



MONMOUTHSHIRE MOTH & BUTTERFLY GROUP

NEWSLETTER No 163 June 2020.

A monthly newsletter covering

Gwent and Monmouthshire Vice County 35

Editor: Martin Anthony

Shining Marbled, a New Moth for Wales

The night of 25th June 2020 was ideal for moth dispersal: light easterly winds from continental Europe, and nighttime temperatures not dropping below 17°. By the time I went to bed at 1:00 there were already hundreds of moths at my Dingestow Court MV along with hundreds of caddisflies and such a dense cloud of chironomid midges that breathing was difficult. Arrivals had included Dingestow's first Lunar-spotted Pinion since 2006 and the uncommon Micro *Hedya salicella*, so I was full of anticipation when I returned to the trap at 04:00. It was pandemonium, with moths scattered all around the trap, and a final tally of over 750 moths. Sheltering under the wooden bar that holds the bulb was a black and white moth which I recognized instantly: a Shining Marbled. Mercifully it didn't move while I carefully potted it.

Shining Marbled (*Pseudeustrotia candidula*) is a rare migrant to Britain. It was first recorded in 2006, in Herefordshire, since when there have been 15 records from the south coast of England, plus singles in Essex and Yorkshire. It seems to be getting more regular, and five of the 18 previous British records were in 2019. The Dingestow individual was the 19th for Britain and first for Wales. In the systematic list of macro moths it fits between Marbled Green and Small Mottled Willow, and takes the Gwent Macro total to 587 species.

Sam Bosanquet



Shining Marbled (*Pseudeustrotia candidula*)



June 2020

High pressure brought warm dry sunny weather on the first two days, but otherwise it was a generally unsettled month with frequent rain or showers. It was cool for the rest of the first week, but mostly warm from mid-month. There was a brief hot sunny spell on the 23rd-25th, accompanied by a surge in butterflies and moths, followed by a thundery breakdown. The mean temperature for the month was 0.9 °C above the long-term average. Most parts, especially the west, had a wet and rather cloudy month, with 160% of average rainfall and 90% of average sunshine for Wales as a whole, though sunshine was near normal in the east.

With a five-mile travel limit in place in Wales all month as part of the coronavirus “lockdown”, recording was limited, but nevertheless 28 species of butterfly were recorded in Gwent during June, on a par with June 2018 (29 species) and June 2019 (28 species). Meadow Brown numbers were an order of magnitude higher than any other species. In a reversal of recent years, 123 Small Tortoiseshell were recorded compared to 31 Comma and only 2 Peacock butterflies. Amongst the fritillaries there were 33 Small Pearl-bordered, 8 Dark Green and 19 Silver-washed recorded. The last species continues to spread, with several new site records in the Abergavenny area.

266 species of macro-moth were recorded during June, slightly lower than recent years (288 in June 2018 and 271 in June 2019). Elephant Hawk continued its prolific year, with nearly 300 recorded in June, the record being 23 specimens in one trap in a single night. Apart from the Shining Marbled discussed earlier, immigrants were Bordered Straw at Newport Wetlands and White-speck at Rogerstone, with disappointingly only a single Humming-bird Hawk record.

Highlights, including first records for 2020, were:-

- 1st June 5 Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary, 8 Dingy Skipper, 12 Common Blue, 8 Small Heath,
1 Brimstone, 3 Small Tortoiseshell and 2 Speckled Wood at Clydach (Blackrock Quarry)
(Jeremy Richards)
- Coronet, Brown Rustic, Freyer’s Pug to light at Blackwood (Kevin Hewitt)
- First Mottled Beauties at Risca (Martin Anthony) and Catbrook (Richard Clayton).
At least three specimens of *f. conversaria* were recorded during the month.
- 2nd June 11 Marsh Fritillary, 2 Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary and Burnet Companion
at Aberbargoed Grasslands (Rupert Perkins)
7 Marbled White at Newhouse Ind Est Chepstow. (Nick Felstead)
- Blotched Emerald, Green Arches, Leopard Moth, Little Thorn, White-pinion Spotted
to light at Tintern. (Hazel Mitchell)
- Toadflax Brocade and another Little Thorn at Melbourne Way, Newport (Roger James)
- Humming-bird Hawk at Dingestow (Sam Bosanquet)
- Dingy Shell, Brindled White-spot, Figure of Eighty, White-pinion Spotted to light
at Penallt (Ian Rabjohns)
- Chinese Character to light at Risca (Martin Anthony)
- Peacock Moth to light at Llandogo (Gail Reynolds)

3 rd June	Grey Arches at Blackwood	(Kevin Hewitt)
4 th June	7 Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary at Aberbargoed Grasslands.	(Max and Kevin Dupé)
5 th June	15 Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary, 1 Dingy Skipper and 30 Small Heath at Blaenserchan	(Rupert Perkins)
6 th June	Peacock Butterfly at Great Crwys, Hendre Purple Clay to light at Risca	(Wendy Tyler-Batt) (Martin Anthoney)
7 th June	Red-necked Footman at Fedw Wood field, St Arvans Shark to light at Llandogo	(Nick Felstead) (Gail Reynolds)
8 th June	Lackey moth to light at Caerleon Least Carpet at Chepstow. Only the 19 th county record	(Fiona Illing) (Nick Felstead)
9 th June	Brussels Lace to light at Newport Wetlands, with another on 17 th June. Only the 12 th and 13 th county records, all from the same general area	(Kevin Dupé)
	2 Eyed Hawk, Peacock Moth at Catbrook	(Richard Clayton)
	L-album Wainscot to light at Chepstow	(Nick Felstead)
	Satin Wave to light at Blackwood	(Kevin Hewitt)
10 th June	Blackneck to light at Newport Wetlands Dingy Shears to light at Caerleon	(Kevin Dupé) Chris Jones)
13 th June	1 Marbled White at Llandogo, rising to 10 by 25 th June. Cloaked Carpet to light at Tintern Grass Emerald at Blackwood Toadflax Brocade to light at Undy	(Gail Reynolds) (Hazel Mitchell) (Kevin Hewitt) (Keith Jones)

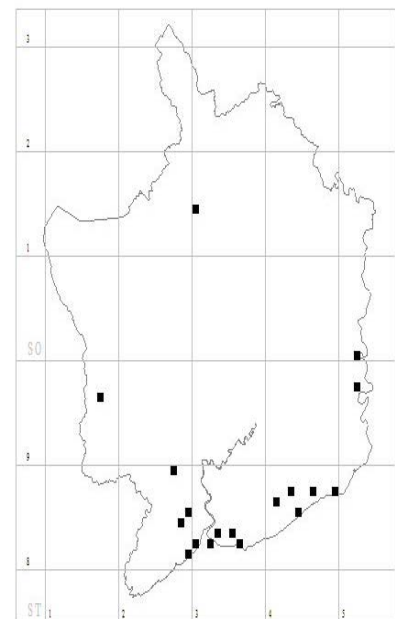


Great Oak Beauty (Hazel Mitchell)



underside

15 th June	Double Line to light at Pentrepiod, Pontypool Rosy Footman to light at Tintern	(Rupert Perkins) (Hazel Mitchell)
16 th June	Satin Beauty to light at Penallt	(Ian Rabjohns)
17 th June	A Silver-washed Fritillary at King's Wood, Hendre Great Oak Beauty, Scarce Footman to light at Tintern Garden Tiger, Gold Spot, Lunar-spotted Pinion to light at Newport Wetlands.	(Stephanie Tyler) (Hazel Mitchell) (Kevin Dupé)
18 th June	L-album Wainscot to light at Melbourne Way, Newport Purple Thorn to light at Risca	(Roger James) (Martin Anthony)
19 th June	Lilac Beauty to light at Risca	(Martin Anthony)
20 th June	Round-winged Muslin Footman to light at Traphill Wood, Mounton Also <i>Carpatolechia fugitivella</i> , an elm-feeding micro new to VC35	(Nick Felstead)
22 nd June	4 Essex Skipper at Uskmouth, Newport Wetlands Brown-tail to light at Rogerstone	(Kevin Dupé) (Arthur Pitcher)



Brown-tail from above and underneath (Kevin Hewitt) and distribution map

23rd June

More Brown-tails at Newport Wetlands (Kevin Dupé), Blackwood (Kevin Hewitt) and Wyndcliff (Chris Williams). A species which seems to be spreading vaway from the coast.

White-speck moth to light at Rogerstone (Arthur Pitcher)

2 Dark Green Fritillary at Blaenserchan (Rupert Perkins)

Both Scarce Hook-tip and Clouded Magpie at Wyndcliff (Chris Williams) and at Great Barnets Wood (Nick Felstead)

Blomer's Rivulet to light at Penallt (Stephanie Tyler), Great Barnets Wood (Nick Felstead) and Wyndcliff (Chris Williams)

Buttoned Snout, Fern, Mocha, Phoenix to light at Wyndcliff (Chris Williams)

Silky Wainscot to light at both Haisbro Avenue, Newport (Sheila Dupé) and Newport Wetlands (Kevin Dupé)

Bordered Straw, Dog's Tooth, Minor Shoulder-knot, Round-winged Muslin Footman at Newport Wetlands (Kevin Dupé)



Ruddy Carpet (Wendy Tyler-Batt)



White-speck (Arthur Pitcher)

24th June

Dark Green Fritillary at Clydach (Blackrock Quarry) (Martin Anthoney and Roger James).

4 Silver-washed Fritillary at Darren Bank, Wentwood (Jerry Lewis)

Waved Carpet to light at Tintern (Hazel Mitchell)

Blackneck moth to light at Abergavenny (Mike Hoult and Val Deisler)

July Belle to light at Risca (Martin Anthoney)

Large Emerald to light at Penallt (Ian Rabjohns)

Adult Old Lady moth at Caerleon (Kevin Dupé)

25th June

Warm sunshine on 25th and 26th brought the butterflies out, particularly Silver-washed Fritillary (19) and White Admiral (9).

2 Silver-washed Fritillary, 3 White Admiral and a Peacock at Slade Wood and. 2 Essex Skipper at Rogiet

(Rupert Perkins)

2 Silver-washed Fritillary and 1 White Admiral at Whitelye Woods, Catbrook

(Richard Clayton)

Another 2 Silver-washed Fritillary and 2 White Admiral at Great Wenault Wood, Tintern, plus one Silver-washed Fritillary and 1 White Admiral at Lower Hale Wood and

a fourth Silver-washed Fritillary plus 2 White Admiral at New Wood, Devauden

(Nick Felstead)

Another four Silver-washed Fritillary at Hendre Wood

(Jerry Lewis)

A Purple Hairstreak at Llandogo

(Gail Reynolds)

Shining Marbled and Lunar-spotted Pinion at Dingestow

(Sam Bosanquet)

Orange Moth at Highmoor Hill adjacent to Slade Wood

(Stuart Robinson)

First Black Arches of the season at Tintern (Hazel Mitchell) and Great Crwys

(Wendy Tyler-Batt)

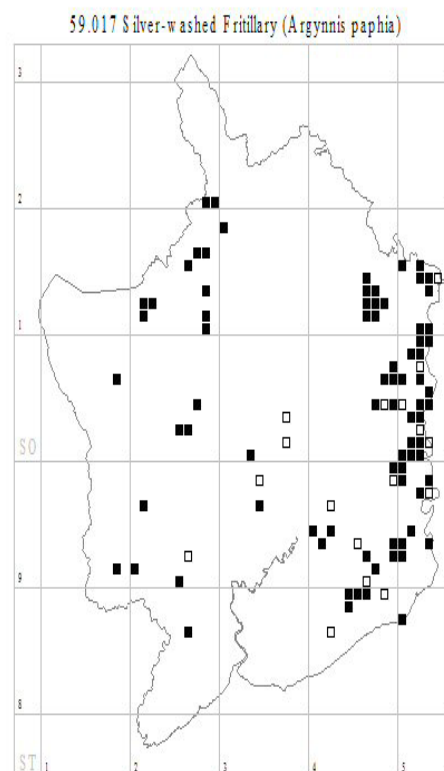
Ruddy Carpet, Barred Yellow, Beautiful Carpet, Slender Brindle, Small Dotted Buff, Small Emerald to light at Great Crwys, Hendre.

Only the 29th county record for Ruddy Carpet, and only the 10th away from Wyndcliff/ Piercefield woodland'

(Wendy Tyler-Batt)



Silver-washed Fritillary (Rupert Perkins)



and its current distribution

26th June 5 Dark Green Fritillary, 15 Marbled White and first Grayling of the season at Blaenserchan (Rupert Perkins)

One Silver-washed Fritillary at Trellech Common (Jerry Lewis)

Another Silver-washed Fritillary at Grondra Great Wood, Shirenewton (Nick Felstead)

First Gatekeeper of the season at Abergavenny (Ian and Janet Cirmack)

Old Lady, White Satin to light at Melbourne Way, Newport (Roger James)

Season's first Shaded Broad-bar at Wonastow (Heather Colls)

Sharp-angled Peacock to light at Risca (Martin Anthony)

Ruddy Carpet to light at Penallt (Stephanie Tyler)

27th June Common Lutestring at Tintern (Hazel Mitchell)

Waved Carpet, Gold Swift, Northern Spinach to light at Ravensnest Wood (Nick Felstead)



Waved Carpet



Northern Spinach (Nick Felstead)

28th June 20 Marbled White and a Painted Lady by the Little Skirrid. (Jerry Lewis)

Male Oak Eggar to light at Risca (Martin Anthony)

Dates for your Diary 2020

- 17th July to 9th August **Big Butterfly Count. Visit the website for details**
<https://bigbutterflycount.butterfly-conservation.org/about>
- 27th – 29th August National Moth Night, with the theme *the various "Red" Underwings*
- Saturday 24th October S Wales Branch of Butterfly Conservation annual Members' Day and AGM,
Due to the closure of Kenfig NNR's visitor centre, the meeting will be at a
new venue.

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