



**WARWICKSHIRE BRANCH
MOTH EQUIPMENT**

2015 - "We Are Totally Nuts!"



Alan Prior & Val Weston

**Photographs by Scott Hackett
Cover Photograph by Alan Prior**



1663 March Moth



1957 White-pinion Spotted 391 *Glyphipterix simplicella*



6 *Dyseriocrania subpurpurella*



130 *Incurvaria masculella*



925 *Phtheochroa rugosana*



2319 Lunar-spotted Pinion

Introduction

2015 was generally a below average year. A lot of cold nights meant low numbers of many species were recorded on a regular basis. Despite over 60 more traps being set than during the previous year, the overall moth count was down by more than 5,000 compared to 2014. In essence a lot more effort was put in and the resultant poorer catches was disappointing. That was pretty consistent throughout the year with most species appearing behind their normal emergence times with occasional exceptions! This again meant you never really knew what would be found at any particular time. Sometimes it was hard to believe what you were seeing, as the appearance of unexpected species was leaning towards the "norm" by the end of the year. In summary, it was a weird year!

January

The year got underway with a frustrated Val stuck working late and the weather being good enough for a trip out. Alan talked Peter Beasley and Chris Johnson into joining him at Chaddesley Wood. After speaking to wood warden Mervyn Needham, Alan learned of a key that had snapped off in the lock and so vehicles couldn't enter the wood. It wasn't a problem, as the four traps were set up along the newly refurbished track from the gate. Once they were all on, Peter and Chris did the chip shop run and soon after their return all three were soon tucking into dinner around the traps while watching the occasional moth fluttering towards them. This year's seasonal "Chris story" was told about how he had to borrow a tree after Christmas day and put it up before a hastily arranged visit from some family materialised! They weren't overwhelmed with moths even though the conditions were good. What did show up amongst the seven species seemed to set the tone for the year. A species that was normally over by this time, **Northern Winter Moth** was most numerous (12) and **Spring Usher**, normally on the way up, only tallied two. The unexpected appeared in the form of **Common Quaker!** At least the years recording was up and running with a reasonably successful evening out.

February

The only trip of the month wasn't until near the end as a late decision to try and "gap fill" at Windmill Hill in Nuneaton was made. Alan had a tortuous journey due to the time he had to leave and the dreadful road management in Nuneaton. Chris already had traps up and running by the time he finally arrived on site. However, it wasn't long before Alan had doubled the trap count and could take a breath. As is becoming tradition at the appropriate times of year Chris made a chip shop run for their dinner. The difference at Windmill Hill is they have a building in which to eat in relative luxury! At some point during the evening Keith Warmington popped in to discuss a couple of things before they all took a tour of the traps. After that Keith disappeared again and left them to it. Whilst chatting in the building a moth suddenly took off from seemingly nowhere and Alan said, "that'll be a **Chestnut** and so it must be 10:30 pm!" He was almost right, as it was indeed a **Chestnut**, but it was 10:32 pm! That was the signal to do a final round of the traps and pack up. Unfortunately, Chris had been Chris and forgot to put the plexi back in one of his traps and it just contained a lot of egg boxes! The other three traps had done OK and seven species were recorded with four of them being new for the site. They were ***Ypsolopha ustella***, ***Tortricodes alternella***, **Pale Brindled Beauty** and **Spring Usher**. That was an excellent result and the "gap filling" exercise had exceeded expectations. Alan was grateful his journey home was a lot less stressful than it had been on the way.

March

It was a return to Chaddesley Wood for the first recording trip of the month. With a new lock on the gate came a new problem, as Alan's key just would not unlock it no matter what was tried. So it was decided to go to another entrance where there was no problem. Chris and Martin Kennard had already arrived before Peter finally showed up. He informed us that we would have a "newbie" joining us, but had told him the wrong time and so he would have to wait for him to arrive. Val kindly decided to wait with Peter while the rest went to set up their traps. Pete Smith arrived at the appointed time and followed Peter and Val up to the other entrance where he made an early impression after almost getting his Range Rover stuck in the mud at the turn around point. There was much laughing as he finally managed to extricate his vehicle from the sticky situation. He took it all with good spirit and chuckled along with the rest of us. Once the traps were set up and on, the chip shop run was due. However, because Peter had messed up the meeting time he'd already eaten and so had Pete, but he offered to take Val anyway which was good of him – sort of – as he still came back with a bag of chips! A ridiculously late arrival was Steve Whitehouse who'd had a pointless walk all the way up Jubilee Ride before finding us in a different part of the wood. Amazing as this may seem, but we do have a meeting time for a reason! By the time we packed up just after midnight, a reasonable 27 species had been recorded with the highlight being the first record of ***Acleris kochiella*** at the wood since 1993. Amongst the other species recorded were **Shoulder Stripe, Dotted Border, Pale Pinion** and **Dotted Chestnut**.

You can't accuse us of a lack of perseverance when it comes to visiting Weethley Wood. We seem to try every year to catch some of the early-Spring species and are always greeted by extremely low temperatures and this year was no different. Only Martin was brave or stupid enough to join us in attempting to survive the freezing cold and record something. It did prove a worthwhile visit, as of the seven species that were as daft as us, three of them were newly recorded for the site. **Yellow Horned** made up more than half the total moths and with **Small Brindled Beauty** and **Oak Beauty** made up the three new species. Martin also managed to find the mines of ***Phyllonorycter messaniella*** to add another new species to the site list. With that all recorded within four hours we decided to stop sheltering from the breeze behind Martin's car and pack up early so we could head home and find some warmth.

After last year's national Moth Night visit to Snitterfield Bushes being so successful we were looking forward to recording this site regularly during the coming year. Due to a later meet time it was possible to do the chip shop run on the way. Peter joined us in time to partake and after we were all fuelled up, the short journey to Snitterfield was completed. We arrived to find Martin had the gate open and informed us that Les Finch had already driven in to set up. A total of seven traps were configured so a convenient circular walk was possible between them. Despite the nagging northerly breeze over 500 moths were recorded representing 22 species. It was nice to have to bang the egg boxes at the end after the mostly meager returns from our other nights out this year. We were pleased to find a few ***Tortricodes alternella*** still hanging around as they were newly recorded at Snitterfield. Amongst the other species recorded were ***Agonopterix ocellana*, March Moth, Engrailed** and **Grey Shoulder-knot**.

The final trip of the month was to Middleton Hall. After having to forego our scheduled trips to one of our favourite sites last year due to management restructuring at the Hall it would be nice to be back here. With Keith's help we decided to arrange an afternoon meeting with the new regime to see what changes had been made and what that meant for our mothing activities. The new Head Groundsman John Ward was very enthusiastic about us continuing to record the moths at the Hall, which was great news. He had already made a good impression with all of us, as he was a major force in getting rid of the vast number of invasive rhododendrons that had been clogging up a part of the site since we started recording here 10 years ago. Their removal has opened up a huge space and was a great start at improving a mostly unproductive area.

The Halls Wildlife Officer, Bob Williams joined us as we showed John what we normally used and needed for our moth nights. With all things agreed we disappeared to get some dinner before returning for our first recording session at Middleton for almost a year. Martin, Chris, Peter and Scott Hackett also joined us. With everyone setting up Alan found John and the Museum Development Manager Joanna Habart having a go at some archery. However, it probably wasn't the smartest idea to have the target in front of a lake, as John took a shot and then saw the arrow disappearing past the target and straight into the water! It was highly entertaining watching the attempted retrieval of the arrow as various ideas were tried. Eventually, due to a large slice of perseverance, a wet foot and a big stretch, success was achieved. It was a mediocre night weather-wise, but thankfully we were back in the palatial surroundings of the volunteer's canteen, so nobody minded too much! Now with a dry foot, John joined us for a first tour of the traps a couple of hours after switch on. He then disappeared for some sleep as he'd been up at 5:30 a.m. The rest of us retired to the canteen where Chris began what would become a regular ritual during our moth nights. He had come across a book about a 1950's childhood and proceeded to read the first chapter to us all. It brought back many memories for some of those present and produced much laughter. As for the moths it was unsurprisingly a slow night, but the seven traps did manage to attract over 100 moths. The typical spring *Orthosia*'s were the most numerous with **Small Quaker**, **Common Quaker**, **Clouded Drab** and **Hebrew Character** being well represented. ***Caloptilia stigmatella*** and ***Diurnea fagella*** were amongst the other species recorded.

April

The first trip of April was to Chaddesley Wood where, on arrival we found that the gate had no chain or lock on it. Alan had arranged for wood warden Mervyn Needham to meet us and he explained that they were in the process of getting the situation sorted. However, for tonight there would be no lock or chain, but Alan was given a new key for future use. Joining us tonight were Peter, Chris, Pete and a late Steve. After many years of hoping, we'd finally found someone who was going to try and identify some of the Caddis flies for us that also come to the traps. Colin Kimberley is a very old friend of ours who we'd lost touch with. However, a chance meeting had restored contact and he'd agreed to help us, as Caddis flies were an area he was already starting to get involved in. It meant we could learn to identify some of the more common species together. Alan found a Land Caddis (*Eniocyba pusilla*) larva by one of the traps and was delighted to be able to show Colin, as he was keen to see one. Chaddesley Wood is one of very few sites for this nationally rare species and the only Caddis we actually know. So, normally that would have been our only Caddis record for the night, but thanks to Colin we were able to double our count, as ten *Stenophylax permistus* also came to the traps. He had enjoyed his first ever moth night and helped give us an excellent start to our new area of recording. Chris continued with chapter two of his book during the tea breaks which helped the time go fast, although he did try and suppress that he'd managed to do a "John" (Finlay) whilst packing up by finding a large puddle and putting one foot in it. He should've known better! It had been a steady night moth wise with 25 species recorded. It was unusual that we managed to find **Yellow Horned** and **Frosted Green** on the same night. Amongst some of the other species were ***Eriocrania sangii***, ***Semioscopis avellanella***, **Early Tooth-striped** and **Oak Nycteoline**.

After an initial visit last year to Sun Rising Natural Burial Ground it was decided to try and record the site of this fledgling nature reserve on a regular basis during 2015. The first visit was hastily arranged and only Peter managed to join Alan for the evening. Being in the shadow of a large hill and on the side of a valley, it was going to be a learning curve on every visit as to how these factors would affect the local weather conditions. They arrived to find a nagging breeze and that decided where the four traps would be put. The temperature fluctuated somewhat, but the breeze didn't let up which contributed to the slow arrival of moths to the traps. However, when it was decided to pack up that was when the fun started.

A vehicles screeching arrival was heard with Alan as far from the gate as he could be. He assumed it was the Police and as it was a bit of a trek to find out what was happening he decided to finish off packing one trap. Being distracted by a torch heading down towards Peter's trap location he managed to pull out the wrong plug and leave himself completely in the dark! Once putting the correct plug back in the socket board he went to find out what was going on. His assumption had been correct and found the Police Officers (Starsky & Hutchette as they were tagged after their noisy arrival!) about to leave. He managed to explain that this was to be the first of regular moth recording sessions this year and so knowing that it would hopefully save them any more wasted trips out to this remote location. After they'd left he went to see Peter who said that was the first Police visit on a moth night he'd been at. Alan told him it wouldn't be the last! As for the moths, eleven species were recorded, with four of them being the first records for SP 34 since 1960! Amongst the species recorded were **Early Thorn**, **Powdered Quaker**, **Twin-spotted Quaker** and **Tawny Pinion**. So it proved to be an interesting first visit of the year to Sun Rising!

Our next trip was back to the same area of the county and was the first this year to the Army base at Kineton. We had planned to go to an area known as The Oaks last year, but the weather intervened and we had to cancel the night completely. We were hoping for better luck this year as we wanted to know the protocols of getting to this far flung part of the site. While we were checking in and getting our passes, a queue was forming behind our car as there was some sort of function taking place on the base. We decided to move the car and meet everybody by the missile car park near to check in point No. 2. When Martin, Chris, Peter and Anna Ryder had arrived we all wandered over to the next sign in point, at which we had to get an escort to the other side of the site through a couple of sets of gates. So we could find our way to The Oaks we were fortunate in being given a map and told to "guard it with our lives", as it was their only copy. We were left on our own once through the second lot of gates and felt even more fortunate when we found out later that we only had the map because the walls of the gatehouse had been painted! There were a couple of tricky turns to negotiate and remember to get us to where we wanted to be and we desperately searched for some markers, as we would be driving back in the dark. Thankfully, with care and taking it slowly we managed to reach our destination and find parking places. After some time spent looking round we ended up having four traps on each side of a railway line, all of which were sited to shelter from a nasty little breeze. With barely any cloud the temperature plummeted to below freezing and ice formed on the cars. Anna, having an artistic side, decided to draw and write on ours, while Chris continued with his book reading. Unfortunately, tonight's chapter led to some impromptu attempts at singing from some. It was becoming a memorable night for many reasons – none of them particularly good ones!!! By the time everyone had had enough we'd managed to record twelve species with all but one being new for the site. Now, would we find our way back out? Thankfully, the markers (or sheep as some people call them!) we had picked to warn us of where to turn were just visible in the darkness and we did it first time. It was a relief to everyone as we reached the first gate on our return journey. Then Martin phoned to let our escort know we were ready to leave. Whilst waiting for them to fetch us there was just enough time to swop data. It all worked out pretty well. Even Anna got her sunglasses back from the gatehouse where she'd left them on the way in! So it proved an eventful and successful night in the frozen wastes of South Warwickshire. The final tally of 128 moths was quite a result in those conditions with **Brindled Beauty** and **Satellite** being couple of them.

It was back to "gap filling" at Windmill Hill in Nuneaton next. Val had a previous commitment and so couldn't make this hastily arranged trip. Alan arrived to find Chris and Lloyd Lees already had two traps up and running. Alan just failed to beat his quickest time record in setting up his two traps before settling down for a generally uneventful evenings recording. Some of the hoped for species had been recorded by the end of the night and so it was job done. Amongst the 22 species were **Dyseriocrania subpurpurella**, **Eriocrania cicatricella**, **Eriocrania sangii** and **Lunar Marbled Brown**.

It was a return to Snitterfield Bushes for the last trip of the month. With Martin and Chris already arrived we offered to wait for Anna and then lock the gate so they could get on with setting up. With a night of rain forecast Les had decided not to make the trip up from Berkshire, which was unfortunate as all we had was a five-minute spell of light drizzle. So he missed out on a good night. It's always nice to see the weather forecasters keeping up their appalling record. It would turn into Martin's birthday overnight and Val had baked a cake. In fact, she had baked two, so he could have one out morning and one to take home. That was well appreciated by all. With the weather being kind to us for once and with a pleasing total of 41 species being recorded before it was time to set off for home, it had proved to be the best night of the year so far. Most of the micro moths were new for the site and they included ***Caloptilia robustella***, ***Semioscopis steinkellneriana***, ***Acleris hastiana*** and ***Pammene argyrana***. Amongst the larger moths recorded were **Maiden's Blush**, **Golden-rod Pug**, **Waved Umber** and **Pebble Prominent**.

May

With the weather going downhill for the normal date for a visit to Chaddesley Wood Alan decided to bring the trip forward a night. Only Pete and Martin were able to make the late change of date. It did prove to be the better of the option, but the conditions were still poor. However, they gave it a go and even managed to get a MV trap into Coalpit Coppice for the first time thanks to Martin. However, the return of only 15 species for their efforts confirmed how bad the weather was. The only good news was that it was a dry night and that some of the species recorded would have finished for the year by the time of the next visit. Amongst the species recorded were ***Adela reaumurella***, ***Acleris literana*** and **Purple Thorn**.

A week later we visited Alvecote Wood where weather conditions were poor again. It was mild, but didn't feel like it due to a very gusty wind and the occasional drizzle that plagued us for most of the night. Val had been busy repeating the double birthday cake "trick" as it was Keith's turn to be the recipient this time. Scott and Chris were the others who enjoyed some of the fruits of Val's labour. With few moths flying, Chris managed to entertain us with another chapter from his book until it was time to pack up. The results from the six traps were barely better than last week at Chaddesley, although the species count went up to 27. The good news was that four of them were newly recorded at the wood. They were ***Nematopogon swammerdamella***, ***Swammerdamia pyrella***, ***Amblyptilia acanthadactyla*** and **Least Black Arches**.

Another week passed and then it was time to make our annual visit to Purley Quarry. Keith already had the gate open when we arrived and Chris, Peter and Martin weren't long behind us. The site had been "played around with" again by the landowners, which didn't really help. The weather conditions were similar to those at Alvecote last week and it was after much discussion and a long walk round the site that the trap locations were finally decided. All tried to find some shelter from the gusty wind and they were spread far and wide in the hope that some would do OK. No birthday's this week, but Chris had brought the book and so we were "treated" to another chapter over tea and "healthy flapjack"! This one was on music and produced some unusual and sometimes painful attempts at singing from some of our number when they recognised a song title that was read out. It was all highly entertaining though and passed some time until it was decided to make the epic tour of the traps, which would certainly only be made once, due to the distance and time a circuit would take. Unsurprisingly, none of the nine traps were overwhelmed with moths but due to their widespread locations a decent species list was built. The final tally of 62 came as quite a surprising result, with around half being new for the site. The result got even more surprising when we found one of the species to be a first for the county! Three individuals of ***Ancylis uncella*** were recorded in different traps, so it would seem there is a population of this species at Purley. Included amongst the other new species for the site were ***Agonopterix scopariella***, ***Capua vulgana***, **Barred Hook-tip**, **Grey Birch**, **Puss Moth**, **Alder Kitten** and **Marbled Brown**. So it proved to be a pretty successful night considering the less than perfect conditions.

Alan had a rather spooky journey down to Sun Rising for the next moth night. Just as he was passing the lay-by near Hollywood where a band called Massive's van had broken down shortly after they had left our house, their song called "Hollywood" came on the car stereo! Then a song called "Ghost" by the same band was playing as he arrived at the Natural Burial Ground! Woooooo! Thankfully, that was where the spookiness ended! Having arrived nice and early, Alan had a chance to walk around the site and take in the welcome difference from the bleakness of the visit six weeks previously. Just as he'd got back to the car park Peter arrived. Right behind him were Emma and David, who are Directors of the site. After Alan's earlier wander, trapping locations were soon sorted. With clear skies the temperature quickly plummeted after the sun went down and there was little activity at the traps after switch on. However, a **Lime Hawk-moth** was amongst the few early arrivals. Thankfully, Emma and David were still on site to see and appreciate this lovely moth before heading home and its accompanying warmth. Later in the night the clouds did start to roll in and the temperature rose significantly. This meant there was much more activity around the traps and the count up took longer than expected because of that. However, a disappointing 27 species was the final result. The upside was that some of them were new for SP 34. They included ***Glyphipterix simplicella***, ***Coleophora alcyonipennella***, ***Elachista canapennella*** and ***Syndemis musculana***. Amongst the larger moths recorded were **Chocolate-tip** and **Clouded-bordered Brindle**. It was also noted that **Clouded Drab** and **Hebrew Character** were still well in evidence.

A couple of nights later it was back to the Army base at Kineton. With only Peter joining us it was decided to try a small patch of woodland known as Dead Elms Wood. The staff in the gatehouse were very helpful in telling us where we could park and that there was a path running through the wood. So with that knowledge we found the area straight away and wandered along the path. We found we could park at the other end too, so we dropped one trap off with Peter which Val put up, while Alan drove round to the other end to set up our other two. There was a breeze blowing along the road, but inside the wood it was nice and still. It was a slow and steady night and by the time dawn had arrived a decent list of 54 species had been recorded, many of them new for the site. Amongst them were ***Antispila metallella***, ***Elachista argentella***, ***Cnephasia communana***, **May Highflyer**, **Scorched Wing**, **Orange Footman** and **Treble Lines**.

A return to Snitterfield Bushes was next on the agenda. Peter was already waiting when we arrived and as we were early too, Alan went for a walk to see what conditions were like. When he returned Martin and Scott had arrived and then we could drive on to the site. We knew Chris would have been delayed due to accidents and roadworks on his route so Val kindly offered to wait by the gate for him. Eventually, he made it and the trap count for the night would be eight. However, it was a perishingly cold night and so there were few moths on the wing. It was thanks to a couple of chapters of Chris's book, as well as both Val and Scott's efforts at providing warming refreshments that we stayed as long as we did. Eventually, we'd all had enough as we'd only managed to attract a miserable 23 species, though we did manage to get three new species for the site, which were ***Parornix finitimella***, ***Carpatolechia proximella*** and ***Cnephasia communana***. Amongst the larger moths were **Seraphim**, **Scalloped Hazel** and **White-pinion Spotted**. So a very disappointing result moth wise, but the social side of the night had been enjoyable.

The last day of the month and Alan headed down to Essex on the annual trip to his Mums. The weather was no better there, as it was just as cold and a ridiculously poor six moths were recorded in the three traps that were run on that first night, with **Chocolate-tip** being about the best of them.

June

Alan was still down in Essex for the beginning of “flaming June” and the weather for the second night had changed from freezing cold to a howling gale. The moth count went up 33% from the previous night and **Shuttle-shaped Dart** managed to be the only species recorded in a multiple number – 2! The last night would have been considered disappointing in a different year, but in 2015 it was spectacular by comparison to the previous two nights. A grand total of 34 species were recorded with **Scrobipalpa instabilella**, **Crambus lathoniellus**, **Chinese Character**, **Nutmeg** and **White-point** being some of them.

After Alan’s return from Essex our next trip was to Chaddesley Wood where Peter and Chris joined us. The hoped for warmer night failed to materialise, but we had made it easy for ourselves by setting the five traps just inside the gate! Chris was again a saviour with his book and kept us entertained with the chapter on 1950’s TV. That brought back many a memory of “Watch with Mother” for some! Peter’s attempt at photographing a **Green Carpet** while not being able to feel his fingers press the shutter button due to cold also provided some laughter for the rest of us! However, he got his shot in the end and was happy with it. So another poor night’s recording due to the seemingly endless cold weather. Only 45 species were found, although **Pseudatemelia flavifrontella** was new for the wood. Some of the other species included **Incurvaria masculella**, **Spatalistis bifasciana**, **Devon Carpet**, **Brindled White-spot**, **Lobster Moth** and **Green Silver-lines**.

A scheduled visit to Sun Rising with yet more clear skies was the next night to be suffered. Peter was the only one foolish enough to join Alan for a record-breaking night. Alan should have known, because as he arrived Tom Petty’s song entitled “Out In The Cold” was playing on the car stereo! Never had that been more prophetic! Having made the effort to be there though, they set up four traps. Whilst doing that Alan saw a Little Owl fly across the field and into the hedgerow, this was the highlight of the whole visit! Approaching mid-June a switch on temperature of 4.5°C was not expected or wanted. It got more ridiculous, as ice formed on the vehicles and the actinic trap as the temperature went below freezing! Unsurprisingly, the moths were reluctant to bother flying in such appalling conditions. When it came time to count up what little we had, the whole farce was summed up with the finding of a **Hebrew Character** in the actinic trap! You just had to laugh, as if you’d cried the tears would probably have frozen to your face! So the low temperature and a species count of 20 set new record lows for mothing in the month of June. The 48 **Small Square-spot** recorded made up more than half the total of moths, mainly thanks to Peter’s trap in the corner of the car park. Next most numerous was **Rustic Shoulder-knot** (9) followed by **Silver-ground Carpet** (8) and **Flame Shoulder** (6). After scraping ice off the windows, it was a relief to get in the car and put the heater on for the journey home!

The official “Moth ‘N’ Nosh” night at Windmill Hill in Nuneaton was on the agenda next. There was a good turn out with Martin, Peter, Scott and Chris all running traps. That meant we could have half a night off by only running one. Val enjoyed a night off “tea shop” duty thanks to Sandra. Due to the time of year, the switch on time would normally be too late for a lot of the attendees. However, Chris read his book again and the captivated audience kept interrupting him with reminiscences, as it was about school days. That worked out well, as by the time Chris had reached the end there were some moths in the traps for people to see before they went home. It was over 12°C warmer than it had been at Sun Rising and so there were moths flying. However, they were in low numbers considering the time of year, but the range of species recorded did reach 90. Many of the smaller moths were new for the site and they included **Psychoides filicivora**, **Triaxomera parasitella**, **Argyresthia cupressella** and **Phtheochroa rugosana**. Amongst the larger moths were **Small Phoenix**, **Rivulet**, **Small Elephant Hawk-moth** and **Lychnis**. The award for tonight’s most unexpected moth went to **Red-green Carpet**!

There was just a hint that winter was finally losing its grip as for the second trip in a row the temperature didn't drop below 10°C all night. We'd made our way down to Snelsmore Common Country Park in Berkshire to meet up with Les and Martin Finch for a night's mothing on their patch. Local recorders Paul Black, Roy Dobson and Norman Hall helped make the trap total go up to eight. They were spread over such a large area that it was obvious early on that only one tour round would be possible. Les and Martin had donated some strawberries from their garden to the "tea shop" treats tonight and eventually everyone found us and had their share. After refreshments we set off to find Les as we suspected his trap might just have been nearest to ours. We found the trap, but not Les! He was at Martin's as there wasn't a queen hornet in that one! There were plenty of moths to see for a change and it was a while before we got back to see what was in Les' - apart from the hornet! The next trap we came across was Norman's, which was in a slight breeze and not quite as busy because of that. Then Val and Martin followed a cable to the next trap. However, they found out they had not been followed by Alan and Les. They had gone to see Paul who was down near the gate as he'd arrived a bit late after finishing work. Eventually, after pausing at Roy's trap they rejoined Val and Martin at the "tea shop". After final refreshments Les and Martin returned to their own traps for the final count up, after letting out Paul and Roy, who had to leave earlier than the rest of us. We weren't used to so many moths, so it took a while before we drove down to see how Les and Martin were doing. They were almost done, but decided to let us head for home before loading up their vehicle, which was good of them. It had felt like the first proper moth night of the year as the species tally topped the hundred for the first time. It ended up at 135 and nearly 1,000 moths with some of the species recorded being **Festoon** (see cover photo), ***Coleophora paripennella***, ***Ancylis upupana***, ***Anania fuscalis***, **Poplar Lutestring**, **Birch Mocha**, **Four-dotted Footman**, **Light Brocade** and **Alder Moth**.

A scheduled visit to the Wetland Reserve in Wolvey had to be cancelled, as the boardwalk wasn't in a fit state for us to use. An alternative venue was agreed and so it was Peter and Alan joining Martin at Bishop's Hill for this impromptu visit. Peter and Martin trolleyed their traps around the base of the hill, while Alan stayed near where he would usually trap at this site. While Alan was setting up Pam Reason arrived to see how they were getting on. It was quite a late switch on as the longest day was fast approaching, but Pam managed to stay for a chat until the other two came back from the other side of the site before she headed for home. The first tour of the traps was a real eye-opener for Peter, as he'd never recorded at a habitat like Bishop's Hill and he was seeing unfamiliar species on a regular basis. This made him really thankful that he only had the one trap to try and count! It was a good night, but a sharp shower early during the count up rather annoyingly dampened things. Overall though, it was of little significance as over 1,000 moths representing 130 species had been recorded, including half a dozen new species for the site. Some of the species recorded were ***Coleophora tamesis***, ***Stenoptilia zophodactylus***, ***Hellinsia carphodactyla***, **Chalk Carpet**, **Shaded Pug**, **Bordered Sallow** and an amazing 64 **Small Elephant Hawk-moths**, with half of them being in just one trap! So a very successful change of venue and two proper moth nights in a row, but would it last?

The next moth night was also a change of venue. Due to school scheduling problems Martin German couldn't do his annual night with Alcester Grammar School students, so had to cancel. So instead of going to the River Arrow Local Nature Reserve we arranged to go to Alvecote Wood. Thankfully Keith and Peter were both available to join us. The weather had reverted to cool nights again, although nowhere near as bad as earlier in the month. The four traps were reasonably busy and there was always additional species to find during the two tours that were made before tally time. With Keith's trap the furthest from the wood we decided the sign to pack up was when he managed to get a **Green Oak Tortrix** out there. Peter and us had plenty being a lot nearer the oak woodland. It took a while but finally he managed it around dawn. Phew! The final tally of 99 species was respectable with eleven being new for the site. Amongst them were ***Caloptilia alchimiella***, ***Coleophora coracipennella***, ***Isotrias rectifasciana***, ***Notocelia rosaecolana***, **Blood-vein**, **Grey Dagger**, **Small Mottled Willow** and **Beautiful Hook-tip**.

It was a return to Snitterfield Bushes to finish the month. Joining Martin, Chris and us were Les and Martin F who had come up from Berkshire. However, they weren't the furthest travellers tonight as our old friend Roger Ward had come over from Norfolk specially. It was good to see all of them. The weather was fairly good for a change and the moths arrived in a steady stream to the seven traps. Scott paid us a fleeting visit before getting summoned back home. Chris managed to get another chapter of the book read out to an enthralled audience before a tour of the traps was begun. Les and Martin F wanted to be on their way home at a reasonable hour and by the time our trap tour had reached them they were mostly packed up. They still had some of the smaller moths ready for Alan and Martin to try and identify, which they duly did before they were thanked for their efforts and let out of the gate. With dawn just starting to break it was time to count up. That wasn't as bad as it should have been at this time of year, as most of the 125 species were in low numbers despite the decent weather. There were plenty of new species for Snitterfield amongst them though. They included ***Nematopogon metaxella***, ***Coleophora siccifolia***, ***Orthotaenia undulana***, **Small Magpie**, **Treble Brown Spot**, **Double Dart** and **Obscure Wainscot**.

July

The first of the month and a decision had to be made. The weather was excellent, but two of the next three nights were booked for nothing. However, Oliver Wadsworth had suggested going to Tiddesley Wood to a number of people. Nobody had taken up his offer and he was thinking about not bothering when Alan said he'd go, as it could be the best night of the year and so he didn't want to miss the opportunity. Alan would try and pack up at a reasonable hour because it was a bit of a trek to tomorrow night's location. So after arriving a bit early due to a good journey and setting up the traps in his familiar spot at Tiddesley, he had time to go and find Oliver before switching on. After a bit of a walk he found him at the bottom of a dip in the middle of the wood. Local Wildlife Ranger Bob Gilmour was with him and after introductions and an initial chat Alan wandered back up the hill to switch on. Then he had a problem, as the far trap hadn't come on. After going through the process of finding out why, he rewired the culprit plug and all was well. As it was so warm, all be it with an occasionally gusty southerly wind, the moths flooded into the traps and Alan knew it was going to be a big night up on the ridge in Tiddesley. When Oliver and Bob came up to see how Alan was getting on they couldn't believe the number of moths he had in the traps, as they weren't seeing anything like that amount down in the gully. After some time, as there was plenty to see, Oliver and Bob went back down the hill to see if there had been any improvement at their location and left Alan to start counting a very busy trap. He'd just finished his first trap when Oliver and Bob stopped to say their farewells after recording around 200 moths at their two lights combined. Alan's first trap had well over 500 moths in it! The other trap seemed only slightly less busy and after that was done he was delighted to find he was only 15 mins later than his target time for being on his way home. It was a night he was glad not to have missed, as the species tally was 177 with almost 1,200 moths recorded. Some of the species recorded were ***Ectoedemia lousella***, ***Exoteleia dodecella***, ***Scoparia basistrigalis***, **Wax Moth**, **Common Lutestring**, **Mocha**, **Blue-bordered Carpet**, **Brown Scallop**, **Rosy Footman**, **Scarlet Tiger**, **Green Arches** and **Dot Moth**.

With the weather not really inspiring extra recording over recent years we made a point of going down to see Robin Hemming on his patch in Herefordshire this year. We left the venue up to him, but preferred a site that was under recorded to make our visit as valuable as possible. We met Robin en route to Siege Wood where he was holding a public moth night a few days later. He thought it would be good to have a trial run, so he could gauge what species he was likely to find. The weather proved to be very different from the previous night as, with clear skies and a full moon it went quite chilly. Our major objective was to come and see Robin and after last night's back-aching count for once Alan wasn't overly disappointed by the coolness.

The four traps were not overwhelmed with moths, but there was a reasonable range of species. It was nice that the wood owner Mark O'Brian was with us for a few hours during the night and was pleased we'd come down to record some moths. It got very misty later in the night and so we decided to count up. Val's night was made when Alan found her favourite moth a **Lilac Beauty**, had arrived in one of our traps as she had been packing up the other one. The final tally of 87 species was a bit disappointing for the time of year, but it was an enjoyable night. Some of the species recorded were ***Coleophora lutipennella***, ***Mompha raschkiella***, ***Udea olivalis***, **Fern**, **Swallow-tailed Moth**, **Satin Beauty**, **Grey Arches** and **Slender Brindle**. We were grateful for being able to follow Robin back through all the country lanes until we got to somewhere we recognised, which helped get us home at a reasonable hour.

After a night off it was time to return to Chaddesley Wood. Waiting at the gate for our arrival were Peter, Chris and Pete. Colin was also in attendance, as he was going to do a search for some Caddis Fly larvae in the pond. The biggest shock was Steve turning up on time, which is an even more infrequent occurrence than a blue moon! This may have had something to do with a brief phone conversation earlier in the day! The plan was to trap at Morgan's Ride, but there were too many vehicles to make that a viable proposition. So a Plan B had to be hastily thought of. Knowing Colin would be first to leave, as he'd already had a long day, Val showed him where to park after the others had driven up the track. Alan sorted out Peter, Chris and Pete with their trapping locations and then rushed back to take Colin to the pond, as he didn't know exactly where it was. After leading Colin to the pond Alan left him sorting out his equipment ready for his pond search, then thought about where to set our traps. In the end we decided to just set up one trap, as it was likely that some of the others would need some ID help with theirs. With that up and running, Alan went to find Colin and hoped he hadn't got lost in the gloom. Thankfully, Colin had found his way back to the brook, but the light had by now almost gone completely. Amazingly, he hadn't managed to find one Caddis larvae, but had found a lot of other water loving bugs, so it wasn't a complete waste of time. Finally, it was time to retire to the "tea-shop" and listen to another chapter from Chris's book! After which, a look in the traps was undertaken. Peter, Chris and Pete's traps were very busy, as the weather was co-operating for a change. They felt the number of moths required them to stay with their traps for the rest of the night, so they could record as much as possible. Peter received a visit from Steve and his friend who managed to suddenly stick his camera in the wrong place as Peter was trying to pot an unknown moth. Unsurprisingly, the trap owner was not impressed by this lack of trap etiquette. Alan went from trap to trap to try and help ID some of the species that they needed help with before finally returning to count our own. The fact that Steve even bothered to ask if Alan could unlock the gate, which was half a mile away, and let him out when he could plainly see that he was only halfway through counting our trap, showed such a staggering lack of situational awareness that you had to admire its absurdity. Alan did let him out as soon as he had finished counting. After everyone else had managed as best they could, an ID session was held before everyone departed for their respective homes. The final result from the night was that almost 900 moths representing 158 species were recorded. Some of the species found were **Gold Swift**, ***Elachista adscitella***, ***Tubuliferodes josephinae***, ***Olindia schumacherana***, ***Assara terebrella***, **Northern Spinach**, **Sandy Carpet**, **Barred Red**, **Eyed Hawk-moth**, **Suspected** and **Marbled White-spot**. After this night we had a discussion and came to a decision. After over ten years of scheduling to record at Chaddesley Wood on the first Saturday of every month, we were finding it increasingly difficult to commit to doing it as a public event. We needed more flexibility, as there were other things putting demands on our time. So after more than 130 visits, recording almost 65,000 moths and adding over 400 species to the site list, we decided that we would have to continue on less rigid terms. The intension is to still try and go to Chaddesley Wood once a month, but as to when will be dependent on our availability and inevitably... the weather!

A few days later we returned to have another go at Sun Rising. Even Val made it this time and Peter would provide another trap. We found him waiting in the car park as we'd had a slower journey than normal after avoiding a coach fire on the motorway. The major hope for tonight was that we didn't have to scrape ice off the car before we left! It didn't look promising as the sky had holes in the cloud and there was a cold breeze blowing across the site, which we tried to get the traps sheltered from. Emma and David arrived and did a few jobs whilst we were setting up, before we all met at the "tea shop" for a breather and to wait for it to get dark. Not long after switching on the traps Emma and David left us to it, as it was quite cool. However, shortly after they'd gone things took a turn for the worse as we got some unexpected light rain. The upside was that we now had clouds above us, the breeze had dropped slightly and the temperature went up by 3°C. This small change encouraged plenty of moths to take to the wing. The drizzly rain came and went at regular intervals, but it didn't stop the steady stream of moths from heading towards the traps. So it was a very different night to our last visit, as the species tally reached 127 this time. The excellent news was that a fair number of them were new for SP 34 square and included ***Coleophora mayrella*, *Lozotaenia forsterana*, *Acleris schalleriana*, *Gillmeria pallidactyla*, Brown-tail, Broom Moth, Small Mottled Willow and Blackneck.**

Alan then found time to go over to Stoughton and help Anna with her moth project. He received a warm welcome from Anna and Sue Hastings, whose garden was hosting the event. There were three traps already up and running and Alan added one more. Sue now had some beehives and the sight of her all decked out in her beekeeping outfit caused some amusement as she went to check on them. Leicestershire County recorder Adrian Russell had visited earlier and left a trap in addition to Sue, Anna and Alan's. He would be back in the morning for the "moth breakfast" event. Alan's part in all this was to count the moths in the traps situated in Sue's garden, as there would be an additional five traps arriving in the morning from other gardens in and around Leicester. So Sue and Anna required all the rest they could get before the expected chaos that would materialise the following morning. So it wasn't too long after darkness fell that he was left with a basket of pots and four traps to look after. All the traps were busy despite the persistent southerly breeze. Alan gradually filled the pots with moths and labeled the micros as he went. The larger moths that had the potential to disappear before Sue and Anna got up were also put in pots. It was hard work and by the time Alan packed up and headed for home he'd counted over 900 moths representing 125 species. Amongst them was the Rabbit Moth that's ***Ypsolopha sequella*** for the uninitiated and also ***Blastodacna hellerella*, *Endothenia gentianaeana*, *Lobesia littoralis*, Thistle Ermine, Figure of Eighty, Scalloped Oak, Varied Coronet, Shark, Sycamore and Beautiful Golden Y.**

The morning's event went very well and the additional traps added a further 900+ moths to the tally and over 40 more species to what Alan had managed to record. If you wish to find out more about this project, you can at <http://mothify.tumblr.com>

The following night we made another visit to the Army base at Kineton. We were hoping to go to The Oaks area again. However, the map was back on the gatehouse wall and so we would have to make the correct turns from memory! So after checking in we met Martin, Peter and Chris by the missile before checking in at point No. 2 and receiving our escort through all the gates. To our disappointment the "marker sheep" had gone from their field and so we could only hope that we found our way back out again. On our way to our proposed recording location we stopped and investigated a track that appeared to lead into a different part of the woodland. It looked quite nice habitat and Martin decided to give it a go, while the rest of us continued along the main track to where we trapped back in April. The weather was cloudy and mild, but we did have to put up with some intermittent squally rain. Chris and Peter's traps were sited across the railway line while ours were tucked away in the woodland opposite. It turned out that Martin couldn't find a route through the woodland to get to us and so had a good fifteen-minute walk around the main track. That was a shame, as we never actually had time to go and see his traps. Despite the weather Chris managed to get another chapter read of the book whilst we sheltered as best we could from the occasional drizzle.

There were plenty of moths to look at as we took a tour of the traps nearest to the "tea shop". Chris and Peter's both had some butterflies roosting next to them, namely Large Skipper, Marbled White and a Ringlet! It was decided to start counting earlier than we had been recently as it would take everyone a while to complete the task, not least Martin who had a fair trek before he could even start! Chris would also find it a little more difficult having lost his torch! However, Peter later found it in some long grass. After Chris, Peter and us had finished we drove around to the bottom of the track Martin had gone up to wait for him. He'd had a lot of moths to deal with and managed to put some of the ones we hadn't seen already in pots for us. It proved to be the biggest species count of the year with the final tally being 182. There were plenty of new species for the site amongst them. Especially pleasing was finding another site in the county for ***Gelechia nigra***. Some of the other highlights were ***Coleophora kuehnella***, ***Gelechia sororculella***, ***Acleris bergmanniana***, **White Satin**, **Lunar-spotted Pinion**, **Scarce Silver-lines**, **Waved Black** and an impressive 22 **Lackey**. We did manage to find our way back out, thanks to it having long been daylight and we didn't have to wait long for our escort to arrive and see us back through the gates. So it proved to be a successful night, if a little damper than we'd hope for.

We arrived early at Middleton Hall the following Friday evening. Thankfully John Ward had left everything open that we needed and it allowed us time to take in the further changes that had taken place since late March. Everything looked great and it was a pleasure to see that even more of the foreign invasive plants had disappeared. Joining us tonight were Peter, Chris, Martin, Keith and John Finlay had managed to make it all the way down from Newcastle. It was agreed that we should all run only one trap, as we expected that would be plenty. What had become an integral part of our moth nights this year came to an end tonight, as Chris read the final chapter of his book. It had provided some high entertainment over the months and would be a greatly missed part of our nights in the field. Hopefully, someone can come up another book that will be just as enjoyed by everyone. Chris did provide some added excitement as he reported that there was either an Old or Painted Lady in the gents' toilet! Keith went to check it out and returned with the news that it was actually a Small Tortoiseshell! So not a bewildered human then! Martin and John wanted to go at a reasonable hour so they were the first to start counting up. Once they were done, the rest of us reluctantly removed ourselves from the comfort of the volunteer's canteen and followed suit. The earlier decision to run one trap each worked perfectly as we all seemed to finish around the same time. The results were also impressive as the species tally reached 171. The new species for the site recorded were ***Morophaga choragella***, ***Argyresthia retinella***, ***Coleophora ibipennella***, ***Endothenia quadrimaculana***, **Marbled White-spot** and a very brief view of a **Least Carpet**. Also recorded was the first **Garden Tiger** at the site for five years. It was just after 5 a.m. as we locked the gates and headed for home.

We were due to have a friend come over from Chicago for a couple of weeks, but a few days before he was to arrive illness struck and he couldn't make it. As disappointing as that was, we decided to carry on with what we had planned and so went over to Cambridgeshire to visit our friends who are members of the rock band called The Treatment. We had brought a moth trap with us, as we expected to stay until around dawn. We had an enjoyable afternoon and evening. It's not often you can listen to a band jamming in their living room as you are waiting for some moths to arrive at the trap! At various points during the late evening everyone drifted off to bed and left us to it. Val spent her time watching the Horror Channel on the TV, while Alan kept trying to find more moths around the garden that hadn't quite made their way to the trap because of the cold. With dawn arriving, as well as some wasps, Alan decided we should call it a night and pack up and head home. Due to the cold it hadn't been an overly productive night, but 38 species were recorded. Amongst them were ***Coleophora hemerobiella***, ***Agonopterix alstromeriana***, ***Acleris aspersana***, ***Endotricha flammealis***, **Small Blood-vein**, **Ruby Tiger**, **Clay** and **Dusky Sallow**.

Keith had instigated the next moth night as Alan and Martin joined him at Peastockings Meadows near Meriden. They were a botanically rich pair of meadows containing some scarce plants for Warwickshire and so it could prove to be an interesting site. However, the weather for late July was most unseasonal. Clear skies with a giant full moon saw the temperature plummet to 2°C! It was little wonder that there wasn't too much movement from any moths. Martin had by far the busiest trap as it was situated adjacent to a good bit of woodland called Meriden Shafts. The five traps managed to attract a miserly 35 species and less than 100 moths. It wasn't surprising that we all agreed to have an early night and try again another time. Some of the species we did manage to record were ***Epinotia brunnichana*, Dwarf Pug, Buff-tip, Purple Clay, Antler Moth** and the only species found in all the traps was **Smoky Wainscot**.

The following night Alan and Martin were out again. This time they went to Snitterfield Bushes. They had a problem getting on to the site as an additional lock had been put on the gate. It had been interlocked so tightly with the normal small one that it was almost impossible to open. With help from some members of the sites work party who were just leaving and after a long struggle they finally managed to get the locks off. Then once they'd driven in Martin put his padlock on the chain to save them any more grief when leaving at the end. They were expecting another cold night, but hoped it wouldn't be quite as bleak as last night! They each put one trap deep within sheltered woodland and another in a more open position. It proved the point yet again, that in these conditions the trap within the woodland is likely to be around twice as busy as one in the open. After one round of the traps they agreed to count up. That took quite some time as over 1,000 moths representing 124 species were recorded. Amongst the new species for the site were ***Monopis weaverella*, *Recurvaria leucateella*, *Acleris holmiana*, *Epinotia cinereana*, *Evergestis pallidata*, Slender Pug** and **Old Lady**.

August

First trip of the month was to Chaddesley Wood on a Sunday night, which meant Val was unable to go. Peter and Pete joined Alan for what proved to be a long night. The four traps were extremely busy thanks to a warm night bucking the recent trend. The warm gusty southeasterly wind wasn't a problem and plenty of moths were on the wing. With the others struggling a little due to the amount and variety of species, Alan thought he better start counting at least one of his traps quite early so he could help them out. It was a good decision, but it still meant the last light didn't go off until just before 5 am. It was the second consecutive night out when four traps produced over 1,000 moths counted. Amongst the 163 species recorded were ***Phyllonorycter ulmifoliella*, *Epagoge grotiana*, *Hedya salicella*, *Calamotropha paludella*, Clay Triple-lines, Beautiful Carpet, September Thorn, Coronet** and a pleasing total of 6 **Angle-striped Sallow**. The most unexpected though was **True Lover's Knot**, which was new for the wood. With such a late finish and a full garden trap to count when he got home, Alan thought he might as well cook Val some breakfast before she had to go to work. That was much appreciated!

The next trip would prove to be an even longer night as we made a visit to Abbey Farm near Wolvey. Farmer Jon Slee was away but left instructions for us to carry on as normal, although we were warned about there being some lambs in the orchard where we have regularly put traps. When we saw them they appeared to be a lot closer to being sheep than lambs and so decided not to mess with them! John had come down from the north again and when Martin and Peter arrived we all got to work setting up the traps before joining the B-B-Q that was happening in the barn. We were also supposed to be joined by Chris, but by the time we'd finished setting up he still hadn't appeared. David Alford searched us out to say that the B-B-Q was winding down and we'd better go and eat. It was then that we were informed that Chris had been in the barn and sampling the fare on offer since before we arrived! So while we'd all be working hard setting up traps and avoiding sheep etc. Chris had been lounging around stuffing his face!

This called for some retribution and so we told him that he wouldn't be able to plug in to anybody's generator, as it would be daylight again by the time his bloated body was able to move and set up his trap! After polishing off the remains of the B-B-Q we decided to eventually relent and so including Chris's the final trap tally would be seven. David very kindly gave us a lovely Cherry Cake before he went home and with all the other B-B-Q guests having slowly drifted away it was just the mothers who were left. Chris redeemed himself a little while we relaxed in the barn by producing Lloyd's book and reading some stories from it. We also had a spectacular flying display from a bat for a few minutes. With Alan deciding he'd better go round and GPS all the trap locations, the rest started a tour of the traps. Martin's trap out by the pond was so busy that Alan caught up with everybody there after finishing his chore. The tour had taken so long that by the time we finally reached John's he decided to count it and pack it, as he would like to be away by around 4 a.m. With that done, everybody else started to count their traps. It was all going well until Alan had just counted the outside of our second trap and then he found wasps arriving. They became a major nuisance and it was going to take some time to finish counting this trap. The others had all finished and we said they ought to head for home, because it would be quite a while until we could do the same. They did and it was! Finally, we switched it off around 6 a.m. having counted as best we could without getting stung, which was probably our best result of the night! Almost 3,000 moths had been counted and the night had equaled the most species recorded this year with 182. It was another excellent return for our efforts at this amazing place. Amongst the highlights were ***Orthotelia sparganella***, ***Cnephasia pumicana***, ***Gypsonoma aceriana***, ***Eucosma conterminana***, **Tawny Speckled Pug**, **Round-winged Muslin**, **Double Lobed** and **Small Rufous**.

It was just us who headed down for another visit to Sun Rising. There was good and bad news tonight as the skies were clear, but for the first time on a visit there was no wind. Alan decided to spread our three traps out as much as possible and took a chance of there continuing to be no wind and put one right out in the middle of the field. Emma and David briefly came to say hello and promised they would come back at 4 a.m. and see what we had managed to catch. Val enjoyed watching the stunning sunset before the traps were switched on. Alan would rather it had been covered by cloud! However, it turned out to be a good night for Val as she managed to see some shooting stars including one of the brightest and longest she'd ever seen. Alan spent most of the time chasing moths around the field with a net! That also kept Val amused. Despite the coolness of the night there was quite a lot of moth activity too thanks to the lack of wind. Knowing we would have visitors later Alan decided to try and count two of the traps before they arrived. This he managed and we potted the more interesting species that weren't in our other trap. Emma and David returned just before Alan had completed counting the last trap. Val decided this would be a good moment to try the "**Poplar Hawk-moth** trick". So she got the moth and told Emma that she had to hold one as they are brilliant and have really sticky feet. Emma then encouraged David to have a go too. That was a very smart move as if you've ever had a **Poplar Hawk-moth** on your finger you should know how hard they are to get off of it. By the time the laughing had stopped and David had worked out how to put the moth on a post, Alan had finished the count and it was time to show off the variety of species we had amassed overnight. It gave Emma and David a much better impression of what we actually do than seeing the odd moth at the start of a night, especially when it has normally been so cold at Sun Rising. They were very pleased that they had made the effort to see the end of a moth night for themselves. The final totals for this night were over 700 moths of 69 species recorded. Amongst them were **Orange Swift**, ***Aproaerema anthyllidella***, ***Catoptria falsella***, **Rush Veneer**, **Shaded Broad-bar**, **Magpie Moth**, **Sallow Kitten**, **Six-striped Rustic**, **Brown-line Bright-eye**, **Mouse Moth** and **Dingy Shears**. Emma and David kindly waited for us to pack up and load the rest of our stuff into the car before seeing us on our way home so they could shut the gate behind us.

A couple of nights later and we were due to make our annual visit to Bishop's Bowl Lakes. Only Martin was willing to join us and then decide if we should stay and set up the traps or not. It was warm and humid but the threat of rain was imminent. The wind was the biggest problem, as it didn't seem to know which way it wanted to blow and sometimes, if at all. Knowing the gate was to be locked soon and then we'd have to stay until 6 a.m. our search for sheltered spots became urgent. With darkness descending quickly we decided to give it a go. The traps had umbrellas sheltering them from the start, which was a wise decision. We did have some short periods of dry weather between the torrential downpours. During one of those drier slots we went and had a look at Martin's traps and found something you would not have got odds on happening. We turned a corner to find his first trap had gone off. Martin had tied an umbrella to a gate to shelter the trap and you would have thought, give it a bit more stability. However, while we'd been at the "tea shop" a gust of wind had dislodged the umbrella and when it had moved somehow managed to flick the switch on his socket board. The chances of that happening must have been astronomical! A lot of time was spent sheltering in our vehicles during the worst of the showers. However, Alan was at our furthest trap when one particularly nasty downpour struck and he made a daft, short video of what conditions were actually like. It ended with him admitting that "We are totally nuts!!!" Visit www.warwickshire-butterflies.org.uk/video.asp if you want to view the video. Enjoy! So did we actually catch any moths in these extreme conditions? The results were quite amazing. Between the four traps over 500 moths representing 102 species were recorded! They included ***Depressaria douglasella***, which was only the second record for the county. Amongst the other species recorded were ***Ypsolopha horridella***, ***Agonopterix purpurea***, ***Schoenobius gigantella***, **Bordered Beauty**, **Gothic**, **Straw Underwing** and **Bulrush Wainscot**. We'd only been waiting at the gate for a few minutes when the owner Sarah Smart came along to let us out. She was hoping to come and see some moths last evening, but thought better of it when she'd looked out of the window. She wasn't even sure if we were on site and was quite surprised to see us. She was even more surprised when we told her how we'd done. So in the end it was worth staying and persevering through the challenging conditions.

After drying out for the next 24 hours or so, Alan then went off to the annual moth night at Focus Optics in Corley. Unusually, he was last to arrive as Keith, Chris, Peter and Martin were already on site. They had all been warned that Val wouldn't be going and so managed to bring some supplies to put in the tea room that Tim Fallowell kindly opened up for everyone. The seven traps were spread over a large area, which helped record as much as possible from the various habitats. The weather had returned to the clear and very cold theme of too many nights this year, but the lack of wind helped encourage the moths to fly, if only in low numbers. By the time everybody called it a night a total of 82 species had been recorded. That was a good result considering the conditions. One of the new species for the site ***Bryotropha domestica*** was actually found in the toilet! Amongst the other species recorded were ***Cnephasia genitalana***, ***Udea lutealis***, ***Euzophera pinguis***, **Purple Bar**, **Lime-speck Pug**, **Lesser Swallow Prominent**, **Dun-bar** and **Rosy Minor**.

Val managed to miss out on one of her favourite moth nights for the second year in a row. This time it was due to a gig that was supposed to have taken place last December being rearranged for this date. Alan was able to find an able deputy in Karen Kramer-Wilson who came over from Norfolk. He thought she would benefit from hearing the talk that Pete Cranswick gives at Slimbridge WWT on the annual public moth night. After a decent journey down the M5, Alan parked in the usual spot by the reedbed filtration system before showing Karen where Pete's talk would take place. Alan had also talked Colin into coming down for it and he was amongst the hecklers as they walked passed the car park on the way to the theatre. Peter Hugo was the main instigator of the comments directed at Alan and was "assisted" by Guy Meredith and Steve Dark, who would also be running traps for the event. Pete finally arrived to organise everything and told everyone the story of some early arrivals. A local magazine had messed up the time for the event and a couple had arrived early this morning for the moth night! Clue is in the name really but anyway, Pete managed to show them the moths from the traps that are run at the Centre most nights and so at least they didn't have a completely wasted journey.

Knowing that Karen and Colin were now in good hands and wouldn't miss the start, Alan returned to set up his traps. The weather was spectacularly good for Slimbridge, cloudy, very warm and humid with a slight southeasterly airflow. It looked like being the best night here for some years. When Alan finally finished setting up and switching on he found Pete's talk was well underway to a larger than expected audience in the theatre. Only ten people had booked but there was at least double that number hanging on his every word! This meant that after he'd finished we would have to split the group and take them in opposite directions, so everybody got a reasonable chance at seeing some moths at the traps. Karen proved again that she was an able "Val deputy" as she passed out the pots to people to put the moths in so we could then take them back to show the other group. This particular group couldn't seem to get to grips with **Flame Shoulder** as Alan was repeatedly asked "what's this one?" It took a long time to go through the two traps and by the time we'd all got back to the refreshment room the other group had been back quite a while. Then it was the annual "tea urn fiasco"! If you wanted a cuppa this year you had to earn it (pun absolutely intended!!!), as you had to troop upstairs to get your hot water. Nobody really minded and there was much discussion around the tables that were consumed by moths in pots and all being avidly investigated. As is customary it seems, the "public" think that's it after one round of the traps and they all disappear home after refreshments. Colin decided to do the same after another quick search in Alan's traps for some Caddis flies. So, as usual, it was just the "hard core" who were left to catch up on the year's events in each other's areas of mothing. During the early hours we struggled to recognise a person who appeared through the door. It turned out to be Guy, who we normally see as a bedraggled figure, dripping water everywhere as he briefly passes us on his way home! This year he was dry! Reluctantly, it was decided to start counting up. Karen went with Pete to see the traps she hadn't the first time round, while Alan went to start counting his two. That went a lot slower than he'd hoped as there were plenty of moths, but also a lot of wasps too. Karen returned just as Alan was counting the inside of trap no. 2. No wasp problem with this one, but there did seem to have been a hatch of flying ants! There were also over 500 moths in it, so it wasn't until after 6 a.m. that the light finally went off. It had been an epic, but thoroughly enjoyable night at Slimbridge and when all the results were in almost 2,500 moths had been counted representing 138 species. After a long day and night for Karen, it was no surprise that she slept most of the way back up the M5 and then couldn't keep her eyes open long enough to see the 150 moths that were still in our garden trap on arrival back in Birmingham. There were some impressive totals from the night's eight traps at Slimbridge. Some of them were **Mother of Pearl** (74), **Flame Shoulder** (185), **Large Yellow Underwing** (333), **Setaceous Hebrew Character** (121), **Straw Dot** (119) and topping the lot was **Small Square-spot** (609). Amongst the other species were **Dichrorampha acuminatana**, **Ringed China-mark**, **Oidaematophorus lithodactyla**, **Oak Hook-tip**, **Yellow-barred Brindle**, **Dog's Tooth**, **Large Ear**, **Saltern Ear**, **Bordered Straw** and **Cream-bordered Green Pea**.

The final trip of the month was a hastily arranged visit to Chaddesley Wood. Thankfully, Peter was available to join Alan and within an hour of deciding to go three traps were up and running. However, Alan's weren't on for long, as the generator required an oil top up. The weather was good, but it was a surprisingly slow night and the only other problem was a lively Southern Hawker dragonfly that was in one of Alan's traps. Thankfully after a while it decided to roost on some adjacent vegetation and caused no further grief! It was a relaxed night and the signal to count up was provided by the arrival of a **Rosy Rustic** in a trap. The final total of 54 species was a little disappointing considering the decent weather. Amongst the species recorded were **Phyllonorycter corylifoliella**, **Cedestis subfasciella**, **Acrobasis advenella**, **Pale Eggar**, **Flame Carpet**, **Coxcomb Prominent**, **Black Arches** and **Angle Shades**.

September

First trip of the new month was a return to Snitterfield Bushes. We had a bit of surprise tonight as one of the old regulars from the Wyre Forest joined us. Ieuen Blackmore had moved across the border into Warwickshire and had contacted Martin about mothing at Snitterfield. Peter also joined us and Martin so including Ieuen's, we would have seven traps spread widely across the site. Ieuen also brought some chocolates, which meant that some wastelines would be spreading widely too! The conditions didn't look too favourable with clear skies and a dropping temperature, but for once we got lucky and the cloud rolled in and with no wind the moths began to fly. By the time a slight drizzle was falling we'd mostly packed up and were quite pleased with the 64 species total that we'd amassed. They included a good number of new species for the site such as ***Ypsolopha sylvella***, ***Epinotia ramella***, ***Epinotia maculana*** and **August Thorn**. Amongst the other species recorded were **Honeysuckle Moth**, **Light Emerald** and **Centre-barred Sallow**.

Next on the agenda was the first of this year's National Moth Nights. We had decided to go back to Sun Rising and Martin and Peter joined us. Emma and David were also on hand as they'd had some interest in our activities from people with connections to the site. We managed to set the six traps up in a large circle and it would look impressive when it got dark. Alan was fascinated by all the moths flying low over the freshly cut grass and was determined to find out what they were. He eventually managed to catch one and found it was a **Square-spot Rustic**. After we were all back in the car park we were introduced to Steve, Claudia and Tim who had come to see some moths. It was another clear night at Sun Rising, but the temperature didn't drop as far as it had done on some occasions this year. So at least there were a few moths to show off on an early tour of the traps. Scott also popped in and managed to get in a round with us. After that everyone but the trap owners disappeared home and left us to it. Martin did an excellent job of finding signs of other stages of moths around the site and added a further 23 species to the 37 adults we'd attracted to the traps. He was especially pleased at having discovered his first ever **Eyed Hawk-moth** caterpillar and it was a monster too! Amongst the adult species we recorded were **Garden Rose Tortrix**, **Garden Pebble**, **Canary-shouldered Thorn**, **Brown-spot Pinion**, **Flounced Rustic** and **Frosted Orange**. So it had been a pretty successful start to this year's National Moth Nights.

For National Moth Night No. 2 Alan headed over to Leicestershire to help Anna with her end of season moth party at Sue's in Stoughton. It wasn't quite as extravagant as last year, but Anna still got to play and sing a few songs with her musical chums, while Alan looked after the two traps and did his bit for good moth PR. The wind was gusty, but it was fairly mild and there were moths to show off to the interested party guests. The rain began around 10:30 p.m. and the guests started to drift away. Around midnight it was time for Alan to call out the moths and Anna to compile the list for the two traps. A reasonable 30 species was the result with **Diamond-back Moth**, ***Agriphila geniculea***, **Yellow Shell**, **Dusky Thorn**, **Dark Sword-grass**, **Lunar Underwing** and **Pale Mottled Willow** being some of them.

For the last National Moth Night we made a return to Weethley Wood. Peter and Martin joined us along with a couple of "newbies", Jean and Dave Cholerton. Jean had been given a moth trap a short while back and had been well and truly hooked ever since! They had no idea what to expect on a moth night and were delighted that they were able to plug their trap into one of the three power sources provided by us and contribute to the nights recording. As usual it was a clear sky that greeted us on arrival but we did get some cloud cover later and that helped to keep the temperature from falling as far as we'd expected.

It was a relaxed night informing our initiates of the way we do our mothing. Not expecting Val's lavish "tea shop" they had brought their own supplies, which were soon added to the mix of available to all items of refreshment. We did also have to warn them that nobody else does a moth night like us, so if they did go elsewhere not to expect this as the norm! It turned into a longer night than anticipated due to the social chit-chat and the reasonable temperature for the time of year. Eventually, we decided to count up and the result was very respectable with 53 species recorded. Amongst them were

***Ypsolopha parenthesella*, *Acleris forsskaleana*, *Epinotia nisella*,
White-spotted Pug, Willow Beauty, Black Rustic, Small Wainscot and Vine's Rustic.**

The following Friday was complicated. A long arranged moth night at Alvecote Wood had to be combined with the fact that Val was away at yet another gig, while we were also expecting visitors to arrive in the middle of the night to stay at our house. So Alan had the unfamiliar task of clock-watching. Because of this, he announced on arrival to Keith, Martin, Peter and Chris that he would be looking after himself tonight and would want to be on his way home earlier than normal. Keith did a spectacular job of filling in for Val by providing a refreshments table, which was well populated all night. The weather was windless with floating bits of high cloud. So it was likely to get pretty chilly later on. The eight traps were well spread out and a decent haul of 32 species was the result. Amongst them were ***Cochylimorpha straminea*, *Acleris rhombana*, Vapourer, Autumnal Rustic, Deep-brown Dart and Brindled Green.** Alan had finished packing up by 1:30 a.m. but the others took a little longer and so it wasn't until around 2 a.m. that he was on his way home. He arrived to find some familiar faces belonging to the rock band The Treatment wandering the street awaiting his arrival! They had driven down from Glasgow and made it in a quicker time than Alan had expected. After having some punishing travelling to complete between gigs on the previous four nights, they were all looking forward to a good night's comfortable sleep, instead of on the floor of the van! Alan just left the car in the middle of the road (hazard lights on) and rushed to open the front door. With some very grateful people now heading for bed he could go back and park the car properly! With everyone settled he could then count the 90-odd moths in the garden trap! What a night!

The following Friday Val was away again and so it was only Alan who went over for the last visit of the year to Middleton Hall. He arrived to find Roger had made his way from Norfolk in good time and was perusing the lake. John also arrived safely from Newcastle and together with Keith, Chris, Martin and Peter made up the recorders for this evening. The only problem was that John Ward was on holiday and we were relying on Bob to come and open up. In traditional fashion being the nearest to home, he was last to arrive. With access gained all the usual areas were covered by the ten traps that were set up. Yet another clear sky meant it would get cold again, so the volunteers canteen was occupied for quite some time. With some old friendships renewed it was finally decided to take the plunge and do a round of the traps. They weren't that well populated, but all had moths in and a reasonable list was built. The most surprising event of the evening came as we had returned to the canteen to warm up with refreshments and a Brown Long-eared Bat appeared above us in the rafters. It put on quite a show for some time before it managed to find its way out again. It was interesting to see the size of this species compared to the more regular Pipistrelle's that we frequently see around dusk. About 2 a.m. the decision was made to see if there had been any major change at the traps. With the temperature at 3°C the first couple of traps showed little change and so it was agreed to pack up. The final list of 29 species was probably more than we could have hoped for in such cold conditions. Amongst them were ***Acrolepia autumnitella*, *Eudonia angustea*, Brimstone Moth, Green-brindled Crescent, Beaded Chestnut, Silver Y and Pinion-streaked Snout.** Val was disappointed to miss out again, but glad everything went well.

October

A late decision to go and try and get some of the autumn species at Snitterfield Bushes didn't stop a good turn out of recorders from attending. We were last to arrive, due to Val insisting on having a Knickerbocker glory to round off a meal that we'd had on the way. However, Martin was just opening the gate to let in Ieuen, Peter, Scott and Jean, who had come for her second moth night with us. For a welcome change we had cloudy skies, which managed to persist throughout our stay and keep the temperature up nicely. On Alan's GPS round he'd noticed that Jean's trap had attracted a **Merveille Du Jour** and when told of this her face lit up, as she'd never seen this glorious species before. It was certainly her highlight of the night! With Chris not with us, Scott provided the entertainment tonight. He provided a slide show of the wildlife he saw on a recent trip to Coast Rica. With a nice mild, windless night it meant that each of the ten traps had something interesting to see on the tour round. With the weather being so good, it was with great reluctance by some that our number dwindled throughout the night. It was just Martin, Peter and us who saw it through to the end. An excellent night had produced some of the species we were hoping to add to the site list amongst the 43 recorded. The list included ***Hypatima rhomboidella***, ***Eudonia mercurella***, **November Moth**, **Brick**, **Red-line Quaker**, **Sallow** and **Snout**.

A week later and the weather appeared good enough to arrange a last minute trip to Chaddesley Wood. Alan warned both Peter and Pete that he was suffering a bit with a cold and they came at "their own risk"! Thankfully, they both took the chance and joined him on another mild, cloudy and windless night. With switch on times getting earlier it was just after midnight when it was decided to count up the four traps. A very satisfactory 25 species were recorded. The highlight was the appearance of the first **Figure of Eight** for ten years at the wood. Amongst the other species were ***Agonopterix arenella***, **Grey Pine Carpet**, **Sprawler**, **Grey Shoulder-knot**, **Blair's Shoulder-knot**, **Dark Chestnut** and **Barred Sallow**.

We were never really sure if our last scheduled moth night of the year would take place being so late in October. It would seem that after a day of rain it would clear up for the evening, so we told any interested parties that we would go if it was dry by then. It was and we were very thankful that Martin, Peter, Jean and Dave also made the effort to join us. Our first problem was getting in, as the farmer had moved a large log across most of the entrance to Weethley Wood. It left us a very narrow gap in which to drive in and it was not flat either! With some care we all managed it and so got to setting up the seven traps. We mainly tried to put them in the densest part of the woodland, as with the skies now clear it was going to get awfully cold. Weethley had never been trapped at this time of year and so we were hoping to get at least some new species for the site. The "tea shop" was the main focus of the evening, as it had plenty of warming drinks to keep everybody's spirits up. When everyone was too cold to sit there any longer we undertook a tour of the traps. Moths were few, but there were some on our "hoped for" list and so we had already achieved our objective. After partaking of some more warming refreshments and with the temperature approaching 0°C we all decided to call it a night. Six of the ten species we recorded were newly confirmed for Weethley. This was a spectacular result considering the circumstances. The new species were **November Moth**, **Autumnal Moth**, **Feathered Thorn**, **Figure of Eight**, **Sprawler** and the first autumn **Dotted Chestnut** any of us had ever come across. Job well and truly done.

November

Alan was hoping there would be a night when it would be possible to repeat the "gap filling" exercise that worked well at Windmill Hill earlier in the year. An opportunity arose in mid-November and he joined Peter and Chris to see what could be achieved. It just happened to be when Val was on a day out in London, so she missed out again. After a slow journey due to the time he had to leave and some roadworks en-route Alan arrived just about on time. It was cloudy and mild but with a gusty wind. A quick check around the site for the most sheltered places to put the traps was made and locations were decided.

With everything up and running Chris made a chip shop run, which had proved so welcome and successful earlier in the year. After a very enjoyable dinner we undertook a round of the traps. It started well as one of our target species, **December Moth**, had arrived in a couple of traps. On reaching Peter's new actinic at the bottom of the site we found it in darkness. Then we discovered that the battery it had been powered by had been stolen, we suspect we know who the likely culprits were! This put a bit of a dampener on proceedings, but Peter took it remarkably philosophically. Now, with no power source, the trap was packed up and carried back up the hill minus two **Light Brown Apple Moth**, which had been its only inhabitants. It was a great shame, not only because of the battery loss, but also the trap had been in a good location and we would never know what moths it might have attracted. Apart from that disappointing incident, it proved to be a very successful evening as 18 species was the final tally, with **Scarce Umber** also being newly recorded for the site.

December

With everything stored away neatly it came as a bit of a surprise that the mothing equipment was going to be needed one more time this year. The weather was good enough to make one last visit to Chaddesley Wood. Peter and Pete were available and joined Alan, who had managed to just fit in breakfast before leaving home, at Jubilee Gate. There was a variable wind blowing and it was decided to set the traps just below the hill so they would be as sheltered as possible. With everything on and running it was time for dinner. So Peter kindly did the chip shop run to fetch it. Very nice it was too. The expected slow start materialised despite the mild temperature and then it was just a question of waiting until the expected activity would start around 9:30 – 10 p.m. That happened right on time and there was a flurry of **Mottled Umber** arriving at the traps. Knowing it would take a while to pack up now, the leisurely process was started. It was just after midnight when the last light went out with a very respectable 14 species having been recorded.

Amongst them were **Acleris cristana**, **Winter Moth**, **Chestnut** and **Yellow-line Quaker**. Discussions had taken place throughout the evening about what might be the unexpected species to appear tonight. However, nobody had mentioned **Red Chestnut!** It took a while for some to identify it and remember that far back in the year when they were around at their normal time. A weird end to what was a weird sort of a year.

Summary

Nothing is never boring, as you never have any idea what you will find when looking in a trap. This was never true more than in 2015 with so many species appearing at odd times. There were some good nights, but far too many unseasonably cold nights for our liking. We've seen some lovely moths and filled in some of the gaps in the records for some sites. Like the rest of the year, the weather still seems somewhat out of sync with what we should be expecting and so we have even less idea about what 2016 will bring. No doubt we will deal with whatever comes along and do our best to carry on recording the most fascinating insects. As ever, we are extremely thankful to all the people who have helped us throughout the year and hope to see them again somewhere in 2016. Especially John and Roger - the long distance migrants!

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 by 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 2015

Date	Site	Traps	Species	Individuals
05/01/2015	Chaddesley Wood, Worcestershire	4	7	28
25/02/2015	Windmill Hill, Nuneaton, Warwickshire	4	7	25
07/03/2015	Chaddesley Wood, Worcestershire	9	27	353
14/03/2015	Weethley Wood, Warwickshire	4	7	37
20/03/2015	Snitterfield Bushes, Warwickshire	7	22	503
27/03/2015	Middleton Hall, Warwickshire	7	16	116
04/04/2015	Chaddesley Wood, Worcestershire	8	25	343
09/04/2015	Sun Rising NBG, Warwickshire	4	11	57
11/04/2015	DSDA, Kineton, Warwickshire	8	12	128
15/04/2015	Windmill Hill, Nuneaton, Warwickshire	4	22	185
24/04/2015	Snitterfield Bushes, Warwickshire	8	41	360
01/05/2015	Chaddesley Wood, Worcestershire	5	15	70
08/05/2015	Alvecote Wood, Warwickshire	6	27	79
15/05/2015	Purley Quarry, Warwickshire	9	62	173
21/05/2015	Sun Rising NBG, Warwickshire	4	27	91
23/05/2015	DSDA, Kineton, Warwickshire	4	54	139
29/05/2015	Snitterfield Bushes, Warwickshire	8	23	61
31/05/2015	Weeley, Essex	3	5	6
01/06/2015	Weeley, Essex	3	8	9
02/06/2015	Weeley, Essex	3	34	63
06/06/2015	Chaddesley Wood, Worcestershire	5	45	189
09/06/2015	Sun Rising NBG, Warwickshire	4	20	93
13/06/2015	Windmill Hill, Nuneaton, Warwickshire	8	90	369
16/06/2015	Snelmore Common CP, Berkshire	10	135	959
19/06/2015	Bishop's Hill, Warwickshire	5	130	1,060
23/06/2015	Alvecote Wood, Warwickshire	4	99	672
26/06/2015	Snitterfield Bushes, Warwickshire	7	125	957
01/07/2015	Tiddesley Wood, Worcestershire	4	177	1,183
02/07/2015	Siege Wood, Herefordshire	4	87	402
04/07/2014	Chaddesley Wood, Worcestershire	4	158	885
07/07/2015	Sun Rising NBG, Warwickshire	3	127	806
10/07/2015	Stoughton, Leicestershire	4	125	951

Date	Site	Traps	Species	Individuals
11/07/2015	DSDA, Kineton, Warwickshire	6	182	1,730
17/07/2015	Middleton Hall, Warwickshire	6	171	877
28/07/2015	Commercial End, Cambridgeshire	1	38	53
30/07/2015	Peastockings Meadows, Warwickshire	5	35	87
31/07/2015	Snitterfield Bushes, Warwickshire	4	124	1,013
02/08/2015	Chaddesley Wood, Worcestershire	4	163	1,043
07/08/2015	Abbey Farm, Wolvey, Warwickshire	7	182	2,913
11/08/2015	Sun Rising NBG, Warwickshire	3	69	733
13/08/2015	Bishop's Bowl Lakes, Warwickshire	4	102	588
15/08/2015	Focus Optics, Warwickshire	7	82	672
21/08/2015	Slimbridge WWT Centre, Gloucestershire	8	138	2,458
29/08/2015	Chaddesley Wood, Worcestershire	3	54	323
04/09/2015	Snitterfield Bushes, Warwickshire	7	64	398
10/09/2015	Sun Rising NBG, Warwickshire (NMN 1)	6	37	358
11/09/2015	Stoughton, Leicestershire (NMN 2)	2	30	122
12/09/2015	Weethley Wood, Warwickshire (NMN 3)	7	53	242
18/09/2015	Alvecote Wood, Warwickshire	8	32	222
25/09/2015	Middleton Hall, Warwickshire	10	29	88
10/10/2015	Snitterfield Bushes, Warwickshire	10	43	333
18/10/2015	Chaddesley Wood, Worcestershire	4	25	230
24/10/2015	Weethley Wood, Warwickshire	7	10	41
11/11/2015	Windmill Hill, Nuneaton, Warwickshire	5	18	47
01/12/2015	Chaddesley Wood, Worcestershire	4	14	79
TOTALS	*Note: (Species is average per night)	302	*63	26,002

Species Mentioned In Text

B&F	Species	Page	B&F	Species	Page
6	<i>Dyseriocrania subpurpurella</i>	4	490	<i>Coleophora lutipennella</i>	10
11	<i>Eriocrania cicatricella</i>	4	494	<i>Coleophora coracipennella</i>	8
12	<i>Eriocrania sangii</i>	3, 4	501	<i>Coleophora siccifolia</i>	9
15	Orange Swift	14	517	<i>Coleophora alcyonipennella</i>	6
16	Gold Swift	10	518	<i>Coleophora mayrella</i>	11
22	<i>Ectoedemia lousiella</i>	9	523	<i>Coleophora hemerobiella</i>	12
130	<i>Incurvaria masculella</i>	7	535	<i>Coleophora ibipennella</i>	12
140	<i>Nematopogon swammerdamella</i>	5	537	<i>Coleophora kuehnella</i>	12
143	<i>Nematopogon metaxella</i>	9	560	<i>Coleophora paripennella</i>	8
150	<i>Adela reaumurella</i>	5	583	<i>Coleophora tamesis</i>	8
158	<i>Heliozela metallella</i>	6	607	<i>Elachista canapennella</i>	6
173	Festoon	8	610	<i>Elachista argentella</i>	6
196	<i>Morphaga choragella</i>	12	622	<i>Elachista adscitella</i>	10
200	<i>Psychoides filicivora</i>	7	660	<i>Tubuliferodes josephinae</i>	10
224	<i>Triaxomera parasitella</i>	7	661	<i>Pseudatemelia flavifrontella</i>	7
228	<i>Monopis weaverella</i>	13	663	<i>Diurnea fagella</i>	3
286	<i>Caloptilia alchimiella</i>	8	666	<i>Semioscopis avellanella</i>	3
287	<i>Caloptilia robustella</i>	5	667	<i>Semioscopis steinkellneriana</i>	5
288	<i>Caloptilia stigmatella</i>	3	677	<i>Depressaria douglasella</i>	15
308	<i>Parornix finitimella</i>	6	691	<i>Agonopterix purpurea</i>	15
321	<i>Phyllonorycter messaniella</i>	2	695	<i>Agonopterix alstromeriana</i>	12
332	<i>Phyllonorycter corylifoliella</i>	16	697	<i>Agonopterix arenella</i>	19
353	<i>Phyllonorycter ulmifoliella</i>	13	701	<i>Agonopterix ocellana</i>	2
391	<i>Glyphipterix simpliciella</i>	6	704	<i>Agonopterix scopariella</i>	5
409b	<i>Argyresthia cupressella</i>	7	758	<i>Recurvaria leucateella</i>	13
415	<i>Argyresthia retinella</i>	12	760	<i>Exoteleia dodecella</i>	9
438	<i>Swammerdamia pyrella</i>	5	770	<i>Carpatolechia proximella</i>	6
443	<i>Cedestis subfasciella</i>	16	789	<i>Bryotropha domestica</i>	15
453	Honeysuckle Moth	17	806	<i>Gelechia nigra</i>	12
456	<i>Ypsolopha horridella</i>	15	802a	<i>Gelechia sororculella</i>	12
459	<i>Ypsolopha sylvella</i>	17	812	<i>Scrobipalpa instabilella</i>	7
460	<i>Ypsolopha parenthesella</i>	18	843	<i>Aproaerema anthyllidella</i>	14
461	<i>Ypsolopha ustella</i>	1	858	<i>Hypatima rhomboidella</i>	19
462	<i>Ypsolopha sequella</i>	11	883	<i>Mompha raschkiella</i>	10
464	Diamond-back Moth	17	905	<i>Blastodacna hellerella</i>	11
470	<i>Orthotelia sparganella</i>	14	925	<i>Phtheochroa rugosana</i>	7
476	<i>Acrolepia autumnitella</i>	18	936	<i>Cochylimorpha straminea</i>	18

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986	<i>Syndemis musculana</i>	6	1177	<i>Notocelia rosaecolana</i>	8
998	Light Brown Apple Moth	20	1192	<i>Eucosma conterminana</i>	14
1002	<i>Lozotaenia forsterana</i>	11	1227	<i>Pammene giganteana</i>	5
1006	<i>Epagoge grotiana</i>	13	1279	<i>Dichrorampha acuminatana</i>	16
1007	<i>Capua vulgana</i>	5	1292	<i>Calamotropha paludella</i>	13
1013	<i>Olindia schumacherana</i>	10	1301	<i>Crambus lathoniellus</i>	7
1014	<i>Isotrias rectifasciana</i>	8	1309	<i>Agriphila geniculea</i>	17
1018	<i>Cnephasia communana</i>	6	1316	<i>Catoptria falsella</i>	14
1022a	<i>Cnephasia pumicana</i>	14	1328	<i>Schoenobius gigantella</i>	15
1023	<i>Cnephasia genitalana</i>	15	1334a	<i>Scoparia basistrigalis</i>	9
1025	<i>Tortricodes alternella</i>	1, 2	1342	<i>Eudonia angustea</i>	18
1033	Green Oak Tortrix	8	1344	<i>Eudonia mercurella</i>	19
1034	<i>Spatalistis bifasciana</i>	7	1348	Ringed China-mark	16
1035	<i>Acleris bergmanniana</i>	12	1356	Garden Pebble	17
1036	<i>Acleris forsskaleana</i>	18	1358	<i>Evergestis pallidata</i>	13
1037	<i>Acleris holmiana</i>	13	1376	Small Magpie	9
1042	<i>Acleris rhombana</i>	18	1386	<i>Anania fuscalis</i>	8
1043	<i>Acleris aspersana</i>	12	1388	<i>Udea lutealis</i>	15
1047	<i>Acleris schalleriana</i>	11	1392	<i>Udea olivalis</i>	10
1048	Garden Rose Tortrix	17	1398	Rush Veneer	14
1050	<i>Acleris kochiella</i>	2	1405	Mother of Pearl	16
1053	<i>Acleris hastiana</i>	5	1424	<i>Endotricha flammealis</i>	12
1054	<i>Acleris cristana</i>	20	1425	Wax Moth	9
1061	<i>Acleris literana</i>	5	1439	<i>Acrobasis advenella</i>	16
1086	<i>Hedya salicella</i>	13	1458	Thistle Ermine	11
1087	<i>Orthotaenia undulana</i>	9	1461	<i>Assara terebrella</i>	10
1097	<i>Endothenia gentianaeanana</i>	11	1470	<i>Euzophera pinguis</i>	15
1104	<i>Endothenia quadrimaculana</i>	12	1497	<i>Amblyptilia acanthadactyla</i>	5
1109	<i>Lobesia littoralis</i>	11	1504	<i>Gillmeria pallidactyla</i>	11
1118	<i>Ancylis uncella</i>	5	1507	<i>Stenoptilia zophodactylus</i>	8
1121	<i>Ancylis upupana</i>	8	1519	<i>Hellinsia carphodactyla</i>	8
1134	<i>Epinotia ramella</i>	17	1523	<i>Oidaematophorus lithodactyla</i>	16
1138	<i>Epinotia nisella</i>	18	1531	Large Skipper	12
1138a	<i>Epinotia cinereana</i>	13	1591	Painted Lady	12
1152	<i>Epinotia maculana</i>	17	1593	Small Tortoiseshell	12
1155	<i>Epinotia brunnichana</i>	13	1620	Marbled White	12
1167	<i>Gypsonoma aceriana</i>	14	1629	Ringlet	12

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1631	DECEMBER MOTH	20	1791	BROWN SCALLOP	9
1632	PALE EGGAR	16	1795	NOVEMBER MOTH	19
1634	LACKEY	12	1797	AUTUMNAL MOTH	19
1646	OAK HOOK-TIP	16	1799	WINTER MOTH	20
1647	BARRED HOOK-TIP	5	1800	NORTHERN WINTER MOTH	1
1651	CHINESE CHARACTER	7	1802	RIVULET	7
1654	FIGURE OF EIGHTY	11	1808	SANDY CARPET	10
1655	POPLAR LUTESTRING	8	1811	SLENDER PUG	13
1657	COMMON LUTSTRING	9	1825	LIME-SPECK PUG	15
1659	YELLOW HORNED	2, 3	1835	WHITE-SPOTTED PUG	18
1660	FROSTED GREEN	3	1838	TAWNY SPECKLED PUG	14
1663	MARCH MOTH	2	1840	SHADED PUG	8
1676	MOCHA	9	1851	GOLDEN-ROD PUG	5
1677	BIRCH MOCHA	8	1857	DWARF PUG	13
1680	MAIDEN'S BLUSH	5	1879	SERAPHIM	6
1681	CLAY TRIPLE-LINES	13	1881	EARLY TOOTH-STRIPED	3
1682	BLOOD-VEIN	8	1883	YELLOW-BARRED BRINDLE	16
1690	SMALL BLOOD-VEIN	12	1884	MAGPIE MOTH	14
1699	LEAST CARPET	12	1904	SCORCHED WING	6
1711	TREBLE BROWN SPOT	9	1906	BRIMSTONE MOTH	18
1722	FLAME CARPET	16	1907	BORDERED BEAUTY	15
1727	SILVER-GROUND CARPET	7	1910	LILAC BEAUTY	10
1731	CHALK CARPET	8	1912	AUGUST THORN	17
1732	SHADED BROAD-BAR	14	1913	CANARY-SHOULDERED THORN	17
1742	YELLOW SHELL	17	1914	DUSKY THORN	17
1746	SHOULDER STRIPE	2	1915	SEPTEMBER THORN	13
1748	BEAUTIFUL CARPET	13	1917	EARLY THORN	4
1751	DEVON CARPET	7	1919	PURPLE THORN	5
1752	PURPLE BAR	15	1920	SCALLOPED HAZEL	6
1756	NORTHERN SPINACH	10	1921	SCALLOPED OAK	11
1759	SMALL PHEONIX	7	1922	SWALLOW-TAILED MOTH	10
1760	RED-GREEN CARPET	7	1923	FEATHERED THORN	19
1766	BLUE-BORDERED CARPET	9	1925	SMALL BRINDLED BEAUTY	2
1768	GREY PINE CARPET	19	1926	PALE BRINDLED BEAUTY	1
1776	GREEN CARPET	7	1927	BRINDLED BEAUTY	4
1778	MAY HIGHFLYER	6	1930	OAK BEAUTY	2
1782	FERN	10	1932	SPRING USHER	1

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1933	SCARCE UMBER	20	2064	RUBY TIGER	12
1934	DOTTED BORDER	2	2068	SCARLET TIGER	9
1935	MOTTLED UMBER	20	2078	LEAST BLACK ARCHES	5
1936	WAVED UMBER	5	2091	DARK SWORD-GRASS	17
1937	WILLOW BEAUTY	18	2092	SHUTTLE-SHAPED DART	7
1940	SATIN BEAUTY	10	2102	FLAME SHOULDER	7
1947	ENGRAILED	2	2102	FLAME SHOULDER	16
1950	BRINDLED WHITE-SPOT	7	2107	LARGE YELLOW UNDERWING	16
1951	GREY BIRCH	5	2114	DOUBLE DART	9
1957	WHITE-PINION SPOTTED	6	2117	AUTUMNAL RUSTIC	18
1961	LIGHT EMERALD	17	2118	TRUE LOVER'S KNOT	13
1962	BARRED RED	10	2122	PURPLE CLAY	13
1979	LIME HAWK-MOTH	6	2123	SMALL SQUARE-SPOT	7, 16
1980	EYED HAWK-MOTH	10, 17	2126	SETACEOUS HEBREW CHARACTER	16
1981	POPLAR HAWK-MOTH	14	2133	SIX-STRIPED RUSTIC	14
1992	SMALL ELEPHANT HAWK-MOTH	7, 8	2134	SQUARE-SPOT RUSTIC	17
1994	BUFF-TIP	13	2136	GOTHIC	15
1995	PUSS MOTH	5	2138	GREEN ARCHES	9
1996	ALDER KITTEN	5	2139	RED CHESTNUT	20
1997	SALLOW KITTEN	14	2145	NUTMEG	7
1999	LOBSTER MOTH	7	2150	GREY ARCHES	10
2003	PEBBLE PROMINENT	5	2155	DOT MOTH	9
2006	LESSER SWALLOW PROMINENT	15	2157	LIGHT BROCADE	8
2008	COXCOMB PROMINENT	16	2159	DOG'S TOOTH	16
2014	MARBLED BROWN	5	2163	BROOM MOTH	11
2015	LUNAR MARBLED BROWN	4	2170	VARIED CORONET	11
2019	CHOCOLATE-TIP	6	2173	LYCHNIS	7
2020	FIGURE OF EIGHT	19	2176	ANTLER MOTH	13
2026	VAPOURER	18	2182	SMALL QUAKER	3
2029	BROWN-TAIL	11	2186	POWDERED QUAKER	4
2031	WHITE SATIN	12	2187	COMMON QUAKER	1, 3
2033	BLACK ARCHES	16	2188	CLOUDED DRAB	3, 6
2035	ROUND-WINGED MUSLIN	14	2189	TWIN-SPOTTED QUAKER	4
2037	ROSY FOOTMAN	9	2190	HEBREW CHARACTER	3, 6, 7
2040	FOUR-DOTTED FOOTMAN	8	2192	BROWN-LINE BRIGHT-EYE	14
2043	ORANGE FOOTMAN	6	2193	CLAY	12
2057	GARDEN TIGER	12	2194	WHITE-POINT	7

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2198	SMOKY WAINSCOT	13	2314	DINGY SHEARS	14
2204	OBSCURE WAINSCOT	9	2318	DUN-BAR	15
2216	SHARK	11	2319	LUNAR-SPOTTED PINION	12
2227	SPRAWLER	19	2326	CLOUDED-BORDERED BRINDLE	6
2231	DEEP-BROWN DART	18	2334	RUSTIC SHOULDER-KNOT	7
2232	BLACK RUSTIC	18	2335	SLENDER BRINDLE	10
2235	TAWNY PINION	4	2336	DOUBLE LOBED	14
2236	PALE PINION	2	2342	ROSY MINOR	15
2237	GREY SHOULDER-KNOT	2, 19	2350	SMALL WAINSCOT	18
2240	BLAIR'S SHOULDER-KNOT	19	2352	DUSKY SALLOW	12
2245	GREEN-BRINDLED CRESCENT	18	2353	FLOUNCED RUSTIC	17
2247	MERVELLE DU JOUR	19	2357	LARGE EAR	16
2248	BRINDLED GREEN	18	2358	SALTERN EAR	16
2256	SATELLITE	4	2361	ROSY RUSTIC	16
2258	CHESTNUT	1, 20	2364	FROSTED ORANGE	17
2259	DARK CHESTNUT	19	2369	BULRUSH WAINSCOT	15
2260	DOTTED CHESTNUT	2, 19	2379	SMALL RUFOUS	14
2262	BRICK	19	2380	TREBLE LINES	6
2263	RED-LINE QUAKER	19	2384	VINE'S RUSTIC	18
2264	YELLOW-LINE QUAKER	20	2385	SMALL MOTTLED WILLOW	8, 11
2266	BROWN-SPOT PINION	17	2389	PALE MOTTLED WILLOW	17
2267	BEADED CHESTNUT	18	2399	BORDERED SALLOW	8
2268	SUSPECTED	10	2403	BORDERED STRAW	16
2269	CENTRE-BARRED SALLOW	17	2410	MARbled WHITE-SPOT	10, 12
2270	LUNAR UNDERWING	17	2418	CREAM-BORDERED GREEN PEA	16
2272	BARRED SALLOW	19	2421	SCARCE SILVER-LINES	12
2274	SALLOW	19	2422	GREEN SILVER-LINES	7
2279	SYCAMORE	11	2423	OAK NYCTEOLINE	3
2281	ALDER MOTH	8	2441	SILVER Y	18
2284	GREY DAGGER	8	2442	BEAUTIFUL GOLDEN Y	11
2291	CORONET	13	2466	BLACKNECK	11
2299	MOUSE MOTH	14	2473	BEAUTIFUL HOOK-TIP	8
2300	OLD LADY	13	2474	STRAW DOT	16
2303	STRAW UNDERWING	15	2475	WAVED BLACK	12
2306	ANGLE SHADES	16	2477	SNOUT	19
2313	ANGLE-STRIPED SALLOW	13	2484	PINION-STREAKED SNOUT	18

Warwickshire Branch Moth Nights

Provisional List

Saturday 14 th May 8:00 pm	Cranhill NR, Bidford on Avon	SP123528
Saturday 4 th June 8:30 pm	Nelson's Quarry, Stockton	SP444642
Thursday 9 th June 8:30 pm	Oversley Wood (Nat. Moth Night)	SP109567
Saturday 30 th July 8:30 pm	Fenny Compton Tunnels	SP435524
Saturday 13 th August 8:00 pm	Coughton Park	SP064611

Please note that the above list of events was provisional at the time of the production of this report.

For further details about Butterfly Conservation – Warwickshire moth events, please contact David Brown on 01789 840295 or 07977 379330.

E-mail: davidcgbrown@yahoo.co.uk

National Moth Night

9th – 11th June 2016

Organised by [Atropos](#) and [Butterfly Conservation](#), Moth Night is the annual celebration of moth recording throughout Britain and Ireland by enthusiasts with local events aimed at raising awareness of moths among the general public.

Every year Moth Night has a theme, although recorders are always welcome and encouraged to do their own thing. The main theme for Moth Night 2016 is **Hawk-moths**.

Events are confined to the warmest months and each event will last for three consecutive nights (Thursday – Saturday) and the event will take place on different date periods every year. Recording can take place on any one or more of these days or nights.



977 *Archips podana*



1992 Small Elephant Hawkmoth



758 *Recurvaria leucatella*



1086 *Hedya salicella*



2410 Marbled White-spot



2336 Double Lobed



1760 Red-green Carpet



2078 Least Black Arches



517 *Coleophora alcyonipennella*



663 *Diurnea fagella*



2272 Barred Sallow



1935 Mottled Umber



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