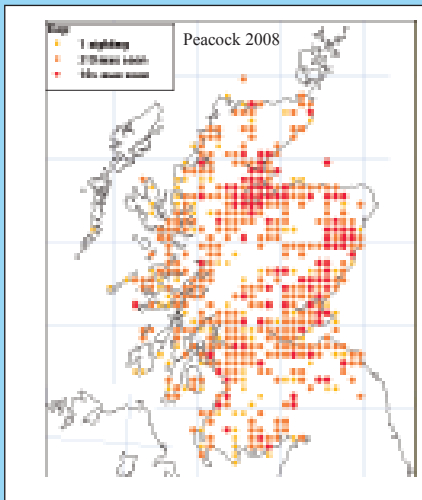


Answers on a Postcard



Galloway, but it was not until several large influxes of migrants from the south during the last few years of the 20th Century that breeding populations were established in other areas.

The records returned during the postcard and online survey of 2008 confirmed that the Peacock is now found just about anywhere on the Scottish mainland, and indeed on most

of the islands as well. Adult Peacock butterflies hibernate during the winter, emerging in early spring to feed and reproduce. Eggs are laid in batches on the young leaves of Common Nettle growing in large patches in sunny positions. The caterpillars are a familiar sight during June, feeding communally at the tops of the nettle plants. New adults emerge after a few weeks, and are often seen in large numbers on rotting fruit as well as nectar plants as they build up fat reserves for overwintering.

Small Tortoiseshell

Like the Peacock, the Small Tortoiseshell butterflies overwinter as hibernating adults, emerging in the spring to mate and lay eggs, again in batches on the young leaves of Common Nettle. The young caterpillars are similarly gregarious, and when fully grown, disperse to finish feeding and pupate, with new adults appearing from July onwards.



Small Tortoiseshell

In recent years, there has been a dramatic decline in of this once abundant butterfly in England, but early indications from the 2009 survey in Scotland are encouraging, in that there does not appear to have been a significant decline in the distribution of the Small Tortoiseshell here.

For more on our postcard surveys, go to www.butterfly-conservation.org/downloads/89/butterfly_survey_results.htm

Buff-tip

No this is not the sequel to Channel Four's *How to Look Good Naked* but one of Scotland's most stunning moths. It's a real crowd pleaser and a brilliant moth to show off at moth-trapping events, and fortunately the Buff-tip is fairly common and widespread throughout Scotland, although there are no records from the Northern or Western Isles. Its spectacular yellow-and-black caterpillars live gregariously and feed on native deciduous trees, sometimes defoliating entire branches. They are occasionally encountered crossing lawns and paths seeking out pupation sites under the soil in late summer and early autumn.

However, on emergence a remarkable transformation is revealed. The bright warning colours of the caterpillar stage have been ditched to reveal astonishing camouflage of the adult,



The Buff-tip - or is it a stick?

being, like some other species including Red Sword-grass and the Flame, a fantastic stick mimic. The head end resembles the snapped end of a twig, complete with heart wood

surrounded by a thin layer of bark. These 'twigs' are readily attracted to light and with patience, and a bit of good fortune, can be found by day, mainly during June and July.

Recording Matters

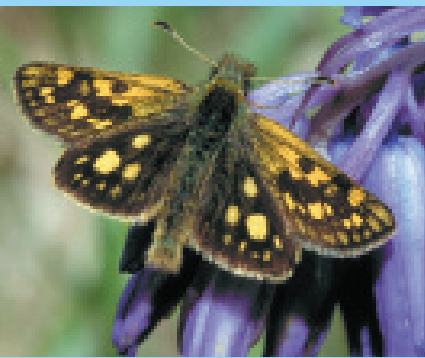
What to look for in 2010

It is perhaps surprising, but two species that we have a special responsibility for, now that they are only found in Scotland, remain badly under-recorded.

Chequered Skipper

This is a super wee butterfly that can fly so quickly that it can be hard to see on bright, warm days. But on more typical west coast days of sunshine and showers they can be very easy to spot and photograph, as they nectar on Bugle and Marsh Thistle in sunny glades and other sheltered places.

David Whitaker



Chequered Skipper - worth a detour

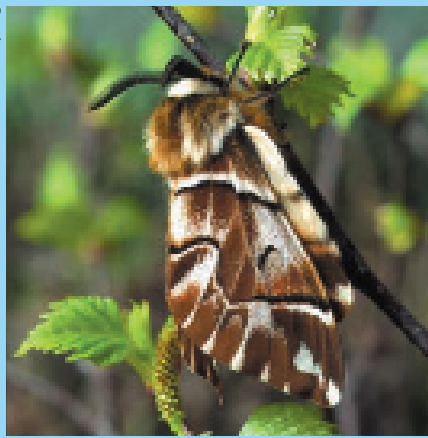
Most of our records are from along roadsides and regularly-visited nature reserves such as Glasdrum NNR and our reserve at Loch Arkaig. So what we need are recorders prepared to go a little way off the beaten track so we can get a better picture of its current distribution, and determine whether its previous decline has been halted. There is plenty of information and advice on the south west Branch website at www.southwestscotland-butterflies.org.uk, if you are able to

spare the time to visit some wonderful countryside and hunt down this very special butterfly.

Kentish Glory

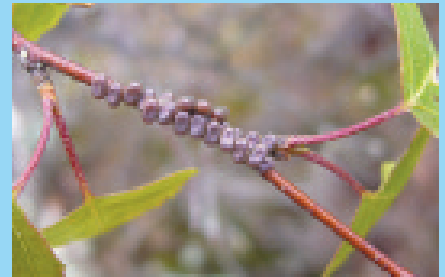
The striking Kentish Glory is a rare species now only found in the Cairngorms, Moray and Highland Perthshire within the UK.

Roy Loverton



Kentish Glory

The adults are on the wing from mid-April to the end of May. Lucky observers can see males flying during the daytime, although both sexes fly at night, and are attracted to light. The female moth lays her conspicuous eggs in batches on young Silver Birch 1-2 metres high, but caterpillars have also been recorded feeding on Alder. Too little grazing and browsing means that sites can quickly become unsuitable as the trees grow too tall, while too much grazing can eliminate seedlings completely. The best sites are large and lightly grazed, so there is always a supply a young birch available.



Kentish Glory's conspicuous eggs

As with many rare moths, most moth recorders unfortunately only seek them out at just one or two well-known sites. The last survey of Kentish Glory in 1989 identified sixteen sites. But most of these have very few or no recent records. Are these sites no longer suitable or is it simply that nobody has been to look? It has not been recorded in Perthshire since the last survey 21 years ago! We urgently need to see how this beautiful moth is doing, so if you can get involved please contact us at our Stirling office (see details on the back page).



Kentish Glory caterpillar on birch

What is a record – and where do you send it?

Recording butterflies and moths is the foundation upon which their conservation is built; but what is a record? To record them you need to provide the following information: species name; roughly how many you saw; location name; grid reference; date; and your contact details. Records

should be sent to the appropriate local butterfly co-ordinator and/or county moth recorder. These volunteers collate and verify local records before passing them on to our national

butterfly and moth datasets. So the next time you see a butterfly or moth, be it in your back garden, while out for a walk or on holiday, make a record and send it in.

To find out who your local butterfly co-ordinator or county moth recorder is, contact us at Stirling (details on back page) or visit www.butterfly-conservation.org/text/251/recording_contacts.html or www.mothscount.org/text/57/county_moth_recorders.html

Nicholas Picozzi

Mark Parsons

Recording Matters



Sadly 2010 is the final year of the Moths Count Project. But of course the NMRS will continue! Provisional distribution maps have now been produced for almost all of our macro-moths, and for many, these are the first that have ever been publicly available. The maps are easily viewed via the Moths Count website at www.mothscount.org, and a final output of the project will be a provisional Atlas for macro-moths in the summer.

We will still be running free moth training events this year, and details are on the Moths Count website. The promotion of moth recording has also been tremendously successful, with over 90 public moth events across the UK, organised with many partners such as the National Trust for Scotland and RSPB, which introduced over 2000 people to the amazing world of moths!

National Moth Night 2010 - Saturday 15 May

National Moth Night is the UK's annual celebration of moths and moth recording. It was launched in 1999, the date varying each year in order to focus recording effort on different parts of the season. It is organised by Atropos, the journal for butterfly, moth



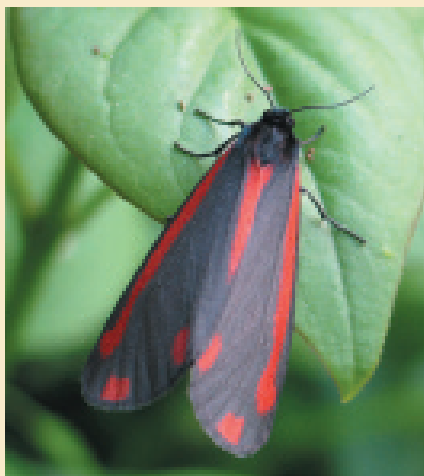
David Green

Brimstone moth is one to look out for in May

and dragonfly enthusiasts, and Butterfly Conservation.

This year's event is being run in partnership with the Bat Conservation Trust and thus bat recording will be a focus of many of the public events. For more information about National Moth Night and how to get involved, whether in your back garden or at a specific event, please visit www.nationalmothnight.info. On this website you will also find reports of previous moth nights.

Cinnabar moth update



Mark Parsons

Last summer saw the start of the project to discover where the Cinnabar moth occurs in Scotland. It is possible that it is responding to climate change and moving both northwards and also to higher ground. Initially the project focus was on the Scottish Borders, and 4000 postcards depicting the moth and its caterpillar were distributed to libraries, schools and tourist information centres in spring 2009.

However, plenty of publicity meant that sightings have come in various parts of the country. The records show that the moth occurs on Arran and Bute, extending north to Tiree and Skye, and along the eastern coastline as far north as Angus. But most interestingly, the Cinnabar seems to occur throughout the Borders and Dumfries & Galloway, at elevations of up to 250m.

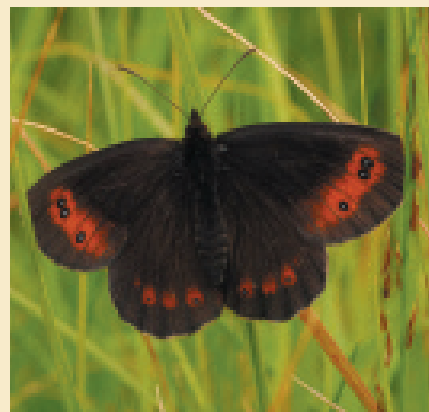
It's too early to draw any conclusions,

except to say that the project has had an enthusiastic response and that its continuation during 2010 will be well worthwhile. So please look out for this striking moth and its gaudy caterpillar this summer and send your records to Barry Prater at barry@prater.myzen.co.uk.

Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey 2009

Following four years of pilot studies, the Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey (WCBS) was formally launched in 2009. The WCBS is the first UK-wide survey of butterfly abundance based on random sampling. In spite of limited resources for promotion, there was a fantastic response by volunteer recorders. In total 1642 visits were made to 763 1 km squares by 611 recorders, who collectively did 3300km of survey, counting 119,000 butterflies of 47 species. Coverage stretched from the Orkney Islands to the Channel Islands and from south-east Kent to western Fermanagh. So, thank you!

We now have a much better idea of the distribution and abundance of common and widespread butterflies across the UK, from which to track future changes. Given that butterflies are good indicator species, the data will be important in assessing the overall health of the countryside. A summary of the 2009 results can be seen at www.ukbms.org



Paul Kirkland

Scotch Argus - will be better monitored by the WCBS

Members in Action

Gardening Scotland - volunteers please!



Quite appropriately, over the years, Garden for Life's 'Living Garden' has grown from a small 'seedling' of a stand to blossom as an essential part of Gardening Scotland, with its own large marquee housing a diversity of environmental displays and a showpiece themed garden. Scotland's largest garden show is held at the Royal Highland Centre at Ingliston, near Edinburgh, and annually draws over 30,000 visitors. Garden for Life, a group of organisations keen to promote wildlife-friendly gardening, has participated in the show in recent years with the support of SNH.

In 2009 the theme for our 'Living Garden' was 'A Pathway to Health' and featured a Silver Medal award-winning Labyrinth Garden. This was based around a pathway for people to wander along experiencing plants and concepts at close hand. The ingenious use of ultra large shopping bags as planters worked exceptionally well!

There was a working apple press and lots of activities for children, from becoming a 'bug detective' and tracking down garden mini-beasties, to making butterfly finger puppets. The weekend was the hottest of the year



Shona Greig

Oversized shopping bags used as planters were a huge success!

and the sun shone from morning to night - no wonder a Painted Lady butterfly managed to pop in to visit! This year, our theme is 'Biodiversity is Life' to link up with International Year of Biodiversity, and our show garden will feature mini-habitats you can create in the garden including a butterfly and bee meadow. We always need volunteers to help with our stand over the three days (4 to 6 June), so if you can spare a morning or afternoon to help enthuse the public

about gardening for butterflies and moths, we can offer you free entry to the show! Please contact Shona (contact details on back page) if you are interested. For more information visit: www.gardenforlife.org.uk, and www.gardeningscotland.com

Members' Day 2009

Our 3rd annual Members' Day was held at the Birnam Institute in September 2009. Almost 100 members from Orkney to the Borders enjoyed a day of talks, workshops and activities, in absolutely stunning autumnal weather. At lunchtime numerous live moths were brought out from the previous night's trapping and shown off in the Institute's Beatrix Potter garden. This year's Members' Day will be held on Saturday 30 October at the Battleby Conference Centre, near Perth.

What's on in your area?

To find out what's on in your area, please visit www.butterfly-conservation.org, or our Branch websites (see back page). You will also find Moths Count events at www.mothscount.org.



Shona Greig

Perfect weather brought people - and butterflies - out in force

Where to See

Latest ID Guide

Butterflies and Day-Flying Moths of Dumfries and Galloway, Arran and Ayrshire is the latest in our series of identification guides. The booklet covers the 32 butterflies that can be seen in the area, plus seven common day-flying moths. It also includes flight periods, updated from the latest records, and a list of 11 sites where the various species may be seen. The booklet is free of charge and was kindly funded by the Glasgow & SW Scotland Branch, SNH, FCS, and Dumfries & Galloway and South Ayrshire Councils.

All of our identification guides are on the web at www.butterfly-conservation.org/scotland. For a hard copy please send a large SAE to our Stirling office.

Scottish Borders Butterfly Atlas

The first *Butterfly Atlas for the Borders* was published in November 2009 and launched at Harestanes Visitor Centre, Jedburgh. Chris Badenoch, who contributed a fascinating and authoritative chapter on the environmental history of the region, was joined by speakers from the local Council and SNH and many local recorders in celebrating the achievements of East Scotland Branch in bringing the project to fruition. The Borders is at the forefront of Scotland's changing butterfly fauna, and



Jim Asher

Holly Blue - a recent arrival in the Borders

at times the authors struggled to keep up with the changes, with recent arrivals including the Comma, Holly Blue, Speckled Wood and Small Skipper! These exciting developments were perhaps put into the shade by the unexpected discovery of a colony of Small Blues near Burnmouth by a local recorder, quite soon after it was believed to have become extinct with the loss of the last known colony near Hawick in the late 1990s. As well as species accounts and maps, there is a comprehensive gazetteer of sites and the butterflies recorded on them. The book was a collaboration between Butterfly Conservation Scotland and the Borders Records Centre (which, alas, is no more), and was funded by SNH, FCS and Awards for All. It was published by Atropos www.atropos.co.uk, and is also available from the Natural History Book Service www.nhbs.com.

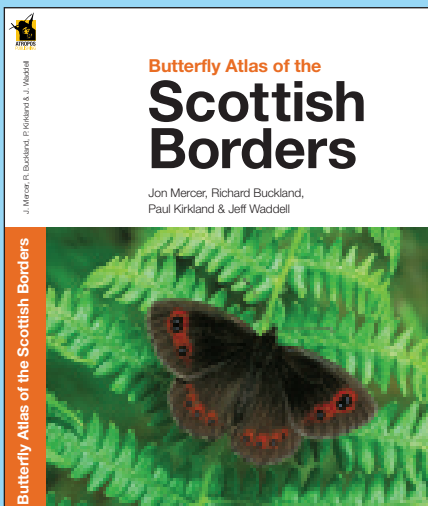
Join us!

You can support Butterfly Conservation in the vital work we do by becoming a member. As a member you will receive a new member welcome pack, our exclusive magazine *Butterfly*, three times a year, plus membership to your local Branch. Our Branches run over 700 public butterfly

and moth events throughout the year and you could be part of them. You can become a member online at www.butterfly-conservation.org or call us on 01929 406015. Join by Direct Debit and receive 15 months membership for the price of 12.

Will there always be butterflies in Scotland?

Please help to ensure there will always be butterflies in Scotland by leaving a gift to Butterfly Conservation in your will. Write, in confidence, to David Bridges at Butterfly Conservation HQ, Manor Yard, East Lulworth, Wareham, Dorset BH20 5QP.



Forestry Commission Scotland

Make sure our children and grandchildren enjoy butterflies for their lifetime too

About Us

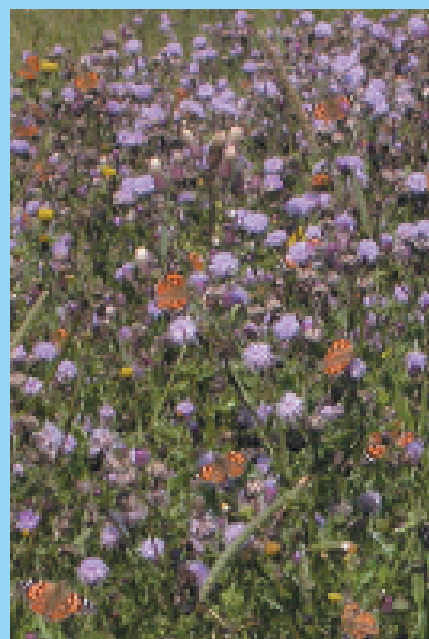


Butterfly Conservation is a UK charity with over 13,000 members, over 800 of them in Scotland.

Butterfly Conservation's work here is overseen by our Scottish Committee, and we work closely with the Scottish Government, local communities and conservation partners to safeguard Scotland's butterflies, moths and their habitats, and to promote nature conservation more generally. Much of our work relates to the UK Biodiversity Action Plan and the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy.

Butterfly Conservation Scotland

- Advises landowners on habitat management for butterflies and moths
- Collaborates with others on landscape-scale nature conservation projects
- Carries out surveys and monitoring on our most threatened species
- Trains volunteers to enable them to take action for butterflies and moths
- Makes recommendations to the Scottish Government on its environmental policies
- Encourages everyone to cherish their butterflies and moths - in their gardens, parks, crofts, farms and businesses.



Ian Masterton

Butterfly Conservation Scotland - Contacts:

Shona Greig, Administrative & Development Officer

sgreig@butterfly-conservation.org

Paul Kirkland, Director, Scotland

pkirkland@butterfly-conservation.org

Balallan House, 24 Allan Park, Stirling, FK8 2QG

Tel: 01786 447753

scotland@butterfly-conservation.org

Dr Tom Prescott, Species Conservation Officer

tprescott@butterfly-conservation.org

Mill House, Mill Road, Kingussie, Inverness-shire, PH21 1LF Tel: 01540 661469

Butterfly Conservation Head Office (for membership enquiries)

info@butterfly-conservation.org

Manor Yard, East Lulworth, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 5QP

Tel: 01929 400209 Fax: 01929 400210

Glasgow & SW Scotland Branch (and butterfly transects)

Neil Gregory

droitwich@btinternet.com

32 Oldhall Drive, Kilmacolm, Inverclyde, PA13 4RF 01505 874275

www.southwestscotland-butterflies.org.uk

East Scotland Branch

Richard Buckland

r.buckland@blueyonder.co.uk

7 Leslie Place, Edinburgh EH4 1NG 0131 3320615

www.eastscotland-butterflies.org.uk

Highlands & Islands Branch

Jimmy McKellar

jimmy.mckellar@btinternet.com

24 Scorguie Gardens, Inverness IV3 6SS 01463 241185

www.highland-butterflies.org.uk

Butterfly Conservation Scotland is very grateful to the following organisations that make our work in Scotland possible:

- BTCV Scotland
- Butterfly Conservation's Conservation Fund and Development Board
- Cairngorms LBAP
- Dumfries & Galloway Council
- Forestry Commission Scotland
- Heritage Lottery Fund (Moths Count project)
- PF Charitable Trust
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
- Scottish Government
- Scottish Natural Heritage
- South Ayrshire Council
- The Blair Trust
- The Craignish Trust
- The Hugh Fraser Foundation
- The Mitchell Trust
- The Russell Trust

www.butterfly-conservation.org/scotland

This newsletter has been compiled by Paul Kirkland with contributions from Tom Brereton, David Bridges, Shona Greig, Barry Prater, Tom Prescott, Zoë Randall and Heather Young. It is sent to Butterfly Conservation members and volunteers in Scotland, our conservation partners, and to others whom we hope will be interested in our work. Please let us know what you think of it, whether you would like more copies - or if you don't want to receive it anymore.

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