



Striped Hawk-moth, Southampton (4<sup>th</sup> May 2010) © Andy Collins

## NUMBER 11 - June 2010

### Wallblings...

Welcome to the 11th Hantsmoths newsletter, covering news from May and what's new in the Hampshire and Isle of Wight mothing scene: most importantly, it contains an announcement of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Moth Weekend over 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> July, an event which we hope will become an established part of the two counties' mothing year.

June has seen much warmer weather and the records are mounting up, although as I write this it seems to be turning a bit cooler again.

Until the next time,

*Mike*



## Dave's May 2010 Weather Review

May continued the theme of High Pressure dominance that we have seen plenty of this year. This usually means dry weather and that was certainly the case this time. There was some unsettled weather but this was restricted to the very start and end. What many will recall are the frosts that occurred in the first half. Locally, I recorded five with an absolute air minimum of  $-1.6^{\circ}\text{C}$  on the 12th which is impressively cold for this late in the season, but caused some damage to plants. No surprise then that the first half of May was running  $2^{\circ}\text{C}$  below normal although it ended up a near average month thanks to a good warm up, especially around the 20th for a few days as High Pressure finally moved over the country after an extended spell of northerly and easterly winds.

With thanks to Philip Eden at:-

<http://climate-uk.com/>

Dave Owen



### Diachrysia time!

Just a quick note by way of reminder of something posted in the last newsletter of 2009. Colin Plant has published an article in the recent Brit. Ent. Rec. expanding on his exhibit at last year's annual exhibition, putting forward the theory that Burnished Brass may in fact be two species. As the adult moths will be soon on the wing (correction - IS on the wing, had one this morning! Ed) it is timely to repeat the plea for detailed records to be kept this year, as below:

"...in anticipation of future clarification and taxonomic changes, it would be of value for recorders to keep careful note of *Diachrysia* sp. caught during 2010, and to record the number of 'juncta', 'aurea' and intermediates trapped. Such records may yield useful information of differences in flight-time and whether any habitat differentiation exists, and recorders who are so inclined may wish to attempt to identify any genitalic characteristics between the two."

It is worth quoting a thread on this subject on Hantsmoths, which indicates the difficulties we may experience in proving or disproving the theory. RJM noted that "I've been (*dissecting individuals*) over the past couple of years, but can find no evidence of anything other than *chrysitis* (in my area). All dissections of candidates with the broken band have genitalia that match Fibiger's illustrations of *chrysitis*. Still looking though. The external distinction pointed out by Fibiger is the degree to which the postmedian fascia merges into the terminal area or is abrupt. Every time I think I've found *stenochrysis* on this basis it always turns out to be *chrysitis*. If *stenochrysis* exists in the UK then we'll only be able to detect it with dissection - if the experts agree it's a separate species."

**Please keep records - it may prove nothing, but if we don't take notes, then certainly no interpretation can be made.**





## Hampshire & Isle of Wight Moth Weekend 2010

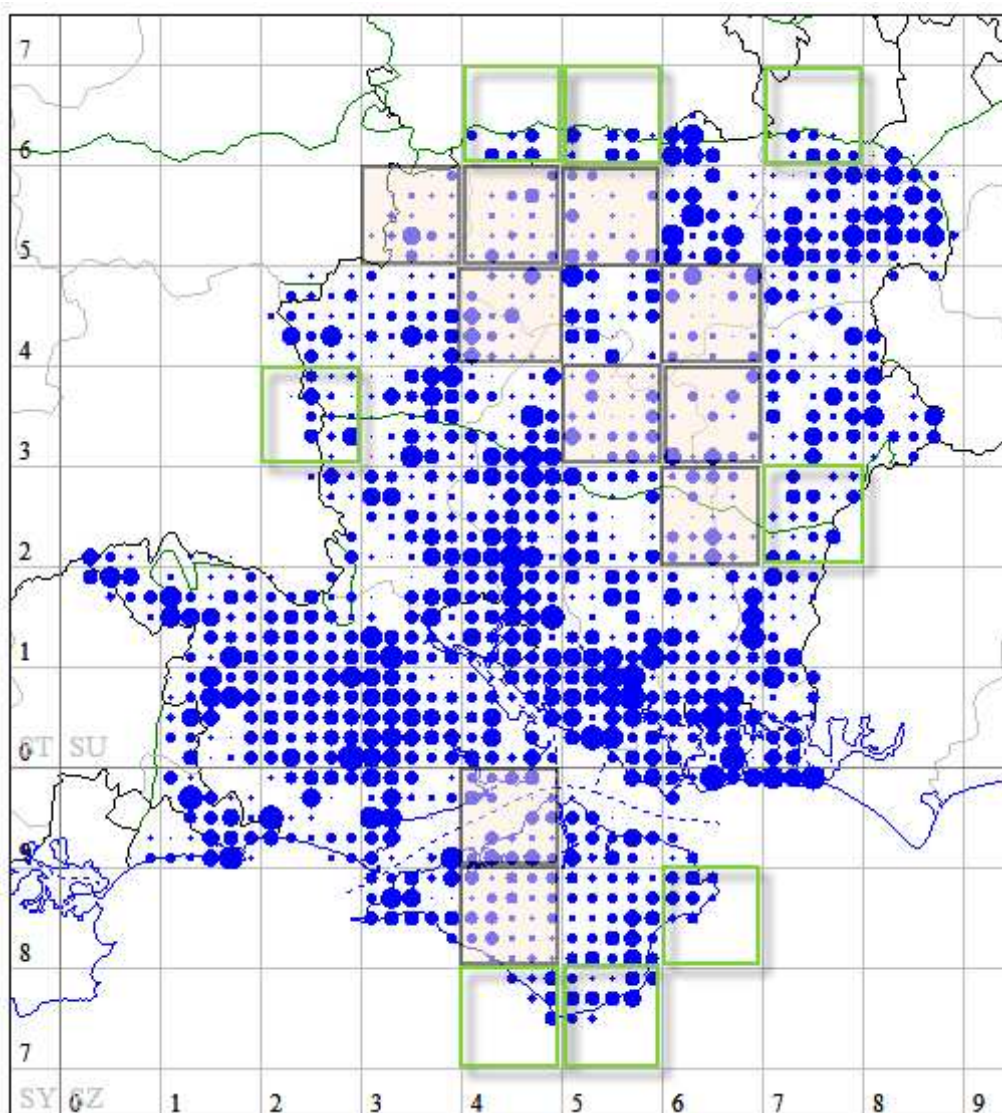
Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> to Sunday 4th July

### To Boldly Go Where No Moth-er Has Gone Before...

Hampshire and the Isle of Wight have some of the finest moths (and moth-ers!) in the country, but there are still large areas that go unrecorded on a year by year basis. This year, and hopefully as a continuing theme going forward, we would like to propose that Hampshire Moth Weekend is targetted at finding moths in under-recorded areas, be that an underwatched 10km square, tetrad, or even just a new site - such as your neighbour's back garden. By doing so we will gain invaluable data, increasing our knowledge of the county's moth fauna and hopefully make interesting discoveries.

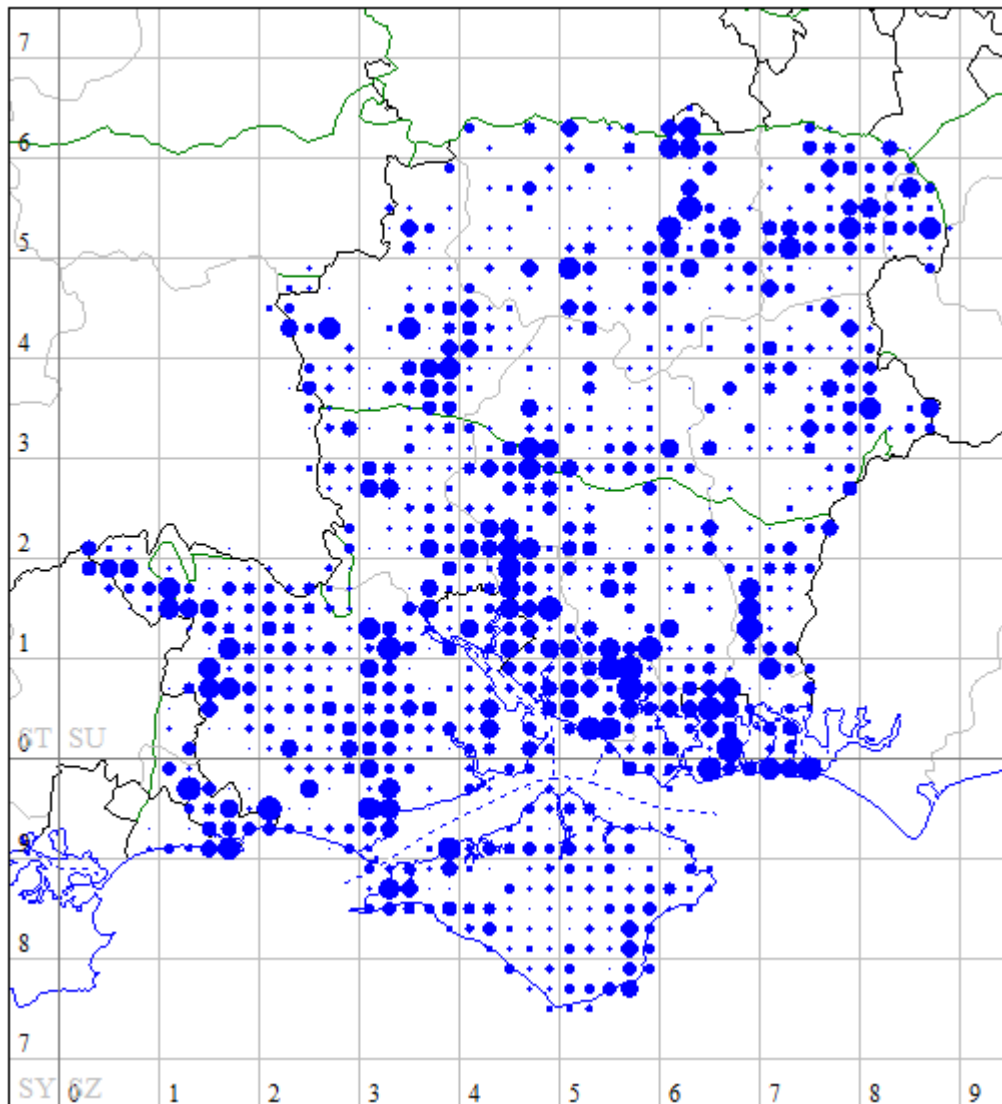
Below I have put together some maps and tables which aim to guide the reader to the underwatched areas in the county. I hope that this will be an interesting challenge, and that as many recorders as possible will be able to get out and about - even if it is just to take a walk through one of these areas by day and record what you see.

The map below shows the two counties, with the blue dots mapped at tetrad (2km square) resolution, with the size of dot in proportion to number of records received. Overlaid on this are outlined squares which show the 10km squares which have had the least attention (green squares show the 10km squares which are only partly in our area with the lowest activity).



Pride of place goes to SU45, the area to the north-east of Andover from St Mary Bourne in the south to Ashmansworth in the north. From here we have only just over 1000 records in total. At a tetrad level, the squares with no dot at all have seen no activity at all...ever.

The second map below is on similar basis, but illustrates records received this century. The 'dead areas' in recent times are even more obvious.



The picture shown by the maps is emphasised by the table below, detailing the poorest 15 10km squares by total records received. Squares that are completely within one of the two counties are shown in bold.

ALL-TIME		IN PAST DECADE	
10km Square	Total records	10km Square	Total records
<b>SU45 Ashmansworth – Lichfield</b>	1149	SZ47 Blackgang loW (part)	115
SU76 Bramshill (part)	1260	SU46 Burghclere (part)	186
SU46 Burghclere (part)	1520	SZ68 Bembridge loW (part)	262
SZ68 Bembridge loW (part)	1738	<b>SU45 Ashmansworth – Lichfield</b>	346
SZ47 Blackgang loW (part)	1814	<b>SU55 Kingsclere – Ramsdell</b>	522
SU56 Ashford Hill (part)	2023	SU76 Bramshill (part)	597
<b>SU55 Kingsclere – Ramsdell</b>	2073	<b>SZ48 Brighstone Forest loW</b>	673
<b>SZ48 Brighstone Forest loW</b>	2279	SU71 Rowlands Castle (part)	838
<b>SU53 Micheldever – Alresford</b>	2812	<b>SZ48 Brighstone Forest loW</b>	844
<b>SU35 Vernham Dean area</b>	2846	SU56 Ashford Hill (part)	1012

SU72 Petersfield (part)	3074	<b>SZ49 Lepe – Parkhurst loW</b>	1015
<b>SU62 West Meon area</b>	3205	<b>SU35 Vernham Dean area</b>	1048
<b>SU63 Ropley – Four Marks</b>	3413	SU23 Winterslows (part)	1165
<b>SU64 Tunworth – Preston Candover</b>	3922	<b>SU62 West Meon area</b>	1211
SZ57 Ventnor loW (part)	3925	SZ59 Binstead loW (part)	1266

Finally, the table below compares recording activity in the past decade with that from the 20<sup>th</sup> century as a whole, and lists those 10km squares where number of records received is less than 50% of former activity. Given the dramatic increase in recording over the past ten years, the areas shown are therefore receiving relatively little attention nowadays. The New Forest, Isle of Wight and areas to the north-west of Basingstoke again feature strongly.

<b>10km square</b>	<b>Records 2000s</b>	<b>Records Pre-2000</b>	<b>% increase</b>
SU20 North-west of Brockenhurst NF	3791	81342	5%
SZ47 Blackgang loW (part)	115	1814	7%
SU46 Burghclere (part)	186	1520	14%
SU71 Rowlands Castle (part)	838	6055	16%
SZ68 Bembridge loW (part)	262	1738	18%
SZ59 Binstead loW (part)	1266	7617	20%
SZ49 Lepe – Parkhurst loW	1015	4801	27%
SU30 Beaulieu Road Station area NF	7299	32247	29%
SU55 Kingsclere – Ramsdell	522	2073	34%
SU23 Winterslows (part)	1165	4267	38%
SU43 Area north of Winchester	9391	32084	41%
SU21 Bramshaw – Minstead NF	1715	5847	42%
SZ48 Brighstone Forest loW	673	2279	42%
SU53 Micheldever – Alresford	844	2812	43%
SU45 Ashmansworth - Lichfield	346	1149	43%

But if it isn't possible to get out to anywhere new, please still make a special effort to trap over the weekend - how about holding a BBQ and get someone new interested in mothing? Let's establish the Hampshire Moth Weekend as a standard part of the area's annual calendar - unlike National Moth Night, we will always aim to keep it on the nearest weekend to the end of June.

I can't offer any prizes, but there will be a write-up in next year's Moth Report highlighting the significant findings!

If anyone wants any more details of what to do and where to look, please get in touch with either Tim or myself.

*Mike*





## MAY 2010 SUMMARY

*Please note that in accordance with the usual convention where referring to overnight light-trapping the evening date not the morning date is used.*

The month started with GCE posting photos of a number of Northern Drab he'd taken late on in April, a local species that is perhaps overlooked amongst the much commoner Clouded Drab at this time of year. Two are reproduced below.



Many observers were bemoaning poor trap counts in the early part of the month with mainly cold nights, although it began to pick up as the weather warmed later.

In Cadnam, MP reported temperatures dropping to 2C by midnight on both 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. On the former night he had only eight moths of three species, six of which were Hebrew Character, with one Brindled Pug and a Streamer; on 4<sup>th</sup> there were eight moths of four species, with Scarce Prominent new for year.

The trend continued for RTu in Grayshott where the 4<sup>th</sup> saw 30 moths of 8 species, 17 of which were Orthosia. New for the year were Scalloped Hazel and Lesser Swallow Prominent. ARC also reported a very poor start to the year in Southampton with only 10 moths of 5 common species in the MV trap on the night of the 5<sup>th</sup>. However, although there was only one moth in the nearby actinic trap, it was a Striped Hawk-moth (shown on the front page of this newsletter)! Very surprising to have a southern migrant arrive on north-east winds.

Andy's poor night on the 5<sup>th</sup> wasn't reflected elsewhere as further inland the night-time minimum rose to 11C, and was reflected in an increase in numbers to 45 moths of 18 species for MP in Cadnam, with Common Pug, Peppered Moth, Iron Prominent and Flame Shoulder and *Incurvaria mascullella* new in. GCE ran two MV traps and two actinics at different sites around his local patch of Chilbolton,



catching a total of around 250 moths of 52 species, with the most numerous being 92 Hebrew Character; there were six Prominent species. New species for the year included Poplar Hawk-moth, Shears, Pale Mottled Willow, Light Brocade, Scalloped Hook-tip, White Ermine, Marbled Brown, Coxcomb Prominent, Poplar Grey, V-Pug, and Scorched Carpet. Highlight was almost last out of the last trap at Leckford - isn't it always? - a Pinion-spotted Pug (left).

For THW in Winchester, the night's catch of 55 moths of 22 species doubled the previous high catch of the year to date - from as far back as 9<sup>th</sup> April, but reflecting a real tailing off of Orthosias and unlike for GCE above, there were no sign of any species of Prominent yet this year.

So cool were conditions for the next ten days that no-one saw fit to make any postings at all on Hantsmoths, and it wasn't until 14<sup>th</sup> that THW reported again, with 11 moths of 7 species including the first Heart and Dart of the season and 1 Least Black Arches.

It being National Moth Night on the 15<sup>th</sup>, conditions were never likely to improve dramatically. Despite the likely cool night however, a number of brave explorers set out to entertain the public. DGG ran lights at Mottisfont Great Copse, recording 103 individuals of 31 species: Great Prominent

was the most abundant with 26 individuals and a single Little Thorn was probably the best moth of the night. There were very few caterpillars about and all were very small, probably reflecting the lateness of the season this year. TJN ran two lights in HE's Cholderton Estate garden, nearly matching Dave's total with 29 species, the best being Seraphim, Puss moth, Chocolate-tip, three *Agonopterix yeatiana* (a species that appears to be making inroads into central Hampshire, having been predominantly a coastal species until recent years), *Pseudoswammerdamia combinella*, Least Black Arches, and a Larch Pug: there were no prominents at all. Twenty-four people attended and Serotine and Pipistrelle bats were seen as well as a Peregrine cruising over the lake just before dusk.

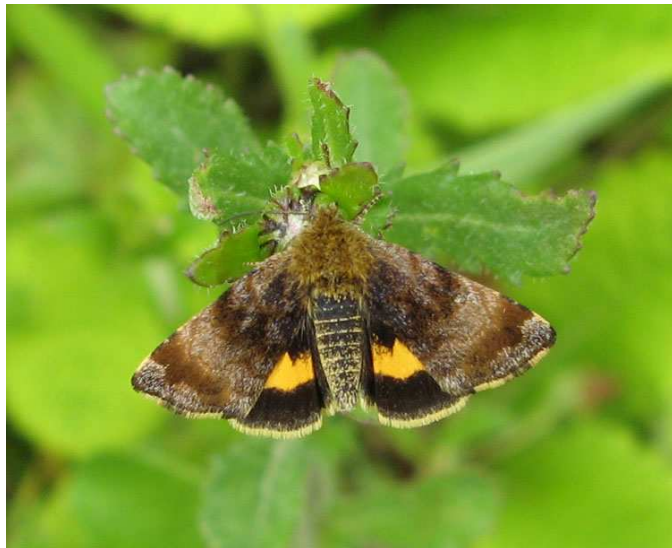
PGLT ran an MV in his garden at Cheriton wood, and was rewarded with highlights of Dotted Chestnut, Pebble Prominent, Great Prominent, Lesser Swallow Prominent and Muslin moth, and JSw in Christchurch had 27 species, including a late Common Quaker, Pine Beauty, Muslin Moth, Dark-barred Twin-spot Carpet and Light Brocade.

Away from woodland it was a different story. Back at home at Anna Valley, Andover, TJN found there were just three moths in the trap, including a Dark-barred Twin-spot Carpet. DBO in Alton reported 13 moths of 10 species but 12 cockchafers! New for year was Coronet, and MP in Cadnam had only six moths in the trap last night, this total being beaten by the number of Cockchafers (7). THW in Winchester had another poor night with just nine individuals of five species. Singles of Pebble Prominent, Treble Lines and Shears were new for the year. At a satellite site round the corner there were just six moths but Dark/Grey Dagger and Rustic Shoulder-knot were firsts for the year. However, prize for the worst public event went to MJW, who certainly drew the short straw! He ran two lights for a Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust event at Cliddesden churchyard, just south of Basingstoke, and to two MV lights the sum total was two Green Carpet, Common Carpet, Nut-tree Tussock, Flame Shoulder, and *Scoparia ambigualis* and there were more pipistrelles, cockchafers and onlookers than moths! As ever though, the ten attendees enjoyed themselves, and one enthusiastic nine-year-old girl didn't want to leave, so the main objective of NMN was achieved.



On the Island, the highlight of trapping at Ventnor Botanic Garden by JHa, RW et al was a Portland Ribbon Wave (photo right).

From here on in the nights became generally warmer, and catches began to reflect typical late spring returns. On 18<sup>th</sup>, MP in Cadnam had 28 moths of 15 species, with Spruce Carpet, Seraphim, Waved Umber, White-pinion Spotted and White Ermine new for year. JSw reported another Little Thorn at her trap in Burton, Christchurch on the same night, with amongs t others the first reported



*Eudonia angustea*, *Triaxomera parasitella*, *Ptheochroa rugosana* and *Platyedra subcinerea* of the year three days later. On the 20th RJT in Grayshott had 35 species of which 29 were new for the year! Of particular note were Water Carpet, Waved Umber, Pine Beauty, Peach Blossom, Light Brocade and Shears.

Small Yellow Underwing - Froyle, 18 May (Sue Clark), a first for the garden

PDu ran a 'BioBlitz' event in Denny Wood, New Forest on the night of the 21<sup>st</sup>, which attracted a grand total of around fifteen traps. Conditions

were very good despite the lack of cloud. A total of 74 species were identified including several



Alder Moth, Emperor, Birch Mocha, Ringed Carpet, Horse Chestnut and a single Scarce Merveille du Jour - the earliest record in Hants to date by a couple of days.

On 22<sup>nd</sup>, DPH in Stubbington reported 23 species last night, the highlight being -surprisingly - the first Scorched Carpet for the garden. There were plenty of firsts for the year, the most notable being Lime Hawk, Orange Footman, White-spotted Pug and Least Black Arches. On the same night, MJW and NJM ran two lights on Saturday night in Morgaston Wood. About 55 species of moths, including Barred Umber, Great, Pale and Iron Prominent, Water Carpet, Pine Beauty, Pale Oak Beauty, Ochreous Pug and Figure of Eighty, with micros including *Eucosmomorpha albersana* (which is a very local feeder on Honeysuckle with few recent vc12 records), *Incurvaria oehlmanniella* and *Epinotia rubiginosana*. With Paul Hope and Colleen Mainstone ringing bats on the same night, it was also a privilege to see trapped Natterer's and Brown Long-eared bats in the hand.

Increasingly warm days saw commensurate activity amongst the Hampshire moth community. On 23<sup>rd</sup>, NJM saw 47 species in his Sherborne St John garden, including the garden's first *Phyllonorycter trifasciella*, and reported that numbers were generally increasing - e.g. four Garden Pebble, five Chinese Character, six Poplar Hawk-moth, plus lots of pugs - 10 Mottled, 10 Common, three Oak-tree, Lime-speck, White-spotted, Foxglove - and May Highflier, Heart & Dart, Buff-tip and Rush Veneer...and the year's first postvittana.

The reward for possibly the most significant moth of the month went to GCS in Fleet, who took the county's third Small *Ranunculus* (right) in his MV last night, at the same location as the first county record from only last year; surely not a coincidence and suggesting strongly that they are established in the locality. The supporting cast included pristine specimens of Pale Oak Beauty, Chocolate Tip and Pebble Prominent. A late Powdered Quaker a couple of nights earlier had been a surprise.



On the following night, NJM reported 149 moths of 60 species in Sherborne St John, including the



garden's first *Tischeria ekebladella*. Also *Syndemis musculana*, *Epinotia immundana*, *Cydia ulicetana*, Sandy Carpet, Sharp-angled Carpet and Lesser Treble-bar (male), plus somewhat late, but very fresh looking, Common Quaker and Small Quaker, and a Mother Shipton in the garden this afternoon. A Hebrew Character in Basingstoke (MJW) on 21<sup>st</sup> continued the late *Orthosia* theme, along with a Puss Moth (left). NJH in Fordingbridge had the best trap in the garden this year with 40 moth of 28 species, with two firsts for the

garden in Yellow-barred Brindle and Chocolate-tip, and the first Lime Hawk Moth and Small Magpie for the year. RTu in Grayshott caught 43 species of which 19 were new for year: of note were Puss Moth, Poplar Hawkmoth (of which only two were trapped last year), Rivulet, Birch Mocha, White Point and Small Seraphim.

The Svensson's Copper Underwing larva shown right was found while cutting back an ornamental plum in MJW's Basingstoke garden on 23<sup>rd</sup>. It was brought indoors and soon pupated (much to my surprise), spinning a cocoon between two leaves, even though the literature indicates it pupates in soil. It was even more surprising when the adult moth emerged on 19<sup>th</sup> June.





Dan Hoare reports that Butterfly Conservation and DSTL organised a coordinated butterfly survey at Porton Down in May for the second year running. “More than thirty volunteers took part over the weekend of 22nd and 23rd of May, and were rewarded with clear blue skies, soaring temperatures and butterflies galore. The main target species was the Duke of Burgundy, which is still found in more than 20 sites across Hampshire but has undergone shocking declines across the country, as woodland sites have become overgrown and grassland sites have suffered from either overgrazing or scrub encroachment. This year’s survey confirmed that Porton Down remains a national stronghold for the species, with a total of 256 Dukes recorded over the two survey days in a number of habitat patches in both Hampshire and Wiltshire. This is one of the highest counts for the species anywhere in the country in recent years, and colonies were found on both primroses within the woodland and on cowslips in scrubby grassland areas. 147 Dukes were seen on the Hampshire part of the site, largely in woodland glades and young plantations at Isle of Wight Hill.

A whole range of other scarce and unusual species were also recorded during the searches, including good numbers of Pearl-bordered Fritillary and 4 Small Pearl-bordered Fritillaries, the first recorded on the site for many years. As at many sites year, numbers of other scarce species such as Grizzled Skipper, Dingy Skipper and Green Hairstreak were encouragingly high. Marsh Fritillaries were also found in small numbers, largely in the Wiltshire part of the site. A single Narrow-bordered Bee Hawk Moth was seen at Isle of Wight Wood, with other moths including Yellow Belle, Oblique Striped and Wood Tiger also recorded. More than 20 individuals of a Forester moth species were seen in grassland but have not yet been identified to species level, as the foodplants of all three species were present. As well as providing a fantastic experience for all involved, the surveys enabled us to carry out detailed habitat mapping and gather species records which will be used to inform future habitat management by Dstl, to ensure this marvellous site retains its rich assemblage of invertebrates.”

A further Little Thorn was reported by TT in the North Boarhunt area on the evening of 24<sup>th</sup>, with a second nearby for JRDS on the same night. Yet another was reported by RAC in Highcliffe, Dorset at the end of the month; this appears to be one species that is increasing in numbers, with last year’s 25 records the best ever. JHa at Ventnor had his first ever Pale Oak Beauty for the garden on the same night.

At Magdalen Hill Down, AJB found a Lappet Moth cocoon (shown right) on 30<sup>th</sup>; the caterpillar had been present near the same spot for the whole month. At the same site, David Manning recorded the attractive cosmopterigid *Pancalia leuwenhoekella* (below) towards the end of the month.



Elsewhere the dark form of Treble Lines shown right was taken by TJN in Anna Valley on 25<sup>th</sup>.

Trapping at Holmsley Inclosure in the New Forest on 28<sup>th</sup> by KTai & MHam turned up three Dingy Mocha, one Small Chocolate-tip, *Pseudotelphusa scalella*, *Pammene germmana*, and no less than six Devon Carpet and six Ringed Carpet.

The month ended quietly on the news front, with RJM (29<sup>th</sup>) reporting a spectacular *Yponomeuta* species larval infestation in Waterlooville. At Brook, Isle of Wight, DC, LF and TJN found Wood Tiger, *Pyrausta ostrinalis*, *Pyrausta cingulata* by day, and another Wood Tiger was a good sighting for PS at Burghclere Old Lime Quarry HIWWT NR on the same day.



Continuing their Isle of Wight stay, TJN and LF found five Cream-spot Tiger, and *Lobesia reliquana* at St Lawrence on 30<sup>th</sup>, with another at Niton on the same night (CC).

On 30<sup>th</sup> RFC in Pennington bemoaned a poor spring in his garden with the recent highlight being the first Diamond-back Moth of the Year, and further evidence of migration was evidenced by RAC at Blashford who caught three Silver Y, a Dark Sword-grass and a Gem in the last couple of nights of the month.

Shown left is a photo of the tortrix *Grapholita lobarzewskii* bred from apple on Milton Common. After IRT found one in his trap in 2008, JRL and IRT collected domestic apples from the common, in an attempt to try rearing the moth. The apples have characteristic holes with extruded frass. This was the first adult to emerge, on 25<sup>th</sup>.



IRT also had a totally unexpected visitor to his trap with the *Lampronia fuscata* shown below on 28<sup>th</sup>. It is a puzzle where it came from as there is no suitable habitat locally to IRT's garden.



Mike Wall



## FAREHAM MOTH GROUP (MAY RECORDS)

7<sup>th</sup> May saw three of the group Kevin Coker, Richard Dickson and Keith Wheeler visit West Walk (High Lines) with a smallish catch under clear skies of 100 moths of 43 species. All the usual species including Barred Umber, Birch Mocha, Water Carpet, Red Chestnut and Great Prominent. Among the 'micros' were *Heliozela sericiella*, *Phyllonorycter harrisella* and *Cydia ulicetana*.



14<sup>th</sup> May was again a clear moonlight night and saw us visit West Walk (High Lines) again but with 4 lamps including mine. The result was even less than last week with approximately 75 moths of 26 species: Least Black Arches, Dwarf Pug and Square Spot were nice to see, but only three 'micros' were recorded, with *Eriocrania subpurpurella*, *Adela reaumurella* and *Capua vulgana*.

21<sup>st</sup> May: Four members of the group visited Denny Wood, New Forest on Bio-blitz day organized by Pete Durnell (see above).

On 28<sup>th</sup> May a visit was made to Botley Woods, again under a clear sky, but the mothing was much improved with over 200 moths of 61 species, including Fox Moth, Flame Carpet, Ochreous Pug, Lesser Treble-bar, Little Thorn, Maple Prominent and larva of Twin-spotted Quaker. Among the 11 species of 'micro' were *Carpatolechia proximella*, *Lobesia reliquana* and *Strophedra weirana*.

## FUNTLEY GARDEN IN MAY

I ran the light on 18 nights during May but numbers of both moths and species were generally low but did start to pick up towards the end of the month. Many new for year species as would be expected with the odd less common ones being Pine Beauty 5<sup>th</sup>, Cypress Carpet 7<sup>th</sup>, Puss Moth 10<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, Mocha on 21<sup>st</sup>, Ochreous Pug and Satin Wave 25<sup>th</sup>, Dark Spectacle 26<sup>th</sup>, Little Thorn 27<sup>th</sup>,

Migrant species included Silver Y 24<sup>th</sup>, *Plutella xylostella* 5<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>.

Amongst the 'micros' were *Plutella porrectella*, *Esperia sulphurella* on several dates, Small China-mark *Cataclysta lemnata* on 30<sup>th</sup> and a first for the garden *Cacoecimorpha pronubana* on 21<sup>st</sup>.

*Maurice Opie*



## Butterflies

The first Small Blues were noted at Martin Down on 15<sup>th</sup> May (CBt). On the same day AW counted 79 Duke of Burgundy in the Butser Hill area. This species has had a remarkable year at some sites. AW also saw good numbers of Dingy and Grizzled Skippers around Butser and these have also done well in the prolonged dry weather and are still to found flying in the second week of June.

MRO was over on the island at this time and reported finding evidence of Glanville Fritillary nests and late larvae in good numbers and reckons that it will be a bumper year.



(left) Glanville Fritillary (Peter Hunt 22<sup>nd</sup> May)

The first two Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary were found on 21<sup>st</sup> May at Bentley Wood (PE, AW) and MSw reported seeing a massive total of 139 Pearl-bordered Fritillary in the New Forest the next day, 22<sup>nd</sup> May, during a 3 hour walk through 7 Inclosures. They were seen in new scalloped areas and major new clearings which reflects excellent recent management in the National Park. Good numbers of many species were seen at Martin Down on the same



day including an estimated 100 Small Blue (AW).

Only scattered sightings of Painted Lady continued to be noted until 7<sup>th</sup> June when there appeared to be a small influx with multiple sightings at some sites.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> BC and Dstl held a survey on Porton Down similar to last year (see above) which was a very successful event attended by many Branch members.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> May LF and TJN visited Martin Down and Vernditch Copse. There they saw a Small Heath with very unusual markings. The upperwing was a pale sandy brown and the underwings were also unusually pale (see photos).



Colin Baker - Martin Down



Tim Norriss - Vernditch Copse

AT visited Portsdown Hill on 25<sup>th</sup> and found 11 Small Blues including a freshly emerged female still expanding its tiny wings. He would never have found it himself he says but of course, but another Small Blue did! See photo.



#### Small Blue (AT)

The first Large Skipper was seen at on 24<sup>th</sup> May at Parkhurst Forest (MH) which was some time before the main emergence. Meadow Brown followed on 3<sup>rd</sup> June at Martin Down (MSw) and Silver-studded Blue on 5<sup>th</sup> June (AM?) at Silchester Common.

In early June two Duke of Burgundy were seen on a site at Cholderton where they had not been seen for over twenty years (HE) and on the 13<sup>th</sup> another very worn male was found about a mile away where none have been seen for about the same period (LF, TJN).

The first Ringlet was seen at Abbotstone Down on 13<sup>th</sup> (PG) closely followed by Silver-washed Fritillary on 15<sup>th</sup> (CLB) and a Marbled White was also seen on MHD around this time (AJB).

*Tim Norriss*



## Foresters and Burnets

Like many of the spring lepidoptera, the Forester *Adscita statices* has had a very good year. Its stronghold at Odiham Common has seen greater numbers than for many years. The first sighting received so far was on 20 May (CLB) and by 11 June approx 300 could be seen over the whole area (MJW). Please do send in your observations if you visit the site and make a note of what nectar plants are being used and importantly where on the site, and what time



of day, females are egg-laying on the leaves of sorrel. My visits have been in the evenings and no egg-laying has been observed. Interestingly the *Juncus* that has covered quite an area over the last few years seems to have virtually disappeared this summer. Perhaps the dryness has had an effect or the annual cutting has done for it. Burnet Companion *Euclidia glyphica* could be seen here in remarkable numbers, the most I have ever seen, with probably about 100 on 11 June.

The Forester on Stockbridge Down was not yet flying on 13 June, and the reason for the disparity in dates between this site and Odiham Common is not understood but it is important to try and get first and last dates from both sites so please do visit and send in your records.

(left) Forester - AM

Cistus Forester were flying at both West Down, Chilbolton and Cholderton on 12 June. The latter is a private site and also holds a good colony of Five-spot Burnet *Zygaena trifolii palustrella* where about twenty were seen on 12 June (HE, LF, TJN). This species flies rather earlier than Narrow-bordered Five-spot Burnet *Zygaena lonicerae* of which just one newly emerged pair were seen in cop. *Z. trifolii* had been flying here since the beginning of the month and all were rather worn. They varied from having obvious confluent central spots through to several *f. minoides* where all spots are merged into a single broad wavy red line. The *Z. lonicerae* were markedly different with five clearly separated dots. MG had also seen *Zygaena trifolii* and Cistus Forester at Pilot Hill, Facombe .



(above) *Zygaena trifolii* TJN  
 (left) *Zygaena lonicerae* TJN

(above) *Zygaena trifolii f. minoides* TJN

Tim Norriss



## Hants Moths Social - 9th July Leckford

To all Hants moth-ers

The Leckford Estate have kindly agreed that we can have a Hampshire Moths Social at their Testside Lakes facility on the night of 9th-10th July. We have access from 9.00pm through till after midnight, and it would be possible to run quite a number of lights (either mains-powered, or gennie-powered if you wished to venture further than your cable length!). Habitat is fen, carr woodland, scrub, meadow - and species may include Scarce Burnished Brass, half-dozen Wainscot species, Haworth's Minor, Balsam Carpet, etc., plus all the river valley micros you could wish for!

All are invited, but to keep a handle on catering numbers, it would be good if you could let me know that you plan on coming (hantsbto AT hotmail.com). We'll provide teas/coffee, and some food - but by all means bring anything you fancy (there is an oven). Directions: 9.00pm onwards (not before) - drive through gate at SU 3743 3771 in centre of Leckford, go along track to parking area around SU 3728 3791. Hope to see you there,

*Glynne Evans*



### Contributors:

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RAC	Bob Chapman	TJN	Tim Norriss
CC	Carol Cockbain	MRO	Matthew Oates
ARC	Andy Collins	MLO	Maurice Opie
DC	Dave Cooke	DBO	Dave Owen
RFC	Richard Coomber	MP	Maurice Pugh
PRD	Pete Durnell	JRDS	John Shillitoe
MG	Mervyn Grist	JSw	Jean Southworth
HE	Henry Edmunds	GCS	Graham Stephenson
PE	Peter Eeles	PS	Paul Sterry
GCE	Glynne Evans	MSw	Mark Swann
LF	Lynn Fomison	KTai	Keith Tailby
DGG	Dave Green	IRT	Ian Thirlwell
MG	Mervyn Grist	PGLT	Peter Thompson
JHa	James Halsey	AT	Alan Thornbury
MH	Mark Hallett	RTu	Robin Turner
MHam	Mark Hammond	MJW	Mike Wall
WGH	Bill Helyar	THW	Tim Walker
DPH	Dan Houghton	AW	Ashley Whitlock
NJH	Nick Hull		
JRL	John Langmaid		

And with thanks to everyone who posts on the Hantsmoths Yahoogroup and uses the Hantsmoths and BC branch websites!



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*Published 21st June 2010*

Contributions and ideas for articles are always welcome. I would also like to be made aware of any errors and omissions for correction.

For more information on moth recording in Hampshire, please contact the county moth recorders, either Tim Norriss ([tim@kitsmail.com](mailto:tim@kitsmail.com)) (Macros) or myself (micros), or see [www.hantsmoths.org.uk/recording.htm](http://www.hantsmoths.org.uk/recording.htm)

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