

From Museum to Moth Trap:

in the footsteps of Alice Balfour and her moths





Alice Blanche Balfour
1850 - 1936

Whittingehame Estate



Alice's Moths

Alice recorded 11 species that haven't been seen since in East Lothian...



Heath Rivulet



Portland Moth



Stout Dart

Alice's Collection

Around 10,000 specimens....



...all from East Lothian

Alice's Notebooks



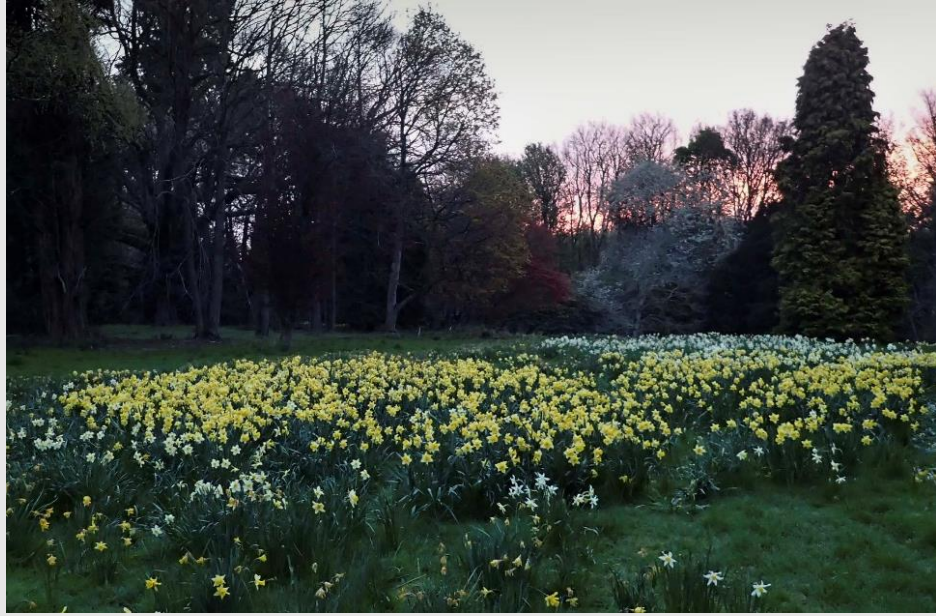
Diary of East Lothian Lepidoptera...

1915					1916				
Date	Species	Whitt No	Trap	Light	Date	Species	Whitt No	Trap	Light
Oct 18 S/	Satellina				End March of early April	Chimaboeche Fagella 7-bird per bush			
- -	Oporidia Dilutata		1	1		larva found in East Lothian on beach at Gyle			
Oct 19	Ranthoglyphia ferruginea			1	Apr 26	Temo-campa Stabiles - at Ballan	Whitt 15 2		
Oct 20	Chimaboeche (Chimaboeche) immutabilis	Whitt 10			-	T. Cythra	at Ballan		
-	Cornia Traperina	Whitt 1			-	T. Inhabilis	at Ballan		
-	Oporidia Dilutata		2		27	Depressaria heracliana	Whitt 16		
Oct 27	Tis - probably diluella, but probably to be Quercifolia		1	1	May 2	Diurna (Chimaboeche) fagella 7-bird per bush			
Oct 28	Oporidia Dilutata	Whitt				walk - Whitt - on tree trunk - good spec.			
Oct 29	O. "					He only one I found this year			
-	Plutella Cruciferae		1						
-	Depressaria heracliana	Whitt 16	1						
	Atts left Whittingham Nov 1 -								
Dec 3	C. Barata	Whittingham House. W. Parker	2						
<p>Ahead year for moths in some ways. The weather was usually unsuitable when there was no moon, & vice versa. - During the war it was impossible to moth at Whittingham or Greenhead, at night as no lights were allowed. No lights were allowed at Whitt. which was visible from the sea, consequently the trap could only be used on the S.W. & S.E. sides. (The N.E. side is the best one as a rule)</p> <p>It was a late spring & summer which may account for some moths being found in Aug which are usually over by then. - No mothing at night was done on the hills.</p>					<p>Left for London May 6. - Returned to Whittingham June 26. Except for a few days in May the weather was extraordinarily cold & wet & changeable. Consequently all vegetation was extremely backward. NO lights allowed so trap not used.</p>				
					June 27	Melipotis mellea	Whitt 17		
					- 27	Micropteryx Sappella 8 on flower head	Whitt 3		
					- 27	Glyptotendipes fischerella - on flower head	3		
					- 27	Dicranophora Saturnia	Whitt	4	
					-	Grapholita ulicetana		1	
					- 27-28	Gledaria montana	Whitt	4	
					- 29	Hepialus Velleda 7 on tall grass spike 7.30pm	Whitt 1		
					-	Rumia Cratagata - dark	Whitt	1	
					- 30	Gracillaria springella (immuni) 100m		4	
					-	Cidaria montana	Whitt	4	
					-	Oreambres protellus	5.30pm	1	
					-	Hepialus Velleda 8		1	
					-	Nemophora Schwarzella 100m		1	
					-	Anchylopera lunata - pale		1	

Cold wet weather

Survey Methods





Whittingehame macros

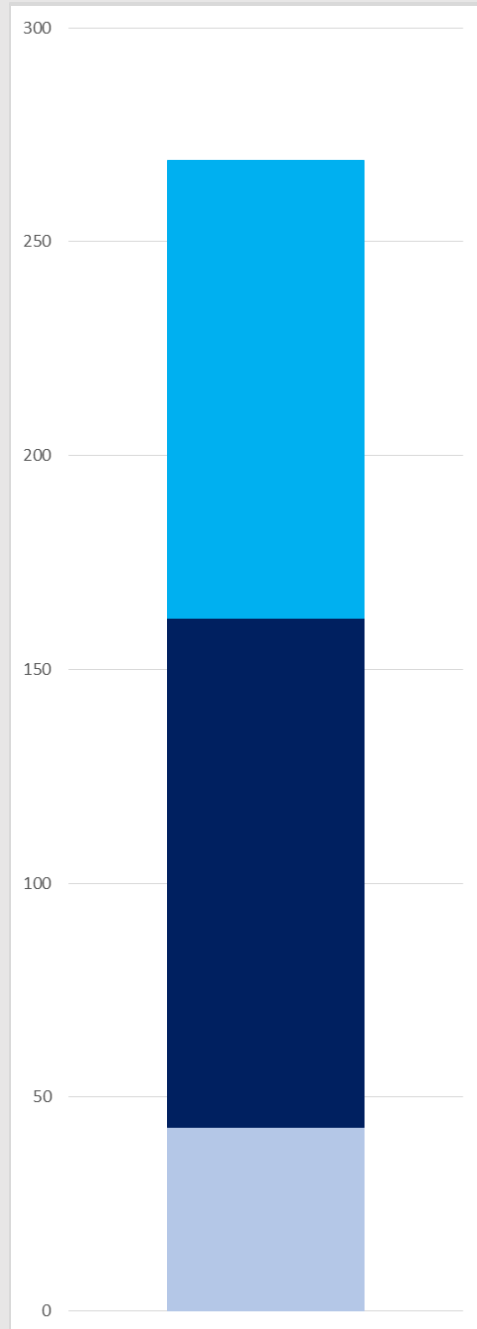


KATTY (2019) 162

ALICE (life) 226

Whittingehame total 269

Changes in species



■ Alice

■ Both

■ Katty



Comparing changes in abundance?



Common Wainscot

Smoky Wainscot

Katty (2019 light trap)	10	97
Alice (notebook entries)	28	14
hundreds, abundant, very many <i>"abounds on Lime flowers"</i>		good many, several, a few

Updating the records

Struck off:

- Toadflax Pug
- Lead-coloured
- Thyme Pug

Corrected:

- Brown Silver
- Golden-rod

New to VC82:

- Small Purple
- Brussels Lace

New to NMRS:

- New dates, n
- 22 species for NT67





Thank you:

National Museums Scotland

Ashleigh Whiffin

Michael Brander

Roy Leverton

<https://whittingehamemoths.home.blog/>