



GMS NEWS

Weeks 10-18

Early Summer 2011

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Heart and Dart – the nation's commonest moth in weeks 10-18

Scheme overview for early summer 2011 – Norman Lowe

Here's Norman's report on the scheme results for the early summer 2011, Weeks 10-18. These are from 279 gardens compared with 214 over the same period last year, so well done to all of you who contributed records.

For those who don't like numbers, and I gather that there are some, look away now and move on to the stories and pictures. For the rest, the first table shows the Top 20 core species moths for the whole of the British Isles, compared with last year. I've also shown for each species whether you have been finding more or fewer moths in your traps since last year.

Posn	Name	2011		2010	% increase/ decrease
		279 gardens		214 gardens	
		Total	Mean per garden	Mean per garden	
1 (1)	Heart and Dart	40646	145.68	65.33	122.99
2 (2)	Dark Arches	5763	20.66	15.11	36.68
3 (3)	Garden Grass-veneer	3181	11.40	14.36	-20.60
4 (5)	Marbled Minor agg.	3126	11.20	13.30	-15.78
5 (4)	Buff Ermine	3115	11.16	13.77	-18.90
6 (7)	Flame	2756	9.88	11.70	-15.58
7 (6)	Flame Shoulder	2393	8.58	12.58	-31.82
8 (9)	White Ermine	2212	7.93	9.43	-15.92
9 (17)	Shuttle-shaped Dart	2186	7.84	6.27	24.94
10 (14)	Large Yellow Underwing	1978	7.09	7.74	-8.38
11 (16)	Setaceous Hebrew Character	1972	7.07	6.35	11.38
12 (8)	Riband Wave	1933	6.93	10.03	-30.94
13 (25)	Silver-ground Carpet	1483	5.32	3.84	38.38
14 (24)	Ingrailed Clay	1454	5.21	4.03	29.38
15 (21)	Bright-line Brown-eye	1401	5.02	5.21	-3.54
16 (30)	Vine's Rustic	1368	4.90	2.47	98.73
17 (28)	Common Footman	1354	4.85	2.95	64.33
18 (11)	Brimstone Moth	1263	4.53	7.87	-42.47
19 (20)	Willow Beauty	1192	4.27	5.22	-18.15
20 (23)	Double Square-spot	1150	4.12	4.23	-2.53

The first thing you'll see is that Heart and Dart has had a fantastic year and more than 7 times the number were recorded than the next commonest species, Dark Arches. You'll also see that the Top 10 are, with two exceptions, the same as last year (the figures in brackets). Hebrew Character, last year's No. 10 has dropped out of the Top 30 altogether, presumably because it was flying earlier this year and its season was almost over, and Riband Wave has gone down from 8 to 12. They've been replaced this year by Shuttle-shaped Dart and Large Yellow Underwing.

The last column shows the percentage increase or decrease from last year. Apart from the enormous increase in the number of Heart and Darts, most species haven't changed much from last year, though Vine's Rustic has almost doubled in numbers despite the cold winter, so perhaps it's continuing its northward march..

Differences across the British Isles

So what are the differences for these 20 species between the areas? Some people have found the tables difficult to follow, so I'll explain what I'm trying to show.

The next table just shows the mean number of moths per garden in each area. You might also call it "What's hot and what's not" as the numbers in the hot red show the area with the highest numbers for that species and those in the cold blue are the lowest. Often the low numbers are in the places with colder night temperatures such as Scotland and the high numbers in the warm Channel Islands. But there are some blues in warm places like the SE and some reds in the NE (I'm from Sunderland so this seems appropriate). Most of you will be familiar with the area abbreviations but anyway, here they are:

CI	Channel Islands	IR	Ireland	SE	South East England
CY	Wales	NE	North East England	SW	South West England
EE	East of England	NW	North West England	WM	West Midlands
EM	East Midlands	SC	Scotland	YH	Yorks & Humberside

Species	SW	WM	IRE	SCO	CI	SE	Y	CYM	NE	NW	EM	EE
Heart and Dart	207.6	213.1	34.9	3.2	62.7	126.5	150.0	128.1	267.0	61.9	213.4	92.5
Dark Arches	22.1	19.7	2.4	2.1	86.0	20.7	46.7	10.2	37.0	8.4	34.9	16.0
Garden Grass-veneer	15.2	7.9	3.7	0.7	17.2	22.0	21.1	7.8	35.8	1.4	6.2	13.0
Marbled Minor agg.	15.7	13.4	4.8	0.6	63.7	7.3	15.9	5.3	23.5	6.0	7.9	8.9
Buff Ermine	12.3	13.3	12.0	8.2	27.5	2.9	18.4	17.8	7.8	8.6	6.9	7.3
Flame	13.8	17.0	4.8	0.6	19.3	4.1	7.5	12.2	2.8	4.0	11.5	6.3
Flame Shoulder	8.9	9.8	13.0	2.6	9.5	2.1	14.8	15.4	4.3	11.5	6.1	3.2
White Ermine	10.9	9.7	13.5	4.6	14.8	2.9	6.1	15.9	7.5	3.6	2.2	3.0
Shuttle-shaped Dart	8.1	7.7	0.0	0.0	36.7	16.9	9.2	1.1	5.8	3.6	5.1	12.5
Large Yellow Underwing	7.8	4.3	6.0	2.0	45.7	4.1	11.5	9.6	16.3	7.6	2.7	4.0
Setaceous Heb Character	12.2	8.2	5.1	0.3	20.7	2.3	5.7	9.7	0.3	1.6	5.9	6.2
Riband Wave	10.2	10.2	0.9	0.1	4.0	7.7	9.6	2.6	9.3	3.0	8.2	6.8
Silver-ground Carpet	3.4	2.9	8.7	10.7	1.7	0.3	21.3	7.8	34.3	5.1	2.0	1.0
Ingrailed Clay	4.5	6.8	1.5	0.9	6.8	1.8	19.9	3.0	0.5	10.4	5.1	1.5
Bright-line Brown-eye	5.9	6.6	3.6	3.4	13.5	4.4	8.0	2.9	4.0	3.1	5.9	2.7
Vine's Rustic	9.6	0.9	0.0	0.0	47.5	10.3	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.0	1.7	4.9
Common Footman	2.2	4.4	0.0	0.0	2.7	5.7	18.8	0.3	0.8	1.2	7.7	16.7
Brimstone Moth	4.7	6.3	4.7	1.9	9.7	2.9	9.9	3.3	11.3	3.6	4.2	1.9
Willow Beauty	3.6	7.4	0.9	0.1	15.7	5.7	2.7	1.2	4.3	2.9	7.9	3.7
Double Square-spot	4.4	4.2	1.4	1.1	0.3	2.1	7.2	5.2	6.3	4.2	2.1	8.5

Another way of looking at the numbers is to list for each area the Top 10 together with the mean number of moths of that species in each garden. So what I've tried to do is to put each area on the page approximately as it would be in a map of the British Isles. However since

Britain isn't a nice tidy rectangle you'll have to use your imagination. I've also this time included all species, whether or not they are on the core list.

North West	Mean	Scotland	Mean	North East	Mean
Heart & Dart	61.92	Silver-ground Carpet	10.7	Heart & Dart	267.0
Flame Shoulder	11.52	Buff Ermine	8.2	Dark Arches	37.0
Ingrailed Clay	10.44	Dusky Brocade	5.2	Garden Grass-veneer	35.8
Buff Ermine	8.56	Brown Silver-line	5.0	Silver-ground Carpet	34.3
Dark Arches	8.36	Clouded-bord Brindle	5.0	Marbled Minor agg.	23.5
Lge Yellow Underwing	7.56	White Ermine	4.6	Lge Yellow Underwing	16.3
Marbled Minor agg.	6.00	Pale-shdered Brocade	4.4	Rustic Shoulder-knot	13.3
Silver-ground Carpet	5.08	Poplar Hawk-moth	3.6	Clouded-bord Brindle	13.0
Double Square-spot	4.20	Beautiful Golden Y	3.6	Brimstone Moth	11.3
Clouded-bord Brindle	4.12	Rustic Shoulder-knot	3.5	Green Carpet	11.0
Ireland	Mean	Yorkshire & Humber	Mean	East England	Mean
Heart & Dart	34.9	Heart & Dart	150.0	Heart & Dart	92.5
White Ermine	13.5	Dark Arches	46.7	Uncertain	39.7
Flame Shoulder	13	Silver-ground Carpet	21.3	Common Footman	16.7
Buff Ermine	12	Garden Grass-veneer	21.1	Dark Arches	16.0
Silver-ground Carpet	8.7	Ingrailed Clay	19.9	Treble Lines	14.1
Mottled Beauty	7.5	Common Footman	18.8	Garden Grass-veneer	13.0
Small Square-spot	7.2	Uncertain	18.5	Shuttle-shaped Dart	12.5
Clouded-bord Brindle	6.2	Buff Ermine	18.4	Large Nutmeg	12.1
Lge Yellow Underwing	6	Marbled Minor agg.	15.9	Mottled Rustic	11.1
Common Mbled Carpet	5.3	Flame Shoulder	14.8	Rustic	9.4
Wales	Mean	West Midlands	Mean	East Midlands	Mean
Heart & Dart	128.1	Heart & Dart	213.1	Heart & Dart	213.4
Buff Ermine	17.8	Dark Arches	19.7	Dark Arches	34.9
White Ermine	15.9	Flame	17.0	Rustic Shoulder-knot	13.0
Flame Shoulder	15.4	Marbled Minor agg.	13.4	Flame	11.5
Flame	12.2	Buff Ermine	13.3	Riband Wave	8.2
Dark Arches	10.2	Treble Lines	11.9	Mottled Rustic	8.0
Set Hebrew Character	9.7	Riband Wave	10.2	Willow Beauty	7.9
Lge Yellow Underwing	9.6	Flame Shoulder	9.8	Marbled Minor agg.	7.9
Brown Silver-line	8.1	White Ermine	9.7	Common Footman	7.7
Treble Lines	8.0	Set Hebrew Character	8.2	Buff Ermine	6.9
South West	Mean	Channel Islands	Mean	South East	Mean
Heart & Dart	207.6	Dark Arches	86.0	Heart & Dart	126.5
Treble Lines	22.2	Marbled Minor agg.	63.7	Heart and Club	23.6
Dark Arches	22.1	Heart & Dart	62.7	Garden Grass-veneer	22.0
Marbled Minor agg.	15.7	Vine's Rustic	47.5	Dark Arches	20.7
Garden Grass-veneer	15.2	Lge Yellow Underwing	45.7	Treble Lines	18.8
Flame	13.8	Shuttle-shaped Dart	36.7	Shuttle-shaped Dart	16.9
Buff Ermine	12.3	Buff Ermine	27.5	Sh'der-striped Wainscot	14.2
Set Hebrew Character	12.2	Orange Footman	23.2	Vine's Rustic	10.3
White Ermine	10.9	Lt Brown Apple Moth	22.2	Crambus pascuella	10.1
Riband Wave	10.5	Set Hebrew Character	20.7	Riband Wave	7.7

As you can see, Heart and Dart tops the list everywhere but Scotland and the Channel Islands but, surprisingly, it doesn't even make the Top 10 in Scotland. In fact, no species are in the Top 10 everywhere, and the only other species in most of the areas are Dark Arches, which scored everywhere but in Scotland and Ireland and Buff Ermine, which was in the Top 10 in 9 areas and in the Top 5 in 8 of these.

Interestingly, Buff Ermine seems to have predominated in the west, so I've highlighted it in green. The only eastern area where it was in the Top 10 was the East Midlands and even here it just scraped in at No. 10. Two species, shown in blue, seemed to have been commonest in the east. Common Footman featured in the East, the East Midlands and in Yorkshire and Humberside whereas Garden Grass-veneer was in the North East, East South East and Yorkshire and Humberside, though to prove my theory wrong it was also found commonly in the South West.

So, overall it's been a good early summer for Heart and Dart, and 8 other species in the Top 10 showed an increase in numbers over last year. But 11 species were recorded in lower numbers, so overall there hasn't been much change.

A modern fairy-tale, or try mulleining it over?

By D. Baker July 2011

A couple of summers ago, whilst on the way to market, I exchanged my wife's prize cow for a few small plants. My garden now contains its own fairy-tale "beanstalk". As seen overleaf with my own Fairy Princess (sometimes).

Or, to be more truthful, I obtained several plants of Mullein from a plentiful local source and grew them on in the garden. The first year they seeded well and the next generation were planted out. The result is this giant mullein, now some 2 metres tall.

It has still failed to attract the Mullein moth back to my trap. One specimen did visit me way back in 2004 and I have waited and hoped for some better photographs. This summer I obtained half-a-dozen larvae from the still plentiful local source and they have munched their way through a couple of smaller plants at the rear of the garden. I am now hoping for a successful pupation and emergence "to light" in spring 2012.



David's fairy princess, despite her best efforts, cannot touch the top of the giant mullein and, to the right, the characteristic larva of the Mullein Shark. Although the name is regularly shortened to Mullein, there are several old timers like the GMS News editor who prefer the older, longer form.



Has anyone been successful with anything similar?

Northumberland GMS Newsletter Spring 2011

By Stewart Sexton, Howick, North Northumberland.

I dabbled with moth trapping over fifteen years ago, and have always been interested in Lepidoptera. Due to other commitments though, the mothing was put on hold until we recently moved to a rural property not far from the North Northumberland coast.



Above – My trap site.

To 'test the depth' the county moth recorder, Tom Tams, kindly let me borrow a skinner trap for the autumn of 2009 and I was very pleased with the results. So, in preparation for the 2010 season I splashed out on a new Robinson 125w MV. Now ready for action, Tom coerced me into signing up to the Garden Moth Scheme, and since then I haven't looked back.

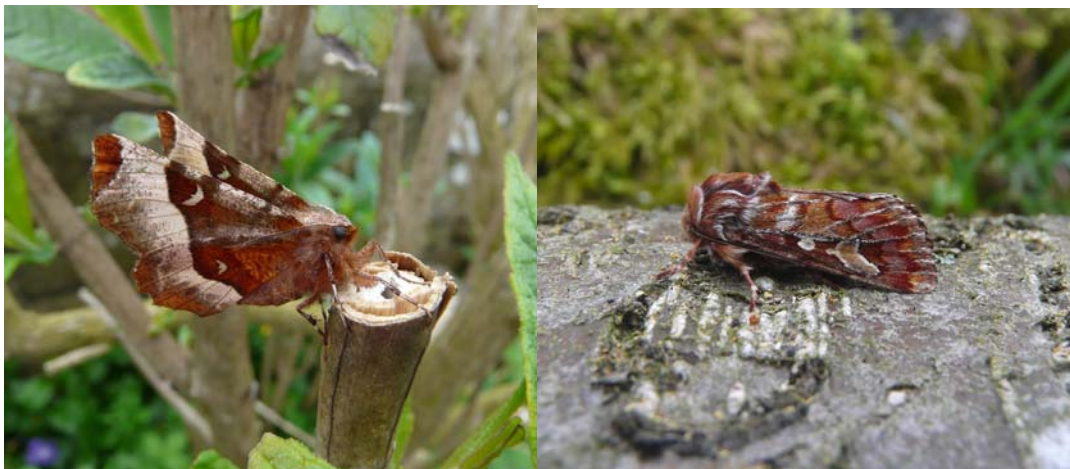
The first year went well, and I recorded over 12,000 moths of 329 species in the garden, but now, into the second year, I have some base figures and information to relate to.

So how has the first quarter of 2011 gone up here in the north? While the rest of England basked in summer temperatures on the NE coast things have been cooler but dry.

In 2011, 449 moths were caught in the first 9 GMS sessions without any blank days, while in 2010 the first 9 produced 519 moths with the first two weeks remaining moth-less.

Overall though, including other trapping sessions in the garden, 2011 has been a better year for numbers and for species so far, probably due to the milder conditions when compared to 2010.

My personal highlights have been the several new species for the garden, a few of them being quite scarce this far north and east - Oak Beauty, Spring Usher, Red Sword-grass and Mottled Grey amongst others. Several species have been very early for me compared with last year. Purple Thorn, another local species, made an appearance on 15th April 2011 while last year I waited until the late brood on 4th August. Similarly, Pine Beauty was found on 22nd March 2010 but in 2011 it was recorded on 5 dates between 23rd February and 22nd March.



Left, Purple Thorn, Right Pine Beauty.
Both early this year.

As I write this, in May, the good weather continues and earliest records are falling almost daily in the county. It will be very interesting to see how the year pans out. Regardless of the outcome, I am sure that there will be more surprises in store.



Red Sword-grass

(Editor: This enjoyable piece was circulated amongst GMS mothers in Northumberland - their local Spring News)

GMS IN ALDERNEY, CHANNEL ISLANDS

By David Wedd

I was at first rather sceptical when asked to try out light-trapping for GMS on our small island, expecting it to be a time-waster which would require me to record myriads of common moths, while our 'interesting species' would not be listed. In fact it did not work out like that, because Dave added some of our Channel Islands specialities to the original list, and we do in fact record plenty of most of the common moths the scheme was designed for. There are several species we see very seldom or not at all, which mainland recorders find in plenty, especially in the early months of the year: Spring Usher, Early Moth, Brindled Beauty, Buff-tip – but there are far more that are common here which are local or absent from much of UK: Beautiful Gothic, Orache, Clancy's Rustic, Delicate and lots more.

Of course we are frustrated when species we see commonly in our traps are 'not on the list', but I am sure that is true of every GMS region. Overall, the Scheme seems to work well. Problems still arise, however, when two species are very similar. A perfect example is Langmaid's Yellow Underwing, which is not listed, whereas Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing is. Langmaid's occurs as about 1 in 5 of our population early in the summer, although its flight season is much shorter. Often I can tell them apart in the light trap, but not always. Currently, we are probably the only region where this situation arises.

We have advantages in being a small island. Alderney is 3.5 miles long by 1.5 at its widest point, but in that tiny space we have perhaps as big a range of habitats as occurs anywhere in the British Isles: sandy beaches, rocky shores, steep cliffs, flower meadows and grassland,

gorse and heather moorland, quarry pools, small patches of woodland and fantastic gardens. Our human population is about 2,400, but nearly everybody lives in the ‘town’, St Anne, which means that much of the island is wild and unspoilt. We can run light traps anywhere (and without fear of vandalism if they are left out overnight) but for GMS purposes we use five genuine ‘garden’ sites and the traps are set in the same place each week.



All the trap operators are members of Alderney’s flourishing Wildlife Trust. Three of the sites are ‘suburban’, in St Anne, although they would probably be called ‘rural’ on the mainland. Of these three, two are in very different family gardens, to the south of the town, quite high up and with fields and pine trees nearby. The third trap is set in a tiny courtyard on the north of town, surrounded by wooden fencing, brick walls and a conservatory, but with wilder gardens close by, and very near a shingle beach. These three traps are looked after by youngsters from our *Watch* group, the junior section of the Wildlife Trust, whose families are supportive. My own site is on a balcony at the edge of deciduous woodland, looking out over landscaped terraces with a small stream running through them. The final trap is in a large and attractive garden in the middle of Longis Common, a beautiful Wildlife Trust reserve.

Despite being within a ‘circular mile’, all these sites attract a different range of moths. The migrants are shared, so that *Convolvulus Hawk* or *Scarce Bordered Straw* may turn up anywhere, but of the abundant resident species *Shuttle-shaped Dart* and *Ingrailed Clay* appear in huge numbers to the south of ‘town’, whereas *Beautiful Gothic* is very common to the north. *Footman* moths abound in the microclimate of the wooded valley (100 *Orange Footman* in one trap, 50 *Red-necked* or 30 *Four-spotted* occur several times each summer) while *Grass Eggars* and *Small Elephant Hawks* come in abundance to the Longis Common site.



“...of the abundant resident species Shuttle-shaped Dart and Ingrailed Clay (pictured left) appear in huge numbers to the south of ‘town’, whereas Beautiful Gothic is very common to the north. “

In the ‘busy’ season it takes at least three hours on Saturday mornings to go round all the traps for GMS. Interesting specimens are boxed, to be photographed later, and the rest are carefully released. Long before we joined Dave Grundy’s Scheme, we started to run occasional ‘moth tours’, so that visitors could visit the trap-sites. GMS gives this an added purpose. During the summer and early autumn there are also several public occasions where tables are provided at the Wildlife Trust’s headquarters, Essex Farm, for the traps to be opened communally, so that people can see the full range of moths that occur in their island. This used to be especially true of National Moth Night, when we would set traps in as many sites as we had MV lights to put in them. Now that NMS has been suspended, only temporarily we hope, we are holding our own Channel Islands Moth Nights, two week-ends (late June and late September) and the comparison between the islands should prove interesting. The value of these ‘open days’ can be seen most clearly in the excitement of small children when encouraged to hold hawk-moths or tigers – and the advantage of Alderney is that distances are so small that everyone can easily get to such events on foot.



The follow-up stage to attracting moths to light is to start breeding them. I personally am interested in rearing species that have seldom, or even never, been bred in captivity before, and have enjoyed working out the life history of for example Oak Rustic, Jersey Underwing, Jersey Mocha, Spanish Carpet, Guernsey Underwing and *Palpita vitrealis*. With our young GMS enthusiasts, however, the preference is for breeding hawk-moths and tigers and, above all, the Emperor Moth and Oak Eggar. This April, as usual, we reared about sixty Emperors, and as

we always keep the largest larvae (of many hundreds), most that hatched were female. The moths are common all over the island, so the children were able to attract dozens of beautiful male Emperors to their homes and gardens. A few visitors joined in and took eggs home to start the cycle all over again! We shall do the same with Oak Eggars in July. Likewise youthful enthusiasm can be inspired by the use of pheromones to attract clearwings, of which we have eight species in our small paradise. These are insects one would hardly ever see under normal circumstances (although I have actually captured a Thrift Clearwing at MV light!) Neither captive breeding nor the use of pheromones is part of 'GMS', of course – but there is no doubt that the Scheme does boost enthusiasm for many aspects of insect study, and the insistence on keeping records is certainly valuable. It is also a big encouragement that Dave Grundy has made the effort to visit us twice now, to explore our island and chat to the youngsters who operate traps for GMS.

An important aspect of regular moth-trapping in the Channel Islands is that we have few 'blank' nights, even in winter. Snow is a rarity and the temperature seldom drops below freezing. My co-trappers have a break for the 'winter' part of GMS, but I do it and, while I can't say I enjoy checking through a very small catch for the records, I appreciate that by putting out the trap on nights when common sense suggests it should be left in the shed, I sometimes catch moths at dates that are surprising or even ridiculous: for example Clancy's Rustic just before Christmas (twice) or Splendid Brocade on 18th March on a horribly wet night.



Trapping in Alderney during summer and autumn is always productive and often exciting. It is fascinating to see both forms of Grass Eggar *trifolii* and *flava* in the trap together, as it is to find Barred Red *H fasciaria* in red, green, grey and a combination of all three.

Quarter 2 in Scotland by Heather Young

Week 10 heralded the beginning of a very poor spell of weather north of the border – gone were the dry bright days that encouraged early emergence of many species of moth and butterfly, to be replaced by a prolonged period of very windy, wet and cold conditions that persisted right through the entire GMS second quarter.

It is probably not surprising to find that the average number of moths per garden was well down on the previous two years: 146 in 2009; 173 in 2010; and 131 in 2011.



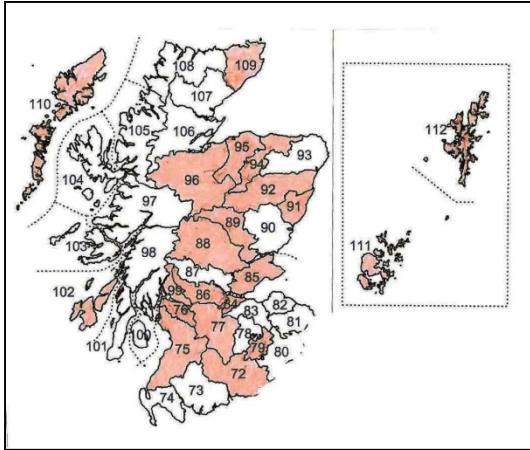
The top ten was populated by the usual suspects, with Silver-ground Carpet coming out on top this time, being the only one achieving double figures on average per garden. Of course

averages only tell part of the story, and some of the moths seemingly present in high numbers in

Scotland are not necessarily common across the country. For instance, John K. in South Uist trapped 130 Buff and 51 White Ermine, with no

one else recording more than half a dozen of either! Bright-line Brown-eye and Brown Silver-line similarly owe their lofty positions to John, who tallied more than 600 individual moths over the 9 week period – almost twice as many as our usual top trapper, John T. in Killiecrankie, Perthshire.

We now have someone trapping regularly for the GMS in over half of the Scottish vice counties, and



are well on the way to developing a valuable dataset for monitoring the fortunes of our commonest moths, as well as provoking a disciplined approach to trapping that may well turn up some interesting additional records of non-GMS species in the process.

An interesting topic for discussion to emerge following the inclusion of the more far-flung localities is the varying difficulty in separating some

of the similar species such as Ingrailed Clay and Small Square-spot. It is well known that Uncertain and Rustic are more difficult to separate in Scotland than they are further south, but these are not on the GMS list, so are a little less relevant. I would appreciate input on this from anyone who has greater knowledge than I do on the regional variations of species on the GMS list that may make it more difficult to reliably identify them without having to take out the dissection kit.

The beginning of Quarter 3 has at least seen some calmer weather conditions here in Stirling, but we certainly have not had the prolonged hot and sunny spells that the more southerly regions have enjoyed, and there still seem to be fewer moths around than is usual for the time of year. It will be interesting to see what the next set of results shows us in September: until then,

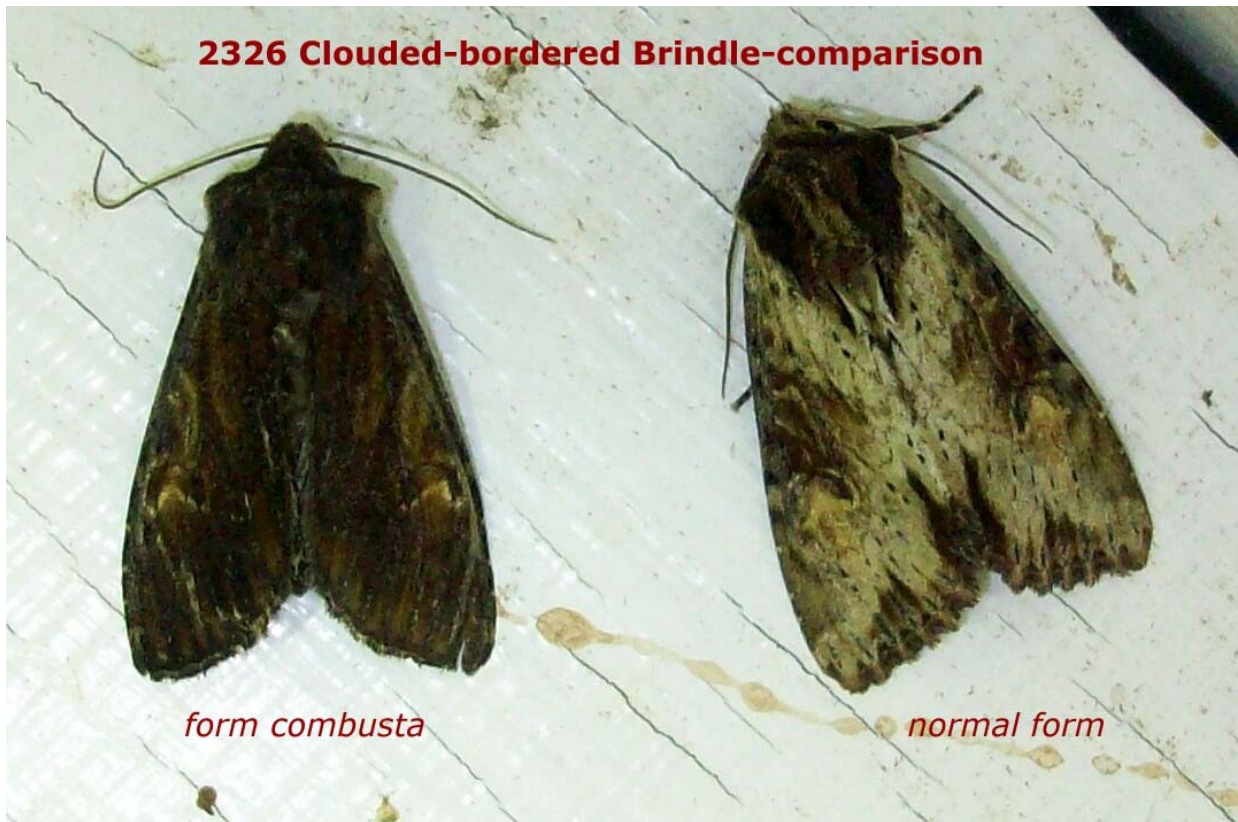
enjoy what is left of the summer, and I look forward to reporting on a bumper crop of late summer species in the next newsletter.

Heather Young

GMS Co-ordinator, Scotland.

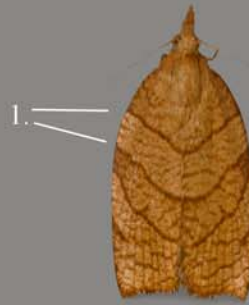


Alan Prior sends two sets of attractive photos showing contrasting forms of Treble Lines and Clouded-bordered Brindle



Four confusing species

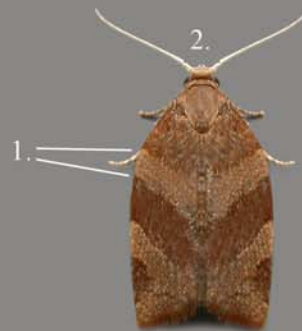
0969 Chequered Fruit-tree Tortrix *P. corylana*
July/August.
Reticulated appearance, edge of basal fascia
straight & parallel to median fascia 1.
Yellowish brown in colouration



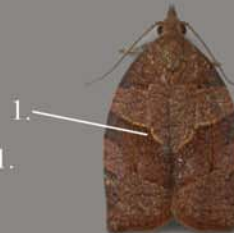
0970 Barred Fruit-tree Tortrix *P. cerasana*
June/July
Strongly divergent margins of the basal
and median fascia 1.
Yellowish brown in colouration



0971 *P. cinnamomeana*
June/July.
Edge of basal fascia straight and parallel
to median fascia 1.
Distinctive white nose in male 2.
Deep reddish ochreous or reddish brown.



0972 Dark Fruit-tree Tortrix *P. heparana*
Jul/August.
Angular projection on inner edge of median fascia 1.
Deep reddish ochreous or reddish brown.



Photographing Moths by Tom Tams

In the following images I will show how I photograph moths for identification purposes and for website use. The camera used is a Nikon Coolpix E4500 attached to an Ergorest tripod.



1. Take a White Balance Preset reading from a Photographers grey



2. Photographing the moth from above (mainly geometers & noctuids)



3. From the side for capturing fine details (mainly micros), resting the camera on the grey card

Obviously these are taken indoors and it is preferable to do so in non-sunny conditions as the natural light through windows, etc. can cause problems with correct exposures and give unwanted colour casts to images. Cloudy conditions with 'flat' light seem to give the best results.



4. For trickier moths to id, a ruler is used to gauge overall size
(This is normally a millimetre scale ruler)



and side measurements give wing length. The above can be used
equally well with a nice leaf or similar prop.



0286 *Caloptilia alchimiella*



0667 *Semioscopis steinkellneriana*



1875 Small White Wave

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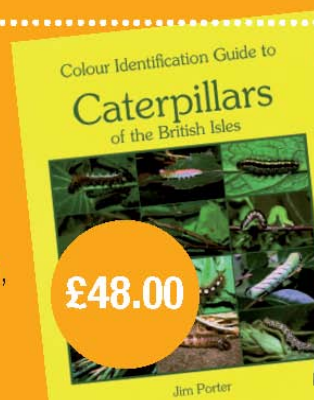
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Last words – the GMS News editor, Malcolm Bridge

When I began regularly moth trapping in my Crystal Palace, SE London, garden in 2000 the wildlife planting of hazel, beech, alder buckthorn and spindle were small and well spaced and in no way obstructed the progress of moths as they spiralled towards the light. Ten year later and despite regular pruning, the native shrubs dominate the area by the Robinson trap and, I am sure, have contributed to a significant drop in moth numbers in this and recent years. Only newcomers to London such as Jersey Tiger (up to five each night) and Tree-lichen Beauty (more each year) have gone against the trend. What to do? – suggestions, not too frivolous, would be most welcome.