

Lancashire Moths

Newsletter 14

Spring

2006



Chamomile Shark larva, Kings Moss (Photo C Darbyshire)

Editorial

The enthusiasm demonstrated by Andy Bunting when he gave the Moth Group a talk for the March 2006 Social at the Wildlife Trust "Barn" in Cuerden was just what moth recording is all about. Andy took up moth recording in 2003 and has not looked back since then, setting the moth trap 160+ times at the WWT Martin Mere site in 2005. Articles in this Newsletter by Mary Broomfield, on sixteen years of moth recording in her former garden at Claughton, and Jean Wardle on an organised weekend event in Lincolnshire, radiate the enjoyment that can be obtained from the study of moths. Be it at home in your back garden (ask Bill Aspin after the incredible moth that came to his garden recently) or elsewhere, moths are serious fun.

Whatever your reason for having an interest in Lepidoptera, it can only be to the benefit of the moths themselves as more is discovered about their status and distribution in Lancashire. The declines mentioned by Mary and dramatically highlighted in the new publication by Butterfly Conservation (The State of Britain's larger Moths – revue below) will hopefully lead to pressure being placed on the United Kingdom's decision makers and purse-string holders to address this crisis urgently. Shutting down research stations, such as Monks Wood, is incredibly short-sighted at a time when global warming is such a pressing issue.

Your records, be they few or many demonstrate how moths in Lancashire are doing and it is a worrying picture that is being painted. News of an exciting new national recording scheme (see below) can only increase the value of our recording efforts.

National Moth Recording Scheme (NMRS)

On 5th April 2006, the Heritage Lottery Fund agreed to make funds available for the NMRS, something many people have been desperate to see get off the ground. Mark Parsons, the senior moth officer for Butterfly Conservation, announced the decision as follows, "I am delighted to inform you that our bid to HLF for funding for the National Moth Recording Scheme has been successful. We are thrilled with this outcome after such a lot of hard work over a long period. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who supported the project during the Planning Phase as well as the many organisations who have offered the matched funding for the scheme itself (although some additional funding is still being sought). Both were crucial in showing the very wide support we have for this project, both at local and national levels".

More details on this exciting project will be issued when available and if you would like to make a financial contribution towards this worthwhile project please contact Steve Palmer for details.

In My Claughton Garden

Mary Broomfield

I ran an Actinic Heath Trap in my Claughton garden on a somewhat irregular basis for about sixteen years until the end of 2003. The garden was over an acre in size and surrounded by farmland at approximately 40m amsl, close to the Lune valley and backed by moorland. It had a good mix of trees; apple, ash, birch, oak, sycamore, cherry and alder. There was a long boundary hedge of hawthorn, blackthorn, holly and honeysuckle. Wilder areas of the garden had grasses and wild flowers and there were mosses and lichens on walls and tree trunks.

Although there were seasonal fluctuations in moth numbers, I noticed a gradual fall in the numbers of some species since I started mothing. In the mid-80's ten or twelve species were attracted to the house lights on mild evenings. By 2000, however, few were seen. The following species showed marked declines. The first figure is the number recorded in 1990 and the following number in brackets the figure for 1999.

White Ermine 209 (4); Buff Ermine 104 (16); Ingrailed Clay 106 (11); Figure of Eight 27 (1); Common Rustic 519 (155); Dark Arches 400 (52) and Heart and Dart, previously a prolific moth as were the previous two species, declined from 374 in 1996 to 4 in 1999. The numbers for this species from 2001 to 2003 were 7, 37, and 12 respectively.

Could the recent relatively mild wet Winters and early Springs, parasites and fewer common weeds be factors in the decline of these species? There were other changes worth noting in the 1990s. Since 1992 I have recorded only the normal form of Peppered Moth. Our cleaner environment (in some respects) is obviously responsible for the demise of the melanic form, *carbonaria*.

Climate change has been pushing previously southern species north into Lancashire during the past decade. My first record of Pale Pinion was on 15th October 1994. Since then I have seen it regularly in the garden in both Spring and Autumn. Jennifer Newton (Hornby) and Rob Petley-Jones (Gait Barrows NNR) also recorded this species for the first time in 1994. Blair's Shoulder-knot appeared in my trap on 6th October 1998 and now is well established in the garden. Rob Petley-Jones recorded this moth about a week earlier at Gait Barrows but Jennifer Newton had recorded it in her garden, two miles away, in 1992. The spectacular Red Underwing was the highlight of my 2000 mothing year, when I found one in the trap on 16th August. Two nights later, I had another on wine ropes and I recorded it again on two occasions in 2001. I hope this will become a regular visitor to my area. Shuttle-shaped Dart was new to my garden on 5th August 2001 and was seen again the following spring.

The warmer climate in recent years has also meant earlier emergence dates for many species. As an example, the first dates for a few species in 1990 and 1999 respectively are listed below:

	1990	1999
Brindled Pug	1st May	14th March
The Streamer	29th March	15th March
Early Thorn	21st April	20th March

The same trend is also shown in three of the early Spring Noctuids. During much of the 1990s the first dates for the following moths were all in March, but by 2002 they were as follows:

Small Quaker	12th February
Common Quaker	15th February
Hebrew Character	18th February

In the year 2000, I used wine ropes for the first time, putting out ten in different parts of the garden on sixteen nights from 6th August to 22nd October. I was looking specifically for Old Lady which is known to come to sugar more freely than to light. I was not disappointed. On 11th August at 10pm an Old Lady moth was on one of the ropes while a second one came to another rope half an hour later. Another new garden species recorded in this manner was Tawny Pinion on 15th October. Barbara Cockburn had one south of Lancaster on a wine rope on the same night. The Brick, which I had seen only occasionally in the trap, came readily to the ropes with 33 on nine evenings.

I took the opportunity to record using wine ropes on National Moth Night 2000 (September 23rd), a very windy night indeed. Despite this sixty three moths of six species visited the ropes and of these thirty two were the migrant Dark Sword-grass. To my great surprise, I later had two new migrant species in the garden using the ropes. On 30th September I recorded White-speck, followed by two more on 12th October, and Pearly Underwing appeared on 3rd October. With Silver Y and *Udea ferrugalis* also seen on the ropes during this period, it shows that migrant moths must seek out sugar sources rather than being attracted to light.

Many stragglers from nearby moor-land and boggy areas have appeared every year in the garden and also singletons of other species have arrived unexpectedly from further afield. To my knowledge none of these have bred in or near my garden. Some species have survived in spite of difficulty. Dusky-lemon Sallow, an elm-seed feeder, put in an unexpected re-appearance in 2001 after a gap of fourteen years. The large elms are long gone but there has been re-growth in elm along the hedgerows. Another elm feeder, Clouded Magpie seen annually until 1990, was recorded in 1996, 1997 and 2001.

Although a number of species have declined to low levels during my sixteen years of trapping, I hope that most species will continue to flourish in this Claughton garden.

[Ed. - a check of all Mary's records on the Mapmate database shows she recorded 272 different species of larger moth during that sixteen year period.]



Scorched Carpet (Photo: Alan Draper)

DIARY DATE:

23rd September 2006
National Moth Night 2006

National target species are Sword-grass, Black-banded, Pale-lemon Sallow, Dusky-lemon Sallow, Convolvulus Hawk-moth.

This is an annual event where anyone who wishes to take part simply records any moths seen on the night of Saturday, 23rd September 2006 and sends the details in to the scheme organisers. If you wish to take part please send your records to Steve Palmer via email s.palmer12@btopenworld.com or to the address at the end of this report including your name, the location (with 6 figure grid ref.) type of trap used, brief weather details and how long you trapped for.

Phun with Pheromones

Jean Wardle

As my friends would probably agree, on the subject of moths I can bore for England, but as I aspire to bore for Europe, I sought formal tuition on a weekend course led by David Brown, at the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust centre at Gibraltar Point near Skegness. This coincided with National Moth Night, so it was good to share the occasion with fellow enthusiasts.

Did I say formal – it was hilarious – was I really party to a discussion about the relative merits of egg trays and 6-hole egg boxes, or whether the plural of Footman was Footmans, Footmen or Feetmen? In the pub on the first evening I was accused by the men of ruining their street-cred by grabbing a beer glass, chasing, catching and identifying a moth (Bee moth in case you are interested) which was flying around the room, and showing it to the somewhat bemused group on the next table.

Traps were lit on the open salt marsh, in marshland close to the shrubbery, in the woods and close to the buildings. A total of 104 macros were seen during the weekend, also several micros, which unfortunately were not recorded. I potted up a selection for myself hoping to identify the Pyralids with Goater. Back at the Centre, a member of the group picked up my pot and said in a disgusted tone “Who brought these in?”

David Brown hung his pheromone lures, wrapped in a rather fetching royal blue net, at several sites, in the faint hope of attracting the Dusky Clearwing. He kept assuring us that his pheromones were still working – yes, right David. I suggested that maybe Royal Blue was just not his colour.

New species for me included Brown-line Bright-eye, Clouded Silver, Coronet, Crescent Striped, Engrailed, Fern, Marbled White Spot, Heart and Club, Pale Prominent, Pine Hawk, Round-winged Muslin, Sand Dart, Shore Wainscot, Star-wort, Crescent, Dwarf Cream Wave, Kent Black Arches and Clouded Magpie.

On the Saturday evening, two of us spent ages trying to get our heads round the differences between the various Wainscots, also between some of the Minors, and The Rustic and Uncertain. By Sunday morning, when the traps were being emptied, we realised that our efforts had been in vain, we were just as confused as ever. It was the consensus of the group that the only way to recognise the Crescent Striped was that it had neither crescents nor stripes!

Prior to the course I had prepared a list of questions, such as “What did moth-ers use before egg boxes?” To my surprise, the answer was that light traps came into use only in 1951, and egg boxes already existed. I should also have asked “Why egg boxes?” On the drive home, I remembered an unasked question “Do moth-ers ever twitch, in the manner of some bird watchers?” I then realised I had just undertaken a 420 mile round trip to look at moths, so perhaps I had just given myself the answer.

Did we attract the Dusky Clearwing? Did we heck.

Did I enjoy it? Yes I did, and I have booked a further course in Dorset. If nothing else, this will enable me to ask “Why egg boxes?”



White Satin larvae (Photo: Lancashire Evening Post)

Belted Beauty update

Very many thanks to the 19 people who came along on the 9th April to the Belted Beauty moth search, some from far afield (Cheshire, Yorkshire and one from France!) and others much closer (Peter & Veronica Gilchrist from Sunderland village). Although the final tally of 13 males and 13 females was quite low, this was the first recorded emergence of the season, and was several weeks later than the last few years. The bonus was moths were emerging from their pupation sites before our very eyes. It seems likely that this was a genuine late emergence rather than moths missed on the few visits in March and earlier April. About one quarter of the available habitat was checked.

Two interesting points arose from the visit. Firstly Peter Gilchrist pointed out that last year it was seven to eight days after a really high tide had flooded the marsh that the moths first started emerging. The count on the 9th April came ten days after a similar total inundation of the marsh and it was noticeable that the moths found were in the slightly higher and drier parts of the surveyed area. The second exciting discovery was that the over-wintering pupation site for at least one male was one and a half cm down into the compacted silty soil. The larva in some (most?) cases therefore burrow down into the hard muddy substrate to pupate. There appeared to be some thin silken lining to the inner surface of the hole in which the pupa was found. The resultant emergence hole was fairly obvious but two other possible emergence holes in the mud failed to reveal an empty pupal case - perhaps they can be dragged out in the process of emergence and are then blown away.

A further seven visits were made to the site until early July to look for adults and subsequently larvae. During this period a peak count of 155 females and 129 males was made on the 22nd April, but only covered about one half to two thirds of the available habitat. Moths were seen until the 16th May (one female) by which time small larvae were also present in some areas.

Over the last few years ovipositing had only been observed once on a fence post within the marsh. This year, efforts were made to establish the regular egg-laying sites for the moth and during the search on 22nd April, many females were observed laying their bright green eggs in the broken over seed-heads of Sea Rush, *Juncus maritimus*. The species foodplant list was also added to when several larvae were seen feeding on the inflorescences of Saltmarsh Rush *Juncus gerardii* on the 1st July. The larval count on that day was incredible. They were mostly in their final instar and it was often a case of not being able to walk without fear of treading on them. There must have been thousands over the whole site if the 10m square count of 72 in the central part of the colony was anything to go by. The opportunity was taken to look for the larvae at the very periphery of the site where the plant community changes; they were present but in very small numbers. Most of the larval feeding takes place in fairly lush vegetation in and around the Sea Rush clumps. For the first time at this site though, large numbers of these most conspicuous larvae were observed feeding in quite large areas of very short plant height, provided these were encircled by rushes. The much larger open areas away from the rushes on the coastal side of the marsh, of a similar plant composition, did not contain larvae.

Review Of “The State of Britain’s Larger Moths”

In late March 2006, a colourful 34 page A4 sized booklet was published by Butterfly Conservation and Rothamsted Research. Initial viewing of the outer cover, its first page (a beautiful full page shot of a Broad-bordered Bee Hawk-moth) and its title, “The State of Britain’s Larger Moths”, all lulled me into the impression of a run-of-the-mill coffee table glossy that would be picked up once and then forgotten. How wrong can you be!

This book is full of scientifically verified facts and figures laid out in a most readable manner but it is not the style or superb colour photos that hit you. Top of one list is a stark fact that in the last 35 years Dusky Thorn has declined nationally by 98%. Many other species that most of us would consider common are not far behind. Figure of Eight, Autumnal Rustic and Dark-barred Twin-spot Carpet (all 92%) etc etc. The rather controversial use of the IUCN status criteria perhaps deserves more discussion than this brief review can cover but the simple message is that our moths are in trouble.

Since publication, it has now become one of the more referred-to items on my bookshelf and the more I read it the more concerned I become. Although the declines are most dramatic in the south-east of England and little mention is made of the species added to the UK list during the similar period, this does not diminish its impact for us in Lancashire.

If you wish to get a copy then it can be obtained from Butterfly Conservation, Manor Yard, East Lulworth, Wareham, Dorset BH20 5QP Tel. 01929 400209. It can also be obtained via the BC Website, price £5 plus £1.50 p&p. www.butterfly-conservation.org

A summary of moths recorded up to end June 2006

The records below have been listed as received. Their inclusion in this newsletter does not necessarily indicate their acceptance by the appropriate county recorder, but in most instances, this will be the case.

January seems a long time ago now, but for several recorders the month proved more profitable for species than later in the year. 37 records covering 12 species were received of adult moths on the wing or attracted to light starting with Winter Moth on the 1st in Billinge (C Darbyshire – CDa), Preston (S Palmer – SMP) and Yealand Conyers (B Hancock – BH). Records of Early Moth, always an under-recorded species, were boosted considerably by Pete Marsh's (PM) efforts in the Lune Valley area with a maximum count of 27 on 27th January in Tatham village. Other freshly emerged moths (as opposed to overwintering species) at this time included Dotted Border, Flixton (K McCabe – KM); Pale Brindled Beauty, Worsley (I Walker – IWa); Mottled Umber, Martin Mere (A Bunting – APB) and a further Early Moth at Dolphinholme (N Rogers – NAJR).



Light Knot-grass and Alder Kitten (Photo: B Hancock)

February was a quiet month for new species with a single Hebrew Character on the 6th (Flixton, KM) and Light Brown Apple Moth on the 12th in Kirkham (M Myerscough – MM). The same date also produced a March Moth in Flixton (KM). The lack of moths on the wing should not deter the determined moth enthusiast and during February, CDa added many new sites for several micro-moth species by searching for signs of larval feeding. On the 25th an Early Thorn was found inside a conservatory in Colne (K Singleton – KS).

March produced records of 39 different types of moth on the wing, perhaps the most notable of which were first records for several sites of Oak Beauty at Dolphinholme (NAJR), Hutton (A Barker – AB), Lightfoot Green, Preston, (SMP) and Worsley (IW) as well as records from the usual locations. Of the more local species, Yellow Horned was recorded in Wray (PM) and Flixton (KM), Mottled Grey in Silverdale (R Griffiths – RGr) and Wray (PM), Small Brindled Beauty at Higher Tatham (PM) and Spring Usher at Botton Mill (PM). Additionally Red Chestnut was found for the first time at Feniscowles, nr. Blackburn (W Aspin – WCA), Grey Shoulder-knot came to light in Wray (PM) and Yealand Conyers (BH) and Red Sword-grass made a solitary March appearance in the county at Wray (PM). Once again a poor month's records were considerably boosted by Chris's larval searching efforts.

The first day of April produced widespread reports of all the common spring noctuids – at last! On the same date searches near Astley Moss produced several pupae stage of the very attractive tortricid moth, *Pammene regiana*, under loose bark on mature Sycamore (B Smart – BSm, KM). April proved to be a good month for the Belted Beauty (see separate article) as well as producing a few uncommon micros. *Amblyptilia punctidactyla*, a plume moth, was recorded from Poulton Le Fylde (A Smith – AES), and *Rhigonostis annulatella*, which had not been seen in Lancashire for many years, turned up in the light trap at Heysham Nature Reserve (J Roberts – JRo, PM). In contrast to the increasing records of other geometrids, only one record has been received so far of the Orange Underwing this spring, from Stairend Bridge, Upper Hindburndale on the 16th (PM). Nearby at Botton Mill numbers of the spring Orthosias were increasing with 75 Small Quaker on the 16th, the same date also producing the first Twin-spotted Quaker ever recorded at Heysham NR (PM).

Searches for the eggs of Belted Beauty provided an unexpected bonus when the larval cases of *Coleophora adjunctella* were found in good numbers and subsequently bred (I Smith – IFS, SMP) from Sea Rush heads. This species had not been noted in Lancs for many years.

The/

The last week or so of April was notable for records of Emperor Moth at Greenbank Fell (G Jones – GJ and A Shaw – AS), and Chamomile Shark at Bispham (B Brigden – BB), both of which were to be subsequently quite widely recorded into early May. At the same time, the first migrants of the year appeared, with a Silver Y at Heysham (PM) and a Dark Sword-grass at Martin Mere (APB). The same period was also significant for a superb Blossom Underwing attracted to light at Higher Tatham (PM). The month ended with records of Barred Tooth-striped (a very local Biodiversity Action Plan species) and Streamer in Silverdale (RGr).

May commenced with a significant influx of Diamond-back moths on the 4th; 15+ being recorded at Worsthorpe (G Gavaghan – GG) and Dolphinholme (NAJR). Over the next week or so Silver Y numbers started to build up and on the 10th a Rush Veneer was also found at Dolphinholme (NAJR). As mentioned previously, May records of Emperor Moth were much improved on recent years and a count of 68 on Anglezarke Moor (S Martin – SM) and “many” on Wardstone (PM), both on the 6th, were good to receive. Trapping below Goodber Common on 6th provided the first Lancashire record since 2003 of *Zeiraphera myrtillana*, only the fourth recent record of this surely under-recorded species (T Whitaker – TW, PM). A visit to Formby dunes on the 10th produced several Small Purple-barred (KM, SMP) while a report of Small Elephant Hawk-moth at St Annes (A and D Wright – AW, DW) was the precursor of several records of this rather local species. Streamer was a new garden species for A Barker (AB) in Hutton and J Wardle (JW) in St Annes during mid to late May and two Great Prominent were recorded at Gait Barrows NNR (R Petley-Jones et al) on the 19th. On the same night the first of a significant number of the migrant Bordered Straw came to light at Heysham (J Holding – DJH).

Rearing larvae will often produce interesting results as well as valuable data. One reared by BSm from Fleabane at Rixton produced only the third record for VC59 of *Ebulea crocealis*. On the 27th Burnet Companion was found near Silverdale (T Harper per K Briggs) and the following day produced a Shark in Kirkham (M and S Morrison – MMo, SMO). The month was rounded off nicely when a beautiful *Olethreues arcuella* was found at Gait Barrows NNR (B Hugo – BHu) with another at the same location on 2nd June (BB).

June at last brought the moth season alive. Up until this point, numbers of species had been about average but overall moth numbers had been well down. On 2nd, *Neosphaleroptera nubilana* came to light at Lightfoot Green (SMP), the second record for VC60 and on the 3rd two *Spuleria flavicaput* were found in a large Hawthorn tree at the same location (J Steeden – JSt). Migrants continued to feature heavily with further Rush Veneer at Heysham (PM), Bordered Straw at Lancaster (AJD) and the first (and very early) Pearly Underwing of the year also at Heysham (PM). These species continued to feature throughout the month with Rusty-dot Pearl, Dark Sword-grass, Silver Y and Diamond-back Moth also in reasonable numbers for the time of year. On 10th June, the first of a large influx of Humming-bird hawk-moths appeared on the scene, at Hale (C Cockbain – CC) with further records having been received up to the end of the first week of July detailing at least thirty individuals.



Citstus Forester ovipositing (Photo: B Hancock)



Blossom Underwing (Photo: J Roberts)

The resident species were also putting on a good show. Green Silver-lines was a new garden record in Heysham (DJH) early in the month and 363 Shoulder-striped Wainscots were recorded in June at Heysham – a record number (PM). The day flying Cistus Forester was seen in reasonable numbers at its very restricted site on Warton Crag (BH) and the first of several Satin Waves was recorded at Crosby (J Donnelly – JDo). A phone call to the editor on the 7th June from the local paper, the Lancashire Evening Post (many thanks for their permission to use their photo), reported the finding of thousands of White Satin moth larvae in Preston town centre. A few days after the previous report, large numbers of adults of the same species were seen in a dusk flight at Ainsdale (R Banks – RB) demonstrating how coastal populations can be significantly more advanced than inland. On the 9th, a Dingy Shell was found in Wray (GJ, AS), a scarce moth in VC60.

One of those special light-trapping nights occurred the following night with exceptional numbers of micro moths reported. At Lightfoot Green for example, *Argyresthia trifasciata* had only previously been noted singly. On the 10th, 46 were attracted to a garden MV light (SMP). Elsewhere Scorched Carpet was recorded in Torrisholme (AJD), Grass Rivulet and Scorched Carpet in Dalton (VC59 – CDa) and Light Knot Grass and Alder Kitten at Yealand Conyers (BH). Over the next few days Beautiful Carpet came to light at Lord Lots Wood (GJ, AS), 12 Chimney Sweeper were seen on Warton Crag (T & J Davey – TD, JD) and only the second county record of Marbled White Spot was recorded at Swinton (S Christmas – SC). The third County record of *Endothenia nigricostana* was reported by BSm from Rixton on 12th. On the 15th, White Colon came to light at Crosby (JDo), the first of at least half a dozen Red-necked Footman in the county were reported on the 16th at Ainsdale and a superb set of records, including Thyme Pug (2), Clouded Magpie, Scorched Wing and Grey Arches from near Dalton (VC60) (M Tordoff – MT, BH) were received. The 16th was also notable for the find of a recently dead Striped Hawk-moth at Martin Mere (P Wisniewski per APB).



2122 *Diarsia brunnea* Purple Clay
Worsthorne Robinson mv 125 18-06-06

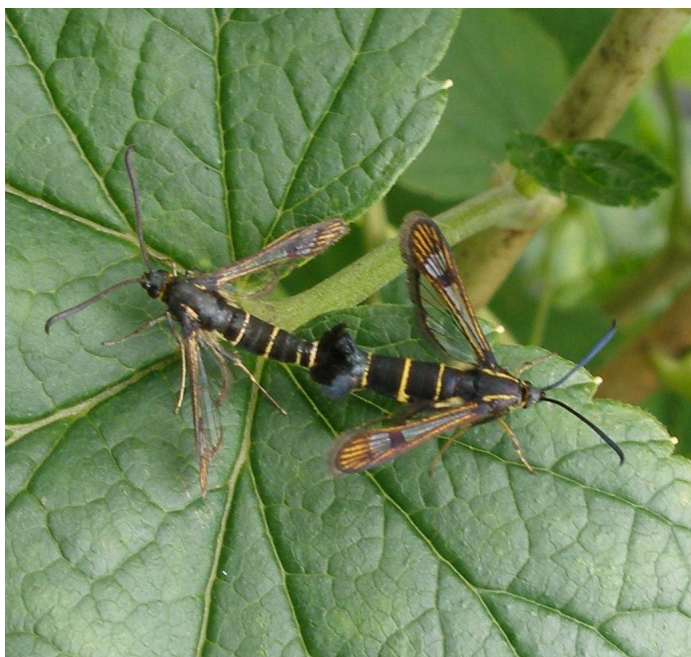
Purple Clay (Photo: G Gavaghan)

On the 18th, Clouded Brindle was an unexpected addition to the Lightfoot Green garden list (SMP) and a beautifully fresh Purple Clay came to light at Worsthorne (GG). Chamomile Shark larvae were found on Scentless Mayweed at Kings Moss on 20th (CDa), and on the 23rd a Blotched Emerald was found at Pennington (P Pugh – PP). The same night produced a Scarce Bordered Straw (CC) in Widnes and the following night another uncommon migrant for the north-west, Small Mottled Willow, came to light at Dolphinholme (NAJR).



Privet Hawk Moth (Photo: W C Aspin)

Daytime visits to a patch of currant bushes paid off on the 23rd when 100+ Currant Clearwing were found in Leigh (D Wilson – DW), while on the 27th, 20 or more of the same species were found on an allotment in Blackpool (AES et al). Scallop Shell was new to a Silverdale garden on the 24th (RGr) and Scorched Carpet was similarly new to a Carnforth garden (L Lyon – LL) on the 27th. It is not often that the most exciting record of the half-year is last to be listed, but as the record was made on June 29th it is fitting to end on a high. Bill Aspin has been moth recording in his Feniscowles garden and elsewhere since early 2004 so it is stretching things a bit to mention beginners luck. However when he found a pristine Privet Hawk-moth on the wall beside his garden moth trap, the first in the county since 1970 (the one before that being 1830), you can excuse Bill for thinking that his beginner's luck had taken a while to kick in. It was certainly worth the wait though!



[Email group:](#)

The Lancashire Moth Group has an informal email chat group where questions, Mapmate, general information and identification problems are discussed. If you would like your email address added to this list please contact Steve as below:



Currant Clearwings
(Photo: A Storey)

[Why not Borrow a Moth Trap?](#)

If you haven't tried moth trapping before or if you have but don't have a trap, Butterfly Conservation, Lancashire Branch, have two traps available for loan and have added the UK Moths website CD to the loan package to assist with identifications. Contact Steve Palmer for details. There is a very bright mercury vapour light-trap and a much less obvious battery-run actinic light-trap. The latter is suitable for over-looked gardens or where an easy accessed electrical socket is not available.



Scarcely Bordered Straw (Photo: C Cockbain)

Records:

Thanks for the records so far in 2006, particularly from new recorders. A full list of contributors will be published in the Annual Report. Any records, historic or recent, would be most welcome. Thanks also to Kevin McCabe who has entered a large proportion of the data onto Mapmate. Please continue to send Mapmate files to Steve (CUK is 1b8). Acknowledgement of receipt of records by post or other correspondence, will be sent only if a stamped self-addressed envelope is included. Please send your records to either addresses below including the six figure grid reference, location, full date and number of each species noted. To ensure your records are included in the next Annual Report please submit them **by 5th January 2007, at the latest** – earlier receipt or monthly submission is very much appreciated.



ARTICLES FOR NEWSLETTER

Please consider putting together a note or article for the Newsletter on your local patch, garden or moth-ing experiences. Space is available for small notes for Newsletter 15 but longer submissions for Newsletter 16 onwards would be particularly welcome. Material for inclusion should be sent to:

Newsletter Editor/County Micro Recorder

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s.palmer12@btopenworld.com

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