

**Butterfly  
Conservation**

Saving butterflies, moths and our environment



## E-moth

### Moths Count Update October 2015

We have found moth recording to be somewhat of a 'mixed bag' in Dorset this year; moth numbers and diversity were poor in the spring; the summer was quite good with good numbers of moths and species recorded throughout June and July. The weather in August was terrible and the trap was seldom put out.

Throughout the year we have had good numbers and diversity of immigrant moths turning up in the trap, including Bordered Straw, Four-spotted Footman, Rush Veneer and Dark Sword-grass. We are currently finding that autumnal moths are low in number and slightly later than usual. One of the most stunning moths that we have trapped recently at Manor Yard was Merveille du Jour.



Merveille du Jour (Les Hill)

#### 6<sup>th</sup> National Moth Recorders' Meeting

Our sixth National Moth Recorders' Meeting will be held on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2016 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. [Atropos](#), [Creature Candy](#), [Hachiware Art](#), [Pemberley Books](#) and [Watkins & Doncaster](#) will be in attendance, so bring your purses and wallets to stock up on natural history books, moth-ing equipment and other moth-related things. 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. The programme for the day is included at the end of this newsletter. As usual, there is a £7.50 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. **Advance booking is essential**, to book your place please contact [info@butterfly-conservation.org](mailto:info@butterfly-conservation.org) or telephone 01929 400209. We hope to see you there.

#### National Moth Recording Scheme Update

The National Moth Recording Scheme (NMRS) database is now just short of 20 million moth records. Twenty-two vice-county (VC) datasets have been refreshed since April 2015, comprising almost 600,000 records. In the Moths Count annual newsletter we stated that data-sets from Fife and Suffolk were imminent, these data refreshed have been received and are awaiting processing. A refreshed dataset from Arran was extremely welcomed as it had been three years since the previous submission. A recent arrival of the refreshed Kintyre dataset was also appreciated as the last submission to the NMRS for this area was January 2013.

There have been several changes to the County Moth Recorder list since April 2015 these include the following Mike Wall, VC's 11 & 12 (South and North Hampshire); Ian Hunter VC 15 (East Kent); Glyn Collis VC 100 (Clyde Isles – Arran); Andrew Masterman, VC 101 (Kintyre) and David Wood, VC 102

(South Ebudes). Contact details can be found on the [County Moth Recorder list](#) on the Moths Count website. Many thanks to the people listed above for taking on these roles, we look forward to working with you. Thanks also go to their predecessors for their support of the NMRS.

It only seems like yesterday that we announced our plans for the production of an *Atlas of Britain and Irelands Larger Moths*. Time is flying by and we are hoping all vice-counties will be in a position to submit comprehensive datasets for inclusion in the atlas in a timely manner. As stated previously we will be including records up to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016, leaving only the forthcoming season for the targeting of under-recorded areas and filling of white-holes. We are keen to ensure that as many verified records as possible are included.

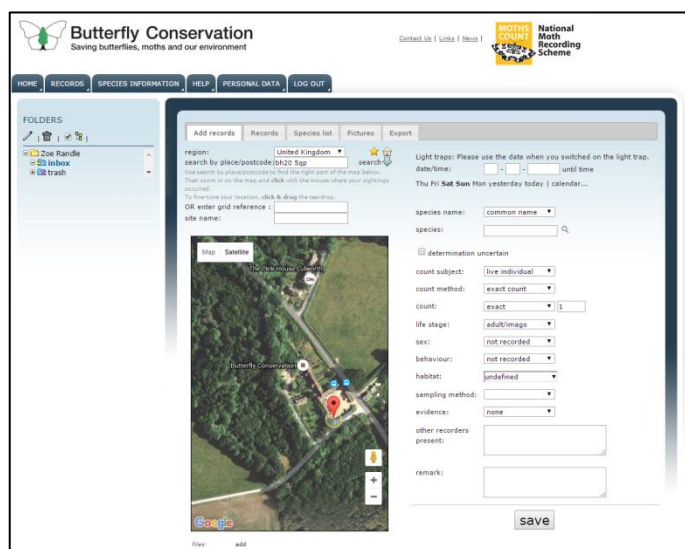
Please contact us if you envisage any problems meeting the deadline or if you think that your VC will not be represented comprehensively. Don't forget that your records will only enter the NMRS and ultimately the forthcoming Atlas if they come via the County Moth Recorder Network. If you use iRecord, Living Record or one of the many other available online systems please check with your County Moth Recorder that he/she accesses and verifies data in these systems. It's easy to assume that all records from all sources end up with the County Recorder and then on to the NMRS, but this is not always the case. The same goes for Local Record Centres (LRC's), some County Moth Recorders and LRC's have data exchange agreements in place, but there are several that do not. We do encourage LRC's and County Moth Recorders to exchange data; however, there are problems with this in some areas for various reasons. This is an issue that we will try to tackle in the lead up to the Atlas.

As mentioned in the Moths Count annual newsletter, after consultation with the County Moth Recorder network we took the decision to make all historical (pre-2000) NMRS data publically available on the [National Biodiversity Network \(NBN\) Gateway](#) at summary resolution. Apart from records of nine highly threatened species, almost six million macro-moth records for the period 1769-1999 are now available for view and download. Improved public access to data held in the NMRS is an ongoing process and further developments are likely in the future. Many of our recorders would like a more open approach than we have currently. However, opinions are variable and compromise is necessary to maintain the integrity and success of the scheme into the future.

## NMRS Online

The official National Moth Recording Scheme (NMRS) online recording system has been up and running for just over a year now. It has recently undergone maintenance to fix the bugs that were identified and reported.

This system is one of many available for moth recorders to use but as it is the 'official' NMRS system, data are downloaded from it and repatriated to the relevant County Moth Recorders at the end of each year. To-date the system has 269 registered users and holds 25,677 moth records. If you wish to use the NMRS online system to enter your moth records simply visit, [www.mothrecording.org](http://www.mothrecording.org) to register.



The screenshot shows the Butterfly Conservation website interface for the National Moth Recording Scheme (NMRS). The page is titled "Butterfly Conservation" and "National Moth Recording Scheme". It features a navigation menu with options like "HOME", "RECORDS", "SPECIES INFORMATION", "HELP", "PERSONAL DATA", and "LOG OUT". The main content area is a form for adding records, with fields for "region" (set to "United Kingdom"), "search by place/postcode/OS grid", "species name", "count subject", "count method", "count", "life stage", "sex", "behaviour", "habitat", "sampling method", "evidence", "other recorders present", and "remark". There is also a "save" button at the bottom right. A map is visible on the left side of the form, showing a location in the UK.

## Moth Night

Moth Night 2015, run by Atropos and Butterfly Conservation, took place from the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> September. Moth recorders and members of the public were encouraged to use wine-roping and sugaring techniques to attract moths as well as keep an eye out for *Convolvulus Hawk-moths* drinking nectar from tobacco plant (*Nicotiana*) flowers. Moths were also marked at UK migration hotspots in the days leading up to Moth Night in the hope that they would be recaptured and provide information about moth dispersal and migration.

Moth Night 2015 received excellent media coverage this year with it featured on national as well as local television, radio and newspapers. One of the aims of Moth Night is to raise the profile of moths; this year's media coverage certainly achieved this.

Sightings are still coming in from Moth Night 2015, but records of *Convolvulus* Hawk-moth are expected to be numerous as the moth was seen widely across the UK in the weeks leading up to Moth Night. It was regularly seen along the south and east coasts, as well as inland areas, and from as far north as



Northern Ireland and Shetland. Data have been coming in and so far we have 804 trapping events reported. Just over 11,000 records for 561 species have been received to-date, equating to approximately 48,136 individual moths counted. The deadline for data submission is **Sunday 29 November 2015**, if you have not already done so please submit your Moth Night records via the [website](#). We are now accepting MapMate SQZ 'sync' files via the MapMate Web Server or as an attachment via email; instructions and further details can be found [here](#). Full results of Moth Night 2015 will be published in Atropos in due course

### Moths Count Contacts

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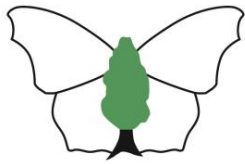
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[www.mothscount.org](http://www.mothscount.org)



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# NATIONAL MOTH RECORDERS' MEETING 2016

**Lyttelton Lecture Theatre, Birmingham and Midland Institute, Birmingham  
Saturday 30th January 2016**

- 10.00 am      Arrival and coffee
- 10.30 am      Welcome  
*Dr Martin Warren, Chief Executive of Butterfly Conservation*
- 10.35 am      National Moth Recording Scheme Update  
*Dr Zoë Randle, Butterfly Conservation*
- 10.55 am      Changing fortunes of moths in Yorkshire  
*Dr Charles Fletcher, Yorkshire County Macro-moth Recorder*
- 11.20 am      Conservation of Fisher's Estuarine Moth: helping the species to spread its wings  
*Dr Zoë Ringwood, Natural England*
- 11.45 am      The Bordered Grey Enigma - A Riddle Solved  
*Paul Brooks, Moth Recorder Angus*
- 12:10 pm      Discussion session
- 12.30 pm      **Lunch**
- 2.15 pm      Burnets, cyanide-bombs and colonisation  
*Dr Mika Zagrobelny, University of Copenhagen*
- 2.40 pm      The dark side of street lighting: impacts on moth abundance, activity and pollen transport  
*Callum Macgregor, Newcastle University / Centre for Ecology and Hydrology*
- 3.05 pm      Some like it hot: why species respond differently to climate change  
*Dr Georgina Palmer, University of York*
- 3.30 pm      **Tea**
- 4.20 pm      A focus on moths: thoughts from the youth nature network  
*Simon Phelps, Megan Shersby, Ben Porter and Laura Richardson, A Focus on Nature*
- 4.45 pm      Discussion session & closing remarks
- 5.00 pm      Close of meeting

