

HANTS MONTHLY

NUMBER 18 - May to June 2011



Alabonia geoffrella, Harewood Forest (TJN)

(or, for butterfly lovers – an Orange Tip caterpillar with a small micro in the foreground). With apologies to Pete Eeles ;-)

Wallblings...

This newsletter covers the period May to June. It is likely that “Hantsmonthly” will become “Hants(Bi)Monthly” in future as it is a case of ‘too much to do in too little time’ for me to keep up a monthly report throughout the year, but if there is anyone out there who wants to take on the task of producing the monthly sightings review, I would be more than happy to hear from them, and I could then take a step back and act more in an editorial capacity.

May was generally warm but June proved to be generally cool and windy, leading to a generally disappointing end to the period under review for moth-ers throughout the county.

As ever, a big thank you to everyone who contributes to Hantsmoths or sends news in *pers.comm*.

Mike



DAVE'S WEATHER SUMMARY

MAY 2011

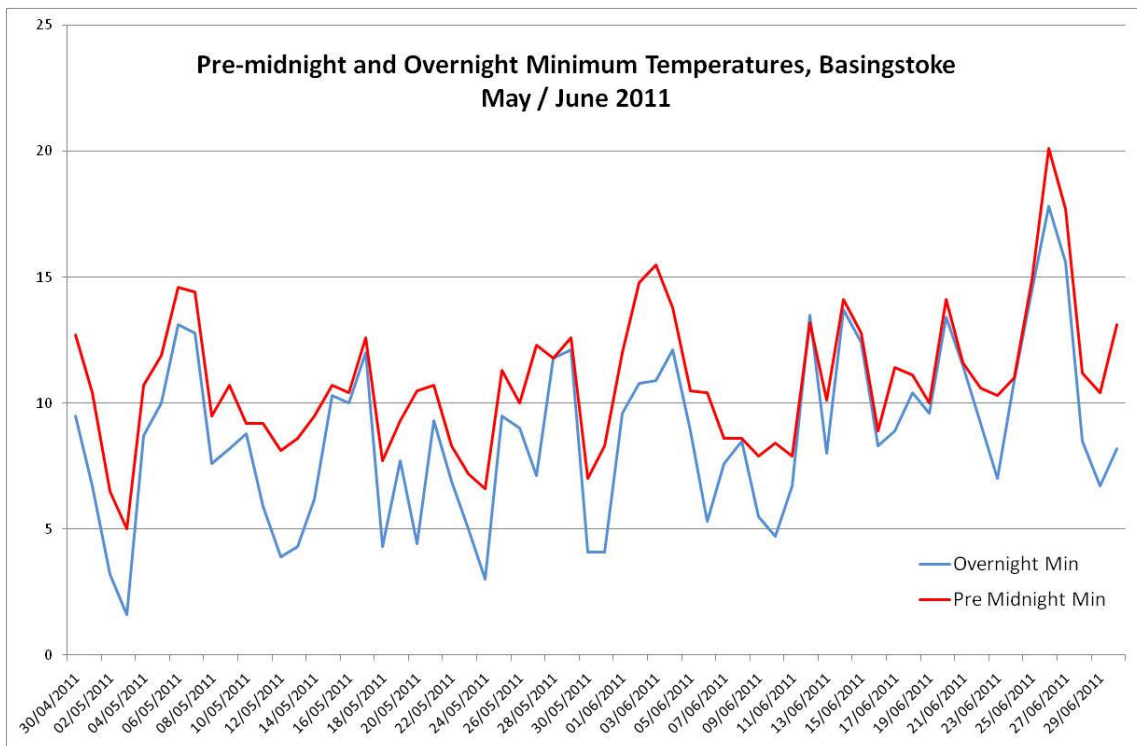
May in Hampshire was yet another dry and warm month although nothing compared to the record breaking April. Indeed, there were very few really warm days so it came down to it being persistently pleasant rather than any great variation. Similarly, night temperatures were fairly non-descript with only one air frost on the 4th. The month started with high pressure over Scandinavia which brought dry easterly winds in from continental Europe, however, the weather soon broke down as low pressure pushed in from the Atlantic. This resulted in a “plume” of warm southerly winds that brought a lot of thundery rain between the 6th & 8th. In that spell, Winchester received 36mm which turned out to be over 80% of their month’s rainfall. The rest of the month settled into a pattern of south-westerly winds bringing a lot of rain to north-west Britain but very little down here as we were nearer High Pressure over mainland Europe. The final statistics showed a rainfall deficit locally of about 20%, temperatures between 1 and 2 °C above normal and sunshine close to average.

JUNE 2011

June was an unsettled, wet and rather cool month. No surprise then that low pressure dominated the scene feeding cool Atlantic air in from the west for much of the time. Exceptions to this theme occurred in the first week when temperatures rose strongly under high pressure with 26 °C recorded on the 4th and again late in the month when a plume of hot southerly winds gave a maximum temperature in Alton of 30.1 °C on the 27th, the warmest for two years. This heat broke into some violent thunderstorms across the south-east the next day, these also affecting East Hampshire. Winchester’s rainfall totted up to 100mm, nearly 4 inches during the month which is much wetter than you might expect. By contrast, sunshine was fractionally above normal. Warm nights were hard to come by and there were a few pretty cool ones with temperatures dipping to 4 °C which is close to giving a ground frost!

<http://www.climate-uk.com/index.html>

<http://www.winchesterweather.org.uk/>



Dave Owen



MAY - JUNE 2011 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.

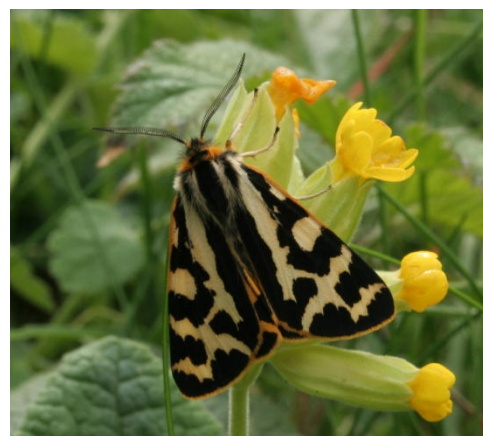
MAY

A Miller in Alton on 1st May was just one day shy of the earliest ever, accompanied by the first Rustic Shoulder-Knot of the year (DBO). RBW reported three Puss Moth, Marbled Pug, Little Thorn, Lime Hawk-moth and three Alder Moth over the nights of 30th April/1st May. During the month Spindle Ermine *Yponomeuta cagnagella* was stripping Spindle throughout the county.

On 3rd May, a Dark Sword-grass was one of few migrants reported in early May (TP). Adding further weight to the argument that Patton's Tiger is a primary migrant, rather than the adventive that some dismissed the first example that turned up in these islands, Sam Knill-Jones reported two males found in separate localities on the island, on 5th and 6th May. The 5th also NJH's second ever May Highflier and first *Syndemis musculana* in Fordingbridge.

On 6th, there was the very welcome news of an Argent and Sable was seen in Harewood Forest by Dave Green: the first record there since 2004. That night, MJW ventured into Morgaston Wood, north of Basingstoke to take advantage of the warm evening, despite the threat of thundery showers. Rain stopped play at around 11pm, but two hours effort with two lights produced over 70 species. Plenty of geometers, including Grey Birch and Barred Umber, with very few noctuids although Buttoned Snout was a good find, but the micros were the main attraction: *Pseudopostega crepusculella*, *Argyresthia laevigatella* - second year in a row here for a very rare VC12 moth, *Alabonia geoffrella*, *Bucculatrix albedinella*, *Phyllonorycter lautella* and the highlight was *Crassa tinctella* which has only old North Hants records.

On 7th, LF and TJN visited Harewood Forest and saw further examples of the spectacular oecophorid *Alabonia geoffrella* and managed to get some nice shots of one settled on Garlic Mustard. TJN remarked that the colossal numbers of the longhorn *Adela reaumerella* of two weeks ago have now virtually all gone - they saw just five females - but now other longhorns are emerging and several *Nematopogon swammerdamella* and also a few *Adela rufimitrella* were seen: see Tim's piece below on the incurvariids that are on the wing at the moment. On the same visit Treble-bar, Drab Looper and a freshly emerged Mother Shipton were also seen. The following day, they found the Wood Tiger shown right at Cholderton.

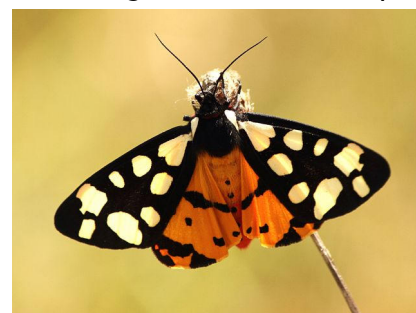


That night, there was some migrant activity, with RAC reporting Ni Moth, in Highcliffe, Dorset VC11, Simon Curson caught a Dingy Mocha at Bransgore, and JRL took the second Hampshire Flame Wainscot - the first being way back in 1948, and the fourth for our area (there was at least one other reported during the same period, at Cliffe in Kent two days after this).

In Ashurst, New Forest, Seraphim was a welcome addition to KG's garden list, along with Square Spot and Grey Birch which only seem to appear once every three years or so. Walking in Fletchwood Copse this evening KG saw a Pearl-bordered Fritillary - apparently well away from the established New Forest colonies. There was a Little Thorn for JRDS on 8th May.

Continuing its good year, a further Broad-bordered Bee Hawkmoth was recorded by Nick Walford at Lepe Country Park on 9th on a butterfly transect.

A Hoary Footman at Sandy Point on 12th May was presumably an immigrant (AJ). The next day RAC found a Cream-spot Tiger on the slumped cliffs at Barton-on-Sea and GSAS added that he had seen a few about in the Hayling area (also reported by PRD on 25th from Normandy, and at Hurst Castle on the same day by Brian Pink, shown right). TJN visited Odiham on 13th May and in two passes across the common saw 42 Forester including a small number of females. There seems to be more Ragged Robin



than last year which is good as this is the main nectar source at this time. The first this year was seen by Colin Baker on 7th May - 12 days earlier than the previous earliest on 19 May 2007.

PRD took a walk round the back of Butser Hill during the afternoon of the 15th in less than ideal conditions, but many Wood Tiger were disturbed from points along the track, at least 20. "As conditions were so windy none were 'on the wing' as such so there must be a very large emergence. Interestingly I also saw two full grown Wood Tiger caterpillars on the track presumably about to pupate." On the same day, DPH wandered around Whiteley Pastures finding the following: *Adela fibulella*, *Micropterix calthella* (100+), *Micropterix aruncella*, *Phyllonorycter harrisella*, and Little Thorn." That night, a *Ptycholoma lecheana* in Ashurst was a first for the 10 km sq and a day earlier than any previous report (KG).



Trapping at Normandy Farm, Lymington (PRD) in the first half of the month turned up Dogs Tooth on most days, Mullein (9th), Waved Umber (16th) and the first Mathew's Wainscot (16th) of the year. Pete reported however that numbers and variety of moths appeared to be very poor, especially considering the last six weeks of excellent weather. On 16th May, the Fareham Moth Group at West Meon had, amongst many other species, four Satin Lutestring, Peach Blossom, Lime Hawkmoth and Alder Moth, while in Fordingbridge, NJH had his third ever Lychnis and first Small Rivulet.

GCE trapped at Upton, north of Whitchurch on 17th and managed 230 moths of 44 species. Highlights were a couple of Large Nutmeg and three species that appear to be new for SU45 - Alder Moth, Oak Hook-tip, and Orange Footman. There were also several species that have apparently not been recorded there for over 30 years (eg. Shoulder-striped Wainscot). RJE at Cove ventured out after many cold nights and was rewarded with a new moth for the site, a Brindled White-spot. A Balsam Carpet was new for the year on 19th at Anna Valley (TJN).

The BC New Members Day on 21st saw 34 attendees plus several committee members assemble at Easton village hall for a variety of talks in the morning and then a number of guided walks on Magdalen Hill Down afterwards which produced 14 species of butterfly including lots of Green Hairstreak and at least two Painted Lady. Of course, there were more moth species than butterflies, including Small Elephant Hawk-moth, two *Adela croesella* and a Drinker moth caterpillar (TJN, DGG, MJW et al).

MJW and NJM trapped in Morgaston Wood on 20th and had at least five Orange Moth to two lights that night, and as one or two weren't that pristine I guess they'd been out for a couple of nights before that, the earliest ever recorded in the county. On 23rd, JRDS had another early Orange Moth. TJN ran a couple of traps at Over Wallop on 21st, the catch in which included Light Feathered Rustic, Freyer's Pug, and a very late Brindled Pug.

On 25th, GCE trapped in woodlands near Mottisfont, recording c. 400 moths - including four Common Fan-foot, two Little Thorn, Mocha, no less than 29 *Choristoneura hebenstreitella* and Great Oak Beauty. It was the best night so far this year for JRDS, including Pine and Eyed Hawk-moth, Pale Oak Beauty and Scarce Merveille du Jour.

An Olive Crescent at Westover Down, Isle of Wight on 26th May was an excellent find by Keith Warmington, visiting from Warwickshire (pic right). Also on the island, an *Ancylis diminutana* trapped at Walter's Copse was the first record since at least the 1930s.

The 29th saw good nothing weather, and two traps at Leckford for GCE produced c.450 moths. Highlights were Striped Wainscot, Pinion-streaked Snout, and *Phlyctaenia perlucidalis*, with Green Arches, Light Arches, Grey Arches, Elephant Hawk, Small Elephant Hawk, Double Square-spot, Small China-mark, Round-winged Muslin, and *Perinephela lancealis* new for the year, and a Varied Coronet back at home in Chilbolton. In Eastleigh, a Gold Spot was the third garden record for SI, along with Dingy Shears, Gothic and a Lime Hawk Moth. PGLT took a walk in Cheriton Wood, where one ride had the spectacular sight of literally hundreds of *Nemophora degeerella*. In Cove, the highlight for RGE

was *Elegia similella*, with Light Brocade, Riband Wave, Willow Beauty and *Scythropia crataegella* new



for the year. *Pandemis cinnamomea* and *Teleopsis diffinis* were site firsts in Ashurst (KG).

Towards the end of the month a Red-tipped Clearwing was out at Blashford, and a Six-belted was seen on the cliffs at Barton-on-Sea on 31st (RAC). A Scarce Merveille du Jour in Cadnam (MP) was only the third time for the garden, the previous time being in 2006. TJN and Martin Harvey trapped at Ningwood, Isle of Wight at the end of the month and turned up *Monochroa lutulentella* (det. Martin) in good numbers - at least a dozen - a species new for Isle of Wight. A couple of days earlier they had found *Coleophora vibicella* to be doing well at Newtown Meadows, encouraging news for this rare and spectacular case builder on Dyer's Greenweed. The habitat and the case are shown below (both © TJN).

JUNE GSAS had a Dewick's Plusia on 1st, the first June record in our area, and the earliest for Hampshire (although there is one spring record for the Isle of Wight). In Cadnam, early June highlights included Blotched Emerald (1st), Figure of Eighty (2nd), Bulrush Wainscot (2nd), Silky Wainscot (2nd).

In the early month, highlights of field work and home trapping by JRL included *Denisia albimaculea* on 2nd, *Coleophora lassella* on 3rd (both to MV at Southsea), *Coleophora inulae* larvae on Pulicaria at Catherington (with RJM) on 4th, confirming breeding for this elusive species in the area, it having turned up a few times to light; *Cnephasia pasiuana* and *C.genitalana* on 7th, bred from larva found on 23rd May at Portsdown and Catherington, and *Blastodacna hellerella* was bred from Swedish Whitebeam, an apparently previously unrecorded foodplant

A crambid trapped by PGLT in Cheriton Wood on 3rd was identified as *Platytes cerusella*, only the second VC12 record for this usually coastal species.

From DGG on 3rd, the first sign of things to come...two Rannoch Looper in the Robinson here at Weston Colley near Micheldever this morning, one male and a female. Although there were around eighty other species in the trap, there was little evidence of any other potential immigrants. The previous

day, just as unexpected, was a single Common Fan-foot - well removed from any known colony, so perhaps an immigrant?

Then, as detailed elsewhere in this newsletter, further reports of what was obviously a major *brunneata* influx started coming in: Mike Wearing had three in North End, Portsmouth (reportedly on 2nd, although this pre-dates all other sightings), and others on the 3rd included JRDS at Hundred Acres, near Wickham; Southsea - one on 3rd with another two on 4th (JRL); three at Arreton, Isle of Wight (Elaine Rice). Not known as a migrant hotspot, one in Alton (DBO) was notable.

On 4th, KG had three in his Ashurst trap, two were in Funtley (MLO), and another two males in Weston Colley (DGG). LF had one in Ropley and there was another in Colmore, east Hampshire; also at St Cross, Winchester (THW). On 5th, JS nearly overlooked one in Portchester, which luckily remained where it was until he went out to put the trap on again the same evening! DGE had a similar 'heart in mouth' experience the following day in Bournemouth.

Also on 4th, other highlights for KG were *Cedestis gysseleliella*, *Pempeliella dilutella*, *Isotrias rectifasciana*, *Ectoedemia albifasciella*, *Argyresthia glaucinella*, the first *Esperia oliiviella* for the year today along with *Opostega salaciella* and four *Cosmopterix scribaiella*. MP in Cadnam had his first Goat Moth for four years, and there was a Great Oak Beauty for JRDS in Hundred Acres.

MJW trapped in Morgaston Wood, north of Basingstoke, on a warm evening which resulted in around 110 species by midnight, including *Crassa tinctella* (2) - the third session running this rarity has turned up here - *Adela croesella* (which seemed to be having a good year), *Nematopogon metaxalla* (2), *Alabonia geoffrella*, *Pammene germana*, *Epinotia demarniana* (2), Green Arches, Beautiful Golden Y (10), Pale Oak Beauty, Orange Moth (20+)...and *Archips crateagana* (50+), *Archips xylosteana* (100+) and 2000+ *Tortrix viridana*...

On the night of the 5th, RJT had 223 moths of 60 species, of which Heart & Dart was the most abundant - a general pattern in traps throughout the county at this time. Other highlights included Small Yellow Wave, Rivulet, Barred Red and Satin Lutestring.

After a week or so of cool, showery weather, during which little of note was reported, the 11th saw a return to something like summer with TJN reporting Narrow-bordered Five-spot Burnet and Dark Green Fritillary from Danebury, along with a Hummingbird Hawkmoth, the latter which was also seen in Cheriton on the same day (PGLT), in Alton on the 12th (DBO), with another in Malshanger on 19th (MJW) - and there were no doubt others.

There were a few migrants about on 13th for PRD in Normandy, the highlight being a Cosmopolitan, also Dark-Sword Grass and two Rush Veneer. Other bits of interest include Mathew's Wainscot on 6th, 7th and 8th, Pinion-streaked Snout on the 7th and Lilac Beauty on the 9th. The 15th saw several new species for the year at Normandy over the last two nights including Kent Black Arches, Lunar-spotted Pinion, L-Album Wainscot and Dwarf Cream Wave.

On 14th in Stubbington, DPH experienced his best night of the year so far with 65 species, *Gypsonoma oppressana* and Beautiful Hook-tip being new for the site, accompanied by Cream-bordered Green Pea and *Cosmopterix scribaiella*. Dan remarked that he was still to catch a hawk-moth yet this year.

An example of *Zeiraphera ratzeburgiana* was the rarest of 48 species recorded by RJT on 15th in Grayshott, along with Four-dotted Footman and Campion.

On 17th the New Forest BioBlitz at Denny Wood went ahead, despite torrential rain earlier in the day, but although PRD reported that conditions appeared pretty good (13C), there were relatively few moths despite having four traps running. Several Rosy Marbled and Brussels Lace were probably the highlights.

RJD provided some news from the Fareham area for the period under review, reporting that both Narrow-bordered Bee Hawk and Broad-bordered Bee Hawk have been recorded at Botley Wood. There was also a Broad-bordered Bee-hawk record from Lee-on-Solent by Geoff Jones, and that a five-spotted burnet from Botley Wood has been confirmed by Gerry Tremewan as a Five-spot Burnet *Zygaena trifolii*, the first in very many years.

The 20th saw GCE's first ever Rosy Marbled in Chilbolton, and a Light Crimson Underwing for RAC in Highcliffe, Dorset was presumably a wanderer from the New Forest (21st). PRD had seven species of *Mythimna* on the 20th (Smoky, Common, Obscure, Southern, Shoulder-stripe and L-album Wainscot, and White Point).

On 22nd, BE and JRL found a specimen of Small Ranunculus *Hecatera dysodea* sitting on the wall of a railway bridge in Hilsea Lines LNR, Portsmouth.

Reporting levels increased with the warm front that came in late month. A Bordered White was new for JSw's Christchurch, Dorset, garden on 25th, along with Festoon, Cypress Carpet and Bird's Wing. A notable find near Chilbolton Common on the same night was a pristine Bordered Sallow, and this species' foodplant, Spiny Restharrow, is abundant on the Common; PGLT reported another in Cheriton on the same night, along with a Lappet; a single Striped Wainscot was also of note. TJN ran two traps in a small bit of woodland nr Goodworth Clatford and included in the catch were 200 *Aleimma loeflingiana*, Fern, Small Yellow Wave, Grey Arches, July Highflier, Blackneck, Scallop Shell, Large Twin-spot Carpet, Small Black Arches, and Round-winged Muslin. Another trap in the garden nearby produced an extra 16 species including Figure of Eighty and Kent Black Arches. At home in Anna Valley were Obscure Wainscot and the pristine Ruddy Carpet shown right. In the south of the county, SJW had *Evergestis limbata* on Hayling Island and *Hedya salicella* was new for MP's Cadnam garden. A Sloe Pug in Sherborne St John was exactly one year after the first for the site (NJM).



Also on the 25th, DPH in Stubbington had Bordered Sallow and *Nascia ciliialis* new for the garden, and his first hawk-moths of the year, in the shape of the two 'Elephants'. A Scarlet Tiger was new for the garden the next night (as it was for RJM in Waterlooville on 27th). Trapping in Grayshott, RJT saw Lilac Beauty and Golden Plusia on 25th, and Minor Shoulder-knot on 26th new for the site, alongside others including *Dioryctria sylvestrella*, Figure of Eighty, White-point and Scarce Silver-lines.

On 26th TJN and LF saw three Shoulder-striped Clover in the New Forest. New for the year in Cadnam (MP) included Ghost Moth, Leopard Moth, Bordered White and September Thorn. Deadwater Valley, Bordon turned up Rosy Marbled, Satin Lutestring, Bird's Wing and *Crambus uliginosellus* (NJM). The following night, RJM in Waterville had two Scarlet Tiger new to the garden, along with five Orange Moth. On Hayling, GSAS saw two *Evergestis limbata* and one *E. extimalis*, along with a Lappet which is the first for the 'island'.

That evening, DGG and MJW ran four lights on Magdalen Hill Down, where it was warm but quite breezy. It turned out to be a reasonable evening for micros: *Anyclis obtusana* was the commonest species, along with *Phtheochroa sodaliana*, *Acleris holmiana*, the attractive and scarce Wild Marjoram-feeding gelechid *Thiotricha subocellea*, shown left, *Coleophora conyzae* (a species of Common Fleabane or Ploughman's Spikenard), and the plume *Merrifieldia leucodactyla*. Macros included Grey Arches, Kent Black Arches, Lackey, the first Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing of year, lots of Small Elephant, numerous Brown Scallop, Reddish Light Arches, and an Orange Moth was an oddity, evidently a wanderer from woodland somewhere as there is no apparently suitable habitat on site.



The same night, DBO's Alton haul of 350 moths of 80 species was "one of his best in five years of trapping there." A Vapourer was the first since 2006, Brown-Tail (first since 2008), Beautiful Golden Y, Brown Scallop, Large Nutmeg, *Argyresthia semifusca*, *Rhyacionia pinicolana*: pyralids dominated the trap numbers with *Chrysoteuchia culmella* (105) and *Dipleurina lacustrata* (26) being top, the latter obviously having an excellent year.



The 27th was the best night of the year so far for PRD at Normandy with evidence of migration in the form of three Small Mottled Willow and a Bordered Straw, topped by the very smart migrant pyralid *Conobathra tumidana* (shown left), and the first Clouded Yellow of the year was seen on Hurst Spit the same day. Mottled Beauty was a long overdue first for NJH's Fordingbridge garden, and then seven turn up! Large Emerald, European Corn Borer and Small China-mark were also firsts.

The same night, SJW had one of the moths of the month in his home trap on South Hayling: a Plumed Fan-foot - the third Hampshire record since the first two in 2006 (shown below). On the same night, he also had a Cream-bordered Green Pea last night, and posted that there was a Red-necked Footman recently at Sinah Warren, attracted to one of the overnight lights in the hotel grounds.



JHa at Bonchurch, Isle of Wight had two Ruddy Carpet as well as Wood Carpet, Leopard, Bordered Straw, four *E. limbata*, *E. extimalis*, three Small Mottled Willow, and Small Marbled.

The 27th was also the best of the year for MJW in Basingstoke with 80 species: *Ebulea crocealis* was new for the garden, and 29 *Dipleurina lacustrata* were a remarkable session total for one trap; Miller, Leopard, Dark Umber, Brown Scallop were other notables. DBO had *Teleiodes luculella* to house lights in Alton, the second site record.



An influx of Small Marbled *Eublemma parva* started on this date across the south of England, and which continued into July: previously very scarce, there have been 12 sightings this century, in 2003, 2006 and 2009: it would seem likely that 2011's record count will be the largest yet. MP's Cadnam sighting (shown left) was the only one for the 27th itself, although there were a number in Sussex on that date. On 28th, individuals were in Sholing (ARC) and Normandy (PRD), and one at Blashford on 29th (RAC). There were also a few Hummingbird Hawk-moth about.

Temperatures dropped again by the 28th, evidenced by DBO's trap count falling to only 70 moths of 18 species. There were still migrants in Normandy (PRD), with four more Small Mottled

Willow and a European Corn Borer accompanying the Small Marbled on the same night. Others on the same night included Scarce Silver lines, July High Flyer, Brown-tail, two Leopard Moth and Kent Black Arches. *Platyptilia pallidactyla* was new for observers in Anna Valley (TJN), Alton (DBO) and Cadnam (MP). DPH also reported greatly reduced numbers, with migrants in the form of Bordered Straw and three *Plutella xylostella*, along with Dot Moth and Silky Wainscot.

A Waved Black for ARC in Sholing on 29th was a local rarity, and Small Mottled Willow was the only migrant for GSAS in Hayling. *Stathmopoda pedella* at Blashford was a rarity in the south-west of the county (RAC). The month ended with more migrants being reported: a Ni Moth in Sholing (ARC), the plume, *Oxyptilus laetus*, which has been turning up in the south west recently, in Portsmouth (IRT, shown right), and an Orache Moth on Hayling (GSAS).



MJW



THE INFLUX OF RANNOCH LOOPER - JUNE 2011



Rannoch Looper – Weston Colley (DGG)

Another large immigration of Rannoch Looper, the second in three years, started in the first few days of June. The number of individuals reported so far is listed below but no doubt more will come to light for this year.

In 2009 all the ones reported were males so it is interesting to note that DGG caught a female on 3rd June at Weston Colley. This is the only female that has been reported so far.

Whilst most of the 2011 Hampshire/loW records came between Friday 3rd and Monday 6th June with scattered reports thereafter, there were many records to the east and some that reached further

west to Dorset and even as far as Cornwall. Impressive and unprecedented numbers were seen in Kent, where they were also first recorded on 3rd June. On 6th 57 were recorded to light at Sissinghurst Castle south of Maidstone.

In 2009 a total of 155 Rannoch Looper were reported from Britain. Weather backtrack calculations (Higgott & Davey, 2010, Atropos 40) have shown that the likely origin was the Netherlands. Traditionally thought to be a scarce species there it did exceptionally well in 2008 and 2009 resulting in the three influxes to this country in May and June 2009. It will be interesting to see if weather conditions become favourable for further influxes this year.

	Previous	2009	2010	2011
VC10	1	-	1	5
VC11	1	4	-	13
VC12	1	2	-	15

Rannoch Looper records (2011 incomplete)

TJN



FAREHAM MOTH GROUP REPORT

MAY 2011

Again this month we managed to venture out on all the Fridays in May with varying degrees of success. It was very nice to welcome a new member, Tony Tindale, to the group on the last three meetings.

We started on May 6th when KC, RJD, AG, DH, MLO and KW made the trip to Denny Wood in the New Forest when we were unfortunately rained off by a thunderstorm after about 1.5 hrs. However, we did manage about 80 moths of 19 species. These included Dark-barred Twin-spot Carpet and also about 100 Mottled Umber larva which all appeared during the heavy rainstorm. Although not a moth, probably the most interesting find was a member of the dung beetle family, *Odonteus armiger*.

May 13th saw KC, RJD, AG, MLO, TT and KW visit another area of Hen Wood, West Meon, where we caught about 200 moths of 62 species. Highlights included 4 Satin Lutestring, Pale Oak Beauty, Alder Moth and Pale-shouldered Brocade.

May 20th was a clear, cool, moonlit night when KC, RJD, MLO, TT and KW visited Botley Woods where we caught approx. 350 moths of 84 species at 4 lamps. Amongst these were *Teleiodes waga* (which is still a pRDB1 status), *Orthotaenia undulana*, *Spilonota laricana*, Devon Carpet, Mocha, Dwarf Pug, Great Oak Beauty, Pine Hawk-moth, Great Prominent.

May 27th saw RJD, MLO, TT and KW visit West Walk, nr Wickham where we caught about 150 moths of 47 species with *Pseudaemelia flavifrontella* (right), *Pseudaemelia subochreella*, Bordered White, Shoulder-striped Wainscot and Clouded Brindle, being the highlights.



JUNE 2011

Just as the season starts to pick up, the weather takes a downward spiral and becomes unsettled and breezy. This led to only two Friday outings for the group.

3 June saw seven of us set up five lamps in Orchard Copse, Wickham Common, as our planned visit to Browndown was called off due to a clear night and a fresh NE breeze. However, it proved to be a brilliant night in this woodland setting with catches of well over 1000 moths of 145 species. The majority were small moths with 500+ *Tortrix viridana*, 100+ *Scoparia ambigualis* and 50+ *Archips xylosteana*.

However, the most significant catch was not identified until the following day, we had caught two unusual looking Geometers and initially thought they were strange looking Dingy Shell but KW took one home, we released the other, and found it to be a **Rannoch Looper**. This was a first for the group and most of us present.

Other highlights included **Festoon**, **Gold swift**, **Mocha**, **Sandy Carpet**, **Great Oak Beauty**, **Maple prominent**, **11 Red-necked Footman**, **Green and Grey Arches**, **4 Scarce Merveille du Jour** and **2 Rosy Marbled**.

On the non lep. side we caught a *Stenocorus meridianus*, a longhorn beetle which was again the groups first.

10 June saw five of us with 4 lamps visit Westbury Park. As we started out the rain came which seemed pretty persistent but as darkness fell it eased enough for us to attempt some mothing. But after about two hours we decided to call it a day as everything was getting wetter. We did, however, catch about 150 moths of 37 species which included **Green and Grey Arches** and **Brown Rustic**.



The following two Fridays, 17th and 24th were both rained off.

So all in all a disappointing month for outings but some great highlights.

At home in Funtley, during May the mothing has been varied with generally low numbers but increasing species. Of these, highlights for me have been a minimum of 4 Large Nutmeg on 21st (3), 1 on 26th, (which was NFG and for me). Other good moths for my garden have included Pale Pinion 5th, Ochreous Pug 9th, *Argyresthia trifasciata* 15th, *Cacoemorpha pronubana* on 20th and 31st, Poplar Kitten on 21st, *Clepsis spectrana* on 25th.

During June I caught 118 macro and 105 micro species in my garden but generally numbers were fairly low due to the inclement weather. However I did manage two new macro species in the form of two Rannoch Looper and four Obscure Wainscot. Other highlights included a further eight Large Nutmeg. Cream-bordered Green Pea, Figure of Eighty, two Varied Coronet, Dark Spectacle and Privet Hawkmoth.

Among the micros, new for the garden were *Nematopogon degeerella*, *Phyllonorycter cerasicolella*, *Metzneria lapella*, *Exoteleia dodecella* and *Dichrorampha alpinana*.

Other migrant activity just consisted of the odd Silver Y, *Plutella xylostella* and *Nomophila noctuella*.

MLO



Butterflies - May

As reported in the last newsletter many of the spring-flying butterflies did remarkably well and in the hot weather dispersal was the norm with Pearl-bordered Fritillary being seen in many unexpected locations. Green Hairstreak was seen in great numbers at Magdalen Hill Down BC reserve. The previous highest total seen there was 40 in 2010, but this year an approximate count of 200 was seen one day during May along the top hedge of the extension.



The first Adonis Blue, reported by IP on 29th April at Bonchurch Down just missed the last news letter!

Adonis Blue - Martin Down 5th May (MDu)

Every new species that emerged in May did so at an earlier date than last year, in some cases by a month or more! On the 7th MSw saw 21 species at Bentley Wood including a newly emerged Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary.

The first sighting of Large Skipper on 9th May by AW was quickly followed by Small Skipper on 16th May by LK - a whole month earlier than in 2010, and by Silver-studded Blue on 17th (GP)

Silver-studded Blue (GP)

On 21st at Lymington-Keyhaven NR PRD saw a very early Grayling and on the same day the first Meadow Browns of the year were seen near Yew Hill by CE and at Portsdown Hill by M&MG. Tim Graham reported on 27th that Essex Skipper had emerged - the butterfly that Jeremy Thomas describes as having fallen off the back of a lorry. And for that and other butterfly stories do read *The Butterflies of Britain & Ireland*.



A Glanville Fritillary was seen in Gosport on 25th (MLa).

The month was brought to a close with the first sighting of a Ringlet by LK on 29th. However the days immediately prior to 31st had not been good for butterflies due to cooler NE winds.

Pleasingly there were reports of good numbers of Small Tortoiseshell & Peacock larvae during the month during May and early June.

TJN



MBa provided the picture shown left of a Sallow Kitten caterpillar bred from a clutch of eggs once again laid in a storage pot after removal from the moth trap, there were ten eggs laid and nine caterpillars reared to final instars which are now about to pupate. Mike also reports that the Large Emerald caterpillar from the last newsletter hatched out safely after a short pupation and was released back into his gardens.

The Longhorn Moths: Incurvariidae

Longhorn moths are a group of about a dozen day-flying species in the family *Adelidae* that are readily identifiable with their distinctive, very long antennae. The females have shorter antennae but in the males of some species they can be several times the length of the wings.

And what a year for Longhorn moths it has been so far! First came a sighting of *Adela cuprella* at Wickham Common on 24th March (RJD), a known site for this species that was seen in some numbers at Pamber last year. Then the millions of *Adela reaumurella* in numbers that I have never encountered before. We had a magical walk in Harewood on 25th April where it seemed that every hawthorn bush and every oak branch had its own swarm that would dance together in the sunlight when the wind dropped but would immediately settle on the leaves as soon as the wind increased. The St Marks Flies were also very numerous in the wood and maintained separate swarms, sometimes on adjacent branches, that would dance in a very similar fashion that was very easy to confuse at a distance.

Adela reaumurella (CLB)

On 7th May we returned to Harewood and were pleased to see the first *Nemophora swammerdamella* and a handful of *Adela rufimitrella* whose larvae feed within



the seedpods of Cuckoo Flower and Garlic Mustard though the ones we saw were mostly settled on stitchwort. The rufous hairs on the head are quite distinctive.

Adela rufimitrella (TJN)



At the BC Branch New Members Day on 21st May during a walk on MHD reserve in the afternoon I was shown *Adela croesella* by MJW/DGG who had found it new for the reserve. DC also found it at a new site at Freshwater on 27th and that weekend with DC and LF we found it at a further three new sites on the island. the larvae are said to feed on the flowers and seeds of wild privet but on at least one of these sites there was no privet to be found. It is tempting to think that it might be using another foodplant. The trick to finding *croesella* is to walk slowly along the sunny sheltered sides of hedgerows and watch for movement. They are small, about half the size of their similar congener, *Nemophora degeerella*

but if conditions are right you might see a small group of males in aerial display always staying close the hedge.

(Right): female *Adela croesella* – Broughton Down 4 June 2009 (MBa)





(left) male *Adela croesella* (DC)

We first saw *N. degeerella* on 28th and subsequently saw them at several new sites including Lynn's garden at Ropley where we watched about 30 in small groups displaying amongst the apple trees. By holding a bracken leaf close to where they were flying it was possible to get several to land on the one leaf for close examination. *Nemophora schwarziellus* was also in the moth trap that night - this is very similar to *N. swammerdamella* but smaller.

(right) *Nemophora degeerella* Ropley
TJN



(left) *Nemophora minimella* Beacon Hill, Exton TJN

We have searched Germander Speedwell in vain for *Adela fibulella*, the smallest of the group, so that will have to wait till next year. They are to be found at the end of May and early June.

And what of the ones that fly later in the season? Both *Nemophora metallica* (previously *scabiosella*) and *Nemophora minimella* both feed on scabious and fly in July

and August on chalk downland where the vegetation is not grazed too short.

(below) *Nemophora minimella* Beacon Hill, Exton TJN



Hants Moths Social – 5th August, Leckford

To all Hants moth-ers

The Leckford Estate have kindly agreed that we can once again have a Hampshire Moths Social at their Testside Lakes facility. This year, by way of providing a different mix of moths, it will be on the night of 5th-6th August. We have access from 8.00pm through till midnight, and it will be possible to run quite a number of lights (either mains-powered, or gennie-powered if you wish to venture further than your cable length!).

For information of those who didn't come last year, habitat is fen, carr woodland, scrub, meadow - and early-August species may include such as Crescent, Haworth's Minor, Brown-veined Wainscot, Marsh Oblique-barred, Balsam Carpet, *Acleris shepherdana*, *Orthotelia sparganella* plus other marshland and river valley micros that all you guys will identify for Glynne!

To keep track of things for both catering and Estate security purposes, please let Glynne know that you plan on coming. We'll provide teas/coffee, and some food - but by all means bring anything you fancy (there is an oven).

Directions: 8.00pm 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, Mike, Tim



Contributors:

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MBa	Mike Baker	MLa	Mick Langridge
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PBo	Paul Boswell	IMcP	Ivor McPherson
PDB	Paul Brock	NJM	Nick Montegriffo
KC	Kevin Coker	MLO	Maurice Opie
ARC	Andy Collins	DBO	Dave Owen
DC	Dave Cooke	TJN	Tim Norriss
RFC	Richard Coomber	GP	Gary Palmer
BDe	Bernard Dempsey	TP	Therasa Paul
RJD	Richard Dickson	JWP	John Phillips
MDu	Mike Duffy	H&AP	Hazel & Alec Pratt
PRD	Pete Dumell	IP	Ian Pratt
RGE	Richard Eagling	MP	Maurice Pugh
CE	Chris Edwards	PRe	Paul Ritchie
DGE	David Evans	JRDS	John Shillitoe
GCE	Glynne Evans	DAS	Dave Shute
LF	Lynn Fomison	JSw	Jean Southworth
AG	Alastair Goodall	GCS	Graham Stephenson
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KG	Keith Godfrey	IRT	Ian Thirlwell
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M&MG	Mike & Mary Gwilliam	AT	Alan Thornbury
JHa	James Halsey	RTu	Robin Turner
DPH	Dan Houghton	THW	Tim Walker
NJH	Nick Hull	MJW	Mike Wall
SI	Simon Ingram	KW	Keith Wheeler
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SKe	Steve Keen	SJW	Simon Wright
		RBW	Russell Wynn

As ever, this newsletter would not be possible without everyone who posts on the Hantsmoths Yahoogroup 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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