

WARWICKSHIRE BRANCH MOTH EQUIPMENT

2008 - A YEAR OF EXTREMES



Alan Prior & Val Weston

*Photographs by Martin Kennard
Cover Photograph by Alan Prior*



Narrow-bordered Five-spot Burnet



Lead-coloured Drab



Esperia sulphurella



Flounced Chestnut



Crescent



Micropterix aureatella

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Introduction

We were all hoping for a better year than 2007 and to some degree we got it. However, the repeated soakings didn't appear any less! We had some most enjoyable nights that will be long remembered whereas, the disappointing ones we will try and forget. As usual, we made it to all the pre-arranged events we were supposed to and enjoyed them, despite the sometimes-atrocious weather. Our perseverance paid off on many occasions and we've been fortunate to see some fascinating moths this year. As always, we hope you enjoy reading about our adventures.

January

The year got off to a slow but eventful start. Due to the Forestry Commission being themselves, this year's Warwickshire mothing project didn't get underway until near the end of the month. In desperation, Alan had to get Mike Slater to open the gate to Waverley/Weston Wood so he could make a start. It had long been dark by the time they met at the entrance and after Mike had let Alan in, he disappeared off home. Alan headed into the wood to set up the traps and made a big mistake by leaving the car headlights on while doing so. Once the traps were up and running Alan wandered down to the gate to let in Martin Kennard who was joining him for a few hours. All was going well, although the late start to recording this year was evidenced when only three **Spring Usher** were recorded. It seemed their peak had passed, as more would have been expected at this site. By the time Alan had let Martin out and packed up himself a total of five species had been recorded. The good news was that four of them were new for this terribly under-recorded site. The bad news was that Alan had managed to flatten the car battery when he set up and so it wouldn't start. As we don't do mobile phones, a three-mile walk to a phone was made. Thankfully, the rescue guy was somewhat more helpful than the one Hilary and Geoff Harvey had to put up with at the end of last year.

He gave Alan a lift back to the wood and got him going in no time. A very eventful start to the year and Alan had learned a valuable lesson!

February

The last week of the month provided a couple of opportunities to get out mothing. With permit and key now secured it was back to Waverley Wood for another go. Martin would again be joining Alan for the evening and Jack Watkins called in briefly to see what had been caught. A reasonable evening, despite the wind, produced 80 moths of 10 species with **March Moth**, **Dotted Border** and **Satellite** all being new for the site. Thankfully, a quicker departure was made this time. As it's still quite an early finish at this time of year, Val was still up when Alan arrived home although she was sitting in the dark. The inevitable question was asked and the reply from Val was that there had been a power cut all night and she wished she'd gone out with Alan! She must have been bored, eh?!!

Alan decided to bring the first visit of the year to Chaddesley Wood forward by two days, as the weather wasn't looking good for the official date. A flurry of phone calls produced a remarkable turnout considering it was all done with three hours notice! Alan arrived at Jubilee Gate to find Hilary, Geoff and Roy Ledbury waiting. Jack arrived shortly after and Mervyn Needham popped in to say "hello" although he couldn't stay. He did let Steve Whitehouse in on his way out though. Dave Jackson arrived after being told by Val that we were there and finally Ian Machin turned up last. Amazing! Steve learnt a lesson when he realised that Val wasn't there and so no 'tea shop' was present and had to disappear for supplies! It turned out to be an excellent decision by all to come as over 400 moths of 20 species were recorded. **March Moth**(88) put on a strong show being second only to the inevitable **Small Quaker**(135) and **Tortricodes**

alternella(82) coming in third. A very enjoyable night was made even more so when the official date came round and the weather was awful. Well done everyone for making the effort.

March

After having time for a better look round Waverley and Weston Woods it became obvious that the better habitat was in Weston and that's where our recording effort would concentrate for the rest of the year. The first trip in March was to the aforementioned Weston Wood. While Alan was setting up he managed to flush a Woodcock, which gave him a fright! Once everything was up and on, a quick look at the early arrivals produced a new species for the site, namely **Yellow Horned**. After the initial tour it was time to wander down to the gate and let Martin in. He was a bit late, but Alan was glad when he did arrive as it meant he didn't have to walk back again. The actinic light did amazingly well tonight with almost half of the near 400 moths in that one trap. By the end of the night 20 species had been recorded with ***Semioscopis avellanella***, **Small Brindled Beauty** and **Red Chestnut** being new for the Wood.

Eight days later and it was back to Weston Wood. The other Weston, Val, even managed to make it as she was on holiday! After a detour through Coventry we got stuck in traffic but still got to the gate on time and found Hilary and Geoff waiting. After setting up Alan was off on his usual walk to the gate to let in Martin. A very good night was had with almost a thousand moths recorded of 31 species. Amongst the ten new species for the site was a first county record of ***Agonopterix scopariella***. Also the lovely tortrix ***Acleris literana***, **Shoulder Stripe**, **Grey Shoulder-knot** and **Early Grey** were found.

We were also on the lookout for beetles as Steve Lane had said he would identify them for us. Little did he know what he'd started! It seemed every time we were in Warwickshire there would be a shout of "BEETLE" at some point and we'd all dash round trying to catch it!

The last day of the month and Alan decided to make the first visit of the year to Crown East Wood. The wood does put on a spectacular floral display at this time of year and it's worth a visit for that alone. However, moths were the real target and Alan was very pleased with his haul tonight as it included one that he'd been after for a long time. Perseverance had paid off as he finally managed to catch ***Eriocrania chrysolepidella*** by sticking a trap under a Hazel. Another new moth amongst the 19 species recorded was ***Depressaria chaerophylli***. To round things off the last trap was packed up just as it started to spot with rain and so ended a very successful trip to Worcestershire.

April

The month began with a surprise call from Patrick Clement to say he was going to Uffmoor Wood and would Alan be interested in joining him. Stupid question! Alan arrived to find Patrick surveying the extremely muddy track and wondering how far he could drive up it without getting stuck. He decided to reverse as far as he dare and set up there. Alan made it just inside the gate! Once everything was up and running it was time for a catch-up chat before the first round of the traps. It was a cloudy night with occasional light drizzle and so good mothing weather. On returning to the car for 'lunch' Alan saw a striking moth in the nearest trap. It was a nice surprise to find a **Dotted Chestnut** sitting there. It also turned out to be a good night for *Eriocrania* species with four being found. They were ***E. sparrmanella***, ***E. salopiella***, ***E. cicatricella*** and ***E. sangii***. In all 27 species were found and Patrick was pleased that a couple of them were new for the wood.

The following night Alan made the first visit of the year to Ray Healey's 'wilderness' in Brandon. Hilary and Geoff also made the trip and everyone enjoyed a relaxed, social

evening as the moths arrived. Just over 100 of 15 species made it with *Pammene giganteana* and **Lead-coloured Drab** being the highlights.

Next it was the regular Chaddesley Wood moth night. However, the weather was freezing and wet. After Mervyn and Roger Ward arrived a discussion took place about if it was worth trapping. All agreed it wasn't and so, after waiting for a while to see if anybody else would arrive, we all headed for home and warmth.

Alan ventured over to Wyre Forest next, although no traps were used. It was worth going to see a very nice Blossom Underwing amongst the 23 species recorded.

A call from Jon Clifton meant a trip to Alan's favourite place-Hednesford Hills. It had been over 18 months since he'd been and he was pleased to be going back again. Mike Dale also joined in the experience of freezing upland heath! Later Dave Jackson and John Taylor joined us having been given directions from Val. They plugged a trap into Alan's generator and ended up with the best trap! However, they didn't have much to beat as, the temperature was down to 1°C and ice was having to be wiped off the plexi and cable reels by the end! Twelve species of moth were mad enough to try and fly. All of them were new for the site as nobody had been daft enough to record at this time of year before! We were glad that Ranger Steve Barnes came to see us, as it was him who got us into this in the first place! Just being back on the Hills was good enough for Alan although, he did wonder what the Willow Warbler he heard whilst setting up must have been thinking!!

Alan can't be accused of not trying as he ventured over to Ryton Meadows. On arrival he found a very strong north wind blowing straight down the Reserve. That made it almost impossible to find a sheltered spot to set the traps. After much wandering and trying not to fall in to the freshly dug ponds, a location was settled on. After four hours enough was enough. A meager tally of 50 moths of 13 species and a beetle was the result. The first **Lunar Marbled Brown** of the year and four **Water Carpet** were about the best on another freezing night.

After the earlier cancellation Alan decided to give Chaddesley Wood a go. Hilary and Geoff were waiting as he arrived. As nobody else was coming they soon drove into the wood and set up. Then it was time for a rest and a chat before the first round of the traps. Two torches were spotted coming up the track. Dave and John had made the trek up from the gate and were rewarded with a new moth for them straight away. A lovely **Streamer** was on the side of the first trap. After a few more new species for Dave and John they made their way back to the gate. Alan joined them as Hilary and Geoff were just counting up and so he could unlock the gate for them. A reasonable night with 27 species recorded. Amongst them were *Ocnerostoma freisei*, *Semioscopis steinkellneriana*, **Frosted Green** and **Oak Nycteoline**.

Val finally managed another mothing trip, however it was back at Weston Wood again. Thankfully, the later starting time saved Alan from the walk down to let Martin in and Jack also paid us a visit for a while. The weather didn't help as the partly cloudy skies we started with completely cleared and it got very cold again. By the time we'd had enough only 18 species had been recorded but 6 were new for the site including *Eriocrania subpurpurella* and **Brindled Beauty**. So a 33% success rate doesn't appear too bad. "Clutching at straws" we can hear you cry!! Yeah, you're probably right!

May

Alan made the trip over to Ribbesford Woods so he could help Jack set up his gear and didn't take any traps himself. This worked well with nothing to take responsibility for after Jack had decided to pack up and go home. Again it turned into a clear, cold night and only 25 species were seen with **Scalloped Hazel** and **Square Spot** being two of them.

The following night was the monthly session at Chaddesley Wood and the weather couldn't have been more different. After a cloudy, warm day it actually managed to stay that way into the night- a miracle! A good number of traps were run as a

consequence with Mervyn and Rose, Hilary and Geoff, Jack, Roy and Bob Dunnett taking part. Dave (I'm not going to run any traps!) Grundy decided to have a night off and only ran four traps! Rose took Val and Hilary on a Bluebell walk, which got them out of setting up. However, they did manage to arrive at Jack's spot in time to lend a hand. With it being a long tour of the many traps, the stops at the 'tea shop' came as a welcome break. As the night wore on, gradually people drifted away until only Dave and ourselves were left. A thoroughly enjoyable night resulted in 58 species being recorded with *Incurvaria masculella* and **Silver Cloud** being amongst them. Also two new species for the wood were **Puss Moth** and **Pale Pinion** (just as well you did run some traps eh Dave?!)

With the weather holding it was back to Weston Wood the following night. Martin and Jack joined us and both brought some supplies for the 'tea shop'. Very thoughtful, yum, yum! It was a busy night with another 50+ species count. The first moth into Jacks trap was a **Ruby Tiger**, which was just one of fifteen new species for the wood tonight. There were regular shouts of "Beetle" as they seemed to be enjoying the weather as well. Jack headed for home not long after midnight while the rest of us didn't manage that until after 4a.m. We managed to get some good micros tonight including *Stigmella confusella* and *Pammene argyrana* while **Seraphim**, **Barred Umber** and **Great Prominent** were amongst the macros.

A couple of days later Alan was off to Uffmoor Wood with Patrick again. It was clear tonight but still relatively warm and over 40 species were recorded before 'lightweight' Patrick went home. Alan stayed and packed up at a leisurely pace and was on his way home around 3.30a.m. It's a real crossover period with *Adela reaumurella*, *Esperia sulphurella* and **Common Lutestring** just emerging and still a few **Common Quaker** and **Hebrew Character** around.

The following night Alan went back to Ray's 'wilderness' in Brandon. Keith Warmington had already arrived. Martin, Hilary and Geoff arrived while Alan was investigating the Spinney and finally Jack turned up too. Geoff suddenly realised he'd forgotten the choke for the trap but Ray lent his Actinic so they weren't 'trapless'. The other traps were spread far and wide, from the garden to the Spinney. The funniest comment tonight was when Ray (who didn't know Jacks reputation) asked if his cable was long enough. This caused Alan to crack up laughing as; anybody who has been mothing with Jack would know that his cables go "twice round the world" as Alan put it! On his way to switch on his far trap Alan surprised a Hedgehog which made both of them jump! After waiting for the Hedgehog to decide what to do Alan finally got the trap switched on and then everybody could sit back and relax in Ray's conservatory. The next bit of amusement was caused when Ray showed Keith one of his prize pupae. Keith suddenly said, "it's wriggling!" and then out popped a moth. A stick was quickly provided for the **Poplar Hawk-moth** to grab on to while it pumped up it's wings. Its progress was checked at regular intervals and by the end of the night it was perfectly formed. All in all it was a memorable night with 42 other species of moths recorded as well. *Caloptilia stigmatella* and *Elachista apicipunctella* were amongst the micros with **Chinese Character** and **Chocolate-tip** a couple of the macros.

The busiest month of the year continued with a trip south. We went to join Robin Hemming at Queen's Wood on the Herefordshire/Gloucestershire border. Patrick, Dave and Martin had also made the trek. A lot of more local recorders were also lining the car park. With so many traps we thought we might as well have a go at doing the small bit of the wood that's in Gloucestershire as it gets done so rarely. Patrick decided to follow us and Martin linked us but stayed in Herefordshire. After setting up we had a break and just as we were about to set off over the border to find everyone else Martin drove up. After he'd had a cuppa from the 'tea shop' he drove us around the tracks to find the others. We had a look in some of the traps and slowly made our way back to our own. We hadn't realised how far we were from everyone else. Val was concerned that she'd be lost in Queen's Wood forever but Alan's sense of direction got us back to our traps safely. We did manage to get a few visitors with Steve and Ian

being first to drive up. Later Dave brought Robin, Dave Jackson and John Taylor for a visit. We were pleased they made the effort. After our 'guests' had left we got to counting up and it wasn't until after 5a.m. that Patrick followed us back to the M50 and we were on our way home. Amongst the 62 species we saw, some good moths like ***Micropterix aureatella***, **Barred Hook-tip** and **Nut-tree Tussock**.

A couple of days later and Alan was back on more familiar territory at Ryton Meadows. Unfortunately the weather was all too familiar as well with a strong northerly wind blowing straight down the meadows. The most moths seen all night were when Alan was setting up as lots of **Green Carpet** were struggling with the elements. Mike managed a visit, as he wanted to try out his new Bat Detector. He stayed until just after midnight and with it being so cold, Alan didn't stay much longer before packing up and heading home. A miserable 18 species were recorded with ***Monopis weaverella*** and **Marbled Brown** amongst them.

Next was a return to Hednesford Hills with Dave Grundy this time. With nobody else arriving Alan and Dave headed for the hills! Alan was in his usual place while Dave had to make a decision where to go. Once set up, Alan went to find Dave and came across Ranger Steve on the way. They could see that Dave was busy with the 'Midlands Today' film crew and so had a chat before venturing over to help Dave finish setting up. Dave had agreed to do a bit about moths relating to Springwatch/National Moth Night for the BBC. Ooooooh! However, the weather was more appropriate for Winterwatch as the temperature plummeted to 3°C. With only 16 moths caught in the seven traps it wasn't going to make great TV. Luckily, Dave had been out the night before and kept some moths in a portable fridge just for this eventuality. As Dave got out a **Lime Hawk-moth** and put it on his finger the TV presenter started edging away, terrified! That was bad enough but when the 'big bad' **Poplar Hawk-moth** was produced he was scared to death! Alan and Steve looked at each other and couldn't contain their laughter. Alan nearly fell off his stool! Even after being told that the moth couldn't bite or sting, the 'brave' presenter still couldn't go near the moth and when it took to the air all hell broke loose with a certain person almost diving under the nearest bush!

It was one of the best comedy moments of the year. With the TV crew finally being shown off the site by Steve after 4 hours of filming not much, a not very happy Dave began to pack up. The packing up was done in record time just to try and warm up. Alan was pleased with the evening, not only with the quality entertainment provided but also, with the **Glaucous Shears**, one of the mad 16 moths that did show up, as it was new for him. When Dave did appear on the TV he came across very well, the presenter less so!!

With Dave having too much work, he'd asked Alan to do a couple of nights at Tiddesley Wood. With it being another under-recorded site Alan was only too happy to help. The weather had picked up a bit and a warm, cloudy night was in prospect. With some of the track through the wood inaccessible to cars due to heavy logging trucks making a mess of it during winter, Alan was relieved to reach a good place for mothing before he couldn't go any further. Whilst setting up, a Great Spotted Woodpecker drumming on a dead tree provided a nice distraction for a moment. The weather stayed good and moths were arriving as soon as the traps went on. Steve Whitehouse came and did some 'glory mothing' for a while before disappearing around 1a.m. An hour or so later Alan decided to start to count up. It took quite a while as over 70 species had arrived at the traps and it wasn't until 4.15 that the gate was being locked and the drive home began. It had been a very good night with some cracking moths seen. Amongst them were ***Pammene germmana***, **Poplar Lutestring**, **Small Waved Umber** and **Poplar Kitten**.

With the weather holding fair Alan decided to make another visit to Weston Wood. Val was busy in the kitchen preparing for the imminent birthday celebrations at Ryton Meadows and decided not to go. Jack was the only one to join Alan tonight. They had an excellent night with 80 species being recorded. Jack stayed until 2.30 and after

Alan had walked back from letting him out, he started to tally. A couple of hours later he was on his way home too. Some more excellent moths were seen tonight and they included *Phyllonorycter nicellii*, *Prochoreutis sehestediana*, *Eucosmomorpha albersana*, **Birch Mocha**, **Scorched Wing** and **Orange Footman**.

The following night Val managed to get out of the kitchen and down to Hartlebury Common with Alan. Mike Southall and the usual band of 'friends of' met us at the car park. With there being quite a few traps tonight we were hoping for something interesting to show up but, the wind was a concern at such an exposed site. However, as soon as the traps went on things started arriving. They all proved to be the impressive **Fox Moth**. What a good start! Every trap managed at least one by the end of the night so everyone was happy. Another macro became more numerous as the night went on and prompted the comment from Dave Jackson that it was like the "charge of the **Light Brocade!**" It was all very amusing. When moths did stop arriving everyone packed up and headed home satisfied after seeing some good moths.

All Val's hard work preparing for Butterfly Conservations 40th Birthday Picnic at Ryton Meadows paid off although the weather was dreadful. Val, Mike, Keith, John Liggins and Roland Jenner-Jones battled the elements to set up gazebos and tables of food for the expected visitors. They were all extremely pleased and grateful that over 20 people put on their wetsuits and paddled through the mud to join them. All who attended seemed to appreciate their efforts too and so the day was deemed a success despite the weather.

The weather finally improved enough for Alan to venture over to Chaddesley Wood. A call to Mervyn confirmed that Alan would be on his own tonight and so he decided to do the other end of the wood where access is limited. Some of the area had been clear-felled over winter and so was a lot more open than previously. It didn't matter on a nice humid, cloudy night with barely any wind. The temperature hardly dropped either and Alan had a good night recording 74 species including a second county record of *Assara terebrella*. Other species included *Plutella porrectella*, *Teleiodes luculella*, **Maiden's Blush** and **Green Silver-lines**.

A long overdue visit to Middleton Hall ended the month. With caretaker Bob out and about preparing for tomorrow Bird Fair we had to wait for him to return and unlock the facilities for us. When he did show up he gave us a tour of the new workshop and mess room and introduced us to the Security Guards (who we never saw again all night, unlike last years double act!). Whilst being given the grand tour, Keith and John had arrived with the gazebos, which they were putting up ready for tomorrow. Martin, Roy, Hilary and Geoff also joined us and we had a surprise guest appearance from Steve Cheshire and Debbie Hibbitt!

The night was spent potting all the best moths to show off at the fair tomorrow. It was an excellent night and the cool bags were overflowing by the end. A superb tally of 107 species had been recorded (no wonder the bags were overflowing!), with *Stigmella samiatella*, *Gypsonoma oppressana*, **Peach Blossom** and the most vivid coloured **Buff Ermine** we'd ever seen being some of them.

The last thing to do before leaving was to put Keith's trap under cover so he could show the public in the morning. As usual Val never gets much sleep on these occasions as she was back at the hall in time for the fair opening. It was a bit easier this year as Keith and Heather were helping man the stall and there was no tombola to run! The moths impressed the birding public and both the **Lime** and **Poplar Hawk-moths** posed well for hundreds of photographs.

June

The month began with Alan's annual trip down to Essex. With his mum now well 'trained' it was trap on and then "Hello, nice to see you!" The first night turned out to be the most productive with 56 species recorded with *Lozotaenia forsterana*, *Lathronympha strigana* and **Latticed Heath** being new for the garden. The second night heavy rain kept numbers down and only **Common Swift**, **Light Brown Apple**

Moth, Pale Tussock and **Heart & Dart** managed more than one individual. The last night the weather had picked up and 47 species were seen. **Scalloped Hazel, Poplar Kitten** and **Clouded-bordered Brindle** were all new for the garden.

After returning home, the next trip was to Ryton Meadows. Martin brought his traps and Jack also joined us for a chat and a wander. The threat of rain thankfully passed and we had a reasonable night despite the temperature dropping to 6 °C by the end. We managed to record a dozen new species for the meadows amongst the 86 species caught. The most spectacular moth was a pristine **Small Elephant Hawk-moth**. It was a real stunner. After having the first county record at Weston Wood earlier in the year, another *Agonopterix scopariella* was found tonight along with *Ectoedemia albifasciella*, **Small White Wave** and **Broom Moth**.

The following night should have been the regular Chaddesley session but as it was National Moth Night we'd decided to go 'round the corner' to Pepper Wood as the 'friends of' had asked us back again. We were joined by Jack, Roger, Mervyn and Rose. A big surprise was the arrival of Bob Watson. He hadn't been out this year due to illness and he'd come to try and jog his memory about how it's all done! It wasn't the best of weather nights but we had some nice moths to show the attending 'friends'. Gradually, the numbers dwindled down to Roger and us before we decided to pack up. A fairly average 71 species were recorded which included *Pseudatemelia subochreella*, *Pseudotelphusa scallella*, **Poplar Lutestring** and **Beautiful Snout**.

A week later and we were making another visit to Crown East Wood. This time it was an event for the Stourbridge Group of the Worcestershire Wildlife Trust. Like last year Richard and Carol Moore had arranged things superbly and we felt duty bound to give them an entertaining night. Bob had kept his promise and joined Roger and us in running the traps. With Val supposedly doing her bit for moth PR, (it looked more like stuffing her face with BBQ salmon to us), Alan set to working out where to put the traps. After everything was organised (and Val had finished her supper), the traps were switched on. This gave Mike Weaver an opportunity to take the group on a bat walk across the fields. As the skies were clear and the ground was wet it wasn't a particularly warm night. There were some bats around but not as many as hoped for. The same could definitely be said for the moths as we only managed 56 species throughout the night. After a round of the traps most of the group were happy to be brought any interesting species whilst keeping warm by the campfire. We did get some pretty species like **Blotched Emerald, Blood-vein, Buff-tip** and **White Ermine** to keep the group happy but the late arrival of the **Poplar Hawk-moths** definitely helped as well. With dawn approaching and the traps being counted, the BBQ was fired up once more. A tantalising smell was wafting across the wood as a lavish breakfast was being prepared. After everything was back up the hill and loaded into the cars, breakfast had been well earned. As always, thanks to Richard and Carol for inviting us and doing such a wonderful job with the hospitality. Let's hope that when we do it again in August 2009 we get a few more moths!

A very late decision to go mothing at Weston Wood meant Alan was on his own tonight. He got held up at the entrance by the gamekeeper, although it was a useful exercise in PR as Alan could explain what he was doing in the wood. It did make him late setting up but no headlights were used this time! With the skies clear and a slight breeze, Alan did pretty well recording 80 species. The highlight came when he decided to pack up and found a **Pale Oak Beauty** sitting in the Actinic trap. After confirming it's identity he then found another in one of the MV's! Also seen were **Gold Swift, Coleophora alnifoliae, Elachista albifrontella, Birch Mocha** and **Scallop Shell**. The real purpose of this trip was to pot some moths for Val to show off at Solihull Environmental Day. With that job done Alan was on his way home just after 4a.m.

The following night we had a call out of the blue from Jason Hawkes and as we hadn't seen him for ages, arranged to meet at Ryton Meadows. Jason brought along his 'Mark IV' trap and it performed really well and contributed to a very enjoyable night. With such low counts lately, we were all pleased with the 93 species we managed to record

tonight. We got some really interesting ones too, such as *Coleophora striatipennella*, *Elachista triatomea*, *Spatalistic bifasciana*, **Marbled Minor** (first confirmed for the meadows) and **Blackneck**.

Again, Val was deprived of her regular sleep as she was off to the Solihull Environmental Day so she could impress more people with the beauty of moths. However, she arrived late due to getting lost on the way. Thankfully, when she did arrive she found her workmates Sheila and Sandra with her granddaughters waiting to help set up the tombola. With Keith and John reeves help the whole stand was finally put together and the event got underway. Unfortunately, the rain also decided to descend and didn't let up all day. The moths proved of great interest to all those brave souls who did venture to the stand and everyone who had a go on the tombola was a winner as, Val didn't have the heart to do anything else in such trying conditions. The day finished a little earlier than planned due to the weather, which gave Val extra time for a nap before going out again. A specially arranged venture into Black Meadow at Chaddesley Wood had been the plan for the night but the weather put paid to that as it was soaking. Mike Southall had turned up just in case we needed to get the equipment into the meadow but we didn't want him getting stuck in there. He was a little relieved when we said he needn't stay, as we would go into the wood instead. Hilary and Geoff also arrived but Geoff wasn't feeling the best and so they didn't trap. Mervyn and Rose did run a trap and we were also joined by Jen who does the bird surveying in the wood. So a very select band helped release all the moths that Val has been showing off in Solihull. As we headed up the track Val realised that for the first time ever the men were going to be outnumbered! With only four traps we decided to set them fairly close to each other in case another deluge hit and we could run to the cars for shelter. As it turned out we only had one brief shower and the night stayed warm. Dave Jackson paid us a 'glory moth' visit on his way back from the Wyre Forest. By that time Mervyn, Rose and Jen had gone home and it was just us. Considering what had gone on during the day we ended up recording a very creditable 76 species. They included some new ones for the wood, which were *Coleophora milvipennis*, **Small China-mark**, *Phycitodes maritima* and amazingly **Garden Carpet**! So it turned out to be well worth persevering on such an unpromising night.

With the weather warming up a bit Alan decided to make his second visit to Tiddesley Wood for Dave. He picked a good night, as it remained cloudy with only the odd light shower. The traps were put in the same place as before as they'd done OK there, with an additional trap provided by Steve just before Alan switched on. A very busy night followed as almost 900 moths of 128 species arrived at the traps. A very satisfactory return and it had long been light by the time Alan locked up and was on his way home. Val was just getting ready to go to work when Alan arrived and so he could tell her about his night. The micros provided many of the best records with *Metzneria lappella*, *Blastodacna atra*, *Epinotia signatana* and *Scoparia basistrigalis* being especially notable. Amongst the macros **Mocha**, **Phoenix**, **Rosy Footman** and **Alder Moth** were nice to see. The most impressive sight was probably the 58 **Mottled Beauty** that managed to get into one trap!

It was just us who ventured to Weston Wood on the next trip. After it got dark Val went on a successful search for some Glow-worms as we waited for the moths to arrive. It was a relaxing night as we only had ourselves to please. We built up quite a good list with 115 species being on it by the end. *Coleophora badiipennella*, *Elachista alpinella*, **Purple Clay** and **Green Arches** were some of them.

It was back to Hednesford Hills with Dave for the last trip of the month. Dave Jackson and John Taylor also joined them and set up a trap. While DJ was setting up, Alan and John were having a chat when they got a superb view of a Nightjar as it flew low over their heads. With Alan already having seen a herd of Fallow Deer the evening was off to a good start wildlife wise. It turned out to be a very cold, clear night and many moths appeared to be taking the night off from flying. You couldn't blame them. DG and Ranger Steve made their way up the hill for a look round the traps. That didn't

take long and it wasn't a difficult decision to start to count-up a bit earlier than normal. There were still some good moths recorded amongst the meagre 63 species though, with **Drinker**, **Satin Wave** and **Beautiful Brocade** being three of them. The undoubted stars for Alan though were the three **Clouded Buff** he had in one trap. They are an absolutely stunning moth as you can hopefully see from the cover, although a photograph could never replace seeing the real thing. So it was a good, if rather chilly end to the month.

July

The month began with a much-delayed visit to Malpass Quarry at the request of site owners Cemex. Thanks to Martin's excellent directions Alan arrived at the car park with no problems. Alan was just chatting to the Security Guard when Martin arrived. After a wander around the site to decide where the traps were to be set up, they returned to the car park to find ecologist David Fergusson had arrived. He'd never been on a moth night before and was quite looking forward to the experience. It was a bit of a carry to the trapping location and with David's help, it was managed in a couple of trips. The weather was excellent, with a nice warm 22°C starting temperature and cloudy skies. The night got off to a flying start as Alan netted a rarely seen (for him!) **Narrow-bordered Five-spot Burnet** on an early tour of the traps. After only a couple of hours 80 species had already been noted. The rest of the night continued at the same furious pace. The clouds had slowly cleared overnight and that provided a spectacular dawn sky. Alan was still counting his last trap when Martin and David arrived to say they'd finished and it wasn't until after 5a.m that all the gear was returned to the cars. The reason for the long night became clear when the final tally was made and a superb 165 species recorded was the result. A first county record for **Mompha miscella** was the highlight with **Ectoedemia heringi**, **Meal Moth**, **Stenoptilia bipunctidactyla** and **Heart & Club** being some of the other moths seen. The journey home provided evidence of how lucky they'd been as everywhere was soaking wet, including our garden trap!

It was a momentous event a couple of days later when Val made her first ever visit to Ray's in Brandon. She'd been looking forward to finding out what all the fuss had been about for ages. It had been raining all day but had cleared away for this evening. However, it meant that it wasn't particularly warm. On arrival, Ray gave Val the full Royal tour while Alan did a bit of scrub bashing so the traps could be put in the Spinney. After the tour Ray helped finish off the 'gardening' ready for the traps to be set. Martin popped in for a while but didn't trap. Chris Johnson arrived a little later and did set up a couple of traps. As it was such a cold night much of the time was spent relaxing in the conservatory. When we did go for a wander around the traps Ray and Chris never seemed to agree on the species list or counts. So before leaving each trap they had to make sure they agreed. It became quite a ritual. By the end of the night and considering the conditions we were all quite pleased at having recorded 91 species. Amongst them were **Epinotia signatana**, **Grapholita janthinana**, **Small Scallop**, **Heart & Club** and the first North Warwickshire record of **Rosy Footman** for 50 years! As usual, it was a thoroughly enjoyable night and Val was impressed with her first visit.

Next it was the regular Chaddesley Wood trip. However, the rain was torrential and we weren't expecting anyone else to show up. Mervyn did put in an appearance to get some help identifying some moths and show us a **Blue-bordered Carpet**. That done he disappeared home. After waiting just in case anybody did show up we drove up to the shed. Luckily this provides a bit cover and we could set one trap up in the dry. With that done we decided to wait out the heaviest of the rain before setting up another trap. At least with the cloud cover it wasn't a cold night and moths arrived at the sheltered trap at a steady rate. Once the rain had let up we put the other trap up and had a relaxed night watching the moths arrive. Our only target was to beat last years worst ever July total of 16 species. It didn't turn out to be much of a target as

that number was soon surpassed. We did have a wry smile at all the 'fair weather' mothers as our species count got higher and what they miss out on. In the end, 67 species was a good total considering the conditions. We even managed a new species for the site with **Brown House-moth!** Other highlights were **Lackey**, **Satin Beauty** and **Beautiful Hook-tip**.

One night Alan had been looking forward to was at Severn Valley Country Park. Dave Grundy was running a training course the following day and so another couple of traps would help with the catch for the course. Not having been there for over ten years Alan was hoping he would find it OK. With the help of the signposts he came across Dave's 'abandoned' car on arrival at the park. As you would expect, Alan went in the opposite direction looking for Dave in relation to where he actually was! They did finally bump into each other and trapping locations were sorted. With Dave being slowed in setting up by a crowd on a guided walk, Alan helped him before doing his own traps.

After the guided walk had ended Ranger Ed joined Dave and Alan for an hour or so before leaving them to it. After a last look round the traps Dave headed to 'bed' while Alan kept doing the rounds and potting anything interesting for the course. The result of the night's mothing was 129 species recorded with **Blomer's Rivulet** being the obvious highlight although, Alan thought that ***Coleophora paripennella*** ran a close second, as he'd been wanting to see that one for some time. A successful training course rounded off a worthwhile venture into Shropshire.

The annual Nosh and Moth Night at Windmill Hill was next on the agenda. As we'd plugged in to the Centre last year we didn't take the generator. This was a problem as we learnt on arrival that there had been a break in and there was no power in the Centre. In the end we decided there was no choice but to make the 60 mile round trip home and get the generator. It proved very worthwhile as by the time we got back both Martin and Chris were looking for a power source for their traps. Eventually, it all worked out very well as we managed over 80 species and everyone went home happy. **Buff Arches**, **Large Twin-spot Carpet** and **Magpie Moth** were three of the species recorded. After tonight's events the generator has already been booked for the 2009 date!

The next two trips were both to Hednesford Hills. On the first night Oliver Wadsworth joined Alan and Dave on what was a rare good night for mothing. With the Nightjars churring in the background, the lights went on and immediately an **Oak Eggar** dropped in. The night proved so busy that only one round of the traps was possible before starting to count up. Alan finished his couple after two and a half hours and drove down to find Oliver still counting his last trap. Once they'd both finished they went down to find Dave just finishing his last trap. It was gone 5 a.m. before they were all on their way home. Val was in full breakfast mode when Alan finally arrived home. He did bring her favourite moth back to show her (**Lilac Beauty**) to help soften the disappointment of not being able to go herself. The night had managed to produce records for over 200 species. Amongst them were ***Pleurota bicostella*** along with all the **Beautiful's** namely **Carpet**, **Yellow Underwing** and **Snout**.

It was a slow journey over to the hills the following night due to idiots gawping at a burnt out truck on the other side of the motorway. Dave got stuck in the same jam but was only a few minutes behind Alan. With nobody else expected it was a surprise when a friend of Dave's arrived. At least Kevin wasn't trapping so there was a chance at an earlier finish tonight. A lovely sunset is not normally a sign of a good nights mothing and tonight was no different as it was a lot colder than last night. Even so, Kevin struggled to take everything in, as there was still plenty to see. However, this poor night at Hednesford still produced records for around 140 species. **Suspected**, **Bird's Wing**, **Lesser Common Rustic** and **Pinion-streaked Snout** were some of them. The earlier departure time was achieved as both Dave and Alan finished counting at the same time. It made a change to leave in semi-darkness!

A week later and summer had finally arrived! Alan made a late decision to go over to Ryton Meadows. After a couple of hold-ups on the way, he arrived later than planned to find a post at the gate already removed. That was help, as it saved some time. Whilst Alan was setting up, Jack arrived for a chat and to get some moths identified. After the rush to set up it was good to have a break and look at Jack's moths. After the initial round of the traps Jack left Alan to it. As there appeared to be more lights up at Scrub Hill, Alan decided to go and investigate. He found Richard Mayes and some of the 'Warwickshire birders' with traps spread out all over the place. After the introductions, Alan volunteered to help them with their micro ID for a while before heading back down to his own traps. In-between counting his traps, Alan had a visit from a couple of 'Scrub Hillers'. They were chuckling away as they asked if he could help ID this micro. On inspecting the pot Alan discovered that it contained a **Lobster Moth!** Alan had just told them about his mythical **Lobster** caught at the meadows a couple of years ago. It was great news for Alan as he was finally 'out of jail' on this one. After he finished counting Alan wandered back up the hill to return the favour and show the others moths he thought they might not have caught. The **Suspected, Olive** and **Mere Wainscot** were well appreciated and farewells were said. Alan also managed to get two new species for the meadow amongst the 121 seen. They were ***Coleophora saxicolella*** and ***Stenoptilia pterodactyla***.

With summer still in evidence, a month later than originally planned, Alan went over to Black Meadow. As it was a Thursday night he ended up being on his own. Mervyn did put in an appearance to drop of a trolley so Alan didn't have to carry all the equipment into the middle of the meadow. That worked brilliantly and it was even the right size to set up a trap on. That gave the light that little bit extra height a got it above the vegetation. It would be an interesting experiment to see which trap would do the best. While getting the initial list at the far (low) trap, Alan heard something thundering down the track. As the trap was set slightly off the track he never actually saw what it was that sped past him as the grasses hid it. After taking stock and hearing whatever it was going through a fence he decided it must have been a Badger. He wondered if the trap had been set on the track if he'd have got one of those cartoon-like holes in it, with one going in and one going out in the shape of a Badger! The egg boxes would have been a mess!! After that experience the next came at the raised trap where, after a while Alan couldn't sit there any longer as he was being regularly struck by arriving **Large Yellow Underwings!** It was fairly obvious at that point which trap would be the fuller. After nursing the bruises in the car for a while it was time to start counting up. A satisfying 118 species was the result with ***Coleophora taeniipennella***, ***Coleophora tamesis***, **Golden-rod Pug**, **Round-winged Muslin**, **Angle-striped Sallow** and **Rosy Minor** being amongst them. The trolley then came into it's own again as it meant everything could be got to the car in one go.

The third night of summer and it was back to Weston Wood. Val was able to join in tonight and Martin and Roger made it too. When we arrived we found Jack patiently waiting at the gate to get his usual bag of moths identified. It was a shame he didn't feel well enough to stay longer as he would have really enjoyed tonight. It was warm, humid and mainly cloudy – perfect! Things got off to a different start as when Val was setting up she got a good view of a Brown Hare. Not something you expect to see in a woodland! With the traps on and the 'tea shop' in full use the amount of moths arriving meant it was going to be a long night. We had another surprise sighting tonight as Mike Astley, who we haven't seen for ages, had walked up from the gate to see how we were getting on. He was rewarded with some good moths and was glad he'd made the effort. We were glad too as it was lovely to see him again. It was a long slow process counting up as we had over 2,000 moths to record. The final tally of 204 species was a great and welcome surprise. The micros were superb and over 60 of them were new for the wood! They included ***Caloptilia falconipennella***, ***Coleophora hemerobiella***, ***Cnephasia genitalana***, ***Apotomis sororculana*** and ***Gypsonoma oppressana***. The only new macros were both Pugs, namely **Slender Pug** and rather

surprisingly **Double-striped Pug**. A truly superb night and it was well past 5 a.m. before we were all on our way home.

After a night off it was back to Hednesford Hills for Alan, Dave and Oliver. Richard Orton who wasn't trapping but just observing joined them tonight. The weather was absolutely perfect, very warm and cloudy. It was obvious from the second the lights went on that it was going to be an extremely busy night. When Dave came up for a visit Alan told him he didn't think he would make it down to his traps tonight. On a brief look into the traps he could see why. Richard stayed until it was time for everyone to count up before sensibly heading for home. The results of the count were phenomenal. Between the three of them Dave, Alan and Oliver managed to record over 5,000 moths of 220 species. WOW! It set another new Staffordshire record for one night, which broke the one set only two weeks previously. Is it any wonder Alan loves this place. Some of the combined numbers were impressive – **Riband Wave** (149), **Large Yellow Underwing** (696), **Lesser Yellow Underwing** (150) and **True Lover's Knot** (954). Also on show were **Grass Emerald**, **Chevron**, **Twin-spot Carpet**, **Pine Hawk-moth** and **Small Rufous**. Events had taken over and Alan asked Dave to give Val a call to say we were still on the hill. At least that put her mind at rest and Alan just made it home in time to say goodbye as Val headed to work.

As with the last double-header at Hednesford, the second night wasn't as taxing. Thunderstorms had been raging all afternoon, which made it a difficult journey and not such a big night to follow. Also it was only Dave and Alan so the old routine was followed. However, just as Alan was going to count his last trap the heavens opened. He gave it a chance to pass through but it didn't and so had to start a soggy count. With 3,000 less moths to count it didn't take as long as the previous night and both were pleased to finish around the same time and set off for home. The result of another poor night at Hednesford was that only 144 species were recorded! There were some different species from the previous night, such as **Schreckensteinia festaliella**, **Batrachedra pinicolella**, **Shaded Broad-bar** and **Sallow Kitten** so, as ever, it was worth the effort.

August

The new month began with the regular trip to Chaddesley Wood. Roger, Mervyn and Rose all added traps for the evening. Rose also provided some cake and a bottle of something to celebrate Mervyn's birthday! A guest appearance was also made by Richard Southwell who found himself at a loose end and so couldn't think of anything else to do! There was a small hornet problem to begin the night but they were contained and all then had a nice, relaxed time. Richard, Mervyn and Rose were first to head home. Roger and us had a leisurely count up and the last light didn't go off until after 5 a.m. A good tally of 119 species was achieved with **Ypsolopha nemorella**, **Coleophora glaucicolella** and **Agonopterix ciliella** being new for the wood. The macro highlight was without doubt the lovely **Waved Black**.

The following evening Dave finally made it to Tiddesley Wood himself. It began a new era for Val, as she'd been made redundant at the end of July. However, the plus side was that she could go nothing more often. The gathered throng tonight included Ken and Jen, who had been on some of Dave's courses, Ian, Steve and the Peplows. The biggest surprise though was to see Tony Simpson (Worcestershire County Moth Recorder, for those who don't know). It's always a pleasure when Tony's around as you always learn something interesting. He hung a white sheet up in the trees and dangled a light bulb in front of it. That kept us entertained for quite a while. Oliver came along to pick Tony's brains about a moth he'd caught. It was cooler than last night and we weren't overwhelmed by moths. It didn't take us long to count up and unusually we left while Dave was still counting. Alan was pleased that he told Dave to be aware of a species of rare tortrix as he hadn't thought about it and it can easily be overlooked. The species in question was **Eudemis porphyrana** and Dave ended up with two! Our favourite amongst the 84 species seen was **August Thorn**.

The following weekend proved to be another busy one. First was Dave Brown's Warwickshire Moth Group trip to Coombe Pool near Coventry. So, we were expecting another soaking! We hadn't been here for years and never with traps. It had changed quite a bit from our memories of the place. With the weather being showery in nature, it was quite a small group tonight with only Dave, Martin, ourselves, Stan Taylor and Arthur Vissick running traps. Jason came too but his 'Mark IV' trap was undergoing a transformation into 'Mark V'! Thankfully, the expected rain held off for most of the night and we could enjoy the mothing. As usual, we were unaware there was a target species for the evening. So, of course, we managed to get the only **Bulrush Wainscot** of the night! Dave Jackson and John Taylor arrived for a brief 'glory moth' before DJ's jetlag caught up with him. Dave Brown was frustrated at such a slow start and decided to go home with a list of around 25 species. Martin and us did as we always do and stuck it out until dawn. We were rewarded with a list of just over 100 species including *Caryocolum fraternella*, *Stenoptilia bipunctidactyla*, **Black Arches** and **Crescent**.

The following night Val finally got to Hednesford Hills. Martin also joined in Dave's night at work! The wind was quite gusty tonight, especially out on the hill where Dave was. Martin and us were pretty sheltered by comparison and so had busier traps. For that reason Alan didn't help Dave count his first trap like normal. It was just as well because we were still counting our by the time Dave had finished his five. Our traps were full of mainly one species – *Blastobasis adustella*! Their final tally was a ridiculous 1,243 in just two traps! While Alan was counting that lot Val was trying to get a photo of **Swallow Prominent** and **Lesser Swallow Prominent** next to each other. This endeavor was doomed to failure as they kept crawling up her arm! Other species seen amongst the 105 recorded were the pretty *Aristoteleia ericinella*, **Least Yellow Underwing**, **Dotted Clay** and **Straw Underwing**. Luckily, Dave didn't have to wait too long for us to finish counting before we could all go home.

The annual 'Moths in the Middle' field trip had finally come round and it was to Middleton Hall this year. A large turn out included Mike and Annie West, Anne Cole, Martin, Keith, Hilary, Geoff, Ron, Steve, Debbie, John Bates and John Hoyle. As usual on these occasions home made wine is supplied by Mike and Annie to complement Val's homemade cakes. Luckily, Bob was just opening everything up as we arrived so no time was wasted in getting all the goodies set up. With traps spread far and wide around the site tonight the food and drink was going to be well earned after a tour round. Throughout the night the moth list was growing while the food and drink was disappearing! A thoroughly enjoyable night ended as dawn approached with a species list of 119. Always a favourite, the first **Rabbit Moths** (*Ypsolopha sequella*) of the year were seen along with *Catoptria falsella*, **Tawny Speckled Pug**, **Bordered Beauty** and the star of the show, as it was new for many, a **Twin-spotted Wainscot**.

The following night was another social event as we were off to the annual BBQ and moth night at Norton Covert in Stourbridge. Bob Watson and Martin added some traps for this fun-filled event. Surprise, surprise it was raining when we arrived and Tony, Barry and Gill were amazed we actually showed up. We managed to prove a number of points tonight. The first of which was that we were reliable. We were glad Barry was reliable too, as he'd rigged up the usual gazebo/tarpaulin shelter over the tables and chairs. Val managed to get herself a glass (or two) of wine whilst we set up the traps during the brief gaps in the hardest of the rain. As the smell of the food on the BBQ wafted down the street people began arriving. With the traps up and running we headed for the shelter and food. The rain then became torrential for hour after hour. We did make the odd foray to pot some moths for people to see while they enjoyed the food and drink. The rain was so bad that the tarpaulin was sagging dangerously above people's heads and had to be emptied regularly. Barry couldn't believe that moths would fly in such conditions and Alan kept telling him not to worry, as the rain would ease off any minute. They became a right double-act and everyone was kept

well entertained. Finally, with all the locals and residents gone, the rain did stop and we were able to count up. For the non-believers (like Barry) the results of the evening's efforts were 1,179 moths recorded of 54 species. All, but a small minority, were new for the site. So it was a very valuable evening from that point of view. Amongst them were some nice moths like ***Acleris literana***, **Vapourer**, **Black Arches** and **Dark Dagger**. We left a Black Arches for our hosts to find in the morning when the big clean up would have to begin and hoped they appreciated that. We always appreciate the hospitality at the Covert.

A few days later we went back to Hednesford Hills but with Jon Clifton this time. Also Mike Dale made it for the evening. Jon was surprised to see Val had made it as well but pleased when she shared some her food treats with him. The resident Dexter Cattle were being noisy tonight. It was like they were asking where Dave was! We did try and tell them not to worry as he was on Cannock Chase mothing and it seemed to calm them down a bit! With Mike set up in one direction, Jon in another and ours in the middle, the 'tea shop' was a convenient stopping point on each round of the traps. Ranger Steve arrived in time to hear one of our bulbs 'pop' and helped clear up the broken glass. It wasn't much of a surprise as it was the trap that got the wettest in the torrential rain at Norton Covert. With spare bulb installed and glass cleaned up it was back to normal mothing in no time. On one trip Val spotted a strange looking moth on a fence post near one of Mike's traps. It was one of the species we'd been hoping for, the **Anomalous**. Later in the evening Jon's traps produced quite a few more which was great news as only one had ever been recorded before. It was nice to know that the reason was that the hills hadn't been recorded late enough in the year and there was a healthy population in residence. Steve was pleased to see them too and as usual he managed to slip away quietly when the time came to count up. A shower dampened things while counting up and then the generator needed more oil just as we were finishing packing up. It was a bit of a mess at the end but it wasn't too bad. Jon had already packed and gone but, Mike finished around the same time as us and we headed for home at the same time. A reasonable 80 species were recorded with **Anomalous** the obvious star. We were also pleased to see **Neglected Rustic** with its lovely shade of deep red. Alan was most grateful that the number of ***Blastobasis adustella*** has shrunk to a paltry 800!! Val was pleased that it was a relatively early finish for a Hednesford Night as she had her adult English Exam the next morning. On only four hours sleep she managed to pass the exam and has a certificate to prove it!

A busy end to the month began with a return to Brandon and Ray's excellent hospitality. As was the norm, heavy rain greeted us as we set up the traps and the umbrellas were required from the start. However, with Ray's conservatory we always have a nice dry and warm place to wait out the worst of the weather. Hilary and Geoff also made the trip and added a touch of colour as the umbrella over their trap was like a rainbow! When the rain did stop, everybody got busy potting moths for Val as she had been 'volunteered' for a trip to a children's holiday club tomorrow. She's still wondering how that happened! After such a damp start the moths didn't let us down and a very respectable 62 species were recorded with ***Opostega salaciella***, ***Eudonia truncicolella***, **Six-striped Rustic** and **Gold Spot** all being new for the 'wilderness'.

Val's trip to the holiday club with the moths went well although, she only got a few hours rest before we set off for the first of Neil Woodward's public moth nights at Slimbridge WWT Centre. Martin, Roger and Steve Chappell also added traps for the night. With the price having returned to a more realistic level after last year's fiasco, there were plenty of public to entertain and inform. Neil did his usual slide show before the first round of the traps was undertaken. Pots were filled with moths and being ferried back to the Peng Observatory for closer inspection on each tour. There were plenty of questions trying to be answered as the moths were viewed and refreshments consumed. As usual, the public had disappeared by around 1 a.m. and we were left to see all the best moths! After one last round of traps in was just Roger, Martin and us

who were left to count up. The result was 500 moths of 79 species recorded. Surprisingly, **Flame Shoulder** was the most numerous (87) and next was **Small Square-spot** (69). **Dog's Tooth**, **Frosted Orange** and **Herald** were some of our favourites.

A couple of days later we decided to go back to Weston Wood, as we hadn't been for a while. Dave Grundy decided to join us as he was at a loose end. With Martin not available, Dave decided to do his regular spot. However, he had the nuisance of some hornets to deal with early on. They didn't manage to spoil a nice relaxed night though. The first **Red Underwing** of the year arrived not long after the traps went on, which was a nice start. Dave was taught the art of shouting "BEETLE" every time one was spotted, as he doesn't venture into Warwickshire too often. The night managed to add another ten new species to the wood list out of the 76 species recorded. Alan's favourite was at the other end of the scale from the **Red Underwing** as, he managed to get his first ever ***Stigmella aurella*** adult 'caught in the field'!

With Val's newfound freedom, Alan surprised her with a late decision to go to Ryton Meadows. It was so late that we didn't have time to let anybody else know we were going! It was a nice cloudy night but the slight breeze was a minor annoyance. It didn't stop the moths arriving either, as we had plenty to keep us busy all night. Another half a dozen new species were added to the meadows list out of the 64 recorded. They were ***Agonopterix ocellana***, a very unusual version of ***Bactra lancealana***, **Holly Totrtix**, **Old Lady**, **Gold Spot** and a couple of superb **Feathered Gothic**. A very worthwhile night.

The last trip of the month was back down the M5 to Slimbridge for Neil's second public night. Martin couldn't make it this week but Roger and Steve were back for another go. There was a slight panic, as Neil couldn't find the key to the light switch cupboard in the Peng. Val kept the early arrivals calm until the lights eventually came on. It was a truly memorable night as the weather was absolutely perfect. Moths were flooding in as soon as the traps were switched on. So many were potted at Roger's that an immediate return to the Peng had to be made. The public was enjoying the spectacle (no pun intended!) as well. Two of them even made it all the way to the last round of the traps before counting up time. Once they did head for home, Neil did the same, although he didn't have to go very far! Steve had left long ago and as he lives locally, said he would come back in the morning and check his trap. With Neil's Robinson trap being a two-person job to count, it was agreed that Val would help Roger while Alan started on our own traps. When Val returned Alan had just finished counting one trap and she packed it up while the other was started. When that was done Alan started on Steve's. That's when Roger arrived as he'd finished his. It was no wonder it was almost 7 a.m. before the job was finally done as between them nearly 1,800 moths had been counted!

A superb 119 species included ***Caloptilia elongella***, **Rush Veneer**, **Lesser Wax Moth**, ***Phycitodes maritima***, **Dark Sword-grass**, **Pearly Underwing** and a staggering 263 **Common Wainscot**! The total exhaustion felt on the way home was well earned and well worth it. Neil did say he was a bit surprised when he got up for work, to see us just leaving! It was definitely one of the most enjoyable nights of the year.

September

Alan didn't manage to pick up a phone message from Jon Clifton until early evening about a change of date for his next visit to Hednesford Hills. It meant he didn't have time to load the equipment into the car in time and so he went, without traps, to keep Jon company. It wasn't a bad night weather-wise and with the site not having been recorded at this time of year who knew what would turn up. Alan arrived just before it got really dark and Jon was pleased to see him. Ranger Steve also put in a brief appearance later on. The trip proved worthwhile as 47 species were seen. A **Small Heath** butterfly that was roosting near one of the traps was Alan's first sighting in

years! The moths included **White-line Dart**, **Barred Chestnut** and **Heath Rustic**. With the threat of rain in the air Jon, packed up quite early but we'd seen some good moths and didn't like the thought of another soaking.

A couple of days later and the Chaddesley Wood session was again greeted with water coming from the skies. We were intending to do what we did last time but Mervyn informed us that some vicious hornets had got a nest in the shed and so it wasn't a good idea to go up there. With the track very wet and slippery things weren't looking good. Dave Grundy, Martin and Roger arrived and a long discussion ensued. The result was, that Roger and us opted for a lazy night 'glory mothing', while Dave and Martin would run some traps. With Dave setting up nearest the shed he had a small hornet problem but manageable. Thankfully, the rain stopped and we had a mainly dry night. The decision to run traps proved a good one as 41 species were recorded. The moth of the night was probably the superb **Autumnal Rustic** with a lovely pinky hue that Dave caught. Martin chipped in with an almost as nice **Frosted Orange**. Well done and thanks must go to both for making the effort that we didn't!

Our next venture was back down to Slimbridge. However, this time it was Val's fault we were there. After listening to the 'Home Planet' programme on Radio 4 for years, they were advertising an opportunity to see a live recording of the show. It just happened that Slimbridge was the chosen venue and she was curious to see what Philip Stott looked like. We arrived in plenty of time for the recording. Val's curiosity was satisfied when we went in and she said, "he looks just like I thought he would". After the recording we headed up to the Tudor Arms for dinner before going back and setting up the traps in our usual position. Surprise, surprise it was raining and the wind was gusty. We did the best we could at anchoring the umbrellas over the traps and then sat by them. The rain did stop after a while but the wind increased. We were trapping in the remnants of Hurricane Hannah apparently, which had caused many a problem in other parts of the world. Our problem was trying to stop the few moths that were trying to fly from overshooting the traps before they could be identified! In the end they gave up trying and so did we. We managed to record 100 less species than we had less than two weeks earlier! A good looking **Burnished Brass** was about the best moth we caught. At least it meant an early night after an early start.

The weather had shown an improvement as we made the decision to give Crown East Wood a go. The generally poor weather had meant we hadn't been here as much as we'd have liked to this year. Roger managed to join us although he didn't bring his trap. The field was still very wet and so we parked away from the gate in a place we thought we might actually be able to get out from. The wood was also pretty muddy so, we set the traps at the top to save slipping and sliding too much. As soon as the lights went on it was our turn to have a hornet problem. They were pretty vicious too, coming straight at you instead of going into the traps like normal. That kept everyone on their toes for some time. Eventually, the hornets were under control and we could enjoy watching the moths fly in. By the end we'd managed 22 species with **Dusky Thorn** and **Brindled Green** being two of them.

It was a return to Weston Wood a few days later. Martin arrived at the agreed time and we went and set up in our regular spots. We'd just switched on when we saw headlights approaching. Incredibly, Nigel Stone had managed to drag himself away from work and actually see some moths.

That's a rarity for a County Recorder! He said he'd only stay until around 10 o' clock. Alan was showing Nigel around when he spotted a Tawny Owl sitting in a tree. Needless to say that by the time Val got there the owl had flown and she'd missed it! Nigel's 10 o' clock target for leaving was only exceeded by FOUR hours when he left us to count up. We'd had a good night and managed 36 species including another dozen new species for the site. Amongst them were **Epinotia tenerana**, **Epinotia maculana**, **Orange Sallow** and a superb **Bulrush Wainscot**. The best moth for us though was the first **Pale Pinion** of the autumn.

The last visit of the year to Hednesford Hills was next. As Dave didn't have to be in his normal spot, we hadn't arranged to meet at the gate. It was just as well, because we had a slow journey and were later than we should have been arriving. When got to our regular spot we found the wind would be blowing straight over one of the traps. With previous experience of the wind direction and its effects we decided to put that trap in a more sheltered location. That paid off almost immediately as the first moth in the trap was a **Streak**. One moth and it was new for the site! We kept searching for any sign of Dave but failed and so, just had to wait for him to appear. This he did and told us that he was about a ten-minute walk away across the valley. After a look round our traps and some chat, Dave decided to head back to his own traps. Val had to make a choice of whether to stay or go. She made the correct decision by staying with our traps as Alan said she would have hated the walk up and down the steep hills of the valley. It also paid off when she added **Pink-barred Sallow** to our list, as it never did go in a trap. After a look round Dave's traps Alan returned with a very nice pinky/green version of **Flounced Chestnut** for Val to see. So she hadn't missed anything and added another species. It proved to be a very good night as 28 species were recorded. The most unexpected was a very fresh looking **True Lover's Knot**.

The last visit of the month was to Middleton Hall. There was the usual large turn out with Martin, Roy, Roger, Hilary, Geoff, John Bates and us all running traps. However, caretaker Bob did give us all telling off for not going enough this year. Hopefully, conditions will make it possible to visit more in 2009. Bob also showed us another plug socket, which led to Martin and Roger setting up in a place not trapped before on the other side of the moat. It was the usual fun-packed social evening. Even though the temperature got down to a chilly 5°C we still had plenty of moths. Amongst the excellent tally of 38 species we had some crackers. **Merveille Du Jour** was an obvious favourite and the most numerous moth was **Black Rustic** with 32. However, the star moth was the **Dusky-lemon Sallow** that Martin caught. It was the first in Warwickshire for a few years. We think the 'new' spot may be trapped again! Another thoroughly enjoyable visit ended around 3. 30 a.m. when we were last to set off for home. We'd like to thank both Bob and his wife Fen for their fantastic hospitality and making us all feel so welcome.

October

The first Saturday of the month and so it must be Chaddesley Wood. It turned out to be an exceptional night. We were joined by Martin, Mervyn and Rose with traps. Also we had a 'newby' come along called John Finlay. We tried to make him feel welcome as we decided where to trap as the hornets were still in residence. Along Jubilee Ride was the decision. As soon as the lights went on they began to fill up. The early arrivals were mainly **Chestnut** and **Barred Sallow**. With John not knowing quite what to expect the **Barred Sallows** were gaudy enough to impress immediately.

Steve Whitehouse arrived to do his usual bit of 'glory mothing' before disappearing again. Before he left he did tell us that Dave Jackson and John Taylor had set out but returned home due to the bad weather. With the shelter of the hill in the middle of the wood we were doing fine and enjoying a really good night. A **Mallow** briefly held the title of 'Moth of the Night' before Martin found a county first in one of his traps. It was a very pretty micro called **Tebenna micalis**. It was a shame that both species were found just after Mervyn and Rose had gone home. By the time we'd all packed up a magnificent 42 species had been recorded. We think Messrs. Jackson and Taylor have learned a lesson as they missed out on such a spectacular night. Lastly well done to the John who did arrive! Considering this was his first moth night, he did very well to stay to the end. It always makes you feel better when you make the effort on such an unpromising night if it turns out like this one did.

A few days later Val needed some more moths to show off at another event she'd 'volunteered' for. So, it was no surprise that Weston Wood was where we ended up. Martin and Keith, who was sick of missing out on **Merveille Du Jour** (as he'd never

seen one), joined us. It turned into another good night with plenty of moths for Val. It took a while but Martin finally caught Alan's 'guaranteed' **Merveille Du Jour**. As always when you see your first, it has a large WOW factor! With everybody satisfied, the skies cleared and the temperature plummeted. That's a cue to pack up if ever there was one! Another excellent tally of 40 species was recorded. **Feathered Thorn**, **Mottled Umber** and **Green-brindled Crescent** were some of the ten new species for the wood.

Val's collection was well received by the 21st Birmingham Girls Brigade members at Digbeth-in-the-Field Church, Yardley the following evening. She even took a trap and ran it for a couple of hours to show them all how we catch them. On such a cold evening she did well to attract a **Light Brown Apple Moth** and two **Blair's Shoulder-knot** in such a short time. She did receive a delicious box of chocolates and a sparkly thank you card for her trouble, which was a lovely gesture.

With Val already committed to going out to a pub, Alan decided to join Robin for the first time since May. After a phone call, both Martin and Roger decided to make their way to Herefordshire as well. Roger got stuck in some football traffic in Cheltenham and only just caught us before we headed into Haugh Wood. It was a clear and cool night, but with thirteen traps out, there was every chance of catching some moths. It was a slow but steady night with plenty of time for some fun banter and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. With around 30 species recorded, it was a pretty respectable night. Amongst them were **Brick**, **Red-line Quaker**, **Yellow-line Quaker** and **Beaded Chestnut**.

It was just after 2 a.m. before Alan was on his way home.

The final trip of the month was to Ryton Meadows. Again, it was a last minute decision and so we were on our own. The breeze was again a problem and we tried to get the traps as sheltered as possible. Things were OK early on but the wind shifted direction and so the traps weren't as sheltered as they had been. With the temperature dropping due to the clear sky we decided to pack up around midnight. We managed to record 18 species. A particularly stunning Green-brindled Crescent equaled only by a lovely deep orange and purple version of Barred Sallow made the trip very worthwhile.

November

An early decision to put the regular visit to Chaddesley Wood back a week proved a wise one. With awful mothing conditions on the first Saturday the following could only be better. However, the weather forecast was horrendous. Thankfully, we pay no attention to forecasts but look out of the window instead! As usual we were right and the idiot forecasters were wrong as we had a very good night. Martin, Mervyn and Rose again added traps for the evening. John Finlay came back for another mothing experience and Dave Grundy was our token 'glory mother'! With news that the hornets had departed Mervyn was able to show us the nest and we were also able to trap around the shed area again. The nest was a spectacular structure but we just wish that the inhabitants weren't such a nuisance in late summer and autumn. As there are less moths at this time of year, it leaves plenty of opportunity for the friendly banter to resemble something of a pantomime! Even all this nonsense didn't seem to put John off planning on joining us again. It would appear that he'll fit right in! With a target of 10-15 species for the night we were all very happy with the total of 24 that we did get. We got plenty of our favourites at this time of year like **December Moth** and **Sprawler**. Martin also managed to find a couple of female **Northern Winter Moth**, one was even attached to a male! With the **Sprawler** having arrived it's a sure signal to pack up and we managed to be on our way home just before midnight.

Martin joined us for our final visit to Waverley/Weston Woods for the Year. As well as being in our usual spots in Weston Wood, Martin had set up another trap by some Beech trees in Waverley with the hope of catching **Pale November Moth**. We would check that on our way out at the end of the night. Although breezy overhead the temperature remained fairly high and we had a steady stream of moths to the traps.

Admittedly, most of them were **Feathered Thorn**, which reached a total of 93 by the end, but it convinced us to carry on recording while they were still arriving. It was a pretty successful night, as we managed another five new species for the wood amongst the 17 species recorded. They were **December Moth**, **Autumnal Moth**, **Winter Moth**, **Northern Winter Moth** and **Scarce Umber**. Sadly, no **Pale November Moth** was caught in Waverley but it was worth a go.

The final trip of the year was made on the following day. Again Val had an appointment with a pub so it was only Alan who headed down to Gloucestershire and Peter Hugo's event to look for **Plumed Prominent**. Martin also fancied making the trip. After a good journey Alan arrived at the meeting place early. However, just behind him was Peter who'd come to put up some signs to tell people where to meet. With those put up at the top of Lineover Wood, Peter left Alan to look after any arrivals, while he went to see what the situation was at the bottom of the wood. First to arrive were a real 'blast from the past'. Roger and Sheila Wasley had been regular mothers a couple of years ago but had seemingly disappeared off the planet – until now! Right behind them was Martin and old acquaintances were renewed as we waited for Peter to return. When he did we all followed him down to the bottom of the wood. Traps were already being set up there but it was really muddy and the hill was very steep. We had a brief look round before Peter suggested that Alan and Martin go and trap at a different site, as there were plenty of traps at Lineover. So with things being organised to Peter's satisfaction we followed him again. This time we were going to Withington Woods, which is a bit of a stronghold of our target moth. It was a lot flatter and less muddy which we appreciated a great deal. Also, we had no time limit and no locked gates to worry about and so could stay as long as we liked. The only small drawback was the equipment would have to be carried a little way. No problem really as it was a more comfortable site for us. One of the local mothers, called Richard, joined us for most of the night and was a great help carrying the gear. Peter had set up a trap earlier and that was switched on as we set up. He then disappeared back to the other site and left us to it. It took a while for the first **Plumed Prominent** to arrive and then we only saw a not very nice specimen briefly by Peter's trap. Thankfully, it was only the first of seven that were eventually seen and all the others were better looking than that first one. Peter was pleased that we'd got some when he returned around 9 o'clock. He also told us that everybody had gone home from Lineover, but they did manage another six specimens of our target. We were relieved to be at Withington and so could go at our own pace. It was just before midnight when we'd finally packed up and set off for home. A total of 12 species had been recorded including a nice **Pale Pinion** and 24 **December Moths**. Thanks go to Peter for organising the event and treating us so well.

After this date there was a long cold spell followed by a stormy spell, neither of which are very conducive to moth recording.

December

The weather did improve briefly for us to make one last trip. Just before Christmas we took a gamble on going to Hednesford Hills. Having never been recorded at this time of year, we thought if we caught one moth it would probably be new for the site. As it turned out we managed to get four moths of three species and two new ones for the site. They were **Winter Moth** and **Northern Winter Moth**. We did see others flying but didn't get a good enough view to identify them positively. It was on our way out when we hit a major problem. The gate that is never normally shut had been locked while we were on the Hills. Alan thought that's OK; I've got a key. However, the lock that had been put on wouldn't open. We decided to wander down to the petrol station and see if we could call someone for help.

While Alan was on the phone, Val was busy talking to anyone who would listen about our predicament. Once off the phone, Val said someone was going to open it for us! By the time we'd walked back up to the gate it was open. We don't know how they did it

and we probably don't want to know, but it was a huge relief. It did cost us a round of drinks but we certainly didn't begrudge that. After last years fiasco in the final month of the year, we've decided not to do any more recording in December, in never seems to turn out like it should!

Conclusion

Another busy mothing year completed and as usual it was different than previous years. Migrants were thin on the ground and so didn't augment many catches. With the weather being slightly better than in 2007, our resident moths appeared to reflect that. It was still a pretty poor year though and some nights out were miserable. However, when we did manage to get lucky with good conditions some excellent catches were had. It was disappointing that those nights weren't more frequent. As always we met some great people throughout the year and thank them for their company. Let's hope for an improvement in the fortunes of both moths and the weather in 2009!

Clarification

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

Further Information

For information on Moth Nights or 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.

Jack Watkins

Late in the year it was with great sadness we learnt that Jack had passed away. He was a great mothing companion. His cheery enthusiasm was infectious and his willingness to further his knowledge of Lepidoptera never waned. He was a great supporter of the Garden Moth Scheme since its inception, as well as putting in many hours of recording effort at sites across the Midlands. It's going to be a poorer mothing world without him. Jack will be greatly missed by all who came into contact with him and we will miss his sense of humour on moth nights. We would like to dedicate this year's story to his memory.

2008 TRIP LIST

Date	Site	Species
28/01/2008	Waverley/Weston Wood, Warwickshire	5
21/02/2008	Waverley Wood, Warwickshire	10
28/02/2008	Chaddesley Wood, Worcestershire	20
06/03/2008	Weston Wood, Warwickshire	20
14/03/2008	Weston Wood, Warwickshire	32
31/03/2008	Crown East Wood, Worcestershire	19
02/04/2008	Uffmoor Wood, Worcestershire	27
03/04/2008	Highlands, Brandon, Warwickshire	15
04/04/2008	Wyre Forest, Shropshire (No Traps)	23
13/04/2008	Hednesford Hills, Staffordshire	12
21/04/2008	Ryton Wood Meadows, Warwickshire	13
22/04/2008	Chaddesley Wood, Worcestershire	27
24/04/2008	Weston Wood, Warwickshire	18
02/05/2008	Ribbesford Woods, Worcestershire (No Traps)	25
03/05/2008	Chaddesley Wood, Worcestershire	58
04/05/2008	Weston Wood, Warwickshire	57
07/05/2008	Uffmoor Wood, Worcestershire	47
08/05/2008	Highlands, Brandon, Warwickshire	42
10/05/2008	Queen's Wood, Gloucestershire	62
12/05/2008	Ryton Wood Meadows, Warwickshire	18
18/05/2008	Hednesford Hills, Staffordshire	13
22/05/2008	Tiddesley Wood, Worcestershire	71
23/05/2008	Weston Wood, Warwickshire	80
24/05/2008	Hartlebury Common, Worcestershire	25
29/05/2008	Chaddesley Wood, Worcestershire	74
30/05/2008	Middleton Hall, Warwickshire	107
01/06/2008	Weeley, Essex	56
02/06/2008	Weeley, Essex	25
03/06/2008	Weeley, Essex	47
06/06/2008	Ryton Wood Meadows, Warwickshire	86
07/06/2008	Pepper Wood, Worcestershire	71
14/06/2008	Crown East Wood, Worcestershire	56
19/06/2008	Weston Wood, Warwickshire	80
20/06/2008	Ryton Wood Meadows, Warwickshire	92
21/06/2008	Chaddesley Wood, Worcestershire	76
24/06/2008	Tiddesley Wood, Worcestershire	128
27/06/2008	Weston Wood, Warwickshire	115
29/06/2008	Hednesford Hills, Staffordshire	63
01/07/2008	Malpass Quarry, Warwickshire	165
03/07/2008	Highlands, Brandon, Warwickshire	91
05/07/2008	Chaddesley Wood, Worcestershire	67
07/07/2008	Severn Valley Country Park, Shropshire	129
12/07/2008	Windmill Hill, Warwickshire	81
14/07/2008	Hednesford Hills, Staffordshire	202
15/07/2008	Hednesford Hills, Staffordshire	136

2008 TRIP LIST

23/07/2008	Ryton Wood Meadows, Warwickshire	121
24/07/2008	Black Meadow, Worcestershire	118
25/07/2008	Weston Wood, Warwickshire	204
27/07/2008	Hednesford Hills, Staffordshire	220
28/07/2008	Hednesford Hills, Staffordshire	144
02/08/2008	Chaddesley Wood, Worcestershire	119
03/08/2008	Tiddesley Wood, Worcestershire	84
09/08/2008	Coombe Pool, Warwickshire	104
10/08/2008	Hednesford Hills, Staffordshire	105
15/08/2008	Middleton Hall, Warwickshire	119
16/08/2008	Norton Covert, Worcestershire	54
19/08/2008	Hednesford Hills, Staffordshire	80
21/08/2008	Highlands, Brandon, Warwickshire	62
22/08/2008	Slimbridge WWT, Gloucestershire	79
24/08/2008	Weston Wood, Warwickshire	76
27/08/2008	Ryton Wood Meadows, Warwickshire	64
29/08/2008	Slimbridge WWT, Gloucestershire	119
04/09/2008	Hednesford Hills, Staffordshire (No Traps)	47
06/09/2008	Chaddesley Wood, Worcestershire (No traps)	41
10/09/2008	Slimbridge WWT, Gloucestershire	19
13/09/2008	Crown East Wood, Worcestershire	22
19/09/2008	Weston Wood, Warwickshire	36
22/09/2008	Hednesford Hills, Staffordshire	28
26/09/2008	Middleton Hall, Warwickshire	37
04/10/2008	Chaddesley Wood, Worcestershire	42
07/10/2008	Weston Wood, Warwickshire	40
08/10/2008	Digbeth-in-the-Field Church, Warwickshire	2
11/10/2008	Haugh Wood, Herefordshire	32
13/10/2008	Ryton Wood Meadows, Warwickshire	18
08/11/2008	Chaddesley Wood, Worcestershire	24
14/11/2008	Waverley/Weston Wood, Warwickshire	17
15/11/2008	Withington Woods, Gloucestershire	12
22/12/2008	Hednesford Hills, Staffordshire	3

SPECIES MENTIONED IN THE REPORT

B & F	Species Name	Page No.
3	<i>Micropterix aureatella</i>	5
6	<i>Eriocrania subpurpurella</i>	3
7	<i>Eriocrania chrysolepidella</i>	2
9	<i>Eriocrania sparrmanella</i>	3
10	<i>Eriocrania salopiella</i>	3
11	<i>Eriocrania cicatricella</i>	3
12	<i>Eriocrania sangii</i>	3
16	Gold Swift	8
17	Common Swift	7
37	<i>Ectoedemia albifasciella</i>	7
39	<i>Ectoedemia heringi</i>	10
50	<i>Stigmella aurella</i>	16
88	<i>Stigmella samiatella</i>	7
117	<i>Stigmella confusella</i>	4
119	<i>Opostega salaciella</i>	15
130	<i>Incurvaria masculella</i>	4
150	<i>Adela reaumurella</i>	4
171	Narrow-bordered Five-spot Burnet	9
228	<i>Monopis weaverella</i>	5
282	<i>Caloptilia elongella</i>	16
288	<i>Caloptilia stigmatella</i>	5
289	<i>Caloptilia falconipennella</i>	12
359	<i>Phyllonorycter nicellii</i>	6
386	<i>Tebenna micalis</i>	18
387	<i>Prochoreutis sehestediana</i>	6
445	<i>Ocnerostoma freisei</i>	3
452	<i>Ypsolopha nemorella</i>	13
462	<i>Ypsolopha sequella</i> (Rabbit Moth)	14
465	<i>Plutella porrectella</i>	6
485	<i>Schreckensteinia festalliella</i>	13
496	<i>Coleophora milvipennis</i>	9
497	<i>Coleophora badiipennella</i>	9
498	<i>Coleophora alnifoliae</i>	8
523	<i>Coleophora hemerobiella</i>	12
553	<i>Coleophora striatipennella</i>	8
560	<i>Coleophora paripennella</i>	10
565	<i>Coleophora saxicolella</i>	11
581	<i>Coleophora taeniipennella</i>	12
582	<i>Coleophora glaucicolella</i>	13
583	<i>Coleophora tamesis</i>	12
599	<i>Elachista alpinella</i>	9
601	<i>Elachista albifrontella</i>	8
602	<i>Elachista apicipunctella</i>	5
611	<i>Elachista triatomea</i>	8
647	Brown House-moth	10

SPECIES MENTIONED IN THE REPORT

649	<i>Esperia sulphurella</i>	4
654	<i>Pleurota bicostella</i>	11
662	<i>Pseudatemelia subochreella</i>	7
666	<i>Semioscopis avellanella</i>	2
667	<i>Semioscopis steinkellneriana</i>	3
682	<i>Depressaria chaerophylli</i>	2
689	<i>Agonopterix ciliella</i>	13
701	<i>Agonopterix ocellana</i>	16
704	<i>Agonopterix scopariella</i>	2, 7
724	<i>Metneria lappella</i>	9
752	<i>Aristoteleia ericinella</i>	14
764	<i>Pseudotelphusa scalella</i>	7
774	<i>Teleiodes luculella</i>	6
830	<i>Caryocolum fraternella</i>	14
873	<i>Blastobasis adustella</i>	14, 15
879	<i>Batrachedra pinicolella</i>	13
884	<i>Mompha miscella</i>	10
906	<i>Blastodacna atra</i>	9
998	Light Brown Apple Moth	7, 19
1002	<i>Lozotaenia forsterana</i>	7
1023	<i>Cnephasia genitalana</i>	12
1025	<i>Tortricodes alternella</i>	2
1034	<i>Spatalistis bifasciana</i>	8
1061	<i>Acleris literana</i>	2, 14
1095	<i>Apotomis sororculana</i>	12
1111	<i>Bactra lancealana</i>	16
1114	<i>Eudemis porphyrana</i>	13
1139	<i>Epinotia tenerana</i>	17
1144	<i>Epinotia signatana</i>	9, 10
1152	<i>Epinotia maculana</i>	17
1159	Holly Tortrix	16
1170	<i>Gypsonoma oppressana</i>	7, 12
1217	<i>Eucosmomorpha albersana</i>	6
1219	<i>Lathronympha strigana</i>	7
1227	<i>Pammene giganteana</i>	3
1228	<i>Pammene argyrana</i>	4
1237	<i>Pammene germmana</i>	6
1245	<i>Grapholita janthinana</i>	10
1316	<i>Catoptria falsella</i>	14
1340	<i>Eudonia truncicolella</i>	15
1354	Small China-mark	9
1398	Rush Veneer	16
1417	Meal Moth	10
1426	Lesser Wax Moth	16
1461	<i>Assara terebrella</i>	6
1485	<i>Phycitodes maritima</i>	9, 16
1508	<i>Stenoptilia bipunctidactyla</i>	10, 14

SPECIES MENTIONED IN THE REPORT

1509	<i>Stenoptilia pterodactyla</i>	11
1627	Small Heath	16
1631	December Moth	19, 20
1634	Lackey	10
1637	Oak Eggar	11
1638	Fox Moth	6
1640	Drinker	9
1647	Barred Hook-tip	5
1651	Chinese Character	5
1652	Peach Blossom	7
1653	Buff Arches	11
1655	Poplar Lutestring	6, 7
1657	Common Lutestring	4
1659	Yellow Horned	2
1660	Frosted Green	3
1663	March Moth	1, 2
1665	Grass Emerald	12
1667	Blotched Emerald	8
1676	Mocha	9
1677	Birch Mocha	6, 8
1680	Maiden's Blush	6
1682	Blood-vein	8
1709	Satin wave	9
1712	Small Scallop	10
1713	Riband Wave	12
1726	Large Twin-spot Carpet	11
1728	Garden Carpet	9
1732	Shaded Broad-bar	13
1745	Mallow	18
1746	Shoulder-stripe	2
1747	Streamer	3
1748	Beautiful Carpet	11
1750	Water Carpet	3
1754	Phoenix	9
1755	Chevron	12
1766	Blue-bordered Carpet	10
1776	Green Carpet	5
1781	Small Waved Umber	6
1789	Scallop Shell	8
1796	Pale November Moth	20
1797	Autumnal Moth	20
1799	Winter Moth	20
1800	Northern Winter Moth	19, 20
1809	Twin-spot Carpet	12
1811	Slender Pug	12
1838	Tawny Speckled Pug	14
1851	Golden-rod Pug	12

SPECIES MENTIONED IN THE REPORT

1862	Double-striped Pug	12
1864	Streak	18
1872	Blomer's Rivulet	10
1875	Small White Wave	7
1879	Seraphim	4
1884	Magpie Moth	11
1894	Latticed Heath	7
1903	Barred Umber	4
1904	Scorched Wing	6
1907	Bordered Beauty	14
1910	Lilac Beauty	11
1912	August Thorn	13
1914	Dusky Thorn	17
1920	Scalloped Hazel	4, 7
1923	Feathered Thorn	19, 20
1925	Small Brindled Beauty	2
1927	Brindled Beauty	3
1932	Spring Usher	1
1933	Scarce Umber	20
1934	Dotted Border	1
1935	Mottled Umber	19
1940	Satin Beauty	10
1941	Mottled Beauty	9
1944	Pale Oak Beauty	8
1949	Square Spot	4
1978	Pine Hawk-moth	12
1979	Lime Hawk-moth	5, 7
1981	Poplar Hawk-moth	4, 7, 8
1992	Small Elephant Hawk-moth	7
1994	Buff-tip	8
1995	Puss Moth	4
1997	Sallow Kitten	13
1998	Poplar Kitten	6, 7
1999	Lobster Moth	11
2005	Great Prominent	4
2006	Lesser Swallow Prominent	14
2007	Swallow Prominent	14
2013	Plumed Prominent	20
2014	Marbled Brown	5
2015	Lunar Marbled Brown	3
2019	Chocolate-tip	5
2026	Vapourer	14
2028	Pale Tussock	7
2033	Black Arches	14
2035	Round-winged Muslin	12
2037	Rosy Footman	9, 10
2043	Orange Footman	6

SPECIES MENTIONED IN THE REPORT

2059	Clouded Buff	9
2060	White Ermine	8
2061	Buff Ermine	7
2064	Ruby Tiger	4
2081	White-line Dart	16
2088	Heart & Club	10
2089	Heart & Dart	7
2091	Dark Sword-grass	16
2102	Flame Shoulder	15
2107	Large Yellow Underwing	12, 13
2109	Lesser Yellow Underwing	12
2112	Least Yellow Underwing	14
2117	Autumnal Rustic	17
2118	True Lover's Moth	12, 18
2119	Pearly Underwing	16
2121	Barred Chestnut	16
2122	Purple Clay	9
2123	Small Square-spot	15
2130	Dotted Clay	14
2132	Neglected Rustic	15
2133	Six-striped Rustic	15
2135	Heath Rustic	16
2138	Green Arches	9
2139	Red Chestnut	2
2142	Beautiful Yellow Underwing	11
2156	Beautiful Brocade	9
2157	Light Brocade	6
2159	Dog's Tooth	15
2162	Glaucous Shears	5
2163	Broom Moth	7
2178	Feathered Gothic	16
2181	Silver Cloud	4
2182	Small Quaker	2
2185	Lead-coloured Drab	3
2187	Common Quaker	4
2190	Hebrew Character	4
2199	Common Wainscot	16
2227	Sprawler	19
2232	Black Rustic	18
2236	Pale Pinion	4, 17, 20
2237	Grey Shoulder-knot	2
2240	Blair's Shoulder-knot	19
2243	Early Grey	2
2245	Green-brindled Crescent	19
2247	Merveille Du Jour	18, 19
2248	Brindled Green	17
2256	Satellite	1

SPECIES MENTIONED IN THE REPORT

2258	Chestnut	18
2260	Dotted Chestnut	3
2262	Brick	19
2263	Red-line Quaker	19
2264	Yellow-line Quaker	19
2265	Flounced Chestnut	18
2267	Beaded Chestnut	19
2268	Suspected	11
2271	Orange Sallow	18
2272	Barred Sallow	18
2273	Pink-barred Sallow	18
2275	Dusky-lemon Sallow	18
2281	Alder Moth	9
2283	Dark Dagger	14
2300	Old Lady	16
2301	Bird's Wing	11
2303	Straw Underwing	14
2312	Olive	11
2313	Angle-striped Sallow	12
2326	Clouded-bordered Brindle	7
2337	Marbled Minor	8
2342	Rosy Minor	12
2349	Mere Wainscot	11
2364	Frosted Orange	15, 17
2368	Crescent	14
2369	Bulrush Wainscot	13, 17
2370	Twin-spotted Wainscot	14
2379	Small Rufous	12
2394	Anomalous	15, 16
2422	Green Silver-lines	6
2423	Oak Nycteoline	3
2425	Nut-tree Tussock	5
2434	Burnished Brass	17
2439	Gold Spot	15, 16
2452	Red Underwing	15, 16
2466	Blackneck	8
2469	Herald	15
2473	Beautiful Hook-tip	10
2475	Waved Black	13
2476	Beautiful Snout	7, 11
2484	Pinion-streaked Snout	11
1334a	<i>Scoparia basistrigalis</i>	9
2343a	Lesser Common Rustic	11



Green Arches



Square Spot



Ypsolopha sequella (Rabbit Moth)



Brindled Green (& Black)



Dusky-lemon Sallow



Plumed Prominent



Old Lady



Tebenna micalis



Rosy Footman



Feathered Gothic



Rosy Minor



Acleris literana



Scallop Shell



Mallow