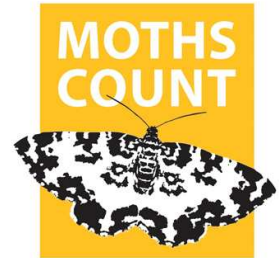


Butterfly Conservation

Saving butterflies, moths and their habitats



E-moth

Moths Count Update September 2009

Provisional Distribution Maps

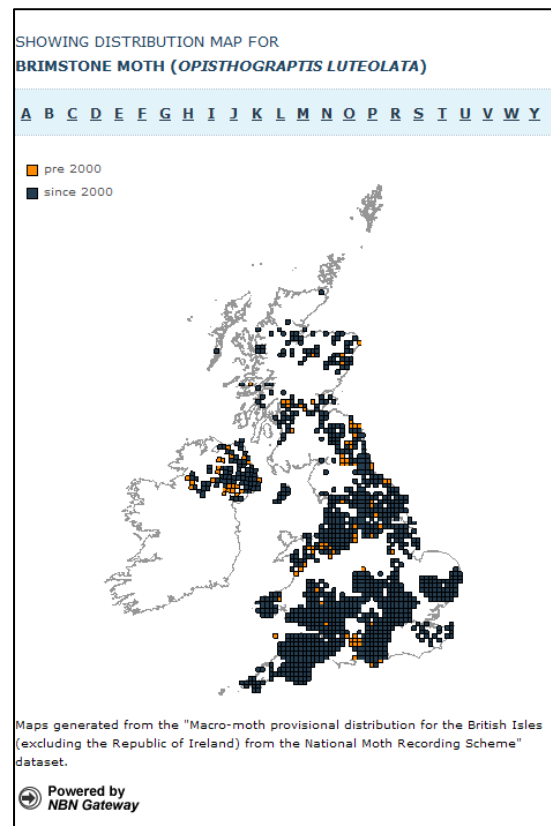
Finally, the long awaited online provisional distribution maps of macro-moth species from the new National Moth Recording Scheme are now available to view on the all-new Moths Count website (www.mothscount.org)!

The maps are provisional and will be updated regularly as and when additional datasets are submitted to the National Moth Recording Scheme. At the moment the database holds 6.1 million moth records from 86 vice-counties (not all of which are currently shown on the online maps).

It has been 20 years since national distribution maps were last published; these are now out of date. Until now national distribution maps of the Geometrids (c. 300 species) have never been publically available (see map of Brimstone right). We hope that you find the availability of these maps exciting as well as valuable feedback. We wish to thank individual moth recorders and County Moth Recorders for making the production of these maps possible through submission of their moth records.



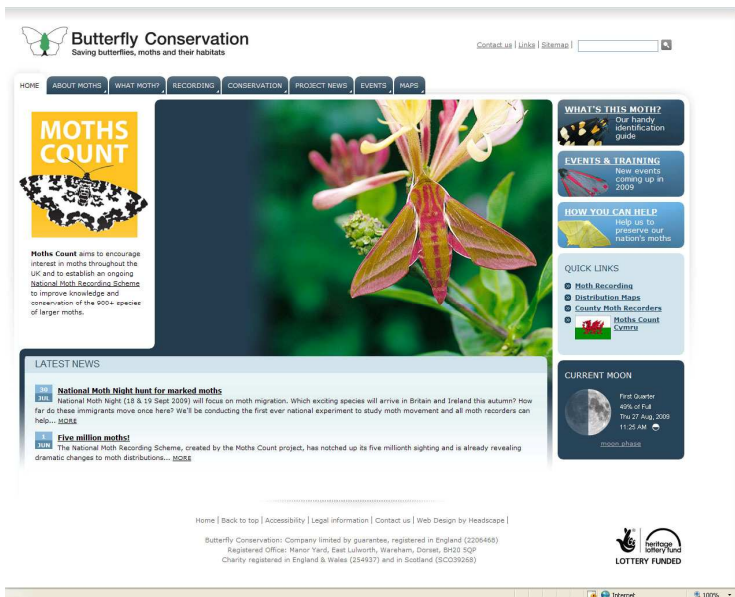
Brimstone Moth (M. Parsons)



Submitting your moth records to the National Moth Recording Scheme (via your County Moth Recorder) enables us to produce these valuable maps which will play a vital role in assessing the changing status of species. By considering the rarity of each moth and, more importantly, whether the distribution of a species is increasing or declining over time, conservation priorities can be determined and action directed to the species at greatest risk.

New Moths Count Website

We have recently launched the completely revamped Moths Count website www.mothscount.org. This much improved site is packed full of interesting moth related information including moth ecology, identification, conservation, recording and, of course, the online provisional distribution maps. Much of this information is available to download including a moth recorders handbook. In addition to all this are the public moth event and training workshop listing and contact details for all County Moth Recorders. We hope you find the new site useful.



National Moth Nights

The annual celebration of moths and moth recording, run by Atropos and Butterfly Conservation, is fast approaching. If you are running a National Moth Night event on either the 18th or 19th September please advertise it on the NMN website by filling in the online form at <http://www.nationalmothnight.info/events/public.php>. The theme for this year's event is migration. For the first time we will be undertaking a marking experiment to investigate moth mobility within the British Isles. Several days before NMN, migrant (and some resident) moths will be harmlessly marked with coloured paint on the upperside of the forewing at selected locations around the country. Hopefully some of these might be caught by moth recorders during the event. If you do trap a marked moth please keep or photograph the moth and contact us as soon as possible via www.nationalmothnight.info or 01326 290287. More information about the marking, including the locations of marking sites, is available on the NMN website. Please do not undertake any marking of your own as this would compromise the whole experiment.

This is the first time that a co-ordinated marking scheme has been undertaken at the national scale and it has the potential to yield important information about the poorly understood subject of moth mobility.

As always, NMN is what you choose to make of it. Run your traps somewhere new, introduce friends and family to the wonders of moths or head for the coast to hunt for marked migrants. Whatever you do, have fun and please remember to submit your records (details of how to do that on the NMN website or in the current issue of Atropos).

South Wales Moth Recorders' Gathering

A moth recorders gathering has been organised for Saturday 26 September 2009 at Kenfig National Nature Reserve, Bridgend. Several guest speakers have been invited and will be presenting talks about various aspects of moths and moth recording. This event is free (including buffet lunch and refreshments), however, places must be booked in advance. To book your place please contact Laura Wiffen (nmrs@butterfly-conservation.org or 01929 406009). The programme for the day is as follows:

- 10.00 am Arrival and coffee
- 10.30 am Welcome by David Slade
Butterfly Conservation South Wales Branch and Glamorgan Moth Group
- 10.40 am Moths Count and the National Moth Recording Scheme Update and Discussion
Zoë Randle, Butterfly Conservation
- 11.30 am Nights with a moth trap
Tony Lewis, Pembrokeshire moth recorder
- 11:50 pm Putting Moth Records to Work
David Slade, South East Wales Biodiversity Record Centre
- 12.10 pm A net full of moths - a guide to websites, e-groups and forums
Martin Harvey, Berkshire County Moth Recorder
- 12.30 pm Lunch**
- 2.00 pm The New Wales Biodiversity Action Plan – How can you help?
Russel Hobson, Butterfly Conservation Wales
- 2.20 pm Priorities for 2010 and beyond
Clare Williams, Butterfly Conservation Wales
- 2.40 pm Climatic and other changes in Monmouthshire Lepidoptera
Martin Anthony, Monmouthshire County Moth Recorder
- 3.00 pm Tea**
- 3.30 pm Identifying and recording difficult moth species
Norman Lowe, Breconshire County Moth Recorder
- 4.00 pm Closing remarks
- 4.15 pm Close of meeting

Training Events 2009

Butterfly Conservation is organising a programme of free moth events as part of the Moths Count (National Moth Recording Scheme) project, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and other organisations. The training events cover a variety of moth-related topics (many of which are suitable for beginners). Warm clothing and a torch are needed for evening events. Please remember that training course places must be booked in advance. Unless otherwise stated, booking is via **01929 406009** or nmrs@butterfly-conservation.org

East Midlands

29 September 2009 *Marsh Moth larval survey training day* led by Paul Waring. Saltfleetby National Nature Reserve, Lincolnshire. 10:00 – 17:00

London

14 September 2009 *Introduction to the moths and bats of Richmond Park* led by Tim Freed and Philip Briggs. Adams Pond, Richmond Park, London. 18:00 – 22:30 **FULLY BOOKED**

North West England

3 October 2009 *Identification and separation of the pugs via genitalia* led by Jon Clifton in association Lancashire Moth Group and Lancashire & Cheshire Entomological Society. Liverpool World Museum, Liverpool. 10:30 – 15:45 Advance booking essential via Guy Knight 0151 478 4369 or guy.knight@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk. This course is aimed at individuals with previous experience of genitalia determination.

Scotland

9 September 2009 *Introduction to moths and moth recording* led by John Knowler in association with Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority. National Park Centre, Balmaha. 19:30 onwards

Northern Ireland

5 & 6 September 2009 *Moth recording training weekend* led by Dave Allen. Magilligan Field Centre, Limavady, Co. Londonderry. 14:00 Saturday until 12:00 Sunday. (£20 fee for accommodation and food to be paid by cheque on booking)

21 November 2009 *Advanced pug identification* led by Jon Clifton. Agri-food and Biosciences Institute, Belfast 10.00-16.00 This course is aimed at individuals with previous experience of genitalia determination.

Diary Dates

18 & 19 September 2009 National Moth Nights
26 September 2009 South Wales Moth Recorders' Gathering
23 January 2010 English Moth Recorders' Conference
24 April 2010 Butterfly Conservation Scotland Recorders' Gathering

Moths Count Contacts

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