



Butterfly
Conservation

Saving butterflies, moths and our environment

MOTHS
COUNT



Elephant Hawk-moth May-Aug

R. Thompson

garden moths

some common species

Your garden is home to many beautiful moths which have important roles in the garden ecosystem.

Moths and gardens

Gardens are important for moths. While most butterflies, birds and other wildlife just visit to look for food, our gardens provide a year-round home for many moths, throughout their life-cycles. Moths are also important for gardens. They are a vital part of the garden ecosystem, pollinating flowers and providing food for other garden wildlife like birds, bats, toads and hedgehogs. For example, each brood of Blue Tit chicks will eat about 15,000 moth caterpillars!

Many of the UK's 2,500 species of moths can be found in gardens. In general, gardens with a greater mix of plants and more diverse structure (i.e. shrubs and trees as well as grass and flowers) will support a wider variety of moths. This is because some moth caterpillars only feed on tree leaves, some only on grasses, and others on herbaceous plants. Native trees like oak and willow are especially good for moths, even if they're pruned to limit size.



Blood-vein
May-Nov

You can also increase moth numbers through simple sensitive gardening practices such as reducing chemical use; having plants rather than concrete, decking or gravel; leaving an area for long grass and wild plants; and not tidying up all dead plant matter at the end of the year (caterpillars and pupae spend the winter here). Even a small garden can easily support over a hundred species, and you may find many more if yours adjoins other suitable gardens or has trees nearby. This leaflet shows only a selection of the moths that could be in your garden, but the back page gives sources of information about more species.

Many moths, including garden species, are in serious decline. For example, Garden Tiger numbers have decreased by 89% since the late 1960s. Butterfly Conservation has established the Moths Count project and its National Moth Recording Scheme to raise awareness and improve knowledge and conservation of UK moths. You can contribute to this work by passing on your sightings (records) of garden moths. Records from gardens are very important to help build a picture of which moths are faring well and which are in decline.

For more information about moths, moth recording and the Moths Count project visit **www.mothscount.org**

Species illustrated are relatively common and most are widespread in Britain and Ireland. They are not to scale. Flight periods are given for guidance but may vary to the north and south.

Foxglove Pug

May-Aug



Early Grey

Mar-May



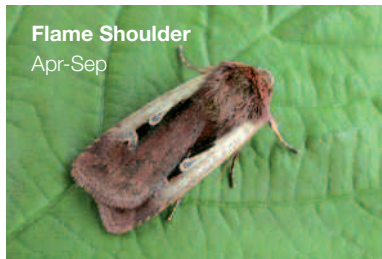
Eyed Hawk-moth

May-Jul



Flame Shoulder

Apr-Sep



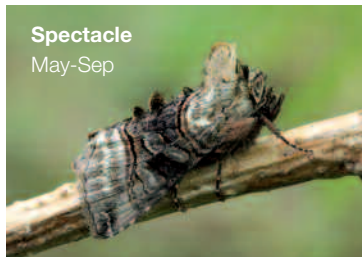
Merveille du Jour

Sep-Oct



Spectacle

May-Sep



Chinese Character

Apr-Sep



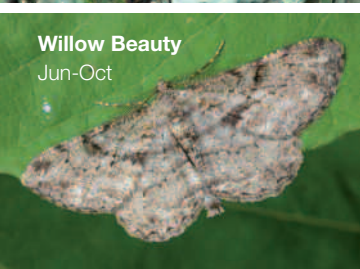
Light Emerald

May-Sep



Willow Beauty

Jun-Oct



Heart & Dart

May-Sep



Garden Tiger

Jul-Aug



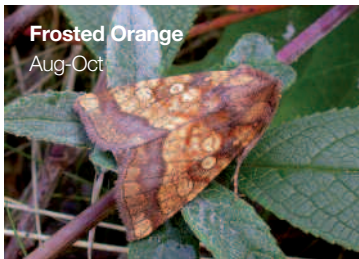
Drinker

Jul-Aug



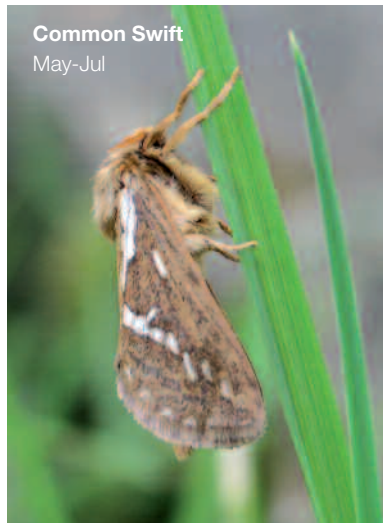
Frosted Orange

Aug-Oct



Common Swift

May-Jul



Swallow-tailed Moth

Jun-Aug



Common Footman

Jul-Aug



Mint Moth

May-Aug



Flame

Apr-Sep



Common Rustic

Jul-Aug



Dot Moth

Jun-Aug



Green Silver-lines

May-Jul



Brimstone Moth

Apr-Oct



Pale Tussock

May-Jun



Riband Wave

Jun-Oct



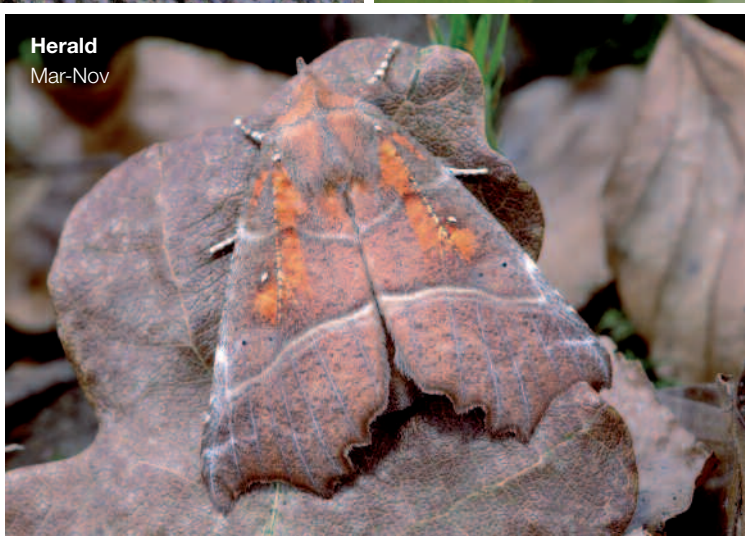
Setaceous Hebrew Character

May-Oct



Herald

Mar-Nov



Dark Arches

Jun-Nov



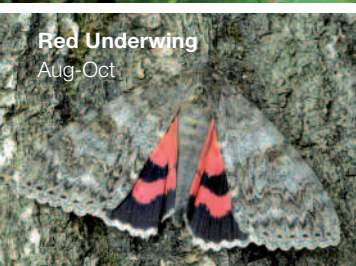
Yellow Shell

Jun-Aug



Red Underwing

Aug-Oct



Green Carpet

May-Sep



Garden Carpet

Apr-Sep



Snout

Jun-Oct



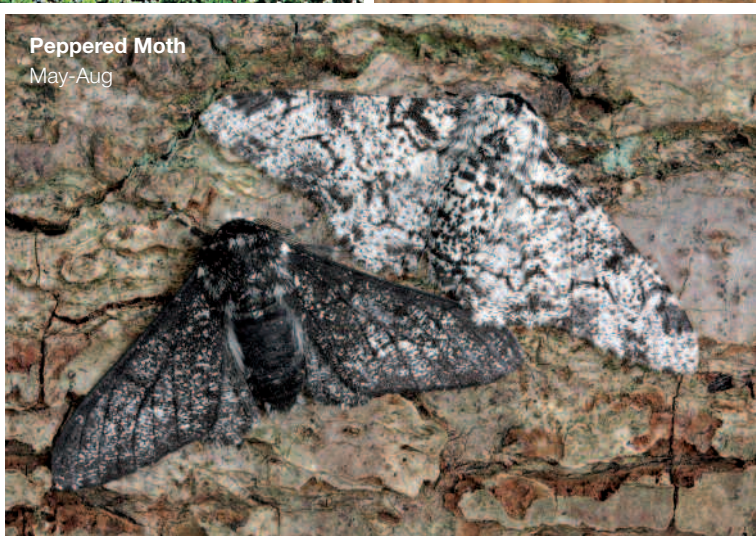
Lackey

Jul-Aug



Peppered Moth

May-Aug



Clouded Silver

May-Jul



Oak Hook-tip

May-Sep



Bright-line Brown-eye

May-Sep



Ruby Tiger

Apr-Sep



Poplar Hawk-moth

May-Sep



Pink-barred Sallow

Aug-Oct



Light-brown Apple Moth

May-Oct



Scalloped Oak

Jul-Aug



Maggie
Jun-Aug



Angle Shades
May-Oct



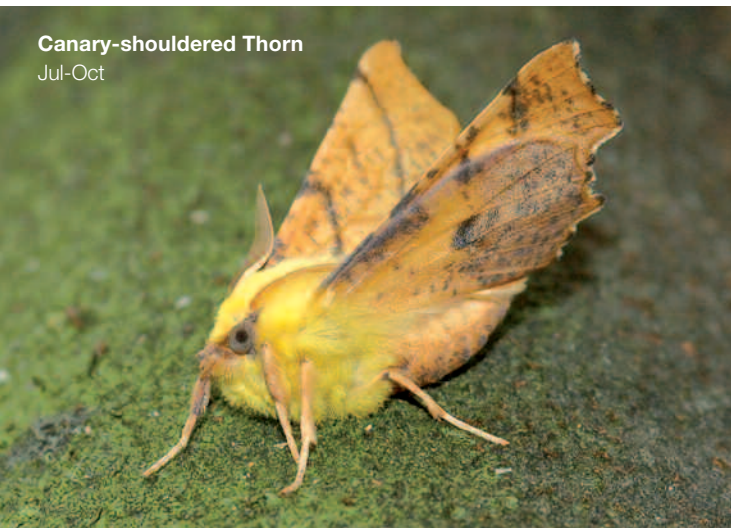
Peach Blossom
May-Sep



Buff Arches
Jun-Aug



Canary-shouldered Thorn
Jul-Oct



Grey Dagger
May-Oct



Large Yellow Underwing

Jun-Nov



Swallow Prominent

Apr-Aug



Burnished Brass

Jun-Sep



Mother of Pearl

Jun-Sep



Lime Hawk-moth

May-Jul



Buff-tip

May-Jul



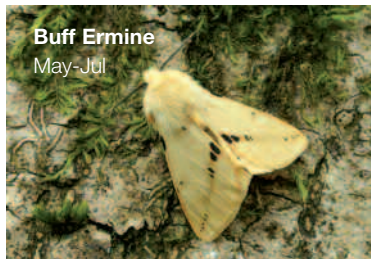
White Ermine

May-Oct



Buff Ermine

May-Jul



Privet Hawk-moth

Jun-Jul



Shark

Jun-Aug



Further information

There is plenty of help to identify moths, and other information, on the Moths Count website at www.mothscount.org, which also has links to further sources. The books below are good identification guides:

British Moths and Butterflies. A photographic guide.

Manley, C. 2008 (A&C Black)

Concise Guide to the Moths of Great Britain and Ireland.

Townsend, M., Waring, P. & Lewington, R. 2007 (British Wildlife Publishing)

Field Guide to the Moths of Great Britain and Ireland.

Waring, P., Townsend, M. & Lewington, R. 2009 (British Wildlife Publishing)

The Colour Identification Guide to Moths of the British Isles.

Skinner, B. 2009 (Apollo Books)

Butterfly Conservation is working to save butterflies, moths and their habitats. Why not become a member? More information at www.butterfly-conservation.org

Moths Count is a partnership of many organisations, individuals and businesses, led by Butterfly Conservation. Principal funders include the Heritage Lottery Fund, Butterfly Conservation, British Entomological and Natural History Society, City Bridge Trust, Countryside Council for Wales, Environment Agency, Natural England, Northern Ireland Environment Agency, Royal Entomological Society, RSPB and Scottish Natural Heritage. Many other organisations are involved, providing support and helping to host events. Full details at:

www.mothscount.org

Manor Yard East Lulworth
Wareham Dorset BH20 5QP

Phone 01929 400209
info@butterfly-conservation.org

Text by Susan Anders.

Photographs by Robert Thompson, Roy Leverton, Shane Farrell, Dave Green, Chris Harlow, Les Hill, Ian Kimber, Mike Lawrence, Mark Parsons and Paul Pugh.

Butterfly Conservation
Company limited by guarantee, registered in England (2206469)
Registered Office: Manor Yard, East Lulworth, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 5QP
Charity registered in England & Wales (254937) and in Scotland (SC039268)
Printed on 100% recycled stock including 75% post-consumer waste.



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