

GLOUCESTERSHIRE MOTHS

2008 Newsletter 7

Since the last newsletter in mid-September there has been little incentive to do a lot of recording as in general catches have been low and there has not been the added interest of an influx of migrants. I have received reports from fewer recorders as a consequence.

Species seen

There have been two reports of **Convolvulus Hawk-moth**. One was from Alec Kear at Yorkley and the other from Matthew Oates who had one in his garden at Culkerton on 26th September nectaring on *Nicotiana*.

Even the usually common **Silver Y** seems scarce and I don't think I have had more than one report of **Humming-bird Hawk-moth** – most unusual.

Peter Hugo, with Rick Benson-Bunch, left five traps scattered about the Bill Smyllie Reserve on 29th August and the following day it took most of the morning to sort through the catch. Altogether there were 60 species. This is the first trapping there since 1995 (time flies!) so all the records are useful. They included 698 ***Agonopterix kaekeritziana***, **The Tissue**, **Grass Emerald** and **Grey Chi**. A good number of these records are new to the site. Peter has already sent me 862 records arising from trapping away from his home this year and has not yet caught up with the back-log.

Jon Brock has paid several more visits to Littleworth Wood. A visit on the 10th October gave an opportunity to 'do' the genitalia of some *Epirrita* sp. He found three **November Moth** and one **Pale November Moth**.

I left my traps at The Park on 13th October and despite a mild night had only two moths **Red-green Carpet** and **Green-brindled Crescent** This illustrates how poor things have been this autumn.

Robert Homan has found more mines of RDB 101 ***Stigmella pyri*** in and around Cheltenham some tenanted with the blue-green larva. He has also had 1465 ***Nephoterix angustella*** on the outside of his Heath trap at home on 29th August. He was given some flour contaminated with larvae from Winchcombe last year and on 5th October this year had an adult 1475 ***Ephestia kuehniella*** the Mediterranean Flour Moth.

Matthew Oates reports **Feathered Ranunculus** at Culkerton on a regular basis. He has had singletons every time he puts his trap out and two on 14th October.

Guy Meredith continues to be very active and when the weather does not permit outdoor recording spends part of his time doing dissections. First of all there are three new county records to report. He took 1249 ***Grapholita lobarzewskii*** (formerly *prunivorana*) at Edge Common on 4th July and was fairly sure of the ID, confirmed later by dissection. He has found a mine of 72 ***Stigmella myrtillella*** at The Park, Tidenham Chase – yet another new county record for this heathland restoration site.

The third new county record arose from a mine of 30 *Ectoedemia arcuatella* found on strawberry at Pitchcombe Wood on 24th October.

Searching for cases of the coleophorids he found the following at Welshbury Wood on 24th September

On sharp-flowered rush, *C. taeniipennella* & *C. caespitiella*

On another rush, *C. alticolella* (its larva identified later)

On birds-foot trefoil, *C. discordella* (3 cases, all larger than the maximum size given in MBGBI - they were c. 9mm long)

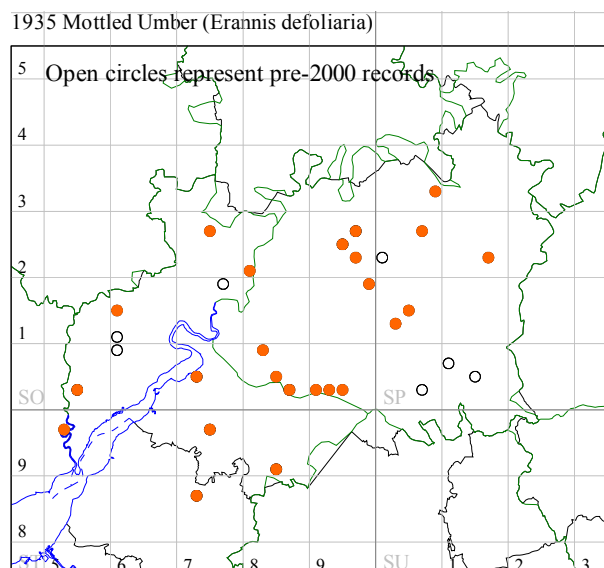
On lime, *C. violacea*

On thistle, *C. paripennella*

At Siccaridge Wood on 3rd October he found a case of *C. obscenella* on golden-rod.

On 22nd October he found a case of *C. argentula* at Brassey on a Yarrow seedhead. Of several more interesting records, I will mention three. 327 *Phyllonorcyter cydoniella* netted in Collinpark Wood on 29th August, 747 *Chrysoesthia sexguttella* (mines) on fate hen near Lineover Wood and 735 *Monochroa tenebrella* from Daneway on 8th July (a new record for VC33).

Moth to look out for – Mottled Umber



This moth is very variable and as you can see is quite well distributed in the county however I have fewer than 100 records.

The moths fly from late October through to January and if you don't run a trap at this time of the year they can also be attracted to outside lights.

Some of the varieties are very striking.

Records

I will be pleased to receive records for 2008. For gardens I record a species once per year but if the information is available may add such comments as 'one of 12 records' or 'total of 37 recorded in year'. I am concerned that so many records, which are valuable information, are left in odd lists or on backs of envelopes and are lost eventually. I am happy to receive photocopies of backs of envelopes or even the original as long as there is a date!

Don't be surprised if I send you a species list for your garden some time in the next few weeks. This will give the years of first and last record. This will serve to remind you about what I already have and will also enable a check for errors and important omissions.

Dates

2008

Saturday 15th November: Lineover Woods meet at 3pm. (**Please note change of venue, NOT now Withington Woods**).

For meeting place etc please contact Peter Hugo on 01453 882134 or 07789 361874 at least three days beforehand.

This is another chance to see the **Plumed Prominent**. Come prepared with stout footwear, warm clothing, hot drinks and a torch.

2009

June I hope to have another daytime Field Meeting in Cinderford Linear Park following the success of the last and with still more interesting species to locate.

18th and 19th September. National Moth Night (and Day) now to be on two dates.

Some time in early 2009 I will circulate a report for 2008.

Roger Gaunt, St Briavels, 1st November 2008.