

Hopefully we have reached the low point of the June lull this week!

Only 386 butterflies in total were seen this week, equating to 4.85 butterflies/km. This is actually the highest density we have recorded for Week 10 since starting in 2011. By Week 12 we should be looking at decent counts over all transects.

A distinct increase in species diversity this week with four species recorded on transect for the first time in 2018: Meadow Brown, Large Skipper, Painted Lady & Silver-studded Blue. A Pearl-bordered Fritillary was also reported at Holmsley for the first time. Silver-studded Blue have been seen at Ibsley (not on transect) & Hale Purlieu so expect some encouraging numbers soon as the females start to emerge on the heathland transects of which all but Beaulieu Heath had a zero count this week. The over-wintering species are now failing fast, but the first week of Meadow Brown has seen them straight into second position.



Common Blue at Frohawk  
Keith Brook

Twenty different species were seen overall: Speckled Wood (146), Meadow Brown (64), Common Blue (52), Large White (29), Brimstone (19), Small Heath (16), Small White (15), Pearl-bordered Fritillary (15), Large Skipper (7), Red Admiral (6), Green-veined White (3), Green Hairstreak (3), Holly Blue (3), Painted Lady (2), Orange-tip (1), Small Copper (1), Silver-studded Blue (1), Brown Argus (1), Peacock (1) and Comma (1).

**Results**

Week 9: Total - 488      Week 10: Total - 421 (Figures include exploratory Roe transects)

	Weeks			Weeks			Weeks	
	9	10		9	10		9	10
Acres Down .....	2	2	Hasley.....	0	0	Normandy Marsh .....	25	18
Badminton.....	19	20	Hawkhill .....	3	7	Perrywood Ivy.....	41	15
Barton Common....	21	6	Hightown.....	1	2	Pignal.....	18	3
Beaulieu Heath .....	13	7	Holmsley .....	14	20	Pondhead .....	6	3
Blackwater .....	3	6	Ibsley .....	5	0	Pondhead Wood.....	3	21
Breamore .....	92	58	Janesmoor .....	4	2	Rockford .....	0	0
Broadley.....	11	9	Janesmoor Plain.....	2	5	Roe North .....	8	17
Dibden Bottom.....	3	0	Keeping Marsh.....	9	3	Roe South.....	24	18
Fields Heath.....	30	29	Kings Copse .....	18	8	Standing Hat.....	18	8
Frohawk.....	29	12	Lepe.....	0	20	Studland Common...	13	1
Godshill.....	8	5	Little Linford .....	2	5	Vales Moor.....	1	0
Great Linford.....	13	20	Mockbeggar.....	27	58	Warren Farm.....	2	13



Mating Blue-tailed Damselflies at Warren Farm  
Allan Orme

Large Skippers, a New Forest speciality, should soon boost numbers, particularly at Frohawk, Pignal, Perrywood Ivy & Standing Hat, so we should expect bumper numbers in Week 11?

**Moths to Spot:** This week do look out for the Yellow Shell (<https://www.ukmoths.org.uk/species/camptogramma-bilineata/>) a pretty, medium sized moth which is most often seen in fields and meadows but can also be found along woodland rides and on heaths. As its name suggests, this moth has a distinctive yellow or orange-yellow background colour with many fine wavy brownish (occasionally white) cross lines. We saw some on the trip to Martin Down as they are easily disturbed during the day. It is thought that this species may be under-recorded as it isn't often attracted to the light of moth traps so it would be great to see how

widespread it is throughout the forest and surrounds. It will usually be on the wing from June through to August so do look out for it on our transects.