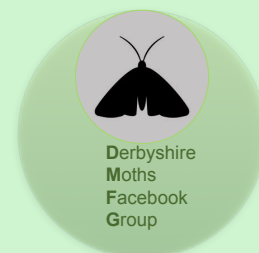


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MOTH NEWS

FOR DERBYSHIRE 2023

Derbyshire Moths Facebook Group (DMFG)



VC57

The Derbyshire Moth Highlights for the year 2023

The majority of records have been taken from the Derbyshire Moth Facebook Group (DMFG), the monthly Derbyshire Moth Bulletins and from current iRecord Moth data.

It has been an excellent year for moth recording in the county. Hundreds of records have been submitted to the DMFG, and they seem to be increasing all the time. There is no doubt that a wealth of active “Moth-ers” in the county, are producing some really encouraging records and data on the moths of Derbyshire.

January - May

A **Tissue** was found hibernating in Monsal Head Tunnel in early January, with **Oak Nycteoline** at Breaston on 17 February, and a **Red Sword-grass** at Hathersage on 20 April.

During May a **Chocolate-tip** and a **Chamomile Shark** at Belper on 11 May. A **Pine Hawkmoth** at Fenny Bentley on 19 May, and a **Bird's Wing** at Cromford on 22 May, were noteworthy. A **NUT-TREE TUSSOCK** from Darley Moor on 27 May, and a **DEVON CARPET** from Buxton on 26/27 May, were highlights of this period.

June

A record of **Grey Scalloped Bar** on 10th, from Whaley Bridge, this is a rare moorland species in Derbyshire. A **DARK BROCADE**, another scarce species in the county, was recorded from Buxton on 11th.

Undoubtedly the Moth highlight of the year was the recording of **RANNOCH LOOPER** in the county. Sam Goddard had the first county record from his Fenny Bentley garden on 16/17 & then incredibly, another on 17/18. These were followed by a further three more individuals, from Monks Dale (17th) Staveley (21st) and Belper (24th). An invasion of this species occurred in the country during mid-June, with many **Rannoch Loopers** being recorded.



Rannoch Looper - 1st county record - Sam Goddard



Rannoch Looper - 3rd county record - Tony Davison

The Derbyshire Moth Highlights for the year 2023 - June continued

A **BLOTCHED EMERALD** was recorded on 18th and probably the most bizarre record of the year was a **PRETTY CHALK CARPET** on 20th, from a Belper garden light trap. **BARRED RED** and **BEAUTIFUL SNOOT** were recorded from Cromford on 20th, both scarce county species. A **SIX-BELTED CLEARWING** was lured at Bolsover Moor on 25th. A few Derbyshire records of this rare clearwing have been submitted this year. The second county record of **PEACOCK MOTH** was recorded from Findern on 23rd. Two Wainscots were appearing with more frequency, **OBSCURE** and **SOUTHERN**. Both seem to be spreading in the county, along with **SILKY WAINSCOT**, and a small number of records were submitted of all three species. The micro *Eidophasia messingiella* (18.007) was recorded from a garden light trap in Sandiacre on 27th, and appears to be the third county record. **BROWN SCALLOP** was another good species from Sandiacre on 29th and appears to be the second county record. The month came to an end with a record of **REDDISH LIGHT ARCHES** from Emily Louise Milnes, in Sandiacre. This one, and another in June were the first records in the county for many, many years.



Pretty Chalk Carpet - Belper - Dave Evans



Beautiful Snout - Cromford - Clive Ashton



Peacock Moth - Findern - Brian Hallam



Reddish Light Arches - Sandiacre - Tony Davison

July

The micro *Endotricha flammealis* (62.077) was recorded from a garden light trap in Breaston. A small micro moth that is very rarely recorded or encountered. A **SATIN BEAUTY** was seen during the day at Fernilee Reservoir on 2nd, and at Markham Vale on 5th, a **Fen Wainscot** and the **Suspected** were recorded. **GALIUM CARPET**, from Cromford on 7th/8th, is another species that is rarely recorded, and an **OBSCURE WAINSCOT**, from Breaston, also on 7th/8th. A **SOUTHERN WAINSCOT** from Markham Vale on 18th was notable, and another **SATIN BEAUTY** from Buxton on 21st.

The Derbyshire Moth Highlights for the year 2023 - July continued.



Brown Scallop - Sandiacre - Paul Buxton



Carpatolechia alburnella - Neil Loverock

The following micros were all recorded from the same Chaddesden garden on 27 July, **Carpatolechia alburnella (35.149)** was probably a second county record, **Gelechia senticetella (35.099)** has less than 10 county records and **Bucculatrix nigricomella (14.002)** 5 previous records, Finally a **TREE LICHEN BEAUTY** on 30th from a garden light trap in Sandiacre.



Gelechia senticetella - Chaddesden - Neil Loverock



Bucculatrix nigricomella - Chaddesden - Neil Loverock

August

The second new macro moth species for the county, during the year, was a **DARK CRIMSON UNDERWING** at Shirland on 10th. Eight records of **DEWICK'S PLUSIA** were also recorded during August and September, an unprecedented number for Derbyshire, especially as it was only first recorded in the county in 2022.



Dark Crimson Underwing - Shirland - Nikki Barrow



Dark Crimson Underwing - Shirland - Nikki Barrow

The Derbyshire Moth Highlights for the year 2023 - August continued.

MAPLE PUG from Ripley on 29th was the first record since 2021. The **Olive** is another scarce species with only two reports being received, and seven more **TREE LICHEN BEAUTY** from Sandiacre on 11th. Small numbers of **Angle-striped Sallow** were noted, probably indicating that this species is beginning to spread across Derbyshire. A **Pearly Underwing**, probably a migrant, was recorded at Mickleover on 27th.



Dewick's Plusia - Belper - Dave Evans



Tree Lichen Beauty - Sandiacre - Emily Louise Milnes

September

The **White-point** seems to be another species that is spreading in the county, with six individuals being recorded this year. Another migrant, the **VESTAL**, was noted at Buxton on 5th. It's probably been the best year ever for **CLIFDEN NONPAREIL** in Derbyshire, with an unprecedented six during September and a further two in October. **Dark Sword-grass** and **CYPRESS PUG** were recorded at Sandiacre on 9th, with another **CYPRESS PUG** at Cromford on 11th. Two records of **CONVOLVULUS HAWKMOTH** were from Melbourne, a dead specimen found on a road, and one from a Primary School in Matlock. With another **Pearly Underwing**, three **SCARCE BORDERED STRAW**, the second and third county record of **DELICATE, RUSTY DOT PEARL**, and a **PALPITA VITREALIS**, Derbyshire certainly seems to have had its fair share of migrants for an inland county. **Autumn Green Carpet** was recorded from Cromford on 28th.



Clifden Nonpareil - Clive Ashton



Clifden Nonpareil - Nikki Barrow

The Derbyshire Moth Highlights for the year 2023 - continued.



Scarce Bordered Straw - Martin Roome



Delicate - 3rd county record - Steve Orridge



Vestal - Steve Orridge



Convolvulus Hawkmoth - Simon Roddis



Rusty Dot Pearl - Emily Louise Milnes



Pearly Underwing - Christime Maughan

The Derbyshire Moth Highlights for the year 2023 - continued.

There are three wainscot species that are now spreading across the county and getting recorded with more regularity. These are **Obscure Wainscot**, **Silky Wainscot** and **Southern Wainscot**.



Obscure Wainscot - The late Claire Miles



Silky Wainscot - The late Claire Miles



Southern Wainscot - Sid Morris



Silky Wainscot - Steve Thorpe

During 2023 there were 14 records from 3 sites of **Southern Wainscot**, all down the eastern side of the county. **Obscure Wainscot**, there were 7 records from 3 sites and **Silky Wainscot** 17 records from 7 sites, with 4 sites all down the eastern side of the county. The stronghold for all three species appears to be an area around Breaston and Long Eaton, with Steve Thorpe submitting the majority of records of all three species. **All data has come from iRecord**. The late Claire Miles light trapped **Obscure** and **Silky** from her Hathersage garden during 2023, two very odd ball records, possibly indicating wanderers or migrants?

The Derbyshire Moth Highlights for the year 2023 - continued.

October

On the 1st a **PAUPER (FLETCHER'S) PUG** was noted from Cromford along with another **Autumn Green Carpet** on 7th. The **Streak** was recorded on 8th/9th from a garden light trap at Darley Moor, and the stunning **Merveille du Jour** was recorded in good numbers across the county during the month.



Pauper (Fletcher's) Pug - Clive Ashton



Exapate congelatella - John Turner

November

A moth that is occasionally encountered in the county, **Exapate congelatella (49.043)**, was recorded from New Mills on 12th. A very early **Pale Brindled Beauty** was the only other noteworthy species, and was recorded by Sam Goddard from his Fenny Bentley garden on 22nd. With good numbers of **December Moth** being trapped across the county, November was a quiet month.

December

A real mixed bag of wintery weather, including Storm Gerrit, put paid to the hopes of many county moth-ers from trapping something good at the end of the year.

Just over 700 species have been recorded in the county so far this year. The statistics have been put together by Steve Thorpe and he has gathered these from the many records posted to the DMFG and from thousands of records that have been processed and verified through iRecord, in the last couple of months. The county now has over 40,000 Derbyshire Moth Records currently on iRecord.

Recently Steve and myself have had conversations with DANES and DWT about the county moth recorder position, and we hope to bring you all some definitive guidance in the new year.

In the meantime, we would encourage you all to enter your 2023 moth records to either:-
iRecord (<https://irecord.org.uk/> or the
NMRS (National Moth Recording Scheme Online (<https://mothrecording.org/>))