

Butterfly Conservation Upper Thames Branch

Moth Sightings Archive - January to June 2012

~ Saturday 30th June 2012 ~

Dave Wilton sent the following: "The last ten days of June saw a slight improvement in the weather but little change in the overall numbers of moths coming to the trap. With some southerly winds there was the possibility of a few migrants but they seem to have avoided me quite effectively here in mid-Bucks! Additions to my year list included **Elephant Hawk-moth** (21st June, Westcott), **Double Dart** (24th June, Westcott), **Epinotia bilunana** & **Blotched Emerald** (both 24th June, Finemere Wood), **Latticed Heath** (25th June, disused railway near Salden Wood), **Blastodacna hellerella**, **Archips podana**, **Acleris bergmanniana**, **Orthotaenia undulana**, **Ancylics achatana**, **Crambus pascuella**, **Hypsopygia costalis/Gold Triangle**, **Buff Arches**, **Barred Yellow**, **July Highflyer**, **Brown Scallop**, **Short-cloaked Moth** & **Clay** (all 25th June, Calvert), **Cataclysta lemnata/Small China-mark**, **Large Twin-spot Carpet** & **Fan-foot** (all 26th June, Westcott), **Shaded Broadbar** (26th June, Ashridge Estate), **Phlyctaenia perlucidalis** & **Eudonia pallida** (both 27th June, Westcott), **Argyresthia bonnetella**, **Coleophora lixella**, **Metzneria aprilella**, **Phtheochroa sodaliana**, **Eupoecilia angustana**, **Crambus perlella**, **Drinker**, **Haworth's Pug** & **Purple Clay** (all 27th June, Ivinghoe Beacon), **Dingy Shears** (28th June, Westcott), **Narrow-bordered Five-spot Burnet** (28th June, private woodland near Grendon Underwood) and **Zeiraphera isertana**, **Udea prunalis** & **Swallow-tailed Moth** (all 29th June, Westcott). On 27th June the three-hour session using two MV lights on *Ivinghoe Beacon* yielded my first 100+ species catch of the year, with *Coleophora lixella*, *Metzneria aprilella* (a first for VC24) and *Phtheochroa sodaliana* being new additions to the all-time UTB list."



Coleophora lixella
Photo © Dave Wilton



Metzneria aprilella
Photo © Dave Wilton



Phtheochroa sodaliana
Photo © Dave Wilton

Adam Bassett sent this report: "A rare event at the moment, actually putting the trap out! The following are from a garden trap (*Marlow Bottom, Bucks*) on *June 29th*, which are currently new to the UTB year list: **Cedestis gysseleniella**, **Blastodacna hellerella**, **Pandemis cinnamomeana**, **Olindia schumacherana**, **Aleimma loeflingiana**, **Epinotia bilunana**, **Catoptria pinella**, **Blotched Emerald**, **Common Emerald**, **Lilac Beauty**, **Scalloped Oak**, **Swallow-tailed Moth** and **Argyresthia albistria**."

David Redhead ran his overnight garden moth trap in Littlemore, Oxford on 29th June: "It produced the following additions to my 2012 garden list, some of which appear to be new to the UTB 2012 list:- **Buff Arches** (3) and singletons of **Barred Straw**, **Common Wainscot**,

Elephant Hawkmoth, Green Arches, Heart & Club, July Highflyer, Large Twin-spot Carpet, Purple Clay, Sandy Carpet, Small Fan-foot, **Swallow-tailed Moth** & Willow Beauty. The most prolific species were **Double Square-spot** & **Poplar Hawkmoth**, which both scored 11."

Peter Law sent this news: "*Kings Copse Park, Garsington, Oxon:* It is always a special moment when the first **Scarlet Tigers** appear in my garden. This evening (*29th June*) when administering some much needed attention, I disturbed 3 including this mating pair on my *Acanthus Mollis*."



Scarlet Tiger, mating pair
Photo © Peter Law

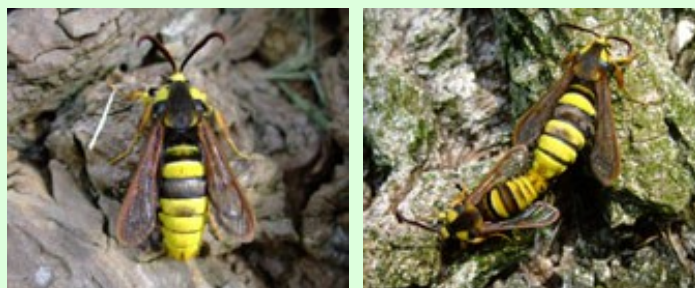
May Webber ran her garden moth trap in Long Hanborough, Oxon on 28th June: "I had this **Treble Brown Spot** and one of the dark forms of **Marbled/Tawny Marbled Minor**, an **Uncertain** and **Choristoneura hebenstreitella**. (Thanks to Peter Hall and Dave Wilton for helping with the ids.)"



Treble Brown Spot
Photo © May Webber

Nigel Partridge sent this update: "*27-06-12, Loosley Row, Bucks:* **Wormwood Pug**, **Small Yellow Wave** and **Elephant Hawk-moth**."

Dave Maunder sent the following on 28th June: "I've had considerable success this week with the **Hornet moths** - 12 specimens found over the last three days around the *Aylesbury (Bucks) area*. This morning I found three mating pairs on Poplars at Broughton and yesterday evening I watched a female ovipositing at the base of a Poplar in Aston Clinton! Maybe this species is quite common in the right habitat in our area. The photos below are of a female - my first ever specimen - which I found on the evening of 25th June in *Aston Clinton, Bucks* where I work, and one of the mating pairs seen today."



Hornet Moth f.
Photo © Dave Maunder

Hornet Moths, mating pair
Photo © Dave Maunder

David Redhead sent this report from Littlemore, Oxon: "Only my second garden moth trap in June (*27th*) seems to have produced some 2012 firsts for the UTB website - **Round-winged Muslin** (5), **Perinephela lancealis** (3), **Fan-foot** (2), **Southern Wainscot** (2) and singletons of **Drinker (first adult)**, **Hypsopygia costalis (Gold Triangle)** & **Single-dotted Wave**. Earlier in the day, in the grassland near my house, I had a **Scarlet Tiger Moth**, **Cinnabar** and much to my surprise, only having found my first cocoon 3 days ago, an adult **Narrow-bordered Five-spot Burnet Moth**."

Mary Elford sent the following: "This fragile looking **Barred Straw** was on my trap here in *Bampton, Oxon* on *28th June*. I don't recall seeing it before."



Barred Straw
Photo © Mary Elford

This report came from Chris Pickford: "A good night here in *S. Oxon (Berkshire Downs)* for moths on *26th June!* There was literally standing room only in my modest trap - amongst the more interesting arrivals were three **Elephant Hawkmoths**, one **Small Elephant Hawkmoth**, 3 **Peppered Moths** (non-melanic), 2 **Angle Shades**, a **Small Emerald**, plus all the usual suspects."



Small Elephant Hawkmoth
Photo © Chris Pickford



Elephant Hawkmoth
Photo © Chris Pickford

Adam Bassett sent the following: "Nothing to report from a lack of trapping, but a fresh looking **Borkhausenia fuscescens** was flying around my lounge (in *Marlow Bottom, Bucks*) in the evening of *27th June* as I was watching the football."

Rob Payne sent this report from Langley on the Berks/Bucks border: "I found this in my porch on the morning of *27th June* - I am pretty sure that it is a **Small Ranunculus**, but thought as it is Nationally scarce - though more frequent around the Thames area - I would send it for confirmation as it is a new one for me."



Small Ranunculus
Photo © Rob Payne

Dave Morris sent the following from Seer Green, Bucks: "Amongst my recent catches, I have a couple of things not currently on the year's list from **25th June: Dichomeris marginella (Juniper Webber), Pandemis cinnamomeana** - I believe this is the male, with the white face. Also, whilst cutting the grass on **27th June**, I dislodged a **Fan-foot.**"



Dichomeris marginella
Photo © Dave Morris



Pandemis cinnamomeana
Photo © Dave Morris



Fan-foot
Photo © Dave Morris

Mary Elford reports that there's been an improvement in the number of moths coming to the trap this week: "On **25th June** there was a **Grey Dagger** egg. in my garden trap in **Bampton, Oxon.**"

Nigel Partridge sent the following: "A few more from **25-06-12, Loosley Row, Bucks: Dichrorampha petiverella, Lesser Yellow Underwing, Thiotricha subocellea** (thanks to Peter Hall for confirming the ID) and **Snout.**"



Thiotricha subocellea
Photo © Nigel Partridge

Rob Payne sent this report: "I caught this rather early **Purple Clay** near **Beaconsfield, Bucks** on Sunday **24th June**. I think it is the first for the year."



This report from Steve Woolliams came via David Redhead: "Last year I had a sighting of a **Currant Clearwing** in the garden (*in Headington, Oxford*) and I've now spotted a mating pair on *20th June* on my Blackcurrant bushes."



Currant Clearwings pairing
Photo © Steve Woolliams

~ Sunday 24th June 2012 ~

Dave Morris sent this update: "I trapped for the GMS on Friday *22nd June in Seer Green, Bucks* getting a poor show, but it did include one moth I wasn't expecting for my area: 1 each of **Eudonia mercurella**, **Heart & Dart**, **Large Nutmeg** and **True Lover's Knot**."



True Lover's Knot
Photo © Dave Morris

Dave Maunder sent this report: "On *17th June* I had a **Hummingbird Hawkmoth** nectaring on my garden Campion flowers here in *Aylesbury, Bucks* - my first of the year. Also seen was a **Poplar Hawkmoth** in Fairford Leys and on *22nd June* I had my first of 15 **Pine Hawkmoth** pupae hatch - a nice female (photo below). I also had my first **Dark Arches** of the year in my garden trap on *20th June*, plus **Brown Rustic**, **Riband Wave**, **Peppered Moth**, **3 Cinnabars**, and **White Ermine**. Because of the very poor weather over the "Moth Night" weekend, all I can report seeing in Aylesbury over the last few days is: **Mullein moth larvae** (4); a **Silver y** flying in pouring rain in my garden last night (*23rd June*) and a male **Eyed Hawkmoth** which came to mate with a female I'd reared - he also must have flown in the pouring rain to get to her!"

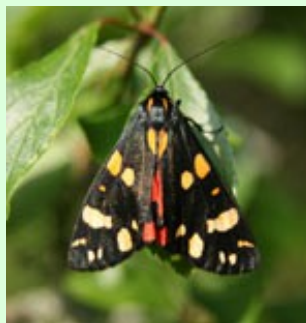


This report came from Andy King: "An **Archips xylosteana** emerged from some Birch twigs where, as a caterpillar, it had lived in rolled-up leaves, originally in **Black Park, Bucks**. I found it there on **21st May**."

Dave Wilton sent this update: "Further new additions to my year list here in mid-Bucks have included **Cacoecimorpha pronubana**, **Blood-vein** & **Straw Dot** (all **Westcott on 17th June**), **Agapeta hamana** & **Grapholita compositella** (both **Calvert on 18th June**), **Common Footman**, **Light Arches**, **Clouded Brindle** & **Small Dotted Buff** (all **Westcott on 18th June**), **Eidophasia messingiella**, **Apotomis turbidana**, **Epinotia cruciana**, **Epiblema rosaecolana**, **Small Yellow Wave**, **Green Arches**, **Grey Arches**, **Marbled White Spot** & **Plain Golden Y** (all in a **private wood near Buckingham on 19th June**) and **Double Square-spot** & **Beautiful Hook-tip** (both **Westcott on 19th June**). A daytime visit to the **Manor Park area of Aylesbury on 19th June** produced **Scarlet Tiger (first adult)** (3) flying around the front of a house where the rear garden seems to be almost entirely given over to Green Alkanet, one of the moth's favoured foodplants. Peter Hall and I ran light traps for three hours in two different areas of the **Ivinghoe Hills on 20th June** and got the following species: **Ghost Moth**, **Common Swift**, **Elachista argentella**, **Agonopterix arenella**, **Teleiodes vulgella**, **Blastobasis lacticolella**, **Cochylimorpha straminea**, **Agapeta hamana**, **Agapeta zoegana**, **Cochylis atricapitana**, **Pandemis heparana**, **Celypha lacunana**, **Hedya pruniana**, **Hedya nubiferana**, **Epinotia signatana**, **Eucosma cana**, **Epiblema cynosbatella**, **Epiblema uddmanniana**, **Epiblema trimaculana**, **Cydia fagiglandana**, **Chrysoteuchia culmella**, **Crambus lathoniellus**, **Udea olivalis**, **Hypochalcia ahenella** (a nationally scarce species, 12 seen), **Merrifieldia leucodactyla**, **Pterophorus pentadactyla**, **Silver-ground Carpet**, **Garden Carpet**, **Common Carpet**, **Yellow Shell**, **Purple Bar**, **Common Marbled Carpet**, **Fern**, **Pretty Chalk Carpet**, **Grass Rivulet**, **Mottled Pug**, **Freyer's Pug**, **Shaded Pug**, **V-Pug**, **Green Pug**, **Brimstone Moth**, **Peppered Moth**, **Mottled Beauty**, **Common White Wave**, **Clouded Silver**, **Light Emerald**, **Small Elephant Hawk-moth**, **Lobster Moth**, **Buff Ermine**, **Heart & Club**, **Heart & Dart**, **Flame**, **Large Yellow Underwing**, **Ingrailed Clay**, **Setaceous Hebrew Character**, **Double Square-spot**, **Shears**, **Cabbage Moth**, **Common Wainscot**, **Shoulder-striped Wainscot**, **Dark Brocade** (a species mainly of chalk downland which is strangely absent from the all-time UTB list), **Brown Rustic**, **Angle Shades**, **Dark Arches**, **Light Arches**, **Reddish Light Arches**, **Clouded Brindle**, **Large Nutmeg**, **Rustic Shoulder-knot**, **Middle-barred Minor**, **Treble Lines**, **Mottled Rustic**, **Burnished Brass**, **Silver Y**, **Plain Golden Y**, **Spectacle**, **Straw Dot** & **Snout**. There are still a few micros to identify which will take the species count past 80. While that might be good total for 2012 it is poor for late-June in a normal year, especially when you consider that four MV lights were being run. None of the traps could be classed as "busy", the numbers of individual moths being quite low."



Grey Arches
Photo © Dave Wilton



Scarlet Tiger
Photo © Dave Wilton



Hypochalcia ahenella
Photo © Dave Wilton

Dave Morris reported the following: "In spite of the rain on Wednesday night (*20th June*), I ran my trap and had a very decent haul, including a couple of species not currently on the list: **Brown House Moth** x 2; **Barred Fruit-tree Tortrix** x 1; **Lozotaenia forsterana** x 2; **Ditula angustiorana (Red-barred Tortrix)** x 1; **Hedya nubiferana (Marbled Orchard Tortrix)** x 2; **Epiblema trimaculana** x 1; **Crambus lathoniellus** x 1; **Scoparia ambigualis** x 1; **Bee Moth** x 3; **Small Dusty Wave** x 1; **Treble Brown Spot** x 1; **Flame Carpet** x 1; **Garden Carpet** x 1; **Common Marbled Carpet** x 1; **Common Pug** x 1; **Green Pug** x 2; **Mottled Beauty** x 1; **White Ermine** x 1; **Heart & Club** x 1; **Heart & Dart** x 2; **Dark Arches** x 1; **Large Nutmeg** x 2; **Tawny Marbled Minor** agg. x 1; **Treble Lines** x 1; **Beautiful Hook-tip** x 1; **Small Fan-foot** x 3."



Beautiful Hook-tip
Photo © Dave Morris

~ Wednesday 20th June 2012 ~

Andy King sent this report: "A few moths that turned up on *19th June* are not on your 2012 list yet: **Treble Bar** and **Merrifieldia leucodactyla** (otherwise known as the Thyme Plume Moth) were disturbed at *Aston Clinton Ragpits, Bucks* during the daytime and **Snout**, **Chrysoteuchia culmella** and **Small White Wave** all came to my light-trap (just before it broke down!) in *Philipshill Wood, Chorleywood, Bucks (VC24)*."

Adam Bassett ran his garden moth trap in Marlow Bottom, Bucks on June 19th: "These are currently new to the UTB year list: **Celypha striana**, **Double Square-spot** and **Straw Dot**."

This report came from Wendy Wilson: "On *June 19th*, I counted at least 10 **Mullein Moth larvae** at *Ditton Park, Slough* - the photo shows two of them. On *20th June* in the water meadows at *Waterhall Park, Milton Keynes*, there must have been a mass emergence of **Chimney Sweepers** as I lost count at 17. Also there was a **Burnet Companion**. Back home in *Gerrards Cross, Bucks* I see two **Pyrausta aurata** on the mint most days."



Mullein larvae
Photo © Wendy Wilson



Chimney Sweeper
Photo © Wendy Wilson



Pyrausta aurata
Photo © Wendy Wilson

Nigel Partridge sent this update: "A few new ones for the year from a trapping session in our garden (*Loosley Row, Bucks*), *18-06-12*: **Isotrias rectifasciana**, **Beautiful Golden Y** and **Light Arches**. Also, on *20-06-12*, a **Broad-barred White**."

Mary Elford reported the following: "On *15/16th June* Richard Comont and I ran an MV

trap in an isolated garden near [Worsham, West Oxfordshire](#) and a small actinic trap in a former quarry next to the garden overnight. The event was for a meeting of the West Oxfordshire Field Club. Although it was a very windy night with some rain, we were delighted to have a total of 29 species of macros: **Treble Lines**, **Turnip**, **Brown Rustic**, **Pale-shouldered Brocade**, **Heart and Dart**, **Large Yellow Underwing**, **Small Elephant Hawkmoth**, **Common Swift**, **Privet Hawkmoth**, **Burnished Brass**, **Cinnabar**, **Eyed Hawkmoth**, **Angle Shades**, **Large Nutmeg**, **Lychnis**, **Buff Tip**, **Yellow Shell**, **Common Marbled Carpet**, **Treble-bar**, **Marbled Minor**, **Uncertain**, **Rustic Shoulder Knot**, **Common Pug**, **Rustic**, **Setaceous Hebrew Character**, **Common Wainscot**, **Ingrailed Clay**, **Common Rustic**, **Spectacle**. Hooray – that's more like it!!"

Dave Morris sent the following: "A trapping session with Robert Payne at [Hillmots Wood, Hedgerley, Bucks on 16th June](#) yielded the following moths: **Common Swift** - 1; **Tinea semifulvella** - 1; **Brown House Moth** - 1; **Choristoneura hebenstreitella** - 5; **Green Oak Tortrix** - 10; **Udea olivalis** - 1; **Maiden's Blush** - 2; **Silver-ground Carpet** - 1; **Small Phoenix** - 1; **Common Marbled Carpet** - 1; **Green Carpet** - 2; **Sloe Pug** - 1; **Brown Silver-line** - 1; **Mottled Beauty** - 1; **Brindled White-spot** - 2; **Common White Wave** - 3; **Light Emerald** - 3; **Buff Tip** - 1; **Swallow Prominent** - 1; **Orange Footman** - 3; **White Ermine** - 3; **Buff Ermine** - 2; **Heart & Dart** - 1; **Setaceous Hebrew Character** - 3; **Marbled White Spot** - 3; **Snout** - 1; **Small Fan Foot** - 1."

~ **Saturday 16th June 2012** ~

The following report came from Dave Wilton: "The disappointing season continues. Moths from mid-Bucks over the past week which might still be new to the UTB list include **Pandemis cerasana**, **Pale Oak Beauty** & **Privet Hawk-moth** (all 9th June at [Finemere Wood](#)), **Argyresthia spinosella** (10th June at a private wood in the [Grendon area](#)), **Narycia duplicella** & leaf mines of **Stigmella anomalella** (13th June at [Westcott](#)), **Chimney Sweeper** (14th June at [Pilch Fields near Great Horwood](#)), **Gypsonoma oppressana** (16th June near [Grendon Underwood](#)) and **Hornet Moth** (16th June near [Ludgershall](#), a mated pair)."



Gypsonoma oppressana
Photo © Dave Wilton



Hornet Moths
Photo © Dave Wilton



Privet Hawk-moth
Photo © Dave Wilton

Dave Morris sent the following update: "It's been a while since I've managed to trap any moths, due to the weather, but I had a reasonable garden catch in [Seer Green, Bucks](#) last night, [15th June](#), which includes one species not currently on the year list: 1 x **Epiblema trimaculana**; 1 x **Codling Moth**; 1 x **Scoparia ambigualis**; 2 x **Eudonia mercurella**; 3 x **Bee Moth**; 1 x **Maiden's Blush**; 1 x **Treble Brown Spot**; 2 x **Common Marbled Carpet**; 2 x **Spruce Carpet**; 1 x **Willow Beauty**; 1 x **Heart & Dart**; 1 x **Dark Arches**; 1 x **Large Nutmeg**; 1 x **Marbled Minor** agg.; 1 x **Treble Lines**."

Andy King sent this news: "Peter Hall has demonstrated his skill and knowledge of moths once again by identifying a whole bunch that were too difficult for me. Amongst them were, at

the time of writing, several that are not on this year's UTB list. From my back garden in *Chorleywood, Bucks*: **Acleris ferrugana** (22 Jan). From indoors: **Cydia splendana** (8 March) (brought on early by the warmth) and **Monopis weaverella** (27 April) (flying around some snake cages). From *Philipshill Wood* near Chorleywood: **Eriocrania semipurpurella** (6 April), **Pammene fasciana** (23 May), **Swammerdamia caesiella**, **Cnephasia communana** and **Marbled Minor** (all 23 May). From a roadside near *Drayton Beauchamp in Bucks*: **Cochylimorpha straminea** and from *College Lake Nature Reserve* near Tring: **Mompha epilobiella** (both 22 May). Rather surprisingly, perhaps, for a moth described by at least one web-site as the commonest of the birch-feeding Eriocranias, *E. semipurpurella* is also not on the **UTB All-time List** ([see Moth Stats](#)). Below is a much-magnified photo of it."



Eriocrania semipurpurella
Photo © Andy King

Alastair Driver reported the following: "Grabbed the chance between weather fronts to set my Robinson trap on *13th June* at home in *Sonning, Berks* and although I only trapped a measly 7 species, I did catch my first ever **Cypress Carpet** and first garden record of **Campion**. Other macros were **Brimstone Moth**, **Large Nutmeg**, **Large Yellow Underwing**, **Treble Lines** and **Treble Brown-spot**."



Cypress Carpet
Photo © Alastair Driver



Campion
Photo © Alastair Driver

~ Thursday 14th June 2012 ~

Wendy Wilson sent this news: "Today I went to *Pednor Bottom, Bucks* (usually a lovely butterfly hot-spot) and saw 2 **Yellow Shells** and a **Udea olivalis**."

May Webber sent the following from Long Hanborough, Oxon on 14th June: "I found this pristine **Lime Hawkmoth** in my greenhouse on *13th June* so placed it on a nearby tree. I have not seen one this year so I was very happy! I also had this **Treble Lines** in my garden moth trap on *31st May*."



Lime Hawkmoth
Photo © May Webber



Treble Lines
Photo © May Webber

Dave Maunder reported the following: "I had my first **Small Ranunculus** moth in my Aylesbury (Bucks) garden trap yesterday (13th June)."

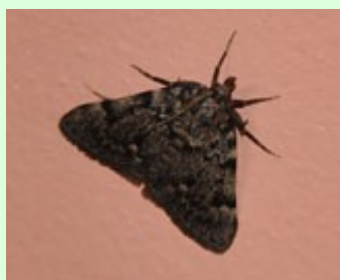
Tony Rayner sent this sighting: "On 12th June my Cholsey (Oxon) garden trap catch included my first **Dark Arches**, **Large Yellow Underwing** and **Green Pug**."



Green Pug
Photo © Tony Rayner

The following report came from David Redhead: "I went to Swyncombe Down, Oxon on Wednesday afternoon, 13th June and along with good numbers of **Small Blue** & **Small Heath** saw the following moths - **Burnet Companion**, **Cinnabar**, **Common Carpet**, **Silver Y** and a **Yellow Shell**."

Derek Brown sent this report: "I had this odd micro moth indoors at home in Beenham, Berks on 12th June. I thought that it might be a **Large Tabby (Aglossa pinguinalis)** and my thanks to Peter Hall for subsequently confirming this id."



Aglossa pinguinalis (Large Tabby)
Photo © Derek Brown

Mary Elford sent the following: "The opportunities for trapping are still pretty limited due to the heavy rain and wind but I was pleased to see a **Varied Coronet** in my trap in Bampton, Oxon on 10th June."



Varied Coronet
Photo © Mary Elford

~ Monday 11th June 2012 ~

Chris Bottrell sent this report: "Two more sessions from my *Merton (Oxon)* back garden caught only 26 moths of 13 species on the 7/6 and 36 of 10 on the 9/6. Nothing new for the list though. However whilst down on *Otmoor (Oxon)* Saturday morning 9/6 a well grown caterpillar of **The Lackey** sensibly keeping to the grass but also an **Oak Eggar caterpillar** unwisely crossing the path. Relocated to avoid being trodden on or becoming a snack for a Cuckoo. Then that afternoon whilst attempting a butterfly survey for BBOWT at *Sydlings Copse (Oxon)* a very smart little moth, **Pseudargyrotoza conwagana**, was found flitting around the woodland edge."



Lackey larva
Photo © Chris Bottrell

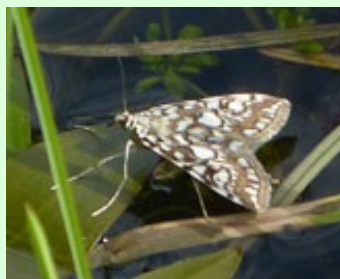


Oak Eggar larva
Photo © Chris Bottrell



Pseudargyrotoza conwagana
Photo © Chris Bottrell

Dave Ferguson sent the following: "**Elophila nymphaeata (Brown China-mark)** doesn't feature on the list of moths of the year so far, so here is a photo of one taken at *Stoke Common, Bucks* on 9th June."



Elophila nymphaeata (Brown China-mark)
Photo © Dave Ferguson

This report came from Rob Payne: "In *Black Park, Bucks* on Saturday afternoon, 9th June, I managed to see: **Tortrix viridana (Green Oak Tortrix)**, **Common Heath**, **Ancylis uncella**, **Celypha lacunana**, **Common Wave** and possible **Pammene germana** and **Tischeria ekebladella** (both to be confirmed by Peter Hall). Then at my flat that evening in *Langley, Berks*: **Ephestia parasitella (unicolorella)**, **Bee Moth**, **Treble Brown Spot** and **Tachystola acroxantha**."



Ephestia parasitella
Photo © Rob Payne



Tortrix viridana (Green Oak Tortrix)
Photo © Rob Payne



Treble Brown Spot
Photo © Rob Payne

Nigel Partridge reported the following: "Two more from a trapping session on **09-06-12** in our garden in **Loosley Row, Bucks:** **Shoulder-striped Wainscot** and **Heart & Club."**

David Redhead sent this news: "9th June - Dominic Woodfield came across a **Nemophora degeerella** at **Gavray Drive Meadows, Oxon**. Other moths seen were a **Mother Shipton** and several **Burnet Companions & Silver-ground Carpets** and also I saw a **Common Swift** rather unusually flying in daylight.

Then overnight (9th June) I ran my garden moth trap in **Littlemore, Oxon** for the first time in June this year. In spite of adding four macro-moth species to my 2012 garden list I think the contents, or lack of, set a record for my garden for a first half of June garden moth trap, with just 18 macro-moths from 14 species. Normally I would expect at least twice as many species and four times the number of individuals. For the record the contents were as follows: doubletons of **Buff Ermine, Common Marbled Carpet, Common Swift & Treble Lines** and singletons of **Brown Rustic, Burnished Brass, Cinnabar, Clouded-bordered Brindle, Green Carpet, Large Yellow Underwing, Pale Tussock, Peppered Moth, Poplar Hawkmoth & Swallow Prominent."**

~ Saturday 9th June 2012 ~

Dave Wilton reported the following: "Disturbed from vegetation while mowing the lawn here at **Westcott, Bucks on 5th June** were **Hedya pruniana** and **Small Dusty Wave**, while a reasonably productive hour spent searching the garden for moths between heavy showers during the daytime on **6th June** produced **Adela croesella** (1, flying around a flower bed), **Bucculatrix thoracella** (at least eight sheltering under lime leaves), **Blastobasis lacticolella** (1, resting on ivy), **Endothenia nigricostana** (1, hiding under a leaf of hedge woundwort), **Crambus lathoniellus** (1, flying across the lawn) & **Pyrausta aurata** (sitting on cat mint), along with single **larvae of Vapourer** (on lime) and **Yellow-tail** (on hawthorn). The overnight trap had produced just four moths on **4th June** (a very chilly night), but another attempt during the early part of the night on **6th June** before rain set in brought 32 species which included my first garden sightings this year of **Nematopogon metaxella, Mottled Beauty & Large Yellow Underwing."**

~ Thursday 7th June 2012 ~

This update came from Chris Bottrell: "Back in the doldrums again over the bank holiday weekend. Only 4 moths in my **Merton (Oxon)** garden trap on the **4/6: Common Swift** (1), **Cnephasia sp.** (poss incertana), **Turnip Moth** (1) and **Heart and Dart** (1). However whilst on a fruitless **Black Hairstreak** hunt in **Whitecross Green Wood, Oxon** on the **2nd June** I found a **Red-necked Footman** hanging onto a grass stem in the rides."

David Redhead reported the following: "On **4th June** during a morning's dog walk, I found a fully grown **Drinker caterpillar** feeding on common reed on the **Heyford Hill** marshland in Oxon. Then on **7th June** - another dog-walking caterpillar sighting - a full grown **Mullein**

Moth caterpillar on a verbasicum growing on nearby wasteland."

Derek Messenger sent the following: "Sorry, I didn't get a photo, but I definitely released a live **Small Elephant Hawkmoth** from the inside windowsill of **Gerrards Cross golf club** (in Bucks) on **4th June** after a rather hectic diamond jubilee ball weekend. Never really seen a pink moth before!!"

Rob Payne sent this news: "I had this **Ghost Moth** in the porch of my flat in **Langley, Berks** on **4th June**."



Ghost Moth
Photo © Rob Payne

Dave Maunder sent this report from Aylesbury, Bucks: "I had a nice female **Puss moth** hatch on **6th June** from an overwintered pupa - thought you might like to see it. I also had an **Eyed Hawkmoth** and **Poplar Hawkmoth** hatch a week back, also from overwintered pupae - just waiting for my 16 Pine Hawkmoth pupae to hatch as well! Also had a **Poplar Hawk** to my garden trap on **May 30th**, plus 3 **Pale Tussocks**, 3 **Scalloped Hazels**, 1 **Fern moth**, 3 **Silver Y's** on **2nd June** - new immigrants I should imagine, also 2 **Peppered Moths**, **Chinese Character**, **Oak Hook-tip**, **Freyer's Pug**, **Lime Hawk (27th May)**, **Figure of 80 (28th May)** and quite a few **Common Swifts** which seem to be doing well this year as Dave Wilton also mentioned. I also had a very pale specimen of **Shuttle-shaped Dart** on the **2nd June** (see photo)."



Puss Moth
Photo © Dave Maunder



Shuttle-shaped Dart
Photo © Dave Maunder

This report came from Andy King: "Whilst walking around **College Lake Nature Reserve** on **1 June**, while it was still sunny, I spotted several moths, one of which I believe is only currently known from one other site in Buckinghamshire: **Dichrorampha sequana**. There were plenty of **Cinnabars** and I saw one **Cocksfoot Moth**. Also, two pictures of one of the world's ugliest moths, which I'm rather fond of, the **Pale Prominent**, blending into the surrounding sticks quite nicely."



Pale Prominent
Photo © Andy King



Pale Prominent
Photo © Andy King

~ Saturday 2nd June 2012 ~

Nigel Partridge reported the following: "A **Map-winged Swift** was attracted to the trap on 1st June which is a new species for my garden in *Loosley Row, Bucks.*"



Map-winged Swift
Photo © Nigel Partridge

Dave Wilton sent the following update: "Further possible additions to the UTB species list that I've seen at sites in Bucks up to the end of the May include:

28th May - Small Purple-barred (daytime at *Ivinghoe*); **Bucculatrix bechsteinella**, **Ptycholoma lecheana**, **Epiblema trimaculana**, **Lime Hawk-moth**, **Flame**, **Small Clouded Brindle**, **Mottled Rustic** (all trapped at *Calvert*).

29th May - Forester (daytime in *Bernwood Meadows*); **Dichrorampha acuminatana**, **Grapholita funebrana**, **Puss Moth** (all trapped at *Westcott*).

30th May - Cochylis nana, **Commophila aeneana** (daytime in *Bernwood Forest*); **Scrobipalpa acuminatella**, **Blastobasis lacticolella** (both trapped at *Westcott*).

31st May - Endothenia gentianaeana (*Westcott*, emerged from teasels collected near *Ickford* back in mid-March)

Daytime flyers found near home at *Westcott on 1st June* included **Micropterix aruncella**, **Epiblema costipunctana** & **Dichrorampha alpinana**. That night's haul from the garden trap comprised more than 50 moth species for the first time this year and they included **Ectoedemia decentella**, **Epinotia tedella**, **Udea olivalis**, **Middle-barred Minor** & **Burnished Brass**. Most numerous moth was **Common Swift** (39) which seems to be having a really good year. Two of the smallest species mentioned here are illustrated below, both having a wing length of about 3mm:"



Ectoedemia decentella
Photo © Dave Wilton



Micropterix aruncella
Photo © Dave Wilton

Adam Bassett sent this report from Marlow Bottom, Bucks: "Not much to add to the ever

growing year list, but these are not showing on the UTB list as I write – all from the garden:

26th May – Plutella porrectella, Epinotia immundana, Uncertain.

1st June – Lathronympha strigana, Monopis obviella, Strophedra weirana, Clepsis consimilana, Epinotia demarniana, Small Dusty Wave, Pretty Chalk Carpet, Mottled Beauty, Flame, a probable Tawny Marbled Minor (pending confirmation by Peter Hall) and my fourth White-point since my first in August 2009 and the first record outside of August. I do wonder whether these are migrants or are now breeding locally."

~ Friday 1st June 2012 ~

This report came from Chris Bottrell: "The results of my mid-week (30/5) session in my *Merton (Oxon)* back garden. 99 individuals of 27 species: **Common Swift (30), White-shouldered House-moth (1), Celypha lacunana (1), Crambus lathoniellus (1), Scoparia ambigualis (2), Opsibotys fuscalis (1), Bee Moth (1M, 1F), Common Marbled Carpet (1), Green Carpet (5), Lime-speck Pug (1), Common Pug (5), Brimstone Moth (1), Buff-tip (2), Swallow Prominent (1), Chocolate-tip (1), White Ermine (2), Turnip Moth (1), Heart and Dart (5), Flame Shoulder (2), Common Wainscot (1), The Coronet (1), Large Nutmeg (10), Rustic Shoulder-knot (2), Marbled Minor agg (3), Treble Lines (13), Vine's Rustic (3) and Silver Y (1).**"



Coronet
Photo © Chris Bottrell

Dave Morris sent this update: "Some more records from my *Seer Green, Bucks* garden trapping, plus a couple of "field trips". At the time of writing there are some new species here for the list!

26th May - Incurvaria masculella; Nematopogon swammerdamella; White-shouldered House Moth; Syndemis musculana; Codling Moth; Bee Moth; Garden Carpet; Common Marbled Carpet; Grey Pine Carpet; Broken-barred Carpet; Mottled Pug; Common Pug; White-spotted Pug; Yellow-barred Brindle; Brimstone; Orange Footman; Light Brocade; Tawny Marbled Minor agg; Treble Lines

27th May - Bee Moth; Spruce Carpet; Green Carpet; Mottled Pug; Common Pug; Dwarf Pug; Double-striped Pug; Orange Footman; The Shears; Light Brocade; Treble Lines; Spectacle

29th May - Argyresthia trifasciata; Brown House Moth; Small Magpie; Bee Moth; Small Phoenix; Grey Pine Carpet; Green Carpet; Buff Tip; Pale Tussock; Orange Footman; The Shears; Marbled Minor agg; Treble Lines; Silver Y

29th May, Church Wood RSPB (with Robert Payne) - Common Swift; Incurvaria masculella; White-shouldered House Moth; Eulia ministrana; Scoparia ambigualis; Pebble Hook-tip; Common Carpet; Broken-barred Carpet; Green Carpet; Foxglove Pug; Currant Pug; Dingy Shell; Brown Silver-line; Common Wave; Iron Prominent; Marbled Brown; Pale Tussock; Orange Footman; Buff Ermine; Small Angle Shades; Angle Shades

30th May, Hodgemoor (daytime sightings in the hedges and fields) - Incurvaria masculella; Adela rufimitrella; Adela fibulella; Common Carpet; Broken-barred Carpet; Green Carpet; Small Yellow Underwing.



Adela fibulella
Photo © Dave Morris

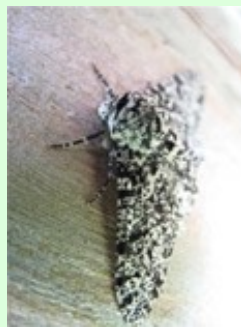


Dingy Shell
Photo © Dave Morris



Eurrhpara hortulata (Small Magpie)
Photo © Dave Morris

May Webber sent the following: "I ran my trap in [Long Hanborough, Oxon on 29th May](#). Nothing of too much interest other than my first **Poplar Hawkmoth** of the year, a beautiful **Peppered Moth**, **Marbled Minor** agg. and many **Treble Lines**. However, I did manage to catch a **Coronet**, which isn't on the 2012 species list yet."



Peppered Moth
Photo © May Webber

Keith Mitchell sent the following report: "I eventually dusted off my Robinson Trap, after a well-earned sabbatical. Nothing out of the ordinary, but here are a few records from the frozen North of UTB - my [Stoke Goldington, Bucks](#) garden on [28th May](#): **Common Swift**(15), **Tinea trinotella** (**Birds Nest Moth**) garden first, **Celypha lacunana** (3), **Dipleurina lacustrata**, **Eudonia angustea**, **Garden Pebble**, **Eurrhpara hortulata (Small Magpie)**, **Garden Carpet**, **Common Carpet**, **Red-green Carpet**, **Green Carpet** (4), **Mottled Pug**, **Lime-speck Pug**, **Common Pug**, **Oak Tree Pug**, **Brimstone** (5), **Scalloped Hazel**, **Peppered Moth** (3), **Clouded Silver**, **Poplar Hawk-moth**, **Pale Prominent**, **White Ermine** (2), **Muslin** (2), **Cinnabar**, **Heart and Dart**, **Flame-shoulder** (2), **Light Brocade**, **Bright-line Brown-eye**, **Hebrew Character**, **Brown Rustic**, **Rustic Shoulder-knot** (5), **Treble-lines** (3), **Silver-Y**, **Spectacle** (2), **Dagger** agg, plus 20+ **Pyrausta aurata** around the Marjoram during the day."



Light Brocade
Photo © Keith Mitchell

~ Monday 28th May 2012 ~

Ali Driver sent this news from Sonning, Berks: "Got the Robinson trap out on *27th May* after a 2 month gap and armed with my brand new (and superb) Field guide to micro moths by Sterling and Parsons, I managed to record **Notocelia cynosbatella (Epiblema cynosbatella)**, **Epinotia rubiginosana**, **Hofmannophila pseudospretella** and **Tachystola acroxantha**. The only macro species not yet on the UTB list at the time of writing was **Buff-tip**."

Rob Payne sent the following: "I was trapping for an hour and a half last night, *27th May*, at my usual site near *Beaconsfield, Bucks*: **Peppered Moth** - 1, **Pale Tussock** - 4, **Iron Prominent** - 5, **Maiden's Blush** - 3, **Flame Shoulder** - 2, **Silver-gound Carpet** - 10+, **Light Emerald** - 1, **Brimstone** - 1, **Oak Hook-tip** - 2, **Pebble Hook-tip** - 2, **Orange Footman** - 7, **Tawny-barred Angle** - 1, **Green Carpet** - 2, **Waved Umber** - 2, **Brown Silver-line** - 2, **White Ermine** - 1, **Green Silver-lines** - 1, **Eulia ministrana** - 3, **Phtheochroa rugosana** - 1, what I think were **Scoparia ambigualis** - 3, 3 Pug species to be identified + a lot of micros. Also a Cockchafer count of 60+."



Green Silver-lines
Photo © Rob Payne



Peppered Moth
Photo © Rob Payne



Light Emerald
Photo © Rob Payne

Dave Wilton sent this update: "The warmer weather of the past week has seen me busily trying to catch up with visits to a number of sites here in Bucks. Moths that may perhaps still be new to the UTB list for the year are as follows:

21st May - **Hysterophora maculosana**, **Green Silver-lines** (both *Finemere Wood*), **Clouded-bordered Brindle** (*Westcott*).

22nd May - **Glyphipterix fuscoviridella**, **Grass Rivulet** (*Bernwood Meadows*), **Grey Pug** (*Westcott*), **Nematopogon swammerdamella**, **Emmetia marginata**, **Spuleria flavicaput**, **Epinotia subocellana**, **Scalloped Hook-tip**, **Peach Blossom**, **Poplar Lutestring**, **Scorched Wing**, **Lobster Moth** (all in a private wood near *Buckingham*).

23rd May - **Glyphipterix simplicella**, **Crambus lathoniellus** (*Westcott*), **Elachista argentella**, **Metzneria metzneriella**, **Small Waved Umber**, **Light Feathered Rustic**, **Shears**, **Broom Moth** (all *Ashridge Estate*).

24th May - **Buff-tip** (*Westcott*), **Aspilapteryx tringipennella**, **Alder Moth**, **Brown Rustic**, **Pale-shouldered Brocade** (*Ashridge Estate* with Peter Hall).

25th May - **Phoenix**, **Common Wainscot**, **Poplar Grey** (*Westcott*).

26th May - **Phyllonorycter harrisella**, **Scrobipalpa costella**, **Common White Wave**, **Oak Nycteoline** (*Ashridge Estate* with Peter Hall).

27th May - **Incurvaria oehlmanniella**, **Small Seraphim**, **Brindled White-spot**, **Willow Beauty**, **Small Fan-foot** (all *Finemere Wood*).

By far the most interesting species was Light Feathered Rustic, found on Ivinghoe Beacon and two other nearby sites. The moth is uncommon in Bucks and appears to be new to the [All-time UTB list](#)."



Poplar Lutestring
Photo © Dave Wilton



Broom Moth
Photo © Dave Wilton



Light Feathered Rustic
Photo © Dave Wilton

This report came from Derek Brown: "I finally managed to do some overnight trapping in the garden at *Beenham, Berks* this weekend and had a few that don't appear to be on the UTB list so far.

Sat 26th May - **Buff-tip**; **Willow Beauty**; **Buff Ermine** and **Eyed Hawkmoth** (first since 2008).

Sun 27th May - **Scorched Wing**; **Ingrailed Clay**; **Lobster Moth** and **Vine's Rustic**."



Eyed Hawkmoth
Photo © Derek Brown

David Redhead reported the following: "My overnight garden moth trap in *Littlemore, Oxon* on *27th May* produced 10% more macro-moths than the one two nights ago but 20% less species. The increase in numbers is down to the **Green Carpet** with 23 compared to 14 two nights ago and **Treble Lines** with 21 against 10. Back in 2006 the Treble Lines was my top garden moth since when it has performed comparatively poorly but last year it made something of a comeback by just re-entering the top ten. Looks as though it might be making a bid for top spot again in 2012. Although there were only 23 species nearly a third were additions to my 2012 garden list - **Brimstone Moth** (2), **Buff Ermine** (2), **Clouded-bordered Brindle**, **Nut-tree Tussock**, **Obscure Wainscot** (1), **Pale Tussock** (3) & **Spectacle** (2)."

Chris Bottrell sent this report: 26/5: Whilst doing my Saturday morning volunteer warden duties on *RSPB Otmoor (Oxon)*, ***Anthophila fabriciana (Nettle-tap)*** found near the car park. Then that night the catch from my *Merton (Oxon)* garden, 53 moths of 24 species: **Common Swift** (9), **White-shouldered House-moth** (3), **Agonopterix arenella** (1), **Scoparia ambigualis** (2), **Bee Moth** (2F), **Chinese Character** (1), **Red Twin-spot Carpet** (1), **Garden Carpet** (2), **Common Marbled Carpet** (3), **Green Carpet** (2), **Mottled Pug** (2), **Common Pug** (2), **Brindled Pug** (4), **Pale Prominent** (1), **White Ermine** (1), **Buff Ermine** (2), **Shuttle-shaped Dart** (2), **Flame Shoulder** (1), **The Lychnis** (1), **Rustic Shoulder-knot** (1), **Marbled Minor agg** (2), **Treble Lines** (4), **Vine's Rustic** (2) and **Pale Mottled Willow** (2)."



Anthophila fabricana
Photo © Chris Bottrell

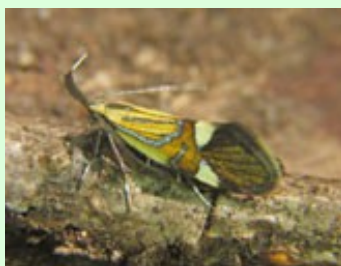
A number of moths were seen at Greenham Common, Berks, during the Field Meeting led by David Redhead on 27th May: "A small party of five excelled themselves by recording 10 butterfly species and 4 day flying moths. The highest score of the meeting belonged to a micro-moth, **Cydia ulicetana**, flying in uncountable numbers around the gorse. Potentially we recorded over 30 **Lesser Treble-bar** moth but only 6 were distinguished from the very similar Treble-bar, the rest were far too flighty to be chased down on a hot day. The lepidopteral sighting of the day had to be two **Yellow Belles**, this moth species is normally found on the coast but Greenham Common is one of its few inland sites. The fourth day flying moth was the **Cinnabar**, with 2 in total. (Thanks go to Dave Wilton for pointing us in the right direction to identify the micro-moth)."

Alan Gudge reported the following: "We set a trap in our garden in **Frieth, Bucks** on each of **Friday 25th and Saturday 26th** and had a **Buff-tip** on both nights. Others included **Treble-lines, Early Grey, Green Carpet, White Ermine, Scalloped Hazel, Cream Wave, Small Phoenix** and **Coxcomb Prominent**. I have twice seen **Mother Shipton** during daytime recently: on **24th May on Frieth Meadows** (when I was counting the Green-winged Orchids) and on **25th May in Mousell's Wood**."

Tom Stevenson sent the following: "Herewith a list of the species caught **24th May** to a 125w mv trap at **Ewelme Watercress Beds LNR, Oxon:** **Angle Shades 2, Brimstone 7, Buttoned Snout 1, Chocolate Tip 1, Clouded Silver 1, Common Carpet 1, Common Pug 1, Common Swift 2, Flame Shoulder 5, Grass Rivulet 1, Green Carpet 11, Heart and Dart 1, Lesser-swallow Prominent 1, Light Brocade 8, Lychnis 1, Muslin 1, Peppered Moth 1, Poplar Hawk 3, Rustic Shoulder Knot 10, Scalloped Hazel 1, Shuttle-shaped Dart 2, Silver ground Carpet 2, Silver Y 1, Treble Lines 7, Vine's Rustic 1, Waved Umber 1, White Ermine 2, Pale Prominent and White Point 1.**"

~ **Saturday 26th May 2012** ~

Robert Payne saw this Alabonia geoffrella at **Langley Park, Berks** this afternoon, **26th May**.



Alabonia geoffrella
Photo © Robert Payne

The following came from Andy King today: "After the moth-famine, induced by the poor weather, it was good to get hot, sultry conditions. I took my moth-trap to **Philipshill Wood**,

Bucks on Thursday *24th May* and was visited by large numbers of creatures, representing Arthropods from six separate orders: Coleoptera (especially too many Cockchafers and click beetles), Diptera, Dermaptera (a couple of earwigs), Orthoptera (a tiny baby Bush Cricket), Hemiptera (some shield bugs), Mecoptera (a scorpionfly - picture attached) and, of course, dozens of Lepidoptera. Other phyla and sub-phyla were represented, too: Molluscs (slugs), Arthropods (spiders) and, much more charmingly, a young badger, which trundled up to watch me for some minutes from a nearby clump of bushes. When I went to feed it some Cockchafers it had slipped away. The moths were: **Green Carpet, Engrailed, Pale Tussock, Red-green Carpet, Cream Wave, Nut-tree Tussock, Twin-spot Carpet, Waved Umber, White-pinion Spotted, Clay Triple-lines, Flame Shoulder, Tawny-barred Angle, Least Black Arches, Sandy Carpet, Brimstone, Orange Footman, Yellow-barred Brindle, Scorched Carpet, Iron Prominent, Maple Prominent, V-pug, Phtheochroa rugosana, Pseudoswammerdamia combinella, Diamond-back Moth, Ancyliis mitterbacheriana, Capua vulgana, White-shouldered House Moth, Eulia ministrana and Syndemis musculana.** There are another dozen I haven't yet identified. The last time I went there, at the beginning of May, I took one moth!"



Scorpionfly
Photo © Andy King

Adam Bassett sent this report today: "I ran a moth trap in my garden in *Marlow Bottom, Bucks* on *May 23rd* and recorded the following not currently shown on the UTB year list: **Teleiodes luculella, Capua vulgana, Celypha lacunana, Epiblema cynosbatella, Barred Hook-tip, Broken-barred Carpet, Netted Pug** (new for the garden list), **Heart & Dart, Light Brocade, Large Nutmeg.**"

David Redhead reported the following: "Perhaps not surprisingly, last night (*25th May*) produced my best 2012 overnight garden moth trap in *Littlemore, Oxon* from ten attempts with 82 macro-moths from 29 species plus a **Bee Moth**. The macros were: **Green Carpet** (14), **Poplar Hawkmoth** (10), **Treble Lines** (10), **Flame Shoulder** (5), **Orange Footman** (5), **Common Swift** (4), **Common Carpet** (3), **Common Pug** (3), **Swallow Prominent** (3), **Least Black Arches** (2), **Light Brocade** (2), **Pale Prominent** (2), **Silver Y** (2) and singletons of **Chocolate-tip, Cinnabar, Clouded Border, Double-striped Pug, Figure of Eighty, Garden Carpet, Hebrew Character, Lychnis, May Highflyer, Muslin Moth, Pale Mottled Willow, Rustic Shoulder-knot, Scalloped Hazel, Shuttle-shaped Dart, Silver-ground Carpet & White Ermine.**"

Dave Morris ran these traps in his Seer Green, Bucks garden recently: "The numbers are ramping up now. I think there are a couple of new species on the list:
23rd May - **Argyresthia trifasciata** - 1; **Cochylis atricapitana** - 1; **Light Brown Apple Moth** - 1; **Bee Moth** - 2; **Common Marbled Carpet** - 1; **Grey Pine Carpet** - 5; **Spruce Carpet** - 2; **Green Carpet** - 2; **Common Pug** - 1; **Scorched Carpet** - 2; **Clouded Silver** - 2; **Orange Footman** - 1; **White Ermine** - 1; **Flame Shoulder** - 1; **Light Brocade** - 1.
24th May - **Tinea trinotella** - 1; **Brown House Moth** - 2; **Esperia sulphurella** - 1; **Syndemis musculana** - 8; **Light Brown Apple Moth** - 1; **Orthotaenia undulana** - 1; **Cydia pomonella (Codling Moth)** - 1; **Scoparia ambigualis** - 1; **Eudonia angustea** - 1; **Bee Moth** - 3; **Flame Carpet** - 1; **Garden Carpet** - 1; **Grey Pine Carpet** - 2; **Spruce Carpet** - 2; **Green Carpet** - 1; **Mottled Pug** - 1; **Common Pug** - 1; **White-spotted Pug** - 1; **Scorched**

Carpet - 2; Tawny Barred Angle - 1; Brimstone - 7; Pale Tussock - 1; Heart & Dart - 1; Light Brocade - 1; Treble Lines - 1."

May Webber sent the following: "I caught a **Bordered Straw** in my trap in *Long Hanborough, Oxon* last night (*24th May*) and saw it was not on our 2012 species list!"



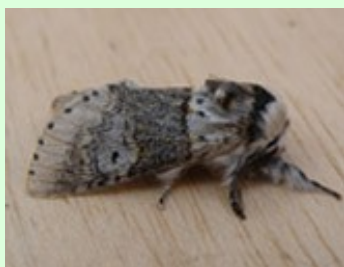
Bordered Straw
Photo © May Webber

Robert Payne sent this report: "Dave Morris and I were trapping near *Beaconsfield, Bucks* on Tuesday night (*22nd May*) and had: **Adela reaumurella** 1, **Tinea semifulvella** 1, **Diamond-back Moth** 1, **Syndemis musculana** 1, **Eulia ministrana** 1, **Ancylis mitterbacheriana** 1, **Twenty-plume Moth** 1, **Oak Hook-tip** 1, **Pebble Hook-tip** 2, **Chinese Character** 1, **Silver-ground Carpet** 4, **Common Carpet** 1, **Green Carpet** 1, **Lime-speck Pug** 1, **Brown Silver-line** 4, **Waved Umber** 1 and **White-pinion Spotted** 1.

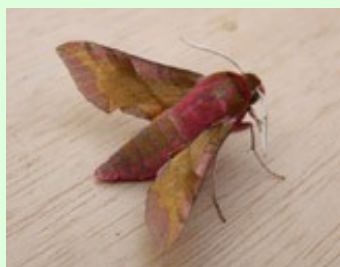
And I trapped on my own for a short time last night (24th May) at Black Park, Bucks: **Maiden's Blush** - 1, **Green Carpet** - 3, **Brimstone** - 1, **Poplar Hawk-moth** (male) - 1, **Miller** - 1, **Clouded Border** - 1, **Common Carpet** - 1, **Iron Prominent** - 1, **Common Marbled Carpet** - 1 plus various various micros and a couple of faded pugs, all of which I will try to ID over the next few days."

~ Thursday 24th May 2012 ~

With the improving weather Chris Bottrell reports an improved catch in his Merton (Oxon) garden: Wednesday 23rd May, 62 moths of 25 species: **Common Swift** (17), **Monopis laevigella** (1), **Tinea trinotella** (1), **Parornix sp.** (1 poss. *betulae*), **Argyresthia trifasciata** (1), **White-shouldered House-moth** (*Endrosis sarcitrella*) (1), **Cnephasia sp.** (4), **Rush Veneer** (*Nomophila noctuella*) (1 very tatty), **Bee Moth** (*Aphomia sociella*) (3F), **Red Twin-spot Carpet** (2), **Garden Carpet** (1), **Green Carpet** (8), **Lime-speck Pug** (1), **Brindled Beauty** (1M), **Waved Umber** (1), **Small Elephant Hawkmoth** (1), **Sallow Kitten** (4), **Flame Shoulder** (2), **White Ermine** (3), **Muslin Moth** (1M), **Setaceous Hebrew Character** (2), **Hebrew Character** (1), **Rustic Shoulder-knot** (2), **Marbled Minor** egg (1 poss. Tawny but escaped!), and **Treble Lines** (1). Thanks to Peter Hall for confirming my micro identification."



Sallow Kitten
Photo © Chris Bottrell



Small Elephant Hawkmoth
Photo © Chris Bottrell



Monopis laevigella
Photo © Chris Bottrell

This report came from David Redhead: "*Shabbington Wood, Bucks butterfly transect 20th*

May - a diversion into Bernwood Meadows in an attempt to raise my spirits owing to paucity of butterflies did produce several **Opsibotys fuscalis**. The trees along the route produced only a few small swarms of **Adela reaumurella** and nowhere near the numbers of last year."

Wendy Wilson reported the following: "Today *May 24th*, five minutes walk north from *Denham Bucks railway station* in Savay Lane, I came across this massive conglomeration of **Spindle Ermine (Yponomeuta cagnagella) larvae**. An impressive sight - there must be several thousand caterpillars there - on a hedge separating a suburban street from a ploughed field. Were all the eggs laid by one female, do you think?"



Spindle Ermine webs
Photo © Wendy Wilson



Spindle Ermine larvae
Photo © Wendy Wilson

Nigel Partridge sent this report today: "The following are all from a trapping session in our garden (*Loosley Row, Bucks*) on 23-05-12: **Tinea trinotella**, **Nemapogon cloacella**, Garden Carpet, **Bucculatrix nigricomella** and **Scorched Carpet.**"

~ Wednesday 23rd May 2012 ~

Richard Wheeler sent the following: "Lunchtime at *Yoesden Bank, Bucks* today (23/05/12) yielded: 7 species of butterfly plus several moths, including 1 each of **Lesser Treble-bar**, **Cinnabar** and **Mother Shipton.**"



Mother Shipton
Photo © Richard Wheeler

This update came from Dave Morris: "The results of a couple more trappings in my *Seer Green, Bucks* garden, which includes I think new species for the year:

20th May - **Syndemis musculana**, **Scoparia ambigualis**, Grey Pine Carpet, **Marbled Brown, Turnip Moth**

22nd May - **Syndemis musculana**, **Scoparia ambigualis**, **Emmelina monodactyla**, Grey Pine Carpet (3), Common Pug (2), **White-spotted Pug**, Yellow Barred Brindle, **Scalloped Hazel**

23rd May - On a walk in *Black Park, Bucks* this afternoon, 4 **Speckled Yellows.**"



Marbled Brown
Photo © Dave Morris



Turnip Moth
Photo © Dave Morris

Mick & Wendy Campbell visited the Devil's Punchbowl, near Wantage, Oxon on 22nd May: "Along with good numbers of butterflies, we counted 75 **Wood Tiger Moths** (including a mating pair) and also found a **Garden Tiger caterpillar** racing along the hillside. It looked full-grown (about 60mm) so presumably it was looking for somewhere to pupate."



Garden Tiger caterpillar
Photo © Wendy Campbell

This report came from Dave Maunder: "At last, some decent weather and a few moths to report from *Aylesbury, Bucks*:- in my garden m.v. trap on **21st May** I had **Chocolate-tip** (1); **Swallow Prominent** (1); **Hebrew Character** (1); **Green Carpet** (2); **Brimstone moths** (3); **Scalloped Hazel** (1); **Shuttle-shaped Dart** (1); **Flame-shoulder** (1) and **Pale Tussock** (1). A few other species found locally include **Yellow-barred Brindle** (1, 22nd); **Seraphim** (1, 20th); **Common Swift** (1); **Chinese Character** (1, 19th); **Cabbage moth** (1); **Emperor moths**, males - 5 - assembled in early May; **Purple Thorn** (1, 9th) and **Swallow Prominent** (1,8th)."



Swallow Prominent &
Chocolate-tip
Photo © Dave Maunder



Yellow-barred Brindle
Photo © Dave Maunder

Chris Bottrell sent this report: 12/05: Despite what I thought to be quite a reasonable night, absolutely nothing in my *Merton (Oxon)* garden trap. **13/05:** Whilst doing an early morning breeding bird survey for BBOWT in *Finemere Wood, Bucks* plenty of swarming **Adela reaumurella** in the sunnier spots. Then that evening a fluttering **Bee Moth (Aphomia sociella)** attracting the cat's attention in the cottage. Luckily escaped. **16/05:** A small catch in the garden trap: **Cnephasia sp.** (poss. communana?) (1), **Shuttle Shaped Dart** (1), **Powdered Quaker** (1) and **Hebrew Character** (2). And on the **19/05:** **Agonopterix arenella** (1), **Garden Carpet** (1), **Spruce Carpet** (2), **Green Carpet** (1), **Brindled Beauty** (1M),

Muslin Moth (1M), The Lychnis (1) and Treble Lines (1)."



Spruce Carpet
Photo © Chris Bottrell



Lychnis
Photo © Chris Bottrell

David Redhead sent the following: "May 18th - my overnight garden moth trap in Littlemore, Oxon produced **Green Carpet (5)**, **Pale Pinion (3)**, **Small Phoenix (2)**, **Cabbage Moth (1)**, **Double-striped Pug (1)**, **Muslin Moth (1)**, **Seraphim (1)** & **Orange Footman (1)**."

Mary Elford writes: "There were 2 **Evergestis forficalis (Garden Pebble)** in my garden trap (Bampton, West Oxfordshire) on 18th May. Also, on 19th May, I found this **Peppered Moth** on the outside of the plastic collar of the trap."



Peppered Moth
Photo © Mary Elford

Dave Morris sent this update: ""More moths are arriving in my *Seer Green, Bucks* garden: 17th May - one each of **Brindled Pug**, **Ochreous Pug**, **Yellow Barred Brindle**, **Garden Carpet**, **Grey Pine Carpet**, **Emmelina monodactyla**. 18th May in the daytime, **Twenty-plume Moth**, **Incurvaria masculella**, **Esperia sulphurella**, **Amblyptilia acanthadactyla**. 18th May overnight trapping one each of **Green Carpet**, **Silver-ground Carpet**, **Red Twin-spot Carpet**, **Common Quaker**, **Brindled Pug**, **E. monodactyla** and 2 **Grey Pine Carpets**."

~ Friday 18th May 2012 ~

Dave Wilton reported the following: "Further sightings in mid-Bucks over the past few days have included **Coleophora albicosta (Calvert, 13th May)**, **Grapholita internana (Calvert, 15th May)**, **Ancylis badiana**, **Elachista canapennella**, **Common Wave**, **White-pinion Spotted**, **Great Prominent** & **Pale Tussock** (all at *Finemere Wood, 16th May*), **Pyrausta nigrata (Ivinghoe, 17th May)**, **Common Swift** & **Poplar Hawk-moth (Westcott, 17th May)** and **Micropterix mansuetella (Shabington Wood, 18th May)**. *Micropterix mansuetella* is new to the all-time UTB list. Upon returning to my car following a work-party in the M40 Compensation Area this tiny moth landed on the back of my hand and kindly sat there while I scabbled around to find a pot!"



Pyrausta nigrata
Photo © Dave Wilton



Micropterix mansuetella
Photo © Dave Wilton

Mary Elford sent this report: "This **Rustic Shoulder-knot** was in my trap in *Bampton, Oxon* on *11th May*. Moths only arriving in small numbers but the forecast is for a warmer spell so let's be hopeful."



Rustic Shoulder-knot
Photo © Mary Elford

Wendy Wilson sent the following report: "Whilst butterflying around *Wraysbury, Bucks* on *16th May*, I saw a **Common Carpet** and a **Small Yellow Underwing**. On an oak tree at *Austenwood Common, Chalfont St Peter (Bucks)* on *15th May*, I found a **Satellite** larva and on *27th April* an **Angle Shades** was on a tree trunk in my *Gerrards Cross, Bucks* garden."



Small Yellow Underwing
Photo © Wendy Wilson



Satellite larva
Photo © Wendy Wilson



Angle Shades
Photo © Wendy Wilson

Dave Morris reported the following: "On Wednesday afternoon *16th May* in my *Seer Green* garden in Bucks, I spotted a **Laburnum Leaf Miner (*Leucoptera laburnella*)**. I did take a picture but the moth is so tiny my aging camera was not able to get a sharp photo!"

Rob Payne sent this report: "I had such a good weekend over the Bank Holiday that I forgot to send a report for my afternoon walk around *Black Park, Bucks* on *Tuesday 8th May*, so here it is. Light wind, overcast with bright periods, warm 15 to 17 degrees: **Common Heath** - 4, **Beautiful Yellow Underwing**, **Adela rufimitrella** - abundant and **Neofaculta ericetella**.



Beautiful Yellow Underwing
Photo © Rob Payne

Then on 16th May I put my trap out for half an hour in my garden near *Beaconsfield, Bucks* and had: **Great Prominent** - 1, **Maiden's Blush** - 1 and **Pale Tussock** - 1."

David Redhead reported the following: "13th May - several **Burnet Companions** and **Common Heath** (male & female) seen whilst walking the *Chilswell Valley* (to immediate west of Oxford) butterfly transect."

~ Sunday 13th May 2012 ~

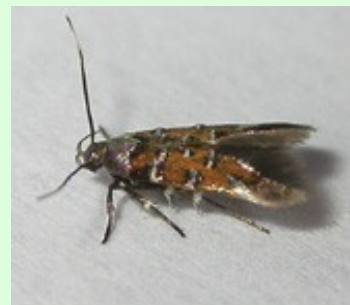
Dave Wilton sent this report: "On 12th May a daytime visit to the disused railway cutting at *Westcott, Bucks* produced examples of **Aethes piercei**, **Rhopobota stagnana**, **Grapholita jungiella**, **Pyrausta purpuralis** & **Common Heath** (**Dichrorampha plumbagana** was also found there on 8th May), while on 13th May at the *Calvert Jubilee Reserve, Bucks* I found **Pancalia leuwenhoekella** (sitting on a daisy, wingspan less than 10mm!), **Adela rufimitrella** & **Cydia ulicetana** (swarming on gorse). Additions to this year's garden list at *Westcott* have been few but have included **Common Carpet** (8th May) and **Cnephasia stephensiana**, **Red Twin-spot Carpet** & **Seraphim** (all 10th May)."



Aethes piercei
Photo © Dave Wilton



Rhopobota stagnana
Photo © Dave Wilton



Pancalia leuwenhoekella
Photo © Dave Wilton

Mick & Wendy Campbell walked part of the disused railway at Salden, Bucks on 13th May: "It was only 12C when we set off and a cold wind was blowing across the track. However, during one of the few sunny spells, this **Cinnabar** managed a short flight."



Cinnabar

David Redhead reported the following from Littlemore, Oxon: "While checking my garden for butterflies on *Friday 11th May*, I noticed some of the Garlic Mustard flowerheads bore about half a dozen of the long-horned micro-moth, **Adela rufimitrella** including a mating pair. However, this year, for a variety of reasons including the weather, my overnight garden moth trapping has been almost non-existent but the decent daytime weather over the last two days encouraged me to make the effort - not sure it was worth it - *Saturday 12th May* = just 1 **White Ermine**!!!!, *Sunday 13th May* = 3 **Green Carpet**, 1 **Hebrew Character**, 1 **Muslin Moth**, 1 **Swallow Prominent** & 1 **White Ermine**. The difference being about 3C on the minimum overnight temperature. This morning is once again grey and wet!"

This report came from Dave Morris: "Another micro for the list, **Argyresthia trifasciata** caught in my *Seer Green, Bucks* garden on *11th May*."

Chris Bottrell sent the following report: "Since my last posting the trap's been out twice a week in my *Merton (Oxon)* back garden with the egg boxes drying out in the airing cupboard the next day. Really low catches: 14/4 - 1 moth, 18/4 - 2 of 1 species, 21/4 - nothing, 26/4 - 3 of 2, 29/4 - 6 of 4, 2/5 - 2 of 2 and 5/5 - 5 of 3, comprising in total **Shuttle-shaped dart** (1), **Common Quaker** (1), **Clouded Drab** (5), **Hebrew Character** (10) and **Early Grey** (2). *Last Wednesday night (9/5)* despite it raining (again!) a bumper catch of 7 moths: **Red Twin-spot Carpet** (1), **Purple Bar** (1), **Green Carpet** (1), **Powdered Quaker** (2), **Clouded Drab** (1) and **Hebrew Character** (1)."

Robert Payne had a successful trapping session at Black Park, Bucks on 8th May: "I caught the following: 1 x **Pebble Prominent** - must be a female as it has laid eggs in the container! 1 x **Pebble Hook-tip**, 1 x **Tawny-barred Angle**, 1 x **Scalloped Hazel**, 1 x **Birch Mocha**, 2 x **Brimstone**, 4 x Various **Pugs** - probably **Brindled**, 2 x **Green Carpet**, 1 x **Bee Moth (Aphomia sociella)**. I also got a **Pseudococcyx posticana**."



Pseudococcyx posticana
Photo © Robert Payne

Mary Elford reported the following: "2 new ones for your list I think: **Scarlet Tiger larva** (on *4th May*) and a **Coxcomb Prominent** which was on the outside of my garden trap on the morning of *9th May* here in *Bampton, West Oxfordshire*. The Scarlet Tiger larva was feeding on hollyhocks. I brought it indoors to show my grandson – hence the photo of it on my carpet!"



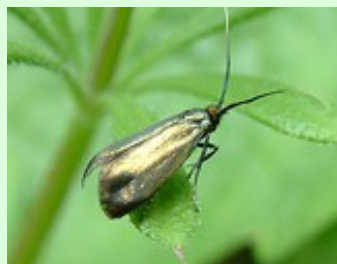
Scarlet Tiger larva
Photo © Mary Elford

Coxcomb Prominent
Photo © Mary Elford

Another quick update from Dave Morris: "A couple of day-flying micros from the fields and hedgerows of *Seer Green, Bucks* on the afternoon of **8th May**: **Incurvaria masculella** and **Adela rufimitrella**."



Incurvaria masculella
Photo © Dave Morris

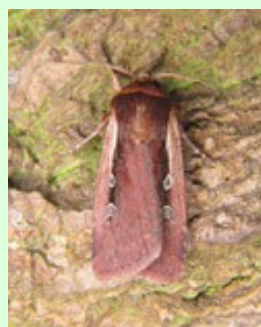


Adela rufimitrella
Photo © Dave Morris

Robert Payne did a bit of trapping on 7th May near Hedgerley, Bucks: "I got one each of the following: **Green Carpet**, **Brimstone**, **Nut-tree Tussock**, **Red Twin-spot Carpet** (I think this may be new for the year) and **Flame Shoulder**."



Red Twin-spot Carpet
Photo © Robert Payne



Flame Shoulder
Photo © Robert Payne

Dave Morris reported the following: "On a walk in *Church Wood, Hedgerley, Bucks* armed with a torch in the evening of **4th May** - 1 **Acleris notana/ferrugana** and 1 **Green Carpet**. Then on **8th May** I had a couple of micros in *Seer Green, Bucks*: a **Caloptilia syringella** flying in the garden at dusk and an **Acleris literana** on the house in the morning."



Green Carpet
Photo © Dave Morris



Acleris literana
Photo © Dave Morris

~ Friday 4th May 2012 ~

Mary Elford reported the following: "These 2 moths were in my trap in *Bampton, West Oxfordshire* on 1st May: **Spectacle** and **Poplar Kitten**."



Spectacle
Photo © Mary Elford



Poplar Kitten
Photo © Mary Elford

Dave Morris sent this update from Seer Green, Bucks: "I trapped again on Sunday night, *29th April* and, along with a **Hebrew Character** and 2 **Early Greys**, I had a **Yellow-barred Brindle**. *Then on the 1st May* I had couple of new species for the year in my trap which I believe to be **Pebble Prominent** and **Grey Pine Carpet**. Also **Emmelina monodactyla** and 2 **Brindled Pugs**."



Yellow-barred Brindle
Photo © Dave Morris



Grey Pine Carpet
Photo © Dave Morris



Pebble Prominent
Photo © Dave Morris

Dave Wilton sent this news: "Things seem to have picked up a little at last. *Monday 30th April* was, relatively speaking, quite warm and sunny and during a visit to the disused railway cutting here at *Westcott, Bucks* I found **Grapholita jungiella**, **Pyrausta purpuralis** and **Common Heath** all active during the daytime. New species in the garden trap that night (before it started to rain) were **Pyrausta aurata**, **Chinese Character**, **Pale Prominent** & **Flame Shoulder**, while amongst the moths trapped in a private wood near *Buckingham* were **Mottled Pug**, **Scalloped Hazel** & **Pebble Prominent**. On *1st May* the trap at *Westcott* added **Garden Carpet**, **Oak-tree Pug**, **V-Pug**, **Brindled Beauty**, **Least Black Arches**, **Iron Prominent**, **Chocolate-tip** & **Silver Y** to my garden year list."

Nigel Partridge reported the following from Loosley Row in Bucks: "I managed to get the trap out on *1st May* for a few hours and only managed one moth, a **Waved Umber**."

Rob Payne reported the following: "I had a female **Incurvaria masculella** at my flat in

Langley, Berks on *1st May* - I think that this area falls within the catchment for Upper Thames. I believe that this is a new moth for this year for the area."

Dave Morris reported the following: "From my garden trap in *Seer Green, Bucks* on *27th April* - 1 **Hebrew Character**, 1 **Pale Mottled Willow**, 1 **Brimstone**."



Pale Mottled Willow
Photo © Dave Morris

~ **Saturday 28th April 2012** ~

Dave Morris sent this report: "Not much seen of late due to the appalling weather, but on *Tuesday night (24th April)* I trapped 1 **Brindled Pug**, 1 **V-Pug**, 1 **Early Grey** and 1 **Common Quaker** in my garden in *Seer Green, Bucks* and on *Friday afternoon (27th)* during a brief period of sunshine, I had about 6 **Adela reaumurella** flying around a hawthorn in my garden."



Adela reaumurella
Photo © Dave Morris

Dave Wilton reported the following: "Rather surprisingly, on *24th April* we managed a day without rain in this part of Bucks and, with a little bit of sun occasionally too, I thought that just maybe a few more species would have been tempted to emerge. Another visit to *Finemere Wood* that evening proved to be a disappointment, though. The temperature fell quickly under clear skies to just above freezing (and perhaps the moths already knew about the wind and rain that would follow on the 25th!), so the catch was just 23 moths between two traps in two and a half hours: **Frosted Green** (2), **Brindled Pug** (3), **Brindled Beauty** (1), **Lesser Swallow Prominent** (2), **Swallow Prominent** (1), **Lunar Marbled Brown** (2), **Small Quaker** (1), **Lead-coloured Drab** (3), **Common Quaker** (6), **Clouded Drab** (1) & **Chestnut** (1). The only other noteworthy moths that I've recorded over the previous week or so have been **Muslin Moth** here at *Westcott* on *20th April* followed by daytime sightings of **Adela reaumurella** at *Littleworth Common* and **Neofaculta ericetella** & **Cydia ulicetana** both at *Stoke Common* all on *21st April*. Finally, **Hofmannophila pseudopretella** (**Brown House Moth**) was found flying indoors at *Westcott* on *23rd April*."



Neofaculta ericetella
Photo © Dave Wilton



Cydia ulicetana
Photo © Dave Wilton

~ Monday 23rd April 2012 ~

David Redhead sent the following report on 20th April: "In the sunshine, a swish with my net at the lowest branch of the Horse Chestnut tree at the bottom of our garden in *Littlemore, Oxon* produced two **Cameraria ohridella**, a **Harlequin Ladybird** and several minute things beyond my powers of identification. I am pretty sure the first Horse Chestnut Leaf-miner moths were about a week ago but every time I remembered to check them out the heavens opened. Even as I write this report there are drops of rain falling off my hair on to the keyboard! Never mind they are now forecasting the coldest May in a century!"

~ Tuesday 17th April 2012 ~

Will Atkinson reported the following: "Last two week's moth trapping reports from my garden in *Culham, nr. Abingdon, Oxon*:

7th April, a very cold night - **Common Quaker** (3), **Hebrew Character** (4), **Early Grey** (1).
14th April - **Clouded Drab** (6), **Powdered Quaker** (3), **Hebrew Character** (2), **Early Grey** (2), **Small Quaker** (1)."



Powdered Quaker
Photo © Will Atkinson

Andy King sent this news from Chorleywood, Bucks: "I've not been doing a huge amount of mothing lately, due largely to the cool nights. However, amongst just three individuals in my home trap on *13th April* was **Zelleria hepariella**, a small foxy-coloured moth with a head-down, bottom-up posture, presumably just out of hibernation."



Zelleria hepariella
Photo © Andy King

Robert Payne sent this report: "I did some more trapping on [13th April at Andrew's Hill Lane](#) near Beaconsfield, Bucks (OS ref SU963881) resulting in 15 moths of 11 species: **Chestnut** - 2; **Brindled Pug** - 1; **Twin-spotted Quaker** - 1; **Small Quaker** - 1; **Common Quaker** - 1; **Hebrew Character** - 1; **Clouded Drab** - 2; **Eriocrania subpurpurella** - 2; **Dotted Chestnut** - 1; **Nut-tee Tussock** - 2, new to observer and **Scarce Prominent** - 1, new to observer."



Nut-tree Tussock
Photo © Robert Payne



Scarce Prominent
Photo © Robert Payne

Dave Wilton sent the following: "A **Swallow Prominent** to the garden trap here at [Westcott, Bucks on 7th April](#) has been the only addition to the garden year list over the past two weeks, thanks to the dismal night-time weather. I had a bit of excitement on Friday afternoon ([13th April](#)), though, when the first adult emerged from my **Emperor Moth** pupae that have been over-wintering in the garage. It was a female and, despite the lateness of the hour, I placed her out in a netting cage at 5pm in the hope of attracting a wild mate. Sure enough, after 30 minutes a male appeared on the scene and after the usual frantic search he managed to track her down. They were permitted to get on with what they do best, hopefully ensuring next year's supply of females!"



Emperor Moths assembling
Photo © Dave Wilton



Emperor Moths
Photo © Dave Wilton

Marc Botham sent this report on 13th April: "Just got two different people independently showing me photos of a moth they saw on two different butterfly transects, one in Bucks, one in Oxon (VC Berks), but both **Ruby Tiger**! I was surprised at the first one but the weirdness and déjà vu of the second one was more surprising. So details as follows:
1 x **Ruby Tiger** @ [Buttler's Hanging](#) (VC24: SU8195)
1 x **Ruby Tiger** @ [Castle Meadows, Wallingford](#) (VC22: SU6189)."

Mark Calway reported the following: "At the **Berks Moth Group** meeting on [12th April](#), members reported the following moths seen in Berkshire this year and which do not appear on the 2012 UTB species list (as published/available 12/04/2012). Some species putting in early appearances:

Agonopterix alstromeriana; **Caloptilia elongella**; **Zelleria hepariella**; **Plutella xylostella** ([Jealot's Hill](#)); **Northern Winter Moth**; **Emperor Moth** (male seen in flight, [Padworth](#) end March; male to pheromone lure (not sure this is generally available in UK yet) early April;

Acrolepiopsis assectella (Leek moth); Red Green Carpet; Knot Grass; Common Pug; Shuttle-shaped Dart; Garden Carpet; Brimstone; Lunar Marbled Brown; Brindled Beauty (*Snelsmore 11/04*). Details of recorders, dates and locations to follow."

~ Thursday 12th April 2012 ~

Chris Bottrell reported the following: "Recent inclement weather has significantly reduced the overnight catches in my *Merton (Oxon)* garden. My meagre results have been:

28/3 - 53 moths of 9 species - **Emmelina monodactyla** (6), **Red-green Carpet** (1), **Brindled Beauty** (1), **Oak Beauty** (1), **Small Quaker** (9), **Common Quaker** (25), **Clouded Drab** (4), **Twin-spotted Quaker** (1), **Hebrew Character** (5).

31/3 - 7 of 3 - **Common Quaker** (4), **Hebrew Character** (2), **Early Grey** (1).

04/4 - Nothing.

07/4 - 17 of 6 - **Double-striped Pug** (1), **Small Quaker** (1), **Lead-coloured Drab** (1), **Common Quaker** (8), **Clouded Drab** (2), **Hebrew Character** (4).

11/4 - 7 of 3 - **Red Chestnut** (1), **Clouded Drab** (1), **Hebrew Character** (5).

Dave Maunder sent this report: "On the *7th April* I found a specimen of **Esperia sulphurella** in my garden here in *Aylesbury, Bucks* - it doesn't seem to be on the UTB year-list yet. Not much else found around here recently except a few **Early Greys**, **Oak Beauty** (1, 7th); **Nut-tree Tussock** (1, 8th); **Clouded Drab** (1, 8th); **March Moth** (1, 4th). Also I had two **Angle Shades** hatch from larvae found in my back garden."



Esperia sulphurella
Photo © Dave Maunder



Angle Shades
Photo © Dave Maunder

~ Tuesday 3rd April 2012 ~

Dave Wilton sent the following update today: "With the forecast looking dire for the next week I made a last-minute decision to run a trap at *Finemere Wood, Bucks* yesterday evening (*2nd April*), even though the temperature there was already down to single digits at dusk. However, in a couple of hours the Robinson brought in 20 species, which wasn't too bad: **Eriocrania subpurpurella** (1), **Diurnea fagella** (5), **Semioscopis steinkellneriana** (2), **Frosted Green** (2), **March Moth** (1), **Shoulder Stripe** (1), **Streamer** (1), **Brindled Pug** (5), **Purple Thorn** (4), **Oak Beauty** (4), **Red Chestnut** (2), **Small Quaker** (27), **Blossom Underwing** (2), **Lead-coloured Drab** (3), **Common Quaker** (11), **Clouded Drab** (5), **Twin-spotted Quaker** (20), **Hebrew Character** (3), **Satellite** (1) & **Chestnut** (2)."

Tony Rayner sent this report: "On *2nd April* we had a dark form of the pyralid **Pyrausta despicata** (formerly *P. cespitalis*) in our *Cholsey, Oxon* meadow during the day. Identification by Bryan Barnacle, confirmed by Richard Lewington and Phil Sterling. This is apparently very early for the species."



Pyrausta despicata
Photo © Tony Rayner

Dave Morris sent the following report: "A few moth sightings from a walk through [RSPB Church Wood in Hedgerley, Bucks](#) on **2nd April**: **Orange Underwing sp.** - 2 (including 1 in the garden of the White Horse pub. Based on the local trees, they would have been most likely OU - the first was seen adjacent to a large area of Birch/Silver Birch and there are no aspen in the area), **Brindled Pug** - 1 and **Eriocrania subpurpurella** - 1."

Will Atkinson reported the following: "This week's trapping from my garden in [Culham, nr. Abingdon, Oxon](#) on **31st March** produced **Common Quaker** (1), **Small Quaker** (11), **Clouded Drab** (4), **Hebrew Character** (5), **Early Grey** (1). Also, the sunny clearings in the BBOWT reserve at [Rushbeds Wood, Bucks](#) were alive with **Orange Underwings sp.** on **1st April**."

Jim Asher sent this report: "I saw my first **Pyrausta aurata** on **31st March** on our kitchen window in [Marcham, Oxon](#) - it must have flown in from the garden on Friday. Goater has it as flying in May, so I guess climate warming and a hot March have pushed it on."

Ross Newham had a productive couple of hours in the cold at Little Wittenham Wood, Oxon on the night of 30th March: "I recorded over 190 moths of 16 species. Most notable were four **White-marked** - caught only a couple of kms from my 2011 records of the same species. Other 'highlights' were 3 **Frosted Green** and over 42 **Brindled Pug** including several of the dark hirschkei form."



White-marked
Photo © Ross Newham



Frosted Green
Photo © Ross Newham



Brindled Pug
Photo © Ross Newham

~ **Friday 30th March 2012** ~

Dave Wilton sent the following report: "New species seen over the past few days have included **Adela cuprella** "dancing" above willow blossom at [Finemere Wood, Bucks](#) on **27th March**, **Powdered Quaker** in the garden trap at [Westcott](#) on **28th March** and **Mottled Grey** and **Northern Drab** trapped near [Ivinghoe Beacon](#) on **29th March**. Although neither of the latter pair of species is supposed to be particularly scarce, they are certainly good records for Bucks and appear to be new to the 'All-time' UTB list ([see Moth Stats](#))."



Mottled Grey
Photo © Dave Wilton



Northern Drab
Photo © Dave Wilton

Phil Penson was carrying out a butterfly transect on 29th March and found an early male **Common Heath** moth at *Chilswell Valley*, just west of Oxford. The earliest sighting reported to the website in previous years was 10th April 2011.

Dave Morris reported the following: "In *Seer Green, Bucks* I caught an example of what I am told is **Eriocrania subpurpurella**. I attach a photo (see below), although it isn't great and the moth flew off before I could get a better one!"



Eriocrania subpurpurella
Photo © Dave Morris

Adam Bassett says he still hasn't put his moth trap on this year but has had a few kitchen window records at home in Marlow Bottom, Bucks: "15th March: **Dotted Chestnut** (my 6th record since first recording it in 2009, including having 2 together, so obviously doing well in my area). 27th March: **Agonopterix ocellana**. 28th March: **Caloptilia semifascia**. 29th March: **Mompha subbistrigella** (usual bathroom record!). Plus **Diurnea fagella**, **Agonopterix heracliiana**, **Agonopterix arenella**, **Alucita hexadactyla**, **Amblyptilia acanthadactyla**, **Winter Moth**, **Early Moth**, **Pale Brindled Beauty**, **Dotted Border**, **Satellite** from earlier in the year and an **Orange Underwing sp** (presumably not Light as I don't know of any Aspen in the area) flying around birch on 28th March and another OU sp flying around the car park at *Ivinghoe Beacon yesterday, 29th March*. By the way, I also heard a report of a **Hummingbird Hawkmoth** feeding in a *Flackwell Heath, Bucks* garden on *March 26th*."

Rob Payne sent this report today: "I managed to sneak a half hour's trapping session down Andrew's Hill lane (*near Hedgerley, Bucks*) last night, 29th March and had: 3 **Common Quakers**, 3 **Small Quakers**, probable - *Eriocrania subpurpurella*, 3 **Oak Beauties**, 3 **Frosted Green**, 1 **Brindled Pug**."

Dave Morris ran his garden trap in Seer Green, Bucks on 28th March: "Although the overall haul was neither large nor unusual, I did trap my first **Dotted Chestnut** for my garden. Also, this afternoon (29th) while gardening, I disturbed a roosting **Early Thorn**."

Dave Ferguson sent this moth sighting: "At *Stoke Common, Bucks* on 29th March I saw an **Orange Underwing sp** on a patch of bare earth by a pond. It flew up, caught the breeze and vanished before I could photograph it."

This report came from Nigel Partridge: "One more that looks new to this year's list: **V-Pug**, 28-03-12, Loosley Row, Bucks."

Mary Elford sent the following: "Just to add to Alan Strawn's report below, I've just seen a **Hummingbird Hawkmoth** in my garden in *Bampton, West Oxon* feeding on a pot of violas - 28th March."

~ Tuesday 27th March 2012 ~

Alan Strawn reported the following: "I observed a **Hummingbird Hawkmoth** today, 27th March, feeding on a clump of aubretia in a garden I was working in at *Cholesbury, Bucks* near Tring today. Earliest I have ever seen one.

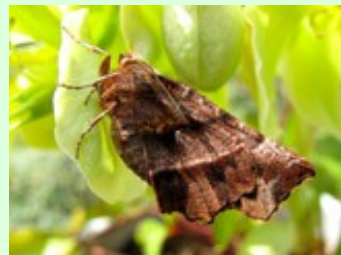
~ Monday 26th March 2012 ~

Peter Cuss sent the following: "Had the garden trap out on *Sunday 25/03/12 in Caversham, Berks*. Among the haul was one species I don't think has been recorded so far this year, a **Herald**."

This report came from May Webber: "On *Saturday 24th March* I ran my garden moth trap in *Long Hanborough, Oxon* and caught many Quakers and **Early Greys**. However, the highlight was the **Pine Beauty** which I have not caught before in my trap and an **Early Thorn** which although is a frequent visitor, it never fails to wow me!"



Pine Beauty
Photo © May Webber



Early Thorn
Photo © May Webber

Chris Bottrell reported the following: "Things are starting to liven up in my *Merton (Oxon)* back garden. On *Wednesday 21st March* 70 moths of 6 species were caught in the 60W Actinic: **Red Chestnut** (1), **Small Quaker** (21), **Lead-coloured Drab** (1), **Common Quaker** (29), **Clouded Drab** (11) and **Hebrew Character** (7). Then last Saturday evening, *24th March*, 88 of 11: **Caloptilia semifascia** (1), **Emmelina monodactyla** (3), **Shoulder Stripe** (1), **Early Thorn** (1), **Red Chestnut** (1), **Small Quaker** (30), **Blossom Underwing** (1), **Common Quaker** (29), **Clouded Drab** (11), **Twin-spotted Quaker** (4), **Hebrew Character** (6).

Dave Wilton sent the following update: "The year's garden list here at *Westcott, Bucks* has not increased by much since my last report, although perhaps noteworthy for its early appearance was that of a fresh **Eudonia angustea** on *19th March*. I got a rather worn *Acrolepiopsis* species to light on 22nd March but couldn't decide if it was *autumnitella* or *assectella* (Leek Moth) so that one will have to await the attention of Peter Hall's microscope. Away from home, a short trapping session at *Calvert, Bucks on 15th March* brought in a reasonable haul, including my first sightings of **Agonopterix alstromeriana** and **Red Chestnut**. I ran one MV and one actinic light for three hours in private woodland near *Buckingham on 22nd March* and got a pleasing 27 species, including **Pammene giganteana** (interesting choice of name for a moth with a wingspan of barely 16mm!), **Streamer**, **Brindled Pug** & **Blossom Underwing**. A visit to chalk downland on the *Ashridge Estate on*

24th March didn't produce quite as much but it was still nice to see **Dotted Chestnut** (no longer as scarce in Bucks as its "Notable B List" status might imply) and **Nut-tree Tussock**. Recent daytime sightings have included my first probable **Orange Underwing** in *Bernwood Forest on 15th March* and the first confirmed **Light Orange Underwing** at *Kingswood on 22nd March*."



Eudonia angustea
Photo © Dave Wilton



Pammene giganteana
Photo © Dave Wilton

~ **Saturday 24th March 2012** ~

Will Atkinson sent this report today: "Two weeks trapping to report from my garden in *Culham, Oxon*."

18th March - **Common Quaker** (2), **Small Quaker** (5), **Twin-spotted Quaker** (1), **Clouded Drab** (1), **Hebrew Character** (6), **Oak Beauty** (1) (photo below).

24th March - **Common Quaker** (47), **Small Quaker** (103), **Clouded Drab** (37), **Hebrew Character** (17), **Twin-spotted Quaker** (6), **Dotted Border** (2), **Angle Shades** (1), **Early Grey** (1), **Pine Beauty** (1) (photo below). When I went to the moth trap at about 6:30 the lawn around the trap was strewn with Small Quakers which were rapidly falling victim to the local robin. Have to get up earlier in future!"



Oak Beauty
Photo © Will Atkinson



Pine Beauty
Photo © Will Atkinson

Dave Maunder found a number of moths in Aylesbury, Bucks over the last week: "They included - **Lead-coloured Drab** (1 - my first ever in Aylesbury); **Twin-spotted Quaker** (1); **Small Quakers** (3); **Hebrew Characters** (2); **Early Grey** (1); **Engrailed moths** (2); **Shoulder Stripe** (2); **March moths** (2); **Dotted Borders** (2); **Depressaria heraclei** (**Parsnip Moth**) (1)."



Lead-coloured Drab

David Redhead sent the following report: "Ran my 125MV Robinson trap last night (23rd March) and overnight in my garden in *Littlemore, Oxon* it caught the following:- 24 **Clouded Drab**, 14 **Hebrew Character**, 8 **Common Quaker**, 8 **Lead-coloured Drab**, 5 **Small Quaker**, 4 **Oak Beauty**, 4 **Twin-spotted Quaker**, 1 **Pale Pinion** & 1 **Early Thorn** but not a single micro-moth. The Brown Hairstreak egg count at *Bernwood Meadows, Bucks* on *Friday 23rd March* produced a girdle of **Lackey moth eggs**."

This report came from Tony Rayner today: "On *21st March* I caught **Common Quaker**; **Clouded Drab**; **Dotted Border**; **Double-striped Pug**; **Early Grey**; **Hebrew Character**; **Pale Pinion**; **Satellite**; **Small Quaker** & **Twin-spotted Quaker** in our *Cholsey, Oxon* garden."



Pale Pinion
Photo © Tony Rayner

Marc Botham went in search of the Barred Tooth-striped last night: "I went to *Buttler's Hangings SSSI* in West Wycombe, Bucks last night (23rd March) with Ross Newham who joined me later in the evening. Sadly, despite 5 Actinic light traps, 2 MV light traps, a batch of wine ropes and several searches of the Privet on site with torches neither of us were lucky enough to encounter Barred Tooth-striped. However, during a modest catch of the usual suspects for this time of year there were a couple of early records of species not yet posted on the UTB website: **Chinese Character** – caught by net at dusk whilst setting up, and **Nut-tree Tussock** which we had two possibly three of at light traps. Sadly no other highlights on what was a largely disappointing evening, but the temperature did drop markedly."

Dave Morris reported the following today: "Trapped with a friend in a wood near *Hedgerley, Bucks* last night (23rd March) for a couple of hours: **Small Quaker** - 11, **Common Quaker** - 2, **Diurnea fagella** - 6, **March Moth** - 4, **Engrailed** - 13, **Oak Beauty** - 1, **Dotted Chestnut** - 1, **Lead-coloured Drab** - 1, **Brindled Pug** - 3, **Early Tooth-striped** - 11, **Chestnut** - 1 and **Streamer** - 1."

~ **Friday 23rd March 2012** ~

Dave Morris sent this report today, 23rd March: "A moth sighting to report - **Orange Underwing**, sunning itself on the road on Bottom Lane, *Seer Green, Bucks* close to Hodgemoor Woods. Unfortunately I wasn't able to catch or photograph it so can't definitively state it was this species as opposed to Light Orange Underwing, but I note the latter feeds on Aspen, of which there are none in the area, whereas there is quite a stand of birch within Hodgemoor Woods. Also, yesterday morning, *22nd March*, I had a micro, now id'd as **Ypsolopha ustella** adjacent to my trap, in Seer Green."

Robert Payne sent this report: "I did an hour's trapping at Andrew's Hill lane on *21st March* near *Hedgerley in Bucks*. Amongst others I had **Dotted Chestnut** and **Early Tooth-striped** come to the light. Full record will be sent to the County Recorders."

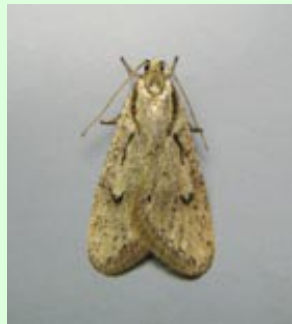


Dotted Chestnut
Photo © Robert Payne



Early Tooth-striped
Photo © Robert Payne

Mark Calway sent the following report: "I had 28 separate sightings of **Orange Underwing/Light Orange Underwing** at the top of birch trees on 19/03/2012 in Berkshire. Then on **20th March** I netted one for a positive identification at **Padworth Common** and found it to be the **Orange Underwing** (photo below). Also, along with the usual suspects (e.g. **Yellow Horned, Hebrew Characters, Small Quakers** etc.) I had a nice fresh specimen of **Semioscopis avellanella** to light on Monday night (**19/03/2012**).



Semioscopis avellanella
Photo © Mark Calway



Orange Underwing
Photo © Mark Calway

This report came from Andy King on 19th March: "It is quite possible to stand in the middle of the River Chess in **Chesham, Bucks** and not get your feet wet - there is no water there! Searching through the seed-head fluff of a Bulrush on an 'island' I found a **Limnaecia phragmitella larva**. The trick is to stay upwind of the seed-head as you dismantle it, or you'll spend more time brushing off seeds than it takes to find this quite common moth caterpillar."



Limnaecia phragmitella larva
Photo © Andy King

Chris Bottrell ran his moth trap on 14th March in his Merton (Oxon) garden: "Being a cold night it produced only 9 moths of 5 species - **Small Quaker** (2), **Lead-coloured Drab** (1), **Common Quaker** (4), **Clouded Drab** (1) and **Hebrew Character** (1). Then despite an early evening downpour the Saturday session (**17/3**) gave a total of 20 moths of 5 species, **Red Chestnut** (2), **Small Quaker** (2), **Common Quaker** (9), **Clouded Drab** (5) and **Hebrew Character** (2)."

~ Friday 16th March 2012 ~

Nigel Partridge reported the following: "One more that looks new to this year's list: **Water Carpet**, 14-03-12, Loosley Row."

~ Wednesday 14th March 2012 ~

Derek Brown sent this report from Beenham, Berks: "I had a **Dotted Chestnut** on Saturday evening, 10th March, in the trap."



Dotted Chestnut
Photo © Derek Brown

Dave Wilton sent this update on 12th March: "The warmer weather of the last few days has brought a noticeable increase in moths to the garden trap here at *Westcott, Bucks*. Numbers are now averaging around 60 individuals of 14 species each night and new for the year have been **Engrailed**, **Lead-coloured Drab**, **Twin-spotted Quaker** (all 8th March), **Early Grey** (9th), **Diurnea fagella** (10th - wings only, a bat casualty) and **Agonopterix arenella**, **Early Thorn** (11th March). Another visit to *Finemere Wood, Bucks* on 10th March produced my first four-digit moth tally of the year, all to a single Skinner MV trap run from dusk until 11pm: **Tortricodes alternella** (44), **Yellow Horned** (53), **March Moth** (9), **Shoulder Stripe** (7), **Small Brindled Beauty** (103), **Engrailed** (4), **Pale Brindled Beauty** (5), **Oak Beauty** (13), **Early Moth** (1), **Satellite** (3), **Chestnut** (4), **Small Quaker** (1181), **Lead-coloured Drab** (1), **Common Quaker** (28), **Clouded Drab** (2), **Twin-spotted Quaker** (15) & **Hebrew Character** (2). Small Quaker is obviously having a good year: their total was for individuals that had settled but many more were arriving at the light as I tried to switch it off. Good job I didn't run the trap all night or I'd still be counting now!"

Marc Botham reported the following: "I had these two species on 11/03/12 which might still be new to the 2012 species list: **Silver-Y** at actinic light in Cowley and **Buttoned Snout** caught flying around a conservatory in *Cowley, Oxon*."

Chris Bottrell sent this report: "The *late February* sessions in my *Merton (Oxon)* back garden produced nothing of note: 12/2 - nothing, 15/2 - nothing, 18/2 - nothing, 23/2 - 4 moths of 2 species, 25/2 - 3 of 2, 29/2 - 4 of 2. 5 species in total: **Pale Brindled Beauty**, **Satellite**, **Dotted Border**, **Common** and **Small Quaker**. *March* has started off with an upturn in the usual *Orthosia* sp. 3/3 - 12 moths of 4 species, 7/3 - 3 of 2 and, with the recent improvement in the weather, my 10/3 catch comprised 45 moths of 8 species: **Caloptilia semifascia** (1) [thanks to Peter Hall for correcting my identification], **Diurnea fagella** (1), **Emmelina monodactyla** (1), **Small Quaker** (10), **Common Quaker** (25), **Clouded Drab** (2), **Twin-spotted Quaker** (1), **Hebrew Character** (4)."



Caloptilia semifascia
Photo © Chris Bottrell



Diurnea fagella
Photo © Chris Bottrell

A couple of reports recently received from Dave Maunder: "Not too much found in *Aylesbury, Bucks* over the last month, just:- **Ypsolopha mucronella** (1, 9th); **Dotted Borders** (11); **Pale Brindled Beauties** (14); **March Moths** (2); **Early Moths** (7); **Angle Shades (1st adult)** (1, 22-feb); **Common Quaker** (1); **Hebrew Characters** (5); **Amblyptilia acanthadactyla** (1, 10th March); **Emmelina monodactyla** (2) and **Agonopterix heracliana** (8). I've attached a photo (see below) of an exceptionally nicely marked Dotted Border found on 11th March at Fairford Leys sports club.

After running my garden trap here in Aylesbury on 13th March, I had:- **Early Thorn** (1); **Dotted Border** (1); **Early Grey** (1); **Grey Shoulder-knot** (1); **Small Quaker** (4); **Common Quaker** (6); **Hebrew Character** (2) and **Emmelina monodactyla** (1). At last, a reasonable number of moths in my small suburban garden here on The Willows!"



Dotted Border
Photo © Dave Maunder



Small Quakers
Photo © Dave Maunder

Dave Morris sent these reports: "I trapped again in *Seer Green, Bucks* on 9th March for the Garden Moth Scheme: **Hebrew Character** - 3, **Twin-spotted Quaker** - 3, **Small Quaker** - 11, **Silver Y** - 1, **March Moth** - 1, **Common Quaker** - 5, **Satellite** - 1, **Emmelina monodactyla** - 1, **Diurnea fagella** - 1.

Then on 10th March I trapped for a couple of hours with a friend in a wood near Hedgerley, Bucks:

Shoulder Stripe - 2, **Engrailed** - 10, **Small Brindled Beauty** - 1, **Dotted Border** - 1, **Small Quaker** - 24, **March Moth** - 14, **Yellow Horned** - 6, **Twin-spotted Quaker** - 1, **Oak Beauty** - 1, **Tortricodes alternella** - 1, **Diurnea fagella** - 1 and a couple of **Acleris sp.** (look like notana from the photos, but not certain yet!)"

Andy King sent the following report: "My actinic trap in the garden at *Chorleywood, Bucks* (VC24) caught six species of moth on 8th March. As far as I can see, only **Diurnea fagella** is not already on your list, although of most interest to me was a pristine **Shoulder Stripe** - a garden first."

~ Wednesday 7th March 2012 ~

Marc Botham and Ross Newham visited the Warburg Reserve in Oxon on 2nd March, recording 135 moths: *Acleris cristana* (1), *Acleris ferrugana/notana* (7), *Agonopterix heracliata* (2), ***Amblyptilia acanthadactyla*** (2), Chestnut (20), Clouded Drab (8), Common Quaker (7), Dotted Border (1), Early Grey (1), Early Moth (4), Hebrew Character (5), March Moth (4), Pale Brindled Beauty (3), Satellite (23), Small Brindled Beauty (8), Small Quaker (27), **Streamer** (1), *Tortricodes alternella* (6), Yellow Horned (3), ***Ypsolopha mucronella*** (1), *Ypsolopha ustella* (1).



Ypsolopha mucronella
Photo © Ross Newham

Dave Morris sent this report from Seer Green, Bucks: "Trapped again on *2nd March* under the Garden Moth Scheme. 1 new species at the end of the list: **Small Quaker** - 8, **Common Quaker** - 1, **Chestnut** - 1, **Hebrew Character** - 2, ***Tortricodes alternella*** - 1, **March Moth** - 1, **Early Moth** - 1 and **Brindled Pug** - 1."

Mark Griffiths sent the following: "I found this on *29th February* in my garden in *Garsington, Oxon*. Pretty sure it is a **Scarlet Tiger caterpillar** - I had one a few years back - plus one adult. It looked as if it was trying to eat the buds on a wild rose sucker. It disappeared the next day - hopefully finding something more to its liking. The mysterious "silk" in the picture is actually cat hair!"



Scarlet Tiger caterpillar
Photo © Mark Griffiths

~ Friday 2nd March 2012 ~

This news came from Dave Morris: "I haven't had any new moth species of late here in *Seer Green, Bucks*, but I had a caterpillar on *1st March* identified as **Square-spot Rustic.**"

Dave Wilton sent this report: "I ran a couple of MV lights in *Finemere Wood, Bucks* for three hours on *28th February* and they brought in a pleasing 767 moths of 16 species, although well over 350 of them were ***Tortricodes alternella***! New for the year were **Yellow Horned** and a rather early **Pine Beauty**. Amongst the catch in the garden actinic trap at *Westcott* that same night was a **Grey Shoulder-knot.**"

David Redhead reported the following: "*27th February - Garden in Littlemore, Oxford* - overnight 125MV Robinson Trap = 10 **Dotted Border**, 2 **Chestnut**, 2 **Clouded Drab**, 2 **Twin-spotted Quaker** and singletons of **Lead-coloured Drab**, **Pale Brindled Beauty**, **Satellite**, **Small Brindled Beauty**, **Small Quaker** and 4 ***Tortricodes alternella***."

~ Monday 27th February 2012 ~

Tom Stevenson sent the following report yesterday from Benson, Oxon: "I discovered an **Agonopterix alstromeriana** in the bedroom when I turned in last night (*25th February*). Thanks to Peter Hall for the I.D."

Nigel Partridge sent this sighting: "One that might be new for the list: **Clouded Drab**, 24-02-12, Loosley Row, Bucks."

Dave Morris ran his trap in Seer Green, Bucks again on 24th February: "I caught: Chestnut (4), Common Quaker (2), Hebrew Character, Early Grey, Small Brindled Beauty, Spring Usher, Tortricodes alternella (3)."

Andy King reported the following: "I caught 43 moths in around 2 hours at *Philipshill Wood, nr. Chorleywood, Bucks* (VC 24) on *24th February* with 11 species. Only one species is not already on your 2012 list and I was a little surprised to see it - an **Engrailed** - quite, but not impossibly, early I would have thought."

Tom Stevenson sent this report: "My first moth of the year - **Agonopterix sp.** (probably *heracliana*) on my *Benson (Oxon)* front door attracted to the light on *24th February*."

~ Friday 24th February 2012 ~

Tony Rayner sent the following: "My *Cholsey (Oxon)* garden trap on *23rd February* produced 7 species of which **Common Quaker** (2) and **Pale Brindled Beauty** (1) were the most notable and early records for the site."

Dave Morris reports another reasonable night's trapping on 23rd February in Seer Green, Bucks: Satellite, **Common Quaker**, Spring Usher, March Moth, Tortricodes alternella (6), Emmelina monodactyla.

~ Thursday 23rd February 2012 ~

Dave Morris sent the following report: "I have a few moth sightings from a garden trap in *Seer Green, Bucks*:

16th Feb - Chestnut (2), Agonopterix heracliana

17th Feb - Chestnut (2), March Moth

18th Feb - Chestnut, March Moth, Pale Brindled Beauty

21st Feb - Tortricodes alternella, Hebrew Character

22nd Feb - March Moth (2), Chestnut, Tortricodes alternella, Hebrew Character, Dotted Border."

This report came from Ali Driver: "Had this **Dark Chestnut** come to my lounge window last night (*21st February*) in *Sonning, Berks* - a new garden record and only the second for my parish list."



Dark Chestnut

Ched George reported the following from Radnage, Bucks: "1 Dotted Border, 1 March moth, 1 Pale Brindled Beauty, 1 Chestnut and 4 Tortricodes alternella on *21st February*."

Andy King sent this report on 18th February: "No sooner had I posted you about my latest moths in *Chorleywood, Bucks* (VC24) when another new one for the year turned up, at an indoor light: **Small Quaker**."

~ Saturday 18th February 2012 ~

This report came from Andy King yesterday: "With the melting of the snow many more moths seem to have decided Spring has sprung. In my trap in *Chorleywood, Bucks* (VC24) last night (16/02) were **Early Moth, Satellite, March Moth, Tortricodes alternella, Hebrew Character, Pale Brindled Beauty and Chestnut**."

Dave Wilton sent this news: "Another visit with a single trap to *Finemere Wood, Bucks* on *14th February* brought in nine different species, including the first sightings that I've had this year of **Shoulder Stripe** (my earliest ever) and **Dotted Border**."



Shoulder Stripe
Photo © Dave Wilton

Chris Bottrell reported the following: "So far this February, nothing from the trap in my *Merton (Oxon)* back garden. 4 sessions, one where I had to extract it from the snow in the morning! However 2 **Agonopterix heracliana** found in the cottage on the *10th February*."

~ Sunday 12th February 2012 ~

Andy King sent this interesting report: "The weather really isn't conducive to running a light-trap at the moment, but all is not lost! I have managed to locate over-wintering caterpillars by 'dissecting' Teasel seed-heads. Supposedly, up to five species live in these; I've found two and only one of these was in Buckinghamshire (Chorleywood and Chesham). It's a prickly job, but if you split a Teasel seed-head vertically the larvae of **Endothenia gentianaena** (ugly name) may be found in the pith in the centre, one caterpillar to a seed-head. They really are quite common - perhaps 70-80% of the examples I've looked at contained a caterpillar. Some are unlucky and get cut in two, I'm afraid, but most survive and the seed-head may be bound back together again and left outside for them to emerge as moths in the spring. They are already fully fed, so the plants don't need to be put in water. A picture is below."



Endothenia gentianaeana
Photo © Andy King

David Redhead sent these moth sightings for January:

"1st Jan - Otmoor RSPB Brown Hairstreak egg count - a couple of Blue-bordered Carpet Moth eggs also found.

1st Jan - 125MV overnight in garden (Littlemore, Oxon) - 2 Chestnut & 1 Winter Moth.

18th Jan - 125MV overnight in garden - 1 Chestnut, 1 Mottled Umber, 2 Pale Brindled Beauty and 1 Spring Usher.

25th Jan - 125MV overnight in garden - my first ever garden moth trap devoid of a single macro but one micro - Acleris cristana. Also an Early Moth in our lit overnight porch - Early Moths don't seem to like MV lights as I have never caught one in my trap but each January notice them in the porch and on windows.

27th Jan - Bullingdon Prison Brown Hairstreak egg count - a couple of Blue-bordered Carpet Moth eggs and a row of six Feathered Thorn eggs."

~ Saturday 4th February 2012 ~

Chris Bottrell reported the following on 30th January: "At last a moth! Despite 7 previous sessions in the back garden here in *Merton (Oxon)* my first moth for 2012, a **Satellite** on the evening of *28/1*. Been cold and damp down here on the moor."

~ Saturday 28th January 2012 ~

Dave Maunder reported these sightings: "I found this batch of **Vapourer moth eggs** under a gravestone in *Hartwell cemetery, Bucks* (with accompanying 7-spot ladybird!) this afternoon, *28th Jan*. Other moths seen around *Aylesbury* since my first new year report have been:- **Pale Brindled Beauties** (4, on 20th); **Winter moths** (4 - last one on 14th); **Mottled Umber** (1, on 25th) and possible *Acleris ferrugana* on 25th (awaiting verification from Peter hall). Hasn't seemed like good enough weather to try my garden trap yet!"



Vapourer Moth eggs
Photo © Dave Maunder

Dave Wilton sent this update: "Here at *Westcott, Bucks* **Acleris schalleriana** appeared at a lit window on the evening of *22nd January* while **Ypsolopha ustella** came to the actinic trap on *24th January* (this year's first addition to the all-time garden list - very nice!). Both were probably disturbed from hibernation during tidying-up in the garden. Another visit with a single MV light to *Finemere Wood, Bucks* for a few hours on *25th January* produced a decent quantity of moths even if there was little variety. The catch comprised **Tortricodes**

alternella (25), **Winter Moth** (2), **Small Brindled Beauty** (5), **Pale Brindled Beauty** (31), **Spring Usher** (316), **Early Moth** (2) & **Chestnut** (5). This is the first time that I've caught Small Brindled Beauty in January so it looks as though the ever earlier emergence trend for some species might be continuing this year."



Ypsolopha ustella
Photo © Dave Wilton



Small Brindled Beauty (left)
Pale Brindled Beauty (right)
Photo © Dave Wilton

Derek Brown sent the following from Beenham, Berks: "I had a very early **Double-striped Pug** indoors on **25th January** (which may have entered via the cat-flap)."



Double-striped Pug
Photo © Derek Brown

~ **Saturday 21st January 2012** ~

Dave Wilton reported the following: "While searching for flightless female moths during a trapping session in the Oakley Wood car-park at **Bernwood Forest, Bucks on 10th January** I found this **Angle Shades caterpillar** active about three feet up an oak trunk. The following night the garden trap at **Westcott, Bucks** produced my earliest ever **Early Moth**, while species trapped in **Finemere Wood, Bucks on 20th January** included **Tortricodes alternella** as well as **Winter Moth, Pale Brindled Beauty, Spring Usher, Mottled Umber, Early Moth & Satellite.**"



Angle Shades larva
Photo © Dave Wilton

Andy King was trimming the flowerheads off an old Lavender bush on 11th January and disturbed a hibernating **Common Plume moth (Emmelina monodactyla)** in his garden in **Chorleywood, Bucks.** "It was a bit grumpy about this and it was a while before I could get the attached photo."



Common Plume moth (*Emmelina monodactyla*)
Photo © Andy King

Mary Elford sent the following report: "I decided to put my garden trap out on **10th January** after a period of hibernation and was surprised to find this very early **Early Grey** here in **Bampton, West Oxfordshire**. Lots more delights to come, I hope!"



Early Grey
Photo © Mary Elford

~ **Tuesday 10th January 2012** ~

Ched George's first night of trapping in his garden in Radnage, Bucks produced the following: Spring Usher and **Pale Brindled Beauty** on **9th January**.

~ **Monday 9th January 2012** ~

Andy King sent the following report on 9th January: "My first moth for 2012 was **Alucita hexadactyla (Six/Many/Twenty-plume Moth)** which flew out from the logs I'd brought in for the fire in **Chorleywood, Bucks**."

Alastair Driver set his Robinson trap in his garden in Sonning, Berks on 6th January: "I was expecting my first moth of the year to appear at it soon afterwards, but in fact the solitary **Winter Moth** that did appear was beaten to the first of the year title by a healthy-looking specimen of **Epiphyas postvittana (Light Brown Apple Moth)** which flew out of the spinach from my nearby allotment that I was washing for dinner that evening."

Dave Wilton reported the following: "A trapping session at **Finemere Wood, Bucks on 6th January** got me started for the year, although just 15 moths in three hours was rather a poor showing for woodland at this time of year. Perhaps at 7C it was still a bit chilly for them, or maybe numbers had been decimated in the gale force winds of the previous few days. Species caught were **Spring Usher, Mottled Umber, Satellite** and **Chestnut**."

~ **Sunday 8th January 2012** ~

This report came from Mick A'Court: "Saw my first moth of 2012 this morning (**3rd January**) in the shape of a **Mottled Umber** on the wall by the door of the **College Lake visitors centre** in Bucks."

Nigel Partridge's first moths of the year were: "New species for this year at *Loosley Row, Bucks*: **Winter Moth** 01-01-12, **Endrosis sarcitrella** 02-12-12."

Dave Maunder sent his first sightings of the new year: "My first three moths in *Aylesbury, Bucks* of 2012 were:- **Brick moth** (a very worn specimen!); **Pale Brindled Beauty** (1) and a **Winter moth** near Hartwell house. Good to find a few moths on a very mild first day of the year!"



The Brick
Photo © Dave Maunder

Peter Hall started off the 2012 season with the following report: "At one second past midnight in my garden in *Ballinger Common, Bucks*: **Mottled Umber** (2); **Pale Brindled Beauty** (1), all at the study window. Also a **Winter moth** came to the window later on that night."