

## GLOUCESTERSHIRE MOTHS

2005 Newsletter 4

The peak of numbers of moths and species has now passed and there is time to review what has been recorded since the last Newsletter at the end of June.

The big recording session at Coombe Hill and Long Pool Meadows on July 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> produced a grand total of 136 species. Several were recorded in the daytime but most at 5 MV lights run on the Saturday night, and a Heath trap left overnight well into the Reserve by the boardwalk. This was Robert Homan's and although there was not a big variety of species he was pleased to have two **Southern Wainscot** and *Agonopterix conterminella*. Also recorded were **Emperor** (larva), **Blackneck**, **Cream-bordered Green Pea** (3 records), **Red-belted Clearwing** and *Calamotropha paludella*.

A week later we had National Moth Night and Day, and for once the weather was kind. As far as I know none of the target species was recorded but there were some useful records nevertheless. **Orange-tailed Clearwing** was recorded by several people on Stinchcombe Hill where it seems to be well established.

The session I had at The Park, Tidenham Chase was well attended by members of the public. In all 113 species were recorded. These included **Beautiful Snout** (2), **Suspected**, **Scarlet Tiger** (3), **Blomer's Rivulet**, **Grass Emerald** (4), **Satin Lutestring**, *Calamotropha paludella*, *Cydia coniferana*, *Mompha ochraceella*, *Oecophora bractella*, *Syncopacma larseniella*, *Anacamptis blattariella* and *Pseudatemelia josephinae* the last three being confirmed by genitalia examination.

Denis and Val Jackson live not far away. They had a **Scarce Hook-tip** in their trap one morning. Denis brought it to show me on his way home from work that day and as we stood by my garage a **White Admiral** swooped down to greet us, the first I have seen here since 1991. Next day Val was on the phone again. This time they had a **Least Carpet**, shown on the right, which again Denis brought to show me. This is the first county record for this species which has been gradually spreading north and west from the south-east. An exciting two days! Denis and

Val have also had **Broad-barred White** which has also turned up here at St Briavels for the first time.



Guy Meredith has continued daytime recording in many parts of the county. He has two more new county records. I have confirmed *Cydia conicolana* as a new county record from Rodborough on the 1<sup>st</sup> May, and *Ancylis upupana* netted flying with a swarm of *Adela reaumurella* near Coalway on the Forest of Dean on 14<sup>th</sup> May. From Lineover Wood he had several **Orange-tailed Clearwing** and *Diplodoma herminata*, and from Dowdeswell Wood *Olindia schumacherana* and *Phyllonorycter froelichiella*. He has also had *Phyllonorycter ulicicolella* from Charlton Kings Common, and there are many more waiting to be confirmed or identified!

Meanwhile Angus Moir has been active running traps in various parts of the county. I don't have all his records to hand yet, but here are some. On the Bill Smyllie Reserve he recorded **Small Elephant Hawk-moth** (7), **Reddish Light Arches** (10), **Privet Hawk-moth** (2) and **Blackneck** on 29<sup>th</sup> June. Later, at the same site, he had **Antler Moth** (4), **Tissue** and **Straw Underwing** (100). At Breakheart Hill Quarry he had **Blomer's Rivulet** and **Bordered Sallow**, and at The Park, inspired by the list on NMN, **The Suspected**, **Barred Rivulet** and **Garden Tiger** a few days later. A new

site at Hatherop Castle School produced 85 species including **Black Arches**, **Large Twin-spot Carpet**, **Marbled Green** (2), **Scarce Silver-lines** and **Sycamore**. Another **Sycamore** was recorded at Nagshead and at Bishop's Cleeve **Gold Spot**, **Oak Eggar** and **Sallow Kitten** on 30th July.

Robert Homan has bred out several *Phyllonorycter* sp. from their mines, including *P. viminiella* from Crack Willow in his garden and *P. geniculella* from Sycamore in Queen's Wood, Southam. He has had *Ypsolopha horridella* and *Mompha ochraceella* in his Heath trap at home and found a **Poplar Kitten** larva on White Poplar in Pittville Park, Cheltenham.

Gordon Avery continues to record a wide range of moths in his garden at Hemspted. These include *Calamotropha paludella*, *Lobesia abscisana*, *Eucosma conterminana*, *Mompha ochraceella*, *Recurvaria nanella*, *Limnaecia phragmitella*. **Lunar-spotted Pinion** and **The Olive**.

Here are a few more highlights from recorders around the county.

John Phillips, Pope's Hill: **Scarlet Tiger** and **Wood Carpet**. Also **White-barred Clearwing** at Woorgreens.

Roger Pearce at Haresfield Hill: **Four-dotted Footman** (up to 4), **Blackneck** and **Reddish Light Arches**.

Neil Woodward, WWT Slimbridge: **Silky Wainscot**, **Obscure Wainscot** and **Sloe Pug** (dis). He has also had some sunflower seeds infested with the larvae of what is probably a North American moth *Homeoesoma electellum*. More specimens are expected to emerge.

Mike Bradley: **Red-belted Clearwing** from Gwen and Vera's Fields Reserve.

John Wells, Highnam: **Confused** and **Beautiful Hook-tip**.

Andy Bendall, Dursley: *Zelleria hepariella*, *Eucosma conterminana*, **Round-winged Muslin** and **Scarce Silver-lines**. Some of these were confirmed by Gordon Avery.

Chris Tracey: **Maple Prominent** near Chalford Hill

Seb Buckton, Rodborough: **Golden Plusia**, **Lunar-spotted Pinion** and **Reddish Light Arches**.

Jon Brock: *Elachista subocellea* from Nottingham Hill (dissected).

I have had National Moth Night records from a number of people and am building a file for the two Vice-counties, ready to send on to the organisers. There are more records out there. I would be grateful if you would send me your records, or if you have already sent them in let me know.

In general, it is most convenient to have only the highlights of garden records through the year with a summary at the end of the season, but if you have light-trapped away from home, then these records stand alone and I would like to have them as soon as possible.

Roger Gaunt, St Briavels, 8<sup>th</sup> August 2005.