

Stanford Reservoir Moth Report 2020

2020 was a challenging year for the most part, however the groups regular ventures at Stanford reservoir were not too affected once the 1st lockdown was over so as a group we decided on some ringing sessions we would camp out at the reservoir and run several moth nights.

Moth trapping:

All the group members are avid naturalists however the task of moth trapping and recording was primarily passed to 3 group members - Adam, Theo and Kate. The ringing always takes priority in the group and with it being an impressive year for ringing, we only managed to run 3 moth nights through the summer months on the 12th July, 18th July and 31st August.

The site already has a moth list containing species caught on past moth nights, however the majority of these caught and identified were Macro moths. So Theo in particular took to giving the micro moths a go and we were well rewarded with 50 micro moth species being caught over the 3 nights, 40 of them being new for the site! Highlights of these included *Aethes rubigana* (left) and targeted reedbed specialists *Limnaecia phragmitella* (middle) and *Schoenibus gigantella* (right). Pictured below:



Over the 3 nights we also managed to catch 77 macro species of which 9 species were new for the Reservoir list, including: Bordered Beauty (top left), Round-winged Muslin (top right) and Vapourer (Bottom Left). This Privet Hawkmoth (Bottom right) was one of the more impressive moths we caught with 2 Elephant and 7 Poplar Hawkmoths also in the traps.





All species recorded were caught using MV moth traps and are listed in the table at the end with the species in bold being new for the reservoir list.

Field records:

One of our group members Simon decided to invest in Clearwing pheromones. Clearwings are a day flying moth that do not respond to light however the best way to see them is by using pheromones which are available from moth equipment suppliers and do not harm the moths.

The pheromones are simply put in a small bag which you can put near/on the moth's food plant and wait for the moths to be attracted. June/July is peak season for these moths, so when the time came Simon decided to try the dam car park where there are plenty of Osiers, Willows and Sallow, ideal for these species.

In 2 visits Simon attracted at least 1 Red-Tipped Clearwing (top) and 3 Lunar Hornet Clearwings (bottom) using the pheromones. Both are new species for the site and for Simon, a childhood dream achieved. (Photo of Red-tipped and video courtesy of Simon

[-https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pdf6tedCnhU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pdf6tedCnhU))



Another field record came courtesy of group member Dawn on a walk around the reservoir on July 1st, when she found a pair of stunning Scarlet Tiger moths. A local scarcity and yet another new species for the reservoir. (Photo courtesy of Dawn)

We aim in 2021 to do more moth nights and more field recording as 2020 gave us a great taster for how rewarding moth recording can be at Stanford Reservoir!

(Photos and report written by Theo de Clermont)

Macro Sp:	12/07/2020	18/07/2020	31/08/2020	Micro sp:	12/07/2020	18/07/2020	31/08/2020
1 Bordered Beauty		2		78 <i>Accentria ephemerella</i>		1	
2 Bright-line-Brown-Eye	2	2		79 <i>Acleris emargana</i>		1	1
3 Brimstone	2	4	2	80 <i>Acleris forsskalana</i>	1	1	
4 Broad Bord yellow uwing		4		81 <i>Acrobasis adenella</i>	1	2	
5 Buff footman		1		82 <i>Acrobasis repandanda</i>	1		
6 Buff-tip	4	3		83 <i>Aethes rubigana</i>		2	
7 Buff arches	3	1		84 <i>Aethes smeathmanniana</i>		1	
8 Burnished brass	3	1		85 <i>Agapeta hamana</i>		1	
9 Centre-Barred Sallow			2	86 <i>Agriphila straminella</i>		1	1
10 Chinese Character		3		87 <i>Agriphila tristella</i>		1	
11 Clay	1	2		88 <i>Anania hortulana</i>		1	
12 Cloaked Minor		1		89 <i>Ancylys achatana</i>	1		
13 Clouded border	6			90 <i>Ancylys badiana</i>		1	
14 Clouded silver		1		91 <i>Archips podana</i>		1	
15 Common Footman	14	30		92 <i>Archips xylosteana</i>		2	
16 Common Marbled Carpet			1	93 <i>Argyresthia bonnetella</i>			2
17 Common Rustic agg	7	13		94 <i>Blastobasis adustella</i>			6
18 Coronet		5		95 <i>Carcina quercana</i>	4		
19 Coxcomb prominent		1		96 <i>Calamotropha paludella</i>		1	
20 Dark Arches	13	25		97 <i>Celypha lacuanana</i>		3	1
21 Dingy Footman		21		98 <i>Celypha striana</i>		1	
22 Dingy shears	2			99 <i>Chilo phragmitella</i>		1	
23 Double Square-spot	2	11		100 <i>Chrysoteuchia culmella</i>	3	22	
24 Drinker	3	1		101 <i>Cnephasia agg</i>	3	2	
25 Dun-bar		11		102 <i>Cochylis hybridella</i>	1		
26 Dusky Brocade	1			103 <i>Crassa unitella</i>		3	
27 Dusky Sallow		1		104 <i>Cydia pomonella</i>		2	
28 Early thorn		1		105 <i>Elachista maculicerusella</i>		1	
29 Elephant Hawkmoth		2		106 <i>Epinotia biluniana</i>		1	
30 Engrailed		1		107 <i>Ephestia sp</i>		1	
31 Flame	1			108 <i>Eucosma cana</i>	1	1	
32 Green pug		2		109 <i>Eudonia mercurella</i>	1	4	
33 Heart + dart	3	3		110 <i>Eudonia lacustrata</i>		1	
34 Herald	1			111 <i>Euzophera pinguis</i>		6	
35 July highflyer	4	7		112 <i>Hedya nubiferana</i>	1	1	
36 Lackey		1		113 <i>Hypsophygia costalis</i>		1	
37 Large Twin spot Carpet		1		114 <i>Limnacia phragmitella</i>		2	
38 Large Yellow uwing	8	29	7	115 <i>Notocelia roborana</i>		2	
39 Lesser B-B Yellow uwing		4		116 <i>Paromix sp</i>		1	
40 Lesser yellow uwing		3		117 <i>Pleuroptera ruralis</i>	2	53	
41 Light Arches		1		118 <i>Plutella xylostella</i>		8	
42 Light Emerald		3		119 <i>Prays ruficeps</i>		1	
43 Lunar Spotted pinion		3		120 <i>Rhopobota naevana</i>	1		
44 Marbled minor agg	5	26		121 <i>Schoenibus gigantella</i>		1	
45 Mottled Rustic	2			122 <i>Scoparia ambigua</i>	2		
46 Peppered moth		2		123 <i>Scythropia crataegella</i>	1		
47 Plain Golden y	1			124 <i>Spilonota ocellana</i>		3	
48 Poplar Grey	1	1		125 <i>Tinea trinotella</i>		1	
49 Poplar Hawkmoth	2	5		126 <i>Udea Prunalis</i>		6	
50 Privet Hawkmoth	1			127 <i>Yponomeuta evonymella</i>		1	
51 Riband Wave		5		128 <i>Yponomeuta sp</i>		1	
52 Round-winged muslin	13			Total:	24	148	11
53 Ruby tiger	4			Species:	15	42	5
54 Rustic	2	2					
55 Scalloped Oak	1	3					
56 Scarce footman		4		Macro + Micro			
57 Setaceous hebrew character			14	Total:	174	453	56
58 Shaded Broadbar		5		Species:	55	100	15
59 Short-cloaked moth	1						
60 Silver Y		10	1				
61 Single dotted wave	3	1	1				
62 Small Dotted buff		1					
63 Small fan foot wave	1	2					
64 Small Phoenix		3					
65 Small Rivulet	1	3					
66 Smoky Wainscot	12	11					
67 Snout	1	1	7				
68 Spectacle	1						
69 Square-spot Rustic			9				
70 Straw dot		1					
71 Turnip			1				
72 Uncertain	15	8					
73 Vines Rustic	1						
74 White Satin	1	2					
75 Vapourer		1					
76 Yellowshell	1	3					
77 Yellowtail	3	10					
Total:	150	305	45				
Species:	40	58	10				