



2025 VC37 Moth Review
A.N.B.Simpson
and
O.Wadsworth

2025 produced 7 new species to be added to the county list plus one from the previous year that was not included in the 2024 review.

New Species:

73.151 Webb's Wainscot *Globia sparganii* (Esper)

There have been several unconfirmed records of this species in Worcestershire previously but a photo of one found in Webb's Garden Centre in Halesowen SO896792 on 2/9/24 (Jared Tibbetts) is our first confirmed record.

Then in 2025 there were two records at light. Worcester SO83095547 17/7/25 (Dudley Martin) and Wilden Top SO8372 11/8/25 (Jared Tibbetts).



D.Martin

15.0862 *Phyllonorycter pastorella* (Zeller)

A species which has been spreading from the south-east after original records in London in 2014.

Worcester, mines found on Willows along Laugherne Brook SO830556 24/9/25 and moths bred (Dudley Martin). Then found by several recorders in the same area and by the Severn at Diglis SO849530

26/9/25 (OW) then north as far as Bransford Bridge SO 807532 and at D.Martin

Knightwick Bridge SO73575579 both by the Teme (ANBS). A light trap caught adult in Worcester SO883570 23/8/25 (Steve Whitehouse) was confirmed by dissection later.

It is expected to spread more widely.



49.302 *Gravitarmata margarotana* (Heineman)

Hanley Swan SO80344281 22/1/25 (Peter Clarke).

This adventive species emerged indoors probably from a pot containing an imported orchid which had some coniferous material included in the potting medium.

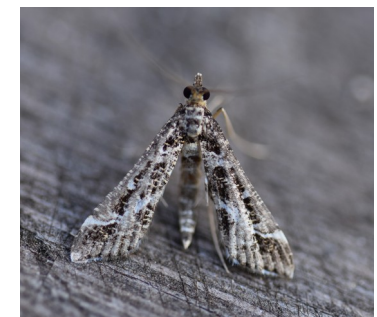


P.Clarke

63.044 *Diasemiopsis ramburalis* (Duponchel)

Two records of this scarce migrant.

Malvern SO77764778 7/9/25 (Nicki Rowberry) and Wilden Top SO8272 18/9/25 (Jared Tibbetts)



N.Rowberry

70.050 Balsam Carpet *Xanthorhoe biriviata* (Borkhausen)
Abberton 1/7/25 SO995536 (Gavin Peplow). Mainly confined to southern and eastern England with the larva feeding on Orange Balsam *Impatiens capensis*. There is some of this plant growing along the Avon and along canal sides in the county so it may have been from a resident population.



O. Wadsworth

70.154 Marsh Pug *Eupithecia pygmaeata* (Hubner)
Eastham SO66696850 19/6/25 (ANBS) male dissected. An unexpected species the origin of which is unknown. Nearest records are in Staffordshire and Warwickshire and commoner in open habitats in northern England and Scotland. Larval foodplants *Cerastium* spp.

71.002 Pine Processionary *Thaumetopoea pityocampa* ([D. & S.])
A processionary moth was recorded in a light trap at Hanley Swan SO80344281 on 29/8/25 (Peter Clarke). It was released but a photo appears to show a Pine Processionary rather than the spreading Oak Processionary *T. processionea*. There are records of the latter in Warwickshire but none so far in Worcestershire. Expected soon!



P. Clarke

73.093 Clancy's Rustic *Platyperigea kadenii* (Freyer)
Berkeley-Pendesham SO883570 26/9/25 (Steve Whitehouse) and Bromsgrove SO96286972 1/10/25 (Mike Wakeman). This species is a migrant which has become resident in southern England and is spreading northwards.



S. Whitehouse

Other significant records:

9.004 *Lampronia morosa* Zell.

Burlish Top SO8073 14/5/25 (Ian Machin) only the second modern record.

15.038 *Phyllonorycter kuhlweiniella* (Zell)

Hartlebury Common SO8271 5/5 and 19/5/25 (Ian Machin) last recorded in 1877 and has become extremely localized in the UK. Has it always been here undetected since the 19th century or is this moth now beginning a UK resurgence?



O.Wadsworth

17.007 *Ypsolopha lucella* (Fabr.)

Romsley Manor Farm SO96427896 8/7/25 (Patrick Taylor) a new site for this local species.

21.002 *Lyonetia prunifoliella* (Hubn.)

Five new sites for this recent arrival. Halesowen SO94878350 (Patrick Clement), Dodford SO936731 936731 (Pete Smith), Berkeley-Pendesham SO883750 and Lower Smite SO889580 (OW and ANBS), Abberton SO9953 (Gavin Peplow).

35.061 *Ptocheuusa paupella* (Zell.)

Berkeley-Pendesham SO883570 11/8/25 (Steve Whitehouse) and Worcester SO83095547 (Dudley Martin). Two records at light of a species previously found feeding on Common Fleabane in typical wet habitats.

35.105 *Gelechia nigra* (Haw.)

Trench Wood SO927587 11/7/25 (Patrick Clement) a new site for this very local Aspen feeder.

35.127 *Tuta absoluta* (Meyr.)

Berkeley-Pendesham SO883570 6/11/25 (Steve Whitehouse) Adventive or possible migrant?

43.007 *Scythris limbella* (Fabr.)

Stourport SO803728 (Ian Machin), Worcester SO83095546 13/7/25 (Dudley Martin) and Norchard SO84686849 12/8/25 (Mike Southall), Abberton SO9953 12/8/25 (Gavin Peplow).

49.129 *Cochlyidia rupicola* (Curtis)

Two more sites for this species, Malvern SO77764778 1/7/25 (Nicki Rowberry) and Halesowen SO94878350 13/7/25 and a larva in stem of Hemp Agrimony 13/12/25 (Patrick Clement).



P.Clement

49.190 *Endothenia ustulana* (Haw.)

Eastham SO66696850 22/7/25 (ANBS) and Malvern SO772485 17/8/25 (R. Prue). Only six previous records. Probably widespread but difficult to record, feeding in roots and leaf-stalks of Bugle.

49.192 *Endothenia ericetana* (H. & W.)

Trench Wood SO926586 9/7/25 (Ian Machin). Another species with only six previous all light trapped records, larva feeding in stems and roots of *Stachys* spp.

54.002 Forester *Adscita statices* (Linn.)

A single moth nectaring on Ragwort on Pinnacle Hill on the Malverns SO 3/7/25 (Simon Pugh). Was it another wanderer or is there an undiscovered breeding site around the south Malverns somewhere?

63.065 *Scoparia ancipitella* (La Harpe)

Feckenham Wild Moor SP011605 9/7/25 (Steve Whitehouse) gen. det. by Patrick Clement. Only our second modern record of a mainly northern and western species after one in 2005

63.071 *Eudonia delunella* (Staint.)

Eastham SO66696850 12/6/25 (ANBS) a third county record.

63.091 *Agriphila latistria* (Haw.)

Three at light, Worcester SO83095547 (Dudley Martin) and Hanley Swan SO80344282 12/8/25 and 2/9/25 (Peter Clarke). Perhaps vagrants or migrants?

63.120 *Schoenobius gigantella* ([D. & S.])

Strensham Water Treatment Works SO917398 11/8/25 (Simon Pugh) a male, our second record.

69.006 Privet Hawk-moth *Sphinx ligustri* Linn.

Increasing in numbers with 11 recorded in 2025 from nine different sites.

70.023 Mullein Wave *Scopula marginepunctata* (Goeze)

Hall Green SP10478292 11/7/and 23/8/25 (Alan Prior) in a typical urban/suburban site and Berkeley-Pendesham SO12/8/25 (Steve Whitehouse) and Malvern SO77764778 12/8/25 (Nicki Rowberry) showing that this mainly coastal and brownfield species is now spreading more widely.

70.169 Angle-barred/Ash Pug *Eupithecia innotata* (Hufn.)

Redditch SP027668 15/8/25 (Jason Waine)

70.186 Yarrow Pug *Eupithecia millefoliata* Rossler

Bewdley SO785760 20/6/25 (Craig Reed) and Malvern SO77764778 30/6/25 (Nicki Rowberry).

72.011 Gypsy Moth *Lymantria dispar* (Linn.)

Some records around Worcester City as before, including five males attracted to a pheromone lure suggesting there is a breeding colony of this adventitious species. SO85315329 4/7/and 14/7/25 (via INaturalist) and SO883570 five from 22/7 to 3/8/25 (Steve Whitehouse).

72.012 Brown-tail *Euproctis chrysorrhoea* (Linn.)

Redditch SP027668 1/7/25 (Jason Waine) and Humpy Field, Flyford Flavell SO991549 12/7/25 (Patrick Taylor).

72.026 Garden Tiger *Arctia caja* (Linn.)

Only six recorded in 2025.

72.030 Jersey Tiger *Euplagia quadripunctaria* (Poda) Hall Green SP10478392 13/7/and 27/7/25 (Alan Prior), Berkeley-Pendesham SO883570 18/7/25, Malvern Wells SO773420 26/7/25 (Peter Holmes), Malvern SO77764778 12/8/25 (Nicki Rowberry), Abberton SO9953 13/07/25 (Gavin Peplow)

72.062 White-line Snout *Schrankia taenialis* (Hubn.)

Malvern Wells SO773420 3/7/25 (Peter Holmes) our third county record.

72.076 Clifden Nonpareil/Blue Underwing *Catocala fraxinii* (Linn.) 34 recorded in all.

73.010 Dewick's *Plusia Macdunnoughia confusa* (Steph.)

Only seven of this recent colonist.

73.014 Golden Plusia *Polychrisia moneta* (Fabr.)

Nice to see three records of this nowadays uncommon species. Berkeley-Pendesham SO883570 16/6/25 (Steve Whitehouse) and Halesowen SO94878350 13/7 and 24/7/25 (Patrick Clement).

73.059 Toadflax Brocade *Calophasia lunula* (Hufn.)

Bromsgrove SO96286972 11/5/25 (Mike Wakeman), Berkeley-Pendesham SO883570 (Steve Whitehouse), and two larval records, Bromsgrove SO94957079 17/8/25 (G. Corlfield), King's Heath SP07058180 14/8/25 (S. Duncan).

73.082 Tree-lichen Beauty *Cryphia algae* (Fabr.) 54 recorded.

Widespread in eastern and central Worcestershire although only just getting into the west of the county but I hope to see it one day!

73.297 White-point *Mythimna albipuncta* ([D. & S.]) Over 250 recorded and has become a common and widespread species.

73.300 L-album Wainscot *Mythimna l-album* (Linn.) 8 recorded of this recent arrival.

73.314 Garden Dart *Euxoa nigricans* (Linn.)

Nice to see a record of this declined species. Hanley Swan SO80344282 17/8/25 (Peter Clarke).

Migrants:

There were a large number of commonly recorded migrants in 2025 and indeed surprising numbers of usually uncommon ones:

18.001 Diamond-back *Plutella xylostella* (Linn.) 108

63.028 European Corn-borer *Ostrinia nubilalis* (Hubn.) 61

63.031 Rusty-dot Pearl *Udea ferrugalis* (Hubn.) 107

63.048 Olive-tree Pearl *Palpita vitrealis* (Ross) 16

63.052 Rush Veneer *Nomophila noctuella* ([D. & S.]) 245

69.010 Hummingbird Hawk-moth *Macroglossum stellatarum* (Linn.) 91

70.038 Vestal *Rhodometra sacraria* (Linn.) 35

72.041 Four-spotted Footman *Lithosia quadra* (Linn.) 29

73.015 Silver Y *Autographa gamma* (Linn.) 256

73.074 Bordered Straw *Heliothis Peltigera* ([D. & S.]) 27

73.076 Scarce Bordered Straw *i* (Hubn.) 15

73.087 Small Mottled Willow *Spodiotera exigua* (Hubn.) 42

73.307 Pearly Underwing *Peridroma saucia* (Hubn.) 4

73.327 Dark Sword-grass *Agrotis ipsilon* (Hufn.) 120

35.118 *Scrobipalpa ocellatella* (Boyd) 100+ right across county again except in the west.

Presumably migrants again in large numbers after only a few in past two years, following the huge influx in 2022. Their origin remains uncertain unless they are now breeding on commercial beet fields or have changed foodplant.

62.053 *Ancylosis oblitella* (Zell.)

Wilden Top SO8272 17/7/25 (Jared Tibbetts), Berkeley-Pendesham SO833570 18/7/25 and 5/9/25 (Steve Whitehouse), Norchard SO84686848 24/8/25 (Mike Southall).

63.014 *Sitochroa palealis* ([D. & S.])

Wilden Top SO8272 11/7/25 (Jared Tibbetts), Stourport SO803728 13/7/25 (Ian Machin).

69.004 Convolvulus Hawk-moth *Agrius convolvuli* (Linn.)

Norchard SO84686849 13/8/and 3/9/25 (Mike Southall), Norton Beauchamp SO956499 2/9/25 photographed resting on a post (A. Hill).

69.015 Striped Hawk-moth *Hyles livornica* (Esp.)

Malvern SO77764778 1/6/25 (Nicki Rowberry), Stourport SO5/9/25 (Ian Machin).

70.047 Gem *Nycterosea obstipata* (Fabr.) only one record Malvern SO773420 26/5/25 (Peter Holmes)

72.073 Small Marbled *Eublemma parva* (Hubn.)

Berkeley-Pendesham SO883570 20/6/25 (Steve Whitehouse), Wilden Top SO8272 13/7/25 (Jared Tibbetts), Norchard SO84696851 13/8/25 (Mike Southall).

72.081 Dark Crimson Underwing *Catocala sponsa* (Linn.)

Dodford SO936731 16/7/25(Pete Smith), Wyre Forest SO75587583 26/7/25 in oak woodland so just possibly a resident? (OW).

72.082 Light Crimson Underwing *Catocala promissa* ([D. & S.])

Malvern SO7748 1/7/25 (T. Vorsteman).

73.104 Porter's Rustic *Athetis hospes* (Freyer)

Wilden Top SO8272 19/9/25 (Jared Tibbetts).

73.126 Saltern Ear *Amphipoea fucosa* (Freyer)Abberton SO995536 25/7/25 gen. det. OW (Gavin Peplow).

73.127 Large Ear *Amphipoea lucens* (Freyer)

Berkeley-Pendesham SO883570 3/8/25 gen. det. OW (Steve Whitehouse).



S.Whitehouse.

73.295 Delicate *Mythimna vitellina* (Hübner, [1808])

Abberton SO9953 24 and 26/8/25 (Gavin Peplow).

2025 was generally a very good year for moth recording, with a very dry spring followed by long spells of hot weather in the summer leading to a record breaking average temperature. The autumn was much wetter. This is reflected in an all time high total of submitted records, just under 54000. Last years' total was c. 45000. This was a significant jump.

An ever increasing number of recorders sent in data covering 1178 species – nearly 70% of our Vice County all time species total of 1694.

As always, many thanks to all the recorders who sent in their records for the last year. The data you provide is greatly valued, not only at this county level, but also as it goes forward to the National Database held by Butterfly Conservation.

The West Midlands Moths Website: <https://westmidlandsmoths.co.uk/> is going from strength to strength and has been updated again with last years records. Photos are continually being added making it an excellent identification resource as well as a distribution atlas. This review along, with those from previous years, is available to download there.

If you make use of the site, do please consider subscribing to it. Subscribers gain more detailed information on the records and help keep the site going by covering the running costs. This article along with back issues to 2020 are now available there under the News/Newsletters menu tab.

Recorders should be aware that their name is associated with their records and will be visible on the website. If anyone is concerned about this do please let us know and we can remove your records if needed.

The website's data policy is available here:

https://westmidlandsmoths.co.uk/West_Midlands_Moths_Data_Policy.pdf.

A.I. identification aids.

Over the last few years it has become apparent that many recorders, particularly those new to recording moths, are making use of A.I. tools to help with identification. While these tools have proved to be remarkably accurate most of the time, they are not 100% reliable and their results should not be assumed to be correct even if the A.I. reports a high confidence rating. Please check the results against the field guides and photo resources with your own eyes and if things don't look quite right reconsider the identification. The recorders maxim; "if in doubt, leave it out" still applies. To maximize your chances of getting good results, good photos are key. A dorsal and a lateral view will give best results.

A.I. tools struggle with the same things that human recorders do, namely species with obscure markings and those that are rarely encountered. The pool of reliably identified reference images is smaller so there is less material for the tools to work with. In these cases A.I. identifications are particularly prone to error.

While spending time looking through the field guides may seem long winded to begin with, it is a good way to gain familiarity with the families and similar looking species. Over time the process gets much quicker.

As always, if you think you have something rare or unusual, hang on to the specimen and send a photo or two to your County Recorder.

Moth Identification by dissection.

If you have specimens that need dissection, we have several recorders in the county who are willing to take on this work. In the first instance, please email Tony or Oliver.

Training in dissection is available. If you are interested in this please contact Oliver Wadsworth.

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