

LANCASHIRE MOTHS

Newsletter 15

Autumn 2006

EDITORIAL

The summer and autumn of 2006 is not a period that moth recorders in Lancashire will forget in a hurry. Weather patterns producing higher than usual average temperatures and long periods of south to south easterly winds lead to an unprecedented influx of migratory moths. Indications from some counties in southern England are that the weather allowed some of the earlier migrants to breed, suggesting that both long distance migrants and more locally bred moths could have been involved in this northward movement. And it was not only the migratory species that benefited. An unexpected addition to the Lancashire list of larger moths came when a resident UK moth with a south and eastern distribution in England was found in Haydock. Autumn records of moths rarely seen after the summer months, a continuing trickle of migrants and some interesting leaf-mining moth larvae kept the anticipation and excitement flowing well into November.

National Moth Night participation on the 23rd September didn't quite hit the heights of 2005, but never-the-less a good number of records were received. A summary of the night's results can be found later in this newsletter. Membership of the Lancashire Moth Group continues to blossom and the



response to the introduction of a charge per two issues of the newsletter has been very encouraging.

An innovation for the group this summer has been the introduction of the Lancashire Moth Group website - www.lancashiremoths.co.uk. The volume of exciting moths that have been found during the last few months have made a weekly update worthwhile. This winter will, hopefully see some new additions to the content of the site (time permitting) with at least one major project in the pipeline.

VARIATION IN MOTH NUMBERS AT MERE SANDS WOOD

Ian Kippax

Moth trapping has been a regular feature at Mere Sands over the last 8 years. Nearly 300 species of macro-moths have been identified in that time and nearly 33,000 moths have been trapped. This uninterrupted record of trapping has allowed some trends to be assessed, which may indicate habitat or climate variation.

The number of species and the total number of moths trapped are clearly a function of the trapping effort and any analysis must try to take into account this variable effort. Detailed analysis has been attempted on the 38 most common species, ie - those where over 200 individuals have been caught in the 8 years. The year 2004 had minimal trapping through July and August and is therefore not a year which can be used in a general analysis for summer species. The comparison for spring species between 2004 and 2005 does show highly significant differences in moth numbers for equal trapping effort. There was a 70 per cent reduction in numbers of the 3 main spring species, e.g. Hebrew Character reducing from 188 in 2004 to 61 in 2005 and Common Quaker reducing from 167 to 33. These 'woodland' species had appeared to be increasing until this partial collapse in 2005. It may be significant that in 2005 the moth season was generally slow to start nationally.

The commonest moth at MSW, at 7.5 per cent of all moths, is the Large Yellow Underwing. It has not been the commonest species every year, being beaten by the Setaceous Hebrew Character in some years (7.2 per cent of total catch) and also by Smoky Wainscot in 2005

Trends which show as highly significant events, using Chi-squared tests, are listed below.

Increases:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 1) Poplar Hawk-moth | large increase in 2005 |
| 2) Common Footman | increase in 2005 |
| 3) Setaceous Hebrew Character | increasing over last 3 years |
| 4) Square Spot Rustic | increase in 2005 |
| 5) Smoky Wainscot | huge increase to 12 per cent of total trap in 2005 |
| 6) The Rustic | increase in 2005 and now similar to 2001 |

Decreases:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| 1) Shaded Broad-bar | serious downward trend |
| 2) Lesser Swallow Prominent | decreasing over last 3 years |
| 3) Garden Tiger | decreasing |
| 4) Cinnabar | decreasing over last 4 years |
| 5) Lesser Brd-bord. Yell. Undwg. | serious downward trend |
| 6) Ingrailed Clay | down from peak in 2002 - steady over last 3 years |
| 7) Pink Barred Sallow | same as Ingrailed Clay |
| 8) Dun-bar | serious downward trend |

Constant:

Species showing a more or less constant frequency of occurrence are Flame Shoulder, Canary-shouldered Thorn, Common Wave, Single Dotted Wave, White Ermine, Dark-barred Twin-spot Carpet and Angle Shades

Summary

There appear to be a considerable number of significant events taking place at MSW, some of which are probably climatic. One environmental impact may be the beneficial effect of pollution on the population of Common Footman due to the increase in lichens.

AN UNEXPECTED ARRIVAL FROMEASTERN EUROPE?

Alec Cheney, Rainford

On the 27th August 2006 my wife Irene and I were examining the results of the previous night's trapping. We noticed a new moth (for us) which I thought was an Ear moth. On consulting the St Helens list, I realised that it was an uncommon species for our area and needed checking further. I contacted Ray Banks who later came over to look at the moth. We are relatively new to mothing, having had a trap for only 3 months, and had some other moths in pots which we were hoping Ray could help with as well.

Soon after arriving he glanced over at these additional pots and became very excited when he realised that one contained a Scarce Bordered Straw. This was the first record for this species in our area!

I shall always be grateful that Ray came over so promptly because I will never know what would have happened otherwise. Would I have kept this moth as well as the Ear moth for later identification? To add further irony to the story Ray himself caught a Scarce Bordered Straw the next day! So even if I had kept the moth I would not have had the first record!

Irene and I became interested in moths last year after attending a moth night at Sidings Lane, Rainford organised by Dave Owen of the St Helens Rangers with help from the St Helens Wildlife Group. After attending another moth night earlier this year I decided to buy a Skinner moth trap in June. So far we have trapped over 1000 moths of nearly 100 species in Rainford and have also had three weeks in Devon where we were able to take our portable trap.



Scarce Bordered Straw (Photo: Pete Alker)

The St Helens Wildlife group, principally Colin Davies and Ray Banks, have provided excellent support in the form of information on moths seen in the St Helens area, identification assistance and a wildlife database facility, which has made the recording and exporting of data very straightforward. It has been a very enjoyable first few months and there are at least two other people in the Rainford area who are becoming interested.

NEWSLETTER AND WEBSITE NEWS

This is the first newsletter following the introduction of the £5 charge for two issues. Thanks very much to all of you who have sent in your cheques and although there will be no change in the format and content, it means it has been possible to keep the newsletter going. I will be sending out a reminder with Newsletter 16 for issues 17 and 18.

The new Lancashire Moth Group website (www.lancashiremoths.co.uk) has been an incredible success with nearly 2000 hits in the first four months of operation. The layout and content is regularly assessed, while the large number of exciting moths present in the county in late summer meant that daily updating was possible. This will slow down over the winter months but hopefully one or two new features will be incorporated before too long. Thanks very much to my son, Mark for putting this in place and my wife, Carolyn for keeping it regularly updated.

WHY NOT BORROW A MOTH TRAP?

If you haven't tried moth trapping before or, if you have but don't have a trap look no further. Butterfly Conservation, Lancashire Branch, have two traps available for loan and have recently added the UK Moths website CD to the loan package to assist with identifications.

If you would like to know more please contact Steve Palmer at the address on the back of this Newsletter.. There is a very bright mercury vapour light-trap and a much less obvious battery-run actinic light-trap, the latter suitable for over-looked gardens or where an easy accessed electrical socket is not available.

HOOKED OR HOW I FELL INTO THE MOTH TRAP

ANNE E SMITH

I wonder how many of you remember the Identification days organised by Fleetwood Museum. Being a “Jack of all Trades” as regards natural history or, as I have learned to say “a generalist”, I have attended several. When I saw a Moth ID event advertised for 14 June 2003 at Scorton I thought “Why not?” Until then moths had been things that flew around the security light or ate my woollies.

The first person I saw at Scorton was Simon Hayhow who showed me where to go. Poster screens were being set up and literature laid out by several organisations. I sat down. A tall, friendly looking man came and sat down nearby. That was it! Outnumbered by experts by 2 to 1.

A talk, slide show and short walk and then we all drove up to the picnic area. Sheets spread, lamps lit and hey presto – magic. Every shape and colour of moth for miles around came dashing in. No one remarked on my total ignorance, or even my strange appearance (my attempt to defeat the midges). I was bowled over by the sheer variety and beauty of the moths. I had seen the light.

I can't remember what time I went home but I do remember recording my first moth the following day – a Magpie moth resting on the garage wall. Seven more species followed in June and July all identified from Lewington's illustrations in Collins *Pocket Guide to Insects*. I had heard about a new ID book by Waring and Lewington and bought myself a copy when it came out.

At this point I suppose I was fluttering round the light in ever decreasing circles. I attended a Moth Breakfast at Leighton Moss in July 2004, bought a 15w actinic trap in August 2004, sent in my first handwritten records in September 2004 and attended my second Moth Breakfast in 2005. I bought Mapmate and even began putting the odd “micro” in a pot. By this time I was well and truly trapped.

I spend hours trying to identify Caddis flies and large micros in Waring, and am still amazed when a water beetle flies into my trap. There were many times when I could have just flown away but the unflinching patience of Barry Dyson and Steve Palmer kept me going.

The organisers of that ID event at Scorton must have been very disappointed with the attendance but they never showed it, and as a result, two moth-ers entered the trap. The other attendee? Mike Sutcliffe.

SOME OF THE MORE UNUSUAL MOTHS RECORDED IN 2006:



Anomalous (Photo: G Gavaghan)



Heart and club (Photo: A Forrest)



Barred Sallow (Photo: C Cockbain)



Scarce silver Y (Photo: I Kimber)

NATIONAL MOTH NIGHT 2006

The last time NMN fell on the 23rd September was way back in 2000 when the following prophetic words were written by the author of this report – “I think without exception, the feedback flowing in about NMN 2000 can be summed up in the following few words ...if only it had been one night earlier or one night later”. There are quite a few contributors to the 2006 event who have made exactly the same comment, but at least the 40 to 50mph winds of 2000 were more like 20mph and therefore allowed some participants to have a reasonable night.



Convulvulus Hawk-moth (Photo: Pauline Greenhalgh)

A comparison of the two nights is shown below:

2000 NMN	30 recorders	108 species	(38 micro sp. and 70 macro sp.)
2006 NMN	54 recorders	144 species	(51 micro sp. and 91 macro sp.)



Calybites phasianipennella (Photo: S Tomlinson)

Significant finds were few and far between but one target species, Convulvulus Hawk-moth, was recorded by Barbara Cockburn at Burrow Heights, near Lancaster. The only other notable migrant was a Delicate in the garden of Hugh Barton from Inskip.

One species was added to the Lancashire vice county (VC60) list. *Calybites phasianipennella* came to light in St Annes (Jeremy Steeden)

The ten most common species on the night (total in brackets) were:

1	Light Brown Apple Moth	(196)
2	Silver Y	(149)
3	Angle Shades	(147)
4	Setaceous Hebrew Character	(121)
5	Large Yellow Underwing	(105)
6	Blair's Shoulder-knot	(95)
7	Common Marbled Carpet	(92)
8	Pink-barred Sallow	(85)
9	Black Rustic	(71)
10	Snout	(65)



Delicate (Photo: P Greenhalgh)

A SUMMARY OF MOTHS RECORDED FROM JULY TO THE END OF OCTOBER 2006

This report covers records received for 2006 from July to October inclusive. A full report on the moths found in Lancashire during 2006 will be available in the next Annual Report.

The second half of 2006 has been an exciting period to be involved in studying moths in Lancashire and so far, over 34,000 individual records have been entered onto the Mapmate mapping database. This total contains a large number of migrant species, including probably the best and most prolonged showing of uncommon to rare migrants in the county since recording began. In view of the large volume of records of this group, a separate section on migrants is listed below this summary.

Right from the start of July indications were that this would be an exceptional period with Scorched Carpet being found in Silverdale on 1st (R Griffiths – RGr.) and the Belted Beauty colony at Potts Corner producing its best ever larval count (1500 plus) on the same day (S Palmer – SMP). An influx of Red-necked Footman from 1st to 17th July at Burrow Heights (B Cockburn – BCo), Feniscowles (W Aspin – WCA), Torrisholme (A Draper – AJD), Pennington (P Pugh – PCP) and Lostock Hall (R Hall) was unprecedented and may well have been of a migratory nature. On the 2nd, Small Elephant Hawk-moth arrived as a new species to Nigel Roger's (NAJR) garden in Bay Horse and the uncommon July Belle was attracted to light on Perry Moor (P Marsh – PM). The 3rd July produced the first of quite a few new county/vice county records for micros during the second half of the year when *Dichrorampha vancouverana* (formerly *gueneana*) came to light in St Helens (D Owen – DO). On the same day Clouded Magpie occurred in Crossdale (G Jones and A Shaw – GJo, AS). Blacknecks at several locations in late June/early July, were part of an incredible set of records for this species during 2006. At least 57 individual moths were recorded from six locations in VC59 up to early September, including new sites in Ashton in Makerfield (C Higson – CH) and Atherton (K Brides – KB). The first county record for this species was from Swinton in 1988 (S Christmas – SC), followed by one in Flixton (K McCabe – KM) during 1997. From 2001 onwards there has been a steady increase in numbers linked with a continued expansion of range.



Belted Beauty larvae
(Photo: S Palmer)



SilverHook (Photo: A P Bunting)

Over the next few days in early July Beautiful Carpet and SilverHook were recorded at Martin Mere (B Starkey and A Bunting – BS, APB), Galium Carpet occurred at Ease Gill (GJo, AS), Small Blood-vein was found at Hale (C Cockbain – CC) and literally 1000s of larvae and moths of the migrant Diamond-back Moth were found in Chorlton (B Smart – BSm). Some resident species of moth are extremely local and uncommon in the county and until 2006, Heart and Club was an obvious choice for this category. However, following a confirmed set of records involving 62 moths received from Alan Forrest (AF) in Southport between the 5th and 20th July, this species status in the county is now under reconsideration. On 11th July, a significant find was made by Geoff Carefoot at Winmarleigh Moss when, after an absence of ten years, Purple-bordered

Gold was seen at its only known site in Lancashire. Around the same time two other very local species also made an appearance - Wood Tiger on Saddle Fell (B Dyson – BDy) and Fen Wainscot at Crosby (J Donnelly – JDo).

As part of the continued dramatic spread of Buff Footman through Lancashire, this species was found for the first time on Docker Moor on 17th (14 were found - PM) and at Heysham NR on 21st July (AJD, PM, R Neville - RN, J Roberts – JRo). Since the initial few records in 2000-03, there was a slight increase in 2004/5. During 2006, 55 records were submitted with further first sightings from locations spread all over the county such as Blackburn – WCA; Littleborough – I Kimber (IKr); Pendle area – A Barker (AB); and Worsley – I Walker (IWa). Another species expanding its range at a more sedate pace is *Euzophera pinguis*. On the 14th it made its first appearance in Bispham (B Brigden – BB), at Swinton on 27th July (SC) and, on 20th, at Bay Horse (NAJR), the last being its most northern point in the county so far. During the same period, Scarce Silver Y, this most elusive of moorland moths made its usual guest appearance in Worsthorne when five came to light (G Gavaghan – GG) as well as showing up in Littleborough together with Green Arches (IKr). The only record this year of Manchester Treble Bar, another uncommon moorland species, came on the 19th July (PM) at Loftshaw Moss. In more lowland areas, Scalloped Hook-tip was found at Worsley Garden Centre (IWa) on the 17th and a single *Batia unitella* on 19th July



August Thorn (Photo: S Palmer)

Scalloped Hook-tip was found at Burrow Heights (BCo), Fen Wainscot wandered into a Silverdale garden (RGr) and Dusky Sallow came to light at Glazebury (D Wilson – JDW) and Hale (CC). Uncommon micros during this period included *Eucosma tripoliana* at Fairhaven (J Steeden – JSt), *Achroia grisella* (lesser wax moth) at Heysham Nat. Res. (AJD, PM, RN, JRo) and, all in Flixton, *Pyrausta cingulata* (B Hilton per KM), *Calamotropha paludella* (KM) and *Isophrictis striatella* (KM) found on a tansy flower-head (the last a new county record). In the last few days of what had been a dramatic July, Brown-veined Wainscot came to light at Ashton-in-Makerfield (CH) and the rare (in Lancashire) August Thorn was recorded in Flixton (KM) and Bay Horse (NAJR). Confirmed records of this species in Lancashire are very few and far between.

The arrival of August was accompanied by yet another new micro for the county list when *Coleophora salicorniae* was recorded at Bay Horse (NAJR) on the 5th. Another feature of the latter part of this season was second brood or late records of species not normally noted outside the first brood. Least Black Arches at Heysham (J Holding – DJH) and White Pinion-spotted at Flixton (KM) were an early indication of this phenomenon during 2006. A visit to Leck Fell on the 5th August produced Pale Eggar and Galium Carpet (PM, T Whitaker) while much further south in Leigh, a very peculiar looking Wainscot was finally identified as Brown-veined, accompanied in the trap by a Butterbur (JDW). In relation to July, unusual moths were quite difficult to come by in August. It was not until the 22nd that Centre-barred Sallow, a common species over much of the county, made its first ever appearance at Heysham Nat. Res. (AJD, PM, RN, JRo). On the same date the larval mines of *Chrysoethsia drurella*, a species not seen in Lancashire since 1915, were found at Ivy Green, Chorlton (BSm). The 25th produced an Anomalous in a Mallowdale trap (PM) and the month was rounded off nicely when a Saltern Ear was recorded in St Helens (A Cheney – AC) on the 27th.

Although Brown Silver-lines at Millhouses on 18th August (PM) was an unseasonal record, September reports of many spring/summer species meant it was by no means a one off event. Elephant Hawk-moth at High Tatham (PM), Silver-ground Carpet at Kirkham (M & S Morrison), Poplar Hawk at Rainford (AC) plus records of Light Emerald, Common Wave, Small Fan-foot, Lime-speck Pug, Yellow-tail and Swallow-tailed Moth amongst others gave early autumn a most strange feel. New site records were a feature of mid/late September with Frosted Orange and Beaded Chestnut in Paul Hillyer's Hough Green garden, Brown-spotted Pinion at Yealand Conyers (B Hancock) and Orange Sallow and Small Blood-vein gracing the well studied Billinge garden of Chris Darbyshire (CDa). A purple patch (yes – another one!) occurred between the 21st and 28th September involving some exciting new county/vice county records. The ball started rolling when *Ectoedemia sericopeza* came to a St Helens garden (DO) and was quickly followed by *Ypsolopha alpella* at Huyton (ST), both new county records. On the 23rd (National Moth Night - NMN) *Calybitis phasianipennella* was new to VC60 after it came to light at St Annes (JSt). Another notable species found on NMN was the Butterbur recorded in Wray (PM). Over the next few days Tissue was reported in Yealand Conyers (S Stokes), Small Blood-vein came to light in St Helens (C Davies - CDv) and *Galleria mellonella* (wax moth) was found in a garden trap at Euxton (E Langrish). However the most spectacular and unexpected event during this period was the addition of a new macro-moth to the county list, when Large Ranunculus was attracted to light in Haydock (G & D Atherton) on the 25th.



Large Ranunculus (Picture: D Owen)

(the first county record) at Huyton (S Tomlinson - ST) was quickly followed by a couple more over the next week or so at the same location. The 20th July produced Brown-line Bright-eye at Flixton (KM) and a day later Plain Pug came to light at Bispham (BB).

The 22nd July saw the annual get together at the RSPBs Leighton Moss reserve. Highlights of a very successful event included Dingy Footman, Blomer's Rivulet and *Opostega crepusculella*, the latter not recorded in VC60 for many years. This was also a special night for Steve Martin (SM) when he recorded Beautiful Hook-tip in his Belmont garden, while *Duponchelia fovealis* came to light at Parr (R Banks – RB), the third county record. Moth recorders could have been excused for taking a breather as the last week of July approached, but the moths had other thoughts. Beech Green Carpet, a really local species, was found at Ease Gill (GJo, AS), another

From the end of September into the first two weeks of October the Streak was recorded from four locations in VC59, Dalton (CDa), Flixton (KM), Huyton (ST) and Rochdale (P Stevens). This moth appears to have a very patchy distribution in Lancashire, south of the River Ribble. It has not been noted in VC60 since the 1960s but is a common moth in parts of northern Britain and its foodplant, Broom, is not uncommon in parts of north Lancashire. Targeted light trapping near patches of broom in early October or larval searches in May might prove worthwhile. With October came records of Grey Shoulder-knot from two new locations, at Flixton (KM) and Hale (CC), the latter site also recording the uncommon (in Lancashire) Barred Sallow. On the 3rd October the beautiful "mini-merv" look-alike *Acleris literana* that came to light in Huyton (ST), turned out to be the first record of this moth south of the R Ribble since around 1900. By mid October, it was as if summer had returned when Light Emerald, Large Yellow Underwing, Mother of Pearl and Dark Arches all appeared at several sites. The most confused species however was Common Quaker, with a female coming to light in Preston on 19th October and a male on 8th November (SMP). Back in mid month Beautiful Hook-tip were found in Flixton (KM) and Crosby (JDo) but the final fanfare for 2006 must go to the micros. As work on this newsletter was being rounded off, each day seemed to bring news of something new. A larval case containing a *Coleophora* larva feeding on bramble in Flixton (KM) will be one of two species, either of which will be a new county record - we await the expertise of Ben Smart who is hoping to breed it through next spring. On the 23rd Kevin McCabe's hard work looking for leaf mines produced a new county record of *Phyllonorycter platani* when he found occupied leaf-mines on a Plane tree in Stretford. A few days later Kevin found *Stigmella speciosa* mines on sycamore at Bilsborough, a new species for VC60. Finally, a photo arrived with the editor the day before the newsletter was due to go to print. It was of a moth found in a Bispham house which turned out to be *Duponchelia fovealis*, an adventive species that was new to VC60 (D McGrath).



Acleris literana (Photo: S Tomlinson)

MOTH RECORDS

Thanks go to all who have sent in details of their records so far for 2006, including all new recorders. A full list of contributors will be published, as usual, in the Annual Report. Any records, historic or recent, would be most welcome. Thanks also go to Kevin McCabe who has entered a large proportion of the incoming records onto Mapmate. Please continue to send Mapmate files to Steve (CUK is 1b8). If recorders would like a written reply acknowledging receipt of their records or other correspondence, both Chris and Steve would appreciate a stamped self-addressed envelope – be aware of the new size pricing introduced recently by the PO. Please send your records to either of the addresses below. If possible the six figure grid reference, location, full date and number of each species noted is requested. 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.

E-MAIL 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 at the address at the end of this Newsletter

MIGRANTS IN THE SUMMER AND AUTUMN OF 2006 (JULY TO OCTOBER)

Detailed below is a provisional summary of the many exciting and unusual migratory species that have made an appearance in Lancashire during the summer and autumn of 2006. A few extra species appeared earlier in the year and these are listed in Newsletter 14. A full report of the migrants will be produced in the Annual Report.

Regular migrant species such as *Plutella xylostella* (diamond-back moth), *Udea ferrugalis* (rusty-dot pearl), *Nomophila noctuella* (rush veneer), Dark Sword-grass and Silver Y have been present throughout the county in good numbers for much of the season. The irregular and rare migrants are listed below with totals in brackets.

* = New County or Vice County Record

<i>Euchromius ocella</i>	(1)	20/9 Fowley Common * (JDW)
<i>Palpita vitrealis</i>	(2)	12/9 Heysham * (DJH); Lancaster 16/9 (C Barnes)
<i>Hellula undalis</i>	(1)	29/9 St Helens * (DO)
<i>Antigastra catalaunalis</i>	(1)	22/9 Fowley Common * (JDW, PCP)
Vestal	(34)	7/8 – 10/10 max 3 Bay Horse 26/9 (NAJR)
Gem	(12)	22/7 – 28/10 max 2 Leighton Moss (K Briggs - KB), Orrell (P Alker) and Martin Mere (APB, BS)
Convolvulus Hawk	(11)	1/9 – 9/10 max 2 Bay Horse 2/9 (NAJR)
Death's-head Hawk	(3)	Gressingham (G Hawkins, G Griffin) and Hornby (per M Broomfield) - all larval records in late August
Humming-bird Hawk	(200+)	10/6 – 19/10 including larval records at two sites

Humming Bird Hawk-moth
(Photo: M Edmunson)



Small mottled willow
(Photo: P Pugh)

Four-spotted Footman	(3)	25/7 Yealand Conyers (BH); 28/7 Martin Mere (APB, BS); 4/8 Leighton Moss (KB)
Pearly Underwing	(35)	18/6 – 29/10 max 3 Heysham Nat Res (AJD, PM, RN, JRo)
Delicate	(9)	5/9 – 29/10 (that on 5/9 Billinge new VC record (CDa); max 2 Bay Horse 1/10 (NAJR)
Great Brocade	(10)	12/8 – 23/8 all singletons widely spread over the county
Small Mottled Willow	(39)	14/6 – 28/9 max 3 St Helens 3/8 (CDv) and Martin Mere 4/8 (APB, BS)
Bordered Straw	(32)	19/5 – 28/9 max 2 Heysham 23/6 (DJH)
Scarce Bordered Straw	(193)	23/6 – 12/10 max 8 Hale 20/8 (CC)

MOTH EVENTS 2007

5TH APRIL 2007

LANCASHIRE MOTH GROUP SOCIAL

The Social will be held on Thursday, 5th April 2007 from 1900 to 2115hrs – entry charge £2 per head to cover the hire costs. The Lancashire Wildlife Trust has, once again, allowed us to use their facilities at The Barn, Cuerden Valley Country Park, near Leyland. Members are invited to bring along books, displays, slides, powerpoint or CDs with pictures on to show to the group. There will be no formal speaker this year. To find The Barn, come off the M6 at J28 and take the B5256 eastbound, crossing the A49 at a set of traffic lights. After one mile (and just as you leave the houses) turn left at the top of the hill onto Shady Lane. Proceed for about a mile past Nell Lane on your left then take the next right down Berkeley Drive. The Barn is on your left after a couple of hundred yards with ample parking beyond. I look forward to seeing as many of you as can make it. Please do make a special effort to bring along slides, photographs or other display material – it would be useful for those with material to get in touch with Steve before the evening to enable assessment of the space and equipment requirements. Tea, Coffee and Biscuits will be available free of charge.

21ST and 22ND JULY 2007

RSPB LEIGHTON MOSS MOTH WEEKEND

Once again this very popular event will be held in the reserve grounds courtesy of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. Previous years have always turned up something interesting or unusual and hopefully 2007 will be no different. A demonstration of light trapping takes place on the Saturday evening from dusk (about 9pm) until well into the early hours (weather permitting). The following morning the traps will be emptied giving people the opportunity to examine a wide variety of species in daylight conditions. As usual, the famous Moth Breakfast (**pre-booking required**) will be available on Sunday morning at 8.30am. For further details and booking for the breakfast please phone the RSPB on 01524 701601.

SATURDAY, 11TH AUGUST 2007

NATIONAL MOTH NIGHT

This is an annual event where anyone who wishes to take part simply records any moths seen on the night of Saturday, 11th August 2007 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. Don't forget it is on the Saturday night only. Make a note of the date now! If you intend organising an event for NMN do advertise through the moth group by letting Steve know the details

VISIT TO NORTH WALES

Eddie Langrish, a new member of the Lancashire Moth Group, has advised that during 2007 he will be attending a locally run moth event on moorland by Sychnant Pass, North Wales to look for Ashworth's Rustic and Weaver's Wave. Anyone interested in getting more information about the trip can contact Eddie on **01257 232100**.

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 16 but longer submissions for Newsletter 17 onwards would be particularly welcome. Material for inclusion should be sent to:

NEWSLETTER EDITOR/COUNTY MICRO RECORDER

Steve Palmer, 137 Lightfoot Lane, Fulwood, Preston, PR4 0AH. 01772 861570 or Email -

s.palmer12@btopenworld.com

YOUR COUNTY MACROMOTH RECORDER:

Chris Darbyshire, 48 Tennyson Drive, Billinge, Wigan WN5 7EJ. 01695 622079 Email –

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MOTH GROUP WEBSITE ADDRESS - www.lancashiremoths.co.uk

