

Poplar Hawk-moth

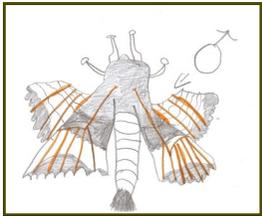
The most widely distributed and frequent hawk-moth in the British Isles. Wingspan 70 –100 mm

One of the fastest flying moths it can reach speeds of up to 30mph. The adults do not feed.

The Poplar hawk-moth's wings are patterned in shades of brown and grey with red flashes displayed to scare off predators, and the moth typically rests with the hind wings projecting forward, in front of the forewing. This serves to break up the typical triangular shape of the moth that some predators recognise, providing the Poplar Hawk-moth with a means of camouflage.



Brigitte Geddes



Beth Llewellyn

Peppered Moth

A favourite of genetic studies, this species shows well the phenomenon of industrial melanism, where all-dark individuals became the dominant form in certain parts of northern England. Nowadays, the melanic form is declining again in these areas.

The flight period is from May to August, and the species is common throughout most of Britain though more locally distributed in Scotland.

The larvae feed on a range of trees and plants, and can be found in a range of habitats.



Kirston Mackinnon



Brigitte Geddes

Brimstone

A common and widespread species in Britain. The larvae resemble twigs.

Adults can be expected on the wing at any time from April to October. This moth has three generations in southern England but only one in Scotland.

The larvae feed on a range of trees and bushes, including hawthorn and blackthorn.



Samuel Jones



Tony Mainwood

Day-flying Moths

Some species of moth fly only in the daytime while others fly both by day and night. Other night-flying moths may be easily disturbed from the vegetation. In the daytime in the Gearrchoille you might see Green Carpet (see over) True Lover's Knot (above left) or Magpie (left).



Fay Wilkinson



Fay Wilkinson

Guide to Moths in the Gearrchoille



Betty Wright

This leaflet was produced following a training day on moth identification held in Gearrchoille Community Wood Ardgay in mid-June 2010.

Members of our community attended along with members of other community woodland organisations and the P3-P7 class from Gledfield Primary School. We were accompanied by Ian Paterson, Countryside Ranger & Christine Blanco, Rosehall, to identify the moths. We hoped to inspire those who attended to take an interest in the less obvious inhabitants of the Gearchoille Wood and to encourage them to further study.

The moth traps had been set up the previous night and covered over in the early morning to keep the moths calm and prevent them from flying away. When the traps were opened, the moths were carefully put individually in jars, so they could be identified and passed around for inspection. (Then they were released.) In total, we saw 17 species of moth. When we went back to the classroom, the pupils researched the lives of the moths and produced their own illustrations, then chose the species to include in this leaflet. We hope you enjoy them.

The other species were Nut Tree Tussock, Peacock, Brown Rustic, Scalloped Hazel, Water Carpet, Pale Prominent, Small Phoenix.

More information and photos available at:

www.gearrchoillecommunitywoodardgay.org.uk

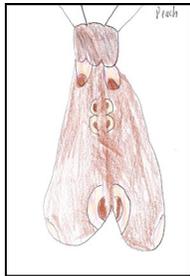
Peach Blossom

A beautifully-marked moth, with its pinkish spots on a brown background, the Peach Blossom is fairly common in woodland habitats throughout Britain except the extreme north.



Betsy Wright

Emerges in June. Feeds, mates and lays eggs in brief adult life of 5-10 days. Larvae hatch in July feeding on bramble in late summer. They pupate in September or early October and overwinter as pupae.



Lauren McCulloch

The adults fly at night in June and July, and can be attracted by bright lights or a sugar-mixture

Birch Mocha

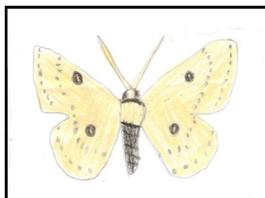
A delicately mottled and speckled species, this moth sometimes shows a rosy flush, but other specimens may be fairly grey in appearance.



Mark Skewington

As suggested by the English name, the larvae feed on birch. Overwinters as a pupa attached to a birch leaf.

It occurs in woodland areas in much of Britain.



Caitlin Maclean

Green Carpet

The bright green colour of this moth when freshly emerged soon fades to a yellowish-brown.



Tony Mainwood

It inhabits a range of habitats, including heaths, mosses and woodland, and is generally common throughout most of Britain.

Like many species of this genus, it feeds mainly on bedstraw.

The single generation flies from May to July and it overwinters as a pupa in loose earth.

Green Silver Lines

Wingspan 16-19mm

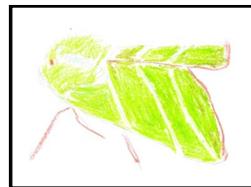
One of the very few British green moths, this species is fairly common in wooded areas over much of England and Wales, less common in Scotland and Ireland.



Brigitte Geddes

Flying mainly in June and July, it is often attracted to artificial light.

The short, plump caterpillar feeds in August, mostly on oak and birch, but also on other deciduous trees. Can also be seen flying during the day.



Caley Munro



GCWA is most grateful to the Community Woodlands Association for funding our Moth Identification Training Day

Community Woodlands Association

Lesser Swallow Prominent

A fairly common moth throughout most of Britain, this species is very similar to Swallow Prominent, but can be identified with care



Brigitte Geddes

The larvae feed on birch.

Pebble Hooktip

The largest and commonest of the 'hook-tips', found over most of Britain in woodland and heaths.



Brigitte Geddes

The adults fly at night from May to June.

The larvae feed usually on birch, but sometimes on alder.

Poplar Grey

The Poplar Grey is associated with poplar trees, and also willow. It flies from May to August and can be found mainly in the South of the UK and into southern Scotland. This is the first time it has been seen & photographed in the Gearrhoille Wood.



Brigitte Geddes

It can be identified from other grey moths by the white outlined circular wing mark.

From September onwards it overwinters as a pupa in a loose cocoon in a crack in the tree bark.