

## GLOUCESTERSHIRE MOTHS

2008 Newsletter 3

The month of May had a very varied weather pattern. There was a hot spell in the first part of the month (when I was out of the country) but this was not maintained and there was a return to cool and cloudy conditions later in the month. There is not as much to report as usual for the time of year.

### Species seen

Martin Kennard (from Warwickshire) visited the Prestbury Hill BC Reserves on 18<sup>th</sup> May and sent me quite a long list afterwards. The most noteworthy record was that of a case of 495 *Coleophora spinella* on hawthorn. This is a new vice-county record though not unexpected as it has been recorded from all the neighbouring vice-counties. He also recorded **Small Purple-barred** (5), **Wood Tiger** and 1161 *Rhopobota stagnana* (1m).

Guy Meredith found cases of 521 *Coleophora conyzae* on Stinchcombe Hill on 8<sup>th</sup> May. Four days later he visited The Park, Tidenham Chase and found 128 *Phylloporia bistrigella* – only the second record since 1922. On the 13<sup>th</sup> May he had a successful search for the larvae of our rare plume 1516 *Pselnophorus heterodactyla* in Buckle Wood near Birdlip. It is good to keep a check on this national rarity (pRDB1) as no-one has looked for it since 2002 to my knowledge. On the 21<sup>st</sup> May Guy recorded 471 *Digitivalva perlepidella* (Nationally Notable Na) at Daneway and 135 *Lampronia luzella* at the neighbouring Siccaridge Wood.

Peter Hugo recorded **Northern Drab** and **May Highflyer** in his actinic traps at Bear Hill, Rodborough on 5<sup>th</sup> May. He has been leaving his traps at a number of sites during the last month and I have already had 305 records from him away from his home at Thrupp.

Brian Bailey sent me a picture of a pair of mating **Poplar Hawkmoths** from Frampton-on-Severn.

Liz Radcliffe trapped a **Blossom Underwing** at Cinderford on 28<sup>th</sup> April – the only record I am aware of this year.

As I indicated in the last newsletter 473 *Acrolepiopsis assectella* (Leek Moth) is spreading into the county. Roger Pearce has had one in his garden in Gloucester and as he grows leeks he is not too happy about it!

There have been three records of **Little Thorn**. Peter Hugo at Thrupp, Peter Cranswick at Strawberry Banks and Guy Meredith at Spruce Ride, Forest of Dean being the recorders.

Ken Heron sent me a picture (below) of a moth he recorded on 8<sup>th</sup> April.



He thought it might be an Indian Meal Moth (1479 *Plodia interpunctella*) but not matching the illustration in Goater he needed another opinion. I sought Guy's opinion and he found a website that showed that it is indeed that species.

Gordon Avery is back in business and has recorded the following at Hempsted – **Puss Moth, Seraphim, Obscure Wainscot** and **Dark Swordgrass**.

The last named has been recorded by John Martin at Pilning and also 656 *Tachystola acroxantha*.

Paul Wilkins at Brockweir sent me a fine photo of a **Dark Spectacle**. This seems to have a very local distribution in the county. There have only been four scattered records since 2000.

Moth to look out for – Little Thorn.

This still flies into early June and may be seen by day as well as coming to light.

### Site

Daneway (SO9303) is an excellent limestone grassland site and a GWT Reserve. A permit is required to enter the whole site however there are public footpaths that allow limited access. There is a good pub nearby, the Daneway Inn.

### General

Three people have asked me recently for advice on which generator I would recommend. I am not really in a position to answer this as mine is quite old and much heavier than some modern ones that I have seen. If you have a lightweight and quiet running generator with which you are well satisfied could you please let me have details so that I can pass these on?

Don't forget that old newsletters and reports are on the GNS website [www.glosnats.org.uk](http://www.glosnats.org.uk)

### Diary

**7<sup>th</sup> June** National Moth Night

I will be trapping under the auspices of the GWT at Ban-y-gor Wood (ST5396). It is necessary to book for this as numbers are limited. Phone 01452 – 383333. The meeting will start at 9.30 pm. There is a modest charge to cover GWT expenses.

Peter Hugo is trapping at Days Cottage Orchard, Brookthorpe. I can't find the exact details so please phone Peter if you are interested. His number is 01453 882134.

**14<sup>th</sup> June** Day meeting Cinderford Linear Park. Meet at 10.30 am. I will be leading this GNS meeting hoping to see some day-flying moths among other insects. Park opposite Winner Garage SO 645151.

Roger Gaunt, St Briavels, 4<sup>th</sup> June 2008.