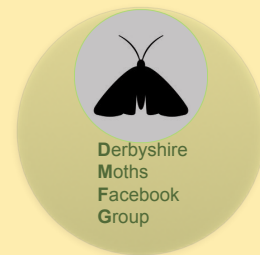


NO:2 JUNE 2023

MOTH NEWS

FOR DERBYSHIRE 2023

Derbyshire Moths Facebook Group (DMFG)



June - 2023

The month of June sees the start of three busy summer months for "moth trapping".

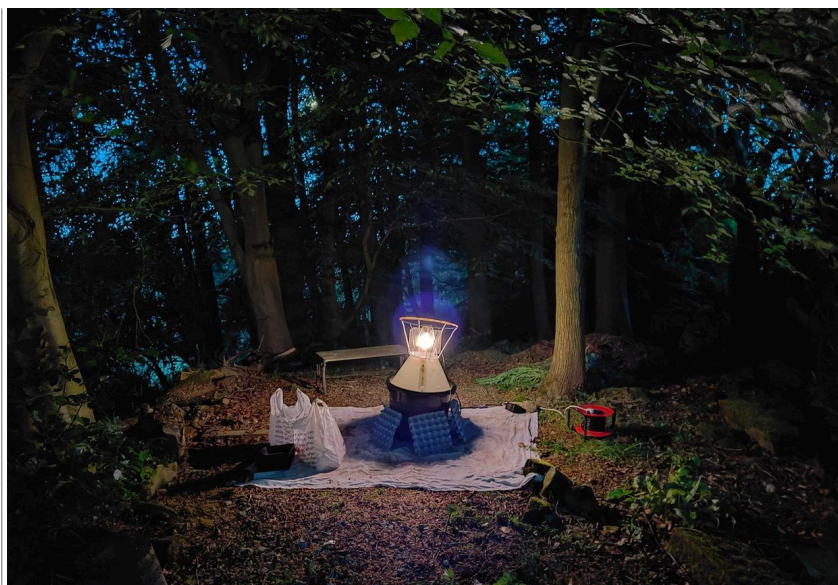
An unseasonal cold start was producing low species counts in many recorders moth traps.

However, a **Pine Hawk-moth**, trapped in a Sandiacre garden on 2nd June, (Emily Louise Milnes), was a nice start to the month. This was followed by a Pale-shouldered Brocade and the tiny micro *Mompha subbistrigella* (Garden Mompha) at Cromford on 3rd June, (Clive Ashton).

The first **Ghost Moth** was trapped at Hathersage on 2nd June by Claire Miles.



PineHawk-moth
(Emily-louise Milnes)



Moth Trap set-up at Highlees Farm

Steve Thorpe took part in a moth trapping event at Highlees Farm on 2nd June. With clear skies and a low temperature of 8.5C, meant a slightly reduced catch for the time of year. A total of 54 moths of 24 species were caught and identified, with highlights being 3 Shears, Water Carpet, Brown Silver-lines and Shoulder-striped Wainscot.

On the 3rd June, Brian Hobby trapped a superb Green Silver-lines, whilst from Adrian Watson's Littleover garden, Poplar Hawk-moth, The Lychnis and Maiden's Blush were the highlights.

On 5th June, Paul Buxton caught a Golden Plusia from his Sandiacre garden trap, and further examples of The Shears were appearing in more northern county locations. Temperatures were still on the low side by the end of first week in June.

A good selection of common garden moths were appearing by second week, including Heart & Dart, Brimstone Moth, Ruby Tiger, Dark Arches, Buff-tip, Garden Carpet, Small Magpie and Ingrailed Clay.

Early Summer Records Cont'd

On 10th June Sam Goddard had a good catch from his Fenny Bentley garden - Highlights were Elephant Hawk-moth, Peppered Moth and Scorched Wing. Also on 10th June Angie Seymour trapped a **Grey Scalloped Bar**, a species that is very locally distributed in the county. Despite large areas of suitable moorland habitat, it is rarely seen.

Emily Louise Milnes trapped Small Clouded Brindle in her Sandiacre garden. The kidney mark, always outlined in white, and more so on the outer edge, is a key ID feature.

The attractive Alder Moth was being trapped at various sites. Although a resident and widely distributed, it is not common.



Grey Scalloped Bar



Small Clouded Brindle

The air temperatures soon began to improve, and so did the number of species being trapped and recorded. Nikki Barrow had a 3 figure count of moths and at least 41 species, with highlights of Green Silver-lines, Green Oak Tortrix and Scorched Wing. Also on 11th from Cromford, Clive Ashton had a good catch, 193 moths of 62 species, which included Small Elephant Hawk-moth, The Miller, Peach Blossom, Pebble Hook-tip and Scalloped Hook-tip.



Peach Blossom

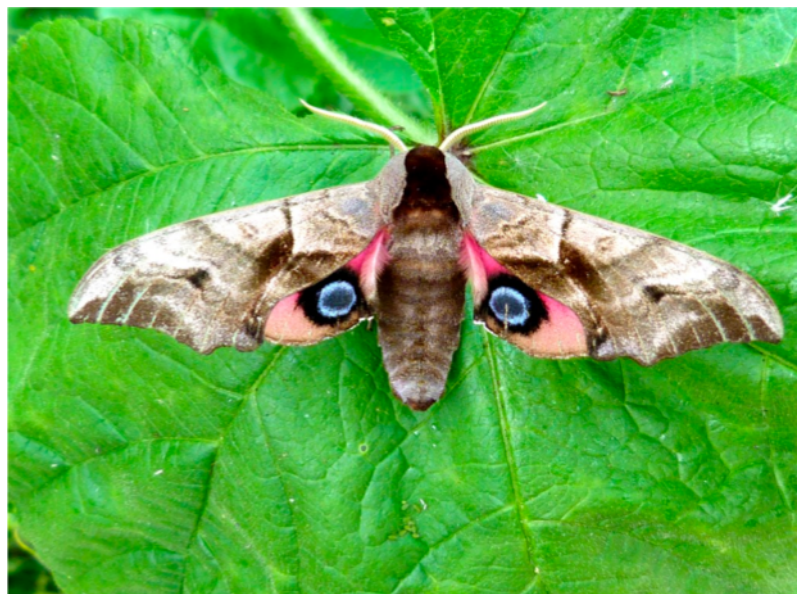


Pebble Hook-tip



Scalloped Hook-tip

Dave Evans, from his Belper garden trap, caught a stunning **Eyed Hawk-moth** on 11th June, also Elephant Hawk-moth, Alder Moth and Green Pug.



Moth recorders across Derbyshire were now recording good numbers of moths in their traps and a wide range of species.

With an obvious increase in community members, The Derbyshire Moth Facebook Group are really producing some important records for the county, with some 260 posts during June.

Early Summer records cont'd - June 2023

As the month progressed, so did the variety of species, and Rowan Wakefield recorded a superb **Dark Brocade**, a species that seems to be restricted to the northern upland areas of Derbyshire, on 11th June from Buxton, amongst 79 species.

Neil Loverock had a selection of Hawk-moths from his Chaddesden garden on 12th June, with 5 species; 1 Privet, 3 Elephant, 1 Small Elephant, 1 Lime and 1 Poplar.



Small Elephant Hawk-moth



Lime Hawk-moth

Brian Hobby recorded the first Clearwing species of the summer. A **Current Clearwing** on 12th June, and William Grange recorded a Figure of Eight in his Allestree trap.

A few more micro moths were also appearing, including *Ancylis achatana*, *Brytropa domestica*, *Pyralis farinalis*, *Scythropia crataegella*, *Hedya pruniana*, *Phycitodes binaevella*, and *Coptotriche marginea*.



Current Clearwing



Coptotriche marginea - Neil Loverock

Early Summer records cont'd - June 2023

MOTH OF THE MONTH

Well, the proverbial hit the fan on 16th June, when Sam Goddard put out a plea for help. His post was certainly eye-catching to say the least, as his photographs showed quite clearly a **Rannoch Looper**, which would be a first county record, of a species normally confined to the woodland areas of central Scotland.

It soon transpired that the recent weather systems had played a major part in the arrival of numerous immigrants of this geometrid. Over the next few days, small numbers were being trapped and recorded over a broad swathe of the country.

Incredibly Sam trapped a second individual overnight 17th/18th June 2023, again in his garden at Fenny Bentley. Another multiple record occurred in another garden in Yorkshire, so obviously there had been an extremely large influx of this species.

Two more individuals were recorded from Staveley (Sid Morris), and Belper (Dave Evans), between 20th – 25th June 2023. A similar influx took place in 2011, when there were high temperatures over western Europe, along with a moderate ENE wind, very similar to the conditions June 2023.



Rannoch Looper - 1st record for Derbyshire



Rannoch Looper - 2nd record for Derbyshire



Rannoch Looper - 3rd record for Derbyshire



Rannoch Looper - 4th record for Derbyshire

On the 16th June, from his Belper, moth trap, Dave Evans recorded Bird's Wing, Green Silver-lines, Peach Blossom and Barred Yellow as highlights. On 17th June from Peter Walley's garden trap in Mickleover, 2 **Pine Hawk-moth** and 7 Elephant Hawk-moth.

Sam Goddard's Fenny Bentley trap kept producing some good returns with 86 moths of 30 species on 17th June, including a stunning **Eyed Hawk-moth**.

17th June from Clive Ashton's moth trap in Cromford - **Beautiful Hook-tip**.

From Darley Moor on 17th June, Nadine Snowsill trapped a superb **Tawny-barred Angle**, which appeared to be of the melanic form, *nigrofulvata*.

18th June Brian Hobby trapped a smart **Blotched Emerald**, a rare resident in the county, with a restricted range.



Tawny-barred Angle - *f. nigrofulvata*

Early Summer Records Cont'd

Dave Evans turned up another surprise moth record in his garden trap at Belper on 20th June. A **Pretty Chalk Carpet**, which is only known from one breeding site in the county. Just an incredible record of such an isolated and very rare species in Derbyshire. Other highlights from this trap were **Silky Wainscot**, 15 Elephant Hawk-moth, and the micro *Metalampra italica*.

Clive Ashton trapped a **Barred Red** in Cromford on 20th June, not often recorded, and a **Beautiful Snout** on 21st June another decent moth record.

A superb Coronet from Dave Evans Belper trap on 21st June, along with a single and attractive **Leopard Moth**.



Dave Evan's superb record of Pretty Chalk Carpet

Sid Morris trapped a super Drinker Moth on 21/22nd June, and Clive Ashton trapped a Clouded Magpie in Cromford on same date.

Another Clearwing was attracted to pheromone lure at Bolsover Moor on 25th. A **Six-belted Clearwing** - Roy Frost & Mick Lacey.

Another mega rare county moth was trapped by Brian Hallam at Findern on 23rd June. Probably the second county record of **Peacock Moth**.

Claire Miles trapped **Obscure & Silky Wainscot** at Hathersage on 26th June. There are very few records of these two rare county moths.

Dan Martin trapped a White Satin Moth in Belper on 27th June.

Early Summer records cont'd - June 2023

June was turning out to be an incredible month for moth trapping in the county, and as the month closed to an end, good moths were still being recorded.

Steve Thorpe trapped another **Silky Wainscot** at Breaston on 27th June and possibly another new species for the county, this time the micro moth ***Eidophasia messingiella***, trapped by Paul Buxton at his garden in Sandiacre.

Steve Thorpe's Breaston trap was lively on 27th June with 309 moths of 76 species including, **Blackneck**, Barred Straw, **Obscure** and **Silky Wainscot**, **Round-winged Muslin**, **Toadflax Brocade**, **Yarrow Plume** and *Chilo phragmitella*. Dave Evans trapped at the Darwin Forest on 27th June and had over 100 species including **Beautiful Snout**, Large Emerald, Clouded Brindle, Purple Bar, **Red-necked Footman**, Map-winged Swift, *Pammene fascia* and *Pandemis cinnamomeana*. In Mickleover a **Small Ranunculus** was trapped by Christine Maughan. This species is now spreading across the south of the county, since it was first recorded in 2010. On 29th June Paul Buxton trapped a **Brown Scallop** in his Sandiacre garden, probably 2nd county record. Early Thorn was recorded from Mickleover on 30th June and Clive Ashton trapped a Green Arches in Cromford on the same date.

The month came to a close with another unusual record of a **Reddish Light Arches**, trapped by Emily Louise Milnes in her garden at Sandiacre. At the time it was thought to be the first modern day record of this species. Emily did some investigation, and uncovered a few more modern records, no doubt gone un-noticed, in iRecord.

Compiled by Tony Davison - from selected records and photos off the DMFG.



Brown Scallop - Paul Buxton



Peacock Moth - Brian Hallam



Eidophasia messingiella - Paul Buxton



Small Ranunculus - Christine Maughan