

# Local Lepidoptera Biodiversity Action for Butterflies and Moths

## Case Study – Réal's Wood White Marcus Malley, Craigavon District Council



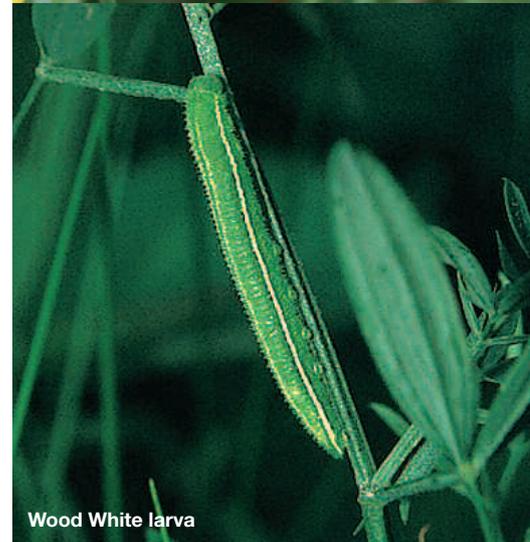
Réal's Wood White is a pretty, delicate butterfly which has been known to exist at Craigavon Lakes for many decades. Craigavon Council which owns the site, is committed to the conservation of this butterfly and has been ensuring that positive management of its habitat takes place. This involves keeping vegetation such as grass and willow under control, as the butterfly needs sheltered, open sites where its food plant, Meadow Vetchling, can thrive.

Réal's Wood White has only been shown to be distinct from the Wood White found in Great Britain in the last few years and we suspect that the colony found at Craigavon Lakes is the largest in all of Northern Ireland and, therefore, the UK. Réal's Wood White is a Priority species in Northern Ireland and also features in the Craigavon Biodiversity Action Plan.

In 2010 Craigavon Lakes became a Local Nature Reserve, recognised by Craigavon Council for its wonderful wildlife, most importantly the Réal's Wood White. If you visit the site in May and June you will find large numbers of Réal's Wood Whites flying and surveys of the site show that numbers of this butterfly are steadily increasing. If you would like more information about Réal's Wood White or Craigavon Lakes, please contact Marcus Malley at Oxford Island Discovery Centre [marcus.malley@craigavon.gov.uk](mailto:marcus.malley@craigavon.gov.uk) 028 3832 2205



Réal's Wood White



Wood White larva

## Case Study – Scarce Crimson and Gold Rachel Bain, North Coast (west) councils

The Scarce Crimson and Gold is one of the UK and Ireland's most attractive moths. You won't find it in most ID guides as it is a micro-moth (small moth), one of many hundreds of small moths that are far trickier to identify and less well known than our macro-moths (large moths).

Throughout the UK and Ireland, the Scarce Crimson and Gold is only found on a tiny number of sites. In the UK, the colony in Northern Ireland is the only site left where this moth is known to exist. As a result the Scarce Crimson and Gold is a UK, Northern Ireland and also Local Priority species. We know that the moth can be found from Portstewart to Magilligan along the north coast, and Limavady and Coleraine Councils will be working with Butterfly Conservation and the National Trust to survey this creature in 2011.

Once we know where the moth is found we will be working to increase the amount of suitable habitat available for it and increasing the connectivity between sites. We know that small, isolated populations are more vulnerable than large, connected populations, and we hope that by doing this work we can ensure a positive future for this small but beautiful species.

If you would like to get involved in surveying the Scarce Crimson and Gold, contact Rachel Bain, Biodiversity Officer for Limavady, Coleraine and Ballymoney councils [Rachel.Bain@coleraine.gov.uk](mailto:Rachel.Bain@coleraine.gov.uk) 028 7034 7272



Scarce Crimson and Gold



Lepidoptera are one of many different groups of creatures that are being conserved throughout Northern Ireland. This richness of life, or biodiversity, is an integral part of our everyday lives and gives us among other things clean water, fresh air, places to visit and amazing sights to see.

The Northern Ireland Environment Agency supports many projects throughout the country, including our biodiversity officers, many of whom work with local councils to promote action for biodiversity locally. This map shows you who is where in Northern Ireland, and what particular butterfly and moth species are important in those areas.

The Biodiversity Northern Ireland website [www.biodiversityni.com](http://www.biodiversityni.com) is full of information about the different biodiversity actions taking place across Northern Ireland. Take a look to find out more!

#### **Antrim**

**Ruth Wilson**  
[ruth.wilson@antrim.gov.uk](mailto:ruth.wilson@antrim.gov.uk)

Key Species: Large Heath, Réal's Wood White

#### **Belfast**

**Orla Maguire**  
[biodiversity@belfastcity.gov.uk](mailto:biodiversity@belfastcity.gov.uk)

Key Species: Garden butterflies and moths

#### **Carrickfergus**

**Stephen Daye**  
[parks@carrickfergus.org](mailto:parks@carrickfergus.org)

Key Species: Garden butterflies and moths

#### **Craigavon**

**Marcus Malley**  
[Marcus.malley@craigavon.gov.uk](mailto:Marcus.malley@craigavon.gov.uk)

Key Species: Réal's Wood White, Marsh Fritillary

#### **Derry/Strabane**

**Christine Doherty**  
[christine.doherty@derrycity.gov.uk](mailto:christine.doherty@derrycity.gov.uk)

Key Species: Marsh Fritillary, Narrow-bordered Bee Hawk-moth

#### **Down/Newry and Mourne**

**Danielle Begley**  
[Danielle.begley@downdc.gov.uk](mailto:Danielle.begley@downdc.gov.uk)

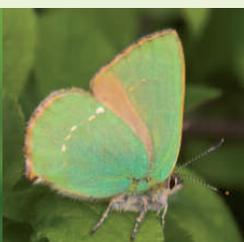
Key Species: Marsh Fritillary, Wall, Grayling



Grayling



Dingy Skipper



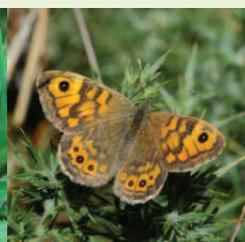
Green Hairstreak



Large Heath



Marsh Fritillary



Wall Brown



Small Tortoiseshell

 Areas with Biodiversity Officers  
 Areas without Biodiversity Officers



**Fermanagh**

**Rose Cremin**

[rose.cremin@fermanagh.gov.uk](mailto:rose.cremin@fermanagh.gov.uk)

Key Species: Marsh Fritillary, Dingy Skipper

**Limavady/Coleraine/Ballymoney**

**Rachel Bain**

[rachel.bain@colerainebc.gov.uk](mailto:rachel.bain@colerainebc.gov.uk)

Key Species: Scarce Crimson and Gold, Small Eggar

**Magherafelt/Dungannon/Cookestown**

**Mark Edgar**

[mark.edgar@dungannon.gov.uk](mailto:mark.edgar@dungannon.gov.uk)

Key Species: Marsh Fritillary, Forester moth

**Moyle/Larne**

**Cara Barr**

[barrc@larne.gov.uk](mailto:barrc@larne.gov.uk)

Key Species: Garden butterflies and moths

**Newtownabbey**

**Lyndsay Matthews**

[lmattthews@newtownabbey.gov.uk](mailto:lmattthews@newtownabbey.gov.uk)

Key Species: Garden butterflies and moths

**Omagh**

**Julie Corry**

[Julie.corry@omagh.gov.uk](mailto:Julie.corry@omagh.gov.uk)

Key Species: Green Hairstreak, Marsh Fritillary, Large Heath



Tortoiseshell



Réal's Wood White



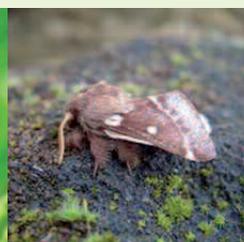
Narrow-bordered Bee Hawk-moth



White Ermine



Forester



Small Eggar



Scarce Crimson & Gold

# Local Lepidoptera Biodiversity Action for Butterflies and Moths

## Case Study – Dingy Skipper Rose Cremin, Fermanagh District Council



**Dingy Skipper butterflies are not much to look at. You would be forgiven for thinking this small brown creature was in fact a moth. Two moths, the Mother Shipton and Burnet Companion, often fly in the same places as the Dingy Skipper and it is very easy to confuse the three!**

Dingy Skippers are only found in County Fermanagh in Northern Ireland, where their caterpillars feed on Bird's-foot-trefoil. Although this plant is found all over Northern Ireland, Dingy Skipper caterpillars require plants that grow on limestone rich soils, which is why they have a very limited distribution. Dingy Skippers are on the UK, Northern Ireland and Fermanagh Biodiversity Action Plan lists, as in many places numbers of the butterfly are in decline.

In Fermanagh this butterfly is only known from a small handful of sites, but one of the best known areas is along the Enniskillen/Derrygonnelly Road. By simple accident, this road is made up of a series of wide bends with steep, south-facing banks on their northern sides. These banks are cut annually by Roads Service to ensure that motorists have a good line of site while driving the road. By happy coincidence this management is perfect for the Dingy Skipper as it encourages low growth of Bird's-foot-trefoil.

In 2011 Fermanagh District Council will be working with Butterfly Conservation to survey Dingy Skipper numbers at known sites. We are hopeful that we will be able to apply for funding to carry out habitat management work along the Derrygonnelly Road in order to create more suitable sites for the Dingy Skipper to colonise, increasing its distribution. Roads Service will be vital to this process and we are very grateful for their support and interest in this project.

If you would like to help survey Dingy Skipper sites and butterflies, please contact Rose Cremin, Fermanagh Biodiversity Officer [rose.cremin@fermanagh.gov.uk](mailto:rose.cremin@fermanagh.gov.uk)  
**028 6632 5050**



Dingy Skipper



Mother Shipton



Burnet Companion

## Case Study – Forester Moth Mark Edgar, Dungannon, Cookestown and Magherafelt Councils

**Although recorded at several locations across Northern Ireland, the Forester Moth is only currently regularly recorded at Peatlands Park in Armagh, with no recent records from other areas. Although it looks like a creature of the night with its blue-black wings, the Forester is a day-flying moth and is most commonly seen nectaring on flowers such as Ragged Robin and Buttercup on sunny days.**

This is a moth which likes wet meadows and fens, habitats which have suffered in recent years from being drained and neglected. This moth needs lots of light and sunshine, so if meadows become overgrown with tall thick vegetation, or shaded out by thick hedgerows, it will quickly disappear. In 2011 we will be encouraging people to look for the Forester throughout Dungannon and Cookestown Districts as it is possible this moth has been overlooked on some sites due to its small size.

If you would be interested in helping us find the Forester, please contact Mark Edgar, Biodiversity Officer for Dungannon, Cookestown and Magherafelt Councils  
[mark.edgar@dungannon.gov.uk](mailto:mark.edgar@dungannon.gov.uk)



Forester Moth

