

MOTHS TO LOOK OUT FOR IN FEB. 2020

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At this time of the year some overwintering moths may appear at light some weeks out of their 'normal' flight season, particularly in mild spells, making you wonder about the accuracy of your identification.

However at Christmas an authenticated pristine Pale Pinion was seen and shortly after, a Mottled Grey.



The **Pale Pinion**, disguised to look like a fragment of rotted wood, is known nationally to be extending its range northwards and eastwards from the south and west. Its caterpillars feed in summer on the leaves of a variety of deciduous trees.

The **Mottled Grey** has substantially advanced its flight period in the past 40 years and can now be seen in small numbers all through the winter from December to its 'normal' flight period in March to June. The adult will come to light in small numbers and will also nectar on willow blossom. The caterpillars feed on Bedstraws.



The **Red Chestnut** can be seen in February, but rising to a peak in April. This species overwinters as a pupa and interestingly its caterpillars are rarely found. This is another moth which sadly is decreasing both in abundance and distribution.