



## MONMOUTHSHIRE MOTH & BUTTERFLY GROUP

NEWSLETTER No 169 January and February 2021.

*A monthly newsletter covering*

*Gwent and Monmouthshire Vice County 35*

*Editor: Martin Anthoney*

### **January and February 2021**

The first third of January was cold with wintry showers at times. It turned mild and wet from the 11th to 20th, and was particularly wet with floods on the 19th and 20th. It turned colder again between the 21st and 25th with snow for some, then mild wet weather returned from the 26th to 29th, but the month ended cold. Mean temperatures for the month were 0.8 °C below average, rainfall was 133% of average and sunshine was just 71% of average,

The first few days of February were rather mild and unsettled, but then it turned much colder and drier. Unsettled and mild weather returned at mid-month, but the last few days were dry and sunny. In the southern half of Wales, February was generally wetter and duller than average.

No butterflies were recorded in January, but in the short warmer spells from 18th to 28th February there were nine records of five species (Comma, Peacock, Red Admiral, Small Tortoiseshell, Small White).

11<sup>th</sup> Jan 1 December Moth, 5 Mottled Umber, 1 Spring Usher, 1 Spruce Carpet and 3 Winter Moth to light at Tintern (Hazel Mitchell)

12<sup>th</sup> Jan At least 50 Mottled Grey flying at Aberbargoed. (Chris Owen)  
1 Pale Brindled Beauty and 1 Winter Moth at Catbrook (Richard Clayton)  
1 Mottled Umber and 1 Chestnut to light at Cwmbran (Bob Roome)



*Mottled Grey* (Chris Owen)



*Pale Brindled Beauty*

13 <sup>th</sup> Jan	1 Chestnut, 2 Dark Chestnut, 2 December Moth, 1 Early Moth, 1 Pale Brindled Beauty to light at Tintern. One December Moth stayed in the trap and was still alive on 2 <sup>nd</sup> Feb. (John Dawson) 1 Chestnut, 1 Dark Chestnut, 1 December Moth, 2 Pale Brindled Beauty, 6 Spring Usher and 1 Winter Moth also at Tintern (Hazel Mitchell)
14 <sup>th</sup> Jan	2 December Moth, 1 Pale Brindled Beauty to light at Risca (Martin Anthoney)
17 <sup>th</sup> Jan	1 Chestnut and 1 Winter Moth to light at Pontypool (Rupert Perkins)
18 <sup>th</sup> Jan	1 Mottled Umber and 1 December Moth at Risca (Martin Anthoney)
21 <sup>st</sup> Jan	2 Pale Brindled Beauty to light at Risca (Martin Anthoney)
27 <sup>th</sup> Jan	43 Spring Usher, 1 Satellite, 5 Pale Brindled Beauty, 3 Mottled Umber and 1 Chestnut at Tintern (Hazel Mitchell)
28 <sup>th</sup> Jan	1 Early Moth, 2 Chestnut, 1 Dark Chestnut, 1 Spring Usher and 2 December Moth to light at Tintern. (John Dawson) 32 Spring Usher (including one black form) and 4 Pale Brindled Beauty also at Tintern. (Hazel Mitchell)
29 <sup>th</sup> Jan	1 Spring Usher at Cwmbran. (Bob Roome)
2 <sup>nd</sup> Feb	15 Spring Usher, 3 Pale Brindled Beauty, 1 Chestnut, 1 Winter Moth and 1 Mottled Umber at Tintern (Hazel Mitchell)
3 <sup>rd</sup> Feb	Early Moth and Dark Chestnut at Risca (Martin Anthoney)
5 <sup>th</sup> Feb	8 Spring Usher and Early Moth at Tintern (John Dawson) More Early Moths at Pontypool (Rupert Perkins) and Risca (Martin Anthoney)
6 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Spring Usher at Catbrook (Richard Clayton)



*Spring Usher (light form)*



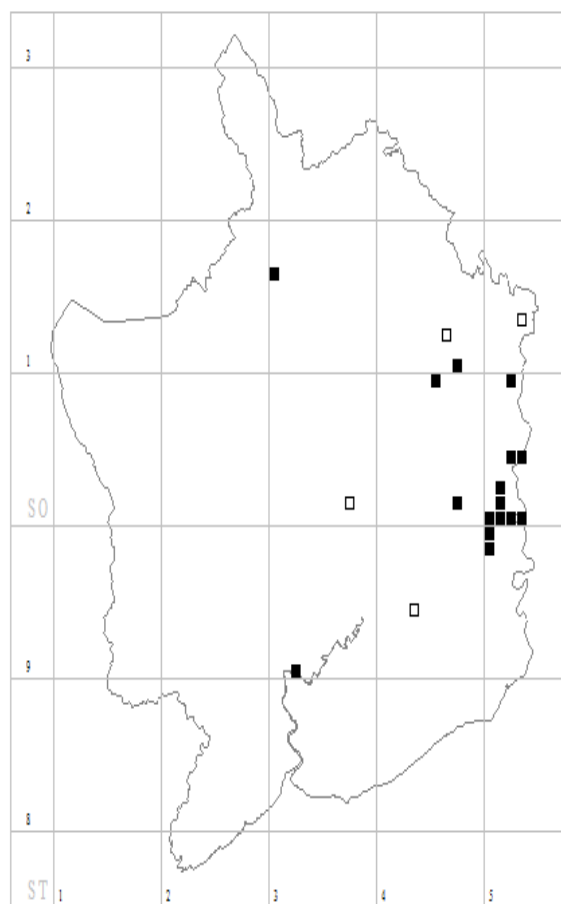
*Spring Usher (black form) (Hazel Mitchell)*



15<sup>th</sup> Feb 129 moths to light at Tintern including 89 Spring Usher, 15 Pale Brindled Beauty, 2 March Moth, 1 Satellite, 1 Small Quaker, 5 Chestnut, 3 Dotted Border and 3 Small Brindled Beauty. The first of a record total of 13 Small Brindled Beauty during February. (Hazel Mitchell)



*Small Brindled Beauties*  
(Hazel Mitchell)



*Small Brindled Beauty distribution*

18<sup>th</sup> Feb Peacock butterfly at Llandogo, with another on 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb (Gail Reynolds)  
Another Peacock at Tintern, together with a Dotted Border moth. (John Dawson)

20<sup>th</sup> Feb Hebrew Character to light at Cwmbran. (Bob Roome)  
Grey Shoulder-knot to light at Risca. (Martin Anthony)

21<sup>st</sup> Feb 5 Small Brindled Beauty, 25 Spring Usher, 7 Pale Brindled Beauty, 5 Dotted Border,  
2 Chestnut and 1 Common Quaker at Tintern (Hazel Mitchell)

Early Grey, Grey Shoulder-knot, 4 Dark Chestnut, 3 Pale Brindled Beauty and  
1 Hebrew Character to light at Melbourne Way, Newport. (Roger James)

22<sup>nd</sup> Feb Satellite, Pale Brindled Beauty, Common Quaker and Chestnut at Risca. (Martin Anthony)  
Dotted Border at Catbrook. (Richard Clayton)

23<sup>rd</sup> Feb March Moth, Grey Shoulder-knot, 3 Small Quaker, 1 Common Quaker, 2 Hebrew Character  
2 Small Brindled Beauty and 1 Pale Brindled Beauty to light at Tintern. (Hazel Mitchell)

25 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Small Tortoiseshell feeding on winter heather at Risca 5 Oak Beauty, 2 Pale Brindled Beauty, 4 Common Quaker and 1 Dotted Border to light at Melbourne Way, Newport	(Martin Anthoney) (Roger James)
26 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Oak Beauty and Small Quaker to light at Abergavenny. March Moth and Dotted Border at Catbrook Dotted Border and Chestnut to light at Pontypool March Moth at Risca	(Mike Hoults and Val Deisler) (Richard Clayton) (Rupert Perkins) (Martin Anthoney)
27 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Two Commas at Yr Graig west of Abergavenny and another Comma at Tintern A Small White flying near woodland in Cwmbran Clouded Drab and Dotted Border to light at Pontypool	(Stephanie Tyler) (John Dawson) (Bob Roome) (Rupert Perkins)
28 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Two Red Admirals at Llandogo and a Small Tortoiseshell at Bedwas Tawny Pinion, 8 Hebrew Character and 7 Common Quaker to light at Melbourne Way, Newport. Oak Beauty, Pale Brindled Beauty and March Moth at Risca. March Moth at Cwmbran.	(Gail Reynolds) (Mike Pointon)  (Roger James) (Martin Anthoney) (Bob Roome)

## **Butterfly and Macro Moth - Summary for 2020**

	Butterflies	Macromoths	Micromoths
Species now on VC35 list	50	589	855

## **State of Britain's Larger Moths 2021**



Butterfly Conservation have just published a new booklet on the *State of Britain's Larger Moths 2021*,

It can be viewed at

<https://butterfly-conservation.org/sites/default/files/2021-03/StateofMothsReport2021.pdf>

## **Wales Moth List 2019**

An updated Wales Moth List, now including 2019 records, is available to download from the BC Wales website: <https://butterfly-conservation.org/in-your-area/welsh-office/wales-moth-list-2019>

## **Dates for your Diary 2021**

Keep up to date with the MMBG blog/ website

<http://gwentmothing.blogspot.co.uk/>

- 8<sup>th</sup> July      The Moth Night team has announced the dates and theme for the next Moth Night, which will take place over the three nights of 8th - 10th July 2021. The theme of this year's Moth Night event is reedbeds and wetlands, which provides a wonderful opportunity to showcase the importance of these habitats for insects at the height of the summer. They hope to encourage participation from as many nature reserves, country parks and wild places as possible. Details at the Moth Night website [Welcome to Moth Night 2021 - Moth Night](#)
- 16<sup>th</sup> Oct      Provisional date for S Wales Branch of Butterfly Conservation Annual Members Day and AGM.

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Unless you tell us otherwise, the records you submit may be collated and disseminated manually or electronically, including via the internet, for conservation, environmental decision-making, education, research and other public benefit uses in accordance with Butterfly Conservation's data access policy. Records are added to Butterfly Conservation's UK butterfly and moth recording schemes (BNM and NMRS) and to the South East Wales Biodiversity Record Centre (SEWBRc). Names and contact details of recorders will be used for administration and verification purposes only. Your name and contact details will not be passed to other parties without your consent, whilst your name will form part of the record that is collated and disseminated in accordance with Butterfly Conservation's privacy policy.