

Butterfly Conservation Upper Thames Branch

Moth Sightings Archive - January to June 2011

~ Monday 27th June 2011 ~

David Redhead ran his garden moth trap in Littlemore, Oxon on 25th June: "I set a record for the year with 183 macro-moths from 46 species and, because the next night was forecast to be even warmer, I ran it again and caught 283 macro-moths from 60 species. In total 15 new species for the year:

25th June - Barred Straw, Common Emerald, Common Footman, Dark Umber, Drinker, Fan-foot, Ghost (2 females), Large Twin-spot Carpet, Light Arches, Single-dotted Wave, Small Fan-footed Wave.

26th June - Lackey (a very tired specimen and an all time first for my garden), **Scarce Footman, White Satin & Yellow Shell.** Amongst the micros I managed to identify was one that might be new for the year to the UTB website - **Euzophera pinguis** - caught both nights."

Tom Stevenson says he spotted a Hummingbird Hawkmoth early this morning, **27th June**, whilst carrying out a bird survey at **Battle Farm, Preston Crowmarsh, Oxon.**

Danny Howard sent these sightings today: "I went for a walk up to the Folly in **Faringdon, Oxon** yesterday evening (**Sunday 26th June**) to watch the sunset - on descending we saw thousands of summer **Chafer Beetles** swarming - they appeared to be rising from the field to fly around the treetops at the edge of the field - many were falling back to the ground as 'couples' with a thud. Never seen anything like it in this country! This morning I saw a female **Ghost Moth** on a wall in the centre of Oxford."

This report came from Dave Maunder: "A few of the more interesting moths caught in my garden trap here in **Aylesbury, Bucks** last night, **25th June** (apart from all the **Heart and Darts/Dark Arches!**) were:- **Coronet moth** (1 - my first ever Aylesbury specimen); **Lackey moth** (1); **Small Ranunculus** (1); **Light Arches** (4); **Dot Moths** (7); **Swallow-tailed Moth** (1) and **Blood-vein** (1). I've also attached a photo of some of the **Privet Hawk-moths** I've reared from last year's stock, lined up on my wall!"



Privet Hawkmoths
Photo © Dave Maunder

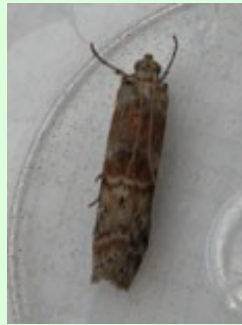
Nigel Partridge reported the following: "A couple more that are new to the 2011 garden list (**Loosley Row, Bucks**). **Carcina quercana** 21-06-11 and **Ypsolopha sequella** 22-06-11.

Kate Barker says she spotted a Scarlet Tiger moth on the pavement in **Botley Road, Oxford** on **June 23rd.**

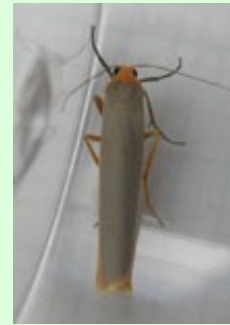
Chris Bottrell sent this update: "22/6 - A reasonable catch in my *Merton (Oxon)* garden, including some new ones for my year list. 263 individuals of 35 species: **Large Fruit-tree Tortrix** (2M); **Clepsis consimilana** (1); **Cnephasia sp.** (29 of possibly 3 species? One individual was infested with two red mites one of which it managed to dislodge whilst in the pot.); **Celypha striana** (1); **Celypha lacunana** (1); **Chrysoteuchia culmella** (7); **Scoparia pyraella** (10); **Dipleurina lacustrata** (2); **Small Magpie** (1); **Mother of Pearl** (1); **Bee Moth** (1M 2F); **Phycita roborella** (1); **Buff Arches** (1); **Barred Straw** (1); **Light Emerald** (1); **Elephant Hawkmoth** (2); **Scarce Footman** (1); **Common Footman** (1); **Turnip Moth** (2); **Heart and Club** (11); **Heart and Dart** (119); **Large Yellow Underwing** (1); **Setaceous Hebrew Character** (1); **Double Square-spot** (1); **Smoky Wainscot** (2); **Dun-bar** (1); **Dark Arches** (11); **Light Arches** (2); **Large Nutmeg** (7); **Marbled Minor** (3); **Uncertain** (28); **Mottled Rustic** (7); **Snout** (1)."



Cnephasia sp. plus mite
Photo © Chris Bottrell



Phycita roborella
Photo © Chris Bottrell



Scarce Footman
Photo © Chris Bottrell

Derek Brown sent this sighting on 23rd June: "I saw a male **Vapourer moth** today, 23rd June, in the garden at *Beenham, Berks*. First ever, but unfortunately no pictures."

Andy King reported the following on 23rd June: "On checking the 2011 moth list, the following may still be additions: a **Dwarf Cream Wave** was in my *Chorleywood, Bucks* (VC24) light-trap on 21 June. On the 14 May I found a caterpillar on Hawthorn near Tring. It emerged on the 20 June and is **Paraswammerdamia nebulella**, (was *P. lutarea*), no less. Also found as a larva on Hawthorn, at a private site in *Higher Denham* on 15 May, two **Scythropia crataegella** emerged on 3 June."

~ Saturday 25th June 2011 ~

Dave Wilton sent another update from mid-Bucks on 22nd June:

(9th June) **Ancylis achatana** and **Argyresthia spinosella** were new for the garden list here at *Westcott*.

(11th June) My first **Six-spot Burnet** of the year was recorded in some open-access wildflower meadows at *Doddershall* and eight Foresters were seen there too.

(13th June) **Four-dotted Footman** and **Lilac Beauty** were recorded at *Whitecross Green Wood* while another addition to the list at *Westcott* was **Short-cloaked Moth**.

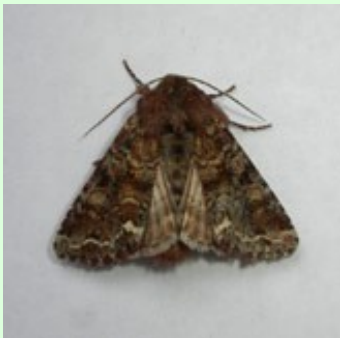
(14th June) A very successful trapping session in *Bernwood Forest* with Marc Botham resulted in us recording in excess of 120 species, including **Barred Red**, **Minor Shoulder-knot**, **Rosy Footman**, **Satin Beauty**, **Scallop Shell** and micros **Apotomis capreana**, **Blastodacna hellerella**, **Epiblema roborana**, **Homoeosoma sinuella**, **Metzneria metzneriella**, **Phtheochroa inopiana**, **Phycita roborella**, **Pseudotelphusa scalella** & **Scythropia crataegella**.

(15th June) Seen in *Bernwood Forest* were **Argyresthia glabratella**, **Batia unitella** & **Pandemis heparana**.

(18th June) A joint Bucks Invertebrate Group/BENHS moth event was held in *Bernwood Forest* but the weather was barely suitable and it was very soggy underfoot. New to my

traps were **Beautiful Carpet**, **Grey Arches**, **Small Fan-footed Wave**, **Epiblema rosaecolana** & **Epinotia signatana**.

(20th June) Seen during the daytime at **Gallowsbridge Farm** was **Eucosma cana**, while another visit to **Rammamere Heath** with my traps that evening, which was again rather damp, produced over 80 species of which **Broom Moth** & **Scarce Footman** were new for the year. Found during a brief torchlight search of one area of heather were larvae of **Beautiful Yellow Underwing** (two) and Emperor Moth (four). It is strange that I've taken a virgin female Emperor to Rammamere two years running to try "assembling" for males and had no success, yet the habitat is perfect and the moth is very obviously resident there! Back at **Westcott** the overnight trap was overwhelmed with Heart & Darts. Already this season I've had several counts in excess of 100 and one in excess of 300, but this night produced a massive total of 654. Good job it was an actinic trap and not an MV, or I'd still be counting them now! Other moths new for the year included **Dot Moth**, **Sycamore**, **Cataclysta lemnata/Small China-mark** & **Pleuroptya ruralis/Mother of Pearl**.



Broom Moth
Photo © Dave Wilton



Beautiful Yellow Underwing larva
Photo © Dave Wilton



Beautiful Carpet
Photo © Dave Wilton

Finally, Peter Hall has kindly identified another batch of difficult moths, mostly micros dating from late-April and early-May, of which the following appear to be new to this year's UTB list: **Heliozela sericiella**, **Phyllonorycter ulmifoliella** & **Stigmella salicis** (all from **Finemere Wood on 20th April**), **Monopis laevigella** (from near **Tingewick on 21st April**), **Phyllonorycter acerifoliella** & **Stigmella confusella** (from a private wood near **Stowe on 22nd April**), **Monopis weaverella**, **Parornix betulae** & **Phyllonorycter dubitella** (from **Bernwood on 23rd April**), **Platyptilia gonodactyla** (from **Greatmoor on 24th April**), **Coleophora albicosta** (from **Bernwood on 29th April**), **Coleophora alticolella**, **Phyllonorycter coryli**, **Phyllonorycter salicicolella** & **Phyllonorycter tenerella** (from **Whitecross Green Wood on 5th May**), **Coleophora trifolii**, **Depressaria ultimella** & **Marbled Minor** (from **Doddershall on 6th May**) and **Stigmella atricapitella** (from **Westcott on 6th May**)."

Tony Croft sent this update on 22nd June: "The only remaining visible **Emperor moth larva** in my garden in **Easington, Bucks** has just undergone another moult which I think makes this the final instar. It is a magnificent 60mm in length and is so obvious that I'm surprised it hasn't come to the attention of the birds. Having come this far I would be very disappointed if it didn't make it to the cocoon stage."



Emperor Moth larva - final instar
Photo © Tony Croft

Adam Bassett reported a couple of new species for his garden year list: "Small Fan-footed Wave was on the house wall in *Marlow Bottom, Bucks* on *June 20th* and *Monopis laevigella* was disturbed on *June 21st.*"

Chris Bottrell reported the following on 20th June: 18/6 - 131 moths of 25 species in my *Merton (Oxon)* garden trap including a magnificent Privet Hawk-moth. Total catch: **Ghost Moth (1M); Brown House-moth (1); Blastobasis lacticolella (1); Clepsis consimilana (2); Cnephasia sp (2 species? 7); Celypha lacunana (1); Chrysoteuchia culmella (2); Scoparia pyralella (5); Scoparia ambigualis (1); Small Magpie (1); Bee Moth (1M); Emmelina monodactyla (1); Light Emerald (1); Privet Hawk-moth (1); Elephant Hawkmoth (1); Buff Ermine (2); Heart and Club (5); Heart and Dart (61); Flame (3); Setaceous Hebrew Character (1); Double Square-spot (1); Smoky Wainscot (1); Dark Arches (8); Large Nutmeg (10); Marbled Minor egg (5); Uncertain (7).** Also have eventually got around to identifying the beast I found tucking into a Muslin Moth inside the trap back in May and put in a jam jar. It is the **Assassin Bug** (*Reduvius personatus*) and it was still alive!"



Privet Hawkmoth
Photo © Chris Bottrell



Ghost Moth
Photo © Chris Bottrell



Assassin Bug
Photo © Chris Bottrell

On 17th June Dave Maunder sent the photo below of an Elephant Hawkmoth which he reared at home in *Aylesbury, Bucks*. "Also on *20th June* I got an early **Scalloped Oak** in my garden trap plus an **Eyed Hawkmoth** and a **Poplar Hawkmoth**. On *21st June* I saw my first **Small Ranunculus** on my garden Valerian flowers at dusk."



Elephant Hawkmoth
Photo © Dave Maunder

~ Monday 20th June 2011 ~

David Redhead had two additions to his 2011 garden list in Littlemore, Oxon on 19th June: Buff Arches and Swallow-tailed Moth.

Nigel Partridge sent a few more records from Loosley Row, Bucks: "13-06-11 - *Crambus pascuella*, *Ephestia parasitella* (thanks to Peter Hall and John Langmaid for their help with the ID) and 19-06-11 - *Argyresthia albistria*, *Pretty Chalk Carpet*, *Udea prunalis*."

Mark Calway sent this report: "Astrid Calway was shown a moth that had fallen from a doorway at the local school where she works. The staff initially thought it might be an Ermine. Astrid brought it home for me to identify - a **Leopard Moth**, the second one seen this year in *Berkshire*, the other one was reported a few weeks earlier at a meeting of the Berkshire Moth Group."

Chris Bottrell sent this update: "10/6 - My garden trap in *Merton (Oxon)* 116 moth of 19 species: Unidentified *Yponomeutinae* (*Swammerdamia/Paraswammerdamia* sp?) (1); *Cnephasia* sp (5 of 2 species?); *Crambus lathoniellus* (1); *Scoparia pyralella* (13); **Small Dusty Wave** (1); **Garden Carpet** (1); **Green Carpet** (1); **Elephant Hawkmoth** (1); **Heart and Dart** (66); **Flame** (1); **Setaceous Hebrew Character** (5); **Common Wainscot** (3); **Shoulder-striped Wainscot** (2); **Dark Arches** (1); **Large Nutmeg** (8); **Marbled Minor** agg (2); **Treble Lines** (1); **Mottled Rustic** (3).

11/6 - Whilst on *Otmoor, Oxon* doing a butterfly survey for the RSPB an **Emperor Moth larva** found on the bridleway-side brambles (SP 56773 12951). Luckily not the bit that had been strimmed back. And a **Blackneck** disturbed from the long grass on the final section across the field adjacent to the car park (SP 56949 12761).

14/6 - Exceptional catch of 295 moths of 48 species in my garden trap: **Common Swift** (1); **Nematopogon metaxella** (1); **Blastobasis laticolella** (2); **Clepsis consimilana** (4); **Isotrias rectifasciana** (1); *Cnephasia* sp (21 of 2 species?); **Neosphaleroptera nubilana** (1); **Green Oak Tortrix** (1); **Celypha lacunana** (9); **Marbled Orchard Tortrix** (1); **Epiblema trimaculana** (1); **Chrysoteuchia culmella** (5); *Crambus lathoniellus* (1); *Scoparia pyralella* (8); *Scoparia ambigualis* (16); **Dipleurina lacustrata** (1); **Small Magpie** (2); **Bee Moth** (2F 3M); **White Plume Moth** (1); **The Lackey** (2); **Riband Wave** (3); **Large Twin-spot Carpet** (1); **Garden Carpet** (2); **Barred Straw** (1); **Mottled Pug** (3); **Willow Beauty** (1); **Mottled Beauty** (1); **Elephant Hawkmoth** (2); **Small Elephant Hawkmoth** (1); **Pale Prominent** (1); **Common Footman** (1); **Turnip Moth** (6); **Heart and Dart** (135); **Large Yellow Underwing** (2); **Setaceous Hebrew Character** (4); **Smoky Wainscot** (1); **Common Wainscot** (2); **Shoulder-striped Wainscot** (3); **Dingy Shears** (2); **Dark Arches** (6); **Large Nutmeg** (20); **Marbled Minor** agg (5); **Middle-barred Minor** (1); **Treble Lines** (2); **Uncertain** (1); **Mottled Rustic** (2); **The Fan-foot** (2). (Thanks to Peter Hall for confirming/correcting some of the identifications)."



~ Saturday 18th June 2011 ~

Mick A'Court ran two 40W Actinic traps at Leaches Farm, Bucks on 14th June: "I caught a reasonable selection including a **Single-dotted Wave**, a **Blue Bordered Carpet**, a **Blackneck**, 4 **Large Yellow Underwings**, 2 **Smoky Wainscots**, a **Bordered Straw**, 9 **Lackeys (first adult)**, 1 **Lappet**, 5 **Dingy Shears**, a **Beautiful Hook Tip**, 3 **Double Darts** and a female **Ghost Moth**. On the same night my **Butlers X, Bucks** garden trap (125w MV) didn't do so well but had my first **Common Footman** of the year together with a **Light Arches**, **Clouded Brindle**, **Shoulder Striped Wainscot**, a **Riband Wave** and 5 **Hypsopygia costalis (Gold Triangle)** amongst the commoner stuff."

Vandana Lake, volunteer warden at RSPB Otmoor in Oxon sent the following sighting on 17th June: "In a hedge at Otmoor I found a **Yellow Shell**. Also, on 29th May I photographed this caterpillar (see below) which I am told is an **Emperor Moth larva**."

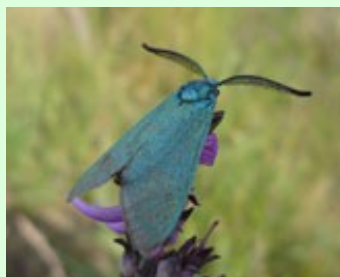


Emperor Moth larva
Photo © Vandana Lake

David Redhead says that his overnight garden moth trap on 15th June produced his second biggest catch of the year: "I had 128 macros from 43 species including four new for the year - **Dun-bar**, **Elephant Hawkmoth**, **July Highflyer** & **Peach Blossom**. **Double Square-spot** with 17 was the most prolific."

Adam Bassett sent this update from Marlow Bottom, Bucks on 16th June: "A few more from **13th June** that were new for my garden year list: **Argyresthia pruniella**, **Lozotaenia forsterana**, **Phoenix** and **Barred Yellow**."

Chris Brown visited The Millennium Field in Sonning Common, Berks on Saturday 4th June and found **Forester Moth** (3).



Forester
Photo © Chris Brown

Malcolm Brownsword reported the following: "On the afternoon of **15th June** I saw a mating pair of **Scarlet Tiger moths** in my garden at **West Hagbourne, Oxon**."



Scarlet Tiger moths
Photo © Malcolm Brownsword

Tim Watts sent this message: "Colleen and I saw our first **Hummingbird Hawkmoth** of the year on 14/6/11. It was nectaring from Valerian (red) in our **Whitchurch, Bucks** garden in the early evening."

Chris Bottrell reported the following on 14th June:

3/6 - My **Merton (Oxon)** garden trap bulging with 277 moths of 42 species. However at the time of posting the only new species for the UTB list: **Pterophorus pentadactyla (White Plume Moth)**. Total catch: **Brown House-moth** (1); **Agapeta hamana** (1); **Clepsis consimilana** (4); **Cnephasia sp.** (2 species?) (6); **Celypha lacunana** (5); **Codling Moth** (1); **Crambus lathoniellus** (5); **Scoparia pyralella** (16); **Scoparia ambigualis** (6); **Small Magpie** (1); **Bee Moth** (3); **White Plume Moth** (2); **Adaina microdactyla** (1); **Blood-vein** (1); **Small Dusty Wave** (2); **Mottled Pug** (1); **Lime-speck Pug** (1); **Grey Pug** (6); **Willow Beauty** (2); **Elephant Hawkmoth** (1); **Small Elephant Hawkmoth** (1); **Buff-tip** (1); **Common Footman** (1); **Buff Ermine** (3); **Turnip Moth** (2); **Heart and Dart** (41); **Flame** (5); **Flame Shoulder** (3); **Large Yellow Underwing** (1); **Setaceous Hebrew Character** (7); **Common Wainscot** (8); **Shoulder-striped Wainscot** (4); **Dark Arches** (7); **Large Nutmeg** (65); **Rustic Shoulder-knot** (2); **Marbled Minor agg** (37); **Middle-barred Minor** (10); **Treble Lines** (5); **Vine's Rustic** (4); **Mottled Rustic** (3); **Snout** (1).

4/6 - Whilst filling the bird feeders at **RSPB Otmoor, Oxon** a **Hedya salicella** found mimicking the bird droppings underneath. Only noticed, because it moved.

7/6 - A mere 39 moths of 13 species in the garden trap. Predominantly Heart and Dart. Total catch: **Common Swift** (1); **Clepsis consimilana** (1); **Scoparia pyralella** (4); **White Plume Moth** (1); **Foxglove Pug** (1); **Buff-tip** (1); **Turnip Moth** (1); **Heart and Dart** (19); **Shoulder-striped Wainscot** (1); **Large Nutmeg** (4); **Marbled Minor agg** (1); **Treble Lines** (1); **Vine's Rustic** (3)."



Hedya salicella
Photo © Chris Bottrell

David Redhead walked the butterfly transect in the M40 Compensation Area on Saturday 11th June: "I came across a moth I have only seen a few times before - a **Blackneck**. Also seen were **Narrow-bordered Five-spot Burnet** (7), **Burnet Companion** (5), **Cinnabar** (3) and a **Blood-vein**."

Andy King sent the following: "Shuffling through my photos on 12th June, which seemed better than going out and getting rained-on, I came across a single photo of a moth I had not ID'd a month ago. It seems to be of **Hysterophora maculosana** and

would have been light-trapped in *Philipshill Wood, nr. Chorleywood, Bucks* which has lots of Bluebells, the larval foodplant. It is not yet on the 2011 list and was caught on *08 May.*"



Hysterophora maculosana
Photo © Andy King

~ Sunday 12th June 2011 ~

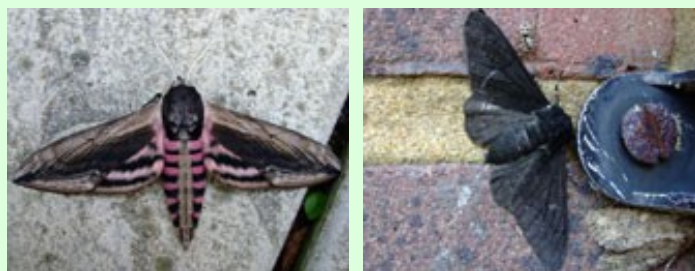
Chris and Pat Dennis went to Bernwood Forest (Oakley wood) yesterday afternoon, 11th June: "It became too dull, windy and cloudy for many butterflies but we did find this **Orange Moth.**"



Orange Moth
Photo © Chris Dennis

Nigel Partridge sent this update from Loosley Row, Bucks: "Amongst the catch in the trap last night, *11th June*, was a **Marbled Coronet.** This is a new species for our garden."

Dave Maunder reported the following on 11th June: "After a week away in Cornwall, back to more inclement weather! However, I did manage to find a nice male **Privet Hawk-moth** below a lamp at the nearby Walton court shops in *Aylesbury, Bucks* on *11th June* - a nice find! On the *5th June* I also found 7 **Peppered moths** below the same lamp - 6 typical form, one melanistic (the first of these I've found in 5 years!). On *7th June* I had a **Plain Golden Y** and a **Silver-Y** feeding on my garden Valerian flowers at dusk, also a **Small Magpie** on my Vipers bugloss. Today (*11th*) I also found a **Burnet Companion**, 2 **Mother Shipton**, 1 **Yellow Shell**, 1 **Common Wave** and 4 **Puss Moth larvae** in the field near my home."



Adam Bassett sent this moth report: "A few more recent additions to my garden list in *Marlow Bottom, Bucks: (May 29th) Cedestis gysselella, (May 30th) Opostega salaciella* and *Epinotia demarniana, (June 3rd) Nemapogon wolffiella, Argyresthia curvella, Orthopygia glaucinalis* and **Clay Triple-lines**. Thanks to Peter Hall for his help."

Mick A'Court sent the following report: "On *3rd June* my *Butlers X, Bucks* garden trap produced 34 species including amongst others, 4 **Peppered Moths**, 1 **Privet Hawkmoth**, 1 **Brown Rustic**, 2 **Clouded Brindle**, 1 **Shoulder-striped Wainscot**, 1 **Poplar Grey**, 1 **Beautiful Hook-tip**, 2 **Fanfoot**, 2 **Lobster Moths**, 11 **Treble Lines**, 2 **Green Pugs**, 1 **Snout** and 2 **Shears**.

On *9th June* at *Leaches Farm, Bucks* I found a **Commophila aeneana** and, earlier in the week, 1 **Forester Moth** there and 2 at *Gallows Bridge Farm*."



Commophila aeneana
Photo © Mick A'Court

On 10th June Gemma Malaperiman and her family found a Scarlet Tiger moth at Kidmore End, Oxfordshire.

Tony Croft came across this beautiful Light Emerald moth in *Lapland's Farm meadow, Bucks* on *9th June*.



Light Emerald
Photo © Tony Croft

Andy King reported the following: "Richard Ellis and I ran a light-trap in *Philipshill Wood, Chorleywood, Bucks* on Tuesday night (*7th June*). We caught 31+ species, 29 of which could be identified down to species. There were nice single specimens of **Clouded Brindle**, female **Ghost Moth**, **Shoulder-striped Wainscot**, **Brindled White-spot** and **Blotched Emerald**."



Ghost Moth
Photo © Andy King



Blotched Emerald
Photo © Andy King

This report of a Nationally scarce moth came via David Redhead: Steve Woolliams spotted a pair of **Currant Clearwing** moths mating on *June 4th* in his garden in *Oxford*. "They were on a raspberry bush immediately adjacent to white currant bushes. I subsequently found an empty pupal case sticking out from a currant branch. I've never seen these before, I have old blackcurrant and gooseberry bushes and have planted white currant and red currant bushes in recent years."

~ Friday 10th June 2011 ~

This update came from Keith Mitchell on 6th June: "I've just had the id confirmed (Martin Albertini, per John Langmaid) of a scruffy, non-descript little Tortrix, which I suspected was **Neosphaleroptera nubilana**. The moth was trapped on the *29th May* in my garden in *Stoke Goldington, Bucks*. It appears to be recorded infrequently in UTB. There is a poor record photo attached (see below)."



Neosphaleroptera nubilana
Photo © Keith Mitchell

Nigel Partridge sent a few more records from his garden in Loosley Row, Bucks: "These are all from *29-05-11*. Thanks to Peter Hall for confirming the IDs: **Shaded Pug**, **Bryotropha affinis** and **Phyllonorycter leucographella**."

David Redhead had two additions to his 2011 garden list in his 8th June moth trap in Littlemore, Oxon: **Round-winged Muslin** and a **Small Fan-foot**.

Keith Mitchell sent this report on 6th June: "The *4th June* saw the following moths new to my garden in *Stoke Goldington, Bucks* for this this year: **Riband Wave (ab. remutata)**, **Mottled Beauty**, **Privet Hawk-moth** (showing belligerent threat display - I love the forward pointing antennae, almost like pincers), **Elephant Hawk-moth**, **Common Footman (first adult)**, **Broad-barred White** (garden first), **Varied Coronet**, **Smoky Wainscot**, **Angle Shades** and **Burnished Brass**."



Privet Hawkmoth
Photo © Keith Mitchell

David Hastings recorded the following moths recently: "On *Saturday 4th June* I visited *Lardon Chase* and saw a **Burnet Companion moth** and on *Sunday 5th June* I found a newly-emerged **Scarlet Tiger** moth in my garden in *Abingdon, Oxfordshire.*"



Scarlet Tiger
Photo © David Hastings

This came from Dave Wilton on 5th June: "Further sightings from here in mid-Bucks include the following:

(29th May) Missed from my last report was the fact that **Commophila aeneana** & **Metzneria lappella** were trapped on the disused railway at *Doddershall* that evening.
(1st June) The garden trap at *Westcott* added **Barred Straw** and **Small Angle Shades** to the year list, while a three-hour session in *Bernwood Forest* brought in, amongst others, **Apotomis turbidana**, **Carpatolechia proximella**, **Epinotia demarniana**, **Pseudosciaphila branderiana**, **Ptycholoma lecheana**, **Blotched Emerald**, **Drinker (first adult)**, **Slender Pug** and **Small Dotted Buff**. It was also very pleasing to catch my first **Privet Hawk-moth** of the year there.

(2nd June) During the daytime in the disused railway cutting *west of Westcott Venture Park* I found the tortrix **Celypha rosaceana**. In the picture below it looks rather as if it has just returned from holiday having forgotten to take any sun lotion! This is only the fourth Bucks record for the species. Amongst the moths trapped at *Greatmoor* that evening were **Ethmia dodecea** (2nd Bucks record after last year's find by Peter Hall in Bernwood), **Eudonia pallida**, **Mompha ochraceella**, **Lappet** (always nice to see!), **Small Seraphim** & **White Satin**.

(3rd June) Another visit to *Rammamere Heath* that evening produced a reasonable selection of moths, including **Rivulet** which is new to this year's UTB list. Five **Pine Hawk-moths** came to one of the traps, the most I've ever seen at one time.

(4th June) Finding two freshly-emerged female **Hornet Moths** locally on black poplars was today's highlight, one near *Doddershall* and the other near *Ludgershall*. The first was resting 3ft up the trunk of the tree, while the other was fighting her way out of the vegetation at the base. That evening, despite the gale-force easterly winds, I decided to take a single MV trap to *Finemere Wood* which was long overdue a visit. I was pleasantly surprised to get nearly 80 moth species, including some of the tiniest Nepticulids which seemed quite able to brave the inclement conditions (the trap itself nearly became airborne once or twice!). Moths new for the year included **Archips xylosteana**, **Blue-bordered Carpet (first adult)** & **Common Emerald.**"



Celypha rosaceana
Photo © Dave Wilton



Ethmia dodecea
Photo © Dave Wilton



Hornet Moth
Photo © Dave Wilton

David Redhead sent this report on 5th June: "My overnight garden moth trap on **4th June** in **Littlemore, Oxon** was the most voluminous and varied to date for 2011 with 172 macro-moths from 50 species. These included two all-time additions to my garden list with a **Marbled White Spot** and a **Small Dusty Wave**. 15 species were also new for the year - **Mottled Beauty** (6), **Light Emerald** (5), **Beautiful Hook-tip** (3), **Buff Ermine** (3), **Large Yellow Underwing**, **Dingy Shears** (2) and singletons of **Bright-line Brown-eye**, **Burnished Brass**, **Heart & Club**, **Purple Clay**, **Scorched Wing**, **Setaceous Hebrew Character**, **Smoky Wainscot**, **Spruce Carpet** & **Turnip**. The returnees were **Heart & Dart** (35), **Flame** (15), **Straw Dot** (8), **Clouded Silver** (6), **Obscure Wainscot** (6), **Treble Lines** (6), **Common Swift** (4), **Poplar Hawkmoth** (4), **Snout** (4), **Blood-vein** (3), **Double Square-spot** (3), **Middle-barred Minor** (3), **Silver-ground Carpet** (3), **Swallow Prominent** (3), **Vine's Rustic** (3), **White Ermine** (3), **Common Pug** (2), **Green Carpet** (2), **Grey Pug** (2), **Mottled Pug** (2), **Mottled Rustic** (2) and singletons of **Campion**, **Coronet**, **Dark Arches**, **Flame Shoulder**, **Ingrailed Clay**, **Large Nutmeg**, **Lesser Treble-bar**, **Peppered Moth**, **Rustic Shoulder-knot**, **Scarlet Tiger** & **Treble Brown Spot**. Seven species of micro also identified - **Small Magpie** (10), **Scoparia Ambigualis** (6), **Large Fruit-tree Tortrix** (4), **Udea Olivalis** (3), **Epiblema cynosbatella** (2), **Barred Fruit-tree Tortrix** (2), **Perinephela lancealis** (1)."

Tom Stevenson says that he saw Scarlet Tigers in **Benson, Oxon** on **3rd June**.

May Webber sent the following on 5th June: "I have attached a photo of a pair of **Poplar Hawkmoths** - interesting to see the difference within a species. I thought it would be good to add to the website."



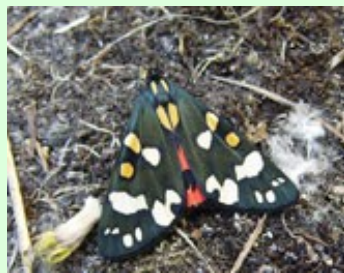
Poplar Hawkmoths
Photo © May Webber

Andy King sent the following: "On **4th June** I noticed that another of my captive pupae had hatched. This one was from a large private site in **Higher Denham, Bucks** on **15 May**. It turns out to be **Scythropia crataegella** which, as its specific name suggests, was on Hawthorn. The moth generally emerges in July and should not be put on the 'first flight time' list since I had kept it indoors in a sunny room."

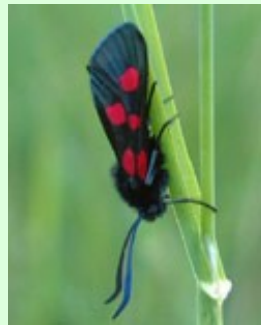


Scythropia crataegella
Photo © Andy King

David Redhead reported the following from Littlemore, Oxon on 3rd June: "Late afternoon on **3rd June**, Wendy spotted a newly emerged **Scarlet Tiger Moth (first adult)** in our porch. On closer examination it took a short flight onto the edge of our drive where she managed to photograph it. Attempts to move it to a safer place put it into full flight and it disappeared across our garden displaying its beautiful scarlet hindwings as it went. Shortly afterwards I came across the first of the **Narrow-bordered Five-spot Burnet Moths (first adult)** to emerge from the over 200 cocoons to be found on the grassland near our house. I returned in the early evening with my camera and luckily managed to refind it now settled down for the night."



Scarlet Tiger
Photo © Wendy Redhead



Narrow-bordered Five-spot Burnet
Photo © David Redhead

~ Saturday 4th June 2011 ~

Andy King sent the following: "During May, John Murray revealed (via Hertsmothgroup) that he had discovered a moth that appeared to be new to Hertfordshire - *Psychoides filicivora*. To cut a long story short, they are associated with ferns, including Hartstongue Ferns. He found his as an adult. I promptly checked my Hartstongue Fern at the back of my house in **Chorleywood, Bucks** and, first leaf I turned over, discovered evidence of larval activity. The larvae live in cases that they build out of pieces of sorus (sori are the structures that grow the spores and which in Hartstongue appear as two rows of brown, powdery strips in neat chevron-pattern rows). This is a very good camouflage, but they betray themselves by moving around, as they eat bits of leaf. Any 'sori' that appear to be 'misplaced' are worth checking. I 'captured' three or four and kept them in a variety of conditions to see what would hatch out. Over the weekend of **28th/29th May** one small (5mm long) black moth emerged in its pot. However, this is not *P. filicivora*, but ***Psychoides verhuella***, a very closely related species which apparently is more closely associated with Hartstongue Fern than *P. filicivora*, which uses other ferns. *P. filicivora* has a white spot on its 'back', *P. verhuella* doesn't and is plain almost-black. As far as I can see *P. verhuella* is not present in the UTB all-time list. Notwithstanding its plainness, the moth will shine with metallic lilac if tilted at the right angle to the sun.

28th May: In my garden, actinic, trap, (in **Chorleywood**), ***Argyresthia brockeella***,

Strophedra weirana and **Caloptilia stigmatella**. A lot of the Argyresthia are difficult to ID, but I don't think this one is, as the photo shows. Strophedra is a dull little moth and I've been catching it for a while before eventually working out what it is."



Psychoides verhuella
Photo © Andy King



Argyresthia brockeella
Photo © Andy King

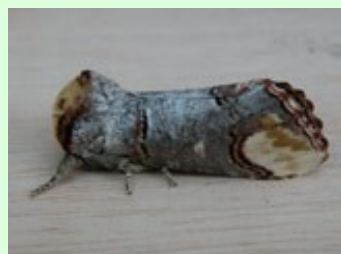
Nigel Partridge sent a few more records from Loosley Row, Bucks: "These are all from 02-06-11: **Clepsis consimilana**, **Fan-foot**, **Phlyctaenia coronata**, **Fern**, **Buff Arches**, **Chrysoteuchia culmella**, **Crambus perlella**, **Dotted Rustic**."



Dotted Rustic
Photo © Nigel Partridge

Chris Bottrell sent this update on 3rd June: 29/5 - Whilst surveying at **Finemere** and **Calvert Jubilee (Bucks)** several groups of **Nemophora degeerella** 'dancing in the sunshine', what there was of it.

31/5 - A cool night in **Merton (Oxon)** only gave 39 moths of 13 species in the garden trap: **Cnephasia sp** (2); **Scoparia pyralella** (2); **Buff-tip** (1); **Buff Ermine** (1); **Heart and Dart** (9); **Flame** (1); **Setaceous Hebrew Character** (2); **Dark Arches** (1); **Large Nutmeg** (8); **Rustic Shoulder-knot** (1); **Marbled Minor** agg (2); **Treble Lines** (2); **Vine's Rustic** (7)."



Buff-tip
Photo © Chris Bottrell

Adam Bassett sent the following on 2nd June: "A trap on **29th May** in **Marlow Bottom, Bucks** gave the following that at the time of writing are not on the current UTB year list: **Monopis obviella**, **Aphelia paleana (Timothy Tortrix)**, **Clepsis consimilana**, **Aleimma loeflingiana**, **Celypha striana**, **Tortrix viridana (Green Oak Tortrix)**, **Parapoynx stratiotata (Ringed China-mark)**, **Epiblema uddmanniana (Bramble**

Shoot Moth), **Mocha**, Haworth's Pug, **Currant Pug**, Green Pug, **Light Arches**, Beautiful Hook-tip, Large Yellow Underwing."

Alastair Driver sent this report on 1st June: "I set the Robinson Trap in my garden in **Sonning, Berks** last night **31st May** and although the catch was really poor in terms of quantity and variety, I did catch my first parish record of **Freyer's Pug**. The other species trapped were **Dark Arches**, **Poplar Hawkmoth**, **Heart and Dart**, **Treble Lines**, **Willow Beauty** and **Archips crataegana (Brown Oak Tortrix)**. Earlier in the day I found the attached stunning specimen of **Yellow Shell** in the garden - I thought you may like the photo for the website."



Yellow Shell
Photo © Alastair Driver

~ Friday 3rd June 2011 ~

Keith Mitchell sent this report on 1st June: "Due to the overcast conditions, the night of **29th-30th May** saw an increased catch in my garden in **Stoke Goldington, Bucks:** **Pseudagyrotoza conwagana**, **Scalloped Hazel**, **Orange Footman**, **Small Clouded Brindle** were all garden firsts, **Common Swift** (10), **Large Fruit-tree Tortrix (Archips podana)**, **Dark Strawberry Tortrix (Celypha lacunana)**(7), **Plum Tortrix (Hedya pruniana)**, **Scoparia ambigualis**, **Pyrausta aurata**, **Small Magpie (Eurrhpara hortulata)**, **Phlyctaenia coronata**, **Udea olivalis**, **Thistle Ermine (Myelois circumvoluta)**, **Maiden's Blush**, **Silver-ground Carpet**, **Green Carpet**, **Common Pug**, **Clouded Silver**, **Elephant Hawk-moth**, **Buff Ermine**, **White Ermine**, **Heart and Dart** (49), **Shuttle-shaped Dart**, **Flame**, **Flame Shoulder**, **Setaceous Hebrew Character** (5), **Shoulder-striped Wainscot** (3), **Brown Rustic** (5), **Large Nutmeg** (36), **Rustic Shoulder-knot** (7), **Middle-barred Minor** (7), **Treble Lines** (7), **Vine's Rustic**, **Mottled Rustic**, **Spectacle**, **Marbled Minor Agg** (8)."

Rob Hill reports that whilst walking along the disused railway near **Salden Wood, Bucks** on **31st May**, he and his wife Lucy saw 2 **Chimney Sweeper** moths.

Mary Elford sent this report on 1st June: "This **Varied Coronet** was in my trap here in **Bampton, West Oxfordshire** on **28th May**. There were lots of other moths but this was the only one not yet reported."



Varied Coronet

David Redhead reported the following from Littlemore, Oxon: "My overnight garden moth trap on **31st May** contained surprisingly low numbers with just 22 macro-moths from 12 species and a single micro-moth. Even with the low numbers there was still a nice surprise - a **Fern** which is an addition to my all-time garden list. Also three additions to my 2011 list with a **Brown Rustic, Large Nutmeg & Uncertain**. Returnees were **Heart & Dart** (10), **Treble-lines** (2) and singletons of **Clouded-bordered Brindle, Common Pug, Common Swift, Green Carpet** (extremely faded), **Swallow Prominent & White Ermine**. The micro was a **Scoparia ambigualis** - which may be a first report for the UTB website in 2011, if so I actually caught one in my last garden trap on **25th May** but overlooked reporting it.

1st June: Against my usual practice I ran my garden moth trap on consecutive nights and it is noticeable the difference a few degrees makes. This time there were 83 macro-moths from 38 species. 12 additions to my 2011 list - **Blood-vein** (6), **Mottled Rustic** (2), **Snout** (2), **Willow Beauty** (2) and singletons of **Buff-tip, Common Wainscot, Double Square-spot, Figure of Eighty, Flame Carpet, Middle-barred Minor, Pinion-streaked Snout & Plain Golden Y**. Amongst the more recognisable micros were my first **Small Magpies** (4) and a **Perinephela lancealis**."



The Fern
Photo © David Redhead

A few more records from Nigel Partridge's garden in Loosley Row, Bucks: **Green Pug** 27/05/11, **Pandemis cerasana** 29/05/11, **Haworth's Pug** 29/05/11, **Ditula angustiorana** 29/05/11, **Reddish Light Arches** 31/05/11.

~ Thursday 2nd June 2011 ~

Dave Wilton sent another week's update from mid-Bucks: (24th May) A single newly-emerged **Five-spot Burnet** was seen flying at the only known site for the species in Bucks, on the edge of the **Calvert land-fill**.

(25th May) **Enarmonia formosana, Beautiful Hook-tip & Double Square-spot** appeared in the garden trap at **Westcott**. The first of these doesn't look anything special until you see it close up, when it proves to be a beautiful little tortrix! Amongst the moths caught at a private wood near **Stowe** the same night were **Epinotia rubiginosana, Spatalistis bifasciana, Clouded Brindle, Common Lutestring & Peach Blossom**. The same site also produced a couple of examples of what is likely to be **Devon Carpet** but they await closer examination by one of the experts.

(27th May) My first **Large Yellow Underwing** of the year was seen at **Westcott**. It was one of a number of moth species disturbed from vegetation while mowing the lawn, the others being **Nematopogon metaxella, Emmetia marginea, Caloptilia syringella, Argyresthia trifasciata, Elachista argentella, Pseudargyrotoza conwagana, Hedyia pruniana, Blood-vein & Yellow Shell**. It pays to keep a couple of pots in your pocket at all times! Trapped in **Bernwood Forest** that night were **Choristoneura hebenstreitella, Pandemis cerasana, Tortrix viridana, Light Emerald, Mottled Beauty & Orange Moth**.

(28th May) **Celypha striana** and an early **Shark** were added to my year list from the garden trap at **Westcott** and it was nice to get a selection of larger moths that night too:

Lime Hawk-moth (1), Elephant Hawk-moth (1) & Small Elephant Hawk-moth (4). (29th May) A pleasing 269 moths of 63 species in the garden actinic trap at [Westcott](#) that night. Only **Epiblema uddmanniana** & **Green Pug** appear to be additions to the UTB list but **Pandemis cerasana**, **Epinotia bilunana**, **Poplar Grey**, **Dark Arches**, **Clouded Brindle** & **Beautiful Hook-tip** were new for the garden this year. Needless to say, the highest total was provided by **Heart & Dart** (54) but, unusually, **Large Nutmeg** seems to be giving it a run for its money this year with 36 individuals caught this time."



Enarmonia formosana
Photo © Dave Wilton

Tony Croft sent this update on 30th May: "I thought you might be interested in the progress of one of the **Emperor moth larvae** which has just undergone another instar change. The photos were taken over a 24 hour period. Most of the other larvae have disappeared now, probably eaten by birds or having gone deeper into the bushes, but I am able to monitor three on a regular basis."



Emperor Moth larva
about to moult
Photo © Tony Croft



Emperor Moth larva
with the old skin on the left
Photo © Tony Croft



Emperor Moth larva
after the moult
Photo © Tony Croft

Dave Ferguson reported the following on 29th May: "This **Nematopogon metaxella** was resting on our car (which explains the peculiar background) when we returned from a walk at Sheephouse Lane, [Flackwell Heath, Bucks](#) this morning (29th May). The antennae were blowing in the strong wind. While on the walk, a casual look at dark mullein leaves produced 3 **Mullein Moth larvae**."



Nematopogon metaxella
Photo © Dave Ferguson

David Redhead has now sorted out a couple of micros he caught on the 25th May (see report below): "They are: **Pandemis cerasana** (**Barred Fruit-tree Tortrix**) and

Nematopogon metaxella. Thanks go to Martin Corley & Martin Townsend for confirming the latter."

~ Saturday 28th May 2011 ~

Chris Bottrell sent this report today: "27/5 - Despite an unfavourable overnight weather forecast I put the garden trap out here in [Merton, Oxon](#) and luckily just managed to get it into the conservatory for emptying the following morning as it started to rain. 128 moths of 22 species: **Common Swift** (1); **Cnephasia sp** (poss *communana*) (3); **Crambus lathoniellus** (1); **Scoparia pyralella** (1); **Common Pug** (1); **Grey Pug** (1); **Brimstone Moth** (1); **Willow Beauty** (1); **White Ermine** (2); **Turnip Moth** (3); **Heart and Dart** (34); **Shuttle-shaped Dart** (1); **Flame** (1); **Common Wainscot** (4); **Angle Shades** (1, long time since I have caught one); **Large Nutmeg** (37); **Rustic Shoulder-knot** (7); **Marbled Minor** (6); **Middle-barred Minor** (1); **Treble Lines** (13); **Vine's Rustic** (7); **Burnished Brass** (1, although not very brassy!)."



Burnished Brass
Photo © Chris Bottrell

Adam Bassett sent this sighting from Marlow Bottom, Bucks: "This *Cydia fagiglandana* was resting on my car on [23rd May](#), possibly sheltering from the wind."



Cydia fagiglandana
Photo © Adam Bassett

Andy King sent the following update: "Argyresthia conjugella and **Pandemis cinnamomeana**, both on [25 May](#) at [Philipshill Wood](#), near Chorleywood, Bucks (125W mv Robinson trap)."

David Redhead reported the following on 26th May: "Not having run a moth trap in my garden in [Littlemore, Oxon](#) for nearly a fortnight it is perhaps not surprising that last night's ([25th May](#)) effort added 14 macro-moth species to my 2011 garden list - **Grey Pug (3), **Obscure Wainscot** (3), **Straw Dot** (3), **Peppered Moth** (2) and singletons of **Beautiful Golden-Y**, **Common Wave**, **Dark Arches**, **Flame**, **Garden Carpet**, **Ingrailed Clay**, **Lesser Treble-bar**, **Riband Wave**, **Rustic Shoulder-knot** & **Treble Brown Spot**. Returnees were **Heart & Dart** (24), **Treble Lines** (16), **Poplar Grey** (3), **Clouded Silver** (2), **Flame Shoulder** (2), **Poplar Hawkmoth** (2), **Silver-ground Carpet** (2) and singletons of **Clouded-bordered Brindle**, **Common Swift**, **Green Carpet**, **May Highflyer**, **Mottled Pug**, **Pale Prominent**, **Small Phoenix**, **Vine's Rustic** & **White Ermine**. Still struggling with the micros but two easily recognised additions to my 2011**

garden list are **Phlyctaenia perlucidalis** & **Udea Olivalis**."

Nigel Partridge reported a Treble Brown Spot on 24-05-11 at *Loosley Row, Bucks*.

Chris Bottrell sent this update on 26th May: 20/5 - Moths disturbed whilst doing a Butterfly survey for BBOWT at *Sydlings Copse (Oxon)*: **Common Heath Moth** (1); **Silver-ground Carpet** (1); **Opsibotys fuscalis** (3); **Grass Rivulet** (5); **Straw Dot** (1). That evening 78 moths of 16 species in my garden trap (*Merton, Oxon*): **Common Swift** (2); **Cnephasia sp** (prob communana) (4); **Scoparia pyralella** (6); **Bee Moth** (2); **Elephant Hawkmoth** (1); **Buff Ermine** (1); **Turnip Moth** (4); **Heart and Dart** (8); **Shuttle-shaped Dart** (5); **Setaceous Hebrew Character** (3); **The Shears** (1); **Large Nutmeg** (13); **Rustic Shoulder-knot** (3); **Marbled Minor** agg (6); **Treble Lines** (15); **Vine's Rustic** (4); and the obligatory **May Bug** (1).

24/5 - Suspect early morning (blackbird?) predation around the garden trap as the remnant of a carpet wing found outside it. Safely inside it though, 70 moths of 15 species: **Isotrias rectifasciana** (1, thanks to Peter Hall for identifying); **Cnephasia sp** (prob communana) (1); **Crambus lathoniellus** (1); **Grey Pug** (1); **Buff Ermine** (2); **Heart and Dart** (16); **Flame Shoulder** (1); **Setaceous Hebrew Character** (1); **Common Wainscot** (1); **Large Nutmeg** (23); **Rustic Shoulder-knot** (2); **Marbled Minor** agg (2); **Middle-barred Minor** (1); **Treble Lines** (9); **Vine's Rustic** (8);

25/5 - A **Yellow Shell** disturbed from the path side vegetation at *Stratfield Brake (Oxon)* during a lunchtime walk there. Also **Mother Shipton** (1); **Burnet Companion** (3); **Straw Dot** (1)."



Grass Rivulet
Photo © Chris Bottrell



Isotrias rectifasciana
Photo © Chris Bottrell



Opsibotys fuscalis
Photo © Chris Bottrell

~ Friday 27th May 2011 ~

Andy King reported the following: "Running a light-trap at home in *Chorleywood, Bucks* I have recently caught the following moths that may still be new to the 2011 list: **Flame** and **Plutella porrectella**, on 17 May, **Ingrailed Clay** on 18 May and **Cydia fagiglandana** and **Epinotia bilunana**, both on 21 May. On the afternoon of 21 May I visited *Ivinghoe Beacon, Bucks* and found, out of the wind, **Hedya pruniana** and **Adela fibulella**. This last one is the smallest British 'Longhorn' and I saw several flying and resting around patches of Germander Speedwell, the foodplant."



Flame
Photo © Andy King



Adela fibulella
Photo © Andy King



Plutella porrectella
Photo © Andy King

Dave Wilton sent this update on 22nd May: "On 19th May I disturbed **Epiblema sticticana** from amongst Colt's-foot at **Greatmoor, Bucks**, while an hour-long late afternoon visit to just one of the five fields that make up BBOWT's recent **Leaches Farm Meadows** acquisition in the River Ray Reserves, Bucks produced a vast quantity of day-flying moths: **Adela rufimitrella** (1), **Glyphipterix simpliciella** (3), **Glyphipterix thrasonella** (1,000+, in swarms in the reedier areas), **Cochylimorpha straminea** (8), **Celypha lacunana** (2), **Dichrorampha acuminatana** (1), **Crambus lathoniellus** (3), **Opsibotys fuscalis** (50+), **Forester** (1), **Grass Rivulet** (500+), **Small Yellow Underwing** (2) & **Burnet Companion** (100+). That night I ran a couple of traps at **Pilch Fields** near Great Horwood, Bucks but the only new species was a nice big female **Ghost Moth**.

On 20th May I visited a couple more sites looking for **Forester**, finding eight of this UK BAP species at **Bernwood Meadows** and another four at **Asham Meads**. **Grapholita compositella** was also seen at the latter site.

On 21st May I trapped at a site near **Tingewick, Bucks** where **Ingrailed Clay**, **Green Arches** & **Small Clouded Brindle** were amongst the 50-odd species seen, not a bad total for such a windy night. The Green Arches was a nice fresh individual. They do seem to lose their green scales very quickly! That same night the garden trap at **Westcott, Bucks** produced my first **Heart and Club** of the year.



Green Arches
Photo © Dave Wilton

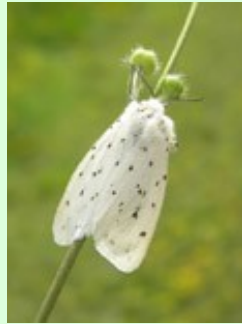
Peter Hall has found time to identify a batch of difficult micro-moths from March and April, so I have him to thank for the following which are new to the UTB list: **Acleris ferrugana** (12th March, Bernwood), **Acleris kochiella** (8th April, Diddershall), **Acleris notana** (15th April, Rammamere Heath), **Acrolepia autumnitella** (7th April, Westcott), **Mompha bradleyi** (13th April, Westcott) **Mompha jurassicella** (7th March, Westcott), **Pammene giganteana** (5th April, Bernwood), **Parornix finitimella** (8th April, Diddershall) and **Phyllonorycter blancardella** (6th April, Whitecross Green Wood)."

Wendy Wilson says that there's a delightful flower meadow at Crabtree Plantation, Ley Hill near Chesham, Bucks which is well worth a visit: "The ragged robin, ox-eye daisies, red campion and yellow rattle are in full bloom at the moment. This **White**

Ermine feigned dead - very convincingly as you can see - as I removed her from the path, but she gripped the buttercup stalk I placed her on strongly and appeared fully recovered once out of harm's way. Other moths there were numerous **Cinnabar** and a **Burnet Companion**. I also recorded seven butterfly species including my first Large Skippers of the season."



White Ermine
Photo © Wendy Wilson



White Ermine
Photo © Wendy Wilson



Cinnabar
Photo © Wendy Wilson

Nigel Partridge sent the following: "A few more recent records from our garden in *Loosley Row, Bucks*: **Small Dusty Wave** 17-05-11, **Middle-barred Minor** 19-05-11, **Ingrailed Clay** 19-05-11, **Netted Pug** 20-05-11 and **Udea olivalis** 20-05-11."

~ Friday 20th May 2011 ~

Ian Shaw visited Ivinghoe Beacon, Bucks on 19th May: "Weather – sunny intervals, no wind. Search for Duke of Burgundy butterfly to no avail, but compensated by good views of 2 **Wood Tiger** moths, males I believe, plus a **Cinnabar**."



Wood Tiger
Photo © Ian Shaw

Chris Bottrell sent this report today: "17/5 - An increase in numbers and a few new species in my *Merton (Oxon)* garden trap. 107 moths of 21 species: **Common Swift** (10); **Elachista maculicerusella** (1, thanks to Peter Hall for confirming id); **Cochylimorpha straminea** (1); **Brown House-moth (Hofmannophila pseudospretella)** (1); **Cnephasia (poss communana)** (3); **Celypha lacunana** (3); **Epiblema trimaculana** (2); **Scoparia pyralella** (3); **Bee Moth (Aphomia sociella)** (1F); **Common Pug** (4); **Grey Pug** (1); **Clouded Silver** (1); **White Ermine** (2); **Heart and Dart** (11); **Shuttle-shaped Dart** (1); **Flame Shoulder** (1); **Large Nutmeg** (10); **Marbled Minor** egg (32); **Middle-barred Minor** (1); **Treble Lines** (16); **Vine's Rustic** (2); plus 4 **May Bugs**."



Middle-barred Minor
Photo © Chris Bottrell



Elachista maculicerusella
Photo © Chris Bottrell

Mick A'Court reported the following: "Just a quick note to say that I found a **Forester Moth** at *Leaches Farm (Upper Ray Meadows), Bucks* on *19th May* and one at *Asham Meads* (Murcott Meadows), Oxon on *18th May*."

Tony Rayner sent this report on 19th May: "On *17th May* I caught a **Lychnis**, a **Shears** and a **Foxglove Pug** all of which were new for the year in our *Cholsey, Oxon* garden. Also I see a recent report of the first **Eyed Hawkmoth** on the website - well just to say that I caught one in Cholsey on *21st April!*"

Dave Wilton sent the following update: "On *15th May* at *Westcott, Bucks* the garden trap added **Lychnis**, **Miller** & **Snout** to my year list.

On *16th May* at *Finemere Wood, Bucks* I saw **Endothenia nigricostana**, **Hedya nubiferana** & **Micropterix calthella** while carrying out a butterfly transect.

Chrysoesthia drurella & **Udea olivalis** were found flying in the garden at *Westcott* the same day, while that night's trap included **Blastobasis lacticolella** & **Middle-barred Minor**. I took a couple of MV lights to *Bernwood Forest* for a few hours as well and new items there for the year included **Ancylis laetana**, **Cryptoblabes bistriga**, **Incurvaria oehlmanniella**, **Common Fan-foot**, **Little Emerald**, **Small White Wave** & **Straw Dot**.

On *17th May* I trapped at *Rammamere Heath near Great Brickhill, Bucks* and it proved to be my best night of the year to date, with nearly 100 species caught. They included **Aspilapteryx tringipennella**, **Cedestis subfasciella**, **Dingy Shell**, **Map-winged Swift**, **Pine Hawk-moth**, **Rosy Marbled**, **Shoulder-striped Wainscot**, **Small Yellow Wave** & **True Lover's Knot**. Rosy Marbled came as quite a surprise. Martin Albertini tells me that most Bucks records for the species are from the Chilterns so this new site becomes the most northerly outpost for it in the county."



Map-winged Swift
Photo © Dave Wilton



Rosy Marbled
Photo © Dave Wilton



True Lover's Knot
Photo © Dave Wilton

Adam Bassett says that a **Small Dusty Wave** appeared on his bathroom window in *Marlow Bottom, Bucks* on the evening of *17th May*.

Andy King sent the following on 16th May: "Wendy Wilson, Ched George and I took a party of folk around a large private site in [Higher Denham, Bucks](#) on [Sunday 15th May](#). During our time there we came across the following moths: **Crambus lathoniellus**, **Green Carpet**, **Speckled Yellow**, **Mother Shipton**, **Cinnabar**, **Cydia ulicetana**, **Alabonia geoffrella**, **Phyllonorycter harrisella** and **Yellow-tail Moth caterpillars**. *C. ulicetana* is a ubiquitous little-brown-job around gorse bushes and has been out for a while, now. The last three are, I think, new for the year."



Alabonia geoffrella
Photo © Andy King



Phyllonorycter harrisella
Photo © Andy King



Yellow-tail caterpillar
Photo © Andy King

Dave Maunder ran his garden moth trap in Aylesbury, Bucks on 15th May: "Moths caught included:- **Lime Hawk-moth** (1); **Dark Arches** (1 - my earliest ever!); **Treble Lines** (3); **Common Swift** (1); **Turnip moth** (1); **Shuttle-shaped Dart** (1); **Pale Mottled Willow** (1); **Large Nutmeg** (7); **Rustic Shoulder-knot** (1); **Heart and Dart** (14); **Bright-line Brown-eye** (1); **Marbled Minor sp.** (1) and **Green Carpet** (1)."

Richard Ellis sent this report from Chorleywood, Bucks on 16th May: "Peter Hall has just identified some moths for me - these are the ones which appear to be new to your UTB all-time list and first sightings list for 2011:

All-time List: 0310 **Callisto denticulella** 22 Apr 2011.

2011 List: 0125 **Emmetia marginata** 19 Apr 2011, 0303 **Parornix anglicella** 17 Apr 2011, 0329 **Phyllonorycter spinicolella** 28 Apr 2011, 0449 **Prays fraxinella** 26 Apr 2011, 1018 **Cnephasia communana** 29 Apr 2011, 1044 **Acleris ferrugana** 09 Feb 2011 and 2283 **Dark Dagger** 26 Apr 2011."

Chris Bottrell sent the following on 16th May: 13/5 - Thankfully down to only 3 **May Bugs** in my garden trap ([Merton, Oxon](#)). 54 moths of 21 species: **White-shouldered House-moth** (2); **Cnephasia sp** (poss. *communana*) (2); **Scoparia pyralella** (2); **Evergestis forficalis** (**Garden Pebble**) (1); **Red Twin-spot Carpet** (1); **Silver-ground Carpet** (1); **Common Carpet** (1); **Common Marbled Carpet** (1); **Common Pug** (5); **Poplar Hawkmoth** (1); **White Ermine** (1); **Heart and Dart** (4); **Shuttle-shaped Dart** (3); **Flame Shoulder** (1); **Cabbage Moth** (1); **Clouded Drab** (1 very worn); **Hebrew Character** (1 very worn); **Common Wainscot** (1); **Large Nutmeg** (10); **Marbled Minor** (1); **Treble Lines** (13).

14/5 - Whilst tidying away the trap sitting on top of the choke box a **Common Footman larva**.

15/5 - 5 very lively **Chimney Sweepers**, being chased by Common Blue males, encountered at approx 0900 whilst finishing off a Breeding Birds Survey at [Pilch Field \(Bucks @ SP 74835 32196\)](#) for BBOWT. Plenty of Pignut around."



Scoparia pyralella
Photo © Chris Bottrell



Common Footman larva
Photo © Chris Bottrell

~ Sunday 15th May 2011 ~

Mark Calway sent this report: "Visiting a garden centre in [Hare Hatch, Berkshire](#) on Saturday morning (14/05/11) I found myself parked next to a large Poplar tree. Despite the early date, I couldn't resist checking for signs of **Hornet moths**. I was rewarded very quickly, when I spotted an adult male on the grass next to a partially exposed root. From its behaviour it appeared to have only recently emerged and expanded its wings."

Dave Wilton reported the following on 15th May: "The last week has been rather quieter in the trap here at [Westcott, Bucks](#). On [8th May](#) **Cream Wave**, **Pale-shouldered Brocade**, **Vine's Rustic** & **Hedya pruniana/Plum Tortrix** were added to the garden year list, followed on [9th May](#) by **Eyed Hawk-moth**, on [10th May](#) by **Brown Rustic** & **Mottled Rustic**, on [12th May](#) by **Small Square-spot**, **Elachista argentella** & **Tinea semifulvella**, then on [13th May](#) by **Spectacle** & **Adela croesella**. New species seen elsewhere have included **Glyphipterix simplicella** & **Lathronympha strigana** at [Woodham](#) on [12th May](#). The tiny Cocksfoot Moth (*Glyphipterix simplicella*) is flying now in large numbers so keep an eye out for them sitting inside your local buttercup flowers."

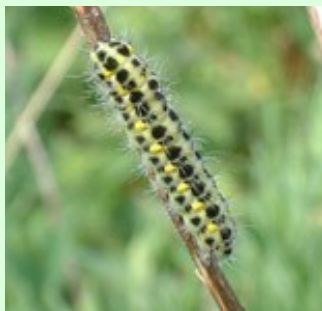
~ Friday 13th May 2011 ~

Chris Bottrell sent this update on 12th May: "10/5 Mid-week catch from my garden trap ([Merton, Oxon](#)), 37 moths of 20 species: **Bucculatrix nigricomella** (1); **Cnephasia.sp** (poss. *communana*) (3); **Epiblema cynosbatella** (1); **Crambus lathoniellus** (1); **Eurrhpara hortulata (Small Magpie)** (1); **Silver-ground Carpet** (1); **Garden Carpet** (1); **Green Carpet** (1); **Mottled Pug** (2); **Common Pug** (2); **Muslin Moth** (1M); **Shuttle-shaped Dart** (2); **Clouded Drab** (1); **Heart and Dart** (6); **Hebrew Character** (1); **Common Wainscot** (1); **Large Nutmeg** (4); **Marbled Minor** (1); **Treble-lines** (5); **Vine's Rustic** (1) and 16 May Bugs."

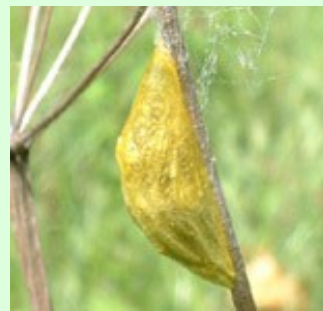
David Redhead sent this report on 11th May: "My overnight garden moth trap on [9th May in Littlemore, Oxon](#) appears to add one species to the UTB 2011 list - a **Light Brocade**. Also my local colony of **Narrow-bordered Five-spot Burnet** moths has become noticeably active. First **caterpillar** noticed in the grass on [Saturday 7th May](#). By Sunday evening there were 5 cocoons in place and on Tuesday morning I noticed one caterpillar ascending with another two spinning their cocoons and the completed cocoon count had gone up to 14. By this evening the completed cocoon count was 27."



Light Brocade
Photo © David Redhead



Narrow-bordered Five-Spot Burnet
caterpillar
Photo © David Redhead



Narrow-bordered Five-Spot Burnet
cocoon
Photo © David Redhead

Chris Bottrell reported the following on 11th May:

06/5 Despite an overnight storm my garden trap in [Merton \(Oxon\)](#) held 74 moths of 29 species, in the dubious company of numerous ichneumons, caddis flies and 19 May Bugs: **Common Swift** (3); **Tinea trinitella** (1); **White-shouldered House-moth** (1); **Cnephasia sp.** (poss. *communana*) (8); **Celypha lacunana** (3); **Crambus lathoniellus** (1); **Bee Moth** (4 Female); **Red Twin-spot Carpet** (2); **Common Carpet** (2); **Green Carpet** (1); **Foxglove Pug** (1); **Mottled Pug** (4); **Common Pug** (7); **Lime Hawkmoth** (1); **Pebble Prominent** (1); **Buff Ermine** (1); **Muslin Moth** (1 Male); **Shuttle Shaped Dart** (17); **Flame Shoulder** (1); **Bright-line Brown-eye** (1); **Powdered Quaker** (1); **Clouded Drab** (2); **Heart and Dart** (1); **Hebrew Character** (1); **Large Nutmeg** (2); **Marbled Minor agg.** (1); **Treble-lines** (3); **Vine's Rustic** (1).

07/5 **Common Heath Moth** (6); **Burnet Companion** (1); **Treble Bar** (1); **Crambus lathoniellus** (2); **Grass Rivulet** (1); **Mother Shipton** (1), in 1hr 15mins (12:55-14:10) whilst doing a BBOWT Butterfly Survey at [Sydlings Copse \(Oxon\)](#).

08/5 26 **Burnet Companion** and 7 **Common Heath Moth** in 1hr (12:00-13:00) whilst doing a BBOWT Butterfly Survey in blustery conditions at [Oxey Mead \(Oxon\)](#)."



Large Nutmeg
Photo © Chris Bottrell



Crambus lathoniellus
Photo © Chris Bottrell

~ Tuesday 10th May 2011 ~

Nigel Partridge sent this update: "A few more records from our garden ([Loosley Row, Bucks](#)), all from **08-05-11**: **Lime-speck Pug**, **Turnip** and **Cochylimorpha straminea** (thanks to Peter Hall for confirming the ID)."

Andy King reported the following: "I was trapping in woodland near [Chorleywood, Bucks](#) again on **8th May** and took 22 species in less than two hours. Only one, as far as I can see, has not been marked up by somebody in UTB already - **Marbled Brown** (*Drymonia dodonaea*)."

Tony Rayner sent the following: "Three species I caught at Cholsey, Oxon on **6th**

May, which may not have been reported yet on your website. They are **Common Wainscot**, **Brown Rustic** and **Buff Tip**."

Dave Wilton sent this update on his week's mothing: "On *1st May* along the disused railway cutting west of *Westcott Venture Park, Bucks* I disturbed the tortrix **Aethes piercei** from amongst devil's-bit scabious, while five **Small Yellow Underwings** were found at a regular site for the species elsewhere in the village. On *4th May* a walk along the disused railway at *Verney Junction, Bucks* produced **Pseudargyrotoza conwagana** flying around young ash growing up between the sleepers. That night's garden trap at *Westcott* added **White-spotted Pug** and **Lime-speck Pug** to my year list. On *5th May* at *Whitecross Green Wood, Bucks* I got **Bucculatrix ulmella**, **Prays fraxinella**, **Rhyacionia pinivorana**, **Alder Moth**, **Clouded-bordered Brindle** and **Clouded Silver**, while at *Westcott* that night I trapped my first **Buff-tip** of the year. On *6th May* I ran a single MV light along the disused railway line *southwest of Finemere Wood, Bucks* and got in excess of 70 species, including **Bucculatrix nigricomella**, **Incurvaria mascullella**, **Nematopogon swammerdamella**, **Tinea trinitella**, **Pseudoswammerdamia combinella**, **Endrosis sarcitrella**, **Depressaria heraclei**, **Agonopterix heracliata**, **Scrobipalpa acuminatella**, **Spuleria flavicaput**, **Agapeta hamana**, **Syndemis musculana**, **Celypha lacunana**, **Ancylis badiana**, **Epiblema cynosbatella**, **Evergestis forficalis**, **Common Swift**, **Chinese Character**, **Blood-vein**, **Red Twin-spot Carpet**, **Purple Bar**, **Common Carpet**, **Garden Carpet**, **Broken-barred Carpet**, **Green Carpet**, **Grey Pine Carpet**, **Common Pug**, **Mottled Pug**, **Lime-speck Pug**, **Oak-tree Pug**, **Dwarf Pug**, **V-Pug**, **Scorched Carpet**, **Seraphim**, **Scorched Wing**, **Brimstone Moth**, **Scalloped Hazel**, **Waved Umber**, **Willow Beauty**, **Clouded Silver**, **Pebble Prominent**, **Swallow Prominent**, **Pale Prominent**, **Great Prominent**, **Pale Tussock**, **Orange Footman**, **White Ermine**, **Least Black Arches**, **Turnip**, **Heart & Dart**, **Shuttle-shaped Dart**, **Flame Shoulder**, **Clouded Drab**, **Powdered Quaker**, **Hebrew Character**, **Nutmeg**, **Poplar Grey**, **Alder Moth**, **Bright-line Brown-eye**, **Angle Shades**, **Clouded-bordered Brindle**, **Rustic Shoulder-knot**, **Marbled Minor sp** and **Treble Lines**. That night's garden trap at *Westcott* was equally as good, with new items for the year being **Argyresthia trifasciata**, **Cydia pomonella**, **Pseudococcyx posticana**, **Common Wainscot**, **Figure of Eighty**, **Grass Rivulet**, **Oak Hook-tip** & **Small Elephant Hawk-moth**. Finally, on *7th May* a rather foolhardy attempt to trap in *Bernwood Forest, Bucks* with Marc Botham and Peter Hall was aborted after little more than an hour due to increasingly heavy rain, but even in that short period of time we managed to get 30-odd species which included **Lobesia reliquana**, **Nemophora degeerella**, **Strophedra nitidana** & **Brindled White-spot** along with a rather interestingly-marked **Green Silver-lines** (see photo below)."



Aethes piercei
Photo © Dave Wilton



Grass Rivulet
Photo © Dave Wilton



Green Silver-lines
Photo © Dave Wilton



Spuleria flavicaput
Photo © Dave Wilton

Keith Mitchell sent the following: "The Robinson trap in my garden in *Stoke Goldington, Bucks* on the *6th May* accounted for the following moths: **Red Twin-spot Carpet, Clouded Silver(9), Pale Tussock, Brimstone(8), Silver-ground Carpet, Waved Umber, Small Waved Umber, Bordered White, Buff-tip, Muslin, Hebrew Character, Heart and Dart, Shuttled-shaped Dart, Rustic Shoulder-knot, Large Nutmeg, Common Swift, Brindled Pug(3), Oak-tree Pug, Mottled Pug(3)** and the micros **Phtheochroa rugosana** and **Aethes smeathmanniana** (a garden first)."

Nigel Partridge reported these moths: "A few more from our garden (*Loosley Row, Bucks*), all from *06-05-11*: **Maple Prominent, Clouded Silver** and **Bucculatrix nigricomella** (thanks to Peter Hall for confirming the ID)."

Peter Hall reported the following from Ballinger Common, Bucks on May 6th: "In between the heaps of **Cockchafers** crawling over everything, I managed to record the following in my garden this week. The female Emperor was the first to come to light in my garden: **Alucita hexadactyla, Aphomia sociella, Brimstone Moth, Brown Silver-line, Capua vulgana, Celypha lacunana, Double-striped Pug, Emperor, Epiblema cynosbatella, Flame Carpet, Flame Shoulder, Foxglove Pug, Green Silver-lines, Hebrew Character, Least Black Arches, Lime Hawk, Lime-speck Pug, Lobster, May Highflyer, Mottled Pug, Nut-tree Tussock, Oak Hook-tip, Orange Footman, Pale Tussock, Peppered, Plutella xylostella, Privet Hawk, Pseudargyrotoza conwagana, Scalloped Hazel, Scorched Wing, Small Fan-foot, Small Phoenix, Treble Lines, Waved Umber, White Ermine** and **White-pinion Spotted.**"



Cockchafer
Photo © Peter Hall

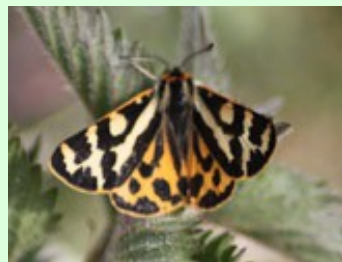


Cockchafers
Photo © Peter Hall



Privet Hawk
Photo © Peter Hall

Michael & Gillian Taylor visited the Devil's Punchbowl/Hackpen Hill on 3rd May: A good selection of butterflies and day-flying moths, including **Wood Tiger (first adult)** (dozens) and **Common Heath.**"



Wood Tiger
Photo © Michael Taylor

~ Saturday 7th May 2011 ~

This news came from Dave Maunder today: "A few more moths seen recently in *Aylesbury, Bucks* include:- my first ever **Lobster moth** here; **Coxcomb Prominent** (1); **Pebble Prominent** (1); **Pale Tussocks** (3); **White Ermine** (1); **Cinnabar Moths** (2); **Grey Dagger Sp.** (1); **Common Marbled Carpet** (1); and **Bee moth** (1)."



Lobster Moth
Photo © Dave Maunder

Danny Howard put the lamp out for a couple of hours last night, 6th May in Cowley, Oxon before the rain arrived: "I managed a **Lime Hawkmoth**, **Brimstone**, **Peppered moth**, **Figure of Eighty**, **Bee Moth**, **Flame Shoulder** and **May Bug.**"

David Redhead's overnight garden moth trap on 5th May produced the highest diversity for his garden in Littlemore, Oxon for 2011 to date: "I had 26 species of macro-moth including 7 new for the year - **Green Carpet** (4), **Knot Grass** (2), **Broken-barred Carpet** (1), **Coronet** (1), **Heart and Dart** (1), **Poplar Grey** (1) & **Vine's Rustic** (1). Also present were **Treble-lines** (31), **Poplar Hawkmoth** (5), **Flame Shoulder** (4), **Chocolate-tip** (2), **Cinnabar** (2), **Orange Footman** (2), **Pale Tussock** (2), **Seraphim**

(2), **Swallow Prominent** (2) and singletons of **Brindled Pug**, **Clouded Drab**, **Common Pug**, **Hebrew Character**, **Muslin Moth**, **Nut-tree Tussock**, **Pale Prominent**, **Red Twin-spot Carpet**, **Small Phoenix** & **White Ermine**. Only 3 micro-moths and all the same species - **Epiblema cynosbatella**. However the most numerous species was **May Bug** with 48!"

Mary Elford sent the following: "In my overnight trap on **5th May** here in **Bampton, West Oxfordshire**, there was a **Spectacle** and a **Treble Lines**."

Nigel Partridge sent this update: "A couple more from our garden in **Loosley Row, Bucks: Angle Shades** on **03-05-11** and **Epiblema cynosbatella** on **04-05-11**."

David Redhead sent this sighting: "On **Wednesday 4th May** the dog and I put up a **Silver-ground Carpet** on the banks of the River Thames a few hundred yards from our house in **Littlemore, Oxon**."

Chris Bottrell's recent moth trap produced the following: "03/5 - Near freezing overnight temperatures reduced numbers in my **Merton (Oxon)** garden trap to 6 individuals of 4 species: **Muslin Moth** (1); **Shuttle-shaped Dart** (3); **Hebrew Character** (1); **Treble Lines** (1) and a seasonal female **May bug** (Common Cockchafer, *Melolontha melolontha*)."



Treble Lines
Photo © Chris Bottrell

Dave Ferguson reported the following: "I encountered 6 **Speckled Yellows** in **Strawberry Wood, Black Park, Bucks** on the morning of **4th May**."



Speckled Yellow
Photo © Dave Ferguson

Andy King sent the following: "I have had id confirmation of a **Square Spot** moth. In fact, I have caught two, both from the same place, a woodland just outside **Chorleywood, Bucks** one on **17th April** and one on **30th April**. Of course, I may be out of date, but I don't think anyone has reported one yet. I attach a photo, but they're not all that photogenic; on the other hand, I think the immaculate female **Green Silver-lines** is!"



Square Spot
Photo © Andy King



Green Silver-lines
Photo © Andy King

A couple more sightings from Nigel Partridge's garden in Loosley Row, Bucks:
"Both on 02-05-11: **Pale Oak Beauty** and **Treble Lines**."

Andy King ran a moth trap in woodland near Chorleywood, Bucks on 30th April:
"Water Carpet, 12 Orange Footman, Nematopogon swammerdamella, 5 Ancyliis mitterbacheriana (small moths - big names), 10 Dwarf Pug, Pale Tussock, Nut-tree Tussock, Green Silver-lines, **Epinotia subocellana**, Capua vulgana."



Ancyliis mitterbacheriana
Photo © Andy King



Epinotia subocellana
Photo © Andy King

On 2nd May Dave Maunder sent this report of moths he's seen around Aylesbury, Bucks recently: "Lackey moth larvae (30+, 30th); **Pale Tussocks** (2); **Sallow Kitten** (1); **Waved Umber** (1); **Pebble Prominent** (1); **Eulia ministrana** (1); **Pyrausta aurata** (2); also **Lesser Swallow Prominent** (1) and **Swallow Prominent** (1) from my garden trap on 30th April. Today, 2nd May, I visited the **Calvert Jubilee Nature Reserve, Bucks** where I found **Blossom Underwing larvae** (3) on Oak."



Lackey Moth larvae
Photo © Dave Maunder



Blossom Underwing
larva (top)
& possible Dun-bar larva
(bottom)
Photo © Dave Maunder

Danny Howard reported the following: "I went for a walk around the **Blewbury Downs**, South Oxon on **May 2nd**. For me the highlight of the walk was the **Woolly Bear**

(Garden Tiger larva) we saw traversing the road. This is the first Garden Tiger I have seen since moving to Oxfordshire, in fact the first since I was first bitten by the lepidoptera bug in my early teens, so over 25 years ago!"



Garden Tiger larva
Photo © Danny Howard

Tony Croft sent this update to his Emperor Moth story (see report dated 25th April): "To complete the picture for the time being, here are some of the **Emperor Moth caterpillars** settled into their new home."



Emperor Moth caterpillars on blackthorn
Photo © Tony Croft

Chris Bottrell sent the following: "29/4 - Not a fantastic catch in my *Merton (Oxon)* garden trap. 17 moths of 11 species, but it did include my first Hawkmoth of the year. Total catch: **Diurnea fagella** (1); **Red Twin-spot Carpet** (1); **Poplar Hawkmoth** (1); **Muslin Moth** (1 male); **Shuttle-shaped Dart** (1); **Flame Shoulder** (1); **Cabbage Moth** (1); **Bright-line Brown-eye** (1); **Powdered Quaker** (1); **Hebrew Character** (7); **Treble Lines** (1)."



Poplar Hawkmoth
Photo © Chris Bottrell



Cabbage Moth
Photo © Chris Bottrell

Dave Wilton sent this report: "To bring you up-to-date to the end of the month, I can add **Lesser Treble-bar** seen at *Westcott, Bucks on 28th April*, **Mullein** seen at *Westcott on 29th April*, **Cream Wave**, **Marbled White Spot**, **Peacock Moth**, **Scorched Wing** and **Nematopogon swammerdamella** seen in *Bernwood Forest, Bucks on 29th April*, **Clouded Border** and **Evergestis forficalis/Garden Pebble** seen at *Westcott on 30th April* and **Ancylis mitterbacheriana** seen at *Finemere Wood, Bucks on 30th April*. More than 200 moths on the UTB list before the beginning of May is some achievement!"

The following report came from David Redhead: "My overnight garden moth trap on **29th April** added four new species to my 2011 garden macro-moth list in **Littlemore, Oxon** - **Red-green Carpet, Shuttle-shaped Dart, Treble Lines** and **White Ermine**. In spite of being a fortnight earlier than I have ever caught one before the Treble-lines had already suffered some wing damage - possibly by being jostled by the two dozen **May bugs** sharing the trap. Later in the morning a visit to **Chilswell Valley, Oxon** produced my first **Burnet Companion** and **Lesser Treble-bar** (about half a dozen) of the year plus a **Common Heath**."



Treble Lines
Photo © David Redhead



White Ermine
Photo © David Redhead

Martin Mitchell reports seeing Speckled Yellow moths (4) while looking for butterflies at **Crookham Common**, near Thatcham, Berks on **30th April**.



Speckled Yellow
Photo © Martin Mitchell

~ **Sunday 1st May 2011** ~

Dave Ferguson saw a Treble-bar at **Wapsey's Wood WDS, Bucks** today, **1st May**. "It doesn't appear on the year list of sightings yet. The site is just W of Gerrards X."

Tony Rayner sent this news today: "A moth to report this time, a **Hummingbird Hawkmoth** this morning, **May 1st at Cholsey, Oxon**. Also **Cockchafers** living up to their alternative name of Maybug - 64 in the moth trap this morning!"

Adam Bassett reported the following on 29th April: "A couple of recent visitors to our windows in **Marlow Bottom, Bucks: Common Swift (April 28th), Esperia sulphurella (April 29th).**"

David Redhead sent this news from Littlemore, Oxon: "On the afternoon of **28th April** whilst following a female Orange-tip around the garden I came across the following moths - a **Sandy Carpet**, four **Pyrausta aurata** and an **Adela rufimitrella** sitting on the flowerhead of a garlic mustard plant. I now realise that I saw two *A. rufimitrella* on the 24th April sitting on garlic mustard flowerheads on the marshland near my house. Like the Orange-tip, garlic mustard and cuckooflower are its larval foodplants. All these moths are signs of the time. The Sandy Carpet does not usually appear until late May and is the 50th macro-moth to be recorded in my garden this year - my previous best by

the end of April total is 34! Normally rufimitrella is not seen before May and I have to wait until high summer to have four aurata flying in my garden."

Peter Daltry caught a Chinese Character moth in his garden trap in *Prestwood, nr Great Missenden, Bucks* on *27th April*.

Richard Comont sent this report: "A couple of nights actinic trapping in *Shotover Wood, Oxon* the highlights of which were **Brown Silver-line** in reasonable numbers on the *20th and 21st April*, **Nut-Tree Tussock** and **Muslin Moth** on the *20th* and **Scalloped Hazel, Orange Footman** and **Pale Prominent** on the *21st*."

Chris Bottrell reported the following: "A couple of micros I'd been unable to identify from my garden trap (*Merton, Oxon*) on *Friday 22/4* (thanks to Peter Hall for identifying): **Depressaria heraclei (Parsnip Moth)** (2); **Esperia sulphurella** (1). *24/4 RSPB Otmoor, Oxon:* numerous clumps of **Lackey caterpillars** in the hedges. *26/4* - Low overnight temperatures and a little rain kept the catch in the garden trap down to just 18 individuals of 6 species: **White-shouldered House-moth** (1); **Garden Carpet** (1); **Heart and Dart** (2); **Shuttle Shaped Dart** (2); **Powdered Quaker** (1); **Hebrew Character** (11)."



Esperia sulphurella
Photo © Chris Bottrell



Lackey larvae
Photo © Chris Bottrell

David Redhead reported the following from Littlemore, Oxon: "My overnight garden moth trap on *Sunday 24th April* produced the second addition during 2011 to my all-time garden macro-moth list with a **Grey Birch**. Other additions to my 2011 list were **Campion Moth, May Highflyer, Pale Tussock, Waved Umber, White-pinion Spotted** and **Ancylis badiana**."



Grey Birch
Photo © David Redhead

Keith Mitchell reported the following from Stoke Goldington, Bucks: "Still not many moths, but included in the latest bunch on *24th April* were **Scarce Tissue, Poplar Kitten, Muslin, Waved Umber, Powdered Quaker, Bright-line Brown Eye, Brindled Pug, Oak-tree Pug** and **Mottled Pug**."

Tony Croft sent the following news on 25th April: "Further to my report of an **Emperor moth** by the front door step on April 9, today I noticed two batches of **hatched**

eggs near the same location with a stream of **caterpillars** marching along the house wall. As there is no suitable food plant in the immediate vicinity I cut some blackthorn twigs and put them in pots against the wall. Within a few minutes all the caterpillars had transferred themselves to the blackthorn twigs which I then laid back into the blackthorn bushes."



Emperor Moth eggs
Photo © Tony Croft



Emperor Moth larvae
Photo © Tony Croft

Dave Wilton sent this update on 25th April: "Now that the site has re-opened, my first trapping visit of the year to *Finemere Wood, Bucks* took place on *20th April* and the moths obviously came out to celebrate because I got a bumper crop of 56 species. The macros comprised **Pebble Hook-tip, Chinese Character, Frosted Green, Maiden's Blush, Red Twin-spot Carpet, Streamer, Water Carpet, Small Phoenix, Broken-barred Carpet, Mottled Pug, Brindled Pug, Oak-tree Pug, V-Pug, Scorched Carpet, Brimstone Moth, Early Thorn, Purple Thorn, Waved Umber, White-pinion Spotted, Pebble Prominent, Swallow Prominent, Great Prominent, Pale Prominent, Lunar Marbled Brown, Pale Tussock, Orange Footman, White Ermine, Least Black Arches, Pine Beauty, Small Quaker, Common Quaker, Clouded Drab, Powdered Quaker, Hebrew Character, Satellite, Chestnut, Early Grey and Nut-tree Tussock.** Micro-moths included **Eriocrania subpurpurella, Incurvaria masculella, Adela reaumurella, Eucalybites auroguttella, Pseudoswammerdamia combinella, Ypsolopha ustella, Plutella xylostella/Diamond-back Moth, Diurnea fagella, Agonopterix ocellana, Scrobipalpa acuminatella, Acleris hastiana, Epinotia immundana and Pammene argyrana,** along with a few of the tinier species that will require closer examination. A walk around the wood again the following afternoon to savour the bluebells produced clouds of the long-horn moth **Adela reaumurella** high on the sunny side of almost every oak - there were many thousands of them and the species is obviously having a very good year. Subsequent moth sightings have included the following: with Peter Hall at *Water Stratford, Bucks on 21st April* **Blood-vein, Buff Ermine, Flame Carpet, Green Carpet;** at a private wood near *Stowe, Bucks on 22nd April* **Common Wave, Setaceous Hebrew Character, Elachista apicipunctella, Schreckensteinia festaliella;** in *Bernwood Forest on 23rd April* **Barred Umber, Birch Mocha, Poplar Lutestring, Tawny-barred Angle, Willow Beauty, Capua vulgana, Epinotia tedella, Teleiodes luculella;** a daytime sighting near *Winslow, Bucks on 23rd April* **Pancalia leuwenhoekella;** in our garden at *Westcott, Bucks on 23rd April* **Heart and Dart, Elachista canapennella;** at *Greatmoor, Bucks on 24th April* **Knot Grass, Rustic Shoulder-knot."**



Barred Umber
Photo © Dave Wilton



Schreckensteinia festaliella
Photo © Dave Wilton



Birch Mocha
Photo © Dave Wilton

Andy King visited the Devil's Punchbowl, near Wantage, Oxon on 20th April:

"Whilst I was there I saw a number of small light-coloured micros flying over the rough grass: **Grapholita jungiella**. Also, at home in the light-trap, (*Chorleywood, Bucks*), I found **Yponomeuta sedella**."



Grapholita jungiella
Photo © Andy King



Yponomeuta sedella
Photo © Andy King

Adam Bassett sent this report from Marlow Bottom, Bucks on 24th April: "April 20th gave me a bit more variety in my garden trap, including a new macro **Seraphim**. New for the year were **Micropterix tunbergella**, **Eriocrania subpurpurella**, **Caloptilia semifascia**, **Tinea trinotella**, **Zelleria hepariella**, **Incurvaria masculella** (thanks Peter – new for the garden), **Red-twin Spot carpet (agg)**, **Scorched Carpet**, **Brimstone**, **Purple Thorn**, **Scalloped Hazel**, **Lobster**, **Pale Tussock**, **Orange Footman** and **Muslin**. April 21st gave me Barred Hook-tip, Green Carpet, Lesser Swallow Prominent and Lime Hawkmoth."

Dave Ferguson went for a walk at Holtspur Bank NR, Bucks on the morning of 24th April: "The walk produced a single **Silver-Y** and several swarms of **Adela reaumurella**."

Peter Hall reported the following: "Surrounded by a thunderstorm on Easter Saturday, 23rd April, the trapping at *Dancersend N/R, Bucks* was warm and atmospheric but not so busy with moths. However, well over a hundred Cockchafers kept things buzzing so to speak!" **Incurvaria masculella**, **Adela reaumurella**, **Plutella xylostella**, **Schreckensteinia festaliella**, **Syndemis musculana**, **Scalloped Hook-tip**, **Barred Hook-tip**, **Pebble Hook-tip**, **Red Twin-spot Carpet**, **Streamer**, **Water Carpet**, **Small Phoenix**, **Brindled Pug**, **Oak-tree Pug**, **Dwarf Pug**, **V-Pug**, **Tawny-barred Angle**, **Purple Thorn**, **Waved Umber**, **White-pinion Spotted**, **Lobster**, **Iron Prominent**, **Coxcomb Prominent**, **Lunar Marbled Brown**, **Pale Tussock**, **Orange Footman**, **Least Black Arches**, **Red Chestnut**, **Common Quaker**, **Clouded Drab**, **Green Silver-lines** and **Nut-tree Tussock**

David Redhead's overnight garden moth trap on 22nd April in Littlemore Oxon produced almost identical results to the previous one two nights before in terms of the

total number of individuals and species but there were several species new for his 2011 garden list - **Brimstone Moth, Flame Shoulder, Great Prominent, Seraphim** and **Cochylis atricapitana**. "The Great Prominent was especially pleasing as it was an all time addition to my garden list."

~ **Sunday 24th April 2011** ~

Chris Bottrell sent these sightings on 23rd April:

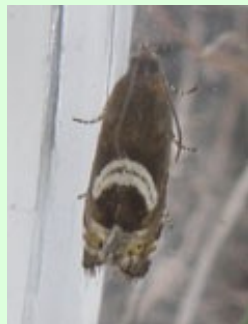
20/4 - 18 **Common Heath Moth** in 1hr (11:30-12:30) whilst doing a BBOWT Butterfly Survey at **Oxey Mead** (Oxon SP 478 106).

22/4 - **BBOWT Dancersend (Bucks)**. **Adela reaumurella** swarms found at several places around the 'Meadow Plots' and elsewhere in sunny areas. **Pyrausta sp.** (1) on 'Ant Hills'. Called in at **Aston Clifton Ragpits** on the way back (13:30-14:15): **Pyrausta sp** (5); as well as the day flying micro **Grapholita jungiella**. That night's catch from my garden trap (**Merton, Oxon**) - 34 individuals of 19 species: **White-shouldered House-moth** (1); **Red Twin-spot Carpet** (2); **Common Carpet** (1); **Brindled Pug** (3); **Double-striped Pug** (1); **Scorched Carpet** (1); **Brindled Beauty** (1); **Iron Prominent** (1); **Pebble Prominent** (1); **Swallow Prominent** (1) **Pale Prominent** (1); **Chocolate-tip** (1); **Muslin Moth** (2 male); **Small Quaker** (1); **Powdered Quaker** (2); **Common Quaker** (1); **Clouded Drab** (3); **Hebrew Character** (8); **Early Grey** (2).

23/4 - A female **Muslin Moth** disturbed in the garden in **Merton, Oxon** at 11:00. Later (11:35-13:20) during a BBOWT Butterfly Survey at **Sydlings Copse (Oxon)** 4 **Common Heath Moth** and more **Adela reaumurella** swarms found in the low trees/bushes. Finally (14:00-16:00) a walk around **Whitecross Green Woods (Bucks/Oxon border)**: **Common Heath Moth** (1); **Mother Shipton** (1); **Burnet Companion** (1); **Pyrausta sp** (1); and again swarming **Adela reaumurella**."



Burnet Companion
Photo © Chris Bottrell



Grapholita jungiella
Photo © Chris Bottrell



Mother Shipton
Photo © Chris Bottrell

Danny Howard got the lamp out overnight on 22nd April for the first time this year in his garden in Cowley, Oxon: "Moths I could confidently id included a **Lime Hawkmoth, Waved Umber, Brimstone, Twenty Plume moth** and **Pebble Hook Tip**."

Peter Hall & Neil Fletcher reported the following: "Our first foray into the Forestry Commission **Wendover Woods (Bucks)** complex for some years on **22nd April** produced quite a nice list of moths. 4 lamps were run in 2 areas: **Tinea trinotella, Caloptilia syringella, Cameraria ohridella, Semioscopis steinkellneriana, Barred Hook-tip, Red Twin-spot Carpet, Streamer, Water Carpet, Small Phoenix, Red-green Carpet, Brindled Pug, V-Pug, Scorched Carpet, Brimstone Moth, Purple Thorn, Waved Umber, Engrailed, White-pinion Spotted, Lobster, Iron Prominent, Pebble Prominent, Lesser Swallow Prominent, Scarce Prominent, Lunar Marbled Brown, Pale Tussock, Orange Footman, Least Black Arches, Flame Shoulder, Red Chestnut, Pine Beauty, Small Quaker, Common Quaker, Clouded Drab, Hebrew Character, Satellite, Nut-tree Tussock.** In addition, along a hedgerow near to

Ballinger, Bucks there were leaf mines of **Stigmella aurella** on bramble."

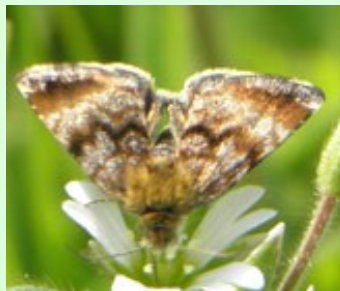
Nigel Partridge sent these reports: "A few more moths from our garden in *Loosley Row, Bucks*: **Pebble Prominent** 19-04-11, **Spruce Carpet** 21-04-11. Then on 22-04-11 I caught a few more that may still be new to the list: **Small Phoenix**, **Oak Hook-tip**, **Foxglove Pug** and **Dwarf Pug**. The last one is a new species for our garden."

David Redhead found clouds of **Cameraria ohridella** (**Horse Chestnut Leaf-miner moths**) flying around the Horse Chestnut trees at the bottom of his garden in *Littlemore, Oxon* on the morning of *22nd April*. "It's the first time I have noticed them this year. I really wish there were not so many of them as they portend a premature autumnal effect!"

On 20th April Alastair Driver says he dusted off the Robinson Trap after its long winter break at home in Sonning, Berks: "I ended up with a bit of Pugfest! Trapped **Double-striped Pug**, **Mottled Pug**, **Brindled Pug**, **V-Pug** and **Ochreous Pug**, as well as **Garden Carpet**, **Brimstone Moth**, **Pale Mottled Willow**, **Lime Hawk-moth**, **Shuttle-shaped Dart**, **Common Quaker** and **Muslin Moth**. Many of these were unsurprisingly, given the recent temperatures, my earliest ever records."

A couple more moths seen by Dave Maunder in Aylesbury on 21st April were: **Sallow Kitten** (1); **Common White Wave** (1) and two **Brimstone** moths.

Tom Stevenson says there was a pretty little day flying moth nectaring on a small white flower in *Ewelme* wild flower meadow in Oxon on *21st April* which proved to be a **Small Yellow Underwing**."



Small Yellow Underwing
Photo © Tom Stevenson

Derek Brown sent the following report: "I had 3 new (for the year) species in the garden in *Beenham, Berks* on *20th April*, namely **Brimstone**, **Red/Dark Barred Twin-spot Carpet** and a **Sallow Kitten**."



Sallow Kitten
Photo © Derek Brown

Peter Cuss sent this report on 21st April: "Ran the garden trap again last night (*Caversham, Berks, 20/04/11*) and had a couple of moths not yet recorded for 2011, a **White-pinion Spotted** and a very early **Willow Beauty** (the earliest I recorded this last year was 28th of May)."



Willow Beauty
Photo © Peter Cuss

This report came from David Redhead: "My overnight (*20th April*) garden moth trap in *Littlemore, Oxon* contained some early arrivals with a **Common Carpet**, **Common Pug**, **Orange Footman** and **Small Phoenix**, all of which I have never caught before May in the past. Two **Poplar Hawkmoths** also beat my previous garden record by two nights. The other identified 17 species were **Swallow Prominent** (6), **Brindled Pug** (4), **Hebrew Character** (4), **Red Twin-spot Carpet** (4), **Clouded Drab** (3), **Common Quaker** (2), **Nut-tree Tussock** (2), **Powdered Quaker** (2), **V-pug** (2) and singletons of **Bee Moth**, **Chocolate-tip**, **Cinnabar**, **Double-striped Pug**, **Muslin Moth**, **Pale Prominent**, **Pebble Prominent** & **Ruby Tiger**."

Dave Maunder ran his garden moth trap in Aylesbury, Bucks on 20th April: "Moths included:- **Rustic Shoulder-knot** (1); **Vine's Rustic** (1); **Lunar Marbled Brown** (1); **Swallow Prominent** (1); **Lesser Swallow Prominent** (1); **Sallow Kitten** (1); **Bright-line Brown-eye** (1); **Pale Tussock** (1); **Ruby Tiger** (1); **Muslin Moth** (1); **Shuttle-shaped Dart** (1); **Nut-tree Tussock** (1) and **Yellow-barred Brindle** (1). *On 19th April* I got a **Pine Beauty**, which is a first for me here. *Also on the 20th April* I found a **Lime Hawk-moth** and a **Pebble Prominent** at nearby shops, so a good haul recently in my area!"



Lime Hawk-moth
Photo © Dave Maunder



Pine Beauty
Photo © Dave Maunder



Yellow-barred Brindle
Photo © Dave Maunder

~ Friday 22nd April 2011 ~

Chris Bottrell sent this report: 19/4 - That evening I had a **White-shouldered House-moth** (*Endrosia sarcitrella*) in the cottage here in *Merton, Oxon*. Then overnight in the trap: *Orthosia's* still hanging on but good to see some new species: **Chinese Character** (1); **Red Twin-spot Carpet** (3); **Brindled Pug** (2); **Double-striped Pug** (1); **Seraphim** (1); **Early Thorn** (1); **Poplar Kitten** (1); **Coxcomb Prominent** (1); **Chocolate-tip** (1); **White Ermine** (1); **Red Chestnut** (1); **Small Quaker** (5); **Common Quaker** (5); **Clouded Drab** (2); **Hebrew Character** (17); **Early Grey** (1)."



Coxcomb Prominent
Photo © Chris Bottrell



White Ermine
Photo © Chris Bottrell



Seraphim
Photo © Chris Bottrell

Dave Wilton sent the following report: "Catching up on the last week's activities, my garden at *Westcott, Bucks* has produced **Oak-tree Pug** (14th April), **Incurvaria masculella** (18th April) and **Garden Carpet** (19th April, my earliest ever sighting). Elsewhere locally I've seen **Pyrausta purpuralis** (at *Calvert* on 13th April), **Scalloped Hook-tip**, **Scalloped Hazel** & **Iron Prominent** (all at *Rammamere Heath* on 15th April), **Pebble Hook-tip**, **Common Pug**, **Lime Hawk-moth**, **Sallow Kitten**, **Pebble Prominent**, **Coxcomb Prominent** & **Flame Shoulder** (all at *Pilch Fields* near Great Horwood on 19th April), **Pammene rhediella** (at *Coombe Hill* on 20th April) and **Grapholita jungiella** & **Pyrausta aurata** (both at *Aston Clinton Ragpits* on 20th April)."

Keith Mitchell reported the following: "Numbers of moths are still low due to frigid overnight temperatures in my frost hollow of a garden in *Stoke Goldington, Bucks*, but last night, 19th April, I attracted the first **Lime Hawk-moth** of the year, my earliest garden record by a good two weeks, together with my first ever **Frosted Green**."



Frosted Green
Photo © Keith Mitchell

Peter Hall and Martin Albertini ran a trap at Stoke Common on the 19th April with the following results: *Diurnea fagella*, **Neofaculta ericetella**, **Scalloped Hook-tip**, **Pebble Hook-tip**, **Frosted Green**, **Birch Mocha**, **Red-green Carpet**, **Grey Pine Carpet**, **Narrow-winged Pug**, **Brindled Pug**, **V-Pug**, **Double-striped Pug**, **Seraphim**, **Purple Thorn**, **Brindled Beauty**, **Grey Birch**, **Sallow Kitten**, **Lobster Moth**, **Pebble Prominent**, **Great Prominent**, **Lesser Swallow Prominent**, **Lunar Marbled Brown**, **Least Black Arches**, **Red Chestnut**, **Pine Beauty**, **Common Quaker**, **Clouded Drab**, **Chestnut**, **Oak Nycteoline** and **Nut-tree Tussock**.

Peter Cuss ran his garden trap in Caversham, Berks on 19th April: "I had two which I don't think are on this year's tally yet: **Sallow Kitten** and **Shuttle-shaped Dart**."

Francis Gomme saw a Hummingbird Hawkmoth in *Princes Risborough* on *Saturday 16th April*. "Presumably a hibernator?"

Wendy & Mick Campbell visited Hartslock NR on 19th April: "Along with all the butterflies, we saw *Adela reaumurella* (many), **Pyrausta nigrata** (1), **Small Purple-barred** (1)."

Nigel Partridge recorded the following at Loosley Row, Bucks: "A couple of new ones for the year: **Yellow-barred Brindle** 15-04-11 and **Cameraria ohridella (Horse Chestnut Leaf-miner)** 17-04-11."

~ Tuesday 19th April 2011 ~

Dave Ferguson reported these sightings today: "During a walk this morning (19th April) in the northern section of **Black Park, Bucks** I encountered about 6 swarms of **Adela reaumurella** which must have totalled 300 moths. In the afternoon I found 2 swarms at **Little Marlow Gravel Pit, Bucks** which totalled about 50 moths."



Adela reaumurella
Photo © Dave Ferguson



Adela reaumurella
Photo © Dave Ferguson

Mick A'Court reported the following today: "I've been through a quiet patch at my **Butlers Cross, Bucks** garden only catching a few **Hebrew Characters** and **Common Quakers** between 10-14th April. My first effort at the private wood near **Quinton, Bucks** on 15th April produced 2 **Shoulder Stripes**, 7 **Streamers**, 2 **Great Prominents**, 1 **Purple Thorn**, 1 **Satellite**, 1 **Water Carpet** and 1 **Least Black Arches**. 16th April at **Butlers Cross** produced 2 **Muslin Moths**, 1 **Chinese Character** and 3 **Hebrew Characters**. **Tuesday 19th April** was a hot day and I saw my first **Burnet Companion** of the year at **Leaches Farm, Bucks**."

Peter Hall and Martin Albertini sent the following results of a chilly evening's moth trapping at Hodgemoor, near to Seer Green in Bucks on 17th April: **Diurnea fagella**, **Semioscopis steinkellneriana**, **Syndemis musculana**, **Frosted Green**, **Red-green Carpet**, **Brindled Pug**, **Early Tooth-striped**, **Purple Thorn**, **Engrailed**, **White-pinion Spotted**, **Lobster**, **Great Prominent**, **Scarce Prominent**, **Lunar Marbled Brown**, **Least Black Arches**, **Common Quaker**, **Early Grey**, **Satellite** and **Nut-tree Tussock**.

Adam Bassett had a nice fresh green **Yellow-barred Brindle** on his kitchen window in **Marlow Bottom, Bucks** on April 17th.

During a visit to the Devil's Punchbowl near the Ridgeway in Oxon on 16th April, Mick & Wendy Campbell saw a **Cinnabar moth** and counted 144 almost full-grown **Wood Tiger larvae** on the slopes. They also found a **Glowworm larva** eating a snail.

Chris Bottrell carried out a BBOWT Butterfly Survey at Calvert Jubilee (Bucks) on 15th April: "During the survey I saw 2 probable **Pyraustra purpuralis** but a revisit will be needed to check the diagnostic wing markings more closely. Other sightings are as follows:

15/4 - From the garden trap here in **Merton, Oxon** 33 individuals of 12 species. **Agonopterix heracliana** (1); **Emmelina monodactyla** (1); **Red Twin-spot Carpet** (1); **Grey Pine Carpet** (1); **Purple Thorn** (1); **Swallow Prominent** (1); **Least Black Arches** (1); **Small Quaker** (2); **Powdered Quaker** (3); **Common Quaker** (7); **Clouded Drab** (3); **Hebrew Character** (11)."



Grey Pine Carpet
Photo © Chris Bottrell



Least Black Arches
Photo © Chris Bottrell



Purple Thorn
Photo © Chris Bottrell



Swallow Prominent
Photo © Chris Bottrell

Peter Cuss says that he put the garden trap out in Caversham, Berks on 16th April: "I only had a single moth, a **Scorched Carpet.**"

Keith Mitchell reported the following from Stoke Goldington, Bucks on 15th April: "On the **3rd April** I trapped an unusual form of **Clouded Drab**. I sent a photo to Martin Albertini, who forwarded it to Martin Honey at the Natural History Museum, who responded with the following: "It seems to be a fairly uncommon form (of *Orthosia incerta*) that was described by Cockayne in the Entomologist's Record volume 64 p.37 and named **ab. pluriguttata**. The description reads 'ground colour very pale heavily sprinkled with dark striae'. There are a couple of specimens in the RCK (Rothschild Cockayne Kettlewell) collection that are similar to the type but yours, no doubt due to its ground colour, seems to be more distinctive." I have attached the image in the event that it may be of interest to UTB members (see below)."



Clouded Drab ab. pluriguttata
Photo © Keith Mitchell

Dave Maunder sent these updates recently: "On **Monday 11th April** I had two female **Emperor moths** hatch from stock reared last year and they brought in 4 males within an hour of hatching, which was quite exciting when they were all flying round my garden together! Today a third female hatched and she attracted one more male, so Emperors are doing ok in **Aylesbury, Bucks** this year! Other moths obtained in my garden trap recently include:- on the **10th April** - **Swallow Prominent** (1); **Muslin moth (first adult)**

(1); **Small Quaker** (1); **Common Quaker** (1); **Hebrew Character** (5); **Early Grey** (1); **Early Thorn** (1); **Brimstone moth** (1); **Engrailed moth** (1); and on [16th April](#) - **Nut-tree Tussock** (1); **Chestnut moth** (1); **Small Quaker** (1); **Clouded Drab** (1); **Hebrew Character** (3); **Waved Umber** (1); **Double-striped Pug** (1) and **Agonopterix heracliana** (1). I also got one more male Emperor moth assembled to a female in my garden on the 15th."



Emperor moths
Photo © Dave Maunder



Waved Umber
Photo © Dave Maunder

Andy King sent this report on 14th April: "Whilst accompanying Wendy Wilson on a search for Green Hairstreaks at a private site in [Higher Denham, Bucks](#) on [Tuesday 12 April](#), I came across large numbers of two micros, both of which fly in the sunshine: **Adela reaumurella** and **Cydia ulicetana**. Adela is one of the 'Longhorns' - the antennae of the females are very long and of the males incredibly long. They are 'metallic' - which presents all sorts of dazzling and variable colours, depending on the angles of the wings with the sunlight. C. ulicetana is often abundant around gorse and broom."



Adela reaumurella
Photo © Andy King

~ **Wednesday 13th April 2011** ~

Karen Roberts sent the following on 12th April: "I put the trap out on [Saturday 9 April](#) here in [Penn, Bucks](#). The evening started very slowly with 4 **Common Quakers** then the following arrived after midnight: **Early Thorn**, **Lesser Swallow Prominent**, **Small Quaker** and **Early Grey**."

David Redhead sent the following report on 11th April: "Whilst doing the butterfly transect at [Swyncombe Downs](#) on Saturday [9th April](#) I came across a small day flying moth which if I had not known better I would have put down as a faded *Pyrausta aurata*. Consultation with the books, websites and colleagues revealed its true identity - an early **Pyrausta despicata**. The previous earliest report to the UTB website is 15th June 2007 and the books/websites say the first brood is about in May & June. However I am reliably informed it can be found in April and in 1997 Martin Harvey recorded one on the 5th April just the other side of the R Thames. Then on [Sunday 10th April](#) Wendy came across a half grown **Scarlet Tiger Moth caterpillar** in our vegetable garden (in

Littlemore, Oxon) and this morning there were four crawling up our porch."

Latest news from Dave Wilton, received on 11th April: "New sightings for the year in my *Westcott, Bucks* garden over the past week have included **Emperor Moth** (7th April), **Mompha epilobiella** (9th April) and **Red Twin-spot Carpet** (9th April), while elsewhere locally I've had **Least Black Arches** (6th April) and **Common Heath** (10th April). The last three moths are between one and three weeks earlier than I've ever seen them before."

This report came from Andy King on 11th April: "Reading through your list of moth species reported so far this year, I believe I can add two more: **Zelleria hepariella**, there were two on 05 April and **Brimstone** (02 April). These were in my garden light trap in Chorleywood, Bucks."



Zelleria hepariella
Photo © Andy King

Chris Bottrell sent these moth trap results on 11th April:

8/4 - Catch from my garden trap (*Merton, Oxon*): **Emmelina monodactyla** (2); **Streamer** (1); **Early Thorn** (1); **Powdered Quaker** (3); **Common Quaker** (11); **Clouded Drab** (2); **Hebrew Character** (15). Only 35 moths of 7 species despite a pleasant evening. However a quick trip down the end of the garden at dusk revealed at least 3 Pips quartering the back lawn which may be influencing my numbers!

12/4 - Numbers plummeted to 4 moths of 2 species in my garden trap: **Common Quaker** (1); **Hebrew Character** (3)."



Streamer
Photo © Chris Bottrell

Tony Croft sent the following on 10th April: "This **Emperor moth** turned up just above our doorstep in *Easington, Bucks*, yesterday morning (9th April). It looked as though it had already been in the wars judging by the wing damage."



Emperor Moth
Photo © Tony Croft

Some more moths from Dave Maunders in Aylesbury: "From my garden trap - **Oak Beauty** (2); **Early Thorn** (1); **Small Quaker** (9); **Common Quaker** (11); **Hebrew Character** (18); **Clouded Drab** (7); **Early Grey** (5); **Chestnut Moth** (1); **Grey Shoulder-knot** (1); **Many Plume** (1); **Agonopterix heracliana** (4) and elsewhere at lights I've found:- **Ruby Tiger** (1, female, 9th); **Brindled Beauty** (1, 9th); **Nut-tree Tussock** (1, 9th); **Early Thorn** (1, 9th); **Chestnut Moth** (1, 21st/3rd); **Satellite Moth** (1, 23rd/3rd); **Oak Beauty** (1, 29th/3rd); **Shoulder Stripe** (7); **Streamer** (3); **Engrailed** (3); **Dotted Border** (2) and **Double-striped Pug** (1)."



Oak Beauties
Photo © Dave Maunders



Ruby Tiger
Photo © Dave Maunders

Nigel Partridge reported the following from Loosley Row, Bucks: "A couple more for the list: **Waved Umber** 07-04-11 and **Tissue** 08-04-11, (confirmed by checking the wing underside) a new species for our garden."



Tissue
Photo © Nigel Partridge

David Redhead sent this report from Littlemore, Oxon: "My first overnight garden moth trap of **April (8th)** produced only 26 macro-moths from just 8 species but perhaps not surprising as the temperature dropped to 5C. However it did add a new species to my 2011 list with a single **Swallow Prominent**. Others were **Hebrew Character** 10, **Clouded Drab** 7, **Brindled Beauty** 3, **Common Quaker** 2, **Lead-coloured Drab** 1, **Nut-tree Tussock** 1 & **Powdered Quaker** 1."

~ Wednesday 6th April 2011 ~

Chris Bottrell sent his latest moth trap reports:

01/4 - A dry overcast night produced exactly 100 moths of 11 species in the garden trap (*Merton, Oxon*): **Diurnea fagella** (1); **Double-striped Pug** (1); **Oak Beauty** (1, very worn); **Red Chestnut** (2); **Small Quaker** (10); **Powdered Quaker** (3); **Common Quaker** (62); **Clouded Drab** (5); **Twin-spotted Quaker** (1); **Hebrew Character** (11); **Early Grey** (3).

05/4 - On arrival at work in *Kidlington, Oxon*, sitting on MY computer monitor base in the GIS Office (SP 49845 13066), a male **Bee Moth (*Aphomia sociella*)**. (Thanks to Martin Corley for confirming id and the following observation: 'This species overwinters as a pupa, but in recent years adults have been appearing earlier and earlier.')

That evening in the garden trap (*Merton, Oxon*) 54 moths of 5 species: **Small Quaker** (2); **Powdered Quaker** (3); **Common Quaker** (24); **Clouded Drab** (7); **Hebrew Character** (18)."



Double-striped Pug
Photo © Chris Bottrell



Aphomia sociella (Bee Moth)
Photo © Chris Bottrell

Ross Newham reports a quiet night in his Didcot, Oxon garden actinic on 5th April: with a tatty **Oak Nycteoline** being the highlight.

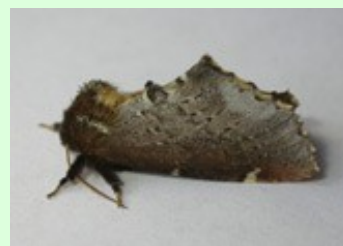


Oak Nycteoline
Photo © Ross Newham

Dave Wilton sent this update today: "The first sighting of one of the Prominents is normally my marker for the season being properly under way and this duly happened during another visit to *Bernwood on 5th April*. **Great Prominent** and **Scarce Prominent** came to light that night, as did **Purple Thorn**."



Great Prominent
Photo © Dave Wilton



Scarce Prominent
Photo © Dave Wilton

Richard Comont and Marc Botham had a good night's trapping in Brasenose Wood, Oxon on 5th April: "The highlight was an early **Ruby Tiger** adult disturbed from Mullein plants."

Tom Stevenson sent the following on 4th April: "I put the 25w blacklight trap out at the *Ewelme Watercress Beds, Oxon* overnight on *2nd April* but only caught 5 Moths, though the battery could have gone flat part way through. The catch included a **Hebrew Character**, 2 **Clouded Drabs**, a **Powdered Quaker** and a **Nut-tree Tussock**."



Nut-tree Tussock
Photo © Tom Stevenson

Adam Bassett sent this news from Marlow Bottom, Bucks on 4th April: "No trapping recently, but 2 moths found in the house were **Mompha subbistrigella** and **Double-striped Pug** both on *April 2nd*."

Peter Cuss ran his garden trap in Caversham, Berks on 2nd April: New for this year was a **Lunar Marbled Brown**.

Dave Wilton sent this report on 2nd April: "On *29th March* the garden trap here at *Westcott, Bucks* brought in a single **Oak Nycteoline** amongst nearly 100 moths of 19 species. On *1st April* another session trapping inside *Bernwood Forest*, this time with Marc Botham, proved reasonably productive. Species caught were **Diurnea fagella**, **Semioscopis steinkellneriana**, **Tortricodes alternella**, **Acleris hastiana**, **Acleris ferrugana/notana**, **Frosted Green**, **Water Carpet**, **Shoulder Stripe**, **Streamer**, **Brindled Pug**, **V-Pug**, **Early Thorn**, **Oak Beauty**, **Dotted Border**, **Engrailed**, **Lunar Marbled Brown**, **Red Chestnut**, **Pine Beauty**, **Small Quaker**, **Blossom Underwing**, **Lead-coloured Drab**, **Common Quaker**, **Clouded Drab**, **Twin-spotted Quaker**, **Hebrew Character**, **Satellite**, **Chestnut**, **Early Grey & Nut-tree Tussock**. Marc was particularly keen to see Blossom Underwing and the moth certainly obliged, with no less than 51 individuals being trapped."

~ Saturday 2nd April 2011 ~

Wendy Wilson reported the following on 30th March: "This **Twenty-plume moth** (**Alucita hexadactyla**) appeared on my landing wall last night (*29th March*), near a window outside which is a honeysuckle plant. It was still there today so I was able to photograph it (see *below*). I have been seeing them near there every year, usually in April, since 2007, but I was glad to see it again as I had to prune the honeysuckle drastically last autumn as the whole thing had collapsed onto my patio."



Alucita hexadactyla
Photo © Wendy Wilson

Mick A'Court sent this report on 29th March:

"25/3 *Butlers Cross garden, Bucks* (125W MV) 26 **Hebrew Character**, 14 **Common Quaker**, 15 **Small Quaker**, 10 **Clouded Drab**, 1 **Engrailed**, 1 **Twin-spotted Quaker**, 1 **March Moth** and 1 **Early Thorn**.

27/3 *The Ragpits, Bucks* (40W Actinic) 9 **Hebrew Character**, 6 **Common Quaker**, 5 **Clouded Drab**, 2 **Twin-spotted Quaker**, 2 **Chestnut**, 1 **Shoulder Stripe**, 6 *Diurnea fagella* and 1 **Streamer**.

29/3 *Butlers Cross garden* (125W MV) 18 **Hebrew Character**, 5 **Common Quaker**, 2 **Small Quaker**, 6 **Clouded Drab**, 1 **Twin-spotted Quaker**, 1 **Chestnut**, 2 *Diurnea fagella* and 1 **White-marked**.

I've also caught a few examples of the lighter coloured **Clouded Drab** which I haven't seen in previous years (see photo below)."



Early Thorn
Photo © Mick A'Court



Clouded Drab
Photo © Mick A'Court

Ross Newham sent the following reports: "Powdered Quaker x 1, **Early Thorn** x 1, **Early Grey** x 3 and **Double-striped Pug** amongst an otherwise average catch in the *Didcot, Oxon* actinic on **28th March**. 1 x **Frosted Green** was the highlight of my 15w actinic catch at *Fulscot Copse, Oxon* on **31st March**."



Powdered Quaker
Photo © Ross Newham



Early Thorn
Photo © Ross Newham



Frosted Green
Photo © Ross Newham

Ched George sent the following report on 29th March: "Last night's (**28th March**) colder weather reduced the numbers of Quakers attracted to the trap from the nearby large male willow in my garden in *Radnage, Bucks*. However, I recorded my first **Dotted Chestnut** of the year. The rest were **Chestnut** (1), **Engrailed** (1), **Common Quaker** (62), **Small Quaker** (19), **Clouded Drab** (21), **Twin-spotted Quaker** (2), **Hebrew Character** (43), **Early Grey** (2) and *Diurnea fagella* (2). I find that the **Twin-spotted Quaker** catch declines much more than the other Quakers on the colder nights. **Oak Beauties** are supposedly having a good season but I have only recorded 1 this year so far, the worst performance for years!"

Andy King sent this exciting report on 28th March: "Below are a couple of pictures

of a moth which I found sitting on top of my trap in [Chorleywood](#) on [15th March](#). It has taken a time to send this in because I ran my id past a couple of respected recorders first. The moth is **Semioscopis avellanella**, (B&F 666) which is not on the '**All-Time UTB Moth Species List**' (see the [Moth Stats](#) link at the top of this page) as shown on the UTB website. Since I live in VC24 (Bucks), but a matter of yards from VC20 (Herts) it is also relevant to note it is described as 'extinct' in Colin Plant's 'The Moths of Hertfordshire'".



Semioscopis avellanella
Photo © Andy King



Semioscopis avellanella
Photo © Andy King

An overnight moth trap in David Redhead's Littlemore, Oxon garden on 26th March produced: 48 Common Quaker, 19 Hebrew Character, 17 Clouded Drab, 4 Lead-coloured Drab, 4 Small Quaker, 3 Twin-spotted Quaker, 2 Powdered Quaker, 1 Chestnut, 1 Early Thorn, 1 **Pale Pinion**, 1 Satellite and 1 Diurnea fagella.

Recent catches from Chris Bottrell's garden trap in Merton (Oxon) are:

25/3 - After a warm day the still overcast night pushed numbers up - 70 moths of 7 species: **Shoulder Stripe** (2); **Small Quaker** (11); **Powdered Quaker** (1); **Common Quaker** (36); **Clouded Drab** (9); **Hebrew Character** (10); **Early Grey** (1).

26/3 - Cooler and a bit windy but still put the trap out - 87 moths of 10 species: **Shoulder Stripe** (5); **Red Chestnut** (1); **Small Quaker** (9); **Blossom Underwing** (1); **Lead-coloured Drab** (1); **Powdered Quaker** (1); **Common Quaker** (38); **Clouded Drab** (14); **Hebrew Character** (13); **Early Grey** (4)."



Powdered Quaker
Photo © Chris Bottrell



Blossom Underwing
Photo © Chris Bottrell

Dave Wilton reported the following on 27th March: "On 24th March the garden trap at [Westcott](#) brought in my first **Powdered Quaker** of the year. The following day, [25th March](#), was a landmark day for me in that I finally managed to locate the supposedly common day-flying Orange Underwing in this part of Bucks! Having previously caught and confirmed individuals from five different woods between Bernwood and the Claydon Estate, all of which proved to be the rarer Light Orange Underwing, a visit to [Round Wood](#) near Tingewick (Woodland Trust) brought a male specimen of **Orange Underwing** into my net when it descended from the tops of birch in the central part of the wood. It is likely that both species are present there because others were seen patrolling the tops of aspen on the wood's southern edge. The safest way to tell males apart is by their antennae (see photos below). A couple of hours trapping in private

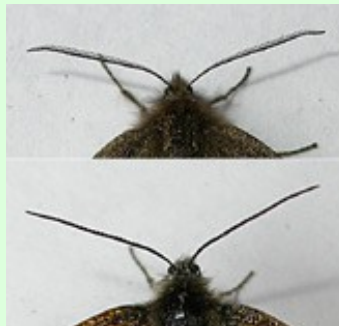
woodland *near Stowe* in the far NW of Bucks that evening produced a single **White-marked** amongst 486 moths of 21 species. Back home at *Westcott* I found **Agonopterix subpropinquella** (of the easily-recognised form *rhodochrella*) flying around in my garden shed."



Agonopterix subpropinquella
Photo © Dave Wilton



Orange Underwing
Photo © Dave Wilton



Light Orange Underwing antennae (top) and
Orange Underwing antennae (bottom)
Photo © Dave Wilton

~ Thursday 24th March 2011 ~

Dave Wilton reported the following: "A couple of hours spent in *Bernwood Forest, Bucks* on *22nd March* provided plenty of moth activity, with 682 individuals of 25 species recorded: *Diurnea fagella* (4), *Acleris ferrugana/notana* (3), *Tortricodes alternella* (57), *Yellow Horned* (2), *March Moth* (6), *Shoulder Stripe* (3), **Red-green Carpet** (2), **Brindled Pug** (3), **Early Tooth-striped** (7), **Early Thorn** (1), **Small Brindled Beauty** (7), **Pale Brindled Beauty** (1), **Oak Beauty** (26), **Engrailed** (11), **Red Chestnut** (3), **Pine Beauty** (2), **Small Quaker** (207), **Blossom Underwing** (1), **Common Quaker** (272), **Clouded Drab** (18), **Twin-spotted Quaker** (15), **Hebrew Character** (13), **Satellite** (12), **Chestnut** (5) & **Dotted Chestnut** (1)."



Dotted Chestnut
Photo © Dave Wilton



Early Tooth-striped
Photo © Dave Wilton

David Redhead ran his garden moth trap in Littlemore, Oxon on Monday night (21st) with good results again: "Numbers down on last time but slightly more variety - **Common Quaker** 31, **Hebrew Character** 22, **Clouded Drab** 17, **Lead-coloured Drab**

10, **Small Quaker** 8, **March Moth** 3, **Oak Beauty** 3, **Early Grey** 1, **Engrailed** 1, **Nut-tree Tussock** 1, **Shoulder Stripe** 1 & **Twin-spotted Quaker** 1."

Mick A'Court's garden trap in Butlers Cross, Bucks on Sunday evening 20th March produced the following: "A **White-marked** along with the more usual **Common Quaker**, **Small Quaker**, **Hebrew Character**, **Clouded Drab**, **Engrailed** and **March Moth**. The wall next to the front door of the visitors' centre at [College Lake, Bucks](#) hosted an **Oak Beauty** which remained more or less in the same place for the whole of last week. Also there on [Monday 21st](#) were **March Moth**, **Engrailed** and a **Shoulder Stripe**."



White-marked
Photo © Mick A'Court

On 20th March Tom Stevenson put his moth trap out in his garden in Benson, Oxon for the first time in 2011: "The trap is a home made skinner type using a 25w blacklight blue bulb. Just 4 moths in the trap, a **Hebrew Character**, 2 **Common Quakers** and an **Early Grey**."



Early Grey
Photo © Tom Stevenson

Chris Bottrell says that the recent sub-zero overnight temperatures reduced his garden catches in Merton (Oxon):

16/3 - 32 moths of 6 species: **Shoulder-stripe** (1); **Dotted Border** (1); **Small Quaker** (1); **Common Quaker** (23); **Clouded Drab** (3); **Hebrew Character** (3).

18/3 - Nothing.

19/3 - 18 moths of 5 species: **Pine Beauty** (1); **Small Quaker** (3); **Common Quaker** (9); **Clouded Drab** (3); **Hebrew Character** (2).

However ***22/3*** was a nice evening so I thought I'd put the trap out in the garden again. Two new species for the garden this year but not for the list. 54 moths of 7 species: **Diurnea fagella** (1); **Agonopterix heracliiana** (1); **Engrailed** (1); **Small Quaker** (8); **Common Quaker** (29, two of which were mating!); **Clouded Drab** (5); **Hebrew Character** (9)."



Engrailed
Photo © Chris Bottrell



Pine Beauty
Photo © Chris Bottrell



Shoulder Stripe
Photo © Chris Bottrell

Ross Newham reported the following on 20th March: "A relatively poor catch last night, *19th March in Long Wittenham Wood (VC22)* with the highlight being 1 x **White-marked** along with 3 x **Hebrew Characters**, 1 x **Small Quaker**, 1 x **Clouded Drab**. Then last night, 23rd, two more White-marked in Long Wittenham Wood (exactly the same spot as the one on the night of 19 March), 6 **Brindled Beauty** being the other highlight amongst a catch of 131 moths of 14 species."



White-marked
Photo © Ross Newham

Dave Maunder sent the following: "As with Dave Wilton (*see report below*), not many new species to report from *Aylesbury, Bucks* over the last week; on *15th* I got **Common Quakers** (12); **Clouded Drabs** (3); **Hebrew Characters** (4) and **Early Greys** (2) in my garden trap and elsewhere I found **Oak Beauty** (1); **Dotted Border** (4); **March moths** (2) and **Small Quaker** (1)."

~ Saturday 19th March 2011 ~

Dave Wilton sent this update on 18th March: "While I've been getting plenty of moths to my trap at *Westcott, Bucks* over the past week, there have been few additions to the garden list for the year. **Diurnea fagella** and **Early Grey** (both on *15th March*) have been the only new species."



Diurnea fagella
Photo © Dave Wilton

~ Thursday 17th March 2011 ~

Mary Elford reported the following: "This lovely **Pine Beauty** was in my garden trap

in *Bampton, Oxon on 15th March.*"



Pine Beauty
Photo © Mary Elford

David Redhead sent this report from Littlemore in Oxon on 14th March: "I ran my garden moth trap overnight on *Saturday 12th March* with record results for a March moth trap in my garden - 173 moths from 11 species - 51 **Small Quaker**, 48 **Common Quaker**, 21 **Hebrew Character**, 17 **Twin-spotted Quaker**, 15 **Clouded Drab**, 9 **Oak Beauty**, 7 **Lead-coloured Drab**, 2 **Engrailed**, 1 **March Moth**, 1 *Alucita hexadactyla* and 1 *Tortricodes alternella*."

~ **Sunday 13th March 2011** ~

Chris Bottrell says that numbers are picking up in Merton (Oxon):

11/3 - 49 moths of 9 species: **Agonopterix heracliiana** (1); **Emmelina monodactyla** (1); **Oak Beauty** (1); **Red Chestnut** (1); **Small Quaker** (6); **Common Quaker** (30); **Clouded Drab** (7); **Twin-spotted Quaker** (1); **Hebrew Character** (1).

12/3 - 79 moths of 6 species: **Agonopterix heracliiana** (2); **Small Quaker** (16); **Common Quaker** (49); **Clouded Drab** (6); **Twin-spotted Quaker** (2); **Hebrew Character** (4);

13/3 - A **Twenty-plume Moth** in the kitchen, relocated at dusk to the Honeysuckle hiding the oil tank."



Twenty-plume Moth
Photo © Chris Bottrell

Jan Haseler reported the following today: "A **Water Carpet** was disturbed from the leaf litter at BBOWT's *Moor Copse* work party in Berks on *Sun 13th March.*"

Dave Wilton sent the following today: "After several days of searching, yesterday (*12th March*) I had my first success of the year in looking for the Orange Underwing species of moth with **Light Orange Underwing** (2) found active above aspen in the early afternoon sunshine at *Kingswood, Bucks*. The woods have virtually no birch at all (the foodplant of the very similar Orange Underwing) and I've netted examples there in the past to confirm the identity. Unfortunately nearly every other nearby wood with Orange Underwing sightings (including *Finemere, Grendon & Diddershall, Rushbeds, Whitecross Green & Bernwood Forest*) has copious amounts of both foodplant so moths do have to be examined closely to be sure of the correct species. A couple of hours with

a single MV trap in [Bernwood Forest](#) after dark brought in 17 species, comprising *Ypsolopha ustella*, ***Agonopterix alstromeriana***, *Acleris ferrugana/notana*, *Tortricodes alternella*, Yellow Horned, March Moth, Shoulder Stripe, Small Brindled Beauty, Oak Beauty, Dotted Border, Small Quaker, Lead-coloured Drab, Common Quaker, Clouded Drab, Twin-spotted Quaker, Satellite and Chestnut. When I got back home to [Westcott](#) I found *Agonopterix heracliiana* and *Engrailed* by the outside light. Going back a few days, I had ***Agonopterix arenella*** to the outside light on [9th March](#)."

[Peter Cuss ran these traps in his garden in Caversham, Berks](#): "On [11.03.11](#) I had Small Quaker, Common Quaker and Oak Beauty and on [12.03.11](#) I caught Small Quaker, Common Quaker, Twin-spotted Quaker and March Moth."



Twin-spotted Quaker
Photo © Peter Cuss

[Ross Newham sent the following reports on 10th March](#): "A few more recent catches, all with 15W actinic. Lead-coloured Drab looks new for VC22 this year. Thanks to Marc Botham for helping to confirm the ID of this one.

[8 March 2011 - Long Wittenham Wood](#) (SU550920), 49 individuals of 6 spp: 23 Hebrew Characters, 16 Small Quakers, 5 March Moths, 3 Dotted Borders, 1 Satellite and 1 Twin-spotted Quaker.

[9 March 2011 - Fulscot Copse](#) (SU543899). A fairly decent catch last night of 79 macros of 7 spp + 2 x *Tortricodes alternella*. 69 x Small Quaker, 3 x Hebrew Character, 2 x Dotted Border, 1 x Common Quaker, 1 x Clouded Drab, 1 x **Lead-coloured Drab**, 1 x Chestnut, 1 x Oak Beauty.



Lead-coloured Drab (left)
with
Clouded Drab (right)
Photo © Ross Newham



Oak Beauty
Photo © Ross Newham

[Chris Bottrell ran the following traps in his garden in Merton \(Oxon\)](#):

[Fri 04/03](#): A solitary Common Quaker;

[Sat 05/03](#): *Agonopterix heracliiana* (1), March Moth (1), Dotted Border (1), Small Quaker (4), Common Quaker (4), Hebrew Character (2), Clouded Drab (3).

[Wed 09/03](#): Despite being a windy night I caught 16 moths: Small Quaker (2);

Common Quaker (8); Clouded Drab (4); Twin-spotted Quaker (1) and Hebrew Character (1)."



Agonopterix heracliana
Photo © Chris Bottrell



March Moth
Photo © Chris Bottrell



Twin-spotted Quaker
Photo © Chris Bottrell

~ Tuesday 8th March 2011 ~

Dave Maunder sent this update today: "A few more moths seen here in [Aylesbury, Bucks](#) recently were:- **Dotted Borders** (4, including a nice melanistic specimen found today (see *photo*) - after a night at -6.8C!); **Early moth** (1); **March moth** (1) and **Hebrew Character** (1). Just got to hope night-time temps improve soon!"



Dotted Border
Photo © Dave Maunder

Adam Bassett reported the following from Marlow Bottom, Bucks yesterday: "A **Shoulder Stripe** appeared on the kitchen window tonight, [7th March](#) – my first of the year."

~ Tuesday 1st March 2011 ~

Chris Bottrell sent this report from Merton, Oxon on 1st March: "A significant increase in the garden trap from the previous weekend's single Dotted Border. This weekend [25/02](#): **Red Chestnut** (1 worn), **Small Quaker** (1), **Common Quaker** (2), **Clouded Drab** (1). [26/02](#): **Small Quaker** (1), **Common Quaker** (4), **Hebrew Character** (1), **Satellite** (1 damaged)."



Clouded Drab
Photo © Chris Bottrell



Hebrew Character
Photo © Chris Bottrell



Small Quaker
Photo © Chris Bottrell

Andy King sent the following report on 27th February: "Running my eye down the reports of UTB moths sighted so far this year, I think I can add some more, from my actinic light trap in *Chorleywood West*, which is just in the vice-county of Bucks, (although modern-day politicians have magicked it into Herts): **Acleris ferrugana/notana**, first date *07/02*; **Alucita hexadactyla (Twenty-plume Moth)**, *10/02* (inside the house); **Acleris cristana** (f. *cristalana*), *13/02*; **Small Quaker**, *24/02*; **Hebrew Character**, *25/02* (X2); **Yellow Horned**, *25/02*."



Acleris cristana
Photo © Andy King

Nigel Partridge trapped on 24th February in his garden in Loosley Row, Bucks: "I caught the following species (thanks to Peter Hall for confirming the ID of the *Ypsolopha mucronella*): **Amblyptilia acanthadactyla**, **Agonopterix heracliiana**, **Ypsolopha mucronella**, Chestnut, Common Quaker, Clouded Drab, Early Moth, Hebrew Character."

Peter Cuss ran his garden trap in Caversham, Berks on 24th February: "I caught **Early Grey** (2), Common Quaker (2) and **Twin-spotted Quaker** (1)."

Derek Brown sent this update on 25th February: "On the *24th February at Beenham, Berks*: 1x March Moth; 7x Small Quaker; 1x Common Quaker; 1x Oak Beauty and 1x Clouded Drab."



Clouded Drab

Dave Wilton sent this report on 24th February: "The season seems to be well under way now. A new arrival to the garden trap at [Westcott, Bucks on 22nd February](#) was **Clouded Drab**, while on [23rd February](#) I got my first garden examples of **Small Quaker**, **Common Quaker** and **Hebrew Character**. I spent a couple of hours with a single MV light in [Bernwood Forest on 23rd February](#) and got 257 moths of 13 species, comprising **Ypsolopha ustella** (1), **Acleris ferrugana/notana** (1), **Tortricodes alternella** (101), **Yellow Horned** (1), **March Moth** (60), **Small Brindled Beauty** (53), **Pale Brindled Beauty** (5), **Oak Beauty** (4), **Spring Usher** (23), **Dotted Border** (2 males to the trap, one female found on a nearby tree trunk), **Satellite** (2), **Chestnut** (2) & **Common Quaker** (1)."



Ypsolopha ustella
Photo © Dave Wilton



Dotted Border f.
Photo © Dave Wilton



Yellow Horned
Photo © Dave Wilton

Adam Bassett ran his trap for the first time this year on February 23rd at Marlow Bottom, Bucks: "The results were fairly typical: **Tortricodes alternella** (17), **Acleris ferrugana/notana** (2), **Amblyptilia acanthadactyla** (1), **March Moth** (21), **Small Brindled Beauty** (1), **Pale Brindled Beauty** (2), **Oak Beauty** (1), **Dotted Border** (3), **Small Quaker** (7), **Common Quaker** (2), **Chestnut** (2)."

Mick A'Court sent this report on 24th February: "Finally caught some moths in my [Butlers Cross, Bucks](#) garden trap on [23rd February](#) including a **Satellite**, 4 **Common Quakers**, 2 **Clouded Drabs**, 2 **Dotted Borders**, 1 **Hebrew Character** and a **Herald** on the fence next to the trap."

Derek Brown reported the following on 23rd February: "A few hours trapping on [23rd February](#) produced the following at [Beenham, Berkshire](#). 1x **Small Brindled Beauty**; 1x **Common Quaker**; 2x **Small Quaker**; 1x **Hebrew Character** and 1x **Grey Shoulder-knot** (the latter is the first in the garden for four years)."



Grey Shoulder-knot
Photo © Derek Brown

Ross Newham sent in these results of recent moth catches: "All in a small wood on

the outskirts of *Didcot, Oxon*:

Night of 19/20 Feb: **Small Quaker**, **Pale Brindled Beauty**, **Acleris ferrugana/notana**, **Tortricodes alternella** x 2.

Previous Saturday night (12/13 Feb): Catch of 106 moths: **Tortricodes alternella** x 93!!! **Pale Brindled Beauty** x 6, **Spring Usher** x 5, **Dotted Border** x 2."



Tortricodes alternella
Photo © Ross Newham



Small Quaker
Photo © Ross Newham

~ **Saturday 19th February 2011** ~

Dave Maunder sent these sightings today: "A few more moths from *Aylesbury, Bucks* over the last week are:- **Satellite moth** (1, in my garden trap on 16th); **Dotted Borders** (12); **Early moths** (4); **Pale Brindled Beauty** (1); **Agonopterix heracliانا** (1) and **Emmelina monodactyla** (1, 18th)."

Nigel Partridge added another moth to the 2011 species list: "**Oak Beauty**, 13-02-11, *Loosley Row, Bucks*. This beats my earliest record for this species by 2 weeks."



Oak Beauty
Photo © Nigel Partridge

Chris Bottrell sent the following report: "Last weekend here in *Merton, Oxon*, two rather wet overnight sessions in the back garden. **11th Feb**: a strongly marked **Pale Brindled Beauty** (2) along with surprisingly early **Red Chestnut** (2) and **Common Quaker** (1); **12th Feb**: **Dotted Border** (1). (Thanks to Dave Wilton and Peter Hall for confirming id's.)



Pale Brindled Beauty



Red Chestnut



Common Quaker

Some more moths found by Dave Maunder in Aylesbury, Bucks recently were: "Pale Brindled Beauties (5); Spring Ushers (2 - one in my garden m.v. on 11th February); Dotted Border (1, 12th); Early moths (5); *Agonopterix heracliana* (2); **Acleris schalleriana** (1, 9th February) and a **Muslin moth larva** on 10th February."



Acleris schalleriana
Photo © Dave Maunder



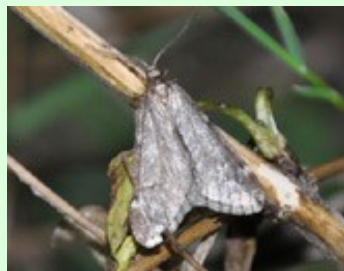
Spring Usher
Photo © Dave Maunder

Ched George's MV catch in Radnage, Bucks overnight on 11th February was: **Common Quaker** 1, **March Moth** 1, **Chestnut** 1, **Pale Brindled Beauty** 1, **Dotted Border** 5, **Spring Usher** 1, **Engrailed** 1.

~ Thursday 10th February 2011 ~

Dave Wilton sent this report today, 10th February: "Two hours with a single MV light in *Bernwood Forest, Bucks* on 9th February produced a fairly typical result for the time of year: *Tortricodes alternella* (5), **March Moth** (2), **Winter Moth** (1, my latest record), **Pale Brindled Beauty** (8), **Spring Usher** (106), **Dotted Border** (1) & **Chestnut** (1)."

Derek Brown put his trap out for a few hours on 9th February in Beenham, Berks: "I got the following moths: **Pale Brindled Beauty** (2); **Spring Usher** (4); **March Moth** (1) and new for the garden a **Small Brindled Beauty** (1)."



March Moth
Photo © Derek Brown



Small Brindled Beauty
Photo © Derek Brown

David Redhead ran his third overnight garden trap (125MV Robinson) of the year on Sunday evening 6th February in Littlemore, Oxon: "I caught 3 macro-moths - 2 **Pale Brindled Beauties** of which one was the dark form (*f.monacharia*) and a **Small Brindled Beauty**. The latter only caught once before in my garden in 2008 - perhaps not surprising as oak trees are thin on the ground in the vicinity of my garden."

Chris Bottrell reported the following: "6th February: My first moth in 4 weeks of trapping at the weekend in my back garden down here at *Merton* on the edge of Otmoor (Oxon), a **Dotted Border**."



Dotted Border
Photo © Chris Bottrell

~ Sunday 7th February 2011 ~

Mick A'Court sent the following on 4th February: "The front door at the [College Lake visitor centre \(Bucks\)](#) seems quite popular with moths this week as I found an **Early Moth** there first thing on [Monday 31st Jan](#) and then first thing on [Thursday 3rd Feb](#) were two **Pale Brindled Beauties** on the glass and a **Spring Usher** on the door jamb."

This report came from Dave Maunder on 2nd February: "A few more moths seen in [Aylesbury, Bucks](#) last week were:- **Pale Brindled Beauties** (3, on 26th); **Mottled Umber** (1, on 24th); **Winter moth** (1, on 25th) and **Early moths** (4, on 26th). Nothing so far this week - just a nice flock of **Waxwings** near my house to keep me happy!"

Ross Newham sent the following reports:

15/01/11 Small wood on outskirts of [Didcot, Oxon](#): **Pale Brindled Beauty** 2, **Mottled Umber** 4, **Early Moth** 1, **Winter Moth** 5.

27/01/11 Small wood on outskirts of [Didcot, Oxon](#): **Tortricodes alternella** 1, **Pale Brindled Beauty** 2, **Mottled Umber** 2, **Early Moth** 1, **Winter Moth** 3.

04/02/11 In a small wood just outside [Didcot](#), my 15w actinic trapped 35 moths of six species including **Satellite** (1), **Dotted Border** (1), **Chestnut** (3), **Pale Brindled Beauty** (7), **Spring Usher** (9) and **Tortricodes alternella** (14). Not bad considering the wind!"

Tom Stevenson found this moth flying around his kitchen in Benson, Oxon on 25th January: "It was a **Light Brown Apple Moth (Epiphyas postvittana)**. Thanks to Peter Hall for confirming the id."



Epiphyas postvittana
Photo © Tom Stevenson

~ Sunday 30th January 2011 ~

This interesting report came from Dave Wilton: "On [25th January](#), while carrying out some searching for butterfly eggs at a site NE of [Kingswood, Bucks](#), I picked seven dead teasel heads and took them home to see what they might contain. On opening them up I found that six of the seven each held a single active larva of the tortrix **Endothenia gentianaeana** which I see is new to the 'All-time' UTB list (see ['Moth Stats' link at the top of this page](#)). The teasel heads have been closed again and I hope to see the adult moths emerge later in the year. That evening was a bit on the damp side but it

was quite warm and another good collection of moths came to the conservatory windows here at [Westcott](#), attracted by an actinic light run indoors. They comprised **Emmelinea monodactyla** (1), **Winter Moth** (1), **Pale Brindled Beauty** (2), **Early Moth** (7) and **Chestnut** (1). This is the first time that I've managed a double-digit moth count in the garden during January."



Endothenia gentianaeana
Photo © Dave Wilton

Nigel Partridge reported the following from Loosley Row, Bucks: "One more for the list: **Endrosis sarcitrella**, 24-01-11, found flying around indoors."

On Sunday evening 23rd January, Marc Botham put out two actinic traps in Brasenose Woods, Oxford and caught 51 individuals from 7 species: **Spring Usher** (3), **Mottled Umber** (8), **Winter Moth** (1), **Pale Brindled Beauty** (3), **Early Moth** (32; by far the most numerous and 2 wingless females also in moth the traps!), **Chestnut** (3) and **Dotted Border** (1). Had the females been carried into the trap by a male whilst in cop?"

Dave Maunder sent this update on 21st January: "A few more moths seen around [Aylesbury](#) during the last few weeks were:- **Pale Brindled Beauty** (1, 17th); **Early moths** (9, 18th), **Winter moths** (2, 18th), **Chestnut moth** (1, 13th) and **Agonopterix heracliana** (1, 14th.)."



Pale Brindled Beauty
Photo © Dave Maunder

David Redhead ran his garden moth trap in Littlemore, Oxon on 15th January: "It was nice and mild but rather windy. On Sunday morning there were three **Pale Brindled Beauties** sitting on the outside of the trap but all I found inside was a single **Hawthorn Shield Bug** (*Acanthosoma haemorrhoidale*). This surprised me rather as I don't remember them being a winter visitor to my moth trap before but consultation with the books/websites shows they overwinter as the hibernating adult. There was also an **Early Moth** in our front porch on the opposite side of the house from the moth trap."

~ **Sunday 16th January 2011** ~

Keith Mitchell sent this report on 15th January: "Whilst pruning the Clematis in my [Stoke Goldington \(Bucks\)](#) garden this afternoon I disturbed my first **Emmelinea monodactyla** of the year."

Derek Brown reported the following on 15th January: "So far I've had a **Winter moth** on 5/1 and a **Pale Brindled Beauty** and **Spring Usher** on 14/1 at **Beenham, Berks.**"

This came from Dave Wilton on 14th January: "I've become a little lazy here at **Westcott, Bucks** over the past three or four days. Instead of putting the trap out I've been running a twin-30wt actinic light inside the conservatory from dusk until late evening and seeing what comes to the windows. On **11th January** I got a single **Mottled Umber** just as I was about to turn the light off at 11pm. On **13th January** a **Pale Brindled Beauty** and an **Early Moth** appeared soon after dusk. This is the earliest, by about a week, that I've had either of those two species here in the garden."



Pale Brindled Beauty
Photo © Dave Wilton



Early Moth
Photo © Dave Wilton

Nigel Partridge sent this report on 11th January: "My first addition to the 2011 list is a **Chestnut**, 07-01-11, Loosley Row, Bucks."

David Redhead reported the following moth species, recorded during a Brown Hairstreak egg hunt on 3rd January: "At the **RSPB Otmoor** egg hunt, we found **Lackey Moth eggs**, **Blue-bordered Carpet eggs** and a **Drinker larva.**"



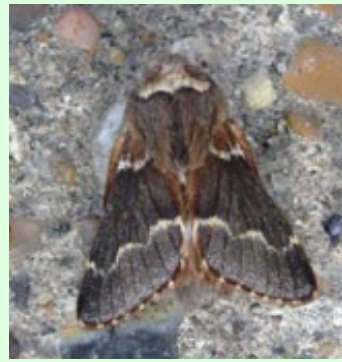
Drinker Moth larva
Photo © Jim Asher

~ Sunday 9th January 2011 ~

Dave Maunder's second report of the year arrived on 8th January: "Some more moths seen in **Aylesbury** over the last week were:- **December moth** (1, on 2nd); **Winter moths** (23) and **Mottled Umber** (1, on 6th).

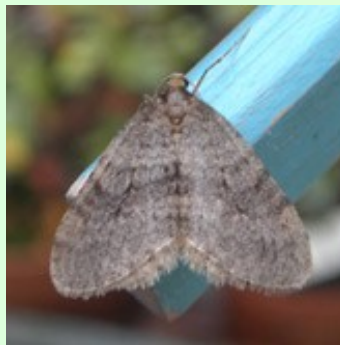


Winter Moths pairing
Photo © Dave Maunder



December Moth
Photo © Dave Maunder

Tom Stevenson's first record of the year was a Winter moth which he picked up from the soggy grass at [Ewelme Local Nature Reserve, Oxon](#) on the morning of **7th January**.



Winter Moth
Photo © Tom Stevenson

Chris Bottrell sent his first report to the website on 5th January: "My New Year's Resolution (well one of them) is to submit my moth records to BC UTB. I trap on a weekly basis in my back garden in [Merton, Oxon](#) (SP 57526 17625) using a 2 x 30W Actinic Skinner, and elsewhere using a variety of other equipment. I also do survey work for BBOWT and the RSPB (mainly Butterflies and Birds) and whilst doing them record any day-fliers and other moths disturbed. My first trapping session of the year on the **2nd January** using a 2 x 30W Actinic Skinner caught just 2 male **Winter Moth** and then on the same evening I potted an **Agonopterix heracliiana** in the cottage."

David Redhead sent his first report of the year on 2nd January: "Thought I would get off to an early start this year and ran my garden trap in [Littlemore, Oxon](#) last night (**1st January**) with the following results - 10 **Winter Moth**, 2 **Mottled Umber** & 1 **December Moth.**"

Dave Maunder started his season with the following: "Moths seen on the first day of 2011 were:- **Mottled Umbers** (2); **Winter moths** (67 - most road casualties found while cycling to Stone and back!) and **Agonopterix heracliiana** (1). I start my new-year's mothing early!"

Peter Hall kicks off the 2011 season: "Timed at 1 second past midnight on **1st January ... Ballinger Common, Bucks**, 1 **Winter moth** at the kitchen window! Also flying around the house just after midnight was a male **Tinea pellionella.**"