



## E-moth

### Moths Count update April 2008

Finally spring has sprung and moths along with many other insects are becoming active once again. Judging by the moth catches here at Manor Yard, it has been a slower start than last year. The winter months have no doubt been busy for County Moth Recorders who have been computerising, verifying and collating moth records. However, we can now look forward to the next recording season. And it is a notable one, being the first under the new National Moth Recording Scheme and the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of National Moth Night. Before too long moth trapping will be in full swing and last year's wash out will be long forgotten!

The full Moths Count Team has been in place for a year now so has just celebrated its first anniversary with home made cake! Since the January edition of E-moth the Moths Count Team has been very busy planning and organising public moth events, training events, processing moth records and updating the list of County Moth Recorders amongst other things.

#### Moths Count contacts

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

Sarah-ann Boon is the first point of contact for project enquiries.

#### The National Moth Recording Scheme

The National Moth Recording Scheme (NMRS) has now received datasets for 23 vice-counties, which equates to over 2.5 million moth records! These are currently being processed for import into the NMRS database. Over the coming months the database will grow rapidly both in the number of records and in geographical coverage. Later this year, online distribution maps will start to become available.

The Network of County Moth Recorders is almost complete. Twenty five County Moth recorders have been recruited in Scotland as a result of the NMRS. This is great for both moths and moth recorders in Scotland. However, the macro-moth recorder positions are vacant in South and North Somerset (VC5 & VC6); Shropshire (VC40) and Westmorland, North Lancashire and Cumberland (VC69 & VC70). In the absence of County Moth Recorders, records for vice-counties 5, 6, 69 and 70 are being collated for the NMRS by volunteers. In several vice-counties

where the County Recorder is swamped with a backlog of records, volunteers are being sought to help with data entry. If you think you might be able to offer any assistance to your local recorder please contact Zoë Randle (details on previous page).

Earlier this year we circulated a document explaining how to format datasets for submission to the NMRS and, in particular, what information is needed to make a 'record'. This document provided "best practice" guidance to enable simpler data exchange, whether with the NMRS, local environmental records centres, other County Moth Recorders or others. We also circulated guidance notes that described data submission using MapMate. It explained how to 'Sync' records to the NMRS database. Future updates about data submission to the NMRS will be available from the Moths Count website.

During 2008 we will start to put together a critical species booklet. This up to date resource will describe moths that cannot be easily distinguished.

### **Humming-bird Hawk-moth Online Survey**

Throughout 2008, we will be running a simple, online survey for the Humming-bird Hawk-moth (and Painted Lady butterfly) as part of Garden Moths Count. Excitingly, we have managed to get these insects featured on the BBC Radio 4 *World on the Move* series. Focusing on animal migrations, this is the largest radio programme that the BBC Natural History Unit has ever produced. Through the survey, we aim to raise awareness of this fantastic moth among the general public, track the arrival and spread from North Africa and continental Europe and enlighten people about the amazing world of moths (and butterflies). If you see a Humming-bird Hawk-moth or a Painted Lady, please plot your sighting via [www.mothscount.org](http://www.mothscount.org) and encourage friends and families to do likewise.

### **Moths Count Website**

The Moths Count website is being developed and we have reciprocal links with many local Moth Groups and Natural History Societies. Suggestions for links to other groups and useful resources are welcomed. A full programme of public moth and training events can also be found on the moths count website, [www.mothscount.org](http://www.mothscount.org) along with the up to date list of County Moth Recorders.

### **Moths Count Annual Newsletter**

The second annual Moths Count Newsletter is coming soon. It will be packed full of information, updates and the first NMRS maps.

### **Diary Dates**

**Saturday 7 June 2008 National Moth Night and Day 2008.** Organised by Butterfly Conservation and Atropos, NMN is a great reason to hold a public moth event or just to record moths somewhere different from usual. For the first time, there is a target habitat this year, namely orchards, so why not try trapping in a local orchard? Target species are *Anania funebris*, Bordered Gothic and Narrow-bordered Bee Hawk-moth, but as ever you can set your own targets or just get out and record moths. If you do organise a public event, you can promote it for free via [www.nationalmothnight.info](http://www.nationalmothnight.info). This is the 10<sup>th</sup> National Moth Night event, so make sure you are part of it this year.

**Saturday 21 June – Sunday 6 July 2008 *Garden Moths Count*.** Primarily aimed at gardeners and their families who are new to moth recording, this national online survey raises awareness of the amazing moths that live in our gardens. Something to encourage friends and family who have not yet caught the mothing bug to have a go at.

**Monday 23 June – Sunday 29 June 2008 *National Insect Week*.** This Royal Entomological Society event is back and aims to give people of all ages the opportunity to learn more about the most fascinating creatures on our planet. Moths Count is playing a full part in National Insect Week. For more information, please visit [www.nationalinsectweek.co.uk](http://www.nationalinsectweek.co.uk).

### **Moths Count Training Events 2008 UPDATE**

The following Training Events are new and are in addition to the ones advertised in the January 2008 edition of E-moth. All training events are free. Booking is essential for all events: 01929 406009 or [nmrs@butterfly-conservation.org](mailto:nmrs@butterfly-conservation.org) (unless stated otherwise in the events listing). A full listing of 2008 training events can be found at [www.mothscount.org](http://www.mothscount.org)

### **ENGLAND**

#### South East England

**20 June 2008** *Bright Wave, Rest Harrow and other moths of Sandwich Bay* led by Sean Clancy. Sandwich Bay Bird Observatory, Kent. 18:00 onwards.

**2 August 2008** *Striped Lychnis larval survey day* led by Alison Cross and Mike Wall in association with Hampshire Wildlife Trust. Axford, nr. Basingstoke, Hampshire. 10:00 – 16:00. Booking via 01256 381186 or [amandab@hwt.org.uk](mailto:amandab@hwt.org.uk). This is a follow on from the 12 July event and is aimed at those who can contribute to ongoing survey work for Striped Lychnis in north Hampshire.

#### West Midlands

**19 April 2008** *An Introduction to moth identification and recording* led by Norman Lowe. Marden Village Hall, Marden, Hereford. 10:30 – 16:00.

**19 July 2008** *Identifying difficult moths and UKBAP species* led by Norman Lowe. Marden Village Hall, Marden, Hereford. 10:30 – 16:00.

#### North East England

**7 June 2008** *Introduction to moths & moth recording* led by Dave Wainwright. Tilery / Brierley Woods, Wynyard, Co. Durham. 20:30 onwards.

**18 July 2008** *Conserving the Chalk Carpet* led by Dave Wainwright. Wheatley Hill Community Centre, Wheatley, Co. Durham. 09:30 - 15:30.

#### Yorkshire & the Humber

**26 July 2008** 20:30 onwards *Introduction to moths & moth recording* led by Dave Wainwright. Dalby Forest Community Resource Centre, nr Pickering, North Yorkshire.

**9 August 2008** 20:00 onwards. *Introduction to moths & moth recording* led by Dave Wainwright. Sutton Bank Visitor Centre, nr Thirsk, North Yorkshire.

## **NORTHERN IRELAND**

**5 September 2008** *Moths of fens & reedbeds* led by Dave Allen and Maurice Hughes. Portmore Lough, Co. Antrim. 19:30 onwards on 29 August then from 10:00 on 30 August. N.B. This is a change of date for this course.

**19 September 2008** *Woodland moths* led by Dave Allen and Maurice Hughes. Hollymount, nr Downpatrick, Co. Down. 19:00 onwards on 19 September then from 10:00 on 20 September. N.B. This is a change of date for this course.

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

## **Moths Count Public Events 2008**

As in 2007, the Moths Count project is organising a programme of public moth events, designed to give people their first taste of moth recording. The 2008 programme is still to be finalized but current events are listed below:

## **ENGLAND**

### Co. Durham

**15 August 2008** 20:30 – 23:00 Pity Me Carrs Local Nature Reserve, Durham. (Durham County Council Rangers Service) Details and booking from 0191 383 4144 or [rangers@durham.gov.uk](mailto:rangers@durham.gov.uk)

### Devon

**12 July 2008** 21:15 onwards Brauton Burrows, Barnstaple, Devon. (Devon Wildlife Trust) Details and booking through John Breeds 01271 812552 or 07773 085984

**27 July 2008** 21:00 – 23:00 then at 10:00-12:00 next morning Occombe Farm, Torquay, Devon. (Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust) Details and booking from 01803 606035

### Lancashire

**5 July 2008** 20:00 onwards. Yarrow Valley Park, Chorley, Lancashire (Chorley Borough Council) Details and booking through Eddie Langrish 01257 232100 or [edwin.langrish@btconnect.com](mailto:edwin.langrish@btconnect.com)

### London

**7 June 2008** 21:00 onwards. Morden Hall, London Borough of Merton. (National Trust) Details and booking through Maureen Patel 0208 545 6850

**8 June 2008** 10:30 onwards. Centre for Wildlife Gardening, London Borough of Southwark. (London Wildlife Trust). Details and booking through Moya O'Hara 020 7252 9186 or [cwg@wildlondon.org.uk](mailto:cwg@wildlondon.org.uk)

**25 June 2008** 19:30 onwards. Roots And Shoots Centre, London Borough of Lambeth. (Roots and Shoots). Details and booking through David Perkins 0207 5871131 or [david@rootsandshoots.org.uk](mailto:david@rootsandshoots.org.uk)

**28 June 2008** 21:00 onwards. Stave Hill Eco Park & Russia Dock Woodland London Borough of Southwark (TRUE -Trust for Urban Ecology). Details and booking from Rebeka Clark 020 7237 9175 or [r.clark@btcv.org.uk](mailto:r.clark@btcv.org.uk)

**5 July 2008** 09:00 onwards. Greenwich Park, London Borough of Greenwich. (The Royal Parks) Details and booking through Nigel Reeve 07976 209282

#### Manchester

**17 June 2008** 10:30 – 12:00 Trafford Ecology Park, Manchester. (Groundwork Trust & Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council). Details and booking through Michael Carpenter 0161 220 1000 or [education@groundwork.org.uk](mailto:education@groundwork.org.uk)

### **SCOTLAND**

#### Argyll

**26 July 2008** 10:00 Glen Nant National Nature Reserve, Argyll (Forestry Commission reserve) Details and bookings through Helen Wilson 01786 223016

#### Edinburgh

**30 August 2008** 09:30 – 11:00 Newhailes, Edinburgh. (National Trust for Scotland) Details and bookings through Hannah Levene 0844 493 2124

#### Fife

**13 June 2008** 21:30 onwards then at 11:00 the next morning. Auchtermuchty Common, Fife (Fife Rangers Service & Scottish Wildlife Trust). Details and bookings through Kate Morison 07950 786245

#### Glasgow

**4 July 2008** 21:30 – 23:00 then at 10:00 -12:00 the next morning. Glasgow Botanic Gardens, Glasgow (Glasgow City Council). Details and bookings from Glasgow Botanic Gardens on 0141 276 1614

### **WALES**

#### Conwy

**6 July 2008** 10:30 onwards. Conwy Reserve, Caernarfonshire. (RSPB reserve) Details and booking through Leah Williams 01492 584091

#### Glamorgan

**21 June 2008** 21:00 onwards. Hailey Park, Llandaff North, Cardiff. (Cardiff County Council) Details and booking from Laura Palmer 02920 873268 [lpalmer@cardiff.gov.uk](mailto:lpalmer@cardiff.gov.uk)