

Review of 2008 – non-avian records

Pyralid Moths

A total of just 17 species were trapped or seen but coverage was limited. There were no records of any migrants, not even the regular species *noctuella* and *ferrugalis*. Of the resident species, the more notable records related to singles of *advenella* at Hythe on the 24th and 27th July (photo), a *crocealis* there on 31st July and an *extimalis* on 11th September. The most common species at Hythe was again *flammealis*.



advenella - Hythe - 24th July (Ian Roberts)

Macro moths

A total of just 109 species were trapped or seen. Although coverage was limited, it appeared to be a poor year again for both migrants and residents. Overall catches however saw an increase on last year, with a total of 110 macro moths trapped at Hythe on the 28th and 30th August.

Migrants

In what was generally a very poor year for migrants there was a notable surprise in the form of a **Tamarisk Peacock** which was trapped at Folkestone on the 10th September – only the 4th British record. The only other migrant species noted was Silver Y, and again numbers were poor, with just 18 taken at light at Hythe (though this was double the total of last year) and a few day flyers were seen elsewhere.

Residents

At Samphire Hoe a number of Dew Moths were noted in May, with at least 10 individuals recorded between the 6th and 23rd, and Chalk Carpet was also recorded there again in August. The same site hosted, as is usual, a good number of Cream-spot Tigers (photo).



Cream-spot Tiger - Samphire Hoe (Ian Roberts)



Lime Hawk-moth - Hythe (Ian Roberts)

The common hawk-moths had another bad year, but a nice male Lime Hawk-moth was at Hythe on the 9th May, and after a blank year in 2007 there were two records of prominents: a Maple Prominent at Hythe on the 22nd July and a Pale Prominent there on the 28th July.

A Pretty Chalk Carpet at Hythe on the 8th May was of some local interest, as was a Leopard Moth there on the 5th August, and singles of Kent Black Arches on the 28th July and 16th August.

A very early Feathered Ranunculus was trapped at Hythe on the 1st July, but autumn numbers were fairly though, as were those of Black Rustic. The last moth of the year was a Winter Moth, attracted to house lights on the particularly mild night of 22nd December.

Those species present in the greatest numbers at Hythe were Large Yellow Underwing (38 on the 28th August), Heart and Dart (26 on the 14th June) and Shuttle-shaped Dart (23 on the 30th July).

Butterflies

Migrants

There was a very early Clouded Yellow reported at Samphire Hoe on the 29th March, followed by a series of records there between the 5th and 8th May, with up to 4 present, which suggested local breeding. None were reported however in the autumn. The first Painted Lady was recorded at Samphire Hoe on the 28th July, but it was also a poor autumn for this species. Red Admirals were seen in small numbers until 9th November.

In September, local populations of Large Whites appeared to be swelled by sizeable numbers of presumed immigrants.

Residents

The usual species characteristic of chalk downland were recorded, including decent numbers of Common and Adonis Blues, Small Copper, Marbled White, Dingy Skipper and Ringlet. An example of the latter species at Samphire Hoe in early July was the first record for the site.

Other species seen in reasonable numbers included Holly Blue, Speckled Wood and Wall, and a Purple Hairstreak was photographed at Cheriton on the 13th July.



Adonis Blue - Samphire Hoe (Steve Coates)



Small Copper - Cheriton (Brian Harper)



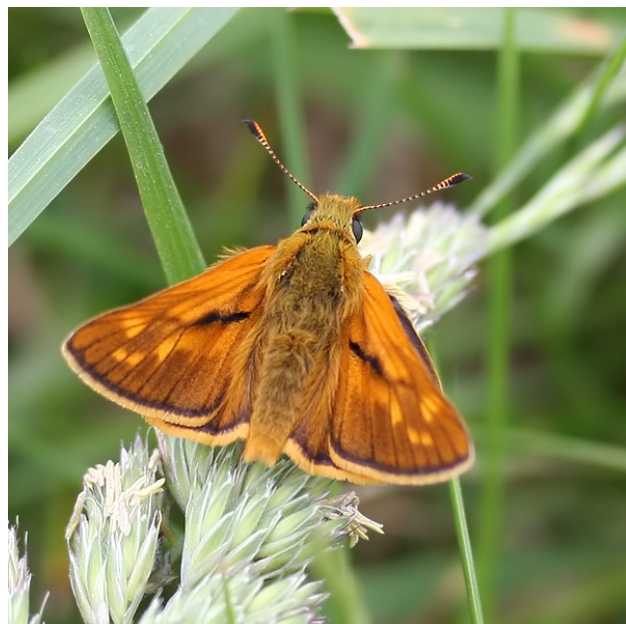
Marbled White - Cheriton (Brian Harper)



Wall - Samphire Hoe (Ian Roberts)



Purple Hairstreak - Cheriton (Brian Harper)



Large Skipper - Cheriton (Brian Harper)

Dragonflies and damselflies

There was incomplete coverage of this group, but a few notable records included a Large Red Damselfly at Saltwood Castle on the 10th May, a Southern Hawker there on the 12th July, a Banded Demoiselle there on the 27th July and several Migrant Hawkers.



Southern Hawker - Saltwood Castle (Brian Harper)



Large Red Damselfly - Saltwood Castle (Brian Harper)



Banded Demoiselle - Saltwood Castle (Brian Harper)

Other insects

Orange Ladybirds (*Halyzia 16-guttata*) were taken at light at Hythe on the 1st and 16th July, and Harlequin Ladybirds were seen in some abundance in the area. Other insect groups were poorly recorded.

Mammals

Following a Harbour Porpoise being washed over the seawall at Samphire Hoe by particularly heavy seas on the 13th March, at least 2 were seen regularly offshore there in the summer. Single Grey Seals were also seen regularly there and off Folkestone.

Land mammals only received very incomplete coverage, though a Mink was photographed at West Hythe in late December and a Grey Squirrel at Samphire Hoe on the 22nd September was an unusual record (possibly the first for the site). A Soprano Pippistrelle was photographed at Seabrook on 1st April.



Harbour Porpoise - Samphire Hoe
(Paul Holt)



Soprano Pippistrelle - Seabrook
(Brian Harper)



Italian Wall Lizard - Folkestone
Warren (Martin Collins)

Reptiles and amphibians

An Italian Wall Lizard was photographed at Little Switzerland, Folkestone Warren in early May, and Common Lizards were present in some abundance, especially at Samphire Hoe. As is usual, adders were seen with regularity, especially on the cliffs and at Samphire Hoe, and Grass Snakes were widespread.

Amphibians were poorly recorded, but in May Smooth Newts were seen in Folkestone and Marsh Frogs at West Hythe.

Also of note

At least 15 Sea Mice (*Aphrodita aculeata*) were found washed up on the beach at Hythe on the 19th January.