

Do You Know Your Chequered Skipper from your Pearl Bordered Fritillary?

Lizzie Cooper

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If you go for a walk along Glen Nevis at the moment all your senses will be stimulated by the sights, sounds and smells of summer. From the aroma of mountain thyme and bog myrtle, the fluttering of golden ringed dragonflies and chequered skippers, the flash of a goldfinch heading back to their nest to the song of the skylark in the morning. Even in the evening, as you walk along the riverside you might witness the aerial acrobatics of pipistrelles hunting for food.

This is a tiny snapshot of a world that may seem superficially familiar; but did you know that bog myrtle has been used for centuries to deter midges or that chequered skipper butterflies are only found within a 30-mile radius of Fort William? The reality is that there is a whole world waiting to be discovered on your doorstep and we can help you get started with our series of expert led workshops.

We kick off our nature series with a Herb Walk and also a Workshop led by West Highland Herbal, both of which will run on the 9th June. The morning event will be a walk to learn about the wild herbs growing along the River Nevis, with a talk about how they can be used in herbal medicine and cooking. The afternoon event will be a practical workshop for those interested in using foraged herbs and plants to make herbal medicine and wild foods.

Are you interested in finding out about our woodland bird populations? We will be running three bird ringing events on 24th June, 22nd July and 26th August, so come along and discover how long blue tits live for in the wild, where Swallows go in the winter and many other fascinating facts! Join John Owen, licenced British Trust for Ornithology bird ringer, in Glen Nevis, to see what birds are currently in the area. John will explain why we ring birds and how it is done safely. If conditions are right, there will be a chance to see wild birds up close before they are released back into the wild.



As June draws to a close, we will take a walk with local wildlife expert Ian Strachan on the 30th to look at wild flowers and meadows. Traditionally managed meadows and grasslands support a wealth of colourful flowers, from Butterfly Orchids to Yellow Rattle. Across Scotland these habitats have been in steep decline due to agricultural improvement, development or neglect, but Lochaber still has some fine examples remaining. Throughout the day you will get to know some of the special wildflowers found in such places and learn how to identify them. It is hoped that volunteers might then be able to identify and record these habitats and species and so help to conserve them.

Do you know your butterflies from your moths? No? Well why not join Tom Prescott of Butterfly Conservation Scotland who is running two workshops for us on 21st July. During Moth Morning you'll be able to find out about the fascinating and wonderful world of moths. We will be checking the contents of moth traps set locally the night before, identifying them and then releasing them back into the wild.

Our next event in the afternoon will be Recording and Monitoring Lochaber's Butterflies. This event will include a brief introduction and indoor presentation on the butterflies of Lochaber, covering all 22 species recorded in the area, followed by a field trip in Glen Nevis to look for butterflies and day-flying moths. It is hoped that participants will be keen to record and help monitor butterflies in Glen Nevis and elsewhere in the local area following this.

Finally, as evening falls on the 7th September we will join Highlife Highland Senior Countryside Ranger, Eilidh-Ann Phillips, for a Bat Talk and Walk in Glen Nevis. This will be an illustrated talk followed by a spotlight walk in Glen Nevis.

All details are on our website www.nevislandscape.co.uk/events so why not join us and learn more about the world on your doorstep!