

# North East England GMS Report

## First Quarter 2025

In 2025, Quarter 1 of the GMS ran from Friday 7th March until Friday 2nd May.

### Number of GMS participants

I received valid GMS recording forms from 34 participants in 2025, Quarter 1. Of these 12 were in County Durham (VC 66), 18 were in South Northumberland (VC 67) and 4 were in North Northumberland.

### Loan traps

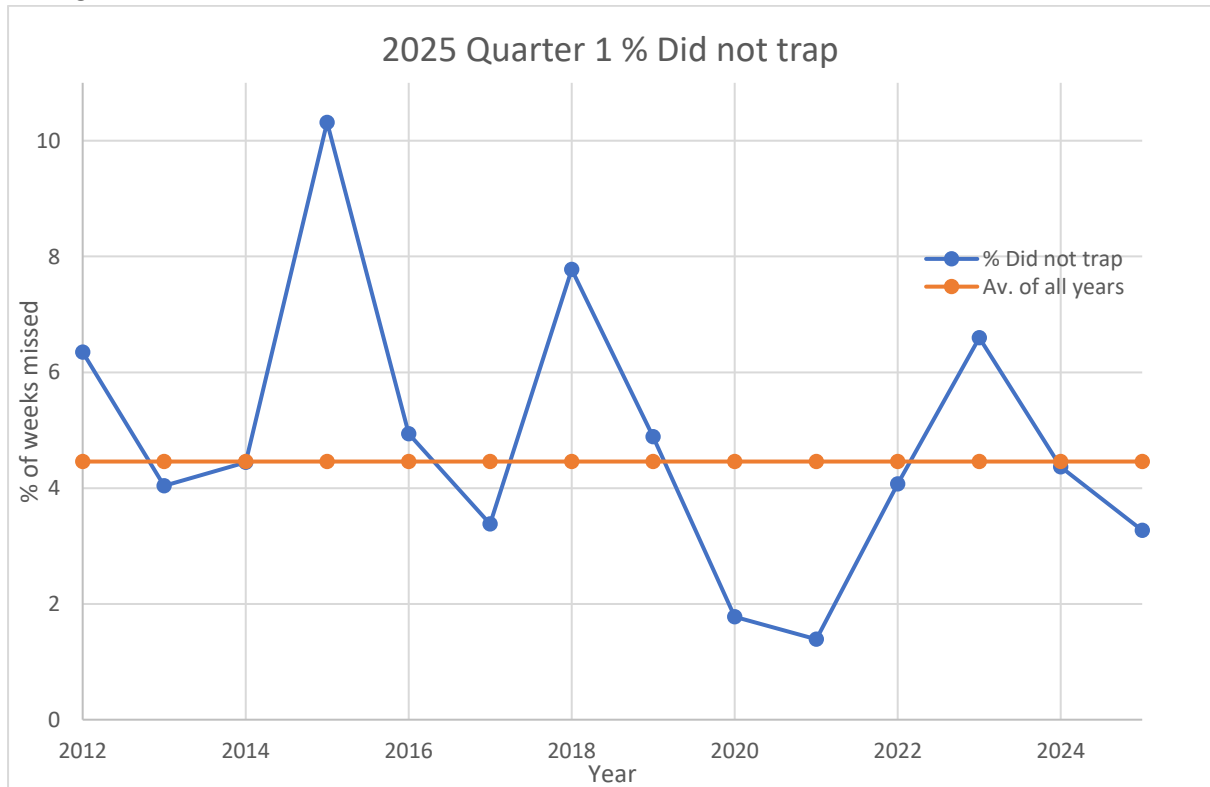
In 2025, I have five traps out on loan to people who wanted to try trapping and recording moths.

Two of the five people who borrowed a trap from me in 2024 have bought their own trap and are participating again this year.

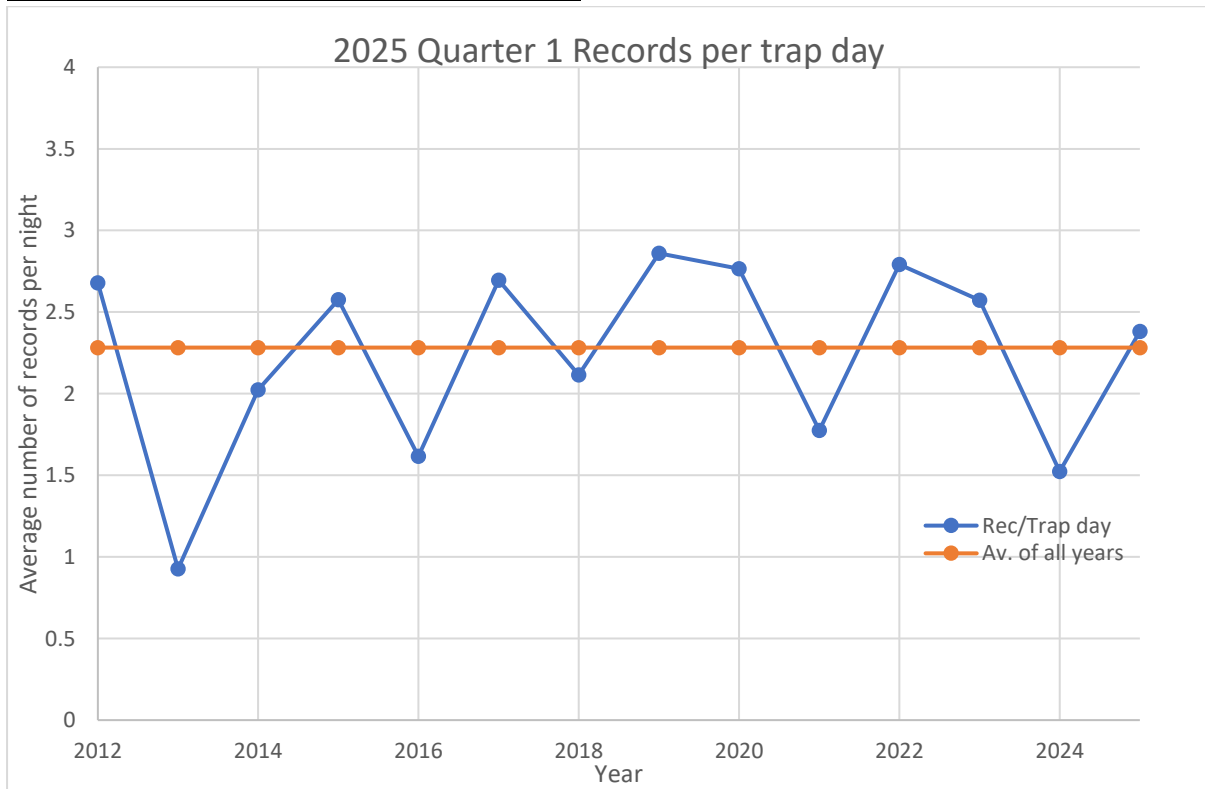
Lending traps next year could be challenging. In their Spring 2025 Newsletter, the North East England branch of Butterfly Conservation say that they have bought two moth traps that they are prepared to lend to beginners! Will we be competing for the same few applicants, or will there be plenty of applicants to go round? We'll find out this autumn!

### Did not trap

Just over 3 percent of nights were missed in Quarter 1, the lowest since 2014, well below the average of 4.5%.

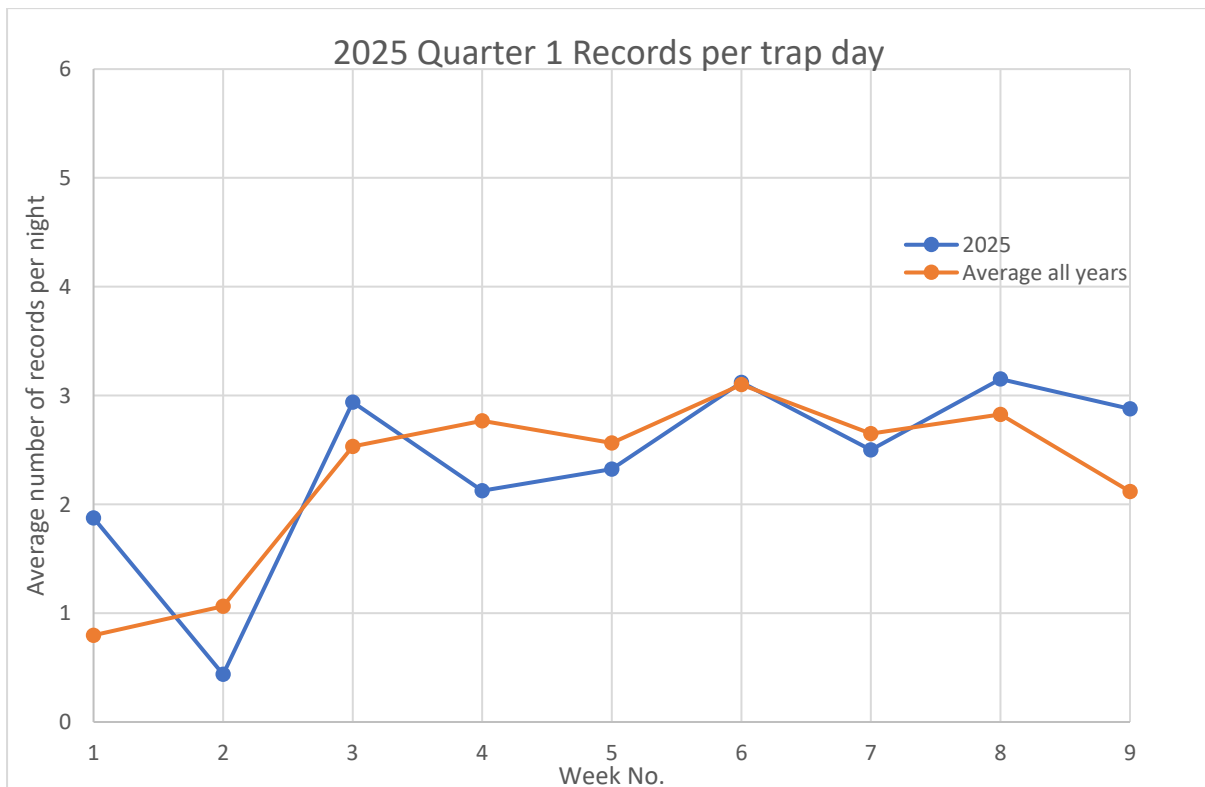


### How do catches compare with earlier years



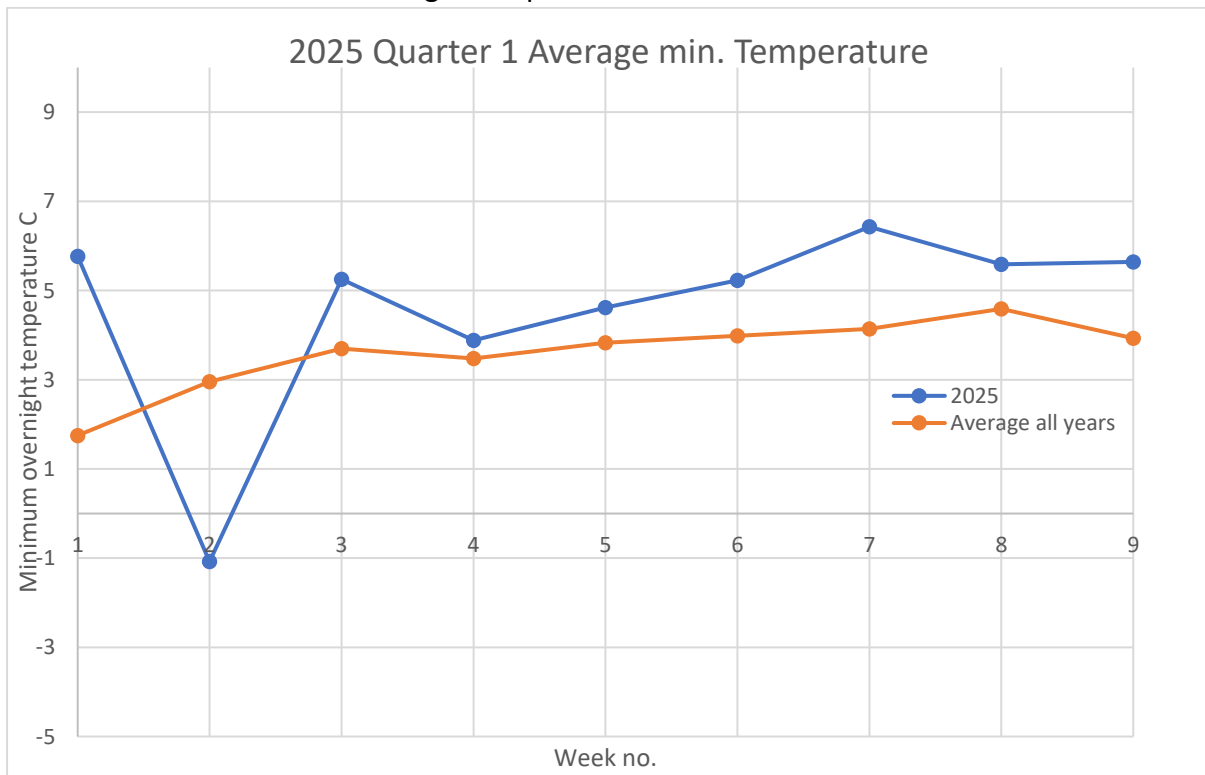
With an average of 2.4 records per trap night in 2025, we did slightly better than the 2.3 record average of the past 14 years. This came as a pleasant surprise after reading the pessimistic comments in some participants' emails!

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



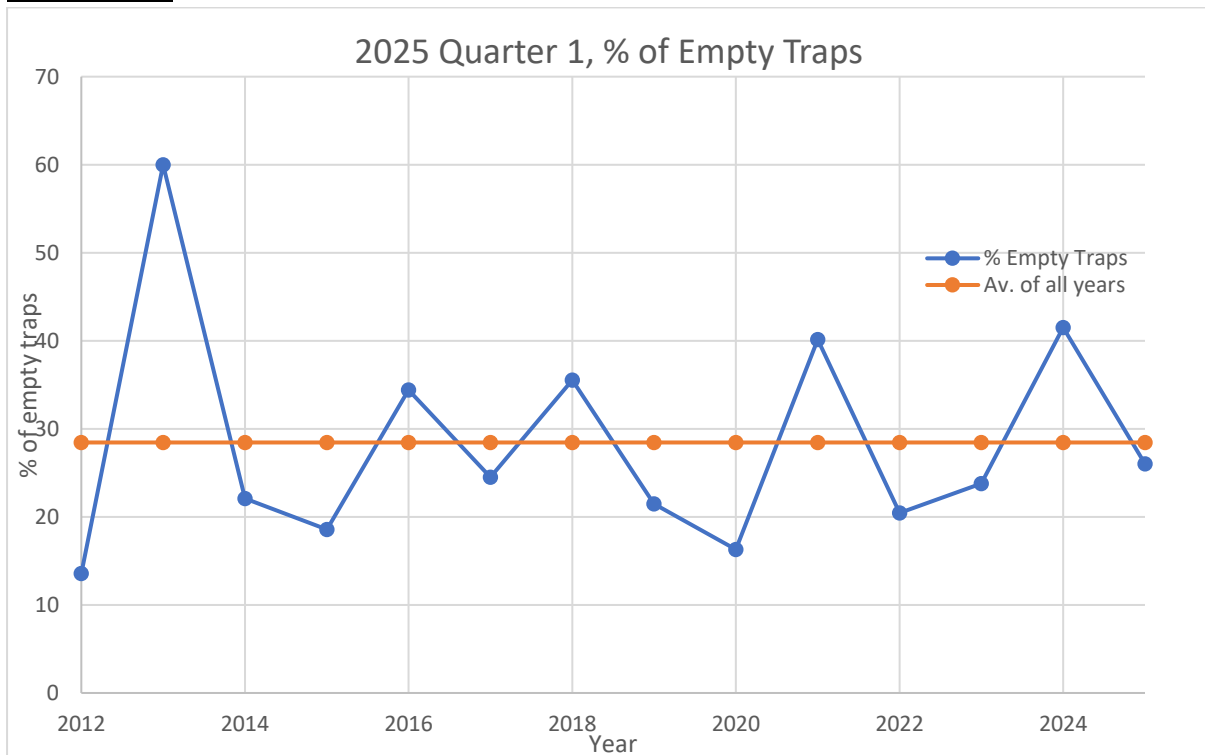
The average catch was pulled up by better than average catches in week 1 (7<sup>th</sup> March) and week 9 (2<sup>nd</sup> May).

What were the minimum overnight temperatures each week?



Apart from week 2 (14<sup>th</sup> March), temperatures were typically a degree or two above average.

### Empty Traps



26% of traps were empty in 2025, slightly below the average over all years of 28.5%.

### Top twenty species

Here is a list of the 2025 top twenty species in Q1 (by number of records), compared to the top twenty for last year, and for all years from 2012 until 2025. The green species are moving up the top 20, the yellow species are non-movers and the red species are moving down compared with 2024 quarter 1.

Row Labels	Av. 2012 to 2025	2024	2025	Trend
Hebrew Character	1	1	1	
Common Quaker	2	2	2	
Early Grey	4	4	3	
Clouded Drab	3	3	4	
Small Quaker	5	5	5	
Powdered Quaker	6	12	6	
Brindled Pug	13	9	7	
Light Brown Apple Moth	18	22	8	
Oak Beauty	10	15	9	
Red Chestnut	8	21	10	
Streamer	25	44	11	
Early Thorn	14	13	12	
Chestnut	7	6	13	
Twin-spotted Quaker	9	7	14	
March Moth	12	8	15	
Common Pug	37	31	16	
Shuttle-shaped Dart	27	45	17	
Many-plumed Moth	31	18	18	
Herald	42	49	19	
Purple Thorn	30	28	20	

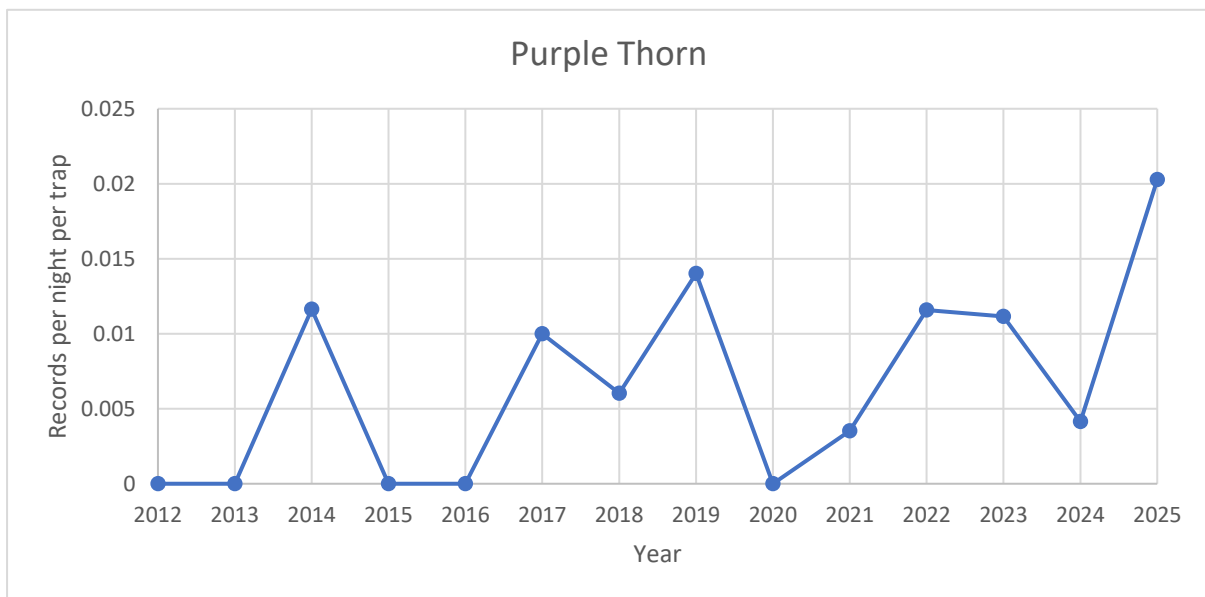
My personal comment on the Clouded Drab (one of the species in red) is that for the first time since we started recording moths in 2010, we failed to record a single Clouded Drab!

### Trending species.

Quite a few species have emerged a week or two early in 2025, possibly due to a warmer than usual spring.

### Purple Thorn

Purple Thorn appears to be increasing. I've checked the trend for 2024 Quarter 2 and that shows a similar trend, So the trend is probably real and not just due to emerging early.



### Outstanding Records

What I first thought were outstanding records turned out to be Quarter 2 moths emerging early.