

Review of 2011 non-avian records

Moths

A summary of the regular migrant moths recorded in 2011 is provided as figure 1:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
<i>xylostella</i>					2	7	4	7	4	10	7		41
<i>ferrugalis</i>							1	1	11	14	84		111
<i>noctuella</i>						1		1	3	1			6
<i>vitrealis</i>									1	1			2
Vestal								2		1			3
Gem										2	4		6
Convolvulus H-m.								2	2				4
Humming-bird H-m.				1		1	1			1			4
Dark Sword-grass				2	1	1	3	2		6	1		15
Pearly Underwing				2				1		1			4
Delicate									1		1		2
Small Mottled Willow						1	1		1				3
Scarce Bord. Straw									4	3	3		10
Bordered Straw										1			1
Silver Y				1	4	8	14	27	50	45	22	2	173
Total				6	7	19	24	43	77	86	122	2	384

Figure 1: regular migrant moths at Folkestone and Hythe in 2011

A total of 2,636 micro moths of 160 species were identified in 2011, the highlight of which was a series of records of *Metalampra italica* at Saltwood – the first for Kent. A single was trapped on 16th June, with another two individuals on 3rd August, and a further 7 recorded in August, with the last on 27th September. The species was first recorded in Britain in Devon in 2003 and subsequently has been recorded at other locations in south-east England where it is now considered to be recently established, presumably as an adventive species. There were additional county records in 2011 from New Romney (2 on 24th June and 1 on 1st August) and Kingsdown (singles on 1st and 4th September).



Metalampra italica at Saltwood (Paul Howe)

In total 4,908 pyralid moths of 64 species were recorded in 2011. It was a very good autumn for *ferrugalis* (Rusty-dot Pearl) particularly in November, which accounted for 76% of the records for the year, including the peak count of 8 (7 at Saltwood and 1 at Hythe) on the 18th. By contrast, numbers of the other regular pyralid migrant *noctuella* (Rush Veneer) were disappointing.

One of the highlights of the non-avian year was the occurrence of an *undalis* (Old World Webworm) at Saltwood on 27th October, which appears to be the first area record and the first county record since 1999. Records of *limbata* at Saltwood on 26th June and 10th July and *vitrealis* there on 26th September and 10th October were also extremely notable.



Vitrealis at Saltwood (Paul Howe)

Of the resident pyralid species recorded, the more notable records included singles of *phragmitella* on 29th May, *lineola* on 11th June, *terebrella* and *subfusca* on 15th June, *consociella* on 1st July, *delunella* on 3rd July, *pinella* on 25th July, *pinguis* on 15th August and *latistria* on 2nd September, all at Saltwood, and *Dolicarthria punctalis* on 10th July at Hythe. Single *fusca* at Saltwood on 10th and 11th July, *genistella* there on 20th June and 11th July and *formosa* there on 27th, 28th and 29th July were also of interest.

A total of 20,855 macro moths of 326 species were logged in 2011. Of the regular migrant species in figure 1, the Bordered Straw (at Saltwood on 11th October) was of particular interest, being a notably pale example which was presumably of southern origin. Delicates were trapped at Hythe on 9th September and Saltwood on 4th November, single Vestals were at Saltwood on 20th and 21st August and 4th October, and three Small Mottled Willows were recorded at Saltwood, on 27th June, 13th July and 8th September. Single Convolvulus Hawk-moths were at Saltwood on 20th and 21st August, with 2 feeding at *nicotiana* there on 4th September, and Humming-bird Hawk-moths were seen at West Hythe on 30th April, Folkestone Warren on 11th June, Saltwood on 3rd July and Folkestone on 3rd October. Up to 6 Gems were at Saltwood between 26th October and 8th November and a very good total of 10 Scarce Bordered Straws were trapped there: a single on 10th September, 5 between the 23rd September and 4th October, and 4 between the 31st October and 11th November.



Vestal at Saltwood (Paul Howe)



Scarce Bordered Straw at Saltwood (Paul Howe)

Rarer immigrant species involved:

- A **Pale-shouldered Cloud** at Saltwood on 11th August (only one county record to 2008, which was at Folkestone Warren on 14th July 2007);
- An extraordinary series of at least 3 **Bloxworth Snouts**: at Hythe on 13th July, Saltwood on 23rd August and Hythe on 24th September (with presumably the same individual re-trapped two nights later). There were only four county records to 2008 (one of which was at Hythe in 2007);
- An exceptional influx of **Rannoch Loopers**: one at Saltwood on 3rd June, 7 there on 5th June, 3 there on 6th June, one at Sene Golf Course on 7th June and one at Kiln Wood on 13th June. These were part of a considerable influx into the country at this time. This species was only added to the Kent list in 2008. Interestingly, of the eight where the gender was noted all were males.
- A **Spurge Hawk-moth** at Saltwood on 10th July (only 12 county records to 2008);
- A **Pale-lemon Sallow** at Saltwood on 14th October;
- A **Four-spotted** at Saltwood on 5th August, although this might have been a wanderer from the recently discovered colony at Hythe Roughs;
- An apparent **Coast Dart** at Saltwood on 29th July;
- Seven **Blossom Underwings** at Saltwood in two apparent 'waves' of immigration in April – three between the 2nd and 6th and four between the 21st and 25th.



Pale-shouldered Cloud at Saltwood (Paul Howe)



Rannoch Looper at Scene GC (Ian Roberts)



Bloxworth Snout at Hythe (Ian Roberts)



Spurge Hawk-moth at Saltwood (Paul Howe)



Apparent Coast Dart at Saltwood (Paul Howe)



Blossom Underwing at Saltwood (Paul Howe)

A number of species which were formerly rare immigrants now appear to be becoming established locally, including Clancy's Rustic (9 records) and Langmaid's Yellow Underwing (18 records). Probably also falling into this category are Tree-lichen Beauty (although there was just a single record – at Saltwood on 29th July), Cypress Carpet (5 records, although late examples at Saltwood on 31st October and 2nd November might well have been immigrants) and Small Ranunculus (6 records).



Cypress Carpet at Saltwood (Paul Howe)



Clancy's Rustic at Hythe (Ian Roberts)

A run of late records of Turnip might well have included immigrants, with 3 on the 2nd November then a total of 14 on 12 dates to the 23rd November. There was a notable influx of Large Wainscots, with a total of 61 trapped between 19th September and 18th November, which were certainly dispersing, either locally or from further afield. Records were mostly from Saltwood (50) but with a number from Hythe (11), and reached a peak in the third week of October, when 20 were trapped, including a peak of 5 on the 15th.



Large Wainscot at Hythe (Ian Roberts)

A Clouded Buff found by day just north of Castle Hill, Folkestone on 31st May was about the 40th record for the county but this record presumably relates to a small resident population on the Downs, rather than an immigrant. Pimpinel Pug has a similar status in Kent but one at Saltwood on 11th June was again most likely from a resident population, and other pugs recorded at Saltwood in 2011 which are generally scarce though probably overlooked included Juniper Pug, Triple-spotted Pug, Angle-barred (Ash) Pug, Bordered Pug, Slender Pug and Maple Pug. Other records of note included a Balsam Carpet at Saltwood on 12th July, a Satin Beauty there on 9th May, singles of Suspected there on 1st and 7th July, and three Scallop Shells there in early July.



Clouded Buff at Castle Hill (Ian Roberts)



Scallop Shell at Saltwood (Paul Howe)

Also of interest were singles of Barred Red, Plain Wave, Spinach, Clouded-bordered Brindle, Large Twin-spot Carpet, Olive, Triple-spotted Clay, Dingy Shears and Pine Hawk-moth at Saltwood and a Lunar-

spotted Pinion at Hythe. Other localised species were recorded as follows: Streak (2), Obscure Wainscot (2), Mullein (2), Scarce Umber (2), Lesser-spotted Pinion (2), Plain Golden Y (2), Puss Moth (2), Scarce Silver Lines (2), May Highflyer (2), Pinion-streaked Snout (2), Poplar Lutestring (2), Lunar Marbled Brown (2), Yellow-legged Clearwing (3), Alder Moth (3), Dusky-lemon Sallow (3), Orange Sallow (3), Deep-brown Dart (3), Toadflax Brocade (3), Spring Usher (3), Green Arches (4), Varied Coronet (4), Red Chestnut (5), Grey-shoulder Knot (5), Miller (5), Dotted Border (6), Light-feathered Rustic (9) and Pink-barred Sallow (9). Finally Cream-spot Tiger was again recorded at the usual site of Samphire Hoe.

Figure 2 shows the number of species recorded in each month of 2011:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Micros	0	3	8	27	38	65	69	65	29	19	10	1	160
Pyralsids	0	0	0	3	14	31	42	37	18	7	1	0	64
Macros	3	9	19	70	121	156	151	149	97	64	30	8	326
Total	3	12	27	100	173	252	262	251	144	90	41	9	550

Figure 2: moth species at Folkestone and Hythe in 2011



Scarce Silver Lines at Saltwood (Paul Howe)



Light-feathered Rustic at Saltwood (Paul Howe)



Orange Sallow at Hythe (Ian Roberts)



Dusky-lemon Sallow at Hythe (Ian Roberts)



Cream Spot Tiger at Samphire Hoe (Paul Holt)



Aberrant Treble-bar at Saltwood (Paul Howe)

Figure 3 shows the total number of individual moths recorded in each month of 2011:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Micros	0	10	21	138	203	413	331	720	434	277	87	2	2636
Pyralids	0	0	0	15	62	1366	1303	1523	524	31	84	0	4908
Macros	9	24	552	1160	1992	4656	3005	3835	4091	1261	257	13	20855
Total	9	34	573	1313	2257	6435	4639	6078	5049	1569	428	15	28399

Figure 3: total moth numbers at Folkestone and Hythe in 2011

The night of the 27th June produced both the highest number of individual moths recorded (781) and the greatest diversity of species (115).

Butterflies

It was again a poor year for immigrant butterflies, with just three reports of Painted Lady (at Westenhangar on the 1st and 29th of June and at Abbotscliffe on the 30th September), and two sightings of Clouded Yellow at Folkestone in early August.

The weather in April was unseasonably warm, with temperatures soaring to a quite exceptional 25°C on Easter Saturday (23rd) and this encouraged a number of early emergences, with Dingy Skipper and Green Hairstreak at Folkestone Warren on the 7th, Common Blue at Samphire Hoe on the 19th, Small Heath at Folkestone Warren on the 20th, Brown Argus at Samphire Hoe on the 26th and Adonis Blue at Folkestone Escarpment on the 27th all being the first reports in the county in 2011.

There were also some particularly good numbers on the wing at this time, with counts of Dingy Skipper (40 at Folkestone Warren on the 23rd April, 55 at Crete Road West on the 23rd and 71 above Folkestone Downs on the 27th) and Wall (9 at Folkestone Warren on the 23rd and 18 at Samphire Hoe on the 26th) being of particular note.

Numbers of some species however were notably low, with annual totals for the Folkestone Escarpment transect showing decreases for Common Blue (76, down from 210 in 2010 and 262 in 2009), Adonis Blue (50% decrease from 2010) and Speckled Wood (73, slightly higher than 2010, but well down on 228 in 2009). The peak count of 29 Adonis Blues on 6th May is however still noteworthy.

The first dates for the 33 species of butterfly recorded in 2011 are provided as figure 4:

Small Skipper	02 Jul
Essex Skipper	30 Jun
Silver-spotted Skipper	TBC
Large Skipper	01 Jun
Dingy Skipper	07 Apr
Clouded Yellow	Early Aug
Brimstone	21 Mar
Large White	18 Mar
Small White	16 Apr
Green-veined White	07 Apr
Orange Tip	15 Apr
Green Hairstreak	22 Apr
Small Copper	17 Apr
Small Blue	07 May
Brown Argus	26 Apr
Common Blue	19 Apr
Chalkhill Blue	04 Jun
Adonis Blue	27 Apr
Holly Blue	22 Apr
Red Admiral	20 Apr
Painted Lady	01 Jun
Small Tortoiseshell	09 Mar
Peacock	21 Mar
Comma	22 Apr
Dark Green Fritillary	19 Jul
Speckled Wood	20 Apr
Wall	22 Apr
Gatekeeper	09 Jul
Marbled White	07 Jun
Grayling	23 Jul
Meadow Brown	13 Jun
Small Heath	20 Apr
Ringlet	21 Jul



Green Hairstreak at Peene Quarry (Brian Harper)



Wall at Samphire Hoe (Phil Smith)

Figure 4: first dates for butterflies at Folkestone and Hythe in 2011

The future for the Grayling at Folkestone Warren (its sole haunt in Kent) is very worrying as there was just a single record in 2011, on the 23rd July. Other rarer residents were represented by Silver-spotted Skipper at Cheriton Hill (including the latest for the county in 2011, on 15th September), 6 Small Blues at Samphire Hoe on 7th May, with 2 at Folkestone Warren on the 9th May, Chalkhill Blues present in 3 tetrads and a Dark Green Fritillary at Folkestone Warren on the 19th July.

The first report of Marbled White in the county was at Folkestone on the 7th June and there was a notable count of 75 Hythe Ranges on the 2nd July, whilst other summer peaks included 25 Large Skippers at Folkestone Escarpment on the 7th July and 16 Speckled Woods there on the 5th August. Also of note were counts of 10 second generation Dingy Skippers at Folkestone Warren on the 30th July and 9 at Folkestone Escarpment on the 1st August.

There were relatively few butterflies reported in the autumn and the last of the year were single Red Admirals at Abbotscliffe and Capel-le-Ferne on 13th November.



Adonis Blue at Samphire Hoe (Phil Smith)



Dingy Skipper at Peene Quarry (Brian Harper)

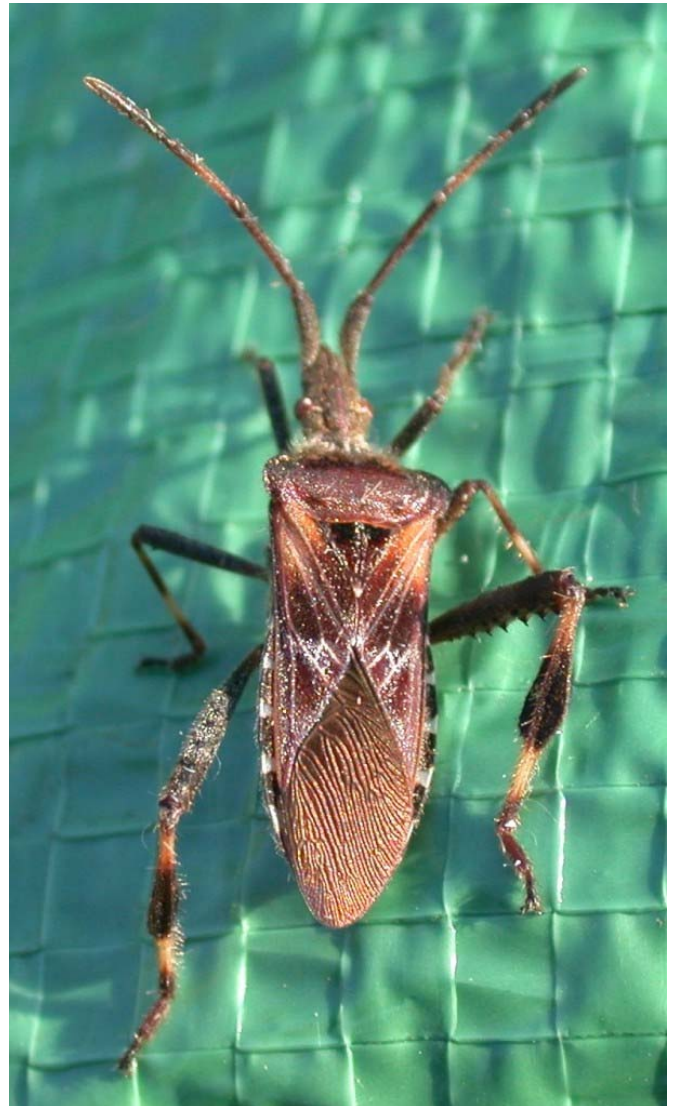
Other insects

There were few records of dragonflies or damselflies received and the clear highlight of the year was the first area record of **Vagrant Emperor** – a female which was seen on the southernmost pond at Samphire Hoe for ten minutes on the 30th April. This individual was part of the largest invasion ever to be seen in Britain, with some 45 confirmed or probable insects recorded between January and May 2011. Those arriving in late April were seemingly linked to a spell of hot south/south-easterly winds in western Europe that also produced a number of reports just across the channel in northern France and Belgium.

The most notable records amongst the other groups were two sightings of **Western Conifer Seed Bug**, which also appear to be the first for the Folkestone and Hythe area. One was found in a moth trap at Hythe on the 28th September and the second was seen at Samphire Hoe on the 3rd October.

Mammals

Harbour Porpoise were seen regularly in small numbers along the coast between Hythe and Samphire Hoe, with one being found dead on the beach at the latter site on the 27th September. There were also a few records of Common and Grey Seals offshore, including a Common Seal on the beach at Hythe Ranges on the 1st January.



Western Conifer Seed Bug at Hythe (Ian Roberts)

On land there were regular sightings of Brown Hare in the Botolph's Bridge area, with a peak count of 5 there on the 12th June. A Mink seen on the canal cutting there on the 2nd January was also of note, whilst a number of the more common mammals such as Badger, Fox, Weasel, and the abundant Grey Squirrel were also logged.



Fox and Brown Hare at Botolph's Bridge (Brian Harper)

Reptiles

Adders were seen in their usual haunts at Abbotscliffe and Samphire Hoe, with a peak count of 3 at the latter site on the 11th April.