

Julian Clarke

The following species are of particular interest

Striped Hawk – this species migrates up from Southern Europe and North Africa – seen every year in the British Isles but usually as one or two at a time. There was also a migration of some other more common moths at the time (Bordered Straw, Rush Veneer and Dark Sword Grass). Pictures are attached of two of the examples seen at Mizen – a spectacular large species. On this date I saw one was also taken at Portland Bird Observatory as well as elsewhere in Dorset and Kent.

Photos = Mizen livornica 1-8

The Grey – aptly named as the moth is a uniform grey matching well the rocky areas where it breeds. A moth confined to rocky coastal areas and found in western Scotland, Isle of Man and western and southern coasts of Ireland. Larvae feed nocturnally on sea campion (*Silene*) of which there is an abundance at Mizen. Picture attached of larva (found under sea campion where it hides by day) = *caesia* larva.

Bordered Gothic – in the British Isles this is now a very rare moth indeed. The last specimens in England were taken at Portland (Dorset) in 1993 and from Norfolk a few years later. One or two have been seen in North Kent in the late 1990s but none recently. It used to be very abundant in East Anglia - the reasons for its decline are unknown. In Ireland however the situation is much rosier, with records from the south coast in the area of Cork and Ballycotton as well as Mizen. The Irish race has been described as a separate subspecies (although the ones from the Isle of Portland are close to this in colouration) as it is darker and more purple tinged than the rather plain brown ones from East Anglia. This also feeds on *Silene*, Soapwort (*Saponaria*) – did not see any at Mizen – is this recorded from any botanical survey? It also (and I am breeding some now from eggs laid by a female) seems to eat almost any low growing plant.

Picture attached = Photos = *reticulata* 3-5.

Pod Lover – named after the feeding habits of the larvae (seed pods and flowers of sea campion) this is a Western Irish form (subspecies *capsophila*) of the Tawny Shears moth. In England the colour of this species varies from whitish moths on the shingle expanse at Dungeness (Kent) to sandy brown from many inland localities to darkish forms approaching the Irish subspecies seen in far western Cornwall.

Barrett's Marbled Coronet – this is also confined to coastal areas and occurs in Devon, Cornwall, Wales and Irish coasts in the southern half of Ireland. These are more silvery in colour than the English ones (which also vary somewhat from locality to locality). The larvae is a root feeder and looks like a white maggot – it feeds on the roots of Sea Campion and also rock sea spurrey (*Spergularia rupicola*).

All in all this was a great moth list of many interesting species with the fantastic migration of striped hawks thrown as a bonus – probably the best night's mothing I have had for many years! When I am in Ireland next time I would like to have another try and see what else of interest I can find.

site reports

1st July, 2007

VICE-COUNTY West Cork

SITE DETAILS Mizen Head, Co Cork, Ireland
V739236
Species Recorded

Hepialus fusconebulosa
Map-winged Swift
16 JUN 2007 - 10 adults
National status
Local
trapped - MV light

Pleurota bicostella
a micro-moth
16 JUN 2007 - 1 adult
National status
Local
trapped - MV light

Epiblema cynosbatella
a tortrix moth
16 JUN 2007 - 2 adults
National status
Common
trapped - MV light

Chrysoteuchia culmella
Garden Grass-veneer
16 JUN 2007 - 10 adults
National status
Common
trapped - MV light

Crambus pascuella
a pyralid moth
16 JUN 2007 - 5 adults
National status
Common
trapped - MV light

Agriphila inquinatella
a pyralid moth
17 JUN 2007 - 1 adult
National status
Common
trapped - MV light

Scoparia pyralella
a pyralid moth
16 JUN 2007 - 5 adults
National status
Common
trapped - MV light

Pyrausta despicata
a pyralid moth
16 JUN 2007 - 4 adults
National status
Local
trapped - MV light

Opsibotys fuscalis
a pyralid moth
16 JUN 2007 - 1 adult
National status
Common
trapped - MV light

Udea ferrugalis
a pyralid moth
16 JUN 2007 - 30 adults
National status
Migrant
trapped - MV light

Nomophila noctuella
Rush Veneer
16 JUN 2007 - 10 adults
National status
Migrant
trapped - MV light

Pyla fusca
National status

a pyralid moth 16 JUN 2007 - 10 adults	Common trapped - MV light
Pempelia diluta a pyralid moth 16 JUN 2007 - 20 adults	National status Local trapped - MV light
Macrothylacia rubi Fox Moth 16 JUN 2007 - 3 adults	National status Common trapped - MV light
Habrosyne pyritoides Buff Arches 17 JUN 2007 - 1 adult	National status Common trapped - MV light
Scopula marginepunctata Mullein Wave 16 JUN 2007 - 10 adults	National status Local trapped - MV light
Idaea subsericeata Satin Wave 16 JUN 2007 - 10 adults	National status Common trapped - MV light
Xanthorhoe ferrugata Dark-barred Twin-spot Carpet 16 JUN 2007 - 1 adult	National status Common trapped - MV light
Xanthorhoe fluctuata Garden Carpet 16 JUN 2007 - 5 adults	National status Common trapped - MV light
Epirrhoe galiata Galium Carpet 16 JUN 2007 - 1 adult	National status Local trapped - MV light
Cosmorhoe ocellata Purple Bar 16 JUN 2007 - 1 adult	National status Common trapped - MV light
Eupithecia pulchellata Foxglove Pug 16 JUN 2007 - 1 adult	National status Common trapped - MV light
Eupithecia venosata Netted Pug 16 JUN 2007 - 3 adults	National status Local trapped - MV light
Eupithecia centaureata Lime-speck Pug 16 JUN 2007 - 1 adult	National status Common trapped - MV light
Eupithecia subfuscata Grey Pug 16 JUN 2007 - 10 adults	National status Common trapped - MV light
Eupithecia subumbrata Shaded Pug 16 JUN 2007 - 5 adults	National status Local trapped - MV light
Eupithecia distinctaria constricta	National status

Thyme Pug 16 JUN 2007 - 1 adult	Notable/Nb trapped - MV light
Eupithecia nanata angusta Narrow-winged Pug 16 JUN 2007 - 10 adults	National status Local trapped - MV light
Gymnoscelis rufifasciata Double-striped Pug 16 JUN 2007 - 5 adults	National status Common trapped - MV light
Petrophora chlorosata Brown Silver-line 16 JUN 2007 - 2 adults	National status Common trapped - MV light
Biston betularia Peppered Moth 16 JUN 2007 - 5 adults	National status Common trapped - MV light
Dyscia fagaria Grey Scalloped Bar 16 JUN 2007 - 2 adults	National status Local trapped - MV light
Smerinthus ocellata Eyed Hawk-moth 16 JUN 2007 - 3 adults	National status Common trapped - MV light
Hyles lineata livornica Striped Hawk-moth 16 JUN 2007 - 4 adults	National status Migrant trapped - MV light
17 JUN 2007 - 1 female	trapped - MV light
Deilephila elpenor Elephant Hawk-moth 16 JUN 2007 - 1 adult	National status Common trapped - MV light
Phalera bucephala Buff-tip 16 JUN 2007 - 3 adults	National status Common trapped - MV light
Cerura vinula Puss Moth 16 JUN 2007 - 1 adult	National status Common trapped - MV light
Stauropus fagi Lobster Moth 17 JUN 2007 - 1 adult	National status Common trapped - MV light
Eligmodonta ziczac Pebble Prominent 16 JUN 2007 - 2 adults	National status Common trapped - MV light
Arctia caja Garden Tiger 17 JUN 2007 - 1 larva	National status Common
Spilosoma lubricipeda White Ermine 16 JUN 2007 - 20 adults	National status Common trapped - MV light

Spilosoma luteum Buff Ermine 16 JUN 2007 - 40 adults	National status Common trapped - MV light
Tyria jacobaeae Cinnabar 16 JUN 2007 - 60 adults	National status Common trapped - MV light
Agrotis vestigialis Archer's Dart 16 JUN 2007 - 5 adults	National status Local trapped - MV light
Agrotis exclamationis Heart and Dart 16 JUN 2007 - 10 adults	National status Common trapped - MV light
Agrotis ipsilon Dark Sword-grass 17 JUN 2007 - 1 adult	National status Migrant trapped - MV light
Standfussiana lucernea Northern Rustic 16 JUN 2007 - 20 adults 17 JUN 2007 - 10 adults	National status Local trapped - MV light trapped - MV light
Noctua pronuba Large Yellow Underwing 16 JUN 2007 - 100 adults	National status Common trapped - MV light
Diarsia brunnea Purple Clay 16 JUN 2007 - 1 adult	National status Common trapped - MV light
Diarsia rubi Small Square-spot 16 JUN 2007 - 2 adults	National status Common trapped - MV light
Hada plebja Shears 16 JUN 2007 - 20 adults	National status Common trapped - MV light
Heliophobus reticulata hibernica Bordered Gothic 16 JUN 2007 - 3 adults 17 JUN 2007 - 4 males	National status Ireland only trapped - MV light trapped - MV light
Lacanobia oleracea Bright-line Brown-eye 16 JUN 2007 - 10 adults	National status Common trapped - MV light
Ceramica pisi Broom Moth 16 JUN 2007 - 1 adult	National status Common trapped - MV light
Hadena rivularis Campion 16 JUN 2007 - 5 adults	National status Common trapped - MV light

Hadena perplexa capsophila Pod Lover 16 JUN 2007 - 45 adults	National status Local trapped - MV light
17 JUN 2007 - 20 adults	trapped - MV light
Hadena andalusica barrettii Barrett's Marbled Coronet 16 JUN 2007 - 40 adults	National status Na trapped - MV light
17 JUN 2007 - 10 adults	trapped - MV light
Hadena bicruris Lychnis 16 JUN 2007 - 1 adult	National status Common trapped - MV light
Hadena caesia mananii Grey 16 JUN 2007 - 6 adults	National status RDB3 trapped - MV light
17 JUN 2007 - 1 adult	trapped - MV light
Mythimna pudorina Striped Wainscot 17 JUN 2007 - 1 adult	National status Local trapped - MV light
Mythimna litoralis Shore Wainscot 17 JUN 2007 - 1 adult	National status Notable/Nb trapped - MV light
Mythimna comma Shoulder-striped Wainscot 16 JUN 2007 - 1 adult	National status Common trapped - MV light
Cucullia umbratica Shark 16 JUN 2007 - 1 adult	National status Common trapped - MV light
Acronicta euphorbiae myricae Sweet Gale Moth 16 JUN 2007 - 6 adults	National status Na trapped - MV light
Acronicta rumicis Knotgrass 16 JUN 2007 - 5 adults	National status Common trapped - MV light
Rusina ferruginea Brown Rustic 16 JUN 2007 - 1 adult	National status Common trapped - MV light
Phlogophora meticulosa Angle Shades 16 JUN 2007 - 1 adult	National status Common trapped - MV light
Apamea monoglypha Dark Arches 16 JUN 2007 - 50 adults	National status Common trapped - MV light
Apamea crenata	National status

Clouded-bordered Brindle 16 JUN 2007 - 2 adults	Common trapped - MV light
Apamea remissa Dusky Brocade 16 JUN 2007 - 10 adults	National status Common trapped - MV light
Heliothis peltigera Bordered Straw 16 JUN 2007 - 2 adults 17 JUN 2007 - 1 adult	National status Migrant trapped - MV light trapped - MV light
Lithacodia pygarga Marbled White Spot 16 JUN 2007 - 4 adults	National status Common trapped - MV light
Diachrysia chrysis Burnished Brass 16 JUN 2007 - 1 adult	National status Common trapped - MV light
Abrostola triplasia Dark Spectacle 17 JUN 2007 - 1 adult	National status Common trapped - MV light
Rivula sericealis Straw Dot 16 JUN 2007 - 1 adult	National status Common trapped - MV light