



# BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION HIGHLAND BRANCH



## WINTER NEWS-SHEET – Dec 2019

### 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 18<sup>th</sup> of April 2020 in a new venue, Green Drive Hall, 36 Green Drive, Inverness IV2 4EU. We will commence at 10.00am for 10.30am and the brief AGM will be followed by two or three presentations. We expect to finish around 1pm, but you are welcome to stay a bit longer to chat and eat your packed lunch, if you have one. More details will be in the Chequered Skipper and on the website once finalized.

### David Barbour 1950 – 2019

It is very sad to have to report that David, one of Butterfly Conservation Scotland's most active and respected volunteers and recorders, has died.

David will be known to most as the Highland Butterfly recorder, a role he held for over twenty years (1997 – 2017). In that time, it is estimated he oversaw the submission of over 88,000 butterfly records to the Butterflies of the New Millennium (BNM) project, including around 7,400 of his own records. He was always an extremely thorough and conscientious BNM Co-ordinator, who ensured that butterfly records from both residents and visitors to the Highlands were accurately and carefully verified. These records contributed to The Millennium Atlas of Butterflies in Britain and Ireland, all four of the State of Britain's Butterflies reports that BC has published, and numerous analyses and scientific papers that have charted the fortunes of our butterflies and the drivers of change over the past 20+ years.

After leaving Aberdeen University butterflies and moths became the basis of his professional life working for Forestry Commission and then as an independent entomologist specialising in the cyclical populations of forest "pests" including Pine Beauty and Bordered White. More recently he

was involved in determining the status of the recently discovered population of Pine-tree Lappet in the Highlands.

He also worked on several of Scotland's rare and iconic species including Small Dark Yellow Underwing and Kentish Glory. However, it was the New Forest Burnet that became his main interest, monitoring the remote and isolated population on the west coast for sixteen years.

In 2008 David was the leader author of the Atlas of Butterflies in Highland and Moray that maps the changing distributions of the region's butterflies at 5km resolution. However, it is more than a series of maps as it contains some excellent and very useful identification tips on separating confusing species e.g. Small and Pearl-bordered Fritillary, and Large from Small Heath – mostly based on features gleaned by David's experience in the field.

He latterly moved to Perth where his excellent fieldcraft and knowledge was instrumental in the rediscovery of Pearl-bordered Fritillary in the Loch Katrine area.

David's hard work and dedication is highlighted by his former role as Highland Butterfly recorder which is now taken on by eleven different recorders.

He will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

**By Tom Prescott**

### **Moth & Butterfly Records**

The butterfly season has ended and there are fewer moths about so now is the time to get the rest of your 2019 butterfly records together and sent to the recorder. Ideally records are best sent by email on a spreadsheet and details of what information is needed are on the branch website – see below.

The Vice County Moth recorders and Butterfly recorders were listed in the Highland Branch Newsletter in the spring and are also listed on the branch website – see below. If you are unsure of which Vice County covers your butterfly records then you can email them to [sightings@highland-butterflies.org.uk](mailto:sightings@highland-butterflies.org.uk) or post them to Butterfly Records, 19 Culloden Court, Inverness IV2 7DX.

### **The Chequered Skipper Highland Branch Newsletter 25 – Spring 2020**

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 Friday the 17th of January 2020 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.

### **Looking ahead**

The 2020 Scottish Recorders' Gathering for those involved in recording butterflies and moths will take place at the Battleby Conference Centre near Perth on Saturday 14th March 2020. The 2020 Scottish Members Day will also take place at Battleby in 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 branch website; [Highland Butterflies](#) which has an events list, event reports and Latest News pages.

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)

Information is also on the “In Your Area” page of the main Butterfly Conservation website:

### [Highlands & Islands](#)

### **Facebook**

We now have a Facebook page [Butterfly Conservation Highlands & Islands](#) and will be starting a Facebook Group soon for residents and visitors to the Highlands, Islands and Moray to discuss all things relating to Butterflies and Moths.

We also now have a Facebook group [Highland Moths & Butterflies](#) where you can share sightings and post photos. It's open to anyone who lives, works or regularly visits the Highland branch area

### **Twitter**

We now are also on Twitter. You don't need to be a member of Twitter to see the branch Twitter feed, which is here: [BC Highland](#)

### **Field Trips**

Pete Moore is currently putting together a programme of interesting field trips for 2020, 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.

### **Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey (WCBS)**

Kirstie Ross is the Highland Branch WCBS champion. If you'd like to be involved in the WCBS or find out more about it, please email [funkyhaywood@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:funkyhaywood@yahoo.co.uk) and Kirstie will be able to help you. There's also some information about the WCBS on the homepage of the branch website – see above – as well as a link to the 2017 results.

### **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)

## **Vice-county Moth Recorder Required for Caithness (VC 109)**

After ten years of dedicated and excellent service and following the publication of the Atlas of Britain & Ireland's Larger Moths, Neil Money is standing down as the Vice-county moth recorder for VC109 Caithness. We are therefore looking for a replacement to take on the position.

The role simply requires the collation and verification of the county's new moth records. It is not necessary to be an expert as there is a great deal of help and support on hand from other Scottish VC moth recorders in the Highlands and further afield.

To make matters far easier Caithness is one of the few counties in Scotland that has its own moth website "The Moths of Caithness". <http://www.caithnessmoths.org.uk/>

This excellent resource, put together by Neil, has all you wish to know about Caithness moths and their distribution, with photos, maps and phenology charts. A superb asset for the vital task of verification.

If you are interested or wish to find out more, please contact Tom Prescott.  
email: [tprescott@butterfly-conservation.org](mailto:tprescott@butterfly-conservation.org). Tel: 01540 661469 Mob: 07979 785665