



Butterfly
Conservation



HAMPSHIRE & ISLE OF WIGHT BUTTERFLY & MOTH REPORT 2008

Hampshire & Isle of Wight Butterfly & Moth Report, 2008

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Female Silver-studded Blue (Pat Turner)

Welcome to the 2008 Hampshire and Isle of Wight Butterfly and Moth Report. This is the Branch's major publication and represents a great deal of work by the many who collect data as well as those who collate and compile this report – perhaps book might be a better title. I would, therefore, like to start with most sincere thanks to who have contributed editorially to produce such an important document. These thanks are extended to all past and present writers for their valuable contributions to this publication, the photographers, the proof-readers, the data-input team, the transect walkers, the organisers, the branch webmaster and the many other people who contribute their time and skills to make this report possible. It is truly a "branch achievement".

Unsettled weather throughout virtually all of the 2008 "summer" made recording butterflies and moths extremely difficult. Despite this, Branch members rose to the challenge magnificently and the number of butterfly records received for the year only just fell short of 2007's highest ever total. Thank you to everyone who sends in records for this remarkable effort.

This year's Report sees a few changes to the team responsible for its production. Linda Barker and Tim Norriss are still very much in charge, directing efforts as Branch Butterfly Recorder and Branch Moth Officer respectively, but we have now expanded the editorial team to help ease the workload and to allow Linda to devote more time to her many other Branch activities.

Three writers have stepped down this year (Joyce Gifford, Linda Smith and Peter Vaughan) and we are delighted to welcome four new writers to the team: Jonathan Bills, Paul Brock, Pete Durnell, Rob Edmunds and Peter Eeles.

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 the annual report. The data is put to further use, however, 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. Our records are also submitted regularly to Head Office for incorporation into the Butterflies in the New Millennium project and the National Moth Recording Scheme.

To supplement the distribution maps in this report, maps for all our area's resident and regular immigrant butterflies and selected moths are available on the Branch's website (<http://www.hantsiow-butterflies.org.uk>).

Please keep sending in your data either via the two paper recording forms, via email to the Sightings Page on our website, via an Excel spreadsheet or via MapMate recording software. For further details see the Branch website or the April newsletter.

Again, my thanks and congratulations to you all for another excellent publication.

Butterfly and moth sites in Hampshire and Isle of Wight



The area covered by this report is based on the modern administrative counties of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight together with those parts of Dorset falling within Watsonian Vice County 11 (South Hampshire) and the parts of Wiltshire falling within Watsonian Vice County 12 (North Hampshire).

The map shows many of the sites that occur most frequently in this report. Many of the localities are nature reserves or country parks and they have varying degrees of access. Owner's consent may be required to visit some (e.g. Porton Down) and on others visitors are restricted to footpaths.

Visitor pressure is growing; please take great care to avoid damage to these valuable sites.

Key to map

- | | | | |
|----|--------------------------------|----|--|
| 1 | Beacon Hill, Burghclere | 36 | Old Winchester Hill |
| 2 | Old Burghclere Lime Quarry | 37 | The Mountain |
| 3 | Ashford Hill | 38 | Butser Hill/Oxenbourne Down/
Queen Elizabeth Country Park |
| 4 | Pamber Forest | 39 | Coulters Dean |
| 5 | Silchester Common | 40 | Martin Down |
| 6 | Yateley Common | 41 | Blashford Lakes Reserve |
| 7 | Dogmersfield Park | 42 | Lower Test Reserve |
| 8 | Fleet Pond | 43 | Lordswood, Southampton |
| 9 | Eelmoor | 44 | Itchen Valley Country Park |
| 10 | Perham Down/Tidworth | 45 | Royal Victoria Country Park |
| 11 | Harewood Forest | 46 | Swanwick Reserve |
| 12 | Porton Down | 47 | Botley Wood |
| 13 | Broughton Down | 48 | Bishops Waltham Moors |
| 14 | Danebury Rings | 49 | West Walk, Forest of Bere |
| 15 | Chilbolton Common | 50 | Catherington Down |
| 16 | West Down, Chilbolton | 51 | Titchfield Haven |
| 17 | Stockbridge Down | 52 | Browdown |
| 18 | Micheldever Wood | 53 | Portsdown Hill |
| 19 | Bramdean Common | 54 | Farlington Marshes |
| 20 | Ashford Hangers | 55 | Sandy Point, Hayling Island |
| 21 | Selborne Common | 56 | Southbourne Undercliff |
| 22 | Noar Hill | 57 | Hengistbury Head |
| 23 | Bentley Station Meadow | 58 | Hordle Cliffs |
| 24 | Alice Holt Forest | 59 | Hurst Castle |
| 25 | Bramshott Common | 60 | Keyhaven and Pennington Marshes |
| 26 | Dean Hill | 61 | Headon Warren/Tennyson Down |
| 27 | Bentley Wood | 62 | Afton Down |
| 28 | Farley Mount & Pitt Down | 63 | Compton Chine/Compton Down |
| 29 | Crab Wood | 64 | Mottistone Down |
| 30 | Yew Hill | 65 | Parkhurst Forest |
| 31 | St Catherine's Hill/The Dongas | 66 | Whippingham |
| 32 | Magdalen Hill Down | 67 | St Catherine's Pt/Niton Undercliff |
| 33 | Ampfield Wood | 68 | Arreton Down |
| 34 | Baddesley Common & Emer Bog | 69 | Firestone Copse |
| 35 | Beacon Hill, Warnford | 70 | Coombe Bottom/St Boniface |

The New Forest contains many important sites in a variety of habitats.

Bold print indicates the Branch's three reserves.

For less well known sites mentioned in the report, we have included the name of the nearest town/village.

Branch Reserves Update

All three of our reserves are funded by Natural England stewardship grants for which we are very grateful. The management of part of Magdalen Hill North is funded by Hampshire County Council who undertook this joint scheme on land adjoining our reserve in 2004. As well as funding being important, the practical help given by volunteers at work parties enables us to continuously improve the habitat for butterflies.

It is really helpful if visitors to the reserves report their sightings and any other observations, as these are useful for the annual reports on the reserves.

Bentley Station Meadow

Lynn Fomison

On transect, 633 butterflies of 22 species were seen, in comparison with 640 butterflies and 23 species in 2007. The species not recorded on transect in 2008 were Green Hairstreak, Essex Skipper, Small Copper, (although these were seen off transect) and Painted Lady. However Brown Argus, Small Tortoiseshell and White Admiral were all seen on transect. It was pleasing that a visitor saw a Dark Green Fritillary on 28 June. They posed the question on the branch web site if this was likely to be a "vagrant" or the result of breeding on the reserve. The answer is we do not know. Two were recorded on transect in 2006 and there were casual sightings that I know of in 1998 and 2003. The sighting of a Purple Emperor gives a total of 27 species seen in all during 2008.

As ever, spring at the meadow was glorious with lots of flowers blooming, birds singing and other interesting sightings like Muntjac deer on several occasions. In April the meadow was a carpet of flower with Primroses, Celandines, Wood Anemones, Violets, Wild Strawberry and Speedwell, and the shrubs like Blackthorn, Gorse and Goat Willow were all flowering well giving early butterflies and bees a good source of nectar. In May the Bugle was splendid for a second year and once again attracted the Broad-bordered Bee Hawk-moth which was seen on at least two occasions (14 and 21 May). A new plant was discovered: Adder's Tongue fern. It is described as "An extraordinary small fern of damp grassy places with a single oval leaf and a spike-like fertile branch which produces the spores, which is difficult to spot".

However, despite the wonderful flowers in spring numbers of Brimstone and Orange-tip were lower than in 2007. Come the summer the downward trend of Ringlets continued and this was contrary to the upward trend of this species at other sites. However a number of accounts from visitors to the reserve did mention seeing many Ringlets, so maybe some of the transect recorders were just unlucky with the date and time they visited. Marbled White numbers also dropped down again after having had better years in 2005, 2006 and 2007. However the eight seen was better than the all time low of zero in 2002. However a species reaching its all time low in 2008 was Gatekeeper with only 36 recorded. The big drop had occurred between 2006 and 2007 with numbers going from 205 to 42. But there was better news for other species. Small Skippers almost doubled to a figure of 20 and Common Blues made an excellent recovery from their slump to two in 2007 with nine seen. With 49 seen, Speckled Wood reached its second highest total registering a good increase from 17 in 2007. Silver-washed Fritillary numbers were up from the almost all time low of 14 in 2007 (the lowest figure was 11 in 2001) to 21. But those who regularly follow the fortunes of butterflies at Bentley will realise that is a long way off 2006's highest count of 65. This shows the value of transect figures – they give us faith that butterflies will once again recover from very low numbers given some decent summer weather. We are seeking to improve

conditions in the meadow by continuing the selective thinning of the trees, as we know the tall trees are creating more shade than the meadow species like. Also we are hopeful that the Forestry Commission will undertake work to improve the drainage of the ditch on our boundary. The ground becomes very water logged in wet weather and we suspect that this is having adverse effects on butterfly life stages in the ground.

In detailing the effects of the 2008 summer on the butterfly species in the meadow a lot of use is made of the transect figures. However for some species these do not really tell much of a story. The recording of just two Purple Hairstreaks on transect belies the fact that the meadow is an excellent place to see this species. Indeed a group visiting the meadow with Ian Julian on 14 July saw eleven. Not surprisingly, no Purple Emperors were recorded on transect but Sue Clark did see one laying eggs on 22 July.

What more can be said? Well, Bentley Station Meadow continues to be a superb nature reserve. The weekly reports from transect walkers and other visitors' accounts on the web site are a delight to read, with notes from the walkers of other wildlife seen such as moths, lots of birds and dragonflies, including the Emperor, Beautiful and Banded Demoiselles, Southern Hawkers and Common Darters. Butterfly numbers do drop rapidly from mid-August onwards, which is a shame as the Devils-bit Scabious is just coming out then making a lovely show intermingled with that other mauve flower, Water Mint, and a striking contrast with the yellow of Common Fleabane.

Numerous moths were encountered. The first of the year at the work party on 20 February was a White Plume Moth *Pterophorus pentadactyla*. Others seen in the daytime included Common Carpet, Speckled Yellow, Sallow Kitten, Six-spot Burnet and Silver Y.



Irish Moiled cattle at Bentley Station Meadow on 31 October 2008 (Lynn Fomison)

In 2008 we were able to have the cattle to graze the reserve in October and November. However it was the last year for the rare breed cattle from Millers Ark Animals. After almost ten years of providing grazing services Elizabeth is no longer continuing to bring her cattle to the meadow. So it is appropriate to note our thanks for the super service she and her staff have provided for many years. Conservation work parties have been well supported and extra help has been provided by Blackwater Valley Partnership and Bentley Scouts, meaning that we are well on target with all our conservation measures.

Magdalen Hill Down extends to 110 acres and has three distinct areas: the original reserve, which is a steep south-facing hillside, the extension, and Magdalen Hill Down North. The last two areas are recreated chalk grassland (ex-arable). These three distinct areas were described at length in the 2007 report.

Transects are undertaken on all three parts and the information yielded helps to steer our conservation efforts. We recognise the need to keep turf short on the original reserve to benefit species like Chalkhill Blue and Brown Argus. But in other areas an ungrazed sward is helpful to Large and Small Skippers. A large reserve does enable us to have a variety of habitats to the benefit of all the butterflies and moths there.

Just to illustrate that benefit it is worth noting that, in what can only be described as a bad year for butterflies and their watchers, no fewer than seven of the earliest sightings listed on the web were made at Magdalen Hill Down. On many occasions visitors paid tribute to the range of species to be seen and the numbers present. Magdalen Hill Down has probably now got the reputation as one of the best sites in Hampshire to see both Grizzled Skipper and Green Hairstreak with both of these taking the first sightings records. The other first sightings were taken by Chalkhill Blue, Gatekeeper, Red Admiral, Ringlet and Small Heath.

Original reserve: 3563 butterflies of 26 species were recorded on transect in 2008. The only species not seen in 2008 in comparison with 2007 was Painted Lady but it was seen off transect on a number of occasions. The most notable of these was a sighting made by Patrick Fleet on 29 October – the morning that there had been a fairish fall of snow in northern Hampshire. That total of 3563 is down on the 2007 total of 3951. Sadly Grizzled Skipper had declined from 32 to nine, Green Hairstreak from 29 to six. This might be as a result of the weather deteriorating badly in May 2007 while these species would have still been trying to breed. There were other declines too: Brimstone from 173 to 84, Small White from 125 to 57, Brown Argus from 246 to 160, Holly Blue from 24 to 11, Speckled Wood from 19 to seven, Marbled White from 258 to 164 and Small Heath from 59 to 28. It is easy to work out that many of these declines are 50% or more. For Red Admiral the picture was even worse with numbers going from 45 to six. Only one Clouded Yellow was seen. However there were some gains. Pleasingly, Chalkhill Blue numbers rose from 1066 to 1243 and Meadow Browns from 1306 to 1458.

The Extension: 1826 butterflies of 24 species were recorded in comparison to 2414 and 28 in 2007. Clouded Yellow was not recorded on transect, neither was Speckled Wood or Grizzled Skipper. But these are not really significant gaps as the former is a migrant and the other two only low numbers are normally seen. Small Blue was not recorded on transect but it was seen on the extension on several occasions. The species showing the most significant reduction was Peacock with numbers down from 270 in 2007 to 49. Jenny Mallett, Transect Co-ordinator, writes "This is no surprise - Andrew Brookes collected 35 Peacock larvae at Great Fontley, of which 15 (43%) of the resulting pupae were found to be parasitised. Owen Lewis confirmed the parasite as *Sturmia bella*. Of the remainder 19 flew successfully. Clearly it is not only Small Tortoiseshell that is devastated. This fly cleverly lays its eggs on the nettles and it can get several species. There is a hope that this winter's cold weather may have upset it."

It is worth adding that in June 2007 Patrick found seven batches of caterpillars but in June 2008 only two. Also well, well down was Small Copper from 36 to two. It does

seem prone to fluctuations. In 2004 83 were recorded and this number dropped to eight in 2005 and shot up to 65 in 2006. The same can be said of Holly Blue and 2008 was a poor year for that species with just two recorded on transect. Gatekeeper showed a reduction from 186 to 80. This is the first time that less than a hundred has been recorded since 1999. Marbled White were also about 50% down on the previous year. Most other species showed reductions but these were not as large. The only species not showing a reduction were Meadow Brown, Red Admiral and Green-veined White which were just about the same as 2007. Pleasingly Small/Essex Skipper, Large White and Comma all showed increases, the latter from two to nine. The Skippers were up by 10 to 38 but this was well below the all-time high of 104 in 2005. This is disappointing as we strive to maintain good uncut, ungrazed Skipper habitat. Interesting at the adjacent Morn Hill site Small/Essex Skippers were almost double the 2007 total with 171 recorded by Patrick Fleet on just four visits.

Last year I wrote of the success of the scheme to recreate chalk grassland on the extension which was once an arable field. Dr Charlie Gibson has given the scheme massive support initially working as the scheme's scientific consultant and later supporting us with an annual visit, providing an analysis of the botanical monitoring data and always full of enthusiasm. It was a cause of great sadness to all of us who knew him when Charlie died in July after a short illness.

Magdalen Hill Down North: Yes!! At last an increase in numbers can be reported. Total butterflies seen were up from 915 in 2007 to 1110, the highest total so far for this area of the reserve created in 2004, but species seen were down from 26 to 22. Species not seen were Clouded Yellow, Green-veined White, Green Hairstreak and Painted Lady (one of these was seen off transect). Species that showed the biggest drop in numbers recorded were Brimstone from 28 down to four, Small White and Small Heath. Peacock sightings were again significantly down with only 13 recorded on transect in comparison with 39 in 2007. But for many species good increases were recorded. Last year Speckled Wood was recorded for the first time and in 2008 numbers were up from one to four. Small/Essex Skippers doubled in numbers from eight to 17. Common Blue numbers virtually doubled and Chalkhill Blue numbers were up from 24 to 129. Gatekeepers more than doubled too, up to 150, which is the highest figure yet. Ringlets more than doubled from 18 to 43, making six species having their highest number in the four years that recording has been undertaken. The total of seven Small Blue seen on transect does not give a fair indication of how easily and reliably this butterfly can be seen at Magdalen Hill Down North. Not surprising when one sees the quantity and quality of the kidney vetch habitat. It is most heartening that a good number of butterflies were recorded, especially as the transect only covers a small part of the wonderful habitat that Magdalen Hill Down North provides. In the summer the flowers are absolutely spectacular and a fantastic resource of nectar for the butterflies. On 15 August I was clearing ragwort with the help of two volunteers in the tree and shrub area opposite St Swithuns School and there were hundreds of Chalkhill Blues enjoying the shelter and nectar! And to illustrate that butterflies do survive some bad weather that was the day after Phil Budd commented on his visit to the reserve to do the transects and pull ragwort "the heavens opened! Honestly the heaviest rain (and hail) I have witnessed on the reserve. Too wet to continue."

Although the butterflies at Magdalen Hill Down nature reserve are recorded on three transects it can only be regarded as one site. It is often the prevailing weather conditions that determine what butterflies are seen where. Of course the less mobile species like Small Blue and possibly Grizzled Skipper tend to stay near the areas they use for breeding but other butterflies range across the whole 110 acres. The original

reserve continues to be the best place, with all its Rock Rose and Horseshoe Vetch for Green Hairstreak, Brown Argus and Chalkhill Blue to breed. But these plants are also incorporated in the planting on Magdalen Hill Down North. Magdalen Hill Down North and the extension do tend to be the best areas for butterflies to find nectar in July and August.

The reserve continues to be good habitat for moths and Patrick Fleet has surveyed them regularly, on some occasions with other moth-ers like Tim Norriss and Mike Wall. Some new moths were found at the reserve and these are detailed in the moth section of this report. One of Patrick's last sightings of the year was 28 Winter Moths, including two mating pairs, found by torch light on 28 November. On the same evening Mottled UMBER and Northern Winter Moth were also seen.

Other invertebrates also appreciate the conditions the reserve provides. In May Patrick Fleet and Casey Williams, who is a volunteer with us and a student at Sparsholt, found and identified a number of beetles including Violet Ground Beetle, Dor Beetle, Dung Beetle and Hawthorn Leaf Beetle. Seven-spot and Harlequin ladybirds were also seen. In late May a quite rare but spreading longhorn beetle was found by Patrick and its identification was confirmed by Phil Budd as *Agapanthea villosoviridescens*. It breeds in the stems of thistles and other herbaceous plants. Wasp spiders were regularly seen through the summer. Skylarks and Meadow Pipits thrived, and Wheatears were seen passing through in autumn were seen. There is no doubt that bird life abounds.

However for butterflies and moths, 2008 is going down, along with 2007, as a disappointing year for the reserve. A lower number of sightings is easily attributable to the poor weather conditions that we had on many days. And if we as butterfly watchers were disappointed with the summer then consider the butterflies. They suffer two fold in so much as lack of sun and warmth limits the time they can fly around and take nectar and find mates. The wet weather means the vegetation grows more and this can make plants less accessible to egg laying females. Although the effects on adults are reasonably obvious what we have little knowledge about is how eggs, larvae and pupae are affected by weather conditions. We do know that butterflies are far less likely to spread and colonise new areas in poor summers so we are still awaiting the arrival of Adonis Blue and Silver-spotted Skipper. Also that poor weather in Europe means less Clouded Yellows and Painted Ladies will arrive.

Even though the reserve lacked its usual supply of bright migrants thankfully reports of other sightings on the branch web site revealed that Magdalen Hill Down had been much visited and that visitors were pleased with what they had been able to see and to photograph. Maybe it did fare better than some other sites. As was the case last year the lower numbers recorded were not just a result of less butterflies around but a reflection of the difficulty in walking a transect when the weather is very unsettled. 2009 has got to be better, hasn't it?

Yew Hill

Brian Fletcher

The year began with the usual round of conservation work. Scrub and bramble regrowth was removed and work done on several of the hedgerows, which included the planting of new shrubs in gaps in the hedge on Hill Top. Hampshire Conservation Volunteers gave significant help on a wet and windy Sunday with removing shrubs along the bridleway.

Cattle grazed on Hill Top until 19 February. The benefits of this grazing are really starting to show, with an increase in the quality and quantity of flowers. Locally obtained seeds of downland flowers have also been scattered over the Hill Top, but the results of this will take some time to show.

Though winter conservation work went well, the spring weather was poor and not many butterflies were seen on the reserve until the last week of April. Our warden, Patrick Fleet, saw a Grizzled Skipper on 12 May, only the fifth seen on the reserve since 1990 and the first since 1997. He also saw a Green Hairstreak, a Small Copper and several Small Heaths, only the latter species being seen by our transect recorders, though Ivan Arnold did see a Duke of Burgundy on the transect, the first seen since 1992. The Duke has also been seen on Rough and Royal Downs, which are adjacent to Hill Top, in recent years.

The number of butterflies on the reserve remained rather low until the last week of June but from then until the end of August a hundred or more butterflies could be seen on those occasions when the sun shone. The best day for the transect walkers was 30 July when 550 butterflies (13 species) were seen, well over half of them being Chalkhill Blue, which were more numerous this year than in 2007 (up from 507 to 687). Other species which had increased numbers compared to 2007 were Meadow Brown (at 1130 the 3rd highest total since records began in 1990), Common Blue (50% increase), Green-veined White, Orange-tip and Speckled Wood. The poor weather affected some species adversely, with reduced numbers for Marbled White (at 104 the lowest ever total recorded), Ringlet and Small Heath (numbers slightly down to 2006 levels). Overall butterfly numbers increased to 2717 on the transect (compared to 2364 in 2007) with 23 species seen on transect and a further three species off transect (compared to 24 species seen in 2007). Thus although the weather in the summer of 2008 was generally poor, the butterflies coped better than in 2007. The one species whose absence in 2008 was unexpected was Small Tortoiseshell, neither adults nor caterpillars being seen on the reserve. This species is currently fighting a losing battle with the newly-colonised parasitic fly *Sturmia bella*, the larvae of which develop inside the caterpillars and kill them when they pupate.

A good range of moths was seen on the reserve, from the day flying Six-spot Burnet (more than 30 of these red and black moths were seen on 30 July) to the much larger Garden Tiger moth, which is quite conspicuous at rest. Two Hornet mimics were seen on the reserve, the nectar-drinking Hornet Hoverfly (*Volucella* species) and the rare Hornet Robberfly (*Asilus crabroniformis*) which preys on grasshoppers. Good numbers of songbirds have been seen on the reserve, including Chaffinch, Goldfinch, Long-tailed Tit, Robin, Whitethroat, Wren and Yellowhammer, as well as larger birds such as Green Woodpecker, Magpie, Red-legged Partridge and Rook, and birds of prey including Buzzard, Kestrel and Sparrowhawk. Rabbits were also seen on the reserve during the day, and there are unwelcome signs of too much rabbit grazing, including the wilting flower heads of Cowslips on the ground, cast aside by the rabbits which only eat the stems.

The year closed with more conservation work, the perennial task of removing scrub regrowth, much of which is Dogwood, and grazing both sections of the reserve with cattle. By keeping the margins of the bridleway free of scrub, suitable habitat for Orange-tip and Speckled Wood is maintained, and the disease-resistant elms given the best chance of becoming established quickly, replacing the native elms that still support a small population of White-letter Hairstreak in spite of the depredations of Dutch Elm Disease.

At the end of October Southern Water made a good job of cutting the triangle area and removing the arisings. They have stated that unwanted scrub will be removed from the reservoir banks by the end of March 2009.

Finally, cattle grazed the main reserve from mid November and were transferred to Hill Top in December. They stayed here well into the New Year.

Foot note from Lynn Fomison

Yew Hill's claim to fame in 2008 is that the presence of a rare leafhopper was confirmed by Dr Michael Wilson of The Museum of Wales. *Batracomorphus allionii* had been first noticed at the reserve a couple of years ago and identified by Alan Stewart at Sussex University. It has yet to be found elsewhere in the UK. It is widespread in Europe feeding mostly on Broom. Its presence at Yew Hill is thus a mystery as there is no Broom or related plants such as Dyer's Greenweed there.



Snow at Yew Hill on 6 April 2008. A good example of the warmth of these south-facing banks, much favoured by Chalkhill Blues, where the snow had disappeared within minutes (Dan Hoare).

The much awaited Tytherley Woods Project started in earnest back in November 2007 with the appointment of myself as a full-time project officer. Having now been in post for a little over 12 months I'm delighted to say the project is gaining momentum with many events already having taken place and many more planned. The project area, which spans the Hampshire/Wiltshire border, includes Bentley Wood. This is the only site within the area which can still boast very nearly all of the key project species, including Duke of Burgundy and Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary.

The project is actually just one part of the South East Woodlands Project (principally funded by The Heritage Lottery Fund and The Tubney Charitable Trust, but others also, including the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Branch of Butterfly Conservation). There are another two areas that contribute to this regional initiative, namely the Rother Woods in Sussex and the Denge Woods in Kent, and all three areas have their own project officer employed by Butterfly Conservation until November 2010.



Actively coppiced woodland within the Tytherley Woods project area (David Green)

The South East Project has been born out of The Coppice for Butterflies Challenge which was a partnership initiative with The Forestry Commission between 1996 and 1998. The aim then was to try and kick start the coppicing of neglected woodlands and get them back into an economic cycle. The hope was that this would have the added benefit of providing suitable habitat for many of our declining woodland species. The project yielded positive results and it was therefore decided to try and build on these with a second project, the South East Woodlands Project. The current initiative has similar aspirations to the previous one but also hopes to involve local communities and attract new volunteers.

The volunteers we hope to attract to the Tytherley project will help with species and habitat survey work, and once the project officer posts come to an end they will carry

on the good work. This is particularly important as we hope that many sites will have started a program of coppicing and woodland ride widening by then and it will be crucial to monitor these sites as they progress.

2008 saw three training events specifically for survey volunteers, the first being a woodland butterfly identification day at Bentley Wood at the end of May. This was followed by a habitat assessment day at Blackmoor Copse, a Wiltshire Wildlife Trust site that boasts Pearl-bordered Fritillary, and lastly a butterfly survey day at Mottisfont (National Trust) where we saw White Admiral and Purple Hairstreak, to name just two. A total of 40 volunteers attended these events and a number are already signed up to carry out vital recording of species and habitats during 2009.

Practical habitat management by volunteers also started with nine work parties taking place in the autumn of 2008, involving over 60 people who gave of their time to widen rides and create scallops on various sites throughout the project area. All these work parties were in partnership with existing groups (The Salisbury Volunteers, The Andover Volunteers and The Wednesday Conservation Volunteers) and their support has been so important in getting site management works underway. Thanks to a very generous donation from the South Wiltshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) the project has also been able to develop its very own team of volunteers, The Tytherley Woods Project Volunteers. CPRE provided the funds to buy power-saws, loppers and billhooks so even more work parties could be run.



The Common Fan-foot: One of the project area's key moths (David Green)

Of course the species that have suffered the greatest declines within woodlands are those that rely on open habitat, areas such as coppice coups and glades. In recent decades much of the type of work that created these habitats has ceased within the South East of England, hence the difficulties faced by woodland specialists, and this of course includes moths too. The Common Fan-foot for example is now restricted to just 11 10-km squares nationally, but a site within the Tytherley Woods project area which was surveyed as part of the project in 2008 was found to have a population still thriving thanks to its continued coppice management. This is why helping to deliver habitat

management and indeed supporting existing management work out on the project sites is so important.

In partnership with The Forestry Commission the project is also able to offer woodland owners enhanced Woodland Improvement Grants. These can be used for things like coppicing neglected stools and deer fencing areas to prevent the regrowth being damaged by browsing. As the project officer I can help direct these funds and even make the grant applications and claims on behalf of owners. I can also help with site specific advice and write management plans.

At a broader level the project aims to raise the profile of woodland biodiversity, highlighting the Lepidopteron interest of course, to the wider public through various walks and talks. To date some 253 people have heard about the project via talks and there have been numerous newspaper and magazine articles, not to mention an appearance on BBC "Inside Out" hosted by Chris Packham.

Of course the real success of the project will ultimately hinge on maintaining and enhancing the existing rare populations found within the project area, and to this end woodland owners and managers have their own suite of events to help inform their site management. Often the inclusion of relatively simple and inexpensive management techniques can make all the difference.

So, by using various approaches it is hoped the many issues associated with the demise of woodland management in recent decades can be tackled. This includes supporting coppice workers and their traditional products such as hurdles, charcoal and thatching spars, and also seeking new outlets for modern products such as woodchip which can be used as a woodfuel.

The South East Woodlands Project is Butterfly Conservation's biggest project to date and it is most certainly ambitious, but with the level of support already received and the ever increasing interest expressed it is hoped it will make a truly significant contribution to local woodland biodiversity. Ultimately the project will act as a model of best practice woodland management and an illustration of biodiversity gain.

If you would like any further information, or to volunteer with the project please don't hesitate to get in touch: kdent@butterfly-conservation.org or 07918 767 635.

Thirty odd years in the Straits Inclosure

Matthew Oates

People need trees. That relationship often has a metaphysical dimension and may extend to particular wooded places. Two forests are central to – not just my life, but – my very existence: these are, near Southwater in West Sussex, where I learnt woodland butterflies as a schoolboy during the late 1960s, and Alice Holt Forest, particularly its south-west enclave, the Straits Inclosure. They can vie for my ashes in due course, though they are not the only places where parts of my soul dwell.

I first visited Alice Holt on 1st April 1975, lured there by allusions in Baron de Worms' writings in *The Entomologist's Record*. Also, the newly published *Provisional atlas of butterflies in the British Isles* showed that Straits Inclosure was part of the richest 10-km square for butterflies in the UK. There was little else to guide people in search of butterflies in that era, in stark contrast to today.

Then, much of Alice Holt was secret and shadowy. Public access was tolerated but not promoted, and naturalists had to apply for an annual access permit. Such were the

times. The butterfly world was splitting savagely, between the traditional collectors and the new breed of conservation-minded enthusiasts, and the poor Forestry Commission (FC) – which merely wanted to grow trees and shoot deer – was caught in the crossfire. During the late '70s the FC closed Straits Inclosure for much of July, ostensibly so that deer could be culled. Today, the wood's entrance bears a notice that reads Welcome to Straits Inclosure. It is hard to convey how much that means to me.

Back in the mid '70s, entomological doings in Alice Holt concentrated on Lodge Inclosure, a renowned collecting ground in the north-west of the 851ha (2042 acre) forest where activities were tolerated by the FC. A few butterfly people had explored beyond Lodge Inclosure and discovered Straits Inclosure, particularly in pursuit of *iris*. I too fell for The Straits, which was by far the wildest, less frequented part of the forest. Moreover, even on April Fool's Day it was obviously Purple in the extreme, given the quantity of mature sallows. Indeed, it was not until the early "Noughties" that I visited better-looking Purple Emperor woods than The Straits of that era. Incidentally, I have no idea what a Strait might be in this context.

Facts and Figures, Past and Present

Straits Inclosure stands on Gault Clay, a heavy thug of a clay that turns to cracked and fissured concrete in summer drought and intractable glue in the winter wet. Timber extraction is difficult. The hoggin-surfaced main ride, now frequented by butterfly folk each July, was installed in 1987 to facilitate extraction and assist the FC's thinning programme. But throughout the 1970s there was only one L-shaped open ride, widened in 1970, and some narrow linear glades along overhung rides dominated by huge tussocks of Tufted Hair Grass that rendered walking difficult. The place hummed with clegs and other biting flies in high summer. Bramble patches were frequent, though mainly in dappled shade. The inhabitants of nearby Frith End were largely ex-colonial types who did things colonially, like mass fly-mowing, and seldom dared enter The Straits, which was consequently dog-free.

The inclosure is some 80 ha (200 acres) in size. It had been replanted extensively with oak during the 1930s, though some curious narrow bands of Norway Spruce were added, which blew down spectacularly in the great storms of January 1990. The mess was cleared, and the bands left to natural regeneration. They are now choked with sallows and other broad-leaved trees, and all vestige of the wretched Norway has gone. A small plantation of Corsican Pine, planted in 1965, survives on the west edge, along with a pocket of spruce and some cypresses that have scarcely grown in 33 years, beneath taller oaks. These apart, the wood is utterly broad-leaved. Efficient deer management has meant that the growth of the Hazel and Hawthorn under-storey can be vigorous. It is this shrub layer that holds the Honeysuckle tangles on which the White Admiral breeds.

Straits Inclosure could have been scheduled a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in the early 1980s, as it just about merited it. Perhaps I made a mistake in not pushing NCC (as it was) hard to designate the wood, but at the time the FC regarded it as a Conservation Area, primarily for the Purple Emperor and other butterflies. That did not actually mean as much as some of us would have liked, though a little ride widening and glade creation was carried out in the late '70s and early '80s, and a large pond was created along the southern edge during the 1977-78 winter. Of course, the pond failed to contribute towards the conservation of the existing wildlife interest, and drained the conservation budget. The promised willow fringe was never planted, but in time the pond will silt-up and grow sallows, and Purple Emperors, and all shall be well.

My diaries recall the highs and lows of The Straits over 33 years, and record some of the most wonderful events of my life as a naturalist. They chronicle the highs and lows of three species in particular, Purple Emperor, White Admiral and Silver-washed Fritillary, together with the human antics associated with our engagement with these magnificent insects. I have kept a record of every sighting of Purple Emperor. White Admiral and Silver-washed Fritillary have been monitored through rough timed counts during their peak season periods along the more open sections of ride, though these have of course varied from era to era due to ride creation, widening and canopy closure. The problem with such data is that time and distance have varied considerably between different epochs. Had I established a butterfly transect in the late 70s or early 80s it would have omitted New Ride, and so missed the main aggregation of butterflies post 1987, which would have resulted in gross misrepresentation.

In effect, there have been four monitoring phases: the period 1975-82, during which there was only some 300 metres of open L-shaped ride; 1982-87, after the main ride had been extended to the wood's centre; from 1987 the current main ride (New Ride) was cut out, so that until the late 1990s there was a half mile long triangular route of open ride; and more recently, as parts of this system have closed over, only to be reopened. Above all, my records track massive and often horrendous change, whilst illustrating the difficulties of consistently monitoring butterfly populations in dynamic woodland environments.

The diaries contain a good if somewhat discontinuous run of data of the appearance of the first White Admiral, Silver-washed Fritillary and Purple Emperor of the year. Unsurprisingly, the data show a strong tendency towards progressively earlier emergence, and the disappearance of old fashioned "late" seasons. The flight seasons of these three species also finish earlier, especially *iris* and *camilla*.

The 1970s: a July Paradise

It is probable that I discovered The Straits at the end of its golden era: would that I had known it during the 1960s, when *iris* and *camilla* must have abounded! Scanty information exists from that era, but I do know that in 1968 a pair of *iris* were taken in cop, the female of which was a *semi-iole* aberration, lacking the white bands! Pearl-bordered and Duke of Burgundy fritillaries, Dingy Skipper and Grizzled Skipper all died out from the west edge conifer plantation after 1976, though Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary lingered until 1980. A small colony of Wood White, established in July 1976, lasted until 1981; it might have thrived had its favoured ride not been pulverised by timber hauling associated with pond creation in the 1977-78 winter.

But The Straits was essentially a July wood, and is so today. During the '70s it was primarily Purple Emperor and White Admiral country, *iris* and *camilla*. Silver-washed Fritillary was a useful add-on, though in relatively less prolific numbers. The wood's pedigree as a site for *iris* is demonstrated by the fact that I saw Purple Emperor aberrations (of the *semi-iole* type) in 1976, 1977, 1978 and 1980, two males and two females. Those of us familiar with this elusive insect and aware that aberrations are symptomatic of high populations, know that that sentence speaks volumes. Surely no other wood in the country can boast such figures? In the heat of early July 1976 both sexes descended to the rides in early morning to probe amongst the desiccated grasses for moisture, alongside myriad Purple Hairstreak and White Admiral, whilst on 3rd July I saw no less than four females in flight together. Beat that!

The following July season, during a wretched summer, I saw a *semi-iole* male flying in the same vista as a “Black Admiral” of the *semi-nigrina* (= *obliterae*) type. The 1978 flight of *iris* was also impressive. That year the males had the habit of feeding on the newly-repaired and creosoted deer high seat in the wood’s centre, several at a time. The following year was the best of The Straits’ Emperor years: on 28th July 1979 I saw at least 24 individuals within a couple of hours, including a vista of six in flight, and another of three separate females. Such experiences are not really of today’s world.

But, in The Straits, the 1970s primarily belonged to the White Admiral. It was truly abundant, to the extent that I personally saw six “Black Admiral” aberrations in 1976, a staggering 17 in 1977 (including two of the full *nigrina* type) and two more in 1979. All told, I have seen 38 White Admiral aberrations in this wood, in 33 years. Silver-washed Fritillary was less impressive, producing four *valesina* females in 1976 and singletons in ’77 ’78, and two in ’79. It has never been a good *valesina* wood.



Alice Holt Forest and male Silver-washed Fritillary on 26 June 2008 (Tim Bernhard)

The 1980s: Loss of Eden

The summer of 1980 is still burning in hell, at least one hopes so. Larvae of the July butterflies developed apace during a glorious May, only for the insects to suffer a despicable June and an infernal July. Purple Emperor and White Admiral populations collapsed, simply on account of the weather, though the former produced a splendid *semi-iole* male on 3rd August. Study became almost impossible in 1981, as access was restricted to weekends throughout the crucial three week flight season period.

Major ride widening took place in August 1982, to prepare for timber extraction associated with thinning work. That heady summer, oaks were widely defoliated and even killed by an infestation of the Green Oak Tortrix moth *Tortrix viridana*. Four *valesina* Silver-washed Fritillaries were recorded, along with two “Black Admirals”. Also, and at last, Alice Holt Forest became officially open to public access, and the permit system was abandoned.

In late July 1983 heavy thinning work started in the east half of the wood, and an era of Greatness ended suddenly. This work was hugely exploitative and took no obvious account of nature conservation interests. Most of the mature sallows in the wood's eastern half were felled during three summers of thinning and harvesting. The impact on the Honeysuckle tangles beloved by the White Admiral was equally acute. Purple Emperor and White Admiral populations collapsed, despite a sequence of three good summers. Three "Black Admirals" were seen in 1983, the last for many years.

Tufted Hair Grass increased strongly beneath the thinned oaks, which could have adversely affected the Silver-washed Fritillary. Yet, the opposite occurred, for after modest years in '84 and '85 *paphia* exploded in the wood: the '86 flight is still the best on record for The Straits, though that was a good year for all the July fritillaries. Also, Essex Skipper invaded the open grassy rides in numbers.

The Straits survived the 1987 "Hurricane" with impressive indifference, and sallow regeneration was encouraged along the newly cut out New Ride. However, thinning work got into full swing in the remote west half of the wood during the summer of 1988, at a time when July butterfly populations were falling due to bad midsummer weather. July 1987 was Vile, but that of '88 was probably worse. Purple Emperor was not seen during either of these years, which is hardly surprising as by the end of 1988 all but 15 of the 389 mature ride-side sallows I had mapped for the FC had been felled - long before they would have been out-competed. Also, my peak season White Admiral count for 1987 was a mere eight, whilst Silver-washed Fritillary numbers fell back to modest levels. Purple Emperor reappeared in very low numbers during the great summer of 1989, and White Admiral recovered a little whilst Silver-washed Fritillary resurged impressively. Thinning work had finished, at least for a while.

The Nineties: Rise and Plummet

1990 was a difficult year for Purple Emperor and White Admiral. A stupendous spring advanced the larvae, only for June gloom to consign them to lengthy pupation periods. Ecological work has shown that adult numbers of both these species depend on June weather. Silver-washed Fritillary numbers were impressive though, and even included a splendid ab *nigricans*, one of only two *paphia* aberrations I've known from this wood. But thinning work returned with a vengeance in 1991 and I wrote mournfully in my diary (29:7:91): "I think I've seen the last of *iris* here".

I was wrong, of course, for the following year thinning ceased and the sun shone. I saw my first Straits *iris* for six years. Even better, White Admiral resurged in the eastern half, which was recovering nicely from collateral damage incurred during thinning works. Matters improved more in 1993, especially for Silver-washed Fritillary which had a bumper year. The following year brought the first Black Admiral for 11 years, and an encouraging flight of *iris*. That year, Purple Emperor started using the new ride, with males visiting unmentionable excrescences on the ride surface for the first time. I even found five eggs. 1995 was a poor Emperor year, though for the first time males were seen searching for females amongst the New Ride sallows, which had been purposefully encouraged within experimental exclosures that are still visible today. In effect, it took the butterfly nine years to show any interest in these new saplings, and longer before it started breeding in them.

But heavy thinning work returned with a vengeance in 1996, and Straits Inclosure was abandoned as a conservation area as it was not an SSSI. Again, White Admiral and Purple Emperor populations collapsed; the former to the point of near-extinction, whilst

the latter became dependent on the young New Ride willows. At this inopportune time, the Purple Emperor was adopted as the symbol of Alice Holt Forest woodland park. A visit in perfect weather on 17th July 1999 revealed a wood almost void of butterflies, as populations of both White Admiral and Silver-washed Fritillary had plummeted. The Straits entered the new millennium at an unprecedented nadir, especially as the harvesting work had failed to open any of the overhung rides. I could scarcely visit, the experience being too painful, the desecration of Spirit of Place too great.

The Noughties: Paradise Regained

There then began seven peaceful years, during which vegetation and butterflies recovered from the devastation inflicted by Euroforest's contractors. Of course, vegetation conditions recovered ahead of the butterflies, which meant that 2001 was a particularly bleak year for Silver-washed Fritillary and White Admiral - the latter was not recorded at all, and only produced a singleton in 2002. Yet all the while, the Emperor population was rebuilding, so much so that I saw a modest *semi-iola* male on 13th July 2002.

The great summer of 2003 saw Purple Emperor breeding in the New Ride willows for the first time. It had taken 18 years for the butterfly to utilise willows established by natural regeneration. Several males were photographed down on the surface of New Ride, a maximum of five White Admirals was recorded and Silver-washed Fritillary increased well. Populations of these three species rose again in 2004, despite being decimated by a severe north-east gale in early July. By 2005, *valesina* had returned (the first since 1995) and White Admiral was present in modest numbers throughout the wood. The only gremlin was an infuriating bleeping machine, erected in the centre of the wood by Forest Research (for The Straits had been part of the FC's Environmental Change Monitoring programme since the early 1990s). Ear plugs were necessary, until the good people of Frith End raised such a rumpus that the wretched thing was switched off! It can stay off.

2006 saw Straits Inclosure rising towards its old dizzy heights, though it had changed vastly in appearance. That summer saw a great July. Four Black Admirals were reported, the first since 1994, and a Silver-washed Fritillary ab *ocellata* was photographed by Mr Yasataka Murata. Purple Emperor was impressive, especially around the New Ride willows. The wood even made it on to a primetime BBC1 television programme, and deservedly so, though it had been a long march.

The "summer" of 2007 was memorable for the apocalyptic rain of 20th July that curtailed the July butterfly season. It also postponed the planned round of thinning work. But something had changed, wondrously, and despite difficult ground conditions the work was sensitively conducted in late summer, with fair regard to conservation principles. A new approach was adopted: small groups of trees were felled in smash and grab raids along a herringbone system. This method left numerous pockets of under-story intact, such that White Admiral breeding grounds were not devastated, and some useful new glades were cut out along New Ride.

Dormice to the Rescue!

Now, unforeseen allies have rallied to the Admiral and Emperor's cause, for in August 2007 stringent new measures for the conservation of European Protected Species were imposed by the EU. Henceforth, forestry operations will have to take the ecological requirements of bats and the Dormouse firmly into account. The implications for multi-objective land use organisations like the Forestry Commission and the

National Trust are enormous, but the EU requirements need to be met assiduously. Thinning operations will have to be conducted with great care, as Straits Inclosure supports a significant Dormouse population. It is likely that the sort of sensitive thinning operation carried out late in 2007 will become the standard practice, if not refined further.

The positive implications for White Admiral populations, especially, are enormous, and Purple Emperor and Silver-washed Fritillary should also benefit greatly. It would appear that the post-thinning lows of butterfly populations in woods like The Straits should henceforth be far less severe. A corner seems to have been turned, and all shall be well...

Admissions and Tentative Conclusions

Incredibly, I have never discovered whether Purple Emperor males gather for afternoon machinations within Straits Inclosure: afternoon territorial behaviour has seldom been observed there and I have long felt that the majority of Straits males spend their afternoons in gross indolence, in stark contrast to their hyper-active colleagues elsewhere in the forest. Some cross the road and leave the wood in late morning, returning later. There are still significant hidden mysteries in this wood.

It is, of course, unwise to write an account of one of the seven Alice Holt Forest inclosures without due reference to the other six, but as is the case with so many of our larger butterfly sites, one part has absorbed a disproportionate percentage of recording effort. However, casual observation elsewhere in Alice Holt has recorded similar highs and lows; the pattern is the same, and the causes similar, though crucially the low points have seldom coincided with periods of low population level in Straits Inclosure, and were then caused by poor summer weather.

This account shows that the three key species of butterfly have experienced huge vicissitudes in this wood over the 33 year period, with the main drivers being thinning operations, ride widening and closure, and the blessed weather. Above all, it shows that within a large woodland system forest butterflies can experience dynamic fluctuations in population size, though in this particular case study most of the lows were man-induced and need not have been so profound.

The practices that have adversely affected butterflies and butterflying in The Straits now largely belong in the buried past. Nevertheless, they are part of a curious story that may interest butterfly people familiar with this or similar woods. What seems right for one era is wrong in the next; the problem is time, for we do what seems best at and for that time. But The Straits seems to stand at the dawn of a new, more enlightened era, though the litmus test will come in 2009, when the western half of the wood is scheduled for thinning. With forestry, like so many other countryside practices than impact on nature, it matters not so much what you do but how you do it.

Above all, the oak trees have grown enormously since the mid 1970s, probably by about a third. The wood has changed, the butterflies have changed, the Forestry Commission has changed, even I have changed. Yet the strong feeling of spirit of place - of belonging and homecoming - that I experience there still exists, episodically. Scientific study here is essentially a side-show; the venture is of course, and will continue to be, a labour of love. It may well be that the worst years of my engagement with The Straits are behind, and that the best lie ahead, given a refined approach to thinning and harvesting. And all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well...



UK Butterflies & Overall Winner

Robin Turner: Large Blue (left)

Overseas

Ken Bailey: Pearly Heath (below)

Behaviour

Gary Richardson: egg-laying Brimstone (page 40)

Immature stages

Peter Eeles: Comma caterpillar (page 72)

UK Moths

Lisa Baker-Richardson: Six-spot Burnet (page 153)



The weather summaries presented below are based on monthly statistics provided by the Met Office for southern England (<http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/climate/uk/>). We hope to resume use of data from a local weather station in 2009.

The averaging period used for the following assessment was 1961-1990.

January: Mostly mild but unsettled. A short cold snap during the first week, and a drier spell towards the end of the month. It was the 4th warmest January for England in the areal series back to 1914. Rainfall well above the average. Sunshine above average.

February: A dry and very sunny month, with above average mean temperatures. Mean temperature generally 1.5° C to 2.5° C above average. Rainfall generally below average. Sunshine generally well above average, with England, Wales and the UK all having their sunniest February in the areal series back to 1929.

March: Mean temperatures slightly above average. Rainfall well above average. Sunshine close to or slightly below average.

April: Mean temperatures close to average, but the coldest April since 2001. Rainfall generally above average. Sunshine above average. During the 6th an area of sleet and snow moved across much of the Midlands and south-east England with 5 to 10 cm reported fairly widely

May: Mean temperatures generally 2° C to 3° C above average. The equal warmest May for England in the series back to 1914. Rainfall well above average across southern areas of England. Sunshine slightly below average.

June: Very unsettled and changeable for the time of year, with only short spells of fine weather. Maximum, minimum and mean temperatures generally close to average. In terms of mean temperature, it was the coolest June since 2001 for the UK. Rainfall below average. Sunshine duration close to average.

July: Unsettled for the most part, although a fine and hot spell towards the end. Mean temperatures close to average. Rainfall was above average. Sunshine was generally close to average.

August: Very unsettled with heavy rain or showers for much of the month. It was also an exceptionally dull month. Average daily maximum temperatures were about average. Average daily minimum temperatures were 1 to 2 ° C above average.

September: Unsettled and wet through the first half of the month, but much drier and brighter through the second half. Mean temperatures close to average. A generally dull month across the UK.

October: Maximum, minimum and mean daily temperatures were all below average, but with above average sunshine.

November: Mostly mild at first, but turning much colder. Maximum temperatures generally close to average. Minimum temperatures generally around 1° C above average. Rainfall and sunshine close to average.

December: A generally cold first half then a milder, mainly dry, period towards Christmas before turning very cold by the New Year. Temperatures around one degree below normal and the coldest December since 2001. Rainfall below normal and sunshine well above normal.

BUTTERFLY REPORT 2008

The butterfly year 2008

Linda Barker

Disappointingly the 2008 season was no better, probably worse, than 2007 which was generally agreed to be poor. Weather data for 2008 tells us that it was a mild year with average rainfall and if we think hard, some warm sunny days come to mind. However, there were a lot of days which were too cloudy and windy for both butterflies and observers to contend with.

Transect data and comments from observers suggest that three species did better in 2008, compared to 2007. The first of these, the Speckled Wood had an excellent year, closely followed by Comma and Ringlet. An additional four species showed a slight improvement on 2007 giving us hope for 2008. These are the Gatekeeper, Large White, Common Blue and Peacock. The Silver-studded Blue is not well covered by transect monitoring, but observations from recorders suggest that this species may also have fared better than most during 2008.

It will be no surprise to read that numbers of many species were down on 2007 but several stand out as being markedly down. The three immigrants, Red Admiral, Clouded Yellow and Painted Lady, were all low in numbers and there will be many observers who didn't see a Clouded Yellow and although most people saw a Painted Lady eventually, several people passed through the season not seeing one. The poor performing resident species include the Small Tortoiseshell, Brimstone, Holly Blue and Small Copper.

Once again many people reported that buddleia bushes in their gardens received very few visitors. As mentioned above, the Small Tortoiseshell had a particularly poor year and numbers have now declined each year since the warm summer of 2003. However, Peacocks did have a reasonable year and the Comma certainly had a good year. Painted Lady hardly put in an appearance in gardens in 2008 and Red Admirals, which had a good year in 2007, were seen throughout 2008, but their numbers were down.

Of the members of the White family, the Brimstone had a poor year but the Large White did well. Green-veined White, Small White and Orange-tip were either slightly worse than 2007 or similar. The Browns showed mixed fortunes - the Ringlet was in the "did better than last year" category and to a lesser extent the Gatekeeper also did better but it was not a good year for the Marbled White and Small Heath. Meadow Brown numbers were similar to 2007.

The Chalkhill Blue had a poor year in 2007 but there was evidence of a recovery in 2008. Numbers seen however, are still a long way from the 2006 figures. The Common Blue fared better than in 2007 as did the Small Blue but as previously mentioned the Holly Blue had a disastrous year. Looking at the data for some of the double brooded species there is a glimmer of hope. In 2007 species such as Adonis Blue, Common Blue and Brown Argus all had smaller second broods but in 2008 at many monitored sites the Brown Argus and the Common Blue had larger second broods. Unfortunately, this was not the case for Adonis Blue and Holly Blue.

The Silver-washed Fritillary showed some improvement on 2007 but it can hardly be expected to have been as numerous in it was during the warm summer of 2006. The Dark Green Fritillary didn't have a good year, the Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary had an encouraging year at some of its sites but Pearl-bordered Fritillary numbers were down.

This generally rather gloomy picture is reflected in national trends from the UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme (UKBMS). In 2008, the UKBMS reported that for twelve species, 2008 was their worst year since monitoring began in 1976. The relative absence of breeding during the poor summer of 2007, the wettest on record, impacted seriously on butterfly numbers during 2008. The only worse summer for butterflies since the UK BMS was set up was 1981. That was the last cold summer of recent times when the average peak UK temperature was just 14.1°C.

(http://www.ceh.ac.uk/news/news_archive/2009_news_item_14.html/)

Selected Butterfly Species % UK change between 2007 and 2008

Clouded Yellow	-90%	Small Tortoiseshell	-45%
Painted Lady	-81%	Red Admiral	-44%
Wood White	-66%	White-letter Hairstreak	-40%
Black Hairstreak	-65%	Peacock	-35%
Pearl-bordered Fritillary	-56%	Brimstone	-32%
Green Hairstreak	-54%	Dark Green Fritillary	-32%
High Brown Fritillary	-49%	Small Copper	-29%
Marsh Fritillary	-45%	Orange Tip	-26%

So what will 2009 bring? Hopefully lots of sunshine so that butterflies can get out and recorders will have an opportunity to record them.



Students from Sparsholt College carrying out conservation work at the Branch's reserve at Magdalen Hill Down on 10 December 2008 (Andy Barker)

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 2008, 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 2008 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.

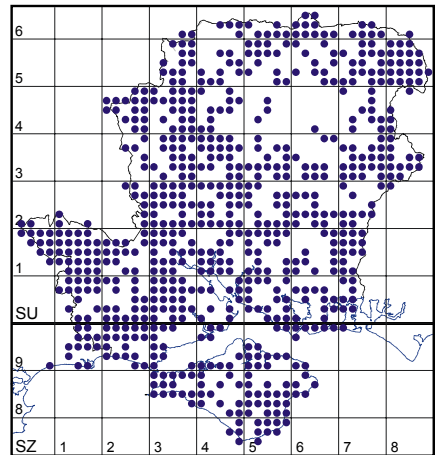
Butterfly distribution maps: The distribution maps in this report were produced using *MapMate* recording and mapping software. These show the 2-km squares (tetrads) for which records were received in 2008 (dark blue circles). 2000 to 2007 records are plotted as pale blue circles. A pale blue circle does not necessarily mean that the species no longer occurs, merely that the site may not have been visited in 2008. For maps of pre-2000 records, see *Butterflies of Hampshire*.

Earliest-latest butterfly sightings chart: To find the earliest and latest sighting for each species of butterfly, read along the line by the species' name. The first number is the date of the earliest sighting, the month being that at the top of the column. A shaded section indicates that the butterfly was recorded during that month and the last number is the date of the latest sighting, again with the month at the top of the column.

2007-2008 butterfly trends table: This table was compiled by Dr Andy Barker and is based on 60 Hampshire and Isle of Wight transects with data for both 2007 and 2008.

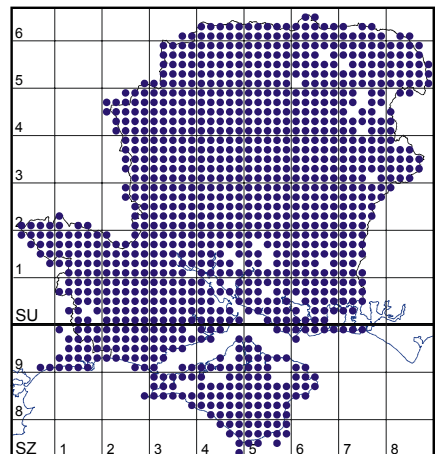
Butterfly record coverage 2008

No of 2008 records: 43029
 No of tetrads in 2008: 706
 No of post 2000 tetrads: 1179



Butterfly record coverage 2005 to 2008

No of records: 162106
 No of tetrads: 1127



Summary of earliest-latest butterfly sightings 2008

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Small Skipper					23				08			
Essex Skipper						5		30				
Silver-spotted Skipper							26			03		
Large Skipper					09			30				
Dingy Skipper				15					03			
Grizzled Skipper				08		24						
Clouded Yellow				03						22		
Brimstone	26											19
Large White		12										19
Small White		08										24
Green-veined White				02						17		
Orange-tip			27					21				
Green Hairstreak				11			14					
Brown Hairstreak							30	30				
Purple Hairstreak						10			13			
White-letter Hairstreak						10	24					
Small Copper				08							28	
Small Blue					06			24				
Silver-studded Blue					31			14				
Brown Argus				15							11	
Common Blue				23					23			
Chalkhill Blue						03					18	
Adonis Blue					06				29			
Holly Blue		09									12	
Duke of Burgundy				22		04						
White Admiral						10		08				
Purple Emperor						23		06				
Red Admiral	01											17
Painted Lady	25										19	
Small Tortoiseshell	22										02	
Peacock	12											17
Comma		09									19	
Small Pearl-bordered					11		14					
Pearl-bordered Fritillary					06	09						
Dark Green Fritillary						14		20				
Silver-washed Fritillary						19			14			
Marsh Fritillary					07	14						
Glanville Fritillary					02	23						
Speckled Wood			21								19	
Wall Brown				22						24		
Marbled White						09		30				
Grayling						30			15			
Gatekeeper						17			15			
Meadow Brown					22						05	
Small Heath				22							19	
Ringlet						10		16				

Species	>20% Decrease 2008	-20% to +20% No change	>20% Increase 2008
Small/Essex Skipper	24	16	16
Silver-spotted Skipper	4	1	-
Large Skipper	31	15	8
Dingy Skipper	8	4	4
Grizzled Skipper	6	6	6
Clouded Yellow	17	-	-
Brimstone	30	13	5
Large White	9	13	29
Small White	13	18	18
Green-veined White	12	16	18
Orange-tip	15	15	9
Green Hairstreak	11	5	5
Brown Hairstreak	1	-	-
White-letter Hairstreak	1	-	-
Purple Hairstreak	3	3	4
Small Copper	22	11	2
Small Blue	6	3	3
Silver-studded Blue	1	2	1
Brown Argus	8	5	7
Common Blue	9	13	19
Chalkhill Blue	4	6	7
Adonis Blue	7	1	2
Holly Blue	31	12	4
Duke of Burgundy	-	2	1
Purple Emperor	-	2	1
White Admiral	12	4	3
Red Admiral	42	9	1
Painted Lady	26	4	-
Small Tortoiseshell	20	11	1
Peacock	17	19	8
Comma	6	17	20
Pearl-bordered Fritillary	2	-	-
Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary	-	-	3
Dark Green Fritillary	8	3	1
Silver-washed Fritillary	12	10	9
Marsh Fritillary	1	1	-
Glanville Fritillary	-	-	1
Speckled Wood	5	5	40
Wall Brown	1	2	3
Marbled White	31	13	7
Grayling	1	1	1
Gatekeeper	22	21	19
Meadow Brown	20	21	21
Small Heath	13	10	7
Ringlet	8	11	30

Status: BC Low Priority

No of 2008 records: 1361

No of tetrads in 2008: 177

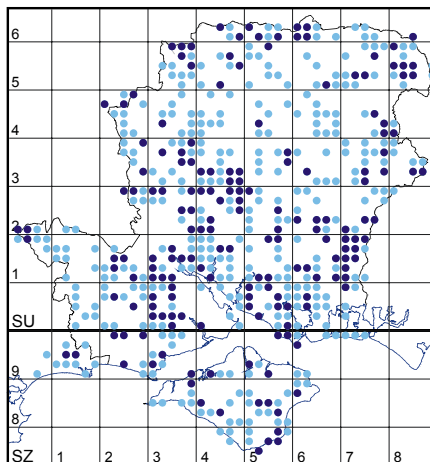
No of post 2000 tetrads: 524

Earliest: 23 May 2008

Catherington Down (JV)

Latest: 8 September 2008

Magdalen Hill Down (LF)



The flight season of this little golden skipper was much the same as it was in 2007, and observer coverage of sites was also similar. The numbers seen were generally better than those of the previous year, though the fortunes of the species varied dramatically from site to site. Thus the total number seen on the Old Winchester Hill transect were three times the number seen in 2007, at Bartley Heath the number nearly doubled, but on the Martin Down North transect the numbers counted fell from 48 in 2007 to just 17.

On the Isle of Wight the species had a poor year at Brading (DAB), an average year at Lake, near Sandown (DAB), but its second best year on record at Whippingham Fields, with a total of 390 this year compared to the highest ever of 578 in 2006 (JR). No one on the mainland was particularly enthusiastic about the numbers seen, with comments such as “below average” in north-east Hampshire (CRH), “a rather poor season at Botley Wood” (RKL) and “another poor year at Pamber Forest” (GD).

Of the 56 transects that record the species, 24 reported a decline of 20% or more and 16 an increase of the same amount. What is particularly noticeable is the number of high counts. Last year there were only two counts of over 100 whilst in 2008 there were four, last year there were just 13 counts of over 30 whilst this year there were 29 counts of 50 or more, with at least another 13 in the range of 30-50. Perhaps the observers are getting better at finding the hiding places of butterflies in our gloomy summers!

Whilst the earliest sighting was in late May, there were few other sightings until late June to early July when the first sightings of large numbers were made: 80 were seen on 28 June at Gosport (ACM) and 50 on 1st July at Havant Thicket (CBC). Most of the highest numbers were recorded in the second half of July, the four century counts being of 130 on 25 July at Old Winchester Hill NNR (BP), 110 on 16 July at Whippingham Fields (JR), 109 on 21 July at Pamber Forest (GD) and 100 on 14 July at Southwood Open Space, Farnborough (TH). No counts of over 25 were recorded off transect during August. Indeed, both the number of records received and the number of Small Skipper recorded declined rapidly in this month. This decline coincided with deteriorating weather conditions, with cool cloudy weather with lots of rain dominating after the first week of August. In spite of the weather a few butterflies survived into September, no mean achievement for 2008.



Small Skipper (Peter Eeles)



Essex Skipper (David Green)

Status: BC Low Priority

No of 2008 records: 198

No of tetrads in 2008: 65

No of post 2000 tetrads: 284

Earliest: 05 June 2008

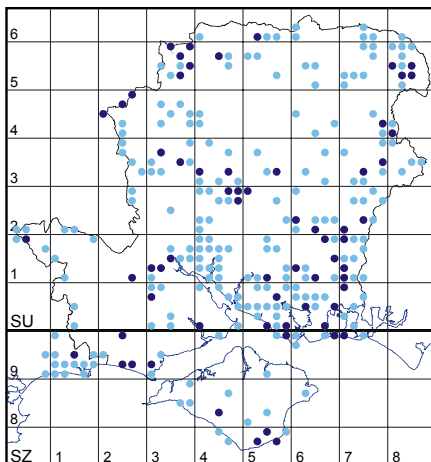
Dell Piece West (SWa)

The Gillies (GBr)

Latest: 30 August 2008

Beacon Hill, Burghclere

(ABo)



The flight period for this species was a little over two weeks shorter than in 2007. As usual the first emergence was somewhat later than that of the Small Skipper, but the season finished earlier. Usually the peak of the flight season for the Essex Skipper is somewhat later than that of the Small Skipper, but this year both species were most abundant round about the last week in July. The pattern of the numbers of this species flying is neatly encapsulated in the figures from the transect at Pilot Hill near Faccombe. Eight were seen on 1 July, 13 on the 12th, 27 on the 15th, 57 on the 23rd and 35 on the 30th, with 31 being seen on 8 August (all data MG). Subsequent counts at this site were of seven or less.

These figures from the Pilot Hill transect included the five highest counts for the species, the only other counts in double figures being the 12 seen on 21 July at Sims Wood, Beaulieu (THo) and the 10 seen on 12 July at Marsh Lane, Christchurch (MJG). The figures suggest a decline of the species over the past three years. The number of counts of 20 or more was 10 in 2006, six in 2007 and just four in 2008.

The true situation may be masked as many observers report a combined total for the two golden skippers, so more data specific to the Essex Skipper would be much appreciated. This year only one observer sent in data comparing the abundance of the two species. On 25 and 26 July of 30 golden skippers counted at Eelmoor, 25 were Small Skipper and five Essex Skipper (CRH).

Most observers who commented on the abundance of the species noted its paucity or complete absence. Thus Essex Skippers "were extremely scarce in Alice Holt" (MRO), was only "found at four sites searched (including Oxenbourne Down), was absent from both Hawkhill Inclosure and Goose Green Inclosure" (AW) and had a "generally poor year" (MSh, RKL). Even at Petersfield Heath, which produced the highest count of 43 in 2007, the maximum count was only nine on 4 August this year (MSh).

Though the numbers of insects seen have been generally lower in 2008 than 2007, it was recorded in over twice as many tetrads this year, and it would be interesting to know how much of the apparent decline is due to the lack of high quality butterfly watching time over the last two years and the restricted number of sites closely examined for this species.

Status: BC High Priority

No of 2008 records: 67

No of tetrads in 2008: 9

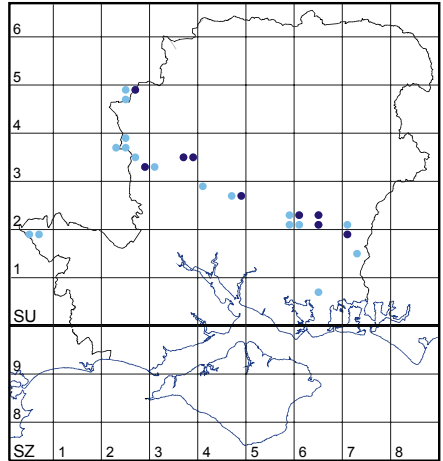
No of post 2000 tetrads: 26

Earliest: 26 July 2008

Stockbridge Down (MDu & ML)

Latest: 3 October 2008

Beacon Hill NNR, Warnford (DH)



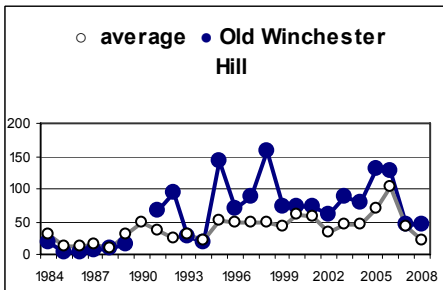
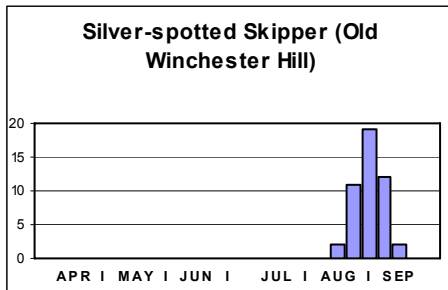
Following on from a poor 2007, 2008 was another disappointing year, with most Hampshire sites having low numbers. Four out of the five transect monitored sites showed an Annual Index decrease of more than 20% relative to 2007 (AJB). Strong grass growth in two consecutive summers has left many sites with elevated turf heights, particularly the case where rabbit populations have declined (MRO). As this species requires the warm microclimate of short turf sites, the increased grass height has made many chalk downlands far from ideal as breeding habitat.

Of the eight sites known to support this species, the peak count of 75 on 30 August at Old Winchester Hill (AW) was the only sizeable count for 2008, although 23 on 17 August at Oxenbourne Down (B&MC) was a respectable tally for a small site. Other well known sites could barely manage counts into double figures, with peaks of 13 on 30 August at Beacon Hill, Warnford (BP), and 12 on 15 August at Broughton Down (GCE). In descending order, the remaining sites had maxima of eight on 7 August at St Catherine's Hill (MSw), three on 23 August at Martin Down (D&M Nesbitt), two on 11 August at Stockbridge Down (PBk), and two on 28 July at the Perham Ranges (JRM). The only other site to produce records was The Mountain, with singletons on 23 and 30 August (SE&PR).

The first sighting of the year was on 26 July at Stockbridge Down (MDu), soon followed by other sites in west and north-west Hampshire, including the Perham Ranges (see above), and Broughton Down. The Meon Valley sites have a tendency for later emergence, and it was not until mid August that the first were seen, being four on 15 August at Old Winchester Hill (AT). The peak flight period was not easily defined, especially given the unsettled weather, but most records came between 7 August and 30 August. A few of the transects had sightings into September, the last of these being two on 15 September at Beacon Hill, Warnford (BP), and one on the same day at Broughton Down (GCE). Remarkably, there was a final record more than two weeks later. This was of a crippled female on 3 October, nectaring on Devil's-bit Scabious at Beacon Hill, Warnford (DH).

Although the number of butterflies seen in 2008 was low, at 69 days duration, the flight season was reasonably long. We have to hope that sufficient egg-laying took place for

small populations to survive. The signs, however, are not particularly encouraging as the regular egg counts at Beacon Hill produced a meagre total of 17 on 3 October (DH).



Large Skipper *Ochlodes faunus* Rupert Broadway

Status: BC Low Priority

Earliest: 09 May 2008
Dell Piece West (CBu)

No of 2008 records: 831

No of tetrads in 2008: 177

No of post 2000 tetrads: 494

Latest: 30 August
Old Winchester Hill (AW)

The Large Skipper had a poor year in 2008. Transect figures were well down with 31 monitored sites showing a decrease of more than 20% on 2007, 15 showing no significant change and eight showing an increase of 20% or more. Decreased numbers were reported from the transects at Martin Down (Kitts Grave), Noar Hill and Botley Wood. At Botley Wood, the annual count reduced from 70 in 2007 to just 30 in 2008. Pamber Forest was one of the few locations to record an increase; from 33 to 64, the best showing since 2005 but well down on the 10 year average. At Whippingham Fields on the Isle of Wight the Annual Index of 221 was the lowest since 1999.

DAB recorded contrasting fortunes between Isle of Wight sites. It was very poor at Brading, but excellent at Lake. JR reported that the rapid decline at Woodhouse continues. In Hampshire, ACG felt it to be an average year at Bramshott Common, AW and RCB reported a similar season to 2007 and DJAT noted a slight improvement on 2007 on the Gosport coast. MSh reported a terrible year with only two seen at Butser Hill. CRH noted that the flight period was shorter than 2007 in north-east Hampshire.

The first Large Skipper was recorded on 9 May on the Dell Piece West transect (CBu). The first Isle of Wight sightings were at Afton Chalk Pit (IP) and Afton Down (SAK-J), both on 21 May. DSti recorded the year's best count with 53 on the Beacon Hill NNR transect on 23 July. AW counted 45 at Oxenbourne Down on 21 July and (PBK) reported 40 from Pignal Inclosure on 15 July. Whippingham Fields provided the best Isle of Wight counts peaking at 35 on 13 July, well down on peak counts of the last three years. Numbers tailed off rapidly from the end of July with just a few August records.

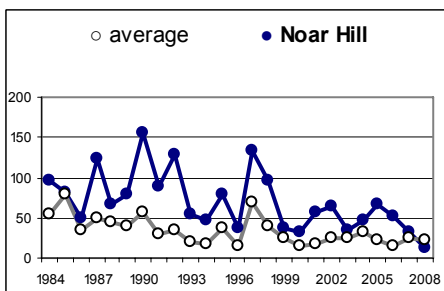
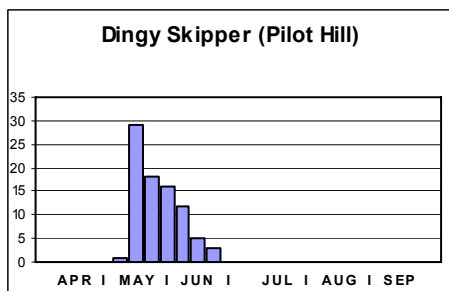
The last Isle of Wight sighting was at Whippingham Fields on 7 August (JR) and the final Hampshire sighting at Old Winchester Hill on 30 August (AW).

Quarries (DAB). The latter is the latest record on our database for our area. Unusual records during 2008 included a Dinky Skipper attracted to a moth lamp on miserably wet night at Martin Down on 27 May (DGG) and a single larva found at Beacon Hill on 30 October (DH).

A third of all field observations were of singletons, the other two thirds being fairly even distributed up to three records of 15 individuals – these highs were at Chalton Down (RSy) and twice at Grandfathers Bottom, QECP (AW & DH). This positive data is contradicted, unfortunately, by the transect data where 80% of records were of singletons or couples. Just six records were in double figures, including counts of 19 at Brading Quarries on 13 May (ROt) and 20 at Pilot Hill on 31 May (MG).

The comments received, and a study of the statistics reveal that 2008 was a mixed season for the Dinky Skipper – “a very poor season at Botley Wood” (RKL) contrasts with “a very good showing at Bramshott Common” (AG). The peak counts were fairly average at Brading Quarries loW and The Mountain with 19 and 15 respectively. A slight increase was found at Martin Down South transect but the peak figure had declined at Noar Hill with five on 31 May. The Annual Indices portray equally mixed fortunes with Brading Quarries achieving its highest Index of the last ten years of 67. The Mountain and Martin Down South transects recorded average Indices of 25 and 32. Noar Hill fell to its lowest Annual Index in ten years with 12.

The mixed picture continues when looking at the trends built from transect data. Eight sites had a decrease of 20% or more but an equal number had no change (four) or an increase of 20% or more (four). No doubt the weather of 2007 and 2008 played a part in the results, but it is encouraging to see that habitat improvements works can quickly have very positive results as exemplified by Brading Quarry.



Grizzled Skipper *Pyrgus malvae* Jonathan Bills

Status: BC High Priority

Earliest: 08 April 2008
Afton Down, loW (SAK-J)

No of 2008 records: 272

No of tetrads in 2008: 49

Latest: 24 June 2008
Martin Down NNR, Kitts Grave (CHJH)

No of post 2000 tetrads: 118

The typical flight period of this species was met with the coldest April since 2001 with double the average rainfall. May was warmer but rainfall remained very high. June finished the Grizzled Skipper season with unsettled and cool weather interspersed with short bursts of fine weather. This all made for another unfavourable year for this species and efforts to record it.

The 2008 distribution map shows that although the species' range spans Hampshire and the Isle of Wight there has been a clear contraction and fragmentation of distribution leaving the species mainly on the chalk sites that include Queen Elizabeth Country Park and Martin Down. The species went unrecorded at some satellite and core sites, including Noar Hill. This is a very similar story to 2007.



Grizzled Skipper (Ian Pratt)

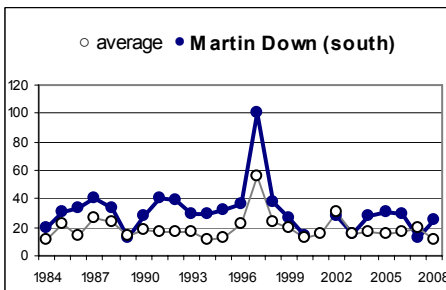
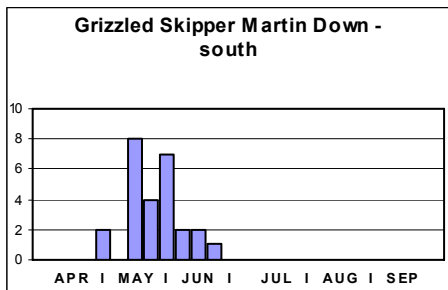
The first of 608 records was made on 8 April at Afton Down (SAK-J). This was just a couple of days later than in 2007. As the season progressed, records of singletons or couples made up the majority of reports with only 10 records of double figures. These high counts all occurred in May and include 12 at Grandfathers Bottom, Queen Elizabeth Country Park, on 11 May (AW) and 15 at Botley Wood on 21 May (RKL & MRB). This suggests that the majority of populations out there were existing at very low numbers. There were just two New Forest records of single individuals (MSw & JRu), which although low, at least signifies that the species persists there.

To look at a few sites in detail: Botley Wood and Magdalen Hill Down Original Reserve recorded their lowest peak counts in the last four years with five on 31 May at Botley Wood and three on 26 April and 8 May at Magdalen Hill Down. They also shared low Annual Indices of 17 and nine. Martin Down's North and South transects recorded average figures with peak counts of 12 and eight respectively and Annual Indices of 16 and 25.

The transect data provides evidence that Grizzled Skippers were present all season, with few dates having a nil return, but the quantities were dominated by singletons (~50%) "for the third consecutive year". Six sites showed a decrease of 20% or more relative to last year. Six sites had no change and six displayed an increase of 20% or more.

Many of the comments received pertain to the low numbers viewed, even compared to 2007 (e.g. Stockbridge Down and Danebury Hill) and of declining habitat quality. It is

pleasing therefore that on some sites habitat improvement efforts are both happening and working well. Such is the case for Chalton Down where scrub removal and a good grazing regime using cattle is clearly benefiting Grizzled and Dingy Skippers with a high of 15 Grizzled Skipper recorded in May (RSy), the joint highest of anywhere. This is proof that targeted monies from Environmental Stewardship are having a positive effect.



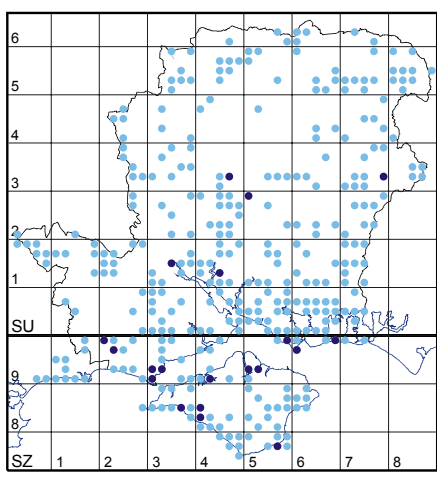
Clouded Yellow *Colias croceus* Mike Gibbons

Status: BC Low Priority

No of 2008 records: 33
No of tetrads in 2008: 20
No of post 2000 tetrads: 364

Earliest: 03 April 2008
 Monks Bay, IoW (AWr)
 Wheelers Bay, IoW (A&EB)

Latest: 22 October 2008
 Stokes Bay (DJAT)



Some years are good and some years are bad for the Clouded Yellow, but 2008 proved to be a disastrous year when this migrant was practically non-existent in our area. There were records but these were very few indeed and almost as many records were received commenting on not seeing the species. Comments ranged from "Failed to record any Clouded Yellows in this country for the first time since 2001" (RCB) to "For the first time in many years, none were recorded" (MSh) and "Not seen anywhere in 2008" (CRH & RKL).

The first of the few started arriving on 3 April followed by a handful on several dates during April at Wheelers Bay IoW (A&EB). On 8 May, three were at Mottistone Down IoW on transect (RLa), then singles at Bitterne on 10 May (GBn), Afton Chalk Pit and Hayling Island on 11 May (IP, WGH), Brightstone, IoW, on 14 May (DAB) and Keyhaven on 18 May (MJG). There was one recorded on transect on 6 June at Magdalen Hill Down (KPa).

Mid-summer arrivals appeared from 4 July with singles at New Lane Bashley (THo), Newtown loW 11 July (Mike Hallett), Wheelers Bay loW on 22 July (A&EB) and Whippingham loW on 30 July (JR) which also provided two on 7 August. These were the only records received for July and the whole of August.

A small flurry of individuals appeared in our area during September when a similar influx was noted in coastal Dorset. The first of these was at Gilkicker Point on 13 September (PAB), then further individuals were seen at Whippingham Copse loW on transect on 19 September (JR), at Millfield on transect on 20 September (ROw) and at Fort Gilkicker on 29 September (DJAT). The final record was at Stokes Bay on 22 October (DJAT).

This was the worst year since 2001 and significantly so. After a poor 2007 showing, the transect data for 2008 showed a marked decrease. However it was recorded on two transects where it was unrecorded in 2007. In the 1990s even years were generally the poorer, alternating with better odd years, but after a succession of comparatively good showings since 2001, 2008 was a great disappointment.

Even though 2008 appeared bleak for this migrant, one larva was noted at Southbourne Undercliff on 15 December by MJS, a sign that even in the worst of years attempted breeding/overwintering can still occur in favoured locations. The most optimistic comment came from ACG who did not record any at Bramshott Common but was confident that "They will return in future years".

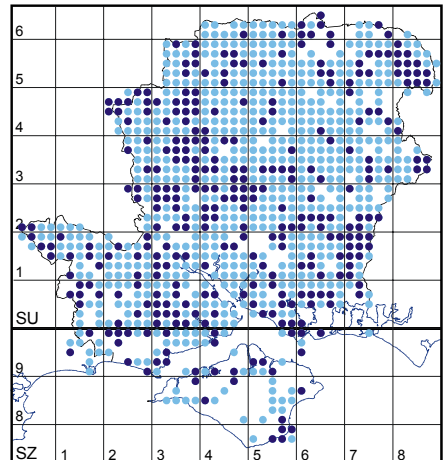
Brimstone *Gonepteryx rhamni* Brian Fletcher

Status: BC Low Priority

No of 2008 records: 2414
No of tetrads in 2008: 317
No of post 2000 tetrads: 965

Earliest: 26 January 2008
 Lower Froyle (S&BC)

Latest: 19 November 2008
 Pilley (EBa)
 Old Burghclere Lime Quarry (MFW)
 Romsey (GR)



The poor weather of 2008 resulted in a further decline in numbers, with 30 of the 48 transects recording a decline of greater than 20% and only five reporting a significant increase in numbers. The species was reported as having had a poor year in east Hampshire (MSh, ACG) and on the Isle of Wight (DAB, JR), whilst numbers were at a ten-year low at Botley Wood (RKL) and the transect at Pamber Forest produced the lowest total since 1999 (GD).

However, the species did manage to appear in good numbers on some of the sunny days during its long flight season, with the highest number recorded on a Butterfly Conservation field trip on 23 August when 64 were counted along the flower rich

margins of a field to the west of Shipton Bellinger in the north-west of Hampshire (BPF). Two more high concentrations of Brimstones were found in the same area, with over 40 seen on 15 August (MRO) and 35 on 30 August (BPF).

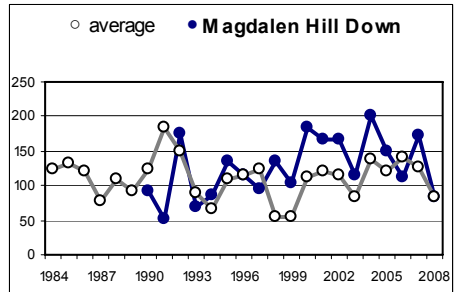
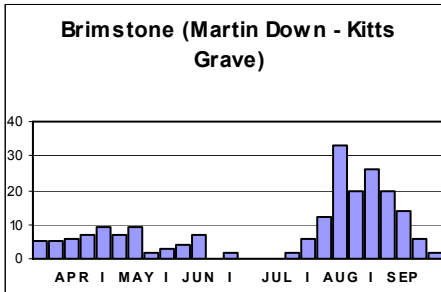
Other sightings of high numbers were 60 at Old Winchester Hill on 30 August (AW), 54 at Stockbridge Down on 7 August (CSt) and 42 at Broughton Down on 30 August (GCE).



Egg-laying Brimstone (Gary Richardson)

For many years observers have commented on the abundance of Brimstones in the spring and early summer and their comparative paucity in late summer. This reflects the extensive and prolonged activity during the breeding season, whilst in late summer individuals feed up as quickly as possible and then enter hibernation. The reverse was true in 2008, with most of the high concentrations of this butterfly being reported from late July to early September. Thus, there were 35 counts of 20 or more in the spring of 2007 and six more such counts in late summer. In 2008, in contrast, there were just three counts of 20 or more in the spring and 20 counts in the summer. Numbers seem to have remained quite high until much later in September than is usual, with 22 seen at Leckford Golf Course on 12 September (SEv) and 15 seen at Stockbridge Down on 20 September (LB-R).

Another change from the usual pattern of the flight season occurred around mid-summer. Normally Brimstones are seen, albeit in small numbers, throughout June and July, with the brightly coloured recently emerged new generation contrasting strongly with the battered and faded individuals of the previous generation. In 2008 there were scarcely any sightings of Brimstone between the middle of June and the end of July. What effect this apparent shortening of the egg-laying season has had on numbers is uncertain, but the first indications from the numbers seen in the autumn suggest that the Brimstone has coped with a couple of poor seasons.



Large White *Pieris brassicae* Brian Fletcher

Status: BC Low Priority

Earliest: 12 February 2008
Hermitage, Gosport (DJAT)

No of 2008 records: 2685

No of tetrads in 2008: 342

Latest: 19 November 2008
Wheeler's Bay, IoW (A&E)

No of post 2000 tetrads: 920

Though the first sighting of 2008 was just over three weeks later than in 2007, it was still the second earliest on record, the latest sighting being only marginally earlier than in the previous year.

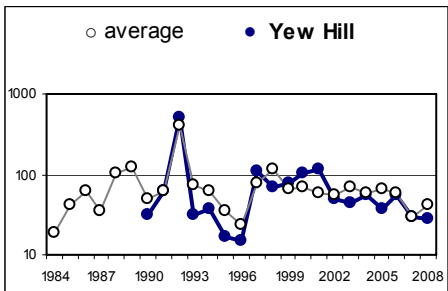
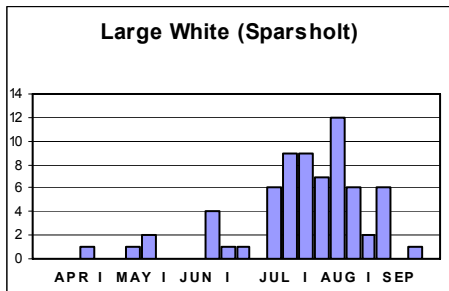
Compared to 2007, the Large White has had a much better season, having a good year in the Petersfield area (MSh, AW) and an excellent year at Brading, IoW (DAB). At Pamber Forest numbers were up on last year but still below the long term average (GD) whilst it had a reasonable year in the Bramshott area (ACG) and the best season for some time in north-east Hampshire (CRH). At Parkhurst Forest, Whippingham Fields and Woodhouse Copse, IoW, it had a below average year (JR).

The transect data gives a picture of an overall improvement with more than half of the 51 transects showing an increase of more than 20% whilst on only nine transects was there a decline of greater than 20%. Certainly the largest count of 250 on 11 October at Ventnor Front (A&E) is well above the maximum count of 100 in 2007, and the 32 counts of 20 or more in 2008 showed how much the numbers of Large White had increased over those in 2007 when there were just nine counts of 20 or more.

The pattern of the flight season seems to be changing. As in the past the spring brood was rather weak, it being far more usual to see singletons or twos and threes rather than the 10 seen on 6 May at Brading Quarries (DAB). Numbers reached a low ebb at the end of June to the beginning of July, but then the second brood began to emerge with peak numbers being present late July to early August. No fewer than 19 of the 32 counts of 20 plus occurred during this period, the largest being the 60 seen on 6 August at Coulters Dean Nature Reserve (DM). Numbers then declined significantly to reach a minimum in the first week of September. Numbers then build up again to reach a peak around the end of September, with 81 being seen on 22 September at Gosport (DJAT), 70 on 26 September at Barton-on-Sea and 35 on the same day at Hordle Cliff (both PBk). No fewer than nine of the 32 counts of 20 plus occurred during this period, and were from locations on the coast of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. Two were seen from a sailing boat in the Solent just over 1-km offshore in Osborne Bay on 13 September (ACM).

The possibility of there being three broods of Large Whites in favoured localities is further supported by observations from Woolston, where CP observed 75 large caterpillars and 25 chrysalides on 18 August. Adults were soon to emerge from 24 August, with two or three emerging most days and five on 7 September.

With so many butterflies on the wing in September and October it was no surprise to receive a report of 17 Large White caterpillars eating broccoli plants in an open vegetable patch in Corhampton during the coldest December for 30 years (JM).



Small White *Pieris rapae* Peter Eeles

Status: BC Low Priority

Earliest: **08 February 2008**
Southampton General Hospital (PAB)
Lordsdale Greenway (ARC)

No of 2008 records: 2715

No of tetrads in 2007: 306

No of post 2000 tetrads: 847

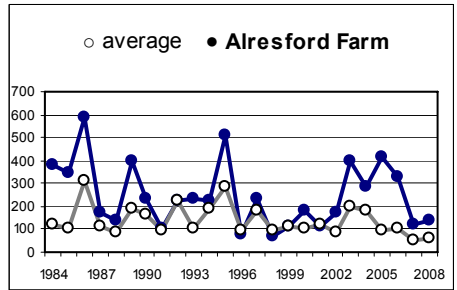
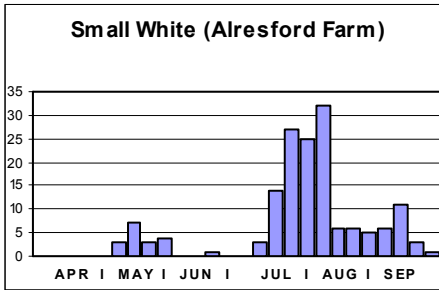
Latest: **24 November 2008**
Fort Gilkicker, Gosport (DJAT)

Despite early sightings on 8 February, the Small White again had a below average year, with just 15 counts of more than 20 individuals. The earliest sightings, both in Southampton, are the earliest on our database by around three weeks. 90% of counts during 2008 were of five individuals or less with over half of the sightings being of a singleton. The Annual Index at Alresford Farm reflects the pattern of transect data in general, which suggests that the Small White has made a small recovery from 2007, although the general consensus is that this butterfly had another disappointing year.

As in 2007, the majority of early sightings were from the south coast, with more inland sightings appearing during the second half of April. An exceptional count for the first brood was 25 at Wheelers Bay on 31 May (AW), the next highest count being eight at both Basing Forest on 20 April (MDu) and Chalk Quarry, Portsdown on 24 May (ACM).

The second brood made up for the disappointing counts of first brood individuals. The second brood recorded the highest count for the Small White in 2008, with counts of 50 at Old Winchester Hill on 30 August (AW) and 49 at Gunner Point on 20 September (A&LB).

An unusual sighting in 2008 was of six individuals seen from a sailing boat in the Solent just over 1-km offshore in Osborne Bay on 13 September (ACM).



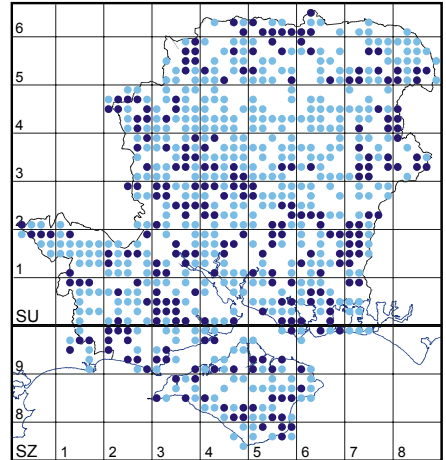
Green-veined White *Pieris napi* Alison Harper

Status: BC Low Priority

No of 2008 records: 1475
No of tetrads in 2008: 260
No of post 2000 tetrads: 754

Earliest: 02 April 2008
 Wheelers Bay, IoW (A&EB)

Latest: 17 October 2008
 Stanley Park, Gosport (DJAT)



In spite of a very poor start, 2008 was a reasonable year for this butterfly. 39% (18) of the transect monitored sites where this species is recorded showed a significant increase over 2007 of 20% or more, another 16 of these sites showed no significant change and only 12 sites (26%) showed a decline since 2007 in numbers recorded of 20% or more. The trend of the average of a number of Annual Indices at a range of sites between 1984 and 2008 has been falling slowly since 2004 but in 2008 the average Annual Index levelled out at 50, matching the previous year and only marginally less than in 1984. It is interesting to note the similarity in the Indices after so many years.

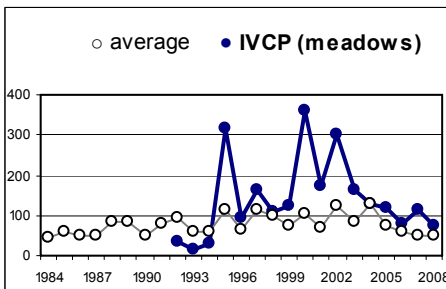
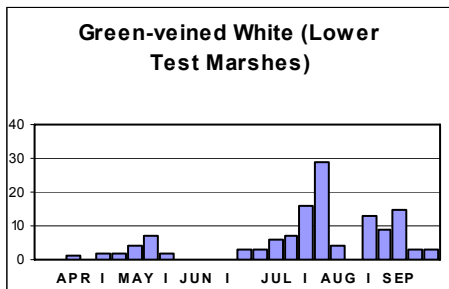
The average of the group of Annual Indices for 2008 concealed a number of quite large variations from 2007: Alresford Farm transect had an Index of 104 in 2008 compared with only 44 in 2007 and at Lower Test the numbers were 129 (2008) compared with 107 (2007). On the other hand the Itchen Valley Country Park Meadows transect 2008 Annual Index (73) showed a decline in numbers from 112 in 2007, and at Pamber Forest the 2008 Index (62) declined from 88 the previous year.

As expected, numbers increased with the second brood and eventually peaked with a count of 39 adults on 30 July at Ashford Hill off the transect (ABo) plus a further 15 on the transect, and 29 on the same day at Alresford Farm (EJP). Numbers peaked at

Wick Wood, Hartley Mauditt with 30 on the 7 August (PR), and 29 were seen on the same day at Lower Test (Ski).

Recorders' comments often, although not always, reflected a more pessimistic picture than that presented by the combined records. AW, commenting on observations at many sites in the south of Hampshire said that this species "really did disappoint" and GD observed that it was a very poor year for this butterfly in Pamber Forest, the Annual Index of 62 being the lowest number ever recorded there. In north-east Hampshire CRH reported a very poor spring but that summer was better. Bramshott Common, ACG observed, had a reasonable year and a great improvement on the terrible year in 2007.

The picture was similar on the Isle of Wight. JR reported from Woodhouse Copse "the worst first brood of only eight sightings up to the middle of May", and an annual count up to 19 September of only 67 Green-veined White butterflies, compared to the 10-year average of 109. At Whippingham Fields a steady increase after a poor first brood culminated in an Annual Index of 87 compared with a ten-year average Index of 90 (JR). DAB commented that on the Island in 2008 there were "not many about, both broods poor".



Orange-tip *Anthocharis cardamines* Bob Whitmarsh

Status: BC Low Priority

Earliest: 27 March 2008
Titchfield Haven (GJo)

No of 2008 records: 744

No of tetrads in 2008: 235

Latest: 21 August 2008
Portsmouth (JGi)

No of post 2000 tetrads: 747

2008 saw the continuation of the trend of a steady decline in Orange-tip numbers that has occurred with only occasional peaks since 1991. Only in 1984 was the Annual transect Index lower than in 2008 possibly because fewer transects were walked then. The total number of records and tetrads with observations were down 20% compared with 2007.

Orange-tips were seen in a scattered distribution throughout Hampshire and the loW but as in 2007 few observations were recorded in a large, irregularly shaped, north-south swathe through central Hampshire or, except in a narrow band from Lymington to Lyndhurst, in the New Forest.

As in previous years the principal Orange-tip observational period was relatively short lasting from the beginning of April until mid-June. Numbers climbed steadily from week 1, they burgeoned from the week beginning 22 April until they peaked in week

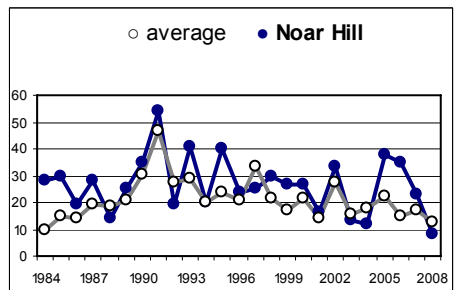
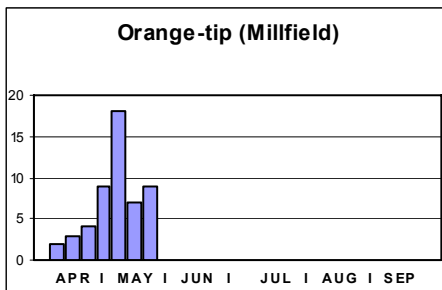
beginning 6 May (139 individuals seen) after which they dropped dramatically and by a month later almost none was seen. Adults were seen more or less daily until 9 June but the flight season was extended by almost two and a half months with the observation of a single second-brood adult male on 21 August.

Orange-tip egg
laid on Garlic
Mustard at
Mottisfont on
8 May 2008
(David Green)



Comparing 2008 with 2007, the Peak Count was down significantly at two of the selected sites, more or less unchanged at two more and up by a factor of three at Millfield near Basingstoke. These figures belie however the strong fall in the Annual Index by factors of two to four at four of the sites; only at Millfield did the Index increase (by about 2.5).

Reports from around the area suggest it was a mixed year for the Orange-tip. Many observers reported a “poor” or “very poor” year (Petersfield MSL; Pamber Forest GD; Southampton CP; Fleet CRH; Botley Wood RKL) and some blamed the cool, showery and wintery (it snowed in April) weather yet others reported a good year around Christchurch (MTG) and in the Meon Valley (AW) and “good numbers” at Alverstone (IoW; DAB). Several observers (RCB, AB, JR) reported a scarcity or lack of females. It appears that this species survives possibly only in scattered patches of suitable habitat and is susceptible to being decimated by wet and cool weather.



Status: BC Low Priority

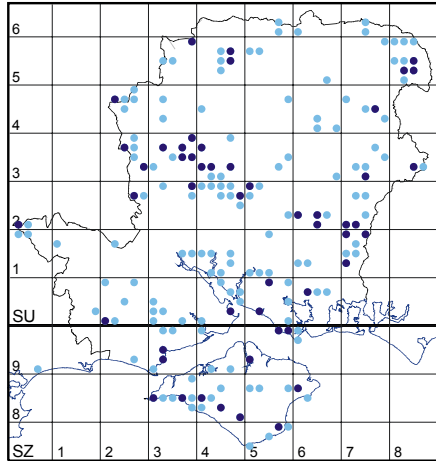
No of 2008 records: 157

No of tetrads in 2008: 51

No of post 2000 tetrads: 197

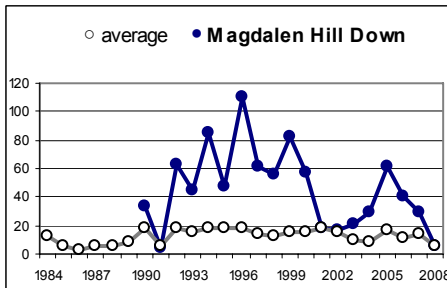
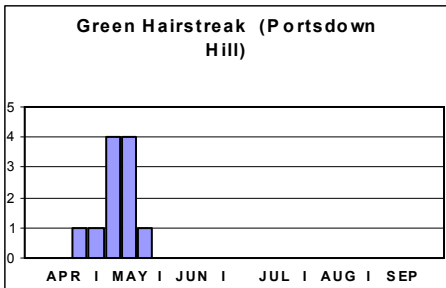
Earliest: 11 April 2008
Magdalen Hill Down (PAB)

Latest: 14 July 2008
Portsdown (MGw)



It was another poor year for the Green Hairstreak in terms of both numbers and length of flight season. Eleven out of 21 transect monitored sites where this species occurs showed a decrease in the Annual Index of 20% or more between 2007 and 2008, five showed an equivalent increase and five showed no significant change. The Annual Index for Magdalen Hill Down, Original Reserve, was down from 30 in 2007 to a very low six in 2008. Since monitoring began in 1999 the previous lowest Index at this site was 17 in 2003. Noar Hill saw the Annual Index rise to 11 in 2008 from nine and five in 2006 and 2007 respectively.

Comments from observers indicated a low number of individuals recorded at each site. AW considered it a dreadful year, and a bad third year in a row. The best day on the Isle of Wight was a sighting of three at Brading on 5 June for DAB. The very small colony at Browdown South has just survived with only eight sightings between 11 May and 8 June (DJAT). The first sighting was about one week later than in 2007. A short flight period was noted by CRH in north-east Hampshire, from mid-May to mid-June. An earlier flight period was reported at Portsdown Hill from mid-April to mid-May. The highest counts recorded, of just four individuals on each occasion, were on 3 May at East Afton Down (IP), on 8 May at Magdalen Hill Down (A&LB), on 21 May at Pilot Hill (MG) and on 7 June at Froyle Chalk Pit (S&BC). The latest sighting was two weeks earlier than in 2007 (30 July).



Status: BC High Priority**Earliest:** 30 July 2008
Noar Hill (AT)**No of 2008 records:** 25**No of tetrads in 2008:** 5**No of post 2000 tetrads:** 19**Latest:** 30 August 2008
Shipton Bellinger (BPF & AT)

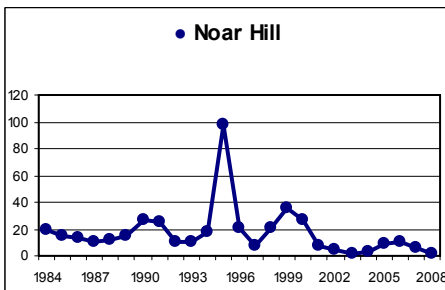
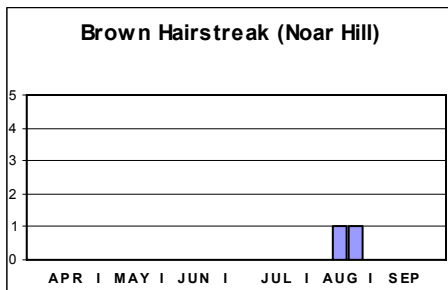
Several recorders (A&LB, DH, PVi & RSy) sent in details of early season egg searches at Noar Hill and Shipton Bellinger. These included maximum counts of 11 eggs at Noar Hill on 17 February (DH), and an impressive 32 at Shipton Bellinger on 12 February (PVi).

There were no observations of larvae during spring and early summer, and very few records for the butterfly in what was an extremely short flight season of exactly a month. Indeed, in all the years of producing an Annual Butterfly Report (1985 to present), 2008 was the first year without any September records. The wet and windy August weather undoubtedly played a part in this (AW), and as a measure of how poor the season was, only 12 observers sent in records.

Emergence at Noar Hill, Selborne, began with an isolated record of one on 30 July (AT), but the next sightings were not until 10 August, when various observers (CB, RSy, AT & AW) saw ones and twos. AW reports having seen two high over ash trees, establishing territory. A tally of three on 10 August (MJG) proved to be the highest number seen at Noar Hill all year. The transect produced just a singleton on 15 August (AMJ), and represents the worst year since recording began. Whereas the period 1984 to 2000 consistently produced Annual Indices of 10 plus, it is worrying to note that the period 2001 to 2008 typically had Indices of five or less. There are concerns that the Blackthorn cutting regime at Noar Hill combined with bad weather scuppered the 2008 season (MJG). The final record for this site was of one on 23 August (MJG). Incredibly, all bar one of the Noar Hill records came over a period of just 13 days in mid-August.

The situation at Shipton Bellinger appears more positive, although records were also confined to a two week period. The season began with an amazing tally of 25 on 15 August (MRO), comprising five females and 20 males. Nearly all were in and around Ash trees, with five males and two females in the most favoured Ash. MRO reports this as his second best tally from the site (after 36 on 5 September 2004). Other totals from the area were modest by comparison, with seven on 22 August (AT), and six on 23 August (A&LB) during a Branch field trip. Of those seen on 23 August, three (males) were seen through binoculars around Ash trees, two (males) were observed at close quarters imbibing the juices from over-ripe Wayfaring Tree berries, and a single female was observed basking and egg-laying on suckering Blackthorn growth (A&LB). The last observation from the Shipton Bellinger area, and indeed the season as a whole, was one on 30 August (AT).

Given the very short flight season and restricted opportunity for egg-laying, we wait rather apprehensively to see what 2009 will bring.



Purple Hairstreak *Neozephyrus quercus* Janet Jones

Status: BC Low Priority

Earliest: 10 June 2008
Carters Copse, Gosport & Browndown (ACM)

No of 2008 records: 276

No of tetrads in 2008: 81

No of post 2000 tetrads: 215

Latest: 13 September 2008
Whippingham Fields, IoW (JR)

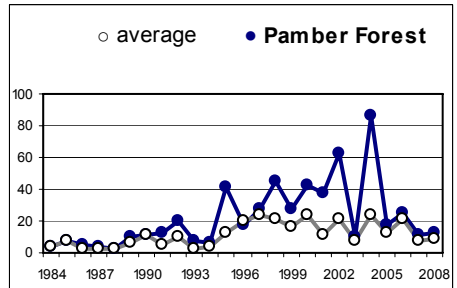
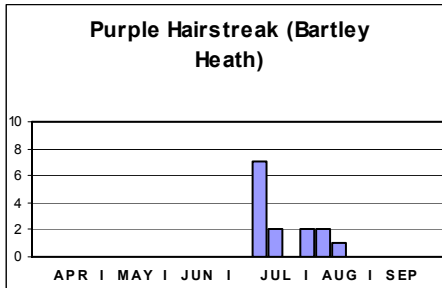
2008 was quite a mixed year for the lovely and somewhat elusive Purple Hairstreak. The butterfly faired extremely well in some parts of the Isle of Wight as it did in and around the Gosport area, but numbers remained similar to or were down on 2007 in most other parts of the two counties.

On transect monitored sites, sightings were made regularly but the vast majority were only of one or two individuals. On a much more positive side at Whippingham Fields, IoW uncommonly high numbers were recorded. On 16 July a total of 37 butterflies were seen, with 40 being recorded on the 23 July and 49 on 30 July. Numbers seen on transects in the northern part of Hampshire were much lower, the Annual Index from Pamber Forest shows 2008 to have only been marginally better than 2007. The peak count here was five on 21 July and at Bartley Heath, also in the north, where the Annual Index fell from 24 in 2007 to 14 in 2008, a maximum count of seven was recorded on 13 July. The overall picture is a little more encouraging in that although the species on three transect monitored sites showed a decrease in numbers of 20% or more, at three other sites there was no change but on four sites there was an increase in numbers of 20% or more. The species was also recorded on four sites where none were recorded last year.

At Alice Holt Forest numbers were quite encouraging with seven seen on 10 July and 12 on 13 July in Straits Inclosure, and at Goose Green Inclosure seven were flying on 8 July, "one to three being the norm at most other visits during July" (AW). On our reserve at Bentley Station Meadow "a good total of 10 were seen on 14 July" (MSL). During a *Moths Count* workshop in the New Forest on 26 July, at least 20 were seen flying in evening sunshine in the canopies of large oaks at Ladycross Inclosure (DGG *et al*). One of these, presumably a territorial male, was seen chasing an unidentified crimson underwing moth (*Catocala* species).

Encouraging numbers were recorded at Browndown North, "on 30 June, chasing one another around the oaks in the evening sunshine were ca. 160, and ca.150 at nearby Carter's Copse, Gosport" (DJAT). Reports were received from Wildgrounds at Gosport of "a very strong population of Purple Hairstreak throughout the reserve, probably

several hundreds” (PPa). There were also wonderful reports from Whippingham Fields, IoW “during the first week of July numbers simply exploded with counts of 100 plus on several evenings running” (JR). One wonders whether these numbers in 2008 were extraordinarily high or whether these records demonstrate how under-recorded the Purple Hairstreak really is. It will be extremely interesting to see how sightings in 2009 will compare.



White-letter Hairstreak *Satyrium w-album*

Andrew Brookes

Status: BC High Priority

Earliest: 10 June 2008
Carters Copse (ACM)

No of 2008 records: 16

No of tetrads in 2008: 11

Latest: 24 July 2008
Crabtree Plantation (NW)

No of post 2000 tetrads: 63

Whilst it is always difficult to draw conclusions on the status of White-letter Hairstreak owing to the typically small number of reports received, there seems little room for optimism. Only 16 records were submitted, and this for a habitat-generalist known to dwell on elms urban and rural, from coast to hinterland, and almost certainly still surviving across much of the two counties. Although now a UK BAP Priority species, it seems destined to fall between the two stools: too elusive by far to be noticed by casual observation, but lacking the fanatical following accorded its celebrity cousin the Brown Hairstreak which, by contrast, elicited 25 records from just two small sites in Hampshire!

Records from the Isle of Wight, despite its plethora of elms, comprised just one “possible” sighting at Whippingham (JR), a statistic surely more indicative of the abysmal recording effort on the island. Records from the mainland were nearly all from the traditional hotspots, the maximum count again made at the Dutch Elm thicket at Bedenham, within the Defence Munitions Gosport complex, where nine were seen on 26 June (M&MG). Other records of note include seven at Stockbridge Down (PE), six at Bentley Wood (MSw), and five near Kingsclere (ABo). All four of these records spanned a period of four weeks, defeating discernment of a peak emergence date. Worrying, there was no report of the White-letter Hairstreak from Botley Wood, despite the number of members who regularly visit its normally infallible ancient Wyeh Elm.

The White-letter Hairstreak currently features in just one of the Branch’s 71 transects, at the Crabtree Plantation, Basingstoke, where only a singleton was seen compared with a peak there of eight in 2006.

NB: A kilometre square at the southern end of the Wight, near Godshill, has been randomly selected by Elizabeth Goodyear, Hertfordshire & Middlesex Branch, as part of the national White-letter Hairstreak Recording Project survey in 2009. It will be of much interest to see what a comprehensive and dedicated search could reveal.

(For project details see: - <http://www.hertsmiddx-butterflies.org.uk/w-album/index.php>)



White-letter Hairstreak (Peter Eeles)

Small Copper *Lycaena phlaeas*

Rupert Broadway

Status: BC Low Priority

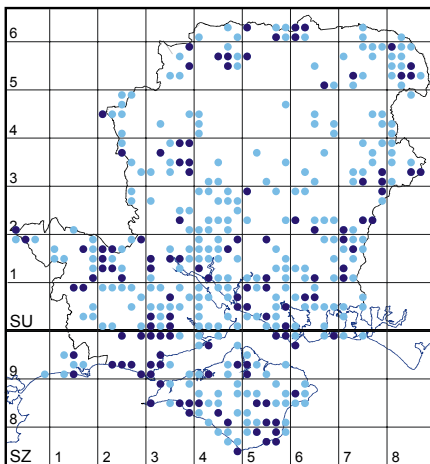
No of 2008 records: 472

No of tetrads in 2008: 124

No of post 2000 tetrads: 414

Earliest: 08 April 2008
Stanley Park, Gosport (GJo)
Stokes Bay (GJo)

Latest: 28 October 2008
Fort Gilkicker, Gosport (DJAT)
Shirley Holms (GP)



The decline of the Small Copper, reported in 2007, continued in 2008. Twenty-two of the monitored sites at which it occurs recorded decreases in Annual Index numbers of more than 20%, 11 remained relatively stable and only two reported increases of more

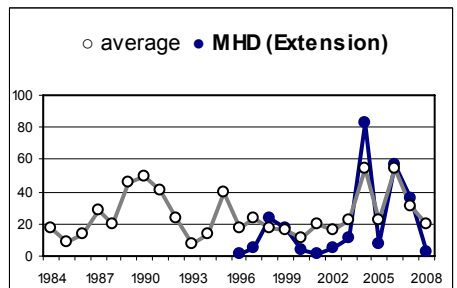
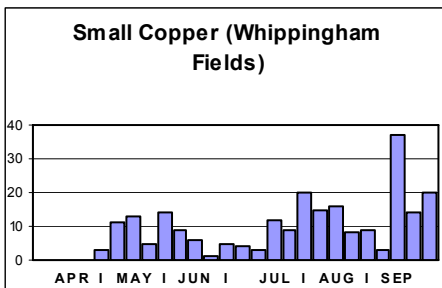
than 20%. It did particularly poorly at Old Winchester Hill with only a single record on transect on 17 September, compared to 20 in 2007. It was a similar story at Magdalen Hill Down (Extension) where it crashed from 36 to just two and it did little better on the original reserve where only three were recorded on transect. At Bonchurch Down it has remained steady with annual counts between eight and ten being recorded in the last four seasons.

Observers in Hampshire were virtually unanimous that 2008 was a poor season for the species. MSh commented that it was a terrible year in the Petersfield area and RKL reported a dreadful year at Botley Wood with only one transect record. RCB saw none in the Winchester area and AW experienced one of the worse seasons he could recall. CRH felt that the poor showing in spring was a result of the poor 2007 summer weather but the better summer in 2008 may have helped to start the recovery. In contrast, DJAT reported a fairly good season on the Gosport coast with 335 recorded during the year.

The picture was mixed on the Isle of Wight. DAB reported few from Brading but more on the western side of the island. At Whippingham Fields JR reported a slow build up with average spring and summer numbers followed by an explosion in mid August, with 37 recorded on 13 September, further good numbers up to mid October and an overall above average year's count of 272. This is a location that has yielded excellent late season counts in the recent past. Unfortunately, it appears to have been lost from Woodhouse Copse (JR).

The first Small Coppers of the year were reported on 8 April from Stanley Park and from Stokes Bay (both GJo). The first Isle of Wight sighting was from Mottistone Down on 15 April (RLa). Thereafter it was recorded, mostly in small numbers, throughout the season. The best Hampshire counts came from the western coast where (PBK) reported 13 from Hordle Cliff on 26 September and further counts of 13 from both Barton-on-Sea and Keyhaven & Pennington Marshes on 27 September. Away from this area counts of 10 were reported from Stockbridge Down by PE on 16 July, (PBk) on 21 July and RW on 20 September. Whippingham Fields provided the only double figure counts from the Isle of Wight.

The Small Copper took advantage of some reasonable autumn weather with late September and October sightings being recorded at a number of sites. The last were reported from Fort Gillicker, Gosport (DJAT) and from a garden at Shirley Holms (GP) both on 28 October. Whippingham Fields provided the last Isle of Wight record on 18 October (JR). Hopefully these late sightings will contribute to a better performance in 2009.



Status: BC High Priority

Earliest: **06 May 2008**
Afton Down, IoW (SAK-J)

No of 2008 records: 150

No of tetrads in 2008: 25

No of post 2000 tetrads: 65

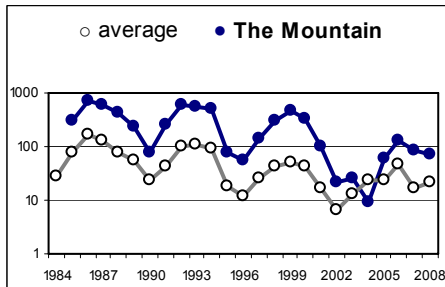
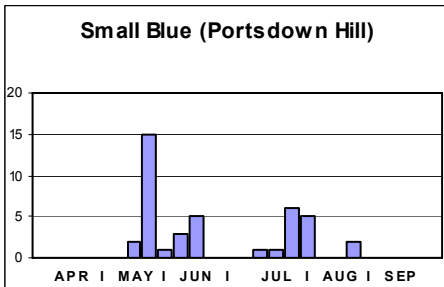
Latest: **24 August 2008**
Portsmouth Hill (AW)

The year was one of mixed fortunes for this little butterfly, which was abundant at some select locations and absent (or at least unrecorded) from other sites. Numbers were generally down at most sites visited (AW) and though the first brood was not one of the best, there were pleasing numbers in certain places as at St Catherine's Hill (CP). The species "had a reasonable presence" at Pitt Down, just west of Winchester (RCB).

There were two distinct broods in 2008, the first starting on 6 May and running to the first week in July. The second brood was on the wing for a shorter period, from mid-July until late-August. The first brood was the stronger, with the highest counts being half as large again as were seen in 2007. The two best locations were at Martin Down and Portsmouth Hill where counts of 100 or more were made. The first of these was on 24 May at Paulsgrove Chalk Quarry (ACM) and the other on 29 May along Bockerley Dyke, Martin Down (AW). There were four more counts in the range of 20 to 40 between 21 May and 7 June (observers LB-R, PBk, PE and AW). One other count was noteworthy, being of 20 on 8 June at Old Burghclere Limeworks (GD) where the species has made an excellent recovery after apparently dying out at this site.

Data from the 12 transects on which the Small Blue is recorded showed the extremely varied fortunes of the species from one site to another. On half of the transects the numbers were down by 20% or more, with an increase of the same amount on just three transects. But when the annual totals for all of the transects are added together, indications are that there were more Small Blues around in 2008 than in 2007! At Martin Down the two transects showed remarkably different results with a decline on the North transect being offset by an increase on the South. Here the peak count on the transect was just 17 on 29 May (LS), whereas a free ranging observer, AW, was able to count more than 100 along nearby Bockerley Dyke on the same day.

What the transect records show time after time is just how rapidly the species can recover. This can be seen at Martin Down South transect (2002: 0, 2003: 23, 2004: 58) and 2004-2006 at The Mountain (2004: 9, 2005: 62, 2006: 134). So, given better weather than we have had in the past two years, it would be worth revisiting some if not all of the sites from which records have not been received in recent years.



Status: BC High Priority

Earliest: 31 May 2008
Bramshott Common (ACG)

No of 2008 records: 205

No of tetrads in 2008: 48

No of post 2000 tetrads: 106

Latest: 14 August 2008
Bramshott Common (ACG)

A generally satisfactory year for this species, with the highlight being a huge increase in numbers at Bramshott Common. As well as being the locality for the first and last sightings, the Annual Index for this transect was 1279 (a 284% increase compared to 333 for 2007 in the first year of recording), prompting the following comments: "Thanks to the clearance in their key breeding area, the Silver-studded Blues have had an exceptional year (the best in 18 years recording). At times during June, the ground was shimmering with blue butterflies.... it has benefited enormously from the mowing of the birch encroachment into its key heathland breeding area (ACG)." Whilst apparently holding its own in many locations, numbers decreased on our long-running transect at Silchester Common, with an Annual Index of 154 for 2008, compared with 191 in 2007. The other new transect at Dibden Common registered 269 (254 in 2007, the first year of recording).

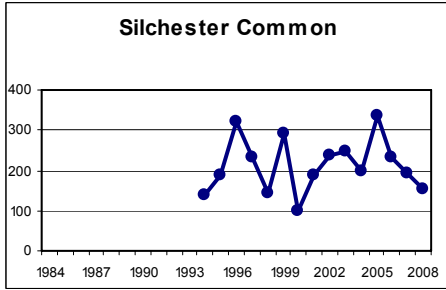
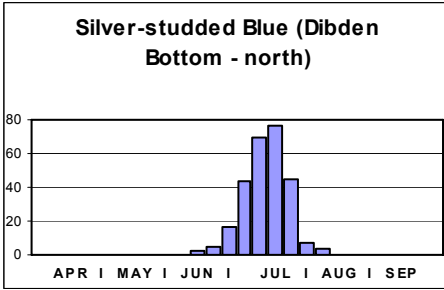


Male Silver-studded Blue (Gary Palmer)

There were no sightings from fifteen localities with 2007 records, possibly indicating a degree under-recording. However, this was compensated for by records from other sites, all except one in post 2000 tetrads.

The highest counts not surprisingly came from Bramshott Common, with 428 on 1 July, after 138 on 13 June; falling to 38 by 11 July (all ACG, who recorded a total of 11 counts of over 100 butterflies). There were four other records of 100 or more butterflies: from Broxhead Common on 28 June and Hatchet Moor, New Forest, on 14 July (both AW), 120 between Stockley and Greenmoor, New Forest, (JRu) and 134 at Silchester Common on 26 June (GJD). There were an encouraging 20 plus counts of 40 to below 100, from ten well established sites, mainly in late June to early July.

The first record from the New Forest was from Shirley Holms on 7 June (GP), then Roydon Woods on 12 June (PBk); otherwise New Forest records were from the end of June up to 30 July at Hinchelsea Moor (PBk), rarely from the Inclosures. There were still counts of 23 at Bagshot Moor and 22 Beaulieu Heath, 27 July (both A&LB) and 5 at Bull Heath, Pilley on 28 July (EBa). In north-east Hampshire, the small colony at Eelmoor had a best count of four on 1 July (CRH).



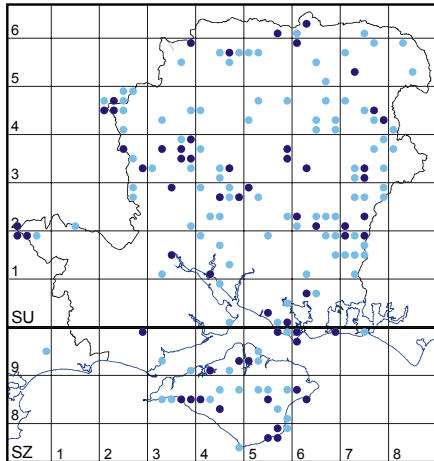
Brown Argus *Aricia agestis* Phil Budd

Status: BC Low Priority

No of 2008 records: 455
No of tetrads in 2008: 60
No of post 2000 tetrads: 179

Earliest: 15 April 2008
 Afton Down Quarry, IoW (IP)

Latest: 11 October 2008
 Lower Froyle (S&BC)



Overall, 2008 may have been the poorest year for this species in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight since 1988 and was even worse, on transect, than was 2007.

There were records for Brown Argus from 53 sites in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight in 2008. One record was of an adult taking nectar from Mayweed at Hilltop near Sylvester's Copse, Lower Froyle on 14 August (S&BC). Most of the sites were on the chalk of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight and there were no records from the Forest of Bere area or between Andover and Basingstoke. There was one record from the New Forest where one was seen in a garden at Shirley Holms on 21 August (GP). Several other sightings were reported off the chalk at Clemakin Farm, Newtown, IoW (AHB) and on the mainland at Lower Test, Pamber Forest, Silchester Common, Peartree Green, Petersfield Heath, Seafield Park at Stubbington and Sinah Common, Hayling Island (many observers). An interesting late record on the coast was of one at Fort Gilkicker, Gosport on 2 October (DJAT).

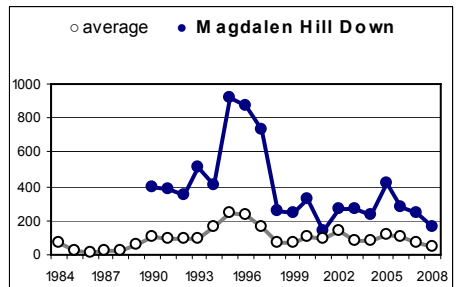
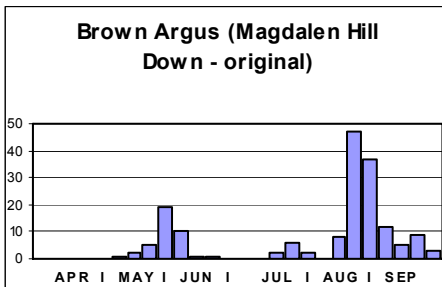
The highest counts were all, as would be expected, on chalk sites. The largest counts overall were at Bonchurch Down, IoW: 60 on 18 May (IP) and 50 on 31 May (AW). The highest count on the mainland was 47, including the 42 on transect, at Magdalen Hill Down on 22 August (A&LB). This was also the maximum second brood count anywhere in the two counties during 2008. Double figure counts for the first brood also occurred at Magdalen Hill Down, and for the second brood at Mottistone Down, IoW, at

Beacon Hill, Warnford, and at St Catherine's Hill, Winchester (many observers). Most sites saw some downward trend in 2008 but there were exceptions – the eight seen on transect at Portsdown Hill on 24 August may have been linked to the nurturing of the food plant, Rockrose, there (AW) and the numbers were better than average at Whippingham Fields, IoW, with an Annual Index of 87 compared to the ten-year average of 80 (JR). However none were seen at all at The Mountain in mainland Hampshire (AW) and the butterfly appears to be lost from Woodhouse Copse, IoW (JR).

In total there were records of Brown Argus from 22 transects in Hampshire and from five transects on the Isle of Wight. The four main transect sites for this species were Magdalen Hill Down on the mainland and Bonchurch Down, Coombe Down and Whippingham Fields on the Isle of Wight. Overall Brown Argus numbers on these transects were the worst since 1998 and with an Annual Index of 30 compared to 86 in 2007, Coombe Bottom fared particularly badly. The Index of 160 for Magdalen Hill Down was also the worst for at least 10 years. Both Bonchurch Down and Whippingham Fields were below average, although the Annual Index for the former site rose from 25 in 2007 to 35 in 2008. The poor summer weather hit the Brown Argus population at Coombe Bottom particularly badly, with a maximum count of only two on 6 August (IRi). However, at Magdalen Hill Down the peak of 42 on 22 August (AJB) was the best transect count of the year anywhere.



Magdalen Hill Down Extension on 10 December 2008 (Andy Barker)



Status: BC Low Priority

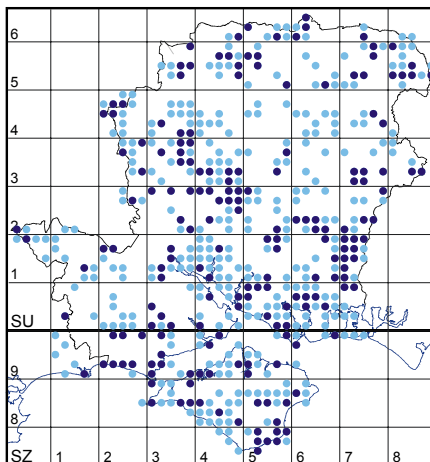
No of 2008 records: 1894

No of tetrads in 2008: 187

No of post 2000 tetrads: 514

Earliest: 23 April 2008
Harestock (BPF)

Latest: 29 October 2008
Gilkicker (ACM & DJAT)



Most observations during 2008 seem to reflect a fairly average year for the Common Blue. In general the species seems to have had a varied year with high numbers recorded at some sites whilst other localities had either very low numbers or no records at all. Compared with 2007, peak counts were mostly down for the first brood, but higher numbers were recorded for the second brood. Although the Annual Indices show a general downward trend, at both Old Winchester Hill and especially Noar Hill there was a significant increase. The Annual Index for Noar Hill increased from 116 in 2007 to 358 in 2008.

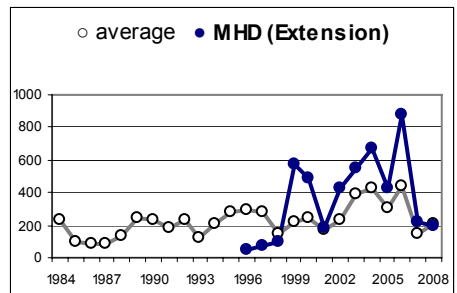
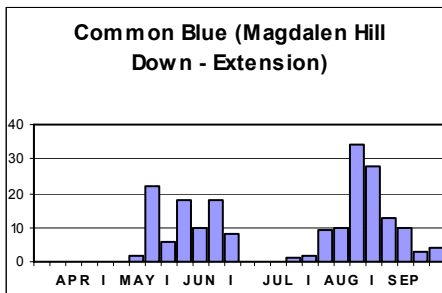
The earliest appearance of the first brood was typical of most years with a few individuals recorded as early as 23 April. Numbers were generally fairly low at a number of sites with only one or two individuals recorded. There were however, a few notable exceptions including Porton Down, Eelmoor Marsh and Old Winchester Hill. Numbers gradually increased and excellent counts were recorded at several sites during May and June with a highest count of 77 individuals recorded at Bonchurch Down on 31 May (AW). In contrast AW recorded a very poor first brood at The Mountain, where the best count was of only seven individuals on 22 June. Improved weather conditions in May and June seem to have benefited this species later in the year and several recorders noted an excellent recovery throughout the second brood, particularly during August.

First brood counts of 30 or more were recorded at the following sites: Old Burghclere Quarry, 30 on 8 June (GD), Wheelers Bay, 35 on 31 May (AW), Froyle Chalk Quarry, 52 on 7 June (S&BC), Porton Down, 67 on 15 June (DH), and 77 on 31 May at Bonchurch Down on the Isle of Wight (AW). Counts of between 20 and 29 were recorded from a further 12 sites for the first brood. Numbers of adults peaked from about 20 May until mid-June, with numbers then dropping down to single figures, marking the vague division between the first and second broods.

Numbers of this species were reported as well down “due to the weather” at Whippingham Fields, IoW, (JR) with the second brood emerging on 19 July and peaking to 40 individuals on 7 August. JR also mentioned a few almost violet coloured variations. At Eelmoor none were seen from 24 June until late July when numbers

climbed rapidly in the warm weather, bringing the best count of the year of 71 on 30 July (CRH). At Botley Wood RKL reported a very poor spring brood and a summer brood only marginally better with a peak transect count of only four individuals on 26 July. AHB recorded excellent second brood numbers in August at Horsea Island, DJAT observed large numbers during August at Gosport and DAB found good numbers at Brading Quarry on the Isle of Wight, with the highest transect count of 39 on 14 August. A number of freshly emerged examples were observed at Hengistbury Head on 2 August (TB) and also at Stockbridge Down on 15 August (TB). The highest count for the second brood was at Old Winchester Hill where AW recorded 75 individuals on 30 August. Other high counts were 68 at Eelmoor on 30 July (CRH), 38 at Noar Hill on 17 August (AW), 36 at Oxenbourne Down on 13 September (AW) and 31 at Old Winchester Hill on 17 August (AW). Nine other sites recorded counts of between 20 and 29 individuals during August.

The last Common Blue of the year was recorded from Gilkicker near Gosport on 29 October (ACM & DJAT).



Chalkhill Blue *Polyommatus coridon*

Brian Fletcher

Status: BC Medium Priority

Earliest: 03 July 2008
Yew Hill (DAT)

No of 2008 records: 644

No of tetrads in 2008: 36

Latest: 18 October 2008

No of post 2000 tetrads: 107

Afton Down, IoW (SAK-J)

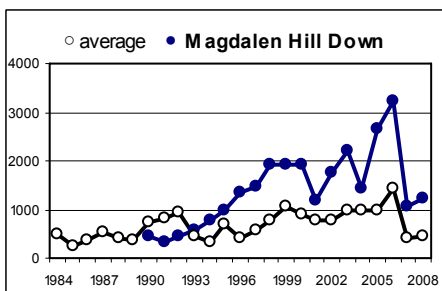
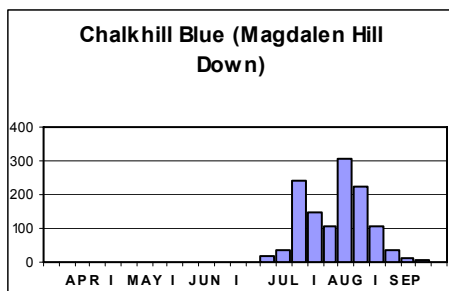
Unfortunately the flight season of this species included some of the worst weather of the summer, August being the dullest since records began in 1929, with about two-thirds of the normal amount of sunshine. It was also the fifth wettest August on record. In spite of the weather Chalkhill Blues were seen flying in light rain on 3 August at Stockbridge Down (RCB). Even more surprising was that it was over 100 that were indulging in this activity on this sunless Sunday!

Several observers reported visiting Chalkhill Blue sites in less than ideal conditions (MSh), or not being able to visit sites that they would normally go to because of the weather (AW). In some places changes in the habitat have exacerbated the effects of the weather. On the Isle of Wight it was felt that "the lack of grazing on downs had reduced numbers" (DAB) and at Oxenbourne Down the "wholesale felling of pine woodland at the top of the down together with an invasion of Oxford Ragwort were contributory factors in the 90% reduction of the transect total of this species" (AW).

In spite of the gloomy weather and matching gloomy comments from many observers, the transect totals suggest a partial recovery. There is no doubt that the numbers of Chalkhill Blues on the wing in 2008 were much much lower than in 2006. However, on slightly less than half the 17 transects on which this species occurs the numbers for 2008 had increased by 20% or more over those of 2007 with just four transects reporting a similarly sized decline compared to last year. A telling comment was made about the distribution of butterflies on St Catherine's Hill. Here there were poor numbers on the transect, but in some more sheltered spots off transect, "fair numbers" were seen (CP).

The highest count in both 2007 and 2008 was of about 1000 individuals, this year's highest count being on 14 August at Arretton Down, IoW (MHaI). The second highest count was of 311 on 30 July at Yew Hill (BPF) and there were, including the above, 11 counts of 200 or more compared to 13 in 2007. Significantly there were seven counts of 400 or more in 2007 but none in 2008. This implies that smaller numbers of butterflies were on the wing for a longer period in 2008 than in 2007, which would explain the apparent conflict between the smaller numbers seen by observers at any one visit and the annual totals for the transects which are built up over the whole of the flight period.

From the first two seen on the Yew Hill transect (DAT), numbers generally built up and the first of the "big" counts was of 100 on 22 July at Old Winchester Hill (Mike Toms), with the first report of 200 being seen on 23 July at Stockbridge Down (PE). Of the 30 counts of 100 or more, just nine were in late July, large numbers being seen from time to time right to the end of August. By the time the sunny weather appeared mid-way through September, numbers had been greatly reduced, but some managed to survive into October. The flight season started about a week later than in 2007 and was about a fortnight longer.



Adonis Blue *Polyommatus bellargus* Andy Barker

Status: BC High Priority

Earliest: 6 May 2008
Bonchurch Down, IoW (JRei)

No of 2008 records: 219

No of tetrads in 2008: 19

Latest: 29 September 2008
Afton Down, IoW (SAK-J)

No of post 2000 tetrads: 47

After the poor second brood in 2007, it was no surprise that this species emerged in low numbers in the first brood of 2008. At regular transect monitored sites, seven out of 10 showed a decrease of more than 20%, which is especially bad given that 2007 was a poor year anyway. Apart from Martin Down, with a count of 12 on 21 May (PE), there were no other Hampshire sites that managed a double-figure count for the first brood. A count of five on 10 June at Pilot Hill (MG), four on 31 May at Broughton Down (GCE)

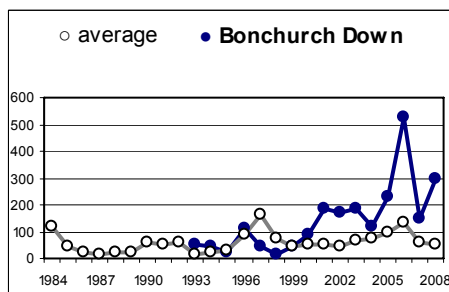
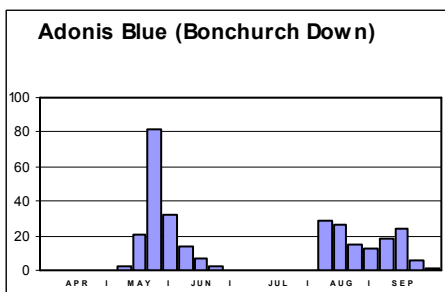
and two on 29 May at Old Winchester Hill (AMc) were the only records of anything other than singletons. Those sites with single first brood records included one on 5 June at Oxenbourne Down (DH), and one on 13 June at Stockbridge Down (MFW).

On the Isle of Wight, things appeared a little better, with peak first brood counts of 85 on 31 May at Bonchurch Down (AW), and 17 on 23 May at Mottistone Down (RL). There is very little information for other Isle of Wight sites although Coombe Bottom, Ventnor, produced a singleton on 31 May (DMe). The bulk of first brood observations were made in the last week of May, and this would appear to have been the peak. The brood had virtually finished by 13 June, and the final first brood record was a singleton on 1 July at Mottistone Down (JL).

The second brood emergence began in early August on the Isle of Wight, with 29 seen on 8 August at Bonchurch Down (IR), and one at Mottistone Down on the same day (RL). A later figure of 35 on 23 August at Mottistone Down (RL) marked the highest second brood tally, with 30 on 16 August at Bonchurch Down (IP) being the next highest. The only other site with a double figure count was Arretton Down, with 10 on 14 August (Mike Hallett). On 29 August, whilst filming for BBC1 South's Inside Out programme, MRO described the species as very hard to find at Brook and Compton Downs.

The situation in Hampshire was even worse, with the highest second brood tally for any site being six on 30 August at Old Winchester Hill (AW) and six on 17 September at Martin Down. The tiny population at St. Catherine's Hill is reported as just hanging on (CP), which is seemingly the case at most Hampshire sites. The final sightings for 2008 were of one on 25 September at Martin Down, and one on 29 September at Afton Down (SAK-J).

The over-riding conclusion for the species is of a rapid reversal in fortunes following the very positive outlook in 2006. Two poor summers in a row have undoubtedly hit this species harder than most. The tiny second brood emergence doesn't bode well for 2009 and it is quite possible that some of the smaller and isolated Hampshire populations may not survive.



Status: BC Low Priority

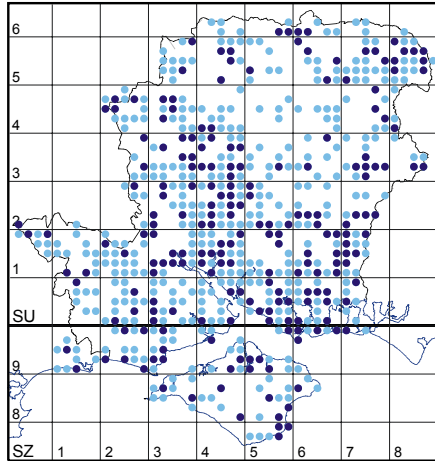
No of 2007 records: 796

No of tetrads in 2008: 211

No of post 2000 tetrads: 606

Earliest: 9 February 2008
Hermitage, Gosport (PBw)

Latest: 12 November 2008
Wheeler's Bay, IoW (AB)



The Holly Blue suffered a major decline in 2008 with 31 of the monitored sites reporting a decrease in Annual Index figures of more than 20%. Twelve reported no significant change and only four an increase of more than 20%. Typical of this trend were Magdalen Hill Down (Extension) where it declined from 14 to just two, the lowest count in 10 years of recording, Portsdown Hill where the 2007 figure of 99 was reduced to a still healthy 62 and The Gillies, Fareham where the previous year's count of 59 reduced to 37. On the Isle of Wight, Brading Quarries reported a reversal of the general trend with an increase in the annual count from 45 to 53. Peak counts were generally recorded in May, with 17 individuals on the 13th at Brading Quarries, 23 on the 13th at Portsdown Hill and 13 at The Gillies, Fareham on the 9th.

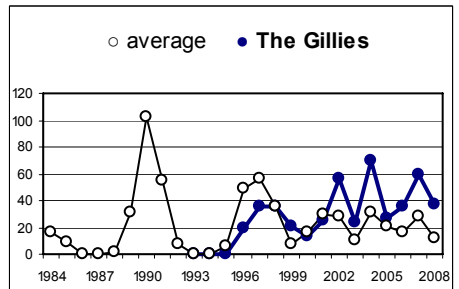
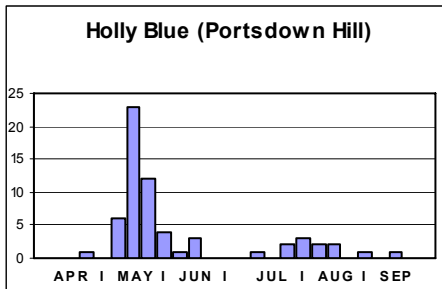
Comments from observers were mixed – a number felt the spring brood did reasonably well in Hampshire: around Winchester, for example (RCB), Southampton (CP) and in north-east Hampshire (CRH) but was much less in evidence later in the year. AW drew a comparison between the phenomenal spring 2007 count at Portsdown Hill and a disappointing 2008 when he recorded a total of just 10 between June and August. AW also noted that it was absent from several east Hampshire sites. RKL commented on a dismal year at Botley Wood, but MJG thought it an excellent year, considering the poor summer weather. DJAT felt it had a fairly good year on the Gosport coast. At Whippingham Fields on the Isle of Wight the overall count was slightly above average, with the spring brood the stronger (JR). At Brading, DAB observed a very good first brood, but recorded just a single sighting later in the year.

The Holly Blue was out and about early in the Gosport area with one seen at Hermitage on 9 February (PBw) and a second at Alverstoke on 12 February (DJAT). These are the earliest sightings on our database by nearly a month. These first sightings were followed by a complete absence of records until April when the main emergence began, albeit in small numbers, including the first Isle of Wight record at Lake on the 10th (DAB). The spring brood tailed off in mid-June with the summer emergence starting in the second week in July. Only two double figure counts were reported on the Isle of Wight with 11 seen in Shanklin on 6 May (JMC) and 10 at Brading Quarry on 10 May (IP). The best Hampshire count of 10 was recorded at Drayton on 13 May (T&MR). The Holly Blue persisted until October in small numbers in Hampshire with the final

records at Southampton Old Cemetery on the 9th (Andy Welch) and Haslar on the 16th (DJAT). It was absent from the Isle of Wight through September and October but a single was recorded from Ventnor on 11 and 12 November (AB).



The Ichneumon wasp *Listrodromus nyctemerus* (Jeremy Early) This parasitic wasp is believed to be responsible for the Holly Blue's large periodic fluctuations in numbers.



Duke of Burgundy *Hamearis lucina*

Ashley Whitlock

Status: BC High Priority

Earliest: 22 April 2008
Noar Hill (GJo, RTu)

No of 2008 records: 115

No of tetrads in 2008: 20

No of post 2000 tetrads: 50

Latest: 4 June 2008
Dean Hill (ACM)
near Stockbridge (KD)

The Duke of Burgundy in 2008 had a very successful season with the butterfly first being noted on 22 April at Noar Hill (RTu). It was blessed with good weather at the end of April which continued through to the second week of May, when the butterfly was at

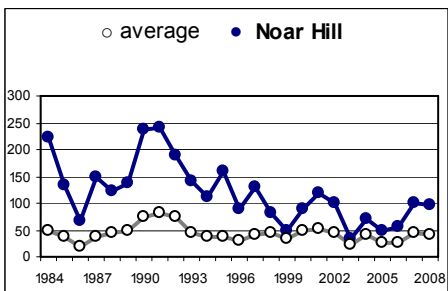
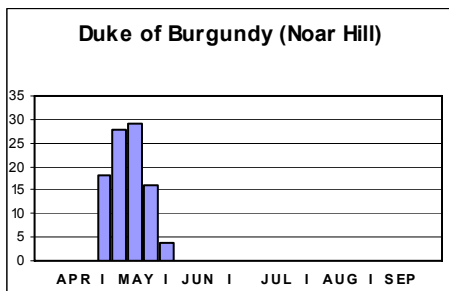
its peak. Although the weather collapsed in the middle of May the counts at most established sites were good. For example, The Mountain had its best count on 10 May with 71 individuals (AW). Elsewhere throughout the Meon Valley the counts reached tremendous double figures. At Grandfathers Bottom, 30 were seen on 10 May (DH) and 41 on 11 May (AW). High counts also came from Noar Hill (42) on the 14 May (MSH) and the Queen Elizabeth Country Park, where Rangers counted 69 on Ramsdean Down over a period of several hours on 13 May.

The butterfly was seen at several sites where it had not been recorded before. One was seen at Broughton Down on 10 May (NF) and it was rediscovered at Pillow Mound near Butser Hill on the 10 May (AW) with a count of seven. This site was devastated by rabbit grazing in the late 1980s (MRO). Once again it was noted in the Eastern Meadow at Bentley Wood, where coppicing has helped open up the main Primrose areas. It was also present again at Coulters Dean in Queen Elizabeth Country Park on 21 May with a count of one (DH).

It was not noted this year at the Winchester Golf Course (AW) and it was absent again at Magdalen Hill Down, although opposite at Deacon Hill it is still present in small numbers. Seven were seen there on 9 May (AT). It is maintaining a small and precarious existence on Oxenbourne Down where four were noted on 9 May (AW) plus a further four on 19 May, in an area where scallops in the gorse have maintained the small presence of Cowslip. A small colony still exists on Dean Hill on the Hampshire border with Wiltshire with six being noted by MFu. At Westbury Park it would seem it has returned to the woodland, where three were noted on 19 May (AW).

On the Isle of Wight none were seen at its last stronghold at Monkham Copse, where CD visits regularly each year. He reports that scrub infringement and poor weather hampered any possible sightings, and that planned management has yet to be implemented.

Sporadic sightings came through the latter half of May with the last two being noted on 4 June. The butterfly was recorded at 15 sites within Hampshire in 2008. There were no second brood specimens noted at Noar Hill in 2008 or indeed at any other site.



Status: BC High Priority

Earliest: 10 June 2008
Browndown (ACM)

No of 2008 records: 292

No of tetrads in 2008: 63

Latest: 8 August 2008
Wootton Coppice (MLE)

No of post 2000 tetrads: 203

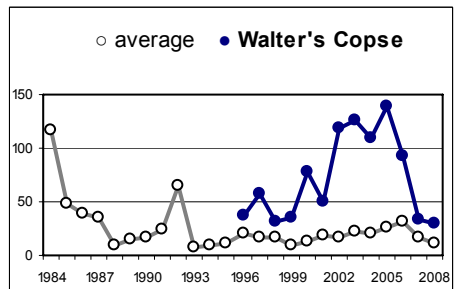
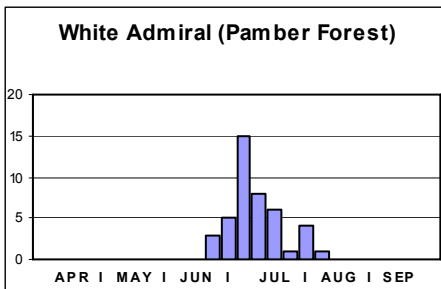
With another summer monsoon again wrecking any hopes of a recovery, 2008 was inevitably a disappointment, best summarized by RKL as a “mediocre season”. Catastrophe was again averted by the benign spring weather which encouraged a relatively early emergence, just one week later than 2007’s 20-year record. Not that the weather can take all the blame. Forestry management can have a devastating effect, as MRO noted at the Straits Enclosure, Alice Holt, where thinning left much of the Honeysuckle damaged. What few butterflies survived were decimated by the gale on 6 July, adjudged to be of “autumnal” ferocity.

Pamber Forest and Straits Enclosure vied for the maximum count prize, the Straits winning by a neck at 19 (RSy), both on 29 June, a day which represented the peak of the flight period generally. One or two sites excelled themselves, Harewood Forest yielding 12 on 30 June (JSo), an order of magnitude greater than 2007, and at the small, remote Elson Wood on the shores of Portsmouth Harbour, the tally of five on 26 June was the best yet. The overall picture however was a disappointing one, with numbers down by around 50% compared with 2007.

GD noted that at Pamber Forest the transect numbers were the lowest since 1999. More worrying, GD added that his usually successful search for larvae in the autumn was a total failure; the one highlight at Pamber Forest was the appearance of a single ab. *obliterae*, the first seen there for many years.

On the Isle of Wight, JR reported that the transect total of 19 at Whippingham Copse was the lowest on record, the ten-year average being 39, and he added that the flight season was also the shortest. Walter’s Copse, near Newtown, having spectacularly bucked the trend in recent years, went from bad in 2007 to worse in 2008, with an Annual Index of 30 compared with 140 in 2005.

Unsurprisingly, there were no reports of a second brood in the autumn.



Status: BC High Priority**Earliest:** 23 June 2008
Fair Oak (GCo)**No of 2008 records:** 58**No of tetrads in 2008:** 24**No of post 2000 tetrads:** 77**Latest:** 6 August 2008
Odiham (TBa)

Despite the advent of another dismal summer season, with low pressure sitting over the United Kingdom, the county of Hampshire managed to enjoy one of the best Purple Emperor years for more than a decade. The high numbers seen probably reflect the high number of sites from which it was recorded in 2008. There were records from 23 sites which is one of the all time best.

The Purple Emperor was recorded in Hampshire at a very early date of 23 June with a single individual coming from the Bishops Waltham area (GCo). Good numbers built up in the Alice Holt complex by the end of June and five were seen on territory at Goose Green Inclosure, and two elsewhere in Alice Holt Forest on the 25 June (AW, MRO, TBa).

There were records from many sites where it has not been observed for many years and some from where it has never been recorded at all. It was recorded in the New Forest again after a long absence on 10 July, in the Ashurst area (PCK) and from Wootton Coppice Inclosure by MLe on 12 July. Records came for the first time from The Vyne, and Hawley Wood, in the north of the county. Sites where it had not been recorded for several years were Ampfield Wood, Pamber Forest, Micheldever Wood, Odiham Common, Swanwick Nature Reserve, Basingstoke Canal, and Queen Elizabeth Country Park.

It was present throughout the season at Bentley Wood but probably not in such good numbers as previous years, and in the Alice Holt Complex the numbers remained stable with Goose Green having a maximum of seven a further site at Alice Holt Forest a maximum count of two. MRO noted six Purple Emperors "Oak Edging" in Abbots Wood Inclosure on 4 July and the Emperor was recorded several times in this part of Alice Holt by RP, and in several other territories in Alice Holt there were just singletons to be seen (AW). In Straits Inclosure it was in reasonable numbers, and when the BBC film unit were filming there, two males were seen mineral sapping on the ground within a very short distance of each other. At Whiteley Pastures and Botley Wood several were seen on transect by several recorders (RKL, RJC & TJV).

Further possible Master tree territories have been identified, amongst these being near Burghfield Common (Tony Palmer) on the Hampshire/Berkshire border, where six Purple Emperors were seen regularly throughout the season, and another one possible area being near Odiham Common (TBa). TBa also saw the last Purple Emperor noted in Hampshire on 6 August at the Basingstoke Canal, a female egg-laying.



Matthew Oates and Purple Emperors being filmed for the BBC's *Inside Out* 3 July 2008
(Lynn Fomison)



Male Purple Emperor (David Tipping)

Status: BC Low Priority

Earliest: 1 January 2008
Gosport (ACM)

No of 2008 records: 1560

No of tetrads in 2008: 331

No of post 2000 tetrads: 905

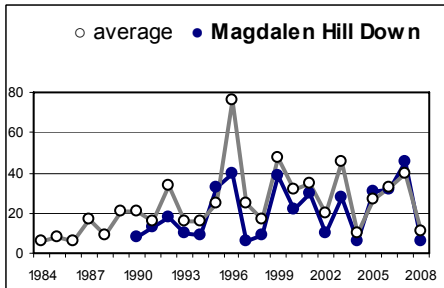
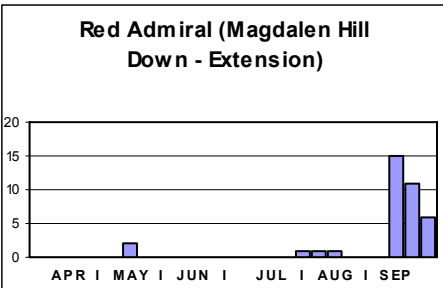
Latest: 17 December 2008
Holbury (KJP)
Gosport (ACM)

Nationally, Red Admiral has shown a large increase in numbers since the 1970's, but 2008 was a fairly poor year in terms of sightings in Hampshire. The transect information shows this clearly with over 80% of monitored sites showing more than a 20% decline in numbers when compared with 2007. Despite that, this species was recorded in all months of the year and on some particularly overcast days during the summer it was one of the few butterflies to be seen in flight. The main flight period, as shown by the number of records received in each week, had a peak in late June to mid July and another in mid to late September. As this species is both an immigrant and a resident, peak flight periods will vary considerably between years.

Most recorders noted a low number of sightings. MSh considered the Red Admiral had "A very poor year" in the Petersfield area and for the Isle of Wight, DAB considered it was a "Below average year". GD said that at Pamber Forest "This was the worst ever year on the transect with only four seen, this after the best ever year last year", but RCB found it to be an "Average year, with small numbers throughout the season".

Many recorders also mentioned that most sightings were only of one or two individuals, but the Whippingham Fields transect had a count of 18 on 30 August (JR) and Testwood Lakes was obviously a good place to be with a count of 17 seen on 25 June and 15 July (MSw). On the coast there were some interesting observations. DJAT again recorded his sightings at Gosport for each month for 2008, and these are shown below together with his records for the last two years. While in most months the numbers seen were lower than previous years, a mass influx in September 2008 gave a final total that was higher than in either 2006 or 2007. DJAT noted that the maximum daily count was 182 (including 143 in Ann's Hill Cemetery) on 21 September.

	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



Status: BC Low Priority

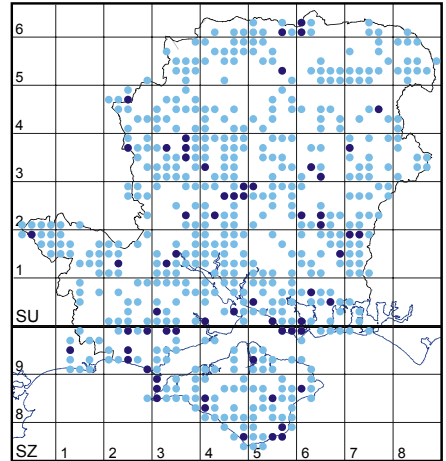
No of 2008 records: 114

No of tetrads in 2008: 64

No of post 2000 tetrads: 584

Earliest: 25 January 2008
Elson (DJAT)

Latest: 19 November 2008
near Magdalen Hill Down
(PDF)



2008 was an even more disappointing year for Painted Ladies than 2007. Since 2006, a “good” year for Painted Ladies, the average number of sighting records across Hampshire has dwindled by a factor of twelve. Further, when compared with the Annual transect Index since 1984, the number of sightings in 2008 exceeded only those of 1984, 1987 and 1993 when possibly there were fewer transects anyway. In 2008 Painted Ladies were seen throughout our area but, as in 2007, the distribution was very scattered with no observations in large parts of northern and western parts of Hampshire. About a quarter of the observations were made in tetrads along the coast.

The first sighting was on 25 January and the last on 19 November but most sightings occurred between early July and the end of September with a broad peak in September. The onset of sightings was a month later than in 2007 but sightings ended two weeks later too.

The maximum number of individuals seen on any one date was three and the most seen in any one week throughout Hampshire and the Isle of Wight was five! Of the five transects used to demonstrate Painted Lady peak counts and Annual Indices in 2008 at only one, Brading Quarries, was there anything to report and that was a single specimen on 6 August. The comments of individual reporters match these paltry figures. One says “This must have been the worst Painted Lady year since 1984” (MRO), another talks of the “worst year ever recorded” (JR) and others bemoan the complete absence of Painted Ladies.

One can only speculate on the cause of the low numbers in 2008; possible causes are poor weather in the UK and southern Europe and, because the Painted Lady is a migratory species resident in north Africa and southern Europe, unfavourable winds.

Status: BC Low Priority

Earliest: 22 January 2008
Gosport (DJAT)

No of 2008 records: 339

No of tetrads in 2008: 112

No of post 2000 tetrads: 699

Latest: 2 November 2008
Havant (MH)



Small Tortoiseshell at Bentley Wood on 19 September 2008 (Tim Bernhard)

Another abysmal year, yet still the insect clings on. Hyperbole by now all but exhausted, suffice to say 2008 was probably the worst year on record, allowing for the inevitably smaller monitoring effort in the Branch's formative years. For the pedants, the number of records submitted fell from 572 in 2007 to just 339; again, the overwhelming majority (82%) were singletons. Not one double-figure count was made, the highlights being eight at East Meon (SSd) on 20 September, and seven at Magdalen Hill Down Extension on 15 April (PGu). Not even the Isle of Wight could offer the usual solace, with annual totals of just four made by JR and DAB.

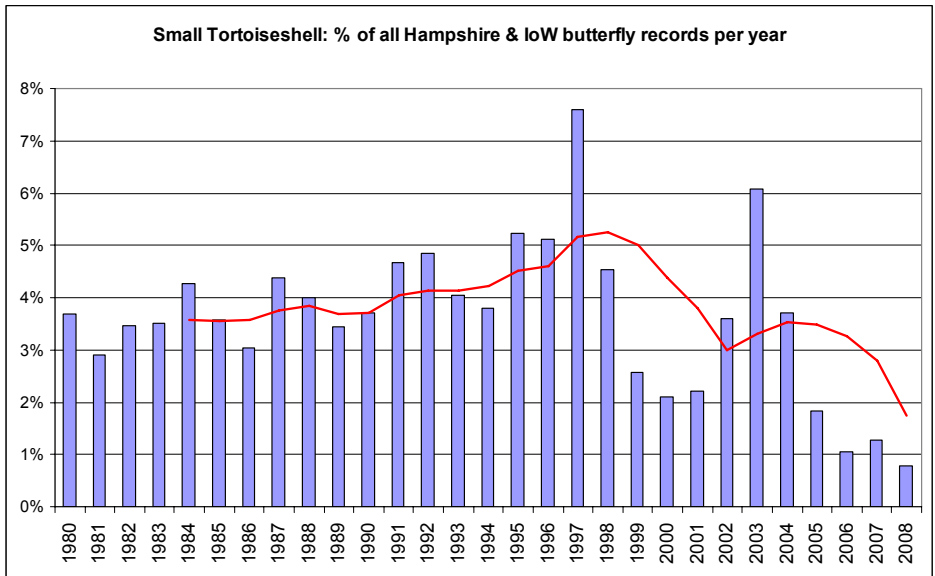
The transect Annual Indices paint a similar picture; of the 32 transects whence the insect was reported in 2008 (a drop of 30% from 2007), 20 (63%) suffered a decrease in numbers of greater than 20%. RKL received only one report from Botley Wood, but added the insect was also absent there in 2000 and 2001. The graph of the Annual Indices at Magdalen Hill Down has to be plotted using a logarithmic vertical scale to accommodate the fluctuation in numbers, from almost a thousand in 1992 to just five in 2008.

No doubt much blame for the débâcle can be apportioned to that new and unwelcome immigrant, the parasitic wasp *Sturmia bella*. Ironically however, as there was not so much as a single report of a larval colony, there is no smoking gun, although *Sturmia*

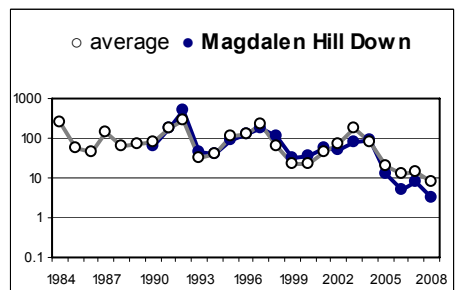
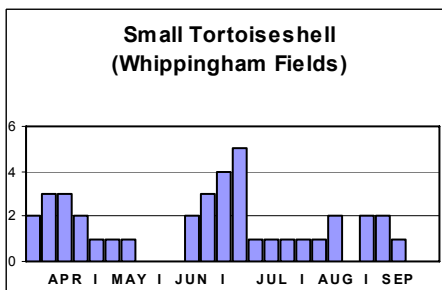
bella's presence in Hampshire is known from the observed depredation of Peacock larvae.

What little comfort the data offer is in the fact that approximately two-thirds of the records were of the summer brood, in spite of the often inclement weather. MRO noted that the two he saw at Magdalen Hill Down on 18 September were the first he had seen in the two counties. AW detected "a slight rally" that month, while AHB saw his only specimen of the year, supporting speculation of a small immigration along the coast, especially as CRH and others saw none further inland during the entire summer.

What hope 2009? Will the cold winter have checked *Sturmia bella*? As RCB observed, "hopefully [the Small Tortoiseshell] has reached its lowest ebb, but the signs don't look good".



The decline of the Small Tortoiseshell: The red line shows the 5-year moving average.



Status: BC Low Priority

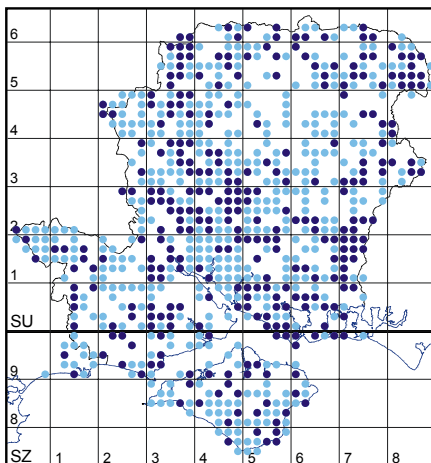
No of 2008 records: 1651

No of tetrads in 2008: 306

No of post 2000 tetrads: 741

Earliest: 12 January 2008
Hook, Warsash (GJo)

Latest: 17 December 2008
Wheeler's Bay, IoW (AB)



Peacock sightings in 2008 may have been slightly lower than in some years, but the records do not suggest that this species is undergoing a population decline similar to that occurring to the Small Tortoiseshell.

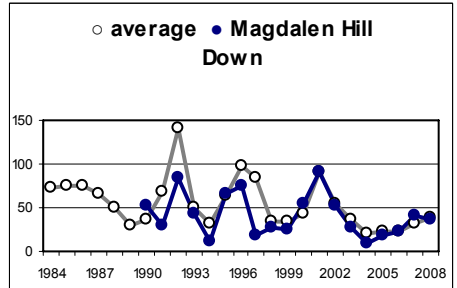
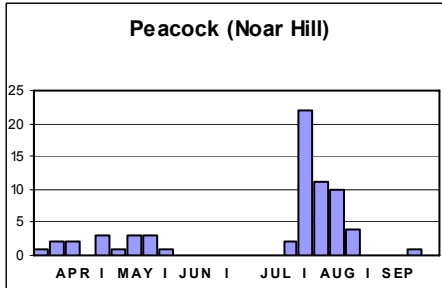
Just over 40% of transects showed little or no change and just under 40% of transects showed a decrease in counts of more than 20% in comparison with 2007. This was illustrated by the transect counts at Whippingham Fields and at Woodhouse Copse. JR noted an annual count of 124 at Whippingham Fields, higher than the 10 year average of 102, but at Woodhouse Copse the annual count was only 27 compared with a 10 year average of 43.

Overall, there was probably little change from 2007 but, as ever, some variation between sites was shown by the comments from recorders. AW considered "The Peacock is holding its own at most sites, and at some sites it has slightly decreased in numbers." He judged the butterfly to have had "an average year". RCB commented that he had recorded the most sightings since 1997, and GD said there was slight increase in 2008 with 118 in total on the Pamber Forest transect. On the Isle of Wight, DAB found plenty in early spring but "found the rest of the year a disappointment, not many seen".

Sparsholt College certainly seemed to be the site to find large numbers of this butterfly, with 48 recorded on 30 July and 34 on 6 August (A&LB). Froyle Quarry was not far behind with 46 on 14 August (SC). Other interesting observations included a record by MJG of an adult "dwarf individual about the size of a Small Tortoiseshell" at Christchurch on 22 August. Looking at another stage in the life cycle, AHB noted that out of 35 final instar larvae found 15 proved to be parasitised. This is an interesting subject that is at present being studied intensively in the Small Tortoiseshell and researchers are also keen to receive detailed information on the parasitoids of Peacock (<http://users.ox.ac.uk/~zool0376/small-tortoiseshell.htm>).

First and last sightings do not represent the main flight period of this species because it overwinters as an adult and will fly when disturbed. As in 2007, the Peacock was

recorded in every month of 2008. Peak flight periods were April to mid May with the summer brood in late July to mid August.



Comma *Polygona c-album* Rupert Broadway

Status: BC Low Priority

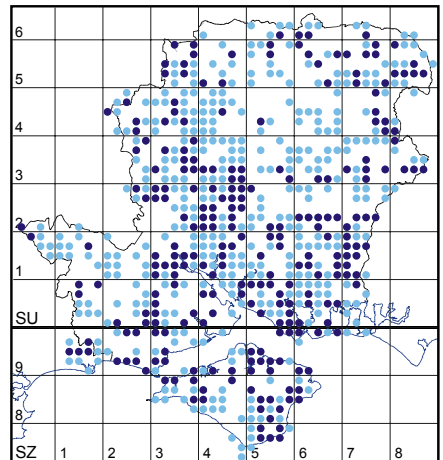
No of 2008 records: 1426

No of tetrads in 2007: 255

No of post 2000 tetrads: 645

Earliest: 9 February 2008
Barnetts Copse (AW)

Latest: 19 November 2008
Blashford Lakes (KTal)



Having suffered a decline in 2007 following a succession of good years, the Comma was back on the upward path in 2008, with 20 transects showing an increase of 20% or more compared to the previous year. Seventeen showed no significant change and just six a decrease of more than 20%. At Alesford Farm the Annual Index of 32 equalled previous best counts in 2003 and 2005. At Pamber Forest, the Annual Index of 49, peaking at eight individuals on 21 July, was a modest increase on 2007, but well below the exceptional 2006 figure of 104. Modest increases were also recorded at Bentley Station Meadow, rising from 23 to 26 and at Noar Hill where the Annual Index rose from 14 to 19, peaking at five on 4 August and 7 August. In contrast, at The Gillies, Fareham, the Annual Index of 31 was the lowest in 10 years of recording, with a peak count of six on 3 July.

Most observers referred to an average year with fair numbers. CRH, ACG and AHB commented on poor numbers in spring but an improvement in the summer and autumn, which may herald a better start to 2009. DJAT recorded a very good year on the Gosport coast. MSh's comment of "an awful year with very few records" was an exception to the general rule. On the Isle of Wight, JR recorded a below average annual count at Woodhouse Copse but a better performance at Whippingham Fields

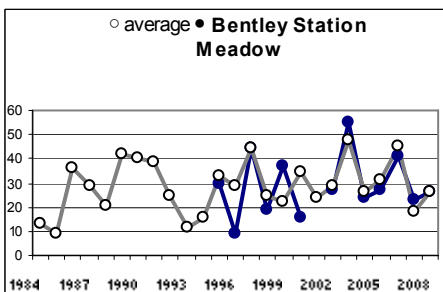
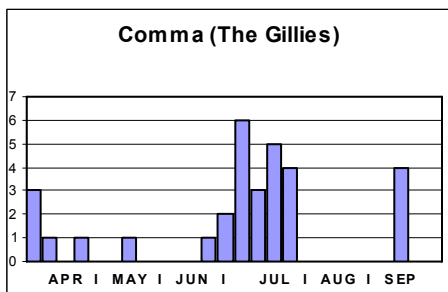
with a record peak of 41 on 26 September and a record Annual Index of 202. DAB mentioned that it did well at Brightstone Mill.

As ever, there were a few February records in both counties starting with AW's record of at least two at Barnett's Copse on the 9th. Thereafter, the Comma was recorded throughout the season until the end of October with the very last sighting at Blashford Lakes on 19 November. On the Isle of Wight, Brading Quarries provided the first sighting on 1 April (DAB) and Medina Valley the last on 2 October (KMa). There was no real break between broods, but MRO noted a 2007 vintage specimen in Straits Inclosure, Alice Holt, on the late date of 4 July.



Comma caterpillar (Peter Eeles)

Numbers were modest at most Hampshire locations, with the notable exception of Testwood Lakes where MSw and PBk recorded double figure accounts on eight occasions from mid to late summer, with a peak of 35 on 12 September (MS). Other counts of note were the 18 recorded at Sparsholt College by A&LB on 27 September and 16 at Hillier Gardens on 25 September (JHs). On the Isle of Wight the best counts were of 17 and 19 on 17 and 26 September respectively at Whippingham Fields (JR). AW recorded several *hutchinsoni* form individuals in Straits Inclosure, Alice Holt, on 10 July and noted several females laying eggs on Nettle close to Charlton Down on 27 July.



Status: BC High Priority

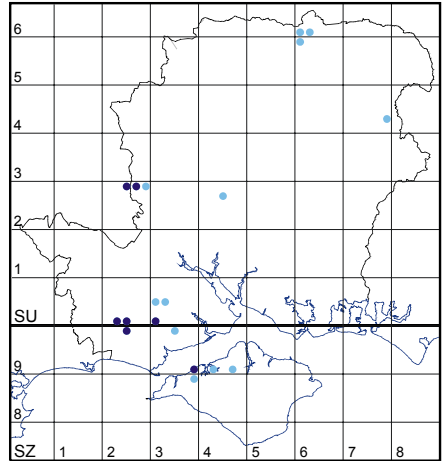
No of 2007 records: 86

No of tetrads in 2008: 7

No of post 2000 tetrads: 19

Earliest: 11 May 2009
Bentley Wood, Eastern
Clearing (DH)

Latest: 14 July 2009
Bentley Wood, Eastern
Clearing (RHo)



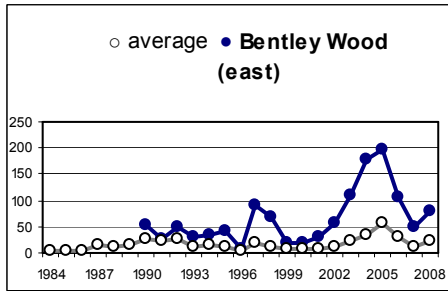
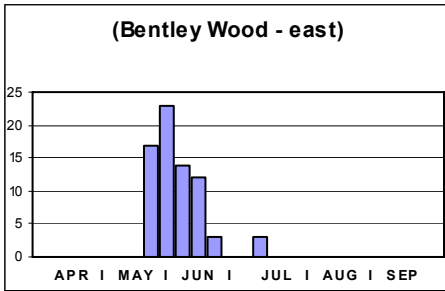
The first Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary of the year was seen in Bentley Wood, Eastern Clearing, on 11 May (DH) some eight days later than in 2007. Records were received from four sites in Hampshire, compared to five in 2007, and one from the Isle of Wight.

Transect data from Bentley Wood, Eastern Clearing, showed an increase in numbers in 2008. An Annual Index of 78 was recorded compared to 51 in 2007 but still a long way from the 2004 and 2005 figures of 179 and 191 respectively. A maximum count of 23 on 30 May (DLA) was recorded, similar to the maximum count in 2007 which was 27 on 22 May. Sixteen records, other than transect data, were received. The highest counts recorded were 30 on 27 May (MJG), 30 on 22 May (MRT), 16 on 24 May (CLB) and 16 on 31 May (ACM).

Sadly no Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary were seen at Pamber Forest in 2008. In 2007 none were recorded on transect although three were seen by other recorders, but this year despite thorough searches no individuals were recorded at all (GD). This does not come as a big surprise given its catastrophic decline over the past two years and the poor weather over this period (GD). This highlights the problems of trying to sustain a species like this as an isolated population without satellite colonies around from which to re-colonise the site (GD).

Numbers at Royden Common were up with the highest counts being 37 on 8 June (A&LB) and 34 on 15 June (MSw). Some five recorders made 14 visits to the site and a maximum count of 37 compares favourably to a maximum count of 12 in 2007. Transect data from Royden Common showed an increase in numbers with an Annual Index of 18 in 2008 compared to six in 2007 but not as good as the 44 recorded in 2005 (RC). Only five records were received from Holmsley Inclosure where the maximum count was eight on 30 June (JRu); the other counts were either one or two. These figures unfortunately fit in within a downward trend with maximum counts of 43 in 2005 decreasing to 41 in 2006 and 21 in 2007. Whereas a decline has been noted at Holmsley, numbers are on the increase at Wootton Coppice; 11 records were received with maximum counts of 12 on 9 June (BWH) and nine on 7 June (GP) compared to a maximum count of four in 2007. Transect data also demonstrated the increase in numbers with an Annual Index of four in 2007 improving to 13 in 2008 (MLe).

On the Isle of Wight two records were received from Cranmore; seven were seen on 14 June (IP) and two were seen on 26 June (PMi, IP, ATi). The last butterfly was recorded on 14 July at Bentley Wood, Eastern Clearing (RHo).



Pearl-bordered Fritillary *Boloria euphrosyne* Andy Barker

Status: BC High Priority

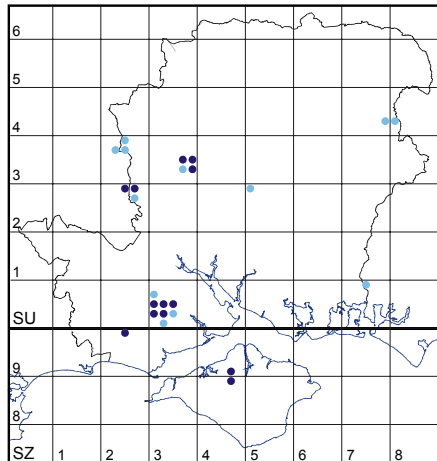
No of 2007 records: 129

No of tetrads in 2008: 13

No of post 2000 tetrads: 25

Earliest: 6 May 2008
Bentley Wood (MDu, PGU)

Latest: 9 June 2009
Pignal Inclosure (GMO, DH)



Temperatures struggled during March and April, and coupled with relatively few sunny days this gave rise to slow larval development. The only larval records were of one (fourth instar) on 30 March at Ramnor Inclosure (A&LB) and two (fourth and early final instar) on 18 April at New Copse Inclosure, New Forest (JRu).

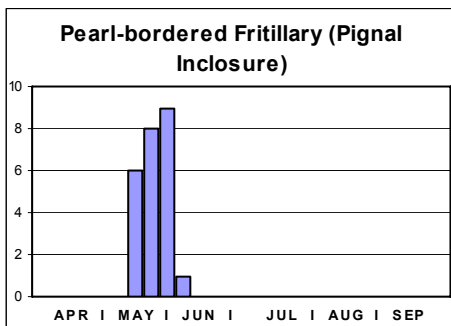
The first adults were seen in Bentley Wood on 6 May (MDu, PGU). These were soon followed by the first in the New Forest, namely 16 on 9 May at New Copse Inclosure (JRu). Over the days that followed numbers quickly built up and peak counts were mostly between 18-24 May. The highest counts for the main New Forest Inclosures were 116 on 18 May at New Copse Inclosure (JRu), 74 on 19 May in Parkhill Inclosure (JRu), 57 on 21 May at Ramnor Inclosure (AW), and 32 on 20 May at Pignal Hill Inclosure (PBk). By comparison, the highest count for Bentley Wood (Eastern Clearing) was a very modest 10 on 20 May (AT). The only other Hampshire population occurs in oak with hazel coppice on a private estate near Stockbridge. This produced a peak count of 10 on 12 May (KD).

On 21 May, a single Pearl-bordered Fritillary turned up on the Stockbridge Down transect (RWe), and a few days earlier, two had been seen on 18 May at Wootton

Coppice Inclosure in the New Forest (GP). This suggests localised dispersal around peak flight time. In the case of the latter, it will be interesting to check whether a small population has become established. As there is a recently established Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary population at the site it is important to confirm identification of these closely similar species.

Both transect monitored sites (Bentley Wood and Pignal Inclosure) showed Annual Index declines of greater than 20%, but for Pignal, at least, this may reflect local changes in habitat suitability as part of succession. Whilst the season wasn't a patch on 2007, there were certainly good numbers of "pearls" in Pignal and neighbouring New Forest Inclosures. Recent timber harvesting and ride management in several of the key areas should provide improved habitat for 2009 (AJB). The season was virtually finished by the end of May, but a few were seen in early June; the last being singletons at Pignal Inclosure on 9 June (GMO, DH). In total the season lasted just 35 days. There were few observations of behavioural activity, perhaps the most interesting being the report of ovipositing on or near Wood Sage, as well as Bracken litter, on 14 May and on 21 May, at New Copse (JRu).

Parkhurst Forest supports the last remaining Pearl-bordered Fritillary colony on the Isle of Wight. This small population is hanging by a thread, with very little suitable habitat remaining. In 2007 just 11 individuals were recorded, but for 2008 the combined tally was even less: just nine individuals over four days. These were three on 18 May (DH), and two separate records of three on 21 May (IP, DH). Visits either side of this period failed to produce any and there are concerns that the colony may be on the verge of extinction (JR).



Dark Green Fritillary *Argynnis aglaja*

Tim Bernhard

Status: BC Low Priority

Earliest: 14 June 2008

Porton Down: Isle of Wight Hill (GCE)

No of 2008 records: 221

No of tetrads in 2008: 42

No of post 2000 tetrads: 131

Latest: 20 August 2008

Noar Hill (PBk)

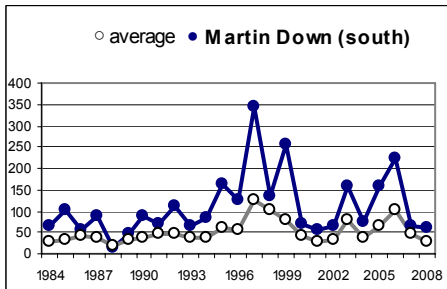
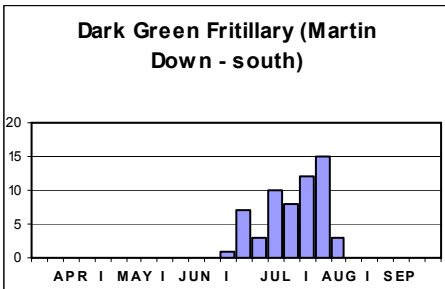
This magnificent species enjoyed a fairly long flight season during 2008 but the recent wet summers seem to have taken their toll and numbers were generally down on previous years. After relatively high numbers recorded from various sites in 2006, the following year saw a marked decline and this trend continued in 2008. By far the best three sites in Hampshire seem to have been Porton Down, Martin Down and The

Mountain, but even in these localities numbers were significantly down on the last few years.

Overall, 2008 was a rather poor year with counts down on many sites, although perhaps more stable in the New Forest, particularly in the recently felled areas near Hawkhill and Hatchet Moor. One of the best sites for this butterfly in Hampshire is The Mountain but even here AW considered that numbers were 50% down on 2006 and 2007. The Annual Indices show a fairly steep decline on several of the key sites in Hampshire. For example at Martin Down (North Transect) the Annual Index decreased from 171 in 2007 to 73 in 2008 and at The Mountain there was a similar decrease from 191 in 2007 to 123 in 2008. Although this species is widespread throughout Hampshire, recorded from 33 sites, most populations seem to be small with only 10 sites managing a count of ten or more individuals.

The first butterfly recorded was from Porton Down on 14 June (GCE). The butterfly then seemed to struggle to pick up throughout the rest of June with low numbers recorded from several sites, the best being Beacon Hill (Farley Mount) where 20 were seen on 29 June (RCB) and particularly Isle of Wight Hill, Porton Down where 45 individuals were recorded on the same day (GCE). A few fresh males were observed at Martin Down on 24 June (TB). Apart from 11 individuals recorded from The Mountain on 22 June (AW), all other counts throughout June were of less than ten adults.

The peak flight period was between 1 and 15 July when good numbers were noted from the core sites: 50 at Martin Down on 1 July (MJG), 60 at The Mountain on 5 July (AW) and 50 at Kitts Grave, Martin Down on 14 July (DLaw). DAB considered that this species had a good year in the western parts of the Isle of Wight with a count of 66 by the golf course at Afton Down on 23 July. Other reasonable counts were reported by PE who recorded ten from Farley Mount on 1 July and DH who recorded 28 at Pitt Down also on 1 July. Throughout the rest of July only five sites had counts of between 10 and 12 individuals and all the other sites had counts of less than ten, the best being eight at Hawkhill Inclosure on 14 July (PBk) and eight on 24 June at Compton Down (CD). RCB recorded this species in low numbers on two occasions in July at Yew Hill where it has not been seen for a number of years. DJAT also observed a single female Dark Green Fritillary on 16 July at Gilkicker, near Gosport where this species has not been observed since 1989. Small numbers were recorded from one or two sites through August, the last one being seen at Noar Hill on 20 August (PBk).



Status: BC Low Priority

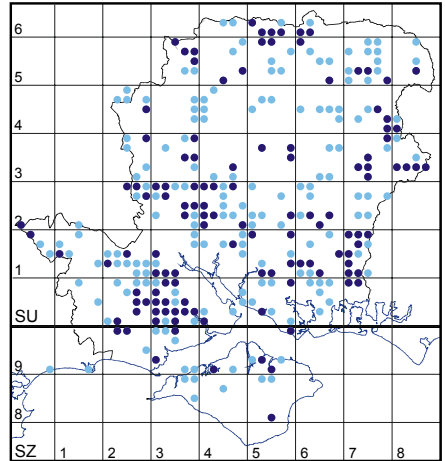
No of 2007 records: 824

No of tetrads in 2008: 123

No of post 2000 tetrads: 301

Earliest: 19 June 2008
Pamber Forest (GJD)
Hilliers Gardens (JHs)
The Holt (JeC)

Latest: 14 September 2008
Hocombe Mead (LJB)



Although there was another slight fall in overall population level since 2006 it was another year of mixed fortunes for this butterfly. Ampfield Wood was typical of a third of the transect sites exhibiting no change in the Annual Index and even at Pamber Forest where the Index dropped from 527 in 2007 to 429 in 2008 numbers remained within the -20% to +20% range.

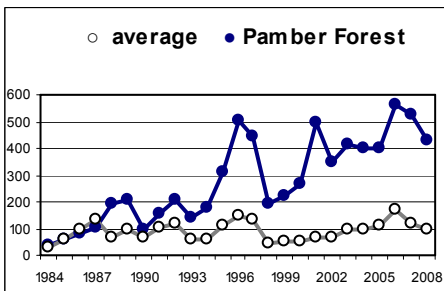
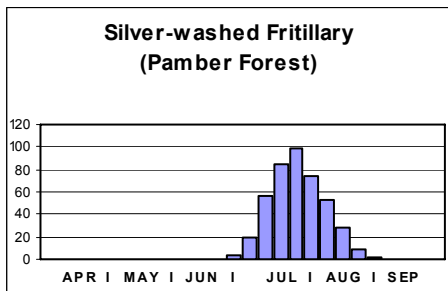
Almost two fifths of transect sites experienced declines greater than 20%, including Botley Wood where there was a 60% decrease from 169 in 2007 to 63 in 2008. The remaining sites by contrast experienced population increases. At Wick Wood the Annual Index improved from 144 in 2007 to 185 in 2008 and at Bentley Station Meadow it rose from 14 to 21 over the same period.

The majority of observers referred to an average or poor year. Some bemoaned the lack of sun as a key factor. Numbers were considered to be “very disappointing” at Alice Holt (MRO), and down by as much as 50% in Straits Inclosure (AW). However it was a different story elsewhere. At Pamber Forest “it continues to do well” (GJD), it was an “excellent season” at Homerhill and Pigeonhouse Copses (AHB) and it also “did well” at Crab Wood (RCB). Further encouraging signs included a singleton at Highland Wood, Eelmoor which was the first record at the site since 1993 (CRH) and the first known visit of the species to one particular Winchester garden (RCB).

On the island, the highest count was eight at Walters Copse on 30 July (Pema Brunet). The season was regarded as “excellent” at Woodhouse Copse, Whippingham where there was a maximum count of four on 22 July (JR).

Typically, the peak flight period varied considerably, occurring anywhere from early July to early August depending on the site. There were no three-figure counts this year, the highest being 98 at Pamber Forest on 24 July, more than a week later than the previous three season’s peak. Counts of 50 to 60 were received from four additional sites: Crab Wood on 5 July (A&LB), Straits Inclosure on 10 July and 13 July (AW, RSy), Bradley Wood near Whitchurch on 26 July (ABo) and Harewood Forest on 2 August (JS). Sightings continued through the last week of August with several on 30 August and then a final record at Hocombe Mead on 14 September (LJB)

On the island, *valesina* form females were at Woodhouse Copse on 28 June and 22 July (JR). A further five *valesina* were reported at Pamber between 22 July and 21 August, one of which was photographed mating (GJD).



Marsh Fritillary *Euphydryas aurinia* Mike Gibbons

Status: BC High Priority

Earliest: 7 May 2008
Botley Wood (MRB)

No of 2008 records: 19

No of tetrads in 2008: 4

Latest: 14 June 200
Martin Down (D&MNe)

No of post 2000 tetrads: 24

The declining fortunes of the Marsh Fritillary were dealt a further blow by the cooler spring weather compared with the exceptionally warm conditions of 2007. The east to north-easterly winds in May did this butterfly no favours and may have contributed to a scarcity of observations. Numbers were well down at both Martin Down and Bentley Wood.

After an initial encouraging start at Martin Down with an adult recorded on 21 May (CRo), further sightings of single adults were made on 23 May (MJG), 27 and 29 May (AW) and 31 May (RLI). On transect, numbers were better: six were recorded on 18 May, three on 24 May, 11 on 31 May, five on 7 June and two on 14 June (all D&MNethe). Although very disappointing after the expectation from 2007, that numbers could well recover at this site as the species is mobile over the reserve, 15 larval webs were found on 11 August (MDow).

Bentley Wood eastern clearing fared even worse with only two sightings, one reported to MJG on 27 May and another on 6 June (DLA). AW commented that trampling of the foodplant and the pressures of timber extraction may be contributory factors here. It is interesting to note, however, that on the Wiltshire side of the border there was a maximum count of 23 on 29 May (AW).

At Botley Wood the Marsh Fritillary was recorded after at least a 25 year absence when the species reappeared mysteriously (RKL). This was likely to be the result of an unofficial reintroduction. The first four were seen on 7 May (MRB), with a maximum of 12 recorded on 31 May (MRB/RKL). These reintroduced colonies can flourish for a number of years but rarely succeed in becoming established without the correct management regime. Several larval webs, some containing at least 50 larvae, were discovered in the autumn (RKL). In the 1940s and 1950s there was a strong colony here which was still thriving up to May/June 1960 (Goater, 1974).

Just over the border into Dorset, no adults were seen this year in the small colony MJG was monitoring.

The critical status of the Marsh Fritillary in Hampshire is worrying, particularly the severe decline at Bentley Wood eastern clearing, which could be a serious cause for concern as its future hangs on by a thread.

Glanville Fritillary *Melitaea cinxia*

Andy Butler

Status: BC High Priority

No of 2008 records: 56

No of tetrads in 2008: 8

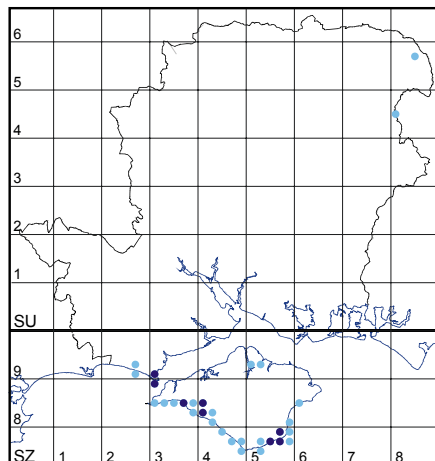
No of post 2000 tetrads: 31

Earliest: 2 May 2008

Whealers Bay, IoW (A&EB)

Latest: 23 June 2008

Whealers Bay, IoW (AB)



The recently discovered colony at Hurst Spit continues to flourish with counts of larvae and adults increasing. It is interesting to note that there are historical records, from this site such as William Fassnidge reporting several adults in 1928 and Mrs J Goater seeing several at the Milford end of Hurst Spit in 1971. As the Isle of Wight is at its closest here to the mainland it is therefore not surprising that the Glanville is occasionally seen in this locality and if conditions are right that a colony might form. MJG reports that the locality where the butterfly can be found is in a fairly large, sheltered area near to the fort with an ample supply of the larval food plant Ribwort Plantain. The presence of this plant is the key to the future of the colony and the probability is that numbers will increase quite dramatically in the next few years and then diminish equally quickly as the supply of the food plant decreases. As the Spit is fairly stable new plants will not have the freshly slipped open ground they require to colonise so that the particular stage required by the butterfly for egg laying and larval development will not be available. The thirty five to forty odd year gaps between sightings from 1928 to 1971 to 2005 (the year when the new colony probably started after the high dispersal rate on the Island at that time) may be significant.

On 9 March, 15 to 20 larval webs were reported at Hurst with an average of 40 larvae overall and in addition one large web containing 200 to 300 larvae (DLaw); this is consistent with a new colony of just a few years starting to expand rapidly while there is a plentiful supply of the food plant present. This steep rise in numbers will almost certainly be the butterfly's downfall as the Plantain is eaten up and with no new supply the larvae simply starve to death and the colony becomes extinct or moves away if there is a suitable site nearby. The first record of adult butterflies at Hurst in 2008 were 16 on 14 May (PE) and another 10 on 24 May (MJG), reasonable numbers given the inclement weather and the last was one on 11 June (Tho).



Glanville Fritillary at Hurst Castle on 19 May 2008(Peter Eeles)

As far as the established colony at Hordle is concerned numbers have been dwindling over the last few years and this year there was a zero count so it could be the butterfly is extinct at this site.

On the Island the high numbers of larvae recorded in 2007 slumped to some of the lowest seen in the last 25 years. This year saw a total of only 74 webs at all sites and of these 52 were at one locality, Binnel Bay. The reasons are probably a combination of poor weather, larval parasites and a lack of the food plant. The latter would be the major cause as the huge numbers of larvae will quickly demolish the food source and thus be prevented from developing further and will consequently starve. Unlike Hurst, the majority of Island colonies are on slipped ground and thus Ribwort Plantain, which requires this habitat condition, will again become available. This peak and trough life cycle is perfectly normal for this butterfly so it will gradually build up numbers again until the process repeats itself once more, usually in a five to six year timeframe. There were very few records of adults reported this year as only to be expected. The highest day count was at Wheelers Bay on 31 May with 38 seen (AW), a few on Mottistone Down (Rla) and two at Redcliff on 8 June (DAB). There was a total of 75 in three small colonies between Compton Chine and Shippards Chine on 29/30 May (MRO). An interesting year both on the Island and the Mainland.

Status: BC Low Priority

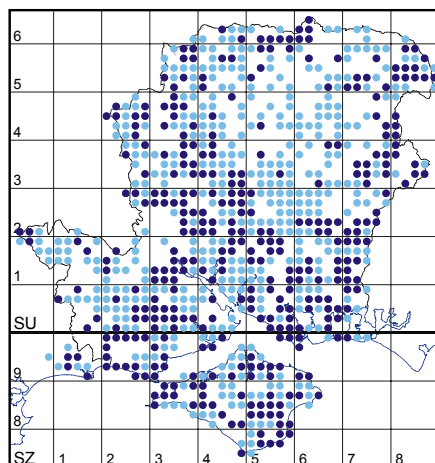
No of 2008 records: 3986

No of tetrads in 2007: 356

No of post 2000 tetrads: 801

Earliest: 21 March 2008
Lymington (PRD)

Latest: 19 November 2008
Stokes Bay (DJAT)



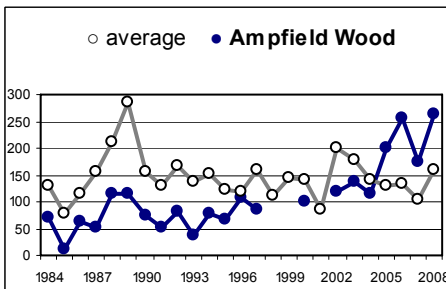
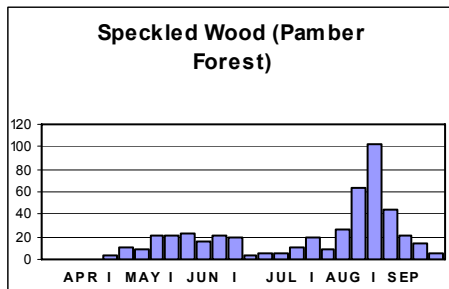
It is encouraging to be able to report a species which had a good year in 2008. On transect monitored sites where this butterfly occurs, 80% (40 sites) showed an increase in numbers of 20% or more, just 10% showed a decrease of 20% or more and the remaining 10% recorded no significant change.

These increases are clearly illustrated from the Annual Indices of many of the sites. For example, at Ampfield Wood the 2008 Index of 262 rose from 175 in 2007 and at Pamber Forest the 2008 Index of 477 was up from 223 in 2007. This good news more than makes up for the poor year last year and continues the slow long-term upward trend. The average of Annual Indices for sites where this butterfly is present, has risen from about 140 in 1984 to just over 150 in 2008.

Records peaked with the highest counts on the mainland towards the end of August and early September. Two sites recorded daily counts of over 60. Counts of 103 on 30 August and 64 on 23 August were recorded at Pamber Forest compared with peaks of 28 in 2007 and 49 in 2006 (GD). The peak at Ashford Hill occurred on 2 September with counts of 71 and 44 on the transect (ABo). On the Isle of Wight, peak counts recorded in 2008 were less than those on the mainland. Counts of 47 were recorded at both Whippingham Woodhouse Copse on 23 August and Whippingham Fields on 21 August (JR). At Brading Quarries however, the peak count of 17 on 20 August did not show the increase seen elsewhere, being below those of 2007 (18) and 2006 (24).

Almost all recorders agreed that 2008 had been a good year for the Speckled Wood, although a few had not found the year better than average. MSh, for example, observed that the species had a good spring in the Petersfield area, but with lower summer counts than normal. DAB reported that the season had been a little below average on the Island with the third brood being the best. RKL reported a very successful year at Botley Wood following poor numbers early in the season. Counts here peaked with 13 on 23 August which equalled the highest single transect count for the site. At Bramshott Common ACG reported a record year with numbers in September higher than ever recorded before. In north-east Hampshire too, CRH reported a successful year in spite of early low numbers in the chilly April weather. Highland Wood, Eelmoor, he reported, had the highest count since regular recording

began in 1997. Results for 2009 are eagerly awaited, particularly if we have better summer weather!



Wall Brown *Lasiommata megera* Pete Durnell

Status: BC High Priority

Earliest: 22 April 2008

Brading Quarries (DAB)

No of 2008 records: 163

No of tetrads in 2008: 38

Latest: 24 October 2008

No of post 2000 tetrads: 106

Brading Quarries (DAB)

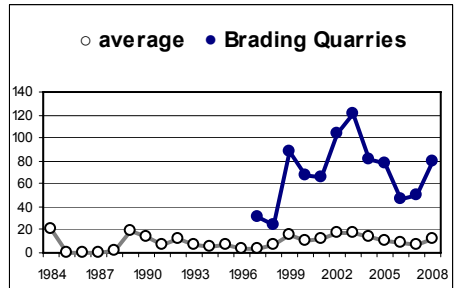
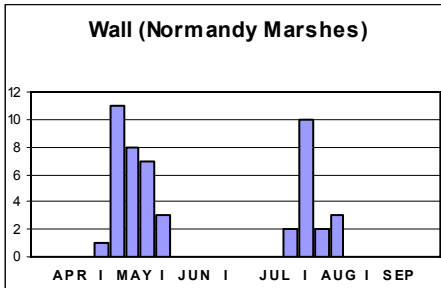
The perilous state of the Wall Brown in Hampshire was underlined by the fact that only a single individual was seen away from its current stronghold on the Lymington-Keyhaven Marshes, at Fort Gilkicker, Gosport on 29 September (DJAT).

On the Isle of Wight the species fared better with the Brading transect recording its highest Annual Index since 2004. At St Catherine's Point 25 were counted on 10 May (Mike Hallett), while a three mile walk along the cliff top between Mottistone and Brighstone on 27 July produced a remarkable 44 individuals: "a day to remember" (DAB). It was not all good news on the Island, however, with the Whippingham Fields transect continuing its decline in numbers noted over the last four years (JR).

In an attempt to monitor the last remaining Hampshire colony a new butterfly transect was set up in 2008 around Normandy Marsh, Lymington with this species as its main target. In this first year a total of 45 Wall Brown were recorded (MW, PRD) which indicates the species remains fairly common on these coastal grazing marshes. It will be interesting to see how it fares in future years. Can it hang on?

The first sighting of the year was on 22 April at Brading Quarries (DAB) with the first mainland record at Keyhaven on 2 May (MDu). These dates are some way behind the exceptionally early start to the 2007 season. The first brood reached a peak of 11 at Normandy on 10 May with the last being seen at Stenbury Down on 17 June (RWi).

The second brood first appeared at Brading Quarries on 15 July (DAB) followed by records at Keyhaven and Normandy on 23 July. This brood peaked on the Normandy transect on 2 August with a count of 10 (MW) while at Brading Quarries the highest count of 15 was made on 16 August (DAB). The final second brood sightings were made on 30 August at both Pennington (DMr) and Whippingham Fields (JRI). The last of the third brood was at Brading Quarries on 24 October (DAB).



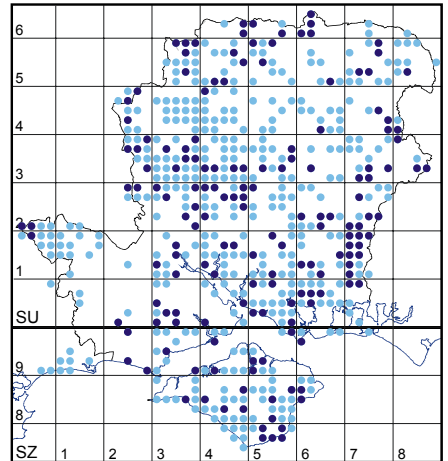
Marbled White *Melanargia galathea* Alison Harper

Status: BC Low Priority

No of 2008 records: 1400
No of tetrads in 2008: 162
No of post 2000 tetrads: 544

Earliest: 9 June 2008
 Portsdown Hill (RJo)

Latest: 30 August 2008
 Needs Ore and Gins Marshes (DMr)



Not surprisingly given the weather during 2008, for the second year running it was a poor year for this butterfly. On transect monitored sites where it occurs over 60% (31 sites) recorded a decline in numbers of more than 20% since 2007, over 25% (15 sites) showed no significant change and just seven sites (nearly 14%) recorded an increase in sightings of over 20%.

The Annual Indices from a number of transect-monitored sites show a decline in numbers over many years. For example, at Yew Hill the 2008 Annual Index was 104, down from 231 in 2007 and from 830 in the record year of 2000 - it has not been over 300 since 2002. At Bonchurch Down loW the 2008 Index of 68 was down from 126 in 2007 and was the lowest recorded in the last 10 years, although 2005 was almost identical with an Index of 69. Catherington Down is one of the sites where the trend is much more pleasing, however. The Index of 187 there in 2008 has been exceeded only twice in the last ten years (193 in 2000 and 318 in 2006).

Numbers peaked with 2905 individual records throughout Hampshire and the Isle of Wight in the week of 1-7 July. Daily counts of 100 or over were recorded from just five sites. The highest counts were at Whippingham Fields loW on 1, 13, and 16 July with 293, 133 and 199 individuals respectively (JR), and at Pitt Down with 174 on 7 July (DH). Other counts of 100 or over were at Pilot Hill (MG), The Mountain (AW) and Carisbrooke Castle loW (JMC). At Magdalen Hill Down, Original Reserve, the 2008

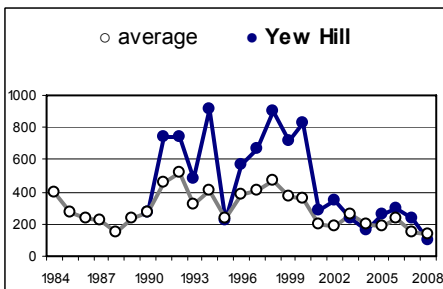
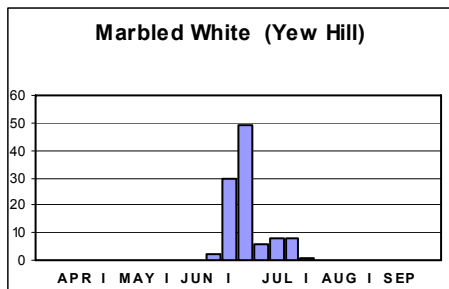
peak count of 57 on 3 July (AJB) compared with 94 on 12 June in 2007 but only 48 on 27 June 2005, illustrating the need for caution in interpreting short-term fluctuations in peak counts.

Many recorders both on the mainland and the Isle of Wight found that 2008 had been a poor year. RCB reported an average season in the Winchester area but AW described the butterfly's fortunes as very poor. Numbers at Botley Wood were reported to be down by more than 40% (RKL). This species, reported GD, was first observed at Pamber Forest in 1989 and rose steadily until a peak of 139 in 2001, since when it has been declining until its peak this year of only 15. At Woodhouse Copse on the Isle of Wight JR observed that the butterfly "never really got going", and DAB found it had not been a good year at Brading either.

On a positive note however, it was heartening to see ACG's report that the Marbled White butterfly, which was hardly ever seen on Bramshott Common before 2005, continues to expand its breeding range and population. Twenty-nine were seen on a visit in late June.



Marbled White at Goose Green Inclosure on 25 June 2007 (Colin Baker)



Status: BC High Priority**Earliest:** 30 June 2008
Fritham Plain (LTh)**No of 2008 records:** 96**No of tetrads in 2008:** 48**No of post 2000 tetrads:** 137**Latest:** 26 September 2008
Eelmoor (CRH)

Grayling (Paul Brock)

2008 was another disappointing year for the Grayling, following a poor year in 2007. However, on the positive side, the species was found at several new localities during the year, albeit in very low numbers. The small number of records possibly indicates a degree of under-recording, as this species can be rather localised and may need to be searched for some walking distance from parking areas. However, the poor August weather did not assist this species.

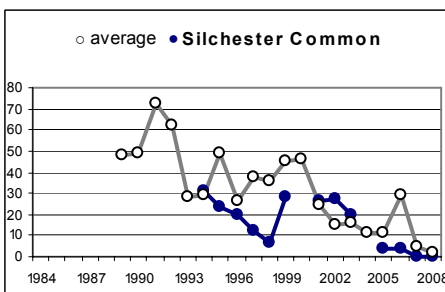
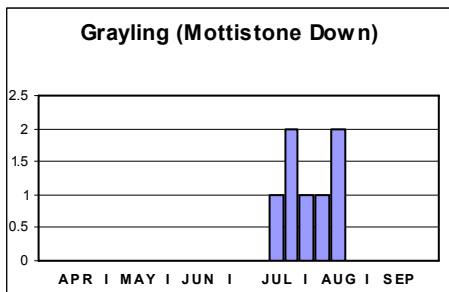
The first adults were later than in recent seasons, with several early sightings in parts of the New Forest at also at Browdown. The highest 2008 count of 78 came from Eelmoor on 30 July by CRH, who commented "This is a widespread and locally plentiful butterfly on the heaths. It has benefited from the extensive tree clearances on the local MoD training areas and is now occupying sites e.g. on Crookham Common that were pinewood ten years ago. However, this butterfly had a difficult time in 2007 and, as expected, numbers were down this year". There was also a notable 63 at Browdown North on 6 August (ACM), otherwise no records above 50 and only 13 counts in double figures (seven of these in July). This species was also recorded on transects at Bramshott Common (ACG), Dibden Bottom north (AHa) and Roydon Common (RC).

Whilst Graylings were sighted in several, mainly open parts of the New Forest, counts were low, apart from 38 at Beaulieu Heath on 27 July 2008 (A&LB). After a huge increase in numbers of the Silver-studded Blue at Bramshott Common in 2008, ACG was disappointed that he only recorded one Grayling "This butterfly has always been

present in low numbers on Bramshott. It made a welcome return in 2006 after four years absence.”

On the Isle of Wight, the only record away from the transect at Mottistone Down (Annual Index seven, the same as in 2007) was from Brook Down on 22 July (DAB).

Although still recorded from various localities, counts fell after the first week of August, with stragglers found up to late September, the last at Eelmoor on 26 September (CRH).



Gatekeeper *Pyronia tithonus* Brian Fletcher

Status: BC Low Priority

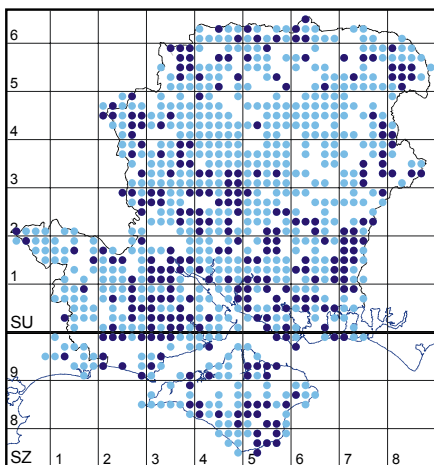
No of 2008 records: 2635

No of tetrads in 2008: 277

No of post 2000 tetrads: 855

Earliest: 17 June 2008
Stenbury Down (RWi)
Itchen Valley Country Park (PWh)

Latest: 15 September 2008
Portsmouth (JRL & BE)



The flight season for 2008 was over four weeks shorter than in 2007, with the peak occurring around the end of July. The highest numbers were seen between 26 and 30 July inland, but a little earlier on the Isle of Wight and at Normandy Marsh on the south coast where peak counts were made on 23 July.

Observers’ comments on abundance varied considerably. Thus on the Isle of Wight it had an “average year” (DAB) and at Whippingham Fields there was “a slow start and the annual count was not too bad” (JR). However, at Woodhouse Copse the “annual count of 54 was a disaster and the lowest number ever recorded” (JR).

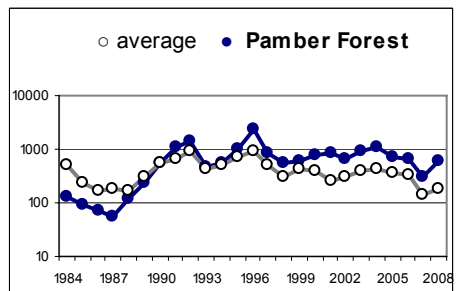
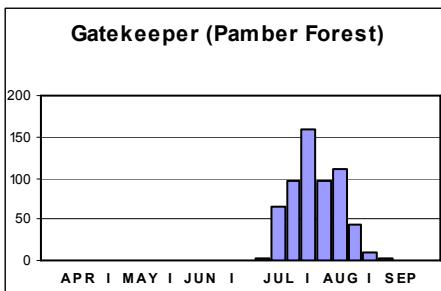
On the mainland its showing was “very poor at Botley Wood” (RKL), and it had the “worst season for the decade” in north-east Hampshire (CRH) and was “very

disappointing in the Petersfield area” (MSh). At Farlington Marshes “it had a better season than in 2006 or 2007” (RCB) and “whilst numbers on the Pamber Forest transect doubled (from 307 in 2007 to 582 in 2008) they were still below the long term average” (GD). The contrast between the transect at Pamber Forest where there is lots of shelter and that of the open downland at the Magdalen Hill Down Extension where the numbers fell from 183 in 2007 to 80 in 2008 is an extreme example of the varied fortunes of the Gatekeeper in 2008.

The overall position on the 62 transects at which the species occurred was that there was a three way split. Just over one third showed a significant decrease in numbers of 20% or more, just under a third showed a significant increase in numbers and the remaining third stayed about the same. In 2006 there were 20 counts of 100 or more, in 2007 just 10 such counts (highest = 200), whereas in 2008 there were 18 century counts, seven of which were more than 200.

The highest count of all was 506 individuals seen on 23 July at Whippingham Fields (JR) which had four of the other 100+ counts, the biggest being 353 on 16 July, 325 on 30 July and 224 on 13 July (all JR). The count at Eelmoor (east) was 276 on 30 July (CRH) whilst the Old Cemetery transect in Southampton yielded 243 Gatekeepers on 30 July and 214 on 6 August (both JVe). These three sites accounted for all seven of the counts of 200 or more, but there were six more sites at which century counts were made. The best scores at these sites were 175 on 23 July at Normandy Marshes (PRD), 159 on 30 July at Pamber Forest (GD), 155 on 26 July at The Mountain (SE and PR), 141 on 30 July at Bartley Heath (JHu), 107 on 6 August at Bramshott Common (ACG) and 105 on 28 July at Bedenham Grasslands, Gosport (M&MG).

It is interesting to note that, apart from Whippingham Fields, IoW, not one of the three other sites recording the highest numbers in 2007 appeared in the top ten sites for 2008 for this species.



Status: BC Low Priority

No of 2008 records: 6373

No of tetrads in 2008: 358

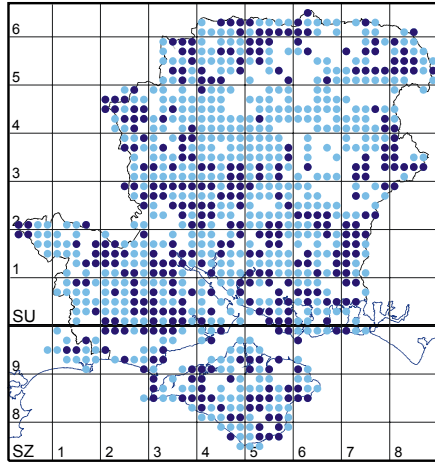
No of post 2000 tetrads: 927

Earliest: 22 May 2008

Crowd Hill & Upper Barn
Copse (PWe)
Hamble Common (RSh)

Latest: 5 October 2008

Old Winchester Hill NNR
(RSy)

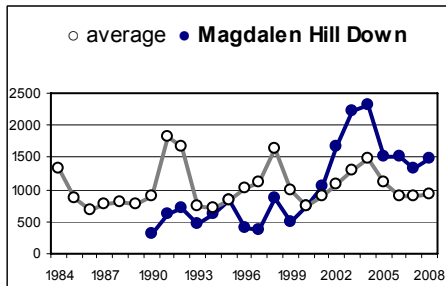
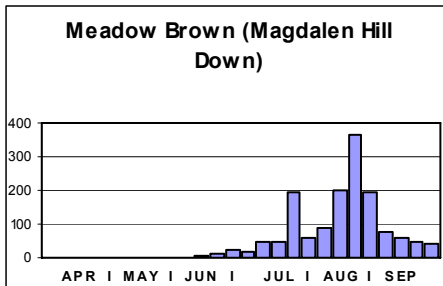


Female Meadow Brown (David Green)

Meadow Browns are usually found in good numbers on all suitable grassland habitats and the flight period continues through most of the summer. In 2008, the main flight period as shown by the number of individuals recorded was from late May to early October, with a peak in late July. In 2007, small numbers were also recorded in April and in early November, but such very early and very late dates were not seen in 2008.

Meadow Brown numbers seldom fluctuate as widely as many butterfly species and 2008 seems to have been a very average year. Transect information shows a wonderfully even spread of increases and losses with about a third of monitored sites having little or no change, a third having more than a 20% decrease and a third with more than a 20% increase in numbers compared with 2007. As GD stated for Pamber Forest "This species tends to be very stable and this year was no exception".

AW felt that, in general, numbers were lower than in 2007, but made the point that there were “Even on cloudy windy days like on the 25 August up to 1000 were easily seen at Beacon Hill”. Similarly, at St Catherine’s Hill, CP stated “Numbers down by over 300 on last year but over 1200 seen on transect”. It is always difficult to give the highest counts for this butterfly as many recorders will just note that it was present without estimating numbers, however a count of 548 adults was given for Eelmoor East on 30 July (CRH) and 362 on the transect at Magdalen Hill Down on 22 August (A&LB).



Small Heath *Coenonympha pamphilus* Brian Fletcher

Status: BC High Priority

Earliest: 22 April 2008
Mottistone Down, loW (RLa)

No of 2008 records: 1430

No of tetrads in 2008: 130

Latest: 19 October 2008
Stockbridge Down (MFWi, MG)

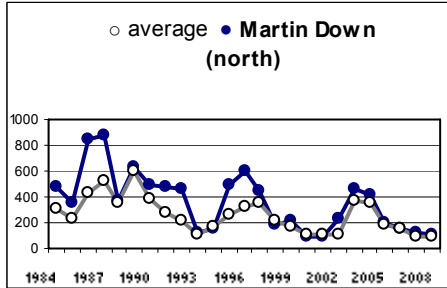
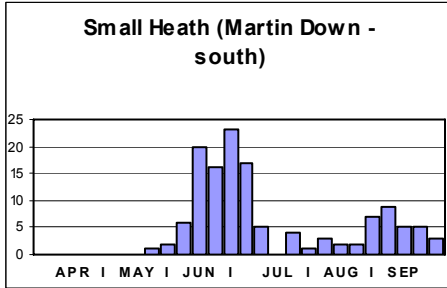
No of post 2000 tetrads: 348

The general consensus of opinion was that the Small Heath had another poor year throughout the two counties. On the Isle of Wight the annual count at Whippingham Fields was the worst since 2003 (JR) and it was absent altogether from Rew Down (AHB). The “bit below average” at Brading (DAB) was one of the more flattering comments. In Hampshire the species had a very poor year at Browndown and Gilkicker (DJAT) and the 2008 season equalled the worst season on record at Botley Wood (RKL). It had an “indifferent season” at Farlington Marshes (RCB) but appeared in better numbers than in 2007 at Butser Hill (MSh) and at St Catherine’s Hill (CP).

Of the 30 transects on which this little butterfly is recorded, 13 showed a decline in numbers of 20% or more, and only seven an increase of the same amount. Last year the highest count was of 164 at Whippingham Fields whilst in 2008 the peak was just 31 on 29 May, though the time at which the field was cut played some part in the decline in numbers (JR). The highest count of 2008 was 51 on 14 June at Broughton Down (JGr) with the next highest scores being 40 on 7 June at Bockerley Dyke, Martin Down (PBk) and 39 on 21 May at Pilot Hill near Facombe (MG). In all there were 27 counts of 20 or more from 12 sites, ten of these being in Hampshire. Only two of these involved insects of the second brood; 23 being seen on 15 September at Eelmoor (CRH) and 20 being seen on 20 September at Old Winchester Hill (AW).

The flight season started slightly later than in 2007 and the species lingered for about a fortnight longer. The first brood was by far the stronger in most places, counts of 20 plus being recorded between 10 May and 30 June with the majority during the second half of June. After the first week in July numbers were quite low and did not increase significantly until the middle of August, indicating a gradual transition from the

stragglers from the first brood to the early emerging adults of the second. The second brood had two periods during which they were most numerous, these being the second half of August and the third week in September. These periods of relative abundance coincided with some of the less gloomy weather in August (according to the BBC the dulllest since records began in 1929 and the 5th wettest) and a period of sunny weather in September. The numbers declined rapidly so few sightings were made after the first week of October. The only unusual sighting of the year was on 6 May when a very large Small Heath about the size of a male Meadow Brown was seen at Whippingham Fields (JR).



Ringlet *Aphantopus hyperantus* Richard Levett

Status: BC Low Priority

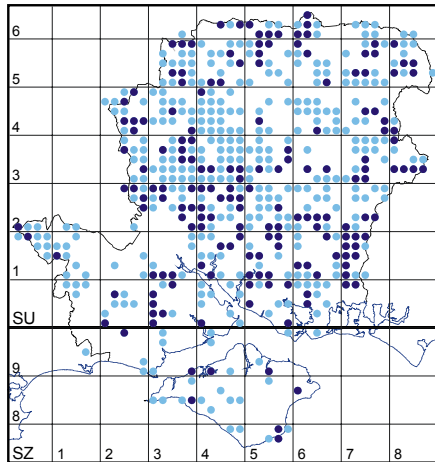
No of 2008 records: 1676

No of tetrads in 2008: 177

No of post 2000 tetrads: 527

Earliest: 10 June 2008
Brading Quarries (DAB)

Latest: 16 August 2008
Staunton Country Park (AMas)



The generally held view is that this species does well in the cloudier, damp weather that typified summer 2008, and although numbers were far from spectacular it did seem to fare better than most. More than sixty per cent of transect sites recorded an Annual Index increase greater than 20% compared with 2007. Less than one in six reported an equivalent decrease. At Martin Down, Kitts Grave transect, the Annual Index rose from 179 in 2007 to 306 in 2008, whereas at Bentley Station Meadow the Index was the lowest since 1999.

The mixed transect results were reflected in anecdotal observer comments which varied considerably from site to site, irrespective of habitat. On a positive note it was viewed as "exceptionally good, the best in eighteen years" at Bramshott Common

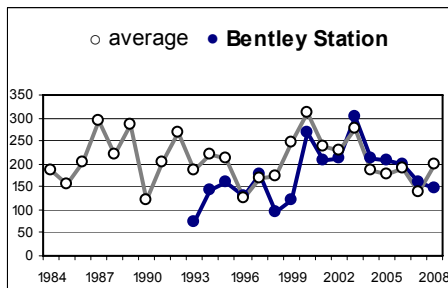
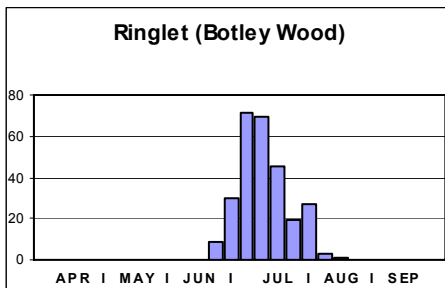
(ACG) and very good at Jurds Lake, Southampton (CP). Similar views were expressed by AW at The Mountain, and Straits Inclosure. On the other hand, numbers were well down at Oxenbourne Down (AW) and below average on transect at both Pamber Forest (GJD) and Botley Wood (RKL). It was regarded as a disappointing year by JS and ASH.

Adult emergence on the Isle of Wight on 10 June was followed, three days later, by the first mainland records at Stockbridge Down (MW) and Magdalen Hill Down (TSm). Sightings increased around 22 June culminating in a stronger, widespread emergence on 28 June.

The peak flight period occurred during the first two weeks of July, a little earlier than in the last few years. Three-figured counts were received from the following seven sites: Southampton Old Cemetery with 121 on 1 July (JVe), West Down, Chilbolton with 106 on 1 July (SEv), Pitt Down with 110 on 1 July (DJH), Beerleigh Estate with 100 on 5 July (AW), Pamber Forest with 193 on 8 July (GJD), Straits Inclosure with 100 on 10 & 13 July (AW) and Whiteley Pastures with 100 on 11 July (AW). Numbers tailed-off quickly through the latter part of July, the last double-figured count being 12 at Martin Down, Kitts Grave on 8 August (CHJH).



Ringlet at Farley Mount Country Park on 26 June 2008 (Peter Eeles)



SCARCE IMMIGRANTS / RELEASES / ESCAPES

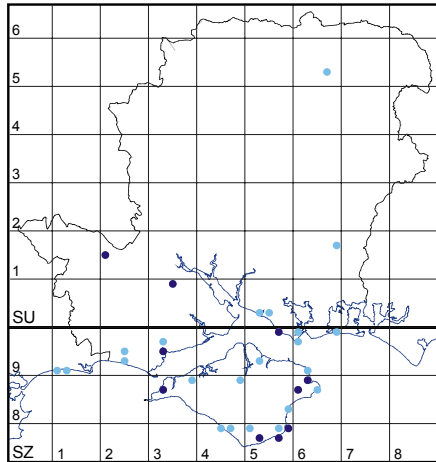
Note: Whilst some of the following records are almost certainly of immigrant individuals, deliberate or accidental releases of captive bred butterflies or moths cannot be ruled out in some of these instances.

Black-veined White *Aporia crataegi*

One was seen in the Fareham area on 16 July (ACo).

Large Tortoiseshell *Nymphalis polychloros*

Eleven records of Large Tortoiseshell were received in 2008 compared with 37 in 2007. All were from south Hampshire (five sightings) and the Isle of Wight (six sightings). The earliest was at Lee-on-the-Solent on 10 February (DJAT) and the last at Churchplace Inclosure, New Forest, on 10 May (JG).



Camberwell Beauty *Nymphalis antiopa*

One was seen at Ventnor Botanic Gardens on 9 March (*per* AB).

Indian Moon Moth *Actias selene* (Hübner, 1810)

This species of silkmoth is commonly bred by enthusiasts. It was found on two occasions in 2008: -

VC12: Church Crookham, 22 August; several Hawthorn bushes in a garden were "devastated" by green caterpillars. Some were kept and pupated. Indian Moon Moths started to emerge in late September (NM). Odiham, 18 September; an adult was found in the grounds of Robert May's School (PBo). Its origin is unknown but might possibly be linked with the Church Crookham colony.

Vernacular and scientific names of plants

Vernacular	Scientific	Vernacular	Scientific
Adder's Tongue	<i>Ophioglossum vulgatum</i>	Hogweed	<i>Heraclaeum sphondylium</i>
Alder	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	Holm Oak	<i>Quercus ilex</i>
Alder Buckthorn	<i>Frangula alnus</i>	Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>
Apple	<i>Malus domestica</i>	Hornbeam	<i>Carpinus betulus</i>
Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Horse Chestnut	<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>
Beech	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Horseshoe Vetch	<i>Hippocrepis comosa</i>
Bilberry	<i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i>	Juniper	<i>Juniperus communis</i>
birch	<i>Betula</i> spp.	Larch	<i>Larix</i> spp.
Bird Cherry	<i>Prunus padus</i>	Lesser Celandine	<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>
Birds-foot-trefoil	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Marsh Thistle	<i>Cirsium palustre</i>
Blackthorn	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Mugwort	<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>
Blue Fleabane	<i>Erigeron acer</i>	Nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>
Bog Myrtle	<i>Myrica gale</i>	Norway Maple	<i>Acer platanoides</i>
Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	Norway Spruce	<i>Picea abies</i>
Broom	<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	oak	<i>Quercus</i> spp.
Buckthorn	<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i>	Orpine	<i>Sedum telephium</i>
Buddleia	<i>Buddleja davidii</i>	Pedunculate Oak	<i>Quercus robur</i>
burdock	<i>Arctium</i> spp.	Pellitory-of-the-wall	<i>Parietaria judaica</i>
Bur-reed	<i>Sparganium</i> spp.	Petty Whin	<i>Genista anglica</i>
cherry	<i>Prunus</i> spp.	Plane	<i>Platanus x hispanica</i>
Common Fleabane	<i>Pulicaria dysenterica</i>	Ploughman's Spikenard	<i>Inula conyzae</i>
Common Rock-rose	<i>Helianthemum nummularium</i>	poplar	<i>Populus</i> spp.
Corsican Pine	<i>Pinus nigra</i>	Primrose	<i>Primula vulgaris</i>
Crab Apple	<i>Malus sylvestris</i>	Rosebay	
Crack Willow	<i>Salix fragilis</i>	Willowherb	<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>
Dark Mullein	<i>Verbacum nigrum</i>	sallow	<i>Salix</i> spp.
Devil's-bit Scabious	<i>Succisa pratensis</i>	Scots Pine	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>
Dog's Mercury	<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>	Sea Arrowgrass	<i>Triglochin maritimum</i>
Dogwood	<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	Sea Aster	<i>Aster tripolium</i>
Dyer's Greenweed	<i>Genista tinctoria</i>	Sea Club-rush	<i>Bolboschoenus maritimus</i>
elm	<i>Ulmus</i> spp.	Silver Birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>
Enchanter's Nightshade	<i>Circaea lutetiana</i>	Small Scabious	<i>Scabiosa columbaria</i>
English Elm	<i>Ulmus procera</i>	Tamarisk	<i>Tamarix gallica</i>
Field Maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>	Tansy	<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>
Field Scabious	<i>Knautia arvensis</i>	Teasel	<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>
Garlic Mustard	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Tufted Hair-grass	<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>
Glaucous Sedge	<i>Carex flacca</i>	Water Mint	<i>Mentha aquatica</i>
Goat Willow	<i>Salix caprea</i>	Wayfaring Tree	<i>Viburnum lantana</i>
Goose	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	White Poplar	<i>Populus alba</i>
Grass-leaved Orache	<i>Atriplex littoralis</i>	White Willow	<i>Salix alba</i>
Greater Bird's-foot-trefoil	<i>Lotus pedunculatus</i>	Wild Angelica	<i>Angelica sylvestris</i>
Greater Stitchwort	<i>Stellaria holostea</i>	Wild Madder	<i>Rubia tinctorum</i>
Grey Poplar	<i>Populus x canescens</i>	Wild Parsnip	<i>Pastinaca sativa</i>
Ground Ivy	<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Wild Raspberry	<i>Rubus idaeus</i>
Guelder Rose	<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	Wild Strawberry	<i>Fragaria vesca</i>
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Wood Anemone	<i>Anemone nemorosa</i>
Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Wood Sage	<i>Teucrium scorodonia</i>
Hedge Woundwort	<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>	Wych Elm	<i>Ulmus glabra</i>
		Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>

MOTH REPORT 2008

Editorial

Tim Norriss



If you thought 2007 was bad, then along came 2008! But the thing about Lepidoptera is that many have large population fluctuations, and that's just the way of things in nature. I have a sneaking suspicion that the perceived lows may not be nearly as dire as we think when we peer into a nearly empty moth-trap. In cooler windy weather it is hardly surprising that moths fly less. The important thing is that they breed and lay eggs, and it only needs a window of better conditions for that to happen. This is much more apparent in daytime when the sun comes out and butterflies start flying, but with moths it is not so obvious and just because we don't see them doesn't necessarily mean they are not there.

A spell of warmer drier weather, as now in March 2009, gives us hope for the future. There has recently been a welcome abundance of *Orthosias*, and last month there were unprecedented high numbers of *Tortricodes alternella*. November of last year saw the highest number of Scarce Umber records ever reported. Whether these are just a

reflection of the fact that in milder weather more of us are tempted to put the moth lamp out is another matter.

Hampshire Moth Day (and Night) was held on 5 July 2008 and a grand total of just 291 records were sent in from 15 observers. It was unseasonably cool and breezy, especially on the coast, and the only moth of note caught that night was a Scarce Merveille du Jour in the New Forest and was therefore not unexpected.

National Moth Night on 7 June was very different and 2320 records were received of 333 species and many of our scarcer residents amongst them.

My thanks as usual go to Barry Goater and John Langmaid for their advice in the preparation of this report, and to all those individuals and organisations that have kindly submitted their records – without your continued efforts this report would not be possible. Good mothing for 2009!

Moth Record Coverage for 2008

The year saw the lowest number of records submitted since 2002, despite broadly unchanged tetrad coverage over the past six years.

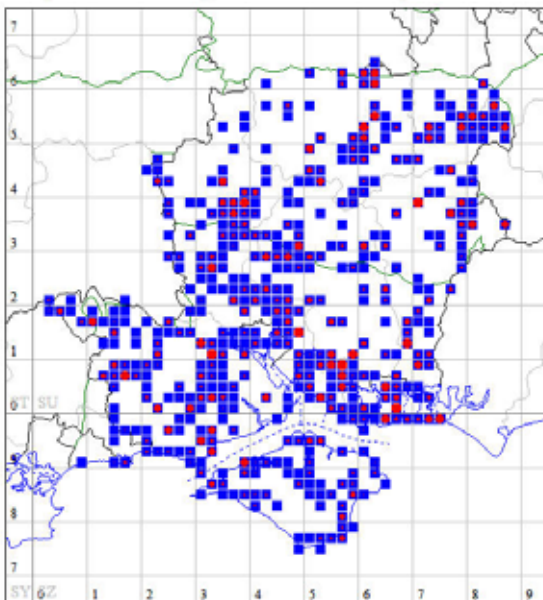
The table below summarises the number of records, tetrads (2km squares) from which records were received and species reported per annum since 2001:

Year	Records	2km sq.	Species
2001	44,616	295	1,328
2002	57,630	358	1,377
2003	83,744	477	1,443
2004	90,516	483	1,473
2005	94,421	426	1,434
2006	125,260	485	1,480
2007	89,594	460	1,394
2008	79,069	471	1,385

There are approximately 1,150 tetrads in the two counties.

The map (right) indicates tetrads from which one or more records were received during 2008. The greater proportion of red in a square, the higher the level of recording activity in that tetrad. As can be seen, there are still many parts of our area that go unrecorded or receive little attention on an annual basis.

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Moths Record Density 2km - 2008



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.
- The following authorities have been abbreviated: D. & S. - Denis & Schiffermüller; Dup. – Duponchel; H-S. - Herrich-Schäffer; Hüb. – Hübner; Huf. – Hufnagel; L. - Linnaeus.

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

- species with fewer than ten vice-county records (five for VC10);
- fewer than twenty county records;
- scarce (<50 records on database) species in new 10-km squares;
- species with a conservation status of Notable (A or B), or proposed or actual RDB, excluding those with more than 100 records on the Branch database;
- other notable records, such as significant range expansion.

SYSTEMATIC LIST

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Overall and Macrolepidoptera: Tim Norriss

Production and Microlepidoptera: Mike Wall

Writers: Paul Boswell, Rob Edmunds, Tim Norriss, Mike Wall

NEW COUNTY AND VICE-COUNTY RECORDS

Nepticulidae

0087 *Stigmella svenssoni* (Johansson, 1971)

VC10: NEW COUNTY RECORD. The long twisting mines in oak leaves are very distinctive and several vacated mines of this uncommon miner were seen at Osborne, on a number of Pedunculate Oak, 12 October (JRL, DTB, BE), the leaves being retained in DTB's herbarium.

Gracillariidae

0302 *Parornix fagivora* (Frey, 1861)

VC10: NEW COUNTY RECORD. Despite being thinly but widely distributed on the mainland, a Beech leaf seen with two vacated folds at Osborne, 12 October (JRL, DTB, BE) represents the first island record.

Sesiidae

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

Nb

A remarkable year for this spectacular insect, which has only seven previous county records, all from one site in the Chilbolton area 1966 - 1989.

VC11: NEW VICE-COUNTY RECORD. Many emergence holes at the bases of trunks of Grey Poplar and Hybrid Black Poplar, Portsmouth*, 21 February (JRL, PHS, IRT conf. Theo Garrevoet). This is the first confirmed South Hampshire sighting, although Goater (1974) relates a number of unconfirmed early 20th century records which more likely refer to *S. bembeciformis*.

Yponomeutidae

0409b *Argyresthia cupressella* Walsingham, 1890

VC10: NEW COUNTY RECORD. Two were found by day at Afton on 7 June (JEC/JS).

Tortricidae

1112 *Bactra robustana* (Christoph, 1872)

Nb

Not uncommon in South Hampshire, where it was reported from Southsea and Titchfield Haven. However, as a larval feeder on Sea Club-rush, a specimen in North Hampshire was unexpected.

VC12: NEW VICE-COUNTY RECORD. Alton*, one to actinic, 27 August (DBO gen. det. BGo).

1196 *Eucosma metzneriana* (Treitschke, 1830)

The second to be taken in our area, the first recorded in Southsea back in 1982.
VC10: NEW COUNTY RECORD. Totland*, 30 June (SAK-J det. DJLA), exhibited at BENHS exhibition.

1215 False Codling Moth *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* (Meyrick, 1913)

An African pest species which is occasionally imported with oranges.

VC12: NEW VICE-COUNTY RECORD. Brighton Hill, Basingstoke*, one larva found in an orange from a supermarket, 5 August; moth bred, 4 September (AHD).

1235 *Pammene trauniana* ([D. & S.], 1775)

pRDB3

This very rare moth has been recorded a total of four times in Hampshire. The following represents a new vice-county record, but as the moth flies is little more than three kilometres from the most recent occurrence at St Catherine's Hill, Winchester in 2003.

VC12: NEW VICE-COUNTY RECORD. Magdalen Hill Down*, 10 May (MJW).



P.trauniana, Magdalen Hill Down, 10 May
© Mike Wall

1262 *Cydia amplana* (Hüb., 1799)

Migrant

A recent arrival and now regular annual migrant to the southern vice-counties, with 2008 seeing the first sighting in North Hampshire.

VC12: NEW VICE-COUNTY RECORD. Shortheath Common*, 7 August (AMD).

Crambidae

1326 *Platytes cerussella* ([D. & S.], 1775)

VC12: NEW VICE-COUNTY RECORD. An unfamiliar pyralid was taken at light on 22 June 2007 in Basingstoke but remained unidentified until this year. A very extralimital record for a sedentary species normally associated with coastal shingle (on which it is not uncommon in South Hampshire) and this was presumably a migrant, although it is also found inland in the Brecklands of Norfolk (gen. det. and in coll. MJW, conf. BG).



P.cerussella, Basingstoke, 22 June 2007 © Mike Wall

1356a *Evergestis limbata* (L., 1767)

Migrant

VC12: NEW VICE-COUNTY RECORD. Bishop's Sutton*, 30 July (PGLT conf. Peter Davey).

Geometridae

1678a Jersey Mocha *Cyclophora ruficiliaria* (H-S., 1855)

Migrant

VC10: NEW COUNTY RECORD. One to MV light at Bonchurch on 4 August (JHa) was the first for both counties. A scarce resident on Jersey since the early 20th century, the first mainland British record was at Portland, Dorset in 2003. Elsewhere, 2008 saw an unprecedented ten records in total, and it is thought to have established a breeding population in Cornwall (Clancy, 2009a).



Jersey Mocha (*C. ruficiliaria*), Bonchurch, Isle of Wight 4 August © James Halsey

Noctuidae

2102a Radford's Flame Shoulder *Ochropleura leucogaster* (Freyer, 1831) Migrant

An increasing species which was first recorded in this country in 1983. All records to date have been September to November. The differences are subtle (see Waring, Townsend & Lewington, 2003 for description) but note the cleaner, whiter hindwings, narrower forewings and less reddish colouration.

VC10: NEW COUNTY RECORD. Bonchurch, one to MV on 11 September (JHa). Another was trapped on Guernsey 10 October and another at West Bexington, Dorset on 22 October (Eden, 2009).



Left: Radford's Flame Shoulder (*O. leucogaster*), Bonchurch, Isle of Wight 11 September; right: Flame Shoulder (*O. plecta*) for comparison © James Halsey

OTHER NOTABLE RECORDS

Eriocraniidae

0007 *Eriocrania chrysolepidella* (Zeller, 1851)

Nb

VC11: Following on from the discovery of this local and uncommon miner of Hazel at a new site at Crab Wood, Sparsholt in 2007, further mines were found in 2008, on 30 May (DGG).

0008 *Eriocrania unimaculella* (Zetterstedt, 1839)

A rare miner of birch, still unrecorded from the Isle of Wight and rare in north Hampshire.

VC12: A tenanted leaf mine on Silver Birch was found in Yateley Heath Wood, near Fleet*, 8 May (RE).

0010 *Eriocrania salopiella* (Stainton, 1854)

Another rare miner of birch; the first record on the Isle of Wight was as recent as 2003.

VC10: A vacated mine at Ningwood Common*, 6 June (DTB) is the fifth for the Island.

VC11: An adult female at Holmsley Inclosure, NF*, 3 May (AMD gen. det.). Elsewhere mines recorded at Hengistbury Head, 12 May (JRL), and Denmead, 4 June (JRL, IRT).

VC12: Mines were found in the Fleet area on 15 May, 13 and 16 June (all RE).

Nepticulidae

0019 *Bohemannia quadrimaculella* (Boheman, 1851)

Excepting old references from the New Forest, the below represents only the fourth recent record and the first since 2005.

VC11: An adult of this rare moth was seen resting on Alder foliage, 29 July, at The Moors NR, Bishop's Waltham (JRL, RJD).

0036 *Ectoedemia quinquella* (Bedell, 1848)

Nb

This late season leaf miner of oak continues to be recorded in scattered localities in the mainland county. There may be several mines in a single leaf and its presence may sometimes be detected from 'green' islands, which stand out, as the leaf turns brown.

VC11: Mines were found at Oakley Farm Wood, Mottisfont, 19 October (DGG), Havant Thicket, 1 November (JRL, RMP) on Pedunculate Oak, Spearywell Wood, Mottisfont, 16 November (DGG), and at Zionshill



Ectoedemia quinquella, Fleet
24 October © Rob Edmunds

Copse, North Baddesley, a single tenanted mine on 21 November was found on Sessile Oak (JRL, BE).

VC12: A total of nineteen leaf mines were seen in the Fleet area between 24 October and 7 November (RE).

0036a *Ectoedemia heringella* (Mariani, 1939)

After being discovered new to the two counties in 2007, it is no surprise to report strong populations of this leaf-miner of Holm Oak from the Isle of Wight and South Hampshire, with many records and new localities registered: adult moths are also being increasingly trapped in numbers. However, in the north of Hampshire, the main population, at its sole site, was decimated during the year by crash barriers being erected along a bridge over the M3.

VC10: Quarr Abbey Woods, 12 April, where it was common; Ventnor Botanic Garden, 3 August (DTB); vacated mines found at Fairlee Cemetery, 1 September (all DTB), with many mines found on the Osborne Estate, 12 October (JRL, DTB, BE det. JRL).

VC11: Occupied mines were found in the Portsmouth/Havant area between 2 February and 26 March (JRL, IRT); in Fareham, vacated mines were reported on 20 April and 4 May and at Catisfield on the same day (RJD). At Hinton Ampner*, several vacated mines were found on 8 June (JRL). As an indication of how common this species has become in a very short space of time, IRT recorded over 100 adults in his Southsea garden between 15 July and 5 August.

VC12: At Broomhurst Farm, Fleet, tenanted mines found on 20 February (RE) represent a second vice-county record.

0040 *Bohemannia pulverosella* (Stainton, 1849)

This leaf miner of apple continues to be recorded from scattered localities in VC11 and VC12: it is uncommon on the Isle of Wight, and the record below is the first since 1997.

VC10: A few mines at Osborne*, 12 October (JRL, DTB, BE).

VC11: A vacated mine at Sinah Common, Hayling, 27 July (JRL, MRY, JY).

0041 *Ectoedemia atrifrontella* (Stainton, 1851)

Na

This miner of young green oak bark has a more southerly distribution in Hampshire, being rare in the north. It was only recorded once in 2008.

VC11: Several mines were seen in the bark of young oaks at Hengistbury Head* on 12 May (JRL).

0064 *Stigmella continuella*

(Stainton, 1856)

Not uncommon in the south on birch, it remains far less common in the north.

VC12: The only report was of a single mine at Elvetham Heath, Fleet, 19 September (RE).

0070 *Stigmella obliquella*

(Heinemann, 1862)

A miner of various willow species. In addition to the below, mines were also found on Crack and White Willow in the Portsmouth, South Hampshire, area in 2008.



***Stigmella continuella*, Fleet
19 September © Rob Edmunds**

VC10: Along the Merstone to Horringford cycle track, mines on Violet Willow on 22 September (DTB) represented the fourth Island record.

0073 *Stigmella trimaculella* (Haworth, 1828)

Found on various poplars at low density throughout, mainly in South Hampshire where 2008 was no exception with mines found from Hill Head to Hayling. Records elsewhere as below:

VC10: Newport, vacated mines on Lombardy Poplar at Pan Mill, 26 August (DTB).

VC12: In the north, mines were found in Fleet town centre on 17 September (RE), and a few vacated mines on Hybrid Black Poplar at Kings Worthy*, on 25 September (JRL).

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

This miner of apple is rarely encountered, with fewer than thirty records in Hampshire.

VC11: Sinah Common, Hayling, a single vacated mine on Domestic Apple, 27 July (JRL, MRY, JY), Wickham Common, two vacated mines on Domestic Apple, 28 September (JRL, MRY det. JRL).

VC12: The following were added to the four previous records: mines at Greywell* on 13 September (PBo det. RE) and in Fleet town centre* on 30 August (RE).

0087 *Stigmella svenssoni* (Johansson, 1971)

This species, a miner of Pedunculate Oak, is seen on a few occasions each year, with the majority of records from South Hampshire.

VC10: See New Vice-County Records above.

VC11: Mines were seen in Oakley Farm Wood, Mottisfont, 19 October (DGG), and a single vacated mine at Sinah Common, Hayling*, 27 July (JRL, MRY, JY).

0097 *Stigmella malella* (Stainton, 1854)

This leaf miner of apple is found in low numbers at scattered localities each year.

VC10: The third Island record, rediscovered after a thirty-one year gap: vacated mines at Osborne, 12 October (JRL, DTB, BE det. JRL).

VC11: Vacated mines were found at Wickham Common, 28 September (JRL, MRY det. JRL).

0102 *Stigmella aceris* (Frey, 1857)

pRDB2

This leaf miner of Field and Norway Maple continues to thrive in North Hampshire but the records for South Hampshire below were the first since 1986.

VC11: Itchen Navigation, east of Otterbourne, mines on Norway Maple, 25 October (Peter Marston det. MJW from photo); Chandlers Ford, many empty mines on Norway Maple, 25 October (BE).

VC12: As in previous years, the main locale for *S. aceris* remains around the Fleet/Ewshot area, where it was again recorded on four dates



***Stigmella aceris*, Itchen Navigation
25 October © Peter Marston**

between 10 June and 25 October on Norway Maple (all RE).

0107 *Stigmella regiella* (H-S., 1855)

This Hawthorn miner has a sparse distribution with a few records annually.

VC10: Re-recorded in 2005 after a twenty eight year gap, to which can be added vacated mines at Osborne on 12 October (JRL, DTB, BE) (cf. *S. malella* above).

Opostegidae

0121 *Pseudopostega crepusculella* (Zeller, 1839)

Seen very occasionally, historically in the Winchester area.

VC11: Four specimens to MV between 19 and 24 July at Ashurst* (KG).

VC12: The species is even rarer in the north of the county, with only two previous records, so the recording of eight individuals to MVs placed in Black Wood, Micheldever*, on 1 July (CWP, MJW) was notable.

Incurvariidae

0128 *Phylloporia bistrigella* (Haworth, 1828)

The mines of this species are found on young birch leaves and ultimately form distinctive cut-outs. The majority of the records are from South Hampshire.

VC11: Only one sighting was reported, of at least six to MV traps run on a BC moth event held on 3 May in Holmsley Inclosure, NF* (DGG).

VC12: Prior to this year nine records existed, to which can be added two adults trapped on 7 June at Lords Wood, Pamber Forest (DGG).

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

VC12: One adult was found at Ashford Hill Meadows NR*, 14 June (MJW, ACr). The majority of the records for this species are from the southern mainland and it is the first moth of this species in North Hampshire for five years, and the fourth vice-county record.



Incurvaria praelatella, Ashford Hill Meadows NR
14 June © Mike Wall

0133 Currant Shoot Borer *Lampronia capitella* (Clerck, 1759)

Nb

The following record is the first for either county since 1998.

VC11: Chandlers Ford, 7 May (BE).

0136 Raspberry Moth *Lampronia corticella* (L., 1758)

A rarely seen moth which develops as a larva within the stems of Wild Raspberry.

VC12: The third and fourth vice-county records, with one seen nectaring during the day at Micheldever Spoil Heaps* (MJW) and another to MV at Winnall Moors HWWT NR* (AHD), both on 7 June.

0137 *Lampronia morosa* (Zeller, 1852)

VC12: There are very few records of this species, mostly from VC11. One taken at actinic, Alton*, 31 May (DBO det. MJW) was only the second record from North Hampshire.



Lampronia fuscata, Fleet
7 May © Rob Edmunds

0138 *Lampronia fuscata* (Tengström, 1848) **pRDB3**

This moth lives in the stems of birch and forms galls, from which a reddish frass exudes. The records are equally distributed between adults and galls.

VC12: An adult taken at actinic in Fleet*, 7 May (RE conf. Ben Smart) was the first Hampshire record for two years and continued a good year for rare incurvariids.

0147 *Nemophora metallica* (Poda, 1761)

An uncommon moth found on downland, associated with its food plants, Field and Small Scabious.

VC11: A moth was seen and photographed by day on Broughton Down, 6 June and a further ten found near the bottom of the downs on scabious, on 16 June (both MBa).



Nemophora metallica, Broughton Down NR
6 June © Mike Baker

Heliozelidae

0156 *Heliozela resplendella* (Stainton, 1851)

A miner of Alder.

VC11: A number of vacated mines and cut-out leaves were found across The Moors NR, Bishop's Waltham, on 29 July (JRL, RJD), and at Great Salterns NR on 19 September (JRL, IRT).

VC12: Mines recorded at Greywell* on 17 October (PBo det. RE) represent only the fifth vice-county sighting.

Cossidae

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

Numbers were down compared to 2007, with only 35 records received.

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

(UK BAP)

Sightings of this moth are often of the larva as it leaves its workings in the trunks of broadleaved trees. As has been the pattern in recent years, it was recorded solely from South Hampshire.



Goat Moth *Cossus cossus*, Markway Inclosure, New Forest 19 September © Dominic Tantram

VC11: It was pleasing to receive a record from a site outside the New Forest, where this species has been apparently confined in recent years: a large Pedunculate Oak with active larval workings and strong sap runs was found at Oakley Farm Wood, Mottisfont* on 21 July (DGG, SAC def. DGG). In the Forest itself, DGG reported 'Goat Moth Trees' from two locations: a tenanted mature sallow on stream edge with several active larval workings at Greenford Bottom, 14 February, and many larval workings in the trunk of the well-known large Pedunculate Oak at

Ladycross Inclosure on 26 July, with several active, though there were no obvious sap-runs this year. Elsewhere, Dominic Tantram provided a photo (conf. MJW) of a larva seen in Markway Inclosure on 19 September moving across bare soil before burying into ground presumably to pupate, and another was reported crossing Burley High Street on 23 September (Chris Court)!

Zygaenidae

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

(UK BAP)

VC12: At the main stronghold of this species in Hampshire, Odiham Common, numbers were substantially reduced with the largest total received being 12 on 31 May (MJW, ACr – albeit from only a portion of the site) comparing to a maximum single count here of 94 in 2007. Elsewhere, at West Down, Chilbolton, several Forester sp. were observed between 21 May and 7 June; one was confirmed as *A. statices* (GCE conf. TJN). On the Hampshire side of Porton Down, adults were observed on 29 June (GCE) and 20 July (NM).

Limacodidae

0173 Festoon *Apoda limacodes* (Huf., 1766)

Nb

Last year's Moth Report discussed the recent strength of this species: despite a halving in reported numbers to 93, the recent trend was still upwards. However, in 2008, poor summer weather again significantly reduced the numbers of sightings, with only 44 records received, and no new 10km square records were created. The highest single night count was of 20 caught in Black Wood, Micheldever (VC12) at six light traps on 1 July (CWP, MJW).

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

(BC RAP) RDB3

Only three sightings were received.

VC11: Wickham, 4 July (JRDS), Woodlands, Ashurst (KG, BE) and Hazel Grove, Ashurst, both on 26 July (KG).

Psychidae

0176 *Dahlica triquetrella* (Hüb., 1813)

pRDB1

VC11: This psychid shows no signs of spreading its very limited range, remaining confined to the Hilsea area of Portsmouth since its discovery in 2005. In the early year, twenty larvae were seen on tree trunks and a road sign, 20 February (JRL, PHS, IRT), and in the late year, many cases, old and empty (six with viable larvae), on signposts, pieces of paper etc. on the ground, and on trunks, were spotted on 7 November (JRL, PHS).

0179 Lichen Case-bearer *Dahlica lichenella* (L., 1761)

Nb

Rarely recorded and known only from South Hampshire in the two counties.

VC11: A single case found on the wall of a railway bridge at Rowland's Castle on 17 March (JRL, IRT) was the first county sighting for five years.

Tineidae

0199 *Psychoides verhuella* Bruand, 1853

The presence of this uncommon species can be detected as they feed amongst the sori of ferns.

VC10: This species has now been found across the Island: St. Helens*, where there were mines, cocoons and larvae on 24 April, and many larvae in mines at Gurnard* on 11 October, both on *Phyllitis* (DTB).

VC11: Fully-fed larvae were seen on *Asplenium trichomanes* at Rowland's Castle* (JRL, IRT).

0200 *Psychoides filicivora* (Meyrick, 1937)

Nb

Like its congener above, a larval feeder in the sori of a number of fern species, but it appears to be far more widespread and is not uncommon in South Hampshire (from where 15 individuals were reported coming to light).

VC10: Larval mines recorded on *Phyllitis* from Dodnor Pond, 6 October (DTB) and on *Polypodium* at Bonchurch Landslip, 19 October (both DTB).

0219 *Nemapogon ruricolella* (Stainton, 1849)

Nb

VC11: Interestingly, five individuals were attracted to a VES pheromone lure designed to attract clearwings in Crab Wood, Sparsholt on 28 June (DGG). The records of this species are scattered in Hampshire, with no records for the Isle of Wight. Perhaps it is under-reported and the use of pheromones will lead to more records. This represents the first record in three years.

0220 *Nemapogon clematella* (Fabricius, 1781)

Nb

VC11: Just the one report this year: larval workings (from which two moths were bred) in the fungus *Hypoxylon fuscum* on dead hazel stems, Crab Wood, Sparsholt, 30 May (DGG).

0223 *Nemaxera betulina* (Paykull, 1785)

Not recorded in Hampshire since 2001, and with only a single previous record, two records in one year was surprising. The larvae feed on bracket fungi and rotting wood.

VC12: One adult was taken in Black Wood, Micheldever, 1 July (CWP, MJW & TJN gen. det. CWP); another was caught at Bartley Heath NR, 6 August (AMD).

0225 *Triaxomera fulvimitrella* (Sodoffsky, 1830)

A good showing of seven records this season, although there are still no recent sightings on the Isle of Wight.

VC11: West Walk, near Wickham*, 6 June (RJD, MLO *et al.*).

VC12: In the north of the county, six records in one year for this moth were exceptional. Reports were received from Morgaston Wood, with an adult on 31 May (MJW), followed by five on the same date, 7 June, as follows: during the day at Micheldever Spoil Heaps (MJW), then to MV, with three at Upper Inhams Copse, near Silchester (GJD), two at Black Wood, Micheldever (CWP), and singles at Pamber Forest (DGG) and Kennel Farm, Kempshott (PDF).

0231 *Monopis imella* (Hüb., 1813)

Nb

This rare moth has been confined in recent years to VC11, with 2008 being no exception.

VC11: Singletons at Southsea 12 June, 1 July and 12 September (JRL).

Bucculatricidae

0267 *Bucculatrix maritima* Stainton, 1851

A common saltmarsh species in Hampshire, the larva feeding on Sea Aster.

VC10: It is undoubtedly overlooked on the Island. Mines and cocoons on the foodplant at Newtown Rifle Range, 22 July (DTB) was the third Island record after those in 1992 and 2000.

Gracillariidae

0281 *Caloptilia populetorum* (Zeller, 1839)

A further range expansion for this recent Hampshire colonist. There are still no Isle of Wight records.

VC11: Recorded at Funtley – a regular site - on 14 March, 9 May and 15 November (all MLO det. RJD); one to MV in Southsea*, 25 July (IRT) was a new site record.

VC12: A single to actinic, Anna Valley* on 23 August (TJN).

0289 *Caloptilia falconipennella* (Hüb., 1813)

pRDB3

This leaf miner of Alder, making distinctive folds on the leaf edge, is being recorded with increasing frequency, both as a mine and adult. Relatively common in South Hampshire, where a further six records were received, it is less frequently encountered in the north.

VC12: Two vacated mines at separate locations on Winnall Moors HWWT NR*, 8 October (AHD, RE). At Greywell Moors, mines on Alder, 17 October (PBo det. RE).

0299 *Parectopa ononidis* (Zeller, 1839)

VC11: An under-recorded miner of clovers, again found almost exclusively in South Hampshire. Tenanted mines were discovered at Havant Thicket* on 26 September (JRL, AMD det. JRL) and 29 September (JRL, BE).

0302 *Parornix fagivora* (Frey, 1861)

A leaf miner of Beech which forms an initial Phyllonorycter type mine and then folds over the edges of the leaf.

VC10: See New County Records above.

VC11: Apart from the overdue discovery on the Island, mines at Oakley Farm Wood, Mottisfont*, 19 October (DGG) was the only other record received.

0308 *Parornix finitimella* (Zeller, 1850)

VC10: Another species which is widely distributed on the mainland, its larval spinings being found on Blackthorn, those seen on 12 October on the Osborne Estate (JRL, DTB, BE) were the first on the Island since 2000.

0318 *Phyllonorycter tenerella* (Joannis, 1915)

A rare leaf miner of Hornbeam, with populations centred in the north of the mainland county, where all but one of the 13 previous records originate.

VC12: A mine in Fleet on 10 October (RE) was the only record of this species this year in Hampshire.

0321a *Phyllonorycter platani* (Staudinger, 1870)

Only four records for this late season leaf miner of Plane (compared to sixteen in 2007 and twenty one in 2006) were received. Most records originate from South Hampshire, so the following are of note:

VC12: A few mines found at Aldershot, 16 September (RE) and many at Kings Worthy, 25 September (JRL).

0326 *Phyllonorycter blancardella* Fabricius, 1781

A widely distributed miner of apple mainly found in South Hampshire (two records in 2008). Sightings elsewhere are rare, and the Isle of Wight had produced but two records prior to the year under review.

VC10: Somerton Farm, Northwood, 28 July (DTB); Kennerley Farm, Godshill, 30 July (DTB, JMC); Sibden Hill, Shanklin, 18 August (JMC det. DTB).

0330 *Phyllonorycter cerasicolella* (H-S., 1855)

A widely distributed leaf miner of cherry which is rare but probably under recorded in North Hampshire. Three records were received from VC11.

VC12: A mine on Bird Cherry found in Fleet, 9 November (RE) was the seventh record for the vice-county.

0333 *Phyllonorycter salictella* (Zeller, 1846)

Like the preceding species, rare on the Isle of Wight. Four sightings were received from VC11 and three from VC12. The following are noteworthy:

VC10: Mine on Grey Willow, Dodnor Pond, 3 July (DTB); on Violet Willow, Merstone to Horringford cycle track, 22 September (DTB).

VC11: Pig Bush, NF*, 15 October (RE).

VC12: Mines in separate locations on Winnall Moors HWWT NR*, 8 October (AHD, RE det. RE).

0336 *Phyllonorycter dubitella* (H-S., 1855)

Nb

VC11: One at Southsea, 24 July (JRL) was the only Hampshire record of this uncommon miner of willow this year.

0366a *Cameraria ohridella* Deschka & Dimic, 1986

The exponential spread of this invading moth continues apace with coverage of most of Hampshire and the Island now. Over 200 records were received, compared to sixty-nine in 2007, summarised as follows: VC8 (5), VC10 (10), VC11 (114) and VC12 (75).

0367 *Phyllocnistis saligna* (Zeller, 1839)

A good year for this rare leaf miner of willow.

VC11: Three adults taken in Southsea, 23 and 24 July (JRL) represent the first South Hampshire sightings since 1937.

VC12: In addition to re-occurring in Fleet, where it was first discovered in 2006, it was seen at a new site in Southwood*, 21 September (RE).

0367a *Phyllocnistis ramulicola* Langmaid & Corley, 2007

This newly discovered miner of willows (see 2007 report) continues to be found mainly in the south of Hampshire with populations centred around Havant Thicket and Blashford Lakes.

VC11: A number of new sites were added, with mines and cocoons at Ashurst*, 24 July (JRL, MRY, JY, SMP), Wickham Common*, 28 September (JRL, MRY) and Botley Wood*, 30 September (AMD).

0369 *Phyllocnistis xenia* Hering, 1936

pRDB2

This leaf miner of White and Grey Poplar is found in coastal regions. The eight records received from VC10 and VC11, all on White Poplar, represent its best year so far, compared to the 14 previous in total.

VC10: Appley Park, Ryde, 16 August (DTB).

VC11: Field-work in the Portsmouth area was rewarded with mines on Milton Common, 26 July (JRL, MRY, JY, IRT), Hilsea, 28 August (JRL, RMP, BE), Baffins, 5 September (JRL, DJLA), and Great Salterns NR, 19 September (JRL, IRT); also found at Cams Bay*, 16 October (RJD), and Sinah Common, Hayling, 27 July (JRL, MRY, JY).

Sesiidae

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

Nb



Hornet Moth *Sesia apiformis*, workings in the base of *Populus*, Portsmouth 21 February
© Ian Thirlwell

A remarkable year for this spectacular insect, which has only seven previous county records, all from one site in the Chilbolton area 1966 - 1989.

VC11: See New Vice-county Records above.

VC12: In Alice Holt Forest*, an apparently well-established colony was discovered in a new location, with two exuviae and lots of emergence holes seen, and the observer also dug an old cocoon out of a poplar, 29 June (AMD).

0371 Lunar Hornet Moth *Sesia bembeciformis* (Hüb., 1806)

Very rarely reported in recent years, although undoubtedly under-recorded.

VC11: Larval workings on *Salix* trunks, Crab Wood, 30 May (DGG); two adults seen by day on Milton Common, Portsmouth, 29 June (JRL, IRT)

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

Nb

One of the more common clearwings, whose larvae feed in the twigs of currant bushes. **VC11:** At Forton, all on or around Red Currant, a male on 5 June (JAN, DRA), a mating pair on 11 June (DRA) and a female on 12 June (JAN, DRA, DPH); at Sholing, Southampton, one on 13 June, and two females seen egg laying the next day (ARC).

VC12: Sherborne St John, one to pheromone lure, 24 June (NM); The Millfield, Old Basing, one on 25 June to the TIP pheromone lure, at 1530hrs (JKA). As per JKA's example for this and other species below, it would be of interest if future records of clearwings to pheromones could be reported with both the lure used and the time of the sighting, to aid the targeting of future fieldwork.

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

Nb

VC11: Farlington Marshes*, a female found on reeds next to Peter's Pool and photographed on 23 May (Stuart Ball conf. TJN). An interesting record away from its normal expected oak woodland habitat.

VC12: Bartley Heath, one seen by day, 31 May (PV), Pamber Forest, three to VES pheromone lure, 9 June (GJD). At The Millfield, Old Basing, two recorded to VES/TAB lures on 26 June at 1230hrs (JKA).



**Yellow-legged Clearwing *Synanthedon vespiformis*, Farlington Marshes 23 May
© Stuart Ball**

0377 Sallow Clearwing *S. flaviventris* (Staudinger, 1883)

Nb

Sallow Clearwing appears as an adult in 'even' years, but can be difficult to track down. **VC12:** The Millfield, Old Basing, is a consistent site for this species when it is flying, and two were recorded on 24 June with another two on 25 June, on both days to MYO/TIP pheromone lures between 1400 and 1500hrs (JKA).

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

Nb

A species which can be common on the chalk to lures hung around its larval foodplants, Wayfaring-tree and less commonly, Guelder-rose.

VC11: Crab Wood, Sparsholt, four to VES pheromone lure, 28 June (DGG), Oxenbourne Down, one to lure, 1 July (AMD).

VC12: Sherborne St John, one to pheromone lure, 24 June (NM). The Millfield, Old Basing, five on 24 June, eight on 1 July, on both days to the VES pheromone lure between 1100 and 1130hrs (JKA).

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

Nb

VC11: Botley Wood, one to pheromone lure on 8 June represented a previously unrecorded aberration with a white-belt – see photo, and documented by Collins, 2008; one to lure at Lower Test Marshes, 26 June (all ARC).

VC12: Sherborne St John, two adults on 24 June and in Morgaston Wood, another, 30 June (both to pheromone lure, NM); The Millfield, Old Basing, individuals on 14, 25 and 30 June, and at least 9 on 24 June, all recorded between 1100 and 1300hrs and coming to both MYO and CUL lures (JKA).

0380 Red-tipped Clearwing *S. formicaeformis* (Esper, 1783) **Nb**

Much the rarer of the *Synanthedon* species recorded in our area, especially in VC12.

VC11: Ringwood Forest, two to pheromone lure, 2 July (RG).

VC12: One to pheromone lure at Vyne Water-meadows, Sherborne St John, 30 June (NM); The Millfield, Old Basing, five on 24 June to FOR pheromone lure at 1143hrs (JKA).



Red-belted Clearwing *Synanthedon myopaeformis*, Botley Wood, 8 June

© Andrew Collins

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

VC11: For one of the more frequently recorded clearwing species, 2008 was an unexceptional year, with only two sightings reported: Ports Down Hill, one to pheromone lure, 17 June (NM), Swanwick NR, eight adults to pheromone lure, 26 June (ARC).

Choreutidae

0387 *Prochoreutis sehestediana* (Fabricius, 1776)

Nb

A very local species, mainly encountered in the New Forest.

VC11: Two records both from the same new locality, Ampfield Wood*, several by day at rest on Fleabane on 11 August (MBa) and 16 August (TJN conf. JRL).



***Prochoreutis sehestediana*, Ampfield Wood, 11 August © Mike Baker**

Glyphipterigidae

0394 *Glyphipterix forsterella* (Fabricius, 1781) **Nb**

A local species feeding on sedge *Carex* species in wet areas, mainly in South Hampshire. Unlike recent years however, the majority of records were away from the Botley area.

VC11: West Walk, near Wickham, one swept, 16 May (RJD *et al*);

Hazel Grove, Ashurst, 21 May (KG), Busketts Wood, Ashurst, three seen by day, 24 May, and another on 31 May (KG); Costicles Inclosure, NF, two seen by day, 24 May (BE, KG, TJN); Holly Hill Woodland Park, Warsash*, 10+ swept from Carex, 27 May (PAB).

0470 *Orthotelia sparganella* (Thunberg, 1788)

VC12: Overton, 24 July (ACr): this is the second year running that the only records of this specialist of Bur-reed have been from ACr's Test riverside garden.

Yponomeutidae

0251 *Ochsenheimeria taurella* ([D. & S.], 1775)

VC11: A female trapped on 23 July and a male on 27 August at Lower Titchfield Haven (both KW det. RJD) were new for the site.

0401 *Argyresthia laevigatella* (Heydenreich, 1851)

VC11: Adults found by day at Hazel Grove, Ashurst*, 23 May, and at Busketts Wood, Ashurst, 31 May (both KG) were the first sightings of this Larch feeder in the county since 2003.

0409b *Argyresthia cupressella* Walsingham, 1890

Finally, after six years of being resident on the mainland at just two sites since its initial report, this species has made it to a third, and across the Solent to the Isle of Wight.

VC10: See New County Records above.

VC11: Appeared, as in previous years, in Southsea (JRL) and Hedge End (DHa), but turned up additionally at MBa's Romsey* garden trap on 9 June.

0414 *Argyresthia curvella* (L., 1761)

A rare moth in North Hampshire, from where the only records for the year were received.

VC12: Winchfield, 7 June (TJN, MJW); another, Basingstoke, 3 July (MJW).

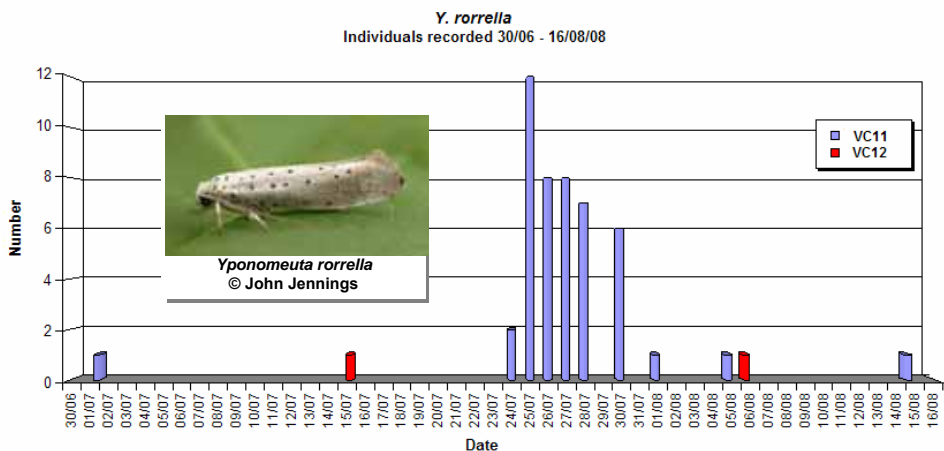
0428 Willow Ermine *Yponomeuta rorrella* (Hüb., 1796) **pRDB3 / Migrant**

A best-ever total of 21 records of 47 individuals were received, compared to one in 2007 and nine in the noteworthy migrant year of 2006. Correspondence with other Lepidopterists across the country has revealed an influx over the same period stretching from Dorset to East Anglia, for instance Norfolk had an influx on the 25th, with over 100 the next day and only the odd record thereafter (JCI pers. comm.). This immigration coincided with the onset of a very warm south-east to easterly airflow over England on 24th July, originating over the Alps two days earlier before moving north-west across central and northern France and on to our shores (Peter Davey pers. comm.). Even so, the reasons for so large a number of this one species are unclear in an otherwise unexceptional year for migrant moths, and with so many along the south coast, the absence of any records from the Isle of Wight is noteworthy, although this is probably due to under-recording of micro-moths in general on the island. Sightings in counties west of Dorset were also notably absent.

VC11: The first record of the year was at Sandy Point, Hayling Island, one on 1 July (AJ). There appears to have been an influx along the south coast between 25 and 30 July, with records as follows: Woodlands, Ashurst, three, 26 July (KG, BE det. BE), with one nearby at Hazel Grove, Ashurst, on the same night and another on 30 July (KG); St Cross, Winchester, four, 25 July (TJW det. BE); Cosham, three on 25 and 26 July (TJJ); Southsea, 19 between 25 and 30 July, with further individuals on 2 and 15

August (IRT), and nearby JRL trapped 12 between 24 and 30 July. Elsewhere there was one at Mockbeggar, near Blashford*, 5 August (RHL).

VC12: In North Hampshire *Y. rorrella* is rarely recorded: one at Winnall Moors HWWT NR*, 15 July (AHD) followed by another at Bartley Heath HWWT NR, 6 August (AMD) were outside the apparent main influx period seen in the south of the county.



0431 *Yponomeuta sedella* (Treitschke, 1832)

Nb

A widespread but local species in South Hampshire, restricted to localities where its foodplant, Orpine, occurs.

VC11: Botley Wood, 18 July (RJD *et al*); Ashurst, five recorded between 18 and 25 July and another on 8 August (KG). On Hayling Island, one at Sandy Point* on 24 July (AJ).

0435 *Zelleria hepariella* Stainton, 1849

A very local feeder on Ash.

VC11: Ashurst*, 25 July (KG).

0442 *Cedestis gysselella* Zeller, 1839

This and its congener (below) occur at low densities in Scots Pine plantations, the larva mining the needles.

VC11: Botley Wood, 13 June (AMD).

VC12: Lords Wood, Pamber Forest, 7 June (DGG).

0443 *Cedestis subfasciella* (Stephens, 1834)

VC11: Ashurst*, 16 and 22 May (KG).

VC12: Cove, 31 May (RJE); Alton, one to actinic, 14 July (DBO det. MJW).

0445 *Ocnerostoma friesei* Svensson, 1966

VC11: Reports were submitted from Ashurst, NF, with adults on three nights between 25 April and 13 May (KG); and Crab Wood, Sparsholt*, 22 August (DGG).

0452 *Ypsolopa nemorella*
(L., 1758)

A widespread but generally uncommon woodland insect outside of South Hampshire. The larva can be found on Honeysuckle.

VC12: Micheldever Spoil Heaps*, 21 July (BE) and Deadwater Valley, Bordon*, 5 August (NM).



Ypsolopa nemorella, Deadwater Valley, Bordon
5 August © Nick Montegriffo

0458 *Ypsolopa alpella* ([D. & S.], 1775)

The same comments per the previous entry regarding distribution apply to this oak-feeding species.

VC11: Ashurst, 11 August (KG); Funtley, 16 September (MLO det. RJD); Botley Wood, 30 September (AMD).

VC12: Bartley Heath NR, 6 August, and Shortheath Common*, 7 August (both AMD).

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

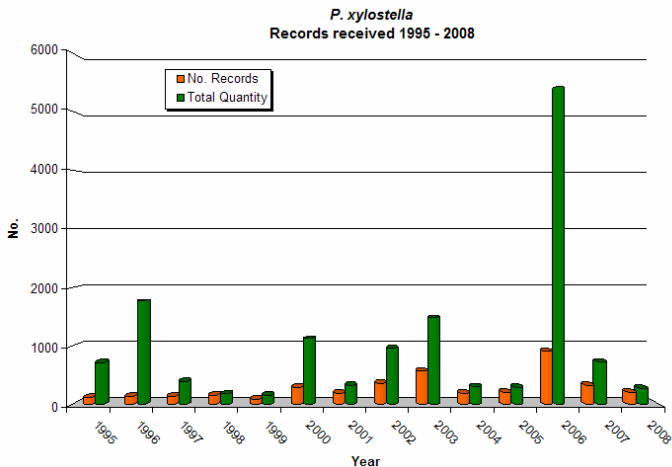
Migrant

Last year's report highlighted a dramatic fall in numbers of this common migrant, and 2008 saw a further decline, with the number of records received down by over one-third and total individuals by two-thirds. However, as can be seen in the chart below, numbers do vary widely year on year and the situation in 2008 mirrors that of 2004/5.

VC10: Only seven records received of nine individuals. The earliest was of one on 27 April with the latest being two on 3 August (both SAK-J).

VC11: The first was one in the NF at Pondhead Inclosure, on 26 April (KT). As elsewhere, numbers were low with 137 records of some 188 individuals, the maximum count from one site being just eight – Romsey, 30 June (MBa) and Southsea, 28 July (IRT). The last of the main flight period was one in Southsea on 26 September (JRL), with just one later individual nearby in IRT's trap on 20 November.

VC12: In North Hampshire, just 55 records of 80 individuals were received, but VC12 did have the honour of the earliest sighting in all three vice-counties with one on 25 April in Greywell (PBo). The highest single site count - to multiple MV traps - was of 10 in Black Wood, Micheldever on the night of 1 July (CWP, MJW). The main flight period ended with two in Upper Inhams Copse, near Silchester on 29 August (GJD), and a straggler on 4 November in Sherborne St John (NM).



VC22: Four individuals were counted on three dates between 2 July and 9 September in GJD's Mortimer West End garden.

0473 Leek Moth *Acrolepiopsis assectella* (Zeller, 1839)

pRDB3

In the 2000s this species has spread across South Hampshire and is now widely distributed and common from Hayling west to Southampton. A further range expansion westwards was seen in 2008, into new areas as detailed below. However, it remains scarce or overlooked in the north and there is only one record from the Isle of Wight, in 2005.

VC11: Chandler's Ford*, 30 June (BE); Brockenhurst*, 10 June (RBW); Ashurst*, 29 July (KG).

VC12: Relatively rare in the north of the county, with the following taking the number of vice-county records to ten: Overton, singles on 26 April and 7 May (ACr).

Lyonetiidae

0259 *Leucoptera lotella* (Stainton, 1858)

VC11: A few mines on Greater Bird's-foot-trefoil at Fletchwood Meadows, Ashurst*, 24 July (JRL, MRY, JY, SMP).

Coleophoridae

0487 *Metriotes lutarea* (Haworth, 1828)

Nb

It is worth examining flowers of Greater Stitchwort, in sunny spots, for this attractive bronze-coloured moth during its flight period. It also comes to light, as below.

VC12: Just the one Hampshire record this year: one adult was taken in Black Wood, Micheldever*, 1 July (CWP, MJW).

0496 *Coleophora milvipennis* (Zeller, 1839)

A case-builder found on birch, and although it is not uncommon in the southern mainland and rarely recorded in North Hampshire, the only record for the year was from this area.

VC12: Bartley Heath NR, male, 6 August (AMD gen. det.).

0497 *Coleophora badiipennella* (Dup., 1843)

An elm-feeding coleophorid with a generally southerly distribution in Hampshire. The records below bring the total North Hampshire sightings to five.

VC12: After a gap of twelve years there were two moths trapped, at Shortheath Common*, 9 June (AMD gen. det.) and at Deadwater Valley, Bordon*, 10 June (NM, gen. det. JCI).

0498 *Coleophora alnifoliae* (Barasch, 1934)

Nb

An uncommon moth in Hampshire, most often seen as a larva where the long thin cases on Alder are very distinctive.

VC12: Just the one 2008 record, an adult at Winchfield*, 7 June (MJW gen. det.).

0499 *Coleophora limosipennella* (Dup., 1843)

VC10: There are few Isle of Wight records for this elm-feeding coleophorid and the sighting of a case, mine and cut outs at Osborne*, 12 October on English Elm was noteworthy (JRL, DTB, BE).

VC11: At Great Salterns NR, Portsmouth, two vacated mines and cut-out leaves on English Elm, 2 November (JRL, RMP).

0521 *Coleophora conyzae* (Zeller, 1868)

Nb

VC11: A coleophorid with a distinctive bias towards the south-east of the mainland. Most records are from adults trapped at light and this year was no exception. Moths were seen at Funtley, 17 July (MLO gen. det. RJD), Botley Wood, 18 July (RJD) and Titchfield Haven, 30 July (KW gen. det. RJD).

0523 *Coleophora hemerobiella* (Scopoli, 1763)

Nb

A strong population of this moth existed on isolated Hawthorn bushes in Fleet but the population has crashed due to removal of the hedgerow. Still unrecorded outside of North Hampshire.

VC12: Two new sites were found in this area. Cases were seen at Phoenix Green, near Hartley Wintney, 31 May (RE), and an adult was trapped at Micheldever Spoil Heaps, 21 July (BE).

0525 *Coleophora solitariella* Zeller, 1849

Diligent searching for feeding signs on Greater Stitchwort may be rewarded with a sighting of the case of this uncommon Hampshire moth (or the closely related and far rarer *Coleophora lithargyrinella*). The majority of Hampshire records are from South Hampshire.

VC11: A case was found at Hengistbury Head*, 12 May (JRL).

0526 Larch Case-bearer *Coleophora laricella* (Hüb., 1817)

Only two records were received for this Larch feeding species.

VC11: Southsea, 29 May (JRL).

VC12: An uncommon moth in the north of the county. A male was trapped at Sherborne St. John, 31 May (NM gen. det. JCI).

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

Mostly recorded from the south of Hampshire with a mixture of moths or cases seen on *Salix*. Only one confirmed record was received.

VC11: Crab Wood, Sparsholt, 27 June (DGG gen. det.).

0535 *Coleophora ibipennella* Zeller, 1849

This oak-feeding species has a scattered distribution throughout Hampshire, but few records from the Island.

VC10: A case on Holm Oak at Werrar, 25 August (DTB det. JRL) was only the third Island sighting.

VC12: Shortheath Common*, 7 July (AMD); cases at The Lea Fields, Fleet, 14 September and 21 October (RE).

0536 *Coleophora betulella* (Heinemann, 1876)

VC12: Two new sites found in the north-east of the county with cases seen on birch at Bourley Hill, 4 May and Yateley Heath Wood, near Fleet, 14 June (RE).

0537 *Coleophora kuehnella* (Goeze, 1783)

A coleophorid making spectacular 'bubble-like' cases on oak. Mostly recorded in VC11, where three sightings were made, and the following from North Hampshire are of particular note:

VC12: Individuals were trapped 1 July at Alton* (DBO gen. det. BGo), and Kempshott*, 1 July (GAH gen. det. JCI).

0538 *Coleophora vibicella* (Hüb., 1813)

(UKBAP)

Four records were submitted for this very rare feeder on Dyer's Greenweed, known from very few sites in the United Kingdom. The Isle of Wight sightings were the first in 30 years.

VC10: Cases, mines and larvae were seen at Newtown on 31 May, and on 13 June, 33 cases were found in a two hour search at the same site (DTB).

VC11: The overwhelming majority of records emanate from South Hampshire. On Hayling Island, on one site, cases were found on 26 June (JWP) and a partial survey at another site on 21 July returned 71 cases (AMD).

0546 *Coleophora genistae* Stainton, 1857

An uncommon Hampshire moth, forming a cryptic case on Petty Whin.

VC11: Cases were seen in two localities in Holmsley Inclosure, NF on 3 May (DGG). These were the only records received.

0552 *Coleophora lassella* Staudinger, 1859

Nb

A rare, predominantly coastal species found mostly in south-east Hampshire.

VC11: A female was trapped at Lower Titchfield Haven (KW gen. det. RJD); male, Matley Bog, NF*, 24 July (JRL, MY, JY, SMP gen. det. SMP); another male, 24 July, Southsea (JRL gen. det.).

0553 *Coleophora striatipennella* Nylander, 1848

Another species found mostly in the south of Hampshire.

VC11: Southsea, 29 May (IRT gen. det.), 22 July (JRL gen. det.)

VC12: Winnall Moors HWWT NR*, three, 29 May (AHD, GAH) and further individuals on 7 June, 15 July and 11 August (AHD); Shortheath Common, a single, 9 June (AMD gen. det.).

0567 *Coleophora adpersella* Benander, 1939

An uncommon Hampshire species, with the majority of records from VC11.

VC11: Individuals to MV at Southsea on 26, 30 July (IRT gen. det.).

0568 *Coleophora versurella* Zeller, 1849

Populations of this species are centred in coastal regions VC11, with very few VC10 or 12 records.

VC12: Individuals to light at Kempshott*, 19 July and 19 August (GAH gen. det JCI).

0575 *Coleophora salinella* Stainton, 1859

A coastal species with the most sightings in the southeast of Hampshire, a pattern repeated in 2008.

VC11: The only Hampshire record for two years was an individual at MV in Southsea, 30 July (JRL gen. det.).

0577 *Coleophora artemisicolella* Bruand, 1855

VC11: A few cases were found on Mugwort at Ports Down Hill, 15 September (JRL, BE). The only Hampshire record this year.

0586 *Coleophora adjunctella* Hodgkinson, 1882

Nb

VC11: Southsea, a male, 31 May (IRT gen. det.).

Elachistidae

0595 *Elachista biatomella* (Stainton, 1848)

VC11: Funtley*, female, 24 July (MLO gen. det. RJD). A miner of Glaucous Sedge.

0599 *Elachista alpinella* Stainton, 1854

VC11: Lower Titchfield Haven*, five males trapped on separate nights between 7 July and 23 August (KW gen. det. RJD). Typical habitat for this species which mines various sedge species in marshy places.

0613 *Elachista subocellea* (Stephens, 1834)

Reportedly locally common in the Itchen valley in the 60s, it hasn't been reported from North Hampshire since then, and it remains very rare in the county. The following indicate a welcome find of previously unknown population.

VC12: Black Wood, Micheldever*, two to MV on 7 June (CWP), and another there on 1 July (CWP, MJW).

0629 *Biselachista utonella* (Frey, 1856)

VC11: With only sixteen previous records, the results of intensive trapping at Lower Titchfield Haven goes to prove how under-recorded many micros are: on 38 nights between 14 May and 27 August, 68 individuals were trapped, four of which were confirmed as female.

0633 *Cosmiotes stabilella* (Stainton, 1858)

pRDB3

VC11: Hilsea Lines, Portsmouth, two mines, one with larva, on the grass *Festuca arundinacea*, 21 February (JRL, PHS). This moth remains confined to the Portsmouth/Southsea area, with old records from the Isle of Wight. A claimed sighting in North Hampshire cannot be confirmed.

Oecophoridae

0637 *Crassa tinctella* (Hüb., 1796)

VC11: One seen by day in private woods near Stockbridge, 27 May (MSP, KD).

0650 *Esperia oliviella* (Fabricius, 1794)

Nb

VC11: Only one sighting for this beautiful micro, Ashurst on 30 July, a reliable site in recent years (KG).

0656 *Tachystola acroxantha* (Meyrick, 1885)

pRDB3

VC11: An introduced species that apparently remains unable to extend its range much beyond the centres of its population in the environs of Portsmouth and in north-east Hampshire around Fleet. The only sightings outside of these areas were at Romsey*, with singles to MV on 8 May and 9 June (MBa).

0660 *Pseudatemelia josephinae* (Toll, 1956)

VC11: Botley Wood, male, 13 June (AMD gen. det.).

VC12: One caught at Broad Oak, Odiham, 23 June 2007 (MJW gen. det.) was the first North Hampshire record since 1985.

0661 *Pseudatemelia flavifrontella* ([D. & S.], 1775)

Like the preceding species, very rarely reported and requires critical examination for confirmed identification.

VC11: Lower Titchfield Haven*, female, 30 May (KW gen. det. RJD).

0664 *Diurnea lipsiella* (Hüb., 1796)

An inhabitant of oak parkland flying in late autumn.

VC11: Botley Wood, four on 3 November (RJD, KW).

VC12: Upper Inhams Copse, near Silchester, 5 November (GJD).

0668 *Luquetia lobella* [D. & S.], 1775

Nb

A distinctive species with its long curved palps and raised scale tufts, recorded widely but in low numbers. Especially scarce in the north, from where the following were reported:

VC12: Ashe Warren, 30 May (TVH, ACr); two, Winchfield, 7 June (MJW, TJN).

0674 *Depressaria badiella* (Hüb., 1796)

VC12: Micheldever Spoil Heaps, 21 July (BE). This site has provided the majority of recent sightings of this species.



Luquetia lobella, Ashe Warren
30 May © Mike Wall

0705 *Agonopterix umbellana* (Fabricius, 1794)

Associated with Gorse but encountered very rarely.

VC11: Lower Titchfield Haven*, 15 August (RJD *et al.*).

Ethmiidae

0718 *Ethmia dodeceea* (Haworth, 1828)

Nb

The best year on record for this previously rare insect, with at least 40 individuals reported, the majority of which were in North Hampshire.

VC8: Damerham, 24 June (PT).

VC11: Ashurst, 24 June (KG).

VC12: Chilbolton, singles, 24 and 30 June (GCE); Winnall Moors HWWT NR, 4 July (AHD); Overton, one on 14 July with two on 16 July (ACr); Black Wood, Micheldever, 10, 7 June (CWP), and another 20 there on 1 July (CWP, MJW); Ashe Warren, 28 June (MJW, TVH det. MJW); Basingstoke, one on 22 July (MJW).

Gelechiidae

0732 *Eulamprotes unicolorella* (Dup., 1843)

In Hampshire it is most often encountered in Botley Wood, VC11, and rarely reported elsewhere, especially from the north.

VC11: St Catherine's Hill, one, 7 June (GJD).

VC12: Black Wood, Micheldever, a male, 1 July (CWP, MJW gen. det. CWP).

0737 *Monochroa palustrella* (Douglas, 1850)

VC11: Funtley, singles, 26 July and 5 August (MLO).

0744a *Monochroa moyses* Uffen, 1991

VC11: A miner on Sea Club-rush, found locally along the south coast. Three between 27 May and 30 July, Lower Titchfield Haven (KW det. RJD) represents a new site.

0755 *Stenolechia gemmella* (L., 1758)

There are only a handful of sightings from our area as a whole, and from North Hampshire, where the only 2008 sighting was made.

VC12: Herriard Park Estate (HWT)*, 15 August (ACr).

0756 *Parachronistis albiceps* (Zeller, 1839)

VC11: Hedge End, one to actinic, 10 June (DHa); Ashurst*, 20 June (KG).

VC12: Black Wood, Micheldever, 1 July (CWP, MJW det. CWP); Shortheath Common*, 7 July (AMD).

0758 *Recurvaria leucatella* (Clerck, 1759)

Nb

Five reports represents a good year for a widespread but rare insect.

VC11: Ivy Wood, Brockenhurst, one by day, 19 July (TJN, LF det. TJN); Funtley, 24 July (MLO); Ladycross Inclosure, NF, 26 July (RCr, JBI det. RCr); Frame Inclosure, NF, 5 August (RHL).

VC22: Mortimer West End, 16 July (GJD).

0760 *Exoteleia dodecella* (L., 1758)

VC11: Botley Wood, 13 June (AMD gen. det.), Ringwood Forest*, one, 2 July (RG gen. det.).

0767 *Carpatolechia decorella* (Haworth, 1812)

An uncommon inhabitant of oak woodland. The following represents a new site in typical habitat.

VC11: Crab Wood, Sparsholt*, 24 July (DGG).

0768 *Carpatolechia notatella* (Hüb., 1813)

VC12: Bartley Heath NR, 10 June (AMD gen. det.), the first site record since 1994 and only the fourth vice-county record.

0771 *Carpatolechia alburnella* (Zeller, 1839)

Another rarely recorded gelechiid, associated with birch woodland.

VC12: Winchfield, 7 June (MJW, TJN).

0772 *Carpatolechia fugitivella* (Zeller, 1839)

The first Hampshire record outside of Southsea, South Hampshire (where it is generally annual) since 1997, and the first in the north since 1978.

VC12: Black Wood, Micheldever*, male, 1 July (CWP, MJW gen. det. CWP).

0796 *Aroga velocella* (Zeller, 1839)

Four records from VC12 double the previous sightings from the northern vice-county.

VC12: Deadwater Valley, Bordon*, singles, 1 July and 5 August (NM); Shortheath Common*, two, 7 July and another, 7 August (AMD).

0809 Hollyhock Seed Moth *Pexicopia malvella* (Hüb., 1805)

Nb

VC11: Portsdown Hill, 6 June (TJN, RJo).

0816 *Scrobipalpa obsoletella* (Fischer von Röslerstamm, 1841)

The first sighting for five years for this coastal feeder on Grass-leaved Orache.

VC11: Southsea, 23 July (JRL gen. det.).

0830 *Caryocolum fraternella* (Douglas, 1851)

VC12: Deadwater Valley, Bordon*, male, 5 August (NM gen. det. JCI).
The first vice-county record since 1996.

0840 *Thiotricha subocellea*
(Stephens, 1834)

Like many species, rarely reported outside of Botley Wood, and the following represents only the second North Hampshire record.

VC12: Shortheath Common*, 7 July (AMD).



***Caryocolum fraternella*, Deadwater Valley, Bordon
5 August © Nick Montegriffo**

0841 *Sophronia semicostella* (Hüb., 1813)

VC11: Ringwood Forest*, 10, 2 July (RG).

VC12: Black Wood, Micheldever, 1 July (CWP, MJW det. MJW); Shortheath Common* 7 July (AMD).

0843 *Aproaerema anthyllidella* (Hüb., 1813)

VC11: Funtley, one to MV 17 July (MLO det. RJD).

VC12: Magdalen Hill Down*, 10 May (MJW); Alton, one to actinic, 11 May (DBO gen. det. BGo); Shortheath Common, 7 August (AMD).

0844 *Syncopacma larseniella* (Gozmany, 1957)

Nb

VC12: Winnall Moors HWWT NR*, two netted on 7 June (AHD gen. det. JCI).

0851 *Dichomeris alacella* (Zeller, 1839)

Nb

A local and elusive species associated with the New Forest, from where it was reported again, but also at a new locality in South Hampshire, and, in the north, the second vice-county record was made at the same site as the first in 2005.

VC11: Hazel Grove, Ashurst, 24 July; Busketts Wood, Ashurst, 26 July (KG), Sladford's Copse, Marwell*, female, 1 August (RJD gen. det.).

VC12: Micheldever Spoil Heaps, 21 July (BE).

0855 *Acompsia cinerella* (Clerck, 1759)

Reported from scattered localities across the chalk.

VC12: Black Wood, Micheldever, a male, 1 July (CWP, MJW gen. det. CWP).

0859 *Psoricoptera gibbosella* (Zeller, 1839)

Nb

Despite infrequent previous appearances, in 2008 *P. gibbosella* was found to be locally common to light traps run in oak woodland.

VC11: Botley Wood, three, 18 July (RJD *et al* gen. det.); Ashurst*, 25 July and another 26 July (KG); Ladycross Inclosure, NF, at least ten, 26 July (DGG, MJW *et al*), and another on 2 August (RHL); Woodlands, Ashurst, 26 July (KG, BE det. BE); Sladford's Copse, near Marwell, five, 1 August (RJD *et al*).

VC12: Hook Common, recorded, 6 August, and frequent nearby on same night at Bartley Heath HWWT NR, with another two on same site on 10 September; Shortheath Common*, 7 August (all AMD).

0877 *Stathmopoda pedella* (L., 1761)

A good year for this bizarre and attractive moth, with four records, at new sites.
VC11: Hedge End*, singles to actinic on 10 June, 5 and 8 July (DHa).
VC12: Deadwater Valley, Bordon*, 1 July (NM).



Stathmopoda pedella, Deadwater Valley,
Bordon 1 July © Nick Montegriffo



Blastobasis rebeli, Fareham 5 August
© Dan Houghton

Blastobasidae

0875a *Blastobasis rebeli* Karsholt & Sinev, 2004

Four records in 2008 bring the Hampshire total to 20.

VC11: Fareham, female, 31 July and 31 August (KW det. RJD); Fareham/Catisfield, 6 August (ASt courtesy DPH conf. RJD); The Moors NR, Bishop's Waltham, five, 29 August (RJD *et al*), where it is well-established.

Batrachedridae

0879 *Batrachedra pinicolella* (Zeller, 1839)

Nb

VC11: Two specimens at Ringwood Forest* on 2 July (RG gen. det.). A rare miner of Spruce and Scots Pine needles.

Momphidae

0880 *Mompha langiella* (Hüb., 1796)

Nb

This and the next species are very local with larvae that mine Enchanter's Nightshade.

VC11: Hillier Arboretum, near Romsey*, several larvae, 5 June (JRL, BG, J. Goater); Fletchwood Copse, Ashurst, a few larvae with cocoons, 24 July (JRL, MRY, JY, SMP); additionally, an adult was taken at light, Southsea, 17 August (JRL).

0881 *Mompha terminella* (Humphreys & Westwood, 1845)

Nb

VC10: Wroxall Copse*, mines with larvae, 20 September (DTB).

0882 *Mompha locupletella* ([D. & S.], 1775)

VC11: West Walk, near Wickham*, one swept, 16 May (RJD).

0887 *Mompha lacteella* (Stephens, 1834)

pRDB3

A miner of Rosebay Willow-herb, but the very few records are all of adults.

VC11: Lower Titchfield Haven*, three between 6 and 15 August (KW det. RJD).

0890 *Mompha jurassicella* (Frey, 1881)

pRDBK

VC11: Fareham, 12 recorded on six dates between 7 February and 15 March (KW) in his garden workshop. New to Hampshire in this area in 1995 and not seen elsewhere.

0892 *Mompha subbistrigella* (Haworth, 1828)

VC10: Despite being an abundant species on the mainland, one seen flying by day at Apse Heath, Shanklin on 14 March 2007 (GT) was only the second Island record.

Cosmopterigidae

0894 *Cosmopterix zieglerella* (Hüb., 1810)

Na

VC12: Hop leaves elsewhere in Hampshire may reveal new sites, but in the meantime, the population appears centred on the north-east, as it was in 2008, with mines at Church Crookham, 22 September (RE).

0896b *Cosmopterix pulchrimella* Chambers, 1875

VC10: New to the Island in 2006, and found on the mainland last year, but the only record received was of mines with larvae on Pellitory-of-the-wall, from Steephill Cove, 23 October (DTB).

0897 *Cosmopterix lienigiella* Lienig & Zeller, 1846

Na

Found in scattered localities along the south coast, and on the Isle of Wight, mining Common Reed.

VC11: Lower Titchfield Haven, singles trapped on 13 and 14 July (KW det. RJD).

Tortricidae

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

Nb

Relatively common in South Hampshire, where a further six adults were reported in 2008, it is however recorded infrequently further north.

VC12: Black Wood, Micheldever*, two, 1 July (CWP, MJW); Winnall Moors HWWT NR, 15 July (AHD).

0929 *Gynnidomorpha vectisana* (Humphreys & Westwood, 1845)

VC11: A saltmarsh species that feeds on Sea Arrowgrass, reported from Lower Titchfield Haven where a female was trapped on 27 May (KW det. RJD).

0931 *Gynnidomorpha luridana* (Gregson, 1870)

VC12: A male, Black Wood, Micheldever, 1 July (CWP gen. det.).

0932 *Phalonidia affinitana* (Douglas, 1846)

Another saltmarsh specialist - this on Sea Aster - with a correspondingly similar distribution and as infrequent a reporting rate as that above.

VC11: Southsea, 26 August (JRL gen. det.).

0949 *Aethes dilucidana* (Stephens, 1852)

Found mainly on the chalk of the central mainland and in the south-east around Portsdown Hill, where it feeds on Wild Parsnip.

VC12: Micheldever Spoil Heaps, 21 July (BE).

0951 *Aethes beatricella* (Walsingham, 1898)

Very similar to the more frequent *A. francillana*, for which there were three records.

VC11: Southsea, 27 July (IRT).

VC12: Black Wood, Micheldever, 1 July (CWP, MJW).

0957 *Cochylidia heydeniana* (H.-S., 1851)

Nb

A species associated with Blue Fleabane, it is very rarely encountered and the following represents the first sighting in over fourteen years.

VC12: Black Wood, Micheldever*, male, 29 July (CWP gen. det.).

0962 *Cochylis roseana* (Haworth, 1811)

The larva feeds in the heads of Teasel, mostly in localities along the south coast although occasionally does turn up inland.

VC11: Ivy Wood, Brockenhurst*, 5 July (RCr, KG, P&CA *et al* det. KG); Pennington, 21 August (RCr).

0964a *Cochylis molliculana* Zeller, 1874

As usual, commonly recorded in the south of the mainland during the year, with a new site (as below) to the west of the NF indicating range expansion; more notably, 2008 saw the first North Hampshire sighting since the first in 1996.

VC11: Ringwood Forest*, 2 July (RG gen. det.)

VC12: Alton, one to actinic, 25 August (DBO det. BGo) – the second vice-county record.

0971 *Pandemis cinnamomeana* (Treitschke, 1830)

Widespread but local, not uncommon in VC11, and recorded with more frequency in the north in recent years.

VC12: Black Wood, Micheldever*, two, 1 July (CWP, MJW); Chilbolton, 16 September (GCE).

0979 *Archips crataegana* (Hüb., 1799)

An elusive polyphagous species with a scattered distribution across the two counties. The three records received were from new sites in North Hampshire.

VC12: Black Wood, Micheldever*, 1 July (CWP, MJW); Shortheath Common*, female, 7 July (AMD gen. det.).

0988 Bilberry Tortrix *Aphelia viburnana* ([D. & S.], 1775)

VC11: Ocknell Plain, NF*, one was netted on 28 June (AMD). A typical locale for this New Forest specialist.

0989 Timothy Tortrix *Aphelia paleana* (Hüb., 1793)

The statement in Goater and Norriss, 2001 that this is a local and uncommon species still applies, but it continues to turn up occasionally in new localities.

VC12: Overton*, two, 8 June (ACr); Anna Valley, one to actinic, 26 July (TJN).

1002 *Lozotaenia forsterana* (Fabricius, 1781)

Very common on the mainland, this moth has only been recorded once on the Island, back in 1983. The following therefore constitutes the second county record.

VC10: Cranmore*, one to black light, 30 June (I&CF).

1012 *Sparganothis pilleriana* ([D. & S.], 1775)

Nb

A tortricoid with distinctive long upturned palps which is very local in New Forest bogs and along the coast.

VC11: Northney, Hayling*, 11 July (JWP); Matley Bog, NF, one by day, 18 July (MDU conf. TJN from photo), and many seen there on 24 July (JRL, MRY, JY, SMP); Ladycross Inclosure, NF, 26 July (AMD).

1013 *Olindia schumacherana* (Fabricius, 1787)

An attractive but rarely encountered moth of shady woodland and old hedgerows where Lesser Celandine and Dog's Mercury grow.

VC11: Chalton Down*, one photographed by day, 5 June (RSy det. TJN).

VC12: Ashe Warren, 20 June (MJW, TVH).

1016 *Cnephasia longana* (Haworth, 1811)

For this and all *Cnephasia* sp., records will only be accepted if confirmed by dissection.

VC12: Alton, singles to actinic, 1 July and 5 August (DBO gen. det. BGo); Kempshott*, female to actinic, 28 August (GAH det. AHD).

1018 *Cnephasia communana* (H-S., 1851)

VC12: Winnall Moors HWWT NR*, two, 29 May (AHD, GAH gen. det. JCI). A typically early date.

1022 *Cnephasia pasiuana* (Hüb., 1799)

VC12: In Alton, one taken at actinic on 27 August (DBO gen. det. BGo) was the second in consecutive years for a very rarely recorded moth in North Hampshire.

1023 *Cnephasia genitalana* Pierce & Metcalfe, 1915

pRDB2

With more work being done on this genus, the true distribution of this undistinguished species is becoming apparent. Only four years ago it was unrecorded in North Hampshire, but it is now commonly encountered when looked for.

VC11: Southsea, 24 July (JRL gen. det.); St Cross, Winchester*, 25 July (TJW gen. det. BE); Ashurst*, three, 26 July (KG, BE gen. det. BE); Southsea, 26 July (IRT gen. det.).

VC12: Micheldever, at the Spoil Heaps*, 21 July (BE gen. det.) and Black Wood, 29 July (CWP *et al* gen. det. CWP); Basingstoke, three between 22 July and 6 August (MJW gen. det.); Alton, 24 July (DBO gen. det. BGo); Shortheath Common*, 7 August (AMD gen. det.).

1029 *Eana osseana* (Scopoli, 1763)

VC12: Another new species for DBO in Alton, with one to actinic, 14 July (gen. det. BGo).

1034 *Spatalistic bifasciana* (Hüb., 1787)

Nb

VC11: Botley Wood, 13 June and 6 July (AMD); Ashurst, 20 and 27 June (KG); Southsea*, 25 June (IRT).

VC12: Winnall Moors HWWT NR, 7 June (AHD); Kennel Farm, Kempshott*, four, 7 June (Ray Watts, Rose Hill det. PDF); two, Lords Wood, Pamber Forest, 7 June (DGG).

1046 *Acleris shepherdana* (Stephens, 1852)

Nb

VC12: This is a very rare and localised insect in Hampshire, found in marshes and wet meadows. At Winnall Moors, where it was last seen in 1991, larval spinnings were

observed on 21 May from which an adult was bred; two were swept at dusk, 23 July (AHD) with two more trapped at MV, 30 July (all AHD).

1051 *Acleris logiana* (Clerck, 1759)

Nb

The December record below now means that this recent arrival in our area has been found in every month of the year.

VC11: Chandlers Ford, one collected by day, 18 November (BG).

VC12: Dummer*, two found on birch trunks, 5 December (PDF).

1055 *Acleris hyemana* (Haworth, 1811)

VC11: Ocknell Plain, NF, 26 October (SMW); Fareham*, a male, 15 November (KW gen. det. RJD), an unusual record away from wild heather in the New Forest, so may have originated from a population on cultivated heather.

1057 *Acleris rufana* ([D. & S.], 1775)

A very local species on Bog-myrtle in appropriate habitat in the New Forest.

VC11: A female at Holmsley Inclosure, NF* on 3 May (AMD gen. det.) represents the fifth county record.

1080 *Olethreutes arcuella* (Clerck, 1759)

Nb

A very attractive diurnal tortrix which because of its nature is not often encountered. The Little Somborne area on the border of the North and South Hampshire vice-counties has turned up this species in the past, so it may reward further searching.

VC11: Little Somborne, three seen by day at two sites, 27 May (MSP, KD).

1089 *Apotomis semifasciana* (Haworth, 1811)

VC11: Botley Wood, where three were caught on 18 July (KW, RJD *et al* det. RJD), remains the population stronghold in the two counties.

1098 *Endothenia oblongana* (Haworth, 1811)

VC11: Southsea, male, 28 June (JRL gen. det.).

1102 *Endothenia nigricostana* (Haworth, 1811)

Rarely seen, even though its foodplant, Hedge Woundwort is common enough.

VC11: Whitelands Wood, Petersfield*, male, 23 May (MLO *et al* det. RJD).

VC12: Sherborne St. John*, male, 21 June (NM det. JCI).

1103 *Endothenia ericetana* (Humphreys & Westwood, 1845)

Another inconspicuous denizen of meadows and fields where woundwort grows.

VC12: Black Wood, Micheldever*, 5+, 1 July (CWP, MJW gen. det. CWP).

1110 *Bactra furfurana* (Haworth, 1811)

VC11: Southsea, 24 July (JRL) and another, 26 July (IRT).

VC12: Alton*, one to actinic, 7 August (DBO det. BGO).

1111a *Bactra lacteana* (Caradja, 1916)

This species was only separated from the very similar and more common *B. lancealana* some ten years ago.

VC11: Several recorded by day at Ashurst* on 24 July (JRL, MRY, JY, SMP) represent the fifth county record.

1112 *Bactra robustana* (Christoph, 1872)

Nb

VC12: See New Vice-County Records above.

1114 *Eudemis porphyrana* (Hüb., 1799)

Nb

The best year to date for a rare woodland moth associated with Crab Apple.

VC11: Botley Wood, male, 18 July (RJD); Ivy Wood, Brockenhurst, two by day, 19 July (TJN, LF det. TJN); Ladycross Inclosure, NF, 26 July (AMD) and 20+ on same occasion (MJW).

1118 *Ancylis uncella* ([D. & S.], 1775)

VC11: Brockenhurst, NF*, 22 May (RBW); Ringwood Forest, 2 July (RG).

VC12: Bartley Heath HWWT NR, three, 10 June (AMD).

1122 *Ancylis obtusana* (Haworth, 1811)

A good year for this specialist on Alder Buckthorn in damp places but using Purgings Buckthorn on the chalk.

VC11: West Walk, near Wickham, 16 May (RJD *et al*); Little Somborne, one by day, 27 May (MSP, KD); Southsea, 10 June (JRL); Ashurst*, 14 June (KG).

VC12: Magdalen Hill Down*, one seen by day, 17 May (MDB, PDF).

1125 *Ancylis unculana*
(Haworth, 1811)

As per the preceding entry, a species with a preference for Alder or Purgings Buckthorn depending on habitat. Virtually all records from our area are from alkaline localities, and 2008 was no exception.

VC12: Magdalen Hill Down, two, 10 May (MJW) and another seen by day there, 16 May (MDB); Micheldever Spoil Heaps*, 21 July (BE).



***Ancylis unculana*, Magdalen Hill Down
16 May © Malcolm Bridge**

1132 *Epinotia subocellana* (Donovan, 1806)

A previously common insect which has been rarely reported in recent years.

VC11: Woodlands, Ashurst*, six, 26 July (KG, BE det. BE).

VC12: Lords Wood, Pamber Forest*, 7 June (DGG).

1135 *Epinotia demarniana* (Fischer von Röslerstamm, 1840)

Nb

Well distributed but local in birch woodland throughout. Reports were received from eight established localities between 30 May and 1 July.

1137 *Epinotia tetraquetra* (Haworth, 1811)

VC12: Winnall Moors HWWT NR*, 14, 8 May, with a further five on 29 May (AHD, GAH det. AHD); Lords Wood, Pamber Forest, 7 June (DGG).

1144 *Epinotia signatana* (Douglas, 1845)

VC12: A female taken at Shortheath Common*, 7 July (AMD gen. det.) represents the second vice-county record, the first for over thirty years.

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

Uncommon on Scots Pine, but two records were received for the second consecutive year, one from a new site.

VC11: Ashurst*, singles, 13 and 22 May (KG); West Walk, near Wickham, male, 6 June (RJD gen. det.).

1151 *Epinotia trigonella* (L., 1758)

In the last three years, all bar one of the eight reports have been from the north.

VC12: Winchfield*, 7 June (MJW, TJN); Black Wood, Micheldever*, 1 July (CWP, MJW).

1154 *Epinotia caprana* (Fabricius, 1798)

Very local and uncommon, on Bog-myrtle in the New Forest and sallow elsewhere.

VC11: Lower Titchfield Haven, 25 July (RJD *et al*); Botley Wood, 13 August (AMD).

1157 *Crociosema plebejana* (Zeller, 1847)

Na / Migrant

VC11: Commonly recorded in Southsea, where IRT had 59 between 30 May and 14 November, with JRL recording 18 between 30 May and 8 October; on Hayling Island, AJ had singletons on 7 June and 15 September, with another at South Hayling, 6 August (SJW det. MJW).

1163 Spruce Bud Moth *Zeiraphera ratzeburgiana* (Ratzeburg, 1840)

Associated with Spruce across the mainland but still unknown from the Isle of Wight.

VC11: Ampfield Wood, near Romsey*, one seen by day, 20 June (MBa).

1170 *Gypsonoma oppressana* (Treitschke, 1835)

Found locally on Poplar, although does wander.

VC11: Cosham, 31 May (TJJ).

VC12: Ashford Hill NNR*, 28 June (MJW); Basingstoke*, one to actinic, 24 July (MJW).

1184a *Epiblema cirsiana* (Zeller, 1843)

Not uncommon in damp places where Marsh Thistle or Black Knapweed occur, it is under-recorded in the north and the following represent new localities.

VC12: Overton*, 12 May (ACr); Odiham Common*, one by day, 31 May (MJW, ACr).

1196 *Eucosma metzneriana* (Treitschke, 1830)

VC10: See New County Records above.

1200a *Eucosma parvulana* (Wilkinson, 1859)

Away from the Leckford Estate in North Hampshire, this moth remains rare.

VC11: Southsea*, female, 25 August (JRL gen. det.) – the fifth South Hampshire record.

1207 Pine Leaf-mining Moth *Clavigesta purdeyi* (Durrant, 1911)

One of the many tortrix moths that makes a living on Scots Pine, this example is not uncommon in the southern mainland but remains elusive in the north.

VC12: Micheldever Spoil Heaps*, 21 July (BE); Basingstoke, 30 July (MJW); Alton, one to actinic, 7 August (DBO gen. det. BGo).

1215 False Codling Moth *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* (Meyrick, 1913)

VC12: See New Vice-county Records above.

1217 *Eucosmomorpha albersana* (Hüb., 1813)

Nb

Reports received were in typical habitat, open woodland with glades where Honeysuckle grows.

VC11: Brockenhurst, 23 and 29 May (RBW); Ashurst, 29 and 30 May (KG).

1221 *Strophedra weirana* (Douglas, 1850)

Widespread in beech woods on the mainland, especially in the south.

VC10: On the Osborne Estate*, a larva found on Beech on 12 October (JRL, DTB, BE det. JRL) is the third county record.

VC12: Found to be common at Black Wood, Micheldever, where 30 were trapped on 7 June and a further five on 1 July (CWP, MJW gen. det. CWP). Also at Sherborne St John* on 9 May (NM).

1222 *Strophedra nitidana* (Fabricius, 1794)

Nb

Far less common than its very similar congener above.

VC11: Botley Wood, 13 June (AMD); Ladycross Inclosure, NF, 26 July (DGG).

VC12: Shortheath Common*, male, 7 July (AMD gen. det.).

1228 *Pammene argyrana* (Hüb., 1799)

A species of oak woodland; the following are typical localities, including a new site in the New Forest.

VC11: Pondhead Inclosure, NF, three, 26 April (KT); Parkhill Inclosure, NF, 26 April (AMD); Holmsley Inclosure, NF*, 3 May (AMD).

1229 *Pammene albuginana* (Guenée, 1845)

Nb

VC11: West Walk, near Wickham, female, 16 May (RJD *et al*).

1235 *Pammene trauniana* ([D. & S.], 1775)

prDB3

VC12: See New Vice-county Records above.

1237 *Pammene germmana* (Hüb., 1799)

Nb

An uncommon species that has superficial similarities to the *Strophedra* genus, therefore needs to be identified with care.

VC11: Crab Wood, Sparsholt, 27 June (DGG).

VC12: Chilbolton*, 22 May (GCE); Basingstoke, 8 June (MJW); Upper Inhams Copse, near Silchester, 12 June (GJD).

1239 *Pammene rhediella* (Clerck, 1759)

An inhabitant of hawthorn hedgerows, but with very few recent records.

VC12: One to actinic, Basingstoke*, 9 May (MJW) was the seventh for the vice-county.



***Pammene rhediella*, Basingstoke
9 May © Mike Wall**

1249 *Grapholita lobarzewskii* (Nowicki, 1860)

pRDB1

VC11: Southsea*, 24 June (IRT gen. det. JRL); the third county record, the first as recent as 2003.

1262 *Cydia amplana* (Hüb., 1799)

Migrant

A poor year for this annual migrant by recent standards, with only five reports of seven individuals, one for the Isle of Wight and three from VC11, and a first record from the north, for which see New Vice-County Records above.

1278 *Dichrorampha sequana* (Hüb., 1799)

Perhaps overlooked due to its diurnal nature, this is an attractive little moth that can be found flying over Yarrow and Tansy, particularly on the chalk.

VC12: Old Burghclere Lime Quarry HWWT NR*, one by day, 2 June (GJD); Sherborne St John, two by day, 10 June (NM).

1285 *Dichrorampha plumbana* (Scopoli, 1763)

Like the previous species, associated with Yarrow in daytime, yet less distinctive and the few records are more likely due to under-reporting than true rarity.

VC11: Sinah Common, Hayling, one flying in daytime, 11 May (JRL, IRT gen. det.).

Epermeniidae

0481 *Epermenia falciformis* (Haworth, 1828)

Rarely seen, especially in North Hampshire.

VC12: Leckford Estate, 1 June (GCE).

Schreckensteiniidae

0485 *Schreckensteinia festaliella* (Hüb., 1819)

VC10: Rare on the Island. Sandown*, one to actinic, 1 April (GT).

VC11: Five records, the first the earliest ever - 23 February - to a house window in Southsea (IRT). Also at Hedge End on 15 March (DHa), Chandlers Ford, 15 May, and Lower Titchfield Haven, 20 and 21 June (KW det. RJD).

Crambidae

1289 *Euchromius ocella* (Haworth, 1811)

Migrant

The early year saw an unprecedented late winter influx of this north African species: the 16 records of 24 moths doubled the total records previously known. This was part of a national event, coinciding with high pressure systems over Iberia bringing warm southerly airstreams from Africa in four separate pulses (Davey, 2008). It is somewhat curious that only one made it to the mainland, perhaps a reflection of the lack of recording activity at this time of the year.

VC10: Bonchurch, Ventnor*, 23 and two on 29 January, then singles on 5, 8 and 13 February (JHa); at Totland, eight were recorded between 25 January and 7 February (SAK-J). In Freshwater, DBW had one on 28 January.

VC11: Lyminster*, 29 January (A Harmer det. AJP)

1296 *Crambus silvella* (Hüb., 1813)

pRDB3

VC11: A specialist of New Forest bogs, from where it was again reported on several occasions, most notably from Longwater Lawn where at least 35 were seen by day on 19 July (KG).

1297 *Crambus uliginosellus* Zeller, 1850

Nb

VC11: Another denizen of wet areas in the New Forest, but less common than the previous species. The only record received was from Digden Bottom, 6 August (RHL).

1300 *Crambus pratella* (L., 1758)

Nb

Very rare and local, there have been no confirmed reports in the past twenty years apart from one from Hurn in 2004. The following therefore were a welcome and surprising series.

VC11: Ashurst*, 13 and 21 June, 14 July (KG).

1323 *Pediasia contaminella* (Hüb., 1796)

Nb

VC12: Irregularly reported in the north of the county, a minimum of 15 at Shortheath Common on 7 August was a notable record (AMD).

1324 *Pediasia aridella* (Thunberg, 1788)

Nb

VC11: A coastal species which is rare inland, making a record of one at Brockenhurst on 30 June (RBW) particularly interesting; elsewhere, it was found at Mockbeggar, 6 August (RHL gen. det. BGo) and Holmsley Inclosure, NF, 7 August (RHL).

1325 *Platytes alpinella* (Hüb., 1813)

pRDB3

VC11: The only record of this scarce, normally coastal resident was of one at Funtley, 30 July (TDC).

1326 *Platytes cerussella* ([D. & S.], 1775)

VC12: See New Vice-County Records above.



Platytes alpinella, Funtley
30 July © Trevor Codlin

1330 *Donacaula mucronellus* ([D. & S.], 1775)

VC12: On the Leckford Estate, two on 25 July, with another on 8 August (GCE) were the first North Hampshire sightings for at least 15 years.

1356a *Evergestis limbata* (L., 1767)

Migrant

It is unclear whether records of this attractive pyrale relate to a small resident population or to primary migration. No records from the Isle of Wight during the year, where *E. limbata* was first discovered in 1994, may be evidence of the latter.

VC11: Northney, Hayling, 29 June (JWP).

VC12: See New Vice-County Records above.

1357 *Evergestis extimalis* (Scopoli, 1763)

Nb / Migrant

Unlike the previous species, all records came from the Isle of Wight. It may be relevant that the sightings coincide with the main influx of *Yponomeuta orrella* (see above).

VC10: Totland, 25 July (SAK-J); Bonchurch, Ventnor, seven between 25 July and 4 August (JHa).

1367 *Pyrausta cingulata* (L., 1758)

An attractive and rare day-flyer, known recently only from the Isle of Wight.

VC10: Freshwater, 2 August (DC).

1382 *Anania verbascalis* ([D.& S.], 1775) **Nb**

VC11: Five at Ringwood Forest on 2 July (RG) represents the largest single night count on record.

1387 *Nascia ciliialis* (Hüb., 1796) **Na**

VC11: Last year's report expressed the hope that the colony at Titchfield Haven still existed in the absence of any records; evidently so, as singles were trapped on 10 June, 14 June and 11 August (KW).



Pyrausta cingulata, Freshwater, Isle of Wight
2 August © Dave Cooke



Udea fulvalis, Freshwater, Isle of Wight
29 July © Dave Cooke

1389 *Udea fulvalis* (Hüb., 1809) **Migrant**

An immigrant that occurs in low numbers each year, and may at times become temporarily resident.

VC10: Freshwater, 29 July (DC).

VC11: Pennington, individuals on 18, 21 and 24 July (RCr).

1395 Rusty-dot Pearl *Udea ferrugalis* (Hüb., 1796) **Migrant**

Numbers reported were significantly down across our area compared to 2007 (with the notable exception of one site on the Isle of Wight), a contrast to the pattern shown by *Nomophila noctuella*, the other common migrant pyralid species (see graph below).

VC10: Only summary records for this common migrant were received from the Isle of Wight. SAK-J at Totland reported 73 in total during the year, with JHa at Bonchurch, Ventnor reporting 250, with it being described as 'common in the second half of year, and very common in October/November'. The first record was on 23 April (JHa).

VC11: On the mainland, the first record was at Sandy Point, Hayling Island, on 6 May (AJ). In total, 59 records amounting to 74 individuals were received, far fewer than from the Isle of Wight, and comparing to 338 individuals reported in 2007; 24 of these came from Hayling Island, particularly in the autumn, with AJ completing the year as he started, with the last record on 4 November.

VC12: In the north, it was the worst year for this species since 1999, when one individual was reported. Singles at Sherborne St John (NM) and at Chilbolton (GCE), both on 7 September, were the only records.



Mecyna flavalis, Porton Down
20 July © Mike Wall

1396 *Mecyna flavalis* Caradja, 1916
pRDB2

VC11: Consistent reports from Broughton Down over the past decade, with 2008 seeing five by day on 16 June and another eight on 14 August (MBa), would point to this site possessing a well-established colony.

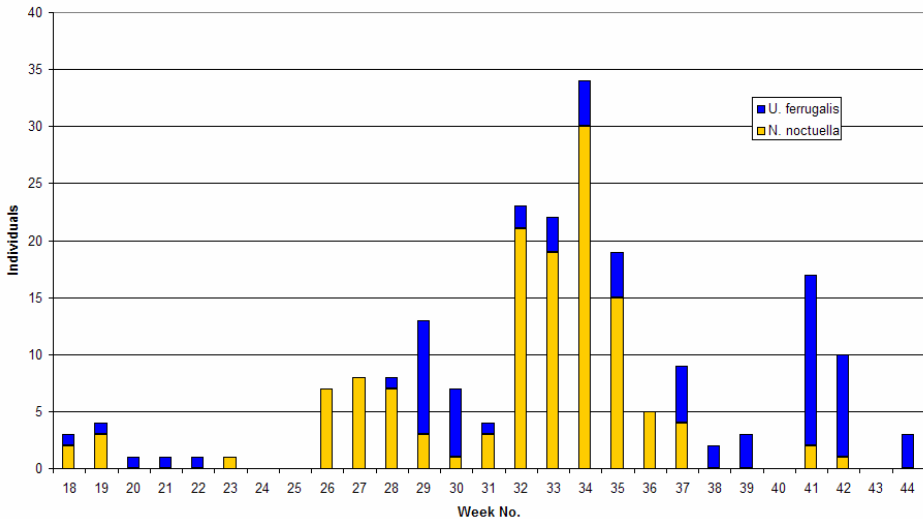
VC12: It also remains common at nearby Porton Down, where six were seen by day, 20 July (NM), Anna Valley*, with one to actinic, 28 July (TJN); at the Leckford Estate, on 8 August (GCE), and Stockbridge Down, one by day, 8 August (MDu conf. photo TJN).

1397 *Mecyna asinalis* (Hüb., 1819)

Nb

VC10: A species of the Island coast on Wild Madder, where it remains common. In 2008, larval feeding signs were found at Ventnor on 7 September (DTB).

Migrant pyralids in VC11 2008



1398 Rush Veneer *Nomophila noctuella* ([D. & S.], 1775)

Migrant

Numbers were up from the 59 received in 2007, to a total of 127. The graph above shows the distribution of records for the two common pyralid migrant species by week.

VC10: At Totland, the first Island record for the year was made on 7 May. Another seven followed between 13 July and 29 August (SAK-J). Four were seen at Cranmore between 7 June and 4 July (I&CF). The only other record was of one at Afton on 26 August (A&LB).

VC11: In contrast to the other common pyralid migrant *Udea ferrugalis*, *N. noctuella* was far more abundant on the mainland. Some 98 records of 139 individuals were received, with the first being inland, at Brockenhurst on 5 May (RBW), and the last, one seen at Sandy Point, Hayling Island on 18 October (AJ).

VC12: In North Hampshire, the number of individuals reported - only 16 - was below the average of recent years, but at least was higher than 2007, when only six were seen. The first was of one to actinic on 8 May (GCE), with the next not until 28 June. The last was in Alton on 9 September (DBO).

VC22: Three were recorded at Mortimer West End, between 27 and 30 August (GJD).

1408 *Palpita vitrealis* (Rossi, 1794)

Migrant

VC10: Bonchurch, Ventnor, 11 September (JHa) was the only record. The last year in which only one individual was reported was 2002; in 2006, 40 records were submitted.

Pyralidae

1414 *Synaphe punctalis* (Fabricius, 1775)

Nb

VC12: An abundant species along the coast, it is much less frequently seen in the north of the mainland county, so two at Shortheath Common on both 7 July and 7 August (AMD) were noteworthy. There were no reports from the Isle of Wight.

1441 *Oncocera semirubella* (Scopoli, 1763)

Nb

An attractive species not known outside the Isle of Wight before 1989.

VC10: Totland, 25 July (SAK-J). This record is the first county sighting since 1995.

VC11: Funtley*, 5 August (MLO).

1443 *Pempelia genistella* (Dup., 1836)

Na

Not infrequent on Gorse along the south coast, where larval webs can be abundant, but under-recorded on the island.

VC10: Totland, 25 August (SAK-J).

1454b *Dioryctria sylvestrella* (Ratzeburg, 1840)

Migrant

Eleven records were received across the three vice-counties, up on the seven of 2007 but 2006 saw 32. This pattern indicates that, while this species may be breeding in low numbers in our area, it remains primarily an immigrant.

VC10: Bonchurch, Ventnor, 21 July (JHa).

VC11: In the New Forest, reported from New Copse Inclosure, 26 July (DGG), Ashurst, with five between 26 July and 8 August (KG) and at Woodlands, 26 July (KG, BE det. BE); at Pennington, one on 8 August (RCr). Further inland, there was an individual at St Cross, Winchester, 25 July (TJW det. BE).

VC12: Alton, one to actinic, 27 June (DBO det. BGo); Bishop's Sutton*, 30 July (PGLT conf. Peter Davey).

1461 *Assara terebrella* (Zincken, 1818)

An elusive species associated with Norway Spruce, most commonly in the New Forest and rare elsewhere.

VC11: Southsea*, 28 July (IRT); Ashurst, five between 5 and 9 August (KG).

VC12: Fleet, 6 June (GCS).

1473 *Cacao Moth Ephestia elutella* (Hüb., 1796)

VC11: A male trapped at Lower Titchfield Haven on 4 August (KW det. RJD) is one of very few received for the county. As a species associated with human foodstuffs, it is very rarely encountered indoors.

1476 Dried Currant Moth *Epehstia cautella* (Walker, 1863)

VC11: At Stubbington, one flying indoors, 23 July 2007 (DPH gen. det. RJD) was one of only a handful of specimens ever identified in our area, and the first since 1996.

1486 *Apomyelois bistratella* (Ragonot, 1887)

Nb

VC10: The fourth record for the Island: Totland, 24 June (SAK-J).

VC11: The Moors NR, Bishop's Waltham, 29 August (RJD *et al.*).

VC12: Shortheath Common, 7 August (AMD); Farnborough, 28 August (KBW).

Pterophoridae

1488 *Agdistis bennetii* (Curtis, 1833)

VC10: A rare plume restricted to saltmarshes. Especially uncommon or under-recorded on the Isle of Wight, so one seen by day, Newtown, 31 August (TJN, LF) was of note.

1494 *Capperia britanniodactyla* (Gregson, 1869)

Nb

Associated with Wood-sage, widespread but local, predominantly in South Hampshire.

VC11: Ringwood Forest, five, 2 July (RG).

1496 *Cnaemidophorus rhododactyla* ([D. & S.], 1775)

pRDB2

VC11: Not known in our county outside of Botley Wood where it was first recorded in 1977. Another was found there on 18 July (KW det. RJD).

1510 *Merrifieldia leucodactyla* ([D. & S.], 1775)

VC11: Broughton Down, one seen and photographed by day, 16 June (MBa).



1514 *Pterophorus galactodactyla* ([D. & S.], 1775)

Most often recorded on the chalk by the characteristic large holes the larva makes in the leaves of burdock.

VC11: Crab Wood, Sparsholt, three larvae found on 30 May (DGG).

***Merrifieldia leucodactyla*, Broughton Down
16 June © Mike Baker**

1519 *Euleioptilus carphodactyla* (Hüb., 1813)

Nb

Another plume of downland, in this case on Ploughman's Spikenard.

VC11: Southsea, 26 July (JRL).

VC12: Micheldever Spoil Heaps, 21 July (BE).

Lasiocampidae

1632 Pale Eggar *Trichiura crataegi* (L., 1758)

VC10: Recorded as usual in some numbers at Cranmore between 16 August and 29 August (I&CF).

VC11: Wickham Common, one on 7 September (KC).

VC12: Sherborne St John, one on 20 August (NM).

1642 Lappet *Gastropacha quercifolia* (L., 1758)

Considering the second year running of poor summer weather, nine singleton records was another very good showing. There are normally just four or five records per year. The following were new site records.

VC11: Mottisfont, one on 10 July (SAC).

VC12: Ashe, one 28 June (MJW, TVH); Basingstoke, one on 30 June (R&SH).

Saturniidae

1643 Emperor *Saturnia pavonia* (L., 1758)

VC11: Seven adults were trapped at light at Holmsley on 3 May (BC event); two further adults to MV at Great Linford on 8 and 11 May (DW); a larva was found by day at Rans Wood, NF on 27 July (M Jennings).

VC12: A larva was found at Eelmoor Marsh SSSI on 8 August (CRH).

Thyatiridae

1655 Poplar Lutestring *Tethea or* ([D. & S.], 1775)

Five records received this year.

VC12: Hogmoor Incl., Bordon, one on 18 May (NM); Fleet Pond, one on 7 June (GCS); Basingstoke, singles on 19 and 30 June (R&SH); Winnall Moors HWWT reserve, one on 15 July (AHD).

1656 Satin Lutestring *Tetheella fluctuosa* (Hüb., 1803)

VC11: One to MV at Botley on 6 July (AMD).

VC12: Grayshott, two on 8 June (RTu); Deadwater Valley, Bordon, one to MV on 1 July (NM); Liss, one on 10 July (PTw); Fleet, one on 25 July (GCS).

1657 Common Lutestring *Ochropacha duplaris* (L., 1761)

VC12: *Circa* 200 came to six MV lights at Black Wood, Micheldever on 1 July (CWP, MJW).



Small Grass Emerald *Chlorissa viridata*, Milkham, New Forest 20 May © Mike Baker

Geometridae

1670 Small Grass Emerald *Chlorissa viridata* (L., 1758) **Na**

Just two records, both by day in the

New Forest, were received this year.

VC11: One at King's Garden, near Milkham on 20 May (MBa); two at Beaulieu Road Station on 23 May (KG).

1678 Blair's Mocha *Cyclophora puppillaria* (Hüb., 1799) **Migrant**

VC10: At Bonchurch JHa found the first larvae in Britain on 13 January and 6 March on small- and large-leaved myrtle respectively. Adults were trapped at this site on 6 May, 21 June, with four in August and the last on 13 September; also recorded at Totland on 6 May (SAK-J).

VC11: At Sandy Point, Hayling, singles caught on 23 August and 10 October (AJ).

1678a Jersey Mocha *Cyclophora ruficiliaria* (H-S., 1855) **Migrant**

See New County Records above.

1688 Tawny Wave *Scopula rubiginata* (Huf., 1767) **Migrant**

VC11: One was trapped at MV on 16 August at Lymington (A Harmer). This represents the second county record following one at Christchurch in 1994.

1698 Purple-bordered Gold *Idaea muricata* (Huf., 1767) **Nb**

VC11: Just two were seen, both at Dibden Bottom, the first on 4 July (A&LB) and the second on 15 July (MDu).

1699 Least Carpet *Idaea rusticata* Lempke, 1967

There were five records received in all, including three from the north of Hampshire.

VC11: Singles to MV at Great Linford* on 27 and 28 July (DW).

1701 Dotted Border Wave *Idaea sylvestraria* (Hüb., 1799) **Nb**

There were no records received last year and just three this year. It is of concern that despite recent increased recording in the New Forest that there are so few reports.

VC11: Pennington, one on 2 June (RCr); Ringwood Forest, five on 2 July (RG); Rowbarrow, one on 26 July (SH).

1714 Portland Ribbon Wave *Idaea degeneraria* (Hüb., 1799) **Migrant / RDB3**

VC10: Singles to MV light at Bonchurch on 30 August and 13 September (JHa). There have now been six records from the Island, four of which are from JHa's garden.

1716 Vestal *Rhodometra sacraria* (L., 1767) **Migrant**

Only seven were reported in 2008; there were over 400 in 2006 and just two in 2007.

VC10: Singles to MV light at Bonchurch on 11 and 13 October (JHa).

VC11: Wickham Common, 9 September (KC); Great Linford, 10 September (DW); Southsea, 18 September (IRT).

VC12: Liss, 10 September (PTw); Farnborough, 16 September (KBW).

1718 Oblique Striped *Phibalapteryx virgata* (Huf., 1767) **Nb**

VC11: One was seen by day and photographed at Broughton Down on 28 April (MBa).

1719 Oblique Carpet *Orthonama vittata* (Borkhausen, 1794)

VC11: One was seen at MV at Itchen Valley CP on 25 July (PAB *et al*).

VC12: Another came to MV at Winnall Moors HWWT reserve on 26 August (AHD).

1720 Gem *Orthonama obstipata* (Fabricius, 1794) **Migrant**

About 100 were reported in 2006, ten in 2007 and just two this year.

VC11: Wickham Common, one on 26 April (KC); Ashurst, one on 24 July (KG).

1721 Balsam Carpet *Xanthorhoe biriviata* (Borkhausen, 1794)

Na

VC11: One was seen at MV at Itchen Valley CP on 25 July (PAB *et al*).

VC12: Winnall Moors HWWT reserve, singles on 23 April, 23 and 30 July and 11 August (AHD); Leckford, one on 8 August (GCE).

1726 Large Twin-spot Carpet *Xanthorhoe quadrfasiata* (Clerck, 1759)

VC12: One to an actinic trap at West Down, Chilbolton on 27 July (GCE).

1731 Chalk Carpet *Scotopteryx bipunctaria* ([D. & S.], 1775)

(UK BAP)

VC11: Broughton Down, eight seen by day on 16 June with another on 14 August (MBa); four by day at Barton-on-sea under-cliff on 17 July (S Blandford); Kings Somborne, one at dusk on 8 August (AMD).



1735 Ruddy Carpet *Catarhoe rubidata* ([D. & S.], 1775)

Nb

There were just two records during the year.

VC10: Bonchurch, several trapped during May (JHa).

VC11: One at Northney, Hayling on 10 July (JWP).

Chalk Carpet *Scotopteryx bipunctaria*, Broughton Down 16 June © Mike Baker

1736 Royal Mantle *Catarhoe cuculata* (Huf., 1767)

There were just two records during the year.

VC11: Titchfield Haven, one on 25 July (RJD, KW *et al*); Wickham Common*, one on 28 July (KC).

1739 Wood Carpet *Epirrhoe rivata* (Hüb., 1813)

Recorded at just two sites:

VC11: Fareham, one on 1 July (KW).

VC12: Winnall Moors HWT reserve, six between 24 June and 15 July (AHD).

1745 Mallow *Larentia clavaria* (Haworth, 1809)

Away from the coast in VC11 the only records were:

VC11: One at Wickham Common* on 20 October (KC).

1748 Beautiful Carpet *Mesoleuca albicillata* (L., 1758)

VC11: One to MV light at Fletchers Water, NF on 13 April (P&CA, JBI, RCr) was more than a month earlier than the previous earliest record.

1749 Dark Spinach *Pelurga comitata* (L., 1758)

A greatly declined species that feeds on goosefoot and orache.

VC8: Damerham, singles on 24 July and 19 August (PT).

VC11: Farnborough, one on 6 August (KBW).

1751 Devon Carpet *Lampropteryx otregiata* (Metcalf, 1917)

Nb

VC11: One to MV at Ladycross on 3 August (RHL) was the only record.

1771 Juniper Carpet *Thera juniperata* (L., 1758)

VC11: CORRECTION: The one noted on 29 April 2007 at Sandy Point, Hayling actually referred to Cypress Carpet *Thera cupressata* (*Apologies Ed.*).

1787 Argent & Sable *Rheumaptera hastata* (L., 1758)

(UK BAP)



Argent & Sable *Rheumaptera hastata*, Bentley Wood 29 May – above: female ovipositing, and egg © Richard Coomber; right: larval spinning in birch leaf © Tim Norriss

VC11: One was seen at Bentley Wood on 29 May (MDu) and a female was watched and photographed ovipositing on a small birch at the Branch field meeting at the same site two days later (BF, TJN *et al*). On 27 June TJN returned and found the larva which had moved to higher leaf which it had spun together for protection (see picture right). A two hour search for other larvae was unproductive.



1790 Tissue *Triphosa dubitata* (L., 1758)

VC12: One at Overton on 23 July (ACr) was the only record.

1793 Cloaked Carpet *Euphyia biangulata* (Haworth, 1809)

Nb

VC8: One to MV light at Damerham on 29 June (PT).

VC11: Ashurst, one on 27 June (KG); North Gorley, one on 1 July (P&CA).

VC12: Deadwater Valley, five between 17 June and 15 July (NM); Anna Valley*, one to actinic light on 24 July (TJN); one at Kingsley on 26 July (KBW).

1809 Twin-spot Carpet *Perizoma didymata* (L., 1758)

VC11: Marwell, one on 13 June (RJD, KC, MLO, KW); Botley Wood, one on 18 July (KC, MLO, KW).

VC12: Large numbers recorded at dusk near Dummer on 1 July (PDF).

1814 Lead-coloured Pug *Eupithecia plumbeolata* (Haworth, 1809)

Nb

VC: Brockenhurst, one to MV on 27 June (RBW).

VC12: Singles to MV at Upper Inhams Copse, Pamber on 10 and 11 June (GJD).

1818 Marbled Pug *Eupithecia iriguata* (Hüb., 1813)

Nb

VC11: Ten scattered records through the New Forest from 19 April to 13 May. This species normally flies until the end of May.

1820 Pinion-spotted Pug *E. insigniata* (Hüb., 1790)

Nb

VC12: One to MV at Longstock on 24 April was the only record (GCE).

1821 Valerian Pug *E. valerianata* (Hüb., 1813)

Nb

VC12: Winnall Moors HWWT reserve, four on 24 June and two on 4 July (AHD).



Pinion-spotted Pug Eupithecia insigniata, Longstock 24 April © Glynne Evans

1828 Satyr Pug *E. satyrata* (Hüb., 1813)

VC12: Noar Hill HWWT reserve, one on 19 June (PTw); Black Wood, Micheldever, one on 1 July (CWP, MJW).

1833 Bleached Pug *E. expallidata* Doubleday, 1856

Nb

VC12: Black Wood, Micheldever, one on 1 July (CWP, MJW). This is just the second recent confirmed record of this species in the county.

1836 Campanula Pug *E. denotata* (Hüb., 1813)

Na

VC12: Crab Wood, one to MV on 28 June (DGG).

1841 Yarrow Pug *E. millefoliata* Rössler, 1866

Nb

VC11: Stubbington, one to MV on 30 July (DPH) was the only record received of an adult.

1854 Juniper Pug *E. pusillata* ([D. & S.], 1775)

VC12: Four larvae beaten from Juniper on 13 April at Danebury (DGG, TJN, MJW); one adult to MV at Cholderton Lodge on 29 July (MJW, ACR).

1855 Cypress Pug *E. phoeniceata* (Rambur, 1834)

VC12: Chilbolton*, one on 26 August (GCE) was new for the garden.

1855a Channel Islands Pug *E. ultimaria* Boisduval, 1840

VC11: Thirteen records from seven sites between Hill Head and Sandy Point, Hayling Island between 6 May and 30 August. The first date is the earliest ever in our area beating last year's early record by more than two weeks. Larvae should be looked for in June/July on Tamarisk.

1863 Dentated Pug *Anticollix sparsata* (Treitschke, 1828)

Na

VC12: Winnall Moors HWWT reserve, two on 15 July (AHD) was a first for the reserve.

1870 Chimney Sweeper *Odezia atrata* (L., 1758)

VC11: Rush Bush, NF, one seen and photographed on 28 June (P Booth, identified from photo BI-J). This is the first individual seen in the New Forest since 1970.

VC12: West Down, Chilbolton, one by day on 7 June (GCE) was a first for the site; Ashford Hill, twelve by day on 15 June (J Haseler) and two on 28 June (TJN, MJW).

1878 Drab Looper *Minoa murinata* (Scopoli, 1763)

(UK BAP)

Recorded in good numbers in both of the mainland vice-counties from 12 May to 28 June. The flight period was about two weeks later than in 2007. No second brood was noted this year.



Clouded Magpie *Abraxas sylvata*, Cadnam, New Forest 25 July © Maurice Pugh

1885 Clouded Magpie *Abraxas sylvata* (Scopoli, 1763)

Two more records of this elm feeder, both well away from known colonies.

VC11: One to MV at Cadnam on 25 July (MP).

VC12: Alton, one to actinic on 14 July (DBO).

1903 Barred Umber *Plagodis pulveraria* (L., 1758)

Five records were received including:

VC11: Winter Down Copse, Stockbridge*, one by day on 27 May (MSP, KD).

1911 Large Thorn *Ennomos autumnaria* (Werneburg, 1859)

Nb

VC10: One to MV on 30 August at Totland was the second VC record (SAK-J).

VC11: A better showing this year with thirteen records in the Portsmouth and Hayling areas, most notably four to MV on 30 August at Northney, Hayling (JWP).

1912 August Thorn *Ennomos quercinaria* (Huf., 1767)

ERRATUM: A photograph of a male August Thorn in the 2005 report was incorrectly labelled as Dusky Thorn *Ennomos fuscantaria*. (*Apologies Eds.*). Rather surprisingly nobody noticed! Note the more pronounced angle on the inner fascia (cross-line) on the fore-wing of August Thorn.

1924 Orange Moth *Angerona prunaria* (L., 1758)

Numbers have dropped since the high of 2006 and for the first time since 2002 there were no records from North Hampshire. There were just ten records, mainly of singles and the maximum count was of eight that came to four lights at West Walk on 30 May (RJD, KC, MLO, AS, KW).

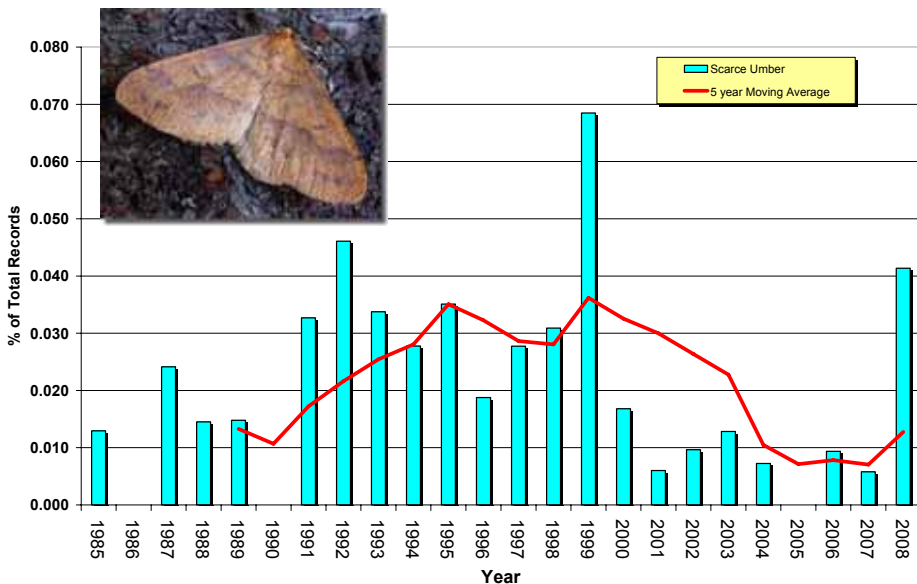
1933 Scarce Umber *Agriopsis aurantiaria* (Hüb., 1799)

This species is easier to record by finding the larvae in May than the adults later in the year. It was surprising then that nineteen records of adults were received between 4

and 25 November, the highest annual total recorded, a pattern that was repeated elsewhere in Hampshire. It was not reported from the Island.

VC11: Lovedean*, one to MV on 13 November (ARJ).

VC12: One to actinic at Anna Valley* on 15 November (TJN); Liss*, one on 15 November (PTw).



1937 Willow Beauty *Peribatodes rhomboidaria* ([D. & S.], 1775)

VC12: One was found in cop. with a Riband Wave *Idea aversa* at Tadley on 6 August (B Hellyer).

1938 Bordered Grey *Selidosema brunnearia* Staudinger, 1901

Na

VC11: Singles reported at Ocknell Plain, NF on 31 July (SMW) and Brockenhurst at MV on 2 August (RBW) were the only records.

1939 Ringed Carpet *Cleora cinctaria* ([D. & S.], 1775)

Na

Twelve records were received, all from the New Forest between 26 April and 27 May.

VC11: Eight seen by day at Buckherd Bottom on 4 May was notable (AJP).



Ringed Carpet *Cleora cinctaria*, Homsley Inclosure, New Forest 3 May © Richard Coomber

1968 Yellow Belle *Semiaspilates ochrearia* (Rossi, 1794)

VC12: Yateley*, one on 22 June (CPr) was the first for the north-east of the county. It is a rare species in Surrey.

1969 Grey Scalloped Bar *Dyscia fagara* (Thunberg, 1784)

VC11: One to MV at Brockenhurst on 22 May (RBW) was the only record.

Sphingidae

1972 Convolvulus Hawk-moth *Agrius convolvuli* (L., 1758) Migrant

Just four records were received in 2008 compared with nine in 2007 and about 230 in 2006.

VC10: Bonchurch, one on 22 August (JHa): Freshwater, one on 12 September (DBW).

VC12: Kingsley, one on 30 August (KBW); Brighton Hill, Basingstoke, one nectaring on *Nicotiana* at dusk (AHD).

1973 Death's-head Hawk-moth *Acherontia atropos* (L., 1758) Migrant

As last year, just one record was received.

VC11: Southbourne, an adult was found under a gazebo, 15 September (J Reeve).

1982 Narrow-bordered Bee Hawk-moth *Hemaris tityus* (L., 1758) (UKBAP)

Only three records were received, but it was encouraging that it was seen again at Botley Wood after a gap of several decades.

VC11: Botley Wood, one was seen by day on 24 May (ARC) and another was seen there on 29 May; Beacon Hill NNR, one on 25 May (DP).

1983 Broad-bordered Bee Hawk-moth *H. fuciformis* (L., 1758) Nb

Just two records of this woodland species were received.

VC12: Bentley Wood, one was seen on 24 May (PGLT); one was seen at Pamber Forest on 10 June whilst the recorder was walking the regular butterfly transect (GJD).

1984 Humming-bird Hawk-moth *Macroglossum stellatarum* (L., 1758) Migrant

Just 27 moths were reported, all singletons. There were no early records to suggest that moths had overwintered.

VC10: Totland, one on 2 July (SAK-J).

VC11: A total of 13 moths was reported. The first was at Corhampton on 23 June (MLO) and the last was at Fareham on 16 October (KW).

VC12: The first was at Magdalen Hill Down on 29 May (Steve Graham) and the last at Ropley on 24 October (LF).

1990 Striped Hawk-moth *Hyles livornica* (Esper, 1779) Migrant

VC 10: The only record of this rare migrant was at Bonchurch on 6 May (JHa).

Notodontidae

1998 Poplar Kitten *Furcula bifida* (Brahm, 1787)

Once again there were widespread reports throughout the mainland county.

VC10: One to MV at Bonchurch on 18 June was a first for the garden (JHa).

2017 Small Chocolate-tip *Clostera pigra* (Huf., 1766)

Nb

VC11: Rowbarrow, one on 26 July (SH) and another at Ladycross on the same night (MJW); a larva found at Havant Thicket on 26 September was the first record at the site for many years (AMD, JRL).



**Small Chocolate-tip *Clostera pigra*, Ladycross Inclosure, New Forest 26 July
© Mike Wall**

2020 Figure of Eight *Diloba caeruleocephala* (L., 1758)

VC10: At Cranmore where good numbers are usually recorded, 11 on 22 October to actinic was exceptional (I&CF).

VC12: A total of 13 to MV and one to actinic at Magdalen Hill Down on 18 October (PDF) was also exceptional.

Lymantriidae

2034 Gypsy Moth *Lymantria dispar* (L., 1758)

Adventive/Migrant

VC12: A male to actinic light at Anna Valley on 21 August (TJN) was the fourth VC12 record, all in the last three years, of this species that is a forestry pest in much of its world range.



**Gypsy Moth *Lymantria dispar*, Anna Valley
21 August © Tim Norriss**

Arctiidae

2036 Dew Moth *Setina irrorella* (L., 1758)

VC11: At Hurst Castle, one adult on 30 May (NM) followed by ten on 7 June (MDu, SI).



Dotted Footman *Pelosia muscerda*, Ladycross Inclosure, New Forest 26 July © David G Green

2041 Dotted Footman
Pelosia muscerda (Huf., 1766) **Migrant/RDB3**

Following a gap of 107 years since the last was recorded in Hampshire, two come along at once on the same night, both within a few miles of the last known sightings! Another was trapped at Dunwich Heath NT reserve, Suffolk on 25 July, and another at New Romney, Kent on 27 July (Clancy, 2009b).

VC11: Ladycross, one to MV on 26 July (DGG *et al*); Ashurst, another on the same night (KG).

2045 Hoary Footman *Eilema caniola* (Hüb., 1808) **Resident / Migrant**

It appears that the suspected breeding population in the north-east, first reported in 2003, continues to be present and is possibly expanding its range from Surrey.

VC10: Singles to MV at Bonchurch on 18 June and 10 September (JHa).

VC11: One at Ashurst* on 22 July (KG).

VC12: Farnborough one to MV on 5 June (KBW); Kempshott*, one on 22 September (GAH det. AHD).

2051 Four-spotted Footman *Lithosia quadra* (L., 1758) **Resident / Migrant**

VC10: There were eleven reports between 13 July at Freshwater (DBW) and 11 October, Bonchurch (JHa).

VC11: There was just one away from the New Forest (where 14 were reported), at Wickham Common on 24 June (KC), where it has been reported for the last four years.

2056 Wood Tiger *Parasemia plantaginis* (L., 1758)

The only records were as below.

VC12: Old Burghclere Lime Quarry, four between 2 and 15 June (GJD); Porton Down, two on 20 July (NM).

2067 Jersey Tiger *Euplagia quadripunctaria* (Poda, 1761) **Nb**

VC10: The only Island record was of one at Cranmore on 26 August (I&CF).

VC11: Fareham, 8 August (A Stanbury); Pennington, one on 8 August (RCr); Oxley's Coppice, Fareham, one on 26 August (M Rolfe).

Nolidae

2075 Small Black Arches *Meganola strigula* ([D. & S.], 1775) **Na**

VC11: Ashurst, two on 28 June (KG) was the only record of this oak feeder.

2076 Kent Black Arches *Meganola albula* ([D. & S.], 1775) **Nb**

Widespread reports were received as last year, with a new 10km square record:

VC11: Mottisfont*, one on 31 July (SAC).

Noctuidae

2082 Garden Dart *Euxoa nigricans* (L., 1761)

Observers are reminded that a good photograph or specimen is required for records of this species to be accepted. Just one record was received.

VC12: Anna Valley, one to actinic on 15 August (TJN).

2084 Light Feathered Rustic *Agrotis cinerea* ([D. & S.], 1775)

Nb

VC8: One at Martin Down NNR was the first recorded there for about fifty years.

VC10: One at Totland on 9 May (SAK-J).

2085 Archer's Dart *Agrotis vestigialis* (Huf., 1766)

VC11: North Gorley, 31 July, September (P&CA).

VC12: Shorth Heath Common, six on 7 August (AMD).

2091 Dark Sword-grass *Agrotis ipsilon* (Huf., 1766)

Migrant

About 140 reports were received; about half were from the Island, compared with 25 in 2007 and about 350 in 2006.

2093 Sand Dart *Agrotis ripae* (Hüb., 1823)

Nb

VC11: A female at Southsea on 8 June was presumably a wanderer from the nearest known colony on Hayling Island (IRT).

2110a Langmaid's Yellow Underwing *N. janthina* ([D. & S.], 1775)

Migrant

VC11: Northney, Town, Hayling Island, one to MV on 27 July (JWP); Sandy Point, Hayling, one on 27 August (AJ).

2102a Radford's Flame Shoulder *O. leucogaster* (Freyer, 1831)

Migrant

VC10: See New County Records above.

2105 Dotted Rustic *Rhyacia simulans* (Huf., 1766)

VC12: Liss*, one on 10 July (PTw). The second year running that this scarce species has been reported.

2108 Lunar Yellow Underwing *Noctua orbona* (Huf., 1766)

(UK BAP)

VC12: Cholderton, one on 26 July (HE). Last recorded at this site in 2006. All observers are reminded that a specimen or good photograph is required for acceptance of this species.



Lunar Yellow Underwing *Noctua orbona*, Cholderton 26 July © Tim Norriss

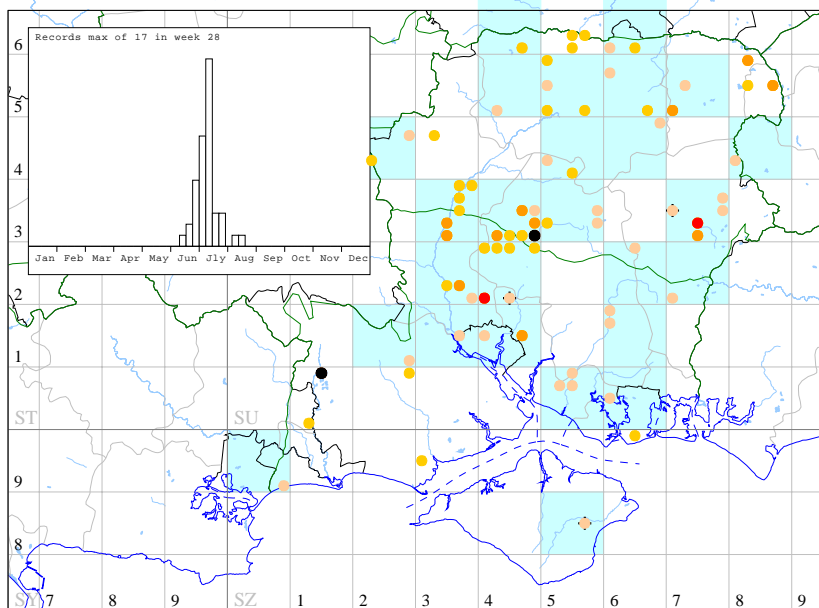
2114 Double Dart *Graphiphora augur* (Fabricius, 1775)

Including these two there have now been just four records in our area since 1998. This was once a widespread species that is now rare (see map below). From analysis of the Rothamsted data this species is the fourth most declined species (97% over 35 years).

VC11: Mockbeggar, one on 4 August (RHL).

VC12: Winnall Moors HWWT reserve, two on 24 June (AHD).

2114 Double Dart (*Graphiphora augur*)



Distribution of Double Dart *Graphiphora augur* – all records in database. 2008 records shown in black, post-2000 records in red. Flight-time graph inset.

2119 Pearly Underwing *Peridroma saucia* (Hüb., 1808)

Migrant

Only 46 individuals were reported in 2008 compared with over 70 in 2007 and 500 in 2006. All but four were on the Island spread over nine months of the year from 28 January to 16 September.

2127 Triple-spotted Clay *Xestia ditrapezium* ([D.&S.], 1775)

VC12: Shortheath Common, two to MV on 7 July (AMD). This is the first confirmed county record since 2001 of this very local species.

2140 White-marked *Cerastis leucographa* ([D. & S.], 1775)

Nb

As usual all six records were from north Hampshire.

VC12: Longstock, one to MV on 5 March and four on 2 April (GCE); Chilbolton, one on 30 March (GCE); Leckford, two on 3 April (GCE); Morgaston Wood, 17 April (TJN, MJW); Alton, one on 19 April (DBO).

2171 Marbled Coronet *Hadena confusa* (Huf., 1766)

VC12: One to MV at Chilbolton on 2 July (GCE), the second year running that the only record was from this garden.

2176 Antler Moth *Cerapteryx graminis* (L., 1758)

The Antler Moth has declined since the 1990s but the numbers recorded at Winnall Moors are the highest yet recorded in our area (see the map in the 2007 report).

VC12: Winnall Moors HWWT reserve, recorded between 23 July and 26 August with a maximum of 32 to MV and one to actinic on 11 August (AHD).

2183 Blossom Underwing *Orthosia miniosa* ([D.& S.], 1775)

Back to a more normal year with 13 adults seen, compared with the 80 of last year.

VC10: Bonchurch*, singles to MV on 21 and 22 April (JHa).

2195 Delicate *Mythimna vitellina* (Hüb., 1808)

Migrant

Just 37 individuals were seen in 2008, mainly on the Island, compared with about 200 in 2007 and over 1000 in 2006.

2203 White-speck *Mythimna unipuncta* (Haworth, 1809)

Migrant

This represents the highest numbers recorded in the area since 2003.

VC10: Bonchurch, thirteen to MV between September and November (JHa); Ventnor, one on 10 October (AB); Totland, five between 22 October and 19 November (SAK-J).

VC11: Wickham Common, one on 27 September (KC).

2208 Cosmopolitan *Mythimna loreyi* (Dup., 1827)

Migrant

Just two records of singletons were received.

VC10: Bonchurch, singles to MV on 10 and 13 September (JHa).

2214 Chamomile Shark *Cucullia chamomillae* ([D.& S.], 1775)

VC11: Adults were recorded at MV at Colden Common on 11 May (ARW) and Titchfield Haven NNR on 15 May (BD).

2219 Striped Lychnis *Shargacucullia lychnitis* Rambur, 1833

(UK BAP)



Surveying for Striped Lychnis *Shargacucullia lychnitis* on Dark Mullein, Brown Candover
2 August © Mike Wall

VC12: Over fifty records of larvae were received, mainly from a training day and survey organised by HWWT (ACr) - part-funded by Moths Count and Basingstoke & Deane BC - in the NE of the county around Preston Candover and Brown Candover in August. The results were immediately effective in influencing roadside verge mowing regimes. Elsewhere, four larvae were found at Neatham, near Alton* on 27 August (S Evans).

2227 Sprawler *Asteroscopus sphinx* (Hüb., 1822)

VC10: Remarkable numbers were again seen at Cranmore where on 14 November twenty five were attracted to MV and another thirty to an actinic light (I&CF). Such numbers are unprecedented within our area.

2229 Brindled Ochre *Dasypolia templi* (Thunberg, 1792)

Just one record of this scarcely recorded species was received. The larvae feed on the roots of Hogweed and Wild Angelica in coastal grassland.

VC10: Freshwater, one on 8 October (SAK-J).

2241 Red Sword-grass *Xylena vetusta* (Hüb., 1813)

VC11: Several were trapped at Holmsley on 3 May (BC field meeting).

VC12: One at Winnall Moors HWWT reserve on 23 April (AHD).

2246a Oak Rustic *Dryobota labecula* (Esper, 1788)

Migrant

Not recorded on the mainland this year but the finding of another larva by JEC/JS is thought to be just the second time a wild larva has been found in Britain following their first find in Hampshire in 2006.

VC10: A larva was found on Holm Oak west of Yarmouth on 7 June (JEC/JS); at Bonchurch up to six adults per night were recorded between 25 September and 6 November (JHa).

2264a Southern Chestnut *Agrochola haematidea* (Dup., 1827) (BC RAP) RDB2

This species was first found in Hampshire in 1996.

VC11: One on Ocknell Plain on 26 October (S Whitehouse *et al*) was the only record.

2271 Orange Sallow *Xanthia citrigo* (L., 1758)

VC11: Fareham, one on 22 September (KW); Pitt, Winchester, two on 25 September (TWA); Wickham Common, one on 27 September (KC).

VC12: Grayshott, one on 15 September and two on 21 September (RT); Sherborne St John, 24 September (NM); Dummer, three on 25 September (PDF); Alton, 19 October (DBO).

2275 Dusky-lemon Sallow *Xanthia gilvago* ([D.& S.], 1775)

Just one record was received of this much-declined elm feeder.

VC11: Sandy Point, Hayling, one to MV on 28 September (AJ).

2277 Scarce Merveille du Jour *Moma alpium* (Osbeck, 1778)

RDB3

A total of 24 were recorded, all from VC11 between 27 May and 5 July. The largest total was six to MV at Great Linford, New Forest on 9 June (DW).

2292 Tree-lichen Beauty *Cryphia algae* (Fabricius, 1775)

Migrant

It seems to be well-established in the east of the Island, and the usual scattering of records came from the SE of Hampshire.

VC10: Bonchurch, a total of 26 were reported with the first on 26 July (JHa).

VC11: Northney, Hayling, one on 18 July (JWP); Southsea, 29 July (JRL), 30 July and 5 August (IRT), and another on the same night (J Goodridge).

2297 Copper Underwing *Amphipyra pyramidea* (L., 1758)

Sixty-five were found roosting by day under a scaffold board leant against a garden shed at Tadley on 5 and 6 August (Bill Hellyer).

2304 Orache Moth *Trachea atriplicis* (L., 1758)

Migrant

Two more records of this migrant species to be reliably recorded in the two counties brings the total to ten. The first was in 1995.

VC10: Bonchurch, one to MV light on 26 July (JHa).

VC11: Lyminster, one on 4 August (A Harmer conf. AJP).

2367 Haworth's Minor *Celaena haworthii* (Curtis, 1829)

VC12: Leckford Estate, one on 25 July (GCE); Winnall Moors HWWT reserve, ten between 17 July and 11 August (AHD).

2368 Crescent *Celaena leucostigma* (Hüb., 1808)

Apart from the usual records at Titchfield NNR in VC11 it was also recorded at:

VC12: Leckford Estate, one on 30 July (GCE); Winnall Moors HWWT reserve, one on 30 July (AHD).

2385 Small Mottled Willow *Spodoptera exigua* (Hüb., 1808)

Migrant

Just five records received, hardly better than last year.

VC10: Freshwater, 10 June (DBW); Totland, one on 7 September (SAK-J).

VC 11: Hedge End, 4 June (JC); North Gorley, one on 24 June (P&CA); Cadnam, one on 2 September (MP).

2387a Clancy's Rustic *Platyperigea kadenii* (Freyer, 1836)

Migrant

Thought to be now resident, but this is still to be proven.

VC10: Recorded only at Bonchurch with the first two on 11 September and then many through until the end of October (JHa).

VC11: There were twelve records in 2008 all in the south-east with the most northerly being at Hedge End on 20 October (DHa).

2391 Silky Wainscot *Chilodes maritimus* (Tauscher, 1806)

Only four moths of this species, which is associated with large reed-beds in all three vice-counties, were reported.

VC11: Titchfield Haven NNR, singles on 15 May, 5 July (BD) and 25 July (RJD *et al*). Itchen Valley CP, one on 25 July (PAB).

2392a Porter's Rustic *Proxenus hospes* (Freyer, 1831)

Migrant

VC10: Following the first county record in 2006 and two more last year, JHa caught two more at MV at Bonchurch on 10 and 12 September; Totland, one to MV on 13 September (SAK-J).

2396 Rosy Marbled *Elaphria venustula* (Hüb., 1790)

Nb

A similar year to last with about twenty-five being recorded, all from VC11 apart from four in VC12. The larvae feed on Tormentil.

2400 Scarce Bordered Straw *Helicoverpa armigera* (Hüb., 1808)

Migrant

A similar number of records to that in 2007.

VC10: Bonchurch, singletons to MV on 13 September, 8 October and 7 November (JHa); Freshwater, one on 15 September (SAK-J).

VC12: Basingstoke, two small larvae were found in a supermarket on raspberries originating from Spain (AHD).

2403 Bordered Straw *Heliothis peltigera* ([D.& S.], 1775)

Migrant

Just one record of this normally fairly common migrant was received.

VC10: Freshwater, one on 24 June (DBW).

2412 Silver Hook *Deltote uncula* (Clerck, 1759)

VC11: At Winnall Moors HWWT reserve seven were recorded between 29 May and 4 July (AHD, GAH).

VC12: One to MV at Deadwater Valley on 1 July (NM *et al*).

2418 Cream-bordered Green Pea *Earias clorana* (L., 1761)

Nb

Twenty-one records were received between 22 May and 19 August, all in VC11.

VC 11: Hedge End*, one to actinic on 18 June (DHa).

2435 Scarce Burnished Brass *Diachrysis chryson* (Esper, 1789)

Na



VC12: Leckford, one on 30 June (GCE) was the only record of this specialist found only in river valleys.

**Scarce Burnished Brass
D. chryson, Leckford 30
June © Glynne Evans**

2436 Dewick's Plusia *Macdunnoughia confusa* (Stephens, 1850)

Migrant

Eleven of the 26 records in our area to date were in 2008. It can only be a matter of time before this species is found to be breeding here.

VC10: At Bonchurch, singles on 19 July, 30 August and 9 October (JHa); Freshwater, one on 14 October (DC).

VC11: Fareham, 31 August (KW); Cosham, 17 September (G Farwell); Southsea, singles on 19 September (JRL) and 27 September (IRT); Ashurst, 6 October



**Dewick's Plusia *Macdunnoughia confusa*, Freshwater, Isle of
Wight 14 October © Dave Cooke**

(KG); Hedge End, 10 October (DHa); Chandlers Ford, one found dead indoors on 18 November (P Evans conf. TJN from specimen).

2437 Golden Plusia *Polychrysis moneta* (L., 1758)

Just four individuals were reported, all to MV.

VC11: One at Ashurst on 5 July (KG).

VC12: Singles at Basingstoke on 18, 24 and 29 June (MJW).

2441 Silver Y *Autographa gamma* (L., 1758)

Migrant

About the same number were seen as in 2007.

VC10: Just over 320 individuals were reported following the first at Bonchurch on 24 March (JHa).

VC11: About 650 moths were reported, about the same as in 2007. The first was at Southsea on 25 April (JRL) and the last at Fareham on 26 November (KW).

VC12: Some 300 were reported. Two came to MV on 29 May at Overton (ACr). The last was trapped at Alton on 19 November (DBO).

2451 Clifden Nonpareil *Catocala fraxini* (L., 1758)

Migrant

There are 31 previous reports of this species in the two counties. It is interesting that at both of the sites at which it was recorded this year it was also seen in 2007. The possibility of it having bred in the area cannot be ruled out. In Dorset it has now been recorded three years running at Shaggs, adjacent to Butterfly Conservation HQ.

VC10: Totland, one on 16 September (SAK-J).

VC11: South Brockenhurst, one on 6 September (RBW).

2454 Light Crimson Underwing *C. promissa* ([D. & S.], 1775)

(UK BAP)

Following the total of 29 individuals in 2007, in 2008 21 individuals were reported, all to MV in the New Forest.

2455 Dark Crimson Underwing *C. sponsa* (L., 1767)

(UK BAP)

VC10: The third county record was trapped at Freshwater on 24 July (DBW).

VC11: Rowbarrow, one on 26 July (SH); North End, Portsmouth, one on 26 July (M Wearing conf. from photo NM); Ladycross Inclosure, NF, three to sugar on 3 August (RHL); Bramshaw Wood, one on 8 August (JB, RCr).

VC12: Upper Inhams Copse, one to MV on 16 August (GJD) was a presumed immigrant.

2475 Waved Black *Parascotia fuliginaria* (L., 1761)

The larvae feed communally on fungi especially bracket fungi – see below. The adult flight period is from mid-June to the end of August. Widespread reports were received from the mainland in 2008.

VC11: An adult on 27 September at Ashurst 2006 was the first example of a second brood in our area.

VC12: At Aldershot on the evening of 29 June DJ found four larvae on the shaded side of a “bee hotel” in his garden (a decaying log in contact with low vegetation). They hadn’t been there during the day, and had disappeared again by the morning. On 3 July just one larva was found on the log. An adult was found settled close by and a further search produced three cocoons. Further details and photographs can be found on David Jones’ excellent website at www.mybitoftheplanet.com.



Waved Black *Parascotia fuliginaria*, Aldershot, 29 June. Larva, cocoons and adult moth
© David Jones

2476 Beautiful Snout *Hypena crassalis* (Fabricius, 1787)

Only three records received of this relatively rare species that feeds on Bilberry.

VC11: Sholing, one on 9 June (ARC); Ringwood Forest, one on 2 July (RG).

VC22: At Pamber Forest two came to MV on NMN 7 June (DGG *et al*).

2478 Bloxworth Snout *Hypena obsitalis* (Hüb., 1813)

RDB3

A species which continues to be an Isle of Wight speciality, the last mainland record being back in 1995. There were seven records in 2008.

VC10: Bonchurch, six between 27 July and 7 September (JHa); Totland, one found by day in an outside toilet on 29 August (SAK-J).

2480 Buttoned Snout *Hypena rostralis* (L., 1758)

Nb

There were no records from the Island this year but it was fairly well recorded on the mainland.

VC11: The first were two on 9 May at Hedge End (DHa); Holbury, 29 May (KJP); Southsea, one on 30 May (IRT); Brockenhurst, one on 21 June (RBW).

VC12: At Winnall Moors HWWT reserve* AHD trapped one on 7 June; Alton, one on 24 July (DBO).

2482 White-line Snout *Schranksia taenialis* (Hüb., 1809)

Nb

VC11: One to MV, Itchen Valley CP (PAB) on 25 July was the only record.

2485 Marsh Oblique-barred *Hyphenodes humidalis* Doubleday, 1850

Nb

VC11: One to MV at Brockenhurst on 1 July (RBW); Cadnam, one on 18 July (MP); Ashurst, one on 28 July (KG).

VC12: One to MV at Basingstoke* on 24 July (MJW).

2488 Common Fan-foot *Pechipogo strigilata* (L., 1758)

(UK BAP)

VC12: Ten were seen by day in a wood near Stockbridge on 27 May (MSP, KD).

VC22: Six at MV in Pamber Forest on NMN 7 June (GJD, DGG *et al*).

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Puss Moth larva, Ropley 19 July
© Lynn Fomison



Six-spot Burnet, Moth Photographic Competition Winner 2008
© Lisa Baker-Richardson

List of observers

DRA	Allan, Debbie	RBu	Buchanan, Roger
P&CA	Allen, Peter & Cindy	CBu	Buckle, Chris
JKA	Andrews, James	DJB	Buckler, David J
SA	Anthony, Mr & Mrs S	PAB	Budd, Phil
AAp	Appleby, Alison	PB	Burford, Peter
IAR	Arnold, Ivan	R&JB	Burgess, R & J
CAu	Austin, Claire	AB	Butler, Andy
LB	Bacon, Louise	A&EB	Butler, Andy & Enid
EWB	Baigent , Ted	EB	Butler, Enid
KB	Bailey, Ken	AMBB	Butterworth, Adrian
TBa	Baines, Tony	CBt	Button, Chris
CLB	Baker, Colin	RJC	Carpenter, Richard
MBa	Baker, Mike	Mca	Carr, Margaret
LB-R	Baker-Ricardson, Lisa	JEC/JS	Chainey, John & Spence, Jenny
SBa	Ball, Stuart	JP-C	Charteris, Jan-Paul
AJB	Barker, Andy	JMC	Cheverton, Jim M
A&LB	Barker, Andy & Linda	LC	Christopher, Lucy
LJB	Barker, Linda	BCI	Clapperton, Brenda
GBa	Barrett, G	RCI	Clark, Roger
EBa	Bartlett, Esme	S&BC	Clark, Sue & Barry
RBe	Beale, Robert	PCI	Clarke, Peter
EJB	Bennett, E J	SAC	Clarke, Susan A.
TBe	Bernhard, Tim	PHC	Clarkson, Peter
DTB	Biggs, David T	JCn	Claxton, Jason
PBi	Billinghurst, Peter	JC	Clements, Joy
NB	Binsted, Norman	WC	Clinch, Wayne
GBi	Birkett, Graham	Dce	Clyde, D
CBi	Bishop, Clare	TDC	Codlin, Trevor
SBI	Blandford, Steve	KC	Coker, Kevin
RBI	Blake, Roger	Aco	Colins, Alan
JB1	Bloss, Juliet	ARC	Collins, Andy
ABo	Bolton, Andrew	CBC	Collins, Barry
B&JB	Bonnell, Bob & Joan	B&MC	Collins, Barry & Margaret
PBt	Booth, Pete	RaC	Cook, Ralph
PBo	Boswell, Paul	DC	Cooke, Dave
SAB	Boswell, Simon	RC	Cooke, Ron
PBw	Bowker, Peter	RCr	Coomber, Richard
MBo	Boxall, Michael	JeC	Cooper, Jean
ABn	Brewerton, Angela	GCo	Copsey, Ginnie
MRB	Brickwood, M R	NCo	Cowling, Nigel
MDB	Bridge, Malcolm	CCe	Cox, Celia
DAB	Britton, Dennis	TAC	Crabb, Trevor
RCB	Broadway, Rupert & family	MCr	Creese, Marian
PBk	Brock, Paul	RCg	Croger, Ruth
AHB	Brookes, Andrew	ACr	Cross, Alison
GBr	Broughton, Geraldine	AC	Cumming, Alastair
GBn	Brown, Glad	SCur	Currie, Simon
PeB	Brunet, Pema	SCu	Curson, Simon
AWB	Bryant, A W	JD-M	Daish-Miller, Jess
RBry	Bryant, Robert		

AMD	Davis, Tony	JGr	Graham, Jim
SDn	Dawson, Sam	SGr	Graham, Steve
Lde	Dearnley, Lorraine	AGr	Green, Alan
BDe	Dempsey, Bernard	DGG	Green, David G
GJD	Dennis, Graham	ACG	Greenwood, Arthur
S&SD	Dennis, Shane & Sarah	MG	Grist, Mervyn
KD	Dent, Kate	JG	Gulliver, John
JDe	Dewhurst, Jenna	PGu	Guymmer, Paul
RJD	Dickson, Richard	MGwi	Gwilliam, Mary
AHD	Dobson, Tony	MGw	Gwilliam, Mike
TD	Doran, Tim	CRH	Hall, Chris
MDo	Dougal, Malcolm	JH	Hall, Jan
MDow	Dowse, Matthew	Mhal	Hallet, Mike
CD	Dudley, Caroline	BWH	Halliday, Bruce
BD	Duffin, Barry	JHa	Halsey, James
MDu	Duffy, Mike	DHa	Hamilton, Dave
PRD	Durnell, Pete	Mham	Hammond, Mark
RJE	Eagling, Richard	MH	Hampton, Martin
HE	Edmunds, Henry	KHa	Harman, Kaye
RE	Edmunds, Rob	Ahar	Harmer, Alex
Med	Edwards, Mark	AHa	Harper, Alison
PE	Eeles, Peter	Rhi	Harrington, Richard
BE	Elliott, Brian	R&MH	Hart, Richard & Mary
SE&PR	Ellis, Sue & Phil Reynolds	MCH	Harvey, Martin C
DGE	Evans, D G	SCH	Harvey, Stephen
GCE	Evans, Glynne	SHa	Harwood, Stephen
Pev	Evans, Peter	JHas	Haseler, Jan
SEv	Evans, Sheila	SHa	Hatch, Steve
Ses	Evans, Stephen	Lha	Hatfield, Lyndon
GFa	Farwell, Geoff	CHa	Haynes, Casey
KFi	Fisher, Keith	BHe	Hedley, Brian
PDF	Fleet, Patrick	BHr	Hellyer, Bill
BPF	Fletcher, Brian & Marion	WGH	Helyar, W G
CF	Fletcher, Cath	JHe	Hemmings, John
I&CF	Fletcher, Ian & Cath	GAH	Henwood, Glyn & Rose
LF	Fomison, Lynn	R&SH	Hiley, Ray & Sue
RF	Fox, Richard	CHJH	Hill, C H J
NFr	Freeman, Nick	RCH	Hilton, Roy
MFu	Fuller, Mike	DH	Hoare, Dan
NG	Galton, N	RHo	Hoborough, Ros
MJG	Gibbons, Mike	THo	Holden, Theresa
JGi	Gibbs, Joy	RH	Hollins, Ralph
FGi	Gibson, Fred	DHo	Holt, David
J&EG	Gifford, Joyce & Edwin	Thr	Horner, Tony
TGi	Giles, Terry	TH	Hotten, Terry
JGt	Gillott, Jill	DPH	Houghton, Dan
BG	Goater, Barry	DHu	Hubble, David
KG	Godfrey, Keith	JHs	Hughes, Jan
RG	Goff, Roy	RHu	Hughes, Richard
BGo	Goodey, Brian	R&TH	Hughes, Richard & Theresa
Gge	Goodridge, Geoff	NJH	Hull, Nick
BGr	Graham, Bruce	JHu	Hunt, John

DHt	Hurst, David	IMcP	McPherson, Ivor
SI	Ingram, Simon	AMc	McVittie, Alan
ARJ	Jafkins, Alan	DMe	Mears, David
RJa	James, Roger	IMe	Melrose, Ian
AMJ	James, Tony	JMr	Mercer, Jane
TJa	Jamieson, Terry	SRM	Miles, Stephen
MJe	Jennings, Mike	DLHM	Miller, D L H
TJJ	Jennings, Terry	DMil	Miller, Dave
DJe	Jewsbury, David	MMi	Miller, Mark
AJ	Johnson, Andy	PMi	Milward, Paul
FJ	Johnson, Frank	DM	Mitchell, Di
DJ	Jones, David	DMo	Molyneux, Denise
GJo	Jones, Geoff	NM	Montegriffo, Nick
JJ	Jones, Janet	JRM	Moon, J R
PDJ	Jones, Peter	RJM	Moore, Richard
RJo	Jones, Richard	TMo	Moore, Tony
MJu	Jukes, Martin	GMo	Mordant, Gill
IJu	Julian, Ian	KMo	Morgan, Keith
PJu	Jupe, Pat	DMr	Morriss, Donald
HK	Kemm, Henry	JNa	Nash, J
CK	Kemp, Catherine	SNa	Nash, Steve
MK	King, Martin	MNe	Nelmes, M
SKi	King, Simon	TJN	Norriss, Tim ,
SAK-J	Knill-Jones, Sam	JAN	Norton, J A
RHL	Labbett, Roger	JN	Nundy, John A
DLa	Lambert, David	JO'R	O'Reilly, John
RLa	Lang, Robin	MRO	Oates, Matthew
JRL	Langley, David & Rosalind	TOI	Olway, Toby
JRL	Langmaid, John	MLO	Opie, Maurice
SRL	Lankester, Steve & Sheila	IOT	Othen, Iris
MLa	Laux, Martin	ROt	Otterbeck, R
DLaw	Law, David	DBO	Owen, Dave
VLe	Lea, Vince	ROw	Owen, Roddy
MLe	Ledeboer, Maarten	AGP	Page, Andy
S&PL	Leversha, Sylvia & Peter	EJP	Pain, E J
RKL	Levett, Richard K	JP	Pain, J
RLi	Linfield, Ronald	GP	Palmer, Gary
ML	Litjens, Mark	KPa	Palmer, Keith
RLI	Lloyd, Robert	RMP	Palmer, R M
BLo	Lord, Bob	SMP	Palmer, S M
JM	Mallett, Jenny	MPa	Parker, Mary
SMa	Mansfield, Steve	RPa	Parkhurst, Richard
KMa	Marston, Keith	MSP	Parsons, Mark
Pmar	Marston, Peter	PPa	Pattinson, Patrick
Dma	Martill, Dave	FRP	Pattinson, Richard
PM	Martin, Peter	TAP	Paul, Therasa
AMas	Maskill, Adam	DPa	Payne, Dave
JAM	Mason, Judy	DP	Pearson, Dave
Cma	Matthews, Chris	DPh	Phillips, David
CM	Matthews, Colin	JRP	Phillips, J R
JMc	McCormac, J	JWP	Phillips, John
ACM	McCue, Anne C	CP	Piatkiewicz, Chris

AJP	Pickles, Tony	CSe	Stevens, Claire
MPi	Pike, Mark	JSte	Stevens, J
CWP	Plant, Colin	DSti	Stickley, Deb
KJP	Plumridge, Keith	J&RS	Stobart, Janet & Richard
CRP	Pope, Colin	CSt	Stock, Chris
BPow	Powell, Brenda	SSt	Stokes, Sue
IP	Pratt, Ian	WAS	Straker, Mr & Mrs W A
BP	Proctor, Barry	LSt	Stride, Les
CPr	Proudley, Colin	Msw	Swann, Mark
MPr	Prout, Margaret	SSw	Swift, Stewart
MP	Pugh, Maurice	RSy	Symonds, Richard
ILR	Ralphs, Ian	KTai	Tailby, Keith
GR	Rapley, Geoff	KTal	Talbot, Keith
PR	Raynor, Penny	PTa	Taverner, Pat
E&PR	Raynor, Ted & Penny	GT	Taylor, Gary
AJR	Redfern, A.J.	DAT	Thelwell, David
JRee	Reeve, J	IRT	Thirlwell, Ian
JRei	Reilly, J	D&TT	Thomas, Dave & Julie
RRe	Remnant, Rachel	MRT	Thomas, M R
PRi	Richards, Pauline	PGLT	Thompson, Peter
G&LR	Richardson, Gary & Lisa	AT	Thornbury, Alan
IRi	Riddett, Ian	LTh	Thorne, Lyn
ARin	Rintoul, Andrew	CTi	Tilbury, Christine
TRo	Roberts, Theo	DJAT	Tinling, David
T&MR	Roberts, Theo & Maureen	ATi	Titchmarsh, Alan
NR	Rogers, Natalie	PTo	Tod, Philip
Mrol	Rolfe, Mark	MTo	Toms, Mike
CRo	Rose, Charlotte	PT	Toynton, Paul
PRo	Rouquette, Pam	MT	Trasenster, Mark
JR	Rowell, John	JTr	Trotter, Jo
JRu	Ruppersbery, John	P&RTu	Turner, Pat & Robin
BSc	Schmedlin, Bob	RTu	Turner, Robin
PSc	Scott, Peter	PTw	Twine, Pete
RSe	Seargent, Richard	TVH	van Houten, Timi
MSh	Shaft, Matthew	PV	Vaughan, Peter
RSha	Sharp, Richard	P&JV	Vaughan, Peter & Jane
JRDS	Shillitoe, John	JVe	Vetterlein, John
PSh	Short, Peter	JV	Vigay, John
SSi	Sibbick, S	PVi	Vigus, Piers
MJS	Skelton, Michael	TJV	Viney, T J
ACS	Smallbone, A C	TWa	Walker, Tim
TSm	Smalley, Thelma	MJW	Wall, Mike
LS	Smith, Linda	SWa	Walters, Sheila
PJSS	Smith, Peter	MW	Ward, Marcus
RES	Souter, Rob	PMW	Waring, Paul
PSp	Spence, Patrick	GWa	Warne, Graham
BSp	Spurrell, Bill	MWa	Warren, Martin
ASt	Stanbury, Andy	SWar	Warris, Sarah
DSta	Stanley, Darin	RW&RH	Watts, Ray & Hill, Rose
SSd	Stansfield, S	MWe	Wearing, Mike
GCS	Stephenson, Graham	EWe	Webb, Eileen
PHS	Sterling, Phil	ChW	Weeks, Christopher

AWe	Welch, Andy	LW	Winokur, Len
PWe	Welch, Pam	JWis	Wise, John
P&PW	Welch, Pam & Peter	SW	Woodd, Sue
RWe	West, Rob	PW	Woodruffe, Patricia
DW	Westerhoff, Diana	DBW	Wooldridge, Dave
KW	Wheeler, Keith	SWo	Woolley, Simon
SMW	Whitehouse, Steve	TWo	Wootton, Tony
AW	Whitlock, Ashley	ARW	Worman, Robin
RWh	Whitmarsh, Bob	AWr	Wright, Adam
PWh	Whyte, Polly	HWr	Wright, Heather
MFW	Wildish, M F	SJW	Wright, Simon
NW	Williams, Nicola	RBW	Wynn, Russell
KBW	Wills, Keith	JY	Young, John
RWi	Wilson, Rob	MRY	Young, Mike
RWin	Winfield, Robert	PAY	Young, Phil

ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS TO 2007 REPORT

Green-veined White *Pieris napi* p41

This account was written by Alison Harper not Linda Barker.

Marsh Fritillary *Euphydryas aurinia* p76

The earliest Marsh Fritillary sighting of 2007 was by Nick Freeman at Martin Down on 22 April. This is the earliest known date for our area.

Wall Brown *Lasiommata megera* p77

This account was written by Andy Barker not Linda Barker.

Moths

Additions and corrections to the 2006 moth report have been included within the text of this year's report.

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