

North East England GMS Report

Third Quarter 2024

In 2024, Quarter 3 of the GMS ran from Friday 5th July until Friday 30th August.

Number of GMS participants

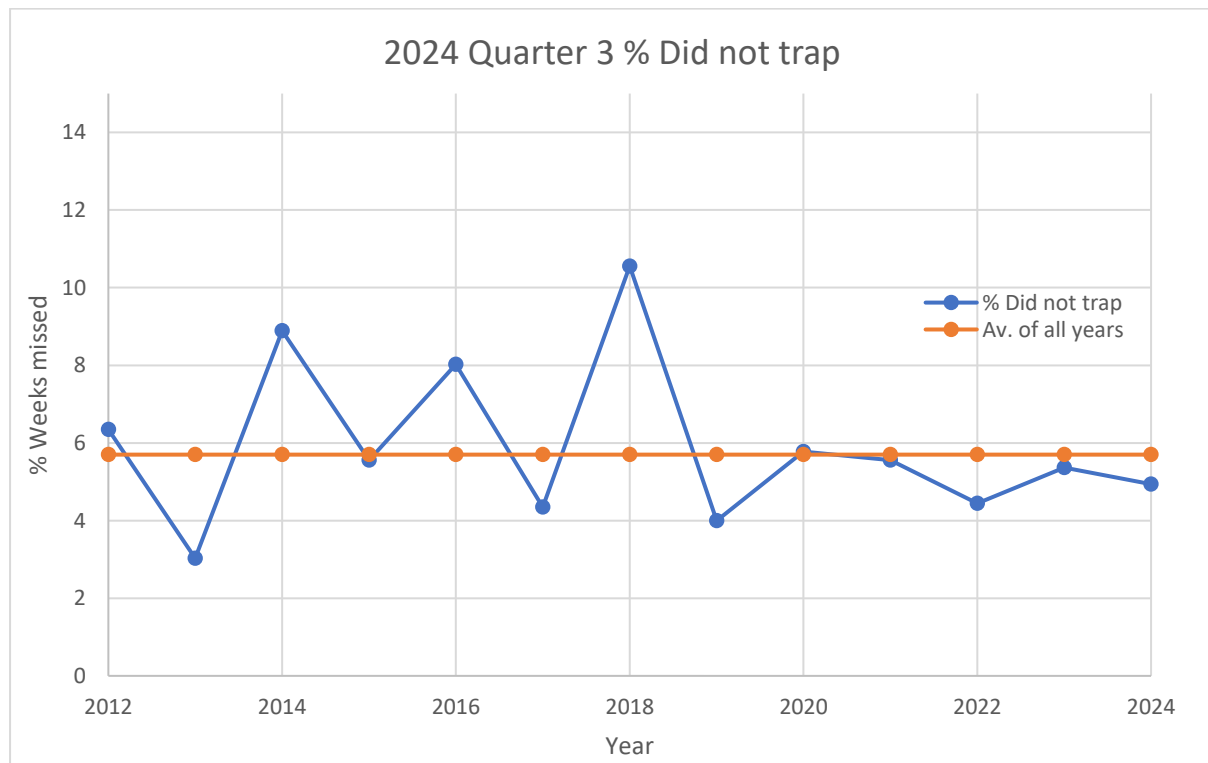
I received valid GMS recording forms from 27 participants in 2024, Quarter 3. Of these 9 were in County Durham (VC 66), 15 were in South Northumberland (VC 67) and 3 were in North Northumberland.

Loan traps

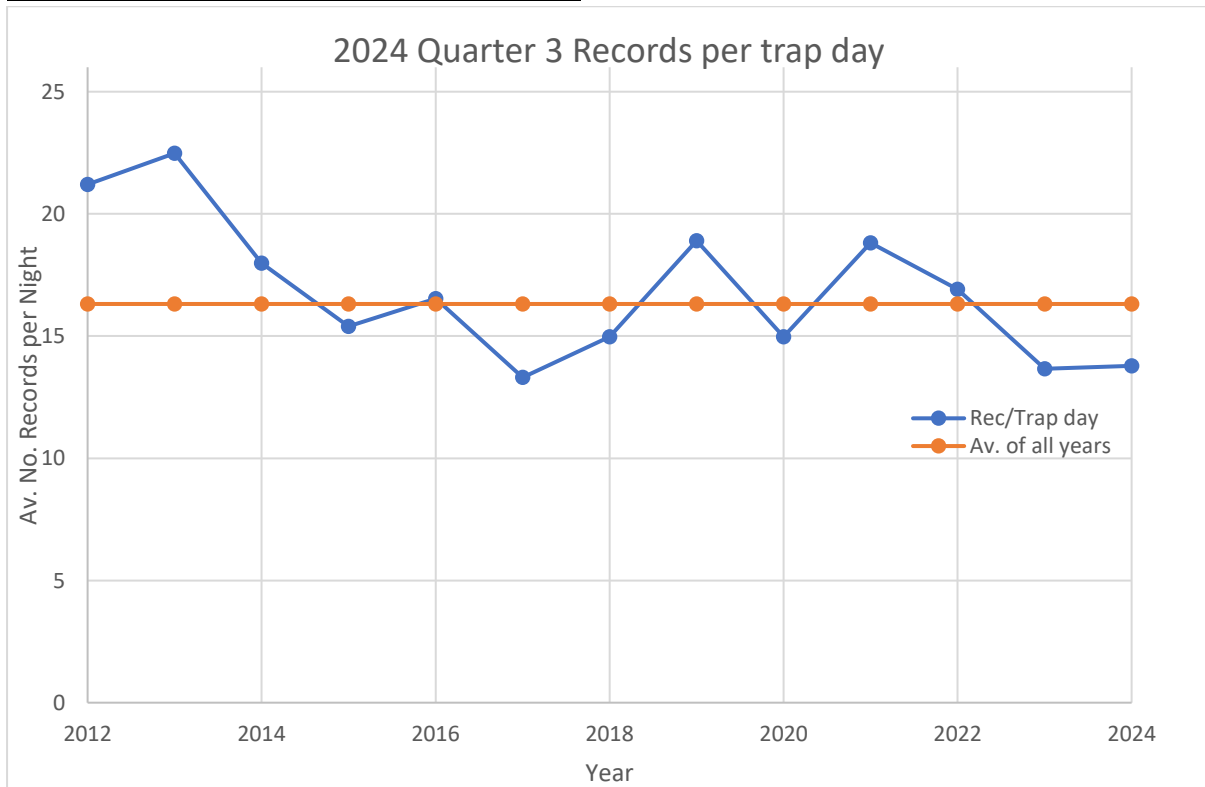
Good news, I already have my first applicant lined up to borrow a trap in 2025. I just need another five now!

Did not trap

Just over 5 percent of nights were missed in Quarter 3, below the average for all years since 2012.

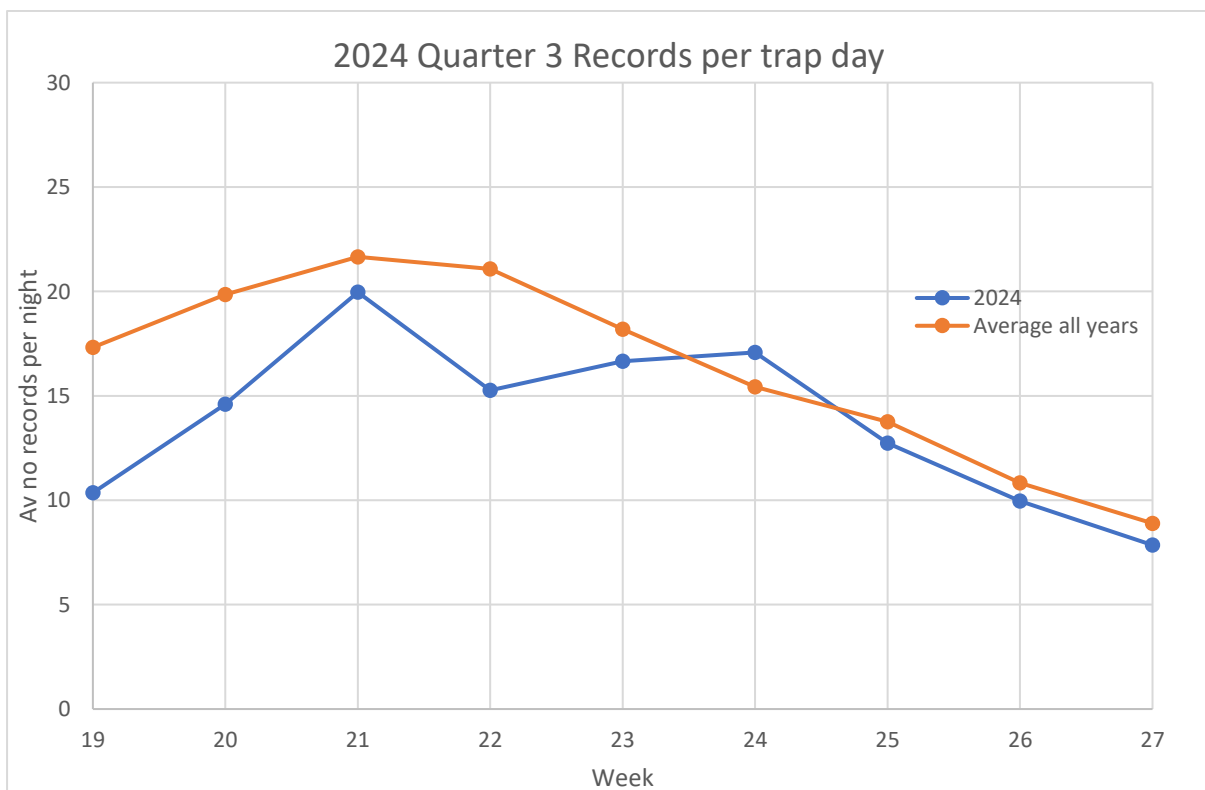


How do catches compare with earlier years



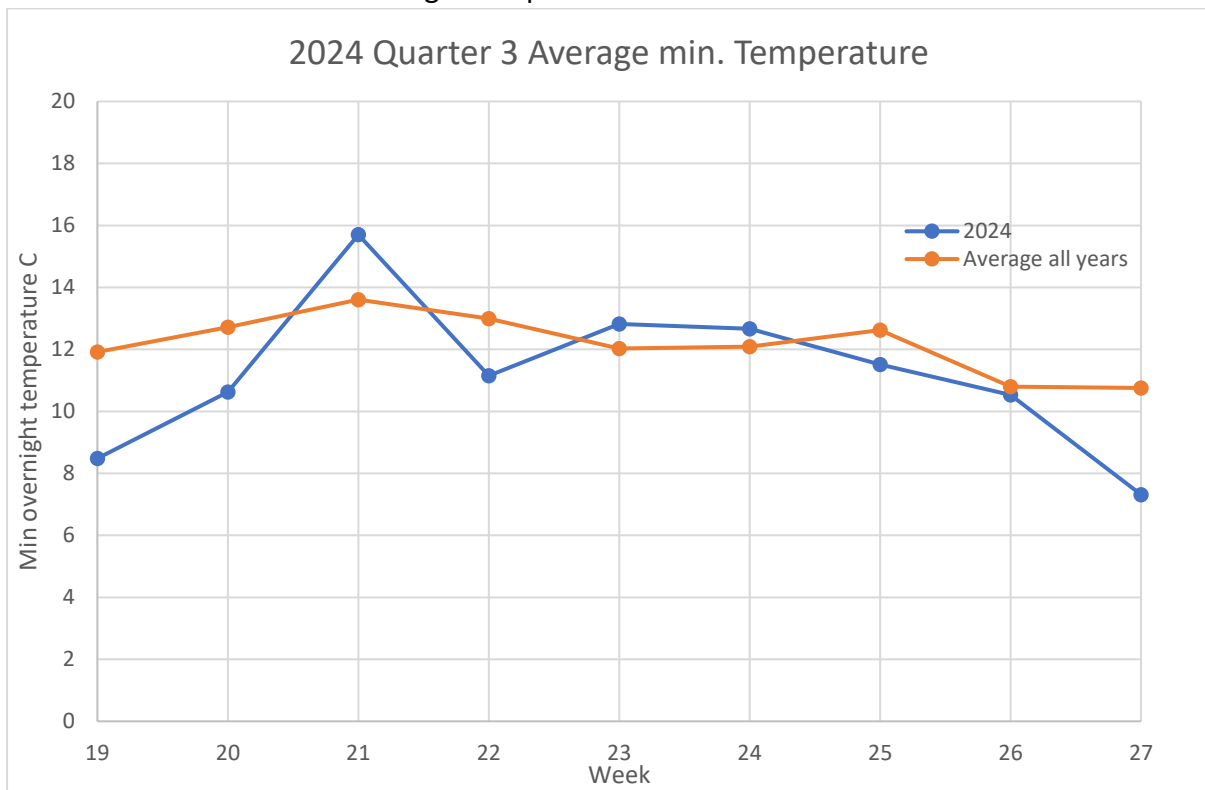
In 2024, the number of records were below average (13.8 against an average of 16.3), and were very similar to 2023.

Now we will consider how the number of records per trap night varies by week.



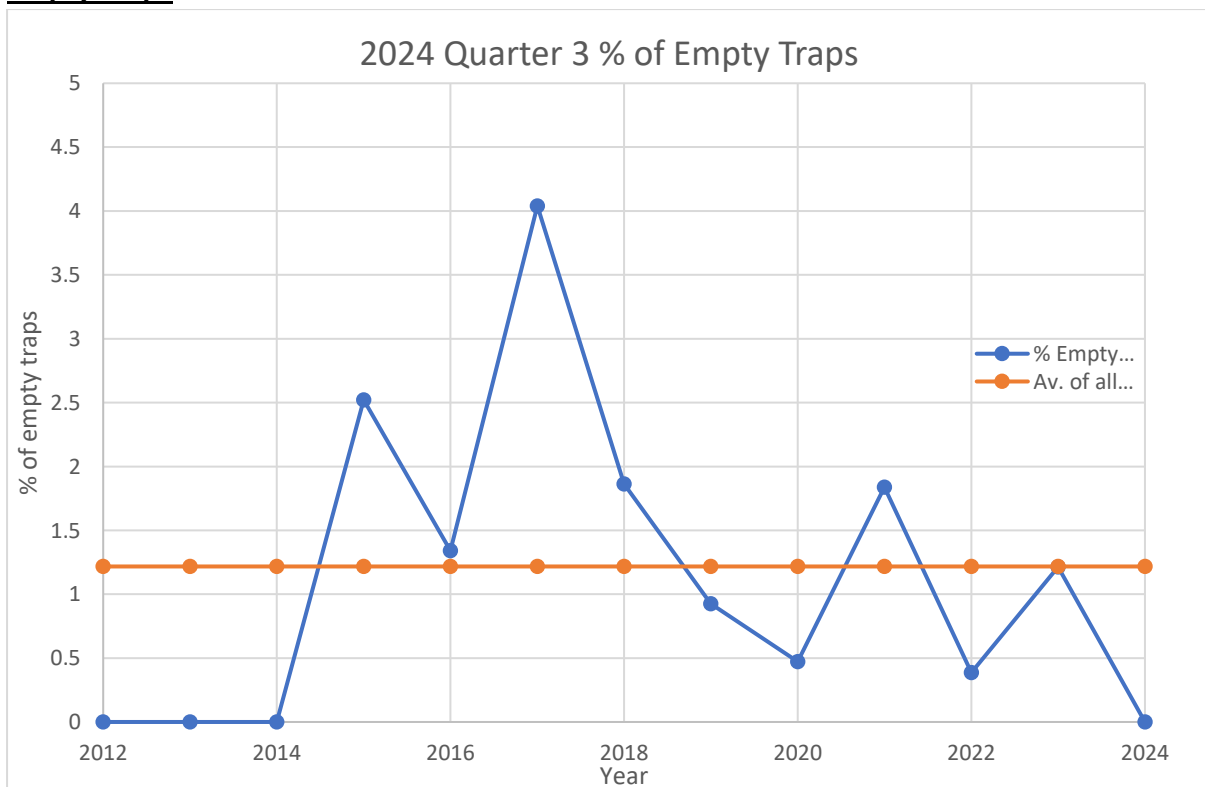
Most of the low catches were in July. From week 23 (2nd August) onwards, catches were about average.

What were the minimum overnight temperatures each week?



Low catches in July may have been due to temperatures that were 2 or 3 degrees below average.

Empty Traps



In spite of the low number of records in July, there were no empty traps in Quarter 3!

Top twenty species

Here is a list of the 2024 top twenty species in Q3 (by number of records), compared to the top twenty for last year, and for all years from 2012 until 2024. The green species are moving up to

the top 20, the yellow species are non-movers and the red species are moving down compared with 2023 quarter 3.

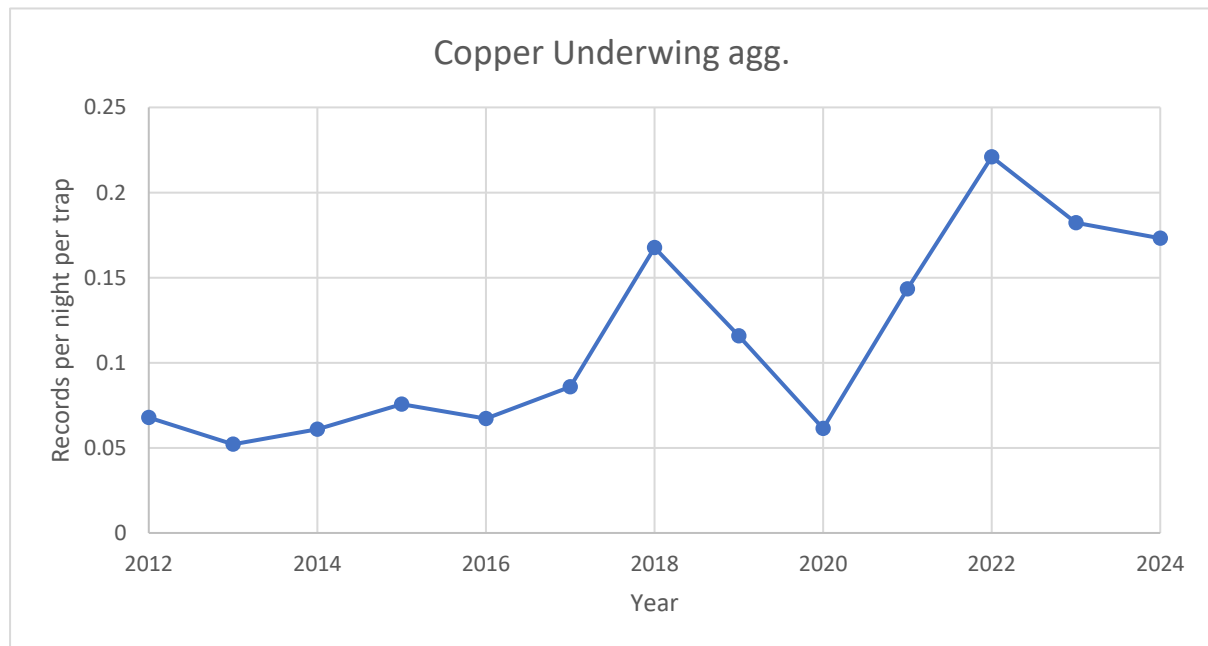
Species	Av. 2012 to 2024	2023	2024	Trend
Large Yellow Underwing	1	1	1	
Dark Arches	2	2	2	
Common Rustic agg.	3	3	3	
Lesser Yellow Underwing	5	6	4	
Willow Beauty	9	10	5	
Riband Wave	6	5	6	
Common Footman	7	4	7	
Square-spot Rustic	8	11	8	
Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing	4	7	9	
Uncertain/Rustic agg.	21	9	10	
Garden Carpet	15	18	11	
Garden Grass-veneer	10	8	12	
Marbled Beauty	13	19	13	
Common Carpet	29	15	14	
Heart and Dart	11	12	15	
Light Brown Apple Moth	16	13	16	
Bird-cherry Ermine	22	25	17	
Silver Y	24	17	18	
Brimstone Moth	23	29	20	
Common Marbled Carpet	28	26	19	

Trending species.

In my Quarter 3 reports for previous years, I've identified Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing, Double Square-spot, *Acleris forsskaleana* (aka Netted Tortrix) and Snout as decreasing. The downward trend seems to be continuing for all four species.

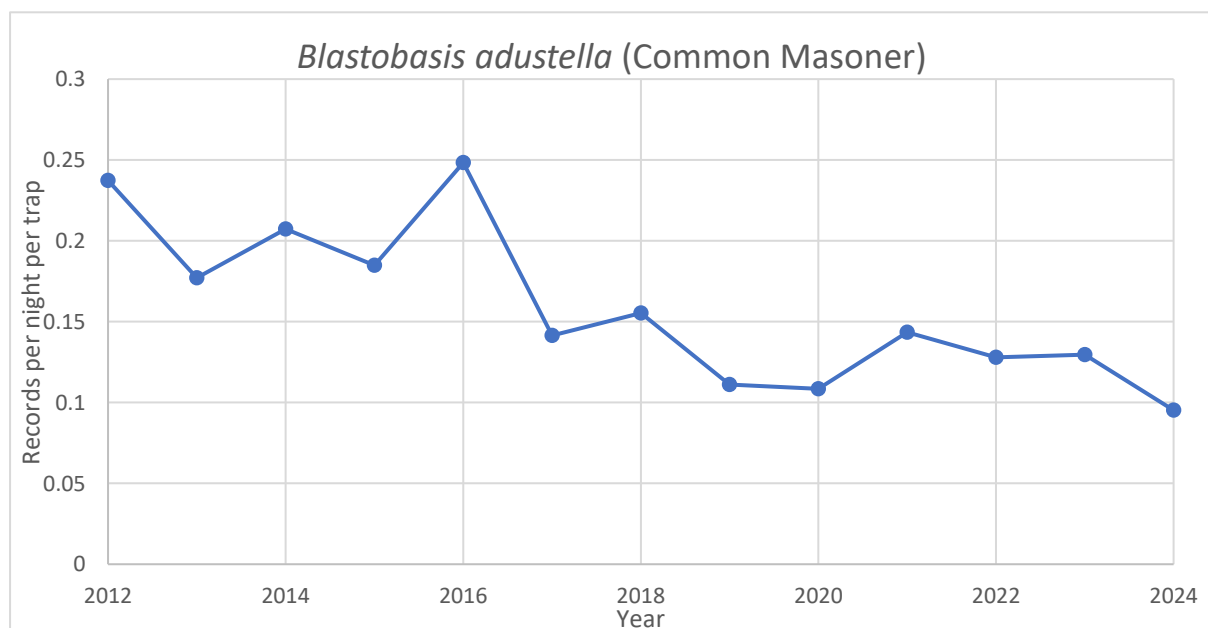
Similarly, I've previously identified Common Footman, Large Emerald, Autumnal Rustic and Dingy Footman as increasing. The upward trend for the two Footman species seems to be continuing, but numbers of Autumnal Rustic and Large Emerald may already have peaked.

Copper Underwing agg. - increasing



The New Atlas states that the Copper Underwing has increased greatly in abundance and has expanded its range into Northern England and Scotland. Maybe the increase is mainly due to Copper Underwing rather than Svensson's Copper Underwing!

Blastobasis adustella (Common Masoner) - decreasing



As *Blastobasis adustella* is a micro, I have no trend data to quote from the Atlas. Will there ever be an atlas for micros, I wonder?

Outstanding Records

Although the GMS flight time data for Herald shows two peaks, the first in mid-June and second in mid-to -late July, records from the North East region occur mainly in spring. There have only been five Quarter 3 records for Herald, and three of them occurred this year, from Julie in Stockton-on-Tees, Richard from Old Quarrington and Phil from Darlington.

On 17th August, Phil recorded an Oak Hook-tip in Darlington. This record is the fifth in the North East GMS database.



Herald (Image courtesy of Mike Cook)



Oak Hook-tip (Image courtesy of Phil Sharp)