

Review of 2006

Moth species trapped or seen in 2006

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Macros	0	0	0	11	35	70	118	21	44	28	1	0	189
Pyralids	0	0	0	1	3	8	20	3	3	3	0	0	27

Pyralids

A total of 27 species were trapped or seen, 3 less than the previous year's total (however there was very little coverage in August).

Migrants

It was an excellent autumn for migrant moths and numbers of the regular species were much higher than last year. A total of 23 *noctuella* (Rush Veneer) and 22 *ferrugalis* (Rusty-dot Pearl) were trapped at Hythe (compared to none of the former and just one of the latter in 2005).

Noctuella was recorded from 13th July to 29th October, with 3 distinct waves of immigration: 3 between 13th and 24th July, 14 between 21st and 30th September, and 6 between 16th and 29th October. After single *ferrugalis* on the 16th August and 28th September there was an influx of 20 in the second half of October, with a peak of 8 on the 29th October.

Following the first record for the site in 2006 another *vitrealis* was caught at Hythe, on the 9th October (photo).



vitrealis - Hythe - 9th October

Residents

A single example of the shingle-dwelling species *Dolicharthria punctalis* was again caught at Hythe, on 21st July. A single *extimalis* (on 23rd July) and 2 *nubilalis* (European Corn-borer) (4th and 6th July) were also caught there.

Following a record of *verbascalis* in Folkestone Warren in 2005, one was taken at Hythe on the 17th June. *Synaphe punctalis* were again present in reasonable numbers, with 10 at Hythe between 22nd June and 13th July. It was a very good year for *genistella*, with 22 at Hythe in July, and single *binaevella* and *forficella* were also caught there in July.

Of the more regular species an *angustea* on 12th April was rather early and a *flammealis* on 16th October was particularly late. The latter species was again present in some abundance with a total of c.190 at Hythe, where it is the most common pyralid.

Macros

A total of 189 species were trapped or seen, 24 less than the previous year's total (however there was very little coverage in August). The largest catch of the year was 116 macros of 27 species at Hythe on 23rd July.

Migrants

An exceptional autumn for migrants had a spectacular climax with the second British record of *Methorasa latreillei* at Samphire Hoe on the 27th October (trapped and photographed by Tony Rouse. The only previous record was of a specimen, in the Natural History museum, said to have been reared from a larva on 7th Aug 1856). This was the highlight of an excellent couple of days at Samphire Hoe, which also produced the first site records of Crimson Speckled (found by day and photographed by Ian Roberts) on the 26th and Purple Marbled (trapped by Tony Rouse) on the 27th October.



Methorasa latreillei - Samphire Hoe - 27th October



Crimson Speckled - Samphire Hoe - 26th October

Following from the first Folkestone & Hythe record of Clancy's Rustic in 2005, an incredible 26 were trapped between 21st September and 27th October (photo). Apart from singles at Folkestone (on about 17th October) and Samphire Hoe (on 27th October), the others were at Hythe, where the species may have even bred. There was a peak there of 8 on the 11th October.

The autumn also saw very good numbers of Scarce Bordered Straw, with 13 between 16th September and 29th October, all but one at Hythe (photo) and two Delicates at Hythe on 24th and 29th September (photo).



A selection of migrants (from left: Delicate, Scarce Bordered Straw, and 2 Clancy's Rustics) - Hythe - 24th September

Convolvulus Hawk-moth was yet another migrant recorded in good numbers in 2006, with 3 in Folkestone Warren on the 13th September, one at Hythe the next night (photo), one at Folkestone on the 18th September (photo) and another at Samphire Hoe in late September.



Convolvulus Hawk-moth - Hythe - 14th September



Convolvulus Hawk-moth - Folkestone - 18th September

Six widely-scattered Hummingbird Hawk-moths were reported (1 in July and 5 in August) and there were 3 Langmaid's Yellow Underwings at Hythe in late July. There were two records of Four Spotted at West Hythe on 19th and 25th July.

Considering the number and variety of scarce migrants it was perhaps surprising that only 2 Dark Swordgrass, 2 Pearly Underwings, 2 Bordered Straws and 4 White-points were logged at Hythe. Silver Ys however were recorded in good numbers, with 219 at Hythe alone (169 of those in July), and the species was noted as being “absolutely abundant throughout the area” in late July.

Residents

A Ghost Moth at Hythe on 1st July was an unusual record for the site. An Oak Hook-tip was at Hythe on 20th July, with Pebble Hook-tips there on 10th June and 23rd July, and a Common Lutestring on 5th July. A total of 11 Least Carpets were trapped at Hythe in July. The last Garden Carpet at Hythe on 16th October was notably late.

A Dark Umber at Hythe on 17th July was noteworthy and a Small Yellow Wave was taken there on the 4th July. A single Latticed Heath was trapped at Hythe on 16th August (well away from the normal local range, and possibly an immigrant individual).

Elephant (36 records) and Small Elephant (4 records) hawk-moths were caught in reasonable numbers but the other common species appeared fairly scarce. A Chocolate-tip was at Hythe on 21st April (photo). Only one Dew Moth was noted at Abbotscliffe (on 1st June) but the species was not extensively searched for this year.

A Red-necked Footman at Folkestone on 11th June was an excellent local record. Two Kent Black Arches were trapped at Hythe in July, with a Least Black Arches there on the 11th May. Three White-line Darts were at Hythe in July, whilst Heart and Dart was the most numerous resident species there, with a single night peak of 37 (on 12th June).

The typical early species were rather late, with the first Common Quaker and Hebrew Character on 3rd April, and Early Grey on 9th April. Small Quaker and Clouded Drab were recorded from 16th April and a Powdered Quaker was at Hythe on 21st April (photo).



Chocolate-tip - Hythe - 21st April



Powdered Quaker - Hythe - 21st April

It was another good year for L-album Wainscot, with 45 trapped at Hythe between 7th July and 13th October, and a Shoulder-striped Wainscot was recorded there on 5th June. A single Toadflax Brocade was taken in Folkestone on 14th June.

Feathered Ranunculus and Lunar Underwing were present in reasonable numbers at Hythe but once again the other usual autumn species were particularly scarce, with just single records of Centre-barred Sallow (16th September), Deep-brown Dart (23rd September), Large Ranunculus and Red-line Quaker (both 16th October), Yellow-line Quaker (17th October), and Brick (26th October), a mere 3 Blair's Shoulder-knots and just 4 Black Rustics.

A Webb's Wainscot at Hythe on 16th July was notable and there were 3 Fen Wainscots there on consecutive nights from 17th July (following one on 16th July last year). A late run of Large Wainscots was more usual, with 3 at Hythe between 11th and 18th October.

A Green Silver-lines was at Hythe on 3rd July and there was a Plain Golden Y there on the 22nd July. Finally a Beautiful Hook-tip at Hythe on the 23rd September was a new species for the site.

Micros

The second Kent record of *Anarsia lineatella* (Peach Twig Borer) was recorded at West Hythe on the 25th July.