

**Lancashire & Cheshire Entomological Society
Newsletter**

Incorporating



The Cheshire Moth Group Newsletter

July 2005

Number 1015

The newsletter is available to download in colour from the NWMoths group pages at www.yahoo.com

Welcome!

Included in this newsletter are details of the forthcoming 2005/2006 indoor programme. It seems like summer has only just started and the first indoor meeting is only 3 months away. As I write this it is cloudy, cold and blowy – seems like maybe autumn has already arrived. However, to date it has been a very interesting season. Lots of excellent records of good moths. More worrying has been the poor year that many species are having. Large Yellow Underwing numbers seem to be well down as do many of the other relatively common moths. Hopefully this is just a temporary blip and not a long term decline in species numbers.

Highlight for me was a trip down to Kent in late June to attend a moth weekend organised by Tony Davis (of Butterfly Conservation) at Sandwhich Bay. Lots of good moths (despite some very iffy weather), good company, good beer, and beds and hot showers in the bird observatory – the accommodation certainly beats the usual mothers accommodation (e.g. kipping in the car!). The weekend produced Rest Harrow, Bright Wave, Toadflax Brocade as well as a Swallowtail butterfly. However, this was just one of a number of excellent expeditions this year resulting in me seeing 45 new macro moth species so far.

Hopefully your season has been as enjoyable and successful as mine has. Why not come along to the first indoor meeting on October and let us all know how you have got on?

Adrian Wander

Diary Dates

Dates for the forthcoming 2005/2006 Indoor Programme are

- Tue 18 Oct** Review of the 2005 Season
- Tue 15 Nov** Members slide evening
- Tue 20 Dec** Members videos ad digital photographs including the Christmas social
- Tue 17 Jan** Presidential Address, short papers & talks. Preceded by AGM at 7.00 pm.
- Tue 21 Feb** A Lancashire Beauty by Steve Palmer.
- Sat 4 Mar** Exhibition at Frodsham Community Centre, starting at:- Exhibitors 10.00 am.
Public 11.00 am to 4.00 pm.
- Tue 21 Mar** British Shield Bugs Steve Judd.
- Tue 18 Apr** Caddis flies by Ian Wallace.

All meetings are held in the Frodsham Community centre and open to the public. Guests are very welcome to attend. It looks like a very interesting and varied programme and we look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible to these meetings.

In addition, Council meetings will be held on 2nd Nov 2005 and 1st Feb 2006, venue to be confirmed

Copies of LCES Proceedings

Ian Smith has pulled together a list of the LCES proceedings and other publications which are available for purchase. The list is attached as an appendix to this newsletter

The Rise and Fall of Blair's Shoulder-knot *Lithophane leautieri hesperica* in VC58 (Cheshire) - Fact or Fiction?

There has been a lot in the press recently about species and abundance numbers relating to moths and other insects falling through the floor. Blair's Shoulder-knot *Lithophane leautieri hesperica* was always viewed by me and often quoted as a species that has adapted well and flourished mainly as a result of Man's activities. This may not necessarily still be the case.

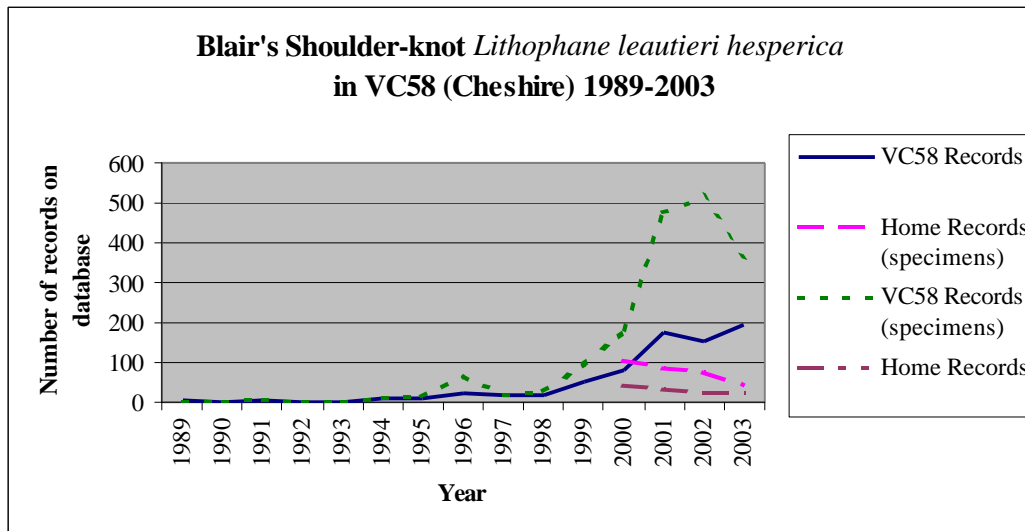
Until 1951 Blair's Shoulder-knot was unknown in the United Kingdom. The first records were noted in the far south of central England on the Isle of Wight. The first Cheshire records were in 1989 when specimens were trapped in SJ38, SJ29 and SJ75.

Since then small numbers of records were received during the early 1990s, and from about 2000 the records of this moth really started to increase in earnest. I had always assumed that this species was here to stay, having readily taken to garden conifers (Monterey, Lawson's Cypress, Leyland Cypress and occasionally on Juniper). Results from my garden trap suggest that it is a relatively common species of the autumn, with a flight period between late September and November.

However, a comment by Alan Creaser at the L&CES indoor meeting on 19/10/2004, suggesting that this 'safe' species is in decline, prompted me to consider the data held by the Cheshire Moth Group and assess whether Alan's comments were supported by the records held. On looking at the data available to me (750 records), the general trend of records has continued to increase until at least the end of 2003 (albeit with a slight dip in 2002) but conversely the number of specimens being caught does seem to suggest that AC's comments are indeed at least partially confirmed.

In the graph below I have summarized the records held for VC58 as a whole, along with the data from my own garden. My own knowledge of the VC58 database confirms that there has been a reasonable increase in the number of recorders over the last few years. Therefore it seems that the decline in numbers has occurred despite this. The decline of specimen numbers in the county was only apparent in 2003 and could be due to a normal variance in numbers trapped. However, at home, numbers have declined steadily over the last 4 seasons which seems to suggest a more concerning trend.

Whilst this is of course not a conclusive or particularly scientifically sound study, it does seem to suggest that for some reason this species is not continuing the rapid population increase seen shortly after it arrived in the UK and Cheshire. Whether this is due to a species-specific or generic parasite, weather conditions during the period, some other biological or environmental reason or even just a part of a natural cycle will possibly never be known. It will be interesting to see whether or not the above trend continues in the next few years, and I would welcome comment from other members regarding their own knowledge of this, or indeed other apparently 'safe', species.



References

- WARING P., TOWNSEND M. AND LEWINGTON R, 2003, *Field Guide to the Moths of Great Britain and Ireland*.
- CHESHIRE MOTH GROUP (via Mapmate).
- HEATH J. AND EMMET A.M. 1983, *The Moths and Butterflies of Great Britain and Ireland (Volume 10)*
- RUTHERFORD C.I. 1994, *Macro-moths in Cheshire 1961 to 1993*
- SMITH S.G. 1948, *The Butterflies and Moths of Cheshire, Flintshire, Denbighshire, Caernarvonshire, Anglesey and Merionethshire*.

Shane Farrell - VC58 County Macro-moth Recorder

New Web sites

The following new web sites may be of interest to online members;

Paul Williams has set up a site on bumblebee identification at www.nhm.ac.uk/entomology/bombus/bumblebeeid.html

Peter Hardy has set up a web site on the Butterflies of Greater Manchester accessible at www.geocities.com/pgll@btopenworld.com

And Adrian Spalding has set up a site all about the Sandhill Rustic at www.sandhillrustic.com

Lepidoptera in Cheshire 2004

Please note that the above report is now available for free download from the following links. This year we have tried to accommodate those that wish to reduce download time and have created two separate versions of the report and a photo gallery.

A MASSIVE thanks must also go to Peter Axford who has designed the superb BC Cheshire & Peak District website and has also accommodated these reports and the previous reports and newsletters. These can also be downloaded via links through the site map button then report centre link at www.butterfly-conservation.com

The first link is the full colour version with photos and maps etc.

<http://www.butterfly-conservation.com/reports/LepsinChes/2004LepidopteraReportCheshireFull.pdf>

The second is the photo gallery and

<http://www.butterfly-conservation.com/reports/LepsinChes/2004LepidopteraReportCheshireGallery.pdf>

the third is the text only version of the report.

<http://www.butterfly-conservation.com/reports/LepsinChes/2004LepidopteraReportCheshireText.pdf>

Shane Farrell VC58 Cheshire County Macro-moth Recorder

Contacts and Web Sites

- The Lancashire and Cheshire Entomology Society (LCES) can be found at: <http://www.consult-eco.ndirect.co.uk/entomol/lces>
- Lancs. & Chesh. Ent. Soc. can be contacted through The Gen. Sec., Bob Letsche, 46 Rossett Road, Crosby, Merseyside, L23 3AW, Tel: 0151 931 4376, email: bob.letsche@blueyonder.co.uk. or, for subscriptions and membership, through The Hon. Treasurer, R.W.Whitehead, Haulfryn, Graigfechan, Ruthin, Denbs., LL15 2HA or at robaud@haulfryn99.fsnet.co.uk
- **rECOrd** – The Local Records Centre for Cheshire, Halton, Runcorn, Warrington and the Wirral can be found at: <http://www.record-lrc.co.uk>
- All records of macro and micro moths for Cheshire (VC58) should preferably be submitted to the Cheshire Moth Group Data Officer, Shane Farrell shane.farrell@ntlworld.com or via post to 15 Westover, Romiley, Stockport, Cheshire SK6 3ER
- Records of micros in Cheshire can also be sent to Steve Hind by e-mail to: steve@hind1.fsnet.co.uk
- Records from Shropshire should be sent to Peter Boardman, 7 High Street, Weston Rhyn, Shropshire, SY10 7RP or e-mail at peperouda@btinternet.com
- Submission of all biological records can be made to **rECOrd** at: manager@record-lrc.co.uk
- Butterfly Conservation can be found at: <http://www.butterfly-conservation.org>
- The Lancashire Moth Group now has a web page at <http://www.lancashire-moths.org>
- The Cheshire Moth Group also has web pages at <http://www.consult-eco.ndirect.co.uk/lrc/cm/cmg.htm>
- I can be contacted regarding field trips, items for the next newsletter etc. at: a.wander@dl.ac.uk or by post to 16 Bramhalls Park, Anderton, Northwich, Cheshire, CW9 6AH

LCES Journals and Proceedings

(Note the Library has reference copies of vols 5-28)

price	years	volume	pages	Selected contents additional to reports of meetings & field trips (many species lists). (N.B. full correct titles not given)
£6	2000-02	124-6	1-129	Orobatiid mite new to science F.D. Monson Woodlice of Lancashire. J. Newton
£6	1997-99	121-3	1-132	Checklist of Lancs. & Chesh. woodlice . C. Felton List of Diptera and Hymenoptera at Erddig, Denbighs. B. Formstone Orthoptera in VC60 Lancs. J. Newton
£2	1992-96	116-120	104-157	N.B. NO INDEX for vols 114-120 Checklist of Lancs. & Chesh. Aculeate Hymenoptera . S. Garland & T. Appleton Micro-lepidoptera of Wirral. A. Creaser
£2	1991-92	115	71-103	Aculeate Hymenoptera of Abbots Moss. C. Clee
£2	1990-91	114	1-70	Checklist of Lancs. & Chesh. Fungus Gnats (Mycetophiloidea) P. J. Chandler Checklist of Lancs. & Chesh. Spiders . C. Felton
£2	1989-90	113	145-201	INDEX for vols 109-103 Checklist of Lancs. & Chesh. sawflies (Symphyta) M. Hull
£1	1988-89	112	113-144	Correction to checklist in Vol. 111 (stoneflies etc)
N/A	1987-88	111	67-112	Checklists of Lancs. & Chesh. stoneflies, mayflies, lice & fleas (Plecoptera, Ephemoptera, Siphunculata, Siphonaptera) M. Cross Female genitalia of Lancs. & Chesh Eudonia moths. M. Hull
£2	1986-87	110	29-66	Preparation of genitalia of Lepidoptera. M. Hull

				Checklist of Lancs. & Chesh. Heteroptera (Het bugs) S. Judd Checklist of Lancs. & Chesh. Neuropteroidea (Alder flies, lacewings) M. Hull
£1	1985-86	109	1-28	Lancs. & Chesh. Crambinae (Grass moths). Key for identification. M. Hull Relaxing insects. M. Hull
N/A	1984-85	108	144-205	INDEX for vols 104-108 Shield bugs (Heteroptera) of Lancs. & Chesh. Key for identification. References. S. Judd Lancs. & Chesh. dragonflies. (Odonata) Geog. & seasonal distribution. D. P. Sumner
£1	1983-84	107	114-143	Determination of Five-spot burnet moths. M. Hull
£1	1982-83	106	69-113	Orthoptera (grasshoppers etc) in North West. I. Wallace
£1	1981-82	105	33-67	First record of VC 60 Oak bush cricket . D. & J. Steeden
N/A	1980-81	104	1-32	Table for identification of wainscot moths . C. I. Rutherford Macro-lepidoptera records of doubtful status in Cheshire. C. I. Rutherford
£2	1977-80	101-3	1-110	INDEX for vols 101-103 Some Micro-lepidoptera records for Lancs. & Chesh. M. Hull Ear moths . Key and genitalia. M. Hull Thorn moths . Illustrated key. M. Hull
N/A	1973-77	97-100	1-91	INDEX FOR VOLS 97-100 Chesh. Micro-lepidoptera not recorded since 1890. M.Hull Caddis (Trichoptera) in Wirral. I. D. Wallace
£1	1970-63	94-96	1-101	INDEX for vols 94-96
£1	1967-70	91-93	1-135	INDEX for vols 91-93 Identification of moths in genus Scoparia . A. Creaser Records of Lepidoptera from N. Wales. H. Michaelis

£1	1964-67	88-90	1-128	INDEX for vols 88-90 Records of Lepidoptera from N. Wales. H. Michaelis
£1	1961-64	85-87	1-131	INDEX for vols 85-87 Records of Lepidoptera from Lancs., Chesh. & Wales. H. Michaelis
£1	1958-61	82-84	1-90	INDEX for vols 82-84 Records of Lepidoptera from Lancs., Chesh. & Wales. H. Michaelis
£1	1955-58	79-81	1-63	INDEX for vols 79-81 Records of Lepidoptera from Lancs. & Chesh. H. Michaelis
£1	1953-55	77-78	1-71	INDEX for vols 77-78 Records of Lepidoptera from Lancs., Chesh. & Wales. S. G. Smith Records of Micro-lepidoptera from Lancs., Chesh. & Wales. H. Michaelis
£1	1951-53	75-76	1-54	Aberrations of <i>Arctica caja</i>
£1	1950-51	74	1-49	
N/A	1949-50	73	1-42	Breeding Lepidoptera . T. H. Hanson Identification & collection of Micro-lepidoptera . H. Michaelis
£2	1948-49	72	1-32	Finding, identifying & rearing Pug moth larvae . B. B. Snell
£1	1944-48	68-71	1-59	List of Lepidoptera of Widnes. F. M. B. Carr History of LCES 1877- 1947. W. Mansbridge
N/A	1940-43	64-67	1-42 plus 11 pp reprint from N.W. Naturalist: Lepidoptera of Ulverston. Obituary F.N. Pierce	
£1	1937-39	61-63	1-44	Insects and primitive beliefs. W. Webster
£2	1934-36	58-60	1-44 plus 209-244 Lancs. & Chesh. checklist of Lepidoptera (cont.) W. Mansbridge	
£3	1931-33	55-57	1-32 plus 157-208 Lancs. & Chesh. checklist of Lepidoptera (cont.) W. Mansbridge	

N/A	1928-30	52-54	1-52 plus 115-156(missing in Lib. copy) Lancs. & Chesh. checklist of Lepidoptera (cont.) W. Mansbridge
N/A	1923-27	47-51	1-64 plus 101-116 Lancs. & Chesh. checklist of Lepidoptera (cont.) W. Mansbridge Melanism experiments with moths. W. Mansbridge
£2	1921-22	45-46	1-64 plus 85-100 Lancs. & Chesh. checklist of Lepidoptera (cont.) W. Mansbridge N. Wales checklist of Aphididae (aphids). F.V. Theobald & C. L. Walton
£3	1918-20	42-44	1-84 plus 69-84 Lancs. & Chesh. checklist of Lepidoptera (cont.) W. Mansbridge Additions to checklist of Lancs. & Chesh. Coleoptera . J. R. le Brockton Tomlin
£2	1916-17	40-41	1-68 plus 45-68 Lancs. & Chesh. checklist of Lepidoptera (cont.) W. Mansbridge
£2	1914-15	38-39	1-36 plus 1-11 Lancs. & Chesh. checklist of Lepidoptera (cont.) W. Mansbridge
£2	1913	37	1-27 plus 1-18 Lancs. & Chesh. checklist of Lepidoptera (cont.) W. Mansbridge N.B. page numbers 1-18 of checklist are duplicated (with different contents) in vols 37-39 Hairs and scales of Lepidoptera . F. N. Pierce
£1	1912	36	1-56 Additions to checklist of Lancs. & Chesh. Coleoptera . J. R. le Brockton Tomlin
see 34	1911	35	1-24 Early stages of dragonflies (Odonata). W. J. Lucas
see>>	1910	34	1-18 <u>£1 for vols 34 & 35 the pair</u>
N/A	1909	33	1-39 Genitalia of Luperina moths. F. N. Pierce
£1	1908	32	1-23 Checklist of Lancs. & Chesh. Homoptera (Leafhoppers). O. Whittaker Additions to checklist of Lancs. & Chesh. Heteroptera . O. Whittaker
£2	1907	31	1-40 plus 1-75 Checklist of Lancs. & Chesh. Coleoptera . W.E. Sharp Coleoptera of Isle of Man. J. . Bailey
£2	1906	30	1-49 Checklist of Lancs. & Chesh. Heteroptera . O. Whittaker

£1	1905	29	1-57	Coleoptera of Isle of Man. J. R. le B. Tomlin
N/A	1904	28	1-56	Orthoptera of Lancs & Chesh. E.J.B. Sopp.
N/A	1903	27	1-36 plus 1-7	Genitalia of Lithosidae F.N.Pierce Entomologists and the Law .
N/A	1902	26	1-16 plus 1-24	Cockroaches E.J.B. Sopp
N/A	1901	25	1-8	
N/A	1900	24	1-8 plus 1-14	
N/A	1899	23	1-11	
N/A	1898	22	1-12	
N/A	1897	21	1-25	History of Entomological books and periodicals . S.J. Capper
N/A	1896	20	1-14	
N/A	1894-5	18-19	1-28	
N/A	1893	17	1-28	(some pages missing)
N/A	1892	16	1-22	
N/A	1891	15	1-15	
N/A	1890	14	1-15	
N/A	1889	13	1-20	
N/A	1888	12	1-15	
N/A	1887	11	1-15	
N/A	1886	10	1-12	

N/A	1885	9	1-12
N/A	1884	8	1-12
N/A	1883	7	1-12
N/A	1882	6	1-8
N/A	1881	5	1-8 Apparently the first Proceedings to be published.

Other publications for sale

- £2 Offprint of *Checklist of Lancs. & Chesh. Coleoptera*. 75pp W.E. Sharp (from Proceedings **31** for 1907)
- £4 *Butterflies in Cheshire 1961- 1882* . 47 pp by C. I. Rutherford. Distribution maps.
- £8 *Macro-moths in Cheshire 1961-1993*. 89 pp by C. I. Rutherford.

Proceedings of Chester Society of natural science etc.

(N.B. when all sold, photocopies can not be provided as LCES does not have copyright of Chester Soc. publications) N.B. Prices are for UNBOUND sheets, in some cases, uncut. All under editorship of Gordon Smith

£8 **Vol 2** 1948 *The butterflies and moths found in the counties of Ches., Flints., Denbighs., Caerns., Anglesey and Merioneth* 250pp
(Price comparison; A hardback edition was advertised recently by bookseller for £40)

£5 **Vol 3** 1950 *The butterflies and moths found in the county of **Montgomeryshire** incorporating a supplement to Vol 2*. 71pp
Plus *The water beetles found in the counties of Ches., Flints., Denbighs., Caerns., Anglesey, Merioneth and Montgomery*. 54pp by F. Balfour Browne
Plus *Non- marine mollusca from Chesh., Flints. and Denbighshire* 7pp. by N.F. McMillan
Plus *Notes on the Cladocera of Cheshire*. 3pp by A.L. Galliford
Plus *Notes on the Rotifera of Cheshire*. 6pp by A.L. Galliford

£5 **Vol 5** 1954 *The butterflies and moths found in the county of **Radnorshire** incorporating a supplement to Vols 2,3 and 4*. 85pp

Plus *Non- marine mollusca of Chesh. & N. Wales.* 5pp by N.F. McMillan & J. O'N Millot.
Plus *The Plankton of the R. Dee near Chester, 1951 & 1952.* 6 pp by E.G. Williams