



Butterfly  
Conservation



# HAMPSHIRE & ISLE OF WIGHT BUTTERFLY & MOTH REPORT 2009

# Hampshire & Isle of Wight Butterfly & Moth Report, 2009

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Silver-washed Fritillary ab. *ocellata*, Alice Holt Forest, Straits Inclosure, 5 July 2010  
(Colin Baker)

## Introduction

Welcome to the 2009 Hampshire and Isle of Wight Butterfly and Moth Report. We hope you all find something of interest. The production of this report is central to our conservation activities and is a key means of providing feedback to our many conservation partners. It is also a way of saying thank-you to our recorders. In 2009, 498 people contributed 177,566 records. This represents something like a staggering half-million individual butterflies and moths.

All data received is entered onto our database and contributes to our distribution maps, but with so many records only a selection can be specifically mentioned in the annual report. The data is put to further use, however, through a data exchange agreement, with the *Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre* (HBIC). HBIC is a partnership comprising local authorities, nature conservation bodies and statutory agencies and can respond effectively to enquires and identify sites important for nature conservation. This enables local planning authorities to assess the ecological implications of proposed development and to inform and guide the Hampshire and local Biodiversity Action Plans. This year, we are pleased to be making our data available for use in a similar way on the Isle of Wight.

Our records are submitted regularly to Head Office for incorporation into the *Butterflies in the New Millennium* project (BNM) and the *National Moth Recording Scheme*. 2009 was the final year of the third five-year recording period for the BNM project. Heroic efforts by our recorders have resulted in this period being the best recorded yet with virtually every 2-km square in our area receiving visits (a square falling entirely within Fawley Oil Refinery is, perhaps unsurprisingly, the one still providing most difficulty). Butterfly Conservation will be producing an updated *State of Britain's Butterflies* later in 2010 and we wait with great interest to see how our species are faring in a national context. 2010 also sees the first year of the fourth five-year BNM recording period and the challenge for us now will be to match or even improve upon this period's excellent coverage.

To supplement the distribution maps in this report, maps for all our area's resident and regular immigrant butterflies together with selected moths are available on the Branch's website ([www.hantsiow-butterflies.org.uk](http://www.hantsiow-butterflies.org.uk)). Distribution maps for all moths can be found on the HantsMoths website ([www.hantsmoths.org.uk](http://www.hantsmoths.org.uk)).

We would like to thank the many people who have contributed to making this report possible, either by assisting with data input, transect co-ordination, as writers, photographers or proof-readers. This year we welcome three new writers; Nick Montegriffo, Dave Owen and Piers Vigus. Rob Edmunds stands down this year and we thank him for his past efforts. We would also like to thank the many other individuals in the Branch who provide considerable indirect input and support. Particular thanks are due to Robin Turner and Mike Wall for maintaining the Branch and HantsMoths web sites. Visit these sites regularly during 2010 for up-to-the-minute news of the latest sightings.

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

Wishing you all a successful 2010 season.

The editorial team

The butterfly editorial in last year's report concluded with the hope that that 2009 would bring "lots of sunshine so that butterflies can get out and recorders will have an opportunity to record them". Well, 2009 may not have been the greatest year ever, but it was certainly a massive improvement over both 2007 and 2008.

Two butterfly events dominated the news in 2009 and we make no apologies for featuring these prominently in this edition of the report. The first was a huge influx of immigrant Painted Lady into the British Isles during the last few days of May. The vast numbers that suddenly appeared must have been noticed by everyone with even a passing interest in butterflies. The invasion featured prominently in the national press, in BC press releases, Springwatch and even on the HantsMoths email discussion group! In fact, the moth team were so impressed that they insisted they forgo their turn for a moth front cover in favour of a Painted Lady for this year's report.

The second notable feature of 2009 was the abnormally high numbers of extreme aberrant butterflies recorded in our area. Piers Vigus has contributed an article discussing the possible causes of this and we are featuring images throughout this report. Moths must also have been affected by the same conditions that caused aberrations in the butterflies but oddly, few photographs have come to light that provide any evidence for this. One exception is an extremely unusual Coronet (page 146).

On both the moth and butterfly front, things were rather quiet until mid-March when a period of warm and settled sunny weather arrived. Overwintering butterflies and moths emerged in numbers and the first of the spring moths appeared in profusion. Bafflingly, a rarely-recorded micro moth which few recorders had ever seen before, *Tortricodes alternella*, seemed to be abundant almost everywhere.

The good weather continued throughout April which benefited many of the spring-flying species. Scarcer butterflies such as Dingy and Grizzled Skipper were seen in good numbers and at new sites. Encouragingly, two of our scarcest spring-flying butterflies even seemed to buck their national trends. Preliminary analysis of UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme (UK BMS) data for 2009 suggests that, nationally, the Duke of Burgundy had its worst year ever and Pearl-bordered Fritillary it's second worse year. Neither of these species are particularly well covered by transect monitored sites, but both seemed to do relatively well in our area. Perhaps in the case of the Pearl-bordered Fritillary, this is a tribute to the excellent conservation work, lead by the Forestry Commission, being carried out in the New Forest.

May provided plenty of opportunities for butterfly and moth recording and, at the very end of the month, the Painted Ladies arrived. Data from the UK BMS suggests that 2009 may have been the second best year for this species since recording began. Hopes of a major moth immigration to accompany the Painted Lady invasion didn't really materialise with reports of only small numbers of common immigrants. However, the last few days of May and early June brought Rannoch Looper to several lucky recorders' garden moth lamps.

Conditions in June were a little more mixed but still generally favourable. The first of the extreme aberrant butterflies began to appear and the heat wave at the end of the month made for a hugely successful Hampshire Moth Night on 27 June.

A dismal cool, wet and windy July was where it all went wrong. Little moth recording was possible throughout the month and butterfly numbers plummeted. Many late

summer species struggled. A notable exception was the Brussels Lace moth. Flying from mid-June to mid-August, this species has undergone a population explosion in the last three years such that one third of all records received to date were in 2009.

Fortunately, August was rather better. Butterfly and moth numbers picked up and the first of the scarcer moth immigrants began to appear.

The improvement in weather continued through September with many butterfly species continuing on the wing throughout the month. Unfortunately National Moth Night on 18 and 19 September coincided with two of the cooler nights and numbers of moths were generally disappointingly low.

Comments from observers suggest that the White-letter Hairstreak did well, Glanville Fritillary numbers bounced back to normal or above normal levels and there may even be some signs of recovery in the Wall. Of the scarcer butterflies, perhaps the only real loser of 2009 was the Silver-spotted Skipper, which is particularly disappointing following on from two previously poor years.

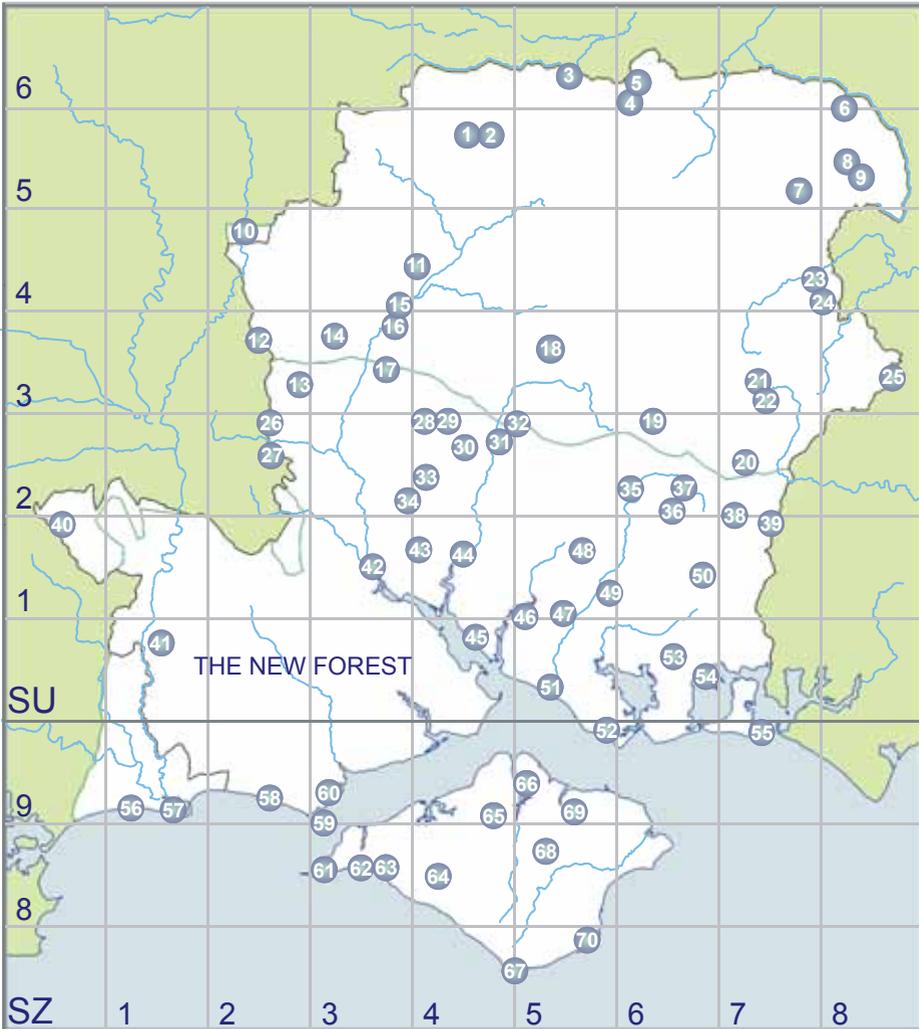
Of the more widespread butterflies, transect results suggest that overall, all the whites enjoyed a particularly successful year, as did Small Copper and Common Blue. Pleasingly, Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock, Comma and of course Painted Lady all showed large increases. Of the browns, Speckled Wood, Marbled White, Gatekeeper and Ringlet had a far better season. It seems that only Holly Blue and Red Admiral generally did significantly worse than in 2008, other butterflies showing either no change or very minor increases or decreases. The moth year can best be described as “average” although as always there were many highlights for those who persevered.

So, all in all, 2009 was a mixed butterfly and moth season but certainly a very memorable one.



Painted Lady, 3 August 2009 (Chris Button)

## Butterfly and Moth Sites in Hampshire and Isle of Wight



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

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

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

## Key to map

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

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

**Bold print** indicates the Branch's three reserves.

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

## Branch Reserves Update

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

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

## Bentley Station Meadow

Lynn Fomison

On transect, 1118 butterflies of 19 species were seen, in comparison with 633 and 22 species in 2008. The total had been boosted by just 67 Painted Ladies. This was one additional species within the 19 in comparison to 2008 and the ones not recorded on transect in 2009 were Brown Argus, Holly Blue, White Admiral and Small Tortoiseshell. The total number seen was pleasing as it was around a similar level to the years of 2003-5 before a good year in 2006 and the slump in 2007 (640). But it was not perfect weather for the season; a bad week in May caused David Walton, one of the transect walkers, to comment that he had "seen more rabbits than butterflies".

Two flowers deserve a special mention. Primroses and violets drew many compliments this spring, nice as both plants are useful to butterflies. But it must be said that butterflies got off to a very slow start. Until the 21st June totals exceeding single figures had only been recorded on transect on two occasions.

24th June saw an improvement with Ken Bailey recording the first two Silver-washed Fritillaries. The annual index for this species reached 68, the highest ever recorded in the meadow and hopefully a result of the measures we take to encourage violets. With a total of 279, Ringlet had its best year since 2003 when 302 were recorded. An amazing 103 were recorded on the 4th July. Numbers held up quite well until mid-July. 11 Marbled Whites were also recorded on 4th July (with a further 10 off transect). Sue Clark suggested that these might have been refugees from the adjacent field that had been cut recently. The species reached a total of 19 - its best year since 1995 (23). Small Copper made a recovery with 10 recorded, as none were recorded in 2008 and only two in 2007. Other species showing increases were Small Skipper/Essex Skipper, Peacock, Comma, Speckled Wood and Gatekeeper. The latter species is a good illustration of the effect of bad summer weather. In 2006 the highest number ever, 205, had been recorded and the species just plummeted in 2007. So although 87 represented a reasonable recovery from the lows of 2007 and 2008, 42 and 36 respectively, this total was far short of pre-2007 numbers of around 150-200.

Given the trend with Gatekeeper it was disappointing that the Meadow Brown experienced a drop to its lowest ever total, 216. The highest transect count was 54 on the 18 July and numbers fell away quickly from 8 August onwards, the last ones being recorded on 31 August, unusual for a species known for its long flight season. The highest ever annual index was 505 in 1996 and the average for the 14 years preceding 2009 is 305. Conditions in the meadow remain good for the species and so the 2010 figures will be of interest. Large Skipper also recorded its lowest ever total, five, which again is hard to explain as Small/Essex Skipper numbers were up substantially from 11 to 20. Another butterfly whose fluctuating numbers tend to be a bit of an enigma is the Common Blue and this species was another recorded at lower levels than in 2008.

Orange-tip numbers have not recovered from the fall they had in 2006, from 29 the previous year to 13. But the six recorded was double the 2008 annual index. It could be that this is a species that the transect is not picking up in a representative way as both Patrick Fleet and Sue Clark found eggs on Ladies Smock. The latter looked at four stems on 29 April and three had eggs on them.

The meadow continues to be an important resource in the secretive life of the Purple Emperor. Matthew Oates saw his first Purple Emperor of the season on 24 June. His entry on the web site read "I managed one pristine male in Lodge Inclosure, up from BSM reserve - he may well have come from there". A highlight of 2009 was the guided walk in early July with Matthew, who detailed the exciting life style of this species.

Sadly there is a dearth of moth records. No accounts were received of sightings of the Broad-bordered Bee Hawk-moth, which was disappointing as the bugle flowered beautifully. However, 24 April was a good day. Patrick Fleet found Clouded Silver, Common Carpet and *Grapholita jungiella*. The larva of the latter feeds within seedpods of Bitter Vetchling, Bush Vetch and similar, living between leaves spun together with silk and over-wintering in a cocoon. Burnet Companion was seen on a few occasions as were many more of the common moths.

Bentley Station Meadow is a superb nature reserve. Not just lots of birds, dragonflies, Beautiful and Banded Demoiselle, but other less well-known insects. Sue Clark's attention was caught by Bee Flies in early April. The ones she saw were *Bombylius major*. From the internet she discovered that they parasitize solitary bees' nests. Eggs are scattered near to the bees' burrows and when hatched the Bee Fly grub finds its way down and feeds off the food intended for the bees. Later it will consume the bee larvae, after having undergone a "shape change" (Hypermetamorphosis) into a carnivorous grub.

Plants continue to be a focus of interest too. A survey was conducted in April. The plant that was new in 2008, Adder's Tongue fern *Ophioglossum vulgatum*, continues to thrive as does Herb Paris *Paris quadrifolia*. Sue Clark found and identified a new white scented violet *Viola odorata* var. *imberbis*.

In 2009, cattle to graze the reserve in October and November were provided by Sarah Jackson. Several local residents had a daily rota for checking the cattle. The grazing, the regular work by contractors on brush cutting blackthorn and birch, the bramble and bracken control undertaken by Patrick Fleet and volunteer Colin Beyer, and our conservation work parties, all help to keep the reserve as an excellent habitat for the wide range of wildlife it supports.

**Magdalen Hill Down**

**Lynn Fomison**

Magdalen Hill Down extends to 110 acres and has three distinct areas. These were described in detail in the 2007 Annual Report. Information is also available on the branch web site and in a colour leaflet entitled 'Havens for Butterflies in Hampshire'. The whole reserve is carefully grazed by a combination of cattle and sheep, mainly in late autumn, winter and spring, and the ongoing programme of practical conservation management helps to keep scrub under control and hedgerows and trees in good order to create the sort of habitat that we know butterflies and moths need. This year we have also taken steps to reduce rabbit numbers slightly in the areas of the reserve where they were causing problems



Magdalen Hill Down viewed from a flight from Southampton Airport (Andy Barker)

Those of us closely connected with the reserve value each year's transect results. It is good to have recorded a spectacular increase in numbers either as a result of rescuing the original reserve from scrub invasion or from creating species rich grassland on ex-arable fields. For example on the original reserve our management has benefited Grizzled Skippers. Until 2005 the species had only been recorded in odd ones and twos, but in that year 17 were recorded. Apart from a drop to nine in 2008 numbers have increased each year to a record high of 39 in 2009. On one day alone, 25th April, Andy and Linda Barker counted 20 along the lower slopes of the original reserve, including a mating pair. This is the highest single visit tally they have recorded on the site. Similarly, on the extension Ringlets rose from seven in 1996 to 59 in 2006. Each year after that they increased to reach a record 202 in 2009. On Magdalen Hill Down North, in just five years Common Blue increased from 13 in 2004 to 299 in 2009.

It is pleasing to report that few species have experienced the dire drops in numbers that 2007 and 2008 brought. Interestingly Gatekeeper numbers were well down on both the original reserve and Magdalen Hill Down North but well up on the extension. There is no obvious reason for this. However, it is variations like this that make the transect figures from the three parts of the reserve fascinating, showing that sometimes in obvious ways, and sometimes in very subtle ones, the reserve accomplishes the objective of providing some varied habitats.

Last year reference was made to the seven earliest sightings of species recorded at Magdalen Hill Down as an indication of the quality of the site. In 2009 the site notches up an impressive eight earliest sightings. These include regular ones like Green Hairstreak and Grizzled Skipper (both seen on 4 April by Andy Barker) but also Painted

Lady (2 April) and Clouded Yellow (11 May). Brown Argus, Chalkhill Blue, Ringlet and Marbled White were the other species making first appearances of the season on the reserve. No other site in the two counties comes anywhere near this number. The records from both Magdalen Hill Down regulars and other visitors are most important. Because Patrick Fleet works at the reserve regularly he is a great source of sightings and other information about the reserve. In mid-June he reported finding 15 separate batches of Peacock caterpillars – the most he had found in previous years was seven. However, he had been seeing *Sturmia bella* too.

Jenny Mallett remembers the closing remark of our 2008 report “2009 has got to be better, hasn’t it?” and comments “and it certainly was. In particular, Magdalen Hill Down North transect was the best ever even without Painted Lady, and the great recovery of both Small Tortoiseshell and Peacock was most heartening”.

**Original reserve:** 5023 butterflies of 28 species were recorded on transect in 2009. The increase in total numbers from 2008 was almost 37%. One more species was seen in 2009 than the previous year. Unsurprisingly it was Painted Lady. The five species that showed an increase from 2007 to 2008 have again managed to increase in 2009. These are Small/Essex Skipper, Chalkhill Blue, Comma, Ringlet and Green-veined White. Regarding the latter, 72 on transect was the highest number ever. It could well be that the efforts taken to increase a food plant for Orange-tips, Jack-by-the-hedge, is being of great benefit to Green-veined Whites. However, although numbers of Meadow Brown increased from 1306 in 2007 to 1458 in 2008, in 2009 only 1209 were recorded on transect. Small Heath also had a fall in numbers in 2009. However, both these species were recorded at higher numbers on transect on the extension and Magdalen Hill Down North than in 2008 so maybe they had been lured away from the original reserve by better nectar elsewhere. The reason for fluctuations in butterfly numbers can be fascinating and obscure. For example, in 2009 Red Admiral was down to its lowest recorded numbers on the original reserve and Magdalen Hill Down North, and second lowest on the extension. Odd when both other nettle feeders and migrants did well. The parasitic wasps that affect Holly Blue are better understood and possibly explain the reason for this species being recorded at its lowest ever numbers on all three transects. On a positive note 18 species that showed a decrease from 2007 to 2008 showed an increase in transect numbers in 2009. Pleasingly amongst these were significant increases in some of the important downland species: Chalkhill Blue, Brown Argus, and Green Hairstreak.

**The Extension:** 5330 butterflies of 25 species were recorded in comparison to 1826 in 2008. This is the highest number ever, the previous record year being 2004 with 4841 recorded. Obviously this outstanding tally was helped along by the 1940 Painted Ladies noted on transect – Phil Budd counted an incredible 925 on the transect walk on 31st July. All the butterflies (with the exception of Red Admiral and Holly Blue) that showed reductions in 2008 were recorded at higher numbers in 2009. To illustrate how butterflies numbers can recover after adverse summers, Marbled Whites had fallen from 249 in 2006 to 121 in 2007 and to 66 in 2008, but a recorded total of 237 in 2009 was almost back to 2006 levels and well above the average for the previous 13 years of 196. Meadow Brown had not slumped in 2007 and 2008. The 1240 recorded in 2009 was a 15% increase over the previous year and was the fourth best year of the 14 years of records.

**Magdalen Hill Down North:** 2780 butterflies of 27 species were seen in comparison to 1110 and 22 species in 2008, an increase of 150%. The total was obviously boosted by the 851 Painted Ladies that were recorded. All the grassland species, Marbled White,

Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown, Small Heath and Ringlet, showed reasonable increases, as did Small/Essex Skipper and Large Skipper. These latter species undoubtedly benefit from the amount of grass which is not cut or grazed in the winter. When managing a reserve, transect figures are a way of showing whether conservation measures are working. Although on transect only low numbers of Small Blue are recorded, they are regularly seen during their flight periods and their larval food plant, Kidney Vetch, continues to thrive. On 10 June Patrick saw four Small Blue in the chalk corner and found eggs on that occasion too. Chalkhill Blue numbers were virtually double those of 2008 and this is a cause for optimism that they may be breeding on the Horseshoe Vetch which was painstakingly introduced by Charles Flower as plug plants, both on the areas of reduced topsoil and in the bare chalk in the south east corner. Similarly the three Green Hairstreak recorded on transect belie the fact that more sightings have been made. Interestingly, rock rose has appeared naturally as well as flourishing from the plug plantings.



Magdalen Hill Down North, 13 June 2009 (David Green)

The habitat management which we know is beneficial to butterflies continues to prove to be excellent for moths too. Patrick Fleet and Colin Beyer have undertaken numerous surveys during the year, making daytime observations, using light traps, and hunting for nectaring moths by torchlight. In April they had three exciting finds of micro-moths, all new to Magdalen Hill Down. *Pancalia leuwenhoekella* is rare both in the two counties and nationally. It feeds on stems and roots of Hairy Violet, a plant that occurs in substantial patches. The others were *Ancylis comptana*, which uses Cinquefoil and Strawberry, and *Phyllonorycter emberizaepenella*, whose larvae feed on Honeysuckle. On the 6th April Patrick had an unusually early sighting of *Ancylis obtusana* which feeds on Buckthorn and is known as the Buckthorn Leaf Roller. On the 10th August a Six-belted clearwing was seen – Patrick spotted it perched on Bird’s-foot-trefoil (no pheromones were used). Its larvae feed in the roots of that plant and also Kidney Vetch. It is good that plants we have encouraged for Common Blue and Small Blue are benefiting this splendid moth. On 12 September 43 species were recorded at a moth evening. On 25 November, the day-flying *Diurnea lipsiella* was identified; it was flying in the hazel and scrub where we had a work party. Patrick also finds larvae while he is

working; these included Figure of Eight, Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing and Scarlet Tiger, the latter on Hound's Tongue. Poplar Hawk-moth larvae were found on willow.

Magdalen Hill Down has other areas of interest as a nature reserve. After a visit on 3 January when he had counted a flock of Golden Plover, Dr Dan Hoare commented "The view over the valley makes it a great place to look for birds at any time of year, even when there are no butterflies about". Thelma Smalley, transect walker, on 22 April commented "The Cowslips looked wonderful". At that time of year the display provided on the extension is certainly a sight worth seeing and there was added excitement in June when one of the chalk scrapes on the extension produced some Fragrant Orchids for the first time ever. Patrick found a Bee Orchid on the original reserve and the mass of flowers on Magdalen Hill Down North is a spectacular sight, which is just so accessible to people.

2009 was not our best year ever but we shall remember it as a good one, especially for Painted Ladies that were seen from early April through to the end of October.

**Yew Hill**

**Brian Fletcher**



Yew Hill, 3 August 2009 (Tim Bernhard)

The year began and ended with very cold weather with frost and snow. In spite of this, work parties continued with their extremely valuable work of scrub clearance and control, this being particularly important to prevent species such as dogwood invading and damaging areas of flower-rich turf. Grazing with cattle is important in controlling the coarser grasses, though the four heifers grazing on the reserve in December had a sudden change of diet when snow blanketed the reserve and made it necessary for a bale of hay to be provided. The weather also caused problems in November when a tornado flattened a section of fencing on Hill Top.

Other conservation measures were undertaken during the year, including a cull of the large rabbit population by ferreting, 60 being removed in April-May and another 36 in November-December. This was necessary to reduce the rabbit damage to wild flowers, especially the destruction of Kidney Vetch and the removal of flowers from Cowslips,

Marjoram and Orchids, all being important as food plants for caterpillars and/or nectar sources for butterflies and moths. Lynn Fomison did a lot of Ragwort pulling during the summer, and Patrick Fleet cut down the stems of Wild Parsnip before its umbels of yellow flowers could set seed. In previous years the vigorous plants of Wild Parsnip had threatened to take over considerable areas of the reserve, but after several years of cutting the invasion has been halted. In the autumn Southern Water cut the reservoir area, but a lot of scrub still remains on the banks and by the fence, areas which in times past supported colonies of Dark Green Fritillary and Duke of Burgundy.

One of the features of open chalk grassland is the large number and variety of flowers to be found in a relatively small area. Early on in 2009 there were impressive numbers of Cowslips and Violets on the main reserve, but the orchid display was somewhat muted compared to previous years, partly due to excessive grazing by rabbits and partly due to the dry spring. This did not prevent Chris Pines from finding 38 Frog Orchids on 12 July.

When Butterfly Conservation took over the Hill Top section of the reserve, the previous use of this area as "improved grassland" for grazing stock had resulted in a field that was very poor floristically, with only about 10 different species of flowers. Over the years Hill Top has been enriched by spreading green hay from the reserve, planting out plug plants and sowing seeds, with the result that a much greater range of chalk grassland plants are now present. Some, such as orchids, have become established by natural colonisation, and good numbers of Bee, Greater Butterfly, Fragrant and Pyramidal Orchids were seen in June on a visit led by Colin Matthews, though the latter two orchids were not at that time fully in flower. Areas of Bird's-foot-trefoil (the food plant of caterpillars of the Common Blue and the two Burnet Moths) and Yellow Rattle (which is semi-parasitic on grass and therefore reduces the height and density of the sward) were particularly noticeable, and in full flower, whilst Black and Greater Knapweed (good sources of nectar) were developing strongly. Later on, beehives were placed on Hill Top, an indication of its floristic value.

With so many flowers on the reserve, it is not surprising that an improvement of the weather compared to that of 2008 meant that butterfly numbers increased. Though just 24 species were seen (one more than last year) the transect counts totalled 3658 butterflies in 2009 compared to 2733 in 2008, which is the best total since 2000. Some butterflies present in modest numbers showed good increases; thus Small Skipper numbers doubled to 38 and Large Skipper improved from a singleton seen in 2008 to 18 seen in 2009 (the best total since 2002). Other species showing substantial increases in numbers were Chalkhill and Common Blues, Marbled White, Ringlet, Speckled Wood and Small Heath. This latter species has continued its slow recovery, and with 44 seen in 2009 was more numerous than at any time since 1992. The most dramatic increases were for the Small and Large Whites, and of course the Painted Lady, 239 of which were recorded in 2009 compared to the previous record of 132 in 1996 and the normal count which seldom reaches double figures.

This year's gains were Clouded Yellow (2), Essex Skipper (not on transect), Small Copper and Small Tortoiseshell (4), whilst Dark Green Fritillary, Duke of Burgundy and Holly Blue were seen in 2008 but not in 2009. The Holly Blues are always more numerous in the hedgerow flanking the path from Olivers Battery to Yew Hill, and there were some here as usual.

No particularly exciting sightings of moths were reported from the reserve but there were good numbers of day-flying and easily disturbed moths seen, including Burnet

Companion, Mother Shipton, 5 and 6 Spot Burnets, Silver Y, Straw Dot and Yellow Shell. The “rarest” of the common macro moths seen was a Magpie Moth.

A good number of birds were seen on the reserve and reported by David Thelwell. Flocks of fifty or more Goldfinches were seen, once being watched by a Kestrel and on another occasion being chased by a Sparrowhawk. Other raptors seen were Buzzards and the much rarer Hobby. In late August a group of 60+ House Martins gathered on the reserve, and other birds seen included Blackcaps, Bullfinches, Stock Doves, Swifts and a Tree Pipit.

One other wildlife event took place on 2 April. Alison Harper observed a stoat crossing the Silkstead Track into the woodland bordering the reserve, only to see it shoot out of cover a few moments later hotly pursued by a rabbit. Just as well this observation was not recorded a day earlier!

This past year has been a good one for the reserve in terms of wildlife and wildflowers, and at present the reserve is in excellent condition which is a hopeful sign for another successful year, the 21st under Butterfly Conservation management.

## The Meaning of Butterflying

Matthew Oates

Precious little has been written on the meaning and psychology of the passion - call it butterflying - that means so much to us. How many of us have paused to consider why we do it and, most importantly, ask what are we seeking? The latter question should perhaps be asked of any relationship or exploration.

This attempt at some answers is offered, tentatively, by one who worked in the nature conservation movement for 25 years before pausing to wonder what the term actually meant, and in so doing opened several Pandora's boxes, personal and otherwise. Pandora revealed that many of my colleagues were not interested in any definition as they were too busy conserving and enhancing biodiversity to stop to think what it was they were actually doing, let alone why. Moreover, some resented deep thinking: it's obvious, they said; and of course it is - at one level, but truth is seldom single-tiered. In consequence I published an article in *British Wildlife* that attempted a modern pragmatic definition of the term, and which promoted the spiritual dimension of the environmental movement's relationship with nature. This article, and much more, can be viewed on the *Values in Nature & Environment* website. See [www.vineproject.org.uk](http://www.vineproject.org.uk)

This rather begs the question of what the conservation of butterflies, and indeed of moths, actually means? This article is concerned with our relationship with butterflies and diurnal moths, which I believe differs significantly from our perception of those hidden creatures of the night, moths.

## Towards Social Acceptance

During the last quarter-century butterflying seems to have become socially acceptable. As one who was forced to keep his passion well hidden for all of his formative years and beyond, I am delighted by this. There are probably five primary reasons.

First, Butterfly Conservation has successfully placed butterflies and moths within the public consciousness, by releasing clear evidence-based information to the media in plain English. The organisation has even persuaded the government to take butterflies seriously, by including them amongst official indicators of the health of our environment. Make no mistake, without the work of our organisation, butterfly enthusiasts would still be regarded as eccentric loners, short on interpersonal skills. Without it we would have

no social standing, embarrassed to meet a dog walker in a wood. We should be immensely grateful for the identity Butterfly Conservation gives us.

Secondly, this success is based at least in part on the demise of much of our Lepidoptera, not simply because major decline generates funding, but because of the curious and complex value people ascribe to rarity and decline. Quite simply, society values the rare and disappearing, especially if it is beautiful and/or quirky. But why do people care about the loss of what they have not personally known and to which they may want at best intellectual and ephemeral access? I cannot answer that but, certainly, some of us find the heady concoction of rarity, elusiveness and beauty irresistible, though it is likely to be a turn-off to others. The irony, of course, is that Butterfly Conservation as a business is rather dependent on decline, which generates essential government funding.

Thirdly, the birders have led the process of Coming Out wondrously, and in doing so have de-stigmatised natural history. They have broken down unnecessary barriers and inhibitions, if only by persistence and sheer numbers. This distinctive yet varied body is quite capable of descending en masse to a supermarket car park on a Saturday morning, to view a flock of Waxwing on Whitebeam berries, have a cup of tea in the restaurant, and join shoppers in the aisles. In several parts of the country they make major contributions to the local economy. Of course, the main visual difference between a butterflyer and a birder is in the equipment: one carries a camera, the other a telescope. Both may seek to capture dreams. We are fortunate in that we live at a time when our culture is attempting to be less inhibited, more tolerant.

Fourthly, the passing away of butterfly collecting has consigned a comic subject area to history. Photography is the modern collecting, offering the thrill of the chase, the attainment of the desired trophy, benignly. Crucially, it does not impact adversely on butterfly populations. Butterfly flying has moved with the times in terms of values, technology and practice, and in response to the massive decline of most butterflies. It is no longer the domain of the weirdo. Crucially, it is no longer based on taking; we are now giving too, which must be fundamental to our social acceptance. This is a major transformation: Butterfly Conservation is giving-based. As examples, Magdalen Hill Down and Yew Hill reserves have given much to people of the city of Winchester.

Finally, television has taken wildlife into people's sitting rooms brilliantly, giving unique wildlife experiences to audiences way beyond the reach of the nature conservation organisations and, at the very least, making urban and suburban-based society neutral towards an increasingly distant nature. Although television does provide intellectual, indirect access, which cannot be bad, and raises levels of awareness, we should be deeply worried by people experiencing nature remotely, viewing it two-dimensionally through a plastic screen. Some of the resonance of George Herbert's hymn (*Teach me my God and king*) could apply here:

'A man who looks on glass,  
On it may stay his eye,  
Or if he pleases through it pass  
And then the heavens espy.'

Of course, the butterfly houses have given people less indirect experience and, above all, removed unnecessary inhibitions. But these experiences are remote, abstract; some of us have experienced the real thing.

## The Wonder of Scientific Exploration

Since the early 1970s many of our most gifted young scientists have been attracted to the study of British butterflies. It is interesting that young people today are discovering butterflies not as children but at university. This is partly due to the disappearance of the dedicated schoolmaster who took groups of boys out collecting, together with the erosion of extra-curricula activities, but mainly because of the number of established university academics who are able to instigate research projects on butterflies. They have discovered that butterflies are a veritable research gold mine, not least because they are amazingly complex and constantly reinvent themselves within new situations. Gone is the fascination of metamorphosis, which is old hat and less than half the picture; butterflies are far more complex and sophisticated than that, as suggested by the concept of metapopulation structures or the Large Blue's ecology. Biologists seeking mental stimulation through scientific exploration are drawn magnetically towards butterflies.

Although much of the scientific work is published in scientific journals that few butterfly enthusiasts read, and in a language that even fewer readily understand, Butterfly Conservation is extremely good at filtering down the key messages to its membership, including the findings of its triennial international scientific symposium. The need for the transcription of key scientific findings from the complex and sophisticated scientific idiolect into plain English does, though, remain acute. Best of all, a large number of butterfly enthusiasts are able to contribute towards scientific research by providing data from sites monitored by butterfly transects and the wider countryside survey, and by contributing to surveys schemes. This level of engagement is highly significant: without it, there would be a schism between the academic world and that of the active butterfly enthusiast and conservationist. The scientists need the data us mortals generate.

## The Butterflying Experience



In the moment of being, beneath the Emperor's master tree (Matthew Oates)

One of the most curious and most wonderful aspects of the human condition is the depth of love we experience towards other living things, though it tends to be expressed towards particular individuals. It can be reciprocated: ask your dog, ask my cat. But in theory butterflies cannot love us.

Butterflies are more than endearing, they are seriously strong characters. They can be, though, immensely amusing, especially when we impose human values on them. Look at the courtship habits of most of our butterflies: he does not even ask the lady's name! It is smash and grab. Parents beware, do not allow your daughter to associate with a young man possessing the morals of a male Duke of Burgundy. But this is looking at butterflies on a superficial level; we can go far deeper.

Some of us are at last starting to recognise, and accept, at least subconsciously, that engaging with butterflies can take us deep into the realms of joy, wonder and beauty, to personal great benefit. But does it do more than generate the straightforward release of serotonin, the happiness chemical, and act as successful stress therapy? Indeed, is it more than mere escapism, or the pursuit of cheap thrills? Today, the mental and physical health agenda, which conservation organisations have embraced, is helping people to recognise the value of nature and natural beauty in their lives, albeit primarily via the positive role of physical exercise in pleasant surroundings. It could and must go much further.

The simple truth is that, at the most basic level, our butterflies take us to special places at optimum times of year. This juxtaposition of place and time is fundamental to the magic of butterflying. Butterflies take us deep into the very essence of spring, far into the totality of summer light, and leave us with the fondest and most intimate of memories, which do not get distorted or killed off by time but, rather, become enhanced over time. The experience is, quite simply, poetic and spiritual – and should be recognised as such. Most crucially of all, nearly all our rich butterfly localities have immensely strong feelings of spirit of place, though many of us may not recognise this too readily – with good reason perhaps, for it is heady and ineffable. Moths, conversely, we largely lure out of obscurity and darkness.

Butterflies seldom, if ever, take us to desolate environments, rather the opposite. The worst today would be an urban fringe brown-field site or a young conifer plantation harbouring spring fritillaries, though mercifully those arboreal Babylons are on the decrease. Our top butterfly sites are all staggeringly beautiful places, within iconic landscapes, and surprisingly few suffer from vehicle noise pollution (our Magdalen Hill Down reserve is a sad example here). Almost without exception these places can profoundly affect the human spirit. One may return to base after a day's butterflying physically tired, but never depressed. There are frequent and diverse highs in butterflying: the Wow! Factor is at times tangible. Go Emperoring, and discover this for yourself!

Even if the target species has proved elusive, one has always been somewhere Special, and undergone a unique experience. The latter is unsurprising and predictable as no two day's butterflying are the same, even in the same locality; each day, each venture is intrinsically unique, and not simply because the butterfly season changes daily. Likewise, no two butterfly, or moth, seasons are alike. The uniqueness is infinite. Butterflying constantly reinvents itself, and builds upon itself, iteratively. This goes a fair way towards explaining why it is addictive, in the form of generating insatiable need. Moths, by their sheer weight of numbers, appeal strongly here.

Yet the spiritual side of butterflying has scarcely been recognised. Perhaps we have been too busy pursuing, photographing, surveying and monitoring butterflies, to acknowledge what is going on in our own minds, let alone within our souls. Moreover, communication has concentrated on conveying the thrill of the chase, exchanging factual information such as where and when to visit in pursuit of this and that, and the fascination of butterfly science, mainly through surveying and transect monitoring. Yet, the spiritual side is there, always, underlying everything. It should unite us. Surely we and our cause could benefit from bringing this out more, and celebrating it?

The importance of our own secret worlds cannot be understated. Suffice it here to say that it would be terribly wrong to under-estimate the importance of our individual time, and the journeys we undertake within that timeless realm, as it offers depth of experience seldom matched in professional or domestic life. Here butterflying truly comes into its own, and excels.

### **The Pilgrim's Progress**

In Greek mythology, the soul (psyche) was often imagined as a butterfly. That image is still powerful in psychotherapy today. So what do butterflies symbolise, to us as butterflyers and within British culture generally? There is clearly a link with freedom - the freedom of nature, and a link with happiness. Without doubt, butterflies are quintessential elements of warm spring and summer days; they are spirits of the warmer months, providing a vital dimension that would be missed, at least subconsciously, if absent.

In several European cultures there are sayings to the effect that if your first butterfly of the summer is golden you will experience a happy summer, if it is white you will have an average season, but heaven help you if it is any other colour! The odds for us are a trifle worrying, with much depending on the Brimstone, the original *butter-coloured fly*.

It is worth looking at the issue of what are we endeavouring to save and, associated with that, what does the conservation of butterflies actually mean? On the major tier of meaning the answer is simple, so let me be openly didactic and state this as clearly as possible:

**We are spiritual beings,  
and natural beauty is fundamental to our existence, full stop.**

Even that is probably an under-statement, for this is something that cannot be overstated. Butterflies are wondrous epitomes and personifications of nature's physical and spiritual beauty and wonder, they are fundamental elements of natural beauty.

Perhaps butterflies can be to human beings a wondrous portal into the frighteningly deep mysticism of nature. In which case should we give them up and experience the real thing. What would a summer be like without concentrating on them? We might drown in beauty... . No, TS Eliot was correct: 'Human kind cannot bear very much reality'. We need a filter, a conduit; we need our hand holding.

And as for the meaning of butterfly conservation, or wider nature conservation? Wordsworth hit the nail on the head at the end of *The Prelude*:

'What we have loved  
Others will love; and we may teach them how'.

Note the use of 'will'. Yes, nature conservation is an expression of love, albeit love that is justified, prioritised, rationalised and delivered through science. Furthermore, nature can have no agenda beyond the desire of individual creatures to survive, the needs we assign to nature are actually our own. It is time this simple truth was recognised. The problem for human beings, of course, is our relationship with nature's ugly, nasty and inconvenient side. We need to ask ourselves, what do we actually want from nature?

### The Wonder of the Morning

One morning late last June I blundered into a new dimension. I had been probing its boundaries for some time, unwittingly; then, without warning, I suddenly crossed over; for the colours and intensities were right, a hidden Turtle Dove was calling; the passion was ripe. It was the Alice Holt, of course, that did it, presenting me with a pristine male of the impossibly rare all-purple version of the Purple Emperor, aberration *iole* no less. (Always trust in Alice). That experience realised a dream of over 40 years development; one of those dreams that means all and everything to the dreamer without necessarily meaning anything to anyone else, or offering any hope of comprehension. Such dreams are of the uttermost importance, being the passion of the individual soul. At this point prose becomes inadequate, and we need to move into poetics, the language of the inner soul, wherein the tiers of meaning are exposed:

### Fulfilment (όλη)

Scatter me, my ashes, here,  
That I might dance as particles  
Of dust inside a shaft of light  
Within the prism of the trees;  
Gilded in midsummer's sun,  
Beatified with morning air,  
Enranced by the plainsong  
Of a turtle dove, concealed  
Amongst myriad leaves.  
Beauty, beyond all intensity,  
Wonder, beyond mere words  
That blind the human eye,  
Break free, within the moment  
In which the spirit of a dream descends.  
Scatter me, my living ashes, here,  
Inside this forest, my cathedral;

For all I ever truly sought  
Was nature's beauty, personified  
Within the sanctum of a dream  
That dreamt itself through  
appetence,  
Together with the peace that comes  
At the fulfilment of a true desire  
That danced an age along a  
woodland path  
Before becoming, sudden, real,  
At the calling of a hidden dove.  
Spirit, on iridescent wings  
descending,  
You hold the words of life,  
That all true dreams may be fulfilled

## 2009 – An Extraordinary Year for Butterfly Aberrations

Piers Vigus

2009 will be long remembered by many butterfly enthusiasts as a year when they first saw an extreme aberration of a British butterfly. Many observers have commented upon the large number of aberrations that were reported during 2009, and this article aims to provide an explanation for some of the more extreme examples which were observed across the two counties.

### Aberrations, Forms and Variations

What is an aberration? And how does this differ from a form, or from a variation?

**Aberration** - An aberration is something that is different from the normal, or 'type' insect. Aberration (commonly abbreviated to ab., such as ab. *iole*) is the term given to specimens which differ from the type. These aberrations may be genetically inherited or

environmentally triggered. The British butterflies have been studied for centuries and a large number of aberrations have been named and described. Occasionally a completely new genetically-controlled aberration does surface but this is an extraordinary event.

**Form** - A form (commonly abbreviated to f., such as f. *hutchinsoni*), as its name suggests, is the term applied to dimorphism (where a butterfly occurs in two or more distinct colour types), or in certain circumstances a geographical cline or race of a species; for example form *helice* in the Clouded Yellow, form *valezina* in the Silver-washed Fritillary, and form *scotica* of the Mountain Ringlet.

**Variation** - The term variation can still be found in older literature, but it is considered to be an archaic term which was historically applied loosely to describe anything that differed from type, including aberrations and forms.

Aberrations, while perhaps at first appearing random and unlimited in their variety, are actually fairly finite. For example; there are around twenty named aberrations pertaining to Adonis Blue females with varying degrees of blue scaling to the upperside of the wings. This level of analysis may seem excessive. However, once you start looking at these females closely you begin to see that the same traits do occur again and again. All of a sudden the distribution of blue scales and development of the orange lunules appears far from random and is actually a finite series of recognisable and repeating characteristics.

Some species are more variable than others: in Britain the Chalkhill Blue has a breathtaking 446 named aberrations, the Silver-washed Fritillary 47, the Painted Lady 32, and the White-letter Hairstreak a humble seven.

### **The 2009 Season: Environmentally Triggered Aberrations**

What made 2009 a particularly interesting year was the quantity of sightings across southern England of aberrations that are triggered by extremes of temperature, particularly amongst the Nymphalidae. It has long been known that extreme shocks of either heat or cold during the last 24 hours of the larval stage and the first 48 hours of the pupal stage can disrupt the natural process of metamorphosis and inhibit the normal processes in which organic chemicals create the colouration of the wing scales. During 2009 several species produced some quite spectacular aberrations of this nature.

Four species stood out in particular: Comma, Purple Emperor, White Admiral and Silver-washed Fritillary. Critically, whilst these species have somewhat-different life cycles, a convergence appears towards the beginning of June when all would have had caterpillars undergoing the transformation from larva to pupa. This suggests a distinct possibility that unusually high temperatures during this period in 2009 could have been responsible for the flush of aberrations seen in these four species.

This hypothesis is supported by Met Office data, recording that from the 1st to the 5th of June high pressure dominated the weather, keeping it very warm with a good deal of sunshine through this period, particularly in the south. Significantly, very high temperatures in some places by day and some cold clear nights gave a notable contrast. The highest temperature during this period was on the 1st of June with 27.2 °C (80.96°F) recorded at Lee-on-Solent (Hants). It is perfectly plausible that in some sheltered areas temperatures in direct sunlight could have achieved an even higher figure than this. Overnight temperatures came within a few degrees of freezing in

several Southerly spots on the 4th of June, with Benson (Oxon) down to a chilly 1.9 °C (35.42°F).

### **Comma *Polygonia c-album***

Towards the end of June across the South of England reports began to appear of the Comma aberration *suffusa* (Frohawk). In this aberration the two upper black spots on the leading edge of the forewing are united into an oblong blotch, and two black wedges in the centre of the forewing margin reach and envelope the twin discal spots. Several examples of this aberration were reported in Hampshire:

On 20th June Matthew Oates reported a pristine male Comma ab. *suffusa* (Frohawk) at Broxhead Common, Bordon, describing how about fifty percent of the upperside of the butterfly had "large black blotches".

Later in the year, on 5th July, whilst spotting Silver-washed Fritillary aberrations in Alice Holt Forest, Piers Vigus saw a Comma of the aberration *reichstettensis* (Fettig) in which the black scaling is even more extreme, leaving only the two basal spots as normal. Possibly this aberration (or certainly one similar) was also seen by Matthew Oates who reported "an acute, dark aberration" in Straits Inclosure on July 15th.

On 12th July Robin Turner was lucky enough to photograph this Comma ab. *obscura* (Closs), distinguished by having broad, dark marginal bands on both fore and hind wings, without the yellowish marginal spots. This particular specimen was especially interesting being also an example of the pale form *hutchinsoni*.



Comma ab. *obscura*, Alice Holt Forest Straits Inclosure, 12 July 2010 (Robin Turner)

### **White Admiral *Limenitis camilla***

The summer of 2009 proved to be a good year for the aberrations *obliterae* (Robson & Gardner) and *nigrina* (Weymer). In ab. *obliterae* the white bands on the upperside of the wings are heavily suffused with black scales and almost obliterated, whereas in the spectacular ab. *nigrina* the white bands are entirely absent, producing an appearance

of the butterfly being completely black. In Hampshire several of these aberrations were reported across the White Admiral's strongholds:

On 28th June Roger Pendell reported ab. *nigrina* from the Goose Green Inclosure of Alice Holt Forest, and was lucky enough to obtain a photo (See page 66).

Peter Eeles spotted this beautiful ab. *obliterae* on 2nd July in Pamber Forest.



White Admiral ab. *obliterate*, Pamber Forest, 2 July 2009 (Peter Eeles)

In addition to these sightings, Matthew Oates reported seeing three ab. *obliterae* in Alice Holt Straits Inclosure, together with an ab. *nigrina* at Goose Green Old Car Park.

### **Silver-washed Fritillary *Argynnis paphia***

Significant aberration in this species is a rare event, and the last time that aberrations were observed in good numbers was the blistering summer of 1976, when sweltering temperatures in early summer produced significant numbers of striking aberrations. Prior to 1976, other 'paphia years' were 1941/42, 1918/19 and 1881; strangely this occurrence seems to happen at 30 year intervals. Could this be linked to a climatic cycle or is it just pure coincidence?

Observations in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight began on 1st July when Graham Dennis reported an ab. *confluens* (Spuler) in Pamber Forest; possibly the same individual that was photographed by Peter Eeles the following day (page 81). In this particular aberration the two outer rows of black spots on the upperside of all four wings unite to form marginal rays.

The most magnificent aberrations, however, were spotted by Colin Baker on 5th July in Alice Holt Forest's Straits Inclosure. Two ab. *ocellata*, one very much more extreme than the other, were rather obligingly nectaring on a low bramble bush. These butterflies made repeated visits to the same patch over the next week and many people made a pilgrimage to photograph these rare insects, which unfortunately resulted in significant trampling of the habitat.

It has been suggested that the darker of the two aberrations seen (see Frontispiece page 2) is an aberration called *nigricans*, caused by an even greater temperature shock than that needed to produce ab. *ocellata*. However, the diagnostic features of ab. *ocellata* (markings extended to form lozenge or 'eye' shapes) are still clearly visible; whereas the determining feature for ab. *nigricans* is an almost entire suffusion of black scales (with the exception of the base of the wings and the fringes), completely obscuring the usual markings.

Again in Alice Holt Forest Matthew Oates saw five aberrations in the Straits Inclosure which he described as being of "*ocellata* type", together with an unusual female aberration in Goose Green; where the orange ground colour was absent from the hindwings which were also heavily suffused with green scales. This gave the impression of the butterfly having typical forewings, and f. *valezina* hindwings.

### **Purple Emperor *Apatura iris***

June produced one of the most celebrated sightings of the 2009 season: a spectacular aberration of the highly enigmatic Purple Emperor. On 28th June Matthew Oates saw and photographed a Purple Emperor male ab. *lugenda* (Cabeau) on the main ride near the entrance to the Straits Inclosure (See page 67).

Ab. *lugenda* was first described by Cabeau in 1910: forewings with three small white spots, hindwings with white transverse band completely absent, no light anti-marginal band and the eye at the anal angle is pupilled bluish grey. The butterfly observed and photographed by Matthew Oates fits this description perfectly.

Some debate has arisen over the identification of this particular aberration with suggestions that it is ab. *irole* (Denis & Schiffermüller). However, when Denis & Schiffermüller first described ab. *irole* in 1775, the specimen was devoid of white markings on either the upperside or, most significantly, the underside.

Heslop, Hyde and Stockley in their seminal work "Notes and Views of the Purple Emperor" (1964) describe *irole* as "...total absence of white markings, both on upperside and underside. Those specimens having only one to four white spots on the forewing, and no other white markings are treated as *lugenda*".

On the same day Matthew Oates also saw a Purple Emperor ab. *iolata* (Cabeau) (mistakenly named *semi-irole* by Frohawk). In this aberration (considered to be transitional to ab. *lugenda*) the white bands on the forewings are much reduced while being present as normal on the hindwings.

### **Genetically Inherited Aberrations**

Environmentally triggered aberrations were however, only part of the story for 2009. A significant number of aberrations seen this year were genetically-controlled; usually the result of a simple recessive gene that remains 'hidden' within the population but is occasionally expressed in aberrant examples.

Other genetically inherited aberrations are slightly more complex; and rather than being caused by a single gene, there is a degree of polygenetic inheritance involved (i.e. more than one gene is responsible for the aberration). As a result, these aberrations are not produced to the same ratios as an aberration caused by a single recessive gene. Furthermore, certain environmental triggers may also be involved in order for the gene or genes to be 'activated', and the genes responsible for the aberration will not necessarily express themselves unless certain unusual environmental conditions exist at a crucial point in the development of the larva and/or pupa. Many of these multifactorial aberrations are exceedingly rare.

There were a number of significant genetically inherited aberrations recorded across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight this year. However, to cover these sightings in sufficient depth would be worthy of an entire article in itself.

## Some Final Thoughts

For many butterfly observers, the search for aberrations among British Butterflies is a natural progression from an ambition to photograph all the British species. For others the sight of an aberration is a chance to photograph and record what could be a very rare insect; and for a few, the hunt for aberrations becomes an obsession to be indulged at every given moment during the British butterfly season.

Any observers with a keen eye who manage to photograph what may be an aberration are welcome to submit their image for inclusion on the branch website or to the UK Butterflies website where Piers Vigus shall endeavour to identify it and provide further information.

**Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey**

**Andy Barker**



Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey site at Sparsholt (Andy Barker)

To gain a better understanding of the status of butterflies in all habitats of the UK, especially the farmed landscape, Butterfly Conservation (BC) has initiated a Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey (WCBS). Following a pilot study in 2008, the scheme went live across the whole of Britain in 2009. The scheme is based on surveying a series of randomly selected 1-km squares to record the butterflies present following the butterfly transect recording methodology.

In Hampshire and the Isle of Wight we were allocated 20 random squares to survey and existing British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) recorders were asked to record butterflies in those squares that they already surveyed for birds. Linda Barker and Cressida Wheelwright established volunteer recorders for each of the

BC squares, and Cressida then co-ordinated the collection and return of data. Having defined a route comprising two roughly parallel traverses of the 1-km square at 500 metres separation (or as close to this as paths, tracks and field boundaries would permit), it was then necessary to gain landowner permission for access to do the survey. Almost without exception, permission was granted, so we would like to give our sincere thanks to all those landowners who supported us.

The survey scheme required at least two visits (July and August) in warm sunny conditions, but optional extra visits in May and June were also encouraged. The following is a brief summary of the results from Hampshire and Isle of Wight WCBS surveys in 2009.

A total of 37 (19 BBS + 18 BC) out of 40 allocated 1-km squares were surveyed in 2009. Of these, 23 squares had the required two visits (July, August), six had three visits and four sites had four visits (May, June, July and August). Only four sites had single visits. The average number of butterflies seen per square (combined visits) was 188, with most squares in the range 100-250 and the full range being 40-1016. The total number of species recorded across all squares was 31, which represents two thirds of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight list of 46 species. The average number of species per square was 12.5, although it should be remembered that whilst most sites had two visits (average species = 12.14), some had three or four visits (average species = 14.3) and a few had just a single visit (average species = 9.75). The table shows the full list of species placed in order of those recorded in the greatest number of squares. For interest the peak single visit count for a given species is also shown. To see how Hampshire and Isle of Wight results compare with the national picture see Butterfly, No.103 (Spring 2010), pp 23-24.

Species (n=31)	No. of Squares	Max. count	Species (n=31)	No. of Squares	Max. count
Small White	36	148	Large Skipper	11	6
Painted Lady	36	146	Marbled White	10	26
Meadow Brown	36	84	Small Heath	7	9
Large White	35	143	Small/Essex Skipper	7	6
Gatekeeper	35	77	Small Copper	7	2
Speckled Wood	32	48	Brown Argus	4	8
Peacock	27	26	Wall	4	6
Green-veined White	26	21	Grayling	3	23
Comma	26	12	Holly Blue	3	1
Ringlet	20	98	Orange-tip	2	3
Brimstone	19	32	Chalkhill Blue	1	5
Red Admiral	19	5	Small Blue	1	2
Small Tortoiseshell	15	10	White Admiral	1	2
Common Blue	14	57	Dark Green Fritillary	1	1
Silver-washed Fritillary	13	27	Purple Hairstreak	1	1
Small Skipper	12	100			
<b>19 BBS + 18 BC 1-km squares = 37</b> Max. 4 visits May, Jun, Jul, Aug					

**UK Butterflies**

Tony Wootton: Small Heath (right)



**UK Moths**

Maurice Pugh: Merveille du Jour  
(page 153)

**Immature stages**

Tony Wootton: Poplar Hawk-moth  
caterpillar (page 154)

**Behaviour & Overall Winner**

Maurice Pugh: Hummingbird Hawk-  
moth (page 154)



**Overseas**

Ken Bailey

(Joint winner):

Nickerl's Fritillary (right)  
& Spotted Fritillary (below)



As before, this report has used data from a Winchester based weather recording station whose website provides up to the minute data on-line at:-  
<http://www.winchesterweather.org.uk/>

In addition, reference was made to Philip Eden's excellent site at:-  
<http://www.climate-uk.com/>

The graphs following the text represent 2009 data, averaged for each quarter month and are from the Winchester website.

**January** was a rather dry month with temperatures close to average but it was generally the coldest for 8 years. This was due to some quiet but severely cold conditions in the first half with an absolute low of  $-8.6^{\circ}\text{C}$  on the 7th. It was much milder later in the month with  $10.2^{\circ}\text{C}$  recorded on the 22nd

**February** was rather wet with 21.3mm recorded on the 9th. Temperatures came out near average but that belied another very cold start with easterly winds bringing some heavy snowfall overnight on the 1st/2nd. Again much warmer later on with  $13.6^{\circ}\text{C}$  recorded on the 22nd

**March** was a much better month with a lot of High Pressure leading to dry, very sunny conditions after a damp start. Temperatures finished above average with  $17.3^{\circ}\text{C}$  the highest on the 17th but the clearer skies meant some chilly nights.

**April** continued where March left off. It was very warm with  $20.8^{\circ}\text{C}$  recorded on the 15th. Whilst many places were dry, there were some local downpours making the rainfall picture rather patchy. There was an unusual lack of frost with winds frequently from a southerly quarter.

**May** was a rather messy month with no predominant pattern. That led to a slightly drier, warmer & sunnier month for most with no real extremes. The month ended warm though with  $25.6^{\circ}\text{C}$  on the 29th. Apart from a couple of ground frosts early on it was fairly mild by night.

**June** was dominated by High Pressure to the north of the UK feeding a lot of dry winds from the east. It was a rather warm month with some real heat at the end.  $28.8^{\circ}\text{C}$  was recorded on the 29th, the warmest of 8 days in a row where temperatures exceeded  $22^{\circ}\text{C}$  as we headed into July.

**July** started hot with  $30.2^{\circ}\text{C}$  reached on both the 1st & 2nd but it was all downhill from there. It ended up a very poor summer month with low sunshine and a lot of rain at 89.4mm. That said, it came out close to average on temperature but that was largely due to warmer nights in the unsettled conditions.

**August** was an improvement as the train of Low Pressure areas migrated further to the north-west and consequently allowed things to settle down. It was fairly dry at 33.1mm and pleasant rather than particularly hot.  $27.1^{\circ}\text{C}$  on the 19th was the highest.

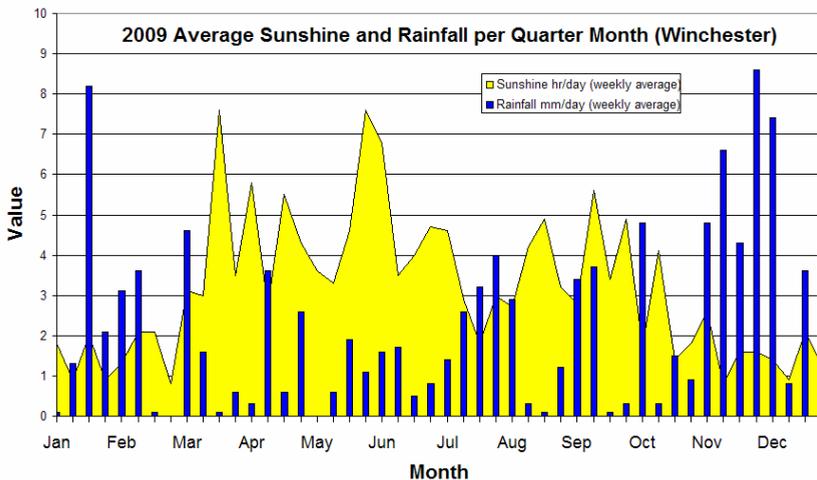
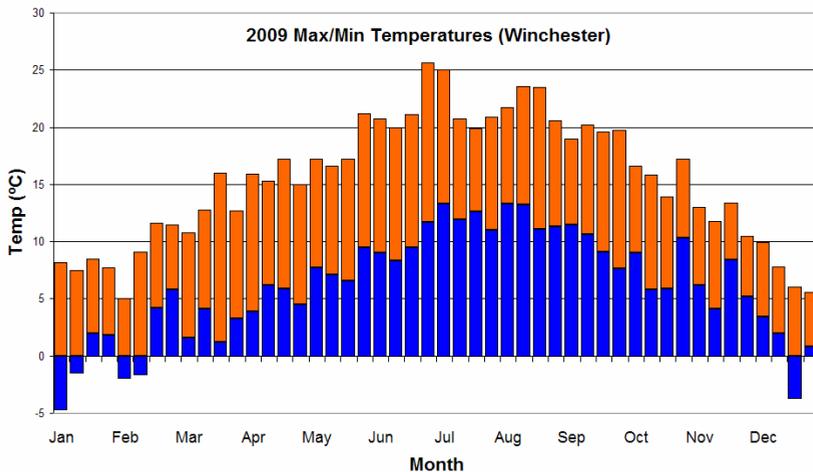
**September** was a warm month and largely dry although there were a couple of rather wet days. Daytime conditions were often very pleasant with  $25.3^{\circ}\text{C}$  being reached on the 8th. Nights were quite warm until the end of the month.

**October** was a continuation of the above average temperature theme and although the weather was rather unsettled at times it remained a slightly drier than average month

with 55.5mm being recorded. Night temperatures were rather variable and an air frost was recorded on the 18th.

**November** completed what was a warm autumn but unlike the previous months it was relentlessly unsettled with Low Pressure areas streaming into the UK. Indeed it was thought to be the second most “cyclonic” month since 1873! No surprise then at the huge rainfall total of 185.1mm. It was another mild month and had no recorded frosts.

**December** started as autumn left off with a mild first 10 days but the real story of the month was the severe cold spell that followed as High Pressure to the north brought bitter air from the east. Snowfalls overnight on the 17th/18th and more notably on the 21st caused much disruption. The cold relaxed somewhat around Christmas but started to return as the month ended. The lowest temperature was on the 23rd at -6.6°C. It ended up the coldest December since 1996 and rather wet at 122.2mm.



**Butterfly transect:** A method of monitoring butterflies, involving walking a fixed route at a given site, once a week from the first week of April to the last week of September, counting the number of each species seen. For the purpose of comparison between other butterfly transects both locally and nationally, there are a fixed set of guidelines. These primarily relate to weather conditions and the time of day under which the transect is walked.

**Annual Index graphs:** Graphs accompany some of the accounts to show Annual Index trends. An Annual Index is the sum total of weekly counts for a particular butterfly species on a given transect in a particular year. The graphs show an average Annual Index for all transect monitored sites where the species is found, 1981 to 2009, and a graph featuring the Annual Index for an individual site with a trend of interest.

**Flight period graphs:** These graphs accompany some of the accounts to show the flight period of the species in 2009 at a particular transect monitored site. The vertical axis shows the weekly count.

**Butterfly Counts:** Butterfly transects do not monitor population size, but because of a consistent methodology, they allow us to monitor change from one year to the next. Other counts sent in by recorders will be a function of the area of a site covered and the amount of time spent. In a quantitative way they give an idea of important sites, but would only give an indication of population size.

**Status:** Regional priority is shown as listed in the *Butterfly Conservation South-central England Regional Action Plan* updated to take account of changes to the UK Biodiversity Action Plan in 2007.

**Vice Counties:** Vice Counties are a system devised in 1852 by the botanist H.C. Watson (1804-81) of dividing the British Isles into approximately equal areas. The boundaries that Watson selected were principally county boundaries as defined in an atlas published by the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge in 1844. These reflected the political boundaries as they existed then. Watson tried to define areas of approximately equal size and so some of the larger counties (including Hampshire) were divided into "vice counties". The system was later extended to cover Irish vice-counties. These boundaries are fixed and do not change as do administrative county boundaries.

Vice-county 10 is the Isle of Wight. Vice County 11 covers the entire present Hampshire administrative boundary roughly south of a line between Stockbridge, Winchester and Petersfield but also includes parts of present day Dorset westwards to Bournemouth. Vice County 12 covers the northern half of Hampshire together with a part of present day Wiltshire around Tidworth and a very small part of Berkshire in the extreme north-west of the county.

**Butterfly distribution maps:** The distribution maps in this report were produced using *MapMate* recording and mapping software. These show the 2-km squares (tetrads) for which records were received in 2009 (dark blue circles). 2000 to 2008 records are plotted as pale blue circles. A pale blue circle does not necessarily mean that the species no longer occurs, merely that the site may not have been visited in 2009. For maps of pre-2000 records, see *Butterflies of Hampshire*.

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

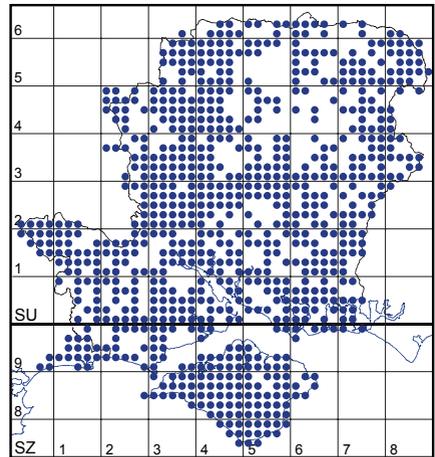
**2008-2009 butterfly trends table:** This table was compiled by Dr Andy Barker and is based on 60 Hampshire and Isle of Wight transects with data for both 2008 and 2009.

**Vernacular and scientific names of plants:** Plant names follow Francis Rose, 2006, *The wild flower key*, revised and expanded edition, Warne.

# BUTTERFLY REPORT 2009

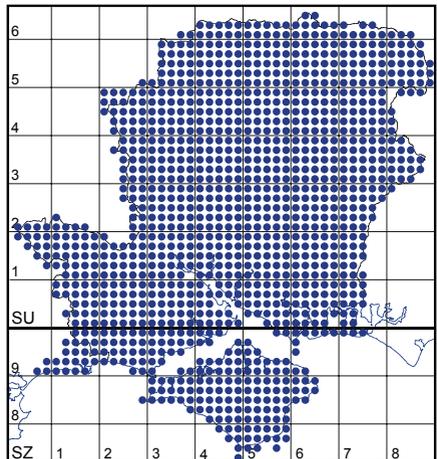
## Butterfly record coverage 2009

**No of 2009 records: 63996**  
**No of tetrads in 2009: 820**  
**No of post 2000 tetrads: 1179**



## Butterfly record coverage 2005 to 2009

**No of records: 226382**  
**No of tetrads: 1171**



## Summary of earliest-latest butterfly sightings 2009

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

Species	>20% Decrease 2009	-20% to +20% No change	>20% Increase 2009
Small/Essex Skipper	13	16	27
Silver-spotted Skipper	3	1	1
Large Skipper	7	8	41
Dingy Skipper	-	5	12
Grizzled Skipper	3	3	12
Clouded Yellow	-	2	14
Brimstone	4	22	26
Large White	-	6	48
Small White	1	9	45
Green-veined White	3	9	40
Orange-tip	6	19	29
Green Hairstreak	5	11	7
Brown Hairstreak	-	1	-
White-letter Hairstreak	-	-	2
Purple Hairstreak	3	6	6
Small Copper	2	9	34
Small Blue	2	4	3
Silver-studded Blue	-	2	2
Brown Argus	2	4	20
Common Blue	2	10	38
Chalkhill Blue	3	5	11
Adonis Blue	3	4	5
Holly Blue	32	8	2
Duke of Burgundy	-	3	-
Purple Emperor	1	1	1
White Admiral	7	2	7
Red Admiral	29	16	7
Painted Lady	-	-	60
Small Tortoiseshell	1	5	29
Peacock	5	6	34
Comma	6	12	28
Pearl-bordered Fritillary	1	-	1
Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary	1	1	1
Dark Green Fritillary	4	5	2
Silver-washed Fritillary	4	6	21
Marsh Fritillary	-	1	-
Glanville Fritillary	-	-	2
Speckled Wood	2	14	38
Wall Brown	3	1	2
Marbled White	9	13	31
Grayling	-	2	2
Gatekeeper	11	22	34
Meadow Brown	23	23	20
Small Heath	9	6	15
Ringlet	9	11	35

**Small Skipper *Thymelicus sylvestris*****Brian Fletcher****Status:** BC Low Priority**Earliest:** **2 June 2009**  
Beacon Hill NNR (AMc)**No of 2009 records:** 1542**No of tetrads in 2009:** 225**Latest:** **5 September 2009**  
Catherington Down (S&PL)**No of post 2000 tetrads:** 558

In contrast to 2008 when there were very few sightings until late June (other than the very first sighting in May), this species began to emerge throughout our area towards the end of the second week in June, and numbers rapidly built up in the good early summer weather of late June. It remained plentiful throughout July and continued flying in low numbers until the third week of August when singletons were seen by several observers. Thus the flight season was about the same length as last year, but started and finished about a fortnight earlier.

The comments from observers were very varied. At Botley Wood the species had "its best transect index since 2000" (RKL), and on the Field Trip there on 8 July "it was seen in very good numbers, possibly in the hundreds" (CP). At Whippingham Fields it had its second highest annual count, 425 in 2009 compared to 578 in 2006 (JR). However at Pamber Forest it had a poor year, with the transect index the lowest since 2000 (GD) and at Ashford Hill a different grazing regime which resulted in the sward becoming thinner and shorter was linked with a 78% decline in numbers compared to last year (ABo). It is interesting to note that when the Foot and Mouth epidemic of 2001 prevented cattle from being moved off Yew Hill until late spring, Small Skipper numbers crashed as a result of the unavoidable overgrazing during the spring months.

The transect figures also reveal the very varied fortune of this species, with about one half of the 56 transects recording an increase in numbers of 20% or more, and one quarter a reduction of the same magnitude. Four of the six century counts were recorded on transects, the highest of 185 being on 8 July at Testwood Park House (SKi), followed by 158 on 4 July at Botley Wood (RKL & TJV), 119 on 16 July at Pilot Hill (MG) and 116 on 12 July at Whippingham Fields (JR). The other two century counts were of 180 on 8 July in a meadow in Botley Wood (BPF & CP) and 100+ on 24 July at Old Winchester Hill NNR (AW). Though the butterfly was very numerous at some sites, with counts nearly double those of 2008, the number of counts of 30-100 was only 20 in 2009 compared to 42 in 2008. Overall, the impression was that the Small Skipper had a better season in 2009 than in 2008.

**Essex Skipper *Thymelicus lineola*****Brian Fletcher****Status:** BC Low Priority**Earliest:** **20 June 2009**  
Petersfield Heath (ACS)**No of 2009 records:** 252**No of tetrads in 2009:** 70**Latest:** **27 August 2009**  
Pilot Hill (MG)**No of post 2000 tetrads:** 292

As is usual for this species, the flight season started a week or so later than that of the Small Skipper, and it extended a few days longer. Compared to last year, the 2009 season was shorter.

The first record of Essex Skipper was of eight seen on 20 June at Petersfield Heath and this was followed by other sightings at the same site of 17 on 25 June, 29 on 2

July, 48 on 10 July, 56 on 16 July (the peak count), 33 on 25 July, 25 on 31 July and 14 on 7 August (all ACS), this data neatly encapsulating the rise and fall of numbers during the flight season.

Eight counts of 20 or more were submitted, a tribute to the tenacity and perseverance of the observers in distinguishing between Small and Essex Skippers. The highest count of all was of 65 on the Pilot Hill transect on 10 July (MFW), the other counts of 20 plus being the five at Petersfield Heath given above.

When considering the above numbers, it should be remembered that Small Skippers usually outnumber Essex Skippers early in the season, though the balance changes as the season progresses. At Eelmoor on 25 July, five out of 20 Skippers checked were Essex, and a later check on 5 August revealed that six out of nine were Essex (CRH).

Over the years, records of the Essex Skipper on the Isle of Wight have been few and far between. The three singletons seen on 1 July at The Hollands Wildflower Meadow (DLHM), on 12 July at Wheelers Bay, Ventnor (AB) and on 25 July at Branstone (IP) bring the total Isle of Wight sites where the Essex Skipper has been seen to 16, which suggests that this Skipper is gradually colonising the Island as it did in Hampshire in the 1980s.

The general impression is that this species had a good season, though there were exceptions, having a rather poor year in East Hampshire (MSH) and having disappeared altogether from Alice Holt Forest (MRO).

### Silver-spotted Skipper *Hesperia comma*

Andy Barker

**Status:** BC High Priority

**Earliest:** 23 July 2009  
Stockbridge Down (TBe)

**No of 2009 records:** 115

**No of tetrads in 2009:** 16

**No of post 2000 tetrads:** 30

**Latest:** 19 September 2009  
Old Winchester Hill NNR,  
Warnford (BP)

Although August 2009 was generally a dry and sunny month, the consecutive wet summers of 2007 and 2008 have reduced Silver-spotted Skipper numbers to a precarious level at several formerly strong sites. Wet summers not only hamper egg-laying opportunities, but create good conditions for grass growth. If rabbit numbers are low, and stock grazing insufficient, the sward height can easily increase to the point that the habitat becomes sub-optimal for this short-turf specialist (AJB).

Three of the five transect sites showed Annual Index decreases of more than 20% relative to 2008. Considering that all five sites had similar declines in 2007, the collapse since 2006 is staggering. The most dramatic fall has been at Beacon Hill, Warnford, with an Annual Index of 233 in 2006 (the highest site) to zero in 2009! Old Winchester Hill and Broughton Down fared little better, with totals reduced to just 15-20% of what they were in 2006. The Annual Index of 24 at Broughton Down was the highest of all monitored sites, and remarkably, the small population at St. Catherine's Hill, produced the second highest index of 21.

The first sighting of the year was on 23 July at Stockbridge Down (TBe), which makes it a remarkable run of five years in succession that this site has produced the first of the year. Elsewhere, the species was not seen until early August, with three on 2 August at both Broughton Down (LB-R) and Oxenbourne Down (AW). Of the main sites, all

except Stockbridge Down produced records into September, the last of the season being three on 19 September at Old Winchester Hill (BP).

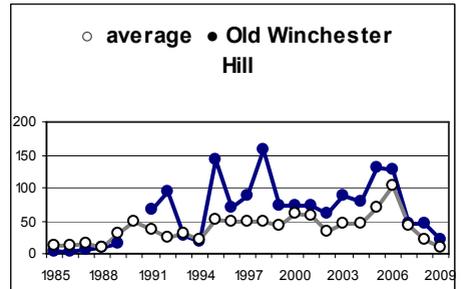
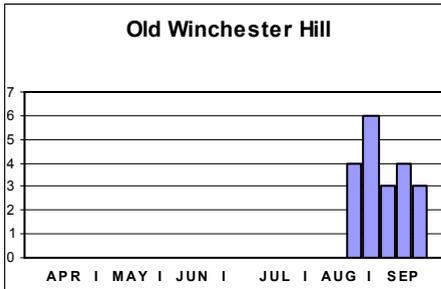
Peak counts were in west Hampshire, with 19 on 9 August at Broughton Down (ACM), and 12 on the same day at Stockbridge Down (PDB). More noteworthy was the sighting on 9 August at Stockbridge Down of a rare aberration (ab. *juncta*), where the underside silver spots are merged as one (PDB, GP). Coincidentally, the same aberration was reported from this site in 2005 (A&LB).

The poor showing in the east of the county is reflected by the meagre totals reported by those recorders who visited the area. A count of 11 on 17 August at Old Winchester Hill (AW) is the highest from the Meon Valley, and as stated earlier, Beacon Hill NNR saw its Silver-spotted Skipper population completely crash in 2009. Having been one of Hampshire's most reliable sites for the last 30 years, there were just two individuals reported for the whole season: one on 25 August (DGG & SAC) and one on 6 September (AW).

On a more positive note, several new locations were discovered in east and south-east Hampshire (PB, TBe), including a sighting on 23 August at Idsworth Down (AW). These populations are tiny, and for some it may simply be a stray adult that has been observed. Nevertheless, it does at least show that the species is mobile and finding remnant patches of chalk downland within the fragmented landscape.



Silver-spotted Skipper ab. *juncta*, Stockbridge Down, 9 August 2009 (Paul Brock)



**Large Skipper *Ochlodes faunus* Rupert Broadway**

**Status:** BC Low Priority

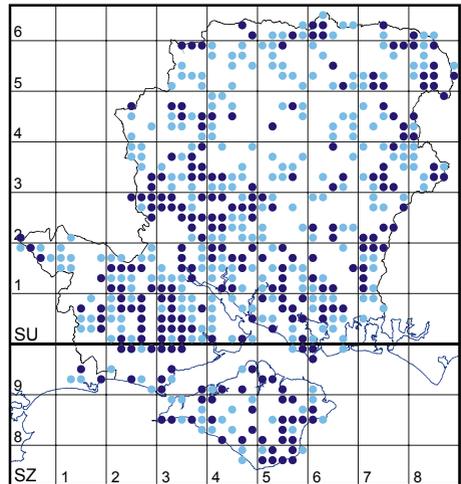
**No of 2009 records:** 1293

**No of tetrads in 2009:**

**No of post 2000 tetrads:**

**Earliest:** 22 May 2009  
Afton Down, IoW (SAK-J)  
Compton Down, IoW (BR)

**Latest:** 9 September 2009  
Shipton Bellinger (MG)

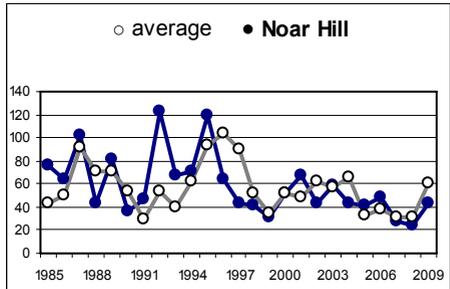
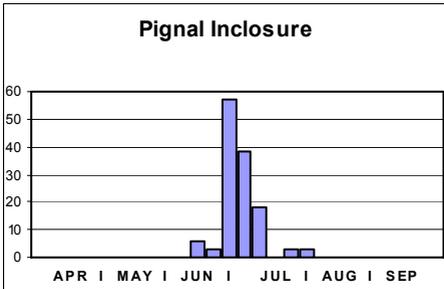


The Large Skipper had a much better year in 2009 than in 2008: 41 monitored sites where it occurs reported increased numbers of more than 20%, with eight showing no significant change and only seven showing a greater than 20% decrease. At Botley Wood the annual index showed a healthy increase from 30 to 107. At Whippingham Fields, IoW, a seven year high of 369 was achieved, following a 10 year low in 2008, with a peak of 69 on 19 Jun (JR). The Pignal Inclosure transect recorded a high of 57 on 29 June, with a subsequent decline through July and August. Increases were also recorded from Noar Hill (24 to 43) and Martin Down NNR, Kitts Grave (25 to 40).

Despite the positive transect data, not all observer comments were so upbeat. AW commented on a "very disappointing year" and CRH thought it one of the few losers in 2009. RKL, ACG, DAB and GD acknowledged an improvement over 2008 but considered it an average, or mediocre, season over the longer term, whereas RCB deemed it a reasonable season. Better fortunes were reported from Ashford Hill (ABo) and from the Gosport coast (DJAT).

The Large Skipper was first reported on 22 May from the Isle of Wight at Afton Down (SAK-J) and Compton Cliff (BR), with the first Hampshire sighting at Carters Copse, Gosport (DJAT) on 26 May. Counts of 50 were recorded at Straits Inclosure, Alice Holt Forest on 5 July (CLB) and at Costicles Inclosure, New Forest on 1 July (PDB). ACM

recorded 49 at Hawkhill Inclosure on 12 July and 46 from Wootton Coppice Inclosure on 5 July (PDB). The last Isle of Wight recording was at Whippingham Fields on 25 July (JR), but in Hampshire it lingered on in small numbers until the last sighting at Shipton Bellinger on 9 September (MG).



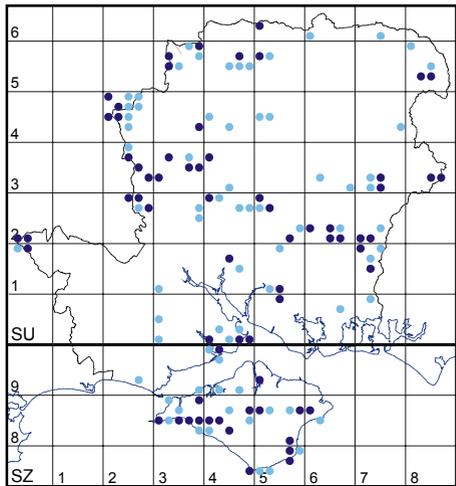
**Dingy Skipper *Erynnis tages* Jonathan Bills**

**Status:** BC High Priority

**No of 2009 records:** 408  
**No of tetrads in 2009:** 67  
**No of post 2000 tetrads:** 139

**Earliest:** 13 April 2009  
 Brading Quarries, IoW (DAB)

**Latest:** 22 August 2009  
 Shipton Bellinger (Mo.)

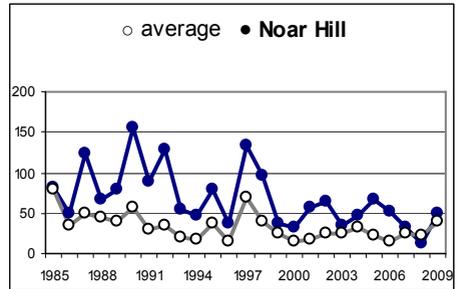
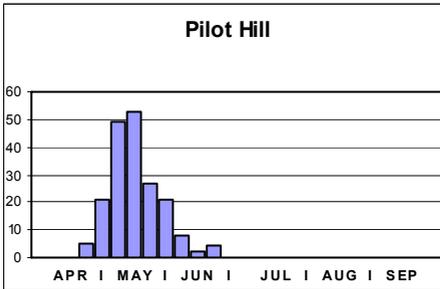


The data and comments received both point to a pleasing return to more normal numbers for this species after the low of 2008. The weather in April was mild and frost free and the Dingy Skipper season began a couple of days earlier than last year with two individuals recorded at Brading on 13 April (DAB).

The warm weather continued and skipper numbers rocketed up and peaked in late May before a rapid decline into early July. The presence of 'a rare second generation' was observed at Brading Down (AW), and several other sites including three individuals recorded at Chalton Down on 2 August (RSy).

All of this year's records were of adult butterflies and the majority of records were of singletons. The map shows a wide range across our area. Significant 'holes' in distribution include the New Forest, and the extreme south-east and north-east corners. The core sites remain on the chalk which provided a few new sites to hold the species including: Longwood Warren, Hockham Down (near East Meon) and Stephen's Castle Down near Bishop's Waltham.

The most dramatic statistic for this year has to be the massive numbers recorded from Old Burghclere Quarry, with 50 on 9 May (MG) and an amazing 73 on 24 May (DGG). Several sites held figures of 20 including Pilot Hill (MG), Needles Down (Mhal) and Compton Down (RPu). These higher numbers were evident in the transect data too, where 12 transects showed an increase of over 20%, five transects of no change and no sites recorded a decrease greater than 20%. This positive vibe continues in the anecdotal evidence where at Bramshott Common 'they had their best year since 1997' (ACG), 'a record annual count' at Whippingham Fields (JR) and at Eelmoor 'a reasonable increase over the last year and the best site count since 2005' (CRH). The annual indices also paint a more normal picture compared to last year's mixed bag of fortunes, showing just how robust this species can be: 44 at the Mountain, Meon Valley (25 in 2008) and 50 at Noar Hill (12 in 2008). However, the trend was bucked somewhat by Botley Wood which recorded 'numbers below average again' (RKL).



**Grizzled Skipper *Pyrgus malvae* Jonathan Bills**

**Status:** BC High Priority

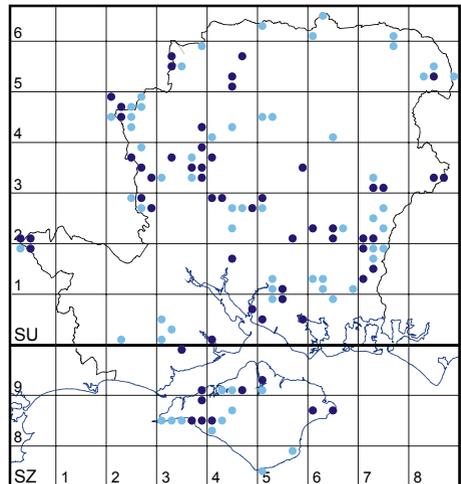
**No of 2009 records:** 363

**No of tetrads in 2009:** 59

**No of post 2000 tetrads:** 122

**Earliest:** 2 April 2009  
Afton Down, IoW (SAK-J)

**Latest:** 5 August 2009  
Brading Quarries, IoW (DAB)



The 2009 distribution of this species is very similar to that of the Dingy Skipper, if slightly more restricted in range. Significant gaps are found in Hampshire's south-west (including most of the New Forest), south-east, and north-east, and in the southern half of the Isle of Wight.

The better weather made for a start date six days earlier than last year and a last recorded date 42 days later, with a second brood individual found at Brading Quarry loW (DAB).

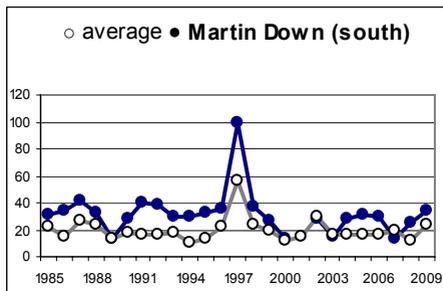
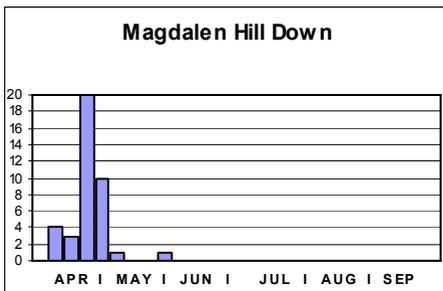


Grizzled Skipper, Deacon Hill, 20 May 2009 (Tim Bernhard)

Adult numbers quickly rose and high numbers were sustained from late April through to early June. Records in double figures included 25 at Grandfather's Bottom, QECP on 11 May (AW), at Martin Down, Sillens Lane on 3 May (PDB), and surprisingly on a transect at Magdalen Hill Down where 20 were present on 25 April (AJB) – this contrasts with the majority of other transect data comprised of just ones and twos. From a grand total of 354 records received, only 13 were in double figures and these all came from only seven different sites, suggesting that few sites in the counties are capable of supporting large numbers of this species.

The annual indices painted an encouraging picture with both Magdalen Hill Down Original and Martin Down South recording their highest indices of the last ten years with 39 and 34 respectively. Botley Wood and Martin Down North recorded returns to more average indices of 43 and 27. At Whippingham Fields 'the annual total of 31 was a superb record and is I believe due to having the right weather at the right time' (JR). Eelmoor, too, recorded 'a strong recovery resulting in the best site count since 2004' (CRH). The cloud for all these silver linings, however, was Bramshott Common which recorded only nine individuals 'a very disappointing 50% drop on last year' (ACG) (compare to the 2008 Dingy Skipper season at the same site where it was reported as having had 'a very good showing').

The transect analysis showed three sites to have declined by at least 20%, an equal number of sites that showed no change and an encouraging 12 with increases of greater than 20%, although this feat cannot have been too hard given the 2008 season. More encouraging news is of the two new sites discovered with the species, both within the newly designated South Downs National Park. These are Longwood Warren with no previous records and Stephen's Castle Down where the butterfly has not been seen since 1998. How many more await discovery?!



## Clouded Yellow *Colias croceus*

Mike Gibbons

**Status:** BC Low Priority

**Earliest:** 11 May 2009  
Magdalen Hill Down (MRO)

**No of 2009 records:** 346

**No of tetrads in 2009:** 113

**Latest:** 10 December 2009  
Wheeler's Bay (AB)

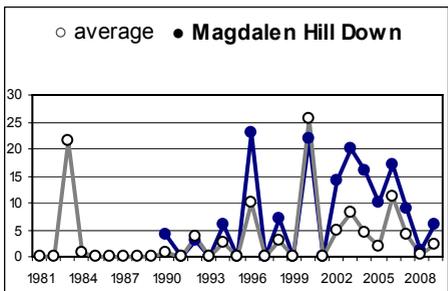
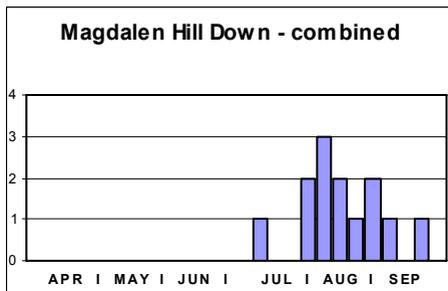
**No of post 2000 tetrads:** 376

After a very poor showing in 2008, things could only improve for the Clouded Yellow in 2009. This seemed to be the case, even if numbers were generally low. The majority of observations were made during the second half of the year and continued into December. Spring observations were few, but from mid-July onwards individuals were regularly seen. JR commented that a count of seven at Whippingham Fields on 14 August was very disappointing as he had seen hundreds mixed in with Painted Ladies on their migration across France in May.

The first of the year was at Magdalen Hill Down on 11 May (MRO) followed by eight other individuals elsewhere from 24 May to 1 June which were all probably early immigrants.

After one seen on transect at Magdalen Hill Down Extension on 8 July (TSM), it was from 14 July that sightings at Bishop's Acre, Ventnor (RWi) and New Lane Orchard, Bashley (THo) heralded the start of the summer/autumn invasion even if most observers only saw one or two during the period. Predictably it was along the coast that numbers reached double figures; Wight's best total was eight on 22 August at Arreton Down (Mhal). At Gosport 15 were present on 26 September, increasing up to 33 by 12 October (DJAT). Southbourne Undercliff fared well, building to 63 by 10 October (MJG). Away from the coast seven were seen at Old Winchester Hill on 13 August (AW) with six there on 18 August (AT).

Transect data bore out the summer improvements with 14 transects showing a greater than 20% increase over 2008 and another 18 transects reporting the species where it was not recorded in 2008. The annual index at Magdalen Hill Down illustrated the upturn in numbers, the weekly count reaching three in the second week. A total of 14 *helice* form females were recorded throughout. No firm evidence of successful overwintering was received early in the year, but chances may be higher for 2009/2010 with better autumn numbers. The final sighting was on 10 December at Wheeler's Bay (AB). RKL commented that "it proved to be a decent year for this butterfly, eventually"; He may just about have got it right.



**Brimstone *Gonepteryx rhamni* Brian Fletcher**

**Status:** BC Low Priority

**Earliest:** 16 February 2009  
Fordingbridge (PGLT)

**No of 2009 records:** 3146

**No of tetrads in 2009:** 361

**Latest:** 18 November 2009  
Pamber Forest (GJD)

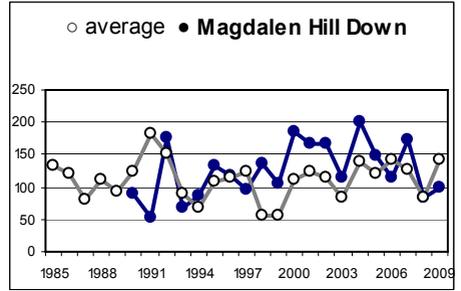
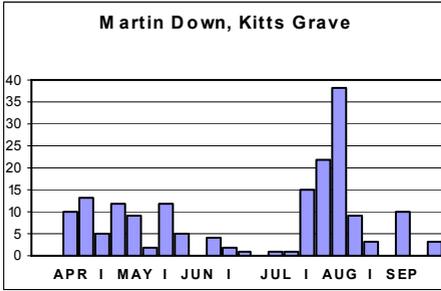
**No of post 2000 tetrads:** 959

The shortened egg-laying season in 2008 caused by wet weather, combined with the cold weather in the early part of 2009, does not seem to have adversely affected Brimstone numbers. After the low numbers in 2008 there was a welcome recovery at Botley Wood (RKL) and it had “a good year in East Hampshire with both broods doing well” (MSh). It had an average year at Ashford Hill (ABo) and at Bramshott (ACG). In contrast it had “a below average year” at Pamber Forest (GD), and at Woodhouse Copse “the second brood was a wash-out” (JR). These comments are in keeping with the data from the 52 transects recording this species; 26 recorded an increase in numbers over 20%, with only four transects recording a similarly sized decrease.

Once the snow and ice disappeared, Brimstones appeared over the length and breadth of Hampshire with 11 sightings being reported in February. It is surprising to report that the first sighting on the Isle of Wight (of a singleton at Woodhouse Copse) did not occur until 16 March (JR). Three counts of over 20 butterflies were made in March, and 14 in April including the highest count of 60 at Oxenbourne Down on 26 April (AW), one of ten counts of 20+ in this month. Thus the spring of 2009 was much, much better for the Brimstone than that of 2008 and almost as good as 2007.

The species continued to fly throughout June albeit in diminishing numbers. The new brood began emerging at the beginning of July, one of the first being seen on our Yew Hill reserve on 2 July (BPF). Numbers remained low until the end of the month, when the species emerged strongly. 27 were seen at Pamber Forest on 27 July (GJD) but this was the only 20+ sighting in this month, compared to 18 in August. The highest number of all was the 81 seen on the Stockbridge Down transect on 18 August (CSt). Numbers remained high until the last week of August, and from mid-September onwards the species was usually seen in only ones and twos, though eight were at Longhatch, Warnford on 22 September (PSh).

Brimstones were seldom numerous on the Island, the best count being the 23 seen at Parkhurst Forest on 2 May (SRe). The summer emergence was never strong, and such individuals there were went into hibernation earlier than on the mainland, the last sighting on the Isle of Wight being seen at Solent Road, Cranmore on 19 September (CF), nearly two months earlier than the last sighting on the mainland.



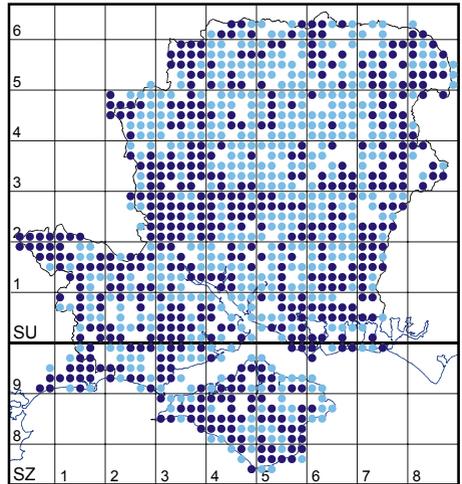
**Large White *Pieris brassicae* Brian Fletcher**

**Status:** BC Low Priority

**No of 2009 records:** 4912  
**No of tetrads in 2009:** 509  
**No of post 2000 tetrads:** 993

**Earliest:** 7 March 2009  
 Dibden (C&BI)

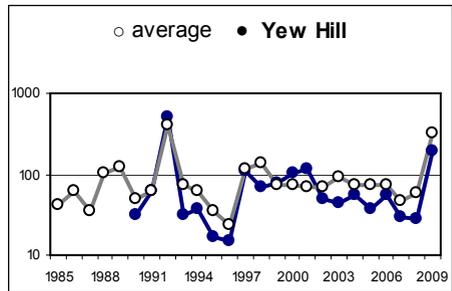
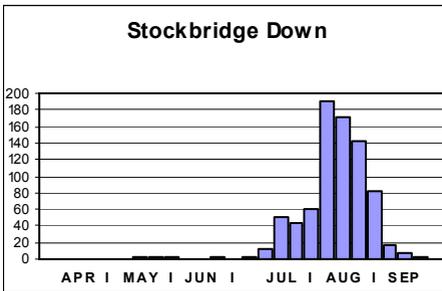
**Latest:** 9 November 2009  
 Wheeler's Bay, IoW (AB)



This species had a phenomenally successful year, its performance being second only to the Painted Lady. Comments from observers ranged from a modest “it had its best summer for some while at Eelmoor” (CRH) and “above average at Ashford Hill” (ABo) to “it had an excellent year” (MSh). Record numbers were reported from Bramshott (ACG), and from Whippingham Fields and Woodhouse Copse, IoW (both JR). At Botley Wood the transect index was nearly four times the previous high (RKL). It is not surprising that one observer commented “this species probably managed to bring butterflies into disrepute – a visit to the National Trust’s Hinton Ampner Gardens on 29 August graphically illustrated the devastation their larvae were causing to brassica crops” (RCB).

This was one of the few common species where most transects showed an increase in numbers of 20% or more and no similarly-sized decreases. The peak count of 400 at Osborne, IoW was on 11 August (MHa) with the largest count on the mainland being 317 on the Danebury transect on 7 August (G&LR), both of these numbers being bigger than the maximum count of 250 in 2008. In fact there were almost more counts of 100+ in 2009 than there were counts of more than 20 in 2008. Of this year’s 25 counts of 100+, 18 were on the mainland and seven on the Isle of Wight.

The flight season started about three weeks later than last year and finished ten days earlier. It followed the normal pattern of the first brood being relatively scarce, butterflies being seen in ones and twos, until the middle of July when the second brood began to emerge. Numbers of the home bred individuals were boosted considerably by large numbers of immigrants arriving in August in the company of Painted Ladies, Small Whites and Silver Y moths (DJAT). Of the 25 counts of 100+, the first was seen on 30 July (MDu), 23 occurred in August and just one was recorded in September (on 12th, MJG). The last sighting on the mainland was at Gosport on 27 October (DJAT) but the species continued for another two weeks on the Island with several seen at Wheelers Bay, near Ventnor, during this period (AB). The Large White did not have everything its own way. Whilst CP observed two pupae, that had over wintered on the side of his house, hatch on 7 and 12 May, the six larvae he found on the walls and windows of Barclays Bank in Eastleigh on 23 June were all covered with small yellow cocoons from the Apanteles Wasp. Later on in August he observed wasps taking a lot of interest in larvae found on radish plants that had been eaten down to bare stems.



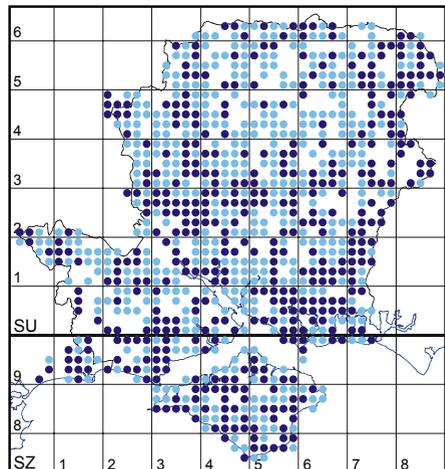
**Small White *Pieris rapae* Peter Eeles**

**Status:** BC Low Priority

**No of 2009 records:** 4733  
**No of tetrads in 2009:** 428  
**No of post 2000 tetrads:** 896

**Earliest:** 1 March 2009  
 Carters Copse (ACM)

**Latest:** 27 October 2009  
 Gosport (DJAT)



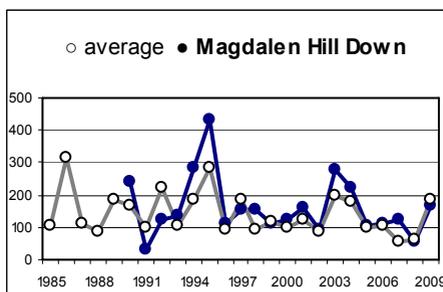
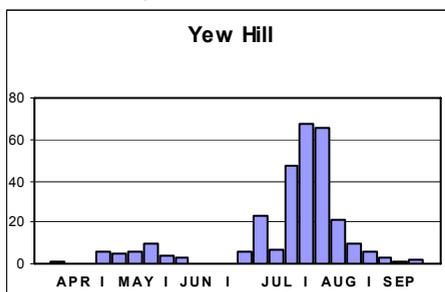
After a couple of below-average years, the Small White made a spectacular comeback in 2009 with its best year since 2006 and some astonishing numbers recorded.

The first brood emergence was significantly better than in the past two years, peaking at the end of April and with the earliest records coming from the south of the region. This brood was recorded in relatively good numbers throughout the two counties.

The second brood emergence, however, surpassed all expectations, especially in the south of the region. Favourable conditions allowed migrants from the continent to supplement the resident population, resulting in some of the largest counts ever seen in the region. August, in particular, was a good month for this species, especially the week of 4 August. An incredible 3300 individuals were counted on 8 August in the Gosport area (DJAT) as the Small White was among several migrant species that arrived on our shores that week. DJAT recorded his sightings at Gosport for each month for 2009, and these are shown below together with his records for the last two years.

	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	Total
<b>2009</b>	24	362	231	134	375	6645	1147	188	0	9106
<b>2008</b>	2	115	403	61	663	403	1432	117	0	3196
<b>2007</b>	19	497	299	284	672	555	718	212	20	3276

With so many records of over 100 individuals seen, 2009 has to be considered one of the best ever years for this species.



**Green-veined White *Pieris napi* Alison Harper**

**Status:** BC Low Priority

**Earliest:** 15 March 2009  
Gosport (ACM)

**No of 2009 records:** 2915

**No of tetrads in 2009:** 408

**Latest:** 4 October 2009  
Millfield (ROW)

**No of post 2000 tetrads:** 828

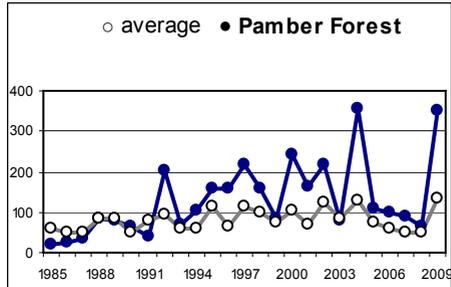
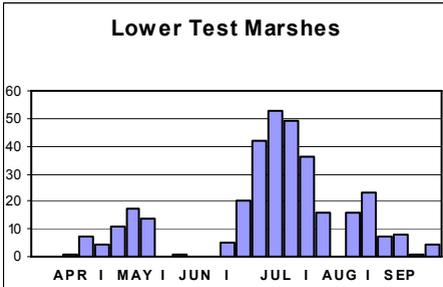
After an improvement in the latter part of 2008, it is very pleasing to report that this species had an excellent year in 2009. Of the 52 transect monitored sites where this species is recorded, 40 (nearly 77%) recorded an increase of 20% or more when compared with 2008. Only three sites (less than 6%) showed a similar decrease, with no significant change at the remaining nine sites. A comparison of sightings over the two counties shows a wider spread in 2009 than 2008, particularly in the north-west of Hampshire and on the Isle of Wight.

The Annual Indices of many transect sites showed how good the year had been. At Lower Test the Index was 351, much greater than the 129 recorded in 2008 and the highest in the last 10 years. At Ampfield Wood and Bentley Station Meadow, Annual Indices of 37 and 33 respectively were recorded, both higher than all years since 2000 except for 2004.

As in previous years the first brood was generally smaller than the second. An early first brood peak count of 22 was reported on 20 April at Itchen Valley Country Park Water Meadows (RTHo) and another of 15 at the same site on 10 May (KFi). Second

brood peak counts were recorded on 25 July: 70 at Pamber Forest on the mainland (GJD) and, on the Isle of Wight, 30 at Whippingham Fields (JR). Two other counts above 60 were also recorded in Hampshire: 68 at Pamber Forest on 30 July (GJD) and 63 at Itchen Valley Country Park on 5 July (SSt).

Observers who submitted comments were not unanimous in their view of how this butterfly had fared in 2009. AW, from observations of low counts at sites in the south-east where he had expected larger numbers, concluded that 2009 had been a poor year. DAB observed that on the Isle of Wight, at Brading, the first brood had been better than the second. But the comments “It was an excellent year for this butterfly” at Botley Wood (RKL), and “a three-fold increase on the previous two seasons, had a great year” at Ashford Hill (ABo), reflected the prevailing view for 2009.



**Orange-tip *Anthocharis cardamines* Bob Whitmarsh**

**Status:** BC Low Priority

**No of 2009 records:** 1242

**No of tetrads in 2009:** 355

**No of post 2000 tetrads:** 797

**Earliest:** 21 March 2009

Farlington Marshes (SBa)  
Longparish (PDBi)

**Latest:** 2 August 2009

St Catherine's Hill (CPi)

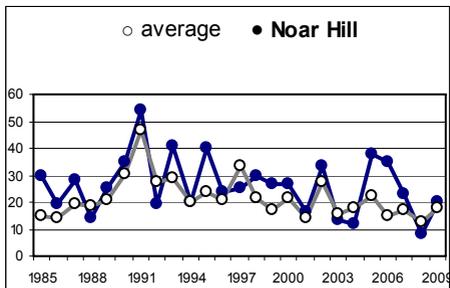
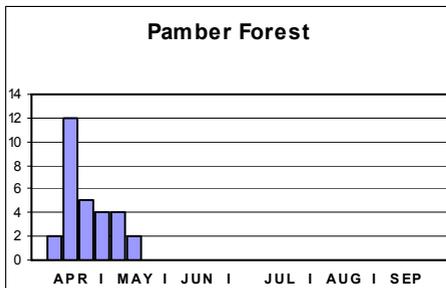
2009 was a typical year for the Orange-tip in that the steady decline, as expressed in the species average index over the last two decades, apparently was maintained. Of five analysed transects only the transect at Crabtree Plantation appears to buck this trend over the last 10 years. Even so, 19 transects out of 54 reported no change (less than 20% either way) and 29 reported an increase of over 20%, relative to 2008.

Although in past years Orange-tips have been sighted in most tetrads, there remains a lack of sightings in recent years in the New Forest except between Lymington and Lyndhurst. In 2009 the distribution of sightings was strongly biased to the north-west of the region and to the area northwest of Fordingbridge.

As in previous years the principal Orange-tip observational period was relatively short. The first appearance continues to be in the fourth week of March. Even though the last field sighting was on 2 August the last sighting on transect was on 4 June. At Pamber Forest the peak count (12) on transect was in the week beginning 15 April. The most individuals seen on transect on any one occasion was 19 on 20 April on the Portsdown transect (HK) and 25 at Wick Wood on 19 April (MGw). However, between 20 and 50 were reported off-transect on either 20 or 24 April at Avington Park, Greywell Moor, Magdalen Hill Down and Ropley station (TH). It is striking that late April was cold, with the minimum temperature just above freezing on 28 April, and 10.4 mm of rain fell in

Winchester on 27 April. Nevertheless, the total count for all transects did not drop away until after 12 May with only two individuals being counted after 2 June.

Of the 12 sets of comments submitted, 11 observers remark that 2009 was an improvement on 2008 for this species; Portsdown Hill was especially good (AW). The one area where the Orange-tip was in reduced numbers was in Fleet (CRH). Although the better spring weather in 2009 was noted by several observers one put the relatively poor showing down to 'over zealous grass mowing by the local council' and another to the species 'never [being] in the right place to be counted!' 10 larvae were counted in one Winchester garden in late May which may bode well for 2010 (RCB).



## Green Hairstreak *Callophrys rubi*

Jane Vaughan

**Status:** BC Low Priority

**Earliest:** 4 April 2009  
Magdalen Hill Down (ALB)

**No of 2009 records:** 237

**No of tetrads in 2009:** 73

**Latest:** 28 June 2009  
The Mountain (SE)

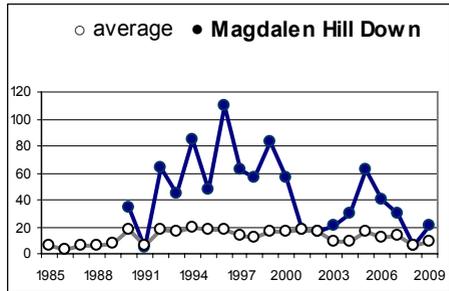
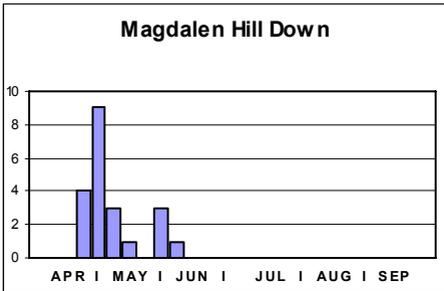
**No of post 2000 tetrads:** 208

Overall it was a slightly better year in 2009 for the Green Hairstreak than in 2008 which had been particularly bad. Five out of 23 transect monitored sites where this species occurs showed a decrease in the Annual Index of 20% or more between 2008 and 2009, seven showed an equivalent increase and eleven showed no change. The Annual Index from Magdalen Hill Down Original Reserve was back up to 21 from the very low six in 2008. The Annual Indices from Magdalen Hill Down Extension and Noar Hill were similar to those in 2008, at six and nine respectively.

Again, the records and comments from observers indicated a fairly low number of individuals at each site, but there were a few exceptions. For example, 17 were recorded at Butser Hill on 11 May (AW). The other highest numbers (double figures between 10 and 12) were recorded between mid and late May at Butser Hill (AW), Beacon Hill NNR (DGG), Abbotstone Down (RBy) and Compton Down (RPer). This is better than the highest counts of only four individuals at the best sites in 2008.

In 2009 anecdotal comments report that some sites where there have been records previously did not produce any at all, for example Westbury Park (AW), Botley Wood transect (RKL) and Bramshott. Transect record summaries indicate that three sites which recorded the species in 2008 did not do so in 2009, and three sites which recorded it in 2009 had not done so in 2008.

The flight period ended sooner in 2009 than in 2008. It had extended into July in 2005-2008, but the poor weather in July 2009 may have contributed, with low amounts of sunshine and high rainfall.



**Brown Hairstreak *Thecla betulae* Andy Barker**

**Status:** BC High Priority

**Earliest:** 31 July 2009  
Shipton Bellinger (MSw)

**No of 2009 records:** 22

**No of tetrads in 2009:** 7

**Latest:** 31 August 2009  
Noar Hill (AMJ)

**No of post 2000 tetrads:** 19

2009 was more or less a repeat of the 2008 flight season, lasting exactly a month, but starting a day later. Once again, there were no September records, and were it not for a single July record (see above), the entire flight period would have been confined to August. The big difference compared with 2008 was that August 2009 was considerably drier and brighter. With Noar Hill having yet another poor year, it is fair to say that the Shipton Bellinger area is now the top location in Hampshire for this species.

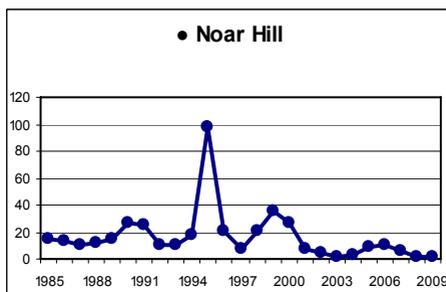
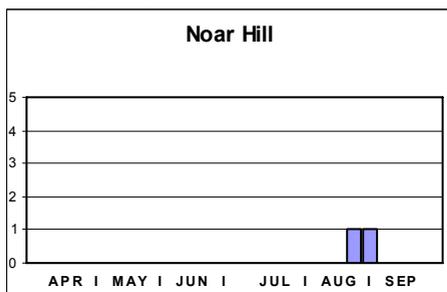


Brown Hairstreak Habitat at Shipton Bellinger (Andy Barker)

Early season egg counts were restricted to three on 1 March on the Cholderton Estate (TJN, LF, HE), and 16 on 7 March at Shipton Bellinger (MG). Egg-laying on young Blackthorn growth was observed on 23 August near Bedlam Plantation (A&LB), but no systematic egg counts were received for autumn and winter 2009.

The Shipton Bellinger area supports a widely dispersed population, breeding along hedgerows and the edges of Blackthorn scrub. Records were received from five separate 1-km squares, with the majority coming from SU2145 and SU2245. The first records were of five on 31 July (MSw), but most observations came from the period 7 August to 23 August. The peak count was 44 apparent individuals seen on 9 August (MRO). All but four of these were males, and all but five were around ash trees, including a vista of six on a single Ash. This impressive count marks the highest single day tally since 1970 (MRO). Other high counts from Shipton Bellinger include 26 on 18 August (MRO) and 12 on 9 August (PDB), but most other recorders reported single visit tallies of 4-5 individuals. There are no records from the Shipton Bellinger area after 23 August, but this probably reflects a lack of recorders visiting the area and it is certain that the species would have been on the wing for at least another week.

Emergence at Noar Hill, Selborne, began with two on 8 August (AW, MJG). There was no peak to speak of, and most observers were happy to see one or two individuals after prolonged searches. There are concerns that the site is in decline (AW, MRO) and that the approach to blackthorn management may need to be reviewed. The final record for this site, and for Hampshire as a whole, was of one on 31 August on the Noar Hill transect (AMJ).



**Purple Hairstreak *Neozephyrus quercus* Janet Jones**

**Status:** BC Low Priority

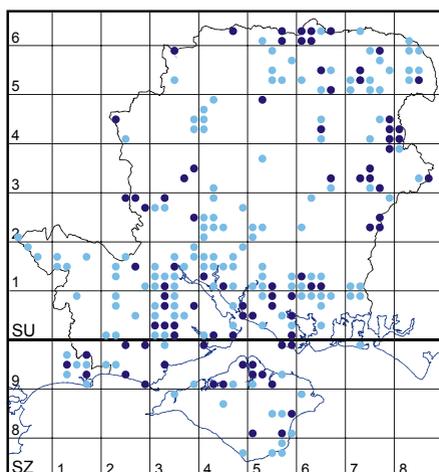
**No of 2009 records:** 279

**No of tetrads in 2009:** 87

**No of post 2000 tetrads:** 240

**Earliest:** 10 June 2008  
Whippingham Fields, IoW (JR)

**Latest:** 4 September 2009  
Whippingham Fields, IoW (JR)



Mixed fortune seems to follow this summer butterfly from year to year in a see-saw fashion. This trend continued in 2009 with average numbers back down towards 2007

levels after an increase in 2008. Emergence of the Purple Hairstreak was generally poor, "larvae may have been out-competed by infestations of the Oak Roller Moth *Tortrix viridana* which defoliated many oaks in the spring" (MRO).

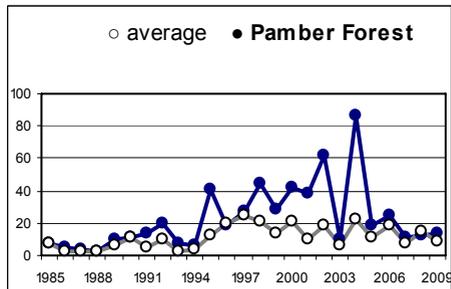
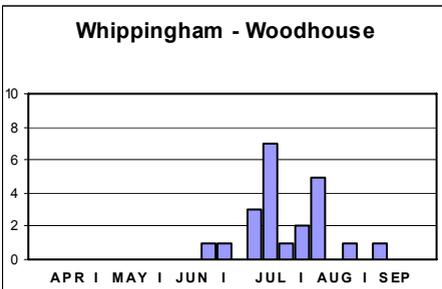
On an encouraging note the transects show that although the annual index for 2009 was 20% or so lower than in 2008 on three sites, on six sites there was a similar increase, and a further six sites were unchanged. The number of tetrads recording the species was also slightly up on last year and the Annual Index for Pamber Forest was slightly higher than 2008.

The first sighting was on the Isle of Wight on 10 June (JR), and the last, also on the Island, on 4 September, nine days earlier than last year (JR). Again in 2009 the butterfly seems to have faired better in the south than in the north of our area. On the mainland the first butterfly was seen in Christchurch on 15 June (MJG), twelve days later than on the Island. Further north it was not seen until recorded in Alice Holt Forest on 30 June (AW). The flight period on the Island extended to 4 September (JR), whereas the last butterfly in Hampshire was seen at Crabtree Plantation, in the north of the county, on 23 August (NW).

The highest count of 99 was at Whippingham Fields on 2 July (JR), on the mainland the 45 recorded at Testwood Lakes on 14 July (MSw) was the peak count. In all there were some 20 or so counts of between 10 and 50, the remainder were all in single figures. Reports from recorders show that the butterfly did better in some areas than others, however, "this is a very difficult butterfly to spot ... I am probably not justified in saying they had a bad year" (ACG).



Purple Hairstreak caterpillar (David Green)



**Status:** BC High Priority

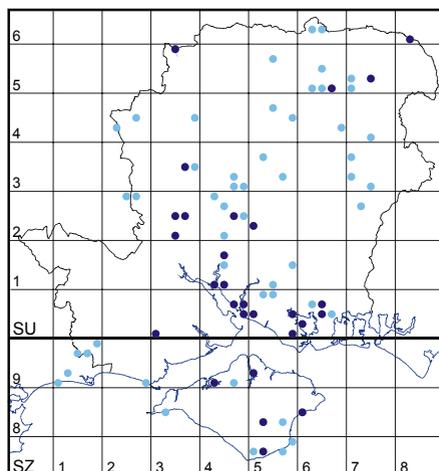
**No of 2009 records:** 61

**No of tetrads in 2009:** 28

**No of post 2000 tetrads:** 78

**Earliest:** 7 June 2008  
IBM North Harbour (TD)

**Latest:** 9 August 2009  
Crabtree Plantation (NW)



'What a Difference a Year makes', to paraphrase Dinah Washington; a grand total of 16 records in 2008 more than trebled to 55 in 2009. Nor was it so much the number of records proving so remarkable as the number of butterflies involved. A quite extraordinary count of 46 at Peartree Common, Southampton, was made by BDe on 24 June. The season's first sighting at IBM, Portsmouth on 7 June by TD was easily the earliest in the history of the Branch. The rôle of disease-resistant elm cultivars in the conservation of the hairstreak is no more clearly demonstrated than at this site, where several 'Sapporo Autumn Gold' now support a small colony in the face of the Dutch elm disease onslaught. Further west, at the Sir Harold Hillier Gardens, AHB and JM found the butterfly thriving on Japanese Elm.

Unable to regenerate by suckering, Wych Elm is the most vulnerable native tree; infection spells extinction with the inevitable loss of the butterfly, as witnessed by RKL at Botley Wood. However, isolation can often be the salvation of the Wych Elm, and MRO reports a solitary tree at Lower Froyle sustaining a small colony.

Strongholds of the butterfly again included the Dutch Elm thicket at Bedenham, Gosport, where 12 were logged by M&MG on 21 June; indeed, the insect was found all over the borough by PPa, DJAT, and ACM. Elm revels in coastal conditions, being resistant to both wind and salt, and thus the relative abundance of the butterfly along the east Solent coast is no coincidence. Elsewhere in the county, distribution (or recording effort) was not so concentrated. A late but particularly welcome sighting was made by TGj on 8 August at Roydon Woods in the New Forest, where elm is often scarce.

Good news too from the Isle of Wight, where it took Liz Goodyear of the Hertfordshire & Middlesex Branch just one day to find the butterfly at four locations; this is evidence, if any were needed, of just how seriously under-recorded this butterfly remains there. A solitary sighting at Newtown by BR on 18 July was an encouraging indication of the insect's survival in the west of the island.

The White-letter Hairstreak was only reported from two of the Branch's 78 transects, notably at the Crabtree Plantation, Basingstoke, by NW, where singletons generated a

typically modest index of five until the 9 August, taking the year's extraordinary flight season to almost nine weeks.

### Small Copper *Lycaena phlaeas*

Rupert Broadway

**Status:** BC High Priority

**Earliest:** 5 March 2009  
Wildgrounds LNR (FRP)

**No of 2009 records:** 995

**No of tetrads in 2009:** 207

**No of post 2000 tetrads:** 445

**Latest:** 21 November 2009  
Whippingham Fields, IoW (JR)

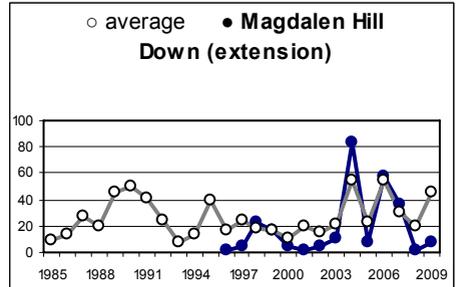
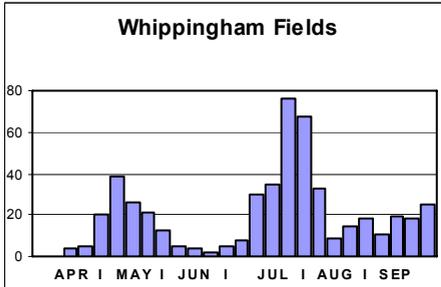


Small Copper  
*ab. auronitens* Schultz,  
Brockenhurst,  
20 September 2009  
(Paul Brock)

2009 saw an upturn in the fortunes of the Small Copper, following a couple of years of decline. Increases of over 20% compared to 2008 were recorded at 34 monitored sites, with nine showing no significant deviation and only two reporting declines. In Hampshire, the annual index increased from just one to 17 at Old Winchester Hill, from three to five at Magdalen Hill Down (original reserve) and from two to eight at the Extension – still below the 10 year average at all three locations. On the Isle of Wight, both transect and full year counts of 507 and 521 respectively at Whippingham Fields, a traditionally strong site, were the best since 2005 and the second best ever, against an 11 year average of 242. There were three distinct peaks – in mid-May, late July and late September (JR).

Many observers recorded an average, or below average, season. A brighter picture came from ABo who considered it the star performer (Painted Lady excepted) at Ashford Hill. DJAT reported a very good 2009 from the Gosport coast, with a total of 529 sightings between 30 March and 31 October, including an *ab. caeruleopunctata* on 2 May. Two of these aberrations were also reported by AW from Oxenbourne Down on 4 October. On 27 July JR recorded an unusual female specimen at Whippingham Fields with a white ground colour to the right forewing and only the black spotting visible (see also the 1991 report from Noar Hill in *The Butterflies of Hampshire*).

The first Hampshire record came on the exceptionally early date of 5 March from Wildgrounds LNR, Gosport, (FRP), and on the Isle of Wight the first was seen on 1 April at Afton Down (SAK-J). The highest adult count was of 76 at Whippingham Fields on 25 July (JR). MSw recorded 40 eggs from Lower Test on 22 Sep. A good range of autumn sightings culminated in the final Hampshire records, both on 15 November, at Brockenhurst (RBW) and at Petersfield Heath (ACS), with Whippingham Fields inevitably recording the final Small Copper of the year on 21 November (JR).



**Small Blue *Cupido minimus* Brian Fletcher**

**Status:** BC High Priority

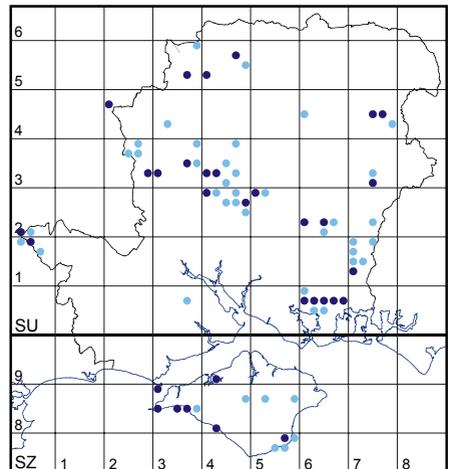
**No of 2009 records:** 183

**No of tetrads in 2009:** 32

**No of post 2000 tetrads:** 75

**Earliest:** 2 May 2009  
Afton Down, IoW (SAK-J)  
Portsmouth Hill (MGwi)

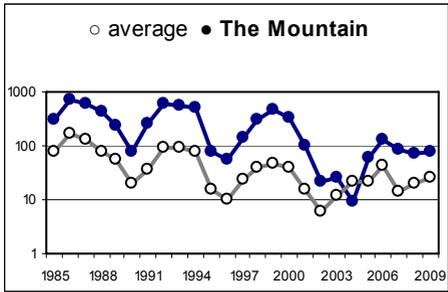
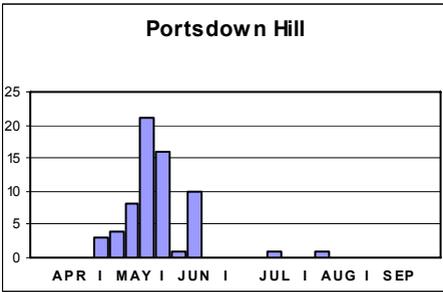
**Latest:** 5 September 2009  
Sparsholt (AJB)



The numbers of this little butterfly recorded on just nine transects suggest that the slow recovery in 2008 has continued into 2009. However transects can be misleading as regards the absolute abundance of a species such as this, which normally exists in compact colonies close to where the larval food plant, Kidney Vetch, is growing. Thus at Porchester Chalkpit just a singleton was seen on the transect on 3 June whereas some thirty or more were seen off transect on 7 June (AW). Likewise, a walk along Bockerley Dyke, Martin Down NNR on 30 May revealed a total of 75 Small Blues (AW), though annual indices for the two transects at Martin Down added together only total 64. Transects provide a useful year upon year comparison, but remain fixed in location, so if a colony moves in response to a new food source away from the transect, the transect results will suggest a decline in numbers. This is why reports from free roaming observers are so important, and especially those stating the exact number of butterflies seen.

Such records as have been received also indicate a gradual improvement in numbers, with 15 counts of 20 or more in 2009 (compared to 13 in 2007) and a biggest count of 267 at Paulsgrove Chalkpit on 30 May (T&MR), compared to a maximum of 100 in 2008. The highest counts on the Isle of Wight were both of 30 butterflies, at Compton Down on 20 May (RPer) and at Afton Down, Freshwater on 30 May (IP).

The earliest of the sightings of more than twenty butterflies was on 20 May (see above), and the latest on 13 June at The Mountain, Meon Valley where 87 were seen (AW). Two slightly bigger counts than this were recorded at Paulsgrove Chalkpit where 91 were seen on 25 May, and at St Catherine’s Hill where 90 were seen near the car park on 2 June (CP). This data suggests that this species was at its most numerous in late May to early June. By the third week in June numbers were in rapid decline, but as usual individuals and twos or threes were seen right through July and August into early September. Most of these are likely to have been second brood individuals, and these were most numerous around the middle of August, though much less numerous than in the best summers.



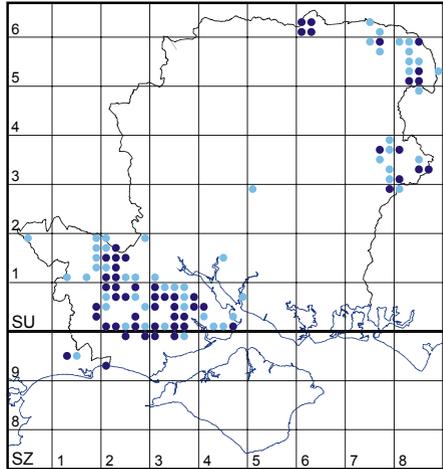
**Silver-studded Blue *Plebejus argus* Paul Brock**

**Status:** BC High Priority

**No of 2009 records:** 231  
**No of tetrads in 2009:** 54  
**No of post 2000 tetrads:** 108

**Earliest:** 25 May 2009  
 Bramshott Common (ACG)

**Latest:** 31 August 2009  
 Matley Bog (PDB, GP)



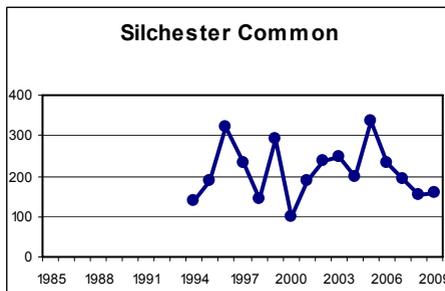
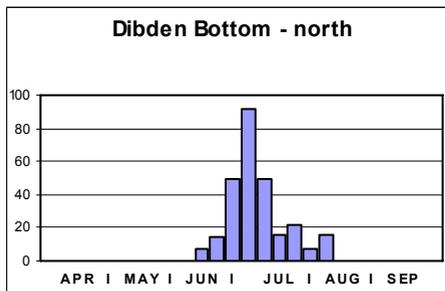
A good year for this species, with reasonable weather during its flight season; highlights include the general increase in numbers and several additional sites, following a survey in parts of the New Forest. The Bramshott Common transect provided the first sightings of this species on 25 May; here, the 2008 Annual Index of 1279 increased to 6022 (+371%), prompting the following comments: “Thanks to the continued birch clearance

in the key breeding area, the SSBs have had another exceptional year (the best in 19 years recording)...the species' range definitely expanded" (ACG). However, numbers were almost static on our long-running transect at Silchester Common, with an Annual Index of 159, and on a fairly new transect at Dibden Common, which registered 274. Roydon Woods registered 43, albeit a significant increase compared with 2008.

As in 2008, the highest counts came from Bramshott Common, which reached 101 on 3 June, and peaked at 712 on 22 June, nearly all in the core breeding area; a few individuals were still recorded on 5 August (ACG, who recorded a total of 15 counts of over 100 butterflies). There were eight other records of 100 or more butterflies: c. 500 from Ashurst Heath on 4 July (MSw), and others between 100 and 200 also from the New Forest as at Beaulieu Heath on 30 June (PDB) and 4 July (A&LB), Church Moor on 8 July (PDB), Ocknell Plain on 28 June (TJN&LF) and Shirley Holms on 16 and 20 June (GP). Outside the Forest, 161 were reported at Aldershot Common on 19 June (CRH). There were also eight counts of between 40 and 100 individuals from six sites, in mid-June to early July. Large numbers were not noted at Newgrounds as in some previous years, the peak being c. 30 in early July (RTr).

Many householders in the Bournemouth and West Hampshire area received a Newsletter during 2009 referring to 'Silver Studded success at Sway'; the article discussed changes in management at Sway Reservoir, which have resulted in sightings of this butterfly.

The first record from the New Forest was from Shirley Holms on 2 June (GP), but New Forest populations had staggered hatching dates, sometimes in the same localities; the last rather worn specimen was seen at Matley Bog on 31 August (PDB, GP). As usual, the butterfly was rarely seen in the Inclosures, although there were more records received than usual, in some cases probably reflecting strays from surrounding heathlands. By mid-July larger counts were over and there were few stragglers seen in August.



**Brown Argus *Aricia agestis* Phil Budd**

**Status:** BC Low Priority

**Earliest:** 24 April 2009  
Afton Down, IoW (SAK-J)  
Magdalen Hill Down (GHo)

**No of 2009 records:** 816

**No of tetrads in 2009:** 97

**No of post 2000 tetrads:** 195

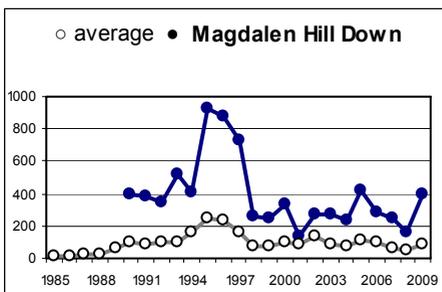
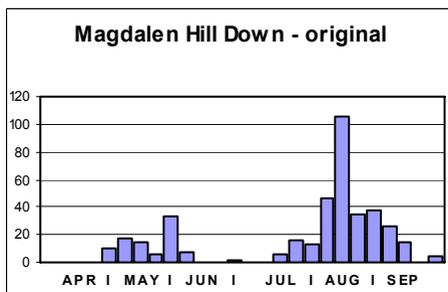
**Latest:** 23 October 2009  
Afton Down, IoW (SAK-J)

2009 was an excellent year for the Brown Argus butterfly. There were records of Brown Argus from approximately 100 sites in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight in 2009. This

was almost double the number of 2008 (53). About 20 of these sites were off of the chalk. In the New Forest area there were records at Badminton Gravel Pits and Efford Meadows (PDB), Beaulieu Heath at Hilltop (GBi) and Shirley Holms (GP). In the north-east of Hampshire there are colonies at Eelmoor SSSI (PHC), at Ively Meadow, Farnborough (CRH), and at Petersfield Heath (ACS). Elsewhere in Hampshire there were several off chalk sites along the coast and in the river valleys and at Hillier's Gardens on 11 August (BPF). On the Isle of Wight there were records for Hollands Wild Flower Meadow, near Newchurch (DLHM) and for Whippingham Fields transect (JR). Otherwise some of the largest counts off the chalk were at Clamerkin Farm IoW: 15 on 8 August (Mhal); at Ively Meadow, Hants: six on 25 July (CRH) and at Efford, Hants: six on 2 August (PDB).

On the chalk, 2009 was a very good year for the Brown Argus. The maximum overall count was 106 at Magdalen Hill Down on 16 August (A&LB) followed by 50 at Bonchurch Down on 23 May (AW), this being the highest count for the Isle Wight and the highest first brood count anywhere. At Ashford Hill the first was seen since 2006 (ABo).

There were records of Brown Argus from 31 transects in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, an increase from 22 in 2008. Transect data confirms that 2009 was a very good year for this species with greater than 20% decreases being recorded at only two sites compared to 2008, whereas there were increases of more than 20% at 20 sites. At the key site on the mainland, Magdalen Hill Down Original, the Index was the highest since 2005 (394). On the Isle of Wight the Bonchurch Down transect was disappointing (34) but Coombe Bottom recorded its highest Annual Index since 2002 (109) and Whippingham Fields its highest ever (225). There were some other very high Annual Indexes on the mainland, for example 109 at Danebury Hill Fort (Gary Richardson). Also, there were Annual Indexes of 85 at both Pilot Hill (MG) and St Catherine's Hill (CP). The largest individual transect count was 49 at Magdalen Hill Down on 16 August (AJB), with 24 on 31 July being the maximum at Whippingham Fields (JR). The highest first brood transect count was 22 at Magdalen Hill Down on 31 May (AJB).



**Common Blue *Polyommatus icarus* Tim Bernhard**

**Status:** BC Low Priority

**Earliest:** 20 April 2009  
Stockbridge Down (RWe)

**No of 2009 records:** 2772

**No of tetrads in 2009:** 281

**Latest:** 4 November 2009  
Gosport (DJAT)

**No of post 2000 tetrads:** 567

This delightful little butterfly seems to have lived up to its name and enjoyed a very successful year in many parts of the county. Of the 38 transect monitored sites, where the butterfly is present, there was an increase of 20% or more. Only two of these transects showed a decrease in numbers and 10 sites recorded no significant change. Many sites had impressive counts of the butterfly such as at Old Burghclere Quarry where DGG recorded 60 on 24 May. Even more impressive were counts of 100 individuals from various sites on the Isle of Wight including High Down and Clamerkin (MHa) and at Brading Down (AW). The highest number recorded was 111 at Noar Hill on 9 August (RPen). The annual index showed a significant increase at Magdalen Hill Down Extension which more than doubled from 198 in 2008 to 456 in 2009.

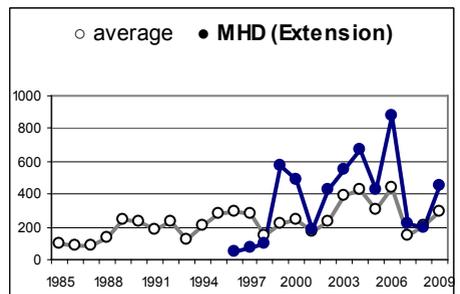
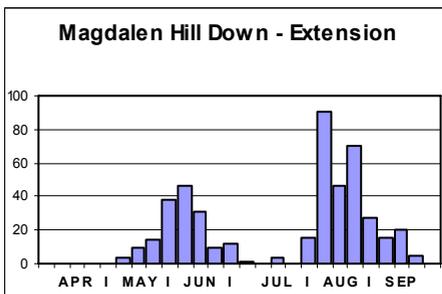
The species was first observed on the wing on 21 April at Hamstead on the Isle of Wight (CF) and this was followed by a number of other records of ones and twos throughout the rest of April and into May. Numbers of the first brood gradually increased throughout May with impressive counts of 20 at Bonchurch Down on 9 May (IP), 46 at Eelmoor Marsh SSSI on 20 May (CRH). The highest count during May was of 70 at Bonchurch Down on 23 May (AW).

The warm and dry weather during May continued throughout June and good numbers of this species were recorded from many sites and this set the scene for an excellent second brood in August. During July the weather deteriorated with very little sunshine and a considerable amount of rain.

The butterfly continued to appear throughout July in generally low numbers and the second brood really kicked off in early August. Good numbers were recorded from Efford (PDB), Hornsea Island (AHB), Yew Hill (BPF), Stockbridge Down (BPF), Noar Hill (AW) and Old Winchester Hill NNR (AW). Excellent counts of 83 were observed by A&LB at Magdalen Hill Down on 16 August and 75 at Noar Hill by AW on 17 August.

The weather in September continued warm and largely dry and this butterfly was recorded throughout our area in low numbers except at Magdalen Hill Down where good counts were still being recorded until the end of the month. The last Common Blue of the year was recorded from Gosport on 4 November (DJAT).

All in all a superb year for this species which no doubt considerably benefited from the warm weather in June and August.





**The Chalkhill Blue  
in 2009**



Facing page:  
Normal form  
males and female,  
Stockbridge Down  
8 August 2009  
(Tim Bernhard)

Above: *Ab. semisyngraphasubaurantia*  
Stockbridge Down, 25 July 2009 (Paul Brock)

Below: Two aberrations with greatly reduced underside spotting

Stockbridge Down, 8 August 2009  
(Tim Bernhard)



Chalton Down, 5 September 2009  
(John Solomon)



**Status:** BC Medium Priority

**Earliest:** **1 July 2009**

Magdalen Hill Down (LF)  
Brading Quarries, IoW (DB)

**No of 2009 records:** 784

**No of tetrads in 2009:** 46

**No of post 2000 tetrads:** 116

**Latest:** **16 October 2009**

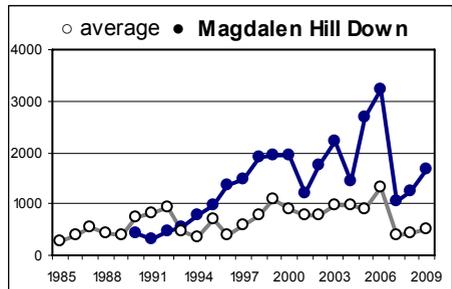
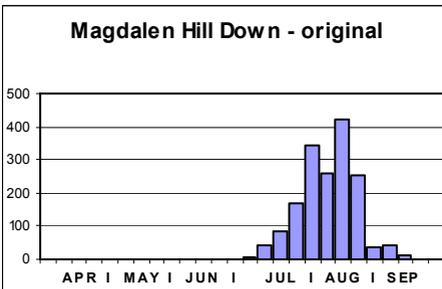
Afton Down, IoW (SAK-J)

The slow improvement in numbers noted in 2008 has continued in 2009, but numbers are generally still less than half of what they were in the record breaking year of 2006. It was reported as “up on last year’s numbers, but not the force it used to be” at Brading Quarries (DAB) and “having done well at its strongholds of Magdalen Hill Down, Old Winchester Hill, Stockbridge Down and Yew Hill” (RCB). On St Catherine’s Hill, Winchester “numbers were poor on the open hillside but very good in a sheltered spot near the car park” (CP). Of the 19 transects recording this species, 11 recorded an increase in numbers of more than 20% with five recording no significant change.

This species emerged at much the same time on the mainland as on the Island, three observers seeing it on 2 July, eight being seen at Magdalen Hill Down (PAB), 2 at Danebury Hill Fort (LB-R) and 11 at Yew Hill (BPF).

Numbers build up steadily, and the first century count was on the transect at Stockbridge Down where 100 were seen on 12 July (PE). 200 were seen at the same site on 25 July (PDB). The highest count of all was 750 at Arretton Down, IoW on 28 July (MHal), which was slightly lower than last year’s highest count. Seven 100+ counts were reported in July and another 22 in August. The number of counts of over two hundred in 2009 was just over double that of 2008, and included the highest mainland count, which was 422 at Magdalen Hill Down on 16 August (A&LB).

Numbers remained high throughout August but rapidly declined in September so that after the middle of the month most sightings were of singletons, and the last mainland sighting was at Old Winchester Hill on 24 September (AMc). This was the penultimate sighting of the season, three weeks before the last sighting of all in a sheltered spot on the Island.



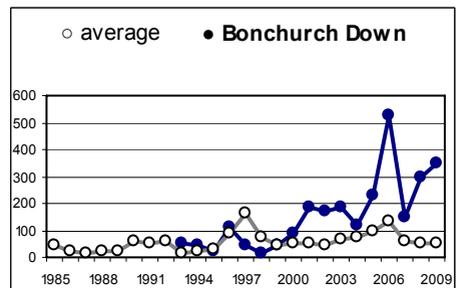
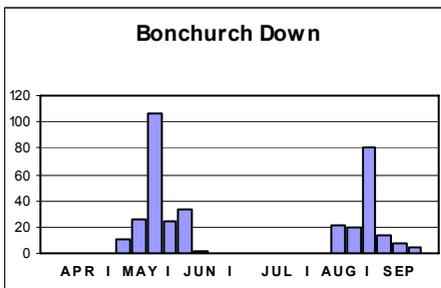
**Status:** BC High Priority**Earliest:** 3 May 2009  
Bonchurch Down, IoW (DAB)**No of 2009 records:** 237**No of tetrads in 2009:** 22**No of post 2000 tetrads:** 48**Latest:** 1 October 2009  
Afton Down, IoW (SAK-J)

Once again, it was the Isle of Wight that produced both the first and last records for the year. Indeed, as with 2008, it was Bonchurch Down with the earliest sighting and Afton Down with the latest. On balance, it was a good year for the species, although the transect performance was mixed. Of those sites with data for both years, five out of 12 showed an increase of more than 20%, four showed little change and three had a decrease of more than 20%. Bonchurch Down is by far the strongest population, with an Annual Index of 350, whilst sites such as Broughton Down, Old Winchester Hill and St. Catherine's Hill continue to struggle at very low numbers.

The first Isle of Wight record was of one on 3 May at Bonchurch Down (DAB), but in Hampshire the season did not start until one on 21 May at Broughton Down (DGG & SAC). Coinciding with a period of warm sunny weather, the highest first brood tally was 107 on 25 May at Bonchurch Down (IRi), whilst in Hampshire the best count was 21 on 30 May at Martin Down (ACM). In common with 2008, the first brood was all but over by mid-June. A sighting on 14 June at Bonchurch Down (DM) and one on 27 June at Pilot Hill (MG) were, respectively, the last for the Isle Wight and Hampshire.

A dull and wet July may have delayed the second brood emergence by a few days. The first observed were three on 8 August at Bonchurch Down (IP), with Hampshire just a day behind with four on 9 August at Broughton Down (ACM, GCE). The second brood was of similar strength to the first, with the highest Hampshire tally being 20 on 23 August at Martin Down (RCB), but no match for the Isle of Wight peak of 81 on 31 August at Bonchurch Down (IRi). The final sightings of two on 24 September at Martin Down (RLI), and one on 1 October at Afton Down (SAK-J) were for the same sites and very similar dates as 2008.

The overall conclusion for this species was that it had a much better season in 2009 relative to 2008, but that the small and isolated Hampshire populations are struggling to survive. With just a singleton seen on transect at St. Catherine's Hill all season there are fears that this tiny population is floundering (CP), and similar concerns have been expressed for the reintroduced population at Old Winchester Hill (AW).



Status: BC Low Priority

Earliest: 30 March 2009  
Shanklin, IoW (JMC)

No of 2009 records: 455

No of tetrads in 2009: 122

No of post 2000 tetrads: 607

Latest: 19 November 2009  
Gosport (DJAT)

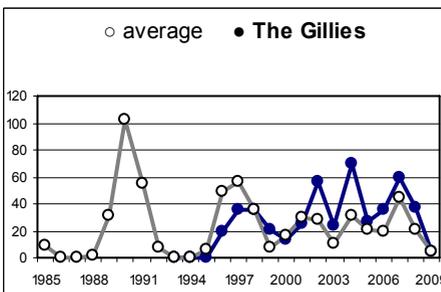
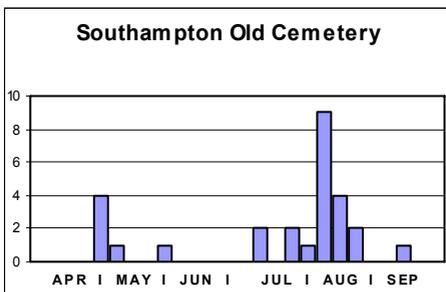
The major decline reported in 2008 continued in 2009 with the annual index at 32 monitored sites down by at least 20%. Only two sites recorded a comparable increase, with eight showing no significant change. Magdalen Hill Down Extension registered a zero annual index for the first time in 10 years and Portsdown Hill recorded its lowest count of 13 in its five-year recording history. Only five were recorded at The Gillies, Fareham, down from 37 in 2008.

On the Isle of Wight, at Brading Quarries, numbers crashed from 53 in 2008 to only 11 in 2009 – a 10 year low. At Southampton Old Cemetery the spring brood peaked at a meagre four at the end of April and nine in mid-August.

Observers were virtually unanimous in their comments. It was “a terrible year” (MSL), and very poor around Winchester (RCB), at Pamber (GD) and on the Gosport coast (DJAT). It was a similar story on the Isle of Wight, at Whippingham Fields and at Woodhouse Copse, where JR commented on the unusually large size and pale colour of the summer brood. Many remarked on the scarcity of the summer brood which was “virtually non-existent” at Botley Wood (RKL) and “just didn’t turn up” in east Hampshire (AW).

The first Isle of Wight record came on 30 March from Shanklin (JMC) with the first Hampshire record from Petersfield on 3 April (ACS). The highest spring count was of 24 at Gosport Wildgrounds on 11 May (DJAT). It persisted well into autumn, with the Gosport area providing most records throughout October, with the final sighting on 19 November (DJAT and ACM).

The Holly Blue has demonstrated its capacity to bounce back from similar slumps in the past. Given the widespread nature of its foodplants and its willingness to roam, there’s no reason to feel too pessimistic about its future.



**Status:** BC High Priority

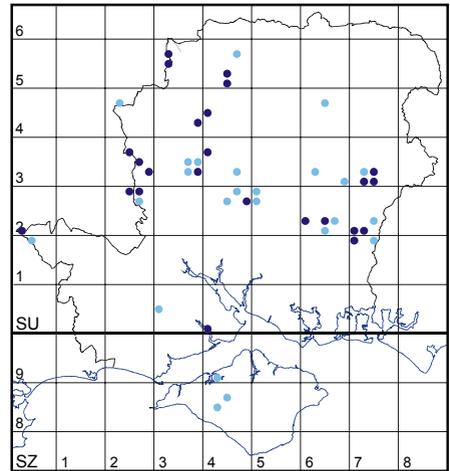
**No of 2009 records:** 154

**No of tetrads in 2009:** 24

**No of post 2000 tetrads:** 48

**Earliest:** 15 April 2009  
Noar Hill (SPat)

**Latest:** 15 June 2009  
Harewood Forest (JSo)



The Duke of Burgundy enjoyed a very good season in 2009. The weather during its flight period was some of the best it has enjoyed for many seasons. At least 24 sites were visited in 2009. At the well known sites, populations were recorded in very good numbers. First noted at Noar Hill on the 15 April (SPat) and at the Mountain on the 18 April (AW), with good spring weather numbers built up rapidly and at the beginning of May the season was well underway.

At the Mountain the best count came on the 8 May with a count of 67 (AW). Ninety plus were recorded at Grandfathers Bottom, by AW & DH on 11 May during a timed count of an hour. At other sites nearby in the Queen Elizabeth Country Park complex, the number recorded overall was 120 (AW). Numbers at Oxenbourne Down still remain low, with 14 being seen between the 21 April and the 10 May, despite the species now colonizing a south-western slope which was cleared of Yew trees several years ago (AW). At Porton Down on Hampshire/Wiltshire border on the 16 May the species was observed in Beech woodland in extraordinary numbers (75), where its foodplant Primrose was abundant (DH *et al*). In the New Forest the species still exists in small numbers, with five being recorded near Beaulieu on the 22 May (AW).

At Winterdown Copse near Stockbridge on the 5 May the count was 13 (KD) and it was still recorded at Ridges Grove, despite the site being partially ploughed up in 2008. It was also discovered on farmland to the west of this site (DH) and was noted at Martin own NNR, Kitts Grave, on the 22 May (DGG).

Reports came from the northern part of the county, with surveys by SAC & DGG who found it at several sites, namely Harewood Forest, Kiblet Down, Angle Down, Conholt Hill, and at Bradley Wood, and on the A34(T) roadside verges (ABo). Most of the Downland sites in Hampshire rely on Cowslip growing on north-westerly slopes, which keep the foodplant in good quality condition, during drought periods throughout its larval feeding stages. (AW)

On the downside the butterfly was absent from Teg Down and only one was recorded at Westbury Park despite the foodplant Cowslip being abundant (AW). No sightings

were reported from the disused East Tisted Railway line and the Watercress Railway (LF) and on the Isle of Wight, it's now probably extinct.

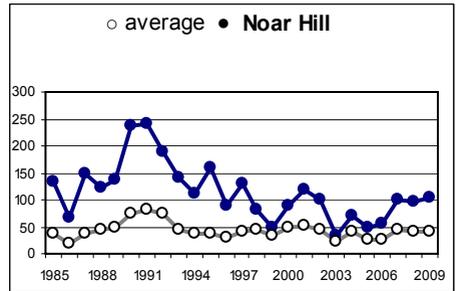
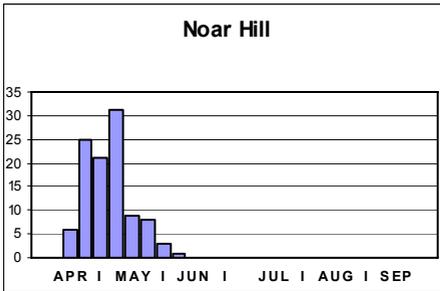
In Bentley Wood in the Eastern Clearing there were some late sightings into June with singletons being observed on 30 May (ACM) and 2 June (DLHM). There were no second generation individuals seen at sites like Noar Hill and the Mountain (AW), despite the Duke re-appearing in the Cotswolds in August (MRO).



Duke of Burgundy habitat at Bradley Wood, Whitchurch, 10 May 2009 (David Green)



Dan Hoare with Duke of Burgundy survey team at Porton Down, Isle of Wight Woods 16 May 2009 (David Green)



**White Admiral *Limenitis camilla* Andrew Brookes**

**Status:** BC High Priority

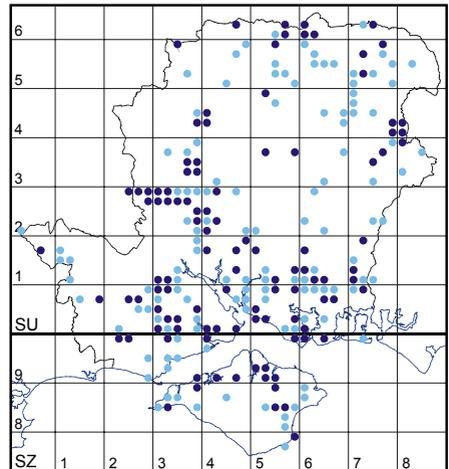
**No of 2009 records:** 348

**No of tetrads in 2009:** 107

**No of post 2000 tetrads:** 229

**Earliest:** 11 June 2009  
Bramshill Plantation (TH)

**Latest:** 16 September 2009  
Brownwich (RJC & HA)



Overall, another disappointing year, with recovery put on hold yet again. But once more a relatively early emergence appears to have averted disaster, with peak numbers recorded by the beginning of July, before the now-seemingly inevitable summer tempests could wreak their worst. At 212 records, the butterfly's distribution appear to be well down on 2008 (292), but the season still held some pleasant surprises. At Harewood Forest, numbers went through the roof, with 49 seen on 29 June by John Solomon, compared with just a single figure tally there in 2007.

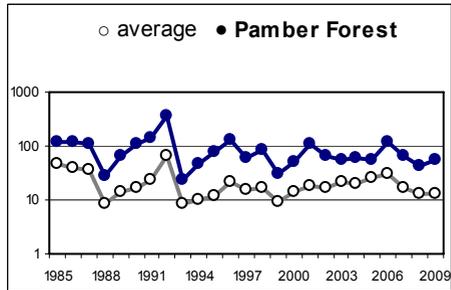
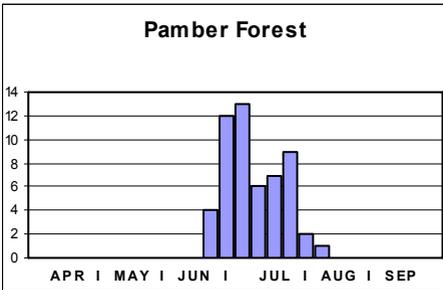
The Straits Inclosure at Alice Holt Forest, surely the two counties' most consistent site, produced 26 on 5 July to take the silver, a modest increase of seven on 2008 (RSy). Several new locations surveyed by KD in the west of the county also produced some encouraging figures: 24 at Heath House Estate on 1 July, and 17 at Holbury Wood on 3 July.

Numbers remained depressed but stable at that other stalwart, Pamber Forest, where PE recorded 17 on 28 June, the same site producing one of the very few ab. *obliterae* noted in 2009 (three more were seen at Straits Inclosure by MRO). Down south, the Botley Wood transect index was the third best on record (RKL). The New Forest Inclosures held their own, albeit with mostly single figure tallies, Wootton Coppice proving the exception with 14 on 10 July (PDB).

Across the Solent, the doom and gloom continues with JR reporting that the transect total of 15 at Woodhouse 'marks the continued decline...the lowest number and shortest flight season ever recorded'. Far to the south, South East Area Group searched in vain for the insect at America Wood near Shanklin on 30 June. Matters were little better at the former western stronghold of Walter's Copse, where a peak count of just 12 was made on 27 June by MHal. Walter's Copse was the location of the island's last sighting, on 23 August by IP; this is a tantalizing date - was it a very late first brood, or an early second one? The very last sighting, unquestionably of a second brood, was made on the mainland at Brownich Stream on 16 September by RJC & HA.



White Admiral ab. *nigrina*, Alice Holt Forest, Goose Green Inclosure, 28th June 2009 (Roger Pendell)



**Status:** BC High Priority

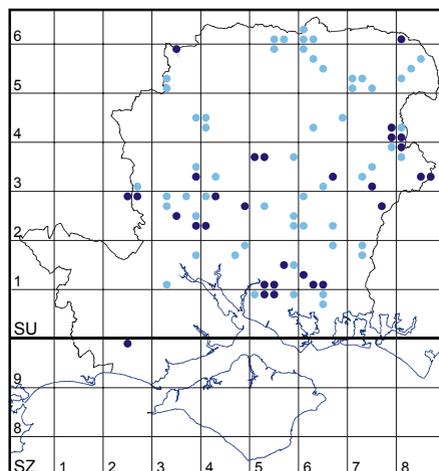
**No of 2009 records:** 76

**No of tetrads in 2009:** 30

**No of post 2000 tetrads:** 86

**Earliest:** 24 June 2009  
Alice Holt (TH, MRO)

**Latest:** 9 August 2009  
Millfield (ROW)



The Purple Emperor was first recorded in Hampshire on mid-summer's day on 24 June at Lodge Inclosure in Alice Holt Forest (MRO) and with balmy late June weather the thought was we were in for a bumper season which we would remember for many years to come. The butterfly was well out at the end of June although at the assembly points in Alice Holt Forest numbers were little better than average (AW, MRO). In Straits Inclosure numbers were impressive, with up to 12 being recorded nearly every day during the good late June weather, and MRO noted 16 males and three females on the 30 June. MRO said the Emperor had the best year in the Straits Inclosure since 1982 and probably since 1979.

Many species were producing aberrations in 2009 and the Purple Emperor was no exception, with MRO seeing and photographing an ab. *lugenda* in the Straits Inclosure on 28 June. He also noted an ab *lolata* (*semi-iolae*) sallow searching in New Ride East.



Purple Emperor male ab. *lugenda*, Alice Holt Forest, Straits Inclosure, 28 June 2009  
(Matthew Oates)

Unfortunately the good weather wasn't to last. In the second week of July, the weather collapsed and the usual summer we are now familiar with returned, with sunshine and showers and the odd gale thrown in. In fact on 7 July it was more like a tropical storm

centred over the southern half of Hampshire. Despite this the Purple Emperor was still recorded in many parts of the county. Records came from Whiteley Pastures (A&JW), Botley Wood, West Wood (AW), Ampfield Wood (AB) Noar Hill (DJB) Odiham Woods (TBa) Bentley Station Meadow (CHR) Micheldever Wood (RBry) Coombe Wood (RBa) Emer Bog (Ski) Creech Wood (AW &AB), and Huntbourne Wood (AB).

In Bentley Wood the butterfly was on the wing in reasonable numbers, and many recorders saw it in double figures on several occasions, with it imbibing on the ground. In fact, throughout the season it was recorded imbibing on dead deer, discarded kebabs, camera equipment and its now favourite Belachan shrimp paste. The butterfly was all but spent by the third week of July, but it was clinging on in several parts of Alice Holt Forest and was recorded into August, at Goose Green Inclosure, with three being seen at the Assembly Point on 2 August (AW). For the second year running it was recorded in the New Forest with a sighting at Wootton Coppice Inclosure on 15 July (MJG) where a female was seen near some willow.

It was a good year, but not a classic. However many weather factors would seem to be right for the species in 2009, with a cooler winter, warmer spring, and a good June. All aided its fortunes in the initial stages of development, which brought about good numbers, in several woods in 2009 (AW).

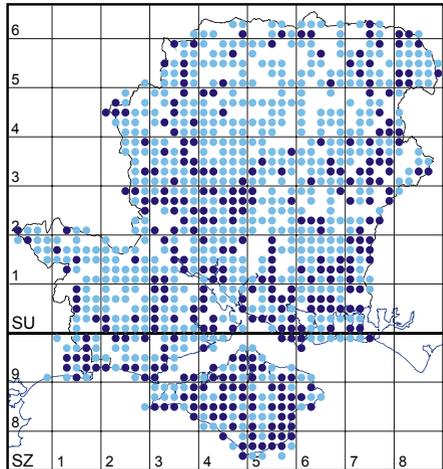
**Red Admiral *Vanessa atalanta* Susan Clarke**

**Status:** BC Low Priority

**No of 2009 records:** 1498  
**No of tetrads in 2009:** 326  
**No of post 2000 tetrads:** 920

**Earliest:** 13 January 2009  
 Hambledon (RShi)

**Latest:** 10 December 2008  
 Four locations  
 Shirley Holms (GP)



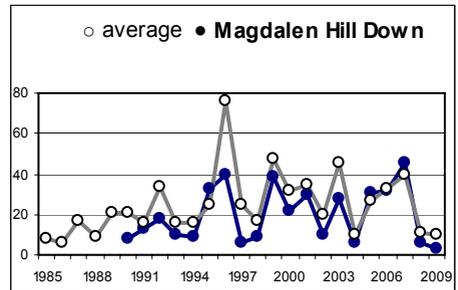
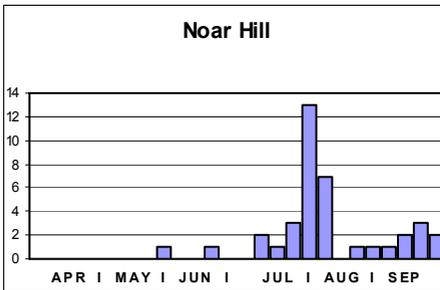
For what is often a very numerous species, there were comparatively low numbers of Red Admiral sightings in Hampshire during 2009 and numbers were even lower than in 2008. Transects showed that over 50% of monitored sites had more than a 20% decline in sightings compared with last year.

JR found that the number of Red Admirals on the transect at Woodhouse Copse were “the worst count ever” and MRO said it was “a relatively poor year, with a very poor high summer showing”. However, at Bramshott, ACG considered that “numbers were up by almost 20% on last year’s disappointing performance” but that “this low increase is a little surprising considering the large Painted Lady migration”.

As is often the case the species was recorded in all months of 2009, despite the generally low numbers recorded during the year. The main flight period, as calculated by the number of records received in each week, showed a peak during July to mid August and another in late September.

At Gosport, DJAT again recorded his sightings for each month, and these are shown below together with his records for previous years. DJAT noted that the maximum daily count was 39 on 10 October.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Total
<b>2006</b>	2	0	2	5	25	26	121	85	87	438	214	11	1016
<b>2007</b>	11	6	8	34	39	105	153	27	153	316	147	12	1011
<b>2008</b>	13	25	5	0	7	29	48	15	615	330	57	1	1145
<b>2009</b>	1	0	4	4	4	15	36	19	123	226	83	3	518



**Painted Lady *Vanessa cardui* Bob Whitmarsh**

**Status:** BC Low Priority

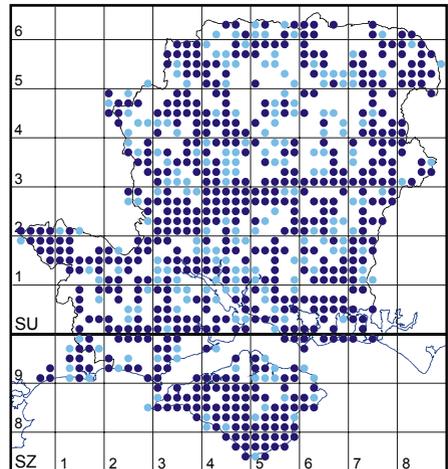
**No of 2009 records:** 4374

**No of tetrads in 2009:** 572

**No of post 2000 tetrads:** 780

**Earliest:** 15 March 2009  
Havant Thicket (AW)

**Latest:** 17 November 2009  
Binstead (JTri)  
Shirley Holms (GP)



What a difference a year can make! 2009, as we all know, was a spectacular year for the Painted Lady in Hampshire, the Isle of Wight and beyond. The annual index slightly exceeded the previous peak year, since 1985, of 1996. For each of four analysed transects the 2009 index was between 1.4 and 8.8 times greater than any of the previous nine years.

The tetrads from which observations were reported were spread fairly evenly through the area with a slightly lower density north of a line from Salisbury to Winchester to Alton. The highest density was on the Isle of Wight.

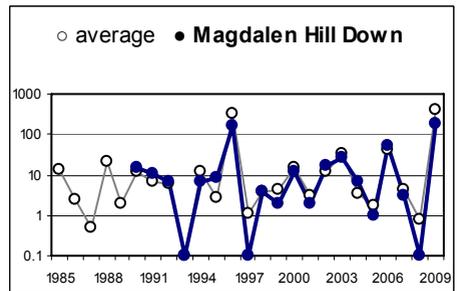
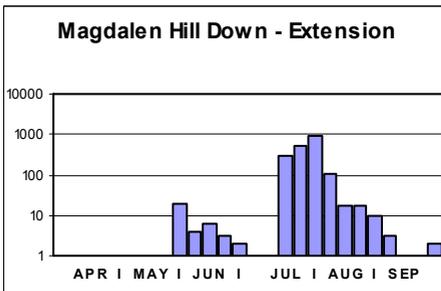
Although the first sighting was on 15 March, a double digit count of individuals was not seen until 6 April in Basing Forest (MDu) and on several occasions thereafter up to late May. Numbers peaked sharply in the week 25-31 May when 21,859 were counted! This is likely to represent only a very small proportion of actual numbers passing through. For example, JRu estimated there may have been as many as 25,000 moving north through Denny Lodge and Hawkhill on 28 May alone. Numbers then fell away until mid-July when the first brood emerged in lesser numbers and persisted until late August. The numbers of records followed a similar but less peaky distribution. Off-transect, totals of between 1500 and 2000 individuals were estimated by three separate observers on 24, 25 and 26 May from locations as far apart as Nutley, Tidworth and the northernmost Isle of Wight. On transect, up to 925 sightings (PAB) were made of the first brood on Magdalen Hill Down between 18 and 31 July. A plot of weekly counts at Magdalen Hill Down Extension (note the vertical log scale) illustrates the distribution through the season. The broader eight-week distribution of the first native brood contrasts with the five-week season of the initial migrant population and may indicate that eggs were laid over a period including late June, July and even August. A second native brood may just have been observed at Magdalen Hill Down Extension in the last week of September. Indeed, a specimen in 'perfect condition' was seen at Creech Wood on 26 September (AW) and one that was 'bright and fresh looking' at Heath Warren on 23 October (CRH). The timing of the peak count for Magdalen Hill Down Extension at the end of July contrasts with the regional peak which occurred in the week of 25-31 May.

The large numbers of Painted Ladies observed in 2009 are supposed to have originated in North Africa and to have travelled north over the continent. It is interesting therefore to consider the wind direction in late May when the first large numbers of individuals were observed. From 23 to 25 May a trough of low pressure influenced the southern UK and from 26 to 29 May a high pressure system moved from south-west to north-east across the UK (Based on pressure charts in The Times newspaper). During the whole of this period the weather charts indicate that winds blew from a north-westerly to a westerly direction except for an east wind over the Channel on 23 May, and variable winds including south-easterly on 25 May, and from north-east to south-east on 29 May. This suggests that the main waves of arriving Painted Ladies were enabled by short periods of wind with an easterly component, i.e. from the continent. However, surprisingly, others were seen flying apparently across or even into the wind, e.g. in a northerly direction in from the sea at Langstone Harbour into a brisk north-westerly breeze (26 May; MSh), in a northerly direction at Whippingham Fields when the wind was from the west (28 May; JR) and in a north or north-westerly direction at Eastleigh when the wind was from the north (29 May; CP). This determination to fly north (or landwards to safety?) whatever the wind direction is curious and deserves further study.

Of all the thousands of individuals counted in 2009 there were only two reports of a very rare black and white aberration seen (twice) in Gosport on 10 and 11 July (DJAT).



Aberrant Painted Lady, Gosport, 10 and 11 July 2009 (David Tinling)



**The Painted Lady immigration of 2009 – accounts from observers**

The huge influx of Painted Lady dominated the sightings page of the Branch web site during late May. The following accounts were extracted from the reports compiled by Branch webmaster Robin Turner during the main arrival from 23 to 25 May:

**Saturday 23 May 2009**

“A lone Red Admiral in my West Christchurch garden imbibing moisture off some leaves at 9.00 this morning alerted me to a probable arrival of migrant butterflies, especially after it flew rapidly off north a couple of minutes later. In the afternoon I was amazed to see a continual stream of Painted Ladies heading north up the Avon Valley from a vantage point at St Catherine’s Hill, Christchurch. There must have been at least 100+, they were flying low in stages over the heathland. Andy Barker’s prediction of a ‘Painted Lady year’ seems to be turning into a reality. Let’s hope the summer weather is conducive to successful breeding so we can see them dripping off our buddleias in August and September.” (MJG)

## Sunday 24 May 2009

"The warm, sunny weather encouraged me to make a further trip to Parkhurst Forest. I was looking primarily looking for Pearl-bordered Fritillaries and saw one in a different location to where I observed three yesterday. But the highlight of the afternoon was the huge number of Painted Ladies. I stopped counting them after I reached a hundred!" (Stuart Read)

"Thought yesterday was good for painted ladies. Today was incredible. Had over 500+ through the garden today with at least that many again over Testwood Lakes pushing through the meadows a constant stream." (MSw - Totton)

"Painted Ladies all afternoon (from 14.00-19.00) coming across the ground on the south westerly wind, very distracting for me trying to play cricket." (RCa - Wield Cricket Ground)

## Monday 25 May 2009

"I timed passing painted ladies at about 20 per minute, and that was just around me, giving my estimate of 1500 seen. Looking through binoculars they were seen right across the plain in similar numbers. Driving back eastwards to Andover, they continued to be seen crossing our path all the way back in similar densities - the numbers involved can only be estimated!" (MJG – Dunch Hill, Salisbury Plain)

"I was so impressed by the numbers of Painted Ladies I saw flying north lunch time I thought I'd pass on my amazement. At Osborne House near East Cowes Isle of Wight. I watched Painted Ladies flying north over a flat field approx 100m wide at a rate of 2000 per hour from 12.00 to 13.00 and there was a fresh NW wind. There were also hundreds resting and feeding in the hay meadows. All weekend the island has been covered in Painted Ladies. On Sunday I counted 150+ along 1km of coast at Compton these were all feeding on Thrift with only a few flying in from out to sea. On Monday I counted over 200 per hour flying north through my garden at Porchfield and later 150 flying north per hour at Arrenton Down and in the evening 100+ disturbed from roosting along about 1km of cut grass track at Newtown." (MHal)

"I paid a visit to Nutley Wood in order to collect data for the Bird Atlas 2007-11 Survey then decided to wander up to nearby Windmill Hill. Nothing prepared me for the spectacle that was to follow. A substantial westerly movement of Painted Ladies was in progress. Realizing the colossal numbers involved I decided to conduct a sample count. During the hour between 1340 hrs and 1440 hrs I recorded a staggering 2,000 - all moving west low over the crops either side of the bridleway here. Further sample counts revealed an average of 75-100 a minute. A continuation of a rapid westerly movement was observed whilst driving home to Portsmouth through the Candover Valley and Meon Valley." (GFa)

"The first time I've witnessed a mass butterfly migration - and it's pretty exciting. Hundreds through the afternoon. Numbers seemed particularly high during the intense thundery heat towards 5 o'clock. The butterflies were coming across in waves, frequently 4 or 5 together, sometimes sparring with each other, forcing through or over tall hedgerows, over the house and soaring up over the woods, in a desperate race to head north. I believe there were a few Whites mixed in with them at times. A dramatic sight." (ABo - Axmansford)

“At 1pm when the sun came out I watched a spectacular show by Painted Ladies as they came over the trees at the southern end of the common and, flying at great speed, flew over the trees at the northern end heading in a northerly direction. In 15 minutes I watched c. 40 cross the road in groups as many as eight at a time. As I drove the short distance home I saw another 15 flying in the same direction. What a spectacular show by these beautiful migrating butterflies.” (CLB – Odiham Common)

“The Painted Lady has been flying across the nurseries all day today. We have seen absolutely hundreds. Some have been stopping for a feed on our Sweet Williams but mostly all heading on a South Eastern route, without deviation. Really enjoyed watching them.” (SLef - Swannhill Nurseries, Mapledurwell)

“I'm sure others have also reported it - there is a mass immigration of Painted Lady at the moment. Went to Bentley Wood, Eastern Clearing, yesterday and while sitting down for 45 minutes waiting for the SPBF's to settle down for the evening counted 48 - all zooming along at a rate of knots in a northerly direction. And this afternoon I'm in my garden in central Southampton and they are coming through at an even faster rate - about 3 or 4 per minute through a 30 metre gap. Fantastic.” (JVe)

“After two dismal summers butterflies and the people dedicated to watching them deserved something better. And it happened this weekend. A widespread influx of Painted Ladies! I became aware that something was happening late morning on Sunday at Bentley Wood when in each minute a few faded and very fast flying Painted Ladies were seen – all flying north. This continued through the rest of the day. But Monday was to provide a magical spectacle of a mass flight of Painted Ladies not just through Hampshire but obviously the Isle of Wight too and Dorset and Sussex. From observations at Chilbolton Down, Tim [Norris] & I estimated that between 600 and 850 an hour were flying through a 50 metre deep stretch of downland. At my home in Ropley they were estimated at their peak at one every 4 seconds - equating to 900 an hour. Its all a bit mind boggling really! I do hope a few stopped flying & will breed in Hampshire!” (LF)

**Small Tortoiseshell *Aglais urticae* Andrew Brookes**

**Status:** BC Low Priority

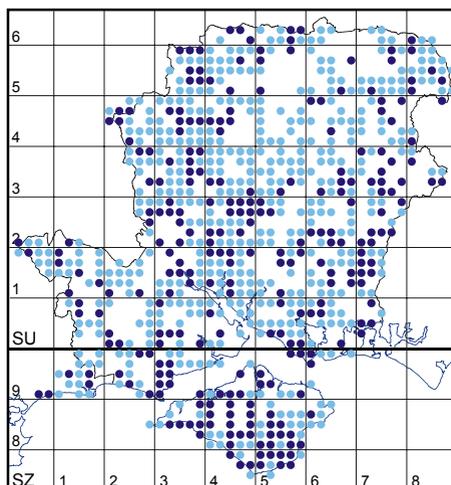
**No of 2009 records:** 992

**No of tetrads in 2009:** 267

**No of post 2000 tetrads:** 736

**Earliest:** 9 March 2009  
Wheeler's Bay, IoW (AB)

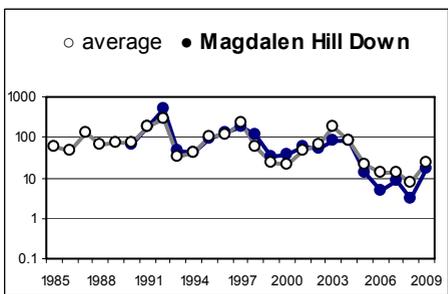
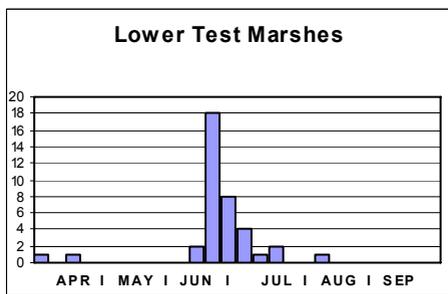
**Latest:** 27 October 2009  
Ovington (P&PG)



All but back from the dead, the Small Tortoiseshell was to delight many, though not all, again across the two counties in 2009. Although the number of records received represented only a modest increase on 2008, the numbers of individual butterflies reported were often in another league. The season began slowly, the number of overwintered specimens observed inevitably reflecting the 2008 nadir, when not one double-figure count was made. But by late spring signs of a recovery were evident, with DJAT finding 40 larvae at Gosport on 10 May. More larval colonies were reported from Roud, IoW, by South East Area Group during an outing on 22 June. Not surprisingly then, the first half of August witnessed a minor explosion of the species in places. Healthy double-figure tallies came from across Hampshire: 35 at Old Winchester Hill (RCB), 40 at Stockbridge Down (JSo), 23 at Testwood Lakes (MSw), and even a dozen seen in a Timsbury garden (ARa). The annual indices on the Magdalen Hill Down and Lower Test Marshes transects were the highest since 2004.

The recovery was far from uniform however, RKL noting that the insect had failed to show for the fourth consecutive year on the Botley Wood transect, while CRH observed it 'remains a desperately scarce butterfly'. Indeed, this ultimate habitat-generalist was to be found on only 35 of the 78 transects (but still a 100% increase on 2008). On the Isle of Wight, JR reflected there had been little change, and DAB summarized the situation as 'still poor'.

Report numbers declined rapidly after mid-August despite the good weather, with just 22 records in September, diminishing to six in October, nearly all of singletons. So what happened? Parasitization of Peacock larvae by *Sturmia bella*, the major parasite now known to afflict the Small Tortoiseshell, remained unchanged in 2009 and thus is unlikely to be responsible. Only time will tell. The conclusion should again be accorded to RCB: 'below average, but the best in three years, the first sign of a reverse since 2003'.



**Large Tortoiseshell *Nymphalis polychloros* David Green**

**Status:** Immigrant/BC High Priority

**Earliest:** 16 March 2009  
New Forest (JRu)

**No of 2009 records:** 12

**No of tetrads in 2009:** 5

**Latest:** 8 August 2009  
Southampton (PRid, MSw)

**No of post 2000 tetrads:** 36

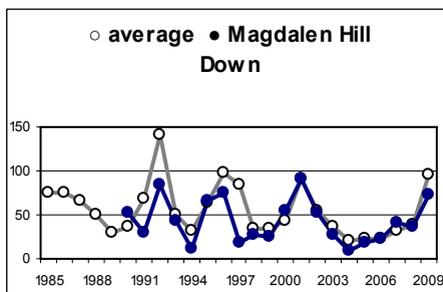
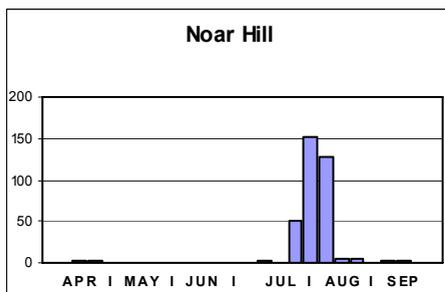
Twelve records of 18 individuals were received in 2009. All were from the Isle of Wight (ten sightings of 16 individuals) and south Hampshire (three sightings of two individuals). Intriguingly, the Isle of Wight records were mainly concentrated around the Woodhouse Copse area and included a report of five individuals on 19 March (JR).

**Status:** BC Low Priority**Earliest:** 21 February 2009  
Wheeler's Bay, IoW (AB)**No of 2009 records:** 2816**No of tetrads in 2009:** 405**No of post 2000 tetrads:** 821**Latest:** 28 November 2009  
Lasham (SMA)

Peacock numbers were generally higher this year in comparison with 2008, with 74% of transects showing an increase of more than 20%. On some sites numbers seem to have been very high, with AW commenting on recording 100 at Oxenbourne Down, that "in all my years of butterflying I've never experienced so many in one area". RCB also considered that it was a "very good season for the Peacock" and that the "number of records was the best since 1990". ABo saw "a three fold increase in the (transect) Annual Index to 66 over 2008". Not everyone agreed, with DAB stating that at Brading the Peacock had "not the best of years but picked up in August".

The highest counts of adults were 151 at Noar Hill transect 2 August (AMJ) and 150 at Browndown North 19 June (ACM & DJAT)

This butterfly overwinters as an adult and is often disturbed during the winter months. This means that the first and last sightings do not represent the true flight periods. In 2007 and 2008, the Peacock was recorded in every month, but in 2009 there were no records in January or December which might reflect the spells of cold weather at the beginning and the end of 2009. Peak flight periods were at the end of April and late July to mid August.

**Status:** BC Low Priority**Earliest:** 21 February 2009  
Courtmoor (PM)  
Littleton (AHa)**No of 2009 records:** 2316**No of tetrads in 2009:** 369**No of post 2000 tetrads:** 717**Latest:** 19 November 2009  
Axmansford (ABo)

The fortunes of the Comma continued to improve in 2009. Annual transect counts were up by more than 20% at 28 monitored sites, more or less unchanged at 12 and down by more than 20% at only 6. Annual index counts reached 10 year highs with 96 at Noar Hill and 150 at Pamber Forest. The annual count of 51 at The Gillies, Fareham was the best since 2003, with single counts peaking here at 11 in mid-July, whereas

the 27 recorded at Bentley Station Meadow over the year showed a more modest increase of just one over 2008.

In east Hampshire, MSL commented on an excellent year and CRH recorded good numbers from several sites in the north of the county. It was numerous in summer at Ashford Hill (ABo) and had a good season on the Gosport coast (DJAT). The annual count at Whippingham Fields on the Isle of Wight was the second best ever, and it also did well at Woodhouse Copse (JR). RKL however, reported an indifferent season at Botley Wood. AW saw several *hutchinsoni* form individuals at Straits Inclosure on 30 June and an aberration with some of the dark patches on its forewing missing at West Walk. MRO reported an unidentifiable acute aberration from Straits Inclosure on 15 July, and a pristine ab. *suffusa* at Broxhead Common, Bordon on 20 June.

The season's first records came from Courtmoor (PM) and Littleton (AH) on 21 February. The Comma was regularly sighted thereafter with the best spring count of 20 coming from Gosport on 1 April (DJAT). The best counts from the summer brood were of 24 at Longparish Mill on 27 June (JSo). Records continued through the summer and autumn with the last Isle of Wight sighting from Woodhouse Copse on 10 October (JR) and the final Hampshire record on 19 November at Smithley's Copse, Axmansford (ABo).

#### Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary *Boloria selene*

Linda Barker

**Status:** BC High Priority

**Earliest:** 20 May 2009

Bentley Wood, Eastern Clearing  
(TBe, MRT)

**No of 2009 records:** 87

**No of tetrads in 2009:** 8

**No of post 2000 tetrads:** 20

**Latest:** 29 August 2009

The Commons, Roydon (RC)

The first Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary was first seen on 16 May at Bentley Wood, just over the border in Wiltshire. Then on 20 May the butterfly was seen on the Hampshire side in Eastern Clearing, where MRT saw six and TBe two. In total, records were received from four sites in Hampshire and one on the Isle of Wight.

16 records were received from Bentley Wood, Eastern Clearing. Numbers increased quickly to 32 on 24 May and 32 on 25 May (both JVe) and reached a peak at the end of this month with 50 on 30 May (AMC) and 59 on 31 May (RHu). These figures compare well with 2008 where the peak number recorded was 30. Transect data for Eastern Clearing supports these findings with an Annual Index of 87 in 2009 which compares favourably with 78 in 2008 and 51 in 2007.

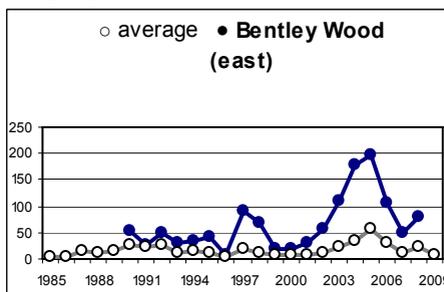
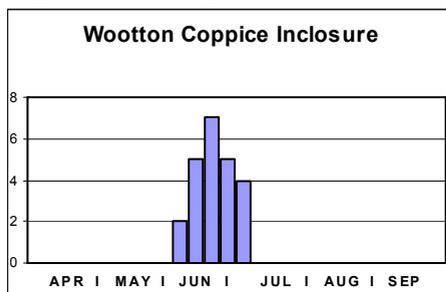
The species did not fare so well at Roydon Common where transect data shows that the Annual Index declined from 18 in 2008 to 10 in 2009. This is disappointing as, after a couple of poor years, the 2008 Annual Index looked promising. Four other records were received from here. AW recorded a count of 22 on 14 June but the other records were 10 or less, all far short of the peak counts of 37 and 34 in 2008.

Numbers at Holmsley showed signs of improvement: ML made 12 visits with peak counts of 12 on 15 June and 13 on 27 June, comparing well with a maximum of eight in 2008, but far from the 2005 and 2006 figures of 43 and 41 respectively. All other counts were five or less.

28 records were received from Wootton Inclosure, compared to two in 2005 when the species was first recorded at this site. It is interesting to compare 2005, when the peak counts were three at Wootton Inclosure and 43 at Homsley, with 2009 when the peak count for Wootton Inclosure was 22 on 15 June (ML) and that for Homsley was 13 on 27 June (ML). Five counts of between 10 and 20 were recorded (ML). Two individuals were also recorded by ML in nearby Brownhills Inclosure on 11 June.

Numbers on the Isle of Wight at Cranmore are encouraging and CF made 15 visits with a peak count of 12 on 23 June (CF). 10 were recorded on 7 June by Brian Ransom and 10 on 14 June by CF and DLHM. Previous peak counts were seven in 2008 and 10 in 2007.

Two second brood individuals were recorded this year, one in Cranmore on 18 August (CF) and one at Roydon Common on 29 August (RC).



**Pearl-bordered Fritillary *Boloria euphrosyne* Andy Barker**

**Status:** BC High Priority

**Earliest:** 21 April 2009  
New Forest (JRu)

**No of 2009 records:** 78

**No of tetrads in 2009:** 13

**Latest:** 2 June 2009  
near Stockbridge (GR)

**No of post 2000 tetrads:** 27

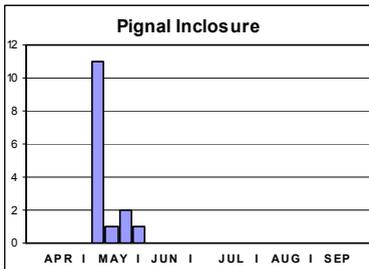
A warm and sunny March followed by an equally good April aided larval development and produced an early emergence for the species. The first of the year was a singleton on 21 April in the New Forest (JRu). Other sites produced records over the next few days, resulting in six Hampshire sites having the butterfly on the wing in April.

In the New Forest, numbers were good but not great in the Brockenhurst area, with no clearly defined peak. The highest count was 52 on 16 May at New Copse Inclosure (ACM), but other noteworthy counts include 47 on 22 May at Ramnor Inclosure (AW), and 28 on 10 May at Parkhill Inclosure. Although some rides in the core area are becoming overgrown (AW), there is no doubt that ongoing management by the Forestry Commission is benefiting this species. Newly opened areas should offer ideal habitat over the coming years.

Away from the Brockenhurst area, several Pearl-bordered Fritillaries were seen in Wootton Coppice Inclosure, with a maximum of five on 12 May (MLe). The presence of one on 22 May in a private woodland near Exbury (AW), and an unconfirmed report of four on 21 May near Buckler's Hard (IB) suggests that the species may be dispersing and re-colonising former sites.

Outside the New Forest, the "Tytherley Woods" area of central-west Hampshire and straddling the Wiltshire border produced good counts at all the main sites. It is particularly encouraging that 39 were seen on 11 May in actively managed hazel coppice on a private estate near Stockbridge (KD). This is the best tally here for several years, and is testament to the benefits of ongoing management and advice. At Bentley Wood, following a dip in 2008, numbers improved in 2009, with a peak of 20 on 10 May (PRo), and the transect annual index doubling. Finally, after many years without data, the restricted access woodlands of Isle of Wight Hill, Porton Down, were the subject of a major survey. As well as supporting exceptionally high numbers of Duke of Burgundy, the spectacular areas of Dog Violet and Primrose produced a Pearl-bordered Fritillary tally of 29 (nine in Hants) on 16 May (DH and others).

Following grave concerns about the status of the species on the Isle of Wight, it is with some relief that we can report a continued presence in Parkhurst Forest during 2009. Even so, this tiny population hangs on by a thread, with a spread of records from 1 May (RSc) to 25 May (JR). Most counts were of five or less, but the peak was 10 on 8 May (JR).



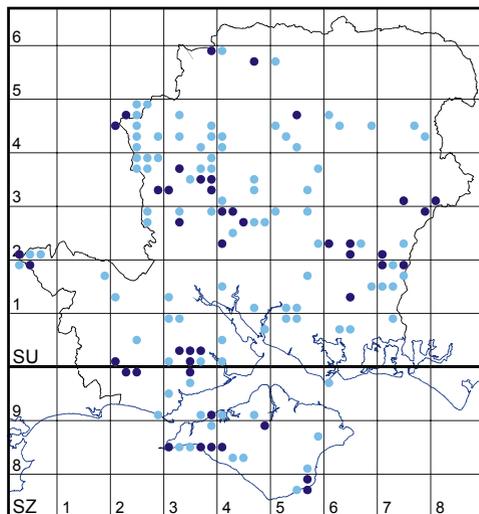
**Dark Green Fritillary *Argynnis aglaja* Tim Bernhard**

**Status:** BC Low Priority

**No of 2009 records:** 240  
**No of tetrads in 2009:** 44  
**No of post 2000 tetrads:** 138

**Earliest:** 14 June 2009  
 Hatchet Moor (AW)

**Latest:** 29 August 2009  
 Martin Down NNR (PTow)



This spectacular butterfly continues to struggle in many parts of our area and the poor weather during July no doubt had a serious effect on numbers of this species. However

the Dark Green Fritillary enjoyed a relatively long flight period, being on the wing from the middle of June until the end of August.

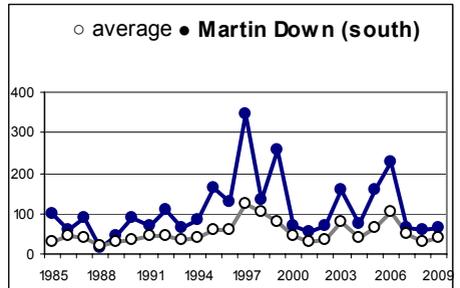
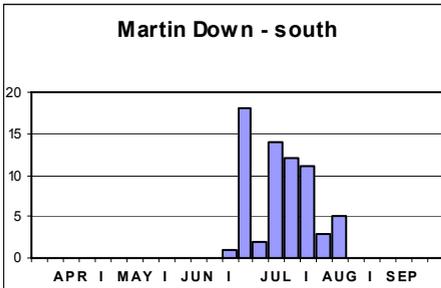
Some of the best sites for this species in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight are on the calcareous downlands such as at Martin Down NNR, and here the butterfly had rather a successful year. The annual index for Martin Down NNR (North) showed a significant increase from 73 in 2008 to 218 in 2009 but in other parts of the county such as at The Mountain, in the Meon Valley, there was an alarming decrease from a healthy 123 in 2008 to only 25 in 2009.

The first butterflies of the year were recorded from Hatchet Moor when two males were seen flying over bracken stands on 14 June (AW). A good count of 18 was also made by AW at near-by Hawkhill Inclosure on 12 July. However at Oxenbourne Down, AW did not find any sign of them despite several visits and it was only on 8 August that two were seen.

Elsewhere in Hampshire, numbers remained fairly low throughout July with the highest numbers of 14 seen at Beaulieu Heath on 4 July (A&LB), and 15 at The Mountain on the same day (AW). A handful of records from elsewhere indicated a rather poor year for this species. Most sites had counts of less than five individuals with the best being seven at Beacon Hill (Farley Mount) on 2 July (TBe), nine at Stockbridge Down on 12 July (PE) and 15 at Pitt Down on 9 July (AW). A more impressive count of 20 Dark Green Fritillaries was made by DAB at Brook Down on the Isle of Wight in 24 July. At Martin Down NNR (North Transect), LS recorded good numbers on 1 and 9 July, with a further high count of 34 on 16 July, which was probably the peak flight period.

There was a slight improvement in the weather through August but the butterfly lingered on in very low numbers at all sites, the best being of three recorded north of Shipton Bellinger on 7 August (MFW). The butterfly was pretty much over by 29 August with a single example recorded by PTow at Martin Down NNR.

Overall another fairly poor year for this lovely butterfly with four transects showing a decline of 20% or more, five transects appeared to show no change and only two of the 78 transects showed an increase of 20% or more.



**Status:** BC Low Priority**Earliest:** 8 June 2009  
Sims Wood (THo)**No of 2009 records:** 1044**No of tetrads in 2009:** 176**No of post 2000 tetrads:** 342**Latest:** 12 September 2009  
Itchen Valley County Park (SSt)

2009 was an improved year at many sites for the Silver-washed Fritillary, with several new localities noted. It will be remembered as a good year for aberrations and for form *valezina*. The first adults were early, one on 8 June at Sims Wood (THo), followed by several records from mid-June, with numbers starting to build from the last week in June. The highest count of 118 was reached at Pamber Forest transect routes on 17 July (GJD), where the butterflies were observed from 17 June to 1 September and “11 aberrations were seen. On 1st July ab. *confluens* was seen...another on 22 July...an outstanding year easily the best on record with an [Annual] Index of an astonishing 639” (GJD). Other high counts include 60 in Alice Holt, Straits Inclosure on 10 July (AW) and Mottisfont on 8 August (CM). In the New Forest, 48 were recorded at Wootton Coppice Inclosure on 5 July (PDB) and 9 July (GP). There were 21 transects reporting a greater than 20% increase from 2008, compared with only four with a decrease greater than 20%, and six remaining static.

The following comments regarding Alice Holt are of particular note: “Best year in Straits Inclosure, Alice Holt, since at least 1995, possibly as far back as 1987. Unusually numerous throughout the rest of Alice Holt too. In Straits Inclosure, I saw five ab. *ocellata*, one female ab. *confluens*, and one female with hind wings form *valezina* and type forewings, and saw another ab. *ocellata* in Goose Green Inclosure. I heard of several others in Alice Holt. Were these variations produced by the cool weather of 7th–12th June, when many would have been pupating, or hot weather in late May/early June?” (MRO). A probable ab. *nigricans* was photographed on 5 July at Straits Inclosure (RKL).



Silver-washed Fritillary ab *ocellata*, Straits Inclosure, 15 July 2010 (Matthew Oates)



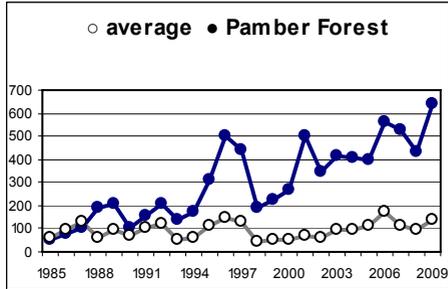
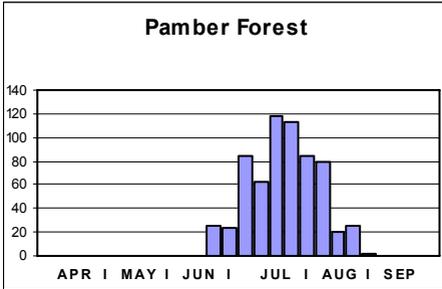
Silver-washed Fritillary *ab confluens*, Straits Inclosure, 15 July 2010 (Matthew Oates)



Silver-washed Fritillary *ab confluens*, Pamber Forest, 2 July 2010 (Peter Eeles)

In addition to aberrations, form *valezina* was not uncommon in some sites, nine in Pamber Forest (GJD), three in Wootton Coppice Inclosure, one making a timely appearance at the end of the Branch Field Trip on 12 July, and four at Stockbridge Down on 25 July (PDB & GP).

Numbers were good from late June and throughout July, but after 9 August they rarely reached double figures, with few later records, the last being on 12 September.



**Marsh Fritillary *Euphydryas aurinia* Mike Gibbons**

**Status:** BC High Priority

**Earliest:** 2 May 2009  
Botley Wood (EJB)  
Martin Down NNR (RMA)

**No of 2009 records:** 33  
**No of tetrads in 2009:** 5  
**No of post 2000 tetrads:** 24

**Latest:** 16 June 2009  
Bentley Wood, Eastern  
Clearing (TBe)

The fortunes of the Marsh Fritillary remain precarious, its Hampshire status given somewhat false hope by an unauthorised re-introduction in Botley Wood during 2008. Elsewhere, numbers were generally very low. Despite the changeable spring weather, emergence was early with singles at Botley Wood (EJB) and at Martin Down (RMA) on 2 May.

It is very difficult to assess the true status of the Botley Wood colony. Numbers were very low even though emergence was early. There were only five adults noted on both 24 May (MRB, RKL) and 30 May (MRB), with numbers then tailing off. Subsequently no pairing or mating behaviour was observed and no larval webs were located. During the winter of 2008/2009 RKL found larval webs full of desiccated caterpillars. There are several meadows in and around Botley Wood which are better suited to the Marsh Fritillary than this location, and it is hoped it could spread to these sites over time if it is to survive in the longer term (AW).

At Martin Down just three larval webs were found on 19 April (PDB) with adults building to a peak of 10 on 24 May (MJG). May did end with temperatures over 25°C which could help this butterfly immensely in egg laying. Encouraging news came from a part of Vice County 12 of 15 adults seen on 29 May just into Wiltshire (JRM). This could indicate a healthy colony bordering into Hampshire and further exploration of this area could prove fruitful.

There were few records from the Eastern Clearing at Bentley Wood, probably due to very few areas of Devils-bit Scabious in this part of the wood (AW). On 30 May there were two adults seen (ACM), with the final sighting there on 16 June (TBe).

**Status:** BC High Priority**Earliest:** 25 April 2009  
Whealers Bay, loW (AB)**No of 2009 records:** 95**No of tetrads in 2009:** 21**Latest:** 27 June 2009  
Whealers Bay, loW (AB)**No of post 2000 tetrads:** 36

After the dramatic slump in webs and larvae noted at the Island sites in 2008 it would be thought that the butterfly would take some time to recover from the perilously low numbers. This, in fact, did not happen as the 2009 web count returned average to above average figures. At some sites numbers were well above average, for example at Binnel there was a total of 213 webs and 6682 larvae, which is quite astonishing.

The survival rate of the larvae at most sites must have been quite high as good numbers of adults were seen by many observers. The colony at Wheelers Bay peaked at 60 on 9 May (A&EB, IP) and there were also a number of records from the Carisbrooke Castle and Mount Joy area with a best day count of 40 near the Castle on 24 May (MH), a number indicative of a fairly large population. At Compton, 45 were seen on 24 May (MRO) and a further 20 at Shalcombe Down on the same day (PM). The next day 45 were recorded in Shippards Chine car park (MRO) and three in Alum Bay Chine on 29 May (A&LB); this latter site has rarely figured in the records. There were 10 logged at Whitecliff Bay on 2 June (SW), the first recorded at this location for many years, which may indicate a colony that has been overlooked for a long time or, of course, a release, but it may also be a result of colonisation from Red Cliff which is only a mile or so away from where nine adults were seen on 24 May (DAB). The butterfly was again noted at Whippingham but only in low numbers; this colony has survived since 2001 (JR). The Mottistone Down transect returned reasonable numbers and it should be noted that this Glanville site is the only one on the Island that is part of a managed site (NT). The counts of adults that took place at most of the usual locations indicate a fairly successful year and, as already stated, a remarkable recovery from the low numbers of 2008. The web counts in 2010 should be interesting as the past winter has been exceptionally unusual: very cold and very wet.

On the mainland it seems obvious that the colony at Hordle is now extinct but it is still worth checking the site as Glanvilles have a tendency to suddenly reappear when thought to be lost. It would also be interesting for someone to look at this area and try to understand why the butterfly vanished; the reason would probably be to do with the presence or lack of the larval food plant, Ribwort Plantain.

The recently established population at Hurst would appear to be diminishing rather more quickly than expected but basing that assumption on only one year's figures is probably not very wise. The only record of webs and larvae sent in was on 20 March with five webs and a total of about 150 larvae (TB). The first adults were seen on 10 May with a total of four (MJG & GP). Single figure numbers were seen throughout May by many observers plus a best day count of 11 on 29 May (DH), and the last at this site were seven on 4 June (PB). After this last winter it is possible that 2010 will be a crucial year for this butterfly at what is really only a satellite site and therefore one that would tend to be ephemeral.

**Status:** BC High Priority

**Earliest:** 21 March 2009

**No of 2009 records:** 5628

Gosport (DJAT)

**No of tetrads in 2009:** 451

Woodhouse Copse, IoW (JR)

**No of post 2000 tetrads:** 854

**Latest:** 19 November 2009

Gosport (DJAT)



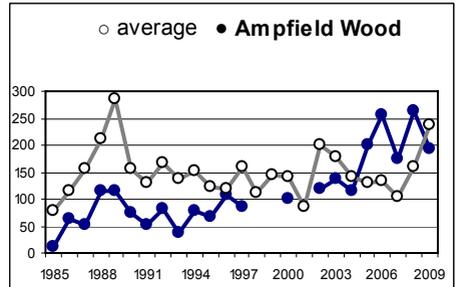
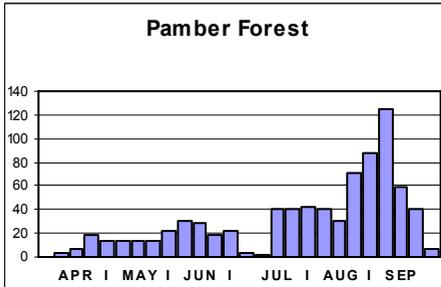
Female Speckled Wood, Crab Wood, 14 August 2009 (Tim Bernhard)

This species did even better this year than last. Of the transect monitored sites where this butterfly occurs, 38 (over 70%) showed an increase in numbers of 20% or more, and at only two sites (less than 4%) was a decrease in numbers recorded. On the remaining sites, nearly 26%, no significant change was recorded.

This upward trend in numbers since the poor year in 2007 is evident from the Annual Indices of a number of transect monitored sites. At Pamber Forest, for example, the Index rose from its lowest point for eight years of 223 in 2007, to 477 in 2008 and 796 in 2009, and similarly at Brading Quarries, IoW it rose from 163 in 2007 to 209 in 2008 and 276 in 2009. It is tempting to speculate whether this upward movement may herald a climb back up to the high numbers seen in 1989 (illustrated in the average Annual Indices graph below), or whether its appearance on only one more transect in 2009 than in 2008 is a more accurate long-term indicator.

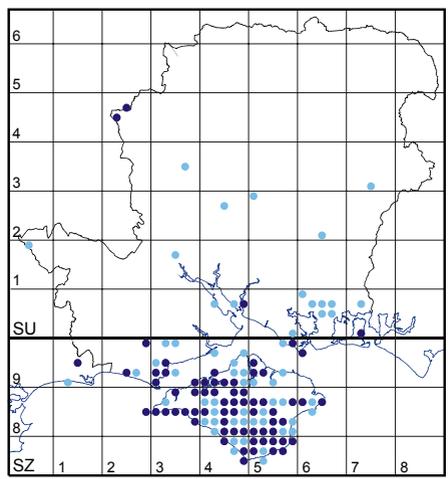
This multi-brooded species was seen through from March until November with several clear peak counts being recorded at different times. Peak counts of 124 were recorded at Pamber Forest on 5 September (JR), 100 at Bentley Wood on 31 May (RHu), and 72 at Ann's Hill Cemetery in Gosport on 18 July (DJAT). On the Isle of Wight, at Whippingham Woodhouse Copse, JR reported peaks of 25 (20 April), 44 (21 June), 34 (19 July) and 17 (19 September), suggesting four broods in 2009. The latest sighting on the Isle of Wight was of one adult on 29 October at Cranmore (CF).

Everyone who sent in observations with their records reported a very good year for the Speckled Wood. It was seen on transect at Brading Quarries, IoW, every week during the transect period. At Botley Wood RKL saw it on 24 of the 25 transects carried out, more than any other species recorded on the transect; at Pamber Forest it was “the second best year for this species, only 2002 being better” (GD); ABo commented that numbers seen on the Ashford Hill Woods and Meadows transect “continue to go through the roof”.



**Wall Brown *Lasiommata megera* Pete Durnell**

**Status:** BC High Priority  
**No of 2009 records:** 265  
**No of tetrads in 2009:** 68  
**No of post 2000 tetrads:** 126  
**Earliest:** 20 April 2009  
 Yarmouth, IoW (RWi)  
**Latest:** 18 October 2009  
 Afton Down, IoW (SAK-J)



On the mainland a modest recovery was detected with records from four locations away from the species’ south-western stronghold. At Fort Gilkicker DJAT had eight sightings of at least four different males between 8 and 19 August and also a 3rd brood male on 1 October. Perhaps more dramatic were the first sightings for many years from Hayling Island and Warsash with singles at Mill Rythe on 16 August (TCa) and Bunny Meadows on 22 August. This is believed to be the first record on the reserve for at least twenty years (RKL). Two intriguing reports from Shipton Bellinger of individuals on 16 August (PG) and 22 August (PDB) indicate the species has not been completely lost from the chalk in Hampshire. It would be interesting to know if this spate of records is down to increased observer effort following the species nadir in 2008, or whether a tentative recovery is underway.

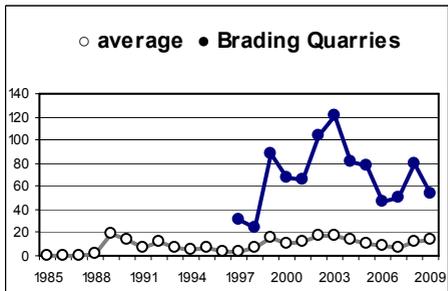
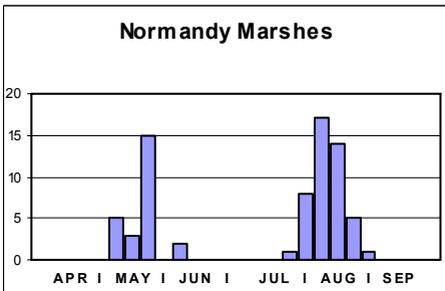
On the Isle of Wight, the species seems to have had a disappointing year with Whippingham Fields having ‘the worst year ever’ (JR) and with records ‘down at most

sites' (DAB). Transect data from the two counties showed a decrease at three sites and an increase at two, with a further site showing no change. The annual index for the Normandy Marsh transect at Lymington rose from 45 in 2008 to 65 in 2009 (MW,PRD), confirming the importance of this site for Wall Brown on the mainland. At Brading Quarries, loW, the annual index was 60 with peak counts of seven on 5 and 12 August (DAB).

The first sighting of the year was on 20 April at Norton Dunes, Yarmouth (RWi) with the first mainland record at Keyhaven on 6 May (PDB). The first brood reached a peak of 15 at Normandy on 23 May with the last at Cowleaze Chine on 1 July (JMC).

The second brood started on the island with an individual at Hale Common on 16 July (DLHM). On the mainland it got underway with two individuals at Pennington Marsh on 24 July (AT) with a peak of 14 on the Normandy transect on 13 August. The final second brood sighting was made at Shalcombe Down on 23 August (IP).

The third brood first appeared at Monks Bay on 22 September (RWi). On the mainland there were records from Pennington Marsh on 24 September (SKe) and from Keyhaven Marsh on 12 October (JRJ), with the last record from the two counties on 18 October from Afton Down (SAK-J).



**Marbled White *Melanargia galathea* Alison Harper**

**Status:** BC Low Priority

**Earliest:** 4 June 2009  
Magdalen Hill Down (PAB)

**No of 2009 records:** 1470

**No of tetrads in 2009:** 228

**Latest:** 8 September 2009  
Staunton County Park (AMas)

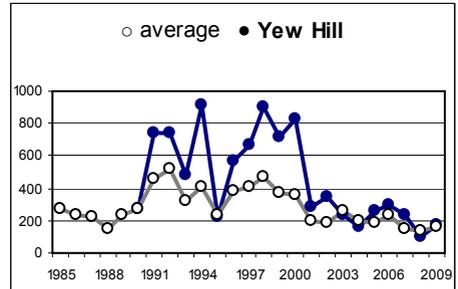
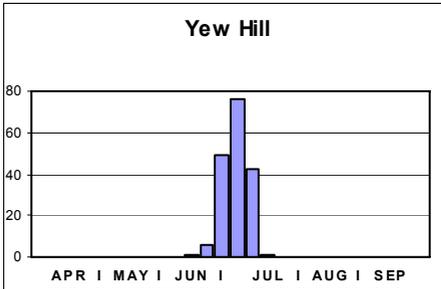
**No of post 2000 tetrads:** 577

Overall, The Marbled White fared better this year than in 2008 although its fortunes were still mixed. On transect monitored sites where it occurs, 31 sites showed an increase of 20% or more (the same number of sites which in 2008 showed a decrease of 20% or more!), while at only nine sites was a decrease of 20% or more recorded in 2009. There was no significant change at the remaining 13 sites.

The Annual Indices from a range of transect monitored sites show increases over 2008, but when compared with 2006 and earlier the picture is less favourable. At Noar Hill for example the Index for 2009 (241) is higher than for 2008 (204) or 2007 (138) but lower than all but one of the preceding years since 2000, and well below the 10-year high of 406 in 2006. The graph showing the average of a number of Annual Indices at a range of sites indicates that counts were generally higher in the early part of this century.

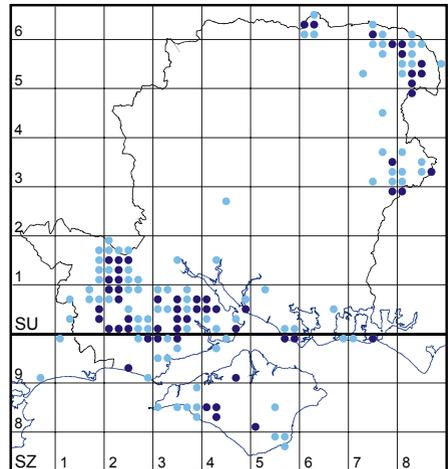
The flight period was longer than last year, starting a few days earlier and finishing nine days later than in 2009. The highest daily counts were recorded at Whippingham Fields loW, where 676 and 621 individuals were seen on 2 July and 27 June respectively (JR). 17 Other peak daily counts of 100 or over were recorded, including 152 at Pilot Hill on 3 July (MG), 150 at Carisbrooke Castle loW on 21 June (Mhal) and 134 at Magdalen Hill Down Extension on 1 July (RWh). Numbers fell swiftly after the first half of July, perhaps because of a long spell of bad weather, and the last double-figure count was recorded at Whippingham Fields on 25 July (JR).

Recorders were not in complete agreement about the butterfly's fortunes in 2009. RKL found Botley Wood had had the best year since 2006 but "was still rather disappointing"; there was a big reduction (65%) over 2008 at Ashford Hill (ABo); "at St Catherine's Hill numbers better than the last few years but not that good" (CP) and, more positively, that on Bramshott Common it "continues to expand its breeding range and population. Record numbers were seen".



**Grayling *Hipparchia semele* Paul Brock**

**Status:** BC High Priority  
**No of 2009 records:** 140  
**No of tetrads in 2009:** 56  
**No of post 2000 tetrads:** 149  
**Earliest:** 26 June 2009  
 Browndown (JWil)  
**Latest:** 29 September 2009  
 Church Moor (PDB)



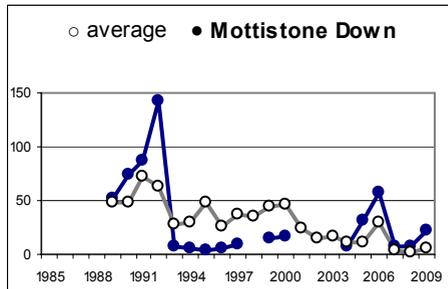
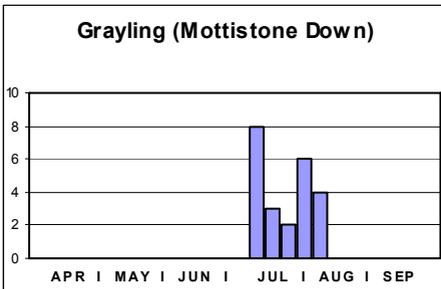
2009 was a much improved year for the Grayling, most observers commenting how widespread they were, with several new localities noted during the year.

The first adults were about on schedule in late June, with several early sightings at Browndown and Eelmoor; they were slightly later in parts of the New Forest. The highest count of 110 came from Eelmoor on 5 August, with another 40 at North

Eelmoor (CRH). 81 from Browdown South on 20 July (DJAT) is also notable; this site had good numbers from mid-July to the first week in August. The heaths near to Fleet are 'Grayling country, especially since the clearances of tracts of secondary woodland' (CRH). These did not disappoint during 2009, along with parts of the New Forest. The butterfly was also found at several sites on the Isle of Wight, with small numbers on the transect at Mottistone Down and transects elsewhere in the county, with two sites showing a greater than 20% increase in numbers compared with 2008, and two remaining static.

Thirty counts in double figures (mainly in July and August) is a vast improvement on the last two year's numbers. In the New Forest, the species still thrives at Badminton Common, with 30 seen on a brief search on 20 July (PDB & GHo), with potentially large numbers in the vicinity, a former transect site. However, habitat changes have had an impact elsewhere: cutting of the vegetation during peak season at Barton Common contributed to a lack of Grayling sightings in 2008, but one returned in 2009 (GP, on 13 July and 20 August). Sandy Point, Hayling Island, a former main site for the species has been affected by 'constant grazing...has all but wiped the site clear of bell and ling heather, with associated grasses', with only one butterfly seen on 21 August (AW).

Although still recorded from various localities, counts fell after mid-August; the butterfly was still occasionally seen in the New Forest in September, the last at Church Moor.



**Gatekeeper *Pyronia tithonus* Brian Fletcher**

**Status:** BC Low Priority

**Earliest:** 14 June 2009  
The Gillies (GBr)

**No of 2009 records:** 3155

**No of tetrads in 2009:** 352

**Latest:** 15 September 2008  
Culver Down, IoW (JMC)

**No of post 2000 tetrads:** 895

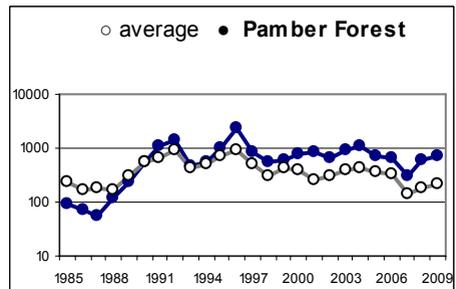
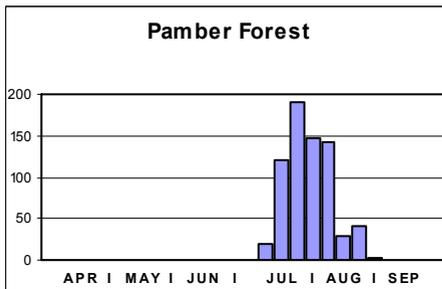
The improvement noted in 2008 has continued, but the abundance of this species is still below the high levels of 2000-2006, which in turn were below the levels encountered in the 1990s. The improvement was not uniform across the area. Thus whilst Whippingham Fields had the highest count for four years, the count at the nearby Woodhouse Copse was one of the worst counts ever, with numbers under half of the 11 year average (both JR). In the north-east of Hampshire the species showed a "strong recovery" and "good numbers were a feature of the heathlands" (CRH), whilst at Ashford Hill in the north the numbers showed "an upward trend" (ABo) and at Brading it had "an excellent year" (DAB). However observers were surprised that numbers fell by 27% in 2009 at Bramshott (ACG) and that the species had a mediocre year at Botley Wood (RKL). The uneven performance is confirmed by the figures from the transects.

Just over half of the 67 transects on which the Gatekeeper was recorded showed an increase of greater than 20%, but a significant number of transects (11 in all) recorded a decrease of 20% or more.

The peak numbers seen in 2009 were slightly greater than those recorded in 2008. 22 counts of a hundred or more were submitted in 2009 compared to 18 in the previous year, and of these nine were counts of over 200. The highest count of all was of 607 Gatekeepers seen at Whippingham Fields, IoW on 20 July. Another four counts of 200 were recorded near Newtown, IoW on 30 July and 8 August (MHaI). On the mainland the highest counts were of 217 at Southampton Old Cemetery on 25 July (JVe), 203 at Bartley Heath on the same date (JHu) and two of 200 at Barton Common on 31 July and 2 August (PDB).

The season started a little later than in 2008, and the first sighting on the Isle of Wight was on 27 June (MHaI), thirteen days later than on the mainland. Numbers built up rapidly, with the first count of more than 50 being the 56 seen at Wildgrounds LNR, Gosport on 3 July (FRP). The century counts were all seen between 14 July and 17 August. But by the end of August the sightings were in single figures. The last Gatekeeper seen on the mainland was at Fawley Inclosure, New Forest, on 12 September (PDB & PAB). None were reported after this date apart from the very last sighting. Overall the species had a flight season of a similar length to that of 2008 but was approximately one week later both starting and finishing.

There was just one aberration reported. This was the form *subalbida* Verity where the normal bright orange areas of the wings have been replaced by cream-white. This was seen at Pamber Forest on 8 August (GD).



**Meadow Brown *Maniola jurtina* Susan Clarke**

**Status:** BC Low Priority

**Earliest:** 29 May 2009  
Shirley Holms (GP)  
Winnall Moors (GR)  
Whippingham, IoW (JR)

**No of 2009 records:** 6841  
**No of tetrads in 2009:** 447  
**No of post 2000 tetrads:** 953

**Latest:** 23 October 2009  
Afton Down, IoW (SAK-J)

Although the Meadow Brown is a common butterfly found on all suitable grassland it is a fascinating species, with many unanswered questions about its use of habitat and its long flight period.

2009 seems to have been a very average year in terms of Meadow Brown numbers and once again there is an amazingly even spread of increases, losses and “no

change” on transect sites compared with the previous year. RCB gave a good summary stating that this is a “species that is fairly consistent from year to year and so it proved in 2009”.

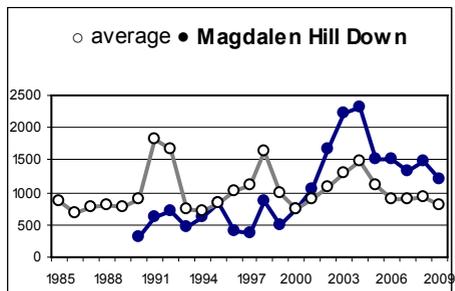
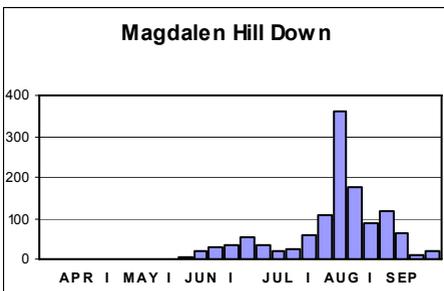
RKL felt that this was an excellent year for this species and “the transect index was the best on record and more than double that of last year”. GD said that this was the best year on record for Meadow Brown at Pamber Forest, but CP stated that at St Catherine’s Hill “numbers were well down on the last few years”.

An interesting comment was made by JR on the Meadow Brown at Whippingham Fields that “the species was affected by the wet and windy weather in August and by haymaking”. Recent research in Belgium has been examining how this species is forced to change its movements and nectaring behaviour as a result of haymaking.

High counts for this butterfly are always very much estimates and many recorders do not attempt to record numbers, but a count of 413 adults was given for Eelmoor on 29 July (CRH) and 362 on the transect at Magdalen Hill Down on 16 August (A&LB). The peak flight period, as shown by the number of records received in each week, was the end of June to mid-July.



Meadow Brown, Shipton Bellinger, 22 August 2009 (Chris Button)



**Status:** BC High Priority

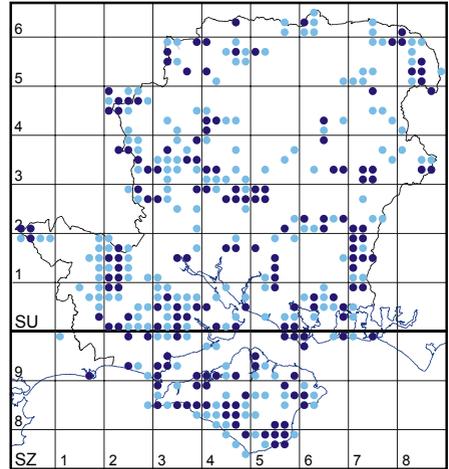
**No of 2009 records:** 1834

**No of tetrads in 2009:** 170

**No of post 2000 tetrads:** 376

**Earliest:** 26 April 2009  
The Mountain (AW)

**Latest:** 25 October 2009  
Newtown, IoW (JMC)



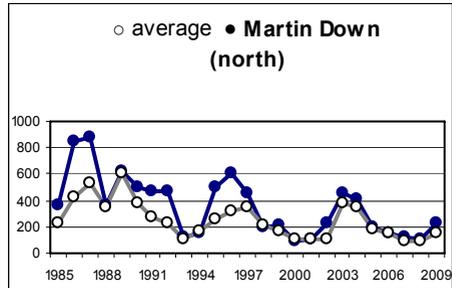
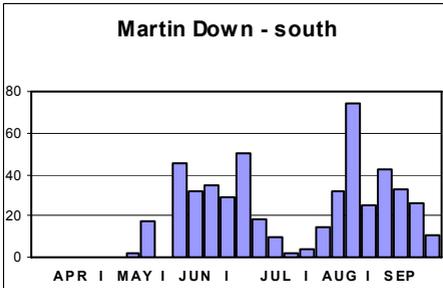
After a lengthy decline which started in 2003, numbers of Small Heath are beginning to show a slow recovery. Of 30 transects on which this butterfly is recorded, 15 showed an increase of 20% or more, but sadly nine transects showed a decline of a similar amount.

Good numbers of Small Heaths were seen on a range of chalk grassland sites such as Butser Hill, Noar Hill, Old Winchester Hill and Oxenbourne Down on the mainland (MSh and AW), with Bonchurch Down and Brading Down on the Isle of Wight also providing good numbers (AW). In contrast, the Small Heath struggled at Eelmoor (CRH), and "was disappointing considering the favourable weather" at Whippingham Fields (JR), though the timing of hay cutting may well be a factor here.

The first mainland sighting was of six butterflies on 26 April (AW), but the first sightings on the Isle of Wight came a week later on 3 May when the species was seen on three separate sites: Afton Down (SAK-J), Bonchurch (DAB) and Limerstone Down near Shorwell (Mark Hallett). There were 36 counts of 20 or more in 2009 compared to 27 in 2008. The best count of all was of 100 at Tidworth Ranges on 29 May (JRM) with the second highest being 73 at Butser Hill on 19 May (MSw). The best count of the first brood on the Isle of Wight was 37 at Compton Down on 29 May (A&LB). In all there were 15 counts of 20+ in May. During June and July only two big counts were reported, 25 on 15 June at Osborne, IoW (MHa), and 32 at Beaulieu Heath on 4 July (A&LB). Numbers built up in August as the second brood emerged.

On the Martin Down, south transect, 140 were counted on 19 August (LS) and at Pilot Hill, 46 on 27 August (MG). There were 12 non-transect counts of 20+ in August and two in September, the highest being 50 seen at Old Winchester Hill NNR on 13 and 17 August (AW) and 19 August (BPF). The last of the big counts was also at Old Winchester Hill on 12 September when 29 Small Heaths were seen (AW). The flight season ended on the mainland a little over a fortnight later when four butterflies were seen at Burbush Hill and Church Moor in the New Forest (PDB). No other sightings were made after this apart from the very last one on the Isle of Wight, giving a flight season about the same length and time as last year.

This year an aberrant form of the Small Heath was seen at Old Winchester Hill NNR on 13 August (AW). It was the form with a row of strongly marked brownish-red spots on the underside of the hindwings, each of which contains a white pupil, known as ab. *ocellata* (Tutt).



**Ringlet *Aphantopus hyperantus* Paul Brock**

**Status:** BC Low Priority

**Earliest:** 6 June 2009  
The Holt (S&PL)

**No of 2009 records:** 1832

**No of tetrads in 2009:** 229

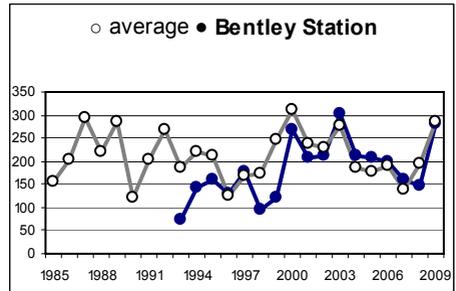
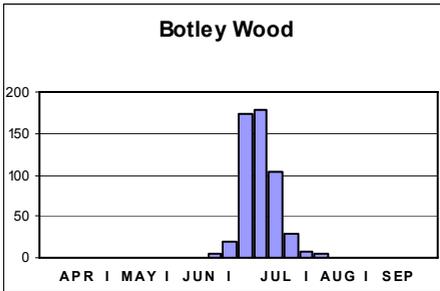
**Latest:** 28 August 2009  
Itchen Valley Country Park (RTho)

**No of post 2000 tetrads:** 563

2009 was an improved year for the Ringlet, with some observers commenting on unusually high numbers. This is reflected in transect data; there were 35 transects reporting a greater than 20% increase over 2008, compared with only nine with a decrease of greater than 20%, and 11 remaining static. Several new sites were reported.

The first adult was seen on 6 June, followed quickly by several other single counts from 11 June, with numbers starting to pick up from 21 June. The highest count of 201 came from Ashurst Hill on 2 July (ABo), followed by 140 from Combe Wood on 9 July (MG & MFW). There were a notable 19 counts of 100+ butterflies from 16 sites, all between 28 June and 10 July, including major woodland sites such as Alice Holt Forest, Bentley Wood and Pamber Forest. Numbers were good in parts of the New Forest, with the highest count of 80 on 9 July (GP). ACG reports from Bramshott Common 'another exceptionally good year for Ringlets (the best in nineteen years records). Numbers were over 50% up on those of last year. They, too, have benefited enormously from the clearance work undertaken on the site. They emerged a few days earlier than last year and numbers peaked on 3 July at 126 individuals'. Other transect comments include 'best numbers for three years' at Pamber Forest (GD). Generally, the map for 2009 shows many more records for the New Forest and Isle of Wight, in particular, compared with 2008.

Although still recorded from various localities, counts fell after 29 July, with either singles or up to five specimens throughout August, the last on 28 August.



## SCARCE IMMIGRANTS / RELEASES / ESCAPES

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

### Black-veined White *Aporia crataegi*

One was seen and photographed on a private estate in the southern New Forest during early September (AWel). The date is highly unusual as the flight period for Black-veined White is normally mid-April to July.

### Camberwell Beauty *Nymphalis antiopa*

One was seen on 21 and 25 July at the Hawk Conservancy, Weyhill, in north-west Hampshire (DLe, MSw).

### Glanville Fritillary *Melitaea cinxia*

In addition to the natural population on the Isle of Wight and in south Hampshire, there have been occasional reports of individuals in north-east Hampshire during the past three years. These are believed to relate to an introduced colony, just across the county boundary in west Surrey.

In 2009, probable sightings of single butterflies were made at Holt Pound on 3 and 16 June (TH) and one, confirmed by photograph, at Mapledurwell on 30 May (SO)

### Monarch *Danaus plexippus*

One was seen in a Newport, IoW, garden on 26 and 29 September (BR).

### Plain Tiger *Danaus chrysippus*

One was seen at Newtown Nature Reserve, IoW, on 2 June (PK).

# MOTH REPORT 2009

Editorial

Tim Norriss & Mike Wall



Thanks are due to all recorders who have submitted records, contributing to 2009 seeing the second highest-ever total of 113,570, nearly 40% up on 2008.

In particular, we'd like to make special mention of two Isle of Wight recorders Dave Cooke (three county firsts), in only his first year of mothing, and David Biggs (four county firsts) for their contributions - in particular to microlepidoptera recording - reflected in the number of times their names are mentioned in this report. However, it also highlights our relatively poor knowledge of the distribution of many species on the Island. While migrants are exciting and exotic, they are of lesser significance in aiding our understanding of the true distributions and the importance of the special habitats on the Island for Lepidoptera, and we would like to make a plea for more recorders to engage in fieldwork on the Island in 2010, and to submit full data for all species, common as well as rare.

We all take the internet for granted these days and it has become a fantastic additional resource for learning. The Moths Count website now contains provisional national distribution maps of the macro moths and these are being updated regularly as more county data is submitted. Maps of all species recorded in our area are available on the Hantsmoths website which also now has updated text. In an effort to ensure that topical news information is disseminated quickly Hantsmoths also now contains a regular newsletter, monthly during the summer months.

Our thanks as usual go to Barry Goater and John Langmaid for their help and advice in the preparation of this report. Here's to a good field season in 2010!

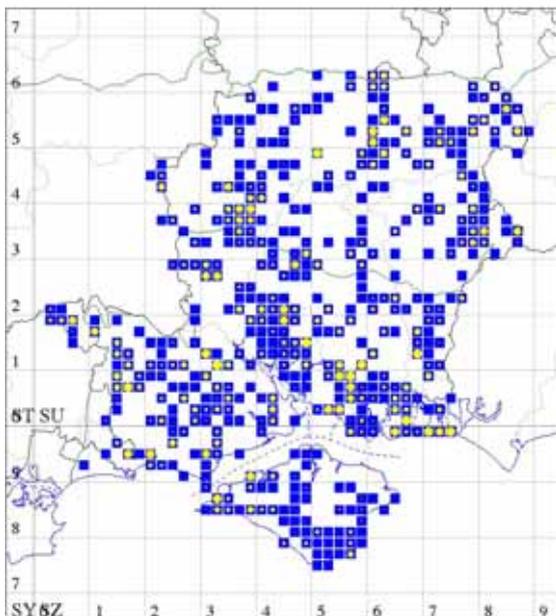
## Moth Record Coverage for 2009

The table below summarises the number of records, tetrads (2km squares) from which records were received and species reported per annum since 2000:

Year	Records	2km sq.	Species
2000	41,146	304	1,274
2001	44,599	297	1,252
2002	57,650	360	1,275
2003	83,711	478	1,357
2004	90,525	483	1,395
2005	94,474	427	1,372
2006	125,530	487	1,420
2007	89,066	466	1,328
2008	80,846	493	1,331
<b>2009</b>	<b>113,570</b>	<b>478</b>	<b>1,379</b>

There are approximately 1,150 tetrads in the county.

The map (right) indicates tetrads from which one or more records were received during 2009. The greater proportion of yellow in a square, the higher the level of recording activity in that tetrad. As can be seen, there are still many parts of the county that go unrecorded or receive little attention on an annual basis.



## Notes

- All records are of single adult moths trapped at light, unless otherwise stated.
- New 10-km square records are indicated by an asterisk (\*) after the site name.
- For brevity, the following authorities have been abbreviated where needed: Denis & Schiffmüller to D. & S., Herrich-Schäffer to H-S, Humphreys & Westwood to H. & W., Duponchel to Dup. and Linnaeus to L.

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

- scarce species at vice-county level;
- less than 25 county records;
- scarce (<50 records on database) species in new 10km squares;
- other notable records, such as significant range expansion or change in abundance.

## SYSTEMATIC LIST

**Editor, Macrolepidoptera:** Tim Norriss

**Editor, Microlepidoptera:** Mike Wall

**Contributing Writers:** Nick Montegriffo (Lasiocampidae to Geometridae) and Paul Boswell (Pyraloidea, Sphingidae to Noctuidae)

## NEW COUNTY AND VICE-COUNTY RECORDS

### Eriocraniidae

**0008 *Eriocrania unimaculella*** (Zetterstedt, 1839)

**VC10: NEW COUNTY RECORD.** A tenanted mine on *Betula* sp. at Bouldner Copse, 26 April (DTB conf. JRL).

**0009 *Eriocrania sparmannella*** (Bosc, 1791)

**VC10: NEW COUNTY RECORD.** Several tenanted mines found on *Betula* sp. at Mottistone Common, 12 June (DTB conf. JRL).

### Heliozelidae

**0154 *Heliozela sericiella*** (Haworth, 1828)

**VC10: NEW COUNTY RECORD.** A vacated mine on Pedunculate Oak was found at Osborne, 30 October (DTB).

### Psychidae



**0180 *Diplodoma laichartingella*** (Goeze, 1783)

Infrequently recorded from South Hampshire, mainly from Botley Wood in recent years, where it was taken again in 2009 (KW).

**VC10: NEW COUNTY RECORD.** One was recorded in Freshwater on 19 June (DC).

Left: *Diplodoma laichartingella*, Freshwater 19 June © David Cooke

### Hieroxestidae

**0278a *Opogona omoscopia*** (Meyrick, 1893)

An introduced species, probably with the horticultural trade, which has become established on the Channel Islands and found with increasing frequency in Britain.

**VC11: NEW COUNTY RECORD.** A specimen taken in Fareham, 12 October 2005 remained unidentified until 2010 (KW det. JCI from prep. RJD).

## Gracillariidae

### 0327 *Phyllonorycter hostis* (= *cydoniella* auct.) Triberti, 2007

**VC10: NEW COUNTY RECORD.** Osborne Estate, mines on Domestic Apple, 12 October 2008 (DTB, BE, JRL): one moth bred, female, gen. det. JRL.

## Elachistidae

### 0601a *Elachista nobilella* Zeller, 1839

**VC12: NEW COUNTY RECORD.** Two vacated mines on Wavy Hair-grass *Deschampsia flexuosa* at Bramshott Common, 20 April (JRL, GAC). This species was described new to Britain in 2004, with GAC being one of the original finders.

## Oecophoridae

### 0704 *Agonopterix scopariella* (Heinemann, 1870)

**VC10: NEW COUNTY RECORD.** Recorded at Freshwater, 25 -26 April, 26 July and 7 October (DC conf. MJW). This species, whose larva forms spinings on Broom, is no doubt locally common on the island.

Right: *Agonopterix scopariella*, Freshwater  
© David Cooke



## Gelechiidae

### 0740a *Monochroa niphognatha* (Gozmany, 1953)

**VC11: NEW COUNTY RECORD.** Southsea, 29 June (IRT). New to Britain when discovered in Kent in 1984, and then again in 2002 when one was taken in Devon.

Right: *Monochroa niphognatha*, Southsea, 29 June  
© Ian Thirlwell



### 0776 *Teleiopsis diffinis* (Haworth, 1828)

Reasonably common in grassland areas where Sheep's Sorrel occurs on the mainland, 2009 saw the first two records for Wight.

**VC10: NEW COUNTY RECORD.** St Catherine's Down, 19 September (TJN, LF det. MJW). A further individual was recorded in Freshwater, 27 September (DC).

### 0844 *Syncopacma larseniella* (Gozmany, 1957)

**Nb**

Following critical examination of the specimens involved, the following - previously identified as *S. taeniolaella* - become the first and second records for North Hampshire.

**VC12: NEW VICE-COUNTY RECORD.** Bartley Heath HIWWT NR, 1 June 1995; Bramley Frith, 30 June 1995 (both AHD gen. det. JCI).

### 0850 *Syncopacma polychromella* (Rebel, 1902)

**Migrant**

The two previous British records, the first in 1952, were both in February and strongly suggested accidental introduction. The year under review however saw a number of records from southern England, reaching as far north as Co. Waterford, Eire, and these were undoubtedly primary migrants. Of this influx, two reached our recording area.

**VC11: NEW COUNTY RECORD.**

Burton, Christchurch, 24 May (JSw det. JRL); Sandy Point, 24 May (AJ det. NM).



Right: *Syncopacma polychromella*, Sandy Point, 24 May © George Spraggs

**Blastobasidae**

**0875a *Blastobasis rebeli*** Karsholt & Sinev, 2004

**VC12: NEW VICE-COUNTY RECORD.** Basingstoke, 6 October (MJW), one caught by day during pond clearance.

- ***Blastobasis vittata*** (Wollaston, 1858)



**VC11: NEW COUNTY RECORD.**

Sandy Point, Hayling, 19 September (JWP, BE *et al* gen. det. BE conf. Ole Karsholt); the third British record after one in West Sussex (VC14) in 2008 and another in VC13 on 26 August 2009, all of which were determined in the year under review. Full details to be published in the Ent. Gazette (BE, in prep.).

Left: *Blastobasis vittata*, Sandy Point © Ian Thirlwell

**Momphidae**

**0880 *Mompha langiella*** (Hübner, 1796)

**Nb**

**VC10: NEW COUNTY RECORD.** A single tenanted mine on Enchanter's Nightshade in Combley Great Wood, 16 August (DTB det. JRL).

**Tortricidae**

**0933 *Phalonidia gilvicomana*** (Zeller, 1847)

**Nb**

**VC11: NEW COUNTY RECORD.** The forecast in Goater and Norriss (2001) that this species may well occur in Hampshire was proved correct with the discovery of several larvae in the seedheads of Wall Lettuce growing in Hen Wood, East Meon, 13 August (JRL, RJD det. JRL).

**1106 *Lobesia reliquana*** (Hübner, 1825)

Not infrequent on the mainland, particularly in South Hampshire, but until the year under review this attractively marked Olethreutid was unknown from the Isle of Wight.

**VC10: NEW COUNTY RECORD.** Clamerkin, 16 May (DC).

**1117 *Ancylis unguicella*** (Linnaeus, 1758)

**VC10: NEW COUNTY RECORD.** Thinly distributed in heathland on the mainland, the following is the first report from the Isle of Wight: Totland, 22 June 2007 (SAK-J).

## Geometridae

### 1688 Tawny Wave *Scopula rubiginata* (Hufnagel, 1767)

**Migrant**

Widespread throughout the continent and well-established in parts of East Anglia. There have been two previous VC11 records, the most recent in 2008.

**VC10: NEW COUNTY RECORD.** Totland\*, one to MV light on 4 August (SAK-J).

## Noctuidae

### 2165 Small Ranunculus *Hecatera dysodea* ([D. & S.], 1775)



A long-awaited addition to the county list. This species had re-appeared in Kent in 1997 and has since then spread as far as Northamptonshire. It has also become well-established in Monmouthshire and Lancashire. The larvae should be looked for on Prickly Lettuce.

**VC11: NEW COUNTY RECORD.** Southsea\*, one on 3 June (JRL).

**VC12: NEW VICE-COUNTY RECORD.** Fleet\*, one on 1 July (GCS).

Left: Small Ranunculus, Fleet 1 July  
© Graham Stephenson

### 2453 Rosy Underwing *Catocala electa* (Vieweg, 1790)

**Migrant**

**VC10: NEW COUNTY RECORD.** Totland\*, one to MV light on 21 August (SAK-J). This is the first record for our area and only the tenth British record.

## MICROLEPIDOPTERA REVIEW

## Micropterigidae

### 0001 *Micropterix tunbergella* (Fabricius, 1787)

**VC10:** Local in woodland, and not seen on the Isle of Wight since 1996, until a pair were seen *in cop.* in Bouldnor Copse, 25 April (DTB).

## Eriocraniidae

### 0008 *Eriocrania unimaculella* (Zetterstedt, 1839)

Both this and the below are very local and uncommon blotch miners of birch.

**VC10:** See New County Records above.

### 0009 *Eriocrania sparmannella* (Bosc, 1791)

**VC10:** See New County Records above.

## Nepticulidae

### 0022 *Ectoedemia louisella* (Sircom, 1849)

A miner of the samara of Field Maple which as an adult is very difficult to distinguish from the very similar *E. sericopeza*. The absence of the latter's food-plant, Norway Maple, in the vicinity will be a good indicator, but critical examination is required for confirmation. The following were claimed:

**VC11:** Ashurst\*, New Forest, 8 August (KG).

**VC12:** Farnborough, 14 August (KBW).

### 0030 *Ectoedemia arcuatella* (Herrich-Schäffer, 1855)

**VC11:** Many mines, with larvae, found on Wild Strawberry at Hen Wood, East Meon on 4 October (JRL). A very rare insect with only three previous records, the last at this same site five years ago.

### 0036a *Ectoedemia heringella* (Mariani, 1939)

The rapid spread of *E. heringella* since its 2007 discovery in the two counties has been documented in detail in this report over the past two years. Record numbers were reported from South Hampshire on Holm Oak, and somewhat fewer on the Isle of Wight; however none were reported from North Hampshire, presumably due to a lack of fieldwork in the few established localities.

**VC10:** DTB reported the mines in March and December from seven previously reported localities. It was abundant particularly in Ventnor, Sandown and Seaview.

**VC11:** Mines were found between 15 March and 1 June from Browndown, Fareham Creek, Portsdown and Hayling Island, but only the tenanted mines seen at Mottisfont Abbey\* on 22 March (MJW) represented any evidence of range extension; in the latter half of the year, many mines at Alverstoke and Stokes Bay on 28 September (RJD) was the only record received. Adults were plentiful in the Southsea area between 27 June and 5 August (JRL, IRT).

### 0055 *Stigmella aeneofasciella* (H-S., 1855)

A very scarce miner of agrimony and tormentil, with less than 20 records from our area.

**VC11:** An adult was taken in Botley Wood\* on 16 July (KW).

### 0064 *Stigmella continuella* (Stainton, 1856)

Historically not uncommon in VC11, this miner of birch is far less common in North Hampshire but it was from here that the only records were received.

**VC12:** A single mine, for the second year running, at Elvetham Heath, Fleet, 28 September (RE); a few mines in Pamber Forest, 11 October (JRL, RE *et al*).

### 0102 *Stigmella aceris* (Frey, 1857)

pRDB2

**VC12:** The population centre of this rare leaf miner of Field and Norway Maple has in recent years been concentrated in north-east Hampshire, but the only record in 2009 was received from a new locality, Shortheath Common, Oakhanger\*, where vacated mines were found on 2 August (AMD).

## Opostegidae

### 0119 *Opostega salaciella* (Treitschke, 1833)

**VC11:** Apart from two old records from sites in North Hampshire, this rare miner of Sheep's Sorrel is generally restricted to the mainland coast. With less than twenty previous records, six individuals on five nights between 22 June and 1 July in the Southsea gardens of IRT and JRL therefore represented a productive year.

### 0121 *Pseudopostega crepusculella* (Zeller, 1839)

**VC11:** The run of records from KG's Ashurst garden continued with four between 26 June and 2 July, following the same number last year: this site has now contributed 50% of South Hampshire's total records. It was also taken in Botley Wood on 14 June (KW gen. det. RJD).

## Incurvariidae

### 0128 *Phylloporia bistrigella* (Haworth, 1828)

**VC12:** The mines of this species are found on young birch leaves and ultimately form distinctive cut-outs. While the majority of historical records originate from South Hampshire, all in 2009 were from the North: an adult to light at Upper Inhams Copse, Pamber, 2 July (GJD), and mines and cut-outs at Elvetham Heath, Fleet, 7 September (RE) and Lords Wood, Pamber Forest, 28 September (DGG).

### 0129 *Incurvaria pectinea* Haworth, 1828

**VC10:** The two Wight sightings in 2009 bring the total number of county records on the database to five: mines on Hazel at Shanklin Chine and Somerton between 27 May and 3 July (DTB). It is a common species on the mainland.

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

**VC12:** Mottisfont\*, 13 May (GCE). Botley Wood, where it was recorded again in 2009, is the only regular site in Hampshire, and there is only one old record from VC10.

### 0147 *Nemophora metallica* (Poda, 1761)

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

**VC11:** PAB found one on a scabious bloom on Catherington Down, 20 July, and it was plentiful at The Mountain, East Meon\* on 4 August.

**VC12:** Found to be common in Tichborne churchyard\*, where moths were plentiful on scabious flowers between 3 July and 27 August, and also seen egg-laying (CBe).

### 0151 *Adela croesella* (Scopoli, 1763)

**VC11:** This attractive day-flying incurvariid has a scattered distribution at low density across the county, mainly on downland where the larva feeds and forms cases on Wild Privet. One was seen at rest on privet at Portchester Common, 29 May (KW) and several were seen and photographed at Broughton Down, 4 June (MBa).

Right: *Adela croesella*, Broughton Down, 4 June  
© Mike Baker



## Heliozelidae

### 0154 *Heliozela sericiella* (Haworth, 1828)

A miner of oak which is not uncommon in the mainland vice-counties.

**VC10:** See New County Records above.

### 0156 *Heliozela resplendella* (Stainton, 1851)

**VC11:** The mines of this species on Alder are reasonably common but local in South Hampshire, where a new locality was found at Exton\*, 13 August (JRL, RJD).

**VC12:** It is rarely found elsewhere, making the following of note: Winnall Moors HIWWT NR\*, 19 September (AHD); Elvetham Heath, Fleet, 28 September (RE).

### 0157 *Heliozela hammoniella* (Sorhagen, 1885)

The rarest of the three *Heliozela* that occur in our area, in this case on birch.

**VC11:** One mine and cut-out, Havant Thicket, 18 September (JRL, DJLA).

**VC12:** Several mines and cut-outs at Pamber Forest, 11 October (JRL, RE *et al.*).

## Cossidae

### 0161 Leopard Moth *Zeuzera pyrina* (Linnaeus, 1761)

The pattern seen in recent years was continued with a further fall in total numbers received, down to 33 records. This decline hides a surprising change in the split between South and North Hampshire, where, apart from the record year of 2006 (when numbers were artificially boosted by favourable conditions on Hampshire Moth Night: 69 were recorded on 1 July alone, the total excluding this date is shown separately in brackets in the table below\*), the count of individuals appears to be at its highest ever level and exceeded the total count from VC11 for the first time in over a decade.

VC	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
11	7	49	8	30	19	53	76 (51*)	40	20	12
12	4	9	4	8	10	11	56 (12*)	12	16	21
Total	11	58	12	38	29	64	132 (63*)	52	36	33

### 0162 Goat Moth *Cossus cossus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

**Nb**

**VC11:** Only three records were received, all from the New Forest: however two in one trap at Rowbarrow – a male and a female – on 13 June (SH) was notable for possibly being the first ever record in our area of multiple adults in one session. Another was caught at Splash Bridge on 25 June (DW) and at least three oaks in Denny Wood on 29 June exhibited signs of larval activity (RJD).

## Zygaenidae

### 0163 Forester *Adscita statices* (Linnaeus, 1758)

**UK BAP**

**VC12:** Only two sightings were received from Odiham Common, the maximum being of 59 on 25 May (PAV); hopefully this does not reflect the true status at this stronghold of the species in our area. On Stockbridge Down, where a 'definite' *geryon* had previously been reported in 1996 (and no definite *statices*), of ten *Adscita* sp. seen on 21 June, one was retained and determined as *statices* (KC gen. det. RJD). See also comments under *Adscita geryon* below.

### 0164 Cistus Forester *Adscita geryon* (Hübner, 1793)

**Nb**

**VC12:** On West Down, Chilbolton, further fieldwork established the true identity of the *Adscita* sp. first seen at this site in 2007 as *A. geryon*.

For the record, and as a correction to previous editions of this report, sightings at this site for the past three years are summarised as follows: 2007, 46 on three dates, 22 May to 3 June (GCE, SLE); 2008, 20 on four dates, 21 May to 7 June (GCE, SLE); and 2009, 16 on four dates, 20 May to 4 June (GCE, SLE; TJN, LF).

It is worth noting that the criteria for distinguishing the males of *statices* and *geryon* by the number of unfeathered segments at the tip of the antennae is incorrectly stated in Waring, Townsend and Lewington. It states there that the number is ten and seven respectively, whereas in MBGBI Vol 2 it states that there is an overlap:-

- *statices* - 9-11 terminal segments lacking pectinations.
  - *geryon* - 8-10 terminal segments lacking pectinations.
- It would appear therefore that all newly discovered colonies will need to have a gen. det. done or a careful watch of females undertaken to check the foodplant on which they are laying (*Helianthemum* for the present species).

Right: *Cistus* Forester,  
West Down, 25 May © Tim Norris



## Limacodidae

### 0173 Festoon *Apoda limacodes* (Hufnagel, 1766)

Nb

Another species which suffered a very poor year, with the major exception of Hayling Island: at Sandy Point between 31 May and 14 July, 82 individuals were caught on 14 nights, with a maximum of 21 on 25 June (AJ), with another two at Northney, 1 June (JWP): elsewhere in South Hampshire a paltry 10 in total were returned. It was no better in the north of the county, with the lowest total (20) since 2004. It appears the expansion in range of the past five years came to an abrupt end in 2009.

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

RDB3

For the first year since 2001, no records were received.

## Psychidae

### 0176 *Dahlia triquetrella* (Hübner, 1813)

pRDB1

VC11: As has been the case since first appearing in the county in 2005, this psychid remains limited to the Hilsea area of Portsmouth. Just the one record was received: over 100 were seen on road signs and trunks, about fifty percent with active larvae, on 1 April (JRL, IRT).

### 0180 *Diplodoma laichartingella* (Goeze, 1783)

Infrequently recorded from South Hampshire, mainly from Botley Wood in recent years, where it was taken again in 2009 (KW).

VC10: See New County Records above.

### 0190 *Epichnopteryx retiella* (Newman, 1847)

Nb

VC11: One case swept on Hamble Common, from which a female later emerged, on 18 April (BE). A very rare psychid of saltmarshes, with only two post-war records, the latest prior to this being 1986.

### 0192 *Pachythelia villosella* (Ochsenheimer, 1810)

RDB2

VC11: The few records we have originate from the New Forest, and none at all in the past nine years, until the following: four cases swept on 29 June, and one female in its case on 28 July, both near Beaulieu Road Station (RJD).

## Tineidae

### 0199 *Psychoides verhuella* Bruand, 1853

The exception that proves the rule, *verhuella* larvae are widespread on the Isle of Wight, and its presence can be easily detected by the feeding damage within the sori of ferns. However, no records were provided from the Island in 2009, but it was discovered new to three ten-kilometre squares on the mainland.

**VC11:** Stubbington\*, 14 June (DPH gen. det. RJD); male near Hart's-tongue Fern in garden, Fareham, 15 June (RJD gen. det.).

**VC12:** Many larvae on Hart's-tongue Fern from which adults were bred, Old Alresford\*, 24 March (AMD); male collected by day on ferns under railway bridge, Old Basing\*, 23 June (NM gen. det. JC). Previously recorded only once in North Hampshire, in 1996.

### 0217 *Nemapogon wolffiella* Karsholt & Nielsen, 1976

**Nb**

**VC11:** A rarely encountered species principally found in the south-east of Hampshire and first recorded in 1997. Two records were received, both in new localities: Botley Wood\*, 10 June (KW gen. det. RJD); Hen Wood, East Meon\*, 13 August (JRL, RJD gen. det. RJD).

### 0231 *Monopis imella* (Hübner, 1813)

**Nb**

**VC11:** A Portsmouth area 'endemic' that appears infrequently elsewhere along the Solent coast, and in 2009 it showed no signs of breaking its distribution pattern, with five recorded between 13 June and 21 July at Southsea (JRL).

## Gracillariidae

### 0281 *Caloptilia populetorum* (Zeller, 1839)

A similar message to that of recent years, with further range expansion for this recent colonist, as recorded below. It is now probably widespread at low density across the mainland county, but there is no evidence of its presence on the Isle of Wight.

**VC11:** Chandlers Ford\*, 1 August (BE); Burton, Christchurch, 10 August (JSw); a few vacated spinings on Downy Birch, Havant Thicket\*, 5 September (JRL, IRT).

### 0292 *Caloptilia leucapennella* (Stephens, 1835)



**VC12:** A very rarely seen spinner of Oak which overwinters as an adult. The first record for North Hampshire was three years ago and it has not been found in the south since 2003. The following therefore represent the second and third VC12 records: Basingstoke, 18 February at a lighted window, and another taken at MV light on 28 June (MJW).

Left: *Caloptilia leucapennella*, Basingstoke, 18 February © Mike Wall

### 0302a *Parornix carpinella* (Frey, 1863)

**VC12:** A leaf miner of Hornbeam previously known from only four sites in the county: a single mine found in Fleet, 7 September (RE) represents a fifth locality, all but one of which have been in North Hampshire.

Right: *Parornix carpinella* mine on Hornbeam, Fleet, 7 September © Rob Edmunds



### 0314 *Leucospilapteryx omissella* (Stainton, 1848)

**VC12:** A larval miner of Mugwort, recorded mainly from the south of the county. In the north, a record of many mines with larvae found on the Leckford Estate on 28 September (JRL, BE) confirms this species' long-term presence at this site.

### 0334 *Phyllonorycter viminetorum* (Stainton, 1854)

**VC12:** On the same day and locality as the previous species, several mines were found on Osier (JRL, BE). This is a full 27 years after the last record (of three in total), all of which have been from Leckford.

### 0344 *Phyllonorycter strigulatella* (Lienig & Zeller, 1846)

**Nb**

**VC11:** A rare miner of the non-native Grey Alder which has a scattered distribution mainly in the south-east. In 2009, many mines were found at Hen Wood, East Meon on 28 June (JRL, MRY). This is a long established locality.

### 0366a *Cameraria ohridella* Deschka & Dimic, 1986

**VC12:** This year saw *ohridella* mines riddling Horse Chestnut leaves in every 10km square in the mainland county: mines in May at Isle Hill, near Sydmonton\* (DGG) and Porton Down\* (DGG), and at Frith End\* (AMD) and Liphook (DGG) in August marking the last areas to succumb. Over 100 records were received, which although down on 2008 is more likely a result of observer fatigue than representational of an actual decline.

### 0367 *Phyllocnistis saligna* (Zeller, 1839)

**VC11:** Evidence of further range spread, following its re-discovery in South Hampshire last year - after a gap of seventy years - with a number of mines found on *Salix cinerea* at Exton\* (JRL, RJD). In the northern vice-county, it continued to be present at Leckford (JRL, BE).

### 0367a *Phyllocnistis ramulicola* Langmaid & Corley, 2007

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

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

### 0369 *Phyllocnistis xenia* Hering, 1936

**pRDB2**

A leaf miner of White and Grey Poplar generally found in coastal regions. The total of three records received was down on 2008 and all were from existing localities.

**VC11:** Mines and a few cocoons were found on White Poplar at Hilsea Lines, Portsmouth on 27 June (JRL, MRY), with mines on Grey Poplar at Sandy Point, Hayling, 26 August (AMD) and 29 September (JRL, BE).

## Sesiidae

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

**Nb**

The colonies noted in last year's report were apparently not re-visited and no records were received for the current year.

### 0371 Lunar Hornet Moth *Sesia bembeciformis* (Hübner, 1806)

**VC11:** A single record was received of one seen by day in Waterlooville, 6 July (JS).

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

**Nb**



Currant Clearwing, Sholing 13 June  
© Andy Collins

One of the more common clearwings, whose larvae feed in the twigs of currant bushes.

**VC10:** First record since 1995: one seen in Cranmore, 13 June (I&CF).

**VC11:** Just a singleton to TIP pheromone lure at Sholing, Southampton, 13 June (ARC).

**VC12:** Five records of nine individuals, all to TIP pheromone lures in the Basingstoke area: Kempshott, two on 2 June and 16 June (GAH); two in Popley, 18 June (MDu), and one on 23 June (at 12:00) and two on 29 June (at 11:20) at The Millfield LNR, Old Basing (JKA).

### 0374 Yellow-legged Clearwing *Synanthedon vespiformis* (Linnaeus, 1761)

**Nb**

**VC11:** One to VES lure, Sholing, Southampton, 19 June (ARC).

**VC12:** Three records of four at The Millfield LNR, Old Basing between 24 and 29 June (JKA), recorded between 11:30 and 12:20, were the first site records since 2004. All were to VES although HYL and TAB were also used in combination at times.

### 0375 White-barred Clearwing *S. spheciformis* ([D. & S.], 1775)

**Nb**

**VC12:** Seven to lure, Silchester Common, 8 June 2008 (Jason Gosling per MCH)

### 0377 Sallow Clearwing *Synanthedon flaviventris* (Staudinger, 1883)

**Nb**

Sallow Clearwing appears as an adult in 'even' years, but can be difficult to track down. The below is the first mention in this report since 2006.

**VC12:** Two galls on *Salix* at The Millfield LNR, Old Basing on 16 November (JKA).

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

**Nb**

A species which can be common on the chalk to lures hung around its larval foodplants, Wayfaring-tree and less commonly, Guelder-rose. A return to reasonable numbers after two lean years.

**VC11:** One in Sholing, Southampton on 13 June was a new garden record (ARC).

**VC12:** The best year for this insect since JKA started surveying clearwings at The Millfield LNR, Old Basing in 2004. One on 9 June was followed by 23 on four dates between 23 and 29 June, all between 11:10 and 12:20 to VES, and JKA notes that it appears to show a negative reaction to HYL. Also recorded in Basingstoke on 23 June (GAH) and four to VES on 4 July (MJW) between 11:30 and 13:00.

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

**VC11:** One to lure, Sholing, Southampton on 13 June (ARC).

**VC12:** One to lure, Little London, Tadley, 4 June (Paul Sterry); The Millfield LNR, Old Basing, one to MYO lure on 24 June and four on 1 July from 11:10 to 12:10 (JKA).

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

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

**VC11:** One flew into a conservatory in Totton, 4 June (CBt); one to lure, Sholing, Southampton, 19 June (ARC).

**VC12:** One to lure, Little London, Tadley, 4 June (PSt); one seen by day, Whitehill, Bordon, 19 June (SRM); The Millfield LNR, Old Basing, one on 24 June to FOR lure at 14:15 (JKA).

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

**VC12:** Another poor year, with just a single record of one seen resting on Bird's-foot-trefoil at Magdalen Hill Down, Winchester, 10 August (PDF).

## Choreutidae

**0387 *Prochoreutis sehestediana* (Fabricius, 1776) Nb**

**VC11:** A very local species, mainly encountered in the New Forest and Botley Wood, from where the only record received was a female taken on 4 June (KW gen. det. RJD).

**0388 *Prochoreutis myllerana* (Fabricius, 1794)**

**VC11:** Recent records are mainly confined to Botley Wood\*, from where it was found on ten dates between 3 June and 22 July, in a new 10km square (KW gen. det. RJD).

## Glyphipterigidae

**0396 *Glyphipterix fuscoviridella* (Haworth, 1828)**

**VC10:** Reasonably common and widespread across the mainland in dry grassland (for example, 100+ were reported from Headley Gravel Pit HIWWT NR, VC12 on 23 May by GJD), sightings at Afton Down, Brook Down and Freshwater on the Isle of Wight between 23 and 30 May were the first sightings for over ten years on the Island (DC).

## Yponomeutidae

**0251 *Ochsenheimeria taurella***

([D. & S.], 1775)

**VC11:** One found in grassland on a Hants Flora Group visit to Exbury Gardens\* by PAB (det. NM) on 4 July.

Right: *Ochsenheimeria taurella*, Exbury 4 July  
© Mike Wall



**0401 *Argyresthia laevigatella*** (Heydenreich, 1851)

**VC11:** This rarely recorded Larch feeder was recorded for the second consecutive year in Ashurst, 31 May and 3 June (KG).

**0409b *Argyresthia cupressella*** Walsingham, 1890

**VC10:** An adventive species on cultivated cypress, now well established in scattered localities on the mainland. Having been first recorded on the Island last year, a second was caught in Freshwater on 22 June (DC).

**0412 *Argyresthia pygmaeella*** ([D. & S.], 1775)

**VC12:** Historical records show this *Salix* feeder was more widespread in North Hampshire in the past, but one in Farnborough\* on 31 May (KBW) – the only record received in the two counties - was the first for eight years.

**0414 *Argyresthia curvella*** (Linnaeus, 1761)

**VC12:** A surprisingly uncommon species of Apple, especially in North Hampshire, where it was recorded in the Deadwater valley, Bordon\*, 13 June (NM, MJW) and Basingstoke, 30 June (MJW).

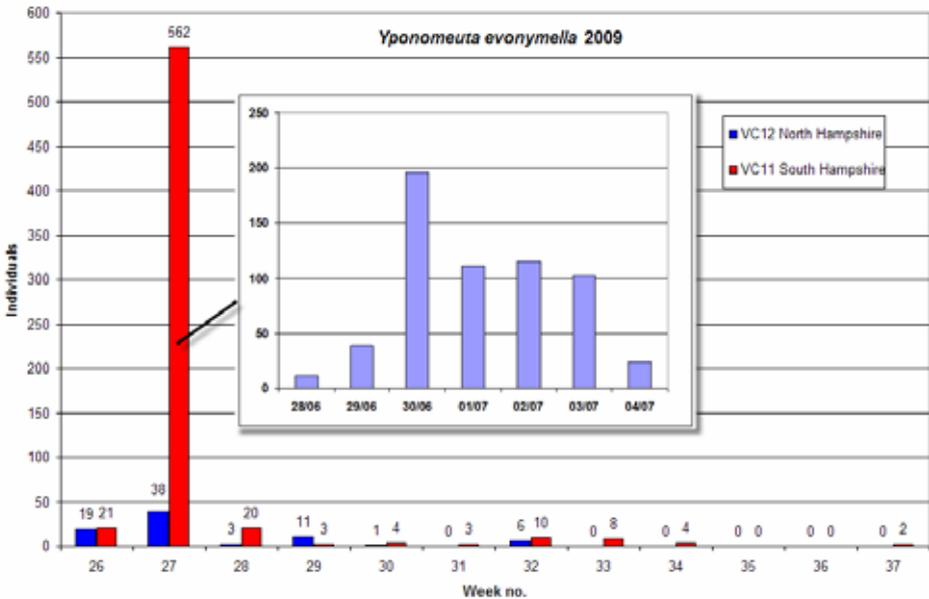
**0424 *Yponomeuta evonymella*** (Linnaeus, 1758)

**Migrant**

*Y. evonymella* is commonly regarded as a migrant in southern Britain, on the basis that its foodplant Bird-cherry is not native to this country. Recent peaks in the good migrant years of 2003 and 2006 would seem to bear this out, and the pattern was repeated in 2009. In total, 155 sightings were



© Glynne Evans



made, exceeding the previous highs of 105 in 2003 and 92 in 2006, and as can be seen from the graph above it was almost entirely focussed on South Hampshire in week 27 (early July), with a day peak on 30 June: during this period, the weather was dominated by high pressure to the north-east and low pressure to the west which ensured a south to south-easterly wind (DBO *pers. comm.*) In this context, it was very surprising to not receive any records from the Isle of Wight.

**VC11:** 110 records of 620 individuals. The peak counts were 66, 3 July (GSAS), and 58, 30 June in Ashurst (KG): there were 14 further individual trap counts of ten or more.

**VC12:** With 34 records of 78 individuals, the influx was evidently weaker further inland, with the highest count being of nine in Sherborne St John on 1 July (NM).

#### **0428 *Yponomeuta rorella* (Hübner, 1796)**

**pRDB3 / Migrant**

**VC11:** A small influx occurred between 8 and 14 August: Southsea, six on five dates (IRT), and one on 9 August (JRL), Funtley, 9 August (MLO), five in Stubbington, 9 August (DPH), and at Sandy Point, Hayling there were two on 10 August and another on 12 August (AJ). Outside of this period, one was taken by IRT on 26 July.

#### **0442 *Cedestis gysselella* Zeller, 1839**

**VC12:** This and its congener (below) occur at low densities in Scots Pine plantations, the larva mining the needles. The only record received was from the Deadwater valley, Bordon on 13 June (NM, MJW).

#### **0443 *Cedestis subfasciella* (Stephens, 1834)**

**VC12:** Although more frequent than *C. gysselella* overall, it is less so in the North. The following therefore are of note: Farnborough, 26 June (KBW); Basingstoke, 20 July (MJW).

#### **0450 *Scythropia crataegella* (Linnaeus, 1767)**

Reasonably common in areas where the foodplant occurs, 2009 was notable for the number of records returned, with 46 compared to a previous total of just over 200. This increase resulted in three new 10km square records, as below.

**VC10:** Larval web on Hawthorn, Shanklin\*, 21 July (DTB) – only the second modern Island record.

**VC11:** Pennington\*, 14 and 16 June (RCr); Sinah, Hayling Island\*, 26 and 29 June (GSAS).

#### **0459 *Ypsolopha sylvella* (Linnaeus, 1767)**

Widespread but very rarely encountered, mainly in oak woodland, but wanderers do occur as evidenced by the two records received.

**VC11:** Hedge End, 30 September (DHa).

**VC12:** Anna Valley, Andover\*, 5 August (TJN).

#### **0464 Diamond-back Moth *Plutella xylostella* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

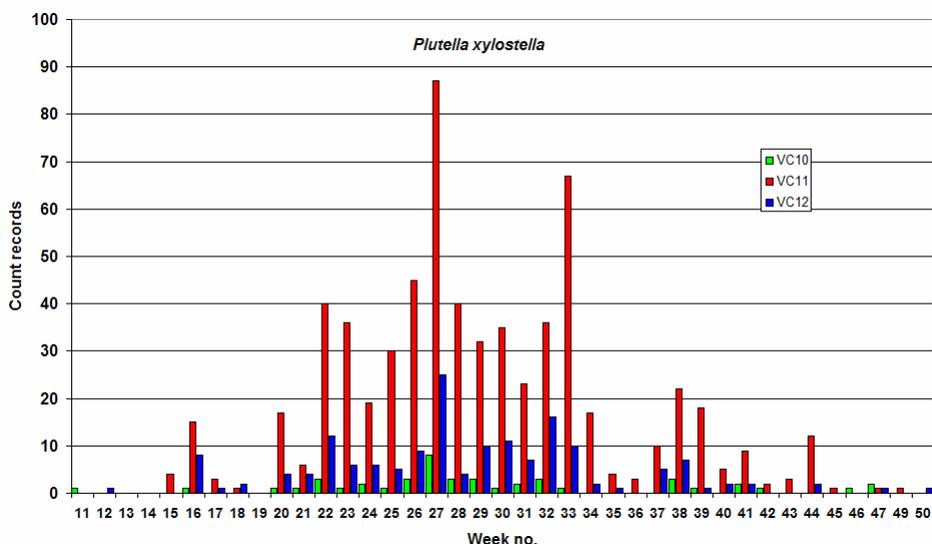
**Migrant**

The period under review was an exceptional year for this migrant whose numbers vary widely from one year to the next; 2009's 860 records was a narrow second to the highest total of 914 from 2006, and a four-fold increase on 2008.

VC	First Date	Last Date	Count Records	Count Individuals	Max Individual Count
10	13 March Bonchurch (JHa)	20 November Freshwater (DC) Totland (SAK-J)	45	110	18 Brook Down, 4 July (DC)
11	10 April St Cross (THW)	29 November Southampton (KJP)	644	2139	133 Southsea, 2 July (IRT)
12	18 March Leckford (GCE)	9 December Farnborough (KBW)	199	545	23 Sherborne St John, 4 July (NM)

In addition to the above, five were recorded in VC8 and ten in VC22.

As can be seen in the graph below, the peak period in all three vice-counties was week 27 (early July), cf. *Yponomeuta evonymella* above.



### 0472 *Digitivalva pulicariae* Klimesch, 1956



A scarce miner of Common Fleabane.

**VC10:** Recorded from Clamerkin, 24 May, Brook Down, 2 and 9 August, and in Freshwater on three dates between 3 and 15 August (DC).

**VC11:** Mines were found at Milton Common, Portsmouth, 22 June (JRL, IRT) and Hilsea Lines, Portsmouth, 27 June (JRL, MRY). Adults taken in Fareham\*, 16 July (IMcPh), Pennington, 20 and 22 July (RCr), and Southsea, 17 August (JRL).

**VC12:** Deadwater Valley, Bordon, 23 July (NM).

Left: *Digitivalva pulicariae*, Deadwater 23 July  
© Nick Montegriffo

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

The best year yet for this increasingly common insect, which can be the bane of allotment holders. The population remains centred along the south coast, but sightings from North Hampshire and the Isle of Wight remain notable.

**VC10:** Seven recorded between 24 and 27 October, Freshwater\* (DC) represent the first since it was discovered new to the Island in 2005.

**VC12:** Farnborough, 22 June (KBW conf. MJW); Alton\*, 4 July (DBO conf. MJW). Also recorded in Overton, 2 and 17 August (ACr), where it has occurred annually over the past three years.

## Lyonetiidae

### 0259 *Leucoptera lotella* (Stainton, 1858)

**VC11:** While it was previously known from Botley Wood, 2009 saw captures in hitherto unseen numbers in the area, where 42 individuals were taken on 20 nights between 23 June and 19 July (KW gen. det. RJD). Additionally, 10 were caught in Fareham on 9 August (RJD).

### 0263 *Lyonetia clerkella* (Linnaeus, 1758)

**VC12:** An abundant species throughout the county. On 11 September 2009, a mine was found on Firethorn in a Greywell garden (PBo det RE). This appears to be the first time it has been found on *Pyracantha* in the UK, although it is known to occur on this host in mainland Europe.

## Coleophoridae

### 0503 *Coleophora fuscocuprella* Herrich-Schäffer, 1885

**VC12:** Cases were found to be very common on Downy Birch in Pamber Forest, 11 October (JRL, RE, BE *et al*); only three previous North Hampshire records are known.

Right: *Coleophora fuscocuprella*, Pamber Forest 11 October  
© Mike Wall



### 0523 *Coleophora hemerobiella* (Scopoli, 1763)

**Nb**

**VC22:** The only record received was of an adult to light in Mortimer West End, 11 July (GJD). Still unrecorded outside of north Hampshire.



### 0525 *Coleophora solitariella* Zeller, 1849

**VC12:** A few pre-hibernation cases were found on Greater Stitchwort in Pamber Forest, 11 October (JRL, RE, BE *et al*), apparently the first vice-county records since those outlined in Goater (1974).

Left: *Coleophora solitariella*, Pamber Forest  
11 October © Mike Wall

**0530 *Coleophora lixella*** Zeller, 1849

**VC12:** A chalk downland species. Anna Valley, Andover\*, 27 June (TJN).

**0536 *Coleophora betulella*** (Heinemann, 1876)

**VC12:** Female, Sherborne St John, 29 June; male, Deadwater valley, Bordon, 30 June (both NM gen. det. JCI).

**0538 *Coleophora vibicella*** (Hübner, 1813)

**UK BAP / Nb**

A very rare feeder on Dyer's Greenweed.

**VC11:** At Hayling Billy, where 71 cases were found in 2008, due to over-grazing of the site only four could be found on a repeat visit on 28 July (AMD).

**0564 *Coleophora virgaureae*** Stainton, 1857

**VC11:** The larva feeds in cases on Goldenrod or Sea Aster but the only records received were of four adults (two male, two female gen. det.) trapped between 13 and 21 August at Southsea\* (JRL).

**0578 *Coleophora otidipennella*** (Hübner, 1817)

One of the earliest flying coleophorids, occurring from late April to early June in areas where the larval foodplant, Wood-rush, occurs.

**VC11:** Ashurst, six between 24 April and 2 May (KG).

**VC12:** Headley GP HIWWT NR\*, many flying around Wood-rush, 22 April (MJW).

**VC22:** Mortimer West End, 2 and 15 May (GJD).

**0583 *Coleophora tamesis*** Waters, 1929

**VC11:** A female at Southsea\*, 15 July (IRT gen. det.) - the 10th record for the county.



**0589 *Coleophora clypeiferella***

Hofmann, 1871

**Nb**

**VC11:** Stubbington, 4 August (DPH gen. det. RJD) – the second county record following the first in 2007.

Left: *Coleophora clypeiferella*, Stubbington  
4 August © Dan Houghton

## Elachistidae

**0590 *Perittia obscurepunctella*** (Stainton, 1848)

**VC12:** A vacated mine on Honeysuckle, Pamber Forest, 11 October (JRL, RE, BE *et al*), the third vice-county record.

**0592 *Stephensia brunnichella*** (Linnaeus, 1767)

**VC11:** A miner of Wild Basil on the chalk. Male swept at Portchester Common, 29 May (RJD gen. det.)

**0597 *Elachista atricomella*** Stainton, 1849

**VC11:** Mottisfont\*, 28 May (GCE); Ashurst, three between 20 June and 3 July (KG). The larva mines the leaves of Cock's-foot and records are thinly distributed across the mainland.

**0601a *Elachista nobilella*** Zeller, 1839

**VC12:** See New County Records above.

**0611 *Elachista triatomea*** (Haworth, 1828)

**VC11:** A rare miner of fescues in calcareous areas. One seen by day in a Winchester garden, 29 May (JMCI, conf. MJW).

**0613 *Elachista subocellea*** (Stephens, 1834)

**VC11:** Botley Wood, 21 June (KW gen. det. RJD), a site from where this rare insect has been reported on two occasions in the past.

**0623 *Elachista bisulcella*** (Duponchel, 1843)

**VC11:** Botley Wood, eight taken between 5 and 27 June (KW gen. det. RJD); Hen Wood, West Meon\*, 19 June (F.M.G. gen. det. RJD).

**0629 *Biselachista utonella*** (Frey, 1856)

**VC12:** One vacated mine on Greater Tussock-sedge *Carex paniculata* on the Leckford Estate, 8 May (JRL, BE), an established site for this species.

**0632 *Cosmiotes consortella*** (Stainton, 1851)

Records of adults of this genus require dissection for confirmation. The larvae mine the blades of various grasses. Reliable records for this and the next species are given.

**VC11:** Male, Southsea, 25 June (IRT gen. det.).

**VC12:** Male, Sherborne St John, 19 September (NM gen. det. JCI).

**0633 *Cosmiotes stabilella*** (Stainton, 1858)

**pRDB3**

**VC11:** All confirmed records this century have originated from the Southsea area, a pattern repeated in 2009, with individuals taken on 2 July, 22 July and 10 August (IRT).

## Oecophoridae

**0637 *Crassa tinctella*** (Hübner, 1796)

**VC11:** Sparsely distributed in mature woodland. The larva feeds on lichens growing on willows. Chandlers Ford, 27 May (BE gen. det.); Ashurst\*, 31 May (KG).

**0650 *Esperia oliviella*** (Fabricius, 1794)

**Nb**

**VC11:** Ten records of 11 individuals at Ashurst, between 30 May and 18 July (KG), the best annual return for this site since it was discovered there in 2005.

**0660 *Pseudatemelia josephinae*** (Toll, 1956)

This and the next species are unremarkable in appearance and require dissection for confirmed identification; the moths are likely to be overlooked and very rarely reported. Reliable records are shown.

**VC11:** Hen Wood, West Meon\*, 19 June (F.M.G. gen. det. RJD); Funtley\*, 30 June (MLO gen. det. RJD).

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

**VC12:** Deadwater Valley, Bordon\*, 12 June (NM gen. det. JCI).

**0664 *Diurnea lipsiella*** (Hübner, 1796)

An inhabitant of oak parkland flying in late autumn.

**VC11:** Botley Wood, 10 and 17 November (MLO, KW, RJD).

**0671 *Depressaria ultimella* Stainton, 1849**

Associated with damp areas where Fool's Water-cress grows.

**VC11:** Ashurst, 24 May (KG); North End, Portsmouth, 4 August (MWe det. NM).

**VC12:** One to lighted window, Axmansford\*, 24 October (Andrew Bolton det. MJW).

**0682 *Depressaria chaerophylli* Zeller, 1839**

**VC12:** Generally found in scattered locations across the mainland, mainly in the north, in hedgerows and woodland margins where Rough Chervil occurs. The one record was from Chilbolton\*, 12 August (GCE conf. MJW).

**0704 *Agonopterix scopariella* (Heinemann, 1870)**

**VC10:** See New County Records above.

**0705 *Agonopterix umbellana* (Fabricius, 1794)**



Associated with Gorse but encountered very rarely.

**VC10:** One seen by day on St Catherine's Down\*, 19 September (TJN, LF) was the first on the Island for 50 years.

**VC11:** Sandy Point, 11 April (AJ).

Left: *Agonopterix umbellana*, St Catherine's Down 19 September © Dave Cooke

**0706 *Agonopterix nervosa* (Haworth, 1811)**

Reasonably frequent in South Hampshire, it is far more infrequently reported from the north and the Isle of Wight records below are the first for over twenty years.

**VC10:** Brook Down, 11 on six dates between 2 and 29 August (DC).

**VC12:** Basingstoke, 4 and 31 August (MJW) – the first site records – and at Lords Wood, Pamber Forest\*, 17 August (DGG).

**Ethmiidae**

**0718 *Ethmia dodeceea* (Haworth, 1828)**

**Nb**

Another good year, albeit not at the record levels seen in 2008, but *E. dodeceea* continues to turn up in new parts of the county.

**VC8:** Martin Down NNR\*, 27 June (RCr, JB).

**VC11:** Chandlers Ford, 28 June (BG), 1 July (BE); Mottisfont\*, 21 June (GCE); St Cross, Winchester, two on 3 July (THW det. BE), the first site record; South Hayling, 29 June (SJW); Southsea\*, 29 June (IRT) - first for the garden.

**VC12:** Chilbolton, 12 July (GCE); Winnall Moors HIWWT NR, 10 July (AHD); Overton, four between 8 and 15 July (PEH) – the first for the garden - and three between 10 and 13 July (ACr); Basingstoke, 25 June (GAH det. AHD) and 26 June (MJW); Alton\*, 25 June and 10 July (DBO).

## Gelechiidae



**0727a *Metzneria aprilella*** (Herrich-Schäffer, 1854) **Na**

A moth of the downlands, the larvae of which can be found in the seedheads of Greater Knapweed.

**VC8:** Martin Down NNR\*, 27 June (RCr, JB *et al*).

**VC12:** Cholderton Lodge\*, 27 June (MJW, TJN *et al*, Moths Count/RSPB event).

Left: *Metzneria aprilella*, Martin Down 27 June  
© Richard Coomber

**0733 *Eulamprotes wilkella***  
(Linnaeus, 1758) **Nb**

**VC11:** A very rare denizen of the south-east coast in Hampshire. One at Southsea\*, 29 June (IRT) was the first county record since 1998.

**0736 *Monochroa lucidella*** (Stephens, 1834) **Nb**

**VC11:** Associated with marshy areas where Common Spike-rush grows. Ashurst\*, six on four occasions between 22 June and 2 July (KG).

**0737 *Monochroa palustrella***  
(Douglas, 1850)

**VC10:** One seen by day, Brook Down\*, 8 August (DC det. MJW), was the second Isle of Wight record, the first being in 1997.

**VC11:** Eastleigh\*, 30 June (SI); Funtley, 15 and 25 June (TDC), 22 June (MLO det. RJD).

Right: *Monochroa palustrella*, Brook Down  
8 August © David Cooke



**0740a *Monochroa niphognatha*** (Gozmany, 1953)

**VC11:** See New County Records above.

**0744a *Monochroa moyses*** Uffen, 1991

**VC11:** A species of brackish marshes, and confined in Hampshire to the coastal strip east of Southampton. One record in 2009, from Southsea\*, 22 June (JRL).

**0746 *Chrysoesthia drurella***  
(Fabricius, 1775)

**VC12:** An attractive insect whose larvae feed on Fat Hen. Rarely seen, and one found by GJD in Upper Inhams Copse, Pamber Forest on 26 May, is only the fourth record for North Hampshire.

Right: *Chrysoesthia drurella*,  
Pamber Forest 26 May © Mike Wall



**0755 *Stenolechia gemmella*** (Linnaeus, 1758)

A widespread inhabitant of oak woodland but at low density and infrequently seen.

**VC11:** Hedge End, 26 August (DHa).

**VC12:** Winchfield, 2 August (MJW, TJN).

**0758 *Recurvaria leucatella*** (Clerck, 1759)

**Nb**

The best year on record for this attractive but rare insect mainly found in south Hampshire woodlands.

**VC11:** Fletchers Water, New Forest\*, five, 14 July (RCr, JB); Brockenhurst\*, 30 June (RBW det. MJW); Hedge End, 4 July (DHa); Botley Wood, 14 July (KW gen. det. RJD); Funtley, 4 and 31 July (TDC), two, 2 August (MLO).

**VC12:** Basingstoke, 27 June (R&SH).

**0760 *Exoteleia dodecella*** (Linnaeus, 1758)

An unprepossessing moth associated with pine species, and undoubtedly overlooked.

**VC11:** Fareham, 25 June (IMcP).

**VC12:** Basingstoke, 1 July (MJW); Alton\*, 4 July (DBO det. MJW).

**0764 *Pseudotelphusa scalella*** (Scopoli, 1763)

**Nb**

Very uncommon in occurrence in oak woodland.

**VC11:** Ashurst\*, 25 June (KG).

**VC12:** Pamber Forest, 29 May (KTai *et al*).



**0773 *Pseudotelphusa paripunctella*** (Thunberg, 1794)

**VC11:** In southern Britain *paripunctella* frequents oaks in woodland, heaths and hedgerows. Ashurst\*, three between 24 and 29 May (KG); Browndown Coastal Ranges\*, four, 12 June (F.M.G. gen. det. RJD).

*Pseudotelphusa paripunctella*, Browndown 12 June © Dan Houghton

**0769 *Teleiodes wague*** (Nowicki, 1860)

**pRDB1**

**VC11:** Botley Wood, female, 1 May (F.M.G. gen. det. RJD). Known only from this locality and Sparsholt since its first discovery in the county in 1976.

**0772 *Carpatolechia fugitivella*** (Zeller, 1839)

**VC22:** An elm feeder which is surprisingly common in Southsea, South Hampshire, where it occurs annually, but very infrequent elsewhere. The following is only the third record for the north of Hampshire: Mortimer West End\*, 13 June (GJD).

**0776 *Teleiopsis diffinis*** (Haworth, 1828)

**VC10:** See New County Records above.

**0792 *Mirificarma mulinella*** (Zeller, 1839)

**VC10:** A species of gorse and broom, and common on the mainland, but one on Brook Down, 8 August (DC det. MJW) was the first Isle of Wight record since 1976.

**0809 Hollyhock Seed Moth *Pexicopia malvella*** (Hübner, 1805)

**Nb**

**VC11:** Annual in Southsea (IRT), where it again had a good year, but one in Eastleigh\*, 30 June (SI) was evidence of range expansion. Feeds on the garden Hollyhock, and also on Marsh-mallow.

**VC12:** Deadwater Valley, Bordon, 13 June (NM gen. det. JCI).

**0829 *Caryocolum marmoreum*** (Haworth, 1828)

**VC11:** Infrequently recorded on the coastal sand-dunes. Browndown, 12 June (F.M.G. gen. det. RJD), and another (a male) on 26 June (AMD and F.M.G. gen. det. AMD).

**0832 *Caryocolum blandella*** (Douglas, 1852)

**VC10:** One observed at Shorwell, 17 June (DTB) was the first Island record since 2000.

**0847 *Syncopacma taeniolella*** (Zeller, 1839)

**VC11:** Exbury Gardens, 4 July (PAB).

**VC12:** Winnall Moors HIWWT NR\*, four, 30 June (AHD det. RE).

**0850 *Syncopacma polychromella*** (Rebel, 1902)

**Migrant**

**VC11:** See New County Records above.

**0851 *Dichomeris alacella*** (Zeller, 1839)

**Nb**

A local and elusive species whose larva feeds on lichens growing on tree trunks.

**VC12:** Broad Oak, Odiham\*, 31 July (MJW) – the third vice-county record.

**0859 *Psoricoptera gibbosella*** (Zeller, 1839)

**Nb**

Another good year for this generally localised denizen of oak woodland.

**VC11:** Minstead\*, 25 July (TJN); Ashurst, three between 10 August and 14 August (KG); Botley Wood, 31 July (F.M.G. det. RJD).

**VC12:** Bishops Sutton\*, 8 August (PGLT conf. Peter Davey); Bartley Heath HIWWT NR, 14 July (AMD); Broad Oak, Odiham, two, 31 July (MJW).

## **Blastobasidae**

**0875a *Blastobasis rebeli*** Karsholt & Sinev, 2004

This adventive species is now abundant in places in South Hampshire and was recorded in North Hampshire for the first time.

**VC11:** Bishop's Waltham, three on 25 July (DPH); Fareham, 5 August (KW det. RJD); West Walk, 19 on 24 July, and 50 there, 7 August (both F.M.G.).

**VC12:** See New Vice-county Records above.

## **Momphidae**

**0880 *Mompha langiella*** (Hübner, 1796)

**Nb**

This and the next species are very local, mining Enchanter's Nightshade.

**VC10:** See New County Records above.

**VC11:** Mines found at Zionhill Copse, Chandlers Ford\* on 2 July and nearby in abundance at Valley Park\*, 6 July (PAB).

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

**Nb**

**VC11:** Mines on Enchanter's Nightshade, Chewton Common\*, 4 September (PAB).

**0882 *Mompha locupletella*** ([D. & S.], 1775)

**VC11:** A miner of the leaves of a range of willowherb species, widespread but local in occurrence. The only record was of one in Botley Wood, 27 June (KW gen. det. RJD).

### 0886 *Mompha ochraceella* (Curtis, 1839)

Found around Great Willowherb, this species is infrequently recorded in the north, but was encountered in a number of new localities there in 2009.

**VC12:** Winnall Moors HIWWT NR\*, two, 30 June (AHD, RE); Overton, 27 May (ACr); Upper Inhams Copse, Pamber Forest\*, 2 July (GJD); Alton\*, 1 July (DBO det. MJW); Deadwater Valley, Bordon\*, 30 June (NM).

## Cosmopterigidae

### 0894 *Cosmopterix zieglerella* (Hübner, 1810)

Na

**VC12:** Many vacated mines on Hop found on the Leckford Estate\*, 28 September (JRL, BE). A new locality; there remains only one South Hampshire record.

### 0896b *Cosmopterix pulchrimella* Chambers, 1875

**VC11:** Mines on Pellitory-of-the-Wall, and adults abundant, at the only known mainland site, Portchester Castle, 13 September (JS).

### 0903 *Chrysoclista linneella* (Clerck, 1759)

Na

**VC11:** Recorded in Southsea, 28 July and 11 August (JRL), from where the bulk of recent records of this attractive moth have originated.

## Scythrididae

### 0911 *Scythris grandipennis* (Haworth, 1828)

**VC12:** The first Hampshire record since 2004, with several prehibernation larval spinnings on Dwarf Gorse seen in Pamber Forest on 11 October (JRL, RE, BE *et al*).

## Tortricidae

### 0923 *Phtheochroa sodaliana* (Haworth, 1811)

Nb



A very local species on Buckthorn on the chalk downland.

**VC12:** Cholderton\*, two on 27 June (MJW, TJN); Bishops Sutton\*, 13 June (PGLT conf. Peter Davey).

Left: *Phtheochroa sodaliana*, Cholderton  
27 June © Mike Wall

### 0924 *Hysterophora maculosana* (Haworth, 1811)

**VC12:** Found by day in North Park Wood - a wood near Stockbridge - on 2 May (TJN, LF det. MJW). A rare cochyliid of bluebell woods, and the first record in the county since 2004.

Right: *Hysterophora maculosana*, North Park Wood  
27 June © Mike Wall



**0926 *Phalonidia manniana*** (Fischer von Röslerstamm, 1839)

**Nb**

Occurs widely in marshy areas where Water-mint and Gypsywort grow, but nowhere common.

**VC11:** Ashurst, 24 May and 10 August (KG); Chandlers Ford, 30 June (BE); St Cross, Winchester, 30 June (THW det. BE).

**VC12:** Winnall Moors HIWWT NR, 10 July and two on 7 August (AHD).

**0931 *Gynnidomorpha luridana*** (Gregson, 1870)

**Nb**

**VC11:** St Cross, Winchester, 30 June (THW det. BE). An infrequently encountered chalk downland specialist.

**0932 *Phalonidia affinitana*** (Douglas, 1846)

**VC11:** Southsea, 31 May and 25 June (IRT gen. det.). A typical locality for this saltmarsh resident, on Sea Aster.

**0933 *Phalonidia gilvicomana*** (Zeller, 1847)

**Nb**

**VC11:** See New County Records above.

**0939 *Aethes tesserana*** ([D. & S.], 1775)

An attractive cochyliid of dry conditions, whether chalk downland or coastal shingle, 2009 seeing examples from both habitats.

**VC10:** Brook Down, 5 July (DC det. MJW).

**VC11:** Two obtained by sweeping, Portchester Common SSSI, Portsdown, 29 May (RJD); another seen by day at Barton-on-Sea cliffs, 6 June (RAC).



Above: *Aethes tesserana*, Brook Down 5 July © David Cooke

**0941 *Aethes hartmanniana*** (Clerck, 1759)

**VC11:** Another rare downland specialist. One was netted at Portchester Common SSSI, Portsdown, 29 May (RJD gen. det.).

**0946 *Aethes rubigana*** (Treitschke, 1830)

Locally common amongst burdock on the mainland, the following represent sightings from new localities.

**VC8:** Martin Down NNR\*, 27 June (RCr, JB *et al*).

**VC10:** One seen by day on Brook Down\*, 25 July (DC). This is the first county record since those in Goater, 1974.

**0959 *Cochylidia ruficola*** (Curtis, 1834)

A rarely seen insect whose larva feeds within the flower-heads of Hemp-agrimony.

**VC10:** One seen by day on Brook Down\*, 8 August (DC det. TJN).

**VC11:** One swept on Portchester Common SSSI, Portsdown\*, 29 May (RJD gen. det.).

**0971 *Pandemis cinnamomeana*** (Treitschke, 1830)

Widely distributed in oak woodlands across the mainland county, it is still less frequently encountered in the north, although fieldwork in recent years is filling in the gaps, and three new 10km squares were added in 2009 as below.

**VC12:** Cholderton\*, 27 June (MJW, TJN det. MJW); Leckford\*, 8 September (GCE); Deadwater Valley, Bordon\*, 5, 13 June (NM, MJW).

### **0979 *Archips crataegana* (Hübner, 1799)**

An elusive inhabitant of deciduous woodland with a scattered distribution across the two counties.

**VC11:** One seen by day at Exbury Gardens, 4 July (PAB).

**VC12:** Soldridge, Four Marks, 2 July (PAB).

### **0988 *Bilberry Tortrix Aphelia viburnana* ([D. & S.], 1775)**

**VC11:** Ocknell Plain, New Forest, four seen by day on 28 June (TJN, LF): exactly the same locality and date as the only record from 2008.

### **0989 *Timothy Tortrix Aphelia paleana* (Hübner, 1793)**

The description in Goater and Norriss, 2001 of this as a local and uncommon species did not hold true in 2009: the number of individuals seen (45) exceeded the combined total for the past two decades, and in North Hampshire the 18 records compares to a total of just 11 from all previous years; nearly half (22) were concentrated into the five day period between 30 May and 3 June. Surprisingly, there were no records from the Isle of Wight, where it remains very scarce.

**VC11:** Fordingbridge\*, two on 8 July (NJH); Ashurst, 19 June (TAP); Chandlers Ford, 1 June (BG); Eastleigh, 1 June (SI); Sholing, Southampton, six between 1 June and 10 July (ARC); Stubbington, 1 June (DPH); Funtley\*, 30 May and 1 June (MLO); Fareham, 3 June (KW conf. RJD); Lovedean, 3 June (ARJ); Sandy Point\*, 1 June (AJ) - new for Hayling.

**VC12:** Cholderton\*, four, 27 June (TJN, MJW, HE, LF); Overton, 8 July (PEH) and 13 July (ACr); Basingstoke, four between 31 May and 3 June (MJW); and on 14 and 16 June, 8 August (R&SH); six seen by day at The Millfield LNR, Old Basing on 13 and 15 June (JKA); Alton\*, three between 25 May and 2 June (DBO); Cove, three between 28 May and 12 June (RJE); Grayshott\*, 30 May (RTu det. MJW).

### **1012 *Sparganothis pilleriana* ([D. & S.], 1775)**

**Nb**

A distinctive long-palped tortricoid which is very local in New Forest bogs and along the coast. The Mottisfont record is some 15km north of the New Forest and the furthest inland this species has been taken.

**VC11:** Holmsley, New Forest, 18 July (RCr, JB *et al* det. KG); Mottisfont\*, 22 July (GCE conf. MJW); Ashurst\*, 31 July (KG); Stubbington\*, 18 July (DPH).

### **1013 *Oliodia schumacherana* (Fabricius, 1787)**

An elusive and rarely encountered moth of shady woodland and old hedgerows where Lesser Celandine and Dog's Mercury grow.

**VC11:** Mottisfont\*, 21 June (GCE); Valley Park, Chandlers Ford, 30 May (PAB); Leybushes Copse, Lower Upham, 29 May (F.M.G.); one seen by day, Botley Wood, 20 June (DPH).

**VC12:** Chilbolton, 22 June, 7 September (GCE).

### **1016 *Cnephasia longana* (Haworth, 1811)**

One of the few *Cnephasia* that can be determined safely without dissection, having an elongated appearance at rest and unmarked ochreous wings in the male.

**VC12:** Chilbolton, 25 May (GCE det. MJW).

### **1025 *Tortricodes alternella* ([D. & S.], 1775)**

A common early spring species in oak woodland across Hampshire, 2009 was remarkable for the sheer numbers seen, at sites where it had not been recorded before, often away from favourable habitat. A total of 137 records was received, which compares to 38 in 2008 and 34 in 2007, themselves previously the two highest ever. Of

the 49 separate localities from which returns were made, 28 had had no previous sightings: by way of example, in eight years of trapping in the author's Basingstoke garden, *alternella* was absent until the year under review, when 25 were taken on five dates between 17 and 25 February (MJW).

The records received are summarised below:

Week	VC11 South Hampshire		VC12/22 North Hampshire		Hampshire - Total	
	Records	Total Indiv	Records	Individuals	Records	Individuals
7	1	1			1	1
8	22	106	16	93	38	199
9	46	311	21	136	67	447
10	13	103	3	7	16	120
11	9	11	5	8	14	19
14	1	1			1	1
Total	92	533	41	233	137	787

In **VC11**, the maximum counts were of 82 at Manor Farm CP, Hedge End, 27 February (TDC) and 80 in Botley Wood, 23 February (RJD, MLO, KW). A few taken in Botley Wood on 30 March (F.M.G.) were the last of the year in the county. In **VC12**, GCE found 43 at Longstock on 17 February.

**VC10:** Bucking the trend (in a remarkable parallel to the situation with *Aphelia paleana* above), the only record from the Isle of Wight was of one at Cranmore on 15 February (I&CF det. TJN).

#### **1029 *Eana osseana*** (Scopoli, 1763)

**VC12:** A species which is taken very occasionally on heaths and downs across our area. Bartley Heath HIWWT NR\*, 14 July (AMD).

#### **1034 *Spatalistis bifasciana*** (Hübner, 1787)

**Nb**

An attractively marked tortrix found at low density in mature woodlands across the mainland county.

**VC10:** One seen by day in Freshwater\*, 21 June (DC det. MJW) is only the second record from the Isle of Wight, the first dating from 1972.

**VC12:** Kempshott Copse, Dummer, three on 13 June (PDF); Lords Wood, Pamber Forest HIWWT NR, 29 May (KTai *et al*) and another on 5 June (ACr, MJW *et al*).

#### **1046 *Acleris shepherdana*** (Stephens, 1852)

**Nb**

**VC12:** This is a very rare and localised insect of marshes and wet meadows. Leckford\*, 24 July (GCE); Winnall Moors HIWWT NR, 7 August (AHD, GAH).

#### **1050 *Acleris kochiella*** (Goeze, 1783)

**VC11:** Several larval spinings, one with larva, on elm at Great Salterns NR, Portsmouth, 18 September (JRL, DJLA).

**VC12:** Soldridge, Four Marks\*, 2 July (PAB det. BE).

#### **1051 *Acleris logiana*** (Clerck, 1759)

**Nb**

Although not commonly encountered, *logiana* now appears well established in birch woodland across the county. There remains only one Isle of Wight record.

**VC11:** Sholing\*, 28 October (ARC); Botley Wood, 13 July (KW gen. det. RJD).

**VC12:** Deadwater Valley, Bordon, 2, 30 June (NM).

**1055 *Acleris hyemana*** (Haworth, 1811)

**VC10:** One in Totland\* on 1 March (SAK-J), was only the second for the island, 25 years after the first. A species of heathland, found mainly in the New Forest, from where this specimen may have wandered.

**1061 *Acleris literana*** (Linnaeus, 1758)

This attractive tortrix, which overwinters as an adult, was widely reported in spring after emerging from hibernation, especially in South Hampshire where it was found at eight sites. Records from the Isle of Wight and North Hampshire are detailed.

**VC10:** Cranmore, 23 February (I&CF det. TJN).

**VC12:** Longstock, 23 February (GCE conf. MJW); Leckford\*, 15 April (GCE); Deadwater Valley, Bordon, 25 March (NM).

**1064 *Celypha rosaceana*** (Schläger, 1847)

Another attractive species, flushed with pink, which is nowhere near as common as its larval foodplants, dandelion and sow-thistles.

**VC11:** Eastleigh\*, 30 June (SI); St Cross, Winchester, 2, 12 June (THW); Funtley, 19 June (TDC); Southsea, 28 June and 1 July (IRT).

**VC12:** Magdalen Hill Down\*, 10 July (PDF).



Above: *Celypha rosaceana*, Eastleigh 30 June © Simon Ingram

**1067 *Celypha cespitana*** (Hübner, 1817)

Generally a species of downland but not often encountered.

**VC12:** Overton, 4 July (ACr); Basingstoke, 26 June and 5 August (MJW).

**1068 *Celypha rivulana*** (Scopoli, 1763)

**VC8:** Another infrequently recorded inhabitant of the chalk downland. Martin Down NNR\*, 27 June (RBW).

**1079 *Piniphila bifasciana*** (Haworth, 1811)

**VC10:** Freshwater\*, 25 June (DC). This is apparently the first Island record since 1968.

**1080 *Olethreutes arcuella*** (Clerck, 1759)

**Nb**

**VC11:** Daytime observation of at least ten amongst hazel coppice regrowth in woodland near Stockbridge, 23 May (PDF). This area remains a stronghold for this elusive but very attractive diurnal tortrix.

**1086 *Hedya salicella*** (Linnaeus, 1758)

Another species that apparently experienced a population boom in 2009 with 32 records, double that of 2008; by comparison, only three were received in 2007.

**VC10:** Cranmore, 10 July (I&CF). The last Island sighting was in 1993.

**VC11:** 17 records from 11 sites between 13 June and 31 July.

**VC12:** 13 records from 7 sites between 23 June and 14 July. The only second brood individual was one at Winnall Moors HIWWT NR, 8 September (AHD, RE). Despite the increase in records, Basingstoke, with singletons on 30 June and 1 July (MJW) and Sherborne St John, on 29 June and 1 July (NM), were the only received from a new 10km square.

**VC22:** Mortimer West End, 30 June (GJD).

**1095 *Apotomis sororculana*** (Zetterstedt, 1839)

**VC11:** Chandlers Ford\*, 24 May (BE). The first county sighting since 1984 of a very scarce inhabitant of birch woodland.

**1101 *Endothenia ustulana*** (Haworth, 1811)

**pRDB3**

**VC11:** Feeding as it does within the rootstock of Bugle, the larva of *ustulana* is infrequently encountered. The moth is equally secretive and reports are rare. In 2009, recorded from Botley Wood, 18 June and 4 July (KW gen. det. RJD).

**1103 *Endothenia ericetana*** (Humphreys & Westwood, 1845)

Another shy species of grassland habitats on labiates such as Hedge Woundwort, and reported even less frequently than its congener above.

**VC11:** Southsea, 21 July (IRT conf. JRL), a first for the garden.

**VC12:** Cove\*, 3 July (RJE).

**1104 *Endothenia quadrimaculana*** (Haworth, 1811)

**VC12:** Cholderton\*, 27 June (MJW, TJN - Joint RSPB / Moths Count event). Favours wet habitats where Marsh Woundwort grows, and very local in occurrence.

**1105 *Lobesia occidentis*** Falkovitsh, 1970

**Nb**

**VC11:** Larva found in a wood near Stockbridge, 15 September (AMD). The first county records since 1984.

Right: *Lobesia occidentis* larva, West Sussex 2009  
© Tony Davis



**1106 *Lobesia reliquana*** (Hübner, 1825)

**VC10:** See New County Records above.

**1114 *Eudemis porphyrana*** (Hübner, 1799)

**Nb**

An inhabitant of woodland, where it is thinly distributed on apple.

**VC11:** Larval spinings on Domestic Apple, many of which were vacated, in Botley Wood, 25 June (JRL, BE).

**VC12:** Lords Wood, Pamber Forest HIWWT NR, 13 July (DGG).

**1116 *Ancylis comptana*** (Frölich, 1828)

**VC10:** While not uncommon on downland in Hampshire, one at Brook Down, 4 July (DC det. MJW) was the first Island record since 1993.

**1119a *Ancylis diminutana*** (Haworth, 1811)

One of three closely related species (with *geminana* and *subarcuana*) which were split only recently and need to be separated with care. All are rarely reported.

**VC11:** South Brockenhurst, 10 June (RBW).

**VC12:** Overton, 12 June (ACr) - the fourth vice-county record.

**1129 *Ancylis apicella*** ([D. & S.], 1775)

Associated with both types of buckthorn, generally in damp woodland.

**VC11:** Fletchers Water, New Forest, 14 August (RCr, JB); Ashurst, 28 July (KG).

**VC12:** Lords Wood, Pamber Forest HIWWT NR, 13 July (DGG).

**1132 *Epinotia subocellana*** (Donovan, 1806)

A previously common insect which has been rarely reported in recent years.

**VC12:** Daytime observation, Longparish\*, 30 May (MDu det. NM).

**1145 *Epinotia nanana*** (Treitschke, 1835)

**VC11:** Funtley\*, 14 June (MLO det. RJD). The larva mines the needles of Spruce.

**1146 *Epinotia rubiginosana*** (H-S., 1851)

Like *nanana* above, an inhabitant of coniferous woodland, in this case on Scots Pine.

**VC11:** Ashurst\*, 29 May (KG); Southampton, 14 June (KJP).

**VC12:** Deadwater Valley, Bordon, two on 13 June (NM, MJW).

**1150 *Epinotia abbreviana*** (Fabricius, 1794)



Local on elm throughout the two counties.

**VC11:** Stubbington, 15 August (DPH); Southsea, 30 June (JRL).

**VC22:** Mortimer West End\*, 30 June (GJD).

Left: *Epinotia abbreviana*  
Stubbington 15 August  
© Dan Houghton

**1154 *Epinotia caprana*** (Fabricius, 1798)

Very local and uncommon, on Bog-myrtle in the New Forest and sallow elsewhere.

**VC11:** Titchfield Haven, 14 August (F.M.G. *et al* gen. det. RJD).

**1161 *Rhobobota stagnana*** ([D. & S.], 1775)

**VC10:** An uncommon moth of chalk downland: Brook Down, 25 July (DC det. MJW).

**1167 *Gypsonoma aceriana*** (Duponchel, 1843)

Associated with mature poplar across all three vice-counties.

**VC11:** Mottisfont\*, three, 22 July (GCE conf. MJW); St Cross, Winchester, 23 July (THW); Southsea, 5 August, with two on 11 August (IRT).

**VC12:** Upper Inhams Copse, Pamber Forest HIWWT NR\*, 2 July (GJD).

**1171 *Gypsonoma minutana*** (Hübner, 1799)

**Nb**

**VC12:** Sherborne St John, 4 August (NM conf. MJW) – the second vice-county record.

**1205a *Spilonota loricana*** (Heinemann, 1863)

Occasionally encountered in areas where larch grows across the mainland.

**VC12:** Grayshott\*, 17 August (RTu).

**1209 Pine Bud Moth *Pseudococcyx turionella*** (Linnaeus, 1758)

The larva feeds in the buds of Scots Pine, but is encountered very rarely and has a very scattered pattern of records.

**VC12:** Basingstoke\*, 10 May (MJW); Cove, 2 May (RJE conf. TJN).

**1210 Pine Shoot Moth *Rhyacionia buoliana*** ([D. & S.], 1775)

Common in Scots Pine woods in the south of Hampshire, wanderers occasionally turn up away from breeding habitat.

**VC11:** Southsea, 2 July (IRT).

VC12: Basingstoke, 28 June (MJW).



*Pseudococcyx turionella*, Cove 2 May  
© Richard Eagling



*Rhyacionia buoliana*, Basingstoke 28 June  
© Mike Wall

**1217 *Eucosmomorpha albersana* (Hübner, 1813)**

**Nb**



A rarely encountered inhabitant of open woodland on Honeysuckle.

VC11: Ashurst, 1 June and two on 3 June (KG); Flagpond Copse, Botley Wood, 2 May (DPH).

Left: *Eucosmomorpha albersana*, Botley Wood, 2 May © Dan Houghton

**1222 *Strophedra nitidana* (Fabricius, 1794)**

**Nb**

Found in scattered oak woodland localities across Hampshire, never commonly. Care is needed in separating the two *Strophedra* species and the superficially similar *Pammene germmana*.

VC11: Leybushes Copse, Lower Upham, 29 May (F.M.G.); Botley Wood, 12 July (KW gen. det. RJD).

VC12: Bartley Heath HIWWT NR\*, 14 July (AMD gen. det.).

**1229 *Pammene albuginana* (Guenée, 1845)**

**Nb**

VC11: Many historic records have related to moths bred from the galls the larva makes on oak, but both 2009 records related to adults taken at light: Rowbarrow, New Forest, 29 May (SH); Sandy Point\*, 5 June (AJ).

**1237 *Pammene germmana* (Hübner, 1799)**

**Nb**

Regular in Botley Wood and Pamber Forest from where it was recorded again in 2009, but infrequently encountered elsewhere.

VC11: Rowbarrow, New Forest\*, 29 May (SH); Leybushes Copse, Lower Upham, 29 May (F.M.G. gen. det. RJD); Funtley, 24 May (MLO gen. det. RJD).

VC12: Overton\*, 27 May (ACr); Grayshott\*, 4 June (RTu det. MJW).

**1241 *Grapholita compositella* (Fabricius, 1775)**

A distinctive species of open country on clover.

VC11: Two swept on Portchester Common SSSI, Portsdown, 29 May (RJD); one seen by day, Hilsea Lines, Portsmouth, 27 June (JRL, MRY).

VC12: Basingstoke\*, 25 May (GAH det. AHD).

**1249 *Grapholita lobarzewskii*** (Nowicki, 1860)

pRDB1

**VC11:** The fourth and fifth county records, since the first in 2003. One found at rest on an apple leaf on Milton Common, Portsmouth, 22 June (JRL, IRT); Fareham, 23 June (IMcP det. JRL).

**1262 *Cydia amplana*** (Hübner, 1799)

Migrant

First seen in our area in 1996 (Isle of Wight) and the following year on the mainland. Hopes that this attractive migrant tortrix may become established as a breeding species along the south coast now appear unfounded; after numbers reached a peak in 2004, it has shown a steady decline in annual appearances since, as shown by the table right.

Year	Records	Individuals
1996	1	1
1997	1	1
2001	1	1
2003	2	2
2004	25	30
2005	14	15
2006	15	19
2007	11	12
2008	6	8
2009	4	4

**VC10:** Totland, 3 August (SAKJ).

**VC11:** Ashurst\*, 13 September (KG); Holbury\*, 11 and 18 August (KJP).

**1268 *Cydia coniferana*** (Ratzeburgh, 1840)

Nb

This and the following species can be found flying around pine trees at dusk, but are not often reported. The larva of the present species feeds in the bark.

**VC11:** Botley Wood\*, 31 July (F.M.G. gen. det. RJD).

**1269 *Cydia conicolana*** (Heylaerts, 1874)

**VC11:** Unlike the preceding species, the larva lives internally in the cone, making an exit hole at the tip of one of the scales on emergence. In 2009, a female was bred from *Pinus* cones collected in spring in Catisfield, 22 April, while another was found dead indoors in Fareham on 2 February (both RJD gen. det.), presumably introduced with cones and wood used for burning.

**1278 *Dichrorampha sequana*** (Hübner, 1799)

An attractive diurnal moth that flies over Yarrow and Tansy, particularly on the chalk.

**VC12:** Daytime observation, Sherborne St John, 20 May (NM).

**1285 *Dichrorampha plumbana*** (Scopoli, 1763)

Like the previous species, associated with Yarrow in daytime; at first impressions a dull moth, but close inspection reveals its attractive chestnut and metallic patterning.



**VC11:** One swept on Brownwich cliffs and another nearby at Browndown Coastal Ranges\* on 1 June (both RJD gen. det.); another, Butser Hill\*, 21 May (AMD gen. det.).

**VC12:** One seen at Old Burghclere Lime Quarry HIWWT NR, 16 May (MJW, ACr).

Left: *Dichrorampha plumbana*, Old Burghclere, 16 May © Mike Wall

## Epermeniidae

### 0478 *Phaulernis fulviguttella* (Zeller, 1839)

A species of grassland, open woodland and damp meadows, for which there are very few records in our area.

**VC10:** One by day on Chillerton Down\*, 17 June (DTB) - the second county record.

**VC11:** One found nectaring at Leckford Estate, 6 August (KW), where it was last seen in 2003.

### 0481 *Epermenia falciformis* (Haworth, 1828)

An internal feeder of Wild Angelica, living within a spun or rolled leaf.

**VC11:** Minstead\*, 25 July and 22 August (TJN).

### 0483 *Epermenia chaerophyllella* (Goeze, 1783)

The larva mines the leaves of various umbellifers when young, then feeds gregariously in a spun web. Not uncommon in South Hampshire, it is less often reported elsewhere.

**VC10:** Freshwater\*, on five dates between 29 June and 25 October (DC).

**VC12:** Larval webs on *Angelica*, Winnall Moors HIWWT NR, 27 August (AHD, GAH); a few larvae on *Heracleum*, Leckford Estate, 28 September (JRL, BE).

### 0484 *Epermenia aequidentellus* (Hofmann, 1867)

Very much restricted to coastal grassland in our area, apart from one old record from the north of the mainland county which needs confirmation.

**VC11:** Southsea, 20 July (JRL) – the second site record after first in 1998.

## Crambidae

### 1296 *Crambus silvella* (Hübner, 1813)

pRDB3

**VC11:** A local species in boggy areas in the New Forest, from where just one record was received of a moth trapped at Minstead on 22 August (TJN).

### 1297 *Crambus uliginosellus* Zeller, 1850

Nb

**VC12:** Another denizen of wet areas in heathland; most records have originated from the New Forest, so the following record is extralimital but in the correct habitat: Deadwater Valley, one on 30 June (NM).

### 1299 *Crambus hamella* (Thunberg, 1788)

Nb

**VC11:** Just one record was received, and typically from the New Forest: Fletchers Water, one on 1 September (RCr, JBl).

### 1317 *Catoptria verellus* (Zincken, 1817)

Migrant

**VC10:** An uncommon migrant, 2009 saw the second and third county records, and there are now five in total from our area. Bonchurch, one on 31 May (JHa); Totland\*, one on 30 June (SAK-J).

### 1324 *Pediasia aridella* (Thunberg, 1788)

Nb

**VC11:** The only record for the year under review was one caught at Southsea on 30 June (JRL), a typical locality for this coastal specialist.

### 1325 *Platytes alpinella* (Hübner, 1813)

pRDB3

**VC11:** Another coastal inhabitant, found during 2009 at Southsea, 26 July (IRT), and on Hayling Island, 31 July with another on 2 August (GSAS).

### 1330 *Donacaula mucronellus* ([D. & S.], 1775)

**VC12:** Following last year's discovery of this reedbed species on the Leckford Estate, GCE's work in this area turned up three more records: Leckford, one on 12 June and another on 13 July; Chilbolton, one on 21 July.

### 1356a *Evergestis limbata* (Linnaeus, 1767)

**Resident / Migrant**

After arriving in the Isle of Wight (and Britain) in 1994, it appeared that *limbata* could be establishing on the island; however, there have been no records from VC10 for two years now. Conversely, it now occurs regularly on Hayling and may be resident both there and even perhaps in the centre of Hampshire, from where sightings were made for the second season in succession.

**VC11:** Sandy Point, one on 25 June and another on 29 June (AJ); also on Hayling Island, two on 26 June and two on 1 July (GSAS); Pennington, one on 30 June (RCr).

**VC12:** Tichborne\*, one on 25 June and another on 3 August, both daytime observations in the village churchyard (Colin Beyer det. TJN). This follows the first North Hampshire record in 2008.

### 1357 *Evergestis extimalis* (Scopoli, 1763)

**Nb / Migrant**

A regular migrant which may be established at low density on the Isle of Wight.

**VC10:** Bonchurch, singletons on 4, 5 and 7 August (JHa).

**VC11:** Hayling Island, one on 24 August (GSAS).

### 1359 *Cynaeda dentalis* ([D. & S.], 1775)

**pRDB3**

**VC11:** One at Southsea on 30 June (JRL) was a first for the observer's garden, and was presumably a wanderer from the long-established Hayling colony, from where the only report received was of one in Sinah on 12 August (GSAS). These are the first records since 2006.

### 1367 *Pyrausta cingulata* (Linnaeus, 1758)

**VC10:** This attractive day-flyer appears restricted in recent years to the downs of the west of the Isle of Wight. A total of eleven were seen by day on five dates between 2 May and 8 August (five on the latter date) on Brook Down (DC).



### 1387 *Nascia ciliaris* (Hübner, 1796)

**Na**

**VC11:** Apart from confirmation of continued presence at Titchfield Haven NNR, with two on 3 July and one on 9 July (BD), wanderers were reported from Eastleigh\*, where one was trapped on 13 August (SI), and in the Alver Valley, Gosport, with individuals found on 1 and 2 June (DPH).

Left: *Nascia ciliaris*, Alver Valley 1 June © Dan Houghton

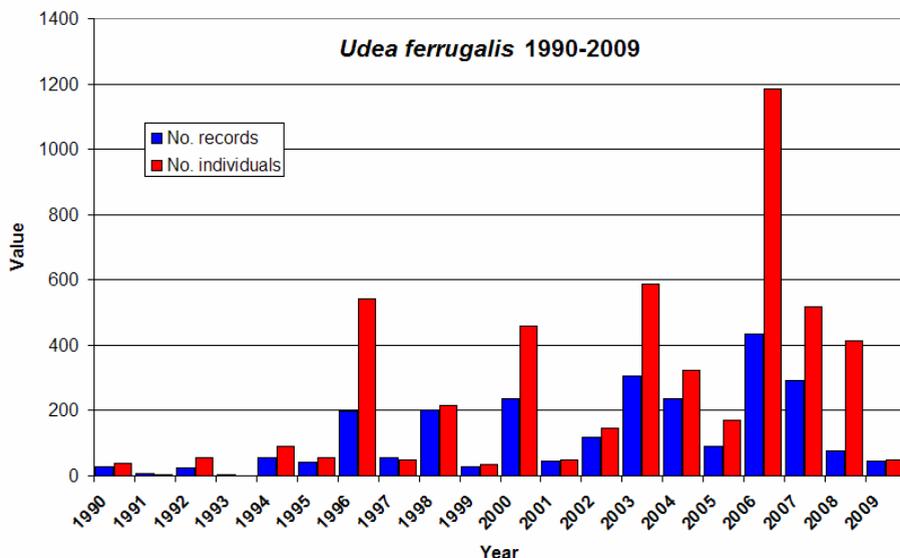
### 1389 *Udea fulvalis* (Hübner, 1809)

**Migrant**

An immigrant that normally occurs in low numbers each year. It may at times become temporarily resident, and this certainly appears true in the Freshwater area, and probably of Christchurch, VC11, too.

**VC10:** In DC's garden in Freshwater, the species was common, with 81 between 3 June and 15 August – nine were recorded nectaring on Buddleja on 7 August (DC).

**VC11:** Burton, Christchurch, two on 24 July and one on 7 August (JSw); Gosport, one on 5 August (SSw).



### 1395 Rusty-dot Pearl *Udea ferrugalis* (Hübner, 1796)

**Migrant**

It was a very disappointing year for this often common migrant. As shown by the graph above, the reported number of records and individuals were at their lowest since 2001, and when considering the growth in recording effort over the same period, numbers were as low as at any point in the past twenty years, as summarised in the table below:

VC	First Date	Last Date	Count Records	Count Individuals
10	12 June Totland (SAK-J)	20 November Freshwater (DC) Totland (SAK-J)	10	11
11	24 June Clanfield (JAM)	1 November Sholing (ARC)	30	33
12	2 August Winchfield (TJN)	8 September Farnborough (KBW)	3	4

### 1396 *Mecyna flavalis* Caradja, 1916

**pRDB2**

Occurs thinly on downland in the west of Hampshire and on the Isle of Wight.

**VC10:** Brook Down, six were seen by day on 18 July and another 4 on 25 July (DC).

**VC11:** At Broughton Down, two were seen on 14 July, two on 25 July and on 14 August (GCE). This and the North Hampshire site below represent well-established colonies.

**VC12:** Porton Down, one was seen on 16 May (TJN, LF) and another on 5 July (PAB).

**1397 *Mecyna asinalis*** (Hübner, 1819)**Nb**

**VC10:** A specialist of the island's coast on Wild Madder, and in 2009 larval feeding signs were found at Ningwood Common on 8 October (DTB). Adults were also trapped at Bonchurch on 18 and 19 September (JHa).

**1398 Rush Veneer *Nomophila noctuella*** ([D. & S.], 1775)**Migrant**

A good year with over 3,300 individuals being reported. This is the best return since 2006, although numbers were at least half of those seen in both that record year and 2003. By contrast, 174 were reported in 2008 and 86 in 2007.

VC	First Date	Last Date	Count Records	Count Individuals	Max Count
10	10 May <i>Totland (SAK-J)</i>	20 November <i>Freshwater (DC)</i> <i>Totland (SAK-J)</i>	67	193	44 <i>22 August, Brook Down (DC)</i>
8/11	18 May <i>Lovedean (ARJ)</i>	18 November <i>Ashurst (KG)</i>	809	2890	60 <i>25 July, Bishops Waltham (SI et al)</i>
12/22	25 May <i>Basingstoke (AHD)</i> <i>Alton (DBO)</i>	29 October <i>Basingstoke (PDF)</i> <i>Grayshott (RTu)</i>	119	224	11 <i>25 July, Kingsley (KBW)</i>

**1399 *Dolicharthria punctalis*** ([D. & S.], 1775)**Nb**

A scarce species along the coast of the Isle of Wight and Hampshire.



**VC10:** Ventnor, 13 June (TDC, SRC): the first Island record since 1997.

**VC11:** Funtley, 3 July (MLO); Hayling Island, 11 July (GSAS).

**1403a *Duponchelia fovealis*** Zeller 1847

**VC11:** South Brockenhurst\*, one on 1 July (RBW) was only the eighth confirmed record from our area. All records are thought to originate through accidental importation with houseplants.

Left: *Duponchelia fovealis*, Brockenhurst 1 June © Russell Wynn

**1406a Grass Webworm *Herpetogramma licarsisalis*** (Walker, 1859)

**VC10:** Totland, one on 28 October (SAK-J) is only the second from our area. The first was also on the Isle of Wight by the same observer in 1998.

**Pyralidae****1451 *Pyla fusca*** (Haworth, 1811)

A moth of acid soils on heathers.

**VC10:** Brook Down, singletons seen on 27 June, 4 and 18 July (DC) are the first for the Island since 1999.

**VC12:** Hogmoor Inclosure, 6 June (NM, DHa *et al*).

**1454b *Dioryctria sylvestrella* (Ratzeburg, 1840)**

**Resident / Migrant**

Ten records of eleven individuals were received, all but one from South Hampshire. Previously regarded as an immigrant, the majority of records nowadays probably relate to established breeding populations on pines.

**VC11:** Ashurst, 30 June and 25 July (KG); West Walk, 24 July (RJD); Botley Wood, two on 31 July (MLO gen. det. RJD) and one on 18 September (RJD); Great Linford, singletons on 3 and 19 August and 8 September (DW); Mottisfont, 19 August (GCE).

**VC12:** Farnborough, 22 June (KBW).

**1467 *Ancylosis oblitella* (Zeller, 1848)**

**Nb**

**VC12:** One in Pamber Forest\* on 13 July (DGG) was the only record received. This is the first from the vice-county since 2003.

**1486 *Apomyelois bistriatella* (Ragonot, 1887)**

**Nb**

**VC11:** Rowbarrow, New Forest, one on 29 May (SH). Found on recently burnt heathland, the larva feeding on the fungus *Daldinia concentrica*.

**Pterophoridae**

**1494 *Capperia britanniodactyla* (Gregson, 1869)**

**Nb**

Associated with Wood-sage, widespread but local, predominantly in South Hampshire.

**VC11:** North End, Portsmouth, one on 29 June (MWe).

**1495 *Marasmarcha lunaedactyla* (Haworth, 1811)**

Found on Restharrow throughout our area, especially in South Hampshire. The year under review saw a large number of records, including the first for Wight since 2003.

**VC10:** Freshwater, 29 June (DC).

**VC12:** Cholderton, 27 June (TJN, MJW *et al*); Winnall Moors HIWWT NR, 29 June (AHD, RE); Froyle, 19 June (S&BC det. TJN), Basingstoke, 26 June (AHD) and 29 June (GAH det. AHD).

**1504 *Platyptilia pallidactyla* (Haworth, 1811)**

**VC10:** Two sightings on the Isle of Wight were the first since 1993: Wellow, 10 June (DTB) and at Totland Bay, 4 July (DC).

**1508 *Stenoptilia bipunctidactyla* (Scopoli, 1763)**

**VC11:** A plume found on various scabious species, infrequently encountered on heath and downland localities. A single report, from St Cross, Winchester, 10 July (THW).

**1510 *Merrifieldia leucodactyla* ([D. & S.], 1775)**

**VC12:** A species of Wild Thyme in dry habitats. One at Sherborne St John on 4 July (NM conf. MJW) was the only record received.

**1512 *Merrifieldia baliodactylus* (Zeller, 1841)**

**VC11:** Another rare plume of downland for which the only report was from St Cross, Winchester on 10 July (THW).

## Lasiocampidae

**1632 Pale Eggar *Trichiura crataegi* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

**VC10:** Recorded as usual in some numbers at Cranmore between 18 August and 7 September (I&CF).

**VC11:** Spearywell, one on 22 August, three on 23 August (Justin Groves); Mottisfont, one on 29 August (GCE); Stockbridge, one on 7 September (GCE); Wickham Common, on 7 September (KC).

**VC12:** Single larvae were found at Kempshott Copse and Bartley Heath on 25 May (PDF); Leckford, one adult to MV on 8 September (GCE).

**1642 Lappet *Gastropacha quercifolia* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

Sixteen records from 12 locations, involving a minimum of 20 individuals, was a good return by recent standards.

## Saturniidae

**1643 Emperor *Saturnia pavonia* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

**VC11:** Four adults were trapped at light at Great Linford between 16 April and 14 May (DW); three came to light at Linford Bottom on 18 April (KTai *et al*). The following larvae were also found at three other sites, all in the New Forest – Holmsley Passage, early instar on heather on 2 June (A&LB); two on footpath nr Beaulieu Road Station on 29 June (GRE); one at Clayhill Bottom on 8 July (PDB).

**VC12:** Adults came to light at Cove on 23 April (RJE) and at Eelmoor Marsh SSSI on 15 May (PHC).

**1643a Great Peacock *Saturnia pyri* ([D. & S.], 1775)**

**VC11:** A male was found in a garden in Stubbington in the early morning of 6 May settled on the stem of a poppy. The lady who found it passed it on to MGW whom she knew to be interested in moths. Whilst the most likely explanation would be an escape or deliberate release, a natural origin cannot be entirely ruled out. Its range is limited to the warmer areas of Europe and the Near East, from northern France (rare) south through Luxembourg, western Switzerland, the Iberian Peninsular to coastal regions of Morocco and Algeria. Thence eastwards across southern Germany (rare), Austria, Hungary to the Ukraine and southwards across the Caucasus to Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Israel and Iran. It is also found on the Mediterranean islands of Crete, Corsica and Sardinia.

## Thyatiridae

**1655 Poplar Lutestring *Tethea or* ([D. & S.], 1775)**

Seven records were received this year.

**VC11:** Singletons, both to MV light, were at Sky's Wood, Chandlers Ford on 2 June (PAB) and one at Wickham Common on 1 July (KC).

**VC12:** Six were recorded, singletons at Farnborough on 19 June (PHC), Basingstoke on 25 June and 1 July (R&SH) and Fleet on 1 July (GCS), with two to numerous lights in Pamber Forest on 29 May (KTai *et al*).

**1656 Satin Lutestring *Tetheella fluctuosa* (Hübner, 1803)**

**Nb**

**VC12:** A better than average year, with 18 records of 36 individuals, including 16 at Grayshott between 24 May and 24 July (RTu), and 16 at Deadwater Valley, Bordon between 28 May and 23 July (NM), with others at Overton on 2 July (PEH), Whitehill on 15 June (SRM), Hogmoor Inclosure on 6 June (DHa), and Beech on 29 May (NDP).

**Geometridae**

**1662 Light Orange Underwing *Archiearis notha* (Hübner, 1803)**

**Nb**

The identification of this and Orange Underwing *Archiearis parthenias* is far from simple in areas where both birch and aspen grow.

**VC12:** Pamber Forest HIWWT reserve, two on 1 April and one the following day (GJD, WGH). Males were netted and the bipectinate antennae examined. This was also visible on one of the photographs that were taken.

**1670 Small Grass Emerald *Chlorissa viridata* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

**Nb**

**VC11:** Just three records were received this year, all at light in the New Forest area: Rowbarrow, 29 May (SH); Hythe, 4 July (JB); Fletchers Water, 14 July (RCr, JB).

**1678 Blair's Mocha *Cyclophora pupillaria* (Hübner, 1799)**

**Migrant**

The first larvae in Britain were found by JHa at Bonchurch in 2008 and the increasing number of records on Hayling would indicate that it now has a toehold there as well.

**VC10:** Bonchurch, 21 and 29 April, and 18 October (JHa); Freshwater, 13, 14 and 21 October (DC), and on 27 October (DBW).

**VC11:** On Hayling Island, a total of eight were recorded between 23 July and 27 October by GSAS (five), AJ (two) and JWP (one); Stubbington, 29 October (DPH); Southsea, 8 August (JRL).

**1688 Tawny Wave *Scopula rubiginata* (Hufnagel, 1767)**

**Migrant**

**VC10:** See New County Records above.

**1691 Rosy Wave *Scopula emutaria* (Hübner, 1809)**

**Nb**

**VC11:** A moth of two distinct habitats, the coastal salterns and the New Forest heaths. In 2009, just two were recorded, at Stubbington on 2 July (DPH) and Sandy Point on 12 August (AJ).

Right: Rosy Wave, Stubbington, 2 July  
© Dan Houghton



**1714 Portland Ribbon Wave *Idaea degeneraria* (Hübner, 1799) Migrant/RDB3**

**VC11:** A migrant which may be established along the south coast. Christchurch, four were trapped at RAC's garden in Highcliffe between 1 June and 23 September; Titchfield Haven, 31 July (BD).

**1716 Vestal *Rhodometra sacra* (Linnaeus, 1767)**

**Migrant**

A total of 15 individuals were reported, nine in VC10 and six in VC11, but none made it as far as North Hampshire in 2009.

**1719 Oblique Carpet *Orthonama vittata* (Borkhausen, 1794)**

**VC10:** Ventnor, singletons were seen at MV at Bonchurch on 4 and 5 August (JHa), the first Island record since 1992.

**VC11:** Highcliffe, Christchurch on 11 August (RAC).

**1720 Gem *Orthonama obstipata* (Fabricius, 1794)**

**Migrant**

**VC10:** Totland, singletons were seen at MV on 28 and 30 October (SAK-J).

**VC11:** Hayling Island, one on 23 October (GSAS).

**1721 Balsam Carpet *Xanthorhoe biriviata* (Borkhausen, 1794)**

**Na**

**VC11:** Winchester, one on 25 May (THW); Southsea, one on 29 June (JRL); Portchester, one on 7 August (JS).

**VC12:** Anna Valley, singletons on 3 July and 7 August (TJN); Leckford, seven on various dates between 15 April and 12 August (GCE).

**1726 Large Twin-spot Carpet *Xanthorhoe quadrfasiata* (Clerck, 1759)**

**VC12:** Overton, four between 12 June and 5 August (ACr); Anna Valley, singletons on 25 and 30 June (TJN); Old Basing, singletons on 3 and 18 July (JKA, MJW); Chilbolton, one on 24 July (GCE); Pamber Forest, one on 13 July (DGG); Winchfield, one on 2 August (TJN).

**VC22:** Mortimer West End, singletons on 27 June and 11 July (GJD).

**1731 Chalk Carpet *Scotopteryx bipunctaria* ([D. & S.], 1775)**

**UK BAP / Nb**

**VC10:** Brook Down, 28 on eight dates between 18 July and 29 August (DC).

**VC11:** Broughton Down, one on 12 August (KC); Butser Hill, two on 11 August (PAB).

**1734 July Belle *Scotopteryx luridata* (Fabricius, 1775)**

**VC11:** Beaulieu, two on 29 June (KW).

**1735 Ruddy Carpet *Catarhoe rubidata* ([D. & S.], 1775)**

**Nb**

There were just four records during the year.

**VC11:** Hayling Island, 26 June and 11 July (GSAS); Lovedean, 2 July (ARJ).

**VC12:** Four Marks\*, 2 July (PAB).

**1739 Wood Carpet *Epirrhoe rivata* (Hübner, 1813)**

**VC10:** Brook Down, six on five dates between 13 June and 9 August; Clamerkin, one on 24 May (DC).

**VC11:** Sandy Point, 31 May (AJ).

**VC12:** Leckford, one on 9 May (GCE).

Right: Wood Carpet, Brook Down, 12 July  
© Dave Cooke

**1745 Mallow *Larentia clavaria* (Haworth, 1809)**

Away from the coast in VC11 the only records were:

**VC11:** Wickham Common, singletons on 23 September and 2 October (KC).



**1748 Beautiful Carpet *Mesoleuca albicillata* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

**VC11:** Wickham, six on various dates between 26 June and 22 August (JRDS); elsewhere just one other record at West Walk on 24 July (KW).

**1749 Dark Spinach *Pelurga comitata* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

A rapidly declining species, that feeds on goosefoot and orache. For the first year since 1999, none were recorded in our area in the year under review.

**1751 Devon Carpet *Lampropteryx otregiata* (Metcalfe, 1917)**

**Nb**

A good year for this rare but nationally increasing species.

**VC11:** Ashurst\*, one on 28 July (KG); Ladycross, eleven on 1 August (MSP, Marc Botham); Pennington\*, two on 10 August and one on 16 August (RCr); Fletchers Water, two on 14 August (RCr, JB).

**1775 Mottled Grey *Colostygia multistrigaria* (Haworth, 1809)**

**VC11:** One at Linford Bottom, New Forest on 18 April (KTai) was the first record for several years of this once widespread species.

**1787 Argent & Sable *Rheumaptera hastata* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

**UK BAP / Nb**

**VC8:** One was seen in Bentley Wood just over the county boundary on 9 May (NG) and another on 18 May (MDu).

**1790 Tissue *Triphosa dubitata* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

None were recorded in 2009, and there have been only five reports since 1999.

**1793 Cloaked Carpet *Euphyia biangulata* (Haworth, 1809)**

**Nb**

Just three records this year which is the smallest annual total since 2004.

**VC11:** Portsea\*, one on 24 July (MWe, conf. NM).

**VC12:** Deadwater Valley, Bordon, singletons on 30 June and 13 July (NM).

**1809 Twin-spot Carpet *Perizoma didymata* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

**VC11:** Two at Wickham on 12 August were the only individuals recorded (JRDS).

**1818 Marbled Pug *Eupithecia irriguata* (Hübner, 1813)**

**Nb**

**VC11:** Linford Bottom, three on 18 April (KTai *et al*); Brockenhurst, 26 April (RBW); Ashurst, singletons on 1, 12 and 24 May (KG).

**1820 Pinion-spotted Pug *Eupithecia insigniata* (Hübner, 1790)**

**Nb**

**VC12:** Longstock, one on 30 April (GCE); Magdalen Hill, one on 1 May (PDF).

**1821 Valerian Pug *Eupithecia valerianata* (Hübner, 1813)**

**Nb**

**VC12:** Rarely encountered on the downland associated with Common Valerian. Found at Winnall Moors HIWWT NR for the second year in succession, with four on 12 June and one on 30 June (AHD).



Right: Valerian Pug, Winnall Moors,  
12 June © Tim Norris

**1823 Netted Pug *Eupithecia venosata*** (Fabricius, 1787)

**VC10:** One at Freshwater on 31 May was the only record received (DBW).

**1828 Satyr Pug *Eupithecia satyrata*** (Hübner, 1813)

**VC12:** Cholderton, one on Hampshire Moth Night, 27 June (HE, TJN, MJW *et al*).

**1836 Campanula Pug *Eupithecia denotata*** (Hübner, 1813)

**Na**

**VC12:** Crab Wood, three larvae were found on *Campanula* seedheads on 26 September (KTai).



Left: Campanula Pug, Crab Wood, Winchester  
26 September © Keith Tailby



Right: Yarrow Pug, Bell's Copse, Havant Thicket  
9 October © Keith Tailby

**1841 Yarrow Pug *Eupithecia millefoliata*** Rössler, 1866

**Nb**

**VC11:** Southsea, 2 and 5 July (IRT); Sandy Point, 9 July (AJ); Havant Thicket\*, three larvae swept from Yarrow seedheads on 9 October (KTai).

**VC12:** Basingstoke, 5 August, the third from this site in recent years (MJW).



**1843 Thyme Pug *Eupithecia distinctaria*** Guenée, 1857

**VC12:** One in Anna Valley on 25 June (TJN gen. det. RJD), the first time this very rare downland pug has been taken for six years.

Left: Thyme Pug, Anna Valley, Andover  
25 June © Tim Norris

**1854 Juniper Pug *Eupithecia pusillata*** ([D. & S.], 1775)

**VC11:** Fair Oak, one on 25 July (PAB); Stockbridge, one on 10 August (GCE).

**VC12:** Porton Down, one larva found on 16 May during a BC Duke of Burgundy survey (DGG); Cholderton, one to MV on 19 September (HE).

**1855a Channel Islands Pug *Eupithecia ultimaria*** Boisduval, 1840

**VC11:** A former migrant which is now established along the south coast. Thirteen records from seven sites between Hill Head and Sandy Point, over a long emergence period, from 4 June to 7 September.

### 1859 Sloe Pug *Pasiphila chloerata* Mabille, 1870

Apparently still at a low ebb despite increased observer coverage.

**VC12:** Just three records in 2009: Romsey\*, two on 6 June, when new for the finder's garden, and one on 13 June (MBa); Linwood Bottom\*, NF, one larva on 18 April (SH).

### 1861 Bilberry Pug *Pasiphila debiliata* (Hübner, 1817)

**Nb**

Not recorded in the county since 2005, so the appearance of two in North Hampshire is encouraging, although it continues to be unrecorded from the species' former stronghold in the New Forest.

**VC12:** Grayshott\*, 10 July (RTu conf. TJN); Pamber Forest, 13 July (DGG).

### 1870 Chimney Sweeper *Odezia atrata* (Linnaeus, 1758)

**VC12:** Ashford Hill, one by day on 3 June, with eleven on 16 June, when numbers reported to be "significantly down on last year, perhaps due to shorter sward" (ABO); Old Burghclere Lime Quarry HIWWT NR, one on 24 May during a timed, 60 minute count (DGG).

### 1878 Drab Looper *Minoa murinata* (Scopoli, 1763)

**UK BAP/ Nb**

Recorded from just four sites in VC11, most notably in and around Farley Mount (PDF), and four sites in VC12, especially at Harewood Forest, where 15 were noted on 1 June (GCE). A small second brood was recorded at Pamber Forest on 20 July (GJD).

### 1888 Scorched Carpet *Ligdia adustata* ([D. & S.], 1775)

**VC10:** This moth is double-brooded in the south of England, flying as late as mid-September but one at Cranmore on 26 October (I&CF) is strongly suggestive of a third brood and is the first time that we have ever heard of this in this country. *Ed.*

### 1896 Rannoch Looper *Itame brunneata* (Thunberg, 1784)

**Migrant**



Rannoch Looper, Alton, 31 May © Nigel Peace

As part of a large influx of this species into the country from the continent, believed to originate from the Alps, six individuals, all males, were recorded in Hampshire in 2009. There were three previous records in our area, the last in 1997.

**VC11:** Christchurch\*, one was trapped in RAC's garden in Highcliffe on 30 May, with a second on 27 June; Wickham\*, one on 1 June (JRDS); Cadnam\*, one on 5 June (MP).

**VC12:** Alton, one on 31 May (NDP); Cholderton\*, one on 3 June (HE).

### 1903 Barred Umber *Plagodis pulveraria* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Seven records were received including:

**VC11:** North Baddesley\* (PDJ) and Leybushes Copse, Marwell\* (RJD), both 29 May.

**VC12:** Overton\*, 4 July (ACr).

### 1911 Large Thorn *Ennomos autumnaria* (Werneburg, 1859)

**Nb**

**VC11:** Numbers were down on the previous two years but recorded from four sites, notably at Southsea (IRT, JRL) and Northney, Hayling (JWP), but also at Clanfield (JAM) and remarkably at Lyndhurst\* on 20 Sept (SAB) which is the first time it has been recorded in the west of the county.

**1924 Orange Moth *Angerona prunaria* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

**VC11:** Recorded from just four locations, notably at Wickham, where regular from 10 to 29 June (JRDS) and Clanfield (JAM).

**VC12:** After an absence in 2008, three records were received in 2009: Pamber Forest, 30 May (RCH *et al*); three by day in Morgaston Wood on 3 June (PEH); and Sherborne St John, where one on 15 June was the first for the observer's garden (NM).

**1933 Scarce UMBER *Agriopis aurantiaria* (Hübner, 1799)**

There were a total of 12 records of adults, mostly of singletons, including five at Ashurst (VC11) between 12 and 21 November, and one at Farnborough (VC12) on 20 November, the first for the observer's garden (KBW). There was just one record of larvae, at Bartley Heath, where 13 were noted on 25 May (PDF).

**1938 Bordered Grey *Selidosema brunnearia* Staudinger, 1901**

**Na**

**VC11:** Hayling Island, one on 5 August (GSAS) and one on 12 August (AJ), were the only records received in 2009.

**1939 Ringed Carpet *Cleora cinctaria* ([D. & S.], 1775)**

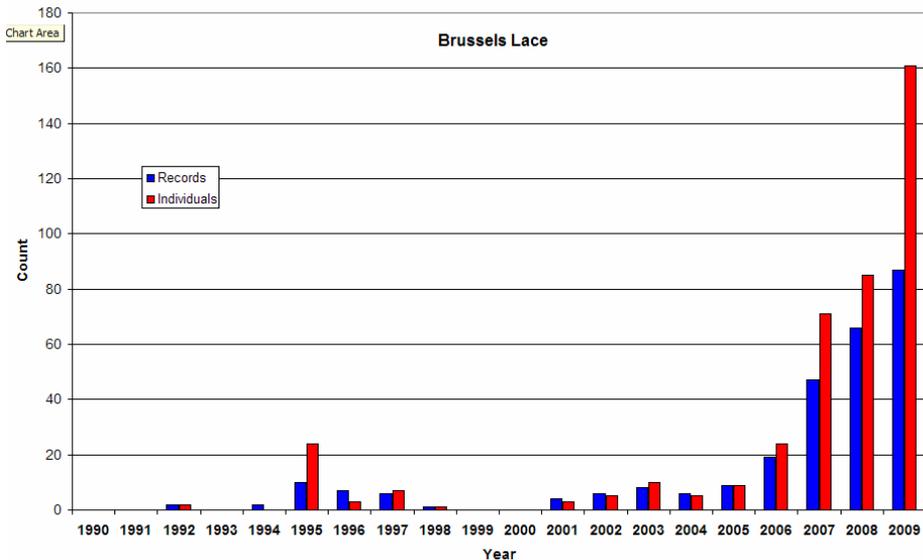
**Na**

Just six records were received in 2009, all from the New Forest.

**VC11:** Brockenhurst, 11 April (RBW); Minstead, 25 April (TJN, RCr *et al*); Great Linford, 26 April (DW); Fletchers Water, 1 May (RCr, JB); Beech Bed Inclosure, 7 May (RCr, JB); Brockenhurst, 20 June (PDB).

**1945 Brussels Lace *Cleorodes lichenaria* (Hufnagel, 1767)**

As shown by the graph below, a spectacular rise in fortune has been noticed for this moth since 2006, the larva of which feeds on, and is a remarkable mimic of, tree lichens. The year under review saw 88 records and 161 individuals, an increase on last year's 66 (and 85), at that point the highest to date. It remains however almost exclusively a species of the west of the two counties, being rarely reported east of SU/SZ39. Second generation individuals have been seen at Cadnam on 16 September 2006 (MP) and Great Linford on 13 October 2007 (DW).



**1959 Sloe Carpet *Aleucis distinctata*** (H-S, 1839)

**UK BAP / Nb**

**VC11:** One to MV at Great Linford on 17 April was just the third record in our area since 1997 (DW det. AGP).

**1964 Annulet *Charissa obscurata*** ([D. & S.], 1775)

Relatively frequent in the mid to late 1990s in the New Forest and on the Island but now very scarcely recorded.

**VC10:** One at Ventnor on 19 September (JHa) was the first recent record received although it is apparently annual at this site.

Right: Annulet, Ventnor,  
19 September © David Cooke



**1968 Yellow Belle *Semiaspilates ochrearia*** (Rossi, 1794)

**VC10:** Just one record received, at Brook Down on 23 May (DC).

**VC11:** Six by day at Hurst Castle on 4 June (PDB) was the highest count since 1994; elsewhere there were a scattering of records along the south coast from Pennington to Hayling Island.

**1969 Grey Scalloped Bar *Dyscia fagaria*** (Thunberg, 1784)

**VC11:** Three records were an improvement on the singleton of 2008: Rowbarrow, one on 29 May (SH); Markway Hill, one on 14 June (RAC); Chewton Common, Highcliffe, one on 1 August (PAB) was the latest ever record in the county.

**Sphingidae**

**1972 Convolvulus Hawk-moth *Agrius convolvuli*** (Linnaeus, 1758)

**Migrant**

Twelve records were received, the largest number since the exceptional year of 2006 when about 230 were seen.

**VC10:** Bonchurch, four between 18 July and 26 September (JHa); Totland, five, 25 August to 2 October (SAK-J).

**VC11:** Northney, Hayling Island, 4 September (JWP); Highcliffe, Christchurch, 11 September (RAC); Sandy Point, Hayling Island, 14 September (AJ).

**1982 Narrow-bordered Bee Hawk-moth *Hemaris tityus*** (Linnaeus, 1758)

**UK BAP / Na**

Just two records were received.

**VC8:** Kitts Grave, Martin Down NNR, on 22 May (DGG).

**VC12:** Porton Down, one seen on 16 May (DGG).

Right: Narrow-bordered Bee Hawk-moth, Porton Down  
16 May © Richard Levett



**1983 Broad-bordered Bee Hawk-moth *H. fuciformis*** (Linnaeus, 1758)

**Nb**

Five adult records of this woodland species were received.

**VC11:** Christchurch, one was seen briefly in a garden on 31 May (MJG); Browndown\*,

one was hovering over Honeysuckle on 1 June (RJD); Blashford Lakes, one on 3 July (RAC); Wootton Coppice, one on 12 July (MJG); Great Linford, one nectaring on Honeysuckle on 19 August (DW). Also four larvae were found on Honeysuckle at Denny Wood on 29 June (George Else det. KW).

### **1984 Humming-bird Hawk-moth *Macroglossum stellatarum* (L., 1758) Migrant**

In all 57 moths were reported, compared with 27 in 2008. There were no early records to suggest that moths had overwintered.

**VC8:** Martin Down, one on 1 July (Stephen Keen), and one on 23 August (P&CA).

**VC10:** A total of fourteen moths was recorded. The first was on 12 June (TDC, SRC). The last was on 13 October (AB). Both were at Ventnor.

**VC11:** In all 27 moths were reported. The first was at Northney, Hayling Island on 4 June (JWP) and the last were one, also on Hayling Island, on 14 September (GSAS) with another at Funtley on the same day (MLO).

**VC12:** Records of fourteen moths were received. The first was at Whitehill on 15 June (Stephen Keen) and the last was at Brighton Hill, Basingstoke on 13 October (AHD).

### **1987 Bedstraw Hawk-moth *Hyles gallii* (Rottemburg, 1775) Migrant**

**VC12:** One was seen by day in Alresford on 10 July (Winston Churchill), the first sighting since 2006.

### **1990 Striped Hawk-moth *Hyles livornica* (Esper, 1779) Migrant**

There were three records of this rare migrant.

**VC8:** One to actinic light on 24 May (P&CA).

**VC10:** One at Totland on 23 August (SAK-J).

**VC11:** One at Eastleigh on 30 May (SI).

## **Notodontidae**

### **2017 Small Chocolate-tip *Clostera pigra* (Hufnagel, 1766) Nb**

**VC11:** In the New Forest, one at Furzy Brow, Pig Bush on 3 July (RBW, PRD); Holmsley Railway Track, one on 18 July (RCr, JBI), and a larva was found at Hale Purlieu\* on 17 August (BG).

**VC12:** One at Pamber Forest on 30 May (RCH *et al*), the first from this site since 2001.

### **2020 Figure of Eight *Diloba caeruleocephala* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

This once common moth was at a very low ebb in our two counties a few years ago with just four records between 1986 and 1990. It appears to be recovering now and over 100 individuals were reported in 2009, though in numbers at just three sites.

**VC10:** Cranmore, nine on 21 October and eight on 14 October (I&CF).

**VC11:** On 21 October nine at Cadnam (MP), one at Ashurst (TAP).

**VC12:** Broad Oak, Odiham, eight to external house lights on 15 October (TBa). Two larvae were found on mature Hawthorn at Magdalen Hill Down on 7 May (PDF).

## **Lymantriidae**

### **2034 Gypsy Moth *Lymantria dispar* (Linnaeus, 1758) Adventive/Migrant**

**VC12:** In August a total of three moths was recorded at Liss (Lesley Benson). Details were received from the Forestry Commission (per N Straw). Another was trapped at Liss in August 2007. This species is a forestry pest in much of its world range and the proximity of these records to a garden centre is thought to be significant.

## Arctiidae

### 2036 Dew Moth *Setina irrorella*

(Linnaeus, 1758)

**VC10:** One on Tennyson Down, 9 July (RWi).

**VC11:** At Hurst Castle, 18 by day, 4 June (PDB).

### 2038 Muslin Footman *Nudaria mundana*

(Linnaeus, 1761)

**VC8:** Martin\*, one trapped on 10 July and one found indoors on 14 July (PA). This is the first record from this part of Hampshire.

Right: Muslin Footman, Martin,  
10 July © Peter Allen



### 2045 Hoary Footman *Eilema caniola* (Hübner, 1808)

**Resident / Migrant**

It appears that the suspected breeding population in the north-east, first reported in 2003, continues to be present and is possibly expanding its range from Surrey. Records have been received from both North and South Hampshire during the year but due to the difficulties in identification it has been decided that all new records from a site will need to be supported by gen. det.

### 2051 Four-spotted Footman *Lithosia quadra* (L., 1758)

**Resident / Migrant**

**VC10:** There were 24 reports on the Island between 29 June at Cranmore (I&CF) and 27 October, Bonchurch (JHa).

**VC11:** Ashurst, three singletons were recorded on 2 and 9 July and 24 October; Brockenhurst, 3 July (RBW); Minstead, 25 July (TJN).

**VC12:** Old Basing, one was seen on 27 June (JKA); Bishops Sutton, 8 July (PGLT).

### 2056 Wood Tiger *Parasemia plantaginis* (Linnaeus, 1758)

There were just two records:

**VC8:** Martin Down NNR, one seen on 31 May (ACM).

**VC11:** One was seen at Butser Hill on 25 August (PAB).

### 2067 Jersey Tiger *Euplagia quadripunctaria* (Poda, 1761)

**Nb**

**VC10:** Sixteen were reported, all but two by day, the first being at Ventnor on 23 July (RWi) and the last at Cranmore on 30 August (I&CF). Sightings at Gurnard and Northwood (DTB) represented a new 10km square for the species.

**VC11:** Lymington, 16 August (PRD); Pennington, 17 August (RCr); Fareham, 19 August (KW). Unlike those on the Island, all three came to MV light.

## Nolidae

### 2075 Small Black Arches *Meganola strigula* ([D. & S.], 1775)

**Na**

**VC11:** In the New Forest, reported from Rowbarrow, 13 June (SH); Ashurst, 13 June and 23 June (KG); Splash Bridge, Broomy Inclosure, 25 June (DW, RJo) and Brockenhurst, one on 29 June and four on 1 July (RBW). Also at Mottisfont, two on 21 June (GCE).

**VC12:** Pamber Forest, one on 2 July (GJD) and another on 13 July (DGG).

## 2076 Kent Black Arches *Meganola albula* ([D.& S.], 1775)

**Nb**

A good year, with 62 reports of 80 individuals received, the second highest ever (only exceeded by 2006). While predominantly from South Hampshire (46 records), there were four from VC8, six in VC10 and an exceptional thirteen in VC12 (the previous high being only three) between 27 June and 28 July. New site records were made in Cholderton\* (TJN, MJW *et al*), Bishops Sutton\* (PGLT), Winnall Moors HIWWT NR (AHD, RE), Basingstoke (MJW) and Old Basing (MJW, JKA *et al*).

## Noctuidae

### 2080 Square-spot Dart *Euxoa obelisca* (Tutt, 1902)

Whilst this species is still possibly common along the chalk cliffs of the Isle of Wight there has been little to support this in the way of records received over the years. The following are the first since 2004, and observers are urged to send in all records of this species.

**VC10:** Bonchurch, 10 October (JHa); Totland, ten on 18 October and eight on 19 October (SAK-J).

### 2082 Garden Dart *Euxoa nigricans* (Linnaeus, 1761)

Observers are reminded that a good photograph or specimen is required for records of this species to be accepted. Just one record was received.

**VC11:** Stockbridge, two on 27 July (GCE).

### 2085 Archer's Dart *Agrotis vestigialis* (Hufnagel, 1766)

**VC11:** Sandy Point, one on 4 July and another on 31 August (AJ); Great Linford, 13 August (DW); Hayling Island, 14 September (GSAG).

Right: Crescent Dart, Sandy Point  
24 July © Andy Johnson

### 2090 Crescent Dart *Agrotis trux* (Stephens, 1829)

**VC10:** Four between 19 and 21 June at Moons Hill, Totland (BG, SAK-J); Bonchurch, a pristine second brood individual on 14 October (JHa).

**VC11:** Individuals in Pennington, 20 July (RCr) and Sandy Point, Hayling, 24 July (AJ) were the first mainland records since 2000.

### 2091 Dark Sword-grass *Agrotis ipsilon* (Hufnagel, 1766)

**Migrant**

About 250 reports were received, compared with about 140 in 2008.

**VC10:** 59 moths were recorded, including 54 at Totland (SAK-J).

**VC11:** There were about 150 records.

**VC12:** A total of at least 36 records was received.

### 2093 Sand Dart *Agrotis ripae* (Hübner, 1823)

**Nb**

**VC11:** One was recorded at Sandy Point, Hayling Island on 24 June (AJ). This was the only record of this species which is believed to breed on Hayling Island.



**2108 Lunar Yellow Underwing *Noctua orbona* (Hufnagel, 1766) UK BAP / Nb**

All observers are reminded that a specimen or good photograph is required for acceptance of this species.

**VC12:** Cholderton, one on 20 June (HE) and another on 15 August (HE, TJN, LF).

**2110a Langmaid's Yellow Underwing *N. janthina* ([D. & S.], 1775) Migrant**

**VC11:** With only 25 previous records, thirteen in 2009 was notable. A total count of eleven individuals were recorded from Hayling Island (GSAS, AJ, JWP), and five were caught in Southsea (IRT, JRL). All were reported between 15 July and 13 August.

**2114 Double Dart *Graphiphora augur* (Fabricius, 1775)**

**VC12:** Including the two here, there have now been just seven records in the county since 1998. This was once a widespread species that is now decidedly rare. From analysis of the Rothamsted data this species is the fourth most declined species (97% over 35 years to 2002). Winnall Moors HIWWT NR, one on 23 June (AHD) and two on 30 June (AHD, RE).

**2119 Pearly Underwing *Peridroma saucia* (Hübner, 1808) Migrant**

Only 27 individuals were reported compared with 46 in 2008, over 70 in 2007 and 500 in 2006. Fifteen were on the Island and the rest were from South Hampshire, with the first on 20 June and the last on 30 October.

**2140 White-marked *Cerastis leucographa* ([D. & S.], 1775) Nb**

As usual all five records were from north Hampshire and on this occasion all by the same recorder.

**VC12:** Leckford, singletons on 24 March, 15 April and 24 April; Longstock, one on 30 March and another on 3 April (GCE).

Right: Silvery Arches, Grayshott  
29 June © Robin Turner

**2149 Silvery Arches *Polia trimaculosa* (Esper, 1788) Nb**

**VC12:** A local and uncommon moth of heathy areas. One in Grayshott on 29 June (RTu) was the first county record for five years and only the third this decade.

**2165 Small Ranunculus *Hecatera dysodea* ([D. & S.], 1775)**

**VC11:** See New County Records above.

**VC12:** See New Vice-County Records above.

**2172 White Spot *Hadena albimacula* (Borkhausen, 1792) RDB2**

Browndown is the only locality in our area where it is known to breed

**VC11:** Browndown, two fresh males on 28 May (JWP, SSw) and two on 12 June (F.M.G.). The last report away from this area was in 1993.

**2176 Antler Moth *Cerapteryx graminis* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

**VC12:** The Antler Moth has declined since the 1990s, however 39 moths were recorded in 2009 and it was found to be relatively common at Winnall Moors HIWWT NR, with 31 to light between 10 July and 7 August (AHD, GAH, RE).



**2183 Blossom Underwing**  
*Orthosia miniosa* ([D. & S.], 1775)

More than thirty records were received compared with thirteen in 2008. Most were from VC11 with just two from VC12; there were no reports from VC10.

Right: Blossom Underwing, Bentley Wood  
7 April © Dave Green



**2184 Northern Drab** *Orthosia opima* (Hübner, 1809)

**VC12:** One to MV at Chilbolton was the only record (GCE conf. TJN from photo).

**2195 Delicate** *Mythimna vitellina* (Hübner, 1808)

**Migrant**

Just 33 individuals were seen in 2009, compared with about 200 in 2007 and over 1000 in 2006. They were almost equally split between the Island and VC11.

**2201 Shore Wainscot** *Mythimna litoralis* (Curtis, 1827)

**Nb**

**VC11:** Highcliffe, singles on 14 and 15 July (RAC); one on 23 September at Sandy Point, Hayling Island, was probably from a second brood (AJ).

**2203 White-speck** *Mythimna unipuncta* (Haworth, 1809)

**Migrant**

Just three records were received, a lower than average total – the lowest since 2001 – and compares to the 22 individuals reported in 2008.

**VC10:** Totland, 26 and 29 October (SAK-J); Freshwater, 27 October (DBW).

**2214 Chamomile Shark** *Cucullia chamomillae* ([D. & S.], 1775)

**VC11:** Hayling Island, one on 14 May (GSAS) was the only record received.

**2219 Striped Lychnis** *Shargacucullia lychnitis* Rambur, 1833 **UK BAP/ Na**

About forty larvae were recorded, although a repeat survey by the Wildlife Trust (following 2008's success) for larva in the Ellisfield/Candovers area south of Basingstoke was hampered by poor weather during the prime recording period. Only the two adults given below were found.

**VC11:** One was seen at Stockbridge on 11 August (GCE) and the other was trapped at St Cross, Winchester on 3 July (THW).

**2230 Feathered Brindle** *Aporophyla australis* (H. & W., 1843) **Nb**

**VC10:** The following are the first records received since 2005. Freshwater, two on 18 September (DBW) and another on 19 September (DC); Totland, eight on 18 September and four on the following night (SAK-J). Recorders are urged to report all records of this nationally notable species.

Left: Feathered Brindle, Freshwater, 19 September  
© Dave Cooke



**2241 Red Sword-grass *Xylena vetusta* (Hübner, 1813)**

**VC11:** One was trapped at Botley Wood on 23 February (RJD det. KW); singles to MV at Brockenhurst on 11 April and 18 October (RBW).

**VC12:** One came to actinic light at Whitehill on 15 October (SRM).

**2246a Oak Rustic *Dryobota labecula* (Esper, 1788)**

**Migrant**



**VC10:** At Bonchurch, JHa reported one on 29 September and in October it became “very common, frequently in double figures”; Freshwater, 31 October (DC).

**VC11:** Christchurch\*, 17 and 22 October (RAC); Gosport, two on 29 October (FRP, SSw *et al*); on Hayling Island\*, singles at Sandy Point, 23 October (AJ) and at West Town on 30 October and another on 16 November (GSAS).

Left: Oak Rustic, Hayling, 23 October © Andy Johnson



Flame Brocade, Sandy Point, 22 October  
© Andy Johnson



Red-headed Chestnut, Sandy Point, 30 October  
© Andy Johnson

**2251 Flame Brocade *Trigonophora flammea* (Esper, 1785)**

**Migrant**

The total of nine records of this unmistakable immigrant noctuid was only down by two on the total seen in 2006. All were caught between 21 and 30 October.

**VC10:** At Totland, singles on 21, 22 and 27 October (SAK-J); Freshwater, 22 October (DC); Bonchurch, 22 and 30 October (JHa).

**VC11:** Sandy Point, Hayling, two on 22 October (AJ); Lymington, 30 October (MW).

**2261 Red-headed Chestnut *Conistra erythrocephala* ([D.& S.], 1775) Migrant**

**VC11:** Hayling Island, one on 28 October (GSAS) and also, at Sandy Point, one on 30 October (AJ). These are the ninth and tenth records for our area.

**2271 Orange Sallow *Xanthia citrago* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

The total of fifteen records of this attractive moth associated with mature lime was the best to date, and were distributed across the three vice-counties. It can be erratic in occurrence: for example the two in MJW’s Basingstoke garden in 2009 were the first since a run of five in 2003.

**2275 Dusky-lemon Sallow *Xanthia gilvago* ([D.& S.], 1775)**

**VC11:** Just three records were received of this much-declined Elm feeder. Blashford Lakes HIWWT NR, one on 20 September (RAC); Southsea, one on 2 October (IRT); Sandy Point, Hayling, one on 11 October (AJ).



**2276 Pale-lemon Sallow *Xanthia ocellaris*** (Borkhausen, 1792)

**VC11:** Recorded from Sandy Point, Hayling\* on 27 September (AJ) and in Southsea, 29 September (IRT) – the same site as the first Hampshire record in 2003. These are just the third and fourth county records of this species whose foodplant is Black Poplar and its cultivars.

Left: Pale-lemon Sallow, Hayling 27 September © Andy Johnson

**2277 Scarce Merveille du Jour *Moma alpium*** (Osbeck, 1778) **RDB3**

A total of 34 individuals were recorded, all from VC11.

**VC11:** Wickham Common, fifteen were trapped between 25 May and 2 July (KC) and at nearby Wickham, there was one on 13 June (JRDS); Great Linford, eight between 24 May and 13 June (DW); Green Ford, six on 27 May (DW); singletons were also reported on 13 June from Romsey (MBa), Rowbarrow, New Forest (SH) and Brockenhurst (RBW), and at Ocknell Inclosure, New Forest on 22 June (RJo).

**2292 Tree-lichen Beauty *Cryphia algae*** (Fabricius, 1775) **Migrant**

It seems to be well-established in the south-east of the Island and in Hampshire along the coast east of Southampton but not so far recorded from west of the city.

**VC10:** Bonchurch, a high of four was reported on 9 August but there were smaller numbers earlier in the month (JHa).



**VC11:** Northney, Hayling, four between 31 July and 12 August (JWP); elsewhere on Hayling Island there were seven between 6 August and 11 September (GSAS) and at Sandy Point, one on 30 August (AJ); Southsea, seven between 3 and 15 August (IRT).

**2291 Coronet *Craniophora ligustri*** ([D. & S.], 1775)

**VC12:** An example of an unusual gold-coloured form was caught by GCE in Chilbolton on 28 July, as illustrated left.

Left: Coronet, Chilbolton 28 July © Glynne Evans

**2297 Copper Underwing *Amphipyra pyramidea*** (Linnaeus, 1758)

**VC12:** Fourteen were found roosting by day in dormouse boxes at Old Basing on 22 July (JKA).

**2304 Orache Moth *Trachea atriplicis*** (Linnaeus, 1758) **Migrant**

Two more records of this unmistakable migrant species brings the total in the two counties to twelve. The first was in 1995, but all but two have been taken this decade and it appears to be increasing in frequency.

**VC10:** Totland, two on 18 July and one on 1 August (SAK-J).

**2349 Mere Wainscot *Chortodes fluxa* (Hübner, 1809)**

**Nb**

The only known breeding colony in our area is at Gosport and the last record from here was in 1987. The records would suggest that there are also colonies elsewhere. These two are the first Hampshire records since 2004.

**VC11:** Wickham Common\*, one male to garden light on 2 July (KC gen. det. RJD); Sandy Point, Hayling\*, one on 21 July (AJ).

**2358 Saltern Ear *Amphipoea fucosa* (Freyer, 1830)**

**VC12:** Beech\*, 22 July (NDP conf. TJN), apparently the first North Hampshire record since 1969 (Goater, 1992) of a species which is quite common on the coast.

**2362 Butterbur *Hydraecia petasitis* Doubleday, 1847**

**VC12:** Overton, one to MV on 13 August (ACr) was only the second since 2004.

**2367 Haworth's Minor *Celaena haworthii* (Curtis, 1829)**

**VC12:** Winnall Moors HIWWT NR, one to actinic light on 10 July (AHD, RE).

CORRECTION: *Omit* Winnall Moors HWWT "ten between 17 July and 11 August 2008" and *add* "one on 30 July 2008".

**2368 Crescent *Celaena leucostigma* (Hübner, 1808)**

**VC10:** Compton Fields, Atherfield Point, one on 29 July (M Short).

**VC11:** Hayling Island, 26 July (GSAS); Titchfield Haven, two on 14 August (RJD).

**VC12:** Winnall Moors HIWWT NR, two were seen at dusk on 10 July (AHD, RE), two trapped on 25 July (AHD, RE) and a further two on 7 August (AHD, GAH); Leckford Estate, 22 August (GCE conf. TJN). CORRECTION: *Omit* Winnall Moors HWWT "one on 30 July 2008" and *add* "17 between 15 July and 11 August 2008".

**2373 Webb's Wainscot *Archanara sparganii* (Esper, 1790)**

**Nb**

A marshland species, restricted predominantly to South Hampshire and Wight.

**VC10:** Atherfield Bay, 29 July (Mike Short); Cranmore, 31 July, 14 August and 7 September (I&CF).

**VC11:** Reported in some numbers from Titchfield Haven, the area's stronghold, with 15 between 14 July and 1 September (BD). Also at Wickham Common, 28 July (KC).

**2385 Small Mottled Willow *Spodoptera exigua* (Hübner, 1808)**

**Migrant**

Following just five records in 2008, 45 were recorded from all three vice-counties between 24 May and 29 October: 11 in the Isle of Wight, 27 in South Hampshire and seven in the North. This is the third best total ever, albeit way down on the numbers seen in 2003 and 2006.

**2387a Clancy's Rustic *Platyperigea kadenii* (Freyer, 1836)**

**Migrant**

Thought to be now resident, but this is still to be proven.

**VC10:** Bonchurch, common in the autumn with a maximum of nine on 29 September (JHa); Freshwater, five between 10 October and 21 October (DC).

**VC11:** Southsea, three between 19 September and 26 September (IRT) and another on 19 September (JRL); Hayling Island, thirteen between 20 September and 13 October (GSAS) and another at Sandy Point on 26 October (AJ); North End, Portsmouth, one on 27 September (MWe); Fareham, one on 21 October (KW).

**2391 Silky Wainscot *Chilodes maritimus* (Tauscher, 1806)**

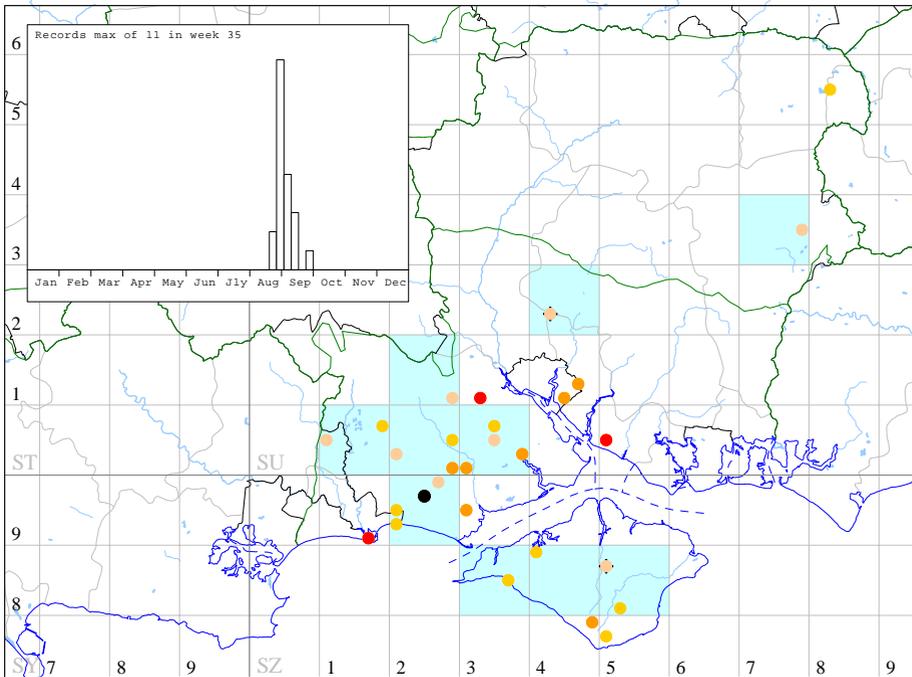
This species, a resident of large reed-beds, saw a return to normal levels with 23 records, after the low point of four moths reported in 2008. There have been no records from the Isle of Wight since 1995.

**VC11:** Titchfield Haven NNR, nineteen between 13 May and 3 July (BD); Stubbington, one on 28 May (DPH); Zionshill, Chandlers Ford, one on 15 August (PAB).

**VC12:** Winnall Moors HIWWT NR, one on 30 June (AHD, RE); Soldridge, Four Marks\*, one on 2 July (PAB). These are the first reports from North Hampshire since 1996, before which it was reasonably common in the reedbeds of Fleet Pond.

### 2394 Anomalous *Stilbia anomala* (Haworth, 1812)

**VC11:** Tiptoe, New Forest, one male to MV on 28 August (SRL). Previously widespread across the New Forest, this is just the fourth record in the county since 1999.



### 2396 Rosy Marbled *Elaphria venustula* (Hübner, 1790)

**Nb**

A good year for this attractive moth of open woodland and heath on Tormentil, with 39 records of 45 individuals being second only to 2006 in numbers and compares favourably to the twenty-five reported last year: all but two were from South Hampshire, with the remainder in the north.

### 2400 Scarce Bordered Straw *Helicoverpa armigera* (Hübner, 1808) **Migrant**

A total of sixteen was reported, an improvement on last year.

**VC10:** Totland, eight between 16 August and 30 October (SAK-J); Bonchurch, singletons on 13 October and 30 October (JHa).

**VC11:** Holbury, Southampton, 22 August (KJP); Southsea, 21 October (JRL) and another on the same day at Northney, Hayling Island (JWP); Sandy Point, Hayling Island, 26 October (AJ) and also on Hayling Island, 28 October (GSAS).

**VC12:** Sutton Scotney, one seen nectaring on Hoary Ragwort on 18 August (PDF).

**2402 Shoulder-striped Clover *Heliothis maritima* (Graslin, 1855)**

**RDB3**



Adults and larvae of this UK BAP species were found in good numbers in one discrete area in the northern New Forest, favouring low Cross-leaved Heath *Erica tetralix*. This was the same site on which *maritima* was re-discovered in 2005. It surely exists in other parts of the Forest, but can be elusive. TJN and LF saw two nectaring on 28 June and were lucky to see a female ovipositing on the stem of *E. tetralix*. RCr reported six by day on 1 July, with five on 5 July (JS). Those interested should look on relatively short *E. tetralix*-dominated heath, up to 40cm in height, from mid-June onwards.

Left: Shoulder-striped Clover, egg laid on Cross-leaved Heath, New Forest 28 June © Tim Norriss



Above: Shoulder-striped Clover nectaring on Cross-leaved Heath, New Forest 28 June © Tim Norriss



Right: Shoulder-striped Clover, larva, New Forest 22 August © Keith Tailby



Above and left: Shoulder-striped Clover, New Forest 1 July © Richard Coomber

### 2403 Bordered Straw *Heliothis peltigera* ([D. & S.], 1775)

**Migrant**

It has been unusual in recent years for there to be more reports of *peltigera* than *armigera* but so it was this year. Just one record of this normally fairly common migrant was received in 2008 but in the year under review, 39 were reported in our area.

### 2408 Small Marbled *Eublemma parva* (Hübner, 1808)

**Migrant**

These four records are the first since 2006.

**VC10:** Bonchurch, one on 31 May (JHa).

**VC11:** Lymington, one on 31 May (PRD); Southsea, one on 12 August (IRT); Titchfield Haven, one on 13 August (BD det. KW).

### 2412 Silver Hook *Deltote uncula* (Clerck, 1759)

It is clear from the records below that this moth, which is readily disturbed during the day, should be looked for in suitable marshes and boggy heathland. It is only weakly attracted to light.

**VC11:** Sopley, one was trapped on 13 June (JSw).

**VC12:** Bransbury Common, 27 were seen on 24 May (GCE), a further 25 on 30 May (KTai) and six on 1 June (TJN, LF); Leckford Estate, one was trapped on 1 June; Winnall Moors HIWWT NR, one to light on 30 June (AHD, RE).

Right: Silver Hook, Bransbury Common  
1 June © Tim Norriss



### 2418 Cream-bordered Green Pea *Earias clorana* (L., 1761)

**Nb**

The best ever year with 55 records received compared with twenty-one records last year. The vast majority were from Titchfield Haven, maximum 11 on 29 June (BD), with the rest from elsewhere in South Hampshire including eight on Hayling Island (GSAS) and nine on one night, 25 June, at Ringwood (MK).

### 2432 Ni Moth *Trichoplusia ni* (Hübner, 1803)

**Migrant**

The 13 records received were the first since 2006.



Left: Ni Moth, Southsea, 20 September  
© Ian Thirlwell

**VC10:** Bonchurch, one on 1 August (JHa).

**VC11:** Fareham, one on 3 August (KW); Southsea, one on 14 August (JRL) and another on 20 September (IRT); Northney, Hayling Island, one on 14 August and another on 17 August (JWP); Sandy Point, Hayling Island,

one on 16 August (AJ); Wickham Common, one on 16 August (KC); Stubbington, one on 19 August (DPH); Sholing, Southampton, one on 21 August (ARC).

**VC12:** Chilbolton one on 28 July and another to actinic light on 12 August (GCE);

Kempshott, Basingstoke, one on 3 August (GAH).

**2435 Scarce Burnished Brass *Diachrysia chryson* (Esper, 1789)**

**Na**

**VC11:** Mottisfont, one to actinic light on 7 July and another on 13 July (SAC).

**VC12:** Winnall Moors HIWWT NR, one was seen at dusk on 23 June (AHD); Leckford Estate, one on 13 July (GCE).

**2436 Dewick's Plusia *Macdunnoughia confusa* (Stephens, 1850)**

**Migrant**

**VC10:** One in Bonchurch on 13 April (JHa) was astonishingly early. The earliest previous record in our area is 19 July and this may even be nationally significant.

**VC11:** Fareham, one on 6 September (RJD); Northney, Hayling Island on 6 September (JWP) and another on Hayling on 23 September (GSAS); North End, Portsmouth, one on 24 September (MWe).

**2437 Golden Plusia *Polychrysia moneta* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

**VC11:** One at Ashurst on 3 June (KG); Hayling Island, one on 25 June (GSAS).

**VC12:** Basingstoke, one on 9 June (R&SH) and another on 22 June (MJW).

**2441 Silver Y *Autographa gamma* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

**Migrant**

Over 3,300 moths were reported compared with about 1,300 last year.

**VC10:** Nearly 700 moths were recorded. The first was on 31 March at Bonchurch (JHa) and the last at Freshwater on 15 November (DC).

**VC11:** Over 1900 individuals were caught. The first was at Eastleigh on 31 March (SI) and the last at Ashurst on 21 November (KG).

**VC12:** Over 800 were reported. The first was at Longstock on 30 April (GCE) and the last at Overton on 28 October (ACr).

**2451 Clifden Nonpareil *Catocala fraxini* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

**Migrant**

There are 33 previous reports of this species in the two counties. However this year produced ten records, the highest ever annual total. The possibility of it having bred in the area now seems likely as it has been recorded at Brockenhurst for three years running. In Dorset it has also been recorded three years running adjacent to Butterfly Conservation HQ.

**VC10:** Totland, one on 17 September and another on 20 September (SAK-J); Cranmore, one on 18 September ((I&CF); Bonchurch, two on 28 September (JHa).

**VC11:** Brockenhurst, singles on 22 August and 30 September (RBW); Mottisfont, one on 29 September (GCE); Wickham Common, one on 7 October (KC); Bank, NF, one was seen being attacked by a bird on 15 October (Alastair Duncan).



Right: Clifden Nonpareil, Brockenhurst,  
30 September © Russell Wynn

**2453 Rosy Underwing *Catocala electa* (Vieweg, 1790)**

**Migrant**

**VC10:** See New County Records above.

**2454 Light Crimson Underwing *C. promissa* ([D. & S.], 1775) UK BAP / RDB3**

Only thirteen records were received this year of this New Forest specialist which had done so well during the two wet summers of 2007-8.

**VC11:** Brockenhurst, one on 9 July and two on 10 July (RBW); Great Linford, two on 16 July, one on 31 July and another on 9 August (DW); Ladycross Inclosure, two on 30 July (RCH); Chewton Common, one on 1 August (PAB); Ashurst, one on 3 August (KG) and another on 16 September (TAP); New Copse Inclosure, two were seen at dusk on 15 August (PDB, GP); Cadnam, one on 18 August (MP).

**2455 Dark Crimson Underwing *C. sponsa* (L., 1767) UK BAP / RDB2**

**VC11:** In the New Forest, seen at Ladycross Inclosure on 30 July (RCH) and 1 August (M Botham), New Copse Inclosure, one at dusk on 15 August (PDB), and at Denny Wood, with one seen at rest on 21 September on a 'Goat Moth tree' (KW).

**2476 Beautiful Snout *Hypena crassalis* (Fabricius, 1787)**

There are normally just a handful of records of this species per year but in 2009 twenty records were received of this relatively rare species that feeds on Bilberry, and in unprecedented numbers.

**VC11:** Wickham, twelve were caught between 23 June and 3 August (JRDS); Sandy Point, Hayling Island\*, one on 9 July (AJ); West Walk, one on 24 July (KC); Linford, one on 10 August (DW).

**VC12:** Pamber Forest, about fifteen came to twenty lights on 29 May (KTai) and a further two were trapped on 13 July (DGG); Deadwater Valley, one on 12 June, two on 30 June and a further two on 23 July (NM); Bartley Heath HIWWT NR, one on 14 July (AMD).

**2478 Bloxworth Snout *Hypena obsitalis* (Hübner, 1813) RDB3**

**VC10:** Bonchurch, one on 18 July and another on 22 July (JHa).

**VC11:** Southsea\*, one on 30 October was the first mainland record since 1995 (JRL).

**2480 Buttoned Snout *Hypena rostralis* (L., 1758) Nb**

**VC10:** Freshwater, one on 24 August and another on 10 October (DC).

**VC11:** Funtley, 22 May (MLO); Mottisfont, 24 May (GCE); Ashurst, 25 May (KG); Eastleigh, 12 June (SI).

**VC12:** Lower Froyle, one to a lighted window on 2 May (SAC); Sherborne St John, 25 May (NM).

**2485 Marsh Oblique-barred *Hypenodes humidalis* Doubleday, 1850 Nb**

**VC11:** Brockenhurst, seven between 30 June and 22 September (RBW); Furzy Brow, Pig Bush, 3 July (RBW, PRD); Holmsley Bog, one netted on 20 July (RCr); Stubbington, one on 11 August (DPH); Sholing, Southampton, 2 September (ARC).

**2488 Common Fan-foot *Pechipogo strigilata* (L., 1758) UK BAP / Na**

**VC11:** Four seen by day near Stockbridge on 23 May (PDF); Mottisfont, one netted on 3 June (GCE); on 15 September, six larvae were found near Stockbridge (AMD).

**VC12:** Pamber Forest, six were trapped on 29 May (KTai) and it was also recorded there on 30 May (RCH *et al*); Harewood Forest, one was seen on 31 May and another the next day (GCE).

**2495 Olive Crescent *Trisateles emortualis* ([D. & S.], 1775)**

**UKBAP / RDB3**

This rare breeder in south and eastern England is potentially a migrant in our area, and may be in the process of colonisation.

**VC10:** Bonchurch, one on 25 June (JHa). This is the third Island record.

**VC11:** Lovedean, one on 12 July (ARJ) was the fourth county record.

Right: Olive Crescent, Lovedean  
12 July © Alan Jafkins



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Merveille du Jour – Maurice Pugh  
Branch Photographic Competition Winner 2009: UK Moths



Poplar Hawk-moth – Tony Wootton  
Branch Photographic Competition Winner 2009: Immature Stages



Hummingbird Hawk-moth – Maurice Pugh  
Branch Photographic Competition Winner 2009: Behaviour and Overall Winner

## List of observers

P&CA	Allen, Peter & Cindy Anderson, John	RBry	Bryant, Robert
JKA	Andrews, James	RBu	Buchanan, Roger
HA	Anthony, Heather Anthony, Jenny Anthony, Mr & Mrs S Appleby, Alison Arlow, Steve	CBu	Buckle, Chris
IAr	Arnold, Ivan	DJB	Buckler, David J
EWB	Baigent , Ted Bailey, James	IB	Buckoke, Isabel
KB	Bailey, Ken Bailey, Sue	PAB	Budd, Phil Burt, Hazel Butcher, Kevin Butcher, Ros
AGB	Baines, Tony	AB	Butler, Andy Butterfield, D & M
CLB	Baker, Colin	AMBB	Butterworth, Adrian Calderwood, Ian
MBa	Baker, Mike	RJC	Carpenter, Richard
LB-R	Baker-Ricardson, Lisa	TCa	Carpenter, Trevor
SBa	Ball, Stuart	CCa	Carter, Clive
RBa	Banbury, Richard	RCa	Cazalet, Rupert
AJB	Barker, Andy	JEC/JS	Chainey, John & Jenny Spence
A&LB	Barker, Andy & Linda	RAC	Chapman, Bob
LJB	Barker, Linda Barter, Christopher Bartrum, Sophie Beevers, Paul	JMC	Cheverton, Jim M
EJB	Bennett, E J Bensen, Lesley	LC	Christopher, Lucy Churchill, Winston
TBe	Bernhard, Tim	BCI	Clapperton, Brenda
CRB	Beyer, Colin	SC	Clark, Sue
DTB	Biggs, David T	S&BC	Clark, Sue & Barry
PBi	Billinghurst, Peter Bills, Jonathan	JHC	Clarke, Julian
NB	Binsted, Norman	PCI	Clarke, Peter
GBi	Birkett, Graham Blake, Steve	SAC	Clarke, Susan A
JBI	Bloss, Juliet	PHC	Clarkson, Peter
ABo	Bolton, Andrew Booth, Anne	JMCI	Cloyne, John Cockbain, Rob & Carol
PBo	Boswell, Paul	TDC	Codlin, Trevor
SAB	Boswell, Simon Botham, Marc	KC	Coker, Kevin
MBo	Boxall, Michael	ARC	Collins, Andy
MRB	Brickwood, M R	CBC	Collins, Barry Cook, Ralph
DAB	Britton, Dennis	DC	Cooke, Dave
RCB	Broadway, Rupert	RC	Cooke, Ron
PDB	Brock, Paul	RCr	Coomber, Richard Cooper, J & G Cooper, Jean Cope, C
AHB	Brookes, Andrew	GCo	Copsey, Ginnie
GBr	Broughton, Geraldine Brown, Glad Brunet, Pema	CCo	Corney, Catherine
		NCo	Cowling, Nigel Cox, Celia Cox, Julie
		TAC	Crabb, Trevor
		MCr	Creese, Marian

RCg	Croger, Ruth Crook, Paul	NG	Galton, Neil
ACr	Cross, Alison	P&PG	Gardner, Peter & Pat Gauntlett, Adrian
AC	Cummings, Alastair	MJG	Gibbons, Mike Gibson, Fred
SCur	Currie, Simon	TGi	Giles, Terry
CCu	Cuthbert, Charles Daish-Miller, Jess Davis, Alex Davis, Graeme	BG	Goater, Barry
AMD	Davis, Tony	KG	Godfrey, Keith
BDe	Dempsey, Bernard	BGo	Goodey, Brian
GJD	Dennis, Graham	LGo	Goodyear, Liz Gosling, Jason Graham, Steve
S&SD	Dennis, Shane & Sarah	AGr	Green, Alan
KD	Dent, Kate	DGG	Green, David G
JDe	Dewhurst, Jenna	ACG	Greenwood, Arthur
RJD	Dickson, Richard	MG	Grist, Mervyn
AHD	Dobson, Tony	JAG	Groves, Justin
TD	Doran, Tim	RGU	Guest, Robert
MDo	Dougal, Malcolm	MGwi	Gwilliam, Mary
BD	Duffin, Barry	MGw	Gwilliam, Mike
MDu	Duffy, Mike Durant, Helen	M&MG	Gwilliam, Mike & Mary Hale, Tony
PRD	Durnell, Pete Dyson, R	CRH	Hall, Chris
RJE	Eagling, Richard	JH	Hall, Jan
HE	Edmunds, Henry	MHa	Hallett, Mark
RE	Edmunds, Rob Edwards, Lindsey Edwards, Mr & Mrs	BWH	Halliday, Bruce
PE	Eeles, Peter	JHa	Halsey, James
BE	Elliott, Brian	DHa	Hamilton, Dave Hammond, Mark
SE&PR	Ellis, Sue & Phil Reynolds	MH	Hampton, Martin Hardy, Cameron
GRE	Else, George	AHa	Harley, R P Harper, Alison
DGE	Evans, D G		Harrop, Dave Harrop, J D Hart, Richard
GCE	Evans, Glynne Evans, Jean Evans, Sheila Eyers, Jean Faithful, John	SHa	Harwood, Stephen
F.M.G.	Fareham Moth Group,	SH	Hatch, Steve
GFa	Farwell, Geoff	LHa	Hatfield, Lyndon Haygarth, Colin Haynes, Mark
KFi	Fisher, Keith	BHe	Hedley, Brian
PDF	Fleet, Patrick	WGH	Helyar, Bill Henry, Frank
BPF	Fletcher, Brian & Marion	GAH	Henwood, Glyn & Rose
I&CF	Fletcher, Ian & Cath	R&SH	Hiley, Ray & Sue
LF	Fomison, Lynn Foote, Beryl Ford, Roy Foster, Chris & Derek	CHJH	Hill, Chris
RF	Fox, Richard French, Arthur French, Wendy	RCH	Hilton, Roy
		DH	Hoare, Dan
		GHo	Hoggarth, Graham
		THo	Holden, Theresa
		RH	Hollins, Ralph

	Holme, Roger	JRL	Langmaid, John
DHo	Holt, David		Langridge, Mick
TH	Hotten, Terry	SRL	Lankester, Steve & Sheila
MJH	Hough, Martin	MLr	Larter, Mark
DPH	Houghton, Dan	MLa	Laux, Martin
	Hubble, David	MLe	Ledeboer, Maarten
	Hughes, Jan	SLeF	Lefly, Sue
	Hughes, Richard & Theresa	S&PL	Leversha, Sylvia & Peter
	Hull, Jacqueline	RKL	Levett, Richard K
NJH	Hull, Nick	DLe	Levy, David
	Hulme, Neil		Lincoln, Jill
	Humphries, Derek & Janet	ML	Litjens, Mark
	Hunt, D W		Lloyd, Robert
JHu	Hunt, John		Lock, Marie
	Hunter, Neville	DL	Longe, Derek
PEH	Hutchins, Peter		Lord, P
	Hyde, Colin		MacKenzie, Catriona
	Ingamells, Bev & Cathryn		Mackrill, Mike
C&BI	Ingamells, C & B		Maddison, Sue
SI	Ingram, Simon	JM	Mallett, Jenny
ARJ	Jafkins, Alan		Manchip, Graham
RJa	James, Roger	SMA	Mansfield, Steve
AMJ	James, Tony	PM	Martin, Peter
	Jarvis, S J		Maskill, Adam
	Jarvis, S M	JAM	Mason, Judy
	Jennings, Mark		Matthews, Chris
TJJ	Jennings, Terry	CM	Matthews, Colin
DJe	Jewsbury, David	RMa	Mays, Richard
AJ	Johnson, Andy	ACM	McCue, Anne C
FJ	Johnson, Frank	AMc	McVittie, Alan
	Johnson, Keith	DMe	Mears, David
	Johnstone, Graham		Melissen, Hans
GJo	Jones, Geoff		Mercer, Jane
JRJ	Jones, J R	JMer	Mercer, Jon
JJ	Jones, Janet		Merritt, Richard
NJo	Jones, Nigel		Middleton, Andrew
PDJ	Jones, Peter	SRM	Miles, Stephen
REJ	Jones, Richard	DLHM	Miller, D L H
IJu	Julian, Ian		Miller, Dave
	Jupe, Pat	PMi	Milward, Paul
SKe	Keen, Steve	DM	Mitchell, Di
HK	Kemm, Henry	NM	Montegriffo, Nick
	Kennedy, A	JRM	Moon, J R
	Kennedy, C		Moore, Tony
	Khan, Shahzad	GMo	Mordant, Gill
MK	King, Martin		Morgan, Keith
SKi	King, Simon		Moseley, Julian
PK	Kirk, Phil	JNa	Nash, Janet
SAK-J	Knill-Jones, Sam		Newton, Roger
	Knowles, Edward	TJN	Norriss, Tim
RLa	Lang, Robin	JN	Nundy, John A
D&RL	Langley, David & Rosalind		Oates, John

MRO	Oates, Matthew	E&PR	Raynor, Ted & Penny
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MLO	Opie, Maurice		Reynolds, Phil
	O'Reilly, John		Rich, Gordon
ROt	Otterbeck, R	PRI	Richards, Pauline
SO	Outram, Steve	G&LR	Richardson, Gary & Lisa
DBO	Owen, Dave		Rickwood, B
ROW	Owen, Roddy	IRI	Riddett, Ian
AGP	Page, Andy	PRId	Ridout, Peter
	Page, Steve		Ripper, Martin
EJP	Pain, E J		Roberts, Barrie
JP	Pain, J	TRo	Roberts, Theo
	Painter, Mark	T&MR	Roberts, Theo & Maureen
	Palmer, G J	JR	Rowell, John
GP	Palmer, Gary	JRu	Ruppersbery, John
	Palmer, K W	DRy	Ryves, Dave
	Palmer, Sarah	MSc	Scoggins, Michael
	Paradise, Reg & Hilary	PSc	Scott, Peter
RPa	Parkhurst, Richard		Searley, Scott
	Parr, Kevin		Sellman, Jennifer
MSP	Parsons, Mark		Sergeant, Richard
PPa	Pattinson, Patrick	MSh	Shaft, Matthew
FRP	Pattinson, Richard		Shepley, Ruth
SPat	Patton, Sarah	JRDS	Shillitoe, John
TAP	Paul, Therasa	RShi	Ship, Rod
DPa	Payne, Dave		Short, Mike
NDP	Peace, Nigel		Short, Peter
DP	Pearson, Dave	DAS	Shute, David
RPen	Pendell, Roger	MJS	Skelton, Michael
RPer	Perkins, Rupert		Skinner, Phil & Frances
	Perrin, Mike	ACS	Smallbone, A C
	Peters, Jeremy	TSm	Smalley, Thelma
DPh	Phillips, David	LS	Smith, Linda
JWP	Phillips, John	PS	Smith, Pat
CP	Piatkiewicz, Chris		Smout, Richard
MPi	Pike, Mark		Snellgrove, Bob
CPI	Pines, Chris	JSo	Solomon, John
	Place, Sue & Steve	RES	Souter, Rob
	Platt, David	JSw	Southworth, Jean
KJP	Plumridge, Keith		Sowerby, Barry
BPo	Pollinger, Brian	SSp	Spencer, Shirley
IP	Pratt, Ian	GSAS	Spraggs, George
BP	Proctor, Barry	PGS	Stapleton, Paul
CPr	Proudley, Colin		Starsmore, Sarah
MPr	Prout, Margaret	TS	Steele, Tony
MP	Pugh, Maurice	GCS	Stephenson, Graham
RPu	Purkins, R	PSt	Sterry, Paul
	Rackham, Betty	CSe	Stevens, Claire
ARa	Rackham, Tony	DSti	Stickley, Deb
BR	Ransom, Brian		Stobart, J & R
GR	Rapley, Geoff	CSt	Stock, Chris
PR	Raynor, Penny	JS	Stokes, Jon

WAS	Straker, W A		Walters, Sheila A
PJS	Strangeman, P J		Walton, David
LSt	Stride, Les	MW	Ward, Marcus
MSw	Swann, Mark	PMW	Waring, Paul
SSw	Swift, Stewart	MWa	Warren, Martin
RSy	Symonds, Richard		Watts, Ian
KTai	Tailby, Keith	MWe	Wearing, Mike
	Talbot, Keith		Webb, Herby
SCT	Tapper, Stephen		Weeks, Christopher
DAT	Thelwell, David	A&AW	Welch, Andy & Amanda
	Thirlow, Sarah	P&PW	Welch, Pam & Peter
IRT	Thirlwell, Ian	AWel	Wells, Adam
D&TT	Thomas, Dave & Julie	RWe	West, Rob
	Thomas, M R	DW	Westerhoff, Diana
PGLT	Thompson, Peter	KW	Wheeler, Keith
AT	Thornbury, Alan	CW	Wheelwright, Cressida
	Thornton, Tim		Whitehead, Stephen
RTHo	Thorp, Rory	AW	Whitlock, Ashley
	Thurlow, Sarah	RWh	Whitmarsh, Bob
ST	Tiller, Sally	MWh	Whitmarsh, M
DJAT	Tinling, David	MFw	Wildish, Mike
	Toms, Mike	NW	Williams, Nicola
	Totterdell, D		Williams, Rosie
PTow	Townsend, Paul	JWil	Willis, John
PT	Toynton, Paul	KBW	Wills, Keith
MTr	Trapaud, Mike	RWi	Wilson, Rob
MT	Trasenster, Mark		Winfield, Robert
RTr	Tratt, R	LW	Winokur, Len
JTri	Trim, June		Wiseman, E J
	Turner, Keith	SW	Woodd, Sue
P&RTu	Turner, Pat & Robin		Woodson, John
RTu	Turner, Robin	RWo	Woodward, Robert
PV	Vaughan, Peter	DBW	Wooldridge, Dave
JVe	Vetterlein, John		Woolnough, Paul
GVi	Vick, Graham		Wootton, Tony
JV	Vigay, John	ARW	Worman, Robin
PVi	Vigus, Piers	SJW	Wright, Simon
TJV	Viney, T J		Wynde, Alan
	Waite, Steve	RBW	Wynn, Russell
THW	Walker, Tim		Young, Kevin
MJW	Wall, Mike	MY	Young, Mark
SWa	Walters, Sheila		

## ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS TO 2008 REPORT

P 54 Brown Argus: first date seen should be 4 May 2008

P73 Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary: earliest/latest dates should be 2008 not 2009

P74 Pearl-bordered Fritillary: latest date should be 2008 not 2009

Additions and corrections to the 2008 moth report have been included within the text of this year's report.

Graham Ferguson and John Solomon were omitted from the 2008 list of observers

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