

North East England GMS Report

Third Quarter 2025

In 2025, Quarter 3 of the GMS ran from Friday 11th July until Friday 5th September.

Number of GMS participants

I received valid GMS recording forms from 33 participants in 2025, Quarter 3. Of these 12 were in County Durham (VC 66), 17 were in South Northumberland (VC 67) and 4 were in North Northumberland. In addition another 2 participants, one from County Durham and one from South Northumberland, missed too many consecutive weeks to produce a valid GMS data set for 2025, but I have been able to use their data in this analysis as I allow for missed weeks.

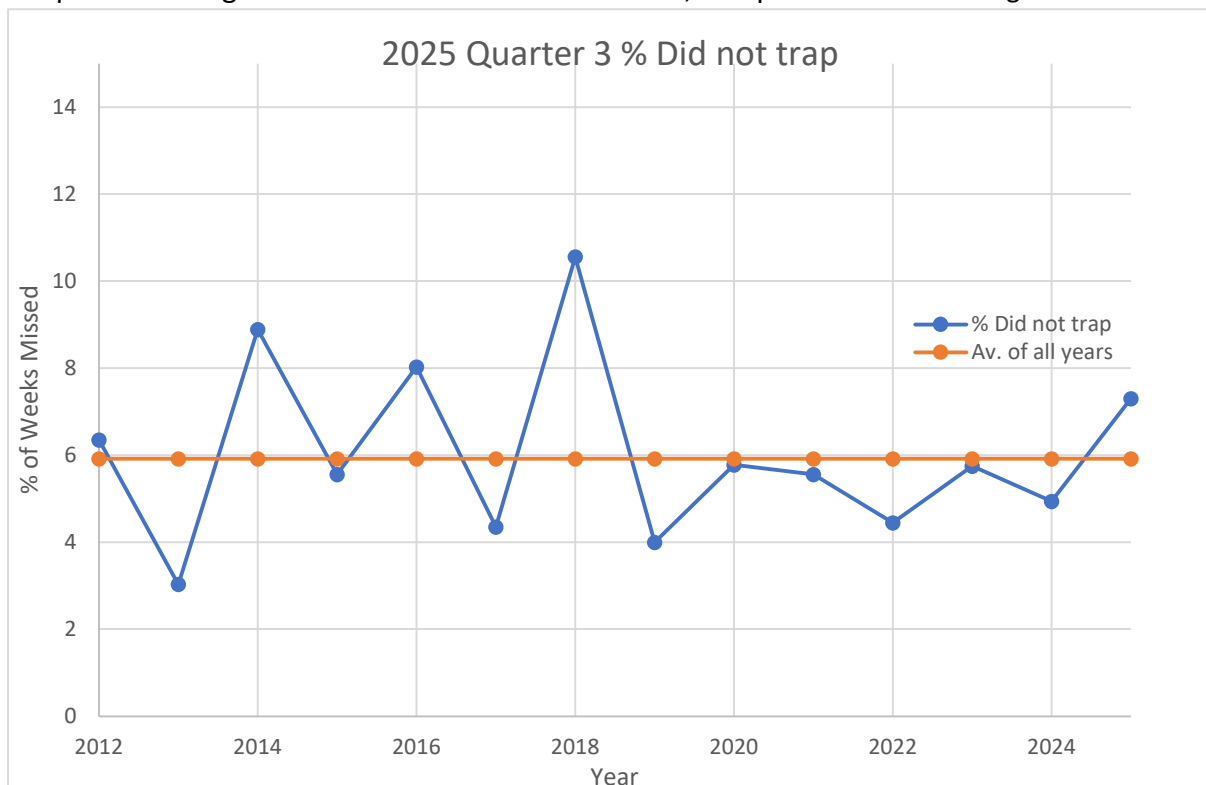
Loan traps

In 2025, I had five traps out on loan to people who wanted to try trapping and recording moths. All being well, I should have all 5 traps available for 2026.

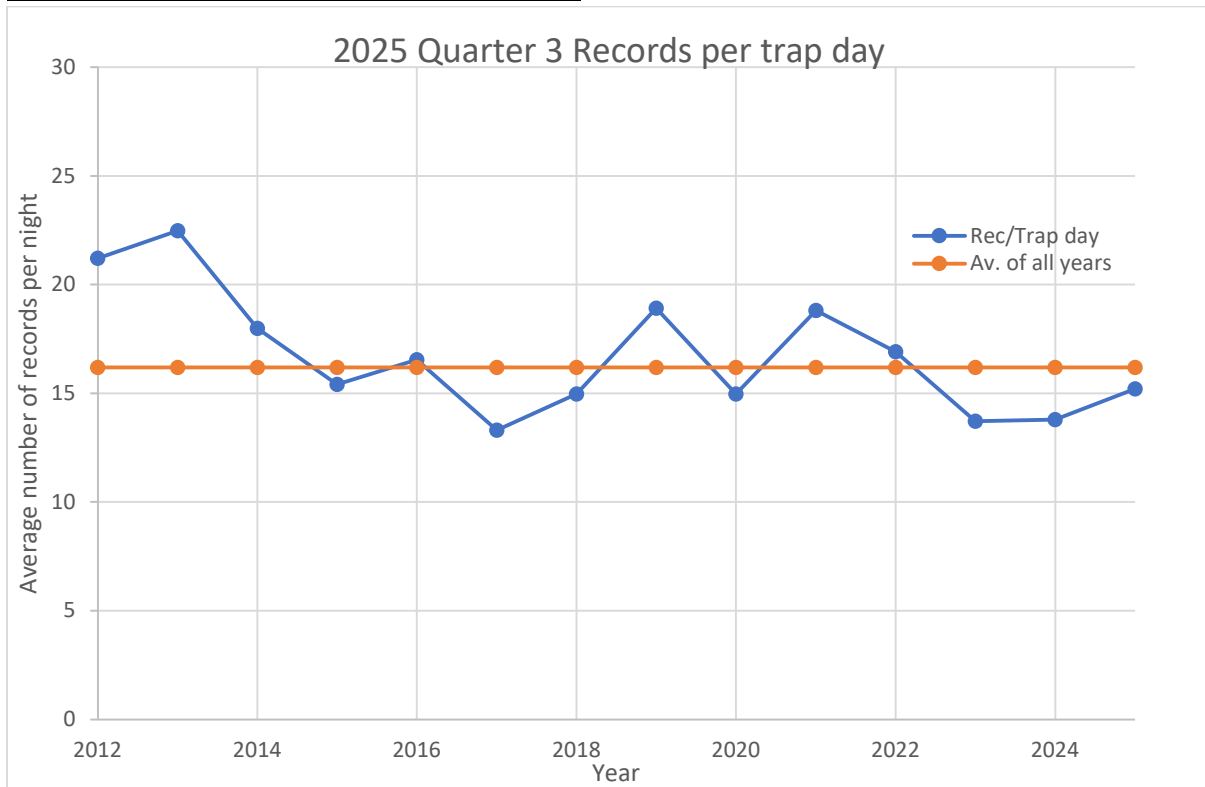
If you know anyone who would like to borrow a trap and would be willing to participate in the 2026 GMS, why not give them my contact details so they can get to the front of the queue. I shall be publicising the loan scheme at the Natural History Society of Northumbria Monday night talks from 20th October onwards.

Did not trap

7.3 percent of nights were missed in 2025 Quarter 3, compared with an average of 5.9%.

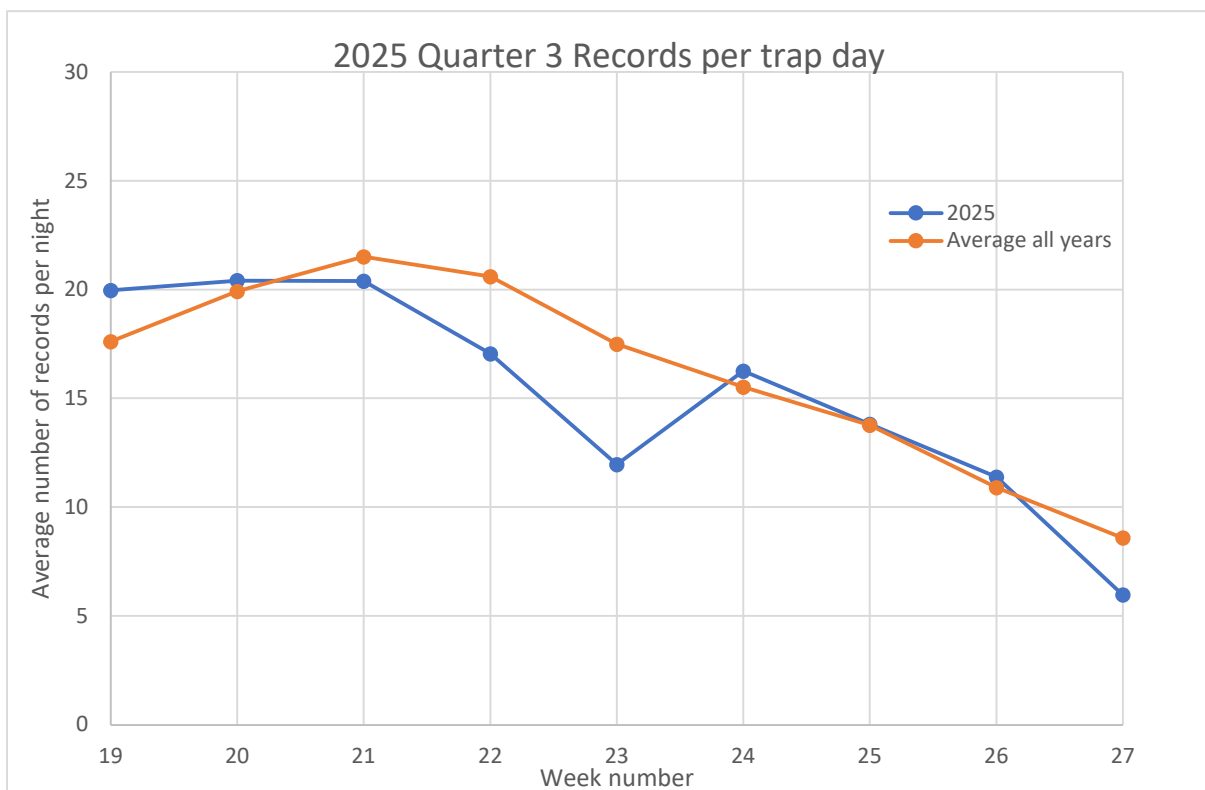


How do catches compare with earlier years



After the spectacular catches in Quarter 2, catches in Quarter 3 dropped to slightly less than the average (15.2 records per trap night against the average of 16.2).

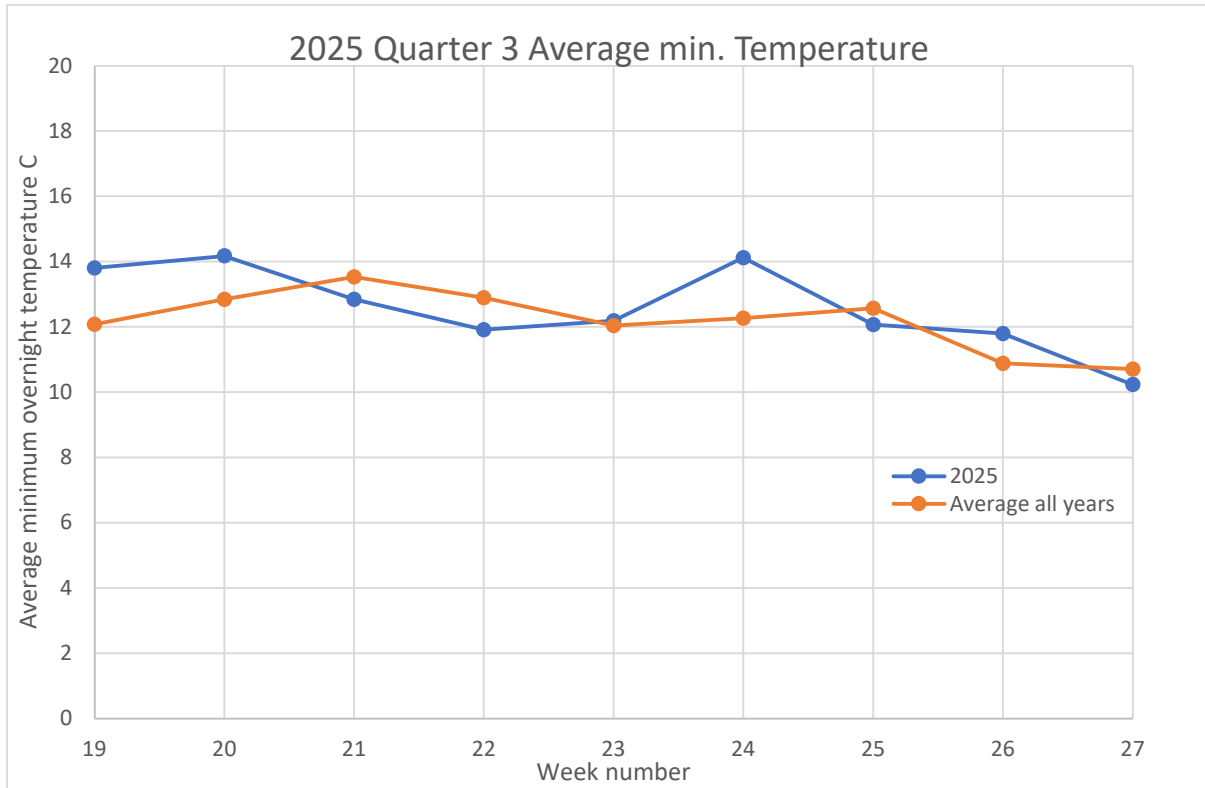
Now we will consider how the number of records per trap night varies by week.



The number of records has been roughly average apart from in weeks 22 (1st August) and 23 (8th August), when catches were significantly down. Storm Floris hit Northern England and

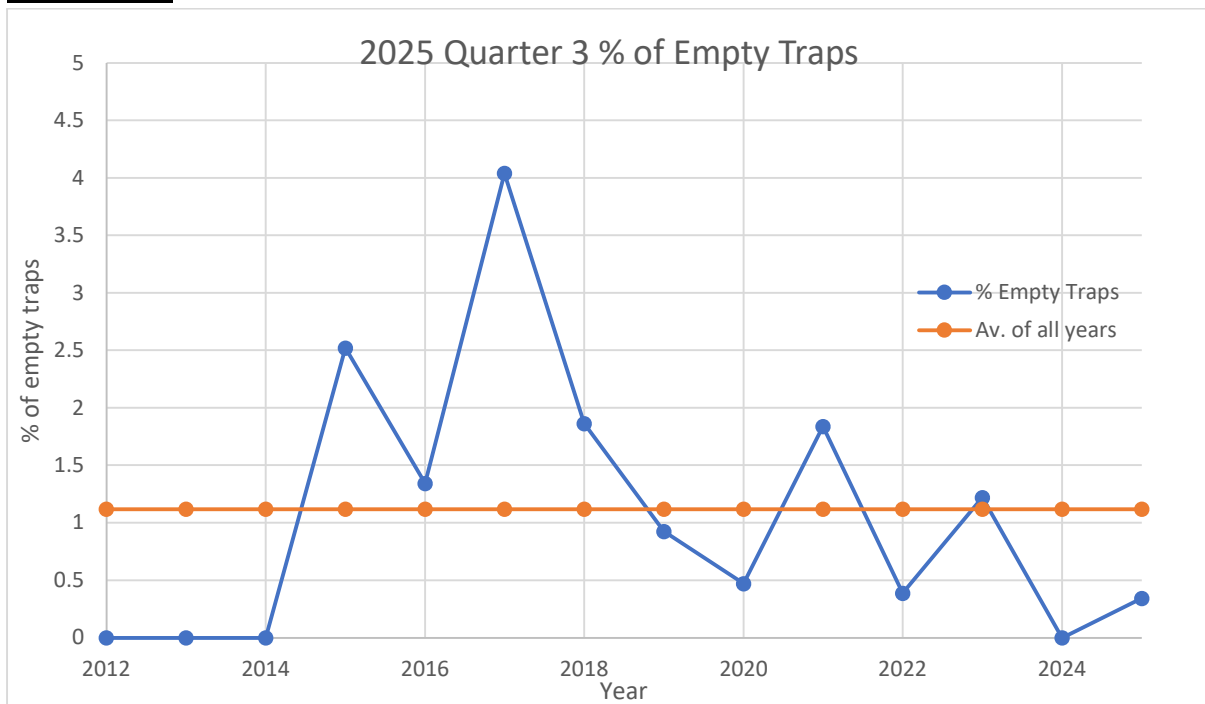
Scotland on 4th and 5th August, so the low catches may be connected with rainfall and high winds arriving before and after the storm.

What were the minimum overnight temperatures each week?



Temperatures closely followed the average in Quarter 3, so the low catches in weeks 22 and 23 are probably not temperature related.

Empty Traps



0.3% of traps were empty in 2025, well below the average over all years of 1.1%.

Top twenty species

Here is a list of the 2025 top twenty species in Q3 (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 3.

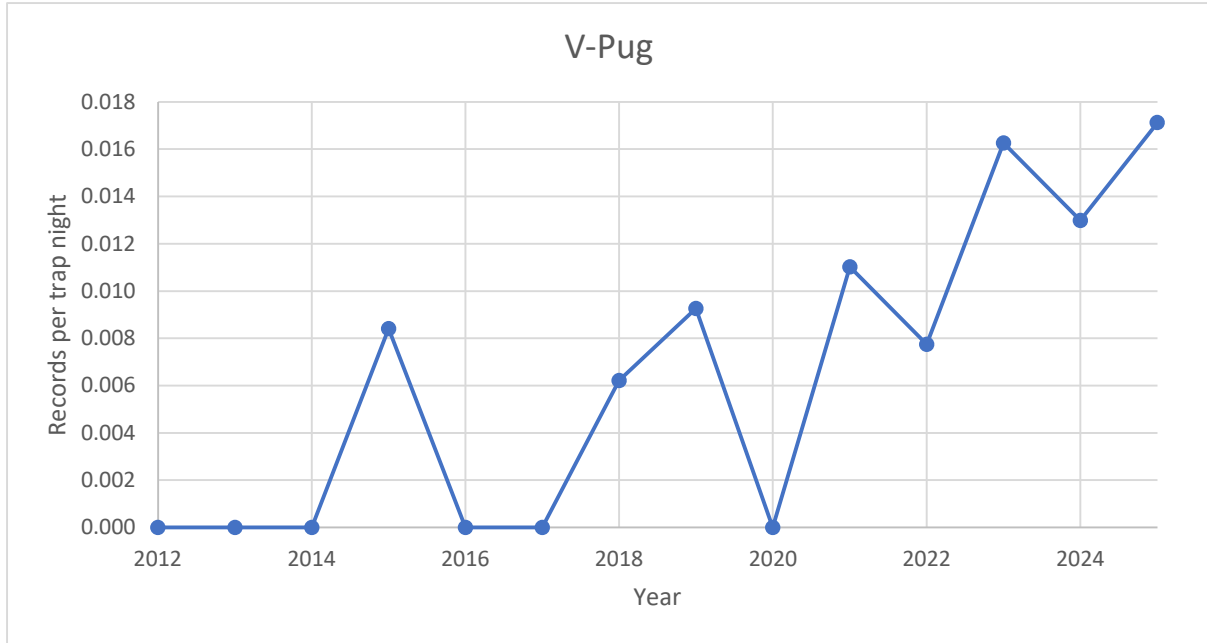
Species	Av. 2012 to 2025	2024	2025	Trend
Large Yellow Underwing	1	1	1	
Dark Arches	2	2	2	
Lesser Yellow Underwing	5	4	3	
Lesser Broad-bordered Yell	4	9	4	
Common Rustic agg.	3	3	5	
Light Brown Apple Moth	11	16	6	
Square-spot Rustic	8	8	7	
Shuttle-shaped Dart	14	26	8	
Riband Wave	6	6	9	
Willow Beauty	9	5	10	
Setaceous Hebrew Charact	46	50	11	
Common Footman	7	7	12	
Garden Carpet	16	11	13	
Bird-cherry Ermine	18	17	14	
Copper Underwing agg.	36	22	15	
Marbled Beauty	15	13	16	
Garden Grass-moth	10	12	17	
Uncertain/Rustic agg.	20	10	18	
Common Marbled Carpet	26	20	19	
Common Carpet	27	14	20	

Trending species.

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

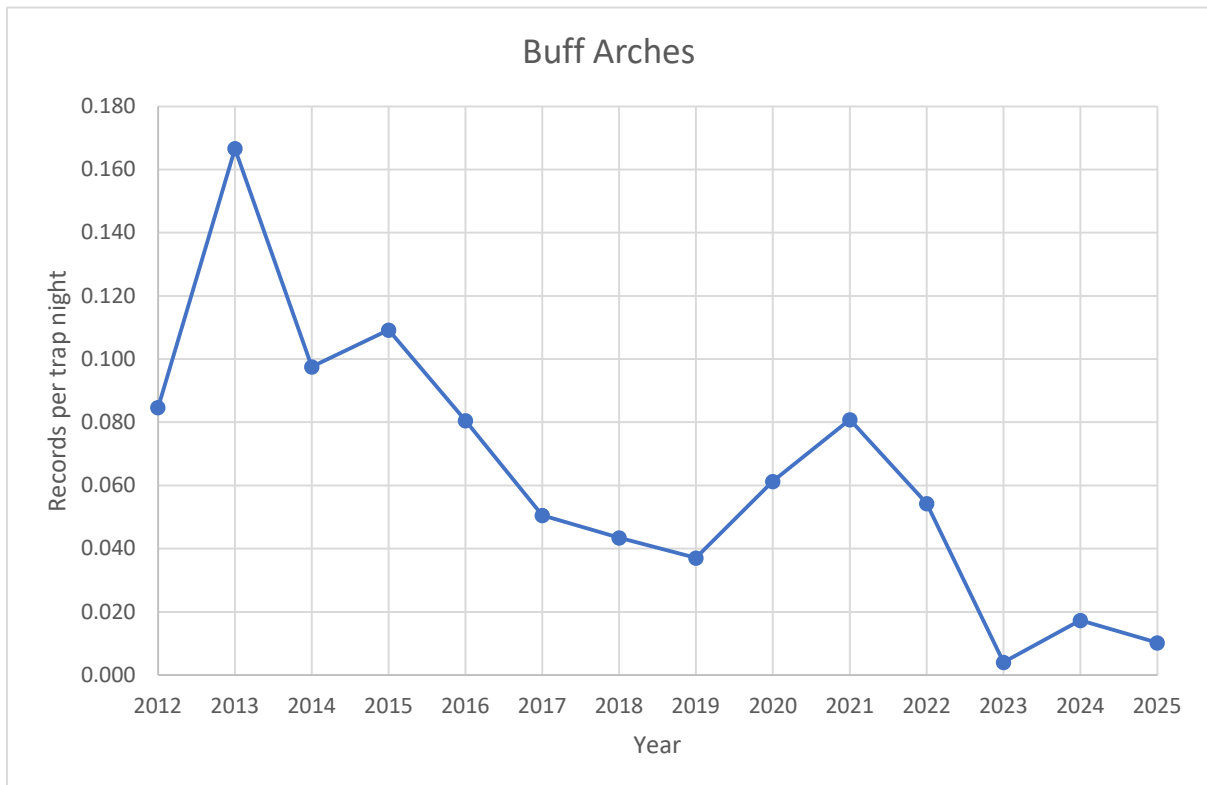
V-Pug

V-Pug appears to be increasing.



Buff Arches

Buff Arches appears to be decreasing.



Species identified in previous reports as trending

Double Square-spot, Snout, Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing and *Blastobasis adustella* (Common Masoner) continue to show a downward trend. On the other hand, *Acleris forsskaleana* (Netted Tortrix) seems to be flattening out.

Dingy Footman, Copper Underwing agg. and Common Footman still seem to be increasing but Autumnal Rustic has flattened out and Large Emerald peaked in 2020 and is now decreasing.

Outstanding Records

We have five records (9 individuals) of Vine’s Rustic in 2025. On 11th July, Melissa recorded one and Angela recorded three, both in Gosforth. 2 weeks later Jackie recorded one in Gosforth. They then appeared to move south with Julie recording one in Stockton-on-Tees and Phil recording one in Darlington, both on 22nd August.

On 24th August, Jane recorded a Brindled Green in Prudhoe and another 2 weeks later on 2nd September, Jenny recorded one at Neville’s Cross. There is one earlier record of this species in the North East GMS database.



Vine’s Rustic (Image courtesy of Julie Mason).



Brindled Green (Image courtesy of Jane Kysow).