

MOTH NEWS FOR DERBYSHIRE©



Produced and edited by Tony Davison - www.derbyshiremoths.org

VC57

March Moth News: March moth news kicked off with a belated record of a Hummingbird Hawk-moth that was videoed by Tom Coe on 26th February 2026. The moth had accidentally found its way into his house and was eventually safely released. A very early record and possibly an overwintering individual.

1st March - Clive Ashton produced the first set of moths for March in blustery conditions with 9/6 from his Cromford garden MV light **Oak Beauty** (2); **Common Quaker** (2); **Clouded Drab**, **Pale Brindled Beauty**, **March Moth** and **Agonopterix heracliana/ciliella** (2).

2nd March - Martin Roome ran his LED's and a sheet at Chaddesden Wood recording 15/5 with the first **Twin-spotted Quaker** of the year as the main highlight. Clive Ashton recorded similar species to 1st March at Cromford, with a **Chestnut** as a highlight from his garden light trap and a **Shoulder Stripe** at Carsington water.



A nice assortment 2nd March - ©Clive Ashton



Chestnut - ©Dave Evans

3rd March - Dave Newcombe recorded a **Twin-spotted Quaker** amongst a small catch over 3hrs in his garden at Belper. I ran my 20w actinic overnight from my Melbourne garden recording just **Oak Beauty** (3), **Common Quaker** (3) and **Hebrew Character** (7) (NFY). Dave Evans recorded **Brindled Beauty**, **Chestnut**, **Twin-spotted Quaker** as his NFY species. Clive Ashton from his Cromford garden recorded overnight a **Mottled Grey**, **Twin-spotted Quaker** and **Double-striped Pug** as his highlights.

March Moth News:



Oak Beauty - ©Tony Davison



Hebrew Character - ©Tony Davison



Mottled Grey - ©Clive Ashton



Twin-spotted Quaker - ©Clive Ashton

4th March - Another good trap from Dave Evans at Belper with **Oak Nycteoline**, **Tawny Pinion** (both firsts for the year), **Grey Shoulder-knot** and **Pine Beauty** as his NFY highlights.



Oak Nycteoline - ©Dave Evans



Pine Beauty - ©Dave Evans

March Moth News:

4th March cont'd - Pete Mella at Norton Lees recorded his first **Hebrew Character**, **Twin-spotted Quaker** and **Clouded Drab** for the year, and were his highlights from 19/5. Ann Wood from Sandiacre recorded a **Dotted Border**, **Oak Beauty** and **Clouded Drab**, as her highlights. John Mills had a very nice collection from his New Mills moth trap including **Grey Shoulder-knot**, **Early Grey** (first one of the year for the county) and **Yellow Horned**.



Yellow Horned - ©John Turner



Early Grey - ©John Turner

5th March - Sid Morris reported **Orange Underwings** (11) (first for the year), flying around tops of trees in the warm sunshine at Poolsbrook CP during the afternoon of 5th. A **Grey Shoulder-knot** was found by Dave Newcombe resting on one of the bird hides at Carsington Water during the afternoon of the 5th. I ran my 20w garden moth trap at Melbourne from 18:30 - 22:30 hrs before rain and a drop in temperature. Results were *Diurnea fagella* (3); *Agonopterix heracliana/ciliella* (2); **Double-striped Pug** (2), all NFY; **Common Quaker** (10), **Oak Beauty** (1) and **March Moth** (1). Christian Heintzen recorded 44 **Yellow Horned** at Torside Res, which was quite a good count and record.

*Diurnea fagella* - ©Tony Davison*Diurnea fagella* - melanic form - ©Tony Davison

March Moth News:

5th March cont'd - The evening of the 5th was another popular night for moth trapping. Martin Roome recorded 20/7 which included **Early Grey**, **Grey Shoulder-knot** and **Oak Nycteoline**. Dave Evans from Belper recorded 21/10 with highlights of **Early Grey** and **Double-striped Pug** which were his NFY species, also a **Grey Shoulder-knot** and **Twin-spotted Quaker**. Clive Ashton from Cromford had 22/10 including a re-trap of **Mottled Grey**, Dotted Border and **Shoulder Stripe**. Christian Heintzen recorded **Mottled Grey** (10) from a trapping session at Torside.

6th March - Brian Hobby ran his trap for the Garden Moth Scheme (GMS) recording 34/5 which included **Common Quaker** (16), **Small Quaker** (8), **Early Grey** and **Twin-spotted Quaker**.



Common and Small Quaker comparison
©Brian Hobby (GMS)



Early Grey - ©Brian Hobby (GMS)

7th March - I ran my garden moth trap for a few hours this evening and managed a **Grey Shoulder-knot** (NFY), **Common Quaker** (14) and a single **Small Quaker** between 18:30 - 22:30hrs. Clive Ashton's garden light trap produced **Clouded Drab** (2), **Satellite** and **Twin-spotted Quaker**. John Turner from New Mills recorded 12/6 which included **Yellow Horned** (2). Graham Pollock from Quarndon recorded 25/4 which included a **Grey Shoulder-knot** and a **Small Quaker**.

8th March - Some good moths were recorded overnight on the 8th including the first significant moth for March. Clive Ashton was the lucky recorder when he discovered a **Lead-coloured Drab** in his moth trap., which was the first since 2021. Also other highlights from his Cromford garden light trap were **Early Grey**, **Small Quaker** and **Herald**. From his overnight trap in Staveley, Mark Radford recorded 57/13, a good result, which included a **Mottled Grey**, **Grey Shoulder-knot** (this species seems to be having a good spring so far), **Engrailed**, **Chestnut**, **Twin-spotted Quaker**, **Common Quaker** (24), **Clouded Drab** (14) and **Yellow Horned** (4). Paul Buxton at Sandiacre recorded **Tawny Pinion** as his main highlight from 40/9. Pete Mella at Norton Lees had a decent moth trap with highlights of **Grey Shoulder-knot**, **Early Grey** (4), and **Satellite**. John Turner at New Mills recorded 18/6 including **Mottled Grey** (2) and **Twin-spotted Quaker** (2). Dave Newcombe recorded the first **Brindled Pug** for the year from his Belper garden.

March Moth News:



Grey Shoulder-knot - ©Tony Davison



Satellite - ©Clive Ashton



Tawny Pinion - ©Paul Buxton



Lead-coloured Drab - ©Clive Ashton



Early Grey - ©Pete Mella



Mottled Grey - ©John Turner

March Moth News:

8th March cont'd - Martin Roome trapped at Smith's Gorse from 18:30 - 21:00 with LED's and recorded 84/12 including **Common Quaker** (29), **Double-striped Pug** (12), **Yellow Horned** (11), **Engrailed**, **Twin-spotted Quaker** and *Ypsolopha ustella* as highlights.

9th March - Matt Leedell found a **Grey Shoulder-knot** on an office building on Chequer's Road, Derby and *Diurnea fagella* on a wall at Costco, Wyvern Lane, Derby. Mark Radford discovered 19 larval cases of *Luffia lapidella* at Harland Cemetery. Dave Newcombe from his Belper garden light trap recorded 14/7 which included the first **Brindled Pug** of the year, **Grey Shoulder-knot**, **Satellite** and **Twin-spotted Quaker** as other highlights. Whilst our other Belper moth-er, Dave Evans, recorded **Red Chestnut** and **Engrailed** from his MV light. Clive Ashton at Cromford recorded 21/9 which included a **Grey Shoulder-knot**, and I ran my 20w actinic in my Melbourne garden from 18:30 - 22:45 recording NFY of **Shoulder Stripe** and **Twin-spotted Quaker**, along with a **Chestnut** and **Common Quaker** (8).



Luffia lapidella - ©Mark Radford



Common Pug - ©Ann Wood

Mark Radford had a short moth trapping session at Markham Vale from 18:30 till 20:30 producing 71 moths of 13 species. Highlights were a **Grey Shoulder-knot** (new for the site); **Yellow Horned** (3), **Shoulder Stripe**, **Twin-spotted Quaker** (2), **Small Quaker** (6), **Clouded Drab** (13) and **Oak Beauty** (5). Ann Wood from Sandiacre recorded a very early **Common Pug** amongst a few **Common Quaker** and **Small Quaker** (3).



Shoulder Stripe - ©Tony Davison



Chestnut - ©Tony Davison

March Moth News:

Twin-spotted Quaker - ©Tony Davison



Early Thorn - ©Dave Evans

9th March cont'd - Dave Evans ran his garden moth trap in Belper for a few hours recording *Diurnea fagella*, **Early Thorn** (first for the year) and **Small Quaker** as NFY. Other highlights were **Satellite**, **Engrailed** and **Red Chestnut** (first for the year). John Turner from New Mills trapped 8/6 which included **Shoulder Stripe** and **Twin-spotted Quaker**.

10th March - Well Clive Ashton had a red-letter day, first of all finding another **Lead-coloured Drab** on the door of the wildlife centre at Carsington Reservoir, followed by an early **Autumn Green Carpet** (first of the year) at Middleton. Could we have had a possible small influx of **Lead-coloured Drab** on the recent southerly winds? The species has certainly been absent in the county since 2021.



Lead-coloured Drab - ©Clive Ashton



Autumn Green Carpet - ©Clive Ashton

10th March cont'd - Another **Satellite** record at New Mills by John Turner was his first since 2022.

11th March - Clive Ashton managed to attract over *Pammene giganteana* (10) to the FUN pheromone lure at Bow Wood. Andrew John Shervill discovered the leaf mines of *Ectoedemia heringella* on Holm Oak at Derby Arboretum, stating there were hundreds of mines on the tree.

March Moth News:**Satellite** - ©John Turner***Pammene giganteana*** - ©Clive Ashton

A record that took some sorting out was from Mark Radford who discovered the larval cases of ***Narycia duplicella*** at Harland Cemetery on 9th March 2026. Four cases were found on a lichen covered brick wall, with one actively feeding. The cases sported the characteristic “fins” at the rear of the case.

***Narycia duplicella*** - ©Mark Radford***Narycia duplicella*** - ©Mark Radford***Ectoedemia heringella*** - ©Andrew-John Shervill**Yellow Horned** - ©John Turner

March Moth News:

11th March cont'd - John Turner recorded a superb **Yellow Horned**, along with **Grey Shoulder-knot**, **Clouded Drab** and **Small Quaker**.

The mild weather that we enjoyed during 8th - 11th March soon disappeared and reverted to very wet, windy and cold weather during 12th, 13th.

12th March - despite overnight temperature of 0.2°C, Brian Hobby ran his moth trap at Kirk Hallam for the GMS and recorded 36 moths of 5 species, which included an **Early Grey**, **Hebrew Character** (18) and **Common Quaker** (12)

13th March - Dave Evans recorded the first *Mompha subbistrigella* and *Endrosis sarcitrella* of the year from a lighted window and front porch in Belper.

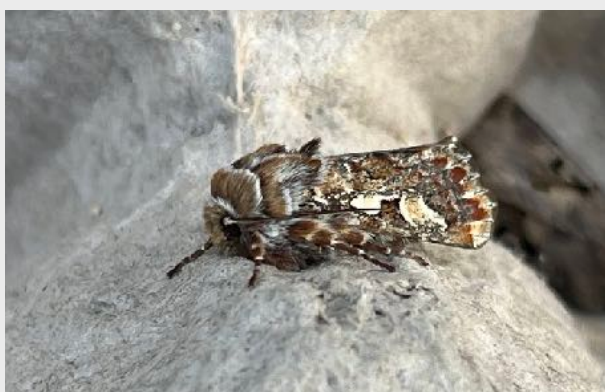


Mompha subbistrigella - ©Dave Evans



infurcitinea argentimaculella - Larval tube
©Mark Radford

14th March - Mark Radford discovered what appears to be the first records in VC57 of the larval tubes of *Infurcitinea argentimaculella* at Staveley. Three were found on lichen on a mature tree, the tubes measured around 15mm long. Graham Pollock ran his moth trap at Quarndon for the GMS and recorded his first **Pine Beauty** from 9/5.



Pine Beauty - ©Graham Pollock



Small Quaker - ©Brian Hobby

March Moth News:

16th March - Mark Radford recorded 49/8 from his Staveley garden which included a good count of 9 **Twin-spotted Quaker**, also **Early Grey** (2) and an **Oak Nycteoline**. Clive Ashton from his Cromford garden recorded 25/9 which included a **Red Chestnut** and **Brindled Pug**. He then found another **Lead-coloured Drab** at Carsington Water on a Hide Door as well as a **Water Carpet**.



Red Chestnut - ©Clive Ashton



Brindled Pug - ©Clive Ashton



Water Carpet - ©Clive Ashton



Lead-coloured Drab - ©Clive Ashton

17th March - The larvae of *Coleophora laricella* were discovered by Mark Radford feeding on Larch buds. Mark also discovered a larval cases of a *Dahlia* sp found on a Lime tree. Dave Evans from Belper recorded a super **Powdered Quaker**, **Water Carper** (both firsts for the year) and **Brindled Pug** as NFY from his garden mv light trap, also a **Pale Pinion** was a further highlight. Dave also discovered an **Orange Underwing** flying around Silver Birch at Wyver Lane NR.

18th March - I ran my 20w Actinic light from my Melbourne garden and had an astonishing count of 16 **Double-striped Pug**, **Common Quaker** (20), also **Brindled Beauty** (2), **Many-plumed Moth** and **Beautiful Plume** as NFY, along with a **Satellite** and a **Twin-spotted Quaker** from 57/12. Dave Evans recorded his biggest catch so far this year at Belper with 70/18 which included an **Early Tooth-striped** (first for the year), **Common Quaker** (33), **Pine Beauty** and *Acleris literana*.

March Moth News:

Powdered Quaker - ©Dave Evans



Early Tooth-striped - ©Dave Evans

The Markham Vale Crew deployed six traps overnight on 17th recording 219/22 including highlights of **Water Carpet** (2), **Shoulder Stripe** (7), **Twin-spotted Quaker** (4), **Common Quaker** (138), **Yellow Horned** (1), **Red Chestnut** (1), ***Pammene giganteana*** (1), ***Agonopterix ocellana*** (1) and ***Acleris cristana*** (1).

19th March - Graham Finch recorded 7 ***Pammene giganteana*** to FUN Lure at South Wood during the afternoon. Mark Radford discovered 6 larval cases of ***Diplodoma laichartingella*** (Yellow-headed Bagworm) that were attached to the trunks of Lime trees on Markham Vale South Tip.



Brindled Beauty - ©Tony Davison



Satellite - ©Tony Davison

19th March - Another early **Hummingbird Hawk-moth** found feeding on Daffodils in a Spondon garden, reported by Marion Bryce (video). Dave Evans recorded a ***Semioscopis steinkellneriana***, from his Belper garden moth trap, the first record of this tortrix in VC57 since 2010 and only a few older records. Dave Newcombe, also from Belper recorded 20/9 including **Chestnut** (3), **Satellite**, **Early Grey** (4), **Early Thorn** and **Twin-spotted Quaker**.

March Moth News:



Semioscopis steinkellneriana - ©Dave Evans



Diplodoma laichartingella - ©Mark Radford

20th March - Nikki Barrow recorded a nice collection of early spring moths from her garden light trap in Shirland. Christian Heintzen recorded 15 **Clouded Drab** during a trapping session at Glossop.



Spring Moths - ©Nikki Barrow

March Moth News:

20th March - Pete Mella recorded **Brindled Pug**, **Early Grey** and **Herald** from Norton Lees, whilst Brian Hallam had 19/5 from his Findern garden light trap which included his 2nd **Pine Beauty** in the last seven years. Clive Ashton from Middleton-by-Wirksworth had 17/8 including **Red Chestnut**, **Early Grey** and **Diurnea fagella**. From Belper, Dave Evans recorded 23/13 which included **Pale Pinion** and **Grey Shoulder-knot**.



Pine Beauty - ©Brian Hallam



Pale Pinion - ©Dave Evans

21st March - Pete Mella attracted **Pammene giganteana** to the FUN lure at Norton Lees. Using this pheromone lure is probably the best way to connect with this attractive micro moth. Mark Radford from his Staveley garden recorded 23/8 which included **Early Grey** (4), and an **Early Thorn**. Pete Mella had a **Pine Beauty** which was new for his garden at Norton Lees. Dave Evans recorded 26/13 from Belper, the majority of which were prior to 11pm. Chestnut, Brindled Pug, Pine Beauty and Small Quaker being the highlights.

22nd March - Pete Mella recorded **Pammene giganteana** again using FUN Lure this time from Graves Park, Norton. Graham Finch also attracted 5 individuals to FUN Lure at Harry's Wood, South Derbyshire.



Pammene giganteana - ©Pete Mella



Red Chestnut - ©Clive Ashton

March Moth News:

22nd March - Mark Radford discovered three larval tubes of *Infurcitinea argentimaculella* at Seymour, Markham Vale (North), found on the powder lichen, *Lepraria incana*.



Powder lichen Lepraria incana - ©Mark Radford



Infurcitinea argentimaculella - ©Mark Radford

Clive Ashton from his Cromford garden recorded 28/12 with highlights of **Red Chestnut** and **Early Thorn**. Three **Streamer** around the toilet lights at Carsington along with a **Pine Beauty**, **Engrailed** and **Shoulder Stripe** (3). Dave Evans also recorded **Streamer** and *Agonopterix alstromeriana* from his garden trap at Belper.



Streamer - ©Dave Evans



Agonopterix alstromeriana - ©Dave Evans

23rd March - Mark Radford discovered feeding signs of *Enarmonia formosana* (**Cherry bark Tortrix**) on a Cherry Tree at Foxstone Wood. Two patches of frass were seen. Also at Foxstone Mark found the leaf mines of *Coptotriche marginea* (10) and *Stigmella aurella* (200+). Sid Morris conducted his last Monsal Tunnel survey for the winter and found **Herald** (4) and **The Tissue** (4). During the last 6 months Sid has counted **Herald** (26) and **The Tissue** (34). The next survey starts in October 2026. Christian Heintzen recorded 7 **Early-tooth Striped** and 4 **Mottled Grey** from trapping session at Long Clough.

March Moth News:**23rd March cont'd**

Clive Ashton turned up one of the star moths of the month, so far, with the first record of *Semioscopis avellanella* since 2011 when one was attracted to his light trap at Bow Wood. As he states, there are likely to be small colonies in the ancient birch woodlands along the Derwent valley. The next significant moth record came from Martin Roome when he announced a **Blossom Underwing**, the 4th VC57 record, which was attracted to his mv light at Chaddesden.



Semioscopis avellanella - ©Clive Ashton



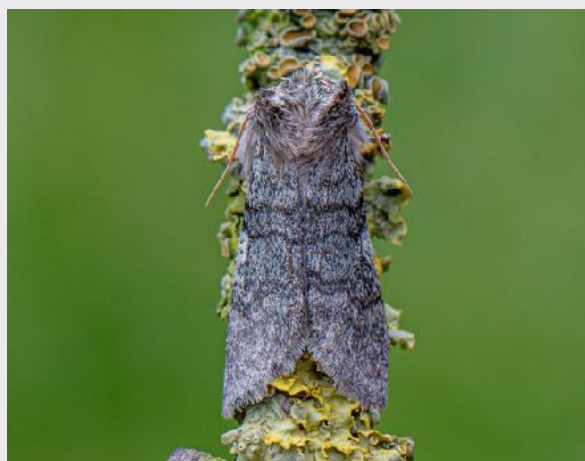
Blossom Underwing - ©Martin Roome

Dave Evans recorded the first *Dyseriocrania subpurpurella* of the year from his Belper garden moth trap from 30/14. Graham Finch reported from South Wood where he recorded 254/15 of which 125 were **Brindled Pug**. Other highlights were **Pale Pinion**, **Early Tooth-striped**, **Mottled Grey**, **Yellow Horned** and *Dyseriocrania subpurpurella*. Ian White from Inkersall recorded a **Powdered Quaker** from his garden light trap.

24th March - Mark Radford discovered the Frass of *Enarmonia formosana* (**Cherry-bark Tortrix**) at Foxstone Woods and also at Hall Lane Ponds, Markham Vale. I'm unaware of any frass of this species being recorded in Derbyshire before. Shane Harper recorded a **Yellow Horned** from North Wingfield.



Enarmonia formosana - frass - ©Mark Radford



Yellow Horned - ©Shane Harper

March Moth News:

30th March - Mark Radford discovered an active larval case of *Coleophora gryphipennella* on Dog Rose at Markham Vale South Tip. After finding the feeding damage, he located the larval case on the underside of the leaf. Mark also discovered 20 Larval cases of *Dahlica triquetrella* spread between 10 Lime trees at Markham Vale South Tip.



Coleophora gryphipennella - feeding damage
©Mark Radford



Coleophora gryphipennella - larval case
©Mark Radford

Further moths were recorded on 30th - at Cromford Clive Ashton had a **Water Carpet**, **Engrailed** and **Early Thorn** from 7/7, whilst Dave Newcombe at Belper had 7/7 including a fresh **Brindled Pug** and an **Early Grey**. Dave Evans also at Belper recorded the first **Scalloped Hook-tip** of the year, a very early one. So fresh you could see the white hairs between the scallops, which don't usually last very long.



Water Carpet - ©Clive Ashton



Scalloped Hook-tip - ©Dave Evans

31st March - A few moth traps were ran overnight, Dave Evans at Belper recorded a **Red-green Carpet** and **Angle Shades**, I returned an **Early Grey** and **Common Plume** (both NFY) and 3 **Brindled Beauty** from 7/5 in Melbourne. Martin Roome from Chaddesden recorded **Brindled Beauty** (6), **Early Grey** (3) and a **Brindled Pug** as highlights. Mark Radford from Staveley recorded a **Lead-coloured Drab** and an early **Oak-tree Pug** from his garden light trap. Ann Wood from Sandiacre recorded 6/6 including a **Herald**.

March Moth News:

31st March cont'd - Mark Radford discovered the larval case of *Coleophora paripennella* actively feeding on Knapweed at Markham Vale, Seymour, and I found evidence of feeding (frass) of *Enarmonia formosana* at Staunton Harold Reservoir, on a mature Bird Cherry tree.



Early Grey - ©Tony Davison



Brindled Beauty - ©Tony Davison



Lead-coloured Drab - ©Mark Radford



Enarmonia formosana (frass) ©Tony Davison



Coleophora paripennella - ©Mark Radford



Coleophora paripennella - ©Mark Radford

March Moth News:

Well that concludes the moth news for March 2026 and we have currently recorded 97 species so far this year (53 Macros / 44 Micros), from 1,436 records.

A huge thanks to all the recorders for getting their 2025 records in by the deadline of 31st March 2026. This has been a massive help in enabling me to make preparations in starting the 2025 Macro Moth Report.

During the year please keep an eye on your iRecord profile and try to reply to any queries that you may get. If anyone has any issues or needs any help with iRecord, please get in touch as we have several verifiers who really know their stuff with iRecord.

Good Moth-ing for the months ahead, let's hope for one or two goodies!!

Best Regards

Tony Davison

March Moth News:**Moth of the Month (March 2026)**

A tough choice this month as I was torn between two, so as one was a micro and the other a macro, I've selected both below. Well done to the finders, Clive Ashton and Martin Roome.



Semioscopis avellanella - 23rd March 2026 - ©Clive Ashton



Blossom Underwing - 23rd March 2026 - ©Martin Roome - 4th record for VC57