

SPECKLED WOOD *Pararge aegeria* (ABH 59.003)

Our most shade-tolerant butterfly, it is associated with woodland habitats including quite dense conifer plantation. It has expanded its distribution hugely in the region over a period of more than 50 years.

Distribution trend. The increase and spread of the Speckled Wood have been very long-continued, with its fastest development probably in the 1970's, when it colonised most of Moray, and in the early 1990's when it spread through Easter Ross into Sutherland. Since 2000 it has also colonised many areas in mainland Highland and the Inner Hebrides. There are records for two 5km squares in the Western Isles, but none as yet in the Northern Isles.

Habitat. Both conifer and broadleaved woodland, also areas of well-developed scrub and mature gardens.

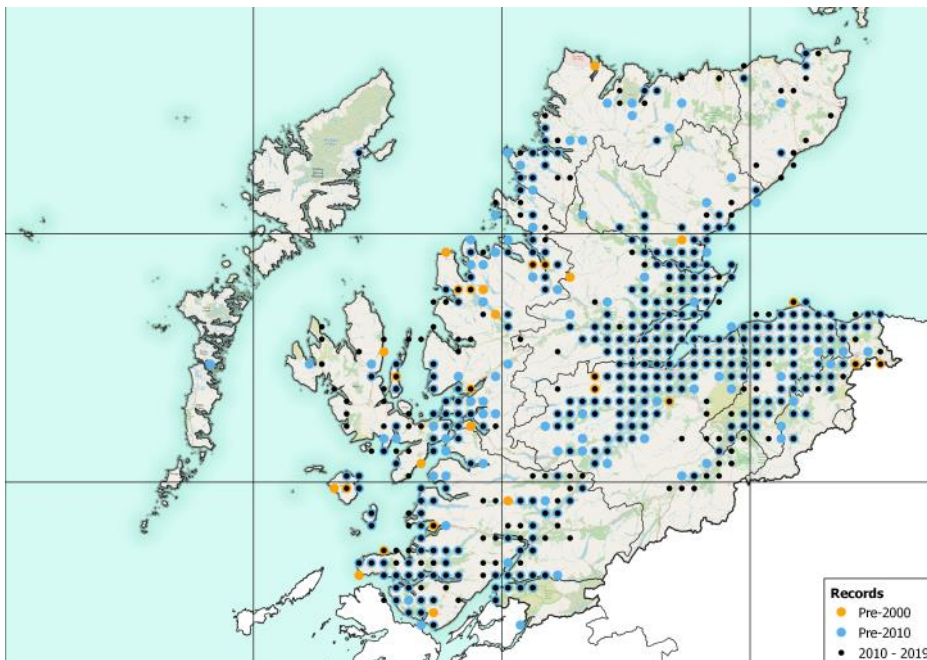
Flight period. Early April to end of June and again end of June to end of September.

Larval food plants. Grasses including False Brome *Brachypodium sylvaticum*, Couch Grass *Elymus repens* and Cock's-foot *Dactylis glomerata*.

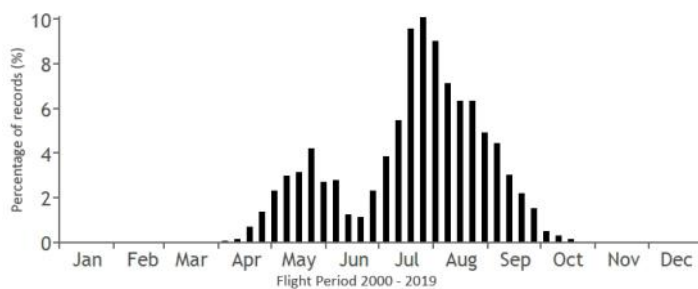
Appearance and behaviour. This brown butterfly with cream-yellow speckling is completely distinctive when seen. Its behaviour, fluttering along woodland tracks and stopping occasionally to bask in patches of sunlight, is also characteristic. Males defend small territories and engage in tumbling 'challenge' flights with intruders.



Nigel Richards



There are currently no records from the Northern Isles.



Number of Records	
Pre-2000	974
2000 - 2009	3271
2010 - 2019	4214



Audrey Turner



Peter Eeles



Nigel Richards