

MOTH MUMBLINGS – LATE AUGUST 2021

FIELD TRIP THIS COMING WEEKEND

BRICKETWOOD COMMON – Saturday 28th August 2021

63 hectares of mostly secondary woodland and old hornbeam coppice, with a small core area of wet lowland heath and acid grassland, containing a boggy area, birch scrub, seasonal and permanent ponds. The site borders Bricket Wood to the north-east of Watford, just to the south of Junction 21a of the M25 and to the East of the M1 Junction 6.

Meeting Point:

Entrance to site off School Lane by a group of cottages and directly opposite the entrance to the Munden Estate. **Grid reference:** TL132006; **Post Code:** AL2 3XT. I am assured that someone will be there to unlock the bollars so we can drive off the road to park. If you arrive early, there is parking in a series of bays along school lane.

Meeting time: 19:30 hours. **Leaving early:** will be possible.

Contact if arrive late or lost: Please phone the organiser, David Riddle, on 07761 410666

To Bring

You are welcome to bring your own lights. A folding chair might be useful if we sit around the sheet.

PANSHANGER PARK, HERTFORD – report of our last outing

Seven of us turned up at Panshanger Park on 14th August. We drove through to the south side of the marsh and lakes at the southern side of the River Mimram where we set up a 125 watt mv bulb in front of a white sheet hung on the side of my Landrover. We also set up three Robinson-pattern traps, each also with a 125 watt mv bulb and a total of ten 8-watt actinic “bucket” traps across a wide area. Lights went on at around 9pm, but as expected there was little activity for the first hour at least. Numbers crept up slowly towards midnight, after which the few mad fools that remained get their heads down for three hours sleep in their cars. At 3am we awoke and started to pull in the traps, bringing them back to the sheet where we were able to examine the contents without moths flying away into the surrounding darkness. Packing up took 2 hours and we vacated the site at 5am.

The species list was not exceptional, though August is traditionally less exciting than July – and there were a couple of highlights. Jersey Tigers (*Euplagia quadripunctaria*) numbered just three, but included one of the form with yellow hindwings. Waved Black (*Parascotia fuliginaria*) was in one of the actinic buckets as was a single *Musotima nitidalis* – a pyrale (Crambidae) that arrived in Britain as an adventive species in the last few years; the larvae feed on Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) and we expect the moth to be found in Bracken-dominated woodlands throughout Hertfordshire and perhaps also northern Middlesex.

Several species that used to be rare in Britain and reported only as occasional primary immigrants not so many years ago, have evidently now established in Britain. The White Point (*Mythimna albipuncta*) and the Gypsy Moth (*Lymantria dispar*) were well-represented in the catch at Panshanger. All the gypsies were males, unsurprisingly, as the females are supposedly poor fliers. We caught around 20 examples. The Tree-lichen Beauty (*Cryphia algae*) is also a recent colonist of Britain, but we caught only one at Panshanger. There were also two male Oak Processionary (*Thaumetopoea processionea*).

All these are confirmed to be breeding in Britain, but analysing the reports from individual sites presents problems, because they do still turn up as immigrants from overseas. Examples caught on “migrant nights” – or in the flowing few days – surely cannot be treated as locally resident with absolute certainty in the absence of physical evidence of larvae or other early stages. There was much immigrant activity in Hertfordshire throughout the week leading up to the field trip!

The full list of recorded species is presented here:

14 August 2021: Panshanger Park, western marsh area, Hertfordshire.

Herts Moth Group outing. Traps run from 21.00 hours and packed up from 03.30 to 05.00 hours.

Numbers are approximate. An asterisk (*) indicates that the identity of at least one example of the species concerned was made or confirmed by genitalia dissection.

Hepialidae			
03.001	Triodia sylvina (Linnaeus, 1761)	Orange Swift	2
Tineidae			
12.032	Tinea semifulvella Haworth, 1828		1
Gracillariidae			
15.009	Caloptilia robustella Jäckh, 1972		1*
Yponomeutidae			
16.01	Zelleria hepariella Stainton, 1849		1
Glyphipterigidae			
19.001	Orthotelia sparganella (Thunberg, 1788)		1
Argyresthiidae			
20.012	Argyresthia goedartella (Linnaeus, 1758)		1
20.022	Argyresthia bonnetella (Linnaeus, 1758)		4
Oecophoridae			
28.01	Hofmannophila pseudospretella (Stainton, 1849)	Brown House-moth	1
Peleopodidae			
31.001	Carcina quercana (Fabricius, 1775)		1
Cosmopterigidae			
34.004	Limnaecia phragmitella Stainton, 1851		1
Gelechiidae			
35.026	Acompsia cinerella (Clerck, 1759)		1*
35.04	Bryotropha terrella ([D.& S.], 1775)		2*
35.081	Oxypteryx atrella ([D.& S.], 1775)		1*
35.157	Recurvaria leucatella (Clerck, 1759)		1
Coleophoridae			
37.007	Coleophora flavipennella (Duponchel, [1843])		1*
37.039	Coleophora hemerobiella (Scopoli, 1763)		2
Blastobasidae			
41.002	Blastobasis adustella Walsingham, 1894		Few
Pterophoridae			
45.012	Stenoptilia pterodactyla (Linnaeus, 1761)	Brown Plume	1
Tortricidae			
49.004	Ditula angustiorana (Haworth, 1811)	Red-barred Tortrix	2
49.024	Pandemis corylana (Fabricius, 1794)	Chequered Fruit-tree Tortrix	5
49.026	Pandemis heparana ([D.& S.], 1775)	Dark Fruit-tree Tortrix	2
49.037	Clepsis spectrana (Treitschke, 1830)	Cyclamen Tortrix	1
49.109	Agapeta hamana (Linnaeus, 1758)		1
49.110	Agapeta zoegana (Linnaeus, 1767)		2
49.120	Aethes smeathmanniana (Fabricius, 1781)		1*
49.150	Apotomis betuletana (Haworth, 1811)		2
49.223	Rhopobota naevana (Hübner, [1817])	Holly Tortrix	1*
49.224	Spilonota ocellana ([D.& S.], 1775)	Bud Moth	3
49.255	Epinotia nisella (Clerck, 1759)		2

49.260	<i>Zeiraphera isertana</i> (Fabricius, 1794)		4
49.279	<i>Gypsonoma dealbana</i> (Frölich, 1828)		2
49.338	<i>Cydia pomonella</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Codling Moth	1
49.341	<i>Cydia splendana</i> (Hübner, [1799])		5
Pyralidae			
62.029	<i>Phycita roborella</i> ([D.& S.], 1775)		6
62.035	<i>Acrobasis advenella</i> (Zincken, 1818)		3
62.048	<i>Euzophera pinguis</i> (Haworth, 1811)		2
Crambidae			
63.006	<i>Pyrausta aurata</i> (Scopoli, 1763)		1
63.067	<i>Eudonia lacustrata</i> (Panzer, 1804)	Few	
63.079	<i>Calamotropha paludella</i> (Hübner, [1824])		1
63.080	<i>Chrysoteuchia culmella</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Garden Grass-veneer	1
63.088	<i>Crambus perlella</i> (Scopoli, 1763)		1
63.089	<i>Agriphila tristella</i> ([D.& S.], 1775)		13
63.093	<i>Agriphila straminella</i> ([D.& S.], 1775)		Few
63.099	<i>Catoptria pinella</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)		1
63.102	<i>Catoptria falsella</i> ([D.& S.], 1775)		2
63.109	<i>Pediasia contaminella</i> (Hübner, 1796)		3
63.115	<i>Acentria ephemerella</i> ([D.& S.], 1775)	Water Veneer	Few
63.117	<i>Parapohnx stratiotata</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Ringed China-mark	2
63.119	<i>Musotima nitidalis</i> Walker		1
Drepanidae			
65.002	<i>Watsonalla binaria</i> (Hufnagel, 1767)	Oak Hook-tip	1
65.008	<i>Thyatira batis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Peach Blossom	1
Sphingidae			
69.003	<i>Laothoe populi</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Poplar Hawk-moth	1
69.007	<i>Sphinx pinastri</i> Linnaeus, 1758	Pine Hawk-moth	1
69.016	<i>Deilephila elpenor</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Elephant Hawk-moth	1
Geometridae			
70.004	<i>Idaea rusticata</i> ([D.& S.], 1775)	Least Carpet	1
70.011	<i>Idaea dimidiata</i> (Hufnagel, 1767)	Single-dotted Wave	3
70.029	<i>Timandra comae</i> Schmidt, 1931	Blood-Vein	2
70.036	<i>Cyclophora punctaria</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Maiden's Blush	2
70.059	<i>Camptogramma bilineata</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Yellow Shell	1
70.061	<i>Epirrhoe alternata</i> (Müller, 1764)	Common Carpet	7
70.065	<i>Euphyia unangulata</i> (Haworth, 1809)	Sharp-angled Carpet	11
70.074	<i>Hydriomena fuscata</i> (Thunberg, 1784)	July Highflyer	1
70.077	<i>Pennithera firmata</i> (Hübner, [1822])	Pine Carpet	1
70.087	<i>Cosmorhoe ocellata</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Purple Bar	2
70.094	<i>Ecliptopera silaceata</i> ([D.& S.], 1775)	Small Phoenix	6
70.100	<i>Colostygia pectinataria</i> (Knoch, 1781)	Green Carpet	1
70.133	<i>Perizoma alchemillata</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Small Rivulet	1
70.147	<i>Eupithecia tenuiata</i> (Hübner, [1813])	Slender Pug	3*
70.148	<i>Eupithecia inturbata</i> (Hübner, [1817])	Maple Pug	5*
70.160	<i>Eupithecia tripunctaria</i> Herrich-Schäffer, 1852	White-spotted Pug	1*
70.173	<i>Eupithecia centaureata</i> ([D.& S.], 1775)	Lime-speck Pug	1
70.187	<i>Eupithecia icterata</i> (Villers, 1789)	Tawny Speckled Pug	1
70.208	<i>Ligdia adustata</i> ([D.& S.], 1775)	Scorched Carpet	1
70.214	<i>Macaria liturata</i> (Clerck, 1759)	Tawny-barred Angle	1
70.218	<i>Chiasmia clathrata</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Latticed Heath	1
70.226	<i>Opisthograptis luteolata</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Brimstone Moth	2
70.234	<i>Ennomos alniaria</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Canary-shouldered Thorn	3
70.235	<i>Ennomos fuscantaria</i> (Haworth, 1809)	Dusky Thorn	2
70.236	<i>Ennomos erosaria</i> ([D.& S.], 1775)	September Thorn	2
70.258	<i>Peribatodes rhomboidaria</i> ([D.& S.], 1775)	Willow Beauty	Few
70.277	<i>Cabera pusaria</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Common White Wave	1
70.278	<i>Cabera exanthemata</i> (Scopoli, 1763)	Common Wave	1
Notodontidae			

71.001	<i>Thaumetopoea processionea</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Oak Processionary	1
71.005	<i>Furcula furcula</i> (Clerck, 1759)	Sallow Kitten	2
71.012	<i>Notodonta dromedarius</i> (Linnaeus, 1767)	Iron Prominent	1
71.018	<i>Pheosia gnoma</i> (Fabricius, [1777])	Lesser Swallow Prominent	2
71.020	<i>Pterostoma palpina</i> (Clerck, 1759)	Pale Prominent	1
71.021	<i>Ptilodon capucina</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Coxcomb Prominent	1
Erebidae			
72.002	<i>Rivula sericealis</i> (Scopoli, 1763)	Straw Dot	3
72.010	<i>Lymantria monacha</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Black Arches	3
72.011	<i>Lymantria dispar</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Gypsy Moth	15
72.012	<i>Euproctis chryorrhoea</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Brown-tail	2
72.013	<i>Euproctis similis</i> (Fuessly, 1775)	Yellow-tail	1
72.024	<i>Phragmatobia fuliginosa</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Ruby Tiger	1
72.030	<i>Euplagia quadripunctaria</i> (Poda, 1761)	Jersey Tiger	2
72.043	<i>Eilema depressa</i> (Esper, 1787)	Buff Footman	6
72.044	<i>Eilema griseola</i> (Hübner, [1803])	Dingy Footman	7
72.066	<i>Parascotia fuliginaria</i> (Linnaeus, 1761)	Waved Black	1
Noctuidae			
73.001	<i>Abrostola tripartita</i> (Hufnagel, 1766)	Spectacle	1
73.015	<i>Autographa gamma</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Silver Y	1
73.038	<i>Acronicta psi</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Grey Dagger	2*
73.047	<i>Craniophora ligustri</i> ([D.& S.], 1775)	Coronet	11
73.062	<i>Amphipyra pyramidea</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Copper Underwing	3
73.082	<i>Cryphia algae</i> (Fabricius, 1775)	Tree-lichen Beauty	1
73.109	<i>Thalpophila matura</i> (Hufnagel, 1766)	Straw Underwing	24
73.113	<i>Phlogophora meticulosa</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Angle Shades	1
73.119	<i>Helotropha leucostigma</i> (Hübner, [1808])	Crescent	1
73.123	<i>Hydraecia micacea</i> (Esper, 1789)	Rosy Rustic	5
73.128	<i>Amphipoea oculatea</i> (Linnaeus, 1761)	Ear Moth	1*
73.151	<i>Globia sparganii</i> (Esper, 1789)	Webb's Wainscot	6
73.162	<i>Apamea monoglypha</i> (Hufnagel, 1766)	Dark Arches	1
73.169	<i>Mesapamea secalis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Common Rustic	1*
73.170	<i>Mesapamea didyma</i> (Esper, 1788)	Lesser Common Rustic	1*
73.172	<i>Mesoligia furuncula</i> ([D.& S.], 1775)	Cloaked Minor	2
73.216	<i>Cosmia trapezina</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Dun-bar	5
73.252	<i>Tholera cespitis</i> ([D.& S.], 1775)	Hedge Rustic	11
73.253	<i>Tholera decimalis</i> (Poda, 1761)	Feathered Gothic	1
73.291	<i>Mythimna pallens</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Common Wainscot	3
73.297	<i>Mythimna albipuncta</i> ([D.& S.], 1775)	White-point	5
73.325	<i>Agrotis puta</i> (Hübner, [1803])	Shuttle-shaped Dart	2
73.329	<i>Ochropleura plecta</i> (Linnaeus, 1761)	Flame Shoulder	8
73.342	<i>Noctua pronuba</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Large Yellow Underwing	2
73.345	<i>Noctua comes</i> Hübner, [1813]	Lesser Yellow Underwing	1
73.348	<i>Noctua janthe</i> (Borkhausen, 1792)	Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing	11
73.358	<i>Xestia sexstrigata</i> (Haworth, 1809)	Six-striped Rustic	2
73.359	<i>Xestia c-nigrum</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	Setaceous Hebrew Character	3

All for now. Apologies for anything important that I missed.

Do keep me updated.

Happy mothing,

Colin

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