

Lepidoptera in Cheshire 2007

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



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



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Introduction

It is with great sadness that as I am writing this report I have heard of the recent death (5-Dec-2008) of Ian Rutherford. I did not know Ian well, but he was my predecessor as County Macro-moth Recorder for the vice-county of Cheshire and as a result of this that I met him several times. After our first meeting, he invited me to his home and on talking to him and others it was clear that he was extremely generous in his willingness to allow perfect strangers, albeit fellow moth-ers, to call round to the house to see his fabulous collection (most of which is now housed at CWT headquarters and in safe hands). This allowed direct comparison with perfect specimens, many of which Ian had reared himself from larvae he had found in the field.

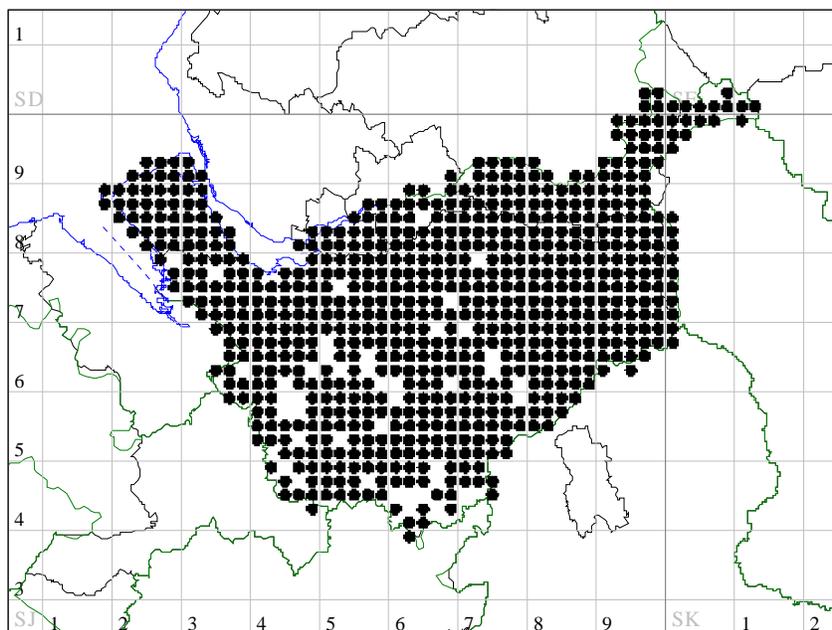
He had strong views on certain things, and occasionally ruffled feathers, but this is all part of the character of one of the 'old school' of lepidopterists and one who will be sadly missed. His two direct literary contributions to the knowledge of Lepidoptera in Cheshire (via the Lancashire and Cheshire Entomological Society where Ian was president and vice-president for many years) were 'Butterflies in Cheshire 1961 to 1982' and 'Macro-moths in Cheshire 1961 to 1993' and both sit proudly on my bookshelf at home.

I was extremely fortunate that when Ian decided to hang up his moth trap and move to a smaller residence, he offered it to me and I gratefully received it. As a result, his old Robinson unit is still in daily use in my own garden. Ian will be sadly missed by all those who knew him.

The year of 2007 will be remembered by most recorders of natural history as an appalling year for weather and, on the whole, one in which the study of our local fauna was extremely unrewarding. Whilst acknowledging that this was certainly the case for most of us, it is hoped that as you read through this report you will appreciate that it was not all bad news and that there were indeed some highlights. In particular, the increased levels of general recording of lepidoptera in Cheshire, whilst no doubt masking some of the local declines, do prove that hard work and determined recording effort brings results and rewards in the field and at home. The number of new hectad (10km squares) records is a testament to this.

In order to encourage recorders further, we all deserve a pat on the back for the efforts we have made in filling squares for species recorded. The level of coverage we have achieved as a collective is staggering – really well done to all concerned. The map below represents the tetrads (2km squares) in which we have received moth data and the miniscule number of 'blanks' is truly fantastic. I cannot believe there are many (if indeed any) counties where this is lower.

VC58 Moths Recorded 2km squares



This report follows our usual format and we have continued with what is hoped are useful features of the report, such as the National Moth Night Results and generic UK weather summary. This time some of the Tables for 2006 have been left in situ to allow direct comparison to be made. This will be done in future issues of this report.

Normally in the report we shorten the names of recorders to a code. This takes up a lot of time in the writing of the report and we have done away with this for the current year, relying more on the formatting given to recorder's names by Mapmate. It is hoped that this will positively affect the readability of the document.

The butterfly section is a condensed version of Barry Shaw's report produced annually for Butterfly Conservation. His report has again been illustrated with, among others, 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 to the contrary. The emphasis of including as many original records and photographs in the report is considered essential, and really gives everyone a chance to see that their own records truly count towards the whole.

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 <http://www.cheshire-butterflies.co.uk/> 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. A new copy of the macromoth matrix will be produced this year and before the 2008 report – which will follow before the end of 2009.

Paper copies are available in black and white printed form upon request. Please be so kind as to provide a stamped (value £1) and labeled envelope to cover costs to Shane Farrell and a copy will be sent by return.

We continue to trawl through old publications, recorder's notebooks etc. and will produce the VC58 Atlas of Lepidoptera as soon as possible. This is a major undertaking, so please be patient and bear in mind that County Recorders are generally busy people who have lives outside of the world of insects and do their best to please everyone.

Please continue to send us your moth records past and present, and we will be delighted to receive them. We can only report the data we receive and which has been verified beyond all reasonable doubt. 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. Please contact Shane Farrell or Steve Hind about moth data queries and Barry Shaw about the butterflies.

As always, many thanks to all recorders and organizations who have already submitted records to us for 2007/2008 and for previous years. Without your efforts this report would not be possible. Please keep the records coming!

Shane Farrell

Field Meetings

The CMG organise regular field meetings during each season and these can either be planned in advance (e.g. 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 or have an event and wish to invite recorders along, 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 there is obviously no personal agenda and we only 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/palps. They should also provide some illustration of scale such as a five-penny coin etc, or comparison with a known and readily



August Thorn (Tony Broome)
A typical species requiring a photo
for a first site record.

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 where the species concerned is a category P species and new for the 10km square. We are always happy to receive queries about whether evidence is required and it is better to do this before the moth has been released!

Photographs are also useful to help illustrate this annual 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 for several days and released unharmed (if you can convince other members of your household that this is reasonable behaviour!). This gives you an opportunity to refer to another recorder for an opinion.

For category S species, a moth specimen must be retained and usually 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 or place the record in a pending folder until either a subsequent record is confirmed in the 10km square or at the same site. The CMG panel may then agree to include previous records (albeit marked as unconfirmed). Recorders should still provide details of the species they believe the record relates to so that this information can be maintained. The basic principle of all of the above is that people on one side of the debate 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. We will be delighted to be able to accept all records but *please* help us by following these simple rules.

Details of which species form which categories can be provided upon request in the form of a paper copy (please send a 50p SAE to Shane Farrell) or a pdf version of the full county macromoth list by email. The best advice is to get to know the species for which evidence is required. Even if you have submitted records previously but not sent a photo to the appropriate County Recorder please do so; it will really be a great help if recorders can assess their own garden or other lists and send photos in of those species to which they feel these criteria apply; this is the case even for specimens in previous years. The reasons for this are twofold:

- 1) We will be assessing all records for species requiring verification before we allow them to be included within the new atlas when published – if you want your records included then please make sure we can do so by providing evidence where required.

- 2) Where records have previously been provided with no evidence, we will generally allow them to be included retrospectively if a photo of a subsequent record is provided from the same site. This also works the other way round and generally, where we have proven the existence of a species once, we will not generally require further evidence for further records (with the exception of critical species requiring dissection).

Mapmate

Please also note that users of Mapmate should never delete site, method or recorder details once they are on the system even if they think that they are not being used by others. This problem is creating large holes in the database with many records having neither site nor recorder details. Although the system we use means that we can usually track the information down, this could potentially lead to a lack of credit in the annual report or, even worse, the Atlas.

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 as well as those parts of the Wirral in Merseyside. 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. Please note that there have been some minor changes to date and species name formatting to tie in this section with the rest of the report. No other details have been amended.

Systematic list of Butterflies recorded in Cheshire & Wirral during 2007

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

Earliest ever county sighting was at Rixton Claypits on 2-Jun, followed by Wildboardclough and Woolston Eyes on the 10-Jun. Weather conditions meant that it was a poor year for this insect with very few notable counts. In 2006 eight localities produced counts of 30+, but this year only Englesea-brook had 32 on 3-Jul. September sightings are unusual in Cheshire, but two were at Macclesfield Forest on the 3-Sep.

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

Despite unfavourable weather conditions during May the earliest ever Cheshire sightings were at Dutton on the 12-May, Basford on the 20-May, Ettiley Heath on the 21-May, Rixton Claypits on the 22-May and Moss Side (Moore) on the 23-May. As expected the subsequent poor weather resulted in breeding season records being disappointing with reports from 59 tetrads, compared to 94 tetrads in 2006. Highest counts of only 41 at Chorlton on 11-Jun, 45 at Basford on 12-Jun and 43 at Englesea-brook on 3-Jul. By late July the season was already over with the latest sighting at Moss Side (Moore) on the 26-Jul.



Dingy Skipper (Peter Elles - not VC58)

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

This species is scarce in Cheshire as well as nationally where it has declined by 26% over the last ten years. Earliest sighting at Carey

Park (Northwich) on a fairly typical date of 27-Apr. The largest populations are still centred around Northwich where the Carey Park colony produced similar figures to the previous year with a maximum count of 37 on 1-May. It was disappointing to report that for the third successive year there were no sightings from a former breeding stronghold at Weaver Parkway. There was, however, an isolated sighting in the south of the county at Basford on 5-May. Poor weather conditions in May brought an early end to the season with a latest sighting at Carey Park on the 25-May.

1546 Brimstone *Gonepteryx rhamni* (Linnaeus, 1758)

With reports from 97 tetrads it would appear to have been a successful year for the Brimstone, although the vast majority of reports were of post-hibernation sightings in the early months. Unfortunately, the breeding butterflies that emerged in July coincided with the worst of the weather and were only recorded in very small numbers reaching a barely discernable peak in mid-August. Sightings at most localities invariably involve very small numbers, but this year included double-figure counts from Englesea-brook of 11 on 28-Apr and 14 on 24-Jul. Earliest and latest sightings were both from Moore Nature Reserve on 2-Feb and 15-Nov respectively.

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

Earliest sighting was at Queen's Park (Chester) on 26-Mar. Subsequently it was an extremely poor year for the Large White with reports from only 114 tetrads – the lowest total since 1990 when much less recording was being undertaken. Maximum count at any site during the spring brood was of 9 at Moss Side (Moore) on 17-May, with only a slight improvement in the summer emergence with a highest count of 23 at the same locality on 19-Jul. Latest sightings were in early October at Moore Nature Reserve on the 1-Oct and Knutsford on the 2-Oct.

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

There was an initial sighting of an insect flying inside a supermarket at Wilmslow on 8-Jan, whilst the earliest outdoor sighting was at Brimstage on 25-Mar, followed by reports from Chester, Aldford, Helsby and Anderton on the 26-Mar. This year both broods were generally recorded in lower numbers than normal, but with exceptional counts of 280 at Hale on 31-Jul and 400+ at Lower Heath (Congleton) on 1-Aug – at this latter site insects were egg-laying in a field of Rape *Brassica napus*. Small numbers continued to be widely recorded during the first week of October, but with the latest sightings at Queen's Park (Chester) on the 11-Oct, Thelwall on the 15-Oct and New Ferry Butterfly Park on the 23-Oct.

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

There was a single sighting in March at Astbury Mere Country Park on the 28-Mar. Whilst the dry weather in the early months did not favour this butterfly it certainly prospered in the damper conditions later in the year with reports as widespread as ever. As expected numbers in the spring brood were modest with a largest count of 38 at Pickmere on 19-Apr. The summer emergence produced several significant concentrations including 100+ at Little Budworth on 18-Jul and 100+ at Lower Heath (Congleton) on 1-Aug. Numbers in the Pennine foothills are always lower than at lowland sites, but peaked with a count of 33 at Bakestonedale Moor on 17-Aug. Latest sightings in early October at Bath Vale on the 2-Oct, Ettiley Heath on the 4-Oct, Frodsham on the 6-Oct and Burleydam on the 8-Oct.

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

Warm early spring weather resulted in the Orange Tip emerging at most sites approximately two weeks earlier than in 2006, with the first report from Burton (Wirral) on 31-Mar. Numbers then increased daily peaking in late April – again two weeks earlier than in the previous year. Conditions should have benefited this insect, but



despite most contributors feeling it had been a good season statistics showed that it was only an average year. Highest counts in April of 27 at Rixton Claypits on the 6-Apr, 20 at Wybunbury Moss on the 14-Apr and 20 at Gayton on the 30-Apr, plus 20 at Kingsley on 7-May. Sightings dwindled sharply in early June with a latest report at Higher Poynton on the 12-Jun.

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

Ideal weather conditions during the early months resulted in an earlier emergence than in 2006 with sightings at Cut-thorn Hill on 11-Apr and Saltersley Moss the following day. Numbers then increased rapidly throughout the county with notable counts of 66 at Whaley Moor on the 13-Apr, 39 at Shemmy Moss on the 19-Apr, 27 at The Cloud (Bosley) on the 26-Apr, 50 at Flaxmere on the 28-Apr and 24 at Wybunbury Moss on 2-May. Interestingly, the earlier sightings tended to be at colonies breeding on Bilberry, whereas butterflies emerged later from the Cranberry sites. The eggs of the Green Hairstreak can be laid on a wide range of plants, although in Cheshire the majority of colonies occur on Bilberry or Cranberry – this year, however, at least one colony in Wildboarclough was utilising Common Gorse. With peak numbers recorded earlier than normal it was not unexpected that few insects lingered into June with the latest at Tegg's Nose Country Park on the 4-Jun, The Cloud (Bosley) on the 5-Jun and Cranberry Moss on the 11-Jun.

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

This butterfly is most frequently observed on warm, sunny evenings in July, but unfortunately weather conditions in mid-summer meant that there were few recording opportunities this year. It is not surprising, therefore, that reports were only received from 13 sites – the lowest total since 1993 when little systematic recording was taking place. The Purple Hairstreak has, however, since the branch was formed in 1985 been recorded in 206 tetrads (30% of tetrads in Cheshire). Earliest sighting in 2007 was much later than normal with a report from Neston on 7-Jul. Other than at Englesea-brook where there was a count of 28 on 11-Jul, no other site recorded more than five butterflies. Latest sightings at Chester Zoo on 9-Aug and Woodend (Mobberley) the following day.

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

Emergence dates throughout the U.K. were exceptionally early with this trend mirrored in Cheshire where the first sightings were near Ellesmere Port on 10-Jun. Reports in 2007 were received from only 12 sites (compared to 21 sites in 2006), although hopefully this reduction reflected a lack of recording activity in the poor weather conditions, rather than a population decline. Double-figure counts were confined to Leftwich with 15 on 17-Jun and Englesea-brook with 16 on 11-Jul. There were no new tetrad records this year with sightings restricted to known colonies at Neston, Rivacre Valley, Ellesmere Port, Wistaston Green, Burleydam, Stowford, Meremoor, Barthomley, Englesea-brook, Leftwich, Bath Vale and along the Middlewood Way. Despite the early start to the season a few butterflies were still flying later than normal into August with reports from Burleydam to the 6-Aug, Stowford on the 9-Aug and Bath Vale to the 20-Aug.

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

Over the last 10 years the earliest sightings of this insect have fluctuated wildly between 31-Mar and 11-May - this year's report from Blakemere Moss on 5-April equalled the second earliest county record. Whilst reports from 70 tetrads indicated an average year for the Small Copper there were very few localities with significant counts. In 2006 eight sites recorded double-figure counts, but this year only Woolston Eyes with 14 on 1-May and Greasby with 22 on 8-Aug achieved these totals. A reasonable spell of weather at the end of the season resulted in several reports in late October and early November. November sightings were received from Woolston Eyes on the 1-Nov, Radnor Bridge on the 2-Nov, Wybunbury on the 6-Nov and Wrinehill Road Sand Quarry on the 6-Nov.

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

Earliest reports were in early May from Ashton's Flash (Northwich) and Rixton Claypits on the 1-May, followed by Bridgewater Copse, Port Sunlight, Astbury Mere and Arclid Sand Quarry on the 2-May. First brood insects peaked in late May and the summer emergence in early August, although numbers were disappointing throughout the year. Counts of 20+ were restricted to the following sites – 50+ at Thurstaston cliffs on 3-May, 65 at Rixton Claypits on 24-May, 28 at Englesea-brook on 27-May, 42 at Moore Nature Reserve on 11-Jun and 22 at Wrinehill Road Sand Quarry on 8-Aug.

A few insects were seen throughout September with a final sighting at Chorlton on the 29-Sep.

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

Earliest sightings were on fairly typical dates in early April commencing at Chester and Haslington on the 2-Apr, Meremoor on the 4-Apr and Lostock on the 6-Apr. With reports from 100 tetrads it was a reasonably successful year for the Holly Blue, especially in view of the weather conditions.



Red Admiral (Peter Eeles - not VC58)

Sightings during the spring brood benefited from the best of these conditions peaking in late April and included a maximum count of 12 at Rixton Claypits on 1-May. Smaller numbers of the second emergence peaked in early August. Latest sighting at Holmes Chapel on 30-Sep.

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

The year commenced with observations at an unprecedented eight localities during January - commencing at Delamere on the 2-Jan, and Holmes Chapel on the 4-Jan. Small numbers continued to be recorded during February and

March, although a lack of favourable weather conditions in the later months meant that levels of migration remained modest. Highest counts were from gardens at Antrobus with 10 on 5-Aug and at Holmes Chapel with 12 on several dates in mid-September. There were almost daily sightings throughout early November with the latest reports from Holmes Chapel on the 14-Nov and Moore Nature Reserve on the 15-Nov.

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

Earliest sightings during May were at Macclesfield on the 4-May and Englesea-brook on the 27-May. There was then a mini-influx over the next few days, although numbers remained low throughout the summer making 2007 a relatively poor year for this migrant. The majority of sightings came from gardens with data from the National Garden Butterfly Survey revealing that it was seen in 68% of gardens in Cheshire. No significant concentrations were recorded anywhere with the highest numbers of 5 at Inner Marsh Farm (Burton) on 31-Jul, 5 at Rixton Claypits on 26-Aug and 5 at Englesea-brook on 27-Aug. Latest sightings in October at Holmes Chapel on the 1-Oct, Bollington on the 4-Oct and Gayton on the 8-Oct.

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

Earliest sighting was at Ettiley Heath on 6-Feb, but there were then no further reports until widespread sightings in early March commencing at Basford on the 2-Mar. Considering the weather conditions records showed that the Small Tortoiseshell did not fare too badly in 2007, although it is still nowhere near as abundant as it was in the mid-1990's. Whilst the majority of sightings related to small numbers there were notable post-hibernation counts in mid-April of 100+ at Broxton on the 16-Apr and 66 at Hough on the 19-Apr. Highest counts following the first brood emergence in mid-summer were of 62 at Hough on 1-Jul and 100+ at Stapelford on 19-Jul. There was also some evidence of a second brood peaking in September, although numbers were much lower. Latest sightings in November at Bath Vale on the 6-Nov and Moore Nature Reserve on the 7-Nov and 15-Nov.

1597 Peacock *Inachis io* (Linnaeus, 1758)

The Peacock had a successful year being the most widely recorded butterfly in Cheshire with reports from 204 tetrads. Data from the National Garden Butterfly Survey also showed that it was the only butterfly recorded in every garden in the county. Earliest sighting was at Saltersley Moss on 2-Feb, but there were no additional reports until early March when numbers increased rapidly. During this period there was a notable post-hibernation count of 30+ at Chester on 1-Apr. Later in the year there was a synchronised emergence with significant counts of 140 at Woolston Eyes on 30-Jul, 50 at Inner Marsh Farm (Burton) on 31-Jul, 50 at Pickering's Pasture on 31-Jul, 46 at Stowford on 31-Jul, 56 at Meremoor on 31-Jul, 80 at Walgherton on 1-Aug and 89 at Chorlton on

3-Aug. Latest sightings in Macclesfield Town Centre on 14-Nov and Moore Nature Reserve the following day.

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

It was an unspectacular year for the Comma with reports from 134 tetrads (compared to 141 tetrads in 2005 and 155 tetrads in 2006). Earliest sighting was at Runcorn on 12-Jan, but there were no further reports until 4-Mar at Congleton. Data showed distinct peaks in early April for butterflies that had overwintered, followed by the two broods peaking in late July and late September. For the second successive year there were a number of double-figure counts including 10 at Chester on 1-Apr, 14 at Crewe Green on 7-Jul, 11 at Rixton Claypits on 14-Jul, 14 at Woolston Eyes on 18-Jul, 13 at Englesea-brook on 24-Jul, 11 at Moore Nature Reserve on 9-Aug and 12 at Ettiley Heath on 26-Sep. Mild weather in November produced a number of late reports with almost daily sightings until the latest at Moore Nature Reserve on the 15-Nov.



Peacock (Barrie Smith)

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

Cheshire's last breeding site at Bagmere continues to become more overgrown and it seems only a matter of time before the colony is lost. Unfortunately, this is a highly sedentary insect and there are no nearby sites where it could colonise. Visits to Bagmere in June produced counts of 2 on the 2-Jun, 4 on the 10-Jun and one on the 21-Jun.

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

The majority of casual sightings in Cheshire occur when this insect has a successful breeding season in nearby counties. Weather conditions were certainly not favourable this year with the result that there was just a single sighting at Ness on 5-Jul.

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

For the fourth successive year there was a March report with a sighting at Tiverton on the 26-Mar. Poor weather conditions meant that it was a slightly disappointing year for this butterfly with reports from 184 tetrads, against the 236 tetrads in 2006. Significant counts including 48 at Astbury Mere Country Park on 4-Aug, 40 at Rixton Claypits on 29-Aug, 60 at Woolston Eyes on 4-Sep and 40+ at Moore Nature Reserve on 13-Sep. In the past the Speckled Wood has rarely been seen in November but in 2007 there were sightings from Congleton on the 4-Nov, Wybunbury on the 12-Nov, plus the latest ever Cheshire report of a fresh specimen flying in a temperature of 3°C at Winnington Lane (Northwich) on the 23-Nov.

1615 Wall *Lasiommata megera* (Linnaeus, 1767)

The present status of the Wall in Cheshire continues to give cause for concern, especially as reports were only received from 16 tetrads (down from 25 tetrads in 2006). It is possible that a lack of suitable recording days may have contributed to the disappointing figures, but with reports from only two lowland sites at Inner Marsh Farm and Rixton Claypits the prospects for any form of recovery look bleak – at this latter site there was only a single butterfly and it was the first sighting at this regularly survey locality since 2003. Earliest sighting was at Inner Marsh Farm (Burton) on 1-May, with reports of first brood insects continuing to be seen until 6-Jun. There was a significant count during this period of 15 at Tegg's Nose Country Park on 5-May - the highest count in the county for seven years. The second brood were then recorded from 28-Jul to 7-Sep, plus a late report of 3 at Burton on 7-Oct. Localities in the Pennine foothills tend to be less intensely surveyed than other parts of the county and it is possible that the Wall could still occur in small numbers in most of these tetrads. During 2007 there were reports from the following sites close to the eastern edge of the county - Tegg's Nose Country Park, Wildboardclough, Winkle, Bakestonedale Moor,

Oakenclough, Higher Poynton, Pott Shrigley, Lyme Park, Congleton Edge, The Cloud (Bosley) and Dane-in-Shaw.



1621 Grayling *Hipparchia semele* (Linnaeus, 1758)

It is to be hoped that the paucity of records was merely due to a lack of recording activity in the poor weather conditions, rather than a sharp decline in the fortunes of this insect. The earliest sighting was much later than normal at Hilbre Island on 8-Aug, with the only other reports from Leasowe Sand Dunes on 10-Aug & 11-Aug where there was a highest count of only six butterflies on the latter date. Another regular site on the Wirral at Thurstaston was checked during the breeding season, but without success. Unfortunately, Cheshire's only inland breeding

colony at Sandbach Flashes was not surveyed.

1625 Gatekeeper *Pyronia tithonus* (Linnaeus, 1771)

Earliest sightings were at Chorlton on 19-Jun and Plumley Nature Reserve on 24-Jun. Subsequently it turned out to be a disastrous season for the Gatekeeper with reports from 136 tetrads which represented the lowest total since 1998. It was, however, the actual fall in numbers that was most dramatic with a typical example being data from a transect at Woolston Eyes which revealed a maximum count in mid-July of 247 butterflies, compared with a similar date in 2006 when 1,638 were recorded. Latest sightings in mid-September at Greasby on the 15-Sep and Chester on the 17-Sep.

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

Earliest sighting was at Basford on 31-May, but unfavourable conditions over the following weeks meant that the Meadow Brown had a poor year with records from 132 tetrads, compared to 195 tetrads in 2006. In some parts of the U.K. this butterfly often occurs in high densities, but nowadays in Cheshire there are few suitable localities that support such large colonies. This year numbers were even lower than usual with triple-figure counts restricted to 107 at Basford on 12-Jun, 158 at Handforth fields on 20-Jun and 100 at Bruera on 16-Jul. A few insects lingered into September with the latest reports from Moore Nature Reserve on the 13-Sep and Astbury Mere on the 14-Sep.

1629 Ringlet *Aphantopus hyperantus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

The earliest ever county sighting was at Weston on 19-Jun with additional reports later in the month from Burleydam on the 23-Jun, Walgherton on the 28-Jun and Weston on the 29-Jun. With atrocious weather conditions coinciding with the main flight period it was not surprising that numbers were much lower than in 2006 resulting in highest counts of 42 in the Wych Valley on 3-Jul and 46 at Englesea-brook on the same date. Despite 2007 being a poor year the Ringlet is now firmly established along the southern edge of the county with colonies at several sites in SJ44, SJ64 and SJ75. Confirmation was also received this year of an additional colony that has been established near Barthomley (SJ75) since at least 2004. In 2007 there was also an isolated first sighting from SJ54 at Chidlow Hall Farm that may have been a



straggler from the nearby Wych Valley, or possibly evidence that the Ringlet is continuing to extend its range into new areas. Latest sighting at Chorlton on 3-Aug.

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

The earliest ever Cheshire sightings were at Thurstaston cliffs on 3-May, Basford on 5-May and Weston on 5-May. This year there was no obvious break between the two overlapping broods, but with a notably larger first brood peaking earlier than usual during the first few days of June. Double-figure counts during the first emergence in June included 17 at Delamere Quarry on the 1-Jun, 12 at Bakestonedale Moor on the 3-Jun, 15 at Birchenough Hill on the 5-Jun, 12 at Basford on the 10-Jun, 10 at Oakenclough on the 11-Jun and 10 at Danethorn Hollow on the 19-Jun. The only notable count during the second brood was of 24 along Cumberland Brook (Wildboardclough) on 26-Aug.

Despite weather conditions the Small Heath fared well in 2007, especially in the foothills on the eastern border of the county. Latest sightings in September at Chorlton on the 4-Sep, Basford on the 4-Sep and Three Shire Heads on the 12-Sep.

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). Maps are produced by, and data extracted and stored upon, the Mapmate software that many of us use.

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.

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 – see above. In the latter case we would usually contact the recorder concerned to ask for supporting evidence. This is usually in time for the publication of this report but it is not always possible to provide any guarantee of this.

Details of the macromoth species requiring verification or dissection are listed on the macromoth checklist for the county – see above. 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.

After the incredible year of migrant species in 2006 it would have been amazing, had we not been disappointed with the results from 2007. That said, the very poor weather conditions for moths throughout the whole summer had a dramatic impact and numbers of specimens and species were generally reported as being lower than normal.

This statement is supported by the 5 five-year summary given below as *Table One*, with over 100 fewer species being recorded of which 90 were macromoths. These figures are also reflected in the total records for the year, which dropped by 11,000 of which 8,000 were macromoths. This perhaps reflects the heavy reliance upon light trapping as the main method of recording.

Year	Species	Records
2003	847 (395)	41,951 (31,131)
2004	828 (406)	42,028 (32,200)
2005	811 (386)	34,808 (27,429)
2006	856 (452)	49,479 (39,787)
2007	759 (362)	38,022 (31,371)

*Table One : Annual summary 2003-2007 of moth records in VC58.
(macromoth numbers in brackets).*

Turning to the micromoths, there were far less moths recorded from light traps this summer due to the wet weather; the more interesting results coming from daytime fieldwork.

A number of published records of *Coleophora limosipennella* from the 1940-50's have always remained doubtful due to the possible confusion with the similar *C. milvipennis* and *C. alnifoliae*. Now, following the discovery of larvae at Styal Woods, *Coleophora limosipennella* can be re-instated as a county species.

During recent summers Steve Hind has been looking at the leaves of Enchanter's Nightshade *Circaea lutetiana* in his local woods in the hope of finding the mines of *Mompha langiella*, after hearing about its habitat requirements in North Wales. So far these have always been in vain. Steve now intends extending his searches further west after an adult was found this autumn at Petty Pool.

Another species that has been searched for without success in recent years, following a 2005 report of larval mines in Horse Chestnut *Aesculus hippocastanum*, is the Horse Chestnut Leaf Miner *Cameraria ohridella*. Tenanted mines were eventually found at a number of sites this autumn and its expected rapid colonisation has begun.

With records extending across Shropshire, Staffordshire and Derbyshire the chance of finding *Bucculatrix albedinella* in Cheshire has long been anticipated. The adult that was caught this year only just managed to creep across the county boundary, to a light at Shotwick.

National Moth Night*

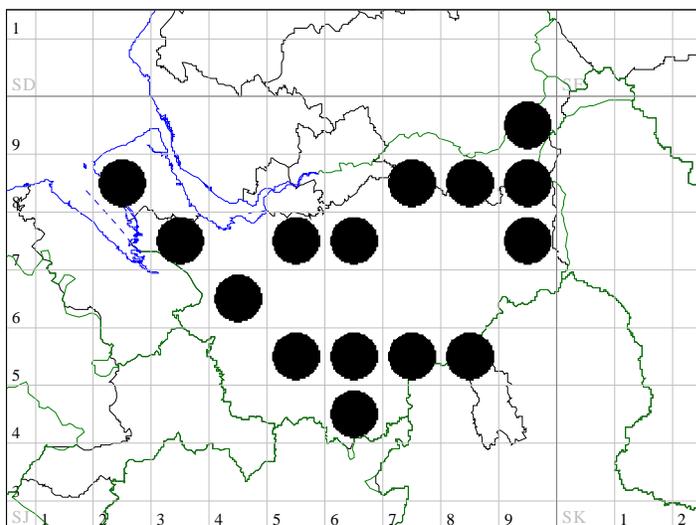
The summer date of 11-Aug for this year's event was intended to provide a better evening and a bigger species list for the trapping and daytime sessions organised. To some extent this worked, and most areas found that the weather on the evening was far better than for many evenings throughout 2007.

The target species for the event were Chalk Carpet *Scotopteryx bipunctaria*, Four-spotted Footman *Lithosia quadra*, Jersey Tiger *Euplagia quadripunctaria* and Cousin German *Protolampra sobrina*. Whilst the chances of one of the four target species being recorded were remote this was not essential as the whole point of this event is public awareness.

We attracted a total of 151 species on the 'day' of which 94 species were macromoths. Records were received from 28 sites although the County Macromoth Recorder's garden was unfortunately not one of them as he was getting sunburned in Turkey.

The best site was Jepsonclough Farm, Adlington SJ98 where Steve Hind recorded 57 species, taking the title for 'best site' for two years' running. No prize of course but a smug smile for another year is more than enough reward for anyone, surely?

VC58 National Moth Night Records 2007



National Moth Night 2008 was on 7-Jun and a full summary of that year's event will be contained in the 2008 report. The 2009 event is for the first time to allow two dates – 18-Sep and 19-Sep. Recorders can choose either or both nights and the idea behind this is to allow the best night to be chosen given the likelihood of poorer weather at this time of year. There are no specific target species but the general theme will be 'migration'.

*It should be noted that officially, early stages were not included in the national criteria, however we have included them here for completeness to recognize the effort involved.

The Commonest Species

The 20 most numerous species (in terms of the numbers of individuals) recorded in 2006 and 2007 are detailed below in *Table Two* and *Table Three*. As usual, we have included 'agg. species' despite these, of course, not being true species. Whilst the numbers of records was not too different it is a testament to the weather in 2007 that numbers of specimens was substantially lower than in 2006.

Code	Vernacular	Taxon	Records	Individuals
2107	Large Yellow Underwing	<i>Noctua pronuba</i>	1488	24997
2089	Heart and Dart	<i>Agrotis exclamationis</i>	1061	13312
2126	Setaceous Hebrew Character	<i>Xestia c-nigrum</i>	813	3933
2190	Hebrew Character	<i>Orthosia gothica</i>	759	3535
2187	Common Quaker	<i>Orthosia cerasi</i>	585	3330
2343x	Common Rustic agg.	<i>Mesapamea secalis</i> agg.	592	2890
2321	Dark Arches	<i>Apamea monoglypha</i>	661	2665
2102	Flame Shoulder	<i>Ochrolepura plecta</i>	941	2128
2109	Lesser Yellow Underwing	<i>Noctua comes</i>	554	2114
2381	Uncertain	<i>Hoplodrina alsines</i>	539	1925
1713	Riband Wave	<i>Idaea aversata</i>	677	1707
2188	Clouded Drab	<i>Orthosia incerta</i>	502	1575
2050	Common Footman	<i>Eilema lurideola</i>	324	1224
2134	Square-spot Rustic	<i>Xestia xanthographa</i>	405	1115
2111	Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing	<i>Noctua janthe</i>	383	1094
2092	Shuttle-shaped Dart	<i>Agrotis puta</i>	553	968
1937	Willow Beauty	<i>Peribatodes rhomboidaria</i>	519	865
1906	Brimstone Moth	<i>Opisthocraptis luteolata</i>	517	861
2337x	Marbled Minor agg.	<i>Oligia strigilis</i> agg.	373	861
2182	Small Quaker	<i>Orthosia cruda</i>	305	813

Table Two : The 20 most common (specimens) moth species in VC58 in 2007

Code	Vernacular	Taxon	Records	Individuals
2107	Large Yellow Underwing	<i>Noctua pronuba</i>	1661	31366
2089	Heart and Dart	<i>Agrotis exclamationis</i>	960	14965
2343x	Common Rustic agg.	<i>Mesapamea secalis agg.</i>	798	13415
2126	Setaceous Hebrew Character	<i>Xestia c-nigrum</i>	853	5313
2441	Silver Y	<i>Autographa gamma</i>	1411	4678
2321	Dark Arches	<i>Apamea monoglypha</i>	746	4660
1713	Riband Wave	<i>Idaea aversata</i>	590	3395
2187	Common Quaker	<i>Orthosia cerasi</i>	489	3324
0873		<i>Blastobasis adustella</i>	201	3113
2190	Hebrew Character	<i>Orthosia gothica</i>	609	2983
2102	Flame Shoulder	<i>Ochropleura plecta</i>	996	2898
0171	Narrow-bordered Five-spot Burnet	<i>Zygaena lonicerae</i>	24	2800
2109	Lesser Yellow Underwing	<i>Noctua comes</i>	739	2751
0998	Light Brown Apple Moth	<i>Epiphyas postvittana</i>	601	2608
2381	Uncertain	<i>Hoplodrina alsines</i>	462	2343
2111	Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow UW	<i>Noctua janthe</i>	479	1954
1937	Willow Beauty	<i>Peribatodes rhomboidaria</i>	759	1737
2050	Common Footman	<i>Eilema lurideola</i>	326	1723
2199	Common Wainscot	<i>Mythimna pallens</i>	497	1657
2188	Clouded Drab	<i>Orthosia incerta</i>	415	1647

Table Three: The 20 most common (specimens) moth species in VC58 in 2006

The Rarer (and New) Species

In 2006, we added 14 species to the county list of which five were macromoths. In 2007, the result was a comparatively paltry three species and all of these were micromoths.

The new species recorded in the county in 2007 are summarised in *Table Four* below and full details can be obtained from the systematic section of this report that follows.

Code	Vernacular	Taxon	Recorder	Hectad
0271		<i>Bucculatrix albedinella</i>	David Gardener	SJ37
0499		<i>Coleophora limosipennella</i>	Ben Smart	SJ88
0880		<i>Mompha langiella</i>	Steve Hind, Kevin McCabe	SJ67

Table Four : New species in VC58 in 2007

Systematic List of Scarce and New Moths in VC58 in 2007

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 2007. 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. *Where dates or numbers are not specified then this information was not provided.* With a few arbitrary exceptions, records are provided here for species with three or fewer records in the year.

0011 *Eriocrania cicatricella* (Zetterstedt, 1839)

Tenanted leaf mines at Whaley Bridge SJ9981 on 29-Apr (Steve Hind).

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

One to light at Alsager SJ8154 on 11-Jun (Mike Dale).

0023 *Ectoedemia argyropeza* (Zeller, 1839)

Leaf mines at Woodend Farm, Adlington SJ9381 on 30-Oct and Marple Wood, Hawk Green SJ9586 on 4-Nov (Steve Hind).

0025 *Ectoedemia intimella* (Zeller, 1848)

Mines in Goat Willow *Salix caprea* at four new sites: Jacksons' Brickworks, Higher Poynton SJ9484 on 26-Oct; Siddington SJ8471 on 31-Oct; Anson Road, Higher Poynton SJ9483 on 9-Nov and Park Pit, Poynton SJ9384 on 11-Nov (Steve Hind).

0097 Apple Pygmy *Stigmella malella* (Stainton, 1854)

Vacated leaf mines at Oldcastle Heath SJ4745 on 21-Oct (Steve Hind).

0113 *Stigmella sakhalinella* Puplesis, 1984

A single tenanted leaf mine in Offley Wood, Sandbach SJ7661 on 29-Sep (Steve Hind), was the second county record, following mines at Knutsford in 2004.

0119 *Opostega salaciella* (Treitschke, 1833)

A male to light at Higher Poynton SJ9483 on 5-Sep gen. det. (Steve Hind).



Mine of *Stigmella sakhalinella*
(Rob Edmunds - not VC58)



Bucculatrix nigricomella
(Ian Kimber - not VC58)

0143 *Nematopogon metaxella* (Hübner, 1813)

A female at Jackson's Brickworks, Higher Poynton SJ9484 on 5-Jun gen. det. followed by two to light overnight from Higher Poynton SJ9483, one gen. det. male (Steve Hind). The only previous record was from Delamere in 1908.

0161 Leopard Moth *Zeuzera pyrina* (Linnaeus, 1761)

Just two records of single adults both at light. The first at Mickle Trafford SJ4570 on 11-Jul (Mike Boothman) and the other at Alderley Edge SJ8477 on 14-Jul (Mike Dockery, Kevin McCabe).

0224 *Triaxomera parasitella* (Hübner, 1796)

Bred from larva in bracket fungus *Trametes versicolor*, Dunham Massey SJ7387 (Ben Smart). This is the first county record since 1949.

0266 *Bucculatrix nigricomella* (Zeller, 1839)

One to light at Kingsley SJ5574 on 2-Jun (Paul Miller).

0271 *Bucculatrix albedinella* (Zeller, 1839)

**** The first county record.** An adult to light at Manor Farm, Shotwick SJ3471 on 10-Jun (David Gardener).

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

Following the report of infested trees at Pulford in 2005, Horse Chestnut *Aesculus hippocastanum* has been frequently searched, without success, until a tenanted leaf mine



Bucculatrix albedinella
(Paul Kitchener - not VC58)

was found at Alderley Park SJ8475 on 20-Sep (Steve Hind, John Rayner). Tenanted leaf mines were subsequently found at a further twelve sites, all of which were on or near to major roads, suggesting that it is using our transport systems to colonize, as it has done elsewhere in the country (Steve Hind) and (Barry Shaw).

0409b *Argyresthia cupressella* Walsingham, 1890

An adult to light at Elton SJ4575 on 24-May (Marion Barlow, Steve Holmes).

0423 *Argyresthia semitestacella* (Curtis, 1833)

One to light at Alsager SJ8154 on 19-Aug (Mike Dale).

0436 *Pseudoswammerdamia combinella* (Hübner, 1786)

One to light at Shotwick SJ3572 on 7-Jun (David Gardener) (det. Jim Porter) is the first record for seventy years.



0442 *Cedestis gysseleniella* Zeller, 1839

Three to light at Alsager SJ8154, one on 1-Aug, followed by two on 5-Aug (Mike Dale).

0447 *Roeslerstammia erxlebella* (Fabricius, 1787)

One to light at Alsager SJ8154 on 5-Aug (Mike Dale) and leaf mines at Sandbach SJ7661 on 29-Sep, Chelford SJ8175 on 4-Oct, Snelson SJ8073 on 24-Oct and Redesmere SJ8471 on 31-Oct (Steve Hind).

0499 *Coleophora limosipennella* (Duponchel, 1843)

**** The first county record.** Two larval cases on Elm *Ulmus* sp. at Styal Woods SJ8383 on 4-Jun (Ben Smart). This is the first county record since the species status was determined ca.1970.

0565 *Coleophora saxicolella* Duponchel, 1843

A female to light at Willaston, Nantwich SJ6752 on 5-Jul gen. det. (Mike Dale).

0581 *Coleophora taeniipennella* Herrich-Schäffer, 1855

Larval cases on Middlewood Way, Higher Poynton SJ9482 on 13-Aug (Steve Hind).

0692 *Agonopterix subpropinquella* (Stainton, 1849)

A male to light at Alsager SJ8154 on 9-Jun, gen. det. (Mike Dale).

0704 *Agonopterix scopariella* (Heinemann, 1870)

Singles to light at Alsager SJ8154 on 9-Apr and 21-Apr (Mike Dale).

0724 *Metzneria lappella* (Linnaeus, 1758)

One to light at Hilbre SJ1888 on 29-Jun (Gavin Broad) was new for the island.

0758 *Recurvaria leucatella* (Clerck, 1759)

One to light at Elton SJ4575 on 7-Jul (Marion Barlow, Steve Holmes).

0760 *Exoteleia dodecella* (Linnaeus, 1758)

One to light at Higher Poynton SJ9483 on 11-Jun (Steve Hind) and seven to light at Alsager SJ8154 between 13-Jun and 2-Aug gen. det. 13-Jun (Mike Dale).

0773 *Pseudotelphusa paripunctella* (Thunberg, 1794)

The seventh and eighth county records and the first for twenty years to light at Kingsley SJ5574 on 2-Jun and 9-Jun (Paul Miller).

0776 *Teleiopsis diffinis* (Haworth, 1828)

At Romiley SJ9390, two to light on 11-Jun, with a third on 20-Jun (Shane Farrell).

0782 *Bryotropha senectella* (Zeller, 1839)

Ten to light at Alsager SJ8154 between 22-Jul and 21 Aug, gen. det. male 22-Jul (Mike Dale).

0788 *Bryotropha politella* (Stainton, 1851)

Two at dusk, Lyme Park SJ9582 on 11-Jun, gen. det. (Steve Hind).

0812 *Scrobipalpa instabilella* (Douglas, 1846)

Two to light at Hilbre SJ1888 on 30-Jun (Gavin Broad).



Teleiopsis diffinis
(Shane Farrell)



Pseudotelphusa paripunctella
(Paul Miller)

0822 *Scrobipalpa acuminatella* (Sircom, 1850)

One to light at Alsager SJ8154 on 9-Aug, gen. det. (Mike Dale).

0829 *Caryocolum marmoreum* (Haworth, 1828)

One to light at Hilbre SJ1888 on 30-Jun (Gavin Broad), is the fifth county record and the first since 1987.

0830 *Caryocolum fraternella* (Douglas, 1851)

Three larvae on Wood Stitchwort *Stellaria nemorum*, growing on the southern bank of the River Mersey by Sale Water Park SJ8092 on 22-Apr (Barry Shaw). An adult was bred, emerging on 7-Jun. This is only the fourth county record and is probably also on a new foodplant. Pictures showing the various stages of this record are currently available on the ukmoths.org.uk website.

0880 *Mompha langiella* (Hübner, 1796)

**** The first county record.** An adult at rest on an Alder *Alnus glutinosa* leaf at Petty Pool SJ6170 on 6-Oct (Steve Hind, Kevin McCabe).

0891 *Mompha sturnipennella* (Treitschke, 1833)

Four to light at Elton SJ4575 between 24-May and 5-Aug (Marion Barlow, Steve Holmes).

0925 *Phtheochroa rugosana* (Hübner, 1799)

Fourteen to light at Elton SJ4575 between 3-May and 13-Jun (Marion Barlow, Steve Holmes).

1009 *Philedonides lunana* (Thunberg, 1784)

A single adult at Whaley Moor SJ9882 on 13-Apr (Steve Hind).

1027 *Neosphaleroptera nubilana* (Hübner, 1799)

Six to light at three Shotwick sites SJ37 on 7-Jun and 10-Jun (David Gardener) (det. Jim Porter) and one to light at Alsager SJ8154 on 19-Jun, gen. det. (Mike Dale).

1043 *Acleris aspersana* (Hübner, 1817)

One to light at Elton SJ4575 on 2-Sep (Marion Barlow, Steve Holmes).



Mompha langiella
(Ian Kimber - not VC58)

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

Singles to light at Alsager SJ8154 on 16-Jul, gen. det. (Mike Dale) and Elton SJ4575 on 18-Aug (Marion Barlow, Steve Holmes).

1151 *Epinotia trigonella* (Linnaeus, 1758)

One to light at Elton SJ4575 on 2-Sep (Marion Barlow, Steve Holmes).

1162 *Rhopobota myrtilana* (Humphreys & Westwood, 1845)

76 flying late afternoon over Bilberry *Vaccinium myrtilus* by the roadside at Wincle SJ9666 on 7-Jun, yet only two at Cluse Hay, Lyme Park SJ9581 on 10-Jun (Steve Hind). The latter site was heavily grazed by the parks Red Deer *Cervus elaphus* until some ten years ago and although the vegetation is recovering the site still remains poor for moths.

1211 *Rhyacionia pinicolana* (Doubleday, 1849)

One to light at Heald Green SJ8586 on 23-May (Barry Shaw).

1233 *Pammene aurita* Razowski, 1991

Three to light at Marple SJ9589 on 10-Aug (Martyn Stanyer).

1234 *Pammene regiana* (Zeller, 1849)

Seven to light at Sale SJ7992 between 8-Jun and 13-Jun (Peter Hardy).

1242 *Grapholita internana* (Guenée, 1845)

Several with *Cydia ulicetana* amongst Gorse *Ulex europaeus* at Tegg's Nose C.P. on 5-May, det. (Steve Hind, Paul Hill) and at least one at Pott Shrigley SJ9581 on 1-Jun (Steve Hind).

1252 *Grapholita lunulana* ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

Five at Park Pit, Poynton SJ9384 on 28-Apr and one on 15-May (Steve Hind) are the first recorded in East Cheshire.

1259 *Cydia fagiglandana* (Zeller, 1841)

The fourth county record was of one to light at Alsager SJ8154 on 5-Aug (Mike Dale).

1292 *Calamotropha paludella* (Hübner, 1824)

Two at Jackson's Brickworks, Higher Poynton SJ9484 on 3-Aug (Mike Dale, Steve Hind, Kevin McCabe) is the second county record, following one at Elton in 2004.

1348 *Parapoynx stratiotata* (Linnaeus, 1758)

One to light at Manor Farm, Shotwick SJ3471 on 7-Jun (David Gardener).

1385 *Ebulea crocealis* (Hübner, 1796)

One to light at Elton SJ4575 on 4-Sep (Marion Barlow, Steve Holmes).

1436 *Conobathra repandana* (Fabricius, 1798)

Singles to light at Alsager SJ8154 on 20-Jul, (Mike Dale) and Elton SJ4575 on 20-Jul (Marion Barlow, Steve Holmes).

1476 Dried Currant Moth *Ephestia cautella* (Walker, 1863)

A few moths were found in a pet shop at Shavington SJ7053 during the year. (Dave Taylor) gen. det. (Mike Dale).

1479 Indian Meal Moth *Plodia interpunctella* (Hübner, 1813)

One to light at Shavington SJ7152 on 7-Aug (Roger Benson, Trevor Rowlands) gen. det. (Steve Hind).

1637 Oak Eggar *Lasiocampa quercus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Three records. A single larva at Great Midgel Moss, Delamere SJ5371 on 15-Mar (Brian Bull) and an adult to light at Marbury Country Park SJ6576 on 14-Jul (Liz Bentham). There was also a specimen of f. *callunae* (the 'Northern Eggar') at Stoak SJ4273 on 3-Aug (Roger Wilkinson).

1643 Emperor Moth *Saturnia pavonia* (Linnaeus, 1758)

This beautiful species is another that rewards the efforts of those recorders willing to venture onto the moors at the edges of the county. There was a single daytime record of ten moths at Pym Chair



and Withinleach Moor SJ9976 on 5-May (Steve Hind, Geoff Lightfoot).

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

There were three records of this species in 2007 and all single moths at light. Two were at the known site, at Mere SJ7381 (the site of the first Cheshire record) on 23-May and 24-Jul (Sheila Blamire) and the other at Jepsonclough Farm, Adlington SJ9380 on 11-Aug (Steve Hind). This brings the total number of records to 14.

1657 Common Lutestring *Ochropacha duplaris* (Linnaeus, 1761)

For many this may be a surprising entry as a scarce species but there were only three records in 2007. All of them were single moths at light. The first at Marbury Country Park SJ6576 on 16-Jul (Liz Bentham), then at Alsager SJ8154 on 5-Aug (Mike Dale) and finally at Marple SJ9589 on 8-Aug (Martyn Stanyer).



1680 Maiden's Blush *Cyclophora punctaria* (Linnaeus, 1758)

This moth has been recorded regularly over the last few years and looks to be re-establishing itself in the county – a welcome addition! There was a single moth to light at Burwardsley SJ5156 on 19-Jun (Michael Whiteside). This brings the total number of records to 17.

1689 Mullein Wave *Scopula marginepunctata* (Goeze, 1781)

This species has been recorded in Cheshire for the last three years. All three records have been in only two, adjacent 5km squares in the south of the county and the last two records from the same site at Shavington SJ7152. This year's record was again to light on 20-Aug (Roger Benson, Trevor Rowlands) and these records hopefully indicate a small resident population of this wave. There have also been recent records from Derbyshire supporting a northern expansion of the moth – although it is present in North Wales. This brings the total number of records to three.

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

As has become usual, the only records of this species were from the Wirral area. Both records were from the same site Dee Estuary: Burton Point Farm SJ3073 and there was a bumper night with six recorded on 31-May and a single moth on 24-Jun both by the same recorder (Mel Bellingham).

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

A single moth came to light, again on the Wirral at Bromborough SJ3479 on 1-Jun (Edwin Samuels).

1745 Mallow *Larentia clavaria* (Haworth, 1809)

The usual site at Hilbre Island SJ1888 produced three records of single moths all to light. They were present on 28-Aug, 5-Sep



and 6-Sep (Clive Totty). This brings the total number of records to 18.

1748 Beautiful Carpet *Mesoleuca albicillata* (Linnaeus, 1758)

A single specimen to light at Anderton SJ6475 on 29-Jun (Adrian Wander).

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

We never receive many reports of this attractive species. There were just two records of single moths to light at Dee Estuary: Burton Point Farm SJ3073 on 18-Jul and 1-Aug (Mel Bellingham).

1752 Purple Bar *Cosmorhoe ocellata* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Two records of single specimens to light at Greasby SJ2587 on 1-Sep (Les Hall) and Hilbre Island SJ1888 on 13-Sep (Clive Totty).

1756 Northern Spinach *Eulithis populata* (Linnaeus, 1758)

This moth can be seen during the daytime but this year the records were both single moths at light, widely separated in terms of site and date. The first was at Higher Poynton SJ9483 on 5-Jun (Steve Hind) and the other at Pensby SJ2684 on 2-Aug (Nicola Edmonds).

1775 Mottled Grey *Colostygia multistrigaria* (Haworth, 1809)

Never many records of this moth and 2007 was no exception with just a single moth at Nantwich SJ6247 on 9-Apr (Paul Griffiths).

1795 November Moth *Epirrita dilutata* ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

Records of this species and the related group of moths (with the possible exception of Small Autumnal Moth *E. filigrammaria* in appropriate habitat) all require genitalia assessment to allow records to stand at species level. Moths not treated in this way should be allotted to the November Moth agg. Females are not currently reliable even when dissected and therefore only records of males will be allowed.

The following records were all to light and confirmed by dissection. Elton SJ4575, single male on 12-Oct (Marion Barlow, Steve Holmes). Cheadle Hulme SJ8786, three males on 26-Oct and a single male on 5-Nov (Geoff Lightfoot). All of the above specimens gen. det. (Steve Hind).

1797 Autumnal Moth *Epirrita autumnata* (Borkhausen, 1794)

A single male to light at Elton SJ4575 on 13-Oct (Marion Barlow, Steve Holmes) gen. det. (Steve Hind).

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

Just a single record of a male to light at Burwardsley SJ5156 on 17-Nov (Michael Whiteside).

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

As with many of this difficult group, this is a tricky species to identify and every site should have at least a single specimen confirmed by dissection. There was a single female to light and confirmed by this method at Cheadle Hulme SJ8686 on 12-Jun (Geoff Lightfoot) gen. det. (Steve Hind).

1823 Netted Pug *Eupithecia venosata* (Fabricius, 1787)

Although generally very scarce in Cheshire, this species is known to have a colony on Hilbre Island SJ1888. The larvae feed in the seed capsules of bladder campion *Silene vulgaris*, or sea campion *S. maritima* near the coast. There were two specimens recorded at this site at light on 22-Apr and 26-May (Clive Totty).

1851 Golden-rod Pug *Eupithecia virgaureata* Doubleday, 1861

Another species for which we normally need a dissected specimen to confirm site records, however, a good photograph of a well marked and fresh specimen can sometimes suffice. There were two specimens in 2007, both to light, with the first at Chester SJ4168 on 20-Apr (Tom Edmondson) and the second a male at Cheadle Hulme SJ8786 on 15-Jul (Geoff Lightfoot) gen. det. (Steve Hind).

1857 Dwarf Pug *Eupithecia tantillaria* Boisduval, 1840

This is a generally well marked and distinctive species (for a pug!). There were single specimens to



light at Nantwich SJ6247 on 25-Apr (Paul Griffiths) and at Higher Poynton SJ9483 on 24-May (Steve Hind).

1864 Streak Chesias legatella ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

Just a single record of three specimens to light at Dee Estuary: Burton Point Farm SJ3073 on 31-Oct (Mel Bellingham).

1870 Chimney Sweeper Odezia atrata (Linnaeus, 1758)

This day-flying species was only reported as single specimens this year. Records were received from Lyme Park SJ9684 on 25-May (Steve Hind), Pott Shrigley SJ9581 on 1-Jun (Steve Hind) and finally from Springfield Copse SJ9786 on 17-Jun (Andy Bissitt).

1885 Clouded Magpie Abraxas sylvata (Scopoli, 1763)

This is always a scarce but generally distinctive moth. There was a single specimen seen in the daytime at Hilbre Island SJ1888 on 2-Aug (Hilbre day sheets).



Bordered Beauty
(Ian Copley)



Lilac Beauty
(Roger Benson)

1907 Bordered Beauty Epione repandaria (Hufnagel, 1767)

Another distinctive and very attractive species and usually in small numbers. 2007 was no exception with single moths to light at Bromborough SJ3479 on 17-Jul (Edwin Samuels) and at Little Neston SJ2976 where one was attracted to an external house light on 22-Jul (Ian Copley – lucky man!).

1910 Lilac Beauty Apeira syringaria (Linnaeus, 1758)

A single record of this stunning species was received from Shavington SJ7152 when it came to light on 18-Jun (Roger Benson, Trevor Rowlands).



Grey Scalloped Bar
(leg. Phil Keane photo Shane Farrell)



Pine Hawk-moth
(Mike Dale)

1969 Grey Scalloped Bar Dyscia fagaria
(Thunberg, 1784)

A single moth came to light (presumably off the nearby heather moorland) to Dukinfield SJ9497 on 5-Jun (Phil Keane). This is the first confirmed Cheshire record of this species since 1938. This brings the total number of records to 18.

1978 Pine Hawk-moth *Hyloicus pinastri* (Linnaeus, 1758)

A single specimen of this striking moth came to light at Alsager SJ8154 on 04-Jul (Mike Dale). This was only the third county record for Cheshire and confirms that it appears to be establishing itself in the south of the county.

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

This moth is surprisingly scarce at light and possibly is less attracted than some species? There was a single moth recorded at light at Alsager SJ8154 on 11-May (Mike Dale).

1996 Alder Kitten *Furcula bicuspis* (Borkhausen, 1790)

Possibly the most attractive of the three 'kittens' recorded in Cheshire, there were three single moths all to light at Sound SJ6247 on 7-May (Brian Leigh), at Mere SJ7381 on 15-May (Sheila Blamire) and at Buerton SJ6843 on 2-Jun (Andrew Kelly).



Chocolate-tip
(leg. Chris Machin photo Mike Dale)



Muslin Footman
(Beth Jones)

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

This species appears to have firmly established itself in the county now with a bumper crop of records in 2007. There were seven records of single moths to light at three sites and summarised below. Burwardsley SJ5156 on 8-May and 10-May (Michael Whiteside), at Sound SJ6247 on 28-Apr, 7-May and 16-May (Brian Leigh) and finally at Church Lawton SJ7956 on 15-Apr and 1-Aug (Chris Machin). This latter record is particularly interesting and suggests that the species was double brooded in 2007. This brings the total number of records to ten.

2038 Muslin Footman *Nudaria mundana* (Linnaeus, 1761)

Three records of this species at light in 2007. The first was a single specimen at Dee Estuary: Burton Point Farm SJ3073 on 7-Jun and 24-Jun (Mel Bellingham). The other record of two specimens was at Burleydam SJ6142 on 14-Jul (Beth Jones).

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

This is still a scarce species in Cheshire although it is expected that records will rise over the next few years assuming we get some decent weather. There was a single moth to light at Higher Poynton SJ9483 on 10-Aug (Steve Hind). This brings the total number of records to nine.

2057 Garden Tiger *Arctia caja* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Usually we are commenting on the continued decline of this species but for once, it is pleasing to note a reversal of recent fortunes for this truly beautiful moth. There were a total of six adult records, all to light unless specified, and a larval record (nine larvae) in 2007 as follows. Nine larvae seen feeding on thistles at Wrenbury SJ5948 on 26-Mar (Barrie Smith), Single moths



Garden Tiger
(Roger Benson)

at Buerton SJ6843 on 21-Jun (Andrew Kelly), Elton SJ4575 on 24-Jun (Marion Barlow, Steve Holmes), Shavington SJ7152 on 3-Jul and 8-Jul (Roger Benson, Trevor Rowlands), Dee Estuary: Burton Point Farm SJ3073 on 18-Jul (Mel Bellingham) and finally a single moth day flying at Mickle Trafford SJ4570 on 13-Sep (Mike Boothman). Whilst all the records must have been exciting finds for the recorders concerned, it is expected that the final one, seen in the daytime was a particularly enjoyable experience!

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

Although previous reports have advised that we will only consider acceptance of records for both species where a dissection has been carried out, in line with our regular appraisal of individual species' status, the moth panel feel this was a too cautious approach. We will now accept records for *tritici* without further supporting evidence being required. Records for *obelisca* will, however still require a dissected specimen to confirm and allow records to be accepted. There was a single record of White-line Dart at Hilbre Island SJ1888 on 5-Sep to light (Clive Totty).

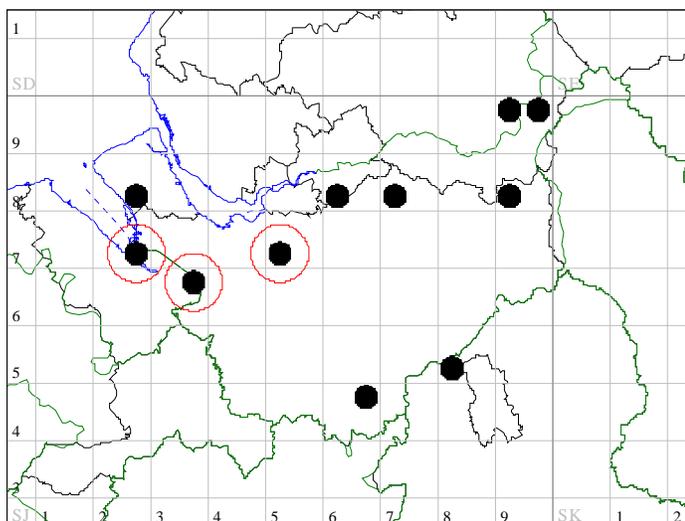
2137 Great Brocade *Eurois occulta* (Linnaeus, 1758)

There was what could almost be termed a 'fall' of records of this species in 2007. Within seven days in late August we had twice the number of records ever recorded. These records are summarised below in *Table Five* and relate to moths caught at light in all cases. It has been pointed out that although mothing is still predominantly a male pastime, the ladies won eight to seven in the Great Brocade stakes! Many of these records were new hectad records (see summary from p. 26) and this brings the total number of records to 17. There were additional records of this species in 2006 at Marbury (Liz Bentham) and Bramhall (Andrew Charlton), these are the first records of this species since the late 19th Century.



Another interesting feature of the records received in 2007 is that like many migrant or expanding species this moth seems to have used the Mersey (and possibly the Dee??) river valley, presumably for navigation (see map below). The dots with larger circles around them have more historic records. These records were part of a large influx into the country following northerly winds, a direction not usually considered for migrants.

2137 Great Brocade (*Eurois occulta*)



Site	Grid Ref.	No.	Date	Recorder
Marbury Country Park	SJ6576	3	22-Aug	Liz Bentham
Alsager	SJ8154	1	22-Aug	Mike Dale
Dukinfield	SJ9497	1	22-Aug	Phil Keane
Marbury Country Park	SJ6576	2	23-Aug	Liz Bentham
Dukinfield	SJ9497	1	23-Aug	Phil Keane
Pensby	SJ2684	1	24-Aug	Nicola Edmonds
Appleton Thorn	SJ6383	1	24-Aug	Sam Bayley
Hack Green	SJ6549	1	25-Aug	Jessica Davies
Higher Poynton	SJ9483	1	25-Aug	Steve Hind
Mere	SJ7381	1	26-Aug	Sheila Blamire
Brushes, Stalybridge	SJ9799	1	26-Aug	Phil Keane
Alsager	SJ8154	1	29-Aug	Mike Dale

Table Five : Great Brocade in Cheshire in 2007

2170 Varied Coronet *Hadena compta* (Denis & Schiffermüller, 1775)

There was again a single record of this species to light at Shavington SJ7152 on 13-Jun (Roger Benson, Trevor Rowlands), this being only the fourth county record.

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

Three records of single moths to light at the same site – Nantwich SJ6247 on 26-Mar, 28-Apr and 9-May (Paul Griffiths).

2195 Delicate *Mythimna vitellina* (Hübner, 1808)

A single specimen of this migrant species to light at Nantwich SJ6247 on 8-Nov (Paul Griffiths), this being the fifth county record.

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

One moth at light at Mere SJ7381 on 8-Jul (Sheila Blamire).



Varied Coronet
(Roger Benson)



Obscure Wainscot
(John Knowler)

2201 Shore Wainscot *Mythimna litoralis* (Curtis, 1827)

A single specimen came to light at Greasby SJ2587 on 4-Jul (Les Hall). This is the first county record since 1995.

2204 Obscure Wainscot *Mythimna obsoleta* (Hübner, 1803)

There was a good number of records of this species in Cheshire in 2007 with single moths to light at Burton SJ3274 on 24-May (John Knowler), Inner Marsh Farm SJ2975 on 25-May (John Knowler), Dee Estuary: Burton Point Farm SJ3074 on 25-May (Barry Barnacle) and finally at Marbury Country Park SJ6576 on 9-Jun, 11-Jun and 14-Jul

(Liz Bentham). This brings the total number of records to 12.

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

There were three records of this moth of single adults to light, all within the same general area of the county. All records received within a day of each other from Sound SJ6247 (Brian Leigh) and Rope SJ6753 on 24-Apr (David Cookson) and with one further record at this latter site the day before. The latter site was the only one where this species was recorded in 2006.

2231 Deep-brown Dart *Aporophyla lutulenta* ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775) / 2231a Northern Deep-brown Dart *Aporophyla lueneburgensis* (Freyer, 1848)

This pair of species are very difficult to separate and even dissections provide no help at all. Often a specimen has to be compared with other specimens to confirm identity and therefore, it will be a requirement for new site records to be confirmed by retention of a specimen. However, records can still be referred to the group and will be stored as unconfirmed.

A single specimen to light at of Deep-brown Dart was recorded at Alsager SJ8154 on 16-Sep (Mike Dale).

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

There were three records of adults at light with the first a very early specimen at Alsager SJ8154 on 20-Feb (Mike Dale). The others were at Mere SJ7381 on 8-Apr (Sheila Blamire) and at Marbury Country Park SJ6576 on 15-Apr (Liz Bentham). This last moth laid eggs and which were reared by Paul Hill and the captor.



Red Sword-grass
(leg. Liz Bentham photo Paul Hill)

2250 Dark Brocade *Blepharita adusta* (Esper, 1790)

Just a single specimen to light at Buerton SJ6843 on 7-Jun (Andrew Kelly).

2254 Grey Chi *Antitype chi* (Linnaeus, 1758)

A scarce moth in 2007, with just three moths to light. At Marple SJ9589 on 8-Aug (Martyn Stanyer), Birkenhead SJ3286 on 31-Aug (Graham Jones) and at Greasby SJ2587 on 5-Sep (Les Hall).

2265 Flounced Chestnut *Agrochola helvola* (Linnaeus, 1758)

This species is usually scarce and all three records in 2007 came from the same site. Single moths came to light at Buerton SJ6843 21-Aug, 24-Aug and 29-Aug (Andrew Kelly).

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

Another surprising inclusion on this list but there were only three records of single moths at light in 2007. The first at Dukinfield SJ9497 on 15-May (Phil Keane), then at Romiley SJ9390 on 9-Jun (Shane Farrell) and finally at Cheadle Hulme SJ8786 (Geoff Lightfoot).

2312 Olive *Ipimorpha subtusa* ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

Just two records of single moths to light at Cheadle Hulme SJ8686 (Geoff Lightfoot) and at Dukinfield SJ9497 on 18-Jul (Phil Keane).

2336 Double Lobed *Apamea ophiogramma* (Esper, 1793)

Two records of single specimens at light to Crewe SJ7356 on 10-Aug (Andrew Firth) and at Cheadle Hulme SJ8786 (Geoff Lightfoot).

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

This group of moths needs to be dissected to confirm the identity. Specimens were confirmed at Alsager SJ8154 on 13-Jun (Mike Dale) gen. det. (MD) and Cheadle Hulme SJ8686 on 10-Jun (Geoff Lightfoot) gen. det. (Steve Hind).

2339 Tawny Marbled Minor *Oligia latruncula* ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

Again, specimens were confirmed at Burleydam SJ6142 on 8-Jun (Beth Jones), and at Cheadle Hulme SJ8686 (Geoff Lightfoot) and Cheadle Hulme SJ8786 (Geoff Lightfoot) both on 10-Jun all gen. det. (Steve Hind).

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

Records for this species and Common Rustic *M. secalis* must also be dissected. There was a single

confirmation in 2007 where three specimens were dissected at Cheadle Hulme SJ8786 on 20-Jul (Geoff Lightfoot) gen. det. (Steve Hind).

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

A good year for this species with five records from two sites, and all representing single specimens at light. At Dee Estuary: Burton Point Farm moths were recorded on 7-Jun at SJ3073 and on 24-Jun at SJ3074 (Mel Bellingham). Over at Marbury Country Park SJ6576, there were specimens present on 8-Jun, 23-Jul and 24-Jul (Liz Bentham).

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

Two single specimens were recorded at Chester SJ4065 on 5-Sep and 16-Sep (Geoff Wotherspoon) details taken from L&CES Journal Vol.130:120

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

This day flying moth was recorded on two occasions with the first a single moth at Astbury Mere SJ8562 on 3-Jun (Jack Swan) and the second at Shakerley Mere SJ731708 on 9-Jun (Paul Hill).



Species New for their Respective 10km Squares in 2007

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 2007. With over 300 new hectad records in 2007, we have all done an excellent job in increasing the knowledge in the distribution of our moth fauna. This is especially so for the micromoths and the results below speak for themselves when it comes to the rewards of starting to 'do' the micros.

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. The following are listed in Bradley & Fletcher number order for each 10km square.

SJ18

0724 *Metzneria lappella* (Gavin Broad), 1752 Purple Bar *Cosmorhoe ocellata* (Clive Totty), 1769 Spruce Carpet *Thera britannica* (Clive Totty), 1980 Eyed Hawk-moth *Smerinthus ocellata* (Anon), 2139 Red Chestnut *Cerastis rubricosa* (Clive Totty), 2298 Svensson's Copper Underwing *Amphipyra berbera* (Clive Totty).

SJ27

1927 Brindled Beauty *Lycia hirtaria* (Ian Copley), 2204 Obscure Wainscot *Mythimna obsoleta* (John Knowler).

SJ28

2137 Great Brocade *Eurois occulta* (Nicola Edmonds).

SJ37

0148 *Nemophora degeerella* (Lynne Greenstreet), 0271 *Bucculatrix albedinella* (David Gardener), 0419 *Argyresthia semifusca* (David Gardener), 0436

Pseudoswammerdamia combinella (David Gardener), 0695 *Agonopterix alstromeriana* (Edwin Samuels),



0726 *Metzneria metzneriella* (David Gardener), 0774 *Teleiodes luculella* (David Gardener), 0936 *Cochylimorpha straminea* (David Gardener), 0947 *Aethes smeathmanniana* (Mel Bellingham), 1035 *Acleris bergmanniana* (David Gardener), 1176 *Epiblema trimaculana* (David Gardener), 1509 *Stenoptilia pterodactyla* (David Gardener), 1807 Grass Rivulet *Perizoma albulata* (John Knowler), 2204 Obscure Wainscot *Mythimna obsoleta* (John Knowler) and (Barry Barnacle).

SJ38

0086 *Stigmella roborella* (Graham Jones).

SJ44

0038 *Ectoedemia subbimaculella* (Steve Hind), 0065 *Stigmella speciosa* (Steve Hind), 0068 *Stigmella salicis* (Steve Hind), 0070 *Stigmella obliquella* (Steve Hind), 0084 *Stigmella ruficapitella* (Steve Hind), 0097 Apple Pygmy *Stigmella malella* (Steve Hind), 0274 *Bucculatrix ulmella* (Steve Hind), 0317 *Phyllonorycter heegeriella* (Steve Hind), 0337 *Phyllonorycter hilarella* (Steve Hind), 0338 *Phyllonorycter cavella* (Steve Hind), 0362 *Phyllonorycter acerifoliella* (Steve Hind), 0493 *Coleophora serratella* (Steve Hind).

SJ46

0028 *Ectoedemia angulifasciella* (Steve Hind), 0038 *Ectoedemia subbimaculella* (Steve Hind), 0083 *Stigmella atricapitella* (Steve Hind), 0337 *Phyllonorycter hilarella* (Steve Hind), 0476 *Acrolepia autumnitella* (Steve Hind), 0491 *Coleophora gryphipennella* (Steve Hind), 0533 Pistol Case-bearer *Coleophora anatipennella* (Steve Hind), 1169 *Gypsonoma dealbana* (Steve Hind), 1362 *Pyrausta purpuralis* (Allan Archer), 1693 Cream Wave *Scopula floslactata* (Tom Edmondson), 1853 Oak-tree Pug *Eupithecia dodoneata* (Tom Edmondson), 2236 Pale Pinion *Lithophane hepatica* (Tom Edmondson).

SJ47

0161 Leopard Moth *Zeuzera pyrina* (Mike Boothman), 0285 Azalea Leaf Miner *Caloptilia azaleella* (Marion Barlow, Steve Holmes), 0706 *Agonopterix nervosa* (Marion Barlow, Steve Holmes), 0866 *Brachmia blandella* (Marion Barlow, Steve Holmes), 1026 *Exapate congelatella* (Marion Barlow, Steve Holmes), 1113 *Eudemis profundana* (Marion Barlow, Steve Holmes), 1637 Oak Eggar *Lasiocampa quercus* (Linnaeus, 1758) (Roger Wilkinson), 1933 Scarce Umber *Agriopis aurantiaria* (Mike Boothman).

SJ54

0425 Orchard Ermine *Yponomeuta padella* (Mel Bellingham, Harry Davies, David Hinde, Shane Farrell et al.), 0647 Brown House Moth *Hofmannophila pseudospretella* (Mel Bellingham, Harry Davies, David Hinde, Shane Farrell et al.), 0648 White-shouldered House Moth *Endrosis sarcitrella* (Shane Farrell et al.), 0787 *Bryotropha terrella* (Shane Farrell et al.), 0873 *Blastobasis adustella* (Mel Bellingham, Harry Davies, David Hinde, Shane Farrell et al.), 0969 Chequered Fruit-tree Tortrix *Pandemis corylana* (Shane Farrell et al.), 0998 Light Brown Apple Moth *Epiphyas postvittana* (Mel Bellingham, Harry Davies, David Hinde), 1205 Bud Moth *Spilonota ocellana* (Shane Farrell et al.), 1316 *Catoptria falsella* (Mel Bellingham, Harry Davies, David Hinde, Shane Farrell et al.), 1331 Water Veneer *Acentria ephemerella* (Mel Bellingham, Harry Davies, David Hinde), 1344 *Eudonia mercurella* (Mel Bellingham, Harry Davies, David Hinde, Shane Farrell et al.), 1413 Gold Triangle *Hypsopygia costalis* (Shane Farrell et al.), 1830 Wormwood Pug *Eupithecia absinthiata* (Shane Farrell et al.).

SJ55

1680 Maiden's Blush *Cyclophora punctaria* (Michael Whiteside), 2019 Chocolate-tip *Clostera curtula* (Michael Whiteside), 2232 Black Rustic *Aporophyla nigra* (Michael Whiteside), 2380 Treble Lines *Charanyca trigrammica* (Michael Whiteside).

SJ56

0647 Brown House Moth *Hofmannophila pseudospretella* (Brian Bull), 0366a *Cameraria ohridella* (Steve Hind).



SJ57

0266 *Bucculatrix nigricomella* (Paul Miller), 0868 *Helcystogramma rufescens* (Paul Miller), 1261 Codling Moth *Cydia pomonella* (Paul Miller).

SJ64

0004 *Micropterix aruncella* (Beth Jones), 0075 *Stigmella floslactella* (Steve Hind, Beth Jones), 0079 *Stigmella perpygmaeella* (Steve Hind, Beth Jones), 0150 *Adela reaumurella* (Beth Jones), 0156 *Heliozela resplendella* (Steve Hind, Beth Jones), 0216 Cork Moth *Nemapogon cloacella* (Beth Jones), 0227 Skin Moth *Monopis laevigella* (Beth Jones), 0246 *Tinea semifulvella* (Beth Jones), 0272 *Bucculatrix cidarella* (Steve Hind, Beth Jones), 0282 *Caloptilia elongella* (Steve Hind, Beth Jones), 0310 *Callisto denticulella* (Steve Hind, Beth Jones), 0315 *Phyllonorycter harrisella* (Steve Hind, Beth Jones), 0317 *Phyllonorycter heegeriella* (Steve Hind, Beth Jones), 0320 *Phyllonorycter quercifoliella* (Steve Hind), 0332a Firethorn Leaf Miner *Phyllonorycter leucographella* (Steve Hind, Beth Jones), 0333 *Phyllonorycter salictella* (Steve Hind), 0342 Nut Leaf Blister Moth *Phyllonorycter coryli* (Steve Hind, Beth Jones), 0357 *Phyllonorycter stettinensis* (Steve Hind, Beth Jones), 0359 *Phyllonorycter nicellii* (Steve Hind, Beth Jones), 0362 *Phyllonorycter acerifoliella* (Steve Hind, Beth Jones), 0420 Cherry Fruit Moth *Argyresthia pruniella* (Beth Jones), 0425 Orchard Ermine *Yponomeuta padella* (Beth Jones), 0587 *Coleophora caespititiella* (Beth Jones), 0597 *Elachista atricomella* (Beth Jones), 0642 *Batia unitella* (Beth Jones), 0658 *Carcina quercana* (Beth Jones), 0688 *Agonopterix heracliiana* (Beth Jones), 0779 *Bryotropha affinis* (Beth Jones), 0787 *Bryotropha terrella* (Beth Jones), 0868 *Helcystogramma rufescens* (Beth Jones), 0898 *Limnaecia phragmitella* (Beth Jones), 0938 *Agapeta zoegana* (Beth Jones), 0947 *Aethes smeathmanniana* (Beth Jones), 0969 Chequered Fruit-tree Tortrix *Pandemis corylana* (Beth Jones), 0970 Barred Fruit-tree Tortrix *Pandemis cerasana* (Beth Jones), 0993 Cyclamen Tortrix *Clepsis spectrana* (Beth Jones), 0994 *Clepsis consimilana* (Beth Jones), 1036 *Acleris forsskaleana* (Beth Jones), 1038 *Acleris laterana* (Beth Jones), 1048 Garden Rose Tortrix *Acleris variegana* (Beth Jones), 1063 *Celypha striana* (Beth Jones), 1082 Plum Tortrix *Hedya pruniana* (Beth Jones), 1115 *Ancylis achatana* (Beth Jones), 1136 *Epinotia immundana* (Beth Jones), 1139 Nut Bud Moth *Epinotia tenerana* (Beth Jones), 1169 *Gypsonoma dealbana* (Steve Hind, Beth Jones), 1176 *Epiblema trimaculana* (Beth Jones), 1201 *Eucosma cana* (Beth Jones), 1205 Bud Moth *Spilonota ocellana* (Beth Jones), 1236 *Pammene fasciana* (Beth Jones), 1260 *Cydia splendana* (Beth Jones), 1261 Codling Moth *Cydia pomonella* (Beth Jones), 1331 Water Veneer *Acentria ephemerella* (Beth Jones), 1338 *Dipleurina lacustrata* (Beth Jones), 1342 *Eudonia angustea* (Beth Jones), 1344 *Eudonia mercurella* (Beth Jones), 1439 *Trachycera advenella* (Beth Jones), 2038 Muslin Footman *Nudaria mundana* (Beth Jones), 2137 Great Brocade *Eurois occulta* (Jessica Davies), 2195 Delicate *Mythimna vitellina* (Paul Griffiths), 2337 Marbled Minor *Oligia strigilis* (Beth Jones), 2339 Tawny Marbled Minor *Oligia latruncula* (Beth Jones), 2343 Common Rustic *Mesapamea secalis* (Beth Jones).

SJ65

0565 *Coleophora saxicolella* (Mike Dale), 1524 *Emmelina monodactyla* (David Cookson).

SJ67

0283 *Caloptilia betulicola* (Steve Hind, Kevin McCabe), 0361 *Phyllonorycter trifasciella* (Steve Hind, Kevin McCabe), 0880 *Mompha langiella* (Steve Hind, Kevin McCabe), 1654 Figure of Eighty *Tethea ocellaris* (Adrian Wander), 2137 Great Brocade *Eurois occulta* (Liz Bentham), 2204 Obscure Wainscot *Mythimna obsoleta* (Liz Bentham).

SJ68

0688 *Agonopterix heracliiana* (Sam Bayley), 0726 *Metzneria metzneriella* (Sam Bayley), 0789 *Bryotropha domestica* (Sam Bayley), 0819 *Scrobipalpa costella* (Sam Bayley), 0874 *Blastobasis lacticolella* (Sam Bayley), 0985 Carnation Tortrix *Cacoecimorpha pronubana* (Sam Bayley), 1201 *Eucosma cana* (Sam Bayley), 1302 *Crambus perllella* (Sam Bayley), 1309 *Agriphila geniculea* (Sam Bayley), 1439 *Trachycera advenella* (Sam Bayley), 1524 *Emmelina monodactyla* (Sam Bayley), 1827 Freyer's Pug *Eupithecia intricata* (Sam Bayley), 1862 Double-striped Pug *Gymnoscelis ruffasciata* (Sam Bayley), 1913 Canary-shouldered Thorn *Ennomos alniaria* (Sam Bayley), 1915 September Thorn *Ennomos erosaria* (Sam Bayley), 2137 Great Brocade *Eurois occulta* (Sam Bayley), 2154 Cabbage Moth *Mamestra brassicae* (Sam Bayley), 2159 Dog's Tooth *Lacanobia suasa*

(Sam Bayley), 2182 Small Quaker *Orthosia cruda* (Sam Bayley), 2274 Sallow *Xanthia icteritia* (Sam Bayley), 2300 Old Lady *Mormo maura* (Sam Bayley), 2369 Bulrush Wainscot *Nonagria typhae* (Mike Mulholland), 2387 Mottled Rustic *Caradrina morpheus* (Sam Bayley).

SJ74

0937 *Agapeta hamana* (Roger Benson), 1184a *Epiblema cirsiaria* (Roger Benson), 1682 Blood-vein *Timandra comae* (Roger Benson), 2397 Small Yellow Underwing *Panemeria tenebrata* (Roger Benson), 2462 Mother Shipton *Callistege mi* (Roger Benson).

SJ75

0247 *Tinea trinotella* (Roger Benson, Trevor Rowlands), 0409a *Argyresthia trifasciata* (Roger Benson, Trevor Rowlands), 0417 *Argyresthia spinosella* (Roger Benson, Trevor Rowlands), 0419 *Argyresthia semifusca* (Roger Benson, Trevor Rowlands), 0441 *Paraswammerdamia nebulella* (Roger Benson, Trevor Rowlands), 0610 *Elachista argentella* (Roger Benson, Trevor Rowlands), 0649 *Esperia sulphurella* (Roger Benson, Trevor Rowlands), 0688 *Agonopterix*



heracliana (Roger Benson, Trevor Rowlands), 0697 *Agonopterix arenella* (Roger Benson, Trevor Rowlands), 0873 *Blastobasis adustella* (Roger Benson, Trevor Rowlands), 0874 *Blastobasis lacticolella* (Roger Benson, Trevor Rowlands), 0892 *Mompha subbistrigella* (Roger Benson, Trevor Rowlands), 0937 *Agapeta hamana* (Roger Benson, Trevor Rowlands), 0947 *Aethes smeathmanniana* (Roger Benson, Trevor Rowlands), 0970 Barred Fruit-tree Tortrix *Pandemis cerasana* (Roger Benson, Trevor Rowlands), 1010 Red-barred Tortrix *Ditula angustiorana* (Roger Benson, Trevor Rowlands), 1026 *Exapate congelatella* (Roger Benson, Trevor Rowlands), 1036 *Acleris forsskaleana* (Roger Benson, Trevor Rowlands), 1041 *Acleris sparsana* (Roger Benson, Trevor Rowlands), 1048 Garden Rose Tortrix *Acleris variegana* (Roger Benson, Trevor Rowlands), 1063 *Celypha striana* (Roger Benson, Trevor Rowlands), 1083 Marbled Orchard Tortrix *Hedya nubiferana* (Roger Benson, Trevor Rowlands), 1109 *Lobesia littoralis* (Roger Benson, Trevor Rowlands), 1115 *Ancylis achatana* (Roger Benson, Trevor Rowlands), 1183 *Epiblema foenella* (Roger Benson, Trevor Rowlands), 1205 Bud Moth *Spilonota ocellana* (Roger Benson, Trevor Rowlands), 1290 *Chilo phragmitella* (Roger Benson, Trevor Rowlands), 1302 *Crambus perlella* (Roger Benson, Trevor Rowlands), 1306 *Agriphila inquinatella* (Roger Benson, Trevor Rowlands), 1316 *Catoptria falsella* (Roger Benson, Trevor Rowlands), 1333 *Scoparia pyralella* (Roger Benson, Trevor Rowlands), 1338 *Dipleurina lacustrata* (Roger Benson, Trevor Rowlands), 1342 *Eudonia angustea* (Roger Benson, Trevor Rowlands), 1344 *Eudonia mercurella* (Roger Benson, Trevor Rowlands), 1356 Garden Pebble *Evergestis forficalis* (Roger Benson, Trevor Rowlands), 1390 *Udea prunalis* (Roger Benson, Trevor Rowlands), 1392 *Udea olivalis* (Roger Benson, Trevor Rowlands),



1413 Gold Triangle *Hypsopygia costalis* (Roger Benson, Trevor Rowlands), 1439 *Trachycera advenella* (Roger Benson, Trevor Rowlands), 1452 *Phycita roborella* (Roger Benson, Trevor Rowlands), 1470 *Euzophera pinguis* (Roger Benson, Trevor Rowlands), 1476 Dried Currant Moth *Ephestia cautella* (Dave Taylor), 1479 Indian Meal Moth *Plodia interpunctella* (Roger Benson, Trevor Rowlands), 1497 *Amblyptilia*

acanthadactyla (Roger Benson, Trevor Rowlands), 1524 *Emmelina monodactyla* (Roger Benson, Trevor Rowlands), 1632 Pale Eggar *Trichiura crataegi* (Roger Benson, Trevor Rowlands), 2049 Buff Footman *Eilema depressa* (Roger Benson, Trevor Rowlands), 2170 Varied Coronet *Hadena compta* (Roger Benson, Trevor Rowlands), 2237 Grey Shoulder-knot *Lithophane ornitopus* (Roger Benson, Trevor Rowlands), 2335 Slender Brindle *Apamea scolopacina* (Chris Machin), 2336 Double Lobed *Apamea ophiogramma* (Andrew Firth), 2423 Oak Nycteoline *Nycteola revayana* (Roger Benson, Trevor Rowlands).

SJ76

0113 *Stigmella sakhalinella* (Steve Hind), 0154 *Heliozela sericiella* (Steve Hind), 0273 *Bucculatrix thoracella* (Steve Hind), 0313 *Acrocercops brongniardella* (Steve Hind), 0338 *Phyllonorycter cavella* (Steve Hind), 0447 *Roeslerstammia erxlebelli* (Steve Hind), 0559 *Coleophora peribenanderi* (Steve Hind), 1136 *Epinotia immundana* (Steve Hind).

SJ77

0366a *Cameraria ohridella* (Steve Hind).

SJ78

0224 *Triaxomera parasitella* (Ben Smart), 1936 Waved Umber *Menophra abruptaria* (Sheila Blamire), 2137 Great Brocade *Eurois occulta* (Sheila Blamire).

SJ79

0017 Common Swift *Hepialus lupulinus* (Peter Hardy), 0247 *Tinea trinotella* (Peter Hardy), 0696 *Agonopterix propinquella* (Peter Hardy), 0980 Variegated Golden Tortrix *Archips xylosteana* (Peter Hardy), 1048 Garden Rose Tortrix *Acleris variegana* (Peter Hardy), 1991 Elephant Hawk-moth *Deilephila elpenor* (Peter Hardy), 2147 Shears *Hada plebeja* (Peter Hardy), 2270 Lunar Underwing *Omphaloscelis lunosa* (Peter Hardy).

SJ85

0423 *Argyresthia semitestacella* (Mike Dale), 0504 *Coleophora lusciniapennella* (Mike Dale), 0692 *Agonopterix subpropinquella* (Mike Dale), 1113 *Eudemis profundana* (Mike Dale), 1259 *Cydia fagiglandana* (Mike Dale), 1458 Thistle Ermine *Myelois circumvoluta* (Mike Dale), 1978 Pine Hawk-moth *Hyloicus pinastri* (Mike Dale), 1995 Puss Moth *Cerura vinula* (Mike Dale), 2137 Great Brocade *Eurois occulta* (Mike Dale), 2192 Brown-line Bright Eye *Mythimna conigera* (Mike Dale).

SJ87

0073 *Stigmella trimaculella* (Steve Hind, John Rayner), 0273 *Bucculatrix thoracella* (Steve Hind), 0274 *Bucculatrix ulmella* (Steve Hind), 0313 *Acrocercops brongniardella* (Steve Hind), 0366a *Cameraria ohridella* (Steve Hind, John Rayner), 0447 *Roeslerstammia erxlebelli* (Steve Hind), 0819 *Scrobipalpa costella* (Steve Hind), 0866 *Brachmia blandella* (Mike Dockery, Kevin McCabe), 1115 *Ancylis achatana* (Mike Dockery, Kevin McCabe), 1452 *Phycita roborella* (Mike Dockery, Kevin McCabe).

SJ88

0366a *Cameraria ohridella* (Barry Shaw), 0499 *Coleophora limosipennella* (Ben Smart), 1992 Small Elephant Hawk-moth *Deilephila porcellus* (Geoff Lightfoot), 2237 Grey Shoulder-knot *Lithophane ornitopus* (Geoff Lightfoot).

SJ89

0421 *Argyresthia bonnetella* (Ben Smart), 0830 *Caryocolum fraternella* (Ben Smart), 0898 *Limnaecia phragmitella* (Ben Smart), 0937 *Agapeta hamana* (Phil Kinder, Peter Hardy).

SJ96

0010 *Eriocrania salopiella* (Steve Hind), 0610 *Elachista argentella* (Steve Hind), 0968 *Cochylis nana* (Steve Hind), 1162 *Rhopobota myrtillana* (Steve Hind).



SJ97

0065 *Stigmella speciosa* (Steve Hind), 0114 *Stigmella glutinosae* (Steve Hind), 1242 *Grapholita internana* (Paul Hill).

SJ98

0143 *Nematopogon metaxella* (Steve Hind), 0285 Azalea Leaf Miner *Caloptilia azaleella* (Steve Hind), 0366a *Cameraria ohridella* (Steve Hind), 1252 *Grapholita lunulana* (Steve Hind), 1292 *Calamotropha paludella* (Mike Dale, Steve Hind, Kevin McCabe), 1470 *Euzophera pinguis* (Steve Hind), 1647 Barred Hook-tip *Watsonalla cultraria* (Steve Hind), 1912 August Thorn *Ennomos quercinaria* (Steve Hind), 2044 Dingy Footman *Eilema griseola* (Steve Hind), 2063 Muslin Moth *Diaphora mendica* (Steve Hind), 2137 Great Brocade *Eurois occulta* (Steve Hind).

SJ99

0274 *Bucculatrix ulmella* (Shane Farrell), 1789 Scallop Shell *Rheumaptera undulata* (Andy Bissitt), 1969 Grey Scalloped Bar *Dyscia fagaria* (Phil Keane), 2011 Pale Prominent *Pterostoma palpina* (Andy Bissitt), 2137 Great Brocade *Eurois occulta* (Phil Keane),

**SK08**

1169 *Gypsonoma dealbana* (Steve Hind).

Migrants

2006 was an incredibly hard act to follow, even ignoring the weather, so it is no surprise that the list and numbers of specimens was much reduced in 2007; *Table Six and Seven* below summarise the records for both years. However, there were still migrants about in much smaller numbers. One interesting feature of 2007 was the very early appearance of Humming-bird Hawk-moth *Macroglossum stellatarum*. Of the eight records received, five were before the end of April, the full series being 26-Feb (Michael Whiteside), 8-Mar (Geoff Wotherspoon), 15-Mar (Guy Knight), 2-Apr (Margaret Robinson) and 21-Apr (Jeff Stephens). This surely confirms that this species overwinters in the adult state in small numbers in Cheshire? Records were well spread during the year but notably four out of five of the earlier records were at Chester or the Wirral.



Code	Vernacular	Taxon	Records	Individuals
0464	Diamond-back Moth	<i>Plutella xylostella</i>	54	88
1398	Rush Veneer	<i>Nomophila noctuella</i>	1	1
1984	Humming-bird Hawk-moth	<i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>	8	8
2091	Dark Sword-grass	<i>Agrotis ipsilon</i>	15	19
2195	Delicate	<i>Mythimna vitellina</i>	1	1
2400	Scarce Bordered Straw	<i>Helicoverpa armigera</i>	2	2
2441	Silver Y	<i>Autographa gamma</i>	348	448

Table Six : Migrant moth species in VC58 in 2007

Code	Vernacular	Taxon	Records	Individuals
0464	Diamond-back Moth	<i>Plutella xylostella</i>	260	578
1395	Rusty-dot Pearl	<i>Udea ferrugalis</i>	40	43
1398	Rush Veneer	<i>Nomophila noctuella</i>	59	62
1400		<i>Antigastra catalaunalis</i>	1	1
1678	Blair's Mocha	<i>Cyclophora puppillaria</i>	1	1
1716	Vestal	<i>Rhodometra sacraria</i>	14	14
1720	Gem	<i>Orthonama obstipata</i>	3	3
1972	Convolvulus Hawk-moth	<i>Agrius convolvuli</i>	2	2
1973	Death's-head Hawk-moth	<i>Acherontia atropos</i>	1	1
1984	Humming-bird Hawk-moth	<i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>	105	109
1990	Striped Hawk-moth	<i>Hyles livornica</i>	1	1
2051	Four-spotted Footman	<i>Lithosia quadra</i>	1	1
2091	Dark Sword-grass	<i>Agrotis ipsilon</i>	51	61
2119	Pearly Underwing	<i>Peridroma saucia</i>	11	12
2195	Delicate	<i>Mythimna vitellina</i>	2	3
2208	Cosmopolitan	<i>Mythimna loreyi</i>	1	1
2385	Small Mottled Willow	<i>Spodoptera exigua</i>	12	13
2400	Scarce Bordered Straw	<i>Helicoverpa armigera</i>	52	57
2403	Bordered Straw	<i>Heliothis peltigera</i>	22	22
2441	Silver Y	<i>Autographa gamma</i>	1411	4678

Table Seven : Migrant moth species in VC58 in 2006

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 - Mean temperatures ranging from around 1.5 °C above average across the Northern Isles to over 3.5 °C above average across some areas of central England. Provisionally over the UK, it was the warmest January since 1916, and second warmest in areal series back to 1914. Well above average rainfall across much of western Scotland, with Scotland W district area having its wettest January since 1993. In contrast, parts of Eastern Scotland and southernmost areas of England had slightly below average rainfall. Sunshine was generally above average with the best of the sunshine compared to average across E and NE England. However, some western areas of Scotland received below average sunshine.

February - Mean temperatures generally 2 to 3 °C above average across England, Wales and Scotland, but only around 1 to 1.5 °C above average across Northern Ireland. Most areas had above average rainfall, with over double the average rainfall across parts of SW England, much of SE England and E Scotland. The SE and Central S England district area provisionally had its wettest February since 1990 and highest monthly rainfall anomaly since November 2002. Sunshine levels were well above average across NE England, but below average across Northern Scotland.

March - Mean temperatures around 1 °C above average across Northern Ireland, but generally around 1.5 to 2 °C above average across England, Wales and Scotland. Rainfall generally close to average, although some stations in north-east England only received around 50% of average rainfall. Sunshine levels generally well above average, with many southern and eastern areas of England recording over 150% of average sunshine.

April - An exceptionally warm month, with all climate districts and regions setting new April records for maximum and mean temperatures (areal series back to 1914). Maximum temperatures anomalies were over 5 °C above the 1961-1990 average across much of southern England and parts of eastern Scotland. Rainfall generally well below average, with many stations over south-east England and east Anglia recording less than 3 mm of rainfall. Sunshine was also well above average across the majority of the UK, with some areas having their sunniest April on record.

May – Mean temperatures ranging from close to average across north-west Scotland to over 1 °C above average across southern and eastern England. Well above average rainfall across the majority of the UK, with East Anglia experiencing its wettest May (areal series back to 1914) with over 200% of average May rainfall. Sunshine amounts varying from above average over Scotland and Northern Ireland to below average across parts of eastern England.

June – Mean temperatures generally around 1 °C above average across the UK, although maximum temperatures across parts of eastern Scotland were over 1 °C below average. The majority of the UK having well above average rainfall, with rainfall anomalies widely over 300% across Yorkshire, with some areas having their wettest June on record. Sunshine generally below average across the UK, and exceptionally below average across parts of eastern Scotland and NE England, with some areas having their dullest June on record.

July - Mean temperatures generally close to or slightly below average. Maximum temperatures generally below average and around 2 °C below average across some south-western areas of the UK. Rainfall generally well above average, with England and Wales recording over double their average July rainfall, with some stations in the Worcestershire area recording over four times their average July rainfall. Sunshine well below average across the north-east of Scotland, but slightly above average across western areas of Scotland.

August - Mean temperatures generally close to average with most areas having their coldest August for over 10 years, with England having its coldest August since 1993. Rainfall ranging from over 150% of average across parts of NW Scotland to around 50% of average across some central and northern areas of England. Sunshine generally below average across Northern Ireland and Scotland with some areas having less than 80% of their average. Sunshine levels mostly close to or above average across England and Wales, with some areas having over 120% of their average.

September – Mean temperatures generally close to or slightly above average, with the N Scotland climate area having its coldest September since 1994. Rainfall generally close to or below average, with the England SE and Central S climate area only receiving around half of the average September rainfall. Sunshine ranging from well below average across the Northern Isles to slightly above average across England and Wales.

October - Mean temperatures ranging from close to average across East Anglia and SE England to over 1 °C above average across Northern Ireland and Scotland. Rainfall generally well below average across the UK, although slightly above average rainfall over a narrow band from Oxfordshire to The Wash. Sunshine levels generally above average across the UK, although close to or below average across the Northern and Western Isles, East Anglia and SE England.

November - Mean temperatures ranging from close to average across part of Kent and East Anglia to well above average across Northern Ireland and Scotland. Rainfall ranging from around 60% of average across much of Wales to over 150% of average across Aberdeenshire. Sunshine well below average across Northern Ireland and NW Scotland, but above average across the majority of England.

December - Mean temperatures ranging from slightly below average across parts of eastern Scotland to around 1 °C above average across Northern Ireland. Coldest December for the Scotland E climate area since 2001. Rainfall across the UK generally close to average, but with some stations in NW England recording over 150% of average rainfall. Sunshine generally close to or above average across the UK. Over double the average sunshine across parts of northern Scotland, with the Scotland N climate area having its sunniest December (areal series back to 1929).

Notable and Red Data Book (RDB) Species

Notable species and RDB species recorded in VC58 in 2007 and for comparison 2006, are summarized in *Tables Eight and Nine*, below; further details for most of them can be found in the systematic list above. Once again, the definitions are in accordance with those on the Mapmate listings. These do change regularly and are updated in each of our reports.

Not surprisingly there were no records of Clearwing *Sesiidae* species in 2007 given the prevailing conditions. Let's hope that future years are more productive and anyone looking to attract these moths to pheromones is usually successful.

More concerning is the lack of Belted Beauty *Lycia zonaria britannica* records in 2007. This colony is really struggling in Cheshire and any assistance in the form of volunteers to monitor for this species on the Wirral will be welcomed. This also applies to monitoring surveys of Sandhill Rustic *Luperina nickerlii*.

Although Mapmate does not class Great Brocade *E.occulta* as a migrant, it is generally considered so by most people. A full report of this species is given previously in this report on page 23.



Code	Vernacular	Taxon	Records	Individuals	Status
344		<i>Phyllonorycter strigulatella</i>	6	0	Nb
363		<i>Phyllonorycter platanoidella</i>	13	0	Nb
656		<i>Tachystola acroxantha</i>	131	332	pRDB3
758		<i>Recurvaria leucatella</i>	1	1	Nb
788		<i>Bryotropha politella</i>	1	2	Nb
880		<i>Mompha langiella</i>	1	1	Nb
891		<i>Mompha sturnipennella</i>	4	4	Nb
1252		<i>Grapholita lunulana</i>	2	6	Nb
1292		<i>Calamotropha paludella</i>	1	2	Nb
1506		<i>Stenoptilia millieridactyla</i>	3	2	pRDB3
2137	Great Brocade	<i>Eurois occulta</i>	10	10	Na
2201	Shore Wainscot	<i>Mythimna litoralis</i>	1	1	Nb

Table Eight : Notable and red data book moth species in VC58 in 2007

Code	Vernacular	Taxon	Records	Individuals	Status
0344		<i>Phyllonorycter strigulatella</i>	3	0	Nb
0363		<i>Phyllonorycter platanoidella</i>	10	1	Nb
0373	Currant Clearwing	<i>Synanthedon tipuliformis</i>	21	67	Nb
0382	Six-belted Clearwing	<i>Bembecia ichneumoniformis</i>	15	52	Nb
0656		<i>Tachystola acroxantha</i>	171	585	pRDB3
0790		<i>Chionodes fumatella</i>	1	1	Nb
0879		<i>Batrachedra pinicolella</i>	4	4	Nb
0891		<i>Mompha sturnipennella</i>	2	1	Nb
1343		<i>Eudonia delunella</i>	1	1	Nb
1506		<i>Stenoptilia millieridactyla</i>	28	32	pRDB3
1928	Belted Beauty	<i>Lycia zonaria britannica</i>	4	10	RDB3
2137	Great Brocade	<i>Eurois occulta</i>	2	2	Na
2354	Sandhill Rustic	<i>Luperina nickerlii gueneei</i>	4	14	RDB2

Table Nine : Notable and red data book moth species in VC58 in 2006

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. Peter Alker, Ralph Atherton, Ged Barlow, Marion Barlow, Barry Barnacle, Sam Bayley, Harry Beaumont, Mel Bellingham, Keith Bennion, Roger Benson, Liz Bentham, Ray Bertera, Andy Bissitt, Sheila Blamire, Blanca Bolea, Mike Boothman, Frank Botterill, Peter Bowler, Roger Brereton, Cerys Brewster, Paul Brewster, Kane Brides, Gavin Broad, Tony Broome, Simon Browne, Brian Bull, John Butterworth, Andy Caesar, Moira Carter, E. Chackal, Andrew Charlton, Sean Clancy, Jeff Clarke, Julian Clarke, Jon Clifton, Charlie Coleman, Tim Coleshaw, Henerz Cook, Graeme Cooke, David Cookson, Ian Copley, Alan Creaser, Mike Dale, Muriel Dale, Chris Darbyshire, Joan Davidson, Roger Davidson, Harry Davies, Jessica Davies, Mike Dockery, Tom Edmondson, Dave Edwards, Dave Evans, Jean Evans, Ray Evans, Shane Farrell, Andy Firth, Paz Fletcher, Neil Friswell, David Gardner, Gillian Gibson, Brian Goodey, Mike Grant, Paul Greenall, Lynne Greenstreet, Paul Griffiths, Les Hall, Marion Hall, Peter Hardy, Susan Harris, Margaret Hayter, Tony Hayter, Stephanie Hefferan, Dave Higgins, Dave Higginson-Tranter, Paul Hill, Paul Hillyer, Pat Hilton, Roy Hilton, Steve Hind, David Hinde, Elizabeth Hollingshead, T Hollingworth, Mike Holmes, Ray Holmes, Steve Holmes, Leslie Hughes, Tom Hunt, David James, Alastair Jenkins, Huw John, Beth Jones, Clive Jones, Graham Jones, Phil Kean, Andrew Kelly, Alan Kimber, Chris Knibbs, Ian Landucci, Brian Leigh, Geoff Lightfoot, Nick Littlewood, Brian Martin, Nick Martin, Jacky McCabe, Kevin McCabe, Steve McWilliam, P Meyer, Jim Middlemass, Paul Miller, Normal Mitchell, Julia Mottishaw, Mike Mulholland, B Murphy, Margaret Nance, Keith Neal, Paul Oldfield, Tom O'Neill, Steve Orridge, D Otter, John Oxenham, Steve Palmer, Mark Payne, Sheila Pierce, Maurice Pons, Joan Potts, S Priestly, Alan Prior, Paul Pugh, Bob Rhodes, Bryan Roberts, John Rowland, Trevor Rowlands, Edwin Samuels, Vicky Seager, Bridget Self, Barry Shaw, David Shaw, John Sheldon, Dave Skingsley, Ben Smart, Barrie Smith, Ian Smith, Paul Smith, Tony Smith, John Spottiswood, Martyn Stanyer, Don Stenhouse, D. Stephenson, Michael Stokes, N Stones, G. Stringer, Mark Stubbs, Jack Swan, Philip Symes, Dave Taylor, Georgina Tierney, Clive Totty, Bill Underwood, Holly Vance, Ian Wallace, Adrian Wander, Val Weston, Charles Whitaker,

Michael Whiteside, Roger Wilkinson, Dave Wing, Phil Woollen, Geoff Wotherspoon.

Thanks also to those people who have supplied photos for inclusion within this report whether they be the recorders of the related records or others supplying photos for illustration purposes where photos of the actual specimens were not available. All such photographers have been credited on the individual photographs within this report. Any errors or omissions are the responsibility of the authors alone and please bring anything of concern to our attention.

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 and 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*

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 and 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*

Useful Contact Details/Links

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

Butterflies - Barry Shaw, Cheshire County Butterfly Recorder, 87, Gleneagles Road, Heald Green, Cheadle, Cheshire SK8 3EN. Telephone: 0161 491 0753. E-mail: btshaw@87glen.freeserve.co.uk

Micromoths - Steve Hind, Cheshire County Micromoth Recorder, 32 Carleton Road, Higher Poynton, Stockport, Cheshire. SK12 1TL. Telephone: 01625 859504. E-mail: stevehind32@btinternet.com

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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/>

Flickr - Photo Storage Site - www.flickr.com

Cheshire Moth Group Website - <http://www.record-lrc.co.uk/?Mod=Article&ArticleID=G00040001>

L&CES Website - <http://www.record-lrc.co.uk/?Mod=Article&ArticleID=G00110001>

BC Cheshire & Peak District Website - <http://www.cheshire-butterflies.co.uk/>

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

Lancashire Moth Group website - <http://www.lancashiremoths.co.uk>

Mapmate Recording Software - www.mapmate.co.uk

National Moth Recording Scheme / Moths Count - <http://www.mothscount.org>

National Moth Recording Scheme - Data Policy

<http://www.mothscount.org/site/images/stories/nmrsdatapolicy271107.pdf>