

## MORE MOTH MIGRANTS (and some residents) ...

Wow – what an interesting week. With apologies to anyone whose e-mail I overlooked, here are four outstanding highlights.

### **Stenoptinea cyaneimarmorella**



17<sup>th</sup> July 2020, Bengoe (garden), Hertford, one in an MV light trap next to Little Mole Wood. A micro moth (family Tineidae) caught by Simon Knott and named by Graeme J. Smith (ID subsequently agreed by CWP). Photo attached. **NEW TO HERTS** (ALSO NOT RECORDED IN MIDDLESEX).

### **Sallow Clearwing (*Synanthedon flaviventris*)**

21<sup>st</sup> July 2020, one came to the new Sallow Clearwing lure (from ALS), hung in her garden at Cheshunt, Herts by Liz Goodyear, during the daytime whilst out shopping. The single male was in the trap on her return. **NEW TO HERTS** (ALSO NOT RECORDED IN MIDDLESEX). **An outstanding record and utterly unexpected.** Conventional wisdom has this moth confined to south of the Thames in central southern England, centred on Hampshire which is, weirdly, where I was when Liz caught it – I was there looking specifically for this species. I failed. The Cheshunt moth was checked carefully by Liz who then delivered it to Graeme for confirmation. I arrived home whilst she was there and so she also brought the moth round for me to see as well (Graeme having broken his foot and currently being immobile stayed at home!). Since then, I have heard of additional reports of this moth from Bedfordshire and Northamptonshire – both equally unexpected areas. It is clear that this moth, which ALLEGEDLY only flies in even numbered years, is perhaps not as rare as we thought and the development of the new pheromone lure might well show the species to be widespread. Clearly it is flying now, so if you have the SAL lure hang it out in your garden now and wait! It is a new lure, if you don't have it, order from <https://www.angleps.com/pheromones.php> (£8.50 plus postage). Pay by card and they will doubtless post it tomorrow which means you should have it by Tuesday. Note that they also sell the traps to put it in if you can't make your own.

### **Crescent Dart (*Agrotis trux*)**



24<sup>th</sup> July 2020, Welwyn area, Herts. Caught by William Bishop in his garden trap. Image attached to this e-mail. **NEW TO HERTS** (ALSO NOT RECORDED IN MIDDLESEX). An immigrant from Europe, with a British population resident on the western coastline.

**Dark Crimson Underwing (*Catocala sponsa*)**



24<sup>th</sup> July 2020 at Basil's Wood, near Bramfield in central Herts, 2 caught by Trevor Brownsell and Ben Sale. Trevor writes: Conditions were pretty good except for a slight breeze. Ben set his traps along the main ride to the east end of the wood, I stayed to the west end at the T-junction next to the gravel pile. After a couple of hours Ben came along to see how things were progressing. We were both checking out my 250watt clear MV when Ben shouted out "you've got a Dark Crimson Underwing in the trap on the egg boxes". After some deliberation we decided to box it up for safety fortunately. A few jokes were made, along the lines of I'm not going nothing with you again because you catch all the good ones! Around 1am we started to pack up. We left the 250MV on till last, some egg boxes placed around the outside of my Robinson trap were the first to be checked, O M G!! Another Dark Crimson Underwing, smaller than the first.

Probably immigrants from Europe, but this is the second year running it has turned up – so it might become established.

**THAT'S ALL FOR NOW**

Do keep these records coming – these information snippets are very popular amongst moth group members.

Colin

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