

## Review of 2004

A 125w mercury-vapour (Robinson Trap) was run at Hythe all year, plus a 15w actinic (Heath Trap) at Folkestone from April, which was replaced by a 125w mercury-vapour (Robinson-type Trap) from August.

### Moth species trapped or seen in 2004

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Macros	0	0	4	23	76	102	105	104	46	15	7	0	212
Pyralids	0	0	0	1	6	17	23	19	5	0	0	0	37

### Pyralids

A total of 37 species were trapped.

### Migrants

*Noctuella* (Rush Veneer) were almost non-existent, with just two singles at Hythe – on 14th/15th June and 8th/9th August. However *Ferrugalis* (Rusty-dot Pearl) were recorded in more normal numbers, with 10 at Hythe in the first week of September (peak 5 on the 2nd/3rd) and one on the 28th/29th September.

### Residents

The most notable sightings involved two Red Data Book species – *dentalis* – at Hythe on 14th/15th July (photo) and *boisduvaliella* – at Hythe on 29th/30th July (photo). Both are shingle-dwelling and might suggest the possibility of local populations on the nearby Hythe Ranges.



*dentalis* - Hythe - 14th/15th July (above & below)



*boisduvaliella* - Hythe - 29th/30th July (above & below)



Other notable catches included an extimalis at Hythe on 2nd/3rd August and a day-flying *Pyrausta nigrata* at Capel-le-Ferne on 31st May. A *nubilalis* (European Corn-borer) was at Hythe on the 16th/17th June. Both the '*punctalis*' species were taken at Hythe in June - *Synaphe punctalis* on the 16th/17th and the more notable *Dolicharthria punctalis* on the 27th/28th (photo). The latter species is mainly known in Kent from the shingle expanse of the Dungeness peninsular, but might be found to extend as far as Hythe.

A *semirubella* was caught at Hythe on 21st/22nd July, and two examples of *genistella* were trapped at Hythe – on 15th/16th July and 21st/22nd July (photo). A single *binaevella* was taken at Hythe on 26th/27th July.



*Dolicharthria punctalis* - Hythe - 27th/28th June

*genistella* - Hythe - 15th/16th July

Of the more regular species *stratitotata*, *glaucinalis*, *roborella*, *olivalis*, and *aurata* were notable at Hythe.

### Macros

A total of 212 species were trapped. The largest catch of the year was 176 macros of 44 species at Folkestone on 7th/8th August.

### Migrants

Highlight of the year was a superb Jersey Tiger caught at Hythe on the 10th/11th August (photo). There were only 3 Kent records prior to 2004 (however Dungeness recorded an incredible 6 between 8th and 15th August this year). There was an exceptional series of 7 Langmaid's Yellow Underwings in a 7 day period the first half of August – with 4 at Hythe and 3 at Folkestone between the 4th/5th and 10th/11th (photo). A Tree-lichen Beauty was trapped at Folkestone on the 3rd/4th August (photo) and the same site also hosted a Vestal on 10th/11th August, completing an amazing ten or so days.



Jersey Tiger – Hythe – 10th/11th August



Tree-lichen Beauty – Folkestone – 3rd/4th August



Langmaid's Yellow Underwings – Hythe – early August 2004

There were four records of Hummingbird Hawk-moth in 2004 - singles in the Golden Valley area of Folkestone on the 6th July, in eastern Folkestone and at Samphire Hoe in late August, and at Samphire Hoe in mid-October. Dark Swordgrass were recorded at Hythe on 4 dates between 29th/30th June and 4th/5th September. Silver Ys were recorded between 5th/6th June and 7th/8th November but in modest numbers apart from a distinct peak in the first half of August, which included a count of 19 at light at Folkestone on the 10th/11th.



Dark Swordgrass



Silver Y

### Residents

The first Six-spot Burnets were noted at Abbotscliffe on the relatively early date on 8th June, and on the 5th June another day-flyer - the Fiery Clearwing - was seen in Folkestone Warren (probably the only site in the country for this species currently). The only December Moth of the year was taken at Hythe on the 22nd/23rd November (photo) and a single Oak Eggar was trapped at Folkestone on 6th/7th August, on which night a Pebble Hook-tip also came to light there. A Figure of Eighty at Hythe on 15th/16th May was relatively early and a further two were caught on 31st May/1st June.

A Rest Harrow was seen in Folkestone Warren on the 5th June – another of the site’s specialties. Single Maiden's Blushes were trapped from both the first brood on 26th/27th May (photo) and second brood on 14th/15th August. A Dwarf Cream Wave was taken at Hythe on 16th/17th June.



December Moth – Hythe – 22nd/23rd Nov



Maiden's Blush – Hythe – 26th/27th May

Least Carpets were noted at Hythe on 16th/17th June (photo) and 21st/22nd July (2). In April singles of Shoulder Stripe and Streamer were caught in Folkestone on 26th/27th and 22nd/23rd respectively. A Spruce Carpet at Hythe on 16th/17th May was notable. A single November Moth at Hythe on 22nd/23rd November was the only one of year. A Cypress Pug at Folkestone on 25th/26th July was perhaps of note as was a Plain Pug at Hythe on 24th/25th July, and a reasonably early Green Pug at Folkestone on 15th/16th May.

A Dingy Shell at Hythe on the 30th/31st May was a good local record, and a Scorched Carpet was taken there on the 27th/28th April (photo). Sharp-angled Peacocks were noted at Hythe on 30th/31st May and 8th/9th August.



Least Carpet – Hythe – 16th/17th June



Scorched Carpet – Hythe – 27th/28th April

An unusual record of 3 Latticed Heaths at Hythe at light on the 24th/25th August presumably referred to migrants, as these were well away from the regular areas, and supposed migrants were noted elsewhere in Kent at the same time. The first Common Heaths were seen at Capel-le-Ferne on the 30th May, and a Willow Beauty at Hythe on the 24th/25th May was reasonably early date.

The regular hawk-moths were well represented at Hythe, with 3 Privets between 3rd and 21st July (photo?), a Lime on 23rd/24th May (photo?), about 10 Eyed between 27th May and 13th June (photo?), 3 Poplars, 9 Elephants between 3rd June and 2nd August (photo?) and a single Small Elephant on 15th/16th June.



Privet Hawk-moth



Lime Hawk-moth



Eyed Hawk-moths



Elephant Hawk-moth

Prominents at Hythe included Iron on 29th/30th May, Pebble on 5th/6th July (photo), Swallow on 2 dates in May, Coxcomb on 24th/25th May, Maple on 15th/16th June and 21st/22nd July, and Pale on 14th/15th May.

A Chocolate-tip at Hythe on the 10th/11th August was noteworthy. After an early report from Samphire Hoe on 11th/12th May, Dew Moths were seen at Abbotscliffe in small numbers between 23rd May and 8th June (photo). This area holds the only colony in the county at present.



Pebble Prominent – Hythe – 5th/6th July



Dew Moth – Abbotscliffe

A Cream-spot Tiger was trapped at Samphire Hoe on 4th/5th June. Whilst day-flying Cinnabar are common, one attracted to light at Hythe on 9th/10th June was more unusual. Three Kent Black Arches were recorded in early August – one at Folkestone on the 3rd/4th and two at Hythe on the 6th/7th. A White-line Dart was taken at Hythe on the 16th/17th July and a Light Feathered Rustic was a notable record at Hythe on the 19th/20th May (photo). A Gothic was recorded at Hythe on 16th/17th July.

A Pale-shouldered Brocade at Hythe on 12th/13th August was rather late, and a Broad-barred White there on 14th/15th May was notably early. A Tawny Shears at Hythe on 1st/2nd May was noteworthy. The first Common Quaker was at Hythe on 16th/17th March and a count of 20 there on 16th/17th April was notable. The first macro of the year was a Hebrew Character at Hythe on the 4th/5th March. Single Toadflax Brocades were notable records at Hythe and Folkestone in early August (photo).



Light Feathered Rustic – Hythe – 19th/20th May



Toadflax Brocade – Hythe – 3rd/4th August

A count of 17 Feathered Ranunculus at Hythe on 26th/27th September was a notable one, and single Large Ranunculus were at Hythe on 28th/29th September and 4th/5th October. A Bird's Wing was taken at Hythe on 15th/16th June. A presumed Ear Moth at Hythe on 28th/29th August was rather late.

A Large Wainscot at Folkestone on 5th/6th November was a typical date, but a Pale Mottled Willow the following night was notably late. A Bordered Sallow was taken at Hythe on 11th/12th June, and a Small Purple-barred was recorded at Capel-le-Ferne on 31st May.