

# MothsIreland

## Newsletter no.2

January 2007

This is the second Newsletter from the MothsIreland branch of the Irish Moth & Butterfly Group.

- **Submission of records** – page 3
- **Irish Macro-moth Validation Categories** - Page 7
- **Competition** – Page 10
- **Migrant and vagrant moths in 2006** – Page 10

Since the first Newsletter there have been a few developments.

### Website

Angus has been working hard over the past few months to set up a website. It will be launched during the Spring and will initially show distribution maps and flight times for all species in the database, currently 434 species. The maps show the 10km squares that species have been recorded in by the six or seven recorders who have submitted data so far. They will be updated regularly as more recorders send in their data. We'll let you know as soon as the site is up and running. [See sample page](#)

We will also be adding species photos to the website, so if you have photos of any species on the website that we don't have photos for or if you have photos depicting unusual colour variations please let us know.

### Mapmate

Having spent the past few months satisfying ourselves that Mapmate will suit our requirements as a means of storing data for the Central Database, we are very pleased to let you know that we are now in a position to start accepting data from recorders.

This is quite an achievement when you consider that not so long ago a committee to collate records of moths hadn't even been formed. We hope that all moth recorders will support this venture by sending in their records. This is the first time that any attempt has been made to set up a Central Database of moth records in the Republic and it's only with your help that it can achieve its objectives of initially producing provisional maps for every species of macromoth on the Irish List and ultimately producing an Atlas.

Following discussions with [Mapmate](#) we were delighted to receive a 25 user Group Licence free of charge with free updates up to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2007. A number of people have availed of this offer and there are now 16 recorders using Mapmate to store their moth records. If you would like to receive a **free copy** of this software please contact [Michael](#)



Convolutus Hawkmoth, Brownstown  
Head, Co. Waterford  
Paul Walsh, 2006

### You can have a mothsireland.com e-mail

We are now in a position to offer a your.name at mothsireland.com email address to anyone who would like one. This can be a stand alone e-mail or can be setup to forward to an existing e-mail address of your choice. If you wish to avail of this please contact [Angus](#).

### Would you like to contribute to future newsletters?

If you'd like to type an article, note or snippet on any aspect of moth recording in Ireland that they would like to include in the next Newsletter please don't be shy. It can be on any subject e.g. My Garden, My Favourite Moth, My Best (or Worst) Day, etc. or even something like 'October records of Hebrew Character in Ireland' (although this one would be quite short)! Please send to one of the committee listed at bottom

## **Submission & Validation**

Information about how and where to submit your records is given on **next page**.

On **page 7** we have also expanded on the Validation Criteria for each species explaining what is required when sending your records for inclusion in the database and have given some examples. It's vitally important that all records accepted for inclusion in the Central Database can stand up to scrutiny. All records must be accepted unanimously by the Validation Committee. If there is any uncertainty about a record it will be referred to a resident expert. If there is still uncertainty the details will be sent abroad to an expert on the species in question for final adjudication.

Another easily achievable aim is to produce an annual report of migrants and scarce/rare species but, again, this will only be possible if you send us your records. 2006 was an exceptional year for migrants (see page 10 for report) and we would urge all recorders to send in their migrant records to give us as complete a picture as possible. At this point in time you can send them in with all your other records and we'll extract them but in the normal course of events it would be better if you could send them to [migrant reports](#) perhaps monthly or every couple of months.

Discussions are ongoing with the Biological Records Centre with a view to computerising all the available historical data or indeed any data that has not yet been entered into a computerised database. If you have any data that you don't think you'll get around to entering please let us know and we may be able help.

## **Butterflies**

As we are part of the Irish Moth & Butterfly Group we will also gladly accept your butterfly records if it's easier to send all of your moth and butterfly records together. We will then pass them on to [ButterflyIreland](#). Alternatively you can download the [Record Sheet](#), and send your butterfly records directly by email to: [The Dublin Naturalists' Field Club](#): or by post to: **The Dublin Naturalist Field Club, 35 Nutley Park, Dublin 4, Ireland.**

If you are using Mapmate to store your records please select the Lepidoptera: Butterflies (BC) option in your configuration. If you are unsure how to do this please contact [David Nash](#)

For butterfly records from Northern Ireland, send them to [Trevor Boyd](#)

## **Irish National Biodiversity Data Centre**

The recent setting up of the [Irish National Biodiversity Data Centre](#) (NBDC) in Waterford is a very welcome development and is long overdue. The plan is that data from all areas of natural history in the Republic of Ireland will be collated and stored here in much the same way that [CEDaR](#) works in Northern Ireland. The recommendations by the Heritage Council for the setting up of a National Biological Records Centre can be seen on the Heritage Councils website [here](#) and recorders should pay particular attention to the data access and ownership section.

We are working towards reaching a written agreement with the NBDC and anticipate that all the data we receive will be passed onto them. We will forward this agreement to all recorders before data is transferred to the NBDC. If you do not wish your data to be sent on in this way you should advise us of this. We would hope and expect that all recorders would have no objection to their data being used in this way as, ultimately, it will be used to the benefit of wildlife and to support nature conservation.

## **Northern Ireland**

We would hope in the near future to work out the practical aspects of swapping data with CEDaR to develop an all-Ireland database. There are recorders in Northern Ireland who regularly record in the Republic and no doubt the reverse also applies. We would ask all recorders to send their Northern Ireland moth records to the recorder for Northern Ireland, [Ted Rolston](#).

Up to now recorders in Northern Ireland had nowhere to send their records to in the Republic. We would encourage all recorders in Northern Ireland who have records from previous years or who do any recording in the future to follow the procedures outlined below. You should pay particular attention to the Validation Categories as these will probably differ somewhat to those you are familiar with for Northern Irish records.

If, however, any recorder finds it easier to send all their records to either MothsIreland or Ted Rolston please do so. We will pass on any records we receive for Northern Ireland to Ted and have arranged for Ted to send us all the records for the Republic that he receives.

To avoid duplication, please don't send same records to both MothsIreland and Ted.

## **Submission of records**

All recorders should note that there is an understanding that data we receive may be made available to other recorders who may request it. E.g. if a recorder from Offaly requests all records from that county to publish a county list, this will be provided, as long as all the recorders who provided the original data are acknowledged in any publication. Another example is the Pyralid and Plume recording scheme. There will be no handling fee to cover costs for any data request of this nature. All other requests for data will be forwarded to the BRC.

Outlined below are a couple ways in which you can submit your records for inclusion in the Central Database.

### **Mapmate**

The simplest way and the one that we would like to see most people using is through Mapmate. If you use this program to store your records there is a facility called 'syncing' which produces a file of your records ready to be emailed to the 'hub' or Central Recorder who in our case is Angus Tyner.

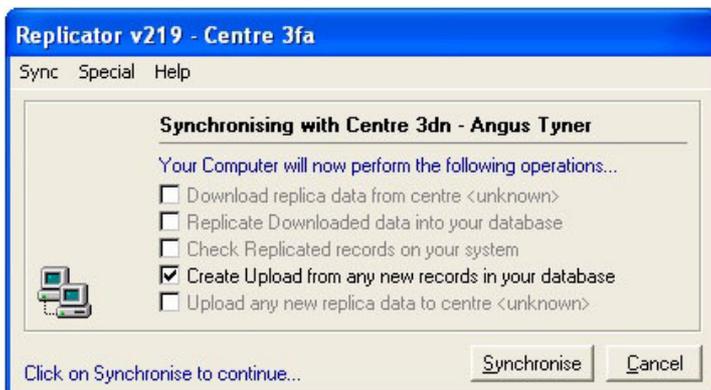
If you don't use Mapmate then skip to page 5

When you want to send your records to Angus, the procedure is as follows:

Please note the windows below will be slightly different on your screens because Centre 3fa (Michael O'Donnell) has already synced with Angus.

Open Mapmate.

Click 'Replication'            The Replication window will open



Click 'Sync'

Click 'Change default partner'. If Angus is the only person you'll be syncing with you won't have to do this again.



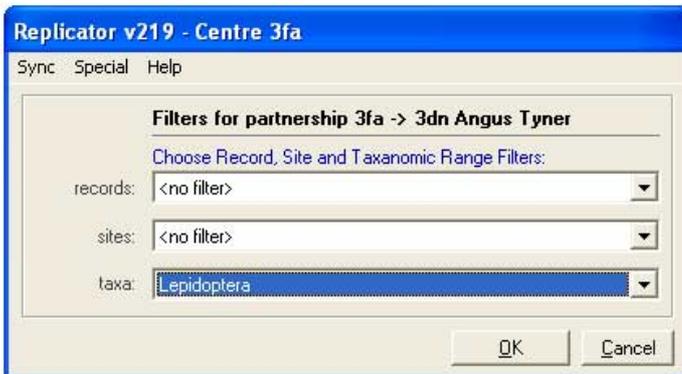
Type the CUK (Centre Unique Key) in the lower box – in this case: 3dn

Click OK.

If you use Mapmate to store records for other groups of interest e.g. birds, plants, spiders, etc, you will need to set a filter so that only the Lepidoptera: moths records get sent to Angus. To do this:

Click 'Special'

Click 'Set filters'



In the Taxa box click on the drop-down button and select Lepidoptera.

Click OK. Click OK in the next window and OK again in the following one.

A window will open saying 'Synchronising with Centre 3dn – Unknown.'

Click 'Synchronise'.

A window will open saying 'This will Synchronise your Database with Centre 3dn'.

Click OK.

The system will then create a file with the name xxto3dn where xxx is your CUK and place it in your C:\ProgramFiles\Mapmate\Cache\Upload folder, assuming, that is, that you have installed Mapmate in Program Files on your C drive. You should then email this file to [Angus](#). The next time you want to send records, Mapmate will only send any new records that you have entered or any records that you have changed.

This might seem quite complicated the first time but it is really fairly straightforward. If you have any problems with any aspect of Mapmate don't hesitate to contact Angus at the above email address or [Michael O'Donnell](#).

### **Alternative method**

If you don't use Mapmate, then submit the records on a spreadsheet.

If you'd like to save Angus some donkeywork then creating a file that can be imported into Mapmate would be very helpful. This is a text file using the following formula. This can be done using MS Excel ([download template](#)) or other software that will output a Text (Tab Delimited) file. Put in the following heads along the top row and enter the data underneath, with one record per row.

Taxon	Site	Gridref	VC	Recorder	Determiner	Date	Quantity	Method	Sex	Stage	Status	Comment
-------	------	---------	----	----------	------------	------	----------	--------	-----	-------	--------	---------

Please ensure that the data is in the format described below:

Taxon	Use the full <b>scientific</b> name. <b>Do not use</b> the Bradley & Fletcher (B & F) number or the English (vernacular) name.
Site name	Be concise, no abbreviations. It would be best to use only names found on the Ordnance Survey Discovery Series maps rather than local names that may not appear on any maps. Max length 64 characters
Grid reference	Try to give a 6-figure Grid Reference. Avoid spaces. E.g. T145638. Read Grid Ref from a GPS unit or from Ordnance Survey map. A 4-figure Grid Ref will suffice if it is more appropriate. (How to read grid Reference is outlined on next page)
Vice County	This will be from H1 to H40. If you don't know it enter 0 (zero)
Recorder	Enter the observer's name
Determiner	The name of the person who confirmed the identity – usually the same as recorder
Date	This must be in the format dd/mm/yyyy. If the exact day isn't know enter 00/mm/yyyy. If there is a range of dates enter it as dd/mm/yyyy-dd/mm/yyyy.
Quantity	This must be a number or 0(zero). No letters or other characters must be used. If the quantity is not known, e.g. if there are 'lots' or 'plentiful', use 0(zero) which means present and add a comment in the Comment field.
Recording method	E.g. MV trap, actinic trap. daytime obs, at lighted window, etc
Sex	Male = m      Female = f      Unknown = u
Stage	For most entries this will be 'Adult'. Other options are Larval, Larval tube, Larval spinning, Larval web, Larval feeding signs, Emergence holes, Pupal, Pupal exuviae, Egg, Egg-batch, Gall, Mine, Mine (vacated), Ovipositing, Dead
Status	If unknown, enter 'not recorded'.
Comment	Any additional information – this may be left blank

When you have created the spreadsheet file and are happy that it's correct, you need to save it as a Text (Tab Delimited) file. Use your initials and the date (dd-mm-yy) you created the file as the file name e.g. at10-01-07 (file created by Angus Tyner on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2007) and send this text file to [Angus](#).

Of course if you can't do the above, it won't be a problem. We welcome records in any format and if that means sending us photocopies of your notebooks then please do so. We especially welcome any and all records from years prior to 2006 but would be very grateful if you could send us your 2006 records as soon as possible.

While we will initially be concentrating on macro-moths, we will also accept all records of micro-moths. Little enough is known about the macros in Ireland, never mind the micros, and every record we receive helps to build the bigger picture. As mentioned previously, this is the first attempt to create a National moth database but it is totally reliant on you sending us your records.

There are a couple of things that we would ask you to take particular care over when submitting records because wrong data is worse than no data. Please ensure that all Grid References are correct. A six-figure reference would be ideal but we can also accept a four figure reference if e.g. you did a count over a large area.

We would also ask that recorders try to avoid duplication of records. This is one of the biggest problems when compiling a database and one of the most time-consuming to sort out. This might happen where two people meet up for a moth trapping session and both of them record the same data and submit it to the Central Database. Another way this might happen is where someone collects records from publications, websites or news forums and enters it into their own database for their own use but then sends all the records to the Central Recorder.

The name you use when submitting records also needs to be carefully entered. We already know of one recorder whose name has been entered in four different ways.

#### How to read a Grid Ref:

Assuming you are using an Ordnance Survey Discovery Series map you firstly need to find out which 100km Grid Letter applies to the area in question. Looking at the right hand side of the map at the section entitled 'How to give a Grid Reference' it shows the letter or letters of the 100km squares that fall in your map. These are also printed on the map itself. Check which letter applies to your site.

Next you need to read the Easting. These are the vertical lines that appear on the map. Take the line immediately left of your site and read the 2-digit number from the edge of the map along the top or bottom. This will be anything from 00 to 99.

Now read the Northing, the horizontal lines, by looking at the line immediately below your site and reading the number for that line from the left or right hand side of the map. Again this will be anything from 00 to 99.

This will give you a 4-figure Grid Reference, e.g. T1463, which indicates the 1km square that your site lies in. If you want to give a 6-figure reference, which we would prefer, divide the space between the lines to the left and right of your site and below and above your site into tenths and count how many tenths it is to your site. If your site is 5-tenths from the left hand line your Easting becomes 145 and, similarly, if your site lies 8-tenths above the line below your site, your Northing becomes 638 so your full 6-figure Grid Reference would be T145638.

## Irish Macro-moth Validation Categories.

To help recorders get to grips with the different Validation Categories we have expanded on what's needed for each category. The full list of species and the Category assigned to each can be found [here](#).

1. Common & widespread Usually no validation required though out of season records may be queried.

This is fairly self-explanatory. It applies to those species that are reasonably common, or at least fairly regular, in most areas of the country. Generally these records will be accepted without question except where a species is recorded well outside what would be considered the 'normal' flight period for that species. Examples would include a Feathered Thorn *Colotois pennaria* in June or the recent October record of a Hebrew Character *Orthosia gothica*.

In these cases the record will be queried and a photo will probably be requested.

2. Uncommon or restricted distribution Photo may be requested. See **page 9** for details on sending photographs

This covers those species that, while they may be widespread, are not particularly common and those that are restricted to a particular habitat or to certain areas of the country. Again records of these species will usually be taken at face value.

Where a query might arise is when a species is found in unsuitable habitat or well outside its known range. E.g. a coastal species found well inland or a species found in Louth but only known from the southwest. For these records a photo will be requested.

3. Scarce or confusing species Photo or specimen may be requested.

Species that come under this heading would be those that are only occasionally recorded or may be mistaken for another similar species by the inexperienced. They may be widely distributed but be very thin on the ground with very few records each year.

Plain Wave *Idaea straminata* and Red Twin-spot Carpet *Xanthorhoe spadicearia* are good examples of species in this category. Neither of these species is very common and a poorly marked Riband Wave *Idaea aversata* might be mistaken for a Plain Wave while the red form of Dark-barred Twin-spot Carpet *Xanthorhoe ferrugata* could be taken to be a Red Twin-spot Carpet.

We have included two species, or only one species depending on your point of view, in this category that don't fit easily into any particular category. The Engrailed *Ectropis bistortata* and Small Engrailed *E. crepuscularia* have long been the subject of speculation as to whether there were two species or only one species involved. They cannot be distinguished on wing markings and there is ongoing study to see if they can be told apart on genitalia. Results so far are inconclusive. This leaves only flight time as a possible means of separating them. There appear to be two generations of Engrailed in Ireland from March – late April and in July. Small Engrailed appears to have only one generation from the beginning of May to late June. The only conclusions that can be drawn from this is that any records from March to about mid-April and from about mid July on would be Engrailed while records from mid May – mid June are likely to be Small Engrailed.

The majority of records of these species in our database, albeit quite a small number, 44 from a total of 52, are from May and June and are perhaps likely to be Small Engrailed. The Engrailed appears to be quite scarce in Ireland with only a few records outside this period.

As a result of this uncertainty we have decided to map both species together.

A photo would generally be expected for records of species in this category and occasionally the recorder may be asked to keep the specimen for examination.

4. Rare or easily confused species Photo **must** be supplied – specimen may be requested.

Those species which have only ever been recorded on a handful of occasions or fewer come under this heading as do those species which are very similar but can be differentiated with care. Some of these species may not have been recorded for many years and might only be known from historical records or specimens in museum collections and some may even be extinct in Ireland.

Species, which have only recently been recorded in Ireland for the first time, also fall into this category.

For all species in this category a photo **must** be supplied to support the record and, as with Category 3 above, it may be necessary to retain the specimen.

There is one exception to the rule stating that a photo must be supplied with each record. While all the species in this category are generally considered to be very rare, there are a few that can turn up in good numbers from time to time, in particular some of the migrants. 2006 turned out to be an extraordinary year for migrant moths. We would not expect recorders to provide a photo with every record of a particular species but we would require one for the first record from each recorder. If we were satisfied that the recorder had identified the species correctly we would happily accept further records of the species from that recorder without photographic evidence.

Because of the extreme rarity of many of the species in this category, it may be necessary for us to examine the actual specimen. We would ask recorders to notify us immediately of any records of these species and provide us with a photo. If we were happy that the species had been identified correctly, there would be no need to retain the specimen.

There are, however, some species e.g. Lempke's Gold Spot *Plusia putnami* that cannot always be identified with certainty from a photo and must be examined directly. In these cases we would arrange for the specimen to be examined.

5. Extremely similar species Species needs its genitalia examined for specific identification and specimen may be requested to determine distribution.

There are a number of species that are so similar in appearance to other species that they can only be identified by examination of their genitalia. In some cases this can be done on an anaesthetised moth while in others dissection is required.

In most cases they will have to be recorded as aggregates and the main groupings this will apply to are:

**November Moth** *Epirrita dilutata*, **Pale November Moth** *E. christyi* and **Autumnal Moth** *E. autumnata* – These are usually recorded as **Epirrita dilutata agg**

**Marbled Minor** *Oligia strigilis*, **Rufous Minor** *O. versicolor* and **Tawny Marbled Minor** *O. latruncula* – Recorded as **Oligia strigilis agg.**

**Common Rustic** *Mesapamea secalis* and **Lesser Common Rustic** *M. didyma* – Recorded as **Mesapamea secalis agg.**

**Large Ear** *Amphipoea lucens*, **Crinan Ear** *A. crinanensis*, **Saltern Ear** *A. fucosa* and **Ear Moth** *A. oculea* – Recorded as **Amphipoea oculea agg.**

There are a number of other species in this category that would normally require examination of the genitalia for a definite identification including July and Lead Belle and some of the pugs. Very well marked specimens may be identifiable from photos.

We don't require recorders to retain every example of these species but we may, from time to time, ask recorders to keep some specimens and pass them on to us for examination to try to determine distribution.

Some recorders feel that several of the species in this category can be identified by the time of year they are flying (phenology). This may be the case for particularly early or late examples but we would prefer not to use this aspect to identify these difficult groups. The flight time for a particular species might be given as

September – October but it could also be recorded in early August or well into November and overlap with the other confusion species and don't forget that flight times can differ, possibly by several weeks, between northern and southern counties.

6. Species not yet recorded in Ireland

A series of good quality photos **must** be provided and the specimen may be requested.

This is for any species that has not yet been recorded in Ireland. Traditionally, the practice has been to retain any first Irish specimens and present them to the Natural History Museum.

However we feel that identification of the vast majority of species, which may be added to the Irish list in the future, can be confirmed from photos. We would expect a series of good quality photos from different angles including side view, upperside, underside (through a glass container) and if possible showing the hindwing from above.

If you do come across a moth that you think may be new to Ireland we would ask that you hold onto it by placing it in a container in the fridge and contact us as soon as possible. Send us photographs and if we are satisfied with the identification the moth can be released.

In some cases a photo may not be sufficient for a positive identification and we will arrange to have the moth examined. In the event that the moth has to be killed and is confirmed as new to Ireland it will be presented to the Natural History Museum and the finder will be credited.

We would urge all recorders to write up and publish details of all species new to Ireland in either the Irish Naturalists Journal, the Bulletin of the Irish Biogeographical Society, Atropos or another recognised journal.

This Validation List is very much a work in progress and will be reviewed periodically. We may feel that a species warrants moving to a different category if we find that it is more common or scarce than previously thought. E.g. in 2002 when the first Blair's Shoulder-knot *Lithophane leautieri* for Ireland was recorded in Co. Wicklow it would have been placed in Category 4 but it has since been recorded in four more counties and appears to be quite common in places. This has resulted in it being placed in Category 2.

It is only by receiving your records that we will be able to get a better understanding of the status of many of the species and we would hope that all recorders will send their records to us for inclusion in the Central Database.

## **Photographs**

There are quite a number of species for which photographic evidence is either a requirement or may be requested to confirm the identification. It would be very useful if recorders could send photos with their records when submitting data to save us having to look for them at a later stage.

However there are a couple of things you should bear in mind.

Unfortunately there is still a lot of the country that hasn't got Broadband and sending large photographic files to someone using a dial-up connection is just not feasible. If you only have a few photos to send, you should crop and resize them so they are no more than about 50Kb each. These can then be emailed with your records. However, if you have a lot of photos that you need to send, it would be better to copy them to a CD and post it to Michael O'Donnell, Barnland, Kilinieran, Gorey, Co. Wexford. Alternatively you could print them out, write the information on the back and post them to us.

For every photograph you send we need the following information, preferably inserted into the photo:

Species name in English  
Date  
Location  
Grid ref  
Your name



## Competition

With the formalities out of the way we felt we ought to try to lighten the proceedings somewhat. Now that **November** and **December** are a distant memory and the **Grey, Winter** days are well upon us we begin to wonder what will **Spring Usher** in and will it **Herald** a **Gem** of a year that will **Streak** by filled with a **Cosmopolitan** selection of exciting moths.

To get you thinking about what might turn up this year we've decided to hold a competition. We have unashamedly taken an idea from Atropos who used it several years ago. We want you to write a short story, with some semblance of a storyline, incorporating the English names of as many species of macromoth as possible.

There are a couple of rules:

Entry is restricted to residents of the island of Ireland.

It can be no more than 700 words long.

Only species in the Field Guide to the Moths of Great Britain and Ireland by Waring and Townsend can be used.

You can leave out the word 'Moth' where it appears in a name but you cannot split a name so, e.g. you could use November but you can't use just Spring or just Usher. (Note however that commas and full stops can be very useful to split names!).

The winner will be the person who manages to get the highest number of species into their story and will receive their choice of either a year's subscription to the journal Atropos or a copy of British Pyralid Moths by Barry Goater. The runner-up will receive whichever the winner doesn't choose. Entries should be emailed to [Michael](#) before the end of March. Entries will be judged by the IMBG committee, and judge's decision will be final. The winning entry will be included in the next Newsletter.

Just to give you an idea of what can be achieved the winner of the Atropos competition managed to get 132 British moths and butterflies into their story.

## Migrant and vagrant moths in 2006



Vestal, Stamullen, Co. Meath  
Eamonn O'Donnell, 2006

As most of you will realise by now, 2006 was a record-breaking year for immigrant moths in Ireland and possibly in Britain also. At least five moth species were added to the Irish list this year (subject to formal validation of records). These were led by two Eastern Bordered Straw *Heliothis nubigera* in May, then four micro species – *Epermenia aequidentellus* in July, two Gold Triangle *Hypsopygia costalis* and an

Old World Webworm *Hellula undalis* in September, and *Uresiphita polygonalis* in October. Other notable species this year included three *Antigastra catalaunalis* in September, Blair's Mocha *Cyclophora puppillaria* in September & October, Death's Head Hawk-moth *Acherontia atropos* in July, 8 Striped Hawk-Moth *Hyles livornica* (May to July), a Small Marbled *Eublemma parva* in June, 7 Ni Moths *Trichoplusia ni* (mainly August), two Great Brocades *Eurois occulta* in August and three Red Underwing *Catocala nupta* in September.

A range of other species broke double or treble figures and many occurred in record or near-record numbers (based on available information for previous years). Good totals included minima to date of 880 Diamond-back Moths *Plutella xylostella* (a mini-invasion from early May), 2200 Rush Veneer *Nomophila noctuella*, 16 *Palpita vitrealis*, 67 Vestal *Rhodometra sacraria*



Striped Hawkmoth, Brownstown Head  
Co. Waterford. Paul Walsh, 2006



Scarce Bordered Straw, Barnland,  
Co. Wexford 2006  
Michael O'Donnell

(mainly September & October), 22 Gem *Orthonama obstipapa* (peak in October), 29 Convolvulus Hawk-moth *Agrius convolvuli* (peak September), 290 Hummingbird Hawk-moth *Macroglossum stellatarum* (mainly June to October), 330 Pearly Underwing *Peridroma saucia*, 200 Delicate *Mythimna vitellina*, 17 Cosmopolitan *Mythimna loreyi* (last three peaking in October), 76 Small Mottled Willow *Spodoptera exigua* (peak August), 94 Scarce Bordered Straw *Helicoverpa armigera* (peak September), 59 Bordered Straw *Heliothis peltigera* (peak June), and 6700 Silver Y *Autographa gamma* (peak September).



Silver Y, Stamullen Co. Meath 2006  
Eamonn O'Donnell

Migrant butterflies also had an excellent year, with >1000 Painted Lady *Vanessa atalanta* & Red Admiral *Vanessa cardui* and >800 Clouded Yellow *Colias croceus* 'accounted for' to date by the various websites and individual recorders.

Totals for some of these may increase substantially once further records are compiled. Fuller details will appear in due course, both in write-ups by individual recorders and in the "Report on migrant and other notable Lepidoptera in 2006" which is due to appear in the Irish Naturalists' Journal in 2007. Arrangements for the latter are being finalised at the moment, but we hope it will be a comprehensive (though concise) summary of immigrant moth and butterfly species for the island of Ireland, with some coverage also of other rare species. There's been no all-Ireland report for about 15 years now, but 2006 is a good year to start with!

Meantime, we would like to encourage anyone with 2006 records of migrant moth and butterfly species (everything from Silver Y and Red Admiral upwards) to send details to the relevant recorders listed elsewhere in this Newsletter. Preferably, submit along with records of resident species also, and we'll extract details of the relevant migrant and other notable species.



Great Brocade, Barnland,  
Co. Wexford 2006  
Michael O'Donnell

For 2007, we hope to provide a regularly updated web-page of migrant moth sightings, from anywhere in Ireland, and would encourage you to email details, in any format and as frequently as you can, to [migrant reports](mailto:migrant_reports), or post them to the MothsIreland newsgroup. Any records for Northern Ireland will also be copied to the Butterfly Conservation Northern Ireland website: <http://www.bcni.org.uk/>, or if you send records directly there, they'll also be extracted for the MothsIreland migrant webpage. For migrant (and other) butterflies in the Republic of Ireland, please continue to send records to the Butterfly Ireland website: <http://www.butterflyireland.com/>.

Don't forget too to submit photographs (if available) of any scarcer species, and especially of real rarities to keep the Validation Committee happy...

Irish Moth & Butterfly Group contact e-mail firstname at mothsireland.com

Angus Tyner	angus@m...
Michael O' Donnell	michael@m...
Ken Bond	ken@m...
Dave Allen	dave@m...
Paul Walsh	paul@m...
David Nash (butterflies)	david@m...