



**WARWICKSHIRE BRANCH
MOTH EQUIPMENT**

2013 - MONTHS OF NOTHING MISERY FINALLY END



Alan Prior & Val Weston

**Photographs by Les Finch
Cover Photograph by Alan Prior**



2466 Blackneck



2281 Alder Moth



2323 Reddish Light Arches



1784 Pretty Chalk Carpet



1904 Scorched Wing



2003 Pebble Prominent



1752 Purple Bar

Introduction

The year continued in much the same way as the previous one had finished. Moth recording was difficult at best, due to the jet stream being a long way south of its more usual position. Thus it felt like we had the weather countries at more northerly latitudes would normally receive. Having now tasted that sort of weather - we're glad we don't live there! Calling off moth nights became far more common than we'd have liked, but it made sense to do so for all our sakes. This frustrating state of affairs continued for over half the year until, on the 4th of July the jet stream finally shifted and we were just south of it once more. Months of mothing misery finally came to an end! It was a bit of a "Eureka" moment as moths started flooding into the traps. They seemed to be as pleased about the change as we were. Not knowing how long this situation would last recording became hectic, with many of the previously cancelled moth nights being rearranged at short notice. Amazingly, the weather held up pretty well all the way into December although, we had other commitments at that time and couldn't take advantage of it. Actually having a summer for the first time in seven years was a real highlight! The first half of the year was awful and second saw a complete reversal in fortunes with many unexpected highlights – read on...

January

The year got underway rather unexpectedly when the weather didn't prove bad enough to call off the scheduled trip to Chaddesley Wood. We were delighted to be joined by other mothing 'die-hards' Martin Kennard, John Finlay and Peter Beasley. In the end six traps were set up and we all waited expectantly for the first moths of the year to arrive. With a starting temperature over 9°C we were all hopeful, but the forecast cloudy night didn't materialise. This would have come as no surprise to any of us, only the forecasters who are, at best, a waste of airtime. With mainly clear skies the mothing was slow, but great excitement was aroused when two moths raced each other to a trap while we were at the legendary "tea shop". John managed to find us some interesting beetles to marvel at while we waited for more moths. However, with the temperature dipping below 4°C we decided to call it a night. Collectively we'd managed to record 54 moths of three species with Martin adding an additional larval record of a **Drinker**. Most numerous was **Spring Usher** (41) and came as no great surprise, with eight **Pale Brindled Beauty** and five **Torticoles alternella** rounding out the nights catch. Little did any of us know at that point that it would be a long time before we would be out recording again!

February

Well what can we say about February? Not much really apart from brrrrrr! It was damn cold and all that snow certainly didn't improve our chances of getting out mothing. A word that kept cropping up while noting the weather in the garden seemed to sum it up quite succinctly - GRIM!

March

The scheduled date for recording at Chaddesley Wood was called off yet again, but we did manage to go a few days later. We made such a late decision to go that we were unable to inform anyone else that we'd be there. We stopped at the chippy in Bromsgrove on our way and ate our dinner in the wood while deciding where to set the traps. After all the recent inactivity setting up three traps reminded us of muscles we'd forgotten about as they started to ache! Similar to our January visit, the forecast cloudy night turned out to be cloudless throughout. We wondered if they think 'we can forecast anything for night-time because it'll be dark and everyone will be asleep so nobody will notice when we get it wrong'. Just as well we pay little attention to anything they ever come up with, otherwise we'd probably never leave the house! Anyway, after four hours or so we decided that our job was done and we packed up. Those little used muscles started to ache again, but we felt good that we'd actually done something positive. We'd managed to record twelve species, which was a satisfactory return for our efforts. We also felt pleased that we'd done the January visit, as of the three species found then only ***Tortricodes alternella*** was still around. Amongst the other species we recorded were **March Moth**, **Small Brindled Beauty** and **Dotted Border**.

The rest of the month was either perishingly cold or it was chucking it down with rain and windy. The average overnight temperature for the month was just over 1 °C and March 2013 can generally be described as miserable.

April

It wasn't until the middle of the month that we managed to get out again. This time it was our first visit of the year to Middleton Hall. We will normally record here despite the weather as, thanks to the caretakers John and Andrea, we always have a lovely warm and dry room to shelter in from whatever is happening outside. Others also know this and so we had a good turn out on this 'marginal' night. Joining us were Roger Ward, Chris Johnson, Keith Warmington, Martin and John. A most pleasant surprise was that Hilary and Geoff Harvey also made it, as we don't see them nearly enough these days (or should that be nights!). John managed to provide most of the hilarity tonight as Alan spotted him attempting to take photos of bats in flight. Alan was most surprised that he didn't manage to get one – NOT! This activity was to become a long running joke throughout the year, as whenever we saw a bat someone would ask John if he was going to have another try! Even when he wasn't around the question would still be asked! "who's having a go tonight?!" Once we'd all stopped laughing, nine traps were set up and we all managed a couple of rounds in between all the catching up that needed to be done. It turned out to be a late finish due to all the talking, but despite the weather being so cold we managed to record over 100 moths for the first time this year. A very enjoyable time was had by all and amongst the 15 species recorded were ***Mompha epilobiella***, **Yellow Horned**, **Shoulder Stripe** and **Grey Shoulder-knot**.

The regular Chaddesley Wood night had been postponed earlier in the month and so a hastily arranged midweek visit was made. This time an e-mail had been sent out in time and we were joined by Peter and Roger. We decided to make it an easy night and so set up just inside Jubilee Gate. Once the lights were on there was a steady stream of visitors to the traps both moth and human. Mervyn Needham, the Wood Warden, made Val smile as he'd brought her a large bunch of daffodils from his garden. Other visitors included John (purposely after the Pipistrelle's had departed for further afield!) and Scott Hackett. Roger was aiming to be on his way home by a given time and so our pack up time was adjusted with the volume of moths that were arriving. The strategy worked perfectly and we were all happy with the sixteen species and almost 500 moths that were recorded by the time everything was loaded into the cars. Unsurprisingly, almost $\frac{2}{3}$ of the total were **Small Quaker**. Amongst the other species were **Water Carpet**, **Oak Beauty**, **Engrailed** and **Lead-coloured Drab**. It was a good return despite yet another clear and cold night.

Our final trip of the month was to Windmill Hill in Nuneaton. A site we visit annually for the 'moth 'n' nosh' night. Usually this is in July, August or occasionally early September, so that leaves plenty of gaps in the species list for this site, as it has only been done irregularly over the years. We managed a decent turn out of recorders as Martin, John, Chris and a first appearance of the year by Anna Ryder resulted in a total of seven traps being set up. Val was delighted that she had a night off from "tea shop" duty, as Chris had offered to provide the catering this time. Others in attendance were 'moth 'n' nosh' regulars James and his daughter Marie, together with site Warden Lloyd Lees. The night got off to an interesting start as Martin returned from setting up his traps accompanied by a seemingly slightly inebriated local dog walker named Karen. She was a real chatterbox and I'm sure Alan doesn't know how he got left to listen to her on his own as everybody else apparently melted into the landscape! After his ears were finally given a break and the local 'character' had set off on her probably circuitous route home, Alan found everyone else suddenly appearing with much laughter after playing 'sardines' in the Centre's kitchen! At times like this you really find out who your friends are don't you!!! The rest of the evening was somewhat less eventful as a couple of rounds of the traps were made before calling it a night. It proved a successful venture. Of the 23 species recorded eight were new for the site. Amongst those were **Diurnea fagella**, **Acleris ferrugana**, **Acleris literana**, **Brindled Beauty**, **Red Chestnut** and **Early Grey**.

May

The first outing of the month came as a big surprise to Val as she was just about to open a bottle of wine after a bad day at work. Not wanting to miss anything she wanted to go, but the wine had to go too! Alan told her she wouldn't have to do any 'work' if she did and so all was agreed. However, she did have to get a bloke to shift his vehicle from in front of the gate so we could enter the site at Ryton Meadows. That was as tricky as it got though. True to his word Alan set up the traps while Val sipped – sorry that should be swigged – her wine and we waited for switch on. We watched a couple of Noctule Bats put on a mesmerizing flying display over the meadows and we thought where is John and his camera when you need him! Scott joined us not long after the lights went on and put up another trap to add to our two. As usual it was a clear night and the mothing was slow. We made a couple of rounds of the traps before Scott packed up and as the **Brindled Beauties** had already arrived we weren't far behind him. We'd managed to record sixteen species, which was reasonable considering it was only 3 °C when we left. **Clouded Drab** proved most numerous with **Early Thorn**, **Chocolate-tip** and **Hebrew Character** being some of the other species recorded.

For the first time since January we actually managed to get to Chaddesley Wood on the scheduled date! It certainly made a difference as we had an excellent turn out of recorders. Steve Chappell, the Burke Family (Pete, Belinda, Lucy and Emily) added to Martin, Peter, Scott and ourselves led to ten traps being set up. They were spread far and wide to see if we could get a decent species list for a change. The weather was the same as usual, clear and cold. Peter, Belinda and Scott provided welcome additions to the "tea shop" stocks which were being devoured as soon as the lights were switched on. **Lunar Marbled Brown** is always a welcome arrival at the moth trap. As it's an early flyer, Lucy and Emily get to see a good-sized moth before they get too tired and thankfully it arrived on time tonight. After a brief look in the nearest traps the girls were ready to go home and so Pete and Belinda have to take them. Alan wandered down to the gate to see them out safely and as always thanked them for contributing. On his return the remainder of us took the epic tour of the traps. The "tea shop" was an especially welcome sight after the tour was completed. Over a cuppa it was decided, as there wasn't too much flying, that it was time to pack up. With refreshments finished everyone dispersed to fulfill the task. Amazingly, we all finished about the same time and so could all leave together. It was the biggest species count of the year so far, but at 32 was still a fairly low number. Amongst them were **Caloptilia elongella**, **Ocnerostoma freisei**, **Acleris hastiana**, **Frosted Green**, **Pine Beauty** and **Blossom Underwing**.

The first trip of the year to Alvecote Wood was a select affair as only Alan and Keith could take advantage of a rare windless night. However, it was the same old story with skies clear, the temperature plummeting and so it was the normal slow night. A couple of Muntjac provided early interest before they melted into the landscape. Moths were given every chance to arrive and it was after 3 a.m. before the final light was extinguished. A total of 19 species were recorded which included three new for the site. So it proved a worthwhile night from that perspective. Unsurprisingly in this oak dominated wood **Eriocrania subpurpurella** proved the most numerous with **Light Brown Apple Moth**, **Early Tooth-striped** and **Dark Sword-grass** being the new for site species.

It probably says more about the site than anything else that on such an unpromising night we managed to get Steve, Martin, John, Roger and Scott to join us for our first visit of the year to Weethley Wood. We know this place has the potential to hold some stunning moths but over the last year we have had the worst luck with the weather. This night fitted into the same pattern, as just after switching on the lights we had a heavy shower pass through, which made the night even colder than it was to start with. The "tea shop" was well used tonight to keep everyone topped up with hot drinks while we waited for something to arrive at any of the traps. After four hours we called it a night as all nine traps had finally managed to attract at least one moth. We managed to record as many species as we had traps which in mid-May was pitiful to say the least. Everyone deserves our grateful thanks for taking the time to suffer with us! Disappointingly not one species was new for the site but **Nematopogon swammerdamella**, **Seraphim**, **Purple Thorn** and **Swallow Prominent** were amongst the species that were mad enough to fly.

Our next venture was a little bit different. We had a long trek over to Suffolk thanks to Val wanting to see Mike Tramp in concert at Ipswich. As luck would have it Nora, a friend of Val's, lives in Martlesham Heath very close to Ipswich. An overnight stay was arranged and so, of course, we had to take a moth trap with us. Our arrival was all a bit rushed due to traffic and Alan just had time to put the trap up and advise Nigel, Nora's husband, about what time to put the trap on while we were in Ipswich. We had no better luck with the weather as it was typically clear and very cold and so we didn't find any moths in the trap on our return from Ipswich. Thanks to Alan's vigilance overnight we did manage to eventually record five species. They were **Diamond-back Moth**, **Carpatolechia proximella**, **Phtheochroa rugosana**, **Syndemis musculana** and the star of the show was a **Poplar Hawk-moth**.

Our grateful thanks to Nora and Nigel for their hospitality.

A return trip to Middleton Hall was next, although Val didn't make it as she was in Yorkshire seeing another Mike Tramp gig! Alan braved the awful weather along with Roger and Chris as they set up three traps. There were showers to add to the cold tonight and a northerly gale was blowing, so few moths would be expected in the traps. A blown fuse in Alan's socket board meant a quick change of plug locations. Thanks to Chris, a replacement socket board also helped the situation before the traps could be switched on. Then followed a convivial evening safe in the dry, warm and somewhat less windy volunteers canteen. There was one late arrival as Steve Smith had popped over from his farm to get assistance with identifying some of his moths from home. He'd brought more moths than we would find in the traps at the end of the night! The three traps produced a grand total of nine moths but at least they were all different! Amongst them were **Dark-barred Twin-spot Carpet**, **Rivulet**, **Oak-tree Pug** and **Pebble Prominent**. Alan was diligent while locking up, as it normally wasn't his responsibility at this site. With everything done and keys returned everyone was on their way home by 3 a.m.

Our final trip of the month was supposed to be Hay Wood before the Forestry Commission start "work", (= destruction, normally), at the site. On arrival we found the lock had been changed yet again and Martin was busy trying to phone anyone who may have the combination code so we could gain access. This failed. Scott had brought his Dad, Jim, and Roger had also arrived. With all expected parties present the usual Plan B was put into action. Martin led us all in convoy on the drive over to Weston Wood. No problems with access here and soon everyone was busy putting up the seven traps. Scott had mixed feelings about the change of venue. Pleased to be visiting new site, but it would be a lot further to take Jim home. The night had a very unusual feel as the temperature was in double figures when the lights were switched on! After a couple of hours Scott set off to take Jim home and kindly offered to refill one of the "tea shop" flasks. However, on his return he hadn't realised he had needed to keep it upright and a small pond had appeared in his car! Luckily the flask wasn't needed, as we had so many moths to see. It was all a bit strange as we tried to remember how to count above ten! Val was even sat at one trap so long a cheeky spider was busy building a web between the trap and her knee! Eventually when all was tallied a total of over 500 moths representing 84 species were recorded with seven being new for the site. The new species were **Triaxomera fulvimitrella**, **Monopis weaverella**, **Phyllonorycter blancardella**, **Scrobipalpa acuminatella**, **Blood-vein**, **Rivulet** and **Muslin Moth**. There was also a 3rd county record of **Lampronia fuscata**. Finally we'd had something approaching a proper moth night. Everyone had thoroughly enjoyed it, although we did wonder what we might have caught at Hay Wood.

June

The success at Weston Wood proved fleeting as the following night at Chaddesley Wood it was back to what we'd become used to – clear and cold. However, Roger, John, Peter and the Burke family had made the effort to join us. We tried to keep everything quite compact tonight, as we weren't expecting a lot of moths. Even so a second generator was required and Peter kindly nipped home (not far as he lives close by) to fetch his newly purchased power source and help even the load. He was keen to give it a run and learn a few of its more temperamental points. While the traps were being set up, Val joined Belinda and Emily on a bluebell walk. The bluebells were probably just past their best, but last month they were only just emerging and so the carpet of blue wasn't as picturesque as it was this evening. Steve Whitehouse turned up, late as usual, and ran a trap for a short while before disappearing again. We also had a brief visit from Rose Needham who popped in just to say hello, which was nice of her. As expected it wasn't a late night due to the cold and with not that many moths to count it didn't take long to pack up and be on our way home. A decidedly mediocre 31 species were recorded with **Capua vulgana**, **Epinotia tetraquetra**, **Ochreous Pug**, **Poplar Kitten**, **Great Prominent** and **Marbled Brown** being some of them.

Out of the blue Alan received a call from Patrick Clement inviting him on a trip to Chartley Moss National Nature Reserve. Not having seen Patrick for quite a while, Alan thought it would be good opportunity to catch up on what he'd been up to. Also this was the first time Patrick would have trapped at night on the Moss and he'd been advised to not go alone just to be on the safe side. Aah! The real reason for the invitation became clear! Knowing the habitat was a bog, Alan advised Val not to join them, as she probably wouldn't enjoy it. After a much better journey than expected, Alan arrived early at the gate to the site. Finding no one around he drove to the next gate to see if Patrick was already there. With no sign of anyone he wandered back to the first gate and found Patrick waiting. He'd forgotten to bring any food and just nipped off to get some. Then they both drove down to the parking spot. Patrick had been on site during the afternoon and already set his traps up. After a brief tour of the site Alan's trapping locations were agreed and he set up. It was a fascinating landscape and if what Patrick had found during the afternoon was anything to go by, the night promised some interesting mothing. It was an unusually mild night and the temperature never got below 10°C. That was good for the moths but was also good for the billions of midges! Alan generally treats them as an occupational hazard and carries on regardless as he doesn't get a bad reaction to their many bites, fortunately. Doing a round of the traps proved interesting as one of Patrick's was floating on the bog. It was a weird feeling bouncing along the surface to reach it. Alan decided not to go a second time, as the 'path' seemed to be getting a bit waterlogged! As expected there were some unfamiliar species in the traps and books were referenced to try and identify them. An enjoyable night was had, despite the midges, and came to an end just as dawn was approaching with both Patrick and Alan having seen new moths amongst the 62 species recorded. Some of the habitat specialists found were **Elachista kilmunella**, **Metendothenia atropunctana**, **Ancylis uncella**, **Narrow-winged Pug**, **Alder Kitten**, **Glaucous Shears** and **Light Knot Grass**. After hearing about the midges and Patrick's 'floating' trap Val was pleased she'd taken Alan's advice!

After last years icy trip to Focus Optics in June, we'd decided then to try the same time this year, as we'd failed to get what we'd hoped for then. We'd also had to swop the day from Saturday to Friday due to a previous engagement in Sheffield. Unfortunately, that meant Tim would have to work in the morning and couldn't stay with us all night. However, his warm welcome was the same as ever. He managed to sort out access details with Keith before he departed for bed. Martin, Roger, John and Steve Smith made up the other recorders for the night. Val received a phone call from Nigel Stone earlier saying he couldn't make it due to work. However, she talked him into coming for a few hours before he had to start that dreaded work. Everyone was delighted to see him and he even managed to see a few moths before leaving. Our problem this year was where to get the traps sheltered from the strong northeasterly wind. With little optimism we all did our best and then headed for the sanctuary of the tearoom. As most of the moths seemed to be around a month behind 'normal' we did get a different set of species from last year, but only marginally more individuals. However, around a dozen species were newly recorded for the site, which was not too bad a return on such a night. **Elachista apicipunctella**, **Depressaria heraclei**, **Purple Bar**, **White-pinion Spotted**, **Eyed Hawk-moth** and **Orange Footman** were some of the species recorded.

Alan's annual trip down to his Mum's in Essex proved to be a mixed affair. Conditions were always windy, sometimes wet and so not that many moths. However, with species generally being behind in their life cycle he did manage to find five new species for the site including one that he'd never seen before. The new species were **Nematopogon schwarziellus**, **Grapholita funebrana**, **Dichrorampha acuminatana**, **Dog's Tooth** and the stars of the trip were two **Yellow Belle** on the last night. Even so the 166 moths of 58 species over the three nights was a disappointingly low return for mid-June.

The weather was pretty good as Alan left Essex and set off for home, over 70° F and not a cloud in the sky. It stayed that way until he approached the A14/M6 junction where the clouds were filling the sky. Alan knew that Martin and Anna would be at Wolvey ready to do some mothing. As it was only just off the motorway he decided to join them. On arrival conditions were good enough to make it worthwhile putting some traps up and giving it a go. Alan hadn't intended to run a trap but was talked into it. Soon after the lights went on it started to rain. The site at Wolvey is particularly exposed with no shelter and so we were all obviously delighted by this change in the weather! It continued showery for most of the night and we spent most of it being thankful for Anna's camper van! One unfortunate moth came to a sad end as it flew straight through the camper van door and into the inferno below Anna's about to boil kettle. It then fell to the floor of the van. That was one moth that obviously took its name too literally, as it was a.....**Flame Carpet!!!** When a gap in the showers appeared it was decided to pack up. The result of our efforts was 43 species recorded. Five of them were new for the site and two for the 10k square so it was a fairly worthwhile exercise. The new species were **May Highflyer, Grey Pug, Scalloped Hazel, Pebble Prominent** and **White Ermine**. While Alan drove home through Birmingham avoiding some huge puddles it would appear that they all got off quite lightly at Wolvey!

A hastily arranged trip to Ryton Meadows was our next recording session. After over a year of appalling weather we did wonder if we would ever see large numbers of moths ever again. This night managed to restore our faith in the ability of moths to come through such a long period of sustained cold weather. For only the second time in recording at Ryton over the years we had almost perfect conditions. It was cloudy all night and the temperature remained relatively high too. We know that both John and Roger were delighted they'd made the effort to make it. Even before the lights went on we were counting moths, as we saw little patches of white dancing above the vegetation. They were male Ghost Moths on their territories. They are absolutely fascinating to watch and kept all of us entertained until the traps were switched on. As soon as they were, a steady stream of moths made their way towards them. We hadn't had a night like this in nearly 10 months. We made the most of it and the last light went out well after dawn at 5 a.m. We all had a smile on our face as we headed for home. That good bit of weather had produced over 800 moths of 131 species in the traps. Amongst them were ten species that were newly recorded for the Meadows. They included **Phylloporia bistrigella, Eucosmomorpha albersana, Pammene germmana, Cryptoblabe bistriga, Dwarf Pug, Barred Umber** and **Shears**. A most enjoyable night was had by us all.

With the weather holding, Alan decided to make an impromptu visit to Chaddesley as most of the nights had been on the disappointing side over the past year. Luckily Peter was available at short notice to join him. However, the night got off to a bad start as Alan found himself on a 15 mile, (Yes that's right!), diversion due to roadworks. Now we expect roadworks in Bromsgrove, it has the most frequently dug up roads in Britain (probably due to incompetence is our guess!), but this diversion was beyond a joke. Alan finally arrived half an hour late grateful to see Peter still waiting. They quickly entered the wood, set up and switched on. Events were then taken at a more leisurely pace after that. A good number of moths made their way into the traps and provided interest for the rest of the night. Just as the last trap was being packed up, it started to drizzle. With everything back in the vehicles it then started to rain properly. At least that had gone right! Alan decided to take a much shorter diversion of his own on the way home, thanks to Peter's help with local knowledge. That worked well and so he managed to get home before lunchtime! It had been a productive night with 95 species being recorded. That was the second highest total since August 2011! Amongst the species recorded were **Pseudotelphusa scalella, Ancylis mitterbacheriana, Ephestia parasitella, Grass Rivulet, Lobster Moth, Red-necked Footman** and **Marbled Minor**.

Next was our annual trip to the River Arrow Local Nature Reserve for the Alcester Grammar School student sleep over. As usual, we arrived to find a car blocking the gate. Val attracted Martin German's attention and he brought the guilty driver with him. While Alan drove across the field to our regular parking spot, Val decided to walk. This meant she has to go past the B-B-Q and couldn't say no when a homemade burger was offered to her, as it smelt so good. She didn't resist the second one either! Alan was busy setting up by the time she'd finished, but she wasn't too late to help. While the staff and students went off on a bat walk, Alan did some dusking and got a few moths in pots to show them when they got back. A couple of the students said they'd be up all night, but needless to say we didn't see them again until dawn. The hay fever excuse they presented was given short shrift by Alan, as he suffers too! The night was mainly cloudy, which was a first, as it's always been clear every other time we've done this event. We had a steady stream of moths arriving due to the cloud and because they were still well behind in their flight periods we caught a lot of species we would normally miss. It all meant we had some different species to show the regular staff before they set off with the students for a listen to the end of the dawn chorus, (we always hear the best of it while counting up, as everybody else always seems to be a bit late getting roused!). The students were a bit 'wimpy' this year as only one girl was 'brave' enough to hold the Poplar Hawk-moth we'd saved to do its moth PR bit. As they set off on their walk we set off for home. The result of our efforts was 81 species recorded of which nineteen were newly recorded for the site. Amongst the new species were ***Coleophora striatipennella***, ***Bactra furfurana***, **Figure of Eight**, **Scorched Wing**, **Eyed Hawk-moth**, **Pale Tussock** and **Small Clouded Brindle**.

Our final venture of the month was a return to Alvecote Wood. Keith had the gate open by the time Roger and us arrived. We knew Scott was coming later so we locked up and went in search of places to put the traps that would be out of the nagging breeze. With decisions made and traps set up, Alan and Keith wandered back to the gate to wait for Scott. They had some fine entertainment while they waited as a Hobby flew round and round calling. Then they counted eighteen Noctule Bats that must have been emerging from their roost and heading off to feed. It was noted that every single one headed in a westerly direction! Scott finally arrived and so our total trap count for this evening would be five. It was a cooler night than of late and so it was another slow and steady night. However, the slugs were prolific and various things had to be regularly de-slugged! As the last light went out, dawn announced itself by providing us with a spectacular pink sky. It proved to be a reasonably successful night with 80 species recorded including 17 newly recorded for the site. They included ***Schreckensteinia festaliella***, ***Pseudargyrotoza conwagana***, ***Scoparia subfusca***, **Bordered White**, **Buff Ermine**, **Dusky Brocade**, **Green Silver-lines** and **Gold Spot**.

July

The first proper summer weather for seven years had arrived two nights before our visit to Chaddesley Wood. It meant we could give Black Meadow a try tonight. Scott, Peter, Roger and the unexpected arrival of Steve Chappell meant we would be OK for traps. However, seeing the state of the weather and how out of practice we were with counting large numbers of moths, everyone agreed to run only one trap. With everyone ready to set up Alan found that Mervyn had forgotten to leave the trolley for us. Peter said he had one and nipped home to get it. By the time he got back Mervyn had arrived with the missing trolley, as he thought we were meeting later than we did. So from no trollies we ended up with two! This helped get a couple of traps up to the end of the meadow, which has rarely been reached before. After all the effort of setting up it was time for a break at the "tea shop" while waiting for darkness to descend. After an hour or so we decided to have a tour of the five traps. That took a few hours due to the volume of moths at each trap! After some much needed refreshment it was time to start counting. Everyone helped Peter and Scott with their traps, as they were furthest from the gate. Then everybody else returned to start on their own daunting tally task.

A few hours later everyone had finally finished with the result being over 1,500 moths counted, representing 155 species. Half a dozen proved to be new for Chaddesley. **Monochroa lutulentella**, **Cochylis dubitana**, **Ancylis diminutana**, **Epinotia signatana**, **Blotched Emerald**, **Lilac Beauty**, **Buff-tip**, **Green Arches**, **Alder Moth** and **Blackneck** were amongst the species recorded. However, Alan was most delighted by a **Tawny Marbled Minor**, as he'd been trying to confirm it for years!

With summer set to stay, a trip down to the Cotswolds was arranged for Alan's birthday. Peter Hugo had suggested we record at Gloucestershire Butterfly Conservations new reserve at Rough Bank, as it had never been trapped all night before. We arrived to find Peter just about to put a sign up for where we had to enter the site, which was handy. He still put the sign up as Roger was expected imminently. Once he'd arrived Peter took Alan and Roger on a tour of the site. Val decided to stay at the cars after already having had a hectic day. The site was large and varied with pasture, woodland and limestone grassland to choose from for setting up the traps. It all looked promising as **Small Blue** and **Marbled White** were still on the wing as they made their way back to the cars. It was decided that Peter would run one trap in the woodland and one in the grassland while Roger and us would put ours in the pasture, which should ensure a good range of species would be recorded.

It was hard work setting up, as everything had to be carried some distance, but we thought the effort would be rewarded. At some point Matt Holland had arrived and said he'd stay 'for an hour or so'. While recovering from our exertions at the "tea shop" we noticed that the male **Ghost Moths** had started their 'dance' and they kept us highly entertained while birthday cake was cut and consumed! A tour round the nearest traps took ages as many unfamiliar species took time to identify. This meant that Matt's 'hour or so' ended up being half the night!

After Matt had departed we decided to go and start counting Peter's trap in the grassland. Roger and Alan knew that to reach it you had to go along a ridge with a very steep drop on one side. Knowing Val's love of being on the edge – NOT, the others had kept that bit quiet and hoped she wouldn't notice in the dark! However, the sky was just starting to lighten and so she glimpsed the drop. With help she made it to Peter's trap and the counting began. It was almost daylight by the time that was finished and Alan suspected that the petrol would have run out in the generator so wanted to get back and check. Roger helped Peter with his other trap while Alan slowly helped Val back along the ridge to our traps. We found the lights were out and so after refueling the genny and some refreshment we started to count our first trap. We'd just finished when Roger returned to start his. The sun was well up by this time and counting was more difficult in the bright light. Roger finished his count around the same time as us and Peter was bringing his equipment back from the grassland. The butterflies were already up and on the wing by the time everything was loaded and we could start the long journey home. Unfortunately, we were so late leaving that rush hour had already begun and we got stuck in traffic at regular intervals on our way home, finally arriving after 10 a.m. Alan was hoping there wouldn't be too much in our garden trap, but that hope wasn't realised. He finally made it into bed well after noon! It had been a superb night though, with over 1,000 moths counted representing 181 species. We saw many new species to us and the reserve had revealed some of its potential. Amongst the species recorded were **Coleophora lixella**, **Coleophora niveicostella**, **Aethes hartmanniana**, **Pyrausta despicata**, **Hypochalcia ahenella**, **Wood Carpet**, **Pretty Chalk Carpet**, **Blomer's Rivulet**, **Clouded Magpie**, **Double Dart**, **Reddish Light Arches** and **Plain Golden Y**.

It's amazing how one thing leads to another sometimes and this was how our next night's nothing had come about. A casual conversation about the lack of orchards in Warwickshire resulted in us being invited to Abbey Farm near Wolvey. Word had spread via Anna's work with the local environmental group and our previous moth recording in the village to Jon Slee, a local farmer with some orchards. He was keen for us to see what was on his farm and arranged a B-B-Q for the group and some friends for our visit. Eleven traps would be spread across the walled garden, farmland and orchards as Roger, Chris, Martin, Steve and Ros Smith joined Anna and us. After all was up and running we joined the festivities in the barn. It was too hot for Val in there and she retired to watch the myriad of moths heading for our lights. The rest of us watched as the beverages flowed and food was consumed in a jovial atmosphere. The nearest trap to the barn was investigated by some members of the party and by the time they'd finished it was pretty late and so most of the guests then disappeared. After Jon saw off the last of the non-mothers he decided to leave us to it. Steve Lane had also been in attendance and he managed to record plenty of beetles and bugs for the site too. It was to be his last venture out with us before moving to Norfolk. Lucky Norfolk! Ha! Ha!

The counting of moths took a long time and the final light went out around 6 a.m. The totals were impressive with over 3,500 moths of 205 species recorded! I think we could say that our visit to the farm was fairly productive! Some species were found in large numbers, for example ***Celypha lacunana*** (261), ***Chrysoteuchia culmella*** (686) and **Dark Arches** (303). Also found was a county first record for ***Coleophora therinella***. Amongst the other species recorded were ***Coleophora siccifolia***, ***Coleophora versurella***, ***Neosphaleroptera nubilana***, ***Epiblema foenella***, ***Grapholita janthinana***, ***Catoptria falsella***, ***Pempelia formosa***, **Barred Straw**, **Bordered Pug**, **Round-winged Muslin**, **Dot Moth**, **Obscure Wainscot** and **Double Lobed**. Another visit the following year was already being discussed as we all set off for home.

With summer now in full swing we hastily arranged visit to Weethley Wood as a replacement for one that we had cancelled a few weeks earlier. Due to it also being in midweek only Chris and John were able to make it. This night was our reward for struggling through the atrocious conditions of the past couple of years at this site. With just four traps our faith in this sites potential was confirmed, as a staggering array of species found their way to the lights. It was obvious fairly early on that if John was to be on his way home by 5 a.m. as he wished (he had to work the following day), we would have to start counting a lot sooner than we had become used to. He was only a few minutes late leaving having taken around three hours to finish counting his actinic. He was sure it was the most species he'd ever had in his trap. It was another couple of hours before the other three traps had been completed. An amazing 222 species were finally identified from over 1,600 moths counted. They included a very pleasing 67 new species for the site. It proved to be the largest species count of the year and amongst them were **Leopard Moth**, ***Coleophora albitarsella***, ***Acleris bergamanniana***, ***Epinotia demarniana***, ***Eudonia pallida***, ***Amblyptilia punctidactyla***, **Lackey**, **Brown Scallop**, **Haworth's Pug**, **White Satin**, **Sycamore** and **Waved Black**.

A few days later we finally managed to get into Hay Wood. Martin had been diligent and earlier in the week had checked that he now had the right combination and that it worked. This time John was able to join us, Roger, Martin, Scott and Jim for what could be the last recording session here for a while. With three generators the seven traps were split widely across the wood. It made for a bit of a trek between them but the various habitats were covered. As soon as the lights went on moths flooded in to the traps. After refreshments we had a look in our first trap and realised we were going to be in for another big night. As if to reinforce the point, Scott took Jim home and by the time he returned all we'd managed to do was get a species list for one side of one trap! Counting began early but we still finished a lot later than we wanted and by the time the last moth was identified it was almost 6 a.m.! The night produced 3,347 moths counted from 210 species with 33 being new for the site. Amongst them were ***Orthotelia sparganella***, ***Pseudatemelia josephinae***, ***Batrachedra pinicolella***, ***Epinotia solandriana***, **Wormwood Pug** and **Dingy Shell**.

We hadn't wanted a late night at Hay Wood, as we knew what would be coming at tonight's event! It was our annual trip over to Norton Covert for the B-B-Q and moth night. We received our usual warm welcome as we pulled up on Gill and Barry's drive. The fence panel was soon raised to allow us to set up in the covert. Val managed to finish helping to set up before Gill thrust a glass of wine in her hand. It was nice to see Tony Creed back with us this year, as he'd missed the last couple of times while working abroad. We'd brought a **Poplar Hawk-moth** with us from last night's catch, as the attendees have normally disappeared home before one turns up in the covert. That went down well with everyone. Val got stuck into the delicious food cooked up by Barry and Gill's brother-in-law Ian, was an excellent 'goffer' as he ferried back moths in pots from the traps to the crowd, for which everyone was grateful. After the last person had headed for home, Gill made Val a last cuppa before we started the big count. Alan was worried that we'd be overwhelmed by **Green Oak Tortrix**, as we had in years past. Thankfully, that didn't materialise as we only had five. However, we had more than enough to cope with from the other 163 species and 1,300 moths recorded! Amongst a pleasing 25 species new for the site were **Phyllocnistis unipunctella**, **Exoteleia dodecella**, **Scoparia basistrigalis**, **Stenoptilia pterodactyla**, **Small Emerald**, **Purple Thorn**, **Barred Red**, **Antler Moth** and **Coronet**.

Our next trip was another that was rearranged from an earlier cancellation due to the weather. We made our annual trip down to Berkshire to spend the night with Les and Martin Finch. They're always pleased for any help when out mothing and had arranged a visit to Snelsmore Common Country Park near Newbury for us. We arrived and found Les and Martin at the agreed point and then it was just a case of waiting for the bloke with the gate key to materialise. One likely suspect did, but he wasn't aware of our moth quest and was just going to lock the gates anyway. The right person was found waiting inside the park just in time. With key arrangements sorted we set off into the park and with the 'magic' key were able to get through another couple of gates onto the heathland. There we found a herd of horses on the move, as they weren't expecting to see us. They drifted off into the distance and we didn't see them for the rest of the night. They proved to be neighhhh bother! – Sorry - couldn't resist it. We decided to run four traps between us. Les and Martin went for a patch of mainly birch while we plumped for the heathland, as we don't do it often enough. It was a lovely night and we could hear the nightjar's churring regularly. We just hoped they would leave us some moths to look at. There's obviously not enough Nightjar's, as we managed another night with more than 1,300 moths and 150 species! By far the most numerous were **Scarce Footman** (332) and the scarcest was **Dichomeris alacella**, which proved to be a fourth record for VC 22. Amongst the other species recorded were **Coleophora pyrrhulipennella**, **Ethmia dodecea**, **Carpatolechia alburnella**, **Ancylis unguicella**, **Pempelia palumbella**, **Birch Mocha**, **Plain Wave**, **Small Seraphim**, **Pine Hawk-moth**, **Four-dotted Footman**, **Small Black Arches**, **Kent Black Arches** and **Ear Moth**. Our thanks go to Les and Martin for sorting out our visit and staying out much later than is normal for them – lightweights!

Next we made another visit to Middleton Hall and it couldn't have been more different from the last one. It was a warm night and Val was relieved to find a fan in the canteen that received plenty of use. Roger, John, Martin, Chris and Scott provided traps, which were spread far and wide. The adjacent RSPB reserve also had a trap being run on it. When the canteen became too warm, despite the fan, we all decided to do a tour of the traps. It was going to be yet another big night and each trap took a while to go through. All appeared fairly normal as we were looking at Chris' trap until Martin suddenly exclaimed " by jove old bean, I believe that's an **Olive Crescent!!!!!!**" (You can maybe guess that they aren't quite the exact words he used!). This stopped everybody in their tracks and hurried questions about who had a camera were asked. The answer, typically, was nobody! Alan was dispatched to fetch one while everybody else concentrated on not letting the momentous moth escape before he returned. Thankfully, the moth was a real star (see front cover) and stayed still long enough for its image to be captured for posterity.

We had quite a few migrants such as **Willow Ermine**, **Vestal** and **Dark Sword-grass** noted after we completed the tour of the traps, so we suspect the **Olive Crescent** was part of an influx of scarce visitors. As the others were having some refreshment before setting off to start counting, Alan wandered over to the RSPB trap and informed Bob of the special moth we'd found. He said he'd pop over once he'd packed up. By that time he had a couple of other RSPB members had joined him who'd come to see how he'd done. They all managed to come and see the **Olive Crescent**, but its significance seemed lost on one member! When the count was finally finished we'd managed to record over 1,800 moths from 204 species, a dozen of which were new for the site. Amongst them were **Coleophora trochilella**, **Athrips mouffetella**, **Cnephasia longana**, **Small Ranunculus** and **Waved Black**. One of these nights we're sure that John and Andrea will be up and around before we leave for home!

The following night we were due to go to Crown East Wood for their annual moth night. However, Carol Moore had phoned to call it off due to the threat of it being a very wet night. It was disappointing news but tinged with a touch of relief for us after such a late finish at Middleton Hall. We said we'd try and fit a night in soon, so at least they got some moth records this year.

On the final day of the month Alan made a last minute decision to go to Ryton Meadows. He did manage to contact John and he agreed to join him. It was a warm night and for once Alan was glad of the breeze at the meadows, as it kept the swarms of flies around the traps down a bit. After switching on Alan and John wandered up 'Scrub Hill' to see how good John's trap and sheet looked. It was still pretty bright from up there and John was hopeful of a decent catch. While up the hill they investigated the burdock and teasel heads. They found quite a few moths nectaring and even a **Six-spot Burnet** roosting. On their return from the hill a look in the traps revealed it was going to be another long count, despite the breeze. John decided to start counting early, as he had to go to work the next day. He was happy with his decision and managed to get on his way home around his target time. Alan still had a way to go until he followed suit. Despite only the three traps being run another count ended up beyond 1,000 representing 171 species. An amazing eight new species for this well recorded site were found. They were **Caloptilia rufipennella**, **Agonopterix ciliella**, **Recurvaria leucatella**, **Teleiodes vulgella**, **Eana incanana**, **Endotricha flammealis**, **Garden Carpet** and **Nutmeg**.

August

The opportunity to do the postponed Crown East Wood moth night arose quicker than expected, which unfortunately meant that Richard and Carol couldn't join us at such short notice. We did as normal and put one trap in the wood and the other in the field. We've tried a new tactic regularly this year when trapping in tall vegetation by raising the trap by at least a foot to let the light get out better. We've been using an upturned paper-recycling bucket and it's proved extremely successful. However, on this particular night it was a bit too successful. After a couple of hours you could actually hear the movement of moths in the trap from some distance. It was practically full to overflowing! We had to come up with a plan to try and count it that would save our sanity. After some deep thought Alan said we'd count it straight away, but then take the plexi-glass out and leave the light on. Then after counting the 'less' busy trap in the wood see if any new species had arrived and only count them. It was a real slog and we'd managed to count the outside of the field trap in just less than two hours! Eventually it was completed and so it was off to the wood. Hours later and with dawn just about to pass, both traps were finished and so, nearly, were we! The final count for the trap in the field was 996 moths (a definite underestimate) but who knows how many were really in it. The 'less' busy wood trap still managed more than 500 moths in it. The species count was 150, which included thirteen new for the site. Amongst them were some real surprises such as **White-line Dart**, which must have flown a distance to end up in a trap. Some of the others species recorded were **Caloptilia semifascia**, **Yponomeuta plumbella**, **Evergestis pallidata**, **Vestal**, **Tissue**, **Sallow Kitten**, **Ruby Tiger** and **Gold Spot**.

A couple of nights later it was Chaddesley Wood time again. After the nothing madness at Crown East Wood we decided to only take one trap as we felt it would be plenty! We arrived to find Steve had already arrived and he had his daughter, Natasha, with him. Also waiting was a guy called Martin who had heard that moth recording was going on at Chaddesley and wanted to renew an interest that started in Kent a while ago. Roger and our more familiar Martin were last to arrive and then trap sites were chosen. Despite advice against it, both Martin and Steve decided to run two traps – brave or stupid – you decide! Mervyn did pop in early on to say “hello”, before heading home and wishing us luck. The big nights continued and only one full round of the six traps was made before tally time. Our visitor Martin did quite well to stay as late as he did after having had a busy day, but he hadn't been sure what to expect. He sure knows better now! Natasha made it to the end, after a brief nap in Steve's car. The result of our efforts was just short of 2,000 moths counted, representing 167 species with an impressive eight new ones for Chaddesley. It was another night with unexpected species showing up, such as **Dark Umber** and **Narrow-winged Pug**. Some of the other species recorded were ***Elachista apicipunctella***, (which, surprisingly to us, turned out to be a second record for Worcestershire), ***Pseudotelphusa paripunctella***, **Lesser Wax Moth**, **Vapourer**, **Rosy Footman** (the first recorded in Chaddesley for eighteen years), **Lunar-spotted Pinion** and **Beautiful Hook-tip**. Yet another huge night, but we were getting better with our judgment of when to start counting and so we were on our way home just after 5 a.m.

After last year's utter fiasco at Purley Quarry on the first of the National Moth Nights we had decided to try again this year. However, with the threat of rain, a lot of discussions took place and plans for any eventuality were put in place so everybody knew what to do. The major problem at this site is the steep and gravelly hill you have to descend to reach the trapping areas. There is a real threat that a car will not make it back up the hill in very wet conditions. A superb turnout from Scott, Roger, Keith, Martin, Chris and John were the others prepared to run traps. With no rain on arrival, ten traps were set up around the quarry. All went well as we started looking through Scott's trap. There were a lot of moths already and it took quite a while before we could move on to Roger's. It was part way through Roger's that the first spot of rain fell from the sky. Plan B swung into action and we all went to start packing up immediately. It was far from ideal, but a brief stoppage in the rain allowed a bit more time to do a reasonable job of counting. Just as we were finishing another heavy shower arrived that quickened our pace again. As soon as the car was loaded we attempted to get up the hill. Thankfully, but not without the odd dodgy moment we made it. Phew! John followed close behind, as he had been plugged into our generator. It was a relief every time somebody else made it. The last two in the quarry were Martin and Chris, as their traps were furthest from their vehicles. At one point Martin's car alarm started going off, but with no signs of movement from our distant position Scott decided to drive down and investigate. Thankfully, by this time the rain had stopped again. Martin hadn't realised the alarm had been activated, as he was some distance away collecting his final trap. The culprit that set the alarm off was a moth flying around inside the car, which had obviously smuggled itself back with his first trap that was in the boot! It was a great relief when finally everybody was back at the top of the hill safe and sound. On our journey home it appeared we'd been lucky, as everywhere was extremely wet and appeared to have had a lot more rain than we actually did at the quarry. It made us think we had made the right decision to get out when we did. Even though we only did half a night's recording the results were staggering. 1,852 moths were counted belonging to 217 species with a county first being found in ***Coleophora saturatella***. Some of the other species recorded were ***Ypsolopha nemorella***, ***Agonopterix scopariella***, ***Epagoge grotiana***, ***Orthopygia glaucinalis***, **Phoenix**, **Plain Pug**, **Six-striped Rustic**, **Suspected**, **Mouse Moth** and **Old Lady**. Despite the stress, we were pleased we'd done the night as it had provided records of over 60 new species for the site.

For the second of the years National Moth Nights we just recorded our garden. We knew we'd be out again for the last of the three nights. We'd arranged another visit to Weethley Wood, but to the opposite end than we normally did. Chris, Scott and Roger joined us for this voyage into the unknown. We'd only tried this end of the wood once before and on that occasion it was a case of having more types of egg box than moths, as it was freezing cold! After entering the wood the others went off to see where to set up while Val stayed with the cars. She was kept entertained by a colony of **Purple Hairstreak** flitting about the oaks. She was relieved some were still flying when everybody else returned. With the decision agreed as to where to set up, we all drove a bit further into the wood to a crossroads. Chris drew the short straw as everybody dispersed from a central point. His track had vegetation taller than he was! After some furious stomping, enough grasses were flattened so the light would be able to get out a bit. It was another cloudy, warm and windless evening, so it looked like being another big night. Just after switching on we had a shower and so the brollies were required. With no wind, they worked well tonight and with some good dry spells between the showers the moths kept coming. By the end we'd counted over 1,500 moths representing 155 species with 22 being newly recorded at Weethley. Amongst them were **Argyresthia semifusca**, **Elachista adscitella**, **Mompha propinquella**, **Adaina microdactyla**, **Poplar Lutestring**, **Devon Carpet**, **Small Waved Umber**, **Scorched Carpet**, **Straw Underwing** and **Slender Brindle**. Dawn had long since passed as we all made our way home after another good nights recording.

Next was our annual trip to Bishop's Bowl Lakes. We were first to arrive and Alan disappeared to look for trapping locations. When he returned, Val was chatting with site owner Sarah Smart about all the work going on and how much things have improved since we started coming. By this time John, Martin and Roger had all arrived. The wind was a slight problem tonight and Alan's reccy had managed to find a few sheltered spots that should do OK. All the new tracks were a bit confusing but meant we had access to a lot of places we didn't before. Martin and John headed to the far end of the site while us and Roger put our traps close to some reeds. John ended up trapping on an island he'd reached via a causeway. It would be a fair trek between the two locations but Martin put an actinic on a battery about half way. The weather was very mild, cloudy with drizzle in the air and so all was well. That was until Martin arrived saying he couldn't get his MV trap to come on. That produces a lot of activity backwards and forwards with screwdrivers, fuses, bulbs and anything else we could think of. Unfortunately nothing worked and so we would be a trap down. John's target time for leaving became a bit more flexible now knowing he had the only trap in that area. Both John's and Martin's remaining trap were very busy compared to Roger's and ours, as we had that nagging wind slightly affecting ours. By the end we were all pleased with our efforts, as Martin had managed a county first with **Cnephasia pumicana**, we'd got some of our targeted reed bed species and **Chalk Carpet** (4) had been recorded again. Amongst the 140 species found the most numerous was **Shaded Broad-bar** (179) with some of the others being **Elachista biatomella**, **Agonopterix kaekeritziana**, **Acleris aspersana**, **Ringed China-mark**, **Phycitodes maritima**, **Magpie Moth**, **Black Arches**, **Least yellow Underwing**, **Southern Wainscot**, **Bulrush Wainscot** and **Twin-spotted Wainscot**. John didn't seem too disappointed he hadn't managed to get away by his target time and we all followed Martin to the exit. Val attempted to lock the gate behind us, as we were last to leave, but couldn't find a lock in the half-light. We set off for home wondering where it had gone. We later found out it was there, but Val just couldn't see it. We offer no excuses for our terrible error, as we know there could have been consequences. Sarah had every right to be furious with us and we offer her and Sean our sincerest apologies. We hope to be allowed back in future and if we are, would like to assure them that our mistake will not be repeated. Our night didn't get any better when we got pulled over by the police on the way home. After Alan gave his details we were immediately allowed to continue our journey. Then a short distance up the road we found the same police car had stopped another vehicle. We can only assume that us getting pulled over was a case of mistaken identity. It seems it was just one of those nights for us!

We headed down to Gloucestershire for our next trip. We joined Steve Chappell at Breakheart Quarry, his local haunt. John arrived not long after we did, which left us all waiting for Pete Cranswick. He arrived ten minutes later with all sorts of spurious excuses about having a long way to come etc. Seeing as he lives not five minutes from the quarry we knew he was giving us a lot of 'flannel'. Conditions weren't great with a strong breeze blowing and frequent showers. Thankfully Steve had the key to a room where we could shelter from the elements. As the night progressed both wind and showers relented. Even on such a marginal night, the quarry is such a good site that we had a good selection of moths to enjoy. It was yet another night with over 1,000 moths counted and the species tally was 129. Amongst them were ***Coleophora adspersella***, ***Mompha miscella***, ***Pyrausta purpuralis***, **Barred Hook-tip**, **Satin Lutestring**, **Barred Rivulet**, **Bleached Pug**, **Dusky Thorn** and **Nut-tree Tussock**. As usual, we were so late leaving we had to have breakfast on our way home. At least there was no police involvement this time!

Our next night was an adventure and something we'd never done before. Steve Lane had passed on our details to Bill Pearson at the Ministry of Defence establishment at Kineton. Subsequently we'd been in contact with Bill and arranged a visit to do some moth recording. He was trying to find out what sort of land management would affect the wildlife diversity of the site. Finding out what is already there is a good place to start! We arrived at the gate to find that we were expected and got kitted out with all sorts of passes and then told to drive on and 'turn left at the missile!' They were intriguing, but accurate directions and Bill was waiting to meet us in the car park by the missile. After initial introductions and lessons on do's and don'ts we had to sign another book and go through another gate to reach our proposed trapping location for the night. After setting up the traps Bill heard his dinner calling and he left us to it. As we had some time to wait until it got dark we had a wander around our immediate area seeing what vegetation we had. We thought we would do OK here, but had no idea what would arrive at the traps. While Val had a cuppa, Alan continued his exploring and came across an unconcerned badger who obviously 'owned' the place and knew its way around, as it disappeared through a purpose made door in one of the fences. There would be plenty of scope for traps in the future, just in this area. Unfortunately for us the sky was clear and also there was a full moon. It was to be the coolest night we'd had for some time. However, when the lights eventually went on we had a steady stream of moths arrive. Other visitors included another badger (which Val saw this time), and a soldier on his security rounds. He knew where we would be and stayed a while as we showed him some of the moths we'd already recorded. After he continued on his security round we had a break for food and drink before having another look in the traps. We had just confirmed the identity of an unimpressive micro and new it would be a first county record, when we had another soldier visit us. We told him of our find, but he did seem a bit more impressed by the larger and more colourful species present. Finally we waited for **Flounced Rustic** to arrive and then packed up, as it was getting a bit chilly. One moth seemed particularly settled on Val's hat and so we left it and it came with us to our first check point where we had to sign out. The guard seemed interested and knew of our county first. However, the warmth of the guardhouse had livened up the **Poplar Hawk-moth** on Val's hat and it started flying around the room. After a bit of a chase it landed on some papers and we quickly took it to the door and released it outside. Then we made our way back passed the 'missile' to the main gate. We were again asked about our county first as we handed in our passes and the guards opened the gate. News sure travels fast at Kineton! After this successful visit more are planned for next year. However, we won't promise finding a new species for Warwickshire on every visit! Our final totals this time were just short of 400 moths representing 84 species. Amongst them were ***Elachista maculicerusella***, ***Elachista bisulcella***, ***Cochylis hybridella***, ***Agriphila geniculea***, **Pale Eggar**, **Maple Pug**, **September Thorn** and **Red Underwing**. Oh yes, we nearly forgot, the county first was ***Ypsolopha horridella***.

It was back to the other end of the Warwickshire for our next nights mothing. We arrived at Alvecote Wood to find the owners, Steve and Sarah, just leaving after doing a tough day's haymaking. They looked shattered and had definitely earned their beer and a takeaway. We found that out when we saw the state of the meadow. Keith, John, Chris, Roger and us were amazed to find how much they'd done. There were islands around groups of trees that were untouched, but the rest had been mown and hay bales were neatly stacked at various places. We managed to take advantage of Steve and Sarah's efforts by putting our traps on the hay bales, as they were a perfect back-saving height! Keith and Chris were able to drive to the far side of the field that had not been trapped before. John offered to put his trap in the wood to add species from there. It was a lovely night and the "tea shop" was set up on the bench. There were a few less slugs to deal with this time, which was a great relief to us all! Once all the traps were up and running we retired to the bench for refreshment. Chris then produced a book that Lloyd Lees' daughter had got published. We know Lloyd from Windmill Hill and his book was called "Tiddlers and Tiddlers". It contained stories that Lloyd had written and read to his children when they were young. Val wanted to hear some of them and so we all sat comfortably while we had a live and uncut version of Chris-a-nory! It was a bit surreal but highly entertaining. That wasn't the last time Chris provided us with entertainment tonight either. While at one trap Chris was concentrating on something very specific near the ground. He crept up on it and pounced on the **Green Hairstreak**. Unfortunately for Chris (should have gone to specsavers), it turned out to be a leaf! The incident created much laughter and after that we spotted Green Hairstreaks all over the place – we would of had an amazing count if they all hadn't been leaves! Alan got into a brief panic at one of our traps as he spotted an unfamiliar micro, but before he could get a pot it had disappeared. Luckily he found it again and got it into a pot. It was small but absolutely gorgeous. Even its legs shimmered in the traplight. If Martin had been with us he would have told us what it was immediately, but he wasn't. So various sources were trawled through as we all decided it could only be one species - **Parectopa ononidis**, a new species to all of us. There was no way a photograph could do justice to this glorious little moth and we were all grateful we'd seen it. Alan still says it was his favourite moth of the year. By the end of a thoroughly enjoyable night we'd recorded 114 species with 33 of them being newly found at Alvecote. Amongst the species recorded were **Ypsolopha sylvella**, **Epermenia falciformis**, **Dichrorampha plumbagana**, **Chinese Character**, **Tawny Speckled Pug**, **Feathered Gothic**, **Brown-spot Pinion** and **Angle-striped Sallow**.

Val was unavailable due to work for the next trip. So it was just Alan who went to meet Roger at Chastleton House just over the Oxfordshire border. Roger had offered to run a public moth night for the National Trust here in about a month's time and this was to be a practice run. They were met by Amy, the Head Gardener and Dawn, the Caretaker and then went on a tour to find trapping locations. Once all was agreed and the traps set up, Roger and Alan retired to the rather grand volunteers room in the main house. After a cuppa a first look in the traps was made. Alan's, at the end of the croquet lawns, had a 'hornet problem' and so time had to be spent dealing with that. After all was sorted it was back to the volunteers room for a rest. Once recovered they headed out to the traps again, This time they were joined by Dawn and her son Rick who were amazed at the variety of size, shape and colours of the various species. One **Red Underwing** made a big impression on Dawn as it settled on her. Once the tour was completed it was back to the house and Roger was given a key so we could come and go as needed. It took quite a while to count up due to the hornets having turned into wasps, which were being a total nuisance. All was finally achieved around 5 a.m. It was then that Roger managed to break the door key he'd been given and had to wake Dawn up so he could gain access and unplug his trap. He managed to sweeten the interruption as we had some different moths potted up for her to see. As they left just before 6 a.m. it was felt the night has been a success and all was set for a month's time. The final tallies were over a thousand moths counted representing 78 species. Amongst the species recorded were **Parornix scoticella**, **Bryotropha senectella**, **Brown China-mark**, **Lime-speck Pug** and **Cabbage Moth**.

This turned out to be the only moth night at Chastleton House, as Roger was informed by the National Trust three days before the public event that, in their ignorant wisdom, they'd cancelled it as only three people had booked to come. Roger was justifiably unhappy with their unilateral decision. It wasn't like there would be a charge for attending the moth night, as we were all giving our time and knowledge for free. This does not reflect well on the National Trust, although we could have expected it due to their previous track record with events like this. If it's not inanimate they appear to have little interest in furthering their staff's knowledge. That maybe harsh, but the decision annoyed all the moth-ers who had committed to help on the public night, mainly because we lost the chance at converting three more people into moth recorders! OK, rant over, we'll move on.

One public moth night that did go ahead was our next trip. We headed down the M5 to Slimbridge WWT Centre and for a change it was dry! We were hoping there would be enough traps to stop Pete Cranswick from putting one out, as he runs the event and so, doesn't have the time really. We managed to do that as, us, John, Roger, Chris, Steve, Peter Hugo, Matt Holland, Roy and Liz Radcliffe ran a total of eleven traps. We were grateful to be back in our old place by the reedbed filtration system as, in the past two years we'd had to be rather nomadic due to heavy rain. The other traps were in two main areas either side of the Centre. We'd tempted Chris and John into coming so they could hear Pete's brilliant talk on moths. As Pete's talk began to the 23 people who had arrived for the event, Alan had to rush and find John, who was still out on the reserve. Pete always puts something different in his talk to keep us amused every year and long may it continue! After his talk we split the 'crowd' into two lots and set off to the traps. Liz and Roy's trap had a 'hornet problem' and they decided to sacrifice it, so that other traps in the area wouldn't be affected. Thanks must go to them for that. There were plenty of camera shutters going every time something new was discovered and so it took a while to get the shots people wanted and then pot the moths to take back to show the other group. It's always amazing how little duplication of species seems to happen when everybody gets together again. As usual quite a few people left after the refreshments and before the second round began. The remaining group was small enough that we could all go round together the second time, but only the real hard-core made it out to our traps, as they were passed the car park! After supper we all split up to count our own traps, while Pete had time to get the tearoom back in some sort of order, as he didn't have a trap to look after. Our objective had been achieved. When everyone met back up again to swop new species it was after 5 a.m. It had been a cracking night with almost 2,000 moths counted representing 125 species. That was a great result for the end of August. Amongst the species recorded were ***Phyllocnistis saligna***, ***Clepsis spectrana***, ***Calamotropha paludella***, **Small China-mark**, **Mocha**, **Green Carpet**, **Bordered Beauty**, **Setaceous Hebrew Character**, **Centre-barred Sallow**, **Straw Dot** and **Pinion-streaked Snout**. It wasn't a surprise, but just another occasion that we had to have breakfast on the way home!

September

Never knowing when the good summer weather would end Alan talked Chris into joining him at Ryton Meadows. They arrived to find that 'Scrub Hill' had been 'managed' again. Not quite as bad as before, but there was still not enough shelter left if it was a breezy night. Luckily tonight there wasn't too much wind and so they should get away with it. Martin had been informed they would be there, but wasn't sure if he'd make it. However, he did arrive after the traps were on and was surprised to find both Chris and Alan had taken things for him. Chris had a broken choke that he hoped Martin could fix and Alan had taken some leaf-mines from the garden for him to have a go at identifying. He was glad he did, as a new species for the garden was confirmed! Martin didn't have time to set a trap up and after an hour or so headed for home. It was a rare moonless night at Ryton with a good number of moths arriving at the traps. Just as Alan thought he should put some more petrol in the generator the lights went out! They were soon back on after refueling and count up time was signaled by the arrival of **Rosy Rustic**. It was a good night with just short of 500 moths counted, representing 73 species including four new for the meadows.

The weather had taken a turn for the worse by the time we reached Chaddesley Wood for the monthly recording session. Despite the fact we were back to having a clear and cold night, Peter, Roger, John, Martin and the Burke family all made the effort to put up traps. Once they were set up and switched on the majority of the night was spent around the "tea shop". Donations from Martin and Lucy were gratefully added to the stock and Mervyn and Rose brought some cherry tomatoes from their garden for everyone. Scott was also hoping to make it, although he knew he would be late. He did finally arrive around midnight. He was just in time, as not much was flying and so the decision was made to start counting up. There was the odd new species to show at the end and it was generally considered that we were right to call it a night. A disappointing, but not surprising, 24 species were recorded. Amongst the species that did brave the cold were ***Ypsolopha parenthesesella***, ***Epinotia brunnichana***, **Brimstone Moth**, **Autumnal Rustic**, **Small Wainscot** and **Frosted Orange**.

A week later we went back to Windmill Hill for the annual moth 'n' nosh night. Due to it being later in the year than normal there were fewer people, but most of the regulars made it. As usual, Sandra, Lloyd and Chris had done a great job with the food and Val was enjoying her night off "tea shop" duty. Chris, Martin, Scott and us set up seven traps around the site. While most of us were enjoying the refreshments, Alan went off to GPS all the traps. At one of Martin's the first thing he saw was a ***Merveille Du Jour***. So that would make the night worthwhile immediately. Alan potted it and after finishing his tour returned to the rest of us with the prize moth. It went down well and there was no pressure on us after that. We did have a problem with the lights going out tonight. Luckily Scott knew a thing or two and managed to get them back on again. After the second time it went dark the culprit was found. It was the kettle! If it was switched on, it blew a fuse. So it was agreed that nobody could have a hot drink until we'd finished. The third time they went off we were all ready to blame somebody for switching on the kettle, but it wasn't to blame this time. Chris appeared rather sheepishly and admitted to disturbing a wire he shouldn't have! After a round of the traps most of the regulars disappeared. It was another clear night and the temperature finally got low enough that not much was flying and so we packed up. With all the traps done, the kettle was boiled and a hot drink could be enjoyed as we swapped notes before heading for home. We'd done better than at Chaddesley last week, as 34 species were recorded including a couple of new ones for the site. Amongst the species found were ***Argyresthia goedartella***, ***Depressaria badiella***, **Twenty-plume Moth**, **Treble-bar**, **Heart & Dart**, **Brindled Green** and **Lunar Underwing**.

Chastleton House was supposed to be our next venue, but with that called off we decided to go mothing anyway. Martin suggested we go to Bishop's Hill, as we hadn't been all year. That was proven, as we arrived to find John already parked, but surrounded by vegetation. Val quickly got to work with the secateurs and did a superb job. By the time Martin, Scott and Anna had arrived there was room for all five cars! Well done, Val. We were expecting Roger as well, but we found out later that the message we'd left him didn't get through for some reason, which was a real shame. We did put a trap on his usual spot in his honour, so he could have a "Bullseye" moment (this is what you would have caught!), when he saw the list. As Martin and John had trollied their traps around to the other side of the hill, the two trips around and then over the hill, on the way back, kept us warm. We'd all just arrived back from the second visit to their traps and were tucking into what the "tea shop" had to offer when two bewildered police officers appeared. Apparently, a local resident had reported seeing cars driving around on the hill. We wondered why we hadn't seen the cars, as we'd just come over the hill! We concluded that the hum of the generators and our torches might have led to the error. The officers weren't too pleased, after struggling through brambles to reach the hill via a back garden! We offered them some tea and biscuits, as some recompense for their efforts, but they declined before returning to inform the complainant – via the road!!! It was time to start counting shortly afterwards and with no further incident we managed to record 33 species. They included ***Acleris laterana***, **Red-green Carpet**, **Deep-brown Dart**, **Burnished Brass** and **Sallow**.

With the weather too good not to go mothing, Alan made an extremely last minute decision to go to Weston Wood. As nobody else was available at such short notice, Val decided to go even after having had a hectic day. The decision was made so late that it was already dark when we arrived. So once in the wood we got to work putting up the traps straight away. Once they were switched on, we spent a lot of time investigating brambleberries for any nectaring moths. That proved very productive and we found nearly as many moths via that method as in the traps. **Pink-barred Sallow** was the most common with ten being found on the berries and only one in a trap. We would've been happy recording fifteen species, but by the time we'd packed up the total had reached a quite amazing 40! Val was well pleased with her decision to go, despite the exhaustion! Amongst the species found were **Acleris rhombana**, **Epinotia maculana**, **Riband Wave**, **Spruce Carpet**, **Red-line Quaker**, **Orange Sallow** and **Herald**.

A period of settled weather at the end of the month allowed us to arrange a visit to Weethley Wood. The wood had never been recorded this late in the year before, so we were hoping to get some new moths for the site. John Sirrett joined us for the first time this year along with Martin, Roger and John F. It was an unusually warm night with a gusty east wind. We did have one brief shower, but conditions were generally excellent. Seven traps were set out over a wide area to give us the best chance of catching a range of species. It took a long time to get round all the traps due to the distance involved, but it was well worthwhile as we were building quite a list. There was always something newly arrived at each trap and so we carried on recording after refueling the generators. Finally we decided it was time to pack up, but even then new species kept arriving. The final list reached a quite amazing 64 species! A 1/3 of them were newly recorded for the wood, which was a great reward for our long night. Everyone had enjoyed it, even though it was around 4 a.m. before we set off for home. Amongst the stunning range of species found was a second county record for **Ypsolopha horridella**. Other species included **Epinotia maculana**, **Stenoptilia bipunctidactyla**, **Mallow**, **Blair's Shoulder-knot**, **Yellow-line Quaker**, **Barred Sallow**, **Large Wainscot** and **Silver Y**.

October

Val missed the first trip of the month as she had an appointment with 'twelve angry men' at a theatre in Birmingham! However, Alan joined Anna, Keith, Martin, Chris and eventually Scott at Wolvey for a night's mothing at the Old Cricket Field Wetland Reserve. It was another mild night with very little wind so conditions were promising. Six traps were spread around the wetland and Martin also put one in the adjacent churchyard. Moths arrived at a steady pace throughout the evening and another good list was built. With a light drizzle in the air it was decided to call it a night. The final total reached 50 species with almost half of them new for the site and fifteen were new for the 10k square! So it proved an extremely worthwhile evenings recording. Amongst the species tonight were **Tinea semifulvella**, **Acleris sparsana**, **Rush Veneer**, **Double-striped Pug**, **Black Rustic**, **Green-brindled Crescent** and **Beaded Chestnut**.

The following night it was Chaddesley Wood time again and Val was back out mothing. Martin, Peter, Garry Barlow and the Burke Family joined us on what was potentially a good night. It got off to a very slow start and time was spent at the "tea shop" before doing a round of the traps. Emily and Lucy got tired earlier than normal, but Pete and Belinda stayed for a second look round the traps before heading home. In the end a decent list was built and by the time we'd packed up a total of 33 species had been recorded amongst the 152 moths found. Some of them were **Hypatima rhomboidella**, **Epinotia sordidana**, **Pine Carpet**, **Light Emerald**, **Satellite**, **Chestnut** and **Snout**. Also recorded at the traps were three adult males of the Land Caddis (*Eniocyba pusilla*).

The weather had gone downhill by the time we made our last visit of the year to Middleton Hall. If it had been anywhere else we'd probably have called it off. Our journey was awful with bumper-to-bumper traffic everywhere. We finally made it to the hall and were a little surprised to find that we were the first to arrive. Val went and confirmed our arrival with caretaker John, while Alan went in search of sheltered spots to put the traps out of the very strong wind. Chris was next to arrive and we tried his actinic in the same spot as he caught the **Olive Crescent** last time. Keith arrived just for a bit of a social, as he had to be up early the following morning. We were happily residing in the canteen when a very harassed Martin arrived with tales of road closures and horrendous traffic. He only made it at all because of a bit of local knowledge. If we thought our journey had been bad but it appeared we had been quite lucky to make it through when we did! After a few deep breaths Martin went to set up his traps. Finally, John arrived with similar tales of woe and then Alan showed him the spot to put his trap he thought would be out of the wind. With recovery time required and the weather not very good it was ages before we could be bothered to do a round of the traps. When we reached Martin's furthest trap he decided to pack it up. Then after another cuppa it was decided to pack up the other traps as well. Having arrived not expecting to catch much at all, a final tally of 22 species was remarkable. Added to that Martin did a good job finding a lot of leaf-mines to fill in some gaps on the site list. Amongst the adults found were **Anthophila fabriciana**, **Epinotia nisella**, **November Moth**, **Merveille Du Jour**, **Brick** and **Large Wainscot**. Thankfully we found the gridlock had cleared by the time we made the journey home. We still have no idea what caused it in the first place.

The weather was still reasonable and so we arranged to make one last trip over to Alvecote Wood. A series of phone calls asking if we were still going was caused by a torrential thunderstorm only 90 mins before we were due to meet. However, Alan was confident that it would have passed by the time we were at the wood. He was proved right, as there wasn't a cloud in the sky when we met Keith, John, Martin and Chris at the gate. There was some residual wind still blowing, but it was from a mild southerly direction. Martin did set one trap up on the edge of the meadow while the rest were in the wood. Martin again did well finding some leaf-mines that would add new species to the site list. The traps in the wood did OK with a slow but steady stream of moths arriving. The trap on the meadow edge was very different, as the wind was affecting it badly and it only managed to attract one **Feathered Thorn** in the end. After five hours we thought we weren't going to catch much more and so by 1 a.m. every light had gone off and equipment was loaded back into the vehicles. It had been a successful night, as we'd recorded eighteen species with six being new for the wood. They were **Caloptilia stigmatella**, **Diurnea lipsiella**, **November Moth**, **Green-brindled Crescent**, **Yellow-line Quaker** and **Large Wainscot**. Everyone was pleased that they had taken the time to go, after all the doubts early on. Within five minutes of the gate being locked and all of us on our journey's home the heavens opened and another burst of heavy rain greeted us. That never happens! Normally we're just packing up the last trap when we get drenched. We did smile as we'd finally won one against the weather. We'd had a seven-hour window to fit a moth night in and we did!

November

What proved to be our last trip of the year was a visit to Chaddesley Wood. Having been postponed twice, we finally attempted it on the third Saturday of the month. It turned into a nightmare journey. Our normal 25 min jaunt to Chaddesley turned into 1½ hours of purgatory. Every road to, from and round Bromsgrove appeared to be shut due to 'a police incident'. Alan's sense of direction kicked in and after going on some very narrow country lanes that we didn't know existed, we finally reached the A38 at Bromsgrove. We were then informed we couldn't go the way we wanted even though a stream of cars coming from the opposite direction were. We were told to go south, when we wanted to go west! It was an absolute shambles. We finally did make our way through Bromsgrove at a snails pace and when we finally reached the wood found a queue at the gate waiting for us to open up. Thankfully Peter knew there were problems on the roads and didn't go home before we got there. He managed to tell Martin and Steve Whitehouse as well.

So as soon as we got the gate open we drove into the wood and started setting up. It was disappointing that we'd missed the early moth arrivals, as we'd seen quite a few flying as we approached the wood. It couldn't be helped though. Once everything was up and running Val and Peter disappeared back into Bromsgrove to the chippy and got us all dinner. Peter's local road knowledge was invaluable, as everything was still hot when they returned. So we all sat round a trap and stuffed our faces. It gave us a chance to take a breath and we were all a lot calmer after our meals. The weather forecasters had been at it again by guaranteeing a cloudy night. What do think we saw when looking up? Yep, not a cloud anywhere, or as I put it on my recording sheet, clear as crystal with the added bonus of a full moon – oh joy! It's normal at this time of year for moths to be slow in arriving once it gets dark and so we were prepared for the wait. Eventually, things did pick up, despite the temperature plummeting, as there was no wind to speak of. The time to pack up was announced by the first **Sprawler** to arrive. By the end we'd recorded 20 species, which was very satisfying after all the grief we went through getting there. Some of the other species found on the night were **Apple Leaf Miner**, **Rusty-dot Pearl**, **December Moth**, **Northern Winter Moth**, **Mottled Umber** and **Grey Shoulder-knot**. So not long after midnight we attempted to make the journey home. Unbelievably, the roads were still closed and we had to come home via a very circuitous route. I think it'd be safe to say that, from a road users perspective, this 'incident' was handled by the police in an absolutely appalling manner. They couldn't have made it more difficult for drivers to get anywhere if they'd actually sat down and planned it! We did finally make it home, which was a huge relief. Incredulously, we woke up the next day to find the 'incident' was still going on and the carnage on the roads was continuing. Eventually, we found out that this mayhem was caused by one bloke threatening to jump off a bridge. It all ended in utter disappointment, as after 26 hours the bloke didn't bloody jump. By looking at most drivers faces there would have thousands of motorists who would quite happily have brought the 'incident' to a conclusion a lot earlier, believe us!

SOME SPECIAL THANKS

We are losing three special people to pastures new after this year, although we hope to see them back with us on the odd occasion in the future. In order of disappearance!

Steve Lane: We've had some highly entertaining nights watching Steve 'beetling' about while we've been setting up our moth traps. We've learnt a lot about beetles thanks to him and can even identify some now. We wish you well in your new Norfolk home.

Roger Ward: Roger has been a fantastic help on the many moth nights he's been on with us. His enormous contribution, reliability and humour will be a great loss to us on our mothing travels. We also wish him well in his new Norfolk home.

John Finlay: John has quietly become a major contributor to our moth recording efforts. We don't know how he managed to fit work in around our adventures, but are extremely glad he did. We wish him well in the northeast, where his job now takes him.

TO ALL OF YOU– A HEARTFELT THANK YOU

Summary

2013 can easily be described as a year of two halves with the first being absolutely awful and the second extremely good. The initial despair turned to joy when the jet stream shifted and we finally had a summer to speak of. We had many exciting finds and had some very long nights. The year certainly had its incidents varying from annoying to hilarious and at times just unbelievable. We've seen a lot of new moths to help further our knowledge of the subject. It is very pleasing that this time we can end our story on a more positive note than last years. Let's hope we get more of the second half of 2013's weather that the first half next year. We'd rather not return to the monotony of clear and cold nights every time we go mothing. As always we would like to thank all the people who have helped us throughout the year and hope to see them again in 2014.

Clarification

All species mentioned in the text have been adults. No leaf-mines or cases etc. have been included unless specified. Difficult to identify species will have been confirmed via dissection.

Further Information

For information on Moth Nights or Butterfly Walks in Warwickshire see the Butterfly Conservation web site at: <http://www.warwickshire-butterflies.org.uk>

Or contact David Brown on 01789 840295 or Keith Warmington on 01827 715873

Moth Nights 2013

Date	Site	Traps	Species	Individuals
05/01/2013	Chaddesley Wood, Worcestershire	6	3	54
05/03/2013	Chaddesley Wood, Worcestershire	3	12	65
12/04/2013	Middleton Hall, Warwickshire	8	15	111
16/04/2013	Chaddesley Wood, Worcestershire	4	16	482
20/04/2013	Windmill Hill, Nuneaton, Warwickshire	7	23	173
02/05/2013	Ryton Meadows, Warwickshire	3	16	94
04/05/2013	Chaddesley Wood, Worcestershire	10	32	286
06/05/2013	Alvecote Wood, Warwickshire	4	19	157
11/05/2013	Weethley Wood, Warwickshire	9	9	23
21/05/2013	Martlesham, Suffolk	1	5	5
24/05/2013	Middleton Hall, Warwickshire	3	9	9
31/05/2013	Weston Wood, Warwickshire	7	84	519
01/06/2013	Chaddesley Wood, Worcestershire	7	31	185
04/06/2013	Chartley Moss NNR, Staffordshire	6	62	344
07/06/2013	Focus Optics, Corley, Warwickshire	8	50	198
11/06/2013	Weeley, Essex	3	40	71
12/06/2013	Weeley, Essex	2	19	38
13/06/2013	Weeley, Essex	3	35	57
14/06/2013	Wolvey, Warwickshire	4	43	80
18/06/2013	Ryton Meadows, Warwickshire	4	131	826
19/06/2013	Chaddesley Wood, Worcestershire	3	95	406
25/06/2013	River Arrow LNR, Alcester, Warwickshire	2	81	382

Date	Site	Traps	Species	Individuals
28/06/2013	Alvecote Wood, Warwickshire	5	80	493
06/07/2013	Chaddesley Wood, Worcestershire	5	155	1,508
09/07/2013	Rough Bank, Gloucestershire	5	181	1,135
12/07/2013	Abbey Farm, Wolvey, Warwickshire	11	205	3,526
16/07/2013	Weethley Wood, Warwickshire	4	222	1,663
19/07/2013	Hay Wood, Warwickshire	7	210	3,347
20/07/2013	Norton Covert, Worcestershire	2	164	1,305
23/07/2013	Snelsmore Common CP, Berkshire	4	155	1,356
26/07/2013	Middleton Hall, Warwickshire	7	204	1,863
31/07/2013	Ryton Meadows, Warwickshire	3	171	1,070
01/08/2013	Crown East Wood, Worcestershire	2	150	1,525
03/08/2013	Chaddesley Wood, Worcestershire	6	167	1,946
08/08/2013	Purley Quarry, Warwickshire (NMN 1)	9	217	1,853
10/08/2013	Weethley Wood, Warwickshire (NMN 3)	5	155	1,581
14/08/2013	Bishop's Bowl Lakes, Warwickshire	5	140	828
17/08/2013	Breakheart Quarry, Gloucestershire	8	129	1,117
20/08/2013	DSDA Kineton, Warwickshire	2	84	397
22/08/2013	Alvecote Wood, Warwickshire	6	114	837
27/08/2013	Chastleton House, Oxfordshire	3	78	1,114
30/08/2013	Slimbridge WWT Centre, Gloucestershire	11	125	1,840
04/09/2013	Ryton Meadows, Warwickshire	3	73	490
07/09/2013	Chaddesley Wood, Worcestershire	7	24	89
14/09/2013	Windmill Hill, Nuneaton, Warwickshire	7	34	141
20/09/2013	Bishop's Hill, Warwickshire	7	33	139
24/09/2013	Weston Wood, Warwickshire	2	40	98
28/09/2013	Weethley Wood, Warwickshire	7	64	237
04/10/2013	Wolvey, Warwickshire	7	50	226
05/10/2013	Chaddesley Wood, Worcestershire	9	33	152
11/10/2013	Middleton Hall, Warwickshire	6	22	63
19/10/2013	Alvecote Wood, Warwickshire	7	18	142
16/11/2013	Chaddesley Wood, Worcestershire	8	20	174

Species Mentioned In Text

B&F	Species	Page	B&F	Species	Page
6	<i>Eriocrania subpurpurella</i>	4	530	<i>Coleophora lixella</i>	9
14	Ghost Moth	9	541	<i>Coleophora pyrrhulipennella</i>	11
128	<i>Phylloporia bistrigella</i>	7	545	<i>Coleophora saturatella</i>	13
138	<i>Lampronia fuscatella</i>	5	548	<i>Coleophora niveicostella</i>	9
140	<i>Nematopogon swammerdamella</i>	4	553	<i>Coleophora striatipennella</i>	8
141	<i>Nematopogon schwarziellus</i>	6	556	<i>Coleophora trochilella</i>	12
161	Leopard Moth	10	561	<i>Coleophora therinella</i>	10
169	Six-spot Burnet	12	567	<i>Coleophora adspersella</i>	15
225	<i>Triaxomera fulvimitrella</i>	5	568	<i>Coleophora versurella</i>	10
228	<i>Monopis weaverella</i>	5	595	<i>Elachista biatomella</i>	14
246	<i>Tinea semifulvella</i>	19	598	<i>Elachista kilmunella</i>	6
263	Apple Leaf Miner	21	602	<i>Elachista apicipunctella</i>	6, 13
282	<i>Caloptilia elongella</i>	4	609	<i>Elachista maculicerusella</i>	15
284	<i>Caloptilia rufipennella</i>	12	622	<i>Elachista adscitella</i>	14
288	<i>Caloptilia stigmatella</i>	20	623	<i>Elachista bisulcella</i>	15
290	<i>Caloptilia semifascia</i>	12	660	<i>Pseudatemelia josephinae</i>	10
299	<i>Parectopa ononidis</i>	16	663	<i>Diurnea fagella</i>	3
305	<i>Parornix scoticella</i>	16	664	<i>Diurnea lipsiella</i>	20
326	<i>Phyllonorycter blancardella</i>	5	674	<i>Depressaria badiella</i>	18
367	<i>Phyllocnistis saligna</i>	17	689	<i>Agonopterix ciliella</i>	12
368	<i>Phyllocnistis unipunctella</i>	11	698	<i>Agonopterix kaekeritziana</i>	14
385	<i>Anthophila fabriciana</i>	20	704	<i>Agonopterix scopariella</i>	13
411	<i>Argyresthia goedartella</i>	18	718	<i>Ethmia dodecea</i>	11
419	<i>Argyresthia semifusca</i>	14	742	<i>Monochroa lutulentella</i>	9
428	Willow Ermine	12	758	<i>Recurvaria leucatella</i>	12
430	<i>Yponomeuta plumbella</i>	12	760	<i>Exoteleia dodecella</i>	11
445	<i>Ocnerostoma friesei</i>	4	762	<i>Athrips mouffetella</i>	12
452	<i>Ypsolopha nemorella</i>	13	764	<i>Pseudotelphusa scalella</i>	7
456	<i>Ypsolopha horridella</i>	15,19	765	<i>Teleiodes vulgella</i>	12
459	<i>Ypsolopha sylvella</i>	16	770	<i>Carpatolechia proximella</i>	4
460	<i>Ypsolopha parenthesella</i>	18	771	<i>Carpatolechia alburnella</i>	11
464	Diamond-back Moth	4	773	<i>Pseudotelphusa paripunctella</i>	13
470	<i>Orthotelia sparganella</i>	10	782	<i>Bryotropha senectella</i>	16
481	<i>Epermenia falciformis</i>	16	822	<i>Scrobipalpa acuminatella</i>	5
485	<i>Schreckensteinia festaliella</i>	8	851	<i>Dichomeris alacella</i>	11
501	<i>Coleophora siccifolia</i>	10	858	<i>Hypatima rhomboidella</i>	19
515	<i>Coleophora albitarsella</i>	10	872	<i>Symmoca signatella</i>	6

B&F	Species	Page	B&F	Species	Page
879	<i>Batrachedra pinicolella</i>	10	1144	<i>Epinotia signatana</i>	9
884	<i>Mompha miscella</i>	15	1152	<i>Epinotia maculana</i>	19
888	<i>Mompha propinquella</i>	14	1153	<i>Epinotia sordidana</i>	19
893	<i>Mompha epilobiella</i>	2	1155	<i>Epinotia brunnichana</i>	18
925	<i>Phtheochroa rugosana</i>	4	1156	<i>Epinotia solandriana</i>	10
941	<i>Aethes hartmanniana</i>	9	1183	<i>Epiblema foenella</i>	10
964	<i>Cochylis dubitana</i>	9	1217	<i>Eucosmomorpha albersana</i>	7
965	<i>Cochylis hybridella</i>	15	1237	<i>Pammene germmana</i>	7
986	<i>Syndemis musculana</i>	4	1245	<i>Grapholita janthinana</i>	10
993	<i>Clepsis spectrana</i>	17	1247	<i>Grapholita funebrana</i>	6
998	Light Brown Apple Moth	4	1276	<i>Dichrorampha plumbagana</i>	16
1006	<i>Epagoge grotiana</i>	13	1279	<i>Dichrorampha acuminatana</i>	6
1007	<i>Capua vulgana</i>	5	1288	Twenty-plume Moth	18
1011	<i>Pseudargyrotoza conwagana</i>	8	1292	<i>Calamotropha paludella</i>	17
1016	<i>Cnephasia longana</i>	12	1293	<i>Chrysoteuchia culmella</i>	10
1022a	<i>Cnephasia pumicana</i>	14	1309	<i>Agriphila geniculea</i>	15
1025	<i>Tortricodes alternella</i>	1, 2	1316	<i>Catoptria falsella</i>	10
1027	<i>Neosphaleroptera nubilana</i>	10	1332	<i>Scoparia subfusca</i>	8
1030	<i>Eana incanana</i>	12	1334a	<i>Scoparia basistrigalis</i>	11
1033	Green Oak Tortrix	11	1336	<i>Eudonia pallida</i>	10
1035	<i>Acleris bergmanniana</i>	10	1345	Brown China-mark	16
1038	<i>Acleris laterana</i>	18	1348	Ringed China-mark	14
1041	<i>Acleris sparsana</i>	19	1354	Small China-mark	17
1042	<i>Acleris rhombana</i>	19	1358	<i>Evergestis pallidata</i>	12
1043	<i>Acleris aspersana</i>	14	1362	<i>Pyrausta purpuralis</i>	15
1044	<i>Acleris ferrugana</i>	3	1365	<i>Pyrausta despicata</i>	9
1053	<i>Acleris hastiana</i>	4	1395	Rusty-dot Pearl	21
1061	<i>Acleris literana</i>	3	1398	Rush Veneer	19
1076	<i>Celypha lacunana</i>	10	1415	<i>Orthopygia glaucinalis</i>	13
1085	<i>Metendothenia atropunctana</i>	6	1424	<i>Endotricha flammealis</i>	12
1110	<i>Bactra furfurana</i>	8	1426	Lesser Wax Moth	13
1117	<i>Ancylis unguicella</i>	11	1433	<i>Cryptoblabes bistriga</i>	7
1118	<i>Ancylis uncella</i>	6	1442	<i>Pempelia palumbella</i>	11
1119a	<i>Ancylis diminutana</i>	9	1445	<i>Pempelia formosa</i>	10
1120	<i>Ancylis mitterbacheriana</i>	7	1457	<i>Hypochalcia ahenella</i>	9
1135	<i>Epinotia demarniana</i>	10	1474	<i>Ephestia parasitella</i>	7
1137	<i>Epinotia tetraquetra</i>	5	1485	<i>Phycitodes maritima</i>	14

B&F	Species	Page	B&F	Species	Page
1498	<i>Amblyptilia punctidactyla</i>	10	1751	DEVON CARPET	14
1508	<i>Stenoptilia bipunctidactyla</i>	19	1752	PURPLE BAR	6
1509	<i>Stenoptilia pterodactyla</i>	11	1754	PHOENIX	13
1517	<i>Adaina microdactyla</i>	14	1758	BARRED STRAW	10
1555	Green Hairstreak	16	1760	RED-GREEN CARPET	18
1557	Purple Hairstreak	14	1767	PINE CARPET	19
1569	Small Blue	9	1769	SPRUCE CARPET	19
1620	Marbled White	9	1776	GREEN CARPET	17
1631	DECEMBER MOTH	21	1778	MAY HIGHFLYER	7
1632	PALE EGGAR	15	1781	SMALL WAVED UMBER	14
1634	LACKEY	10	1784	PRETTY CHALK CARPET	9
1640	DRINKER	1	1790	TISSUE	12
1647	BARRED HOOK-TIP	15	1791	BROWN SCALLOP	10
1651	CHINESE CHARACTER	16	1792	DARK UMBER	13
1654	FIGURE OF EIGHTY	8	1795	NOVEMBER MOTH	20
1655	POPLAR LUTESTRING	14	1800	NORTHERN WINTER MOTH	21
1656	SATIN LUTSTRING	15	1802	RIVULET	5
1659	YELLOW HORNED	2	1804	BARRED RIVULET	15
1660	FROSTED GREEN	4	1807	GRASS RIVULET	7
1663	MARCH MOTH	2	1812	MAPLE PUG	15
1667	BLOTCHED EMERALD	9	1813	HAWORTH'S PUG	10
1673	SMALL EMERALD	11	1825	LIME-SPECK PUG	16
1676	MOCHA	17	1830	WORMWOOD PUG	10
1677	BIRCH MOCHA	11	1833	BLEACHED PUG	15
1682	BLOOD-VEIN	5	1837	GREY PUG	7
1713	RIBAND WAVE	19	1838	TAWNY SPECKLED PUG	16
1715	PLAIN WAVE	11	1839	BORDERED PUG	10
1716	VESTAL	12	1842	PLAIN PUG	13
1722	FLAME CARPET	7	1844	OCHREOUS PUG	5
1725	DARK-BARRED TWIN-SPOT CARPET	5	1846	NARROW-WINGED PUG	13
1728	GARDEN CARPET	12	1853	OAK-TREE PUG	5
1731	CHALK CARPET	14	1857	DWARF PUG	7
1732	SHADED BROAD-BAR	14	1862	DOUBLE-STRIPED PUG	19
1739	WOOD CARPET	9	1867	TREBLE-BAR	18
1745	MALLOW	19	1872	BLOMER'S RIVULET	9
1746	SHOULDER STRIPE	2	1874	DINGY SHELL	10
1750	WATER CARPET	3	1879	SERAPHIM	4

B&F	Species	Page	B&F	Species	Page
1881	EARLY TOOTH-STRIPED	4	2003	PEBBLE PROMINENT	5, 7
1882	SMALL SERAPHIM	11	2005	GREAT PROMINENT	5
1884	MAGPIE MOTH	14	2007	SWALLOW PROMINENT	4
1885	CLOUDED MAGPIE	9	2014	MARBLED BROWN	5
1888	SCORCHED CARPET	14	2015	LUNAR MARBLED BROWN	4
1903	BARRED UMBER	7	2019	CHOCOLATE-TIP	3
1904	SCORCHED WING	8	2026	VAPOURER	13
1906	BRIMSTONE MOTH	18	2028	PALE TUSOCK	8
1907	BORDERED BEAUTY	17	2031	WHITE SATIN	10
1910	LILAC BEAUTY	9	2033	BLACK ARCHES	14
1914	DUSKY THORN	15	2035	ROUND-WINGED MUSLIN	10
1915	SEPTEMBER THORN	15	2037	ROSY FOOTMAN	13
1917	EARLY THORN	3	2039	RED-NECKED FOOTMAN	7
1919	PURPLE THORN	4, 11	2040	FOUR-DOTTED FOOTMAN	11
1920	SCALLOPED HAZEL	7	2043	ORANGE FOOTMAN	6
1923	FEATHERED THORN	20	2047	SCARCE FOOTMAN	11
1925	SMALL BRINDLED BEAUTY	2	2060	WHITE ERMINE	7
1926	PALE BRINDLED BEAUTY	1	2061	BUFF ERMINE	8
1927	BRINDLED BEAUTY	3	2063	MUSLIN MOTH	5
1930	OAK BEAUTY	3	2064	RUBY TIGER	12
1932	SPRING USHER	1	2075	SMALL BLACK ARCHES	11
1934	DOTTED BORDER	2	2076	KENT BLACK ARCHES	11
1935	MOTTLED UMBER	21	2081	WHITE-LINE DART	12
1947	ENGRAILED	3	2089	HEART & DART	18
1954	BORDERED WHITE	8	2091	DARK SWORD-GRASS	4, 12
1957	WHITE-PINION SPOTTED	6	2112	LEAST YELLOW UNDERWING	14
1961	LIGHT EMERALD	19	2114	DOUBLE DART	9
1962	BARRED RED	11	2117	AUTUMNAL RUSTIC	18
1968	YELLOW BELLE	6	2126	SETACEOUS HEBREW CHARACTER	17
1978	PINE HAWK-MOTH	11	2133	SIX-STRIPED RUSTIC	13
1980	EYED HAWK-MOTH	6, 8	2138	GREEN ARCHES	9
1981	POPLAR HAWK-MOTH	4, 11, 15	2139	RED CHESTNUT	3
1994	BUFF-TIP	9	2145	NUTMEG	12
1996	ALDER KITTEN	6	2147	SHEARS	7
1997	SALLOW KITTEN	12	2154	CABBAGE MOTH	16
1998	POPLAR KITTEN	5	2155	DOT MOTH	10
1999	LOBSTER MOTH	7	2159	DOG'S TOOTH	6

B&F	Species	Page	B&F	Species	Page
2162	GLAUCOUS SHEARS	6	2291	CORONET	11
2165	SMALL RANUNCULUS	12	2299	MOUSE MOTH	13
2176	ANTLER MOTH	11	2300	OLD LADY	13
2178	FEATHERED GOTHIC	16	2303	STRAW UNDERWING	14
2179	PINE BEAUTY	4	2313	ANGLE-STRIPED SALLOW	16
2182	SMALL QUAKER	3	2319	LUNAR-SPOTTED PINION	13
2183	BLOSSOM UNDERWING	4	2321	DARK ARCHES	10
2185	LEAD-COLOURED DRAB	3	2323	REDDISH LIGHT ARCHES	9
2188	CLOUDED DRAB	3	2330	DUSKY BROCADE	8
2190	HEBREW CHARACTER	3	2331	SMALL CLOUDED BRINDLE	8
2197	SOUTHERN WAINSCOT	14	2335	SLENDER BRINDLE	14
2204	OBSCURE WAINSCOT	10	2336	DOUBLE LOBED	10
2227	SPRAWLER	21	2337	MARbled MINOR	7
2231	DEEP-BROWN DART	18	2339	TAWNY MARbled MINOR	9
2232	BLACK RUSTIC	19	2350	SMALL WAINSCOT	18
2237	GREY SHOULDER-KNOT	2, 21	2353	FLOUNCED RUSTIC	15
2240	BLAIR'S SHOULDER-KNOT	19	2360	EAR MOTH	11
2243	EARLY GREY	3	2361	ROSY RUSTIC	17
2245	GREEN-BRINDLED CRESCENT	19,20	2364	FROSTED ORANGE	18
2247	MERVEILLE DU JOUR	18, 20	2369	BULRUSH WAINSCOT	14
2248	BRINDLED GREEN	18	2370	TWIN-SPOTTED WAINSCOT	14
2256	SATELLITE	19	2375	LARGE WAINSCOT	19, 20
2258	CHESTNUT	19	2422	GREEN SILVER-LINES	8
2262	BRICK	20	2425	NUT-TREE TUSSOCK	15
2263	RED-LINE QUAKER	19	2434	BURNISHED BRASS	18
2264	YELLOW-LINE QUAKER	19, 20	2439	GOLD SPOT	8, 12
2266	BROWN-SPOT PINION	16	2441	SILVER Y	19
2267	BEADED CHESTNUT	19	2443	PLAIN GOLDEN Y	9
2268	SUSPECTED	13	2452	RED UNDERWING	15,16
2269	CENTRE-BARRED SALLOW	17	2466	BLACKNECK	9
2270	LUNAR UNDERWING	18	2469	HERALD	19
2271	ORANGE SALLOW	19	2473	BEAUTIFUL HOOK-TIP	13
2272	BARRED SALLOW	19	2474	STRAW DOT	17
2273	PINK-BARRED SALLOW	19	2475	WAVED BLACK	10,12
2274	SALLOW	18	2477	SNOUT	19
2279	SYCAMORE	10	2484	PINION-STREAKED SNOUT	17
2281	ALDER MOTH	9	2495	OLIVE CRESCENT	11, 12,20
2286	LIGHT KNOT GRASS	6			



2026 Vapourer



2165 Small Ranunculus



1634 Lackey



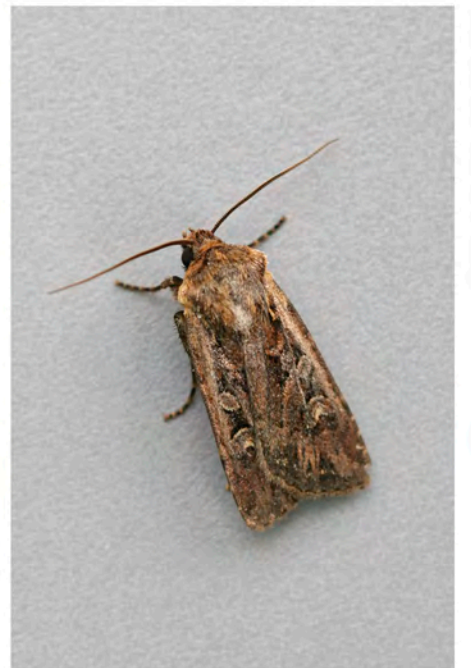
1781 Small Waved Umber



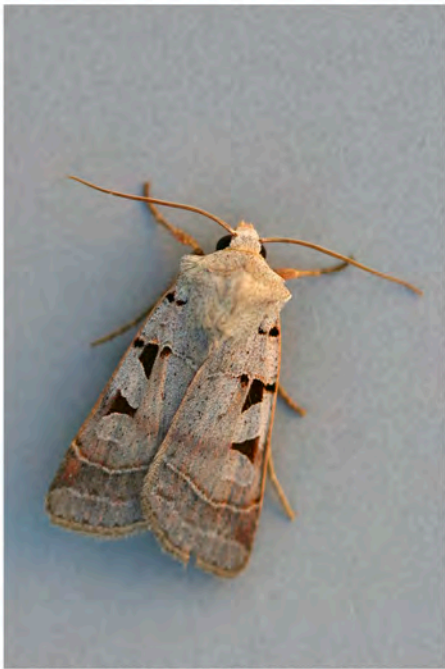
1846 Narrow-winged Pug



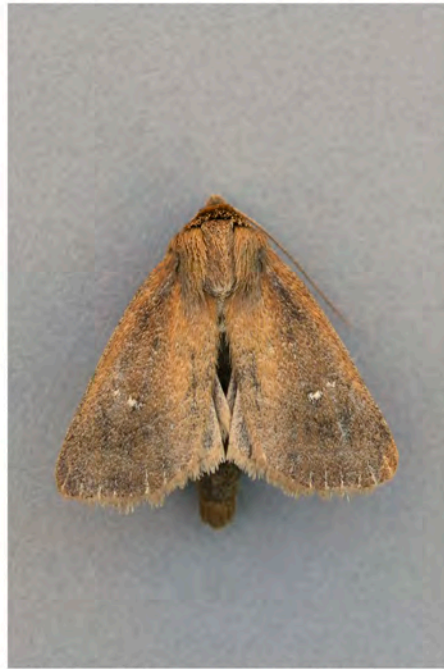
2291 Coronet



2081 White-line Dart



2117 Autumnal Rustic



2370 Twin-spotted Wainscot



2425 Nut-tree Tussock



1676 Mocha



1731 Chalk Carpet



2452 Red Underwing



2469 Herald



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