



## PAISLEY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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### Newsletter August 2014

#### News

Paisley Natural History Society has been contacted by Dr Alan Knox regarding a project to digitise the Scottish and Western Naturalist journals. Please see the letter below and if anyone has any queries please contact him at the email address supplied.

#### ***The Scottish Naturalist & The Western Naturalist – free online access***

Over the years the *Scottish Naturalist* and the *Western Naturalist* have published a great many important papers, as well as notes and obituaries documenting the history and development of Scottish natural history. Latterly in particular, the journals had limited circulation and access has been difficult for anyone who did not receive their own printed copies or have a set of the journal(s) in a nearby library.

We would like to make access to the full run of the journals available through the Biodiversity Heritage Library. The BHL [www.biodiversitylibrary.org](http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org), whose main partners in the UK are the Natural History Museum and the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, has become the world's main free archive of digitised natural history literature, and has established itself as a leading online research library. If you don't already know it, you should have a look – it offers free access to a vast amount of historical books and journals, including the *Scottish Naturalist* and the *Annals of Scottish Natural History* through to 1922, the *Proceedings of the Glasgow Natural History Society*, rare books by Pennant, Harvie-Brown, MacGillivray and much more. By adding the rest of the *Scottish Naturalist* (after 1922) and the short run of the *Western Naturalist* to the BHL we hope this will allow more people around the world to find and read these journals and appreciate their contribution to natural history. It will bring these journals to many new audiences.

The heirs of Dr Jack Gibson, as well as Aberdeen University Press and the current owners of Oilver & Boyd as publishers of the journal have either given their consent, or raised no objections to this plan. Authors, photographers and artists originally submitted their articles and other material to the *Scottish Naturalist* and the *Western Naturalist* for print publication, mostly before the idea of digital access came along. It is now impracticable or impossible to trace all the individual contributors or their legal representatives, but we believe that most or all would be happy to see their work now reaching new and wider audiences to the overall benefit of Scottish natural history. If any copyright holder does not wish to have their material included in free digital access, they are asked to contact [mail@the-soc.org.uk](mailto:mail@the-soc.org.uk) to discuss this with us as soon as possible, preferably before 1 December 2014. Arrangements are in place to have material excluded from web access where necessary.

Dr. Alan G. Knox  
Emeritus Head of Museums  
Aberdeen University

## Autumn Outing

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> August

**Purple Hairstreak Outing**  
**Erskine Harbour and Boden Boo**

**Leader: Norman Tait**  
**Phone 0141 885 1951**

**Meet at the Watermill car park, Paisley at 2pm.**

Purple Hairstreaks emerge much later in the day than other butterflies, late afternoon and evening being the optimum time. So, we will visit Erskine Harbour and have a short walk on surfaced paths downriver from the carpark to look for autumn waders on the shoreline. On returning to the carpark later in the afternoon, we will then take the path up to the Boden Boo Plantation where there are many large oak trees. The Purple Hairstreak's life cycle is closely associated with the oak tree. If we are lucky we may see some flying around lower down at head height on the smaller oak trees before they migrate to the canopy of the oaks where they fly, pair and lay their eggs in the oak tree buds. These eggs will overwinter.

## Autumn Talks Programme

### Paisley Museum

7.30pm

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September**

**Geodiversity: Protecting and promoting Scotland's geological heritage and iconic landscapes by Dr Simon Cuthbert (Scottish Geodiversity Forum and Geological Society of Glasgow)**

Scotland has extraordinary diversity in its geology and physical geography. Yet Scotland's geodiversity is, arguably, under-appreciated, under-resourced and subject to similar threats as biodiversity. In this talk we will take a journey through Scotland's geological foundations and explore its significance for natural history, culture and society. We will see how Scotland's new Geodiversity Charter and the Scottish Geodiversity Forum are promoting and protecting geodiversity and establishing its status alongside biodiversity.

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October**

**Windows on Wildlife Project by Hayley Douglas (Windows on Wildlife Development Officer, Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park)**

Using a number of trail cameras, many of the nocturnal and secretive species that reside in the park have been caught on camera. This intimate footage shows many different behavioural aspects as well as interactions between individuals and some very funny and unusual events.

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November**

**Scottish Wildcats by Adrian Davis**

Adrian is a leading authority on Scottish Wildcats and has developed an extensive knowledge of this elusive creature. Using field signs combined with remote camera traps, he has surveyed vast areas of NW Scotland, to identify distribution, habitat requirements and localised "hotspots". Adrian previously managed the Wildcat Haven Project, based at Lochaber. The project aimed to conserve and protect the Scottish Wildcat by controlling the number of feral and domestic cats through large scale neutering, as they can easily hybridise and so dilute the pure Wildcat gene pool. This is the single, largest risk to an estimated population of only 30 - 400 individuals left in Scotland.

## Wildlife Sighting

Nuthatch spotted on Renfrew Golf Course on the 14 March.

## Subscriptions

Please note that subscriptions are now due for 2014/15. They are as follows: **Ordinary £10, Family £14, Unwaged £4.**

Subscriptions can be paid at the meetings to our Treasurer, Anne Gray or by sending a cheque along with membership form to Paisley Natural History Society C/o Paisley Museum.

[www.paisleynaturalhistorysociety.org](http://www.paisleynaturalhistorysociety.org)

[www.facebook.com/PaisleyNaturalHistorySociety](https://www.facebook.com/PaisleyNaturalHistorySociety)

*Nicola Macintyre*