**RUTLAND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

**MOTH ANNUAL REPORT 2019 Recorder: *Paul Bennett***

After a hot and dry summer in 2018 perhaps it was to be expected that 2019 would see a comparative fall in moth numbers. The area around Lyndon Visitor Centre was trapped on 16 occasions and while the total of species recorded was good the numbers recorded for most of the regular species were down, in some cases by 25% or more. The most frequently recorded moth was Small Quaker (188) although nearly all these records came on one date, otherwise there were no century counts out of one trap for an individual species. The lower totals can be put down to two factors: firstly, nature’s way of levelling out after a bumper year and secondly many larval foodplants prematurely dried up in 2018 preventing many larvae from feeding on them which had a knock-on effect for the rest of the moth’s life cycle. Other sites trapped were Shacklewell, Bloody Oaks and the south side of Egleton Visitor Centre and it is hoped to continue with them in the future.

However, the year was also notable for some rare finds, all seemingly triggered by short periods of very hot weather accompanied by strong southerly breezes. Orange Underwing moths have not been recorded in Rutland for many years but these spring day-flyers were seen in good numbers in Pickworth Wood over the (late) Easter week-end flying at head height instead of in the tree canopy (as is more usual) and occasionally landing on bare ground to bask in the warm afternoon sunshine. Clifden Nonpareil, or Blue Underwing, as it is more commonly known, had not been recorded in Rutland since 1902 but eight of these moths were seen last summer.



**Blue Underwing**

The major local highlight of the year however was a first Leicestershire and Rutland record of Beautiful Marbled, a small macro moth classified as a rare immigrant and even rarer this far inland.



**Beautiful Marbled**

One other potential record that is worthy of mention is a report of Jersey Tiger in a garden in Manton. Unfortunately, there is no photograph to confirm this sighting but there is no reason to doubt its provenance and as this moth has been moving rapidly northwards in recent years it is a species worth looking out for in future. Other records of note were Reddish Light Arches and Four-spotted along Pickworth Drift; and Dotted Border and Oak Nycteoline, both being new records for a frequently trapped garden in Edith Weston.



**Four-spotted**

While nothing can be concluded from an individual record or one good year for a particular species, with Lyndon having been trapped by our group since 2012 and with our changing climate so prominent an issue at the moment, there are two points that are worth making in this respect. Firstly, all our Lyndon records of locally rare moths are of species being seen well to the north of their normal range and often from the south or south-west coast. Secondly, there are moths such as Least Carpet and Square-spotted Clay that are now being recorded in small numbers both in successive years and in more than one locality. I am not a scientist but in our own small way I think that we are contributing some evidence to the climate debate. Another related factor is the big increase we have seen in the various species of Footman moths, which are all lichen feeders and therefore good indicators of air quality in Rutland. It should also be mentioned that all the Peppered Moths we have recorded since 2012 have been of the pale variety, which benefit from the camouflage of lichen-covered trees.

I have condensed the Lyndon figures by splitting them into families with individual highlights which hopefully will make them more digestible. The remainder are mainly day-flying records submitted by individual members.

             

 **Magpie Moth Purple Thorne**

Photographs courtesy Roy Edwards and Peter Scott

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| **RUTLAND MOTH RECORDS 2019 (MISCELLANEOUS)** |  |
|  |  |  |
| Dotted Border | Edith Weston | 28th February |
| Oak Nycteoline | Edith Weston | 20th March |
| Orange Underwing | Pickworth Wood | 23rd April |
| Lackey | Stretton Wood | 22nd May |
| Yellow-tail | George Henry Wood | 23rd May |
| Emperor Moth | Barnsdale | 25th May |
| Coxcomb Prominent | Ryhall | 27th June |
| Clouded Border | Barrow | 3rd July |
| Large Yellow Underwing | Barrow | 4th July |
| Copper Underwing | Whissendine | 5th July |
| Scarlet Tiger | Edith Weston, Market Overton | 11th July |
| Dark Arches | Langham | 14th July |
| Mottled Beauty | Whissendine | 14th July |
| Narrow-bordered Five-spot Burnet | Brooke | 14th July |
| Common Footman | Oakham | 22nd July |
| Vapourer | Whissendine | 23rd July |
| Marbled Beauty | Oakham | 25th July |
| Yellow Shell | Whissendine | 26th July |
| Cinnabar Moth | Whissendine | 29th July |
| Old Lady | Oakham | 29th July |
| Hummingbird Hawk-moth | Exton, Hambleton, Manton, Wing | July-September |
| Silver Y | North Luffenham, Whissendine | July/August |
| Riband Wave | Barrow | 3rd August |
| Beautiful Golden Y | Langham | 4th August |
| Orange Swift | Langham | 5th August |
| Clifden Nonpareil | Oakham | 10th September |

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| **RUTLAND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY** |  |  |
| **ANNUAL REPORT, LYNDON CENTRE MOTHS 2019** |
|  |  |  |
| **SPECIES DETAILS** | **Number** | **Comments** |
|  |  |  |
| HEPIALIDAE - Swift moths |  |  |
| 2 species, 91 moths |  |  |
| Common Swift | 90 |  |
|  |  |  |
| COSSIDAE - Leopard and goat moths |  |  |
| 1 species, 1 moth |  |  |
| Leopard Moth | 1 |  |
|  |  |  |
| DREPANIDAE - Hook tips and lutestrings |  |  |
| 4 species, 6 moths |  |  |
| Peach Blossom | 2 |  |
|  |  |  |
| LASIOCAMPIDAE - Eggar and lappet moths |  |  |
| 2 species, 6 moths |  |  |
| Drinker | 5 |  |
|  |  |  |
| SPHINGIDAE - Hawk-moths |  |  |
| 5 species, 33 moths |  |  |
| Lime | 1 |  |
| Eyed | 2 |  |
| Poplar | 15 |  |
| Privet | 3 |  |
| Elephant | 12 |  |
|  |  |  |
| **SPECIES DETAILS** | **Number** | **Comments** |
|  |  |  |
| GEOMETRIDAE |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| Sterrhinae - Mochas and waves |  |  |
| 7 species, 50 moths |  |  |
| Riband Wave | 17 |  |
| Least Carpet | 3 | First records for site |
| Small Scallop | 1 | First record for site |
|  |  |  |
| Larentiinae - Carpets, pugs and allies |  |  |
| 27 species, 96 moths |  |  |
| Green Carpet | 20 |  |
| Grass Rivulet | 1 | First record for site |
| Pugs (8 species)  | 30 |  |
|  |  |  |
| Ennominae - Thorns, beauties, umbers and allies |  |  |
| 17 species, 80 moths |  |  |
| Scalloped Oak | 13 |  |
| Oak Beauty | 1 | First record for site |
| Thorns (4 species) | 9 |  |
|  |  |  |
| **SPECIES DETAILS** | **Number** | **Comments** |
|  |  |  |
| NOTODONTIDAE - Prominents, kittens and processionary moths |  |  |
| 8 species, 30 moths |  |  |
| Buff-tip | 8 |  |
| Prominents (4 species) | 17 |  |
|  |  |  |
| EREBIDAE - Tussocks, ermines, tigers and relatives |  |  |
| 18 species, 167 moths |  |  |
| Pinion-streaked Snout | 1 | First record for site |
| Beautiful Marbled | 1 | Rare immigrant, first Rutland record |
| Ermines (2 species) | 19 |  |
| Footmen (4 species) | 78 |  |
|  |  |  |
| NOCTUIDAE |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| Plusiinae - Silver & Golden Y's, gems, brasses and allies |  |  |
| 5 species, 25 moths |  |  |
| Burnished Brass | 12 |  |
| Silver Y | 7 |  |
|  |  |  |
| Eustrotiinae  |  |  |
| 1 species, 1 moth |  |  |
| Marbled White Spot | 1 | First record for site |
|  |  |  |
| Acronictinae - Daggers |  |  |
| 3 species, 11 moths |  |  |
| Coronet | 4 |  |
|  |  |  |
| Amphipyrinae |  |  |
| 1 species, 3 moths |  |  |
| Copper Underwing | 3 |  |
|  |  |  |
| Psaphidinae |  |  |
| 1 species, 1 moth |  |  |
| Green-brindled Crescent | 1 |  |
|  |  |  |
| Heliothinae - Straws and clovers |  |  |
| 1 species, 4 moths |  |  |
| Bordered Sallow | 4 |  |
|  |  |  |
| Xyleninae |  |  |
| 35 species, 437 moths |  |  |
| Dark Arches | 121 |  |
| Uncertain | 54 |  |
| Treble Lines | 42 |  |
| Common Rustic | 35 |  |
|   |  |  |
| Hadeninae - Brocades, quakers & leaf-eating wainscots |  |  |
| 12 species, 356 moths |  |  |
| Small Quaker | 188 |  |
| Common Wainscot | 66 |  |
| Common Quaker | 30 |  |
|  |  |  |
| Noctuinae - Darts, yellow underwings, clays and allies  |  |  |
| 14 species, 529 moths |  |  |
| Setaceous Hebrew Character | 106 |  |
| Square-spot Rustic | 87 |  |
| Heart & Dart | 54 |  |
| Yellow Underwings (5 species) | 209 |  |
|  |  |  |
| NOLIDAE |  |  |
| 1 species, 1 moth |  |  |
| Short-cloaked Moth | 1 |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| **SPECIES DETAILS** | **Number** | **Comments** |
|  |  |  |
| **MICRO MOTHS** |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| TINEIDAE  |  |  |
| 1 species, 1 moth |  |  |
| Nemapogon clematella | 1 |  |
|  |  |  |
| YPONOMEUTIDAE |  |  |
| 1 species, 13 moths |  |  |
| Bird Cherry Ermine  | 13 |  |
|  |  |  |
| PLUTELLIDAE |  |  |
| 1 species, 2 moths |  |  |
| Diamond-back Moth | 2 | Immigrant |
|  |  |  |
| BLASTOBASIDAE |  |  |
| 1 species, 1 moth |  |  |
| Blastobasis adustella | 1 |  |
|  |  |  |
| TORTRICIDAE |  |  |
| 21 species, 104 moths |  |  |
| Acleris forsskaleana | 23 |  |
|  |  |  |
| CRAMBIDAE |  |  |
| 23species, 218 moths |  |  |
| Chrysoteuchia culmella | 55 |  |
| Crambus perlella | 34 |  |
| Mother of Pearl | 22 |  |
| Water Veneer | 18 |  |
| Rusty-dot Pearl | 2 | Immigrant |
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| **Recorder: Paul Bennett** |  |  |
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