



## MONMOUTHSHIRE MOTH & BUTTERFLY GROUP

NEWSLETTER No 154 July 2019.

*A monthly newsletter covering*

*Gwent and Monmouthshire Vice County 35*

*Editor: Martin Anthony*

### **Recent Highlights – July**



*Pine Hawk (Sphinx pinastri)*  
(Sam Bosanquet)

#### **Pine Hawk (*Sphinx pinastri*)**

On the night of 28<sup>th</sup> July a specimen of Pine Hawk flew into Sam Bosanquet's light trap at Dingestow. A new species for VC35 and probably the first confirmed Welsh record.

The species inhabits coniferous woodland, where it flies in a single generation from late May to early August. The larva, which is rather more colourful than the moth, feeds on the needles of Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) and other conifers.

Established in the southern English counties by the 1980s it has slowly spread north. It was established in neighbouring Gloucestershire by 2015, so hopefully it is crossing the border into Wales.

The addition of Pine Hawk brings the VC35 macromoth list to 585 species.



*Bedstraw Hawk (Hyles gallii)*  
(Kevin Hewitt)

#### **Bedstraw Hawk (*Hyles gallii*)**

On 31<sup>st</sup> July, a Bedstraw Hawk moth came to the light trap of Kevin Hewitt at Blackwood. An immigrant species, this is only the third county record, the previous two being 1870 and 1973. The larvae feed on bedstraws, rosebay willowherb and other plants, but the species rarely survives British winters. It is resident in southern France and eastwards throughout most of Europe north to Denmark and Scandinavia.

July began with a cool, showery north-westerly flow over the UK, but for most of the first half of the month high pressure was close to south Wales and this brought mostly dry weather with plentiful sunshine. The second half was generally more unsettled with frequent westerly and south-westerly winds and an exceptionally hot spell from the 22nd to 26th which saw record-breaking temperatures and also widespread thunderstorms. SE Wales missed the worst of the storms, so temperatures and sunshine were above average and rainfall below average.

The hot, sunny weather was not reflected in lepidoptera counts. 28 species of butterfly were recorded in July 2019, the same as June, and compared to 26 in July 2018 and 28 in July 2017. 27 Painted Lady individuals was a drop on the 36 in June, but there were signs of a sharp increase in numbers towards the end of July.

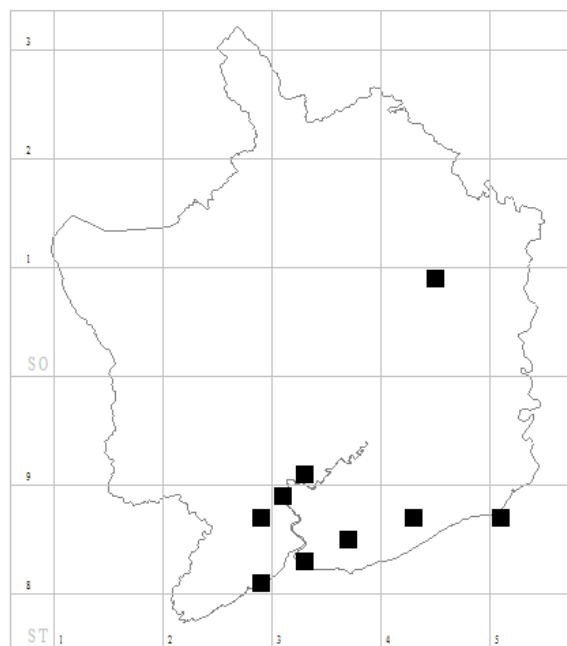
284 species of macromoth were recorded in July, despite the warm weather the lowest July total since 2012. The various Footman moths had a very successful year, with traps often carpeted in four or five species of Footman moth (Common Footman, Scarce Footman, Dingy Footman, Buff Footman and less common Rosy Footman and Red-necked Footman were well represented). Elephant Hawk was prolific, with a greatly extended flight season. Migrants were 11 Humming-bird Hawk, Small Marbled, Small Mottled Willow and a Dark Sword-grass.

Six Jersey Tiger records in July, for a species which only arrived in the county in 2011, help to clarify its distribution.



*Jersey Tiger*

72.030 Jersey Tiger (*Euplagia quadripunctaria*)



*Jersey Tiger distribution*

- |                      |   |                   |
|----------------------|---|-------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> July | 5 Painted Lady, 4 Silky Wainscot, Southern Wainscot at Newport Wetlands | (Kevin Dupé)      |
|                      | Beautiful Carpet, Broad-barred White to light at Melbourne Way, Newport | (Roger James)     |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> July | Four-dotted Footman at Catbrook   | (Richard Clayton) |
|                      | The first of seven Humming-bird Hawk moths seen at Dingestow in July.   | (Sam Bosanquet)   |



- 3<sup>rd</sup> July 7 White Admiral flying in Slade Wood. (Martin Anthony and Roger James)
- 1 Dark Green Fritillary and 3 Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary at Blackrock Quarry, Clydach, with 3 further Small Pearl-bordered on 15<sup>th</sup> July. (Mike Hoult and Val Deisler)
- Double Line to light at Risca, with another on 11<sup>th</sup> July (Martin Anthony)
- July Belle at Llandogo (Simon Phipps)
- 4<sup>th</sup> July 2 Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary, 30 Small Tortoiseshell at Silent Valley (Jeff Chard)  
with another Small Pearl-bordered on 14<sup>th</sup> July. (Jane Corey)
- 2 Painted Lady near Rhiwderin (Steph Tyler)
- Sharp-angled Carpet to light at Tintern (Hazel Mitchell)
- 5<sup>th</sup> July White Letter Hairstreak butterfly at Llandogo, with a second on 7<sup>th</sup> July (Simon Phipps)
- Broad-barred White and Scalloped Hook-tip at Catbrook (Richard Clayton)
- Shark to light at Risca (Martin Anthony)
- Two mines of *Calioptilia cuculipennella* (third VC35 record) in Ash leaves at Skenfrith Castle. (Andy & Melissa Banthorpe)



*White Letter Hairstreak*  
(Simon Phipps)



*White Admiral*

- 6<sup>th</sup> July Cloaked Carpet, Leopard Moth, Scalloped Hook-tip at Tintern (Hazel Mitchell)  
 Double Dart, Lilac Beauty, Svensson's Copper Underwing and a new site for the Micro  
*Scoparia basistrigalis* at Dingestow (Sam Bosanquet)  
 Rosy Minor at Blackwood (Kevin Hewitt)  
 Cypress Carpets at Cwmbran (Bob Roome) and (together with Small Ranunculus)  
 at Caerleon (Chris Jones)
- 7<sup>th</sup> July 3 Silver-washed Fritillary at Llandogo (Simon Phipps)  
 Second generation Brimstone butterfly at Risca (Martin Anthony)
- 8<sup>th</sup> July Beautiful Snout to light at Catbrook (Richard Clayton)
- 9<sup>th</sup> July 214 Marbled White, 5 Painted Lady, 1 Small Copper at MoD Caerwent.  
 (Martin Anthony and Roger James)  
 Double Lobed at Tintern (Hazel Mitchell)
- 10<sup>th</sup> July Brown-veined Wainscot, Brussels Lace, Lunar-spotted Pinion, Round-winged Muslin Footman  
 to light at Newport Wetlands (Kevin Hewitt)  
 First Antler Moth of the season at Risca (Martin Anthony)  
 Another Round-winged Muslin Footman at Caerleon (Chris Jones)
- 11<sup>th</sup> July Copper Underwing at Melbourne Way, Newport (Roger James)  
 Small Marbled immigrant and Grass Emerald at Dingestow (Sam Bosanquet)  
 Small Ranunculus to light at Melbourne Way, Newport (Roger James)
- 12<sup>th</sup> July 25 Silver-washed Fritillary flying in Wentwood (Martin Anthony and Roger James)  
 3 Essex Skipper at Newport Wetlands (Kevin Dupé)  
 Small Yellow Wave at Catbrook (Richard Clayton)
- 13<sup>th</sup> July Six-belted Clearwing and the third county record of the micro *Oncocera semirubella*  
 at Newport Wetlands (Kevin Hewitt)



*Oncocera semirubella*  
 (Kevin Hewitt)

*Six-belted Clearwing*  
 (Kevin Hewitt)



- 14<sup>th</sup> July Silver-washed Fritillary at Prisk Wood (Steph Tyler)  
 Beautiful Snout and Scallop Shell to light at Tintern (Hazel Mitchell)  
 Gothic to light at Risca (Martin Anthoney)
- 15<sup>th</sup> July 1 Grayling at Central Valley, Ebbw Vale (Jeff Chard)  
 2 Grayling at Blackrock Quarry, Clydach (Mike Hoult and Val Deisler)  
 Cream-bordered Green Pea to light at Whitson (Lance Hutchings)
- 16<sup>th</sup> July Season's first August Thorn to light at Tintern (Hazel Mitchell)  
 Cloaked Carpet at Catbrook (Richard Clayton)
- 17<sup>th</sup> July The first of four Mocha moths in July, September Thorn and Dark Spectacle at Tintern. (Hazel Mitchell)  
 Toadflax Brocade to light at Haisbro Avenue, Newport (Sheila Dupé)
- 18<sup>th</sup> July Small Clouded Brindle to light at Llantarnam Abbey Woods (Bob Roome)
- 19<sup>th</sup> July The first of three Double Lines in July at Blackwood (Kevin Hewitt)  
 Four-dotted Footman to light at Catbrook (Richard Clayton)  
 Purple Clay to light at Tintern (Hazel Mitchell)  
*Catoptria margaritella* at Dingestow (new site and 8th for Gwent of this bog pyralid)  
 (Sam Bosanquet)



*Suspected (Parastichtis suspecta)*  
 (Hazel Mitchell)



*Bird's Wing (Dypterygia scabriuscula)*  
 (Richard Clayton)

- 20<sup>th</sup> July Suspected moth to light at Tintern, with another on 29<sup>th</sup> July. (Hazel Mitchell)  
 Only the second Gwent site for this species and only the sixth and seventh Gwent records, the previous ones all being from Cleddon Bog (1975, 2x1986, 1988 and 1990)
- Cloaked Carpet at Dingestow (Sam Bosanquet)
- Old Lady moth in shed at Great Crwys, Hendre (Wendy Tyler-Batt)
- Small Waved Umber, Spinach at Melbourne Way, Newport (Roger James)
- 21<sup>st</sup> July Jersey Tiger to light at Haisbro Avenue, Newport, with a second on 24<sup>th</sup> July. (Sheila Dupé)  
 Also Scorched Carpet.
- Essex Skipper at Cwmbran (Bob Roome)
- Vapourer moth to light at Risca (Martin Anthony)
- Striped Wainscot, Dingy Shell at Blackwood (Kevin Hewitt)
- 22<sup>nd</sup> July 6 Grayling at Pwll Du (Martin Anthony and Roger James)
- 6 Silver-washed Fritillary, 1 Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary, 2 Grayling, 6 Marbled White, 1 Painted Lady, 4 Small Copper at Blackrock Quarry, Clydach  
 (Martin Anthony and Roger James)
- The first of three Four-spotted Footman during July at Melbourne Way, Newport. (Roger James)
- 23<sup>rd</sup> July Bird's Wing moth to light at Catbrook. (Richard Clayton)
- The first of 8 Four-spotted Footman during July at Tintern. Also Blomer's Rivulet, Dusky Thorn  
 (Hazel Mitchell)
- 24<sup>th</sup> July Jersey Tiger to light at Melbourne Way, Newport (Roger James)
- Purple Hairstreak at Llantarnam Abbey Woods (Bob Roome).
- Dingy Shell at Haisbro Avenue, Newport (Sheila Dupé)
- Tissue and Double Lobed at Whitson (Lance Hutchings)
- 25<sup>th</sup> July 3 Silver-washed Fritillary at Hendre Wood (Steph Tyler)
- 26<sup>th</sup> July Dusky Sallow to light at Tintern (Hazel Mitchell)
- Jersey Tiger to light at Caerleon (David Brooks)
- Scallop Shell to light at Abergavenny (Andrew and Janet Cormack)
- First Rosy Rustics of 2019 at Llandogo (Gail Reynolds) and Mardy (Mark Butler)
- Small Mottled Willow immigrant and the micro *Biselachista albidella* (2nd Gwent record)  
 to light at Dingestow (Sam Bosanquet)

27 <sup>th</sup> July	Jersey Tiger at Sudbrook, with a second on 31 <sup>st</sup>	(Chris Stone)
	4 Marsh Oblique Barred at Blackwood	(Kevin Hewitt)
	4 Grayling at Sirhowy Forest, Crosskeys	(Martin Anthony and Roger James)
	2 Grayling, 1 Small Copper at Silent Valley	(Dennis Hopkins)
	Double Lobed at Dingestow	(Sam Bosanquet)
	Grass Emerald at Risca	(Martin Anthony)
28 <sup>th</sup> July	Pine Hawk to light at Dingestow	(Sam Bosanquet)
29 <sup>th</sup> July	Large Wainscot at Caerleon	(David Brooks)
30 <sup>th</sup> July	Chocolate Tip to light at Llantarnam Abbey Wood	(Bob Roome)
	Clouded Magpie at Tintern	(Hazel Mitchell)
	Toadflax Brocade, Small Wainscot at Melbourne Way, Newport	(Roger James)
31 <sup>st</sup> July	Bedstraw Hawk to light at Blackwood	(Kevin Hewitt)
	1 Silver-washed Fritillary and 2 Painted Lady at MoD Caerwent.	(Martin Anthony and Roger James)

### **Stop press:-**

Painted Lady numbers rocket! 36 in June, 27 in July, the total for one week into August is already 279!  
Very fresh, mostly collecting on buddleia bushes.

### **Dates for your Diary 2019**

**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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