

# ***Six British Catocala!***

Category: British Moths – macros

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On 30.vii.2023, I recorded my 6<sup>th</sup> wild-caught British species of the genus *Catocala* Schrank, 1802, all without specifically targeting any of the species.

Below in taxonomic order are the earliest dates with locations of the 1<sup>st</sup> recorded specimen of each species:

- 72.075 *Catocala nymphagoga* (Esper, 1787) **Oak Yellow Underwing**
  - At 125W MV on 10.vii.2023 in TQ2273, Putney Heath (VC 17 – Surrey); 9<sup>th</sup> British record.
- 72.076 *Catocala fraxini* (Linnaeus, 1758) **Clifden Nonpareil**
  - Attracted to a lighted window on 7.ix.2008 in SY8583 East Lulworth (VC 9 – Dorset).
- 72.078 *Catocala nupta* (Linnaeus, 1767) **Red Underwing**
  - At rest during viii.2000 in TQ37Y, Greenwich, SE London (VC 16 – West Kent).
- 72.079 *Catocala electa* (Vieweg, 1790) **Rosy Underwing**
  - At 125W MV on 9.ix.2013 in SY8583, East Lulworth (VC 9 – Dorset).
- 72.081 *Catocala sponsa* (Linnaeus, 1767) **Dark Crimson Underwing**
  - At sugar on 22.viii.2019 in TQ2273, Putney Heath (VC 17 – Surrey).
- 72.082 *Catocala promissa* ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775) **Light Crimson Underwing**
  - At 125W MV on 30.vii.2023 in TQ2273, Putney Heath (VC 17 – Surrey).

## ***The specimens***

*nymphagoga*: Represented here is the 2<sup>nd</sup> specimen taken at 125W MV on 17.viii.2023 in TQ2273, Putney Heath (VC 17 – Surrey). The 10<sup>th</sup> British record and the 3<sup>rd</sup> recorded in the Putney area since 2021.

*fraxini*: Represented here is an aberrant specimen taken at 125W MV on 7.ix.2021 in TQ2273, Putney Heath, (VC 17 – Surrey).

*nupta*: Represented here is a specimen taken at 125W MV on 11.viii.2015 in TQ2271, Wimbledon Common, (VC 17 – Surrey).

*electa*: Represented here is the actual specimen. The 1<sup>st</sup> of 3 specimens I recorded during 2013.

*sponsa*: Represented here is a specimen taken at 125W MV on 29.vii.2021 in TQ2273, Putney Heath, (VC 17 – Surrey).

*promissa*: Represented here is the actual specimen.

Since moving from East Lulworth, Dorset to Wimbledon Common, SW London during 2014 and subsequently to nearby Putney Heath during 2019, I have recorded 5 of the above *Catocala* species which is also noteworthy for a single \*site – *Catocala electa* (View.) **Rosy Underwing** was recorded during 2013 in my garden in East Lulworth, Dorset, one of three specimens recorded that year.

\* *Wimbledon Common and Putney Heath are within the Wimbledon and Putney Commons; 1,140 acres of countryside amidst the urban surroundings of Wimbledon, Putney and Kingston-upon-Thames.*

**BENHS Exhibition 2023 – Saturday, 4 November 2023.**  
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