

LANCASHIRE MOTHS

Newsletter 21

November 2009

EDITORIAL

We all enjoy the thrill of checking our moth traps - you never know what will be on the underside of the next egg tray. Sometimes we get a bit carried away and venture onto a local patch or nature reserve to run a light or just see what can be turned up during the daytime or at dusk. The note book slowly begins to fill up with LBBYUs, LYUs (blast - did I mean Large or Lesser?) and other assorted abbreviations that are nonsense to everyone else - we all do it. Each month or at the end of the year we send our records off to the County Recorder (of course you do!). Each year the records pour in from all over the county, adding up to a mountain of data - we currently hold in excess of 874,000 Lancashire moth records on the Mapmate database.

Drinker Moth (Photo: M Robinson)



But is that all that happens to your records - do they just sit there gathering dust, or whatever happens to unused data inside a computer? To ensure that all your efforts are not in vain, the moth group will pass on the records so they can be used for conservation purposes, distribution atlases etc. Two years ago a summary of the changes in distribution and flight periods we had witnessed in Lancashire were sent to Paul Waring and he incorporated these into the new version of his book. Each year records of Pyralids, leaf miners and migrants, to name just a few, are sent to national recording scheme organisers. As mentioned in previous newsletters, we have also been sending your records of the larger moths to the National Moth Recording Scheme, http://www.mothscount.org/maps/94/moth_distribution_maps.html where distribution maps can now be viewed - it really makes it worthwhile when you see your dot on a map. On top of all this we are establishing data sharing agreements with the three Local Records Centres in our area - see the article later in this newsletter. This will ensure that your records contribute to the protection of species and habitats for many years to come.

A SUMMARY OF MOTHS FOUND IN VC59 & VC60

S PALMER

This report covers all records submitted and entered onto the Mapmate database between 1st July and 22nd November 2009.

It looked like July would continue much as June had left off, with plenty of the regular species putting in slowly improving appearances after the poor years of 2007 and 2008. That was very much the case, but during the first four days of the month the unpredictable and exhilarating nature of moth recording had once again come to the fore – more of this later.



Beautiful Hook Tip (Photo: D Owen)

Initially though, we go back eight years, to when the **Beautiful Hook-tip** first made its county debut. We all had high hopes of seeing this attractive moth nestling in our traps but, following only two further records in the bumper year of 2006, its "invasion" seemed to have ground to a halt. This all changed in 2009 with the moth appearing in Flixton (K McCabe – KM) at the end of June, one at Stanley Bank Meadow, St Helens on 1st July (R Banks – RB), (D Owen – DO) and two at Hale on 3rd (C Cockbain – CC). Now we can all start to dream again! The St Helens hook-tip was accompanied by a **Leopard Moth** and apparently the display of excitement shown by Ray at the time was a sight (and sound) to behold! On the same date **Lilac Beauty** was found in Longridge by David Brown and Preston moth recorder A Powell (AP) whilst on one of David's moth courses. This species is infrequently encountered outside its north Lancashire colonies but was also found in Leigh on 9th (D Wilson – JDW).

Further north, there is a garden in Heysham that specialises in moths found wandering well away from their usual habitat – its raised, open aspect must help. This time it was the turn of **Eana incanana**, usually more at home in bluebell woods, to make an unexpected appearance on 1st July (J Holding – DJH). John and Betty's garden is usually a hot spot for migrants but the peak numbers of **Plutella xylostella** (diamond-back moth) that moved into Lancashire at this time seemed to give them a miss for once. On 1st July, 52 were at Euxton (E Langrish – EL), 50 were recorded at Yealand Conyers (B Hancock – BH), 35 at Wray (Garry Jones & A Shaw – GJ & AS), 26 at Billinge (C A Darbyshire – CAD) and similar large counts over the following few days, such as 40 at Houghton (G Dixon – GD). The latter recorder also found **Udea prunalis** in his Houghton garden at this time, a local moth in inland central Lancs.



Striped Wainscot
(Photo: S Palmer)

With all these migrant moths around it was not unexpected that something else would appear but the species involved was a complete surprise. On 2nd July a Preston garden trap produced an unusual wainscot species (S Palmer – SMP). Following an examination of several books all attempts at naming it pointed to **Striped Wainscot**, a species the recorder was not at all familiar with. Graham Jones (GJo) and KM were sent a picture and agreed with the determination. The photo does not do the moth justice. The "stripes" are quite pronounced from certain angles while the wings have a pinkish hue and are covered in a fine dusting of black dots. A voucher specimen has been retained to confirm identification.

Dwarf Cream Wave
(Photo: T Davenport)



Also in Preston, **Small Elephant Hawk-moth** made a rare appearance away from its normal haunts (coastal dunes, limestone areas and moorland) at the home of Andy Bunting (APB) on the 2nd July.

Having found something of note in his garden trap, he then went to work and proceeded to find an even more local species, *Aethes beatricella*, in the Martin Mere trap. A good night's work! On the same date *Metendothenia atropunctana*, a very local Lancs micro was found at Astley Moss together with seven **Marbled White Spot** (KM, G Riley – GR). On the 3rd *Phlyctaenia perlucidalis* came to light in Littleborough (I Kimber – IK), **Minor Shoulder-knot** was reported from Lower Burgh Meadows (EL) and **Dwarf Cream Wave** at Formby (T Davenport – TD).



Orache
(Photo: D Hardy)

Before the excitement generated by the Striped Wainscot had barely had a chance to subside, the morning of the 4th July dawned with another even more exciting find. The first ever **Orache Moth** for Lancashire was found in Broad Green, Liverpool by David Hardy. This is only about the fifty fourth record of it (as a migrant) in Britain, although it was a former resident in the fens up to 1915. What more incentive can there be to run a garden light trap? Maybe it will be your turn next year to experience that jaw-dropping, heart-stopping moment.

One other recorder also achieved the ultimate (in my view anyway) during a daytime visit to Formby, also on the 4th. Steve Tomlinson (ST) at last confirmed the presence of the much misidentified *Crambus pratella* in Lancashire. The hints to finding and identifying it again are in the location and flight time. It prefers dry, sandy, short-turfed grassy areas and flies that little bit later than the very similar and abundant *Crambus lathoniellus*. To make matters more confusing when checking the old records, *C. lathoniellus* used to be called *Crambus pratella*!

Crambus pratella
(Photo: S Tomlinson)

Species such as the **Garden Tiger** and, to a lesser extent, The **Drinker** were showing worrying signs of decline in numbers and distribution in our region. However 2009 seems to have produced an improvement for both species, one of the former being reported by Martin Robinson in Poulton-le-Fylde on 4th (see photo on front page). A daytime visit to Fairhaven dunes on 5th by J Steeden (JS) produced *Pyrausta despicata*, last seen in VC60 in 1998. Jeremy also found *Aglossa pinguinalis* (large tabby) in St Annes on the same day. The latter was last recorded in Lancashire in 1973, by the same recorder!



The **Blackneck** continues to expand its range in the county and during 2009 it turned up at two new sites in north Lancashire (VC60) – St Michaels (G Mortimore – GM) on 8th and Longridge (D Lambert – DL) on 25th. On the same date the **Confused** came to light in Silverdale (R Griffiths – RG) and about a week later at Morecambe (J Girdley – JG), while the uncommon plume moth, *Ovendenia lienigianus* was found in Huyton (ST). On the 9th *Acompsia cinerella*, the first in Lancs since 1997, was found at Heysham Nat. Res. (A J Draper – AJD) while the **Small Ranunculus** continued its very slow and rather localised spread when it was found at Fazakerley (Les Ward – LW). The next day it returned to one of its original Lancashire sites, Crosby (J Donnelly – JD). The 10th produced **Crescent Striped** at Morecambe (JG), also being found on 22nd at Birkdale (J Dempsey) and **Bird's Wing** occurred in Whitefield (J Shackman – JS).



Blackneck (Photo: D Owen)

Daytime visits to moorland in mid summer often turn up worthwhile and interesting sightings. On a stormy and windy day on Whit Moor (13th July), hopes were not high of finding much, but brief periods of sun enticed a **Wood Tiger** to get airborne, before it was rapidly blown out of sight. Keeping their heads down, several *Biselachista serricornis* were discovered in amongst the moorland rushes (SMP), only the second site in Lancs for this micromoth in the last 150 years.

On the 15th July *Aroga velocella* came to light at Freshfield (GJo) at only its second site in VC59. It was accompanied by *Anarsia spartiella* another species rarely recorded in the county. Both were last reported from this area in the 1950s. Also on the 15th **Small Dotted Buff** and **Suspected** were found as part of an intensive survey of Stanley Bank Meadow, St Helens (RB, DO). The latter species seems to have had a good year being reported from five other locations including a late one at Mere Sands Wood on 3rd August (I Kippax – IKx & R Boydell – RBo). The following day, *Catoptria pinella* came to light in Flixton (KM), only the second record for this moth in VC59. Kevin's garden has seen plenty of exciting moths over the 15 or more years he has run a trap there and despite the surrounding open grassland reverting to dense woodland, new species continue to appear. *Cochylis nana* and *Coleophora lineolea* were new to his garden during 2009, bringing the garden list to an impressive 770 different types of moth.

Over the last couple of years there has been a very welcome increase in the number of moth recorders submitting records from the Formby area. This has produced not only an update on the status of species in this formerly well recorded area, but also a superb set of up to date reports of many of the less common species that only seem to occur in this mild, sandy part of the county. Most recent records of the

Heart and Club had come from the Southport area with a few scattered records from other more northerly sites. However the increase in recording activity around Formby has proved that the moth is doing well in this district as well (TD, Mary Dean – MD, Rod Hill – RH and Shelagh Parsons). Other local species encountered at this time included **Blomer's Rivulet** at Yealand Conyers on the 18th (BH), *Scrobipalpa nitentella* at Sunderland on 19th (JG, Tom and Hazel Morbey-Ganley – T & HMG), and on the same date *Pandemis cinnamomeana* came to light in Billinge (CAD) accompanied by **Large Emerald** – both new to this well recorded site. By coincidence, it was the site at Billinge that produced the first **Orange Footman** found in Lancashire during



Suspected
(Photo: D Owen)

2007. On the 23rd July 2009 it made further leap northward when it was found at Gait Barrows (R Petley-Jones – RPJ).

It seems that reports of **Lempke's Gold Spot** are becoming less frequent than they used to be. Only fourteen were found in 2009, one of which was a new garden species on 24th July in Warton by M & J Elsworth (M & JE). On the 25th a **Sandy Carpet** came to light in Heysham (DJH), a first for this well recorded site. Other second-only reports in a good year for this site included **Mullein Wave** (also found in Hale on 25th Aug (CC), **Pinion-streaked Snout** and **Scallop Shell**. On the 30th *Ovendenia lithodactyla* was found during a daytime visit to Warton Crag (BH), presumably utilising Ploughman's Spikenard here rather than its more usual foodplant in Lancs of Common Fleabane. Throughout July and August the **Dingy Footman** continued to consolidate its position in Lancashire. Initially it was restricted to lowland and coastal areas but has now started appearing well inland. In all there were records from eight different areas during 2009 – quite a significant increase.



Small Dotted Buff
(Photo: D Owen)



Orange Footman
(Photo: R Petley-Jones)

Brown-line Bright-eye is an elusive and rare species in Lancashire and since the turn of the century it had only been recorded at six sites. Hale can now be added to that list, with one appearing there on the 2nd August (CC).



Pammene populana
(Photo: J Girdley)

The first few days of August were remarkably quiet in comparison to the start of the previous month. On the 5th ***Calamotropha paludella*** came to light in Pennington (JDW), one of only four regular sites for this moth, the others being Flixton, Hale and Martin Mere. On the same date a second brood **Devon Carpet** was found at only the second site for this moth in Lancs, near Middle Salter (JG, PM). It has been suggested it is expanding its range in other parts of the UK – could this be an indication that the two colonies (Lord's Lot Wood and here) are perhaps of more recent origin than believed? It seems unlikely but only time will tell. **Grey Mountain Carpet** was recorded at Loftshaw Moss on 6th (PM) and on the same date new sites were found for the very local

Apotomis semifasciana and ***Pammene populana*** when they came to a light run at Middleton Industrial Estate (JG). On the 9th August **Sallow Kitten** appeared for only the second time in over 25 years trapping at Swinton (Steve Christmas – SC). A walk across the moors on the glorious 12th produced a new and unknown colony of **Manchester Treble Bar** at Blaze Moss (B Dyson – BD) while the local **Golden Plusia** came to light in Wigan (G & B Wynne – G & BW).

Those inspecting bat roosts and hibernacula in the county have kindly been passing on details of any moths they encounter. A regular user of such sites is the **Tissue** which was found at Whitewell on 15th August (D Fisher) and also on 21st September (D Anderson – DA). The 17th August produced a new record for VC60 when ***Argyresthia semitestacella*** came to light in Preston (AP) while on the same date ***Phycitodes maritima***, which seems to be increasing in the county, was found in Adlington (P Krischkiw – PK). On the 18th, a visit to Docker Moor (JG) was particularly notable for the discovery of a new site for **Hedge Rustic**. This is now a very local species in the county and is only one of four sites where it has been found in the last five years. At the opposite end of the spectrum, **Barred Hook-tip** continues to slowly increase its distribution and was found in the Swinton area for the first time on the 19th (GR). Although this was an exciting find for Geoff, his night was dominated by a record catch of thirty three **Old Lady**.

During much of August, the detailed study of the **Sandhill Rustic** and its ecology continued unabated (R Burkmar, GJo). On the 22nd, fifty eight were found on Birkdale Green Beach and a further 21 at Southport (north of Marine Lake). A by-product of all this hard work has been records of other species rarely encountered in the county. The only site in Lancs in the last fourteen years for ***Agonopterix yeatiana*** has been at Birkdale (GJo), found whilst carrying out these surveys.

It is strange how the expansion of some species can be very unpredictable at times. ***Roeslerstammia erxebella*** had been a regular in VC59 since its first record in 2003. By the end of 2008 it had reached the Blackburn area in a slow and sedate push northwards. Imagine the surprise when on the 22nd Aug it was found in the Leighton Moss moth trap (BH, SMP) as new to VC60. The following night, the same trap produced a **Butterbur** (D Herold), the first in Lancs since 2007 and not noted at Leighton Moss since 1980. On the 23rd, **Dark Spinach** came to light in Poulton-le-Fylde (BD), one of only three sites for this uncommon moth in Lancs during 2009. Other local species at this time included **Golden-rod Brindle** near Wray on 24th (PM) and **Grey Chi** in Liverpool (J Clews – JC) on 25th.



Crambus hamella
(Photo: K McCabe)

One of our rarest and most spectacular grass moths, ***Crambus hamella***, is restricted to a small part of the county around the mosses of south west Manchester, but on the 29th Aug. six were found on Cadishead Moss (KM). Another very attractive moth, the **Orange Sallow**, has turned up at several sites this year and was new to Tim and Janet Davie (T & JD) in Wilpshire, Blackburn on the 1st September and at Swinton (SC) on the 2nd. On the same date ***Tinea pallescentella*** (large pale clothes moth) was found in Morecambe (JG), only the second recent record for VC60.

Flounced Chestnut remains quite a local species in the county. On 4th September it was recorded at Beacon Fell (AB, EL) and also later on at Adlington (PK), Gait Barrows (RPJ) and Dalton VC59 (CAD). The 4th was also a bit of a special day for moth recording in Lancashire. It was on this date in a wood in north Lancashire, that several larvae of **Netted Carpet** were found on Touch-me-not Balsam. An account detailing this historic find can be found on page 16. On the 7th September, **Green Carpet** appeared in Billinge for the first time since 1999 (CAD).

Green Carpet
(Photo: C A Darbyshire)



Migrants were generally few and far between during the summer and autumn period. In July and early August, reports were received from eleven sites of single **Humming-bird Hawk-moths**, a far cry from the excitement of 2006. Despite this a few lucky individuals caught up with the annual but still impressive **Convolvulus Hawk-moth**. On 8th September one was found one in Burnley (DA) and three days later another occurred in Formby (TD). The third and final record of this superb hawk-moth came from Longton on 27th Sept. (RBo).

The **Brown-spot Pinion** appears to be continuing its downward spiral of decline with records received from only three locations so far this year. It was regular in Hale (CC), but otherwise only single records were received, from Flixton on 14th Sept and Haweswater on 18th (A & P Palmer – A & PP). **Barred Sallow**, another local moth in Lancashire, is also a bit of a Hale speciality (CC). Carol's total of 15 during late September and October this year was more than had been recorded in the county as a whole up to 2009. The moth was also noted at Lower Burgh Meadow on 12th September (EL), and later at Knotty Ash on 5th October (C Daly – CD), Liverpool on 13th October (JC) and Huyton on 14th October (ST) – another species on the move perhaps?

Occasionally mossland and moorland species wander or are blown away some distance from their usual habitat. Such was the case with **Haworth's Minor** at Heysham on 15th (DJH) although it may have originated from Heysham Moss, only a few km away. This date was also notable for finds of various caterpillars across the county. The larva of **Coleophora binderella** (in its portable case) was found feeding on Sweet Chestnut at Cadishead Moss (KM, D Stenhouse), an un-recorded foodplant for this species in Britain. Three mines of **Bucculatrix cidarella** were located on Alder at Gait Barrows NNR (SMP), the first record of this species in VC60 for many years. A few days later, a visit to nearby Cringlebarrow Wood produced in excess of 20 mines of **Stigmella tiliae** on a mature Small-leaved Lime (BH, SMP).

As the season progressed, it became apparent that late or second brood sightings were becoming more than just a localised phenomenon. It started with a few occasional comments being submitted on the new **Lancs Moth Yahoo Group** followed by requests for information on the latest dates for this or that species. Some people were even getting concerned that their identifications were looking a bit suspect when checking flight times against what they had found. By the end of September and through much of October there were regular reports of moths flying well outside their usual flight periods. The full picture will no doubt become clear once all the records have been submitted but a brief summary of some of these late fliers are listed below.

A summary of some late (and early) sightings of adult lepidoptera in Lancashire - 2009

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| Silver-ground Carpet; Blackpool 20/8 (D McGrath – DM) | Acleris holmiana; Sunderland 15/10 (JG) |
| White Ermine; Martin Mere 7/9 (APB) | Eudonia mercurella; Heysham 15/10 (JG) |
| Beautiful Golden Y; Hale 16/9 and 18/9 (CC) | Golden-rod Pug; Preston 15/10 (SMP) |
| Hebrew Character; Goosnargh 25/9 (J Shaw – JS) | Small Square-spot; Bay Horse 15/10 (N Rogers - NAJR) |
| Grass Rivulet; Martin Mere 26/9 (APB) | Light Emerald; Preston 18/10 (SMP) |
| Larch Pug; Yealand Conyers 30/9 (BH) | Juniper Pug; Gait Barrows 28/10 (RPJ) |
| Ingrailed Clay; Worsley 8/10 (IW) | Orthopygia glaucinalis; Wigan 29/10 (G & BW) |
| Common White Wave; Swinton 10/10 (GR) | Lesser Yellow Underwing 13/11 Morecambe (JG) |
| Argyresthia goedartella; Hale 14/10 (CC) | Hebrew Character; Lower Burgh Meadow 21/11 (EL) |
| Pseudargyrotoza conwagana; Bispham 14/10 (BB) | |

As September progressed and the mixed emotions generated by yet another unspectacular national moth night dissipated (more of this on page 11), there were still plenty of interesting moths on the wing. A **Green Carpet** at Swinton (SC) on 19th was a first record in over 25 years recording at this garden site. On the same date an **Autumn Green Carpet** was found in Belmont (R Rhodes – RR) while the only record of an adult **Heath Rustic** received during 2009 came from Freshfield Dune Heath. It was accompanied by the local micromoth **Agonopterix umbellana** and an even more local **Northern Deep Brown Dart** (GJo). The close relative of the latter species, the **Deep Brown Dart** was found at Hale on 28th (CC). On the 21st **Vine's Rustic** came to light in Formby, still the only locality in the county where this moth is regularly recorded (R Walker – RW). To top things off, thirteen **Feathered Ranunculus** came to an actinic trap in Silverdale (RG) on the 22nd.

Northern Deep Brown Dart
(Photo: G Jones)



Deep Brown Dart
(Photo: C Cockbain)

Pearly Underwing is a rather rare migrant in Lancashire and this year was no exception with one at Swinton (GR) on 22nd, one at Boothstown (IW) on 25th and Royton (R Hart – RH) on the 14th October. In contrast, **Dark Sword-grass** was widely reported in small numbers throughout the period suggesting many were not primary migrants. On the 27th September, **Treble Bar** came to light at Hale (CC), the first record of this species in 24 years of recording at this garden. It is an unwritten rule that regular moth recorders are not allowed to find **Death's-head Hawk-moth** in or around their garden traps. The only one encountered this year was, true to form, found in Heywood, Rochdale (P Kilduff per GJo) on the 28th by a non-mother.

Hunting for the leaf-mines of the smaller lepidoptera is a past-time only a handful of recorders in the county participate in, but the interest is growing. Over the last year or two those who have started rooting around in bushes and hedges have added considerably to the knowledge of the distribution of these moths in the county. On the 29th September Anne Smith (AES) found mines of **Stigmella speciosa** on a sycamore in her Poulton-le-Fylde garden which turned out to be only the sixth record for this moth in VC60. Both KM and CAD have carried out a large number of visits to different parts of the county looking at leaf miners and added a considerable number of new 10km square records during 2009 – thanks to both of them for their work on this group of moths.

On 13th October **Mompha langiella** was found in Huyton (ST). Steve had also seen it earlier in the year at the same location, these being the second and third county record of this tiny moth. The only previous record for this local species was 25 years previously at Risley Moss. Much further north, the trap contents must have resembled a pile of crinkled dead leaves when it was inspected at Botton Head Farm (north east Lancs) on 14th (T Whitaker – TW). **Angle Shades** were everywhere, in the end totalling 133 – an impressive tally so late in the season and amongst which was also an early flying **December Moth**. It was obviously a good mothing night in north Lancs on that date as thirteen **Red Sword-grass**



Mompha langiella
(Photo: S Tomlinson)



Exapate congelatella
(Photo: P Stevens)

Came to a sheet and light session on Lythe Fell (JG, PM), a large count for this species. On the following night, ten **Figure of Eight** came to light in Hutton A Barker – AB). Not to be outdone, twelve **Exapate congelatella** were recorded at a trap in Rochdale (P Stevens – PS) at about the same time. This moth is usually found in small numbers at a few localities but 2009 has produced record numbers of sightings. The mild conditions over several weeks may have meant more were on the wing and also more people were still trapping. The Grey Shoulder-knot is a local species throughout and the only record received this year in VC59 was from Leigh (JDW).

Cameraria ohridella (the horse chestnut leaf-miner) has continued its rapid

Grey Shoulder-knot
(Photo: D Wilson)

expansion of range across the UK and was at last discovered in VC60 when a few mines were found near Winkley Hall, Clitheroe (KM) on 17th October. A few days later, a resident but very local species had its number of records in the county almost doubled when CAD found **Stigmella sakhalinella** mines on birch at Stockley Hill on 20th and KM located it at Flixton on 28th. Another leaf mining species which has spread much more gradually across the county, and is usually encountered as an adult in light traps, is **Caloptilia azaleella** (the azalea leaf-miner). On 29th October it came to light in Heysham (DJH), this being only the second record for VC60.



As many started thinking about packing their traps away, the much delayed autumn migration arrived – late and with a whimper. Despite many light traps being set across the county, the only reports of notable migrants were of a **Vestal** at Millhouses (TW) on the 28th, (sharing the trap with six resident **Sprawler**) and **Udea ferrugalis** (rusty-dot pearl) at the same site the following night (TW). Also on the 29th the numbers of **Acleris sparsana** peaked at 18 in a Preston trap (AP), followed by his first **Red Sword-grass** on 20th. As October departed so did the numbers and variety of moths on the wing. Small numbers were being found in sheltered spots such as a **Northern Winter Moth** at Ashton-in-Makerfield (P Alker – PA) on the 6th November. It looked like it was time to start writing this report, at last. I would normally be completing the newsletter in late October but with the mild weather continuing it was tempting to hang on for a while to see what would happen. Could we possibly experience late-November migrants arriving on the strong to gale-force south west winds? Well it appears not, but some hardy souls ventured out onto their local patches or battened down their garden traps and made the delay in completing this report worthwhile. Pride of place must go to Eddie Langrish who, on the 21st November recorded large numbers of the late season geometrids. **Scarce Umber** reached 69 at one site, **Mottled Umber** exceeded 80 and **Winter Moth** (including car headlight numbers) must have exceeded 100. Perhaps the best of the lot though were ten **December Moth** and a very confused **Hebrew Character**.

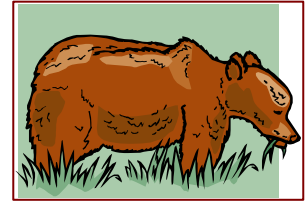
Thanks to everyone for sending in their records. They allow us to expand our knowledge that little bit more about the moths that occur or are increasing or declining in the county. Please make sure you send in all your records by 3rd January 2010 at the latest to ensure inclusion in the Annual Report. I wish you all a Happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year (with a few more migrants in 2010 please Santa!).



A RIDDLE

(by Graham Dixon, written in 1994)

There are 'Bears' in my garden.
I observe them as they march haphazardly over the short sward of
a newly mown lawn.
The deep browns and rich oranges of their warm fur coats glint and
shimmer in the morning sunlight.
Long gone are the bleak winter days when search for food and the
need to avoid being eaten were of paramount importance.



Only the strongest have survived the test of cold-wet time, thus ensuring that future generations will be even more resilient to the numerous menaces that threaten the very existence of a whole species.

The bears begin to dig comfortable but well-hidden chambers in which to sleep.
This is not a want for hibernation but for transformation, an unstoppable urge, for the 'Other' creature', deep within, to escape this low life.
Sleeping, securely, in a bed made from one's own coat, dreaming of the new world and the freedom to come.

The rubble at the entrance to the cave is disturbed and the creature emerges.
But this is not my bear! This is a colourful, sleek, intimidating looking creature.
The brown and cream stripes get lost against, the background of dense foliage, an efficient camouflage that plays havoc with the ability of the observer to focus accurately on his subject.

The creature climbs stealthily, upward to a fork in the branches above; a 'Crows nest' from which to observe his territory.

Has he seen me as I cautiously approach in an effort to get a closer look?
A sudden reflex-like movement combined with a flash of flame-like red and orange gives me a start that momentarily breaks my concentration causing me to lose track of where my quarry is.

Will he attack me? No! Procreation is the most important thing on his mind and the aggressive behaviour was no more than an effective display of 'Sabre-rattling' that bought him enough time to disappear into the dense undergrowth where he can wait safely for the arrival of a mate.

I cannot see him but I sense that he is watching me.
The 'Bears' are long gone – now there are 'Tigers' in my garden.



Caterpillar Booklet

Recently advertised, but possibly written a year or two ago, is a book entitled *Foodplant List for the Caterpillars of Britain's Butterflies and Larger Moths* by Tim Crafer. I've not had the chance to look at it yet but have frequently struggled to identify macro-moth larva and thought it would be handy to have a list of plants with the moths that utilise them. The advertising material states450 foodplants listed, along with the caterpillars that feed on them, the time of year they can be found, the part of the plant eaten and the range. It is available from Atropos Books – see their website. The normal price is £21.95 but they have recently been sold at a discount.

In 2007 when a few of us first located the colony of Sandhill Rustic on the Green Beach at Birkdale, I was surprised to find numerous females resting on Saltmarsh Grass at night. The survey continued during 2008 and females were again found on the grass but, even better, several were observed ovipositing on it - surely they were using the Saltmarsh Grass as a foodplant?

The desire to prove that Saltmarsh Grass was being utilised by Sandhill Rustic was too much to resist. So in spring and summer of 2009 Richard Burkmar and I decided to dig for larvae around the roots of the grass. Finding larva feeding on it would be the only definitive means in proving it was being used as a larval foodplant. A significant problem was that the caterpillar is very difficult to tell apart from that of Flounced Rustic, so any good candidates would need to be reared through to adulthood. This wouldn't be easy as coastal species can be very difficult to rear. We found three larvae feeding on Saltmarsh Grass and these were sent to Roy Leverton who had kindly offered to rear them. He did a great job in breeding them through and even better, the first adult to emerge was a Sandhill Rustic.



Sandhill Rustic (Bred and photographed by R Leverton)

What this means in terms of the areas which need to be searched for Sandhill Rustic in our region is difficult to ascertain at the moment. On the Birkdale Green Beach Saltmarsh Grass is critical in the formation of embryonic dune systems, which is almost unique to this area. Generally Saltmarsh grass, is, well,...found in saltmarshes! So it may well be that Sandhill Rustic feeds on Saltmarsh Grass in just this small area. However, the possibility that Sandhill Rustic could be the new Belted Beauty and what we thought was a species only found in sand dune systems is actually also found in the odd isolated saltmarsh, has not been ruled out conclusively as yet. Only time will tell I guess.

Lancashire Moth Yahoo Group and Website

The introduction of the Lancashire Moth Yahoo Group (see back page) has allowed those recording moths in Lancashire to post notes and pictures of their sightings quickly and simply. Keeping in touch with each other and passing on the latest moth news has never been easier. Beforehand, most of this information was posted on the group website under "What's About". As a result, additions and updates to the website are now carried out on a monthly rather than weekly basis.

Before next spring two additional features will be added to the website. The first will be a full list of the larger moths found in Lancashire detailing what criteria (if any) apply for acceptance of records by the County Recorder. This updates and supersedes the published 2002 list which had become well out of date. The new list takes into account the latest known distribution of species and the difficulties of identification of some species and groups.

The second new feature will be a list of the most common moth species occurring in each month of the year in Lancashire. A simple click on a month (or occasionally a fortnight period) will bring up a list of the moths most likely to be encountered in a light trap at that time of year.



NATIONAL MOTH NIGHT 2009 (A SUMMARY)

STEVE PALMER

National Moth Night (NMN), a regular national event to promote recording and interest in moths, fell on the 18th and 19th September this year, the first time in the eleven years of this event that the option of two nights had been contemplated. The idea apparently was to allow for possible inclement weather on one of the nights. Given that this was mid September and North-west England, I suspect a week's worth of national moth nights wouldn't have improved our chances of half-decent weather!

A weak frontal weather system drifted through the region during the afternoon of Saturday giving damp and mild conditions through to early or late evening, depending where you were in the county. The temperatures either side of this, on Friday night and late Saturday night, were not conducive to good moth trapping and lead to reduced numbers of moths being attracted to light in many areas. This varied a bit depending on the type of traps being used and where you lived. Coastal areas, for a change, generally came off the worst on Saturday but seemed to fair better on Friday. Sites with high ambient light levels when combined with lower temperatures and low wattage actinic traps also fared quite poorly.

Being long-standing experts at dealing with poor NMN weather (we've had a lot of practise), the enthusiasm of Lancashire's moth recorders was not daunted and an impressive total of 145 different types of moth were recorded from Vice Counties 59 and 60 (that is from the River Mersey to just south of Arneside and from the coast, eastward to Oldham and Burnley). Of the moths found, fifty four were micros and the remaining ninety one were macromoths.

Migration was the national theme for the 2009 event but apart from a few Diamond-back Moth, Rush Veneer, Dark Sword-grass and larger numbers of Silver Y (which were all unlikely to have been primary migrants) there was a lack of any obvious movement into or through the region. Moths from a series of locations across the country, including one site on the Wirral, were colour marked to attempt to track any movement, but no marked moths were reported from our region. Some of the most productive moth recording resulted when people visited various nature reserves and other well wooded rural sites. Dusk searches for nectaring or early flying moths were quite successful in some gardens and elsewhere. After dark, the areas producing the highest numbers were, not unexpectedly, woodland or woodland edge sites trapped using Mercury Vapour lights.

The most common species in terms of quantity and the number of sites were, for the micros, the Light-brown Apple Moth with 320 found at 50 sites. For the macromoths it was the Common Marbled Carpet, where 333 were found at 73 sites. Over 100 of the former were found in and around a trap in Heysham while 34 of the latter came to two Robinson traps run at a garden site in Preston. Surprisingly, the Large Yellow Underwing came fourth in the common species league table. Notable records included un-seasonal reports of *Scoparia ambigualis* (Docker Moor) and Beautiful Golden Y (Hale), however this autumn has seen a string of late and second brood moths occurring in Lancashire (see list on page 6). High numbers of individual species at some sites included 39 *Emmelina monodactyla* (a common plume moth) nectaring on Sedum in Morecambe, 50 Grey Pine Carpet amongst the pine trees in Freshfield, 81 Setaceous Hebrew Character near the River Ribble marshes at Howick Brook, 69 Pink-barred Sallow at Mere Sands Wood and 20 Snout on Astley Moss. Perhaps the most interesting records were those of a Northern Deep Brown Dart at Freshfield and Brown-spot Pinion (Hale and Haweswater). Both of these species have declined noticeably in the county over the last few years.

By the time of going to print, 73 participants (thirteen up on last year) have sent in their lists. Some recorders took the opportunity of running traps at different locations over the two nights leading to a total of 95 sites being sampled – a fantastic result.

List of species encountered on NMN September 2009

Where traps were run on both nights at the same site, only the larger of the two totals for each species have been added to this table in order to avoid duplication.

	Species		Moths	Sites	
200	Psychoides filicivora		2	2	
263	Lyonetia clerkella	Apple Leaf Miner	2	1	
285	Caloptilia azaleella	Azalea Leaf Miner	1	1	
288	Caloptilia stigmatella		1	1	
293	Caloptilia syringella		1	1	
320	Phyllonorycter quercifoliella		2	2	
321	Phyllonorycter messaniella		1	1	
0332a	Phyllonorycter leucographella	Firethorn Leaf Miner	9	3	
333	Phyllonorycter salictella		1	1	
363	Phyllonorycter platanoidella		1	1	
411	Argyresthia goedartella		5	4	
455	Ypsolopha scabrella		1	1	
460	Ypsolopha parenthesella		7	6	
462	Ypsolopha sequella		3	3	
464	Plutella xylostella	Diamond-back Moth	3	3	
465	Plutella porrectella		1	1	
607	Elachista canapennella		1	1	
647	Hofmannophila pseudospretella	Brown House Moth	2	2	
648	Endrosis sarcitrella	White-shouldered House Moth	10	9	
656	Tachystola acroxantha		11	5	
697	Agonopterix arenella		11	7	
705	Agonopterix umbellana		1	1	
706	Agonopterix nervosa		1	1	
858	Hypatima rhomboidella		1	1	
873	Blastobasis adustella		6	5	
874	Blastobasis lacticolella		2	2	
882	Mompha locupletella		1	1	
892	Mompha subbistrigella		1	1	
966	Cochylis atricapitana		1	1	
970	Pandemis cerasana	Barred Fruit-tree Tortrix	1	1	
971	Pandemis cinnamomeana		2	1	
972	Pandemis heparana	Dark Fruit-tree Tortrix	1	1	
993	Clepsia spectrana	Cyclamen Tortrix	2	2	
998	Epiphyas postvittana	Light Brown Apple Moth	321	51	102 - Heysham
1038	Acleris laterana		17	12	
1038x	Acleris laterana/comariana	agg.	6	5	
1039	Acleris comariana	Strawberry Tortrix	5	4	
1041	Acleris sparsana		7	5	
1042	Acleris rhombana	Rhomboid Tortrix	8	6	
1048	Acleris variegana	Garden Rose Tortrix	61	30	
1062	Acleris emargana		16	6	
1076	Celypha lacunana		5	5	
1134	Epinotia ramella		1	1	
1136	Epinotia immundana		3	3	
1138	Epinotia nisella		7	3	
1139	Epinotia tenerana	Nut Bud Moth	2	2	
1175	Epiblema uddmanniana	Bramble Shoot Moth	2	1	very late record
1288	Alucita hexadactyla	Twenty-plume Moth	1	1	
1334	Scoparia ambigualis		1	1	late upland record
1342	Eudonia angustea		17	10	
1344	Eudonia mercurella		1	1	
1398	Nomophila noctuella	Rush Veneer	2	2	

1428	<i>Aphomia sociella</i>	Bee Moth	1	1	
1497	<i>Amblyptilia acanthadactyla</i>		3	3	
1524	<i>Emmelina monodactyla</i>		47	8	39 - Morecambe
1682	<i>Timandra comae</i>	Blood-vein	1	1	
1707	<i>Idaea seriata</i>	Small Dusty Wave	3	3	
1722	<i>Xanthorhoe designata</i>	Flame Carpet	3	3	
1728	<i>Xanthorhoe fluctuata</i>	Garden Carpet	33	28	
1742	<i>Camptogramma bilineata</i>	Yellow Shell	1	1	
1755	<i>Eulithis testata</i>	Chevron	2	1	
1760	<i>Chloroclysta siterata</i>	Red-green Carpet	30	22	
1761	<i>Chloroclysta miata</i>	Autumn Green Carpet	1	1	
1764	<i>Chloroclysta truncata</i>	Common Marbled Carpet	336	74	34 - Preston
1767	<i>Thera firmata</i>	Pine Carpet	7	5	
1768	<i>Thera obeliscata</i>	Grey Pine Carpet	67	9	50 - Freshfield
1769	<i>Thera britannica</i>	Spruce Carpet	30	16	
1776	<i>Colostygia pectinataria</i>	Green Carpet	7	6	
1795x	<i>Epirrita dilutata</i> agg	November Moth agg.	1	1	
1797	<i>Epirrita autumnata</i>	Autumnal Moth	1	1	
1825	<i>Eupithecia centaureata</i>	Lime-speck Pug	1	1	
1862	<i>Gymnoscelis rufifasciata</i>	Double-striped Pug	1	1	
1867	<i>Aplocera plagiata</i>	Treble-bar	9	2	
1906	<i>Opisthoptis luteolata</i>	Brimstone Moth	7	5	
1913	<i>Ennomos alniaria</i>	Canary-shouldered Thorn	50	25	
1914	<i>Ennomos fuscantaria</i>	Dusky Thorn	16	10	
1915	<i>Ennomos erosaria</i>	September Thorn	3	2	
1923	<i>Colotois pennaria</i>	Feathered Thorn	3	3	
1935	<i>Erannis defoliaria</i>	Mottled Umber	3	2	
1937	<i>Peribatodes rhomboidaria</i>	Willow Beauty	15	12	
1961	<i>Campaea margaritata</i>	Light Emerald	7	4	
2006	<i>Pheosia gnoma</i>	Lesser Swallow Prominent	1	1	
2020	<i>Diloba caeruleocephala</i>	Figure of Eight	1	1	
2026	<i>Orgyia antiqua</i>	Vapourer	1	1	
2049	<i>Eilema depressa</i>	Buff Footman	1	1	
2081	<i>Euxoa tritici</i>	White-line Dart	1	1	
2087	<i>Agrotis segetum</i>	Turnip Moth	8	6	
2091	<i>Agrotis ipsilon</i>	Dark Sword-grass	3	3	
2092	<i>Agrotis puta</i>	Shuttle-shaped Dart	1	1	
2102	<i>Ochropleura plecta</i>	Flame Shoulder	14	9	
2107	<i>Noctua pronuba</i>	Large Yellow Underwing	228	65	
2109	<i>Noctua comes</i>	Lesser Yellow Underwing	136	59	
		Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing			
2110	<i>Noctua fimbriata</i>	Underwing	10	9	
2111	<i>Noctua janthe</i>	Lesser Broad-bord. Yellow U/wg	1	1	
2112	<i>Noctua interjecta</i>	Least Yellow Underwing	1	1	
2117	<i>Eugnorisma glareosa</i>	Autumnal Rustic	69	15	40 - Freshfield
2123	<i>Diarsia rubi</i>	Small Square-spot	18	13	
2126	<i>Xestia c-nigrum</i>	Setaceous Hebrew Character	266	40	81 - Howick Brook
2132	<i>Xestia castanea</i>	Neglected Rustic	2	2	
2134	<i>Xestia xanthographa</i>	Square-spot Rustic	53	17	17 - Hale
2135	<i>Xestia agathina</i>	Heath Rustic	1	1	
2176	<i>Cerapteryx graminis</i>	Antler Moth	1	1	
2198	<i>Mythimna impura</i>	Smoky Wainscot	13	3	
2199	<i>Mythimna pallens</i>	Common Wainscot	39	11	
2231a	<i>Aporophyla lueneburgensis</i>	Northern Deep-brown Dart	1	1	
2232	<i>Aporophyla nigra</i>	Black Rustic	91	34	12 - Freshfield
2235	<i>Lithophane semibrunnea</i>	Tawny Pinion	1	1	
2236	<i>Lithophane hepatica</i>	Pale Pinion	2	2	
2240	<i>Lithophane leautieri</i>	Blair's Shoulder-knot	6	6	
2245	<i>Allophyes oxyacanthae</i>	Green-brindled Crescent	12	7	

2247	Dichonia aprilina	Merveille du Jour	3	3	
2248	Dryobotodes eremita	Brindled Green	10	9	
2255	Polymixis lichenea	Feathered Ranunculus	7	5	
2256	Eupsilia transversa	Satellite	1	1	
2258	Conistra vaccinii	Chestnut	1	1	
2262	Agrochola circellaris	Brick	5	4	
2263	Agrochola lota	Red-line Quaker	8	7	
2264	Agrochola macilenta	Yellow-line Quaker	16	4	
2266	Agrochola litura	Brown-spot Pinion	2	2	
2267	Agrochola lychnidis	Beaded Chestnut	6	3	
2269	Atethmia centrago	Centre-barred Sallow	1	1	
2270	Omphaloscelis lunosa	Lunar Underwing	9	7	
2271	Xanthia citrigo	Orange Sallow	3	3	
2273	Xanthia togata	Pink-barred Sallow	179	35	69 Mere Sands Wood
2274	Xanthia icteritia	Sallow	2	2	
2297	Amphipyra pyramidea	Copper Underwing	31	14	
2297x	Amphipyra pyramidea agg	Copper Underwings agg.	14	10	
2298	Amphipyra berbera	Svensson's Copper Underwing	32	11	
2299	Amphipyra tragopoginis	Mouse Moth	9	8	
2300	Mormo maura	Old Lady	1	1	
2306	Phlogophora meticulosa	Angle Shades	105	45	
2321	Apamea monoglypha	Dark Arches	2	2	
2350	Chortodes pygmina	Small Wainscot	5	5	
2353	Luperina testacea	Flounced Rustic	3	3	
2361	Hydraecia micacea	Rosy Rustic	72	28	12 - Euxton
2364	Gortyna flavago	Frosted Orange	40	20	
2369	Nonagria typhae	Bulrush Wainscot	3	3	
2375	Rhizedra lutosa	Large Wainscot	9	6	
2389	Paradrina clavipalpis	Pale Mottled Willow	5	5	
2434	Diachrysia chrysitis	Burnished Brass	4	1	
2439	Plusia festucae	Gold Spot	8	8	
2441	Autographa gamma	Silver Y	165	49	23 - Preston
2442	Autographa pulchrina	Beautiful Golden Y	1	1	Second brood, Hale
2450	Abrostola tripartita	Spectacle	1	1	
2452	Catocala nupta	Red Underwing	3	3	
2474	Rivula sericealis	Straw Dot	32	17	
2477	Hypena proboscidalis	Snout	83	30	20 - Astley Moss
2484	Schrankia costaestrigalis	Pinion-streaked Snout	9	6	

All recorders contributing to the above moth sightings are listed on the following page.

A big thanks to everyone who participated, no matter how small or large your count was – this level of recording gives us an unprecedented snapshot of what can be found on the wing in mid-September in North West England.

Make sure you have a note of the next NMN

May 15th 2010 (Saturday night only)

Alan Draper	Graham Jones	Nigel Rogers
Alan Powell	Hugh Barton	Paul Pugh
Alan Storey	Ian Kippax	Pauline Greenhalgh
Alec Cheney	Ian Walker	Pete Marsh
Andrew Barker	Jane Shaw	Peter Alker
Andy Bunting	Janet and Tim Davie	Peter Krischkiw
Anne & Peter Palmer	Jean Wardle	Peter Stevens
Anne Smith	Jennifer Rae	Richard Hart
Barbara Cockburn	Jeremy Steeden	Richard Hoult
Barry Brigden	John Chadwick	Richard Walker
Barry Dyson	John Clews	Rod Hill
Brian Hancock	John Donnelly	Roy Boydell
Carol Cockbain	John Girdley	Roy Rhodes
Chris Darbyshire	John Holding	Shelley Quinton
Dave McGrath	Judith Shackman	Stephen Jolly
Dave Pilling	Kane Brides	Steve Christmas
Dave Rumley	Kevin McCabe	Steve Collins
David and Jill Player	Les Ward	Steve Palmer
Derrick and Ida Smith	Mary Dean	Steve Priestley
Eddie Langrish	Mary Broomfield	Steve Tomlinson
Geoff and Barbara Wynn	Mike Bloomfield	Susan Bedford
Geoff Riley	Mike Edmondson	Sylvia Stokes
Graham Dixon	Mike Sutcliffe	Terry Lally

Forging closer links with Lancashire's Local Biological Records Centres

As mentioned in the editorial, over the last twelve months or so the Moth Group has been approached by Merseyside Biobank and the Lancashire Biological Record Centre formation committee about data sharing. For completeness we have also approached the Greater Manchester Local Records Centre with a view to all three of these Local Records Centres establishing data transfer agreements with the Moth Group. There are benefits to all of us in establishing these agreements. Primarily it allows the centres to advise interested parties about the moths known to occur at sites where, for instance, there may be planning applications which could have damaging impacts on important species. The Moth Group benefits in that moths receive a much higher profile and any moth data held by these centres, which we previously may not have been aware of, are passed on to us.

As part of the data sharing agreements, we are asked to ensure that we have the permission of data providers for the information to be passed onto and used by these groups. If anyone would prefer their own records not to be made available to the relevant centres, do please let me know.

At present the data transfer will be restricted to those records already sent to the National Macro-moth Recording Scheme. This is because these have undergone a strict validation and verification process to ensure 100% accuracy and all records in our database need to be checked as part of that process. This is obviously very time-consuming, but the long term aim is to make all VC59 and 60 micro and macro moth data available to these centres.

Steve Palmer

The Netted Carpet in Lancashire

Graham Jones



On Friday 4th September, Martin and Jenny Elsworth together with Brian Hancock checked some stands of Touch-me-not Balsam found in a North Lancashire wood. Jenny had come across the plant a day or so earlier and had suggested it would be worthwhile "searching for the rare moth that feeds on it". They hoped to find the caterpillars of Netted Carpet *Eustroma reticulatum*, and to their amazement found five small green larvae that looked right for this species. Martin emailed me three photos that evening, and although I couldn't quite believe my eyes, I agreed that the caterpillars certainly did look good for Netted Carpet.

Touch-me-not Balsam (Photo: G Jones)

On the following Monday, Steve Palmer and myself visited the wood with Martin, Jenny and Brian and together we found 30 caterpillars. Luckily, I have some experience of surveying the Netted Carpet colonies in the Lake District, so was familiar with the larvae and was able to confirm the caterpillars as Netted Carpet.

Netted Carpet has always been a very rare moth in the UK; an endangered species listed in the British Red Data Book as RDB2, and included as a species of highest conservation concern in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. Historically, the population has always been confined to the Lake District with a few scattered records from the Dolgellau area of North Wales. So to now have the moth breeding in Lancashire is indeed wonderful news, and in the words of Steve Palmer "the find of the decade".



Netted Carpet larva
(Photo: G Jones)

Interestingly, I checked the same Touch-me-not colonies with Robin Griffiths in 2003 and failed to find any Netted Carpet caterpillars. However, 30 larvae amongst 1200 Touch-me-not plants represents a healthy colony (and would rival several of the Cumbrian sites) and suggests that the moth may have been established here for several years. Concerted conservation action in Cumbria over the last seven years has seen the population increase and Netted Carpet has begun to slowly extend its range, which may now explain its presence in Lancashire. However, the nearest known Cumbrian colony is still some 20 miles from the Lancashire site and the moth is renowned for its poor dispersal capabilities.



Netted Carpet (Photo: G Jones)

The ecology of Netted Carpet is linked very closely with the foodplant, Touch-me-not Balsam which in essence is the microhabitat of the moth. Touch-me-not is a nationally scarce plant and in Lancashire is only found at a handful of sites preferring damp, shaded woodlands. As an annual it is intolerant of competition with more aggressive perennials and while it can be quick to colonise newly disturbed areas it will often die out once these perennials have become established. Therefore, any conservation management for Netted Carpet will need to focus on maintaining the Touch-me-not colonies, as well encouraging these colonies to flourish and increase in size.

In 2010, searches for the adult will take place as well as an extensive larval survey, the latter being the most reliable means of recording both Netted Carpet presence and population size. Negotiations with the landowner regarding conservation management for the moth and survey access are ongoing and remain sensitive, which is why location details have not been released as yet, but it is hoped that a formal survey event may be organised at some point in the future.

MOTH EVENTS 2010

Thursday 11th March 7.30pm

ROCHDALE FIELD NATURALISTS SOCIETY

Talk: "The Marvels of Moths – and their changing fortunes in Lancashire" by Steve Palmer.

Venue: Cutgate Baptist Church, Edenfield Rd. Rochdale. www.rochdalefieldnaturalistssociety.co.uk

Parking in adjacent precinct - search Multimap or your Satnav via OL11 5AQ

Price: Members £1, Non-members £2.

Enquiries: 01706 630707 or 01706 814884

**Friday 26th March
(7pm to 10pm)**

**Lancashire Moth Group Social
The Barn, Cuerden Valley Country Park**

The Moth Group Social will be held on Friday evening from 7pm to 10pm – entry charge £2 per head to cover hire costs. (Tea, Coffee, Soft drinks and Biscuits will be available free of charge.) The Lancashire Wildlife Trust welcomes us at their headquarters, The Barn, Cuerden Valley Country Park, near Bamber Bridge. Members and guests are invited to bring along books, displays, slides, Powerpoint presentation or CDs with pictures on to show to the group. The speakers will be Richard Burkmar and Graham Jones who will give an illustrated talk on the Sandhill Rustic in Lancashire.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as can make it. Please do make a special effort to bring along 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.

Directions: To find The Barn, come off the M6 at J28 and take the B5256 eastbound, crossing the A49 at the 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.

Sunday 18 April

**Belted Beauty Count, Potts Corner
1030am**

A survey of the Belted Beauty colony from Potts Corner to Sunderland Point meeting at the Potts Corner Car Park (SD413571) at 1030am. Be prepared for cold wet and windy conditions. Waterproof walking boots or wellies are advisable. On occasions a charge is levied for parking but is unlikely to exceed 50p.

Friday 7th May

**Lancs Branch of Butterfly Conservation AGM
Cuerden Valley Country Park (7.30pm to 10pm)**

A BC member's event which will include an illustrated talk by guest speaker Dr Richard Burkmar entitled "Gardening for butterflies and moths". (For directions, see event on 26th March)

Saturday 15th May (10am - 3.30pm)

**Moths Count" Training Event
Leighton Moss RSPB Reserve**

"An Introduction to Moths" at Leighton Moss RSPB reserve nr Carnforth, (led by Steve Palmer). All Moths Count events are free but must be booked in advance with Butterfly Conservation. Booking is strictly via Butterfly Conservation on 01929 406009 or nmrs@butterfly-conservation.org These free, daytime, classroom based courses are for beginners who wish to take those first steps in understanding about, finding and identifying moths.

Saturday 15th May (night)

NATIONAL MOTH NIGHT

This is an annual event and anyone who wishes to participate simply records any moths seen and sends the details in to the scheme organisers. If you do take part please send your records to Steve Palmer via email s.palmer12@btopenworld.com or to the address at the end of this newsletter including your name, the location (with 6 figure grid ref.), type of trap used and how long you trapped for. If you intend organising an event for NMN do advertise it through the Lancs Branch of Butterfly Conservation website and the Lancashire Moth Group website. Records are appreciated as soon as possible after the event.

Saturday/Sunday 19th - 20th June **RSPB Leighton Moss - Annual Moth Event**

The event starts with a moth trapping demonstration on Saturday night from 10pm onwards through the night. On Sunday morning (8am to 10 am), learn more about the fascinating world of moths with experts from the Lancaster Moth Group.

Booking essential for the moth breakfast (running from 8am – 10 am.) Cost: £8 (£7 RSPB members) including cooked breakfast. A drop in session will also be available afterwards from 10 am – 12 noon for anyone not booked on the event who wishes to see what's been caught.

For further details and booking for the breakfast (essential) please phone the RSPB on 01524 701601

24th July 10.00 - 15.30

"An Introduction to Moth Recording" run by Graham Jones

Moths Count Event

Cuerden Valley Park

Lancashire Wildlife Trust, The Barn, Cuerden Valley Park, Bamber Bridge.

The event will include sessions on identifying moths, using MapMate and the various methods that can be used to record moths, including a session on the different light traps available. Pre-Booking is essential through Graham gjones@lancswt.org.uk or the wildlife trust reception on 01772 324129. (For directions, see "Moth Group Social" 26th March above.)

24th July until the 1st of August

Save Our Butterflies Week

More about this will be available in the Lancs Branch of Butterfly Conservation newsletter due out next February. Why not join Butterfly Conservation – there's more going on in Lancashire than you thought.

Please Note - More events are being planned for 2010. To keep up to date with what's available visit the "Events" section on the moth group website.

Lancashire Moths Yahoo Group.

2009 saw the end of the successful email group. Following a survey of the group users, Graham Dixon and Daisy Johnston kindly set about creating a Yahoo Group which has gone from strength to strength and now has in excess of 60 members. If you haven't yet joined then do get in touch with Graham Dixon troubleatmill@btinternet.com, Graham Jones (address at end of newsletter) or Daisy Johnston daisyj42@yahoo.com and request an invitation to join.

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