

## E-moth

### Moths Count Update January 2012

Happy New Year! I hope that you all had a good Christmas and that your stockings were full of moth-ing goodies for you to utilise in the coming season. Most self-respecting moths (and moth recorders) will now be in hibernation and will not be lured out into the cold nights by bright lights. This is traditionally the time of year when we are collating our moth records and sending them to our County Moth Recorders for incorporation into local datasets, hopefully this process is well underway.



#### National Moth Recorders' Meeting

Don't forget the second National Moth Recorders' Meeting is happening just a few weeks from now on **January 28<sup>th</sup> 2012** at the Birmingham and Midlands Institute, central Birmingham. The finalised programme for the day can be found at the end of this newsletter. It looks to be an interesting and exciting day with some fantastic speakers lined up. Unlike previous years 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 this year 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](mailto:info@butterfly-conservation.org) or telephone 01929 400209. We look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

#### National Moth Recording Scheme

The National Moth Recording Scheme (NMRS) database now holds an amazing 12.5 million moth records. Huge thanks go to everyone who has supplied their records to the scheme and in particular to the County Moth Recorders who provide their time and expertise in assuring the quality of the records that reach the NMRS. During the autumn and early winter months we received refreshed datasets from over 30 vice-counties. We wish to thank the following County Moth Recorders, Record Collators and associated Local Record Centres for their efforts in providing these datasets;

Ted Rolston, Fermanagh, Tyrone, Armagh, Down, Antrim & Londonderry (H33, H36, H37, H38, H39 & H40); Marc S Taylor, North Wiltshire & South Wiltshire (VC 8 & 9); Les Hill, Dorset (VC 9); Sam Knill-Jones & Tim Norriss, Isle of Wight (VC10); Tim Norriss, South Hampshire & North Hampshire (VC 11 & 12); Jim Wheeler, East Norfolk & West Norfolk (VC 27 & 28); Peter Harvey, South & North Essex (VC 18 & 19); Colin Plant, Hertfordshire & Middlesex (VC 20 & 21); Martin Harvey, Berkshire (VC 22); Martin Albertini, Buckinghamshire (VC 24); Andy & Melissa Banthorpe, Bedfordshire (VC30); Barry Dickerson, Huntingdonshire (VC 31); Phyl King & Michael Harper, Herefordshire (VC 36); Tony Jacques, Shropshire (VC 40); Dave Slade, Glamorgan (VC 41); Andrew Graham, Merionethshire (VC 48); Justin Williams, Denbighshire & Flintshire (VC 50 & 51); Dave Budworth, Derbyshire (VC 57); Graham Jones, South Lancashire & West Lancashire (VC 59 & 60); Tony Ezard, South-east Yorkshire (VC 61); David Chesmore, North-east Yorkshire (VC 62); Mike Couling, South-west Yorkshire (VC 63); Charlie Fletcher Mid-west Yorkshire & North-west Yorkshire (VC 64 & VC 65); Keith Naylor, Dumfriesshire, Kirkcudbrightshire & Wigtownshire (VC

72, 73 & 74); Richard Weddle, Lanarkshire (VC 77); Malcolm Lindsay, Selkirkshire (VC 79); Barry Prater, Berwickshire (VC 81); Mark Cubitt, West Lothian (VC 84); David Lampard, Angus (VC 90); Mark Young, Kincardineshire, South Aberdeenshire & North Aberdeenshire (VC 91, VC 92 & VC 93); Roy Leverton, Banffshire (VC 94); Mike Taylor, Moray (Elgin) (VC 95); Andrew Masterman, Argyll Main (VC 98); Neil Gregory, Kate Sampson & Glyn Collis, Clyde Isles (VC100) and Paul Harvey, Shetland (VC 112).

Les Hill has been busy uploading these datasets into the NMRS database and will be refreshing the NMRS dataset on the NBN Gateway imminently. Keep your eyes peeled for the refreshed distribution maps which will appear in due course. However, due to the size of the NMRS dataset it can take several weeks for the refreshed data to appear on the NBN Gateway and on the Moths Count website ([www.mothscount.org](http://www.mothscount.org)).

The NMRS data are being extensively viewed and used via the NBN Gateway. Since March 2011 the dataset has been accessed in excess of 127,000 times. This usage includes the production of 10km species maps, species lists per 10km square and all of the other 'interactive' facilities available.

From the start of the NMRS we have been asking County Moth Recorders to refresh their datasets with us by December each year. However, it has become clear that a **31<sup>st</sup> March** deadline would be more sensible and practical for the moth recording community. We therefore propose that from now on County Moth Recorders submit their datasets to us by the end of March in order for a refresh of the NMRS to the NBN Gateway during the late spring. There will be another opportunity for County Moth Recorders to refresh datasets with us in the autumn if they missed the end of March deadline.

As stated previously there is still plenty of work to be done in UK moth recording. A key challenge is the targeting of 'white holes' along with improving the historical baseline of the NMRS. We hope that moth recorders will be planning field visits and moth-ing holidays to these under-recorded areas over the coming season.

### **Moth Recorder's Recognition**

Mark Cubitt (County Moth Recorder, West Lothian) was awarded the Outstanding Volunteer award at the Butterfly Conservation AGM last November. Mark has been an enthusiastic advocate for moths in Scotland. He has produced and maintains current distribution maps and flight-times for all of the Scottish macro-moths. Maps are also available for the micro-moths found in Scotland. These are a valuable resource for both resident and visiting moth recorders in Scotland. They can be viewed by following this link [www.eastscotland-butterflies.org.uk/mothflighttimes.html](http://www.eastscotland-butterflies.org.uk/mothflighttimes.html).

### **Moth Night 2012**

This year Moth Night 2012 will be taking place on **21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> June 2012**. The theme is the moths of brownfield habitats (such as old quarries, disused railway lines, reclaimed coal tips, gravel and clay workings etc.) and includes both daytime searches and the usual night-time recording. Further announcements will follow in due course on the Moth Night website ([www.nationalmothnight.info](http://www.nationalmothnight.info)).

### **Moths Count Contacts**

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## NATIONAL MOTH RECORDERS' MEETING 2012

Lyttelton Lecture Theatre, Birmingham and Midland Institute, Birmingham  
Saturday 28 January 2012

- 10.00 am Arrival and coffee
- 10.30 am Welcome  
*Dr. Martin Warren, Chief Executive of Butterfly Conservation*
- 10.45 am National Moth Recording Scheme Update  
*Richard Fox, Butterfly Conservation*
- 11.10 am Uncertain and Confused – automated validation of moth records  
*Les Hill, Butterfly Conservation*
- 11.30 am A Snapshot of Ireland - recording in the Republic of Ireland  
*Don Hodgers, Republic of Ireland Moth Recorder*
- 11.50 am What makes Sussex Moth Group tick?  
*Graeme Lyons, Chairman Sussex Moth Group*
- 12:10 pm Discussion session
- 12.30 pm Lunch**
- 2.00 pm Insect High Flyers: studying long-distance migration of moths  
*Professor Jane Hill, York University*
- 2.30 pm Warriors of the Deep and other Welsh Wonders  
*Dave Slade, County Moth Recorder, Glamorgan*
- 2.50 pm A 'big' book of little moths  
*Dr. Phil Sterling, County Micro-moth Recorder, Dorset*
- 3.10 pm What difference does a decade make?  
*Mark Parsons, Butterfly Conservation*
- 3.40 pm Tea
- 4.10 pm Sky Wars: Moths v Bats  
*Professor Gareth Jones, University of Bristol*
- 4.45 pm Discussion session & closing remarks
- 5.00 pm Close of meeting