

Northamptonshire Moths – A Brief Summary of Noteworthy Records from 2017

Mark Hammond, VC32 CMR
(March 2018)

Introduction

This is a brief review of some interesting and noteworthy moth species recorded in Vice County 32, Northamptonshire & The Soke of Peterborough, during the 2017 season. Reports such as this of course rely on the now many recorders who diligently submit their records. It goes without saying that the county database would be very light without the constant efforts of this band, for which I am most grateful. Some entries herewith were also noted on the Northamptonshire Moths website noticeboard for 2017.

The list follows the checklist produced by Agassiz, Beaven & Heckford in 2013, which replaced the previous British Checklist authored and updated by Bradley. I also include, for general reference, the former Bradley number in {brackets} and the current national status of each species in [square brackets].

Firstly, a few statistics for fun:

- Total number of records received in 2017 = 36,620 (2016 = @26,300, 2015 = @29,400)
- The Top Ten species, based on number of records received (not number of individuals):

ABH#	B&F	Taxon	Vernacular	Authority	Records
73.342	2107	<i>Noctua pronuba</i>	Large Yellow Underwing	(Linnaeus, 1758)	862
73.359	2126	<i>Xestia c-nigrum</i>	Setaceous Hebrew Character	(Linnaeus, 1758)	779
70.226	1906	<i>Opisthograptis luteolata</i>	Brimstone Moth	(Linnaeus, 1758)	616
73.329	2102	<i>Ochropleura plecta</i>	Flame Shoulder	(Linnaeus, 1761)	551
70.258	1937	<i>Peribatodes rhomboidaria</i>	Willow Beauty	([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)	468
72.002	2474	<i>Rivula sericealis</i>	Straw Dot	(Scopoli, 1763)	425
70.016	1713	<i>Idaea aversata</i>	Riband Wave	(Linnaeus, 1758)	423
73.317	2089	<i>Agrotis exclamationis</i>	Heart and Dart	(Linnaeus, 1758)	418
72.003	2477	<i>Hypena proboscidalis</i>	Snout	(Linnaeus, 1758)	415
73.249	2190	<i>Orthosia gothica</i>	Hebrew Character	(Linnaeus, 1758)	395

- Number of Species (therefore excludes aggregates) recorded in 2017 = 990 (2016 = 951)
- This brings the grand total of records in VC32 database to just over **493,700**

Species New to VC32 in 2017

Eight species were noted as being new to VC32 during the 2017:

4.068 {0046} *Trifurcula immundella* (Zeller, 1839) [Local]

One example was taken at light in Far Cotton, Northampton on 11.viii.2017 (MC). The moth was confirmed initially from a photo submitted, later by genitalia dissection (MJH). The larvae mine within the twigs of Broom and thus possible origin of this moth could be from a garden planting.

20.002 {0403} *Argyresthia glabratella* (Zeller, 1847) [Nationally Scarce B]

The first of two specimens was taken in a garden light trap in Far Cotton, Northampton on 24.v.2017 (MC). A second was recorded two days later at the same site on 26.v.2017. Both moths were subsequently confirmed by genitalia dissection (MJH). Adults of this species are very easily confused with those of its congener, *A. laevigatella*, and thus both should ideally be subject to dissection to differentiate. Larvae mine the shoots of Norway Spruce *Picea abies*, which is likely to be present in gardens around the town, as well as in nearby woodlands.

28.008 {0642a} *Metalampra italic* Baldizzone, 1977 [Migrant/Colonist]

Listed as a migrant species, but which has a number of records in neighbouring Bedfordshire and one in Huntingdonshire in 2016 – suggesting that this is indeed colonising. One moth was taken in a light trap on 25.viii.2017 at Farthinghoe Nature Reserve

(TPr). The moth was identified by the captor, and later confirmed by photo (MJH). The larvae of this species feed on dead and decaying wood

49.079 {1046} *Acleris shepherdana* (Stephens, 1852) [Nationally Scarce B]

One adult taken in a garden light trap in Oundle on 29.vi.2017 (PH, det MJH). The national distribution map for this species indicates that Northamptonshire is near the North-eastern edge of its currently known distribution. Larvae feed on Meadowsweet, which seems to be more or less ubiquitous in the damp environments throughout the county, so this moth may well be under-recorded.

49.152 {1095} *Apotomis sororculana* (Zetterstedt, 1839) [Nationally Scarce B]

This is a rather unusual record for Northamptonshire, given that the moth is stated to prefer "mosses and heaths". The national distribution map though, shows it to be present in many vice counties. The moth was recorded at light in an Oundle garden during 2017, although sadly the exact date is not known (PH). This moth may well represent an adventive, having arrived on plant material brought in from outside the county. Time will tell if further records appear.

70.050 {1721} Balsam Carpet *Xanthorhoe biriviata* (Borkhausen, 1794) [Local (alien-foodplant)]

A fine example of this species was taken at Kingsthorpe Meadows on 22.vi.2017 (TPi). The larvae feed on Orange Balsam, and the moth tends therefore to be seen in wet woodlands and near to streams and waterways, and the species is known to be spreading from the South and East of the UK.

72.070 {2495} Olive Crescent *Trisateles emortualis* ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775) [RDB3]

The first VC32 record of this Biodiversity Action Plan species was of a faded example taken at light in Easton Hornstocks on 06.vii.2017 (RF), and appears to be well away from its currently known UK distribution, but examples captured away from the southernmost counties have been presumed to have been migrant individuals. It is likely therefore that this specimen represents a migrant. Larvae prefer the dead and withered leaves of species such as Oak, Beech and Sweet Chestnut.

70.083 {1771a} Cypress Carpet *Thera cupressata* (Geyer, [1831]) [Local]

A singleton was recorded in a garden light trap in Peterborough on 2.vi.2017 (DC). The moth has gradually spread from the South and South-east of Britain, being noted previously as far north as Hertfordshire. I cannot find reference to the species having been recorded in Huntingdonshire or Bedfordshire, but in recent discussion with the CMR for Cambridgeshire, VC29, the species was recorded there once in 2014. This might be indicative of a general expansion of range, or perhaps of individuals having been recorded during migratory episodes.

Significant and Noteworthy records

Notably, VC32 saw what I presume to be range expansions for Scarlet Tiger, Box-tree Moth and Toadflax Brocade. Details included below.

2.006 {0011} *Eriocrania cicatricella* (Zetterstedt, 1839) [Local]

A number of tenanted mines Birches at Ring Haw on 18.v.2017 (MJH). This is the fifth VC record for the species, and well away from all previous records, which are confined to the Yardley Chase area.

4.012 {0102} *Stigmella aceris* (Frey, 1857) [Local]

As a result of a supreme effort by the Bedfordshire County Moth Recorders, Andy & Melissa Banthorpe, this species appears to be spreading rapidly through that county. First recorded in VC32 in 2015, with a further two records in 2016, there were seven reports in VC32 this year. This is a species worth keeping an eye out for in 2018. All the following records are for the mines, found on Maples:

Wellingborough, 18.vii.2017 (JS)

Yardley Chase (five different sites/records) between 05.x.2017 and 23.xi.2017 (DVM)

Brackmills, Northampton, 15.x.2017 (DS)

6.003 {0154} *Heliozela sericiella* (Haworth, 1828) [Local]

The fifth VC32 record was taken at light in the camping and caravan area of Fineshade on 08.v.2017 (N&MT)

7.004 {0144} *Nemophora fasciella* (Fabricius, 1775) [Nationally Scarce A]

A singleton was taken in a garden light trap on 21.vi.2017 taken at Kingsthorpe, Northampton (PS). This is the third VC32 record, all of which have emanated from the same area.

8.004 {0132} *Incurvaria praelatella* ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775) [Local]

Two records of this species were noted. Singletons were recorded at light at Grafton Park Wood, 26.v.2017 (MJH) and Fineshade Caravan Park, 09.vi.2017 (N&MT). These represent the third and fourth post-2000 VC32 records. The moth is apparently fairly widespread across the whole of the British Isles and can be locally quite common. It can also be seen flying in sunshine around its foodplants (roseaceous plants such as Wild Strawberry), so another one to look out for.

12.014 {0223} *Nemaxera betulinella* (Paykull, 1785) [Nationally Scarce B]

A single individual was netted just before dusk in Thrapston (MJH) on 07.v.2017. This is the second VC32 record, the only other being in June 1918, noted by the Kettering & District Natural History Society. The garden does contain some small piles of dead wood deliberately left to decay to encourage invertebrates. This may be the source of the record.

12.017 {0217} *Nemapogon wolffiella* Karsholt & Nielsen, 1976 [Nationally Scarce B]

fourth VC32 record was taken at light in a Far Cotton garden, Northampton (MC) on 2.vi.2017. This is the third time that the species has been recorded in this location, the first coming in 2011 (det DVM).

12.039 {0230} *Monopis crocicapitella* (Clemens, 1859) [Local]

Two records this year – Oundle (date unknown) (PH, gen det MJH) and Thrapston, 24.v.2017 (MJH), constituting the second and third records for the county. Easily mistaken for *M. obviella*, which is much more widespread locally.

12.040 {0231} *Monopis imella* (Hübner, [1813]) [Nationally Scarce B]

third VC32 records from Grafton Park Wood, 24.v.2017 (MJH), netted during the day

15.005 {0283} *Caloptilia betulicola* (Hering, 1928) [Common]

One was taken at light in Collyweston Great Wood on 19.vii.2017 (RF), and is the fifth county record.

15.037 {0318} *Phyllonorycter tenerella* (Joannis, 1915) [Local]

A single tenanted leaf mine found on Hornbeam in Grafton Park Wood, on 02.x.2017 (MJH), reared to confirm identification. This constitutes the third VC32 record.

16.023 {0444} *Ocnerostoma piniariella* Zeller, 1847 [Nationally Scarce B]

Previously recorded in the county only once, by Maitland Emmet during a recording trip in 1981, a singleton was taken at light in Fermyn Woods on 19.vi.2017 (MJH). Given that the larvae feed on Pines, it may be more widely dispersed than records suggest.

18.007 {0469} *Eidophasia messingiella* (Fischer von Röslerstamm, 1840) [Local]

This species is likely to be under-recorded locally, despite it being quite well-marked. Two records of this species, one to light in Bucknell Wood on 17.vi.2017 (PS), and the other in a garden light trap in Duncote on 05.vii.2017 (DP). These are the fourth and fifth VC32 records respectively. It is interesting to note that “lots” were seen in Bucknell on 20.vi.2014 (JS).

20.007 {0409b} Cypress Tip Moth *Argyresthia cupressella* Walsingham, 1890 [Local]

First recorded in 2014, and only twice subsequently, there were two separate records for this species in 2017: 24.v.2017, Far Cotton, Northampton (MC) and 31.v.2017 at Wootton landfill site (JS). These are therefore fourth and fifth VC32 records.

20.019 {0418} Apple Fruit Moth *Argyresthia conjugella* Zeller, 1839 [Common]

One specimen was taken in a garden light trap on 19.vi.2017 at Thrapston (MJH). This is only the fifth county record of what is seemingly a fairly common UK species, so well worth looking out for.

28.013 {0637} *Crassa tinctella* (Hübner, 1796) [Nationally Scarce B]

The fourth and fifth county records, with only a single record prior to 2000 (1906!): 29.v.2017 to light at Castor Hanglands (RF) and then 10.vi.2017 at Collyweston Great Wood (RF). Easily confused with the very commonly encountered *C. unitella*, but which is less “contrasty”, lacking the yellowish head and thorax.

32.019 {0689} *Agonopterix ciliella* (Stainton, 1849) [Common]

Two individuals were netted shortly after dusk on 31.iii.2017 at Fermyn Woods (*leg.* det MJH), on what was a truly balmy night for March. These are the first modern (i.e. post 2000) records of this species in VC32, being last recorded in 1994. *A. ciliella* is easily confused with its congener, *A. heracliana* and this probably reflects the paucity of records in the database. There has been some doubt raised recently over the robustness of using the hind-wing feature as being truly diagnostic, and so despite this feature being visible, both specimens were subject to genitalia dissection - both proved to be *A. ciliella* (males). It is interesting to note that Mark netted several *Agonopterix* sp moths around battery-operated 6W Heath traps in the half-hour after dusk, but that there were no *Agonopterix* in the Heath traps when examined at dawn the following day.

35.053 {0729} *Isophrictis striatella* [Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775 [Nationally Scarce B]

Also recorded at Far Cotton, Northampton in 2016, this species was once again recorded in 2017, coming to light on 11.viii.2017 (MC). This is the third VC32 record.

35.096 {0790} *Chionodes fumatella* (Douglas, 1850) [Nationally Scarce B]

First recorded in the county in 2010 (CWP), and subsequently in 2014 and 2015, the fourth county record was noted at light in Far Cotton, Northampton on 11.viii.2017 (MC)

37.019 {0502} *Coleophora trigeminella* Fuchs, 1881 [Nationally Scarce A]

New to the county in 2014, this is the second VC32 record. The moth came to a Heath actinic light trap at Polebrook Airfield on 20.vi.2017 (JS). The adult moth may not be partial to light and thus further records may be discovered by looking for the distinctive larval case especially on the buds of e.g. Hawthorns, Apple and *Sorbus* spp.

37.103 {0555} *Coleophora follicularis* (Vallot, 1802) [Local]

Sadly, the exact date of capture is not known for the 2017 specimen, but was taken at light in an Oundle garden (PH, gen det MJH). This is the third VC32 record.

45.009 {1503} Tansy Plume *Gillmeria ochrodactyla* ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775) [Nationally Scarce B]

This species appears currently to be restricted to Northampton, with all four prior records coming from the town. The fifth VC32 record therefore comes from a known site: Far Cotton, Northampton, seen during the day on 04.vii.2017 (MC)

49.094 {0923} *Phtheochroa sodaliana* (Haworth, 1811) [Nationally Scarce B]

This species was new to the county in 2010, recorded again in 2013 (Castor Hanglands, RF) and 2016 (Ring Haw, RF). It is known to prefer Buckthorn growing on calcareous soil. It was recoded on two occasions in this year, to light at Collyweston Great Wood on 10.vi.2017 and unusually in an Oundle garden, date unknown (PH).

49.116 {0944} *Aethes williana* (Brahm, 1791) [Nationally Scarce B]

Northamptonshire represents the edge of the known range for the species in the UK, which is concentrated in the South-east. Previously recorded in 1907 and 1943, this is the first modern record for this small Tortrix, which prefers dry or chalky grassland. One was netted by day at Wakerley Airfield quarry on 22.v.2017 (RF).

49.138 {0964a} *Cochylis molliculana* Zeller, 1847 [Local]

This is another species to have been first noted in VC32 during 2010, with a single specimen taken at light in Easton Hornstocks (JS). It was subsequently recorded in 2014 (Duston, DW), and again in 2015 (Far Cotton, MC). 2017 saw four separate records for the species, all to light: Wootton landfill site on 31.v.2017 (JS); Sywell Reservoir on 14.vii.2017 (DS); Ring Haw on 02.viii.2017 (RF) and 22.viii.2017 at Denton (PT).

49.187 {1098} *Endothenia oblongana* (Haworth, 1811) [Local]

The sixth VC32 record of this species was taken in a garden light trap in Northampton, Far Cotton on 14.vi.2017 (MC, gen det MJH). Previous records are all from the 1940's

49.229 {1154} *Epinotia caprana* (Fabricius, 1798) [Local]

The fourth and fifth VC32 records of this species were as follows: 01.viii.2017 at Ring Haw (RF) and to light at Oundle, 28.viii.2017 (PH).

49.232 {1152} *Epinotia maculana* (Fabricius, 1775) [Nationally Scarce B]

Approximately 17 individuals of this species were recorded to light traps set in Grafton Park Wood on Moth Night, 14.x.2017 (det MJH). These were all seen in those traps set immediately adjacent to the Aspens adjacent in the central "car park" area. This is the second VC32 record (first 1996, Old Pond Close, DVM).

49.257 {1166} Larch Tortrix *Zeiraphera griseana* (Hübner, [1799]) [Local]

The first modern, post-2000, record was taken in a battery-operated trap left overnight in Fermyn Woods on 19.vi.2017 (MJH). Prior to this the moth was recorded on two occasions in the Yardley Chase area in 1995 (DVM).

49.261 {1157} *Crociosema plebejana* Zeller, 1847 [Local]

A single example of this species was taken at light in a Kingsthorpe garden (PS). This is only the second VC32 record of this recent colonist to the UK, and the only modern/post-2000 record in the county (albeit only just - last record was 30.vii. 1999, Pitsford Reservoir, PH).

49.330 {1269} *Cydia conicolana* (Heylaerts, 1874) [Nationally Scarce B]

Prior to 2017, the species has only been recorded twice in the county, both within Northampton. 2017 saw an additional four records, three of which were by searching for the larval feeding signs in fallen Pine cones: Sywell Reservoir on 05.ii.2017 (DS);

12.ii.2017 at Farthinghoe (TPr) and 25.iii.2017 at Fermyn Woods (MJH). One adult moth was also taken at light at Wootton landfill site on 31.v.2017 (JS).

49.334 {1267} *Cydia cosmophorana* (Treitschke, 1835) [Nationally Scarce B]

The second VC32 record of this pretty little Tortrix was taken at light in Far Cotton, Northampton, on 23.v.2017 (MC, gen det MJH).

49.348 {1243} *Grapholita pallifrontana* Zeller, 1845 [pRDB3]

Following a request from Butterfly Conservation to search for this Biodiversity Action Plan moth, several likely sites were inspected, based on distribution data for the larval foodplant, Wild Liquorice, supplied by Rob Wilson. Three new sites were confirmed: adult moths were seen at two distinct locations on a private quarry site near to Twywell on 03.vi.2017 (MJH) and another singleton at Great Morton Sale on 13.vi.2017 (MJH).

49.365 {1229} *Pammene albuginana* (Guenée, 1845) [Local]

The fifth county record of this species was taken at light in Bucknell Wood on 17.vi.2017 (PS, det DVM). This is only the second time the moth has been recorded since 2000.

49.374 {1235} *Pammene trauniana* ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775) [Nationally Scarce A]

A single record of this stunning Tortrix to light at Ring Haw on 25.v.2017 (RF). This is the second VC32 record, with the only other in 2004 in Kingsthorpe (PS). The adults might be seen flying on sunny days, particularly around the larval foodplants, Maples.

62.010 {1449} *Elegia similella* (Zincken, 1818) [Nationally Scarce B]

A singleton was taken at light during the NBRC BioBlitz at Horton Woods on a24.vi.2017 (JS). The moth has a preference for well-established woodland, relying on mature Oaks.

62.025 {1454b} *Dioryctria sylvestrella* (Ratzeburg, 1840) [Nationally Scarce B]

Added to the county list only in 2008, the fourth VC32 was taken at light in a Kettering garden on 07.vii.2017 (RS, det MJH). Can be confused with congeners and thus requires care to be certain.

62.047 {1461} *Assara terebrella* (Zincken, 1818) [Nationally Scarce A]

Another excellent record as a result of the NBRC BioBlitz at Horton Woods, taken at light on 24.vi.2017 (PT, det MJH).

63.016 {1386} *Anania fuscalis* ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775) [Local]

Singletons were reported in an actinic light trap at Boddington Meadow (Coronation Meadow) on 18.vi.2017 (CC) and to light at Byfield Pool NR on 22.vi.2017 (CC). These are only the second and third modern post-2000 records for the species in the county, one having been noted at Ring Haw on 21.vi.2016 (RF). Prior to that, the most recent record dated back to 1954.

63.046 {1403a} *Duponchelia fovealis* Zeller, 1847 [Migrant/Adventive]

A single example of this locally rare species was taken at light in Kingsthorpe, Northampton, on 05.vii.2017 (TPi). This is the second VC32 record, the only other being from a nearby Kingsthorpe garden in 2001 (PS). It is difficult to determine the origin of this and the 2001 specimen, given that the moth is not known to be resident in the U. K. but rather is associated with the horticultural trade and its reliance on non-native plants such as Begonia, Cyclamen, Kalanchoe, Gerbera, etc. (ref Slamka, "Pyraloidea of Europe, vol. 3, 2013). Slamka also notes its inability to survive in colder climes away from its Mediterranean origin, other than inside greenhouses etc. but that it can become a serious pest under the correct conditions.

63.054 {1409a} Box-tree Moth *Cydalima perspectalis* (Walker, 1859) [Adventive]

Following the addition of this moth to the county list on 24.ix.2016 (PS), 2017 saw a significant increase in local distribution of this spreading species. Several records were forthcoming, thus:

Oundle garden, to light, date unrecorded (PH)

East Haddon garden, to light, 21.vi.2017 (RB)

Kingsthorpe garden, to light, 26.vi.2017 (TPi)

Nassington garden, to light, 22.ix.2017 (NS)

The larvae can be a significant pest of Box plants, and are readily visible due to their creation of a spinning, often feeding on the new growth.

69.014 {1987} Bedstraw Hawk-moth *Hyles gallii* (Rottemburg, 1775) [Migrant]

A single moth was reported on social media, being seen by day in Nether Heyford on 13.vii.2017, supported by a photograph (det MJH).

70.023 {1689} Mullein Wave *Scopula marginepunctata* (Goeze, 1781) [Local]

There is a scatter of records for this species throughout the years. A single moth was taken in a garden light trap in Northampton on 02.ix.2017 (BGi). Initially thought to be the first report of the species since 2006, which was also of an

individual captured within Northampton, my attention was brought to a further record from Kingsthorpe, Northampton, on 26.viii.2016 (PS). This one site has yielded records for the species on five separate occasions, strongly suggesting a locally breeding colony. Given that the larvae feed on low plants including Yarrow and Mugwort, it is perhaps surprising that there are not more recent records and from other areas of the Vice County.

70.032 {1677} Birch Mocha *Cyclophora albipunctata* (Hufnagel, 1767) [Local]

This is another species with occasional records spanning the years. Prior to 2017, there was only one post-200 record, that of a single specimen being taken to light in Collyweston Great Wood on 20.viii.2008 (RF). 2017 saw two further records for the moth:

Fineshade, to light on 06.viii.2017 (BGa)

Easton Hornstocks, to light on 20.viii.2017 (RF)

70.046 {1719} Oblique Carpet *Orthonama vittata* (Borkhausen, 1794) [Local]

A singleton was recorded light at Kingsthorpe, Northampton on 08.vi.2017 (PS). This is only the second post-2000 record for this species, the other having been also taken at light in Grimscote in 2006 (AM).

70.104 {1751} Devon Carpet *Lampropteryx otregiata* (Metcalf, 1917) [Nb]

This species was first recorded in VC32 in 2005, with a single moth being taken to light in Kingsthorpe (PS). Since then it has been recorded once at Yardley Chase in 2014 (PS), and with five individuals to light at Bucknell Wood on 28.viii.2015 (JS). The 2017 sighting represents the furthest north-east record for this spreading species, a singleton being taken in a Heath Trap in Grafton Park Wood on 26.vi.2017 (MJH)

70.159 {1855} Cypress Pug *Eupithecia phoeniceata* (Rambur, 1834) [Local(alien-foodplant)]

The third VC32 record was seen in a garden light trap at Old Stratford on 20.ix.2017 (AH). This is the second year on the trot that Andy has taken the moth at this location.

72.029 {2068} Scarlet Tiger *Callimorpha dominula* (Linnaeus, 1758) [Local]

There are too many 2017 records to list here! Prior to 2014, there were only sporadic records for this stunning moth. From 2014 onwards there has been a steady increase in the number of records received, initially though; these sightings were restricted to the South-west of the Vice County, being around Brackley and Silverstone. In 2015 and 2016 it appeared to have spread as far North and East as Northampton. In 2017 records were received from these original sites, as well as from several locations in and around Kettering, one from Oundle (PH) and more from Swaddywell Pits near Peterborough (PW/MH). Records are for both adults and for larvae.

72.073 {2408} Small Marbled *Eublemma parva* (Hübner, [1808]) [Migrant]

There are only four known records for this rare migrant, and three of these are since 2011. One moth was taken to a garden light trap in Kingsthorpe, Northampton on 05.vii.2017 (PS). This is the second occurrence at that site.

73.059 {2223} Toadflax Brocade *Calophasia lunula* (Hufnagel, 1766) [RDB]

A total of ten records have been received for this species during 2017. Prior to this year, the moth has been entirely restricted to the Soke of Peterborough, being seen fairly regularly in garden light traps. 2017 revealed its continued presence in this area, but also indications of a slight range expansion with both larval and adult records being received from Wellingborough (via social media, det MJH), of adults to light in Nassington, 13.viii.2017 (NS) and Thrapston, 17.viii.2017 (MJH).

73.082 {2292} Tree-lichen Beauty *Cryphia algae* (Fabricius, 1775) [Rare migrant]

Following an eleven year gap since it was added to the county list, this species was recorded twice in 2017. The second VC32 record was of an adult to a garden light trap in Nassington on 19.vii.2017 (NS), followed by the third record, again to light, at Easton Hornstocks on 06.viii.2017 (RF).

73.214 {2317} White-spotted Pinion *Cosmia diffinis* (Linnaeus, 1767) [Na]

Only recorded the once in 2017, with a single moth being attracted to light at Luddington-in-the-Brook on 15.viii.2017 (SH). It represents only the fifth post-2000 record for this Biodiversity Action Plan species.

73.289 {2196} Striped Wainscot *Mythimna pudorina* ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775) [Local]

With no modern, post 2000 records of this species, 2017 saw three separate records! Historically the moth appears to have been sporadically recorded in the North-east of the county, with Castor Hanglands as its former stronghold. Records for 2017 are also within this general area, thus:

Helpston, to a garden light trap on 16.vi.2017 (MH)

Polebrook Airfield to light on 20.vi.2017 (leg. & gen det JS, confirmed MJH)

Oundle, to a garden light trap on 21.vi.2017 (PH, photo confirmed MJH)

73.300 {2202} L-album Wainscot *Mythimna l-album* (Linnaeus, 1767) [Nb]

A singleton was recorded to light in Kingsthorpe, Northampton, on 03.vii.2017 (TPi). This is the fifth VC32 record of this well-marked species. It is generally regarded as being restricted to coastal regions on the U.K., so its presence in the Midlands is unusual, and may represent genuine migration.

74.002 {2076} Kent Black Arches *Meganola albula* ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775) [Nb]

A single site in Kingsthorpe, Northampton, appears to have cornered the market in this species. Prior to this, the species was recorded sporadically in the North-east of the vice-county at Woodnewton (NS), being first recorded in 2008. At the time it was assumed that this represented a migrant or vagrant record. The moth was recorded in the same location in 2014, and nearby at Polebrook in 2016 (JS). In 2017 however, the moth was recorded on three separate occasions in Kingsthorpe, all to a garden light trap (PS): 04.vii.2017 (one specimen, retained), 05.vii.2017 (one specimen, different to first) and 09.vii.2017 (a further two specimens, also different to previous specimens). Given that the species was also recorded in Kingsthorpe in 2016, this is now strongly suggestive of local breeding.

“Moon Moth” - probably *Actias Selene* or *A. Luna*

The moth pictured below was recorded on 26.vi.2017 in a light trap at Castor Hanglands (RF).

It is probably one of the *Actias* species, being either *A. Luna* or *A. selene*. Moon Moth species are readily available from entomological suppliers and are easily reared on a number of locally available foodplants, so this might well be an accidental release.

**Migrant Species Recorded During 2017**

Below is a brief summary of known migrant species to have been recorded during 2017:

ABH#	B&F	Taxon	Vernacular	Authority	Records
18.001	0464	<i>Plutella xylostella</i>	Diamond-back Moth	(Linnaeus, 1758)	52
63.031	1395	<i>Udea ferrugalis</i>	Rusty-dot Pearl	(Hübner, 1796)	15
63.052	1398	<i>Nomophila noctuella</i>	Rush Veneer	([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)	17
69.004	1972	<i>Agrius convolvuli</i>	Convolvulus Hawk-moth	(Linnaeus, 1758)	3
69.010	1984	<i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>	Humming-bird Hawk-moth	(Linnaeus, 1758)	28
69.014	1987	<i>Hyles gallii</i>	Bedstraw Hawk-moth	(Rottemburg, 1775)	1
70.038	1716	<i>Rhodometra sacraria</i>	Vestal	(Linnaeus, 1767)	24
70.047	1720	<i>Nyctosea obstipata</i>	Gem	(Fabricius, 1794)	1
72.073	2408	<i>Eublemma parva</i>	Small Marbled	(Hübner, [1808])	1
73.015	2441	<i>Autographa gamma</i>	Silver Y	(Linnaeus, 1758)	367
73.074	2403	<i>Heliothis peltigera</i>	Bordered Straw	([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)	1
73.076	2400	<i>Helicoverpa armigera</i>	Scarce Bordered Straw	(Hübner, [1808])	20
73.087	2385	<i>Spodoptera exigua</i>	Small Mottled Willow	(Hübner, [1808])	5
73.307	2119	<i>Peridroma saucia</i>	Pearly Underwing	(Hübner, [1808])	1
73.327	2091	<i>Agrotis ipsilon</i>	Dark Sword-grass	(Hufnagel, 1766)	35

And Finally...



Peter Tebbutt, 9th June 1954 – 26th January 2017

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Acknowledgements

Records and information gratefully acknowledged from the following:

D. Acaster, L. Andrews, R. Baylis (RB), R. Bullock, J. Butler, D. Chambers (DC), R. Clark, S. Clarke, M. Coles (MC), C. Colles (CC), R. Comont, M. Cook, N. Corker, Y. Cox, M. Cross, S. David, M. Dove, R. Eads, C. Emary, J. Emerson, V. Everett, R. Follows (RF), B. Galpin (BGa), C. Gardiner (CG), S. George, B. Gill (BGi), D. Goddard, D. Grundy, M. Hammond (MJH), A. Harding (AH), S. Hearle (SH), G. Heeley, M. Hillier (MH), T. Holmes, P. Horsnail (PH), S. Howarth, N. Hueber, D. James, M. Johnson, A. Kwolek, B. Laney, D. Larkin (DL), K. Lunham, D. V. Manning (DVM), P. Masters, S. Mathers, H. Matthews, R. Mayes, D. Mcquillan, S. Merrifield, R. Morris, A. Molyneux (AM), A. Mould, S. Mundy, J. Pearman, D. Penney (DP), T. Pickering (TPi), C. Plant (CWP), T. Pridmore (TPr), A. Richards, P. Rose, L. Rowley, D. Seaman (DS), P. Sharpe (PS), D. Shenton, J. Showers, J. Skinner (JS), M. Smith, N. Smith (NS), R. Smith, J. Spinks, N. Stimppy, P. Terry (PT), C. Topping, M. & N. Tuck (N&MT), W. Viggars, K. Walkling, J. Ward, P. Warden, P. Waring (PW), D. Warner (DW), I. Wilson, N. Wood, T. & J. Wood, S. Woollard, P. Young.