

MOTH NEWS FOR DERBYSHIRE



www.derbyshiremoths.org

VC57

MARCH Moth News - The month began where February ended, with records of Leaf Mines. Mark Radford recorded *Coptotriche marginea* (**Bramble Blotch-miner**) at Markham Vale North Tip on 1st and *Psychoides filicivora* (**Common Fern Moth**) on Hart's-tongue Fern.

On 3rd Mark also recorded many larvae of *Endothenia marginana* (**Bordered Marble**) on Teasel seed-heads. Mark mentions that most seed-heads held larvae and working on same percentage carried on throughout the Markham Vale site, would equate to many thousands.



Endothenia marginana - Mark Radford©



Endothenia marginana - Mark Radford©

Steve Thorpe ran his garden light trap at Breaston on 3rd and despite 2c degrees temperature, managed six moths of four species - **Dotted Border**, **Common Quaker**, **Clouded Drab** and 3 **Hebrew Character**. Matt Leedell discovered an *Acleris logiana* at Pride Park, Derby on 4th and Martin Roome ran his first garden light trap of the year at Chaddesden and had a single **Oak Beauty**, the first one of the year.



Hebrew Character - Steve Thorpe©



Clouded Drab - Steve Thorpe©

MARCH Moth News cont'd -

On 5th the leaf mine of *Bucculatrix nigricomella* (**Daisy Tuft**) was discovered on Ox-eye Daisy at Glossop by Christian Heintzen, and Dave Evans discovered the first **Orange Underwing** of the year at Wyver Lane.



Bucculatrix nigricomella - Christian Heintzen©



Acleris logiana - Matt Leedell©

Dave Evans ran his garden light trap at Belper on 5th and recorded the first **Yellow Horned** of the year, also **Oak Beauty** and **Pale Brindled Beauty**. The **Yellow Horned** is a really special spring moth and one that is not recorded frequently.

A mild spell arrived from the 6th and this gave our local moth-ers ample opportunity to record a variety of early spring moths.

I ran my 20w Actinic Light in my Melbourne garden overnight 6th and recorded my very first **Yellow Horned** for the garden, along with 4 **March Moth**, 1 **Common Quaker** and an *Acleris cileilla/heracliana*. Clive Ashton from Cromford had **Hebrew Character** also on 6th.



Yellow Horned - Tony Davison©



Hebrew Character - Clive Ashton©

MARCH Moth News cont'd -

Brian Hallam recorded the best moth trap of 2025 so far, overnight at Findern on 6th. Recording 29 moths of 8 species, including the first **Shoulder Stripe**, **Small Quaker** and **Grey Shoulder-knot** for the year. Matt Leedell found an *Acleris hastiana* on a wall at his place of work at Pride Park, Derby on 7th. A significant record of this species, as there have been very few reported since the first one for Derbyshire in 1975. It is a very variable species with many colour forms.

Steve Orridge caught a **Red Sword-grass** and the **Satellite** from his Buxton garden light trap on 7th. The **Red Sword-grass** is a rare species in Derbyshire with only a few recorded each year. The last was in November 2024. (see species page at www.derbyshiremoths-org).



Acleris hastiana - Matt Leedell©



Shoulder Stripe - Brian Hallam©



Clouded Drab - Brian Hallam©



Grey Shoulder-knot - Brian Hallam©

Also on 7th Brian Hallam's moth trap was up and running again in Findern, recording **Oak Nycteoline**, and Brian Hobby recorded **Dark Chestnut**, **Oak Nycteoline**, **Twin-spotted Quaker** and **Red-green Carpet**, from his Kirk Langley garden moth trap, all NFY. Dave Newcombe recorded the first **Engrailed** for the year from his Belper garden on 7th. Sid Morris recorded a good species of *Caloptilia*, either *betulicola* or *elongella*, unfortunately both are CAT 4 and require detailed examination, see species page and verification guidelines at www.derbyshiremoths.org.)

MARCH Moth News cont'd -



Oak Nycteoline - Brian Hallam©



Red Sword-grass - Steve Orridge©

Stephen Moores recorded a *Zelleria hepariella* (**Brown Ash Ermine**) on 7th/8th March at Darley Bridge from his garden light trap. Fortunately he was able to obtain some reasonable photos of this little known species in the county. Also on 7th John Turner from New Mills recorded a Yellow Horned.

Good images of micro moths are so important and I would recommend a top view and a side-ways on view in most cases, in order to see all the identification criteria.

Nikki Barrow recorded a **Shoulder Stripe** also on 7th from her Shirland garden light trap, from 5 species. I ran my garden 20W Actinic in Melbourne on 7th and had a bumper count of 6 **Oak Beauty** (a record for the garden), also the first **Early Grey** of the year, from 19 moths of 10 species.

Brian Hobby recorded 49 moths of 12 species from his garden light trap at Kirk Hallam on 7th including **Oak Nycteoline**, **Clouded Drab** and **Red-green Carpet**.



Shoulder Stripe - Nikki Barrow©



Early Grey - Tony Davison©

On the 8th another **Oak Nycteoline** from Matt Leedell's garden light trap at Belper, the first **Double-striped Pug** was attracted to Sid Morris's garden light trap at Staveley, and yet another **Oak Nycteoline** from Dave Evans at Belper and a **Small Quaker**. Looks like a good spring for **Oak Nycteoline**, as another was recorded by Pete Mella from Norton Lees also on 8th.



Oak Nycteoline - Dave Evans©



Oak Nycteoline - Pete Mella©

Steve Thorpe ran his garden light trap at Breaston on 7th and had 8 moths of 6 species including a **Pale Pinion**, **Oak Nycteoline** and **Agonopterix subpropinquella**. Clive Ashton had an **Engrailed** on 9th from his light trap at Cromford.

A stunning **Double-striped Pug** from Brian Hallam's light trap at Findern on 9th.



Double-striped Pug - Brian Hallam©

On 9th John Turner at New Mills had **Yellow Horned** from 6 species, Tarnya Fisher recorded the micro *Mompha subbistrigella* from Stretton and also on 9th a **Mottled Grey** at Glossop, Christian Heintzen (iRecord).

Sid Morris conducted his last winter tunnel survey on 10th on the Monsal Trail for this year - A single **Tissue** at Headstone & 5 at Litton, 2 **Herald** and a **Mottled Grey** at Cressbrook and a **Dotted Border** at Litton.

A fine *Diurnea fagella* was recorded on a tree trunk at Markham Vale on 11th by Mark Radford. Mark also recorded the leaf mines of *Coleophora laricella* (Larch Case-bearer) and *Phyllonorycter ulicicolella* on 15th both at Markham Vale.

On 16th Brian Hobby had a good moth trap overnight at Kirk Hallam, recording 46 moths of 8 species including 22 **Common Quaker**, 10 **Hebrew Character**, 6 **Clouded Drab** and the first **Early Thorn** of the year.



Diurnea fagella - Mark Radford©



Early Thorn - Brian Hobby©

Mark Radford found lots more of the nationally scarce *Phyllonorycter ulicicollea* (**Gorse Leaf-miner**) mines on 18th at Markham Vale. Most probably grossly under-recorded.

Another mild spell of weather arrived on 19th and moth-ers took advantage, many most probably trapping for the first time this year. A wide range of early spring species were recorded, including **Red Chestnut**, **Shoulder Stripe**, **Pine Beauty** and *Diurnea fagella*. Dave Evans had 25/12 from his Belper garden moth trap on 19th, including a **Pine Beauty** and Mark Radford 11/6 from Staveley on 19th including 2 **Yellow Horned** and Clive Ashton 6/5 from Cromford, including a **Shoulder Stripe**.

Sid Morris and the Markham Vale team ran their first moth trap of the year at Markham Vale North tip on 19th, recording 185/19 species. An amazing result which included some good numbers of common species and the first **Water Carpet** for the year.

Clive Ashton recorded a really early record of **Dark Sword-grass**, overnight on 20th at Cromford. Undoubtedly a migrant and most likely the earliest ever recorded in the county.



Dark Sword-grass - Clive Ashton©



Diurnea fagella - Clive Ashton©



Shoulder Stripe - Dave Evans©



Pine Beauty - Dave Evans©

Sid Morris recorded an **Orange Underwing** in flight at Markham Vale on the morning of 20th.

I ran my 20W garden actinic trap overnight on 20th in Melbourne and recorded 37/7 with NFY an **Engrailed**, a **Small Quaker** and 5 **Oak Beauty**, which seems to be having a good year.



Engrailed - Tony Davison©

Steve Orridge stated that his Buxton garden is over 1000ft above sea level and so March is generally a quiet time for moth trapping. However he ran his garden moth trap overnight on 20th recording 5 species including 7 **Common Quaker**, an **Oak Beauty**, an ***Acleris literana*** and a likely ***Caloptilia betulicola*** which unfortunately is a CAT 4 and requires closer examination and needs to be recorded as an aggregate.



Acleris literana - Steve Orridge©



Caloptilia betulicola / elongella agg - Steve Orridge

Most traps that were running overnight on 20th were recording much of the same species, **Oak Beauty**, **Common Quaker**, **Hebrew Character** etc, but Clive Ashton had a nice **Red Chestnut** in his garden moth trap that contained the earlier mentioned **Dark Sword-grass** and Emily Milnes had a **Double-striped Pug**, **Early Thorn**, ***Caloptilia populetorum*** and an ***Acleris literana*** on 21st from her Sandiacre garden light trap. Brian Hallam recorded a **Pale Pinion** from his Findern garden light trap on 20th.



Caloptilia populetorum - Emily Milnes ©



Acleris literana - Emily Milnes©

Also on 21st Adrian Watson recorded 46/10 from 2 x20W Skinner Traps at Lea, Matlock, including 2 **Yellow Horned**, 3 **Chestnut**, 6 **Clouded Drab**, 2 **Red Chestnut**, 2 **Shoulder Stripe** and 2 **Twin-spotted Quaker**.



Yellow Horned - Adrian Watson©



Red Chestnut - Adrian Watson©

Brian Hobby ran his garden light trap for the Garden Moth Scheme (GMS) 21st in Kirk Hallam and recorded 71 moths of 15 species. **Early Thorn**(2), **Oak Nycteoline** (2), **Herald** (2) **Acleris literana**, **Satellite** and **Agonopterix alstromeriana** (**Hemlock Moth**) being the main highlights.

Dave Evans ran his Belper garden light trap on 23rd and recorded a **Water Carpet**. The first **Emperor Moth** for the recording area this year was on 24th on the moors above Glossop noted by Christian Heintzen. Dave Newcombe recorded a **Brindled Pug** from his Belper garden on 24th.

On 25th Clive Ashton ran a light trap at Cromford Moor on 25th recording some good species including the first **Early Tooth-striped** for the year, **Chestnut** (2) and **Eriocrania subpurpurella** agg.



Early Tooth-striped - Clive Ashton©



Early Tooth-striped - Clive Ashton©

Another **Pale Pinion** was discovered on the wall of an office building in Pride Park, Derby on 26th by Matt Leedell.

What is most likely to be Moth of the Month is ***Caloptilia falconipennella* (Dark Alder Stilt)** A new micro moth species for the VC57 & Derbyshire, It was attracted to a MVLight Trap on 24th March 2025 at Long Clough NR, Glossop and recorded by Christian Heintzen. A rare species and one that over winters and is on the wing in early spring.



Caloptilia falconipennella - Christian Heintzen©



Water Carpet - Dave Evans©

Mark Radford found an **Old Lady caterpillar** on 26th at Staveley on his garden gate. Also 21/9 from his overnight light trap that included a **Chestnut** and a **Twin-spot Quaker**.

Another good moth on 28th from Brian Hobby's garden moth trap at Kirk Hallam. An early **Chocolate-tip**. Extract from www.derbyshiremoths.org - **Distribution:** A resident species that is generally very rare in Derbyshire and seems to be almost totally confined to the south of the county. It has been expanding its range within the southern region since 2007. The normal flight time is April - May, with a second brood August-September. Also on 28th, Sid Morris recorded the first Muslin Moth for the year from his Staveley garden light trap.



Chocolate-tip - Brian Hobby©



Muslin Moth - Sid Morris©

Mark Radford submitted the Markham Vale South Tip numbers from their trapping session on 27th, running 160W x 2 Skinner Traps. 29 *Diurnea fagella* was a good number from 52/10, also 2 **Yellow Horned**, 2 **Water Carpet**, and an *Eriocrania* species as other highlights.

Also further **Emperor Moths** were recorded on 29th from several locations on the Derbyshire Moors. Sid Morris recording 9 males at Ramsey reservoir.

Malcolm Tait had an **Orange Underwing** at Moss Valley on 27th



Orange Underwing - Malcolm Tait©



Early Thorn - Brian Hallam©

Brian Hallam recorded **Early Thorn** from his Findern garden moth trap overnight on 29th. Overnight on 30th Will Soar ran his moth trap from his Kings Newton garden and despite the overnight temperature at 3 degrees, recorded 48/12 including, **Pale Pinion**, **Early Grey**, *Diurnea fagella*, **Early Thorn** and **Shoulder Stripe**. Mark Radford ran his garden light trap at Staveley overnight on 30th with 23/9 and a first for the year of **Powdered Quaker** and *Depressaria radiella* (Parsnip Moth).



Powdered Quaker - Mark Radford©



Depressaria radiella - Mark Radford©

Andrew-John Shervill ran his inner-city moth trap in Normanton, Derby overnight on 30th and recorded 5/3 - **Common Quaker**, **Early Thorn**(2) and **Brindled Beauty**(2).

Clive Ashton recorded an **Emperor Moth** and *Philedonides lunana* to the EMP Lure on Beeley Moor on 31st. An **Early Grey** was his only NFY from his garden moth trap in Cromford on 30th.

Several moth traps were running on 31st including mine in Melbourne and similar species were recorded, including **Clouded Drab**, **Brindled Beauty** and **Early Thorn**.



Brindled Beauty - Tony Davison©



Clouded Drab - Tony Davison©



Philedonides lunana - Clive Ashton©

Dave Evans recorded a bumper trap overnight on 30th at Darwin Forest, Matlock, with 101/23. Highlights were **Clouded Drab** (11), **Pale & Tawny Pinion**, **Engrailed**, **Early Tooth-striped**, **Chestnut**, **Pine Beauty** and **Herald**. The first of a few sessions, so watch this space for April's bulletin! **Tawny Pinion** is only recorded each year in single figures and remains a rare moth within the VC57 & Derbyshire recording area.

Bringing the month to a close, Clive Ashton had 10/5 from his Cromford garden moth trap overnight on 31st, including a Pine Beauty and Emily Milnes from her Sandiacre garden moth trap recorded 18/5 including Double-striped Pug and Early Grey



Tawny Pinion - Dave Evans©



Pale Pinion - Dave Evans©



Pine Beauty - Dave Evans©



Early Tooth-striped - Dave Evans©

Well that brings to a close the March 2025 edition of Moth News for Derbyshire. Some interesting recordings including the new micro moth species *Caloptilia falconipennella*, a great start to the new season ahead. Thanks to all the recorders who have submitted their 2024 records to iRecord, much appreciated.

Hope you are all using the new website and finding it useful? There is now a lot of information on it, and I have nearly completed species lists for all 882 micro moth species currently on the VC57 list.

Good moth-ing during April.

Tony Davison.