

# Mothing in Montgomeryshire - 2013 - Annual Report

## The Mothing Year

Following the wet and dull conditions of 2012, 2013 was a much better year for mothing. After a slow start, when the general conditions were quite cold, things picked up very quickly and this was indeed reflected by the number of new county records we've added to our data base. In all, we had 44 new species (39 micros and 5 macros) which was another record year, just beating the 2012 total of 43 new county records.

## **New Species recorded were:-**

**May:** Scarce Tissue, *Cosmiotes consortella*, *Agonopterix purpurea*

**June:** *Euleioptilus tephrodactyla*, *Elachista gangabella*, *Monochroa tenebrella*

**July:** White Satin Moth, *Adela croesella*, *Scythropia crataegella*, *Hedya ochroleucana*, *Gypsonoma oppressana*, *Pempeliella dilutella*, *Paraswammerdamia albicapitella*, *Zeiraphera isertana*, *Donacaula forficella*, *Phlyctaenia perlucidalis*, *Argyresthia glaucinella*, *Elachista kilmunella*, *Syncopacma larseniella*, *Apotomis capreana*, *Phycitodes*



Gypsv Moth

*saxicola*, *Marasmarcha lunaedactyla*, *Acrobasis consociella*, *Oegoconia quadripuncta*

**August:** Crescent Dart, *Elachista maculicerusella*, *Lobesia abscisana*, *Caloptilia semifascia*, *Phyllonorycter strigulatella*, *Phyllonorycter salicicolella*, *Swammerdamia pyrella*, *Stigmella ulmivora*

**September:** Gypsy Moth, *Stigmella splendidissimella*, *Phyllonorycter schreberella*, *Ectoedemia argyropeza*

**October:** Feathered Ranunculus, *Ypsolopha sylvella*, *Phyllonorycter cerasicolella*, *Stigmella alnetella*, *Stigmella oxyacanthella*, *Tischeria dodonaea*, *Phyllonorycter acerifoliella*

**November:** *Stigmella hemargyrella*

## Other notable species recorded during the year

Apart from the new county records listed above, here is a list of other species recorded during 2013 which are worthy of a mention.

**June:** *Grapholita internana* – the only other record in the data base is from 1930.

**July:** *Batia lambdella* – last recorded in 1987, which is the only other record.



White-line Dart

*Pempelia palumbella* – last seen in 1998, this is the second county record.

*Stenoptilia pterodactyla* - first and only record since 1975.

*Acleris bergmanniana* – only the second record for the county, last seen in 1962.

*Athrips mouffetella* – this is only the fourth record for the county, the other three records came from the same site in the mid sixties. It is the most recent record for north Wales.

**August:** *Stigmella ruficapitella* – just the fourth record in the county, last recorded in 1990.



White Satin Moth



Batia Lambdella

**September:** White-line Dart – this species was recorded in 2009 and 2010, but the identity of this species only became clear this year.

**October:** *Heliozela hammoniella* – only the fourth county record, last seen in 1990.

*Bohemannia pulverosella* – this is only the second county record, last record was in 1980.

*Phyllonorycter sorbi* – third county record, last recorded in 1990.

## End of Year Statistics

Here is a summary of the end of year statistics; Once again I have separated the macro from the micro moths so that you get a better overview of how both groups are doing.

- During 2013, we added 17,304 macro records to our database, compared with 14,298 for 2012 which is nicely up on the year and 4,380 micro records were added to the database, which, compared to 2012 with 2,766 records, is a massive increase – well done to all of you for putting in an extra effort on recording the micros. We now have 138,902 macro records and 22,338 micro records giving us a total of 161,240 records in our database.
- Total number of species now held in our database is 517 macros and 570 micros, giving us a total of 1,087 species recorded in the county. With a fair wind behind us I'm sure that 2014 will see us pass through the 1,100 mark.
- Total species recorded in 2013 was 435 macros and 403 micros, giving a grand total of 838 species for the year, an excellent total.

The two charts below show the top five most numerous records for the year. It is interesting to note that whereas in 2012 there was a strong emphasis on spring flying macro species, last year none are showing in the top five, suggesting that normal weather conditions returned last year after the abnormal conditions of 2012, giving us a more even spread of records throughout the whole year. Once again the micros were dominated by the Pyralid species.

**Please note** - In all the following charts the figures in parenthesis show last year's rank and records totals and the dash shows the species was not in last year's top five.

Rank	Log No.	Macro Species	Records	Rank	Log No.	Micro Species	Records
1 (2)	1906	Brimstone Moth	273 (239)	1 (5)	1405	Pleuroptya ruralis	125 (62)
2 (-)	2102	Flame Shoulder	271 (-)	2 (-)	1305	Agriphila tristella	116 (-)
3 (3)	1764	Common Marbled Carpet	268 (201)	3 (4)	1304	Agriphila straminella	112 (67)
4 (4)	2107	Large Yellow Underwing	254 (197)	4 (2)	1338	Dipleurina lacustrata	111 (81)
5 (-)	1759	Small Phoenix	215 (-)	5 (1)	1076	Celypha lacunana	106 (82)

The two charts below show the top five species by the quantities trapped. As expected in a 'normal' year the Large Yellow Underwing has regained top spot for the macros and *Pleuroptya ruralis* (Mother of Pearl) is well out in front for the micros.

Rank	Log No.	Macro Species	Counts	Rank	Log No.	Micro Species	Counts
1 (2)	2107	Large Yellow Underwing	2835 (2123)	1 (-)	1405	Pleuroptya ruralis	1031 (-)
2 (-)	2050	Common Footman	1659 (-)	2 (1)	1304	Scoparia ambigualis	631 (379)
3 (4)	2044	Dingy Footman	1448 (1104)	3 (5)	1305	Agriphila tristella	576 (187)
4 (-)	1764	Common Marbled Carpet	1358 (-)	4 (-)	1390	Udea prunalis	337 (-)
5 (-)	1759	Small Phoenix	1200 (-)	5 (3)	424	Yponomeuta evonymella	318 (206)

The last two charts show the top five all time records in our data base, which includes the 2013 records. The only change from 2012 in the macros is that the ranking of the Brimstone Moth and the Flame Shoulder has switched. The micros stay the same.

Rank	Log No.	Macro Species	All records	Rank	Log No.	Micro Species	All records
1 (1)	2107	Large Yellow Underwing	2150 (1894)	1 (1)	1334	Scoparia ambigualis	775 (716)
2 (2)	2102	Flame Shoulder	1980 (1708)	2 (2)	1405	Pleuroptya ruralis	699 (576)
3 (4)	1906	Brimstone Moth	1841 (1567)	3 (3)	1305	Agriphila tristella	674 (560)
4 (3)	1906	Hebrew Character	1807 (1677)	4 (4)	1338	Dipleurina lacustrata	617 (509)
5 (5)	1764	Common Marbled Carpet	1767 (1499)	5 (5)	1304	Agriphila straminella	600 (492)

## **The Moth Group – MMG**

During 2013 we held 8 events throughout the county all of which were well attended.

Full reports for 2013 can be seen on the events page of the web site, but here are some of the year's highlights:-

Our first event of the year was supposed to have been at Lake Vyrnwy, but due to really unseasonal weather with deep lying snow, the event had to be cancelled (not a good start to the year).

The Pont Llogel event in April got us up and running, but the weather was cold and we only recorded 20 species.



One of the many ponds at the Tyddyn Dduddwr Event

The May event was hosted by Rod Aspinwall at his very picturesque home Tyddyn Dduddwr and the trapping picked up a little from the previous month with 32 species recorded.

CAT hosted our May event, which was very well attended with 30 people, but the species were once again at a low level due to the rather cool weather.

The July event was a joint event with MTW (who were bat recording) at Dolforwyn Woods. Unfortunately I was unwell for this event so Douglas Boyes and Peter Bent took over the reigns for the evening, it was a hugely successful evening with 19 people turning out and they weren't disappointed as they witnessed a massive 107 species being recorded.

The August event was again a joint event, this time with Shropshire Wildlife Trust (SWT) who were also moth trapping. Again, it was an excellent evening with 19 enthusiastic people witnessing a huge 120 species recorded.

The Hafren Forest event in September saw another cold night with only 23 species being recorded.

The last event of 2013 was at one of our 'Blue Riband' reserves, Cors Dyfi. It was the best attended event of the year with 33 people turning out. The highlight of the evening was the first county record of a Feathered Ranunculus. In all we recorded 51 species, which is a great total for an October event.

Thank you to everyone who came along to any event and helped with setting up and taking down kit, which can be an arduous job especially in wet weather; to those who brought along cake and other goodies (very important) which kept us all going, and lastly, to all those members of the public who attended any event, as we always hope to encourage more interest in moths and nothing.

This year we will once again be holding a full programme of events, which has been published on the events page of the website. Please come along and support us wherever you can.

## **Moth Night prize**

It came as great surprise to learn that the MMG had won a prize for 'Moth Night' 2012. The prize was for the most species recorded on one night at a public event, which in our case was for the event we held on Saturday June 23rd at Llanymynech Rocks, where we recorded 87 species. We won a voucher worth £100 which was sponsored by Bioquip. Unfortunately, sometime after the 'Moth Night' event, Bioquip ceased trading, but Paul Hill, the owner, said he would honor the prize. However, by then, much of his stock had already been sold off so we had very little to choose from so, I settled on four spare 125mv bulbs for the traps worth £40 and a £60 book token to be redeemed at Atropos Books, which can be spent on a reference book when next we need one.

## **Easy Fundraising**

During 2013 funds steadily trickled in (after the initial pot was built up very quickly) and these will be put towards ongoing expenses such as web site costs, reference books and trapping kit costs. Funds raised so far stand at just over £200.

Expenditure during 2013 was:-

CWCS – web charges.....	£34.04
New Lepidoptera check list from the Field Studies Council.....	£28.82
Total.....	£62.86

Cash in the bank.....	£44.09
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Once again I would like to say thank you to all those who have helped to put some funds in our kitty during the last year. To all those who haven't yet used 'Easy Fundraising', but use the web to do their shopping, please do so, as it costs you nothing extra to go through 'Easy Fundraising' and you may be able to purchase your goods even cheaper with offered deals – every little bit raised helps to pay with our ongoing costs. A link to access 'Easy Fundraising' is at the bottom of the 'home page' of our web site. Go on, give it a try, you've got nothing to lose.

### **The Website**

The website continues to have an increased usage. In 2013, it (excluding the blog) received 778 average monthly visits, up from 689 average monthly visits in 2012. In July there were 1381 visits, which was the busiest month ever.

Throughout the year many of you have continued to send in photos for the website which help build the widest possible photo gallery and help us id our Montgomeryshire species, but, we are still short of some photos, so please keep them coming in. Also, don't forget we are always trying to get the best quality photos, so if you've taken a particularly good detailed one, please send it in even if it's already represented, as it may well go alongside, or even replace, an existing photo.

### **In Conclusion**

I would like to once again say a big thank you to Mike Haigh for all his hard work during the year with the website and for maintaining our database. Also, to Douglas Boyes for his efforts in maintaining the Stop Press and the Blog, and for his ongoing enthusiasm in helping out with all our events. Lastly, to all you moth-ers out there, for using the MMG facilities, when all said and done, that's what makes it work! I hope you all have great mothing year in 2014.

Peter.