

# Butterfly Conservation

Saving butterflies, moths and their habitats



## E-moth

### Moths Count Update March 2010

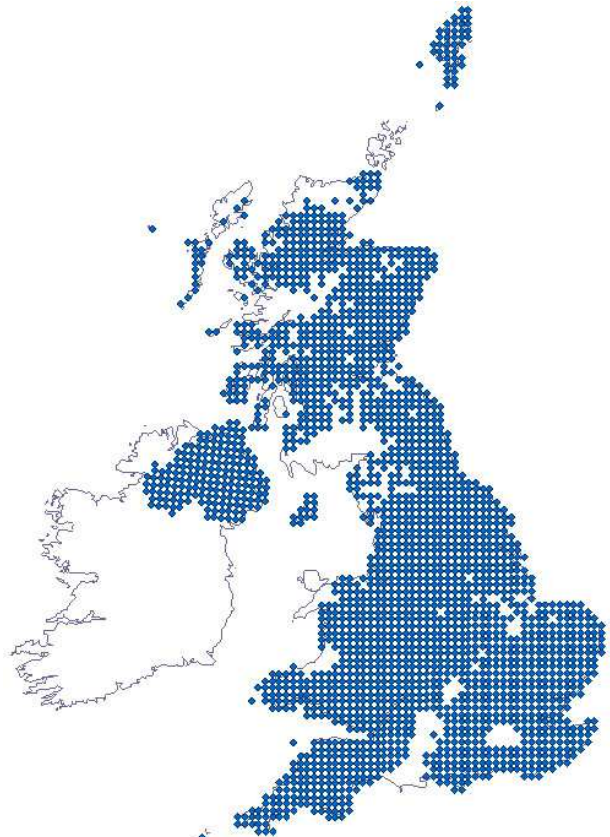
After the coldest winter for over 30 years, spring-time is slowly approaching. Moth traps will be dusted down and set up for the coming season, if they're not out already. The Moths Count project is entering its final stages of its currently funded phase. Although the Moths Count project in its current form is due to end at this year, Butterfly Conservation will keep the National Moth Recording Scheme (NMRS) running in the long term.

Susan Anders' work as the project Outreach Officer has come to an end, however, she is still working part-time for Moths Count. Enormous thanks go to Susan who has been instrumental in promoting moths to the wider public. Susan has done a wonderful job in designing and producing the series of moth leaflets and arranging in excess of 90 public moth events which have introduced over 2000 people to the amazing world of moths. Garden Moths Count was also an integral part of Susan's work; this highly successful online survey attracted thousands of participants.

During 2010 we will be running several free moth training events. For further details please see the events list at the end of this newsletter. So much has been achieved during the course of the project but there is still a great deal more to do!

#### National Moth Recording Scheme

Thanks to the efforts of County Moth Recorders and the moth recording community as a whole, 8.1 million moth records from 105 vice-county datasets are now held in the National Moth Recording Scheme (NMRS) database. The current coverage of all records is shown (*right*). Missing and updated datasets are expected in the next month or so; County Recorders are busy verifying and collating data as I write. Provisional distribution maps are publically available for all macro-moths on the Moths Count website ([www.mothscount.org](http://www.mothscount.org)). These up-to-date maps provide valuable feedback to moth recorders and enable people to see their own records in a national context. Some 7.6 million moth records



from the NMRS have also been uploaded so far on to the National Biodiversity Network Gateway. The NBN Gateway is refreshed periodically hence the number of records here always lags behind what in the NMRS master database.

A major output of the Moths Count project will be a Provisional Atlas for macro-moths during summer 2010. This will be available online but some hardcopies will also be available. The Provisional Atlas will not be a glossy book with colour photos and species accounts, that's for the future. It will simply present new distribution maps for all species; the first for several decades. In order to enable timely publication, we have asked County Recorders to submit as much data as possible to us by **30 April 2010**. If you want your records to be included please get them to your County Moth Recorder as soon as possible. The NMRS will continue of course so there will be opportunities to submit further records to the scheme in the future.

### **Volunteer Hours**

The Moths Count team would like to say a huge thank you to County Moth Recorders, record collators and volunteer workshop leaders who've contributed and submitted volunteer hours claim forms. I am pleased to announce that we have amassed a fantastic £300,000 of volunteered contribution. This time is a valuable in-kind contribution against our Heritage Lottery Fund grant. We've almost reached our target, but please do keep logging your time and forwarding your timesheets.

### **National Moth Night 2010**

National Moth Night (NMN) is in its twelfth year and has become a fixture on the wildlife calendar. National Moth Night 2010 will be held on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> May with the theme of *Moths and Bats*. This event will be organised jointly by Atropos, Butterfly Conservation (through the Moths Count team) and the Bat Conservation Trust. Joint moth and bat events will run across the UK, highlighting the links between these two groups of under-appreciated creatures of the night, both of which are showing worrying long-term declines. National Moth Night is a great opportunity to get out and do some recording or to organise an event for family, friends or the public to spread the word and raise awareness. All details are available at [www.nationalmothnight.info](http://www.nationalmothnight.info) including links to find bat experts who may be able to help at events. If you are organising an event, please submit the details via the NMN website so that it can be added to the online map.

### **Annual Microlepidoptera Review**

John Langmaid and Mark Young compile the annual Microlepidoptera Review for the Entomologists' Record and Journal of Variation. For the review, John requires verified details of noteworthy records of microlepidoptera; specifically those new to the British Isles, new vice-county records and first records for over 100 years.

As with any collated dataset, format of the data for ease of use is paramount, Microsoft Word files are most satisfactory and preferred. Please include the following details: Bradley number; species taxa name; site name; OS grid reference; vice-county number; date; a comment and recorder's name. Please forward your completed document to John at [john.langmaid@btinternet.com](mailto:john.langmaid@btinternet.com).

### **New Email Discussion Group for County Moth Recorders**

In the past, communication between County Moth Recorders has been rather limited and I suspect largely between neighbouring counties. As the county recorder role is largely similar for each county it seemed a good idea to set up an email discussion group so that experiences and help could be shared. The group may be of particular interest for new or recent county moth recorders who will be able to seek support from those who have more experience of the role. If any county moth recorder would like to join then they can request membership at <http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/countymothrecorders/>. Apologies to other recorders who may be interested but membership of this group is restricted to county moth recorders. **Tony Prichard (Suffolk County Moth Recorder)**

### **Aage V. Jensen Charity Foundation - Fieldworker Appeal**

Do you fancy a moth-ing holiday in a stunning Scottish landscape? The Aage V. Jensen Charity Foundation owns three estates in Scotland (Comer, Invertrossachs and Claonaig) totalling some 7,655 hectares, all in beautiful countryside. They are keen to offer access to fieldworkers to carry out survey and monitoring of flora and fauna and they have a particular interest in insect records. The Aage V. Jensen Foundation, which owns 14 nature reserves in Denmark, and has a 20 year history of collaboration with enthusiastic amateurs, research students and academics in various fields of natural history is eager to establish links with amateur and professional ecologists in Scotland by offering access to properties for studies, in return for copies of the research results.

The habitats on the estates include native broadleaved woodland, mixed coniferous woodland, blanket bog, heathland, burns and freshwater lochs, improved/unimproved grassland and coastal margins. The Foundation is primarily focused on conservation on these estates, and they are in the process of developing nature plans and proposals. For further details or to get involved please contact Andrew Dixon on 07979 804499 or [andrewchdixon@aol.com](mailto:andrewchdixon@aol.com).

### **Diary Dates**

**13 March 2010** North Wales Moth Recorders' Meeting, Pensychnant Conservation Centre, Conwy. (1pm – 4pm) The Moths Count project will provide free tea and coffee to all attendees. Places are free but will be limited so please book with Laura Wiffen [nrms@butterfly-conservation.org](mailto:nrms@butterfly-conservation.org) or 01929 406009

**24 April 2010 Butterfly Conservation Scotland Recorders' Gathering**, Battleby Conference Centre, Redgorton, Perthshire. (10am - 5pm) The event is free of charge and will include a light lunch and teas/coffees. Booking by 16th April is essential for catering purposes. Please book with Shona Greig [scotland@butterfly-conservation.org](mailto:scotland@butterfly-conservation.org) or 01786 447753.

### **Moths Count Contacts**

**Richard Fox** Project Manager [rfox@butterfly-conservation.org](mailto:rfox@butterfly-conservation.org) 01626 368385

**Les Hill** Database Manager [lhill@butterfly-conservation.org](mailto:lhill@butterfly-conservation.org) 01929 406008

**Zoë Randle** Moth Recording Coordinator [zrandle@butterfly-conservation.org](mailto:zrandle@butterfly-conservation.org) 01929 406006

**Laura Wiffen** Project Assistant [lwiffen@butterfly-conservation.org](mailto:lwiffen@butterfly-conservation.org) 01929 406009

Laura Wiffen is the first point of contact for project enquiries.

## MOTH RECORDING TRAINING EVENTS 2010

The following training courses have been organised to cover a range of expertise. Many are suitable for beginners - if in doubt please check when booking. Warm clothing and a torch are needed for evening events. Events are free and all require advance booking. Unless otherwise stated, booking is via **01929 406009** or [nmrs@butterfly-conservation.org](mailto:nmrs@butterfly-conservation.org). There may be additional events listed on the website at [www.mothscount.org](http://www.mothscount.org)

### **ENGLAND**

#### South East England

**24 April 2010** *Introduction to moths* led by Martin Harvey. Lee Valley Regional Park, London. 19:00 onwards. Advance booking essential via Lee Valley Information Service 08456 770600.

**22 May 2010** *Introduction to the natural history and ecology of moths* led by Martin Harvey. Lee Valley Regional Park, London. 19:00 onwards. Advance booking essential via Lee Valley Information Service 08456 770600.

**19 June 2010** *Moth conservation* led by Martin Harvey. Lee Valley Regional Park, London. 19:00 onwards. Advance booking essential via Lee Valley Information Service 08456 770600.

**21 August 2010** *Moths of wetland habitats* led by Martin Harvey. Lee Valley Regional Park, London 19:00 onwards. Advance booking essential via Lee Valley Information Service 08456 770600.

#### West Midlands

**8 May 2010** *Moth identification and recording* led by Norman Lowe. Hopton Wafers Village Hall, south Shropshire. 11:00-16:00

**12 June 2010** *Recording moths and caterpillars by day* led by Norman Lowe. Woolhope Village Hall and Haugh Wood, nr Hereford, Herefordshire. 10:00-16:00

#### North West England

**15 May 2010** *Introduction to moths* led by Steve Palmer. RSPB Leighton Moss, Carnforth, Lancashire. 10:00 – 15:30

**24 July 2010** *An Introduction to Moth Recording* led by Graham Jones, in association with Lancashire Wildlife Trust. The Barn, Preston, Lancashire. 10:00 – 15:30. Advance booking essential via Graham Jones [gjones@lancswt.org.uk](mailto:gjones@lancswt.org.uk) or 01772 318371.

### **WALES**

**27 March 2010** *Moth identification and recording in Cardiganshire* led by Norman Lowe. Borth Youth Hostel, Morlais, Borth, Ceredigion. 11:00-15:30

**17 April 2010** *Identification of difficult moth species by external characteristics* led by Norman Lowe in association with Radnorshire Wildlife Trust. Radnorshire Wildlife Trust, Llandrindod Wells, Powys. 11:00-16:00

**22 May 2010** *Moth identification and recording in Breconshire* led by Norman Lowe in association with Powys and Brecon Beacons Environmental Records Centre. Llangasty Village Hall, Llangorse, Powys. 11:00-16:00

**SCOTLAND**

**4 July 2010** *Pug identification day* led by Mark Young and Roy Leverton. Aigas Field Centre, Beaulieu, Inverness. 10:00-16:30. Advance booking essential via Tony Mainwood [tony.mainwood@btinternet.com](mailto:tony.mainwood@btinternet.com) or 01408 633247.

**PLEASE REMEMBER THAT ALL PLACES ON TRAINING COURSES MUST BE BOOKED IN ADVANCE.**

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



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**The National Lottery**<sup>®</sup>  
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