

NO:1 JAN - MAY 2023

# MOTH NEWS

## FOR DERBYSHIRE 2023

Derbyshire Moths Facebook Group **(DMFG)**

### Jan - Feb - 2023

The first moth of the year appeared on the 4th Jan, an *Agonopterix* species at Wyver Lane, Belper, in the bird hide. (Dave Evans).

During the rest of January, Pale Brindled Beauty and Winter Moth were reported. Sid Morris discovered The Tissue and three Heralds hibernating in the tunnel at Monsal Head.

During February the species range began to slowly increase with *Acleris hyemana*, Early Moth, and Mottled Umber at Hathersage on 4th Feb (Claire Miles). Two Chestnuts, Grey Shoulder Knot, and Dotted Border at Breaston, on 12th Feb (Steve Thorpe).

A Beautiful Plume (*Amblyptilia acanthadactyla*) at Quarndon on 12th Feb was unusual. The first Oak Beauty, Common Quaker and Clouded Drab were reported from Mickleover on 12th Feb. The first Oak Nycteoline was on 17th Feb at Breaston (Steve Thorpe) and Satellite at Hathersage on 19th Feb (Claire Miles).

By the end of February, Oak Beauty and Pale Brindled Beauty were regularly being recorded.



The Tissue at Monsal Head - January 2023

### Spring records cont'd - April - May 2023

Early April saw Shoulder Stripe, Twin-spotted Quaker and Early Grey recorded. A Varied Coronet at Darley Moor on 7th April, appeared to be the first record for 2023 (Nadine Snowhill).

Pale Pinion was trapped at Cromford (Clive Ashton), and the first Dark Swordgrass at Breaston (Steve Thorpe) on 10th April. A smart Frosted Green, a Brindled Pug, Streamer and Lesser Swallow Prominent were highlights from Dave Evans trap at Belper, on 16th April. Also on the 16th April, a Mullein and a Waved Umber at Breaston (Steve Thorpe).

The first Lunar Marbled Brown appeared at Sandiacre on 15th April (Emily Louise Milnes) and Knot Grass on 19th April at Belper (Matt Leedell), with a Red Swordgrass at Hathersage on 20th April (Claire Miles). Image below - Red Swordgrass (CM)



## Spring Records Cont'd

Sid Morris had a good count of 17 Heralds roosting in Park Hall railway tunnel at Sparkhill on 27th Feb.

The first Yellow Horned record of the year came in on 18th March at Hathersage (Claire Miles), and a Shoulder Stripe at New Mills on 18th March (John Turner). Another smart spring moth, the Orange Underwing, appeared at Bolehill Quarry near Grindleford on 22nd March (Claire Miles) and the first Pale Pinion at Hathersage on 24th March (Claire Miles).

By the end of March most of the early spring moths, such as drabs, quakers etc., were being recorded across the county.



## Spring records cont'd - April-May 2023

By the end of April, there was plenty of active moth trapping taking place across the county, and a good selection of species were appearing.

May kicked off with a number of records of Brindled Beauty and Early Grey. A Grey Birch was trapped at Cromford on 1st May (Clive Ashton). Four Emperor Moth were attracted to Pheromone Lure at Offerton Moor on 3rd May (Claire Miles).

The first hawk-moth to appear was a Lime Hawk-moth in Allestree on 5th May (Alan Johnson). A Least Black Arches and Poplar Kitten were good records from a garden trap in Sandiacre on 6th May (Emily Louise Milnes).

The "prominents" were appearing with a number of records of Pale, Pebble, Swallow and Lesser Swallow. The first Pale Tussock of the year was on 9th May in Chesterfield (Den Humphrey). A smart Clouded-bordered Brindle on 9th May in Belper (Dave Evans).



### Spring records cont'd - April-May 2023

As the month progressed, so did the variety of species, with Brimstone, Poplar Hawk-moth, Common Swift, Mullein, Bright-line Brown-eye and numerous micros being recorded.

On 11th May from Belper, a Chocolate-tip and a Chamomile Shark were caught (Dave Evans). Puss Moth made an appearance at Hathersage on 14th May (John Spencer).

A Maiden's Blush, (several trapped in May) was the first of the year at Shipley on 14th May (Karen Rue), and on 18th May Dave Evans recorded 37 moths of 26 species from his Belper garden trap, which included - Alder Kitten, Scalloped Hook-tip, Vine's Rustic and Peppered Moth.

Sam Goddard trapped a stunning Pine Hawk-moth in his garden trap at Fenny Bentley on 19th May, and Clive Ashton recorded Grass Rivulet, Pale Tussock, Mottled Pug, Pale Prominent, Foxglove Pug and Currant Pug in his garden trap at Cromford, also on 19th May.

A smart Eyed Hawk-moth at Breaston on 20th May (Steve Thorpe) and Cinnabar Moth were on the wing towards the month end.

Clive Ashton trapped the first Bird's Wing of the year on 22nd May at Cromford and the fabulous Scorched Wing and Eyed Hawk-moth were trapped at Belper on 24th May (Dave Evans).

A Nut-tree Tussock, a locally uncommon species in Derbyshire, at Darley Moor on 27th May (Nadine Snowhill). Surprise species of the month goes to Steve Orridge who trapped a Devon Carpet in his Buxton garden trap on 26/27th May.

May Highflier and Sandy Carpet put in an appearance in Cromford on 27th May (Clive Ashton) and another surprise was the 3rd county record of Light Brocade at Belper on 23rd May (Dave Evans).

May finished off with another Chocolate-tip at Cromford, a Mother Shipton at Ashbourne, Seraphim and Chinese Character at Breaston and Striped Twin-spot Carpet at Buxton on 30th May.

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

