

NO:12 APRIL 2024

## MOTH NEWS

FOR DERBYSHIRE - 2024

Derbyshire Moths Facebook Group (DMFG)



VC57

**APRIL Moth News** - From the DMFG pages.

*Throughout this bulletin and future bulletins, English names for micro-moths will be as per the second edition of, **A Field Guide to the Micro-moths of Great Britain and Ireland** by Sterling, Parsons & Lewington.*

The first piece of Derbyshire moth news for the April Bulletin refers to the discovery of yet another mega species whilst verifying a county recorder's moth records. Eagle-eyed Jane Hewitt, one of the new Recording Team members, spotted Dave Evans' record of a **Treble Brown Spot** that he trapped at Darwin Forest near Matlock on 27 June 2023, and either another or most probably a re-catch, on 26 July 2023. These are the first records of this species in Derbyshire since 1980.



**Treble Brown Spot** - Dave Evans

Another friendly reminder to all our county moth recorders to please ensure your 2023 moth records are submitted to iRecord by end of May 2024. Alternatively, please contact myself or Steve Thorpe if you prefer to send them in via another means. Many thanks to those of you who have already completed this task. As a matter of interest, we are not far short of 100,000 records of Derbyshire moths on iRecord, an incredible achievement in such a short space of time.

### April Moth News - continued.

The month of April began with some relatively mild weather from North Africa, but there was a continuous strong wind from time to time, and numerous rain showers which hampered some good opportunities for moth trapping. Nevertheless our intrepid county moth-ers found some good species in their moth traps.

The first change in species occurred on 1st April when Dave Evan's recorded a **Purple Thorn** and **The Streamer** from his Belper garden light trap on 1 April.



**The Streamer** - Dave Evans©



**Purple Thorn** - Dave Evans©

On 3 April Brian Hobby from Kirk Hallam recorded a **Mullein**, the first of the year and a moth that is not often recorded in the county. Steve Thorpe recorded a **Lunar Marbled Brown**, from his Breaston garden light trap on 4 April. A first for his garden and one he had been hoping for since first starting moth trapping in 2009. Seems to be a good year in Derbyshire for this species.



**Mullein** - Brian Hobby©



**Lunar Marbled Brown** - Steve Thorpe©

### April Moth News - continued.

Friday 5 April Emily Louise Milnes discovered what she thought was a **Currant Clearwing** caterpillar from a snapped-off piece of White Currant bush in her garden. She plans to grow it on and hopefully report later on the results.

A number of county moth traps were recording **Brindled Beauty**, **Early Grey**, **Common Quaker**, **Small Quaker**, **Hebrew Character** and **Clouded Drab**. These species will soon begin to drop off until next year. Eleri Norris recorded a **Water Carpet** on 5 April and Tony Davison recorded his first **Grey Shoulder-knot** from his Melbourne garden light trap 5 April, along with a very small and pale looking **Brindled Beauty**.



**Brindled Beauty** - Tony Davison©



**Grey Shoulder-knot** - Tony Davison©

On 5 April Brian Hobby from Kirk Hallam had another, or possibly a re-catch, **Mullein**, along with 2 **Tawny Pinion**, **Beautiful Plume**, **Oak Nycteoline**, **Brindled Beauty** as other highlights from 24/9. The 5 April seemed to be a very popular night for moth trapping. Clive Ashton from Cromford recorded a superb example of **Pine Beauty**, along with a **Yellow-barred Brindle** and **Brindled Pug**, as other highlights from 27/15.



**Pine Beauty** - Clive Ashton©



**Yellow-barred Brindled** - Clive Ashton©

### April Moth News - continued.

Christine Maughan reported from Mickleover on her garden moth trap from 5 April, recording the first **Powdered Quaker** of the year. Other highlights were a **Streamer**, **Yellow-barred Brindle** and **EarlyThorn**. Overnight on the 7 April, John Turner from New Mills recorded the first **Mottled Grey** of the year from his garden light trap, and he ran another light trap on 8 April and recorded a **Pine Beauty**, best from 19/9.



**Powdered Quaker** - Christine Maughan©



**Mottled Grey** - John Turner©

Martin Roome from his Chaddesden garden light trap on 8 April caught a fine example of the **Lunar Marbled Brown**, the best from 7/6. Also on 8 April, Steve Thorpe recorded the first **Muslin Moth** for the year from his garden light trap at Breaston.



**Lunar Marbled Brown** - Martin Roome©



**Muslin Moth** - Steve Thorpe©

The first decent moth for April was a **Dotted Chestnut**, which appeared in Martin Roome's moth trap, overnight at Spring Wood on 10 April. The first record for Derbyshire, but unfortunately not for the VC57, as Spring Wood falls in the VC for Leicestershire & Rutland. Martin kindly contacted me and I was able to take some images of this very attractive species. I'm sure there will be others, as the species seems to be expanding its range in our county from Leicestershire. Martin also had a **Satellite**, 11 **Lunar Marbled Brown** and numerous **Common Spring Jewel**.

Steve Thorpe recorded a few decent species overnight on 11 April from his garden moth trap in Breaston. **Streamer**, **Mullein**, **Dark-barred Twin-spot Carpet**, **Yellow-barred Brindle** and **Spruce Carpet**.

## April Moth News - continued.



**Dotted Chestnut** - Tony Davison©

Dave Evans recorded a **Scorched Carpet**, the second record for his garden in Belper and the earliest, also **Lunar Marbled Brown**, **Powdered Quaker** and a **Water Carpet**.



**Scorched Carpet** - Dave Evans©



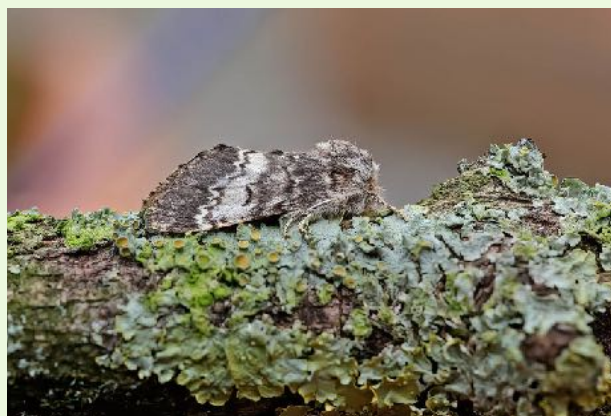
**Mullein** - Steve Thorpe©

The first **Waved Umber** of the year was recorded by Emily- Louise Milnes on 11 April from Sandiacre and also on 11 April Sid Morris recorded the first **Iron Prominent** and **Lesser Swallow Prominent** of the year at Markham Vale.

**Lunar Marbled Brown** has certainly featured well this year from a wide range of locations. Tony Davison recorded only his second ever on 11th April from his Melbourne garden moth trap. It is a very attractive species.



**Satellite** - Tony Davison©



**Lunar Marbled Brown** - Tony Davison©

### April Moth News - continued.

Christine Maughan recorded the first **Angle Shades** of the year on 11 April from her Mickleover garden and Paul Buxton had a **Chamomile Shark** on 12 April from his Sandiacre garden. Steve Thorpe's annotated markings on Paul's photograph, clearly show the lines extending into the wing fringes.



**Chamomile Shark** - Paul Buxton©

Don Cambridge recorded the first **Early Tooth-striped** at Inkersall, Staveley on 12 April. Also on 12 April Martin Roome recorded the first Swallow Prominent for the year from his Chaddesden garden moth trap.

It was then fairly quiet with more of the same species until Brian Hallam recorded another Mullein from his Findern garden light trap on 22 April, and an unseasonal Silver Y on 23 April by Brian Hobby at Kirk Hallam.



**Silver Y** - Brian Hobby©



**Swallow Prominent** - Martin Roome©

The 100th species for the year turned up on 30 April when **Small Phoenix** was discovered, along with 3 **Flame Shoulder**, 4 **Green Carpet**, **Knot Grass**, **Chocolate-tip** and a **V-Pug**. All new species for the year from Sid Morris and team at Hall Lane ponds, Staveley.

**April Moth News - continued.**

Dave Evans overnight light trap on 30 April from his Belper garden produced more new species for the year. Highlights being a superb **Puss Moth**, a **Mullein**, **Rustic Shoulder-knot**, **Shuttle-shaped Dart**, **Waved Umber** and **Scalloped Hazel**..

Nikki Barrow ran an overnight light trap from her Shirland garden on 30 April and recorded highlights of a **Swallow Prominent**, a **Chocolate-tip** and a **Muslin Moth**.



**Chocolate-tip** - Nikki Barrow©



**Puss Moth** - Dave Evans©

Emily Louise Milnes from Sandiacre recorded the first **Orange Footman** for the year from her garden light trap on 30 April. The end of the month was beginning to turn-up some good species at long last.

Finally, the following new species for the year came from John Turner at New Mills who had a **White-pinion Spotted**, and from Adrian Watson had the first **Brimstone Moth** from Littleover.

The month closed on 117 species so far for 2024.

So there we have April's moth news, hope you enjoy the read. Good "Mothing".

*Tony Davison.*

