

The following reports are written by two girls who clearly enjoyed themselves and by the looks of it learnt a great deal as well ...

Moth Watch Evaluation, by Emily Alexander, age 12

As far as I'm concerned the moth watch was a complete success, we saw Carpets, Footmen, Waves and a large variety of other moths. Because of this large variety I have only chosen a few to write about.

We set up two stations, one was a box in which the moths could not escape from, this proved very successful as we managed to capture moths of all kinds. Our other station was a large white sheet with a lamp behind it to attract moths that would not become trapped, but simply for us to look at and identify them.

Below is a selection of the moths we saw:

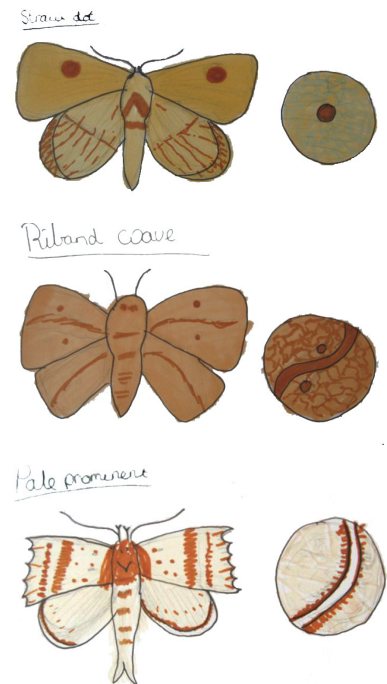
Straw Dot (top right) - length: 5-10mm approx, colour: yellow with black dots, observations: stayed still for a few minutes then moved on.

Riband Wave (middle) - length: 27-30mm, colour: gold or transparent silver with brown line patterns, observations: stayed very still until more of his kind came along (possibly of the opposite sex).

Pale Prominent (bottom) - length: 15-25mm, colour: yellowish brown head brownish green body, observations: stayed very still and close to the ground.

Other moths we saw included: Brimstone Moth, Flame Shoulder Moth, Dingy Footman, Common Carpet.

Now that you know about what we saw I will tell you about what I thought of the whole thing. It was great, there was a friendly atmosphere and it was really nice getting to know everyone. It was fantastic there were so many! I learnt that moths can be spotted during the day and that there is a whole other world of micro-moths. I also learnt the difference between a Dingy and a Buff Footman none of which I had ever even **heard** of before! Overall I really enjoyed the whole thing and I would definitely go again.



Bat Watch Success, by Leora Alexander, age 10, 2 weeks ago



When we got to the church where the moth watch would take place I had no idea that we would also be looking at bats (that is a **good** thing).

I can't tell you much about the bats we saw because we weren't able to know for sure what species they were. Though some came close as soon as they were there they were gone, just like that!

But I can tell you some of the call frequency range kHz numbers we picked up on the bat detector.

So I will list them and say what they could have been. At the beginning we picked up a range of 20-30 that could have been: Leisler's, Serotine, Noctule or Barbastelle.

Then later we picked up a call frequency of 58 that could have been: Common Pipistrelle or Natterer's.

Then we had a dead on 40 that could have been: Common Pipistrelle or Leisler's.

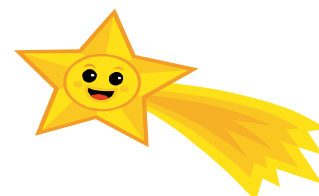
Then round the end we picked up 56-67 and these calls could have been: Daubenton's or Brandt's.

St Swithuns Wildlife Habit, Headbourne Worthy
Bat & Moth Watch
Saturday 15th August 2009, 8.30-11.30pm



Now you know about what we possibly saw I want to tell you about what it was like to be there. It got dark really quick and I don't think many people noticed until it was pitch black. We were all sitting down until about 10 minutes into the night. That was when people started looking in the moth box which you can read all about in the moth watch evaluation written by my big sis Emily. Anyway we saw some of the group go down a long path and me, Emily and a very nice lady (who's name I can't remember) followed them over a small bridge and down a path to a big meadow with grass up to my neck to find the others who had picked up a bat sign on the bat detector then we walked back to join the others.

I looked at some moths and then found myself more interested in bats so I followed a man (whose name I also can't remember) with a detector and we saw lots of bats (after first detecting them) and then to make our day a lovely shooting star went by (I missed it though).



Then we sat down and just looked up and saw several bats flying past, and as soon as you know it, it's time to go.

But if the group does anything like it again then I would love to join in the fun!!!

I would also like to thank Bruce because he runs it and he made it happen along with the help of the whole group and the whole team for being so kind we had lots of laughs so I would like to thank you ALL!!!



Field Study Summary

Nineteen enthusiasts joined the evening, with many more insects! Hot drinks and cake were provided.

Equipment used: for the moth watch two types of trap: 1) a specialist moth trap, 2) a trap made up of 125 watt mercury lamp, two large white sheets, stakes, rope & pegs; for the Bat watch: various specialist bat detectors. Electricity was kindly supplied by St Swithuns Church, who also gave permission to hold the event in the church yard.

Moth photographs taken can be found on the web site. Weather: dry & still.



Observing moths using a specialist moth trap (left), and a makeshift trap (right) consisting of a 125W mercury lamp standing behind a large white sheet which was suspended over a line fixed between two stakes tethered to the ground, with a second sheet laid on the ground.

Bruce Graham, Watch Leader