

Now that Silver-studded Blue have emerged and Meadow Brown numbers are building we are beginning to get more encouraging numbers. A huge leap this week to a total of 910 butterflies, which is 11.42 per kilometre. This is the highest density for Week 11 since we began recording in 2011. Ten routes had their highest counts of the year and Silver-studded Blue were also recorded on ten routes. The highest Silver-studded Blue count was Dibden Bottom (63, 86/km), followed by Vales Moor (53, 23/km), Rockford Common (49, 19/km) and Acres Down (34, 15/km).



Silver-studded Blue at Acres Down
John Lawrence



Marbled White at Mockbeggar
John Levell

Eight different species were seen at Barton Common, Breamore & Mockbeggar. White Admiral & Marbled White are new species for 2018 this week and it won't be long before Gatekeeper & Ringlet begin to fly. We have seen a Silver-washed Fritillary quite near to Kings Copse Inclosure and Dark Green Fritillary have also been seen in Hampshire. Large Skippers should also boost counts soon, particularly on the semi-shaded woodland transects.

Twenty-one different species were seen overall:

Meadow Brown (383) (240 of these were at Mockbeggar!), Silver-studded Blue (236), Speckled Wood (140), Small Heath (35), Small White (34), Large Skipper (23), Brimstone (14), Red Admiral (13), Large White (8), Common Blue (5), Painted Lady (4), Green Hairstreak (3), White Admiral (3), Pearl-bordered Fritillary (2), Small/Essex Skipper (1), Green-veined White (1), Small Copper (1), Brown Argus (1), Holly Blue (1), Peacock (1) and Marbled White (1).



Meadow Brown at Broadley
Geoff Moore

Results

Week 10: Total - 421 Week 11: Total - 934 (Figures include Roe transects)

Weeks		Weeks		Weeks	
10	11	10	11	10	11
Acres Down	2 43	Hasley	0 11	Normandy Marsh	18 67
Badminton	20 17	Hawkhill	7 8	Perrywood Ivy	15 15
Barton Common	6 12	Hightown	2 0	Pignal	3 11
Beaulieu Heath	7 10	Holmsley	20 16	Pondhead	3 10
Blackwater	6 6	Ibsley	0 17	Pondhead Wood	21 19
Breamore	58 58	Janesmoor	2 2	Rockford	0 57
Broadley	9 10	Janesmoor Plain	5 1	Roe North	17 8
Dibden Bottom	0 63	Keeping Marsh	3 6	Roe South	18 16
Fields Heath	29 25	Kings Copse	8 12	Standing Hat	8 9
Frohawk	12 9	Lepe	20 23	Studland Common	1 15
Godshill	5 2	Little Linford	5 6	Vales Moor	0 53
Great Linford	20 30	Mockbeggar	58 254	Warren Farm	13 13

Moth to Spot from Jacky: In the second half of June, Narrow-bordered Five-spot Burnet moths (<https://www.ukmoths.org.uk/species/zygaena-lonicerae/>) may be seen on some transects - particularly those with rough grassland including some woodland rides. In flight the underwing gives it a red appearance and it flies relatively strongly. When settled on flowers, the red underwing is mainly hidden behind the distinctive, relatively narrow black forewings, each of which has five red spots - two near the head (which can appear as if a single spot) and three going down the wing. Do count the spots as the more common Six-spot Burnet will start to emerge in July. Also, if looking at guides for day flying moths do not be misled - there is a New Forest Burnet which is black with five spots but this is considered to be extinct in this area and is now only found in Scotland! Remember that the Cinnabar (<https://www.ukmoths.org.uk/species/tyria-jacobaeae/>) is also still flying. This also looks red in flight, although it is more fluttery when flying. When at rest, this has broader black forewings with a clear red stripe down the outer edge and two red dots on the tail end of each wing - do follow the links to see pictures as these moths are quite easy to tell apart.