did result in a Satellite crawling about in the grass - transferred to a nearby bramble bush for a photograph.

Friday 10th - The macro-moth numbers were disappointing in my overnight garden moth trap, considering the mildness of the night, with just 99. Still a general lack of autumnal moths although the 9 **Centre-barred Sallows** caught were all extremely faded. A second generation **Small Fan-footed Wave** was a surprise."



Satellite Photo © David Redhead

~ Thursday 9th September 2010 ~

Alastair Driver sent this report today: "Had trapping sessions at Ali's Pond LNR in Sonning, Berks on 3rd and 4th September - I caught 16 macro spp each night. New for my year list were Lesser Yellow Underwing and Centre-barred Sallow on the 3rd September and Rosy Rustic and a beautiful fresh Orange Sallow on the 4th September. I also note that Nymphula stagnata (Beautiful China-mark) is not on your year list yet and I trapped a single of that species at home in Sonning on 2nd September."

Adam Bassett sent the following from Marlow Bottom, Bucks: "A trap on September 3rd was full of Large Yellow Underwings and Square-spot Rustics. The only new moth for my year list was a single Brindled Green."

A further update from Dave Maunder, sent on 7th September: "A few more moths seen in Aylesbury since Saturday 4th September include:- Red Underwings (2); Small Ranunculus (1 - a late, possibly 2nd brood specimen, as it was in pristine condition); Chinese Character (1) and Centre-barred Sallow (1)."





Red Underwing Photo © Dave Maunder

Small Ranunculus

Photo © Dave Maunder

Keith Mitchell reported as follows on 7th September: "At about 5 pm on 4th September, I was intrigued by a very small "Crane Fly" flitting around the Brunnera leaves in my garden (Stoke Goldington, Bucks). On a closer look the flight pattern was a bit more erratic and moth-like. The insect alighted on a leaf. It was obviously a plume, but with a wing-span of less than 2cm. As I had no hope of making a snap id, I rushed to get my camera and rattled off a couple of record shots before it took off never to be seen again. Having enlarged the image, and compared wing patterns from the UK Moths website, I realised that I could be looking at Amblyptilia punctidactyla, a species which has not been reported to the UTB website before. Care has to be taken over confusion with Amblyptilia acanthadactyla, a much commoner species, so I sent a photo to Martin Albertini who provisionally confirmed my initial id. The id was later confirmed by Colin Hart, the national plume recorder. It turned out to be only the second record for Bucks. Key identification features include a greyer base colour to the wing (as opposed to rufous) plus marked white speckling on the proximal end to the forewing leading edge; both of which can be seen in the photo. The moral of the story must be, 'Don't confine your mothing to the contents of your light trap.' I do have lots of Hedge Woundwort in my garden, the main larval foodplant of both punctidactyla and acanthadactyla. I trapped a classic Amblyptilia acanthadactyla a day later (5th Sept), so it appears that the two species can live side-by-side. Maybe punctidactyla is under-recorded in this region?"



Amblyptilia punctidactyla Photo © Keith Mitchell

Dave Maunder sent this update on 7th September: "A few more moths from recent times here in *Aylesbury, Bucks* include:- from my garden trap on *2nd* **September** - **Old Lady moth** (3); **Centre-barred Sallow** (2); **Feathered Gothic** (1);

Dark Arches (2); Large Yellow Underwing (39); Lesser Yellow Underwing (13); Vine's Rustic (3); Silver Y (2); Square-spot Rustic (10); Flounced Rustic (4); Setaceous Hebrew Character (8); Turnip Moth (2); Dusky Thorn (1); Riband Wave (2); Small Dusty Wave (2); Brimstone Moth (3); Willow Beauty (5); Garden Carpet (2); Small Magpie (1); Mother of Pearl (1); Carnation Tortrix (2); Light-brown Apple Moth (10) and Marbled Beauty (2). A few other species found locally include:- Red Underwing (2); Centre-barred Sallow (1); Bulrush Wainscot (1); Poplar Hawkmoth larva (1); Eyed Hawkmoth larva (1 - both on same Sallow bush, side by side!); Swallow Prominent (1) and Treble-bar (1)."





Old Lady moths

Photo © Dave Maunder

Poplar (left) & Eyed Hawkmoth (right) larvae Photo © Dave Maunder

Dave Wilton reported the following moths on 6th September: "Having been away for a week in north Wales enjoying glorious sunshine and, at night, several unfamiliar coastal moth species, I had hoped that a few more of the autumn moths might have emerged when I trapped back at Westcott, Bucks again on 3rd September. There was even hope of migrants on the south-easterly winds. However, it was not to be! The garden actinic brought in **Agonopterix arenella** (1), Blastobasis adustella (1), Acleris variegana (2), Epinotia nisella (1), Agriphila tristella (6), Chinese Character (1), Green Carpet (2), Currant Pug (1), Lesser Treble-bar (4), Magpie (1), Brimstone Moth (3), Buff Footman (1), Heart and Dart (1), Flame Shoulder (3), Large Yellow Underwing (73), Lesser Yellow Underwing (4), Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing (1), Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing (2), Setaceous Hebrew Character (42), Square-spot Rustic (63), Feathered Gothic (3), Common Wainscot (29), Centre-barred Sallow (10), Mouse Moth (1), Flounced Rustic (6), Rosy Rustic (1), Vine's Rustic (1), Burnished Brass (1), Silver Y (1) & Straw Dot (1). The same actinic trap was run over the following two nights as well, bringing in ever-increasing numbers of Large Yellow Underwing, Setaceous Hebrew Character, Square-spot Rustic and Common Wainscot but little else of note. Additional species on 4th September were Acleris emargana (1), Agriphila straminella (1), Agriphila geniculea (1), Pleuroptya ruralis/Mother of Pearl (1), Trachycera advenella (1), Pale Eggar (1), Purple Bar (1), Small Square-spot (2), Cabbage Moth (1), Dark Arches (1), Straw Underwing (1), Frosted Orange (3) & Spectacle (1), while 5th September brought Hypsopygia costalis/Gold Triangle (1), Small Dusty Wave (1), Common Marbled Carpet (2), Dark Sword-grass (1), Six-striped Rustic (1), Copper **Underwing** (1) & **Old Lady** (1). Pale Eggar doesn't appear to be all that widespread in Bucks but seems to like this area of the county. I get it regularly in the garden and I've had further sightings this year in Whitecross Green Wood and in Finemere Wood. A few hours spent with an MV trap at *Pilch Fields* near Great Horwood, Bucks on 5th September was noteworthy for the number of Feathered Gothics caught (61) and the unusual form of Centre-barred Sallow illustrated below, while Acleris rhombana may still be new to the UTB list."





Pale Eggar f.
Photo © Dave Wilton

Centre-barred Sallow Photo © Dave Wilton

~ Sunday 5th September 2010 ~

Nigel Partridge reported the following: "I had **Eudonia angustea** on 03-09-10 in my garden in *Loosley Row, Bucks.*"



Eudonia angustea Photo © Nigel Partridge

Adam Bassett sent this update from Marlow Bottom, Bucks: "Nothing new for the UTB list, but some recent moths of interest from my garden include: 27/8 Dark Sword-grass (new for the garden); 28/8 Mocha, Feathered Gothic (1st of the year), White-point (2nd of the year) and a Hummingbird Hawk-moth has visited the garden buddleia on 25/8, 26/8 and 29/8 - whether they are the same one or different individuals is uncertain."

~ Tuesday 31st August 2010 ~

Derek Brown reported the following today: "A couple of moths from Beenham (Berks) that I've just realised don't seem to be on the UTB list. A Brown-veined Wainscot (7/8) and a Frosted Orange (27/8). Also two Hummingbird Hawkmoths today (31/8)."



Brown-veined Wainscot Photo © Derek Brown



Frosted Orange Photo © Derek Brown

Nigel Partridge sent this record on 30th August: "One more which I don't think is on the list yet - **Feathered Gothic,** 28-08-10, Loosley Row, Bucks."

Ched George reports that the Acleris logiana that showed up on his front door light on 24th March has been confirmed by Peter Hall (see Ched's report below dated 29th March).

~ Wednesday 25th August 2010 ~

Dave Wilton sent this report: "A trapping session on a farm north of Tingewick, Bucks on 20th August with Peter Hall and Andy McVeigh produced a reasonable selection of 70+ moth species even though it was a windy night. Possibly still new to the UTB list were Hedge Rustic and Centre-barred Sallow, while Pyrausta despicata, Dark Spinach & Dark Sword-grass also came to the lights. There has been little of note to the garden trap at Westcott of late, although a Gold Spot on 20th August was very welcome. The appearance of a Small Elephant Hawk-moth on 21st August was completely unexpected and we'll presumably never know if it was a late emergence, an attempt at a second brood (the species is bivoltine in France) or perhaps even a migrant. It was very nice to see nonetheless."

David Redhead sent this update: "My overnight garden moth trap on 21st August in Littlemore. Oxon, produced over 100 macro-moths for the first time for over a month - perhaps not surprising as the temperature only dropped to 15.5C. The 34 species contained 8 additions to my 2010 garden list - Six-striped Rustic (4), Canary-shouldered Thorn (3), Rosy Rustic (2), Angle Shades (1), Centrebarred Sallow (1), Flounced Rustic (1), Old Lady (1) & Svensson's Copper Underwing (1). Previous visitors were Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing (23), Setaceous Hebrew Character (13), Large Yellow Underwing (12), Poplar Hawkmoth (6), Straw Dot (6), Common Carpet (5), Dun-bar (5), Flame Shoulder (5), Willow Beauty (5), Dingy Footman (4), Common Rustic agg (3), Pale Prominent (3), Turnip (3), Vine's Rustic (3), Brimstone (2), Common Wainscot (2), Common Wave (2), Flame Carpet (2) and singletons of Common Footman, Green Carpet, Riband Wave, Single-dotted Wave, Snout, Spectacle & Swallow Prominent. The most numerous moth was that overgrown micro-moth Mother of Pearl with ~75 but I am not sure it was the most numerous species as my trap was inundated by a Shield Bug, Pentatoma rufipes or the Forest Bug. On 23rd August in one of the interludes between the heavy showers, Wendy spotted a **Hummingbird Hawkmoth** nectaring on one of our garden buddleias. Meanwhile I was exploring our nearby patch of grassland for Lesser Treble-bars. This year we seem to be having a minor outbreak of this species locally as I have already caught one first brood and two second brood specimens in my garden moth trap and vesterday afternoon I put up 4 specimens, one of which I potted and identified as a male. Previous to this I have only ever recorded it once locally in 2007 and then it was a singleton. I also saw a pair of faded **Shaded Broad-bars**. Finally on the morning of 24th August there was a **Red Underwing** sitting on the outside of our landing window."

Keith Mitchell sent the following on 22nd August: "Recent garden firsts in Stoke Goldington, Bucks, were Ringed China-mark (Parapoynx stratiotata) (15th August) and Agriphila geniculea (22nd), both attracted to the front door light, and a very tatty Maiden's Blush (19th) in the Robinson Trap."



Ringed China-mark Photo © Keith Mitchell

Peter Cuss sent this report on 22nd August: "Ran the garden trap (Caversham, Berks) on 21/08/10 and had one which I don't think has been recorded this season, a **White-point.** (Thanks to Martin Townsend for confiming the id.)"



White-point Photo © Peter Cuss

Adam Bassett reported the following from Marlow Bottom, Bucks: "On August 20th, I ran my first garden trap for a month due to holidays. It included a Whitepoint and a Square-spotted Clay, plus 2 Ringed China-marks, which were new for the garden."

~ Thursday 19th August 2010 ~

Dave Wilton sent this update on 17th August: "Oh dear, that's another season nearly over! Amongst a respectable 90+ species which came to a single MV trap in Bernwood Forest, Bucks on 16th August I got my first of the autumn Xanthia species, a rather early Pink-barred Sallow, along with Dusky Thorn and Bulrush Wainscot. An actinic trap run at Westcott the same night produced a healthy 61 species and they included the tortrix Clavigesta purdeyi which is a new addition to my garden list. Yellow Shell is a moth that I often disturb in the garden during the daytime but it rarely appears in the trap. A torchlight search of the garden while the actinic was running produced no less than ten of them feeding from a small clump of cat-mint and another on a buddleia bloom, all totally unconcerned by the light. Earlier in the day I'd potted a tiny micro-moth which was found flying around near the cat-mint and it turned out to be Chrysoesthia drurella, a species of waste ground which may be a first for Bucks. In Finemere Wood on 15th August another addition to the UTB list was Agonopterix liturosa."







Bulrush Wainscot Photo © Dave Wilton

Chrysoesthia drurella Photo © Dave Wilton

Pink-barred Sallow Photo © Dave Wilton

Colin Williams reported the following on 17th August: "On the evening of Friday 13th August, a group of BBOWT staff and volunteers did a couple of hours mothing at Otmoor RSPB Reserve with a sheet and MV bulb. In breezy and cool conditions we recorded about 20 species with the highlight a Twin-spotted Wainscot in good condition."

This report was sent in by David Redhead on 16th August: "Last Friday night (13th August) Mary Elford & David Redhead ran an MV light and an actinic light in Brenda & Ken Betteridge's delightful garden at Stonefold for the West Oxfordshire Field Club plus another actinic light in the infilled quarry alongside their garden. 14 club members enjoyed the moths as they arrived and the lights were left running overnight. 7 members turned up the following morning to inspect the overnight arrivals which included a Tawny Speckled Pug from the quarry trap. In spite of the nearly continuous overnight rain the final macro-moth species count was 36 and a third of the over 150 individuals were Setaceous Hebrew Characters. Purple Bar (1), Lesser Treble-bar (3) & Orange Swift (5) were all species that Mary & David rarely see in their own garden traps."





Tawny Speckled Pug Photo © Mary Elford

Tawny Speckled Pug Photo © Brenda Betteridge

~ Monday 16th August 2010 ~

Nigel Partridge reported the following: "Dark Spinach, 15-08-10, Loosley Row, Bucks."



~ Friday 13th August 2010 ~

Keith Mitchell reported the following today: "Hot on the heels of the fifth Bucks county record of **Ebulea crocealis** on 7th July (see report from Peter Hall & Dave Wilton below) was a specimen trapped in my garden in Stoke Goldington on 18th July (confirmed by Martin Albertini)."

Joy Fitzpatrick sent these photos on 12th August: "My daughter, Julia, took these photos for me in my house/garden in Wheatley, Oxon in the past few weeks, but we are unable to identify what they are. We presume the first is a moth, but we may be wrong. Can you possibly identify it for us? Also, the caterpillar? It's green with a red spot."

[The moth is a Riband Wave and the caterpillar is a Brimstone Moth larva.]





Riband Wave Photo © Julia Fitzpatrick

Brimstone Moth caterpillar *Photo* © *Julia Fitzpatrick*

Dave Wilton sent the following update: "There's not been much to report from mid-Bucks over the past week or two as many of the "new" species around have been second broods of those seen earlier in the year. Those that I have recorded which might still be new to the UTB list include:

Bernwood Forest 29th July - Aspilapteryx tringipennella;

Whitecross Green Wood 30th July Eucosma campoliliana, Chevron;

Finemere Wood 31st July Psoricoptera gibbosella, Aproaerema anthyllidella;

Westcott 7th August Lyonetia clerkella;

Bernwood Forest 7th August Orange Swift;

Pilch Fields 8th August Six-striped Rustic."

Just to prove that buddleias are useful for more than just their flowers, on *11th August* I found this almost fully-grown **Buff Ermine caterpillar** munching away on a buddleia leaf in our *Westcott* garden."



Buff Ermine caterpillar *Photo* © *Dave Wilton*

A few more moths from Dave Maunder in Aylesbury recently include: "In my garden trap on 25th July - Small Ranunculus (1); Gypsy Moth (1); Ear Moth sp. (1); Spectacle (2); Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing (1) and from 1st August - Buff Footman (1); Knot Grass (1); from 8th August - Lesser Swallow Prominent (1); Magpie moth (1) and Lesser Treble-bar (1). A couple of other moths of

interest were:- **Hummingbird Hawkmoth** (1) - on *26th July,* in my garden for the third time this year!, also **Poplar Hawkmoth** (1) on the *2nd,* and **Small Ranunculus** on *30th July.*"



Lesser Swallow Prominent Photo © Dave Maunder

This report came from David Redhead: "Martin Townsend has just confirmed the Ear Moth species caught at Harcourt Arboretum on 6th August (see report below) as the Ear Moth (Amphipoea oculea). The first trap of the Shotover Moth Group's August session (8th August) caught an Orange Swift, a plume moth - Oidaematophorus lithodactyla - and another micro Apotomis betuletana (the latter two again identified by Martin). Martin also identified a pug caught in my garden moth trap (in Littlemore, Oxon) of the 7th August as a Maple Pug.

~ Sunday 8th August 2010 ~

David Redhead sent the following reports: "The moth trapping event at Oxford University's Harcourt Arboretum by Marc Botham, Richard Comont & David Redhead on Friday night, 6th August, produced some firsts for the UTB website. Firstly a pair of Small Rufous which appear to be an all-time first for the website. Secondly a pair of Antler Moth - only reported in two previous years and new for this year. Also a Straw Underwing & Flounced Rustic were caught.

My overnight garden moth trap last night, 7th August in Littlemore, Oxon, was found to contain a singleton Crescent."

~ Thursday 5th August 2010 ~

Eleanor Slade sent the following on 4th August: "On the morning of the 3rd August I foung a Red Underwing on the wall of the John Krebs Field Station in Wytham, Oxon. Also, we recorded Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwings on the 17th, 19th, 21st July on the South side of Wytham woods (I noticed that it hadn't been reported until the 24th)."

David Redhead was out looking for butterflies on 3rd August: "I came across this moth in a damp area near the pond by Brasenose Allotments, Oxon at the end of my visit at about 4.30pm when the sun finally decided to make an appearance. I had difficulty identifying it as Endotricha flammealis for four reasons (a) its daytime appearance, (b) its resting posture - I usually see it in its more normal resting position with its wings spread and its abdomen pointing upwards, (c) the smoothness of the outer edge of the forewings which are usually indented (for want of a better term) - closer inspection of one of my other photos taken from a slightly different angle does show the outer edge as being more indented, and (d) the lack of white costal marks - re-examination of the photo however shows they are indeed present, albeit faintly. It was very happy on its water-mint flowerhead and my attempts to photograph it did not phase it one little bit! (When you click the photo below to enlarge the image, you will also see another moth bottom-right, which is a Pyrausta aurata.) Also, at home in Littlemore, Oxon, Wendy found a Red

Underwing on the wall of our house today, 3rd August."



Endotricha flammealis Photo © David Redhead

Dave Wilton reported the following: "A couple of recent daytime sightings around Westcott, Bucks have included a rather early **Red Underwing** on 19th July and a **Vapourer** on 30th July."

~ Monday 2nd August 2010 ~

Tim & Colleen Watts report a Hummingbird Hawkmoth in their Whitchurch (Bucks) garden on 28th, 30th, 31st July and 1st August."

David Redhead reported the following from Littlemore, Oxon: "My first overnight garden moth trap for nearly a fortnight on 29th July just failed to produce a century of macro-moths but did add four species to my 2010 garden list with two Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing & Scalloped Oak plus singletons of Black Arches & Campion. The others were Dun-bar 24, Dingy Footman 19, Swallow Prominent 5, Clouded Border 4, Yellow-tail 4, Common/Lesser Common Rustic 3, Smoky Wainscot 3, Flame Shoulder 2, Poplar Hawkmoth 2, Riband Wave 2, Small Fan-footed Wave 2, White Satin Moth 2 and singletons of Dark Umber, Double Square-spot, Double-striped Pug, July Highflyer, Large Yellow Underwing, Nut-tree Tussock, Ruby Tiger, Rustic/Uncertain, Silver Y, Single-dotted Wave, Small Fan-foot, Snout, Spectacle, Straw Dot, V Pug & Willow Beauty."

Adam Bassett sent this update from Marlow Bottom, Bucks: "A garden trap on July 24th gave me the following that were new for the year: Batrachedra praeangusta, Hypsopygia costalis (Gold Triangle), Lesser Yellow Underwing, Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing, Marbled Beauty and Copper Underwing. On July 25th, I was surprised to find an unexpected garden tick in the form of a wandering Six-Spot Burnet moth. A garden trap on July 26th yielded the following new additions: Morophaga choragella and Galleria mellonella (Wax Moth). Finally, thanks to Peter Hall for confirming the following micros, currently new to the UTB year list: Caloptilia cuculipennella (2/7), Coleophora lutipennella (2/7), Coleophora alticolella (11/6), Borkhausenia fuscescens (22/6), Metzneria lappella (2/7), Bryotropha terrella (11/6), Batrachedra pinicolella (2/7), Cnephasia stephensiana (Grey Tortrix) (26/6) and Epiblema rosaecolana (20/6)."

Dave Wilton sent the following reports: "Time for a very quick update from me. The following moths from the northern half of Bucks, seen over the last few weeks, appear still to be new to the UTB list for this year: 8th July Westcott Oegoconia deauratella, Apotomis capreana; 9th July Pilch Fields Calamotropha paludella, Udea lutealis, Twin-spot Carpet; 11th July Bernwood Forest Ypsolopha nemorella, Spilonota ocellana, Small Black Arches; 13th July Whitfield Wood Epinotia cruciana, Cydia splendana, Latticed Heath; 17th July Finemere Wood Argyresthia albistria, Eulamprotes atrella, Small Wainscot; 19th July Moulsoe Old Wood Acleris emargana, Cnephasia stephensiana (the first time I've seen the very different-looking white form), Epinotia nisella; 20th July Bernwood Forest Pandemis corylana; 21st July Westcott Mompha propinquella, Straw Underwing. The trapping session in Bernwood Forest on 20th July was with Peter Hall and Triangle appeared in our traps once again. This time we each had one, so this rare moth (easily overlooked by those who don't "do" micros!!) is obviously well established there.







Cnephasia stephensiana Photo © Dave Wilton

Epinotia cruciana Photo © Dave Wilton

Mompha propinquella Photo © Dave Wilton







Twin-spot Carpet Photo © Dave Wilton

Then in my garden at *Westcott on 27th July* I got a rather odd catch in the Robinson. It was a decent night, so there was no particular reason why there should have been a shortage of moths. However, I got only 42 macro species, none of them in significant numbers (the highest total was **Dingy Footman** with 18 examples), and there was not a single Large Yellow Underwing! The only species new for the year were **Magpie Moth** and **Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing.** However, the micro-moths excelled themselves with more than 60 different species being recorded, including **Bucculatrix nigricomella** and **Orthotelia sparganella** which were both new for the garden list. The "grass moths" were present in significant numbers, including **Agriphila straminella** (103) and **Agriphila tristella** (29)."





Bucculatrix nigricomella Photo © Dave Wilton

Orthotelia sparganella Photo © Dave Wilton

~ Sunday 25th July 2010 ~

Nigel Partridge had another new moth for the year in his garden: Barred Rivulet, 24-07-10, Loosley Row, Bucks.

Dave Maunder sent this update on 24th July: "A few more moths caught in my garden trap in Aylesbury, Bucks on 20th July were - Elephant Hawkmoth (1); Swallow Prominent (1); Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing (1); Gothic (2); Dun-bar (2); Early Thorn (1); Least Carpet (1); Dark Arches (150+) - a record amount from my small garden! I've also attached a picture of a Privet Hawkmoth larva I'm rearing at the moment - a lovely creature! Also on 18th & 22nd July I had a Hummingbird Hawkmoth in my garden - same one both times, perhaps?"



Privet Hawkmoth larva Photo © Dave Maunder

Keith Mitchell reported the following from Stoke Goldington, Bucks on 22nd July: "I found a new micro for the garden and UTB 2010: Brachmia blandella, on a Camellia leaf. This has to be unusual, as there is no Gorse, its foodplant, for miles around. Also, on 9th July a Cnephasia asseclana was attracted to light."

Mary Elford reported the following on 22nd July: "Not sure if anyone has reported seeing an Oak Eggar this year. This beauty was in my actinic trap on 21st July in my garden in Bampton, Oxfordshire."



Oak Eggar Photo © Mary Elford

Jan Haseler sent this news on 21st July: "New I think to the All-time Upper Thames moth list is **Small Marbled**, which turned up in my *Tilehurst* garden in Berks on 17th July."



Small Marbled Photo © Jan Haseler

Nigel Partridge sent this report on 21st July: "Not a new species but an adult **Striped Lychnis (first adult)** was attracted to our house lights last night (20-07-10).



Striped Lychnis

Photo © Nigel Partridge

Adam Bassett says he had a fairly uneventful and small catch on July 17th:
"The only moths new for my year list in Marlow Bottom, Bucks were Epinotia
brunnichana (8) and a Toadflax Pug. On July 20th, a Waved Black (my third so far this year) flew in through the French windows. Then on 21st July I had a
Hummingbird Hawkmoth in the front garden early afternoon and it or another was nectaring on patio plants in the back garden about 3 hours later."



Waved Black
Photo © Adam Bassett

Dave Maunder sent this sighting on 21st July: "Just thought you would be interested in a **Hummingbird Hawkmoth** I had here in my *Aylesbury* garden on the evening of 18th July - it spent a while feeding from our garden Valerian flowers before zooming off at high-speed!"

~ Monday 19th July 2010 ~

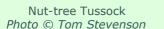
Peter Hall sent this news: "The **2010 Striped Lychnis major survey** got under way yesterday (*July 18th*) and the main site near to High Wycombe was surveyed to kick the recording off. Larvae were seen, although numbers were dramatically down on the last survey conducted there in 2008."



Striped Lychnis larva Photo © Peter Hall

Tom Stevenson ran his 25w blacklight blue trap overnight 18/19 July in his Benson, Oxon garden: "I had the following results: Large Yellow Underwing (1), Nut-tree Tussock (2), Common Footman (1), Dingy Footman (1), Small Square Spot (2), Burnished Brass (1), Scalloped Oak (1), Bright-line Brown Eye (1), Rustic (1), Large Nutmeg (12), Heart & Dart (2), Lychnis (1), Clay (1), Phlyctaenia coronata (1), Minor sp. (2)"







Phlyctaenia coronata Photo © Tom Stevenson



Scalloped Oak
Photo © Tom Stevenson

Another update from Nigel Partridge today: "A few more records from our garden in Loosley Row, Bucks: Dusky Sallow 16-07-10; Acleris variegana 18-07-10; Small Scallop 18-07-10."

Eleanor Slade sent this news today: "Some more firsts for the list I think caught in the South side of *Wytham*, *Oxon* last night *18th July* as part of the HSBC Earthwatch/WildCRU project: **Mouse moth**, **Dusky Sallow** and **Rosy Rustic."**

David Redhead sent the following on 19th July: "Starting at 9pm on Friday 16th July Marc Botham, Richard Comont & David Redhead ran three MV lights at the Harcourt Arboretum, Oxon for 4 hours and caught the following 87 species of macro-moth - Drinker, Oak Hook-tip, Pebble Hook-tip, Peach Blossom, Buff Arches, Common Emerald, Maiden's Blush, Small Blood-vein, Small Fanfooted Wave, Dwarf Cream Wave, Single-dotted Wave, Riband Wave, Red Twin-spot Carpet, Shaded Broad-Bar, Red-Green Carpet, Common Marbled Carpet, July Highflyer, Small Rivulet, Lime-speck Pug, Wormwood Pug, Grey Pug, V-Pug, Clouded Border, Brimstone Moth, Canary-shouldered Thorn, Early Thorn, Scalloped Oak, Swallow-tailed Moth, Peppered Moth, Willow Beauty, Mottled Beauty, Engrailed, Common Wave, Light Emerald, Barred Red, Poplar Hawk-moth, Elephant Hawk-moth, Buff-tip, Swallow Prominent, Coxcomb Prominent, Pale Prominent, Yellow-tail, Black Arches, Rosy Footman, Four-dotted Footman, Dingy Footman, Scarce Footman, Buff Footman, Common Footman, Heart & Dart, Flame, Flame Shoulder, Large

Yellow Underwing, Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing, Setaceous Hebrew Character, Double Square-spot, Bright-line Brown-eye, Brown-line Bright Eye, Clay, Smoky Wainscot, Minor Shoulder-knot, Poplar Grey, Knot Grass, Coronet, Copper Underwing, Svensson's Copper Underwing, Dun-bar, Dark Arches, Light Arches, Slender Brindle, Marbled Minor agg, Cloaked Minor, Common Rustic agg, Dusky Sallow, Ear Moth agg, Uncertain, Rustic, Scarce Silver-lines, Nut-Tree Tussock, Burnished Brass, Silver Y, Blackneck, Beautiful Hook-tip, Straw Dot, Waved Black (notable) & Snout. (The micromoths are still under evaluation.)"

Dave Maunder sent this report on 17th July: "A few more moths seen in Aylesbury, Bucks recently included:- **Small Ranunculus** (1, on 12th July on my garden Valerians); **Old Lady moth** (9th, flew in my kitchen!); **Early Thorns** (2, 10th+12th); **Poplar Hawkmoth** (1, 12th); **Drinker moth** (1, on 9th); **Chocolate-tip** (1, on 15th); and **White Satin** (1, 14th). Incidentally, I have at present 12 **Privet Hawkmoth larvae** feeding in captivity on cut Privet, some of which are young 5th instar - very impressive creatures!"

Nigel Partridge reported the following on 16th July: "A couple more from 12-07-10, Loosley Row, Bucks: Magpie and Platyptilia pallidactyla."

Ched George reported the following on 16th July: "Hummingbird Hawk-moth seen at Coombe Hill, Wendover on Wednesday 14th July."



Hummingbird Hawkmoth Photo © Ched George

~ Thursday 15th July 2010 ~

Alastair Driver sent the following report: "Set the Robinson trap at Ali's Pond LNR, Berks on the 8th and 9th July and added Brown Scallop, Brown-tail and Coronet to the site list on the 8th, and Beautiful Hook-tip, Dingy Shears, V-pug and Yellow-tail to the site list on the 9th. Also caught a single Ruby Tiger, which isn't on the UTBC list as an adult as at the time of writing. Then trapped in a private property in Sonning for the first time on the 10th July and added Black Arches to my parish list."

Adam Bassett says he had another good trap on July 9th in his garden in Marlow Bottom, Bucks: "It gave me 4 new macros for the garden list: Ghost (female), Common Lutestring, Scallop Shell and V-Pug, whilst the following macros were new for the year: Large Emerald, Large Twin-spot Carpet, July Highflyer, Dark Umber, Small Rivulet, Haworth's Pug, August Thorn, Purple Thorn (1st 2nd generation), Yellow Tail, Black Arches, Ruby Tiger, Short-cloaked Moth, Square-spot Rustic, Clay, Slender Brindle, Cloaked Minor, Scarce Silver-lines and Waved Black. The following micros also appear to be new for the UTB year list: Zelleria hepariella and a probable Acrocercops

brongniardella (pending confirmation by Peter Hall) - photo below."



Acrocercops brongniardella Photo © Adam Bassett

Another update from Nigel Partridge: "A few more that are not on the list at present, all from 10th July, Loosley Row, Bucks: Royal Mantle, Agriphila tristella, Dingy Footman and Epinotia tenerana (thanks to Peter Hall for confirming the ID of this one)."

Eleanor Slade sent this update: "Claire Mclaughlan has been running traps along the northern and southern edges of *Wytham Woods in Oxon* as part of her MSc project, she has caught several species of interest:

4 July - Dingy Footman, Dark Umber

6 July - Yellow Shell

8 July - Garden Tiger

10 July - Early Thorn, Scalloped Oak, Purple Thorn, Ruby Tiger, Buff Footman."

Brenda Mobbs sent this report on 11th July: "I went on the walk at the *Holtspur Valley Reserves, Bucks* on *Saturday 10th July* and Nick Bowles asked me to send you a photo of the **Six-spot Burnets.** They were there in their thousands."



Six-spot Burnets Photo © Brenda Mobbs

lan Stevenson reported the following: "We have just moved into a BBOWT property on the *Warburg nature reserve*, *Oxon*. Whilst unpacking boxes on the *9th July*, this **Ruddy Carpet** came in and flew around our hallway light."



Ruddy Carpet Photo © Ian Stevenson

Peter Cuss ran the garden trap on 9th July in Caversham, Berks: "I can report the following: Lunar-Spotted Pinion, Miller, Flame Shoulder, Scarce Footman, Common Footman, Coronet, Flame, Common Carpet, Small Blood Vein, Phoenix, Elephant Hawk, Willow Beauty, Riband Wave, Dagger sp. and Dunbar."

David Redhead sent these reports: "My last two garden moth traps in Littlemore, Oxon produced 12 additions to my 2010 garden list - 6th July: Buff Footman, Dingy Footman, Gothic, Green Arches, Green Silver-lines, White Satin Moth, Endotricha flammealis & Udea prunalis. 9th July: Dot Moth, Purple Clay, Ruby Tiger (first adult) & Water Veneer.

The Shotover Wildlife Moth Group's first traps of their July session on 8th July produced a Grass Emerald & a Marbled Beauty. The third night of their July session, on 10th July, resulted in 150 macro-moths from 37 species in two overnight 6W actinic traps run in Brasenose Woods - July Highflyer 20, Double Square-spot 18, Mottled Beauty 14, Smoky Wainscot 12, Heart and Dart 8, Yellow-tail 8, V-pug 7, Minor Shoulder-knot 6, Uncertain/Rustic 6, Black Arches 5, Engrailed 5, Dingy Footman 4, Dark Arches 3, Dun-bar 3, Small Fanfooted Wave 3, Buff-tip 2, Flame Shoulder 2, Light Emerald 2, Riband Wave 2, Scalloped Oak 2, Short-cloaked 2 and singletons of Barred Straw, Beautiful Hook-tip, Buff Arches, Common Footman, Copper Underwing, Drinker, Green Pug, Heart and Club, Large Yellow Underwing, Mottled Rustic, Nut-tree Tussock, Plain Golden Y, Poplar Hawk-moth, Purple Clay, September Thorn & Single-dotted Wave."

Nigel Partridge reported the following from Loosley Row, Bucks: "One more, found indoors during the day. **Ectoedemia decentella,** *09-07-10.* Thanks to Peter Hall for confirming the ID."

Peter Hall and Dave Wilton ran four traps in two different parts of Bernwood Forest on 7th July and got a bumper crop of moths, including some rareties: "The macro list comprised Triangle (Red Data Book species, first Bucks record for many years), Lackey, Drinker, Lappet, Pebble Hook-tip, Peach Blossom, Buff Arches, Poplar Lutestring, Common Lutestring, Large Emerald, Blotched Emerald, Common Emerald, Blood-vein, Small Blood-vein, Small Fan-footed Wave, Treble Brown Spot, Riband Wave, Large Twin-spot Carpet, Silverground Carpet, Yellow Shell, Beautiful Carpet, Barred Yellow, Grey Pine Carpet, Spruce Carpet, Broken-barred Carpet, July Highflyer, Scallop Shell, Brown Scallop, Small Rivulet, Haworth's Pug, Foxglove Pug, V-Pug, Green Pug, Clouded Border, Scorched Carpet, Tawny-barred Angle, Brimstone Moth, Lilac Beauty, Scalloped Oak, Swallow-tailed Moth, Orange Moth, Peppered Moth, Willow Beauty, Satin Beauty, Mottled Beauty, Engrailed, Common White Wave, Common Wave, Clouded Silver, Light Emerald, Pine Hawk-moth, Elephant Hawk-moth, Buff-tip, Lobster Moth, Iron Prominent, Pebble Prominent, Coxcomb Prominent, Yellow-tail, White Satin, Black Arches, Rosy Footman, Scarce Footman, Buff Footman, Common Footman, Buff Ermine, Short-cloaked Moth, Least Black Arches, Heart & Dart, Dark Sword-grass, Flame, Flame Shoulder, Large Yellow Underwing, Double Dart, Double Square-spot, Double Line (notable, first Bucks record for many years), Smoky Wainscot, Common Wainscot, Minor Shoulder-knot, Poplar Grey, Miller, Grey Dagger, Coronet, Brown Rustic, Dingy Shears, Dun-bar, Dark Arches, Light Arches, Clouded Brindle, Slender Brindle, Marbled Minor sp, Middle Barred Minor, Small Dotted Buff, Uncertain, Rustic, Marbled White Spot, Green Silver-lines, Scarce Silver-lines, Oak Nycteoline, Beautiful Golden Y, Plain Golden Y, Blackneck, Beautiful Hook-tip, Straw Dot, Waved Black (notable),

Snout, Common Fan-foot (notable, UK BAP species), Fan-foot & Small Fan-foot.

The micro-moth list is still incomplete but included the following: **Emmetia** marginea, Morophaga choragella, Monopis obviella, Argyresthia brockeella, Argyresthia goedartella, Argyresthia retinella, Scythropia crataegella, Yponomeuta evonymella, Ypsolopha dentella, Ypsolopha parenthesella, Plutella xylostella, Coleophora deauratella, Batia lunaris, Batia unitella, Carcina quercana, Ethmia dodecea (first county record), Athrips mouffetella, Teleiodes luculella, Limnaecia phragmitella, Agapeta hamana, Agapeta zoegana, Aethes rubigana, Cochylis dubitana, Pandemis cerasana, Pandemis heparana, Archips podana, Archips crataegana, Archips xylosteana, Ptycholoma lecheana, Lozotaenia forsterana, Ditula angustiorana, Aleimma loeflingiana, Tortrix viridana, Spatalistis bifasciana (third county record), Celypha striana, Celypha lacunana, Hedya nubiferana, Hedya salicella, Pseudosciaphila branderiana, Apotomis turbidana, Eudemis profundana, Ancylis achatana, Epinotia demarniana, Zeiraphera isertana, Rhopobota naevana, Choristoneura hebenstreitella, Gypsonoma dealbana, Epiblema uddmanniana, Eucosma cana, Cydia pomonella, Alucita hexadactyla, Chrysoteuchia culmella, Crambus pascuella, Crambus perlella, Agriphila straminella, Catoptria pinella, Acentria ephemerella, Dipleurina lacustrata, Eurrhypara hortulata, Perinephela lancealis, Ebulea crocealis (fifth county record and first for 14 years), Udea olivalis, Pleuroptya ruralis, Orthopygia glaucinalis, Endotricha flammealis, Aphomia sociella, Cryptoblabes bistriga, Conobathra repandana, Phycita roborella, Euzophera pinguis & Pterophorus pentadactyla."





Double Line Photo © Peter Hall

Triangle Photo © Dave Wilton





Ebulea crocealis
Photo © Dave Wilton

Ethmia dodecea Photo © Peter Hall

Peter Cuss reported the following: "I have seen a couple of moths that I don't think have been recorded yet this year. In my garden trap (Caversham, Berks) on 6/7/10 an August Thorn and resting on a wall, during the day on 7/7/10 an Old Lady moth."

~ Saturday 10th July 2010 ~

biggest catch of the year so far, with over 400 moths comprising 74 macro species and over 30 micros (those that I noted - under recorded as ever!). I don't think that anything was new for the UTB year list, but new for my garden were: Rhyacionia buoliana, Catoptria pinella, Brown Scallop, Clouded-bordered Brindle and Sycamore. New for the garden year list were: Leopard, Carcina quercana, Endotricha flammealis, Phycita roborella, Orthopygia glaucinalis, Peach Blossom, Small Blood-vein, Least Carpet, Single-dotted Wave, Shaded Broadbar, Fern, Clouded Border, Swallow-tailed Moth, Early Thorn (1st second generation), Buff Footman, Common Footman, Brown-line Bright-eye, Smoky Wainscot, Dun-bar and Burnished Brass. I also had my second Oak Nycteoline of the year, form notata, following one of form ramosana in March, which was a new record for the garden. July 7th - a Slender Pug came to the kitchen window. I've attached a couple of photos of Lobster moth - most I get are of the nominate form, but I do get the occasional darker form obscura - a comparison of the two forms is shown here."





Lobster nominate Photo © Adam Bassett

Lobster obscura Photo © Adam Bassett

Keith Mitchell reported the following on 6th July: "Moths on Friday night, 2nd July, included garden firsts Rusty Dot Pearl (Udea ferrugalis), Phlyctaenia perlucidalis and Pine Hawk-moth. Year firsts: Leopard Moth, Green Oak Tortrix (Tortrix viridana), Large Fruit-tree Tortrix (Archips podana), Udea olivalis, Buff Arches, Barred Straw, Clay, Brown-line Bright-eye, Poplar Grey, Light Arches, Beautiful Hook-tip, Swallow-tailed Moth, Scalloped Oak and Snout."







Udea ferrugalis Photo © Keith Mitchell

Peter Hall sent this report on 5th July: "On the cool and breezy evening of 4th July, 18 people from BBOWT plus 3 from the Bucks Invertebrate Group ran 3 moth traps at Dancersend nature reserve in Bucks. Despite the cool conditions and lower numbers of moths than in recent days, 116 species were identified on the night bringing the reserve's species total to an impressive 605 species. The last of the group filtered away well after midnight disappointed at the lack of Hawk-moths and I promised if any should turn up, I would photograph them. Well the very last moth to arrive in the final throws of packing up, was a Poplar Hawk-moth, image below. The Blackneck moth was the first sighting of this species here for over 50 years. The full moth list was as follows:

Macros: Ghost, Drinker, Peach Blossom, Buff Arches, Common Lutestring, Large Emerald, Common Emerald, Small Fan-footed Wave, Riband Wave, Silver-ground Carpet, Purple Bar, Barred Yellow, Blue-bordered Carpet, Green Carpet, July Highflyer, Fern, Pretty Chalk Carpet, Scallop Shell, Brown Scallop, Dark Umber, Haworth's Pug, Green Pug, Small Yellow Wave, Clouded Border, Scorched Carpet, Tawny-barred Angle, Scorched Wing, Brimstone Moth, Peppered, Willow Beauty, Satin Beauty, Mottled Beauty, Engrailed, Common White Wave, Clouded Silver, Light Emerald, Poplar Hawk, Lobster, Pebble Prominent, Lesser Swallow Prominent, Maple Prominent, Scarce Footman, Common Footman, Heart & Club, Heart & Dart, Flame, Flame Shoulder, Ingrailed Clay, Purple Clay, Setaceous Hebrew Character, Double Square-spot, Green Arches, Grey Arches, Dot, Clay, Smoky Wainscot, Poplar Grey, Coronet, Brown Rustic, Small Angle Shades, Dingy Shears, Dun-bar, Dark Arches, Light Arches, Reddish Light Arches, Clouded Brindle, Dusky Brocade, Small Dotted Buff, Uncertain, Marbled White Spot, Green Silverlines, Beautiful Golden Y, Plain Golden Y, Blackneck, Beautiful Hook-tip, Straw Dot, Snout, Fan-foot, Small Fan-foot.

Micros: Argyresthia brockeella, Ypsolopha parenthesella, Batia unitella, Blastobasis lacticolella, Agapeta hamana, Agapeta zoegana, Pandemis cinnamomeana, Pandemis heparana, Archips podana, Archips xylosteana, Pseudargyrotoza conwagana, Tortrix viridana, Celypha lacunana, Hedya nubiferana, Hedya ochroleucana, Hedya salicella, Apotomis turbidana, Ancylis achatana, Epinotia demarniana, Gypsonoma dealbana, Epiblema uddmanniana, Eucosma cana, Lathronympha strigana, Strophedra weirana, Cydia fagiglandana, Chrysoteuchia culmella, Crambus lathoniellus, Crambus perlella, Acentria ephemerella, Dipleurina lacustrata, Pyrausta aurata, Eurrhypara hortulata, Udea olivalis, Pempeliella dilutella, Merrifieldia baliodactylus, Pterophorus pentadactyla."



Poplar Hawkmoth Photo © Peter Hall

Dave Wilton reported the following on 5th July: "The lack of reports from me during the second half of June was certainly not due to any lack of moths, simply a lack of time to sort out what I'd seen! Eventually I'll try and catch up with any species still missing from the UTB list. I ran a couple of lights in Bernwood Forest on 1st July and the catch included my first Privet Hawk-moth of the year, always nice to see. Other moths new for me for the year included macros Large Emerald, Beautiful Carpet, Scallop Shell, Bordered Beauty, Rosy Footman & Short-cloaked Moth, while amongst the micros were Yponomeuta evonymella, Epermenia falciformis, Carcina quercana, Zeiraphera isertana, Conobathra repandana & Acrobasis consociella. On 2nd July a couple of hours with two traps in Whitfield Wood near Biddlestone on the Bucks/Northants border (a site which Forest Enterprise currently have up for sale) produced a very interesting selection of more than 150 species. Amongst the macro-moths were Ghost Moth, Common Lutestring, Beautiful Carpet, Scallop Shell, Dingy Shell, Orange Moth, Barred Red, Purple Clay & Mere Wainscot, while the micro species

included Eidophasia messingiella, Batrachedra praeangusta, Mompha ochraceella, Limnaecia phragmitella, Blastodacna hellerella, Lozotaeniodes formosanus & Epiblema foenella. On 4th July the garden trap at Westcott managed a typical current haul of in excess of 800 moths of 100 species, although the only items new for the year were Acleris holmiana, Scalloped Oak, Least Yellow Underwing, Shark, Gothic & Olive. The most numerous moth was Heart & Dart (184 individuals). Every year I seem to get one unexpected species that does particularly well. Last year it was Smoky Wainscot with over 1,000 individuals recorded during the season (way more than I usually get). This year it looks as though it might prove to be Dingy Shears, which seems to be around in exceedingly good numbers locally."





Beautiful Carpet Photo © Dave Wilton

Dingy Shell Photo © Dave Wilton







Scallop Shell Photo © Dave Wilton

Dave Maunder reported the following: "A few more moths seen around *Aylesbury, Bucks* recently were:- **Small Ranunculus** (1 in my garden on 2nd July, 2 at Dormer close on 6th July, 1 in garden on 6th); **Leopard moths** (6, all on 28th June); **Drinker moth** (1 on 2nd July; **White Satin** (1 on 1st July); **Privet Hawkmoth** (flying around my Buddleia bush in my torchlight on 6th!); **Lackey moth** (1 on 4th) and **Common Footman** (1 on 4th)."



Small Ranunculus Photo © Dave Maunder

Peter Hall and Martin Albertini ran a moth trap at Stoke Common, Bucks on 30th June. The following were new to the UTB 2010 Species List: Macros: Beautiful Snout, Suspected and micros: Agriphila straminella, Argyresthia

goedartella, Catoptria falsella, Cedestis gysseleniella, Conobathra repandana, Epagoge grotiana, Epinotia ramella, Lozotaeniodes formosanus, Pempelia palumbella, Recurvaria leucatella, Rhyacionia pinicolana.

Also, on 1st July, Peter ran his garden moth trap in Ballinger Common, Bucks. New for the year were 3 micros: Ptycholomoides aeriferanus, Rhopobota naevana and Udea prunalis and one macro: Small Rivulet.



Swallow-tailed Photo © Peter Hall

~ Tuesday 6th July 2010 ~

Jan Haseler sent this report on 5th July: "Moths recorded at BBOWT's Hartslock Reserve on 2nd July included Festoon, Dark Umber, Kent Black Arches, Wood Carpet, Ethmia dodecea and Mecyna flavalis."





Festoon Photo © Jan Haseler

Wood Carpet Photo © Jan Haseler

Eleanor Slade reported the following on 5th July: "On the night of 1st July the Earthwatch/WildCRu project caught their first Red-necked Footman, Double Lobed and Dot Moth. Last night (4th July) we caught two Large Emeralds (the first we have caught in Wytham during our 3 years of trapping).

David Redhead sent this update on 4th July: "My last night's moth trap (3rd July) was a big disappointment after the one two nights before with only 45 macros species and 109 individuals - even so 5 additions to my 2010 garden list including the **Short-cloaked Moth** which may be a first for the UTB website in 2010. Amazing what a few degrees and some moon will do!"

Danny Howard sent this news: "A couple of sightings to report - all to our garden in *Cowley, Oxon* to UV against a white sheet:

Friday 25th June - Swallow-tailed, Scarlet Tiger, Fan Foot, Blue-bordered Carpet, Elephant Hawkmoth, Flame, Blood-vein, Dagger sp., Straw Dot, Common Emerald, Snout, Treble Brown Spot, Mottled Beauty, Riband Wave, Small Magpie, Heart and Dart, Dark Arches, Spectacle.

Friday 2nd July - Small Magpie, Swallow-tailed, Satellite, Large Yellow Underwing, Heart and Dart, Scarce Silver-lines, Buff Arches, Elephant Hawkmoth, Common Footman, Flame, Riband Wave, Pine Hawkmoth (a first

ever for me!), Hebrew Character and Common Emerald."

David Redhead sent the following report on 2nd July: "My last night's overnight garden moth trap in Littlemore, Oxon set an all time record for my garden with 357 macro-moths (previous best 279 on 07/08/08) from 71 species (69 on 01/07/09) and this is not the final score as I have several in pots still awaiting identification. Actually I suspect there were over 400 individuals in it as it was impossible to stop some escaping before identification, especially the very flighty Mottled Beauties and Snouts. Not surprisingly there were 14 additions to my 2010 garden list - Brown Scallop, Clay, Common Emerald, Common Footman, Dark Umber, Double Lobed, Dun-bar, Elephant Hawkmoth, Ghost (female), Heart & Club, July Highflyer, Light Arches, Lime-speck Pug & Rosy Minor. Besides the Mottled Beauty & Snout, the following made double figures - Double Square-spot 30, Dingy Shears 29, Buff Arches 17, Coronet 16, Dark Arches 14, Scarlet Tiger 14, Small Fan-footed Wave 12, Mottled Rustic 10 & Poplar Grey 10. Also a micro which still appears to be new for the UTB 2010 list - the Gold Triangle (Hypsopygia costalis)."

Peter Hall ran his garden trap in Ballinger, Bucks and also trapped at a private chalk grassland near to Wendover, with these additions to the UTB 2010 Species list:

Ballinger Common 27th June: Buff Footman, Least Carpet, Short-cloaked, Spinach, Acleris forsskaleana, Batia unitella, Clepsis consimilana, Euzophera pinguis, Orthopygia glaucinalis.

Private site near Wendover 28th June: Haworth's Pug, Satin Beauty, Acompsia cinerella, Coleophora trifolii.



Green Arches
Photo © Peter Hall

lan Stevenson sent the following: "Small Ranunculus seen on 1st July on the wall of BBOWT'S Berkshire office at Woolley Firs near Maidenhead."



Small Ranunculus Photo © Ian Stevenson

Tim Watts sent this interesting report on 30th June: "We did some moth luring with a mercury vapour large bulb on a white sheet on 25th June on our patio in Whitchurch, Bucks. We sat inside in loungers with a Baileys and watched from 10-1 a.m. Hundreds of moths came in, the pick of them were: 7 Elephant Hawk-moths at the same time (probably more if we could have trapped them). Also Green Silver-lines, Peppered moth, Swallow-tailed, Drinker, Buff Ermine, Barred Yellow, Snout, Brimstone, Small Magpie and Small Emerald. On 26th June we had a Hummingbird Hawk-moth feeding on Campanulas in our Whitchurch garden."

Eleanor Slade sent the following on 30th June: "The catch in 10 actinic traps set along the southern and northern edges of *Wytham Woods, Oxon* as part of the current Oxford University Wild CRU/Earthwatch project, included the following species:-

Monday 21st June: Gold Spot, Blotched Emerald.

Tuesday 22nd June: Coronet, Blue-bordered Carpet.

Wednesday 23rd June: Lackey, Barred Straw, Garden Tiger, Small Emerald, Privet Hawkmoth.

Thursday 24th June: Gold Spot, Heart and Club, Purple Clay, Shears, Slender Brindle.

Sunday 27th June: : Blackneck, Gothic, July Highflyer, Dun-bar.

Monday 28th June: Common Emerald, Common Footman, Lackey, Light Arches, Small Angle Shades, Garden Tiger, Yellow-tail, Gold Swift, Nut-tree Tussock, Pale Prominent, Clouded Brindle, Clouded-bordered Brindle, Dunbar.

Tuesday 29th June: Swallow-tailed Moth, Brimstone, Miller, Poplar Grey, Lilac Beauty, Lesser Yellow Underwing, Angle Shades, Dun-bar, Green Silver-lines, Herald, Peppered Moth, Reddish Light Arches, Common Footman."

Wednesday 30th June: Clay.

Nigel Partridge sent this update on 30th June: "A few more from our garden in Loosley Row, Bucks: Dichrorampha alpinana (23-06-10), Argyresthia curvella (26-06-10). Thanks to Peter Hall for his help with these two. On 28-06-10 Marasmarcha lunaedactyla and on 29-06-10, Acleris bergmanniana, Ditula angustiorana, Lozotaenia forsterana."

Adam Bassett has found a few more species that are new for his year list: "On 28th June - a very fresh and fairly early Ypsolopha parenthesella appeared on the kitchen window in Marlow Bottom, Bucks and on 29th June I recorded Ypsolopha scabrella in Hurst, Berks. On 30th June I thought I would try my luck with pheromone lures to see whether I have any Clearwings in the vicinity. I attracted a male Currant Clearwing with a TIP lure, after failing in one position in the garden, this came within a few minutes to a second position."





Ypsolopha parenthesella Photo © Adam Bassett

Currant Clearwing Photo © Adam Bassett

Ali's Pond LNR in Sonning, Berks on Saturday 26th June and had a good session, catching 30 macro species in total and adding three species to the site list - Blue-bordered Carpet, Barred Straw and Brown Silver-line. Also caught this beautifully marked Small Blood-vein (see photo)."





Blue-bordered Carpet Photo © Alastair Driver

Small Blood-vein Photo © Alastair Driver

Adam Bassett sent this report on 28th June: "A few more moth records new for my garden (Marlow Bottom, Bucks) year list from June 26th: Archips xylosteana (Variegated Golden Tortrix), Lozotaenia forsterana, Ditula angustiorana (Redbarred Tortrix), Gypsonoma dealbana, Phlyctaenia coronata, Common Emerald, Phoenix, Heart and Club. A very fresh looking Small Emerald had found its way into my parents' lounge in Hurst, Berks on June 27th."

This interesting news came from David Redhead on 28th June: As already reported (see 10th June below) we were overun by moths at the Upper Thames Branch moth trapping event at Oxford University's Harcourt Arboretum on 4th June. Fortunately Marc Botham, whose trap was located by some Lime trees, kept a cool head and potted up five of about twenty Pugs which were outside his experience and he suspected were of special interest. Eventually these specimens were delivered to Martin Townsend, Oxon County Moth Recorder (CMR) who did the necessary detailed examination and declared them all to be Pauper Pug. The Pauper Pug was first recorded in the UK in 1962 but since then there have only been extremely limited records. When Martin transmitted this news to his fellow CMR's there was an instant reply from Martin Harvey, Berks CMR as Bernard Clarke, Les Finch & David White had already reported catching Pauper Pugs at Temple Golf Course, near Maidenhead. Bernard caught the first on 21st May, all three combined to record at least twenty there on 3rd June and a further three on 22nd June. Not only are these the first reports for this species to the UTB website but they also constitute the first ever record for VC23 and the second, third and fourth for VC22, the first being in June 2002 at Fernham. There was already a feeling this species was under-recorded as moth traps are rarely run by Lime trees (its larvae feed on the flowers of limes) - it looks like this may be the case! Please note the Pauper Pug is sometimes called Fletcher's Pug and its scientific name is Eupithecia egenaria."

Peter Hall has been busy running a number of moth traps recently: "The following are moths news to the UTB 2010 Species list from traps in my garden in Ballinger (21st june), Dancersend (22nd & 25th June) and College Lake (BBOWT meeting) 26th June - all the sites are in Bucks. Elachista subocellea is a particularly nice record as it's a county first.

Ballinger (21st june): Argyresthia bonnetella, Helcystogramma rufescens, Hypatima rhomboidella, Pandemis heparana (Dark Fruit-tree Tortrix), Teleiodes vulgella, Bordered Pug, Clay, Dot Moth, Rustic.

Dancersend (22nd June): Common Lutestring, Red-necked Footman, Elachista subocellea, Epiblema roborana, Morophaga choragella.

Dancersend (25th June): Aethes rubigana, Cryptoblabes bistriga, Ditula angustiorana (Red-barred Tortrix), Scallop Shell, Strophedra weirana. College Lake (26th June): Large Twin-spot Carpet, Grey Dagger, Caloptilia stigmatella, Catoptria pinella, Cochylis atricapitana, Coleophora deauratella, Coleophora mayrella, Hedya salicella, Parapoynx stratiotata (Ringed Chinamark), Pempeliella dilutella, Phycitodes binaevella, Scythropia crataegella (Hawthorn), Trachycera advenella."





Peach Blossom Photo © Peter Hall

Red-necked Footman Photo © Peter Hall

Nigel Partridge reported a couple more species from a very busy trapping session in his garden in Loosley Row, Bucks on 26-06-10: "Ypsolopha sequella and Phycita roborella (a new species for our garden)."

David Redhead sent the following report: "My overnight garden moth trap in Littlemore, Oxon on 26th June set a record for 2010 with 172 macro-moths from 61 species and two additions to my all-time garden list - a Clay Triple-lines and a Lesser Cream Wave. Also new for my garden for 2010 were the following 16 species - Blotched Emerald, Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing, Common Wainscot, Dusky Brocade, Fan-foot, Flame, Grey Pug, Large Twin-spot Carpet, Silver Hook, Small Fan-foot, Small Yellow Wave, Spruce Carpet, Southern Wainscot, Small Fan-footed Wave, Swallow-tailed Moth and V Pug. The Silver Hook was especially pleasing as I last caught it in June 2004 and this appears to have been the only previous report of this species to the UTB website. With the help of Martin Townsend I managed to identify some interesting micromoths, one of which is an all-time newcomer to the UTB website - Schoenobius gigantella and three of which appear to be new for this year - Donacaula forficella, Ostrinia nubilalis (The European Corn-borer) and Lozotaenia forsterana. Two nights later (28th June) the catch was only about three-quarters the size but it did include a further 5 additions to my 2010 garden list including Barred Straw & Phlyctaenia coronata."