

# LANCASHIRE MOTHS

Newsletter 27

November 2013

## EDITORIAL:

**The Lancashire Moth Group** has been running since 1999 and over the intervening years we've been an integral part of the large increase in interest in moth recording throughout the county. During that time, with the terrific support of Kevin McCabe and the County Macro-moth Recorders, Chris Darbyshire and more recently Graham Jones, we have achieved an incredible amount. There are detailed distribution maps for all species (on MapMate) and additionally, for the macro-moths, there's both recent and historic data on show via the National (Macro) Moth Recording Scheme maps - [http://www.mothscount.org/maps/94/moth\\_distribution\\_maps.html](http://www.mothscount.org/maps/94/moth_distribution_maps.html). We also have a much better appreciation of the status and distribution of the rare micro and macro-moth species in the county.

Sadly, Graham Jones stood down as County Macro-moth Recorder during October. He has just started a new full time job and reluctantly decided he won't have the spare time available to carry on as Macro-moth Recorder. I'd like to thank Graham for all his work and support since he took over from Chris in 2008 – how time flies when you're having fun!

With Graham's departure, the group has reached a bit of a watershed. The volume of work had already reached a point where, even with the tremendous support of Kevin McCabe, it had become a full-time occupation – an 'open-all-hours' scenario that couldn't be sustained.

As a result I've very reluctantly decided to end my long association with running the moth group and as a County Recorder for the micro-moths. Kevin has also decided to stand down from all the data management duties and we are both looking forward to getting back to enjoying moth recording ourselves. It has been an extremely painful decision for both of us to make but after much soul-searching we both felt we needed to make a clean break and move on.

Attempts to find replacement County Recorders have been partially successful (see page 23 and 24) and hopefully the remaining vacancies can be filled shortly.

This will therefore be my last Newsletter and I would like to say how much I've enjoyed meeting so many of you over the years and sharing a fascination with everything mothy. In practical terms Kevin and I will be submitting the 2013 macro-moth records to the National moth Recording Scheme in the first week of January 2014 so all of this year's records will appear on the Moths Count website later in that year. I will also be submitting details of any new micro-moth records this year to be published as usual in the Entomologist's Record. The migrant data will be sent to Sean



**Grey Arches, Heysham**  
13<sup>th</sup> July 2013 (Photo: J. Holding)

Clancy for publishing, a summary of BAP species will be sent to Butterfly Conservation, all national recording schemes will receive our 2013 data and a small report of significant finds will be submitted to the Lancashire Annual Butterfly and Moth Report. I will keep the Lancashire Moths website going for a while into 2014 but will not renew the subscription when it becomes due. I'll also be running the Belted Beauty count as advertised in the events page but I'm sorry to say the planned Social in early spring will not now take place.

A really big thanks to all of you who have contributed to and helped with running the group over the years in so many ways. In addition to the County Recorders and Kevin, I'd like to thank Brian Hancock for his marvellous work on the Pugs and Graham Dixon for all his help with the Yahoo Group and the Common Species guide on the website. Many of you have helped with articles and features in the newsletter, such as Richard Walker and the NMN results, to all of you many thanks.

## NATIONAL MOTH NIGHT 2013 RESULTS

RICHARD WALKER

Last year I opened with “Across the county wind, rain and cold weather predominated.....190 different species were recorded, 78 of these were micros. 21 individuals participated”. What a difference a year makes, or should I say the weather makes.

This year’s numbers are, 393 different species recorded of which over 170 were micros; 47 individuals participated sampling 61 different sites and finally just over 2,900 moths were checked by you. It's a good job computers can count or that last and useless gem would not have been available!

The Moth Nights 2013 target species were the “tiger” and our contribution was 19 examples of Ruby Tiger on 12 different sites.

The most common species or top 10 were:

Species:		No of Sites:
Large Yellow Underwing	3053	61
Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing	957	53
<i>Yponomeuta evonymella</i>	920	33
Dun-bar	535	39
July Highflyer	354	39
<i>Agriphila tristella</i>	354	35
Dark Arches	322	39
Flame Shoulder	273	43
Small Square-spot	257	21
Silver Y	252	37

I find it difficult to imagine what Jean Roberts and Pete Marsh felt like when confronted by 400 plus *Yponomeuta evonymella* (Bird-cherry Ermine) at the Mill Houses trap over two nights, or Brian Hancock felt about his 259 Large Yellow Underwing at Yealand Conyers. 50 excited Large Yellow Underwing in my trap is quite enough for me. At the opposite end of the numbers scale 107 species turned up as singles making the point again that every one counts. The list below includes larval records but these were not submitted to the national scheme as the event only includes adults.

The most notable species of the event turned out to be Pete Marsh’s record of Black Arches, a new species for Vice County 60 (North Lancashire). The moth traps used ranged from 250 watt MV’s to 6 watt actinics with back wall lights and kitchen windows also featuring, it all helps.

Please enter into your diaries 3, 4 & 5<sup>th</sup> of July 2014 as the dates for Moth Nights 2014.



**Black Arches**  
(Photo: J Patton)

Moth Night 2013 Results - moths of particular interest have their names highlighted as follows:

Local species – e.g. **Tissue**

Migrants – e.g. **Dark Sword-grass.**

B & F	Species	No.	Sites	B & F	Species	No.	Sites
15	Orange Swift	12	10	464	<b><i>Plutella xylostella</i></b>	43	18
92	<i>Stigmella anomalella</i>	1	1	465	<i>Plutella porrectella</i>	7	2
169	Six-spot Burnet	5	2	564	<i>Coleophora virgaureae</i>	30	1
171	Narrow-bordered Five-spot Burnet	8	2	565	<i>Coleophora saxicolella</i>	1	1
247	<i>Tinea trinotella</i>	1	1	588	<i>Coleophora salicorniae</i>	1	1
263	Apple Leaf Miner	10	3	595	<i>Elachista biatomella</i>	1	1
284	<i>Caloptilia rufipennella</i>	1	1	597	<i>Elachista atricomella</i>	4	1
285	<i>Caloptilia azaleella</i>	3	1	607	<i>Elachista canapennella</i>	4	3
288	<i>Caloptilia stigmatella</i>	1	1	609	<i>Elachista maculicerusella</i>	2	1
293	<i>Caloptilia syringella</i>	3	2	644	<i>Borkhausenia fuscescens</i>	3	3
294	<i>Aspilapteryx tringipennella</i>	11	7	647	<i>Hofmannophila pseudospretella</i>	19	10
296	<i>Calybites phasianipennella</i>	2	2	648	<i>Endrosis sarcitrella</i>	2	1
303	<i>Parornix anglicella</i>	2	2	656	<i>Tachystola acroxantha</i>	1	1
304	<i>Parornix devoniella</i>	1	1	658	<i>Carcina quercana</i>	17	14
315	<i>Phyllonorycter harrisella</i>	1	1	688	<i>Agonopterix heracliana</i>	11	5
320	<i>Phyllonorycter quercifoliella</i>	2	1	697	<i>Agonopterix arenella</i>	1	1
333	<i>Phyllonorycter salictella</i>	2	1	704	<i>Agonopterix scopariella</i>	1	1
363	<i>Phyllonorycter platanoidella</i>	1	1	706	<i>Agonopterix nervosa</i>	6	6
364	<i>Phyllonorycter geniculella</i>	1	1	710	<i>Agonopterix conterminella</i>	1	1
366a	<i>Cameraria ohridella</i>	3	3	713	<i>Agonopterix angelicella</i>	1	1
411	<i>Argyresthia goedartella</i>	10	7	726	<i>Metzneria metzneriella</i>	1	1
415	<i>Argyresthia retinella</i>	1	1	747	<i>Chrysoesthia sexguttella</i>	13	1
419	<i>Argyresthia semifusca</i>	2	2	779	<i>Bryotropha affinis</i>	7	2
421	<i>Argyresthia bonnetella</i>	2	2	782	<i>Bryotropha senectella</i>	1	1
422	<i>Argyresthia albistria</i>	3	1	787	<i>Bryotropha terrella</i>	6	4
424	<i>Yponomeuta evonymella</i>	920	33	843	<i>Aproaerema anthyllidella</i>	7	1
425	<i>Yponomeuta padella</i>	13	7	858	<i>Hypatima rhomboidella</i>	3	2
426	<i>Yponomeuta malinellus</i>	1	1	862	<i>Dichomeris marginella</i>	1	1
427	<i>Yponomeuta cagnagella</i>	4	4	868	<i>Helcystogramma rufescens</i>	4	2
435	<i>Zelleria hepariella</i>	3	2	873	<i>Blastobasis adustella</i>	108	21
440	<i>Paraswammerdamia albicapitella</i>	1	1	874	<i>Blastobasis lacticolella</i>	10	5
441	<i>Paraswammerdamia nebulella</i>	3	3	883	<i>Mompha raschkiella</i>	10	4
447	<i>Roeslerstammia erxebella</i>	1	1	884	<i>Mompha miscella</i>	1	1
449	<i>Prays fraxinella</i>	1	1	888	<i>Mompha propinquella</i>	1	1
449	<i>Prays fraxinella f. rustica</i>	1	1	893	<i>Mompha epilobiella</i>	1	1
453	<i>Ypsolopha dentella</i>	13	9	898	<i>Limnaecia phragmitella</i>	1	1
455	<i>Ypsolopha scabrella</i>	8	6	929	<i>Gynnidomorpha vectisana</i>	1	1
460	<i>Ypsolopha parenthesella</i>	5	5	937	<i>Agapeta hamana</i>	1	1
462	<i>Ypsolopha sequella</i>	4	3	938	<i>Agapeta zoegana</i>	3	2

B & F	Species	No.	Sites	B & F	Species	No.	Sites
951	<i>Aethes beatricella</i>	6	2	1201	<i>Eucosma cana</i>	1	1
964	<i>Cochylis dubitana</i>	3	3	1205	<i>Spilonota ocellana</i>	4	4
966	<i>Cochylis atricapitana</i>	29	4	1211	<i>Rhyacionia pinicolana</i>	8	2
969	<i>Pandemis corylana</i>	43	17	1233	<i>Pammene aurita</i>	1	1
972	<i>Pandemis heparana</i>	52	21	1261	<i>Cydia pomonella</i>	1	1
977	<i>Archips podana</i>	6	5	1274	<i>Dichrorampha alpinana</i>	1	11
989	<i>Aphelia paleana</i>	5	3	1288	<i>Alucita hexadactyla</i>	2	2
994	<i>Clepsis consimilana</i>	3	3	1292	<i>Calamotropha paludella</i>	1	1
998	<i>Epiphyas postvittana</i>	11	6	1293	<i>Chrysoteuchia culmella</i>	19	4
1001	<i>Lozotaeniodes formosanus</i>	1	1	1301	<i>Crambus lathoniellus</i>	1	1
1010	<i>Ditula angustiorana</i>	7	5	1302	<i>Crambus perlella</i>	18	6
1021	<i>Cnephasia asseclana</i>	1	1	1303	<i>Agriphila selasella</i>	6	5
1024	<i>Cnephasia incertana</i>	1	1	1304	<i>Agriphila straminella</i>	172	30
1029	<i>Eana osseana</i>	42	3	1305	<i>Agriphila tristella</i>	354	35
1035	<i>Acleris bergmanniana</i>	1	1	1307	<i>Agriphila latistria</i>	3	1
1036	<i>Acleris forsskaleana</i>	19	15	1309	<i>Agriphila geniculea</i>	62	6
1037	<i>Acleris holmiana</i>	1	1	1313	<i>Catoptria pinella</i>	1	1
1038	<i>Acleris laterana</i>	5	3	1314	<i>Catoptria margaritella</i>	15	4
1048	<i>Acleris variegana</i>	32	6	1316	<i>Catoptria falsella</i>	19	7
1062	<i>Acleris emargana</i>	4	4	1331	<i>Acentria ephemerella</i>	6	5
1063	<i>Celypha striana</i>	7	3	1334	<i>Scoparia ambigualis</i>	3	2
1076	<i>Celypha lacunana</i>	2	2	1338	<i>Dipleurina lacustrata</i>	32	13
1082	<i>Hedya pruniana</i>	4	1	1340	<i>Eudonia truncicolella</i>	55	13
1083	<i>Hedya nubiferana</i>	3	2	1342	<i>Eudonia angustea</i>	7	2
1086	<i>Hedya salicella</i>	1	1	1344	<i>Eudonia mercurella</i>	74	15
1092	<i>Apotomis turbidana</i>	1	1	1345	<i>Elophila nymphaeata</i>	1	1
1093	<i>Apotomis betuletana</i>	7	6	1354	<i>Cataclysta lemnata</i>	4	3
1104	<i>Endothenia quadrimaculana</i>	2	2	1356	<i>Evergestis forficalis</i>	2	2
1108	<i>Lobesia abscisana</i>	6	4	1361	<i>Pyrausta aurata</i>	4	2
1111	<i>Bactra lancealana</i>	17	8	1362	<i>Pyrausta purpuralis</i>	1	1
1113	<i>Eudemis profundana</i>	2	2	1367	<i>Pyrausta cingulata</i>	1	1
1126	<i>Ancylis badiana</i>	10	7	1378	<i>Phlyctaenia coronata</i>	1	1
1134	<i>Epinotia ramella</i>	1	1	1380	<i>Phlyctaenia perlucidalis</i>	1	1
1138	<i>Epinotia nisella</i>	18	6	1388	<i>Udea lutealis</i>	186	37
1151	<i>Epinotia trigonella</i>	1	1	1390	<i>Udea prunalis</i>	79	36
1155	<i>Epinotia brunnichana</i>	2	1	1392	<i>Udea olivalis</i>	4	2
1156	<i>Epinotia solandriana</i>	1	1	1398	<i>Nomophila noctuella</i>	4	2
1159	<i>Rhopobota naevana</i>	3	3	1405	<i>Pleuroptya ruralis</i>	402	37
1163	<i>Zeiraphera ratzeburgiana</i>	1	1	1413	<i>Hypsopygia costalis</i>	1	1
1167	<i>Gypsonoma aceriana</i>	1	1	1417	<i>Pyralis farinalis</i>	1	1
1169	<i>Gypsonoma dealbana</i>	2	2	1433	<i>Cryptoblabes bistriga</i>	1	1
1175	<i>Epiblema uddmanniana</i>	4	3	1437	<i>Acrobasis consociella</i>	1	1
1193	<i>Eucosma tripoliana</i>	7	1	1439	<i>Trachycera advenella</i>	51	25

B & F	Species	No.	Sites	B & F	Species	No.	Sites
1454	<i>Dioryctria abietella</i>	1	1	1767	Pine Carpet	1	1
1483	<i>Phycitodes binaevella</i>	3	2	1768	Grey Pine Carpet	1	1
1497	<i>Amblyptilia acanthadactyla</i>	2	2	1772	Netted Carpet	2	1
1503	<i>Platyptilia ochrodactyla</i>	1	1	1774	Beech-green Carpet	1	1
1523	<i>Oidaematophorus lithodactyla</i>	1	1	1776	Green Carpet	3	2
1524	<i>Emmelina monodactyla</i>	7	5	1777	July Highflyer	354	39
1632	Pale Eggar	5	1	1784	Pretty Chalk Carpet	1	1
1636	Grass Eggar	5	2	1789	Scallop Shell	1	1
1640	Drinker	23	7	1790	Tissue	1	1
1645	Scalloped Hook-tip	3	2	1792	Dark Umber	1	1
1646	Oak Hook-tip	10	7	1801	Barred Carpet	23	4
1648	Pebble Hook-tip	18	7	1802	Rivulet	7	7
1651	Chinese Character	14	8	1803	Small Rivulet	5	5
1652	Peach Blossom	1	1	1804	Barred Rivulet	1	1
1657	Common Lutestring	1	1	1808	Sandy Carpet	3	3
1666	Large Emerald	3	2	1809	Twin-spot Carpet	1	1
1669	Common Emerald	1	1	1811	Slender Pug	6	5
1682	Blood-vein	36	6	1811	Slender Pug	5	4
1702	Small Fan-footed Wave	132	31	1825	Lime-speck Pug	30	10
1705	Dwarf Cream Wave	3	2	1830	Wormwood Pug	9	7
1707	Small Dusty Wave	1	1	1832	Currant Pug	10	7
1708	Single-dotted Wave	15	10	1833	Bleached Pug	5	2
1713	Riband Wave	60	27	1835	White-spotted Pug	5	3
1719	Oblique Carpet	1	1	1837	Grey Pug	2	1
1722	Flame Carpet	73	27	1838	Tawny Speckled Pug	15	4
1723	Red Carpet	1	1	1839	Bordered Pug	19	5
1725	Dark-barred Twin-spot Carpet	61	18	1846	Narrow-winged Pug	2	2
1728	Garden Carpet	12	12	1851	Golden-rod Pug	11	9
1732	Shaded Broad-bar	117	29	1854	Juniper Pug	7	7
1738	Common Carpet	158	33	1858	V-Pug	7	7
1742	Yellow Shell	15	9	1860	Green Pug	1	1
1749	Dark Spinach	1	1	1862	Double-striped Pug	8	7
1751	Devon Carpet	2	1	1866	Manchester Treble-bar	1	1
1752	Purple Bar	5	3	1872	Blomer's Rivulet	12	2
1753	Striped Twin-spot Carpet	1	1	1873	Welsh Wave	3	1
1754	Phoenix	15	11	1874	Dingy Shell	1	1
1755	Chevron	8	3	1883	Yellow-barred Brindle	7	7
1756	Northern Spinach	13	4	1884	Magpie Moth	6	4
1758	Barred Straw	5	2	1887	Clouded Border	54	10
1759	Small Phoenix	109	31	1888	Scorched Carpet	2	2
1762	Dark Marbled Carpet	16	6	1894	Latticed Heath	5	2
1764	Common Marbled Carpet	19	7	1897	V-Moth	1	1
1766	Blue-bordered Carpet	3	2	1906	Brimstone Moth	81	27

B & F	Species	No.	Sites	B & F	Species	No.	Sites
1907	Bordered Beauty	5	5	2107	Large Yellow Underwing	3053	61
1913	Canary-shouldered Thorn	58	30	2109	Lesser Yellow Underwing	142	41
1914	Dusky Thorn	5	4	2110	Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing	32	11
1915	September Thorn	16	6	2111	Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing	957	53
1917	Early Thorn	54	31	2112	Least Yellow Underwing	71	38
1919	Purple Thorn	32	7	2118	True Lover's Knot	7	3
1921	Scalloped Oak	59	21	2120	Ingrailed Clay	5	2
1931	Peppered Moth	2	2	2121	Barred Chestnut	2	2
1937	Willow Beauty	61	29	2122	Purple Clay	6	3
1940	Satin Beauty	4	4	2123	Small Square-spot	257	21
1941	Mottled Beauty	10	6	2126	Setaceous Hebrew Character	4	4
1947	Engrailed	25	5	2128	Double Square-spot	8	5
1955	Common White Wave	64	27	2130	Dotted Clay	173	29
1961	Light Emerald	4	4	2133	Six-striped Rustic	218	29
1962	Barred Red	2	2	2134	Square-spot Rustic	81	24
1964	Annulet	2	2	2135	Heath Rustic	1	1
1981	Poplar Hawk-moth	2	2	2145	Nutmeg	1	1
1987	Bedstraw Hawk-moth	1	1	2154	Cabbage Moth	14	9
1997	Sallow Kitten	8	4	2155	Dot Moth	5	4
2000	Iron Prominent	26	13	2159	Dog's Tooth	5	1
2003	Pebble Prominent	22	10	2160	Bright-line Brown-eye	4	4
2006	Lesser Swallow Prominent	23	11	2173	Lychnis	2	2
2007	Swallow Prominent	15	7	2176	Antler Moth	183	21
2008	Coxcomb Prominent	7	6	2178	Feathered Gothic	2	2
2011	Pale Prominent	43	8	2193	Clay	1	1
2026	Vapourer	1	1	2198	Smoky Wainscot	51	16
2030	Yellow-tail	13	8	2199	Common Wainscot	12	5
2031	White Satin	1	1	2201	Shore Wainscot	2	1
2033	Black Arches	1	1	2205	Shoulder-striped Wainscot	1	1
2038	Muslin Footman	4	3	2225	Minor Shoulder-knot	1	1
2044	Dingy Footman	68	18	2254	Grey Chi	3	3
2049	Buff Footman	75	17	2268	Suspected	4	2
2050	Common Footman	64	19	2274	Sallow	37	14
2061	Buff Ermine	1	1	2278	Poplar Grey	1	1
2064	Ruby Tiger	19	12	2289	Knot Grass	11	3
2081	White-line Dart	44	7	2293	Marbled Beauty	22	11
2085	Archer's Dart	10	3	2297	Copper Underwing	8	4
2087	Turnip Moth	1	1	2298	Svensson's Copper Underwing	10	6
2091	Dark Sword-grass	9	8	2299	Mouse Moth	1	1
2092	Shuttle-shaped Dart	91	27	2300	Old Lady	3	3
2098	Flame	7	3	2303	Straw Underwing	17	7
2099	Portland Moth	4	3	2305	Small Angle Shades	3	3
2102	Flame Shoulder	273	34	2306	Angle Shades	7	3

B & F	Species	No.	Sites	B & F	Species	No.	Sites
2312	Olive	6	5	2368	Crescent	34	8
2314	Dingy Shears	1	1	2369	Bulrush Wainscot	1	1
2318	Dun-bar	535	37	2371	Brown-veined Wainscot	1	1
2321	Dark Arches	322	39	2377	Fen Wainscot	1	1
2322	Light Arches	3	3	2379	Small Rufous	17	3
2326	Clouded-bordered Brindle	24	5	2381	Uncertain	2	2
2327	Clouded Brindle	1	1	2382	Rustic	1	1
2330	Dusky Brocade	3	3	2389	Pale Mottled Willow	2	2
2331	Small Clouded Brindle	1	1	2391	Silky Wainscot	1	1
2335	Slender Brindle	34	6	2434	Burnished Brass	35	12
2336	Double Lobed	32	13	2439	Gold Spot	31	18
2337	Marbled Minor	1	1	2440	Lempke's Gold Spot	3	2
2338	Rufous Minor	1	1	2441	Silver Y	252	37
2340	Middle-barred Minor	7	2	2442	Beautiful Golden Y	4	1
2341	Cloaked Minor	6	5	2443	Plain Golden Y	10	6
2342	Rosy Minor	13	51	2444	Gold Spangle	6	6
2343	Common Rustic	23	4	2449	Dark Spectacle	8	8
2343a	Lesser Common Rustic	3	3	2450	Spectacle	6	5
2345	Small Dotted Buff	1	1	2452	Red Underwing	1	1
2350	Small Wainscot	18	6	2469	Herald	1	1
2353	Flounced Rustic	142	19	2470	Small Purple-barred	1	1
2354	Sandhill Rustic	10	1	2474	Straw Dot	43	18
2357	Large Ear	1	1	2475	Waved Black	1	1
2358	Saltern Ear	1	1	2477	Snout	86	33
2360	Ear Moth	6	4	2484	Pinion-streaked Snout	3	1
2361	Rosy Rustic	58	25	2489	Fan-foot	43	11
2362	Butterbur	2	1	2492	Small Fan-foot	1	1
2367	Haworth's Minor	5	2				

Sincere thanks go to all those below for making this Lancashire list such a comprehensive one and to Graham and Steve for their invaluable support in identifying and accepting our problem moths. If I have missed out your name please let me know.

S Bedford	C Darbyshire	B Hancock	G Jones	J Mclean,	J Parron	J Roberts	J Smith
D Bickerton	T Davenport	A Hannon	P Krischkiw	J Mitchell-Lisle	A Parsons	N Rogers	J Steeden,
J Birch,	A Davis	P Hillyer	T Lally	R Moyes	S Parsons	B Smart	P Thompson
M Bloomfield	A Draper	R Hilton	L Lyon	M Myerscough	A Powell	A Smith	I Walker
B Bridgen	M Elsworth	D Holding	P Marsh	C Palmer	S Priestley	D Smith	R B Walker
C Cockburn	C Fletcher	T Hutchinson	K McCabe	S Palmer	R Rhodes	I Smith	

Finally did you know that the Bedstraw Hawk-moth was seen on the bonnet of a police car - was it lost and asking the way or just reporting for duty? Whatever, the thought of it caused me to smile.

## **PRAYS FRAXINELLA (THE ASH BUD MOTH) AND A CLOSE LOOK-ALIKE**

**STEVE PALMER**

Over the last few years there has been a lot of discussion relating to the above species, its form *f. rustica* and a species found in Europe since at least 1992 - *Prays ruficeps*. It now appears to be generally accepted that we have the two species in the UK - *Prays fraxinella* and *Prays ruficeps*. I know some of you have already become aware that this situation exists and think it useful to explain the situation as I understand it.

### **HOW TO IDENTIFY THEM:**

#### ***Prays fraxinella***

The black and white *P. fraxinella* is shown in *Sterling, Parsons and Lewington*.

#### ***Prays fraxinella f. rustica***

The form (*f. rustica*) has an all brown wing and **white head** with most showing the rough outline of where the white markings of the 'normal' *fraxinella* would be (see photo of reared specimen by Ben Smart).



***Prays fraxinella f. rustica*** (Photo: B Smart)

#### ***Prays ruficeps***

This closely resembles *P. fraxinella f. rustica* but has a **gingery brown to dark brown head** and lacks any hint of where the white markings would have been on its very dark blackish-brown forewing. The head colour is a very important feature as it is believed some *P. fraxinella* have off white to buffy white heads but do show the remnants of where the white markings on the forewing would have been. Therefore only completely dark black-brown forewings and dark heads should be entered as *P. ruficeps*. If in any doubt move the moth around at different angles to the light and the slightly paler and darker patches of *P. fraxinella* will show in fresh specimens. Generally this moth is smaller than *P. fraxinella* and occurs a little later in the year.

I have retained voucher specimens from various localities in the UK over the years but the only ones I have of the true *f. rustica* with the white head are from Wiltshire, although as Ben's moth shows they do occur in Lancashire. I had noted the presence and retained a couple of specimens of the brown headed form in Lancashire (which I had also recorded under *f. rustica* until recently). There are no known genitalia differences.

### **RECORDING:**

Continue to record *P. fraxinella* (black and white wings) under that species. Any brown winged ones you encounter should be listed as *P. fraxinella f. rustica* if it has **a white to pale buff head and hints of where the white markings would have been**. *P. ruficeps* can be recorded if it has **the brown coloured head and a dark brown (almost black) forewing with absolutely no hint of paler shading**. Only reasonably fresh specimens should be entered – if at all worn it is best not to attempt an identification to species level.

### **PREVIOUS RECORDS:**

All those with previous records of any of these please check any photos or specimens you have of the *Prays* species and correct your records accordingly **as long as you are able to clearly see the wing colour and head colour and the moth is fresh**. Photos will prove awkward as any wear on the head and the lack of being able to look at the forewing from different angles will mean only those almost black moths with an obvious dark head can be included under *P. ruficeps*. Don't try to shoe-horn your photo into it being the new species – if in doubt, leave it out!

If you have no information about the wing/head colour then enter the record as *Prays ruficeps/fraxinella f. rustica* (in effect an aggregate).

If you wish to read more about this the have a look at the Entomologist's Record Vol. 123, part 3, pages 150-151. In this article by David Agassiz he notes – *'of course there are intermediates and it would not be surprising if they are hybrids'* so don't expect every moth you see to be readily slotted into one or other species, but most will.

Many thanks to Ben Smart for his constructive comments on this article.



## BLACK OR WHITE LAMP

**BRIAN HANCOCK**

(all photographs by the author)

### INTRODUCTION

In the last newsletter Denis Lambert wrote a very stimulating article comparing a new low energy 20W Black UV lamp against the traditional 125W white light with an external choke. The black lamp uses 1/6<sup>th</sup> the energy of the white lamp and emits far less visible light.

In Denis's short trial with two traps running simultaneously with alternate positions on 10 consecutive nights in August 2012, the black lamp attracted 247 moths, the white 143 (42% more in the black lamp trap). The black lamp attracted 102 and the white 63 different species. (38% more in the black lamp trap).



Two traps: white light (left), black light (right)

The obvious potential advantages of lower cost, less light pollution and more moths encouraged me to run a similar trial during the 2013 season.

### METHOD:

In a relatively large rural garden in North Lancashire I ran two Robinson traps with the same bulbs as Denis swapping position of the traps each night. The traps were separated by about 30 yards just out of sight of each other. I ran the black light without a choke but it can be run with or without.

The trial ran over 46 nights from April to September and the counts are confined to macros only.



### RESULTS:

The black lamp attracted 775 macro moths compared to 1232 with the white lamp.

Thus the white lamp was 37% more efficient than the black.

Individual species counts for each trap were not compared save for Large Yellow Underwings and pugs.

Large Yellow Underwings were recorded on 12 nights, 555 with the black lamp and 801 with the white. Thus the white was 30 % more efficient (if that can be said to be an advantage!).

Pugs were recorded in one or other trap on 26 nights, totals being 'black' 26 and 'white' 33. Thus 21% more pugs were attracted to the white light.

Looking at species overall, the black lamp attracted on average 9 species per night compared to 12 species with the white (white 25% better). For the pugs (15 species trapped) 11 species were in the back trap and 8 species in the white.

Most trapping was done in April, May and June, when numbers were exceptionally low. By the time the numbers picked up in July and August I had the second trap out at another site or was away from home many nights.

In summary, this limited study suggests that the traditional white light will attract about 33% more in number and 25% in species richness.

It is disappointing that I could not reproduce the promising results reported by Denis Lambert but the reduced catch will be more that offset for many but the greatly reduced light pollution and neighbour disturbance together with energy saving.

The higher number of species of pugs with the black lamp made me happy but the difference is small and would probably even out in a longer trial.

I now run the black lamp as a routine.

The Wemlight UV Black BL368 low energy 20 watt Lamp with a screw fitting was obtained from <http://www.intelligentvending.co.uk/fly-killers/lamps-uv-bulbs/shatter-resistant-uv-lamps/shatter-resistant-uv-lamp-1l20ws-w.htm> - it has an E27 screw fitting.

If anyone is still using a bayonet fitting (three pin) in their traps and would like to change to a black lamp I have two 125 Watt bulbs I no longer need. Contact me at [brian@yealand.demon.co.uk](mailto:brian@yealand.demon.co.uk)

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## **AN ALTCAR ENCOUNTER**

**RICHARD WALKER**

A warm, still evening in late July encouraged me to take the generator and trap onto the MOD land at Altcar where the grassland and dunes are extensive. The MV lamp hung over a white sheet and I sat in a chair, notebook in hand listing the moths as they arrived. Yes, I'm the lazy moth-er.

After about an hour the air around the light was wild with Drinker moths, circling and swooping around the light, some hitting the bulb, others colliding with the sheet and scattering other moths quietly resting. Wishfully thinking that a fifteen foot wide net would, in two sweeps, clear the air of most of the 30 or so Drinkers and restore peace to the other moths and sanity to me, I suddenly became aware of two low flying dark objects coming in about a metre high from the left. Straight through the Drinkers they flew, hardly pausing to snatch two from the air, and then away into the darkness they went.

Expecting, or in truth, hoping for a second pass I waited, but in vain. What followed was also unexpected for within a minute or two all the Drinkers vanished out of the pool of light and into the darkness and surrounding vegetation. It was not until thirty minutes had passed before another Drinker came back. I didn't see the pair of bats again.



## Nectar points ? . . .

ROY RHODES

. . . No, not those you get for every £2 spent at Sainsbury's! Count one point for each good nectar plant in your garden, if that's where you do some trapping, then see whether it's possible to correlate the score with species numbers in any way. So far, I've failed because there are too many variables and seemingly not many night-feeding moths on my patch.

My garden is about 40m x 20m with pond, marsh, hawthorn, holly and *Cupressus* hedges with a few mature trees on the boundaries with other gardens. It faces south on three levels with a steep slope in the middle below a full width 2m high drystone wall. The slope is baked in summer and wet in winter thanks to an iron-rich spring-line which clogs the drains at times. Couple that with our altitude of about 255m above sea level and 1200mm of rain a year and you might say I'm not in the best place to be thinking about a nectar café for insects. Well, raising vegetables on the dry bits was never my strong point and Asda has proved more reliable, so the proportion of wild flowers has been steadily increased over the years.



Roy's garden in Belmont  
(Photo: R. Rhodes)

At least 83 of the plant species listed by the Royal Horticultural Society as "wildflowers perfect for pollinators" currently inhabit the garden. This includes nearly all the species they list as classic "moth flowers". I have inspected the garden many a time and oft, in light and dark (fuelled by glasses of night-vision improver) and have yet to find many moths at all interested in my nectar offering. Sugar patches don't do much either, even if I share the night-vision improver. However, a single Old Lady did turn up one night last year and that's been the highlight . . .

Insect numbers generally have been going down hereabouts for a good few years now - even those perishing on the roof blinds of the conservatory are a fraction of yesteryear's quantities. Belmont's former myriads of hungry summer midges are just a memory, so perhaps we need a run of reasonable summers to improve things again unless the decline is climate-change fuelled finality.

Light trapping with MVs in two gardens (Steve Martin lives next door) has been quite fruitful over the years, with a species total beyond 260, although micros are pretty scarce compared with lowland sites. I say it's wildflowers that bring the moths, he reckons they are whizzing past anyway. Noctuid moth mobility is pretty complicated and apparently greatest in species with least specific breeding requirements, so if their feeding requirements are similarly broad, maybe a little Heston Blumenthal-quality nectar patch stuck on a Lancashire hill isn't too striking. However, there is a general dearth of wild flowers in the surrounding countryside which is mostly sheep pasture and I spread nectar plants generally when opportunities arise, using wild seed and plants from the garden.



MV trap in Roy's Belmont garden 2013  
(Photo: R. Rhodes)

A "nectar corridor" two gardens away crosses the nearest field, adjacent to allotments, so there is the equivalent of an agricultural wildflower headland lead-in to the gardens, albeit crossed by a hedge and some trees. What part scent plays in the orientation of moths' nocturnal journeys I don't know, or whether they travel randomly, or up/downwind if following scent. Bees, butterflies, wasps and hoverflies have all visited in greater numbers this year compared with

2012, but I am intrigued by the apparent disdain of moths. It will be interesting to see the results of research on moth mobility in the south of the UK.

The former veggie patch became a 'cornfield wildflowers' patch this year and worked well although Corn Chamomile did not seem to attract much interest. Nevertheless, I liked the view. The attached photographs show the café in its prime and what it looks like now – needing a decision on whether to clear it up or not this autumn.



Roy's "nectar café" in full bloom and after-flowering (Photos: R. Rhodes)

*If you want to spread the nectar season in your garden by selecting sequential long-flowering wild species, Landlife [www.wildflower.org.uk](http://www.wildflower.org.uk) in Liverpool are a good source of wildflower seeds and plants, or you can still collect seeds from some local wild seed-heads now.*



## MOTHS ON SHOW

## ROY RHODES

Over the last year or so, members of Leigh Ornithological Society (LOS) have made regular requested visits to local schools and other groups such as scouts and cubs, to show the children various aspects of bird watching - from identification tips and garden bird feeding stations to field trips around the local bird hotspot of Pennington Flash, with additional experienced birders from the Society.

Via the **LOS Young Birders' Cub**, we received an invitation last July to a local primary school, which also has its own small nature reserve of about half an acre. That led to the team, co-ordinated by Martyn Jones, expanding their normal inputs to these events to include plant identification and moth trapping as well as bird ID. We were aiming to enhance the wildlife information the school already held about the reserve and perhaps give the children a few ideas on things to do in their summer holidays. The week in which we visited had many other end-of-term "interest" events taking place. We were blessed with sunny conditions throughout which were a bit too hot at times, so the motor caravan awning was very useful for shading us and the moths while we looked at them. It was also useful to have the van as a base for the overnight trapping.



Roy Rhodes 'Moth Mobile'  
(Photo: R. Rhodes)

Carrying out the moth-ing in the school nature reserve near where the children live increased the impact of the catch (c700) and the range of species found (95), with teachers and children completely amazed that so many moths were about – as were some of the neighbours who came for a look, having been told about the activity beforehand to avoid any worries. I also let the police know what was going on since we were in amongst houses and gardens.

Dave Wilson and I ran three 125W MV traps and a 40W actinic, with a few unproductive sugar patches which were only put out for the one night. Traps were generator-powered, although they could have run easily from the inverter/leisure batteries in the motor caravan if noise had been an issue. We gave the children and teachers illustrations of some of the species caught plus information on moth structure, feeding/pollinating activity, caterpillars and the links to specific habitats and plants as they handled the egg boxes holding the moths. The children were in groups of 10 from years 4, 5 and 6 and rotated from birding to mothing to flower ID sessions of up to 30 minutes each.

While a few boys and girls were adamant that they could not touch moths, all managed to hold the pots and see species at close quarters, while those who held hawk moths in their hands and later personally released a wide range of species were quite entranced by the experience. Some children returned several times to see the moths and we were assured “you guys have the best job in world”.



**The children get hands on with moth recording (above and below)**

(Photographs: R. Rhodes)

The teacher co-ordinating the whole event said that as he moved round the school he had heard many of the children talking together about what they had been doing with the moths and the hands-on sessions seemed to have gone down very well.

This was the first time Dave and I had tried a school-based mothing event and we enjoyed it just as much as the children, who were all impeccably behaved. The session was a departure from the overnight trapping/morning-inspection/moth breakfast sort of approach. It added a bit to knowledge of species distributions at a new site and hopefully, we sufficiently emphasised linkages in wildlife conservation. We will be returning to help them to develop the nectar supply in their nature reserve with wild plants

and seeds for the children to grow and perhaps develop their existing nature trail a bit more.

The venture opened people’s eyes to what’s about in the dark and maybe set a few future moth-ers on the way – we shall certainly do more sessions when opportunities arise.



Over the weekend of the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> September an ***Introduction to Micro-moths*** course was run at Liverpool Museum and followed by field trips to Formby (National Trust land) and Roudsea Wood and Mosses NNR in Cumbria. It was very well attended and in fact was fully booked (30 places) within 36 hours of the notification going out on the internet.

Dr Mark Young kindly ran the two day course for us and provided the perfect mix of expert knowledge and friendly relaxed educational style. All who attended came away knowing they had received an excellent grounding in micro-moth identification and particularly techniques and field craft in how to study their larval stages.

I would particularly like to thank Mark for giving freely of his time, particularly with him travelling down and back from Aberdeen. The staff at Liverpool Museum looked after us so well, laying out all of the equipment and collections to allow us to get the maximum benefit from the day and staying on afterwards for some to view the collections in more detail. Thanks also to Richard Walker and the National Trust staff for arranging and hosting the Saturday afternoon field visit and to Rob Petley-Jones and Natural England for doing likewise at Roudsea Wood NNR on the Sunday.



**Micro Moth Course event at Formby (National Trust)**

(Photo: S. Palmer)

# A SUMMARY OF MOTHS IN VC59 & VC60 DURING 2013

STEVE PALMER

The report below covers all records received and accepted by the County Recorders up to the end of October 2013. Some of the information has also been picked up from Lancashire Moth Yahoo Group postings. It is important to note however that none of the records of moths on the Yahoo Group (or other type of group) are entered onto the county database – Kevin and I wait until the records are formally submitted. Please make sure you send your records in before the end of December 2013 so that they can be entered onto the county database and submitted to the National Moth Recording Scheme and other national Schemes.

## JANUARY

With the start of each new year, there is the hope that the forthcoming season will provide reasonable weather for the moths to breed successfully and for us to get a chance to see a good range of species. In view of the poor previous few years, the usual hope was tinged with the thought that we are stuck in a cycle of poor springs and summers. 2013 however decided to start off with a good selection of moths within the first week – we were up and running!

After just over a week, twenty species of moth had made an appearance including such regulars as Dotted Border in Flixton (K. McCabe – KM) and Pale Brindled Beauty on the 2<sup>nd</sup> in Preston (S. M. Palmer – SMP), Mottled Umber in Billinge (C. A. Darbyshire – CAD) and Mill Houses (P. J. Marsh – PJM) on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, the later site also producing Early Moth and Spring Usher on the same date. Spring Usher peaked at 16 moths at this site on the 5<sup>th</sup> (PJM) while an evening search with a torch produced 7 Early Moth in Preston (C. A. Palmer – CAP & SMP). During this first week over-wintering Red-green Carpet were tempted out by the mild temperatures at a few sites such as in Belmont (R. Rhodes – RR), where it was accompanied by a Satellite. Other moths on show at this time included Chesnut, Dark Chestnut and a good selection of over-wintering micromoths such as *Mompha bradleyi* in Flixton (KM), *Depressaria heraclei* in Heysham (A. Draper – AD) and a most unexpected *Plutella xylostella* (diamond-back moth) in Yealand Conyers (B. Hancock – BH). If you missed out on this early bonanza, it was mid-February before the next widespread occurrence of moths.

## FEBRUARY

Apart from a few scattered records of Dotted Border from sheltered wooded areas, over-wintering indoor micros, and a brave Hebrew Character in Flixton on the 3<sup>rd</sup> (KM), few moths were present over the first two weeks of the month. On the 14<sup>th</sup> however, temperatures lifted sufficiently to persuade a Fox Moth larva to wander around at Hightown Dunes on the 14<sup>th</sup> (T. Davenport – TD and P. Smith) and, on the same date, 3 Small Brindled Beauty, 31 Pale Brindled Beauty and 9 March Moth came to light in Mill Houses (PJM). On the 16<sup>th</sup>, trapping in Burton wood, near Lancaster produced 26 Dotted Border (J. Patton – JP).

## MARCH

In most years this is the month when things really begin to take off across much of the county. 2013 however was a big surprise to us and even more so to those moths waiting to emerge. Whether the poor previous season affected numbers as well as this cold snap is not known but only 107 records of 25 species are presently on the county database for March 2013. Suffice to say that in the previous year well over 3000 records of 84 species were received and Early Grey, for example, had almost half the number of sightings (609 in 2012 compared to 349 in 2013).

## APRIL

It appeared that despite the cold conditions, some moths were beginning to stir by mid-April. As is often the case in early Spring, those willing to wander out with portable traps into good quality habitat or who have garden traps running close to rural wooded areas were rewarded with many more moths than the majority of us suburban garden trappers. One of the best sites for early spring moths is in the Lune valley at Mill Houses but even this site didn't start producing significant counts until mid-month when, for example, 212 Small Quaker were recorded on the 13<sup>th</sup> (PJM). Elsewhere in the county Tawny Pinion appeared from hibernation at Walmer Bridge on the 14<sup>th</sup> (G. Jones – GJ) and Grey Shoulder-knot was found in Yealand Conyers (BH). Common Quakers were still well down in numbers generally but 66 were attracted to light at Mere Sands Wood on the 16<sup>th</sup> (R. Boydell – RB and I. Kippax – IK). Oak Beauty is one of those moths that can appear quite widely in the county when conditions are suitable but in 2013 it was a good example of how low numbers were in many of the spring species – 2011 and 2012 produced an average 75 records per year while details of less than 20 have been received so far for 2013.

April is the month that starts off the BAP (Biodiversity Action Plan) monitoring process in Lancashire and Barred Tooth-striped is one of our local specialities that we try to keep an eye on. It has suffered from under-recording over recent years so it was good to hear of records from five sites on the Silverdale limestone this year, the first on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April at Warton Crag (JP). In stark contrast one of our most important BAP species, the Belted Beauty, had a disastrous season

presumably due to the prolonged cold weather and didn't even make an appearance until late April, a month later than usual. The maximum seen on any one day was 5 (P. & V. Gilchrist) in late April and the annual organised count produced none at all. The moth is also under threat from a potential set of wind-farm cables routing through the northern edge of the colony. Butterfly Conservation and the Lancashire Moth Group have been, and still are, deeply involved in objecting and undergoing detailed discussions with the company involved, DONG Energy. Some concessions to the route and cable laying process have been achieved but there is still a long way to go before we feel that we can guarantee the safety of this threatened species. To put this in context, this colony is the last viable population of this moth in the whole of England and Wales – a chilling thought and highlighting how important it is that we don't lose this battle. In addition to the direct negotiations, one of our members, Graham Dixon, organised an on-line petition which at last count was well past the 1000 signature level. Hopefully this co-ordinated pressure will bear fruit and it really highlights the importance of the monitoring that takes place of this and our other BAP species.

## MAY

Despite all the doom and gloom over the lack of moths, it doesn't take long for the spirits to be lifted when a new species is found in the county. *Caloptilia populetorum* is one such moth that surely has been present for many years. It was therefore nice to be able to report that it has been added to the county list when one came to light in Flixton on the 3<sup>rd</sup> (KM). On the following day Square Spot was found on Silverdale Moss (J. Girdley – JG) during a sheet and light session – this species remains extremely local in its distribution with only a few known sites. On the 6<sup>th</sup>, an Emperor Moth was found in Calderbrook, Littleborough (Y. Mynett and S. Pinnington – YM & SP) while the very local Mullein came to light in Yealand Conyers on the same date. *Agonopterix yeatiana* is generally only found in small numbers so it was interesting to hear of 10 on Formby National Trust land on the 15<sup>th</sup> (R. Walker - RW). Another report of Emperors came later in the month on the 19<sup>th</sup> when around ten were seen by day on Winmarleigh Moss (B. Dyson – BD). The following day an Alder Kitten was attracted to actinic light in Carnforth (L. Lyon – LL). It is not always the most obvious methods which pay off when recording moths. I always have a look in cattle troughs as moths can often be found floating in the water. A check of an old bath tub on Warton Crag (SMP) produced many small dead moths that needed dissection to identify them but I'd suspected they might be *Elachista canapennella*, an abundant grass feeding species. I was therefore surprised when they all (16 male and 7 female) turned out to be *Cosmioxys freyerella*, a species believed to be very local in the county – it is obviously considerably over-looked.

## JUNE



Grey Scalloped Bar  
(Photo: S. Christmas)

Although moths were beginning to appear in slightly better numbers, many were quite late emerging giving an unusual mix of spring and summer species resting together in the traps. As the first week came to a close, Silver Hook, an unusual species to be attracted to garden traps, came to light in Billinge (CAD). This species had a reasonable season with reports from three other locations during the year, at Hoghton (G. Dixon – GD), Middleton (PJM, JP) and Ainsdale (R. Moyes – RM). On the 8<sup>th</sup> Oblique Carpet was netted during a torchlight search on Birkdale Beach (RM) and Grey Scalloped Bar was found in Bay Horse (N. Rogers – NR) on the 11<sup>th</sup>. Ash Pug seems to be making itself known more frequently than in the past – I suspect Brian's pug articles over the years have had a significant effect in helping to identify many more of this family. Seven were found at four sites in VC60, the first being in Yealand Conyers (BH) on the 11<sup>th</sup> June. On the same date the first Heart and Club of the year came to light in Heysham (J. Holding – JH). Although a couple of weeks before the next one to appear, this precluded a good season for this moth. In all there were 49 separate reports and this does seem to be part of a continued spread of the species. It peaked in Formby on the 12<sup>th</sup> July (A. & S. Parsons – A&SP) with a large count (for this moth) of 16 individuals and is now well established in parts of lowland and coastal Lancashire, particularly the south.

By mid-month, records of some of the more local inhabitants were beginning to trickle in. The Treble Bar, although widely mapped in VC59, is quite an infrequently recorded species in that area. The only record to date in VC59 this year came from a new site in Chatburn (Catriona Kilner). On the 16<sup>th</sup> June ten Cistus Forester were located during a daytime search on Warton Crag (BH) and in the evening at the same site *Pseudoswammerdamia combinella* came to light (JG, PJM), this being one of only two known sites for the moth in the county. Also on the 16<sup>th</sup> earlier in the day JG located 6 Burnet Companion in grassland at Heysham Nat. Res. This site also produced Shaded Pug that evening (AD), a moth that has not been seen in the county away from the Heysham area since 1994.

On the 17<sup>th</sup> two *Batrachedra pinicolella* came to light in Formby (RW) while a little further north on the same night light trapping at Ainsdale (RM, C. Daly – CD) produced records of *Epinotia rubiginosana*, eight Grass Rivulet, 22 Eyed Hawk Moth and 34 Brown Rustic – the season was up and running at last. Also on the 17<sup>th</sup> a Shark was found in a Bay Horse light trap (NR), while two nights later one appeared in Great Sankey (J. Mitchell-Lisle – JM) – the only records of this moth during 2013. The rare grass moth, *Crambus pratella*, continues to appear on the Sefton coast following regular trapping near the dunes. The first was spotted during the day at Ainsdale on the 19<sup>th</sup> (RM) and it peaked when five were



attracted to light at Formby on the 16<sup>th</sup> July (RW). Another good reason why daytime field work should be a feature of any moth recorder's armoury came on the 21<sup>st</sup> June when the beautiful but very small *Elachista gleichenella* was found on Myers Allotment (T. Hutchinson – TH) – the first record with data for VC60 (details of a previous sighting have not yet been located). On the 21<sup>st</sup>, that troublesome moth (purely because of the difficulty of identifying it!) the Triple-spotted Clay, was a new species for a Flixton garden (KM), while on the 22<sup>nd</sup> the first of an intriguing set of records of Least Minor was reported from one of its usual haunts at Yealand Hall Allotments (BH). It peaked at this site on the 1<sup>st</sup> July with 20 seen (JG), but of much more significance, it was also found in light traps well away from its normally very restricted habitat requirements, at Middleton Nat. Res. on the 9<sup>th</sup> (JG) and even more remarkably south west of Preston at Walmer Bridge on the 22<sup>nd</sup> July (GJ).



Least Minor (Photo: J. Girdley)

As we entered the last week of June the weather was at last playing ball and on the 24<sup>th</sup> the county rarity, Brown-line Bright-eye came to light in Great Sankey (JM), the first of four seen in 2013. On the following day a visit in the afternoon to the St. Annes local nature reserve produced a new county record when at least three *Elachista* (formerly *Biselachista*) *eleochariella* were found flying in the damp dune slacks (J. R. Langmaid & SMP). Also located were the larvae of *Agonopterix nanatella* on Carline Thistle at its only known site, post 2000. Searches of the foodplant on costal dunes in VC59 would surely produce further records of this very local species. Numbers of moths were now blossoming as was indicated by the 72 Dog's Tooth to light in Ainsdale (RM, CD) and the daytime find of over 100 Chimney Sweeper at Yarrow Valley (P. Krischkiw – PK). On the 29<sup>th</sup> June, Obscure Wainscot came to light in Great Sankey (JM) and on the 30<sup>th</sup> Heart and Dart started to reappear in good numbers with 65 in Hale (C. Cockbain – CC) after a dreadful few years for this normally abundant species. Also on the 30<sup>th</sup> Scarce Silver-lines was found in a Fulwood light trap (A. Powell – AP), one of only three during the season – the others being at Rochdale on the 26<sup>th</sup> July (P. Stevens – PS) and in Adlington on the 1<sup>st</sup> August (PK).



Beautiful Hook-tip (Photo: B. Smart)

## JULY



*Gypsonoma oppressana* (Photo: B. Smart)

As so often happens, I was away in Scotland suffering cool, windy and occasionally damp weather while Lancashire was beginning to bask in the summery conditions that blessed this season. With the sun came a few of those moths that are always a pleasure to find in your garden traps. Broad-barred White is one such moth and it appeared at seven sites during 2013, one being at Rainford (S. Williams - SW) on the 1<sup>st</sup>. On the same date a Beautiful hook-tip came to light in Hale (CC) and on the 5<sup>th</sup> in Abram (J. Smith – JS). Both sites had further sightings of this local species during July. The more northerly and easterly records appeared to be indicative of a continued slow increase in its range in the UK, coming from Burnley (G. Gavaghan - GG), Heysham on the 22<sup>nd</sup> July and Bay Horse on the 27<sup>th</sup> (NR). The Goat Moth remains a very local moth and only three records have so far been received this year, the first from Formby (RW) on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. The same recorder also found Ruddy Highflyer on Altcar on the 5<sup>th</sup>. As well as the Goat Moth, another species of concern is the V-moth with records from only four sites during 2013, all in the Silverdale area. The first of these was in Warton village on the 12<sup>th</sup> July (M. Elsworth – ME) and the last at Hying Wood just under a month later (BH). In complete contrast, the Silky Wainscot is continuing to expand its range across the county. The first report this year came from Warton on the 5<sup>th</sup> July (ME), followed by Abram (JS), Altcar (RW), Jack Scout (BH), Wigan (G. & B. Wynn – G & BW) and Little Singleton (S. Bedford – SB) over the next few weeks. Small Ranunculus came to light in St. Helens on the 4<sup>th</sup> but the most exciting find, on the 5<sup>th</sup>, was *Gypsonoma oppressana*, a new species for the county, which came to light in Chorlton (B. Smart – BS).



Small Ranunculus  
(Photo: D. Owen)



Beautiful Snout  
(Photo: D. Bickerton)

The warmer summers are often harbingers of a decent haul of migrants. In the end, as will be seen later on in this report, it turned out to be a bit hit and miss. However,

back in early July the first appearance of a Humming-bird Hawk Moth on the 6<sup>th</sup> at Lytham (L. Drinkwater) was a sign of a few more of these exquisite insects to come. In all nine were reported including the late October one shown on Autumnwatch at Leighton Moss. Also on the 6<sup>th</sup> a Beautiful Snout came to light in Rishton (D. Bickerton – DB), one of four found in the county this year. Two of these were at Lord's Lot Wood on the 10<sup>th</sup> (PJM) and the other at Adlington on the 18<sup>th</sup> (PK). Other local species around at this time included a Small Ranunculus at Fazakerly (L. Ward – LW) and a Striped Wainscot at Heysham (JH), both on the 7<sup>th</sup>, *Bactra furfurana* at Carleton (J. Scragg – JSg) and *Eudonia pallida* at Rainford (SW), both on the 8<sup>th</sup>, while on the 9<sup>th</sup> a Dark Tussock was found in Ainsdale (CD) and over a 1000 Narrow-bordered Five-spot Burnet were on the wing at Lower Burgh Meadows (E. Langrish – EL) in what must have been an amazing sight.



**Striped Wainscot**  
(Photo: J. Holding)



**Round-winged Muslin**  
(Photo: J. Mitchell-Lisle)

Since the arrival of Marbled White Spot in south Lancashire in 2004, the moth has been recorded on numerous occasions in south west Manchester and for the first time in Formby on the 10<sup>th</sup> July (RW). It was therefore a surprise, but by no means lacking precedent, for the moth to be added to the VC60 list in the far north of the county in Yealand Conyers on the 16<sup>th</sup> (BH). Those of us living in central Lancashire are used to moths moving north through the county and missing us out completely for years – such as the Blackneck and, also this year, Beautiful Hook-tip! The Round-winged Muslin is a



**Bordered Sallow**  
(Photo: D. Bickerton)

rare moth in the county so it was really good to receive records of 2 at Great Sankey on the 12<sup>th</sup> (JM) followed by another two at the same site on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

Running traps regularly on nature reserves is often fun in terms of the species found, but also appreciated by the land owners, who are often keen to find out what's present. It is also very significant for raising the profile of moths generally. Throughout Lancashire we have several groups or individuals covering reserves on a regular basis such as at Ainsdale NNR, Formby, NT, Heysham, RSPB Leighton Moss and LWT Mere Sands Wood. This year Alex & Shelagh Parsons have started running a trap at RSPB Marshside and have totted up nearly 80 species so far including Bordered Sallow on the 11<sup>th</sup> July. The data provided to these reserves can be invaluable in protecting or enhancing habitat for moths.



**Small Blood-vein** (Photo: A. Baines)

As the month progressed interesting records continued to pour in of local species and also staggeringly high numbers of some species. The former included *Donacaula forficella* from Rishton (DB) on the 12<sup>th</sup>, quite a bit further inland and higher up than most other records in the county. Other species of note at this time included *Grapholita funebrana* at Hough Green, Widnes (P. Hillyer – PH), Small Blood-vein in St. Annes (A. Baines – AB) and Satin Wave at Jack Scout (BH). With respect to large counts, trapping at a very small site near Heysham port was not expected to be that successful but as it was in a different 10km square to all the surrounding land it was thought worth a go. John Girdley took his trap there on the 13<sup>th</sup> July to see what might be around and imagine his surprise when the contents contained 28 species and included 14 Lime-speck Pug, 62 *Crambus perlella* and a whopping 236 White-line Dart – certainly worth the effort.

Continuing the theme of large counts, the following day provided a large count of over 100 Six-spot Burnet on the Lytham dunes (JSg, AB) and around 50 Dot Moth were in a Southport trap (RM) on the same date.

Each day was turning up something exciting as July really got going. On the 15<sup>th</sup>, Reddish Light Arches came to light in Yealand Conyers (BH), the first record in the county since 2004, while on the 16<sup>th</sup> the first Forester Moths of the year were found at two of its Sefton coast sites (RW). This species peaked with a count of 21 at Ainsdale on the 24<sup>th</sup> (TD). An evening visit to the saltmarsh near Sunderland Point (SMP) on the 16<sup>th</sup> produced a few of the target micromoth, *Monochroa tetragonella*, a very local species nationally. It was, however, the sheer numbers of *Bactra lancealana* (many thousands – just impossible to count) that made it an extraordinary visit; well those and the presence of one *Epinotia nanana* (a conifer feeding species!) and at least one *Elachista* (formerly *Biselachista*) *scirpi* – not seen in Lancashire since the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. The 16<sup>th</sup> was proving to be the day of the year for interesting species. On the St. Annes dunes, a

stunning *Cnephasia conspersana* was located by AB, *Stenoptilia millieridactyla* came to light in Rishton (DB) accompanied by ten Green Arches, while Dark Tussock and Lyme Grass were found in a light trap at the Formby National Trust site (RW) and Scarce Silver Y was found in Calderbrook, Littleborough (YM & SP) – the latter was also found in Rochdale on the 23<sup>rd</sup> (PS).

We hardly had time to draw breath with the 17<sup>th</sup> July keeping up the pressure of large counts and notable species. Eleven of the uncommon Double Dart, accompanied by 15 Blackneck came to light at Heysham NR (JP) and an additional Lyme Grass was found on Altcar ranges (RW). On the 18<sup>th</sup> *Monochroa lucidella* was found for the first time in SMP's well recorded garden in Preston. And further south in Billinge (CAD), another well recorded garden site produced two *Anarsia spartiella*, quite a local species in Lancashire, together with the local *Cnephasia longana* (also found in Hale by CC on the following night). In Wigan, *Eudonia pallida* and *Calamotropha paludella*, both wetland species, came to a garden light trap (G&BW), while further east, Grey Scalloped Bar wandered from its normal moorland habitat to appear in a Swinton garden (S. Christmas). At around this time Muslin Footman was occurring in large numbers at its usual haunts in north Lancashire (e.g. 80 at Mill Houses on the 22<sup>nd</sup> – PJM). It was therefore no surprise when they also started turning up as wanderers well away from the main breeding sites. Over the seven day period between the 18<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> July it occurred in Preston (2 sites – AP and SMP), Houghton (GD) and as far afield as Ormskirk (RM & Dr. J. Watt), Worsthorne (GG) and Rochdale (PS).



**Pimpinel Pug** (Photo: J. Girdley)

Golden Plusia has been quite scarce of late so it was good to get a record of it from Yealand Conyers (BH) on the 20<sup>th</sup> July. Another feature missing from our moth reports of late has been the mass emergence of the delicate pyralid, the Water Veneer (*Acentria ephemerella*) and so the report of around 500 in Billinge (CAD) on the 22<sup>nd</sup> was good to receive. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> the light trap at Sunderland Point contained 7 Garden Tiger and 3 Crescent Striped (JG) while on the following day a light in Rindle Wood attracted over 200 Common Footman (I. Walker - IW). The most exciting moth around at this time,



**Cochyliidia implicitana**  
(Photo: J. Scragg)

if not necessarily the most attractive (unless your surname is Hancock!) was a Pimpinel Pug found at Heysham NR (PJM), the first confirmed record for VC60. Not surprisingly, Brian will be looking for the larval foodplant and larva next year. The 26<sup>th</sup> proved to be a day for significant micro-moth records including Lunar Hornet Moth found egg-laying in Inskip (M. Palmer) (technically it is a micro!), *Coleophora lineolea* in Morecambe (JG), *Cochyliidia implicitana* at Carleton (JSg), *Epinotia rubiginosana* at Adlington (PK) and probably what has been the best ever year for *Agriphila selasella* turning up at fourteen sites, many for the first time. As happened with Muslin Footman, it was abundant at its usual sites with one count of 102 at Sunderland Point (JG – 23<sup>rd</sup> July) and so had probably dispersed widely. On the 27<sup>th</sup>, a search of ragwort heads at Fairhaven dunes around dusk produced good numbers of various species including over 30 *Bryotropha*

*senectella* (SMP, CAP) and a Deep Brown Dart was found in Bolton (K. Haydock, J. Mills). To round off July, nothing could be more enjoyable than finding 8 Blomer's Rivulet in your light trap (S. Clancy) and perhaps not many things more frustrating than 88 Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing, such as at Bay Horse (NR) – except of course the huge numbers of Large Yellow Underwing about to be unleashed on the traps of Lancashire.

## August

And it didn't take long for the first big count of Large Yellow Underwing to appear. A trap set up in the wilds of north Lancashire on the 1<sup>st</sup> August (PJM) was found to contain 590 of this delightfully cuddly and docile moth! A peak count of Straw Underwing also occurred on this date with 65 in the trap at Heysham (Heysham Moth Team). Elsewhere, throughout the county and the month, there were unusually large counts (in no particular order) of Crescent, Dotted Clay, Slender Brindle, Double Lobed, Fen Wainscot, Common Wave, Six-striped Rustic, Archers Dart, Portland Moth, Cinnabar, Iron Prominent, Flame Shoulder, Small Square-spot, Square-spot Rustic and Dunbar – the list went on and on and culminated in a count of 250 Buff Footman on Docker Moor (PJM, JP). These sorts of numbers have been unprecedented in recent years.



**Blastobasis rebeli**  
(Photo: G & B Wynn)

One exciting find on the 1<sup>st</sup> was *Blastobasis rebeli* in Wigan (G&BW), only the third county record. August is the prime flight period for Dark Marbled Carpet and 2013 proved a good year for the moth with records from a few more sites than usual. Recorders are reminded to carefully check the hind-wing markings as Common Marbled Carpet can easily be confused (and regularly is) with this local species. Another species that has also done well in comparison to recent years

is the attractive Blue-bordered Carpet with records from eight sites mainly during August. In contrast, Bordered Pug has had several poor years away from its strongholds in south Lancashire. In VC60 (north Lancashire, north of the River Ribble), there are now rarely more than one site record per year, 2013s being three in St Annes on the 8<sup>th</sup> August (J. Steeden – JSt). Another local species that rarely appears in any numbers is the Bordered Beauty. Mid-August is the best time to encounter this moth as typified by a record from Rufford on 10<sup>th</sup> (I. McLean) although an early one also occurred in Ainsdale on the 9<sup>th</sup> July (CD).



**Beech Green Carpet**  
(Photo: B. Hancock)

24<sup>th</sup> (GJ) and a single at Mill Houses on the 25<sup>th</sup> (J. Roberts). Early August produced first garden records in Blackpool (D. & I. Smith) of Antler Moth and Gold Swift.

Brown-veined Wainscot is a very local species in Lancashire only found in the south of the county. This is as far north as it gets nationally, on the west side of the UK. Since the turn of this century only eight individuals have been reported, so it was good to receive records of four in 2013. At Great Sankey (JM) one came to light on the 1<sup>st</sup>, and 2 on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. It was then found at Abram on the 9<sup>th</sup> (JS) accompanied by two Butterbur. These records were somewhat overshadowed by another spectacular species, when a Black Arches was found in Southport on the 6<sup>th</sup> (P. Thomason). This heralded a series of exciting records of this moth which had first appeared on the county list in 2005 at Martin Mere. The second did not appear until 2011, so it was a great surprise to get five records in 2013, four of these in VC60 for the first time. The first for North Lancashire came on the 9<sup>th</sup> at Mill Houses (PJM) followed by one (accompanied by a Hedge Rustic) at Leighton Moss on the 16<sup>th</sup> (TH), in Silverdale on the 19<sup>th</sup> (D. Talbot) and rounded off with another at Mill Houses on the 21<sup>st</sup> (PJM).



**Brown-veined Wainscot**  
(Photo: J. Mitchell-Lisle)



**Bleached Pug**  
(Photo: B. Hancock)

On the 10<sup>th</sup> August, Heath Rustic wandered into a coastal garden in Heysham (JH), one of several unusual sightings of moths well away from their normal habitat during this summer. Farther north on the same day, Waved Black was located in the same underpass at Carnforth Station as two in 2008 – and by the same recorder (TH)! A decision to light trap at Formby Point on the 13<sup>th</sup> proved to be an inspired one when Devon Carpet, Bleached Pug and Poplar Kitten were recorded (GJ). This was a significant extension of the known range for the first two of these local species. From mid to late August a few migrants made an appearance at scattered lowland and coastal sites across the county, mainly comprised of Rush Veneer, Rusty-dot Pearl and Dark Sword-grass. Amongst these were *Palpita vitrealis* found in Bispham (B. Brigden) on the 14<sup>th</sup>, and a Gem found at Flixton (KM) on the 27<sup>th</sup>. Local residents found around mid-month included

Pretty Chalk Carpet in St. Annes on the 13<sup>th</sup> (for the first time and well beyond its normal range - AB, JSg), July Belle in Formby (C. Manley), four Grey Chi in Warton (ME) on the 16<sup>th</sup> and the same number at Morecambe on the 27<sup>th</sup> (JG). Other highlights included a Tissue in Jackhouse (M. Memory - MM) on the 19<sup>th</sup>, five Old Lady in Great Sankey (JM) on the 21<sup>st</sup>, *Agriphila latistria* and *Cacoecimorpha pronubana* in Rishton (DB) on the 23<sup>rd</sup> (in fact *A. latistria* had a reasonable season with records also received from Flixton, Heysham, Hough Green (Widnes), Morecambe and Sunderland Point during August), *Aroga velocella* in Bispham (D. McGrath) and a Devon Carpet at Leighton Moss (P. Ashton & SMP) both on the 24<sup>th</sup>. The month finished was a flurry of ten Barred Chestnuts at Warton Crag (JP) on the 31<sup>st</sup>.



**Poplar Kitten, St. Helens 23<sup>rd</sup> Aug.**  
(Photo: D. Owen)

## SEPTEMBER

This proved to be a much quieter month than the previous two. Migration was not particularly evident and it looked like many moths were taking a breather after the hectic summer. At this time of year the annual check for Netted Carpet larvae is organised nationally covering the colonies in Cumbria and ours in Lancashire. This year it took place on the 9<sup>th</sup> with a good number of volunteers finding a total of 558 larvae. This was particularly welcome following the bramble clearance that had been carried out earlier in the year in Hynning Wood - it was very satisfying to see such instant results in plant regeneration and larval numbers.



*Caloptilia populetorum* (Photo: B. Smart)

September is usually the time when those who like leaf-mine hunting start keeping an eye out for the autumn feeding species. However it was three leaf-miners in their adult stage that caught our attention. *Bedelia somnulentella* mines Hedge Bindweed but on this occasion was found as an adult in a light trap in Aintree on the 13<sup>th</sup> (K. Fairclough). A week later two *Caloptilia cucculipennella* were netted in the Silverdale area (M. Young – MRY, SMP) and were the first records with data for the county – the previous record has not been traced. The larvae mine the leaves and produce cones on wild Privet or Ash so could be more widespread in this area than current records suggest. *Caloptilia populetorum* was the third of these exciting finds with an adult at light in Chorlton on the 25<sup>th</sup> (BS) – the

second county record for this species. Returning to the leaf-mines themselves, on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, a wander around the periphery of Red Scar Wood, Preston (MRY, SMP) produced good numbers of *Phyllonorycter acerifoliella* mines on planted Field Maple. This species is quite widespread in South Lancashire but still local in VC60 and prompted me to check the planted field maples near my home. Sure enough there were plenty of mines in north Preston (SMP), not present a few years ago. To cap off an excellent autumn for leaf-mining species, the very local miner on Buckthorn, *Stigmella catharticella*, was found in a new area at Heysham in early October (JG).

One feature of late summer and autumn this year was the somewhat late records of several species. It appears they were a mix of some late emerging first broods and second brood individuals. The Pale Eggar at Leck Fell on the 24<sup>th</sup> (PJM) and the Drinker Moth attracted to light in Ainsdale a week or so later (RM) must surely be late emergers and this may also include *Algedonia terrealis*,



*Convulvulus Hawk Moth*  
(Photo: J. Higgins)

found in Flixton (KM) on the 1<sup>st</sup> October. The others are most likely to be second brood individuals and these included Small Phoenix at Mill Houses (PJM) on the 20<sup>th</sup> September, Heart and Dart at Sunderland Point on the 23<sup>rd</sup> (PJM), Silver-ground Carpet at Adlington (PK) on the 24<sup>th</sup>, Mottled Rustic in VC59 (C. Fletcher) on the 27<sup>th</sup> and Clouded-bordered Brindle on the 30<sup>th</sup> in Burnley (GG). The late arrivals carried on well into October and produced Flame Carpet at Fulwood (AP) on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct., Small Dusty Wave, Riband Wave and Light Emerald in Preston (SMP) and Haworth's Minor in SD66 (PJM), all on the 6<sup>th</sup> Oct., a Green Carpet in Flixton (KM) on the 7<sup>th</sup> and a really late Burnished Brass in Southport on the 17<sup>th</sup> October.



*Algedonia terrealis* (Photo: K. McCabe)

To round off September a couple of late-autumn species appeared rather earlier than usual and we witnessed, at long last, a flurry of migrants reaching parts of the county. The former included Figure of Eight in Carnforth (J. Rae) on the 24<sup>th</sup> and December Moth at Mill Houses (JG) on the 30<sup>th</sup>. The migrants decided to start with a high profile arrival, in the form of a Convulvulus Hawk Moth in Blackpool on the 27<sup>th</sup> (A. & J. Higgins) and a Rush Veneer in Fulwood on the 30<sup>th</sup> (AP).

## OCTOBER

Although the migrants were beginning to arrive at a few sites across lowland and coastal Lancs, it turned out to be the resident species that provided the initial interest. In the first few days of the month Beaded Chestnut appeared in north Preston (SMP, CAP) for the first time in many years, two Brindled Ochre came to light in Formby (RW), Dusky Lemon Sallow came to light in Flixton (KM), and a large count of 24 *Acleris sparsana* was reported from Fulwood (AP). On the 6<sup>th</sup>, *Monopis crocicapitella* was confirmed by examination of the hindwing in West Derby (CD) – a new record for VC59 and on the 7<sup>th</sup> twenty-one Herald were found hibernating in Oswaldtwistle (MM) – numbers continued increasing at this hibernation site as the season progressed.

The rest of the month really belonged to the migrants although as mentioned before, the limited distribution of the less regular species led much to be desired! The main influx of moths seemed to have started on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and it is difficult to judge if this arrival was responsible for the later records, or if there continued to be a general arrival over the following weeks. The common migrant *Udea ferrugalis* (rusty-dot pearl) was thin on the ground with only two records from Sunderland Point (JG, JP); *Nomophila noctuella* (rush veneer) was recorded extensively from four coastal sites, peaking at 10 on the 4<sup>th</sup> October at Sunderland Point (JG); Dark Sword-grass was recorded from six sites, mostly coastal, although once again the only site with more than a singleton was at Sunderland Point on the 3<sup>rd</sup> (PJM), when two came to light. The less regular migrants were recorded between the 4<sup>th</sup> and the 8<sup>th</sup> October and comprised Gems at Sunderland Point on the 6<sup>th</sup> (JG) and Mill Houses on the 7<sup>th</sup> (PJM), a different one was identified on the Yahoo Group but details aren't currently on MapMate). Vestals were widespread across the UK but Lancashire only had two at Mill Houses on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> (PJM) and two at Sunderland Point (JG) on the 6<sup>th</sup>. The pick of the bunch was a Delicate at Sunderland Point (JP) on the 8<sup>th</sup> while Scarce Bordered Straw was found at Sunderland Point (JG) on the 4<sup>th</sup> and Heysham NR (Heysham Moth Team) on the 7<sup>th</sup>. The final migrant during this period was a Convolvulus Hawk Moth at Heysham on the 22<sup>nd</sup> (JH).



**Delicate**  
(Photo: R. Neville)

Throughout October numbers of resident species in light traps have been quite impressive, including such species as Common Marbled Carpet and Red-green Carpet which had a strong autumn. Notable resident species around in the second half of the month included *Coleophora anatipennella*, with larval feeding signs found on Blackthorn in Flixton (KM) on the 16<sup>th</sup> (a new moth for this very well recorded area) and 12 Sprawler at Mill Houses on the 17<sup>th</sup> (PJM). Into late October and the first days of November early reports suggested *Diurnea lipsiella* was having a really good late season (JP) but frosts in the first week of Nov. meant garden traps were virtually empty. Hopefully this bumper summer will lead to much better numbers of moths in 2014 but it remains to be seen what effect the very cold weather in Spring has on our breeding moths.



**Scarce Bordered Straw**  
(Photo: J. Girdley)

There will still be quite a few records to come in and it is essential these arrive before the end of the year to ensure they make the various recording schemes and National Moth Recording Scheme updates. Thanks as always to all recorders who have passed on their data for inclusion in this newsletter. Regardless of whether you got a mention or not, all the data received has been of great value in updating the distribution maps for all of Lancashire's moths.

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## YOUR VC59 RECORDS FROM 2014 ONWARDS

As there will be no procedure for dealing with moth records from 2014 onwards in South Lancashire (see article below on page 24 for **VC60**) until such time as a team or County Recorders are in place, please do keep all your records in a safe and readily available format so that when things get going again you can pass the data on. It would also be advisable to have a good look at the Guidelines to Recorders on the website, while it is still up and running, and download a copy. This will enable you to decide which moths to photograph.

It is important to note that recorders should **not** send any records to Steve Palmer's 1b8 Mapmate CUK after the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2014. I will not be able to deal with these from this point onwards.

Butterfly Conservation's Dr. Zoe Randle coordinates the national lists of County Moth Recorders. Anyone willing to take on one or more of the vacant VC59 posts from 2014 should contact Zoe at the following email address -

[zrandle@butterfly-conservation.org](mailto:zrandle@butterfly-conservation.org)

# VC 60 MOTH RECORDERS:

## A note from John Girdley and Pete Marsh

Pete Marsh and John Girdley have agreed to take over the moth recording efforts in **VC60**. Pete Marsh will be looking after the VC60 macro-moths and John Girdley the VC60 micro-moths, working together as a team.

Both have agreed that if anyone wishes to take on the Micro or Macro-moth Recorders position for the whole of Lancashire, then they will step down, preferring to have Lancashire moth recording unified again.

In the interim, Pete will act as the MapMate hub, using the Heysham NR Computer. Details, such as the CUK for this copy of Mapmate, will be announced in the New Year. However, this will only apply to VC60 records and we hope that by the end of the year, something will have been sorted out allowing VC59 recorders to also sync.

Please can future VC60 identification requests be posted to the Lancashire Moths Facebook group. If you don't like Facebook, please send them by email to Pete or John (addresses at the end of this article). However, both Pete and John will regularly access the Facebook group and will try to respond. Both Pete and John work full time and, therefore, will not be able to respond instantly to emails or ID requests.

Live moths for identification (if possible) can be brought to Heysham Nature Reserve most weekend mornings. Some moths will require dissection for acceptance. Whilst John can do some of these for the rarer species, there can be no assumption that dissections can be done to order.

A list of Macros and Micros known to occur in VC60 will be produced. There will be guidelines for recorders as to the level of proof required for acceptance, in line with the existing document produced by Graham Jones for the whole of Lancashire.

### Submission of records (VC60):

(see map opposite for area covered by VC60).

Please continue to use Mapmate. If records are sent in paper form then it is likely that only "significant" or "new for tetrad" type records will be entered onto the database.

### BAP Species:

It is hoped that volunteers will appear to help with the monitoring of Belted Beauty (Steve Palmer is happy to continue with this), Barred Tooth-striped, Netted Carpet and *Anania funebris*. Please contact Pete or John using the contact details below.

It is hoped that moth events can continue to be arranged in the future and that anyone will be free to attend.

### Macro Moths:

Pete Marsh: [pmrsh123@aol.com](mailto:pmrsh123@aol.com)

### Micro Moths:

John Girdley: [john@birdtours.co.uk](mailto:john@birdtours.co.uk)



# MOTH EVENTS 2014



**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2014**

**NATIONAL MOTH RECORDERS'  
MEETING, BIRMINGHAM**

To be held on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2014 at the Birmingham and Midland Institute, central Birmingham. BC have organised a great line-up for the day which includes both amateur moth recorders and academic researchers as well as updates on Butterfly Conservation's moth projects.

The programme for the day can be found in Butterfly Conservation's E-Moth Newsletter or the Moths Count website ([www.mothscount.org](http://www.mothscount.org)). A £5 (per person) registration fee for attendees will be payable on the day. This includes morning and afternoon tea/coffee and a buffet lunch all subsidised from Butterfly Conservation budgets.

Advanced booking is essential; to book your place please contact [info@butterfly-conservation.org](mailto:info@butterfly-conservation.org)

**Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> April 2014 starting 10.30am**

**BELTED BEAUTY COUNT, POTTS CORNER**

Annual survey of the Belted Beauty colony, meeting in 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 £1.50. Organiser Steve Palmer – [s.palmer12@btopenworld.com](mailto:s.palmer12@btopenworld.com) 01772 861570

It is hoped that 2014 will prove a better year for the Belted Beauty following on from its very poor showing in 2013. This year's count has been arranged slightly later than usual due to Easter holidays and high tides/full moon occurrence during mid April.

**May, June, July & August  
(dates below)**

**RSPB LEIGHTON MOSS – 4 events**

No pre-booking is required for these events and they are not subject to a separate fee (other than the standard RSPB reserve entry charge for non-members). These events will be held on **Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> May; Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> June; Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> July and Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> August**. All start at 10 am and will run for approximately 1 hour. Moths caught overnight on the reserve and in nearby traps will be on show. If you have moths of your own to show or to be identified do bring them along. The August event may also include a caterpillar hunt later in the day. Please check the RSPB Leighton Moss website nearer the event for details.

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> - Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2014  
(Thursday night - Saturday night inclusive)**

**MOTH NIGHT 2014**

Moth Night(s) 2014 will take place as above and will again include a daytime element. The theme for 2014 will be **'Woodland Moths'**.

The national organisers (Atropos and Butterfly Conservation) are keen to raise public awareness of woodland localities for moths and for recorders to target under-recorded woodland areas. Moth Night is an ideal opportunity for individuals and local groups to promote moth recording to the general public by organising an event, which can be publicised on the Moth Night website. Remember, you don't have to follow the Moth Night 2014 theme or organise public events; anyone can take part in the annual celebration. Visit the website <http://www.mothnight.info/www/> to find out more and see how to submit your records.

You may also wish to make a note of the dates for Moth Night 2015

**10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> September 2015**