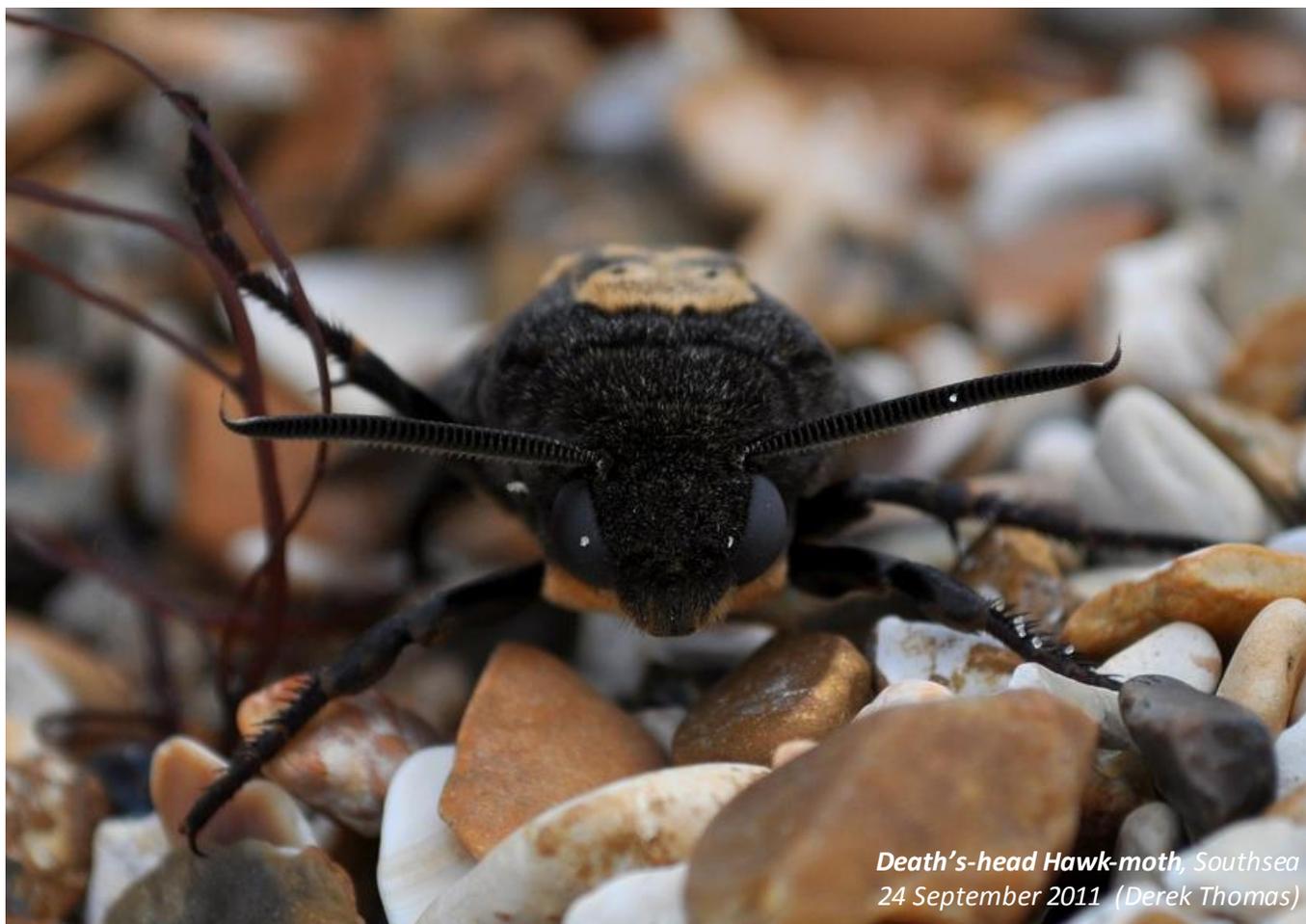


HANTS MONTHLY

NUMBER 20 - September to October 2011



*Death's-head Hawk-moth, Southsea
24 September 2011 (Derek Thomas)*

Wallblings...

A bumper issue this month, as there was quite a bit of migrant activity to keep moth-traps interesting, even if the number of individuals seen was often nothing spectacular. Details of the third annual county moth conference are included, and it would be great to see as many of you as possible on the 14th January.

The length of the sightings reports that are summarised here is a testimony to the tremendous level of activity that takes place in the two counties - help us capture it for posterity and for the annual report by letting us have your 2011 records (and earlier years if they are still outstanding, they are just as valuable) as soon as you practically can.

There's also a review of the BENHS annual exhibition from a Hampshire perspective, and first impressions of the new guide to British plume moths. So, hope there's enough to satisfy everyone!

It'll possibly be 2012 before another of these hits the Internet, so I'll wish you all a happy festive season and a great new year, in case!

Mike



HAMPSHIRE MOTH CONFERENCE - Littleton, January 14th 2012

Advance Notice!

The 3rd annual Branch Moth Conference will be held at Littleton Memorial Hall on Saturday 14 January 2012. Doors will open at 12.30pm and the Conference will close at 5.30pm. Refreshments will be available on the day. There will be a wide range of speakers and more details will be available nearer the time on the Hantsmoths and Branch websites. All are welcome, beginners and experts alike, and there will be plenty of opportunity to chat and meet others with similar interests.

12:30 Doors open – please sign-in on entry so we know who’s arrived

13:00 Introduction and Welcome: Dan Hoare

13:15 The Mothing Year: Tim Norriss and Mike Wall

13:45 An Evolutionary Arms Race: Paul Hope

14:15 Trees and Moths: Jon Stokes

14:45 Break

15:45 Moths in the Media: Zoe Randle

16:10 Chatting up the Neighbours: Glynne Evans

16:35 TBC

17:00 Closing Comments and Discussion: Dan Hoare

17:30 Doors close



REQUEST FOR 2011 RECORDS

Many thanks to all those that have already sent in their moth records for this year - 27,000 records have been received so far. Please remember that the deadline is 30 December for definite inclusion in the annual report to give us time to start validation and sort out the highlights, but the earlier we can start this the better: and now is an ideal time to get your records entered and sent in, before Christmas becomes the centre of your attention.

Any queries please contact Tim or myself and remember that you can send all your records to either of us - also note that there is no need to separate micros and macros as all information is shared. A Mapmate sync file is preferred (cuk's listed below) as it makes sending and receiving easier but we do not put restrictions on recorders as to how you might want to operate and all records are welcome, although an electronic format such as Excel does make life easier. Failing that, a hard copy is fine.

If you have any personal highlights or observations that you would like to bring to our attention, for potential inclusion as points of interest in the annual report, they would also be very much welcomed.

Please note that if you have records outstanding for previous years - and there are a number of key observers who were unable to get theirs in for 2010 - please let us have them too: while it is our aim to produce an accurate annual report every year, ultimately it is having an accurate data base that is the overriding objective.

Mapmate CUKs

Tim Norriss 1c5 (primary synch)

Mike Wall 2h3

TJN / MJW



DAVE'S WEATHER SUMMARY

SEPTEMBER 2011

Most of the month saw an unsettled pattern of south-westerly winds as a procession of low pressure areas passed to the north-west of the UK. The statistics from Winchester bear this out nicely with every day (apart from the 1st) having a predominant wind direction from between south and south west. What was already a warm month was boosted by the exceptional summerlike weather in the last few days when southerly winds brought unbroken sunshine and record breaking heat for the time of year to the south-east. Winchester's warmest day was the 29th when 26°C was reached. This spell also served to make it a rather sunny and dry month despite the unsettled theme overall. Night temperatures were fairly mild although the 15th was cold at 3.9°C. Despite the months rainfall not being particularly high, the 4th, 6th and 11th were rather wet days. The second half of September was notably dry.

OCTOBER 2011

October continued the warm theme with some exceptionally high temperatures at the outset. The overall pattern saw winds from a southerly quarter and high pressure close enough to keep us drier than normal

Winchester returned 26.9°C on the 1st and the all time UK October maximum temperature record was smashed at Swanscombe(Kent) with 29.9°C. Even allowing for this exceptional start, it was a pretty warm month with many days reaching or exceeding 15°C. Nights were also generally mild although there were some grass frosts mid-month when we had a quiet spell of sunny weather under high pressure. Winchester almost managed an air frost on the 15th with a minimum of 0.9°C.

This is usually one of our wetter months but many places had half the average rainfall and with sunshine 30% above normal it was, once again, a benign and pleasant month

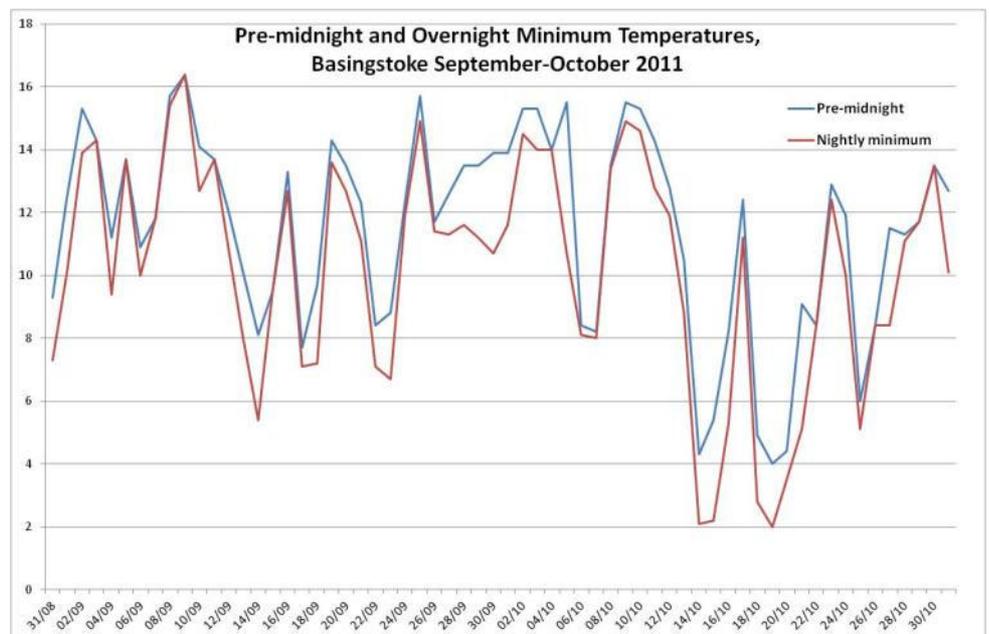
<http://www.winchesterweather.org.uk/>

<http://www.climate-uk.com/>

Dave Owen

Dave's findings more or less correlate with my experience in Basingstoke - the graph right shows the minimum temperatures leading up to midnight and the following dawn for all days during the period under review. The warmest night was 9th September, when temperatures did not fall below 16.4°C all night. The period 24th September to 3rd October did not see the minimum drop below 11.7°C.

MJW





SEPTEMBER- OCTOBER 2011 SUMMARY

Please note that in accordance with the usual convention where referring to overnight light-trapping the evening date not the morning date is used.

Firstly, Jon Clifton kindly took the time to inspect the *Metalampra* sp. reported in the last newsletter (pictured right, taken by TJN at Over Wallop on 13th August) and confirmed that is indeed *M. italica*, as was anticipated. The number of specimens taken of this newcomer to our island is difficult to judge, but it is becoming increasingly widely reported, and this species, which was originally thought to be endemic to Italy, is now known from France, Germany and Switzerland, and most probably more widely across Europe (Bob Heckford, pers.comm.) Like many oecophoridae, the larva feeds on decaying wood under the bark of trees.



SEPTEMBER The month started with Feathered Gothic at Cadnam (MP), a Ni Moth in Southsea (JRL) and PRD recorded Mathew's Wainscot and Pinion Streaked Snout on the 1st of the month.

MJP in Hill Head had 25 species on 2nd with the highlight being a fresh *Palpita vitrealis* (shown right © DPH), with five White-point and three L-album Wainscot, the latter being very fresh. GCE trapped over 800 moths in two MV at a private site north of Andover on the same night. About 650 of these were just four species - Large Yellow Underwing (295), Setaceous Hebrew Character (120), Square-spot Rustic (142), and Feathered Gothic (89). Amongst the rest were his first Brindled Green of the autumn, a late Yellow-tail, and surprise migrant in a Delicate. Other more expected migration activity was seen in Burton, near Christchurch (JSw), with the highlight being a female Gem (a first for the site), along with a single White-point and nine *Udea ferrugalis*. DC at Freshwater had Ni moth amongst over 60 species and 298 Large Yellow Underwing in one trap. THW reported that the overnight min of 13.5°C was the warmest night for a while, and therefore not surprisingly yielding a respectable 180 moths of 31 species, and only Rosy Rustic and Marbled Beauty were new for the year.



The interesting aberrant Light Emerald shown left was caught by TJN and LF in Ropley on the same night.

The 3rd saw the migrant pyralid *Conobathra tumidana*, two Large Thorn and a Bloxworth Snout in JRL's Southsea trap. Jersey Tiger continued its record breaking year by moving into new territory - one seen at Goodworth Clatford on 3rd was a new North Hants record (TJN). It is perhaps moving up the Test valley and will be intriguing to see if this attractive species continues to make progress inland and becomes a common moth across the county in coming years. Evidence from a number of traps pointed to this being a good period for the abundant autumn noctuids, and MJW reported that 400 Large Yellow Underwing in three sessions over the weekend of 2nd-4th (with a maximum of 180 to actinic) represent numbers not seen at this Basingstoke site since 2005; a maximum count of 15 Flounced Rustic and 35 Lesser Yellow Underwing were also new personal highs.

On 6th, a Pale Eggar was a first for the year in Ashurst, New Forest (KG), followed the next night by a second Dark Crimson Underwing ever for the garden, two Dotted Clay, and Red Underwing

A Death's Head Hawk-moth was found on the pavement of Lymington High Street on 7th by Marcus Ward's wife, who moved it out of harm's way. Nearby, at Normandy Farm, Keyhaven on the 8th, PRD had a Dark Spectacle.

The warmest night of the year (15.5 °C) in St Cross, Winchester on 9th saw a smaller catch than expected - even Large Yellow Underwing were down - but did turn up only the second *Crambus hamella* for the site and late *Trachycera advenella* and *Phalonidia manniana*, along with a Willow Beauty f. *perfumaria* (THW).

Alton was 1 °C warmer but DBO had a very similar experience. Highlights were another *Trachycera advenella*, *Acleris cristana*, Black Rustic, Old Lady, Maiden's Blush & Frosted Orange. On the south coast, noctuids were still common, with 42 Large Yellow Underwing and 28 Vine's Rustic, and two White-point, L-album Wainscot, a late Buff Ermine and the first Autumnal Rustics of the year.

At Leckford, 27 Centre-barred Sallow was the largest single night count on file; these were accompanied by 16 White-point, two Brown-veined Wainscot, a 2nd-generation White Ermine, two Sallow and Large Wainscot (GCE). Good numbers of moths to the north, in a garden on the northern edge of Harewood Forest where two MV traps attracted 57 species including 8 Pale Eggar, three *Ypsolopha* sp. in *parenthesella*, *scabrella*, and *ustella*, *Acleris rhombana*, the local gelechiid *Psoricoptera gibbosella*, and autumn noctuids represented by Lunar Underwing, Centre-barred Sallow, Pinion-streaked Snout, Brown-spot Pinion, Black Rustic, three Brindled Green and 33 Oak Lutestring. This is the 5th highest single night count on record, and remarkably, all records of 20 or more have occurred in the past decade.

JRL visited Broughton Down with BE, finding very many mines of *Ectoedemia arcuatella* on wild strawberry (*Fragaria vesca*) a few of which were vacated and looked quite old, but many were tenanted and very small; also two tenanted mines of *Stigmella poterii* on *Sanguisorba minor*. Back at home in Southsea a Small Ranunculus was found at MV.

The next night (10th) saw the first garden records of Heath Rustic and *Udea fulvalis* (NFG) for KG in Ashurst, New Forest. Rob Wilson trapped in Ventnor Botanic Garden, Isle of Wight and caught five Portland Ribbon Wave and a Hoary Footman. The Streak shown right was new for RGE's Cove garden, and the earliest ever recorded. L-Album Wainscot very rarely makes it into the north of the county - there are less than 20 previous records - so one to house-lights in Alton was a surprise (DBO). A Blue Underwing was new to JRL's Southsea garden.



Continuing the run of exceptional finds, Titchfield Common on 12th returned the latest Barred Rivulet ever (DW).

Several mines, some tenanted, of *Enteucha acetosae* on *Rumex acetosella* found by JRL near Petersfield



Heath Pond (shown left) on 14th were apparently the first VC11 record since those reported in the Victoria County History (on 23rd, having invented the new sport of leaf mine twitching by travelling to see them, AMD used the knowledge obtained by finding seven larvae of the same species at Shortheath Common, along with *Phyllocnistis saligna* and *Cosmopterix zieglerella*, both of which were new to the 10km square). John found another Bloxworth Snout in his trap, followed by another two on 18th and 19th, providing strong indication that this species is now resident in the area.

For SJW on South Hayling, the 17th was a slow night with just eight moths of five species, but notable was one Clancy's Rustic (right).



Along with the Bloxworth Snout already mentioned, the 19th brought a Clancy's Rustic and no fewer than sixteen L- album Wainscots to JRL's Southsea MV.

Leckford on the 21st produced 94 moths of 19 species, including seven Large Wainscot, four Frosted Orange, Pink-barred Sallow and lots more Centre-barred Sallow and Sallow (GCE).

The same day, JRL visited Rhinefields, New Forest with AMD, recording about 20 mines of *Tischeria dodonaea* on *Quercus robur* and *Q. petraea*, the most he had ever seen at any one time. At Beaulieu Road, New Forest, there were many vacated mines and larval feeding signs of *Bucculatrix cidarella* on *Myrica gale*; this species was only known on alder until 1980. These plants are not very closely related and John comments that "maybe some DNA analysis of the two foodplant forms of the *Bucculatrix* would be revealing".

The following day saw John visit Hengistbury Head, VC11 with BE, where were found several tenanted mines of *Monochroa moyses* on *Bolboschoenus* and many tenanted mines of *Cosmopterix scribaiella* on *Phragmites*.

The 23rd was a reasonable night for JSw near Christchurch, with 24 species: Neglected Rustic was a first for the garden, along with Frosted Orange, Pink-barred Sallow, Brindled Green, three Cypress Pug, Cypress Carpet, L-album Wainscot and 15 Lunar Underwing; the same night, GCE saw 16 species in Chilbolton, including Brown-spot Pinion, Large Ranunculus, and Autumnal Rustic. TT recorded Feathered Ranunculus, Canary-shouldered Thorn and Red-Green Carpet in Wickham, with Lunar Underwing numerous.



On 24th, a second Death's Head Hawk-moth for the month was found by a family out for a walk on Southsea beach. Shown left is four-year-old Henry Bargery starting a life-time interest in entomology (we can only hope!) (photos © Derek Thomas).

Trapping in Cadnam returned 22 species, including Figure of Eight, Black Rustic, and Brindled Green (MP). The next night saw 18 species, including a couple of Ruby Tigers, and the following night (26th) 19 species, including Blair's Shoulder-knot, Brick, Beaded Chestnut and Orange Sallow.

Virtually every night from the 22nd to the end of the month, GSAS recorded Blair's Mocha in his Hayling Island trap, accompanied at times by Clancy's Rustic, Silver Y, Scarce Bordered Straw and *Udea ferrugalis*.

The 25th had DGE set up 8 traps out north of Hurn and new sites on the Bisterne Estate in the Avon valley -David has been doing sterling work in this part of the world over the last year or so aiming to fill in missing gaps in the atlas coverage. Notable finds included a Mallow, Heath Rustic, Deep-brown Dart, Pale Pinion, no less than 30 Small Wainscot, but the undoubted highlight were two Anomalous (right).



A Buttoned Snout was notable in Longparish for GCE on 25th, followed on the 26th by Green-Brindled Crescent and Scarce Bordered Straw. But the highlight of that night was a Blue Underwing (below) sitting on the outside of the battery actinic at West Down, Chilbolton - JHa in Ventnor, Isle of Wight had three in a week over same period, along with the first Annulet of the year. He has had success breeding Small Marbled from larvae collected from Fleabane, and it will be interesting to see whether this species can survive in British winter



conditions to produce a home-grown brood next year. PRD at Normandy Farm, Keyhaven reported a surprising lack of migrants given the warm conditions but a fresh Dusky-lemon Sallow on 26th was more than adequate compensation, along with Large and Southern Wainscots. Further *fraxinii* graced the gardens of JSw in Burton, Christchurch and JGr in Romsey on 27th and 29th.

A trap run at Upton, north Hampshire by GCE on 27th produced a good haul of 260 moths of 30 species, including Brick, Yellow-line Quaker, Chestnut and Satellite, and migrants in two Pearly Underwing, Dark Swordgrass and Silver Y. Also notable was a Large Wainscot - long way from breeding habitat,

and possibly new for the 10-km square. RFC in Pennington gave a rare report, saying that this had been his best night for ages in terms of numbers, even if 112 of them were Lunar Underwings, plus Frosted Orange, Blair's Shoulder-knot, Sallow and Green-brindled Crescent. MP's Cadnam trap produced a few migrants in Dark Sword-grass, two Pearly Underwings and a White-point - although the latter is more than likely to be home-grown nowadays. Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwings, Oak Nycteoline and an Angle Shades also made appearances.

On 28th, MJP reported that there was a movement of Red Admirals heading south, starting at about 0800hrs, building up to well over one hundred heading out of Portsmouth Harbour. There were plenty of moths near Longstock with 420 moths of 31 species (GCE), but the only migrant was *Udea ferrugalis* along with an early Mottled Umber - September *defoliaria* aren't unknown in our two counties but are quite exceptional. PRD had his second Dusky-lemon Sallow in quick succession, along with another Large and L album Wainscot (the latter is relatively scarce to the west of the Solent, with a population centred in the Portsmouth area); a Convolvulus Hawkmoth that was bashing around inside the trap found itself being taken to Pete's son's school the next day where it frightened his teacher (*tskk*, the adults of today...)

Two good species for MP in Cadnam were Deep-brown Dart on 28th with a further six the next day, accompanied by a Flounced Chestnut. Brindled Green outnumbered Large Yellow Underwings 15 to 14. A late September Small Blood-vein was noteworthy. Dusky-lemon Sallow, Flounced Chestnut and Large Wainscot were the highlights of trapping at Eelmoor Marsh (NJM)

On 29th, Frosted Orange, Satellite and a Delicate were joined in PRD's Keyhaven trap by Common, Southern and Mathews Wainscot which all appear to be having a late generation, with a single L album. On the island, JHa caught Kent Black Arches at Bonchurch and SKJ claimed a Scarce Black Arches at Freshwater - the latter would be the first modern day record if confirmed. A Buttoned Snout was a good find for G&ER, who have just started trapping in Alresford.

DGE was out and about again, running ten traps on the Bisterne and Avon Tyrell estates. He wasn't rewarded with anything too unusual for his efforts, but a Mallow and Deep-brown Dart were notable.

The month closed with another *Palpita vitrealis*, in Portchester (JS). Not too far away, a further Dusky-lemon Sallow was recorded by MJP at Hill Head, along with a Large Wainscot: the latter appeared to be having a good season. In Ropley, LF and TJN had 42 species including Orange Sallow, *Acleris emargana*, *Pandemis cinnamomeana*, Large Ranunculus, Red-green Carpet, 20 Brown-spot Pinion, 14 Beaded Chestnut, 38 Black Rustic, 20 Barred Sallow, and three *Ypsolopha sequella*. After an enforced lull caused by a plague of wasps in the garden, a Cypress Carpet was new on 31st for NJM in Sherborne St John.

OCTOBER

The month opened with a Hummingbird Hawk-moth nectaring on honeysuckle in DBO's Alton garden, but in general the mild weather wasn't converting into exceptional late season returns for night-trappers. A Pale-lemon Sallow (right) was only the second for IRT in Southsea after his new county record in 2003; more prosaically, a Brindled Green, was a welcome addition to the garden list. A further Pale-lemon Sallow was trapped by SKJ at Freshwater, Isle of Wight on the same day. Following closely on the heels of NJM's Cypress Carpet reported above, Cypress Pug duly arrived: one of his neighbours must have paid a visit to the garden centre!



On 2nd, PGLT had a Convolvulus Hawk moth at Cheriton Wood; Ropley returned L-album Wainscot, Merveille du Jour and another Large Wainscot (LF), and SKJ's trap in Freshwater held a Dewick's Plusia.



A change of weather on the 3rd brought a few migrants to Portsmouth: *Udea ferrugalis*, Vestal, Delicate, Small Mottled Willow, Bordered Straw and five Silver Y. A Dusky-lemon Sallow, eight Black Rustic and three Deep-brown Dart were also of note (IRT), and there was a further Vestal nearby for JRL in Southsea. A Southern Chestnut at Blashford (RAC, shown left) was a reserve first and only the second Bob had seen. This species, long overlooked in the Forest, appears to be more frequent nowadays, even allowing for increased observer awareness. This and other news is covered in the entertaining blog Bob runs for the reserve at <http://blashfordlakes.blogspot.com/>

a number were reported on a broad front from southern Ireland along the south coast of England at this time. Prior to 2011 there were approximately 40-50 previous records of *S. recurvalis* in Britain but this year it is likely that there has been more than that in just a month. Across the Solent, SKJ had five Vestal and a Blair's Mocha at Freshwater, followed by Crimson Speckled the next day, and two Vestal were also reported from Martin (PA).

On 5th JRL and RJD visited Oxleys Coppice, Fareham, finding 44 species of leafminers including two vacated mines of *Stigmella assimilella* on Aspen and six mines of *Tischeria dodonaea* on Pedunculate Oak.



There was then a bit of a lull in activity until the 8th, when MP reported four Figure of Eight in Cadnam, good numbers of which continued here for the next few days, along with Rush Veneer. Another two Blair's Mocha on Hayling took the overall site total to at least twenty in three weeks, strongly indicative of local breeding. LF and TJN trapping at Andover Down attracted 36 species, amongst which 35 Chestnut, 32 Barred Sallow, 22 Yellow-line Quaker were notable for their numbers, along with three Dark Chestnut and Figure of Eight, six Merveille du Jour and a very late *Scoparia ambigualis*. Migrants were represented by Vestal and *Udea ferrugalis*. Another Vestal was reported by RAC in Highcliffe, east Dorset.

A field trip to Home Farm Wood, Burkhams, Herriard Common and Nutley Down on the 9th (led by JRL and accompanied by DGG, TJN and MJW) was productive, returning 65 species, a remarkable 43 of which were new for the 10km square: even the ubiquitous *Stigmella aurella* had no previous records! Vice-county rarities included a few tenanted mines of *Ectoedemia intimella* on *Salix caprea* at Home Farm, *Stigmella regiella* on Hawthorn, *S. luteella* and *S. sakhalinella* on birch, a single mine and cut-out of *Heliozela sericiella* on oak at Home Farm



(left), a few vacated mines of *Parornix scoticella* at Nutley Down on *Sorbus intermedia*, a few *Phyllonorycter hilarella* mines, mostly parasitised, on *Salix caprea* at Home Farm, several *P.cerasicolella* on Bird-cherry, a single *Coleophora fuscocuprella* case on Hazel at Home Farm and *Elachista gangabella* on *Brachypodium sylvaticum* (right) along the rides at Nutley Down.



Further evidence to support the theory that Southern Chestnut is becoming more frequent was provided by RBW's first catch of this species in South Brockenhurst on 10th, along with Vestal, *Udea ferrugalis* and Merveille du Jour. The same night, despite blustery conditions, 23 species including a Dewick's Plusia managed to find IRT's Portsmouth trap.

The 11th saw Scarce Bordered Straw for DPH in Stubbington, while Feathered Ranunculus and Cypress Carpet were highlights for Dave Wallace at Titchfield Common.

Trapping on the 12th near Longstock produced about 140 moths of 27 species for GCE, with another three Vestal, Merveille du Jour, Vapourer, five Frosted Orange, and a notable number (24) of Green Brindled Crescent - and a Red Admiral!

Another period of cool weather reduced catches even more than they already were subsequent to this, and stemmed the flow (temporarily at least) of Figure of Eight to MP's trap in Cadnam, but JRL had his latest ever Channel Islands Pug in Southsea on 14th, and nearby on the 15th IRT reported just three moths of two species, albeit one was a Mallow. Reports from light traps were then thin on the ground as night-time temperatures dropped into low single figures, until the 21st when Blair's Mocha and another Mallow were of note in Burton, east Dorset (JSw). Large Wainscot continued to be widely reported and it will be interesting, once all records are in at the end of the year, to see how well this species has done: 2006 was an exceptional year, at a time when a large number of migrants were reported across the country, and it is possible that 2011 may be repeating this pattern.

On 17th, JRL out and about with Mark Young, visited Petersfield Heath Pond, where 32 species were recorded including some more *Enteucha acetosae* mines on *Rumex acetosella*, six mines of *Tischeria dodonaea* on Pedunculate Oak (having a good year) and many mines of *Phyllocnistis saligna*, which is having an equally good year, on *Salix fragilis*. Moving onto Hen Wood, near West Meon 36 species were found including several vacated mines of *Ectoedemia arcuatella* on Wild Strawberry, very many tenanted and vacated mines of *Ectoedemia rubivora* on Dewberry, a cocoon of *Parornix fagivora* on Beech, several hundred mines of *Phyllonorycter strigulatella* on Grey Alder and a couple of larval cases of what JRL could only assume was *Coleophora gryphipennella* on Wild Strawberry, a very unusual hostplant for that species.

On 18th at Gutner Point, Hayling Island they found 36 species including lots of larval cases of *Coleophora salicorniae* on *Salicornia* but no sign of *C. aestuariella* or *C. deviella* on the *Suaeda maritima*. The 20th saw them visit Chilbolton West Down and the Leckford Estate with BE, where at the latter 40 species were found, including one vacated mine of *Ectoedemia arcuatella* on Strawberry, which might be a new record for the Estate, a few mines of *Stigmella filipendulae* on *Filipendula vulgaris*, a few mines of *S. poterii* on *Sanguisorba minor*, one vacated mine of *Trifurcula headleyella* on Self-heal and a single Scarlet Tiger larva on *Eupatorium*. An *Endotricha flammealis* reported from DGE's Bournemouth garden on 23rd was one of the latest ever, although October individuals are not unknown.

Of 52 moths in JRL's Southsea trap on 27th, 45 were *Epiphyas postvittana*, evidently recovered from depressed numbers earlier in the year following the hard winter. Interestingly, this recovery is not obvious in the north of the county, where it still remains at low numbers, e.g. for MJW where only two or three were reporting in each night, compared to double or even triple figures a few years ago at this time of year. Single specimens of the Gem did turn up on consecutive nights 28th to 30th.

Conversely, GSAS had a good set of migrants on the night of the 27th, with two *Udea ferrugalis*, two *Palpita vitrealis*, Blair's Mocha, Dark Sword-grass, four Silver Y, a Vestal and Oak Rustic. Scarce Bordered Straw were reported from both here and Burton (JSw, 28th - along with a Gem) and at Portchester on 30th (JS). Blair's Mocha expansion continued into North Hampshire, with one for GAH in Basingstoke on 28th (left) being one of very few that have reported from VC12 to date. A late *Pseudogyrotoza conwagana* was the third latest on file for MP in Cadnam on 28th.



Following closely on the heels of the first, AJ found Hampshire's second *Spoladea recurvalis* at Sandy Point, Hayling Island on 29th. A late *Trachycera advenella* was notable for THW in St Cross, Winchester on 30th, with Gem recorded at Titchfield Common (DW) and Portsmouth (IRT) on 31st, along with a rare light-trapped Hummingbird Hawk-moth.

On 30th KC on Wickham Common had a good session, including Crimson Speckled, Small Mottled Willow and Vestal.



FAREHAM MOTH GROUP REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2011

The group met at various localities around the area on each Friday during September. We generally aim to run 5 lights with a mixture of MV and actinic. We hope shortly to add a sixth lamp.

The first visit was on the 2nd September to Carpenters Copse. This is near Crockerhill, Wickham and is a neglected Hazel coppice under Oak standards with a little Ash and a few Wild Service trees. It is in the ownership of Southwick Estates, to whom we are grateful for allowing us access. Four lamps ran on what was a very slow night for the moths with highlights being **Cypress Pug**, **Centre-barred Sallow** and ***Psoricoptera gibbosella*** (which could be regarded as a marker for quality oak woodland in Hampshire).

The only moth to break double figures was **Brimstone Moth** with 20.

The 9th September saw five lamps operating the Botley Woods / Flagpond Copse complex on a very mild and humid night. However, it was another poor night for moths (what has happened this autumn?), with only 39 species caught and with none into double figures. The highlights being **Oak Lutestring**, **Birch Mocha**, **Webb's Wainscot** and ***Platyptilia gonodactyla***.

Amongst the other orders a **Woodland Grasshopper** *Omocestus rufipes* was of note.

16th September saw us visit Westbury Park nr West Meon on yet another mild night. There were a few more moths around although still only 37 species. Four species exceeded double figures with **Brimstone Moth** 20, **Snout** 12, **Green Carpet** 12 and ***Pandemis cinnamomeana*** 10. Other niceties included **Orange Sallow** and **Feathered Gothic**.

A cool clear night greeted us at Orchard Copse, Wickham Common on the 23rd September and as a result we only caught 12 species with **Brindled Green** (right) being the highlight!

Friday the 30th September saw four of us visit Brownwich Cliffs, on the coast, our first visit to this site. We thank Rhona Smythe for allowing us vehicular access to the cliff top. This looks to be an interesting site and we look forward to more visits next year. It had been a fairly breezy day but had dropped a bit by nightfall. We caught 34 species of which **Large Wainscot**, **Dark Swordgrass**, **Gem**, **L Album Wainscot**, **Bordered Beauty**, **Silver Y**, **Udea ferrugalis** and **Eudonia pallida** were interesting.



OCTOBER 2011

Whitelands Wood nr Petersfield was the first destination for October, where on the 3rd four lamps running caught 32 species. It was fairly breezy to start but dropped significantly later and the temperature held up well. The majority of moths seem to be caught on one sheet and included **24 Barred Sallow** (far right) along with **Large Ranunculus**, **Orange Sallow**, **Brown-spot Pinion** (right), **Red and Yellow-lined Quaker**, **Green-brindled Crescent** and **Plutella xylostella**.



7th October took us back to Botley Woods on what was a clear and cool night. As a result we only caught 20 species which included **20 Chestnut** and **20 Sallow**, with the last moth being a **Frosted Orange** (right).



We had been trying to get a late visit to the New Forest for awhile and on Monday 10th October we succeeded in visiting Shatterford Bottom on a breezy but dry and quite mild. We were hoping to record **Southern Chestnut** (left) and were not disappointed with five being caught despite the breeze.

Other moths caught included **Flounced Chestnut** and **Blastobasis lacticolella**. Also seen were two full grown larva of **Fox Moth**.

Back to Fridays and the 14th October had four lamps set at Stanley Park / Alverbank Hotel near Stokes Bay, Gosport. Parking was kindly arranged by Stewart Swift who along with Pat visited with us. Fifteen species were seen including **Oak Rustic** and **Tachystola acroxantha** along with mines of **Ectodemia erythrotenella**, **E. heringella** 100+, **Phyllonorycter cerasicolella** and **P. trifasciella**.

On the 21st October we again visited Westbury Park nr West Meon with six lamps on what was a mild night albeit breezy at times. We caught 22 species and found mines of a further 7 species. Highlights included **Argyresthia semitestacella**, **Large Wainscot**, **31 Brick**, **2 Pale November Moth** (gen.dtd KW) and **30 Barred Sallow**. Also a larva of **Pale Tussock** was a nice find (right).



The mines found were of *Parornix anglicella*, *Phyllonorycter oxyacanthae*, *P. maesingella*, *P. coryli*, *P. nicellii*, *P. acerifoliella* and *P. geniculella*.

On the 28th October we ran seven lamps at Stanley Park, Stokes Bay, Gosport and were joined by Stewart Swift, (who had kindly arranged the visit and parking), and his actinic. We caught 16 species in total but these included seven Oak Rustic, one Mallow, one Merveille du Jour and three *Tachystola acroxantha*.

SEPTEMBER TO OCTOBER IN FUNTLEY

During September numbers of the more common late summer / early autumn species continued apace with reasonable numbers of Large Yellow Underwing (max 84 on 2nd), Setaceous Hebrew Character (max 63 on 2nd). The 2nd also produced Orange Swift and *Dioryctria abietella*. Pinion-streaked Snout appeared on 9th and the later autumnal species started on the 15th with Black Rustic and Lunar Underwing, the latter peaked at 182 on 27th. There was a smattering of other interesting moths with Brown-spot Pinion on 25th, and August Thorn 26th.

Throughout the month the commoner of the migrants, namely Silver Y, *Udea ferrugalis*, European Corn-borer and *Nomophila noctuella* were regularly seen at the light.

October started well with Delicate (the first of three), Large Wainscot, Dusky-lemon Sallow and *Ypsolopha sylvella* on the 1st.

A September Thorn and Brick showed on 2nd with *Plutella xylostella* and *Nomophila noctuella*. The Vestal arrived on the 3rd, all of these during the really warm spell of late September to early October.

Numbers and species then started to decrease rapidly with the onset of cooler inclement weather with highlights being Figure of Eight on 10th, Merveille du Jour were more numerous here this year, (max 3 on 21st)

MLO



BRITISH ENTOMOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY ANNUAL EXHIBITION, November 5th 2011 – Imperial College, London

TJN and I made our usual pilgrimage to the venerable BENHS Exhibition, held annually at this time of year at Imperial College in Kensington, just down the road from the British and Science Museums. It is a great opportunity to catch up with the great and the good from up and down the country. This year there was a good representation from Hampshire and Isle of Wight, and it might be of interest to provide a summary of the exhibits that relate to our area.

The highlight from a Hampshire list perspective was a series of a potential new species for the British Isles, *Euxoa eruta*, for which the vernacular name Dusky Dart is proposed. This taxa is closely related to White-line Dart (for which, in notes attached to the display, PHS noted that the accepted scientific name *Euxoa tritici* is a synonym for *E. nigrofusca*, which therefore has precedence): the late Michael Fibiger dissected various specimens collected in Guernsey, Channel Islands in May 2010 and identified that a number were not, as previously determined, White-line Dart but a new species for the islands. Subsequently, later in 2010, specimens likely to be *E. eruta* were identified from Dungeness by Michael Fibiger, which are currently being verified by the European noctuid expert Laszlo Ronkay. On the back of this information, PHS has been researching collections and has identified a number of further candidates - and one of these was taken in Southsea (JRL), dating back to 1958 (the individual shown above), with others from the Channel Islands and Portland, Dorset (VC9). The species shows subtle but distinctive genitalic differences, and morphologically, the presence of a more pointed apex and rounded costa may be a useful field characteristic to pick out individuals for further investigation.



A further highlight was the opportunity to purchase Colin Hart's long awaited British Plume Moths, reviewed below.

DISPLAY SUMMARY BY INDIVIDUAL

Richard Dickson

<i>Elegia fallax</i>		24.04.2011	Adult	Stubbington, first British record	DPH
<i>Coleophora linneella</i>		01.07.2011	Adult	Funtley	MLO
<i>Cydia illutana</i>		20.05.2011	Adult	Fareham	RJD
<i>Gyniodoma limoniella</i>		02.07.2011	Adult	Funtley	MLO
<i>Bohemannia quadrimaculella</i>		29.07.2011	Adult	Funtley	MLO
<i>Acrolepiopsis marcidella</i>		17.08.2011	Mine with cocoon in fruit of Butcher's Broom		RJD / JRL

Ian Thirlwell

<i>Oxyptilus distans</i>		08.08.1997	Adult		IRT
<i>Oxyptilus laetus</i>		30.06.2011	Adult		IRT
<i>Arctia caja</i>	Garden Tiger	30.08.2011	Adult	Black aberration	IRT
<i>Autographa gamma</i>	Silver Y	11.08.2011	Adult	Small form	IRT

John Langmaid

<i>Choristoneura diversana</i>		05.07.2011	Adult	Bred, ex-larva from Odiham Common	JRL
<i>Diploseustis perieresalis</i>		28.07.2011	Adult	Second Hampshire specimen	JRL
<i>Blastodacna hellerella</i>		2011	Adult	ex <i>Sorbus intermedius</i> 9.9.2010	JRL
<i>Grapholita janthinana</i>		2011	Adult	ex <i>Sorbus intermedius</i> 9.9.2010	JRL
<i>Blastobasis lacticolella</i>		2011	Adult	ex <i>Sorbus intermedius</i> 9.9.2010	JRL
<i>Cydia pomonella</i>		2011	Adult	ex <i>Sorbus intermedius</i> 9.9.2010	JRL

Martin Harvey

<i>Monochroa lutulentella</i>		31.05.2011	Adult	New record for Isle of Wight	MCH
<i>Batrachoda praengusta</i>		22.07.2011	Adult	New record for Isle of Wight	MCH

James Halsey

<i>Agrotis crassa</i>	Great Dart	25.07.2011	Adult	Bonchurch, Isle of Wight	JHa
<i>Eublemma parva</i>	Small Marbled	28.07.2011	Adult	Also two bred from collected larvae	JHa
<i>Gymnoscelis rufifasciata</i>	Double-striped Pug	05.05.2011	Adult	Two aberrations	JHa
<i>Mythimna ferrago</i>	Clay	25.06.2011	Adult	Aberration	JHa
<i>Idaea aversata</i>	Riband Wave	18.07.2011	Adult	Melanic form	JHa
<i>Idaea trigeminata</i>	Treble Brown-spot	22.05.2010	Adult	Two unusual aberrations	JHa
<i>Sclerocona acutellus</i>		21.06.2010	Adult	New breeding colony on IOW	JHa

Sclerona acutellus (left)



Gymnoscelis rufifasciata aberration (right)



Andy Page

<i>Agrochola helvola</i>	Flounced Chestnut	August 2011	Adult	Linford, New Forest	AP
<i>Xanthorhoe quadrifasciata</i>	Large T-S Carpet	09.07.2010	Adults	Bred ex-larvae	AP

Phil Sterling

<i>Euxoa eruta</i>		1958	Adult	Southsea. Also a number of others from Dorset and Channel Islands	JRL
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John Phillips

<i>Agrotis exclamationis</i>	Heart and Dart	2011	Adult	ab. <i>pallida</i>	Hayling Island	JWP
<i>Xanthia gilvago</i>	Dusky-lemon Sallow	2011	Adult	ab. <i>palleago</i>	Hayling Island	JWP
<i>Xanthia icteritia</i>	Sallow	2011	Adult	ab. <i>flavescens</i>	Hayling Island	JWP
<i>Hyles livornica</i>	Striped Hawk-moth	07.05.2011	Adult		Hayling Island	JWP
<i>Itame brunneata</i>	Rannoch Looper	04-05.06.2011	Adult		Hayling Island	JWP

Sam Knill-Jones

<i>Agrotis cinerea</i>	L. Feathered Rustic	08.05.2011	Adult	Freshwater, Isle of Wight	SKJ
<i>Trigonophora flammea</i>	Flame Brocade	16.10.2011	Adult	Freshwater, Isle of Wight	SKJ
<i>Xanthia ocellaris</i>	Pale-lemon Sallow	01.10.2011	Adult	Freshwater, Isle of Wight	SKJ
<i>Xanthia gilvago</i>	Dusky-lemon Sallow	11.10.2011	Adult	Freshwater, Isle of Wight	SKJ
<i>Utetheisa pulchella</i>	Crimson Speckled	04.10.2011	Adult	Freshwater, Isle of Wight	SKJ
<i>Helicoverpa armigera</i>	Sc. Bordered Straw	04.10.2011	Adult	Freshwater, Isle of Wight	SKJ
<i>Hyphoraia testudinaria</i>	Patton's Tiger	05-06.05.2011	Adults	First two records for Isle of Wight, shown below	



<i>Itame brunneata</i>	Rannoch Looper	08.06.2011	Adult	Freshwater, Isle of Wight	SKJ
<i>Macdunnoughia confusa</i>	Dewick's Plusia	02.10.2011	Adult	Freshwater, Isle of Wight	SKJ
<i>Rhodometra saccharia</i>	Vestal	04.10.2011	Adult	Freshwater, Isle of Wight	SKJ
<i>Platyperigea kadenii</i>	Clancy's Rustic	24.09.2011	Adult	Freshwater, Isle of Wight	SKJ

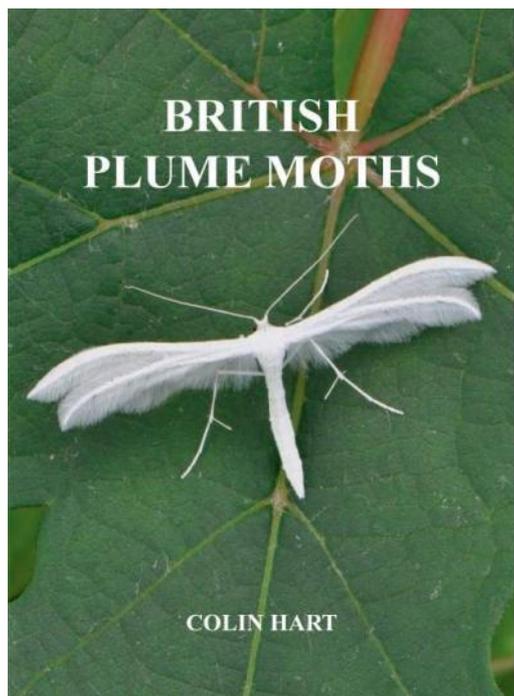
MJW



BOOK REVIEW – BRITISH PLUME MOTHS

Colin Hart

(British Entomological and Natural History Society, 2011: ISBN 978-1-899935-06-2)



We have waited 57 years for a textbook devoted to the British Pterophoridae, since Beirne's 'British Pyralid and Plume Moths' was published in 1954. Scholarly as this work was at the time, much has changed in our knowledge of the group since then, and an up-to-date treatise on this fascinating but difficult group was long awaited. Cees Gielis' 'Microlepidoptera of Europe: Volume 1 - Pterophoridae' (Apollo Books, 1996) partially filled this void, being in English but, covering the whole of the European fauna, is somewhat brief in detail. Colin Hart has studied this group since the mid 1980s and is now seen as one of the foremost British authorities; there was no-one better qualified to take on the task of writing a revised treatise of the British fauna but it must have been a daunting one for him as the book was often rumoured to be just about ready, only to disappear again from view for another year or so. When it was announced that it would be on sale at the BENHS Exhibition in early November, there was still scepticism in some quarters.

As it turned out, any such sceptics were proved wrong. Colin was present at the Exhibition to sign copies, and the BENHS did a roaring trade, especially given that the price on the day was £16 to members (£24 to non-members): for a 278pp hardback book, this seemed remarkably good value. The book includes chapters

on studying the group, structure and behaviour (including the particular challenges brought about by the way the wings are furled at rest), colour photographs of set specimens of all the British species on 26 full-

colour plates, detailed genitalia drawings for both sexes of all species (a reference that will prove invaluable for serious study) and colour photographs of a range of live adults, larvae and pupae, as well as feeding signs for some species, on a further 20 colour plates.

At a first glance the text appears to be extremely readable, and a key to the adults using wing features deserves testing against actual specimens. I found it a bit strange that all the species have been given the English vernacular names proposed by Jim Porter, as these have not been widely adopted, and while I understand the reason why, the decision to strictly follow the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature and match the gender of the genus with that of the specific name leads to a confusing switch of endings to the latter for many species, so that for example *Merrifieldia baliodactylus* must now be known as *M. baliodactyla*. These are minor points that do not detract from a volume that deserves to sit on the bookshelf of anyone even mildly interested in this fascinating group.

MJW



TRIP REPORT – EL ROCIO, SPAIN



El Rocío is situated in Andalucia in Spain between Seville and the Portuguese border. It is a small town with unique sandy streets and plays host to a huge annual festival that attracts about a million people, many of them arriving on horseback. We stayed for a week at the end of September at the delightful Hotel la Malvesia which borders the Parque Nacional de Doñana. September is not the most productive time for naturalists to visit the area as most prefer to go in April when the marshes are full of water from the winter rains and full of birds returning from Africa to breed or stopping to feed before pushing on northwards. Nonetheless such places always hold many things of interest to the visiting naturalist whatever the time of year.

On arriving at the hotel we dumped our cases, had a brief wash and drink, changed into lighter clothes and set off on a quick recce. Within fifteen minutes we had seen several Long-tailed Blue and a Two-tailed Pasha *Charaxes jasius* that flew across the reedbed in front of us and headed into the town. This species is very similar to *Charaxes hansalii* that we had seen at Arba Minch in southern Ethiopia last year. There are 179 species of *Charaxes* in Africa just one of which, *C. jasius*, extends its range as far north as the Mediterranean coast of Europe. It was an impressive start - but unfortunately it was the only one that we saw during our stay. Our total butterfly species list was only seven but included another species new to us, African Grass Blue (above). We found these to be very common on the short horse-grazed turf on the north side of the town. The males have blue wings with a broad brown border whilst the females resemble a Small Blue on the upper surface though the underside has bolder spots.

As we didn't take a moth trap with us our mothing was limited to what we could find during the day. By far the commonest species encountered was the Crimson Speckled (right) and this was seen in some numbers every day. We also saw several Vestal, Pale Shoulder, Small Marbled, Rush Veneer and *Spoladea (Hymenia) recurvalis*, all of which except the Pale Shoulder have turned up in this country in considerable numbers this year.



Of the dragonflies the Lesser Emperor *Anax parthenope* was the most numerous. We just missed seeing Iberian Lynx, so that will have to wait for another visit, and we saw 120 species of bird including many of the specialities of the region. An excellent place for a visit and we can thoroughly recommend the hotel as a place to stay and explore the area.

TJN



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AJ	Andy Johnson	SJW	Simon Wright
SKJ	Sam Knill-Jones	RBW	Russell Wy n
JRL	John Langmaid		

As ever, this newsletter would not be possible without everyone who sends in material directly, or who posts on the Hantsmoths Yahoo group and uses the Hantsmoths and BC branch websites!

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Contributions and ideas for articles are always welcome. I would also like to be made aware of any errors and omissions for correction.

For more information on moth recording in Hampshire, please contact the county moth recorders, either Tim Norris (tim@kitsmail.com) (Macros) or myself (micros), or see www.hantsmoths.org.uk/recording.htm

Mike

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