

BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS IN PEMBROKESHIRE IN 1988 - R ELLIOTT

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Dingy Skippers *Erynnis tages* were represented by single records in 1988 from a disused quarry near West Williamston (22/03-05-) on 17 May [RE] and on limestone grassland at Stackpole (11/975945) on 27 May [APF]. Similarly, there was only a single record of Grizzled Skipper *Pyrgus malvae* from Pen yr Afr, near Cemaes Head (22/122485) on 18 May [RMM]. Only one hairstreak species, the Green Hairstreak *Callophrys rubi* was recorded this year and this species is represented by only two records - one from Cemaes (22/133494) on 18 May [RMM] and the other from Llanwnda (12/910403) on 11 June [SBE & HHE]. Small Blues *Cupido minimus* were recorded from two sites on Caldey Island (21/139969 and 21/140970) on 26 May [SBE] and along the coast path near Trwnhwrddyn, St David's Head (12/731272) during a DIG field meeting on 25 June [APF & IKM].

The Painted Lady *Cynthia cardui* provided the first butterfly record of the year when a specimen was photographed by Elizabeth Johnson during the first week of March on rocks at the north end of Newport Sands [per MP]. The next record was from Wooltack Point [PC] on 6 May, with further records on fourteen other occasions up to 15 September at Pwllarian (12/887401) [SBE]. There has been only one record for the Comma *Polygonia c-album* this year when a single specimen was seen on 15 August at West Williamston

There were eight records for the Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary *Boloria selene* during an (apparently) very short flight-period between 10 & 26 June. Specimens were seen at Llanwnda, Llangolman, Dinas (12/98-36-) and Pointz Castle [SEE] and on the coastal heath immediately either side of the National Trust boundary fence along the coast path around St David's Head during the DIG field meeting on 25 June. The final record for the year was of a specimen seen on Whitesand golf-links on the following day [GK]. Only two records for Pearl-bordered Fritillary *B. euphrosyne* were received, one from Pen yr Afr [RMM] on 18 May and the other from Dowrog Common [GK] on 22 June. Dark Green Fritillaries *Argynnis aglaja* were first recorded at Newgale (12/842228) and Pointz Castle (12/838230) on 18 June [SBE], although the first record for Skomer Island was not until a week later, with the final record there on 16 August [SS]. Despite the relative abundance of the Silver-washed Fritillary *A. paphia* in the county, there were only three records for this species for the whole season - two from West Williamston on 31 July & 7 August and at Pengelli Woods (22/12-39-) on 17 August [RE]. There were also three records for the year for Marsh Fritillary *Eurodryas aurinia*. Specimens were seen on 1 May at Mynachlogddu (22/143294) and 10 June at Cwm-blaen-bwlan (22/236381) [SBE], and a freshly emerged specimen was recorded near the bridge on Dowrog Common nature reserve on 5 June [MP].

The Grayling *Hipparchia semele* was recorded only from Skomer Island where a maximum of 11 were seen on 7 August [SS]. There were no records at all from the mainland.

During 1988 I ran two moth traps at various places in the southern half of Pembrokeshire and recorded over two hundred different species, many of which were common species, of course, but those recorded below seem worthy of special mention.

Blomer's Rivulet *Discoloxia blomeri* - A single specimen was taken at Upton Park Farm (22/01-04-) on 27 June. Although Skinner (1984) gives this as a local species in south Wales, PM Miles (1978) does not include any Pembrokeshire records in his catalogue of Welsh occurrences of the species. I have been able to find only one previous record for the vice-county: on 1 Aug 1978, N Davis took two in a moth-trap at Stackpole (11/96-96-) during her studies on bat-feeding (pers. comm., data from notes for an unpublished Ph.D thesis).

Small Yellow Wave *Hydrelia flammeolaria* - On 27 June a single specimen was taken at Lamphey (22/016006). I can find no previous record of this species in the vice-county.

Portland Moth *Ochropacha praecox* - A singleton was taken at Lamphey on 11 September. Barrett (1875) gave the distribution of the moth in Pems. as "*On coast sandhills; scarce*", whilst Birkett (1951) mentioned that he had not taken this species during a visit to the Tenby area. There are no other records and it would seem that the Portland Moth has not been recorded since Barrett's time.

Dog's tooth *Lacanobia suasa* - A single specimen was taken at Upton Park Farm on 27 June. Once again, I have been unable to find any previous records for the vice-county. This is a lowland species which is often associated with salt-marshes, of which there are plenty in the vicinity of the trap-site. However, just across the River Carew at West Williamston, there were no records of the species during intensive trapping which took place in the early 1980's.

Webb's Wainscot *Archanara sparganii* - A single taken at Lamphey on 23 August is the second county record. The previous record is from Treginnis peninsula (12/72) in 1961 (per BRC). The moth is associated with coastal marshes containing reedmace *Typha* spp. Other good moth records for the year came from Skomer Island (12/725095) where Steve Sutcliffe recorded a number of locally-distributed coastal moths including - Barrett's Marbled Coronet *Hadena luteago* (one in June), Large Ranunculus *Polymixis flavicincta* (three in Sept), Thyme Pug *Eupithecia distinctaria* (one in July), Square-spot Dart *Euxoa obelisca* (three in Aug & Sept), and Crescent Dart *Agrotis trux* (sixty in July & Aug).

Recorders:

John Bird	Fred Bos	Peter Corkhill
Jack Donovan	Ron Elliot [RE]	HH Evans[HHE]
Stephen Evans[SBE]	Marion Finch	Adrian Fowles[APF]
Gordon KnighttGK]	Ken Longstaffe	Richard Meyer[RMM]
Ian Morgan[IKM]	Margaret Patterson[MP]	Joan Saunders
Stephen Sutcliffe[SS]		

References:

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