



Stanford Ringing Group Moth Night - June 18th 2010

The first ever Stanford Moth event was planned for the middle of summer because we knew that this time of year would enable us to combine and enjoy all the essential criteria –

- An evening barbecue (at the end of a warm day)
- Comfortable (warm) camping conditions (we stayed overnight at the reservoir so that we could be there at 3am to start ringing birds)
- Plentiful moths enjoying the warm English summer night...

At the event everything was great except for one missing ingredient - WARMTH!

Food

The Moth Night's 12 attendees were treated to an exceptional evening barbecue created by Head Chef Lisa and her many assistants. Head Chef even created a full cooked breakfast for us the next day – outstanding!



Camping

This also went (surprisingly) well after the food and the moth event.

Everyone managed at least 3 hours sleep in their tents, carefully positioned on the lumpy Stanford clay.



Moths

Summer flying moths prefer warm humid conditions. Our catch was severely curtailed by one of the coldest June nights ever (as far as we could remember anyway). By 11pm (prime moth time) the temperature had fallen to 5°C. Moisture was condensing everywhere and the attendees were huddled together in the main tent trying to keep warm by drinking wine.

However, all was not lost! Despite a really low moth species total for late June (31 macros, 1 micro) we had a thoroughly entertaining time. Fortunately for us some of the most impressive larger bodied moths braved the cold and 4 different hawk-moth species provided the highlight of the evening.



Hawk-moths from the SRG moth night – L to R – Elephant, Eyed, Poplar, Privet

Other notable species were Poplar Grey, Small Clouded Brindle, Southern Wainscot and Tawny Shears.