

# The Importance of Moth Recording in Scotland

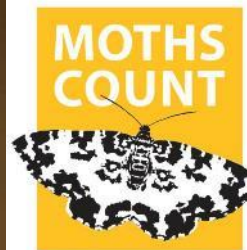


**Dr Tom Prescott**  
**Senior Conservation Officer**

# ATLAS OF BRITAIN & IRELAND'S LARGER MOTHS



Zoë Randle, Les J Evans-Hill, Mark S Parsons, Angus Tyner,  
Nigel A D Bourn, Tony Davis, Emily B Dennis, Michael O'Donnell,  
Tom Prescott, George M Tordoff & Richard Fox



National  
Moth  
Recording  
Scheme



Nearly 900 species  
867 species accounts  
Over 25 million records

**Scotland**  
**560 Species**  
**1.2 million records**



Butterfly  
Conservation  
Scotland

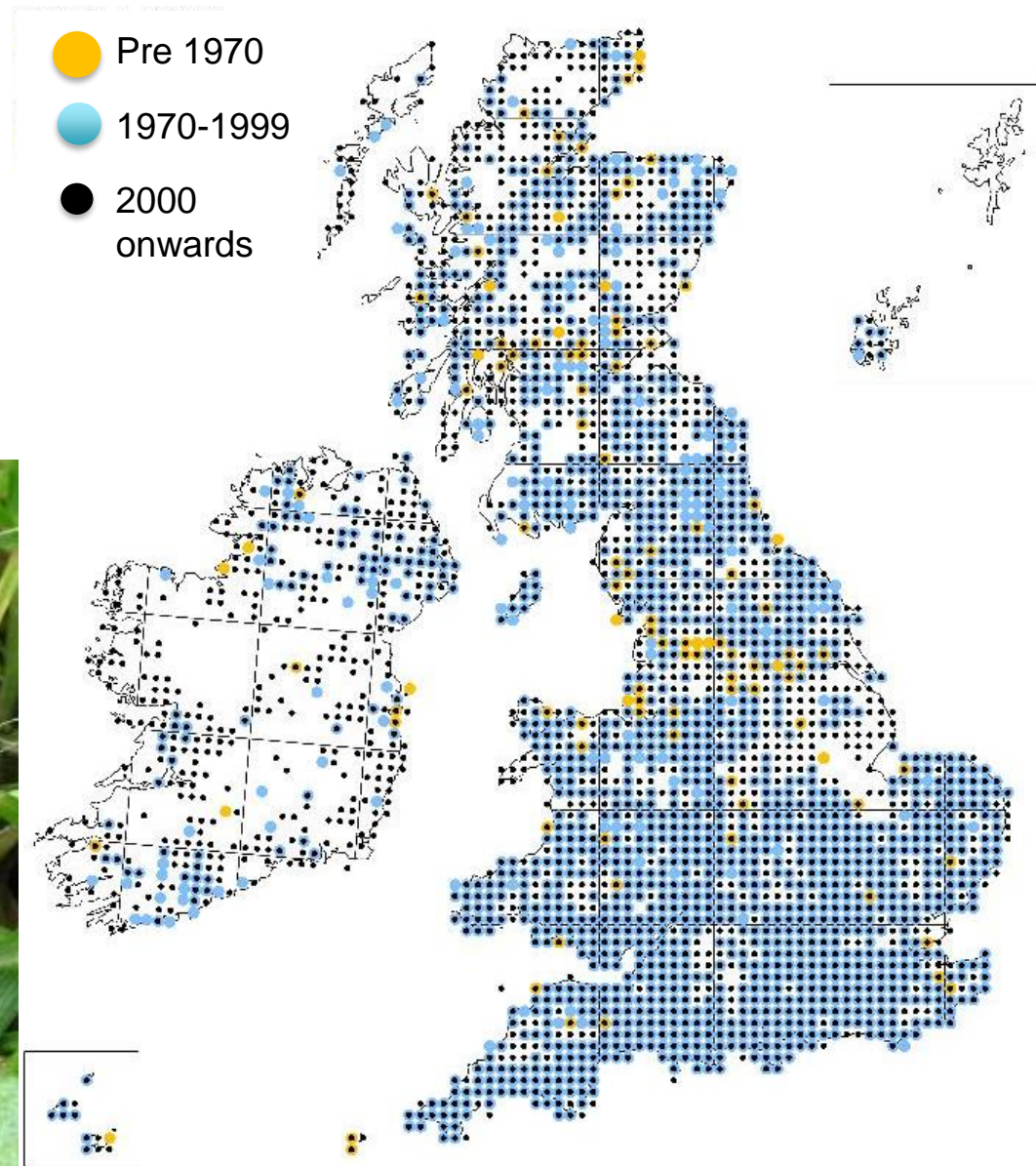
Saving butterflies, moths and our environment



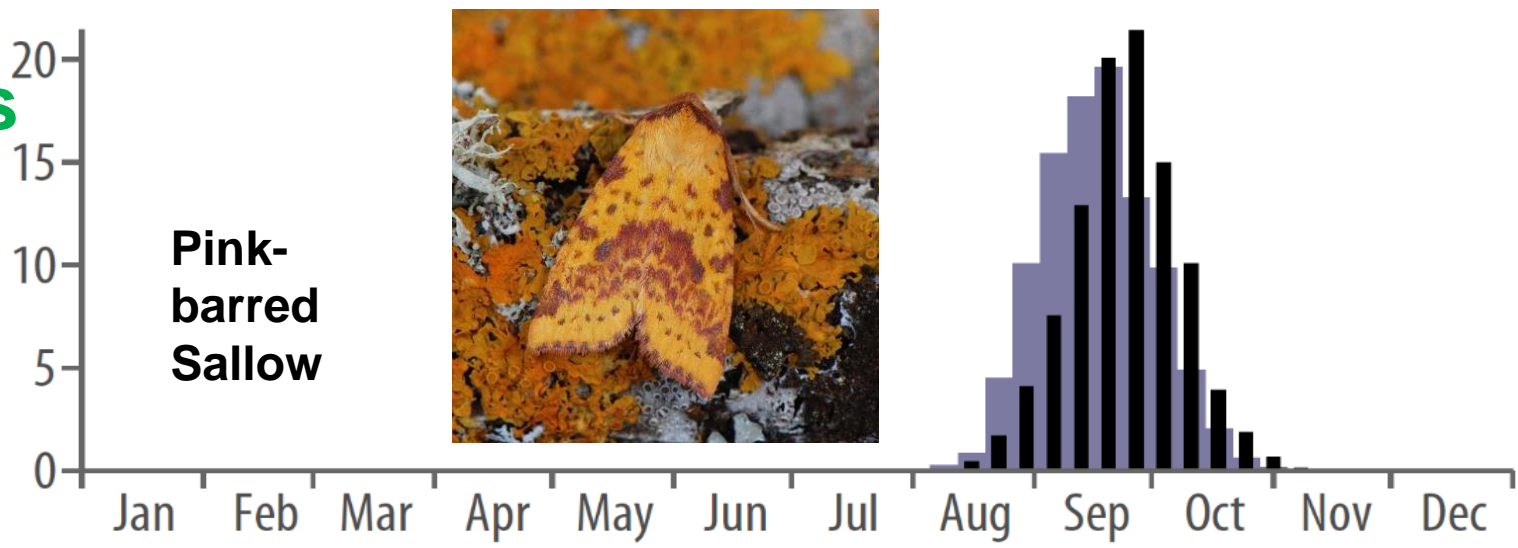
# Green Carpet

Long-term  
distribution trend

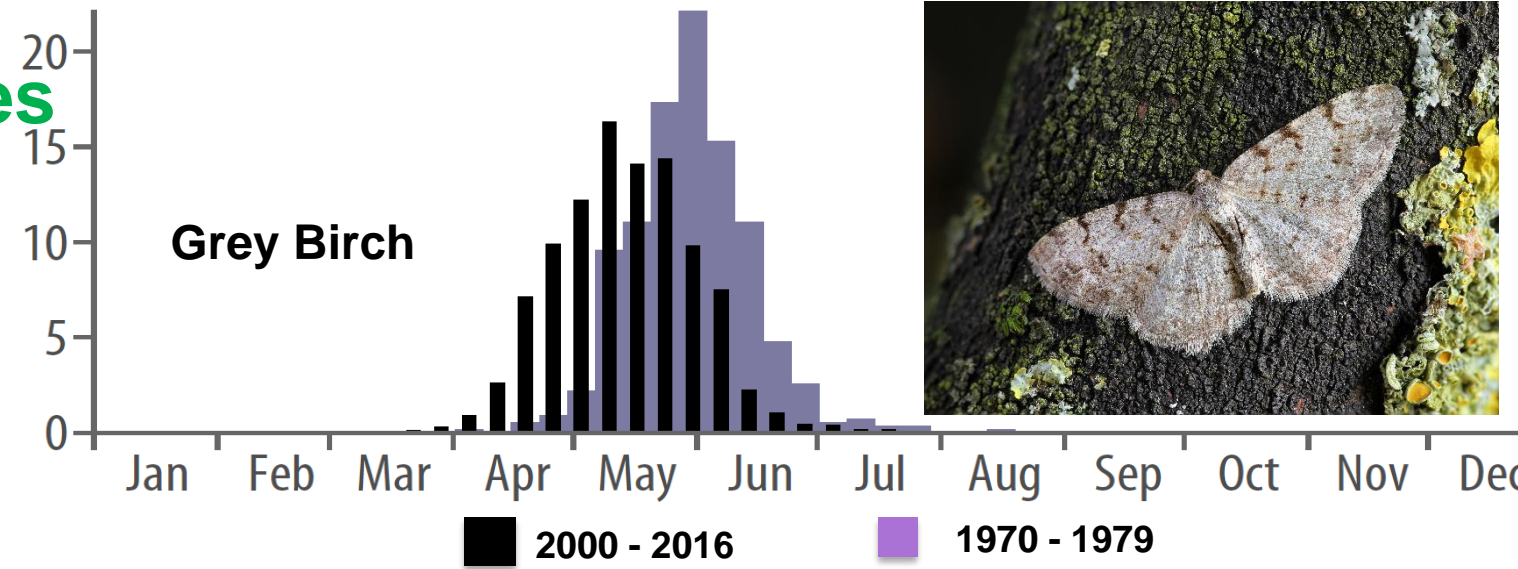
68%



76 species  
(19%)



329 species  
(81%)





# Biggest changes in abundance in Scotland



- 16/20 species with greatest increases associated with woodland habitats

Pine Carpet



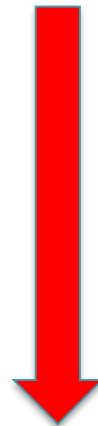
Clouded Border



Dun-bar



>500%,  
1975-2014



- 13/20 species in greatest decline associated with semi-natural habitats
- 7/20 with broader range of habitats including farmland, plantation and urban
- 8/20 associated with moorland

>90% decline  
1975-2014

Pale Eggar



Anomalous



Grass Rivulet



ROTHAMSTED  
RESEARCH

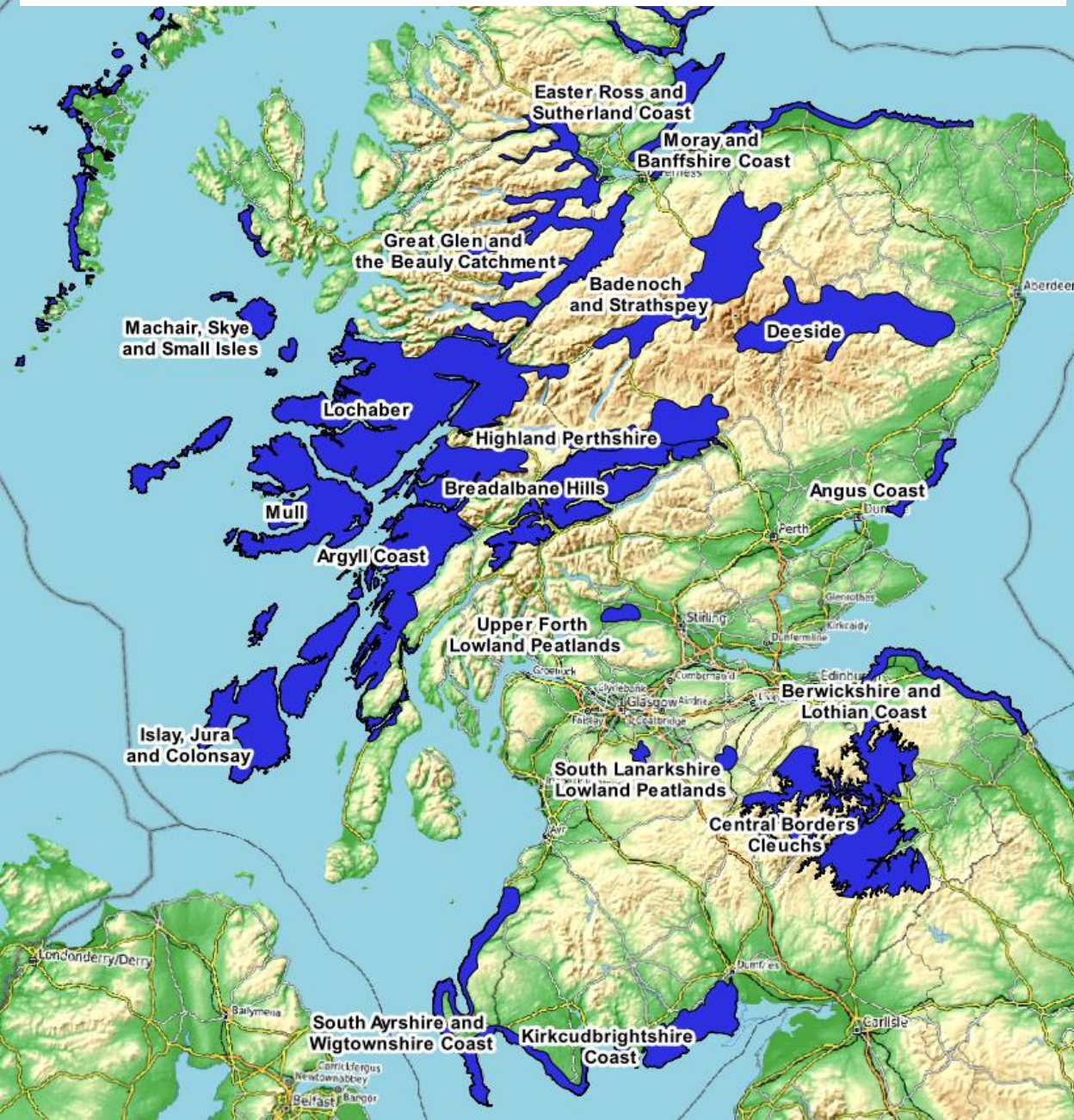


Winners &  
Losers





# Scottish Conservation Strategy



**19 Priority Landscapes**  
**106 Priority Species**

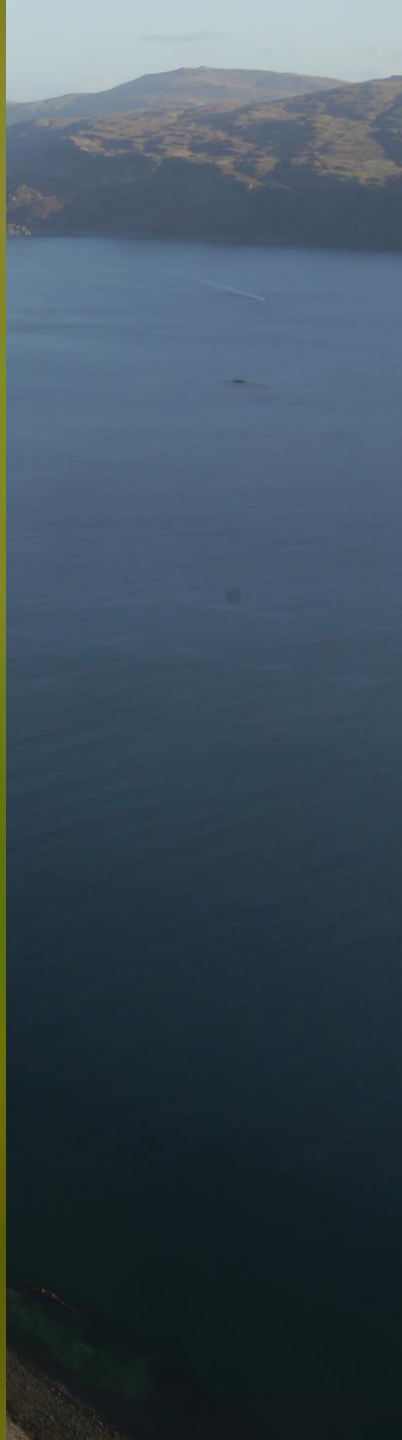
- **HA - 23 species**  
**3 Butts, 12 Micros & 8 Macros**
- **HB - 37 species**  
**2 Butts, 19 Micros & 16 Macros**
- **M - 46 species**  
**5 Butts, 24 Micros & 17 Macros**
- **Total 106 species**  
**10 Butts, 55 Micros & 41 Macros**



**Butterfly  
Conservation  
Scotland**

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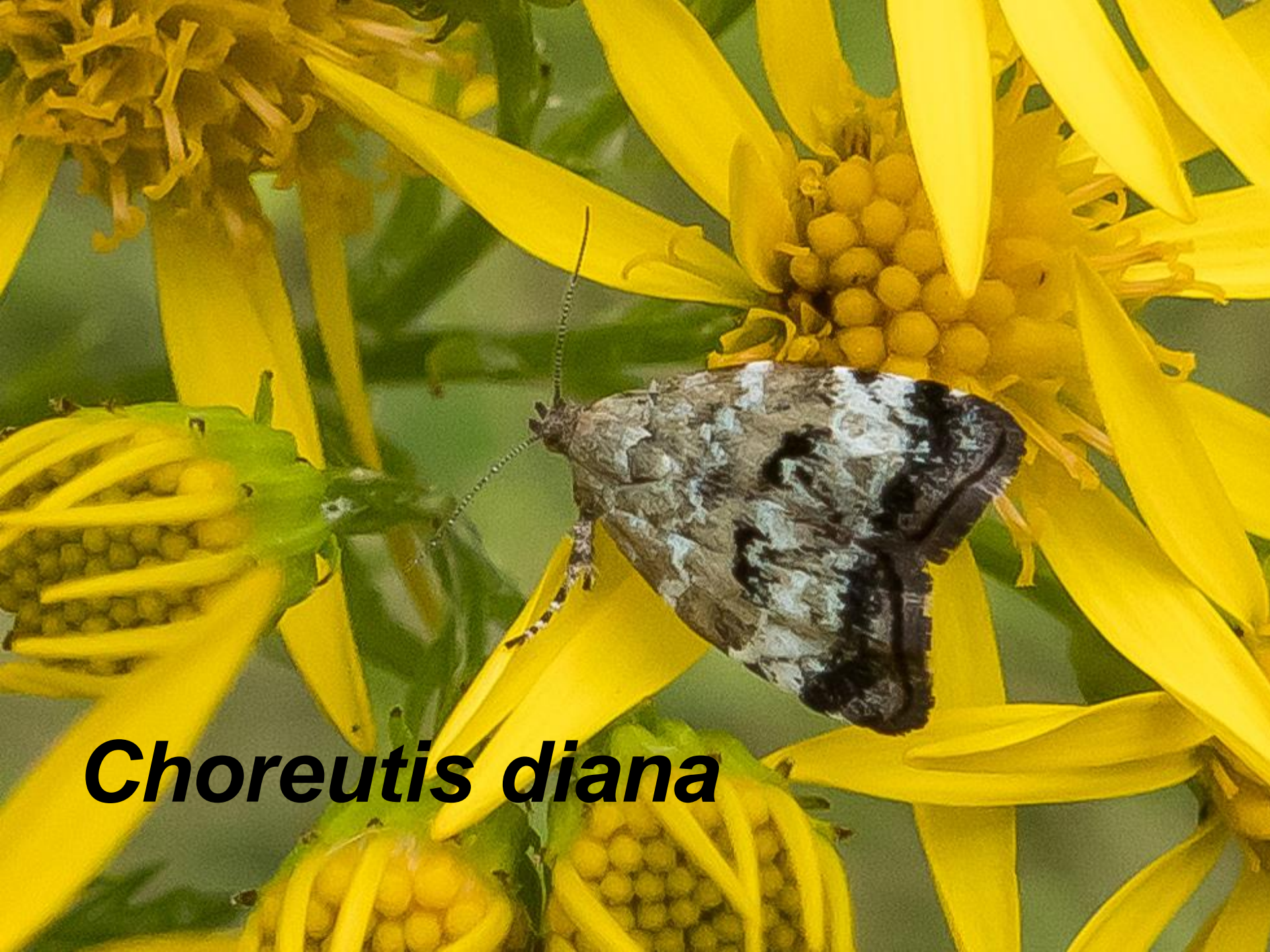












***Choreutis diana***















# Cairngorms Connect





# Coul Links







Coul Links



# Learn about Scotland's common moths



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## Trap Types

(pros ✓ and cons ✗)

### Robinson Trap

*Large, round, plastic container with transparent collar.*

- ✓ Catches large numbers of moths which tend not to escape.
- ✓ Perhaps the most efficient trap.
- ✗ Does not collapse so takes up a lot of room when not in use and to transport.
- ✗ Expensive.



Robinson Trap with MV Bulb

### Skinner Trap

*Rectangular box, normally collapsible, with slot entrance. Larger than a Heath Trap.*

- ✓ Can catch close to as many moths as a Robinson.
- ✓ Easy to open and observe catch.
- ✓ Can be collapsed when not in use and for transport.
- ✓ Cheaper than a Robinson.
- ✗ Moths sometimes escape once caught.
- ✗ Can be cumbersome to assemble.



Skinner Trap with Actinic Tube

### Heath Trap

*Collapsible rectangular box with funnel.*

- ✓ Light and can flat-pack for storage and transport.
- ✓ Very portable so ideal if trapping away from habitation.
- ✓ Cheapest non-DIY trap.
- ✗ Holds fewer moths than previous two models.
- ✗ Can be cumbersome to assemble.



Heath Trap with Actinic Tube

### Bucket Trap

*Medium, round, plastic container – a compromise between a Heath and a Robinson.*

- ✓ Can catch better than a Heath.
- ✓ Cheaper than a Robinson and lends itself to DIY.
- ✗ Does not collapse so takes up more room than a Heath trap although smaller than a Robinson.



Bucket Trap with Compact Bulb





Tentsmuir  
6pm  
Monday 9<sup>th</sup>  
Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup>



Lunar Yellow Underwing



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# *Want to know more?*

## *Just get in touch*

- Website: [www.butterfly-conservation.org/Scotland](http://www.butterfly-conservation.org/Scotland)
- Email: [tprescott@butterfly-conservation.org](mailto:tprescott@butterfly-conservation.org)
- Phone: 01540 661469
- Mobile: 07979 785665
- Post: Mill House, Mill Road, Kingussie, PH21 1LF













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## Species Accounts

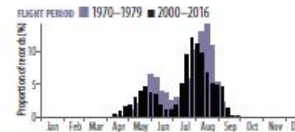


3.003 (18)

RICH STATUS Least Concern  
STATUS Common

DISTRIBUTION TREND tbc  
POPULATION TREND tbc

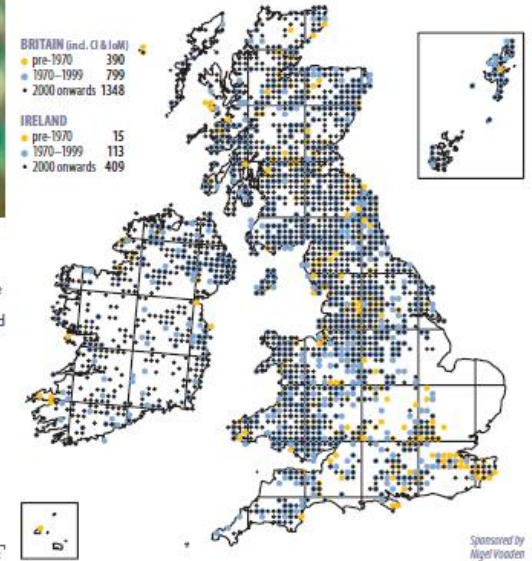
Resident. Predominantly a northern and western species of moorland, rough pasture and open woodland. Widespread in the Midlands, northern England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland. Much more localised in the south and east of England. The distribution trend for this species is stable.



### Map-winged Swift *Korscheltellus fusconebulosa*

BRITAIN (incl. CI & IoM)  
• pre-1970 390  
• 1970-1999 799  
• 2000 onwards 1348

IRELAND  
• pre-1970 15  
• 1970-1999 113  
• 2000 onwards 409



Sponsored by  
Nigel Woodcock

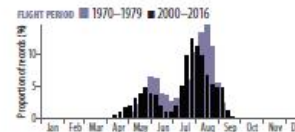


3.004 (16)

RICH STATUS n/a  
STATUS Immigrant

DISTRIBUTION TREND tbc  
POPULATION TREND tbc

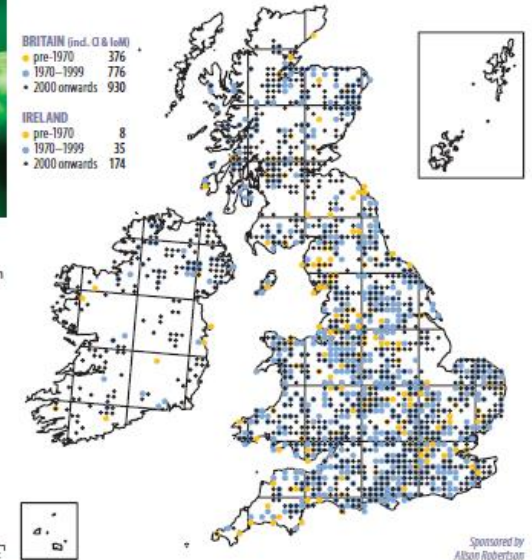
Resident. Widespread across much of Britain but rare in the uplands. Found in woods, scrub, and in areas of heathland and rough grassland where bracken is present. Many recent records in Ireland are as a result of increased recording effort. Both the long-term distribution trend and abundance trend for this species show declines.



### Gold Swift *Phymatopus hecta*

BRITAIN (incl. CI & IoM)  
• pre-1970 376  
• 1970-1999 776  
• 2000 onwards 930

IRELAND  
• pre-1970 8  
• 1970-1999 35  
• 2000 onwards 174



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