

Recent notes on Bute Butterflies

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A succession of particularly warm summers and milder winters has apparently produced very favourable conditions for our butterflies, with several species, especially those of striking appearance, such as the Clouded Yellow *Colias crocea*, Red Admiral *Vanessa atalanta*, Painted Lady *Cynthia cardui*, and Peacock *Inachis io*, being reported in unusually large numbers. Other interesting records, some new to Bute, additional to the information previously published (Gibson, 1990 and 2000) are as undernoted. As before, arrangement and nomenclature follow Thomson (1980).

BRIMSTONE *Gonepteryx rhamni*

[No additional information about the possible occurrence of the Brimstone on Bute (*Transactions*, 25: 91) has been forthcoming, so this suggested record must be regarded as unsubstantiated, and be withdrawn. The recent *Millennium Atlas of Butterflies* (Asher, *et al.*, 2001) lists virtually no Scottish records of the Brimstone.]

ORANGE TIP *Anthocharis cardamines*

Now being seen with increasing frequency, since first reported on Bute in 1997 (*Scottish Naturalist*, 109: 40), and a small population has obviously become established on the island, as was previously anticipated.

CAMBERWELL BEAUTY *Nymphalis antiopa*

Records of this large and striking butterfly are very rare in Scotland, but the *Millennium Atlas* (Asher, *et al.*, 2001) gives a record for the 10km square NS15, which may or may not refer to Bute. Unfortunately, so far no further details have become available about the origin of this record. Enquiries will continue.

WALL *Lasiommata megera*

On 9th September 1989 Mr. E. Geoffrey Hancock, Head of the Department of Natural History at Kelvingrove Museum, Glasgow, and a noted entomologist, got a brief glimpse of what was almost certainly a Wall butterfly near the north-west corner of Loch Fad (NS 079625). Mr. Hancock is very familiar with the Wall butterfly in the south of England, but this particular butterfly was not caught and only a brief glimpse was obtained, so this can only remain a probable record.

This interesting sighting, however, should be considered in conjunction with the previous record of the Wall butterfly on Bute, from St. Blain's Hill on 29th June 1975 (*Transactions*, 23: 44), and does indicate the possibility that the Wall butterfly may well occur on Bute in small numbers. Any additional information will be most welcome.

SCOTCH ARGUS *Erebia aethiops*

As a follow-up to the previous account (Gibson, 1990: 43), over the past five years or so there is very good evidence that the Scotch Argus has become very much more common on Bute, possibly because of climate change, and can now be regarded as well known and widely

distributed in all suitable areas. On Bute, this is usually moorland, but there are also many recent records from low-lying areas.

RINGLET *Aphantopus hyperantus*

The *Millennium Atlas* (Asher, *et al.*, 2001) also includes a record of the Ringlet (several specimens) from the 10km square NS15. On enquiry, this record was from the south-east cliff-tops on Bute (NS1153) on 19th July 1997 by Mr. David Mellor, and is a new record for the island. The Ringlet is an uncommon butterfly in the West of Scotland, and no other record from either the Clyde islands or from Clyde Argyll is given in the *Atlas*, so this may be an indication of extension of range.

References

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