

MOTH MUMBLINGS – DECEMBER 2021

MOTHS FLYING NOW – EARLY DECEMBER 2021

The main highlight is the **Black-spotted Chestnut** (*Conistra rubiginosa*) which was first caught a week ago in late November at Denham, Buckinghamshire by Robin Knill-Jones, a very short distance west of our patch, but on 1st November it was also caught at a light trap in central Hertfordshire at Bengoe by Simon Knott. Both sites recorded the species last year and this confirms that they have a resident population.

This moth flies mostly in December and into January and is not deterred by the coldest, nastiest weather that Britain can chuck at it. In France, it has been found in the trap in the morning following a night when the temperature fell to minus 5° Celsius.

It is worth mentioning that it does come to light, but does not always enter the moth trap. It is most frequently found on the ground, on adjacent vegetation, on the adjacent house/shed wall and other places that are often some distance from the trap itself. It is EXCESSIVELY localised in Britain with less than about a dozen populations, nationally, that are widely but very thinly spread in West Kent, South Essex, Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire and southern Cambridgeshire. This may, of course, reflect a measure of under-recording as few people run light traps on cold/wet/snowing/generally miserable nights and of these, few may spend time searching vegetation (before coffee!) for moths that did not reach the trap (before the birds beat them to it). Any one of us could catch it in the garden tonight! Definitely worth a go – please let me know if you are successful.

OTHER SPECIES

Winter Moth (*Operophtera brumata*) is now out in force, though I have not yet had any reports of Northern Winter Moth (*O. fagata*). Records all relate to the winged males; remember that the females are wingless and so don't come to light. They are to be found by looking with a torch on tree trunks etc., most frequently around 7 – 8pm (look for assemblages of males fluttering around the same spot).

December Moth (*Poecilocampa populi*) has been out for a couple of weeks, but is flying in number now in the first week of December).

Satellite (*Eupsilia transversa*), Dark Chestnut (*Conistra ligula*) and Scarce Umber (*Agriopsis aurantiaria*) have all been mentioned in recent garden traps but, interestingly, the Chestnut (*Conistra vaccinii*) seems scarce this year.

There were a few reports of Oak Rustic (*Dryobota labecula*) about 10 days ago, but the details have not yet reached me and in any case this moth, which is still rare here but which is clearly “colonising” us, may have done with flying for the year?

A few of you have mentioned a lack of the Sprawler (*Asteroscopus sphinx*) this season. Is this another declining species, I wonder? It will be interesting to make an assessment after all your lists are sent in at the end of the year.

A MOTH NEW TO BRITAIN – FROM BISHOPS STORTFORD!

The current issue (November/December 2021) of the journal *Entomologist's Record* opens with a report of a pyralid moth called *Euzopherodes vapidella* – a new moth to the British Isles fauna. It was captured on 19th June this year in a light trap run by Ben Sale at the Bishops Stortford Cemetery (cheekily – just 300 yards from my garden!). The species is known from France, Spain and Portugal in the west of Europe then from Switzerland eastwards, in Austria, Hungary and Romania and then south through the Balkan Peninsula to Greece., accessed 1 October 2021) concurs with the paper literature). Outside Europe, the species is also noted in West Africa, including the coastal area of the Gulf of Guinea. The caterpillars feed on *Ceratonia siliqua* L., the Carob Tree. Also known as the Locust tree, it can attain a height of 15 metres and is sometimes grown in ornamental settings in Britain. No *Ceratonia* trees are evident within the cemetery, though a presence in local domestic gardens cannot be ruled out, but it seems more probable that this moth was accidentally introduced to the Bishops Stortford area in imported Locust Bean pods.

The *Entomologist's Record* is essential reading for serious moth-ers (though as the Editor, I might be slightly biased?). Summary of recent content can be found at www.entrecord.com. There are six issues per year, and a mere snip at 30 quid, which means each issue costs only a fiver. For a free sample, please send me a self-addressed C6 envelope (to take an A5 publication) clearly labelled with the words "ENT. RECORD SAMPLE" and with a "second class large" stamp affixed.

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LEAF MINING MOTHS – A PROGRESS REPORT

Over the last few weeks, **37 people** provided either mines or records from **41 map tetrads** (2Km x 2Km grid squares) **covering 116 moth species**. Storm Arwen has just about removed the last few leaves from many trees (in some parts it has even removed the trees!), so leaf-mine hunting season is more or less over (though some trees do seem to be hanging on in sheltered areas). My postie is as confused by the sudden cessation in supply of jiffy bags as he was by the sudden influx only a few weeks ago! Then again, he already thinks (knows) that I am quite mad.

So, here is a progress report. I say "progress" rather than "final" because there are still a few things to find (see below) plus, to my surprise another package of leaves arrived in the post this very day! Below is a list of what I have been sent (named by me). A few more records could well not have reached me yet, of course. I admit to causing confusion on this front. In order to keep up to date with progress it has been necessary for me to enter records of leaf-miners into the database *as I go*, so that up to date maps could be used at any time to target areas for visits. Consequently, all these data are now in the database so people do not need to send THESE records again at the end of the year. This is a contravention of the normal process. Please note that ALL other moth records are still required as end-of-year lists unless I have specifically told you otherwise.

LIST OF LEAF-MINING MOTH SPECIES RECORDED IN HERTS & MIDDX, DURING OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2021

Note that it is now considered unreliable to name *Phyllonorycter* species on deciduous oak leaves without rearing adults (or in some cases examining larvae). My living roof is currently adorned with dozens of nylon bags of leaves awaiting spring next year when they will be brought indoors for the adults to emerge. I am expecting at least three species (*P. harrisella*, *P. quercifoliella*, *P. heegeriella*, but none of these can be recorded at this stage).

There is also split opinion on the separation of *Stigmella microtheriella* and *S. floslactella*; our records in 2021 suggest that *floslactella* is scarce this year, but this may not be wholly reliable.

Leaf folds made by *Caloptilia* species on *Acer* species (Field Maple, Norway Maple and especially Sycamore) are now regarded as not separable without rearing adults. A review of *Acer*-feeding *Caloptilia* will hopefully be published in the January 2022 *Entomologist's Record*.

* No. = number of occasions found during the current survey

SPECIES NAME

Nepticulidae

		No.*	Found by you on
04.003	<i>Stigmella confusella</i> (Wood, 1894)	3	birch
04.004	<i>Stigmella tiliae</i> (Frey, 1856)	28	lime
04.006	<i>Stigmella sakhalinella</i> Puplesis, 1984	2	birch
04.007	<i>Stigmella luteella</i> (Stainton, 1857)	3	birch
04.010	<i>Stigmella microtheriella</i> (Stainton, 1854)	106	hazel, hornbeam
04.012	<i>Stigmella aceris</i> (Frey, 1857)	69	Field Maple, Norway Maple
04.013	<i>Stigmella malella</i> (Stainton, 1854)	13	apple
04.014	<i>Stigmella catharticella</i> (Stainton, 1853)	7	Buckthorn
04.015	<i>Stigmella anomalella</i> (Goeze, 1783)	36	rose

04.017	<i>Stigmella centifoliella</i> (Zeller, 1848)	4	rose
04.018	<i>Stigmella ulmivora</i> (Fologne, 1860)	5	elm
04.019	<i>Stigmella viscerella</i> (Stainton, 1853)	17	elm
04.023	<i>Stigmella crataegella</i> (Klimesch, 1936)	3	hawthorn
04.026	<i>Stigmella oxyacanthella</i> (Stainton, 1854)	22	hawthorn, whitebeam, apple
04.030	<i>Stigmella hybnerella</i> (Hübner, 1796)	3	hawthorn
04.032	<i>Stigmella floslactella</i> (Haworth, 1828)	9	hornbeam
04.034	<i>Stigmella tityrella</i> (Stainton, 1854)	23	beech
04.035	<i>Stigmella salicis</i> (Stainton, 1854)	34	sallow
04.038	<i>Stigmella obliquella</i> (Heinemann, 1862)	10	willow
04.039	<i>Stigmella trimaculella</i> (Haworth, 1828)	6	Lombardy poplar, black poplar
04.040	<i>Stigmella assimilella</i> (Zeller, 1848)	2	grey poplar, white poplar
04.042	<i>Stigmella plagiocolella</i> (Stainton, 1854)	82	blackthorn, plum, damson
04.043	<i>Stigmella lemniscella</i> (Zeller, 1839)	50	elm
04.044	<i>Stigmella continuella</i> (Stainton, 1856)	6	birch
04.045	<i>Stigmella aurella</i> (Fabricius, 1775)	109	bramble
04.047	<i>Stigmella splendidissimella</i> (Herrich-Schäffer, 1855)	9	raspberry, bramble
04.054	<i>Stigmella perpygmaeella</i> (Doubleday, 1859)	14	hawthorn
04.055	<i>Stigmella hemargyrella</i> (Kollar, 1832)	36	beech
04.056	<i>Stigmella speciosa</i> (Frey, 1858)	12	sycamore
04.058	<i>Stigmella basiguttella</i> (Heinemann, 1862)	13	oak
04.060	<i>Stigmella ruficapitella</i> (Haworth, 1828)	7	oak
04.061	<i>Stigmella atricapitella</i> (Haworth, 1828)	43	oak
04.062	<i>Stigmella samiatella</i> (Zeller, 1839)	7	sweet chestnut
04.063	<i>Stigmella roborella</i> (Johansson, 1971)	3	oak
04.076	<i>Ectoedemia (Etainia) decentella</i> (Herrich-Schäffer, 1855)	1	sycamore
04.078	<i>Ectoedemia septembrella</i> (Stainton, 1849)	2	St John's-wort, Rose of Sharron
04.082	<i>Ectoedemia intimella</i> (Zeller, 1848)	1	sallow
04.083	<i>Ectoedemia hannoverella</i> (Glitz, 1872)	2	Lombardy poplar, black poplar
04.085	<i>Ectoedemia argyropeza</i> (Zeller, 1839)	2	aspens
04.088	<i>Ectoedemia heringella</i> (Mariani, 1939)	4	evergreen oak
04.089	<i>Ectoedemia albifasciella</i> (Heinemann, 1871)	2	oak
04.090	<i>Ectoedemia subbimaculella</i> (Haworth, 1828)	48	oak
04.091	<i>Ectoedemia heringi</i> (Toll, 1934)	2	oak
04.094	<i>Ectoedemia angulifasciella</i> (Stainton, 1849)	5	rose
04.095	<i>Ectoedemia atricollis</i> (Stainton, 1857)	21	hawthorn
04.100	<i>Ectoedemia minimella</i> (Zetterstedt, 1839)	3	birch
Heliozelidae			
06.002	<i>Antispila petryi</i> Martini, 1898	4	Common Dogwood
06.0021	<i>Antispila treitschkiella</i> (Fischer von Röslerstamm, 1843)	1	Cornelian Cherry
Tischeriidae			
10.001	<i>Tischeria ekebladella</i> (Bjerkander, 1795)	34	oak, sweet chestnut
10.003	<i>Coptotriche marginea</i> (Haworth, 1828)	35	bramble
Bucculatricidae			
14.002	<i>Bucculatrix nigricomella</i> (Zeller, 1839)	6	Ox-eye daisy
14.006	<i>Bucculatrix frangutella</i> (Goeze, 1783)	2	alder buckthorn
14.009	<i>Bucculatrix thoracella</i> (Thunberg, 1794)	13	lime
14.010	<i>Bucculatrix ulmella</i> Zeller, 1848	7	elm
14.011	<i>Bucculatrix ulmifoliae</i> Hering, 1931	3	elm
14.012	<i>Bucculatrix bechsteinella</i> (Bechstein & Scharfenberg, 1805)	7	hawthorn
Gracillariidae			
15.001	<i>Parectopa ononidis</i> (Zeller, 1839)	2	clover
15.009	<i>Caloptilia alchimiella/robustella</i>	2	oak
15.014	<i>Gracillaria syringella</i> (Fabricius, 1794)	34	ash, lilac, privet
15.015	<i>Aspilapteryx tringipennella</i> (Zeller, 1839)	7	plantain
15.016	<i>Euspilapteryx auroguttella</i> Stephens, 1835	4	St John's-wort
15.017	<i>Calybites phasianipennella</i> (Hübner, [1813])	3	dock
15.019	<i>Acrocercops brongniardella</i> (Fabricius, 1798)	2	oak
15.022	<i>Callisto denticulella</i> (Thunberg, 1794)	12	apple
15.025	<i>Parornix betulae</i> (Stainton, 1854)	2	birch
15.026	<i>Parornix fagivora</i> (Frey, 1861)	3	beech
15.028	<i>Parornix anglicella</i> (Stainton, 1850)	52	hawthorn
15.029	<i>Parornix devoniella</i> (Stainton, 1850)	70	hazel
15.032	<i>Parornix finitimella</i> (Zeller, 1850)	3	blackthorn
15.033	<i>Parornix torquillella</i> (Zeller, 1850)	22	blackthorn
15.034	<i>Phyllonorycter harrisella</i> (Linnaeus, 1761)	1	oak (adult emerged in bag)
15.037	<i>Phyllonorycter tenerella</i> (Joannis, 1915)	29	hornbeam

15.039	<i>Phyllonorycter quercifoliella</i> (Zeller, 1839)	1	oak
15.040	<i>Phyllonorycter messaniella</i> (Zeller, 1846)	27	beech
15.041	<i>Phyllonorycter platani</i> (Staudinger, 1870)	22	London plane
15.043	<i>Phyllonorycter oxyacanthae</i> (Frey, 1856)	89	hawthorn
15.045	<i>Phyllonorycter mespilella</i> (Hübner, [1805])	1	whitebeam
15.046	<i>Phyllonorycter blancardella</i> (Fabricius, 1781)	6	apple
15.047	<i>Phyllonorycter hostis</i> Triberti, 2007	1	apple
15.049	<i>Phyllonorycter spinicolella</i> (Zeller, 1846)	34	blackthorn
15.05	<i>Phyllonorycter cerasicolella</i> (Herrich-Schäffer, 1855)	28	cherry
15.051	<i>Phyllonorycter lantanella</i> (Schrank, 1802)	5	wayfaring tree
15.052	<i>Phyllonorycter corylifoliella</i> (Hübner, 1796)	68	hawthorn, whitebeam, apple
15.053	<i>Phyllonorycter leucographella</i> (Zeller, 1850)	10	firethorn
15.054	<i>Phyllonorycter viminiella</i> (Sircom, 1848)	38	sallow, willow
15.063	<i>Phyllonorycter maestingella</i> (Müller, 1764)	38	beech
15.064	<i>Phyllonorycter coryli</i> (Nicelli, 1851)	86	hazel
15.065	<i>Phyllonorycter esperella</i> (Goeze, 1783)	50	hornbeam
15.066	<i>Phyllonorycter strigulatella</i> (Zeller, 1846)	3	grey alder
15.067	<i>Phyllonorycter rajella</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	13	alder
15.074	<i>Phyllonorycter schreberella</i> (Fabricius, 1781)	9	elm
15.075	<i>Phyllonorycter ulmifoliella</i> (Hübner, [1817])	25	birch
15.078	<i>Phyllonorycter tristrigella</i> (Haworth, 1828)	57	elm
15.079	<i>Phyllonorycter stettinensis</i> (Nicelli, 1852)	6	alder
15.081	<i>Phyllonorycter nicellii</i> (Stainton, 1851)	43	hazel
15.082	<i>Phyllonorycter klemannella</i> (Fabricius, 1781)	9	alder
15.083	<i>Phyllonorycter trifasciella</i> (Haworth, 1828)	3	snowberry
15.084	<i>Phyllonorycter acerifoliella</i> (Zeller, 1839)	68	field maple
15.085	<i>Phyllonorycter joannisi</i> (Le Marchand, 1936)	23	Norway maple
15.086	<i>Phyllonorycter geniculella</i> (Ragonot, 1874)	17	sycamore
15.0862	<i>Phyllonorycter pastorella</i> (Zeller, 1846)	2	crack willow, weeping willow
15.087	<i>Phyllonorycter comparella</i> (Duponchel, [1843])	2	white poplar
15.089	<i>Cameraria ohridella</i> Deschka & Dimic, 1986	47	horse chestnut
15.090	<i>Phyllocnistis saligna</i> (Zeller, 1839)	1	willow
15.092	<i>Phyllocnistis unipunctella</i> (Stephens, 1834)	11	poplar
Glyphipterigidae			
19.014	<i>Acrolepia autumnitella</i> Curtis, 1838	3	woody nightshade
Argyresthiidae			
20.005	<i>Argyresthia trifasciata</i> Staudinger, 1871	1	Leyland cypress
Lyonetiidae			
21.001	<i>Lyonetia clerkella</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	84	cherry, birch, hawthorn
21.002	<i>Lyonetia prunifoliella</i> (Hübner, 1796)	2	blackthorn
Praydidae			
22.002	<i>Prays fraxinella</i> (Bjerkander, 1784)	15	ash
Cosmopterigidae			
34.009	<i>Cosmopterix pulchrimella</i> Chambers, 1875	1	
Coleophoridae			
37.006	<i>Coleophora gryphipennella</i> (Hübner, 1796)	5	rose
37.032	<i>Coleophora albitarsella</i> Zeller, 1849	5	ground ivy
Momphidae			
40.015	<i>Mompha raschkiella</i> (Zeller, 1839)	1	rosebay willow-herb
Tortricidae			
49.279	<i>Gypsonoma dealbana</i> (Frölich, 1828) *	38	various deciduous trees
49.28	<i>Gypsonoma oppressana</i> (Treitschke, 1835) *	8	black poplar

* = the two *Gypsonoma* species are not true leaf-miners, but are frequently found when looking for mines.

In addition, 51 species of leaf-mining flies were also recorded (mostly in family Agromyzidae), plus a handful of sawflies and one beetle species. **The list of recorded flies is as follows** (with the number of occasions recorded in the right hand column):

<i>Agromyza albitarsis</i> Meigen, 1830	5
<i>Agromyza alnibetulae</i> Hendel, 1931	3
<i>Agromyza anthracina</i> Meigen, 1830	3
<i>Agromyza flaviceps</i> Fallén, 1823	2
<i>Agromyza frontella</i> (Rondani, 1875)	1
<i>Agromyza idaeiana</i> (Hardy, 1853)	2

Agromyza igniceps Hendel, 1920	1
Agromyza nana Meigen, 1830	2
Agromyza sulfuriceps Strobl, 1898	6
Amauromyza flavifrons (Meigen, 1830)	1
Amauromyza labiatarum (Hendel, 1920)	6
Amauromyza verbasci (Bouché, 1847)	6
Aulagromyza cornigera (Griffiths, 1973)	3
Aulagromyza hendeliana (Hering, 1926)	4
Aulagromyza heringii (Hendel, 1920)	24
Aulagromyza luteoscutellata (de Meijere, 1924)	1
Aulagromyza tridentata (Loew, 1858)	1
Cerodontha iridis (Hendel, 1927)	2
Chromatomyia lonicerae (Robineau-Desvoidy, 1851)	1
Chromatomyia periclymeni (de Meijere in Hendel, 1922)	2
Chromatomyia syngenesiae Hardy, 1849	2
Liriomyza amoena (Meigen, 1830)	8
Liriomyza centaureae Hering, 1927	1
Liriomyza demejerei Hering, 1930	1
Liriomyza eupatorii (Kaltenbach, 1873)	1
Liriomyza strigata (Meigen, 1830)	1
Liriomyza tanacetii de Meijere, 1924	1
Pegomya bicolor (Wiedemann, 1817)	1
Phytoliriomyza melampyga (Loew, 1869)	1
Phytomyza agromyzina Meigen, 1830	24
Phytomyza angelicae Kaltenbach, 1872	1
Phytomyza angelicastris Hering, 1932	2
Phytomyza artemisivora Spencer, 1971	2
Phytomyza autumnalis Hering, 1957	1
Phytomyza chaerophylli Kaltenbach, 1856	1
Phytomyza cirsii Hendel, 1923	1
Phytomyza cytisi Brischke, 1881	3
Phytomyza fallaciosa Brischke, 1881	1
Phytomyza fulgens Hendel, 1920	5
Phytomyza glechomae Kaltenbach, 1862	4
Phytomyza heracleana Hering, 1937	1
Phytomyza ilicis Curtis, 1846	23
Phytomyza leucanthemi Hering, 1935	2
Phytomyza ranunculi (Schrank, 1803)	1
Phytomyza spinaciae Hendel, 1935	1
Phytomyza tanacetii Hendel, 1923	1
Phytomyza tetrasticha Hendel, 1927	1
Phytomyza tussilaginis Hendel, 1925	2
Phytomyza vitalbae Kaltenbach, 1872	2
Scaptomyza flava (Fallén, 1823)	1
Zygiobia carpini (F. Löw, 1874)	1

Note that a couple of these flies require confirmation by genitalia examination of the adult flies when they are reared (not likely to happen before next May).

WINTER WONDERS

For those having withdrawal symptoms now that the leaves are all but gone, there are two target leaf-mining moths that we can still find throughout December and into January.

Bramble leaf-miner (*Stigmella aurella*) mines should remain visible on bramble bushes right through winter to the spring. Can we make this the first moth to be recorded from every tetrad in the two counties? Not impossible! I will cover the north-east myself, but can any of you handle the western side of things? Western and southern Middlesex are way too far from me to make it worth the effort (by the time I get there the short day is almost over!), but if you live over that way no special effort is required. Just walk and keep your eyes peeled as you pass

brambles. A tunnel mine on bramble can only be this species (but I am happy to receive collected leaves to check if you wish). Of course, other mines are equally welcome, but it would be great to become the first British county to record a moth in EVERY map tetrad within its boundary!

The up-to-date map of Bramble Leaf-miner is pasted below and should act as a guide to suggesting blank areas near you to visit. Red squares = recorded January 2000 onwards. Yellow dots = pre-2000 records, so any square not *also* red can be regarded as un-recorded. In theory, if you are reading this in Word, or similar, you can drag the corner of the map to enlarge it for a better view (or to print out a field version for your pocket).

Mines on “*leylandii*”

Lawson’s Cypress (also referred to as “*leylandii*”) is a widespread and very common garden planting in the London area in particular. It is usually planted as boundaries or to mark other linear features. Like the Brown Rat, there will always be one near you!

There are two moths that mine leaves of *leylandii* trees. The mines are identical and both are spotted by looking for “dead” ends to the leaf fronds (photo attached). Easily spotted from the car/bus/train/etc. The caterpillar feeds inside the leaf/stem completely hollowing it out to leaf empty, brown skins. If you tug the dead bit it will usually come away, but you need to find either the caterpillar or some droppings (frass) to be certain it is not just dead vegetation. Always cut off the affected portion to include a green bit – **not** just the dead bit; the caterpillar may be tunnelling inside the green part, having finished with the brown bit. The caterpillars are different:

- black head = *Argyresthia trifasciata*
- yellow/brown head = *Argyresthia cupressata*

Argyresthia trifasciata colonised Britain from the 1980s and now widespread in our counties. **Expect to find this.**

Argyresthia cupressata is a more recent colonist that appears still to be very local. You might find it (head colour is all you need to observe), but it is far less likely.



Of course, you could find both!

Again, I am very happy to receive candidate leaves in the post for checking but do remember that live caterpillars are needed, so pack candidate leaves in something crush-proof.

PROPOSED INFORMAL GATHERING

I have been muttering about this for a while and several people have expressed interest. Newer members may not be aware that from time to time I hold totally informal gatherings of moth-ers at my home. These are an opportunity to meet others with the same interests as well as to look/use at my collections and extensive library of moth books and journals. If there is even the flimsiest of excuses, we usually combine with food and drink (the last event was the 30th anniversary of my first night of moth trapping at this address, so we also had a ceremonial opening of the moth trap!).

I was considering an event for fully vaccinated moth-ers in the next few weeks but, regrettably, the new *omicron* mutation of the Covid virus has put paid to that idea, so it has necessarily been put back on hold until at least next year.

AND FINALLY... THE BIRD REVIEW

Most will know that a formal review of Britain's rare and threatened bird species has just been published. An over-riding theme in that report seems to be the loss of bird food (or, what you and I call insects) on a major scale, mostly due to habitat loss/destruction and pesticide use. I am resisting the desire to scream "told you so!" from my roof top. Maybe now that the pretty feathery things are under threat, the unpopular, nasty little brown critters that they depend on might get some attention at last! [look out for flying pigs in your moth trap]

I am as concerned as the next politically-correct, gender neutral person (I used to say "man"), about climate change, which is indeed a real and major issue, BUT I worry that it is rapidly becoming a scapegoat for other problems. Insect losses are almost matched by gains at the species level – a change yes, but a decline no. I will probably annoy any people here, but I am not fully convinced that a warming climate is wholly responsible for every single aspect of the catastrophic *numerical* declines within insect species that we have not actually lost (yet). Doing something about the actual causes of declines might be hindered if we simply shrug our shoulders and cry "climate change". From our point of view, what remains crucial is that we continue to maintain our long-term data set of factually correct information about moths. YOUR records form the basis for all research and longer-term conclusions. Time now to start compiling your lists to send to me at the end of December (or sooner if you really have finished for the year).

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