

Lancashire, Manchester and Merseyside Butterfly and Moth Recording Report 2009



Laura Sivell
Stephen Palmer

Record Format

More recorders who have computers chose to send their records by email. This is certainly preferred for ease of data input. The new version of Levana now has an excellent import facility, that can convert pages of records in a few seconds. MS Excel, MS Works, or tables in MS Word or tab-text are all acceptable file types. It not only makes my life much easier, it is a joy to use!

Please remember to include your name in the file name of your records. On days where several different recorders send a file called 'butterfly records 08', it's chaos! It also helps if you include a header with your name on so that your printed records can be easily attributed to you. Few people have taken this on board.

Any recorders with computers but not currently sending their records electronically, please consider doing so. Even if you don't have email, records can be sent on disc. The following format is ideal

Joe Bloggs	12/5/06	SD423456	Pilling Moss	Orange Tip	3	all females, eggs also seen
Joe Bloggs	12/5/06	SD423456	Pilling Moss	Green-veined white	4	
Sheila Bloggs	14/9/06	SD721596	Hasgill Fell	Small heath	2	mating pair
Joe Bloggs	11/10/06	SD5148	Grizedale	Speckled Wood	C	

please don't put m or f for male or female, or anything else, in the numbers column as it makes the programme crash. You can still put the code letters in though, where A=1, B=2-9, C=10-29, D=30-99, E=100+. Any mixture of code letters and real numbers is fine. Also, please copy down the grid references, site names or whatever, rather than using ditto marks. Any other standard date formatting is fine too.

For recorders still using good old paper and pen, please write clearly, and in reasonably large writing, as I have to wear glasses to read now. It would also help if you were to draw horizontal lines across the page every so often, to make reading across easier for me. Please remember to write your name on the top sheet and ideally, name or initials on each sheet for when the whole lot slides to the floor.

Please continue to send your butterfly records to:

Lancashire and Merseyside

Laura Sivell, email laura.sivell@mypostoffice.co.uk. **I have moved house.** Postal address - 22 Beaumont Place, Lancaster LA1 2EY. Phone 01524 69248. I had told some people that my phone number would remain the same, but when it came to it, I was told I couldn't keep it because it was the wrong exchange.

East Lancs

Please continue sending records to Jeff and Sheila Howarth if you are already doing so. Please send a copy to Laura as well - this would lead to more of your records being included in the full regional report, not just the unusual species or high numbers.

Greater Manchester

These records should **only** go to Peter Hardy, 81 Winstanley Road, Sale, M33 2AT, email pgll@btopenworld.com - **not** to Laura Sivell. Some people have been sending their records to both, leading to a fair amount of wasted time in sorting out the duplicate records. Likewise Lancashire and Merseyside records should **only** go to Laura.

For next year's report, we could also do with some more illustrations. Colour photos of Butterflies as JPEG files to Laura please!

The most notable butterfly event in 2009 was the mass migration of Painted Lady in late March that reached parts of the Fylde. The main wave came in late May, invading many parts of Lancashire and beyond, following massive emergences in north Africa. When the main migration was in full swing, painted ladies could be found clustering on hill tops or stopping to feed in gardens before surging on northwards, leaving some regions empty behind them. Apparently some continued on to the Faroes (normally devoid of any butterflies) and even to Iceland (not the one mums go to).

Some stopped to breed, but for those of us who remember the last huge painted lady year of 1996 with its fields of stripped thistles, the 2009 event proved to be quite a disappointment. Larvae were quite hard to find, and researchers found high levels of parasitism. The wet weather in July and August will not have helped, as this species does not like dull, cool and damp conditions. Consequently, any hoped for home-grown generation failed to appear in anything like the numbers expected from the size of the May migration. There were some reasonable counts in July and August, but most records were for sightings in single figures. A total of 1234 records of Painted Lady were received.

Red admiral was comparatively scarce in through the early months of 2009, but as usual was still the last butterfly to be on the wing. Clouded Yellow showed up patchily, with 15 recorded squares.

After the series of poor springs in recent years, Pearl-bordered Fritillary was already at low ebb. Despite a promising start to the year, the picture stayed poor with very low numbers at many of the remaining sites. Duke of Burgundy also did quite badly at Gait Barrows, its last remaining good-sized colony in Lancashire (occasional records of singletons come from Silverdale golf course). Over recent years it had been recorded over much of the reserve, but in 2009 no sign was found except in the traditional 'core' areas on the eastern side of the reserve, despite extensive searches for adults and consequently for eggs, larvae and signs of larval damage. One of the factors being investigated is a lack of genetic diversity in the population. There is a project already initiated to collect larvae, rear them in captivity to prevent predation losses, then to 'fortify' them with stock taken from the Whitbarrow population. Results so far are looking positive. Some stock would also be returned to Whitbarrow in future years, which should contain some genetic material from Gait Barrows, hopefully assisting both declining colonies. The Whitbarrow site was also damaged due to trampling by over-zealous butterfly photographers and others hoping desperately to get a look at a Duke of Burgundy, little realising (or perhaps not caring) that they are hastening its slide towards extinction.

On a lighter note, High Brown Fritillary had quite a reasonable year, and there were noticeable resurgences for Wall and Grayling. For the other species, it was pretty much business as usual.

I'm always being asked.....

How do you tell a Small White from a Green-veined? What about female Orange Tips?

It's not easy. But there are a few tips that can help.

What's the general impression of colour? White, obviously - but a creamy white? Slightly greenish? Slightly greyish? The creamy white is likely to be small, and the greyish is likely to be green-veined. Both can appear a bit greenish, depending on the depth of markings in the green-veined and what the caterpillar's been eating in the small. Both are variable according to foodplants and generations. The spring emergence of green-veined white is more heavily marked on the underside than the summer brood, which is more marked on the top side.

How's it flying? Is it flying directly or wandering around? Small White is more likely to be decisive, and fly straight, Green-veined tends to wander about. So, late for an appointment = Small, tourist without a map = Green-veined.

What flowers is it visiting? Small Whites prefer pale coloured flowers where there's a choice of good nectar sources, Green-veined prefer yellow, purple or mauve flowers. However, stick a good buddleia into the picture and they'll all go for that, but if they do you can get closer to them and identify them properly. The males of both will check out anything white in the vicinity to see if it's a potential mate. A good trick is to get a bit of white toilet paper, trim it down to size and put a twist in the middle, then put it on a plant. You will see other white butterflies checking it out, and maybe bring them close enough for a definitive ID.

Female Orange Tips appear more translucent, slightly smaller and slower in flight - somehow more floaty.

Small Skipper

87 tetrads

First 8.6.09 LR, Silverdale
 Last 19.9.09 RG, Watergrove
 High counts 200 Heysham log book
 54 PS, Liverpool old garden festival site

There was also a report of 200 in the Heysham log book, but no information about the recorder was passed on.

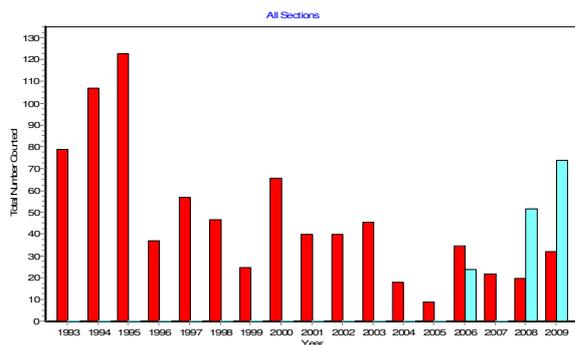
For the first time, this butterfly was recorded at Warton Crag RSPBR, and in quite good numbers. There were also big improvements in the numbers at Gait Barrows (both transects), Eaves Wood and Warton Crag LWT. In the north of Lancashire, colonies are increasing.

Large Skipper

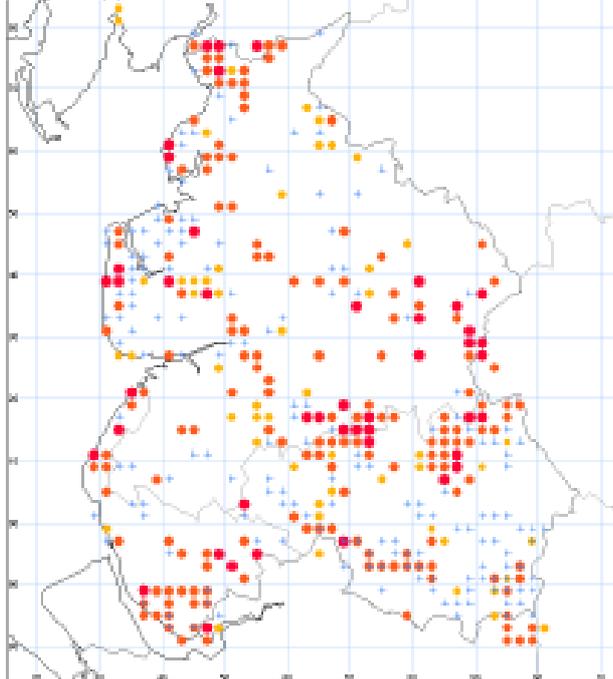
80 tetrads

First 24.5.09 JN, Warton Crag
 Last 22.8.09 SM, DM, RR Belmont
 High count 33 A&D B, Ainsdale

A worrying picture with most sites down (worst ever at Yealand Hall Allotments, worst at Gait Barrows BMS). Warton Crag LNR had the best year since 1992 though! The graph below shows the varying fortunes of Large and Small Skippers at Gait Barrows Warden's transect, (Large in Red, Small in blue).



Large Skipper 2005-2009



Dingy Skipper

8 tetrads

First 3.5.09 RPJ, Gait Barrows
 Last 4.7.09 RPJ, Gait Barrows
 High count 34 RPJ, Gait Barrows

Most of the few sites with this butterfly reported a continuing decline, with Gait Barrows Warden's transect having a rather less miserable year. Warton Crag LNR bucked the general trend and showed a good increase, after very few recorded in 2008, and none for the two years before that.

The distribution is unchanged in terms of tetrads, but colony size within sites has decreased and there have been no transect records from Jack Scout since 2004.

Grizzled Skipper

1 tetrad

First 12.6.09 LR, Middlebarrow Quarry
 Last 13.6.09 LR, Middlebarrow Quarry

Just these 2 records for 2009, possibly the same individual.

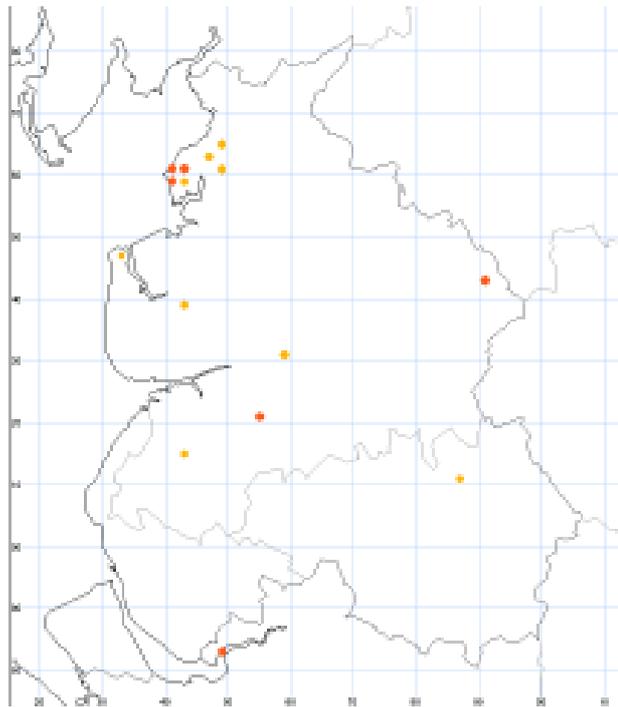
Clouded Yellow

15 tetrads

First 30.5.09 PM, Heysham Moss
 30.5.09 JR, near Lancaster
 Last 22.8.09 PL, Brockholes
 High Count 3 MV, SD9042

A total of 30 sightings were sent in for 2009, quite a good number. The last date is surprisingly early, as this butterfly is often recorded through September and into October. The late summer and autumn weather was good enough that more sightings could have been expected, though possibly the wet period of early summer prevented successful breeding.

Clouded Yellow 2009



Brimstone 46 tetrads

First 15.3.09 KMC, Flixton (2 km sqs)
 TR, Heald Brow
 Last 15.11.09 DW, Abram
 High counts 16 MR, Gait Barrows

Most of the transects had a low-average year, but Arnside Knott had a more noticeable slump. Garden records were fewer. Gait Barrows BMS transect was a bit better - there are always good nectaring sites along this route, and Warton Crag LNR had their second-best year ever, a small decrease on 2008 which was their peak.

Large White 280 tetrads

First 5.4.09 DC, Holmeswood
 Last 28.10.09 RCC, Hale Shore
 High count 85 JC, Mythop Road Allots

A much better year for this one. Arnside KNott had a good increase, to make 2009 their second-best ever figure, and the best since 1992. Eaves Wood had their highest ever index, as did Myers Allotment. Other transects generally reported good counts. You have to feel sorry for the brassica growers on Mythop Road Allotments though!

Small White 216 tetrads

First 17.3.09 BS, Forton
 Last 16.10.09 RCC, Pickerings Pasture
 High Count 120 RCC, Hale Shore

More of a mixed picture for the Small White. Some transects up (Eaves Wood the best since 1997 Heysham best since 2003), others average or down. This species remains generally common.

Green-veined White 203 tetrads

First 16.3.09 PH, Lowerhouse Lodges
 Last 20.9.09 CT, JM, Martin Mere
 High Count 155 JMI, Hambleton

Yealand Hall Allotment transect had their worst index, whilst most of the other transects came up with average or low-average counts. Jack Scout had a better year, and Warton Crag LNR had their best year since 1992.

Orange Tip 138 tetrads

First 8.4.09 GL, Syd Brook Lane
 Last 13.6.09 NS, Heskin
 BD, near Barley
 High count 14 DC, Heysham nature reserve

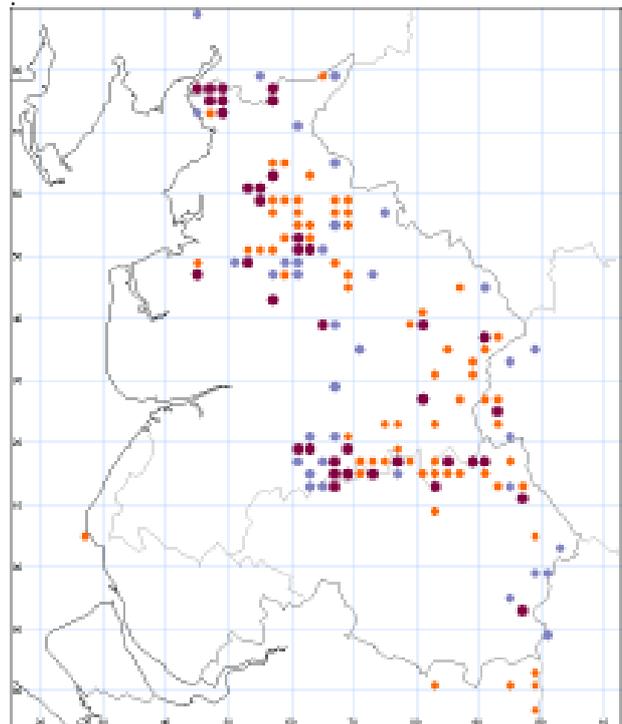
There was a small fall in the percentage of squares recorded, and the transect results echo this, with low counts (if any) at most transect sites. There were a few 'worst ever' indices (Eaves Wood, Myers Allotment). The best sites were average or poor, apart from Warton Crag LNR where there was a steep increase.

Green Hairstreak 26 tetrads

First 12.4.09 JC, Clougha
 Last 3.6.09 GA, Moss Hall Rd, East
 Lancs
 High counts 38 PW, Birkbank
 30 CP, Warton Crag LNR
 20 SB, Tarnbrook

The high counts are well down on normal figures, suggesting the wet summer last year may have adversely affected the early stages.

There was a good resurgence at Warton Crag RSPB after being not recorded on the transect in 2008, but at most transects few or none were counted. Warton Crag LNR had their best year ever, after very low counts in preceding years.



The map shows gains and losses, comparing the periods 2000-2004, and 2005-2009. New squares are orange, lost squares are blue, and those recording the species within both time sets are purple. That's 67 new squares, 34 lost squares, and 38 'stable'.

Purple Hairstreak 19 tetrads

First 2.7.09 DB, Skitters Wood
 Last 9.9.09 SG, Warton Crag
 High counts 67 DM, SM, RR, Belmont

As always, it's very hard to assess how this butterfly is doing from year to year. 67 is very good as a high count, and the last record is a very late one, so it was probably a good year.

White-letter Hairstreak 13 tetrads

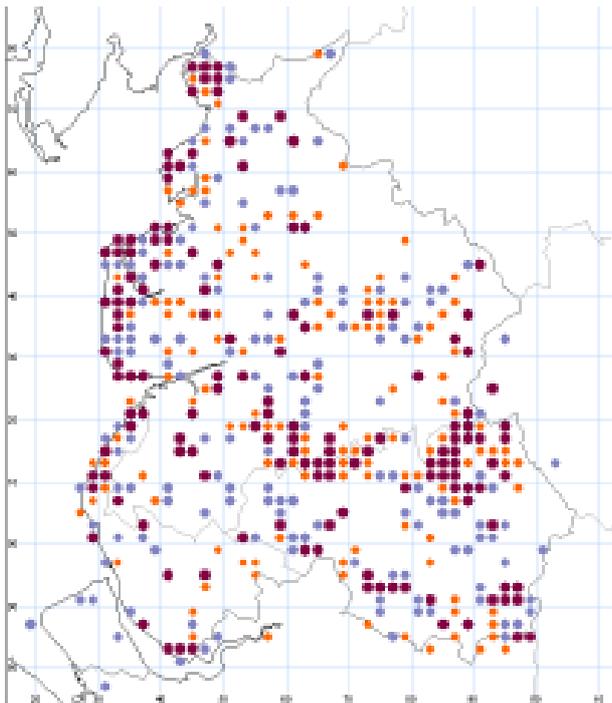
First 2.7.09 PK, Chadkirk
 Last 9.8.09 RG, Prettywood
 High Count 4 SC, Prettywood

A concerted effort to locate this species led to new sites being found, including Bamber Bridge, Horwich, Houghton Bottoms, Farnworth, Coppul, Chorley and Charnock Richard. What a good thing this report is so late, as these records only arrived recently! It's probably waiting to be found in other sites.

Small Copper 69 tetrads

First 29.4.09 KMC, Flixton
 Last 4.10.09 PK, Stretford
 High counts 24 BH, Heysham Barrows

There were quite a few more tetrads recorded than in 2008, though the few transect records indicate a rather poor year. The map below shows gains and losses between the 2000-2004 records, and the 2005-2009 set (orange gains, losses blue, both sets purple). That's 132 new squares, 154 lost and 146 stable.

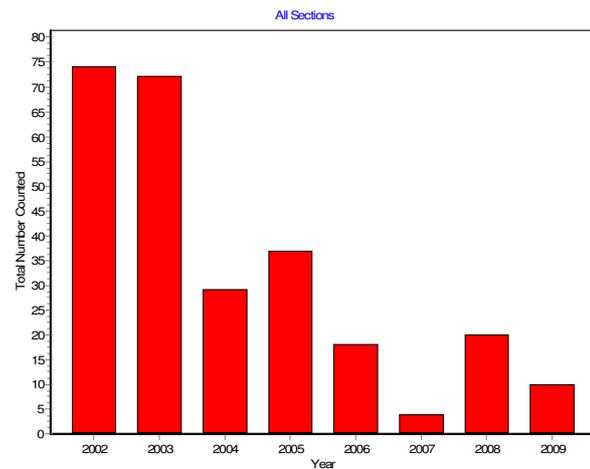


Northern Brown Argus 5 tetrads

First 4.6.09 JN, Warton Crag LWT
 Last 7.8.09 MR, Gait Barrows
 DJP, Eaves Wood

High count 49 RM, Warton Crag RSPB
 Things were quite variable for this butterfly, with some transect sites having a very poor year year, others much better. There were increases at Yealand Hall Allotments and Warton Crag RSPB, and Eaves Wood had some recovery from the slump of 2007. Gait Barrows had a

poor year, as did Arnside Knott. The graph below shows the decline of this species at Yealand Hall Allotments.



This graph shows the decline of the Northern Brown Argus at Warton Crag LWT transect, a similar picture over a longer time frame.

Common Blue 75 tetrads

First 12.5.09 DS, Blackpool Rock Garden
 Last 20.9.09 GA, Laing's site
 High Counts 281 JM&KH, Nr Charnock Richard

218 FW, Fairhaven Dunes
 Warton Crag LNR had a quite good year, but most sites were poor, with 2 second-worst evers.

Holly Blue 67 tetrads

First 11.4.09 PBH, Sale
 PK, Sale
 SMP, Lightfoot Green
 PHa, Lytham Cricket Club
 Last 18.9.09 JRy, Chorley
 High count 30 Heysham Log Book

There was a significant fall in the number of recorded squares.

Duke of Burgundy 2 tetrads

First 12.5.09 BB, Gait Barrows
 Last 26.5.09 DW, Gait Barrows
 High Count 6 BB, PHo, Gait Barrows

In 2009, the Duke could only be found in a far more restricted part of Gait Barrows than normal; it has been recorded over most of the northern part of the reserve but adult butterflies and subsequent early stages were notable by their absence from many former breeding glades despite much searching. In order to prevent further losses to what has become a critically small population, larvae were taken into captivity and released when hatched this spring. Add that to the number of other sites lost over the last few years and there's quite a bit to worry about.

Red Admiral 239 tetrads

First 11.1.09 LA, Hoggs Hill Lane
 Last 20.11.09 RC, Preston
 High count 81 CT, Martin Mere

There were fewer migrants in the summer than in most years. In late summer and autumn there were reasonable numbers of Red Admirals, but these flew too late to be properly assessed on the transects.

Painted Lady 305 tetrads

First 29.4.09 BD, Poulton
 Last 29.9.09 DC, Ribble coast
 High counts 1000 JC, Aldcliffe
 356 LR, Greenbank
 249 BD, Fleetwood Nature Park
 216 BH, Heysham Moss
 209 BD, Poulton
 200 PHa, Lytham cricket club

This was an interesting migration. Thousands of butterflies arrived, and moved on leaving little trace behind. If you compare this to the large numbers in 1996, the difference is clear. Then the butterflies laid eggs and thistle fields were stripped clean, this time the butterflies didn't breed around here in any numbers, and after the migratory wave there were not as many records as we could have expected. But an exceptional year.

Small Tortoiseshell 209 tetrads

First 10.3.09 JN, Hornby
 PHa, Lytham CC
 Last 30.10.09 MB, Hornby
 High counts 39 PHo, Altham

Not a great year for the Small Tort. Most records were of singles or low numbers.

Peacock 241 tetrads

First 10.3.09 JN, Hornby
 PHa, Lytham CC
 Last 3.12.09 JN, Hornby
 High counts 76 CT, Martin Mere

Other good counts came from Ainsdale, Astley Moss and Martin Mere. Like the Small Tort, not a great year. This could be due to the parasitic fly *Sturmia bella* that has been spreading through the UK. Around the transects, the picture varied from average counts (Martin Mere, Heysham) to the worst ever (Yealand Hall Allotments), worst since 1995 (Arnside KNott).

Comma 165 tetrads

First 11.1.09 LA, Cabin Hill
 Last 11.12.09 CC, Kirkham
 High count 15 LA, Cabin Hill

Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary 6 tetrads

First 2.6.09 RPJ, Gait Barrows
 BH, Yealand Hall Allots
 Last 15.7.09 LS, Gait Barrows
 High Count 24 RM, Warton Crag RSPB

Not too bad a year for this scarce species. Transect counts showed the best year since 1997 at Warton Crag LNR, a good increase at Yealand Hall Allotments, the first ever record from Myer's Allotment, and average on the other sites.

Pearl-bordered Fritillary 4 tetrads

First 26.4.09 RPJ, AS, Gait Barrows
 Last 10.9.09 RM, Warton Crag
 High count 12 RM, Warton Crag RSPB

2009 was the worst ever year on the Gait Barrows Warden's transect, but increased on the BMS route. Warton Crag LNR showed a good increase, the only bright spot in a general picture of gloom.

High Brown Fritillary 8 tetrads

First	22.6.09	JN, Warton Crag LWT
		RM, Warton Crag RSPB
Last	29.8.09	MP, Gait Barrows
High count	119	RM, Warton Crag RSPB

Again, a mixed bag of results. Quite good at Gait Barrows Warden's transect, but down on the BMS. Worst ever count at Eaves Wood, low average count at Arnside Knott, and a slight increase at Yealand Hall Allotments.

Dark Green Fritillary 17 tetrads

First	15.6.09	RPJ, Gait Barrows
Last	29.8.09	MP, Gait Barrows
High count	88	SB, Arnside Knott

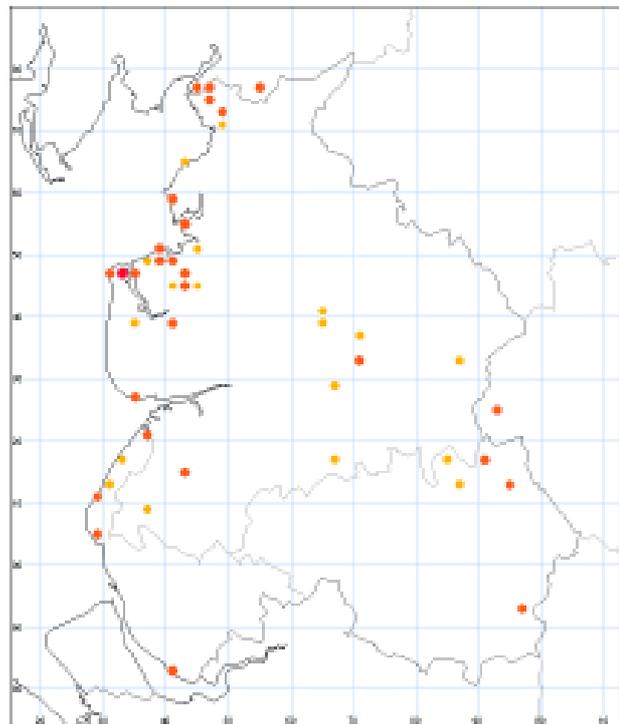
This species had a strong increase at Gait Barrows, showing that the habitat could be becoming more lush, which is what this butterfly prefers. Eaves Wood also had their best ever year. Yealand Hall Allotments had a decrease to their worst year since 2005.

It's hard to know whether to celebrate increases in this species on the limestone sites. When Dark Greens increase, the demise of the High Brown may not be far behind, as illustrated below. The graph shows the contrasting fortunes of the two species at Arnside Knott.

Wall 45 tetrads

First	25.4.09	CT&JM, Martin Mere
Last	10.9.09	DN, Warton Crag
High counts	20	BD, Fleetwood Nature Park

A later 'last' date is 31st October in the Heysham log book, but there is no-one named for the record. Just when some of us were starting to forget what a wall looks like, they started appearing in quite reasonable numbers in some places, Fleetwood Nature Park being a case in point. On the transects the picture is very gloomy, with quite a few sites not having recorded this species for a few years. This, of course, does not mean they are not there, just that they don't appear on the transect route at the required time.

Wall 2009 245 tetrads

At Ainsdale, counts were quite good (max 21 on transect). Other records came from Downholland Moss, Sheddon Clough, Gisburn Forest, Pilling Moss and there was a sighting in a garden at Sough.

Speckled Wood 263 tetrads

First	2.4.09	KMC, Flixton
Last	3.11.09	KMC, Flixton
High count	108	RPJ, Gait Barrows

Mostly, transect counts were on the low side of average with just one (Yealand Hall Allotment), showing a moderate increase.

Scotch Argus 1 tetrad

First	14.7.09	SB, Arnside Knott
Last	27.8.09	SB, Arnside Knott
High count	199	SB, Arnside Knott

The only site to regularly record this species is Arnside Knott, where numbers were low average. Unusually, one was encountered on a guided walk at Roudsea Wood near Haverthwaite in Cumbria, where it was seen by several people and photographed.

Grayling 15 tetrads

First 23.6.09 JSB, Arnside Knott
Last 10.9.09 A&D B, Ainsdale
High count 108 BD, Starr Hills

The Grayling had very mixed fortunes. Gait Barrows had a small increase, but in such low numbers it could easily disappear. Eaves Wood and Arnside both had a good increase, but Warton Crag was quite poor. Worryingly, Heysham Landscape Strip, once a thriving colony, reported none for the first time on transect (though one was recorded in the log book for the adjacent LNR). As usual, Ainsdale had good count, and others were recorded from Cabin Hill. Fewer than normal were counted at Hairhaven Dunes. A stray was found alongside the Lune estuary cycle track between Conder Green and Lancaster.

Ringlet 12 tetrads

First 24.6.09 LS, Gait Barrows
Last 5.8.09 DB, Gisburn
High count 100ish CT, Rowley

Rowley near Burnley did very well, with the highest and next-highest counts both coming from there, and exceeding all other sites by miles. This species seems to be well set in now at Gait Barrows, where it is now regular and in increasing numbers. As usual, Gisburn Forest had reasonable counts.

Gatekeeper 97 tetrads

First 1.7.09 RC, Hale duck decoy
Last 13.9.09 RN, Heysham LNR
High counts 194 A&D B, Ainsdale
115 RCC, Hale duck decoy
100 DW, Hope Carr

Best transect result was from Arnside Knott, where there was a huge increase. Eaves Wood also had a higher count, but the low numbers at Gait Barrows were unchanged. In the Morecambe Bay limestones, the process of colonisation is under way and very patchy. Further south, where this butterfly is well established, transects are few and far between. The only results we have are from Martin Mere, where the index was poor. Ainsdale is running a transect, but the route and sections have been changed, so valid conclusions can't be drawn.

Meadow Brown 208 tetrads

First 24.5.09 A&D B, Ainsdale
Last 26.9.06 JH, Pennington Flash
High count 433 BD, Fleetwood Nature Park
2009 was a much better year across most of the transects, with most sites getting above average counts. Heysham Landscape Strip and Martin Mere had relatively poor year. This species remains common across the region (apart from the high fells).

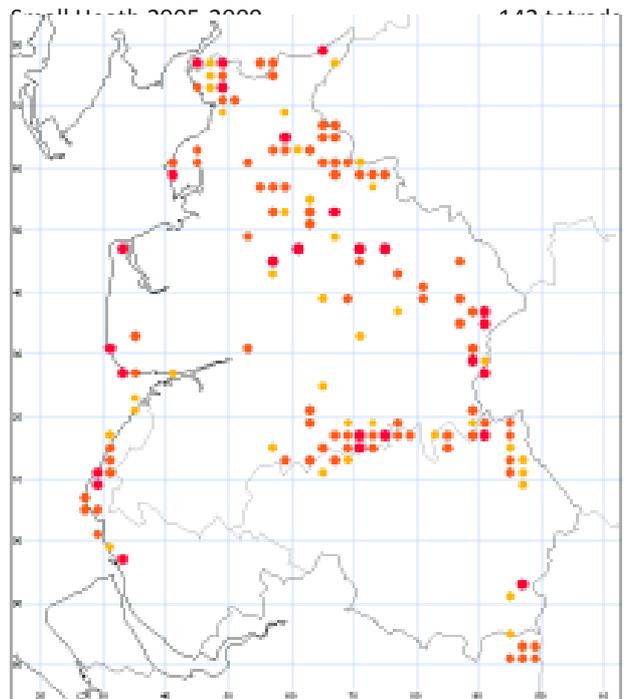
It can be quite tricky to distinguish a newly emerged male Meadow Brown from a Ringlet. Here's how. They are both dark, but Ringlets are darker. Ringlets have a more noticeable white edge when fresh. If there's any orange at all, even a glimpse, it's a Meadow Brown. Both species fly in a similar flop-and jink style, but if you think it's going to land, it's going to land etc but it doesn't land - it's a Ringlet.

Small Heath 42 tetrads

First 24.5.09 A&D B, Ainsdale
LA, Cabin Hills
BB, Yealand Hall Allotment
PL, Warton Crag
Last 17.9.09 SM, DM, RR, Belmont
High counts 59 AF, Arnside KNott

Best ever year at Arnside KNott, Warton Crag LNR also had a good increase. However there was just 1 recorded at Heysham Landscape Strip - in 2001 there were 120.

This butterfly is still doing quite well in the fells.



Large Heath 2 tetrads

First 25.6.09 DS, Winmarleigh Moss
Last 5.7.09 PL, Goodber Common
High Count 48 PL, Goodber Common

With only these two recorders having encountered Large Heath in 2009, it's hard to draw any conclusions. Goodber Common is a windy upland site, and from what I remember of surveying there in the 1990s, 48 sounds like a good count. How long did you spend there, PL? Conversely, the count of 3 for Winmarleigh Moss, at what should be about peak flight, is a bit of a worry.

Butterfly Recorders 2008

Recorders referred to in the text by initials, have the initials in brackets following their names. Well done, all of you!
Please all carry on!

Sonia Allen, Gavin Ashworth, Robert Ashworth, Ralph Atherton, L Atter (LA), D & BJ Beattie, Roy Bedford, D Beevers, Carole Bennett, Dorothy Bennett, Tony Bond, Steve Bradley (SB), Kane Brides, Barry Brigden (BB), Adam & David Britt (A&D B), David Broome (DB), Mary Broomfield (MB), , Derek Bunn (DB), Richard Burkmar, Stuart Burnet, Brian Carlyle, Doreen Carman (DC), Jonathan Cass (JC), D M Caunce (DC), John Chadwick (JC), E & S Challenger, A J Clark, Caroline Clarke (CC), Richard Clay (RC), Rob and Carol Cockbain (RCC), George & Barbara Cockburn, Stephen Collins (SC), W Comstive, Derek Cook, Margaret Cunliffe, Bob Danson, Eileen Dean, James Devaney, Mary Dean, D Downing, Bob & Mary Duck, Tony Dunn, Barry Dyson (BD), M Edmunds, Sam Ellis, Alan Ferguson (AF), Kitty Garnett, Steve Graham (SG), Paul Green, Richard Greenwood (RG), Brian & Dawn Hancock, Grace Hardy, Lirio Hardy, Loren Hardy, Peter Hardy (PBH), Peter Harris (PHa), Margaret Harvey, Ken Haydock, James Hide, Stephen Hind, P Hines, John & Betty Holding, Peter Hornby (PH), J & S Howarth, Brian Hugo (BH), Jeffrey Hurst (JH), A & S Imm, C Johnson, Philip Kinder (PK), Philip Kirk, Steve Kirtley, Phil Larkin (PL), A & E Laycock, Gary Lilley (GL), David Lumb, Pete Marsh (PM), Joan Marshall (JM), D Martin (DM), S Martin (SM), Kevin (KMC) & Jenny McCabe, Hilary McKean, I McLean, J Meldrum (JM), Andrew Middleton, Richard Miller (RM), Jill Mills (JMI), Robert & Collette Murphy, Reuben Neveille (RN), Jennifer Newton (JN), Norah Padgett, Stephen Palmer (SMP), Colin Peacock (CP), Rob Petley-Jones (RPJ), Maria Pilling (MP), David & Jill Player (DJP), Alan Powell, B Pratt, P Putwain, Mark Rawlins (MR), William Reid, Linda Renshaw, Roy Rhodes (RR), L E Richmond, Tony Riden (TR), D Rigby, G Rigby, J Riley (JRy), Jean Roberts, S Ryder, Barry Shaw, Laura Sivell (LS), Joy Sharp, Paul Slater, Alwyn Smith, Derrick Smith (DS), Brian Snell (BS), N Southworth (NS), Don Stenhouse, Alan Storey (AS), M J Sutcliffe, Chris Tomlinson (CT), Brian Townson, Martin Vaughn (MV), Pat Waddington, Dave Wainwright, Frank Walsh (FW), David Webster (DW), Dennis Weir, Terry Whitaker, Steve White, D Wilson (DW), David Winnard, David Woodward (DW), Pete Woodruff (PW), R Youngman.

Annual Report 2009, Moth Section

Macromoth Report 2009

Steve Palmer

January

Despite what turned out to be quite a cool or even cold winter at times, bucking the usual trend of the last few years, nine different types of larger moth were found during January. Of these, the Herald was located resting in bat hibernacula in several locations throughout Lancashire. Others were happily doing their thing outdoors and included the Dark Chestnut attracted to light at Mere Sands Wood. Hangers on from 2008 such as Winter Moth, were found at two sites while a late December Moth appeared at Leighton Moss on 14th. Genuine new-year arrivals were represented by Pale Brindled Beauty at Buckshaw on 13th, Euxton on 16th and Wray on 30th while Spring Usher was found in Chorley on 28th and a most un-seasonal Angle Shades in Bispham on 19th. The first records for Dotted Border came in January with reports from Swinton on 20th and Mere Sands Wood on 26th. This last site also produced a very early March Moth on 27th.

February

The colder conditions present early in the month did not affect the Tissues found in a couple of Bat caves, happily oblivious to the outside weather. Eventually moths started emerging in larger numbers, in some cases literally the day after frosty conditions had abated. The Small Brindled Beauty made its regular, if very restricted appearance at four sites in the Wray area from the 14th Feb onwards. March Moth and Pale Brindled Beauty continued to be widely reported with 105 of the latter at Cold Park Wood on 14th. The Oak Beauty was a bit slower to get going, but as well as the usual records from the Wray area, this attractive moth was also recorded from Boothstown, Bretherton, Parbold and Yealand Conyers between the 20th and 27th. Counts of over 30 Spring Usher were received from Euxton on 14th and Wray on 18th while on the 23rd it was new to a well trapped garden in Little Singleton. Dotted Border was also widely distributed during February but Early Moth was more locally distributed with counts of more than ten restricted to Perry Moor and Wennington on 5th. As we have got used to over recent years, Common Quaker, Clouded Drab, Early Grey and Hebrew Character had all made appearances in small numbers over much of the county before the month end together with an Engrailed at Mere Sands Wood on 24th. Amongst the newly emerged species, over-wintering moths such as Chestnut and Satellite were also being widely reported, including 29 of the former and 12 of the latter near Wray on the last day of the month. Larval searches at this time produced Clouded Bordered-brindle in Chorlton and Anomalous, Autumnal Rustic and Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing at Light Hazzles Edge.

March

This month is frequently subject to spells of wintery weather and trapping was hard work in the first week despite Mottled Grey being found at Brinscall on 1st and Shoulder Stripe in Euxton a few days later. On 7th, Yellow Horned came to light in Grimeford, the precursor of a good number of reports from such scattered sites as Adlington, Brinscall, Dolphinholme, Flixton, Mere Sands Wood, Parbold, Silverdale, Wigan, Worsley, Wray and Yealand Redmayne. Oak Nycteoline remained hard to find after over-wintering as an adult but on the 11th singles came to light in Preston and Swinton. In complete contrast 201 Small Quaker in Wray on 17th was unprecedented. Twin-spotted Quaker peaked a bit later with a maximum of 28 at the latter site on 30th. Over-wintering moths such as the Pale Pinion were being widely reported at this time but its close relative, the Tawny Pinion, was only found at three sites in March – Swinton on 13th, Worsley on 15th and Silverdale on 18th – a bit of a switch around from previous years. The latter site also provided the first Streamer of the year on 15th.

Daytime moth work in March tends to be quite hit and miss and the usual searches for Orange Underwing had mixed success despite some suitable sunny days. Rixton produced the first on 16th followed by Longworth Clough and Winmarleigh Moss on 20th and Trowbarrow on 29th. Another daytime search produced the first Belted Beauty sightings of the year (seven on 24th March at Potts Corner) on what was going to prove to be a memorable season for this moth. As the month drew to a close a very early Muslin Moth was found in Pennington on 30th – not the first time this has happened and a Red-green Carpet was found at Royton.

New recorders can often make significant contributions to species distribution maps and it was therefore good to receive records of such common species as Common Quaker, Clouded Drab and Early Grey from Oswaldtwistle; Pine Beauty, Powdered Quaker and Chestnut from Castleton; Streamer, Mottled Grey and Early Tooth-striped from near Hoghton and Clouded Silver, Muslin Moth and Early Grey from east of Formby for example. All of these are in under-recorded 10km squares.

April

The populations of two resident Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) species feature prominently in April's activities. Both have an early season flight period and require checks of the known colonies as well as searches for potential new sites.

In 2009, Barred Tooth-striped was found in lower than usual numbers at six previously known sites in the Silverdale area between 3rd and 24th. In contrast, an organised search on 19th to record the Belted Beauty at its Potts Corner to Sunderland Point colony produced a count of 217 females and 232 males – the highest numbers ever recorded at this site.

Hints of the winter just gone were still around when Autumn Green Carpet was found at Brinscall on 12th and Dolphinholme on 24th. The regular spring carpet moths (Common, Dark-barred Twin-spot, Flame and Garden) were all present throughout much of Lancashire by the third week of April but a Poplar Hawk on 8th in Lytham was an unexpected find so early in the year. Late April is often the best time to search lowland areas for the illusive Striped Twin-spot Carpet (more of an early June species in the uplands). Only two were found this year in April, on the 20th at Yealand Hall Allotments and on 22nd in Silverdale, the latter site also producing Scarce Prominent on 21st. By the 23rd early records of Chinese Character at Silverdale, Lychnis at Bispham and May Highflyer in Preston all hinted at the arrival of Spring. Also on the 23rd, a bumper catch of ten Purple Thorn in Worsley (IW) was of note, while Lunar Marbled Brown was having an excellent year with records from 14 sites, including Adlington, Dalton, Haweswater, Parbold and two counts of ten in Worsley and near Wray. Both Ruby Tiger and Red Sword-grass were proving rather elusive but the former came to light at a new trap site in Silverdale on 25th and the latter in the second half of April at Adlington, Dolphinholme, Leighton Moss and Longridge. Apart from early Double-striped and Brindled Pug, it is not usually until May that other Pug species start appearing in any numbers. The last week of April however produced Mottled Pug at two sites near Wray, Currant Pug in Flixton, White-spotted Pug in St Helens and Narrow-winged Pug in Longton. At the same time Oak-tree, Common, Golden-rod and V-pug were being recorded widely across the county. A successful search for the larva of Sandhill Rustic at Birkdale on the 25th produced the added bonus of caterpillars of the Crescent Striped, Nutmeg and Sand Dart. The month drew to a close with Lime Hawk Moth being found in Longridge on 28th, Mother Shipton occurring in Flixton on 29th and Cabbage Moth and Rustic Shoulder-knot making early appearances on 30th in Preston.

May

May was one of those typical months that promises so much but in the end it wasn't until the last few days that it actually delivered. An Emperor Moth was seen on Astley Moss on 2nd, and a Dingy Shell came to light in Flixton on 8th while Square Spot was found on Silverdale Moss on 9th. All very good so far, but as so often happens in early to mid May, cool, clear overnight conditions made light trapping hard work. Despite this Alder Kitten (the first of four this month) was found in Longridge on 15th – the others being Dolphinholme on 28th, Chipping on 29th and Hoghton on 31st. Chamomile Shark was notable in Preston on 17th and Gold Swift was seen on Astley Moss on 19th.

Eventually as the month drew to a close, moths started appearing in much better numbers. Red Twin-spot Carpet, an uncommon and frequently misidentified species, was found on Longridge Fell on 23rd. Oblique Carpet appeared in reasonable numbers at Haweswater, Grass Rivulet was found at seven sites, its best showing for some time and Purple Bar made an early appearance in St Annes. Eyed Hawk Moth in Carnforth, Clouded Magpie near Wray and Scorched Wing in Formby at this time were not unexpected but never-the-less spectacular moths to encounter in garden traps. Altcar Ranges remain a superb coastal dune and grassland habitat and an authorised visit on 29th produced at least eight Marsh Pugs. Other moths that subsequently went on to have an excellent Spring started to make their appearances at this time. The first of many Buff Arches came to light in Pennington on 30th while Figure of Eighty was found at several sites from the 27th onwards including Knotty Ash, Penwortham and Preston. White and Buff Ermine made an excellent come-back after the poor showing of the last few years. Peak counts included 21 of the former at Flixton on 31st, the same site producing 38 of the latter in late June.

The moth of the spring competition (if there was such a thing!) would have been hard fought in 2009, but an excellent contender for top spot would be the Large Nutmeg found in Swinton on 30th. This was only the second record for VC59, the other having been found over 100 years previously. Other contenders for the award would have been Marbled White Spot, one of which was found at Astley Moss on 29th and the Lunar Thorn at Wray on 31st. Silver Hook also put in an impressive performance during May and into June with record numbers at a couple of sites including a new site record from Knotty Ash on 31st. The month ended with Small Elephant Hawk Moth, Puss Moth and Clouded Brindle at Formby, the last also being found in Warton, near Carnforth and a couple of Small Purple Barred in the dunes at St Annes.

June

The first few days of June produced a fine array of moths, the pick of the bunch being Ash Pug and Alder Kitten in Yealand Redmayne, the former species also being found later in the month at Freckleton on 12th and Silverdale on 29th. The Devon Carpet's presence in Lord's Lot Wood confirmed its residence at this location while eighteen Dog's Tooth came to light in Hale. A visitor to Ainsdale on 3rd reported very large numbers of White Satin moth, estimated at over 1000. On the 9th White Colon was recorded in St Annes. Red-necked Footman is a scarce moth in Lancashire, so the three seen in 2009 at Gait Barrows on 9th, Silverdale on 12th and Dolphinholme on 29th were of note, while a

count of 50 Dark Brocade at Grizedale Head on 12th was impressive. Following the lack of records of Cistus Forester in 2008, it was good to receive reports of four on 12th and two on 15th at their usual location on Warton Crag although numbers are still worryingly low – it is hoped that recent scrub clearance carried out by the RSPB next to the moths breeding site will assist this uncommon insect. Another moth that is uncommon in our area, the Bird's Wing, fared reasonably well in 2009 with records from Hale on 14th, the first of four at this location, and later at Astley Moss, Hough Green and Whitefield.

Searches for larvae are not usually that productive in mid June, but a visit to the grounds of a Kaye's Nursery in Silverdale on 16th produced around 50 Mullein Moth caterpillars on a group of garden Mullein plants. Other sightings of note at this time included Heart and Club and Dwarf Cream Wave in Formby, Blotched Emerald in Hoghton and Worsley, Netted Pug in Longridge and Sloe Pug in Swinton. The latter species was also recorded in Flixton and Gait Barrows on 23rd while Valerian Pug was found on White Moss on 20th. Another larval search on the latter date, this time on the Birkdale Green Beach, produced Sandhill Rustic, Portland Moth and an adult Shore Wainscot – the latter also being found at Formby on 29th.

The Shark (moth!) is a local species in Lancashire and was attracted to light at Heysham on 23rd. Around this time several July Belle moths were located in the Wray area, the only other record of this species being in mid July on Freshfield Dune Heath. Late June proved to be a very productive for uncommon moths with Minor Shoulder-knot coming to light in Wray and Plain Wave occurring at Gait Barrows. This last species was also subsequently seen in Dalton on 25th, Pennington on 26th and eleven on Astley Moss on 27th. On the 26th a Beautiful Snout was an exciting find at Gait Barrows while a daytime search at Heysham Moss produced Clouded Buff on 24th. The latter species was also found at Botton Mill on 30th. To add to this impressive tally, Lesser Cream Wave was located on White Moss on 25th, the same date also producing Currant Clearwing in a Hale garden (CC) and Clay Triple-lines and Triple-spotted Clay in Dalton (north Lancs).

Double Dart has become quite a local species in the county over the past decade and so it was pleasing to receive reports from Morecambe on 26th and Wray on 28th. At about this time an environmental survey carried out in Tyldesly, Manchester produced high numbers of Blackneck and Burnished Brass. Also on 28th a superb Leopard Moth came to light in Pennington accompanied by a Blackneck. On the 29th Brown Scallop and V Moth were recorded in the Silverdale area, a Dark Umber was found at Leighton Moss and an early Old Lady came to light at Pennington. The last day of the month continued the theme of exciting finds all over the county. Coronet was found in Chipping, Nutmeg in Little Singleton, Scarce Silver-lines was reported from Adlington and Knotty Ash and a Red Carpet occurred in a trap at Botton Mill.

July

When the Beautiful Hook-tip made its first county appearance in 2001, we all had high hopes of seeing this attractive moth nestling in our traps but, with only two further records in the bumper year of 2006, its "invasion" seemed to have ground to a halt. This all changed in 2009 with the moth appearing in Flixton at the end of June, St Helens on 1st July and two at Hale on 3rd. The St Helens individual was accompanied by a Leopard Moth and 21 Gold Swift while on the same date Lilac Beauty was found in Longridge and Pennington, a moth infrequently encountered outside its north Lancashire colonies. Muslin Footman had an excellent year peaking at 83 at Leighton Moss on 1st. New sites for Grass Emerald are few and far between these days so it was good to get a report from Sunderland Point of this moth on 3rd. Similarly Grey Arches in Rainford on 1st, Puss Moth in Morecambe on 3rd, Galium Carpet at Gait Barrows and a Satin Beauty in Orrell on 5th were all of note.

An unusual looking Wainscot type moth appeared in a Preston garden light trap on 2nd. It turned out to be Striped Wainscot, a species new to Lancashire. Also at this time, Small Elephant Hawk-moth made a rare appearance in Preston, well away from its normal haunts of coastal dunes, limestone areas and moorland, while seven Marbled White Spot were found on Astley Moss and Dwarf Cream Wave occurred in Formby. Before the excitement generated by the Striped Wainscot had barely had a chance to subside, the morning of the 4th dawned with another even more exciting find. The first ever Orache Moth for Lancashire was found in Broad Green, Liverpool. This is only about the fifty-fourth record of it (as a migrant) in Britain, although it was a former resident in the fens up to 1915. What more incentive can there be to run a garden light trap?

Species such as the Garden Tiger and, to a lesser extent, the Drinker were showing worrying signs of decline in numbers and distribution in our region. However 2009 seems to have produced an improvement for both species, one of the former being reported in Poulton-le-Fylde on 4th. The Blackneck continues to expand its range in the county and this year it turned up at two new sites in north Lancashire (VC60), St Michaels on 8th and Longridge on 25th. On the same date the Confused came to light in Silverdale and about a week later in Morecambe. Small

Ranunculus continued its very slow and rather localised spread when it was found at Fazakerley on 9th, also being seen again at one of its original Lancashire sites in Crosby. The 10th produced Crescent Striped at Sunderland Point (also being found on 22nd at Birkdale) and on the 12th an exciting find was made on Ainsdale NNR when a Forester moth was found. This BAP species is to be the subject of increased survey work during 2010.

Daytime visits to moorland in mid summer often turn up worthwhile and interesting sightings. On a stormy and windy day on Whit Moor (13th July), hopes were not high of finding much, but brief periods of sun enticed a Wood Tiger to get airborne, before it was rapidly blown out of sight. On the 15th Small Dotted Buff and Suspected were found as part of an intensive survey of Stanley Bank Meadow, St Helens. The latter species seems to have had a good year being reported from five other locations including a late one at Mere Sands Wood on 3rd August.

Most recent records of the Heart and Club had come from the Southport area with a few scattered records from other more northerly sites. However the increase in recording activity around Formby over the last couple of years has proved that the moth is doing well in this district as well. Another local species encountered at this time was Blomer's Rivulet at Yealand Conyers on the 18th while an unexpected Large Emerald came to light in Billinge on 19th – a new species for a garden where a trap has been operated since the 1980s. By coincidence, it was the same site at Billinge that produced the first Orange Footman found in Lancashire, during 2007. On the 23rd July 2009 it made a further leap northward when it was found at Gait Barrows.

It seems that reports of Lempke's Gold Spot are becoming less frequent than they used to be. Only fourteen were found in 2009, one of which was a new garden species on 24th in Warton. On the 25th a Sandy Carpet came to light in Heysham, a first for this well recorded garden which also had Mullein Wave (also found in Hale on 25th Aug.), Pinion-streaked Snout and Scallop Shell.

August

Throughout July and August the Dingy Footman continued to consolidate its position in Lancashire. Initially it was restricted to lowland and coastal areas but has now started appearing well inland. In all there were records from eight different areas in 2009 – quite a significant increase. Brown-line Bright-eye is an elusive and rare species in Lancashire and since the turn of the century it had only been recorded at six sites. Hale can now be added to that list, with one appearing there on the 2nd, while on the 5th, a Devon Carpet was found at a second site in Lancashire, near Middle Salter. The moth has been expanding its range in other parts of the UK – could this be an indication that the two colonies (Lord's Lot Wood and Middle Salter) are perhaps of more recent origin than originally suspected? Elsewhere, Grey Mountain Carpet was recorded at Loftshaw Moss on 6th, and on 9th Sallow Kitten appeared for only the second time in over 25 years trapping in a Swinton garden. A walk across the moors on the glorious 12th produced a new colony of Manchester Treble Bar at Blaze Moss while the local Golden Plusia came to light in Wigan. Another upland species checked each year is the Pale Eggar, which was confirmed as still present when found on 8th on Leck Fell while its close (but coastal) relative the Grass Eggar was reported from Formby and Freshfield mid month.

On the 6th August, an exciting find of second brood Marsh Pug was made at Fleetwood Nature Park and a couple of days later, Bleached Pug was found at Kaye's Nursery, Silverdale. The Saltern Ear is generally a local coastal species but on 10th it was found well inland at Flixton. On 18th a visit to Docker Moor was particularly notable for the discovery of a new site for Hedge Rustic. This is now a very local species in the county and is only one of four sites where it has been found in the last five years. At the opposite end of the spectrum, Barred Hook-tip continued its range expansion and was found in the Swinton area for the first time on the 19th together with an astounding thirty three Old Lady moth.

During much of August, the detailed study of the Sandhill Rustic and its ecology continued unabated. On the 22nd, fifty eight were found on Birkdale Green Beach and a further 21 at Southport (north of Marine Lake). A Butterbur at Leighton Moss at this time was the first in Lancashire since 2007 and the first at this site since about 1980. On the 23rd, Dark Spinach came to light in Poulton-le-Fylde, one of only three sites for this uncommon moth in Lancs during 2009. Other local species at this time included Golden-rod Brindle near Wray on 24th, Neglected Rustic on Astley Moss on the same date and Grey Chi in Liverpool on 25th.

September

In the first few days of the month Orange Sallow turned up at several sites for the first time, including Wilpshire, Blackburn on the 1st and Swinton on 2nd. Shortly afterwards the Green Carpet appeared in Billinge for the first time since 1999. Flounced Chestnut remains quite a local species in the county. On 4th it was recorded at Beacon Fell (with the uncommon Dark Marbled Carpet) and also later on at Adlington, Gait Barrows and Dalton (VC59). The 4th was also a bit of a special day for moth recording in Lancashire. It was on this date in a wood in north Lancashire, that several larvae of the Netted Carpet were found on Touch-me-not Balsam. As a national BAP species, the moth will require regular monitoring and protection.

The Brown-spot Pinion is one of the moths causing us concern due to its serious decline in distribution and numbers in recent years. During 2009 records were received from only three locations. It occurred as singletons on seven nights in Hale between the 17th Sept and early October but otherwise only single moths were found in Flixton on 14th and Haweswater on 18th. Barred Sallow, another local moth, is also a bit of a Hale speciality with 15 during late September and October this year - more than had been recorded in the county as a whole up to 2009. The moth was also noted at Lower Burgh Meadow on 12th and later at Knotty Ash on 5th October, Liverpool on 13th October and Huyton on 14th October.

As the season progressed, it became apparent that late or second brood sightings were becoming more than just a localised phenomenon. By the end of September and through much of October there were regular reports of moths flying well outside their usual flight periods. The following is a list of some of the more notable in date order:

Silver-ground Carpet was found in Blackpool on 20th Aug, White Ermine at Martin Mere on 7th Sept, Beautiful Golden Y at Hale on 16th and 18 Sept. A Hebrew Character was recorded in Goosnargh on 25th Sept., Grass Rivulet at Martin Mere on 26th Sept. and Larch Pug at Yealand Conyers on 30th Sept. Into October, Brimstone Moth was found at Sunderland Point on 4th, Small Phoenix in Worsley on 6th, Ingrailed Clay at Worsley on 8th, Common White Wave in Swinton and Flame Shoulder in Longridge on 10th, Willow Beauty in Flixton on 13th, Golden-rod Pug in Preston, Small Dusty Wave in Longton and Small Square-spot in Dolphinholme all on 15th, Dark Arches in Heysham on 21st, Juniper Pug at Gait Barrows on 28th, Light Emerald in Hale on 29th and an amazing 5 Common Rustic at Rainford on 30th. By November things were calming down but Lesser Yellow Underwing on 13th at Sunderland Point and another Hebrew Character at Lower Burgh Meadow on 21st were still most unexpected.

Returning to September and the mixed emotions generated by yet another unspectacular National Moth Night, there were still plenty of interesting moths on the wing. An early Juniper Carpet appeared on 13th in Heysham and a Green Carpet at Swinton on 19th was not only quite a late record but was also the first time this species had occurred in that garden in over 25 years recording. On the same date an Autumn Green Carpet was found in Belmont and near Wray, while the only record of an adult Heath Rustic received during 2009 came from Freshfield Dune Heath accompanied by the very local Northern Deep Brown Dart. A week later, its close relative, the Deep Brown Dart, was found at Hale joined by a Treble Bar, a 24 year first for this garden. On the 21st Vine's Rustic came to light in Formby, still the only locality in the county where this moth is regularly recorded. To top things off, thirteen Feathered Ranunculus came to an actinic trap in Silverdale on the 22nd.

October to December

The trap contents at Botton Head Farm must have resembled a pile of dead crinkled leaves when it was inspected on 14th October. Angle Shades were everywhere, in the end totalling 133 – an impressive tally so late in the season. Hidden amongst them was an early December Moth. It was obviously a good moth-ing night in north Lancs on that date as thirteen Red Sword-grass came to a sheet and light session on Lythe Fell while further south on the following night, ten Figure of Eight were in a Hutton garden trap. The Grey Shoulder-knot is a local species in the county and in 2009 was only found on seven occasions, three of these in October in Leigh (15th), Silverdale (19th) and Gait Barrows on 26th. On 26th a Vine's Rustic was present in Formby an Autumn Green Carpet was found near Wray on 28th and a late Straw Dot near Euxton on 30th.

As October departed so did the numbers and variety of moths on the wing. Small numbers were being found in sheltered spots such as a Northern Winter Moth at Ashton-in-Makerfield on 6th November and Sprawler at three north Lancs sites. A few hardy souls ventured out onto their local patches while the rest of us battened down their garden traps against the approaching winter gales. On 21st November large numbers of the late season geometrids were found near Euxton including 69 Scarce Umber, 80 plus Mottled Umber and in excess of 100 Winter Moths. Perhaps the best of the lot though were ten December Moth. A Pale Brindled Beauty in Yealand Conyers on 9th of December seemed a bit out of place but it was down to a Winter Moth at Flixton on 29th December to bring the season to a close.

Migrant Report

Graham Jones

Undoubtedly the migrant highlight of 2009 has to be the first Lancashire record of Orache Moth, which turned up in a garden light-trap on 4th July in Broadgreen, Liverpool (D. Hardy). Other highlights included Vestal at Millhouses on 28th October (T. Whitaker), Small Mottled Willow at Hoghton on 27th July (G. Dixon), and 3 Convolvulus Hawk Moth in September. Interestingly, just one of these was found on the coast; at Formby on 11th September (T. Davenport). With the other two were both recorded inland at Burnley on 8th September (D. Anderson) and Longton, Preston on 27th September (R. Boydell). It is possible that these inland records, particularly the Burnley one, relate to individuals that

have travelled inland using a predominantly easterly airflow after reaching landfall on the east coast, rather than being west coast landfall migrants which would normally be presumed.

Apart from these highlights 2009 was not a remarkable year for migrant activity; just 11 migrant species were recorded overall, with some in noticeably low numbers. Only one Rusty-dot Pearl was recorded during the entire year, which interestingly was at Millhouses on the 29th October - the day after the record of Vestal (T. Whitaker). The year saw only three records of Pearly Underwing too, the first in Hardy Grove, Salford on the 22nd September (G. Riley) with another in the Manchester area 3 days later on the 25th at Boothstown (I. Walker), and the last in Royton on the 14th October (R. Walker).

Records for Hummingbird Hawk fared better, 26 were recorded overall with the bulk of these (57%) between 2nd and 16th July. The first record for the year was reported on the early date of the 14th April in Ormskirk Town Centre (D. Baldwin), and the last in Leigh on the 8th November (L. Haines).

A noticeable influx of Diamond-back Moth occurred in late June and early July, with a peak around 30th June – 2nd July. Several recorders had counts of 50+ in the garden light-trap during this time, with a maximum count of 60 to MV at Hale on the 30th June (C. Cockbain). A similar influx of Silver Y occurred in early September with a minimum count of 100 feeding on heather at Astley Moss during a daytime search on the 7th September (K. McCabe), and 150 on the West Pennine Moors on the 10th (S. Martin), presumably also feeding on heather.

Records of 1-2 Dark Sword-grass at light were distributed throughout the year, 78 records were received in total from May onward, with October receiving the bulk of the records. Similarly, 72 records of Rush Veneer were received, with most in August and September and a peak count of 4 to MV at Lightfoot Green on the 5th September (S. Palmer).

Micromoth Report

Steve Palmer

Over 18,000 records of 576 different species of microlepidoptera were submitted by the moth recorders in Lancashire's two Vice Counties* (VC59 and VC60) during 2009, an incredible total considering the continued run of poor summers we've experienced. This large number of different types of moths precludes listing of the species individually and so a summary of some of the more localised and notable species is included and includes all those new to one or other of the VCs (denoted in **bold**). In the previous few years many of the new species have been made up of species increasing their range nationally, but in 2009 only four of the ten new vice county records related to species moving northwards through the county as part of a national range expansion. The remaining six species are likely to be residents that have previously been over-looked. I would like to thank all of those submitting records and look forward to even more in 2010.

* VC59 covers from the River Mersey northwards to the River Ribble and VC60 north from the Ribble to just south of Arnsdale.

The species below are listed in Scientific Order and by family and all dates refer to 2009.

NEPTICULIDAE

Ectoedemia decentella (Herr.-Schaff.) Wigan 21st June (G & B Wynn) – a new site for this small but easily identified sycamore leaf-mining species which appears to be very local outside the south Manchester and Wigan areas.

Stigmella speciosa (Frey) Poulton Le Fylde, mine on Sycamore 29th September (A Smith) – still local north of the Ribble but gradually expanding its range.

Stigmella obliquella (Heinemann) Leighton Moss (vacated mine on white willow) 11th July (R Homan) – very local in north Lancashire.

Stigmella myrtillella (Staint.) Thursden (mines on bilberry) 19th October (S Hind, K McCabe) – new area for this under recorded species which should be found wherever good stands of bilberry occur.

ADELIDAE

Adela cuprella (D. & S.) Middleton Wood 19th April (D Taylor) – third county record. Worth looking above mature sallows in spring sunshine for the "dancing" males.

TINEIDAE

Morophaga choragella (D. & S.) Flixton, three between the 21st June and 10th July (K McCabe) – only recorded from south and south west Manchester but could be spreading.

Nemapogon clematella (Fabr.) Torrisholme 23rd June, in mature hedgerow (C Darbyshire) – apart from some very historic records, this nationally scarce moth has previously only been found at Gait Barrows.

Triaxomera parasitella (Hubn.) Fulwood, Preston (SD5332) **new to VC60** 14th June (A. Powell det. S Palmer) – possibly part of a national range expansion.

Tineola bisselliella (Hummel) Preston, six between 15th July and 4th September (A Powell) – the only regular site for this moth in Lancashire.

Niditinea fuscella (Linn.) Dolphinholme, five between 24th April and 29th June (N Rogers) – the only site for this moth in Lancashire during 2009.

Tinea pallescentella Staint. Morecambe 2nd September (J Girdley) – only the second record for VC60 and the first for that VC in six years.

BUCCULATRICIDAE

Bucculatrix cidarella Zell. Gait Barrows, three mines on Alder 15th September (S Palmer) – details of the only other record/s from VC60 shown in *The Moths and Butterflies of Great Britain and Ireland Vol. 2* are unknown.

ROESLERSTAMMIIDAE

Roeslerstammia erxebella (Fabr.) Leighton Moss SD477749 **new to VC60** 22nd August (S Palmer) – this species continues to push its range northwards in the UK.

GRACILLARIIDAE

Calybites phasianipennella (Hubn.) Hale 2nd August (C Cockbain) and Martin Mere 10th August (A Bunting) – the only records of this moth in 2009 despite earlier indications it was increasing its range.

Phyllonorycter platani (Staud.) recorded as mines on London Plane from four sites in south west Manchester and Billinge (C Darbyshire, K McCabe) during October. Particularly common at one of the sites, in Flixton.

Phyllonorycter corylifoliella (Hubn.) bred from mine on Hawthorn, Rixton Clay Pits 8th July (B Smart) – this species appears to be declining with only six found in the last five years.

Phyllonorycter lautella (Zell.) Healey Dell, mine on sapling Oak 3rd September (K McCabe, D Winnard).

Cameraria ohridella Deschk. & Dim. Clitheroe SD7038 **new to VC60**, a few mines found on Horse Chestnut on 17th October (K. McCabe) – part of a very rapid move northwards through the UK.

GLYPHIPTERIGIDAE

Glyphipterix schoenicolella Boyd Hawes Water SD477768 **new to VC60** 2.vi.2009 (S Palmer) – a very localised species in Lancashire, previously over-looked at this site.

Orthotelia sparganella (Thunb.) Heysham 24th July (A Draper, J Girdley, P Marsh, R Neville, J Roberts) – a very local species in VC60 and one of only two records in Lancashire during 2009, the other being near Euxton on 14th August (E Langrish).

YPONOMEUTIDAE

Argyresthia cupressella Wals. Leighton Moss SD477749 **new to VC60** 13th June and also Preston 21st June (S Palmer) – a moth on the move northwards through the UK, very common in Huyton, Liverpool during 2009 (S Tomlinson).

Argyresthia semitestacella (Curtis) Fulwood, Preston SD5332 **new to VC60** 17th August (A Powell det. S Palmer) – more than likely to be a local over-looked resident in this vice county.

Zelleria hepariella Staint. Yealand Conyers 22nd September (B Hancock) – a local species that is perhaps expanding its range slightly in the county.

Ypsolopha sylvella (Linn.) St Helens 8th August (D Owen) – a very local species restricted to the far south and south west of the county.

Eidophasia messingiella (F. v. R.) Tyldesley, Manchester, two on 26th June (C Plant) – a local species otherwise only found in Flixton during 2009 (K McCabe).

LYONETIIDAE

Leucoptera laburnella (Staint.) Yealand Conyers 30th September (B Hancock) – surprisingly local in VC60, possibly under recorded but searches of the foodplant at some sites have failed to produce the distinctive mines.

COLEOPHORIDAE

Coleophora juncicolella Staint. Huyton 16th June (S Tomlinson) – the first time this moth has been recorded well away from heather mosses or moorland in the county.

Coleophora binderella (Kollar) Cadishead Moss 14th September (K McCabe, D Stenhouse) – larva in case feeding on Sweet Chestnut, a previously unknown foodplant for this moth. This local species was also found at same site by the same recorders (10th October) on birch.

ELACHISTIDAE

Stephensia brunnichella (Linn.) Warton Crag 28th May (S Palmer, G Jones); Gait Barrows 29th June (S Palmer) – the only recent records of this moth in Lancashire. Details of the only other record/s from Lancashire shown in *The Moths and Butterflies of Great Britain and Ireland Vol. 2* are unknown.

Biselachista cinereopunctella (Haw.) Two Hawes Water 2nd June (S Palmer) – previously only known from Bolton-le-Sands in the 19th century.

OECOPHORIDAE

Tachystola acroxantha (Meyrick) Poulton Le Fylde 15th October (A Smith) – the only record in VC60 this year, but continues the gradual increase northwards in the moths range. The spread appears to have originated from the colony of this adventive moth that became established in the south Manchester area in the 1980s which remained very static until the early 2000s.

Pleurota bicostella (Clerck) Grizedale Head 12th June (J Girdley) – the only record of this local moth in Lancashire during 2009.

Depressaria badiella (Hubn.) Heysham and Sunderland Point 5th September (J Girdley) – it seems likely that the increase in records of this local moth over the last few years is due to increased trapping and awareness of the micromoths. Its only other site in Lancashire during 2009 was at Flixton on 10th August, where it has occurred before (K McCabe).

Agonopterix nanatella (Staint.) St Annes dunes nature reserve, three larvae on Carline Thistle (reared) on 25th May (S Palmer) – a very local moth and not recorded in the county since 1990.

Agonopterix umbellana (Fabr.) Freshfield Dune Heath 19th September (G Jones) – despite its larval foodplant (Gorse) being widespread, there are very few records of the moth.

GELECHIIDAE

Aristotelia ericinella (Zell.) Freshfield Dune Heath 12th September (R Walker) – a late date for this very local moth from the only site where there are regular records in Lancashire.

Aroga velocella (Zell.) Freshfield Dune Heath, five on 15th July (G Jones, S Palmer) – not recorded in Lancashire since 1998 and this is the first record from VC59 since the 19th Century.

Gelechia cuneatella Dougl. Leighton Moss (SD477749) **new to VC60** 21st September, genitalia det. (S Palmer) – a scarce national and local resident which has seen a slight increase in the number of records throughout the UK in the last few years.

Scrobipalpa nitentella (Fuchs) Sunderland Point 19th July (J Girdley) – one of only a small handful of coastal sites for the very local species.

Acompsia cinerella (Clerck) Heysham 9th July (A Draper, J Girdley, P Marsh, R Neville, J Roberts) – a rare species in the county and the first record since 1997.

AUTOSTICHIDAE

Oegoconia quadripuncta (Haw.) Morecambe 5th August (J Girdley gen. det S Palmer) – most northerly record in the county with some indication that this is part of a range expansion. For some time the moth has been occasional coastally in south VC60 but during 2008 and 2009 it moved inland for the first time occurring in a long term trap site in Preston (S Palmer).

BATRACHEDRIDAE

Batrachedra pinicolella (Zell.) Preston (SD513333) **new to VC60** 4th July, genitalia det. (S Palmer) – local and probably over-looked resident in the county.

MOMPHIDAE

Mompha lacteella (Steph.) Gait Barrows 29th June (S Palmer) – the only modern site for this moth in Lancashire and the first time here since 2003.

TORTRICIDAE

Gynnidomorpha alismana (Ragonot) Leighton Moss 1st June (S Palmer) – only the second VC60 record, the first of which was at the same site a few years ago.

Aethes beatricella (Wals.) Hale 27th June (C Cockbain); Martin Mere 2nd July (A Bunting) – only the second and third records of this moth in Lancashire.

Argyrotaenia ljugiana (Thunb.) Longridge Fell 23rd May (A Barker) – the only Lancashire record for this local mossland and moorland species during 2009.

Ptycholomoides aeriferanus (Herr. Schaff.) Martin Mere 2nd July (A Bunting) – the most northerly record for this moth in Lancashire.

Eana incanana (Steph.) Heysham 1st July (J Holding) – rare away from the limestone areas of north Lancashire.

Acleris umbrana (Hubn.) Gait Barrows (SD483774) **new to VC60** 22nd April (B Hancock, R Petley-Jones) – this moth was recorded again later in the year (1st December) at the same site by the same recorders plus R Hilton, suggesting it is a rare resident in the area.

Olethreutes palustrana (Lien. & Zell.)Worsthorne 28th June (G Gavaghan) and Thrushgill 12th July (J Girdley) – there are very few modern records of this moorland moth in Lancashire but it seems likely that it is under-recorded.

Piniphila bifasciana (Haw.) Flixton 21st June (K McCabe); Little Crosby 29th June (C Fletcher) – a very local species associated with Scots Pine.

Metendothenia atropunctana (Zett.) Astley Moss 2nd July (K McCabe, G Riley) – fourth Lancashire site for this very local moth.

Ancylis obtusana (Haw.) Gait Barrows (SD481773) **new to VC60** 9th June (S Tomlinson) – it is incredible how Gait Barrows continues to turn up these new resident species which presumably exist at very low population levels.

Epinotia rubiginosana (Herr. Schaff.) Little Crosby 29th June (C Fletcher) – not far away from the Formby pinewoods which is its county stronghold.

Epiblema foenella (Linn.) Morecambe 6th July (J Girdley); Brockholes, Preston 11th July (Lancashire Moth Group) – a very local moth north of the Ribble.

Spilonota laricana (Hein.) Dolphinholme 7th July (N Rogers) – very few records but probably under-recorded due to its similarity to dark forms of *S. ocellana*.

Pammene populana (Fabr.) Middleton 6th August (J Girdley) – a very local species and formerly only found where Creeping Willow occurs. It must be utilising a different *Salix* species at this new site.

Grapholita internana (Guen.) Warton Crag, ten on 28th May (G Jones, S Palmer) – only the second record for this uncommon moth.

PYRALIDAE

Crambus hamella (Thunb.) Cadishead Moss 27th August (K McCabe, T Dallimore) – six were found at the same site two days later (KM). The remaining bits of the south west Manchester Mosses and surrounding areas are the only sites where this species is found in Lancashire. Searches on Winmarleigh Moss (VC60) would be worthwhile.

Crambus pratella (Linn.) Formby Point 4th July (S Tomlinson) – the only confirmed record of this rare moth on the county database.

Pyrausta despicata (Scop.) Fairhaven Dunes 5th July (J Steeden) – a very local species of the vegetated sand-dunes of Lancashire, last seen in 2003.

Anania funebris (Strom) – as a National BAP species, monitoring took place at its known sites and searches were carried out at potential new sites. The moth was seen on the wing between 12th May (J Girdley) and 12th June (R Miller) being found at Gait Barrows, Warton Crag and Yealand Hall Allotments. In contrast to recent years numbers never reached double figures at any sites. A visit to Hutton Roof limestone, just above Dalton, failed to locate any of these moths (S Palmer).

Algedonia terrealis (Treits.) Swinton 2nd and 23rd June (G Riley) – the larva feed on wild Golden Rod and it has now been recorded from three 10km squares west and south west of Manchester in addition to the more normal limestone areas of northern VC60.

Aglossa pingualis (Linn.) St Annes 5th July (J Steeden) – not seen since 1973 (at the same site), which are the only documented county record presently located. It is given as occurring regularly in stables etc in the 1948 publication by Mansbridge who repeats what was written by Ellis in the 1880s. Unfortunately at no time are even a single location mentioned in the text so it has not been possible to track this moth's obvious and dramatic decline.

Apomyelois bistriatella (Hulst) Freshfield Dune Heath, two on 15th June (S Palmer) – the fourth site for this uncommon species and the first in the county since 2001.

A detailed look at the - Geometridae (part)

Steve Palmer

A regular feature of the Annual Report is a detailed look at the status and distribution, in systematic order, of a few of the larger moths recorded in Lancashire, both past and present. The ecology, current status and distribution of each species are presented in a brief summary together with up to date maps showing their known distribution in Lancashire.

This section covers eight of the medium sized "Carpet" type moths in the genera *Cosmorhoe*, *Nebula*, *Eulithis* and *Ecliptopera*. In Europe there are eighteen species within these four genera while in Lancashire we have all eight of those that occur in Britain. Two of the moths below have shown a moderate to marked decline over recent years while most of the others will be familiar to regular moth recorders in the county.

Distribution maps have been produced for all of the species using Mapmate and only include confirmed records of the species (so may differ slightly from the maps available on the wider Mapmate network). The graph at top right on the maps demonstrates the flight period and average voltinism (number of broods per year). Foodplant information is based on that published in Skinner, 2009 and Waring, Townsend and Lewington, 2009.

1752 *Cosmorhoe ocellata* Purple Bar

This delightful little moth has a widespread but rather patchy distribution throughout Lancashire and is found throughout most of mainland Britain. Skinner (2009) reports that the moth is double brooded, except in the North and that the partial second generation occurs in August and early September (Waring, Townsend and Lewington 2009 repeating this). The Lancashire flight graph and records suggest that double brooding is a regular feature here, September records not being uncommon, and that the second generation if anything can be slightly stronger than the first. The population peaks occur in late May/early June and in mid August with the earliest known date being 27th April 2005 at Warton Brag (B Hancock) and the latest 25th September 2009 in Dolphinholme (N Rogers). The larva feed on bedstraws, such as hedge and heath.

1753 *Nebula salicata* Striped Twin-spot Carpet

This is predominantly a northern species in the UK. Within Lancashire it is local and uncommon moth occurring in the northern third of the county where it is associated with moorland and both lowland and upland limestone. There have been no records from south of the River Ribble since the late 1800s. Apart from a single Longridge Fell record in 1985, it is not until the northern parts of the Trough of Bowland are reached that the moth starts to occur with any

regularity. This could well be down to greater recording effort in this part of the county and searches on moorland further south would certainly be worthwhile.

The moth is on the wing nationally in two broods with Skinner (2009) suggesting the second brood from August to early September is restricted to lowland localities. The limited number of records from upland parts of Lancashire, mainly since the year 2000, indicates a second generation may occur in higher parts. Elsewhere it is on the wing from mid May through to early September in two broods, with the first generation peaking in mid May and the second generation in late August. In sheltered lowland limestone sites it has occasionally been encountered in late April and early May, the earliest record coming from one of these sites, Yealand Hall Allotment, on 20th April 2009 (B Hancock). The latest date was from the Trough of Bowland on 14th September 1963 (C J Goodall). The larva feed on various bedstraw species.

1754 *Eulithis prunata* **Phoenix**

This large and impressive Geometrid is widespread throughout much of Lancashire occurring usually singly within gardens or where wild or escaped currant plants grow nearby. In the northern half of the county it tends to be mostly restricted to lowland areas and the main River valleys and their tributaries. It is single brooded and particular care should be taken when identifying early or late individuals as some larger specimens of the double brooded Small Phoenix have been known to cause problems in the past. Records on the county database from April and much of early May could possibly refer to the Small Phoenix. It is on the wing during June through to the end of August, the peak emergence occurring in late July. The larva feed on the leaves of black currant, red currant and gooseberry.

1755 *Eulithis testata* **Chevron**

This moth is widespread and locally common throughout the county with a preference for moorland edge and coastal dune habitats. It can be quite erratic in appearance away from these habitats and there are some indications, from two long term garden trapping sites, that in the last decade or so the species may have undergone a marked retraction of range in these sub prime areas. Unfortunately the sample of sites where this has occurred is too small to be sure it is an accurate assumption.

The moth is single brooded and is on the wing from July through to mid September with the peak period of flight activity occurring in mid to late August. where in suitable weather and habitat the moth can be quite abundant at times. The earliest record, on 16th June 1982 from Formby, could possibly relate to a larval record as the original notebook associated with that record has not been examined, but more recent records from 21st June, and two on 25th June suggest it is possibly an imago. The latest date for this moth was on 23rd September 1983 at St Annes local nature reserve (M Evans). The larva feed on sallow, creeping willow, aspen and birch.

1756 *Eulithis populata* **Northern Spinach**

A species of moss, moorland and upland areas of south western, western and northern Britain, this moth is easily disturbed from the heather where it rests during the daytime. In Lancashire it is widespread and common (sometimes very abundant) on moorland where the larval foodplant, bilberry, occurs. This moth has an occasional tendency to wander (or is blown) down from the moors and is occasionally encountered in garden traps well away from the lowland mosses and hills. During the 1990s and up to 2001, the moth was found regularly over a month or so in small numbers at a few locations, well away from its prime habitat. Such regular appearances now seem to be a thing of the past.

The moth is single brooded flying from mid June to early September but in 2005 and 2007 single records in October (J Girdley) and November (see below) suggested the possibility of a small second generation. The earliest record is of one in Lord's Lot Wood on 9th June 2007 (Gary Jones and A Shaw) whilst the latest was on 10th November 2005 at Dolphinholme (N Rogers).

1757 *Eulithis mellinata* **Spinach**

This is one of the species that is generating considerable concern nationally as the Rothamsted research unit has reported a decline in its population of over 90% between 1968 and 2002. As the majority of the records in Lancashire come from the early 1990s onward it is difficult to assess what changes have occurred in the county, but in recent years it has been a local and uncommon moth. Over the last five years it has been reported from thirty different locations, usually as singletons, but rarely at the same site in successive years.

The moth is on the wing from mid June to mid August with the peak emergence in early July. The earliest date for the moth was on 12th June 2007 in Worsley (G Riley) and the latest 25th August 2009 in Formby (R Walker). The larva feed on black currant and red currant.

1758 *Eulithis pyraliata***Barred Straw**

This is a widespread and reasonably common species throughout Lancashire and the UK as a whole. Blank patches on our county map are more likely to relate to under-recording rather than the absence of this moth. The unusual partly curled resting posture of the wings on this moth are only shared with the similar Spinach but wing marking differences should help separate the two. The Barred Straw is single brooded and on the wing from mid June to mid August with a peak in early July. Three records from late September 2000 from the same recorder shown on the flight graph appear rather unusual and may relate to a typographical error. Early and late dates for the species in Lancashire (excluding these September records) are 3rd June 2006 Leighton Moss (J Key) and 25th August 2001 Cross of Greet (S and C Palmer) and Lythe Fell (P Marsh). The larva feed on various bedstraws including cleavers.

1759 *Ecliptopera silaceata* Small Phoenix

A very common and widespread species found throughout Lancashire, even in the higher areas. The moth has two generations per year and can be attracted to light from mid April to mid/late June and in a larger second generation from mid July to early September. The earliest dates are on the 14th April 2003 and 2007 in Flixton (K McCabe) and the latest the 11th October 2004 in Hutton (A Barker). The larva feed on various Willowherb species.

References:

Skinner, B., 2009. Colour Identification Guide to Moths of the British Isles - 3rd Edition.

Waring, P., Townsend, M. and Lewington, R., 2009. Field Guide to the Moths of Great Britain and Ireland - 2nd Edition.

If you are organising or know of a Moth event you feel will be of interest to others, please pass the details to: s.palmer12@btopenworld.com. Details will be advertised on the Lancashire Moth Group website (Events page) – www.lancashiremoths.co.uk

Please include a contact telephone number for the organiser.

Moth Recorders 2009

Pete Alker

Bill Aspin

Robert Adderley

Trevor Allen

Dave Anderson

Gail Armstrong

Don Baldwin

Ray Banks

Andrew Barker

Colin Barnes

Peter Barnes

Hugh Barton

John Bateman

Eddie Bayton

Jim Beattie

Susan Bedford

Dorothy Bennett

Roy Boydell

David Bradley

Kane Brides

S Briers

Barry Brigden

Mary Broomfield

Derek Bunn

Andrew Bunting

Richard Burkmar

Jeffrey Butcher

Keith Carter

J Chadwick

Richard Charles

Alec Cheney

Mike Chorley

Steve Christmas

Pauline Clark

Brian Clegg

Mike and Joyce Clerk

John Clews

Carol Cockbain

Barbara Cockburn

Steve Collins

Andy Culshaw

Tom Dallimore

Colin Daly

Chris Darbyshire

Trevor and Pat Davenport

Tim and Janet Davie

Colin Davies

Mary Dean

John Dempsey

Debrah Dickinson

Graham Dixon

Mike Dockery

David Dodsworth

John Donnelly

Alan Draper

Gill Draper

Barry Dyson

Seumus Eaves

Mike Edmondson

Martin Elsworth

Gill Farrer

David Fisher

Charlie Fletcher

Steve Flynn

Pamela Ford

Graham Gavaghan

John Gavaghan

Peter and Veronica Gilchrist

John Girdley

Pauline Greenhalgh

Alan Greenwood

Robin Griffiths

Lloyd Haines

C Hampson

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David Hardy

Bill Harrison

Richard Hart

John Hatton

Ken Haydock

James Hide

Walter Hide

Rod Hill

Paul Hillyer

Roy Hilton

Steve Hind

John and Betty Holding

Robert Homan

Guy Horsley
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Gary Wood
Evelyn Woods
David Wright
Geoff and Barbara Wynn

Brian Yorke

Apologies if anyone has been omitted from this list by mistake – if so do please let Steve Palmer know (address below). Please keep the records coming in, with Date, Location, Grid Reference (to six figures if poss.) and Recorder to:

Microlepidoptera Recorder and LMG Newsletter Editor

Steve Palmer, 137 Lightfoot Lane,
Fulwood, Preston PR4 0AH. 01772
861570 or
s.palmer12@btopenworld.com

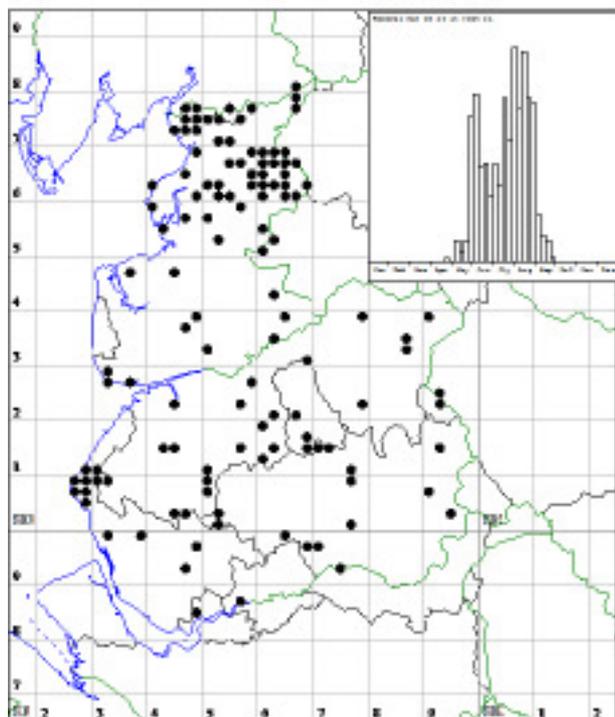
Any offers of articles for the Lancashire Moth Group Newsletter can also be directed to the above address.

Macro-moth Recorder

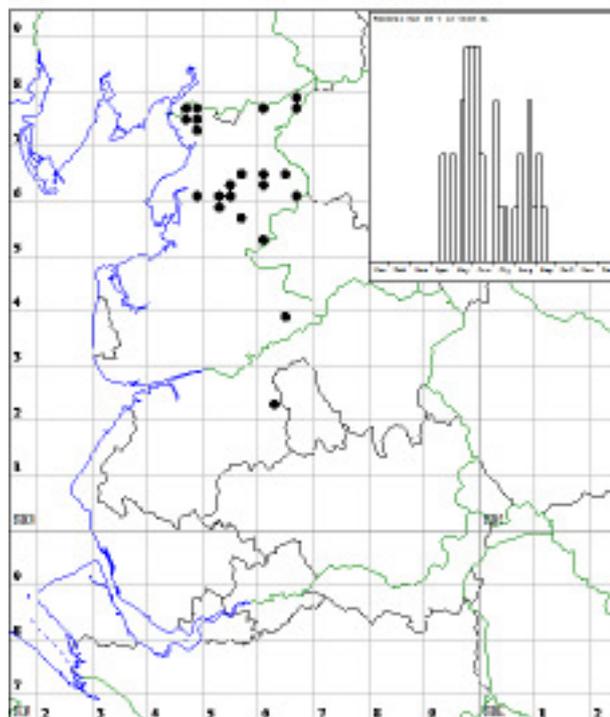
Graham Jones, 127 Highfield Road,
Birkenhead CH42 2BX. 0151
6448392 or
gra_ham_jones@yahoo.co.uk

Records can be sent to either of the above. Please continue to send Mapmate files to Steve (CUK - 1b8). If recorders would like a written reply acknowledging receipt of their records or other correspondence, a stamped self-addressed envelope would be appreciated by Graham and Steve.

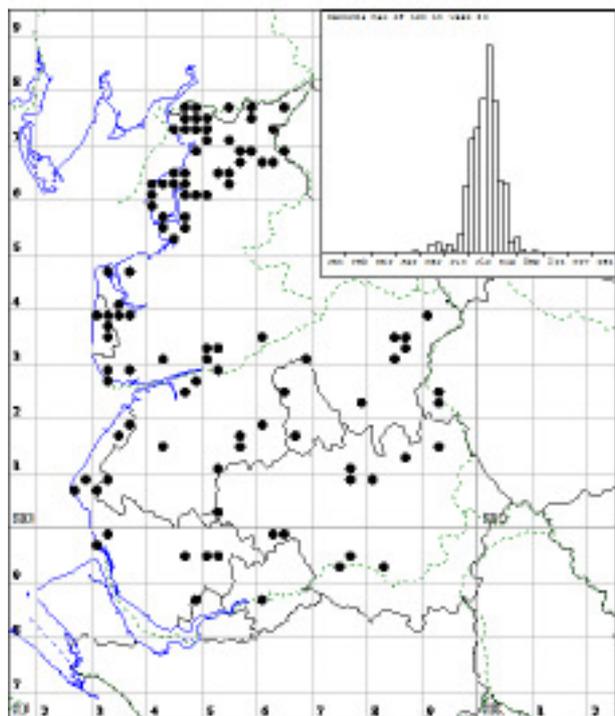
1752 *Cosmohoe ocellata* (Purple Bar)



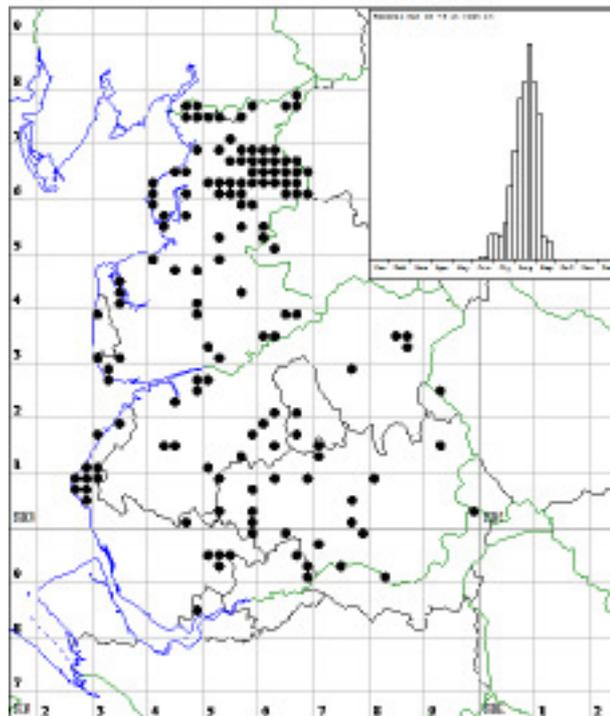
1753 *Nebula salicata* (Striped Twin-spot Carpet)



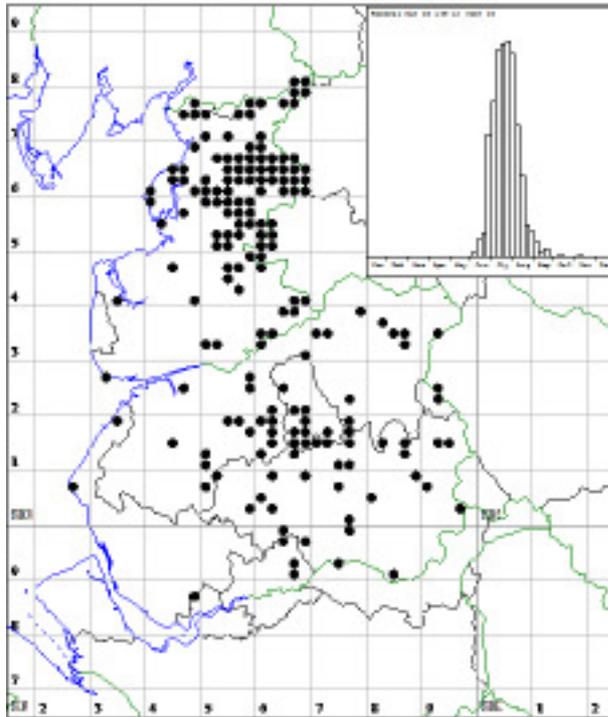
1754 *Eulithis prunata* (Phoenix)



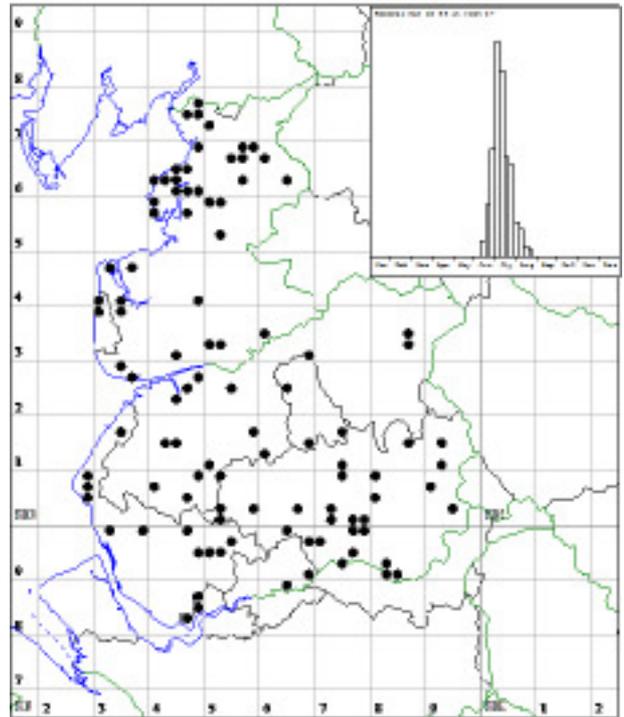
1755 *Eulithis testata* (Chevron)



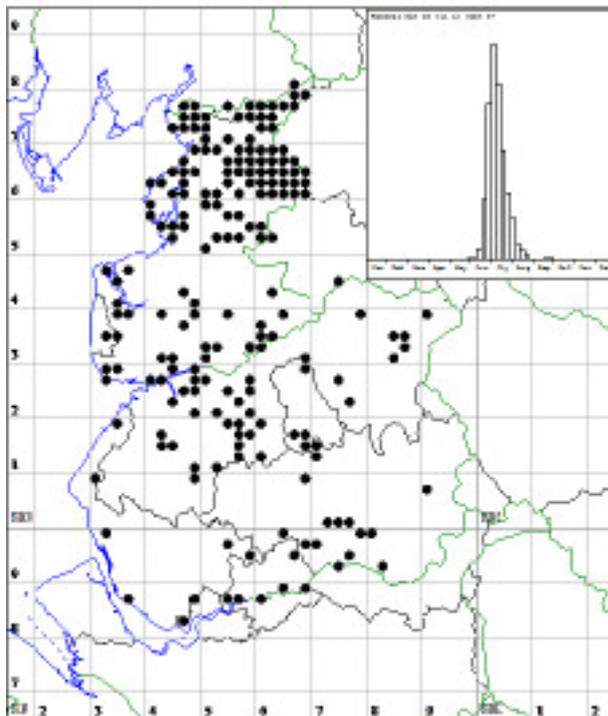
1756 *Eulithis populata* (Northern Spinach)



1757 *Eulithis mellinota* (Spinach)



1758 *Eulithis pyralata* (Barred Straw)



1759 *Ecliptopera silaceata* (Small Phoenix)

