

David Barbour 1950 – 2019

It is very sad to have to report that David, one of Butterfly Conservation Scotland's most active and respected volunteers and recorders, has died.

David will be known to most as the Highland Butterfly recorder, a role he held for over twenty years (1997 – 2017). In that time it is estimated he oversaw the submission of over 88,000 butterfly records to the Butterflies of the New Millennium (BNM) project, including around 7,400 of his own records. He was always an extremely thorough and conscientious BNM Co-ordinator, who ensured that butterfly records from both residents and visitors to the Highlands were accurately and carefully verified. These records contributed to The Millennium Atlas of Butterflies in Britain and Ireland, all four of the State of Britain's Butterflies reports that BC has published, and numerous analyses and scientific papers that have charted the fortunes of our butterflies and the drivers of change over the past 20+ years.

After leaving Aberdeen University butterflies and moths became the basis of his professional life working for Forestry Commission and then as an independent entomologist specialising in the cyclical populations of forest "pests" including Pine Beauty and Bordered White. More recently he was involved in determining the status of the recently discovered population of Pine-tree Lappet in the Highlands.

He also worked on several of Scotland's rare and iconic species including Small Dark Yellow Underwing and Kentish Glory. However, it was the New Forest Burnet that became his main interest, monitoring the remote and isolated population on the west coast for sixteen years.

In 2008 David was the leader author of the Atlas of Butterflies in Highland and Moray that maps the changing distributions of the region's butterflies at 5km resolution. However, it is more than a series of maps as it contains some excellent and very useful identification tips on separating confusing species e.g. Small and Pearl-bordered Fritillary, and Large from Small Heath – mostly based on features gleaned by David's experience in the field. He latterly moved to Perth where his excellent fieldcraft and knowledge was instrumental in the rediscovery of Pearl-bordered Fritillary in the Loch Katrine area.

David's hard work and dedication is highlighted by his former role as Highland Butterfly recorder which is now taken on by eleven different recorders.

He will be sadly missed by all who knew him.