

SHERWOOD FOREST

THE MOTHS OF

SHEET 2



The increase in interest and the popularity of moths, has grown over recent years. Public moth trapping events are always well attended, but regular moth recording in Sherwood Forest, takes place throughout the year. Even on cold Winter evenings and nights, some moths that have evolved to fly at this time of year, can be caught by enthusiasts using light traps. Light traps use a special light called mercury vapour, which is especially attractive to moths. Hundreds of moths can be caught within an hour on warm nights, although highest numbers occur in mid-Summer.



Sherwood Forest has recorded well over 800 species, many of which are rare nationally or locally. Black Arches is something of a recent success story, being found in Nottinghamshire commonly until about 50 years ago, when it seems to have disappeared from many former sites. It returned quite unexpectedly about five years ago and this attractive moth is now once again, quite common in the forest.

Not all moths have been successful over the past century. Sherwood Forest has lost many species, that were once regarded as being common in the late 1800's and early 1900's. The Magpie Moth has seen a dramatic decline in numbers and may no longer be present at Sherwood

Forest and other moths have fared similarly. It is interesting to look back at the moth records from a site such as Sherwood, to see how species come and go over time and how populations have increased or decreased. To this day, Sherwood Forest continues to attract new species and no doubt, further species will be lost.

However, one of the most interesting aspects of recording the natural history of any site, is how a site's natural history can change considerably over time and Sherwood Forest is no different.

Moths illustrated

- 1 Elephant Hawk-moth caterpillar
- 2 Black Arches
- 3 Green Silver-lines
- 4 Elephant Hawk-moth
- 5 Purple Thorn
- 6 Magpie Moth

