



Butterflies of Gaddon and Birnie Lochs

S.T. Buckland



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The grasslands around Gaddon Loch especially are a haven for butterflies. This covers the species that I have been able to photograph at Gaddon and Birnie Lochs, and I think includes all those species that occur there regularly.

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Large white

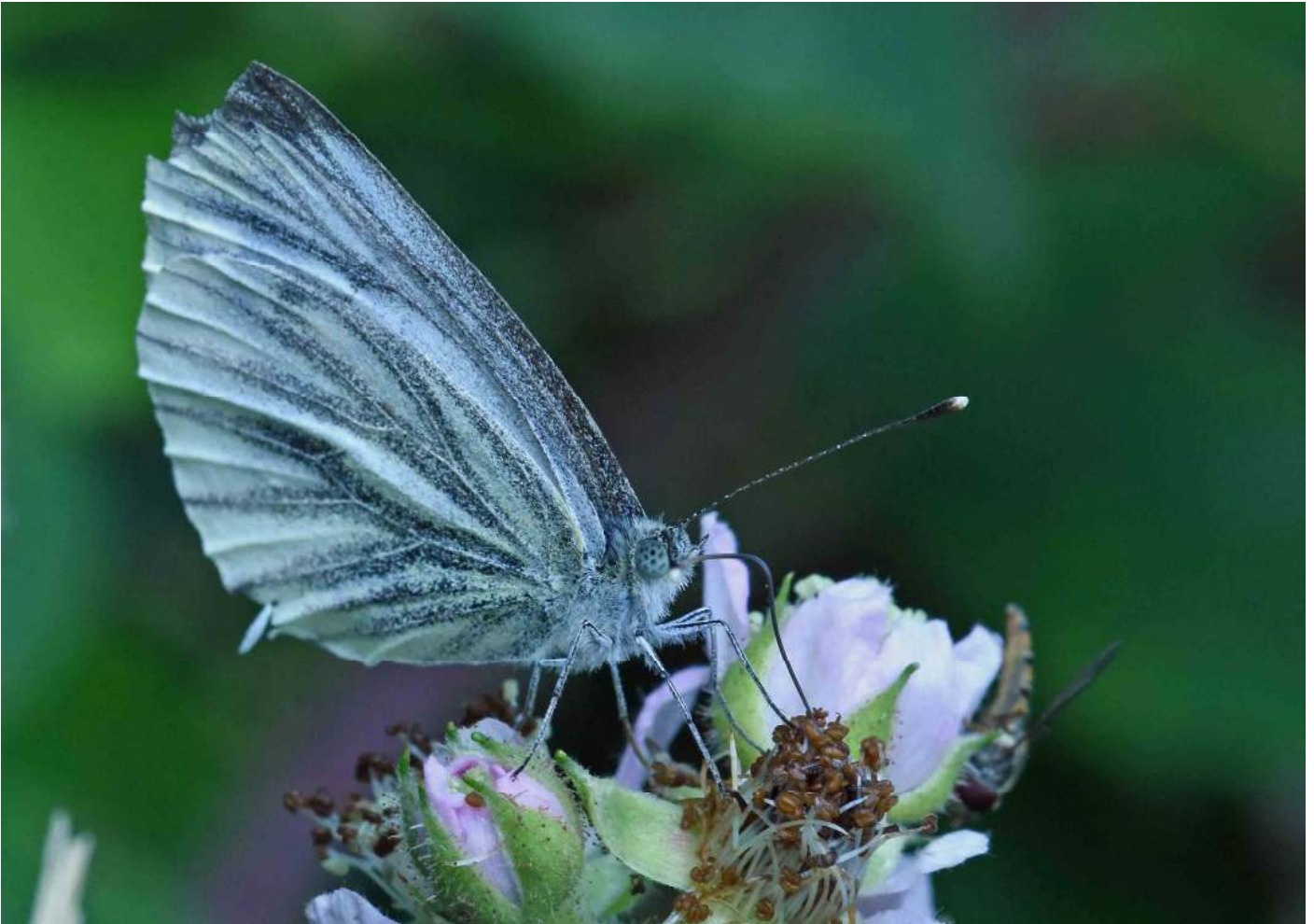
Can be common in farmland, with individuals sometimes appearing at Gaddon and Birnie.





Small white

Common, but appreciably less common than the green-veined white.



Green-veined white

Common wherever there is suitable habitat.





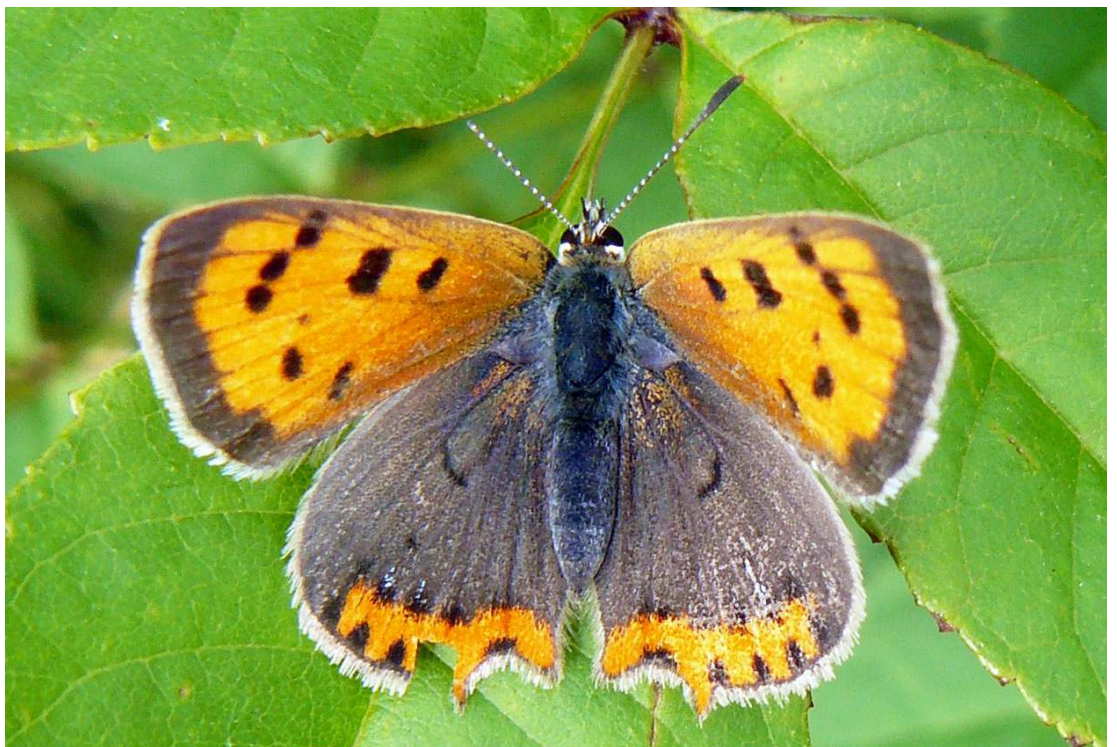
Orange tip

A late spring and early summer species,
common in grassland.



Small copper

Small numbers occur at Gaddon Loch.





Common blue

Locally distributed, but occurs where its food plant, bird's foot trefoil, is plentiful. These (male above, female below) were at Gaddon Loch.





Dark green fritillary

Uncommon. These were at Gaddon Loch in early July 2019.





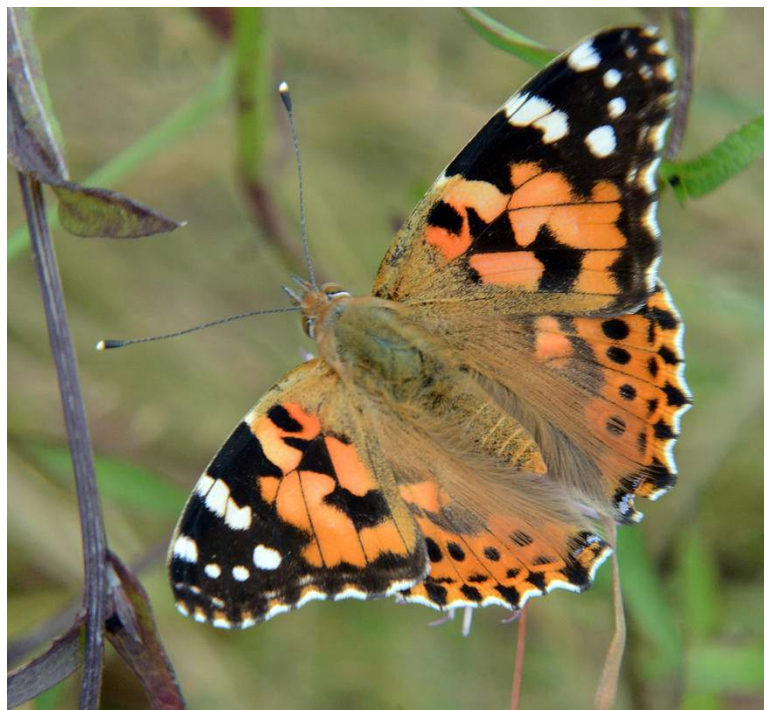
Red admiral

A common species especially in late summer.



Painted lady

A migrant species that sometimes arrives in Britain in large numbers. This individual was at Gaddon Loch.





Small tortoiseshell

Common in suitable habitats.



Peacock

The peacock has spread north in recent years and is now one of the most common butterflies in Fife.



Comma

A distinctive species that is spreading northwards into Fife. Occurs at Gaddon Loch.





Meadow brown

A common species of grassland.





Ringlet

Another common grassland species.





Small heath

A few occur at Gaddon Loch; this one was one of five there in July 2019.