

E-moth

Moths Count Update January 2013

Happy New Year! For many reasons, including the damp squib of a summer we had, I personally am glad to see the back of 2012. Let's hope that 2013 will be a bumper year for moths, with a summer of sunshine, goodness knows both are long overdue! Already this year there have been some unusually early sightings of some species including Spruce Carpet, Common Quaker, Hebrew Character, Yellow-line Quaker, Clouded Drab and at least one Cypress Carpet. There have also been late sightings of Black Rustic and Brick, our moths are clearly confused! A scattering of immigrant records have also been reported including Silver Y, Rusty-dot Pearl, Rush Veneer, Small Mottled Willow and at least one *Euchromius ocella*. In addition to this, the formerly rare but seemingly increasing *Acleris umbrana* has already been noted from Dorset, Hampshire, Sussex and Somerset in early January.

National Moth Recorders' Meeting

Don't forget the third National Moth Recorders' Meeting is happening just a few weeks from now on **26th January 2013** at the Birmingham and Midlands Institute, central Birmingham. The finalised programme was included in the October 2012 E-moth, if you missed it you can find it on the Moths Count website (www.mothscount.org). There is a £5 (per person) registration fee for attendees which is 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 as we no longer have Heritage Lottery Funding to cover holding such an event. **Some places are still available, advanced booking is essential**, to book please contact info@butterfly-conservation.org or telephone 01929 400209. We look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

The State of Britain's Larger Moths 2013

The State of Britain's Larger Moths 2013 will be launched on 1st February 2013. The new report has been produced in collaboration with Rothamsted Research, with funding from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation. It presents an up-to-date overview of the state of our larger moth fauna based on the long running Rothamsted Insect Survey light-trap network and the National Moth Recording Scheme.

New 40-year national population trends for hundreds of moth species, as well as information on extinctions and new colonisations are included in the report. Progress with the conservation of highly threatened moth species and the impact of climate change is also covered.

The report will be available to download from the Moths Count website (www.mothscount.org) in due course.



National Moth Recording Scheme

The National Moth Recording Scheme (NMRS) database now holds over 15 million moth records. This milestone was reached late in 2012, the 15 millionth record was an Early Thorn taken at 125W MV in Beech Grove, Whitley Bay, South Northumberland on 16th March 2012 by T.C.Sexton. We are exceptionally grateful to everyone who contributes to the NMRS and has helped the scheme become so successful. The work of the County Moth Recorders (CMR's) who provide their skills, expertise and time to promote moths, collate, verify and validate moth records thereby ensuring that the NMRS data is accurate and of a high standard cannot go unmentioned, thank you to all.

There have been several changes to the County Moth Recorder list in recent months, the newly appointed County Moth Recorders are as follows; Robert Homan, East Gloucestershire (VC 33); Michael Bradley, West Gloucestershire (VC 34) west of the Severn; Neale Jordan-Mellersh, West Gloucestershire (VC 34) east of the Severn; Robert Woods, North East Yorkshire (VC 62); Brian Stewart, Kincardineshire (VC 91) and Helen Rowe, South Aberdeenshire (VC 92). The NMRS team welcome these new additions to the network of CMR's and look forward to working with them. Thanks also 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 (www.mothscount.org/text/57/county_moth_recorders.html).

Les Hill is poised for the next rush of refreshed County datasets to the NMRS prior to the **31st March** deadline. Please submit your moth records to your County Moth Recorder if you wish them to be included in the next refresh.

There are still plenty of challenges within UK moth recording including targeting 'white holes' improving the historical baseline within the NMRS and ultimately a full atlas of the UK's Larger Moths. You can help by looking at the online maps (www.mothscount.org/maps/94/moth_distribution_maps.html) and planning a moth-ing trip or holiday to the under-recorded areas over the coming season – the weather may be exceptionally good for it!

Moth Recorders Recognition

The work of three moth recorders was acknowledged at Butterfly Conservation's AGM in November 2012. Dr Phil Sterling, lead author of the acclaimed new micro-moth guide - *The Field Guide to the Micro-moths of Great Britain and Ireland*, received a Lifetime Achievement in Lepidoptera Conservation Award. Phil is Dorset County Council's Natural Environment Manager and Ecologist and as a result he has had a great deal of influence on habitat conservation within Dorset as part of planning decisions.

Stephen Palmer, County Micro-moth Recorder for Lancashire received an Outstanding Volunteer Award. Steve has been integral to the promotion of moths and moth recording in Lancashire. He coordinates the monitoring and conservation efforts for the Belted Beauty at Sunderland Point. More recently he has established the National Gelechiid Recording Scheme (www.gelechiid.co.uk).

Guy Meredith from Gloucestershire also received an Outstanding Volunteer Award. Guy has produced online moth distribution maps for the county www.gloucestershire-butterflies.org.uk/Guys_maps/mothmap.html. He's also incredibly knowledgeable about



Dr Phil Sterling receiving his Lifetime Achievement award from Mr Oliver Bogue of the Marsh Christian Trust (Jim Asher)

Gloucestershire's micro-moths and is collecting invaluable data on the day flying moths at Butterfly Conservations new Rough Bank reserve.

Membership Offer

Butterfly Conservation would like to offer you a year's membership for Half Price. Single Membership is now only £14. The offer is available on our website throughout January, to all new members signing up by direct debit only. Visit <https://butterfly-conservation.org/join/type?promoCode=JANSALE13>

You'll receive all the usual fantastic benefits of membership including:

- *Butterfly* magazine three times a year, packed with fascinating features, news and stunning photos
- Welcome pack including collectible postcards and car sticker
- Regular e-newsletter with the latest news, info and offers
- Membership of your local branch, with regional newsletters
- Invitations to local guided walks, talks, conservation action days and social events

Moths Count Contacts

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