

E-moth

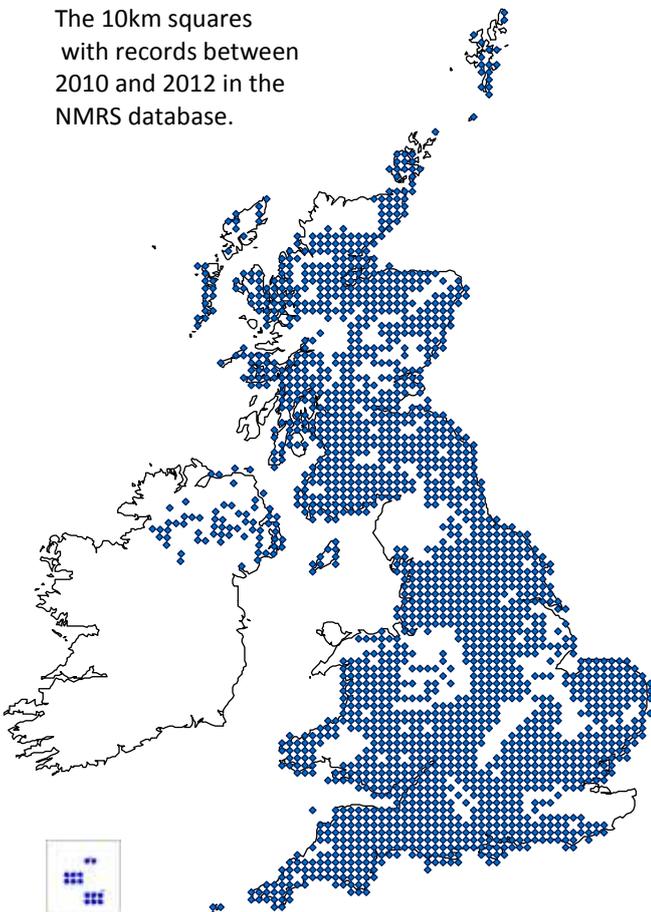
Moths Count Update April 2013

The 2013 moth recording season is off to an exceptionally slow start compared to previous springs. So far this year only 34 individuals of 18 species, (14 macro and 4 micro) have been recorded in the Butterfly Conservation Head Office moth trap. The most abundant moth was the Oak Beauty. It will be interesting to see how moth numbers fare over the coming months after last year's wash out summer and this long drawn-out winter, only time (and recording!) will tell.



Oak Beauty (Les Hill)

The 10km squares with records between 2010 and 2012 in the NMRS database.



National Moth Recording Scheme Update

Over the past year we have received 1.7 million new moth records from County Moth Recorders, taking the grand total held in the NMRS database to 15.2 million. We received a total of 733,106 records for 2011, 8% of these were from Dorset, 6% from South East Yorkshire and 4% were from Warwickshire. So far 178,644 records from 39 vice-counties have been imported into the NMRS database for 2012. An additional 35 vice-county datasets had been received by our end of March data deadline and these will be imported over the coming months. In contrast, we have not received any data from 13 VC's since the *Provisional Atlas of the UK's Larger Moths* was published in 2010. We urge the County Moth Recorders' for these VC's to submit updated datasets to us as soon as possible to enable effective moth conservation at local and national levels and to provide vital feedback to moth recorders.

4th National Moth Recorders' Meeting

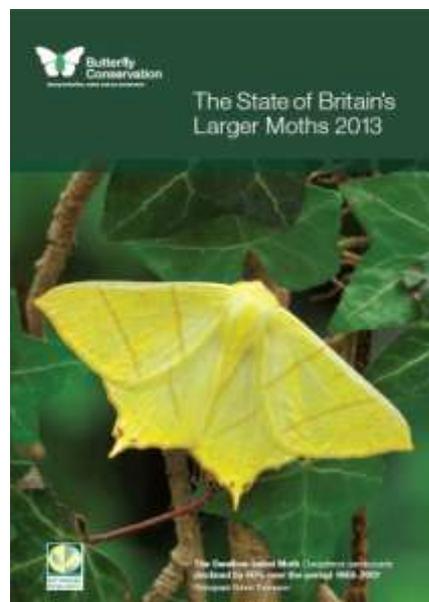
Please make a note in your diaries for next year's National Moth Recorders' Meeting which will be held once again at the Birmingham and Midland Institute, central Birmingham on **Saturday 25th January 2014**. Further details will be revealed in due course.

National Moth Recorders' Meeting 2013

The 3rd National Moth Recorders' Meeting was held earlier this year at the Birmingham and Midland Institute. Snow threatened the event and there were concerns about whether speakers and delegates would make it. However, almost 200 delegates braved the elements and had a fantastic day. The talks were varied and included a broad range of moth-related topics. We heard about the latest developments in the National Moth Recording Scheme (NMRS), the key findings of the *State of Britain's Larger Moths 2013* report, 'grass roots' moth recording and conservation in Somerset, Ghost and Swift moth breeding behaviour, the impact of climate and land use change on burnet moths, survey and monitoring of the Pine-tree Lappet in Scotland, and public engagement and mass participation citizen science. The Moths Count team thank all of the speakers and moth recorders who attended and contributed to another great meeting.

State of Britain's Larger Moths 2013

February of this year saw the launch of *The State of Britain's Larger Moths 2013* (Fox *et al*, 2013) at the Society of Antiquaries of London, Burlington House, Piccadilly. This report, a collaboration between Butterfly Conservation and Rothamsted Research, identified alarming declines in Britain's moth population over the forty year period (1968 to 2007), with many species declining dramatically. Broader scale changes are also briefly covered, highlighting over 60 species becoming extinct in the twentieth century, along with brief discussion on causes of change and on efforts to conserve Britain's scarcer moths. *The State of Britain's Larger Moths 2013* report can be downloaded [here](#).



Reference

Fox, R., Parsons, M.S., Chapman, J.W., Woiwod, I.P., Warren, M.S. & Brooks, D.R. 2013. *The State of Britain's Larger Moths 2013*. Butterfly Conservation and Rothamsted Research, Wareham.



The Moth Challenge Fund

The Moth Challenge Fund (supported by the Patsy Wood Trust) was launched on 1st February this year. This fund will be used to support moth conservation projects throughout the UK and will help lever additional funding (up to £10 for every £1 donated), for example through Landfill Tax, thereby maximising any donations.

This fund will be used to build on the generous donations from the Patsy Wood Trust (initially for the three years between 2011/12 to 2013/14). Most potential funders now require a financial contribution before they will award grants and The Moth Challenge

Fund has been established to contribute this 'match' or 'seed' funding for projects that aim to conserve the UK's rarest moths. The fund will potentially support projects taking action on moth species on the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (Section 41), Wales Section 42 list, Scottish Biodiversity list or others that are declining but are not yet on an official 'at risk' listing.

During 2011/12, The Patsy Wood Trust funding was allocated to seven projects covering a wide geographic area, from southern England to the Scottish Isles, securing an additional increase in funding by just over ten times the Trust's donation. This was used for projects that included site management for selected species, monitoring threatened species, holding training events and providing specific site advice for many individual species. These projects covered species such as *Anania funebris*, Betony Case-bearer *Coleophora wockeella*, Black-veined Moth, Dark Bordered

Beauty, Netted Mountain Moth, Lunar Yellow Underwing, Narrow-bordered Bee Hawk-moth and Slender Scotch Burnet, amongst others.



Anania funebris (Nigel Jarman)

Our aim is to develop The Moth Challenge Fund further, and even modest contributions can help. For example, at a recent Dorset Moth Group indoor meeting it was decided to donate any funds left over from the hire of the hall, this resulting in a sum of just over £60. As can be seen from above, this figure could potentially be multiplied by up to 10 times through accessing other grants. If this was repeated and similar meetings around the country, there is clearly the potential to raise a considerable sum towards moth conservation projects.

If you would like to make a donation to The Moth Challenge Fund please visit:

<http://www.justgiving.com/moth-challenge-fund>

Moth Night 2012

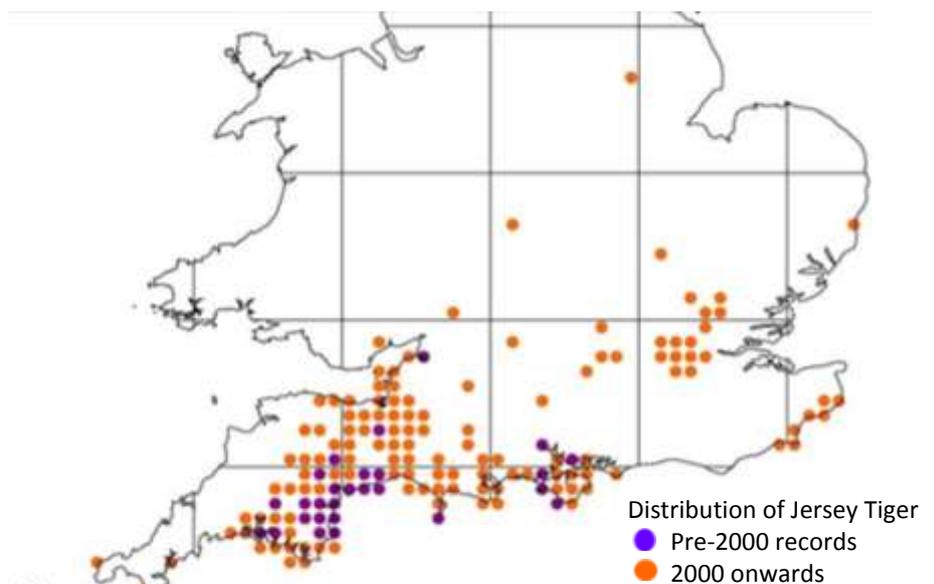
Moth Night 2012 was held over three nights (21st – 23rd June 2012), to avoid bad weather. The event focussed on moths of brownfield sites, for example Six-belted Clearwing, Small Ranunculus and the pretty micro-moth *Nemophora fasciella*. For the first time data submission was via the new online recording system. This was introduced to help streamline data management and to provide 'live' feedback to participants. Online data submission is the only way that we can sustain Moth Night as we do not have the resources to deal with the vast array of recording formats that are used by the moth recording community. The online system worked well and was generally well received.

Fewer than 14,000 individuals of around 600 species were received, generating in excess of 6,000 records. These results reflect the poor weather conditions during the entire Moth Night recording period; June 2012 was the wettest in 100 years. The full results and highlighted significant records will appear in the spring 2013 issue of *Atropos*.

Moth Night 2013

Moth Night 2013 will run from 8th – 10th August and the theme is 'tiger moths'. Recorders will be encouraged to record the declining Garden Tiger, range expanding Jersey Tiger (see map right) and the beautiful Ruby Tiger. All three species are attractive and should prove popular at public events. Please feel free to promote your Moth Night events on the website by submitting the details [here](#).

Remember that you don't need to focus on this tiger moth theme, and can of course pursue your own target species or venture out of their usual trapping areas to do something a bit different. The key thing is to have fun, raise awareness of moths and submit your results via the online system (www.mothnight.info).



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www.mothscount.org