

The ANNUAL MEETING AND EXHIBITION will once again be at the Venture Centre in Lawford on SATURDAY MARCH 21st 2009 (10:30 - 5:30).

The main parts of this newsletter can be found on www.essexfieldclub.org.uk
Go to **groups** in the middle of the first page and choose **moths** or type
<http://www.essexfieldclub.org.uk/portal/p/Moths>

HIGHLIGHTS of 2008

BEAUTIFUL SNOOT Colchester (David Barnard) - FIRST FOR ESSEX

The weather looked fine on the evening of Tuesday 15 July 2008, so I decided that it would be a good opportunity to run my moth trap after a long spell of indifferent weather.

My trap is a Skinner type operating with a 15w actinic tube and located on the lawn of my average sized suburban garden. The lamp was switched on at 9.30pm and operated until 1.30am on Wednesday 16th with visual inspection until 11.00pm. Garden location is Alresford, near Colchester.

An early morning inspection on 16 July revealed 11 species of macro moths plus several species of micros - a typical 'catch' for my location. However, one moth was not immediately identified and this was potted for checking. My first thoughts were that it was one of the larger pyralids but when I checked British Pyralid Moths (Goater) I still could not identify it. I then checked with the Field Guide to the Moths of Great Britain and Ireland (Townsend & Waring) and identified it as a fairly worn specimen of a female Beautiful Snout *Hypena crassalis* (Bradley 2476). This seemed rather strange as its range does not include East Anglia and its larval food plant is Bilberry.

On the evening of 16 July a 'Mothing session' had been arranged for local EMG members and identification was confirmed by Joe Firmin and David Allen. Checking with Moths of Essex (Goodey) indicated that this could be the first confirmed record of this moth for the County. As it was a female it was decided to try to obtain some eggs and it was boxed with some heather (alternative food plant). The moth had obviously been on the wing for some time and unfortunately died on 18 July. Some digital images were taken for record purposes. **David Barnard 19.07.2008**

PRAYS PEREGRINE 14 September Ilford (Kathleen Black) - FIRST FOR ESSEX

This is a significant record. You may already know that this was a completely unknown species only a couple of years ago. It turned up in a light trap at Hampstead Heath and subsequently in three or four other London light traps. After a lot of detective work it was eventually described as a completely new species by David Agassiz (who has seen the photo and agrees with the ID). Its origins are unknown, but it is probably an importation with produce from the Indian sub-continent, where the genus Prays is more common. However, it is now turning up in several new places around London - it would be interesting to know from the Asian community if there has been any significant change in food imports or whatever in recent years. We have no idea what it feeds on. **Colin Plant.**

Death's Head Hawkmoth at Rayne near Braintree

On the 11th of September I was invited by Paul Dawson from Rayne near Braintree to photograph a death's head hawkmoth caterpillar found by his sister Amanda Chittock on some jasmine at her home. An article on it appeared in the Daily Telegraph the following Friday (along with an out of focus picture taken by their freelance photographer) and another piece was written in the Eastern Daily Times on the same day. It made two other nationals and nearly made the local TV until the caterpillar decided to dig a hole and pupate. Very antisocial. Thanks to advice from Brian and Joe that I passed on to Paul, the moth emerged around the 12th November when it successfully hid in the house until it was found on a curtain on the 17th. I came to see it and even got interviewed by BBC Radio Essex. However I was disappointed that the moth refused to stop flapping its wings for the entire time I was there - hence an unsatisfactory picture. The lady from BBC Essex was able to take her picture when the moth had just come out of the fridge, hence her photo with a far cheaper camera was very good (typical). All my life I have wanted to see this moth and obtain a really good photograph of it. Hopefully there will be another. **David Allen**

ESSEX RED DATA HIGHLIGHTS of 2008

Sloe carpet 3 April Old Hall Marshes (Paul Charlton) & May St Osyth (Reg Arthur)
Scarce Tissue 25 April Layer de la Haye (David Allen)
Buttoned snout 10 May, 4, 5, July, 12 Sept St Osyth (Reg Arthur)
Cloaked Pug 1 June Ingatestone (Graham Smith) [5th for Essex]
L-album wainscots (40) 3 June - 21 Oct St Osyth (Reg Arthur)
Rosy marbled 4 June Tiptree Heath (Ian Rose) EMG meeting [12th Essex record]
Rosy marbled 7 June National moth night (Don Down) [13th Essex record]
Toadflax brocade larva 12 June Woodford Green Epping (Robin Barfoot)
Hornet clearwing moth 21, 24, 25 (2) June Magdalen Laver (Tim Green)
Red-belted Clearwings 22 June Sible Hedingham (Michael Lawrence) [20th Essex record]
Great Oak Beauty 23 June Dagenham Chase (Alan Sherman)
Cyprus Carpet 23 June Thundersley (Don Down) [4th site, 5th record]
Festoon 14, 16, 22(2), 23 & 25 July Layer de la Haye (David Allen)
Festoon 14 July Ingatestone (Graham Smith) & 14 July Old Hall Marshes (Paul Charlton)
Hornet clearwing moth 16 July Tiptree (Steve Rolls)
Waved Black 17 July Layer de la Haye (David Allen)
Festoon 17 July Beth Chatto's Elmstead (David Allen)
Maple Pug 22 July Maldon (Simon Wood) & Magdalen Laver (Tim Green)
Reed daggers (4) 22 July Cudmore Grove (Dougal Urquhart, David Allen + others)
Webb's Wainscot 22 July Cudmore Grove (Dougal Urquhart)
Garden Tiger 23 July April Old Hall Marshes (Paul Charlton)
Wormwood 24 July St Osyth (Reg Arthur)
Reed dagger 28 July (15) Blue House Farm North Fambridge (Graham Smith)
Silky Wainscot 28 July (4) Blue House Farm North Fambridge (Graham Smith)
Garden Tiger 29th July St Osyth (Reg Arthur) & 30th Sawbridgeworth Marsh (Tim Green)
Red-tipped clearwing 31 July Colchester Zoo (Jim Latham) [5th Essex record]
Kent Black Arches July (2) Rayleigh (Graham Smith) & Canvey (3) (Don Down)
Reed dagger 1 Aug St Osyth (Reg Arthur)
Webb's wainscot 2, 6, 11, 19, 20, 24, 25, 26, 27, 31 Aug [10] St Osyth (Reg Arthur)
Pinion-streaked snout 6 Aug 6, 25 Sept St Osyth (Reg Arthur)
White-spotted pinion 7 August Langenhoe (Hugh Owen)
White-spotted pinion 15 August Ford Farm Brightlingsea (David Scott)
Matthew's Wainscot 20 August St Osyth (Reg Arthur)
Porter's Rustic 21 August Magdalen Laver (Tim Green) (2nd site and Essex record)
Sandhill Rustic 23 Aug (15) Blue House Farm North Fambridge (Graham Smith)
Webb's Wainscot 23 Aug Blue House Farm North Fambridge (Graham Smith)
Dark crimson Underwing 25 August Frinton (Barbara Lock) [First since 1951]
Webb's Wainscot 27 Aug Bishop's Stortford (Tony Moverley) & Tiptree (Steve Rolls)
Sandhill Rustic 1(2), 2(2) Sept St Osyth (Reg Arthur)
Death's Head Hawkmoth 9 Sept (2 larvae) 12 Nov emerged (Paul Dawson & Amanda Chittock)
Large Thorn 21 Sept St Osyth (Reg Arthur)
Fisher's Estuarine Moth (5) 23 September Beaumont Quay (Steve Rolls)
Fisher's Estuarine Moth 27 September Dovercourt (Chris Gibson)
Dusky-lemon sallow 28, 29, 30 Sept, 1, 7, 9 Oct [6] St Osyth (Reg Arthur)
Dewick's Plusia Sep Bradwell (Stephen Dewick) and dead in St Osyth (Reg Arthur)
Dotted Chestnut 13 Oct Maldon (Simon Wood)
Cochylidia rupicola 12 May & 1 Sept Thurrock area (Colin Plant) [5th for Essex]
Telechrysis tripunctata May 23, 31 St Osyth (Reg Arthur) [3rd & 4th county record]
Evergestis limbata 29 June (Paul Bergdahl) [only site for this, 5th occasion]
Acleris boscana July 1, 4, 7, 10, 21(5) St Osyth (Reg Arthur)
Yponomeuta sedella 26 July Maldon (Simon Wood). Only Emmett and Goodey have had this before.

Moth Records - Any records are better than no records so please send me some. I can send out an Excel spreadsheet to make recording easier.

Macro moths appear in dark writing to indicate an Essex Red Data species. See full list at the end.

Some of my "5th for Essex" may need to be revised later as they are based on MapMate computer records. Some older records that appear in Brian's book are not on computer, hence there may be some confusion.

How to make recording easier!!!!

If you do not have MapMate I find a computer based list with the number (e.g. 0949 *Aethes dilucidana*) at the beginning is the easiest for me to deal with. Rather than receiving every moth record (unless you have MapMate) could you please arrange your records as follows:

1. At the beginning write **all the moths new to your garden** (or site)
2. Next I would like a **list of any Essex Red Data macros** (see final page), preferably with their names in bold type. That would help me to prioritise them for the newsletter. If you want to do the same for micros then good luck! The list is available on the Essex Field Club website but it does not include the special Bradley and Fletcher numbers at the front (a pity).
3. Finally **list all the moths you want me to record**. In honesty many of these may not get included if the list is vast and emailed! I never print your computer lists out, but I am happy to receive paper copies.

If your records are new to me, please indicate that. Please work out your own VC and grid reference number as it takes me far too long to do it myself from a postcode.

Finally, you might want to look up how many moths you think I should have records of and send the total to me (Chris Gibson 960 moths at last communication, 4th in Britain for lepidoptera records of all time). I will try to return the figure I have for you from the MapMate database. I am afraid many pugs you claim will not have been counted as pictures simply do not do them justice. Without the specimen a rare pug will not be counted. Other records have been thrown out when they go to other experts who question some of the "synched" files. Take some pictures and send them to me.

It would be far more efficient if recorders had MapMate and then synched all their records to me. If you could give some serious thought to purchasing MapMate for £25 (or £15 to Essex Field Club members) an enormous amount of time could be saved. Brian used this software to illustrate the records in his excellent book - "Moths of Essex". My first synchs I hope will include Brian Goodey, Tim Green and the people from Moths Count.

YAHOO EMAIL GROUP

There is a Yahoo user group on Essex Moths that is used by a number of the main recorders. I confess I contribute to it very rarely, but read every email. Most of the records I have included in this newsletter have come from there. If you are interested in joining it send me an email and I will pass on your details to the person who runs it.

WEBSITE

I have set up a moth website within the Essex Field Club website. It can be found by going to www.essexfieldclub.org.uk and selecting **groups** followed by **moths**. The quickest way is to set <http://www.essexfieldclub.org.uk/portal/p/Moths> in your **favourites** section. Pictures will be added later. The whole of this newsletter makes up the bulk of the website.

Conclusion

I intend to produce a full review of 2008 for the AGM next year. This will again include colour pictures and extra moth sightings that are received between now and March 2008. The cost increases vastly as you add colour pictures to it. One A4 page in colour costs 30p (20p last year) while one page in black and white costs 3p. Last year it cost you nothing, however Joe footed the bill from extremely meagre EMG funds. I produced 50 as I could not be sure how many people would turn up to the meeting. I will probably produce 60 in 2009 at a running cost of £1 each. If you would like to give £1 more for your donation for the running of the AGM then the Essex Moth Group might get their kitty back to above three figures. Joe and I are united in that we both believe that Natural History should be free for everyone to enjoy. However this newsletter cost me 41p to produce!

One year on - Keeping my sanity doing this job

I have been eating, drinking and sleeping this newsletter for the past two and a half weeks. Work and health have suffered as a result and exercise is a thing of the past. Sitting at a computer wrecks my back. Both the website and the newsletter have taken me over 50 hours to compile (hard to believe but true). I have sifted through 440 emails and replied to all of those not part of the Yahoo user group. I do not have envelopes for all of you, so I may not send future newsletters to you as a result. Email addresses also need to be updated. Mistakes are inevitable. If they are serious let me know.

It is impossible to do more newsletters than this each year on my own and remain sane. If you want more you will have to help. I cannot spend another 50 hours on the next one!

NEWS

Garden Moth Scheme News Week 27 - Late Summer 2008

The Ten Commonest UK Garden Moths from 107 Gardens Surveyed

Pos	Common Name	Total Moths	Average per Garden
1	Large Yellow Underwing	21794	203.68
2	Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing	4126	38.56
3	Dark Arches	3685	34.44
4	Square-spot Rustic	3186	29.78
5	Riband Wave	2553	23.86
6	Light Brown Apple Moth	2532	23.66
7	Lesser Yellow Underwing	2457	22.96
8	Setaceous Hebrew Character	2318	21.66
9	Flame Shoulder	2185	20.42
10	Straw Dot	1694	15.83

The above information came from an excellent PDF file emailed to me from Chris Gibson. It is 17 pages long and full of quality pictures. If you want one I will do my best to email it to you as an attachment, or contact Chris Gibson on gibson@dovehc.freeseerve.co.uk

National Moth Night 2009 - Friday 18th and Saturday 19th September 2009

This year there will be two dates for the next National Moth Night. It will take place on the nights of Friday 18th and Saturday 19th September 2009. Two nights are included because of the eccentricities of the weather at that time of year. It may provide you with an excuse to visit a new place (or try a second time after the inevitable washout). The theme of NMN09 will be migration and there will not be any specific target species or habitats. More details about the migration theme will be circulated nearer the time, but please make a note of the dates in your diary now.

It is not too late to submit your records for NMN08, see www.nationalmothnight.info for details. Please submit them to me first rather than by-pass the moth recorder. Thanks.

Writtle news from Brian Goodey

26 June - Writtle have passed on to me their catch so far this year. I have received one tub of specimens, whereas normally there would be seven!

A couple of good moths have turned up in the Writtle 2008 sample:

0949 *Aethes dilucidana* (Stephens) (16 & 27 August), Writtle trap

1519 *Euleioptilus carphodactyla* (Hübner) (26 August), Writtle trap - 4th county record: first for vc19

0964a *Cochylis molliculana* - Writtle Rothamsted trap - first in 2005 (a new county record).

There have been 3 in 2006, 4 in 2007 and 24 so far from 6 June to 14 July in 2008.

1029 *Eana osseana* 14 July Writtle trap (Brian Goodey) - 4th record, last was 1994.

The Silly Season - Up with the Great tits

One morning I discovered to my horror that a great tit had mastered getting in and out of my trap, carrying with it most of its contents. The previous Friday I lost a pale tussock and on the 12th June I lost my first pine hawk of the year. I saw it in there at 6 am, exactly where it was at midnight, and five minutes later I returned and it was gone with the great tit very close by. It was feeding young in my bird box. I was not happy and nor was the pine hawk! The answer to the problem came from Brian Goodey. I now put a piece of bamboo across the entrance slot. The old Skinner trap has a large gap which has now been reduced on the new versions. Since then, trapping has been better. However the great tit still patrolled walls around me when I was emptying the trap and got an Alder moth. Since the young fledged all has been tranquil once more. David Allen.

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THE REST OF 2008 RECORDS SO FAR

March

Pale Pinion 2 March Magdalen Laver (Tim Green)
Lead-coloured drab 2, 7, 9, 16, 28 March & 3, 12 April St Osyth (Reg Arthur)

April

Pale pinion 15, 27 April St Osyth (Reg Arthur)
Poplar Lutestring 25 April (Tony Cussen)
Adela reaumurella longhorn moth 27 April Epping Forest (Jes Dagley)
Semioscopis steinkellneriana April Rayleigh (Bill & Betty Doughty)

May

Dark spectacle: 5, 16, 23, 24(2), 27, 28 May (Reg Arthur)
Dog's Tooth 7 May Old Hall Marshes (Paul Charlton) & 7 June Wat Tyler Country Park RSPB (Alan Sherman)
Striped Wainscot 7 May Old Hall Marshes (Paul Charlton)
Great Prominent 7 & 16 May Layer de la Haye (David Allen)
Emperor Moth 12 May Boxted Treatment Works (Marina Harvey)
Cochylidia rupicola 12 May Thurrock area (Colin Plant) [5th for Essex]
Argyresthia trifasciata 16 May Woodford (R Barfoot) & 17 May Little Hallingbury (J Green) (13 sites for this)
Puss Moth 21 May Layer de la Haye (David Allen) & 14 July Old Hall Marshes (Paul Charlton)
Seraphim 22 May St Osyth (Reg Arthur)
Telechrysis tripunctata May 23, 31 St Osyth (Reg Arthur) [3rd & 4th county record]
White-points May5, Jun14, Jul9, Aug88, Sep181, Oct15 [312] St Osyth (Reg Arthur) + many more
Dingy Shell 30 May Layer de la Haye (David Allen)
Alder moths (2) 30 Layer de la Haye (David Allen)
Small seraphim 30 May Layer de la Haye (David Allen)
Lobster Moth 31 May Layer de la Haye (David Allen)

June

Dark spectacle 3 June St Osyth (Reg Arthur)
Small yellow Underwings (5) 4 June Parsonage Farm Wimbish (David Corke)
True Lover's Knot 4 June Tiptree Heath (Ian Rose)
Cochylis molliculana (24) - Writtle trap from 6 June to 14 July (Brian Goodey)
Cream Spot Tiger Wat Tyler Country Park RSPB (Alan Sherman) & 16 June Old Hall Marshes (Paul Charlton)
Small-china mark 7 June Wat Tyler Country Park RSPB (Alan Sherman)
Plain golden Y 8 June Daws Hall
Clouded brindle 12 June St Osyth (Reg Arthur)
Small Elephant Hawk 14 June Maldon (Simon Wood)
Cream Spot Tiger 16 June Old Hall Marshes (Paul Charlton) & 19 June Tiptree Heath (Joan Pinch)
Dusky brocade 17 June St Osyth (Reg Arthur)
Platyptilia pallidactyla 24 June Colchester (David Barnard)
Evergestis limbata 29 June (Paul Bergdahl) [only site for this, 4th occasion]
Gothic 30 June St Osyth (Reg Arthur)

July

Acleris boscana July 1, 4, 7, 10, 21(5) St Osyth (Reg Arthur)
Olive crescent early July Stour Wood (Rick Vonk)
Triangle early July Stour Wood (Rick Vonk) [17th record]
Dark Umber 8 July St Osyth (Reg Arthur)
Dark spectacle 8, 9, 18, 21 July St Osyth (Reg Arthur)
Reddish Light Arches 12 July (Dave Perry)
Toadflax brocade larvae 12 July Woodford Green Epping Forest (Robin Barfoot)
Tree-lichen beauty 14 July Woodford Green (Robin Barfoot)
Large Tabby 17 July Layer de la Haye (David Allen)
Eana osseana 14 July Writtle trap (Brian Goodey) [4th record, none since 1994]
Poplar Lutestring July 14 St Osyth (Reg Arthur)
Tree-lichen beauty 14, 22, 28 (5), 31(12) July Woodford Green (Robin Barfoot)
Antler Moths 14 July Old Hall Marshes (Paul Charlton)
23 Aug (8) Blue House Farm North Fambridge (Graham Smith)
Sharp angled peacock 14 & 24 July Canvey (Don Down)
Great Oak Beauty 15 July Dovercourt (Chris Gibson)

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Bordered sallow 15 July St Osyth (Reg Arthur)

July continued

Sharp angled carpet 15 July Dovercourt (Chris Gibson)
Rhopobota naevana 22 July Magdalen Laver (Tim Green) [19th Essex site record]
Dark Umber 22 July Magdalen Laver (Tim Green)
Blue-bordered Carpet 22 July Magdalen Laver (Tim Green)
Olive 22 July Magdalen Laver (Tim Green)
Yponomeuta plumbella 22 July Magdalen Laver (Tim Green)
Olive 22 July Maldon (Simon Wood)
White-line dart 24, 29(2), 31(2) July St Osyth (Reg Arthur)
Tree lichen beauty 22 July Woodford Green (Robin Barfoot)
Small Ranunculus 24 July Maldon (Simon Wood)
Willow Ermine (3) 24 July Maldon (Simon Wood) [20th Essex record]
Yponomeuta sedella 26 July Maldon (Simon Wood)
Small Ranunculus (2) 27 July Chelmsford (Colin Penney)
Jersey tiger 27 July Woodford Green (Robin Barfoot)
Bordered beauty 27, 31 July 31 St Osyth (Reg Arthur)
Striped Wainscot 28 July (6) Blue House Farm North Fambridge (Graham Smith)
Southern Wainscot 28 July Blue House Farm North Fambridge (Graham Smith)
Fen Wainscot 28 July Blue House Farm North Fambridge (Graham Smith)
Twin-spot Wainscot 28 July (2) Blue House Farm North Fambridge (Graham Smith)
Small Rufous 28 July (2) Blue House Farm North Fambridge (Graham Smith)
Dotted footman 28 July Woodford Green Robin Barfoot)
Black Arches (18) 30 July Viper pub Mill Green (Graham Smith)
Archer's dart 30, 31 July St Osyth (Reg Arthur)
Tree-lichen Beauties 28 July St Osyth (Reg Arthur), (2) 30 July Sawbridgeworth Marsh (Tim Green),
31 July Dovercourt (Chris Gibson), (2) end of July Magdalen Laver (Tim Green).
Slender brindle 31 July St Osyth (Reg Arthur)

August

Marbled green 1 August (Paul Bergdahl)
Gold spot 1, 24 Aug St Osyth (Reg Arthur)
Cypress pug 1, 6, 11, 12, 17(2), 18, 23(3), 25, 27, 29 August (Reg Arthur)
Dark spectacle 2(2), 9, 18 August St Osyth (Reg Arthur)
Bordered beauty 2(3) August St Osyth (Reg Arthur)
Dark sword-grass 4, 8, 18, 19, 20, 26 Aug St Osyth (Reg Arthur)
Tree-lichen Beauty 4 Aug St Osyth (Reg Arthur) & 5 August Thundersley (Don Down)
Jersey Tiger 5, 6, 7, 19 & 25 August Woodford Green (Robin Barfoot)
White-line dart 5, 11, 13 August St Osyth (Reg Arthur)
Tree Lichen Beauty (7) 7 August Woodford Green (Robin Barfoot) [47th for the year]
Toadflax brocades (2) 7 August Woodford Green (Robin Barfoot) (6 for year)
Autumnal rustic 9 Oct St Osyth (Reg Arthur)
Latticed Heaths (200+) 9 Aug Fordham Hall Estate (Joe Firmin)
Archer's dart (3) 11 August St Osyth (Reg Arthur)
Dark Spinach 11 August Ilford (Kathleen Black)
Flame Carpet 11 August St Osyth (Reg Arthur)
Aethes dilucidana (Stephens) (16 & 27 August), Writtle trap Brian Goodey)
Dusky thorn 20 August Sible Hedingham (Michael Lawrence)
Agonopterix subpropinquella 20 August Sible Hedingham (Michael Lawrence)
Porter's Rustic 21 August Magdalen Laver (Tim Green) (2nd site and Essex record)
Pearly Underwing 21 Aug Blue House Farm North Fambridge (Graham Smith)
Hedge Rustics 23 Aug (6) Blue House Farm North Fambridge (Graham Smith)
Antler Moths 23 Aug (8) Blue House Farm North Fambridge (Graham Smith)
Deep-Brown Darts 23 Aug (2) Blue House Farm North Fambridge (Graham Smith)
Bulrush Wainscot 23 Aug Blue House Farm North Fambridge (Graham Smith)
Narrow-winged Pug 24 August Magdalen Laver (Tim Green) [new for site]
Cochylis molliculana 27 August Woodford Green (Robin Barfoot)
Epermenia falciformis 25 August Magdalen Laver (Tim Green) [2nd for site, 5 Essex]
Euleioptilus carphodactyla (Hübner) 26 August Writtle trap (Brian Goodey)[4th ever]
Flame Carpet 31 August Mashbury (Moira Tarrant)
Cochylis molliculana 17(5), 20(2) August Magdalen Laver (Tim Green)

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September

Cochyliodia rupicola 1 Sept Thurrock area (Colin Plant) [6th for Essex]
Vestal Sept Magdalen Laver (Tim Green)
Cochylis molliculana 6 Sept Magdalen Laver (Tim Green) [increasing significantly]
Pale Eggar 8 Sept Sible Hedingham (Michael Lawrence)
Cypress pug 8, 9 Sept (15 for year) St Osyth (Reg Arthur)
Small rufous 10 Sept St Osyth (Reg Arthur)
Autumnal rustic 14, 28 Sept St Osyth (Reg Arthur) & 23, 30 Sep Sible Hedingham (Michael Lawrence)
Tawny Pinion 17 Sept (Kathleen Black)
Pearl underwing 17 Sept St Osyth (Reg Arthur)
Dark spectacle 21 Sept [17 in all over the months] St Osyth (Reg Arthur)
Deep brown dart 27(2), 29 Sept St Osyth (Reg Arthur)
Dark Spectacle 29 Sept Thundersley (Don Down)
Golden twin-spot 16 Sept Clacton-on-sea (Geoff Swain)

October

Pine carpet approx Oct Cudmore Grove (Dougal Urquhart)
Deep brown dart 1 Oct St Osyth (Reg Arthur)
Dark sword-grass 3, 10(2) Oct St Osyth (Reg Arthur)
Dotted Chestnut 13 Oct, Maldon (Simon Wood)
Tawny pinion 14 Oct St Osyth (Reg Arthur)
Acrolepiopsis assectella (4) 15 Oct Tiptree (Steve Rolls) ERDB [10th occasion]
Pebble hook-tip Oct 22 St Osyth (Reg Arthur) [possible third brood]

November

Rusty Dot Pearl 5 Nov Rayleigh (Graham Bailey)
Dark Spectacle 7 Nov Tiptree (Steve Rolls)
Sprawler (40) 1-7 Nov Tiptree (Steve Rolls)

Records received - THANK YOU ALL!

MapMate: Simon Wood, David Dutton, Tim Green, Graham Bailey and Chris Rawlings.

Post and Computer: Reg Arthur, Michael Lawrence, Paul Bergdahl, Don Down and Paul Charlton.

Computer: Brian Goodey, Robin Barfoot, Kathleen Black, Alan Sherman, Dr Chris Gibson, Moira Tarrant, Dave Barnard, Graham Smith, Hugh Owen, Steve Rolls, David Howden, Janice Green, David Avis, Neil Harvey, David Corke, Christopher Rawlings, Catherine Willis, Richard Bigg, M. J. Haywood, Paul Parmenter, R G Payne, Jim Archer, Alan Roscoe, Chris Lewis, Bill Costner, Colin Penney, Dave Perry, Rick Vonk, Tony Cussen, Jes Dagley, Marina Harvey, Joan Pinch and Tony Moverley.

Post: Joe, Iain Grahame, David Scott, Norma Jennings, Bill and Betty Doughty, Geoff Swain & Alan Mullis.

Phone: Paul Dawson and Amanda Chittock.

New UK BAP Micros Priority 24 February 2008

UK BAP (Biodiversity Action Plan) sent a correspondence that may be of interest on micros. However if any EMG member receives a UK BAP newsletter please treat its accuracy with considerable caution. During 2008 they have included Essex records of the olive crescent, sloe carpet and the four-spotted. None of these records had been sent officially to the Essex moth recorder before they appeared in print. In fact there has been considerable confusion over where they were seen and who actually saw them. If an EMG member can help over them then please email me, particularly the olive crescent.

A number of new species were added to the UK BAP last autumn. UK BAP are seeking records of all these species as a starting point for their conservation. They are:

71 Stigmella zelleriella	133 Lampronia capitella	143a Nematopogon magna
144 Nemophora fasciella	202 Eudarcia richardsoni	221 Nemapogon picarella
355 Phyllonorycter scabiosella	366 Phyllonorycter sagitella	482 Epermenia insecurella
500 Coleophora hydrolopathella	527 Coleophora wockeella	538 Coleophora vibicella
653 Aplota palpellus	703 Agonopterix atomella	715 Agonopterix capreolella
848 Syncopacma albipalpella	848a Syncopacma suecicella	916 Scythris siccella
1066 Celypha woodiana	1243 Grapholita pallifrontana	1364 Pyrausta sanguinalis
1381 Anania funebris	1410 Agrotica nemoralis	1447 Sciota hostilis

OLIVE CRESCENT

I received a request to provide data for Michael Blencowe from the Sussex Moth Group about the Olive Crescent in Essex. The full article can be found in the Moths section at www.essexfieldclub.org.uk

A Crescent Surprise: The Olive Crescent at Friston in 2008

The Olive Crescent is a noctuid that looks more like a geometrid, and holds the position as 'the last moth on the list' - B & F number 2495 - amongst the Snouts and Fan-foots of the Hypheninae. In Britain the moth holds the status of Red Data Book species and immigrant. It was first recorded in Sussex on 18th June 1858 at Brighton.

Exactly 150 years to the day since its first British discovery I started my generator on a warm, overcast 18th June evening in Friston Forest. My notebook shows at 23:30 an Olive Crescent settled on the sheet next to the trap - followed shortly by another. The following two nights were also mild and overcast and brief strolls through different areas of the forest with a head torch and a net produced Olive Crescent - on both these occasions only a few moths were netted making *emortalis* the commonest moth I caught over the two nights! On June 21st I took a break from the survey and set up the trap in my usual position, the field behind my house on the edge of the forest. In the morning three Olive Crescents were found in or under the white sheet! The following evening two were trapped at a different location within the forest. In all 21 Olive Crescent were seen over a period from June 18th until July 31st with the maximum being 5 on July 24th. After July 31st poor weather prevented trapping for a number of weeks.

Withered and Died: Searching for Olive Crescent Larvae

I searched the forest for Olive Crescent larvae which feed on Beech, Oak and Sweet Chestnut leaves but, here's the bizarre twist, really dead leaves. Research shows that the adult Olive Crescent lays its eggs on fallen branches when the leaves are beginning to wilt. The larvae feed up on the withered, decaying leaves in situ. It wasn't long before we struck gold. Olive Crescent larvae were found at a number of sites throughout the forest on dead Beech and Oak leaves.

The Olive Crescent in Britain

Subsequent records from the Chilterns hinted at possible populations in that part of England and in 1962 five were captured on the Buckinghamshire side of these chalk hills. A small corner of Bucks (south of the M40) held on to its Olive Crescents until the last records in 1976.

The focus then shifted to Essex where the moth was found in 1972 at Stour Wood. At one point this woodland was its only known British site but would later be joined by other populations in a few other woodlands in Essex.

Since 2000 the Olive Crescent has returned to Sussex and has been discovered in suitable habitat in Beckley Woods. In 2008 surveys have confirmed the moth in two other local sites. Kent has also recently been able to claim Olive Crescent as a county resident. Considering the size of Friston Forest (1969 acres) there is the potential for a large population of this moth in Friston. It will be interesting to see in future years if this moth continues to be recorded in the forest and maybe even extends it's range into other woodlands in Sussex.

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Many thanks to Tony Davis, Mark Parsons, Colin Pratt, Steve Wheatley, Martin Albertini (Buckinghamshire County Moth Recorder) and David Allen.

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Harley Books: www.harleybooks.com

Lopinga Books: www.lopinga.co.uk

Anglian Lepidopterist Supplies (ALS) PO box 232, Northwich Delivery Office, CW8 3FG (01263 862068 www.angleps.btinternet.co.uk)

Reg Fry Website - Over 580 species now illustrated on the website by at least 1 up to 20 + photos at:- <http://www.ukleps.org/>

Colin Plant: To purchase Colin Plant's excellent book **MOTHS OF HERTFORDSHIRE** (published July 2008) VISIT www.hertsmothgroup.org.uk or contact

Colin Plant Associates (UK)
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Best other websites www.ukmoths.org.uk and <http://www.essexfieldclub.org.uk>

Best Essex Moth Book - Moths of Essex by Brian Goodey

ESSEX MOTH GROUP MEETINGS 2008

Friday 16th May - Pods Wood

Not a lot tonight in our first venture out. Many were grumbling over how poor the year has been so far. Pods Wood is one of the favourite haunts of the EMG but we gave up early after a poor turn out of 7 moths. They were: common white wave, white wave, green carpet, coxcomb prominent, pebble hook-tip, scalloped hook-tip and brown silver-lines.

Wednesday 4th June - Tiptree Heath

Quite a pleasant evening that didn't quite match the turnout of last year where we attracted a significant number of people from Tiptree under 30. It was almost like a party! This year it was much more a gathering of the regulars. We had 33 species of moths which seemed pretty good given the year we've had so far. We had one highlight near the end of the evening which was the Essex Red Data listed Rosy marbled, the first record for this sight, or even this region of North East Essex. The local speciality of the True Lover's Knot was once again in evidence. The rest of the night's moths were: brimstone, brown silver lines, clouded border, clouded silver, common carpet, common marbled carpet, common pug, common swift, common wainscot, common white wave, elephant hawk moth, flame shoulder, green carpet, heart and dart, light emerald, marbled minor, middle barred minor, marbled brown, mottled rustic, pale tussock, poplar hawk moth, shears, silver-ground carpet, small phoenix, straw dot, treble lines and waved umber. Our 4 micros were bramble shoot, epinotia immundana, a light brown apple moth and scoparia ambigualis.

Saturday 7th June - National Moth Night, High Woods

Sadly this was a total washout! Still I turned up at 10.15 only to find out that it was cancelled. Thankfully I was not arrested.

Thursday 12th June - Friday Woods

A very disappointing night! The wind came up and the temperature dropped. One generator packed up, but the loss was not that great. 14 members of the Essex Moth Group turned up, but only 9 moths joined in! 6 Green Oak Tortrix moths, 2 buff ermines and a common swift. Many thanks to the efforts of the army for letting us in. Hopefully we might have a little more luck in the future.

Friday 11th July - Castle Park

It's raining again! However I still went. So did several others. Was it worth it? You decide: Swallowtail, uncertain, brown house moth, LYU, grey dagger, marbled minor, Brown-tailed moth, chrysoteuchia culmella, dark arches, heart and dart, heart and club, dark barred fruit-tree tortrix, dun-bar, scarce silver-lines, scarce footman, buff ermine, riband wave, bright-line brown-eye, dot moth, common emerald, clay, turnip moth, bee moth, crambus perllella, small magpie, Lesser YU, flame shoulder, middle-barred minor, riband wave, bird-cherry ermine [29].

Wednesday 16th July - Beth Chatto Elmstead

A very enjoyable evening. One particularly interesting flapping moth turned out to be a very unusually coloured orange moth. A picture of it will appear in the March booklet at the AGM. Others were: the **Festoon**, large emerald, elephant hawk, dwarf cream wave, grey tortrix, small fan-footed wave, dingy footman, common footman, rosy footman, scarce footman, common emerald, ruby tiger, water veneer, double square spot, mottled beauty, LYU, chrysoteuchia culmella, hedyia salicella, agapeta hamana, yellow shell, clay, carcina quercana, marbled minor, dark arches, lesser YU, uncertain, bird-cherry ermine, buff arches, clouded border, flame, broad-barred white, poplar grey, grey dagger, phycita roborella, barred fruit-tree tortrix, crambus perllella, oak-tree tortrix, clouded silver, shaded broad-bar, common rustic, smoky wainscot, riband wave, peppered moth, lunar spotted pinion, light emerald, shuttle, dusky sallow, brown tail, yellow tail, nutmeg, cydia splendana, foxglove pug, scarce silver lines, spectacle, bramble shoot, sandy carpet, black rustic, dot moth rivulet, dun-bar, common wainscot. [63]

Friday 18th July - Buntings Meadow

Sadly for me, the end of term farewells got the better of me and I failed to make this meeting. Moths seen were: **reed dagger**, agapeta hamana, crambus perllella, small magpie, water veneer, pine shoot moth, bright-line brown-eye, brimstone, buff arches, clay, clouded border, common emerald, common footman, common rustic, dark arches, drinker, flame, ghost moth, grey dagger, knot grass, lesser YU, light arches, marbled minor, nutmeg, common pug, small blood vein, smoky wainscot, uncertain, Vine's rustic, varied coronet and yellow shell.

Tuesday 22nd July - Cudmore Grove

The highlight of the EMG year so far without doubt as at least 6 traps were run at Dougal's Cudmore Grove (sorry that should be Essex Wildlife Trust's). The average age of the EMG was halved this evening as my daughter and her boyfriend (both 19) arrived to help. At least I had a genuine excuse to arrive last this time once Julia was prized out of the bathroom. It was an excellent warm night as the moths rolled in: **reed dagers**, **Webb's Wainscot**, pine hawk, Archers dart, oak eggar, small scallop, leopard moth, V-pug, small china-mark, rosy minor, gypsonia fragmentella, dusky sawfly, dun-bar, grey tortrix, LYU, pebble prominent, scarce footman, agapeta hamana, yellow shell, ruby tiger, endotricha flammealis, lime-speck pug, dwarf dream wave, culmella, iron prominent, fen wainscot, grey dagger, conobathra repandana, codling moth, smoky wainscot, swallowtail, bee moth, bark arches, thistle ermine, water veneer, phycita roborella, common wainscot, dusk sawfly, scarce footman, drinker moth, least carpet, dun-bar, marbled minor, snout, yellow shell, swallowtail, riband wave, peppered moth, shaded broad bar, crambus perlella, common emerald, bright-line brown-eye, culmella, small fan-footed wave, lesser YU, LBBYU, BBYU, large fruit-tree tortrix, brown-line bright-eye, light arches, dark arches, buff arches, maiden's blush, grey dagger, clouded border, gold triangle, hedya splendana, rustic, acleris forsskaleana (W shape on back), lunar-spotted pinion, lesser-spotted pinion, cydia splendana, cloaked minor, uncertain, brown tailed moth, codling moth, clouded silver... [75+]

Saturday 26th July - Bradwell

12 invited guests were fortunate to be allowed to go round Stephen Dewick's magnificent 25 acre nature reserve. His mothing had been postponed for over two months as he literally wrestled single handedly with weeds that must be removed to remain within the law. This was the one day of the year I saw hummingbird-hawk moths, along with many marbled whites. The trap itself is hard to imagine being a large brick building with a huge central funnel. Inside we saw hundreds of moths. It would require many hours to record all of them. A fuller account of what we saw will appear in the March newsletter but one I believe was a **Kent Black arches**.

Thursday 7th August - Langenhoe

This evening saw the Essex Moth Recorder staring out at thunder and lightning thinking "it's off then". However at Hugh Owen's house the search for the Essex Red Data listed white-spotted pinion once again proved successful. It was also successful for 70 other species.

Friday 26th Sept - Marks Hall.

An interesting evening once again for the Essex Moth Recorder who many may have thought did not turn up. In truth he was there at 8:20 having an exciting mystery trip care of (mis)directions from a helpful female. By the time he returned to his starting place there was no sign of any life. Oh for a fellow member with a mobile phone. Next a rather nasty stomach upset (full details not available on request) saw him speeding home to stay near to the smallest room in the house for the rest of the evening. Meanwhile the well attended meeting saw the temperature cool rapidly down to below 8 degrees and as a result there were only 40 moths of 13 species. They included red-green carpet, barred sawfly, black rustic, Blair's shoulder knot and 15 snouts.

Future Meetings in 2009

There have been some comments about where can people learn of future moth meetings. From now on you can see them on the Essex Field Club website in the Moths section. If you do not have access to the Internet then that is a problem. You could always ring me. I have also been asked why the meetings always take place in North East Essex. In reality we only have two generators (one of which can be temperamental) and the owners and organisers are not young. It is difficult to travel great distances back after midnight for them or me. I have to go to work the next day unless I am on holiday or the next day is part of the weekend. I would love to do more meetings, especially on a Friday. If the others could not make it, I would be quite willing to run them (even if I run the risk of misidentifying an orange moth). However I do not own a generator. If I could get a workable new one for around £100 then I would buy one. However I know nothing about generators except that if you get the wrong one it weighs a ton and sounds like a helicopter landing. If anyone is an expert (or a salesman) particularly on the new Wolf machines, I would welcome some advice.

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Essex Red Data List

Garden Tiger	White-banded Carpet	Flame Wainscot
Red-necked Footman	Sussex Emerald	L-album Wainscot
Speckled Footman	Barred Tooth-striped	Shore Wainscot
Hoary Footman	Small Eggar	Double Line
Pigmy Footman	Lappet	Lunar Yellow Underwing
Dotted Footman	Grass Eggar	Northern Drab
Water Ermine	Ground Lackey	Clay Fan-foot
Goat Moth	Festoon	Waved Black
Sloe Carpet	Triangle	Common Fan-foot
Dentated Pug	Scarce Vapourer	Pale Shining Brown
Essex Emerald	Portland Moth	Silvery Arches
Rest Harrow	Sand Dart	Dotted Rustic
Lesser Treble-bar	Saltern Ear	Blair's Wainscot
Light Orange Underwing	Large Ear	Striped Lychnis
Straw Belle	Scarce Brindle	White Colon
Ruddy Carpet	Crescent Striped	Reed Dagger
Broom-tip	Feathered Brindle	Stout Dart
Small Grass Emerald	Webb's Wainscot	Orache Moth
Mocha	Dark Brocade	Olive Crescent
Blomer's Rivulet	Toadflax Brocade	Four-spotted
Large Thorn	Dark Crimson Underwing	Dusky-lemon Sallow
Cloaked Carpet	White-marked	Pale-lemon Sallow
Cloaked Pug	Silky Wainscot	Dotted Clay
Campanula Pug	Lyme Grass	Neglected Rustic
Bleached Pug	Concolorous	Triple-spotted Clay
Scarce Pug	Mere Wainscot	Square-spotted Clay
Haworth's Pug	Dotted Chestnut	Sword-grass
Pinion-spotted Pug	White-spotted Pinion	Kent Black Arches
Maple Pug	Wormwood	Small Black Arches
Marbled Pug	Star-wort	Scarce Black Arches
Yarrow Pug	Silver Barred	Scarce Chocolate-tip
Pimpinel Pug	Heart Moth	Small Chocolate-tip
Lead-coloured Pug	Silver Cloud	Alder Kitten
Marsh Pug	Rosy Marbled	Scarce Prominent
Valerian Pug	Spotted Sulphur	Six-belted Clearwing
Great Oak Beauty	Angle-striped Sallow	Hornet Moth
Bright Wave	Coast Dart	Lunar Hornet Moth
Grey Carpet	Fisher's Estuarine Moth	Orange-tailed Clearwing
Drab Looper	Small Ranunculus	Large Red-belted Clearwing
Barberry Carpet	Bordered Gothic	Red-tipped Clearwing
Feathered Beauty	Marbled Clover	Red-belted Clearwing
Oblique Striped	Shaded Fan-foot	White-barred Clearwing
Scarce Tissue	Buttoned Snout	Currant Clearwing
Argent & Sable	Orange Upperwing	Yellow-legged Clearwing
Rosy Wave	Beautiful Hook-tip	Broad-bordered Bee Hawk
Tawny Wave	Sandhill Rustic	Narrow-bordered Bee Hawk
Chalk Carpet	Dotted Fan-foot	Satin Lutestring
July Belle	Scarce Merveille du Jour	Forester
Black-veined Moth	Mathew's Wainscot	

Bold text indicates moths seen in 2008.