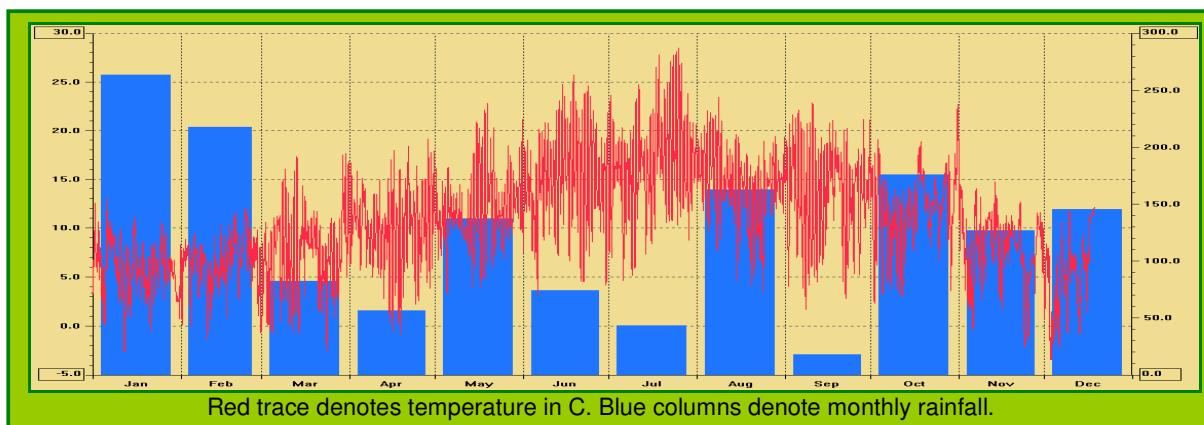


Mothing in Montgomeryshire – 2014 - Annual Report

The Mothing Year

Following the strange weather patterns of 2013, 2014 conditions were much more normal. Temperatures were generally warm or mild throughout the year, and here at Commins Coch, in the west of the county, the mercury only fell below zero on 36 days, this, is in fact, a very low figure for a whole year. June and July were warm months, with the temperature peaking at a yearly high of 28.6 on July 25th. On the whole, April and June were quite dry and September was very dry, while May, August and October were wetter than usual. The generally good mothing conditions were once again reflected by the number of new county records we've added to our database.



In all, we had 47 new species (45 micros and 2 macros) which was another record year, just beating the 2013 total of 44 new county records.

New Species recorded during 2014 were:-

Old Records rediscovered:

1943 *Neosphaleroptera nubilana*, 1990, *Coleophora binderella*

Outstanding records from 2013:

October 2013 *Niditinea striolella*, October 2013 *Stigmella obliquella*.



Valerian Pua *Eupithecia valerianata*

During 2014:

March: *Pammene giganteana*, *Ectoedemia weaveri*.

April: *Psychoides verhuella*, *Epinotia pygmaeana*, *Antispila metallella*.

May: *Micropterix tunbergella*, *Mompha langiella*, *Pammene rhediella*.

June: *Nematopogon metaxella*, *Gypsonoma sociana*, *Eucosma campoliliana*, Valerian Pug *Eupithecia valerianata*, *Pammene albuginana*, *Argyresthia laevigatella*, *Swammerdamia caesiella*,

Carpatolechia proximella, *Argyresthia sorbiella*, *Coleophora glaucicolella*, *Pseudodatemelia josephinae*, *Epinotia nanana*, *Strophedra weirana*, *Cydia fagiglandana*.

July: *Enarmonia formosana*, *Coleophora spinella*, *Opostega salaciella*, *Coleophora flavigennella*, *Coleophora juncicolella*, *Depressaria sordidatella*, *Caloptilia betulicola*, *Biselachista albidiella*, *Coleophora taeniipennella*, *Elachista adscitella*, *Mompha lacteella*, *Epiblema tetragonana*, *Acleris holmiana*, *Endothenia quadrimaculana*, *Prays ruficeps*.

August: *Cochylis dubitana*, *Phylloconistis saligna*, *Pammene populana*, *Coleophora obscenella*.

September: *Anacampsis blattariella*.

October: Scar Bank Gem *Ctenoplusia limbirena*.



Scar Bank Gem *Ctenoplusia limbirena*

Other notable species recorded during the year

Apart from the new county records listed above, here is a list of other notable species recorded during 2014 which are worthy of a mention.

June: White Satin Moth *Leucoma salicis*. One came to light at Middletown, 2nd county record.

Bucculatrix ulmella. This moth came to light at Middletown; it was only the 2nd county record of this species and the first since 2003.



Micropterix aureatella

Micropterix aureatella. Recorded at Lake Vyrnwy, last seen in 1990.

Small White Wave *Asthenia albulata*. This species had not been seen in the county since 1999. It was recorded at Newtown.

Coleophora laricella. Unrecorded since 1990.

July: *Coleophora alnifoliae*. First county record of this nationally scarce B species since 1975. Recorded at Roundton Hill NR.

Cloaked Minor *Mesoligia furuncula*. This is only the 2nd county record of this species and one which we had been targeting for the last few years. It was found at Coed y Dinas at an MMG event, it was first

recorded in 1989.

Golden Plusia *Polychrysia moneta*. This was a species which we thought may have found again in the county, so we were very pleased to see it turn up at Middletown. This was the first county record since 1989.

Zeiraphera griseana. Rediscovered at Lake Vyrnwy, the first record since 1975.

August: *Phyllocnistis unipunctella*. A leaf mine on poplar found at Coed y Dinas. The first county record since 1990.

Agonopterix lituosa. The first county record for over 60 years came to MV light at Middletown.

September: *Epinotia solandriana*. Several came to light at Vyrnwy. This is the first time the species has been seen in the county since 1975.

Small Autumnal Moth *Epirrita filigrammaria*. Due to its upland habitat and probably overlooked, this moorland species had not been seen in the county since 1991.



Golden Plusia
Polychrysia moneta

End of Year Statistics

Here is a summary of the end of year statistics;

- 2014 was another excellent year with another 20,656 records being added to our database (16,470 macro and 4,186 micro). We now have 155,372 macro records and 26,524 micro records, giving us a grand total of 181,896 in the database.
- Total number of species now held in our database is 517 macro species and 616 micro species giving us a total of 1133 species recorded in the county.
- Total species recorded in 2014 was 434 macro species and 424 micro species, giving a grand total of 858 species for the year, another excellent total.

Please note - The following charts show last year's rank and records totals in parenthesis and a dash shows that the species was not in last year's top five. Once again, 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 records for the year. In the macro moths the Brimstone Moth has been toppled from top spot and replaced by the Flame Shoulder, and, as for the micro moths, *Endrosis sarcitrella* has come out of nowhere to the top of the table .

Rank	Log No.	Macro Species	Records
1 (2)	2102	Flame Shoulder	313
2 (4)	2107	Large Yellow Underwing	282
3 (1)	1906	Brimstone Moth	242
4 (3)	1764	Common Marbled Carpet	233
5 (-)	2190	Hebrew Character	225

Rank	Log No.	Micro Species	Records
1 (-)	648	<i>Endrosis sarcitrella</i>	124
2 (4)	1338	<i>Eudonia lacustrata</i>	96
3 (1)	1405	<i>Pleuroptya ruralis</i>	94
4 (-)	1293	<i>Chrysoteuchia culmella</i>	87
5 (5)	1076	<i>Celypha lacunana</i>	85

The next two charts show the top five species by the quantities trapped. It was a mild spring, therefore, the spring species have moved in to fill the top four places for the macros; none of the present top five were in this chart last year. *Chrysoteuchia culmella* has shot to the top in the micros.

Rank	Log No.	Macro Species	Counts	Rank	Log No.	Micro Species	Counts
1 (-)	2182	Small Quaker	2937 (-)	1 (-)	1293	<i>Chrysoteuchia culmella</i>	469 (-)
2 (-)	2187	Common Quaker	2684 (-)	2 (5)	424	<i>Yponomeuta evonymella</i>	432 (318)
3 (-)	2190	Hebrew Character	2066 (-)	3 (1)	1405	<i>Pleuroptya ruralis</i>	347 (1031)
4 (-)	2188	Clouded Drab	1564 (-)	4 (3)	1305	<i>Agriphila tristella</i>	342 (576)
5 (-)	2049	Buff Footman	1550 (-)	5 (-)	1338	<i>Eudonia lacustrata</i>	313 (-)

The last two charts show the top five all time records in our database. The order for both the macros and micros are the same as last year.

Rank	Log No.	Macro Species	All records	Rank	Log No.	Micro Species	All records
1 (1)	2107	Large Yellow Underwing	2432 (2150)	1 (1)	1334	<i>Scoparia ambigualis</i>	850 (775)
2 (2)	2102	Flame Shoulder	2293 (1980)	2 (2)	1405	<i>Pleuroptya ruralis</i>	794 (699)
3 (3)	1906	Brimstone Moth	2083 (1841)	3 (3)	1305	<i>Agriphila tristella</i>	756 (674)
4 (4)	2190	Hebrew Character	2028 (1807)	4 (4)	1338	<i>Eudonia lacustrata</i>	714 (617)
5 (5)	1764	Common Marbled Carpet	2000 (1767)	5 (5)	1304	<i>Agriphila straminella</i>	677 (600)

The Moth Group Events – MMG

During 2014 we held 8 events throughout the county all of which were well attended. Full reports for 2014 can be seen on the events page of the web site, but here are some of the year's highlights:-

Mid April Event For our first event of the year we once again focused on **Lake Vyrnwy**, and, this time, the weather didn't intervene, as it did last year. We managed to trap a rather nice Pine Beauty *Panolis flammea*, but apart from that, is was more a case of getting dots on the maps for the more common spring species.

Early May event Our next event was at **Llanymynech Rocks**. It was a bit cool with the temperature dropping to 8.8c, and, this reflected on the species list, which at 22, was quite low. We did however manage to record a couple of species which favour this particular site – the Small Waver Umber *Horisme vitalbata* and the Light Feathered Rustic *Agrotis cinerea*.

Early June Event On the face of it, this event was a bit risky, as, we were trapping at the upland site of **Trafel Gwyn** in the far south of the county, (even in June, trapping at upland sites can be very hit and miss, as the weather conditions can turn bad very quickly), but, the evening was mild and dry, and with 47 species recorded, it turned out to be a very successful evening. Micros had been very thin on the ground at both the preceding two events, but we managed to record seven at this event; the highlight being, *Scoparia pyralella*, a species rarely recorded at events. Several good macro species were trapped - Oblique Carpet *Orthonama vittata*, Small Elephant Hawk-moth *Deilephila porcellus*, Clouded Buff *Diacrisia sannio*, Dark Brocade *Blepharita adusta*, and Miller *Acronicta leporina*.

Early July Event This was the first time we had held an event at **Coed Y Dinas Nature Reserve**, and, it certainly didn't disappoint us. Amongst a list of 111 species, in total, we had 47 micro species, which included a new county record, *Coleophora spinella*, and a second county record of *Gypsonoma oppressana*. At 62 species, the macro list was also very impressive. Notable species were – a second county record of Cloaked Minor *Mesoligia furuncula* and a Southern Wainscot *Mythimna straminea*, a species which was previously only found in the far west of the county.

Early August Event Our annual event at **Cors Dyfi Nature Reserve** threw up a list of 82 species, which was good, but it was far short of our best event there, when, in 2009 we recorded 151 species. However, there was a good selection of micro species which aren't recorded very often, these were -



Early June event
The moorland site of Trafel Gwyn

Incurvaria oehlmanniella, *Mirificarma mulinella*, *Helcystogramma rufescens*, *Apotomis semifasciana* and *Epinotia caprina*.

Late August Event The weather was fine for this event at **Pont Llogel**, and, we recorded a total of 49 species, in which macro and micros were evenly represented. The highlight was finding that the rather elusive Barred Chestnut *Diarsia dahlii*, (which, previously was known from only three sites in the county), was thriving at this site. The uncommon Oblique Carpet was also recorded.

Late September Event This was the first time we had held an event at **Coed Pendugwm Nature Reserve**, and, considering the time of year, the 41 species we recorded was very good indeed. There was nothing too outstanding, but we did manage to put a lot of dots on the maps for this under-recorded site.

The highlight of the evening was seeing a few hornets which readily came to the white sheet; this was the first time that we had recorded these wonderful gentle giants at one of our events.

Late October Our last event of the year was at **Dolforwyn Woods Nature Reserve**. It was a mild evening and this was reflected in the very good total of the 29 species recorded. *Acleris* was represented by six species, which may well be a record for this genus at a single event. As far as the macro moths were concerned, the most outstanding record of the evening was a pristine example of a Swallow-tailed moth; the latest this species had been recorded in the county by a staggering nine weeks!

Many thanks to all those people who helped out with setting up and taking down the traps, and with potting and collecting moths at all the events throughout the season. I would also like to thank those who brought their own personal traps along to many of the events, which meant we could extend the trapping areas giving us more scope to increase species lists. Finally, I would like to thank those who brought cakes and other goodies along to the events; it was all very much appreciated.

Please note Our new programme of events for 2015 can now be found in the 'Events' area of the website. Please come along and support us wherever you can.

Easy Fundraising

During 2014, funds once again trickled in and these will be put towards ongoing expenses, such as, web site costs, reference books and trapping kit costs. Total funds raised, so far, stand at around £240.00.

Expenditure/ account balance for the last 12 months up to 30/03/2015 is:-

LCN – web charges..... 7.20

Total expenditure during the year..... £7.20

Cash in the bank..... £75.42

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. If you use the Montgomeryshire Moths link at the bottom of our home page, you can contribute to our costs - every little bit helps!

The Website

The website continues to have an increased usage. In 2014, (excluding the blog), it received 1315 average monthly visits. July was our busiest month where we had 2006 hits, passing the 2000 hit mark for the very first time. It's great to know that our website is being accessed by ever increasing users.



Early July event
Coed Y Dinas Nature Reserve

During the winter we have been upgrading the website so that it includes the new ABH log numbers, (these can be seen on the county lists); we have also done all the species name changes which have taken place since the last time a log book was produced, back in 2000.

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 of any species, 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, again, like to say a big thank you to Mike Haigh for all his hard work during the year with the website; for doing all the extra work which was entailed with the ABH changes; and, for updating and maintaining our database.

Also, thanks, goes to Douglas Boyes, for his efforts in maintaining our Stop Press and Blog. And, for helping out with all our events, to most of which, he brought his own traps along to give us greater a trapping potential.

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 we all a have great moth-ing year in 2015.

Peter.