

FEEDBACK SOUTH WEST Q3 2012

Fifty six sheets were returned for this feedback – another great effort. This quarter is normally the busiest in terms of moth numbers – if not species – so getting the sheets back for this feedback is especially difficult as there is a lot of data to enter; well done to everyone who managed it. If you didn't make it don't worry. You will see a short note from me in the main report about the value of keeping records up to date on the computer and if they are on computer backed up.

The weather in the South West during much of July and August was poor and this year any long settled warm spell is hard to remember; indeed my memory suggests that it has not happened in the summer period since 2006.

In the main report Angus once again has produced a lot of graphs and figures and for this report I have once again show tables comparing the last 5 years for the whole S.W. region and also splitting the findings in to Vice County levels for the last couple of years. The main report shows how we compare nationally to other areas.

When we look at figures for the South West it is important to remember that we have made several alterations to the lists over the past few years, especially with the introduction of the core list as well as alterations to our total number of species we record. I have tried to make adjustments for this – highlighted in blue – in the table. This year we added, amongst other species Uncertain/Rustic ag. It was our second commonest moth this quarter and does need to be on our list. It was not there before 2012 so all previous year totals have been changed to take account of this. These changes would need a sophisticated computer to work them out year on year but I have just taken an average for each species over the year since introduction to reflect what the adjusted total *might be*. It cannot be exact! When these figures are looked at in this context it can be seen that in terms of total moth numbers this quarter – with the possible exception of VC33 and 34 - was the worst in the last five years that is certainly confirming what it has felt like in my garden. Please note that Angus's figures do not represent adjusted figures for the South West. Our list is not going to change now for some years, something I am glad about; we do however have one of the largest most detailed lists in the GMS.

I would like for the feedback for the whole year to look at whether these poor summers have impacted on our total moth numbers in the garden. This appeal for information is to the recorders who record on several nights a week through the year – say March – November +/- the occasional trap in December to February. If you have records on computer going back 5 -10 years it would be great, if you have time, to send me figures for the total number of moths caught per year, how many nights were trapped in each corresponding year and how many species were recorded in each of those years. I, for one, have holidays randomly spread through the year and sometimes use different numbers of traps and do not trap every night so it is much less standardized than the GMS but there still may be a pattern discernable if we have enough data. It does take some time to collect the numbers so if you can manage to find the time thank you in advance. It would be interesting to see whether there is any suggestion that these poor summers and often winter and springs are adversely affecting our total moth numbers. In my garden taking the average number of moths trapped/per night suggests this year will turn out to be the worst in the last 10 years – but not dramatically worse than 2007. Species numbers have not been so adversely affected. Final figures will have to wait to the end of December – but average moth numbers per night trapped could be down 45% compared to the 10 year average; the average no of nights per year I trapped compared to the average is down 15% and species numbers down 4%. The species figure will certainly reflect that I now identify more micro's and thus boost the numbers. – there are plenty to look for!

The first table shows our top 40 moths this quarter and how they have fared over the past five years. Do look at the graph's and charts in the main report to see how things compare to other parts of the country and over the weeks. There is an absolute mass of figures, charts and tables but I hope amongst it all you will be able to find things of interest. If you are interested in particular species just let me know and I can supply you with all the information we have on the database for that species.

2008-2011 Adjusted wk19-27	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
S/W YEARLY TOTAL	874	863	1,229	837	792.0
S/W ADJUSTED TOTAL	1,057	970	1,274	882	792
SPECIES					
Large Yellow Underwing	225.1	165.0	168.6	108.4	81.6
Uncertain/Rustic					45.5
Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing	40.8	39.2	32.3	36.9	45.4
Common Rustic aggregate			62.8	39.2	37.6
Heart & Dart	9.9	7.5	19.5	35.7	33.1
Common Footman	26.2	19.5	27.8	27.7	31.4
Dark Arches	24.6	19.2	37.4	30.6	30.4
Garden Grass-veneer		2.8	21.6	30.2	30.2
Riband Wave	19.2	11.0	22.5	25.0	24.8
Flame Shoulder	61.6	59.2	47.8	15.7	24.4
Light Brown Apple Moth	22.9	15.9	12.7	6.9	21.1
Dingy Footman	22.6	24.0	26.9	13.4	20.8
Brimstone Moth	23.8	17.7	17.0	16.6	19.1
Willow Beauty	14.9	8.6	14.5	11.5	15.5
Buff Ermine	13.1	6.4	14.4	9.5	13.3
<i>Agriphila tristella</i>		5.4	12.6	26.2	11.3
Silver Y	6.0	16.9	8.3	3.4	10.7
Mother of Pearl	7.3	11.2	19.2	6.6	10.5
Lesser Yellow Underwing	13.5	7.4	9.1	7.9	8.2
Setaceous Hebrew Character	33.6	83.0	166.4	41.0	8.1
Square-spot Rustic	18.9	13.0	16.2	22.3	7.7
<i>Agriphila straminella</i>		4.8	13.9	12.4	7.7
Rosy Footman	4.3	4.6	5.5	3.3	7.5
Buff Footman		11.7	10.5	6.4	7.3
Straw Dot	13.9	22.7	11.6	4.1	5.7
Flounced Rustic	4.1	3.0	6.8	10.1	5.4
Small Fan-footed Wave	6.3	7.6	9.8	4.8	5.1
Bright-line Brown-eye	6.1	6.2	7.9	4.0	5
Scalloped Oak	4.1	5.0	7.8	8.0	4.9
Shuttle-shaped Dart	11.4	10.5	36.6	21.5	4.8
<i>agriphila geniculea</i>		1.8	6.0	10.2	4.4
Common Carpet	2.6	3.1	8.1	6.0	4.4
Smoky Wainscot	5.2	6.9	5.4	3.4	4.4
Early Thorn	5.3	7.8	4.2	3.3	4.3
Ruby Tiger	4.1	5.0	6.6	7.8	3.6
Red Twin-spot Carpet	5.0	5.5	6.9	5.6	3.6

TOP MOTHS SW Q3

The next table shows the Vice County breakdown – with the same split as before in previous feedback in Q2.

Vice County	1&2	1&2	3&4	3&4	5 - 8	5-8	9	9	33,34	33,34
NO OF GDNS	14	12	12	15	11	11	7	6	14	9
Garden Average	684	575	760	596	1095	992	1098	921	807	1010
YEAR	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012
L.Y. Underwing	104	55	115	94	179	116	94	53	60	62
Uncertain/Rustic ag.	-----	14	-----	20	-----	89	-----	36	-----	69
Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing	23	24	28	37	53	59	53	61	38	58
Common Rustic aggregate	24	14	31	26	67	58	56	46	34	52
Heart & Dart	17	16	39	19	87	65	17	17	21	41
Common Footman	4	4	35	27	21	36	50	58	39	51
Dark Arches	22	17	36	18	50	43	23	23	22	54
Garden Grass-veneer	10	4	10	9	56	54	49	22	38	70
Riband Wave	12	14	21	18	25	31	20	24	44	41
Flame Shoulder	26	44	15	19	12	18	20	26	8	15
Light Brown Apple Moth	12	31	4	13	7	19	3	7	5	35
Dingy Footman	23	30	16	16	5	14	18	37	6	17
Brimstone Moth	16	9	22	13	12	23	23	29	14	29
Willow Beauty	9	5	18	17	13	24	16	19	10	12
Buff Ermine	9	10	10	12	9	11	20	32	6	9
<i>Agriphile tristella</i>	25	10	23	8	30	9	15	6	30	27
Mother of Pearl	3	4	4	5	9	22	11	11	8	12
Lesser Yellow Underwing	6	4	7	8	12	11	4	8	9	10
Setaceous Hebrew Character	37	9	22	3	44	8	77	13	44	13
<i>Agriphila straminella</i>	4	2	16	6	20	6	25	10	7	21
Square-spot Rustic	4	3	17	6	30	8	37	11	31	14
Rosy Footman	5	3	3	7	0.4	2	13	26	1	3
Buff Footman	17	15	4	5	1	3	8	14	2	3
Snout	2	4	3	3	1	8	3	10	1	8
Straw Dot	2	2	5	4	7	10	7	8	2	6
Small Fan-footed Wave	10	9	5	4	1	3	6	8	3	3
Shuttle-shaped Dart	9	10	5	3	56	7	28	9	17	3

TABLE 2 VICE COUNTY Q3

All areas show similar patterns apart from VC33 and 34; looking at these figures it looks as if they had a good Q3 - indeed it may be so, as Neale reports in the Yahoo group that he had his best August in the last three years. The figures are difficult however in that the number of sheets to compare has decreased by 30+%. Also many of the recorders sheets that I did not receive had below average numbers in 2011. There was also Steve who joined this year with well above average numbers. All may be clearer at year end when hopefully we will have the completed data from all the sheets.

I hope you find something of interest in this breakdown and the main report. Finally thank you again to everyone who managed to get a sheet sent in time and if you did not manage it I hope to welcome them all very soon at the end of the summer.

George Davis