

Lepidoptera in Cheshire 2005

A report detailing records received for the moths and butterflies of Vice-county 58



*The Biodiversity Information System for
Cheshire, Halton, Warrington and Wirral*



Lancashire & Cheshire Entomological Society
Promoting the Study of Insects in the North West
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Introduction

This report follows our usual format but as always we have attempted to improve the quality and usefulness of the information included. We have added what are hoped will become regular and useful features of the report, for example a summary of the previous year's National Moth Night Results and weather summary.

The butterfly section is a condensed version of Barry Shaw's report produced annually for Butterfly Conservation. As a result of this, the formatting of dates etc. is slightly different in the moth and butterfly sections of the report. His report has been illustrated with photographs kindly provided by Peter Eeles who runs the UK Butterflies website - see the links at the end of this report for details. The moth data are summarised and presented here for the first time. They are also well illustrated with photographs, which are images of the actual moths referred to in the text unless specified otherwise in the text.

We have produced two versions of the report for those downloading from the Internet. One if these has the photographs removed and therefore creates a much reduced file size. The current report and all past and previous reports, newsletters and distribution matrices since 2000 can be downloaded as full-colour, free PDF files from www.butterfly-conservation.com by clicking the 'Report Centre' button and then the appropriate link. They are also now available from the rECOrd website www.record-lrc.co.uk (click the members tab\hosting groups\moth group). Paper copies will be in the complete format and are available in black and white printed form upon request. Please be so kind as to provide a stamped (value 50p) and labelled envelope to cover costs to Shane Farrell and a copy will be sent by return.

We continue to trawl through old publications and will produce the VC58 Atlas of Lepidoptera as soon as possible. This will be a massive job though so bear with us! We are sure the wait will be more than worthwhile.

We can only report the data we receive and for this reason, it is likely that we can never provide the full picture of our lepidopterous fauna in VC58. However, what we can do is provide the fullest known distribution and occurrence statistics available to us. Quite simply if you don't send your records directly to us, we cannot guarantee to report your findings. Details of the preferred ways to send us your data are given on the Cheshire Moth Group (CMG) website.

As always, many thanks to all recorders and organizations who have already submitted records to us for 2005/2006 and for previous years. Without your efforts this report would not be possible. Please keep the records coming!

Field Meetings

The CMG organise regular field meetings during each season and these can either be planned in advance (see below under National Moth Night) or at very short notice. We operate an E-mail notification system where E-mails are sent round as a blind copy to a group and details of each event provided. For Lancashire & Cheshire Entomological Society (LCES) members, we can also provide telephone notification on a cascade basis. If you wish to take advantage of either of these systems please contact Shane Farrell.

Records and Verification.

This slightly thorny issue crops up on a regular basis and is occasionally the source of 'heated debate' regarding what can and cannot be accepted in terms of a record. Hopefully recorders sending their data to the moth group will accept that we wish wherever possible to ensure that there can be no doubt cast over records in the future. We must do all we can to ensure records on the central database are accurate and moths have been properly identified. We fully accept that some recorders will not retain voucher specimens for dissection or other confirmation and that the best we can hope for in some cases is a good enough photograph to identify certain species. This can be acceptable in some circumstances and if this is the preferred method of a recorder, they are urged to take photographs from several angles and to include features such as the hindwing and antennae. They should also provide some illustration of scale such as a five-penny coin etc, or comparison with a known and readily recognizable species in the same shot. Reference should be made to the available literature to establish what are considered to be the diagnostic characteristics of the species concerned. Where a photograph does not or cannot show diagnostic characters then we will not be able to accept the record in most cases. Photographs are also useful to help illustrate future versions of this report.

It may be possible for a member of the moth panel to visit or meet with a recorder to view a moth where they wish to release the specimen alive. As most of you know, moths can be retained alive in pots in a refrigerator

(if you can convince other members of your household that this is reasonable behaviour!) for several days and released unharmed, thus giving you chance to refer to another recorder for an opinion.

In some groups of species and usually for new county records, a moth specimen must be retained and sometimes dissected for a record to be accepted. Where this is not in line with the recorder's views, we will assign the record to an appropriate group of species. Recorders should still provide details of the species they believe the record to relate to so that this information can be maintained. The basic principle of all this is that people on one side of the fence must accept that some recorders reserve their right not to retain voucher specimens while others must accept that some records will not be accepted unless specimens are retained.

Butterflies

Barry T. Shaw

Cheshire County Butterfly Recorder

Please note that in this section of the report, references to Cheshire relate to areas within the modern Cheshire county boundaries but do include the Wirral area (i.e. not just VC58). Barry has already acknowledged the efforts of the recorders supplying him with data in his full report and their names have not been repeated here.

Systematic List Of Species Seen In Cheshire and Wirral During 2005

1526 Small Skipper *Thymelicus sylvestris* (Poda, 1761)

A feature of recent years has been the emergence of very small numbers prior to mid-June, but these did not materialise in 2005 with earliest sightings from Thurstaston on the 17th, Greasby on the 20th and Moore on the 20th. At upland sites numbers were again disappointing whilst elsewhere it was a fairly average year, although increases were noted at Woolston Eyes, Rixton Claypits and Inner Marsh Farm. Peak numbers occurred at most sites around mid-July with significant counts at lowland sites of 36 at Woolston Eyes on the 8th, 30+ at Thurstaston on the 11th, 30+ at Carey Park (Northwich) on the 11th, 70+ at Englesea-brook on the 12th, 44 at Rixton Claypits on the 12th, 33 at Primrose Vale (Congleton) on the 13th and 52 at Handforth on the 26th. Numbers in the Pennine foothills are invariably lower with the only double-figure count of 11 at Bakestonedale Moor on 13th July. Latest sightings were in August at Congleton Edge on the 18th, Walgherton on the 20th and Swettenham Meadows on the 21st.

1531 Large Skipper *Ochlodes faunus* (Turati, 1905)

For the first time since 1996 the species failed to emerge during the last week of May, with the earliest sighting at Englesea-brook on 2nd June. Numbers then increased slowly at lowland sites, but there were no reports from upland areas until 3rd July at Disley. Despite the fact that the Large Skipper was recorded from 64 tetrads in 2005 (an increase on recent years), several localities reported a significant fall in numbers compared to 2004 with reductions in excess of 50% noted at Handforth and Greasby. Largest counts of 50+ at Englesea-brook from 17th June to 17th July, 80+ at Moore on 20th June, 51 at Handforth on 23rd June and 30 at Greasby on 27th June. The only August sightings were from the upland areas in the east of the county - Lyme Park on the 6th and Lamaload on the 17th.

1532 Dingy Skipper *Erynnis tages* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Over the last few years, emergence dates in Cheshire have steadily become earlier with April sightings now being considered the norm. This year the first sighting was at Shakerley Mere on the 23rd - equalling the earliest county record. As usual the highest numbers were recorded in the mid-Cheshire stronghold at Ashton's Flash (Northwich) where there was a count of 20 insects on 29th May. Reports from two previously unrecorded 10km squares (SJ75 and SJ77) was also encouraging news for a species that has disappeared from several established sites in recent years. Firstly, there was a report of a small colony by Chorlton Lane (Chorlton) with a maximum count of four insects on 26th May - this is a previously unreported site although the colony has been in existence for several years. Secondly, at another possible breeding site, a single individual was recorded at Shakerley Mere on 23rd April with two sightings the following day. Nowadays sightings on the Wirral are confined to very small long-established colonies at Thurstaston where six butterflies were recorded on 29th May and Inner Marsh Farm where five were counted on 31st May. Unfortunately, there was no information this year from earlier known colonies at Weaver Parkway or

Winnington Limebeds, whilst the Dinky Skipper could not be found at last year's site at Astbury Mere. Latest sighting was on crumbling cliffs at Thurstaston on 8th June.

1545 Clouded Yellow *Colias croceus* (Geoffroy, 1785)

It was not a particularly good year for the Clouded Yellow with weather conditions rarely conducive for insect migration. Nevertheless, 2005 did produce 25 sightings from 17 localities, which was an improvement on any year since 2000. As usual the majority of reports emanated from coastal localities on the Wirral between Inner Marsh Farm and Leasowe, with at least eight insects recorded from 28th July to 17th August. The next favoured locality was along the Mersey Estuary at Hale where four butterflies were seen on 19th August. All other sightings, mainly of single insects, were from scattered localities across the county commencing with the only spring report from Fiddler's Ferry on 29th May. Remaining sightings were as follows - Wybunbury on 27th July and 2nd August, Raby Vale on 5th August, Rixton Claypits on 8th August, Swettenham Meadows on 9th August, Englesea-brook on 10th August, Swettenham Meadows on 21st August, Church Minshull on 21st August, Arclid Sand Quarry on 23rd August, Congleton on 28th August, Handforth on 31st August and Dane-in-Shaw Pasture on 2nd September.

1546 Brimstone *Gonepteryx rhamni* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Earliest sighting was at Dallam (Warrington) on 13th February, with no further reports until mid-March. The Brimstone could then be seen throughout the year with few peaks and troughs between the emergence of hibernating insects in early spring and the main flight period of the single brood – sightings in February (one day), March (eight days), April (16 days), May (15 days), June (12 days), July (13 days), August (18 days), September (six days) and October (six days). Localities recording double-figure counts were restricted to Moore Nature Reserve with ten on 3rd April, Weston with 18 on 13th July and Englesea-brook with 27 on 10th August. In past years there have been few sightings from the Wirral, but 2005 produced a significant increase with the first ever reports from Inner Marsh Farm RSPB Reserve, plus isolated sightings at several other localities as far north as Birkenhead and New Ferry Butterfly Park. Sightings at the end of the season in October were at Moore Nature Reserve on the 3rd, Congleton on the 9th, Weston on the 10th, Chorlton on the 10th, Inner Marsh Farm on the 11th, Haslington on the 15th and Inner Marsh Farm on the 17th.

1549 Large White *Pieris brassicae* (Linnaeus, 1758)

The earliest ever county sighting was recorded at Shavington on 18th March – there is often a suspicion that very early reports of this species may have been mistaken for female Brimstone butterflies, but on this occasion there was confirmation when the empty pupal case was located. Records show that in 2005 the Large White fared better than in recent years with sightings in 189 tetrads, compared with 151 tetrads in 2004. Spring brood insects were widely recorded at lowland sites, but there was no discernable peak and numbers were invariably in single figures with the largest count of 22 insects at Moore Nature Reserve on 9th May. The summer emergence was, as usual, recorded in larger numbers with the most significant count along the Dee Estuary near Thurstaston where 250 were observed from late July to early August. Latest sightings in mid-October were noted at Holmes Chapel on the 13th, Rowton on the 15th, Astbury on the 16th and Macclesfield on the 24th.

1550 Small White *Pieris rapae* (Linnaeus, 1758)

There was an isolated sighting at Rivacre Country Park on 18th March, but then no further reports until 2nd April when there were sightings from several areas. The spring emergence was only seen in small numbers with a maximum count of 38 insects at Thurstaston on 17th June, although peak numbers at most sites occurred earlier in the month. Numbers were substantially higher in the summer brood with notable counts including 100+ at Lower Heath (Congleton) on 14th July, 46 at Englesea-brook on 17th July, 50 at Frodsham Marshes on 17th July, 46 at Swettenham Meadows on 26th July and 250 at Thurstaston on 26th July. There was also a good series of counts along the Mersey Estuary at Hale Shore with 150 on 23rd July, 150 on 9th August and 93 on 19th August. Latest sightings were at Astbury on 13th October and Somerford on 15th October.

1551 Green-veined White *Pieris napi* (Linnaeus, 1758)

There were March sightings of single insects at Ditton (Widnes) on the 18th, followed by Hale on the 23rd. As usual this butterfly proved to be the most widespread of the “whites” in Cheshire with sightings in 61% of recorded tetrads. The spring brood peaked in mid-May and was only recorded in modest numbers, with a highest count of 36 at Swettenham Meadows on the 15th. The larger summer emergence peaked from late July to early August with significant counts including 85 at Rixton Claypits on 16th July, 46 at Englesea-brook on 17th July, 77 at Sandbach Flashes on 17th July, 53 at Swettenham Meadows on 26th July, 32 at Newgate on 30th July and 32 at Handforth on 11th August. The Green-veined White disappeared from most sites unusually early in 2005 with few reports after late August. Latest sightings were at Rostherne Mere on 22nd September and Weston on 27th September.

1553 Orange-tip *Anthocharis cardamines* (Linnaeus, 1758)

There were no March sightings this year and even by mid-April few insects had been recorded - earliest reports from Woolston Eyes and Macclesfield on the 2nd, before a more widespread emergence commenced on the 10th. The first eggs were observed on Cuckoo Flower *Cardamine pratensis* at Oversley Ford (Styal) on 29th April. Peak numbers occurred slightly later than normal in mid-May, but by the end of the month had already decreased sharply. There were significant counts of 55+ at Aldford on 30th April, 24 at Englesea-brook on 2nd May and 22 at Upper Moss Side Farm (Moore) on 19th May. Sightings continued on a daily basis until 8th June when there was a gap of ten days until reports from Kelsall, Dane-in-Shaw and Great Sutton on the 18th, followed by a final sighting of a fresh-looking male at Hale village on the 20th. It is sometimes considered that these late individuals could relate to a second generation, although it is more likely to be a delayed emergence caused by adverse weather conditions.

1555 Green Hairstreak *Callophrys rubi* (Linnaeus, 1758)

It was a disappointing year for the Green Hairstreak with reports received from only 16 localities, against 23 localities in 2004. Even more disturbing was the fact that numbers at all recorded sites showed a massive reduction compared to 2004; no doubt influenced by the cool early season weather. The only locality where a double-figure count was recorded was at Flaxmere with 20 butterflies on 10th May. Numbers were even lower in the more inhospitable upland regions where the highest count was of seven insects at Bosley Cloud on 29th April. Reports also highlighted the differences in flight period that at lowland sites extended from 21st April to 12th May and in the Pennine foothills from 29th April to 9th June. Earliest sighting was at Abbott's Moss on 21st April; latest at Congleton Edge on 9th June.

1557 Purple Hairstreak *Neozephyrus quercus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

There was an exceptionally early sighting at Eccleston on 19th June – the previous earliest Cheshire record being at Croughton on 29th June 2003. It is possible that June sightings may not be all that unusual as how many contributors even consider looking for this species until early July? Since the mid-1990s recording work has shown how widespread this butterfly is in Cheshire's oak woodlands. The only sizable area where the Purple Hairstreak has not been recorded during this period is in SJ68 and as this 10km square includes suitable habitat around Arley Hall it is probably only a matter of time before it is found at this site. Double-figure counts are rarely encountered in Cheshire, but 2005 produced reports of ten plus at Englesea-brook from 14th July to 2nd August, 19 at Rixton Claypits on 16th July, 18 at Crewe Enterprise Park on 31st July and 14 near Hale on 12th August. Latest sighting was at Spring Wood (Knutsford) on 2nd September.

1558 White-letter Hairstreak *Satyrrium w-album* (Knoch, 1782)

Earliest sighting was on the Wirral at Spital fields on 23rd June. Since the commencement of the Recording Scheme the vast majority of records of the White-letter Hairstreak have been received from small, but widespread, localities in South Wirral. This year, however, an exceptionally large colony was discovered in mid-Cheshire by the busy A556 road at Leftwich where there were counts of 28 on 26th June, 31 on 27th June and 31 on 10th July – viewing conditions of this tree-top insect were difficult at the site with numbers recorded probably only representing a proportion of the colony. Another significant colony was surveyed from a treetop position on private land at Englesea-brook where a maximum count of 28 was recorded on 24th July. At an established colony at Caughall larva and pupa were both found on 29th May. The White-letter Hairstreak is much scarcer in the east of the county where the only report this year was of a single insect at a known site at Bath Vale on 16th August - the latest Cheshire sighting since one was recorded at Hatchmere on 26th August 1984.

1561 Small Copper *Lycaena phlaeas* (Linnaeus, 1761)

Earliest sightings occurred at Englesea-brook on 2nd May and Woolston Eyes on 4th May. Throughout the year numbers were disappointing compared to those seen in 2003 and 2004. Numbers of first brood insects peaked in mid-May with highest counts of ten at Saltersley Moss on the 12th, 12 at Thurstaston on the 17th and 21 at Englesea-brook on the 19th. The second brood peaked in August and was slightly more numerous with notable counts of 28 at Englesea-brook on 24th July, "good numbers" at Lower Heswall on 12th August, 23 at Old Pale (Delamere) on 15th August and 13 at Saltersley Moss on 20th August. This year there was very little evidence of a third emergence with the only sightings after late September relating to single insects at Wincle on 9th October, Hooksbank Wood (Bollin Valley) on 10th October and Wybunbury on 12th November – this latter sighting equalling the latest ever Cheshire record.

1571 Silver-studded Blue *Plebejus argus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

The site at Thurstaston Common where this butterfly was introduced in 1994 was regularly surveyed between 17th June and 5th August, but sadly there were no sightings and the colony must be considered extinct. During the summer of 2006 the site will be checked again to ensure that the butterfly has not survived in very low

numbers.

1574 Common Blue *Polyommatus icarus* (Rottemburg, 1775)

Earliest sightings were of single butterflies at Hough on 25th April and Moore Nature Reserve on 28th April. Breeding season records from Rixton Claypits and Arclid Sand Quarry showed increased numbers compared with 2004, but substantial decreases were reported from most other sites – notably at Greasby, Woolston Eyes, Hooksbank Wood (Bollin Valley), Astbury Mere and Dane-in-Shaw. Few localities recorded significant counts with the exception of Englesea-brook where 80+ were seen on various dates from 18th May to 17th June. In the last few years it would seem that the Common Blue has virtually disappeared from former sites in the upland regions in the east of the county with the only report in 2005 of five insects at Middlewood on 3rd July. Latest sightings were at Newchurch Common on 20th September and Rixton Claypits on 25th September.

1580 Holly Blue *Celastrina argiolus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Earliest sightings were at Great Sutton and Holmes Chapel on 10th April, followed by a more general emergence towards the end of the month. Compared with the two cyclical peaks that occurred in Cheshire during the 1990s population levels are now at a relatively low, though stable, level – reports received from 70 tetrads in 2004 and 75 tetrads in 2005. Records show that numbers have tended to fall in several areas of the north and east of the county, but remain healthier elsewhere. Results from two regularly surveyed gardens at opposite sides of Cheshire during 2005 emphasise this point with sightings on 42 dates at a Great Sutton (Wirral) garden, against only three dates at a Bollington (Pennine foothills) garden. This year there was very little gap between the two broods with the first emergence peaking in the second week of May and the summer brood in the first week of August – both broods being recorded in similar numbers. The latest sightings in September were at Dane-in-Shaw on the 12th and Thurstaston on the 20th, followed by the latest ever Cheshire sighting at Wallasey on 23rd October – this latter report probably relating to a third emergence.

1590 Red Admiral *Vanessa atalanta* (Linnaeus, 1758)

For the fourth successive year there were reports during the first quarter with March sightings of single insects at Hale on the 1st, Old Pale (Delamere) on the 19th and Haslington on the 20th – it is only possible to speculate as to whether these insects were early migrants or butterflies that had hibernated locally. Subsequent sightings were unexceptional, but there were several interesting reports from late summer including butterflies moving south across the River Mersey on 7th September and 2nd October; a large count of 51 feeding along an ivy-covered hedge at Englesea-brook on 16th October; and two insects found in a bird hide at Hale Duck Decoy on 25th October – possibly hibernating? Despite low numbers at most sites the butterfly was recorded on 63 dates in a Bollington garden. Peak numbers were not seen until late September, but then continued at a high level for a further six weeks. Even during early November there were far more sightings than normal with a further 57 reports that continued until temperatures dropped sharply in mid-month - final sightings for the month were from Holmes Chapel and Macclesfield on the 15th and Rixton Claypits the following day. These were followed by two exceptionally late sightings during sunny conditions at Woolston Eyes and New Brighton on 19th December.

1591 Painted Lady *Vanessa cardui* (Linnaeus, 1758)

For the second successive year there was a March sighting in the county with an insect at Audlem on the 24th. There were then no further reports until a single sighting at Saddle of Kerridge on 10th May, followed by a very small influx on the 30th. Numbers failed to improve significantly throughout the summer months, with the highest recorded count at any site of only three butterflies at Inner Marsh Farm on 14th July. Numbers of this migrant do, of course, vary considerably from one year to another – in 2004 it was recorded in 121 tetrads, against only 41 tetrads this year. The following Table lists the number of days this insect has been recorded in Cheshire each month during the last five years, revealing the poor figures in 2005. Latest ever sighting in Cheshire was at Wybunbury on 7th November.

Year	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov
2001	-	-	2	-	8	15	4	3	-
2002	-	-	2	18	3	25	24	4	-
2003	-	-	9	27	31	31	28	18	1
2004	2	-	1	18	13	24	20	2	-
2005	1	-	2	5	11	16	15	2	1

*Table One : Painted Lady *Vanessa cardui* records in Cheshire 2001-2005*

1593 Small Tortoiseshell *Aglais urticae* (Linnaeus, 1758)

The earliest sighting was at New Ferry Butterfly Park on 29th January, but there were then few reports of insects disturbed from hibernation until mid-March when a warm sunny spell from the 17th–19th resulted in a widespread emergence. The fact that this butterfly was found in 55% of recorded tetrads during the year, against 54% in 2004, would seem to indicate that the Small Tortoiseshell did not fare too badly during 2005, but it has to be remembered that 2004 was also a poor year. Statistics can also be deceptive and the following Table shows the true extent of the decline by quoting the number of recorded tetrads and localities where double-figure counts have occurred over the last three years: -

<i>Year</i>	<i>Tetrads</i>	<i>10+ counts</i>	<i>30+ counts</i>	<i>100+ counts</i>
2003	300	64	13	5
2004	185	24	5	3
2005	193	11	2	-

Table Two : Monthly Summary of Small Tortoiseshell *Aglais urticae* records 2001-2005

The above figures will not come as a surprise to the many contributors who have commented on declining numbers over the past few years. Many garden surveys during 2005 produced sightings of one, or even no sightings, during the entire year. Reasons for poor seasons are often blamed on weather conditions, but in some areas of the U.K. it has also been shown that populations can suffer severe declines when parasitic Ichneumon wasps or Tachinid flies attack larvae. Highest counts in 2005 were of modest numbers - 30+ at Moore Nature Reserve on 9th May and 50+ at Stapelford on 16th July. Latest November sightings were at Hoole on the 9th, Helsby Hill on the 9th, Moore on the 12th, Burleydam on the 12th, Lach Dennis on the 13th and Stapelford on the 13th. Final sighting of the year was at Burleydam on 22nd December.

1596 Camberwell Beauty *Nymphalis antiopa* (Linnaeus, 1758)

This butterfly remains as elusive as ever with the only report relating to a single “fly through” at Little Budworth on 19th June. The only other Cheshire sighting in the last five years was also in June at Woolston Eyes on 28th June 2003. Although there were few other sightings of this insect in the U.K. during 2005 there was a sighting in June from the Derbyshire Peak District and another unconfirmed sighting during the same period from the Rochdale area.

1597 Peacock *Inachis io* (Linnaeus, 1758)

After an initial early sighting during cold weather at Nantwich on 27th January there were no further reports until mid-March when warm conditions resulted in widespread sightings. Later in the year the largest count of this single-brooded insect, by a considerable margin, was at Rixton Claypits where 184 were recorded on 8th August, including 101 nectaring on Common Knapweed *Centaurea nigra* and 64 on Common Fleabane *Pulicaria dysenterica*. There were no other exceptional concentrations in 2005 with the highest counts of 60+ at Weston on 13th July, 47 at Swettenham Meadows on 9th August, 61 at Englesea-brook on 10th August and 50 at Woolston Eyes on 11th August. There were conflicting reports from garden surveys with most contributors commented on low numbers, although in one Prestbury garden the Peacock represented 47% of all sightings. November sightings were confined to single insects at Hale and Holmes Chapel on the 1st, Poulton on the 11th, Somerford on the 13th, Wybunbury on the 13th and Church Lawton on the 18th. There was then a gap until 11th December when sunny conditions resulted in exceptional late reports from Delamere Forest and Lower Heswall.

1598 Comma *Polygonia c-album* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Earliest sightings were at Great Sutton, Moore and Oxmoor Local Nature Reserve on 17th March, followed by widely scattered reports over the next two days. During the period from mid-March to late May the Comma was scarcer than normal with sightings on only 29 days compared to 45 days in 2004. Later in the year peak numbers occurred in early July and again in late September, but with good numbers throughout the intervening period. Double figure counts included 12 at Moore Nature Reserve on 11th July, 17 at Englesea-brook on 24th July, 15 at Arley Hall on 21st September and 17 at Englesea-brook on 16th October. Regular sightings continued until late October, but these were followed by November reports from Whirley (Macclesfield) on the 12th and Hare Hill (Alderley Edge) on the 18th – this latter sighting being the latest ever recorded in Cheshire.

1600 Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary *Boloria selene* ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

It was a disappointing year for this species despite the conservation work that has been undertaken at Bagmere in recent years. An initial visit to this private site on 8th June resulted in only six insects being

recorded, whilst further counts on 17th June and 19th June produced the same number of sightings. The highest count of eight butterflies on 20th June represented an ominous fall in peak numbers compared with the last few years – the only hope being that there may have been a slightly later emergence this year when no visits to the site were made. Maximum counts over the last seven years have been as follows. Latest sighting at Bagmere was of a single insect on 24th June.

1999	11 on 13 th June	2003	19 on 6 th June
2000	19 on 16 th June	2004	28 on 16 th June
2001	8 on 17 th June	2005	8 on 20 th June
2002	16 on 6 th June		

*Table Three : Summary of Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary *Boloria selene* records 1999-2005*

1607 Dark Green Fritillary *Argynnis aglaja* (Linnaeus, 1758)

It was a fairly typical year for this highly mobile insect which has now been recorded in Cheshire on 33 occasions in the past 16 years – the last year with no reported sightings was 1998. This year single butterflies were seen at Coddington on 9th July, Brereton Heath Country Park on 17th July and Heronbridge (Chester) on 2nd August.

1614 Speckled Wood *Pararge aegeria* (Linnaeus, 1758)

There were March sightings at Haslington on the 20th and Kerridge on the 31st, but then few further reports until mid-April. Sightings indicated that the Speckled Wood was as widespread as at any time over the last few years, although counts were mainly unexceptional with the highest concentrations of 40+ at Saltney on 25th April, 36 at Englesea-brook on 10th August, 36 at Rixton Claypits on 19th August, 75 at Woolston Eyes on 30th August and 45 at Upper Moss Side Farm (Moore) on 5th September. As usual, due to the staggered emergence dates of this insect, there was little pattern as to when maximum numbers were seen. This is, however, the first occasion since the Cheshire Butterfly Recording Scheme commenced that the Speckled Wood has been identified as the most widely distributed species with reports from 220 tetrads - the next most widespread species in 2005 was the Green-veined White which was seen in 212 tetrads, although it has to be borne in mind that some contributors tend to ignore the “white” butterflies and this species is probably under-recorded. Latest sighting was at Kelsall on 27th October.

1615 Wall *Lasiommata megera* (Linnaeus, 1767)

It seems hard to believe that the Wall has disappeared nationally from 72% of its former sites in the last 25 years and is now the fastest declining butterfly in the U.K. A similar pattern has occurred in Cheshire, although there are finally indications that these declines may have slowed, or even ceased, as shown by the following data: -

<i>Year</i>	<i>Tetrads</i>	<i>Sightings</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Tetrads</i>	<i>Sightings</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Tetrads</i>	<i>Sightings</i>
2000	68	152	2002	24	41	2004	25	52
2001	45	76	2003	26	66	2005	23	61

*Table Four : Summary of Wall *Lasiommata megera* records 2000-2005*

This year first brood insects were recorded from 14th May to 10th June, with the second larger emergence from 24th July to 13th September – there was no evidence of any third brood. The majority of reports were again from the Pennine foothills where there were sightings in ten tetrads, including maximum counts of 11 butterflies along Congleton Edge on 18th August and 31st August. News from sites on the Wirral was less encouraging with reports confined to Inner Marsh Farm and nearby Burton Point - this latter site did, however, produce an excellent count of 13 insects on 30th May. Elsewhere in the county there were the usual scattered sightings of very small numbers, but at Old Pale (Delamere) which has in the past been a reasonable locality for this species there was just a single insect on 5th June. Earliest sighting was at Burton Point on 14th May; latest at Congleton Edge on 13th September.

1620 Marbled White *Melanargia galathea* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Although there is no evidence that the Marbled White has ever bred in Cheshire there have in the past been occasional reports of it being seen in the county, with the most recent sightings prior to this year being of single butterflies in 1992, 1994 and 2003. Unauthorised releases are not unheard of in other parts of the country and these could of course account for some, if not all, of the sightings in Cheshire. This year two observers saw a single butterfly at Moore Nature Reserve on 23rd July, with possibly the same insect seen by

another observer at Freeman's Copse (Ellesmere Port) on the 25th.

1621 Grayling *Hipparchia semele* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Earliest sighting was at Thurstaston on 11th July. During the following month there were further reports of very small numbers at the regular breeding localities along the Wirral coast between Thurstaston cliffs and Leasowe sand dunes. Most reports were of single insects, but with noteworthy counts of seven at Thurstaston on 17th July, seven at West Kirby on 30th July and five at Caldby on 8th August. As usual the only inland records were from the small breeding colony by Sandbach Flashes where five insects were observed on 17th July – unfortunately, this site is becoming overgrown and probably less attractive to the Grayling. Latest sighting was at Thurstaston on 18th August.

1625 Gatekeeper *Pyronia tithonus* (Linnaeus, 1771)

Earliest sightings were on the fairly typical dates of 22nd June at Old Pale (Delamere) and at Prestbury the following day. There were conflicting reports from contributors as to how well the Gatekeeper fared in 2005 with a record count from Woolston Eyes, but a considerable fall in numbers at Greasby and Newgate (Wilmslow). Peak numbers at most sites were seen in late July, although the highest counts at some localities were slightly earlier with 500 at Thurstaston on the 14th, 437 at Rixton Claypits on the 16th, 1,257 at Woolston Eyes on the 20th and 210 at Old Pale (Delamere) on the 23rd. Numbers, as invariably happens, fell away sharply from late August with just a few reports in the first week of September, followed by final sightings at Dane-in-Shaw Pasture on the 12th and Chester on the 13th.

1626 Meadow Brown *Maniola jurtina* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Earliest sightings were on typical dates at Weston on 7th June and Oversley Ford (Styal) the following day. Peak numbers occurred at different sites over a longer period than normal from late June to late July, with noteworthy counts during July including 500 at Thurstaston on the 2nd, 176 at Dane-in-Shaw on the 12th, 115 at Swettenham Meadows on the 13th, 223 at Rixton Claypits on the 16th and 317 at Woolston Eyes on the 20th. Few butterflies lingered beyond late August, with the latest sightings at Swettenham Meadows and Woolston Eyes on 13th September, followed by Moore Nature Reserve on the 26th.

1627 Small Heath *Coenonympha pamphilus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Earliest sighting was at Thurstaston on 12th May. Largest counts were both on private land - 51 at Delamere Quarry on 7th June and 21 at Englesea-brook on 17th June. Elsewhere the only other sites with significant counts were at Windyhouse Farm (Delamere) where ten were recorded on 20th June, plus Thurstaston cliffs with "good numbers" on 18th August. In the Pennine foothills the Small Heath seemed to fare particularly badly this year with records from only six tetrads, against 17 in 2003 and 13 in 2004. Possibly this poor showing could have been due to unfavourable weather conditions this year resulting in less recording work being undertaken. Nevertheless, the only significant count was of ten insects at Shutlingsloe on 26th June. Latest sighting was at Wychwood (Chorlton) on 12th September.

1629 Ringlet *Aphantopus hyperantus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Only a few visits were made to the main breeding stronghold of the Ringlet in the Wych Valley, although a few freshly emerged insects were seen near Oldcastle Mill on 20th June – the earliest Cheshire sightings for this species. Additional recording along this Valley between Oldcastle Mill and Lower Wych resulted in maximum counts of 60+ insects on 9th July and 73 on 10th July. Since the first Cheshire breeding colony was discovered in the Wych Valley in 1997 the species has been slow to colonise adjacent areas, although this does now seem to be occurring. In 2005 there were reports from nearby Threapwood, together with several other localities across the south of the county with sightings of very small numbers from Bridge Trafford (SJ47), Audlem (SJ64), Burleydam (SJ64), Broomhall (SJ64) and Weston (SJ75). If the butterfly continues to find further areas of suitable habitat it could establish itself over a much wider area. Latest sighting was at Weston on 10th August,

Moths

Shane Farrell - VC58 County Macromoth Recorder

Steve Hind - VC58 County Micromoth Recorder

This report is based upon the current records held on the database of the Cheshire Moth Group (CMG), which incorporates data from Lancashire & Cheshire Entomological Society (LCES) members and publications, and

rECOrd, the County Biological Information System. It covers the area within Watsonian Vice-county 58 (Cheshire).

Both Steve Hind (micromoths) and Shane Farrell (macromoths) are willing to receive specimens or photographs from Cheshire for confirmation/identification in line with the comments in the introduction. Humanely killed specimens can be posted, preferably in a film canister or similar, with paper/cotton wool either side to prevent too much damage. Alternatively, they can of course be handed to us in person while still alive. Please contact either party direct using the contact details at the end of this report.

There are a couple of new sections to the report this year but as usual the bulk of the report includes comment on the scarcer moths recorded in 2005 and also those which may not be considered scarce on the basis of the number of historic records but for which we have seen very few records for some reason in 2005.

The report can only cover records for which we have actually received detail, and therefore if your records do not appear here then it is likely that we have not had them and therefore cannot report them. There is the remote possibility that records have been received but not, for some reason, input. This could be a simple error (for which we apologise). If you suspect that this is the case please contact the person to whom your records were submitted. It is also possible that the records require some form of verification in order to allow the CMG Rarity Panel to accept or publish them. In the latter case we would usually contact the recorder concerned to ask for supporting evidence. In many cases such records, once confirmed, will be included in the following year's report – see *Additional Species Records Received Since the Last Report and Relating to 2004* below.

Details of the macromoth species requiring verification or dissection are listed on the macromoth checklist for the county. This is updated at least annually and contains virtually all the species on the county list. Each species has a code to reflect apparent rarity and any requirement for verification or otherwise. Paper or electronic copies can be obtained from Shane Farrell. It is hoped that we will eventually be able to provide a similar checklist for micromoths in the future. In the meantime Steve Hind will contact recorders when further details are required.

The last five years' records for all moths are summarised below in *Table Five*. They confirm that 2005 was about an average year for general numbers. Clearly the numbers generally reflect the fact that light trapping remains the most common method of recording.

Year	Species	Records
2001	790 (372)	28,005 (17,363)
2002	797 (384)	33,315 (24,642)
2003	847 (395)	41,951 (31,131)
2004	828 (406)	42,028 (32,200)
2005	811 (386)	34,808 (27,429)

*Table Five : Annual summary 2001-2005 of moth records in VC58.
(macromoth numbers in brackets).*

National Moth Night

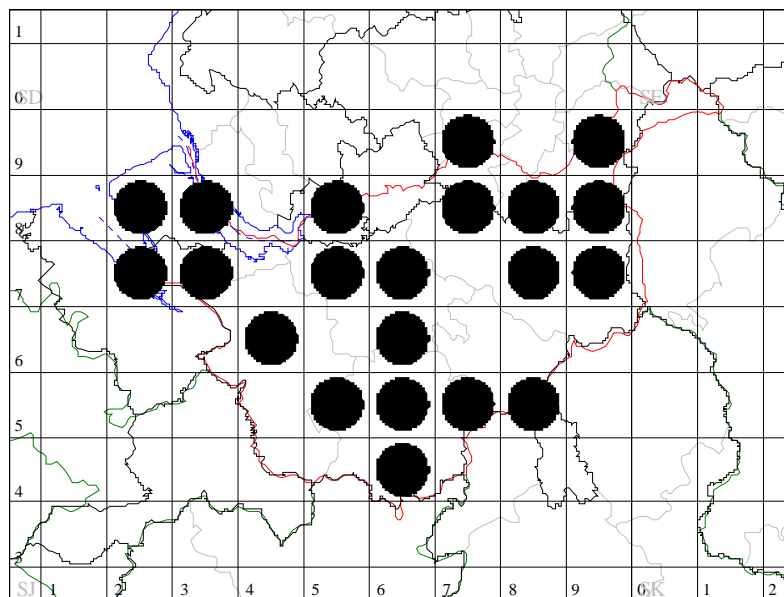
In 2005 National Moth Night (NMN) was a successful night. We were blessed with reasonable weather in most areas of the county and therefore the catches were higher than has often been the case for this annual event. The chosen date (9-Jul) was also advantageous in terms of the numbers of species likely to be flying. Records were received from 37 sites and from in excess of 40 recorders in VC58. These were spread across 21 of our 10km squares; there are 45 part squares and 17 full squares in the county. A map is provided (right) which confirms the squares from which we received data and they confirm how even and extensive our coverage is becoming. All recorders should be congratulated for making the county so well represented for this event.

There were records of 272 species (152 macromoths) on the night; some of these were confirmed after the event. The best site by far was Marbury where several traps were run and a total of 169 species (85 macromoths) were recorded (MD,PMH,SHH et al). This included a new county record (*Coleophora bipennella* - see below for further details) and numerous new site records.

Full details of some of the more interesting species recorded on the night (all sites) are provided below under the systematic list and include the following species (number of records on NMN2005 are given in brackets). *Cedestis gysselella* (1), *Coleophora flavipennella* (1), Large Clover Case-bearer *Coleophora trifolii* (1), *Coleophora mayrella* (1), *Coleophora bipennella* (1) *Coleophora tamesis* (1), *Carpatolechia fugitivella* (1),

VC58 Moths Recorded 10km squares NMN2005

Teleiodes luculella (1),
Brachmia blandella (1),
Batrachedra praeangusta (1),
Batrachedra pinicolella (1),
Agapeta zoegana (1), *Aethes rubigana* (2), Bilberry Tortrix
Aphelia viburnana (1),
Lozotaeniodes formosanus (1),
Eana incanana (10), *Endothenia quadrimaculana* (1), *Bactra furfurana* (3), *Epiblema foenella* (1), *Eucosma campoliliana* (3), *Pammene regiana* (2), *Chilo phragmitella* (1), *Donacaula forficella* (1), *Udea olivalis* (1), *Homoeosoma sinuella* (1), Oblique Carpet *Orthonama vittata* (1), V-Moth *Macaria wauaria* (1), Round-winged Muslin *Thumatha senex* (4), Muslin Footman *Nudaria*



mundana (1), Scarce Footman *Eilema complana* (1), Buff Footman *Eilema depressa* (2), Garden Tiger *Arctia caja* (1), Grey Arches *Polia nebulosa* (1), Bird's Wing *Dypterygia scabriuscula* (1), Silky Wainscot *Chilodes maritimus* (1), Golden Plusia *Polychrysis moneta* (1), Blackneck *Lygephila pastinum* (1) and Pinion-streaked Snout *Schrankia costaestrigalis* (1).

National Moth Night in 2006 is on 23-Sep-2006 and this should result in the recording of some of our vibrant autumn species, which often get missed as some recorders pack away their traps by this time of year!

The Commonest Species

The 20 most numerous species recorded in 2005 are detailed below in *Table Six*. Although we have included 'Common Rustic agg.' and 'Marbled Minor agg.' that do not relate specifically to one species, we felt it was important to show the numbers caught for this group that cannot be split on external features. There are no real surprises here with the possible exception of Common Footman *Eilema lurideola*. This moth is never particularly common in my own garden (11 records in six years) but does seem to have a distribution that is heavily weighted in some areas. The recent increase in records of Buff Footman *E. depressa*, Scarce Footman *E. deplana* and Dingy Footman. *E. griseola* should put people on guard for these rarer species if they do get a lot of Common Footman in their traps.

Code	Vernacular	Taxon	Records	Individuals
2107	Large Yellow Underwing	<i>Noctua pronuba</i>	1145	14048
2089	Heart and Dart	<i>Agrotis exclamationis</i>	769	7140
2343x	Common Rustic agg.	<i>Mesapamea secalis</i> agg.	702	6275
2126	Setaceous Hebrew Character	<i>Xestia c-nigrum</i>	504	3438
0998	Light Brown Apple Moth	<i>Epiphyas postvittana</i>	579	3269
2321	Dark Arches	<i>Apamea monoglypha</i>	612	2166
2187	Common Quaker	<i>Orthosia cerasi</i>	352	2083
2109	Lesser Yellow Underwing	<i>Noctua comes</i>	492	2079
2102	Flame Shoulder	<i>Ochropleura plecta</i>	623	1743
2190	Hebrew Character	<i>Orthosia gothica</i>	442	1719
2098	Flame	<i>Axylia putris</i>	445	1657
2134	Square-spot Rustic	<i>Xestia xanthographa</i>	334	1320

1713	Riband Wave	<i>Idaea aversata</i>	458	1275
2050	Common Footman	<i>Eilema lurideola</i>	260	1217
2160	Bright-line Brown-eye	<i>Lacanobia oleracea</i>	443	1080
1937	Willow Beauty	<i>Peribatodes rhomboidaria</i>	501	1053
2111	Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing	<i>Noctua janthe</i>	299	1053
2337x	Marbled Minor agg.	<i>Oligia strigilis</i> agg.	366	1032
2155	Dot Moth	<i>Melanchra persicariae</i>	300	975
1764	Common Marbled Carpet	<i>Chloroclysta truncata</i>	485	971

Table Six : Summary of the 20 most commonly recorded moth species in VC58 in 2005

Systematic List of Rarer Species in 2005

This year was yet another good year for new species added to the all-time list. We received records of nine new species for the county and the provisional total number of species on our database currently stands at 1461 (a rather mouth-watering 599 macromoths). Two of the species added in 2005 were ostensibly imported in plants or foodstuffs but the records are still perfectly valid and are important in relation to our understanding of the potential of new 'invasions' of moths such as Light Brown Apple Moth *Epiphyas postvittana*.

New species recorded in the county in 2005 are summarised in *Table Seven* below and full details can be obtained from the systematic section of this report that follows.

Code	Vernacular	Taxon	Authority	Recorder	10km Square
0055		<i>Stigmella aeneofasciella</i>	(Herrich-Schäffer, 1855)	SHH	SJ35
0265		<i>Bucculatrix cristatella</i>	Zeller, 1839	IFS	SJ29
0366a		<i>Cameraria ohridella</i>	Deschka & Dimic, 1986	TH	SJ35
0519		<i>Coleophora deauratella</i>	Lienig & Zeller, 1846	MD,SHH,KM et al	SJ98
0535		<i>Coleophora ibipennella</i>	Zeller, 1849	MD,PMH,SHH	SJ67
1248	Oriental Fruit Moth	<i>Grapholita molesta</i>	(Busck, 1916)	SPF	SJ99
1380		<i>Phlyctaenia perlucidalis</i>	(Hübner, 1809)	PMH,SHH,MP,PBr,CB	SJ67
1689	Mullein Wave	<i>Scopula marginepunctata</i>	(Goeze, 1781)	DC	SJ65
2428	Golden Twin-spot	<i>Chrysodeixis chalcites</i>	(Esper, 1789)	BTS	SJ88

Table Seven : New species in VC58 in 2005

Systematic List of Scarce and New Moths in VC58 in 2005

The above records are clearly of major importance for the county and here we can provide fuller detail on the above species and also the other rare and scarce moths recorded in VC58 in 2005. A brief comment on each species is made below, providing detail on where and when the species were found and by whom. Finer detail may be available upon request. *All records relate to adults at light unless specified otherwise. Where dates or numbers are not specified then this information was not provided.*

0005 *Micropterix calthella* (Linnaeus, 1761)

160 adults on the flowers of Creeping Buttercup *Ranunculus repens* and Sedges *Carex* sp. in wet pasture at Jepsonclough Farm, Adlington SJ9380 on 15-May, with smaller numbers still present on 27-May (SHH).

0008 *Eriocrania unimaculella* (Zetterstedt, 1839)

A single moth at Alsager SJ8154 on 3-Apr (MD). Tenanted leaf mines were common on Birches *Betula* sp. at Staley Brushes SJ9899 and SJ9999 on 14-May (SHH,KM).

0009 *Eriocrania sparmannella* (Bosc, 1791)

Tenanted leaf mines at Jacksons Brickworks SJ9484 on 21-Jun, Lady Brook Valley, Bramhall SJ9085 on 26-Jun and Jacksonedge Quarry, Disley SJ9685 on 8-Jul (SHH).

0011 *Eriocrania cicatricella* (Zetterstedt, 1839)

Tenanted leaf mines at Staley Brushes SJ9898 and SJ9899 on 14-May (SHH,KM).

0016 Gold Swift *Hepialus hecta* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Two at Lyme Park SJ9684 on 22-Jun (PJF) and also recorded at Crewe SJ7551 (CW)

0020 *Ectoedemia decentella* (Herrich-Schäffer, 1855)

Single specimens at Alsager SJ8154 on 11 and 14-Jul (MD).

0023 *Ectoedemia argyropeza* (Zeller, 1839)

A few tenanted mines in fallen Aspen *Populus tremula* leaves along a tributary of Poise Brook, Offerton SJ9288 on 12-Nov (SHH).

0025 *Ectoedemia intimella* (Zeller, 1848)

The regular Woods Moor SJ9087 site produced tenanted leaf mines on 22-Nov (SHH).

0028 *Ectoedemia angulifasciella* (Stainton, 1849)

Leaf mines at Ince SJ4576 on 25-Sep (MB,SH), along the canal towpath at Church Minshull SJ6761 on 22-Oct (SHH) and in a roadside copse at Skellorn Green SJ9281 on 13-Nov (SHH).

0043 *Ectoedemia weaveri* (Stainton, 1855)

The Staley Brushes SJ9999 site was visited on 14-May and leaf mines were eventually located (SHH,KM).

0055 *Stigmella aeneofasciella* (Herrich-Schäffer, 1855)

** The first county record. Tenanted leaf mines were locally common on Agrimony *Agrimonia eupatoria* along Dodleston Lane, Pulford SJ3659 and SJ3759 on 9-Oct (SHH).

0080 *Stigmella ulmivora* (Fologne, 1860)

Vacated leaf mines at Blackamoor Wood SJ5577 and Bank Rough SJ5677, along the Weaver Valley, Aston on 15-Oct (SHH,KM).

0090 *Stigmella tiliae* (Frey, 1856)

Vacated leaf mines at Blackamoor Wood SJ5577, Hatton's Hey Wood SJ5676 and Bank Rough SJ5677, along the Weaver Valley, Aston on 15-Oct (SHH,KM).

0119 *Opostega salaciella* (Treitschke, 1833)

Single adults at the entrance to Elmerhurst Wood, Lyme Park SJ9684 on 12-Jul (PJF) and at Higher Poynton SJ9483 on 4-Sep (SHH).

0129 *Incurvaria pectinea* Haworth, 1828

Tenanted leaf mines were locally common along the roadside and in Lower Moss Wood, Ollerton SJ7874 and SJ7875 on 29-May (SHH).

0152 *Adela rufimitrella* (Scopoli, 1763)

Only two adults were seen this year, both during the day, at Woodend SJ8082 on 15-May (BTS) and Jepsonclough Farm, Adlington SJ9380 on 27-May (SHH).

0157 *Heliozela hammoniella* (Sorhagen, 1885)

Vacated leaf mines at Radnor Bridge SJ8365 on 23-Aug (SHH,BTS), Adlington SJ9080 on 20-Sep (SHH) and Woods Moor SJ9087 on 10-Oct (SHH).

0179 Lichen Case-bearer *Dahlica lichenella* (Linnaeus, 1761)

Larvae were awake but inactive in cases exposed on the wooden gatepost at Goyt Hall, Bredbury SJ9290 on 16-Jan (IFS). Good numbers were noted on 10-Feb (SPF) with two pupal exuviae present on 6-May (SPF).

0200 *Psychoides filicivora* (Meyrick, 1937)

Larvae were found on Hartstongue Fern *Phyllitis scolopendrium* at the edge of a woodland in the Weaver Valley, Frodsham SJ5377 on 17-Oct (SHH,KM). This is the first colony to be found away from the Wirral.

0227 Skin Moth *Monopis laevigella* ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

Only two adults were seen this year. In gardens, at Heald Green SJ8586 on 23-Jul (BTS) and Elton SJ4575 on 17-Aug (MB,SH).

0252 *Ochsenheimeria urella* (Fischer von Röslerstamm, 1842)

Two adults were disturbed from grassland at Goyt Meadows SJ9984 on 14-Aug (SHH,KM).

0265 *Bucculatrix cristatella* Zeller, 1839

** The first county record. Cocoonets on Yarrow *Achillea millefolium* at Leasowe Embankment SJ2792 on 9-May (IFS).

0287 *Caloptilia robustella* Jäckh, 1972

A male netted at Staley Brushes SJ9999 on 14-May (SHH,KM) and a female at Romiley SJ9390 on 16-Jun (SPF).

0296 *Calybites phasianipennella* (Hübner, 1813)

An adult at Elton SJ4575 on 6-Aug (MB,SH) is only the third county record and the first since the 19th century.

0301 *Parornix betulae* (Stainton, 1854)

A single leaf mine at Woods Moor SJ9087 on 28-Sep (SHH) is our only record this year.

0330 *Phyllonorycter cerasicolella* (Herrich-Schäffer, 1855)

A few vacated leaf mines at Woods Moor SJ9087 on 11-Oct (SHH).

0332 *Phyllonorycter corylifoliella* (Hübner, 1796)

Leaf mines on Hawthorn *Crataegus* sp. in Elmerhurst Wood, Lyme Park SJ9683 on 6-Aug (SHH) and on Rowan *Sorbus aucuparia* at Alsager SJ8154 on 24-Sep (MD,SHH). This appears to be the first county record on Rowan.

0344 *Phyllonorycter strigulatella* (Lienig & Zeller, 1846)

A few leaf mines at Offerton Green SJ9388 on 31-Jul (SHH), Anderton Nature Park SJ6475 on 2-Oct (AW) and Torkington Park, Hazel Grove SJ9286 on 20-Oct (SHH).

0352 *Phyllonorycter schreberella* Fabricius, 1781

Leaf mines at Adlington SJ9080 on 19-Sep and Pulford SJ3759 on 9-Oct (SHH).

0354 *Phyllonorycter emberizaepenella* (Bouché, 1834)

Snowberry *Symphoricarpos rivularis* leaves contained mines in Bongs Wood, Rostherne SJ7483 on 21-Sep (SHH, BTS) and Woods Moor SJ9186 on 1-Nov (SHH).

0361 *Phyllonorycter trifasciella* (Haworth, 1828)

Honeysuckle *Lonicera periclymenum* leaves contained larval mines in Mere Covert, Rostherne SJ7484 on 22-Sep (SHH,BTS) and in the Weaver Valley at Frodsham SJ5377 on 17-Oct (SHH,KM).

0362 *Phyllonorycter acerifoliella* (Zeller, 1839)

The only report this year was of a leaf mine at Loot's Lake SJ8389 on 23-Oct (BTS).

0366a Horse Chestnut Leaf Miner *Cameraria ohridella* Deschka & Dimic, 1986

** The first county record. The trees all along the Pulford SJ3758 road were infested with *C. ohridella* in mid-Sep (TH); following the first British record at Wimbledon in 2002, *C. ohridella* has spread rapidly. Even so, this is still a large jump in its distribution from its nearest known sites in Northants.

0371 Lunar Hornet Moth *Sesia bembeciformis* (Hübner, 1806)

Exuviae/empty pupal cases at Greasby SJ2587 on 18-Jun, 19-Jun and 20-Jun. A single adult was at the same site during the daytime along with a further two later on 20-Jun (LH). This was the only site in Cheshire known to hold a current colony until rangers found larvae/larval workings in pieces of willow *Salix spp.* at Thurstaston at approx. SJ2282 in late 2004. It was quite a surprise when the larvae emerged as adult Lunar Hornets on or just before 12-Jul (PMH) as they had been assumed to be that of a large beetle species. Two pupal cases were found but only one adult in the bag in which the timber was stored. A full account is given in the December 2005 Newsletter of CMG/LCES.

0373 Currant Clearwing *Synanthedon tipuliformis* (Clerck, 1759)

This day-flying species has been discovered in new sites each year for the past few years and will almost certainly be found wherever mature currant bushes *Ribes spp.* occur. The 2005 records were at Sale SJ7992 where a total of six were found by searching on 18-Jun (PBH) and at Eddisbury Fruit Farm SJ5370 where thirty or more were attracted to a pheromone lure on 26-Jun (GJ).

0396 *Glyphipterix fuscoviridella* (Haworth, 1828)

3 adults flying during the day at Jepsonclough Farm, Adlington SJ9380 on 15-May (SHH).

0414 *Argyresthia curvella* (Linnaeus, 1761)

An adult netted at Higher Poynton SJ9483 on 22-Jun (SHH) and singles at Romiley SJ9390 on 23-Jun and 1-Jul (SPF).

0419 *Argyresthia semifusca* (Haworth, 1828)

Adults off Rowan *Sorbus aucuparia* at Platt Wood, Lyme Handley SJ9583 on 16-Aug (SHH) and to MVL at Alsager SJ8154 on 6-Sep (MD).

0427 Spindle Ermine *Yponomeuta cagnagella* (Hübner, 1813)

Ten larvae were found on Spindle *Euonymus europaeus* at Frodsham Marsh SJ4978 on 11-Aug (MB,SH).

0435 *Zelleria hepariella* Stainton, 1849

Two records, both singletons, at Romiley SJ9390 on 9-Aug (SPF) and the following night at Heald Green SJ8586 (BTS).

0437 *Swammerdamia caesiella* (Hübner, 1796)

The only record was of a single moth at Alsager SJ8154 on 27-May (MD).

0442 *Cedestis gysselella* Zeller, 1839

Adults at Marbury SJ6575 on 9-Jul (MD,PMH,SHH) and at Alsager SJ8154 on 12-Jul, 3-Aug and 5-Aug (MD).

0447 *Roeslerstammia erxlebella* (Fabricius, 1787)

An adult at Heald Green SJ8586 on 26-Jul (BTS). This is the third site that this species has been recorded at since the first county record in 2002.

0458 *Ypsolopha alpella* ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

A single specimen at Alsager SJ8154 on 29-Aug (MD).

0463 *Ypsolopha vittella* (Linnaeus, 1758)

A single adult at Marple SJ9589 on 29-Sep (MS).

0469 *Eidophasia messingiella* (Fischer von Röslerstamm, 1840)

The fifth county record was of two adults to one of the MV lights at Witton Brook SJ6575 on 17-Jun (PMH,SHH,MP,PBr,CB)

0485 *Schreckensteinia festaliella* (Hübner, 1819)

An adult netted during the day at Slum Wood, Church Lawton SJ8154 on 18-Jul (MD).

0492 *Coleophora flavipennella* (Duponchel, 1843)

Adults at Rode Hall SJ8157 on 25-Jun (MD), Marbury SJ6575 on 9-Jul (MD,PMH,SHH) and at Alsager SJ8154 on 10-Jul (MD).

0511 *Coleophora orbitella* Zeller, 1849

A female at Alsager SJ8154 on 23-Jun (MD) is the first record for almost 20 years.

0516 Large Clover Case-bearer *Coleophora trifolii* (Curtis, 1832)

Single adults at two sites, Marbury SJ6675 on 17-Jun and SJ6576 9-Jul (SHH et al) and Alderley Edge SJ8477 on 2-Jul (MDo,KM).

0518 *Coleophora mayrella* (Hübner, 1813)

Adults at Witton Brook SJ6575 (PMH,SHH,MP,PBr,CB) and Higher Poynton SJ9483 (SHH) on 17-Jun and at Romiley SJ9390 on 9-Jul (SPF).

0519 *Coleophora deauratella* Lienig & Zeller, 1846

** The first county record. At least six adults to MV lights at Jacksons Brickworks, Higher Poynton SJ9484 on 1-Jul (MD,SHH,KM et al).

0522 *Coleophora lineolea* (Haworth, 1828)

Previously found only on the Wirral as larvae feeding on Black Horehound *Ballota nigra*. The capture of an adult at MV light, Elton SJ4575 on 18-Jun (SH, MB), apart from being our first wild caught adult, was also the first away from the Wirral. This was quickly followed by three males again at MV light, at Alsager SJ8154 on 5-Jul, 14-Jul and 22-Jul (MD), much further inland and as well as indicating a significant range extension is far outside the distribution of Black Horehound. An explanation to this was provided on 24-Sep when larvae were found at the latter site feeding on Hedge Woundwort *Stachys sylvatica* (MD,SHH). Additional inland larval records followed from along Dodleston Lane, Pulford SJ3659 and SJ3759 on 9-Oct (SHH) feeding on Black Horehound and from deep inside the hedgerow of a bridleway at Frodsham SJ5377 on 17-Oct (SHH,KM) on Hedge Woundwort.

0532 *Coleophora albidella* ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

A single pupal case attached to a grass stem close to Creeping Willow *Salix repens* at Gunsite, Wallasey SJ2792 on 21-Jun (IFS). The adult was reared through and confirmed.

0533 Pistol Case-bearer *Coleophora anatipennella* (Hübner, 1796)

An adult at Elton SJ4575 on 28-May (MB,SH) and larval cases at Church Minshull SJ6660 on 21-Aug (SHH,AW) and Wimboldsley SJ6862 on 22-Oct (SHH).

0535 *Coleophora ibipennella* Zeller, 1849

** The first county record. A male at Marbury Country Park SJ6576 on 9-Jul (MD,PMH,SHH).

0544 *Coleophora albicosta* (Haworth, 1828)

The two records this year were both of adults on 17-Jun. These were at Witton Brook SJ6575 (PMH,SHH,MP,PBr,CB) and Higher Poynton SJ9483 (SHH).

0553 *Coleophora striatipennella* Nylander, 1848

A female netted at Astmoor Saltmarsh SJ5383 on 8-Aug (KM,DSt) was the ninth county record.

0563 *Coleophora argentula* (Stephens, 1834)

Larval cases at Wythenshawe Park SJ8189 on 16-Sep (BTS) and at Pulford SJ3659 (SHH) and Rivacre Valley SJ3877 on 9-Oct (BS) were the only records this year.

0564 *Coleophora virgaureae* Stainton, 1857

A female at Astmoor Saltmarsh SJ5383 on 8-Aug (KM,DS) was the ninth county record.

0565 *Coleophora saxicolella* Duponchel, 1843

A female at Alsager SJ8154 on 30-Jul (MD) was the seventh county record.

0581 *Coleophora taeniipennella* Herrich-Schäffer, 1855

Larval cases at Adswold SJ8887 on 9-Sep (BTS).

0583 *Coleophora tamesis* Waters, 1929

Single females at Marbury Country Park SJ6575 on 9-Jul (MD,PMH,SHH) and at Alsager SJ8154 on 14-Jul (MD) are the sixth and seventh county records.

0597 *Elachista atricomella* Stainton, 1849

A male at Chadkirk Farm SJ9490 on 30-Jun (JR) is our only record this year.

0601 *Elachista albifrontella* (Hübner, 1817)

Three adults at dusk, Witton Brook SJ6575 on 17-Jun. (PMH,SHH,MP,PBr,CB). Another usually common species with only a single record this year.

0607 *Elachista canapennella* (Hübner, 1813)

Adults at Higher Poynton SJ9483 on 18-Jun and 22-Jul (SHH).

0608 *Elachista rufocinerea* (Haworth, 1828)

An adult found during the day at Woodend SJ8082 on 15-May (BTS).

0609 *Elachista maculicerusella* Bruand, 1859

Several along Witton Brook SJ6575 and SJ6675 on 17-Jun (PMH,SHH,MP,PBr,CB).

0622 *Elachista adscitella* Stainton, 1851

The fourth county record was of a male at Chadkirk Farm SJ9490 on 2-Jul (JR).

0631 *Cosmiotes freyerella* (Hübner, 1825)

A male netted during the day at Jepsonclough Farm, Adlington SJ9380 on 15-May (SHH).

0696 *Agonopterix propinquella* (Treitschke, 1835)

Adults at Romiley SJ9390 on 20-May (SPF) and Elton SJ4575 on 26-May and 31-Aug (MB,SH).

0701 *Agonopterix ocellana* (Fabricius, 1775)

An adult disturbed during the day at Jepsonclough Farm, Adlington SJ9380 on 15-May (SHH).

0704 *Agonopterix scopariella* (Heinemann, 1870)

Following the first county records at Alsager SJ8154 in 2004, there was one at the same site on 2-Jun (MD).

0762 *Athrips mouffetella* (Linnaeus, 1758)

A single adult at Heald Green SJ8586 on 3-Aug (BTS).

0772 *Carpatolechia fugitivella* (Zeller, 1839)

Single adults at Marbury Country Park SJ6576 on 9-Jul (MD,PMH,SHH) and at Alsager SJ8154 on 10-Jul (MD).

0774 *Teleiodes luculella* (Hübner, 1813)

Three adults at Marbury SJ6675 (PMH,SHH,MP,PBr,CB), with another at Marple SJ9589 on 17-Jun (MS). They were followed by another at Marbury SJ6575 on 9-Jul (MD,PMH,SHH).

0782 *Bryotropha senectella* (Zeller, 1839)

Single males at Alsager SJ8154 on 17 and 19-Jul (MD).

0788 *Bryotropha politella* (Stainton, 1851)

A male netted at dusk, at Jacksonedge Quarry, Disley SJ9685 on 8-Jul (SHH). With the exception of a couple of old records from the coast at Wallasey, all other records have come from the Pennine foothills.

0792 *Mirificarma mulinella* (Zeller, 1839)

A female at Alsager SJ8154 on 18-Aug (MD).

0853 *Anacamptis populella* (Clerck, 1759)

An adult at Elton SJ4575 on 12-Jul (MB,SH).

0854 *Anacamptis blattariella* (Hübner, 1796)

Two at Alsager SJ8154 on 28-Aug and three at Bulkeley Hill SJ5255 on 31-Aug (MD).

0866 *Brachmia blandella* (Fabricius, 1798)

Two adults at Marbury SJ6576 on 9-Jul (MD,PMH,SHH) and at Alsager SJ8154 on 12-Jul (MD).

0878 *Batrachedra praeangusta* (Haworth, 1828)

Singles at Heald Green SJ8586 on 1-Jul (BTS), Sale SJ7992 on 9-Jul (PBH) and Alsager SJ8154 on 12-Jul (MD).

0879 *Batrachedra pinicolella* (Zeller, 1839)

The third and fourth county records were of males at Marbury SJ6576 on 9-Jul (MD,PMH,SHH) and Alsager SJ8154 on 12-Jul (MD). The previous records were of several at Delamere in Jun-1963 (HNM) and a female at Romiley SJ9390 on 10-Jul-2003 (SPF).

0882 *Mompha locupletella* ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

Single adults at Marple SJ9589 on 16-Aug (MS) and Higher Poynton SJ9483 on 4-Sep (SHH).

0885 *Mompha conturbatella* (Hübner, 1819)

A single adult at Heald Green SJ8586 on 2-Aug (BTS)

0886 *Mompha ochraceella* (Curtis, 1839)

Adults at Bowdon SJ7686 on 25-May (RH) and Marbury SJ6675 on 17-Jun (PMH,SHH,MP,PBr,CB).

0888 *Mompha propinquella* (Stainton, 1851)

An adult at Elton SJ4575 on 4-Aug (MB,SH), followed by one flushed at Goyt Meadows SJ9984 on 14-Aug (SHH,KM). The Elton record is the first from the western side of the county for roughly 30 years.

0906 *Apple Pith Moth Blastodacna atra* (Haworth, 1828)

An adult at Romiley SJ9390 on 17-Jul (SPF) is only the fourth county record.

0936 *Cochylimorpha straminea* (Haworth, 1811)

Single adults at Witton Brook SJ6575 on 17-Jun (PMH,SHH,MP,PBr,CB) and Romiley SJ9390 on 9-Sep (SPF).

0938 *Agapeta zoegana* (Linnaeus, 1767)

The only moth this year was an adult at Marbury SJ6576 on 9-Jul (MD,PMH,SHH).

0946 *Aethes rubigana* (Treitschke, 1830)

Adults at Marbury SJ6575 and SJ6576 on 9-Jul (MD,PMH,SHH).

0947 *Aethes smeathmanniana* (Fabricius, 1781)

A couple of adults at Frodsham SJ5277 on 22-Jul and 17-Aug (RGB).

0968 *Cochylis nana* (Haworth, 1811)

A single female at Alsager SJ8154 on 18-Jun (MD).

0980 *Variigated Golden Tortrix Archips xylosteana* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Two adults at Anderton SJ6475 on 20-Aug (AW) are the first in five years.

0988 *Bilberry Tortrix Aphelia viburnana* ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

A male at Chadkirk Farm SJ9490 on 9-Jul (JR) is one of only a few records away from the moors.

0991 *Clepsis senecionana* (Hübner, 1819)

Only a single adult was seen on the moors at Staley Brushes SJ9898 on 14-May (SHH,KM).

1000 *Ptycholoma lecheana* (Linnaeus, 1758)

An adult at Alsager SJ8154 on 16-Jun (MD).

1001 *Lozotaeniodes formosanus* (Geyer, 1830)

Adults at Marbury SJ6575 on 9-Jul (MD,PMH,SHH) and Sale SJ7992 on 11-Jul (PBH).

1016 *Cnephasia longana* (Haworth, 1811)

A male at Romiley SJ9390 on 22-Jul (SPF).

1026 *Exapate congelatella* (Clerck, 1759)

Adults at Heald Green SJ8586 on 13-Oct (BTS) followed by single moths at Cheadle Hulme SJ8686 (BTS) and Bowdon SJ7686 (RH) on 15-Oct.

1027 *Neosphaloptera nubilana* (Hübner, 1799)

A male at Witton Brook SJ6575 on 17-Jun (PMH,SHH,MP,PBr,CB) and a female at Alsager SJ8154 on 29-Jun (MD).

1030 *Eana incanana* (Stephens, 1852)

Several at Marbury Country Park SJ6575 and SJ6576 on 9-Jul (MD,PMH,SHH).

1037 *Acleris holmiana* (Linnaeus, 1758)

An adult at Alsager SJ8154 on 12-Jul (MD).

1039 *Strawberry Tortrix Acleris comariana* (Lienig & Zeller, 1846)

Adults at Elton SJ4575 on 17-Jun and 16-Oct (MB,SH) and Rode Hall SJ8157 on 25-Jun (MD).

1073 *Olethreutes schulziana* (Fabricius, 1777)

An adult at Romiley SJ9390 on 3-Aug (SPF) was possibly the first garden record of this sometimes common, heath and moorland species.

1082 Plum Tortrix *Hedya pruniana* (Hübner, 1799)

Three adults at Higher Poynton SJ9483 on 17 and 18 Jun (SHH).

1084 *Hedya ochroleucana* (Frölich, 1828)

Disturbed from a hedgerow between Old Hoolgrave and Hoolgrave Bridge SJ6659 on 21-Aug (SHH,AW). This was only the fourth county record and the first since Jul-1951.

1086 *Hedya salicella* (Linnaeus, 1758)

An adult at Witton Brook SJ6575 on 17-Jun (PMH,SHH,MP,PBr,CB).

1099 *Endothenia marginana* (Haworth, 1811)

A male was flushed at Goyt Meadows SJ9984 on 14-Aug (SHH,KM).

1102 *Endothenia nigricostana* (Haworth, 1811)

Two adults at Chadkirk Farm SJ9490 on 17-Jun (SPF,JR). There are only five previous county records, with the last in 1979.

1104 *Endothenia quadrimaculana* (Haworth, 1811)

Four adults at Witton Brook SJ6575 on 17-Jun (PMH,SHH,MP,PBr,CB) and another at nearby Marbury SJ6576 on 9-Jul (MD, PMH, SHH).

1109 *Lobesia littoralis* (Humphreys & Westwood, 1845)

Single adults at Romiley SJ9390 on 5 and 6-Sep (SPF).

1110 *Bactra furfurana* (Haworth, 1811)

Adults at Witton Brook SJ6575 on 17-Jun (PMH,SHH,MP,PBr,CB) and Marbury SJ6575 on 9-Jul (MD,PMH,SHH).

1113 *Eudemis profundana* ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

The third county record was of an adult at Higher Poynton SJ9483 on 30 Jul (SHH).

1137 *Epinotia tetraquetra* (Haworth, 1811)

Single adults at Alsager SJ8154 on 27-May and 7-Jun (MD).

1146 *Epinotia rubiginosana* (Herrich-Schäffer, 1851)

14 adults at Alsager SJ8154 between 9-Jun and 1-Jul (MD).

1147 Willow Tortrix *Epinotia cruciana* (Linnaeus, 1761)

A couple of adults among Sallows *Salix* sp. at Jacksons Brickworks SJ9484 on 21-Jun (SHH).

1155 *Epinotia brunnichana* (Linnaeus, 1767)

A single adult of the form *brunneodorsana* was found during the day on the Middlewood Way at Hazel Grove SJ9485 on 15-Jul (SHH).

1156 *Epinotia solandriana* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Single adults at Alsager SJ8154 on 18-Jul (MD) and at Bulkeley Hill SJ5255 on 6-Aug (MD,DT) and again at Alsager SJ8154 on 16-Aug (MD).

1165 *Zeiraphera isertana* (Fabricius, 1794)

An adult at Alsager SJ8154 on 9-Aug (MD) follows two records in 2004 (see the amended records below).

1168 *Gypsonoma sociana* (Haworth, 1811)

Two adults along Witton Brook SJ6575 on 17-Jun (PMH,SHH,MP,PBr,CB).

1178 *Epiblema roborana* ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

Three adults at Higher Poynton SJ9483 on 8 and 9-Jul (SHH).

1183 *Epiblema foenella* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Single adults at Marbury Country Park SJ6576 on 9-Jul (MD, PMH, SHH), Frodsham SJ5277 on 11-Jul (RGB) and Elton SJ4575 on 12-Jul (SH,MB).

1193 *Eucosma tripoliana* (Barrett, 1880)

A female at Astmoor Marsh SJ5383 on 8-Aug (KM,DSt), a vagrant male at Romiley SJ9390 the following night (SPF) and two on Sea Aster *Aster tripolium* at Red Rocks Dunes SJ2086 on 30-Aug (BS). The only previous record relates to the successful rearing of larvae from Heswall shore SJ2580 during 2003/2004

1197 *Eucosma campoliliana* ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

Adults at Marbury Country Park SJ6575 and SJ6576 on 9-Jul (MD,PMH,SHH).

1202 *Eucosma obumbratana* (Lienig & Zeller, 1846)

An adult at Frodsham Marsh SJ5179 on 12-Aug (MD,DT).

1219 *Lathronympha strigana* (Fabricius, 1775)

An adult disturbed during the day at Woods Moor SJ9186 on 16-Jun (SHH).

1234 *Pammene regiana* (Zeller, 1849)

Adults at Marbury SJ6675 on 17-Jun (PMH,SHH,MP,PBr,CB), Alsager SJ8154 on 6-Jul (MD) and again at Marbury SJ6576 on 9-Jul (MD,PMH,SHH).

1239 Fruitlet Mining Tortrix *Pammene rhediella* (Clerck, 1759)

A single adult observed during the day at Hilbre Island SJ1888 on 24-May (GB) was the first Island record.

1241 *Grapholita compositella* (Fabricius, 1775)

This day-flyer was only recorded at Woods Moor SJ9087 on 2-Aug (SHH).

1245 *Grapholita janthinana* (Duponchel, 1835)

An adult at Romiley SJ9390 on 22-Jun and others flying around Hawthorn *Crateagus* sp. hedges at Goyt Hall SJ9290 and Chadkirk SJ9490 on 11-Jul (SPF). A larva was found on Hawthorn growing along the Mersey near Chorlton Water Park SJ8291 on 3-Sep (BS).

1248 Oriental Fruit Moth *Grapholita molesta* (Busck, 1916)

** The first county record. An adult was found indoors at Romiley SJ9390 on 29-Oct, presumably having emerged from imported fruit (SPF). Further details are given below in the description of the events surrounding this capture.

I was going about normal tea-time chores on the evening of 29-Oct when I noticed a small moth fly up towards and land on the ceiling of my kitchen in Romiley, Cheshire. Although I am of course normally interested in 'indoor moths', the time of year meant I was instantly curious about where this had originated especially as I had not run the trap for a few days.

Some time before, I had brought home some 'Hogweed' *Heracleum* spp. as I had found the exit holes of Parsnip Moth *Depressaria heraclei* (previously *pastinacella*) and initially assumed that the moth may have originated from this and emerged early. The moth was duly potted up and presented a rather nondescript appearance on initial inspection. However, the dull graphite grey general colouring was complimented by various dots and swirls of colour when looked at through the lens. I took some photographs the next day and despite some searching through web pages and my literature I could not put a name to it. The moth had a wingspan of approximately 13mm. One feature in particular (the white dot near the cell on the forewing) led to a suggestion of *G. molesta* as the possible identity of the moth. I carefully checked the description in the appropriate volume of British Tortricoid Moths and it matched well. However, my next concern was that this was apparently a new county record! I therefore retained the specimen and undertook a dissection of the moth that was a male. The dissected plate was a perfect match for *G. molesta*.

This species is apparently occasionally seen in the UK as an accidental import in foreign fruit (usually in the larval or pupal stage) and I therefore assume it emerged from fruit bought from the local Morrison Store. Coincidentally, on 1-Dec-2004 I found a larva of Scarce Bordered Straw *Helicoverpa armigera* inside a lettuce bought from the same supermarket. If nothing else, this is a lesson to all entomologists that a healthy lifestyle, eating lots of fruit and vegetables, can have some advantages when it comes to finding lepidoptera!

1257 Pea Moth *Cydia nigricana* (Fabricius, 1794)

An adult netted during sunshine in the Lady Brook Valley, Bramhall SJ9085 on 26-Jun (SHH).

1259 *Cydia fagiglandana* (Zeller, 1841)

A female at Heald Green SJ8586 on 24-Jun (BTS) was the second county record. The first was at Inner Marsh Farm, Burton SJ3074 on 26-Jun-1999.

1274 *Dichrorampha alpinana* (Treitschke, 1830)

An adult amongst Ox-eye Daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare* at Jacksons Brickworks SJ9484 on 21-Jun (SHH).

1290 *Chilo phragmitella* (Hübner, 1805)

Five adults along Witton Brook SJ6575 and SJ6675 on 17-Jun (PMH,SHH,MP,PBr,CB) and another at nearby Marbury SJ6576 on 9-Jul (MD,PMH,SHH).

1307 *Agriphila latistria* (Haworth, 1811)

Five adults at Elton SJ4575 between 4 and 27-Aug (MB,SH).

1309 *Agriphila geniculea* (Haworth, 1811)

Away from the western side of the county, where the species is usually common, there was a single adult at Alsager SJ8154 on 17-Aug (MD).

1314 Pearl-band Grass Veneer *Catoptria margaritella* ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

An adult at Romiley SJ9390 on 7-Jul (SPF) is the third garden record in the county in the past four years. All previous records, possibly with the exception with one at Frandley in 1948, have come from the mosses, where it can be locally abundant.

1329 *Donacaula forficella* (Thunberg, 1794)

An adult at Marbury SJ6575 on 9-Jul (MD,PMH,SHH).

1336 Eudonia pallida (Curtis, 1827)

A total of nine adults at Elton SJ4575 on three nights between 15 and 23-Jul (MB,SH). There have now been 13 records at Elton during the past four years. It has not been seen elsewhere in the county since 1988.

1350 Beautiful China-mark Nymphula stagnata (Donovan, 1806)

Two adults at Witton Brook SJ6575 on 17-Jun (PMH,SHH,MP,PBr,CB).

1362 Pyrausta purpuralis (Linnaeus, 1758)

Singles at Frodsham SJ5277 on 11-Jul (RGB) and Anderton SJ6475 on 23-Jul (AW).

1380 Phlyctaenia perlucidalis (Hübner, 1809)

** The first county record. An adult at Witton Brook SJ6575 on 17-Jun (PMH,SHH,MP,PBr,CB).

1385 Ebulea crocealis (Hübner, 1796)

An adult at Elton SJ4575 on 12-Jul (MB,SH), is the first since 1993, when one was caught in a Heath trap at Poynton SJ9283.

1426 Lesser Wax Moth Achromia grisella (Fabricius, 1794)

Adults at Sale SJ7992 on 16-Jun (PBH) and Chadkirk SJ9490 the following night (SPF,JR).

1436 Conobathra repandana (Fabricius, 1798)

Twelve adults at Elton SJ4575 between 8-Jul and 15-Aug (MB,SH). Since the first county record in 1995, 90% of our records have come from this site.

1479 Indian Meal Moth Plodia interpunctella (Hübner, 1813)

Inside the Wyevale Pet Shop, Thorley Lane, Altrincham SJ7988 on 18-Sep (BS).

1481 Homoeosoma sinuella (Fabricius, 1794)

An adult at Birkenhead SJ3286 on 9-Jul (GJ).

1513 White Plume Moth Pterophorus pentadactyla (Linnaeus, 1758)

Adults at Marbury SJ6675 on 17-Jun (PMH,SHH,MP,PBr,CB), Romiley SJ9390 on 26-Jun (SPF) and at Walton SJ6086 during the summer (MM).

1517 Adaina microdactyla (Hübner, 1813)

An adult at Marbury SJ6675 on 17-Jun (PMH,SHH,MP,PBr,CB) and larval galls at Northwich SJ6574 and SJ6674 on 2-Oct (AW).

1637 Northern Eggar Lasiocampa quercus f. callunae Palmer, 1847

One at Burton Point Farm SJ3073 on 2-Jul (DCH)

1637 Oak Eggar Lasiocampa quercus (Linnaeus, 1758)

Two larvae found at Thurstaston Common SJ2484 on 10-Apr 05 (BS) and an adult at Crewe SJ7551 (CW)

1643 Emperor Saturnia pavonia (Linnaeus, 1758)

A larva on bramble *Rubus spp.* at Thurstaston Common SJ2484 on 7-Jul (BS)

1647 Barred Hook-tip Watsonalla cultraria (Fabricius, 1775)

Three records in 2005 brought the total number of records to ten for this species. Single specimens were at Mere SJ7381 on 14-Jul, 17-Jul and 4-Sep (SBI).

1661 Orange Underwing Archiearis parthenias (Linnaeus, 1761)

A day-flying species with records of two specimens at Woods Moor SJ9086 on 21-Mar (SHH), one at Kenworthy SJ8291 on 2-Apr (PBH) and adults at Anderton Nature Park SJ6475 on 2-Apr (AW).

1667 Blotched Emerald Comibaena bajularia ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

Single moths at Mere SJ7381 on 24-Jun (SBI), Crewe SJ7551 (CW) and Alderley Edge SJ8477 on 2-Jun (MDo,KM).

1674 Little Emerald Jodis lactearia (Linnaeus, 1758) A single moth at Shavington SJ7152 on 5-Jun (RBe,TR) and at Great Sutton SJ3875 on 18-Jun (MBe).

1689 Mullein Wave Scopula marginepunctata (Goeze, 1781)

** The first county record. A single moth was caught at Rope SJ6952 on 5-Sep (DC). This record is well away from the usual coastal distribution of this species although there are apparently populations along the Thames Valley (Waring, Townsend and Lewington 2003).

1693 Cream Wave Scopula floslactata (Haworth, 1809)

This species was recorded at Crewe SJ7551 (CW) and Anderton Nature Park SJ6575 on 17-Jun (PMH,SHH,MP,PBr,CB).

1705 Dwarf Cream Wave Idaea fuscovenosa (Goeze, 1781)

The only site where this species was recorded in 2005 was at Bromborough SJ3479 where it was present on 11-Jul (1), 12-Jul (2), 13-Jul (3), 14-Jul (1), 17-Jul (2), 19-Jul (1), 21-Jul (1), 22-Jul (1), 23-Jul (1) and 25-Jul (1) (ES)

1709 Satin Wave *Idaea subsericeata* (Haworth, 1809)

Just two records which bring the total number of records for this species to 24. A single moth at Burton Point Farm SJ3073 on 9-Jun (DCH) and a further five at the same site on 23-Jun.

1719 Oblique Carpet *Orthonama vittata* (Borkhausen, 1794)

The Wirral area seems to be the current stronghold of this species with four records in 2005 bringing the total of records to 29. Single moths were at Upton SJ2588 on 9-Jul and 13-Jul (HD). One was present at Burton Point Farm SJ3073 on 14-Jun and two more at the same site on 23-Jun (DCH).

1734 July Belle *Scotopteryx luridata plumbaria* (Fabricius, 1775)

There have only been 24 records of this species in VC58. Whilst there was a report of a specimen in 2005, this was not dissected in accordance with the recording criteria for both this species and Lead Belle *S. mucronata* (Scopoli, 1763). Therefore the record has been assigned to the appropriate aggregate.

1740 Galium Carpet *Epirrhoe galiata* ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

A single dark specimen was at Mere SJ7381 on 18-Jul (SBI). This tubed moth evaded identity for some time but was eventually confirmed after much head-scratching!

1745 Mallow *Larentia clavaria* (Haworth, 1809)

A single moth at Hilbre Island SJ1888 on 21-Sep (GB) was the only record. This category four species is still extremely rare with just four records in total. Two of these have been at this site.

1749 Dark Spinach *Pelurga comitata* (Linnaeus, 1758)

There were three records in 2005 with one at Chester SJ4168 on 29-Jul (TE) and Frodsham SJ5277 on 8-Aug (RGB) and two at Elton SJ4575 on 29-Aug (MB,SH).

1755 Chevron *Eulithis testata* (Linnaeus, 1761)

One at Macclesfield SJ8874 on 4-Sep (SBr).

1762 Dark Marbled Carpet *Chloroclysta citrata* (Linnaeus, 1761)

One at Bromborough SJ3479 on 7-Jul (ES) and at Lyme Park SJ9684 on 12-Jul (PJF).

1787 Argent and Sable *Rheumaptera hastata* (Linnaeus, 1758)

The location of a single moth during daytime work at Wybunbury Moss SJ6950 on 10-May (TC) was a major find in 2005. This species has been assumed to be extinct in Cheshire for some time and the fact that it has survived in this complex of mosses is very encouraging. There have also been a number of sightings over the border in Staffordshire (Bryan J., 2006. *The Argent & Sable in Staffordshire*) and a major survey and assessment project (adult and larval stages) is planned for 2006. The following event has been organised by Butterfly Conservation's Northern England Regional Office. Please contact Sam Ellis to book a place on 0191 3789216 or sellis@butterfly-conservation.org. TUESDAY 25th JULY 2006: CHESHIRE ARGENT & SABLE LARVAL WORKSHOP: Meet at 10.00am, Village Hall car park (SJ 697499) on the south side of Main Road, Wybunbury. This workshop will provide training in identifying potential breeding and searching for larvae. Access permitting, other nearby sites will be surveyed. This is a nationally important species and one that we are very lucky to have in the county.

1789 Scallop Shell *Rheumaptera undulata* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Recorded this year at Marbury SJ6675 on 17-Jun (PMH,SHH,MP,PBr,CB) and single specimens at Alsager SJ8154 on 27-Jun (MD) and Burton Point Farm SJ3073 on 2-Jul (DCH).

1800 Northern Winter Moth *Operophtera fagata* (Scharfenberg, 1805)

A single moth at Burton Point Farm SJ3073 on 2-Nov (DCH).

1809 Twin-spot Carpet *Perizoma didymata* (Linnaeus, 1758)

One specimen located during the daytime at Disley SJ9685 on 8-Jul (SHH).

1811 Slender Pug *Eupithecia tenuiata* (Hübner, 1813)

The only records this year were single moths at Bowdon SJ7686 on 19-May and 26-May (RHi). As with many of the pugs, this moth should preferably be dissected to confirm to species level when new for a site.

1816 Toadflax Pug *Eupithecia linariata* ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

Single moths were recorded at Willaston SJ6752 on 27-Jun and 29-Jun (DT), Elton SJ4575 on 3-Sep (MB,SH) and Chester SJ4168 on 6-Sep (TE).

1838 Tawny-speckled Pug *Eupithecia icterata* (Villers, 1789)

There were single specimens recorded at Willaston SJ6752 on 16-Jun (DT), Rope SJ6952 on 28-Jun (DC) and Shavington SJ7152 on 15-Aug (RBe,TR).

1844 Ochreous Pug *Eupithecia indigata* (Hübner, 1813)

This moth was present at the following sites, again with individual moths recorded each night. Alsager SJ8154 on 15-May (MD) and at the same site on 27-May (MD) when one was also at Mere SJ7381 (SBI).

1859 Sloe Pug *Pasiphila chloerata* Mabille, 1870

Despite the abundance of Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa* in the county, this species is still quite rarely recorded. There have now been only 18 records in total and it would appear that this moth is best searched for in the larval stages like many of the pugs. There was a single moth in 2005 at Chadkirk SJ9490 on 15-Jun (JR) that was only identified when it was dissected to confirm the identity (male - gen. det. SPF).

1870 Chimney Sweeper *Odezia atrata* (Linnaeus, 1758)

This classic day-flier was seen at several sites in 2005. Dane-in-shaw SJ8762 (JSw), a large count of 166 at Hooksbank Wood SJ8182 on 8-Jun (BTS) and a single moth at Bagmere SJ7964 on 19-Jun (BTS). There was also a single moth at Bramhall SJ9085 on 26-Jun (SHH) and approximately 20 near Dunge Valley Gardens SJ9877 on 9-Jul (BR). As expected these were all daytime sightings.

1874 Dingy Shell *Euchoeca nebulata* (Scopoli, 1763)

A single moth was recorded at Alsager SJ8154 on 27-May (MD) and also at Anderton Nature Park SJ6575 on 17-Jun (PMH,SHH,MP,PBr,CB).

1879 Seraphim *Lobophora halterata* (Hufnagel, 1767)

Single moths at Alsager SJ8154 on 19-May (MD), Anderton SJ6475 on 17-Jun (AW) and Higher Poynton SJ9484 on 1-Jul (MD,PMH,SHH,KM,JP,AVS).

1881 Early Tooth-striped *Trichopteryx carpinata* (Borkhausen, 1794)

There were records of a single moth at Burton Point Farm SJ3073 on 27-Apr (DCH) and three more records from Alsager SJ8154 on 26-Mar (2), 11-Apr (1) and 12-Apr (1) (MD).

1885 Clouded Magpie *Abraxas sylvata* (Scopoli, 1763)

A single moth at Chester SJ4168 on 14-Jul (TE) apparently confirms the recovery of elm *Ulmus* feeding species in the county. There are now a total of 27 records on our database for this moth.

1897 V-Moth *Macaria wauaria* (Linnaeus, 1758)

The usual site at Marple SJ9589 produced a single adult on 9-Jul (MS) and it was good to hear of a further moth trapped at Altrincham SJ7886 on 21-Jun (KN).

1907 Bordered Beauty *Epione repandaria* (Hufnagel, 1767)

Records of this species seem to be becoming more regular. There were three records in 2005 of single moths at Birkenhead SJ3286 in Jul (GJ) and the other two at Mere SJ7381 on 11-Aug and 11-Sep (SBI).

1912 August Thorn *Ennomos quercinaria* Hufnagel, 1767)

Single moths were recorded at Rope SJ6952 on 3-Aug, 27-Aug and 30-Aug (DC) and at Little Neston SJ2976 on 27-Aug (IC).

1927 Brindled Beauty *Lycia hirtaria* (Clerck, 1759)

This is still a very scarcely recorded species in the county with just 27 records in total. The only moths this year were singles at Alsager SJ8154 on 21-Apr, 25-Apr and 27-Apr (MD).

1933 Scarce Umber *Agriopis aurantiaria* (Hübner, 1799)

Four specimens were trapped between 2-Dec and 10-Dec at Alvanley SJ5073 (AJ); single moths were at Mere SJ7381 on 4-Dec and 10-Dec (SBI) and finally one at Willaston SJ6752 on 20-Dec (DT).

1936 Waved Umber *Menophra abruptaria* (Thunberg, 1792)

Single moths at Frodsham SJ5277 on 24-Apr and 30-Apr (RGB), Chester SJ4168 on 30-Apr (TE) and Alsager SJ8154 on 30-Apr (MD).

1952 Common Heath *Ematurga atomaria* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Although attracted to light, this moth is usually found during the day. This was the case with the records this year at Lindow Moss SJ8280 on 9-Jun (PMH) and Saltersley Moss SJ8180 on 11-May (1) and 14-Jun (12) (BTS).

1976 Privet Hawk-moth *Sphinx ligustri* (Linnaeus, 1758)

A single magnificent moth was caught at Bramhall SJ8884 in Jun-2005 (ACh). This represents only the third county record and the first on our database since 1898. It is of course possible that this moth originated from a breeding/release program but could equally relate to a vagrant specimen.

1973 Death's-head Hawk-moth *Acherontia atropos* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Despite the fact this moth was found indoors, given the location of this record, it does seem likely (or at least possible) to be a migrant. There was a single record at Birkenhead SJ3289 when an adult was found by a technician, within the Pacific Road Arts Centre on 1-Jun (KB).

1995 Puss Moth *Cerura vinula* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Single records from Heatley SJ6246 on 27-May (EH) and Romiley SJ9390 2-Jun (SPF).

2014 Marbled Brown *Drymonia dodonaea* ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

There was a single report in 2005 but this was unconfirmed as a photograph or specimen was not available. As a category 4 moth with just five records, it is essential that some form of verification is provided to support records of such species.

2039 Red-necked Footman *Atolmis rubricollis* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Although there have only been five records of this species in the county two of these were in 2005, making it an incredible year! The increase of several of our footman species in recent years has been a feature of the last few reports. It is assumed that, although still very rare at light, Red-necked Footman *A. rubricollis* is sharing in the success assisted by increases in lichen colonies as a result of cleaner air. There were single moths at Chester SJ4168 on 23-Jun (TE) and Mere SJ7381 on 11-Jul (SBI).

2047 Scarce Footman *Eilema complana* (Linnaeus, 1758)

As mentioned above, this moth has also increased recently and now we have a total of 19 records. Single moths were recorded at Shavington SJ7152 on 1-Aug (RBe,TR), at Austerson SJ6549 on 9-Jul (JD) and at Alsager SJ8154 on 22-Jul, 23-Jul, 3-Aug and 4-Aug (MD).

2068 Scarlet Tiger *Callimorpha dominula* (Linnaeus, 1758)

A single adult (our eighth record) was seen in daytime at the colony introduced during the 1960s at West Kirby SJ2185 on 22-Jun (BTS). This colony seems to have been self-sustaining now for over 40 years.

2080 Square-spot Dart *Euxoa obelisca grisea* (Tutt, 1902) and**2081 White-line Dart *Euxoa tritici* (Linnaeus, 1761)**

Although there was a single report of this species in 2005, records of this moth and Square-spot Dart *E. obelisca grisea* will not be accepted in future unless a dissection is carried out to confirm the identity. Recent photographic evidence suggests that the presence or otherwise of the 'arrow marks' in the forewing post-median area of White-line Dart *E. tritici* is not a totally reliable character. For Mapmate users, records where a dissection is not carried out should be applied to the newly created aggregate.

2082 Garden Dart *Euxoa nigricans* (Linnaeus, 1761)

Recorded at Englesea Brook SJ7551 (CW), Chester SJ4168 with one on 2-Aug (TE) and Rope SJ6952 where 19 were recorded on 17-Aug (DC).

2119 Pearly Underwing *Peridroma saucia* (Hübner, 1808)

One was recorded at Cheadle Hulme SJ8786 (GL) and there were two at Rope SJ6952 on 23-Sep (DC).

2127 Triple-spotted Clay *Xestia ditrapezium* ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

Only recorded from one site in 2005. There were three at Mickle Trafford SJ4570 on both 17-Jun and 23-Jun and a further two on 23-Jul (MBoo). It would be preferred if specimens could be retained for this species if caught away from the west of the county.

2139 Red Chestnut *Cerastis rubricosa* ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

This moth was surprisingly scarce in 2005. There were just four records. It was at Bowdon SJ7686 on 18-Mar when two were present (RHi), the other records being single moths at Gatley SJ8487 on 25-Mar (DSh), Alsager SJ8154 on 16-Apr (MD) and at Romiley SJ9390 on 4-May (SPF).

2142 Beautiful Yellow Underwing *Anarta myrtilli* (Linnaeus, 1761)

There was just a single daytime record of a larva on heather *Calluna spp.* at Thurstaston Common SJ2484 on 7-Jul (BS).

2165 Small Ranunculus *Hecatera dysodea* ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

It is pleasing to see that this moth seems to have established itself at least in a small way on the Wirral. Two more records were received with single moths at Birkenhead SJ3286 on 21-Jul and 31-Jul (GJ). These records bring the total number of records to four. A specimen or good photograph will be required to allow records of this to be accepted for other sites.

2167 Tawny Shears *Hadena perplexa* ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

There have been just 27 records of this moth in VC58. The single moth in 2005 was at Willaston SJ6752 on 16-Aug (DT).

2171 Marbled Coronet *Hadena confusa* (Hufnagel, 1766)

The only record was two moths during the day at Hilbre Island SJ1888 on 30-May (GB).

2177 Hedge Rustic *Tholera cespitis* ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

Two sites produced the four records of this species. Three were at Burton Point Farm SJ3073 on 11-Aug and these were followed by a single moth on 27-Aug (DCH). The others were single moths at Bromborough SJ3479 on 12-Aug and 17-Aug (ES).

2185 Lead-coloured Drab *Orthosia populeti* (Fabricius, 1781)

A single moth at Elton SJ4575 on 19-Mar was the only record in 2005 (MB,SH).

2197 Southern Wainscot *Mythimna straminea* (Treitschke, 1825)

Single moths at Frodsham Marsh SJ5179 on 12-Aug (MD,DT) and Elton SJ4575 on 15-Jul (MB,SH).

2214 Chamomile Shark *Cucullia chamomillae* ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

There were single specimens caught at Willaston SJ6752 on 15-Apr and 16-Jun (DT), Hilbre Island SJ1888 on 27-Apr (GB) and at Alsager SJ8154 on 10-May (MD).

2216 Shark *Cucullia umbratica* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Recorded from Englesea Brook SJ7551 (CW) and single moths at Bromborough SJ3479 on 25-Jul (ES) and Chester SJ4168 on 26-Jul (TE).

2221 Mullein *Shargacucullia verbasci* (Linnaeus, 1758)

A single adult was trapped at Great Sutton SJ3875 on 13-Apr (MBe) but one 'lucky' recorder had his garden *Verbascum* decimated by 13 larvae at Kelsall SJ5267 from 18-Jun (BB). This brings the total number of records for this species in VC58 to 11.

2231 Deep-brown Dart *Aporophyla lutulenta* ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

All records related to single moths at Elton SJ4575 on 12-Aug and 30-Sep (MB, SH), Burton Point Farm SJ3073 on 30-Sep (DCH) and Alsager SJ8154 on 8-Oct (MD).

2235 Tawny Pinion *Lithophane semibrunnea* (Haworth, 1809)

Just a single moth at Burwardsley SJ5156 on 14-Apr (MW).

2241 Red Sword-grass *Xylena vetusta* (Hübner, 1813)

Quite a successful year this year with three records of single moths at Rope SJ6952 on 3-Apr (DC), Burton Point Farm SJ3074 on 24-Apr (LG) and Cheadle Hulme SJ8686 on 14-Nov (GL). This moth can often be found more readily at ivy *Hedera spp* flowers than at light.

2255 Feathered Ranunculus *Polymixis lichenea* (Hübner, 1813)

A rich seam of moths was recorded at Upton SJ2588 when three were present on 2-Oct and a further seven on 3-Oct (HD). Even more were, however recorded at Hilbre Island SJ1888 with records as follows, 13-Sep (3), 14-Sep (1), 15-Sep (2), 19-Sep (2), 20-Sep (1), 21-Sep (3), 22-Sep (5) and 23-Sep (1) (GB). These records match the expected coastal range of this species in the north.

2281 Alder Moth *Acronicta alni* (Linnaeus, 1767)

There were both adult and larval records at Englesea Brook SJ7551 (CW) and a single adult *f. suffusa* at Adlington SJ9380 on 27-May (SHH).

2283 Dark Dagger *Acronicta tridens* ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

Larvae of this species and that of Grey Dagger *A. psi* can be accepted to species level, as they are so different in appearance. Adults require dissection to confirm and records cannot be accepted unless this is done. It is possible, however, to assess the appropriate parts whilst the animal is still alive. The only record in 2005 related to larvae located on willow *Salix spp.* at Radnor Bridge SJ8365 on 23-Aug (SHH,BTS).

2286 Light Knot Grass *Acronicta menyanthidis* (Esper, 1789)

A single specimen at Heald Green SJ8586 on 19-May (BTS). This brings the total number of records for this species up to 14.

2289 Knot Grass *Acronicta rumicis* (Linnaeus, 1758)

The fact that this species is on the 'scarce moths' section of this report may come as a surprise, but there were only four records in 2005. They were at Cheadle Hulme SJ8686 (GL), Romiley SJ9390 with one on 24-Jun and two on 26-Jun (SPF) and finally one at Mottram SJ9995 on 13-Jul (WU).

2312 Olive *Ipimorpha subtusa*

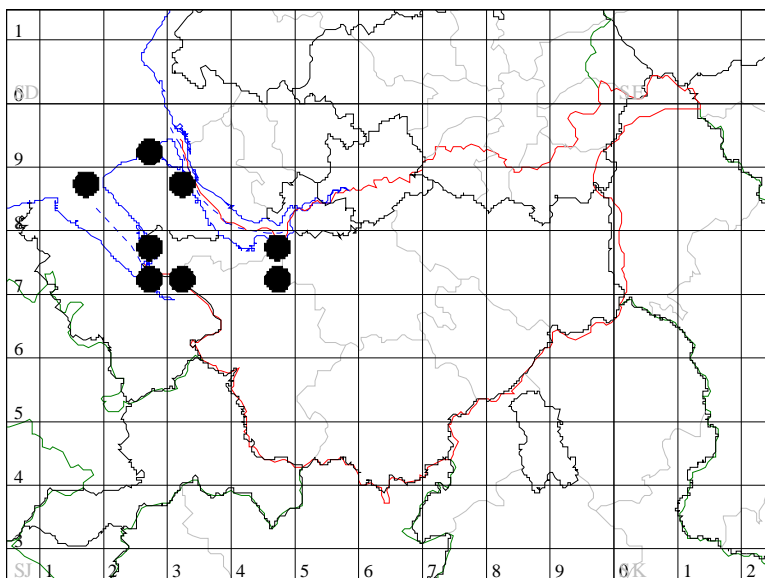
([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

There was a single moth at Romiley SJ9390 on 11-Aug (SPF).

2316 Lesser-spotted Pinion

Cosmia affinis (Linnaeus, 1767)

Another elm *Ulmus spp.* feeding species, this single adult was recorded at Anderton SJ6475 on 26-Aug (AW) and brings the total number of records for this moth to eight in the county. It will be appreciated from looking at the photograph of this moth shown here, that if you have elm *Ulmus spp.* nearby it is worth taking a close look at any worn or unusual looking specimens of the Dun-bar *Cosmia trapezina* (Linnaeus, 1758) as they do bear a passing resemblance to each other. A good photo including one depicting the colour of the hindwing, or a specimen will be required for records of this species to be accepted.

2325 Crescent Striped (*Apamea oblonga*)**2325 Crescent Striped*****Apamea oblonga* (Haworth, 1809)**

This moth has a restricted distribution, more or less concentrated on the Wirral peninsula and the Mersey and Dee estuaries (see map left). There have only been 16 records in the county and 2005 brought three of them. There were single moths at Elton SJ4575 on 26-Jul (MB,SH) and at Mickle Trafford SJ4570 on 6-Aug and 13-Aug (MBoo).

2327 Clouded Brindle *Apamea epomidion* (Haworth, 1809)

Single specimens were at Anderton SJ6475 on 13-Jun (AW), Chadkirk SJ9490 on 1-Jul (JR) and Marbury Country Park SJ6576 on 9-Jul (MD,PMH,SHH).

2333 Large Nutmeg *Apamea anceps* ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

The single moth recorded at Anderton SJ6475 on 18-Aug (AW) brings the total number of records of this species to 15 in the county.

2350 Small Wainscot *Chortodes pygmina* (Haworth, 1809)

There were four records of single specimens at Mere SJ7381 on 22-Jul (SBI), Etherow Country Park SJ9792 on 22-Jul (DHT), Burton Point Farm SJ3073 on 16-Aug (DCH) and Macclesfield SJ8874 on 4-Sep (SBr).

2358 Saltern Ear *Amphipoea fucosa paludis* (Tutt, 1888)

A good colony of this species appears to be present at Burton Point Farm SJ3073. Two were recorded on 11-Aug, three on 16-Aug and another on 27-Aug (DCH). These moths were dissected and confirmed to species level (gen det SPF confirmed by JC and BG via photographs), which is a requirement for Ear Moth spp in the county. This brings the total number of confirmed records to nine.

2360 Ear Moth *Amphipoea oculea* (Linnaeus, 1761)

There were two records confirmed to species level by dissection (SPF) in 2005. Males were at Burton Point Farm SJ3073 on 11-Aug (DCH) and Mere SJ7381 on 12-Aug (SBI).

2380 Treble Lines *Charanyca trigrammica* (Hufnagel, 1766)

Just two records with single specimens at Willaston SJ6752 on 4-Jun (DT) and Upton SJ2588 on 11-Jun (HD).

2391 Silky Wainscot *Chilodes maritimus* (Tauscher, 1806)

This wetland moth had a good year in 2005 with single specimens at Burton Point Farm SJ3073 on 27-May (DCH), Marbury SJ6675 and Anderton Nature Park SJ6575 on 17-Jun (PMH,SHH,MP,PBr,CB), and finally again at Marbury Country Park SJ6576 on 9-Jul (MD,PMH,SHH). These four records bring the total tally to 14 records in the county.

2397 Small Yellow Underwing *Panemeria tenebrata* (Scopoli, 1763)

Daytime sightings were at Hooksbank Wood SJ8182 where two adults were seen on 11-May (BTS) and at Adlington SJ9380 where three adults were seen, including a pair 'in cop' on 27-May (SHH).

2400 Scarce Bordered Straw *Helicoverpa armigera* (Hübner, 1808)

A single moth at Great Sutton SJ3875 on 2-Nov (MBe) was the only record this year and makes up the total records to 14.

2403 Bordered Straw *Heliothis peltigera* ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

Again a single record of an individual moth this time at Willaston SJ6752 on 1-Jul (DT) was the sole record. There have now been 23 records of this species in VC58.

2423 Oak Nycteoline *Nycteola revayana* (Scopoli, 1772)

Mere SJ7381 was one of only two sites where this moth was recorded with single specimens on 18-Mar, 19-Mar and 22-Mar (SBI) and at Gatley SJ8487 on 22-Mar (DSh).

2428 Golden Twin-spot *Chrysodeixis chalcites*(Esper, 1789)

****The first county record** - The first VC58 records of this species were recorded in 2005. An extract from Barry Shaw's description of the circumstances are given below and relate to Heald Green SJ8586 (BTS).

On 8-Oct-2005 my wife was watering a recently purchased houseplant when a freshly emerged (and very wet) moth crept out from amongst the leaves. At first glance I thought it was going to be the widespread and common Silver Y *Autographa gamma*, but on closer inspection I realised it was a much more interesting discovery – a male Golden Twin-spot *C. chalcites*. This moth is normally recorded as a scarce immigrant to the U.K. mainly along the southern coasts of England. It breeds in southern Europe, North Africa and the Canary Islands, but there are also occasional records of it emerging from larvae on imported plants and produce – obviously the source of our insect. The plant from which the Golden Twin-spot *C. chalcites* emerged was an African Violet *Saintpaulia sp.* – this is a genus of plants from which there are many cultivated hybrids. It had been purchased at our local Sainsbury store in Cheadle on 25-Sep-2005, but enquiries at the outlet only revealed that they received their stock from another distributor in the U.K. As the moth was freshly emerged we immediately searched the plant for a pupal case, but as my wife had already disposed of some dead leaves nothing was found. Over the next few days we carefully observed the African Violet at regular intervals in case a female moth had laid additional eggs on the same plant. On 11-Oct another pupa was discovered under a leaf and by the 17-Oct there was also a caterpillar avidly munching through the leaves and another devouring the petals. Both caterpillars continued to feed until the 28-Oct, before vanishing into the skeletal remnants of the plant. Nothing subsequently emerged from the original pupa or one of the caterpillars, but on 11-Nov an adult female Golden Twin-spot *C. chalcites* crept out of the plant.

These records have been accepted as the first Cheshire records, despite clearly originating from an imported plant. It is likely that many of the records of moths of this and other species known to be occasionally imported in this way are from an imported specimen rather than true migrants. However, there is no doubt about the identification of the moth and it will be added to the species list but with a qualification confirming that the source was one assisted by importation. The same rules apply to *G. molesta* (see above).

2440 Lempke's Gold Spot *Plusia putnami* Lempke, 1966

This moth has either become more common or people have become more aware of it (possibly a combination of both) in our county in recent years. There have now been a total of five records and there were single males at Mottram SJ9995 on 23-Jul (WU) and Romiley SJ9390 on 31-Jul (SPF). Both were dissected (SPF), as is the requirement for new sites at the current time.

2444 Gold Spangle *Autographa bractea* ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

Recorded at Englesea Brook SJ7551 (CW) and single moths were at Gatley SJ8487 on 15-Jul (DSh) and Adlington SJ9380 on 29-Jul (SHH).

2447 Scarce Silver Y *Syngrapha interrogationis* (Linnaeus, 1758)

There was a single record at Mottram SJ9995 on 29-Jul (WU). This makes the total number of records up to nine. The site on this occasion was in an area where this species must be present in good numbers on nearby higher ground.

2462 Mother Shipton *Callistege mi* (Clerck, 1759)

This moth is always quite scarcely reported despite being a day-flyer. There were single moths at Thurstaston WCP SJ2383 on 9-May (DCH), Burton Point SJ3073 on 14-May (DCH), Delamere Quarry SJ5670 on 19-May on Bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus corniculatus* (BB) and the same site on 7-Jun (BB).

2463 Burnet Companion *Euclidia glyphica* (Linnaeus, 1758)

2005 was a good year in terms of numbers of records for this species. It was observed during the daytime at Shakerley Mere SJ7370 on 23-Apr (PMH), a single adult was at Thurstaston WCP SJ2383 on 9-May (DCH) and an amazing tally of 23 were at the same site on 29-May (DCH). The moth was also at Astbury Mere SJ8562 when four were seen on 7-Jun (JSw) and it was still flying a few days later at the same site (JSw).

2473 Beautiful Hook-tip *Laspeyria flexula* ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

This species would appear to be on the increase although despite the distinctive appearance of the moth, records should still preferably be supported by a photograph for new sites. A single adult was recorded at Shavington SJ7152 on 3-Jul (RBe,TR), but the real hotspot was at Burwardsley SJ5156 where single moths were recorded on 28-Jun, 2-Jul and 6-Jul (MW). These reports effectively double the total of records for this species which now stands at eight for the county.

2476 Beautiful Snout *Hypena crassalis* (Fabricius, 1787)

There have now been 13 records of this scarce species and two of these were in 2005 when single moths were at Alsager SJ8154 on 2-Jul (MD) and Stalybridge SJ9797 on 10-Jul (GT).

2484 Pinion-streaked Snout *Schranksia costaestrigalis* (Stephens, 1834)

This moth could be overlooked as a micromoth. It was recorded at Anderton Nature Park SJ6575 on 17-Jun (PMH,SHH,MP,P&CB) and single moths at Marbury Country Park SJ6576 on 9-Jul (MD,PMH,SHH) and Alsager SJ8154 on 26-Sep (MD).

Additional Records/Amendments Received Since the Last Report and Relating to 2004.

In this section we have collated records and amendments for 2004, which were either received too late to be included, or only confirmed after the production of last year's report. It is really helpful if records can be sent through to us in whatever format is most convenient to the recorders concerned, well before the normal cut-off date of 28-Feb each year. Recorders are also encouraged to send interim summaries during the year if this is possible. Significant records will still be incorporated into the planned Atlas wherever possible.

0008 Eriocrania unimaculella (Zetterstedt, 1839)

An additional record at Alsager SJ8154 on 1-Apr (MD).

0175 Narycia duplicella (Goeze, 1783)

Ten old cases on a Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* trunk at Brabyns Park, Marple SJ9689 on 8-Mar (IFS).

0185 Luffia ferchaultella (Stephens, 1850)

The Brabyns Park, Marple record has been withdrawn as they related to *Narycia duplicella* (see above).

0388 Prochoreutis myllerana (Fabricius, 1794)

Exuviae and larvae on Skullcap *Scutellaria galericulata* along the edge of the Peak Forest Canal, Disley SJ9785 on 8-Sep (IFS).

0638a Denisia albimaculea (Haworth, 1828)

**The first county record, at Sale SJ7992 on 30-May (PBH)

0696 Agonopterix propinquella (Treitschke, 1835)

An additional record of a male at Romiley SJ9390 on 12-May (SPF)

0964 Cochylis dubitana (Hübner, 1799)

Bred from larvae off Perennial Sow-thistle *Sonchus arvensis* at Red Rocks SJ2088 on 22-Aug and Wallasey SJ2792 on 1-Sep (IFS).

1099 Endothenia marginana (Haworth, 1811)

Out of 32 seadheads collected from Teasel *Dipsacus fullonum* at Carrington Moss SJ7590 on 8-Mar, 19 contained larvae. (KM).

1166 Larch Tortrix Zeiraphera griseana (Hübner, 1799)

The Romiley and Lyme Park records have been withdrawn. They related to *Zeiraphera isertana*.

1176 Epiblema trimaculana (Haworth, 1811)

An additional record at Bramhall SJ8884 on 25-Jun (ACh).

1178 Epiblema roborana ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

An additional record at Bramhall SJ8884 on 12-Jun (ACh).

1202 Eucosma obumbratana (Lienig & Zeller, 1846)

The larval records from Hoylake and Wallasey have been withdrawn as the larvae emerged as *Cochylis dubitana*, a polyphage.

1216 Cherry Bark Moth Enarmonia formosana (Scopoli, 1763)

An additional four records at Bramhall SJ8884 on 14, 15, 17 and 25-Jun (ACh).

1392 Udea olivalis ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

An additional record at Burton Point Farm SJ3073 on 13-Jun (LG).

1767 Pine Carpet Thera firmata (Hübner, 1822)

Additional records at Hale SJ7886 on 06-Jun (KN) and Nantwich SJ6247 on 12-Jul (PGr).

1910 Lilac Beauty Apeira syringaria (Linnaeus, 1758)

An additional record at Nantwich SJ6247 on 13-Jun (PGr).

1912 August Thorn Ennomos quercinaria (Hufnagel, 1767)

Additional records at Rope SJ6952 (DC) and at Nantwich SJ6247 on 17-Aug (PGr).

1927 Brindled Beauty Lycia hirtaria (Clerck, 1759)

Additional records at Nantwich SJ6247 on 23-Apr (PGr).

1998 Poplar Kitten Furcula bifida (Brahm, 1787)

Additional records at Heatley SJ6246 (EH) and at Nantwich SJ6247 on 08-Jun (PGr).

2019 Chocolate-tip *Clostera curtula* (Linnaeus, 1758)

No entries in the 2004 report but there was a single sighting, the second county record, of this highly distinctive species at Heatley SJ6246 in 2004 (EH). This record and the only previous record in the same general area in 1985 (RJD) are also supported by the fact that at least one more specimen was caught and photographed in SJ64 in 2006. Full details will be provided in the 2006 report.

2044 Dingy Footman *Eilema griseola* (Hübner, 1803)

No entries in the 2004 report but there was a single sighting, the fifth county record at Shavington SJ7152 when a single moth was recorded on 05-Aug (RB,TR).

2047 Scarce Footman *Eilema complana* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Additional record at Austerson SJ6549 (JD).

2114 Double Dart *Graphiphora augur* (Fabricius, 1775)

Additional records at Rope SJ6952 (two moths) (DC) and Heatley SJ6246 (EH) and at Shavington SJ7152 on 18-Jun (RB,TR).

2119 Pearly Underwing *Peridroma saucia* (Hübner, 1808)

Additional record at Nantwich SJ6247 on 18-Oct (PGr).

2171 Marbled Coronet *Hadena confusa* (Hufnagel, 1766)

No entries in the 2004 report but there was a single sighting when a moth was found floating in a puddle of water at Pensby Wood SJ2683 on 07-Jul (AC). This is the 20th county record.

2185 Lead-coloured Drab *Orthosia populeti* (Fabricius, 1781)

No entries in the 2004 report but there were sightings at Nantwich SJ6553 where five moths were caught in 2004 (RJD) and also at Nantwich SJ6247 where single moths were present on 17-Mar and 28-Mar (PGr).

2227 Sprawler *Asterocopus sphinx* (Hufnagel, 1766)

No entries in the 2004 report but there were sightings at Heatley SJ6246 (EH) and at Nantwich SJ6247 on 24-Oct (PGr).

2338 Rufous Minor *Oligia versicolor* (Borkhausen, 1792)

There were additional records confirmed by dissection as follows, Mere SJ7381 where there was a single male on 16-Jun, 06-Jul and 24-Jul (SBI gen det SPF). There was also a male at Willaston on 28-Jun (DT).

2463 Burnet Companion *Euclidia glyphica* (Linnaeus, 1758)

An additional record at Austerson SJ6549 where two were seen during the daytime (JD).

2343a Lesser Common Rustic *Mesapamea didyma* (Esper, 1788)

Additional records confirmed by dissection at Mere SJ7381 where a female was present on 17-Jun and also 21-Jul (SBI gen det SPF) and at Alsager SJ8154 a male was present on 26-Jul (MD).

Species New for their Respective 10km Squares

Here we have created a summary of the species which, according to the information available at the present time, were new for their respective squares in 2005. We will welcome comment from anyone that has information to add to this summary. Some of the squares are only partially in VC58 and although species may have been recorded in adjacent counties, they are new for this side of the boundary. Some squares appear to have very few historic records and the recent contribution that the recorders in these areas have made has greatly enhanced the species list for these 10km squares in the last few years and also improved the balance of our knowledge of the distribution of VC58 species. The following are listed in Bradley & Fletcher number order for each 10km square.

SJ18

Fruitlet Mining Tortrix *Pammene rhediella* (GB).

SJ27

Garden Pebble *Evergestis forficalis* (IC), Gold Triangle *Hypsopygia costalis* (IC), Pebble Hook-tip *Drepana falcataria* (IC), Orange Sallow *Xanthia citrigo* (IC)

SJ28

Meal Moth *Pyralis farinalis* (LH)

SJ29

Bucculatrix cristatella (IFS), *Coleophora albidella* (IFS)

SJ35

Ectoedemia septembrella (SHH), *Stigmella aeneofasciella* (SHH), *Stigmella salicis* (SHH), *Stigmella floslactella* (SHH), *Stigmella alnetella* (SHH), *Heliozela resplendella* (SHH), Pear Leaf Blister Moth *Leucoptera malifoliella* (SHH), *Bucculatrix ulmella* (SHH), *Caloptilia elongella* (SHH), *Parornix finitimella*

(SHH), *Phyllonorycter heegeriella* (SHH), *Phyllonorycter quercifoliella* (SHH), Nut Leaf Blister Moth *Phyllonorycter coryli* (SHH), *Phyllonorycter rajella* (SHH), *Phyllonorycter froelichiella* (SHH), *Phyllonorycter platanoidella* (SHH), *Acrolepia autumnitella* (SHH), *Coleophora lineolea* (SHH), *Coleophora discordella* (SHH), *Coleophora peribenanderi* (SHH), *Coleophora paripennella* (SHH), *Coleophora argentula* (SHH), *Coleophora artemisicollis* (SHH), *Scrobipalpa costella* (SHH), *Scrobipalpa acuminatella* (SHH), *Blastodacna hellerella* (SHH), Firethorn Leaf Miner *Phyllonorycter leucographella* (SHH), *Cameraria ohridella* (TH)

SJ37

Coleophora argentula (BS), Rhomboid Tortrix *Acleris rhombana* (DCH), *Euzophera pinguis* (DCH), Oblique Carpet *Orthonama vittata* (DCH), Scallop Shell *Rheumaptera undulata* (DCH), Northern Winter Moth *Operophtera fagata* (DCH), Currant Pug *Eupithecia assimilata* (ES), Autumnal Rustic *Eugnorisma glareosa* (MBe), Mullein *Shargacucullia verbasci* (MBe), Deep-brown Dart *Aporophyla lutulenta* (DCH), Red Sword-grass *Xylena vetusta* (LG), Silky Wainscot *Chilodes maritimus* (DCH)

SJ38

Scalloped Hook-tip *Falcaria lacertinaria* (GJ), Double Lobed *Apamea ophiogramma* (GJ), Lesser Common Rustic *Mesapamea didyma* (GJ)

SJ45

Humming-bird Hawk-moth *Macroglossum stellatarum* (NF)

SJ46

Clouded Magpie *Abraxas sylvata* (TE), Red-necked Footman *Atolmis rubricollis* (TE), Blackneck *Lygephila pastinum* (TE)

SJ47

Caloptilia betulicola (SH,MB), *Calybites phasianipennella* (SH,MB), *Coleophora lineolea* (SH,MB), *Batia unitella* (SH,MB), *Anacampsis populella* (SH,MB), *Oegoconia quadripuncta* (SH,MB), *Cochylis dubitana* (SH,MB), *Dipleurina lacustrata* (SH,MB)

SJ55

Acleris forsskaeana (MD,DT), *Apotomis betuletana* (MD,DT), Bud Moth *Spilonota ocellana* (MD,DT), Pine Leaf-mining Moth *Clavigesta purdeyi* (MD,DT), *Cydia splendana* (MD,DT), *Catoptria falsella* (MD,DT), Water Veneer *Acentria ephemerella* (MD,DT), *Trachycera advenella* (MD,DT), Common Emerald *Hemithea aestivaria* (PGr,GBw), Small Blood-vein *Scopula imitaria* (PGr,GBw), Round-winged Muslin *Thumatha senex* (PGr,GBw), Tawny Pinion *Lithophane semibrunnea* (MW), Beautiful Hook-tip *Laspeyria flexula* (MW)

SJ56

Mullein *Shargacucullia verbasci* (BB)

SJ57

Ectoedemia subbimaculella (SHH,KM), *Stigmella glutinosae* (SHH), *Stigmella alnetella* (SHH,KM), *Psychoides filicivora* (SHH,KM), *Tinea trinotella* (RGB), *Coleophora lineolea* (SHH,KM), *Coleophora peribenanderi* (SHH,KM), Nut Bud Moth *Epinotia tenerana* (SHH,KM), *Epiblema foenella* (RGB), *Pyrausta aurata* (RGB), *Orthopygia glaucinalis* (RGB), Meal Moth *Pyralis farinalis* (RGB), Grass Rivulet *Perizoma albulata* (PMr), Currant Pug *Eupithecia assimilata* (RGB).

SJ58

Coleophora striatipennella (KM,DSt), *Coleophora virgaureae* (KM,DSt), *Eucosma tripoliana* (KM,DSt), Pine Carpet *Thera firmata* (PH).

SJ64

Puss Moth *Cerura vinula* (EH), Buff Footman *Eilema depressa* (PGr).

SJ65

Incurvaria masculella (PMH), *Swammerdamia pyrella* (SHH,AW), *Epermenia chaerophyllella* (SHH,AW), *Blastobasis adustella* (MD), Red-barred Tortrix *Ditula angustiorana* (MD), *Hedya ochroleucana* (SHH,AW), *Catoptria falsella* (MD), *Pyrausta aurata* (MD), Rusty-dot Pearl *Udea ferrugalis* (DT), Mullein Wave *Scopula marginepunctata* (DC), Small Elephant Hawk-moth *Deilephila porcellus* (DT), Buff Footman *Eilema depressa* (DC), Autumnal Rustic *Eugnorisma glareosa* (DT), Lesser Common Rustic *Mesapamea didyma* (DT).

SJ66

Larch Case-bearer *Coleophora laricella* (SHH), Pistol Case-bearer *Coleophora anatipennella* (SHH,AW), Red-green Carpet *Chloroclysta siterata* (PBr), Barred Yellow *Cidaria fulvata* (PBr), Freyer's Pug *Eupithecia intricata* (PBr), White-spotted Pug *Eupithecia tripunctaria* (PBr), Pine Beauty *Panolis flammea* (PBr), Black

Rustic *Aporophyla nigra* (PBr), Blair's Shoulder-knot *Lithophane leautieri* (PBr), Centre-barred Sallow *Atethmia centrago* (PBr), Large Wainscot *Rhizedra lutosa* (PBr).

SJ67

Tinea semifulvella (C&PB,PMH,SHH,MP), *Cedestis gysselella* (MD,PMH,SHH), *Eidophasia messingiella* (C&PB,PMH,SHH,MP), *Coleophora ibipennella* (MD,PMH,SHH), *Coleophora lutipennella* (MD,PMH,SHH), Large Clover Case-bearer *Coleophora trifolii* (C&PB,PMH,SHH,MP), *Coleophora mayrella* (C&PB,PMH,SHH,MP), *Coleophora alticolella* (C&PB,PMH,SHH,MP), *Coleophora caespitiella* (C&PB,PMH,SHH,MP), *Teleiodes vulgella* (C&PB,PMH,SHH,MP), *Carpatolechia fugitivella* (MD,PMH,SHH), *Blastobasis lacticolella* (MD,PMH,SHH), *Batrachedra pinicolella* (MD,PMH,SHH), *Eupoecilia angustana angustana* (C&PB,PMH,SHH,MP), *Lozotaeniodes formosanus* (MD,PMH,SHH), *Aleimma loeflingiana* (MD,PMH,SHH), *Celypha striana* (MD,PMH,SHH), *Eucosma campoliliana* (MD,PMH,SHH), *Rhyacionia pinicolana* (MD,PMH,SHH), *Pammene aurita* (MD,PMH,SHH), Codling Moth *Cydia pomonella* (C&PB,PMH,SHH,MP), *Pyrausta purpuralis* (AW), *Phlyctaenia perlucidalis* (C&PB,PMH,SHH,MP), Buff Footman *Eilema depressa* (MD,PMH,SHH), Purple Clay *Diarsia brunnea* (C&PB,PMH,SHH,MP), Lesser-spotted Pinion *Cosmia affinis* (AW), Large Nutmeg *Apamea anceps* (AW), Scarce Silver-lines *Bena bicolorana* (MD,PMH,SHH).

SJ68

Bird-cherry Ermine *Yponomeuta evonymella* (MM), Honeysuckle Moth *Ypsolopha dentella* (MM), *Pyrausta aurata* (MM), *Amblyptilia acanthadactyla* (CWa), White Plume Moth *Pterophorus pentadactyla* (MM), Autumnal Rustic *Eugnorisma glareosa* (MM), Brown-spot Pinion *Agrochola litura* (MM), Copper Underwing *Amphipyra pyramidea* (MM).

SJ75

Brown House Moth *Hofmannophila pseudospretella* (RB,TR), *Scrobipalpa costella* (MD), Light Brown Apple Moth *Epiphyas postvittana* (MD), Bee Moth *Aphomia sociella* (RB,TR), Yellow Horned *Achlya flavicornis* (CW), Blotched Emerald *Comibaena bajularia* (CW), Beautiful Carpet *Mesoleuca albicillata* (CW), Purple Bar *Cosmorhoe ocellata* (CW), Red-green Carpet *Chloroclysta siterata* (CW), Juniper Carpet *Thera juniperata* (CW), Sandy Carpet *Perizoma flavofasciata* (CW), Mottled Pug *Eupithecia exiguata* (CW), Brindled Pug *Eupithecia abbreviata* (CW), Small Elephant Hawk-moth *Deilephila porcellus* (CW), Alder Kitten *Furcula bicuspis* (CW), Poplar Kitten *Furcula bifida* (CW), Lunar Marbled Brown *Drymonia ruficornis* (CW), White Satin *Leucoma salicis* (RB,TR), Scarce Footman *Eilema complana* (RB,TR), Green Arches *Anaplectoides prasina* (RB,TR), Pale Pinion *Lithophane hepatica* (CW), Dark Brocade *Blepharita adusta* (RB,TR), Centre-barred Sallow *Atethmia centrago* (RB,TR), Alder Moth *Acronicta alni* (CW), Scarce Silver-lines *Bena bicolorana* (CW), Gold Spangle *Autographa bractea* (CW), Beautiful Hook-tip *Laspeyria flexula* (RB,TR).

SJ76

Pale Tussock *Calliteara pudibunda* (MuD).

SJ77

Eriocrania salopiella (SHH), *Incurvaria pectinea* (SHH), *Borkhausenia fuscescens* (PMH), *Epiblema cirsiiana* (SHH).

SJ78

Bohemannia pulverosella (SHH,BTS), *Stigmella glutinosae* (SHH,BTS), *Acrocercops brongniardella* (SHH,BTS), *Phyllonorycter cavella* (SHH,BTS), *Phyllonorycter esperella* (SHH,BTS), *Phyllonorycter trifasciella* (SHH,BTS), Meal Moth *Pyralis farinalis* (RH), Indian Meal Moth *Plodia interpunctella* (BS), V-Moth *Macaria wauaria* (KN), Red-necked Footman *Atolmis rubricollis* (SBl).

SJ79

Teleiodes vulgella (PBH), *Bryotropha domestica* (PBH), *Batrachedra praeangusta* (PBH), *Blastodacna hellerella* (PBH), *Cochylis atricapitana* (PBH), Flax Tortrix *Cnephasia asseclana* (PBH), *Lobesia abscisana* (PBH), Spotted Shoot Moth *Rhyacionia pinivorana* (PBH), Gold Triangle *Hypsopygia costalis* (PBH), Streamer *Anticlea derivata* (PBH), Brindled Pug *Eupithecia abbreviata* (PBH), Canary-shouldered Thorn *Ennomos alniaria* (PBH), Oak Beauty *Biston strataria* (PBH), Common Footman *Eilema lurideola* (PBH), Nutmeg *Discestra trifolii* (PBH), Champion *Hadena rivularis* (PBH), Brindled Green *Dryobotodes eremita* (PBH), Scarce Silver-lines *Bena bicolorana* (PBH), Green Silver-lines *Pseudoips prasinana britannica* (PBH), Straw Dot *Rivula sericealis* (PBH), *Argyresthia trifasciata* (PBH).

SJ85

Eriocrania salopiella (MD), *Eriocrania sangii* (MD), *Eriocrania semipurpurella* (MD), *Ectoedemia decentella* (MD), *Stigmella luteella* (MD,SHH), *Stigmella alnetella* (MD,SHH), *Phyllonorycter cavella*

(MD,SHH), *Phyllonorycter esperella* (MD,SHH), *Phyllonorycter lautella* (MD,SHH), *Paraswammerdamia nebulella* (MD), *Ypsolopha alpella* (MD), *Schreckensteiniella festaliella* (MD), *Coleophora lutipennella* (MD), *Coleophora flavipennella* (MD), *Coleophora orbitella* (MD), *Coleophora lineolea* (MD), Larch Case-bearer *Coleophora laricella* (MD), *Coleophora saxicolella* (MD), *Coleophora glaucicolella* (MD), *Coleophora tamesis* (MD), *Exoteleia dodecella* (MD), *Teleiodes vulgella* (MD), *Carpatolechia proximella* (MD), *Carpatolechia fugitivella* (MD), *Bryotropha senectella* (MD), *Bryotropha terrella* (MD), *Mirificarma mulinella* (MD), *Neofaculta ericetella* (MD), *Scrobipalpa costella* (MD), *Scrobipalpa acuminatella* (MD), *Anacampsis blattariella* (MD), *Oegoconia quadripuncta* (MD), *Batrachedra praeangusta* (MD), *Batrachedra pinicolella* (MD), *Cochylis dubitana* (MD), *Cochylis nana* (MD), *Ptycholoma lecheana* (MD), *Isotrias rectifasciana* (MD), *Neosphaleroptera nubilana* (MD), *Acleris bergmanniana* (MD), *Acleris holmiana* (MD), Strawberry Tortrix *Acleris comariana* (MD), *Orthotaenia undulana* (MD), *Bactra lancealana* (MD), *Epinotia tetraquetra* (MD), *Epinotia nisella* (MD), Nut Bud Moth *Epinotia tenerana* (MD,SHH), *Epinotia abbreviana* (MD), *Epinotia solandriana* (MD), *Zeiraphera isertana* (MD), *Eucosma hohenwartiana* (MD), Bud Moth *Spilonota ocellana* (MD), *Pammene regiana* (MD), *Agriphila geniculea* (MD), *Eudonia angustea* (MD), *Udea olivalis* (MD), Autumnal Moth *Epirrita autumnata* (MD), Round-winged Muslin *Thumatha senex* (MD), Least Black Arches *Nola confusalis* (MD), Chamomile Shark *Cucullia chamomillae* (MD), Rufous Minor *Oligia versicolor* (MD), Common Rustic *Mesapamea secalis* (MD), Small Rufous *Coenobius rufa* (MD), Beautiful Snout *Hypena crassalis* (MD), Pinion-streaked Snout *Schrankia costaestrigalis* (MD).

SJ86

Caloptilia betulicola (SHH,BTS), *Acleris laterana* (SHH,BTS), *Epinotia abbreviana* (SHH,BTS), Dark Dagger *Acrionicta tridens* (SHH,BTS), Burnet Companion *Euclidia glyphica* (JSw)

SJ87

Acrolepia autumnitella (BTS), Large Clover Case-bearer *Coleophora trifolii* (MDo,KM).

SJ88

Roeslerstammia erxlebelli (BTS), *Cydia fagiglandana* (BTS), Privet Hawk-moth *Sphinx ligustri* (ACh).

SJ89

Orange Underwing *Archiearis parthenias* (PBH), Brick *Agrochola circellaris* (BS).

SJ96

Blue-bordered Carpet *Plemyria rubiginata* SJ96 (BTS).

SJ98

Ectoedemia argyropeza (SHH), *Phyllonorycter cavella* (SHH), *Ypsolopha vittella* (MSt), *Coleophora deauratella* (MD,PHi,SHH,KM,JP,AVS), *Teleiodes luculella* (MSt), *Eudemis profundana* (SHH), *Amblyptilia acanthadactyla* (SHH).

SJ99

Eriocrania unimaculella (SHH,KM), *Elachista adscitella* (JR), Apple Pith Moth *Blastodacna atra* (SPF), *Cochylis atricapitana* (SPF), *Cnephasia longana* (SPF), *Olethreutes schulziana* (SPF), *Endothenia nigricostana* (SPF,JR), *Eucosma tripoliana* (SPF), *Pammene aurita* (SPF), Oriental Fruit Moth *Grapholita molesta* (SPF), Pearl-band Grass Veneer *Catoptria margaritella* (SPF), Lesser Wax Moth *Achroia grisella* (SPF,JR), *Euzophera pinguis* (SPF,JR), Sloe Pug *Pasiphila chloerata* (JR), Small Elephant Hawk-moth *Deilephila porcellus* (GT), Alder Kitten *Furcula bicuspis* (SPF), Orange Sallow *Xanthia citrigo* (SPF), Clouded Brindle *Apamea epomidion* (JR), Beautiful Snout *Hypena crassalis* (GT).

SK08

Coleophora serratella (SHH,KM), *Bactra lancealana* (SHH,KM), Vapourer *Orgyia antiqua* (SHH,KM).

Migrants

Migrants were generally quite thin on the ground (or more accurately in the air) in 2005. However, there were some interesting species recorded and two of these were new species for the county. Golden Twin-spot *Chrysodeixis chalcites* and Oriental Fruit Moth *Grapholita molesta* were new for the county (albeit both apparently not originating from true migration - see full details above). Diamond-back Moth *Plutella xylostella* was particularly scarce in 2005 but this was amply compensated for as we saw the first Death's-head Hawk-moth *Acherontia atropos* since 1990 at Birkenhead. The most notable migrant at least in terms of quantity in 2005 was Humming-bird Hawk-moth *Macroglossum stellatarum*, which appeared in good numbers with a total of 65 records. The migrant definitions used here are in accordance with those on the

[Mapmate](#) system that has been used to create the summaries and maps in this report. This is the recording software used to house the main database and also that of many other users in Cheshire and the UK.

Code	Vernacular	Taxon	Records
0464	Diamond-back Moth	<i>Plutella xylostella</i>	22
1248	Oriental Fruit Moth	<i>Grapholita molesta</i>	1
1395	Rusty-dot Pearl	<i>Udea ferrugalis</i>	5
1973	Death's-head Hawk-moth	<i>Acherontia atropos</i>	1
1984	Humming-bird Hawk-moth	<i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>	65
2091	Dark Sword-grass	<i>Agrotis ipsilon</i>	15
2119	Pearly Underwing	<i>Peridroma saucia</i>	2
2400	Scarce Bordered Straw	<i>Helicoverpa armigera</i>	1
2403	Bordered Straw	<i>Heliothis peltigera</i>	1
2428	Golden Twin-spot	<i>Chrysodeixis chalcites</i>	2
2441	Silver Y	<i>Autographa gamma</i>	408

Table Eight : Migrant moth species in VC58 in 2005

Weather

It is hoped that the following generic national weather summary will be of interest to readers of this report. The information has been obtained from the Meteorological Office website which can be accessed online at <http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/climate/uk/index.html>. Even though some of the references relate to outside our area, the conditions will have had at least a potential effect upon the flow of migrants in particular.

January 2005

A very mild month across the whole of the UK. In terms of mean temperature, it was the warmest since 1990 for England, Wales and the UK as a whole. Rainfall well above average over most of Scotland, and parts of Cumbria and N Wales. However, most of England & Wales had well below average rainfall, continuing the pattern of the previous two months. Well above average sunshine levels over the SE of the UK.

February 2005

A mild first half to the month, but then turning cold with snow over the second half. Mean temperatures generally above average, with the closest to average temperatures over the SE, and the most above average being over Scotland. Rainfall levels generally below average away from eastern areas, with some areas in the south, receiving only around a quarter of their normal rainfall. Many areas in the south, having their fourth consecutive month with below average rainfall.

March 2005

Mean temperatures were again well above average, despite a rather cold and wintry start to the month. Rainfall and sunshine were generally below average across the UK. The November to March rainfall was the driest for England and Wales since the same period in 1975/1976, and was the 5th consecutive month with below average for England and Wales.

April 2005

Rainfall levels were above average across many areas, and double the normal over parts of NE England. However, rainfall was quite varied, with parts of NE Scotland and England receiving below average. Mean temperatures above average across the whole of the UK.

May 2005

Mean temperatures close to average across most parts of the UK, making it the coldest May since 1996 for many areas. Rainfall totals again below average across the majority of England and Wales.

Jun 2005

Mean temperatures over a degree Celsius above average across the UK. Rainfall values were quite variable across the UK, with well below average values across SE England. For England and Wales, it was the 7th month out of the last 8 to have below average rainfall.

Jul 2005

Mean temperatures again above average across the UK. There were some significant variations in rainfall anomalies across the UK. Scotland and Northern Ireland experienced well below average rainfall, whilst England and Wales saw only its second above-average rainfall month since November 2004.

August 2005

Mean temperatures generally just above average across the UK. Rainfall was below average across England and Wales, with eight out of the last 10 months now having experienced below average for England and Wales. However, there was above average rainfall across East Anglia and in particular across many western and northern areas of Scotland.

September 2005

Mean temperatures generally around 1.5 °C above average, and the warmest September since 1999 for many areas. East Anglia and N Scotland having the most above average rainfall, with Scotland E and England SE and Central S the most below average. Nine out of the last 11 months have had below-average rainfall across England and Wales.

October 2005

Mean temperatures well above average across the whole of the UK. England and Wales having one of its warmest Octobers (series back to 1914), although not as warm as 2001. Sunshine levels exceptionally below average across NE England and SE Scotland. Rainfall generally above average, with some areas receiving over double the 1961-90 average.

November 2005

Overall mean temperatures were close to average, with a warm first half being cancelled out by a cold second half. Sunshine levels well above average across the UK, with some stations and areas, setting new sunshine records. Rainfall close to average across many areas, but below average yet again over the England SE and Central S area.

December 2005

Mean temperatures ranging from below average across parts of southern England, to above average across Northern Ireland and Scotland. The majority of the UK recorded below-average rainfall. Well above average sunshine across England and Wales, but closer to average across Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Notable and Red Data Book (RDB) Species

Notable species and RDB species recorded in VC58 in 2005 are summarised below and further details for most of them can be found in the systematic list above. Currant Clearwing *Synanthedon tipuliformis* continues to be located at sites where mature currant *Ribes* spp. species grow. There were two important macromoth finds in 2005 in relation to the following summary. The first was the maintenance of the presumed small colony of Small Ranunculus *Hecatera dysodea* at Birkenhead where two more specimens were caught at the same garden site. These follow the first county records in 2004. The other was important also on a National basis with a confirmed record of Argent & Sable *Rheumaptera hastata* at Wybunbury Moss. *Elachista adscitella* was one of several scarce species recorded at Chadkirk this year. Once again, the definitions of NB and RDBK are in accordance with those on the Mapmate listings. These do change regularly and are updated in each of our reports.

Code	Vernacular	Taxon	Records	Individuals	Status
0200		<i>Psychoides filicivora</i>	1	0	Nb
0344		<i>Phyllonorycter strigulatella</i>	3	0	Nb
0363		<i>Phyllonorycter platanoidella</i>	5	0	Nb
0373	Currant Clearwing	<i>Synanthedon tipuliformis</i>	4	36	Nb
0511		<i>Coleophora orbitella</i>	1	1	Nb
0622		<i>Elachista adscitella</i>	1	1	Nb
0656		<i>Tachystola acroxantha</i>	148	500	pRDB3
0788		<i>Bryotropha politella</i>	1	1	Nb
0879		<i>Batrachedra pinicolella</i>	2	2	Nb

0906	Apple Pith Moth	<i>Blastodacna atra</i>	1	1	Nb
1506		<i>Stenoptilia millieridactyla</i>	57	74	pRDB3
1787	Argent & Sable	<i>Rheumaptera hastata</i>	1	1	Nb
1928	Belted Beauty	<i>Lycia zonaria britannica</i>	8	29	RDB3
2165	Small Ranunculus	<i>Hecatera dysodea</i>	2	2	RDBK
2325	Crescent Striped	<i>Apamea oblonga</i>	3	3	Nb

Table Nine : Notable and red data book moth species in VC58 in 2005

Recorders and Acknowledgements

We would like to thank all the recorders that are included in the following list and who have made this report possible by being kind enough to share their data. Please accept our sincere apologies for any unintentional omissions. If you have not been included on the following list please, contact one of us to let us know and we will make sure your efforts are noted in the next annual report. Barry's report is an extract from his normal annual report, in which he formally acknowledges the input of the appropriate recorders. That list has not been repeated here to save a little space. The contribution of those recorders is, of course, also greatly appreciated. AC – Alan Creaser, ACh – Andrew Charlton, ACsr – Andy Caesar, AJ – Alastair Jenkins, AK – Alan Kimber, AMB – Tony Broome, AVS - AV Smith, AW – Adrian Wander, BB – Brian Bull, BG - Brian Goodey, BM – B Murphy, BMa - Brian Martin, BR – Bryan Roberts, BRh - Bob Rhodes, BS – Ben Smart, BTS - Barry Shaw, CB - Carys Brewster, CD - Chris Darbyshire, CIR – Ian Rutherford, CK – Chris Knibbs, CW - Charles Whitaker, DC – David Cookson, DE – Dave Edwards, DCH – David Hinde, DHT - Dave Higginson-Tranter, DJ – David James, DO – D Otter, DS – D. Stephenson, DSh - David Shaw, DSt – Don Stenhouse, DT – Dave Taylor, EC – E. Chackal, EH - Elizabeth Hollingshead, EK – Eric Kearns, ES – Edwin Samuels, GB – Gavin Broad, GBw - Ged Barlow, GC – Graeme Cooke, GJ – Graham Jones, GL – Geoff Lightfoot, GS – G. Stringer, GT - Georgina Tierney, HD – Harry Davies, HEB – H.E. Beaumont, HLB - H.L.Burrows, HNM – HN Michaelis, HV - Holly Vance, IC - Ian Copley, IEL – Ian Landucci, IFS – Ian Smith, IW – Ian Wallace, JC - Jon Clifton, JD - Jessica Davies, JJC – Jeff Clarke, JM - Julia Mottishaw, JO – J. Oxenham, JP - Joan Potts, JR - John Rowland, JS - John Sheldon, JSw - Jack Swan, KB - Keith Bennion, KM – Kevin McCabe, KN - Keith Neal, LB – Liz Bentham, LG - Lynne Greenstreet, LH – Les Hall, MB – M. Barlow, MBe – Mel Bellingham, MBoo – Mike Boothman, MD – Mike Dale, MDo - Mike Dockery, MH – Mike Holmes, MM – Mike Mulholland, MN - Margaret Nance, MP – Mark Payne, MPo - Maurice Pons, MS - Martyn Stanyer, MSt – Mark Stubbs, MSo – Michael Stokes, MuD – Muriel Dale, MW - Michael Whiteside, NF - Neil Friswell, NL – Nick Littlewood, NS – N Stones, P&CB – Paul and Cerys Brewster, PA - Peter Alker, PB – Peter Bowler, PBH – Peter Hardy, PBr - Paul Brewster, PCP - Paul Pugh, PG – Paul Greenall, PGr – Paul Griffiths, PH - Paul Hillyer, PHI - P Hilton, PJF – Paz Fletcher, PM – P Meyer, PMH – Paul M Hill, PMr - Paul Miller, PW – Phil Woollen, RB – Roger Brereton, RBe - Roger Benson, RFB – R. F. Botterill, RGB - Ray Bertera, RHi – Roy Hilton, RHo – Ray Holmes, RJD - Roger & Joan Davidson, SBl – Sheila Blamire, SBr - S. Browne, SHH – Steve Hind, SH – S. Holmes, SHeff - Stephanie Hefferan, SJM – Steve McWilliam, SMP - Steve Palmer, SO – Steve Orridge, SP – Sheila Pierce, SPC - Sean P Clancy, SPF – Shane Farrell, TC - Tim Coleshaw, TE – Tom Edmondson, TH - T Hollingworth, TO - Tom O'Neill, TR - Trevor Rowlands, WU - Bill Underwood.

Thanks also to Steve Palmer, Peter Costen, Keith Tailby and Jeff Higgott who all kindly helped us remove any blunders! However, any remaining errors are the responsibility of the authors alone.

Publications

We thought it might be useful to provide a summary of the major publications concerning the VC58 Lepidopterous Fauna so that recorders can access this information if required. There have of course been countless other minor publications which are too numerous to list here but equally valuable. Many of the publications referred to below are available for free loan to members from the substantial and recently catalogued library of the Lancashire & Cheshire Entomological Society. If anyone reading this report has a specific requirement for information in full or summarised form, it may be possible to provide such data. Contact Shane Farrell for details as appropriate.

WALKER A. O., 1885, *Macrolepidoptera of the Chester District*

Lepidoptera in Cheshire 2005. Farrell S.P., Hind S.H. and Shaw B.T. 30/4/2006

ELLIS, J.W., 1890, *The Lepidopterous Fauna of Lancashire and Cheshire*
 DAY G.O., 1903, *A List of Lepidoptera Found in the Counties of Cheshire, Flintshire, Denbighshire, Carnarvonshire and Anglesea*
 MANSBRIDGE W., 1940, *The Lepidopterous Fauna of Lancashire and Cheshire by Ellis Revised Mansbridge 1940*
 SMITH S.G.S., 1948, *The Butterflies and Moths of Cheshire, Flintshire, Denbighshire, Caernarvonshire, Anglesey and Merionethshire* and subsequent updated volumes.
 RUTHERFORD C.I., 1983, *Butterflies in Cheshire 1961-1982. Supplements to Proceedings on Lancashire & Cheshire Entomological Society Journal 1981-1982*
 SHAW B.T. 1989, *The Butterflies of Cheshire*
 RUTHERFORD C.I. 1994, *Macro-moths in Cheshire 1961 to 1993*
 GRIFFITHS P. 2006, *The Macromoths of the Nantwich Area* - **This new publication is available from Dr. Paul Griffiths at £8 inclusive of P&P. All proceeds go to Nantwich Natural History Society. Contact Paul on 01270 780626**

Useful Contact Details/Links

If you would like a link or your contact details to be added to this list, please contact Shane Farrell.

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 Web: www.rECOrd-LRC.co.uk

UKMoths website - <http://ukmoths.org.uk/index.php>

UK Butterflies <http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/>

British Leaf Mines www.leafmines.co.uk

Cheshire Moth Group Website - www.record-lrc.co.uk (click the members tab\hosting groups\moth group).

L&CES Website - <http://www.pisces-conservation.com/lces/index.html>

BC Cheshire & Peak District Website - <http://www.butterfly-conservation.com/>

Lancs Moth Group and any Lancashire moth records – S. Palmer, 137 Lightfoot Lane, Fulwood, Preston, Lancs PR4 0AH. 01772 861570 or email s.palmer12@btopenworld.com

Mapmate Recording Software – www.mapmate.co.uk