

## **SW NEWS LETTER AUTUMN 2010.**

An Autumn that in our garden was characterized by a best ever crop of apples from our old Bramley and the best autumn colour ever on our Acer has now certainly turned to winter with the first frosts and now snow!

The weather locally seemed generally mild this Autumn if often windy. For those of you who are on the GMS chat-site there is often detailed weather information given about the night of a catch. Neale, who is now a moderator of the chat-site, often gives this information. I know John in the far SW uses weather recording gear. If any of you have experience of weather stations and how effective they are at recording I would be delighted to hear from you.

The date of the AGM has been fixed for the 6<sup>th</sup> March at Moira Village Hall near Ashby-de-la Zouche. It has been sponsored by Map-Mate. It is always a great day with lots of opportunity to meet enthusiastic fellow moth-ers, hear first hand about the GMS, and opportunities to buy equipment from ALS and books from Atropos – both sponsors of GMS. If you plan to buy a specific item prior arrangement can save a lot on postage. I shall be there and I hope some others from the South West will keep me company! Car sharing may be the way to go and if you are going with spare room or have no transport but would like to go please let me know so I can facilitate this where possible.

At this time of year the winter scheme has already started and already 35 of you are joining me in the empty trap brigade! Some of you I have not yet heard from so I hope there may be a few more still to join us. This winter we have seven new members joining and three schools are taking part with the assistance of one of our recorders

Last year I showed a table of our vice county split for our recorders. One year on and there has been a growth in recorder numbers especially in parts of Wiltshire and South Devon. All

areas however would benefit from new recorders to provide good coverage of our varied and huge area.

Vice County	2010 no[2009]	Vice County	2010 no[2009]
1	8-----[8]	7	8-----[1]
2	8-----[8]	8	2-----[0]
3	12-----[8]	9	8-----[7]
4	1-----[1]	33	6-----[9]
5	4-----[2]	34	8-----[5]
6	3-----[3]	-----	-----

### **VICE COUNTY -----RECORDER TABLE.**

Some recorders have left the scheme while others have joined. Many of you have helped recruit new recorders and this is a great strength of the SW group. I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who has promoted the scheme to their friends. If you have friends who might like to join please feel free to give them my phone number -01326 250171 or email – [george.w.davis@lineone.net](mailto:george.w.davis@lineone.net).

It is also inevitable that members of the scheme may on occasion be unable to complete the season. There are a wide variety of valid reasons including health and I would like to emphasise that no one should feel guilty. It is all voluntary and there is always the opportunity to try again next year.

I have no firm figures back for the summer returns that have been completed but I am hopeful we will have a record number of returns for the SW but not quite reaching my initial target of 50 set three years ago. I had given myself an aim of 5 years to achieve this. We are well on our way to achieving this first milestone.

What about the Moths? Below is a table of our top 25 moths in this quarter. The ‘average’ garden recorded 308 moths as against 302 in this quarter last year.

Moth SPECIES	2010 Rank	2010 garden average [42 gardens]	2009 garden average [38 gardens]	2008 Garden average [18 gardens]
Large Yellow Underwing	1 <sup>st</sup>	76.1	32.6	20.88
Setaceous Hebrew Character	2 <sup>nd</sup>	61.0	70.6	27.00
Beaded Chestnut	3 <sup>rd</sup>	16.0	7.08	3.06
Lunar Underwing	4 <sup>th</sup>	12.50	10.08	7.00
Square-spot Rustic	5 <sup>th</sup>	12.02	12.44	7.59
Light Brown Apple Moth	6 <sup>th</sup>	9.98	15.16	6.12
Yellow Line Quaker	7 <sup>th</sup> =	8.10	7.19	1.62
Black Rustic	7 <sup>th</sup> =	8.10	6.97	5.41
Lesser Yellow Underwing	9 <sup>th</sup>	7.81	7.86	7.00
Common Marbled Carpet	10 <sup>th</sup>	6.79	16.69	8.23
Blair’s Shoulder Knot	11 <sup>th</sup>	5.98	3.42	4.13
Common Wainscot	12 <sup>th</sup>	5.86	2.45	0.5
Rosy Rustic	13 <sup>th</sup>	3.67	1.95	0.8
Feathered Ranunculus	14 <sup>th</sup>	3.31	8.05	7.19
Snout	15 <sup>th</sup>	3.29	8.34	4.94
Flounced Rustic	16 <sup>th</sup>	3.07	1.75	1.37
Vines Rustic	17 <sup>th</sup>	3.0	1.00	3.35
Nov. Moth ag	18 <sup>th</sup>	2.9	Not on list	Not on list
Barred Sallow	19 <sup>th</sup>	2.43	3.48	0.38
Rush Veneer	20 <sup>th</sup>	2.24	4.63	0.0
Brimstone Moth	21 <sup>st</sup> =	2.19	7.03	3.71
Turnip	21 <sup>st</sup> =	2.19	0.37	0.25
Red Line Quaker	23 <sup>rd</sup> =	1.82	3.97	0.75
Angle Shades	23 <sup>rd</sup> =	1.82	5.02	3.7
Feathered Thorn	25 <sup>th</sup> =	1.76	1.68	0.5
Silver Y	25 <sup>th</sup> =	1.76	4.61	4.29

For those in the yahoo group there was close interest to see if Neale would record a Merveille du Jour on any night – let alone the GMS. There were email celebrations when success was achieved. Neale lives in Bristol so here is the breakdown for this spectacular moth on GMS nights in the SW.

Year	2008 -18 gdns	2009 -40 gdns	2010 -42 gdns
Av. Per garden	0.65	0.73	0.86
Recorded in %tage of gdns	25%	25%	54%

Every region has some records so if you have not seen one yet let's hope it is spreading in your direction!

Finally thank you for your hard work and early mornings for the GMS this year. The next feedback will be the national feedback on the autumn and then after Christmas the 2010 SW feedback for the year as a whole.

Have a happy and peaceful Christmas ----- George