

## Moths to look out for in November from Mary Atkinson.

There are still moths to be seen as the winter approaches, especially on a mild night. Flowering ivy will attract them and they can be seen by the light of a torch, often feeding so hard they are undisturbed by the sudden light.

Both Yellow-line Quaker and Red-line Quaker can be seen at this time; superficially similar, in good light the Yellow-line *below left*, has an ochreous colour and the Red-line *below right*, is a greyer brown. The sub-terminal line on their upper wings should be noted as well. They are on both species reddish, edged with yellow with a slight kink at the leading edge of the wing. In both species the trailing part of the kidney-mark is black and the Yellow-line Quaker also has a black dot near the base of the forewing.

Both species lay their eggs on the twigs of the food plant, over-wintering like this before hatching in the spring. The caterpillars of the Red feed on willow while those of the Yellow feed on willow and other trees and later, on lower growing herbaceous plants.



The Green-brindled Crescent *above centre*, is another autumn -flying moth attracted to late flowers such as ivy, as well as to light. Larger than the Quakers, it is unmistakable with a strong green tinge when fresh. It also lays its overwintering eggs on the twigs of hedgerow shrubs such as Hawthorn and Blackthorn.

## The NATIONAL MOTH NIGHTS SEPTEMBER 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> 2019

Following a spell of glorious warm and sunny weather earlier in September, unfortunately the National Moth nights were overcome by the onset of a very unsettled period, with wet, windy and slightly lower overnight temperatures.

I set my Skinner trap with a 14W Synergetic tube, on the first night, the 26<sup>th</sup> on the mine tips at Luckett where it would be sheltered and there were only light showers, but the overnight temperature was 11C compared with a steady 14C or a little above in the previous week. Was this enough to make the difference? At any rate, the catch was a mere half of previous catches this month and down on a comparable but milder trapping at the same time and site the year before.

A neighbour in Higher Downgate set his MV trap in his garden on the 27<sup>th</sup> and again had a very meagre catch in more substantial rain and an overnight low of 11C. Neither of us had any of the target species, migrants and the principal target, the spectacular Clifton Nonpareil (AKA Blue Underwing) is still to be in our dreams!

From Jen: *The Friday night was supposed to be dry but not here in Middlewood so I set the trap under the hatchback of our car with a sheet pegged all round to prevent moths getting right inside. This proved to be perfect for the 100 plus crane-flies of various kinds who spent a very merry but exhausting night indeed.*

*Among them were a few moths, just 22 of 13 species with a few seasonal favourites like the Frosted Orange, Pink-barred Sallow and Red-green Carpet. I was slightly confused by a small and intensely marked Brindled Green but Mary kindly confirmed it as such with its prominent 'shoulder pads'.*

