

Mothing in Montgomeryshire – 2010 - Annual Report

Web Site

The web site, www.montgomeryshiremoths.org.uk has proven to be an excellent tool that all moth-ers can use, especially as we're adding new information all the time. This year we were able to add many more new photos onto the species pages and thumbnails which will help everyone, especially when trying to identify those tricky to id species. But there are still many gaps where there isn't a picture, so please keep your camera 'at the ready' in 2011 so that we can fill in those missing photos.



Another area where we have given moth-ers a few pointers is our article on 'photographing moths'. Whether it was for id purposes or for adding to individual moth-ers albums I was finding that the same issues continually came to light when many of you were trying to photograph moths. So I hope you all find our 'easy to follow' article helpful to you in the future.

If there is anything you would like to see on the web site that currently isn't there please contact me at, peterwilliams@btinternet.com and I will see whether it's possible to do.

British Moth Recorder –BMR



It's been another good year for users of the BMR, which has certainly proved to be an excellent method of storing moth records year on year. Unfortunately there have been a couple of technical issues that have developed through no fault of our own, these are mainly to do with new versions of 'Windows' and 'Excel' which keep trying to stick a knife in the programme, so we will be taking a look at what can be done to sort out these issues early in 2011.

The Moth Group - MMG

This year we held ten public moth evenings at different venues throughout the county and there were indeed some memorable moments that will stay with me, or indeed, haunt me for years to come.

Which of you who attended the evening at Lake Vyrnwy back in July can forget the midges that plagued us? As far as the mothing went it was a wonderful evening but the air was so thick with midges and they attacked every bare bit of flesh they could find.



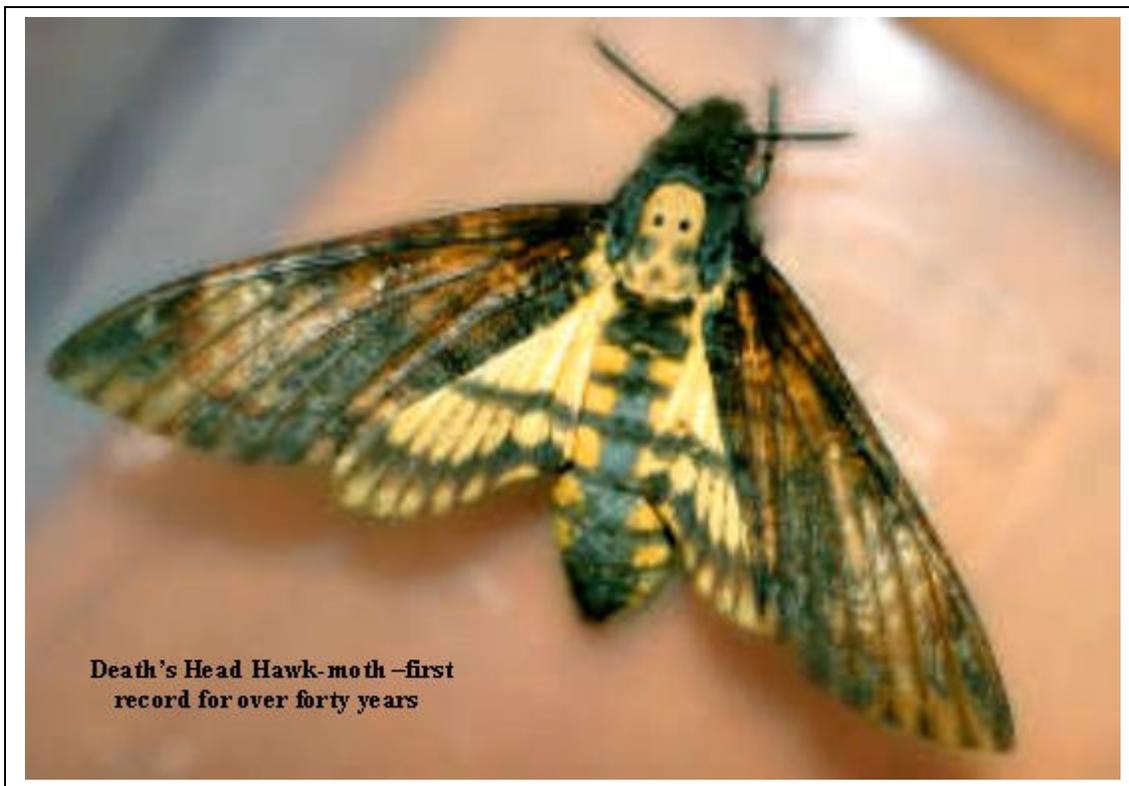


Mike's words still ring in my ears to this day, when he said '*On one hand I can't bear to go, on the other, I can't bear to stay*' this statement should be in a book of quotes somewhere. Then there was the Powis Castle event, when three quarters of the way driving there an alarm bell rung in my head to say I'd forgotten all the power cables. What a moment of panic that gave me, but with a bit of ringing around I was able to scrape up enough cable to operate the traps. I can laugh now, but at the time...!

Another classic evening was the trap we had at Llyn Mawr Nature Reserve. It was a clear calm evening, but as the session drew on the cold descended on us, ice was forming on the kit, indeed I had visions of someone finding us the following day, corpses, frozen to the spot, but we actually caught a couple of species.

Having said all that, the events were all excellent and well attended. I would like to thank everyone who helped on the events, setting up the kit, collecting etc. and a big thank you to those of you who brought along hot drinks and tuck; it was all very much appreciated.

End of year Statistics



Yet again, it was another excellent mothing year for the county, with over 16000 records added to the data base, giving us more than 103000 records in all. 403 species of macro moths and 229 species of micro moths were recorded throughout the year.

There were 31 new species added to the county list (24 sp. micro and 7 sp. macro). A special mention needs to be given to the first Death's Head Hawk-moth to be recorded in the county for over forty years, an excellent record indeed.

The new species recorded in 2010 were:-

Micro Moths

Eriocrania salopiella, Leucoptera laburnella, Calybites phasianipennella, Argyresthia curvella, Coleophora limosipennella, Coleophora lithargyrinella, Coleophora anatipennella, Coleophora saxicolella, Elachista atricomella, Elachista alpinella, Telechrysis tripuncta, Agonopterix yeatiana, Exoteleia dodecella, Carpatolechia decorella, Caryocolum fraternella, Acompsia cinerella, Clepsia spectrana, Epinotia signatana, Epiblema sticticana, Catoptria falsella, Aglossa pinguinalis, Trachycera marmorea, Ephestia parasitella unicolorella, Platyptilia isodactylus.



Macro Moths

Blotched Emerald, Pretty Chalk Carpet, Brindled Beauty, Peppered Moth *f. carbonaria*, Cloaked Minor, Saltern Ear, Blackneck.

Over 40 recorders sent us their records for 2010 and we now have 15 regular recorders, not bad when you consider that when I took over as county recorder in 2004 there were only three regular recorders in the county.



Many thanks to all of you who sent in your records for 2010 without which none of this would be possible. Also a big thank you to Mike Haigh our webmaster, whose expertise in so many areas is invaluable to us.

I hope you all have a good mothing in 2011 and don't forget I'm here to help you with identification or any other mothing related issue.

Peter.