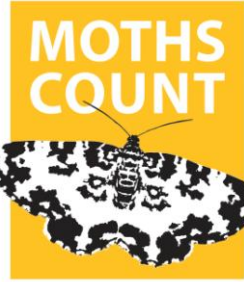


**Butterfly
Conservation**

Saving butterflies, moths and our environment



E-moth

Moths Count Update April 2014

Spring has arrived and with it some moth species that are slightly early in their appearance. In southern England there were reports in mid-March of Double-striped Pug, Water Carpet, Early Tooth-striped, Horse Chestnut, Common Heath, Brindled Beauty and Pale Mottled Willow. Since the beginning of the year 747 individuals of 62 species of moth have been recorded in the moth trap at Butterfly Conservation's Head Office in Dorset. Common Quaker, Small Quaker and Hebrew Character have been the most abundant moths with 91, 61 and 58 individuals recorded respectively. The weather is warming up and very soon the moth recording season will be in full swing.

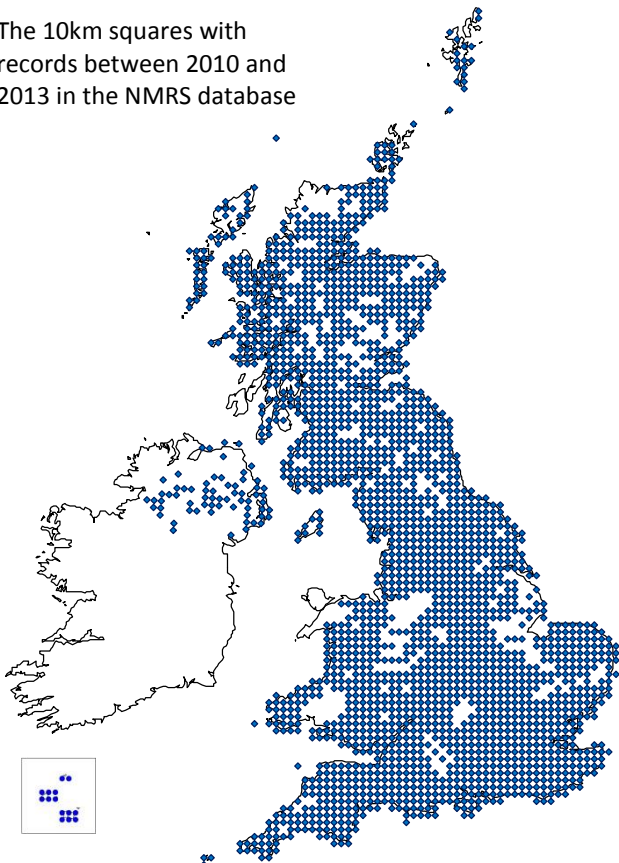


Brindled Beauty (Les Hill)

National Moth Recording Scheme Update

The NMRS database now holds 16.2 million moth records, one million more than this time last year. Many thanks to the moth recording community, County Moth Recorder network and all the other data collators and contributors for your continued support of the NMRS. To-date 15,486 records for 2013 from 28 vice-counties have been imported into the NMRS database; a further 74 vice-county datasets have been received since January; these will be imported in to the NMRS in due course.

The 10km squares with records between 2010 and 2013 in the NMRS database



It seems that the wet summer of 2012 did have an impact on moth numbers and moth recording activities. We received a total of 615,020 records for 2012, one-third fewer than the previous year. The biggest contributors were Dorset, South East Yorkshire and South Lancashire, these VC's submitted 6%, 5% and 5% of records respectively. The average number of records per VC for 2012 was 4,920 again 33% lower per VC compared to 2011.

Coverage has improved significantly since this time last year, thanks to the arrival of major new datasets from Kent, Northamptonshire, Cheshire, Cumberland & Westmoreland, the Isle of Rum and West Inverness-shire. The map to the right shows the 10km squares with moth records between 2010 and 2013 in the NMRS database. The density of records per 10km square has also improved over the past year; from 2000 onwards

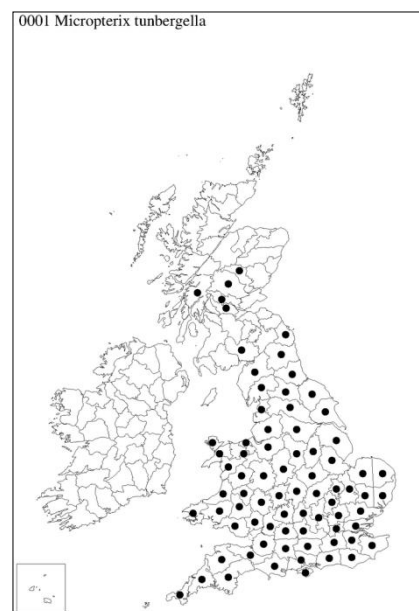
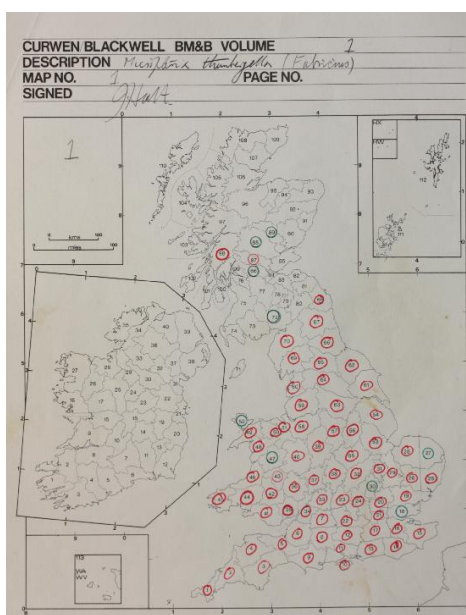
less than one-third of 10km squares have fewer than 100 records and only 4.7% (144 squares) are 'white-holes' (no records at all). This could be due to under-recording or it could be because the County Moth Recorders have not submitted the records to us as yet. However, the overall picture is good, when looking at all records in the NMRS from c.1700 to present day, only 3% of 10km squares are 'white holes'.

The improved coverage of moth records generally is great news for our planned Macro-moth Atlas for Britain and Ireland which we will be publishing late in 2018. The atlas will include moth records in the NMRS and MothsIreland databases up-to the end of 2016. The moth recording community still has three further field seasons in which to target under-recorded areas. The enthusiasm and planned activities of many moth groups who are rising to the challenge of targeting 'white'-holes' and under-recorded areas is very encouraging.

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, the up to date list can be found here www.mothscount.org/text/57/county_moth_recorders.html. 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.

National Micro-moth Distribution Maps

We are delighted to announce that the hand-annotated micro-moth maps and record cards, originally compiled by A Maitland Emmet and more recently by Dr John Langmaid and Dr Mark Young have been scanned and are now available on the Moths Count website (<http://bit.ly/1okZNWM>). In addition, the maps for 756 of these species have been digitised to vice-county level and are also available online. This exciting development was made possible by a grant from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs just before Christmas. We will



explore funding opportunities for the digitisation of the remaining micro-moth maps and for development of a full national micro-moth recording scheme. We are very grateful to John Langmaid and Mark Young for making the original paper maps available and to Dave Green for taking on the digitisation.

Mothy Mutterings

Mothy Mutterings is a new monthly update dedicated to Butterfly Conservation's work on moths and to more general moth-related information from around the UK. It is available from the Moths Count website. We have published four issues to date; to view the current edition please visit <http://bit.ly/1fxs0pH> to view previous editions use this link <http://bit.ly/1pcQTex>.

5th 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 31st January 2015**. Further details will be revealed in due course.

4th National Moth Recorders' Meeting 2014

The 4th National Moth Recorders' Meeting was held earlier this year at the Birmingham and Midland Institute. As with previous years almost 200 people attended and had the opportunity to network, catch up with friends and listen to a variety of talks. Presentations included an update on the NMRS, the status of moths in the Netherlands, the impact of light pollution on moths, the benefits of hedgerows for moths in intensive farmland, the new British checklist of Lepidoptera, moth recording activities in Northern Ireland, new discoveries in Gloucestershire and the management and control of the Oak Processionary Moth. Many thanks to all of the speakers and moth recorders who attended and contributed to another great meeting.



Moth Night 2013

Last year's Moth Night focussed on the Tiger moths, the event was extremely successful. Over 2000 recorders took part, counting in excess of 142,000, moths of 1,041 species generating almost 35,000 records during the three day event. This was an amazing improvement over previous recent Moth Nights. Many thanks to everyone who submitted their Moth Night 2013 sightings through the website. A full report will be published in the next edition of Atropos.

Moth Night 2014

The theme of Moth Night this year is woodlands, and the event runs over three nights from the 3rd to the 5th July 2014. This provides a great opportunity to target a variety of species including Welsh Clearwing moth, Heart Moth, Great Oak Beauty, Rannoch Looper, *Anania funebris*, Triangle and Small Black Arches. Of course you are not limited to trapping in woodlands; you can set your own targets or just trap somewhere new. The most important thing is to have fun and use the event to promote the joy of moths and moth recording. Whatever you do for Moth Night this year, please submit all your sightings via the Moth Night website (www.mothnight.info). Please feel free to promote your Moth Night events on the website by submitting the details [here](#).

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www.mothscount.org