

Review of non-avian sightings 2018

January

The year began unsettled, mild and windy at times before there was a quieter and colder spell from the 6th to the 12th with high pressure becoming more dominant. The remainder of the month however saw a return to unsettled conditions with westerly winds driving fronts across the country at regular intervals and it was generally mild.

It was a typically quiet start to the year for moths but the first Oak Beauty at Seabrook on the 23rd was notably early as this species is rarely recorded before March. Spring Usher, Pale Brindled Beauty, The Chestnut, Dark Chestnut and *Epiphyas postvittana* (Light Brown Apple Moth) were more usual records for January. The first butterfly of the year was a Peacock seen at Beachborough Lakes on the 11th.

Up to two Harbour Porpoise and two Grey Seals were noted regularly off Samphire Hoe and three Grey Seals were seen from Folkestone Harbour arm on the 13th.



Oak Beauty at Seabrook (Paul Howe)



Spring Usher at Seabrook (Paul Howe)

February

The first week of the month was generally cold with predominately northerly or easterly winds, whilst the middle fortnight was often milder, with westerly and south-westerly winds, and it turned changeable in the second week. A settled spell followed but then from the 26th a very cold easterly airflow brought some severe overnight frosts, whilst daytime temperatures were barely above freezing and there was some significant snowfall.



Early Moth at Seabrook (Paul Howe)



Dotted Border at Hythe (Ian Roberts)

The first Hebrew Character and *Emmelina monodactyla* (Common Plume) were seen at Seabrook on the 1st and in the milder weather mid-month Early Moth, Clouded Drab and The Satellite at Seabrook and Dotted Border and Common Quaker at Hythe were added to the year list.

At least one Harbour Porpoise and one Grey Seal continued to be noted regularly off Samphire Hoe.

March

The exceptionally cold easterly airstream persisted into early March bringing some snowfall and with daytime temperatures close to freezing. It turned gradually milder and wetter from the 5th before this came to an abrupt end from the 17th when another exceptionally cold easterly brought further snow. After a few generally dry fine days, the unsettled pattern returned for the rest of the month, with low pressure dominating. Overall March was the coldest nationally since 2013.

The generally cold weather meant that moth and butterfly diversity was low and many emergence dates were later than last year. A total of 23 species (11 micro and 12 macro) moth were added to the year list in March, with the most noteworthy including Grey Shoulder-knot at Seabrook on the 8th, *Diurnea fagella* (March Tubic) there on the 9th, *Acleris literana* (Lichen Button) there on the 10th, *Tortricodes alternella* (Winter Shade) there on the 12th, *Ypsolopha ustella* (Variable Smudge), *Acleris cristana* (Tufted Button), *Acleris notana* (Rusty Birch Button), Red Chestnut, Yellow Horned and Twin-spotted Quaker at Folks' Wood on the 14th and Early Thorn at Seabrook on the 25th.



Grey Shoulder-knot at Seabrook (Paul Howe)



Acleris literana at Seabrook (Paul Howe)



Yellow Horned at Folks' Wood (Ian Roberts)



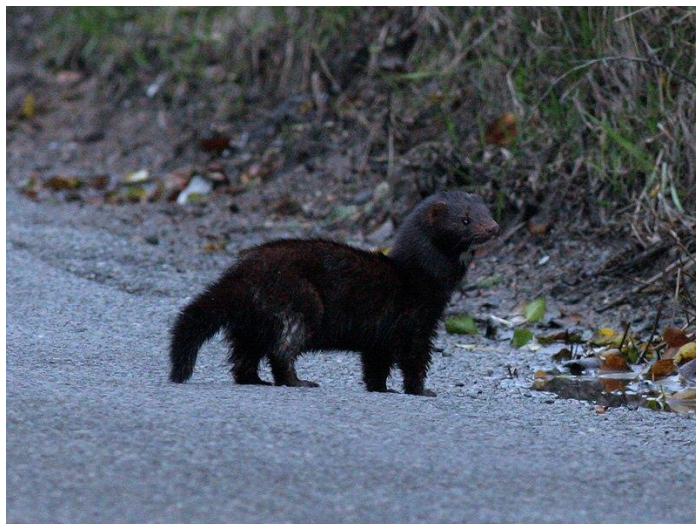
Twin-spotted Quaker at Folks' Wood (Ian Roberts)

Only two butterflies were added to the year list, both on the 14th: Small Tortoiseshell at Folkestone Downs and Brimstone at Samphire Hoe (with a further Brimstone at Seabrook on the 26th).

Up to four Harbour Porpoises were seen regularly from Samphire Hoe whilst a Mink at Botolph's Bridge on the 22nd was an unwelcome sight.



Tortricodes alternella at Seabrook (Paul Howe)



Mink at Botolph's Bridge (Brian Harper)

April

The first half of the April was mostly unsettled and rather cool but temperatures increased significantly from the 17th and exceeded 25°C on the 19th (with the national peak of 29°C making it the warmest April day since 1949). This warmth was however short-lived and it turned progressively cooler and more unsettled again from the 23rd, with an unseasonably cold and wet end to the month.

There were a total of 27 species added to the micro moth year list and these included three new species for the area: *Phyllonorycter sorbi* (Rowan Midget) at Seabrook on the 18th, *Pammene giganteana* (Early Oak Piercer) there on the 19th and *Gravitarmata margarotana* (Pine Cone Moth) there on the 20th. This latter species was first recorded in Britain as recently as 2011.



Pammene giganteana at Seabrook (Paul Howe)



Gravitarmata margarotana at Seabrook (Paul Howe)

Also of note were *Zelleria hepariella* (Brown Ash Ermel) at Seabrook on the 6th, *Semioscopis steinkellneriana* (Dawn Flat-body) at Folkestone Warren on the 19th April, *Scrobipalpa acuminatella* (Pointed Groundling) at Horn Street on the 28th April and a good variety of *Agonopterix* species including *A. alstromeriana* (Brown-spot Flat-body) at Horn Street and Seabrook, *A. arenella* (Brindled Flat-body) at Cheriton and Seabrook, *A. propinquella* (Black-spot Flat-body) at Horn Street and Seabrook, *A. rotundella* (Rolling Carrot Flat-body) at Folkestone Warren and *A. subpropinquella* (Ruddy Flat-body) at Horn Street and Seabrook.

There were 48 macro moths added to the year list in April including Barred Tooth-striped at Folkestone Warren on the 7th, Lead-coloured Drab at Seabrook on the 15th (first area record since 2015) and Chamomile Shark at Hythe on the 26th (first area record since 2013). Other firsts for the year of note involved Shoulder Stripe (6th), Brindled Beauty, Oak Nycteoline and The Streamer (7th), Pale Pinion and Powdered Quaker (8th), Pine Beauty (10th), Common Heath (16th), Lunar Marbled Brown and Scorched Carpet (17th), The Herald, Early Tooth-striped and Water Carpet (18th), White-pinion Spotted (20th), Bloxworth Snout, Channel Islands Pug and Poplar Kitten (21st), Flame Carpet and Tawny Shears (22nd) and Chocolate-tip (23rd).



Semioscopis steinkellneriana at F. Warren (Ian Roberts)



Lead-coloured Drab at Seabrook (Paul Howe)



Chamomile Shark at Hythe (Ian Roberts)



Pine Beauty at Seabrook (Paul Howe)



Scorched Carpet at Hythe (Ian Roberts)



Chocolate-tip at Seabrook (Paul Howe)

The warmer weather just after mid-month induced some early butterfly migration which involved a Painted Lady at Folkestone Escarpment on the 16th and single Clouded Yellows at Samphire Hoe on the 17th and at Seabrook on the 20th. Other additions to the year list were Comma and Green-veined White (6th), Small White (10th), Orange-tip (16th), Large White (18th), Green Hairstreak (19th) and Holly Blue and Speckled Wood (20th). Brimstones were recorded in excellent numbers with a peak of seven across the area (including five at Folkestone Escarpment) on the 22nd.

An Italian Wall Lizard was photographed at Folkestone Warren on the 21st. A colony of this non-native species has been established in the area since at least 1996 after probably being deliberately released by a pet shop unable to sell them. Harbour Porpoises continued to be seen regularly with peak counts of four at Hythe, two at Samphire Hoe and one at Folkestone Pier. The Early Spider Orchids at Samphire Hoe were noted in improved numbers this spring.



Painted Lady at Folkestone Escarpment (Alfie Gay)



Italian Wall Lizard at Folk. Warren (Jacques Turner-Moss)

May

There was a cool and cloudy start to the month, but it soon turned sunny and warm with daytime temperatures exceeding 25°C over the early May bank holiday. A cooler few days followed but the second half was mostly warm despite a persistent northerly wind, cloudy conditions and showers.

A particularly early **Bordered Straw** was trapped at Seabrook on the 5th and other migrants involved a Dark Sword-grass at Cheriton on the 18th, a *Udea ferrugalis* (Rusty-dot Pearl) at Hythe on the 23rd and a reasonable arrival of Silver Ys (with a total of up to 111 noted, including a peak of 32 across the area on the 28th) and *Plutella xylostella* (Diamond-back Moth) (with a total of up to 195 noted, including a peak of 32 across the area on the 26th).

Following the discovery of a breeding site for **Dusky Hook-tip** near Saltwood last year, first generation adults were again present there in late May, with a peak of 20 trapped. Elsewhere two singles were caught at Horn Street on the 15th and 31st (hinting that a breeding site might also exist in the Seabrook valley) and one was trapped at West Hythe on the 26th May (where there was also a record in 2017).

Agrotera nemoralis (Beautiful Pearl), which was first noted locally at two sites last year, was found at two further sites in May, with singles trapped at Heane Wood on the 21st and Wick Wood (Peene) on 31st, suggesting that the species is continuing to spread in the county and become established in the Folkestone and Hythe area.

White-banded Carpet was noted from the two regular areas – Heane Wood (where there was a peak of two on the 21st) and the Seabrook valley (where up to four singles were trapped between the 26th and 28th). Other notable resident species included three Map-winged Swifts at Wick Wood (Peene) on the 31st, single Channel Islands Pugs at Hythe on the 27th and 30th, Buttoned Snouts at Horn Street on the 25th and 26th, and West Hythe on the 26th and Dew Moths in small numbers at Abbotscliffe, Folkestone Warren and Samphire Hoe.

A total of 105 species were added to the micro moth year list (including those mentioned above) and these also involved *Elachista rufocinerea* (Red-brindled Dwarf) at Horn Street on the 1st, *Phtheochroa rugosana* (Rough-winged Conch) at Seabrook on the 7th, the first area records of *Carpatolechia proximella* (Black-speckled Groundling) at Heane Wood on the 9th and of *Coleophora lutipennella* (Common Oak Case-bearer) at Hythe Ranges on the 12th, *Agonopterix scopariella* (Broom Flat-body) at Seabrook on the 20th, and *Eupoecilia angustana* (Marbled Conch) and *Ethmia quadrillella* (Comfrey Ermel) at Horn Street and *Ancylis mitterbacheriana* (Red Roller) and *Spatalistis bifasciana* (Small Purple Button) at Heane Wood on the 21st.



Bordered Straw at Seabrook (Paul Howe)



Dusky Hook-tip at Seabrook (Paul Howe)

Other notable micros also included *Coleophora albicosta* (Gorse Case-bearer) and *Callisto denticulella* (Garden Apple Slender) at Horn Street on the 24th, *Eupoecilia ambiguella* (Vine Moth) at Samphire Hoe and *Ethmia terminella* (Five-spot Ermel) at Hythe on the 25th, *Pammene regiana* (Regal Piercer), *Evergestis limbata* (Dark Bordered Pearl) and *Alabonia geoffrella* (Common Tubic) at Horn Street/Seabrook and *Lobesia reliquana* (Oak Marble), *Ptycholoma lecheana* (Brindled Twist) and *Cydia coniferana* (Pine-bark Piercer) at West Hythe dam on the 26th.



White-banded Carpet at Heane Wood (Ian Roberts)



Carpatolechia proximella at Heane Wood (Ian Roberts)

Enarmonia formosana (Cherry Bark Tortrix) at Hythe, *Argyresthia bonnetella* (Hawthorn Argent) at Horn Street and *Triaxomera parasitella* (Large Brindled Clothes Moth) at Seabrook on the 27th, *Ethmia bipunctella* (Bordered Ermel) at Hythe on the 29th and *Lobesia littoralis* (Shore Marble) at Hythe, *Anania lancealis* (Long-winged Pearl) at Horn Street and *Homoeosoma sinuella* (Twin-barred Knot-horn), *Eucosma cana* (Hoary Bell) and *Cydia microgrammana* (Rest-harrow Piercer) at Folkestone Warren on the 30th were also of note.

143 species were added to the macro year list (including those mentioned above), with Tawny Pinion at Seabrook on the 5th, Scalloped Hook-tip at Heane Wood on the 6th, Toadflax Brocade at Cheriton, Light Feathered Rustic at Hythe and Small White Wave and Tawny-barred Angle at Seabrook on the 7th, The Seraphim at Heane Wood on the 9th, Alder Moth and Dingy Shell at Horn Street on the 15th, Grey Birch, Scalloped Hazel and Satin Lutestring at Heane Wood on the 20th, Grey Pine Carpet and Puss Moth there the following night, Bird's Wing at Horn Street on the 22nd and Beautiful Hook-tip, Obscure Wainscot and Shoulder-striped Wainscot at West Hythe dam on the 26th being amongst the most notable.



Phtheochroa rugosana at Seabrook (Paul Howe)



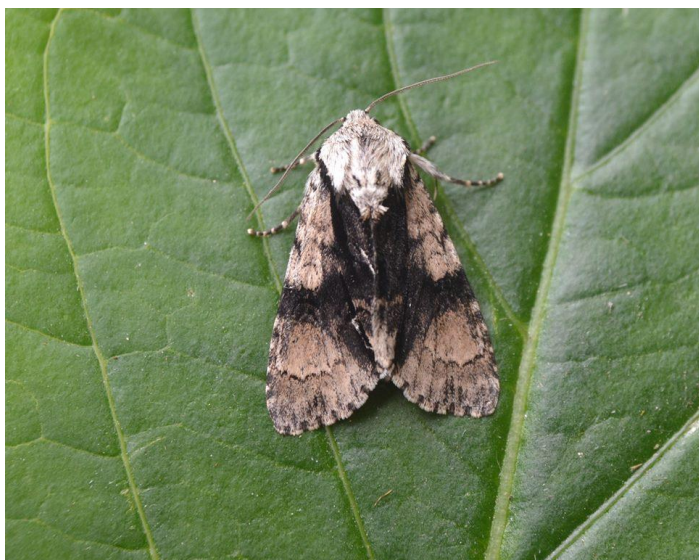
Ethmia quadrillella at Horn Street (Paul Howe)



Lobesia reliquana at West Hythe (Ian Roberts)



Enarmonia formosana at Hythe (Ian Roberts)



Alder Moth at Horn Street (Paul Howe)

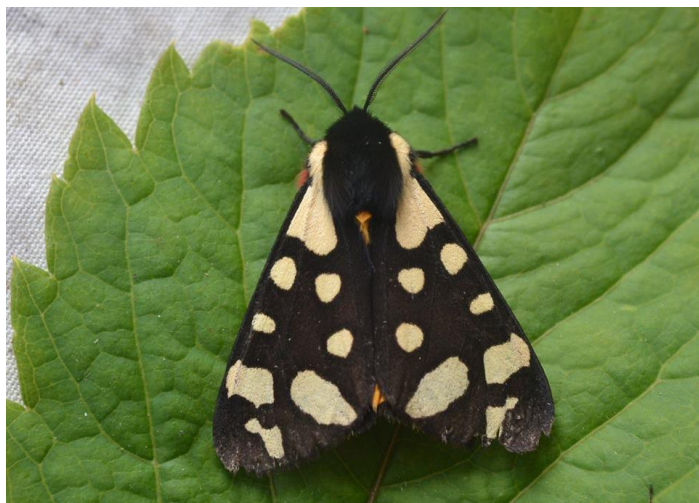


Broom Moth at Seabrook (Paul Howe)

Other notable macros also included a Barred Red of the form *prasinaria* at Cheriton, Cream-spot Tiger at Hythe and Broom Moth and Cream-bordered Green Pea at Seabrook on the 27th, Cypress Carpet at Seabrook and Silky Wainscot at Hythe on the 28th, Broken-barred Carpet at Folkestone Warren and Ghost Moth at Horn Street on the 30th, and Green Arches at Peene, Clay Triple Lines at Horn Street and White Satin at Seabrook on the 31st.



Puss Moth at Seabrook (Paul Howe)



Cream-spot Tiger at Seabrook (Paul Howe)

The only migrant butterfly noted was a Clouded Yellow at Samphire Hoe on the 7th, whilst additions to the year list involved Dingy Skipper and Wall (1st), Small Copper (4th), Adonis Blue (8th), Small Blue (13th), Common Blue and Small Heath (15th), and Brown Argus and Red Admiral (25th).



Small Blue at Samphire Hoe (Phil Smith)



Adonis Blue at Samphire Hoe (Phil Smith)



Green Hairstreak at Samphire Hoe (Phil Smith)



Brimstone at Sandling (Brian Harper)

The first dragonflies began to appear, including a Hairy Dragonfly at Horn Street on the 6th and several Four-spotted Chasers in the Donkey Street area. Small numbers of Harbour Porpoises continued to be seen regularly from Samphire Hoe, where a Grey Seal was also noted on occasion and a Hare was seen at Donkey Street.

June

June was dominated by a high pressure system which brought some very dry and mostly sunny conditions. Daytime temperatures were generally high, with peaks frequently over 20°C, but with clear skies and mainly northerly or easterly winds it was often rather cool overnight.

One of the highlights of the month was the first Kent record of *Zelleria oleastrella* (Olive Ermine) at Hythe on the 9th. This is a resident of southern Europe, where the larvae mine the leaves of Olives (*Olea europaea*), and is thought to be a rare immigrant to Britain and/or an accidental importation on olive bushes.

This was one of some eleven additions to the provisional area moth list which also included *Nascia ciliaris* (Orange-rayed Pearl) trapped at Casebourne Wood on the 3rd, an area where the food-plant Greater Pond Sedge (*Carex riparia*) is present. This could indicate an undiscovered population of this species which species is known to be resident at just a handful of sites in the county. Trapping at Nickolls Quarry on the 9th June produced *Cosmopterix lienigiella* (Fen Cosmet) and *Brachmia inornatella* (Fen Crest), both thought to feed on Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) and likely to be resident at this site which has only received very infrequent coverage to date.



Zelleria oleastrella at Hythe (Ian Roberts)



Nascia ciliaris at Casebourne Wood (Ian Roberts)

Singles of **Blotched Emerald** at Kiln Wood on the 14th and Seabrook on the 16th were possibly immigrants, the latter in particular being away from suitable habitat, and these coincided with some similar sightings at other coastal sites.



Cosmopterix lienigiella at Nickolls Quarry (Ian Roberts)



Blotched Emerald at Kiln Wood (Ian Roberts)

Records of *Elegia similella* (White-barred Knot-horn) and *Pseudosciaphila branderiana* (Great Marble) at Folks' Wood and *Adela croesella* (Small Barred Long-horn) and *Cnephasia conspersana* (Coast Shade) at West Hythe on the 15th June were almost certainly previously unrecorded residents, as was *Strophedra nitidana* (Little Oak Piercer) at Paraker Wood on the 19th.

An **Oblique Striped** at Horn Street on the 18th (a species of coastal sandhills) appears to relate to a wandering individual.

Other migrants involved the fourth area record of *Cydalima perspectalis* (Box-tree Moth) at Seabrook on the 23rd, single Clancy's Rustics at Hythe on the 23rd and Samphire Hoe on the 24th, an *Udea ferrugalis* (Rusty-dot Pearl) at Seabrook on the 9th and a Dark Sword-grass at West Hythe on the 24th. Silver Ys continued to be seen in small numbers (with over 75 recorded in the month and a peak of six at Seabrook on the 30th) as did *Plutella xylostella* (Diamond-back Moths) (with over 200 noted and with a marked increase at the very end of the month, when 60 were logged across the area, including 25 at both Horn Street and Hythe, on the 30th).



Elegia similella at Folks' Wood (Ian Roberts)



Oblique Striped at Horn Street (Paul Howe)

A third **Dusky Hook-tip** was trapped at Horn Street on the 1st and two were recorded at Casebourne Wood on the 3rd (where one was noted in early June last year), whilst five *Agrotera nemoralis* (Beautiful Pearl) were taken at Paraker Wood (where a population was discovered in 2017) on the 19th.

A total of 152 species were added to the micro moth year list (including those mentioned above) and the more notable species involved *Olindia schumacherana* (White-barred Twist) and *Ancylis diminutana* (Small Festooned Roller) at Casebourne Wood and *Phtheochroa sodaliana* (Buckthorn Conch) (first record since 2013) and *Eudonia delunella* (Pied Grey) (first since 2011) at Horn Street on the 3rd, *Teleiodes luculella* (Crescent Groundling) at Horn Street on the 8th, *Anania perlucidalis* (Fenland Pearl), *Anania crocealis* (Ochreous Pearl) and *Scoparia subfusca* (Large Grey) at Nickolls Quarry on the 9th, and *Epagoge grotiana* (Brown-barred Twist) (first since 2012) and *Apotomis capreana* (Sallow Marble) at Folks' Wood on the 15th.



Agrotera nemoralis at Paraker Wood (Ian Roberts)



Grapholita janthinana at Cheriton (Brian Harper)

Orthotaenia undulana (Woodland Marble) at Hythe on the 18th, *Grapholita janthinana* (Pale-bordered Piercer) (the first record since 2013) at Cheriton and *Anania verbascalis* (Golden Pearl) at Seabrook on the 19th, *Epinotia abbreviana* (Brown Elm Bell) at Horn Street and *Coleophora galbulipennella* (Kent Case-bearer) at Hythe on the 20th, and *Mecyna asinalis* (Coastal Pearl) at Folkestone Warren on the 22nd were also of note.

Trapping at Samphire Hoe on the 24th produced an excellent array of micro moths including *Oxyptilus parvidactyla* (Small Plume) (first record since 2013), *Aethes tesserana* (Downland Conch), *Ancylosis oblitella* (Saltmarsh Knot-horn), *Eudonia lineola* (White-line Grey), *Thiotricha subocellea* (Eyelet Sober), *Ptocheuusa paupella* (Light Fleabane Neb) and *Cochylimorpha straminea* (Straw Conch). A *Mompha propinquella* (Marbled Cosmet) was caught at Horn Street and a *Rhodophaea formosa* (Beautiful Knot-horn) was at Chesterfield Wood on the 28th and a *Bisigna procerella* (Kent Tubic) was taken at Seabrook on the 29th.



Oxyptilus parvidactyla at Samphire Hoe (Ian Roberts)



Rhodophaea formosa at Chesterfield Wd (Ian Roberts)

A total of 106 species were added to the macro moth year list (including those mentioned above) and the more noteworthy species involved Rest Harrow at Folkestone Warren and Water Ermine at Nickolls Quarry on the 9th, Lobster Moth at Kiln Wood on the 14th, Red-necked Footman and The Suspected at Folks' Wood on the 15th, Orange Moth at Folkestone Warren on the 22nd, Fiery and Orange-tailed Clearwings at Folkestone Warren and the Four-spotted at Hythe Roughs on the 23rd, the Mocha at West Hythe, Clouded Buff at Folkestone Warren and Northern Rustic, Straw Belle, Pigmy Footman, White Spot and Satin Beauty at Samphire Hoe on the 24th. Three Olive Crescents were trapped at Chesterfield Wood on the 28th, when a Double Lobed was taken at Horn Street, and the final night of the month produced a Triple-spotted Clay at Horn Street. Red-belted Clearwing was attracted to a pheromone lure at Garden House Orchards, Saltwood on the 30th.



Water Ermine at Nickolls Quarry (Ian Roberts)



The Four Spotted at Hythe Roughs (Brian Harper)



The Suspected at Folks' Wood (Ian Roberts)



Northern Rustic at Samphire Hoe (Ian Roberts)



Olive Crescent at Chesterfield Wood (Ian Roberts)



Double Lobed at Horn Street (Paul Howe)

The only migrant butterflies noted were single Painted Ladies at Horn Street on the 13th and Folks' Wood on the 22nd. Notable residents included a White Admiral and 2 Silver-washed Fritillaries at Folks' Wood on the 22nd and a Purple Hairstreak at Sandy Lane, Shorncliffe the following day. Other additions to the year list comprised Large Skipper (6th), Marbled White and Meadow Brown (17th), Small Skipper (22nd), Ringlet (23rd) and Essex Skipper (26th).



Purple Hairstreak at Shorncliffe (Brian Harper)



Banded Demoiselle at Hythe (Glenn Tutton)

A Banded Demoiselle photographed at West Parade, Hythe seafront on the 15th June was an unusual record and a Glow-worm at Folks' Wood on the 16th was worthy of note.

July

High pressure continued to dominate the weather and it was particularly warm (the second warmest July since 1910) with temperatures exceeding 30°C on several days from the 23rd (and even reaching 35.3°C at Faversham on the 26th). The positive temperature anomaly was however generally much larger by day and the clear skies led to some disappointingly cool nights. It was also particularly sunny (the second sunniest July since 1929), with virtually no rainfall until thunderstorms arrived on the evening of the 27th. This marked the beginning of a more unsettled period but at least overnight temperatures improved.

One of the highlights of the month was the first Kent record of ***Blastobasis rebeli*** (Marsh Dowd) at Folkestone Warren on the 7th. This species is a native of Madeira and a recent adventive colonist in the UK, being first recorded in Hampshire in 1998 and having since spread into Sussex.

This was one of 13 additions to the provisional area moth list which also included a **Silver Barred** at Nickolls Quarry on the 1st, a Yarrow Pug at West Hythe on the 5th (with further singles at Cheriton on the 5th and Nickolls Quarry on the 22nd), several *Hellinsia carphodactyla* (Citron Plumes) at Horn Street from the 6th, a *Bucculatrix thoracella* (Lime Bent-wing) at Cheriton on the 12th, an *Agonopterix carduella* (Thistle Flat-body) and two *Parectopa ononidis* (Clover Slender) at Folkestone Warren on the 15th (with another at Hythe on the 19th), an *Oegoconia deauratella* (Scarce Obscure), and an *Acompsia cinerella* (Ash-coloured Crest) at Casebourne Wood on the 18th.



Blastobasis rebeli at Folkestone Warren (Ian Roberts)



Silver Barred at Nickolls Quarry (Ian Roberts)



Bucculatrix thoracella at Cheriton (Brian Harper)



Parectopa ononidis at Folkestone Warren (Rob Lee)

Other additions to the area list were *Monochroa cytisella* (Bracken Neb) at Seabrook on the 20th, *Neosphaleroptera nubilana* (Deep Brown Shade) there on the 21st, *Eulamprotes wilkella* (Painted Neb) at Hythe on the 22nd and *Grapholita compositella* (Triple-stripe Piercer) at Seabrook on the 24th.



Eulamprotes wilkella at Hythe (Ian Roberts)



Grapholita compositella at Seabrook (Paul Howe)

The second area record of **Oak Processionary** was trapped at Hythe on the 22nd, whilst the second and third area records of ***Acrobasis tumidana*** (Scarce Oak Knot-horn) were at Hythe and Seabrook on the 28th, the fourth modern area record of **Dark Crimson Underwing** was at Horn Street on the 19th and the tenth area record (but only the 18th British record) of **Pale-shouldered Cloud** was at Hythe on the 21st.



Oak Processionary at Hythe (Ian Roberts)



Acrobasis tumidana at Seabrook (Paul Howe)



Dark Crimson Underwing at Seabrook (Paul Howe)



Pale-shouldered Cloud at Hythe (Ian Roberts)

A *Cydia amplana* (Vagrant Piercer) was trapped at Hythe on the 21st, whilst **Gypsy Moths** arrived at Cheriton, Folkestone Warren and Hythe on the 26th, with one at Seabrook on the 29th and another at Cheriton on the 30th.



Gypsy Moth at Cheriton (Brian Harper)



Cydia amplana at Hythe (Ian Roberts)

Following the series of records last year, there were further indications that *Catoptria verellus* (Marbled Grass-veneer) is now locally established, with four trapped at Peene on the 4th, one at West Hythe on the 5th and four at Folkestone Warren on the 15th. Single **Dusky Hook-tips** were noted at Hythe Ranges on the 13th (possibly a primary immigrant) and Horn Street on the 25th, whilst a Small Ranunculus (first record since 2016 and perhaps a migrant) was at Hythe on the 27th.

A Hummingbird Hawk-moth was trapped at Princes Parade on the 14th and a Pearly Underwing was at Hythe on the 29th, whilst other migrants included two *Udea ferrugalis* (Rusty-dot Pearl), five Dark Sword-grass, up to six Clancy's Rustics, over 500 *Plutella xylostella* (Diamond-back Moths), with a peak of 63 (including 25 at Hythe and 37 in the Horn Street/Seabrook area) on the 1st and over 600 Silver Ys, with a peak of 86 (including 78 at Hythe) on the 19th.

Whilst some of the new species for the area were likely to have been previously unrecorded residents, the prolonged warm and dry weather appeared to lead to a number of species dispersing far from their normal range and this may have been the source of others. For example, there was a notable influx of *Platytyes alpinella* (Hook-tipped Grass-veneer), with a total of 16 recorded (compared to an annual average of less than three) and new records for four tetrads, three further *Ancylosis oblitella* (Saltmarsh Knot-horn) (at Folkestone Warren, Hythe and Nickolls Quarry, with the latter two being new tetrad records), two further Double Lobed (at Folkestone Warren and Nickolls Quarry, both new for the tetrads) and an *Agdistis bennetii* (Saltmarsh Plume) at Hythe on the 26th (the first site record).



Catoptria verellus at Peene (Brian Harper)



Agdistis bennetii at Hythe (Ian Roberts)

Other wanderers included single Latticed Heath at Nickolls Quarry on the 1st and Folkestone Warren on the 26th, single *Aphomia zelleri* (Twin-spot Honey Moth) at Seabrook on the 5th and Folkestone Warren on the 26th, an *Anerastia lotella* (Sandhill Knot-horn) at Princes Parade on the 14th, a Hoary Footman at Seabrook on the 25th, a Rest Harrow at Seabrook on the 26th, a *Pempeliella ornatella* (Ornate Knot-horn) there on the 30th, Pigmy Footman (away from Hythe Ranges colony) at Horn Street, Seabrook and West Hythe, whilst further species appearing in good numbers or unusual locations included Tree-lichen Beauty, *Calybites phasianipennella* (Little Slender), *Batrachedra praeangusta* (Poplar Cosmet), *Yponomeuta plumbella* (Black-tipped Ermine), *Ethmia quadrillella* (Comfrey Ermel) and *Calamotropha paludella* (Bulrush Veneer).

A total of 112 species were added to the micro moth year list (including those mentioned above) and the other more notable species involved *Sciota adelphella* (Willow Knot-horn) and *Agonopterix conterminella* (Sallow Flat-body) at Nickolls Quarry on the 1st, *Acrobasis repandana* (Warted Knot-horn) at Bargrove Wood on the 3rd, *Sitochroa palealis* (Sulphur Pearl) at Nickolls Quarry on the 5th, and *Acompsia schmidtellus* (Marjoram Crest), *Anarsia innoxia* (Acer Sober), *Cnaemidophorus rhododactyla* (Rose Plume) and *Moitrelia obductella* (Kent Knot-horn) at Folkestone Warren on the 7th.

Also of note were *Dichomeris marginella* (Juniper Webber) at Hythe and *Matilella fusca* (Brown Knot-horn) at Seabrook on the 11th, *Monochroa palustrellus* (Wainscot Neb) and *Cnephasia longana* (Long-winged Shade) at Hythe Ranges on the 13th, *Thiodia citrana* (Lemon Bell) at Seabrook on the 14th, *Ypsolopha sequella* (Pied Smudge) at Horn Street on the 19th, *Plodia interpunctella* (Indian Meal Moth) at Cheriton on the 21st, *Cochylimorpha alternana* (Kentish Conch) at Crete Road East and *Stathmopoda pedella* (Alder Signal) at Horn Street on the 25th, *Cochylidia rupicola* (Hemp-agrimony Conch) at Folkestone Warren on the 26th and *Argyresthia semifusca* (Brown Rowan Argent) at Seabrook on the 30th.



Sciota adelphella at Nickolls Quarry (Ian Roberts)



Acrobasis repandana at Bargrove Wood (Ian Roberts)



Cochylimorpha alternana at Crete Rd East (Ian Roberts)



Cochylidia rupicola at Folkestone Warren (Ian Roberts)

A total of 75 species were added to the macro moth year list (including those mentioned above) and the more noteworthy species involved The Blackneck at Nickolls Quarry on the 1st, Scarce Silver-lines at West Hythe on the 5th, Waved Black at Cheriton on the 7th, Chalk Carpet, Barred Rivulet and Brown-line Bright-eye at Folkestone Warren on the 15th, Brown-veined Wainscot at Horn Street on the 16th, The Annulet and Golden-rod Pug at Folkestone Warren on the 26th and Juniper Pug at Seabrook on the 30th.



The Blackneck at Nickolls Quarry (Ian Roberts)



Waved Black at Cheriton (Ian Roberts)

There was an excellent count of 65 Sussex Emeralds at Hythe Ranges on the 13th and wanderers reached Hythe (total of 6 over 4 nights), Seabrook (singles on the 5th and 17th), Nickolls Quarry (on the 1st) and Princes Parade (on the 14th). Four-spotted Footman were also present in good numbers with a total of 42 recorded across six sites, including a count of 15 at Folkestone Warren on the 15th and this species now appears to be well established. This latter site also produced a peak count of 11 Sub-angled Waves (on the 7th), with a single at Crete Road East on the 25th.



Sussex Emerald at Hythe Ranges (Ross Newham)



Sub-angled Wave at Folkestone Warren (Ian Roberts)

Channel Island Pugs were noted from several sites with peak counts of 14 in the Horn Street/Seabrook area on the 25th and ten at Hythe the following night. Up to three White-banded Carpets were trapped in the Horn Street/Seabrook area on several nights. Single Straw Belles were found by day at Castle Hill and Sugarloaf Hill on the 31st and a Four-spotted was taken at light at Nickolls Quarry on the 1st.

A Clouded Yellow was noted at Samphire Hoe on the 13th, with 2 at Folkestone Downs on the 23rd, and Painted Ladies were noted in reasonable numbers with a peak of around 20 at Samphire Hoe on the 31st. A Chalk Hill Blue and a White-letter Hairstreak were seen at Folkestone Downs on the 23rd, and Small Blues were logged at Capel-le-Ferne, Folkestone Warren and Samphire Hoe, with a good count of 242 Common Blues on the butterfly transect at the latter site on the 31st. The only other addition to the butterfly year list was Gatekeeper, with the first at Hythe on the 10th.

A Red-veined Darter was at Samphire Hoe on the 7th and several Small Red-eyed Damselflies were also recorded there, whilst a number of Migrant Hawkers were also logged, including one attracted to a mercury vapour lamp at Hythe on the 17th. A Glow-worm was seen at Nickolls Quarry on the 22nd, with a Lesser Stag Beetle at Seabrook the following day. Good numbers of jellyfish (mainly Common and Compass) appeared off Hythe during the hot weather.



Painted Lady at Samphire Hoe (Phil Smith)



Red-veined Darter at Samphire Hoe (Paul Holt)

August

The month began with a week of mostly warm, dry weather and daytime temperatures peaking in the region of 30°C, however clear skies again meant that it was rather cool overnight. Slow-moving fronts brought a dull, wet day on the 9th, with further showers on the 10th, before a cooler and often cloudier period followed, though it was mainly dry and there were some milder nights. Further frontal systems brought more rain during the last week. Winds were predominately from the southerly sector throughout.

August produced an excellent range of rare and regular migrant moths, with the highlights including the first area record (and approximately the 30th British record) of **The Passenger** at Hythe on the 14th, the second area record (and the first since 1916) of **Oleander Hawk-moth** found in a house at Folkestone on the 9th and the third area record (following two at the same site last year) of **Portland Ribbon Wave** at Seabrook on the 27th.



Passenger at Hythe (Ian Roberts)



Oleander Hawk-moth at Folkestone (per Paul Howe)

Golden Twin-spots were trapped at Hythe and Seabrook on the 18th, with another at Hythe on the 23rd, and two **Convolvulus Hawk-moths** were found at Seabrook on the 10th. Following the single in July there was a small arrival of **Cydia amplana** (Vagrant Piercer) in early August, with nightly records from Seabrook between the 1st and the 6th (with a peak of three on the 3rd), two at Hythe on the 2nd (with one there on the 3rd) and one at Cheriton on the 4th, and later singles at Hythe on the 18th and Paraker Wood on the 19th.

The small influx of **Gypsy Moths** continued with further singles at Hythe on the 1st, Seabrook on the 1st and 2nd, Cheriton on the 4th and Shorncliffe on the 8th. Single ***Palpita vitrealis*** (Olive-tree Pearl) were at Hythe and Seabrook on the 19th, with a further individual at Hythe on the 21st and the first **Delicate** of the year was at the same site on the 23rd. **Dusky Hook-tips** were trapped at Seabrook on the 7th, 12th and 27th, with one at Saltwood on the 15th and at least two Small Ranunculus were taken at Hythe between the 21st and the 23rd.



Portland Ribbon Wave at Seabrook (Paul Howe)



Golden Twin-spot at Seabrook (Paul Howe)



Palpita vitrealis at Seabrook (Paul Howe)



The Delicate at Hythe (Ian Roberts)

Hummingbird Hawk-moths were recorded at Cheriton on the 4th, and Hythe on the 5th and 22nd, whilst other migrants included four *Udea ferrugalis* (Rusty-dot Pearl), the first eight *Nomophila noctuella* (Rush Veneer) of the year from the 8th, 24 Dark Sword-grass, 57 *Plutella xylostella* (Diamond-back Moths) and about 150 Silver Ys, including 15 at Seabrook and 17 at Hythe on the 3rd.

Warm weather in the first week of the month led to the continued wandering of a number of species. A *Calybites phasianipennella* (Little Slender) was at West Hythe on the 1st, single Hoary Footman were at West Hythe on the 1st and Seabrook on the 3rd, a Rest Harrow was at Seabrook on the 5th and several *Ethmia quadrillella* (Comfrey Ermel) and *Calamotropha paludella* (Bulrush Veneer) were also recorded.

A total of 22 species were added to the micro moth year list (including those mentioned above) and the other more notable species involved *Nemapogon clematella* (Barred White Clothes Moth) at West Hythe on the 1st, *Cochylys dubitana* (Little Conch) at Seabrook on the 7th, *Hypatima rhomboidella* (Square-spot Sober) at Heane Wood on the 15th, *Apotomis betuleana* (Birch Marble) and *Epinotia ramella* (Small Birch Bell) at West Hythe on the 20th, the first area record of *Ancylis badiana* (Common Roller) at Seabrook and *Ypsolopha alpella* (Barred Smudge) at Hythe on the 21st, *Cochyliidia implicitana* (Chamomile Conch) at Seabrook on the 27th and *Endothenia marginana* (Bordered Marble) there the following night.

A total of 17 species were added to the macro moth year list (including those mentioned above) and the more noteworthy species involved Bulrush Wainscot at West Hythe on the 1st, Webb's Wainscot at Seabrook on the 2nd, Six-striped Rustic there on the 3rd, Frosted Orange at Heane Wood on the 15th, Orange Sallow at West Hythe, Centre-barred Sallow at Cheriton and Red Underwing at Seabrook on the 20th, and Hedge Rustic at Hythe on the 21st.



Hoary Footman at West Hythe (Ian Roberts)



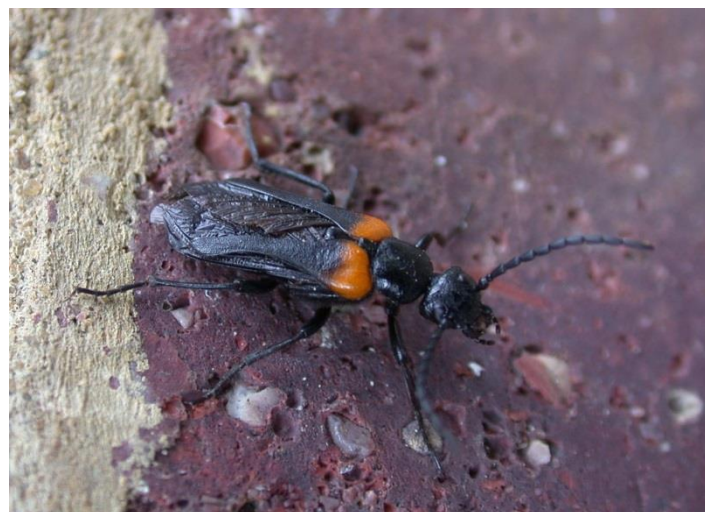
Rest Harrow at Seabrook (Paul Howe)

Channel Island Pugs continued to be recorded in good numbers, with a peak of 12 at Seabrook on 4th and Straw Belle appeared to have a good season, with a peak count of 19 on Folkestone Downs on the 3rd. A Four-spotted was trapped at West Hythe on 1st and a White-banded Carpet was at Seabrook on the 5th.

Single Clouded Yellows were seen at Samphire Hoe on the 7th and Abbotscliffe on the 24th, whilst Painted Ladies continued to be seen in reasonable numbers. A **Silver-spotted Skipper** was noted at Holy Well on the 6th, with three at Folkestone Warren the next day and a **Grayling** was seen at the Fountain Inn, Seabrook on the 8th. There was an excellent count of 439 Common Blues on the butterfly transect at Samphire Hoe on the 7th.



Clouded Yellow at Samphire Hoe (Phil Smith)



Sitaris muralis at Palmarsh (Ian Roberts)

A colony of at least 70 ***Sitaris muralis*** (Flame-shouldered Blister Beetle) discovered at Palmarsh on the 14th constituted the first county record and was probably only the fourth modern British occurrence. A Southern Oak Bush-Cricket at Seabrook on the 27th was also of note.

September

The month began warm and dry with a light south-easterly wind before three days of north or north-westerlies followed, bringing cooler, cloudier weather by day but milder conditions by night with a little rain on the night of the 4th. The winds then set in the westerly quadrant for the next fortnight, bringing settled, dry and mostly mild conditions until a front brought heavy rain on the 23rd. The last week of September was more settled with lighter and variable winds, and dry conditions, but with markedly cooler nights.

Highlights included the second and third occurrences of **Pale-shouldered Cloud** in the year at Hythe on the 3rd and 17th (increasing the total number of area records to 12 and British records to 20), the fourth area record of **Dewick's Plusia** at Hythe on the 8th and two species which appear to be new for the area – a **Star-wort** at Seabrook on the 12th (it was mentioned by Morley (1931), see references at the end, but without further details and the 'neighbourhood' of Folkestone described by the author is not congruent with the current recording area) and a **Clifden Nonpareil** at Beachborough Park on the 27th (another species mentioned by Morley but which was recorded outside the current recording area, at Stowting (Duffield, 1922)).



Pale-shouldered Cloud 2 at Hythe (Ian Roberts)



Pale-shouldered Cloud 3 at Hythe (Ian Roberts)



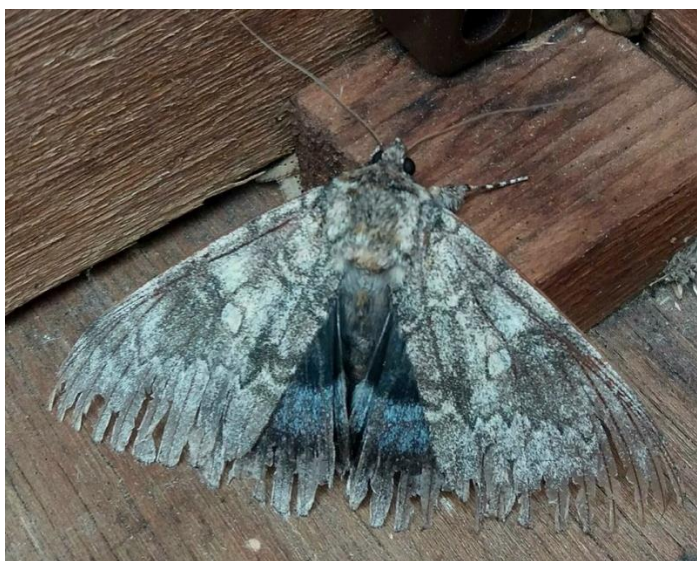
Dewick's Plusia at Hythe (Ian Roberts)



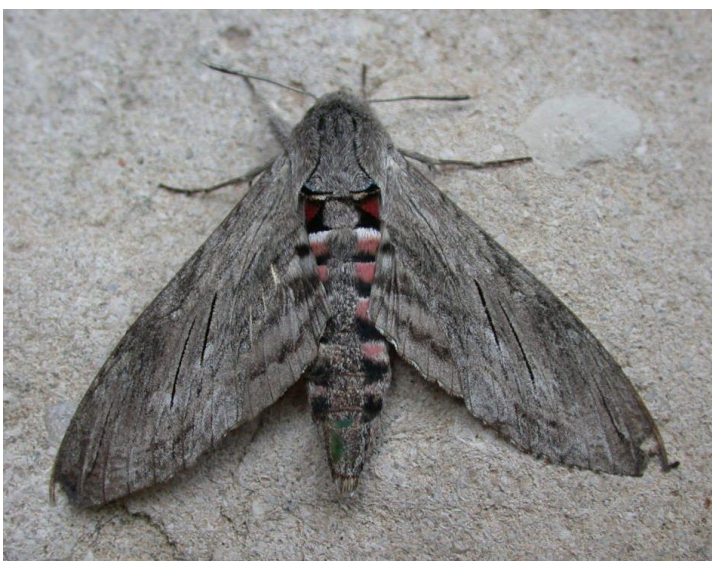
Star-wort at Seabrook (Paul Howe)

Other migrants involved the third **Convolvulus Hawk-moth** of the year, at Hythe on the 4th, a Hummingbird Hawk-moth at Seabrook on the 17th, a notable influx of Latticed Heath, with six noted in the first week (singles at Samphire Hoe on the 1st, Seabrook on the 5th, and Hythe and Mill Point on the 6th, and two at Hythe on the 7th) and excellent totals of up to 22 Delicates (mostly singles, but with two at Hythe on four dates) and up to 67 Clancy's Rustics (with a peak of eight at Hythe on the 29th).

The more regular migrants were also present in reasonable numbers with totals of up to 9 *Nomophila noctuella* (Rush Veneer), 19 Dark Sword-grass, about 80 Silver Ys and 90 *Plutella xylostella* (Diamond-back Moths), including 17 at both Hythe and Seabrook on the 5th.



Clifden Nonpareil at Beachborough (Steve Tomlinson)



Convolvulus Hawk-moth at Hythe (Ian Roberts)

Other wanderers or possible immigrants included a Hoary Footman at Mill Point on the 6th, a Large Thorn at Seabrook on the 13th and late singles of Four-spotted Footman and Plumed Fan-foot at Seabrook on the 17th.

A total of 35 species were added to the micro moth year list, of which 24 which were leaf miners and six of these were additions to the area list: *Parornix betulae* (Brown Birch Slender) at West Hythe on the 4th, *Stigmella ruficapitella* (Red-headed Pigmy) at Brockhill Country Park on the 9th, *Stigmella continuella* (Double-barred Pigmy) at Kiln Wood on the 11th, *Antispila petryi* (Yellow-spot Lift) at Peene on the 20th, *Ectoedemia erythrogenella* (Coast Bramble Pigmy) at Folkestone Warren on the 22nd and *Stigmella regiella* (Purple-shot Pigmy) at Brockhill Country Park on the 26th.

There were also the second area records of *Cosmopterix pulchrimella* (Pellitory Cosmet) at Hythe on the 3rd (with adults noted there from the 26th) and *Phyllonorycter comparella* (Winter Poplar Midget) at Hythe on the 12th, whilst *Phyllonorycter lantanella* (Viburnum Midget) at Folkestone Warren on the 22nd was also of note.



Latticed Heath at Seabrook (Paul Howe)



Cosmopterix pulchrimella at Hythe (Ian Roberts)

Other notable micros involved *Aethes francillana* (Long-barred Yellow Conch) and *Agonopterix pallorella* (Pale Flat-body) at Samphire Hoe on the 1st, *Elachista freyerella* (Broken-barred Dwarf) at Seabrook on the 8th and *Acleris emergana* (Notch-wing Tortrix) at Cheriton on the 15th and Folks' Wood on the 17th.

A total of 25 species were added to the macro moth year list (including those mentioned above) and the more noteworthy species involved Yellow Belle at Samphire Hoe on the 1st, Svensson's Copper Underwing at Seabrook on the 5th, Large Wainscot at Hythe on the 10th, Barred Hook-tip at Folks' Wood on the 15th (the first record since 2009), and Brown-spot Pinion and Merveille du Jour at Heane Wood, and Large Ranunculus at Hythe on the 27th.



Ectoedemia erythrogenella at Folk. Warren (Ian Roberts)

Stigmella regiella at Brockhill Country Park (Ian Roberts)

Single Clouded Yellows were noted at Seabrook on the 27th and Hythe Ranges on the 30th, whilst small numbers of Painted Ladies continued to be reported and several Migrant Hawkers were noted



Barred Hook-tip at Folks' Wood (Ian Roberts)

Merveille du Jour at Heane Wood (Ian Roberts)

October

The month began with a week of mainly fine weather before southerly winds brought unseasonably warm weather in the second week, with daytime temperatures over 20°C and overnight lows in double figures, and this resulted in a significant moth immigration event. A quiet spell of weather ensued and largely clear skies led to mild days but rather cool nights, before the last week saw colder and wetter conditions.

An incredible arrival of migrant moths at Samphire Hoe on the 16th included three new species for the area – a *Spoladea recurvalis* (Maize Moth), 2 *Antigastra catalaunalis* (Spanish Dot) and 2 **Beautiful Marbled**, whilst the fourth area record of **Blair's Mocha** was taken there the following night.

Other rare immigrants recorded in October included the third area record of **Porter's Rustic** at Hythe on the 4th, the fourth area record of **Pale-lemon Sallow** there on the 2nd, the fourth to ninth area records of **Oak Rustic** (from the 10th, with three at both Hythe and Seabrook) and the fifth to fifteenth area records of *Cydalima perspectalis* (Box-tree Moth) (between the 13th and 17th, with one at Cheriton, two at Samphire Hoe, four at Hythe and four at Seabrook).

Single **Golden Twin-spots** were at Hythe on the 12th and 17th, and Samphire Hoe on the 16th, with two **Convolvulus Hawk-moths** part of the impressive haul at the latter site on the same night. The first **Scarce Bordered Straw** of the year was at Hythe on the 14th (with one at Cheriton on the 16th, two at Samphire Hoe on the 17th and another at Hythe on the 18th), the first **Vestal** was at Seabrook on the 15th (with one at Horn Street, two at Seabrook and two at Samphire Hoe on the 16th), the first two **Small Mottled Willows** were at Samphire Hoe on the 16th (with one at Cheriton on the 17th) and the first **Gems** were at Horn Street and Samphire Hoe (2) on the 16th, with singles at Samphire Hoe and Seabrook the following night.

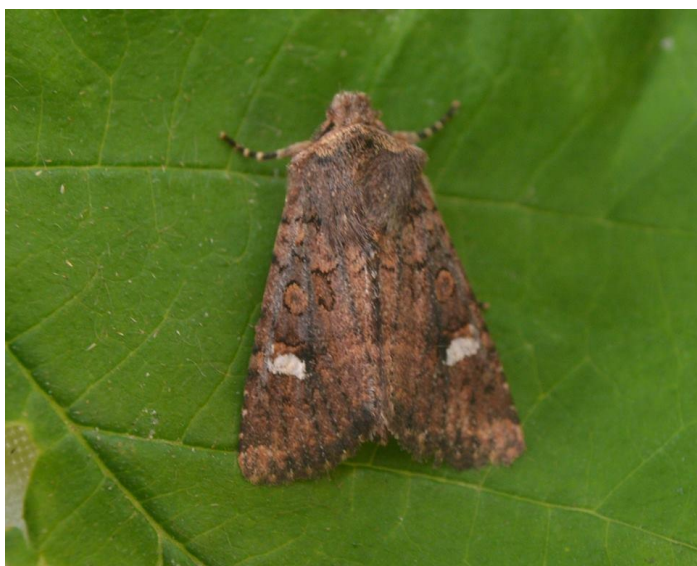


Porter's Rustic at Hythe (Ian Roberts)



Pale-lemon Sallow at Hythe (Ian Roberts)

Amongst the more regular scarcer migrants were excellent totals of 33 Delicates (increasing the total for the year to a record 57), 61 *Palpita vitrealis* (Olive-tree Pearl) (increasing the total for the year to a record 64, with no less than 14 recorded on the 13th October when there were 3 at Seabrook, 4 at Cheriton and 7 at Hythe) and 143 Clancy's Rustics (increasing the total for the year to a record 220, including an exceptional count of 25 at Hythe on the 2nd), suggesting that this species is probably now established locally.



Oak Rustic at Seabrook (Paul Howe)



Oak Rustic at Seabrook (Paul Howe)

Numbers of the commoner migrants however were unremarkable, with a single Pearly Underwing (at Seabrook on the 29th), 6 *Nomophila noctuella* (Rush Veneers), 11 *Udea ferrugalis* (Rusty-dot Pearls), 17 Dark Sword-grass, 72 Silver Ys and 75 *Plutella xylostella* (Diamond-back Moths).



Cydalima perspectalis at Cheriton (Brian Harper)



Cydalima perspectalis at Seabrook (Paul Howe)

Late records of Four-spotted Footman (at Hythe and Seabrook on the 4th, and at Cheriton on the 10th and 13th) and Plumed Fan-foot (at Seabrook on the 2nd and 15th (3), Cheriton on the 16th and Hythe on the 18th) might also have been primary immigrants. Other dispersing species included good totals of up to 76 Large Wainscots (with a peak of 14 on the 18th) and up to 34 Merveille du Jour.



Small Mottled Willow at Cheriton (Brian Harper)



Scarce Bordered Straw at Cheriton (Brian Harper)

A total of just six species were added to the micro moth year list (including the two new species for the area described above): a leaf mine of *Bucculatrix bechsteinella* (Hawthorn Bent-wing) at Castle Hill on the 2nd (a new species for the area), a leaf mine of *Phyllonorycter oxyacanthae* (Common Thorn Midget) at Mill Point on the 6th, an adult *Acleris rhombana* (Rhomboid Tortrix) at Seabrook on the 11th (the first record since 2014) and leaf mines of *Ectoedemia subbimaculella* (Spotted Black Pigmy) at Saltwood on the 28th.

A total of 18 species were added to the macro moth year list (including the nine mentioned above): The Mallow at Hythe on the 2nd, Blair's Shoulder-knot at Cheriton the 4th, Feathered Thorn at Seabrook on the 5th, Yellow-line Quaker at Hythe on the 9th, The Streak at Seabrook on the 12th (the first record since 2011), Green-brindled Crescent at Hythe on the 13th, Autumnal Moth at Horn Street on the 16th, November Moth (agg.) at Cheriton on the 17th and Mottled Umber at Seabrook on the 28th.

Also of note were two particularly small examples of Dew Moth at Samphire Hoe on the 16th, presumably second brood individuals (which would appear to be a rare occurrence) and a Tawny Pinion at Cheriton on the same night.



The Gem at Seabrook (Paul Howe)



The Streak at Seabrook (Paul Howe)

Migrant butterflies included two Clouded Yellows at Samphire Hoe on the 14th and good numbers of Red Admirals, including four flying west at Capel-le-Ferne on the 20th and four at Seabrook on the 24th.

November

After a rather cool and dry start to the month, the first half of November was mild and wet with mainly southerly winds. It turned more settled from mid-month due to a large Scandinavian high which brought cold easterly winds and low overnight temperatures. Mild, wet and windy weather returned from the 27th onwards.

Small numbers of migrants continued to arrive and the clear highlight was a *Spoladea recurvalis* (Maize Moth) at Cheriton on the 5th (the second area record, following the first last month). Also of considerable note were the sixth and seventh area records of **White-speck** at Hythe on the 15th and Seabrook on the 23rd and the tenth and eleventh area records of **Oak Rustic** at Hythe on the 1st and Cheriton on the 14th.



Spoladea recurvalis at Cheriton (Brian Harper)



White-speck at Seabrook (Paul Howe)

A further two Delicates at Seabrook on 1st and Hythe on 7th increased the total for this record year to 59 and the more regular migrants involved a single *Nomophila noctuella* (Rush Veneer), four *Udea ferrugalis* (Rusty-dot Pearl), six Dark Sword-grass, 17 Silver Ys and 19 *Plutella xylostella* (Diamond-back Moth).

The only addition to the micro year list involved occupied leaf-mines of *Ectoedemia heringella* (New Holm-Oak Pigmy) found at Mill Point on the 14th and there were two new macro species for the year (in addition to White-speck): Scarce Umber at Hythe on the 11th and December Moth at Seabrook on the 13th.

A few Red Admirals persisted into November and a pair of Migrant Hawkers were found in tandem at Horn Street on the 13th.

December

The first third of the month was generally mild, wet and windy before it turned more settled and briefly colder due to a Scandinavian blocking high, but mild, wet weather returned from the 17th to 23rd. The last week of the year was quieter with high pressure dominant and a westerly flow maintained generally mild, cloudy weather during this period.

The mild weather encouraged a few migrants to persist into December with a particularly late *Palpita vitrealis* (Olive-tree Pearl) at Seabrook on the 7th, a Pearly Underwing at Hythe on the 18th, single Dark Sword-grass at Hythe on the 11th and 19th, and totals of 3 Silver Ys and 4 *Plutella xylostella* (Diamond-back Moths).

The only addition to the moth year list (which finished on a record total of 940, of which 479 were micros and 461 macros) was Winter Moth at Folks' Wood on the 17th.



Palpita vitrealis at Seabrook (Paul Howe)



December Moth at Seabrook (Paul Howe)

Acknowledgements

I am very grateful to David Shenton for undertaking genitalia determination of *Acleris notana*, *Oegoconia deauratella*, *Oegoconia caradjai* and *Acleris emergana*.

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Summary tables

The totals of the immigrant macro and micro moths recorded in 2018 and five previous the years are shown in figures 1 and 2:

Migrant macro moths	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Convolvulus Hawk-moth								2	1	2			5	1	33	2	2	7
Hummingbird Hawk-moth							1	3	1				5	17	8	15	11	7
Oleander Hawk-moth								1					1					
Portland Ribbon Wave								1					1	2				
Blair's Mocha										1			1	2				
The Vestal										7			7	20	6	70	1	4
The Gem										6			6	2	5	9	6	4
Latticed Heath							2		6				8	2	1	1	2	
Oak Processionary							1						1				1	
Gypsy Moth							5	5					10	20				
Red-necked Footman						1							1	9	1	53	4	
Beautiful Marbled										1			1					
Dark Crimson U/wing							1						1	2				
The Passenger								1					1					
Golden Twin-spot								3		3			6	1		1	7	1
Dewick's Plusia									1				1			1	1	
Silver Y					111	73	601	143	76	72	17	4	1,097	318	665	750	373	1,147
Bordered Straw					1								1	3	3	63		
Scarce Bordered Straw										5			5	101	10	39	5	12
Tree-lichen Beauty							10	3					13	5	6	5	12	6
Small Mottled Willow										3			3	3	4	42		
Clancy's Rustic						4	6		67	143			220	84	6	19	1	2
Porter's Rustic										1			1			1		
Pale-shouldered Cloud							1		2				3	2		2	2	1
Pale-lemon Sallow										1			1				1	
Oak Rustic										6	2		8	3				
Small Ranunculus							1	4					5		4	7	12	6
The Delicate								2	22	33	2		59	37	8	8	3	1
White-speck											2		2		5			
Pearly Underwing							1			1		1	3	20	11	39	16	1
Dark Sword-grass					1	1	5	25	19	17	6	2	76	84	77	84	84	243
Total					113	79	635	193	195	302	29	7	1,553	751	844	1,207	529	1,438

Figure 1: Migrant macro moths in the Folkestone and Hythe area in 2018

Migrant micro moths	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
<i>Plutella xylostella</i>					195	207	502	58	90	75	19	4	1,150	151	14,783	263	1,716	796
<i>Cydia amplana</i>							1	14					15	2	3		12	
<i>Udea ferrugalis</i>					1	1	2	4		11	4		23	183	231	98	296	15
<i>Palpita vitrealis</i>								3		61		1	65	44	18	58	38	16
<i>Acrobasis tumidana</i>							2						2			1		
<i>Spoladea recurvalis</i>										1	1		2					
<i>Antigastra catalaunalis</i>										2			2					
<i>Nomophila noctuella</i>								8	9	6	1		24	81	614	287	4	111
<i>Cydalima perspectalis</i>						1				11			12	1		1	1	
<i>Catoptria verellus</i>							9						9	11	2	6	1	
Total					196	209	516	87	99	167	25	5	1,304	472	15,684	758	2,068	938

Figure 2: Migrant micro moths in the Folkestone and Hythe area in 2018

The total numbers of micro and macro moths that were recorded in 2018 and six previous years are shown in figure 3:

Total species	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	Total area list
Micro	479	475	325	336	309	286	256	219	681
Macro	461	452	399	418	386	370	338	321	574
Total	940	927	724	754	695	656	594	540	1,255

Figure 3: Total moth species recorded in the Folkestone and Hythe area in 2018

The first dates that butterflies were recorded in 2018 and five previous years are shown in figure 4:

First butterfly dates	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
Dingy Skipper	01-May	08-Apr	19-Apr	21-Apr	01-Apr	26-May	30-Apr
Essex Skipper	26-Jun	27-Jun		07-Jul	28-Jul	16-Jul	
Small Skipper	22-Jun	17-Jun	28-Jun	25-Jun	21-Jun	22-Jul	03-Jul
Silver-spotted Skipper	06-Aug	15-Aug	15-Aug			02-Sep	17-Aug
Large Skipper	06-Jun	29-May	27-May	05-Jun	20-May	25-Jun	19-Jun
Orange Tip	16-Apr	30-Mar	02-May	13-Apr	05-Apr	28-Apr	13-May
Large White	18-Apr	05-Apr	12-Apr	13-Apr	08-Apr	03-May	22-Mar
Small White	10-Apr	24-Mar	15-Mar	17-Mar	08-Mar	03-May	24-Mar
Green-veined White	06-Apr	31-Mar	28-Apr	07-Apr	11-Apr	07-May	22-Mar
Clouded Yellow	17-Apr	19-Apr	11-Apr	28-Apr	11-Apr	25-Jun	
Brimstone	14-Mar	25-Mar	25-Mar	17-Mar	09-Mar	14-Apr	Spring
Wall	01-May	11-Apr	28-Apr	24-Apr	17-Apr	12-May	30-Apr

First butterfly dates	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
Speckled Wood	20-Apr	05-Apr	08-Apr	10-Apr	01-Apr	05-May	28-Mar
Small Heath	15-May	07-Apr	07-May	13-May	22-Apr	26-May	12-May
Ringlet	23-Jun	17-Jun	04-Jul	29-Jun	15-Jun	06-Aug	26-Jun
Meadow Brown	17-Jun	10-Jun	26-May	20-Jun	12-Jun	13-Jul	20-Jun
Gatekeeper	10-Jul	04-Jul	08-Jun	07-Jul	28-Jun	15-Jul	24-Jul
Marbled White	17-Jun	16-Jun	03-Jul	25-Jun	06-Jun	22-Jul	26-Jun
Grayling	08-Aug				10-Aug	10-Aug	11-Aug
Silver-washed Fritillary	22-Jun	16-Jun	20-Jul	11-Jul			
Dark Green Fritillary	-	09-Jun			07-Jul		
White Admiral	22-Jun	17-Jun	03-Jul	11-Jul			
Red Admiral	25-May	11-Apr	08-May	04-Mar	16-Mar	05-May	11-Jan
Painted Lady	16-Apr	02-Apr	04-Jun	02-Apr	08-Jun	28-Apr	24-May
Peacock	11-Jan	14-Feb	13-Mar	01-Jan	04-Mar	14-Mar	24-Feb
Small Tortoiseshell	14-Mar	09-Jan	11-Mar	27-Feb	02-Jan	06-Mar	01-Mar
Comma	06-Apr	09-Mar	25-Jan	17-Mar	05-Mar	05-Mar	01-Mar
Small Copper	04-May	02-Apr	11-Apr	27-Apr	03-Jul	01-May	22-May
Purple Hairstreak	23-Jun						17-Aug
Green Hairstreak	19-Apr	11-Apr	28-Apr	04-May	11-Apr	16-May	29-May
White-letter Hairstreak	23-Jul	14-Jun	15-Jul	03-Jul		12-Aug	
Small Blue	13-May	11-May	17-May	25-May	17-May	15-Jun	28-May
Holly Blue	20-Apr	30-Mar	18-Apr	09-Apr	13-Apr	03-May	29-Mar
Brown Argus	25-May	13-Jul	17-Aug		18-May	01-Sep	05-Jun
Common Blue	15-May	11-May	06-May	13-May	05-May	05-May	22-May
Adonis Blue	08-May	27-Apr	17-May	08-May	13-May	18-Jun	23-May
Chalk Hill Blue	23-Jul	01-Aug	01-Aug	11-Sep		27-Jul	09-Aug

Figure 4: First dates for butterflies at Folkestone and Hythe in 2018