

Butterflies OF THE RAVEN

Dedication

We dedicate 'Butterflies of the Raven' to the memory of Christopher J. Wilson (1946-2015), naturalist, author and broadcaster who promoted the enjoyment of all aspects of natural history and encouraged others to do likewise. Chris established the first butterfly monitoring transect in the Republic of Ireland when in 1992 he joined the National Parks and Wildlife Service as Warden of Wexford Wildfowl Reserve. As part of the Irish Butterfly Monitoring Scheme, Chris carefully recorded the butterflies he saw when he walked in the Raven Nature Reserve.

The Irish Butterfly Monitoring Scheme

Established in 2007 the Irish Butterfly Monitoring Scheme supports and co-ordinates a network of citizen scientists across Ireland to monitor and help conserve butterflies. The scheme now records on average 50,000 butterflies each year from over 120 sites across the country. Sadly, in Ireland we know that 18% of our butterfly species are now under threat of extinction.

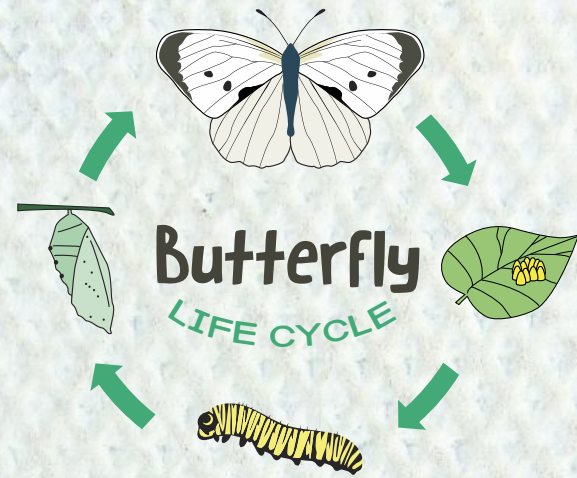
To find out more about the Butterfly Monitoring Scheme, or if you would like to get involved, please take a look at:

www.biodiversityireland.ie/record-biodiversity/surveys/butterfly-monitoring-scheme

We invite you to become a Citizen Scientist at The Raven

Now more than ever we need to know how our butterfly populations are changing and identify which species require the most help.

Please help us continue Chris's invaluable work and observe, record, and report the butterflies that you see here to: www.wexfordnaturalists.com/recording/records-submission



Butterfly Life Cycle

Butterflies have a curious life cycle, going through four stages: egg, caterpillar, chrysalis, and adult. They lay their eggs on a preferred food plant e.g. nettles, violets or wild grasses on which the hatched caterpillar will then feed. Once fully grown, the caterpillar will attach itself to the underside of a leaf or branch and turn into a chrysalis (pupa) from which the adult butterfly will emerge.

As well as being beautiful creatures that have been studied for over 300 years, butterflies are indicators of a healthy environment and healthy ecosystems. Recording them is easier than you think; butterflies are one of the most colourful, easily observed groups of insects.

At the Raven, 25 of the 34 Irish species have been recorded and images of the most common species appear in the centrefold with a short description to help you identify them.



For more information:

Logos for partner organizations: National Biodiversity Data Centre, Wexford Naturalists' Field Club, Friends of the Raven Coastcare Group, An Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta (Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht), and Wexford County Council.

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Butterflies OF THE RAVEN



Designed by Chameleon Creatives, Wexford.

Record how many butterflies you can see in the boxes provided next to each species...

Cryptic Wood White
Bánóg choille dhuaithe.
Leptidea juvernica



Delicate appearance with rounded wings and weak flight. Nationally important populations are present in the Raven.

Flight Period: April to July

Clouded Yellow
Buióg chróch
Colias croceus



A migratory species, especially to the S.E. of Ireland. Easily recognised by its 'sulphur yellow' colour.

Flight Period: April to Nov
commonest in late summer

Large White
Bánóg mhór
Pieris brassicae



Larger than other whites. Dark tips extend down outer edge of wing.

Flight Period: April to Oct

Small White
Bánóg bheag
Pieris rapae



Underwing yellowish. Dark tips do not extend down outer edge of wing.

Flight Period: April to Oct

Green-veined White
Bánóg uaine
Pieris napi



White butterfly with green venation on underside of hindwing.

Flight Period: March to Sept

Orange Tip
Barr Bui
Anthocharis cardamines



Male has orange patch on forewing. Both sexes have green marbling on under hindwing.

Flight Period: April to July

Small Copper
Copróg bheag
Lycaena phlaeas



Attractive fast-flying small butterfly. Easily identified.

Flight Period: April to Oct

Small Blue
Gormán beag
Cupido minimus



Can be overlooked due to its small size. Flies low over the ground. Nationally important populations present here.

Flight Period: May to June

Common Blue
Gormán coiteann
Polymmatius icarus



Dark blue colour, orange spots on underwing. Normally flies at eye-level or below.

Flight Period: May to Sept

Holly Blue
Gormán cuilinn
Celastrina argiolus



Light blue, occurs in open wooded areas and along hedgerows. Normally flies higher than Common Blue.

Flight Period: April to Oct
commonest in May and August

Red Admiral
Aimiréal dearg
Vanessa atalanta



Large common migrant from the continent.

Flight Period: April to Nov

Painted Lady
Ailleán
Vanessa cardui



A large migratory species. Pale orange with black markings. Often rests on the ground.

Flight Period: April to Oct

Small Tortoiseshell
Ruán beag
Aglais urticae



A very common and familiar butterfly.

Flight Period: Feb to Nov

Peacock
Péacóg
Inachis io



A large colourful butterfly with prominent blue 'eyes' on each wing.

Flight Period: March to Oct

Comma
Camóg
Polygonia c-album



Scalloped margin to wings and white 'comma' at centre of under hindwing.

Flight Period: March to Oct

Silver-washed Fritillary
Fritileán geal
Argynnis paphia



Large, orange, with dancing flight. Hind underwing washed green and broken by white/silver lines.

Flight Period: June to Sept

Speckled Wood
Breacfhéileacán coille
Pararge aegeria



Common species found in woodland clearings and along hedgerows.

Flight Period: April to Oct

Gatekeeper
Geatóir
Pyronia tithonus



A butterfly of hedgerows and woodland clearings. Always two white spots in the eyespot on forewing.

Flight Period: July to Sept

Meadow Brown
Donnóg fhéir
Maniola jurtina



Common grassland butterfly. One white spot in the eyespot on forewing.

Flight Period: June to Sept

Ringlet
Fainneog
Aphantopus hyperantus



Common species found in grassy places. Dark appearance. Small rings around spots on underside of wings.

Flight Period: June to August

Small Heath
Fraochán beag
Coenonympha pamphilus



The smallest of the brown butterflies. Found in grassy places.

Flight Period: May to Sept

...If you see a butterfly that looks quite different to any listed here, please take a photo and submit it to the Wexford Naturalists' Field Club.