

HAMPSHIRE & ISLE OF WIGHT BUTTERFLY & MOTH REPORT 2010



Butterfly
Conservation

Hampshire & Isle of Wight Butterfly & Moth Report, 2010

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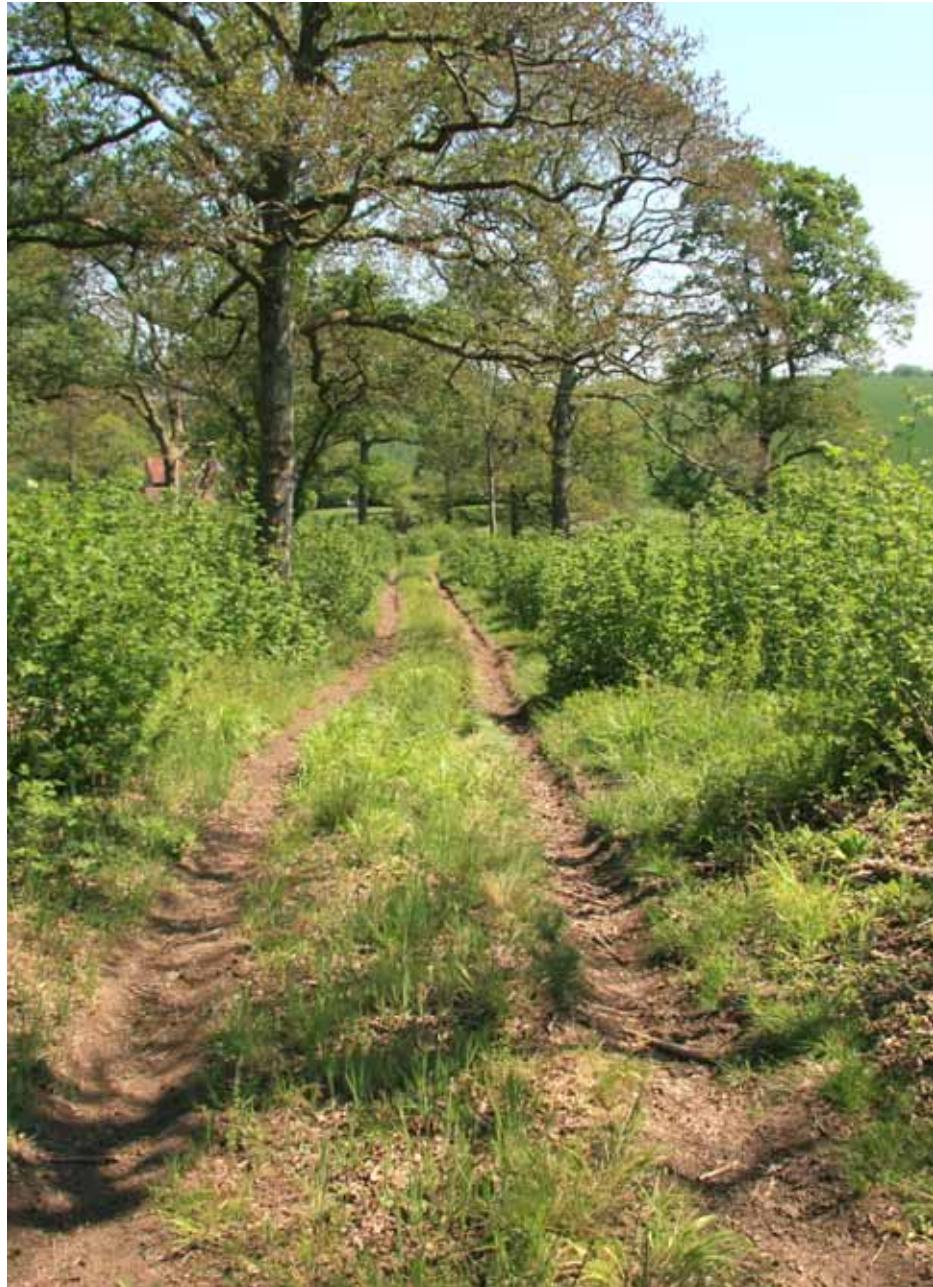
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A privately owned Hampshire woodland within the Tytherley Woods Project area with actively-managed coppiced hazel and thriving populations of Common Fan-foot, Drab Looper, Duke of Burgundy and Pearl-bordered Fritillary. This is one of the many woodlands that have benefitted from specialist advice given by Butterfly Conservation as part of this project. (Tim Bernhard)

Introduction

Welcome to the 2010 Hampshire and Isle of Wight Butterfly and Moth Report. We hope you all find something of interest. The production of this report is central to our conservation activities and is an important means of providing feedback to our many conservation partners. It is also a way of saying thank-you to our recorders. In 2010, 511 people contributed 185,254 records. The number of moth records represents an all-time high and butterfly records are only very slightly below 2009's record level. We suspect that the slight drop in butterfly records can be almost entirely attributed to the near absence of Painted Ladies in 2010 after 2009's bumper season!

All data received is entered onto our database and contributes to our distribution maps, but with so many records, only a selection can be specifically mentioned in this report. All records are submitted regularly to Head Office for incorporation into the *Butterflies in the New Millennium* project (BNM) and the *National Moth Recording Scheme*. The data is put to further use through a data exchange agreement, with the *Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre* (HBIC). HBIC is a partnership comprising local authorities, nature conservation bodies and statutory agencies and can respond effectively to enquires and identify sites important for nature conservation. This enables local planning authorities to assess the ecological implications of proposed development and to inform and guide the Hampshire and local Biodiversity Action Plans. Similar arrangements will shortly be in place for the Isle of Wight.

2010 saw the publication of the landmark *Provisional atlas of the UK's larger moths*. This publication is the culmination of four years of the *Moths Count* project led by Butterfly Conservation and presents distribution maps for all macro moths, many mapped for the first time ever. Thanks to the tremendous efforts of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight's recorders over many decades, our area's moths are well represented.

To supplement the distribution maps in this report, maps for all our area's resident and regular immigrant butterflies together with selected moths are available on the Branch's website (www.hantslow-butterflies.org.uk). Distribution maps for all moths can be found on the HantsMoths website (www.hantsmoths.org.uk).

We would like to thank the many people who have contributed to making this report possible, either by assisting with data input, transect co-ordination, as writers, photographers or proof-readers. This year we welcome three new writers; Richard Levett, Jenny Mallett, and Jon Stokes. Four writers, Jonathan Bills, Paul Boswell, Alison Harper and Janet Jones stand down this year and we thank them for their past efforts. We would also like to thank the many other individuals in the Branch who provide considerable indirect input and support. Particular thanks are due to Robin Turner and Mike Wall for maintaining the Branch and HantsMoths web sites. Visit these sites regularly during 2011 for up-to-the-minute news of the latest sightings.

Thank you to everyone who submitted a butterfly or moth record during 2010. Please keep sending in your data either using the paper recording forms, or better, via the electronic data submission form on our website, via an Excel spreadsheet or by using MapMate recording software.

We wish you all a very successful 2011 season.

The editorial team

In marked contrast to many recent years, a cold January and February meant that there were very few butterflies on the wing during the early part of 2010. Apart from a handful of precocious individuals, it was not until 1 March that the first of the hibernating butterflies began to emerge. Similarly, very few moths were reported until after 24 February when warmer nights resulted in an emergence of the early spring species. This was followed by a marked increase in numbers and species diversity in mid-March.

April was warm and sunny, which benefitted many butterflies. 2010 saw an early emergence of Dingy Skipper, Grizzled Skipper, Duke of Burgundy and Pearl-bordered Fritillary which steadily built up in numbers through the month. Although the days were warm, cooler nights resulted in low moth numbers.

May was generally settled but a cold snap early in the month resulted in a gap in many species flight periods which will be evident from some of the flight period graphs which accompany the butterfly species accounts. The cool conditions unfortunately coincided with National Moth Night on the 15th which resulted in many disappointingly low catches. Fortunately, things picked up rapidly during the second half of the month and the latter part of May had some of the best butterfly weather of the year.

A highlight of late-May was on the weekend of 22nd and 23rd when Dan Hoare of Butterfly Conservation and Dstl organised a coordinated butterfly survey at Porton Down involving more than thirty volunteers. Participants were rewarded with clear blue skies, soaring temperatures and butterflies galore. The main target species was the Duke of Burgundy, and the result was one of the highest counts for the species anywhere in the country in recent years.

A whole range of other scarce and unusual species was also recorded during the searches, including good numbers of Pearl-bordered Fritillary. As at many sites in 2010, numbers of other scarce species such as Grizzled Skipper, Dingy Skipper and Green Hairstreak were encouragingly high. The surveys enabled BC to carry out detailed habitat mapping and gather species records which will be used to inform future habitat management by Dstl to ensure this marvellous site retains its rich assemblage of invertebrates.

The first half of the summer was unusually dry as well as sunny and by mid-June many sites were looking very parched. This was bad news for species such as Duke of Burgundy, which requires a lush growth of Primrose or Cowslip, and for the grass feeders such as the golden skippers and the browns. Nevertheless, this weather certainly suited White Admiral and Silver-washed Fritillary which went on to enjoy one of their best seasons for some time.

July and August had only moderate weather with dull and often wet conditions which tended to depress butterfly numbers. The up-side was that the rain was much needed and revived some of the droughted foodplants. Despite the damp, many moth recorders reported good catches throughout the period, which included Hampshire Moth Weekend on 2nd to 4th July. An accompanying paper later in this report sets out the highlights of this event.

It was during this period that a number of extremely scarce resident moths were recorded, some with centres of distribution well outside our area. Particularly notable were four records of Double Line and four of Marbled Clover. The good moth catches continued until well into the autumn.

The prolonged freezing conditions which arrived at the end of November brought both the butterfly and moth season to an abrupt end. Red Admirals in December have been a feature of recent years, but not in 2010. It was also too cold for all but the very hardiest of winter-flying moths. Many entomologists consider cold winters to be highly beneficial for the survival of overwintering eggs, caterpillars, pupae and hibernating adults. If so, 2011 could be an interesting season.

There were few butterfly immigrants in 2010, Painted Lady were predictably scarce and Clouded Yellow virtually absent. It was not a particularly great year for common immigrant moths either although there was a scattering of rare species for some lucky recorders. These included several previously unrecorded species for our area.

Provisional data from the Butterfly Monitoring Scheme suggests that nationally 2010 was an above average butterfly year. However, it was also a mixed year for different species. The wider countryside butterflies were generally down in numbers. In contrast, most habitat specialists, including many of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan butterflies, seemed to do considerably better. It most pleasing to be able report good news for these declining species for a change.

Nationally, all the blues, with the exception of Small Blue did particularly well. Meadow Brown had its worst ever year. It was also a bad year for the other browns, including Speckled Wood, and all the common whites. Duke of Burgundy and Essex Skipper had their second worst and Small Skipper and Wall Brown their third worst year. Worryingly, Small and Essex Skipper are now showing significant long-term declines, the most significant of these being in the last ten years.

To find out how particular butterflies and moths fared in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight during 2010, read on...



Duke of Burgundy, Stockbridge area, 1 June 2010 (Tim Bernhard)

2010 marked the 21st Anniversary of the establishment of Yew Hill as Butterfly Conservation's first Hampshire reserve. It was just five acres but from such a small beginning relatively recently it is pleasing to report that the branch's reserves have really flourished. Yew Hill was expanded in 2003 when we started renting nine extra acres from Southern Water.

Also in 1989 Magdalen Hill Down was acquired on a long lease from the Church Commissioners. At 23 acres it was five times bigger than Yew Hill and needed much more in the way of restoration work. Fifteen years ago in 1995 the arable field to the east of Magdalen Hill Down was part purchased, bought rented and the extension at 32 acres more than doubled the size of the original reserve. And the expansion continued. In a joint scheme with Hampshire County Council (who continue to fund management of part of the area) a further 55 acres was added to Magdalen Hill Down (North) again, doubling its size five years ago in 2004.

Bentley Station Meadow has remained the same size as when we purchased the acres in 1992, but the habitat it provides is much enhanced.

From the outset these sites were called nature reserves. Our prime focus is Lepidoptera conservation but what we do to manage habitat for butterflies and moths benefits many other wild things. Good management of the plant community is at the heart of all successful land management for wildlife. We achieve this by grazing at the right time of the year and to the right level, with appropriate stock and by thoughtful scrub clearance and careful use of herbicides. Our conservation efforts continue to be supported financially by Natural England.

Generally butterflies on the reserves had a good year in 2010 with Dr Andy Barker commenting that there had been some really good trends for many species making particular mention of the spectacular rise in Common Blue at all reserves, especially impressive at Magdalen Hill Down (north) and Bentley Station Meadow. At Yew Hill the number recorded was almost twice the previous highest figure. Whilst many of the butterflies and moths recorded at the reserve have bred there others are migrants On Thursday 6 May Patrick Fleet saw four Red Admirals at top of Magdalen Hill Down. He described them as looking ruffled, excited and a bit worn and guessed they might all just have flown in. He also glimpsed a Silver Y moth and had migrant moths at home about the same time and so is guessed that all these migrants had been swept up from the south in the Atlantic low, carried well north before being brought back south on the northerly winds. An exciting journey for little insects!

1158 butterflies of 24 species were seen on transect plus two species not on transect. This gave the best tally of species for a number of years even though the total lacked Small Tortoiseshell and Clouded Yellow. Of the two other species that were recorded, but not on transect, one was not surprising – two Purple Emperors were seen, one was seen by Patrick Fleet laying eggs. The other species was very surprising. It was Glanville Fritillary seen and photographed on 9 July by Steve Jobling. However we have known for some time that there is an introduced colony in Surrey on private land. The Surrey Branch reports that the species has done well this year and that individuals were seen in Farnham too.

The species showing a phenomenal increase was Common Blue. Prior to 2010 the highest number on transect had been 79 in 1997. Numbers slumped to 15 in 1998 and then fluctuated for the next eleven years sometimes being recorded in single figures but with 40 in 2006. In 2009 seven were recorded. Given the low numbers in past years Ken Bailey was pleased to find two Common Blues on 19 May. Little did he know that these were the first of many with a total of 111 being seen in 2010 – the most ever!!! Another species having its best ever year was Silver-washed Fritillary with 87 being recorded. The previous highest figure was 68 in 2009. We would like to think that this is at least partly due to our creating habitat for violets to thrive. Ken Bailey wrote on 24 April “Great flowers – never seen so many violets”. Marbled White also reached a new high of 51 which was more than twice the previous highest figure. Small Copper recorded its third highest total and we did see one at the work party on 19 October. Large and Small/Essex Skippers and the other grass feeders - Speckled Wood, Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown and Ringlet all were about average. 16 Orange-tips was the best total in the last five years but is short of the average of 29 recorded in the years 2000 – 2005. Peacock only reached 23 (highest 93 in 1995) despite larvae being present on 26 June. Only one each of White Admiral and Purple Hairstreak were seen on transect but there were several other sightings of these species by visitors. On 21 July, Patrick Fleet observed between four to six Purple Hairstreak flying around the oaks in the southern meadow at 9 am. On the same day he saw two White Admirals.

It is hard to know what the effect of the heavy snow was on butterflies and moths in January. It did cause a number of trees to keel over and numerous branches to collapse. This damage was all virtually all cleared up by the end of the year so there are a few new gaps in the scrub and trees. The reserve was grazed by cattle in October and November.

Other wildlife continues to thrive. The transect walkers always comment on the plants in flower, birds singing and other wildlife seen. 17 Burnet Companion were seen on transect on 12 June. Patrick Fleet reports that his most interesting moth of the year was *Olindia schumacherana*. Described on the HantsMoths web site as “Local, in woodland, marshes, river-banks and other damp areas, throughout much of the British Isles. In Hampshire, an uncommon and elusive species.” This was a first for the meadow. On 17 July, Sue Clarke found *Nowickia ferox*, an uncommon parasitoid fly whose host is Dark Arches moth according to www.tachinidae.org.uk. That day the meadow was looking superb – a haze of yellows, whites and mauves, reported Sue. Many bumblebees were also seen. These were much more thrilling than the horseflies that had bothered her on 3 July – they were such a distraction that she re-did the transect! In mid-August Sue again detailed the plants in flower mentioning 14 by name, including water mint which was attracting dozens of flies, including *Tachina fera* and *Nowickia Ferox*.

To conclude, transect co-ordinator Thelma Smalley writes ‘I first visited the meadow in 2002 and it has always been a special place for me. Because it is sheltered all round by trees it is warm and welcoming. There are orchids in June and a colourful patchwork of yellows and mauves throughout July and August. It is also a very special place for a BC member from Wales who I met while I was walking the transect in the meadow. He told me that he was terminally ill and wanted to spend the rest of his life ‘butterflying’ and that while staying in Hampshire he found Bentley Station Meadow on the website. He said that when he entered the meadow he was bowled over by the wonderful array of wild flowers with butterflies dancing everywhere – many of them were Silver-washed Fritillary. He would like to return in 2011 but this may not be possible. However, his memory of Bentley Station Meadow in July will remain for ever.’

On completing summarising the 2010 records Dr Andy Barker wrote "If you combine the three Magdalen Hill Down transects together, we saw an impressive 33 species on transect this year! Not bad for a site that 21 years ago was a fragment of heavily scrubbed-over downland and a couple of arable fields!" The species that were seen that helped to achieve this total was two Silver-studded Blues which were photographed and recorded on transect on the original reserve by Patrick Fleet and Colin Beyer on 11 July. A Silver-studded Blue had been recorded on just one previous occasion - by Patrick Fleet and Keith Plumridge in 2002 so for a couple to turn up is quite a happening. Even more unusual were the Silver-washed Fritillaries, seen regularly in 2010 and for the first time ever recorded on transect, with one on the original and two on the extension. One Dark Green Fritillary was also recorded on the extension, the fifth occasion since 1996. For the seventh time since 1996 Dingy Skipper was sighted on the extension and the eighth time since 1990 on the original reserve. With numbers very low – most ever in a year has been four on transect it can be seen that this species is a rare but welcome visitor. Clouded Yellow was also a welcome inclusion with just two recorded on transect by Thelma Smalley in a year when numbers of this species were very low. Adonis Blue had been recorded on the original reserve in 1992 by Brian Fletcher and in 2006 on transect by Peter Burford. One male was seen this year by Phil Budd on the extension transect so again this is a rare but welcome visitor. Painted Lady was recorded on all three transects, somewhat of an achievement in a year when it was unrecorded at many sites in the county.

Original Reserve

8106 butterflies of 29 species were recorded on transect. This outstrips the previous highest number ever – 7350 in 2003 – by about 10%. The species that contributed to this massive total were undoubtedly Chalkhill Blue with 3923 being the highest ever recorded and at times presenting visitors with an amazing spectacle. On 25th July Richard Brett wrote "Chalkhill mating pairs in flight in massive numbers. Some females attracting several males at once and becoming very harassed and damaged. Groups of twelve or more males congregating on one plant (is this called lecking?) and on the bare ground, and scattering suddenly and spectacularly at my approach. Amazing sights!" Common Blue also achieved its highest ever total with 593 recorded. Another highest ever was Grizzled Skipper with 51 totalled on transect. This is most noteworthy as prior to 2004 virtually only singletons were seen and in some years it was not recorded on transect. It has been recorded since 2005 in growing numbers, 2008 being an exception when numbers dropped from 37 in 2007 to nine. Brown Argus were at their highest level since 1997. On 22 May Peter Eeles saw over 70 in a very short space of time before 10 am. Small Heath reached just over a hundred after the four previous years being under a hundred. 2009 had been really low with just 18 recorded. Small Blues too had their best showing ever on this transect but a total of five is hardly newsworthy. But what is good news is that the species has really taken off on North and is being regularly seen and in numbers in areas not covered by the transect.

There were no reductions of concern. Large Skipper continues to be low as its life cycle of the caterpillar over wintering in grass blades is adversely affected by our grazing regime on the original reserve which is designed to favour the species requiring short turf. Marbled White, Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper and Ringlets all had average years as did Large and Small Whites.

Extension

4187 butterflies of 31 species were recorded on transect. This is the third highest number of butterflies – the 2009 total of 5391 included almost 2000 Painted Ladies and the 2004 total of 4841 included just over 2600 Meadow Browns. A number of species fared really well in 2010. Small/Essex Skipper at 146 was virtually half as many again since the previous top figure in 2005. Clearly this species benefits from the ungrazed uncut fringe of vegetation outside the stock fence. Orange-tip had its highest ever year with 35. Hopefully it is responding well to our careful management of Jack-by-the-hedge. Another highest ever was Green Hairstreak at 20 – often less than 10 are recorded on transect. However the real spectacle was a hedgerow not on transect where often as many as 30 plus could be seen on a single occasion. Paul Ritchie said "I counted 30 different individuals, many engaged in aerial battles for territory - A wonderful sight." Just over 1500 Common Blues were recorded – almost double the previous highest figure in 2006. It was the fifth year since 1996 that over a hundred Brown Argus were recorded. Although only two were recorded on transect, Patrick Fleet saw 15 Small Coppers on the extension on 22 September. There were no reductions of concern.



Magdalen Hill Down Extension on 3 June 2010 (Lynn Fomison)

North

2599 butterflies of 26 species were recorded on transect. The figure is lower than in 2009 as that year 851 Painted Ladies were included. There were notable increases for a number of species. Green Hairstreak reached 21 and Small Blue 18. North does seem to be the stronghold for this species at Magdalen Hill Down. Common Blue has achieved a total of 896 in just five years with 13 recorded in 2005. This has been a faster rate of colonisation than on the extension. Chalkhill Blues numbered 392 and it is recognised that North provides an important nectaring and roosting resource for this

species. Ringlet numbers increased and the other grassland species held steady. One Grizzled Skipper was recorded and it is to be hoped that this species will find conditions to suit it on North.



Newly created scrapes at Magdalen Hill Down North on 23 April 2010 (Lynn Fomison)

Moths

The year started well with Patrick Fleet finding the larva of a Lappet Moth on the stem of a small Purging Buckthorn. This was observed on many occasions as it fed and grew, being last seen as a large caterpillar by Dave Shute on 26 May and then observed as a pupa by Andy Barker on 30 May. Other interesting finds of larva by Patrick Fleet included two Figure of Eight caterpillars on 1 May on mature hawthorn at the bottom of original reserve and Magpie Moth on 4 June. Pleasingly on 14 August Patrick Fleet and Phil Budd found 31 larvae of Striped Lychnis. Lastly Andy and Linda Barker had an exciting find of a first record for Magdalen Hill Down whilst they were doing a study of Small Heath behaviour and habitat preferences. Two larvae of Satyr Pug were seen at Magdalen Hill Down (original reserve) on 29 August, one on the flower head of marjoram, the other on the flower head of Lesser Hawkbit, seemingly feeding on the petals.

On 4 July Tim Norriss used pheromones to attract Six-belted Clearwing. Six arrived to the lure in a very short time. A Humming-bird Hawk-moth was seen by Ann McCue on 8 August. On 3 and 17 September Patrick Fleet made daytime observations of Feathered Gothic, two adults on each occasion. Reddish Light Arches came to MV light and Patrick mentions that it had not been recorded on the Reserve for many years. Micro moths of note recorded by Patrick Fleet (and Colin Beyer) included *Mompha propinquella*, *Ancylis obtusana* and *Sitochroa palealis*, the last of which is nationally scarce.

In 2010 David Shute conducted a Common Bird Census. This type of survey had been done in 2002 and 2005 by Ron Cooke so it was important to get information on breeding birds updated. In the 2005 survey three pairs of skylark were nesting on the

extension. Three were found again in 2010 and there were seven more pairs on North. Blackcap increased from 14 pairs to 23, Whitethroat from 5 to 14 and Chiffchaff from 5 to 20. The only significant reduction related to Yellowhammers down from 8 to 2. The total territories in 2010 for Original and Extension was 236 compared with 213 in 2005. These figures would seem to indicate that our sympathetic management for butterflies and moths is benefiting birds greatly too.

North was not included in the 2005 and in 2010 accounted for 39. North lacks the established hedgerows and scrub blocks of the extension, but there is scope for these to develop and bird populations expand. Outside of the survey, Dave saw a pair of Wheatears on Magdalen Hill Down North.

During the survey Dave made daytime observations of 29 moth species and a number of other insects, including *Agapanthea villosoviridescens* (a longhorn beetle), *Apoderus coryli* (a weevil) and *Centrotus cornutus* (a treehopper). Regarding other sightings of note a visitor from Norfolk who is a bee expert saw and identified ten species of bumblebee. He said that that was a good number in one day. The tally included *Bombus ruderatus* – large garden bumblebee which is a BAP species. Later in the year, Patrick Fleet found a colony of Ivy Mining Bee *Colletes hederae* on the Original. The ID was confirmed by Phil Budd.

Flowers

Phil Budd completed the botanical monitoring exercise on the extension on 18 May and reported that the results look very interesting with much richer flora composition on steeper areas than at the top. The extension continues to provide a splendid spectacle of flowering cowslips from mid-April until early May. It is pleasing that conservation work has encouraged other plants. On an area cleared of scrub by Sparsholt students in the winter of 2008/9 dog violets abounded in early April.

Yew Hill

Brian Fletcher

The year started in much the same way as 2009, with snow and ice which caused problems for the cattle grazing the reserve, the most significant being the frozen water supply. Fortunately, the severe conditions in January did not cause any long term adverse effects.

By May the Cowslips were in flower, though they were somewhat smaller than usual due to the lack of rain. Unfortunately rabbits like eating the stems just beneath the flowers and rabbits are a bit too numerous on the reserve. On 10 May, rabbits, both large and small, were seen out in the noonday sun (IA), but they were not alone. On at least three occasions later in the month, both weasels and stoats were seen, one of the weasels actively hunting the rabbits.

Orchids are particularly abundant on Yew Hill, mostly on the original reserve, though there are significant numbers of both Bee and Greater Butterfly Orchids on Hilltop. We have Chris Pines to thank for regular reports about orchids on the reserve, and in mid-June he found 13 Frog Orchids and nine Greater Butterfly Orchids amongst many Common Spotted and Fragrant Orchids. Some Pyramidal Orchids were just coming into flower, and there were also at least 50 flower spikes of Knapweed Broomrape. By mid-July there were till Frog Orchids in flower, five being seen then, and another eight on 3 August. Visitors to the reserve on the evening of 9 June were shown round by Colin Matthews and saw a good range of orchids, though many were only just coming into flower. Two roosting butterflies, a female Common Blue and a female Orange Tip, were seen, but caterpillars were more numerous, with four Orange Tip and five

Chalkhill Blue caterpillars found. These latter were attended by red ants, and though one was on the recognised food plant Horseshoe Vetch, the other four were on Bird's-foot Trefoil, both of these plants being common on the reserve. An unusual find was a single plant of Hound's-tongue seen on 21 May (PF).

Butterflies are not particularly numerous on Yew Hill until late in June when Marbled Whites, Meadow Browns and Ringlets emerge. The peak of the butterfly season is from late July to mid-August, and visitors to the reserve on 29 July were treated to the sight of over 700 Chalkhill Blues flying around in the company of twenty other species of butterfly.

In spite of the freezing weather earlier in the year, 2010 was a good year for butterflies with overall numbers on the transect rising from a total of 3727 in 2009 to 4176 in 2010. This is the fifth highest total since the transect was started in 1990. A total of 28 species was seen this year compared to 25 last year, the highest ever number seen in a single year being 29. In spite of the increase in overall numbers some butterflies were conspicuous by their absence, these being Clouded Yellow, Essex Skipper and Painted Lady. Species seen in 2010 but not 2009 included Dingy Skipper, Green Hairstreak, Grizzled Skipper and Small Blue. The Dingy Skipper was seen on transect two weeks running, the first such sightings since 1993 (a singleton was seen off transect in 1995 by PAB, but none since then). The Green Hairstreak is often difficult to find, just like the Purple and White-letter Hairstreaks. Over the years these three species together with the Grizzled Skipper have been recorded sporadically around the reserve.

Some species produced a much bigger second brood than the first, this being especially true of Brown Argus, Common Blue, Large White and Small Blue, the latter having five sightings of second brood individuals compared to just one in the first brood. The steady recovery of numbers of Small Heath (69 seen) and Small Skipper (49 seen) continued. The number of Chalkhill Blues almost doubled, 1990 being counted, the second highest total ever recorded, exceeded only in 1991 when 2787 were seen. Common Blues also did very well with a best ever total of 494, the next highest being 287 seen in 2004. By the end of August most of the blues were rather faded, but a very bright blue was seen briefly on 30 August, so different from the others that it seems likely that it was an Adonis Blue, sightings of which were reported in 2004 and 2005.

As usual a good range of day-flying moths have been reported including Burnet Companion, Humming-bird Hawk Moth, Mother Shipton and both 5- and 6-Spot Burnet Moths. Other interesting sightings were of a Black-neck Moth, an Emperor Dragonfly (9 July, DAT), a Hornet (2 June, BPF), a Wasp Spider (2 August, LF) and seven Fox Moth caterpillars (24 September, PF). Songbirds seen and heard on the reserve included Blackcaps, Skylarks and Yellowhammers, larger birds including Greater-spotted and Green Woodpeckers, Buzzards and Kestrels. On 5 May a pair of Magpies with five young were observed (DAT).

The wealth of wildlife seen results from careful management, encompassing scrub bashing, cutting back hedges and invading bramble, pulling ragwort and sowing flower seeds. This year Greater Knapweed, Kidney Vetch, Sainfoin, Scabious and Yellow Rattle were sown on Hilltop, which continues to improve both floristically and as regards the variety and numbers of butterflies seen. Another aspect of management is controlling rabbit numbers, and ferreting during October and November reduced the rabbit population by 116. Later the reserve was grazed by cattle which were present when the ice and snow returned late in the year, the adverse weather conditions causing at least one working party to be cancelled.

One Sunday afternoon this July two gentlemen sauntered along the main ride of Abbots Wood Inclosure, Alice Holt Forest, each carrying a large net on a telescopic pole. One I meet almost annually in Alice, when Purple things are happening. In addition to teaching art and cricket at a highly reputable school he makes what may be a tidy sum dealing in Lepidoptera livestock, at 'entomological trade fairs' and via the shadowy Entomological Livestock Group. Seemingly, *iris* makes up a significant percentage of that supplementary income. Certainly he has a strong interest in that species, though some of us may deem that interest unhealthy. But, in the interests of my blood pressure, which necessitates careful management, I do not inquire – not least because there is nothing I can do. Moreover, he and I are by no means on disagreeable terms, both being of Purple Persuasion – albeit from slightly different ends of the Purple Spectrum. As Kipling put it in *A Smuggler's Song*, it is a matter of 'Watch the wall my darling, while the gentlemen go by'.

Such Doings (to use the Victorian collectors' euphemism) seem, rightly or wrongly, to be part and parcel of the Purple Emperor season in Alice Holt. Furthermore, a rumpus over people 'collecting' Purple Emperors in Forestry Commission woods seems to be symptomatic of a good Emperor season. 2010 must have been a very good Purple Emperor season for outrages and rumpuses occurred in Alice Holt in Hampshire, and Grovely Wood and Savernake Forest in neighbouring Wiltshire. The email trails were lugubrious in the extreme, and for no obvious reason wound their way to me. This article is an attempt to answer them.

There is a long history and tradition of butterfly collecting in FC woods. It stretches back to way the establishment of the FC after the First World War, to the FC's predecessor, the Office of Woods, and to the halcyon days of the New Forest of yesteryears. It seems that part of this memory still lingers on in the psyche of butterfly people. I rather hope so.

It is interesting to note that there have been no incidents of people attempting to net Purple Emperors on National Trust land, though Trust wardens and volunteers occasionally meet the odd collector (including two from south Hampshire). I suspect that the life expectancy of someone seeking to catch Purple Emperors at Bookham Common (National Trust), in Surrey, would be all of 30 minutes. Local people there treasure their butterflies.

The truth is that the Purple Emperor stimulates the hunting gene in us like no other British butterfly. Our entomological literature is dotted with quotes which at a safe distance in time are hilariously bizarre, though few of us would see the funny side if the instances they refer to occurred in modern times. My favourite is -

'In August 1877, whilst driving in a dog-cart from Christchurch, I saw Apatura iris flying along the hedge of a bare roadside. I immediately gave the reins to a friend ... and pursued it with the dog-cart whip, and through a piece of luck I managed to hit the under wing above the upper, and so disable it enough to capture it. It was a fine male and not in the least damaged.'

New Age Collectors

Today, of course, traditional butterfly collecting has all but died out and has been – wondrously – replaced by the harmless hobby of butterfly photography. Most of us are new age butterfly collectors, seeking digital images, but many of us are bitterly opposed to old style collecting. The image of a pristine male *iris* showing full purple on all four wings is one of the most highly desired shots, alongside those of perfect specimens of the Swallowtail, Large Blue and Black Hairstreak. These were the big four at the height of the mania for specimen collecting, during the 1890s, when even the likes of young Winston Churchill collected. They are all seriously elusive creatures.

On several occasions in recent summers I have counted over a hundred butterfly photographers in a day in Fermyn Woods, the part of Rockingham Forest in Northamptonshire which is currently our premier Purple Emperor site. Now surely no butterfly collector would dare set foot into such a lion's den? Yet, a little over a century ago the central New Forest woods would have been even more heavily populated by butterfly collectors. I view these polymorphs as being my spiritual ancestors and can almost feel them calling out to me when I visit the Forest in season. Moreover, I would like to carry a net there just for old time's sake, but dare not, lest offence be caused to those who may not understand.

However, photography does not satisfy the thrill of the chase to everyone with a passion for our butterflies. Herein lies problems as the traditional collecting of butterflies, for whatever purpose, causes considerable offence to a growing number of people; not just to other butterfly enthusiasts, but particularly to those who manage sites for wildlife conservation, both professionals and volunteers, and to people generally. Butterfly collecting is now almost as taboo within modern British culture as the collecting of bird eggs. Yet collecting and breeding are central to the glorious and inglorious history of people's engagement with our butterflies, especially with the Purple Emperor. This history cannot be denied. Furthermore, collecting of specimens for identification purposes is essential in many insect groups, including micro moths, and breeding of butterflies is a wonderful experience. Worse, my interest in wildlife was fired up by searching for bird nests as a very small boy, as was Bill Oddie's. Then, for six teenage years I actually collected butterflies - until they effectively collected me. Poachers make good gamekeepers: remember what became of Saul of Tarsus.... .

A Female for Breeding!

Today, Purple Emperor 'collectors' seem to be mostly in pursuit of females for breeding purposes. When challenged, people bearing nets in Purple Emperor woods in season tend to exclaim, 'But I'm only after a female for breeding purposes!' And that is probably the truth, for this is the one species enthusiasts of British butterflies most want to breed. The progeny may indeed end up in the cabinet, or be released back into the host population, or introduced into pastures new, or be sold for rather considerable profit (£12-15 for pre-hibernation larvae and as much as £40 for a pupa). Ironically, bred specimens tend to be undersized, for it is not easy to breed sizeable specimens in any number. Worse, it is difficult to persuade Herself to lay eggs in captivity, for the Empress is an uncooperative minx at the best of times. Also, *iris* livestock needs to be reared outside, though the emergence of specimens for the cabinet does not need to be synchronised with emergence in the wild. Normally, the insect spends 10 months in the larval state, five of which are spent in hibernation.

In recent years at least three successful introductions have been made outside the butterfly's current range, two in Warwickshire and one in Suffolk. The Warwickshire releases emanate from stock obtained from Alice Holt, by one of the gentlemen alluded

to earlier, and the Suffolk release from privately owned woodland in mid Sussex. All three releases are ‘unofficial’, as in each case the landowner’s consent was not obtained. Also, they were not sanctioned by a respected conservation organisation, though expectation there may sound pompous. In at least one instance the landowner is displeased, and one site is an SSSI, making that introduction technically illegal. Yet the butterfly appears to be thriving, a great many people visit to see it who would otherwise have to travel much further south, and the rate of spread from the main Warwickshire release site is providing invaluable evidence on the butterfly’s mobility and power of colonisation. A sound understanding of the latter is crucial to the butterfly’s conservation.

Most important of all, these introductions are well intentioned and have to date been spectacularly successful (though the Suffolk population may not last long, as the sallows there seem marginally suitable). In effect, these releases are greatly assisting our understanding of this wonderful butterfly’s requirements and capabilities, and it is great to see some success stories.

The Purple Empire

The Purple Emperor is the only butterfly to have its own personal web site. Even the Large Blue has not risen to such dizzy heights. But *iris* is of course England’s national butterfly, only being English we have not recognised this little piece of obviousness yet. No other butterfly has such a status in English literature, verse and culture.

The website¹ is the brainchild of Derek Longhurst, with whom I collected butterflies at school during the late 1960s. Derek emigrated to Somewhere Unmentionable nearly 30 years ago, and has gone native in all things, even speaking with a broad and largely unintelligible accent. He suffered wonderfully when England regained The Ashes in 2005, and again in 2009. One thing and one thing only holds him to his native shores, which is why he set up and runs www.thepurpleempire.com – from Perth, the wrong Perth.

This is nothing new, I.R.P. Heslop, the all-time high servant of the Purple Emperor, was primarily drawn back to southern England after 25 years in Africa by the magnetism of this butterfly. Back home, he sustained his interest, and his family, through short contracts teaching Latin (Caesar adsum jam forte Pompeius ad erat ...etc.) in strategically chosen preparatory schools - each lay close to known Emperor woods (apart from the briefest of sojourns in The Cotswolds, versus arion). Be warned, this butterfly is highly addictive, Class A in fact; I know.

As The Purple Empire is run from a distant land it is distanced from the internal politics of the UK butterfly movement. This may be one of its glories. Moreover, the website is dedicated to Heslop, one of the last of the great British butterfly collectors. Consequently, the website is aimed at everyone with an interest in this butterfly – ardent conservationists, photographers, collectors, dealers and breeders, etc. in no particular order. In theory, all these folk have far more in common than they may have out of common. There are devils in this though, which means some of us cannot be as open as we would like to be on the website.

¹ This website must contain the most accurate information on *iris* in the UK, not least because that available in butterfly books, including Thomas & Lewington (2010), is at best patchily accurate. The blog functions all year round (see Latest Sightings).

There Must Be Some Way Out of Here

The sad truth is that the seemingly cosy world of butterflying is deeply divided, with schisms over collecting, breeding-for-releasing, and even over the meaning and practice of conservation itself. This is perhaps unsurprising, for butterflies arouse strong passions. Moreover, there are people who are keenly interested in butterflies, many of them knowledgeable, who cannot (yet) be trusted – and relationships are fundamentally based on trust, which in turn is fuelled by communication. Maybe desire gets the better of some of us, and much can be blamed on the addiction to which I have already alluded. As the greatest character in English literature pleaded, 'It was the Precious made us do it!' The situation is nigh on intractable, but I have to confess that I am more than fed up with this division.

Last winter I followed over 40 hibernating Purple Emperor larvae in and around Savernake Forest, Wiltshire, as part of a massive scientific study into the insect's 10 month larval stage. This was ground-breaking work, and heart breaking too: in early February I was followed on my rounds, and five larvae were removed. The secateurs cuts were all too evident. Although worse things happen at sea and on land, I do not wish to be associated with what is essentially a hobby in which things like this happen. I have yet to begin the process of forgiveness.

Anyone looking for blame should attend one of the entomological trade fairs, including the AES Exhibition. These promote values which treat butterflies as objects of desire for self-centred possession, ruthless exploitation and financial gain. I have not attended an entomological trade fair for some time, partly in the interests of my blood pressure. Perhaps some of us should attend - with Letters of Fire and Sword. The hobby can do better, considerably; it must, or it will perish, for these will be seen as hedonistic values being promoted by hedonistic people. Society is beginning to regard the mistreatment of butterflies as critically as it does the mistreatment of birds and their eggs. Make no mistake, butterflies are becoming increasingly well valued by society.

And yet I cannot object to the principle of a few people discretely finding a small number of Purple Emperor eggs or larvae and rearing them through for specimens, or for breeding-and-releasing somewhere sensible. After all, a very high percentage of larvae are predated (I have very good data on this). Without doubt, British tits are several orders of magnitude more damaging to Purple Emperor populations than butterfly collectors, and *iris* would benefit infinitely more from us smashing tit nest boxes in his woods than from eviscerating hapless butterfly collectors. Likewise, I cannot object to people collecting aberrations, though I manage to photograph a pleasingly high percentage of the few variations that fly my way.

The Law as an Ass

The Purple Emperor is not protected by law, other than by the rather dubious trade-only restrictions of the 1981 Wildlife & Countryside Act. This means that livestock of *iris* and 20 other species can only be sold under license, which requires that it must be demonstrated that the breeding stock was obtained before a revision came into force in June 1989. This rather brings into question the legality of Purple Emperor livestock being offered for sale, especially with reference to what I saw going on in Abbots Wood Inclosure on Sunday July 11th this year. 'Oh, we hand-pair them in captivity', the dealers say – which is possible. Apparently the males need to be a few days old before they can mate, hand-pairing is best induced by cutting the male's head off, and females lay best when you cut their wings off.... Take blood pressure pills now.

The Purple Emperor is not even a Biodiversity Action Plan species, due to the absence of evidence of it having declined (rather the reverse, it may be increasing and expanding, but the butterfly does not lend itself well to scientific monitoring). UK nature conservation law is very much focussed on European Protected Species (bats, common or hazel dormouse, Large Blue, etc.) and habitats, additional species protected in the UK under the 1981 Act, various birds and important bird habitats and of course animal welfare, which covers both domestic and wild animals (primarily badgers in the case of the latter).

This leaves SSSI legislation, and bylaws. A while back I worked out that less than 50% of well-known Purple Emperor sites are SSISIs (Alice Holt Forest, for example, is not – apart from our reserve at Bentley Station Meadow). The government agency (Natural England in this case) would have to pursue prosecution, rather than the landowner, and is unlikely to want to prioritise its severely diminished resources in that manner. The landowner could, of course, pursue a prosecution, probably under the 1968 Theft Act, especially when belongings are taken for commercial gain. Bylaws (for example, of the Forestry Commission and National Trust) are a convoluted and clumsy mechanism, though a possible route. In conclusion, the only prosecution for 'butterfly collecting' I can envisage being successfully pursued would be over the taking of any life stage, but particularly adults, of the Large Blue.

So, the law in this respect is an ass, a baboon, a jackal, a common or hazel dormouse, a great-crested newt and any other foolish-looking animal you can think of. More ludicrously still, it is probable that the Purple Emperor benefits more from woodland habitat protection measures aimed at conserving the common or hazel dormouse than any other wildlife legislation, certainly on FC land. Some of us, of course, would like to see butterflies protected by animal welfare legislation. It would probably take a successful private member's bill to make any difference, and they are as rare as aberrant Purple Emperors. No, let us leave the law where it belongs, in the 'don't go there box'. And get our own house in order – which means talking to each other – which we cannot do as we are divided over collecting and breeding-and-releasing – and so round and round we spin. The truth is that the trade in livestock will remain, whether it is above or below ground is secondary. Worse, there are no real rights and wrongs here, just differing perceptions backed by strength of conviction, and a dwindling sense of ownership of the past.

Would it not be marvellous, though, if some major landowners, with a keen interest in country sports, were to open up their (non SSSI) land for sustainable butterfly collecting, perhaps under a day ticket scheme. And keep us, the riff-raff, out. So, collectors and breeders could once more walk a woodland ride during July with a net, without risk of upsetting non-collectors, and perhaps obtain a female *iris* for breeding purposes. Likewise, those of us of non-collecting disposition could then walk Forestry Commission woods in July, with a camera, without the risk of our blood pressure exploding when we encounter someone with a butterfly net.

Or we could shove the issue back under the carpet, where perhaps it belongs, and get on with the task of conserving biodiversity – whatever that means – and, 'Watch the wall my darling, while the gentlemen go by'.



Horse Chestnut leaves occupied by the Horse Chestnut Leaf-miner (David Green)

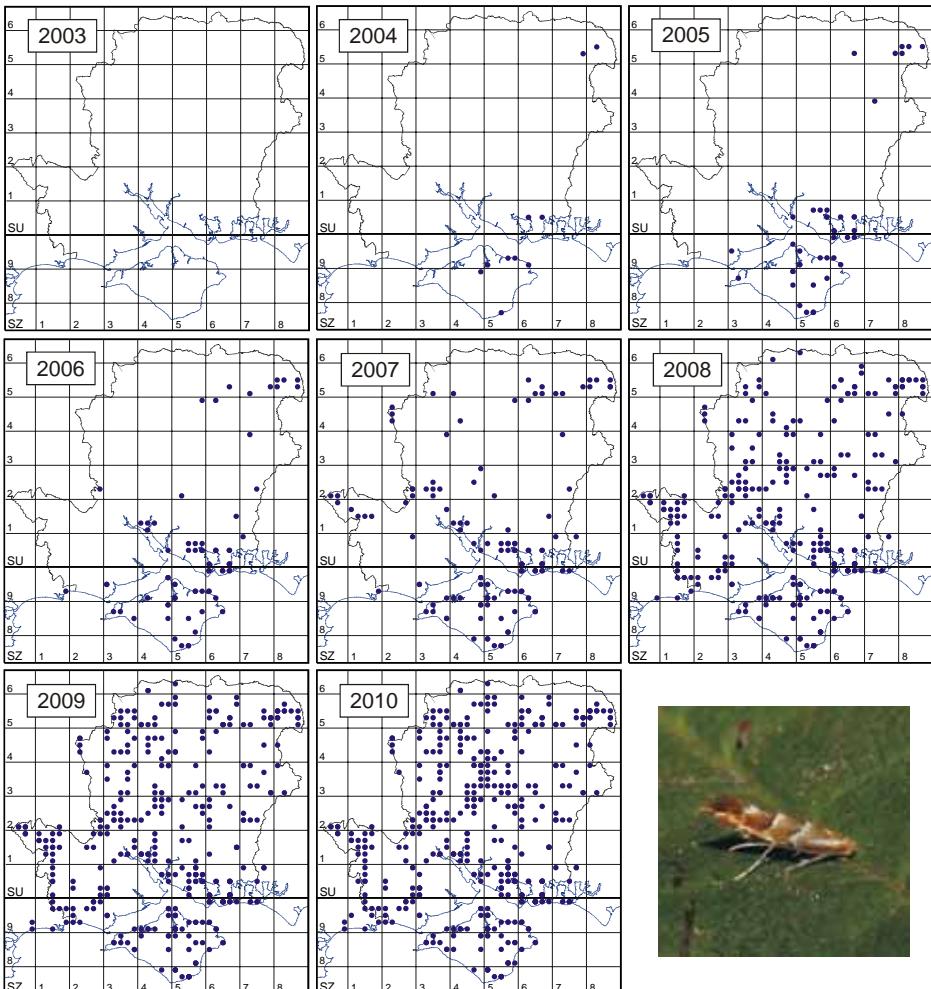
The Horse Chestnut Leaf-miner *Cameraria ohridella* Deschka & Dimic, 1986, is a tiny brown and white moth with a wingspan of just 8 mm. As such, it is unlikely to be noticed by anyone but the keenest micro-Lepidoptera enthusiasts. However, despite its tiny size, the effects upon the trees on which its larvae feed must be among the most noticeable of any organism. There can be few people in our area who have not been struck by the sight of Horse Chestnut trees entirely covered with brown and shrivelled leaves at the height of summer.

The species was first discovered in Macedonia in northern Greece during the late 1970s. Its natural range is unknown. In 1989, it appeared in Austria and has since spread throughout much of Europe. The minute caterpillars feed within the leaves of Horse Chestnut trees and occasionally other *Aesculus* species and maples. Many caterpillars may be present in each leaf and often, every leaf on the tree is inhabited. At first the caterpillars make conspicuous whitish blotches on the leaf surface. Later the entire leaf shrivels as if scorched and eventually falls from the tree.

The moth was first recorded in the UK in 2002 in the London Borough of Wimbledon but had almost certainly been present the previous year. It was first recorded in our area a mere two years later. On 27 June 2004, Rob Edmunds found the first caterpillars at Southwood in the north-east of Hampshire and later that summer at two further nearby localities. Prompted by this discovery, John Langmaid discovered the moth in South Hampshire at Portsmouth and within the next few weeks Jim Cheverton and David Biggs had found the species at no less than six localities on the Isle of Wight.

It appears that there may have been two near simultaneous colonisations; one in the north-east, almost certainly originating from the London population and another from the south, possibly from immigrant moths originating from mainland Europe.

The species spread rapidly through the two counties, with the first records from extreme western localities as early as 2006. By 2008, the moth was widespread and it is probable that every Horse Chestnut tree in our area now supports the moth. Cumulative records are mapped below, from zero tetrads in 2003 to 296 tetrads in 2010.



The spread of the Horse Chestnut Leaf-miner in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight

The species' dispersal can be human assisted, either through the garden trade or by moths hitching a ride on passing cars, lorries or on railway trains. In August 2005, Tim Norriss noticed one fly into an underground carriage on the Central Line at White City in West London and saw it alight several stations further along the line. Wind-borne dead leaves containing over-wintering pupae may also transport the species to new

localities. However, the main method of dispersal is almost certainly natural. On warm, still days in late May and from late July to September, hundreds or even thousands of adult moths swarm around the tree canopy waiting to be picked up in rising air currents which have the potential to transport the moths for very long distances.

There is little that can be done to control the moth. Damage to trees in parks, gardens and in other urban situations can be reduced by removing fallen leaves during the autumn and winter. The moth over-winters as a pupa in the fallen leaves, and commercial composting of leaves or burning destroys the pupae. Some chemical insecticides have been shown to be effective, but they are difficult to apply safely and efficiently, particularly to large trees and trees growing in urban areas. Fortunately, despite the alarming appearance of trees infested with the moth, there is no evidence that damage leads to a decline in tree health, the development of dieback, or to tree death. Trees survive repeated infestations and leaf-growth is normal in the following year. It is also possible that these extreme infestations may not persist. The moth is attacked by several polyphagous native parasitoid species (chalcidoids and ichneumonids) and at some point these may reach a balance.

This remarkable expansion of range is of course not confined to our region and by the end of 2010 the moth had reached West Cornwall, mid Wales and as far north as Cumbria and North Yorkshire. See the British Leafminers website for up-to-date national maps and for further information on the moth: -

<http://www.leafmines.co.uk/html/Lepidoptera/C.ohridella.htm>

***Musotima nitidalis* (Walker, 1866) (Lepidoptera: Crambidae
[Musotiminae])**

Mike Wall

– an adventive pyralid species new to the British Isles

On 11 August 2009, David Evans (DE) and Mike Jeffes (MJ) ran a number of moth traps and a light over a sheet on Merritown Heath NR, to the west of Bournemouth Airport. The site comprises mixed woodland - oak, ash, with aspen, birch and pine - with open areas of heathland. The weather was warm, if a bit windy, but the sites were sheltered by the areas of woodland.

Having recorded a good range of both macro and micro species, towards midnight they decided to pack up for the night and went to empty a trap on a ride near woodland. This was a home-made 'Robinson'-type trap with a 125 watt M.V. bulb. Among the 55 species of moth in the trap, including 24 species of micros, was a small pyralid which looked not unlike a "china mark" at first appearance, and which was boxed up for identification later. MJ took the moth home with him but could not find any likely candidates from the information to hand. The moth was passed eventually to Phil

Sterling (PS), Dorset Micro Recorder. Correspondence between PS and the Rev. David Agassiz (DGLA) was inconclusive and it was discussed at the BENHS Annual Exhibition on 7 October, 2009 at the Imperial College, London; despite much interest, no determination could be made and it was subsequently passed on to Martin Honey (MH) at the British Museum (Natural History).



MH informed PS that he had identified the moth as the pyralid, *Musotima nitidalis*, a native of Australia and New Zealand where the larvae feed on the undersides of the leaves of various Ferns including *Adiantum*, *Histiopteris* and *Pteridium* sp. in temperate habitats including offshore subantarctic islands, and has even been collected at some altitude near glaciers (Patrick, 1994). The moth will almost certainly have originated from plants imported into the country, but the source remains unclear. Whatever its origin, Defra have confirmed that the moth has not previously been reported in the British Isles and it is therefore new to Great Britain; indeed, no reference can be found to it occurring elsewhere outside of its native area, but given the global nature of the horticultural trade, further extralimital records cannot be ruled out.

DE is grateful to MJ for potting the moth in the first instance, and to all those involved, especially to MH for the final determination and to PS for assistance with the preparation of the original draft of this article and his efforts to achieve an identification.

References: Patrick, B., 1994. Antipodes Island Lepidoptera. *Journal of the Royal Society of New Zealand* **24**: 1, 91 – 116

Credits: Photo courtesy of Phil Sterling.

Thanks to David Evans for providing the draft of this paper (*also supplied to, and first published on, the Dorset Moth Group website, and can be viewed at www.dorsetmothgroup.org.uk/Sub%20pages/archive_news.htm*).

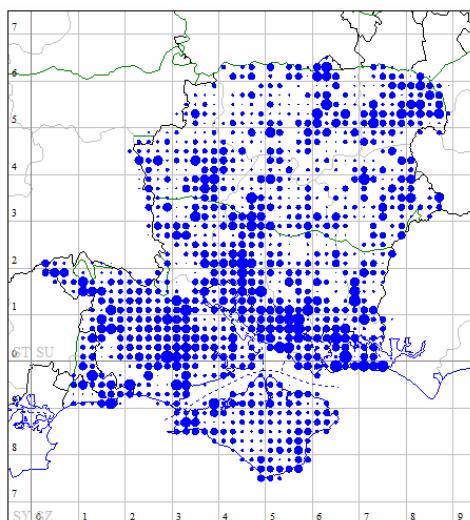
Hampshire & IoW Moth Weekend, 2nd to 4th July 2010

Mike Wall

Hampshire & IoW Moth Night was started in 2008 to celebrate moth-ing in the county. It is equivalent to National Moth Night and aims to encourage moth recording, but differs from its bigger cousin by always being held at broadly the same time of the year, towards the end of June or early July. 2010 saw the third year of running, and it was decided this time around to give the event more flexibility by operating over a whole weekend, from the Friday to the Sunday. Hampshire & IoW Moth Weekend is targeted at finding moths in under-recorded areas, be that an under-watched 10-km square, a tetrad, or even just a new site - such as a neighbour's back garden. The hope was that by doing so we would gain invaluable data, increasing our knowledge of the county's moth fauna and hopefully make interesting discoveries.

To this end, the Hantsmoths newsletter published in June highlighted areas of low recording effort: A map showing total recording effort is shown right for future reference.

In total over the weekend, 3,946 records of 546 species were received from 91 locations by 62 recorders, the majority being established garden sites. There were a number of trapping sessions organised in under-recorded sites however: 'virgin' sites were at



Orange Lane, Over Wallop on 2nd where TJN ran a joint meeting with the Wallop Valley Field Club and with GCE really entering into the spirit of the event by trapping at Ridgeway Farm, Whitchurch on 2nd and Ambley Farm, Upton, Hurstbourne Tarrant on 3rd. Other field events at poorly recorded sites included Will Liddell, TJN and LF running lights at Westover Farm, near Goodworth Clatford on 3rd, MJW venturing to AB's garden in Axmansford on 2nd, DC doing some daytime work on Brook Down, Isle of Wight on 3rd, SRM and NJM trapping in the Deadwater valley near Bordon on 2nd and 3rd, and GJD and MJW trapping Headley Gravel Pit on 3rd. While by no means under-recorded, PRD, RFC, PA et al trapping at Martin Down on 3rd always had the potential of producing something interesting.

A total of 155 new 10-km square records were made during the weekend, although of these, only 22 were of macros. The most significant contributing sites to this total were as follows:

- Axmansford (VC12) – Mike Wall/Andrew Bolton: 31 new records, including Reed Leopard *Phragmataecia castaneae*, *Calybites phasianipennella*, *Coleophora pyrrhulipennella*, *Anacampsis blattariella*, *Mompha ochraceella*, *Choristoneura hebenstreitella*, *Ptycholomoides aeriferanus*, *Olindia schumacherana*, *Celypha cespitana*, *Hedya ochroleucana* and *Pammene aurita*.
- Headley GP HIWWT NR (VC12) – Graham Dennis/Mike Wall: 20 new records, including *Parachronistis albiceps*, *Coleophora binderella*, *Exoteleia dodecella*, *Pleurota bicostella*, *Ethmia dodecea* and *Calybites phasianipennella*.
- Ridgeway Farm, Whitchurch (VC12) – Glynne Evans: 22 new records, including *Ethmia dodecea* and *Epinotia tenerana*.
- Orange Lane, Over Wallop (VC12) – Tim Norriss, Lynn Fomison & Will Liddell: 15 new records, including *Grapholita lobarezewskii*, *Mompha ochraceella* and *Ethmia dodecea*.
- Weston Colley (VC12) – Dave Green: 19 new records, including *Coleophora anatipennella*, *Ethmia dodecea*, *Gelechia senticetella*, *Aethes beatricella*, *Hedya ochroleucana*, *Strophedra weirana*, *Oxyptilus parvidactylus* and *Amblyptilia punctidactyla*.
- Hazel Grove, Ashurst (VC12) – Keith Godfrey: five new records including *Batrachedra pinicolella*, *Opostega salaciella*, *Recurvaria leucatella* and *Cosmopterix scribaiella*.

The Nationally Notable *Ethmia dodecea* features in four of the above lists, and there was a fifth new 10-km square for this increasingly widespread moth at Cove, Farnborough (PHC). In total it was seen at nine sites over the weekend.

The table below shows the rarest species recorded over the weekend, in relation to the total number of records received prior to 2010.

B&F	Taxon	Previous Records	Site (Observers)
0160	Reed Leopard <i>Phragmataecia castaneae</i>	0	Axmansford (MJW/ABo) *
1249	<i>Grapholita lobarzewskii</i>	7	Over Wallop (TJN et al) *
0370	Hornet Moth <i>Sesia apiformis</i>	12	Chilbolton (DGG)
1490	<i>Oxyptilus parvidactylus</i>	13	Weston Colley (DGG) *
1117	<i>Ancylis unguicella</i>	17	St Cross, Winchester (THW) *
0879	<i>Batrachedra pinicolella</i>	18	Ashurst (KG) *
1510	<i>Merrifieldia leucodactyla</i>	19	Martin Down NNR (RFC et al)
0650	<i>Esperia oliviella</i>	22	Ashurst (KG)
0951	<i>Aethes beatricella</i>	23	Weston Colley (DGG) *
1029	<i>Eana osseana</i>	24	Funtley (MP) *
0119	<i>Opostega salaciella</i>	24	Ashurst (KG) *
1367	<i>Pyrausta cingulata</i>	25	Brook Down, Isle of Wight (DC)
0988	<i>Aphelia viburnana</i>	26	Near Burley, New Forest (DPH) Lymington (MW)
0979	<i>Archips crataegana</i>	29	Near Wickham (RJD et al) Chilbolton (GCE)
1067	<i>Celypha cespitana</i>	30	Axmansford (MJW/ABo) *
1151	<i>Epinotia trigonella</i>	30	Axmansford (MJW/ABo)

* New 10-km square records

No prizes this year (this will be remedied in 2011!) but the 'Roll of Honour' is as follows:

- **Most significant micro:** *Grapholita lobarzewskii* at Over Wallop – the first North Hampshire records were this year: See the main report for more details on the spread of this species.
- **Most significant macro:** Hoary Footman *Eilema caniola* at Cove, Farnborough (PHC) – further evidence that this previously rare migrant now well established in Surrey is extending its range westwards into our county. Although the Reed Leopard at Axmansford was new for the area, the circumstances reduce its significance - see main moth report for details.
- **Most significant contributor to Hampshire's database:** Glynne Evans, for venturing out onto farmland at Whitchurch (in SU45) and Upton (in SU35). The level of under-recording in these squares is evidenced by species such as Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing, Rosy Footman and Marbled Minor (agg.) being amongst the species new for the 10-km square!

Note for the diaries: in 2011, Hampshire & IoW Moth Weekend this year will be held on Friday 22nd to Sunday 24th July. While 2010 was a good basis, we hope that 2011 will see even more of the black spots being visited. Please put this date in your diaries and try and get out into the field to discover new locations and new species – of course, this applies year round, too. Full details will be published in the latest edition of the Hantsmonthly newsletter, available from the Hantsmoths website in April 2011.

Branch Photographic Competition 2010

The Annual Photographic Competition was held during Members Day on Saturday 23rd November 2010. The overall winner and overseas winner appear below and the winners of the other categories can be found elsewhere in this report.



Overall winner: Black-veined White (Ashley Whitlock)



Overseas winner: Reverdin's Blue (Ken Bailey)

As usual, this report has used data from a Winchester based weather station whose website provides up to the minute data on-line at:-
<http://www.winchesterweather.org.uk/>

Reference has also been made to Philip Eden's excellent site at:-
<http://www.climate-uk.com/>

The graphs following the text represent 2010 data, averaged for each quarter month and relate to the Winchester website.

January was a very cold month, largely due to the bitter cold of the first fortnight. Most notable was the snowfall between the 5th and 6th which produced over a foot of snow in my location (Alton) and represented the heaviest I'd seen for 29 years. The severest cold was prior to this event with -8.4° Celsius recorded early on the 4th. As you might expect, there was a high prevalence of easterly winds in the month and it averaged out as the coldest January since 1987. All other weather factors were generally unremarkable

February again saw plenty of easterly winds but was much less cold than January. Snow fell on several days but didn't give any significant cover. Temperatures reached a high point on the 4th at 10.7° C during an unsettled spell. Frosts were fairly common although it never got below -4.0° C. Apart from the 16th (10.7mm), rainfall was typically light for this time of year.

March started quiet and rather cold but High Pressure moved away leaving much more disturbed and mild conditions in the latter half. The temperature contrasts balanced out into an average month. 16.9° C was reached on the 24th in the unsettled weather with heavy falls of rain on the 25th and 29th. Frosts were a feature of the first week with -7.3° C on the 7th.

April was dry and warm, especially by day. Conditions were quiet after an unsettled start leading to less than half the expected rainfall. 20° C was breached on both the 27th and 28th although there were several mainly slight frosts.

May was a very settled month and although cool by the standards of recent years, was close to average. Rainfall was again quite low with a mere 21.6mm recorded. Frosts continued for much of the month with a rather damaging -2.0° C on the morning of the 12th. Later, there were summerlike conditions as 27° C was reached on the 23rd and 24th.

June started summer off well as it was dry, warm and sunny. 28.3° C was reached on the 28th and was to be the peak for the year. Nights were still prone to be cool under the clear High Pressure dominated conditions. Rainfall was equally as low as May.

July was more unsettled with Atlantic winds predominant. The south-east was favoured in this situation and Hampshire had a fairly warm and dry month although less so than June. Overnight temperatures were much warmer in the moist airstreams and this was the main factor in keeping the averages up. No huge falls of rain but 13.4mm was managed on the 15th.

August ended summer on a rather dismal note as winds tilted to a cooler west to north-west direction for much of the time. As a result, temperatures and sunshine were below par and rainfall was well up to average. Notable was the lack of heat with a peak of

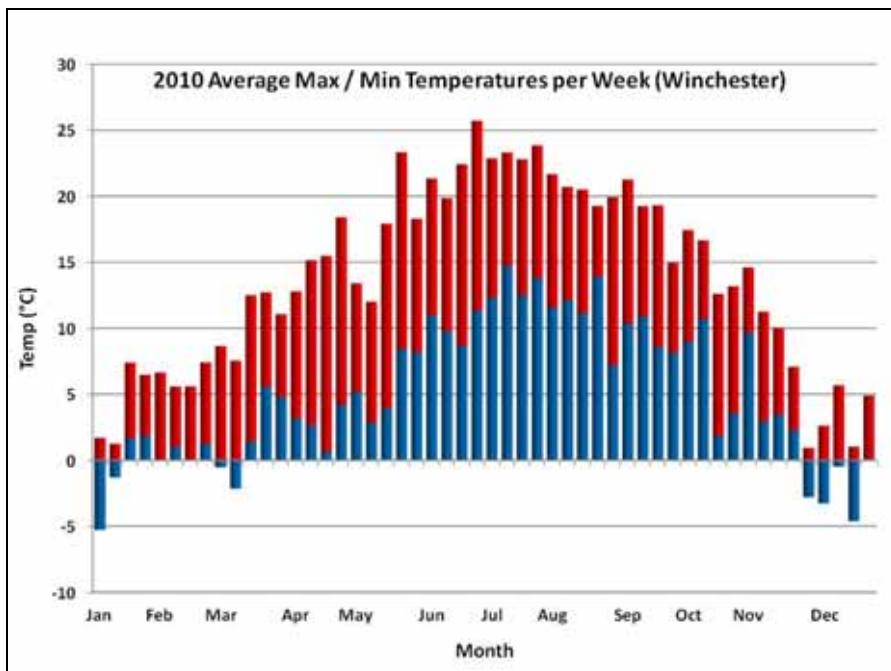
only 24.9° C on the 16th. Large amounts of cloud and moisture helped to keep nights fairly warm.

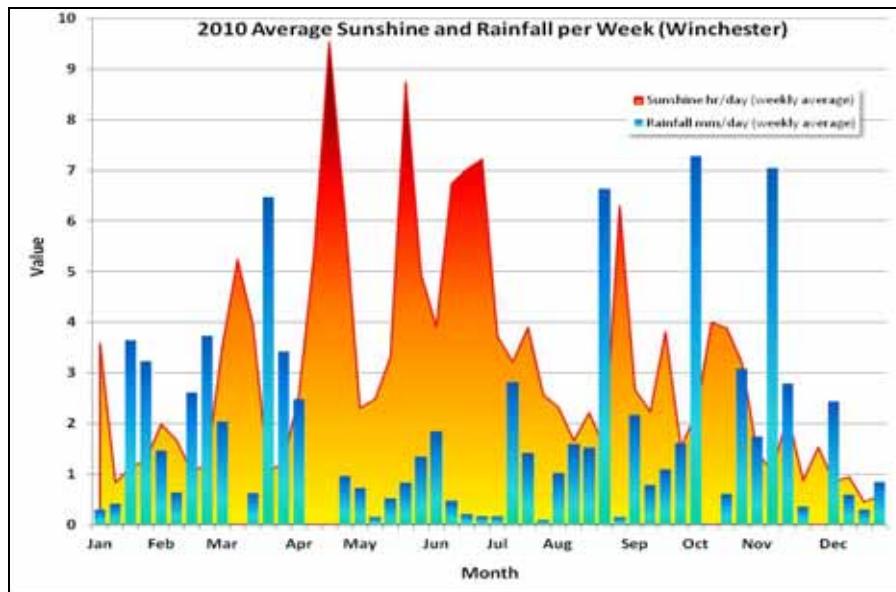
September was a very mixed month with no clear weather type. It turned out to be a little warmer and drier than average which compensated somewhat for August. 14 days managed to reach 20° C although it never got very warm. Unusually, the coldest nights were at the start of the month. Only the 6th had much rain with 11.4mm recorded.

October was unsettled both early and late in the month. There was plenty of rain, especially on the 1st when 27.2mm fell which was the wettest day of the year. Temperatures again came in just above normal. However, there was a very sharp frost on the morning of the 21st with -3.8° C, quite unusual for this early in autumn.

November started warm with 16.8° C recorded on the 4th. The benign start was soon lost as low pressure moved into the country allowing a slow but notable build-up of cold air to the north and east. Finally, the last week saw cold air flooding in from the north to start an exceptional spell of cold, both in terms of depth and longevity and being so early in the season. That final week saw temperatures barely above freezing. It was the coldest November since 1993 with rainfall close to average.

December was truly exceptional. The bitter cold of November continued largely unabated until after Christmas. Our usual mild Atlantic weather was displaced southwards towards Southern Europe and North Africa, allowing "blocked" conditions across the UK. Although Hampshire avoided much of the intense cold that other parts endured, it did plunge to -9.9° C on the morning of the 19th. There were snowfalls too, notably on the 2nd and 18th. It was the coldest December since 1890 and was particularly dry and dull.





Glossary of terms

Butterfly transect: A method of monitoring butterflies, involving walking a fixed route at a given site, once a week from the first week of April to the last week of September, counting the number of each species seen. For the purpose of comparison between other butterfly transects both locally and nationally, there are a fixed set of guidelines. These primarily relate to weather conditions and the time of day under which the transect is walked.

Annual Index graphs: Graphs accompany some of the accounts to show Annual Index trends. An Annual Index is the sum total of weekly counts for a particular butterfly species on a given transect in a particular year. The graphs show an average Annual Index for all transect monitored sites where the species is found, 1981 to 2009, and a graph featuring the Annual Index for an individual site with a trend of interest.

Flight period graphs: These graphs accompany some of the accounts to show the flight period of the species in 2010 at a particular transect monitored site. The vertical axis shows the weekly count.

Butterfly Counts: Butterfly transects do not monitor population size, but because of a consistent methodology, they allow us to monitor change from one year to the next. Other counts sent in by recorders will be a function of the area of a site covered and the amount of time spent. In a quantitative way they give an idea of important sites, but would only give an indication of population size.

Status: Regional priority is shown as listed in the *Butterfly Conservation South-central England Regional Action Plan* updated to take account of changes to the UK Biodiversity Action Plan in 2007.

Vice Counties: Vice Counties are a system devised in 1852 by the botanist H.C. Watson (1804-81) of dividing the British Isles into approximately equal areas. The boundaries that Watson selected were principally county boundaries as defined in an atlas published by the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge in 1844. These

reflected the political boundaries as they existed then. Watson tried to define areas of approximately equal size and so some of the larger counties (including Hampshire) were divided into "vice counties". The system was later extended to cover Irish vice-counties. These boundaries are fixed and do not change as do administrative county boundaries.

Vice-county 10 is the Isle of Wight. Vice County 11 covers the entire present Hampshire administrative boundary roughly south of a line between Stockbridge, Winchester and Petersfield but also includes parts of present day Dorset westwards to Bournemouth. Vice County 12 covers the northern half of Hampshire together with a part of present day Wiltshire around Tidworth and a very small part of Berkshire in the extreme north-west of the county.

Butterfly distribution maps: The distribution maps in this report were produced using *MapMate* recording and mapping software. These show the 2-km squares (tetrads) for which records were received in 2010 (dark blue circles). 2000 to 2009 records are plotted as pale blue circles. A pale blue circle does not necessarily mean that the species no longer occurs, merely that the site may not have been visited in 2010. For maps of pre-2000 records, see *Butterflies of Hampshire*.

Earliest-latest butterfly sightings chart: The earliest and latest sightings for 2010 are summarised together with the all-time earliest and latest dates held on the Branch database. Please interpret these all-time dates with caution as our records for earlier years are far from complete. We would welcome any corrections or additions so that we can improve the accuracy of this table.

2009-2010 butterfly trends table: This table was compiled by Dr Andy Barker and is based on 81 Hampshire and Isle of Wight transects with data for both 2009 and 2010.

Vernacular and scientific names of plants: Plant names follow Francis Rose, 2006, *The wild flower key*, revised and expanded edition, Warne.



Hornet Clearwing (Competition winner: UK Moths) (Mike Gibbons)

BUTTERFLY REPORT 2010

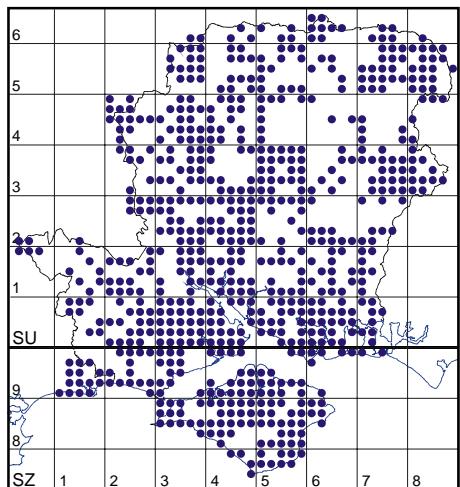


White Admiral caterpillar (David Green)

Butterfly record coverage 2010

No of 2010 records: 58812

No of tetrads in 2010: 681



Summary of earliest-latest butterfly sightings 2010

Species	Earliest on database	Earliest 2010	Latest 2010	Latest on database
Small Skipper	23 May 2007	06 Jun	07 Sep	19 Sep 1991
Essex Skipper	26 May 2007	16 Jun	18 Aug	21 Sep 1996
Silver-spotted Skipper	13 Jul 1997	24 Jul	20 Sep	11 Oct 1986
Large Skipper	28 Apr 2007	14 May	20 Sep	17 Sep 1993
Dingy Skipper	12 Apr 1990	22 Apr	03 Sep	03 Sep 2008
Grizzled Skipper	02 Apr 2009	08 Apr	11 Jul	07 Sep 2004
Clouded Yellow	08 Feb 2005	21 Apr	27 Oct	30 Dec 2007
Brimstone	01 Jan 2001	17 Jan	22 Nov	29 Dec 1999
Large White	02 Feb 2007	06 Apr	24 Oct	22 Nov 2007
Small White	08 Feb 2007	21 Jan	08 Nov	08 Dec 2007
Green-veined White	03 Mar 1989	06 Apr	08 Oct	28 Oct 1999
Orange-tip	10 Mar 1990	06 Apr	22 Jul	28 Aug 1991
Green Hairstreak	01 Apr 1997	06 Apr	10 Jul	30 Jul 2007
Brown Hairstreak	24 Jul 1992	01 Aug	18 Sep	16 Oct 1986
White-letter Hairstreak	01 Jun 2007	21 Jun	18 Aug	21 Sep 1977
Purple Hairstreak	07 Jun 2009	31 May	03 Sep	27 Aug 2001
Small Copper	05 Mar 2009	17 Apr	10 Nov	27 Nov 2003
Small Blue	15 Apr 2007	12 May	12 Sep	21 Sep 1991
Silver-studded Blue	25 May 2009	30 May	13 Aug	30 Oct 1921
Brown Argus	08 Apr 2002	22 Apr	14 Oct	31 Oct 2005
Common Blue	16 Apr 2002	17 Apr	30 Oct	12 Nov 1990
Chalkhill Blue	17 Jun 1990	25 Jun	25 Oct	18 Oct 2008
Adonis Blue	29 Apr 2007	11 May	06 Oct	10 Oct 2002
Holly Blue	09 Feb 2008	09 Apr	03 Nov	06 Dec 2006
Duke of Burgundy	10 Apr 1997	09 Apr	13 Jun	13 Aug 2007
White Admiral	late May 1893	20 Jun	30 Aug	04 Oct 2003
Purple Emperor	20 Jun 2007	22 Jun	15 Aug	20 Aug 1991
Red Admiral	1 Jan*	15 Jan	23 Nov	31 Dec*
Painted Lady	06 Jan 1999	05 Mar	01 Nov	31 Dec 1987
Small Tortoiseshell	05 Jan 1999	01 Mar	03 Nov	20 Dec 2002
Peacock	1 Jan*	01 Mar	08 Nov	31 Dec*
Comma	09 Jan 1998	01 Mar	17 Oct	01 Dec 2003
Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary	03 May 2007	21 May	09 Aug	31 Aug 1991
Pearl-bordered Fritillary	17 Apr 2003	27 Apr	12 Jun	09 Jul 1950
Dark Green Fritillary	29 May 2007	28 May	29 Aug	01 Sep 2007
Silver-washed Fritillary	late May 1893	06 Jun	20 Sep	14 Sep 2008
Marsh Fritillary	22 Apr 2007	21 May	05 Jun	11 Jul 2006
Glanville Fritillary	08 Apr 2007	01 May	09 Jul	03 Jul 2006
Speckled Wood	09 Mar 1992	04 Apr	06 Nov	25 Nov 2007
Wall Brown	05 Apr 2000	11 May	30 Oct	06 Nov 2003
Marbled White	31 May 1990	13 Jun	01 Sep	25 Sep 2003
Grayling	03 Jun 1992	25 Jun	17 Sep	08 Oct 86
Gatekeeper	02 Jun 1992	20 Jun	14 Oct	19 Oct 1995
Meadow Brown	14 May 1995	17 May	07 Nov	06 Nov 2007
Small Heath	08 Apr 1997	01 May	17 Oct	25 Oct 2009
Ringlet	31 May 1990	16 Jun	12 Sep	29 Aug 2006

* Recorded on this date in several years

Species	>20% Decrease 2009	-20% to +20% No change	>20% Increase 2009	0/10 1+/09 LOST	1+/10 0 /09 NEW
Small/Essex Skipper	13	16	27	4	5
Silver-spotted Skipper	3	1	1	5	5
Large Skipper	7	8	41	-	2
Dingy Skipper	-	5	12	1	3
Grizzled Skipper	3	3	12	1	7
Clouded Yellow	-	2	14	21	-
Brimstone	4	22	26	-	1
Large White	-	6	48	-	-
Small White	1	9	45	-	-
Green-veined White	3	9	40	-	2
Orange-tip	6	19	29	2	5
Green Hairstreak	5	11	7	1	8
Brown Hairstreak	-	1	-	-	-
White-letter Hairstreak	-	-	2	1	1
Purple Hairstreak	3	6	6	3	3
Small Copper	2	9	34	8	2
Small Blue	2	4	3	1	4
Silver-studded Blue	-	2	2	-	2
Brown Argus	2	4	20	2	3
Common Blue	2	10	38	-	3
Chalkhill Blue	3	5	11	1	1
Adonis Blue	3	4	5	1	1
Holly Blue	32	8	2	1	21
Duke of Burgundy	-	3	-	1	-
Purple Emperor	1	1	1	1	2
White Admiral	7	2	7	3	8
Red Admiral	29	16	7	4	5
Painted Lady	-	-	60	46	-
Small Tortoiseshell	1	5	29	4	8
Peacock	5	6	34	3	2
Comma	6	12	28	3	2
Pearl-bordered Fritillary	1	-	1	-	3
Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary	1	1	1	-	-
Dark Green Fritillary	4	5	2	1	5
Silver-washed Fritillary	4	6	21	5	11
Marsh Fritillary	-	1	-	1	2
Glanville Fritillary	-	-	2	-	-
Speckled Wood	2	14	38	1	-
Wall Brown	3	1	2	1	2
Marbled White	9	13	31	5	2
Grayling	-	2	2	1	1
Gatekeeper	11	22	34	-	-
Meadow Brown	23	23	20	-	-
Small Heath	9	6	15	4	9
Ringlet	9	11	35	5	3

Status: BC Low Priority

No of 2010 records: 1696

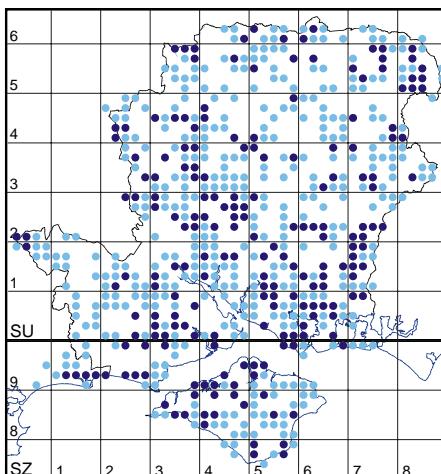
No of 2010 individuals: 8317

No of tetrads in 2010: 202

No of post 2000 tetrads: 612

Earliest: 6 June 2010
Cranmore, IoW (CF)

Latest: 7 September 2010
Hocombe Mead (AC)



This year's first sighting of the Small Skipper was a few days later than in 2009. The first double figure count did not occur until over a fortnight later when 10 were seen at Farley Mount on 22 June (RaCo). All of the counts of over 50 occurred in July, the first being of 84 seen at Testwood Park on 1 July (SKi). In all, some 25 counts of over 50 were made, five being of 100 or more. This compares with just 26 counts of 30 or more made in 2009.

The five century counts were all on the mainland, the highest of all being the 140 Small Skippers counted at Botley Wood on 8 July (RKL & TJV). 113 were seen at Pamber Forest on 9 July (GJD), 100 at Old Winchester Hill on 11 July (AW) and at Hawkshill Inclosure in the New Forest on 12 July (AW), with the last being the 121 seen at Botley Wood on 18 July (RKL & TJV). The highest count on the Isle of Wight was 60 seen at Ningwood Common on 9 July (CF).

Although the highest count in 2010 was lower than the 185 seen in 2009, the results from the transects revealed that overall the numbers of the Small Skipper were only slightly down on last year. Thus, although 24 out of the 63 transects reported a decrease in numbers of 20% or more, 23 recorded a similar sized increase.

After reaching a peak in early to mid-July, numbers then fell off rapidly, with only three counts into double figures in August. The last of these was of 11 seen at Botley Wood on 8 August (RKL & TJV). Very few sightings were made after the middle of August and the penultimate sighting of the year was over a fortnight before the final sighting. The timing and duration of the flight season were very similar to those in 2009.

Status: BC Low Priority

No of 2010 records: 187

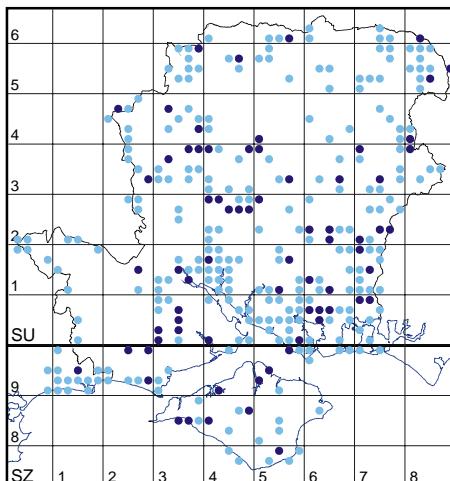
No of 2010 individuals: 671

No of tetrads in 2010: 72

No of post 2000 tetrads: 322

Earliest: 16 June 2010
The Dongas (MAI)

Latest: 18 August 2010
Old Winchester Hill (BPF)



The abundance of this golden skipper varies considerably from site to site and from year to year, making it difficult to comment on an overall trend in population. Last year its absence from Alice Holt Forest was commented on, but this year a total of more than a dozen were seen during the first half of July by no fewer than three observers (MRO, RSy, AW). In contrast, the species seems to have vanished from Pamber Forest and Silchester Common (GJD). At Rotherlands it had a "fairly average year with a peak count of 17 on 9 July" (MSh).

On the Isle of Wight ones and twos were counted as usual. The species was seen at Afton Down (SAK-J), Carisbrooke Castle, Freshwater Bay, Mottistone Down, Osborne and Whippingham (all MHa) and at Little Span Farm near Wroxall (RWi), which brings the total sites where the Essex Skipper has been seen on the Island to 22.

After a fairly slow start, the species became quite numerous during July when nine counts of 20 or more were made (compared to eight in 2009). The highest count of the season was 57 at Pilot Hill on 10 July (MG), which was not too different from the highest count of 65 in 2009, also at Pilot Hill. Numbers remained reasonably high at favoured sites until the end of the month, there being few counts in double figures during August. The flight season came to an end in mid-August, giving a season that was a little earlier and about a week shorter than in 2009.

Fortunately some transect recorders separate their records of Essex and Small Skippers, their data giving a valuable insight into the relative abundance of the two species during the flight season. On the Pilot Hill transect the numbers of Essex:Small Skippers were: 7:30 on 26 June, 34:28 on 3 July, 57:57 on 10 July, 23:34 on 19 July, 23:18 on 25 July, 12:12 on 2 August, 5:0 on 9 August and 1:0 on 16 August (all data MG). In contrast to Pilot Hill there many other sites where Essex Skippers are greatly outnumbered by Small Skippers. For example the Essex:Small ratios being 12:100+ at Old Winchester Hill on 11 July (AW) and 5:41 at Millfield on 1 July (ROw).

It will be interesting to see what effect, if any, the severe winter weather has on the fortunes of the Essex Skipper, which has only been a Hampshire butterfly for about 30 years.

Status: BC High Priority

No of 2010 records: 84

No of 2010 individuals: 425

No of tetrads in 2010: 12

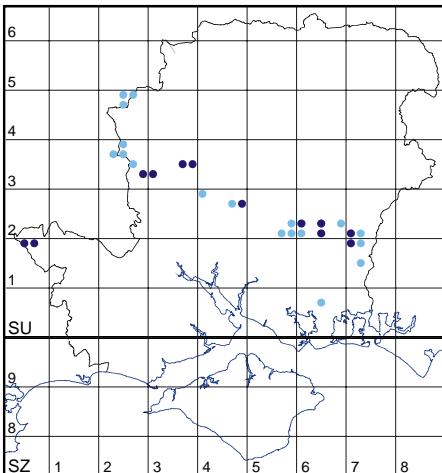
No of post 2000 tetrads: 30

Earliest: 24 July 2010

Broughton Down (GCE)
Stockbridge Down (PDB)

Latest: 20 September 2010

Broughton Down (GCE)



Silver-spotted Skipper at Stockbridge Down on 3 August 2010 (Tim Bernhard)

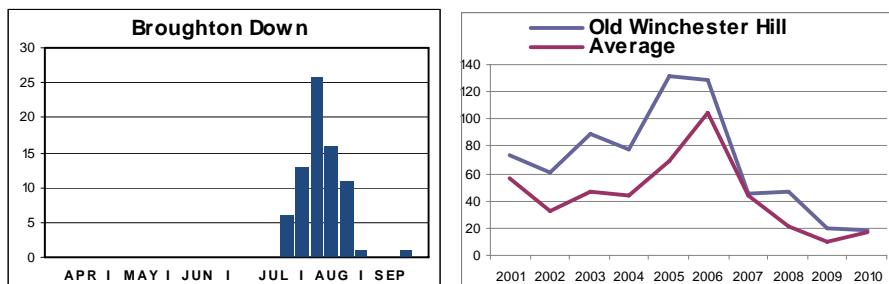
Although August 2010 was unsettled, the four months leading up to this were exceptionally dry, and for the most part warm and sunny. This slowed grass growth, and by maintaining short turf, seems to have contributed to an upturn in fortunes for this species. Three out of six transect sites showed Annual Index increases of more than 20% relative to 2009, two showed little or no change, and only, St. Catherine's Hill, showed a decrease. With an Annual Index of 74, Broughton Down once again retains top spot as the site with the strongest population. Having recorded zero on transect in

2009, Beacon Hill NNR, and The Mountain showed some recovery in 2010, with annual indices of eight and three respectively.

The season began in west Hampshire on 24 July with three at Stockbridge Down (PDB), and six at Broughton Down (GCE). Other sites recording the species were Beacon Hill NNR, Old Winchester Hill, St. Catherine's Hill, The Mountain, Butser Hill, and Oxenbourne Down. Apart from a late and impressive tally of 70 on 1 September at Old Winchester Hill (AW), and an early high count of 30 on 29 July at Broughton Down (MSw), for most sites peak season was in early to mid-August. Counts of note include 40 on 16 August at St. Catherine's Hill (MSw), 24 on 8 August at Martin Down (D&MNe), and 26 on 8 August at Broughton Down (GCE).

The season was all but over by 4 September, and although a few late individuals were seen at Old Winchester Hill and Broughton Down, the last sighting of the year was one on 20 September at Broughton Down (GCE).

On 15 August at Broughton Down, Wild Basil was observed as an important nectar source (A&LB), but other than this there were no behavioural observations sent in, and no reports of egg-laying.



Large Skipper *Ochlodes faunus*

Rupert Broadway

Status: BC Low Priority

Earliest: **14 May 2010**

Binswood (SRM)

No of 2010 records: 1786

Latest: **20 September 2010**

Testwood North (LSt)

No of 2010 individuals: 7032

No of tetrads in 2010: 262

No of post 2000 tetrads: 594

The Large Skipper enjoyed something of a boom year in 2010, following a successful season in 2009. It achieved 10-year transect highs of 505 at Whippingham Fields and of 77 at Noar Hill. The Annual Index of 184 at Botley Wood was the best since 2003 and Pamber Forest yielded an annual count of 259, the best since 2002. Increases of more than 20% over 2009 in the Annual Index were recorded at 38 monitored sites with 17 recording totals lower than 20% and 11 showing no significant change.

Observers were almost unanimously positive with AW recording good numbers at several sites of various habitat types, RSB noting the best season on record around Winchester and ABo commenting on an excellent year, with numbers more than double those of 2009. Against this general trend, DAB reported that it didn't do very well at Brading and AW noted that it was poor at Alice Holt Forest.

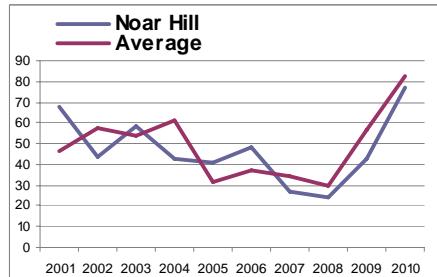
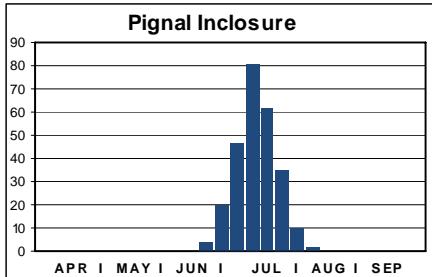


Large Skippers (Paul Brock)

The first mainland Large Skipper was recorded by SRM at Binswood on 14 May and on the Isle of Wight by MHa at Compton Chine on 24 May. The New Forest in July was the place to go to see the most impressive numbers with JRu recording 81 and 140 at Brockishill Inclosure on 10 July and 16 July respectively and AW reporting 100 from Hawkshill Inclosure on 12 July. Weekly counts built rapidly at Pignal Inclosure to peak at 80 in the third week in July, followed by a steady decline in the next four weeks. Elsewhere CRH reported counts of 51 from Eelmoor and Eelmoor Marsh on 5 July and MJG recorded 60 at Bentley Wood on 26 June.

On the Isle of Wight a peak count of 90 was achieved at Whippingham Fields on 12 June (JR).

The season finished early on the Isle of Wight with the last recorded at Hale Common on 8 August by DLHM and in Hampshire by LSt at Testwood North on 20 September.



Status: BC High Priority	Earliest: 22 April 2010 Noar Hill (ACM, MLan) Beacon Hill, Warnford (ACM, MLan, NFr)
No of 2010 records: 435	
No of 2010 individuals: 1996	
No of tetrads in 2010: 85	
No of post 2000 tetrads: 162	Latest: 3 September 2010 Whippingham Fields (JR)

Unusually the first sightings of Dingy Skipper in 2010 were on the mainland. ACM & MLan reported singles on Beacon Hill, Warnford and on Noar Hill and on the same day NFr also saw one on Noar Hill. The first report from the Isle of Wight was on 23 April at Mottistone Down (RLa).

May was a settled month with low rainfall and Dingy Skipper had a reasonably good year with seven of 19 transect sites showing an increase of more than 20% and only two a similar decrease. The data shows that at Noar Hill the Annual Index was up from 50 in 2009 to 58, while at The Mountain it was down from 44 to 37. RKL again reported a "disappointing year" at Botley Wood with the best a 'timed count' of 14 on 24 May (RKL/TJV).

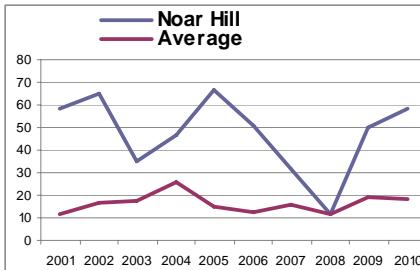
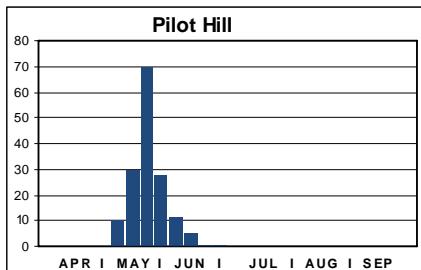
As in 2009, Old Burghclere Quarry and Pilot Hill had very good numbers with ABo & MG counting 63 on 19 May at the former and MG 70 on Pilot Hill transect on 24 May. On 23 May there was a gathering of recorders at Porton Down, mainly to count Duke of Burgundy, and here a total of 130 Dingy Skippers was recorded (DGG et al.).

Also on 23 May there was a field trip to Butser Hill and AW reported that 22 Dingy Skippers were seen and MSh saw 13 there on 25 May "compared to my previous record of three". Also on the chalk, RSY saw 40 on Chalton Down on 10 May and BP 15 on 21 May on Old Winchester Hill and 11 on 22 May on nearby Beacon Hill. Dingy Skipper was recorded on the Yew Hill transect for the first time since 1993 with an Annual Index of three (BPF) and on Noar Hill AMJ recorded 19 on 25 May and RSY saw 23 on 23 May. AW reported 30 from Martin Down on 22 May and ACM counted 37 there at Bokerley Dyke on 24 May.

On heathland in the north of Hampshire, ACG reported eight at Bramshott Common on 5 June and at Eelmoor there was an increase in number and spread with a total of 17 on 25 May "the best number for six years" (CRH).

On the Isle of Wight, MHa reported 65 at The Needles on 2 June, IP 32 at Bonchurch on 30 May, A&LB 16 at Freshwater on 5 June and RLa 12 at Mottistone Down on 21 May.

The last of the first brood on the mainland was seen on 25 June (MG). There was a second brood on Isle of Wight with JR seeing at least one on transect at Whippingham Fields most weeks in August until 3 September, DAB seeing them at Brading until 16 August and TJN/LF seeing one at St. Catherine's point on 29 August. On the mainland, TWil reported three Dingy Skippers on Suddern Hill, Porton, on 29 July, which was the only indication of second brood here.



Grizzled Skipper *Pyrgus malvae*

Status: BC High Priority

No of 2010 records: 384

No of 2010 individuals: 1202

No of tetrads in 2010: 63

No of post 2000 tetrads: 142

Earliest: 8 April 2010

Afton Down, IoW (SAK-J)

Latest: 11 July 2010

High Down, IoW (PHun)

The upward trend of Grizzled Skipper continued in 2010. With a warm, dry April and May, only one of the 19 monitored transect sites showed a decrease of more than 20% while 10 had an increase of more than 20%, and the butterfly was reported from seven more sites than in 2009. On Stockbridge Down the Annual Index was the highest since 1996 while on Magdalen Hill Down Original the Annual Index of 51 was the best ever. Two were seen on the Extension transect (PB) on 7 May and the first one ever on the North transect on 29 May (RB).

As with Dingy Skipper there were good counts on the field trip on Butser on 23 May when AW reported 31 Grizzled Skipper, and the gathering of recorders at Porton Down that same day recorded 129 (DGG et al).

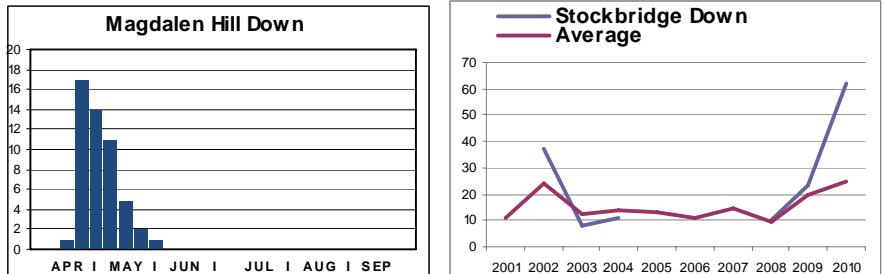
On the Isle of Wight, the best total was 20 at Ningwood Common on 23 May (MH). PB and IP saw seven in Parkhurst Forest on 23 May and on 30 May IP saw five on Shalcombe Down and TJN & LF five on Brook Down. Again there were no reports from the south-east of the Island.

At Martin Down there were good numbers, the best being 17 on 10 May (RLI). CKe counted 10 on Dean Hill on 25 May, L&GR had double figures on transect on Danebury Hill on three weeks in May and John Solomon 20 there on 24 May. On Chalton Down Rsy saw 29 on 28 April. Disappointingly AW visited The Mountain 'many times' but saw only two on 10 May.

Away from the chalk, RKL reported an encouraging year at Botley Wood with a transect Index of 46 "the best since 2004" and a timed count of 28 on 5 June (RKL/TJV). At Rushmoor CRH reported a best count of 11 on 25 May and the first records for the west of the site with singles on 25 May and 2 June.

M&MG recorded eight at the Bedenham MOD site on 25 May, and at Bramshott AG saw one on 12 May, three on 20 May and six on 4 June.

Again, it is good to know that this difficult to see little butterfly is increasing in range and, in most places, in numbers as well.



Clouded Yellow *Colias croceus*

Status: BC Low Priority

No of 2010 records: 41

No of 2010 individuals: 73

No of tetrads in 2010: 17

No of post 2000 tetrads: 390

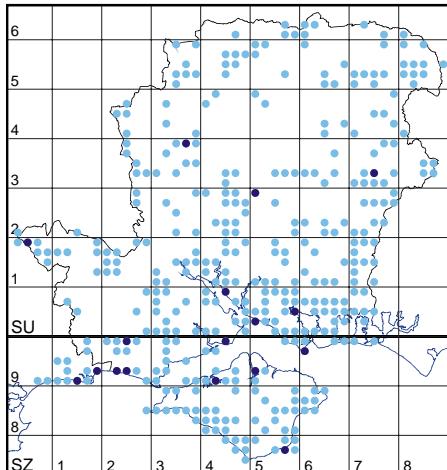
Earliest: 21 April 2010

Wheeler's Bay, IoW (RWi)

Latest: 27 October 2010

Fort Gilkicker (DJAT)

Mike Gibbons



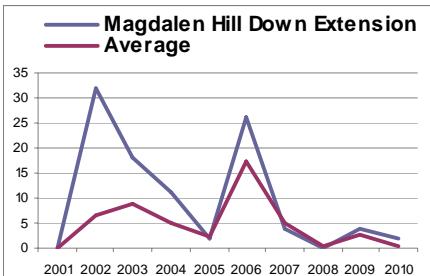
Although 2010 was a dreadful year for the Clouded Yellow even compared to 2008, it still made its traditional late autumn appearance against all odds. Only a few observers managed to see this migrant, with the majority unable to find any at all. Typical comments received ranged from "drew a blank for only the third time in the last ten years" (RSB) and "not seen anywhere in 2010" (CRH).

The first three were recorded at Wheelers Bay, IoW, on 21 April (RWi) with two seen at Bonchurch on 24 April (MHa). One was seen on 29 June at Magdalen Hill Down (WAS) then one on 3 July at Steamer Point LNR (GP) and two at Magdalen Hill Down Extension on 9 July (TSm). The remaining part of high summer provided just a single at Noar Hill on 1 August (CLB).

It was not until 1 September when seven were recorded at Martin Down (JRu) and one other at Longstock Garden on 5 September (AHB); these were the final inland records. After this somewhat meagre showing, a coastal arrival from 21 September was a pleasant surprise. Individuals appeared along the coast from Gosport to Southbourne, including Wight. On a cool 11 October MJS was surprised to see six or seven on the Southbourne/Boscombe cliffs after a five month gap, he had seen none on the previous two warm days and wondered "where on earth have they come from". The maximum number seen elsewhere was four at Fort Gilkicker on 12 October including one *helice* (DJAT).

An interesting observation was that the majority of those seen in the autumn were males although MJG did see two females with two males at Southbourne Undercliff on 16 October. Possibly this indicates that more males tend to migrate further north than females at this time of year.

The final observation was made at Fort Gilkicker on 27 October (DJAT) after which temperatures dropped curtailing any later appearances.



Brimstone *Gonepteryx rhamni*

Brian Fletcher

Status: BC Low Priority

No of 2010 records: 3229

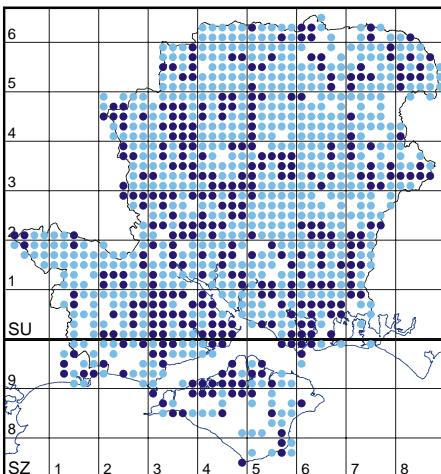
No of 2010 individuals: 7411

No of tetrads in 2010: 348

No of post 2000 tetrads: 1018

Earliest: 17 January 2010
Alresford (DAS)

Latest: 22 November 2010
Browndown North (DJAT)



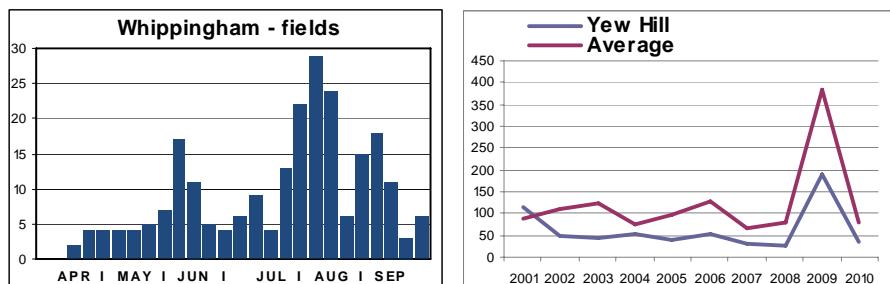
Though the first Brimstone of the year was seen a month earlier than in 2009, this did not herald an early emergence of the species across the two counties. Just one Brimstone was seen in February before a more general emergence from hibernation in March. Three observers saw the species on 1 March, and another five saw them on 2 March. Many more observers saw this butterfly on 14 March, the date on which the species was first seen on the Isle of Wight by CF. The first double figure counts were reported on 24 March with more on 6 April when 25 observers saw the species.

As usual, the numbers of butterflies varied from place to place and comments ranged from "poor at Brading" (DAB) and "it had a poor year in the Petersfield area" (MSh) to "overall it had a good year" (RSB). The results from the transects show a decrease in numbers of 20% or more from 24 out of 58 sites covered, with an increase of the same size on 14 transects. When the numbers from all the transects are taken together, 2010 was revealed to be an average year similar to the period 2004 – 2007 and only slightly

down on 2009. Individual observers reported 23 counts of 20 or more for the spring brood, one of which was in March, 10 in April, 8 in May and 1 in June. There were 27 such counts in 2009. The highest count of the spring brood was 41 at Lord's Wood East on 24 March (GMA), the highest spring count for 2009 being 60.

Numbers decreased from late-May and through June and remained low until mid-July when the summer brood started emerging in good numbers. The first double figure count of this brood was 14 seen at Botley Wood (South) on 18 July (ACM) with the largest of the counts occurring the next day when 46 were seen at Danebury Hill Fort (G&LR). This was the first of 14 counts of 20+ (compared to 19 in 2009) and one of only three counts of 40+ in the summer of 2010. The last of the big counts was 40 seen at Old Winchester Hill NNR on 1 September (AW).

Thereafter, Brimstones were seen mainly in ones and twos, as most had disappeared into hibernation, sightings becoming much less frequent after the middle of October. There were a few sightings in late October and just five in November. The last sighting on the Isle of Wight was at Afton Down on 16 November (SAK-J), following the trend of recent years for this species to have a shorter flight season on the Island than on the mainland.



Large White *Pieris brassicae*

Brian Fletcher

Status: BC Low Priority

Earliest: **6 April 2010**

Testwood Lakes (KBu)

No of 2010 records: 2610

Latest: **24 October 2010**

No of 2010 individuals: 6181

Southbourne Undercliff (MJG)

No of tetrads in 2010: 317

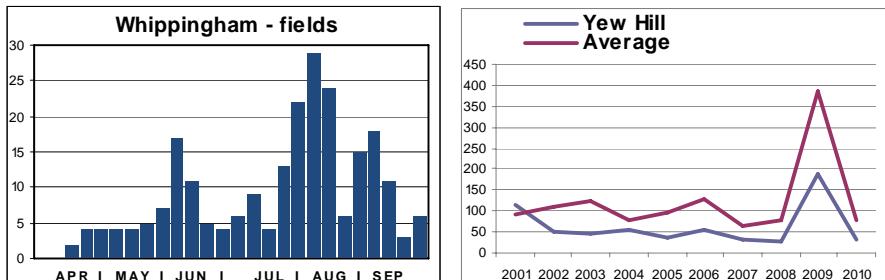
No of post 2000 tetrads: 1031

To the relief of many gardeners, the numbers of Large Whites fell back to the average for the period 2002 – 2008 after their abundance in 2009. As is usual for this species, the numbers flying in the second brood were considerably higher than those of the first brood. In general observers comments were in agreement with the trends shown in the transect counts, but it seemed that numbers in the east and north of the county were lower than those in the south and west. Thus at Ashford Hill "numbers collapsed to the lowest ever" (ABo) and in the Greyshott area "it was a poor year for them" (ACG). At Botley Wood "numbers were back to a typical level" (RKL) and in the Winchester area "numbers were well down on the exceptional 2009 numbers but they still had a good year overall" (RSB). The three highest counts all came from the south and south-west.

Though the first official sighting was a month later than in 2009, one very early sighting was made of a recently deceased specimen amongst the snow and ice at Weston Colley on 13 January (DGG)! During April all bar five of the 32 sightings were singletons, the largest count being the five seen at Wildgrounds, Gosport on 25 April (FRP). The largest May counts were of 10 at St Ann's Cemetery, Gosport on 1 May (DJAT) and 24 on the Hayling Billy Trail on 24 May (RSy). The largest count of the spring brood was of 30 seen at Whippingham on 2 June (MHa). Throughout the rest of the month numbers remained low, with only three counts into double figures.

The summer brood started emerging in modest numbers early in July, with numbers building up as the month progressed. The first of six counts of 50 or more was the 81 seen at Danebury Ring on 19 July (G&LR), this being the second highest count of the year. All of the other 50+ counts occurred in August, the largest of all being 200+ seen on Southbourne Undercliff on 30 August, possibly as a result of immigrants coming in off the sea (MJG). 60 Large Whites were seen on Arreton Down on 1 August (MHa), this being the highest count recorded on the Isle of Wight and the third largest of the year in the two counties.

In September numbers were very much lower, and of the 80 or so sightings made, only one was in double figures. There were just 13 reports of Large Whites in October, the largest of these being the 10 seen at Southbourne Undercliff on 20 October (MJG), just four days before the last sighting of the season.



Small White *Pieris rapae*

Status: BC Low Priority

No of 2010 records: 3905

No of 2010 individuals: 11817

No of tetrads in 2010: 355

No of post 2000 tetrads: 955

Earliest: 21 January 2010

Rowner, Gosport (D&CB)

Latest: 8 November 2010

Harestock (BPF)

Peter Eeles

After a very successful 2009, numbers returned to normal for this species in 2010. The records received demonstrate a season of mixed fortunes, with some sites faring better than average and others doing less well. For example, transect data for Magdalen Hill Down showed an increase in the Annual Index from 168 in 2009 to 231 in 2010, whereas Barley Heath showed a decrease from 214 to 69. However, when one looks at the historical data for such sites then, on balance, 2010 is seen as an average year for one of our commonest butterflies.

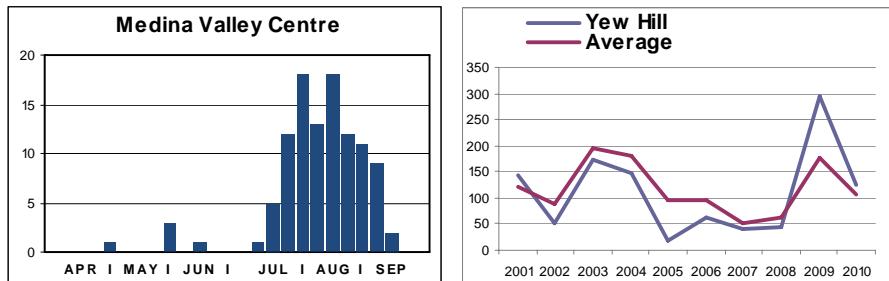
The first brood emergence was typically understated, with sightings rarely getting into double figures at any site. As expected, the earliest sightings came from the south of

our region, especially towards the Hampshire coast and on the Isle of Wight. The highest spring count on the Gosport coast was 36 on 19th May 2010 (DJAT).

The second brood emergence was much stronger, with numbers picking up from late July and throughout August, before tailing off into September. Sightings of over 100 individuals were seen at Itchen Valley Country Park in both late July and early August (AF) along with many other sightings that reached double figures. Highest numbers on the Gosport coast were 133 on 24 July, 156 on 16 August, 138 on 28 August and 113 on 18 September (DJAT).

DJAT recorded his sightings at Gosport for each month for 2010, and these are shown below together with his records for the last three years.

	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	Total
2007	19	497	299	284	672	555	718	212	20	3276
2008	2	115	403	61	663	403	1432	117	0	3196
2009	24	362	231	134	375	6645	1147	188	0	9106
2010	1	127	276	148	468	963	607	163	1	2754



Green-veined White *Pieris napi*

Status: BC Low Priority

No of 2010 records: 2149

No of 2010 individuals: 4769

No of tetrads in 2010: 279

No of post 2000 tetrads: 888

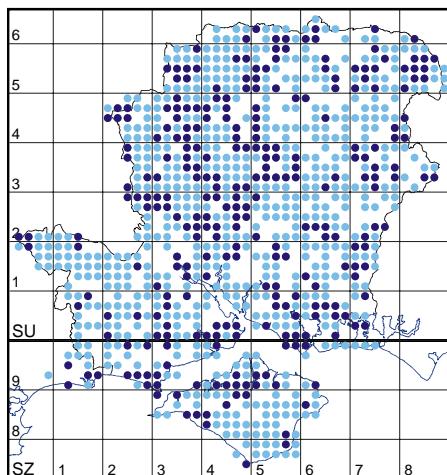
Earliest: 6 April 2010

Alice Holt (LF)

Latest: 8 October 2010

Weston Colley (DGG)

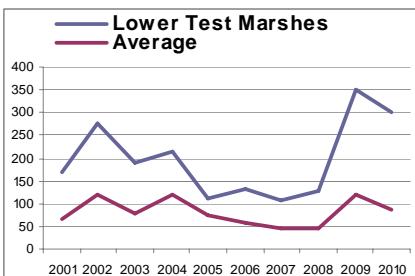
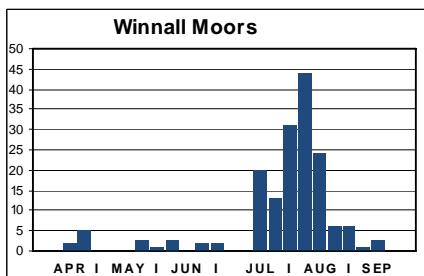
Peter Eeles



Like its close relative, the Small White, this species had mixed fortunes in 2010 with some sites reporting better than average numbers and others reporting a decline in numbers. Many reports made comparison with the exceptional numbers seen in 2009, giving the impression that this species had not fared well. This impression is reinforced by the Annual Indices from our transects at Ampfield Wood, Lower Test, Pamber Forest and Bentley Station Meadow, which all showed a decline over the previous year.

However, when a comparison with historical data is made, we can see that, on balance, numbers in 2010 were slightly above average for this species. Lower Test recorded its second highest Annual Index ever of 299 (the Index was 351 in 2009) and Pamber Forest recorded its third highest Annual Index ever of 262 (the Index was 351 in 2009 and 356 in 2004).

The earliest sightings, coming predominantly from the south of our region, included several in double digits, although the vast majority were of ones and twos. The second brood, peaking from mid-July to mid-August, gave much better numbers, with many sightings in double figures from throughout the two counties.



Orange-tip *Anthocharis cardamines*

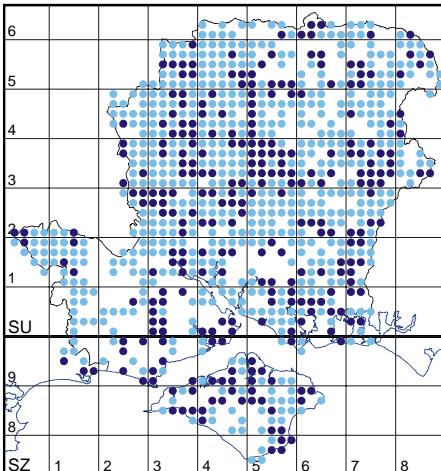
Status: BC Low Priority

No of 2010 records: 1205
No of 2010 individuals: 2748
No of tetrads in 2010: 285
No of post 2000 tetrads: 865

Earliest: 6 April 2010
 Winnal (JWo)
 Petersfield (MSH)

Latest: 22 July 2010
 Hale Common, IoW
 (DLHM)

Bob Whitmarsh



Orange Tips were seen throughout Hampshire and the Isle of Wight in 2010. They were observed in 285 tetrads. 878 individuals were seen on 79 transects and 1870 were seen elsewhere. The Annual Index was higher than for the previous four years

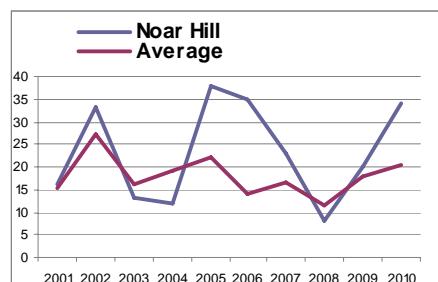
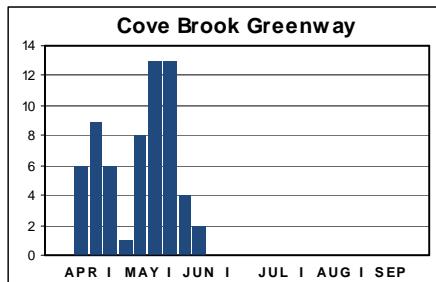
and close to the average for the last 15 years. Many observers refer to an 'average' year or season for this species.

The first sighting was almost three weeks later than in 2009 and later than in any year since 2005. Total numbers seen on transect showed two peaks in the weeks beginning 22 April and 20 May. The second peak is unlikely to indicate a second brood but instead simply a recovery in numbers, from late emerging individuals, following several frosts that occurred in the first half of May. This hypothesis seems to be confirmed by MSh who comments "My garden is in a frost pocket [near Petersfield] and after sharp frosts during the second week of May no more were recorded there".

The highest single field count was by DGG at Weston Colley near Micheldever who recorded 35 individuals on 24 April (and 87 in the preceding seven days). As for the highest counts on transects, 15 were seen on the Southwood Meadows transect near Farnborough on 19 May and 13 on 22 May and on 2 June (all BAu).



Orange-tip caterpillar (Competition winner: immature stages) (Tony Rackham)



Status: BC Low Priority

No of 2010 records: 335

No of 2010 individuals: 805

No of tetrads in 2010: 91

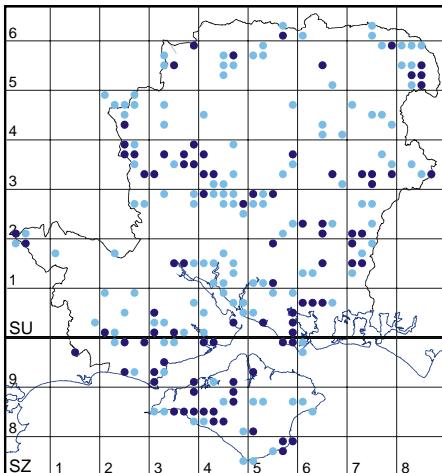
No of post 2000 tetrads: 235

Earliest: 6 April 2010

North Browndown (ACM)

Latest: 10 July 2010

Claylands (MCr)



Green Hairstreak (Competition winner UK butterflies) (Maurice Pugh)

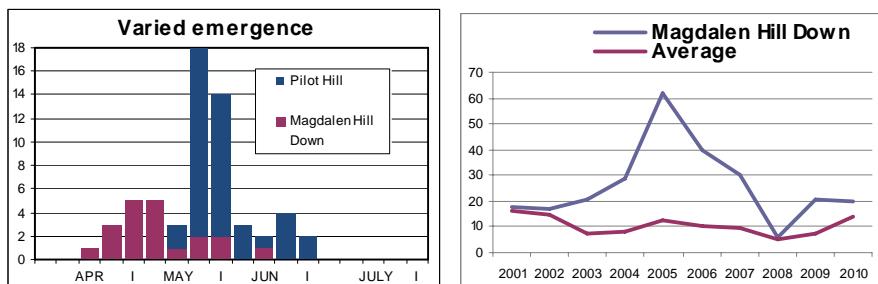
It was a better year in 2010 for the Green Hairstreak than in 2009, which also had been better than 2008. Fifteen out of 23 transect monitored sites where this species occurs showed an increase in the Annual Index of 20% or more between 2009 and 2010, whereas only three showed an equivalent decrease and five showed no change. The Annual Indices from Magdalen Hill Down Extension and Pilot Hill were both much improved at 20 and 40 respectively. The Annual Index from Magdalen Hill Down Original Reserve was 20, similar to the 21 in 2009. The Noar Hill Annual Index was similar to that in 2009 at 6.

Encouragingly, transect record summaries indicate that eight sites recorded the species in 2010 which had not in 2009 and only one site recorded the species in 2009 but did not in 2010.

The highest numbers of individuals recorded were 68 at Porton Down (DGG *et al*), and 29 at Magdalen Hill Down (PRit). Reports indicated a good season for the Meon Valley (AW) and Eelmoor where the maximum seen was 25 (CRH).

Fair numbers and egg-laying on Bird's-foot-trefoil were recorded at St Catherine's Hill (CP) and it was suggested that prolific amounts of Dyer's Greenweed at Ashford Hill could be helping this species (ABo).

The flight period ended much later in 2010 than in 2009. It extended into July as it did in 2005-2008. The fairly warm and dry weather in June and early July 2010 may have contributed.



Brown Hairstreak *Thecla betulae*

Andy Barker

Status: BC High Priority

No of 2010 records: 43

No of 2010 individuals: 146

No of tetrads in 2010: 12

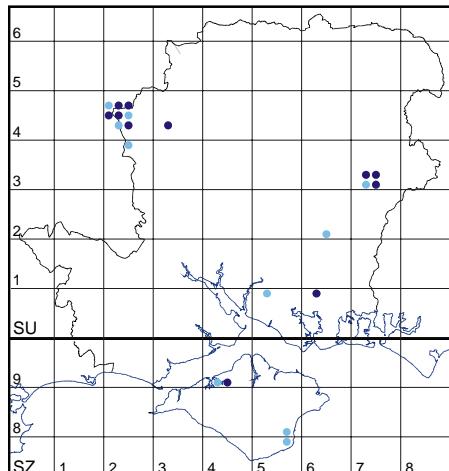
No of post 2000 tetrads: 22

Earliest: 1 August 2010

Shipton Bellinger (MJG)

Latest: 18 September 2010

Abbots Ann (JRM)



The 2010 season lasted 49 days, from the very beginning of August until mid-September. The weather during this period was often cloudy and unsettled, with rather cool west to north-west winds and slightly above average rainfall. Even so, when the sun shone, the Brown Hairstreak was widely observed. This suggests a good season,

and furthermore, there were sightings from new locations in both north-west and south Hampshire.

The Shipton Bellinger area produced records from six separate 1-km squares, but as with 2009, the vast majority were from SU2145 and SU2245, to the west of the village. The tracks, scrub and hedgerows to the east of the village, around Bedlam Plantation (SU2446) are also good, but less frequently visited. The first record was of five on 1 August (MSw), but most observations came from the period 5 August to 23 August, with a clear peak on the week-end of 15-16 August. The peak counts were 30 apparent individuals on 15 August (MRO), and 20 on 16 August (MTu). There were no other double-figure counts from the area, but five other recorders had single visit tallies in the 5-9 range. Typical of the locality, several observers reported Brown Hairstreaks imbibing the juices of ripe blackberries.



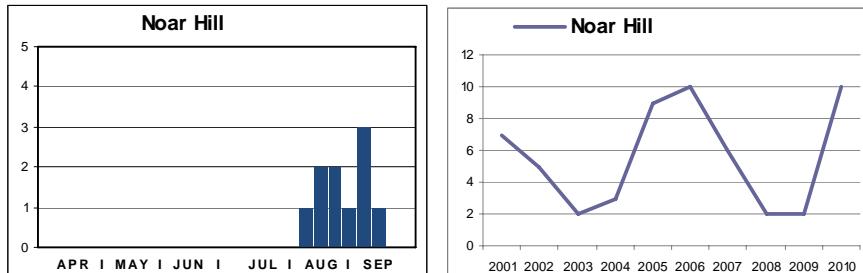
Female Brown Hairstreak at Shipton Bellinger on 22 August 2010 (David Green)

The flight period at Shipton Bellinger was all but over by the end of August, although a singleton was seen at Bedlam on 9 September (MFW). Perhaps the most interesting record from north-west Hampshire was a female seen and photographed nectaring on Common Fleabane in an old water meadow at Abbots Ann on 18 September (JRM). Not only is this the last record of the season, but it represents a new location, at least five miles from the nearest known breeding colony (JRM).

In east Hampshire, the first at Noar Hill, Selborne, was seen on 5 August (PDB). The season here followed much the same pattern as Shipton Bellinger, although with fewer individuals. The best Noar Hill counts were of five on 15 August (MTu), and three on 4 September (AMJ). The last of the season at Noar Hill was one on 13 September (AMJ).

Two further Brown Hairstreak records of note are an unconfirmed report of a newly emerged female near Southwick in mid-August (pers. comm. to AHB), and a male seen with binoculars in an ash tree at Porchfield, Isle of Wight, on 8 August (MHa).

Photographic evidence or positive egg-searches are needed to confirm whether these locations truly have resident Brown Hairstreak populations.



Purple Hairstreak *Neozephyrus quercus*

Status: BC Low Priority

No of 2010 records: 291

No of 2010 individuals: 1162

No of tetrads in 2010: 100

No of post 2000 tetrads: 279

Earliest: 31 May 2010

Denny Wood (PDB)

Latest: 3 September 2010

Lymington Reedbeds (PDB)

Records of Purple Hairstreak received for 2010 showed a slight increase over 2009 and there was also a pleasing increase in the number of 2-km squares in which the butterfly was recorded. A number of these are previous unrecorded tetrads.

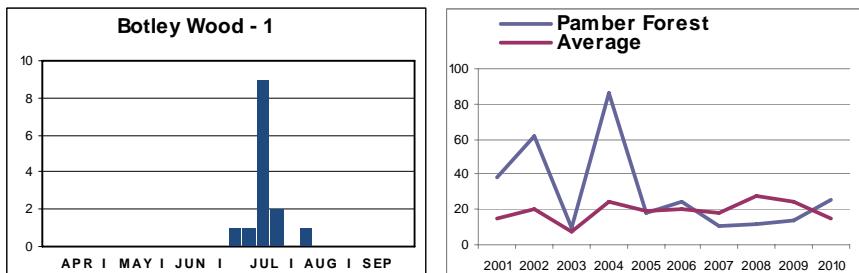
At least two observers considered 2010 to be exceptionally good years for the butterfly. RKL commented that 2010 was the best ever year on transect and MRO considered 2010 "probably its best year of the decade with some superb evening flights in Alice Holt".

The butterfly first emerged on 31 May at Denny Wood in the New Forest (PDB), which is the earliest sighting on our database by one day. The next sighting was at Porchfield, IoW, on 2 June (MHa). There were subsequently a handful of records from several areas during June but the butterfly did not really become numerous until the first week of July. At this point, the dry conditions may have encouraged many butterflies to come down from the tree tops to places where they can be more easily seen. There were many sightings of Purple Hairstreak at ground level in 2010. They were noted feeding at flowers, drinking dew or seeking moisture on gravel paths and around puddles. For example, 20 were seen on 19 July at Pamber Forest, either on or close to the ground (GJD).

There were four counts of 40+ individuals reported during the year; 40 at Creech Wood on 23 July (AW), 45 at Porchfield, IoW, on 11 July (MHa), 50 at Testwood Lakes on 18 July (MSw) and 100 at Bentley Wood on the Wiltshire border on 19 July (MSw).

Purple Hairstreak is by no means restricted to woodland and almost any oak, deciduous or evergreen, is worth a search. Early mornings or evenings are often productive times. DLo reported "We have a large oak tree 20 feet from the garden and this is the second year I have noted the Purple Hairstreak. Photographed early morning drinking the dew from both the grass and garden shrubs."

The Purple Hairstreak is not normally considered to be a particularly mobile butterfly and a particularly interesting record in 2010 was of a female found resting on willow at Elvetham Heath in north-east Hampshire on 24 July at a site with no oaks (TH).



White-letter Hairstreak *Satyrium w-album*

Andrew Brookes

Status: BC High Priority

Earliest: 21 June 2010

IBM Cosham (TD)

No of 2010 records: 47

Latest: 18 August 2010

No of 2010 individuals: 173

East Cowes, IoW (MHa)

No of tetrads in 2010: 25

No of post 2000 tetrads: 88

The number of records inevitably fell after the unprecedented boom of 2009, from 65 to 41. The maximum counts too occasionally tumbled dramatically, no more so than at Peartree Green in Southampton, plummeting from 46 to just four seen by JVe on 26 June. Other sites, such as Bedenham, within the Defence Munitions Gosport complex, proved more stable, with 18 seen in mid-July (AHB). Indeed, Gosport seems to have become the Hampshire Mecca for the insect, PPa finding 15 at Monks Walk on the shore of Portsmouth Harbour and another three at Grange Farm, whilst ACM made the year's highest count of 19 on 8 July at HMS Sultan, followed by a further three at Carter's Copse. In total, 11 Gosport records, more than a quarter of all those submitted from the two counties; a borough not only blessed with many suckering elms, but dedicated recorders too.

The only other high count emanated from the solitary Wych Elm near the A31 at Froyle, which yielded 15 on 11 July (MRO). Encouragingly, after also noting the butterfly at Odiham Common, MRO observed that egg-laying had progressed well until 15 July, when a gale depleted numbers. Several new locations were added during the year, most in the vicinity of Romsey, where MJG saw six in Bunny Lane on 18 July.

Without the frenetic efforts made in 2009 by Elizabeth Goodyear of Herts Branch, as part of her national survey, records from the Isle of Wight too diminished to just a few from Whippingham (CD), Walter's Copse (MHa), and Parkhurst (MHa).

The butterfly only features in one of the Branch's transects, namely at Crabtree Plantation, Basingstoke, where the Annual Index was 5, compared with a peak of eight in 2003.

Vast areas of the two counties are still apparently bereft of this species; no records were received from the New Forest, eastern or north-western Hampshire, or from the southern half of the Wight. Yet the insect, as amply demonstrated in Gosport and

Southampton, is ultimately a habitat-generalist which could be found wherever sexually mature elm is exposed to full sun. Like its other Hairstreak cousins, the White-letter Hairstreak is not predisposed to displaying itself to the casual observer and reports would no doubt be far more numerous should elms be investigated more purposefully during late June and July.

Small Copper *Lycaena phlaeas*

Rupert Broadway

Status: BC Low Priority

No of 2010 records: 1183

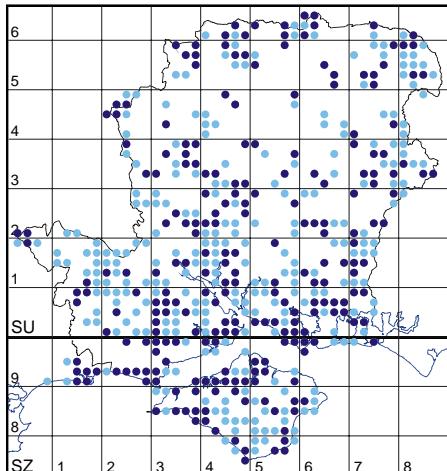
No of 2010 individuals: 2484

No of tetrads in 2010: 239

No of post 2000 tetrads: 516

Earliest: 17 April 2010
Gosport (DJAT)

Latest: 10 November 2010
Town Common,
Christchurch(RPH)



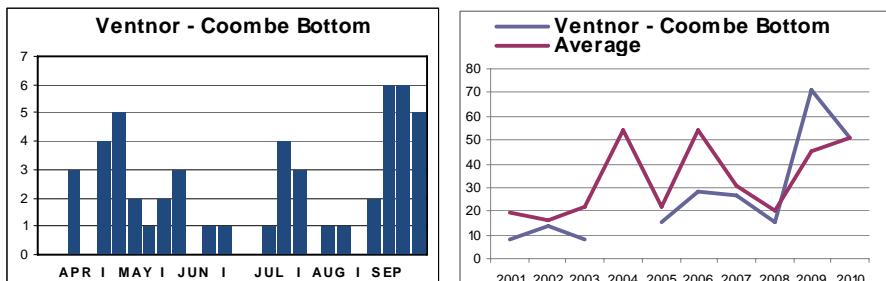
The Small Copper got off to a slow start in 2010 with the first sighting in Gosport on 17 April (DJAT) nearly six weeks after its 2009 equivalent. Littleton Down provided the first Isle of Wight record on 19 April RWi.

A number of observers commented on their relative scarcity in spring: "did not see in spring" (CP) and "there were no spring records" (RKL) from Botley Wood being typical. The 10 recorded from Bonchurch Down (PDB and IP) on 22 May was the only double figure spring count. Its fortunes appeared to improve as the year went on, with CRH noting it as "more frequent in summer, especially August" and MSh commenting that the year improved considerably from July 18. The weekly counts for Ventnor – Coombe Bottom show three distinct peaks: in early May, late July and early to mid-September.

29 monitored sites showed increases of 20% or more in Annual Index over 2009, with 11 showing no significant change and 16 showing comparable declines. The Bentley Station Meadow transect recorded a 10 year high of 26, while the annual count of 41 at Old Winchester Hill was the best since 2004. On the Isle of Wight the Annual Index of 22 at Bonchurch Down represented a drop of 50% on 2009, but at Whippingham Fields the impressive Annual Index of 565 was the best since the record year of 2006.

As often happens with this species, many of the best counts came late in the season. AW reported 20 at Old Winchester Hill NNR on 12 September including several males battling for territory and a blue spot variant ab. *Caeruleapunctata*. 22 were seen at Oxenbourne Down on 10 October and MSh recorded 21 from Butser Hill on 22 September. Whippingham Fields, unusually, recorded its highest weekly count of 81 earlier in the year on 30 July (JR).

There were a good number of October records with the last of all being recorded on 10 November at Town Common South, Christchurch on 10 Nov (RPH).



Small Blue *Cupido minimus*

Jon Stokes

Status: BC High Priority
No of 2010 records: 289
No of 2010 individuals: 1375
No of tetrads in 2010: 40
No of post 2000 tetrads: 87

Earliest: 12 May 2010
Afton Down, IoW (SAK-J)
Old Burghclere (TRa)

Latest: 12 September 2010
Portsdown Hill (AW)

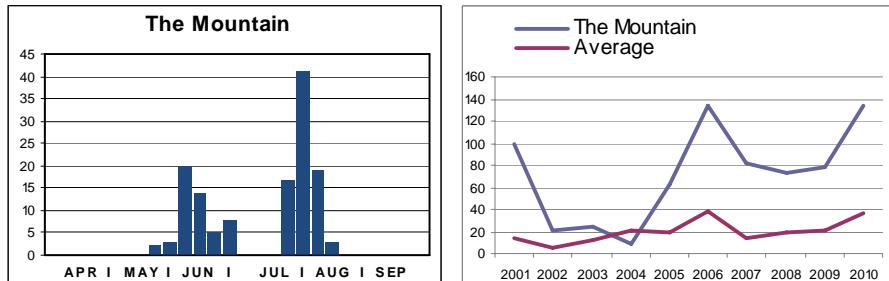
Small Blues need a combination of kidney vetch for egg laying plus taller vegetation, usually grasses, for the adults to roost in. This can lead to populations occupying small isolated pockets, which can lead to difficulties if the habitat changes. At one Hampshire locality for this butterfly, the kidney vetch was grazed out by 'a guilty looking herd of highland cattle' (RSB), resulting in no sightings there this year. Conversely on The Mountain the kidney vetch is expanding and on 5 June there was an 'explosion in numbers' (AW) with over 100 recorded.

On a positive note, the 2009 recovery in numbers has been maintained in 2010, as in both years there were 15 sites where numbers of 20 or more Small Blues were recorded, compared with 13 in 2008. Small Blues were also recorded on 11 sites with fixed transects during 2010, and most showed an improvement in numbers compared to 2009. Thus, on Martin Down South the Annual Index in 2009 was 47 whilst it rose in 2010 to 63 and on The Mountain it went from 78 in 2009 to 134 in 2010. However, it was not an entirely positive story for the largest number recorded at any one site was the 100 individuals at The Mountain (AW), compared to 267 on Portsdown in 2009 (T&MR). Indeed on Portsdown during 2010 the largest number recorded was 26 on 23 May (JV) and here numbers also fell on the transects compared with 2009 (65 in 2009 and 56 in 2010). This may be due to the effects of the cold weather during the first half of May or perhaps some unfavourable changes in the environment on Portsdown.

On the Isle of Wight, the largest number of individuals recorded was 22 at Afton Down on 11 June (CD), whilst in northern Hampshire, Old Burghclere Lime Quarry recorded 60 on 24 May (GJD).

Although there are definite peaks in their abundance, Small Blues were recorded in low numbers pretty continuously from 12 May to 18 August, with the odd individual record until 12 September. As last year, the data suggest that the first brood peaked in the last week in May / first week of June, and then tailed off during the next few weeks. Then, on some sites such as The Mountain, there was a large second brood which peaked at the end of July. One interesting behavioural difference between the first and second brood is associated with the decline in abundance of nectar plants as the summer

progresses. This causes the males to become much more territorial later in the season, defending their nectar stands against all comers, despite their diminutive stature.



Silver-studded Blue *Plebejus argus*

Paul Brock

Status: BC Low Priority

Earliest: 30 May 2010
Bramshott (ACG)

No of 2010 records: 307

Latest: 13 August 2010
Bramshott (ACG)

No of 2010 individuals: 12810

No of tetrads in 2010: 74

No of post 2000 tetrads: 126



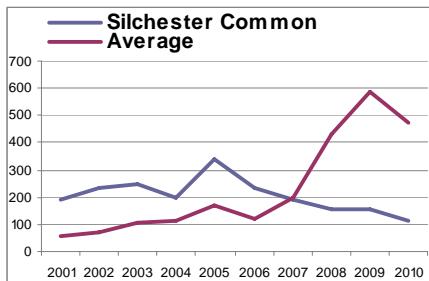
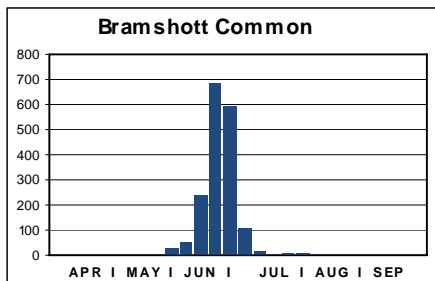
Silver-studded Blue (Competition winner: Behaviour) (Maurice Pugh)

A good, although shorter year for this species, with population explosions at certain sites, mainly noticed in the New Forest. The Bramshott Common transect logged a still healthy Annual Index of 1750 (but slightly down on 1864 in 2009) providing the first sightings of this species on 30 May (ACG) and exceeding 100 by 13 June. The peak was 809 on 23 June, but down to 108 by 3 July. Numbers were only significantly down at Silchester Common, with an Annual Index of 114 (a peak of 110 on 26 June (GJD)) compared with 159 in 2009. The fairly new transect at Dibden Common (AHA, P&PW) registered 437, compared with 285 in 2009 (+53%).

There were eight other records of 100 or more butterflies nearly all from the New Forest: c. 1000 from Shirley Holms on 23 June (PDB & MP) which included a number of mating pairs, but only 200 at the same site on 2 July (GP), 600 at Five Thorns Hill 4 July (SKe), 400 at Beaulieu Heath 5 July (RKJ), others between 100 and 200: Church Moor, 9 July (PDB), Hatchet Moor, 12 July (AW), Ocknell Plain, 27 June (TJN & LF). Outside the Forest, 234 were reported in various parts of Aldershot Common on 24 June (CRH). These are the usual localities noted for high numbers, but it is likely there are many other less well known sites with good numbers present. A good bet for those aiming to see peak numbers of this species is the last week in June and first week in July, otherwise numbers rapidly diminish.

The weather may have contributed to a shorter season, the season was practically over by the end of July, with few records received for August.

Unusually, there were no less than six sightings on the chalk during 2010: Ports Down on 6 July (MGw), St Catherine's Hill (CP) and West High Down, IoW, on 9 July (OL), two at Magdalen Hill Down on 11 July (PAB) and Martin Down NNR on 19 July (JRu).



Brown Argus *Aricia agestis*

Phil Budd

Status: BC Low Priority

No of 2010 records: 1145

No of 2010 individuals: 4314

No of tetrads in 2010: 132

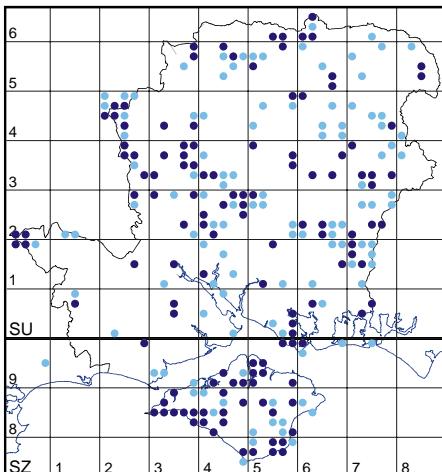
No of post 2000 tetrads: 258

Earliest: 22 April 2010

Magdalen Hill Down
(TJN, LF)

Latest: 14 October 2010

Afton Down, IoW (SAK-J)

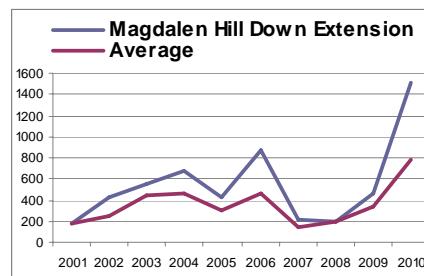
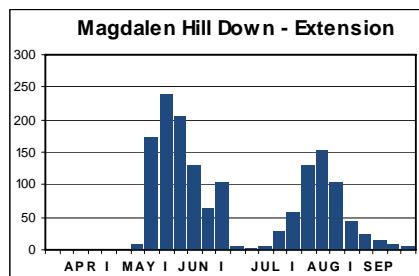


2010 was an outstanding year for the Brown Argus butterfly in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. There were records of Brown Argus from approximately 142 sites, compared to 100 in 2009. Although more concentrated in the chalk districts the records were very widely spread with the only significant gaps being the west of the New Forest, the

Forest of Bere and the heavily cultivated areas east of Andover. There were even second brood records from some private gardens i.e. Badger Farm, Winchester from 18 July to 30 August (RCB) and at a Gosport garden from 29 July to 2 August (ACM).

For Hampshire the earliest report was 30 at Magdalen Hill Down on 22 April (TJN & LF) and the latest was at Ropley Station on 25 September (DMil). The first report on the Isle of Wight was at Bonchurch Down on 27 April (RWi) and the last was a single at Afton Down on 14 October (SAK-J). The largest single count was a huge 140 at Swiss Cottage, Osborne, IoW, on 11 August (MHa). This was also the biggest second brood count and the largest count off the chalk. Apart from 33 at Ashford Hill on 8 August and 17 on a set-aside field at Baughurst on 5 August, both in north Hampshire (ABo) it is rare to see more than 5 at a time away from the chalky areas. Another interesting count was of 101 at Magdalen Hill Down on 25 May (A&LB), this was the highest single count on chalk, in mainland Hampshire and for the first brood.

There were many comments relating to the fact that it was an excellent year for the Brown Argus but the most telling figures are transect indices. Out of 29 transect sites, 25 showed a >20% increase over 2009 figures. Several individual transect indices were the highest for some time such as Magdalen Hill Down (507 the best since at least 1997) and Coombe Bottom, IoW, (137 the best since 2002). Since the Brown Argus is so numerous, it is a shame that there are no records of food plants used by the larvae.



Common Blue *Polyommatus icarus*

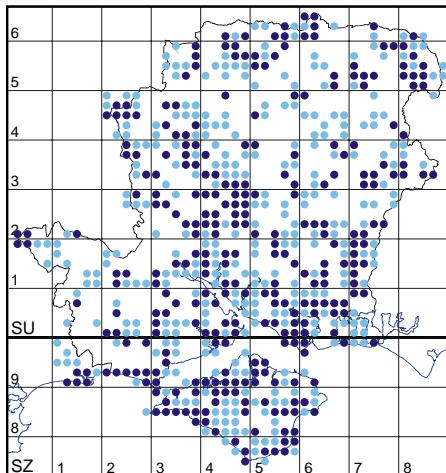
Status: BC Low Priority

No of 2010 records: 3942
No of 2010 individuals: 29696
No of tetrads in 2010: 302
No of post 2000 tetrads: 632

Earliest: 17 April 2010
 Cheriton (CRB)

Latest: 30 October 2010
 Fort Gilkicker (DJAT)

Tim Bernhard



In 2009, this pretty little butterfly enjoyed an excellent year and was recorded in good numbers throughout our area. 2010 saw an even greater improvement and the species enjoyed a very successful year. Of the 57 transect monitored sites, where the butterfly is present, 49 showed an increase of 20% or more. Only five of these transects showed a decrease in numbers and three sites recorded no significant change.

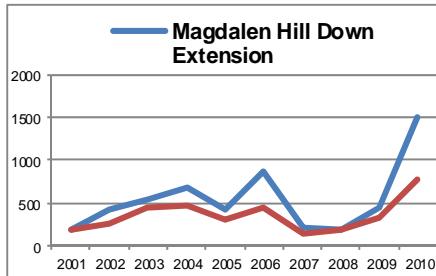
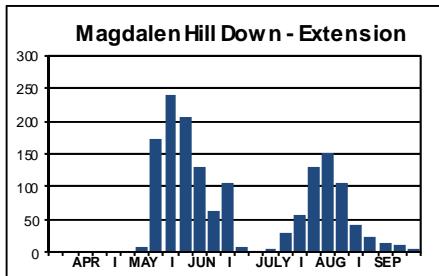
April was dry and warm followed by a settled May with average temperatures and low rainfall. Excellent numbers were recorded from many sites, particularly on chalk downland and the first real notable numbers came from Martin Down, with a count of 50 on 22 May (AW). The butterfly also did very well at localities such as Portsdown Hill and Oxenbourne Down. 112 individuals were recorded by A&LB on Magdalen Hill Down on 25 May and on the same day AW observed over 100 on the sheep runs which criss-cross Bonchurch Down on the Isle of Wight. Although in smaller numbers, this species was also noted several woodland sites such as Lee Ground Coppice and Creech Wood (AW).

A remarkable count of 240 was made by TSm at Magdalen Hill Down Extension on 27 May. This was probably the peak emergence of the first brood although high numbers continued to be recorded on the Hampshire Downs and on the Isle of Wight, particularly near the Needles where MHa recorded 200 on 2 June. RHL considered 2010 to have been the best year for this species since 1996 with the Annual Index at Botley Wood more than five times higher than 2009.

The Common Blue was recorded in low numbers during the first couple of weeks of July perhaps influenced by the unsettled Atlantic fronts. The second brood seems to have begun around 18 July with 35 recorded by MSw at Testwood Lakes.

August weather was rather poor with cooler west and north-westerly winds, temperatures and sunshine were below par and rainfall was well up to average. The butterfly continued to be recorded in reasonable numbers throughout August with particularly high counts at Noar Hill (RSy) and Burnt Wood (MHa). The highest count of the season was recorded in this month at Whippingham on the Isle of Wight, where JR saw 352 on the 7th.

The weather in September was a little warmer and drier than average which slightly compensated for August. This species was recorded throughout the two counties in low numbers except at sites such as Butser Hill (AW), Rocken End (AHB) Noar Hill (RPen) and Bentley Station Meadow where TSm recorded 108 on 1 October. The last Common Blue of the year was an individual recorded from the Gosport area on 30 October (DJAT). All in all a superb year for this species which no doubt considerably benefited from the warm and dry spring weather.



Status: BC Medium Priority

No of 2010 records: 914

No of 2010 individuals: 35567

No of tetrads in 2010: 46

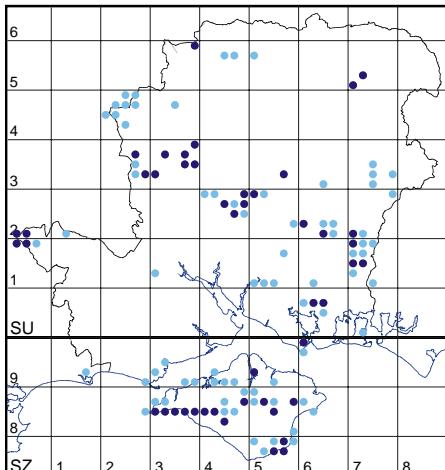
No of post 2000 tetrads: 122

Earliest: 25 June 2010

Danebury Ring (G&LR)

Latest: 25 October 2010

Afton Down, IoW (SAK-J)



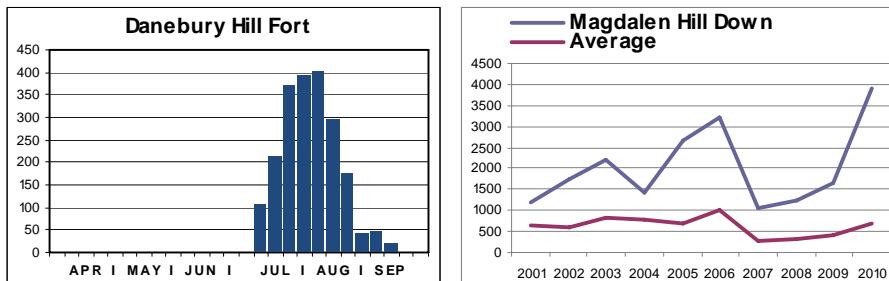
Many observers were very impressed by the performance of this butterfly in 2010, commenting that "excellent counts came from many sites this year" (AW), "it had an excellent year, particularly at Yew Hill where they spilled out onto neighbouring fields to bask in the evening sun" (RSB) and "it had an excellent year with very good numbers at Brading" (DAB). These views of excellence were confirmed by the transect figures, where 18 out of the 20 transects on which the Chalkhill Blue was monitored recorded an increase of 20% or more. The overall numbers on the transects indicated that the steady recovery from the near disastrous year of 2007 has continued, though numbers are still only about half of those in 2006 (which was a very good year for the species) and slightly lower than in the series of good seasons from 1999 to 2005.

The species emerged just under a week earlier than in 2009, and numbers quickly increased throughout July, as shown by four counts from Yew Hill where one was seen on 1 July (BPF), 30 on 10 July, 50 on 18 July and 120 on 25 July (all RSB). The first of 53 counts of 100 or more was the 165 seen on the steep south-facing slopes of the original part of Magdalen Hill Down on 11 July (PDF). On the Isle of Wight the season started later than on the mainland with four being seen at Carisbrooke Castle on 10 July (SRe).

Numbers were at their highest during the last week of July and the first half of August. During this period eight counts of 500 or more were reported, compared with just one in 2009. No fewer than six of these counts were made at Butterfly Conservation's two chalk grassland reserves, four on Magdalen Hill Down, where the highest count was 1,000 on 25 July (RBre) and two on Yew Hill, the biggest here being 730 on 29 July (BPF). The biggest count of all was at Arreton Down, IoW, where an estimated 6,000 were seen on 1 August, of which sighting the observer, MHa, commented "I have never seen so many Chalkhill Blues before". This is the third year running that the highest single day total has been reported from this location. The other high count was of 500 seen at Stockbridge Down on 7 August (RSB).

During August, numbers remained high, with counts of a hundred or more coming in from many sites throughout the month. The last of the century counts were of 107 seen at Magdalen Hill Down on 1 September (PBu) and 100 seen at Old Winchester Hill

NNR on the same day (AW) but numbers rapidly declined as the month progressed, with the last mainland sighting at Chalton Down on 22 September (RSy). After this there were just two more sightings, one on 25 September and the final sighting of the season exactly a month later. Thus the flight season in 2010 was about a fortnight longer than in 2009.



Adonis Blue *Polyommatus bellargus*

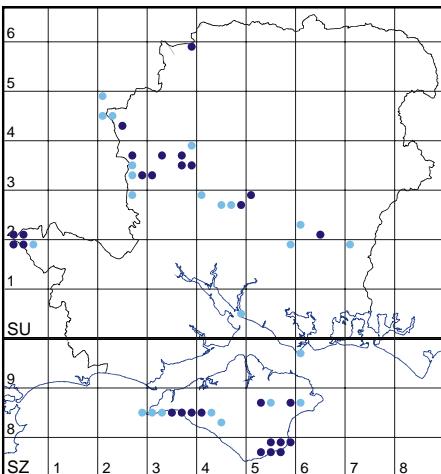
Status: BC High Priority

No of 2010 records: 340
No of 2010 individuals: 2511
No of tetrads in 2010: 28
No of post 2000 tetrads: 52

Earliest: 11 May 2010
 Rew Down (RWi)

Latest: 6 October 2010
 Afton Down (SAK-J)

Andy Barker



Following a warm, dry April, and continued good weather through May, the Adonis Blue season got off to great start, with a massive first brood emergence. The second brood was also strong, giving an outstanding year for the species. Out of 12 transect sites, eight showed an increase of more than 20% in 2010 compared with 2009. Indeed, many sites more than doubled their tally, with Bonchurch Down producing a massive Annual Index of 796.

The first Isle of Wight records were of one on 11 May at Rew Down (RWi), then five on 14 May at Bonchurch Down (IP). The latter site experienced a rapid build-up in numbers, and a little over a week later, various people were recording 100+ single-visit tallies (PDB, IP, AW). One observer (AW) visiting on 25 May, described the down as being literally alive with Adonis Blues. The highest first brood count was 244 on 28 May at Bonchurch Down (IRi).

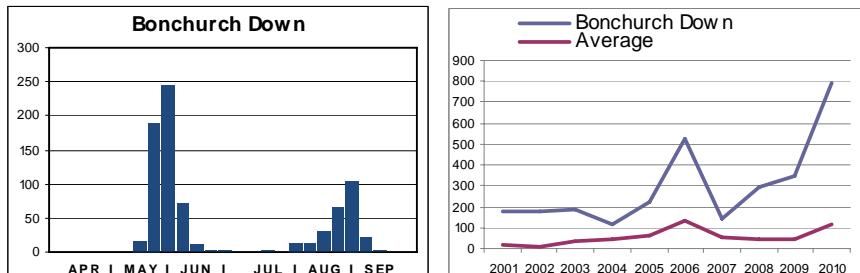
The Hampshire season began over a week later than the Isle of Wight, with the first seen on 22 May at Martin Down (LS). This site produced double-figure tallies for

several observers between 30 May and 4 June, the best of which was 44 on 2 June (LS). In west Hampshire, 10 on 12 June at Suddern Hill (TWil) and 3 on 13 June on the Cholderton Estate (TJN, LF & HE), represent new sites. Indeed, for 2010 no fewer than 12 Hampshire sites recorded the species. The last first brood individual was seen on 5 July at Martin Down (CHi).

The continuing warm, dry and sunny weather in July gave a particularly early second brood emergence; just a fortnight after the first brood. The first seen were two on 19 July at Bonchurch Down (DM), followed by one on 23 July at Martin Down (NCo). The second brood peaked in late August and early September, with the best individual counts of 142 on the 1 September at Martin Down (JRu), and 105 on 31 August at Bonchurch Down (IRi). The final sightings in each county were two on 26 September at Martin Down (LS), and one on 6 October at Afton Down (SAK-J).



Adonis Blue males at Bonchurch Down, IoW, 19 August 2010 (Andy Butler)



Status: BC Low Priority

No of 2010 records: 1095

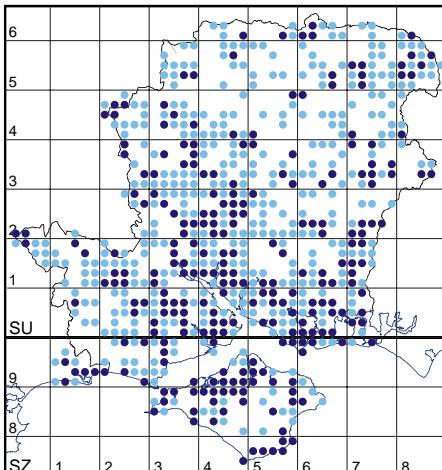
No of 2010 individuals: 2143

No of tetrads in 2010: 258

No of post 2000 tetrads: 663

Earliest: 9 April 2010
Abbots Ann (JRM)

Latest: 3 November 2010
Lower Test Marshes
(MSw)



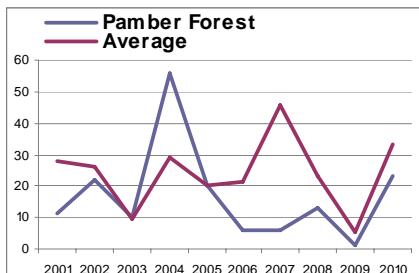
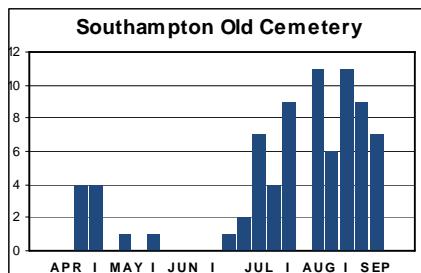
The optimistic note on which the 2009 report concluded proved justified, with the Holly Blue bouncing back from the previous year's low, as it has done so often before. Annual Indices increased by more than 20% at 37 monitored sites, with only one showing a corresponding decrease and five demonstrating no significant change. At Portsdown Hill the annual count increased almost tenfold from 13 to a six year high of 125; and at Magdalen Hill Down Extension from zero in 2009 to 13. The Annual Index at Southampton Old Cemetery rose from 27 to 77 – the best in three years – with the highest weekly counts achieved in August.

The first appeared on 9 April at Abbots Ann (JRM) with the first Isle of Wight sightings at Porchfield (MHa) and at Whippingham Fields (JR) on 18 April. A number of observers, including RKL, GJD and CP, commented on a poor spring brood, with a much better showing in summer.

Highest counts throughout the year came from south-east Hampshire with (JWe) reporting 20 from Alverstoke on 23 April and DJAT and ACM recording up to 26 at Ann's Hill Cemetery on a several days in early May. The peak spring count was of 30 at the Hayling Billy trail on 24 May (Rsy).

Ann's Hill Cemetery also yielded the year's highest total of 41 on 12 August (ACM). The 26 reported from Brockishill Inclosure on 16 August by JRu was the highest count away from the south-east, but the summer brood did generally well with many sightings reported from around the county until late-September.

There were a smattering of October sightings with the last Isle of Wight record from Whippingham Fields on 20 September (JR) and the last of the year from Lower Test Marshes on 3 November (MSw). Given the increase in numbers as the season progressed, maybe a continued improvement for the Holly Blue can be anticipated in 2011.



Duke of Burgundy *Hamearis lucina*

Status: BC High Priority

No of 2010 records: 173

No of 2010 individuals: 1295

No of tetrads in 2010: 29

No of post 2000 tetrads: 56

Ashley Whitlock

Earliest: 9 April 2010

Noar Hill (HPr)

Latest: 13 June 2010

Cholderton Lodge (TJN *et al*)

The Duke of Burgundy enjoyed one of its best years, even surpassing 2009 at some sites. The species was seen at many sites with stronger populations and also at sites where it has struggled in the past.

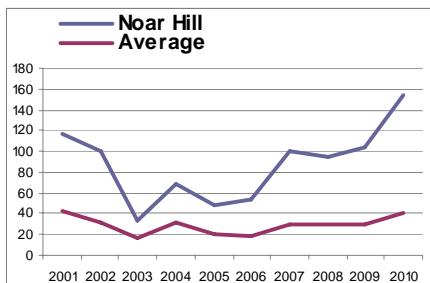
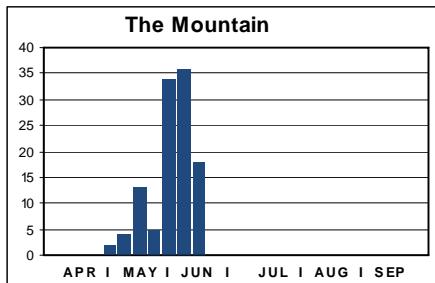
The species was first noted at Noar Hill on 9 April (HPr), and 30 were noted at this site on 23 May (RSy). It lasted into the first week of June at several sites. It did particularly well in the Meon Valley with a count of 69 on 15 May at the Mountain (AW). At Westbury Park six were noted on 16 May (AW), which is an improvement on recent years. Sites like this have a very short flight window, and with a small population it is easy to see why this species is not recorded in some years. Good counts also came on 23 May during a field trip to Butser Hill where it numbered nearly 80 individuals (AW). At Old Winchester Hill, singletons were noted several times and on Beacon Hill it was also seen in very small numbers (AW).

In the Winchester area, an excellent count came from Deacon Hill with 25 on the 25 May (AJB). There may well be a satellite population at nearby St Catherine's Hill as a female was noted there egg laying in the season of 2009 (CP). In the Stockbridge area, 30 were seen in a private woodland close to Stockbridge Down (CM). Good numbers were also noted in adjacent meadows where the primrose has recovered from a ploughing incident several years ago (PE & AW). Further north, there is still a small population by the A34(T) and in Bradley Wood (Abo) with excellent counts coming from areas nearby such as Conholt Hill, Kiblet Down and Angle Down in the north-west of Hampshire.

On the Hampshire/Wiltshire border during two consecutive days (22 and 23 May), a study group counted over 200 individuals on the Porton Down site (DH). At Bentley Wood, several individuals were noted in Eastern Clearing on the Hampshire side of the border.

In the New Forest, it was counted in reasonable numbers at its site on the Beaulieu Estate. It was also noted having populated another site nearby with a profusion of primroses (THo). Sadly we have to report that once again we received no records from the Isle of Wight in 2010, suggesting that it may now be lost from the Island.

With good numbers having been noted it is hoped that the species will spread and recolonize former sites, given the right conditions. Furthermore, with good weather conditions throughout most of its flight season, the egg lay should have been good. 2011 could well be a very important year for this highly endangered species (AW).



White Admiral *Limenitis camilla*

Status: BC High Priority

No of 2010 records: 629

No of 2010 individuals: 3261

No of tetrads in 2010: 121

No of post 2000 tetrads: 272

Andrew Brookes

Earliest: **20 June 2010**

Botley Wood (TJV)

Latest: **30 August 2010**

Wootton Coppice (MLe)

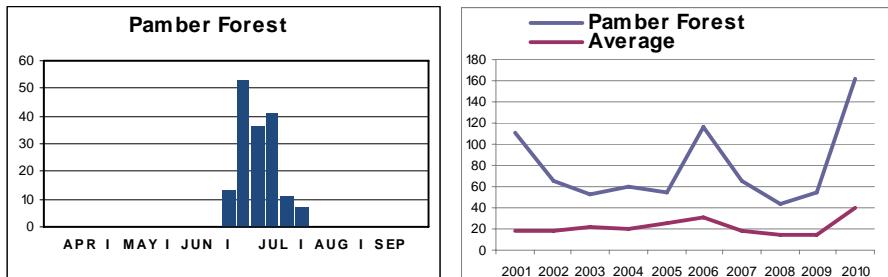
The White Admiral enjoyed one of its best seasons ever recorded at many of its strongholds, and was also found straying to the far flung corners of the empire. The season was characterized not by its length, rather the manner in which the numbers endured, largely surviving the now almost traditional mid-July tempest (on this occasion reviving the seriously dehydrated honeysuckle). After a relatively late start, numbers increased rapidly in late June, as evidenced by the remarkable count of 44 at Harewood Forest by JS on 25 June. Typically, numbers peaked in early July, when MRO counted 100 at the Straits Inclosure, the insect's best performance there since at least 1979. Other notable highs included 25 at Creech (AW), 24 at Huntbourn (AHB), and 38 at Ashford Hill (ABo). Transect data confirmed the change in fortunes, the butterfly increasing in number by > 20% from 2009 on over 70% of the transects. At Botley Wood it produced its highest-ever Annual Index, more than doubling the previous record (RKL).

The pattern was largely repeated on the Isle of Wight, where 43 were seen at Parkhurst Forest (SRe) on 3 July, bettered a day later by MHa at the diminutive Walter's Copse with an astonishing tally of 65. Meanwhile at Briddlesford, AHB counted 38; the sight of so many gliding effortlessly about the high oaks clothed in great tresses of honeysuckle destined to be the most memorable of his butterflying year.

Evidence of the butterfly's endurance was nowhere better demonstrated than at Hampshire Wildlife Trust's Hookheath Nature Reserve, where T&MR found 33 on 23 July, and at Parkhurst where LF and TJN counted 20 on 31 July, a remarkable figure for so late a date. Inevitably there were a few disappointments; records from the New Forest remain resolutely low, the best being 11 from Buskett's Lawn Inclosure (JRu). AHB made a best count of only 11 at the Boarhunt woods, where shooting clearances and felling for firewood have transformed much of the habitat in favour of the Silver-washed Fritillary, a timely reminder of how vulnerable a habitat-specialist like the White

Admiral remains. Another minor disappointment was the total absence anywhere of a second-brood owing to the poor August weather.

2010 was a good season for aberrations, a veritable 'black admiral' year. It was the best at the Straits Inclosure since 1977 in MRO's opinion, where he counted five ab. *obliterae* in one visit. MRO also reported a 'very good egg lay' at the same site which, if reciprocated across the two counties, can only bode well for 2011, weather permitting.



Purple Emperor *Apatura iris*

Ashley Whitlock

Status: BC High Priority

Earliest: 22 June 2010

nr. Kings Somborne (STh)

No of 2010 records: 66

Latest: 15 August 2010

Mottisfont (DRy)

No of 2010 individuals: 163

No of tetrads in 2010: 32

No of post 2000 tetrads: 99

The Purple Emperor was first noted in Pamber Forest on 27 June (GJD), and in Alice Holt Forest the assembly points were occupied several days later. There are concerns that the cutting down of the main ride side sallows at Straits Inclosure in spring could have a long term effect on the numbers from this well-known site. It appears there are only 20 breeding ride side sallows remaining. It may be ten years before it re-establishes itself in any significant numbers (MRO), although MRO did see 14 Emperors at the site on 10 July. From several nearby Inclosures of Alice Holt Forest, there were similarly good counts on 10 July (MRO/AW).

Sightings came from all corners of Hampshire. These include Whiteley Pastures (TCa), Botley Wood (Mark Roberts), Bentley Station Meadow (LF), Creech wood (AW/RH), Micheldever Wood (RBry), Stockbridge Down (MG), West Wood (AW), Crab Wood (AW), Pamber Forest (GJD) and West Walk (AMB) to name a few. It would appear that the Emperor is resident in the centre of Winchester, with a female coming down and imbibing on a happy changing bag in the Abbey Gardens (RHar). It was also noted stopping traffic at Winchester College (SWo).

The Emperor is well established in the Odiham area, and observations in 2010 were very significant with males being seen in the village, and also at Dogmersfield (AGB), as well as a back garden sighting in north Hampshire at Axmansford near Basingstoke (Abo). These observations prove the butterfly is at home in residential areas so long as there are good areas of its larval foodplant of Goat Willow (AW).

About 30 sites were noted in 2010 with several sites, especially along the south coast, where the butterfly did extremely well. These being large wooded areas such as

Creech Wood, even more so in small coppices on the Rooksbury and Southwick Estates in the Forest of Bere, between Fareham and Portsmouth (AW). Seemingly, there were no observations from the New Forest, reversing the trend over the last couple of seasons.

The season was shaping up to be a good one, until the curse of St Swithun's Day struck and the weather took on a familiar look. Several days of strong winds and rainfall, just as many of the females were emerging, probably put paid to any good egg laying. The males at the assembly points in the Alice Holt Forest complex deserted some of their traditional positions due to the weather and were all but finished by the third week of July (AW). The butterfly lingered into August with a late sighting on 15th August at Mottisfont, near Romsey (DRy). Despite this late record, the rather abrupt end to the season does not bode well for 2011. Larval numbers (2nd and 3rd instars) counted in the late summer, were well down in comparison with the 2009 season (MRO).

Red Admiral <i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	Susan Clarke
Status: BC Low Priority	Earliest: 15 January 2010 Poulner (MK)
No of 2010 records: 1659	
No of 2010 individuals: 2571	Latest: 23 November 2010
No of tetrads in 2010: 321	Roundwood (PGS)
No of post 2000 tetrads: 964	Stokes Bay (DJAT)

The Red Admiral is a resident species in Hampshire, but its numbers are also boosted each year by immigrants. 2009 and 2008 had been fairly poor years for Red Admiral with comparatively low numbers. The records for 2010 suggest that numbers were generally similar or only slightly greater than were recorded last year. Transect counts show that 45% of monitored sites had less than a 20% change in number of sightings compared with 2009.

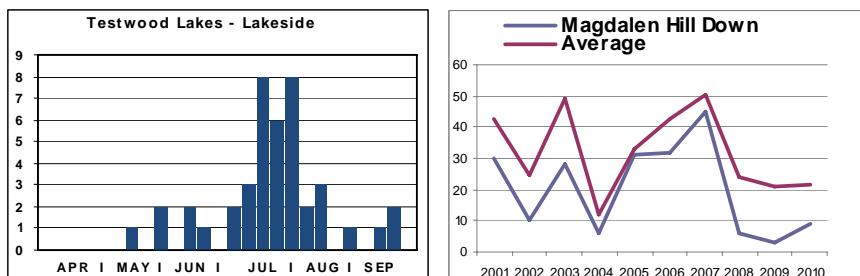
RKL considered that at Botley Wood "there was an improvement this year after the dire showing in 2009 but in common with most migrant species this butterfly did not do well." MSh commented that "this species had a very bad year in the Petersfield area and I had only 37 records and most were of singles". Most recorders reported only one or two individuals on their site counts. In fact there was only one sighting of more than 13 during 2010 and that was by A&LB at Longstock Park Nursery where they recorded 35 adults on 24 July, enjoying nectar at the National Buddleia Collection.

The main flight period, as calculated by the number of records and number of individuals recorded each week, showed a peak in late July and another minor peak from September to early October. Although Red Admiral adults are usually seen in every month of the year, this was not so in 2010, with the very low December temperatures probably accounting for the lack of sightings of over-wintering adults during this period.

At Gosport, DJAT again recorded his sightings for each month, and these are shown below together with his records for previous years.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Total
2006	2	0	2	5	25	26	121	85	87	438	214	11	1016

2007	11	6	8	34	39	105	153	27	153	316	147	12	1011
2008	13	25	5	0	7	29	48	15	615	330	57	1	1145
2009	1	0	4	4	4	15	36	19	123	226	83	3	518
2010	0	1	7	7	13	16	110	34	48	171	34	0	441



Painted Lady *Vanessa cardui*

Bob Whitmarsh

Status: BC Low Priority

Earliest: **5 March 2010**
Hollidays Hill (PRit)

No of 2010 records: 218

Latest: **1 November 2010**
Fort Gilkicker (m.o.)

No of 2010 individuals: 254

No of tetrads in 2010: 114

No of post 2000 tetrads: 814

After the extremely large numbers of Painted Ladies seen in 2009, it was back to more normal numbers in 2010. Individuals were counted in 114 tetrads with the greatest density, and 30% of the total, being found in the Isle of Wight. This compares with 572 tetrads in 2009.

Only 86 were counted, in ones and twos, on 26 transects. 34 of these were counted along the Wootton Coppice Inclosure transect between 4 June and 6 September. A further 168 individuals were recorded in field records, the highest number seen on a single occasion being 15 on 7 August at Broughton Down (NFr).

Annual indices for the Botley Wood, Noar Hill and Magdalen Hill Down (original and extension) transects were zero or one and reflect the typical 'boom and bust' character of the Painted Lady population seen over the previous decade.

The first Painted Lady was seen ten days earlier than in 2009, which in turn was earlier than three of the four previous years. Transect observations revealed two peaks in numbers in the weeks of 10-16 June and 12-18 August, when the first native brood emerges. These peaks were two weeks later than in 2009.

Reports from individual observers were dire. Most saw only one or two specimens all year and some saw none. CRH reported just four or five in four different locations.

Status: BC Low Priority**Earliest:** 1 March 2010

Four localities (m.o.)

No of 2010 records: 1231**No of 2010 individuals:** 2339**No of tetrads in 2010:** 264**No of post 2000 tetrads:** 800**Latest:** 3 November 2010

Overton (MSC)



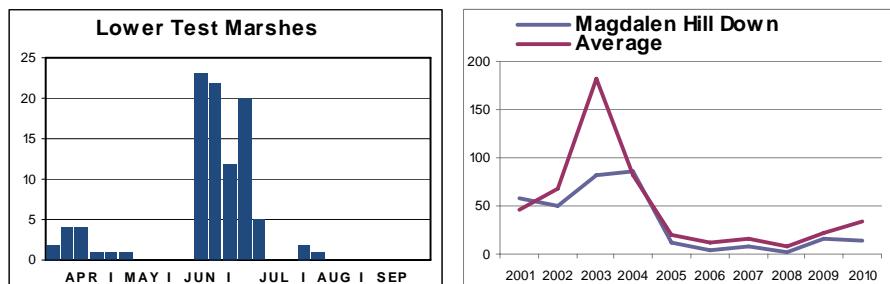
Small Tortoiseshell, ab. *alba* Bransbury Common 11 April 2010 (Tim Norriss)

A disappointing year for the many who had hoped this once common—or-garden butterfly's fortunes would continue to improve after the upturn of 2009. In fact, the total number of records submitted fell by precisely one third, and of these over 97% were of single figures and those in turn mostly singletons. Indeed nearly all the records of overwintered specimens seen in spring were of singletons.

Matters began to improve in June; several larval colonies were found, notably one on the cliffs at Brownwich (RJD). The latter half of the same month produced the highlights of the year: a handful of double-figure counts of adults, notably the 2010 acme of 25 at Testwood Lakes (MSw), and 20 at Anton Lakes (JSO). However, notwithstanding the tally of 23 made east of Chilbolton in early July (GCE), the number of sightings dwindled rapidly through that month. Only 26 records were made during the wet and often sunless August, falling to 17 in September, and just seven in October, continuing the trend of recent years. Reports from the Isle of Wight were also few and far between, although DAB reported five from Culver Cliff on 21 June.

Transect indices actually showed a minor improvement on 2009, numbers increasing by >20% on nearly half of transects, though decreasing by >20 % on a quarter. Perhaps more than coincidence, numbers increased significantly at waterside sites such as Lower Test Marshes where the Annual Index all but trebled. Moreover, RKL recorded the highest transect Index since 2004 at Botley Wood, even though the insect had been absent there in 2009 and during the spring.

Last out of Pandora's Box, there is always hope. Like many, ABo failed to see any after early July, despite a trebling of his 2009 transect total to 12, but mused that perhaps they had all disappeared into an early hibernation.



Large Tortoiseshell *Nymphalis polychloros*

Andy Butler

Status: BC High Priority

Earliest: 10 April 2010
Parkhurst Forest, IoW (SRe)

No of 2010 records: 5

Latest: 1 August 2010
Brightstone, IoW (SYo)

No of 2010 individuals: 5

No of tetrads in 2010: 4

No of post 2000 tetrads: 39

There were only a few records this year and all were from the Island. One at Parkhurst Forest on 10 April (S Read), one at Osborne on 18 May (MH), one at Knighton on 21 June (SRe) and one that flew into a greenhouse at Brightstone on 1 August (SYo). There does not appear to be any obvious migrants among these records and really no conclusions can be drawn from them other than it is good to know that there are still some being seen.

Peacock *Inachis io*

Susan Clarke

Status: BC Low Priority

No of 2010 records: 2033

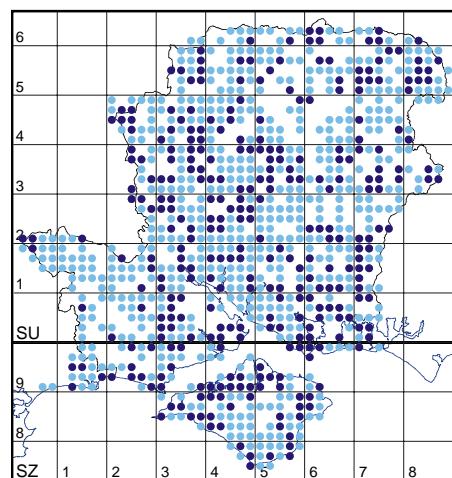
No of 2010 individuals: 3860

No of tetrads in 2010: 320

No of post 2000 tetrads: 890

Earliest: 1 March 2010
Magdalen Hill Down (PDF)

Latest: 8 November 2010
Harestock (BPF)



From a generally good year in 2009, Peacock numbers were down slightly in 2010, with 65% of transects showing a more than 20% decrease in counts. As commented by

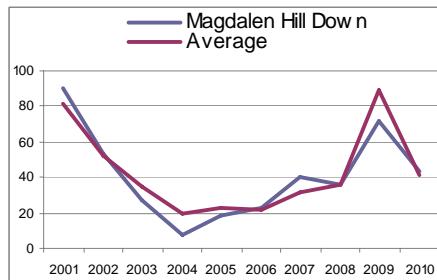
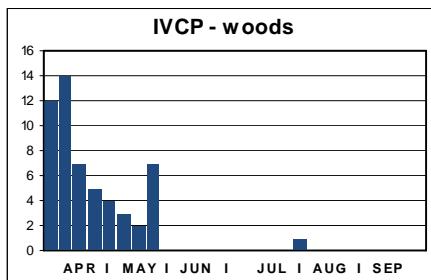
DAB on the Isle of Wight, "not one of its better years". RKL at Botley Wood judged that "there was a mediocre performance by this butterfly". CRH concluded that "overall this year numbers were average or below average, especially in summer". Certainly the general impression is that this butterfly was to be found in good numbers in the spring, but was scarcer over the summer months. Despite this, the highest counts of adults were 35 seen at Longstock Park Nursery on 24 July (A&LB) and 23 recorded on the transect at Danebury Hill on 19 July (GRI). The highest larval count was approximately 150 from three larval nests at the Awbridge Conservation Area, on 5 June, during a Butterfly Conservation woodland butterflies event (DGG et al).

The peak flight period was similar to that seen in 2009 with the number of records and individuals recorded in each week peaking in mid to late-April and again between the end of July and early-August.

Over-wintering adults may be seen flying during the winter months if disturbed, so the first and last sightings do not truly represent the flight periods. In many years this species is sighted flying in every month, but in both 2009 and 2010 there were particularly cold winter periods and the lack of late and very early records in these years is not surprising.



Peacock at Catherington Down (Dominic Bowyer)



Status: BC Low Priority

No of 2010 records: 1802

No of 2010 individuals: 3211

No of tetrads in 2010: 320

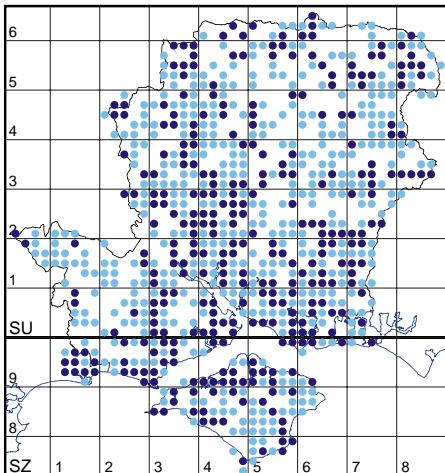
No of post 2000 tetrads: 777

Earliest: 1 March 2010

Abbots Ann (JRM)

Latest: 17 October 2010

Porchfield (Mha)



Comma (Andy Butler)

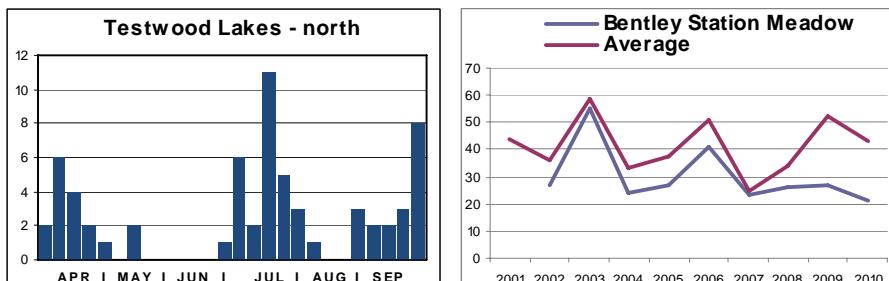
Following a good year in 2009, the Comma didn't do so well in 2010, according to transect data, with decreases of more than 20% recorded at 33 monitored sites, corresponding increases at 11 and no significant change at a further 11. The Annual Index of 129 at Pamber Forest was down on the 2009 figure, but still the second highest in 10 years, whereas the 34 recorded at Noar Hill was well down on the 96 of 2009 and the Bentley Station Meadow count of 21 was the lowest in at least nine years.

Observer comments were mixed, with RKL feeling it had a reasonably good year, especially later in the season. MSh recorded a poor year in the Petersfield area with summer better than spring and DAB commented on an average year in Brading, but

very good at Brightstone. An interesting record of five, including two f. *hutchinsoni*, imbibing on dog faeces, together with a Purple Emperor at West Wood on 9 July was reported by AW, who felt the butterfly suffered in spring due to the poor weather in the preceding months.

The first sighting was on 1 March at Abbots Ann (JRM) with the first Isle of Wight record from Ventnor on 15 March (DAB). Early year counts were generally modest with the 18 reported from Gosport on 13 April (ACM) and the 15 from Lords Wood on 8 April (GMA) the highest of the spring. Relatively few double figure counts were recorded later in the season with the 42 reported by MSw at Testwood Lakes easily the highest of the year. This site provided some of the best counts of the year, with three distinct peaks in early April, mid-July and late September.

The final mainland sightings were of three at Stoke, Hayling Island (Rsy) and one at Christchurch West (MJG) on 12 October, with the final record of the year from Porchfield on 17 October (Mha) – over a month earlier than the final 2009 sighting.



Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary *Boloria selene*

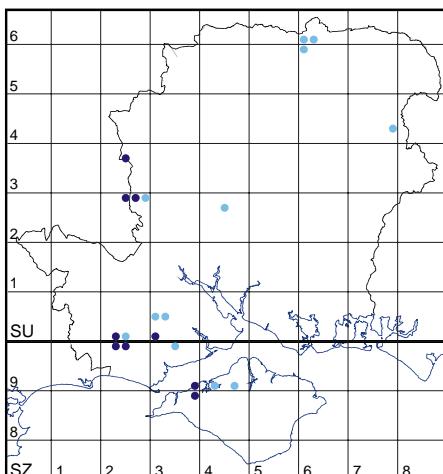
Linda Barker

Status: BC High Priority

No of 2010 records: 95
No of 2010 individuals: 576
No of tetrads in 2010: 9
No of post 2000 tetrads: 20

Earliest: 21 May 2010
 Bentley Wood, Eastern Clearing (PE)

Latest: 9 August 2010
 Wootton Coppice (MLE)



The Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary had a reasonable season. It was first seen in Bentley Wood, Eastern Clearing on 21 May (PE) but it was recorded three days earlier (CKe) in the western part of this woodland complex which is in Wiltshire.

Bentley Wood, Eastern Clearing represents one of the four regularly visited sites in Hampshire. A fifth site was visited in 2010, Isle of Wight Woods at Porton Down, which is a site we do not normally have access to. There is also still one locality on the Isle of Wight.

As with previous years, the Bentley Wood butterflies were flying earlier than those in the New Forest. The first of these was seen at Holmsley on 2 June, at Roydon Common on 5 June and Wootton Coppice on 6 June.

The highest count recorded at Bentley Wood Eastern Clearing was 56 on 30 May (RKJ) confirmed by AW who counted 50 on the same day. This compared well with the highest count in 2009 which was 59. In total, 11 records were received, other than transect data. Transect data was very encouraging with an Annual Index of 148 for 2010 compared to 87 in 2009 and 78 in 2008.

Numbers at Roydon were variable. The highest count was 10 on 6 June (AW), this did not compare well with the peak count of 22 in 2009 but the Annual Index representing the transect data showed a small increase from 10 in 2009 to 16 in 2010.

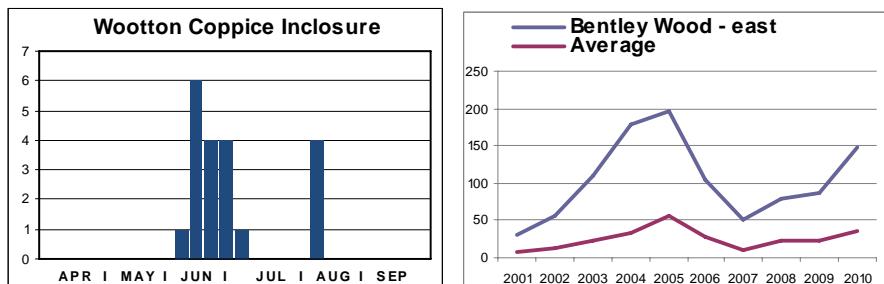
Numbers were stable at Holmsley with MSw seeing 12 on 4 June, which was the highest count for the site compared to 13 in 2009. There is not a transect at this site.

At Wootton Coppice, numbers were stable. A&LB recorded 19 on 12 June which isn't too different from the peak count of 22 in 2009. Transect data tells a similar story with an Annual Index of 20 in 2010 compared to 23 in 2009. As reported in the 2009 report numbers are higher at this site than Holmsley. However, going back to 2005 the first year Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary was recorded at Wootton Coppice, Holmsley was the 'hot spot' where the peak count for 2005 was 43 compared to 12 for 2010. This may not be a fair comparison as 11 records were received from Wootton Coppice compared to just three from Holmsley in 2010

Just two individuals were recorded at the Isle of Wight Woods, Porton Down on 23 May.

On the Isle of Wight, the butterfly was first seen on 30 May at Cranmore (CF, LF and TJN). This is later than Bentley Wood but earlier than the New Forest sites. Numbers were similar to 2009, the peak count was eight seen on 12 June (MHa). The site was well visited and 15 sets of records were sent in, six of which were counts of five or more butterflies.

One second brood individual was recorded this year, on 9 August at Wootton Coppice (MLE).



Status: BC High Priority

No of 2010 records: 136

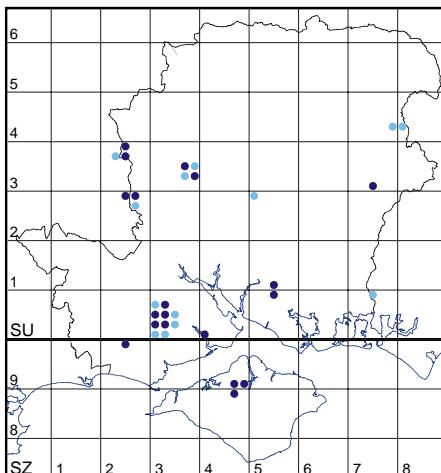
No of 2010 individuals: 1105

No of tetrads in 2010: 22

No of post 2000 tetrads: 38

Earliest: 27 April 2010
New Copse (KWi)

Latest: 12 June 2010
Wootton Coppice (MLE)



Although larval development was delayed by a prolonged cold spell from January to early March, April was dry and warm and no doubt got things back on track. Several fourth instar larvae were found along ride edges in the New Forest Inclosures from 8-28 April (JRu, PDB). Interestingly, larvae were still present when the first adults emerged at New Copse Inclosure, with two on 27 April (KWi). Several other recorders saw the butterfly in the New Forest in late April, but elsewhere emergence was not until May.

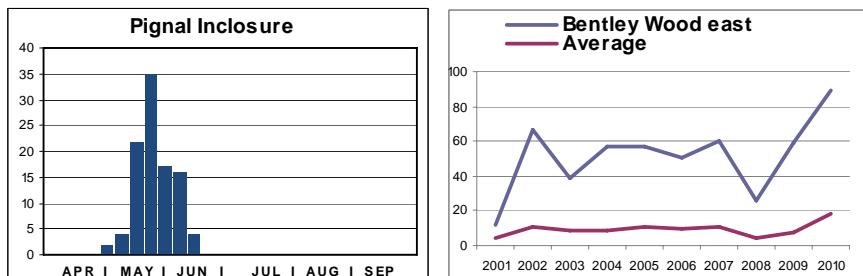
In the New Forest, numbers were excellent (AW), and the Pignal Inclosure transect recorded its highest Annual Index of 100 (GMo). Peak season was in late May, with the highest individual tallies (all Pignal Inclosure) being 139 on 31 May (MSw), 93 on 22 May (AW), and 72 on 23 May (SKe). Numbers in excess of 100 were also reported from an undisclosed New Forest location on three separate days from 24-28 May (JRu). These excellent figures reflect the significant timber harvesting and habitat management undertaken by the Forestry Commission in the previous season. The only other New Forest Inclosures recording double-figure counts were Parkhill Inclosure and New Copse Inclosure, with the best count from these being 33 at New Copse Inclosure on 24 May (THo). Elsewhere in the New Forest, ones and twos were seen at Wootton Coppice Inclosure, from 19 May (GP) to 12 June (MLE), and once again a private woodland near Exbury recorded a singleton on 30 May (THo). This is the second year in succession for this site, and provides encouraging evidence that natural recolonisation may be happening.

The "Tytherley Woods" area of central-west Hampshire, produced good counts at all the main sites, and like the New Forest, turned up a couple of sightings away from breeding colonies. The best known site, Bentley Wood (eastern clearing), had a good year, with a peak of 27 on 21 May (AW), whilst the actively managed oak-with-hazel coppice site near Stockbridge, produced 22, also on 21 May (CKe). Porton Down (Isle of Wight Woods) produced a peak of 12 on 23 May (DGG et al), and at Porton Down (Tower Hill), eight were seen on the same day (DGG et al). One seen at Stockbridge Down on 4 June (RWe) and two at Dean Hill (SSSI) on 25 May (CKe) are probably dispersed individuals from nearby breeding sites. By contrast, the individuals seen at Botley Wood, near Fareham, on 5-6 June (MRB) are almost certainly releases.

Parkhurst Forest is the last remaining colony on the Isle of Wight, and continues to struggle on. The first seen were of three on 18 May (BR), with a peak of eight on 22 May (PDB & IP), and the last individual on 4 June (Peter Hunt). The last Hampshire sightings were four at Pignal Inclosure on 12 June (GMo), and one at Wootton Coppice Inclosure on the same day (MLE).



Pearl-bordered Fritillary habitat at Parkhurst Forest on 22 May 2010 (Andy Butler)



Dark Green Fritillary *Argynnis aglaja*

Tim Bernhard

Status: BC Medium Priority

Earliest: **28 May 2010**
Bonchurch Down (IRi)

No of 2010 records: 340

Latest: **29 August 2010**
Stockbridge Down (RWe)

No of 2010 individuals: 1484

No of tetrads in 2010: 58

No of post 2000 tetrads: 157

After several years of poor numbers, this striking species showed a marked improvement although it continues to struggle in many parts of our area. Despite a

good start in June, the weather during July was rather unsettled and dominated by Atlantic winds. August was generally worse with temperatures and rainfall lower than average. These poor conditions did not help this species which is already in trouble and records ended rather abruptly in mid-August.

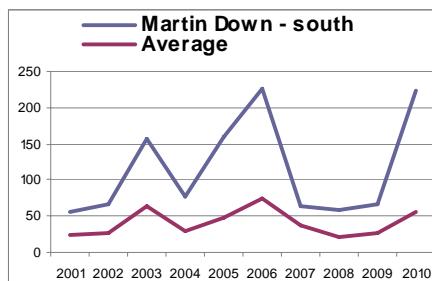
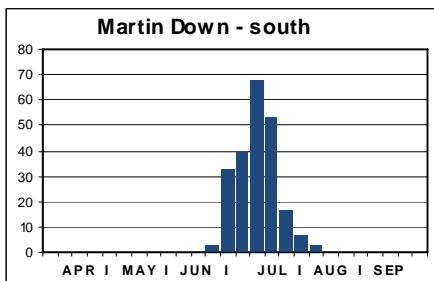
The best sites for this species seem to be on the chalk downlands such as at Martin Down, and here the butterfly enjoyed another good year. The Annual Index for Martin Down NNR North Transect continued to show a significant increase from 218 in 2009 to 510 in 2010 and at Martin Down NNR South Transect, this increased from 66 in 2009 to 224 in 2010. Other good localities included Beacon Hill (Farley Mount) together with Freshwater and Brook Down on the Isle of Wight. In the Meon Valley the species has struggled to get into double figures for the past three seasons with only seven recorded from The Mountain on 7 July (AW) where five years ago it was seen almost into triple figures. It is not known why this species has declined so dramatically in this part of Hampshire and may be related to the run of recent cooler and wetter summers.

In contrast, Butser Hill showed an increase in numbers and MSh noted that it was more widespread on this site than usual. Reliably good numbers were also observed at Beacon Hill (Farley Mount) with an estimated 15 seen on 27 June (R&SB) and 36 on 3 July (TBe). 14 Dark Green Fritillaries were recorded on Old Winchester Hill on 19 July (ACM) but otherwise this butterfly was seen in ones and twos rather sporadically across Hampshire. On the Isle of Wight this species was similarly recorded in low numbers except at Brook Down where 16 were recorded on 3 July (BR) and 12 at Freshwater on 9 July (LDHM).

In the New Forest, AW recorded an impressive 34 individuals on 12 July amongst a narrow band of tall grassland in Hawkshill Inclosure.

The last good numbers of this magnificent butterfly were seen at Martin Down when 112 were recorded by JRu on 19 July and an even higher count of 162 at Martin Down North (NCo) on 9 July. 14 were seen at Old Winchester Hill on 19 July (ACM). With poor weather throughout most of August the butterfly was only seen in low numbers with three or four individuals being the highest counts from anywhere. Late records for 2010 came from individual butterflies observed at Danebury Ring (A&LB) and Martin Down NNR (ACM & ML), but the very last was seen at Stockbridge Down on 29 August (RWe).

Overall a much better year for this butterfly with 10 transects showing an increase of 20% or more, two transects appeared to show no change and only two of the 14 transects showed a decrease of 20% or more.



Status: BC Low Priority

No of 2010 records: 1458

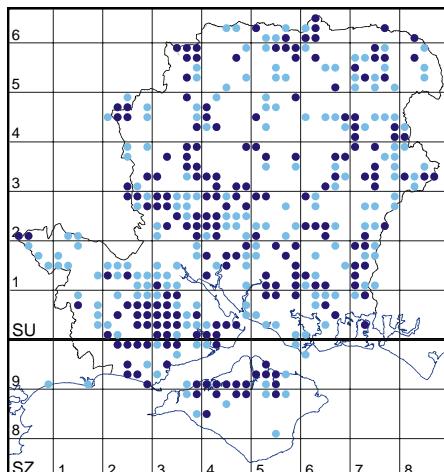
No of 2010 individuals: 9459

No of tetrads in 2010: 208

No of post 2000 tetrads: 407

Earliest: 6 June 2010
Cranmore, IoW (CF)

Latest: 20 September 2010
West Walk (DGE)



“Excellent”, “spectacularly good” and “astounding in every sense” these phrases are typical of the comments submitted to sum up the season. Not surprisingly many observers considered this species to be a serious contender for butterfly of the year in 2010. High populations were present at favoured woodland sites, producing some record-breaking numbers on transect. At Pamber Forest, the record Annual Index of 639 in 2009 was eclipsed by a total of 1102 this year. Similarly, at Botley Wood the Annual Index rose from 163 to a best-ever 339. Of the forty-two transects that recorded the species in both 2009 and 2010 twenty-five reported an increase greater than 20% whereas only seven reported an equivalent decrease. At the remaining ten sites the population remained stable.

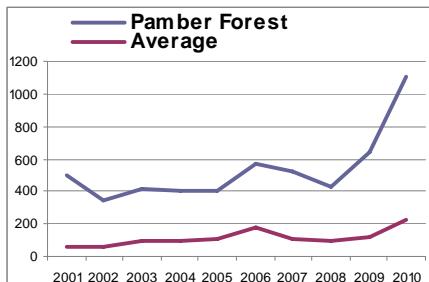
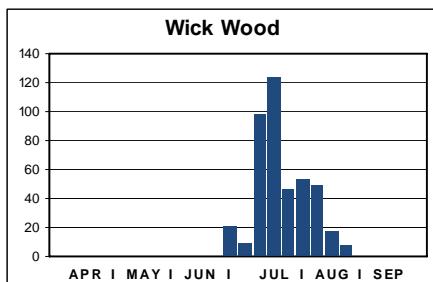
The first adult was reported at Ningwood Common on the Isle of Wight on 6 June (CF) but the first mainland record was not until 15 June at Straits Inclosure (CLB). A more general emergence began around 25 June and before the end of the month it was apparent that it was to be quite a remarkable summer for this butterfly.

Three-figured counts were received from six widespread sites, the earliest being 130 at Straits Inclosure on 28 June (RSy). The peak flight occurred during mid-July with an estimated 300 at Alice Holt on 10 July (MRO), 122 at Botley Wood on 11 July (ACM), 124 at Wick Wood (PR) on 17 July, 106 at Brockishill Inclosure on 16 July (JRu), 100 at West Wood on 17 July (AW) and 269 at Pamber Forest on 19 July (GJD). These were followed a few days later by 119 at Hookheath, Southwick (T&MR). The highest counts on the Island came from Walters Copse where 25 were seen on 10 July and 17 July (MHa). Whilst overall numbers declined thereafter, the actual number of reports increased as the butterflies dispersed and wandered further afield. Garden records, predominantly associated with visits to buddleia bushes, were a feature of late July and early August. Adults were on the wing at nine sites in September. Three at Firestone Copse on 9 September (AJR) were the last on the Island and the final mainland report was of a singleton at West Walk on 20 September (DGE).

Several observers referred to the recent colonisation of new areas as well as the consolidation of populations. CRH concluded that it had expanded its range in Hart District.

At Pamber there were three sightings of ab. *ocellata* on 6 July, 15 July and 5 August in addition to seventeen records of *valezina* form females (GJD). *valezina* were present at a minimum of eleven other locations.

On a behavioural note, during the prolonged dry weather AW noted as many as seven adult males grouped together on the ground imbibing moisture in Straits Inclosure.



Marsh Fritillary *Euphydryas aurinia*

Mike Gibbons

Status: BC High Priority
No of 2010 records: 38
No of 2010 individuals: 272
No of tetrads in 2010: 9
No of post 2000 tetrads: 28

Earliest: 21 May 2010
 Martin Down (NFr)
Latest: 5 June 2010
 Botley Wood (MRB)
 Martin Down (D&MNe)

Although the flight period was short, the Marsh Fritillary did have a particularly good year at two locations, Martin Down and areas around Porton Down. Records were received from five locations altogether.

The Martin Down population fared very well with a maximum of 34 on 22 May (D&MNe) and good totals recorded over eight sections of the north transect 24 May (RLI). The weekly count of Martin Down North illustrates the mass emergence in late May and rapid decline in numbers by early June. The species was seen over a wider area of the reserve in 2010 than recent years from the records submitted.

On the Hampshire/Wiltshire border at Porton Down totals of 39 and 37 were recorded in two separate areas 23 May (DGG et al.). These are good numbers for this species in an isolated part of Hampshire which could support the metapopulation structure vital for its continued survival. The areas were different from 2009 records in this vicinity.

There were sporadic sightings in the Bentley Wood Eastern Clearing with the best numbers on the Wiltshire side (AW). A remarkable record of 40 on 26 May (MSw) probably includes the Hants/Wilts border totals around Eastern Clearing. AW commented "Devil's bit Scabious was making a comeback in many areas where shrubs have been cleared, so hopefully a good colony can once again be established here".

The introduced colony at Botley Wood crashed as was expected, with only one female recorded on 5 June (MRB). An individual of very suspect origin was noted at Noar Hill on 28 May (RHo).



Marsh Fritillary (Paul Brock)

Reports of larvae were received from Martin Down, with two on 27 April (PDB) and 11 larval webs on 10 July and two larval webs on 24 July (D&MNe).

There is no doubt the fine warm weather from late May improved the Marsh Fritillary's fortunes allowing numbers to build and females to lay eggs. The combination of improving numbers and good weather could indicate a bright outlook for 2011 in the two remaining Hampshire strongholds.

Glanville Fritillary *Melitaea cinxia*

Andy Butler

Status: BC High Priority

No of 2010 records: 109

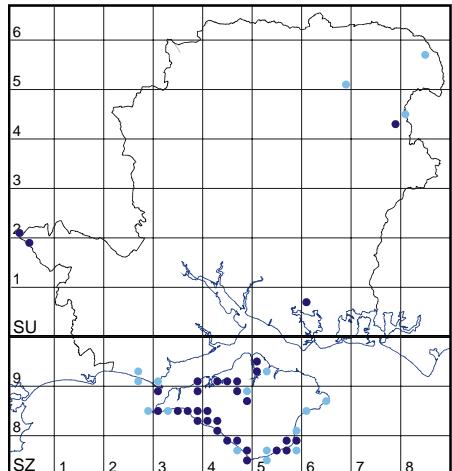
No of 2010 individuals: 2248

No of tetrads in 2010: 31

No of post 2000 tetrads: 48

Earliest: 1 May 2010
Wheeler Bay (IP)

Latest: 9 July 2010
Bentley Station Meadow
(SJ)



The annual larval web count on the Island this year showed a slight increase at most sites but at Binnel numbers went through the roof even after the very high return last year. Keith and Ann Marston recorded 638 webs and a total of 26,500 larvae here on the 18 March which is a record for the site. This massive increase is completely out of proportion to all other similar sites and the reason for this is not obvious and would require further investigation. Recorders have also noticed over the last few years an increasing number of webs are to be found in thicker coarser grass which is the favoured habitat on the Continent as opposed to the usual shorter more open situation found in this country.

As usual the first sighting was at Wheelers Bay and only three days later than the previous year which shows that the severe snow storms and intense cold of early January had no effect on the larvae at this site. Elsewhere emergence times were slightly later than usual with most first records from mid-May. By the last week of May good numbers were being seen at all core sites such as 200+ at Wheelers Bay on 22 May (PB&IP), 175 at Brook Chine on the same date (MH) and 100+ at Brook Down on 31 May (TJN/LF/DC). As is usual in a good year the butterfly was observed at many other locations as they dispersed into the wider countryside and away from the coast. Records came from Newtown, Parkhurst Forest, Shanklin Down, Mottistone Common, Whippingham and the Carisbrooke area.



Glanville Fritillary habitat at Whitecliff Bay (Andy Butler)

The report last year of Glanvilles at Whitecliff Bay in the East Wight was confirmed with three seen on the slipped cliffs in front of the Holiday Camp on 21 May (A&EB). This is the exact site where L. Hugh Newman saw them in 1948 and mentioned them in a book complete with a photograph of Whitecliff; they had probably been there all the

time but went unobserved and unrecorded. Not far away at Redcliff this once vulnerable site continues to improve and DAB saw 12 there on 23 May.

The small colony at Whippingham Fields that JR has monitored since 2001 is still there and this year gave the highest Annual Index of 13, not many but still viable if the habitat remains suitable. There appears to be a thriving colony around Carisbrooke Castle now with numbers increasing every year. Peak counts were around 200 adults seen by a number of observers in mid-May.

On the MOD Newtown Ranges, Glanvilles were found last year on the bank behind the rifle butts and again this year reasonable numbers of adults were seen at the same location with 12 on 1 June and 15 on 6 June (BA). This must count as one of the most unusual Glanville colonies ever!

On the mainland, the recent colony established at Hurst Point appears to be declining rapidly much as hinted at by last year's figures and perhaps confirmed by this years. The only records received were one confirmed adult on 22 May (MJJG) and three on 25 May (BH). There were no records of larvae at all but this may be because no one looked. It would be useful if anybody did go that they sent in a zero record so the true situation would be much clearer.

There have been a number of Glanville Fritillaries seen in a few sites in Hampshire which indicate released stock from some source or other. These sites included, Martin Down, Fort Nelson and Bentley Station Meadow. This is a pointless exercise and serves no useful purpose whatsoever, why this happens is beyond comprehension.

In spite of these releases confusing the picture, it is clear that the Glanville had an excellent year.



Glanville Fritillary caterpillars (David Green)



Glanville Fritillary (Andy Butler)

Status: BC Low Priority

No of 2010 records: 4172

No of 2010 individuals: 9783

No of tetrads in 2010: 368

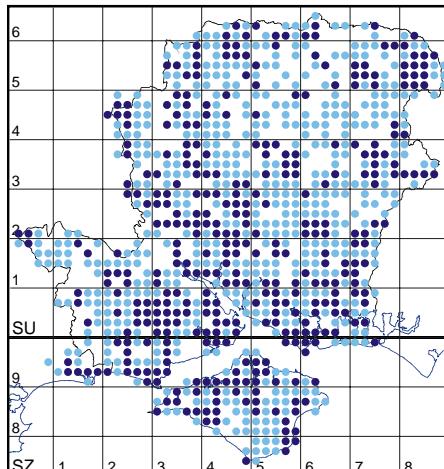
No of post 2000 tetrads: 904

Earliest: 4 April 2010

Brockishill Inclosure (JRu)

Latest: 6 November 2010

Fort Gilkicker (DJAT)

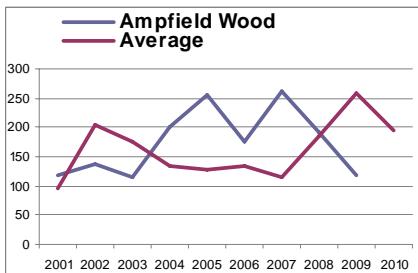
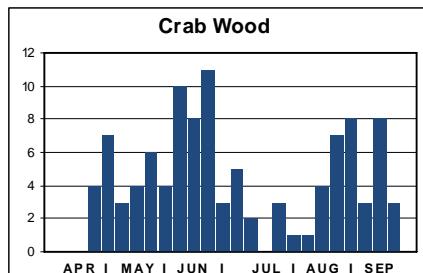


2010 appears to have been a mixed year for Speckled Wood around the two counties. On some transect-monitored sites where there is an Annual Index such as Pamber Forest, the Annual Index rose from a trough of 223 in 2007 to a peak of 986 in 2010. However at Combe Bottom Ventnor, the numbers dropped from last year's peak of 54 to 18, whilst at Bartley Heath they fell from 270 to 120 and at Ampfield Wood from 191 to 119. This suggests great variability between sites and the comments from recorders mirrored this – “another good year in the Petersfield area” (MSH), “another very good year at Botley Wood” (RKL), and “a 50% drop on last year” in Greyshtott (ACG).

The highest number of individuals at any one site was 178 recorded at two sites; Walters Copse on the Isle of Wight on 26 June (MHa) and Pamber Forest on 31 August (GJD). However the vast majority of records were of one or two individuals, which is typical of this species, probably most spiralling in their aerial battles in well-lit spots.

This multi-brooded species had records from April to early November. Although there were peaks in numbers at the end of April, mid-June and late August/early September, there were butterflies recorded on most days from early April until mid-October, when sightings largely dried up.

The transect data from across the county also shows that of the three broods, the late summer brood was the largest with 50 at Pamber Forest on 31 August (GJD), 30 at Ashford Hill Woods and 14 at Ampfield Woods on 2 September (PAB) and 11 at Windmill Hill on 3 September (RPA).



Status: BC High Priority
No of 2010 records: 138
No of 2010 individuals: 358
No of tetrads in 2010: 48
No of post 2000 tetrads: 134

Earliest: **11 May 2010**
Bonchurch Down (IRi)
Latest: **30 October 2010**
Fort Gilkicker (DJAT)

After the cold winter, 2010 saw a much later start to the season with the first adults observed a full three weeks later than in 2009. On the mainland, it was another disappointing year with the species recorded at only two locations away from the coast and with no records from the north of the County.

A single individual at Portsdown Hill on 23 May (ACM) was the only record from the chalk in Hampshire. Some hope remains however as individuals were observed just over the County boundary at Dunch Hill, Wiltshire (MFW) and West Woodhay, Berkshire (MG).

In its main stronghold in the south-west of the County, the species had a reasonable year with 18 recorded at Keyhaven on 31 May (CLB) and 17 on 8 August (GP).

A single individual seen at Hatchet Pond in the New Forest on 12 August (GFa) may have been a wanderer from the coast or could perhaps indicate that a small population survives in the Forest.

At Fort Gilkicker, Gosport the species continued to hang on in low numbers with the only multiple sighting being two on 9 August (ACM).

On the Isle of Wight, the species had 'not the best of years' (DAB) with the only counts in double figures coming from Ningwood where 20 were seen on 23 May (Mha) and Brading with 10 on 8 August (DAB).

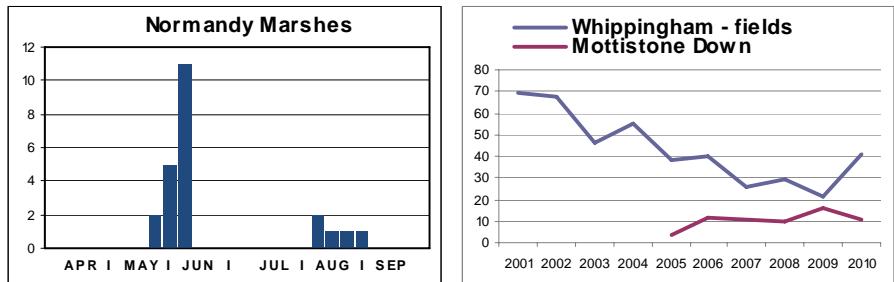
Transect data from the two counties showed a decrease at three sites and an increase at 3. The Annual Index for the Normandy Marsh transect at Lymington declined markedly from 65 in 2009 to 23 in 2010 (MW, ZW, PRD) perhaps reflecting poor weather during the flight period of its second brood.

The first sightings of the year were from the Island on 12 May with individuals at Freshwater (CD) and Whiteways Quarry, Compton (MRO). On the mainland, the first record was at Keyhaven on the 22 May (DHo) when 11 were seen mainly along the 'Ancient Highway' at the back of the marsh.

The second brood started to emerge on the Island on 24 July with records from Brightstone Bay and Gore Cliff (RCB). On the mainland, the first record was from Gilkicker on the 29 July (ACM) followed by two at Keyhaven on 2 August (DHo). The final second brood sighting was made at Hale Common on the 30 August (DLHM))

The first appearance of the third brood was at Cranmore, IoW, on 26 Sept (CF) but it was a poor year with only two further individuals seen on the island.

On the mainland, the only site to record a third brood was Fort Gilkicker with individuals seen from 22 October until 30 October (DJAT), the last sighting of the year.



Marbled White *Melanargia galathea*

Peter Eeles

Status: BC Low Priority

No of 2010 records: 1615

No of 2010 individuals: 14047

No of tetrads in 2010: 233

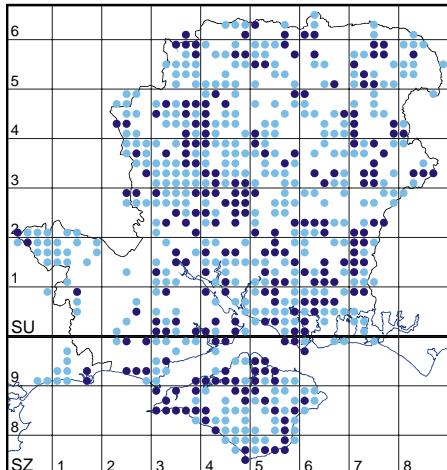
No of post 2000 tetrads: 629

Earliest: 13 June 2010

Magdalen Hill Down
(A&LB)

Latest: 1 September 2010

Bartley Heath (JHu)

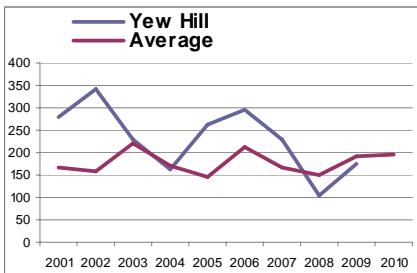
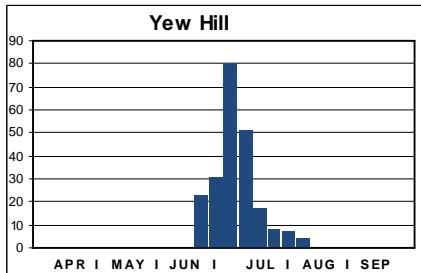


Despite a long-term decline, this species had a solid year in 2010 which was, on balance, on a par with recent years. This species was first seen in any numbers in late June, leading up to a definite peak in the second week of July, with numbers tailing off into the middle of August.

Excellent numbers were recorded at many sites. Over 100 individuals were seen at The Mountain, Pitt Down, Old Winchester Hill, Portsdown Hill (AW), Beacon Hill (PSh), Magdalen Hill Down extension (TSm) and Stockbridge Down (PE), as well as a number of sites on the Isle of Wight, including Ningwood Common (I&CF) and Whippingham (MHa). Sightings on the island were the highest reported with over 200 seen in the second week of July at Newtown (MHa) and Carisbrooke Castle (SRe, Bruce Ransom) and over 350 seen at Mottistone Down (MHa) on 11th July. On the less-positive side, declines were seen at some sites, such as Botley Wood (RKL) and Petersfield Heath (MSh), where it is thought that the dry conditions in spring and early summer had reduced the amount of suitable grasses required by the larva.

The mixed fortunes were borne out by the transect data. At Magdalen Hill Down this species recorded its best Annual Index since 2003 (354) whereas Bonchurch Down on the Isle of Wight had an Annual Index of 56, the lowest Index recorded.

In summary, this species had an average year with any losses balanced by corresponding gains at other sites.



Grayling *Hipparchia semele*

Paul Brock

Status: BC High Priority
No of 2010 records: 156
No of 2010 individuals: 1754
No of tetrads in 2010: 63
No of post 2000 tetrads: 161

Earliest: 25 June 2010
 Whitehill, Bordon (SRM)
Latest: 17 September 2010
 Three locations

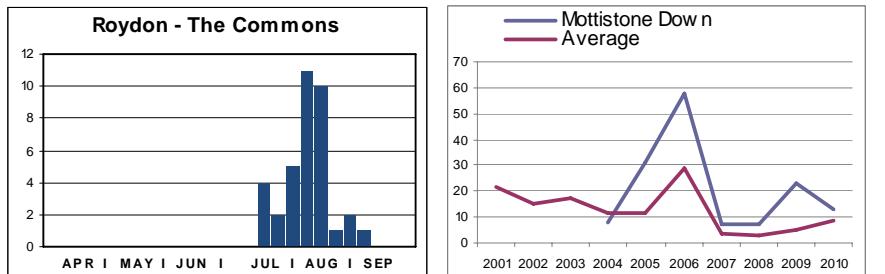
2010 was a generally improved year for the Grayling, with higher counts than normal during the season, apparently in part due to more extensive sampling of sites by individuals.

There was only one sighting in late June, but 1-2 individuals were recorded during the first week of July, mainly in the usual early sites, Browndown and Eelmoor. Numbers picked up and 140 were recorded at Mottistone Down, Isle of Wight on 11 July (MHa), soon after the first New Forest adult was recorded at Anses Wood on 7 July (SCur).

The highest count of 230 on 17 July came from various former heathland rides in Eversley Forest, where the species was plentiful along ride margins sampled, and in one clearing (CRH). The next highest count of 116 came from a full site survey of Eelmoor, where the season started on 5 July and ended on 22 September, with 71 still present on 1 September (CRH). Hale also registered an impressive count of 50 on 9 August (AShe).

The transect at Mottistone Down, Isle of Wight showed a decline (presumably not a true reflection of the site), whereas Roydon Woods, New Forest, rose from an Annual Index of eight in 2009 to 36 (+350%). Of transects elsewhere in the county, one showed a >20% increase in numbers compared with 2008, one >20% decrease and one static (numbers low at all sites).

Thirty five counts in double figures (mainly in July and August) is an improvement on the last three years numbers. These counts include various well spread heathland sites throughout the New Forest, the highest count of 38 at Black Gutter on 5 August (JRu). Although still recorded from various localities, counts generally fell after mid-August.



Gatekeeper *Pyronia tithonus*

Brian Fletcher

Status: BC Low Priority

No of 2010 records: 3215

No of 2010 individuals: 22997

No of tetrads in 2010: 329

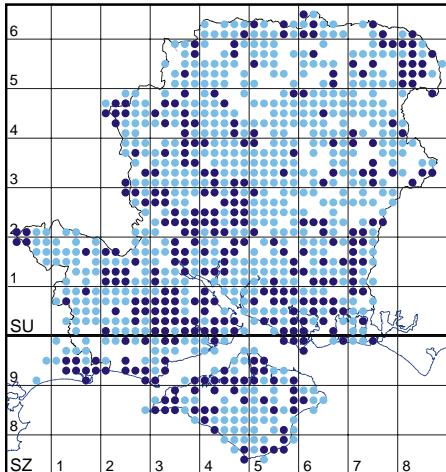
No of post 2000 tetrads: 933

Earliest: **20 June 2010**

Wootton Coppice Inclosure
(MLe)

Latest: **14 October 2010**

Clamerkin, IoW (PHun)



The first sighting in 2010 was about a week later than in 2009. Few were seen until the beginning of July, when the species began to emerge in good numbers in widely separated locations, with 20 being seen at Abbotts Ann, near Andover, on 1 July (JRM) and 24 at Wildgrounds, Gosport on 4 July (PPa).

Observers had mixed opinions on the performance of this species. It was said to have appeared in "disappointing numbers at some sites (e.g. The Mountain and Portsdown Hill) though numbers were probably average in most woodland sites visited" (AW), and was "probably the most common butterfly in my Southampton garden after the Whites, and it was not unusual to see six to eight on scabious flowers in the mornings" (CP). It had "an excellent year around Winchester" (RSB) but "had another poor year, well below normal, in the Petersfield area" (MSh) and was "well down at Brading" (DAB).

On 24 of the 68 transects, numbers were 20% or more down, and 29 other transects recorded an increase of the same magnitude. Overall the average numbers on the transects have revealed a slight decline over the past 10 years, but with numbers still significantly higher than in the mid-1980s.

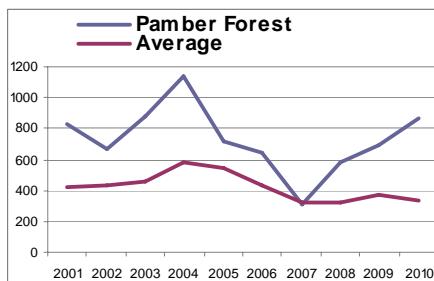
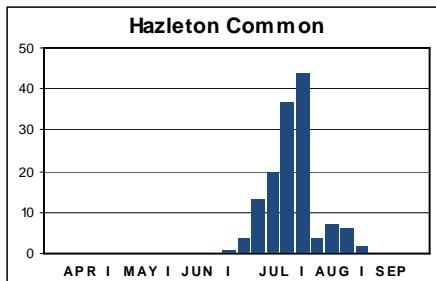
There were 37 counts of 100 or more in 2010, seven of these being of 200 or more. The four largest counts were all on the Whippingham Fields transect, 240 being seen on 9 July, 526 on 23 July, 557 (the highest count of all) on 30 July and 238 on 7 August

(all JR). The largest count on the mainland was of 210 at Pamber Forest on 2 August (GJD). Most of the century counts were recorded during the last week of July and the first two weeks of August, the last being at Whippingham Fields on 13 August (JR)

Numbers declined slowly during the second half of August with the last double figure count of the season being 26 at our Magdalen Hill Down reserve on 1 September (PB). During the first week of September 31 observers reported seeing Gatekeepers, but after this sightings were few and far between, with sightings on 12 and 28 September and the final sighting of the year being three weeks later. Thus the flight season was about three weeks longer than in either 2008 or 2009.



Gatekeeper ab. *multiocellata* at Creech Wood, 9 July 2009 (Derek Weights)



Status: BC Low Priority

No of 2010 records: 6468

No of 2010 individuals: 66147

No of tetrads in 2010: 387

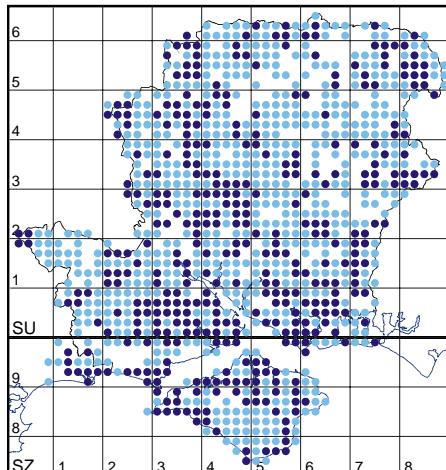
No of post 2000 tetrads: 995

Earliest: 17 May 2010

Holbury Wood (CKe)

Latest: 7 November 2010

Mottistone Down, IoW
(SAK-J)

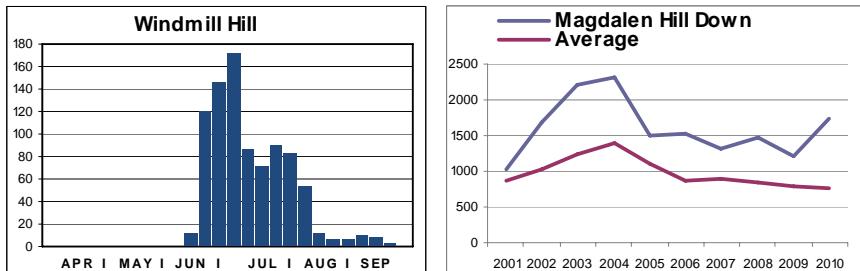


This is always a very common butterfly which has comparatively minor fluctuations in population. In 2010, it was a slightly mixed picture for the Meadow Brown. 54% of transect sites had a more than a 20% decrease in sightings compared with 2009, yet on some sites the species did seem to do better than last year. AW said "extraordinary number seen at some sites, with hundreds at Old Winchester Hill, Oxenbourne Down and Portsdown Hill on transect." However, CP felt that numbers were well down on last year and RKL at Botley Wood saw "a dramatic crash in population after last year's record-breaking numbers."

There was an interesting observation on 20 July by A&LB in their garden at Chandler's Ford of Meadow Brown egg-laying amongst dry moss on a low wall of a raised border. I have also regularly seen this species deliberately lay on dead grass litter and dried pieces of moss alongside patches of bare ground.

Most recorders do not attempt to count individual Meadow Browns on site visits and just comment that "lots were seen", if a count is given then it is usually a rough estimation. In contrast, transect counts are as accurate as possible and the highest count in 2010 was from the Whippingham Fields transect where 1489 were recorded on 25 June (JR).

The peak flight period, as calculated by the number of records and counts in each week, was around the middle of July. Meadow Brown generally have a very long flight period and this year numbers were still strong into late September, with mating seen in early October (CP).



Small Heath *Coenonympha pamphilus*

Brian Fletcher

Status: BC High Priority
No of 2010 records: 2470
No of 2010 individuals: 12451
No of tetrads in 2010: 188
No of post 2000 tetrads: 428

Earliest: 1 May 2010
 The Mountain (AW & SE)
 Bonchurch Down, IoW (IP)

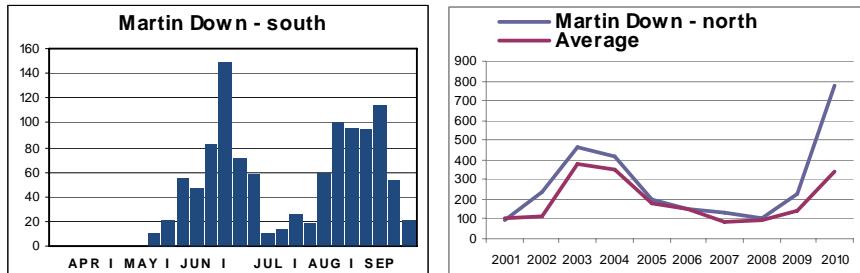
Latest: 17 October 2010
 Southbourne Undercliff (MJG)
 Brading, IoW (DAB)

Though the Small Heath appeared somewhat later than in 2009 and finished about a week earlier, the numbers flying in 2010 far exceeded those of recent years. This was apparent both in comments from observers and transect counts. Comments included "at Botley Wood it had its best transect season since 2005" (RKL) and "at Eelmoor it had its best count since 2004 and one of the best in 14 years of monitoring" (CRH). At St. Catherine's Hill "it did particularly well in August" (RSB) and "had its best second brood for quite a few years" (CP). At Butser Hill "it had an amazing year" (MSh). All of the comments and counts confirm that the second brood was significantly stronger than the first, with the species back up to the good numbers of 2003 – 2004 after a series of poor seasons. Only four of the 35 transects recorded a significant decline in numbers, with the vast majority of transects (29 in all) reporting an increase of 20% or more. Overall numbers in 2010 were approximately double those in 2009.

The species was quite numerous from the middle of May, the first double-figure count being 13 at The Mountain on 15 May (AW) with the two largest counts of the month being 42 at Tower Hill, Porton Down on 23 May (DGG et al) and 45 at Butser Hill on the same date (AW). 12 counts of 50 or more were made in June, the first being 55 at Martin Down (South) on 5 June (LS). Two of these were century counts, the only ones of the first brood, 147 being seen at Martin Down (North) on 26 June (LS) and 116 at Butser Hill on 28 June (MSh). During the first half of July there were four counts of 50+, but the species was less common in late-July and early-August.

Then numbers increased again as the second brood began to emerge, there being nine counts of 50+ in the second half of August, the highest of these being 110 seen at Stockbridge Down on 30 August (BPF). There were 14 counts of 50+ in September, half of these being of 100 or more. The largest count of all was 201 at Eelmoor on 1 September (CRH), with 167 seen at Martin Down NNR on the same date (JRU). Large numbers of Small Heaths remained on the wing until late in the month, with the last double figure count being the 43 seen on the Martin Down transects on 26 September (LS). Shortly after this, numbers declined rapidly due to deteriorating weather, 1 October being the wettest day of the year. It is not surprising that only five sightings of

the species were made in October, the last two of this very successful season being at favoured southerly locations on both the Isle of Wight and the mainland.



Ringlet *Aphantopus hyperantus*

Richard Levett

Status: BC Low Priority

No of 2010 records: 2176

No of 2010 individuals: 19828

No of tetrads in 2010: 226

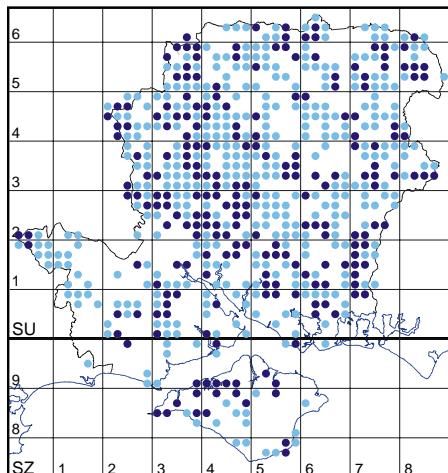
No of post 2000 tetrads: 615

Earliest: 16 June 2010

Beacon Hill NNR (BP)

Latest: 12 September 2010

Castle Shore Park (AHB)

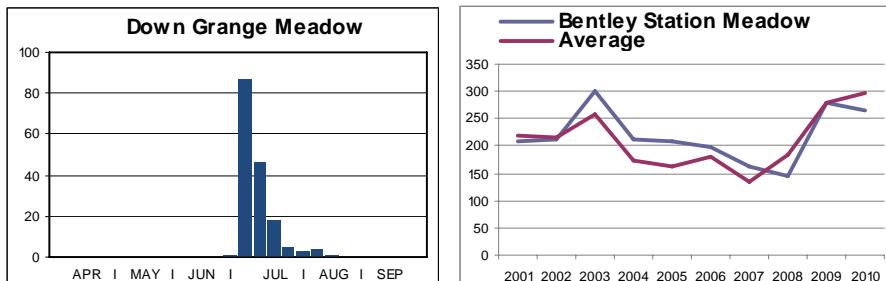


It was something of a mixed bag for the Ringlet in 2010. Despite the dry weather, many observers considered this a very good season and yet twenty-three transects recorded a greater than 20% drop in population compared with 2009. A further nineteen remained static and only sixteen reported an equivalent increase.

Emergence began ten days later than last year with four at Beacon Hill NNR on 16 June. Within a week the butterfly was widespread and before the end of the month 70 had been seen at Straits Inclosure (RSy). Numbers increased rapidly in early July and peaked by mid-month. There were 200 at Bentley Wood on 5 July (MJG), 289 on The Mountain transect on 8 July (SE&PR), 501 on the Pamber Forest transect on 9 July (GJD), 204 at Straits Inclosure also on 9 July (RSy), 226 at Brockishill Inclosure on 10 July (JRu), 600 at Westover Down on 11 July (MHa), 150 at West Wood on 17 July (RCB & Sharron Broadway) and 158 at Botley Wood on 18 July (ACM). At the start of August numbers were already at a significantly lower level and by the last week of the month there were only a handful of sightings involving one to three individuals at three localities. Finally there were singletons at The Holt, Soakfield Row on 2 September (S&PL) and Castle Shore Park, Portchester on 12 September (AHB).

At Pamber Forest, where it was a record-breaking year, it proved to be the commonest species on the reserve (GJD). ACG regarded it as the best year since 1996 at Greyshtott whilst CRH considered it to be the best season at Eelmoor for eight years. More poetically, AW noted that at Straits Inclosure roosting adults flew off like confetti when disturbed from ride-side grasses early in the morning. In contrast MSh commented that a marked downturn in the Petersfield area was probably attributable to the dry weather.

A single aberrant, ring-less form ab. *arete* was noted at Stoke Park Wood, Fair Oak on 18 July (PAB).



SCARCE IMMIGRANTS / RELEASES / ESCAPES

Note: Whilst some of the following records may be of immigrant individuals, deliberate or accidental releases of captive bred butterflies or moths cannot be ruled out in some of these instances.

Long-tailed Blue *Lampides boeticus*

One seen at Alice Holt Forest, Straits Inclosure on 4 July (PO).

Geranium Bronze *Cacyreus marshalli*

One was seen in a garden at Porchfield, IoW, on 16 and August (MHa). This is the first known record for the Island.

Camberwell Beauty *Nymphalis antiopa*

Three records in 2010. One was seen at Martin Down NNR on 7 July (JDo), one at Headlands Activity Centre on 12 July (BSpa) and one at Magdalen Hill Down on 8 October flying west at approximately 30mph (PAB & CM).

ADDITIONS & CORRECTIONS TO 2009 REPORT

SMALL COPPER: Status should be BC Low Priority

SMALL BLUE: Portchester Chalkpit is not, nor ever has been, part of the Ports Down transect. Highest count was of at 267 Paulsgrove Chalkpit

HOLLY BLUE: The highest spring count of 24 on 11th May 2009 was at GOSPORT NOT GOSPORT WILDGROUNDS.

PEACOCK: page 75: At Browndown North on 19 June 2009 ACM & DJAT saw 150 LARVAE NOT ADULTS.

PAINTED LADY: bottom of page 71 and photo caption at top of page 72: The very rare black & white aberration was FIRST seen by Anne McCue (ACM) in her garden at Privett Place, Gosport on 10th AUGUST NOT JULY 2009. She has NOT been credited. Anne McCue & David Tinling both saw it there on 11th August 2009, when the latter photographed it.

RED ADMIRAL: Latest date should be 10 December 2009 NOT 2008

SPECKLED WOOD: Status should be BC Low Priority

Thanks to all who submitted corrections.

BUTTERFLY TRANSECT LOCALITIES

Much of the butterfly data that makes the production of this report possible is generated by the dedicated teams of transect walkers who undertake repeated visits to sites throughout the season and record butterflies according to a standard method.

The following pages feature images of a few of the varied localities covered by Pollard Butterfly Transects in our area.



Dell Piece West at Fleabane time, August 2008 (John Vigay)



Catherington Down at Cowslip time, May 2010 (John Vigay)



Windmill Hill, May 2009 (Jane Mercer)



Horndean Down, July 2008 (John Vigay)

MOTH REPORT 2010

Editorial

Tim Norriss / Mike Wall



A very big thank you is due to all recorders who have submitted their records on time. The number received so far, 126,442 for 2010, has already exceeded the figure for the previous record year of 2006 and this total will undoubtedly rise further as the last of the records come in. The highlight of the year for some will have been finding a Double Line, Marbled Clover or other rare resident in their trap. For others the excitement of seeing rare migrants that have flown across the channel is what excites them. For us it is the pleasure of seeing or learning something new about our resident species and discovering the subtle nuances of the ecological requirements of each and how we can better manage the habitat for their survival in a world with a rapidly increasing population.

Up-to-date news and information is more readily available to all these days and we hope that you make use of the email newsgroup and enjoy the Hantsmonthly newsletters on the Hantsmoths website. The quality of photographs that are submitted continues to rise and provides a great additional resource to the available literature for all to enjoy.

Our thanks as usual go to Barry Goater, John Langmaid, Richard Dickson and Brian Elliott for their substantial help and advice during the year and in the preparation of this report. Have a great field season in 2011 and please submit your records in good time.

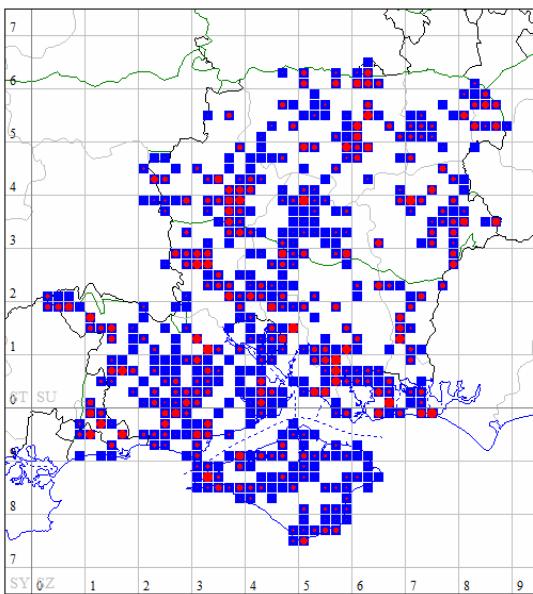
Moth Record Coverage for 2010

The table below summarises the number of records, tetrads (2-km squares) from which records were received and species reported per annum since 2000:

Year	Records	2-km sq.	Species
2000	41,225	305	1,285
2001	44,616	300	1,284
2002	57,671	361	1,348
2003	83,730	478	1,413
2004	90,706	486	1,433
2005	94,540	427	1,409
2006	125,911	491	1,451
2007	96,739	474	1,358
2008	91,200	500	1,364
2009	122,183	511	1,397
2010	126,442	499	1,438

There are approximately 1,150 tetrads in our area.

The map (right) indicates tetrads from which one or more records were received during 2010. The greater proportion of yellow in a square, the higher the level of recording activity in that tetrad. As can be seen, there are still many parts of the county that go unrecorded or receive little attention on an annual basis.



Notes

- All records are of single adult moths, and to MV trap, unless otherwise stated.
- New 10-km square records are indicated by an asterisk (*) after the site name.
- For brevity, the following authorities have been abbreviated where needed: Denis & Schiffermüller to D. & S., Herrich-Schäffer to H-S, Duponchel to Dup. and Linnaeus to L.

For the Microlepidoptera, the general criteria for inclusion are as follows:

- scarce species at vice-county level;
- 25 or less records on the Hampshire & Isle of Wight database;
- scarce (<50 records on database) species in new 10km squares;
- other notable records, such as significant range expansion.

SYSTEMATIC LIST

Macrolepidoptera: Tim Norriss (Editor and Noctuidae), Nick Montegriffo (Lasiocampidae to Sphingidae)

Microlepidoptera: Mike Wall

NEW COUNTY AND VICE-COUNTY RECORDS



Cossidae

0160 Reed Leopard *Phragmataecia castaneae* (Hübner, 1790) Adventive

VC12: NEW COUNTY RECORD. A male found on the sheet next to a trap run in AB's Axmansford garden overnight on 2 July was an unlikely find at a site backing onto mixed woodland: the most likely origin was from Polish reed used for thatching a house 100m along the road (MJW, ABo det. MJW).

Left: *P. castaneae*, Axmansford, 2 July © MJW

Bucculatrigidae

0266 *Bucculatrix nigricomella* (Zeller, 1839)

VC10: NEW COUNTY RECORD. Local but not infrequent on the mainland, on Ox-eye Daisy. One to MV at Freshwater, 24 July (DC) was an overdue first for the island.

Gracillariidae

0318 *Phyllonorycter tenerella* (Joannis, 1915)

VC10: NEW COUNTY RECORD. Two mines with extruded pupal cases on *Carpinus betulus*, Osborne, 17 August (DTB). A rare species throughout Hampshire, particularly in the south.

0327 *Phyllonorycter hostis* Triberti, 2007

VC10: NEW COUNTY RECORD. Mine with parasitized larva on Crab Apple, Swanpond Copse, 15 July (DTB). Widespread at low density on the mainland.



Yponomeutidae

0409b *Argyresthia cupressella*

Walsingham, 1890

VC12: NEW VICE COUNTY RECORD. A not unexpected arrival in North Hampshire. Chilbolton, 12 June (GCE conf. MJW).

Left: *A. cupressella*, Chilbolton, 12 June © GCE

0449c *Prays oleae* (Bernard, 1788)

VC11: NEW COUNTY RECORD. Mines on *Olea europaea* were found at Hilliers Arboretum on 25 April, from which two moths were bred, emerging 15 May and 6 June (BE). On 26 August, JRL took a female imago (gen.det.) at MV in Southsea. The first confirmed record of this species in Britain was on January 22 2009, in Addlestone, Surrey (Andy Mitchell).

Coleophoridae

0561 *Coleophora therinella* Tengström, 1848

Nb

VC12: NEW VICE COUNTY RECORD. A male taken in Alton, 20 July (DBO gen.det. BGo) is a markedly inland record for a species generally found along the coast in our county.

Oecophoridae

0653 *Aplota palpella* (Haworth, 1828)

pRDB1

VC11: PRESENCE IN COUNTY CONFIRMED. Mottisfont Great Copse, 23 July (AMD). One of the most unexpected records of the year, being the first Hampshire report since the vague reference in the Victorian County History published in the 1880s. Recent records in Wiltshire and Sussex may indicate a resurgence in the south of England.



Right: *D.ultimella*, Freshwater, 18 May © DC

Gelechiidae

0734 *Argolamprotes micella* ([D. & S.], 1775) pRDB3

VC12: NEW VICE-COUNTY RECORD. An individual taken at Weston Colley, 1 July (DGG) was only the second county record after one in Winchester just over the vice-county boundary in 1987. A species associated with blackberry, dewberry and raspberry and this second record is perhaps further evidence that *micella* may be resident at low densities on the chalk in the central mainland.

Right: *A. micella*, Weston Colley, 1 July © DGG



0808 *Platyedra subcinerea* (Haworth, 1828)

VC12: NEW VICE-COUNTY RECORD. Weston Colley, 23 June (DGG). Associated with Common Mallow and abundant in places along the south coast.

0855 *Acompsia cinerella* (Clerck, 1759)

VC10: NEW COUNTY RECORD. Freshwater, 15 August (DC).

Momphidae

0889a *Mompha bradleyi* Riedl, 1965

VC11: NEW COUNTY RECORD. Many galls were found on Great Willowherb at Cams Bay, Fareham, on 4 September, with emergences commencing the following day (JRL, MRY, JY). It may be expected to be found in other sites along the south coast.

Photo right © JRL



Cosmopterigidae

0896a *Cosmopterix scribaiella* Zeller, 1850



VC12: NEW VICE-COUNTY RECORD. Quite common across the south of the mainland and also found on Wight, so an eventual appearance in the North Hampshire was not unexpected for this miner of Common Reed, at Weston Colley on 1 July (DGG). Photo left © DGG

0906 *Blastodacna atra* (Haworth, 1828)

Far less frequently recorded than the closely related *B.hellerella*, occurring at low density in VC11 and rare in North Hampshire; 2010 saw the first Isle of Wight record.

VC10: Freshwater, 15 August (DC).

Right: *B.atra*, Freshwater, 15 August © DC



Tortricidae

1022a *Cnephasia pumicana* (Zeller, 1847)

Recently recognised as a valid species, having previously been considered a synonym of *C.pasiuana* (Hübner, 1799) – for details, see Langmaid and Agassiz, 2010. The following have been re-evaluated from genitalic preparations and constitute the only valid records for Hampshire, and are included for the record.

VC11: NEW VICE-COUNTY RECORD. Waterlooville, 22 June **2007** and 17 July **2009** (RJM gen.det.); Southsea, 24 June **2009** (JRL).

VC12: NEW COUNTY RECORD. Greywell, 23 July **2004** (PBo gen.det. MJW); Sherborne St John, 26 July **2004**, 1 August **2005**, 22 July and 1 August **2007** (NJM gen.det. JCI).

1240 *Grapholita caecana* (Schläger, 1847)

pRDB3

VC12: NEW VICE-COUNTY RECORD. One to MV at Sherborne St John, 21 June (NJM det. JCI). Very rare in the county – regarded as a species of calcareous soil, the larva on Sainfoin, but all three county records have been of wanderers away from such habitat.

Right: *G.caecana*, Sherborne St John, 21 June © NJM



1249 *Grapholita lobarzewskii* (Nowicki, 1860)

pRDB1

VC12: NEW VICE-COUNTY RECORD. Weston Colley*, 5 June (DGG). Reported from the same site on 25 June, with two there on 1 July, and no doubt resident there on Domestic Apple.

Crambidae

1374a *Sclerocona acutellus* (Eversmann, 1842)

Adventive / Migrant

VC10: NEW COUNTY RECORD. JHa trapped at a marshland site on the island on 21 June and was more than surprised to record five individuals of a species that has not been seen in our area since the first at Leckford in 1988. On 19 July a further six were recorded. *S. acutellus* is conventionally regarded as adventive in imported reed (*cf* Reed Leopard above), but these individuals were in the centre of a marsh with no sign of any local thatch. Whatever the source, there is no doubt that this is an established colony, the first found in this country, and which may have been present for some time. The site name has been withheld until such time as its true status can be established.

1397a *Diplopseustis perieresalis* (Walker, 1859)

Adventive

VC11: NEW COUNTY RECORD. Southsea, 12 September (JRL), in the observer's words "a rather grotty specimen". An Asian species, it has previously been recorded from the Isles of Scilly in 2001 and Devon in 2007 and is most likely imported accidentally by the horticultural industry.

Pyralidae

1429 *Aphomia zelleri*

(Joannis, 1932)

pRDB3

VC11: NEW COUNTY RECORD. There exist old records from St Helens, Isle of Wight where it reportedly used to "swarm" in the early years of the 20th century (Goater, 1974), a site which is directly across the Solent from Southsea, where it was reported on 21 July (JRL). It would be intriguing if this colony awaits re-discovery after more than a century. It is of note that there was an unconfirmed report of this species from Hayling Island in 2009 (AJ).



A. zelleri, Southsea, 21 July © JRL

1451a *Etiella zinckenella*

(Treitschke, 1832)

Adventive/Migrant

VC12: NEW VICE-COUNTY RECORD. Weston Colley, 5 October (DGG). Recorded twice before in the county, in Warsash in 1990 and in Christchurch in 1995, at the time the second and third British records.



E.zinckenella, Weston Colley, 5 October © DGG

Geometridae

1888b Ringed Border *Stegania*

cararia (Hübner, 1790)

Migrant

A rare immigrant from mainland Europe, where the species is widely distributed from France eastwards across Russia, this species has been recorded on the British mainland just once previously, at Crewkerne, Somerset, on 1 July 2009, and on the Channel Islands on four occasions up to the end of 2009.



S. cararia, Southsea, 1 July © JRL

VC11: NEW COUNTY RECORD. The first for Hampshire was in Southsea, 1 July, found by JRL in his garden light trap.

Noctuidae

2159a Splendid Brocade *Lacanobia splendens* (Hübner, 1808)

Migrant

VC11: NEW VICE-COUNTY RECORD. Singles on 17 and 26 July at Northney, Hayling Island* (JWP); Lymington*, one on 19 July (PRD).

2226 Beautiful Gothic *Leucochlaena oditis*

(Hufnagel, 1766)

RDB3

Found locally along the south coast of Britain from Scilly and Cornwall. Despite the presence of scattered colonies on the Isle of Wight, from where it is rarely reported due to its late season flight period, it was not until 2010 reported across the Solent.

VC11: NEW COUNTY RECORD. At Sandy Point, Hayling Island*, one turned up at MV on 12 September and remarkably another arrived on 4 October (AJ).



Right: L.oditis, Sandy Point, 12 September © AJ



2248b Sombre Brocade *Dryobotodes tenebrosa* (Esper, 1789)

Migrant

First recorded in Britain on 12 October 2008 at Durlston, Dorset.

VC11: NEW COUNTY RECORD. Sandy Point, Hayling Island*, one on 28 September (AJ) was the sixth British record.

Left: D.tenebrosa, Sandy Point, 28 September © AJ

2386b Southern Army Worm

Spodoptera eridania (Stoll, 1782) Accidental

VC11: Found in the recorder's house in Bishop's Sutton, 15 October (PGLT). A pest species in the Americas on a range of food-plants and occasionally accidentally imported into this country.

MICROLEPIDOPTERA REVIEW

Micropterigidae

0004 *Micropterix aruncella* (Scopoli, 1763)

VC10: One seen feeding on *Pulicaria* at Medina Valley Centre, 6 August (DTB) was the first on the Isle of Wight since 1996.

Eriocraniidae

0009 *Eriocrania sparrmannella* (Bosc, 1791)

VC12: Only rarely recorded in the north of the county, but leaf-mines were found on birch at Weston Colley, 7 July (DGG).

0012 *Eriocrania sangii* (Wood, 1891)

VC10: Mines with larvae on *Betula pendula*, Barton Manor, 28 May (DTB): very infrequent on the Island and the first report since 2002.

Nepticulidae

0019 *Bohemannia quadrimaculella* (Boheman, 1851)

VC11: Titchfield Haven NNR*, 6 August (KC, RJD, KW *et al* gen. det. RJD). Only five previous records.

0020 *Ectoedemia decentella* (H-S, 1855)

One of the most distinctive *Ectoedemia*, the larva mining the samara of Sycamore. Rarely reported outside of South Hampshire.

VC12: Weston Colley, 28 June, with mines found on 16 September (DGG); Basingstoke, 4 June (MJW); Farnborough, 5 June (KBW).

0021 *Ectoedemia sericepeza* (Zeller, 1839)

Na

VC11: Southsea, one, 9 September (JRL). The larva mines the samara of Norway Maple, and appears to be very local.

0022 *Ectoedemia louisella* (Sircom, 1849)

VC11: A miner of the samara of Field Maple which, while being generally more frequently recorded than the preceding species, is still rare and five reports in one year are unprecedented: a few early mines at Mottisfont*, 4 July (DGG, SAC); Awbridge, 5 June, with one flying around a seedling Field Maple (DGG), as was another seen at Winchester Sewage Works*, 24 September (JMCI); two vacated mines, Cams Bay, Fareham, 4 September, with another at Portsdown on the same day (JRL, MRY, JY).

0025 *Ectoedemia intimella* (Zeller, 1848)

VC12: The presence of this miner of willows is evidenced infrequently in North Hampshire, and therefore the following are of note: Weston Colley, mines on unspecified *Salix*, 16 September (DGG); mines on both *Salix caprea* and *S.cinerea*, Butter Wood, Greywell, 7 November (JRL, RJD, MJW *et al*); a few mines with larvae on *S.caprea*, Bartley Heath HIWWNT NR, 7 November (JRL, RJD, MJW).

0026 *Ectoedemia agrimoniae* (Frey, 1858)

VC11: A very local species of Agrimony in calcareous areas: a report of many early mines seen at Portsdown, 2 September (JRL, MRY, JY det. JRL) is the first in the county since 2003.

0031 *Ectoedemia rubivora* (Wocke, 1860)

VC12: A very thinly distributed miner of Dewberry. Several vacated mines on one plant in Butter Wood, Greywell*, 7 November (JRL, RJD, MJW et al) were the first in North Hampshire since 2001.

Right: *E.rubivora*, Butter Wood, 7 November © MJW



0036a *Ectoedemia heringella*

(Mariani, 1939)

VC12: A few vacated mines on Holm Oak at Leckford on 4 May (JRL, BE) – only the third North Hampshire record of this recent introduction to the Hampshire fauna which is now well established and abundant in places to the south, and whose spread has been well documented in previous editions of this report.

0065 *Stigmella speciosa* (Frey, 1858)

VC12: Mines can be found on Sycamore throughout, but rarely in North Hampshire, where the following were of note: Leckford GC, two, 25 September (MJHa det. GAF), and at Weston Colley on 16 September (DGG).

0078 *Stigmella incognitella* (H-S, 1855)

VC12: Very local on apple, especially away from South Hampshire: leaf-mines on Domestic Apple at Weston Colley*, 7 October (DGG).

0102 *Stigmella aceris* (Frey, 1857)

pRDB2

A miner of *Acer* sp. that has two distinct populations in Hampshire: in the north-east, where it is most common, and along the Itchen valley. The year under review saw four records that followed this general pattern, all of mines on Field Maple.

VC11: Sky's Wood, Valley Park, 3 September (PAB); Zionhill Balancing Pond, where it was very common, 22 October (PAB).

VC12: Weston Colley*, 18 September (DGG), perhaps a sign of spread northwards up the Itchen valley; a few at Butter Wood, Greywell, 7 November (JRL, RJD, MJW et al).

Opostegidae

0119 *Opostega salaciella* (Treitschke, 1833)

VC11: Two at Ashurst, NF*, on 26 June and 2 July (KG) were perhaps the first for the New Forest, while one at Southsea on 1 July (IRT) was a more typical location for this pure white miner of Sheep's-sorrel, distinctive for its oversized eye-caps.

0121 *Pseudopostega crepusculella* (Zeller, 1839)

VC12: While commonly reported from Ashurst, NF, as it was again in 2010 (KG), three to light at a public event held at the Millfield, Old Basing, on 31 July (MJW, JKA det. MJW) were less expected.

Incurvariidae

0132 *Incurvaria praelatella* ([D. & S.], 1775)

VC11: An attractive moth with metallic markings associated with Wild Strawberry. The only record received was from Hen Wood*, 4 June (KC, RJD, MLO et al det. RJD).



0138 *Lampronia fuscarella*

(Tengström, 1848)

pRDB3

VC11: A relatively undistinguished incurvariid whose larva forms galls in birch. Southsea*, one, 28 May (IRT).

0145 *Nemophora minimella* ([D. & S.], 1775)

VC11: The first sightings in the county since 1998: Ampfield Woods*, one seen by day, 20 July (MBA); Beacon Hill NNR, Warnford, three by day, 8 August (TJN, LF, DAS).

Left: *N. minimella*, Ampfield Woods, 20 July © MBA

0147 *Nemophora metallica* (Poda, 1761)

VC11: Seen infrequently on scabious, generally on downland. Broughton Down, 19 July (MBA); Fareham*, up to five seen flying by day in the observer's garden, 15 to 22 July (RJD).

Left: *N. metallica*, Broughton Down, 19 July © MBA

0149 *Adela cuprella* ([D. & S.], 1775)

VC11: Abundant at sallow blossom by day, Longdown, NF*, 8 April (PAB); one on sallow, Allbrook*, one, 15 April (PAB).

VC12: Pamber Forest HIWWT NR, abundant on 8 and 9 April (GJD); also on Burnt Common, 18 April (VC22).



Heliozelidae

0154 *Heliozela sericiella* (Haworth, 1828)

VC10: Many vacated galls at Ryde, 1 November (DTB). Records from the same observer last year were erroneously reported as new for the Island, which overlooked the fact that the account in Goater, 1974 for *H. stanneella* refers to this species.

0156 *Heliozela resplendella* (Stainton, 1851)

VC12: A very local leaf-miner of Alder, generally more frequent in the southern vice-county but not reported from there in 2010, and the report of mines at Hunton, 19 August and of an individual trapped at Weston Colley*, 16 September (both DGG) were the only records received.

Cossidae

0160 Reed Leopard *Phragmataecia castaneae* (Hübner, 1790)

Adventive

VC12: See New County Records above.

0161 Leopard Moth *Zeuzera pyrina* (L., 1761)

The return of 37 records of 54 individuals compares favourably with that of the past three years, with 20 from North Hampshire and only one from Wight.

0162 Goat Moth *Cossus cossus* (L., 1758)

(UK BAP) Nb

VC11: 2010 saw a strong showing of 11 separate records from the species' stronghold in the New Forest, of which four were of adults to light: Great Linford, 1 July (DW); Linwood, 24 June (M Kennard); Brockenhurst, 9 July (RBW) and Holbury, 23 June (KJP). The majority of reports were of larvae in the Denny Wood area, where a pupa

was found on 3 July, a large larva was seen emerging from one of three known 'Goat Moth' trees on 30 August and a full-grown example was seen crossing a footpath on 9 October (GRE, PBD) - a fourth host tree was identified in the area on 13 September (RJD). Other reports were of pupal exuviae at New Copse Inclosure on 16 July (PBD), and of larvae at Beaulieu Motor Museum on 14 September (Cliff McCarthy) and Holbury, 22 September (Christine Matthews).

VC12: A larva photographed crossing a footpath at Eelmoor on 6 September was the first North Hampshire record since 1998 (Craig Hudson det. MJW).

Zygaenidae

0163 Forester *Adscita statices* (L., 1758)

(UK BAP)

VC12: The Forester had a remarkable year in 2010: Odiham Common held its highest population since the mid-1990s, with a peak count of 192 (4 June, MJW) an undoubtedly under-estimate of total numbers: on the same day, further south on the Common, TJN recorded a further 50. The moths showed a distinct preference for nectaring on Ragged Robin, despite the thin distribution of this flower on the site. At Stockbridge Down at the same time, following the discovery in 2009 that the *Adscita* at this site were in fact *statices* rather than the expected *geryon*, c. 40 individuals were counted (MBA, TJN, LF). Small numbers had been reported from Porton Down on 23 May (DGG, MP): however, no counts were submitted for the peak flight period so this is unlikely to reflect its true abundance.



A.statices, Porton Down, 23 May © DGG

0164 Cistus Forester *Adscita geryon* (Hübner, 1793)

Nb

VC12: At Porton Down, on 23 May during a 46 minute count on Duke of Burgundy survey day, at least 30 *A. statices* / *A. geryon* were present, with one confirmed; nearby later on the same day at Isle of Wight Woods during a 90 minute visit, at least 50 *A. statices* / *A. geryon* were seen, with four confirmed as *geryon*, 23 May (DGG).

Limacodidae

0173 Festoon *Apoda limacodes* (Hufnagel, 1766)

Nb

The total of 80 records received was the highest for three years and marked an upturn from the declines evident over the past three years; this is evidently a species that does well in warmer summer conditions.

VC8: Damerham, five on four nights between 29 June and 25 July (PT).

VC10: Freshwater, 26 July (DC); Cranmore, 1 August (I&CF).

VC11: 46 records of 96 individuals: as in 2009, most abundant at Sandy Point, Hayling Island, with 55 between 17 June and 18 July (AJ), with a peak of 13 on 2 July.

VC12: In North Hampshire, there were 28 records of just 36 individuals, the peak count being just six – to a large number of traps - at Testside Lakes, Leckford on 9 July (GCE, AMD, PTw, DGG et al.).

0174 Triangle *Heterogenea asella* ([D. & S], 1775)

RDB3

VC11: After last year's null return, it was heartening to receive some news of this enigmatic species, with one at Wickham, 6 August (JRDS).

Psychidae**0192 *Pachythelia villosella* (Ochsenheimer, 1810)**

RDB2

VC11: The larva builds one of the largest cases of all the British psychids, and has been very rarely reported in recent years. The finding of a case at Brownloaf, NF* on 9 July (PDB) was therefore welcome.

Tineidae**0199 *Psychoides verhuella* Bruand, 1853**

VC12: Three larval cases on Hart's-tongue Fern, Weston Colley, 12 April, with single adults to light there on 2 and 11 July (DGG), doubling the number of VC12 records.

0236 Common Clothes Moth *Tineola bisselliella* (Hummel, 1823)

VC12: Nowadays perhaps more aptly called the "not-so-common clothes moth", especially in North Hampshire where the following was only the third modern day record: Alton, 3 July (DBO gen.det. BGo).

Lyonetiidae**0256 *Leucoptera spartifoliella* (Hübner, 1813)**

VC12: Very local throughout and not recorded annually. Dodsley Wood, two leaf-mines on small broom bushes, 3 May (DGG).



B. nigricomella, Freshwater,
24 July © DC

0263 *Bedellia somulentella* (Zeller, 1847)

VC12: Not uncommon in VC11, the following represent the first North Hampshire sightings since 2003: one to MV, 7 July and leaf-mines on Hedge Bindweed on 16 September, Weston Colley* (DGG).

Bucculatrigidae**0266 *Bucculatrix nigricomella* (Zeller, 1839)**

VC10: See New County Records above.

Gracillariidae**0289 *Caloptilia falconipennella* (Hübner, 1813)**

pRDB3

VC11: Mines on Italian Alder, Southampton, 25 October (PAB).

0296 *Calybites phasianipennella* (Hübner, 1813)

VC10: Freshwater, 21 August (DC det. TJN). First Wight report since 1993, but widespread on the mainland.

0299 *Parectopa ononidis* (Zeller, 1839)

VC12: A rare insect in the county, and one at Weston Colley, 3 August (DGG) was the first in North Hampshire since 2004.

0318 *Phyllonorycter tenerella* (Joannis, 1915)

A rare miner of Hornbeam which may be showing signs of increasing in numbers in recent years.

VC10: See New County Records above.

VC12: Mine on Hornbeam, Butter Wood, Greywell, 7 November (JRL, RJD, MJW et al).

0321a *Phyllonorycter platani* (Staudinger, 1870)

VC12: A few leaf-mines on London Plane at Sutton Scotney on 20 October are perhaps sign of recent colonisation as it has been absent from this area in previous years; mines were also present in Winchester on 29 September (DGG). While this is

not an uncommon species in vice-counties 10 and 11, its spread further north is possibly being inhibited by the host tree being more sparsely located.



P.cavella, Butter Wood, 7 November © MJW

0327 *Phyllonorycter hostis* Triberti, 2007

VC10: See New County Records above.

0338 *Phyllonorycter cavella* (Zeller, 1846)

VC12: A mine on birch, confirmed by examination of pupal cremaster, Butter Wood, Greywell, 7 November (JRL, RJD, MJW et al) was the only record returned and the first North Hampshire report since 1996.

0340 *Phyllonorycter scopariella* (Zeller, 1846)

VC12: A very infrequently encountered miner of Broom whose signs can be difficult to trace. To the seven previous county records can be added the following: three leaf mines on small broom bushes at two locations in Dodsley Wood, 3 May (DGG).

0344 *Phyllonorycter strigulatella* (Lienig & Zeller, 1846)

Nb

VC11: A miner of Grey Alder and something of a Hampshire speciality. Mines were common at Zionshill Balancing Pond*, 22 October (PAB), a new site for the species.

0354 *Phyllonorycter emberizaepenella* (Bouché, 1834)

VC10: Vacated mine on *Symporicarpos*, Porchfield*, 2 October (M Cotterill det. DTB)

VC12: Weston Colley*, 24 July and 7 August, with mines on honeysuckle present on 18 September (DGG); Basingstoke, five, 24 July and another, 26 July (MJW).

0367 *Phyllocnistis saligna* (Zeller, 1839)

VC12: Leaf-mines were found on Crack Willow, Weston Colley*, 8 July, with an adult to light on 24 July (DGG). Not reported from VC11 in 2010 where it is undoubtedly still present.

0367a *Phyllocnistis ramulicola* Langmaid & Corley, 2007

VC11: A species that was new to the county - and science - when first discovered in Havant Thicket in 2006, it is still present there and at Wickham Common (JRL, KW).

0369 *Phyllocnistis xenia* Hering, 1936

pRDB2

VC11: Three records from typical coastal localities: a few mines on *Populus alba*, Milton Common, Portsmouth, 18 October (JRL, IRT), and found to be frequent on Hayling Island when JRL, MRY and JY visited on 3 September, finding it on *Populus alba* at Gutner Point, and on *Populus canescens* at Sandy Point NR.

Sesiidae

0370 Hornet Moth *Sesia apiformis* (Clerck, 1759)

Nb

VC12: In Chilbolton on 22 February, DGG discovered about 15 recent exit-holes in trunks and root bosses of eight poplars, where dense ivy formerly covering trunks had been cut back within the past few months. Later in the year, on 3 July, two fresh pupal exuviae were found: one each in bases of two poplars on west side of road. One exuvium was still damp but DGG had no success with a HOR pheromone lure.

0373 Currant Clearwing *Synanthedon tipuliformis* (Clerck, 1759)

Nb

VC12: A very worn individual was attracted to TIP pheromone lure hung in blackcurrant bushes at St Mary Bourne on 9 July; at Weston Colley on 14 June, nine were attracted to TIP pheromone lure hung in blackcurrant bushes between 13:30 to 14:00: seven within first minute, one at 13:43, one at 13:55 (all DGG). In Basingstoke, one was attracted to TIP on 13 June (at 15:02) with two on 22 June (17:32, 17:37) (GAH).

0374 Yellow-legged Clearwing *Synanthedon vespiformis* (L., 1761)

Nb

VC11: One seen nectaring on Hemp-agrimony by day at Timsbury*, 11 August (ARa).

VC12: Silchester Common, one to TIP, 12 June (TJN, LF).

0375 White-barred Clearwing *Synanthedon spheciformis* ([D. & S.], 1775)

Nb

VC12: Silchester Common, one to TIP, 12 June (TJN, LF), with two to TIP on both 24 and 25 June (GJD).

0377 Sallow Clearwing *Synanthedon flaviventris* (Staudinger, 1883)

Nb

VC10: Despite this being an 'even' year, when adults should be on the wing, only one was observed, and photographed, at Bleak Down, 9 July (DD).

0378 Orange-tailed Clearwing *S. andrenaeformis* (Laspeyres, 1801)

Nb

One of the more common clearwings, associating with *Viburnum* most commonly on or near the chalk of North Hampshire.

VC11: Sholing, two to VES, 23 June (ARC).

VC12: Weston Colley, attracted to VES pheromone lure hung near a Guelder-rose bush on three dates (DGG): 19 June (11:10), 21 June (11:50) and 25 June (14:10); at least ten to two VES lures at Old Down, Kempshott, 23 June (10:30 to 10:45), and at home in the recorder's Basingstoke garden, three to VES on 22 June (between 11:55 and 12:25) and at least 25 on 3 July between 11:20 and 14:15 (GAH); seven to VES, Sherborne St John, 28 June (NJM).

0379 Red-belted Clearwing *S. myopaeformis* (Borkhausen, 1789)

Nb

VC11: Sholing, six to MYO between 5 June and 27 June (ARC). One was seen visiting *Mentha* flowers at Northcroft, North Hayling*, 23 July (GRE).

VC12: Weston Colley*, attracted to MYO pheromone lure hung in garden: two on 20 June (14:05) and another the next day at 12:05 (DGG); in Basingstoke, one on 22 June (11:31), three on 3 July (between 11:45 and 13:15), with atypically one to VES at 12:01 on the same day (GAH); Silchester Common, one on 24 June (GJD).

0380 Red-tipped Clearwing *Synanthedon formicaeformis* (Esper, 1783)

Nb

VC12: At Silchester Common*, one to TIP/MYO, 25 June, and to FOR, another on 30 June (GJD) – first records for a reliable site for several clearwing species.

0382 Six-belted Clearwing *Bembecia ichneumoniformis* ([D. & S.], 1775)

Nb

VC10: Cheverton Down, one, 19 July (Ian Boyd det. BE from photograph).

VC11: Four were attracted to API in three separate locations at Mottisfont on 3 and 4 July (DGG, SAC); two swept close to vetch, Exbury, 27 July (PDB); the first of the year were at Swanwick HIWWT NR, with an incredible 60 to lure on 27 June (ARC).

VC12: Magdalen Hill Down, six to lure, 4 July (TJN, LF).

Glyptipterigidae

0394 *Glyptipterix forsterella* (Fabricius, 1781)

Nb



VC12: One at Foxlease Meadows North*, 3 June (MJW, GJD et al) was the first northern record since 2001 and only the third in total.

Left: *G. forsterella*, Foxlease Meadows, 3 June © MJW

0395 *Glyptipterix haworthana* (Stephens, 1834)

VC11: Known only from a restricted area in the centre of the New Forest, and last recorded in 1983. BE went in search for it

on 3 October and encouragingly, found larvae to still be common at Shatterford.

0470 *Orthotelia sparganella* (Thunberg, 1788)

The Test-side record below is a typical locality for this Bur-reed feeder, but there have been fewer recent records in South Hampshire.

VC11: Hurn, 31 July (MJ).

VC12: Leckford, 24 July (GCE, NJM).

Douglasiidae

0398 *Tinagma ocnerostomella* (Stainton, 1850)

VC11: One at Southsea, 4 June (IRT) was the only report.

Yponomeutidae

0401 *Argyresthia laevigatella* (Heydenreich, 1851)

VC12: One taken in Morgaston Wood*, 5 June (MJW) was the first modern day North Hampshire record since those listed in Goater, 1974. There are extensive mature stands of its foodplant, Larch, at this locality.

0409b *Argyresthia cupressella* Walsingham, 1890

An adventive species on Cypresses and related species, now well established in VC11 but rare elsewhere.

VC10: Now annual for DC at Freshwater, after being new for the Island here in 2008; a further seven individuals were caught between 11 June and 10 July in 2010.

VC12: See New Vice-county Records above.

0423 *Argyresthia semitestacea* (Curtis, 1833)

VC11: One of the later flying *Argyresthia*, generally being seen in September and October, and perhaps because of this overlooked: the two reports from Hen Wood, on 22 October (F.M.G. det. RJD) and Westbury Park, near West Meon, 15 October (RJD, F.M.G.) were the first confirmed sightings since 2004.

0424 *Yponomeuta evonymella* (L., 1758)

Migrant

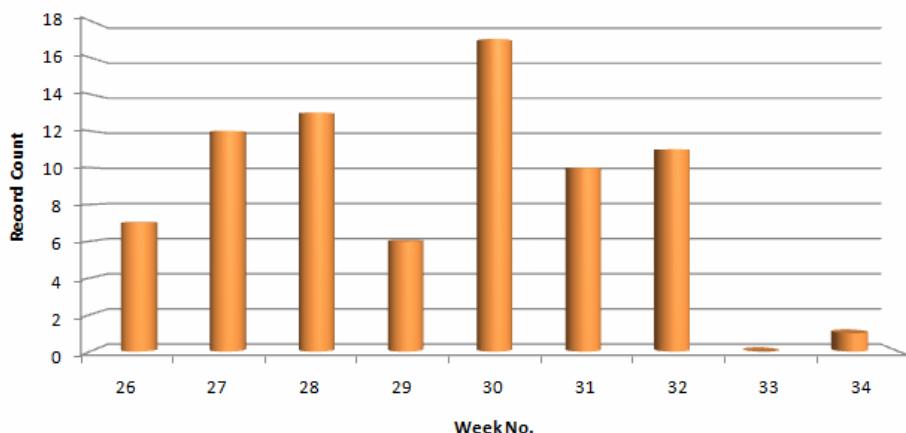
This species is generally regarded as a migrant due to both the non-native origin of its foodplant Bird-cherry, and the wide fluctuation in numbers reported annually. After last year's record influx, it was no surprise to see numbers decline (the 77 records were

almost exactly half that of 2009); however, the pattern was interesting, with far more reports from the north of the county than the south, a reverse of the previous year, and as can be seen from the accompanying graph, sightings were fairly evenly distributed across a seven week period from 27 June to 12 August - in 2009, there was a solitary peak in week 27. Given this, it can be speculated that 2010's pattern is indicative of local emergence over migration as the predominant source of records. The year also saw the first Isle of Wight sightings for more than a decade.

VC10: Sandown, 20 July (SWo, JCa); Freshwater, three between 5 July and 10 July (DC det. MJW). The last record from the island was back in 1999.

VC11: 23 records of 30 individuals, with no counts of any great note.

VC12: 48 records of 107 individuals; 36 were counted at Longstock on 7 July (GCE).



Above: *Y. evonymella*: Record Count by Week 2010

0427 *Yponomeuta cagnagella* (Hübner, 1813)

An extraordinarily successful year for this 'ermine' whose larvae build communal webs on Spindle bushes, perhaps best demonstrated by the effect 2010 had on the number of records in the county database: the Isle of Wight saw an increase in total record numbers by 55%, South Hampshire by 25% and for VC12, a massive 78%. In summary, 121 records were received compared to an all-time total of 299 across the whole county.

0428 *Yponomeuta rorrella* (Hübner, 1796)

pRDB3

VC11: A return to typical numbers after two good years: 2008 saw an unprecedented influx (24 records) and the 14 records received in 2009 may have been the result of second-generation emergence. By contrast, 2010 saw just seven, in line with the long-term average: Sholing, 31 July (ARC); St Cross, Winchester, 6 August (THW); Southsea, individuals on consecutive days between 28 and 30 July, with another on 16 August (IRT); Browndown North*, 31 July (AHD).

0431 *Yponomeuta sedella* (Treitschke, 1832)

Nb

VC12: A grey ermine associated with Orpine, which is a local species on neutral to alkaline soils in the county. Two individuals at Deadwater Valley, Bordon* on 20 and 27 July (NJM) were the first in North Hampshire since 2003.

0442 *Cedestis gysseleniella* (Zeller, 1839)

VC11: An infrequently seen miner of the needles of Scots Pine. Hurn*, 30 June (MJ).

0449c *Prays oleae* (Bernard, 1788)

VC11: See New County Records above.

0459 *Ypsolopha sylvella* (L., 1767)

Thinly distributed in oak woodland across the mainland, with old records from VC10.

VC11: Exbury, 2 September (RFC, JBI).

VC12: Mottisfont Great Copse*, 23 July (MJW et al); Silchester, 16 July (MJW, ACr).

VC22: Mortimer West End, three, 22 August (GJD).

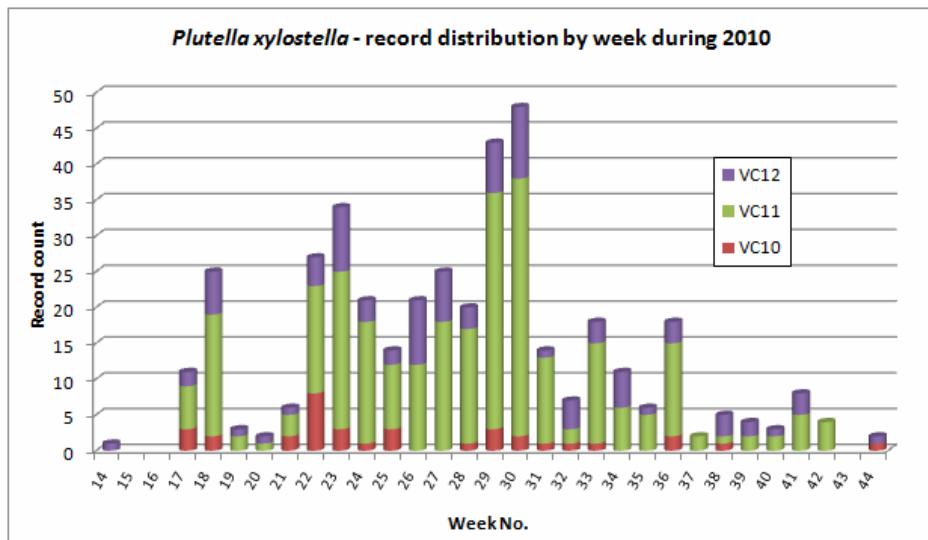
0464 Diamond-back Moth *Plutella xylostella* (L., 1758)

Migrant

The total of 404 records received during 2010 was a return to normality compared to the exceptional 860 in 2009, and the total of individual moths counted was lower still, at around 25% of that seen in the previous year.

VC	First Date	Last Date	Count Records	Count Individuals	Max Individual Count
10	26 April Freshwater (DC)	3 November Totland (SAK-J)	35	41	5, 25 April Bonchurch(JHa)
11	29 January Highcliffe (SKe)	21 October Fareham (IMCP)	276	455	15, 30 April Austin's Copse, nr Upham (F.M.G.)
12	7 April, Upper Inhams Copse (GJD)	2 November, Basingstoke (GAH)	93	120	5, 5 May Basingstoke (GAH)

The distribution of reports across the year is figured below – omitting for clarity the one January record shown above in the table – and describes a more even pattern than 2009; however, like that year, the peak period for *xylostella* corresponds with that for *evonymella* discussed above.



0475 *Acrolepiopsis marcidella* (Curtis, 1850)

pRDB1

VC11: A recent addition to the Hampshire fauna, first discovered in 1986, but still elusive and difficult to find. An adult at Bishops Waltham, 12 June (SI det. JRL) is the first since 2005.

Coleophoridae**0494 *Coleophora coracipennella*** (Hübner, 1796)

VC12: A species of Blackthorn scrub that is not uncommon in VC11, where far more work has been done on this group. Individuals – both males - taken in Basingstoke*, 20 July (GAH gen.det. JCI) and Alton*, 16 July (DBO gen.det. BGo) are the third and fourth confirmed North Hampshire records, and the first since 2004.

0512 *Coleophora binderella* (Kollar, 1832)

There are scattered records of *binderella* across all three vice-counties but it appears to be far less common than only ten years ago. Only one or two reports are generally received annually, either of adults to light or the larval cases which can be found on alder, birch and Hazel.

VC12: Headley GP HIWWT NR*, common, with one male confirmed, 3 July (GJD, MJW gen.det. MJW).



C.binderella, Headley GP, 3 July © MJW

0519 *Coleophora deauratella* Lienig & Zeller, 1846

VC12: Weston Colley, 29 on 13 nights between 20 July and 15 August (DGG). There have been only five previous confirmed records for this species in North Hampshire prior to 2010, but its relative abundance in VC11 indicates that it is almost certainly more common and widespread than the evidence would suggest.

0523 *Coleophora hemerobiella* (Scopoli, 1763)

Nb

VC12: The only record received of this relatively distinctive coleophorid was from Deadwater Valley, Bordon*, 27 July (NJM); while thinly distributed across the north of the county, it has been reported from just one VC11 location.

0532 *Coleophora albidella* ([D. & S.], 1775)

VC12: A widely distributed Coleophora occurring at low density in areas where *Salix* grows. The two reports from North Hampshire represent new localities for this species: Leckford*, 9 July (DGG gen.det.); Basingstoke*, 11 July (GAH gen.det. JCI).

0533 *Coleophora anatipennella* (Hübner, 1796)

VC12: As for many of its congeners, reports of *anatipennella* – a species associated with Blackthorn - are far less common from the north than for the south of the mainland (from where three records were received): Weston Colley*, nine between 27 June and 2 July – one male confirmed (DGG gen.det.).

0537 *Coleophora kuehnella* (Goeze, 1783)

VC12: Deadwater Valley, Bordon*, male, 3 July (NJM, Bill Wain gen.det. JCI). This species makes distinctive bubble-like cases on oak. Also reported from Wickham, VC11 (RJD).

0538 *Coleophora vibicella* (Hübner, 1813) Nb

VC11: Stubbington, 23 July (DPH); at Gosport on 30 May, at least 15 cases on three clumps of *Genista tinctoria* - the cases were clearly not full-grown (RJD, JWP, SSW, IC). In an hour and a half timed count at Hayling Billy on 18 June, 40 were located compared to 71 in 2008 (in 2009 only four could be found). While this may sound promising, the site was heavily grazed following this visit and it is not certain that the colony will have survived. At Needs Ore, 28 June, 11 cases were located plus three plants with larval feeding signs. This is another site in poor condition for this species due to lack of appropriate management (AMD).

0541 *Coleophora pyrrhulipennella* Zeller, 1839

A species of heathland, the larva forming cases on Ling and Bell Heather. New localities are detailed below:

VC11: Funtley*, male, 28 June (MLO gen.det. RJD).

VC12: Axmansford*, 2 July (MJW, ABo gen.det. MJW); Foxlease Meadows North, common, 3 June (GJD, MJW gen.det. MJW).

0547 *Coleophora discordella* Zeller, 1849

VC12: The only record received of this builder of cases on *Lotus* spp. was the first for North Hampshire since 2002: Weston Colley*, 1 July (DGG).

0561 *Coleophora therinella* Tengström, 1848

Nb

VC12: See New Vice-county Records above.

0564 *Coleophora virgaureae* Stainton, 1857

VC10: The following is the first island record since K.G. Blair found this species, a builder of attractive cases on Golden-rod, to be plentiful in Nunney's Wood back in 1947: Parkhurst Forest*, one case found on Golden-rod, 2 October (DC det. TJN).

0567 *Coleophora adspersella* Benander, 1939

VC12: Weston Colley*, male, 19 July (DGG gen.det.): only the second North Hampshire record since 1968, and the only report for the year.

0581 *Coleophora taeniipennella* H.-S., 1855

VC12: Weston Colley, 5 June (DGG); Headley GP HIWWT NR, 3 July (GJD, MJW gen.det. MJW). Rarely reported, but no doubt more common than records would suggest, on sites where Jointed and Sharp-flowered Rush grow.



C.virgaureae, Parkhurst, 2 October © DC

Elachistidae

0592 *Stephensia brunnichella* (L., 1767)

VC11: The larva mines the leaves of Wild Basil on the chalk, and the only report, from Broughton Down HIWWT NR, 11 August (MBa conf. JRL), is a typical locality.

0596 *Elachista poae* Stainton, 1855

VC12: A mine with larva on Reed Sweet-grass *Glyceria maxima*, Leckford, 4 May (JRL, BE) was the first from North Hampshire since 1992, also from the Leckford Estate.

0600 *Elachista luticomella* Zeller, 1839

VC11: A single report received - one by day at Awbridge*, 5 June (DGG).

0611 *Elachista triatomea* (Haworth, 1828)

VC10: One photographed on Afton Down*, 27 June (DC det. MJW) is apparently the first Isle of Wight record since K G Blair reported it nearby from Freshwater in 1947.

VC11: One by day, Portsdown, 21 June (SBa).

VC12: A total of 10 to light at Old Burghclere Lime Quarry HIWWT NR*, 9 July (GJD).

Right: *E. triatomea*, Portsdown, 21 June © SBa



0617 *Elachista obliquella* Stainton, 1854

VC12: The single record received was from Dodsley Wood, where several mines were found on *Brachypodium sylvaticum*, 3 May (DGG), the first from VC12 since 1998.

0627 *Biselachista scirpi* (Stainton, 1887)

VC11: An infrequently encountered inhabitant of salt marsh, most often associated with Sea Club-rush *Bolboschoenus maritimus*, from which both 2010 records originated: two mines, one with larva, Portchester, 5 June (JRL, MJW, IRT); nine mines with larvae and a few more vacated, at Stoke, Hayling*, 8 June (JRL, BE, JWP).

Oecophoridae

0646 *Telechrysis tripuncta* (Haworth, 1828)

A distinctive but secretive denizen of wooded areas, the larvae feeding in rotting wood, like a number of its relatives.

VC11: Fordingbridge*, 20 June (Brian Jones); Ashurst, 31 May (KG); Chandlers Ford*, 5 June (BE); Bishops Waltham, 12 June (SI).

VC12: Pamber Forest HIWWT NR*, four, 31 May with another on 14 June (GJD).

0653 *Aplopa palpella* (Haworth, 1828)

(UK BAP) pRDB1

VC11: See Confirmed County Records above.

0656 *Tachystola acroxantha* (Meyrick, 1885)

An adventive species which is very common in three distinct areas: around Fleet in the north-east, between Portsmouth and Hedge End and particularly abundant in the Bournemouth area. It occurs less frequently elsewhere along the south coast but is showing signs of making inroads into new areas. New 10km square records in 2010 were as follows:

VC10: Totland Bay*, 3 June (SAK-J det. BE), and at Freshwater*, 5 October (DC).

VC11: Cheriton*, 23 July (DAS).

The Depressariinae constitutes a large number of often similar looking species whose larvae are either internal feeders in roots and stems or spin webs in the inflorescences of perennial plants. They are often overlooked or dismissed, but careful identification can be rewarded with the discovery of one of the rarely encountered taxa, as detailed below.

0671 *Depressaria ultimella* Stainton, 1849

VC10: See New County Records above.

VC12: On the mainland, a single report of two at Sherborne St John, 5 May (NJM).

0674 *Depressaria badiella* (Hübner, 1796)

VC12: Old Down, Kempshott, 22 July (AHD, GAH).

0682 *Depressaria chaerophylli* Zeller, 1839

VC11: Burton, near Christchurch*, 5 May (JSw conf. MJW).

0696 *Agonopterix propinquella* (Treitschke, 1835)

VC12: Anna Valley*, 6 August (TJN). The first county record since 2004.

0698 *Agonopterix kaekeritziana* (L., 1767)

VC12: Relatively widespread in South Hampshire, where five individuals were counted in 2010, but not so in the northern vice-county. However, the year under review was an excellent one, with an unprecedented three reports, all of which represent new 10km squares for the species: Westover Farm, nr Goodworth Clatford*, 6 August (TJN, WL); Sherborne St John*, 27 August (NJM); Ropley*, 21 August (LF det. TJN).

0702 *Agonopterix assimilella* (Treitschke, 1832)

VC10: Totland Bay*, 13 July (SAK-J det. BE). This appears to be only the second Wight record since the somewhat vague reference in Goater, 1974.

VC12: Spinnings and pupae abundant on Broom, in both Micheldever and nearby Dodsley Woods – with a full-grown larval spinning in the latter - on 3 May (DGG).

Right: *A.assimilella*, Dodsley Woods, 3 May © DGG



0704 *Agonopterix scopariella*

(Heinemann, 1870)

VC10: After DC reported *scopariella* commonly from his garden in Freshwater last year, when it was new for the Island (see 2009 report), predictably it was found to still be frequent in 2010, with 13 between 14 March and 5 June, and there were two in the late year on 29 October and 7 November (DC). Fieldwork elsewhere on the Island will no doubt reveal further sites.

0714 *Agonopterix yeatiana* (Fabricius, 1781)

Found uncommonly in grassland habitats across the two counties, most often in the south. Records outside VC11 are given.

VC10: Seven between 9 and 25 April at Freshwater (DC) are the first reports since Blair stopped doing fieldwork in the early half of the 20th Century (Goater, 1974).

VC12: It was also unusually widespread in North Hampshire during 2010: Cholderton, 25 April (HE) and three there on NMN, 15 May (TJN, LF, HE); Leckford*, 21 March (GCE conf. MJW); Weston Colley*, 8 August (DGG); Cheriton*, 24 April (DAS); Basingstoke, 4 June (MJW).

0877 *Stathmopoda pedella* (L., 1761)

A good year for this attractive but bizarre insect, especially in North Hampshire.

VC11: Hedge End, ten between 24 June and 17 July (DHa).

VC12: Basingstoke*, 4 June (GAH in coll. AHD); Upper Inhams Copse, Pamber Forest*, 20 July (GJD).

Ethmiidae

0718 *Ethmia dodecea* (Haworth, 1828)

Nb

By any measure, *E. dodecea* increased significantly in numbers in 2010, with 67 individuals reported, three times that of the previous year – by contrast, the annual average between 1990 and 2005 was just three. The years since then to 2009 showed annual fluctuation, heavily influenced by poor summers, but the overall trend is significantly upward. The larva feeds on Common Gromwell, by no means a common plant in our area. The year saw nine new 10km square records, as follows:

VC11: Bishops Waltham*, 23 July (SI).

VC12: Cholderton*, 30 June and 25 July (HE); Over Wallop*, six, 2 July (TJN, LF); Whitchurch*, 2 July (GCE); Weston Colley*, 12 between 1 and 30 July (DGG); Headley GP HIWWT NR*, 3 July (GJD, MJW); Down Grange Meadow, Basingstoke*, two, 29 June (R&SH); Liss*, 1 July (PTw); Cove*, 2 July (PHC)

Gelechiidae

0727a *Metzneria aprilella* (H-S, 1854)

Na

VC12: The only record received was from typical downland habitat but represents a new locality: Old Burghclere Lime Quarry HIWWT NR*, 9 July (GJD)

0730 *Apodia bifractella* (Duponchel, 1843)

VC10: A subtly attractive gelechiid which can be found nectaring on the flowers of *Pulicaria*. RJD reported this behaviour from Fareham Creek, South Hampshire on 9 August, but it was also seen at Newtown NNR, 11 August (Paul Baker), where over 20 insects were counted – the first Wight report since 2003.

VC12: One at Millfield, Old Basing, on 31 July (MJW) was also the first vice-county sighting since 2003.



A.bifractella, Old Basing, 31 July © MJW

0734 *Argolamprotes micella* ([D. & S.], 1775)

pRDB3

VC12: See New Vice-County Records above.

0735 *Monochroa tenebrella* (Hübner, 1817)

VC12: Found on Sheep's-sorrel, a local plant in North Hampshire, and the following represent the first reports since 1998: Weston Colley*, 28 June (DGG); Pamber Forest HIWWT NR*, 14 June (GJD).

0746 *Chrysoesthia drurella* (Fabricius, 1775)

VC11: The second year running this very rare but attractive jewel of an insect has been reported: Hurn*, 31 July (MJ).

0755 *Stenolechia gemmella* (L., 1758)

VC12: A widespread but rarely seen denizen of oak woodland, with one at Weston Colley*, 25 July (DGG) representing a new locality.

0758 *Recurvaria leucatella* (Clerck, 1759)

Nb

VC10: The first county record for Wight was as recent as 2002. The following represent the first reports since then, from the same general locality: Cranmore, three between 9 and 22 July (I&CF det. MJW).

VC12/VC22: Also rare in the north of the county: Sherborne St John, 30 July (NJM); Upper Inhams Copse, Pamber, 21 June; Mortimer West End, 27 July (GJD).

0764 *Pseudotelphusa scalella* (Scopoli, 1763)

Nb

VC11: Another rare gelechiid of oak woodland. The only record was from Holmsley Inclosure, NF, 28 May (KTai, MJHa).

0766 *Altenia scriptella* (Hübner, 1796)

VC11: One at Southsea on 10 July (IRT) was only the fifth for the county.

0767 *Carpatolechia decorella* (Haworth, 1812)

This is a decidedly local species in deciduous woodland across the mainland.

VC11: Bournemouth, 22 and 23 June (DGE).

VC12: Basingstoke*, 9 June (GAH).

0768 *Carpatolechia notatella* (Hübner, 1813)

Both this and the following species are local but not uncommon in South Hampshire where they occur, but represent only the fourth and third North Hampshire vice-county records respectively.

VC12: Alton*, 4 June (DBO det. BGo).

0772 *Carpatolechia fugitivella* (Zeller, 1839)

VC12: Weston Colley*, 25 July (DGG)

0773 *Pseudotelphusa paripunctella* (Thunberg, 1794)

VC11: Other than Ashurst, NF, which saw another four individuals between 21 May and 30 July (KG) following last year's three, this species has been reported from only one other site since 2003.

0793 *Miricarma lentiginosella* (Zeller, 1839)

Nb

VC11: Two larvae on Dyer's Greenweed on 8 June at Stoke, Hayling (JRL, BE, JWP), once a regular site for the species but not reported from there since 2003.

0801a *Gelechia senticetella* (Staudinger, 1859)

This was a remarkable year for *senticetella*, with the 20 records received comparing to 34 in total prior to 2010 (it was recorded new for the county in 1993).

VC11: Eastleigh, 18 on eight nights between 17 July and 2 August (SI); Hedge End, four between 26 July and 10 August (DHa); Funtley*, 29 June (MLO det. RJD); Fareham*, 18 July (IMcP det. DPH); Southsea, 24 and 25 July (IRT det. JRL), four between 8 July and 16 August (JRL).

VC12: Weston Colley*, 2 July (DGG) – only the second vice-county record, the first dating from 2001.

0802a *Gelechia sororculella* (Hübner, 1817)

VC12: A fairly distinctive but little recorded gelechiid, occurring on sallows and, in our county at least, appears to avoid the chalk. One at Upper Inhams Copse, Pamber Forest*, 13 July (GJD) was the fourth for North Hampshire and the first since 2006.

0808 *Platyedra subcinerea* (Haworth, 1828)

Na

VC12: See New Vice-County Records above.

0809 *Hollyhock Seed Moth Pexicopia malvella* (Hübner, 1805)

Nb

VC10: One caught in Freshwater, 10 July (DC det. MJW) is the first Isle of Wight record since those referred to in Goater, 1974.

0834 *Caryocolum tricolorella* (Haworth, 1812)

VC12: A single report of this attractive moth of open woodland where Greater Stitchwort grows, from Upper Inhams Copse, Pamber Forest* on 20 July (GJD).

0851 *Dichomeris alacella* (Zeller, 1839)

Nb

VC11: A subtly attractive lichen-feeder which was extremely rare in the county prior to 2002, but which since then has turned up in scattered localities on an annual basis. The increase in records would appear real, rather than solely due to increased recorder effort. Hurn*, 19 and 21 July, 15 August (MJ); Mottisfont*, 30 June (GCE conf. MJW); Ashurst, NF, 16 and 24 July (KG).



0855 *Acompsia cinerella* (Clerck, 1759)

A feeder on mosses on the chalk, and rarely seen, although given its plain appearance, probably overlooked. The year saw the first record from the Isle of Wight.

VC10: See New County Records above.

VC11: St Cross, Winchester, 6 and 13 August (THW det. BE).

VC12: Weston Colley, 7, 9 and 13 August (DGG).

0857 Peach Twig Borer *Anarsia lineatella* Zeller, 1839

VC11: Southsea, 25 July (IRT). The third county record, in the same location as the second back in 2006; this was also to light, reinforcing the possibility that such records are possibly of immigrant rather than adventive origin, as was originally suspected.

0859 *Psoricoptera gibbosella* (Zeller, 1839)

Nb

VC12: Not uncommon in the south of the mainland in oak woodland, *gibbosella* is less frequent in the north. The following were from new areas: Mottisfont Great Copse*, 23 July (MJW); Trinley, 27 August (ACr, MJW).

0861 *Acompsia schmidtiellus* (Heyden, 1848)

Nb

VC12: Encountered very rarely on the chalk, where the larva feeds on *Origanum*. The only report was from Weston Colley*, 24 July (DGG).

Blastobasidae

0873a *Blastobasis vittata* (Wollaston, 1858)

VC11: After being new for the county in 2009, this, the most recent of the *Blastobasis* to be identified in the British Isles, proved to be quite common where looked for along the eastern coast. Detailed records were as follows: Funtley*, 9 July (MLO gen.det. RJD); Southsea*, 8, 17, 20 and 29 July, 19 August (IRT), 26 July, 11 August, 9 and 16 September, 5 October (JRL); South Hayling, 16 August (SJW det. JRL).

Batrachedridae

0879 *Batrachedra pinicolella* (Zeller, 1839)

Nb

VC11: A rare miner of the needles of spruce and pine, but common this year at Ashurst, NF*, with nine on three occasions between 1 and 4 July (KG).

Momphidae

0880 *Mompha langiella* (Hübner, 1796)

Nb

A miner of Enchanter's Nightshade and willowherbs.

VC10: Two vacated mines on Enchanter's Nightshade at Fort Victoria Country Park*, 19 August (DTB) represent the second county record, 20km west of last year's.

VC12: Several leaf-mines on Great Willowherb, 10 July, with one moth bred 30 July 2010, Weston Colley* (DGG) – the fifth vice-county record.

0887 *Mompha lacteella* (Stephens, 1834)

pRDB3

VC11: A miner of Rosebay Willowherb, like a number of other Momphidae, but nowhere common, although near annual at Hedge End, where it was seen on 19 and 22 August (DHa); also at Hen Wood*, 4 June (RJD).



0889 *Mompha divisella* H.-S., 1854

VC10: Freshwater, individuals on 6 and 9 April, and 21 May (DC). The first Island records since those from unspecified localities in the Proceedings of the Isle of Wight Natural History Society in 1959.

Left: *M.divisella*, Freshwater, 6 April © DC

VC11: Bournemouth, 24 April (DGE) – the first

confirmed South Hampshire record since Scarsdale Brown reported one from the same town back in 1961. It is evidently common in the area, as evidenced by a report from PHS on 28 August that galls formed by this species were very evident on Broad-leaved Willowherb at the cricket ground in the town.

0889a *Mompha bradleyi* Riedl, 1965

VC11: See New County Records above.

Cosmopterigidae

0894 *Cosmopterix zieglerella* (Hübner, 1810)

Na

VC11: A single mine on Hop at Allbrook on 2 September (DHu) was only the second South Hampshire record since 2004, and only about 6km further north.

VC12: Mines were present at Hunton* on 19 August and on a cultivated plant, at Weston Colley*, on 1 August (DGG).

0896 *C. orichalcea* Stainton, 1861

pRDB3

VC11: One at Ashurst, NF*, 29 June (KG) is the first in the county since 2002, and the first modern record for South Hampshire since the two referred to in Goater, 1974.

Left: *C.orichalcea*, Ashurst, 29 June © MP

0896a *C. scribaiella* Zeller, 1850

VC12: See New Vice-County Records above.

0896b *Cosmopterix pulchrimella* Chambers,

1875

VC10: Larval feeding signs on Pelliory-of-the-wall, Bonchurch, 29 August (TJN, LF).

VC11: One seen by day at Portchester Castle, 5 June (JRL, MJW, IRT).

0899 *Pancalia leuwenhoekella* (L., 1761)

Nb

A species of downland on Hairy Violet.

VC12: Stockbridge Downs, five seen by day, 6 July (MBa); Old Burghclere Lime Quarry HIWWT NR*, 9 July (GJD).

0904 *Spuleria flavigaput* (Haworth, 1828)

A distinctive black moth with a yellow head which is nowhere near as common as its larval foodplant, Hawthorn. Scattered records across all three vice-counties.

VC10: One by day at Brook Down*, 30 May (TJN, LF, DC) is the first for Wight since 1978.

VC11: Bournemouth*, 27 June (DGE).

VC12: Basingstoke, 24 May (MJW).

0906 *Blastodacna atra* (Haworth, 1828)

Nb

VC10: See New County Records above.



S.flavigaput, Brook Down,
30 May © TJN

Tortricidae**0923 *Phteoechohra sodaliana* (Haworth, 1811)**

Nb

An attractive pied cochylid associated with Buckthorn on downland.

VC11: Stockbridge*, 11 June (GCE conf. MJW); larval feeding signs at Portsdown, 2 September (JRL, MRY, JY).

VC12: Sherborne St John, 5 and 25 June (NJM).

0926 *Phalonidia mannianna* (Fischer von Röslerstamm, 1839)

Nb

Widespread but local in marshy areas where Water-mint and Gipsywort grow, but rarely reported as common; 2010 was a particularly good year.

VC11: Ashurst, NF, 16 and 24 July (KG), St Cross, Winchester, 9 July (THW).

VC12: Leckford - Testside Lakes, five, 9 July (TJN, MJW, DGG); Weston Colley*, 12 between 1 and 20 July (DGG); Morgaston Wood*, 5 June (MJW); Millfield, Old Basing*, 12 June (MJW, JKA det. MJW)

**0939 *Aethes tesserana* ([D. & S.], 1775)**

VC10: Brook Down, by day, 27 June (DC det. MJW): a striking colour form (right, © DC).

VC11: Two seen at Beacon Hill NNR, Warnford*, 8 August (TJN, LF, DAS)

0951 *A. beatricella* (Walsingham, 1898)

Very similar to the more frequent *A. francilliana*, for which there were records from Cholderton* (TJN, HE) and Southsea (IRT). The larvae feed on Hemlock, overwintering in the stems.

VC12: Weston Colley*, five on four dates between 25 June and 2 July (DGG).

**0959 *Cochylidia rupicola* (Curtis, 1834)**

An elusive species of Hemp-agrimony.

VC10: Singletons by day at Brook Down on 10 and 24 July, 7 August (DC).

VC11: Pennington*, 26 and 28 August (RFC).

VC12: Leckford, 9 July (DGG)

C.rupicola, Brook Down, 10 July © DC



0960 *Falseuncaria ruficiliana* (Haworth, 1811)

VC12: One seen by day at Magdalen Hill Down*, 30 April (DAS det. TJN) is the first North Hampshire sighting since 2002; found on Cowslips in calcareous grassland.

Left: F.ruficiliana, Magdalen Hill Down, 30 April © DAS

0962 *Cochylis roseana* (Haworth, 1811)

A shy species whose larva feeds on the seeds of Teasel. Like the previous species, it had not been seen in North Hampshire since 2002.

VC10: DTB found larvae from widespread locations - Brook Down, Mottistone, St George's Down and Rew Down - in September and early October; Freshwater, 15 August (DC).

VC11: Southsea, 15 August (IRT).

VC12: Weston Colley*, 3 August (DGG)

0964a *Cochylis molliculana* Zeller, 1874

While abundant across the Solent, *molliculana* remains a notable moth on the island, and also in VC12. In both vice-counties it can be expected to become more widely established in the near future.

VC10: The following represent the third and fourth records: Ningwood Common*, one by day, 12 June (DC det. MJW); Freshwater Bay, two, 10 August (Paul Baker).

VC12: The fifth vice-county sighting was one at Weston Colley*, 6 August (DGG).

0979 *Archips crataegana* (Hübner, 1799)

Widespread but local in deciduous woodland across all three vice-counties, and rarely reported. The eleven records for 2010 represented an unprecedented annual total.

VC10: Freshwater, 16 June and 7 July (DC det. MJW) - the first reports since 1983.

VC11: Recorded from Roydon Woods, NF (F.M.G. det RJD) and from the Wickham area (THW, RJD)

VC12: Cholderton (HE); Longstock*, Chilbolton (GCE); Sherborne St John (NJM).

0981 Rose Tortrix *Archips rosana* (L., 1758)

Rarely encountered or overlooked amongst more common bell-shaped tortricoids.

VC10: Walter's Copse, Newtown, 19 June (DC)

VC12: Overton*, one, 9 September (ACr)



A.rosana, Newtown, 19 June © DC

1029 *Eana osseana* (Scopoli, 1763)

Another species that had a record year in 2010, with 12 individuals: by contrast, no year prior to this exceeded two.

VC10: Freshwater, 5 July (DC det. MJW) - last seen on the island in 1990.

VC11: Stubbington*, 5 July (DPH); Funtley, 3 July (MLO); Southsea, 23 June (IRT), 6 July (JRL).

VC12: Leckford*, 9 July (AMD); Basingstoke*, two, 28 June (MJW); Alton, four, 7 to 18 July (DBO).



E.osseana, Basingstoke, 28 June © MJW



1032 *Aleimma loeflingiana* (L., 1758)

The 265 records received represented a 40% increase on 2009, itself a record. There would appear to be no obvious reason why this oak woodland species should be being recorded so frequently, but the increase in records and individuals far outstrips the increase in recording activity that has occurred in the same timeframe, as shown by an increase in the Hampshire and Isle of Wight index of over 1000% over the past decade.

1046 *Acleris shepherdana* (Stephens, 1852)

Nb

VC12: An elusive species of marshes and water meadows, and the following, from a new locality, were in typical habitat: Leckford*, 24 July and 6 August (GCE).

Left: *A.shepherdana*, Leckford, 24 July © GCE

1051 *Acleris logiana* (Clerck, 1759)

Nb

This newcomer continues to expand across the county.

VC11: Hurn, 28 July (MJ); Funtley, 31 October (MLO gen.det. RJD).

VC11: New Milton*, one found by day, 3 September (SKe).

1067 *Celypha cespitana* (Hübner, 1817)

One of the few micro-moths recorded more frequently in VC12 than in the south.

VC11: Southsea, one, 11 July (IRT) - the first since 2004 for South Hampshire.

VC12: 13 individuals were recorded in the north – new 10km square records were as follows: Axmansford*, 2 July (MJW, ABo); Old Burghclere Lime Quarry HIWWWT NR*, eight, 9 July (GJD) – the highest individual count on file.

1068 *Celypha rivulana* (Scopoli, 1763)

VC11: Generally a more scarce species than *cespitana* above, and needs to be separated with care. Westbury Park, near West Meon*, 23 July (F.M.G. gen.det. RJD); Southsea, 25 July (gen.det. IRT).

1080 *Olethreutes arcuella* (Clerck, 1759)

Nb

VC11: Just one record for this attractive diurnal tortrix. Ravens Nest Inclosure, NF, six, 19 June (MBa)

1088 *Pseudosciaphila branderiana* (L., 1758)

Very local and irregular in occurrence in Aspen woodland.

VC11: Larva on Aspen, Awbridge*, 5 June (DGG) - the first VC record since 1995.

VC12: Pamber Forest NR*, 26 June (GJD)



A.sauciana, Pamber, 26 June © MJW

1096 *Apotomis sauciana* (Frölich, 1828)

VC12: Extremely rare in the county – the last was from Yateley and Pamber in 1994. A species associated with Bilberry, it is no doubt resident amongst its foodplant at the latter locality, where it was again recorded on 26 June (GJD, NJM, MJW).

1104 *Endothenia quadrimaculana* (Haworth, 1811)

VC12: Very local in water meadows and marshy areas, rarely encountered in North Hampshire. Ropley*, 7 August (TJN, LF); Millfield, Old Basing, 31 July (MJW).

1106 *Lobesia reliquana* (Hübner, 1825)

VC10: Recorded for the first time on the island last year: 2010 saw widespread sightings at Brook Down*, 20 June (DC), Niton, one flying at dusk, 30 May (Carol Cockbain) and at St Lawrence*, 29 and 30 May (TJN, LF).

1112 *Bactra robustana* (Christoph, 1872)

Nb

VC10: Locally frequent in saltmarshes along the south coast of the mainland on Sea Club-rush. Across the Solent, one at Freshwater, 9 June (DC) was the first from the island since 1997.

1117 *Ancylis unguicella* (L., 1758)

Generally a species of heathland, feeding on *Calluna* and *Erica*; the Winchester record is therefore unusual, but not unprecedented (Goater, 1992).

VC11: St Cross, Winchester, one, 2 July (THW det. BE)

VC12: Pamber Forest HWWWT NR, 18 June (M Deans, P Bryant, GJD)

1119a *Ancylis diminutana* (Haworth, 1811)

VC12: The following represents the fifth vice-county record, all of which have come from the Overton to Basingstoke area: Morgaston Wood, 22 May (MJW, NJM).

1119b *A. subarcuana* (Douglas, 1847)

VC11: Brockenhurst, 30 April (RBW det. JRL): a wanderer from the New Forest bogs, and the first county record since 1980. Photo right © RBW



1122 *Ancylis obtusana* (Haworth, 1811)

VC12: On the downs, *obtusana* is found around Buckthorn; elsewhere on Alder Buckthorn: in 2010, found at Weston Colley, with larval spinnings on Buckthorn, 18 September (DGG), and at Magdalen Hill Down, 16 April (PDF).

1145 *Epinotia nanana* (Treitschke, 1835)

VC11: The larva mines the needles of Norway Spruce, and the moth is very rarely seen. Fareham*, 28 June (RJD gen.det.); Southsea, 19 July (IRT gen.det.).

1146 *Epinotia rubiginosana* (H-S, 1851)

VC11: Funtley, 5 June (MLO det. RJD); Southsea, 17 June (IRT).

VC12: Morgaston Wood, 22 May (MJW, NJM).

1147 Willow Tortrix *Epinotia cruciana* (L., 1761)

VC12: Two larvae were taken from spinnings on *Salix* at Weston Colley*, on 14 April (DGG), with moths bred out in early June; the first in North Hampshire for a decade.

1151 *Epinotia trigonella* (L., 1758)

Despite being associated with Birch, reported only infrequently.

VC10: Cranmore*, 18 and 22 May (I&CF det. MJW) – the second county record.

VC12: Axmansford, 2 July (MJW, ABo det. MJW); Basingstoke, two, 23 June (MJW).

1161 *Rhopobota stagnana* ([D. & S.], 1775)

VC11: An uncommon downland species, which occasionally wanders: one at Southsea, 23 July (JRL) presumably flew in from Portsdown.

1167 *Gypsonoma aceriana* (Duponchel, 1843)

Associated with mature poplars in scattered locations across the two counties. The following were from new localities:

VC11: Hurn*, 26 July (MJ).

VC12: Weston Colley*, one, 20 July (DGG)

1170 *Gypsonoma oppressana* (Treitschke, 1835)

Another infrequently encountered poplar feeder; the only reports were as below:

VC11: Hurn, 6 August (MJ).

VC12: Basingstoke, 30 June (MJW).

1171 *Gypsonoma minutana* (Hübner, 1799)

Nb

VC12: Leckford, 24 July (GCE, NJM); the third vice-county record.

1188 *Pelochrista caecimaculana* (Hübner, 1799)

Nb

VC11: Southsea*, one, 10 July (JRL): another presumed wanderer from Portsdown (*cf Rhopobota stagnana* above), from where there have been occasional records.

1206 *Clavigesta sylvestrana* (Curtis, 1850)

Nb

This and the next two species have larvae which feed in the buds and shoots of Scots Pine, but all are encountered only rarely.

VC11: A single report from Hurn, 29 June (MJ).

1208 *Pseudococcyx posticana* (Zetterstedt, 1839)

VC11: The only report was from Oxenbourne Down*, 24 May (AMD).

1209 Pine Bud Moth *Pseudococcyx turionella* (L., 1758)

VC12: Basingstoke*, two, 22 May (AHD).

1215 *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* (Meyrick, 1913)

Adventive

VC12: A second vice-county record of this African pest species which is imported with oranges but occasionally caught at light: Basingstoke, 24 June (GAH det. AHD).

1217 *Eucosmomorpha albersana* (Hübner, 1813)

Nb

VC12: Morgaston Wood*, where it was surprisingly common on 22 May (MJW, NJM), with 10 seen at two lights; Pamber Forest HIWWNT NR, two on 31 May and another, 14 June (GJD).

1222 *Strophedra nitidana* (Fabricius, 1794)

Nb

Found in scattered oak woodland localities across Hampshire, never commonly. Care is needed in separating this from the more common *S. weirana* and the superficially similar *Pammene germmana*.

VC11: St Cross, Winchester, 2 August (THW).

VC12: Pamber Forest HIWWNT NR, 24 June (MJHa, KTai, GJD et al det. KTai), 26 June (GJD, NJM, MJW)

1229 *Pammene albuginana* (Guenée, 1845)

Nb

VC11: A new locality in typical oak woodland habitat: Ashurst, NF*, two on 6 June and singlettons on 26 and 28 June (KG).

1232 *Pammene populana* (Fabricius, 1787)

VC11: Despite the specific name, a very rare moth from wet woodland on various willow species. Whiteley Pastures*, 5 August (THW det. BE).

1236a *Pammene herrichiana* (Heinemann, 1854)**Nb**

VC11: A close relative of the far more frequent *P.fasciana*, darker in general coloration but requiring dissection for confirmation. The following were the first sightings since 2002: Hen Wood, four, 4 June (F.M.G. gen.det. RJD); Whitelands Wood, near Petersfield, 11 June (F.M.G. gen.det. RJD).

1240 *Grapholita caecana* (Schläger, 1847)**pRDB3**

VC12: See New Vice-County Records above.

1242 *Grapholita internana* (Guenée, 1845)

While this species can be common where it occurs, flying around gorse by day, it is seldom reported.

VC10: Singletons seen on Brook Down, on 23 May, and Ningwood Common, on 30 May (DC det. MJW), are the first on the Isle of Wight since new for the county in 1992.

VC11: MBa found it to be plentiful at Cadnam Common*, where he saw at least 20 on 20 May; one was also netted at Browndown Coastal Ranges on 27 May (RJD).

1246 *Grapholita tenebrosana* (Duponchel, 1843)

VC11: A very local moth in hedgerows and scrub, associated with *Rosa*. One was netted in Waterlooville*, 24 June (RJM).

1249 *Grapholita lobarezewskii* (Nowicki, 1860)**pRDB1**

There had been just seven records prior to the year under review for this feeder on apple, which first arrived in the county in 2003. The twelve reports for 2010 are obvious evidence of establishment and rapid expansion of range.



G.lobarezewskii, Over Wallop, 2 July © MJW

VC11: Stubbington, 25 June (DPH); Funtley, 30 June (MLO det. RJD); Fareham, 28 June and 12 July (RJD gen.det.); bred from apple collected at Milton Common, Portsmouth, 16 June (RJD), and evidence of larval activity obvious at the same site on 5 September (JRL, MRY, BE et al); Southsea, 29 June (IRT).

VC12: See New Vice-County Records above. In addition, it was also taken in Over Wallop*, 2 July (TJN, LF det. MJW), and at Anna Valley*, 9 July (TJN).

1256 *Cydia servillana* (Duponchel, 1836)

VC12: A gall-former on Goat and Grey Willow, and rarely encountered. The only record was from Weston Colley*, 4 June (DGG).

1262 *Cydia amplana* (Hübner, 1799)**Migrant**

A return to reasonable numbers, with 15 records of 19 individuals the best since 2006. It remains just about annual on the island.

VC10: Totland Bay, 19 August (SAK-J).

VC11: Bournemouth, four on consecutive nights 14 to 16 August (DGE); Hurn, 27 July (MJ); Sway*, two on 7 August and another on 30 August (SKe); Pennington, four on three dates between 15 and 26 August (RFC); Denny Wood, NF, 13 August (RJD, KC, KW det. RJD); Exbury, two, 2 September (RFC, JBI); Holbury, Southampton, 26 July (KJP); Funtley, 9 September (MLO), Hayling, 8 August (GSAS).

1268 *Cydia coniferana* (Ratzeburgh, 1840)

Nb

There are only a handful of sightings of this very rare species associated with pine plantations on the mainland county, and it is unknown from the Isle of Wight.

VC11: Hurn, 5 June (MJ).

VC12: In Pamber Forest HIWWT NR*, at least three, 26 June (GJD, NJM, MJW, one gen.det. JCI). The first North Hampshire record since reported as 'widespread' in Goater & Norriss, 2001.



C.coniferana, Pamber, 26 June © MJW

1278 *Dichrorampha sequana* (Hübner, 1799)

VC10: One at Totland Bay, 5 June (DC det. MJW) – the first report since that dated 1937 in Goater, 1974.

1280 *Dichrorampha consortana* Stephens, 1852

Nb

VC12: Weston Colley*, 8 and 25 July (DGG). Probably overlooked in grassland amongst more common congeners on Ox-eye Daisy, this is only the second site in North Hampshire.

Crambidae

1296 *Crambus silvella* (Hübner, 1813)

pRDB3

VC11: A local species in boggy areas in the New Forest: Hythe, 26 June and 17 July (JBl); Lymington, 1 July (MW).

1297 *Crambus uliginosellus* (Zeller, 1850)

Nb

VC12: For the second year in succession *uliginosellus* was reported from the Deadwater valley, Bordon, on 6 July (NJM), the only record received.

1299 *Crambus hamella* (Thunberg, 1788)

Nb

Locally common in the New Forest; much rarer in the north-east but the number of reports have increased in recent years.

VC11: Hurn Forest, three, 24 August (DGE); Hurn, 5 and 7 September (MJ); Burton, near Christchurch, 9 September (JSw); Ocknell Plain, NF, two, 31 August (MSP).

VC12: Hogmoor Inclosure*, five, 4 September (NJM, DHa); Cove, 22 June (RJE).



C.hamella, Hogmoor, 4 September © NJM

1300 *Crambus pratella* (L., 1758)

Nb

VC11: Another rare crambid localised in the New Forest and surrounding areas. Reported from Ashurst, NF, one, 24 June (KG), where it was first seen two years ago, and by day at King's Copse Inclosure, NF* on 4 July (PGS).

1325 *Platytes alpinella* (Hübner, 1813)

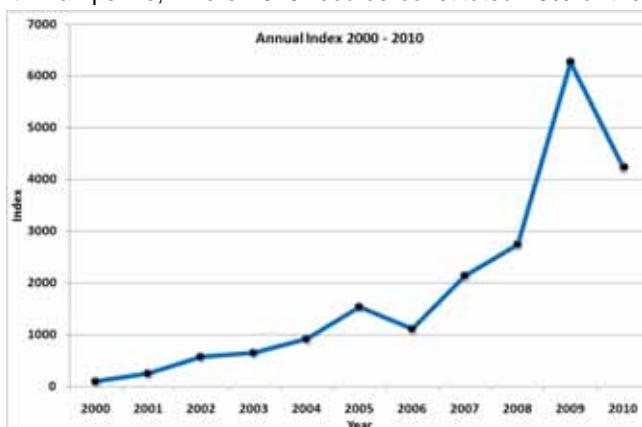
pRDB3

VC11: One report from a typical coastal locality: Southsea, 9 July (IRT).

1336 *Eudonia pallida* (Curtis, 1827)

Despite a dip in numbers from 2009, the last couple of years have been remarkable for a species that was described in Goater & Norriss, 2001 as "very local in bogs and marshes, wandering occasionally". There were 241 records in 2010, following 268 the previous year: taken together this constitutes 50% of all records on the database, and it has now been recorded in virtually every 10km square in the two counties. It was particularly abundant in North Hampshire, where 2010 records constituted 75% of the all-time total, even without taking into account the exceptional numbers at Weston Colley. Here, a total of 149 were counted between 28 May and 8 October, with a maximum of 23 on 5 June – the highest count on record (DGG). Maxima of 15 were reported from Sherborne St John, on 17 and 21 June (NJM).

A graph of the annual index for the past decade is shown right.



1343 *Eudonia delunella* (Stainton, 1849)

Nb

An attractive scopariid which is not uncommon in oak woodland in South Hampshire, but is still rare further north. Reports from Sherborne St John, with two on 29 June and another on 2 July (NJM) were undoubtedly wanderers from nearby Morgaston Wood, where it was first reported in 2006.

1356a *Evergestis limbata* (L., 1767)

Migrant

A relatively new arrival to Britain, in 1994, it is evidently well established on Hayling Island and perhaps other places along the south coast of the mainland, and the year under review saw continued strength here. The Isle of Wight, however, has seen a dearth of records in recent years, although it is probably still resident.

VC10: The following were the first since 2007: Freshwater, 10 and 16 July (DC); Ventnor, 7 September (RWi).

VC12: First recorded in the vice-county in 2008, with another record the following year (*erratum to 2009 report*: the individual at Tichborne on 3 August (CRB) was in 2008, not 2009). One at Weston Colley, on 20 July (DGG), therefore completes a hat-trick with records three years on the trot, and all in the same general area.

1357 *Evergestis extimalis* (Scopoli, 1763)

Nb

A regular migrant which may be established at low density on the Isle of Wight.

VC10: Totland Bay, 9 September (SAK-J); Parkhurst Forest, 28 August (Ian & Pat Merriefield, TJN, LF det. TJN); Bonchurch, one, 18 August (JHa).

VC11: Ashurst, NF*, 19 & 20 August (KG) - 20km inland; Hayling, 5 August (GSAS).

1359 *Cynaeda dentalis* ([D. & S.], 1775)

pRDB3

VC11: It is reassuring to receive continued evidence that the Hayling colony is still extant: one at a street lamp at Sinah Warren, 12 August, and one trapped nearby on 1 September (SJW); Sandy Point NR, 30 June (AJ).

1363 *Pyrausta ostrinalis* (Hübner, 1796)

A chalk downland species which can be confused with the more frequent *Pyrausta purpuralis*, which shares its habitat. It was not reported from South Hampshire in 2010.

VC10: Plentiful at Brook Down, between 18 April and 15 August (DC, TJN, LF).

VC12: Stockbridge Down, two, 3 July (TJN); Headley Gravel Pit HIWWT NR, three, 3 July (GJD, MJW).

1367 *Pyrausta cingulata* (L., 1758)

VC10: Brook Down on the west of the island is an exceptional site for this attractive black and white pyralid. First seen on 1 May, at least 50 were counted during the year up to 15 August (DC, TJN, LF), including an exceptional 34 on 1 August (DC). The unusual aberration ([right](#)) was photographed on Brook Down on 1 August (TJN).



1374 *Paratalanta hyalinalis* (Hübner, 1796)

Another chalkland specialist, which can be common where it occurs but is very thinly distributed. There was one record from each of the three main vice-counties.

VC10: Parkhurst Forest*, 28 August (Ian & Pat Merriefield, TJN, LF det. TJN).

VC11: Broughton Down HIWWT NR, one netted on 3 July (GCE).

VC12: Old Burghclere Lime Quarry HIWWT NR, 9 July (GJD).

1374a *Sclerocona acutellus* (Eversmann, 1842)

Adventive / Migrant

VC10: See New County Records above.

1389 *Udea fulvalis* (Hübner, 1809)

Migrant

An immigrant that normally occurs in low numbers each year, it would now appear to be established as a resident on the western side of the island and along the New Forest coast. The 63 records were more than double the previous highest, set last year.

VC10: There were 18 individuals seen at Freshwater, from 7 July to 21 August (DC).

VC11: The year saw 45 reports between 1 July and 1 September, the majority being along the New Forest coast and just inland. It was also seen in the Portsmouth area, with eight between 20 and 30 July at Gosport (SSw) and at Southsea, 23 July (JRL).

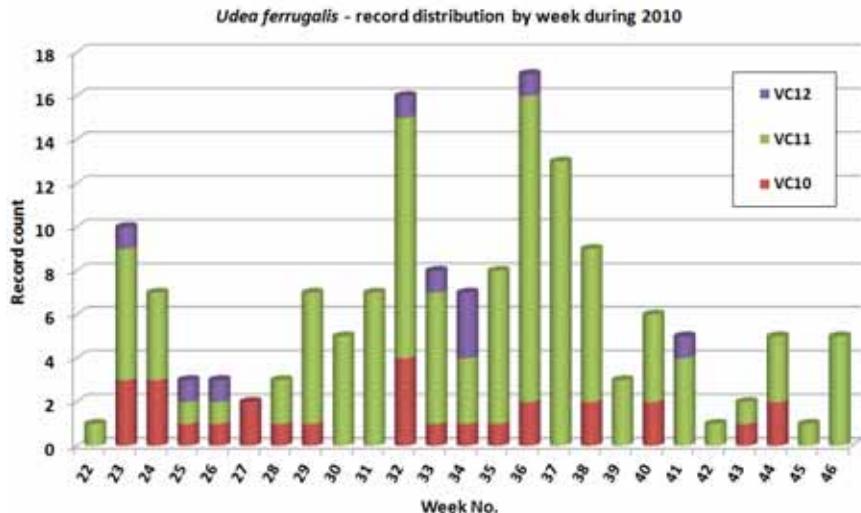
1395 Rusty-dot Pearl *Udea ferrugalis* (Hübner, 1796)

Migrant

While 2010 saw three times the number of records seen in 2009, numbers were still half of those in 2007 and a third of the record year of 2006, and if individuals were counted, the total was the second lowest since 2002.

VC	First Date	Last Date	Records	Individuals
10	23 March <i>Ventnor (JHa)</i>	3 November <i>Freshwater (DC)</i>	30	53
11	1 June <i>Brockenhurst (RBW)</i>	15 November <i>Sway (SKe)</i>	116	156
12	4 June <i>Basingstoke (PDF)</i>	13 September <i>Lower Froyle (S&BC)</i>	10	10

The graph below shows the breakdown of returns by week, and illustrates the continued paucity of sightings in North Hampshire.



1396 *Mecyna flavalis* Caradja, 1916

pRDB2

Very local in the two counties, and confined to the downland to the west of Hampshire and on the Isle of Wight.

VC10: Seen by day at Brook Down, between 24 and 7 August (DC, TJN, LF).

VC11: Observed on Broughton Down HIWWT NR, on three occasions between 24 July and 8 August (GCE); and at Isle of Wight Woods, Porton Down on 23 May (DGG).

1397a *Diplopseustis perieresalis* (Walker, 1859)

Vagrant/Accidental

VC11: See New County Records above.

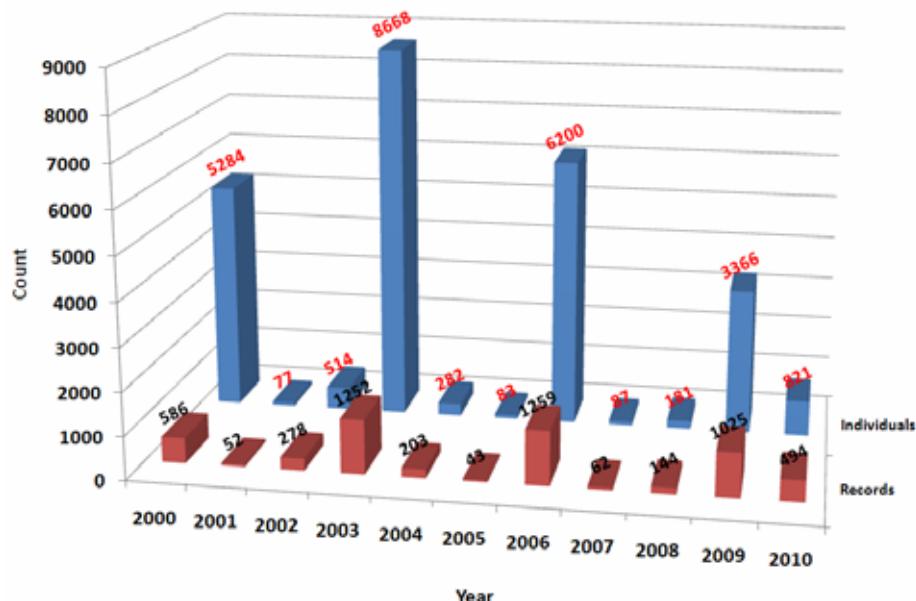
1398 Rush Veneer *Nomophila noctuella* ([D. & S.], 1775)

Migrant

It is evident from the top graph overleaf that during the past decade *noctuella* has exhibited a three-yearly cycle of abundance in the county. Whether this is an apparent, or real, pattern in nature would need further study and a wider dataset in duration and geographical extent than we have. Taking this cycle at face value, it could be said that 2010 was an above average year, as the drop in numbers from 2009 was only 75% in terms of individuals and just under 50% of records received.

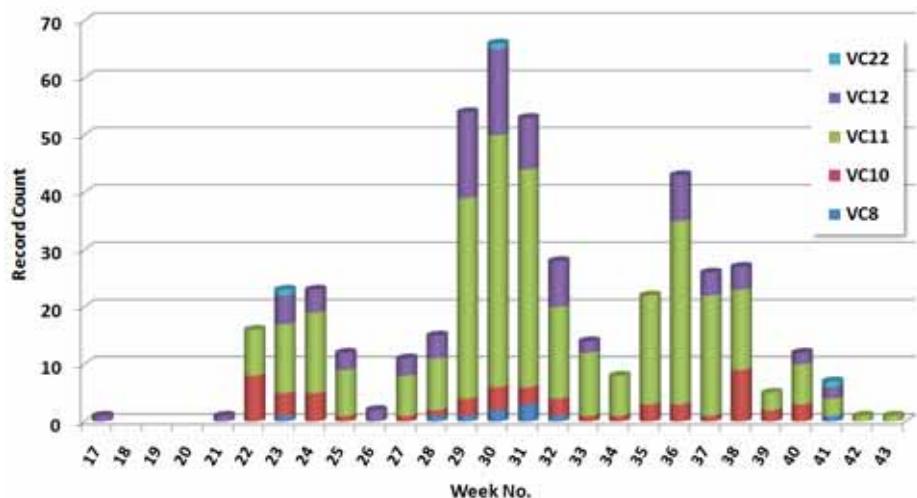
VC	First Date	Last Date	Records	Individuals
10	29 May St Lawrence (TJN, LF)	3 October Freshwater (DC)	56	129
11	29 May Sway (SKe)	28 October Merritown Heath (DGE)	333	529
12	24 April Chilbolton (GCE)	9 October Over Wallop (TJN et al); Pamber (GJD)	92	133

Elsewhere, in VC8 at Martin, PA had 21 individuals on 9 occasions, and in VC22 at Mortimer West End, there were a total of six on three dates, 10 June, 27 July and 10 October (GJD).



Above: *Nomophila noctuella*: Records per year 2000-2010

The distribution of records by week throughout 2010 and across the vice-counties is illustrated below:



1403a *Duponchelia fovealis* Zeller, 1847

Adventive/Migrant

VC11: The presence of this species in the country is generally attributed to importation with houseplants. The most recent five records, out of a total of 11 in the two counties, have been to light, which may indicate that it is now established at low density in the wild. There were three in 2010: Stubbington*, 26 July (DPH); Bournemouth*, 20 and 27 July (DGE).

1408 *Palpita vitrealis* (Rossi, 1794)

Migrant

The general pattern is for annual numbers to not exceed single figures apart from exceptional migrant years, in particular 2006 when 76 individuals were reported.

VC10: Bonchurch, 18 September (JHa).

VC11: Keyhaven, two, 27 August (SI, RFC, JBI et al.).

1410 *Agrotera nemoralis*

(Scopoli, 1763) (UK BAP) pRDB1

VC11: Another exceptional find for JRL's Southsea garden: one to light on 4 June was the second for the county, the only previous record being one in Burley in 1946. In Britain, it is restricted to one wood in Kent, but this individual was likely to be a primary migrant. Right © JRL

**Pyralidae****1414 *Synaphe punctalis*** (Fabricius, 1775)

Nb

VC12: An abundant inhabitant of the coast and southern downlands, it is rarely reported as far inland as North Hampshire. Records from Leckford GC, between 7 July and 8 August, and Chilbolton, on 1 and 6 July (GCE); Basingstoke*, 20 July (GAH); Whitehill, Bordon, 29 June (SRM det. JWP) were therefore noteworthy.

1429 *Melissoblaptes zelleri* (Joannis, 1932)

pRDB3

VC11: See New County Records above.

1441 *Oncocera semirubella* (Scopoli, 1763)

Nb

This attractive pink-washed pyralid is scarce in the county and was historically limited to the chalk of the Isle of Wight; however, of the 12 records this decade, all but one have been from the mainland, with two in VC12, a change of distribution which may point to most, if not all, being the result of primary migration into the county and low-density residence.

VC11: Funtley, 5 August (MLO).

VC12: Eelmoor*, 27 July (PHC).

1451a *Etiella zinckenella* (Treitschke, 1832)

Adventive/Migrant

VC12: See New Vice-County Records above.

1454b *Dioryctria sylvestrella* (Ratzeburg, 1840)

Migrant

Commonly regarded as a migrant, it is most likely resident at low levels in the county but migration still exists as the number of individuals increases during good migration years, such as 2006. Conversely, in the year under review, the six reports represent the lowest total since 2005. A species of conifer plantations and reported from scattered localities across the county where these exist.

VC11: Hurn, individuals on 19 and 26 July, 18 August and 5 September (MJ); Hythe, two, 28 July (JBI); St Cross, Winchester, one, 30 July (THW).

1457 *Hypochalcia ahenella* ([D. & S.], 1775)

VC12: Four reports from Weston Colley between 25 June and 11 July are the first for North Hampshire since 2002. A pyralid of chalk downland on Common Rock-rose which would appear to be contracting in range.

1461 *Assara terebrella* (Zincken, 1818)

Limited in distribution to those areas where Norway Spruce has been planted, and rarely encountered even then. Somewhat inexplicably, all but one record for 2010 came from North Hampshire, where there have only been six previous sightings in total.

VC11: Hurn, 10 July (MJ).

VC12: Cholderton, 6 June (HE); Morgaston Wood*, 5 June (MJW); Fleet, 27 June (GCS); Grayshott*, 28 June and 12 July (RTu); Farnborough, 5 June (KBW).

1480 *Homoeosoma nebulella* ([D. & S.], 1775)

Nb

VC12: Cholderton, 1 August (HE); Westover Farm, near Goodworth Clatford, two, 20 August (TJN, WL); Chilbolton, 4 June (GCE); Weston Colley, 5 June (DGG).

1486 *Apomyelois bistriatella* (Ragonot, 1887)

Nb

VC11: A specialised moth of recently burnt heathland, where the larva feeds on the fungus *Daldinia concentrica* and *D. vernicosa*. Roydon Woods, NF, two, 26 July (BENHS field meeting gen.det. RJD)

Pterophoridae

1490 *Oxyptilus parvidactylus* (Haworth, 1811)

VC12: A small brown plume, which can be found flying around areas with Mouse-ear Hawkweed in pastures and downland but not often seen. One at Weston Colley* on 2 July (DGG) is the fourth vice-county record.

1501 *Platyptilia gonodactyla* ([D. & S.], 1775)

The larva feeds in the stems of Coltsfoot, causing the head to droop, which can be the best method of determining its presence.

VC11: Pennington*, 27 July (RFC); Exbury*, 2 August (RFC, JBI).

VC12: Pamber Forest*, 1 July (RCH).

1502 *Platyptilia isodactylus* (Zeller, 1852)

VC11: A plume of marshland on Marsh Ragwort, its stronghold in our area being Lower Test Marshes and environs: from here it is reported only rarely but can be found in numbers, as in 2010, where 20 larvae were found at Nursling, 6 May (JHC).

1508 *Stenoptilia bipunctidactyla* (Scopoli, 1763)

VC12: A plume found on various scabious species, infrequently encountered principally on downland. Cholderton*, 17 July (TJN, HE); Weston Colley*, individuals on 23 July, 16 August and between 3 and 5 September (DGG); Magdalen Hill Down*, at least 12 seen by day, 14 August (PDF, PAB); Old Down, Kempshott, one, 22 July (AHD, GAH).

1510 *Merrifieldia leucodactyla* ([D. & S.], 1775)

VC8: A species of Wild Thyme on downland, reported just about annually. Martin Down NNR, at least five, 3 July (RFC, PRD *et al.*).

1519 *Euleioptilus carphodactyla* (Hübner, 1813)

Nb

VC11: Another rare plume of downland, in this case in the flower-heads of Ploughman's Spikenard. Two records in the year, from Portsdown, 4 September (JRL, MRY, JY) and Oxenbourne Down, 24 May (AMD).

Lasiocampidae

1632 Pale Eggar *Trichiura crataegi* (L., 1758)

VC10: Recorded as usual in some numbers at Cranmore between 27 August and 9 September (I&CF).

VC11: In early September, as part of a DEFRA project monitoring the populations of various UK BAP species, 59 individuals were trapped in woodland west of Mottisfont, at Frenchmoor Copse, Holbury Wood and Mottisfont Woods, and in woodlands near Stockbridge; peak counts were of 18 at Holbury Woods on 1 September and ten at Frenchmoor Copse on 2 September (TM, MCT). Elsewhere in the vice-county, one was in Botley Wood on 27 August (KW), and a total of five were on Wickham Common over three dates between 6 and 16 September (KC).

VC12: One was at Sherborne St John on 27 August (NJM) and two at Kingsley on 28 August (KBW).

1639 Pine-tree Lappet *Dendrolimus pini* (L., 1758)

Migrant

Although still not recorded in mainland Hampshire, the second for the Isle of Wight was found less than a kilometre from the first.

VC10: One came to light at Totland on 11 August (SAK-J).

1642 Lappet *Gastropacha quercifolia* (L., 1758)



This species has declined drastically in recent years nationally but is faring comparatively well in our area. It needs small isolated bushes on which to breed.

VC10: Two were trapped at light at Cranmore on 9 July (I&CF).

VC11: Singletons were trapped at Mottisfont on 6 and 17 July (SAC), at Spearywell on 9 July (JAG), at Wickham Common on 7 and 11 July (KC), and at Titchfield Haven NNR on 6 July, with two there on 8 July (BD).

VC12: Adults were recorded to light at Longstock on 29 June and Leckford on 9 July (GCE), and at Weston Colley on four dates from 25 June to 10 July (DGG). In addition, a larva was found on 21 January on a small Buckthorn at Magdalen Hill Down and then seen on various dates up to 30 May when it was found to have pupated (PDF et al).

Left: *G. quercifolia*, Magdalen Hill Down, 17 April © TJN

Saturniidae

1643 Emperor *Saturnia pavonia* (L., 1758)

Records were received this year only from the New Forest.

VC11: At Denny Wood, an adult was seen during the day on 24 April, with a further three to light during the 'Bioblitz' event on 21 May (RJD, P&CA et al), and 20 freshly-hatched larvae were found on heather plants on 31 May (GRE). Elsewhere, one came to light at Linford on 24 April (AGP), and one to light at Fordingbridge on 15 May (GC).

Thyatiridae

1655 Poplar Lutestring *Tethea* or ([D. & S.], 1775)

Twelve records were received from ten locations this year.

VC11: Singletons were recorded at Southsea* on 26 May (IRT), Wickham on 28 June (JRDS), Whiteley Pastures on 5 July (THW), Holbury Wood (two) on 9 July (TM, MCT) and Sky's Wood, Chandlers Ford, on 19 July (PAB).

VC12: Three were trapped in Pamber Forest between 15 May and 26 June (GJD et al), elsewhere, singletons were at Basingstoke (R&SH), Morgaston Wood (MJW) and Fleet (GCS), all on 5 June, and Hackwood Copse*, near Andover on 27 August (ACr, MJW).

1656 Satin Lutestring *Tetheella fluctuosa* (Hübner, 1803)

Nb

This has an odd distribution for a species that feeds on birch – it is found from E Hants through to Kent, parts of N & S Wales and a narrow band through Scotland.

VC11: All the records in the south this year came from woodlands south of West Meon, one at Hen Wood, West Meon on 4 June and three at Westbury Park on 23 July (KC et al).

VC12: As usual, the majority of records were from the south-eastern corner of the vice-county: 16 were at Grayshott between 4 June and 2 August (RTu), three were at Deadwater Valley between 8 June and 3 July (NJM), one was in Liss on 5 July (PTw), and one was in Alton on 12 July (DBO). Elsewhere in the vice-county, one was in Morgaston Wood on 5 June (MJW).



Right: *T.fluctuosa*, Deadwater, 8 June © NJM

Geometridae

1670 Small Grass Emerald *Chlorissa viridata* (L., 1758)

Na

VC11: One seen by day at Beaulieu Road Heath, NF on 3 June was the only record (SMW).

1678 Blair's Mocha *Cyclophora pupillaria* (Hübner, 1799)

Migrant

VC10: At Freshwater, adults were trapped on 24 May and on four dates between 21 and 28 June (DC), at Totland one was trapped on 4 September (SAK-J); Ventnor, two on 31 August (RWi, JHa et al).

VC11: On Hayling Island, singletons were recorded on the successive nights of 16 and 17 August (AJ) and on 1 and 5 August (GSAS), elsewhere singletons were at Clanfield on 18 July (JAM), Burton near Christchurch on 26 July (JSw) and Great Linford on 9 October (DW).

1678a Jersey Mocha *Cyclophora ruficiliaria* (H-S., 1855)

Migrant

VC10: At Bonchurch, Ventnor, singletons came to light on 16 and 22 August (JHa), the second and third records for the island following the first in 2008 in the same garden.

1691 Rosy Wave *Scopula emutaria* (Hübner, 1809)

Nb

VC11: Singletons were recorded in the New Forest at Brockenhurst on 27 June (RBW), Backley Bottom, NF on 24 July (DW, REJ) and Lymington on 17 August (PRD). Recorded elsewhere at Northney, Hayling Island, on 20 August (JWP).

1698 Purple-bordered Gold *Idaea muricata* (Hufnagel, 1767)**Nb**

Once again all records were from the New Forest with none from the north-east.

VC11: In July four were seen in the Burley area during daylight (DPH), with singletons to light at Brockenhurst on 1 July (RBW) and Backley Bottom on 24 July (DW, REJ).

1699 Least Carpet *Idaea rusticata* Lempke, 1967

VC12: The species continues to increase, with two records in VC10, nine in VC11, and 12 in VC12 as follows: Two were recorded at light in Southsea on 18 July (IRT) and at Sandy Point, Hayling on the same date (AJ).

1701 Dotted Border Wave *Idaea sylvestraria* (Hübner, 1799)**Nb**

A total of five individuals was recorded, which represents a small increase from the previous year.

VC11: Singletons were at Linford on 10 July (AGP), Hurn on 12 July (MJ), Blackfield on 26 July (PGS) and Pennington on 12 August (RFC).

VC12: One to actinic light at Eelmoor Marsh SSSI on 26 July (S Tudgey).

1714 Portland Ribbon Wave *Idaea degeneraria* (Hübner, 1799) Migrant/RDB3

VC10: In Ventnor, three were trapped in the Botanic Gardens on 31 August, with one at the same site earlier in the year on 15 May (RWi, JHa et al); also in Ventnor singletons were at Hillside on 2 and 11 September (RWi) and at Bonchurch on 11 September (JHa), where it must surely now be resident.

VC11: Sway, singletons on 12 and 17 September (Steve Keen); Sandy Point, Hayling* one on 8 September (AJ).

1716 Vestal *Rhodometra sacraria* (L., 1767) Migrant

A total of 29 individuals were reported, one in VC8, four in VC10, 23 in VC11, including four at Ashurst on 8 October (KG), and one in VC12, at Over Wallop, 9 October (TJN et al).

**1719 Oblique Carpet *Orthonama vittata* (Borkhausen, 1794)**

The receipt of six records of this marsh-dwelling species in one year was unusual.

VC10: Totland, two to light on 11 June and one on 30 June (SAK-J).

VC11: Romsey, one on 3 June (NB); Burton near Christchurch, one on 2 July (JSw); Lymington, one on 26 August (PRD).

VC12: Weston Colley, one on 13 August (DGG, photo left).

1720 Gem *Orthonama obstipata* (Fabricius, 1794)**Migrant**

VC10: Totland, one on 30 May (SAK-J), and one at Freshwater on 4 June (DC).

VC11: A total of ten were recorded between 5 June and 9 October.

VC12: Weston Colley, one on 11 July (DGG); Sherborne St John, one on 5 September (NJM, photo right).



1721 Balsam Carpet *Xanthorhoe biriviata* (Borkhausen, 1794)

VC12: At Testside Lakes on 9 July, twelve were recorded to three of the 17 lights run during the mothling event organised by GCE on the Leckford Estate (AMD, PTw, DGG). Further singletons were at Anna Valley, Andover on 27 April, 10 July and 23 July (TJN); Weston Colley on 10 and 11 July (DGG); Longstock on 24 July (TJN, LF); Leckford on 6 August and Chilbolton on 15 August (GCE).



1726 Large Twin-spot Carpet

Xanthorhoe quadrifasiata (Clerck, 1759)

VC12: At Testside Lakes three were recorded on 9 July during the mothling event on the Leckford Estate (MJW, ACr, TJN, GCE). Further singletons were at Chilbolton on 28 June (GCE), Anna Valley, on 23 July and 24 July (TJN) and Weston Colley on 11 and 12 July (DGG).

VC22: Mortimer West End, 21 June (GJD).

Right: *X. quadrifasiata*, Anna Valley, 23 July © TJN

1731 Chalk Carpet *Scotopteryx bipunctaria* (Prout, 1937)

(UK BAP) Nb

VC10: Brook Down, six on 31 July (DC, TJN, LF) plus singletons on 24 July, 1, 7 and 15 August (DC).

1734 July Belle *Scotopteryx luridata* (Fabricius, 1775)

There were five records of eight individuals, representing a small increase from the previous year.

VC11: Three were in Roydon Woods, Brockenhurst, on 26 July (KC), elsewhere singletons were in Holly Hatch on 11 July (PAB), Crab Tree Bog on 26 July (AA) and Great Linford on 3 August (DW).

VC12: Pamber Forest, two on 24 June (MJHa).

1735 Ruddy Carpet *Catarhoe rubidata* ([D. & S.], 1775)

Nb

There were just two records during the year.

VC8: Martin*, one on 2 July (P&CA).

VC10: Ventnor, one on 26 July (RWi).

1736 Royal Mantle *Catarhoe cuculata* (Hufnagel, 1767)

Following the absence of records in 2009, it was encouraging to receive the following records:

VC11: Roydon Woods, Brockenhurst, two on 26 July (MLO).

VC12: Old Burghclere Lime Quarry, one on 9 July (GJD).

1739 Wood Carpet *Epirrhoë rivata* (Hübner, 1813)

VC11: One at Mottisfont Woods on 20 July was the only record (TM, MCT).

1745 Mallow *Larentia clavaria* (Haworth, 1809)

Away from the coast in VC11 the only records were:

VC10: Totland, singletons on 28 September and 5 October (DC); Cranmore, singletons on 27 September and 14 October (I&CF).

VC11: Wickham Common, one on 4 October (KC).

1748 Beautiful Carpet *Mesoleuca albicillata* (L., 1758)

VC8: Martin, one on 12 August (P&CA).

VC10: Brook Down, two on 15 August (DC).

VC11: Wickham Common, one on 8 July (KC); Mottisfont, one on 23 July (JAG).

VC12: Old Burghclere Lime Quarry, one on 9 July (GJD).

1749 Dark Spinach Pelurga comitata (L., 1758)

A declining species that feeds on Goosefoot and Orache. On average there are only two or three reports each year but there were none in 2009.

VC12: Harewood Forest, one on 27 July (GCE).
Photo right © GCE



1751 Devon Carpet Lampropteryx otregiata (Metcalfe, 1917) Nb



at Ashurst, 17 August (KG), Botley Wood, 27 August (MLO, KW et al) and Frenchmoor Copse, 2 September (TM, MCT).

1774 Beech-green Carpet Colostygia olivata ([D. & S.], 1775)

VC10: Bonchurch, five between 25 July and 30 August were the first detailed records received in our area since 2006 although it is recorded regularly in the observer's garden (JHa). It has a thinly-spread distribution throughout the UK and is commoner in Scotland than down south.
Photo right © JHa

Ten records of 35 individuals is an unprecedented number in the county of this increasing species that has a nationally western distribution.

1775 Mottled Grey Colostygia multistrigaria (Haworth, 1809)

VC10: Bonchurch, Ventnor, one on 16 March (JHa).

VC11: Mottisfont, one on 4 April (SAC conf. TJN from photo).



1787 Argent & Sable Rheumaptera hastata (L., 1758) (UK BAP) Nb

Bentley Wood remains the only site in the county for this species. The last time this species was recorded elsewhere was in Harewood Forest in 2004.

VC11: Bentley Wood, several reports were received of day-flying adults from the eastern clearing, including three on 2 June (PSt, WGH).

1793 Cloaked Carpet *Euphyia biangulata* (Haworth, 1809)

Nb

VC8: One at Damerham on 21 July was the only record (PT).

1809 Twin-spot Carpet *Perizoma didymata* (L., 1758)

VC8: Martin, one on 25 July (P&CA).

VC11: Chandler's Ford, one on 12 June (A&LB).

1814 Lead-coloured Pug *Eupithecia plumbeolata* (Haworth, 1809)

Nb

VC11: Brockenhurst, one on 30 June (RBW).

VC12: Pamber Forest, four were recorded on 14 June (GJD), with exceptional numbers, perhaps more than 60, to eleven lights on 24 June (MJHa, KTai *et al*), thereafter in small numbers until 1 July.

Right: *E.plumbeolata*,
Pamber, 26 June © NJM



1818 Marbled Pug *Eupithecia irriguata* (Hübner, 1813)

Nb

VC11: Ladycross, four individuals to three MV lights on 15 May (A Kolaj); Ashurst, singletons on 16 and 21 May (KG); Great Linford, one on 24 April (DW); Denny Wood, one on 21 May (KW).

1820 Pinion-spotted Pug *Eupithecia insigniata* (Hübner, 1790)

Nb

VC12: One at Longstock on 5 May was the only record (GCE).

1823 Netted Pug *Eupithecia venosata* (Fabricius, 1787)

VC11: One at Waterlooville on 5 June was the only record (RJM).

1828 Satyr Pug *Eupithecia satyrata* (Hübner, 1813)

VC12: Single adults came to light at Leckford on 9 July and Mottisfont on 23 July (both MJW). Two larvae were found at Magdalen Hill Down on 29 August (A&LB).



1833 Bleached Pug *Eupithecia expallidata* Doubleday, 1856

VC11: Parkhurst Forest*, a larva found on Goldenrod on 25 September (TJN, LF, DC).

VC12: Havant Thicket, 25 larvae found on Goldenrod, 25 September (MJHa, KTai *et al*).

Left: *E.expallidata*, Havant Thicket, 25 September © KTai

1841 Yarrow Pug *Eupithecia millefoliata* Rössler, 1866

VC11: Southsea, 1 July (IRT); Sandy Point, Hayling, 17 July (AJ).

1854 Juniper Pug *Eupithecia pusillata* ([D. & S.], 1775)

VC11: Fair Oak, one on 30 July (PAB); Blashford, one on 1 September (JC&SW).

VC12: Leckford, singletons on 17 July and 8 August (GCE); Winklebury, one on 20 July (MJW); Liss, one on 24 July (PTw).

1855a Channel Islands Pug *Eupithecia ultimaria* Boisduval, 1840

VC10: There was only one report, from Freshwater on September 9 (DC).

VC11: Nineteen records between 2 June and 6 August, mostly from Southsea and Hayling Island, with one record from Sholing, Southampton.

1859 Sloe Pug *Pasiphila chloerata* Mabille, 1870

A total of five individuals were recorded, an increase on previous years.

VC11: Wickham Common, one on 9 June (KC); Fareham, one on 13 June (KW); Hurn, one on 3 July (MJ).

VC12: Sherborne St John, one on 25 June (NJM); Longstock, one on 29 June (GCE).

1861 Bilberry Pug *Pasiphila debiliata* (Hübner, 1817)

Nb

Although the species continues to be absent from its former stronghold in the New Forest, it was found in numbers in Pamber Forest during 2010.



VC12: Pamber Forest, after 12 were recorded on 18 June (GJD et al), exceptional numbers, perhaps more than 60, came to eleven lights on 24 June (MJHa, KTai et al), with a further 15 on 26 June (GJD, MJW, NJM) and 18 on 1 July (RCH).

Left: *P.debiliata*, Pamber, 26 June © MJW

1863 Dentated Pug *Anticollix sparsata* (Treitschke, 1828)

Na

Following the absence of records in 2009, there was just one report in 2010.

VC10: Afton Marsh, one on 21 June (JHa).

1870 Chimney Sweeper *Odezia atrata* (L., 1758)

VC8: Martin Down, daytime observations included six on 23 June (SI) and four on 26 June (LS).

VC11: Farley Mount, one to MV light on 28 June (MP).

VC12: Ashford Hill, seven by day on 16 June and eight on 20 June (ABo).

1878 Drab Looper *Minoa murinata* (Scopoli, 1763)

(UK BAP) Nb

VC11: Bentley Wood, seen by day in the eastern clearing on 23 May (TJN, LF).

VC12: Ashford Hill, daytime observations included 35 on 4 June and three on 20 June (ABo); Pamber Forest, two on 26 May and 12 on 2 June (GJD).

1880 Barred Tooth-striped *Trichopteryx polycommata* ([D. & S.], 1775)

(UK BAP) Na

In recent years this has been reported from just a handful of sites.

VC11: Sandy Point, Hayling*, 19 April (AJ) was at least 30km out of its known range.

VC12: Leckford, one on 6 April and two on 9 April (GCE).

1885 Clouded Magpie *Abraxas sylvata* (Scopoli, 1763)

Following the absence of records in 2009, it was encouraging to receive the following:

VC11: Westbury Park* near West Meon, one on 20 August (KW).

1896 Rannoch Looper *Itame brunneata* (Thunberg, 1784)

Na

There was no repeat of the large influx of 2009.

VC10: One at Bonchurch*, on 19 June was the only record (JHa).

1903 Barred Umber *Plagodis pulveraria* (L., 1758)

In a very good year for the species, 18 records were received, one from VC8, 11 from VC11 and six from VC12.

1911 Large Thorn *Ennomos autumnaria* (Werneburg, 1859)**Nb**

VC11: Only recorded from two sites, at Southsea (IRT, JRL) and on Hayling Island at Northney (JWP).

1924 Orange Moth *Angerona prunaria* (L., 1758)

In a good year for the species, 23 records were received, 15 from VC11 and eight from VC12, the most significant of which are outlined below:
VC12: Morgaston Wood, ten on 12 June (NJM, MJW); Pamber Forest, ten on 24 June (MJHa, KTai et al).

Right: *A. prunaria*, Morgaston, 12 June © MJW

**1933 Scarce Umber *Agriopis aurantiaria* (Hübner, 1799)**

In an excellent year for the species, 29 records were received, two from VC10, 22 from VC11 and five from VC12.

1938 Bordered Grey *Selidosema brunnearia* Staudinger, 1901**Na**

VC11: One seen by day at Acres Down, NF, on 5 August was the only record (John Harris).

1939 Ringed Carpet *Cleora cinctaria* ([D. & S.], 1775)**Na**

Although the total number of individuals recorded increased to 16 in 2010 from five in 2009, just five records were received, all from the New Forest.

VC11: Hurn, three on 7 May and three on 15 May (DJE); Holmsley, six on 28 May (KTai, MJHa); Denny Wood, three on 21 May (RJD); Brockenhurst, one on 5 May (RBW).

1959 Sloe Carpet *Aleucis distinctata* (H-S., 1839)**(UK BAP) Nb**

This species is easily overlooked due to its early flight period.

VC11: Singletons at Linford on 24 and 25 April were the only records (AGP).

1964 Annulet *Charissa obscurata* ([D. & S.], 1775)

Formerly relatively frequent in parts of the New Forest and on the Island, but not seen in the county from 2004 to 2008, so news of the species' rediscovery in 2009 and the following subsequent records are encouraging.

VC10: Ventnor, 19 to Actinic light in the Botanic Gardens on 31 August (RWi, JHa et al); Shanklin, one found by day on 29 August (TS).

VC12: Liss Riverside Walk, one to light on 1 August (PTw).

1968 Yellow Belle *Semiaspilates ochrearia* (Rossi, 1794)

VC10: Cranmore, one on 16 June (I&CF).

VC11: There was the usual scattering of records along the south coast between Hurst Castle, where three were recorded on two dates, and Sandy Point, Hayling, where there were singletons on nine dates.

1969 Grey Scalloped Bar *Dyscia fagaria* (Thunberg, 1784)

VC11: One at Blashford on 4 June was the only record (JC&SW).

Sphingidae

1972 Convolvulus Hawk-moth *Agrius convolvuli* (L., 1758)

Migrant

An average year for this species, with 12 individuals being on a par with all but the best migrant years: as in 2003 and 2006, which saw 129 and 224 individuals reported respectively.

VC10: Totland, singletons on 9 and 18 September, plus two on 7 October (SAK-J); Bonchurch, one on 23 August (JHa); Gunville, Newport, one on 23 August (SAK-J).

VC11: Singletons at Cadnam on 10 September (MP), Linford on 7 September (DW), Keyhaven on 27 August (RFC, PRD *et al*) and Northney on 11 September (JWP).

VC12: Over Wallop, one on 14 August (L&J Clarke).



1973 Death's-head Hawk-moth

Acherontia atropos (L., 1758) Migrant

VC10: Ventnor, one on 27 August was the only record (JHa – photo left).

1982 Narrow-bordered Bee Hawk-moth *Hemaris tityus* (L., 1758) Nb

Just two records were received, both from well-known sites.

VC8: Martin Down, one on 12 June (LS).

VC12: Porton Down, one 23 May (DGG).

1983 Broad-bordered Bee Hawk-moth *Hemaris fuciformis* (L., 1758) Nb

A poor showing for this woodland species the larva of which feeds on Honeysuckle.

VC11: Linford, one on 3 June (DW); Hurn, one on 3 June (MJ).

1984 Humming-bird Hawk-moth *Macroglossum stellatarum* (L., 1758) Migrant

Over 90 moths were seen, including three together at Longstock Nursery on 24 July (ARC, TJN *et al*). Apart from a few in mid June, all were in the second half of the year. The latest record was on 6 October at Ropley (LF).

Right: *M. stellatarum*, Longstock © RFC



1987 Bedstraw Hawk-moth

Hyles gallii (Rottemburg, 1775)

Migrant

VC10: One at Ventnor on 18 August (JHa) was the first Island record since 1991.

1990 Striped Hawk-moth *Hyles livornica* (Esper, 1779)

Migrant

VC11: The only record of this rare migrant was at Sholing on 6 May (ARC).

Notodontidae

2017 Small Chocolate-tip *Closteria pigra* (Hufnagel, 1766)

Nb

All the records received were from the New Forest, with none from the north-east of the county.

VC11: At Linford, singletons were recorded on four dates between 28 April and 13 July (DW), elsewhere singletons were at Exbury Gardens on 27 July (RFC, JBI), Holmsley on 28 May (MJHa, KTai), Backley Bottom on 24 July (DW, REJ) and Brockenhurst on 1 July (RBW).

2020 Figure of Eight *Diloba caeruleocephala* (L., 1758)

Good numbers were recorded at sites in all three vice-counties.

VC10: At Cranmore, a total of 37 were recorded over eight dates between 9 October and 2 November (I&CF).

VC11: At Cadnam, there were 17 between 8 October and 28 October (MP), and at Mottisfont Woods six on 8 October (TM, MCT).

VC12: Ten at Magdalen Hill Down BC reserve on 18 October (PAB, PDF) was also exceptional.

Lymantriidae

2027 Dark Tussock *Dicallomera fascelina* (L., 1758)

VC12: At Testside Lakes*, Leckford on 9 July, a male came to light during the Mothing Event on the Leckford Estate in very atypical habitat (PTw, NJM).

Right: *D.fascelina*, Leckford, 9 July © NJM



Arctiidae

2036 Dew Moth *Setina irrorella* (L., 1758)

Na

VC10: Freshwater, singletons to light on 20 and 30 June (DC).

2045 Hoary Footman *Eilema caniola* (Hübner, 1808)

Nb

From the rapidly increasing number of reports, this species now appears to be established at a few locations in the county.

VC11: At Sandy Point, Hayling, a total of five were recorded over four dates between 23 and 29 July; at Pennington, one on 3 July (RFC – photo right).

VC12: At Farnborough recorded on three dates between 26 June and 31 July (KBW, PHC).



2051 Four-spotted Footman *Lithosia quadra* (L., 1758)

Resident / Migrant

Significant counts were received as follows:

VC10: Fourteen reports of singletons between 23 June and 6 October.

VC11: A total of 16 were recorded from various locations in Hurn Forest, Merritown Heath on 23 June (DJE).

2056 Wood Tiger *Parasemia plantaginis* (L., 1758)

A much better spread of records than in 2009, including one of the largest counts on record at Cholderton. All were seen by day.

VC8: Martin Down, two on 3 June (Robert Lloyd).

VC10: Brook Down, singletons on four dates between 30 May and 27 June (DC)

VC11: Butser Hill, one on 21 June (MWe).

VC12: Porton Down, one on 23 May (MP); Cholderton, twelve on 13 June (HE, TJN, LF); Old Burghclere Lime Quarry, singletons on 24 and 29 May (GJD, PSt); Porton Down, two on 23 May (DGG).

2067 Jersey Tiger *Euplagia quadripunctaria* (Poda, 1761)

Nb

VC10: A much better showing than the solitary record of 2009, with the best counts being 18 at Freshwater on 15 August (DC) and 21 at Ventnor on 26 July (RWi).

VC11: Singletons at Southsea on 17 Aug (IRT), Lympington on 17 August (PRD), Milford-on-Sea on 19 August (R&A Adcock) and Titchfield Haven NNR on 21 August (GRCJ); Hayling, 22 August (GSAS).



Left: *M.strigula*, Pamber, 26 June © NJM

2076 Kent Black Arches *Meganola albula* ([D. & S.], 1775)

Nb

Once a predominantly coastal species it is now spread up the east coast as far as Yorkshire. It is widespread across the two counties and was found in three new 10km squares in 2010.

Noctuidae

2080 Square-spot dart *Euxoa obelisca*

(Tutt, 1902) **Nb**

Once again all recorders are urged to send in all records of this species.

VC10: St Catherines Point, one on 20 September (PBa – photo right) was the only record received.

2082 Garden Dart *E. nigricans* (L., 1761)

Observers are reminded that a good photograph or specimen is required for records of this species to be accepted. Just three records were received.

VC11: Stockbridge, two on 26 July (GCE).

VC12: Leckford, singles on 10 July and 8 August (GCE).



2085 Archer's Dart *Agrotis vestigialis* (Hufnagel, 1766)

VC11: Sandy Point, Hayling, five between 12 and 28 August (AJ); Southsea, 5 September (IRT).

VC12: Hogmoor Inclosure, Bordon, one on 4 September (NJM, DHa, SRM).

Right: *A. vestigialis*, Southsea, 5 September © IRT



2091 Dark Sword-grass *A. ipsilon* (Hufnagel, 1766) Migrant

About 270 reports were received compared to 250 last year and about 140 in 2008.

2093 Sand Dart *Agrotis ripae* (Hübner, 1823)

Nb

VC10: One at Totland on 7 July (SAK-J).

VC11: Five were recorded at Sandy Point, Hayling between 3 June and 9 July (AJ).

2110a Langmaid's Yellow Underwing *N. janthina* ([D. & S.], 1775) Migrant

VC10: Bonchurch, singles on 23, 24 and 28 July were the first since 2006 (JHa).

VC11: Ten were recorded from Hayling Island (AJ, JWP); one was caught in Southsea (IRT) and one to MV at Wickham Common on 12 August (KC conf. KBW).

2108 Lunar Yellow Underwing *Noctua orbona* (Hufnagel, 1766)

Nb

All observers are reminded that a specimen or good photograph is required for acceptance of this species.

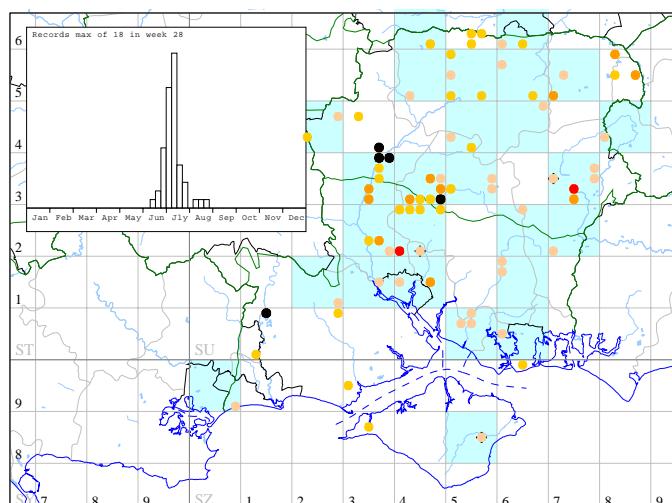
VC12: Cholderton, singles on 9 and 10 July (HE) were the only records.

2114 Double Dart *Graphiphora augur* (Fabricius, 1775)

VC12: Westover Farm, near Goodworth Clatford, 3 July (WL, LF, TJN); Longstock, 7 July; Chilbolton, 17 July (both GCE).

The three records were all from the Test valley, following those last year from the Itchen valley. In total there have now been just ten records in the county since 1998.

The map right clearly illustrates that this once very widespread insect is now rare and very restricted in range (black dots indicate records within the last five years), consistent with analysis of the Rothamsted data over the 35 years to 2005, which found this species to be the fourth most declined nationally with a fall of c. 97%.



2119 Pearly Underwing *Peridroma saucia* (Hübner, 1808)**Migrant**

Only 26 individuals were reported, exactly the same as last year, compared with 46 in 2008, over 70 in 2007 and 500 in 2006. The first was on 13 June and the last on 31 October.

2140 White-marked Cerastis leucographa ([D. & S.], 1775)**Nb**

As usual all records were from north Hampshire.

VC12: On the Leckford Estate, three on 21 March and five on 6 April; Chilbolton, one on 5 April (GCE); Beech*, one on 9 April (NDP).

2159a Splendid Brocade *Lacanobia splendens* (Hübner, 1808)**Migrant**

There have been just two previous records in our area, in 2003 from the Isle of Wight and in 2005, from the centre of Hampshire just inside VC12. The year under review saw four, including the first for South Hampshire.

VC11: See New Vice-County Records above.

VC12: Leckford*, one on 24 July was the second record for North Hampshire (GCE, NJM).

Left: *L.splendens*, Leckford, 24 July © MJW

2165 Small Ranunculus *Hecatera dysodea* ([D. & S.], 1775)

Other than the records below there are just two previous records, both from 2009. Larvae feed mainly on Prickly Lettuce and were found in some numbers at Pirbright in Surrey in 2010 so larvae must surely be found in Hampshire in 2011.

VC11: Fareham*, one on 21 August (KW); Eastleigh*, one on 3 September (SI); Southsea, one on 9 September (JGe det. TJN).

VC12: Andover*, one on 30 September 2009 (T&JW det. TJN); Cheriton*, 29 June (DAS); Fleet, one on 23 May (GCS); Farnborough, one on 23 July (KBW).

2171 Marbled Coronet *Hadena confusa* (Hufnagel, 1766)

The larvae feed on Bladder Campion and Sea Campion. There were just two records.

VC12: Basingstoke, one on 4 June (R&SH); Leckford, one on 29 June (GCE).

2176 Antler Moth *Cerapteryx graminis* (L., 1758)

The Antler Moth has declined since the 1990s, but recent years have marked a return to reasonable numbers and in 2010, 20 records from 13 sites was a good showing.

VC11: Sholing*, one on 28 July (A&RS).

Right: *C.graminis*, Weston Colley, 20 August © DGG



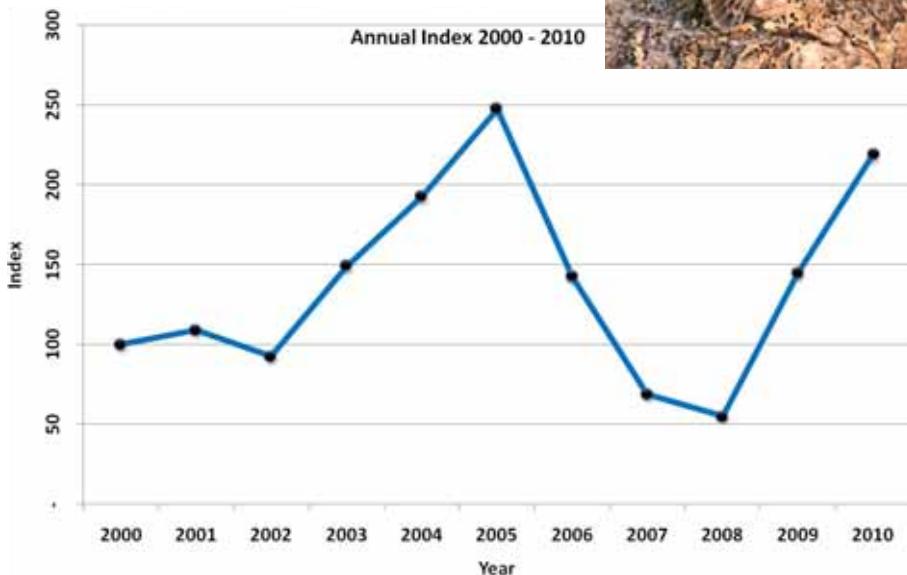
2178 Feathered Gothic *Tholera decimalis* (Poda, 1761)

Numerous reports indicated that this had a very good season. At Cholderton 53 were trapped on 3 September and 48 on the following night to one MV lamp (HE).



The Hampshire and Isle of Wight index for the last decade shows a strong recovery over the last couple of years, up nearly 300% of the low point in 2008 to the level last seen in 2005.

Right: *T. decimalis*, Andover, 11 September © TJN



2184 Northern Drab *Orthosia opima* (Hübner, 1809)

VC11: Stockbridge, one on 19 April (GCE).

VC12: Longstock, four on 10 April (GCE). Not since 28 April 1995 has there been a multiple record in one trap. On that occasion 20 came to light at Porton Down.

2191 Double Line *Mythimna turca* (L., 1761) Nb

This was one of the major surprises of 2010. Who would have guessed that six would turn up in one year when there had been only one record in Hampshire since 1978.

VC11: Brockenhurst, singles on 29 June and 6 July (RBW); Wickham Common*, one on 16 July (KC); Titchfield NNR*, one on 5 August (BD).

VC12: One to MV at Liss on 1 July (PTw); Leckford*, one on 9 July (AMD et al).



Right: *M. turca*, Leckford, 9 July © AMD

2195 Delicate *Mythimna vitellina* (Hübner, 1808) Migrant

54 individuals were seen in 2010, compared with 33 in 2009, 50 in 2008, about 200 in 2007 and over 1000 in 2006. 43 were on the Island and the remainder in VC11.

2200 Matthew's Wainscot *Mythimna favicolor* (Barrett, 1896) Na

VC11: Lymington, the only regular site for this reed-bed species, saw first generation individuals on 12, 25 and 28 June (PRD); elsewhere, one at Hurn on 8 August (MJ).

2203 White-speck *Mythimna unipuncta* (Haworth, 1809) Migrant

Just two records were received.

VC10: Totland, one on 8 October (SAK-J); Bonchurch, one on 3 November (JHa).

2214 Chamomile Shark *Cucullia chamomillae* ([D. & S.], 1775)

VC11: Southsea, one on 8 June (JRL) was the only record received.

2219 Striped Lychnis *Shargacucullia lychnitis* Rambur, 1833 (UK BAP) Na

About 115 larvae were recorded. However only one adult was seen.

VC11: One to mv light at Fareham on 22 May (RJD) was somewhat outside the normal range for this species.

2226 Beautiful Gothic *Leucochlaena oditis* (Hufnagel, 1766) RDB3

VC11: See New County Records above.

VC10: One at St Catherine's Point* on 9 October 2008 and four on 27 September 2010 (PBa) are the first island records since 2006.

2227 Sprawler *Asteroescopus sphinx* (Hufnagel, 1766)



VC10: Good numbers are generally recorded at Cranmore but 139 between 28 October and 19 November with a maximum of 45 on November was exceptional (I&CF), and exceeds the previous high (30) set at the same site in 2008.

Pictured left are 18 individuals on the outside of the recorder's trap (and a Green-brindled Crescent) © IF.

2230 Feathered Brindle *Aporophyla australis* (H&W, 1843) Nb

VC10: Freshwater, four between 11 and 28 September (DC); Chale Cliff, one to MV on 25 September (TJN, LF) in very cold conditions with a northerly wind. Recorders are urged to report all records of this nationally notable species.

2241 Red Sword-grass *Xylena vetusta* (Hübner, 1813)

VC11: One at Fletchers Water, NF, on 17 March (JBI, RFC).

VC12: West Down, Chilbolton*, one to actinic on 19 April (GCE).

Right: *X.vetusta*, Chilbolton, 19 April © GCE



2246a Oak Rustic *Dryobota labecula* (Esper, 1788)

Migrant

VC10: St Catherine's Point, one on 24 September (PBA); Ventnor, one on 8 and ten on 30 October (RWi).

VC11: Sandy Point, Hayling, one on 27 October (AJ); Gosport, three on 28 October (KW et al); Northney, Hayling, one on 29 October (JWP).

Right: *D.labecula*, St Catherine's Point, 24 September © PBA

**2248b Sombre Brocade *Dryobotodes tenebrosa* (Esper, 1789)**

Migrant

VC11: See New County Records above.

2251 Flame Brocade *Trigonophora flammea* (Esper, 1785)

Migrant

VC10: Bonchurch, singles on 13 and 21 October (JHa) were the only records.

2264a Southern Chestnut *Agrochola haematidea* (Duponchel, 1827)

RDB2

Eleven records received from the New Forest area between 2 October to 3 November but from no new areas.

2275 Dusky-lemon Sallow *Xanthia gilvago* ([D. & S.], 1775)

Four records were received of this much-declined Elm feeder.

VC10: Singles at Freshwater and Totland on 9 October (DC, SAK-J).

VC11: Northney, Hayling, one on 28 September (JWP); Lovedean, one on 7 October (ARJ). *Erratum:* The one reported as *X. ocellaris* at Southsea on 29 September 2009 (IRT) has been re-determined as *X. gilvago* (gen. det. BG).

Right: *X.gilvago*, Freshwater, 9 October © DC

**2276 Pale-lemon Sallow *Xanthia ocellaris* (Borkhausen, 1792)**

Na

The two in 2010 are just the fourth and fifth Hampshire records of this species whose foodplant is Black Poplar and its cultivars. There is one Isle of Wight record.

VC11: Northney, Hayling, one on 28 September (JWP). A further record of one of the ab. *palleago* on 1 October 2007 (JWP det. AJ conf. BS) has come to light. This aberration closely resembles a pale Brick *Agrochola circellaris* on the forewing but the hindwing is silvery white. The moth was therefore almost certainly a migrant as this form is found rarely in SE England and is not known to occur in the resident population; one at Sandy Point, Hayling on 14 October (AJ) was the second year running it has been recorded at this site.

2277 Scarce Merveille du Jour *Moma alpium* (Osbeck, 1778)

RDB3

A total of 34 individuals were recorded in VC11 between 31 May and 7 July. Two thirds of these were from Wickham Common.

VC8: Martin*, one to MV on 10 July (P&CA).

2292 Tree-lichen Beauty *Cryphia algae* (Fabricius, 1775)

Migrant

Eleven reports of 14 individuals were reported all from Southsea and Hayling between 25 July and 16 August.

2304 Orache Moth *Trachea atriplicis* (L., 1758)

Migrant

Seven more records of this migrant species to be reliably recorded in the two counties brings the total number of records to nineteen. The first was in 1995.

VC10: Freshwater, singles on 28 and 30 June (DC); Totland, singles on 29 June, 10 and 13 July (SAK-J); Bonchurch, one on 19 July (JHa).

VC11: Southsea*, one on 20 July (IRT).

2362 Butterbur *Hydraecia petasitis* Doubleday, 1847

VC12: Chilbolton, one to MV on 7 August (GCE) was the only record.

2385 Small Mottled Willow *Spodoptera exigua* (Hübner, 1808)

Migrant

Following just five records in 2008 and 46 in 2009, there were 9 in 2010.

**2386b Southern Army Worm *Spodoptera eridania* (Stoll, 1782)**

Adventive

VC11: See New County Records above.

Right: *S.eridania*, Bishop's Sutton, 15 October (PLGT)

2387a Clancy's Rustic *Platyperigea kadenii* (Freyer, 1836)

Migrant

34 records were received, all of singletons. Nine were from the Isle of Wight and 22 were from South Hampshire. There were three other reports – evidence of its progress northwards.

VC8: Martin*, one on 8 October (P&CA).

VC12: Overton, one on 2 September is the second year running it has been recorded at this site (ACr); Grayshott*, one on 8 October (RTu).

2396 Rosy Marbled *Elaphria venustula* (Hübner, 1790)

Nb

This year 56 were reported, one more than in 2009 – a total bettered only in 2006. Three were from VC12, the rest from VC11.

**2400 Scarce Bordered Straw*****Helicoverpa armigera* (Hübner, 1808)** Migrant

A total of 27 was reported compared to 18 last year. Apart from one on 2 September on Hayling Island all were seen during October.

Left: *H.viriplaca*, Goodworth Clatford, 6 August (TJN)

2401 Marbled Clover *Heliothis viriplaca* (Hufnagel, 1766)

RDB3

There had only been one record of Marbled Clover in Hampshire since 2004 so it was welcome to receive four reports this year. There is no indication that these were immigrants and it is likely that they were the product of the warm dry summer. The first was possibly of the first generation whilst the other three were all second generation.

VC11: Hill Head, one to MV on 29 June (MJP); Mottisfont, one to actinic on 1 August (SAC); Portchester, one on 2 August (JS).

VC12: Westover Farm, Goodworth Clatford, 6 August (WL, TJN).

2402 Shoulder-striped Clover *Heliothis maritima* (Graslin, 1855) RDB3

This year none were seen on the area of New Forest heath where they had been reported last year but were seen on an adjacent area of younger regrowth.

VC11: In the north of the New Forest five were seen by day on 24 June (MJHa, KTai) and two on 27 June (LF, TJN, AGP, DW); one was seen in another area on 6 July (ARC).

Right: *H. maritima*, New Forest, 27 June (TJN)



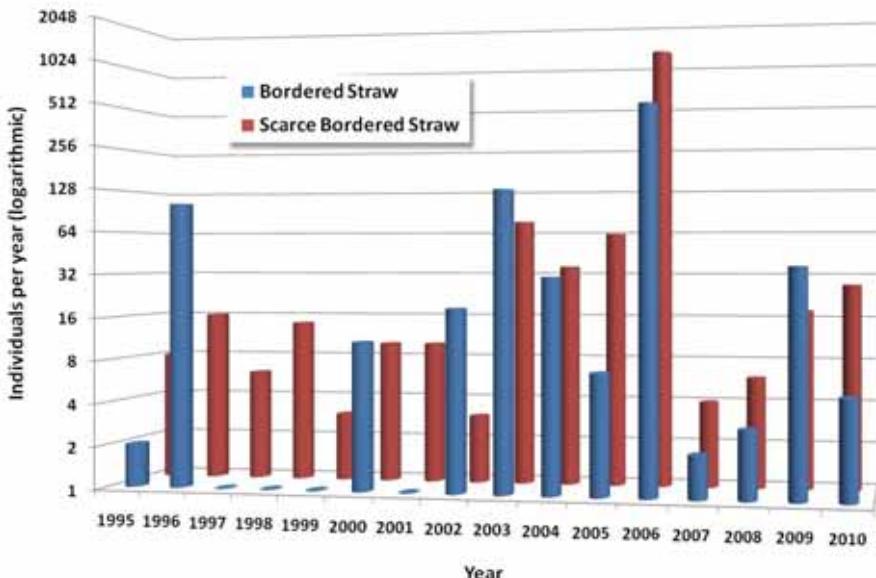
2403 Bordered Straw *Heliothis peltigera* ([D. & S.], 1775) Migrant

This year reverted to the norm with more reports of *armigera* than *peltigera*, as shown by the graph below which compares the individuals recorded each year since 1995, using a logarithmic scale to avoid the exceptional totals recorded in 2006 dominating the overall picture. Just five records of this normally fairly common migrant were received in 2010 compared with 37 last year.

VC10: Freshwater, one to MV on 20 August July (DC).

VC11: Sandy Point, Hayling, singles to MV on 3 and 12 August (AJ); Bournemouth, one on 24 August (DJE).

VC12: Old Burghclere Lime Quarry HIWWT NR, one to MV on 9 July (GJD).



2412 Silver Hook *Deltote uncula* (Clerck, 1759)

No daytime searches were carried and just two were seen at light, to which it is only weakly attracted.

VC12: Foxlease Meadows, one to MV on 3 June (GJD, MJW) and another to MV at Chilbolton on 22 June (GCE).

2408 Small Marbled *Eublemma parva* (Hübner, 1808)

None in 2010 but an addition of this rare migrant to the four other records in 2009.

VC11: Sholing, one to MV on 2 June 2009 (ARC).

2418 Cream-bordered Green Pea *Earias clorana* (L., 1761)

Nb

Another good year with 36 records received following 55 records last year and 21 in 2009. The vast majority were from Titchfield Haven NNR, maximum 7 on 2 July, (BD) with the rest from the southern half of VC11 and two from the Isle of Wight.

2432 Ni Moth *Trichoplusia ni* (Hübner, 1803)

Migrant

VC11: Weston Colley, one on 11 July was the only record received this year (DGG).



2435 Scarce Burnished Brass *Diachrysia chryson* (Esper, 1789)

Na

VC11: Mottisfont, one by day on 7 July (JAG) and two to MV on 19 July (GCE); Fishlake Meadows, 12 and 20 July (NB).

VC12: Leckford Estate, twenty one between on 7 July and 6 August (GCE, NJM, TJN, PTw et al); one in a garden adjacent to Harewood Forest on 27 July (GCE).

Left: *D.chryson*, Leckford, 9 July © NJM

2436 Dewick's Plusia *Macdunnoughia confusa* (Stephens, 1850)

Migrant

VC11: The only record in our area was one at Hurn, 14 September (MJ).

2437 Golden Plusia *Polychrysia moneta* (L., 1758)

VC11: One at Southsea on 13 June (IRT).

VC12: Singles at Basingstoke and Sherborne St John on 22 June (R&SH, NJM) and another at Axmansford on 8 July (ABo).

2441 Silver Y *Autographa gamma* (L., 1758)

Migrant

Only 2,000 moths were reported compared with about 3,300 last year.

VC10: Only 200 moths were recorded. The first was on 15 May at Bonchurch (JHa) and the last at Afton Marsh on 6 November (DC).

VC11: Over 1100 individuals were seen. The first was at Wickham Common on 28 April (KC) and the last at Stubbington on 18 November (DPH).

VC12: Over 600 were reported. The first was at Farnborough on 14 May (KBW) and the last were at Alton and Cove on 3 November (DBO & RJE).

2451 Clifden Nonpareil *Catocala fraxini* (L., 1758)

Migrant

There are 43 previous reports of this species in the two counties and this year produced six records. It has now been recorded at Brockenhurst for four years running.

VC8: Damerham*, 11 October (PT).

VC10: Cranmore, 16 September (I&CF); Totland, 27 September, 9 October (SAK-J).

VC11: Brockenhurst, 11 September (RBW); Pennington, 12 October (RFC).



Left: *C. fraxini*, Pennington, 12 October © RFC

2454 Light Crimson Underwing

***C. promissa* ([D. & S.], 1775)**

(UK BAP) RDB3

Twenty one records were received this year. All were adults seen in the New Forest except for the ones below.

VC11: Brockenhurst, one larva found and photographed in the garden on 6 June (RBW); Mottisfont Woods, four between 9 and 14 July (TM, MCT).

VC12: Longstock*, one on 22 July

(GCE) was the first in North Hampshire since 2004.

2455 Dark Crimson Underwing *C. sponsa* (L., 1767)

(UK BAP) RDB2

VC11: One on wine-ropes at Roydon Common on 26 July at the BENHS meeting (PMW et al); Exbury Gardens, one on 27 July (JBI, RFC); Ladycross Inclosure, one to MV on 4 August (PP); Denny Wood, at least four to sugar on 13 August (KW) and one found by day on 9 September settled on a Goat Moth *Cossus cossus* oak trunk and being disturbed by hornets (PDB).

Right: *C. sponsa*, Denny Wood, 9 September © PDB



2463 Burnet Companion *Euclidia glyphica*

(Linnaeus, 1758)

Very high numbers of this widespread species were seen at Odiham Common with a combined total of eighty seen on three small areas of grassland on 6 June (TJN, MJW).

2476 Beautiful Snout *Hypena crassalis* (Fabricius, 1787)

For the second year running unprecedented numbers were seen, even exceeding the very high numbers in 2009. Twenty-seven records were received of this relatively rare species that feeds on Bilberry, and in unprecedented numbers. Most notable were:

VC10: Bonchurch*, one on 30 June (JHa) was the first for the island since 1995.

VC11: Three at Exbury Gardens* on 27 July (JBI, RFC).

VC12: Pamber Forest, about twenty came to several lights on 24 June (GJD, MJHa, KTai et al) and ten two nights later (GJD); Liss*, one on 30 June (PTw); singles at Weston Colley* (DGG) and Kempshott* on 1 July (AHD, GAH); Leckford*, five on 9 July (TJN, PTw et al).

2478 Bloxworth Snout *Hypena obsitalis* (Hübner, 1813)

RDB3

VC10: Bonchurch, singles on 23 and 24 March (JHa and TS) and on 18 and 28 August (JHa); Freshwater, singles on 18 May, and then four between 22 September and 22 November (DC).



VC11: Singles at Southsea on 27 July and 1 September (JRL); Christchurch, one on 1 October (JSw).

Left: *H. obsitalis*, Freshwater, 18 May © DC

2482 White-line Snout *Schränkia taenialis* (Hübner, 1809) Nb

VC11: Singles were reported from Holbury Wood* on 26 July and Frenchmoor Copse on 29 July (TM, MCT); Pennington, one on 31 July (RFC) and another at Exbury Gardens on 3 August (JBI, RFC).

2485 Marsh Oblique-barred *Hypenodes humidalis* Doubleday, 1850 Nb

VC11: St Cross, Winchester, one on 23 July (THW); Crab Tree Bog, NF, one on 24 July

(AA); Roydon Woods, ten on 26 July (KC, RJD, MLO, KW); Pennington, one on 26 July (RFC); Ashurst, one on 21 August (KG); Sway, one on 26 August (SGK conf. TJN).

VC12: Leckford, two netted at dusk on 9 July and one to MV on 24 July (GCE, NJM).

2488 Common Fan-foot *Pechipogo strigilata* (L., 1758) (UK BAP) Na

Thirteen records were received from the woods adjacent to the Test valley and from Pamber Forest, including some notably high numbers as follows:

VC12: Pamber Forest, recorded between 31 May and 1 July with 35 on 24 June (PCI, GJD, MJHa, PHo, KTai); Harewood Forest, 32 in a garden adjacent to the forest on 24 June (GCE).

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MOTH LOCALITIES

The following pages feature images of a few of the varied localities important for moths in our area and mentioned in this report.



Mottisfont Estate, 4 May 2010 (Tim Bernhard)



Weston Colley, 20 April 2011 (David Green)



Harewood Forest, 22 May 2010 (David Green)



Ladycross Inclosure, New Forest, 5 April 2011 (David Green)

List of observers

R&AA	Adcock, Roger & Audrey	PDB	Brock, Paul
MAi	Allen, Mike	AHB	Brookes, Andrew
P&CA	Allen, Peter & Cindy		Brookes, M R G & A
	Anthony, Heather		Brunet, Pema
	Anthony, J M & S R		Bryan, Ron
	Anthony, Mr & Mrs	RBry	Bryant, Robert
IAr	Arnold, Ivan	RBu	Buchanan, Roger
	Asher, Jim	CBu	Buckle, Chris
AA	Ashworth, Andrew	DJB	Buckler, David J
BAu	Austin, Bob	PAB	Budd, Phil
	Austin, Claire	PB	Burford, Peter
EWB	Baigent , Ted		Burrows, Ron
KB	Bailey, Ken		Burt, Hazel
	Bailey, Sue	KBu	Butcher, Kevin
CLB	Baker, Colin	AB	Butler, Andy
	Baker, Leanne	A&EB	Butler, Andy & Enid
MBa	Baker, Mike	AMBB	Butterworth, Adrian
	Baker, Paul	CNB	Button, Chris
	Banbury, Roger		Button, Ken
PBa	Barden, Phil	RJC	Carpenter, Richard
AJB	Barker, Andy		Carr, Margaret
A&LB	Barker, Andy & Linda	JC&SW	Casson & Woolley, Julia & Simon
LJB	Barker, Linda		Casson, Becky
	Barter, Chris	JCa	Casson, Julia
RBe	Beale, Robert		Chamont, Penny
	Beavers, Paul	JMC	Cheverton, Jim M
TBe	Bernhard, Tim	MHC	Christopher, Marina
	Berry, Mike	GC	Clark, Gordon
CRB	Beyer, Colin	S&BC	Clark, Sue & Barry
DTB	Biggs, David T	JHC	Clarke, Julian
PBi	Billinghurst, Peter	PCI	Clarke, Peter
NB	Binsted, Norman	SAC	Clarke, Susan A.
JBI	Bloss, Juliet		Clarke, Trudi J
D&CB	Bohea, Dennis & Christine	PHC	Clarkson, Peter
ABo	Bolton, Andrew		Clement, Patrick
	Bone, Sarah	JMCI	Cloyne, John
PBo	Boswell, Paul		Cobb, Chris
SAB	Boswell, Simon	CC	Cockburn, Chris
	Bowker, Margaret	TDC	Codlin, Trevor
	Bowker, Peter	KC	Coker, Kevin
	Bowker, Peter & Margaret	ARC	Collins, Andy
	Bowyer, D	CBC	Collins, Barry
	Bowyer, Daniel	PCK	Cook, Patrick
MBo	Boxall, Michael	RaCo	Cook, Ralph
RBre	Brett, Richard	DC	Cooke, Dave
MRB	Brickwood, M R	RC	Cooke, Ron
MDB	Bridge, Malcolm	RFC	Coomber, Richard
DAB	Britton, Dennis		Coomber, Richard & Julia
RCB	Broadway, Rupert & Sharron		Court, Nicky
	Brock, Helen		

NCo	Cowling, Nigel	CF	Fletcher, Cath
	Cox, Julie	IF	Fletcher, Ian
MCr	Creese, Marian	I&CF	Fletcher, Ian & Cath
RCg	Croger, Ruth	LF	Fomison, Lynn
	Crook, Jason	NFr	Freeman, Nick
	Crook, Paul	NG	Galton, Neil
ACr	Cross, Alison		Gardner, Peter
AC	Cummings, Alastair		Gauntlett, Adrian
SCur	Currie, Simon		Gibbons, Melanie
CCu	Cuthbert, Charles	MJG	Gibbons, Mike
DD	Dana, Dave		Gifford, Joyce
Dhu	David Hubble	TGi	Giles, Terry
	Davis, Colin	KG	Godfrey, Keith
	Davis, Graeme		Goodban, Derek
AMD	Davis, Tony	BGo	Goodey, Brian
	Dawson, Geoff	JGe	Goodridge, Jeff
	Day, Richard	JGo	Goodspeed, John
CDe	Dell, Clare		Goodwin, Steve
GJD	Dennis, Graham	JGr	Graham, Jim
S&SD	Dennis, Shane & Sarah		Graham, Tim
JDe	Dewhurst, Jenna	AGr	Green, Alan
RJD	Dickson, Richard	DGG	Green, David G
AHD	Dobson, Tony		Greenland, Krystyan
TD	Doran, Tim	ACG	Greenwood, Arthur
MDo	Dougal, Malcolm	MG	Grist, Mervyn
JDo	Douglas, Jim	JAG	Groves, Justin
	Downham, Simon	RGu	Guest, Robert
CD	Dudley, Caroline	MGwi	Gwilliam, Mary
BD	Duffin, Barry	MGw	Gwilliam, Mike
PRD	Durnell, Pete	M&MG	Gwilliam, Mike & Mary
RJE	Eagling, Richard	CRH	Hall, Chris
HE	Edmunds, Henry	JH	Hall, Jan
PE	Eeles, Peter		Hall, Tim
BE	Elliott, Brian	MHa	Hallett, Mark
SE&PR	Ellis, Sue	RHal	Hallett, Richard
	Ellmore, Margaret	BWH	Halliday, Bruce
GRE	Else, George	JHa	Halsey, James
DGE	Evans, D G	DHa	Hamilton, Dave
	Evans, David	MJHa	Hammond, Mark
GCE	Evans, Glynne	MH	Hampton, Martin
JEv	Evans, Justin		Hampton, Tim
	Evans, Sheila	RHar	Hardy, Rachel
	Evans, Stephen	RPH	Harley, Robin P
F.M.G.	Fareham Moth Group	AHa	Harper, Alison
GFa	Farwell, Geoff		Harris, John
	Fellows, Brian		Harrison, Brian
	Fenton, Amanda		Harrison-watts, Graham
AF	Field, Ashley	SCH	Harvey, Stephen
	Finch, Graham	SHA	Harwood, Stephen
KFi	Fisher, Keith	LHa	Hatfield, Lyndon
PDF	Fleet, Patrick	WGH	Helyar, Bill
BPF	Fletcher, Brian & Marion		Hemmings, John

GAH	Henwood, Glyn & Rose	Kettle, J
	Hewett, Pat	King, Martin
R&SH	Hiley, Ray & Sue	King, S
CHi	Hill, Chris	SKi
RCH	Hilton, Roy	SAK-J
DH	Hoare, Dan	Kolaj, Alec
	Hoborough, Ros	DLa
THo	Holden, Theresa	RLa
DHo	Holt, David	D&RL
	Horne, John	JRL
	Horner, Tony	MLan
	Horsnail, Philip	SRL
TH	Hotten, Terry	MLe
DPH	Houghton, Dan	Legg, S
RHo	Hoyes, Rachel	S&PL
	Hubble, David	RKL
	Hughes, Jan	OL
	Hughes, Michael	WL
NJH	Hull, Nick	ML
	Hunt, David W	Litjens, Mark
	Hunt, J	RLI
	Hunt, John	DLo
PHun	Hunt, Peter	DL
	Hutchinson, Ian	Longe, Derek
	Iles, Christopher	Ludford, Neil
	Ingamells, Bev & Cathryn	Luxton, Rachel
SI	Ingram, Simon	Lyman, Mark
JY	J Young	Mackrill, Mike
RKJ	Jackson, Robert	JM
ARJ	Jafkins, Alan	GMa
JKA	James Andrews	SMa
RJa	James, Roger	MRY
AMJ	James, Tony	KMa
	Jarvis, Simon M	PM
	Jeffreys, Penny	JAM
	Jennings, Mark	CM
	Jerome, Ann	JMC
SJ	Jobling, Steve	ACM
AJ	Johnson, Andy	AMc
	Johnstone, Graham	DMe
JCI	Jon Clifton	JMer
A&VJ	Jones, Anthea & Vernon	TM
GRCJ	Jones, Geoff	I&PM
	Jones, K L	SRM
	Jones, Margaret	DMil
	Jones, Melanie	DLHM
	Jones, Stephen	
SKe	Keen, Steve	
CKe	Kelly, Caroline	
HK	Kemm, Henry	
CK	Kemp, Catherine	
	Kennard, M	

	Mobbs, Brenda	Pike, Mark
NJM	Molyneaux, Denise	KJP
	Montegrillo, Nick	Plumridge, Keith
JRM	Moon, John	Pratt, Hazel
J&JM	Moon, John & Julie	IP
RJM	Moore, Richard	BP
GMo	Mordant, Gill	CPr
	Morgan, Keith	MP
CWM	Morris, Chris	TRa
	Moy, Gillian	GR
JNa	Nash, Janet	E&PR
D&MNe	Nesbitt, D & M	SRe
	Nightingale, Josh	
	Nisbet, Corinne	
	Noake, Bernadette	
	Nordell, David	
	Norman, Mike	GRi
TJN	Norriess, Tim	
JN	Nundy, John A	IRi
	O'Reilly, John	
	Oates, John	
MRO	Oates, Matthew	
MLO	Opie, Maurice	T&MR
	O'Reilly, John	NR
	Osborn, Mary	
PO	Osso, Philip	PRo
	Othen, Iris	JR
DBO	Owen, Dave	JRu
ROw	Owen, S R (Roddy)	
AGP	Page, Andy	DRy
JP	Pain, J	
GP	Palmer, Gary	MSc
MJP	Palmer, Mark	
	Pardy, Carol	
MPa	Parker, Mary	MSh
	Parker, Nina	AShe
	Parkhurst, Richard	JRDS
HP	Parry, Helen	PSh
MSP	Parsons, Mark	DAS
PPa	Patrick, Pete	MJS
FRP	Pattinson, Richard	BS
	Patton, Sarah	A&RS
TAP	Paul, Therasa	ACS
DPa	Payne, Dave	TSm
NDP	Peace, Nigel	LS
DP	Pearson, Dave	
	Peat, Lizzie	
	Pelling, Andy	
RPen	Pendell, Roger	JSo
	Pettis, Charlotte	JSw
JWP	Phillips, John	BSpa
CP	Piatkiewicz, Chris	SSp
		GSAS

JS-S	Spring-Smyth, Jennifer	THW	Walker, Tim
IWS	Staples, Ian	MJW	Wall, Mike
	Stapleton, P G		Walters, Sheila A
PGS	Stapleton, Paul		Walton, David
TS	Steele, Tony	MW	Ward, Marcus
	Stenning, Julian	PMW	Waring, Paul
GCS	Stephenson, Graham		Warwick, Ron
PSt	Sterry, Paul		Watch, John
	Stevens, Claire		Watson, Julie
	Stewart, Jenny	MWe	Wearing, Mike
	Stobart, J & R		Webb, Herby
JS	Stokes, Jon	JWe	Webb, John
SSt	Stokes, Sue		Webber, Jo
	Stone, Brian		Weeks, C
	Straker, Mr & Mrs W A		Weeks, Christopher
PJS	Strangeman, P J		Welch, Andy
	Stride, Les	P&PW	Welch, Pam & Peter
Sba	Stuart Ball	RWe	West, Rob
DS	Sussex, Des		West, Stephanie
MSw	Swann, Mark	DW	Westerhoff, Diana
SSw	Swift, Stewart		Whaley, Gloria
RSy	Symonds, Richard	KW	Wheeler, Keith
	Symonds, Richard & Becky	KWi	White, Karen
KTai	Tailby, Keith		White, Robin
SCT	Tapper, Stephen	SMW	Whitehouse, Steve
MTa	Taylor, Mike	AW	Whitlock, Ashley
DAT	Thelwell, David		Whitmarsh, R B
IRT	Thirlwell, Ian		Wildish, Mike
	Thomas, Barbara		Wiley, Nick
D&TT	Thomas, Dave & Julie	NW	Williams, Nicola
STh	Thomas, Sue		Williams, Rosie
PGLT	Thompson, Peter	TWil	Williams, Tracé
AT	Thornbury, Alan		Willis, John
	Thorpe, Rory	KBW	Wills, Keith
ADT	Tindale, Tony	RWi	Wilson, Rob
DJAT	Tinling, David		Winfield, Robert
MCT	Townsend, Martin		Wood, Clive
PT	Toynion, Paul	SW	Woodd, Sue
MTr	Trapaud, Mike		Woodley, Stuart
	Tudgie, Stephanie	PW	Woodruffe, Patricia
	Turner, Pat & Robin	JWo	Woodson, John
RTu	Turner, Robin	DBW	Wooldridge, Dave
MTu	Tutton, Mark	SWo	Woolley, Simon
PTw	Twine, Pete	SJW	Wright, Simon
PV	Vaughan, Peter	RBW	Wynn, Russell
JVe	Vetterlein, John		Young, Kevin
	Vick, Graham	SYo	Young, S
JV	Vigay, John	JY	Young, Jemma
	Viney, T J	MRY	Young, Mark
	Walford, Nick	SY	Young, Simon

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