

E-moth

Moths Count Update October 2012

Well, what a wash out! Summer 2012 didn't really arrive and generally neither did the moths in our traps. Many people have reported that both numbers of individuals and species were down on previous years. There have however been some exciting new discoveries particularly in the micro-moth world, for example, *Harpella forficella* in Leicestershire, *Tinea columbariella* in Gloucestershire and *Diplopseustis perieresalis* in Devon. In addition to this there were 19 new micro-moths recorded for Dumfries, Galloway and Wigtownshire (VC's 72, 73 & 74). The Cloaked Pug was also new to Wigtownshire this year.



Cloaked Pug (Mark Parsons)

National Moth Recorders' Meeting

Our third National Moth Recorders' Meeting will be held on **Saturday 26th January 2013** at the Birmingham and Midland Institute, central Birmingham. We have a great line-up for the day which includes both amateur moth recorders and academic researchers. We are hoping to have some trade stalls in attendance, so bring your purses and wallets to stock up on moth-ing equipment and books. The programme for the day can be found at the end of this newsletter, it will also be available on the Moths Count website (www.mothscount.org) in due course. This year 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. It has been necessary to impose a charge this year as we no longer have Heritage Lottery Funding to cover holding such an event. **Advanced booking is essential, to book your place please contact info@butterfly-conservation.org or telephone 01929 400209. We hope to see you there.**

NMRS update including map of historical records

The National Moth Recording Scheme (NMRS) database is continuing to grow and now holds the grand total of 14.9 million moth records. Almost 50 vice-county datasets have been refreshed with us since April this year; these have been forwarded to the National Biodiversity Network (NBN) Gateway and the updated distribution maps will be available to view on Moths Count website (www.mothscount.org) in due course. The Moths Count team wish to thank the County Moth Recorders, record collators and local record centres who have contributed to the latest data refresh. We urge those County Recorders who have not submitted any recent data to the NMRS to please do so. You can forward your data to the NMRS at anytime of the year. To have your data refreshed on the NBN Gateway at the earliest opportunity, please submit your data by **31st March** annually. However, if you miss the annual NBN Gateway deadline, please continue to forward data. Your most recent dataset is very important to us and will be imported into the NMRS at the earliest opportunity. Sending a copy of your county dataset to the NMRS not only helps to inform moth conservation, but is also very positive feedback for moth recorders who can see their records included in distribution maps and being used for conservation.

Figure 1 shows the number of historical (pre 2000) records in the NMRS database at 10km resolution. In total there are 1,536 10km squares for which we hold fewer than 500 moth records. There are obvious gaps in

historical coverage; this could be due to under-recording or over-worked County Moth Recorders with a backlog of paper records which need to be computerised. Figure 2 shows the number of recent (2000 onwards) records in the NMRS database at 10km resolution. In total there are 1,506 10km squares for which we hold fewer than 500 moth records. This map reflects the increase in moth recording activity and geographical coverage; most of the 'white holes' shown in figure 1 are filled. Additionally, prior to 2000 only eight squares exceeded 50,000 records compared to 18 squares from 2000 onwards. However, we are still some way off being in a position to produce a full atlas of macro-moths, which is a major goal for the NMRS. So please continue to support the NMRS by carrying on moth recording and sending in your records to your County Moth Recorder, and, if you'd like to see some different moths, why not plan a holiday around the under-recorded areas!

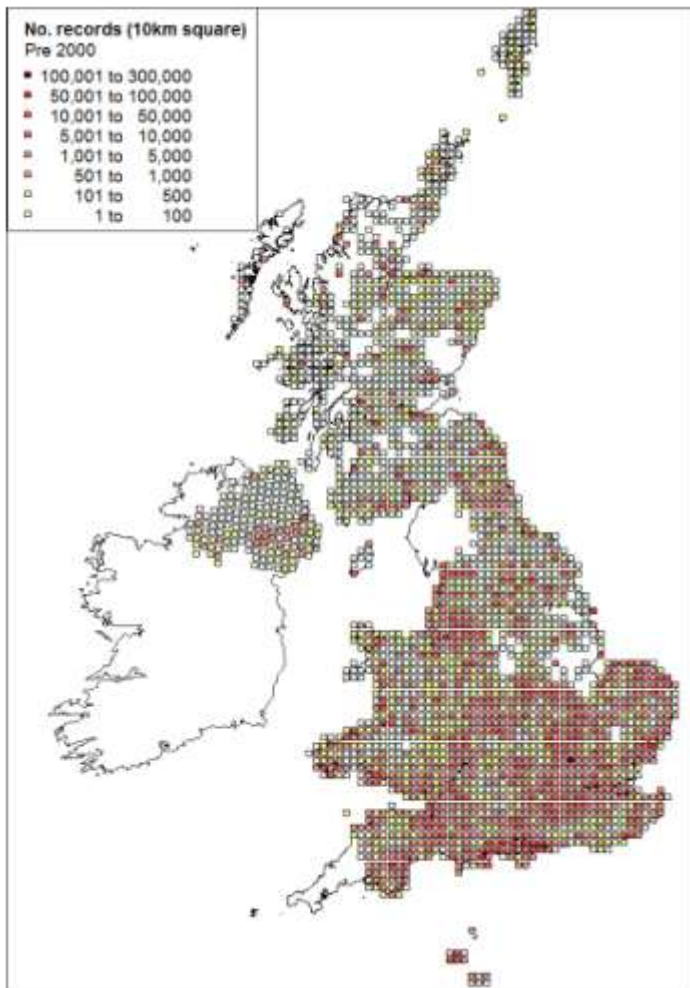


Figure 1: Density of historical (pre 2000) records in the NMRS database at 10km resolution

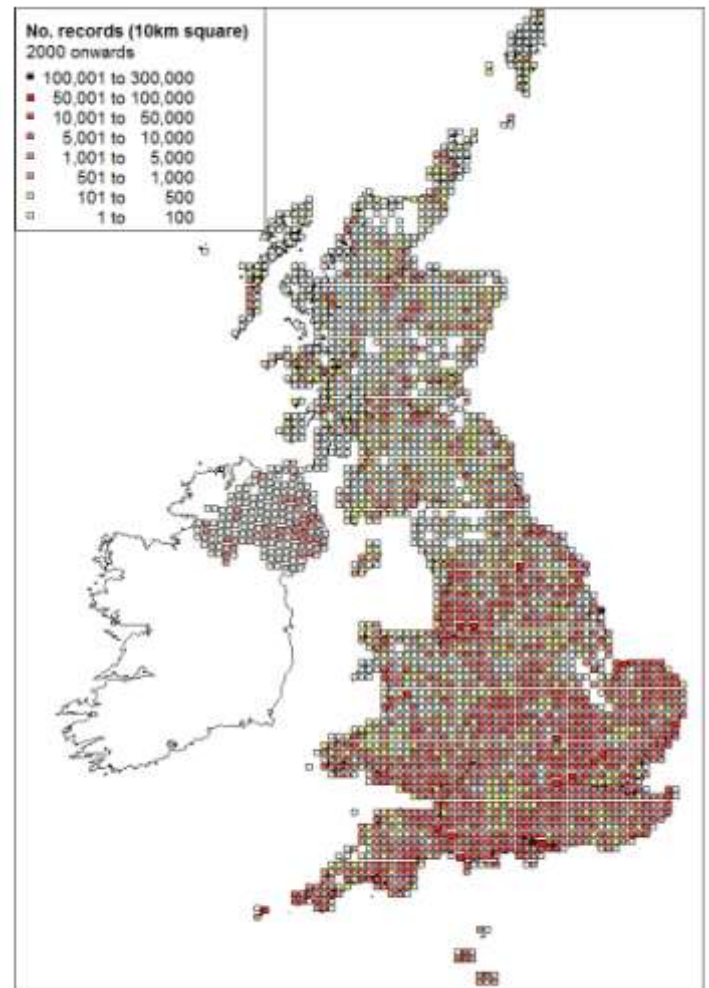


Figure 2: Density of recent (2000 onwards) records in the NMRS database at 10km resolution

Moth Night 2012

The deadline for submission of your Moth Night 2012 data is approaching (**30th November 2012**). If you have any moth records for the days or nights of Thursday 21st June – Saturday 23rd June, please submit them. Early indications are that the weather had a negative impact on planned activities. Several counties had to cancel events due to heavy rain and high winds. Online data submission to-date totals 343 surveys which recorded approximately 10,000 moths of 519 species. To enter your results for Moth Night 2012 online please visit www.mothnight.info.

Moth Night 2013 will take place during Thursday 8th – Saturday 10th August and will again include a daytime element. The theme for 2013 will be 'Tiger Moths'; in particular, Moth Night want to encourage recorders to target the mixed fortunes of the declining Garden Tiger and the Jersey Tiger, which is expanding its range

rapidly in the West Country and Home Counties. We're also keen to raise public awareness of the Clouded Buff, which can be recorded by day on moors and heaths, so as to improve recording coverage of this species.

Moth Night is an ideal opportunity for individuals and local groups to promote moth recording to the general public by organising an event, which can be publicised on the Moth Night website. Remember, you don't have to follow the Moth Night 2013 theme or organise public events; anyone can take part in the annual celebration of moths simply by recording moths and submitting sightings.

Smaller Moths of Surrey

The *Smaller Moths of Surrey* by Bob Palmer, Jim Porter and Graham Collins has been published. This book provides status and distribution information for the micro-moths of Surrey. There are also sections on trapping methods and recording the early stages through their cases and mines.



The cover price is £28 plus postage & packaging. Copies can be ordered direct from the Surrey Wildlife Trust via www.surreywildlifegifts.org.uk/collections/atlas-series and other specialist book sellers.

Big Butterfly Count 2012

As with previous years' two moth species were included in this years' Big Butterfly Count (www.bigbutterflycount.org). The Six-spot Burnets' numbers were up 55% on last years' making it number 6 in the chart. Sightings of the Silver Y were also up this year. The inclusion of moths in the Big Butterfly Count is a great way of introducing people to these amazing insects and helps to breakdown public misconceptions of moths.

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

Acknowledgements: The ongoing Moths Count project is supported financially by The Redwing Trust, Natural England, Countryside Council for Wales, Northern Ireland Environment Agency, Royal Entomological Society, Scottish Natural Heritage and many other individuals and partners.

NATIONAL MOTH RECORDERS' MEETING 2013

Lyttelton Lecture Theatre, Birmingham and Midland Institute, Birmingham
Saturday 26th January 2013

- 10.00 am Arrival and coffee
- 10.30 am Welcome
David Dennis, Chairman of Butterfly Conservation
- 10.35 am National Moth Recording Scheme Update
Dr Zoë Randle, Butterfly Conservation
- 10.55am The State of Britain's Larger Moths II
Richard Fox, Butterfly Conservation
- 11.15 am Breeding Behaviour of the Ghost Moth and the Gold Swift
Nick Picozzi, Moth Recorder Aberdeenshire
- 11.45 am Macro-moth recording in Somerset – past, present and future
John Bebbington, County Macro-moth Recorder, Somerset
- 12:10 pm Discussion session
- 12.30 pm Lunch**
- 2.15 pm Pine Tree Lappet – Friend or foe?
Dr Tom Prescott, Butterfly Conservation Scotland
- 2.45 pm *Uphill shifts of alpine burnet moth species in the Pyrenees: climate or land-use change?*
Dr Petra Dieker, Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research - UFZ, Halle, Germany
- 3.10pm Birds and beyond: How the RSPB is contributing to moth conservation
Kelly Thomas, RSPB
- 3.30 pm Tea**
- 4.15 pm One moth, 8000 researchers: the story of Conker Tree Science
Dr Michael Pocock, Centre for Ecology and Hydrology
- 4.45 pm Discussion session & closing remarks
- 5.00 pm Close of meeting