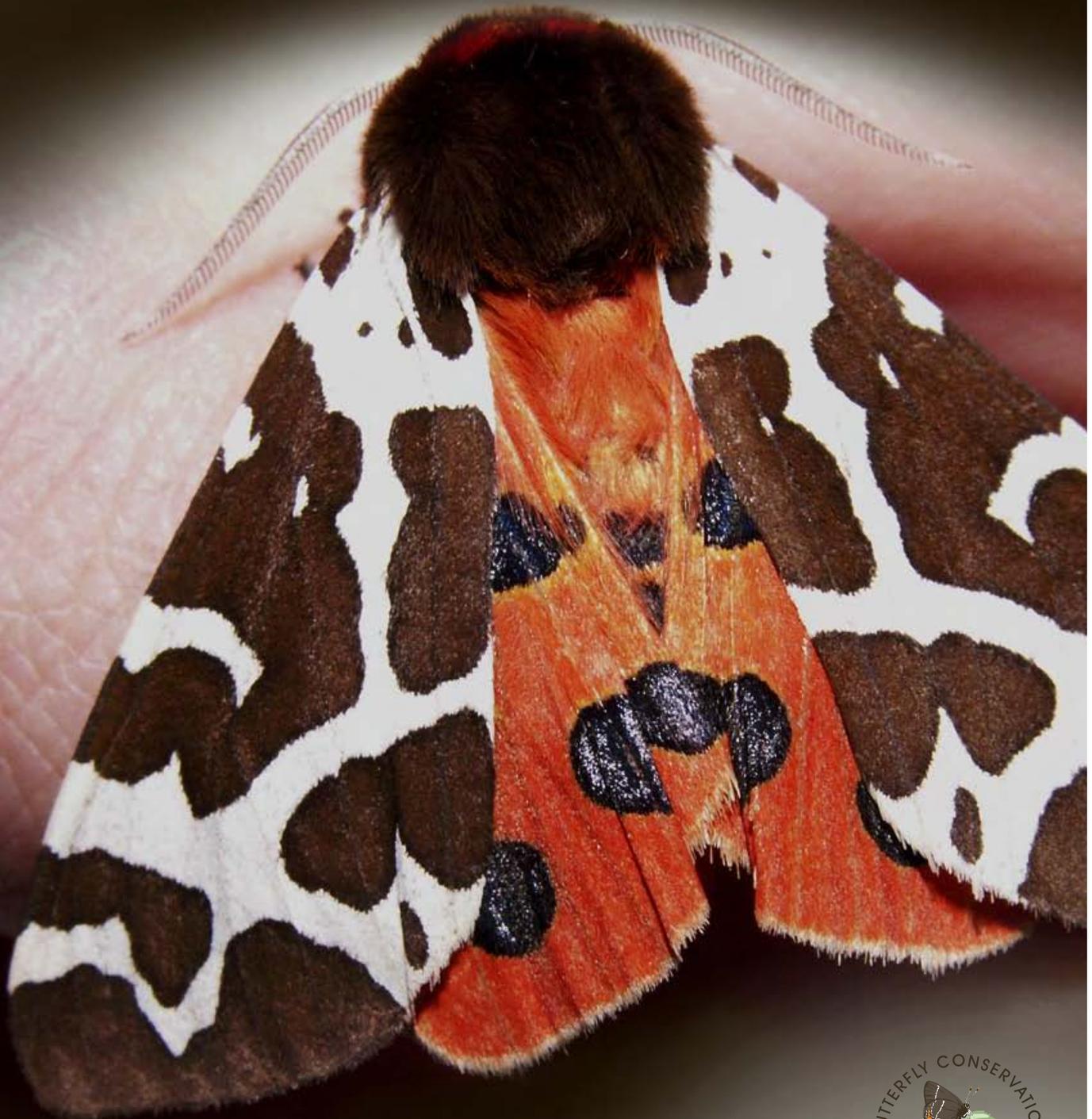


WARWICKSHIRE BRANCH MOTH EQUIPMENT

2007 WAR-TER YEAR!
by
Alan Prior and Val Weston



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Orange Swift



Crassa tinctella



Bordered Beauty



Ancylis obtusana



Meal Moth



Endotricha flammealis



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Introduction

In what was a difficult year, the equipment still managed to get used on recording trips in every month, despite the weather. The general theme of cloudy days and clear, cool nights didn't help. Sometimes it was hard to get to places through the floods but, we can happily report that we always made it to planned events and so never let anybody down. The moths appeared to be in very low numbers this year but all the species we'd expect to see showed up. Our adventures with their usual ups and downs are hopefully an enjoyable read.

January

With over two long months passing since the last mothing trip, Alan was overjoyed to find the weather calm and warm enough to venture out again. The chosen venue was Chaddesley Wood as it had never been trapped in January before. The evening got off to a good start as not long after the lights went on at 5 p.m., moths started to fly to them. Another visitor was a local who we'd managed to confuse as he thought the lights were on the road and not in the middle of the wood! He stayed around chatting for a while and Alan showed him some of the early arrivals. After our visitor had gone home for his tea, Alan was kept busy with the steady stream of moths around the traps. A leisurely count was started at 8 p.m. and a couple of hours later he was on his way home. An excellent tally of 13 species got the year off to a good start. Highlights were Alan's first **Early Moth** seen in twelve years and over 200 **Spring Usher**. The **Spring Usher** were the target for the night as by the time we've been before, in February they're nearly over and only low numbers have been seen.

February

Kingsbury Water Park was our chosen Warwickshire site to record on a regular basis this year. After a call to the Rangers to arrange access, off Alan went. He was to be joined by Keith Warmington and John Liggins for the evening. After deciding where to set up, both Keith and John had a go at putting up a trap.

Let's just say their success was limited and leave it there! However, all the traps were still up and running just after five o'clock, it was a slow night as the weather was unpredictable. The temperature went up and down like a yo-yo depending on the cloud cover. In the end, the target of six species was achieved and both Keith and John had seen some species they'd not come across before. Alan was pleased to record moths like **Tortricodes alternella** and **Pale Brindled Beauty** as, by the time he would probably be able to visit again they'd be over for the year. All in all, the initial venture to the Park could be deemed a success.

After having the traditional meal on Pancake Day, Alan decided the weather was too good not to go mothing. After a slow journey through the rush-hour traffic Alan arrived at Chaddesley Wood at dusk. While on the drive up the track he stopped to let a dog-walker pass by. A quick chat resulted in a warning to be aware of the Jackmonks!! After saying goodbye to the dog-walker, Alan could barely contain his giggling while setting up as he reflected of his earlier conversation. It was obvious that it was the Muntjak Deer he should be looking out for and not Jackmonks! However, we think the name may well stick now!

As for the mothing, it was a very busy evening with over 300 moths recorded. The most numerous being **Tortricodes alternella** (88) and **Dotted Border** (75) with **Spring Usher** numbers dwindling to 23. The undoubted highlight was a stunning example of **Dotted Chestnut**. Overall, seventeen species were recorded before Alan headed for home just after 11 p.m.

March

The big day had finally arrived. Val got to go mothing too! As it was the first Saturday of the month it meant an official trip to Chaddesley Wood. Other recorders joining us tonight were Roy Ledbury, Jack Watkins and Dave Grundy. After everyone was set up and the lights were on, Val opened up the 'tea shop'. There were two grateful customers as Roy had forgotten his milk and Jack his tea bags! On our first round of the traps Roy managed to put a name to the bright red fungi near one of Dave's. They went by the very apt name of Scarlet Pixie Caps. We also had good views of the Lunar Eclipse throughout the evening, from start to finish. Val had spent most of the time sitting on a bench by one of the traps trying to finish making a birthday present. When it finally got too cold she joined the tours of the traps and managed to catch up with everything. After a last cuppa it was time to start packing up. When it was all done the final tally was eighteen species. Some of our favourites were **Shoulder Stripe**, **Oak Beauty** and **Red Chestnut**.

The first of what would become a regular jaunt over to Brandon was next. Chris Johnson had mentioned that a friend of his was keen to start moth recording in his garden and so, Alan gave Ray Healey a call and arranged to go over. After a horrendous journey due to some badly thought out road works he arrived late. It didn't allow much time for having a look round until after the traps had been set up. Ray decided to 'christen' his new home made trap as well. Once everything was up and running and a deep breath had been taken, it was time to have a proper tour of the garden. Ray's description of it as his "wilderness' was pretty accurate. However, it did contain a great variety of plants and trees and it was going to be very interesting to see what moths were living in and around it. The weather wasn't great and after an hour or so of light rain had stopped Alan decided to call it a night. Ray was truly amazed that over 50 moths of twelve species had been caught. The always popular **Oak Beauty** and **Twin-spotted Quaker** were amongst them. Whilst packing up, one of each species was potted so Ray could have a good look at them the following day. A very successful first trip was only dampened by a slow journey home due to more damn roadworks!

A couple of days later Alan made a trip over to Ryton Meadows in the hope of finding the 'lake' passable. That hope was dashed, as the 'lake' was now an 'ocean'! After trying to bail it out for half an hour and making no impression on it whatsoever, Alan decided the only thing to do was to carry the equipment the ten minute walk up to "Scrub Hill". At this time of year it's the only area of the meadows that's worthwhile recording. Would all the effort be worth it? Once the lights were on the moths started arriving and Alan sat and watched 'The March of the Small Quaker'. They were coming from everywhere and the ground was alive with thousands of insect legs on the move. A new personal best (worst) was set as 624 **Small Quaker** were counted in one trap! The next most numerous species was **Yellow Horned** with 36. The final tally of 13 species helped soften the long trudge backwards and forwards whilst packing up and made all the effort seem worthwhile.

Wyre Forest or to be more precise Longdon Wood was the next venue. As it was an early start on a Friday evening, Val couldn't make it home in time to go. There was a good gathering of keen mothers, unfortunately the wind was just as keen and it was difficult to find a sheltered spot to set the traps. After a final decision was made and everything up and running the wind decided to drop! At least it meant we were probably in for a reasonable catch this evening. After counting all those **Small Quaker** at Ryton, Alan deliberately didn't put any of his traps near a blossoming willow. That plan seemed to work as he managed just over one hundred in total this time. They were even outnumbered by **Common Quaker**! By the time we were on our way home at 1 a.m. we'd managed a total of 34 species. **Blossom Underwing** was an obvious highlight and we even saw a new species for us, namely the micro-moth ***Carpatolechia decorella***.

The month was rounded off with consecutive nights out. The first was down to Crown East Wood. The entrance to the wood was certainly different from the last visit. A mature Ash tree had come down in a January storm and completely smashed the gate. Some of the tree branches were deeply embedded in the ground and a new gate had been assembled to keep out the sheep. Mike, the Badger man, had managed to chain saw through enough of the branches to make access to the wood possible, as he told Alan later. The force that the tree must have come down with was truly frightening. A tour around the wood found a few other trees had come down as well. Glad we were not mothing that night! Anyway, it was a slow and steady night moth-wise with there always being something newly arrived on the trips round the traps. Around 11 p.m. Alan had a surprise visit from the woods owners, Richard and Carol, who were on their way home from a night out. A lot of the species were new to them, as they hadn't been out with us at this time of year before. Alan was desperately hoping an **Oak Beauty** would show up before they headed for home. Thankfully it did and they were suitably impressed. After Richard and Carol had left Alan set about tallying. A reasonable seventeen species had been seen. A new species for the wood was *Pammene giganteana* and a ridiculously early **Scorched Carpet** were a couple of them.

The following evening a visit to Harbury Spoilbank was hastily arranged. As the site has a lot of Privet it was thought there was a slim chance of finding **Barred Tooth-striped**. Most of Warwickshire's finest showed up to join the search with Roy, Nigel Stone, Martin Kennard, Mike Astley and Jack Watkins all being present. Unfortunately, the Privet was old and straggly and not in full leaf. However, an enjoyable evening was had with ten species being found at this under-recorded site and not surprisingly **Barred Tooth-striped** wasn't one of them although, **Streamer** and **Early Thorn** were nice to see.

April

With it being Good Friday, Val wasn't at work and so we decided to go over to Ryton Meadows. We'd heard a rumour that the 'lake'... wasn't...at the moment. This time it was passable and so we headed up 'scrub hill' to set the traps. The sight of a brown rock that turned out to be a Brown Hare sitting tight met us. It sat still for ages keeping it's big black eye on us while we set up until, one time we looked and it had gone. There was a bit of a cool breeze tonight but we still did OK with fourteen species recorded. Thankfully, the **Small Quaker** count was down to 237 with **Water Carpet**, **Brindled Beauty** and **Lead-coloured Drab** being amongst the others.

The next night it was back to Chaddesley Wood for the monthly trap. Dave, Jack, Patrick Clement and Wood Warden, Mervyn Needham also brought traps so, a fairly large area got covered tonight. There were plenty of moths to keep us entertained on the continual wander round the traps. A respectable 28 species was the final tally. Amongst the micros were *Eriocrania sangii* and *Semioscopis avellanella*. The macros included **Purple Thorn**, **Lunar Marbled Brown** and **Satellite**.

Val was certainly making the most of her time off as the following night we headed down to the WWT Centre at Slimbridge. We found Neil Woodward, who lives on site, trying to put together a greenhouse for his carnivorous plants. What should have been so simple was proving frustratingly difficult for him! Anyway, after letting him know we wouldn't be in our usual spot but would go somewhere out of the wind, we said our goodbyes and went back to the car park. There, we found Roger Ward who was going to join us tonight. He normally comes up to our mothing events in the West Midlands but this is a bit more local for him. We decided to set up by the old incubation block, as it was quite sheltered. There were some bats flying around tonight. That's always a good/bad sign depending on which way you want to look at it. On such

a clear, cool night the twelve species recorded wasn't a bad return. Especially as the micro-moth *Digitivalva pulicariae* was new for us. Also we had the unusual sight of a single *Eudonia angustea* in pristine condition. This Pyralid moth is more usually found in September! Two pretty macros were a very purple **Streamer** and a **Herald**.

With the weather being so good every opportunity was being taken to go recording. However, with nobody else seeming to be available, Alan went on his own to Chaddesley Wood. He did a different part than usual, as there wouldn't normally be enough room for everyone. After setting up, Alan watched as three Jackmonks – see, told you it would stick!, were feeding in an adjoining field. That was until the generator went on and the deer sloped off into the woodland. As a response they proceeded to bark all night! An enjoyable, if somewhat noisy, night produced records for 22 species. *Eriocrania subpurpurella* was most numerous amongst the micros and three **Great Prominent** were a nice reward for making the trip.

Although none of the Warwickshire equipment was used, Alan did have another mothing trip out. He went with Jeff Rush over to the wilds of Herefordshire where they had an extraordinary nights mothing. Jeff is a different breed and only ran eleven (yes, 11) traps. They managed a spectacular 49 species. They both had a new species in *Eriocrania sparrmannella* and Jeff caught Alan up with **White-marked**. Alan will never forget Jeff's face as the first **White-marked** arrived. They ended up with twelve all told.

A couple of days later a return trip to Kingsbury Water Park was made. After a phone call to Ranger Fred all was set. With Roy and Keith waiting with Alan by the closed entrance, another Ranger came to find out why they were waiting. A lack of communication by Fred meant nobody knew we were coming. Another phone call later, it was sorted and entry gained. Even with the delay, it was nice to have the time to have a good look round before setting up. It was a breezy night and so shelter was sought. Keith was to "christen" his brand new trap tonight with its blindingly clean glass. **Pale Prominent** had the honour of being the first moth in it. A good night finished with 24 species recorded. Apart from Keith's trap, other highlights were good numbers of the micro-moth *Semioscopis steinkellneriana*, **Flame Carpet**, **Coxcomb Prominent** and the **Brindled Beauty** that came in right at the end.

With the month going so quickly it was to Postensplain in the Wyre Forest next. The weather continued to be good and a large number of people attended tonight's event. We ended up near Roy as we'd both spotted the same appealing area on our drive into the forest. None of us had any idea how far we were away from the other traps until the first hardy soul walked up the hill and told us! That meant it was no surprise that we didn't make it around all the other traps. Everyone did stop as they passed us on their way out though and got to see what we'd caught. Even with the confusion we managed to see 42 species tonight with *Phyllonorycter maestingella*, **Scalloped Hook-tip** and **Square Spot** being three of them.

Next was a return to Crown East Wood on a nice calm night. After setting up it was time for a rest. Whilst having a sit down we could hear a band playing somewhere over Malvern way. They were doing the song "Substitute". Alan turned to Val and asked, "What band did that originally?" Before she could reply a Tawny Owl blurted out "Whooooo!!". An owl with impeccable comedy timing whooo'd of thought?!!. The moths put on a brave show after that but the night will always be remembered for that owl. For the record, 32 species were recorded with the micros *Phyllonorycter nicellii* and *Pammene argyrana* both being new for the wood as was **Tawny Pinion** amongst the macros.

A second visit to Harbury Spoilbank followed. Everyone apart from Roy and Mike returned for a second go at this site. Another breezy, but very enjoyable night was had by all on the tour of the

traps. Martin was the first to decide to head for home followed by Nigel. Alan stayed and helped Jack pack up before they did the same. A respectable 29 species were recorded but still no **Barred Tooth-striped**. Never mind, it just gives you an excuse to go mothing again next year! Alan also got a new moth. He managed to get the usually day-flying micro *Grapholita jungiella* out of one of Jacks traps. Also recorded were **Chinese Character** and **Yellow-barred Brindle**.

A very busy month came to an end with a trip to Middleton Hall. As is usual on a visit here, due to the superb facilities available, a large group of mothers arrived. In no particular order they were, Roger, Roy, the three Johns - Liggins, Bates and Hoyle respectively and the guest of honour came with Keith. None other than his wife Heather who, after typing out our story of last year, couldn't resist joining us this year. The evening got off to a hilarious start as Keith attempted to put up his 'previously used only once' trap with the help of four 'assistants'! We then found out the real reason Heather had joined us, as the rumour of an enormous rhubarb pie was found to be true when Val put it on the Volunteers Room table. We've been asked not to mention how many of the 27 species recorded tonight were in Keith's trap but we will say it was less than one. Hope that's OK Keith!! Amongst the species not in Keith's trap were **Golden-rod Pug**, **Flame Shoulder** and **Powdered Quaker**. The other amusing thing tonight was that on our final visit last year Roy forgot to pack his bulb. Amazingly, he found it again six months later where he'd left it. We don't know if it still works though!

May

A phone call to Robin Hemming confirming arrangements for the following evening led to another trip to Herefordshire. Alan found the meeting place with no trouble and after Robin had filled up with petrol he followed him on the remaining part of the journey to Haugh Wood. With the trapping location sorted, it was time to set up. It was a calm evening and plenty of moths were flitting about as setting up was completed. There was even time to net a few before the lights went on, This early promise was continued through the rest of the evening, despite the generator complaining about a lack of oil and switching itself off. A steady stream of interesting moths was found on the tours of the traps. An excellent 70 species were recorded with almost half of them being Alan's first sightings of the year. Some of the micros were *Phyllonorycter lautella*, *Ypsolopha mucronella* and the lovely *Alabonia geoffrella*. Amongst the macros were **Barred Hook-tip**, **Mocha**, **Small Waved Umber** and **Broom-tip**. A thoroughly enjoyable night ended with Val's first cuppa in bed of the year when Alan arrived home.

A couple of nights later it was time to go to Chaddesley Wood again. Jack, Roger, Roy, Steve Whitehouse, Mervyn and Rose Needham joined us. Rose was made especially welcome as she'd brought a home made cherry cake with her! Val was in fine form after having been at the pub all afternoon. She had good views of a Cuckoo as she wandered up the track. Roger was the latest to 'christen' a brand new trap. He ended up with a record 29 **Iron Prominent** in it! A very good night produced 72 species recorded with *Argyresthia trifaciata* and *Heterophora maculosana* being new for the wood. Amongst the macros were **Scorched Wing**, **Chocolate-tip** and **Orange Footman**.

As it was a Bank Holiday tomorrow we made a visit to Ryton Meadows with Val not worrying about what time we got home. It was much too windy to do our usual spot but, Alan found a very sheltered corner of the Reserve and so we set up there. Later, Nigel joined us for a 'couple of hours' which turned into all night as we had plenty of moths. We had a real mixture of species amongst the 46 recorded. Both **Small** and **Common Quaker** were just hanging on. Also we had the first **Poplar Hawk-moth** and **Rustic Shoulder-knot** of the year. It turned out to be a good night after an unpromising start.

It was almost two weeks later when Alan and Roy hastily arranged a trip to Chaddesley Wood. There was enough time to have a wander in Black Meadow and catch some moths before driving into the wood. As soon as the lights went on tonight the traps were buzzing. A lot of Click Beetles were early arrivals as well as the moths. Roy managed to do quite well for Cockchafer as Alan did for **Brown Silver-line**. Although the sky was clear, it was a warm and humid night and the time went very quickly. It was a real surprise when they looked up when the last light went out and saw the first signs of daylight. It was 4.15 a.m. before both were on their way home. A good tally of 69 species was recorded. Amongst the micros were ***Cosmiotes freyerella*** and ***Epinotia demarniana*** with **Sandy Carpet** and **Green Silver-lines** a couple of the macros. As it was also a Garden Moth Scheme survey night Alan had to count the garden trap when he got in. It was busy and Val was up before he'd finished so she missed out on her cuppa in bed!

With Mike Southall indisposed, we ended up being the substitute leaders of the public moth night at Monkwood. With a very early meeting time of seven o'clock, a couple of people had turned up expecting a wander to look for moths. The warden, Paddy Harrison, had to inform them of what was really going to happen and so they went home. Hopefully, they'll come back next year knowing what to expect. We did have a lot of traps tonight as Roger, Martin, Steve, Dave, Oliver Wadsworth, Mervyn and Rose joined Paddy and ourselves. A late arrival was Mike Williams and he was persuaded to put up his 'legendary' trap as, some had not seen it in action before! The 'public' was easily outnumbered! It was a shame it was such a cool night but we still managed almost 50 species between us all. Alan was especially pleased to find the micro ***Coleophora gryphipennella*** and **May Highflyer**, **Brindled White-spot** and our first **Large Yellow Underwing** of the year were some of the macros.

Alan was the next to go out as he journeyed back to Crown East Wood. He made it a little more difficult for himself as he decided to run one trap at the top of the hill and the other two at the bottom. It proved worth it as the range of moths were certainly different in each of the traps. Alan was pleased with the 65 species tally for the night **Treble Brown Spot**, **Elephant Hawk-moth**, **Large Nutmeg** and **Rustic** were four of them.

A return to Ray's 'wilderness' in Brandon was made two nights later. Chris and Nigel both made it this time. Ray had been busy strimming all day to make room for all the traps. With the others busy watching Ray's moth videos, Alan was touring the traps and potting the early arrivals. Eventually, the others surfaced and another (for Alan!) tour of the traps was undertaken. When they finally reached Nigel's he decided to pack it up as he had work tomorrow. The rest gave it another hour or so before starting to count. It took quite some time, as it was after 4 a.m. before they were all done and Alan set off for home. The first 100+ species count of the year was achieved. Ray was 'gobsmacked' at the sheer number and variety of moths in his garden. Amongst the many highlights were the micros ***Nematopogon schwarziellus***, ***Epiblema scutulana*** and ***Phlyctaenia perlucidalis*** with **Figure of Eighty**, **Sallow Kitten**, **Alder Moth** and **Clouded Brindle** representing the macros.

With the nights drawing out Val was able to join Alan on one of Jeff adventures in Herefordshire. After following him for about forty miles we were glad to turn off the official road and onto the woodland track as it was in far better condition! We'd ended up at a place called Sned Wood. How Jeff finds these places we don't know but we're glad he does. Once in the wood we kept following Jeff until he said this is the spot for tonight's trapping. He was having a night off as he only ran nine traps! We did chip in with two though. They were all set in a line down the track and it took quite a while to do a circuit. Moths kept arriving early on but then the temperature started to drop and drop. Every time our car was passed a hot drink for medicinal purposes was required! It was getting so cold that the decision to pack up came as a relief. Unsurprisingly, only 58 species were recorded. However, some good ones were amongst them such as the micro

Pseudatemelia flavifrontella and ***Satin Lutestring***. At the gate on our way out of the wood Jeff came running up to the car to tell us that his car had just given him an ice warning! It was just the start of the bad mothing weather during 'summer' 2007.

The weather didn't improve the following night as, we made an attempt to catch some moths to show at the official opening of Ryton Meadows on Bank Holiday Monday. It was raining as we arrived at the meadows but the 'lake' hadn't filled to impassable yet, so we headed up to our usual spot. The umbrellas were in use as soon as the lights went on tonight and stayed there as the rain got heavier and the temperature started to drop. A pitiful twelve species were found by the time we'd packed up. We did make it back through the 'lake' before it became an 'ocean' again! At least we made the effort and were glad we went tonight as, the following nights weather was even worse and we definitely wouldn't have made it passed the "lake". **Treble Lines** with 28 proved our most numerous moth which, more than doubled the count of any other species.

The opening of Ryton Wood Meadows, as it is now officially known, was done as expected, in rain. We think the guests were amazed we'd managed to catch as much as we did considering the weather. The opening went very well and was a great success despite the conditions. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves as Val put on a great spread and Mike Slater took everyone on a tour of the site. And so ended the month of May!

June

The month began with a phone call from Patrick to say he was off mothing tonight and did Alan wish to join him. Of course he did and so, it was to the wilds of the Shropshire bit of Wyre Forest they went. On arrival at the very aptly named Breakneck Bank, Alan had a bit of a struggle turning the car round on the wet surface. With a lot of help from Patrick he eventually made it and so got to setting up the traps. Once they were up and running, he went on the ten minute walk to find Patrick. He saw plenty of bats on the way and thought they may be in for a busy night. That was proven when he returned to his own traps and didn't have a chance to go anywhere else. With the last light going out around 3.15 a.m. and the Woodcock beginning to rode again Alan headed for home. Patrick was probably still asleep in the back of his truck and so still had his packing up to do. Alan had managed to record 82 species with, ***Carpatolechia proximella*** and ***Epinotia tetraquetra*** being a couple of the micros with **Four-dotted Footman**, **Marbled White-spot** and **Common Fan-foot** some of the macros.

The following night was the monthly visit to Chaddesley Wood. Patrick had made it back safely from last night and was setting up in Black Meadow as we arrived. With two Land Rovers also in attendance thanks to Mike Southall and Bob Watson it was decided to see if it was possible to drive up the meadow. By the time Bob had found it was OK, Roger had arrived. We loaded his and our equipment into Mike's vehicle so he could take it up to the far end of the meadow. All went well and everyone got busy setting up the traps. Val loaded the back of Patrick's truck with the 'tea shop' which was very much needed after everybody had made their way back down the meadow. There was one trap over by Jubilee Gate as Ian Machin had set up there so any late arrivals could find us. With it being such a long way around all the traps, refreshments were certainly welcome after every circuit. Gradually, people began to pack up and drift away until it was only the 'hard core' left. It had been a good night proving it was possible to get traps up the meadow and by the end 64 species had been recorded. A cuckoo answered Val's "good morning" call as the sun was well and truly up by the time we headed for home. Some of the micros recorded were ***Elachista albifrontella***, ***Monochroa lutulentella*** and ***Pseudotelphusa scalella***. Amongst the macros were **Green Arches**, **Light Brocade** and the first confirmed **Marbled Minor** for Chaddesley.

The following day Alan made his first visit of the year to his mums in Essex. He ran two traps on the first night and managed 45 species. The undoubted highlight was the scarce micro ***Coleophora lassella***. The next night, Alan popped over to see Brian Goodey and personally deliver a copy of the 2006 story, which had the photo of the prize-winning **Beautiful Marbled** on the cover that Brian had taken. On his return he again ran two traps. There was a slight northerly breeze though and so he didn't do as well as last night but only had one species fewer. Highlights this time were amongst the Pyralids with the first sightings for the year of **Rusty-dot Pearl** and **Gold Triangle**. The last night was a busy one as, Alan went over to see his old school mate, Paul, and run a trap in his garden. A very social evening was had and 28 species were found to do their bit for good moth PR. Best moth was probably another Pyralid, ***Nephoterix angustella*** but the **Green Silver-lines** stole the show for the host. With the other trap running back at his mums, Alan recorded another 29 species there with the highlight being a **White-point**. After dropping his mum off the following day, Alan went in a hopeful search for a very special little moth. Brian had told him where to go and what to look for. However, he wasn't too hopeful as the weather was awful. He tried anyway and swept through the moths foodplant with a net. Amongst all the spiders, flies and other assorted bugs was one moth. On close inspection it was the target species - ***Coleophora fuscicornis***. A real Essex specialty as it's found nowhere else. Alan was glad nobody was about to see him dancing around this little piece of Britain. It wouldn't have been a pretty sight! Job done he had a very happy journey back to the Midlands with his moth of the year already seen.

The first of three nights in a row mothing was a return visit to Kingsbury Water Park. After last time it was good to gain access with no problems. Roger was already waiting, Keith, Heather (again!) and only one John (Bates) were the other members of our select crew. Oh, and how could we forget that 'livewire' Ron Thomas, in charge of a net or should that be the other way round! Val also had a rare go at dusking but was no competition for Ron. Anyway, Ranger Fred was on duty all night as there was a fishing competition going on and he popped in now and again to see how we were getting on. A very busy night wound down when Keith's generator ran out of petrol around 3 a.m. and he and John decided to pack up. We however, were still counting in bright sunshine after 5 a.m.! An excellent night produced records of 115 species. A superb range of micros included Apple Leaf Skeletonizer, ***Glyphipterix thrasonella***, ***Epermenia falciformis*** and six species of ***Coleophora***. The macros were equally as good with **Scallop Shell**, **Eyed Hawk-moth**, **Sycamore** and **Bird's Wing** amongst them.

From one wetland site to another as we went to WWT Slimbridge the next night. We were back in our usual spot of the Reedbed Filtration System. Val decided to have a wander while Alan set up the traps. She managed to see a Tawny Owl on her travels but, was pleased to see the trap lights on as it was, by now, quite dark and she'd forgotten to take a torch. Neil came and joined us for a while for a chat and to see some moths. After he'd gone home Val sat in the car to have her supper while Alan got an initial list of what was in the traps. Val was astonished as she saw a Badger walk in front of the car, give her a short glance and carry on into the reeds! With the traps being so busy we decided to start tallying about 1.30 a.m. and it wasn't until after 4 o'clock that we were heading for home. A very interesting night led to 92 species found with ***Coleophora follicularis***, ***Aethes beatricella*** and ***Donacaula forcicella*** amongst the micros. Some of the macros were **Barred Straw**, **Obscure Wainscot**, **Silky Wainscot** and an amazing 20 **Cream-bordered Green Pea** (seventeen were in one trap!).

The last night of the triple-header proved to be the biggest night of the year by a large margin. Alan went on another adventure with Jeff to Herefordshire. After loading Jeff's car at his house, they headed off to the Doward. Alan knew he wouldn't be able to make Dave's night here at the end of the month so took this opportunity. Two of the Warwickshire traps made the trip and were added to Jeff's nine. An extraordinary night was already apparent by 2 a.m. when, a quick count

of the species already seen was found to be over 150! One very large moth found on one of Alan's traps proved a surprise as they are supposed to be extinct in the county. However, they are not as a total of five **Great Oak Beauty** found means they must be breeding here. The first call of the Woodcock signaled tally time. What a slow process that was. Alan had managed to finish his just after 5 a.m. with **Lunar Thorn** being the last moth counted. However, Jeff was nowhere near finished and so Alan helped out. A look at the watch showed that Val would be up and so Alan thought he better give her a call to say they were still counting! As he was with Jeff she wasn't too surprised. With Val heading for work, Alan and Jeff had finally packed up and started home. The final total for the night was 235 species with Alan only missing out on 20 while counting up. He did manage to get a first county record though with the micro **Bacotia claustrilla**. With so many good moths it's difficult to pick out just a few but here goes. Micros- **Coleophora kuehnella**, **Crassa tinctella**, **Pseudatemelia subochreella**, **Ancylis upupana**, **Ancylis obtusana**, **Epinotia fraternana**, **Pammene albuginana** and **Cydia coniferana**. Other macros included **Beautiful Carpet**, **Pauper Pug**, **Blomer's Rivulet**, **Waved Carpet**, **Red-necked Footman**, **Coronet** and **Beautiful Snout**. By the time Alan got home he was amazed to find there were still moths in the garden trap to be counted!

Not surprisingly, it was a little while before Alan had recovered enough to venture out again. A nice easy night at Chaddesley Wood was required. Also we needed some moths to show at the two public events we had on tomorrow. However, just before we set out, John Reeves phoned to say that one of them, the Solihull Environmental Day, was cancelled due to the site being flooded. We still had the evening session to cater for and it helped knowing that Val hadn't got to be up early in the morning. As there was only the two of us we decided to trap at the other end of the wood. It was a showery night and the umbrellas were in use some of the time. We were still getting a good selection of moths though. In one of the drier interludes we packed up one of the traps. As the gear was being loaded into the car we heard a sound like a tube train was coming. Alan said, "I hope that's just the wind!" It wasn't, and within seconds we were absolutely soaked! We've never heard anything like it. Just as the last trap was almost counted, the night was made worthwhile as Val's favourite moth, **Lilac Beauty**, put in an appearance. Considering the conditions we'd done well to record 58 species. We even had a new one with the micro **Neosphaleroptera nubilana**.

With last year's event at Norton Covert being deemed a success, we were invited back for another go. We arrived to find preparations for the night well under way. The Barbeque was started and wineglasses were being filled for all the newly arrived people. We put our traps up in the same spots as last year and Bob came along with his own. He decided to descend down a steep bank of the old quarry to set his trap. It was good to see Richard and Carol made it this year. With the lights on and the festivities in full swing, moths began appearing. Our catch from last night had already been displayed and sparked interest. All went well and with the experience of last year, some of the guests stayed late enough to see the first **Poplar Hawk-moth** arrive. They felt it was worth the wait and rounded off a good evening for them. Bob and us kept going for a few hours longer. Finally it was time to start packing up. Alan helped Bob first and then we did ours. A good night resulted with 98 species being recorded. We managed to get another new micro - **Triaxomera parasitella** and **Peach Blossom**, **Scallop Shell**, **Bird's Wing** and **Spectacle** helped keep the guests interested. As usual it had long been daylight before we set off for home at 5.30 a.m.!

After the cancellation of the Solihull Environmental Day, Val was left with over 70 tombola prizes and nowhere to run one. However, a flurry of phone calls and with some strings being pulled, John Liggins managed to come up with an alternative event. It just so happened that Middleton Hall was hosting a RSPB Family Day the following Saturday and he'd managed to organise a spot for the Branch Stall. So, Val would be able to do the tombola after all. The night before had

long been booked as a moth night and so the stall could be set up while we were mothing. With everything going well the weather intervened again. Our usual route to the Hall was flooded and the road closed. So we turned round and looked for somewhere to stop and think. Then we saw Nigel heading the other way and so we waited for him to do the same. Luckily he'd noticed us too and had a map with him. We agreed an alternative route and set off. It worked and we arrived at the entrance. Then we saw the lake at the Hall had burst its banks and the road up to the car park was also flooded. As he was in front of us, Nigel was first to see if he could get through. Once we'd seen him make it safely, we followed. Two Security Guards and Caretaker Bob, who was taking photos of the floods, greeted us. He'd never seen the lake flood like that before. The Guards had been told that the area would all be lit up by the mothers and not to bother bringing torches. That was a bit of an exaggeration as it's a large site. There were a lot of traps though as Martin, Roger, Roy, Keith, Heather and the two John's, Bates and Hoyle respectively, were seen to be as mad as we were. As the traps were being set up, a gazebo was also being erected for the stand tomorrow. After all this, everyone retired to the Volunteers Room for a well earned sit down, a cuppa, some biscuits and a good laugh. During the night, the Guards informed us that they had noticed the water had returned into the lake and off the road. At least we should be able to get home then! Our trips round the traps sometimes overlapped with the Guards "tour of duty" and we're sure they were amused by our antics. Everyone was helping to pot interesting moths to show on the stand tomorrow, although we didn't save the Emerald Damselfly that was resting in one of Nigel's traps. Was it trying to escape the floods? We'll never know, but it was released safely. Tally time finally arrived and a good total of just over one hundred species were recorded. Some of them were **Leopard Moth, Round-winged Muslin, Double Dart, Southern Wainscot, Scarce Silver-lines** and **Blackneck**. Val managed all of two hours sleep before heading back to the Hall (avoiding the closed road) and taking charge of the tombola ready for the 10 o'clock opening. The moths and the tombola proved a great success. However, a very large thank you is due to Roy who helped take some of the pressure off Val, by showing the public the moths on their way past the stall. Thank yous are also due to Keith and Heather who arrived to help for a while and pack up the stall. Well done everyone.

After arriving home exhausted, Val managed to catch up on some well-deserved sleep before we set off on a rare holiday the following day. Her nephew, Gavin and his partner Jenny, had moved to the Isle of Skye a few years ago and have been asking us to visit ever since. This was the year and after an overnight stop in Stirling, we completed the long journey on Monday afternoon. Gavin was waiting for us and had the kettle on. After unloading all of our stuff, which, of course, included the mothing equipment, we settled in to our extremely scenic surroundings. It was a little different to the view out of our windows in Birmingham as, we don't ever remember seeing any Seals lounging about on rocks! With the light finally fading around 11 o'clock, Alan put the two traps up. One in the front garden and one in the back. None of us had any idea what, if anything, we'd catch this far north. There was a bit of a breeze blowing but Alan was the only one who witnessed it drop around 1.30 a.m. as everyone else had retired to the land of nod. He was kept very busy potting moths for an hour longer than he expected as it was cloudy and it didn't get light until around 3.30 a.m. By the end of the twilight and to a backdrop of drumming Snipe, he'd managed to identify 30 species. Amongst them were some really impressive specimens with which we could impress our hosts. They included a **Poplar Hawk-moth**, two **Garden Tiger**, four **Dark Brocade** and three **Beautiful Golden Y**. With a mountain of pots filled with moths, now residing in the fridge, Alan decided to get some sleep himself.

Val surfaced early enough to show Gavin and some of the interested locals, (who had been warned of our arrival!), our impressive haul. Jenny is a keen photographer but had to wait until she got home from work before having a go at the moths. One of the visitors was Louise Kerr. Gavin had asked her if we could do a nights trapping in a bit of woodland close by. As Val was the only one available, she went with Louise and Gavin to have a look round. She came back

with a positive report and so all was set for tonight. It did feel weird leaving to go on a moth night after 10 p.m. but we didn't need to go any earlier to set up. It was a short carry of the equipment to the woodland opposite Braes Village Hall. The woodland was superb and the weather was perfect, mild, humid and cloudy. Alan was kept very busy between the two traps, as there were moths everywhere. Val was trying to get some sleep in the car most of the time as she wanted to be alert tomorrow. Different moths to last night were potted to take back for everyone to see. Val surfaced when it was time to tally and came to help. We'd managed a magnificent 52 species. Amongst them were **Drinker**, **Welsh Wave**, **Magpie Moth**, **Peacock Moth** and **Beautiful Brocade**. We've since found out that the **Triple-spotted Clay** we had could be a first County record. Alan described it as his favourite mothing night of the year. We managed to sneak back into the house just after 4.30 a.m. and not wake anybody. This time it was Alan getting up after only a couple of hours sleep as Val wanted to go on a boat trip to see the White-tailed Eagles. After a nudge in the ribs, Alan managed to open one eye and see an eagle on the trip. Staying awake wasn't his strong point today and on the afternoon's mini-bus trip around part of the island, the nudges in the ribs became more frequent! It came as a great relief when he got back to the house and in bed. Just making it up again before dark, it was too late to go out trapping and so the garden was chosen instead. By this time our luck had run out and the weather had changed to more like what we were expecting. Wet and windy. After a few hours Alan packed up the one trap we had running and got some more sleep before our journey for home began. Only eight species were recorded with **Double Dart** and **Broom Moth** being two of them. Our strangest moth sighting came at our overnight stop at Stirling on the way home. When Val entered the hotel room she spotted something on the curtain. It turned out to be a **Shark**! She complained at reception about having a **Shark** in our room. Then she produced a pot with the moth in and explained. Much laughter followed and the moth was released outside. We found another one flying around our room halfway through the night! It just proves that you shouldn't go anywhere without a pot to put a moth in!

July

After a tortuous journey back from Scotland it was a week before we'd recovered enough to venture out once more. It had been a sad start to the day, as Val had to attend the funeral of her friend June. We had been mothing in her garden a couple of times and so, in her memory, we decided to go out in the evening. Monkwood was chosen as the venue although we weren't expecting too much, as the weather wasn't great. However, on arrival at the wood the weather took a turn for the better. After choosing our trapping spot and setting up, Alan remembered that it was the time of year to see Glow-worms. So as soon as it was dark enough Val went searching. She was successful but only managed to find one. The moths were far more numerous. It was nice to find the traps full of colour, as a lot of **Rosy Footman** were early arrivals. It turned out to be a very good night with 121 species recorded. The most notable was the first county record of the micro ***Coleophora albidella*** for 130 years! Amongst the macros were **Small Emerald**, **Suspected** and **Slender Brindle**. It was after 4a.m. before we left for home and we thought June would have been pleased we'd done so well.

With us now back in the flow, it was the regular Chaddesley Wood session the following night. We arrived early so that Alan could have a wander in Black meadow. Val set to work on clearing some of the Bracken from the track through the wood. Mervyn arrived with a scythe as he'd had the same thought. By the time Alan came back from the meadow Roger, Roy, Martin and Bob had arrived. Val said she'd done really well with the secateurs hadn't she? It didn't take Alan long to realise she'd had a bit of help and Mervyn then owned up. After the laughter had died down, we all headed up the refurbished track and set up the traps. It was a chilly night and the 'tea shop' was in regular use. We had background music from Tom the Frop who was playing at the

cricket club. Thanks to Mervyn for that bit of knowledge! It was after 4 a.m. that we locked up and set off for home. Considering the cool temperatures a count of 88 species wasn't too bad. Some of the micros were ***Coleophora deauratella***, ***Coleophora taeniipennella*** and ***Pseudatemelia josephinae*** with some of the macros being **Large Twin-spot Carpet**, **Cinnabar Moth** and **Angle-striped Sallow**.

Three days later Alan made another visit to Ryton Meadows. With the recent rain the "lake" was bound to be impassable but, it didn't matter at this time of year as the traps would be set in the grassland. Finding a breeze coming from the northwest limited Alan's options a bit but he managed to get the traps relatively sheltered. While setting up, a couple of Field Voles were seen scampering about on the track and before the lights went on, Alan was able to watch three very large bats put on a superb flying display over the meadow. After the lights had been on a while, Mike Slater arrived to see how Alan was getting on. The original plan was working as a significant number of the moths in the traps were grassland species. Not long after midnight, Mike had absorbed as much moth information as he could for one night and so left Alan to it. Then it got cloudy and the traps very busy. It led to Alan not packing up and heading for home until just before 5 o'clock. The species count for the night reached 100 species exactly. Amongst the micros were ***Bucculatrix nigricomella***, ***Coleophora glaucicolella*** and ***Eucosma campoliliana*** with **Shaded Broad-bar**, **Lesser Treble-bar**, **Ruby Tiger** and **Brown-line Bright-eye** being some of the macros. Alan's late arrival home meant Val got her first cuppa in bed for a while!

The month continued with another visit to Ray's in Brandon. Chris had already arrived and was enjoying our host's hospitality. After setting up, Alan was able to join them. The sky had started clear but some clouds arrived with even a spot of rain being felt. This led to the moth activity increasing and a very good night was had. An excellent total of 117 species were found. Some of the micros were ***Paraswammerdamia albicapitella***, ***Coleophora spinella*** and ***Gypsonoma aceriana*** with **Lime-speck Pug**, **Dot Moth**, **Varied Coronet** and **Lesser Common Rustic** being amongst the macros. When Alan finally arrived home, Val was already eating her breakfast!

A date that had long been in the calendar finally arrived. Richard and Carol had asked us to do a moth night at their wood for the Stourbridge Group of the Worcestershire Wildlife Trust. We arrived to find preparations well under way with a gazebo; chairs, campfire and even a portaloos set up in the wood. All very impressive. We'd managed to talk Jack and Bob in to coming and helping us for the night. With six traps we were able to make a nice circular tour for the group. The weather was good, for a change and we expected a productive night. A very enthusiastic group had gathered and on our way round the traps was taking pictures furiously. It proved to be a very entertaining and social evening. The only disappointment was just as we started to count up it started raining. Spirits were not dampened though as Richard and Carol were cooking breakfast and making everybody's mouth water. After we'd finished tallying, we were able to join the others who were already tucking in. All but two of the original group made it through to the end. It just proved what a good job Richard and Carol had done in preparing them for the night. We managed a very good 126 species with some real stunners keeping everyone happy. The **Garden Tiger** was the obvious star attraction with **Phoenix**, **Lunar-spotted Pinion** and **Waved Black** sharing some of the limelight. Star amongst the micros were the ten ***Scoparia basistrigalis*** recorded. A big thank you must go to everyone who made it such an enjoyable night and especially to Jack and Bob for helping provide the best moths. We shall be doing this again in 2008 and hope it's just as successful.

It was back to Ryton Meadows for Alan next. With the breeze coming from a different direction than last time he had to find an alternative sheltered bit in the meadow tonight. It was a bit of a carry but nowhere near as bad as all the way up the hill! The bats seen this week were a lot smaller than last time and Alan guessed they were probably one of the Pipistrelle species. The

effort in finding a sheltered spot proved worthwhile as, 84 species were recorded. Some of the micros found were *Celypha rivulana*, *Endothenia marginana* and *Zeiraphera isertana* with **Large Emerald**, **Minor Shoulder-knot** and **Suspected** amongst the macros. Alan also managed to get home an hour earlier than last week.

A planned trip to Middleton Hall saw the regular number of attendees dwindle as the rain had been torrential all day. We phoned caretaker Bob to tell him we were still coming and Nigel phoned to say he'd come but without traps. Keith also called to say he wasn't going. Our first problem came in a surprising place as, we found ourselves in a traffic jam on the A45 by the airport. After half an hour of inching our way forward we found the hold up. The road was flooded. Luckily, on our side, the road was passable in the outside lane with one vehicle at a time going through. The other carriageway was a different story. We could see cars going through the flood and then stopping and opening their doors to let the water out! A few cars had 'died' as well. The flood we had to go round near the Hall was back and so we took the same route as last time to avoid it. We decided it might be prudent to find an alternative route home! We were so late arriving at the Hall that Bob had locked up again. So after finding him, we managed to get somewhere dry to sit. Alan put two traps up in the walled garden and retired to the Volunteers room. Nigel arrived and he and Alan set to work entering records onto Mapmate while we chatted. Through all of this, it hadn't stopped raining and it was windy as well. When we decided to call it a night around 2 a.m. we ventured out to check the traps. Unsurprisingly, they weren't exactly heaving with moths. In fact a meagre sixteen species were found. However, two of the micros were new for the site. They were *Agonopterix ciliella* and *Scoparia pyralella*. The journey home was a bit quicker as, we took a route that avoided known watercourses as much as possible.

The following night was the annual Barbeque and Moth Night at Windmill Hill. After discussions with Chris, we again decided to venture out. Martin also decided to give it a go and between us, we persuaded Chris to pop back home and bring his trap as well. Being fewer in number than normal, we decided to plug the traps in to the building and put them where the cables ran out. Plenty of people came even though there was a threat of rain in the air. We managed to get a few good moths, as well as enjoying the food on offer. By the end, a very creditable 75 species had braved the elements and been recorded. A couple of micros put in their first appearance of the year. They were *Agriphila inquinatella* and *Udea lutealis* with the macros, **Straw Underwing** and **Dusky Sallow** doing the same. We were pleased that organiser Lloyd had stayed to the end and we've already sorted out next year's date.

Alan then braved another adventure with Jeff. It was a bit more local this time as they met up at Lickey Hills Country Park. Jeff had organised a Ranger to drive all the equipment onto the site as, the tracks were very rough. Once all the gear was loaded onto the Land Rover and the cars parked securely, it was time for the bumpy drive into the park. With the spot for trapping reached all the equipment got unloaded and set up. Alan was much slower than Jeff but, he didn't have generator problems either. Finally, all eleven traps were going and some time out could be taken. Jeff produced his brand new stool, an idea he'd pinched from Alan but, before he could use it, a tour of the traps was taken. This was because the Ranger was going to leave and get some sleep but wanted to see a few moths first. The traps weren't too busy but they were just grateful it was a dry night. After the Ranger had left, Jeff got a chance to sit on his stool. They chatted until Jeff's generator ran out of petrol. After filling both generators up with fuel, a full tour of the traps was undertaken. They weren't that busy and so, when it came to packing up time it was decided to do them one at a time. The Ranger returned in time to see the last of the traps being tallied and then they were all loaded back on to the Land Rover. Once back at the cars, gear was swapped from vehicle to vehicle with farewells and thank yous following. The unusual dry night had produced a mediocre 84 species from such a good site. All the recent rain certainly seemed

to have had an effect on moth numbers. However, Alan still managed to see a new micro, namely ***Argyresthia glaucinella***. A **Purple Hairstreak** also made it to one of the traps and **Clay Triple-lines**, **Northern Spinach** and **Satin Beauty** were some of the macros recorded. Val was again enjoying breakfast when Alan arrived home. After enjoying a dry night, Alan was not happy when he got soaked counting the garden trap!

With a hectic month nearing an end it was back to Kingsbury Water Park next. No problems gaining access tonight as, the park was still open and the recent floodwaters had broken the entrance barrier. Joining us with traps were Keith and John Bates. Nigel, 'livewire' Ron and a new couple, Hilary and Geoff Harvey were also in attendance. It was quite a cool night and the 'tea shop' again proved popular after each round of the traps. Nigel departed shortly after midnight, which left Alan to try and cope with everybody's micros. It wasn't until after all the other traps were counted that we could start on our own. With it being so cold it was a surprise to learn that we'd recorded 91 species. We managed two County firsts among the micros. They were ***Coleophora tamesis*** and ***Gelechia cuneatella***. Some more colourful species were **Meal Moth**, **Bordered Beauty** and **Canary-shouldered Thorn**. A very successful night.

The last day of the month and Alan made a late decision to go to Ryton Meadows. It was a cool, clear night again, with a full moon not helping matters. A slow and steady night. Alan decided that as soon as the first **Poplar Hawk-moth** arrived he would start to pack up. A leisurely tally resulted in 70 species being recorded. New ones for the year were the micros ***Ancylis badiana*** and ***Dichrorampha acuminatana*** with **Small Scallop**, **Olive** and **Rosy Rustic** being the new macros. Biggest shock of the night was Alan arriving home in the dark!

August

The month began as the previous one had finished with Alan ending up at Ryton Meadows. As he had to drop off proof of the two County firsts from Kingsbury, he thought he might as well go mothing. The night looked more promising until arriving at the meadows and then the clouds slowly cleared. However, the species count was a little better at 75. Two of the species not recorded the night before were **Rosy Minor** and **Mere Wainscot**. The Wainscot was an especially welcome find as, we've missed seeing it on a number of occasions in the past. Alan was a little disappointed when he got home to find a six-degree difference between there and the meadows. The difference? Birmingham was cloudy and the garden trap was heaving!

Apart from Alan's trip with Jeff to the Doward, the night of the 3rd August proved to be the biggest catch of the year. It was on the annual "Moths in the Middle" group field trip. This year Ladywalk Nature Reserve was the chosen venue. We had a guest with us as, Andy Ormston had come down especially from the Northeast to join us on a moth night. He's been reading of our travels over the years and was intrigued. An excellent turnout also included Martin, Mike and Annie West with the two John's, Bates and Hoyle contributing traps. Keith, John Liggins, Anne Cole, Hilary and Geoff completed the attendees. The traps were nicely spread and so a good wander round was needed to see them all. A makeshift "canteen" was set up in a bird hide where wine, homemade cakes and sweets were served. The weather proved to be the best of the year with lots of cloud shielding us from the full moon's glare. A superb social and mothing night was had by all. After getting out of the habit of counting so many moths, it took a long time to count up. So long in fact, that we'd just finished doing John Bates' last trap when a birdwatcher carrying a telescope wandered down to us! The final count of 147 species was a lovely surprise. Another County first was had with ***Gypsonoma minutana***. Other interesting micros were ***Ectoedemia angulifasciella***, ***Elachista alpinella***, ***Elachista apicipunctella*** and ***Agonopterix conterminella***. Some of the macros were **Plain Pug**, **Latticed Heath**, **White Satin** and **Double-**

lobed. Poor Andy was definitely flagging by the time we set off for home around 6 a.m.! Even Val had sobered up!!

With last night being such a long one, it still came as a surprise when Andy announced he was going to head home a day earlier than scheduled. It appeared that no matter how much we tried to warn him about mothing, he was still underprepared. He left saying he'd know better next time. So we headed off to Chaddesley Wood with one less than expected. Roger, Jack, Bob, Mervyn and Rose were also trapping tonight. Enid Doran also joined us. She hadn't been all year so, it was a nice surprise to see her. It would seem the weather was the reason as she likes it to be good. There hadn't been too much of that as we all know! Anyway, it made a nice change not having to worry about the sky above and a very enjoyable night was had with Rose supplying Flapjack this time. A very good 122 species were recorded with **Rhyacionia buoliana** and **Evergestis pallidata** being a couple of the micros. A **Purple Hairstreak** gave us great views at Roger's trap as he was counting up and **Barred Hook-tip**, **Maple Pug**, **Poplar Kitten** and **Waved Black** were some of the macros. Judging by the time we got home again, Andy had probably made the right decision.

Alan decided to pay his mum a surprise visit during the next week. Not having been down to Essex mothing at this time of year, he wasn't sure what to expect. His mum didn't know what to expect either until, she blew the surprise element by phoning Val half an hour after he'd set off on the journey down! At least everything was ready to put the traps up when he arrived! A relaxing couple of days were spent and the mothing was good. Amongst the 65 species recorded on the first night were three new species! They were the micros **Oegoconia caradjai** and **Endotricha flammealis** and the macro **Least Carpet**. Alan also had the only **Dark Spectacle** he saw all year. The following night 62 species were found. The undoubted highlight was a **Webb's Wainscot**. It took a while to confirm but it couldn't have been anything else in the end. With the weather improving, it was a nice interlude before the imminent National Moth Night 2007.

With the big night finally upon us, where would we go? In the end we decided that as Roger is such a frequent and welcome visitor to our area, we would repay his loyalty and head down to his county, Gloucestershire. The RSPB were organising an event on Tidenham Chase near Chepstow. The area known as The Park is a heathland restoration project and this is where we would be trapping. We arrived early enough to have a look at the site. A local, named Ben, offered to take us on tour to find the best spot to set up. Val accepted while, Alan returned to the car park to await the arrival of Roger and the Warden, Barry. With everyone assembled back at the entrance, Val announced she'd found a good spot and so Barry unlocked the gate and we could start setting up. Roger joined us as he had his trap as well. Barry stayed at the gate to await the public's arrival. The next time we saw him was just before switch on as, he'd brought the public to exactly where the traps were to show people the Nightjar's. What a bonus that was, as we had really good views as two flew around the heath. Barry announced to the assemblage that there were two traps set up down this track, as that was all he could see. When Alan informed him that there were actually four his face was a picture! Another trap did arrive with Val Jackson and was set up by the entrance. A lovely group of around a dozen were very interested in what we were finding in the traps and were even having a go at some of the scientific names of the micros! It's so much more enjoyable with a group that is genuinely interested in the subject. After a slow tour of the traps and a stop at the 'tea shop' the public and Barry left for home. Val J. stayed a little longer before doing the same. Roger and ourselves were having such a good time, that it wasn't until 6 a.m. that the final light went out. With packing up complete we set off, very happy, after a thoroughly enjoyable night. Alan even got to go over the Severn Bridge for the first time ever on our way home! A grand total of 115 species was recorded with several being newly recorded for the site. Some of the micros were **Monochroa cytisella**, **Mirificarma mulinella** and **Pyla fusca** while, **Grass Emerald**, **Dark Marbled Carpet**, **Blue-bordered Carpet**, **Least Yellow**

Underwing and **Dotted Clay** were amongst the macros.

Roy had arranged the next mothing trip. It was certainly a bit different as Alan met him outside some impressive iron gates. Tony who was to be our 'driver', (no pun intended), for the evening met them at the entrance to Ladbroke Park Golf Club. Once they were all behind the gates and the cars parked, Roy and Alan unloaded their equipment and the put it onto the back of the Greenkeepers' Buggy. Tony then drove it all to the trapping site. Elizabeth, who is an official at the club joined Roy and Alan for the long walk across the course to their final destination. Having wandered down fairway after fairway they finally arrived at the area Roy wanted to trap in. A quick look round and the decision where to put the traps was made. Roy was 'out of bounds' and Alan was in a 'drop zone' and by the 5th green! Then it was time to 'tee off'! Alan had quite a few moths early on and was kept busy potting them. He then went to find Roy who was chatting to Tony and Elizabeth. A slow 'round' of the traps was undertaken and another lady joined us to look at the moths. They were all fascinated, it was just a shame we weren't getting many as the temperature was beginning to fall quite quickly. Eventually, it was cold enough for the ladies to head to the 'nineteenth' while the others carried on for a while. After the last patch of cloud to be seen had passed over the decision to pack up was made. While Alan was packing his furthest trap, a manic Wood Mouse appeared to be escorting a Toad from its territory. It was hilarious to watch in a tortoise and hare sort of way. Once everything was packed and loaded onto the Buggy, the long walk back was made as Tony zigzagged his way back to the car park. With everything and everybody back safely, equipment was unloaded and loaded again before farewells and thank yous were done. A disappointing 36 species were recorded, mainly due to the low temperature and clearing sky. The habitat was very good and so not to blame for the low count. We did get some nice moths like, **Lesser Swallow Prominent** and **Black Arches** to show off. Ultimately, the evening was considered a success with the possibility of it being repeated in better weather.

The month continued with an exciting visit to Hartlebury Common. The 'Friends of' group had asked Mike Southall to arrange some moth nights and this was the second of them. We'd been disappointed to miss the first one as we were booked somewhere else. The weather on the way was atrocious and things didn't look promising. However, on arrival the rain had all but stopped. Martin and Ian also brought traps along. There was quite a nice group of interested onlookers by the time everything was up and running. Most of them stayed quite late and so, saw a lot of the site specialties. A surprise visitor was Dave who'd finished his previous engagement and decided to do some 'glory mothing'! With only the occasional bit of light drizzle the weather was about as good as we could have hoped for. When everything was counted, just over one hundred species had been recorded. Amongst the micros were **Acrocercops brongniardella**, **Teleiopsis diffinis** and **Crambus hamella** with **Annulet**, **White-line Dart**, **Archer's Dart** and **Small Rufous** some of the macros.

A phone call from Dave prompted Alan to join him on a visit to Oversley Wood. After meeting Dave at the gate, they both drove into the wood to set up. Dave had been at the wood all afternoon searching for **Sciota hostilis** larvae with Brian Elliot and Bernard Skinner. With that being successful, a moth night was hastily arranged. A while after the lights went on Brian and Bernard arrived to see what we'd caught. They stayed for a while as the traps were toured before retiring to their hotel. There appeared to be an even split between micros and macros tonight, which was unusual, amongst the 100 species recorded. **Stigmella floslactella**, **Stigmella microtheriella** and **Agonopterix liturosa** were amongst the former with **Pale Eggar**, **Pine Hawk-moth** and **Yellow-tail** the latter.

With an exciting development recently taking place at Ryton Meadows, Alan decided to go and check it out. However, on arrival he found a man asleep in a car blocking the gate. After tapping

on the window to wake him up, Alan was surprised to be thanked as the man would have been late for a meeting if he hadn't! After gaining entry, the big moment had come. The 'lake' was no more! Some superb work by Mike Slater, Martin, Val and her Barclay's colleagues, Harminder, Roland and Paul had resulted in a smooth passage up to 'scrub hill'. Alan would like to thank all those involved. It's made a massive difference. With the traps up and running Jack paid a visit although, he hadn't brought any traps. Shortly afterwards Mike Slater arrived. After some chat, a wander around the traps was done before Jack headed home. Then it was Mike helping Alan to learn plants and Alan returning the help with the moths. Around 2 a.m. both had absorbed as much as they could for one night and Mike set off for home leaving Alan to count up. A good total of 93 species were recorded with ***Coleophora trochilella***, ***Bactra furfurana*** and **Wax Moth** amongst the micros. **Orange Swift**, **Six-striped Rustic** and **Burnished Brass** were some of the larger species found.

The following night it was the first of Neil's public events at Slimbridge. Roger also brought his trap to add to the fun. While chatting to Neil in the car park we found out that only two people had booked and he knew them. He was also expecting some of the staff to attend as well but that was it. Val told him later why it might be. The price for the night had doubled to ten pounds! Neil couldn't believe it but admitted that it might explain the lack of bookings. We know the night is worth every penny, especially when you get us thrown in as well! However, the Great British Public is another matter entirely. We're going to be interested to see what the price is in 2008. Anyway, as usual, we had a thoroughly entertaining night with 75 species recorded. A couple of the micros were ***Limnaecia phragmitella*** and ***Phtheochroa inopiana*** with **Magpie Moth**, **Dog's Tooth** and **Twin-spotted Wainscot** some of the macros.

Mervyn had received a request from another 'Friends of' group to run a moth night. This time it was at Pepper Wood, not far from Chaddesley. Jack had also agreed to come and we all ran two traps each. Around ten interested 'friends' waited as we put the traps up. When we'd all switched on, a tour of the traps was made to see the early arrivals. The group then disappeared to the nearest pub for a while. On their return another round of the traps was done before they headed off home. Then it was up to Jack, Mervyn and us to decide what time to pack up. Jack was the first to go, followed by Mervyn. Then just as we started on our first trap, the petrol in the generator ran out. We'd forgotten to ask Jack for a top up before he went and so, had to tally in the dark! Even so we managed a reasonable 71 species. Some of the micros were ***Stigmella samiatella***, ***Psoricoptera gibbosella*** and ***Epinotia solandriana*** with **Poplar Lutestring**, **V-pug** and **Marbled Beauty** amongst the macros. We've already been invited back and will be doing National Moth Night at the site in 2008.

With the end of another month fast approaching, a return to Ray's in Brandon was made. Alan joined Chris and Ray for another adventure in the 'wilderness'! With the others traps already going Alan set up as fast as he could. His late arrival was due to helping Val with her wildlife project. A relaxing night was had with plenty of moths to keep everyone entertained. By the time Alan left around 5 a.m. a good total of 68 species had been recorded. ***Bucculatrix thoracella***, ***Roeslerstammia erxlebella*** and ***Ypsolopha sylvella*** were three of the micros with **Lime-speck Pug**, **Old Lady** and **Vine's Rustic** being some of the macros.

With the last day of August having arrived we set off down to WWT Slimbridge again. As with last week, two people had booked and some staff made up the numbers. Neil had managed to find out that the ten pounds event charge was the same as for the moth nights at the Wetlands Centre in London. We all know that London is a different country but they don't! Hopefully, next year a sense of realism will prevail. The weather was a bit cooler than last week and that was reflected in only 59 species being found. Nobody minded though, as another enjoyable night ended around 4 a.m. The best moth of the night for us had arrived the previous week after we'd

left, but Neil held on to it so we could see it before it was released. It was one of the **Great Brocade** influx that had occurred with the northerly winds that blew for a lot of the month. Thanks Neil. Some of the moths caught on this night were the Pyralids ***Chilo phragmitella***, ***Catoptria falsella*** and ***Phycitodes maritima*** with **Flame Carpet**, **Bulrush Wainscot** and **Gold Spot** amongst the macros.

September

Chaddesley Wood and another moth trap 'christening'! This time Hilary and Geoff had brought a new trap with them. Patrick, Mervyn and Roger were also around to witness this momentous event in any mother's career. We also had plenty of visitor's come along. Mike Southall and his wife, Wendy, had popped in briefly to show everyone the **Cypress Pug** they'd caught in their garden. I think we all appreciated the thought. Later arrivals included Ian and Steve with Neil last of all. With such a group the social side of mothing was in full swing tonight. Thanks Neil for finally making it up to our patch, we hope you'll make it a bit more often in the future. The greatest knowledge we gained tonight was that the Chaddesley Tawny Owls do not appear to understand Neil's Manchester/Gloucestershire accent! As usual, when your lights go off you are as far away from them as possible and so, we were grateful to Steve for letting us know the petrol had run out. After a refill everything ran smoothly for the rest of the night. A respectable 47 species had been recorded by the time we left for home around 4 a.m. with ***Parornix betulae*** and ***Rhyacionia pinicolana*** being a couple of the micros. **Grey Pine Carpet** and **Vapourer** were two of the macros.

A few days later Jack called to say that he and Mike Astley were going over to Ryton so Alan went to join them. He found Mike had already arrived and as it was the first time he'd seen him in ages wished him a Happy New Year! Jack arrived shortly afterwards and then they all got moving. Jack and Mike went to their spots in the wood and Alan went into the meadow although not too far away. Mike was disappointed with the lack of moths and so packed up around midnight. A bad hay fever attack sent Alan back for a pill while helping Jack count up. Once he'd stopped sneezing, Alan went to meet Jack at the gate to say goodbye before counting up himself. Unusually, there seemed to be more moths in the meadow and it wasn't until 4 a.m. (again), that Alan was on his way home. Despite a cool breeze an unexpectedly good 83 species were recorded. **September Thorn**, **Orange Sallow** and **Frosted Orange** were three of the more colourful macros caught.

A long overdue return to Crown East Wood the following night was made by Alan. Pulling up at the gate Alan was surprised to find another vehicle behind him. It turned out to be Mike, the Badger man. He was off to feed the Badgers and then do some bat detecting. After parking they went and had a look under the bits of carpet and tin in the field. The result was two Slow Worms, two Smooth Newts and a Wood Mouse. That was an encouraging start. After setting up and switching on it was over to Mike and his bat detector. He actually saw a bat come out of the box by the gate. He seemed somewhat surprised that there should be a bat in a bat box! Alan gave him the benefit of the doubt as he's only just started looking at bats. Mike did mention that they were having a bat recorder's meeting in a couple of weeks and would we like to run some moth traps? It seemed a good idea to Alan and so agreement was reached. Around 10 o'clock Mike left Alan to it. A leisurely tally led to a 3 o'clock departure time after 55 species had been recorded. A new micro was the pretty ***Phyllonorycter acerifoliella*** with **August Thorn** being the best macro. Weirdest moth went to the pristine **Heath Rustic** that had arrived from who knows where!

For the third night in a row Alan was out mothing. However, being a Friday night Val could actually go too. Hopefully, this venture to Middleton Hall would prove a little more productive

than the last time during the floods! A good turnout tonight with Martin, Roger, John Bates, John Hoyle, Keith and Heather all bringing traps. Nigel put in a brief appearance to pick up some stuff. As Hilary and Geoff were going on holiday tomorrow they didn't stay late. Nobody was allowed to leave without having a piece of the chocolate cake Val had made although, no arms had to be terribly twisted! The usual fun evening of chat, food, drink and moths ended in the early hours with 60 species identified. **Grapholita janthinana**, **Brown** and **Small China-mark** were some of the micros with **Brindled Green**, **Sallow** and **Oak Nycteoline** being amongst the macros.

Next was a trip to the Leam Valley Nature Reserve organised by Jack. Roy was already at Jack's when Alan arrived and so they could set off straight away. After Jack had got them through the gates and onto the reserve, he gave them the full tour before agreement was reached on where to set up. It was quite dark by this time and Alan was glad Martin had arrived to provide some light as he filled up the generator. A nice cloudy night for a change with plenty of moths flying. That was until coming out of a bit of woodland. Alan looked back to his traps and saw they were in fog! A look up confirmed that the clouds had cleared and the temperature was dropping rapidly. The decision to pack up was an easy one. However, a good night had produced records of 63 species. Some of the micros were **Cochylimorpha straminea**, **Pandemis cinnamomeana** and **Acleris rhombana** with **Blood-vein**, **Currant Pug** and **Centre-barred Sallow** amongst the macros. The rarest thing we caught though was a beetle called **Cercyon laminatus**, which proved to be the second County record. Thanks go to Steve Lane for sorting that one out!

The following Saturday was the bat recorders meeting that we'd been invited to moth trap at. It was at the Knapp and Papermill Nature Reserve. We found Mike, the badger/bat man and he introduced us to Fergus, the Warden who lives on site. He showed us where to park and then Mike and his wife Sue took us on a tour of the reserve. We returned and decided where to set up. Fergus had a trap running in his garden. It was an extraordinary contraption called a 'moonlander'! We put ours on either side of the 'moon'. It was another one of those clear, cool nights so it was slow going. We set our sights on 30 species but in the end we fell one short. A few of the bat recorders did take an interest and had a look in the traps but it was mainly Mike, Sue and us. Due to the cool temperatures, we packed up and were on our way home by 1.30 a.m. With so many Ash trees on the reserve we were pleased that a couple of **Dusky Thorn** arrived, as did eight **Centre-barred Sallow**. It was an interesting night, at a lovely site but, it was just a shame the evening was so cold.

A week had passed before the equipment was in use again. Martin decided to join us on a trip to Ryton Meadows. It was the first time Val had been over what used to be the 'lake', she was and should be very proud, as should Martin. Because there was a breeze blowing, shelter was a major factor in where to put the traps. All were up 'scrub hill' and so we expected a decent catch. After setting up, the wind dropped. Typical! It was yet another clear night although, Val did enjoy seeing all the fireworks going off in the distance without the loud bangs that goes with them. Martin was a 'guinea pig' for a biscuit recipe Val had found. The verdict, not one of her best and so it's gone back in the cupboard where she found it! Around midnight the decision to tally was made. Val was delighted to find an extra species when packing up one of our traps while Martin and Alan were counting the next one. That doesn't happen very often. She managed to pot the Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing after a bit of a chase, which made it even better. The final count resulted in 27 species being recorded. The oddest moth was a very fresh **July Highflyer** which came as a great surprise to us all. **Black Rustic** and **Lunar Underwing** were a couple of other species recorded. We also managed to catch five beetles that had come to the lights. Our untrained eyes guessed that they were three different species. However, we got word from Steve Lane that they were all different. We don't think it's an area we'll be getting in to but, we will keep sending them to Steve.

The final day of the month was a Sunday but, Val was on holiday the following week and so she could join Alan on a visit to Crown East Wood. Mike and his son put in an appearance, but they disappeared across the field with some recording equipment in search of Lesser Horseshoe Bats. They returned unsuccessful and had to be content with a look in the traps before going home. It was quite a slow night but a few Hornets kept us on our toes early on. At least they have not been as much of an annoyance as they were last year. An interesting insect we had in one of the traps was a Dark Bush-cricket. We got it into a pot and had a really good look. What an amazingly designed creature. It started to rain about midnight and so we decided to call it a night with 21 species recorded. Not a bad night really for the end of September. Strangest record was of a pristine **Blotched Emerald**. We also had the first of the autumn brood of **Satellite**.

October

With Val still on holiday she was able to go on the first trip of the new month. It was to be our final visit of the year to Kingsbury Water Park. Keith, Martin, Roy, John Bates, Hilary and Geoff all made the effort to bring traps. So it was quite a way around all of the traps tonight which made the 'tea shop' a particularly welcome stop on each circuit. A couple of queen Hornets were interesting but no bother and another entertaining evening was had by all with a very impressive 31 species found. The scarce micro **Gelechia cuneatella** was caught for the third consecutive visit. It's obviously not so scarce at Kingsbury! The first **Feathered Thorn** and **Green-brindled Crescent** of the year also put in an appearance.

With the English Moths Count meeting scheduled for the same day as the monthly trip to Chaddesley Wood, it meant Val and Mervyn had a very busy day. It was all a bit of a rush when Val got home but Alan had arranged for Patrick to open up the wood for the early arrivals. As it was we weren't too much later than the advertised meeting time and found Martin waiting with Patrick on arrival. Mervyn and Rose arrived shortly after which completed the people who were going to put up traps. Patrick, having wandered around Black Meadow for a couple of hours, cemented his previously earned 'lightweight' reputation and went home. Val had been plugging the night at the meeting and we had some takers. She'd promised we get **Merveille Du Jour**. Thanks Val, no pressure then! So welcome guests included Charles from Huntingdon, Marc from Swindon, Dave and John from Wolverhampton and finally our very own David Brown brought Izumi with him. He also decided to put up a trap before going down the pub. Let us just say Keith, you're in good company. Mr. Brown also managed to catch less than one moth, as you'd done at Middleton all those months ago! Does that make you feel any better? With David's 'help' a great total of 33 species was recorded and yes, we all let out a huge sigh of relief when we found a **Merveille** sitting on Mervyn's trap. **Autumnal Rustic**, **Brick** and **Pink-barred Sallow** were some of the other species seen. Our guests all went home happy as we also did after Val's bold guarantee!

Alan next made another visit to Ray's in Brandon. After dealing with the rush hour traffic he managed to arrive early! It was just the pair of them tonight, so Alan took an extra trap to compensate. Then, in his role of 'moth messiah', told Ray about which species he expected to see tonight and was pleased when most of them did show up. A nice relaxed night produced an excellent 26 species. Amongst Alan's predictions were **Blair's Shoulder-knot**, **Red-line Quaker** and **Beaded Chestnut**. Ray was most excited and pleased with his very own **Merveille Du Jour**. Val was equally excited and pleased when Alan returned with a large bag of apples from Ray's orchard.

The following week Alan headed down to Essex to help his mum with her autumn jobs. She was expecting him this time! The weather was good on the first night but it started to rain not long

after the traps went on. It's never much fun counting up in the rain but it was worth getting wet as 23 species were recorded. The second night was clear, cold and windy with only nine species found. The good news was that both **Mallow** and **Feathered Ranunculus** were recorded on each night. Both these species are not very common back in the West Midlands and so they are always a welcome sight.

November

The first day of the month and a return visit to Ray's 'wilderness'. Chris joined Alan and Ray this time. As there was a bit of time before switching on the three of them wandered over to Ray's orchard to pick up some windfalls. With that done and the lights on it was time to relax for a while, that was until Alan had realised he'd forgotten to bring his food. So he had to make a journey home to collect it. The upside was he could deliver the apples he'd got from the orchard and Val could deal with them straight away. It didn't take too long and he was soon back at Ray's. Then a round of the traps was undertaken during which Martin arrived for his first visit. After a short tour he decided to run a trap. About 10.30 p.m. we decided on another tour of the traps. Unfortunately for Martin he made it a hat-trick of 'less than ones' for the year. In mitigation, he did start rather late in the evening. A reasonable 13 species were recorded. Amongst the micros were ***Acleris sparsana*** and ***Acleris ferrugana*** while **Green-brindled Crescent** and **Barred Sallow** were a couple of the macros.

The weather held up well enough to make the monthly trip to Chaddesley Wood. Other hardy souls were Roger, Martin, Jack, Hilary and Geoff. The signs were good early on as the traps were busy. Having a good number of traps certainly helps at this time of year. Everybody was contributing something different. Val thought we'd been mothing ages and was surprised to find out it was only seven o'clock! After filling up the generator with oil and petrol it ran smoothly until we'd packed up at midnight. An excellent night was had considering the cold and the annoyingly loud fireworks going off everywhere, with a superb 24 species recorded. We had two good micros in ***Exapate congelatella*** and ***Acleris literana***. Amongst the macros were **December Moth**, **Sprawler** and Martin managed to confirm we had **November**, **Pale November** and **Autumnal Moths**. A cracking night enjoyed by everyone.

Towards the end of the month Alan made an impromptu visit to Ryton Meadows. Not expecting to catch too much even though the weather was reasonable, he was also prepared to start work on the draft of this account of our year. With the first three hours producing a grand total of five November Moth species he decided to get to a convenient point and pack up. That extra half an hour or so made all the difference as by the time he had everything loaded in the car the total had risen to eight species! They included **Northern Winter Moth**, **Scarce Umber** and **Sprawler**. Six of the species were newly recorded for the meadow! In the end it proved an extremely successful trip.

December

With the weather not looking promising Alan wasn't expecting to go on the monthly trip to Chaddesley Wood. However, when he woke up Val told him he was, as Hilary and Geoff had phoned and were all for going. Martin also called to see if it was on so, with a message left to let Mervyn know and breakfast barely eaten, off Alan went. Mervyn said he was as surprised as Alan to find out he was coming! With everybody assembled it was off up the track and into the wood to set up. There was a bit of a breeze blowing but the hill in the middle of the wood means you can always get somewhere sheltered. After getting everything up and running and after the initial catch-up chat, a tour of the traps was done. By the time we got to Mervyn's his generator had run

out of petrol! He decided to pack up, as he wasn't staying late anyway. Most of the moths seen tonight were either in the vegetation or on the traps rather than in them. By the time everyone had packed up an unexpected nine species had been recorded. It was especially nice for everybody to see both **Winter Moth** and **Northern Winter Moth** together and therefore see the difference. Also seen were **Red-green Carpet** and **Mottled Umber**. So thanks must go to Hilary and Geoff for sparking another good evening.

It wasn't the last trip however. Val had the truly mad idea of venturing over to Ryton Meadows on New Years Eve so she could watch the midnight fireworks from the top of 'scrub hill'. The weather proved to be good enough to consider making the effort. We arrived at the meadows just before 10 p.m. and shortly afterwards two traps were up and running. While setting up, another vehicle appeared to be making it's way up the hill but came to a halt. Val went to find out who and what. It was Hilary and Geoff who were just as mad as Val, but they had got stuck half way up the hill on the wet and slippery surface. After a bit of a shove the car made it to the top where it got stuck again! After giving up trying to shift it and seeing the New Year in, assistance was called for. However the recovery truck driver was a complete and utter coward and decided he wasn't going to drive up the hill and rescue the car. Maybe he should think about doing a job to which he's more suited. We hope he has a particularly horrible 2008! He did give Hilary and Geoff a ride home but it wasn't really the point. What made it worse was seeing as Geoff didn't have to drive home he could have had a couple of drinks. The view of the fireworks was spectacular as you could see them going off over most of the West Midlands. So Val was happy she'd made the trip. Hilary and Geoff probably have a different view of the evening. Thankfully Mike Slater was a bit more helpful and managed to get them back on the road a couple of days later. We felt very bad at helping to get them into that situation and our apologies are unreserved. Oh yes, the moths, well we managed five species with 26 **Mottled Umber** being the most numerous and depending on your point of view, the first or last **Pale Brindled Beauty** and **Spring Usher**. Bye, Bye 2007 and let us hope 2008 brings with it a little less WATER!

Conclusion

Well it's been an interesting year to say the least. A poor year for moths in general, with patience certainly proving a virtue. We've still made every effort to get out there and record what's going on. If we do unfortunately have another year like 2007 we hope our records will help in knowing if the moths will recover or not. As usual, we've met some great people and had an enjoyable time with them. Hopefully, you'll all be back, as we will, in 2008.

Clarification

All the species mentioned in the text have been adults. No leaf-mines or cases have been included. Difficult to identify species will have been confirmed via dissection.

Further Information

For information on Moth Nights and Butterfly Walks in Warwickshire see the Butterfly Conservation Warwickshire web site at: <http://www.warwickshire-butterflies.org.uk>

or contact David Brown on 01789 840295 or Keith Warmington on 01827 715873.

2007 Moth Trip List

Date	Site	Species
29/01/2007	Chaddesley Wood,Worcestershire	13
01/02/2007	Kingsbury Water Park,Warwickshire	6
20/02/2007	Chaddesley Wood.Worcestershire	16
03/03/2007	Chaddesley Wood Worcestershire	18
08/03/2007	Highlands,Brandon, Warwickshire	12
10/03/2007	Ryton Meadows,Warwickshire	13
16/03/2007	Wyre Forest,Shropshire	34
27/03/2007	Crown East Wood,Worcestershire	17
28/03/2007	Harbury Spoilbank,Warwickshire	10
06/04/2007	Ryton Meadows,Warwickshire	13
07/04/2007	Chaddesley Wood,Worcestershire	28
08/04/2007	WWT Slimbridge,Gloucestershire	12
12/04/2007	Chaddesley Wood Worcestershire	22
16/04/2007	Kingsbury Water Park,Warwickshire	24
20/04/2007	Wyre Forest,Staffordshire	42
21/04/2007	Crown East Wood,Worcestershire	32
26/04/2007	Harbury Spoilbank,Warwickshire	29
27/04/2007	Middleton Hall,Warwickshire	27
03/05/2007	Haugh Wood,Herefordshire	70
05/05/2007	Chaddesley Wood Worcestershire	71
06/05/2007	Ryton Meadows,Warwickshire	46
17/05/2007	Chaddesley Wood Worcestershire	69
19/05/2007	Monkwood,Worcestershire	47
22/05/2007	Crown East Wood,Worcestershire	65
24/05/2007	Highlands,Brandon, Warwickshire	105
25/05/2007	Sned Wood,Herefordshire	58
26/05/2007	Ryton Meadows,Warwickshire	12
01/06/2007	Breakneck Bank,Shropshire	84
02/06/2007	Chaddesley Wood Worcestershire	65
03/06/2007	Weeley,Essex	43
04/06/2007	Weeley,Essex	44
05/06/2007	Boreham,Essex	28
05/06/2007	Weeley,Essex	29
08/06/2007	Kingsbury Water Park,Warwickshire	117
09/06/2007	WWT Slimbridge,Gloucestershire	93
10/06/2007	Bilbins Wood,Doward,Herefordshire	215
15/06/2007	Chaddesley Wood Worcestershire	58
16/06/2007	Norton Covert,Worcestershire	98
22/06/2007	Middleton Hall,Warwickshire	102
25/06/2007	Peinachorran,Isle of Skye	30
26/06/2007	Coille Iosal Woodlands,Isle of Skye	52
27/06/2007	Peinachorran,Isle of Skye	8

06/07/2007	Monkwood,Worcestershire	121
07/07/2007	Chaddesley Wood,Worcestershire	88
10/07/2007	Ryton Meadows,Warwickshire	100
12/07/2007	Highlands,Brandon,Warwickshire	117
14/07/2007	Crown East Wood,Worcestershire	126
17/07/2007	Ryton Meadows,Warwickshire	84
20/07/2007	Middleton Hall,Warwickshire	16
21/07/2007	Windmill Hill,Nuneaton,Warwickshire	75
24/07/2007	Lickey Hills,Worcestershire	84
27/07/2007	Kingsbury Water Park,Warwickshire	91
31/07/2007	Ryton Meadows,Warwickshire	70
01/08/2007	Ryton Meadows,Warwickshire	75
03/08/2007	Ladywalk,Warwickshire	147
04/08/2007	Chaddesley Wood Worcestershire	122
07/08/2007	Weeley,Essex	65
08/08/2007	Weeley,Essex	62
11/08/2007	Tidenham Chase,Gloucestershire	115
16/08/2007	Ladbroke Park,Warwickshire	35
18/08/2007	Hartlebury Common,Worcestershire	101
21/08/2007	Oversley Wood,Warwickshire	100
23/08/2007	Ryton Meadows,Warwickshire	93
24/08/2007	WWT Slimbridge,Gloucestershire	75
25/08/2007	Pepper Wood,Worcestershire	71
30/08/2007	Highlands,Brandon,Warwickshire	68
31/08/2007	WWT Slimbridge,Gloucestershire	59
01/09/2007	Chaddesley Wood Worcestershire	47
05/09/2007	Ryton Meadows,Warwickshire	83
06/09/2007	Crown East Wood,Worcestershire	55
07/09/2007	Middleton Hall,Warwickshire	60
12/09/2007	Leam Valley,Warwickshire	63
15/09/2007	Knapp & Papermill,Worcestershire	29
22/09/2007	Ryton Meadows,Warwickshire	27
30/09/2007	Crown East Wood,Worcestershire	21
03/10/2007	Kingsbury Water Park,Warwickshire	31
06/10/2007	Chaddesley Wood Worcestershire	33
11/10/2007	Highlands,Brandon,Warwickshire	26
16/10/2007	Weeley,Essex	23
17/10/2007	Weeley,Essex	9
01/11/2007	Highlands,Brandon,Warwickshire	13
03/11/2007	Chaddesley Wood Worcestershire	24
21/11/2007	Ryton Meadows,Warwickshire	8
01/12/2007	Chaddesley Wood,Worcestershire	9
31/12/2007	Ryton Meadows,Warwickshire	5

Species mentioned in the report (page numbers in *italic*)

1044	Acleris ferrugana	23	2183	Blossom Underwing	4
1061	Acleris literana	23	1667	Blotched Emerald	22
1042	Acleris rhombana	21	1766	Blue-bordered Carpet	17
1041	Acleris sparsana	23	1907	Bordered Beauty	16
313	Acrocercops brongniardella	18	2262	Brick	22
951	Aethes beatricella	10	1927	Brindled Beauty	5, 6
689	Agonopterix ciliella	15	2248	Brindled Green	21
710	Agonopterix conterminella	16	1950	Brindled White-spot	8
709	Agonopterix liturosa	18	2110	Broad-brd Yellow Underwing	21
1306	Agriphila inquinatella	15	2163	Broom Moth	13
652	Alabonia geoffrella	7	1865	Broom-tip	7
2281	Alder Moth	8	1345	Brown China-mark	21
1126	Ancylis badiana	16	1902	Brown Silver-line	8
1122	Ancylis obtusana	11	2192	Brown-line Bright-eye	14
1121	Ancylis upupana	11	266	Bucculatrix nigricomella	14
2313	Angle-stripe Sallow	14	273	Bucculatrix thoracella	19
1964	Annulet	18	2369	Bulrush Wainscot	20
389	Apple Leaf Skeletonizer	10	2434	Burnished Brass	19
2085	Archer's Dart	18	1913	Canary-shouldered Thorn	16
416	Argyresthia glaucinella	16	767	Carpatolechia decorella	4
409a	Argyresthia trifasciata	7	770	Carpatolechia proximella	9
1912	August Thorn	20	1316	Catoptria falsella	20
1797	Autumnal Moth	23	1068	Celypha rivulana	15
2117	Autumnal Rustic	22	2269	Centre-barred Sallow	21
183	Bacotia claustrilla	11	1290	Chilo phragmitella	20
1110	Bactra furfurana	19	1651	Chinese Character	7
1647	Barred Hook-tip	7, 17	2019	Chocolate-tip	7
2272	Barred Sallow	23	2069	Cinnabar Moth	14
1758	Barred Straw	10	1681	Clay Triple-lines	16
1880	Barred Tooth-striped	5, 7	2327	Clouded Brindle	8
2267	Beaded Chestnut	22	936	Cochylimorpha straminea	21
2156	Beautiful Brocade	13	532	Coleophora albidella	13
1748	Beautiful Carpet	11	519	Coleophora deauratella	14
2442	Beautiful Golden Y	12	555	Coleophora follicularis	10
2409a	Beautiful Marbled	10	520	Coleophora fuscicornis	10
2476	Beautiful Snout	11	582	Coleophora glaucicolella	14
2301	Bird's Wing	10, 11	491	Coleophora gryhipennella	8
2033	Black Arches	18	537	Coleophora kuehnella	11
2232	Black Rustic	21	552	Coleophora lassella	10
2466	Blackneck	12	495	Coleophora spinella	14
2240	Blair's Shoulder-knot	22	581	Coleophora taeniipennella	14
1872	Blomer's Rivulet	11	583	Coleophora tamesis	16
1682	Blood-vein	21	556	Coleophora trochilella	19

2488	Common Fan-foot	9	1197	Eucosma campoliliana	14
2187	Common Quaker	4, 7	1342	Eudonia angustea	6
2291	Coronet	11	1358	Evergestis pallidata	17
631	Cosmiotes freyerella	8	1026	Exapate congelatella	23
2008	Coxcomb Prominent	6	1980	Eyed Hawk-moth	10
1299	Crambus hamella	18	2255	Feathered Ranunculus	23
637	Crassa tinctella	11	1923	Feathered Thorn	22
2418	Cream-bordered Green Pea	10	1654	Figure of Eighty	8
1832	Currant Pug	21	1722	Flame Carpet	6, 20
1268	Cydia coniferana	11	2102	Flame Shoulder	7
1855	Cypress Pug	20	2040	Four-dotted Footman	9
2250	Dark Brocade	12	2364	Frosted Orange	20
1762	Dark Marbled Carpet	17	2057	Garden Tiger	12, 14
2449	Dark Spectacle	17	804	Gelechia cuneatella	16, 22
1631	December Moth	23	397	Glyphipterix thrasonella	10
1279	Dichrorampha acuminatana	16	2439	Gold Spot	20
472	Digitivalva pulicariae	6	1413	Gold Triangle	10
2159	Dog's Tooth	19	1851	Golden-rod Pug	7
1329	Donacaula forficella	10	1245	Grapholita janthinana	21
2155	Dot Moth	14	1251	Grapholita jungiella	7
1934	Dotted Border	3	1665	Grass Emerald	17
2260	Dotted Chestnut	3	2137	Great Brocade	20
2130	Dotted Clay	18	1943	Great Oak Beauty	11
2114	Double Dart	12, 13	2005	Great Prominent	6
1640	Drinker	13	2138	Green Arches	9
2352	Dusky Sallow	15	2422	Green Silver-lines	8, 10
1914	Dusky Thorn	21	2245	Green-brindled Crescent	22, 23
1960	Early Moth	3	1768	Grey Pine Carpet	20
1917	Early Thorn	5	1167	Gypsonoma aceriana	14
28	Ectoedemia angulifasciella	16	1171	Gypsonoma minutana	16
599	Elachista alpinella	16	2135	Heath Rustic	20
602	Elachista apicipunctella	9, 16	2469	Herald	6
1991	Elephant Hawk-moth	8	924	Hysterophora maculosana	7
1099	Endothenia marginana	15	2000	Iron Prominent	7
1424	Endotricha flammealis	17	1777	July Highflyer	21
481	Epermenia falciformis	10	1666	Large Emerald	15
1184	Epiblema scutulana	8	2333	Large Nutmeg	8
1135	Epinotia demarnaina	8	1726	Large Twin-spot Carpet	14
1143	Epinotia fraternana	11	2107	Large Yellow Underwing	8
1156	Epinotia solandriana	19	1894	Latticed Heath	16
1137	Epinotia tetraquetra	9	2185	Lead-coloured Drab	5
12	Eriocrania sangii	5	1699	Least Carpet	17
9	Eriocrania sparrmannella	6	2112	Least Yellow Underwing	17, 18
6	Eriocrania subpurpurella	6	161	Leopard Moth	12

2343a	Lesser Common Rustic	14	1796	Pale November Moth	23
2006	Lesser Swallow Prominent	18	2011	Pale Prominent	6
1868	Lesser Treble-bar	14	1229	Pammene albuginana	11
2157	Light Brocade	9	1228	Pammene argyrana	6
1910	Lilac Beauty	11	1227	Pammene giganteana	5
1825	Lime-speck Pug	14, 19	971	Pandemis cinnamomeana	21
898	Limnaecia phragmitella	19	440	Paraswammeradamia albi-capitella	14
2015	Lunar Marbled Brown	5	301	Parornix betulae	20
1918	Lunar Thorn	11	1824	Pauper (Fletcher's) Pug	11
2270	Lunar Underwing	21	1652	Peach Blossom	11
2319	Lunar-spotted Pinion	14	1889	Peacock Moth	13
1884	Magpie Moth	13, 19	1380	Phlyctaenia perlucidalis	8
1745	Mallow	23	1754	Phoenix	14
1812	Maple Pug	17	921	Phtheochroa inopiana	19
2293	Marbled Beauty	19	1485	Phycitodes maritima	20
2337	Marbled Minor	9	362	Phyllonorycter acerifoliella	20
2410	Marbled White-spot	9	351	Phyllonorycter lautella	7
1778	May Highflyer	8	341	Phyllonorycter maestingella	6
1417	Meal moth	16	359	Phyllonorycter nicellii	6
2349	Mere Wainscot	16	1978	Pine Hawk-moth	18
2247	Merveille Du Jour	22	2273	Pink-barred Sallow	22
2225	Minor Shoulder-knot	15	1842	Plain Pug	16
792	Mirificarma mulinella	17	1981	Poplar Hawk-moth	7, 11, 12, 16
1676	Mocha	7	1998	Poplar Kitten	17
728	Monochroa cytisella	17	1655	Poplar Lutestring	19
742	Monochroa lutulentella	9	2186	Powdered Quaker	7
1935	Mottled Umber	24	661	Pseudatemelia flavifrontella	9
141	Nematopogon schwarziellus	8	660	Pseudatemelia josephinae	14
1027	Neosphaleroptera nubilana	11	662	Pseudatemelia subochreella	11
1465	Nephoterix angustella	10	764	Pseudotelphusa scallela	9
1756	Northern Spinach	16	859	Psoricoptera gibbosella	19
1800	Northern Winter Moth	23, 24	1557	Purple Hairstreak	16, 17
1795	November Moth	23	1919	Purple Thorn	5
1930	Oak Beauty	4, 5	1451	Pyla fusca	17
2423	Oak Nycteoline	21	2139	Red Chestnut	4
2204	Obscure Wainscot	10	1760	Red-green Carpet	24
871a	Oecogonia caradjai	17	2263	Red-line Quaker	22
2300	Old Lady	16, 19	2039	Red-necked Footman	11
2312	Olive	16	1210	Rhyacionia buoliana	17
2043	Orange Footman	7	1211	Rhyacionia pinicolana	20
2271	Orange Sallow	20	447	Roeslerstammia erxlebelli	19
15	Orange Swift	19	2037	Rosy Footman	13
1926	Pale Brindled Beauty	3, 24	2343	Rosy Minor	16
1632	Pale Eggar	18			

2361	Rosy Rustic	16	1747	Streamer	5, 6
2035	Round-winged Muslin	12	2268	Suspected	13, 15
2064	Ruby Tiger	14	2279	Sycamore	10
2382	Rustic	8	2235	Tawny Pinion	6
2334	Rustic Shoulder-knot	7	776	Teleiopsis diffinis	18
1395	Rusty-dot Pearl	10	1025	Tortricodes alternella	3
2274	Sallow	21	1711	Treble Brown Spot	8
1997	Sallow Kitten	8		Treble Lines	9
1808	Sandy Carpet	8	224	Triaxomera parasitella	11
2256	Satellite	5, 22	2127	Triple-spotted Clay	13
1940	Satin Beauty	16	2189	Twin-spotted Quaker	4
1656	Satin Lutestring	9	2370	Twin-spotted Wainscot	19
1789	Scallop Shell	10, 11	1388	Udea lutealis	15
1645	Scalloped Hook-tip	6	2026	Vapourer	20
2421	Scarce Silver-lines	12	2170	Varied Coronet	14, 19
1933	Scarce Umber	23	2384	Vine's Rustic	19
1447	Sciota hostilis	18	1858	V-pug	19
1334a	Scoparia basistrigalis	14	1750	Water Carpet	5, 17
1333	Scoparia pyralella	15	2475	Waved Black	14
1888	Scorched Carpet	5	1877	Waved Carpet	11
1904	Scorched Wing	7	1425	Wax Moth	19
666	Semioscopis avellanella	5	2373	Webb's Wainscot	17
667	Semioscopis steinkellneriana	6	1873	Welsh Wave	13
1915	September Thorn	20	2031	White Satin	16
1732	Shaded Broad-bar	14	2081	White-line Dart	18
2216	Shark	13	2140	White-marked	6
1746	Shoulder Stripe	4	2194	White-point	10
2391	Silky Wainscot	10	1799	Winter Moth	24
2133	Six-striped Rustic	19	1883	Yellow-barred Brindle	7
1354	Small China-mark	21	1659	Yellow-horned	4
1673	Small Emerald	13	2030	Yellow-tail	18
2182	Small Quaker	4, 5, 7	451	Ypsolopha mucronella	7
2379	Small Rufous	18	459	Ypsolopha sylvella	19
1712	Small Scallop	16	1165	Zeiraphera isertana	15
1781	Small Waved Umber	7			
2187	Southern Wainscot	12			
2450	Spectacle	11			
2227	Sprawler	23			
1932	Spring Usher	3, 24			
1949	Square Spot	6			
75	Stigmella floslactella	18			
111	Stigmella microtheriella	18			
88	Stigmella samiatella	19			
2303	Straw Underwing	15			

Warwickshire Branch Traps

Warwickshire Branch has three moth traps and associated equipment. If members wish to borrow the equipment or attend any of the locations where the traps are being used then they can contact Val or Alan on 0121 778 2973 after 1pm for further information.



December Moth (pair)



Chinese Character



Blotched Emerald



Waved Carpet



Barred Tooth-striped



Lunar Thorn



White-marked



Southern Wainscot



Black Rustic



Tawny v Pale Pinion



Beautiful Snout



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