

Mothing in Montgomeryshire – 2024 Annual Report

New Species Recorded in Montgomeryshire During 2024

In general, 2024 was quite a poor year for moths, with many recorders getting low numbers in their traps, or out doing field work. The species count and quantities were also down across the whole of the UK. However, conversely 2024 was a much better year than last year for New County Records (NCR's), with three macro and six micro species added to our county lists, so the year wasn't a total washout!

The details of the 6 new micro species recorded are: Old bf log number in brackets: -

17.013 (0463) *Ypsolopha vittella*, 11/08/2024 at Llandyssil recorded by MEG. This is a local species found feeding on elm and beech in woodland throughout much of the UK. It is an NCR for Montgomeryshire and also only the seventh record for north Wales.



YPSOLOPHA VITTELLA 1

38.045 (0629) *Elachista utonella*, 26/06/2024 at Cemmaes recorded by SAL. This sedge mining species, found local across the UK is an NCR for Montgomeryshire and also the first record for north Wales. Gen det carried out by ANG.



ELACHISTA UTONELLA 1

28.024 (0656) *Tachystola acroxantha*, 21/09/2024 at Newtown recorded by PMG. This species (thought to have originated from Australia) has been slowly advancing through the southern half of the UK and it was only a matter of time before it reached Montgomeryshire.



TACHYSTOLA ACROXANTHA 1

35.161 (0755) *Stenolechia gemmella*, 26/08/2024 at Guilsfield recorded by SOS. A very good record for North Wales (only 12 previously) and a first for Montgomeryshire.



STENOLECHIA GEMMELLA 1

63.054 (1409a) *Cydalima perspectalis*, 30/07/2024 recorded by PMG. Well, its finally arrived in Montgomeryshire, *Cydalima perspectalis* the Box-tree moth, and generally regarded pest species, was accidentally introduced to the UK, originating from south-east Asia. The larvae feed on various species of box *Buxus* spp. The moth was spotted at Llanymynech in the far north-east of the county.



CYDALIMA PERSPECTALIS 1

62.057 (1485) *Phycitodes maritima*, 09/07/2024 recorded by SAL. A local species in the UK, recorded at Cemmaes Road in the far west of the county. Gen det carried out by ANG.



PHYCITODES MARITIMA 1

The details of the 3 new macro species recorded are: Old bf log number in brackets: -

70.012 (1711) Treble Brown Spot *Idea trigeminata*, 25/06/2024 recorded by MEG. This species is slowly spreading from the south-east of Britain, it is only the 9th record for North Wales.



TREBLE BROWN SPOT - IDEA TRIGEMINATA 1

73.330 (2102a) Radford's Flame shoulder *Ochropleura leucogaster*, 24/10/2024 recorded by SS. A migrant species recorded from many parts of the UK during an influx from the near continent in late October 2024. This moth was recorded in the north of Montgomeryshire.



RADFORD'S FLAME SHOULDER - OCHROPLEURA LEUCOGASTER 1

73.104 (2392a) Porter's Rustic *Athetis hospes*, 07/09/2024 recorded by GD. This excellent migrant species was recorded near Llanidloes in August. It is usually found along the southern and south-eastern coastal counties of England, so it was a huge surprise to see it turn up in Montgomeryshire, it is also a first for North Wales.



PORTER'S RUSTIC - *ATHETIS HOSPES* 1

Other Notable Macro Records Taken During 2024 (where there are 5 or less records in the database).

2194, 73.297, White-point, *Mythimna albipuncta*, 05/09/2024, GD, Oleuffynon, 2nd county record.
2194, 73.297, White-point, *Mythimna albipuncta*, 07/10/2024, SS, Llanfyllin, 3rd county record.
2194, 73.297, White-point, *Mythimna albipuncta*, 08/10/2024, SS, Llanfyllin, 4th county record.
2194, 73.297, White-point, *Mythimna albipuncta*, 15/10/2024, SS, Llanfyllin, 5th county record.
2195, 73.295, Delicate, *Mythimna vitellina*, 07/10/2024, SS, Llanfyllin, 2nd county record.
2195, 73.295, Delicate, *Mythimna vitellina*, 08/10/2024, SS, Llanfyllin, 3rd county record.
2195, 73.295, Delicate, *Mythimna vitellina*, 21/10/2024, MEG, Llandyssil, 4th county record.
2384, 73.099, Vine's Rustic, *Hoplodrina ambigua*, 06/09/2024, GD, Oleuffynon, 2nd county record.
2384, 73.099, Vine's Rustic, *Hoplodrina ambigua*, 14/09/2024, GT, Berriew, 3rd county record.

Other Notable micro species recorded during 2024 (where there are 5 or less records in the database).

28, 4.094, Bent-barred Pigmy, *Ectoedemia angulifasciella*, 08/09/2024, GD, Oleuffynon, 2nd county record.
100, 4.026, Common Fruit-tree Pigmy, *Stigmella oxyacanthella*, 08/09/2024, GD, Oleuffynon, 5th county record.
104, 4.024, Northern Rowan Pigmy, *Stigmella magdalenae*, 07/09/2024, GD, Oleuffynon, 4th county record.
225, 12.011, Four-spotted Clothes Moth, *Triaxomera fulvimitrella*, 13/05/2024, AH, Guilsfield, 3rd county record.
283, 15.005, Red Birch Slender, *Caloptilia betulicola*, 26/05/2024, PRW, Commins Coch, 2nd county record.
317, 15.036, Pale Oak Midget, *Phyllonorycter heegeriella*, 07/09/2024, GD, Oleuffynon, 4th county record.
671, 32.04, Fen Flat-body, *Depressaria ultimella*, 21/02/2024, SOS, Guilsfield, 4th county record.
1068, 49.167, Silver-striped Marble, *Celypha rivulana*, 04/08/2024, MEG, Llandyssil, 3rd county record.
1237, 49.377, Black Piercer, *Pammene germana*, 25/05/2024, PRW, Commins Coch, 4th county record.

Key to all recorders in this report

SS – Simon Sencer
SOS – Sue Southam
PMG - Phil McGregor
AH - Alistair Hotchkiss

PRW – Peter Williams
MEG – Meurig Garbutt
SAL – Simon Layton

GD - Graham Dennis
GT - George Tordoff
ANG – Andrew Graham

End of Year Statistics for 2024

Summary of end of year statistics; figures in parenthesis show 2023 totals.

- The number of macro records for 2024 were up by about 600 on the previous year, while micro records were just slightly up over the previous year.
- The breakdown is: - we added a total of 13,614 (13,124) of records to our database. The share between macro and micro records was; 11,717 (11,136) macro and 1,924 (1,988) micros. We now have 296,961 (285,244) macro records and 4,584 (46,660) micro records, giving us a grand total of 331,904 (345,545) records in the database.
- Total number of species now held in our database is 546 (543) macro species and 685 (679) micro species giving us a total of 1231 species recorded in the county.
- Total species recorded in 2024 was 393 (398) macro species, 5 species down on 2023, but still very good and 256 (222) micro species, 34 species up on 2023, which is going in the right direction. Giving a grand total of 649 (620) species for the year – an overall rise of 29 species on the previous year, which is excellent.

The following charts show the 2024 rank of the top five species in various categories recorded in Montgomeryshire.

Please note the previous year's rank/records are shown in parenthesis and a dash indicates that the species was not in top five the previous year. As usual I have separated the macro (left hand charts) from the micro moths (right hand charts) so that you get a better overview of how both groups are doing.

The two charts below show the top five most numerous species 'by records' for the year.

Rank	Log No.	Macro Species	Records	Rank	Log No.	Micro Species	Records
1 (1)	70.226	Brimstone Moth	239 (185)	1 (1)	63.025	Anania hortulata	69 (70)
2 (4)	73.342	Large Yellow Underwing	216 (145)	2 (-)	63.038	Patania ruralis	64 (-)
3 (2)	73.329	Flame Shoulder	207 (164)	3 (3)	63.067	Eudonia lacustrata	63 (63)
4 (-)	70.097	Common Marbled Carpet	201 (-)	4 (-)	28.01	Hofmannophila pseudospretella	59 (-)
5 (3)	73.015	Silver Y	179 (164)	5 (-)	63.074	Eudonia mercurella	57 (-)

In the macro moths the Brimstone Moth has stayed on top spot. The Large Yellow Underwing has moved up to 2nd from 4th place and the Common Marbled Carpet moved into 4th place. Again, none of the spring species did well in this category.

In the micros the top five species were all once again *Pyralidae*, with *Anania hortulata* holding onto the top spot. There were three new entries: *Patana ruralis* in at 2nd place; *Hofmannophila pseudospretella* in at 4th place and *Eudonia mercurella* in at number 5.

The next two charts show the top five species by the 'quantities' recorded.

Rank	Log No.	Macro Species	Counts	Rank	Log No.	Micro Species	Counts
1 (2)	73.342	Large Yellow Underwing	1919 (1223)	1 (1)	63.08	Chrysoteuchia culmella	170 (1890)
2 (-)	70.222	Brown Silver-line	1848 (-)	2 (2)	63.089	Agriphila tristella	144 (236)
3 (3)	72.044	Dingy Footman	996 (942)	3 (-)	63.067	Eudonia lacustrata	136 (-)
4 (1)	72.043	Buff Footman	929 (1699)	4 (-)	49.341	Cydia splendana	131 (-)
5 (5)	73.317	Heart & Dart	822 (823)	5 (4)	63.038	Patania ruralis	121 (193)

Quantities recorded for the macro moths were rather mixed again when viewed against 2023 figures, with a lot of movement in the top five. Large Yellow Underwing moved up to 1st place and the Brown Silver-line moved into 2nd place, the latter not being in the top five at all the previous year.

The most notable figure in the micro species by quantity recorded was with *Chrysoteuchia culmella* collapsing from a count of 1890 in 2023 to 170 last year, it was a very poor year for some species of grass moth. Moving into the top five places were *Eudonia lacustrata* into 4th and *Cydia splendana* into 4th place.

The last two charts show the top five all-time records in our database.

Rank	Log No.	Macro Species	All records	Rank	Log No.	Micro Species	All records
1 (1)	73.342	Large Yellow Underwing	5115 (4851)	1 (1)	63.038	Patania ruralis *	1473 (1409)
2 (2)	73.329	Flame Shoulder	4560 (4301)	2 (2)	63.064	Scoparia ambigualis	1433 (1401)
3 (3)	70.226	Brimstone Moth	4384 (4118)	3 (3)	63.067	Eudonia lacustrata	1423 (1360)
4 (4)	70.097	Common Marbled Carpet	3974 (3744)	4 (4)	63.089	Agriphila tristella	1323 (1276)
5 (5)	73.249	Hebrew Character	3845 (3724)	5 (5)	63.08	Chrysoteuchia culmella	1302 (1264)

The top five species in our database ‘by records’ for both Macro and micro species are unchanged.

The 2024 Moth Group Events – MMG

During the year Phil took over as ‘events coordinator’ from Julie who had done a sterling job since 2019, so I’m sure I speak for all of us when I say a big thankyou to Julie. Julie is still involved with the ‘events team’. Due to the changeover of ‘events coordinator’, our public events didn’t get going until August, but we had three good events up till October.

To see reports and species lists of these events please look on the ‘Events’ page of our website.

News as regards the ‘Events team’.

A full programme of events will be published in early 2024. (Please see the ‘Events’ page of our website). Current members of the ‘events team’ are Julie Pearce, Mark Thomas, Paul Roughley, Phil McGregor and Simon Spencer.

MMG Fundraising

2024 has been a great year for the MMG as we were chosen to receive some funding of nearly £3,000.00 from ‘**Powys Nature Partnership**’ and a very big thankyou has to go to Simon Spencer who initially applied for the funding, thanks also has to go to Phil McGregor who helped with the funding process. This funding not only allowed us to get some new kit for our public events but also meant we could have six loan traps, which Simon and Phil built and all the electrics were purchased on line. This means, each person on our trap loaning scheme will get a trap, a reference book and some pots – enough to get them off to a good start of moth recording.

I would like to thank all those who have helped to put some funds in our kitty during the last year via donations and ‘Easyfundraising’. Running a website, updating reference books and the upkeep of the mothing kit has to be paid from somewhere, so every bit of funding raised is very much appreciated.

To all those who sometimes shop on the internet but have not yet used ‘Easyfundraising’, please do so, as it costs you nothing extra to go via ‘Easyfundraising’ and you may be able to purchase your goods even cheaper with some of the deals on offer. If you use the Montgomeryshire Moths link at the bottom of our home page of our website, you can contribute to our funds - every little bit helps!

MMG cash flow from 01/01/24 to 31/12/24

Cash in bank - Start Balance 01/01/2024.....£347.59

Outgoings

Web fees LCN.....00.00

Web fees CWCS Managed hosting.....00.00

Total expenditure during the year.....£00.00

Income

Donations.....£129.41

Easyfundraising.....00.00

Total income.....£129.41

Total expenditure during the year..... 00.00

End balance at 31/12/24.....£477.00

After managing our finances since 2005 I have decided to pass this job onto someone else and therefore as of the 08-01-25 the MMG funds/bank account will now be managed by Phil McGregor and therefore from 2025, Phil will be issuing an annual statement of our funds.

The Website

There weren't any major changes to the website during 2024, but it carries on being an excellent tool for id and for keeping an eye on events. Also, the Blog, for articles and event reports and the group Facebook page for id and sharing information and photos and finally the Stop Press for any interesting and new species as they are recorded, and, just generally promoting everything 'mothy' the best way we can.

So, I would again, like to say a big thank you to Mike Haigh for all his continued hard work during the year with the website, and for updating and maintaining our database. Also, many thanks to Phil McGregor for taking on the role of 'events coordinator' and to Julie Pearce for overseeing our 'Facebook group' page and finally thanks go to all the other members of the 'Events Team', who helped at all the events throughout the season.

Lastly, thanks to all you moth-ers out there for sending us your records each year and I hope that using the MMG facilities has proved helpful to you all.

I hope you all have a great mothing year in 2025.

Peter.