

Review of 2010 – non-avian records



Moths

A summary of the regular migrant moths recorded in 2010 is provided as figure 1:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
<i>xylostella</i>									3				3
<i>ferrugalis</i>						4	3		1		1		9
<i>noctuella</i>								1	6	2			9
Gem										1			1
Humming-bird H-m.						1	1			1			3
Dark Sword-grass										2			2
Silver Y						7	107			6	1		121
Total						12	111	1	10	12	2	0	148

Figure 1: regular migrant moths at Folkestone and Hythe in 2010

In addition to the small numbers of the regular migrant pyralids *ferrugalis* and *noctuella* shown in figure 1, a single *limbata* was trapped at Hythe on 19th July – a new species for the site.



Evergestis limbata at Hythe (Ian Roberts)



Black Arches at Seabrook (Jon Marshall)

There was little of real note amongst the resident pyralids, though a *Dolicarthria punctalis* was at Hythe on the 19th July and a *pinguinalis* (Large Tabby) was trapped there the following night. *Flammealis* was again the commonest species, with a total of 126 at Hythe.

The numbers of regular migrant macros in figure 1. The single Gem was trapped at Saltwood on 13th October and the Humming-bird Hawk-moths were at Samphire Hoe on 12th June, in a garden in Folkestone

on 22nd July and Saltwood on 9th October. The July total of Silver Ys was notable, including a count of 50 in a garden in Hythe on the 25th, as was the dearth of records in August and September.

A number of species which were formerly rare immigrants now appear to be becoming established locally, including Clancy's Rustic (4 records), Langmaid's Yellow Underwing (at least 5 records) and White-point (12 records).

Undoubtedly the highlight of the non-avian year was the discovery of a colony of **Four-spotted** at Hythe Roughts. The population of this Red Data Book (RDB3, Rare), UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Priority species is nationally significant. Owen Leyshon observed two adults by day on 4th July and another four the following day, whilst Sean Clancy recorded a minimum of 16 adults along a 750m stretch on the 6th. A full account of the find is provided in *Atropos* 41: 59-61.

Of the resident macros, the more noteworthy records included a Brown-spotted Pinion at Saltwood on the 11th October, singles of Orange Sallow (7th September) and Dusky-lemon Sallow (7th October) there, and two Merveille du Jour at the same site (singles on 6th and 8th October). A Fen Wainscot was trapped at Hythe on the 26th July and a Black Arches was photographed at Seabrook on the 12th September. Only one Dew Moth was noted in 2010, at Capel-le-Ferne on 12th June.

There were few micro moth records of particular note apart from a *Rhyacionia buoliana* (Pine Shoot Moth) trapped at Hythe on 26th July. This species appears to be fairly local in the county.



Rhyacionia buoliana (Pine Shoot Moth) at Hythe
(Ian Roberts)

Butterflies

Following last year's exceptional influx of Painted Ladies, there were just two sightings in 2011 – singles at Capel-le-Ferne Café on the 12th June and Samphire Hoe on the 20th June. There was an early series of records of Clouded Yellow, with two at Folkestone on the 24th April, two at Samphire Hoe the same day, a single at the latter site on the 28th April, and 5 there on 14th May, but only one seen subsequently, again at Samphire Hoe, on 20th July.

Small numbers of Grayling continue to persist at Folkestone Warren, the last remaining site in the county, including a peak count of 7 there on the 3rd August, and a notably late individual on 28th August. A Brimstone was at Samphire Hoe on 28th April and White-letter Hairstreaks were seen at several localities along the Royal Military Canal between Palmars and Seabrook in July. Small Blues were present at Folkestone Warren, Samphire Hoe and on the Downs above Folkestone.

Notable counts of the commoner species included 28 Large Skippers on Castle Hill on 2nd July, 69 Adonis Blues on Castle / Sugarloaf Hill on 1st September, and 40 Dingy Skippers on the Downs above Folkestone on the 21st.

Other insects

There were few records of any note received but these did include a Giant Lacewing seen at Brockhill Country Park on the 20th June.

Mammals

Small numbers of Harbour Porpoise continued to be seen regularly, with occasional records of Common and Grey Seals. Hares were present in good numbers in the Lower Wall / Willop Sewer area, with a peak count of 7 on the 1st January.

Reptiles

Adders were present in their usual haunts with the first record of the year at Capel-le-Ferne Gun Site on the 6th April. Common Lizards also continue to be noted on the cliffs, with a favoured site being Samphire Hoe.



Adonis Blue at Round Hill (Brian Harper)



Dingy Skipper at Peene Quarry (Brian Harper)



Brown Argus at Peene Quarry (Brian Harper)



Green Hairstreak at Round Hill (Brian Harper)



Emerald Damselfly at Nickoll's Quarry
(Brian Harper)



Common Lizard at Samphire Hoe (Phil Smith)