

Nosterfield Nature Reserve Moth Report 2022

Moth trapping has taken place at Nosterfield Nature Reserve since 2001, mostly at the main reserve, but since 2015 in areas around the quarry and reed bed. A total of 655 species have been recorded and this number is being added to every year. In 2022, 246 species were recorded of which nine were new to the reserve. Trapping has been focussed more this year on the main reserve, with traps sited near the old railway line and the dragonfly pond/silt lagoon areas on various dates between April and July. There was limited trapping in the quarry area in March and July.

New species

Stigmella luteella: this species is most easily found by looking for the larval mines on birch which form irregular galleries. It is widespread across the county and it is surprising that it has not been found here until now. Mines were found on silver birch at the main reserve.

Stigmella assimilella: an uncommon species which forms gallery mines on aspen. A single mine was found on a seedling aspen near the polytunnel on 23rd September. All but four of the 33 county records are from south-eastern corner of VC63. This is the first record for VC65 and for the Harrogate District.

Phyllonorycter cerasicolella: this species forms blister mines on the underside of leaves of wild cherry and occasionally cultivated cherries. Mines were found around Kiln Lake on 23rd September. It used to be considered uncommon in the county but may be spreading as it has been found more widely in recent years. This is however only the second site in VC65.

Batrachedra praeangusta: a distinctive narrow-winged species which is fairly widespread across the county. An adult was trapped near the silt lagoons on 30th June. Larvae feed on various species of poplar and willow.

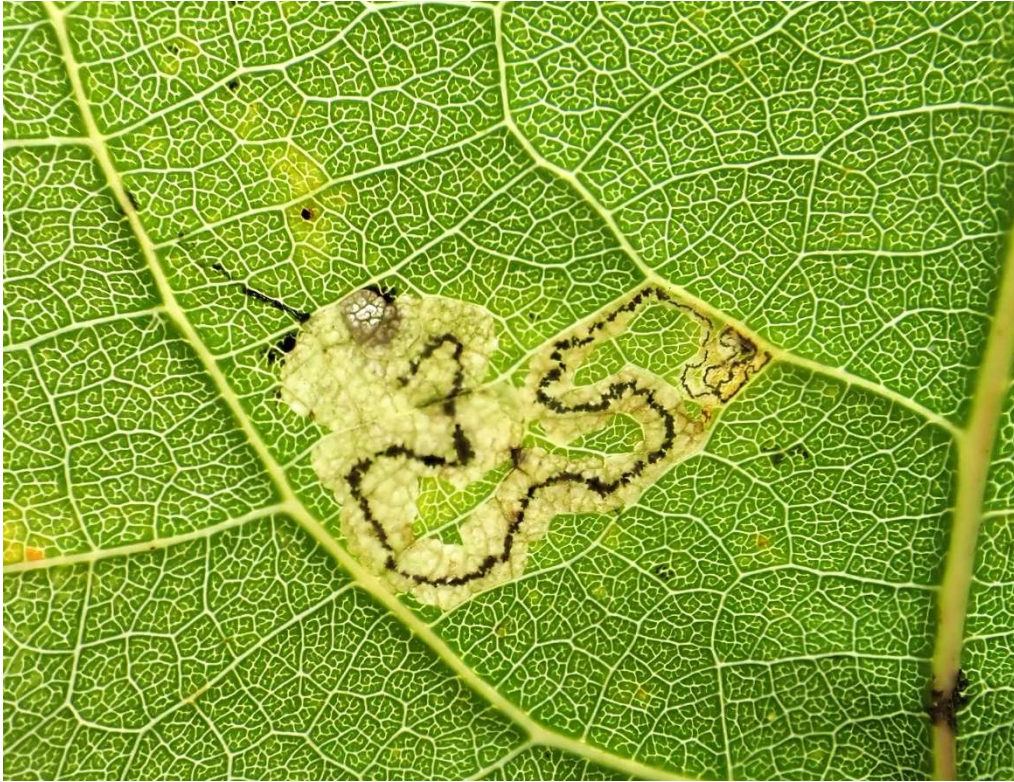
Coleophora spinella: this species is probably more widespread than records suggest, as adults need to be dissected to confirm the identification, and the larval cases on hawthorn, apple and some other trees can be easily mistaken for other species. An adult female was trapped near the railway line on 13th July.

Coleophora lusciniapennella: a larval case was found on grey willow near Flasks Lake. This is the commonest food plant, though it will use other willow species. This is a widespread species across low-lying parts of the county.

Endothenia marginana: a pupa in a teasel head on 6th May produced an adult moth on 13th May. A large proportion of teasel heads at Nosterfield contain moth larvae. Until now, all have been *Endothenia gentianaeana*, a much commoner species in our part of the county. This is the first record for the Harrogate area.

Scalloped Hook-tip *Falcaria lacertinaria*: this birch-feeding species is widespread across the county except for the north-west. One was trapped near the silt lagoons on 19th May.

White-pinion Spotted *Lomographa bimaculata*: a woodland species, the larvae feeding on blackthorn and hawthorn. One was trapped near the silt lagoons on 19th May.



Stigmella assimilella Photo: Charles Fletcher



Phyllonorycter cerasicolella Photo: Charles Fletcher



Coleophora lusciniapennella Photo: Charles Fletcher



Endothenia marginana Photo: Charles Fletcher



Scalloped Hook-tip Photo: Jill Warwick

Other important records

Red-tipped Clearwing *Synanthedon formicaeformis* – two attracted to pheromone lures near the silt lagoons on 21st July. Larvae feed on various species of willow.

Dark Umber *Philereme transversata* Dark Umber – good numbers of this buckthorn feeder were trapped with 1 on 30th June and 3 on 13th July on the main reserve.

Barred Rivulet *Perizoma bifaciata* – two trapped near the old railway line on 13th July. An uncommon moth in the county; the larvae feeding on red bartsia.

Orange Underwing *Archiearis parthenias* – one on 25th March flying near Flasks Lane

V-Moth *Macaria wauaria* – one at light on 13th July near the old railway line. This currant-feeding moth is one of our most important species, classified as EN (Endangered) in the latest IUCN classification.

Garden Tiger *Arctia caja* – an encouraging year for this declining species. Two on 30th June, one on 13th July and two on 21st July, all on the main reserve.

Silky Wainscot *Chilodes maritima* – one to light near the polytunnel on 12th July.

Fen Wainscot *Arenostola phragmitidis* – one to light near the silt lagoons on 21st July.

Plain Clay *Eugnorisma depuncta* - one to light near the silt lagoons on 21st July.



V-moth Photos: Jill Warwick



Garden Tiger Photos: Jill Warwick



Silky Wainscot Photo: Charles Fletcher



Fen Wainscot Photo: Charles Fletcher

In 2023 we hope to focus more on trapping near the newly created fenland habitat in the quarry area and also in the reedbed. This area has the potential to attract several species not yet recorded on the reserve and it is important that these are monitored.

Charles Fletcher