

CHEQUERED SKIPPER *Carterocephalus palaemon* (ABH 57.004) UK BAP: Priority Species

Since its extinction in England in the 1970s, this region (with a small area of adjoining Argyll) has been the sole UK stronghold of this species until 2018, when it was reintroduced to Rockingham Forest in England. The first Butterfly Conservation reserve in Scotland, at Loch Arkaig, was established to conserve and showcase the Chequered Skipper.



Jim Black

Distribution trend. Its core distribution has changed little during the last thirty years, but occasional new colonies have been discovered in outlying areas such as Ardnamurchan and Arisaig. Infilling within the known range has occurred due to targeted survey work within the last decade.

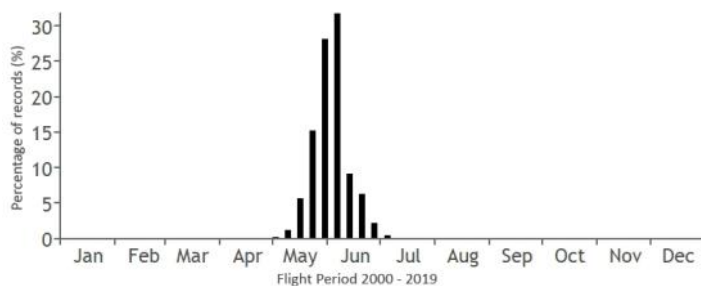
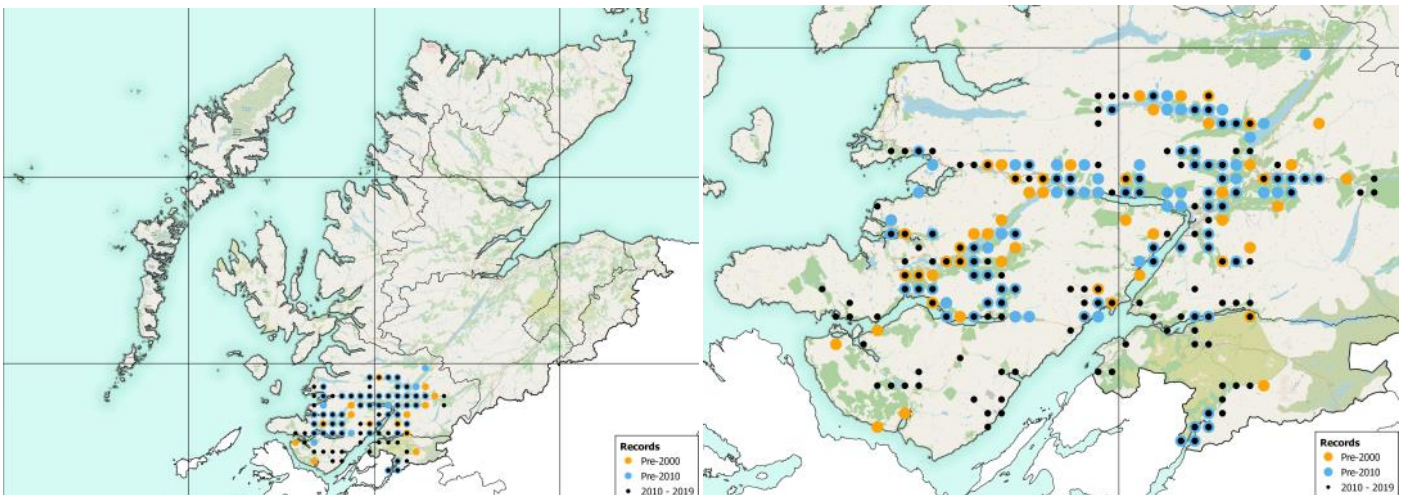
Habitat. Woodland glades and edges, with suitable nectaring plants for the adults (bluebell and bugle are favourites). These adjoin the breeding areas, damp areas of bog-myrtle and *Molinia* grassland.

Flight period. Early May to early July.

Larval food plant. Purple Moor-grass *Molinia caerulea*.

Appearance and behaviour. This inconspicuous small butterfly, with its rapid skipping flight can be difficult to follow. When perched, its upper wing pattern of dark brown with tawny-yellow spots is displayed.

Left, map at 5KM square resolution, right, map at 2KM square resolution. There are no records from the Northern Isles.



Number of Records	
Pre-2000	612
2000 - 2009	783
2010 - 2019	712



Jim Black



David James



Hilary Swift