

CHEQUERED SKIPPER



BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION
SAVING BUTTERFLIES, MOTHS AND OUR ENVIRONMENT
HIGHLAND BRANCH
NEWSLETTER 18
SPRING 2013

Cover : Pink-barred Sallow moth and autumn scenes at
Glenborrodale, Ardnamurchan.

Thanks to Janette Borwick for her kind permission to use
these photos.

Contents

Chairman's Introduction	4
Welcome new members!	5
A Different Angle	6
Second Owner	9
Rannoch Brindled Beauty	11
Monitoring under-recorded butterfly populations	13
Speckled Wood Survey in Scotland	16
The Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey	17
Moth Records from Moray and East Inverness-shire, 2012	20
Moths & Butterflies with the Ranger	23
Moth Highlights from East Sutherland, 2012	27
Report from the West Coast, 2012	31
Book Review - Lady of the Butterflies	39
Butterfly (poem by DH Lawrence)	40
MapMate recording software	41
Chequered Skipper Survey 2012, results	44
Moth trapping in under-recorded areas, 2012	48
Neonicotinoids - what is the issue?	51
Butterflies in Bulgaria revisited	56
Field Trips and Events, 2013	63
Branch committee members	83
Butterfly Recorders	83
County Moth Recorders	84

Chairman's Introduction

Mark Wynn

Welcome to the first edition of CHEQUERED SKIPPER, our new Branch Newsletter.

Just when the caterpillar thinks that it is all grown up, it becomes a butterfly. So, it is for me !!! Starting retirement from my working life & now here I am, Chairman of the Highland Branch of Butterfly Conservation.

I hold responsible my two brothers for giving me this interest in butterflies. I was always the bird-watcher. It was they who were forever chasing butterflies. And not only across the countryside but across the country. And Europe too.

And now as Chairman I'm beginning to find that moths are equally beautiful. Thanks to Pete & Tom & Mike & Margaret & James. With my light trap I'm quickly learning what little beauties they are - & I don't mean Pete & Tom & Mike & Margaret & James!!! However, these fellas have been extremely generous in their help & understanding & encouragement.

And it's that sharing of knowledge and enthusiasm that is an immense strength of Butterfly Conservation as a society. And that is very evident on our field trips. I believe our field trips are probably the most important gain from membership. Remember, 2013 has been designated by the Scottish Government as the "Year of Natural Scotland". So why not join us on a field trip. They're all different & you'll be made very welcome at them. And after the wettest summer for a century let's hope last year's buckled jet stream straightens itself out and pushes wet weather systems further to the north.

I'm certainly hoping for better things this summer in our garden. Last year's garden butterfly highlights were a Small Copper in the autumn & a single Peacock on our newly planted buddleia.

Finally, just to say that we also have our own web site. Our thanks go to Bill, our volunteer web admin, who perseveres with keeping it up to date. Do pay the site a visit and let us know what you think. And give us your records too. The site can be found at: www.highland-butterflies.org.uk

Hoping to see you on one or more of our field trips.

Mark

Welcome new members!

Audrey Turner - Membership Secretary

I'd like to give a warm welcome to those of you new to Highland Branch of Butterfly Conservation and also a welcome back to regular readers. I hope that you will be able to attend one or more of our field trips or other events throughout the year.

As well as a list of field trips and other events appearing in our annual newsletter, reminders about field trips etc or changes to the programme are also sent out by email; please contact me at unicorn64@btinternet.com or 01479 811517 if you'd like to be added to the mailing list.

A Different Angle

Jimmy McKellar

While walking along a path close to the shore a mile or so from Kilmuir, I noticed a docken or dock, *Rumex obtusifolius* had been attacked by something.

Large areas had been eaten out of the leaves. I looked closer and found frass and after turning over a few of the leaves I found a green caterpillar with a white stripe down the sides which seemed to be the culprit.

I took photographs on the 7th of April 2012 and the following day as some came out rather poorly focused. I photographed one on a fence post (**Fig 1**) and then returned it to the leaf it came from. These caterpillars turned out to be the moth, Angle Shades, *Phlogophora meticulosa*.



Fig 1

The feeding damage and some frass (near the base of the left, centre, leaf) can just be made out in this picture (**Fig 2**).



Fig 2

The caterpillars could be easily found by gently turning each leaf on the plant. Many of the docken plants had feeding damage.

Interestingly on the first plant one of the caterpillars was much larger and more developed than all the rest I found subsequently, probably due to the very mild weather we had the previous month. Warmth apparently allows for rapid caterpillar growth in this species. The black object (Fig 2) is my camera case.

This picture (Fig 3) shows the common resting place along the mid-rib of a leaf. On this occasion it was on the underside but I also found one on the upper surface too. This was the typical head-down posture.

Either side of the leaf seems acceptable but still head-down... (Fig 4)

Typical feeding damage, on some of the plants was quite extensive, though I doubt if the plants would have suffered any lasting damage. (Fig 5)

At this early date in the Spring the plants tended to stand out against the background of mostly dead or just emerging



Fig 3



Fig 4



Fig 5

vegetation, so were very easy to pick out from quite some distance away. (Fig 6)

Fig 7 shows the habitat in which these particular dockens were growing. They were sheltered from the sea by trees and shrubs and in a slight hollow. It can be seen how easily the docken plants can be picked out.

The current distribution (Fig 8) is taken from the NBN Gateway (National Biodiversity Network Gateway).

This is not a rare moth by any standard but few people other than moth trappers ever see one.



Fig 6



Fig 7



Angle Shades, adult
(Roy Leverton)



Fig 8

Second Owner

Margaret Currie

The outside of our house windows are constructed so that there is a gap between the concrete and wooden sills. The space is approximately 50mm deep with 20mm opening; it has always been a popular place for caterpillars to pupate.

The 6th October 2012 was one of the rare occasions when the outside windows were given a wash, and afterwards I was having a look round at the various pupae. (Not checking to see if the windows were clean, honest.)

That was when I noticed some curious little constructions in the corners of the space mentioned above. A casing had been made which fitted in the angle; they were quite small, about 25mm round with a small hole at the front. Just visible inside one of these structures was a pupa which I carefully removed with tweezers. Red in colour and approximately 20mm in length, unfortunately it was empty.



A few days later, on the 9th October, I couldn't resist going to have another look, there just inside the same casing in which I had found the first of them was another

identical pupa. This one was intact, it must have rolled forward after the empty one was removed and I had not noticed. So this pupa was very carefully put into a box with sphagnum moss and left in the garden shed, probably for the whole of the winter so I thought.

On 10th November I was surprised to find it had emerged and there, sitting on top of the moss, was Angle Shades, a moth seen regularly in our garden.

Of course I had also been keeping a watch on the casings under the window sills and by the 20th October they had all been destroyed, and yet the pupae in the same areas were still intact.

Throughout the spring and early summer Blue Tits raised a family in a nest box only a metre from this particular window. On the assumption that the structures were destroyed by small birds (several of which frequent the garden all year round) then they must have been built after the Blue Tits fledged. Or they contained something unpalatable.

The material of the casings was quite hard and thin, but brittle, not made from wood as a wasp would use. This year I shall be keeping a very close watch on the area as I would very much like to know which insect actually created the little structures that Angle Shades found so useful.

Rannoch Brindled Beauty

Sue Tarr

Last year (2011), on the 10th of April, I was out on the hill near my home looking for black grouse leks when I discovered by chance a female Rannoch Brindled Beauty sitting on a heather twig. Although I had never seen one before, I had a suspicion of what it was and was getting quite excited as I was vaguely aware it wasn't a very common moth. When back home, the "book" agreed with me, and then the photo was confirmed by Margaret Currie, our county moth recorder - although non-moth friends seemed less than impressed at this small furry wingless beast. The distribution of this moth is mostly restricted to the central Highlands with a few recorded in the North West Highlands.

This year (2012), the RBB story was even more exciting! I

It started when I came across a male Rannoch Brindled Beauty sitting on a fence post on the croft one morning during our March "heat wave". I was also hearing the grouse up on the hill on some mornings so on 27th March decided on an early start to head up the hill in search of black grouse. There just happens to be a deer fence crossing the hill near the expected grouse lek and close to where the female RBB was seen last year. I spotted a male Rannoch Brindled Beauty resting on one of the posts, and started keeping an eye on fence posts as well as looking out for grouse. It soon became apparent that looking for RBB was going to be more fruitful that morning than grouse, as many of the posts had at least one RBB resting on it; both males and females were present - one post had three, and one had a mating pair. The section of fence walked that morning had a total of 49 altogether, 34 males and 15 females.

I returned to the same area on 8th April on a drizzly morning (still no grouse but apparently they don't like the rain) and

counted only 5 of the moths on the same fence - four females and one male.



It seems that walking along fences is a very easy way of discovering RBBs but a word of warning - inspecting fence posts that have no moths becomes very tedious and gives you a bit of a crick in the neck! If you are lucky you can also spot them perched in the vegetation but they are much more camouflaged there.

Apparently records in VC106 are quite sparse, but there are miles and miles of similar open heather / bog myrtle moor land so surely there is plenty of scope for Rannoch Brindled Beauty!

Monitoring under-recorded butterfly populations in the Highlands – can you help?

Pete Moore

Butterfly Conservation recently reviewed what standardised monitoring of butterflies was taking place across the UK (as opposed to casual sightings) in order to identify possible gaps in coverage at a regional level. The findings for BC Highland branch area were as follows:

1. More "all species" transects need to be set up under the UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme (UKBMS).
2. More 1km squares need to be sampled as part of the Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey (WCBS).
3. The following priority species are under-monitored:

Marsh Fritillary

Chequered Skipper

Grayling

Large Heath

Mountain Ringlet

Northern Brown Argus

Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary

For these species, recommended monitoring is by single species transects or timed counts. For Marsh Fritillary, counting of larval webs is also an option.

4. A long-running all species transect at Inverpolly, set up in 1977, needs to be re-established.

The following information will let you know what is involved with transects, timed counts and WCBS squares. If, after reading this, you feel able to help out by setting up a transect (either all-species or targeting one of the above priority species), walking a WCBS square or walking the Inverpolly transect, then please contact:

WCBS squares only: Ewan Munro at
wcbshighlandbutterflies.org.uk

Transects and timed counts:
Scotland@butterfly-conservation.org or telephone **01786 447753**

If you are concerned that your butterfly identification skills are not up to scratch then let me put your mind at rest! There are relatively few species to learn in Highland and for the all-species transects you start in spring when there isn't much around and gradually work your way up to the busier time in summer, learning as you go.

Monitoring methods.

All species transects.

In brief, a fixed-route walk (transect) is established at a site and butterflies are recorded along the route on a weekly basis under reasonable weather conditions for 26 weeks each year. Transect routes are chosen to sample evenly the habitat types and management activity on sites. Care is taken in choosing a transect route as it must then remain fixed to enable butterfly sightings to be compared from year to year. Transects are typically 1-2km long, taking between 25 minutes and one hour to walk, and are divided into sections corresponding to different habitat or management units.

Butterflies are recorded in a fixed width band (typically 5m wide) along the transect each week from the beginning of April until the end of September yielding, ideally, 26 counts per year. Transect walks are undertaken between 10.45am and 3.45pm and only when weather conditions are suitable for

butterfly activity: dry conditions, wind speed less than Beaufort scale 5, and temperature 13°C or greater if there is at least 60% sunshine, or more than 17°C if overcast. Due to the vagaries of the British and Irish weather, it is rare in practice to achieve a full set of 26 weekly counts. However, a small number of missing values can be estimated using other counts from adjacent weeks.

Single species transects.

These have been increasingly established in recent years. Whilst such transects must follow the standard methodology (see above) and must record populations at least once a week throughout the flight period (usually 4 - 6 weeks), the focus on a single (or small number of) species reduces both the time required to walk each transect and, more significantly, the number of weekly counts. With many demands on the time of site management staff and volunteer recorders, this reduced method has enabled population monitoring of particular threatened butterflies to be undertaken when otherwise it would not have been possible. By regularly recording a fixed route in standardised conditions, the number of butterflies seen on a transect can be compared from year to year.

Timed Counts.

These can be very useful as they require minimal time commitment, as only one count is required in suitable weather conditions during the species' flight period (but see below). The method works best where the colony occupies an easily definable area. The recorder walks in a zig-zag fashion evenly covering the area counting individuals over a fixed time period, usually between 5 and 60 minutes which gives a relative density per hour e.g. 6 Large Heaths per hectare per hour.

The difficulty is that if only one count is being made then the count should coincide with the species' peak emergence and abundance and this will vary from year to year depending on the weather. The timing of peak abundance will only be known

if there is an all-species transect in the local area which also covers this species.

WCBS squares.

Most butterfly monitoring currently focuses on nature reserves and butterfly-rich places. This has led to a lack of monitoring in vast areas of the wider countryside. These areas include farmland, plantation woodland, uplands and urban green spaces. The UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme, run by Butterfly Conservation and the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, has developed a new Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey (WCBS) method to gauge the changing abundance of widespread species in the general countryside.

70% of the UK's land is in agricultural use. It is essential that butterflies in these areas are monitored to gauge the health of our countryside.

The new method involves making a minimum of two visits to a randomly selected square between May and August to count butterflies along two 1km survey lines running roughly north-south through the square. Time commitment is low compared to other monitoring methods.

Ewan Munro is the Highland co-ordinator. He can be contacted at wcbs@highland-butterflies.org.uk

2013 Speckled Wood Butterfly Survey in Scotland.

In 2013 Butterfly Conservation will again be running a survey of Speckled Wood butterfly. To report sightings on-line, go to www.butterfly-conservation.org/scottishspeckledwood. Survey postcards will also be available.

The Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey

Zoë Randle

The Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey (WCBS) runs as a partnership between Butterfly Conservation, the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) and the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH). The survey is the first UK-wide survey of butterfly abundance using a random sampling framework and is therefore vital in assessing the changing status of widespread butterfly species and in providing an indicator of the health of the wider countryside.

The WCBS ran for its fourth year in 2012 and despite the terrible weather across the UK, participation was at an all time high. In total 648 recorders made 1,548 visits to 771 squares and counted 64,452 butterflies of 46 species. As in previous years participants included recorders from the BTO/JNCC/RSPB Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) and Butterfly Conservations' volunteer network.

In Scotland, 128 visits to 76 squares were undertaken by 56 recorders who counted 4,272 butterflies of 19 species. Survey coverage comprised 13 BBS squares (17% of the Scottish WCBS total) and a further 63 (83%) by Butterfly Conservation (BC) recorders. Breakdown of Scottish Branch participation was as follows: Highlands and Islands 16 (14 BC & 2 BBS); East Scotland 29 (22 BC & 7 BBS) and Glasgow & South West Scotland 31 (27 BC & 4 BBS). The greatest increase in coverage was in Glasgow & South West Scotland Branch where 23 more squares were surveyed by BC volunteers than in 2011. This may be due to the provision of a WCBS training course that was run in the area at the start of the survey season.

During the core recording period of July and August in Scotland, 44 squares received the required two visits. These visits produced 2,977 butterfly sightings of 19 species. The top

three most widespread species in Scotland were Green-veined White (53 squares); Ringlet (45 squares) and Small Tortoiseshell (40 squares). The most numerous butterflies in Scotland were Ringlet, 1,199 individuals counted; Green-veined White (709) and Scotch Argus (391).

The greatest butterfly count over two summer visits was in a square in Dumfries and Galloway where 365 butterflies were seen, these comprised mainly of Ringlet and Green-veined White. Three squares in Scotland shared the top spot for butterfly diversity; ten species were recorded in squares near to Bridge of Allan, Stirling; Whiting Bay, Arran and Glenmore in Argyll & Bute.

In total, 983 butterflies of 12 species were recorded in the Highlands and Island Branch area. During the core period of July and August 412 butterflies of 11 species were counted. Green-veined White was the most widespread butterfly in the branch area and Scotch Argus was the most abundant comprising 67% of the total number of butterflies seen.

Moths and Dragonflies

As in previous years, recorders were encouraged to count the day-flying moths that they saw within their squares. In 2012, moths were counted in 19 squares compared to 39 in 2011. A total of 65 individuals of 15 species were recorded, the most abundant species being the Silver-ground Carpet. The most wide-spread moth was Silver Y.

Dragonflies were counted in 14 squares compared to 19 in 2011. A total of 112 individuals of nine species were seen, the most abundant being Common Darter and most widespread being Golden-ringed Dragonfly.

The WCBS will run for a 5th year in 2013 and we aim to improve uptake of WCBS squares in Scotland to ensure representative country coverage. The WCBS is not a huge commitment, it requires two compulsory visits per year with two additional

optional visits to count butterfly species that fly earlier in the season. Ewan Munro is the new WCBS Branch Champion for the Highland Branch. To get involved in the survey please contact Ewan via wcbs@highland-butterflies.org.uk. To find out more go to www.ukbms.org/wcbs.htm. Many thanks to everyone who took part in 2012, your support is valued. Thanks also to the Branch Champions (Richard Buckland, Jo Davis and Tom Prescott) for their enthusiasm and coordination.

Acknowledgements

The WCBS is funded by a multi-agency consortium including Scottish Natural Heritage, the Countryside Council for Wales, Defra, the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Forestry Commission, Natural England and the Natural Environment Research Council.



Green-veined White, the most widespread species recorded in the WCBS in Scotland in 2012.

Moth records from Moray and East Inverness-shire VC95 & VC96 in 2012

Mike Taylor

Despite some challenging weather which was probably responsible for a small reduction in visiting moth recorders there was still a considerable number of moth records submitted in 2012. The number of records received so far is 3,795 for Moray and 3,759 for East Inverness-shire. I am aware that there are more to come in and confidently expect the combined totals for the two VCs to exceed 8,500.

Whilst there were no new macro moths found for these two vice-counties in 2012 this was made up for by a number of micro moth firsts. Fourteen species were added to the Moray list with records from James Hammond, Mark Young, Bob Heckford and Mike Taylor bringing the micro moth total for VC95 up to 457. Two species were added to the East Inverness-shire list with records from Barbara Brodie and Mike Taylor. The VC96 list now stands at 534.

Records received so far for the area's resident specialities and UKBAP species are summarised below:

Rannoch Sprawler, a good showing with nineteen records during a very mild March with a couple of exceptionally early dates. In VC96 Malcolm Harvey caught one near Beauly on 25th February, this beating the previous earliest by twenty days.

There were three records for Sword-grass, all in spring, two near Beauly from Malcolm Harvey plus one in Forres from Mike Taylor.

Kentish Glory, the normal flight period for this moth coincided with the very cold April and May that we experienced and as a consequence only 3 adults and 1 egg-batch were recorded with the adults only seen in the very mild March and the first few

days of April. Peter Stronach trapped a male near Dulnain Bridge on 28 Mar 2012 setting another early date record.

Netted Mountain Moth and Small Dark Yellow Underwing are usually on the wing during this same April and May period and did not prove easy to find. There were just three records for the former, two on Dava Moor, Mike Taylor, one in Abernethy, Stewart Taylor. The Small Dark Yellow Underwing has become an increasingly scarce moth and although it shares the same habitat and larval foodplant as Netted Mountain Moth is nowhere near as abundant, unfortunately there were no records for this species in 2012.

There was a brief but very welcome warm spell at the end of May into the first week of June which coincided with the flight period of the Narrow-bordered Bee Hawk-moth producing a creditable thirteen records. During this same spell of good weather Britt and I found an Argent & Sable near Newtonmore in a new 10km square for the species and Ian Maltravers found a large Red-belted Clearwing in Abernethy, the third record for VC96.

Another concerted effort was made to find Dark Bordered Beauty producing just six records from two sites in Strathspey, a disappointingly low number given the amount of trapping that took place, again the poor weather was a factor.

August was wet but not quite so cold and allowed some trapping to take place with a more realistic chance of finding a few of the specials. I spent four evenings looking for Northern



Pearly Underwing

Dart, a UKBAP species that has not been recorded since 2006 with the one exception of a single moth caught in Kingussie by Tom Prescott in 2011. Unfortunately there were no Northern Dart but there was a good showing of Cousin German with a total of twelve records.

Whilst looking for Northern Dart on Cairngorm I trapped an unexpected migrant, a Pearly Underwing, only the third record for VC96. During this same period the second and third VC96 records of Slender Brindle were recorded by Tom Prescott in Kingussie and Ewan Munro in Inverness. On the same evening as the Slender Brindle Tom also caught an Archer's Dart, a species more usually found along the coast, though inland records do occur from time to time.

The cool weather continued into autumn with a consequent drop in the amount of trapping that took place, however for those that were prepared to do daytime searches there were a reasonable number of moths still to be found.

Finally a number of under-recorded ten kilometre squares were taken on by a few of us. The definition of an under-recorded square is somewhat subjective with two Scottish lists being produced, one with less than twenty macro moth species and another with less than fifty. It is pleasing to state that four from the less than twenty list are now above fifty and well above in a couple of cases, though in reality any square with less than 150 to 200 dependent upon its habitat should be looked at as under-recorded. Should anyone wish to take on a square within Moray or East Inverness-shire then please contact me as I shall be more than happy to provide a list within your chosen area.

Moths and Butterflies with the Ranger

Martin Hind, Easter Ross Ranger

I have been a ranger in the Easter Ross area for 16 years and in that time seen changes to various species including increased numbers of Peacock and Ringlet into Easter Ross for example. With regular reccies for walks, school field visits and other trips into the countryside a number of locations have been outstanding for the numbers of different species of butterflies and day flying moths. Below are my thoughts on three excellent locations. If you have the time to visit or join me on a guided walk sometime.



Six-spot Burnet moth

Most sites have already been known to your branch group members, such as **Kildary Loch** and the quarry close by where Six-Spot Burnet moths, Common Blues, Green Hairstreak and Small Heath have all been recorded along with another 14 species of commoner butterflies. What also makes Kildary Loch more interesting is that it is a

water body where our other dazzling insects the dragonflies and damselflies can be found. Kildary Loch and the surrounding area hosts 11 species of Odonata including the stunning southern hawker and the rarer white faced darter which can be found to the east. So walks out on sunny days in the summer around here can be abuzz with hunting dragonflies and battling colourful butterflies defending territories and photography proving challenging with these restless creatures.

Another great walk starts from **Achederson Farm** heading out to the now empty **Tighachrochadir croft** on the **Aultgowrie** above Muir of Ord. One of the main highlights on a good sunny day in July is the display of butterflies and dragonflies



Dark Green Fritillary

beside the farm dam where Dark Green and Pearl-bordered Fritillaries feed on thistles and knapweed in abundance along with Common Blues on the birds' foot trefoil. The walk up through the trees from the road often has good numbers of Peacock, Red Admiral, Orange

Tip and Speckled Wood along with various whites to keep you entertained on the steep haul to the farm. The dragonflies are also abundant with emerald, blue-tailed and large red damselflies along with the larger black darter and four-spotted chaser with the golden ringed dragonfly found more often further out along the track towards the old croft.



Northern Brown Argus

The final must visit place is **Shandwick** towards the Well of Health beside the Seaboard Villages east of Tain. This place has always been known to people as a site for the Northern Brown Argus but on early visits I realised that it was rich with other species and was another good site for the Six-spot Burnets. Last year I paid a visit with a local Colin Dingly who I have managed get

interested in moth trapping through one of the projects I was involved in a few years ago. While on our visited we added another butterfly to the species list as a Ringlet was spotted,



Ringlet

chased and photographed. This was a first for Colin who regularly walks his dog along here and likely to be a first record for the site unless some of you have seen them before here. On the day a couple of Northern Brown Argus were seen along with about 15 Six-spot Burnet moths. Also managed to photograph a micro, *Coleophora lixella* along with some others in an attempt to

learn something about micro moths having recently got the Sterling and Parsons book on Micro Moths of Great Britain & Ireland - what have I let myself in for.

I must thank a number of local members who have assisted me in the past with helping run moth trapping workshops and knowledge helping identifying species at bioblitzes and walks. Tony Mainwood, the Ballingers, David McAllister, Andy Scott and Margaret Currie spring to mind and apologies if I have missed anyone else out. That reminds me must send records to Margaret.

And just before I sign off just want to publicise a few events that your members might want to attend run by the Highland Council Countryside Rangers and please note that we know have a Facebook page if you're into that thing so get liking and keep up to date with what is going on locally. This year's Ranger events booklet is due out mid-February and will be distributed to local libraries, service points and other outlets. I hope there is enough to keep you interested. Look forward in seeing you sometime on one of the walks.

Wednesday June 12, 2013 Coastal wildlife of the Rosemarkie cliffs and beach

Explore this rocky coastline and what makes it important with flowers, butterflies and birds to tell the story. Meet at the Rosemarkie Beach carpark. 10am - 3pm. NH737577.

Adults £5, conc/children £3. Martin Hind 01349 868563.

Saturday July 27, 2013 Dragonflies and Butterflies of Auchederson, Aultgowrie by Muir of Ord

Walk up to Auchederson Farm mill pond and beyond to search out for the local dragonflies, damselflies and butterflies that breed here. If the weather is not suitable we will climb Cul Beag and across the moor as an alternative. 10am - 3pm. Meet at Aultgowrie Farm Steading look out for white ranger van. NH476514.

Adults £5, conc £3. Contact Martin Hind on 01349 868563.

Thursday August 08, 2013 Butterflies and flowers - Loch Fleet

A walk through the dunes, grassland and shore of the Loch Fleet national nature reserve. Meet at the Littleferry carpark, Golspie 10.30am - 12.30pm . NH 806958

Adult £3 Child £2 Ian Paterson on 01549 402638

Friday August 09, 2013 , Moth Night, Broadford - Moths are Marvellous.

Learn about these fascinating and beautiful night fliers on Moth Night 2013 and at the launch of Skye and Lochalsh Moth Group. Please bring a torch. Meet at the Ranger's office, Broadford Moth Night 2013, 7.30pm - 9pm

Adult £3 Child £2

Saturday August 10, 2013, Moth Morning, Broadford

Today we'll be checking the light traps that were set the night before. Discover the moths that have been flying around while you've been sleeping. Meet at the Ranger's office, Broadford. Moth Night 2013, 8am - 9.30am

Adult £3 Child £2

Moth Highlights from East Sutherland, VC107, in 2012

Tony Mainwood

2012 was another year where moth recording was frequently hampered by poor weather but even so there was still a good batch of interesting records to make the year a fairly memorable one.

Records were received from David Bryant, Mike & Betty Clementson, Helen Jones, Dean Macaskill, Ewan Munro, Nigel Richards, Alex Sanson, Justin Walker, Sarah Whealing, and Duncan Williams so a big thank you to them all - and, as always, a huge debt of gratitude is due to Roy Leverton for much help with some of the trickier identification puzzles.

Once again effort was put into boosting the species lists for some of the under recorded 10km squares, attempts were made to target a few of the scarcer species and some more specialised habitats were also visited.



Mottled Rustic

8 species were added to the vice-county list. Three of these - Pale November Moth, Tawny Marbled Minor, and Lesser Common Rustic - were confirmed or identified by genitalia examination while Slender Pug, Annulet, Confused, Uncertain and Mottled Rustic were all confirmed by Roy Leverton. In addition there about 580 new first records for 10km squares in East Sutherland, though there may be a few of these where earlier records have not yet been verified.

The following is a selection of some of species of particular interest or which were represented by only a handful of records.

Orange Swift 5th record Rogart 25 Jul.

Cream Wave 3rd record at Spinningdale 25 May

Oblique Carpet 3rd record at Mound Alderwoods 5 Aug

Small Argent & Sable 4 to 8 records Gordonbush Jun and Jul.

Slender-striped Rufous The weather during the flight period in late Sep/early Oct was generally cold and wet and the only records were at the site surveyed by Paul Waring in 1994.

Argent & Sable Duncan Williams found further larval spinnings in another 4 new 10km squares

Pale November Moth Although almost certainly fairly common, the first one identified for the VC was at Golspie on 24th Oct and was confirmed by genitalia examination.

Slender Pug Two records from Fiag Bridge and West Shinness on 17th Aug appear to be the first for the VC.

Lime-speck Pug wo records each at Rogart and at Loch Fleet were the 3rd to 6th records.

Barred Umber One at Achinduich on 5 May was the 4th record.

Willow Beauty Two individuals at Golspie on 8 and 17 Jul were the 5th and 6th records.

Grey Birch One at Mound Alderwoods on 21 Apr followed by 4 at Torboll and 12 at Achinduich on 1 May were the 2nd to 4th records.

Scotch Annulet Recorded at Rogart between 25 July and 22 Aug with a maximum of 8 on 11 Aug. One was at Achrimdsdale on 28 July. There are only 3 previous records.

Annulet Discovered at Rogart on 25 Jul and recorded up to 5 Sep. There was a maximum of 44 (in two actinic traps) on 11 Aug. First records for the VC.

Grey Scalloped Bar Singles at Rogart on 26 May and 5 Jun were the 4th and 5th records.

Convolvulus Hawk-Moth Two at Golspie on 1 Sep attracted by the *Nicotiana* grown in the hope of attracting this species. One of these seen again on 3 Sep.

Northern Rustic Recorded at Rogart between 30 Jun and 23 Sep with a maximum of 12 on 5 Sep. The first records since 1974.

Gothic One at Borrobol on 22 Jul was the 6th record.

Beautiful Yellow Underwing One at Achaness Burn on 3 May was only the 5th record.

Cabbage Moth One at Golspie on 9 Jun was only the 2nd record.

Lead-coloured Drab 7 records between 15 Mar and 22 Apr were in 4 new 10km squares and were always in the vicinity of aspen.

Old Lady One at Kilphedir on 8 Sep was the 7th record.

Confused One at Rogart on 3 Aug is only the 2nd record.

Tawny Marbled Minor One at Golspie on 7 Aug was identified by genitalia examination.

Common Rustic/Lesser Common Rustic This pair of species can only be separated by genitalia examination and of 11 individuals checked only one was a Common Rustic (Golspie on 3 Aug). The other 10 were all Lesser Common Rustic and came from 5 different 10km squares. There is an earlier record from Mark Young of Common Rustic but Lesser Common Rustic records are the first ones specifically identified in the VC.

Lyme Grass First identified by David Bryant at Loch Fleet on 25 Jul with other records subsequently confirmed at Dornoch and Loch Fleet including one retrospectively identified from a photo from 2010!

Rustic/Uncertain One individual each species was identified by Roy Leverton as Rustic and as Uncertain but they remain a frustratingly difficult pair of species to separate.

Mottled Rustic Singles at Achrimsdale on 26 Jul and Golspie on 28 July were the 1st and 2nd records.

Oak Nycteoline One at Golspie 30 Sep was the 5th record.



Gothic



Lyme Grass



Annulet



Scotch Annulet

Report from the West Coast, 2012

Brian Neath

SUMMARY

Unlike most of the UK the North West Highlands experienced exceptionally good weather during the spring and summer months. However this did not necessarily benefit all the lepidoptera species. Even in the Skye and Lochalsh area most people considered it to have been a poor year for butterflies whereas although some species were certainly scarcer than usual others did extremely well.

The lack of resident moth recorders on Skye has been a problem for many years so it has been encouraging that during 2012 several people have started to take an interest in moths. This culminated in a Skye and Lochalsh Moth Recorders Group being formed with an inaugural meeting taking place in the Highland Council Rangers Office in Broadford on 14th December. The meeting was attended by 13 people which augurs well for the future recording of moths on the island.

BUTTERFLIES IN SKYE AND LOCHALSH

The first butterfly of the year was a Peacock reported by John Rooney at Glaick, Balmacara on 22nd March. The Peacock was then widely reported from March until May. The Orange-tip had another good year but its flight period lasted only from 19th April until 22nd May. The largest count of 17 was seen by Hugh and Margaret Scott in the Killilan/Glen Elchaig area on 29th April.

The Green-veined White's flight period lasted from 2nd May to 13th August with good counts of 25 in the Kirkton /Reraig area on 21st May and 44 in the Drumbuie/Duirinish area on 11th August. However it was another poor year for Green

Hairstreak. A single seen by Paul Speak in Glen Ling on 22nd May was the only one reported.

It was one of the best years for Common Blue sightings although like the Orange-tip it had a rather short flight period. The first eight were seen on 19th June in the Drumbuie/Duirinish area and the last six were reported by Ishbel Cameron in the same area on 15th July. The highest count was of 14 in the Nostie/Avernish area on 25th June.

The most disappointing aspect of the butterfly year was the low numbers of the fritillary species. The Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary peak count was only seven on 28th May, the maximum Pearl-bordered Fritillary count was only five on 20th May and I had only three sightings of Dark Green Fritillary on 12th July, 8th August (2) and 11th August. These compare poorly with peaks in recent years of 20 to 27 Small Pearl-bordered, 12 to 23 Pearl-bordered and 9 to 14 Dark Green Fritillary.

Speckled Wood had the longest flight period stretching from 21st April until 2nd September. Hugh and Margaret Scott saw three in the Kinloch Woods, Skye on 21st April and there were good counts of 16 in the Nostie/Avernish area on 25th June and 27 in the Kyle Rhea/Ardintoul area on 14th July.

The Scotch Argus can usually be guaranteed in good numbers regardless of the weather and the year 2012 was no exception. The year also produced the earliest date for this species in Lochalsh - one on Eilean Ban on 9th July was one day earlier than the previous record. Then two were seen on the exceptionally late date of 14th October in the Kinloch Woods on Skye. The Scotch Argus were reported on both of these extreme dates by Hugh and Margaret Scott. The latest recorded date in Lochalsh is 26th September so 14th October was an extraordinary late date for this butterfly. In between these

first and last dates there were good counts of 118 on Carr Brae on 8th August and 112 in the Drumbuie/Duirinish area on 11th August.

It was a better year for Small Tortoiseshell but another dire one for Red Admiral, the third year running. Once again I had just a single sighting of the latter, at Ardelve on 8th October, with one at the Lochalsh Woodland Garden during August the only other Red Admiral reported. It was the poorest autumn for the Peacock since 2007. Apart from Hubert Hunton's garden at Balmacara I am aware of only five records of single Peacocks in Skye and Lochalsh during the autumn period. However Hubert recorded single Peacocks regularly from 15th August to 10th October with six present on 26th August and Jean Camilli found larvae in her Ratagan garden on 20th July.

As usual Meadow Brown was plentiful from late June to late July with a good count of 24 in the Glen Bernera/Ardintoul area on 14th July. By contrast it was the poorest year for Small Heath since the year 2000. I had only eight records with a maximum of nine on 28th May.

So 2012 produced a very strange mix of good and bad news for our local butterfly populations.

MOTHS IN LOCHALSH

January got the moth year off to a quiet start. The last Mottled Umber of the season was attracted to the windows on 6th January while the first Pale Brindled Beauty appeared on the 28th. A few Winter Moths remained until the 22nd.

The Chestnut was the most frequent moth during February and was recorded on ten dates, eight at the windows and twice in the Robinson trap. The first two March Moths appeared at the windows on 16th and included an unusual pale fawn specimen. The second moth trapping of the year on 29th attracted the first

three Yellow Horned of the year, the first Clouded Drab and 12 Mottled Grey.

March turned out to be a very special month with no less than seven new species for the month taking the number of species recorded to 29. Autumn Green Carpet, Early Thorn, Lunar Marbled Brown, Pine Beauty and Brindled Ochre were all attracted to the windows, Yellow-barred Brindle, Scarce Prominent and two more Early Thorn were attracted to the Robinson trap on the 28th March.

24 species were recorded during March 2012 and included peak counts of 20 Yellow Horned on 11th, 20 Mottled Grey, 12 Brindled Pug, 15 Double-striped Pug and 39 Clouded Drab on 23rd, 48 Common Quaker and 39 Hebrew Character on 28th.

April came as a slight anti-climax after the excitements of March but 21 species were recorded including a first April record of Swallow Prominent on 22nd. Waring and Townsend give June to August as the flight period for northern Britain. Similarly the two Lesser Swallow Prominent on the same date were earlier than the flight period given in the Field Guide.

There were also three Scarce Prominent on 22nd and this was the first time that I had recorded more than a single individual of this species. In fact these March/April 2012 Scarce Prominents were only my fifth and sixth records of this species, all between 28th March and 2nd May.

May was another good month for adding new species to the monthly total. Poplar Lutestring, Common Carpet, Yellow-barred Brindle, Swallow Prominent, Green Arches, Grey Dagger and Small Fan-foot were all new for May and brought the total for that month to 110 species. Other highlights included a record count of six Scorched Wing on 27th. This was the ninth consecutive year in which I have recorded this species in our garden and yet it remains the only site in West Ross where Scorched Wing has been recorded. Other May highlights

included a Herald on 20th and Clouded Silver, Coronet and Saxon all on the 27th.

Ling Pug, Red Chestnut and Angle Shades were additional species for June taking that month's total to 138. The second record of a Satin Lutestring for West Ross occurred on 22nd June and another Scorched Wing turned up on the 12th. There were further records of Coronet on 12th, Saxon on 12th and 22nd and a Green Silver-lines on 12th. There are only 15 records of the latter species in the VC105 database despite its description of Common T(hroughout) in the Waring and Townsend guide. There were no records of Green Silver-lines from the various Rothamsted sites in West Ross up to 2003, the last year for which records have been included in the National Moth Recording Scheme. Although 58 species were recorded during June only True Lover's Knot (20 on 22nd) and Mottled Beauty (11 on 30th) occurred in double figures. This is one of the attractions of moth trapping in June - a good variety of species but no excessive numbers of any one species.

Broken-barred Carpet and Swallow Prominent were new species for July and the latter confirmed 2012 as a particularly good year for this species in Lochalsh. A Bleached Pug on 25th July was only the second for Lochalsh and the fifth for VC105. Other highlights included a Barred Carpet on 19th, single Great Brocades on 19th and 25th and a Straw Underwing on 25th. A staggering 135 Triple-spotted Clay were attracted to the Robinson trap on 25th.

August produced the third record of Satin Lutestring for VC105 on 6th when a Peach Blossom was another addition to the August checklist. The number of Triple-spotted Clay was down to a manageable 26 by the 6th August, a number equalled by Small Fan-footed Wave on the same day. My only V-Pug of the year came to the Robinson trap on 6th and there were further

Straw Underwings on 6th and 13th. The 13th was also notable for 14 Dotted Carpet. There was yet another Swallow Prominent on 6th August and other notable species included Beautiful Carpet on 6th, Rivulet on 13th, two Bordered Beauty on 13th and a Satin Beauty on 6th. We were away from 15th to 28th August so it was remarkable to record 68 species in the first 13 days of the month.

September through to December produced no unexpected species but there were some notable numbers of a few species. The most surprising of these was 39 Angle Shades on 10th October. Other good counts included 32 Red-green Carpet and 22 Feathered Thorn on 18th October and 15 Yellow-line Quaker on 22nd October.

Ishbel Cameron and Charlene and Laura Macleod had an exceptionally good year at Drumbuie. Following on from five records of single Bordered Grey between 2004 and 2011 they recorded this species on four dates between 13th July and 4th August during 2012 including three of these rare moths on 3rd August. Other outstanding records included a Small Chocolate-tip on 27th May, a Broom-tip on 7th June and a Gothic on 17th August. This was the first record of an adult Small Chocolate-tip in VC105, the three previous records being of larvae. There is only one previous record of Broom-tip which was seen by Sue Agnew at Strathkanaird to the north of Ullapool in 2009. The Gothic was only the second record for Lochalsh with the few remaining VC105 records being from Beinn Eighe. Some outstanding counts included 16 Garden Tiger on 6th July, 29 Smoky Wainscot on 20th July and 89 True Lover's Knot on 26th July.

Muriel Rogers and Paul Speak again found Narrow-bordered Bee Hawk-moths in Glen Ling, near Killilan, on 25th May (2), 1st June (2) and 5th June. They also found Chimney Sweepers at the same site on the latter date and I saw a single Chimney Sweeper near Ardintoul on 14th July.

A Vapourer larva was found at Erbusaig near Kyle on 16th August by Judith Bullivant, only the sixth record for VC105.

NATIONAL MOTH RECORDING SCHEME FOR VC 105 WEST ROSS

Barry Blake and Norman Thomas continued their good work in the Gairloch area and carried out trapping in a variety of sites. Amongst their interesting records were a Brindled Ochre on 27th March, Lunar Marbled Brown on 24th May, Shark on 11th June, 2nd July and 13th July, Great Brocade on 17th July, Orange Swift on 7th August, Chestnut-coloured Carpet on 17th August and Pale Eggar on 17th and 30th August. They also had a record of a Convolvulus Hawk-moth which was found at the Inverewe Gardens on 11th September. On 13th October Barry had a Merveille du Jour at Highland Lodge, Charlestown, the most northerly record for VC105. However this record lasted for just one day as Max and Sue Pittman found a Merveille du Jour at Ullapool the following day!

Steve Palmer followed up his June visit to Applecross in 2011 with a May visit during 2012. Amongst the highlights were a first record for VC105 of a Sweet Gale Moth, a Nationally Scarce A species, and what was only the eighth record of a Miller. His two visits have certainly helped to put the Applecross peninsula on the moth distribution map by recording 65 species.

An Old Lady was trapped near Laide by Ruth Macleod on 9th August. This was only the fourth record for VC105.

David Bryant carried out a moth trapping at Badrallach on 27th July and added 21 species to the list for 10K square NH09 including a Lempke's Gold Spot.

NATIONAL MOTH RECORDING SCHEME FOR VC 104 SKYE AND RAASAY

Sarah Bradley and Judy Topham have been visiting Raasay for many years and have recorded a substantial number of moth records for the island. Stephen Bungard is a resident of Raasay and as an active field botanist he has also submitted field records of moths from both Skye and Raasay. In 2011 he also started moth trapping in his garden. As a result since I became the VC Moth Recorder for Skye and Raasay I have received far more records from Raasay than for the Skye mainland. However with the sudden interest in moths on Skye as mentioned in the Introduction this situation is likely to change over the next few years.

Keith Sadler moved to Portnalong on Skye during 2012 and commenced moth trapping in his garden there in July. Within three months he had become the person with the most moth records for Skye. His records include the Grey, an incredibly rare RDB species that is known from the nearby Talisker area but I suspect rarely known as a garden moth.

Terry Swainbank and Steve Terry also started to submit moth records during 2012 and already several species have been recorded for the first time for Skye or for the first time since the Rothamsted site at Carbost closed in 1981.

Hugh Scott found an adult Vapourer on his gate at Kyleakin on 26th July and this is the first record for Skye that I am aware of. However Kyleakin is in the same 10K square as Kyle so it is not a new record for NG72 although it is from a different vice-county recording area.

Two moth trappings organised by the Highland Council Rangers and the Skye and Lochalsh Environment Forum in August attracted sufficient people for the proposed Skye and Lochalsh Moth Recorders Group to be formed. A Setaceous Hebrew Character recorded at Broadford by Stephen Bentall was also a first record for Skye since 1981, the Carbost Rothamsted site being the source of all previous records for the island.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many thanks to all those mentioned in the text and also to Tom Prescott, Niki Maclean and Alison MacIennan for making 2012 a memorable year for moth recording.

REVIEW: Lady of the Butterflies, by Fiona Mountain

Book review by Richard Stewart

Reproduced with kind permission from Surrey & SW London Branch

This is a long, well written and meticulously researched novel about the life of Eleanor Glanville who, as one biographer recorded, 'gained great happiness from natural history in the middle of great fear and sorrow'. She is of course immortalised by giving her name to the Glanville fritillary.

The book can simply be enjoyed as a gripping story of life in the undrained Somerset marshlands after the deeply divisive English Civil War. It features her relationship with her Puritan father, two very different husbands and James Petiver, famous as a pioneer of lepidoptera studies. It also comments on the very limited legal rights, especially those of inheritance, afforded to women and there is also much study of her varied relationships with the estate workers, particularly after the failed Monmouth rebellion. Eleanor is wilful and determined, a 'free spirit' whose pursuits set her at odds with the norms society imposed on the behaviour of 'genteel' ladies. She tries to persuade her cook and maid to leave windfalls for feeding butterflies and her rearing of species throughout their life cycle increasingly feeds the rumours about her being a witch and lunatic. Her scientific life blossoms when she meets James Petiver, who has an apothecary's shop in London. Through him she also gets to know Hans Sloane, John Ray, Sir Francis Bacon and others dedicated to the study of Butterflies. Even here she initially has to dress as a boy to get involved. She is then immersed in the early work related to giving butterflies a proper nomenclature, and deciding on many of the common names of British species that we still use today. There are many passages relating to fieldwork, covering such species as the Swallowtail, Large Copper and Purple Emperor, and the continuing discoveries related to life cycles and larval food plants. Petiver also has a wide lists of very active correspondents and collectors, many abroad.

I won't divulge the ending but just conclude by saying I thoroughly enjoyed the novel itself and the fascinating and detailed account of the infancy of lepidoptera studies in our country- and regrettably how much of this has now gone, with many of our rarer species in decline.

Published: Preface, 2009, paperback ISBN 9781848091641. £11-99

Butterfly

D H Lawrence



Butterfly, the wind blows sea-ward,
strong beyond the garden-wall!
Butterfly, why do you settle on my
shoe, and sip the dirt on my shoe,
Lifting your veined wings, lifting them?
big white butterfly!

Already it is October, and the wind
blows strong to the sea
from the hills where snow must have
fallen, the wind is polished with
snow.

Here in the garden, with red
geraniums, it is warm, it is warm
but the wind blows strong to sea-ward,
white butterfly, content on my shoe!

Will you go, will you go from my warm
house?

Will you climb on your big soft wings,
black-dotted,
as up an invisible rainbow, an arch
till the wind slides you sheer from the
arch-crest
and in a strange level fluttering you go
out to sea-ward, white speck!

MapMate recording software

Mike Taylor

I have been asked to write a short article to explain the use of MapMate recording software and in particular what can be achieved with it compared to other methods of recording, plus for those that do use it how to get more out of it.

In the past recording was largely confined to written notes in field diaries, and for those that still use this method there is the immediate benefit of simplicity but it has a disadvantage of difficulty when trying to locate and analyse the records, particularly when carried out over a large number of years. The advent of computers has made finding and analysing considerably easier. Perhaps the most popular method used to record on a computer is with one of the spreadsheet programs such as Microsoft Excel. These programs are simple and can find individual records with ease and for those who only look after their own records on a limited number of sites and do not wish to carry out detailed analysis of their records, it is all that is really necessary.

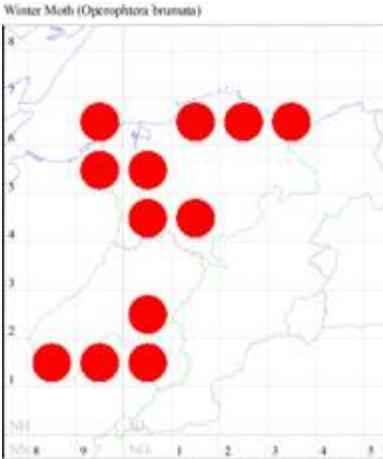
For those that have large databases and wish to do regular searches and analysis with the results shown as lists there is a need of a database type of software. MapMate is one such and is the popular choice of many county recorders and organisations due to its relative simplicity, cost and its ability to produce maps. Just a few of the lists it can very quickly produce that would otherwise be very difficult to obtain include:

- All records for a species from all recorders;
- all records from a site;
- a species list for a site, or a year, or a recorder or a combination of these;

earliest and latest dates.

The options are almost endless, particularly for those who can write their own user queries.

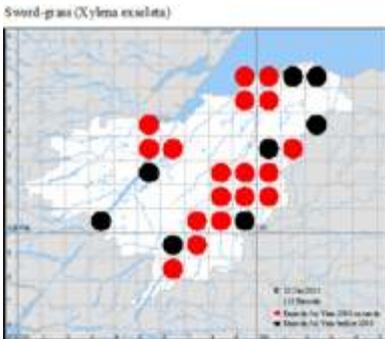
Simple species maps are produced with little effort such as the one shown below for Winter Moth in VC95 (Moray).



For those that wish to get the most out of MapMate there are some excellent online tutorials produced by Martin Harvey, the county moth recorder for Berkshire. These tutorials were produced for the Botanical Society of the British Isles (BSBI) but are suitable for any species group. The link to the tutorials is

<https://sites.google.com/a/bsbi.org.uk/bsbimapmate/home>. It can also be found on each of the MapMate newsletters.

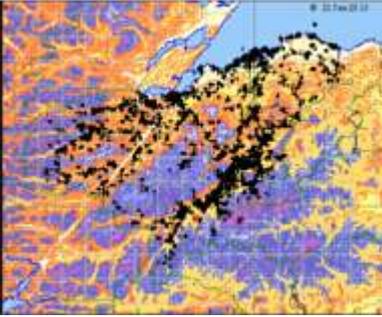
The tutorials start with simple setting up stages and data entry and progress on to map enhancement and more detailed analysis. A couple of map examples are shown below. The first is a map that combines two vice-counties into one unified area and clearly shows the outline by the use of colour.



As county recorder for VC95 and VC96 I find the map used in this example particularly useful. This particular map also shows 10km squares with records pre and post year 2000, it details the number of records in the database and the date of production of the map.

There are many other mapping possibilities. The next example shows a contour map with all of

the recorded sites in these two vice-counties. With over 150,000 macro moth records one might expect the map to be pretty well covered with crosses but the under recorded areas can easily be seen with the highest concentrations of records along Strathspey and the coast.



Areas of high ground and terrain away from roads are notably absent of records, so the challenge for the coming year(s) is to fill in some of these blanks. Those with observant eyes may have noticed that there are a couple of sites that appear to be offshore in the Moray Firth, rest easy they are just the central spot

of a 10km square where there is not a more detailed grid reference given.

Should anyone want more information on this subject my contact details can be found on the Highland Branch website under County Moth Recorders.

(www.highland-butterflies.org.uk/your_records)

Chequered Skipper survey 2012 - the results

Tom Prescott

Despite the poor weather we have been very pleased with the interest in, and the results from, this year's survey. The aim of the survey was to target recording at 100 1km squares that were predicted, through computer modeling, to be the most suitable 1km squares for the butterfly in Scotland, but where it had not previously been recorded. Details of the survey, including survey forms, methodology and maps, showing the location of each of the one hundred 1km squares were all available on line at www.butterfly-conservation.org/chequeredskipper

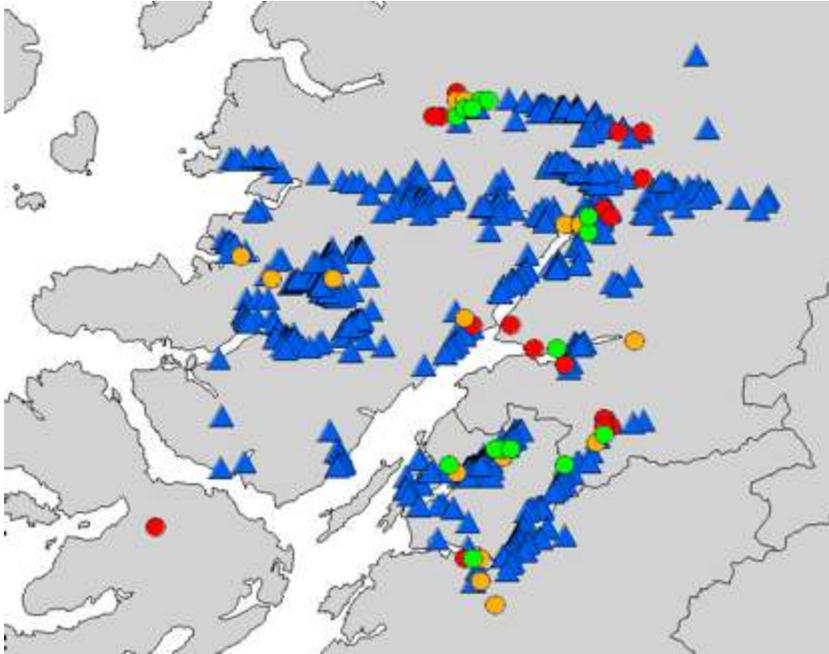
The survey sparked a good deal of interest with over 50 volunteers signing up to take part. This resulted in 49 survey visits to squares although this includes repeat visits by different surveyors to some squares. 36 different squares, out of the 100 targeted, were surveyed with Chequered Skippers being found in 15 of these, but not found in 21. The main reason for the butterfly not being recorded in these squares was due to them being surveyed in marginal weather, rather than the butterfly being absent. Chequered Skipper was also recorded in an additional 15 new 1km squares, where it had not previously been recorded, although these squares were not part of the targeted 100 squares.

The table overleaf lists the 1km squares in the three categories;

- Targeted 1km squares where CS was found - 15 squares.
- Targeted 1km squares surveyed but CS was not found - 21 squares.
- Other new 1km squares - 15 squares.

1km squares where CS was found		1km squares surveyed but CS was not found		Other new 1km squares
Rank	Square	Rank	Square	Square
3	NN0247	1	NM5737	NM9644
4	NN1045	9	NM9863	NM6872
5	NN0960	11	NN1551	NM9692
6	NN0147	14	NS0079	NM9792
20	NM9690	18	NM9733	NM9930
25	NM9992	23	NN1578	NM9933
31	NN1375	29	NN1058	NN0127
34	NM9833	32	NN1788	NN0246
39	NM9791	38	NM9490	NN1076
45	NN0092	43	NN2082	NN1276
58	NN0347	44	NN0660	NN1448
69	NM9891	46	NN1650	NN1961
76	NN1377	59	NS0080	NM7269
81	NM9545	61	NM9693	NM8069
84	NN1549	63	NM2088	NM9764
		74	NN1550	
		76	NN1377	
		94	NS1296	
		95	NN0363	
		96	NN1677	
		97	NM9390	
TOTAL	15		21	15

The location of these squares is plotted on the map below.



Key

Blue Triangles = CS records 1980-2011.

Green Dots = Targeted 1km squares where CS was found.

Red Dots = Targeted 1km squares surveyed but CS was not found.

Orange Dots = Other new 1km squares where CS was recorded.

NB: Three 1km squares in Cowal, all red dots, which lie c30km to the south of the map are not shown.

As the map clearly shows all the records are from within, or adjacent to, the current known range of the butterfly with the most significant records of Chequered Skipper being:

- The most southerly Scottish sighting, in Glen Nant.

- A record immediately to the east of Kinlochleven which is around 7km to the east of the closest previous record.
- The discovery of a good population in seven 1km squares at the western end of Loch Arkaig, on the north-western edge of the butterfly's range.

We would like to thank everyone who took part in the survey. Due to the success of and interest in the survey we are thinking of repeating it again next year, with our fingers very strongly crossed for some better weather and hopefully with an improved and more interactive web page. So please keep an eye on the web page

www.butterfly-conservation.org/chequeredskipper and/or contact Tom for more info.

Email: tprescott@butterfly-conservation.org.

Tel: 01540 661469

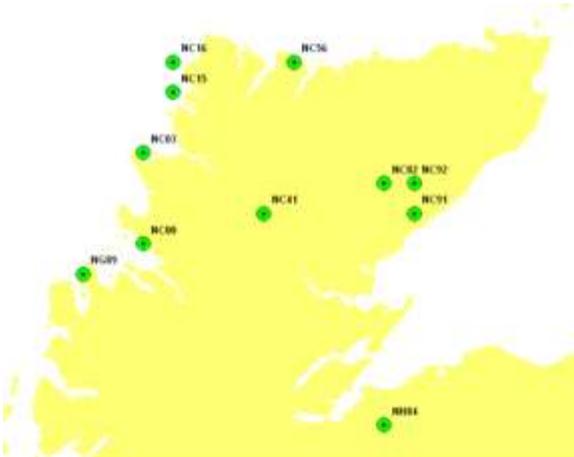
Moth Trapping In Under-recorded Areas, 2012

Audrey Turner, Pete Moore & Tom Prescott



In an attempt to target moth recording to under-recorded areas, funding became available to the Highland Branch via SNH (Scottish Natural Heritage) part way through the 2012 season. This enabled expenses to be paid to volunteers to cover the cost of travel and running generators etc. Although the money was limited, all those who took part were able to receive some expenses.

Under recorded areas were defined as 10km squares where less than 20 species of macro-moth had been recorded or squares where one of Scotland's commonest macro-moths, Large Yellow Underwing, had not been, suggesting that little or no moth trapping had occurred in that square.



Most of these squares were in remote areas, with few or no roads through them, some had no previous records at all. There follows a summary of the results. The location of each targeted square is plotted on the accompanying map. (NB. The green dots mark the centre of

each square, which is why some of the dots are located in the sea!).

NC56 - North coast between Loch Eriboll and Tongue Bay

198 records of 76 species were recorded in a square which previously had no records at all. Highlights for the recorder were Northern Rustic and Archer's Dart.

NG89 - North of Aultbea

Prior to 2012 only 8 species had been recorded in this square, the repeat visits recorded 53 species, 50 of which were new for the square. 5 of these hadn't been trapped in nearby squares, Beautiful Carpet, Beech-green Carpet, Tawny-barred Angle, Pale Prominent and Old Lady. The Old Lady was only the 4th record of that species for the whole of VC105. Large numbers of Bordered Whites were found exceeding the previous maxima recorded by the VC recorder.

NC00 - Achiltibuie area

No species previously recorded in this square, 8 species recorded.

NC03 - Clashmore, Point of Stoer

There were 2 species previously recorded in this square, one new record added making 3 species in total.

NC15 - Ardmore Point area

There were 3 species previously recorded in this square, a further 12 species were recorded making a total of 15 species.

NC16 - Chigra area

There was 1 species previously recorded in this square, a further 16 species were recorded making 17 species in total.

NH84 - Assich

56 species in total were recorded, one of which was the micro-moth *Catoptria permutatellus* which is a new record for VC96.

NH71 - Coignafearn & Coignafeuinternich

53 species in total were recorded, of particular note is the Cousin German, a UKBAP species, this is a new 10km square for it.

NC41 - Glen Cassley & Fiag Bridge

6 species had previously been recorded in this square, 45 species were recorded, all of which were new for the square making a total of 51 species.

NC82 - Borrobol

4 species had previously been recorded in this square, 61 species were recorded, all of which were new for the square making a total of 65 species.

NC91 - Strath of Kildonan; Kilphedir

13 species had previously been recorded in this square, 64 species were recorded, 55 of which were new for the square making a total of 68 species.

NC92 - Strath of Kildonan; Suisgill Lodge

45 species were recorded, all of which were new to the square as there were no previous records.

Records were received from twelve under-recorded 10km squares with the total number of new species added to all squares being 478.

All of these records have been passed to the appropriate Vice County recorders for inclusion in the National Moth Recording Scheme.

Many thanks to SNH, and Brigid Primrose in particular, for funding this project.

It is hoped that Highland Branch can find further funding for the 2013 season and possibly widen the project to include butterflies as well as moths. If funding is secured, details of how to take part will be posted on the Highland Branch website or for those without computers you can phone Pete Moore on 01479 872261 or 07866 578079 for details.

Neonicotinoids - What is the issue?

Pete Moore

Recently, you may have heard environmentalists voicing concern at the use of neonicotinoid pesticides. This article gives some background to the issue and explains the concerns. I have gleaned information from an RSPB briefing document and the Buglife website. Neonicotinoids are a type of insecticide that has been in commercial use since the early 1990s. They are sold under various brand names for use in farming and gardening.

In farming, the main use of neonicotinoids is as a seed treatment. Seeds are coated with the insecticide before being planted. The chemical then spreads throughout the sap of the plant, making the crop toxic to insects that feed on it. Pesticides with this mode of action are called 'systemic'. Unlike with 'traditional' pesticides that are sprayed onto the field, in theory only pests that eat the crop are exposed to the chemical. However, neonicotinoids have also been found in nectar and pollen of plants grown from treated seeds. This means that bees, butterflies, moths and other pollinators can come into contact with neonicotinoids when they visit these plants.

Most research published over the last few years has looked at the impacts on bees but undoubtedly there will be a negative impact on butterflies and moths also. Research has shown that bees can be affected by neonicotinoids in various ways. High enough doses will kill bees directly, but even tiny amounts can reduce their ability to navigate, and can have other effects on the behaviour of the hive (like the number of queen bees it produces). In addition, neonicotinoids may be taken up by wild flowers bordering the crops, perhaps because the insecticides leach into the soil, so even wild flowers may pose a risk. There is debate among scientists whether these experiments give an accurate picture of what happens in the real world. More research is being carried out to discover what doses of neonicotinoids insects are actually receiving in the wild, and what effect this is having on overall populations as opposed to individuals.

It is well-known that numbers of butterflies, moths, bees and other pollinators are dropping and this is a serious cause for concern

worldwide. What we do not yet know is what part pesticides, including neonicotinoids, are playing. There are so many issues affecting these insects, including diseases and parasites, the widespread loss of flower-rich habitats from the landscape and changes in weather patterns, that it is not possible to lay the blame on any one cause.

In summary, we know that insects are being exposed to neonicotinoids in unintended ways, and we know that neonicotinoids are harmful to these insects. Research is ongoing to determine whether neonicotinoids are actually having a detrimental effect on wildlife in the countryside.

Surprise, surprise, there is a disparity between independent research and the research that was undertaken by Bayer, the producer of the neonicotinoid pesticide imidacloprid, for the imidacloprid 'Draft Assessment Report' (DAR), the 2005 report that was the foundation of the EU regulatory approvals process for this pesticide. Independent research found significant negative impacts on bees that were not included in the DAR because the research was invalidated by the DAR. The basis for this invalidation is questionable, but it resulted in key evidence not being considered as part of the approvals process. Additional research post-dating the DAR has provided more evidence that neonicotinoids may damage populations of bees and other non-target organisms.

How have policy-makers responded?

European and UK pesticides rules should make sure that only chemicals that meet rigorous safety standards are allowed onto the market and that everyone uses them according to the guidelines. However, concerns have been raised that the risk assessment process is not suitable to evaluate the environmental risks of systemic insecticides. Furthermore, the way toxicity is assessed does not take into account the variety of ways insects can be exposed to these chemicals. A report from the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) in 2012 highlighted major shortcomings in the current testing procedures.

The precautionary principle states that if there are reasonable scientific grounds for believing that a new product may not be safe, it should not be used until there is convincing evidence that the risks

are small and outweighed by the benefits. This is enshrined in European Directive 91/414 which states that "Member States shall ensure that a plant protection product is not authorized unless....it has no unacceptable influence on the environment." "Authorizations may be reviewed at any time if there are indications that any of the requirements....are no longer satisfied."

Given the essential nature of pollination services provided by the Honey bee and wild bee populations and the current precarious state of these animals any additional risk to their populations from pesticide use constitutes an unacceptable influence on the environment.

In addition to the continuing research by independent scientists, government scientists have begun to address the neonicotinoids issue. Both Defra and EFSA have reviewed the research to date and concluded that the evidence does not justify withdrawing neonicotinoids from the market. However, they recognise that there are gaps in scientific knowledge that we urgently need to fill. EFSA is reviewing the current data relating to bees for the neonicotinoids causing most concern. At the same time, following EFSA's recommendations the EU is carrying out a full revision of the rules for the risk assessment of pesticide impacts on bees. Both pieces of work should be completed by the end of 2012. The UK government has put new research in place to further explore impacts on bumble bees in field conditions and to understand what levels of pesticide residues and disease in honey bees are normal. Reports are due in Spring 2013. It remains to be seen what actions will be taken as a result of these studies, and it is likely that independent research will continue to lead the way in advancing our knowledge of the impacts of neonicotinoids.

There are calls from several quarters for government to immediately withdraw approval for neonicotinoids until it can be proven that they are not having a negative impact on pollinator populations. Some other European countries have placed regulatory restrictions on the use of neonicotinoids. The UK Government's position is that neonicotinoid insecticides meet the standards set by the regulatory system and suitable legal restrictions are in place to ensure that bees are not exposed to excessive doses. They believe that current evidence does not justify changing regulation, but as knowledge develops Government will continue to consider the need for further

research and for any changes to the law. The Scottish Government has the power to withdraw neonicotinoids in Scotland but has chosen to remain aligned with the rest of the UK.

What can I do?

As an individual concerned about the impacts of neonicotinoids and other pesticides on wildlife, you can make certain choices. The most obvious of these is to buy organically grown food. In organic farming, use of pesticides is severely restricted and the emphasis is on encouraging healthy crops and a healthy environment.

Gardens are very important habitats for bees and other wildlife. If you are a gardener, make your garden as wildlife-friendly as possible. If you wish to avoid neonicotinoids, a list of products containing them is on the Soil Association website. When buying plants from a garden centre you could ask what pesticides have been used during growing: neonicotinoids are widely used as seed treatments and on pot plants.

Further information.

www.buglife.org.uk. Campaign information and lots more technical details.

Stop Press: This from a recent Guardian report dated Dec 12th 2012:

"European regulators seem to have turned a blind eye to data on the danger that one of the world's biggest selling pesticides could pose to bees and other pollinators," said Joan Walley MP, chair of the Environmental Audit Committee (EAC). "Evidence seen by the committee raises serious questions about the integrity, transparency and effectiveness of EU pesticides regulation. Data available in the regulators' own assessment report shows it could be 10 times more persistent in soils than the European safety limit."

The insecticide in question is called imidacloprid and is manufactured by Bayer. Prof Dave Goulson, an ecologist at the University of Stirling, said: "The data show unequivocally that imidacloprid breaks down very slowly in soil, so that concentrations increase significantly year after year with repeated use, accumulating to concentrations very likely to cause mass mortality in most soil-dwelling animal life."

A more recent Stop Press! Good News! From an article in The Telegraph dated January 30th 2013:

After studying the evidence, Homebase, B&Q and Wickes took the decision to remove two popular bug killers containing neonicotinoids. Campaigners, who claim that the pesticides are responsible for the recent collapse in bee numbers, welcomed the move. But Lord Peter Melchett, Policy Director at the Soil Association, questioned why other garden centres are allowed to carry on selling products containing neonicotinoids. He also pointed out that neonicotinoids are used on three quarters of the oilseed rape crop in Britain, as well as wheat and barley.

B&Q said: "We have been watching the debate that is developing about the use of pesticides, in particular neonicotinoids, and their potential effect on the UK bee population. Whilst we believe that the vast majority of pesticides are not injurious to bees when used in accordance with the instructions, we have some concerns about the potential for harm to be caused by the unintentional misuse of products containing imidacloprid. In recent years, this active ingredient has been phased out of many retail products, and we currently sell only one garden insecticide that uses this active. As a result of our assessment, we have decided to withdraw it from sale and are investigating alternative treatments to meet customer needs," said a spokesman.

Wickes has also decided to remove a product containing the neonicotinoid thiamethoxam, Westland Plant Rescue bug Killer, later this year.

"Wickes is not the licence holder and the product is not sold under Wickes own branding. The packaging includes a warning about its danger to bees and provides some guidance on how to protect bees when using the product. Wickes reviewed this product recently, prior to the publication of the EFSA report, and took the decision to replace it with an alternative which does not contain thiamethoxam," said a spokesman.

"Homebase said: "We are aware of the current interest in the possible effect of neonicotinoids on the population of honeybees, bumble bees and other pollinating insects.

All pesticides stocked by Homebase fully comply with EU legislation. Neonicotinoids are not present in any Homebase branded insecticide. As a precautionary measure Homebase has removed from sale the Bayer Lawn Grub Killer which contains imidacloprid".

Butterflies in Bulgaria revisited

Pete Moore & Hilary Swift

In Newsletter 17 (Spring 2012) I described a trip to south-east Bulgaria made by myself and Hilary in the summer of 2010 in search of birds and butterflies. It was a wonderful trip for various reasons, including the wildlife, the landscape, the people and the value for money! So we returned to Bulgaria in late June to early July 2012, this time to the mountains in the west of the country.

As before, Hilary booked all flights, car hire and accommodation over the internet, though we did have some problems with our e-mails to Bulgaria and as a result our accommodation was only finalised a couple of weeks before our departure. We flew with KLM from Glasgow to Amsterdam and then Amsterdam to Sophia, Bulgaria's capital. We collected our hire car from the airport and headed for the hills.

Our first destination was Rila National Park, about 100 miles south of Sophia, an area of forested hills with flowery clearings and traditionally managed hay meadows. The drive there took us about three and a half hours, not because of poor roads but because of low speed limits! We stayed in a small chalet at Zodiac campsite, near to the famous Rila Monastery. When we were researching the trip, by reading wildlife tour-company trip reports, we came across a description of thistles covered in nectaring Camberwell Beauty butterflies along the road to the monastery. This inspiring image stayed with us and came to symbolise the holiday for us during the planning stage.

Zodiac campsite was surrounded by steep, shady wooded slopes but a short walk up the road were some beautiful bright yellow flower meadows dominated by a large form of Yellow Rattle. These meadows were alive with butterflies when the sun was shining - which it did every day for the two weeks of our trip! What a contrast to the weather back home. The very first butterfly we saw here was **Small Tortoiseshell**, indeed four of the first five butterfly species we saw were also Scottish species -an inauspicious start to the trip perhaps. However, we soon moved on to more exotic fare with **Large Wall**

Brown, Queen of Spain Fritillary (one of my favourite fritillaries with its large sparkling silver underside cells) and **Black-veined White**.



Black-veined White

less familiar species such as **Clouded Apollo**, **Clouded Yellow**, **Purple-shot Copper** (one of Hilary's favourites) and **Assman's Fritillary**. It was a great start to the trip with over twenty species seen.



Scarce Copper

We found **Chequered Skipper** in a small weedy clearing amongst shady beech forest, with no *Molinia* in sight! What a contrast to earlier in the year when we had been watching them on the open hillsides of western Scotland. This first morning in Rila we saw four UKBAP species - **Chequered Skipper**, **Pearl-bordered Fritillary**, **Small Heath** and **Marsh Fritillary**! But we also saw

On the next day in the same area we added more species to our list, including **Scarce Copper**, **Silver-washed Fritillary** and **Holly Blue**. But the star was a stunning **Poplar Admiral** on the road next to Rila Monastery. It was the most spectacular butterfly of the trip so far and at that moment the batteries on Hilary's camera went flat! We then discovered that I had left my own camera back at the campsite!

The following day, we wandered through meadows next to the Iliina River. The meadows didn't look very promising at first with low, often sparse vegetation, but the more we wandered, the more we found. New ones for our list included **Large Blue**, **Russian Heath**, **Spotted Fritillary**, **High Brown Fritillary** and **Swallowtail**. The highlight however was **Hungarian Glider**, a large black and white butterfly with characteristic shape and flight. By the time we left the meadows we had recorded twenty-nine species. On the way back to the campsite, we stopped off at the monastery and I was determined to get the days total up to thirty species. After a bit of searching I succeeded, by finding **White-letter Hairstreak**.

On our last morning in the Rila area, we did the more tourist thing and visited the "pyramids" at Stob, a site of unusual natural rock formations. But even here butterflies stole the show! On the track leading up to the "pyramids" we saw **Swallowtail** and **Scarce Swallowtail**, both real beauties. We also saw **Eastern Pale Clouded Yellow** and the large and aptly named **Great Banded Grayling**, which brought our trip total to almost fifty species.

Our next destination was Trigrad, south-east of Rila and right on the border between Bulgaria and Greece. The road to the village of Trigrad passes through the extremely spectacular Trigrad Gorge. The narrow road and a river squeeze side by side through a narrow gap between towering sheer cliff faces - a drive not for the faint hearted. Birders know this as a site for the elusive Wallcreeper, a bird that I frustratingly failed to see, so I shall move swiftly back to butterflies.....

Just south of the gorge, we pulled off the road to check out the start of a walking trail. When stopped, we were aware of butterflies around us and we started to list them. We ended up with twenty species in a patch of roadside flowers just ten metres square! Fantastic diversity compared to Scotland!



Apollo



White Admiral

The area to the south of Trigrad was breathtakingly flowery. Not just the traditionally managed hay meadows (still cut here by hand with scythes) but also the roadside verges and any "waste" ground. Inevitably, with so many flowers (and meadows not treated with pesticides) it was a mecca for butterflies. We spent a day following a road out of Trigrad and saw thirty-three butterfly species. New ones for the trip included **Marbled Fritillary** and the wonderfully named **Ripart's Anomalous Blue** but the large, showy stars were **Apollo** (a big white butterfly with large black spots on the forewings and bright red circles on the hindwings) and **White Admiral**. In places at the edge of the track were damp patches

where butterflies gathered, "blues" in particular, to imbibe minerals. At one such patch there were literally hundreds of blues crowded together, mostly **Silver-studded Blues** but also **Large, Small, Mazarine** and **Common Blues**. The blues can be notoriously difficult to identify so this was a great opportunity to compare one species with another. Not only were they side by side but when imbibing minerals they would stay still for relatively long periods, certainly for much longer than when nectaring on flowers. When a car passed, which was infrequently, they would all rise off the ground in a fluttering cloud.



Silver-studded Blue

The next day, whilst walking a track in another area, we came across a large damp mineral patch with an even larger gathering of blues than we had seen the day before. We estimated there to be thousands of blue butterflies on this one patch, mostly **Silver-studded Blues** again.

The third and final place we stayed in was a small village called Dobarsko which lay between the Rila and Pirin National Parks. On the first day there we drove into the mountains of Pirin National Park in search of high altitude species. We were able to drive as high as 1955m and then continuing on foot walked up to 2200m through a rocky alpine landscape dotted with stunted pines and junipers. It was actually disappointing for butterflies with only eleven species seen in the day but these included some mountain specialists such as Balkan Fritillary and Eastern Large Heath. We thought we had something exciting at one point, a small orange butterfly that we did not recognise. However, when we checked the field guide we realised that it was just a **Small Copper**. It goes to show that we don't have to look too closely at most of our butterflies in Scotland because there are so few of them that most identification is easy. If you see a "copper" at home, you don't have to look closely at it because we only have one copper which is Small Copper.

For our penultimate day we checked out the butterflies in open meadows near to Dobarsko village. The hay meadows here had already been harvested and so there weren't many flowers. Even so, we saw quite a few butterflies. We tried to get to grips with the

"blues" but keying them out with the field guide required concentration and it was too hot in the sunshine to think straight. So when I caught and potted up butterflies for ID, we had to get in the shade of the nearest tree to study them. Many of the blues that we caught keyed out to be **Common Blues**. Again, it showed how we don't need to look too closely at blues back home because we don't need to. We really struggled with the blues and often ended up undecided as to their identity. Hilary took photos so when we returned home we could send them off to experts. At one point this day I managed, with one swipe, to catch a male **Berger's Clouded Yellow** and a female **Eastern Pale Clouded Yellow** in the net at the same time.

For our final day in Dobarsko we visited nearby pinewoods. It wasn't very flowery but even in woodland habitat we managed to record almost thirty species including **Great Sooty Satyr** (great name) and **Delattin's Grayling**.

All too soon it was our final day in Bulgaria. On our drive back to Sophia we detoured to visit Belmeken Dam where we added another five species to our trip list - **Ottoman Brassy Ringlet**, **Chestnut Heath**, **Bright-eyed Ringlet**, **Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary** and **Bulgarian Ringlet**. It seemed that wherever we went we saw new butterflies. We ended the two-week trip with eighty species, probably more than the number of individuals we had seen at home that summer! See below for the full trip list.

And coincidentally we also saw 80 species of birds on the Bulgaria trip.

Finally, do you remember our mental image of Camberwell Beauties nectaring on thistles that inspired this trip? We never saw a single Camberwell Beauty!!

Recommended books:

Collins Field Guide to Butterflies of Britain and Europe, written by Tom Tolman and illustrated by Richard Lewington.

Butterflies of Europe by Tristan Lafranchis. This is a key rather than a standard field guide and is excellent for separating similar-looking species (though we still struggled with the blues!).

Full species list

Amanda's Blue	Delattin's Grayling
Apollo	Dingy Skipper
Arran Brown	Eastern Bath White
Assman's Fritillary	Eastern Large Heath
Balkan Copper	Eastern Pale Clouded Yellow
Balkan Fritillary	Eastern Wood White
Berger's Clouded Yellow	Essex Skipper
Black-veined White	Great Sooty Satyr
Bright-eyed Ringlet	Great-banded Grayling
Brimstone	Green-veined White
Brown Argus	High Brown Fritillary
Bulgarian Ringlet	Holly Blue
Chapman's Blue	Hungarian Glider
Chequered Skipper	Knapweed Fritillary
Chestnut Heath	Large Blue
Clouded Apollo	Large Ringlet
Clouded Yellow	Large Skipper
Comma	Large Wall Brown
Common Blue	Large White
Dark Green Fritillary	Mallow Skipper

Marbled Fritillary	Scarce Swallowtail
Marbled White	Silver-studded Blue
Marsh Fritillary	Silver-washed Fritillary
Mazarine Blue	Sloe Hairstreak
Meadow Brown	Small Blue
Northern Wall Brown	Small Copper
Orange-tip	Small Heath
Ottoman's Brassy Ringlet	Small pearl-bordered Fritillary
Painted Lady	Small Skipper
Peacock	Small Tortoiseshell
Pearl-bordered Fritillary	Small White
Pearly Heath	Sooty Copper
Poplar Admiral	Speckled Wood
Purple-shot Copper	Spotted Fritillary
Queen of Spain Fritillary	Swallowtail
Red Admiral	Twin-spot Fritillary
Ringlet	White Admiral
Ripart's Anomalous Blue	White-letter Hairstreak
Russian Heath	Wood White
Scarce Copper	Woodland/Eastern Rock Grayling

Field trips and events, 2013

These are listed below in chronological order. There are a number of other events in the pipeline, the details of which had not been finalised before this newsletter went to print. These events, along with any others that are organised during the course of the season, will be advertised on the BC Highland Branch website and e-mailed to those members for whom we have an e-mail address. Apologies to those who do not have ready access to a computer.

If you aren't on our e-mail list and would like to be added, please contact Audrey Turner, Branch Membership Secretary, unicorn64@btinternet.com

If you wish to give feedback on any of these events or have any ideas for future field trips or events please contact Pete Moore, Events Organiser, theconfused@btinternet.com or write to: 90a High Street, Grantown on Spey, Moray PH26 3EL. If you would like a field trip to take place in your local area, get in touch and we'll see what we can organise.

Please note that these events are open to both BC members and non-members.

Car sharing

For environmental and social reasons it would be good if people car shared when attending events. If you are travelling by car and happy to give someone else a lift or if you would like a lift to an event, please contact the event leader beforehand and they will try to match people up.

April 2013

SCRUB BASHING FOR BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS WORK PARTY

Organiser: Marr Countryside Ranger Service

Date: Saturday 13th April

Time: 10.30am - 3.30pm

Meeting place: Near Braemar. Precise meeting point will be given on booking.

Description: Come & join a volunteer work party to cut scrub that is invading an important site for moths & butterflies near Braemar. Hand tools & work gloves will be provided. Suitable for adults & accompanied children aged 12 or over. Members in the east of our branch area may enjoy this incursion into East Scotland branch territory.

What's needed: Bring waterproofs & stout footwear and if staying all day, a packed lunch.

Any other information: BOOKING ESSENTIAL. Free event organised in partnership with Invercauld Estate & Butterfly Conservation.

Leader name: Helen Rowe
Marr/Cairngorms National Park Countryside Ranger)

Leader contact details: Tel: 013398 80868 or email marr.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk.

April 2013

INTRODUCTION TO MOTHS AND MOTH TRAPPING WORKSHOP - KILCHOAN, ARDNAMURCHAN

Organiser: Butterfly Conservation in partnership with West Highland College UHI and Highlife Highland.

Date: Sat 20th April

Time: 10.30 am

Meeting place: Kilchoan Learning Centre, Pier Road, Kilchoan. If you are travelling from Strontian turn left just after the school onto Pier Road and the Learning Centre is about 200m along the road on the left. It is just 5 minutes walk from Kilchoan pier for anyone coming across from Mull on the ferry. Grid ref NM490636 (OS sheet 47 Tobermory).

Description: The workshop will cover different aspects of moth trapping, identification and recording. Moth traps will be set locally the night before and all moths caught (weather permitting) will be released unharmed the following day.

Please bring any photos of mystery moths for identification.

The workshop is being funded and run in partnership with West Highland College UHI and Highlife Highland.

Tea/coffee and biscuits and maybe even cake will be provided.

Approx duration: The event will finish mid afternoon.

What's needed: Please bring a packed lunch or it is possible to get a bowl of soup at the adjacent community centre.

Any other information: Booking is required and there is a charge of £5 to cover tea/coffee (but not lunch), venue hire and admin etc

To book a place and for more information please contact:
Pat Glenday, Rural Learning Manager, West Highland College UHI:
Tel: 01397 874260, Email: Pat.Glenday.whc@uhi.ac.uk

Leader name: Tom Prescott

Leader contact details: Tel: 01540 661469. Mob: 07979 785665

E-mail: tprescott@butterfly-conservation.org

April 2013

CULBIN FOREST MOTH TRAPPING

Organiser: BC Highland Branch

Target Species: Kentish Glory

Date: Friday April 26 or Saturday April 27 (see "any other information" below)

Time: 8.30 pm

Meeting place: Culbin Forest, Wellhill Car Park. Grid reference NH997614. OS sheet 27 (Nairn, Forres & surrounding area).

Description: A late evening/night-time moth trapping event targeting Kentish Glory at various locations within Culbin Forest with the opportunity to view other spring moths.

This event was well attended in 2012 but the weather was very cold. Only one moth was caught (not a Kentish Glory!) but at least a Kentish Glory egg batch was seen. Let's hope for warmer conditions this year.

Approx duration: Until approximately midnight but may continue later if conditions are good.

What's needed: A torch and warm clothing, you may also wish to bring something warm to drink.

Any other information: The date will be decided nearer to the time based upon the weather forecast, but with the preference being for Friday April 26. If the weather looks inclement for that night then the event will be put off until the following night Saturday April 27. If that whole weekend looks inclement then Friday May 3 is the back-up. Please telephone Mike Taylor a couple of days prior to the event to confirm the date.

Leader name: Mike Taylor with Mark Wynn.

Leader contact details: Telephone Mike on 01479 831060 or 07753 607287.

E-mail: mst.taylor@btinternet.com

May 2013

SPRING BUTTERFLIES

near Fort William with the Nevis Partnership.

Date: Sunday May 12th.

No details at time of going to print.

CHEQUERED SKIPPER EVENT

near Fort William with the Nevis Partnership.

Date: Friday May 24th.

No details at time of going to print.

May 2013

ARDERY MOTHS AND BUTTERFLIES, ARDNAMURCHAN

Organiser: Forestry Commission Scotland.

Target Species: Chequered Skipper and moths caught the previous night.

Date: Saturday May 25th.

Time: 10 - 10.30am start.

Meeting place: Forestry Commission car-park at Ardery, 5 miles west of Strontian on the Ardnamurchan peninsula. Grid ref NM746 618 (OS sheet 40 Loch Shiel).

Description: This event is being run as part of Sunart Wildlife Festival. Tom Prescott of Butterfly Conservation will be going through the moth trap from 10.30am to 11.30am and then will be on hand throughout the day looking for butterflies, particularly Chequered Skipper.

Participants at this event can also learn about lichens, from two lichen experts, along the 700 metre trail to the wildlife hide where Forestry Commission staff will be on hand to talk about local wildlife.

Approx duration: Staff will be on hand until 4pm but you don't need to stay that long.

What's needed: Packed lunch if you want to stay over lunchtime.

Leader name: Tom Prescott

Leader contact details: E-mail: tprescott@butterfly-conservation.org, Tel: 01540 661469. Mob: 07979 785665

Henry Dobson is the FCS event organiser.
E- mail: henry.dobson@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

June 2013

ALLT MHUIC BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION RESERVE - TENTH ANNIVERSARY

Organiser: BC Highland Branch.

Target Species: Chequered Skipper & Pearl-bordered Fritillary.

Date: Sunday June 2nd.

Time: 11 am.

Meeting place: Allt Mhuic reserve car-park on the north shore of Loch Arkaig, along a narrow single-track road six miles west of Clunes. Grid ref: NN 121912 (OS sheet 34 Fort Augustus).

Description: A two mile walk along the reserve trail, hopefully in sunshine(!), to look for butterflies. If the weather is not suitable for butterflies there will be a moth trap to look through, run on site the previous night. Allt Mhuic was Butterfly Conservation's first Scottish reserve and was opened on June 2nd 2003.

Approx duration: Depends on the weather.

What's needed: Packed lunch and stout walking shoes.

Leader name: Pete Moore

Leader contact details: Tel: 01479 872261. Mobile 07866 578079.

E-mail: theconfused@btinternet.com.

CHEQUERED SKIPPER EVENT

near Fort William with the Nevis Partnership.

Date: Saturday June 8.

No details at time of going to press.

June 2013

CALGARY BAY, MULL FOR BURNET MOTHS

Organiser: BC Highland Branch

Target Species: Transparent Burnet moth. Six-spot Burnet moth and Grayling have also been recorded here and there is the possibility of Slender Scotch Burnet.

Date: Sat June 15

Time: 11.30 am

Meeting place: Car park at the northern end of Calgary Bay, Dervaig, Mull

Grid ref: NM 373514 (OS sheet 47 Tobermory).

The best route from the ferry points is to go to Salen. 1.5 miles north of Salen take the Dervaig road. At Dervaig turn left onto the B8073 and go on to Calgary. The meeting point car park is a short way past the Gallery (with tea room) etc, down the hill and on the right.

If coming from Tobermory, take the B8073 to Dervaig and then carry on to Calgary.

(Note: there is a second car park at Calgary Bay, with toilets, at grid ref NM 374509. Make sure you get the right car park)

Description: Last year we ran a very enjoyable trip to Mull to look for Slender Scotch Burnet and Transparent Burnet, both day flying moths. Although we found lots of the former we did not find any of the latter. So we are trying again in 2013 but this time at a different site. Fingers crossed.

Last year's meeting was attended by a mix of Mull residents and "outsiders".

For visitors to the island, you could come over just for the day and return to the mainland on an early evening ferry. However, last year I think all those who attended from off the island stayed overnight and made a weekend of it. In which case if the weather is very poor on the Saturday there would be the chance of a get-together on the Sunday.

June 2013

CALGARY BAY, MULL FOR BURNET MOTHS (cont)

Approx duration: All day, weather permitting.

What's needed: Packed lunch.

Any other information: For folk coming from the mainland, you will need to catch either the 09.40 ferry from Lochaline to Fishnish or the 07.30 ferry from Oban to Craignure. If you are crossing with a vehicle, advance booking with the ferry operators is highly advisable for Oban - Craignure. There is no advance booking for the Lochaline - Fishnish ferry, it is run on a first come first served basis. Arriving at the ferry terminal in plenty of time is therefore advisable.

The distance from the ferry points is probably just over one hour from Fishnish and perhaps one and a quarter hours or so from Craignure (depending on on-coming traffic as the road is largely single track most of the way).

If you wish to come across as a foot passenger then we may be able to pick you up from the ferry terminal and give you a lift to and from the event. It is essential that you contact Pete Moore in advance if you wish to take advantage of this.

Last year I think most, if not all, folk travelled over the day before and stayed overnight on Friday to allow a more relaxed start to the Saturday.

There is "wild camping" at the south end of Calgary Bay, near to the other car park and toilet block. See <http://calgarybay.co.uk/info.htm> for information.

There is a bunkhouse at Dervaig, recommended by Tom Prescott, www.mull-hostel-dervaig.co.uk and plenty of B&B's at this end of the island, which includes Tobermory.

Leader name: Pete Moore

Leader contact details: theconfused@btinternet.com 07866 578079 or 01479 872261

June 2013

KILTARLITY AREA PINE-TREE LAPPET MOTH SURVEY

Date: Friday June 21 and Saturday June 22

Time: 8.30pm till late

Meeting place: Car park of Brockie's Lodge Hotel, Kiltarlity. Grid ref: NH514418. OS sheet 26 (Inverness & Loch Ness).

Description: Further targeted trapping to ascertain the status and distribution of Pine-tree Lappet moth.

What's needed: Bring your own moth traps if you have them.

Any other information: Depending on the number of people, traps and generators, we will split into groups to trap as many different local sites as possible.

To help effective co-ordination of the survey please inform Tom Prescott before-hand if you plan to attend.

If you cannot attend but would like to look for this moth at another time during its flight period (latter half of June to mid-July), please also get in touch with Tom who will help arrange sites and access permissions.

Leader name: Tom Prescott

Leader contact details: Tel: 01540 661469. Mob: 07979 785665

E-mail: tprescott@butterfly-conservation.org

June 2013

FANNICH GLEN

Organiser: BC Highland Branch

Target Species: Argent & Sable

Date: Saturday 22nd June

Time: 10 am

Meeting place: Lay-by at church NH316626 one mile west of Lochluichart. On A835 Garve - Achnasheen road. Share cars for drive up surfaced private road for four miles.

Description: Lochluichart Estate have kindly given us permission to drive up the road to Loch Fannich where in the past few years several species of butterfly have been recorded. It is also an excellent area for day-flying moths, most notably Argent & Sable which in a good year can be seen in quite large numbers.

Approx duration: If it's a good day, 4 to 5 hours.

What's needed: Lunch, waterproofs and suitable footwear (mainly on tracks).

Any other information: Depending on the weather we propose to do a circular walk of approx 3-4 miles, though there is plenty of interesting habitat for anyone not wanting to walk too far.

Leader name: Margaret Currie

Leader contact details: Places are limited so booking is essential for

this outing.

Tel 01349 877223 or e-mail moths.vc106@btinternet.com

MOUNTAIN RINGLET EVENT

near Fort William with the Nevis Partnership.

Date: Sunday June 30.

No details at the time of going to print.

July 2013

LOCH FLEET, NEAR GOLSPIE

Organiser: BC Highland Branch

Target Species: Six-spot Burnet moth

Date: Sunday 14th of July

Time: 10.30am

Meeting place: Take minor road off A9 south from Golspie through Golf Course and Balblair Woods to car park at Littleferry.
Grid ref: NH806957. **OS Sheet 21 (Dornoch and Alness).**

Description: A walk through the dunes and grass looking for Six-spot Burnet and other day flying moths as well as a variety of butterflies such as Dark Green and Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Meadow Brown, Small Heath and Grayling.

Approx duration: 3 hours, but maybe longer depending on the weather.

What's needed: Packed Lunch

Leader name: Audrey Turner

Leader contact details: unicorn64@btinternet.com
Tel: 07784 000263

MOUNTAIN RINGLET EVENT

with John Muir Trust.

Date: Approx. Friday July 19 - Sunday July 21.

No details at time of going to press.

July 2013

YEAR OF NATURAL SCOTLAND: TALISKER BURNET MOTHS.

Organiser: Highland Council Ranger Service, Skye and Lochalsh.

Target Species: Talisker Burnet Moth (and other day flying species).

Date: Monday July 22.

Time: 10am - 2pm.

Meeting place: Meeting place given on booking.

Description: Learn about day flying moths and why the Talisker burnet moth, a subspecies of Narrow-bordered Five-spot Burnet, is so very special. In this quest to find and record this beautiful wee beastie, be prepared to do some random walking on rough ground. Booking essential.

Approx duration: 4 hours.

What's needed: Please bring a packed lunch and sturdy footwear.

Any other information: Cost -Adults £5, concession/child: £3, family £9

Leader name: Jenny Grant /John Phillips

Leader contact details: Tel: 01471 820527 / 6

E-mail: jenny.grant@highland.gov.uk

NORTHERN BROWN ARGUS EVENT, CREAG DHUBH, NEWTONMORE with Tom Prescott.

Date: Saturday July 27 or Sunday July 28.

No details at time of going to press.

July 2013

INTERNATIONAL BOG DAY AT FORSINARD RSPB RESERVE

Organiser: RSPB

Date: Sunday July 28th

Description: Tony Mainwood will be looking at moths and butterflies at the RSPB reserve as part of International Bog Day celebrations.

No further details were available at the time of this newsletter going to print. Information will be posted on the Highland branch website in due course.

In the meantime you can contact RSPB and Tony Mainwood as below:

Paul Turner (RSPB).

E-mail: paul.turner@rspb.org.uk Tel: 01641 571225

Tony Mainwood (BC Highland branch).

E-mail: tony.mainwood@btinternet.com.

Tel: 01408 633247.

HISTORICAL HALLAIG AND BIG BUTTERFLY COUNTS, RAASAY

Organiser: Highland Council Ranger Service, Skye and Lochalsh

Target Species: Butterflies

Date: Tuesday 30th July 2013

Time: 10am - 4pm

Meeting place: Meet at Raasay ferry terminal to share transport to the start of the walk. Grid ref NG 545363 (OS Sheet 32 South Skye & Cuillin Hills).

Description: A slow paced walk along part of Raasay's beautiful coastline. We'll be finding, identifying and recording butterflies along the way before reaching the clearance village of Hallaig. Here, learn about Sorley Maclean who created his spine tingling Gaelic poetry about this landscape.

Approx duration: 5-6 hours

July 2013

HISTORICAL HALLAIG AND BIG BUTTERFLY COUNTS, RAASAY (cont)

What's needed: Please bring a packed lunch, sturdy footwear and a camera, butterfly net and binoculars if you have any.

Any other information: Please check ferry times for arrival and departure from Raasay. Cost - adults: £5, concessions/child: £3, family: £9.

Leader name: Jenny Grant / John Phillips

Leader contact details: Tel: 01471 820527 / 6

E-mail: jenny.grant@highland.gov.uk

August 2013

ROGART, EAST SUTHERLAND

Target Species: Annulet and Scotch Annulet in particular as well as Nothern Rustic and possibly The Confused, Rustic/Uncertain and Lime-speck Pug.

There should also be a chance to look for Northern Brown Argus and Grayling and maybe visit other butterfly sites in the area.

Date: Saturday 3rd August

Time: 10.00 am

Meeting place: East Kinnauld quarry, Rogart. Parking should be available.

Grid Ref NC742012 OS map 16 (Lairg & Loch Shin).

Description: A quarry site in East Sutherland where both Annulet and Scotch Annulet were found in 2012 together with a number of other interesting species. It is also a site with Northern Brown Argus and Grayling at this time of year.

Approx duration: The moth trapping part of the event will maybe take an hour or two but for those interested in exploring some of the butterfly sites in the area it can extend well into the afternoon - if it is a sunny day!

What's needed: The usual range of clothing and footwear to cope with the vagaries of the Highland climate and a packed lunch if you plan staying for the afternoon.

Leader name: Tony Mainwood

Leader contact details: Tel: 01408 633247. E-mail: tony.mainwood@btinternet.com.

MOTH EVENT

near Fort William with the Nevis Partnership.

Date: Friday Aug 9. No details at time of going to press.

August 2013

MOTH NIGHT 2013, BROADFORD, SKYE

Organiser: Highland Council Ranger Service, Skye and Lochalsh.

Target Species: Night flying moths.

Date: Friday 9th August 2013

Time: 7.30pm - 9pm

Meeting place: Meet at the Ranger's office, Broadford. Grid ref NG 637237 (OS Sheet 32 South Skye & Cuillin Hills).

Description: Moths are Marvellous. Learn about these fascinating and beautiful night fliers on National Moth Night 2013 and at the launch of the Skye and Lochalsh Moth Group.

Approx duration: 2-3 hours

What's needed: Please bring a torch and sturdy footwear.

Any other information: An introductory talk will be given by the ranger and experts will be on hand to answer questions. Cost - Adults: £3, concessions/children: £2, family: £5.

Leader name: Jenny Grant / John Phillips

Leader contact details: Tel: 01471 820527/6

E-mail: jenny.grant@highland.gov.uk

MOTH MORNING, BROADFORD, SKYE

Organiser: Highland Council Ranger Service, Skye and Lochalsh.

Target Species: Whatever is in the traps!

Date: Saturday 10th August 2013

Time: 8am - 9:30am

Meeting place: Meet at the Ranger's office, Broadford. Grid ref NG 637237 (OS sheet 32 South Skye & Cuillin Hills).

Description: Moths are Marvellous. Today we'll be checking the light traps that were set the night before. Discover the moths that have been flying around while you've been sleeping.

August 2013

MOTH MORNING, BROADFORD, SKYE (cont)

Approx duration: 1-2 hours.

What's needed: Please bring sturdy footwear and a camera if you want to take pictures of the moths.

Any other information: An introductory talk will be given by the Ranger and experts will be on hand to answer questions. Cost - free if attended the night before, adults £3, concessions/child: £2, family: £5

Leader name: Jenny Grant / John Phillips

Leader contact details: Tel: 01471 820527/6

E-mail: jenny.grant@highland.gov.uk

MOTH MORNING AND BUTTERFLY WALK AT RSPB INSH MARSHES NNR (AS PART OF MOTH NIGHT 2013)

Organiser: RSPB

Target Species: Whatever we see!

Date: Saturday August 10th

Time: 10am

Meeting place: RSPB Insh Marshes main car park. Grid ref: NN775999. OS sheet 35 (Kingussie & Monadhliath Mountains).

Description: A look at moths caught the previous night and a walk to look for butterflies.

Approx duration: Until mid-afternoon

What's needed: Bring a packed lunch

Leader name: Pete Moore

Leader contact details: theconfused@btinternet.com
07866 578079 or 01479 872261

August 2013

MOTH NIGHT 2013 AT LOCH FLEET NNR

Moth Night 2013 has as its theme Tiger Moths and we might be lucky and find some Garden Tigers at this time of year.

There should also be good prospects for various sand dune specialities such as Archer's Dart, White-line Dart, Coast Dart, Straw Underwing and the recently discovered Lyme Grass.

Date: Sunday 11th August

Time: 10.00 am

Meeting place: Car park at Littleferry, Golspie. Grid Ref NH806955, OS Sheet 21 (Dornoch, Alness & Invergordon area)

Description: Loch Fleet NNR is host to a good variety of coastal moth species as well as many of the more widespread ones. In addition it is the most northerly site on the east coast for the Grayling and also has good numbers of Dark Green Fritillary while the second generation of Small Copper should be on the wing at this time.

Approx duration: The moth trapping part of the event will maybe take an hour or more and this will be followed by a hunt for butterflies along the track used for the Loch Fleet Butterfly Transect.

What's needed: The usual range of clothing and footwear to cope with the vagaries of the Highland climate and a packed lunch if you plan staying for the afternoon.

Leader name: Tony Mainwood

Leader contact details: Tel: 01408 633247.

E-mail: tony.mainwood@btinternet.com.

□

September 2013

POLMAILY WORK PARTY, NEAR DRUMNADROCHIT

Date: Saturday September 14

Time: 10.30

Meeting place: At the end of the forest track into Polmaily, approx 2 miles west of Drumnadrochit on the A831 towards Cannich. Grid ref: NH484304. OS sheet 26 (Inverness & Loch Ness). We will be working c3-400m up the track so please walk or drive up the track to find us.

Description: Another session of trackside scrub clearance to improve the habitat for Pearl-bordered Fritillary and Dingy Skipper.

Approx duration: Up to 5 or 6 hours but you are welcome to join in and leave whenever you want to. Every little helps so if you only want to come for an hour that will still be very welcome.

What's needed: Bring lunch and wear old clothes. Bring secateurs, loppers and bow-saws if you have them and work gloves. Further hand-tools will be available.

Any other information: This is the third Polmaily work-party. The previous two were great fun and well attended, and there WILL be cake, tea and coffee and maybe even homemade jams and pickles!

Leader name: Tom Prescott Tel: 01540 661469

Mob: 07979 785665, E-mail: tprescott@butterfly-conservation.org

LAIRG FOR SLENDER-STRIPED RUFIOUS

Target Species: Slender-striped Rufous moth

Date: One day between 20th and 30th September depending on the weather.

Time: Two options any time from 7pm to late and/or the following morning from 10am.

Meeting place: Forestry Commission Depot at Lairg (on the A839 road out of Lairg heading west for Rosehall and Lochinver) at NC578056 OS map 16 (Lairg & Loch Shin).

September 2013

LAIRG FOR SLENDER-STRIPED RUFIOUS (cont)

Description: Slender-striped Rufous is a Nationally Scarce A species only found in the north of Scotland. Foodplants etc are poorly known and the species is probably under-recorded because of its habitat (upland rough pasture with juncus flushes) and flight period (mid Sept to early Oct). This trip aims to repeat a survey carried out in the area 18 years ago - but hopefully in rather better weather conditions.

Approx duration: A few hours (or more or less!)

What's needed: Warm clothing, waterproofs and wellies plus a good torch if you are coming to the evening session.

Any other information: Please contact Tony Mainwood in advance if you are interested in attending this event. It is only sensible to finalise the date once weather forecasts are available and Tony will get back to you to confirm the date 3 or 4 days ahead of the chosen date - by e-mail (preferable) or phone.

People attending this event can either come for an evening session to help search for adults as it gets dark and/or turn up the following morning to check the traps.

Leader name: Tony Mainwood

Leader contact details: Tel: 01408 633247.
E-mail: tony.mainwood@btinternet.com.

October 2013

SCRUB BASHING AT CREAG DHUBH, NEWTONMORE with Tom Prescott.

Date: Sunday Oct 6. No details at time of going to press.

Branch Committee

Chairman

Mark Wynn

Email: markwynn@highland-butterflies.org.uk

Membership Secretary

Audrey Turner

Email: unicorn64@btinternet.com

Minute Secretary

Barbara Brodie

Treasurer

Audrey Turner

Email: unicorn64@btinternet.com

Events Organiser

Pete Moore

Email: theconfused@btinternet.com

Committee Members

Malcolm Harvey

Brigid Primrose

Bill Slater (web admin)

Mike Taylor

Butterfly Recorders

Highland and Moray

Dr David Barbour

125a High Street

ABERLOUR

Banffshire

AB38 9PB

Email: dbfis@btinternet.com

Outer Hebrides / Western Isles

Steve Duffield

5 Drimsdale

S Uist, HS8 5RT

Tel: 01870 620 241

Mob: 07867 555 971

Email: steveduffield@hebrides.net

Orkney

Sydney Gauld
Quoyberstane

Work Road

St Ola

Kirkwall

KW15 1UF

Tel: 01856 872 468

Email: orklander45@gmail.com

Shetland

Mike Pennington

9 Daisy Bank

Baltasound

Unst

ZE2 9EA

Email: penningtonunst@btinternet.com

Highland Branch WCBS Champion

Ewan Munro

Email: wcbs@highland-butterflies.org.uk

County Moth Recorders

VC 94, Banffshire

Roy Leverton, Whitewells, Ordiquhill, Cornhill, Banffshire, AB54 2HS.

Email: roy345@btinternet.com

VC 95, Moray

Mikel Taylor, Allasdale, Kinchurdy Road, Boat of Garten, Inverness-shire,
PH34 3BP.

Email: mst.taylor@btinternet.com,

Tel 01479 831060

VC 96, East Inverness-shire

Mike Taylor, Allasdale, Kinchurdy Road, Boat of Garten, Inverness-shire,
PH34 3BP.

Email: mst.taylor@btinternet.com,

Tel 01479 831060

VC 97, West Inverness-shire

Dr Tom Prescott, Mill House, Mill Road,
Kingussie, Inverness-shire, PH21 1LF.

E-mail: tomprescott@btinternet.com

VC 104, North Ebudes, Skye:

Brian Neath, Culag, Carr Brae, Dornie, Kyle, Ross-shire, IV40 8HA.

Email: bandj@culag.plus.com, Tel: 01599 555341.

Small Isles: Jessie Wormell, Fionchra, Carsfad, St John's Town of Dalry,
Castle Douglas, DG7 3SU

Email: jessiewormell@yahoo.com

Tel: 01644 430248.

VC 105, West Ross

Brian Neath, Culag, Carr Brae, Dornie, Kyle, Ross-shire, IV40 8HA.

Email: bandj@culag.plus.com,

Tel: 01599 555341.

VC 106, East Ross

Margaret Currie and Andy Scott,

7 Balnatua, Culbokie,

Dingwall, Ross-shire, IV7 8JQ

E-mail: moths.vc106@btinternet.com,

Tel: 01349 877223

VC 107, East Sutherland

Tony Mainwood, 13 Ben Bhraggie Drive,

Golspie, Sutherland, KW10 6SX.

Email: tony.mainwood@btinternet.com,

Tel: 01408 633247.

VC 108, West Sutherland

Sue Agnew, 78 Strathkanaird, Ullapool, Ross-shire, IV26 2TP.

Email: sue.agnew@virgin.net,

Tel: 01854 666225.

VC 109, Caithness

Neil Money, Heathfield House, Dunnet,
Thurso, Caithness, KW14 8XP.

Email: neil.money@btconnect.com,

Tel: 01847 851346

www.caithnessmoths.org.uk

VC110, Outer Hebrides

Steve Duffield, 5 Drimsdale, South Uist,
Western Isles, HS8 5RT.

E-mail: steveduffield@hebrides.net,

Tel: 01870 620241 (h), 07867 555971 (m).

VC111, Orkney Islands

Sydney Gauld, Quoyberstane, Work Road,
St Ola, Kirkwall, Orkney, KW15 1UF.

Email: orklander45@gmail.com,

Tel: 01856 872468.

VC112, Shetland Islands

Shetland Biological Record Centre, Shetland Amenity Trust, Garthspool,
Lerwick, ZE1 0NY

Email: sbrc@shetlandamenity.org

Fair Isle: Nick Riddiford, Schoolton, Fair Isle,
Shetland, ZE2 9JU.

Email: taib@mallorcaweb.net

Phone 01595 760250

Your lasting legacy

Have you ever considered leaving a gift to Butterfly Conservation in your Will? An increasing number of members and friends are choosing to support Butterfly Conservation in this way. All gifts, however small, are welcome and make a crucial and lasting contribution to the conservation of butterflies and moths. Accounting for over one third of voluntary income, legacy gifts make a real difference to the work we can undertake.

So as well as leaving gifts to loved ones in your Will, please consider leaving a gift to Butterfly Conservation, it will help ensure butterflies and moths thrive in the years to come.

For more information about leaving a gift to Butterfly Conservation and sharing your love of butterflies and moths with future generations please contact Helen Corrigan on 01273 453313 or hcorrigan@butterfly-conservation.org or write to her at Butterfly Conservation, Manor Yard, East Lulworth, Wareham, Dorset BH20 5QP

Thank you for your support.

Butterfly Conservation

Company limited by guarantee, registered in England (2206468)

Registered Office: Manor Yard, East Lulworth, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 5QP

Charity registered in England & Wales (254937) and in Scotland (SCO39268)