

GLOUCESTERSHIRE MOTHS

2009 Newsletter 7

Nearly two months have elapsed since the last newsletter. In the main the weather has been fine and warm. There does not seem to have been a significant number of immigrants and in general numbers of resident species seem to be below average. A lot of recording was done on the two National Moth Nights in mid-September but there were no surprises.

Species seen



This is 974 *Argyrotaenia ljungiana* and there is a story attached.

Robert Homan found a larva in a nectarine bought in Waitrose and decided to breed it out. The moth on the right emerged.

At first he thought it may be an Oriental Fruit Moth, but eventually arrived at the identification given.

This species has been on the British list for a long time – in Bradley it is *A. pulchellana* and according to the text a common heathland and moorland species, however Bradley also states that on the Continent it has become a pest on both apples and grapes. Obviously it has extended its attention to nectarine. As far as I can make out, when a moth is reared from imported material it counts as a record.

The only immigrants worth mentioning are the **Convolvulus Hawk-moth** that Matthew Oates had for a few days in his garden at Culkerton in mid-September and the two **Pearly Underwing** that turned up there for National Moth Night.

Alan Prior and a number of other recorders had a big session at Ryall's Cottage near Cambridge on 28th August using no fewer than 10 traps. The weather was not kind unfortunately. They recorded 59 species with a total of 1142 moths. These included 308 *Parornix finitimella* (4), **Double Lobed** and **Frosted Orange** (3). [The latter has had a very good year]. Another session at the same excellent site is booked for next year.



The targeting of the Lower Woods complex has continued with Peter Hugo and Peter Cranswick taking the lead

Peter H was particularly pleased to see this **Figure of Eight**. The first he has seen for many years.

Michael Harper (Herefordshire Moth Recorder) and Mike Bradley visited Poors Allotment on 10th July and found 253 *Ochsenheimeriana vacculella* (4) resting on molinia – for Michael a new species!

Robert Homan found 159 *Antispila treitschkiella* (a vacated mine in dogwood) at Bullo Pill on 13th September. He has also found this species at Foscombe Hill and Swindon Village. He found more sites for 267 *Bucculatrix maritima* in the Sharpness and Berkeley Pill area the evidence being vacated mines and evidence of window feeding in sea aster. Robert also found tenanted mines of 445 *Ocnerostoma friesei* in pine needles on Foscombe Hill and also in Cheltenham.

National Moth Night saw Roger Pearce deploying a number of traps around Ringhill Farm. His most interesting record was of two 971 *Pandemis cinnamomeana* being an unusual second generation.

Guy Meredith found a mine of 73 *Stigmella myrtillella* in the Greathough Brook Valley on 18th September. This is the second county record. He netted 664 *Diurnea lipsiella* at the edge of Pope's Wood on 24th October. Guy has also found mines of 25 *Ectoedemia intimella* in Lower Woods and the Greathough Brook Valley. These are the first records for perhaps a century.

There are a few garden records to mention.

Gordon Avery has had **Dusky-lemon Sallow** again at Hempsted.

Guy Meredith had a **Red Sword-grass** in his Cheltenham garden. This must have been a wanderer or immigrant like the three other post-1980 records.

Peter Hugo has seen his first **Sprawler** at Thrupp on 21st October after trapping there for over 23 years.

Here at St Briavels my first **Oak Lutestring** for six years appeared on 14th September.

Field Meeting

Saturday 14th November. Lineover and Withington Woods. Peter Hugo's annual meeting for the **Plumed Prominent**. Meet at 3.00pm at Woodland Trust gate or in larger layby nearby on A436 Seven Springs to Andoversford road. GR SO 988185. You will need stout footwear and a torch. Additional light traps welcome. Contact: Peter Hugo 01453 882134 or 07789 361874.

Records

I will be pleased to receive 2009 records from all recorders. Please remember that for garden records a representative record is preferred. A guidance sheet will be sent as a separate document.

Roger Gaunt, St Briavels, 28th October 2009.