



**Large Heath**  
*Coenonympha tullia*  
Common on damp acid moorland from June to August. The northern subspecies *scotica* has virtually no spots on the underwings, unlike its southern counterpart.

**Small Heath**  
*Coenonympha pamphilus*  
A common species most often found on upland paths and dry grassy areas from May to October.



Grayling, *Hipparchia semele*

It is most likely to be found at the southern end of South Uist and on Eriskay, Barra and associated islands. It is found in dry and well-drained areas, with sparse vegetation and plenty of bare ground in open positions. Settling with closed wings, it is well camouflaged and can be difficult to spot.

Other butterflies recorded include the speckled wood *Pararge aegeria*, recorded on Lewis since 2004, the ringlet *Aphantopus hyperantus*, on South Uist since 2008 and the orange-tip *Anthocharis cardamines* was most recently seen on Lewis in 2014.

There are rare occurrences of the clouded yellow (migrant from southern Europe) and there have been two records of the Monarch (North American migrant species).



Speckled Wood *Pararge aegeria*

You can discover more about the butterflies and moths recorded in the Outer Hebrides by visiting our website [www.outerhebrideslepidoptera.co.uk](http://www.outerhebrideslepidoptera.co.uk).

We would be interested in receiving information about the butterflies you see, even the common species. For more information please visit the Outer Hebrides Biological Recording website:

[www.ohbr.org.uk](http://www.ohbr.org.uk)



Outer Hebrides Biological Recording

# Butterflies of the Outer Hebrides

This short guide gives you an idea of the butterflies that have been recorded in the islands. Fourteen species are regularly recorded, four species are occasionally seen and two are rare migrants.

Isolation, a limited number of habitats and a rigorous climate means there are fewer species than on the mainland, but due to the sparse use of insecticide and herbicide those that are here do well.



Dark Green Fritillary *Argynnis aglaja*

One of the finest of the islands butterflies, it is the only fritillary found in the Outer Hebrides. It is rarely recorded in Lewis and Harris but common where violets are found in the southern Isles. This large butterfly with a rapid flight is named because of the dark green colour of the underwing.





Green-Veined White *Pieris napi*



The Large White  
*Pieris brassicae*

It is more often encountered as a caterpillar on cabbages in the garden.

A very mobile and widespread migrant species. Most adults are seen close to breeding areas particularly in gardens and around the vegetable patch. Easily distinguished from the other white butterflies by their size.



This is our most common and widely distributed butterfly.

It is distinguished from the small white *Pieris rapae* by the prominent greenish veins on the hind wing and the more diffuse black markings on the upper wing.



Meadow Brown *Maniola jurtina*

A widespread and common grassland species and one of the most common British butterflies. It is a highly variable species and one of the largest and most attractive forms is found in the Outer Hebrides.



Common Blue *Polyommatus icarus*



Hebridean common blues are thought to be the largest and most attractive of all its many variations. Common in grassland areas from May to October.



Small Tortoiseshell  
*Aglais urticae*

A once common species, it has suffered a dramatic population collapse in recent years.

It over winters as an adult and can often be found hibernating in outbuildings.



Peacock  
*Inachis io*

Although nationally common, it is a recent coloniser of the Outer Hebrides and is only seen infrequently.



Red Admiral  
*Vanessa atalanta*

A common migrant species, often found gardens in the late summer and autumn.



Painted Lady  
*Vanessa cardui*

A common migrant species which is found from April to October. The numbers vary from year to year.