



BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION HIGHLAND BRANCH



NEWS-SHEET 16 – Spring 2010

Welcome to new members

Firstly, a very warm welcome to all those who have joined Butterfly Conservation recently and who have therefore automatically become members of Highland Branch. We look forward to seeing you at some of the field events to be held this summer.

Branch Website

Up to date information about butterflies and moths in the area and news about the Branch is available on the Branch website and please send in items for the home page as well as short snippets of news or information.

www.highland-butterflies.org.uk

Field Trips 2010

Sat 22nd May

Allt Mhuic Reserve Family Fun Day Loch Arkaig 10.00am – 4.00pm.

There will be various activities for both children and adults as well as regular guided walks to see the reserve's three key residents; Chequered Skipper, Pearl-bordered Fritillary and the Highland Cattle that are managing the reserve by light grazing. Meet at reserve car park Grid Ref (NN120911). We are also looking for volunteers to come and help out. If you are interested please contact Tom Prescott: Tel: 01540 661469, Mobile: 07979 785665, Email: tprescott@butterfly-conservation.org

Sat 22nd May

Aldie Burn to search for Green Hairstreaks

Meet at 10.30am at the forestry car park at NH755792 (OS Sheet 21) just off the Scotsburn Road near Tain. Duration 2 to 3 hours. Leader Colin Ridley.

Wed 26th May

Ardersier Green Road for Dingy Skipper

An evening walk at this interesting site. Meet at 7.00pm in the car park on the left as you start to leave Ardersier heading for Fort George. Grid ref NH 779 556, OS sheet 27. Duration 1 hour. Leader: Jimmy McKellar.

Sat 5th June

Glen Feshie

Meet at 11.00am at the large layby at Grid Ref NH842009, (OS Sheet 35), on the unmarked road turning off the B970 at Insh House, (NH835038) near Kincaig and Loch Insh. There are smaller parking areas very close by. Duration would be about 3 hours max, with possibilities of another location nearby if the weather is good. Leader Audrey Turner - Mobile 07784000263, Email unicorn64@btinternet.com.

Sun 13th June

Cuil Bay, near Duror - Looking for Marsh Fritillary. Leader Tom Prescott

This butterfly is a recent colonist to the Highlands. Turn off the A828 Ballachulish to North Connel road just south of Duror at the school, signposted to Cuil. We will meet at 2.00pm at the roadside parking overlooking the bay at approx grid ref (NM979552). We may also visit some of the large Marsh Fritillary colonies just to the south around Appin. For more information and to arrange joint transport please contact Tom Prescott: Tel: 01540 661469, Mobile: 07979 785665, Email: tprescott@butterfly-conservation.org

Sat 3th July

Dalwhinnie – Target species Mountain Ringlet which should be on the wing.

Meet at 11:00am at the car park in Dalwhinnie. Grid Ref approx. NN638850 OS Sheet 42. Note this may be a strenuous walk. Leader: Jimmy McKellar.



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- Wed 21st July** **RSPB Insh Marshes NNR** – a mid-week walk to look for Northern Brown Argus and other butterflies. We'll start off by looking through a moth trap run the previous night. Meet at 09:30 at the RSPB Insh Marshes car-park, 2km out of Kingussie on the B970, past Ruthven Barracks. Grid ref NN776998, OS Sheet 35. Duration approx 3 hours. Leader: Pete Moore (Warden).
- Sat 8th Aug** **Loch Fleet NNR Open Day - Moths and butterfly walk.**
Meet at 10.00am at the car park at Littleferry Grid Ref NH806955 OS Sheet 21 Duration 1 hour 30 minutes on official programme but can be extended. Leader Tony Mainwood
- Sat 21st Aug** **Lochaline, Morvern - Looking for Purple Hairstreak.**
This butterfly is a recent colonist to the Highlands. We will also look for the larval webs of Marsh Fritillary. Meet at 1.30pm in the car park of the café at the Lochaline – Mull ferry terminal, grid ref NM679445 OS Sheet 49. This will allow members on Mull to attend the trip. For more info and to arrange joint transport please contact Tom Prescott: Tel: 01540 661469, Mobile: 07979 785665, Email: tprescott@butterfly-conservation.org
- Sat 4th Sept** **Findhorn Dunes** – A leisurely walk around the dunes to discover what is there. Meet at 11.00am in the RSPB car park opposite Findhorn Foundation on the shore-side of the road just before entering Findhorn. Grid Ref NJ 050 635. OS Sheet 27. Leader: Jimmy McKellar.
- Sat 18th Sept** **Polmaily, near Drumnadrochit. Butterfly work party**
This is a break with tradition being the first conservation day that the branch has organised. We will be clearing scrub along the track side to benefit Pearl-bordered Fritillary and Dingy Skipper. Please wear old clothes and bring work gloves, secateurs, loppers and bowsaws if you have them. Further handtools will be available. We will meet at 10.30 at the end of the forest track into Polmaily c2 miles west of Drumnadrochit on the A831 towards Cannich grid ref NH484304 OS Sheet 26. The plan is to stay till about 16.00 but you can join in or leave whenever you want to. Every little helps so if you only want to come for an hour that will still be very welcome. For more info please contact Tom Prescott: Tel: 01540 661469, Mobile: 07979 785665, Email: tprescott@butterfly-conservation.org

Moth Events including National Moth Night

- Sat 15th May** **National Moth Night at Spinningdale Wood** in partnership with the Woodland Trust
Meet at 11.00am at the car park (Grid Ref NH667907 OS Sheet 21) about 1.5 km along the unclassified road from Spinningdale. After examining the moths caught overnight we will go in search of Pearl-bordered Fritillaries which may be flying if it is a sunny day. Some preliminary habitat management will be attempted in the afternoon so bring you garden rake to help clear some spaces in the dead bracken. Leader Tony Mainwood.
- Sat 15th May** **National Moth Night at Great Glen House, Inverness.**
Meet at 8pm at Scottish Natural Heritage's (SNH) Great Glen House, (grid ref NH638443 OS Sheet 26) Leachkin Road, Inverness. Refreshments will be provided as well as family activities. If it is a good moth night we will also meet up on the Sunday morning to see what is in the moth traps. For more information contact Tom Prescott: Tel: 01540 661469, Mobile: 07979 785665, Email: tprescott@butterfly-conservation.org



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Sat 15th May

National Moth Night at Nethy Bridge

With Mike Taylor and Mel the Explore Abernethy Ranger.

Meet at 8.30pm at Nethy Bridge Community Centre Grid Ref NJ002205 OS Sheet 36.

A short presentation on moths light refreshments and setting of traps at the Old Tree Nursery (GR NJ010200) and see what arrives for an hour or two.

Warm clothing and a torch are strongly advised!

Meet again at 10.00am on the Sunday morning (16TH May) at the Old Tree Nursery to see what has been caught.

For further details contact Mel the Explore Abernethy Ranger Tel 01479 821565

Sat 19th June

Pine-tree Lappet Survey – Inverness/Kiltarlity area.

In order to help determine the current status of Pine-tree Lappet BCS is co-ordinating a survey of pine plantations in the area. The focus will be on looking for new sites rather than confirming its presence at currently known sites. Meet at 8.30pm at the Brockies Lodge Hotel, Kiltarlity (Grid Ref NH514418 OS Sheet 26). Depending on the number of people/traps/generators etc, we will split into groups and set traps in the locality. Please bring along any traps you have. To help us coordinate the survey effectively please can you let us know if you plan to come along. If you are unable to attend but keen to help look for this moth during its flight period (latter half of June into early July) then please also get in touch to arrange access permissions etc to trapping sites.

Tom Prescott: Tel: 01540 661469, Mobile: 07979 785665,

Email: tprescott@butterfly-conservation.org

Sun 4th July

Moth Identification Workshop at Aigas concentrating on Pugs

with Roy Leverton and Mark Young.

Tea/coffee and biscuits from 10.00am for a 10.30am start. A soup and sandwiches type lunch will be provided and there will be tea/coffee and biscuits in the afternoon with a 4.00pm to 4.30pm finish.

Photographs of pugs and other tricky species for identification will be welcome and so would any already existing voucher specimens but please do not bring live moths.

The workshop is a Moths Count event and there is no charge.

Places are limited so **BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL** with Tony Mainwood

tony.mainwood@btinternet.com or 01408 633247

Fri 13th Aug

Findhorn – targeting Lunar Yellow Underwing a UKBAP species not recorded in the area since 1997 and also the Portland Moth, Coast Dart and Archer's Dart.

Meet at Findhorn Beach car park at 9.00pm Grid Ref NJ043648 OS Sheet 27.

If you wish, bring your own moth traps to increase the chances of success, but please contact Mike first. Warm clothing, torch and sustenance advisable. Duration – as late as you wish! If the weather is bad there is the option of trying the Saturday.

(There is apparently a historic record of Crescent Dart though that prefers rocky coastlines, but Burghhead is not far away for those who wish to go on and search for it.)

Leader Mike Taylor. Tel: 01479 831060, Mobile: 07757 607287,

Email: mst.taylor@btinternet.com

For further details contact :-

Jimmy McKellar (Tel 01463241185 Email jimmy.mckellar@btinternet.com) or

Tony Mainwood (Tel 01408633247 Email tony.mainwood@btinternet.com)