

MOTH SPOTTER SHEET

These species of moth are nocturnal, meaning that they are active and feeding at night and at rest during the day. Moths are related to butterflies but differ from butterflies in that they are usually dull-coloured (but not always!). Moths also carry their wings flat or ridge shaped while at rest. There are around 2500 species of moths in the UK, far more than butterflies!



Why not set up a moth trap at night?



(c) Nigel Stone, Exmoor NP, flickr



Elephant Hawk-moth

This moth feeds at night on plants and flowers such as honeysuckle. You'll find it on the wing May – July active from dusk. It has an extremely large, distinctive caterpillar with enormous eyespots!

Smoky Wainscot

The Smoky Wainscot feeds on various grasses, sedges and rushes and overwinters as a small larva. On the wing from June to September, its name refers to the dusky, smoky appearance of its wings.

(c) Gail Hampshire, flickr



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Angle-Shades

Often found on fences in the daytime, the name of this moth refers to its shape. As an adult it is seen May – October. It is pinky-brown with dark, v-shaped markings on the forewings.

(c) David Short, flickr



Heart and Dart

Look out for the black band behind the head, as well as the 'heart and dart' shaped wing markings—can you see the pattern? It flies May to July and is very attracted to light, making it easy to catch!

(c) naturalhistoryman, flickr



Eyed Hawk-moth

The brightly coloured spots that look like eyes on its wings are displayed when the moth feels threatened. This moth is light brown and camouflaged (meaning it blends into its background). It flies from May to July.

(c) naturalhistoryman, flickr



Swallow-tailed Moth

This moth has a very short emergence period, so you'll have to be quick to catch it in July! The larvae's favourite food is ivy and the adult moth is one of the largest in Britain.