



## MONMOUTHSHIRE MOTH & BUTTERFLY GROUP

NEWSLETTER No 153      June 2019.

*A monthly newsletter covering*

*Gwent and Monmouthshire Vice County 35*

*Editor: Martin Anthoney*

### **Recent Highlights – June**

The June weather started changeable with spells of rain interspersed with brighter showery weather. With north or north-easterly winds it turned dull and cool for the second week. The changeable weather persisted until the 20th but with temperatures closer to normal as the winds changed to a mainly south-westerly direction bringing warmer weather though it remained unsettled. The last third of June had some warm sunny weather, particularly between the 26th and 29th, but also a few further showery outbreaks of rain at times.

28 species of butterfly were recorded in June 2019, compared to 29 in June 2018 and 25 in 2017. Common Blue, Meadow Brown and Small Heath all had a good month, and following an influx around the 23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> of the month Painted Lady (36 records) was widely reported. After a bad May, Red Admiral numbers also picked up.

271 species of macromoth were recorded in June, lower than the 288 species for June in both 2017 and 2018. Heart and Dart had its most prolific year for some time, with nine counts reported in excess of 100 and a maximum of 220 individuals in one night. Dark Arches had counts in excess of 50 per night reported from five sites. Elephant Hawk also had a notable year. Migrants were confined to 7 Humming-bird Hawk, 2 Vestal and 6 Dark Sword-grass. The following include first 2019 plus other significant records:-

- 1<sup>st</sup> June      Wood White butterfly and 3 Drab Looper moths in Lady Park Wood, in the VC35 section of Forest of Dean. Also, the micro *Lobesia occidentis*, a species new to Wales.      (George Tordoff)
- Toadflax Brocade, Grey Arches, Light Arches and Miller to light at Melbourne Way, Newport  
(Roger James)
- Brindled White-spot, Buttoned Snout, Dingy Shell, Larch Pug, Little Thorn, Lunar Thorn, Poplar Lutestring, Small Angle Shades and Small Yellow Wave to light at Tintern.  
(Hazel Mitchell)
- Brown-line Bright-eye, Green Silver-lines, Little Thorn and Single-dotted Wave at Catbrook  
(Richard Clayton)
- Broad-barred White, Dark Sword-grass at Blackwood      (Kevin Hewitt)
- Dingy Skipper at Angel Way, Aberbargoed      (Martin Anthoney and Roger James)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> June      Grizzled Skipper, Dingy Skipper and 10 Small Heath at MoD Caerwent.  
(Martin Anthoney and Roger James)
- Humming-bird Hawk and Mocha at Tintern      (Hazel Mitchell)
- First Meadow Brown at Cefn Campstone area      (Steph Tyler)



*Toadflax*

*Toadflax Brocade*



*Brussels Lace (L Hutchings)*



*Lobelia  
occidentalis  
(George Tordoff)*

- 4<sup>th</sup> June Beautiful Hook-tip, Clouded Brindle and Lilac Beauty at Whitson (Lance Hutchings)  
 Cream-spot Tiger to light at Newport Wetlands (Kevin Dupé)  
 Purple Bar to light at Melbourne Way, Newport (Roger James)
- 5<sup>th</sup> June 1 Green Hairstreak and 6 Dingy Skipper butterflies at Clydach (Blackrock Quarry) (Mike Hoult and Val Deisler)  
 1 Drab Looper, 3 Dingy Skipper, 13 Small Heath at MoD Caerwent (Martin Anthony and Roger James)
- 6<sup>th</sup> June 13 Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary at Clydach (Blackrock Quarry) (Martin Anthony and Roger James)  
 Brussels Lace to light at Whitson (Lance Hutchings)  
 Uncertain moth at Newport Wetlands (Kevin Dupé)  
 1 Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary and 1 Dingy Skipper at Garn Lakes, Blaenavon (Martin Anthony and Roger James)
- 8<sup>th</sup> June Humming-bird Hawk at Cwmbran, and again on 17<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> June (Bob Roome)  
 First Riband Wave at Hendre (Great Crwys) (Wendy Tyler-Batt)

- 9<sup>th</sup> June 2 Large Skipper at Ebbw Vale (Lime Avenue). (Martin Anthony and Roger James)  
Wall butterfly at Ebbw Vale (Central Valley). 5 Dingy Skipper over the two sites.
- Cypress Carpet to light at Haisbro Avenue, Newport (Sheila Dupé)
- 10<sup>th</sup> June 4 Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary at Troed Rhiw Gwair, Tredegar (Chris Hatch)  
3 Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary at Silent Valley reserve (Jane Corey)
- 11<sup>th</sup> June Green Arches to light at Melbourne Way, Newport (Roger James)



*Beautiful Carpet*



*Cloaked Carpet*

- 12<sup>th</sup> June Beautiful Carpet, Buff Arches at Tintern (Hazel Mitchell)  
Bordered White at Haisbro Avenue Newport (Sheila Dupé)
- 13<sup>th</sup> June Satin Lutestring at Tintern (Hazel Mitchell)
- 14<sup>th</sup> June Narrow-bordered Five-spot Burnet at Newport Wetlands (Kevin Dupé)  
Rufous Minor at Penallt (Steph Tyler)
- 15<sup>th</sup> June Barred Yellow, Pinion-streaked Snout, Silky Wainscot at Newport Wetlands (Kevin Hewitt)  
Rustic, Smoky Wainscot at Melbourne Way, Newport (Roger James)  
Six-spot Burnet flying at Wet Meadow, Trellech (Steph Tyler)
- 16<sup>th</sup> June Cloaked Carpet to light at Tintern (Hazel Mitchell)  
First 2019 Marbled White butterfly near Shirenewton (Steph Tyler)
- 17<sup>th</sup> June Double Line, Phoenix, White Satin to light at Whitson (Lance Hutchings)  
Fan-foot to light in Cwmbran (Bob Roome)  
Minor Shoulder-knot, Mullein Wave Common Footman at Newport Wetlands (Kevin Dupé)
- 18<sup>th</sup> June Dot Moth at Tintern (Hazel Mitchell)  
Double Dart, Map-winged Swift to light at ERC, Ebbw Vale (Jane Corey)
- 19<sup>th</sup> June Beautiful Brocade to light at Blackwood. Nearby Penllwyn Grasslands is a known site. (Kevin Hewitt)

- Four-dotted Footman to light at Catbrook (Richard Clayton)
- Purple Clay to light at Tintern (Hazel Mitchell)
- 20<sup>th</sup> June Dingy Shears at Melbourne Way, Newport (Roger James)  
Scarlet Tiger at Newport Wetlands (Kevin Dupé)
- 21<sup>st</sup> June The micro *Narycia monilifera* netted at Dingestow was new for VC35 (Sam Bosanquet)  
Triple-spotted Clay at Penallt (Steph Tyler)



*Phalonidia  
gilvicomana*  
(Sam Bosanquet)



*Narycia  
monilifera*

- 22<sup>nd</sup> June Buff Footman to light at Catbrook (Richard Clayton)
- The micro *Phalonidia gilvicomana* swept from Wall Lettuce at Cleddon Shoots is the second county record of this Nationally Scarce species and the first since 1985. (Sam Bosanquet.)
- 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2 Double Line, Cloaked Minor to light at Blackwood (Kevin Hewitt)
- Scarce Silver-lines to light at Melbourne Way, Newport (Roger James)
- Humming-bird Hawk at Dingestow (Sam Bosanquet)
- True Lover's Knot at Llandogo (Simon Phipps)
- 24<sup>th</sup> June 11 Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary and 3 Painted Lady at Ebbw Vale (Aneurin Bevan stones)  
(Martin Anthony and Roger James)
- 5 Painted Lady at Dingestow (Sam Bosanquet) and 1 at Penallt (Ian Rabjohns)
- Blotched Emerald (the first of six during June), Common Emerald and Leopard Moth to light at Tintern. (Hazel Mitchell)
- Blue-bordered Carpet, Buttoned Snout, Common Emerald, Scalloped Oak, 6 Silky Wainscot at Haisbro Avenue, Newport (Sheila Dupé)
- Another Common Emerald, Dingy Footman, Round-winged Muslin Footman and Yellow-tail at Newport Wetlands. Also 7 Painted Lady. (Kevin Dupé)
- Marbled Beauty, Red-necked Footman to light at Risca (Martin Anthony)



*Blotched Emerald*



*Campion*  
(Simon Phipps)

- 25<sup>th</sup> June Broom Moth, Satin Wave, Small Argent and Sable at ERC Ebbw Vale (Jane Corey)  
 Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing at Blackwood (Kevin Hewitt)  
 A new site record for Chamomile Shark at Risca (Martin Anthoney)  
 July Belle, Wood Carpet to light at Llandogo (Simon Phipps)
- 26<sup>th</sup> June Campion Moth, Small Fan-footed Wave to light at Llandogo (Simon Phipps)  
 Double Line to light at Risca (Martin Anthoney)  
 Large Emerald, Small Blood-vein to light at Melbourne Way, Newport (Roger James)  
 Northern Spinach at Llandogo (Simon Phipps)
- 27<sup>th</sup> June 9 Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary and 1 Dark Green Fritillary at Blaen-y-Cwm, Grwnne Fawr (Martin Anthoney and Roger James)  
 Scarce Footman at Whitson (Lance Hutchings)
- 28<sup>th</sup> June 2 Dark Green Fritillary, 1 Small Skipper at Clydach (Blackrock Quarry). (Mike Hoult and Val Deisler)  
 2 White Admiral flying at Panta Arches (Angidy Valley) (Martin Anthoney and Roger James)  
 Silver-washed Fritillary at Llandogo (Simon Phipps)  
 Beautiful Snout, July Highflyer, Rosy Footman at Tintern (Hazel Mitchell)  
 Common Lutestring, Four-dotted Footman, Lilac Beauty, Plain Golden Y to light at Penallt (Steph Tyler)  
 Common Rustic, Dun-bar at Melbourne Way, Newport (Roger James)  
 Dotted Clay at Catbrook .Also, an unusual aberration of Small Fan-foot. (Richard Clayton)  
 Silky Wainscot at Caerleon (David Brooks)  
 Old Lady, Square-spot Rustic at Haisbro Avenue, Newport (Sheila Dupé)  
 Lunar-spotted Pinion at Newport Wetlands (Kevin Dupé)  
 220 Heart and Dart at Blackwood (Kevin Hewitt)

29<sup>th</sup> June Blackneck at Whitson (Lance Hutchings)  
 4 Light Knot Grass, Drinker, Oak Eggar, July Belle among 48 species to light at Whistle Inn car park, Blaenavon (Martin Anthony and Roger James)  
 Scarlet Tiger at Bedwas. A new site for a species expanding westwards in Gwent. (Mike and Jackie Pointon)

30<sup>th</sup> June A female of the micro *Crombrugghia laetus* at Dingestow is only the second VC35 record of this rare migrant. (Sam Bosanquet)  
 Double Line at Melbourne Way, Newport, the ninth Gwent record in June. Also Small Emerald (Roger James)  
 Fern moth at Llandogo (Simon Phipps)  
 L-album Wainscot to light at Llandogo (Gail Reynolds)



*Light Knot Grass*



*July Belle*



*Crombrugghia laetus*  
 (Sam Bosanquet)

An unusual aberration of  
 Small Fan-foot  
 (*Herminia grisealis*)

(Richard Claydon)



## Dates for your Diary 2019

**19<sup>th</sup> July to 11<sup>th</sup> Aug** Big Butterfly Count 2019. More information on  
<https://www.bigbutterflycount.org/>

**26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> September** National Moth Night 2019. Theme is *Migrants*. <http://www.mothnight.info/>

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> Oct** Members Day and AGM of Butterfly Conservation South Wales Branch, at Kenfig NNR Visitor Centre, 10am to 4pm. Speakers arranged so far include  
Simon Phelps on *South West England Moors project*  
Andy and Melissa Banthorpe - *Micro moths*  
Russel Hobson - *50 years of BC*  
George Tordoff - *Moth Atlas*  
Richard Smith - *a projects update*

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