



## BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION HIGHLAND BRANCH



# AUTUMN NEWS-SHEET – Nov 2016

### Welcome to new members

A warm welcome to all new members who have joined Butterfly Conservation in recent months and have been allocated to Highland Branch. We hope you join in with some of our Branch events and will be able to contribute to the recording of butterflies and moths in Highland, Moray, Orkney, Shetland and the Western Isles.

### Email contact

In order to ensure that you keep getting email reminders about events and details of any changes to the programme, please ensure that my email address, [unicorn64@btinternet.com](mailto:unicorn64@btinternet.com) is added to your address book or approved contact lists. This will ensure any emails sent won't be marked as spam. Emails are sent out as blind carbon copies and email addresses are never shared, given, or sold to anyone else. Having your email address really helps us keep costs down by sending this newsletter by email. **If you have received this by post but have previously given us an email address, that is because the email address we have for you isn't working so please send us your current one.**

### AGM

The next AGM will be held on Saturday the 8<sup>th</sup> of April 2017 at the Charleston Community Complex, General Booth Road, Inverness. We will commence at 10.00am for 10.30am and once the AGM is complete there will be talks by Ailie Brown about the new Butterfly House at Landmark, Carrbridge; Pete Moore on the Butterflies of Turkey and Mike Taylor about Swedish Butterflies.

### Butterfly Records

The butterfly season has ended so now is the time to get the rest of your 2016 butterfly records together. Ideally records are best sent by email on a spreadsheet and details are on the Branch Website.

The various butterfly recorders are:

Highland and Moray Dr David Barbour, 74 Blarmore Avenue, Inverness IV3 8QU  
email [dbfis@btinternet.com](mailto:dbfis@btinternet.com) Tel 07896 783245

Orkney Sydney Gauld, Quoyberstane, Work Road, St Ola, Kirkwall, KW15 1UF  
email [orklander45@gmail.com](mailto:orklander45@gmail.com) Tel 01856 872468

Shetland Paul Harvey, SBRC, Shetland Amenity Trust, Garthspool, Lerwick, ZE1 0NY  
email [paul@shetlandamenity.org](mailto:paul@shetlandamenity.org)

Western Isles Steve Duffield, 7 Carinish, North Uist, HS6 5HL  
email [steveduffield70@gmail.com](mailto:steveduffield70@gmail.com) Tel 01870 620241 Mob 07867 555971

## **Moth Records**

2016 is the last field season for records to be accepted for the forthcoming *Macro-moth Atlas for Britain and Ireland*, which Butterfly Conservation aims to publish in 2018. It is therefore important to send in your 2016, or earlier records, to your vice-county moth recorder as soon as possible and by the end of March 2017 at the latest. The Vice County Moth recorders were listed in the Highland Branch Newsletter in the spring and are also listed on the branch website – see below.

## **The Chequered Skipper Highland Branch Newsletter 22 – Spring 2017**

We would welcome articles of any length, ideally contributions will relate to butterflies and moths in a northern setting, including the Hebrides and Northern Isles. However, we will also welcome items from further afield, for example holiday reports. Please send text and photos as separate files, inserting photos into a word document restricts editing functions.

Please send items no later than Sunday the 22nd of January 2016 to [unicorn64@btinternet.com](mailto:unicorn64@btinternet.com) or Audrey Turner, 12 Grampian View, Aviemore, Inverness-shire PH22 1TF. Please note that this will be printed in A5 format, so I'd be grateful if any graphs, charts, or tables be designed to fit that.

## **Highland Branch Newsletter – Print or PDF**

We currently send out a printed copy of the main newsletter, the Chequered Skipper, to every member household in the spring. A few people have mentioned that they would quite like to get the newsletter in pdf format, rather than the printed version, as this is more environmentally friendly as well as being a lot easier to store if space is limited. The committee discussed this at our most recent meeting and decided to offer members the option of how they would like to receive the newsletter. If you would like to carry on getting the printed version of the Chequered Skipper, you need do nothing. However, if you'd like to **only** receive the pdf, then please let me know at [unicorn64@btinternet.com](mailto:unicorn64@btinternet.com) Previous issues of the newsletter are available in pdf format on the [Newsletter page](#) of the Highland Branch website, from number 8 which was published in 2003.

## **Looking ahead**

The 2017 Scottish Recorders' Meeting for those involved in recording butterflies and moths will take place at the Battleby Conference Centre near Perth on Saturday 18th March 2017. The 2017 Scottish Members Day will also take place at Battleby on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October. Further information is on the Butterfly Conservation Scotland website at:

## **Butterfly Conservation Scotland Events**

or contact Butterfly Conservation Scotland at Balallan House, 24 Allan Park, Stirling, FK8 2QG  
Tel 01786 447753, email [scotland@butterfly-conservation.org](mailto:scotland@butterfly-conservation.org)

## **Branch Website**

Up to date information about butterflies and moths in the area and news about the Branch is available on the In Your Area page of the main Butterfly Conservation website:

[Highlands & Islands](#)

Items for the home page as well as short snippets of news or information will be welcome, please send to; [webmaster@highland-butterflies.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@highland-butterflies.org.uk)

The old branch website; [Highland Butterflies](#) is back up and running again with an events list, event reports and Latest News pages.

### **Facebook**

We now have a Facebook page [Butterfly Conservation Highlands & Islands](#)

### **Field Trips**

Pete Moore is currently putting together a programme of interesting field trips, but if anyone has any other ideas, either a site to visit or a species to see, please contact him, by email to [tonuptwitcher@gmail.com](mailto:tonuptwitcher@gmail.com) or write to 90a High Street, Grantown on Spey, Moray PH26 3EL. You don't have to lead the field trip, but are welcome to do so if you like.

### **Volunteers Required**

We are always looking for new people who can contribute to the running of the Branch and this year there are opportunities for people to play an active part, we only have 2 or 3 committee meetings per year. Please contact Audrey if you are willing to help [unicorn64@btinternet.com](mailto:unicorn64@btinternet.com)

### **MapMate**

Highland branch currently pays for a small number of annual Mapmate licences which ensures that users get regular programme updates and corrections. If you currently use MapMate for your Butterfly and Moth records, send those records to the appropriate VC recorders and would like to receive the updates, then please contact Audrey Turner [unicorn64@btinternet.com](mailto:unicorn64@btinternet.com)

### **Herald Moths**

East Scotland branch have set up a survey to run across the whole of Scotland looking at Herald moths which can be found hibernating at this time of year in sheds, outbuildings, cellars, caves and so on. They would like people to have some fun and go out and try to find them, and also find which hibernation sites they prefer. You can see how the survey is progressing by looking at the survey map [http://www.brc.ac.uk/irecord/activities/explore?group\\_id=858&implicit=f](http://www.brc.ac.uk/irecord/activities/explore?group_id=858&implicit=f). (You need to be logged in to iRecord to see this)

Take a look at the survey's [@hibernatingheralds](#) FB page and you can then get out and find some of these lovely looking moths and add your dot to the map. If you don't use Facebook, you can still contribute through the [Hibernating Herald](#)s group on iRecord.