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#### Early appearance of the Spring Usher *Agriopsis leucophaearia* (D. & S.) (Lep.: Geometridae) in north London (Middlesex) in January

During the morning of 25 January 2001, a mild, showery, but sunny day, my wife brought in a moth found fluttering on the wet ground in a neighbour's garden. It was a fine, fresh, male Spring Usher *Agriopsis leucophaearia*, and had obviously only recently emerged. I have not found this species previously in the area and Colin Plant (1993. *Larger moths of the London Area*. LNHS) says of it "... a widespread, but rather local resident, generally not found in the urban area of London and relatively infrequently in the suburbs". Both Plant and Bernard Skinner (1984. *Colour identification guide to moths of the British Isles*. Viking), note that the moth usually emerges from mid-February to mid-March, hence its colloquial name. As a boy, I used to find this species commonly in Clowes Wood, Warwickshire (see Hammond, H. E., 1957. A survey of the Lepidoptera of a small oak-beech wood on the Midland Keuper Marl with ecological notes on the species. *Proc. Birmingham nat. Hist. phil. Soc.* **18**(6): 147-173), but from my youthful notebooks the earliest male *A. leucophaearia* I ever found was there on 7 February (in 1948).— K. G. V. SMITH, 70 Hollickwood Avenue, London N12 0LT.



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