

GLOUCESTERSHIRE MOTHS

2008 Newsletter 1

The season seems to have got off to a slow start and I have had few reports of records. It does seem however that the weather is changing and this newsletter is a prompt to get the trap out and get started.

Species seen.

To illustrate the fact that it is worth 'having a go' on any reasonable night from the beginning of the year, here are the first dates for macro species I have seen so far at St Briavels.

17/1/08	Mottled Umber (house light)
29/1/08	Pale Brindled Beauty, Spring Usher (2)
7/2/08	Chestnut, Red Chestnut
22/2/08	Oak Beauty, Common Quaker, Small Brindled Beauty (photo below)
23/2/08	March Moth, Shoulder Stripe
1/3/08	Dotted Border, Small Quaker
5/3/08	Early Grey, Twin-spotted Quaker
13/3/08	Early Tooth-striped, Grey Shoulder-knot, Brindled Pug
14/3/08	Yellow Horned, Clouded Drab, Early Thorn, Satellite
31/3/08	Pine Beauty, Mottled Grey



Peter Hugo has been trapping both at home and away. He recorded **Dotted Chestnut** at Thrupp on 8th February. Rosie Castle had the same species last night (31st March) at Yorkley. Robert Homan has found more mines of *Ectoedemia atrifrontella* this time at Hay Woods. He also found cases of *Luffia ferchaultella* on an old lichen encrusted fence post near Newent on 20th March. On the 27th March he found galls of *Lampronia fuscata* at Crabtree Hill.

I have recently made contact with Mike McCrea who has been recording moths in the county and elsewhere for many years. I am looking forward to receiving his records. One that he has mentioned to me is very intriguing and it is that of **The Festoon** which he saw fly to his light near Speech House last year. We have no recent records of this species.

Moth to look out for – Orange Underwing

I make no apology for mentioning this one again. There were seven records last year – all about this time of the year. The moth flies around birch trees on sunny days in March/April.

Sites – Cinderford Linear Park

This is an area of mainly open ground west of Cinderford and under threat from development. Already the original area of wet heath has been much diminished. Along its length runs an old railway track so there is the effect of limestone ballast to enhance the ground flora in places.

Day-flying moth species recorded there include Clouded Buff, Small Argent and Sable, White-barred and Yellow-legged Clearwings. It is also good for butterflies. Parking is available at the south end (SO 648128) and near the north end (SO 645151).

National Recording Schemes

Many of you will know about the Garden Moth Recording Scheme pioneered by Dave Grundy in the Midlands and now rolled out nationally. For further information there are full details on the website www.gardenmoths.org.uk.

Butterfly Conservation is running the National Macromoth Recording Scheme. The website is www.mothscount.org. I have successfully transferred all my records into this scheme the Data Policy for which is attached as a separate document.

Dates (more will be published in the next newsletter)

7th June National Moth Night and Day. I will be trapping at Ban-y-gor Wood. Numbers will be limited and booking will be required (details later). There will be other sessions elsewhere.

14th June Day meeting Cinderford Linear Park. Meet at 10.30 am. I will be leading this GNS meeting hoping to see some of the day-flying moths mentioned earlier. Park opposite Winner Garage SO 645151.

I am planning to trap at Crabtree Hill and Wigpool several times this year. Both are heathland restoration sites and this will be to see if there is an increase in species diversity. I have a list of people I will contact at short notice before one of these trips – if you would like me to add your name please let me know.

Roger Gaunt, St Briavels, April 1st 2008.