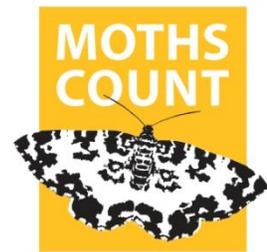


**Butterfly
Conservation**

Saving butterflies, moths and our environment



E-moth

Moths Count Update January 2014

Happy New Year! So far the year has been so wet and wild, there have been very few moths recorded in the Butterfly Conservation trap to date. Moth recording is always quiet at this time of year which is why most of us are busy sorting out our moth records and sending them to our County Moth Recorders. The annual **31st March** deadline for submission of County datasets to the NMRS is approaching so please remember to submit your records to your County Moth Recorder as soon as possible. Spring and summer are on their way, in the meantime the photograph to the right may help to keep the winter blues at bay and give us a taste of what we've got to look forward to!



Six-spot Burnet (Mark Parsons)

National Moth Recorders' Meeting

Don't forget that our fourth National Moth Recorders' Meeting is being held on **Saturday 25th January 2014** at the Birmingham and Midland Institute, central Birmingham. The programme for the day can be found on the Moths Count website (www.mothscount.org). As always the talks promise to be very interesting and speakers include both amateur moth recorders and academic researchers. Watkins and Doncaster, Atropos and Pemberley Books will be in attendance, so bring your purses and wallets to stock up on natural history books and moth-ing equipment. If there is anything specific that you might require, please contact the traders in advance who can take pre-orders for collection on the day. As usual, there is a £5 per person registration fee for attendees, payable on the day. This includes morning and afternoon tea/coffee and a buffet lunch all subsidised from Butterfly Conservation budgets. **There are still some places available, to book yours please contact info@butterfly-conservation.org or telephone 01929 400209.** We look forward to seeing you there.

National Moth Recording Scheme

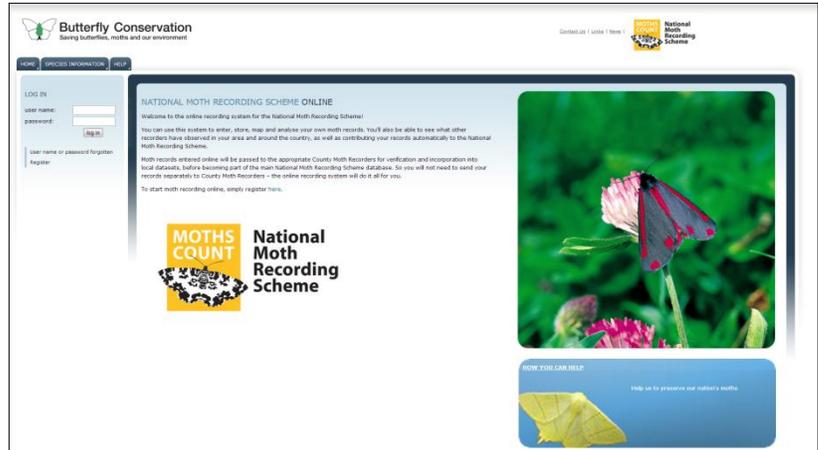
The National Moth Recording Scheme (NMRS) database now holds over 16.2 million moth records. Since the October edition of E-moth a further six vice-county (VC) datasets have been received and are awaiting import into the NMRS. One of these datasets is from Cheshire VC58, comprising a total of 647,704 records! Many thanks to Paul Hill and Steve Hind for several years of hard work in providing this important data refresh, the first for the County since spring 2008.

There have been several changes to the County Moth Recorder list over the past year, the newly appointed County Moth Recorders are as follows; Leon Truscott, West and East Cornwall, (VC1 & 2); David Brotheridge & Wayne Clinch, North & South Wiltshire (VC7 & 8); Pete Marsh, West Lancashire (VC60); Gill Smart, Ayrshire (VC75); Graham Crittenden, West Sutherland (VC108) and Andrew Croy, Northern Ireland. The NMRS team welcome these new additions to the network of CMR's and look forward to

working with them. A great many thanks are due to their predecessors for their support of the NMRS. The full up-to-date list of County Moth Recorders can be found by following this link (<http://bit.ly/1bUrvqS>).

Online recording

After a long development process, the NMRS online recording system is due to go live very soon and will be available for recorders to use at www.mothscount.org. All records entered on this system will be repatriated to County Moth Recorders for verification and amalgamation into local datasets. Records will not pass directly from the online system to the NMRS database.

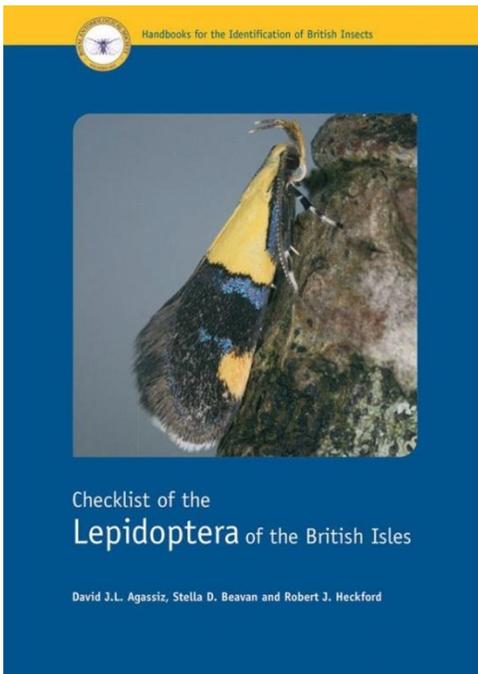


IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT: A Macro-moth Atlas for Britain and Ireland in 2018

The production of a full, hardcopy atlas of the larger moths has always been the intention of Butterfly Conservation, but the timescale was dependent upon the progress of the NMRS. Due to the success of the scheme we now plan to work towards the publication of an atlas of macro-moths in Britain and Ireland towards the end of 2018, in collaboration with MothsIreland. It will be based on records up to the end of 2016, providing moth recorders across the land with three more full years of fieldwork towards the planned Atlas.

There is a substantial amount of work to be done between now and the end of 2016; the historical baseline of the NMRS needs to be improved and targeted recording of under-recorded squares is another challenge. However, we hope that making this announcement now will stimulate further recording effort and encourage County Moth Recorders, local moth groups and moth recorders themselves to redouble their efforts to achieve the best possible coverage of the country.

To find out what squares are under-recorded in your area or indeed other areas please contact the relevant County Moth Recorder in the first instance. In due course we will be producing a list of under-recorded 10km squares based on the NMRS database. However, this may not be 100% accurate as there may be records that we have not yet received from the County Moth Recorder network.



New British checklist

Just before Christmas, a new checklist of Lepidoptera was published, which completely overhauls the out-dated Bradley list and brings us into line with the current European classification of moths and butterflies. This book entitled *RES Handbook: Checklist of the Lepidoptera of the British Isles* is the result of a huge amount of work led by David Agassiz, Stella Beavan and Bob Heckford. The new checklist will be adopted by Butterfly Conservation and the National Moth Recording Scheme. However, there will undoubtedly be months or even years of transition from the 'old' to the new checklist as the field guides and species dictionaries used in recording software and websites are updated. There is no need to worry about the new names or checklist. For now, it is fine to continue to record the way you have been and we will be happy to receive datasets and moth records using the 'old names' and numbering systems as the new ones become familiar.

Moth Curator Vacancies at the Natural History Museum.

The Natural History Museum is currently advertising two moth curator posts (one for macrolepidoptera and another for microlepidoptera) due to the forthcoming retirement of the existing post holders. The closing date for applications is **4th February 2014**. For further information please visit <http://bit.ly/1iWkbKk>.

January Sale - Membership Offer

To celebrate the New Year Butterfly Conservation is offering you a year's half price membership! For this month only single membership is available for only £15, or just £1.25 per month. You'll receive all the usual fantastic benefits of membership including:

- A Welcome pack bursting with information
- *Butterfly* magazine three times a year, packed with fascinating features, conservation news and stunning photography
- A regular e-newsletter with the latest news, information and offers
- Membership of your local branch, with regional newsletters
- Invitations to local guided walks, talks, conservation action days and social events
- The chance to be part of an active and friendly organisation that really is making a difference to help protect butterflies, moths and our environment.

This offer is available on our website throughout January, to all new members signing up by direct debit only. [Click here](#) to find out more!

Moths Count Contacts

General enquiries info@butterfly-conservation.org 01929 400209

Richard Fox Surveys Manager rfox@butterfly-conservation.org 01626 368385

Les Hill Data Manager lhill@butterfly-conservation.org 01929 406008

Zoë Randle Surveys Officer zrandle@butterfly-conservation.org 01929 406006

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www.mothscount.org