

GLOUCESTERSHIRE MOTHS

2008 Newsletter 5

During July there was some improvement in the weather particularly towards the end of the month. Even so numbers seem to be down in general though a handful of species are bucking the trend. I have had a lot of **Dun-bar** here including a spectacular form with rich orange-brown central band fringed with a white band and pale brown beyond. I have not seen this form illustrated. Also the **Footman** family appears to be doing well.

Before starting the newsletter proper I should apologise for a number of errors in the last newsletter which was completed in a hurry.

On NMN 2007 Mike Bradley recorded *Esperia oliviella* at Pool Hill (not the 'divisella' I misread from my writing).

The Forester recorded by Mike King was on Poors Allotment, not The Park. I mistakenly thought that the birders spent their time on Tidenham Chase at The Park.

Steve Whitehouse assures me that it was he and not Gavin Peplow who found **The Forester** at Cinderford Linear Park though I recall the two of them working as a team.

Species seen.

The **Clouded Buff** that Guy Meredith saw at Cinderford Linear Park on 29th June and already reported can now be illustrated.



I remain amazed that such a spectacular moth can be overlooked for years as it flies by day as well as coming to light and can also be readily knocked up.

Peter Hugo left his traps at Swift's Hill on 30th June and recorded **Dew Moth**, 1374 *Paratalanta hyalinalis* and no fewer than eleven **Galium Carpet**. He has rediscovered Edge Common and has recorded a **Blackneck** there.

Jon Brock has been trapping at Littleworth Wood and on 10th May had **The Tissue** and **Tawny Pinion**; on 30th May **Scarce Tissue**; and on 23rd July **Bleached Pug** and **The Annulet** (3).

Guy Meredith recorded 1512 *Merrifieldia baliodactylus* and 847 *Syncopacma taeniolella* at Edge Common on 4th July. He found two 19 *Bohemannia quadrimaculella* on alder south of Brierley on 26th July. This is a new county record. At Brassey on 2nd August he found a probable 387 *Prochoreutis sehestediana* which will be new to VC 33.

Sid Freeman is quite sure of the **Broad-bordered Bee Hawk-moth** he saw closely on honeysuckle at Bisley viewed through a friend's window.

Now for the garden records.

Double Lobed has had a good year and has been recorded as follows:
Cheltenham 15th July - Ken Heron; Hempsted 22nd July – Gordon Avery; Thrupp 22nd July – Peter Hugo; Charlton Kings 24th July – Roger Ward; Pilning 29th July – John Martin.

Sue and Bob Smith have had **Maple Prominent** on 1st July at Chalford Hill.

Peter Cranswick had **Plain Pug** and **The Gothic** at Dursley on 23rd July and a **Devon Carpet** on 27th July. The latter species has been spreading and has already been recorded several times at Westonbirt east of the Severn.

Anne Harrison and Colette Hall have had **Lesser Spotted Pinion** at Berkeley (per Peter Cranswick).

Roger Ward also had 762 *Athrips mouffetella* and **Dark Umber** at Charlton Kings on 24th July.

Liz Radcliffe had 1370 *Sitochroa palealis*, **Dusky Sallow** and **Narrow-winged Pug** among the 87 species she trapped at Cinderford on 26th July.

John Martin at Pilning has had 1348 **Ringed China-mark**, 898 *Limnaecia phragmitella* and 758 *Recurvaria leucatella* on 24th July and **Round-winged Muslin** and 1517 *Adaina microdactyla* on 27th July.

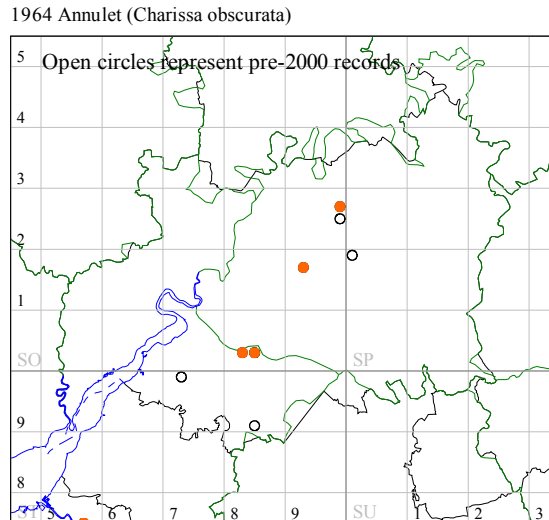
Finally John and Viv Phillips had a surprise when they lifted the plastic on their log pile at Pope's Hill on 28th July – a fine female **Yellow-legged Clearwing** which they managed to pot and photograph.

Moth to look out for – Cinnabar

This is a common moth but seems to be having a bad year. Look for this distinctive red and black moth by day as well as in the trap and if you see the yellow flowers of ragwort look closer for the distinctive black and yellow larvae.

Site – Kilkenny Viewpoint

If you are driving along the A436 east of Seven Springs and have time to stop at the Kilkenny car park and viewpoint it is well worth doing so. The following have been recorded there in the daytime: Annulet, various Burnet sp., Grass Rivulet, Mother Shipton, Small Purple-barred, Wood Tiger, *Pyrausta nigrata* and *Pancalia leuwenhoekella*.



Miscellaneous

I was on holiday in Pembrokeshire last week and took a Heath trap to use in the garden of the house we rented. I recorded 54 species including three new to me – Crescent Dart, Brussels Lace and Hoary Footman. It is an interesting thing to do on holiday and I am sure the local County Recorder will welcome your records.

I am attaching species lists for our two vice-counties for 2006 (a better year than 2007). You may find these of interest and full names and numbers can be lifted when you send in your records!

I have been given a folding beating tray (wooden ‘spokes’ with canvas). The canvas is tatty but could be copied or repaired. As I have one I would be pleased to pass the one I’ve been given on to anyone who can use it.

Diary

4th October Byfords Farm Peter Hugo (details later)

15th November Withington Woods for Plumed Prominent Peter Hugo (details later)

Roger Gaunt, St Briavels, 5th August 2008.