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## Autumn news bulletin

A **warm** welcome to all new and existing members of East Scotland Butterfly Conservation. We hope you find this quarterly news bulletin a useful round-up of interesting articles, key dates for your diary and important contacts. The East Branch committee hope you have had a successful summer spotting butterflies and moths. Enjoy this update!

The branch's area covers the Scottish Borders, the Lothians, Falkirk, Clackmannanshire, Perth and Kinross, Fife, Angus, Banffshire and Aberdeenshire. We have a diverse range of habitats including extensive areas of upland moorland, coastal habitats, wetlands, farmland, broad-leaved and coniferous woodland. These support a wide range of flora and fauna and there are many butterfly and moth species to find and enjoy within the region. We seek to increase our knowledge of the region's butterflies and moths, to assist in their conservation and to encourage the study of these fascinating insects. We run [events](#) ourselves and support the events of other organisations too.

## Upcoming events

All of these events can be found on the **Butterfly Conservation Events page**.

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November: 10:00am to 3:00pm – Wester Moss Bog Squad Volunteer Work Party**

Join the Bog Squad to help with scrub clearance at Wester Moss SSSI to improve habitat for the Large Heath butterfly and protect the valuable peatland. Wester Moss is a small lowland bog located by the village of Fallin near Stirling. **Booking is**



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Photo by Iain Cowe

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**essential:** Please book your space by contacting Polly Phillpot on [pPhillpot@butterfly-conservation.org](mailto:pPhillpot@butterfly-conservation.org)

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November: 10:00am to 3:00pm - Gorse Clearance in Holyrood Park, Edinburgh**

Butterfly Conservation and the Holyrood Park Ranger Service will be working to cut and remove gorse to benefit the **Grayling** butterfly in the park. Grayling butterflies have been lost from 90% of their range across the UK, so this work is vital to help sustain the colony at Holyrood Park. **Please note** – the work site is about a 10 to 15-minute walk from the Holyrood Park Education Centre (the **meet point**). **Booking:** book your space by clicking the link [here](#).

Or email Anthony McCluskey on [\*\*amcccluskey@butterfly-conservation.org\*\*](mailto:amcccluskey@butterfly-conservation.org) for more information.

## **Green Hairstreak larval foodplant discovery at Kinnaber Links, Angus**

**Green hairstreak** colonies in East Scotland are strongly associated with Blaeberry habitats, despite this species being known to have a very wide range of caterpillar foodplants in other regions. In April 2021, Geoff Wilkinson discovered a colony at **Kinnaber Links**, a coastal heath just outside Montrose, that seemed to be an exception as Blaeberry is not present at that site. This area is dominated by Gorse, on which the male butterflies perch, and adjacent areas of Creeping willow and heather.



Keen to solve the riddle of what the caterpillar foodplant is there, we searched for egg-laying females in 2023 without results, but made a more concerted effort in 2024. Chris and Eleanor Stamp searched on 11<sup>th</sup> May, eventually spotting a Green hairstreak leaving a Gorse bush to land on heather, not yet in flower, exploring a stem in a way that suggested interest in egg-laying, and were able to inspect the stem once the butterfly had flown. It did look like there could be an egg, squeezed down between the tightly arranged leaves of what appeared to be Bell heather, *Erica cinerea*.

In order to establish whether it was indeed a Green hairstreak egg, Chris had to take it home for inspection under a microscope (something to do only with good reason), and was able to confirm its identity.

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He subsequently reared the caterpillar to the pupal stage, and all being well the adult butterfly will be released back at Kinnaber next spring. However, as he did not have a ready supply of Bell heather available, he had to provide alternative known foodplants, of which the caterpillar preferred Bird's foot trefoil. This meant that we had proof that Green hairstreak lay eggs on Bell heather at Kinnaber, but not a scientific level of proof that the caterpillars develop to maturity on this plant.

Ben Freeman conducted subsequent painstaking searches of the heather at the site, looking for final instar caterpillars in the wild. No easy task! He successfully found one on 6<sup>th</sup> July eating Bell heather flower petals, and repeated the feat on 12<sup>th</sup> July with two more found doing the same. His photographs are very significant as they provide conclusive evidence of Green hairstreak caterpillars using Bell heather in Europe, following the only other report that we've been able to track down (thanks due to Mark Shaw), of larvae collected by J.W. Hestor-Harrison who reported in 1949 that "larvae have been swept in the Raasay-Scalpay group of islands from the fine-leaved heath and black crowberrys", fine-leaved heath being a synonym of Bell heather.

An account of our Kinnaber discovery was published in September 2024 in peer-reviewed scientific journal, **The Entomologist's Record and Journal of Variation** - coincidentally the same journal that contained Hestor-Harrison's 1949 report.

Expert Scottish botanist, Brian Ballinger, confirmed the identification of Bell heather at Kinnaber for our report.

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It will be fascinating to investigate whether other East Scotland colonies might also be confirmed to be using foodplants other than Blaeberry, particularly at Tentsmuir NNR in Fife, another coastal heath habitat that has a Green hairstreak colony but is lacking a good supply of both Blaeberry and Bell heather.



**Written by Chris Stamp & Ben Freeman**

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## Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary in Scottish Borders

Our project to assess and map sites holding this beautiful butterfly made a tentative start back in 2022, was then fully launched last year and there are now three seasons of surveys to report on.



Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary (Credit: Nick Cook)

Recently someone has asked why is the species a priority for Butterfly Conservation when *'he sees them everywhere he goes'*? Although it's regarded as common in many areas of Scotland, this has not been the case here in the Borders and 15 years ago when the Borders Butterfly Atlas was published it was described as rare with very few records from maybe half a dozen sites. To the south, across parts of England it has undergone a severe decline and so at the UK level it is very much a conservation target. One of the highlights from the renewed local interest in the butterfly has been the discovery of hitherto unknown colonies and the realisation that it is much more widespread here than previously thought. Rather than lessen the need for conservation, this raises the importance of the Scottish Borders as an area holding a priority species. Even more broadly, the overall picture for our butterflies is quite gloomy and working to conserve what we've got has to be our purpose for all species. So how much progress has been made? Here are the bare facts:

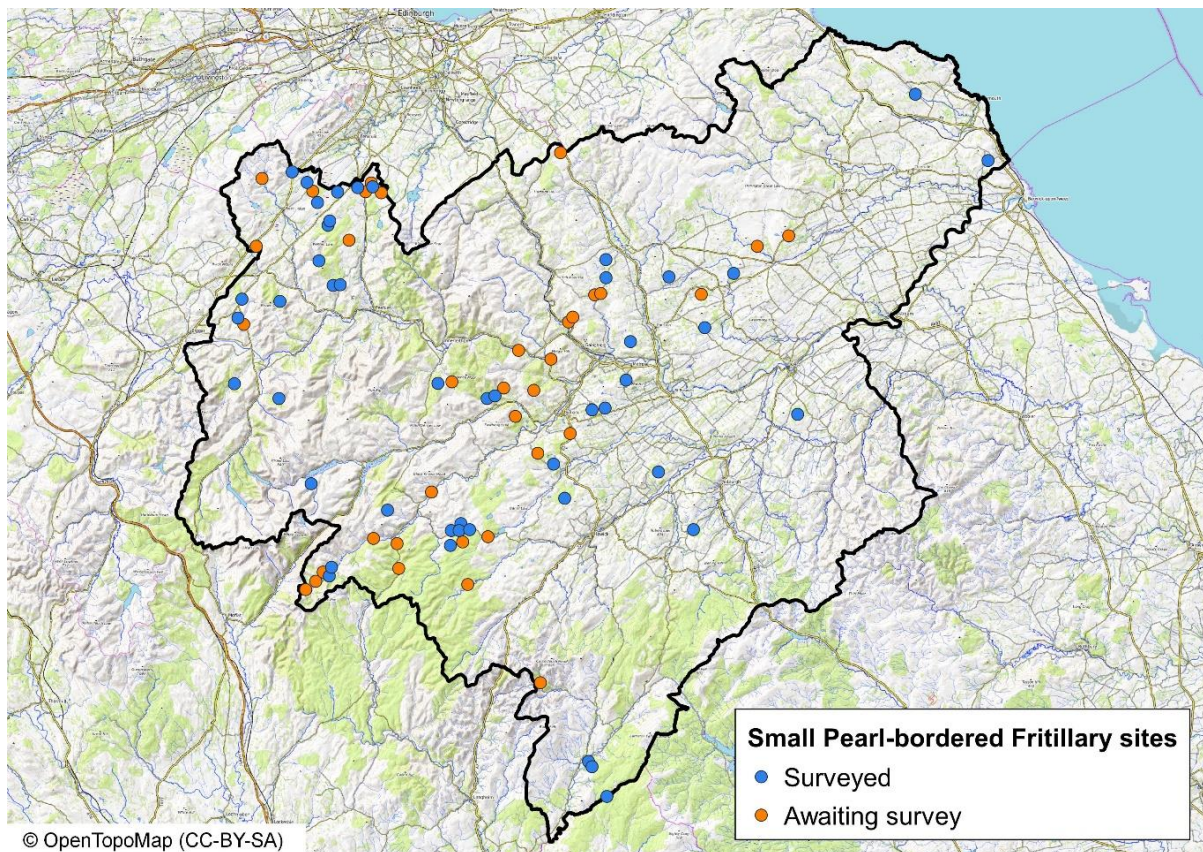
- The number of known sites now stands at 83, all but 9 having records since 2010 and 4 of these with just very old and probably no longer relevant records.
  - 47 sites have been visited 2022-2024 and **Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary** was found at 37 and these have been mapped; for most of the others looked at,
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suitable habitat has been lost through tree planting or scrub/bracken development.

- So far, a magnificent 18 new sites have been discovered.

This year weather during the flight period was distinctly poor but despite this about ten determined volunteers managed to report on 20 sites, mostly ones not yet surveyed and sometimes sites have been mapped from a collation of earlier records. The overall situation to date is best summarised in the map of sites.



Many of the sites used are wet, boggy places or damp grassland, the latter often in close proximity to woodland, especially conifer plantations, and it seems likely that some colonies have survived such woodland development by being on ground unsuitable for the trees. A few colonies are buried in well-established and often quite dense plantations, presumably relic populations which have just sufficient foodplant and nectar sources to live on. Examples are the recently discovered site in **Swinnie Plantation** to the south of Jedburgh where the butterfly uses damp track verges over a really short distance and **Grassfield Forest** where favourable, wide tracks (30-40m) allow plenty of sunlight into large areas of habitat.

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Adults in these isolated sites are considered to be highly sedentary and unlikely to be able to relocate to other areas if their habitat is destroyed. This poses challenging conservation issues when felling and replanting plans are prepared and makes it all the more important that we highlight colony sites to forestry concerns and the planning agencies.

I have tended to be sceptical about attracting butterflies (and moths) by holding a plucked-off bunch of flowers for a nectar source, but Nick Cook has provided firm evidence that this can really work. The Lilac flowers he was clutching magically produced a couple of fritillaries!

This survey project is proving to be super successful. Many sites have been visited but, as is always said, more work is needed, particularly to complete the coverage. The efforts put in by volunteers has been remarkable, especially bearing in mind this year's uncooperative weather, and there's no doubt about the pleasure and satisfaction gained from helping with the fieldwork.

So, great thanks to all who have contributed, including David Hill who has created the sites map for me and who will be working on how to publicise the data for maximum conservation benefits.

**Written by Barry Prater**

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## Moth Traps for loan

There are always parts of the country where more folk are needed to get out and find moths, especially as we now have the fabulous new book '*The Larger Moths of Scotland*' by **Roy Leverton** and **Mark Cubitt**. Along with up-to-date distribution maps this volume contains a distillation of knowledge and wisdom about the many species we have and often points to where and how there is more to be discovered.

On my patch (**Berwickshire**) several new recorders have emerged in recent years, making great contributions, many from their garden traps. Having surveyed so much of the area myself over the past decade, I've been impressed by the huge amount and value of the new findings and have had lots of welcome surprises when discoveries have been made of scarce species or ones with no previous records. Remoter areas, particularly in the **Lammermuir Hills**, have not had a lot of attention recently and it would be great if someone could have a go there. There are already some good contacts with landowners and plenty of intriguing sites with potential for discoveries.

Here in the Borders, there are two East Branch light traps currently not in use and available for you to borrow; it would be lovely to get them out and in action.

The smaller trap available is the Mark Cubitt design lightweight bucket trap, shown by many users to be very effective. There is also a larger 125W Robinson trap. Both are set up to run off mains power, but it should be possible to adapt the bucket trap to be battery run, thereby enabling trapping away from home.



Lightweight bucket trap (Credit: Mark Cubitt)



Robinson trap set-up (Credit: Barry Prater)

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At this time of year, the range of species on the wing is getting limited but this can be a benefit for anyone starting off in their search for moths and there is plenty of variety and interesting life cycles of species which fly as the colder months approach. If you'd like to have a go with one of the traps then do please get in touch - [barry@prater.myzen.co.uk](mailto:barry@prater.myzen.co.uk)

Although I've highlighted the situation in my area, I'm sure there are opportunities all over the country. At the moment the traps are with me in Eyemouth so we'd have to think about how to get them to you.

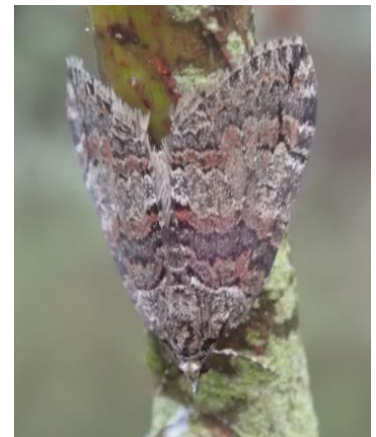
Written by Barry Prater

## Lothian mid-summer 2024 moth round-up

The three Lothian vice counties have had many interesting moth records so far this year. This despite the poor summer conditions and any effects of last year's weather on moth numbers generally. Details of some of these are described here.

### March through May

The adventive micro *Duponchelia fovealis* was the first for Midlothian in March by Elspeth McArthur. At the end of April, Katty Baird and I trapped the scarcely recorded *Pammene argyrana* at Dalkeith Country Park (CP), Midlothian. This is the first since 1954 and can apparently be more easily attracted to pheromone lures. We then found East Lothian's first **White-pinion Spotted** in sunshine at Linn Dean, East Lothian on 17th of May and that night Katty caught several **Ruddy Highflyer** near Whiteadder Reservoir in the Lammermuirs.



### Ruddy Highflyer (Credit: Katty Baird)

These were in an area that we have tried in previous years without success, but we felt they had to be there, somewhere!

### June

While visiting Keith Bland this April, he showed me the wing and thorax of a **Lime Hawk-moth** which was an apparent road casualty in North Berwick sent to him back in 2020 by G. Hantke. It is still Scotland's only record away from Glasgow.

Katty recorded two more of the extremely local **White Colon** at John Muir CP, Dunbar early in June after the astonishing 23 there last year which were the first following just two in the area in the previous 50 years.

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A field next to Morrisons superstore in Bathgate, West Lothian took centre stage for a few days. While looking for Narrow-bordered Five-spot Burnet I found the nice ***Approaerema cincitella*** (confirmed by Steve Palmer) which is the first in eastern Scotland after records from just two Scottish vice counties in the west. Nigel Voaden then found a ***Elachista luticomella***, new to West Lothian, while finding another *A. cincitella* at the same site.

Malc Quirie trapped ***Piniphila bifasciana*** in his garden in West Barns, Dunbar which was new for East Lothian.



### **Small Argent & Sable, Blawhorn Moss (Credit: Mark Cubitt)**

Late in the month I was very pleased to find the first **Small Argent & Sable** for West Lothian in a daytime search with a butterfly net at Blawhorn Moss NNR. This after years of searching in the county without any real expectation of finding this pretty species.

### **July**

Alison Averis found Lothian's first ***Oxyptilus parvidactyla***, the Small Plume, in her East Lothian garden. Jeremy Wilson nearly had a first for Scotland by trapping ***Endothenia nigrocostana*** in his garden near Humbie, East Lothian. It turned out that this was just four days after Malcom Lindsay found Scotland's first of this species in Selkirkshire. Malc Quirie had a good run in his West Barns garden with East Lothian's first ***Etainia decentella*** followed by the scarce **Dark Spectacle** and **Dotted Rustic** later in the month. He also caught a Lyme Grass from the adjacent John Muir CP a couple of days after Katty caught two at this new site for this species where we have been looking for it for a few years now.

The Beech feeding ***Cydia fagiglandana*** was recorded on 20 July in Morningside Per Smiseth and I trapped one at Gore Glen, also in Midlothian, on 8 August. Mark Young tells me that it has been seen widely in 2024.

The very end of July into August brought some warmer weather and a flurry of good records. Residence of the beautiful ***Harpella forficella***, new to Scotland last year, was proved with seven individuals at Calderwood CP, Midlothian. It was accompanied in my trap by a Barred Carpet which is very rare in eastern Scotland and new to Midlothian.

### **August**

In a sunny daytime search at Red Moss, Balerno, I netted Midlothian's first **Manchester Treble-bar** which, like West



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Lothian's records of this species, was on a peat bog. They are not a common moth as one goes further east.

**Manchester Treble-bar, Red Moss (Credit: Mark Cubitt) above**

**Northern Arches** was found for the first time in breeding habitat in Midlothian at Red Moss last year. Previously only strays had been recorded in two Edinburgh gardens. This year it has also been found in breeding habitat in the Pentlands at Bonaly CP and the Moorfoots, south of Gladhouse. Similarly breeding sites for **The Confused** were found with records at Bonaly CP and Crow Hill, Holyrood Park after last year's Dalmahoy Hill records in Midlothian.



One of my regular sites is a reedbed at Kinneil Kerse near Grangemouth which has produced many interesting records including Scotland's first Twin-spotted Wainscot in 2018. At the end of July, I trapped a **Sharp-angled Carpet** there. (Credit: Mark Cubitt)

This is Scotland's third ever record after others on Bute and in Renfrewshire. There were also four **Dark-barred Twin-spot Carpet** there which appears to be Lothian's only known regular site for this species first recorded there in 2019.

Finally, just into August at SWT's Bawsinch reserve in Edinburgh I had the first Midlothian records for **Dingy Footman** and **Southern Wainscot** and the county's first modern day record for the pretty micro *Elachista maculicerusella*.

After one was seen in the Borders the previous week, Katty trapped a **Devon Carpet (right)** at Binning Wood on 6 August at Binning Wood, East Lothian and then, at a site I know is good for Marsh Bedstraw, I trapped one on 12 August at Lochcote Marsh in West Lothian. We tried and failed to get one at Bavelaw SWT reserve, central Edinburgh, on the 17<sup>th</sup>, but will try again in 2025! This is a species that has spread through Dumfries and Galloway into Ayrshire and Kintyre in the last ten years with odd records into Selkirkshire and Fife more recently, so a moth that we are likely to see more of in the future.



As well as the *Cydia fagiglandana* at Gore Glen on 8 August I was surprised to catch the lovely Beech-green Carpet there. It was recorded only a few hundred metres away by Keith Bland in 1987 and there is a 19<sup>th</sup> Century record by Logan from Newbattle in the same 10km square. **Beech-green Carpet (above)** has only otherwise recorded at two sites in the Lothians in recent years; these are both on wooded scree slopes in the East Lothian Lammermuirs.

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### September

A period of easterly winds at the beginning of September brought in hundreds of **Setaceous Hebrew Characters**, many **Convolvulus Hawk-moths**,

**Small Mottled Willows**-Credit: **Katty Baird**

**(above left)** (new to West and East Lothian), **Scarce Bordered Straws** and a **Delicate** **(right)** caught by Katty in North Berwick.



Seven **Clifden Nonpareil**-**Binning Wood** **(below, Credit: Mark Cubitt)** were trapped in a



stand of Poplar last year leading to the presumption of the first Scottish breeding of this iconic species. On 14 September Katty and I trapped three of the progeny of what must now be a proven colony. Katty made further captures of two on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Red Underwing**, **Binning Wood** **(below) Credit: Katty Baird** appear to be consolidating their position in East Lothian with six more in the Dunbar and North Berwick areas this year.



I hope that you have had an interesting year. Over two-thirds of the records mentioned have come from locations away from people's gardens and often have been specifically targeted at possible breeding sites. I think this adds to the enjoyment and conservation value, so do think about getting out with your net or a mobile trap. Getting a loan of a mobile trap kit from me in the Lothians, or your county moth recorder (CMR) elsewhere, may well be possible. Having

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said that, I have had four new moth species from my Garden Moth Scheme trapping this year and lovely ones they were too: Puss Moth, Scallop Shell, White-pinion Spotted and Neglected Rustic.

**Written by Barry Mark Cubitt** - CMR for the Lothian vice counties

email: [midlothianmoths@eastscotland-butterflies.org.uk](mailto:midlothianmoths@eastscotland-butterflies.org.uk)

## Envirolution event, Seaton Park - Aberdeen

The first ever [Envirolution \(nescan.org\)](http://nescan.org) Aberdeen event was held in Seaton Park, Aberdeen on Saturday 28th September, coinciding with Scottish Climate Week. This community-based and free festival is dedicated to increasing understanding, connection, and engagement with the natural world. Founded in Manchester in 2009, Envirolution has made a significant impact on local communities and the broader environment.



### Stalls at the Envirolution event (Credit: Helen Rowe)

Blue skies and sunshine helped to bring out many people to come and explore the various stalls and activities on offer. Local BC volunteers Helen Rowe, Kevin Paterson, Shona Wildi, Richard Woods and Kenn Watt shared their enthusiasm with lots of visitors of all ages at our stand bedecked with eye-catching images of and information on butterflies and moths, including beautiful photos provided by Mary Laing, another local recorder. Although it had been too cold the night or two before to catch any live moths, we demonstrated a branch bucket trap and found a few caterpillars to show along with other life cycle specimens, plus children enjoyed colouring in their own moth and butterfly creations. Several people commented on the lack of butterflies and moths this summer and we were able to explain the wider problems they are facing but also talk about what we can do to help. Hopefully this will encourage the creation of more 'wild spaces' and inspire some budding new recorders!

**Written by Helen Rowe**

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## Hibernating Heralds

If you are wondering how to fill your time during the long winter months when there is little in the way of butterfly or moth on the wing, wonder no more! Wherever you live and whatever the weather, all you need is a torch, a dark place and a sense of adventure.

Some of our butterflies and moths overwinter as adults in a dormant stage, a bit like hibernation. To do this they need to find a safe, sheltered spot where they are protected from the worst of the weather and hungry predators. This could be hunkered down in thick vegetation or crevices in rocks but luckily for us, some species also seek larger spaces that we can access.

Garden outbuildings, culverts under roads or paths, caves, ruined castles, mines – anywhere that is dark enough to need a torch to see, could be suitable. For moth lovers, the **Herald** is the most likely species to find. A beautiful insect, with brown and russet scalloped wings is a sight to behold when grouped together on a damp cave wall.



Those who get more excited by butterflies can look out for **Small Tortoiseshell** and **Peacock**, well-camouflaged as they rest with closed wings.



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Other species to look for are the tiny and delicate **Twenty-plumed moth** or one of the **Agonopterix** flat-body micro moths. But the ultimate prize, and the one that keeps me searching in any dark place I encounter each winter, is the **Tissue**.



This lovely moth, patterns in hues of slate and silver, with black and pink highlights still gets my pulse racing, even though I see it most years. Although numerous in caves in some parts of England and Wales, it remains a rarity here in Scotland. It is not readily attracted to light, so seeking out overwintering individuals is the best way to find them. What are you waiting for?! The **Hibernating Herald project** has now been running for 8 years, collating data on overwintering butterflies and moths throughout Scotland. You can find out more about how to take part from the Survey pages on <https://butterfly-conservation.org/in-your-area/east-scotland-branch/hibernating-heralds>

Check out our **Facebook** group, or search for **#HibernatingHerald** on social media for some of the latest updates.

Written by **Katty Baird**

## News from East Perthshire - Moths

### Moths

Despite the cold night early in the year, the largest catch in a 20W bucket trap in our garden was 168 moths of 15 species on the 11<sup>th</sup> April. However, species diversity was greatest on 31<sup>st</sup> July, when there were 110 moths of 38 species. We had a notable number of records of **Least Black Arches**, which turned up all along the Carse of Gowrie in May. One was even netted during daytime in the garden, and there were 7 of them in the trap one night. For a moth that is said to only turn up in small numbers, and is not often seen here, this was an anomaly.

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**Narrow-bordered Bee Hawkmoth**  
(Credit: Steve Kydd)



**Chamomile Shark larva on Achillea**  
Southfield Farm (Credit: Alan Sands)

We had other remarkable reports. A **Narrow-bordered Bee Hawkmoth**, (first for VC89) was spotted by a member of the public (Steve Kydd) on their house wall, just west of Dundee, luckily falling into the extreme SE corner of East Perthshire. The foodplant of this moth is Devil's bit Scabious so one to look out for next year in suitable habitat– could it be breeding locally? That would be exciting. Generally this species is distributed much further to the N and W. Other notable records included the **Chamomile Shark**, adult in Collace in May. A larva photographed in July (Southfield Farm, Abernyste) was unusually found feeding on a cultivated Achillea - the more usual foodplants are Mayweeds (*Matricaria sp.*).



**Northern Dart, Glenshee (Credit: Alison & Ben Averis)**

The first **Northern Dart** recorded in the VC for 150 year was found in daytime by a party of botanists whilst surveying on *Racomitrium* heath in the Glenshee area. Whilst looking into this, it was interesting to discover that in fact Northern Dart was first described from East

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Perthshire in 1838 (Leverton & Cubitt, 2024) and had apparently not been seen here again until this year! Not the easiest moth to find except by trapping in appropriate places above 750m, or crawling around on hands and knees in the mist like those resilient botanists! Another moth we have not had in the VC since Buchanan-White's time was the **Lunar Hornet Moth** which came to pheromone lure near Kinnoull, Perth. Other records of interest were the **White-pinion Spotted** *Lomographa bimaculata* (Kinnaird both 2023 & 24), **Old Lady** found dead (Kilspindie) and **Feathered Gothic** (Guardswell).



**Feathered Gothic, Guardswell (Credit: Cathy Caudwell)**

Recording micro-moths has become more frequent resulting in quite a few new to the VC. This year's records are not all in or collated yet, however just some of those not recorded in VC89 before were **Streaked Diamond-back** *Plutella porrectella* & **Rose Shoot Moth** *Notocelia rosaecolana* (Kinnoull); **Horse-chestnut Leaf-miner** *Cameraria ohridella* (Blairgowrie); and **Chequered Pearl** *Evergestis pallidata* & **Beech Mast Piercer** *Cydia fagiglandana* (Abernyte).

### **Starting with Moths**

Guardswell Farm in the Sidlaws was again the venue for a number of moth trappings. In June we held a "**Starting with Moths**" event to co-incide with Tayside Biodiversity Month. This went well and we had a fun morning, the number of participants was such that they could open their own or a shared bucket moth trap and become familiar with the processes involved from sorting the catch to releasing them safely. A good species list resulted. We also discussed and looked at different types of light traps, nets and recording day-flying species.

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Guardswell Farm have a lovely planted wildflower meadow and some relatively un-improved grassland. We set moth traps here to co-incide with their monthly Farm Markets which are held over the summer. The moths were displayed at these events at a stand we manned with the Dundee Naturalists' Society. BC literature was also available and conversations with customers resulted in us talking wildlife & receiving the photograph of the Narrow-bordered Bee Hawk-moth mentioned above. It is also worth noting that the July trapping at Guardswell produced a Feathered Gothic, not a widespread moth but one that had been seen here in the past but not photographed. We were glad to get the photographic evidence this time!

### **Moth Collection of Brian Morrison**

This large collection has been deposited at The Hunterian (Glasgow University) and is currently in the care of curator Jeanne Robertson, who was most helpful in allowing access to the collection. Brian was a freshwater biologist who worked at the Pitlochry Lab. While much of it was collected in the Pitlochry area from the 1960s to 2000, there are also other sites and later dates. Many of the macro-moth specimens were recorded, but some additional data is being extracted.

### **Northern Brown Argus Survey Day at Lundie Craigs on 25<sup>th</sup> July**

Many thanks to everyone who helped to count eggs at Lundie this year. The weather wasn't great for adults flying, but egg numbers were high, the results are listed below. In addition to the NBA survey, we saw the usual range of species including **Small Pearl -bordered and Dark Green Fritillaries** as well as a couple of **Fox moth** larvae. A micro moth that we netted on the hillside was identified as *Celypha rivulana* (thanks to Mark Young).

NO272373	90	4	Eggs
NO274375	90	2	Eggs
NO277376	90	4.75	Eggs

### **Summary of mean no. eggs counted in 3 minutes at all survey positions 2016- 2024**

#### **Egg count/ Adult count/ Date**

6.25	3	31/07/2016
0.66	None	29/07/2017
1.93	6	15/07/2018
0.54	24	07/07/2019
5.20	17	18/07/2020
2.40	3	23/07/2021
4.27	1	28/07/2022
0.31	7	12/07/2023
3.58	4	25/07/2024

**Written by Cathy Caudwell**

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## Website

We have an excellent website packed with information – find out which moths are on the wing near you or how to submit your records. Visit us at <http://www.eastscotland-butterflies.org.uk/>

## Facebook

Thanks to volunteers our Facebook page is kept up to date with beautiful photos and facts all year round. It's also the best place to stay informed on events occurring in the branch. You can find us under the username [@EastScotlandButterflyConservation](#) and why not join our [East Scottish Moths](#) or [East Scottish Butterflies](#) groups for ID help and discussion.

## Twitter and Instagram

We're present on Twitter and Instagram too, so if you prefer to use these platforms, give us a follow us at [@BCeastscotland](#). You can also view our news feed without having an account!

## Featured Photo



Red Underwing – Binning Wood – photo credit: Katty Baird

**The NEXT Newsletter will be published in May 2025**

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