

Butterfly Conservation Upper Thames Branch

Moth Sightings Archive - July to December 2013

MOTH SPECIES COUNT FOR 2013 (as at 27/01/14) = 1013

~ Monday 27th January 2014 ~

Dave Wilton sent this final round-up for the year on 18th January: "Peter Hall has now completed inspection of moths caught in Bucks which I'd retained during the second half of the year for confirmation of ID and the following are new to the UTB list: **Pine Carpet** (Westcott 7th Oct), **Anacampsis blattariella** (Westcott 4th Aug), **Bryotropa senectella** (Westcott 29th Aug), **Carpatolechia fugitivella** (Homefield Wood 1st Aug), **Cnephasia genitalana** (Weston Turville 21st Aug), **Coleophora coracipennella** (Homefield Wood 1st Aug), **Depressaria badiella** (Pitstone Hill 28th Aug), **Depressaria pulcherrimella** (Pitstone Hill 28th Aug), **Dioryctria simplicella** (Westcott 29th Sep), **Ectoedemia atrifrontella** (Bernwood Forest 30th Aug), **Ectoedemia septembrella** (first adult, Finemere Wood 22nd Sep), **Elachista bisulcella** (Wendover Woods 4th Sep), **Epinotia cinerea** (Bernwood Forest 30th Aug), **Eudonia truncicolella** (Bernwood Forest 30th Aug), **Gypsonoma minutana** (Westcott 19th Aug), **Phyllonorycter cerasicolella** (Westcott 2nd Aug), **Phyllonorycter joannisii** (Westcott 14th Aug), **Phyllonorycter lautella** (Homefield Wood 1st Aug), **Phyllonorycter rajella** (Westcott 3rd Sep), **Prays ruficeps** (Westcott 10th Aug), **Psoricoptera gibbosella** (Bernwood Forest 30th Aug), **Stigmella hemargyrella** (Wendover Woods 4th Sep), **Stigmella salicis** (Westcott 14th Aug), **Swammerdamia pyrella** (Wendover Woods 14th Aug) & **Ypsolopha vittella** (Westcott 12th Sep).

As usual, thanks go to Peter for all his hard work in front of the microscope!"

~ Saturday 7th December 2013 ~

Marc Botham sent this report on 30th November: "Another addition, and I didn't think it would be an addition, is **Plumed Prominent** last night (29th November) at the **Warburg Reserve, Oxon**. I have tried on 3 separate occasions since the end of October, trying to cherry-pick mild(ish) nights when I've had the chance, but each time it has been considerably colder than the nearest (Henley) forecast I've been following. As a result I have caught very few moths and last night was the first and only Plumed Prominent (a male) which is both considerably later than I caught it at Warburg in previous years and also at considerably lower numbers (last year we caught over 20 in one night), though one has to factor much colder weather into that of course. I have also tried putting black-light traps out at a couple of potential sites in Oxfordshire but to no avail as yet."

~ Friday 29th November 2013 ~

Dave Wilton reports: "My garden actinic trap at **Westcott, Bucks** produced a reasonable return on **27th November**: **December Moth** (5), **Winter Moth** (11), **Northern Winter Moth** (1), **Feathered Thorn** (1), **Scarce Umber** (4), **Mottled Umber** (1), **Brick** (3) & **Red-line Quaker** (1). That is the largest number of December Moths I've ever had in one trap in the garden and the odd thing about them is that all five were females! Going back in time, I had an adult **Mompha jurassicella** indoors at **Westcott** on **23rd November** and leaf-mines of **Stigmella catharticella** were found on buckthorn at **Edlesborough, Bucks** on **1st November**.



December Moth female
Photo © Dave Wilton

Peter Hall recently completed another batch of dissections for me of moth species caught in Bucks during July which could not, for one reason or another, be identified and amongst them were the following: **Angle-barred Pug** (Westcott 15th July), **Lesser Common Rustic** (Finemere 31st July), **Pimpinel Pug** (Steps Hill 16th July), **Slender Pug** (Westcott 17th July), **Small Rufous** (Finemere 31st July), **Acleris kochiella** (Westcott 26th July), **Anacampsis populella** (Finemere 31st July), **Caryocolum tricolorella** (Finemere 31st July), **Coleophora anatipennella** (Finemere 31st July), **Coleophora hemerobiella** (Weston Turville 25th July), **Coleophora lutipennella** (Westcott 17th July), **Coleophora saxicolella** (Bradenham 24th July), **Coleophora trigeminella** (Steps Hill 16th July), **Cydia illutana** (Bernwood 18th July), **Elachista apicipunctella** (Westcott 31st July), **Elachista subocellea** (Ivinghoe 22nd July), **Endothenia marginana** (Bradenham 24th July), **Gelechia senticetella** (Westcott 15th July), **Gelechia sororculella** (Finemere 31st July), **Monochroa lutulentella** (Westcott 29th July), **Neosphaleroptera nubilana** (Steps Hill 16th July), **Oegoconia deauratella** (Westcott 21st July), **Oxyptilus pilosellae** (Bradenham 24th July), **Phyllonorycter quercifoliella** (Bernwood 18th July), **Stigmella assimilella** (Bernwood 18th July), **Syncopacma larseniella** (Bernwood 18th July) & **Ypsolopha alpella** (Finemere 31st July). The tiny plume moth **Oxyptilus pilosellae** was a very significant find because the species has not been recorded anywhere in the UK since 1964 and it was thought that it might have become extinct."



Oxyptilus pilosellae
Photo © Dave Wilton

Nigel Partridge had a **Scarce Umber** in his garden at **Loosley Row, Bucks** on 25th November.

Marc Botham sent this report on 25th November: "Moths are almost non-existent in my garden (at **Benson, Oxon**) now – I usually get a few more winter species than I'm currently getting. Since the 1km length of hedgerow near my house has been removed I can't determine whether it is a bad year for winter species or habitat destruction, but it does seem weird that I still haven't seen a single **Winter Moth** in the garden. I did have my first **Scarce Umber** of the year last night though, along with a single **December Moth** and a single **Sprawler**."

~ Wednesday 20th November 2013 ~

Nigel Partridge sent this update: "Sorry, I forgot to send this one in from earlier this year. As usual, it's from our garden in **Loosley Row, Bucks**: **Cochylis molliculana** 23-

08-2013."

~ Tuesday 12th November 2013 ~

Dave Wilton sent this message: "9th and 10th November proved to be too chilly, even for the hardier moths around here ([Westcott, Bucks](#)), and those two nights brought my first nil returns of the winter. However, on 11th November the garden actinic light brought in **Blastobasis laticolella** (2), **Acleris emargana** (1), **Emmelina monodactyla** (1), **Common Marbled Carpet** (1), **Red-green Carpet** (4), **Winter Moth** (1), **Feathered Thorn** (7) & **Sprawler** (3). **Winter Moth** first appeared here on 6th November and although it doesn't really seem to have got going locally yet I did find an egg on blackthorn at [Greatmoor, Bucks](#) on 10th November.

Tony Rayner reports: "It happens every year - we get a late record of a **Buttoned Snout** in our cottage (at [Cholsey, Oxon](#)). So no real surprise to find one in our bedroom on the evening of 8th November."

~ Thursday 7th November 2013 ~

This report was received from Marc Botham: "Moths have been few and far between in my garden at Benson, Oxon but I did my regular monthly surveys at [Harcourt Arboretum](#) and [Bagley Woods, Oxford](#) last week during one of the warmer evenings (30th October). Nothing exciting, but amongst relatively modest catches there was **Diurnea lipsiella** at both sites and genitalia examination of November moth males revealed all three species at Bagley Woods, with a single **Pale November Moth** and a single **Autumnal Moth** along with 20+ **November Moth**. Having heard murmurs of it being a good year for **Merveille du Jour** I expected to see more than the single individual I found at both sites, given that traps at both were surrounded by large oaks. Personally, I have only seen a handful this year, certainly no more than last year."

~ Sunday 3rd November 2013 ~

Dave Wilton reports: "My garden actinic trap at [Westcott, Bucks](#) managed a reasonable 19 species on 31st October: **Depressaria heraclei** (1), **Acleris rhombana** (1), **Acleris variegana** (1), **Udea ferrugalis/Rusty-dot Pearl** (1), **Nomophila noctuella/Rush Veneer** (1), **Emmelina monodactyla** (1), **Common Marbled Carpet** (1), **Red-green Carpet** (4), **November Moth** (1), **Feathered Thorn** (7), **Dark Sword-grass** (1), **Sprawler** (5), **Grey Shoulder-knot** (1), **Blair's Shoulder-knot** (3), **Green-brindled Crescent** (1), **Satellite** (1), **Chestnut** (1), **Red-line Quaker** (1) & **Lunar Underwing** (1). Additional species caught over the previous four nights included **Caloptilia rufipennella**, **Phyllonorycter messaniella**, **Plutella xylostella**, **Spruce Carpet**, **Brick**, **Yellow-line Quaker**, **Beaded Chestnut**, **Barred Sallow**, **Pink-barred Sallow**, **Angle Shades** & **Pale Mottled Willow**. The migrant Dark Sword-grass appeared each night and I got two more in the trap on 1st November so would be quite happy to see something else now, please! While out hunting for Brown Hairstreak eggs on 29th October, a search at the A34 junction for [Weston-on-the-Green, Oxon](#) produced a young **Oak Eggar** caterpillar. Drinker larvae are regularly encountered when searching blackthorn at this time of year (they climb out of their foodplant grasses to hibernate on the blackthorn stems) but I haven't found Oak Eggar in the same way since November 2005 and have only once had an adult female to light in Bucks. The species is either significantly under-recorded or must exist at a very low population level in Bucks, Berks and Oxon. There are actually few records for any of our three counties, even though the heathy areas of southern Berkshire could be expected to harbour reasonable numbers."



Dark Sword-grass
Photo © Dave Wilton



Oak Eggar caterpillar
Photo © Dave Wilton

New arrivals keep coming to Martin Wainwright's Robinson trap at Thrupp, Oxon - the latest being a **December Moth** and a **Grey Shoulder-knot** on **30th October**. The first was a regular at Martin's former home in Leeds, albeit later in the year, but the Grey Shoulder-knot is unfamiliar with the delights of the West Riding (and vice versa).



December Moth
Photo © Martin Wainwright



Grey Shoulder-knot
Photo © Martin Wainwright

Steve Trigg sent this report: "Amongst the moths found in my light trap on **30th October**, located in my **Cookham, Berks** garden, was a **Palpita vitrealis**. This doesn't seem to be on the 2013 UTB moth list as yet."



Palpita vitrealis
Photo © Steve Trigg

~ Sunday 27th October 2013 ~

Tim & Colleen Watts took the picture below of a **Red-green Carpet** in their **Whitchurch, Bucks** garden on **22nd October**. On **19th October** they had a late **Hummingbird Hawk-moth** nectaring briefly on Hebe flowers. Tim also reports that on **10th and 12th October** they were in the garden after dark and from the light in the kitchen they both glimpsed a massive moth! There was no sign of it around flowers still in bloom and turning the floodlight on to try and locate it proved unsuccessful. Both sightings were just after sunset and they wondered if it might have been a Convolvulus Hawk-moth (or maybe even a Death's-head Hawk-moth!).



Red-green Carpet
Photo © Tim Watts

David Rowe reports a **Streak** found on **21st October** at a window at his workplace in rural **Winkfield, Berks** by colleague and fellow moth-er Dom Pia. Back on **16th October** they also saw a **Cypress Carpet**.



Cypress Carpet
Photo © David Rowe



Streak
Photo © David Rowe

Martin Wainwright sent this report: "The procession of Autumn moths to my Robinson trap at **Thrupp, Oxon** continues with a handsome **Sprawler** on **20th October**, alongside the familiar cast of assorted sallows, chestnuts and carpets."



Sprawler
Photo © Martin Wainwright

~ **Monday 21st October 2013** ~

Steve and Xander Goddard have had no new species for the region in recent weeks in **Wolvercote, Oxon** but, like others, they've had some unseasonal **Beautiful Hook-tips** (on **7th and 16th October**) and a reasonable variety of immigrants such as **Dark Sword-grass** on the **6th and 17th October**, a **Vestal** on **7th October** and a **Silver Y** on **17th October**. In fact the 7th was their most decent recent night, featuring a first and only **Satellite** among 52 individuals of 24 species. Overall it's fair to say things are slowing down noticeably, though Steve has some hopes that a mild, cloudy and windless night may yet throw up a few surprises.



Satellite
Photo © Steve Goddard

Martin Wainwright's Robinson trap at Thrupp, Oxon continues to attract a steady stream of arrivals - a male **Feathered Thorn** was the star on **18th October** with a **Merveille du Jour** on **17th October** - a moth Martin has wanted to meet since starting trapping (in Leeds) eight years ago. Earlier in the month he saw **Vestals** aplenty and a lot of **Green-brindled Crescents**. Has anyone else had a good number of the *Capucina* form of these? Martin had one among 11 Green-brindled Crescents on 7th October and then three *Capucinas* against two standard forms on 8th October. A further *Capucina* flew in on 17th October. The commonest moth for the last few weeks has been the **Beaded Chestnut**, with up to eight a night. Other macro species in the last fortnight include **Chestnut, Dark Chestnut, Black Rustic, Burnished Brass, Brown-spot Pinion, Lunar Underwing, Red-line Quaker, Angle Shades, Sallow, Silver Y, Snout** and **Willow Beauty**.



Green-brindled Crescents
Photo © Martin Wainwright



Green-brindled Crescent f. capucina
Photo © Martin Wainwright



Merveille du Jour
Photo © Martin Wainwright



Vestal
Photo © Martin Wainwright

Dave Maunder sent this report on 14th October: "I've been busy for quite a while, but here are some results from my garden trap here in **Aylesbury, Bucks** over the last five weeks or so: **Orange Sallow (1), Barred Sallow (5), Sallow (2), Brindled Green (1), Beaded Chestnut (3), Red-line Quaker (2), Yellow-line Quaker (1), Lunar Underwing (102), Large Ranunculus (4), Green-brindled Crescent (2), Red Underwing (2), Blair's Shoulder-knot (39), Deep-brown Dart (2), Black Rustic (6),**

Feathered Gothic (10), Bulrush Wainscot (1), Frosted Orange (2), Rosy Rustic (4), Dotted Rustic (2), Canary-shouldered Thorn (4), Dusky Thorn (7), Mallow (2), Nomophila noctuella/Rush Veneer (5) & Plutella xylostella/Diamond-back Moth (24). A few other moths seen locally around Aylesbury include **Dusky-lemon Sallow (1), Pink-barred Sallow (2), Brick (2), Grey Shoulder-knot (1), Large Wainscot (1) & Copper Underwing (1).**"



From left to right: Lunar Underwing, Orange Sallow, Barred Sallow & Brindled Green
Photo © Dave Maunder

~ Monday 14th October 2013 ~

Dave Wilton reports: "On **6th October** a fully-grown **Peppered Moth** caterpillar was found on blackthorn in our garden at **Westcott, Bucks** (measured at 7cm, it was a giant!). Over the past week adults of **Pale November Moth** on **7th October** and **Phyllonorycter leucographella** (2) & **Phyllonorycter messaniella** (4) both on **8th October** have been the only new sightings for the year in the garden trap. Considering the very poor weather overnight on **11th October** (intermittent heavy rain and a north-easterly gale) I was surprised to get anything at all even though the trap was positioned in a relatively sheltered spot. However, more than 50 moths of 20 species were attracted to the light: **Common Marbled Carpet, November Moth, Feathered Thorn, Large Yellow Underwing, Lesser Yellow Underwing, Setaceous Hebrew Character, Black Rustic, Grey Shoulder-knot, Blair's Shoulder-knot, Green-brindled Crescent, Merveille du Jour, Satellite, Red-line Quaker, Beaded Chestnut, Lunar Underwing, Barred Sallow, Pink-barred Sallow, Sallow, Angle Shades & Beautiful Hook-tip.** The night of **12th October** saw calmer conditions but there was constant moderate rain instead. Even so, 17 species turned out, of which **Acleris rhombana, Red-green Carpet, Turnip, Chestnut, Dark Chestnut, Yellow-line Quaker & Red Underwing** were additional to those caught on the 11th. Leaf-mine searching has continued apace and those seen in northern Bucks recently have included **Stigmella ulmariae** on meadowsweet (at **Woodham on 6th October**), **Stigmella oxyacanthella** on apple (at **Gallowsbridge Farm on 7th October**), **Stigmella viscerella** on elm (at **Chicheley on 8th October**), **Phyllocnistis saligna** on willow (at **Sherington on 8th October**), **Ectoedemia angulifasciella** on dog rose (near **Stoke Goldington on 10th October**), **Stigmella floslactella** on hazel, **Ectoedemia atricollis & Stigmella regiella** both on hawthorn (all at **Gayhurst Wood on 10th October**) and **Ectoedemia septembrella** on Perforated St John's Wort, **Stigmella splendidissima** on bramble, **Stigmella anomalella** on dog rose, **Ectoedemia subbimaculella & Stigmella atricapitella** both on oak, **Phyllonorycter ulmifoliella & Stigmella confusella** both on birch (all at **Finemere Wood on 12th October**)."



Peppered Moth larva
Photo © Dave Wilton



Phyllonorycter messaniella
Photo © Dave Wilton



Stigmella oxyacanthella mine
Photo © Dave Wilton

~ Thursday 10th October 2013 ~

Another report from Marc Botham was received on 9th October: "I caught a **Cypress Carpet** in my **Benson, Oxon** garden last night and realised just now that it is new for the year for UTB. There were a spattering of migrants as well, including another **Scarce Bordered Straw** (female this time), three **Vestals** (two of which had different markings to those I have caught before and one of which was not in the trap but sitting on the shed), **Silver Y**, two **Rush Veneers** and three **Diamond-back Moths**. More interestingly, as Dave Wilton pointed out but I hadn't noticed myself up until two nights ago, there has been a sudden crop of **Beautiful Hook-tip** and **Light Emerald** and I also caught a fresh **Blood-vein** last night too."

Dave Wilton sent this report: "Peter Hall has very kindly confirmed for me another batch of damaged, difficult or unusual micro-moths found in Bucks earlier this season and the following are new to the UTB list: **Acleris notana** (Mop End 13th July), **Argyresthia conjugella** (Mop End 13th July), **Argyresthia glaucinella** (Bernwood 9th July), **Carpatolechia notatella** (Weston Turville 8th July), **Cnephasia stephensiana** (Holtspur 5th July), **Coleophora albitarsella** (Aston Clinton 14th July), **Coleophora betulella** (Mop End 13th July), **Coleophora flavipennella** (Bernwood 9th July), **Coleophora gryphipennella** (Ashridge 12th July), **Coleophora ibipennella** (Ashridge 12th July), **Coleophora kuehnella** (Bernwood 9th July), **Coleophora niveicostella** (Ashridge 12th July), **Coleophora prunifoliae** (Bernwood 9th July), **Coleophora spinella** (Ivinghoe 7th July), **Coleophora taeniipennella** (Weston Turville 8th July), **Ectoedemia albifasciella** (Ivinghoe 7th July), **Ectoedemia decentella** (Ashridge 12th July), **Elachista gleichenella** (Steps Hill 29th June), **Epinotia tenerana** (Bernwood 9th July), **Eucosma fulvana** (Steps Hill 29th June), **Homoeosoma sinuella** (Holtspur 5th July), **Isotrias rectifasciana** (Steps Hill 29th June), **Orthotaenia undulana** (Westcott 6th July), **Phalonidia manniana** (Weston Turville 8th July), **Piniphila bifasciana** (Mop End 13th July), **Syncopacma taeniolella** (Aston Clinton 14th July) & **Thiotricha subocellea** (Holtspur 5th July)."

Marc Botham sent this report on Saturday 5th October: "Last night the moths came in thick and fast at **Benson, Oxon** and with them a nice selection of migrants. I've had a few **Vestal** throughout the year but last night I had 5 including the nice pink form, but better still were two garden firsts that I also don't see on the 2013 list, though my eyes are bleary as it took over an hour to go through traps at 6.45 this morning: they were **Delicate** and **Scarce Bordered Straw**."

Mark Griffiths had the following in his garden trap at **Garsington, Oxon** on 4th October: **Epiphyas postvittana/Light Brown Apple Moth** (2), **Nomophila noctuella/Rush Veneer** (1), **Vestal** (2), **Common Marbled Carpet** (1), **Large Yellow Underwing** (12), **Lesser Yellow Underwing** (1), **White-point** (1), **Black Rustic** (1), **Blair's Shoulder-knot** (7), **Beaded Chestnut** (2), **Lunar Underwing** (2), **Sallow** (1) & **Angle Shades** (1).

Additions on [5th October](#) were **Mallow** (1), **Yellow-line Quaker** (1) & **Brown-spot Pinion** (2).



Yellow-line Quaker
Photo © Mark Griffiths



Vestal
Photo © Mark Griffiths

~ **Saturday 5th October 2013** ~

Dave Wilton reports: "I found a fully-grown **Chinese Character** caterpillar on blackthorn in our [Westcott, Bucks](#) garden on [22nd September](#) and a fresh adult appeared in the garden moth trap on [3rd October](#), suggesting an attempt at a third brood. The moth has certainly been one of this year's winners here, with 106 individuals recorded (the previous highest tally was 38 in 2006). **Beautiful Hook-tip** (four seen on [2nd October](#)) and **Light Emerald** (one on [3rd October](#)) also seem to be attempting an extra brood again locally. I had high hopes for the night of [3rd October](#), when there were quite strong southerly winds, but out of some 200 moths from 30 species the only migrant recorded in the garden trap was **Dark Sword-grass** (the third example in five days). Other recent first timers for the year list have included **Figure of Eight** ([1st October](#)), **Mallow** & **Feathered Thorn** ([2nd October](#)) and **November Moth** ([3rd October](#), examined under a hand lens to confirm). While shopping in [Aylesbury, Bucks](#) on [4th October](#), a quick check of the London Plane trees outside Staples produced several active leaf-mines of **Phyllonorycter platani**."



Chinese Character larva
Photo © Dave Wilton



Chinese Character
Photo © Dave Wilton

Marc Botham sent this report on 30th September: "Just got back from a week away with work so missed last week's good weather. However, it was pretty good this weekend and I had a glut of moths in my [Benson, Oxon](#) garden (especially last night, 29th). Those that may be new, but possibly not anymore, were **Mallow** (**first adult 27th September**), **Yellow-Line Quaker** ([28th September](#)) and **Brick and Red-line Quaker** ([29th September](#)). Good numbers of Mallow, with 8 last night - I guess I shouldn't be surprised given the number of larvae I saw earlier in the year feeding on the Common Mallow that is quite abundant in the garden, but I don't often see that many at light. I've also had first for the garden 2013 brood **Dark Chestnut**, **Satellite** and **Red-green Carpet**. Over 500 moths of 46 species last night including 150 **Large Yellow Underwing** and late but reasonably fresh **Heart and Dart** and **Oak Hook-tip**. Also, 14 **Brown-spot Pinion** which I can't remember ever catching more than 2 or 3 of in a night

before." Marc adds that on [30th September](#) he got **Crocidosema plebejana** in the garden trap, a new species for him.

Mark Griffiths, a welcome new contributor to our website, tells us that he's recently started moth-trapping in his [Garsington, Oxon](#) garden. Species caught over the weekend of [28th/29th September](#) included **Common Marbled Carpet, Large Yellow Underwing, Lesser Yellow Underwing, Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing, Setaceous Hebrew Character, Black Rustic, Blair's Shoulder-knot, Large Ranunculus, Beaded Chestnut, Lunar Underwing, Pink-barred Sallow, Angle Shades & Rosy Rustic.**

~ Monday 30th September 2013 ~

Peter Hall and Dave Wilton ran traps on [Pitstone Hill, Bucks](#) for three hours from dusk on [25th September](#) as part of a continuing survey for the National Trust and got a reasonable selection of about 250 moths of 30 species. They included **Common Marbled Carpet, Treble-bar, Brimstone Moth, Dark Sword-grass, Turnip, Dotted Rustic, Shuttle-shaped Dart, Large Yellow Underwing, Lesser Yellow Underwing, Autumnal Rustic, Setaceous Hebrew Character, Square-spot Rustic, Common Wainscot, Deep-brown Dart, Black Rustic, Merveille du Jour, Yellow-line Quaker, Beaded Chestnut, Brown-spot Pinion, Lunar Underwing, Barred Sallow, Copper Underwing, Svensson's Copper Underwing, Flounced Rustic, Angle Shades & Snout.** Recent additions to Dave's garden year-list at [Westcott, Bucks](#) have included **Red-line Quaker (25th September), Merveille du Jour (26th September) & Yellow-line Quaker (28th September).** **Lunar Underwing** has quickly established itself as the second most numerous species of the year at Westcott, having already passed 1,100 individuals, and is going to give Square-spot Rustic (the current leader on 1,800+) a run for its money. Large Yellow Underwing is currently relegated to 7th place behind a couple of micros!



Autumnal Rustic
Photo © Dave Wilton

John Lindley recorded a **Jersey Tiger** during a walk along footpaths around [South Stoke, Oxon](#) on [26th September](#), while in the village itself he noted 30+ fully-grown **Buff-tip** caterpillars feeding on a small area of mixed hedgerow.

~ Thursday 26th September 2013 ~

David Gantzel reports seeing a **Hummingbird Hawkmoth** on buddleia at [Loudwater, Bucks](#) on Thursday [26th September](#).

Dave Morris says he's had mainly **Lunar Underwings** and **Large Yellow Underwings** of late in his [Seer Green, Bucks](#) garden, but over the last couple of nights he's attracted **Oak Lutestring, Barred Sallow** and **Deep-brown Dart** and last night ([24th September](#)) a **Blair's Shoulder-knot**. Also, on [25th September](#): **Large Ranunculus, Figure of**

Eight (first adult) and **Beaded Chestnut**.



Blair's Shoulder-knot
Photo © Dave Morris



Figure of Eight
Photo © Dave Morris

Nigel Partridge reports a few more from his garden in **Loosley Row, Bucks**: **Acleris sparsana** 21-09-13, **Acrolepia autumnitella** 24-09-13 late afternoon. Also, **Cacoecimorpha pronubana** on 25-09-13.

Rob Payne sent this report: "Dave Morris and I were trapping by the vols hut at the RSPB reserve at **Hedgerley, Bucks** on 20th September. Though it was a quiet night with only 14 moths of 10 species being recorded including **Pink-barred Sallow** and **Acleris emargana**, we also found 3 **Green Silver-lines caterpillars** feeding in the Oaks near the trap."



Green Silver-lines caterpillar
Photo © Rob Payne

Martin Wainwright's Robinson trap in **Thrupp, Oxon**, has been lit up by the autumnal Sallow family, including this vividly-coloured **Barred Sallow** recorded on 22nd September along with **Sallow** (6) and **Centre-barred Sallow** (1). Also in the trap were **Bordered Beauty** (1), **Burnished Brass** (6), **Brindled Green** (1) and **Large Yellow Underwing** (20). Nearby on the grass was a mint condition **Ruby Tiger**, spangled with drops of morning drizzle. On 23rd September Martin had another newcomer, a **Green-brindled Crescent** (first adult) in tip-top condition.



Barred Sallow
Photo © Martin Wainwright



Ruby Tiger
Photo © Martin Wainwright



Green-brindled Crescent
Photo © Martin Wainwright

Dave Wilton has continued to run his garden trap regularly at **Westcott, Bucks**. "New for this year's garden list have been **Eudonia angustea** (17th September), **Vestal & Brown-spot Pinion** (both 18th September), **Brick & Barred Sallow** (both 21st September), **Beaded Chestnut & Dusky-lemon Sallow** (both 22nd September) and **Blair's Shoulder-knot** (24th September). It is disappointing to think that there are only about a dozen macro-moths left to appear locally this year now! A three-hour trapping session in **Finemere Wood, Bucks** on 22nd September produced very little although **Acrocercops brongniardella** and **Epinotia maculana** were nice to see."

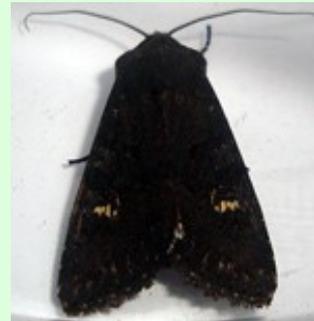
Steve & Xander Goddard sent this report: "We've had an inevitable autumnal slowdown in **Wolvercote, Oxon** but still some new species coming through, and one or two quite large catches when conditions are right - 89 individuals of 27 species on 21st September, for instance. A few notable individuals, which I think are new to the year list, over the past few days have included a **Large Ranunculus** (our first) and **Acleris sparsana** both on 21st September and a **Black Rustic** on the 22nd September."



Large Ranunculus
Photo © Steve Goddard



Acleris sparsana
Photo © Steve Goddard



Black Rustic
Photo © Steve Goddard

Dave Ferguson found this example of **Choreutis pariana** on 20th September, sitting on a Japanese Anemone in his **Beaconsfield, Bucks** garden. The caterpillars feed on apple and Dave says that there is a tree about five metres away from where the moth was seen.



Choreutis pariana
Photo © Dave Ferguson

~ Thursday 19th September 2013 ~

Dave Wilton has had little of excitement in his **Westcott, Bucks** garden trap over the past week. "On 14th September I had my first **Deep-brown Dart** and **Barred Sallow** of the season, on 15th September **Epermenia chaerophyllella** turned up (it is supposedly a common moth but the last time I saw it here was five years ago), while on 16th September I had an **Orange Sallow**, the first in the garden for a couple of years. In order to swell the notebook at this time of the season I find it necessary to go out looking for leaf-mining species, the adults of which are not often recorded because they are so small. Starting in the garden here, on 5th September I found examples of **Callisto**

denticulella, **Leucoptera malifoliella** (one of several vacated mines is illustrated below), **Lyonetia clerkella**, **Phyllonorycter blancardella** & **Phyllonorycter leucographella** all on our solitary fairly small apple tree, while another search in the garden on **14th September** produced mines of **Bucculatrix albedinella**, **Phyllonorycter schreberella** & **Stigmella lemniscella** on hedgerow elm, **Phyllonorycter corylifoliella** & **Phyllonorycter oxyacanthae** on hawthorn and **Phyllonorycter salictella** on willow. While rummaging around in unrecorded VC24 tetrads along the border with Northants on **16th September**, in Shirehill Wood north of **Lillingstone Lovell, Bucks** I found mines of **Mompha terminella** on Enchanter's Nightshade. They are quite distinctive, starting as a corridor in semicircles then opening out into a large blotch. Two of them still had larvae within and one is illustrated below."



Leucoptera malifoliella mine
Photo © Dave Wilton



Epermenia chaerophyllella
Photo © Dave Wilton



Mompha terminella mine
Photo © Dave Wilton

Dave Ferguson had a pleasant surprise when this female **Gem** entered his garden trap at **Beaconsfield, Bucks** on **15th September**.



Gem
Photo © Dave Ferguson

Marc Botham sent this report from his garden in **Benson, Oxon**: "Before the stormy weather arrived I had a fantastic garden catch on the Thursday evening (**12th September**). Amongst 100+ **Large Yellow Underwings** (they were bound to turn up eventually) and a similar number of **Setaceous Hebrew Characters**, I had well over 50 species including a nice range of sallows: **Sallow** (3), **Pink-barred Sallow** (1), **Dusky-lemon Sallow** (2), **Orange Sallow** (1) and **Barred Sallow** (1). I don't usually see such a nice selection of sallow species in one trap together so this was a welcome surprise. A few nights earlier there was an amazing movement of **Angle Shades** in which I caught over 20 in one trap, something else I have not ever really witnessed in my garden."

~ **Monday 9th September 2013** ~

Mary Elford passed on this exciting report from **Adrian State in Witney, Oxon**: "On **Thursday 22nd August** I was working late on my computer. I always keep the study window open to welcome any interesting moths that may be flying past but on this evening I got a real surprise. At approximately 1.45am something large and dark flew in through the window and for a few seconds I thought that a pipistrelle bat had lost its bearings, but as it settled next to the ceiling light I was amazed to see that it was a huge

moth and what was more it had a clearly defined skull shape on the thorax. It could only be a **Death's Head Hawk-moth** which I had never before seen in the living form. What really impressed me was its size; I often get Poplar Hawk-moths flying in and although they are large this was clearly quite a bit larger still. I typed "Deaths Head moth" into my computer's browser and on finding the Natural History Museum page on this moth I read that it squeaked when touched. Well, nothing ventured.... I gently pushed it with the tip of a wooden ruler and was immediately rewarded by a very loud and distinct squeak! Whilst I marvelled at this, the moth decided it had had quite enough of satisfying my curiosity and flew back out through the open window. At this point I was extremely cross with myself as my camera had been on my desktop beside me throughout the visit. Ah well, next time."

Steve & Xander Goddard sent this message: "Something of a slow-down in **Wolvercote, Oxon** in recent days, not surprisingly. However, one striking record to report for **5th September:** our first ever **Dog's Tooth.**"



Dog's Tooth
Photo © Steve Goddard

Tim Watts reports: "Colleen found this caterpillar stranded in an upturned bucket under an apple tree in our **Whitchurch, Bucks** garden on **31st August**. I think it is an **Eyed Hawk-moth**. Colleen thought it was called a One eyed Hawkmoth which is still making me giggle - wish it was called that!! Also a **Red Underwing** in the garden on **2nd September** flying then landing in daylight and two visits from a **Hummingbird Hawk-moth** this week."



Eyed Hawk caterpillar
Photo © Tim Watts

Marc Botham forgot to mention that on **29th August** in **Bagley Woods, Oxon** he had **Oak Lutestring** (9) and **Euleioptilus carphodactyla** (1). Also, despite catching the common **Eudemis profundana** since July he noticed it wasn't on the website yet. He had quite a few at **Bagley Woods** in July and a handful on **29th August** as well. Subsequently, in his garden at **Benson, Oxon** Marc has had **Lunar Underwing** (**4th September**), **Black Rustic** and **Brindled Green** (**6th September**) then **Brown-spot Pinion** and **Dusky-lemon Sallow** (both **7th September**).

Adam Hartley writes: "Things have quietened down noticeably over the last couple of weeks in my central **Oxford** garden (using a 40W actinic trap), with year ticks much

scarcer now. However over the last three days I did manage three new moths for the year: on **3rd September** a **Centre-barred Sallow** and a **Eudonia angustea** and on **5th September** a **Nephopterix angustella**."



Eudonia angustea
Photo © Adam Hartley

Dave Ferguson asked the following question: "My moth trap in **Beaconsfield, Bucks** has been visited by a plague of hornets. I had 5 two nights ago and 4 last night (4th September) by 10 pm when I aborted the session. Has anyone else had this problem?"

~ **Saturday 7th September 2013** ~

Dave Wilton reports: "Some of the autumn macros have begun to emerge locally, with **Black Rustic** first seen in my **Westcott, Bucks** garden on **1st September**, followed by **Sallow** on **3rd September** and **Pink-barred Sallow** on **4th September**. **Square-spot Rustic** seems to have taken on plague proportions here with 254 individuals counted in the trap on **5th September**. I've had well over 1,600 of them in the garden already this season and the moth looks set to provide the year's highest total for a single species. Elsewhere, new species for the year have included **Eucalybites auroguttella** in **Wendover Woods, Bucks** on **4th September** and **Nephopterix angustella** in **Finemere Wood, Bucks** on **5th September**."



Eucalybites auroguttella
Photo © Dave Wilton



Nephopterix angustella
Photo © Dave Wilton

With thanks to Peter Hall and his microscope I have another small batch of moths from sites in Bucks to add to the year list: **Aethes margarotana** (**Greatmoor 25th June**), **Caloptilia alchimiella** (**Bernwood 28th June**), **Coleophora alticolella**, **Coleophora luscinaepennella**, **Coleophora mayrella**, **Coleophora siccifolia** (all **Bernwood 28th June**), **Epinotia abbreviana** (**Westcott 29th June**) & **Swammerdamia caesiella** (**Bernwood 21st June**), while the Rothamsted trap at **Marsh Gibbon** has produced **Cnephasia pasiuana** (**2nd July**), **Coleophora adpersella** (**28th June**), **Coleophora alcyonipennella** (**30th June**), **Coleophora versurella** (**18th June**) & **Syncopacma cinctella** (**30th June**). **Aethes margarotana** has caused a bit of excitement, not only because it is normally a coastal species but also because the moth was previously thought to have become extinct on the UK mainland prior to the Second World War!"

~ Sunday 1st September 2013 ~

Dave Wilton sent this update: "There were plenty of moths in the garden trap at Westcott, Bucks during the last week of August, thanks mainly to **Square-spot Rustic** (200+ per session) and **Feathered Gothic** (30-50 per session) which both seem to be having a very good season locally. However, typically for this time of year there have been few new species, the only ones noted being **Ypsolopha horridella** (27th August) and **Large Wainscot** (28th August). A few hours in Bernwood Forest on 30th August with Peter Hall added **Epinotia brunnichana**, **Epinotia trigonella** & **Hypatima rhomboidella**."

Dave Ferguson added a new species to his garden list in Beaconsfield, Bucks on 27th August, a **White-point**.



White-point
Photo © Dave Ferguson

This report came from Steve & Xander Goddard: "No new species to the region to report in Wolvercote, Oxon over the last ten days or so, I think, but like others we're starting to notice an autumnal theme - several **Centre-barred Sallows** in the last few days - and a substantial second generation of **Poplar Hawk-moths** (five on 23rd August) in continuing quite large catches (345 individuals on 21st August, and over fifty species most days). We're also getting quite a few **Old Ladies**, with six in the trap on 26th August."

Tom Stevenson sent in the photograph below of a **Frosted Orange** found in the public toilets in Dorchester, Oxon on 27th August.



Frosted Orange
Photo © Tom Stevenson

Nigel Partridge has added the following new records from his garden at Loosley Row, Bucks during the last week of August: leaf-mines of **Stigmella microtheriella** and **Phyllonorycter coryli** both on hazel and an adult **Dark Spinach** in the trap on 25th August.

Dave Morris reports: "Peter Hall's skills have been called upon for a selection of moths

from my [Seer Green, Bucks](#) garden and a few of these have proved to be new for the UTB list. I was a bit lax on recording the exact dates, I'm afraid: **Bryotropha affinis** (late-July), **Coleophora argentula** (late-July), **Coleophora laricella** (late-July), **Coleophora serratella** (late-July), **Epeestia parasitella** (mid-June) and **Monopis crocicapitella** (mid-June)."

~ Saturday 24th August 2013 ~

Dave Wilton reports: "Prompted by Nigel Partridge's recent leaf-mine records, a quick look around my garden at [Westcott, Bucks on 18th August](#) produced active mines of **Stigmella aurella** (on bramble) and vacated mines of **Stigmella hybnerella** (on hawthorn), **Stigmella obliquella** (on willow), **Stigmella plagicolella** (on blackthorn), **Stigmella ulmivora** (on elm) & **Lyonetia clerkella** (on cherry), while on [23rd August](#) I found several larvae of **Bedellia somnulentella** mining leaves of bindweed. The garden trap is still bringing in reasonable numbers of moths although there have been few new species. The warm night of 23rd August was a bit of an exception with just short of 100 species caught (an excellent total for the time of year), including **Agonopterix purpurea** & **Pale Eggar** (both new for the year) and a battered but nevertheless very welcome **Tree-lichen Beauty** which was yet another addition to the garden list. **Square-spot Rustic** seems to be doing as well as ever, 117 of them entering the trap on the 23rd, while numbers of second-brood **Brimstone Moth**, **Flame Shoulder**, **Setaceous Hebrew Character** & **Straw Dot** are building nicely, but **Large Yellow Underwing** is still noticeable by its absence. Away from home, a visit to [Weston Turville reservoir on 21st August](#) added **Yponomeuta plumbella**, **Chilo phragmitella**, **Twin-spotted Wainscot** & **Webb's Wainscot** to the UTB year list."



Tree-lichen Beauty
Photo © Dave Wilton



Webb's Wainscot
Photo © Dave Wilton

Marc Botham had his first **Centre-barred Sallow** of the year in his [Benson, Oxon](#) garden on [22nd August](#). That same night, after many attempts both last year and this year, he finally had success in catching **Butterbur** in Millbrook Mead, a small nature reserve in [Preston Crowmarsh, Oxon](#). A single rather worn example came to an actinic light. Marc also mentions that despite not seeing any adult **Small Ranunculus** moths in his garden this year, there were more than 20 larvae on prickly lettuce at the end of July and into early August.

Keith Mitchell sent this message: "Nothing special to report apart from a new micro for the garden in [Stoke Goldington, Bucks](#) last night ([20th August](#)): **Dichrorampha acuminatana**."

Martin Wainwright wistfully reports his first Sallow of the year on [20th August](#) - a **Centre-barred Sallow** in his Robinson trap at [Thrupp, Oxon](#); an early sign of Autumn on the way. It shared the trap with two fresh-looking **Poplar Hawk-moths**, the second night running that a pair in good condition had arrived. Along with Mary Elford's report from [12th/13th August](#) of a similarly new-looking Poplar Hawk-moth at Bampton, this seems

convincing evidence of a good second generation.



Centre-barred Sallow
Photo © Martin Wainwright

~ Saturday 17th August 2013 ~

Nigel Partridge has added a few more species to the UTB list from his garden at Loosley Row, Bucks: on 2nd August **Phyllocnistis saligna** (thanks go to Peter Hall and John Langmaid for their help with the ID); on 10th August **Phyllonorycter nicellii**, a leaf-mine on Hazel; on 14th August **Phyllonorycter leucographella**, a leaf-mine on Hawthorn; on 16th August **Stigmella aurella**, a leaf-mine on Bramble.

Dave Wilton sent this message: "As is to be expected at this time of year, things have slowed down a bit now but I do have one or two more species from Bucks to add to the list from the past few days: on 14th August **Acleris rhombana** at Westcott and **Beech-green Carpet** & **Dotted Clay** in Wendover Woods; on 15th August **Mouse Moth** at Westcott and **Epinotia ramella** & **Devon Carpet** in Bernwood Forest; on 16th August **Feathered Gothic** at Westcott."



Beech-green Carpet
Photo © Dave Wilton

Dave goes on: "Going back in time, following microscopic examination, Peter Hall has very kindly confirmed the identities of the following difficult or faded micro species seen in Bucks earlier this year: **Caloptilia semifascia** (Steps Hill 23rd April), **Roeslerstammia erxebella** (Westcott 16th May), **Phyllonorycter blancardella**, **Parornix anglicella** & **Parornix betulae** (all Bernwood 18th May), **Elachista canapennella** (Westcott 20th May), **Stigmella ruficapitella** & **Epinotia tetraquetra** (both Ashridge 20th May), **Parornix finitimella** (Finemere Wood 21st May), **Coleophora otidipennella** (Pilch Fields 26th May), **Epiblema cirsiaria** (Salden railway cutting 26th May), **Cnephasia asseclana** (Westcott 31st May), **Dichrorampha aeratana** (Asham Meads 31st May), **Deltaornix torquillella** (Rushbeds 31st May), **Dichrorampha plumbagana** & **Dichrorampha plumbana** (Westcott railway cutting 1st June), **Agonopterix assimilella** (emerged at Westcott 2nd June, larva collected from broom at Old Wavendon Heath on 2nd May), **Bucculatrix demaryella** (Bernwood 5th June), **Nematopogon schwarziellus** (Steps Hill 11th June), **Coleophora caespitiella**, **Elachista humilis**, **Cedestis subfasciella** & **Strophedra weirana** (all Bernwood 14th

June), **Coleophora striatipennella** (Leaches Farm 17th June), **Coleophora discordella** (Westcott railway cutting 17th June), **Coleophora peribenanderi** (Westcott 18th June), **Elachista atricomella**, **Eulamprotes atrella**, **Scrobipalpa obsoletella** & **Cnephasia incertana** (all Ivinghoe 18th June), **Dichrorampha alpinana** & **Dichrorampha sequana** (both Bernwood M40 Compensation Area 19th June), **Coleophora deauratella** (Westcott 19th June), **Bucculatrix bechsteinella**, **Coleophora trifolii** & **Cydia nigricana** (all Latimer 19th June) and **Coleophora milvipennis**, **Biselachista cinereopunctella** & **Lampronia luzella** (all Bernwood 21st June). A few of these species are very good records for Bucks. *Agonopterix assimilella* is a first for VC24 while *Scrobipalpa obsoletella* and *Lampronia luzella* have only been recorded once previously, the latter from Hell Coppice as long ago as 1928."



Agonopterix assimilella
Photo © Dave Wilton



Lampronia luzella
Photo © Dave Wilton

Mary Elford sent this follow-up to Martin Wainwright's report about the Poplar Hawk-moth on 12th/13th August: "I had precisely the same thought when a beautifully fresh **Poplar Hawk-moth** was in my trap here in **Bampton, Oxon** on the very same morning. Fortuitously, friends called in that morning to see the contents of my trap and as a result I think they are going to buy one and start mothing."

Dave Maunder reports: "A few more moths found locally around **Aylesbury, Bucks** recently include: **Red Underwing** (16th August, two roosting together under the porch of Fairford Leys football club), **Old Lady** (15th August, dead on a path in Fairford Leys) and **Small Elephant Hawk-moth** larvae (14th August, five found at **Grangelands LNR** after dark by searching Yellow Bedstraw with a torch!)."



Red Underwings
Photo © Dave Maunder



Small Elephant Hawk-moth
larva
Photo © Dave Maunder

Tom Stevenson has now received a full list from Marc Botham of the moths trapped at **Ewelme Watercress Beds LNR, Oxon** on 19th July, when three Robinson and one Skinner MV traps and one Skinner actinic trap were deployed. An impressive total of 1,376 moths from 189 species were trapped and the following are still new to this year's UTB list: **Argyresthia brockeella**, **Elachista rufocinerea**, **Metzneria lappella**, **Metzneria metzneriella**, **Cochylis nana**, **Epagoge grotiana**, **Eucosma conterminana**, **Ostrinia nubilalis/European Corn-borer**, **Myelois circumvoluta/Thistle Ermine**, **Rivulet**, **Dark Dagger**, **Marbled Minor** & **Rufous Minor**.

Steve and Xander Goddard sent this report: "A few more from [Wolvercote, Oxon](#): we've continued with about 60 species and 200 or so individuals most nights for the last week, and some nice ones including **Chinese Character**, **Old Lady** and **Lime-speck Pug**. In terms of new species, we've had **Lozotaeniodes formosana** and **Lobesia littoralis** on [8th August](#) and **Acleris emargana** on [10th August](#)."



Lime-speck Pug
Photo © Steve Goddard



Lozotaeniodes formosana
Photo © Steve Goddard

~ **Monday 12th August 2013** ~

Martin Wainwright wonders whether this **Poplar Hawk** which roosted overnight in his trap at [Thrupp, Oxon, on 12/13 August](#), is a second generation specimen because of its excellent condition. Poplar Hawks have been a regular arrival since early June but recently most have been showing signs of wear and tear. **Martin and Steve Goddard** also joined the RSPB's Big Wild Sleepout in [Wytham Woods on 11 August](#) where three traps enticed a notably large number of **Black Arches**. Other moths examined by eager children and their families included **Heart and Dart**, **Bloodvein**, **July Highflyer**, **Yellow-tail**, **Mother of Pearl**, **Small Fan-footed Wave**, **Large Twin-spot Carpet** and **Lime-speck Pug**.



Poplar Hawkmoth
Photo © Martin Wainwright

Mick Jones tells us that the star item discovered during a work party at [Dancersend, Bucks on 11th August](#) was a **Satyr Pug** caterpillar found on a Field Scabious flower.



Satyr Pug larva
Photo © Mick Jones

Dave Ferguson ran a trap in his [Beaconsfield, Bucks](#) garden on [9th August](#) and

amongst the contents were **Epiblema uddmanniana** and **Pandemis corylana**. On [11th August](#) the same trap produced this rather faded **Orthopygia glaucinalis**.



Pandemis corylana
Photo © Dave Ferguson



Orthopygia glaucinalis
Photo © Dave Ferguson

[Dave Maunder's garden trap in Aylesbury, Bucks](#) caught a worn **Garden Tiger** back on [18th July](#), the first he'd seen in Aylesbury since 1986! Other sightings during the third week of July included **Blackneck**, **Olive**, **Large Twin-spot Carpet**, **Lilac Beauty**, **Pine Hawk-moth**, **Elephant Hawk-moth**, **Poplar Hawk-moth**, **Leopard Moth**, **Maiden's Blush**, **Peach Blossom**, **Dotted Rustic**, **Sycamore** and **Buff-tip**. More recently, Dave made the exciting discovery of a **Hoary Footman** at the Fairford Leys football fields in Aylesbury on [8th August](#) (confirmed by Peter Hall and extends the range of this species northwards in the county by quite a considerable distance). A **Lime Hawk-moth caterpillar** was found crawling up the trunk of a Lime tree on [6th August](#) while at [Grangelands, Bucks](#) on [11th August](#) a 3rd instar **Hummingbird Hawk-moth larva** was discovered on Bedstraw.



Hoary Footman
Photo © Dave Maunder



Hummingbird Hawk-moth
larva
Photo © Dave Maunder

[Dave Wilton](#) managed to get out on all three of this year's **National Moth Nights** as well as running traps in his garden: "On Thursday [8th August](#) I used two traps at [Weston Turville reservoir, Bucks](#) but despite a reasonable haul of 90 or so species there was nothing to show that I was trapping in reed-bed habitat apart from **Brown-veined Wainscot** (1), **Silky Wainscot** (1) & **Crescent** (3). On Friday [9th August](#) Chris Bottrell and I ran three lights for a very successful public event in [Brill, Bucks](#) which was attended by around 60 people. The species count wasn't great but sufficient numbers of colourful moths turned up to make the evening very worthwhile. The only additions to the UTB list for this year were **Opostega salaciella**, **Square-spot Rustic** and a probable **Small Rufous** which still needs to be checked. On Saturday [10th August](#) I ran two traps on [Ivinghoe Beacon, Bucks](#) and recorded about 100 species, including **Depressaria douglasella**, **Mompha miscella**, **Annulet** & **Garden Dart**. The theme of this year's NMN event was Tiger Moths but **Ruby Tiger** was as close as I got at all three sites! In the garden at [Westcott, Bucks](#) the night of [8th August](#) produced 100 species but nothing of particular note. On [9th August](#) a lower catch of 85 species again included

nothing much of note, but on [10th August](#) things improved with a good haul of about 540 moths of 110 species, including **Mecyna flavalis** (new to the garden), **Maple Pug** & **Red Underwing** as well as a bumper collection of 20 **Magpie Moths**, the most I've ever had in one night."

Ched George caught 63 species in his garden trap at [Radnage, Bucks](#) on [9th August](#) and amongst them was a **Square-spotted Clay**.

Steve & Xander Goddard sent this message: "After a couple of weeks away, a few things to report from [Wolvercote, Oxon](#): a huge catch (by our standards) of **Pleuroptya ruralis/Mother of Pearl** on [4th August](#), with at least 117 in the trap. In terms of newcomers, **Agriphila geniculea** and **Mullein Wave** on [4th August](#) (a photo of the latter from the 7th, as the one I took on the 4th wasn't very good) and **Conobathra repandana**, **Flounced Rustic** and **Rosy Rustic** on [6th August](#)."



Mullein Wave
Photo © Steve Goddard



Rosy Rustic
Photo © Steve Goddard

Dave Morris adds that his trapping session at [Amersham Museum](#) on [2nd August](#) also produced a **Flounced Rustic** which he'd forgotten about until he looked at the photos. On [7th August](#) a **Toadflax Brocade** was caught in his [Seer Green, Bucks](#) garden, while on [8th August](#) Dave ran a trap with [Tori Summerell](#) at the [Chiltern Woodland Burial Park](#) and the contents included a **Six-striped Rustic**.



Toadflax Brocade
Photo © Dave Morris



Six-striped Rustic
Photo © Dave Morris

Richard Wheeler spent an hour at [Sydling's Copse, Oxon](#) on [7th August](#) and saw plenty of **Silver Ys** there as well as a single **Nemophora metallica** typically sitting on [Field Scabious](#).



Nemophora metallica
Photo © Richard Wheeler

Ali Driver reports: "I set my Robinson trap again at home in [Sonning, Berks](#) on 6th August and added **Coxcomb Prominent** to my garden list and **Dusky Sallow**, **Flounced Rustic**, **Rosy Rustic** and **Cypress Pug** to my year list."



Dusky Sallow
Photo © Ali Driver



Rosy Rustic
Photo © Ali Driver

Adam Hartley reported the following: "Here are my latest NFY caught in my central Oxford garden using my 40w actinic trap. **Agriphila geniculea**, **Argyresthia bonnetella** on 2nd August; **Apple Leaf Miner (Lyonetia clerkella)** and **Currant Pug** 3rd August; on the 4th August **Bucculatrix nigricomella**; **Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing**, **Pale Prominent**, **Pandemis corylana (Chequered Fruit-tree Tortrix)** and **Bryotropha domestica** all on the 5th August and a **Spectacle** on the 6th August."

Tim & Tony Clark sent the following: "**Acleris forsskaleana** was a new one for the Banbury, Oxon garden on 1st August. A new location along the old ironstone railway at [Horley, Oxfordshire](#) on 3rd August gave **Shaded Broad-bar** (3), **Smoky Wainscot** (2), **Pale Prominent**, **Pale-shouldered Brocade**, **Scalloped Oak** and **Six-striped Rustic**. Our Banbury garden on 4th August gave **Phoenix** and **Shuttle-shaped Dart**, whilst **Vapourer** and **Old Lady (first adult)** preferred the comfort of the garage rather than the trap!"

~ Monday 5th August 2013 ~

A further report from Marc Botham was received on 4th August: "Another nice surprise for me today at [Buttler's Hangings, Bucks](#) during my butterfly transect: I took my pheremone lures with me again as I was convinced that despite failing several times earlier this year and over the previous two years to attract Six-belted Clearwing, it must be there. I also thought I'd check to see if Orange-tailed Clearwing was still out and about and in a different area on the site. It was a bit windy and I thought it was going to be a fruitless venture but when I found a sheltered area with a good stand of Lotus I finally managed to get a **Six-belted Clearwing** come along. Then, more surprisingly still, a different-looking clearwing arrived at the VES lure - it was a **Yellow-legged Clearwing**, the species the lure is aimed at, but nevertheless a great surprise. It was also nice to see three Pyrausta species in good numbers (**Pyrausta aurata**, **Pyrausta purpuralis** and **Pyrausta nigrata**) as well as more than ten **Dusky Sallows** on

knapweed flowers."

Dave Wilton reports: "There was a bit of migrant activity at the end of July and beginning of August but the only unusual item to visit my garden at **Westcott, Bucks** was a **Small Mottled Willow** on **1st August**. However, continuing this year's trend of increased local dispersal, two more unexpected visitors graced the trap with their presence on **3rd August** when **Antler Moth** and **Rosy Minor** turned up. Amongst the regulars, recent garden sightings have included **Athrips mouffetella** on **29th July**, **Limnaecia phragmitella** on **31st July** and **Copper Underwing** on **1st August**. Elsewhere, a trapping session with Peter Hall at **Finemere Wood, Bucks** on **31st July** added **Phyllonorycter harrisella**, **Ypsolopha parenthesesella**, **Ypsolopha sylvella**, **Epinotia nisella** & **Rhyacionia pinicolana** to the UTB list, while a visit to **Homefield Wood, Bucks** with Martin Albertini on **1st August** saw good numbers of **Mocha** and **Clouded Magpie** as well as sightings of **Acleris laterana**, **Monochroa cytisella**, **Evergestis pallidata**, **Dusky Thorn** & **Lesser-spotted Pinion**."



Small Mottled Willow
Photo © Dave Wilton



Lesser-spotted Pinion
Photo © Dave Wilton

Dave Morris ran a trap for a children's event at Amersham Museum, Bucks on 2nd August: The catch was fairly low and mainly consisted of the usual suspects, but did include an **Orange Swift**.

Nigel Partridge has added a few more species to his garden list at Loosley Row, Bucks: **Pandemis corylana** on 28th July, **Orange Swift** on 31st July, **Rosy Minor** on 2nd August and **Stigmella plagicolella** (a mine on Blackthorn) on 4th August.

Alistair Driver tells us that he was delighted to add **Jersey Tiger** to his parish records for **Sonning, Berks** on **1st August**. He also had his second ever garden record of **Scarce Silver-lines** and first **Lesser-spotted Pinion** of the year.



Jersey Tiger
Photo © Alistair Driver



Jersey Tiger & Ruby Tiger
Photo © Alistair Driver

Tim and Tony Clark sent the following report: "We had a **Ruby Tiger** in our **Banbury, Oxon** garden on **23rd July**, others in the trap included **V-Pug**, **Small Rivulet**, **Small Blood-vein**, **Agriphila tristella** and **Epiblema uddmanniana** (**Bramble Shoot Moth**). The poplar plantation at **Horley, Oxon** on **27th July** proved surprisingly unproductive

both in terms of overall numbers and species, but **Udea lutealis** was new for us. On **29th July** we spotted a **Magpie Moth (first adult)** in a **Claydon, Oxon** garden, before trapping another in our **Banbury** garden together with **Eurrhynx hortulata (Small Magpie)**, **Yellow Shell**, **Celypha striana**, **Trachycera advenella** and the distinctive yellow-brown **Common Rustic agg.** A big hatch of **Pleuroptya ruralis (Mother of Pearl)** constituted over half of the 60 or so moths in our trap at **Horley larch woods on 31st July**, together with our first **Dun-bar (3)**, **Large Twin-spot Carpet (2)**, **July Highflyer**, **Clay**, **Small Phoenix**, **Agapeta zoegana**, and **Hypsopygia costalis (Gold Triangle).**"



Ruby Tiger
Photo © Tim and Tony Clark



Common Rustic agg
Photo © Tim and Tony Clark

Marc Botham reports that on **1st August** he had a **Vestal** to his garden trap at **Benson, Oxon** along with the more usual migrants (**Plutella xylostella**, **Dark Sword-grass & Silver Y**).

~ Friday 2nd August 2013 ~

Tony Rayner added a new moth to his **Cholsey, Oxon** garden list on **31st July** with a visit from an **Oblique Striped**.



Oblique Striped
Photo © Tony Rayner

Martin Wainwright reports that on **31st July** his Robinson trap at **Thrupp, Oxon** attracted a **Canary-shouldered Thorn** while an **Early Thorn** slept on a tree branch directly overhead. Also in the catch was a micro with its hindwings curiously raised and Martin asks if anyone is familiar with this and the reasons for it?



Canary-shouldered Thorn



Batia unitella

Chris Bottrell had a surprise visitor to his **Merton, Oxon** garden on **27th July**: "Despite a torrential overnight downpour, a new visitor to the trap: a male **Four-spotted Footman**. Possibly taking shelter in it!"



Four-spotted Footman
Photo © Chris Bottrell

Steve & Xander Goddard have had some bumper catches in their **Wolvercote, Oxon** garden trap recently and amongst 67 species on **22nd July** were **Small Waved Umber** & **Least Yellow Underwing**.



Least Yellow Underwing
Photo © Steve Goddard

Rob Payne reports on the trapping session at RSPB Otmoor, Oxon on 26th July: "A great night was had by myself, Marc Botham, Dave Morris and Chris Bottrell. We had over 160 species spread over 5 traps and a screen, including a number of new ones for the UTB list: **Agonopterix angelicella, Ebulea crocealis, Endothenia quadrimaculana, Eucosma obumbratana, Grapholita funebrana/Plum Fruit Moth, Gypsonoma dealbana, Phtheochroa inopiana, Phycita roborella, Schoenobius gigantella, Common Rustic, Double Dart, Lunar-spotted Pinion, Oak Eggar, Southern Wainscot, Tawny Marbled Minor & Gold Spot.** Also of note were 64 **Garden Tigers** which is the second year in a row where we had an abundance of this species. There were also good numbers of **Ruby Tiger, Drinker, Rosy Footman** and **Four-dotted Footman** while **September Thorn** was also present."

Alan & Juliet Gudge have had some bumper catches in their garden trap at **Frieth, Bucks**: "Last night (**26th July**) the highlight was an **Ear Moth** - a first for our garden and not yet on the Upper Thames list for 2013. The attached picture was taken by Juliet".



Ear Moth
Photo © Juliet Gudge

Adam Hartley's central Oxford actinic trap has continued to add new species for the year:

23rd July **Pleuroptya ruralis/Mother of Pearl, Black Arches & Dingy Footman;**

24th July **Ypsolopha dentella, Early Thorn & Common Wainscot;**

27th July **Metalampra italica, Blastobasis adustella, Ruby Tiger & Dot Moth;**

29th July **Yponomeuta cagnagella/Spindle Ermine (first adult), Straw Dot & Southern Wainscot;**

30th July **Leopard Moth;**

31st July **Udea lutealis, Scalloped Oak, Engrailed & Silver Y;**

1st August **Flame Shoulder, Champion, Marbled Beauty & Marbled Green.**



Metalampra italica
Photo © Adam Hartley



Ruby Tiger
Photo © Adam Hartley

Marc Botham sent this update on 26th July: "Following one of my earlier e-mails I think I can confirm that **Ruddy Carpet** must be having a good year. I've just found one in the Rothamsted trap at **CEH Wallingford, Oxon**. This trap catches very few moths and is surrounded by buildings and lights. However, on the same night there was a **Tissue** and a **Gem** in the trap, the second Gem for the year, so perhaps it is a good passing point?"

Nigel Partridge sent the following report: "A few more from our garden in **Loosley Row, Bucks**: **Shaded Broad-bar & Agriphila tristella** on **23rd July**, **Sloe Pug** on **24th July** (thanks to Peter Hall for confirming the ID)."

Dave Morris has added the following moths to his **Seer Green, Bucks** garden list: **20th July Galleria mellonella/Wax Moth;** **21st July Least Carpet, Ruby Tiger (first adult);** **30th July Ypsolopha scabrella.**

~ Tuesday 30th July 2013 ~

Dave Wilton reports: "From a quick scan through my diary here is a selection of species seen in Bucks over the past ten days which have yet to make it on to this year's UTB list: at **Aston Clinton** on **15th July Paratalanta hyalinalis, Merrifieldia baliodactylus;** at **Steps Hill** on **16th July Scythropia crataegella, Metzneria aprilella,**

Parachronistis albiceps, Epiblema roborana, Trachycera suavella, Least Yellow Underwing; at [Granglands](#) on [17th July](#) (with [Martin Albertini](#) & [Peter Hall](#)) **Ypsolopha sequella, Coleophora lixella, Ancylis comptana, Epiblema foenella, Platyptilia pallidactyla, Juniper Pug, Slender Brindle;** at [Bernwood Forest](#) on [18th July](#) **Ypsolopha nemorella, Borkhausenia fuscescens, Pseudatemelia josephinae, Batrachedra pinicolella, Mere Wainscot;** at [Ivinghoe Beacon](#) on [22nd July](#) **Agonopterix kaekeritziana, Teleiodes sequax, Acleris variegana, Celypha rosaceana, Chalk Carpet, Antler Moth;** at [Bradenham](#) on [24th July](#) (with [Martin Albertini](#) & [Peter Hall](#)) **Elachista triatomea, Agonopterix liturosa, Sitochroa palealis, Stenoptilia pterodactyla, Tawny-speckled Pug, Clouded Magpie, Straw Underwing, Dusky Sallow;** at [Weston Turville](#) reservoir on [25th July](#) **Euzophera pinguis, Chevron, Crescent, Bulrush Wainscot, Brown-veined Wainscot.** Other personal highlights included seeing **Muslin Footman & Royal Mantle** at [Granglands](#) on [17th July](#) and **Oncocera semirubella** at [Ivinghoe](#) on [22nd July](#). Further records from the garden at [Westcott](#) have included **Endothenia nigricostana** ([15th July](#)), **Ypsolopha dentella** & **Agriphila tristella** (both [17th July](#)), **Batrachedra praeangusta** & **Calamotropha paludella** (both [22nd July](#)), **Phyllonorycter acerifoliella** ([23rd July](#)) and **Minor Shoulder-knot** ([26th July](#)).



Crescent
Photo © Dave Wilton



Oncocera semirubella
Photo © Dave Wilton

~ Thursday 25th July 2013 ~

Tom Stevenson asks: "Can anyone help with this caterpillar? I think it could be a **Parsnip Moth (Depressaria heraclei)** larva but would like confirmation as, if so, it would be another one for the [Ewelme Watercress Beds, Oxon](#). We put 5 overnight traps out on the site last weekend ([20th/21st June](#)) and found two **Striped Lychnis** amongst those trapped, though strictly speaking neither quite made it into the traps."



Unknown caterpillar (possible Parsnip?)
Photo © Tom Stevenson



Striped Lychnis
Photo © Tom Stevenson

David Roy reports a new species in his garden moth trap at [Crowmarsh Gifford, Oxon](#) on [22nd July](#), a **Waved Black**.



Waved Black
Photo © David Roy

Dave Morris sent in another report from **Seer Green, Bucks** where an adult male **Vapourer** and an **August Thorn** were caught on **23rd July** along with one of the **Copper Underwing** species.

Steve & Xander Goddard have sent in a few records from their garden in **Wolvercote, Oxon**: "We've continued with some large-scale catches, up to 195 individuals on 21st July, our biggest ever, and never many fewer than 60 species in the last week or so. In terms of new records, on **15th July** we had **Mompha propinquella**, **Pleuroptya ruralis/Mother of Pearl** and **Toadflax Pug**; on **19th July** **Catoptria falsella** and **Dingy Footman**; on **20th July** **Orthotelia sparganella**, **Recurvaria leucatella** and **Shaded broad-bar**; on **21st July** **Epinotia signatana**, **Helcystogramma rufescens**, **Large Emerald**, **Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing** and **Morophaga choragella**."



Recurvaria leucatella
Photo © Steve Goddard



Large Emerald
Photo © Steve Goddard

Mary Elford sent this report: "Like all of your other correspondents, moth numbers have increased dramatically here in **Bampton, Oxon** with the advent of the hot weather. This morning (**22nd July**) there were three **Marbled Greens** in my garden trap - arriving on precisely the same date as last year and the year before! Also, there were three **Marbled Beauties** on **19th July** - this species arrived on 26th July last year."

Ched George reports a good night's trapping in his **Radnage, Bucks** garden on **21st July** with 80 macro-moth species caught, including **Barred Rivulet**.

Marc Botham reports: "Another few interesting things here at **Benson, Oxon**: having caught **Ruddy Carpet** for the first time in the UK at Shotover, Oxon at the end of June (29th), I then saw a few records cropping up and started to think it must be having a fairly good year. Friday night (**19th July**) in my garden confirmed this, I think, as I caught one at my MV trap. Not only that, but it was joined by the closely related **Royal Mantle** which is not only a garden first for me, but also only a UK second, with the only other one I've seen coming last weekend at Wicken Fen - could that be having a good year too? My garden trap is very busy albeit mainly with common stuff, but I did turn up **Pempelia formosa** and **Haworth's Pug** seems to be having a good year too. **Svensson's Copper Underwing** may also be a first for the year? Another garden first for me came today (**21st July**) as I was on the phone with my mum and went over to see

which skipper it was flying round my garden. As I watched a ragwort flower hoping the skipper would settle, a **Red-belted Clearwing** settled there instead! What luck, especially after doing my butterfly transect on **Buttler's Hangings, Bucks** during which I observed 8 male **Orange-tailed Clearwings** come to a pheromone lure and I also found my first ever **Oncocera semirubella**. Quite a good weekend, making up for the fact that I seem totally inept at finding Hornet Moth despite locating several infected host trees. Others that may still be UTB firsts include **Assara terebrella**, **Sharp-angled Carpet** and **Waved Black** (2) at **Harcourt Arboretum, Oxon** last night (20th July), where incidentally I have never seen such good numbers of **Buff Footman** (by far the commonest footman of the night above **Common, Scarce, Dingy** and **Rosy**)."

This report was received from Tim and Tony Clark: "A busy few nights with our 22W actinic trap. New species in our small suburban **Banbury, Oxon** garden on **18th July** were **Vapourer**, **Dot Moth**, **Marbled Beauty**, **Short-cloaked Moth** and **Lozotaenia forsterana**. The larch woods at nearby **Horley, Oxon** on **19th July** gave us our best night yet with 98 moths of 25 species, including **Dingy Footman**, **Light Emerald**, **Swallow-tailed Moth**, **Drinker**, **Garden Tiger**, **Burnished Brass**, **Sandy Carpet** and **Pleuroptya ruralis/Mother of Pearl**. On **20th July** the poplar plantation at Horley gave **Yellow-tail**, **White Satin**, **Common Emerald**, **Coxcomb Prominent**, **Garden Tiger**, **Early Thorn** and **Anthophila fabriciana/Nettle-tap**. A few more micros are appearing in our trap now and on **21st July** our Banbury garden produced new species **Amblyptilia acanthadactyla**, **Dipleurina lacustrata**, **Agriphila straminella** and **Blastobasis adustella**."



Blastobasis adustella
Photo © Tim Clark

Darren Seaman sent this report: "I've had a couple of new moths for the year list, a **Fen Wainscot** and **Brown-tail** on **18th July** and two **Plain Pugs** on **19th July** along with a nice selection of Hawk-moths. They were caught in my **Milton Keynes** garden in a 25w actinic trap."



Fen Wainscot
Photo © Darren Seaman



Plain Pug
Photo © Darren Seaman

Nigel Partridge had the following new species in his garden trap at **Loosely Row, Bucks**: on **16th July** **Marasmarcha lunaedactyla**; on **17th July** **Pleuroptya ruralis/Mother of Pearl** & **Yponomeuta evonymella/Bird Cherry Ermine**; on **18th July** **Carcina quercana**; on **20th July** **Hedya salicella**, **Bordered Pug**, **Maple Prominent**,

Catoptria falsella & Marbled Beauty; on 22nd July **Cochylis dubitana** & **Eupoecilia angustana**.

Martin Wainwright had a **Leopard** in his trap at **Thrupp, Oxfordshire** on 17th July - the moth sort rather than the mammal. Well over 200 other specimens included a dozen each of **Buff-Tip** and **Buff Arches**, four **White Satins**, two **Elephant Hawk-moths** and a **Poplar Hawk-moth**. On 15th July visitors to the trap included a **Short-cloaked Moth** and a **Common Lutestring**. On 21st July Martin had a favourite in the trap, a **Marbled Beauty** which caught his eye in spite of the rival attractions of 43 **Mother of Pearls**. On the rainy night of 24th July a **Black Arches** came to the trap, a first for the year and a moth Martin has always wanted to see. Martin adds: "with a Puss Moth and Leopards calling earlier in the season, it makes up a nice 'op art' trio; here's hoping for some of the Kitten moths!".



Leopard
Photo © Martin Wainwright

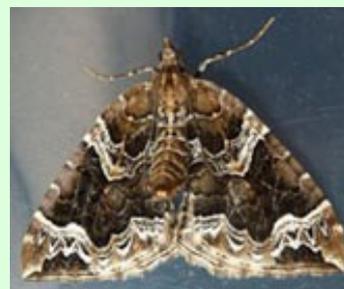


Marbled Beauty
Photo © Martin Wainwright

Adam Hartley sent this trap report from his central Oxford garden: on 16th July **Plutella xylostella/Diamond-back Moth**, **Trachycera advenella**, **Argyresthia retinella**; on 17th July **Marasmarcha lunaedactyla/Crescent Plume**, **Yponomeuta malinellus/Apple Ermine**, **Helcystogramma rufescens**; on 19th July **Pebble Hook-tip**, **Phlyctaenia coronata**, **Small Fan-footed Wave**, **Dwarf Cream Wave**, **Dingy Shears**, **Eudemis porphyrana**, **Teleiodes vulgella**, **Single-dotted Wave**, **Pterophorus pentadactyla/White Plume**; on 20th July **Phoenix** and **Acrolepiopsis assectella/Leek Moth**; on 21st July **Ethmia dodecea**, **Small Ranunculus**, **Triple-spotted Clay**, **Muslin Footman** and **Cnephasia longana**; on 22nd July **Carcina quercana** and **Recurvaria nanella**.



Ethmia dodecea
Photo © Adam Hartley



Phoenix
Photo © Adam Hartley

Dave Wilton reports: "I hope that when we look back on 2013 the excellent weather that we've had over the past month won't make us forget just how dire were the first six months of the year for our butterflies and moths! Here at **Westcott, Bucks** the hot weather seems to have caused quite a bit more dispersal of species than is usual and my all-time garden list has already grown by an unprecedented two butterflies (**White-letter Hairstreak** & **Dark Green Fritillary**) and ten macro-moths - and it is only the end of July. These and several new micro-moths take the garden total past 800 species of

lepidoptera. The new moth species have included **Twin-spot Carpet** & **Silky Wainscot** (both 17th July) and **Gem** & **Kent Black Arches** (both 23rd July). However, despite occasional trend-buckers such as **Red-necked Footman** and **Coronet** (both of which, but particularly the latter, seem to have undergone a population explosion in Bucks), many moths seem to me to be flying at below their normal numbers. This is particularly noticeable in the garden with that Summer "big-hitter" the **Heart and Dart**, whose totals are at present far below what I would normally expect to record."

Ben Carpenter visited **The Holies, Berks** on Friday 12th July and found 2 **Mecyna flavalis**.



Mecyna flavalis
Photo © Ben Carpenter

~ Friday 19th July 2013 ~

David Church reports a sighting of a **Swallow-tailed Moth** during the afternoon of 17th July inside his log-store at **North Newington, Oxon**.



Swallow-tailed Moth
Photo © David Church

Martin Kincaid reports that on 16th July the Milton Keynes Natural History Society held a moth evening in **College Wood near Nash, Bucks**. The event was held in memory of member George Higgs who passed away last December. George was a first rate lepidopterist and he would have been delighted by the fantastic night's mothing enjoyed, with close to 150 species recorded, including **Peach Blossom**, **Clouded Border**, **Light Emerald** and **Poplar Hawk-moth**. Several female Glow-worm beetles were also seen to be doing their thing as the night grew darker.

Adam Hartley writes: "I'm still making relatively good catches at present in my central **Oxford** garden using my 40w actinic trap. New for the year over the last few days have been **Yellow Shell**, **Blood-vein**, **Pammene regiana**, **Aleimma loeflingiana**, **Swallow-tailed Moth**, **Dun-bar**, **Common Rustic** egg and **Spilonota ocellana** on 13th July; **Barred Straw**, **Epiblema uddmanniana**, **Endotricha flammealis**, **Agriphila straminella**, **Clepsis consimilana**, **Batia lunaris** and **Paraswammerdamia nebulella** on 14th July; **Scarce Footman**, **Celypha striana** and **Eucosma cana** on 15th July; **Dark Sword-grass**, **Small Emerald**, **Yponomeuta evonymella** and **Batia unitella** on 16th July."



Dark Sword-grass
Photo © Adam Hartley

Dave Ferguson mentions a few more additions to the year list from the night of **15th July** at Beaconsfield, Bucks: **Lesser Cream Wave**, **September Thorn**, **Phlyctaenia coronata** and **Yponomeuta evonymella** (Bird-cherry Ermine).



Phlyctaenia coronata
Photo © Dave Ferguson



Yponomeuta evonymella
Photo © Dave Ferguson

Ben Sheldon tells us that, in common with everyone, he has been enjoying a wonderful period of mothing since early July, with many new species to his **East Oxford** garden. Highlights have been: **Red-necked Footman** (**6th July**), **Reddish Light Arches** (**8th & 13th July**), **Garden Tiger** (first adult, **9th July**), **Pebble Prominent** (**12th July**) and **Eyed Hawk-moth** (**14th July**). Potentially of more significance is a single of what appears to be **Metalampra italica** on **15th July**, which seems to be new for the UTB region (the first British record having been in 2003).



Metalampra italica
Photo © Ben Sheldon



Metalampra italica
Photo © Ben Sheldon

Marc Botham reports: "I'm afraid I don't have time to update you about all my garden records from **Benson, Oxon** as things have got really busy with both work and moths. However, I thought it would be of wider interest to mention a **Striped Lychnis** to MV light (though sat on the outside of the trap as seen in the attached photo) on **13th July** along with no less than three **Festoons**, though I also had a single Festoon a couple of weeks back and will need to dig out the date for you."



Striped Lychnis
Photo © Marc Botham

Ali Driver had a bumper trapping session at last at Ali's Pond in [Sonning, Berks](#) on **14th July** with a parish record 54 macro-moth species caught. New for the site were **Scarlet Tiger** and **Ghost Moth** and new records for the year included **Buff Footman**, **Dwarf Cream Wave** and **Dun-bar**.

Martin Wainwright had **White Satin** moths in his trap at [Thrupp, Oxon](#) two nights running, **14th and 15th July**, one specimen on each occasion. On the second, a **Yellow-tail** also arrived and also chose to perch on the canopy where both slept soundly in bright morning sunshine. Buff-tips are very common in the trap at the moment. On **15th July** a lovely **Nymphula stagnata (Beautiful China Mark)** was caught, along with the form of **Acleris forsskaleana** which has a smudgy heart-shape on its prettily-dotted wings - appropriately as 16th July is the birthday of Penny, Martin's wife. Later on the 15th she spotted an **Ephestia kuehniella** or Mediterranean Flour Moth on the kitchen windowsill which may say something mildly alarming about the Wainwright's cereal storage!



White Satin
Photo © Martin Wainwright



Nymphula stagnata
Photo © Martin Wainwright



Acleris forsskaleana
Photo © Martin Wainwright

This report came from Steve & Xander Goddard: "By our standards, some very substantial catches from [Wolvercote, Oxon](#). For example, 182 individuals of 82 species on the 13th July and 194 of 65 species on the 14th. Some spectacular individuals too, including our first **Elephant Hawk-moth** and **Eyed Hawk-moth** and a number of firsts for the garden: **11th July Round-winged Muslin**, **Short-cloaked Moth**, **Udea prunalis** & **Yponomeuta evonymella**; **12th July Aleimma loeflingiana**, **Batia unitella**, **Lyonetia clerkella**, **Rustic & Smoky Wainscot**; **13th July Acleris forsskaleana**, **Archips xylosteana**, **Batia lunaris**, **Bordered Beauty**, **Carcina quercana**, **Double Lobed**, **Dwarf Cream Wave**, **Leopard Moth**, **Marasmarcha lunaedactyla** & **Pammene aurita**; **14th July Argyresthia goedartella**, **Brachmia blandella**, **Brown Scallop**, **Mompha ochraceella**, **Small Blood-vein** & **Spilonota ocellana**.



Eyed Hawk-moth
Photo © Steve Goddard



Carcina quercana
Photo © Steve Goddard



Double Lobed
Photo © Steve Goddard

~ Monday 15th July 2013 ~

Dave Wilton reports: Recent highlights have included **Rosy Marbled** caught during a Bucks Invertebrate Group meeting at the Field Studies Council's Mop End Field Centre near **Amersham, Bucks** on the night of **13th July**, although the evening will probably be best remembered for the number of **Red-necked Footman** sightings (the moth appeared in virtually every trap and 13 were caught there in all). That same night produced a male **Dotted Fan-foot** as a first-timer in my garden trap at **Westcott, Bucks**. A female of the species appeared the following night so a local population may have become established somewhere nearby. Other garden macro-moth sightings over the previous week included **Scarce Silver-lines** (6th July), **Small Scallop** (8th July), **Lackey (first adult)** & **Yellow-tail** (both 9th July), **Brown-line Bright-eye** (12th July) and **Brown Scallop, Wormwood Pug, Scalloped Oak, White Satin, Olive, Dun-bar & Cloaked Minor** (all 13th July). Sightings elsewhere have included **Large Twin-spot Carpet** & **True Lover's Knot** at **Ivinghoe, Bucks** on 7th July, **Small Black Arches** in **Bernwood Forest, Bucks** on 9th July and **Satin Beauty, Purple Clay** & **Grey Arches** at **Ashridge, Bucks** on 12th July."



Rosy Marbled
Photo © Dave Wilton



Dotted Fan-foot
Photo © Dave Wilton

Dave Ferguson's trap results on the night of **12th July** in **Beaconsfield, Bucks** included a **July Highflyer**.

Adam Hartley writes: "Quite a few year ticks for my central **Oxford** garden over the last few nights caught with my 40w actinic trap. On **7th July** **Buff-tip, Coronet, Pandemis cerasana/Barred Fruit-tree Tortrix**, a probable **Acleris notana** and **Blackneck**; on **8th July** **Eudonia pallida**; on **9th July** **Acleris forsskaeana, Ditula angustiorana/Red-barred Tortrix, Archips podana/Large Fruit-tree Tortrix** and **Double Square-spot**; on **10th July** **Udea prunalis, Smoky Wainscot** and **Blastodacna hellerella**; on **11th July** **Dark Arches**; finally on **12th July** **Ancylis achatana**." Adam adds that he had **Rustic** in his garden trap on **10th July**.



Buff-tip
Photo © Adam Hartley



Dark Arches
Photo © Adam Hartley



Ancyliis achatana
Photo © Adam Hartley

Mark Griffiths sent this report on 11th July: "We have a **Scarlet Tiger** flying around our [Garsington, Oxon](#) garden. I had 30-40 caterpillars in various parts of the garden last year - hopefully more will emerge!"

Dave Morris sent the following: "With the recent good weather and a lot of trapping sessions, I have a few moths to add to the UTB year list from in and around [Seer Green, Bucks](#): **5th July** at Chiltern Woodland Burial Park (with Rob Payne & Tori Summerell) **Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing (first adult), Great Oak Beauty, Archips xylosteana, Aleimma loeflingiana & Udea prunalis**; **6th July** (Seer Green garden) **Common Footman**; **8th July** (garden) **Buff Footman, Small Blood-vein**; **9th July** (garden) **Dwarf Cream Wave & Short-cloaked Moth**; **10th July** (garden) **Lesser Yellow Underwing (first adult)**; **11th July** (garden) **Small Emerald** and at the Chiltern Woodland Burial Park a **Beautiful Carpet**."



Great Oak Beauty
Photo © Dave Morris

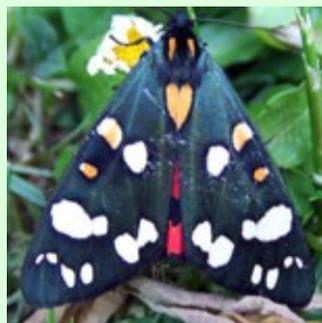


Small Emerald
Photo © Dave Morris



Beautiful Carpet
Photo © Dave Morris

Trevor Davies recorded a **Scarlet Tiger** in his garden at [Aldworth, Berkshire](#) on 10th April.



Scarlet Tiger
Photo © Trevor Davies

Nigel Partridge reports a few more new moths for the year from his garden at [Loosely Row, Bucks](#): on **9th July** **Clepsis consimilana** (at dusk) and **Udea prunalis** (attracted to the house lights); on **10th July** **Dichrorampha petiverella** (caught late-afternoon on a hedge above some yarrow).

Adam Bassett sent this report: "I was at home on Tuesday **9th July** as my little boy was off school. As it was a hot day, I decided to try some pheromone lures for clearwings. I had **Red-belted Clearwing** (2) to a CUL lure just after midday and **Currant Clearwing** (4) to a TIP lure at around 4pm. My VES lure failed to attract anything, but I think this may have been too old – better luck next year!"



Red-belted Clearwing
Photo © Adam Bassett



Currant Clearwing
Photo © Adam Bassett

Steve & Xander Goddard report: "More of the same in [Wolvercote, Oxon](#) with the recent weather: most notably, by our garden's standards, with 179 individuals of 63 species on 7th July. We had **Hypsopygia costalis** on **6th July**, **Common Footman**, **Dingy Shears**, **Ancylis achatana** & **Endotricha flammealis** on **7th July**, **Blue-bordered Carpet** on **8th July** and **Aethes rubigana**, **Agriphila straminella** & **Clepsis consimilana** on **9th July**."



Hypsopygia costalis
Photo © Steve Goddard



Dingy Shears
Photo © Steve Goddard

~ Tuesday 9th July 2013 ~

Dave Wilton reports: "All this good weather means that I'm way behind with the admin so a comprehensive update will have to wait for another day, but personal highlights over the past week have included sightings of **Sophronia semicostella** & **Mocha** during the UTB event at [Holtspur Bottom, Bucks](#) on **5th July**, adding **Spatalistic bifasciana** & **Lozotaenia forsterana** to my all-time garden list at [Westcott, Bucks](#) on **6th July**, finding **Ruddy Carpet** & **Marbled Coronet** at [Ivinghoe, Bucks](#) on **7th July** and finally catching a **Spinach** at [Weston Turville reservoir](#) on **8th July**, the first I've seen anywhere since 2008."



Sophronia semicostella
Photo © Dave Wilton



Ruddy Carpet
Photo © Dave Wilton



Spinach
Photo © Dave Wilton

Dave Maunder sent this message: "I found my first **Hornet Moth** on Black Poplars at Broughton, **Aylesbury, Bucks** yesterday (**6th July**), plus another hatched pupa. I finally got a **Privet Hawk-moth** (female) in my Aylesbury garden trap last night, also **Eyed Hawk-moth** (2), **Buff-tip** (1), **Coxcomb Prominent** (1), **Coronet** (1), **Poplar Grey** (1), **Buff Ermine** (1), **Peppered Moth** (3), **Willow Beauty** (4), **Phoenix** (1), **Blue-bordered Carpet** (1, first adult record), **Silver-ground Carpet** (1), **Light Emerald** (1), **Double Square-spot** (1), **Plain Golden Y** (1), **Small Ranunculus** (1), **Burnished Brass** (1) & **Barred Yellow** (1). I have also ended up with four female and two male **Lappet** moths hatching over the last few days - I've tried to get them to pair-up in a netted cage but so far without success!"



Hornet Moth
Photo © Dave Maunder



Privet & Eyed Hawks
Photo © Dave Maunder



Lappets
Photo © Dave Maunder

Chris Pickford sent this photo of one of his **Puss Moth** larvae (see update for 20th June) which, at two centimetres in length, is probably now about half-grown.



Puss Moth larva
Photo © Chris Pickford

Derek Brown trapped his first garden record of **Four-dotted Footman** at **Beenham, Berks** on 6th July.



Four-dotted Footman
Photo © Derek Brown

Steve & Xander Goddard sent this report: "With the warmer nights, some big catches in [Wolvercote, Oxon](#). From the last couple of trapping sessions: 124 individuals of 53 species on [4th July](#) and 145 of 47 species on [5th July](#). A fair range of species, including on the 4th **Gothic**, **Phoenix**, **Archips podana**, **Cydia pomonella**, **Ditula angustiorana**, **Orthopygia glaucinalis** & **Phycitodes binaevella** and on the 5th **Catoptria pinella** & **Eucosma campoliliana**. A **Swallow-tailed Moth** was added on the 6th."



Gothic
Photo © Steve Goddard



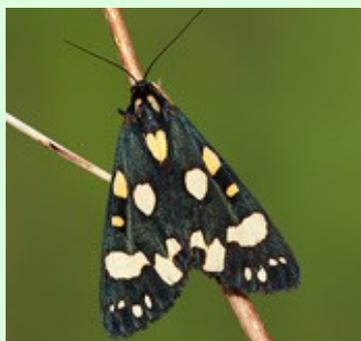
Phoenix
Photo © Steve Goddard



Catoptria pinella
Photo © Steve Goddard

Nigel Partridge had the following new moths from a trapping session in his [Loosely Row, Bucks](#) garden on [5th July](#): **Freyer's Pug**, **Crambus pascuella** & **Archips podana**.

Martin Green reports: "There were 40+ **Scarlet Tiger** moths in Barton Field, near [Abingdon weir in Oxfordshire](#) yesterday afternoon ([5th July](#)). The moths were mainly in the area of Barton Field nearest to the weir, but there were also a few flying around near the weir itself."



Scarlet Tiger
Photo © Martin Green

Martin Wainwright in [Thrupp, Oxon](#), recorded a male **Lilac Beauty** and **Muslin Footman** in the light trap on [5th July](#), a very warm night which also brought two **Privet Hawk-moths**, two **Elephant Hawk-moths**, six **Peppered Moths** (none melanic), five

Cinnabars, a **Swallow-tailed Moth** and the first **Peach Blossom** of the year, among some 150 individual moths.



Lilac Beauty
Photo © Martin Wainwright



Muslin Footman
Photo © Martin Wainwright

Adam Hartley writes: "A good catch in my 40w actinic trap in my central **Oxford** garden last night (5th July) with five new for year for my garden list: **Burnished Brass**, **Light Arches**, **Rhopobota naevana/Holly Tortrix**, **Pandemis heparana/Dark Fruit-tree Tortrix** and **Dipleurina lacustrata**."



Burnished Brass
Photo © Adam Hartley



Light Arches
Photo © Adam Hartley

New sightings for Tim & Tony Clark have been **Lychnis** at **Horley, Oxon** on 2nd July and **Barred Yellow** & **Heart and Club** in a **Banbury, Oxon** garden on 4th July.

Chris Bottrell sent this report: "From a session on the night of the 3rd July another new visitor to my **Merton, Oxon** back garden actinic....and keen to get on its way because immediately wing-trembling made it difficult to photograph: a **Dotted Rustic**."



Dotted Rustic
Photo © Chris Bottrell

~ **Saturday 6th July 2013** ~

Dave Wilton has added the following new species over the past few days: on 1st July

Gypsonoma oppressana near Grendon Underwood, Bucks, on 3rd July **Grapholita compositella** near Steeple Claydon, Bucks & **Clay** in his garden at Westcott, Bucks and on 4th July **Cydia fagiglandana** in Wendover Woods, Bucks and **Acleris holmiana**, **Cydia pomonella** both at Westcott.

Dave Ferguson reports: "A moth trapping session in the garden last night (3rd July in Beaconsfield, Bucks) produced three new species for the garden list: **Small Elephant Hawk-moth**, **Light Arches** and **Dipleurina lacustrata**."



Small Elephant Hawk-moth
Photo © Dave Ferguson

Andy Hoskins sent this interesting report: "I visited **Finemere Wood, Bucks** on my way home this evening 3rd July, 5.30-7.00pm, a bit dull and cloudy though warm (18.5c). I saw a **Hornet Moth** and three **Narrow Bordered 5-Spot Burnets** (2 mating and I suspect the female had only just emerged judging by the empty pupal case on the left).



Hornet Moth
Photo © Andy Hoskins



Narrow-bordered Five-spot
Burnet moths
Photo © Andy Hoskins

Jim Asher sent this report on 2nd July: "Moths about in **Marcham, Oxon!** I was entertained yesterday evening by two **Scarlet Tiger** moths flying continuously around our front door and windows for up to about two hours. I have attached photos taken using flash while they were in flight. It's not the first time I have seen Scarlet Tigers around our house, but their dancing flight was unusually persistent. This evening I found a **Mullein** moth larva cheerfully munching on one of the Buddleias (see photo) in our garden. Perhaps this is the way to control escaped Buddleias where they are a nuisance!"



Scarlet Tiger
Photo © Jim Asher

Mullein larva
Photo © Jim Asher

Mark Calway tells us that he had a **Golden Plusia** to his garden trap in **Earley, Berks** on 30th June.



Golden Plusia
Photo © Mark Calway

Chris Bottrell sent this message: "Given the reduced numbers of moths I have been catching so far this year in my **Merton, Oxon** back garden trap, it was nice to have three new species for the garden on the night of Saturday **29th June**. The first two macros, a singleton each of **Barred Yellow** and **Green Arches**, and then the relatively rare micro **Phtheochroa sodaliana** (confirmed by Martin Corley). Martin indicated that Saturday was one of those warm nights when moths wander, dispersing in search of new sites."



Barred Yellow
Photo © Chris Bottrell



Phtheochroa sodaliana
Photo © Chris Bottrell

Steve & Xander Goddard report: "The last few days of June were pretty good for us in **Wolvercote, Oxon**. We had 128 moths of 46 species on the 29th and 134 of 51 species on the 30th. Among those we especially liked were **Ghost Moth** and **Maiden's Blush** on **29th June** and **Green Silver-lines** on **30th June**. I think we've had three new for the region this year over the last few days: **Lozotaenia forsterana** on the **28th**, **Argyresthia curvella** on the **29th** and **Pammene regiana** on the **30th**."



Ghost Moth
Photo © Steve Goddard



Maiden's Blush
Photo © Steve Goddard



Green Silver-lines
Photo © Steve Goddard

~ Tuesday 2nd July 2013 ~

Ched George says he was surprised to find a **Scarlet Tiger** at rest on their recycling bin yesterday morning, **1st July** - a first for their garden in **Radnage Bucks**. Ched also says that last Saturday night, **29th June**, his MV attracted 64 species of macro totalling 250 moths. The pick of the night were 2 **Privet Hawks** and a **Lobster moth**.

Stuart Hodges discovered a new **Chimney Sweeper** colony on the roadside verge at the cross-roads west of **Steeple Claydon, Bucks** on **1st July**. Having noticed three there in the morning, he went back later in the day for a closer look with his wife Linda and they found six of the moths active.



Chimney Sweeper
Photo © Stuart Hodges



Chimney Sweeper
Photo © Stuart Hodges

Mark Calway sent this report: "Hornet Moths have been late this year and I only found exuvia in small numbers in June in Berkshire. However, as Sunday 30th June was a scorcher in **Reading, Berks**, I decided to look again early on the morning of **1st July**. As I approached the first likely tree, slowly scanning the ground close to the tree trunk, I felt something tickle my ankle and without looking I reached down to brush the whatever-it-was off. I felt something like a bee and knocked it off. Upon inspection I saw it was a female **Hornet Moth** which had clearly only recently emerged as it was yet to expand its wings. I picked up a nearby twig to provide it with a suitable place to do so and encouraged it to climb on to it. I then stuck the twig into the grass where I was able to watch (and photograph and film) as it immediately commenced inflating its wings. As I watched it, I was also keeping an eye on the immediate general area and quickly saw another female appear. This one used a leaf on the ground as its support for expanding its wings. While these two were still busy, I saw a third female appear. This one climbed a nearby dock plant and began to inflate its wings. There were now three females within six feet of each other all freshly emerged and I hadn't even inspected the base of the tree yet! I found a fourth Hornet Moth on a bracket fungus growing at the base of the tree - this one may have been a male, but I am not sure. I have also seen the Hornet Moth at another location in Berkshire (near Winnersh) today." Later the same day Mark was also lucky to get his first ever garden record of **Six-belted Clearwing**.



Hornet Moth still expanding
its wings
Photo © Mark Calway



Six-belted Clearwing
Photo © Mark Calway

Adam Hartley writes: "Another good night in my central [Oxford](#) garden on [30th June](#) with my 40W actinic trap, with five species that were new for year for the garden, namely: **Buff Arches**, **Mottled Beauty**, **Riband Wave**, **Bordered Sallow** and **The Flame**."



Riband Wave
Photo © Adam Hartley



Bordered Sallow
Photo © Adam Hartley

Chris Pickford reports that it was a very good night for moths on [29th June](#) at his home on the [North Berkshire Downs in South Oxon](#). Significant moths included **Small Elephant Hawk-moth** (2), **Elephant Hawk-moth** (1), **Peppered Moth** (2), **Eurrhpara hortulata/Small Magpie** (2), **Dagger sp** (4), **Sycamore** (2), **Lobster Moth** (2 very fresh individuals), **Pale Tussock** (2), **Marbled Coronet** (1, the first he'd seen), plus about 20 other species.



Small Elephant Hawk-moth
Photo © Chris Pickford



Lobster Moth
Photo © Chris Pickford



Marbled Coronet
Photo © Chris Pickford

Peter Hall and Dave Wilton ran five traps on [Steps Hill, Bucks](#) on [29th June](#). Dave comments: "Even though it was relatively warm and quite still (unusual in the hills!), it wasn't a brilliant occasion to be on the chalk and, for numbers of species, my single garden trap that night produced a greater count. However, we did see some new micros for the year, including **Teleiodes vulgella**, **Blastodacna hellerella**, **Phtheochroa sodaliana**, **Agapeta zoegana**, **Bactra furfurana**, **Pempeliella dilutella**, **Merrifieldia leucodactyla** & **Pterophorus pentadactyla**. The macros included the first **Drinker** adult of the year, while a **Chimney Sweeper** was an unusual night-time catch. The only moths present in big numbers were **Hypochalcia ahenella** (100+), **Small Elephant Hawk-moth** (about 40) & **Reddish Light Arches** (about 50)."