

Isle of Wight Moth Report 2018

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Review

In what turned out to be a good year for moth recording there was a slow start to the season. The first three months of the year were particularly poor with overall numbers and species diversity lower than normal.

A public mothing event held at Ventnor Botanical Gardens at the end of the month produced some good moths including presumed immigrant *Agrotera nemoralis*, which was first recorded on the Island in 2015.

A prolonged spell of hot dry weather in June and July saw a big change in moth numbers and a decent run of migrant moths. A Druid (*Aedia funesta*) was trapped in Totland, there are only 12 previous UK records of this species, two of which were from the same site in Totland. A Light Crimson Underwing (*Catocala promissa*) was recorded at St. Catherine's Point and a Dark Crimson Underwing (*Catocala sponsa*) at Bonchurch. Other good migrant moths included Splendid Brocade (*Lacanobia splendens*) and four *Catoptria verellus*, all from Shanklin. Another five *Agrotera nemoralis* were trapped in Bonchurch and Shanklin.

The non-migrant highlight was undoubtedly finding Suspected (*Parastichtis suspecta*) at St. Catherine's Point. There are only two previous county records, from July 1897 and August 1963. It is hoped that there is a viable population in that area; the larvae feed on Birch and Sallow.

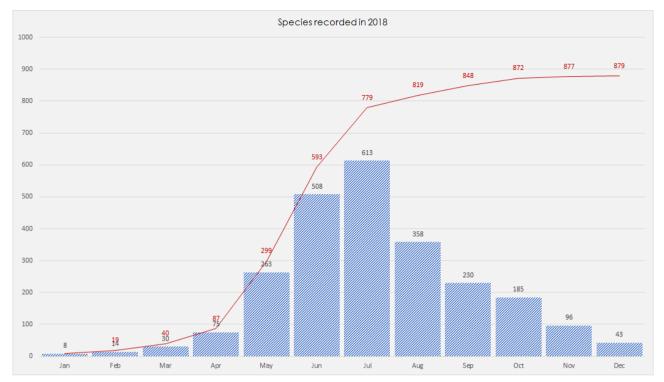
The run of rare migrant moths continued. Dewick's Plusia (*Macdunnoughia confusa*) was recorded in Bonchurch in July and trapping at Niton produced the first Dotted Footman (*Pelosia muscerda*) and second Dusky Hook-tip (*Drepana curvatula*) for the Island whilst in Shanklin, *Psammotis pulveralis* was recorded on the same night. The following evening saw a stunning male Beautiful Marbled (*Eublemma purpurina*) trapped at Wheelers Bay, another new species for IW. Incredibly, a female Beautiful Marbled was then trapped in Bonchurch, another Dusky Hook-tip in Shanklin as was another Light Crimson Underwing. A presumed immigrant was the first Royal Mantle (*Catarhoe cuculata*) to be recorded here since 1979.

In August an Oleander Hawk-moth (*Daphnis nerii*) was trapped in Totland, the first since 1926. From August until the end of the year the range of species remained high but with fewer immigrants than usual.

Despite low immigrant totals the autumn season also produced a number of scarcer species. Passenger (*Dysgonia algira*) was trapped at Bonchurch, there were four records of *Spoladea recurvalis* and one *Antigastra catalaunalis*. Golden Twin-spot (*Chrysodeixis chalcites*) was found in Cowes with another to light at Bonchurch. *Duponchelia fovealis* was found indoors at Cranmore and the final immigrant of the year, a Red-headed Chestnut (*Conistra erythrocephala*) to light in Bonchurch.

More than 22000 records were received from 52 contributors covering 184 sites. A total of 879

species of moth were recorded during the year including ten new vice-county records, six micromoths and four macro-moths. In short, it was an excellent year for moth recording on the Island.



Moth recording by Month

With so many moth species recorded it has been necessary to exclude many from the report, so the more common and widespread species are not described, and some records have been excluded where identification and verification criteria were not met. It is hoped that nothing important has been omitted.

The following criteria for the inclusion in the report were established for the combined Hampshire and IW Report and are continued here.

- Scarce species at vice-county level
- Fewer than 25 vice-county records
- Scarce species with fewer than 50 vice-county records in new hectads (10km squares)
- Otherwise notable records such as those indicating significant range expansion, unusual migration

Notes on the species accounts:

- Species name is followed by authority and national status
- All records are of adult moths to MV traps, unless otherwise stated
- New vice-county records are indicated with highlighted species names
- New hectad records are indicated by an asterisk after the site name

Systematic list

Sequence and nomenclature follow Agassiz, Beavan and Heckford 1 , including the 2016 2 and 2019 3 updates.

Hepialidae

3.003 Map-winged Swift (Korscheltellus fusconebulosa)

(De Geer, 1778)

Local

This species is very rare on the Isle of Wight. One at Bonchurch on 13 June (JHa) was only the second record since 1903; the other was from Luccombe Down in 2015. The larvae feed within roots of Bracken and over-winter twice.





Map-winged Swift © James Halsey

Ectoedemia decentella – Bonchurch © Phil Barden

Nepticulidae

4.074 Ectoedemia sericopeza

(Zeller, 1839)

Nationally scarce (Na)

Two mines on were found on samara of Norway Maple (*Acer platanoides*) at Rylstone Gardens, Shanklin on 02 July (PB).

4.075 Ectoedemia louisella

(Sircom, 1849)

Local

Three mines were found on samara of Field Maple (Acer campestre) at Brading Marsh on 03 July (PB).

4.076 Ectoedemia decentella

(Herrich-Schäffer, 1855)

Nationally scarce (Nb)

There were four records in 2018. A male to actinic light at Dunnose, Bonchurch on 29 June (PB) was confirmed by dissection. Other records included one at Shanklin Upper Chine on 05 July (IOu) and singles at Freshwater on 03 August and 03 September (DC).

Common

One was reported from Freshwater on 11 June (DC). Five larvae were found in a single Pedunculate Oak leaf collected from a Shanklin garden on 29 October and one larva found in another leaf from the same garden on 01 November (IOu).

Opostegidae

5.001 Opostega salaciella

(Treitschke, 1833)

Local

Rarely reported on the Island, there was just one record from a regular site in Shanklin on 05 July (IOu). The larvae mine leaves of Sheep's Sorrel (Rumex acetosella).

Heliozelidae

6.002 Antispila treitschkiella

(Fischer von Röslerstamm, 1843)

Local

The only report was of a leaf mine found at Ventnor on 15 October (Derek Coleman). The larvae mine the leaves of Dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*). All vice-county records refer to larvae or mines although a few have been bred through.

Adelidae

7.014 Nematopogon metaxella

(Hübner, [1813])

Local

Four records were received with two at Freshwater on 08 June and one on 10 June (DC). One came to an actinic light at Brook on 16 June (RW) and the last, a singleton at Shanklin on 18 June (IOu).

Incurvariidae

8.001 Incurvaria pectinea

Haworth, 1828

Local

Numerous cut-outs on Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) leaves at Hungerberry Copse, Shanklin and alongside the footpath to Holme Copse, Shanklin on 07 June (IOu).

8.003 Incurvaria oehlmanniella

(Hübner, 1796)

Common

Previously recorded only from Briddlesford and Firestone Copses, so one to MV at Bonchurch* on 22 May was a nice find (JHa). This is a species of moors and heaths where the larvae feed on Bilberry (*Vaccinium myrtillus*).

Psychidae

11.002 Narycia duplicella

(Goeze, 1783)

Common

There are just two historical records of this species. A worn male specimen trapped in Shanklin* on 23 June was retained and confirmed by dissection (IOu). This is the first for the Island since 1950.

11.006 Taleporia tubulosa

(Retzius, 1783)

Local

A welcome find, one larval case attached to metal post on path leading to beach at Whitecliff Bay on 28 June (PB). It is known historically from Sandown and from woods around Shanklin and Newchurch although the database contains just three records of uncertain date listed as 1856.



Taleporia tubulosa – Whitecliff Bay © Phil Barden

Luffia Iapidella – Sandown Levels

11.009 Luffia lapidella

(Goeze, 1783)

Common

Luffia ferchaultella is now considered to be a form of Luffia lapidella³. More than 100 larvae were found on the PLUTO pumphouse at Sandown Levels on 11 May (IOu) with some photographed the following day. This is the largest number found on the Island by a significant margin.

Tineidae

12.010 Morophaga choragella

([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

Local

This species is scarce on the Island, was first recorded in 1996 and only five times since. One came to MV at Bonchurch on 03 July (JHa). The larvae of this species feed on bracket fungi and possibly also on decaying timber.

Since 2014 this has been reported annually from a regular trapping site in Shanklin but is scarce elsewhere. One was trapped at the Shanklin site on 19 May (IOu).

12.021 Nemapogon clematella

(Fabricius, 1781)

Local

Two further records, on 26 and 31 July, were from the regular site at Hungerberry Copse (IOu). Seven of the nine records are from this site.

12.033 Tinea trinotella

Thunberg, 1794

Common

Seen with increasing frequency since 2010. There were five new records. Singletons at Shanklin on 01 and 05 July (IOu), one at Freshwater on 03 July, two there on 02 August and one on 18 August (DC).

12.039 Monopis crocicapitella

(Clemens, 1859)

Local

There are occasional records from coastal sites. One was trapped at Bonchurch on 13 October (Derek Coleman).

12.047 Psychoides verhuella

Bruand, 1853

Local

One was swept in a Shanklin garden on 14 June (IOu) and another was seen by day at Bonchurch on 16 October (Derek Coleman). The larvae mine Hart's-tongue Fern (Asplenium scolopendrium).

Roeslerstammiidae

13.002 Roeslerstammia erxlebella

(Fabricius, 1787)

Local

Two at light in Upper Chine, Shanklin on 23 July was the only report (IOu).

Bucculatricidae

14.002 Bucculatrix nigricomella

(Zeller, 1839)

Local

All but one record come from a regular trapping site in Freshwater where another was trapped on 26 July (DC). The larvae of this species mine the leaves of Oxeye Daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*).

14.006 Bucculatrix frangutella

(Goeze, 1783)

Local

The most recent record of vacated leaf mines in Buckthorn at Parkhurst Forest is from 1975. An adult to light at Freshwater on 03 August was an excellent find (DC).

Gracillariidae

15.017 Calybites phasianipennella

(Hübner, [1813])

Local

There have been just nine previous records of this species, so seven in 2018 was exceptional. The first was a singleton at Shanklin on 15 July (IOu). One at Hillis Gate, Parkhurst Forest* on 20 July was from a new hectad (TN, IM, DC, LF) and four more were recorded in Shanklin with singles on 21 July, 02 August, 04 and 09 September (IOu).





Calybites phasianipennella – Shanklin

Phyllocnistis xenia mine – Afton Marsh © Sue Davies

15.041 Phyllonorycter platani

(Staudinger, 1870)

Local

A tenanted leaf mine with cocoon to one end was found in fallen *Platanus* leaf at Shanklin Manor on 14 November (IOu). The mine was 3 cm long, tentiform, on lower surface with several longitudinal folds. Fine dry black frass, mostly in clumps. Numerous windows in upper surface of mine.

15.065 Phyllonorycter esperella

(Goeze, 1783)

Local

Three tenanted mines on leaves of Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) were found at St. Helens on 03 July and bred through with the adults emerging on 14 July (PB). A tenanted leaf mine containing a pupa was found in Hornbeam at Shanklin Big Mead on 14 November (IOu).

15.082 Phyllonorycter klemannella

(Fabricius, 1781)

Common

Three records all came from Freshwater with singles on 02 and 11 August and 05 September (DC).

15.093 Phyllocnistis xenia

Hering, 1936

Nationally scarce (Nb)

Mines were found on leaves of Grey Poplar (*Populus x canescens*) at Bembridge, some with larvae and pupae on 04 July (PB). Ten mines on White Poplar (*Populus alba*) at Afton Marsh on 09 September (SD).

Yponomeutidae

16.003 Apple Ermine (Yponomeuta malinellus)

Zeller, 1838

Local

Reported more frequently since 2010 there were five records in 2018. Two at Shanklin on 30 June, four on 01 July and one on 09 July (IOu). Two were trapped at Niton on 20 July (IOu) and five at Shanklin also on 20 July (IOu).

16.005 Willow Ermine (Yponomeuta rorrella)

(Hübner, 1796)

Local

Five at High Down Chalk Pit on 03 July and two at Windy Corner, St. Catherine's Point on 04 July (JHC).

16.008 Yponomeuta sedella

Treitschke, 1832

Local

One at Hillis Gate, Parkhurst Forest on 20 July (TN, IM, DC, LF) was the sixth record for the Island.

16.011 Zelleria oleastrella

(Millière, 1864)

Very rare immigrant

This is a rare immigrant from southern Europe where the larvae feed on the leaves of Olive (*Olea europaea*). The first UK record was in 2006 and the majority have been reported from south coast counties. One was trapped in Shanklin on 18 June and was the first for the Isle of Wight (IOu).



Zelleria oleastrella – Shanklin

16.014 Pseudoswammerdamia combinella

(Hübner, 1786)

Common

Although a common species of mainland hedgerows this is not often seen on the Island. One trapped at Bonchurch on 09 May was the only record (JHa).

Ypsolophidae

17.005 Ypsolopha scabrella

(Linnaeus, 1761)

Common

This is another species that is scarcer here than on the adjacent mainland and there were two records in 2018. The first at Shanklin on 21 July (IOu) and the second at Freshwater on 31 July (DC).

17.008 Ypsolopha alpella

([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

Local

A scarce species of Oak woodlands there have been just four reports since it was first recorded in 1951. Two came to light at Shanklin on 26 July (IOu).

Glyphipterigidae

19.002 Glyphipterix thrasonella

(Scopoli, 1763)

Common

Although this is common at Newtown and Shalfleet Quay it is scarce elsewhere. One was photographed at America Wood on 30 May (Martin Elcoate).



Glyphipterix thrasonella – America Wood

© Martin Elcoate



Argyresthia trifasciata – Ventnor Botanic Gardens

19.011 Leek Moth (Acrolepiopsis assectella)

(Zeller, 1839)

Local

All records came from the same site in Freshwater with one on 23 June, two on 03 July, and singles on 05 July and 13 October (DC).

Argyresthiidae

20.005 Argyresthia trifasciata

Staudinger, 1871

Local

This adventive species is now widespread in England but remains scarce on the Island. The fifth for the Island was at Ventnor Botanic Gardens* on 30 May (IOu).

Common

One to actinic light at Dunnose, Bonchurch on 02 July (PB). One at Bonchurch on 03 July (JHa). Singletons also at Freshwater on 03 and 05 July (DC).

Lyonetiidae

21.002 Lyonetia prunifoliella

(Hübner, 1796)

pRDB1

It was thought that this species might have become extinct in the UK but since 2007 it has been found at a number of locations. The first record for the Isle of Wight came in 2018. Larvae mine the leaves of Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*). Several mines were collected in St. Lawrence on 02 July with the larvae pupating on 04 July and adults emerging on the 15 July (PB).

Subsequently vacant and occupied mines were found at Brading Marsh on 03 July (PB), at Redcliff on 04 July with one larva bred through and the imago emerging on 19 July. Five mines were recorded at Monk's Bay, Bonchurch on 04 July (PB) and eight at St. Lawrence on 05 July (PB). This was a batch of fresh mines, most with larvae. One mine with two larvae presumably two joined mines. Bred through.



Lyonetia prunifoliella – St. Lawrence © Phil Barden

Later, 12 pupae were collected at St. Catherine's Point on 01 October. Adults began emerging on 04 October (BE). The final record of the year was of one to light at Freshwater on 17 October (DC).

pRDB2

One was disturbed from the host plant, Narrow-leaved Everlasting Pea (*Lathyrus sylvestris*) at Bonchurch. There were also many small mines in the leaves, 26 June (PB). A brief search at Appley Steps, Shanklin produced ten occupied mines on 16 August (IOu).

Praydidae

22.003 Prays ruficeps

(Heinemann, 1854)

Local

Ten individuals were recorded over seven dates from 15 July to 17 September at Shanklin* (IOu).

Oecophoridae

28.013 Crassa tinctella

(Hübner, 1796)

Nationally scarce (Nb)

There is one historical record from an unknown Island location and of uncertain date prior to 1900. One was reported from Freshwater on 30 June (DC).

28.017 Batia lambdella

(Donovan, 1793)

Local

One came to actinic light at Brook Down quarry on 09 July (PB) and two, also to actinic light at the same site on 12 July (PB).

28.028 Barea asbolaea

(Meyrick, 1884)

Adventive

Two males and two females were found by torchlight search at Parkhurst Forest on 20 May (IOu). Five were recorded from the same site on 07 July (IOu) and six on 14 July (IOu).



Little is known about this species either here or in its native Australia. It is reported to have been reared from larvae attacking hardwood at Fivedock, New South Wales⁵ but larvae have not been found on the Isle of Wight nor at the Cornish colony. However, several of the Parkhurst specimens have been found resting on tree trunks including two very fresh specimens found on the decaying trunk of a Pedunculate Oak and it is speculated that decaying timber might be the larval food source.

Four specimens were collected on 14 July, all found to be female. Three ova were deposited but appear not to have been viable.

Barea asbolaea – Parkhurst Forest

Depressariidae

32.011 Agonopterix scopariella

(Heinemann, 1870)

Local

One to actinic light at Shanklin* on 19 April was a new hectad record (IOu).

32.050 Telechrysis tripuncta

(Haworth, 1828)

Nationally scarce (Nb)

Singles were recorded at Bonchurch on five dates from 06 June to 23 July (JHa) and one was found by day in Shanklin on 11 June (IOu).

Ethmiidae

33.006 Ethmia bipunctella

(Fabricius, 1775)

Nationally scarce (Nb)

This species is found on shingle beaches in southeast England with occasional records elsewhere, predominantly from coastal sites. One at Bonchurch on 23 July was the fifth vice-county record (JHa).

Cosmopterigidae

34.004 Limnaecia phragmitella

Stainton, 1851

Common

Common in marshes in much of the country but infrequently recorded on the Island. Six records in 2018 was unusual. It was trapped on five dates in Shanklin with one on 28 June, six on 01 July, two on 05 July and one on 20 July (IOu). Elsewhere one was recorded at Freshwater on 07 July (DC).

34.005 Cosmopterix zieglerella

(Hübner, [1810])

Nationally scarce (Nb)

Mines were found to be plentiful on Hop (Humulus lupulus) at Afton Marsh on 09 September (SD).

34.009 Cosmopterix pulchrimella

Chambers, 1875

Nationally scarce (Na)

As usual all this year's records were by day with one at Freshwater on 27 August (DC), an unspecified number at Bonchurch on 16 October (Derek Coleman) and one at Freshwater on 13 November (DC).

Gelechiidae

35.004 Aproaerema taeniolella

(Zeller, 1839)

Local

Formerly known as *Syncopacma taeniolella*³, a female was swept at Rew Down on 06 July (PB) and four by day at Tennyson Down on 08 July (PB). All had the white fascia on underside of forewing and white spot on underside of hindwing, two males were confirmed by dissection (PB).

This species requires dissection for confirmation. A female was trapped at Shanklin on 22 July and was confirmed by dissection (IOu). A further six reports were received from two sites but none of the specimens was retained.

35.020 Anarsia spartiella

(Schrank, 1802)

Local

One female to actinic light at Brook Down guarry on 09 July was the only report (PB).

35.036 Chrysoesthia sexguttella

(Thunberg, 1794)

Local

The majority of records are at the larval stage on Orache (*Atriplex*) species, but one adult was taken at light at Ventnor Botanic Gardens on 30 May (IOu). Three larvae were found in leaves of *Atriplex* at Foreland on 04 July and were bred through with adults emerging on 25 July (PB).





Chrysoesthia sexguttella – Ventnor Botanic Garden

Metzneria aestivella – Bonchurch © Phil Barden

35.050 Aristotelia ericinella

(Zeller, 1839)

Local

This is a heathland species that occasionally turns up elsewhere. Singletons were trapped at Freshwater on 02 and 10 August (DC).

35.052 Aristotelia brizella

(Treitschke, 1833)

Nationally scarce (Nb)

A scarce saltmarsh species with just six previous records on the Island. One came to actinic light at Newtown NNR on 07 July (PB). Another was trapped at Freshwater on 17 August (DC).

35.055 Metzneria aestivella

(Zeller, 1839)

Nationally scarce (Nb)

One to actinic light at Rew Down on 01 July was confirmed by dissection (PB). Three, also came to actinic light at Dunnose, Bonchurch on 03 July, with two males confirmed by dissection (PB).

There were two records in 2018 with two at Shanklin on 23 July (IOu) and three at Shanklin Upper Chine on 03 August (IOu).

35.061 Ptocheuusa paupella

(Zeller, 1847)

Local

This distinctive gelecheid has been reported with increasing frequency in recent years. The larvae feed within the seed heads of Common Fleabane (*Pulicaria dysenterica*). One came to actinic light at Bonchurch on 27 June (PB) and there were singletons at Freshwater on 01, 15 and 28 August and 03 September (DC).

35.071 Monochroa lucidella

(Stephens, 1834)

Local

A female trapped at actinic light at Freshwater Fruit Farm* on 09 July was confirmed by dissection (PB). The larvae of this species feed on Common Spike-rush (*Eleocharis palustris*).

35.073 Monochroa palustrellus

(Douglas, 1850)

Nationally scarce (Nb)

The fourth vice-county record; two to actinic light at Freshwater Fruit Farm* on 09 July (PB).

35.085 Athrips mouffetella

(Linnaeus, 1758)

Common

Although common on the mainland this species is rarely recorded on the Island. There was one record from the northwest section of Parkhurst Forest on 06 July (IOu).

35.093 Mirificarma mulinella

(Zeller, 1839)

Common

Recorded at Freshwater on 15 and 22 August (DC).

35.127 Tuta absoluta

(Meyrick, 1917)

Adventive

This adventive moth is a pest of tomato plants and has not formally been recorded on the Isle of Wight although it is known that specimens have been recorded at commercial tomato growers on the Island since 2009 (DEFRA pers. comm., 03 March).

Two records were received from Freshwater with singles to MV light on 08 August and 13 November, but the specimens were not retained.

35.141 Teleiodes vulgella

([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

Common

One at Hillis Gate, Parkhurst Forest* on 20 July (TN, IM, DC, LF) was from a new hectad.

First recorded on the Isle of Wight in 2017, there were three further reports in 2018; one at Freshwater* on 21 August (DC) and singles in Shanklin on 01 and 17 September (IOu).

Batrachedridae

36.001 Batrachedra praeangusta

(Haworth, 1828)

Common

Singletons were recorded at Shanklin on 01 and 08 July (IOu) and from Niton* on 20 July (IOu).

Coleophoridae

37.003 Coleophora limoniella

(Stainton, 1884)

Nationally scarce (Nb)

The larval food plant is Common Sea-lavender (*Limonium vulgare*) and records of this species are concentrated in the west of the Island, particularly around Freshwater, Yarmouth and Newtown where the plant is found. Almost all records are daytime observations. There was one report in 2018; one by day at Norton Spit, Yarmouth on 12 July (PB).

37.032 Coleophora albitarsella

Zeller, 1849

Local

Singles were recorded at Bonchurch on 19 June (JHa) and at Freshwater on 20 June and 03 July (DC).

37.036 Coleophora conyzae

Zeller, 1868

Nationally scarce (Nb)

This is a scarce species of chalk downland where the larvae feed on Ploughman's-spikenard (*Inula conyza*). Most recently recorded in 1981 there were three new reports this year. Larvae were found at Afton Down on 22 May and at Mottistone Down on 23 and 25 May (SDB, RJH).

37.048 Coleophora mayrella

(Hübner, [1813])

Local

One was trapped at Freshwater on 23 June (DC). A male by day at Rew Down, Ventnor on 30 June was confirmed by dissection (PB).

37.049 Pistol Case-bearer (Coleophora anatipennella)

(Hübner, 1796)

Local

A male to actinic light at Dunnose, Bonchurch on 27 June was confirmed by dissection (PB) as was a male to actinic light at Rew Down, Ventnor on 01 July (PB).

Elachistidae

38.007 Elachista subocellea

(Stephens, 1834)

Nationally scarce (Nb)

This is very scarce on the Island with only two previous records. One came to actinic light at Rew Down, Ventnor on 01 July (PB). Its larvae mine the leaves of False-brome (Brachypodium sylvaticum).

38.010 Elachista bedellella

(Sircom, 1848)

Nationally scarce (Nb)

Approximately 15 were swept at Brook Down Quarry on 12 July where none had been found the previous week (PB). Three males were confirmed by dissection.

38.023 Elachista biatomella

(Stainton, 1848)

Nationally scarce (Nb)

This scarce species of grasslands has not been recorded on the Island since 1974. There were two records this year; the first by day at Afton Down on 22 May (SDB, RJH) and later one to actinic light at Compton Down on 13 July (PB). The larvae mine leaves of Glaucous Sedge (Carex flacca).





Elachista bedellella – Brook Down quarry @ Phil Barden Elachista biatomella – Compton Down @ Phil Barden

38.025 Elachista atricomella

Stainton, 1849

Common

The majority of records are from regular recording sites, particularly around Shanklin. One was trapped at Shanklin on 08 July (IOu). The larvae mine leaves of Cock's-foot (Dactylis glomerata).

38.038 Elachista rufocinerea

(Haworth, 1828)

Common

This species is common except in the far north and is scarce on the Island, although it may be underrecorded. It is single brooded with the peak flight time in April and May but with some as late as July. It can be disturbed from vegetation by day and occasionally comes to lights. One was trapped at actinic at Dunnose, Bonchurch on 27 June (PB) and was the third record for the Isle of Wight.

Parametriotidae

39.001 Blastodacna hellerella

(Duponchel, 1838)

Common

It was an excellent year for this species with ten records. Singles were trapped at Freshwater on 03, 10 and 18 June and 29 July (DC). A male to actinic light at Dunnose, Bonchurch on 29 June was confirmed by dissection (PB). In Shanklin there were three on 01 July, one on 03 July and two on 15 July (IOu). One was trapped at the northwest section of Parkhurst Forest on 06 July (IOu) and one at Hillis Gate, Parkhurst Forest on 20 July (TN, IM, DC, LF).

Momphidae

40.002 Mompha ochraceella

(Curtis, 1839)

Common

There were no records of this species between 1947 and 2010 but it is now annual. One was trapped at Freshwater on 08 June (DC), two came to actinic light at Brook on 16 June (RW) and there were four at Shanklin Upper Chine on 30 June (IOu). There was another at Freshwater on 30 June (DC), two at Shanklin on 01 July and one on 06 July (IOu). Finally, one at Freshwater on 29 July (DC).

40.003 Mompha lacteella

(Stephens, 1834)

Nationally scarce (Nb)

One was trapped at Shanklin on 01 September but not retained (IOu).

40.004 Mompha propinguella

(Stainton, 1851)

Local

Very scarce on the Island, one was trapped at Shanklin* on 06 August (IOu).

40.005 Mompha divisella

Herrich-Schäffer, 1854

Nationally scarce (Na)

A male was found in a garage in Shanklin on 10 April. The specimen was collected and confirmed by dissection (IOu).

40.011 Mompha langiella

(Hübner, 1796)

Local

Many mines were found in the leaves of Enchanter's Nightshade (*Circaea lutetiana*) at Mark's Corner* on 27 June. One was bred through with the adult emerging on 15 July (PB). Mines were also found at Whitecliff Bay* on 28 June (PB).

40.012 Mompha miscella

([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

Local

Tenanted mines were found in the leaves of Common Rock-rose (*Helianthemum nummularium*) at Afton Down on 22 May (SDB, RJH). Six mines, one with a larva at St. Lawrence on 05 July (PB).

Stathmopodidae

42.002 Stathmopoda pedella

(Linnaeus, 1761)

Nationally scarce (Nb)

One was seen by day on Alder leaves at Freshwater Causeway on 07 July (PB).

Scythrididae

43.004 Scythris picaepennis

(Haworth, 1828)

Nationally scarce (Nb)

Larvae were found on Bird's-foot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*) at Mottistone Down on 23 May and at Tennyson Down on 24 May (SDB, RJH). Four were swept at Brook Down Quarry on 26 June with two males confirmed by dissection (PB).

43.005 Scythris subcinctella

(Herrich-Schäffer, 1855)

Nationally scarce (Nb)

Formerly known as *Scythris crassiuscula* this species has never been recorded on the Island before. In May, Stella Beavan and Bob Heckford found larvae on Common Rock-rose (*Helianthemum nummularium*). Some of the larvae were collected and bred through.

Pterophoridae

45.012 Brown Plume (Stenoptilia pterodactyla)

(Linnaeus, 1761)

Common

This species can be found in grassland, verges and hedgerows where the larvae feed on Germander Speedwell (*Veronica chamaedrys*). They can be disturbed from vegetation but the majority of records on the Island are from regular trapping sites. Two came to MV light at Shanklin Upper Chine, 03 August with one on 06 August (IOu).

45.013 Twin-spot Plume (Stenoptilia bipunctidactyla)

(Scopoli, 1763)

Common

One at Windy Corner, St. Catherine's Point* on 17 September (IOu).

45.028 Wood Sage Plume (Capperia britanniodactylus)

(Gregson, 1869)

Nationally scarce (Nb)

The first time this has been recorded from the southeast of the county. One came to actinic light at Pelham Road, Ventnor* on 30 June (RW).

45.034 Dingy White Plume (Merrifieldia baliodactylus)

(Zeller, 1841)

Nationally scarce (Nb)

Two were disturbed from the larval food plant, Wild Marjoram (*Origanum vulgare*) at Rew Down on 01 July (PB). One came to actinic light at Dunnose, Bonchurch on 03 July (PB).

(Treitschke, 1833)

Local

One was trapped at High Down Chalk Pit on 03 July (JHC) and singles came to actinic light at Dunnose, Bonchurch and Bonchurch Landslip on 04 July (PB).

Schreckensteiniidae

46.001 Schreckensteinia festaliella

(Hübner, [1819])

Common

It was a good year for this moth with eight reports. One was trapped at Bonchurch on 12 March with two there on 16 April and one on 19 April (JHa). One was at Freshwater on 28 June (DC), one was swept at Rew Down on 06 July (PB). Another at Freshwater on 07 July (DC), one at Shanklin on 15 July (IOu) and finally, one at Freshwater on 29 July (DC).

Epermeniidae

47.003 Epermenia insecurella

(Stainton, 1849)

Vulnerable

This species not seen on the Island since about 1926, when it was only known from near Sandown and Freshwater and has never been found in Hampshire. The species has become extinct at a number of sites due to loss of the foodplant and was known to be breeding at only six sites in the UK, in 3 vice-counties: South Wiltshire, Dorset and East Gloucestershire. The larval foodplant is Bastard Toadflax (*Thesium humifusum*).

In 1954, micro-lepidopterist Stan Wakely, visited the Island and recorded that he searched patches of Bastard Toadflax near St. Helens but without success $\frac{6}{2}$.

This is a pRDB2 species, meaning that it occurs in 6 to 10 hectads in Great Britain. In 2018 the moth was found on the Island by Bob Heckford and Stella Beavan.

47.004 Epermenia aequidentellus

(Hofmann, 1867)

Nationally scarce (Na)

Historical records up to 1967 were followed by a report of larvae at Rew Down, Ventnor in 2003. A male swept at Brook Down Quarry on 12 July was confirmed by dissection (PB).

Tortricidae

49.001 Olindia schumacherana

(Fabricius, 1787)

Local

This is a bivoltine species with the majority seen in June and a smaller second brood in September. There were two more records form the regular site in Shanklin with singletons on 18 June and 16 September (IOu).

Common

There were six records in 2018. The first to actinic light at Kiln Place, Cranmore on 09 June (CH) then one at Freshwater on 11 June (DC) and one at Brighstone Forest Reservoir on 27 June (IOu). There were 30 at Westover Plantation, Calbourne on 01 July (JHC), one to actinic light at Dunnose, Bonchurch on 02 July (PB) and six at Parkhurst Forest on 07 July (IOu).

49.014 Archips crataegana

(Hübner, [1799])

Local

The larvae of this species feed on various deciduous trees and shrubs but it remains scarce with most records coming from regular trapping sites. One came to MV at Shanklin on 25 June (IOu) and there were six to actinic at Ventnor Down on 28 June (PB). Also in Shanklin, there were another six on 01 July and three on 08 July (IOu).

49.022 Ptycholoma lecheana

(Linnaeus, 1758)

Common

This distinctive tortrix is less common here than on the adjacent mainland. There was one record in 2018, a singleton at Shanklin on 02 June (IOu). The larvae feed on variety of trees and shrubs from within a rolled leaf.

49.050 Grey Tortrix (Cnephasia stephensiana)

(Doubleday, [1849])

Common

The small number of records of this species reflects the difficulty in identification rather than its true status. A male was trapped at Shanklin on 25 June and confirmed by dissection (IOu). Also confirmed by dissection were two males to actinic light at Monk's Bay on 30 June (PB) and males to actinic light at Freshwater Fruit Farm on 08 and 11 July (PB).

49.057 Cnephasia longana

(Haworth, 1811)

Common

The males of this species have plain brown forewings whilst the females are more distinctive with a contrasting dark brown pattern. A male by day at Rew Down, Ventnor on 30 June was confirmed by dissection (PB).

49.058 Spatalistis bifasciana

(Hübner, [1787])

Local

Recorded only twice before 2010 but more frequently since. The majority of records are from Parkhurst Forest as was the only report in 2018; one to MV on 06 July (IOu).

49.061 Acleris holmiana

(Linnaeus, 1758)

Common

This distinctive tortrix is scarce on the Island. Last recorded in 2013 there were two seen in 2018. One at Windy Corner, St. Catherine's Point on 04 July (JHC, JHa, IOu, RWi) and one was swept at Rew Down, Ventnor on 06 July (PB).

Nationally scarce (Na)

With just six previous records the eight reported in 2018 is unprecedented and reflects apparent increasing numbers in parts of the South. One to actinic at Rew Down, Ventnor on 01 July (PB) was followed by one at Freshwater on 05 July (DC). Singles were recorded at Parkhurst Forest on 06 July (IOu) and at Shanklin on 06, 08, 15 and 21 July (IOu). The final report was of one at Freshwater on 13 October (DC).

49.083 Acleris ferrugana

([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

Common

Owing to potential confusion with *Acleris notana* this is usually recorded as an aggregate and certain identification can only be made by dissection.



A female came to actinic light at Shanklin on 19 April and was confirmed by dissection as were a male at Shanklin on 28 June and female on 15 November (IOu).

This is a common woodland species, the larvae feed on Oak and Goat Willow.

Slide 20181127-03. Acleris ferrugana ♀ – Shanklin

49.086 Acleris logiana

(Clerck, 1759)

Local

A fairly recent arrival in South of England and now established at low density; the first record from Hampshire was in 1991 and on the Isle of Wight in 1997. It remains scarce on the Island and one at Freshwater on 17 October was the fifth vice-county record (DC).

49.103 Phalonidia affinitana

(Douglas, 1846)

Local

A male by day at Norton Spit, Yarmouth in 12 July was collected and confirmed by dissection (PB). Four were seen by day at Newtown causeway on 20 July (TN, LF, DC).

Common

Reported with increasing frequency, there were eight records in 2018. One at Shanklin on 09 June (IOu), one to actinic light at Rew Down, Ventnor on 01 July (PB). One at Shanklin on 30 July (IOu), two at Freshwater on 31 July (DC), two at Shanklin on 13 August (IOu), one at Shanklin on 18 August (IOu). One to actinic light at Pelham Road, Ventnor on 27 August (RW) and one at Shanklin on 31 August (IOu).

49.123 Aethes beatricella

(Walsingham, 1898)

Local

Previously recorded on only three occasions and all from Wheelers Bay. One was seen there by day on 03 June (IOu). Another came to MV at Shanklin Upper Chine* on 30 June (IOu).

49.124 Aethes francillana

(Fabricius, 1794)

Local

Singles were recorded at Wheelers Bay on 23 July and 31 August (AB). This is the most reliable site for records of this species.

49.127 Aethes cnicana

(Westwood, 1854)

Common

One came to actinic light at Kiln Place, Cranmore on 08 June (CH) and one to MV at Bonchurch on 07 July (JHa).

49.136 Cochylis hybridella

(Hübner, [1813])

Local

It was an excellent year for this species with nine records. A female to actinic light at Rew Down, Ventnor on 01 July was confirmed by dissection as was a male there on 05 July (PB). Another male was trapped at Dunnose, Bonchurch on 03 July (PB). There was one at Niton on 20 July (IOu) and in Shanklin, two on 22 July, one on 25 July and five on 30 July (IOu). Finally one to MV at Wheelers Bay on 04 August (AB).

49.144 Eudemis profundana

([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

Common

One to actinic at Kiln Place, Cranmore on 30 June (CH). One at Shanklin Upper Chine* 05 July was from a new hectad (IOu). A male to actinic light at Newtown NNR on 07 July was confirmed by dissection (PB). One at Hillis Gate, Parkhurst Forest on 20 July (TN, IM, DC, LF).

49.150 Apotomis betuletana

(Haworth, 1811)

Common

This can be seen by day, but the majority of records are from trapping at woodland sites and it remains scarce on the Isle of Wight. The larvae feed on Birch. One was trapped at Brighstone Forest Reservoir on 27 June (IOu).

This species is single-brooded with the majority of records in July. Two were trapped at Windy Corner, St. Catherine's Point on 04 July (JHC, IOu).





Hedya salicella – St. Catherine's Point

Eudemis profundana - Shanklin

49.158 Hedya ochroleucana

(Frölich, 1828)

Common

Found in a wide variety of habitats, the larval food plant is rose and occasionally apple. One to actinic light at Kiln Place, Cranmore on 12 June (CH).

49.162 Celypha rosaceana

Schläger, 1847

Local

One at Freshwater Cliffs on 27 June (SD) and one at Shanklin on 01 July (IOu).

49.180 Piniphila bifasciana

(Haworth, 1811)

Local

All records came from Shanklin where the first was trapped on 29 June (IOu), followed by two at Shanklin Upper Chine on 30 June and one on 05 July (IOu). The final record was on 06 July (IOu).

49.185 Lobesia littoralis

(Westwood & Humphreys, 1845)

Local

There were ten by day at Compton Cliffs on 01 June (SD) with a similar number there on 09 June (SD). Three were reported from Shanklin with singletons on 06 and 08 July and 31 August (IOu).

49.188 Endothenia marginana

(Haworth, 1811)

Common

A common species of rough meadows and marshes but with few scattered records on the Island. One was trapped at Afton Marsh on 30 June (JHC).

One was swept from a Shanklin garden on 14 June (IOu) and three were recorded by day at Shanklin on 23 and 24 June (IOu).



Endothenia nigricostana - Shanklin

49.195 Bactra furfurana

(Haworth, 1811)

Local

A scarce species of marshes and fens where the larvae feed within stems of Common Club-rush (*Schoenoplectus lacustris*), Compact Rush (*Juncus conglomeratus*). The fourth for the Island came to MV light at Freshwater on 19 July (DC).

49.214 Ancylis badiana

([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

Common

The first to be seen on the Island since 2001, when a specimen was collected at Luccombe, was at Appley Steps, Shanklin on 16 August (IOu).

49.221 Rhopobota stagnana

([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

Nationally scarce (Nb)

Two males were swept at Brook Down Quarry on 09 July (PB). One came to MV at Shanklin Upper Chine on 03 August (IOu).

49.230 Epinotia trigonella

(Linnaeus, 1758)

Common

All records of this species are from west Wight, the majority from Cranmore. One came to MV at Freshwater on 28 June (DC).

Common

This is another scarce species here with just seven previous records, all of which came from the north of the Island. The larvae feed on a number of tree species including Birch, Hazel and Goat Willow. One was trapped at Upper Chine, Shanklin on 03 August (IOu).

49.237 Epinotia signatana

(Douglas, 1845)

Local

One by day at Culver Down on 28 June (PB) was followed by three reports to actinic lights; one at Dunnose on 29 June, two at Monk's Bay, Bonchurch on 30 June and one at Rew Down, Ventnor on 01 July (PB). Finally, there one to MV at Shanklin on 06 July (IOu).



Epinotia signatana – Culver Down © Phil Barden

49.238 Willow Tortrix (Epinotia cruciana)

(Linnaeus, 1761)

Local

Twenty at Afton Marsh on 30 June is the highest count for this species (JHC). Elsewhere there were four at Windy Corner, St. Catherine's Point on 04 July (JHC).

49.244 Epinotia subocellana

(Donovan, 1806)

Common

This has been recorded on only six previous occasions. One was trapped at Freshwater on 25 June (DC).

(Saxesen, 1840)

Local

Previously reported only from Briddlesford Copse in 2013. The second for the Island was trapped at Freshwater on 02 August (DC).

49.264 Eucosma obumbratana

(Lienig & Zeller, 1846)

Local

This is a farmland species, associated with rough grassland where the larvae feed on Perennial Sowthistle (*Sonchus arvensis*). Widely distributed but in low numbers there are thirteen previous records. One came to actinic light at Brook on 22 June (RWi) and one was trapped at Freshwater on 25 June (DC).

49.278 Gypsonoma minutana

(Hübner, [1799])

Nationally scarce (Nb)

The third record for the vice-county and the first since 1975 was reported from Freshwater on 07 July (DC).

49.280 Gypsonoma oppressana

(Treitschke, 1835)

Nationally scarce (Nb)

This was first recorded in 2015 with a single individual recorded annually since then and all from the Freshwater area. One was trapped at Freshwater on 19 July (DC).

49.281 Gypsonoma sociana

(Haworth, 1811)

Common

Thi is a scarce species on the Isle of Wight where all recent records are from the Freshwater and Afton Marsh. The larvae feed on Poplar, Sallow and Aspen. Two were trapped at Freshwater with singles to MV on 22 and 28 June (DC).

49.295 Notocelia roborana

([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

Common

Infrequently recorded and with most reports coming from the northwest of the Island. One came to actinic light at Whippingham Churchyard on 21 July (RWi).

49.304 Pine Leaf-mining Moth (Clavigesta purdeyi)

(Durrant, 1911)

Local

There were two records from Freshwater where singletons were trapped on 18 August and 05 September (DC).

49.306 Rhyacionia pinicolana

(Doubleday, 1850)

Common

This is rare on the Isle of Wight. One was trapped at Orchards Caravan Park, Newbridge on 05 July (JHC) and three in the northwest section of Parkhurst Forest on 06 July (IOu).

Common

This is another pine specialist and is rare on the Island with all records coming from regular trapping sites. The first record was from Freshwater in 1985 but since 2014 it has turned up occasionally in Shanklin. In 2018 there was one at Shanklin on 29 June (IOu).

49.332 Cydia coniferana

(Saxesen, 1840)

Nationally scarce (Nb)

A specimen believed to be *coniferana* was trapped at Shanklin Upper Chine on 05 July. The specimen was retained and confirmed by dissection (IOu). Another was trapped at the same site on 03 August (IOu).



Cydia coniferana – Upper Chine, Shanklin

49.345 Lathronympha strigana

(Fabricius, 1775)

Common

Much more common in Hampshire than on the Island where there have been ten previous records. One was trapped at Shanklin on 30 July (IOu).

49.353 Grapholita gemmiferana

Treitschke, 1835

pRDB1

This is an endangered species and is found at only two sites in the UK; Sidmouth in Devon and here on the Island from Luccombe to Bonchurch. The larvae feed on Narrow-leaved Everlasting Pea (*Lathyrus sylvestris*). Two were disturbed from the host plant at Bonchurch on 26 June (PB).

Nationally scarce (Na)

Formerly known only form Kent but now more widespread in the south of England; the first record for Hampshire was in 2003 and on the Isle of Wight in 2011. The larvae feed on apple, within the fruit, and occasionally on plum. Singles were trapped at Shanklin on 19 June and 03 July (IOu) and two at Freshwater on 23 June (DC).



Grapholita lobarzewskii – Shanklin

49.357 Plum Fruit Moth (Grapholita funebrana)

Treitschke, 1835

Local

One was reported from Dunnose, Bonchurch* on 29 June (PB). This is another species that requires dissection to confirm the identity.

49.359 Grapholita janthinana

(Duponchel, 1835)

Common

This small tortricid is single-brooded with a flight period from June to August. It flies in afternoon sunshine but will also come to light traps. The only record this year was of two to MV at Shanklin on 01 July (IOu).

49.379 Pammene aurana

(Fabricius, 1775)

Common

This distinctive tortricid is usually found on Hogweed (*Heracleum sphondylium*) flowers and with the majority recorded by day records are scattered across the Island. However it will come to light and one was trapped at Niton on 20 July (IOu).

One at Ventnor Botanic Gardens on 30 May (IOu) and two at Brighstone Forest Reservoir on 27 June (IOu) were the only records.

Zygaenidae

54.009 Narrow-bordered Five-spot Burnet (Zygaena lonicerae)

(Scheven, 1777)

Common

There are very few records, possibly owing to confusion with Five-spot Burnet. One was seen by day at West High Down on 13 June (John Watt).

Pyralidae

62.005 Lesser Wax Moth (Achroia grisella)

(Fabricius, 1794)

Local

This is probably more widespread than the records suggest with the majority of reports coming from regular trapping sites. Five were trapped in Shanklin between 23 June and 25 July (IOu) and three in Freshwater between 07 July and 29 July (DC).

62.010 Elegia similella

(Zincken, 1818)

Nationally scarce (Nb)

The larvae of this species feed on oak and although typically found in mature oak woodlands, records on the Island are scattered. One at Afton Marsh on 06 July (JHC), one at Shanklin on 15 July (IOu) and one at Freshwater Cliffs on 26 July (SD).

62.0151 Delplanqueia inscriptella

(Duponchel 1836)

Nationally scarce (Nb)

This species has been split from *Delplanqueia dilutella*⁷ from which it is only reliably separated by dissection. It appears that *inscriptella* may be the more common of the two species and it is possible that many historical records of *dilutella* were misidentified.

Two male and one female swept at Brook Down Quarry on 26 June (PB), three male and one female to actinic light at Rew Down, Ventnor on 01 July (PB). Three females swept from Tennyson Down on 08 July (PB) and one female swept at Brook Down Quarry on 09 July (PB). These records are the first for the Isle of Wight and all were subject to dissection.

62.023 Pempelia palumbella

([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

Local

This heathland species is uncommon on the Island but there were three records in 2018. One was recorded at Bonchurch on 20 June (JHa), one at The Needles New Battery* on 02 July (JHC) and one to actinic light at Orchards Caravan Park, Newbridge on 03 July (JHC).

Nationally scarce (Nb)

It was a good year for this species with eight reports. Two were trapped at Afton Marsh on 30 June (JHC), one at Freshwater on 03 July (DC), one at Upper Chine, Shanklin on 05 July (IOu), five at Afton Marsh on 06 July (JHC), one at Parkhurst Forest on 06 July (IOu) and one at Freshwater Cliffs, also on 06 July (SD). Singles were recorded at Freshwater on 07 July (DC) and a female came to actinic light at Freshwater Fruit Farm on 09 July (PB).

62.030 Hypochalcia ahenella

([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

Nationally scarce (Nb)

All recent records have come from West Wight. One was trapped at The Needles New Battery on 05 July (JHC).

62.038 Acrobasis consociella

(Hübner, [1813])

Local

One to actinic light at Orchards Caravan Park, Newbridge* on 30 June was from a new hectad (JHC).

62.057 Phycitodes maritima

(Tengström, 1848)

Local

The larvae feed on various plants including Common Ragwort, Groundsel and Yarrow. Several larvae were found at Mottistone on 11 July in heads of *Senecio jacobaea* with one female reared (PB). One was trapped at Freshwater on 24 July (DC).

62.062 Indian Meal Moth (Plodia interpunctella)

(Hübner, [1813])

Local

The first to be seen on the Island since 1995 was at Freshwater Cliffs on 26 July (SD).

62.074 Large Tabby (Aglossa pinguinalis)

(Linnaeus, 1758)

Local

One was seen and photographed at Hale Common on 11 June (Gary Taylor).

Crambidae

63.013 Nascia cilialis

(Hübner, 1796)

Nationally scarce (Nb)

Almost all our records come from Afton Marsh or nearby. Two were trapped at Freshwater Cliffs on 09 June (SD). The larvae feed on Greater Pond-sedge (*Carex riparia*).

63.016 Anania fuscalis

([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

Local

A worn female was collected at Shanklin on 28 May, its identity was confirmed by dissection (IOu). Singles were trapped at Bonchurch on 04 June and 14 July (JHa).

Nationally scarce (Nb)

One to actinic light at Ventnor Down* on 28 June was the first since 2001 (PB).

63.027 Psammotis pulveralis

(Hübner, 1796)

Immigrant

A scarce immigrant from Europe there are only five previous vice-county records. A male at Shanklin on 20 July was retained and confirmed by dissection (IOu).





Agrotera nemoralis - Shanklin

Psammotis pulveralis – Shanklin

63.041 Agrotera nemoralis

(Scopoli, 1763)

pRDB1/Immigrant

This was long believed to be restricted as a breeding species to a single site in Kent, but in 2013 it was confirmed to be breeding at Mount Edgcumbe Country Park in Cornwall and in 2014 a larva was found in East Sussex. In 2014 the first for the Isle of Wight was recorded at Borthwood Copse and there were four more records in 2017.

Five records were received this year. On 30 May, one was trapped at a public moth event at Ventnor Botanical Gardens (IOu) and another at Bonchurch (JHa). One came to MV at Shanklin on 09 June (IOu), there was another at Bonchurch on 02 July (JHa) and finally two at Shanklin on 08 July (IOu).

Although all of these records are presumed to relate to immigrants it is interesting to speculate as to their status given their recent appearance and increasing numbers. If the trend continues it will certainly be worth searching for larvae which feed on Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*).

63.046 Duponchelia fovealis

Zeller, 1847

Rare immigrant

Records probably relate to accidental imports and the majority are of these moths found indoors. First recorded on the Isle of Wight in June 2000, one found indoors at Kiln Place, Cranmore on 28 November was the fifth for the Island (CH).

Rare immigrant

This distinctive and rare immigrant was first recorded on the Island in 2013 and only once since but there were four records in 2018. Two were trapped at Shanklin on 15 October (IOu), one at Bembridge on 16 October (Alec Kolaj) and singles at Moons Hill, Totland on 15 and 16 November (SAK-J).





Duponchelia fovealis - Cranmore @ Chris Hicks

Spoladea recurvalis - Shanklin

63.051 Antigastra catalaunalis

(Duponchel, 1833)

Very rare immigrant

Singles were trapped at Bonchurch on 15 October (JHa) and 16 October (Derek Coleman).

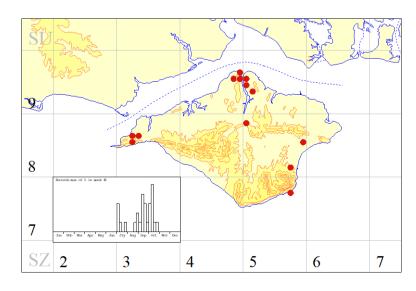
63.054 Box-tree Moth (Cydalima perspectalis)

(Walker, 1859)

Adventive

This species is native to Asia but was accidentally introduced to Europe in 2007. It has spread rapidly and has reached plague proportions in some areas. The larvae are a pest of Box (*Buxus* spp.).

It was first seen on the Isle of Wight in 2013 and there were just six formal records up to 2017, although there are some Royal Horticultural Society survey data not available to the county recorder.



However, the moth now seems to have become firmly established on the Island and in 2018 there were 21 records of adults between 03 July and 22 October. The majority are concentrated in the Cowes area, but we can expect it to turn up anywhere and in increasing numbers.



Box-tree Moth (Cydalima perspectalis) – Shanklin

63.060 Evergestis pallidata

(Hufnagel, 1767)

Common

Six were recorded in Shanklin between 15 July and 03 August (IOu) and there were singles at Bonchurch on 18 and 25 July (JHa).

63.072 Eudonia delunella

(Stainton, 1849)

Nationally scarce (Nb)

This beautifully marked Scopariid is most often found in the woodland in the north of the Island with occasional records elsewhere. One was trapped in the northwest section of Parkhurst Forest on 06 July (IOu).

63.103 Catoptria verellus

(Zincken, 1817)

Rare immigrant

A rare but increasingly frequent migrant that was first seen on the Island in 2006. There were five records this year; one at Shanklin on 28 June (IOu), two at Westover Plantation, Calbourne on 01 July (JHC) and three more in Shanklin with singletons on 01, 06 and 25 July (IOu).

63.109 Pediasia contaminella

(Hübner, 1796)

Nationally scarce (Nb)

Although there is a 1959 record of 57 to MV light at St. Helens this is a scarce moth on the Island with only one record this century. A male was trapped in Shanklin on 02 October and confirmed by dissection (IOu). Three more were trapped at the same site in Shanklin on 03 October with two males confirmed by dissection (IOu).

This small crambid is primarily coastal, inhabiting shingle and sandy beaches. One was trapped at Upper Chine, Shanklin on 08 June (IOu) with another at Shanklin on 09 June (IOu). One was photographed by day at Culver Cliff on 28 June (PB). The final report was one by day at St. Lawrence on 05 July (PB).

63.121 Donacaula forficella

(Thunberg, 1794)

Local

This wetland species where the larvae feed within the stems of reed and sedge. The only report was of five at Afton Marsh on 06 July (JHC).

63.122 Donacaula mucronella

([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

Nationally scarce (Nb)

Another wetland species but this is much scarcer on the Island with only three previous records, the last of which was in 1999. A female was trapped at the Needles New Battery on 05 July (JHC).

Drepanidae

65.004 Dusky Hook-tip (Drepana curvatula)

(Borkhausen, 1790)

Rare immigrant

This is a rare immigrant from the near continent and has only been recorded on the Island once before. A male was trapped at Niton on 20 July (IOu) and another male at Shanklin on 22 July (IOu). Both specimens were retained.



Dusky Hook-tip (Drepana curvatula) - Niton

Sphingidae

69.011 Oleander Hawk-moth (Daphnis nerii)

(Linnaeus, 1758)

Immigrant

This large and stunning moth is a rare migrant from southern Europe. There are three previous records for the Island, the last of which dates from September 1926. One was trapped at Moons Hill, Totland on 19 August (SAK-J).



Oleander Hawk-moth (Daphnis nerii) – Totland © Sam Knill-Jones

Geometridae

70.015 Small Scallop (Idaea emarginata)

(Linnaeus, 1758)

Local

Two at Bonchurch* on 14 August (JHa) were from a new hectad.

70.033 Blair's Mocha (Cyclophora puppillaria)

(Hübner, [1799])

Immigrant and colonist

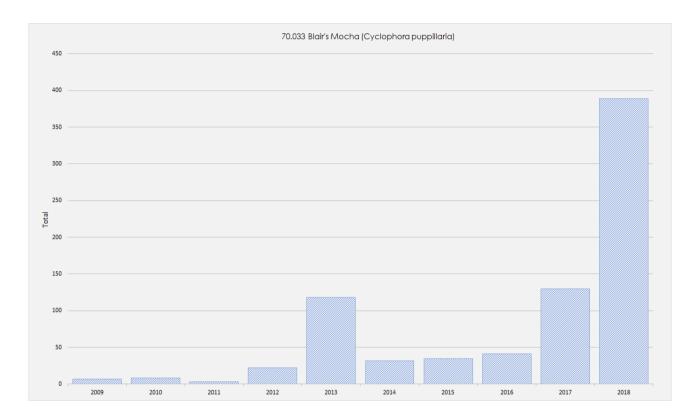
Following the apparent trend of recent years, the number of records and individuals has continued to increase. In 2018, there was a total of 163 records of 389 individuals and with a maximum count of 13 to a single trap. Although there has been no attempt to analyse these data, the figures seem to suggest that this species is established here and thriving.

To date all records are of adult moths, so we have no evidence that it is breeding here but records are concentrated around Freshwater and Bonchurch, both areas with large amounts of the primary

larval food plant, Evergreen Oak (*Quercus ilex*). A coordinated search for the larvae would surely be successful.

The following table and chart show the data for the last ten years.

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Records	7	8	3	20	80	28	30	28	57	163
Individuals	7	8	3	22	118	32	35	41	130	389



70.056 Royal Mantle (Catarhoe cuculata)

(Hufnagel, 1767)

Local

This spectacular geometer is found in chalk downland and has always been scarce on the Island. The last record was from Totland in 1979 but one was trapped at Bonchurch on 13 July (JHa).

70.068 Beautiful Carpet (Mesoleuca albicillata)

(Linnaeus, 1758)

Common

A widespread but scarce species. Four were trapped at Brighstone Forest Reservoir on 27 June (IOu), two at Westover Plantation, Calbourne on 01 July (JHC) and one at Parkhurst Forest on 07 July (IOu).

70.112 Dingy Shell (Euchoeca nebulata)

(Scopoli, 1763)

Local

Two records were from new hectads with one at Bonchurch* on 03 June (JHa) and one at Westover Plantation, Calbourne* on 01 July (JHC). Elsewhere one was trapped at Afton Marsh on 30 June (JHC) and five there on 06 July (JHC).

Local

Almost exclusively recorded from Cranmore where the last report was from 2012. One came to MV at Afton Marsh on 30 June (JHC).

70.119 Dark Umber (Philereme transversata)

(Hufnagel, 1767)

Local

After the first was recorded at Knighton in 1989 this was not seen again until 2006. Records since then have been from regular trapping sites at Cranmore and Bonchurch but it remains uncommon. Two reports in 2018 were of singletons at Bonchurch, on 28 June and 15 July (JHa).

70.143 Sloe Pug (Pasiphila chloerata)

(Mabille, 1870)

Common

Reported only twice in the past ten years this species is uncommon at light so is probably more common that that statistic would suggest. Two were trapped at Afton Marsh on 30 June (JHC).





Royal Mantle – Bonchurch © James Halsey

Shaded Pug – Freshwater © Sue Davies

70.189 Shaded Pug (Eupithecia subumbrata)

([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

Local

Two at the Needles New Battery* on 02 July (JHC). One at West High Down Chalk Pit on 03 July (JHC), five at the Needles New Battery on 05 July (JHC) and one at Freshwater Cliffs on 06 July (SD).

70.193 Lesser Treble-bar (Aplocera efformata)

(Guenée, [1858])

Common

Recorded on a less than annual basis; there was one report of a singleton at Shanklin* on 04 September (IOu).

70.248 Brindled Beauty (Lycia hirtaria)

(Clerck, 1759)

Common

This species is most frequent in Oak woodland but is increasingly scarce on the Island. The only record came from Shanklin on 17 April (IOu).

Erebidae

72.039 Dotted Footman (Pelosia muscerda)

(Hufnagel, 1766)

RDB3

As a breeding species this is restricted to the fenlands of East Anglia with scattered records in southern England believed to be migrants. During a period of increased migrant activity one was trapped at Niton on 20 July (IOu).



Dotted Footman (Pelosia muscerda) – Niton

Brindled Beauty (Lycia hirtaria) – Shanklin

72.047 Hoary Footman (Eilema caniola)

(Hübner, [1808])

Nationally scarce (Nb)

This is primarily a coastal species found on cliffs and shingle beaches where the larvae feed on lichens. It is recorded in small numbers on the Island and annually since 2013. One was trapped at Bonchurch on 12 October (Alec Kolaj).

72.057 Plumed Fan-foot (Pechipogo plumigeralis)

(Hübner, [1825])

Rare immigrant

This is a rare migrant from mainland Europe with eight previous records, all from the Ventnor-Bonchurch area. Two more were trapped in 2018 with one at Cliff Cottage, Wheelers Bay on 21 July (AB) and one at Bonchurch on 23 July (JHa).

RDB3

This species appears to have undergone a range expansion and the increasing number of records here and in Hampshire suggest it may now be established in the region. The trend continued in 2018 with a further eight records of 29 individuals. The first came to actinic light at Brook on 17 June (RW). Seven were recorded at Brighstone Forest Reservoir on 27 June (IOu) and singletons were trapped at Moons Hill, Totland on 28 and 30 June (SAK-J). This was followed by sixteen at Westover Plantation, Calbourne on 01 July (JHC) and another at Moons Hill, Totland on 01 July (SAK-J). There was one at Parkhurst on 14 July (IOu) and finally, one at Bonchurch on 15 July (JHa).

72.074 Beautiful Marbled (Eublemma purpurina)

([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

Very rare immigrant

This migrant was first recorded at Portland, Dorset in 2004 and has since been seen in Hampshire on five occasions but not previously on the Island. The first was trapped Wheelers Bay on 21 July (AB) with another at Bonchurch on 22 July (JHa).





Wheelers Bay © Andy Butler

Bonchurch © James Halsey

Beautiful Marbled (Eublemma purpurina)

72.081 Dark Crimson Underwing (Catocala sponsa)

(Linnaeus, 1767)

RDB2

This is rare away from its stronghold in the New Forest. In 2013, records from Briddlesford Copse and Combley Great Wood raised the possibility that it might be resident here, but it has not been recorded from either location since. There were two reported in 2018; one at Moons Hill, Totland on 02 July (SAK-J) and one at Bonchurch on 07 July (JHa), both probably migrants.

72.082 Light Crimson Underwing (Catocala promissa)

([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

RDB3

This species is also largely restricted to the ancient oak woodlands of the New Forest. Individuals on the Isle of Wight are probably immigrants. Two were recorded in 2018; one at Windy Corner, St. Catherine's Point on 04 July (JHC) and one at Shanklin on 30 July (IOu).

Very rare immigrant

The only previous record of this rare migrant is from Totland in 2006. One was trapped at Bonchurch on 01 September (JHa).





Dark Crimson Underwing – Bonchurch © James Halsey

Passenger – Bonchurch © James Halsey

Noctuidae

73.008 Golden Twin-spot (Chrysodeixis chalcites)

(Esper, [1803])

Immigrant

One was seen by day at East Cowes Recreation Ground on 19 October (Vidya Wolton) and one was trapped at Bonchurch on 13 November (JHa).

73.010 Dewick's Plusia (Macdunnoughia confusa)

(Stephens, 1850)

Immigrant

This is a scarce immigrant from Europe that was first recorded here in 2001 but has been more frequent in recent years. Singletons were trapped at Bonchurch, 13 and 14 July (JHa).

73.088 Dark Mottled Willow (Spodoptera cilium)

Guenée, 1852

Rare immigrant

The first British record was from Cornwall in 1990 since when about 30 more have been seen, the majority in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. One was trapped by a visitor at Bembridge on 16 October and confirmed by dissection (Alec Kolaj).

73.091 Rosy Marbled (Elaphria venustula)

(Hübner, 1790)

Nationally scarce (Nb)

The only record was one at Afton Marsh, to the south of the Blackbridge Road, on 30 June (JHC).

73.135 Blair's Wainscot (Sedina buettneri)

(Hering, 1858)

RDB1

This is a scarce species on the Island and with all records from the west of the county. One was trapped at Moons Hill, Totland on 10 October (SAK-J).

Local

Eleven were recorded at Freshwater over six nights between 11 and 31 July (DC). The only other report was one at Hillis Gate, Parkhurst Forest* on 20 July (TN, IM, DC, LF).

73.141 Brown-veined Wainscot (Archanara dissoluta)

(Treitschke, 1825)

Local

One was trapped at Freshwater on 02 August and two at the same location the following night (DC).

73.142 Small Rufous (Coenobia rufa)

(Haworth, 1809)

Local

One at Hillis Gate, Parkhurst Forest on 20 July (TN, IM, DC, LF). One at Bonchurch on 25 July (JHa) and three at Shanklin on 26 July and two on 02 August (IOu). There were three records from 03 August when two came to an actinic light at Whippingham Churchyard (RWi), eight were trapped at Shanklin Upper Chine (IOu) and two at Hungerberry Close, Shanklin (IOu).

73.144 Small Wainscot (Denticucullus pygmina)

(Haworth, 1809)

Common

Primarily found in marshes and wetlands this species is single-brooded and flies from August to September appearing occasionally at light. Two at Bonchurch on 14 August was the only record (JHa).





Slender Brindle (Apamea scolopacina) – Shanklin

Orange Sallow (Tiliacea citrago) – Shanklin

73.160 Slender Brindle (Apamea scolopacina)

(Esper, 1788)

Local

One to actinic light at Rew Down, Ventnor on 05 July (PB). Two at Shanklin on 21 July (IOu) and one at Freshwater also on 21 July (DC). Finally one at Shanklin on 22 July (IOu).

73.179 Orange Sallow (Tiliacea citrago)

(Linnaeus, 1758)

Common

This species is infrequent at light traps but two were trapped in 2018. One at Shanklin on 17 September (IOu) and one at Bonchurch, also on 17 September (JHa).

Local

The larvae of this species feed on the buds and leaves of Wych Elm (Ulmus glabra) and like many species associated with elm its numbers have declined dramatically. A worn male believed to be this species, was trapped in Shanklin on 15 October. Identity was confirmed by dissection (IOu).

73.198 Red-headed Chestnut (Conistra erythrocephala) ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

Rare immigrant

An occasional immigrant from Europe that was first recorded on the Isle of Wight in 2004. One was trapped at Bonchurch on 22 December (JHa).

73.213 Olive (Ipimorpha subtusa)

([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

Local

Most recent records are from the Freshwater area, but it remains scarce even there. Two were trapped at Freshwater on 03 August (DC).

73.221 Suspected (Parastichtis suspecta)

(Hübner, [1817])

Local

There are just two previous records of this species on the Island, one from 1897 and the other from 1963. Two new records in 2018 perhaps suggests they were immigrants. Two were trapped at St. Catherine's Point on 04 July (IOu) in an area that could easily support a resident population. A few days later one was trapped at Freshwater on 07 July (DC).



Suspected (Parastichtis suspecta) – St. Catherine's Point

Immigrant/Colonist

Since it was first recorded from Bonchurch in 2012 this has become increasingly common there and there are also several records from Totland. It is thought there may be a small colony established but to date there has been no evidence of breeding. The larvae of this species feed on Evergreen Oak (*Quercus ilex*). A total of 22 were reported between 13 September (JHa) and 18 October (Derek Coleman).

73.237 Large Ranunculus (Polymixis flavicincta)

([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

Local

Possibly increasing in number across Hampshire but remaining very scarce on the Isle of Wight. One trapped at Lake on 09 October was the first record since 2005 (Tony Steele).

73.257 Beautiful Yellow Underwing (Anarta myrtilli)

(Linnaeus, 1761)

Common

One was trapped at Afton Marsh on 06 July (JHC).

73.266 Dog's Tooth (Lacanobia suasa)

([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)

Local

One to MV at Shanklin* on 20 July was new for the hectad (IOu).

73.268 Splendid Brocade (Lacanobia splendens)

(Hübner, [1808])

Immigrant

A rare immigrant that was first recorded on the Island in 2003. One was trapped at Shanklin on 03 July (IOu).



Splendid Brocade (Lacanobia splendens) – Shanklin

Nationally scarce (Nb)

One at Moons Hill, Totland on 18 June was a new vice-county record (SAK-J). This is a Nationally scarce B species, meaning that it occurs in 31 to 100 hectads in Great Britain.

73.292 Mathew's Wainscot (Mythimna favicolor)

(Barrett, 1896)

Nationally scarce (Nb)

One to actinic at Chale Green* on 05 August was a new hectad record (Simon Colenutt).

73.330 Radford's Flame Shoulder (Ochropleura leucogaster)

(Freyer, [1831])

Rare immigrant

It was an excellent year for this rare migrant with eight records. As would be expected most were seen in October. The first arrivals were mid-month with one at Upper Chine, Shanklin (IOu), one at Moons Hill, Totland (SAK-J) and one at Bonchurch (JHa), all on 15 October. Further singletons were trapped at Bonchurch on 16 and 18 October, with two there on 31 October (JHa). A visiting lepidopterist also trapped one at Bonchurch, 18 October (Derek Coleman) and the final record was one trapped at Freshwater on 16 November (DC).



Radford's Flame Shoulder (Ochropleura leucogaster) – Shanklin

73.347 Langmaid's Yellow Underwing (Noctua janthina)

[Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775

Rare immigrant

Two were trapped in a new hectad at the Needles New Battery* on 02 July (JHC).

Migrant summary

Totals recorded of the more common migrant moths

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Totals
Diamond-back Moth (<i>Plutella xylostella</i>)				1	50	162	743	106	29	37	34	13	1175
Rusty-dot Pearl (<i>Udea ferrugalis</i>)				1	19	12	44	53	27	86	45	10	297
Palpita vitrealis									1	39	63		103
Rush Veneer (Nomophila noctuella)						1	9	9	18	14	3		54
Convolvulus Hawkmoth (Agrius convolvuli)								24	10	2			36
Humming-bird Hawkmoth (Macroglossum stellatarum)*				2	2		8	8	15	3	1		39
Jersey Mocha (Cyclophora ruficiliaria)					3		3	4		3			13
Vestal (Rhodometra sacraria)						1				13	2		16
Gem (Nycterosea obstipata)							1				1	1	3
Clifden Nonpareil (Catocala fraxini)								1	4	2			7
Dewick's Plusia (Macdunnoughia confusa)							2						2
Silver Y (Autographa gamma)					111	222	2026	240	46	110	21	27	2803
Scarce Bordered Straw (Helicoverpa armigera)									1	24	6		31
Small Mottled Willow (Spodoptera exigua)							2			2			4
Clancy's Rustic (Caradrina kadenii)						5	4	2	34	89			134
Delicate (Mythimna vitellina)						1	7		19	38	1		66
White-speck (Mythimna unipuncta)										5	25		30
Pearly Underwing (Peridroma saucia)									1	2			3
Dark Sword-grass (Agrotis ipsilon)						6	46	45	29	62	24	3	215
Radford's Flame Shoulder (Ochropleura leucogaster)										8	1		9
Totals	0	0	0	4	191	424	2908	545	280	657	234	54	5297

^{*} Includes daytime records

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List of observers

Brian Elliott (BE)

Lynn Fomison (LF)

Abi Adamson Luke Gaskin **Dave Norris** Phil Barden (PB) Toni Goodley Tim Norriss (TN) Stella Beavan (SDB) Derek Hale Iain Outlaw (IOu) Rio Bellgore-Gullit James Halsey (JHa) Janey Parker Andy Butler (AB) Bernie Hamet Ian Ridett Sue Calver Bob Heckford (RJH) Kay Shaw Julian Clarke (JHC) Donna Henderson Karen Sheath Derek Coleman Angela Hewitt **Nigel Smith** Simon Colenutt Chris Hicks (CH) Tony Steele Dave Cooke (DC) Susan Hughes **Gary Taylor** Dave Dana Martin Jenkins Jade Thornton Sue Davies (SD) David Jode David Trevan Caroline Dudley Sam Knill-Jones (SAK-J) John Watt Chuck Eccleston Alec Kolaj Tina Whitmore Nick Edwards **David Mears** Rob Wilson (RWi) Martin Elcoate Ian Merrifield (IM) Vidya Wolton

Steve Newberry

Scott Newman

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lain Outlaw zoothera@live.co.uk

Isle of Wight Natural History and Archaeological Society
Unit 16, Prospect Business Centre, Prospect Road, West Cowes, PO31 7AD
iwnhas@iwnhas.org/
http://iwnhas.org/

Title page: Clancy's Rustic (Caradrina kadenii) – Shanklin Unless otherwise stated photographs © Iain Outlaw