

GLOUCESTERSHIRE MOTHS

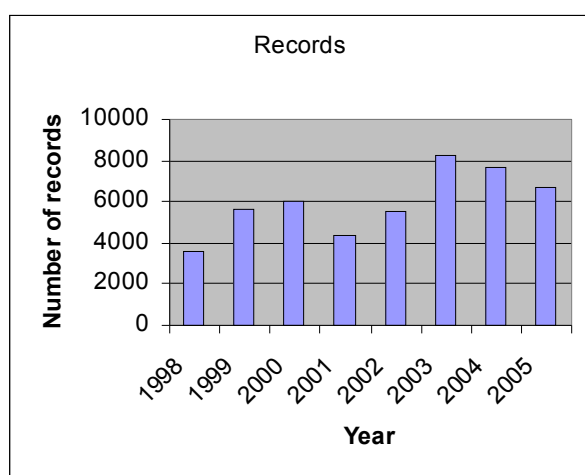
2006 Newsletter 1

The cold weather for much of the year so far has meant that even the early trappers have been deterred from putting out their traps most of the time. Nevertheless there has been a little recording taking place.

On Hangerberry, Lydbrook Gavin Black had an early **Spruce Carpet** on the 13th January, and subsequently has had **Pale Brindled Beauty** and **Spring Usher** among others. I had six species on the 18th January including the two last mentioned.

Guy Meredith took a tenanted mine from Grey Alder in Charlton Park, Cheltenham on 6.xi.2005 and subsequently an adult *Phyllonorycter strigulatella* has emerged. This is only the second county record and the first for VC33.

I have been busy entering records received onto MapMate, and the chart shows the number entered in



recent years.

There are a number of records that I should mention that have been recently received.

Chris Wiltshire has been catching up with a back-log of records and has sent me many of interest. Perhaps the best one is that of *Phlyctaenia stachydalis* from his home on Stinchcombe Hill. This was recorded on 27.vii.2002 and is the third county record, the first two having been from the Forest of Dean.

I have also had a number of records from Mike Bradley that should be mentioned. Unfortunately these came too late to go into the update of Gloucestershire Moths. (See below).

Mike's records, confirmed by Michael Harper, are as follows:-

- 605 *Elachista pomerana* Ashleworth Ham 7.viii.2004. New county record.
- 638a *Denisia albimaculea* Betty Daw's Wood 19.vi.2005.
- 704 *Agonopterix scopariella* Chase End Hill 2.viii.2004. New county record.
- 772 *Carpatolechia fugitivella* Chase End Hill 2.viii.2004. First since 1931.
- 1231 *Pammene spiniana* Ashleworth Ham 9.viii.2003. First since 1956.
- 1523 *Oidaematophorus lithodactyla* Pool Hill 6.viii.2003.
- 2311 **Double Kidney** Ashleworth Ham 7.viii.2004.

At last I can announce that 'Gloucestershire Moths – A Second Account' is ready to distribute. I started work on it about fifteen months ago and had hoped to publish it last May, however the updating of the species accounts and the indices took longer than anticipated and then of course the 2005 season started and it had to be put aside. I then had a problem as I prepared it in MS Works (as the first book) and found that neither printer I approached could read my files. Fortunately I tried saving in Rich Text Format, and the printer could read this. The formatting changed but by then I wanted it finished so that, and fainter maps than I would wish, are in the final version.

I have retained a similar layout to the first book, but it now runs to 2004 with a supplementary page for 2005. There are some statistics such as 'records and species per 10km square' and 'most widespread species', and there is a list of moths that have not been seen for some years with the last year given.

The book is obtainable from me at £8.00 plus £1.80 post and packing making £9.80 in all. Anyone is welcome to collect a copy from me if they find themselves in this area to cut out the postage. I hope that Robert will be able to post details on the GNS website www.glosnats.org.uk.

Finally I had a pleasant surprise here a few weeks ago. Some tree surgeons came to cut trees close to the power lines that cut across part of my land. They cut down a large willow and to my surprise in the stump and lower part of the tree there were workings of **Lunar Hornet Moth**. I have never seen this moth, but hope to now as I have saved some of the lower sections of the trunk. They are in my moth shed and I hope to see an adult at emergence time in early July. In my moth report I mention that John Coates saw adults in Cheltenham last summer. Having just written that, I realise that I did not send this report to those on the Newsletter list, so I will rectify that at the same time as I send out this Newsletter.

Roger Gaunt, St Briavels, 14th March 2006.