

NO:3 AUGUST 2023

# MOTH NEWS

## FOR DERBYSHIRE 2023



Derbyshire Moths Facebook Group (DMFG)

### MOTH OF THE MONTH

Dave Evans and Steve Orridge both trapped the stunning **Dewick's Plusia** during August, and so this has to be the "Star Moth" of the month. The two specimens represent the second and third county records of this species in Derbyshire. Steve's moth was trapped at Haddon Hall on 10/11 August and Dave's moth was trapped overnight in Belper on 16/17 August. Rated as an immigrant, August is the optimum month for this diagnostic "Plusia". The species seems to be occurring in Britain with more regularity, possibly indicating it has established a breeding foothold, and maybe expanding its range.



**Dewick's Plusia** - Steve Orridge - Haddon Hall  
10/8/23



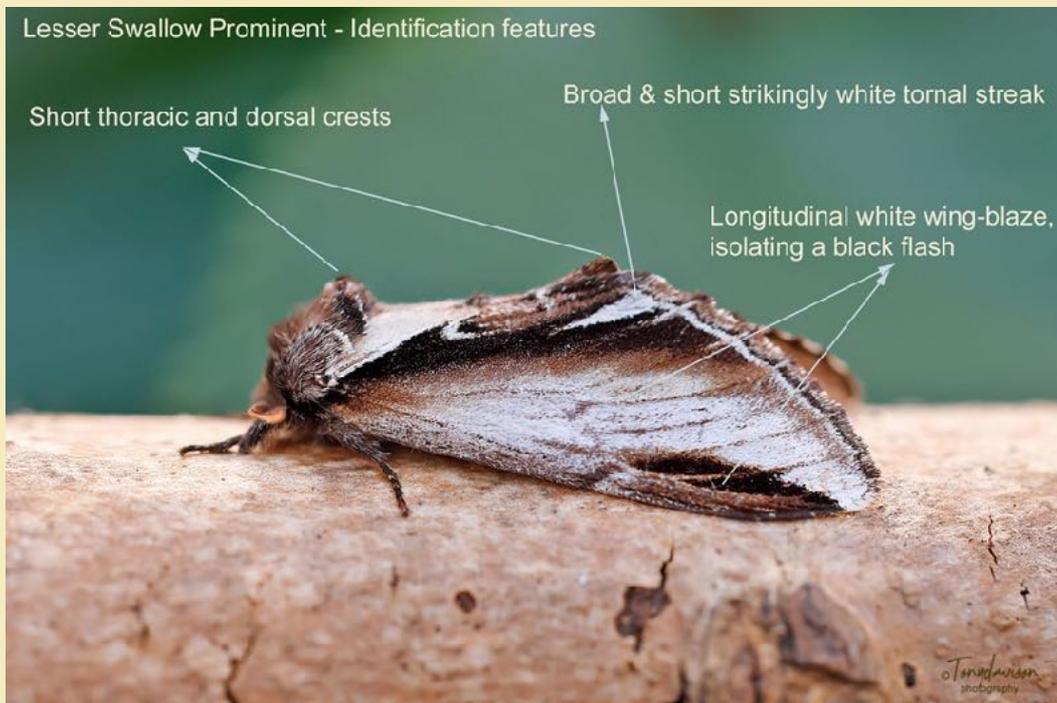
**Dewick's Plusia** - Dave Evans - Belper 17/8/23

A good supporting cast from Dave's trap were **Narrow-winged Pug, Small Rufous, Golden Plusia, The Nutmeg** and, **Black Arches**, also several micros, **Gracillaria syringella, Ypsolopha scabrella, Agriphila geniculea** and **Acleris comariana/laterana**.

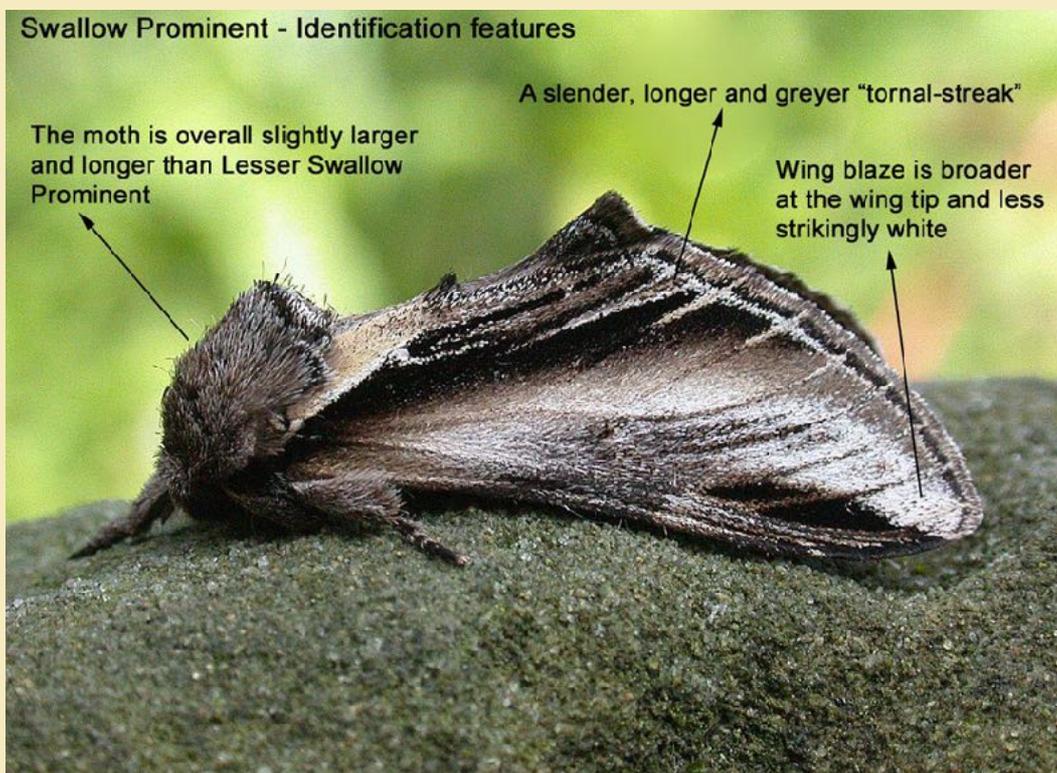
A late record posted by Giles Pease, of a **Maple Pug** to MV light at Ripley on 29/7/2023. The first record, I believe, since September 2021 of this rare county species.

### THE MOTH ID FORUM

The Moth ID Forum will become a regular feature during the year when space allows. We kick-off the first ID feature with two species that are regularly confused, and for the “newcomer” to “Nothing” can be rather tricky. Once you get your eye in, the features are quite straight forward.



### Lesser Swallow Prominent



### Swallow Prominent

**August - Late summer** - The first moth returns were posted from Fenny Bentley, Kirk Hallam and Cromford - Hight-lights from traps on 1/2nd were **Bordered Beauty, Juniper Pug, White Satin**, Straw Underwing, Pale Prominent and Purple Thorn.



**Juniper Pug** - Sam Goddard

Dave Evans made a good comment for **Juniper Pug**, pointing out the two black dashes on the veins between the small central spot and the wing apex, which is a good ID pointer for Juniper Pug.



**Bordered Beauty** - Sam Goddard

The Bordered Beauty is a species that is scarce and locally distributed in the county, with only a few reported each year.

**August - Late summer** - On the 5 August, the annual Moth & Bat night 2023 was again organised at Waingroves Community Woodland Trust by Shaun Walters. Reported to be a well attended event, with many new friendly faces turning up to support it. Steve Thorpe was running several moth traps from 2100-0115. The final tally was 154 moths of 48 species, including *Hyapatima rhomboidella*.



**The Waingroves Moth Event**

It is always pleasing to see new group members submitting their catch returns and Eleri Norris trapped at **Highcliffe, Eyam** on 1/2 August. **Scarce Footman** and Flame Carpet, being stand out highlights from 14 species, along with lots of wasps!



**Scarce Footman** - Eleri Norris

**August - Late-Summer** - The first week of August a cold spell was rather unusual for the time of year, affecting the species mix somewhat. Some traps reporting very low catch rates, but **Pale Prominent, Lime-speck Pug**, the attractive Ruby Tiger, Brimstone Moth and Spectacle were amongst the best species reported.

Sam Goddard had a **Hummingbird Hawk-moth** in his Fenny Bentley garden on 6 August, a species worthy of brightening-up any day.



**Hummingbird Hawk-moth** - Sam Goddard



**Pale Prominent** - Clive Ashton

Sid Morris had another trapping session at Markham Vale South Tip on 7th/8th. Results were 57/25, unfortunately the skies cleared and temperatures dropped, reflecting in a low count. Highlight from the report was a **Maiden's Blush**. Giles Pease recorded an **Olive** over-night from his Ripley garden trap. A species not often recorded, and one that, although is a resident in the county, appears to be getting more scarce, with majority of isolated colonies located in the Trent Valley. Weather conditions began to improve around the 10th and Dave Evans Belper trap, produced 76 species



**The Olive** - Giles Pease

over-night on 9/10, with highlights of White-spotted Pug, Dark Spectacle, another **Olive, Bulrush Wainscot**, Orange Swift, **Barred Hook-tip** and a number of micros.

Andrew-John Shervill regularly runs a trap in Normanton, Derby and had a **Dun-bar** and a Silver Y overnight on the 8th, just goes to show what can be achieved in a difficult inner-city habitat.

Sid Morris posted an image of what appeared to be a **Brown-veined Wainscot** on 10 August but no further information on when and where caught.

Anne Butler posted a **Least Carpet** from her Sandiacre moth trap overnight on 9 and also a **Yellow-barred Brindle**, 34 Large Yellow Underwing (that time of year) and a **Toadflax Pug**.



**The Olive** - Dave Evans



**Bulrush Wainscot** - Dave Evans



**Dark Spectacle** - Dave Evans



**White-spotted Pug** - Dave Evans

**August - Late summer** - Another bumper moth session from Dave Evans in Belper on 9, with a **Black Arches, Small Rufous, Bordered Pug, Oak Hook-tip Yellow-barred Brindle** and over 100 Large Yellow Underwing. He certainly seems to have the right garden and location.

Emily-Louise Milnes had a total of 302/48species in her Sandiacre trap overnight on 11, with 103 Large Yellow Underwing, also 2 **Tree Lichen Beauty**, and a **Toadflax Brocade**.



**Toadflax Brocade** - Emily-Louise Milnes



**Tree-Lichen Beauty** - Emily-Louise Milnes

On 11 Anne Butler posted a **White-pinion Spotted** attracted to MV light in her Sandiacre garden. A species that is scarce and locally distributed in the county. There are not many records of this moth, that was first recorded in Derbyshire in 1985. Nadine Snowsill from Darley Moor had a good selection including **Scarce Brindle, True Lovers Knot, Buff Footman, Oak Hook-tip** and several species of micro moths.

**August - Late summer** - The editor ran a garden moth trap, for the first time in a while, from Melbourne overnight 11/12. Result was 117/38 with highlights of a **Poplar Hawk-moth**; 2 Goldspot; two Lesser Swallow Prominent, 2 **Dusky Thorn** and **Yellow-barred Brindle**. Also same period, Clive Ashton from Cromford had 126/35 with Pebble Hook-tip; **Gold Spangle**; Old Lady, and the smart looking micro moth ***Aspilapteryx tringipennella***.

From Steve Thorpe's Breaston moth trap on 11/12 highlights were 2 **Pinion-streaked Snout**, **Sallow Kitten** and ***Epinotia immundana***.

Brian Hobby from his Kirk Hallam moth trap on 11/12 had several interesting micros including - ***Helcystogramma rufescens***, ***Oegoconia quadripuncta* (agg)** and also **Twin-spotted Wainscot**.

Sam Goddard from his Fenny Bentley moth trap recorded 110/45+ on 13/14 with **July Highflyer** **Magpie Moth** and **Dotted Clay**. (Three species with few records appearing.)

Sid Morris had **Angle-striped Sallow** in his Staveley moth trap, 14/15, and another on 15 at Markham Vale. This attractive moth seems to be getting more regularly recorded, so it is most likely that it is expanding its range within our county, from nearby principle areas for this species. It is a **Nationally Scarce B species**.

Dave Evans recorded **33 Willow Beauty** from his Belper garden moth trap on 15/16.

On 15/16 from John Turner's New Mills garden moth trap, yet another **Angle-striped Sallow**.

Charlotte Morton posted a smart looking **Small Phoenix** photo taken on 16 August, but sadly no further details of the location.



***Aspilapteryx tringipennella*** - Clive Ashton



**Poplar Hawk-moth** - Tony Davison



**Gold Spangle** - Clive Ashton



**Angle-striped Sallow** - John Turner

**On the 15 of August** I was contacted by Jim Miles, who advised me of the passing of his wife Claire Miles. This came as a complete shock to me, and to many others in the Derbyshire moth community, and even though I had never met Claire in person, she had kindly offered to join a team of volunteers who, at the time, were helping me put together a new list of Derbyshire micro moths.

Jim explained that Claire had remained in hospital until she passed away on the 14 August 2023. Sadly, before she could really get to work on the list, she advised me that she had to go into hospital and that she could no longer help out. I put out a post on the DMFG on 15 August to mark this sad occasion.

On the 15 I helped out with a moth trapping survey at **Staunton Harold Reservoir** with the National Trust. The first moth trapping done at this site for many years, so it was very interesting to see the results. I opened up the event via DMFG, but sadly no other attendees came forward. It was an ideal opportunity to participate in Field Moth Trapping, especially at a site that was bound to offer a good range of species. Highlights were **Haworth's Pug**, **Black Arches**, (A new site in Derbyshire for this species), **Orange Swift**, Poplar hawk-moth, **Alder Kitten**, **Knot Grass**, **Pale Eggar**, **Buff Footman** and **Dusky Thorn**.



**Black Arches** - Tony Davison

**August - Late summer** - Half-way through the month and Derbyshire "Moth-ers" were recording some good catches and a wide range of species, despite some dodgy weather on and off.

Dave Evans, yet again gets a bonanza trap in Belper of 262/71, with his highlight of **Dewick's Plusia** on 16/17. Anne Butler attracted Yellow-legged Clearwing to VES lure in her Sandiacre garden on the 17 August. This is quite a remarkable county record of this rare species.



**Yellow-legged Clearwing** - Anne Butler

Dan Martin recorded from his friends Barlborough moth trap on 16/17, and had four **Orange Swift**, **Swallow Prominent** and **Dusky Thorn**, as some of the highlights. On 17/18 August Dave Evans recorded **Least Yellow Underwing** from his Belper moth trap.

Emily-Louise Milnes from her Sandiacre moth trap on 19/20 recorded a **Treble-bar** and **Light Emerald**, mentioning that the morning felt rather autumnal.

On 20 Sid Morris posted the first **Sallow** from his Staveley moth trap. Certainly an autumnal flavour to the moths was

**August - Late summer** - Alan Johnson discovered what late August moth trapping can be like, when he counted **123 Large Yellow Underwing** in his Allestree garden moth trap on 19/20.

Moving into the last week of August a range of common moths were being recorded, such as Flame Shoulder, Silver Y, Brimstone Moth, The Herald, Setaceous Hebrew Character, beginning to emerge, Lesser Yellow Underwing, Riband Wave, Common Rustic, Willow Beauty, Straw Dot and Common Marble Carpet.

Steve Thorpe was trying hard to compete with Dave Evans from Belper, when he had 288/67 at his Breaston moth trap on 19/20. **The Sallow, Dark Spinach**, a rare and localised species in the county, **Tawny-barred Angle, Treble-bar, Pinion-streaked Snout** and a **Turnip Moth** were his highlights.



**Dark Spinach** - Steve Thorpe



**The Sallow - form flavescens** - Sid Morris

Sid Morris recorded the form, **flavescens**, of **The Sallow** at Markham Vale on 22. A truly stunning looking moth, and John Turner at New Mills recorded **Feathered Gothic**, Chinese Character, Small Wainscot, Yellow Shell and Mouse Moth on 22/23. Clive Ashton posted the first **Centre-barred Sallow** on 23rd from his Cromford garden moth trap, and also a **Barred Chestnut** from 23.



**Barred Chestnut** - Clive Ashton

On 25, Steve Thorpe recorded a smart **Bordered Beauty** from his Breaston garden moth trap.

Yet another **Angle-striped Sallow**, this time from Dronfield on 23 by Peter Stoppard.

On 26 Steve Thorpe ran several traps at High Leas, near Matlock, with highlights being White-point (causing some ID difficulties), Heath Rustic, Centre-barred Sallow, Purple Bar and Ear Moth.

**August - Late summer** - Christine Maughan recorded a Pearly Underwing on 27 at Mickleover. An uncommon migrant to Derbyshire, that is recorded infrequently. Dave Evans recorded a superb **Maiden's Blush** on 28/29 from his Belper garden moth trap.



**Pearly Underwing** - Christine Maughan



**Maiden's Blush** - Dave Evans

As the month came to a close, a distinct feel of both autumn moths beginning to appear, and the expectation of Sallows, Pinions, Chestnuts and Quakers, and the hint of maybe, some migrant activity forth coming in September.

Another "Bumper Edition," as August turned out to be another remarkable month for moths in Derbyshire. Some 200 posts were made during the month to the Derbyshire Moths Facebook Group. This information is really helping to get an understanding of what is happening to our county's moths.

Already we are seeing some species expanding their range and others becoming more scarce. Records are being posted from a wide range of areas across Derbyshire, and it seems to me that this is expanding as the months go by.

I can confirm that a revised Micro Moth List for Derbyshire has been completed as far as I can take it, and my thanks go out to Emily-Louise Milnes, the late Claire Miles and Clive Ashton, for their help and assistance. I'm sure there will be numerous species that will need to be added to it. Hopefully it will be a starter for ten, and something that is not currently available to us, the recorders.

It is currently being proof-read, and hopefully will be released and put out on my website and on the DMFG fairly soon.

I'm looking forward to what lies ahead in September and keep those records coming in.

*Tony Davison*