



BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION HIGHLAND BRANCH



NEWS-SHEET 15 – Sept 2009

Alex Stewart

I have to report the passing of Alex Stewart, our treasurer, who died peacefully in his sleep on 6 July 2009 at Raigmore Hospital. He had been ill for a couple of years but sadly he lost the battle with his illness and slipped away after a sound nights sleep.

Alex took up the post of treasurer in 2003 and dealt with our transactions in a very neat and orderly fashion so that we were never in any doubt as to where we stood with our finances. He steered us through what was a particularly bumpy hurl as we went though the process of producing our atlas at the same time as dealing with multiple grants and an unexpected change over to centralised banking. Alex took all this in his stride and my admiration for his calm amid the turbulence cannot be overstated.

Alex will be missed but I am sure he would be happy to know that I remember him as first class treasurer, butterfly enthusiast and friend.

Jimmy McKellar

AGM

The Highland Branch AGM will be held on Saturday 31st October 2009 from 11.00 to 13.00 in Charleston Academy Community Complex.

Agenda

- 1 Apologies for absence
- 2 Minutes of the last meeting
- 3 Matters arising
- 4 Chairman's Report
- 5 Election of Committee members
- 6 Finance
- 7 2010 field trips and moth nights
- 8 Any other business

This will be followed by a talk by Pete Moore on Mountain Burnets.

Newsletter 15

Bill Slater has taken over from Jimmy KcKellar as Newsletter editor and the next edition will be produced over the winter for publication in the spring. We would welcome articles of any length or news items or observations or even questions or items for a letters page. Vignettes and pictures, maps and on any subject however tenuously related to butterflies and moths or their habitat. Hibernation, feeding, fieldcraft, they can all go in. Please send items to :-

Bill Slater, 20 Kennedy Drive, Inverness, IV3 8QR or email bill@billslater.wanadoo.co.uk.



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Volunteers required!!

We are always looking for new people who can contribute to the running of the Branch and this year there are several different opportunities for people to play an active part.

Volunteers to become a **Committee Members** are always welcome and in addition we are particularly looking for someone to take on the role of **Treasurer**. Do please come forward and offer your services.

We would also like to find someone who could help Bill Slater with the website as **Assistant Webmaster**. If you already have some expertise at developing a website that would be excellent but someone who would like to learn would be equally welcome.

For the last few years Neil Gregory (Chairman of S & W Scotland Branch) has been co-ordinating all the Scottish Butterfly Transects for the UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme but is finding it too time consuming to cover all of Scotland. It would be very helpful if someone would volunteer to act as **Highland Transect Co-ordinator**.

And finally, Jimmy regularly asks if anyone would like to take on the role of **Chairman** of the Branch.

If you can help by offering your services for any of these roles please get in touch with Jimmy McKellar in the first instance on 01463 241185 or jimmy.mckellar@btopenworld.com.

Small Tortoiseshell postcard survey

Please remember to send in your records.

This is best done online by going to www.butterfly-conservation.org and clicking on the quick link to "Seen a Small Tortoiseshell in Scotland?", but of course records are very welcome on the postcard too.

Butterfly Records

The butterfly season coming to an end so now is the time to get the rest of your 2009 butterfly records together. Please send records to David Barbour, the Highland Butterfly Recorder, either on the famous yellow forms or, better still, put them on a spreadsheet and send it by e-mail.

Dr David Barbour, 125a High Street, ABERLOUR, Banff-shire AB38 9PB;
E-mail DbFIS@aol.com; Tel 01340-871850

Moth Records

The moth season extends a lot longer than the butterfly one but again it is also time to think about assembling your records ready to be sent to the vice-county recorders. Names and addresses etc were given in the Spring News-sheet no 11 (2007) and are also available on the branch website.



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National Moth Night 18 and 19 September 2009

Four public moth events are being organized over the two days

Ferrycroft Visitor Centre, Lairg (NH580062)

Friday 18th Sept 9.00pm to 11.00pm.

Details from Ian Paterson, Highland Council; Ranger, on 01549 402638 or ian.paterson@highland.gov.uk

Glenn Nevis Visitor Centre, Fort William

Friday 18th Sept 7.30pm to 10.30pm.

Refreshments served. Captured moths will be examined then released on Saturday morning at 9.00 – 10.00am. Details from Tom Prescott, on 01540 661469 or tprescott@butterfly-conservation.org or Glenn Nevis Visitor Centre on 01397 705922

Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), Great Glen House, Inverness

Saturday 19th Sept from 8.00pm.

Refreshments served. Captured moths will be examined then released on Sunday morning from 09.45am. Details from Tom Prescott as above.

Nigg Bay, Easter Ross Saturday

Saturday 19th Sept from 8.00pm.

Meet at the RSPB hide which is 1 mile north of Nigg Village on the B9175 (NH807730). Warm clothing and a torch advised. Details from Tony Mainwood on 01408 633247 or tony.mainwood@btinternet.com

E-mail contact

If you are not already on the Branch e-mailing list and would like to receive reminders about events and details of any changes to the programme, please e-mail Tony at tony.mainwood@btinternet.com and ask to be added to the list.

Branch Website

Up to date information about butterflies and moths in the area and news about the Branch is available on the Branch website and please send in items for the home page as well as short snippets of news or information.

www.highland-butterflies.org.uk