

NUMBER 14 - September 2010

Wallblings...

Welcome to the 14th Hantsmoths newsletter. Autumn is well advanced at the time of writing and moth numbers are on the decrease, so now is a good time to start thinking about submitting the year's records. The annual Hampshire moth conference is coming up in January, and it would be great to have the majority of records submitted by the end of the year to enable a comprehensive review to be presented then. This would also aid an early start to compilation of the annual moth report next spring.

September saw two new species for Hampshire and Wight reported, and another new for the mainland county.

Please keep the news coming in, either to me directly at [mike AT hantsmoths.org.uk](mailto:mike@hantsmoths.org.uk), or via the Hantsmoths yahoo group.

Until the next time,

Good mothing!

Mike



Clancy's Rustic
Niton, Isle of Wight
19th September (PB)



Weather Summary September 2010

Following a summer which deteriorated from a good start, September was largely average although both rainfall and sunshine were a little below par. No lengthy predominant theme in weather patterns over the month and no major autumn storms to worry about. Maximum temperatures were uninspiring with 22.6 °C being the absolute high at Winchester on the 9th. Unusually, the coldest nights were at the start of the month and quite close to giving a grass frost. There was a colder northerly interlude late in the month with the maximum on the 26th restricted to 12.8 °C. Very few wet days either and nothing worse than 11mm on one occasion. So all in all a benign start to autumn
<http://www.winchesterweather.org.uk/>

Dave Owen



SEPTEMBER 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 advance of the Small *Ranunculus* continues, with at least four records that I am aware of: the latest is one at Eastleigh on 3rd (SI). The disparate nature of the sightings to date, on two distinct fronts - in the south and separately in the north-east from the expanding London and Surrey population - may indicate a primary immigration origin for the former.

Feathered Gothic, Anna Valley 11th Sept (TJN)

A notable presence in many moth-er's traps across the county during the month was Feathered Gothic, which appears to have had a very good year. Looking at Hantsmoths reports alone, which is only a small snapshot of the final record submissions we will likely receive at the end of the year, there were 18 reports, as follows:

Wyke Down, one, 27th August (ACr, MJW); Mapledurwell, one, 28th August (MJW); Anna Valley, Andover: two, 12th and another on 18th (TJN); Goodworth Clatford: one on 18th (TJN); Deadwater, two on 1st (NJM); Cadnam, one on 1st and two the



next day (MP); Colden Common, one on 1st - first for garden (RWO); Sherborne St John, 3rd (NJM) - the first since 2004; Alton, one on 1st and three on 4th (DBO) - first since 2006; Fleet, one on 3rd (GCS) - first for garden; Cheriton, two, 4th (PGLT); at Cholderton on 4th, a remarkable 48 (HE) - also on same night were 141 Setaceous Hebrew Character; Ashurst, New Forest: individuals on 29th Aug and 2nd (KG); Hinchelsea Bog, New Forest: five on 13th (Dick Jones and DW).



(left) Archer's Dart, Portsmouth 5th Sept (IRT)

(below) *Crambus hamella*, Hogmoor Inclosure 4th Sept (NJM)

An Archer's Dart was recorded in IRT's Portsmouth trap on 5th. There was a late Elephant Hawk-moth at Cadnam on 3rd (MP). Five *Crambus hamella* and a further Archer's Dart were the highlights of a trapping session held at Hogmoor Inclosure, Bordon on 4th (SRM, BW, NJM). Another *Crambus hamella* was reported by JSo from Christchurch, Dorset on 10th, along with a late Heath Rustic - later even than one earlier reported from Cholderton on 4th (HE).



PBk encountered a Dark Crimson Underwing at Denny Wood, New Forest on 9th. Found in the daytime on an oak trunk, luckily just disturbed by hornets!

Dark Crimson Underwing, New Forest 9th Sept (PBk)

Over on Wight at the end of August, TJN and LF trapped at Gatcombe in the centre of the island in a virtually unrecorded square. At their B&B the best was Pretty Chalk Carpet, Red Underwing, Satin Wave and a very late Dingy Shears. They also trapped in a garden on the north edge of Parkhurst Forest, catching 53 spp. including *Evergestis extimalis*, Magpie and another Satin Wave. A search for Starwort larvae on the Sea Aster at Newtown on 29th was

unsuccessful and produced only a Lime-speck Pug larva.



Lime-speck Pug, Newtown, Isle of Wight 28th Sept (TJN)

Another trip over to the island at the end of September, this time to look for Bleached Pug larvae, was more successful. A good area for the food-plant Golden-rod in Parkhurst Forest had been found in the previous visit at the end of August and a search of this on 28th produced two half-grown larvae and a *Choreutis pariana* nectaring on Golden-rod (TJN, LF, DC). This latter was something of a surprise as they had seen no apple trees in the forest at all.



Choreutis pariana, Parkhurst Forest
28th Sept (DC)

In the third week of the month PB stayed at Niton and recorded second brood Crescent Dart in unprecedented numbers, maximum twelve on 22nd. Also seen were Clancy's Rustic on 19th and 23rd, Square-spot Dart on 20th, Oak Rustic on 24th and three Delicate during the week. There were also six widespread sightings of Humming-bird Hawk-moth.

Niton, Isle of Wight (both PB):
(left) Crescent Dart 22nd Sept
(right) Square-spot Dart 20th Sept



With autumn kicking in, the seasonal firsts were as follows. The first reported Lunar Underwing of the year at Cadnam on 4th (MP). The first Frosted Orange was at Cheriton on 4th (PGLT), with another at Sherborne St John on 5th (NJM). A Brown-spot Pinion was at Cholderton on 4th (HE), and Brindled Green at Cadnam on 9th (MP). The first Sallow, Pink-barred Sallow and Black Rustic of

the year were at Goodworth Clatford on 18th (TJN). Another Pink-barred Sallow and the first Large Ranunculus were reported from Chilbolton on 19th (GCE) with another at Alton on 20th (DBO). Centre-barred Sallow were widely reported from end August through to mid-month. Feathered Thorn was new in at Brockenhurst on 10th (RBW), along with a Webb's Wainscot. A Pinion-streaked Snout on 15th in Anna Valley, Andover (TJN) was new for the 10km square. NJM in Sherborne St John reported Beaded Chestnut on 20th, and a Brick on 21st. A late showing Ruby Tiger was found in Cadnam on the same day, along with the first reported Barred Sallow (MP). Blair's Shoulder-knot, Red-line Quaker and Green-brindled Crescent started to show by 27th in Chilbolton (GCE). Notable micros were thin on the ground, although *Eudonia pallida* appeared to show a strong late brood with 8 in Basingstoke on 20th (MJW) and a scattering elsewhere; the first *Acleris sparsana* were two in Alton on 28th, along with *Zelleria hepariella* (DBO). Geometers of note were also scarce - a smattering of second generation Light Emerald throughout and two Mallow at Christchurch on 27th (JSo), and TJN had a late Lime-speck Pug in Andover on the same night.

RAC wrote on Hantsmoths on 20th that at Blashford he had found four Goat Moth larvae; however two were dead, with heads missing, assumed to have been taken by a predator, while a third was injured - again the head was damaged. The last was unscathed and travelling rapidly. He wondered why, if a predator had caught them, they had not been eaten? The most obvious explanation would be that they are unpalatable in some way, but he could find no reference to this anywhere. Elsewhere, there were more than the usual number of reports of Goat Moth larvae in the New Forest this autumn including singles at Denny Wood, Blackfield, Holbury and Beaulieu Motor Museum.

The larva shown below was swept from Yarrow in Havant Thicket on 25th (KT) and the wavy white lines on the sides would suggest that it might be a Golden-rod Pug rather than the expected Yarrow Pug. If correct this would be the first confirmed Hampshire record for several decades.



Migrants:



The rarity hotspot was Sandy Point, Hayling where AJ had a good run with Beautiful Gothic on 12th, the first for mainland Hampshire: he bettered this with a Sombre Brocade on 28th - the first in our area and the sixth for Britain.



Sandy Point rarities (AJ)
(left) Beautiful Gothic, 12th Sept

(right) Sombre Brocade, 28th Sept

Another new species for Hampshire and Isle of Wight was reported by JRL on 12th - a rather grotty specimen of the adventive pyralid *Diplostepus perieresalis*: “looking rather like an oversized choreutid when at rest; very skippy it was too.”

A Gem was caught in Sherborne St John on 5th (NJM). Portland Ribbon Wave were found at Sandy Point on 8th (AJ), following the examples reported in August from Wight, where RWi had another on 6th, along with *Evergestis limbata* on 7th. Other migrants at Sandy Point included Scarce Bordered Straw on 2nd and two Vestal on 23rd August and 12th (AJ); of the latter, other reports were from Cheriton Wood on 8th (PGLT), and Stubbington (DPH) on 12th. Convolvulus Hawk-moth were reported from Chandlers Ford on 9th (SH) and Cadnam on 10th (MP). RBW caught a Blue Underwing (aka Clifden Nonpareil) in Brockenhurst on 10th. Although previously recognised as a migrant, it is probably no longer in this bracket, given that this is the fourth year in succession that it has turned up at the same site, and it is almost certainly resident thereabouts. An Anomalous at Highcliffe, Dorset (RAC) on 12th was a good find for recent years, with a Hummingbird Hawk-moth seen by day. Dewick's Plusia was at Hurn, Dorset (MJ) on 14th, and Clancy's Rustic were trapped at Overton on 2nd (ACr) - the second for VC12 - and in North End, Portsmouth on 20th (MWe), Highcliffe on 21st (RAC) and Hayling on 28th (AJ). The Delicate was thin on the ground, with just three reports, from Brockenhurst on 11th (RBW), Southsea on 13th (JRL) and in Southampton on 27th (ARC). A few Dark Sword-grass were reported throughout, including from Eastleigh on 20th (SI), and two during the month were the only noteworthy moths during the month for MJW in Basingstoke.

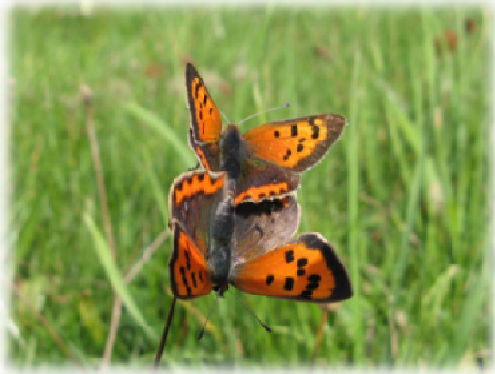
Butterflies

A second brood Dingy Skipper was found at St Catherine's Point on the 29th (TJN/LF) - apparently the latest record ever.

Dingy Skipper, St Catherine's Point 29th Sept (TJN)

Many species have had their best year for a long time as summed up by GJD who writes: "My last Silver-washed Fritillary of the year was a very tatty one on the 9th September which tops off a remarkable year for this species at Pamber Forest. Last year a record 690 were recorded on the transect which was amazing, this year the total is over 1100 with a record 16 *valezina* and 3 *occellata*. It has also been a record year for Common Blue, Ringlet and Brown Argus. Fantastic!"

Small Heath still survived in high numbers at the beginning of the month and Brown Hairstreak and Silver-spotted Skipper also did well.



Very few Painted Lady and Clouded Yellow were reported and even at the end of the month there were few Red Admiral to be seen feeding on apples, and the Peacock that had been seen earlier on the buddleias appeared all to have gone into hibernation early. Having said that, this is the first year that I can remember when I have none in my garage at Anna Valley, Andover (TJN). Third brood Small Copper are still flying in good numbers as this is written.

Small Copper, Watership Down (ABO)

MJW/TJN



UPCOMING DIARY DATES

BENHS Exhibition, Saturday 13th November 2010

The next BENHS Exhibition will be held on the ground floor of the Sherfield Building of the Imperial College of Science & Technology, Imperial College Road, South Kensington, S.W.7. on Saturday 13th November 2010. The Exhibition will open from 11.00 am until 5.00 pm. Refreshments and a lunchtime bar will be available. Both members and guests are welcome. See <http://www.benhs.org.uk/portal/node/18>

Hampshire Moth Conference Saturday 15th January 2011

The next Hampshire Moth Conference will be held at Littleton Memorial Hall on Saturday 15th January 2011 so please put this date in your diary now. Doors will open at 12.30pm for a start at 1pm and will close at 6pm. Refreshments will be provided and there will be plenty of opportunity to meet and chat with old and new friends.

There will be a range of speakers and programme details will be posted later on the Hantsmoths and Branch websites and on the Hantsmoths email discussion group.

All very welcome!



Contributors:

PB	Phil Barden	NJM	Nick Montegriffo
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ARC	Andy Collins	MP	Maurice Pugh
DC	David Cooke	PMS	Peter Smith
ACr	Alison Cross	JSo	Jean Southworth
GJD	Graham Dennis	GCS	Graham Stephenson
HE	Henry Edmunds	KT	Keith Tailby
GCE	Glynne Evans	IRT	Ian Thirlwell
LF	Lynn Formison	PGLT	Peter Thompson
KG	Keith Godfrey	BW	Bill Wain
JHa	James Halsey	MJW	Mike Wall
SH	Stephen Harvey	MWe	Mike Wearing
DPH	Dan Houghton	DW	Diana Westerhoff
SI	Simon Ingram	RWi	Rob Wilson
MJ	Mike Jeffes	RWo	Robin Worman
AJ	Andy Johnson	RBW	Russell Wynn
SRM	Stephen Miles		

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

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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) (Macros) or myself (micros), or see www.hantsmoths.org.uk/recording.htm

Mike

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