



## BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION HIGHLAND BRANCH



### NEWS-SHEET no 14 – March 2009

#### 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.

#### Highland Biological Recording Group Spring Meeting

This will be held at the Community Centre in Strathpeffer on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March. There will be presentations on Mapping Butterflies in Highland, Historical Mammal Records and 10km squares that need targeting for records of almost any fauna. All are welcome.

#### Scottish Recorders' Meeting

The annual spring meeting for butterfly and moth recorders will be held at SNH's Battleby Centre on 18<sup>th</sup> April and all are welcome. To book a place contact Shona Greig at the BC Scotland office, tel 01786 447753 or e-mail [scotland@butterfly-conservation.org](mailto:scotland@butterfly-conservation.org).

#### Small Tortoiseshell postcard survey

Following on from the Orange-tip postcard survey in Scotland in 2007 and the Peacock postcard survey in 2008 the species selected for 2009 is the Small Tortoiseshell which is going through a considerable decline in much of Britain at present. This is thought to be possibly because of the parasitoid fly, *Sturmia bella*, which parasitizes the caterpillars. More information is available at <http://users.ox.ac.uk/~zool0376/small-tortoiseshell.htm>.

#### Atlas of Butterflies in Highland and Moray

The atlas documents the distribution of 30 species of butterflies in the period 1980 – 2007 in the area covered by Highland Branch. It is based on some 40,000 records contributed by over 750 recorders. It presents a snapshot of our current knowledge and a baseline for studying changes and trends in the future.

The price is £4 but at a discount price of £3 to Branch Members. If you would like a copy posted to you please add £1 for p&p and send a cheque made out to Butterfly Conservation Highland Branch to Tony Mainwood, 13 Ben Bhraggie Drive, Golspie, Sutherland KW10 6SX

#### Butterfly and Moth Records

Butterfly records should be sent to Dr David Barbour, 125a High Street, ABERLOUR, Banff-shire AB38 9PB; E-mail [DbFIS@aol.com](mailto:DbFIS@aol.com); Tel 01340-871850. Vice-county Moth Recorders are listed on the Branch web-site.

#### E-mail contact and Branch Website

This News-sheet is being sent out with the Newsletter but normally we would like to save on paper etc by sending News-sheets by e-mail if possible. If you are not already on the e-mail list and would like to be included please send an e-mail to [tony.mainwood@btinternet.com](mailto:tony.mainwood@btinternet.com) asking to be added to the list. We can then also send out reminders about events and details of any changes to the programme. Up to date information and news is also available from the Branch website. If you do not have internet access you could always ask at your local library or find a friend who does.

**[www.highland-butterflies.org.uk](http://www.highland-butterflies.org.uk)**



## **Field Trips 2009**

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- Sat 16th May Culbin – Target species Green Hairstreak, Pearl-bordered Fritillary and possibly even Dingy Skipper. Leader - David Barbour  
Meet at 11.00am at the Wellhill carpark entrance to Culbin.  
Grid ref: NJ997614 OS Sheet 27
- Sat 23rd May Garrick Wood (National Biodiversity Week Event)  
A Biodiversity Blitz with Brian and Barbara Ballinger, owners.  
A joint HBRG/T&DFC/BC/SWT field trip. Meet at 10.30am at the large lay-by opposite the entrance to the wood, close to the Fearn turnoff to the south-east of Tain. Grid ref: NH797792 OS Sheet 21.  
Please note: This is a very wet wood and wellies are advised!
- Sat 13th June Loch Arkaig, Allt Mhuic – Target species Chequered Skipper and Pearl-bordered Fritillary which should be on the wing. Leader: Jimmy McKellar. Meet at 11:00 at Allt Mhuic car park Grid Ref NN120911. OS Sheet 34.
- Sat 25 July Boleskine Wetland Project. Exploring this new reserve. Leader Katie Ellam  
Meet at 11.00am at the Forestry Commission Inverfarigaig car park. From Inverness, take the B862 to Dores, then the B852 to Inverfarigaig. The car park is signposted from Inverfarigaig, just along the unclassified road to the Pass of Inverfarigaig. Grid Ref NH522237 OS Sheet 26

For further details contact :-

Jimmy McKellar (tel 01463241185 e-mail jimmy.mckellar@btinternet.com) or  
Tony Mainwood (tel 01408633247 e-mail tony.mainwood@btinternet.com)

## **Moths Count events**

- 20/21 Aug TOMINTOUL, Ballindalloch. (with the Crown Estate, Glenlivet)  
Moths and Bats. 8-10pm (or later) 20 August 2009 and 10am 21 August 2009.  
Details and bookings from Vicky Hilton 01479 870 070.
- Sat 19<sup>th</sup> Sept National Moth Night at Nigg Bay.  
Meet at 8.00pm at the RSPB hide 1 mile/1.6 km north of Nigg village on the B9175 Grid Ref NH807730. OS Sheet 21.  
Warm clothing and a torch are strongly advised!

There will also be a National Moth Night event on 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> Sept at SNH's Great Glen House, Inverness but details are still to be finalised.

The Speyside Way Rangers are organising a moth event somewhere near Aberlour and there are also likely to be two public moth events in Caithness and Sutherland sometime during the summer.

For the enthusiasts there will be targeted moth trapping sessions, one in June somewhere in the west (Wester Ross) for Barred Tooth Striped and another in August at Culbin to target Lunar Yellow Underwing.

Information about all events will be advertised on the Branch Website as soon as details are finalised and will be circulated by e-mail nearer the time (or you could phone Jimmy or Tony).