

NOTABLE MOTH RECORDS ON THE ISLE OF WIGHT 2009

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In contrast to 2008, 2009 experienced a drier summer followed by an Indian Summer with the wettest, windiest and warmest November since records began with 187.5mm rainfall. at Freshwater. Snow fell on Feb. 1st and on Feb. 2nd and there was the heaviest snowfall in London for eighteen years. There was further heavy snow on 5th March but this did not settle. The driest and sunniest month was August with only 26.5mm rainfall. May and June were the two other driest months. Late December saw some cold weather and this lasted into 2010, when there was the heaviest snow for twenty-nine years. The total rainfall was 880.2mm, which was well above average and more than in 2008.

It was a very good year for the Island with two new macro-moths and three micro-moths added to the list. I had one of my better years.

The highlight of the year was the capture of the ninth British example of the Rosy Underwing *Catocala electa* (View.) at Totland on 21st August, which was a new County record. The eighth British record and second Island record of *Herpetogramma licarsialis* (Walker.) was taken at Totland on 28th October. James Halsey took the Plume Moth *Cnaemidophorus rhododactyla* (D. & S.) on 16th July at Bonchurch, which was most likely a migrant and is new to the Isle of Wight. I recorded a migrant Tawny Wave *Scopula rubiginata* (Hufn.) at Totland on 4th August which is a new Island record.

Bill Shepard found leaf-mines of *Mompha langiella* (Hubn.) on Enchanter's Nightshade at Combley Great Wood on 16th August. The mines were sent to Dr. John Langmaid who later confirmed that they were this species, which is new to the Isle of Wight. Dave Cooke took examples of *Agonopterix scopariella* (Heinemann) in a light trap at Freshwater on 25 & 26th April, 26th July and 7th October, which is probably a species that has been overlooked, but is new to the Island. The specimens were verified by Mike Wall.

Neil Green's children found an empty pupa of a Banana Stowaway *Antichloris eriphia* (Fabr.) at Morrisons Supermarket, Newport in October. This is the second record for the Isle of Wight.

Other highlights of the year are listed below:

Eriocrania unimaculella. (Zetterstedt, 1839) David Biggs recorded the larva and mine on Birch at Bouldnor Forest on 26th April and this is the first record since 1933.

Dewick's Plusia *Macdunnoughia confusa* (Steph.). One at Bonchurch on 13th April.

Catoptria verellus (Zinck.). One at Bonchurch on 31st May and at Totland on 30th June.

These are the second & third Island records.

Small Marbled *Eublemma parva* (Hb.). One at Bonchurch on 31st May

Olive Crescent *Trisateles emortualis* (D & S.). One at Bonchurch on 25th June.

Ni Moth *Trichoplusia ni* (Hb.). One at Bonchurch on 1st August.

Orache *Trachea atriplicis* (Linn.). At Totland on 18th July (two) and on 1st August.

Cydia amplana (Hub.). One at Totland on 3rd August.

Striped Hawk-moth *Hyles livornica* (Esp.). One at Totland on 23rd August.

Clifden Nonpareil *Catocala fraxini* (Linn.). Two at Bonchurch on 28th September. One at Cranmore on 18th September and at Totland on: 17th & 20th September.

Flame Brocade *Trigonophora flammea* (Esp.). One at Bonchurch on 22nd & 30th October. One at Freshwater on October 22nd and at Totland On 21st, 22nd & 27th October.

Gem *Orthonama obstipata* (Fabr.). One at Totland on 28th & 30th October.

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- White-speck Wainscot *Mythimna unipuncta* (Haw.). One at Freshwater on October 27 and at Totland on 26th & 29th October.
- Least carpet *Idaea rusticata atrosignaria* (Lempke). One at Bonchurch on 28th June and one at Freshwater on 24th July. These records confirm that this species is still resident on the Island.
- Netted Pug *Eupithecia venosata* (Fabr.). The first record for the West Wight was taken at Freshwater on 31st May.
- Vestal *Rhodometra sacraria* (Linn.). One at Bonchurch and Freshwater on 29th October.
- Northern Rustic *Standfussiana lucerneae* (Linn.). One at Totland on 18th August.
- Marsh Oblique-barred *Hypenodes humidalis* (Double). One at Totland on 12th August.
- Pterophorus spilodactylus* (Curtis). The first for my garden at Totland on 3rd July. This species can be found on White Horehound on the cliffs along Tennyson Down.
- Oblique Striped *Phibalapteryx virgata* (Hufn.). One at Totland on 15th June.
- Satin Beauty *Deileptenia ribeata* (Clerck.). One at Bonchurch on 2nd July.
- Poplar Kitten *Furcula bifida* (Brahm.). One at Bonchurch on 20th June.
- Blair's Mocha *Cyclophora pupillaria* (Hb.) There were seven records, two in April and five in October (three from Bonchurch and four from Freshwater), which is evidence that this species is now resident on the Island.
- Oblique Carpet *Orthonama vittata* (Bork.). One of this very local species at Bonchurch on 4th August and at Totland on 15th June

I should like to mention some most unusual second broods of several species as follows:—

- Small Fan-footed Wave *Idaea biselata* (Hufn.). One at Totland on 4th October and one at Cranmore on 18th October.
- Rosy Footman *Mitochrista miniata* (Forst.). One at Cranmore on 21st October.
- Treble-bar *Aplocera plagiata* (Linn.). One at Cranmore on 21st October.
- Scorched Carpet *Ligdia adustata* (D & S.). One at Cranmore on 26th October.

So ends a successful year for Island entomologists.

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