



*Ringed Border*

*photo: Iain Outlaw*

I hope you enjoy this first newsletter about moths on the Island. Although there is a Facebook group (Isle of Wight Butterflies and Moths), not everyone uses social media so I am hoping this will bridge the gap in communication.

Despite the weather, three new species for the Island have been recorded so far this year including the Ringed Border photographed above.

## Recent sightings (as up to 31st July)

A quiet start to the year with the highlights being a **Dotted Chestnut** (*C. rubiginea*) and 7 **Pale Pinion** (*L. socia*), both at Bonchurch. A **Humming-bird Hawk-moth** (*M. stellatarum*) at Newport on 9th March was presumably an overwintering individual with further reports of singles at Wheelers Bay on 26 & 27th. Three **Yellow Horned** (*A. flavicornis*) at Hillis Gate on 20th March was only the second report of this species since 2015. **Blossom Underwing** (*O. miniosa*) was reported at Wootton Bridge on 3rd and 23rd April.

May highlights were a **Dew Moth** (*S. irrorella*) at West High Down on 1st, **Beautiful Marbled** (*E. purpurina*) at Mottistone Down on 27th, ***Nephopterix angustella*** at Freshwater Bay on 28th and a **Currant Clearwing** (*S. tipuliformis*) at Newport on 31st. They are the earliest dates recorded on the Island for the respective species.

June started with a flourish on 2nd with a **Lunar Double-stripe** (*M. lunaris*), second record for the Island, and a **Striped Hawk-moth** (*H. livornica*) reported at Bonchurch and Shanklin respectively.



*Lunar Double-stripe*

*photo: James Halsey*



*Striped Hawk-moth*

*photo: Iain Outlaw*



Another **Beautiful Marbled** (*E. purpurina*) was reported at Arreton Down on 14th June, ninth record for the Island, while there was an amazing report of a **Scarce Merveille du Jour** (*M. alpium*) coming to light at Osborne on 15th June, the first county record since 1892!



*Scarce Merveille du Jour*

*photo: Iain Outlaw*

The month ended with a **Porter's Rustic** (*A. hospes*) reported at Bonchurch on 28th, the eighth record for the Island and the first since 2016.

There were a number of notable sightings in July, including three new species for the Island, as follows:

**Light Crimson Underwing** (*C. promissa*) at Bonchurch on 14th (8th record for the Island)

**Chamomile Shark** (*C. chamomillae*), larva seen on Scentless Mayweed (*T. inodorum*) at Cridmore on 15th (3rd record since 2003)

**Bedstraw Hawk-moth** (*H. gallii*) at Yaverland on 15th and a female at Bonchurch on 16th.

**Argolamprotes micella** at Shanklin on 18th and at Bonchurch on 19th (2nd and 3rd records for the county)

**Rhyacionia buoliana** at Bonchurch on 19th (5th record for the Island)

**Elachista maculicerusella** at Haseley Manor on 19th (new record for the Island)

***Ethmia quadrillella*** at Haseley Manor on 19th (6th record for the Island)

***Anarsia innoxia*** at Shanklin on 21st (new record for the Island)

**Satin Lutestring** (*T. fluctuosa*) at Osborne on 22nd (third county record)

**Horse Chestnut** (*P. hippocastanaria*) at Osborne on 22nd (12th record for the Island, first since 2014)

**Olive Crescent** (*T. emortualis*) at Osborne on 22nd (first since 2018)

**Barred Hook-tip** (*W. cultraria*) at Osborne on 22nd (first since 2013)

***Cynaeda dentalis*** at Seaview on 22nd (2nd record for the Island)

**Clouded Magpie** (*A. sylvata*) at Shanklin on 22nd (first since 2018)

**Beautiful Snout** (*H. crassalis*) at Osborne on 22nd (7th record for the Island)

**Ringed Border** (*S. cararia*) at Osborne on 22nd (new record for the Island)

**Barred Rivulet** (*P. bifaciata*) at Wootton Bridge on 29th (first since 2015)



*Cynaeda dentalis* photo: John & Shona Maskell

*Beautiful Snout* photo: Iain Outlaw



*Bedstraw Hawk-moth* photo: James Halsey

*Chamomile Shark*

photo: Geoff Toone

Many thanks to the following for their records used in this report: Andy Butler, Jim Cresswell, Sue Davies, Dave Elms, James Halsey, Sue Hughes, Nikki Kownacki, John & Shona Maskell, Ian Merrifield, Iain Outlaw, Colin & Jillie Pope, Sue Rittman and Geoff Toone.

## State of Britain's Larger Moths 2021

Butterfly Conservation released their third assessment of the State of Britain's Larger Moths earlier in the year. With previous assessments in 2006 and 2013, the latest report assesses abundance and distribution and is a recommended read. You can download a copy of the report at this link:

<https://butterfly-conservation.org/moths/the-state-of-britains-moths>

## Butterfly Conservation Latest News

The National Moth Recording Scheme (NMRS) online system, part of the Butterfly Conservation website, is currently being overhauled and a new version is scheduled to be available in January 2022. This will be linked to the iRecord system and will be ideally suited for those of you submitting casual records of moths. I hope to have further details closer to the launch.

Butterfly Conservation Isle of Wight Group is running a Tiger moth project this year to encourage the public to report their sightings of Tiger moths. Partially a public engagement project, we are also using it to try and monitor the populations of these species. For example, Garden Tiger has suffered a national decline so have we suffered a similar loss? The poster template, with a link to record sightings, can be found at <http://www.hantsiow-butterflies.org.uk/>

It would be greatly appreciated if those of you who have any 2021 records of the following species could forward the details to me before **15th October**:

**Ruby Tiger** (*Phragmatobia fuliginosa*), **Wood Tiger** (*Parasemia plantaginis*)

**Garden Tiger** (*Arctia caja*), **Cream-spot Tiger** (*Arctia villica*), **Jersey Tiger** (*Euplagia quadripunctaria*) and **Cinnabar** (*Tyria jacobaeae*) (I am presuming that there were no records of Scarlet Tiger or Paton's Tiger!). This will enable me to produce the results of the project by the end of October for the Hants & IW branch of Butterfly Conservation. A full report will be in the next newsletter.



The Butterfly Conservation Isle of Wight Group attended the English Heritage Blooming Gardens event at Osborne House on 12 & 13th June, our first public engagement event of the year – socially distanced of course.

The weekend was very successful with a steady flow of visitors wanting to know about gardening to attract butterflies and moths. Ian Fletcher's superb moth display board attracted a lot of interest along with a trap I had on display. We have been asked to attend next year's event and we are hoping we can attend other events in 2022. Many thanks to Kay Shaw and Tina Whitmore who assisted me at the table during the weekend, you were both brilliant!



The Isle of Wight Group has two moth traps which we can loan to newcomers to help them decide if they want to take up trapping or not. If you are interested, please contact me at [wightmoths@gmail.com](mailto:wightmoths@gmail.com).

## Moth Report

As most of you will be aware, the 2019 Isle of Wight Moth report is now available to view online at <https://iwnhas.org/isle-of-wight-moth-report-2019/>

This is another brilliant effort by my predecessor, Iain Outlaw, and my grateful thanks to him for all his support. I am currently working on the 2020 report and hope to have it completed by the end of the year.

## 2021 Records

Thanks to all of you who have contributed 2021 records so far. Looking ahead, please can you ensure you send in your 2021 records as soon as possible after you have finished recording for the year and no later than **15th January 2022**. This is to ensure that external reporting deadlines are met. Thank you for your cooperation.

I hope you have enjoyed this first attempt at a newsletter, I would welcome any feedback, good or bad! This is your newsletter so I would be delighted to receive ideas for articles for future editions. The idea is to produce a newsletter three times a year. For example, I am hoping to be able to produce an article about the 2020 records of some of the species which do not fit the criteria for the online moth report. Other topics could include the use of pheromone lures, moth traps, targeting species to look for, recommended books, links to useful websites etc.

I would also welcome any photographs for inclusion, obviously you will get full credit as per the photos in this edition.

The next newsletter is scheduled to be sent out during December so I would be delighted to receive any records or articles for inclusion by **30th November 2021**.

**Good Mothing!**

**Jim Baldwin**

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