

**LARGE HEATH** *Coenonympha tullia* (ABH 59.004) UK BAP: Priority Species

This region contains the largest concentration of this northerly species in the UK. It occurs very widely in acid boggy habitats, including on the larger islands, but traditionally has its strongest populations on the peatlands of Sutherland and Caithness. It occurs on Orkney, but not on Fair Isle or Shetland. This is a difficult species to monitor because of its cryptic colouration and the inaccessibility of its blanket bog and boggy moorland habitats.



Nigel Richards

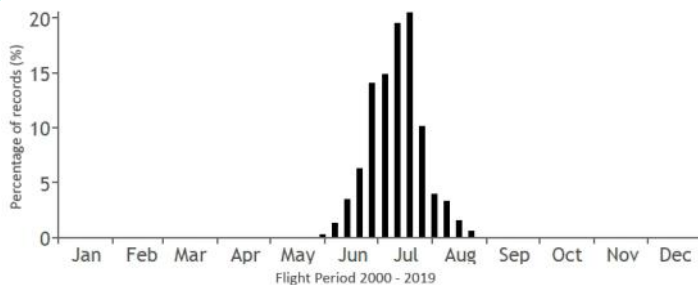
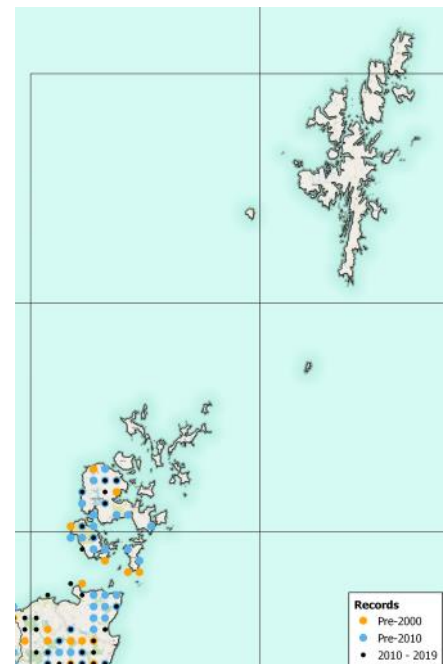
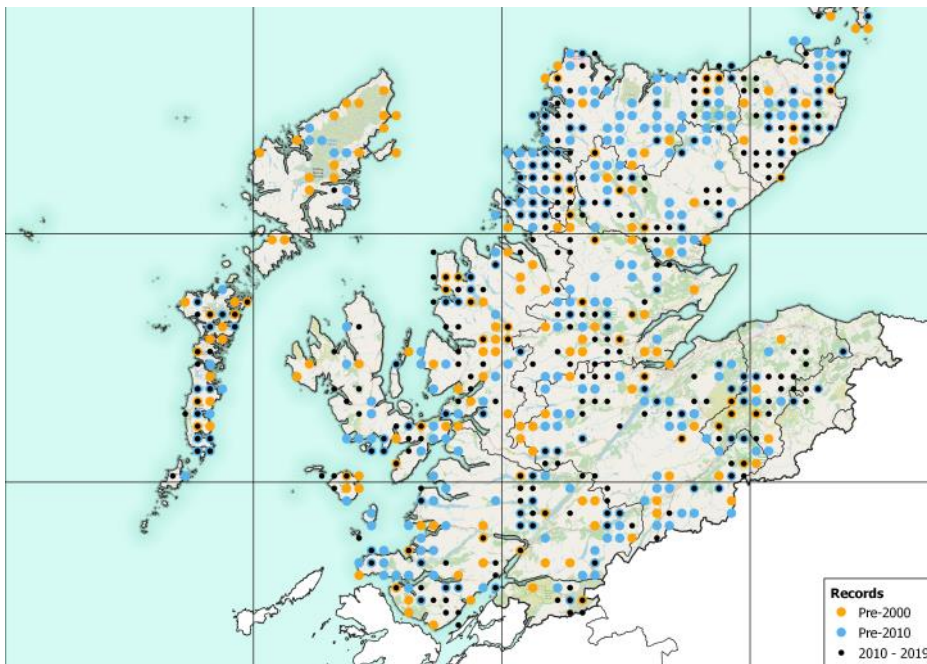
**Distribution trend.** This is one of the species forecast to suffer losses as a result of climate change, on the basis that warmer climate will reduce the suitability of its habitat. The evidence suggests it is already declining here. There is an absence of recent records in some parts of Highland e.g. Sutherland and the Isle of Lewis.

**Habitat.** Boggy moorland, including lowland raised bogs and also ascending to at least 600m in the mountains.

**Flight period.** Early-June to late August.

**Larval food plant.** Hare’s-tail Cotton-grass *Eriophorum vaginatum*.

**Appearance and behaviour.** A powerful flier which can be difficult to approach, it can be distinguished from the Small Heath by its greyer appearance and different pattern of light banding on the underside of the hindwing. It is of course also larger, but occasional smaller individuals may approach the Small Heath in size. Our local form is the subspecies *scotica*, which lacks the large eyespots characteristic of more southern subspecies.



Number of Records	
Pre-2000	810
2000 - 2009	780
2010 - 2019	1179



Hilary Swift



Peter Eeles



Peter Eeles