

The highest total weekly count so far this year - 6,818. This equates to nearly 86 butterflies/km, once again the highest density for the comparable week in previous years. Twenty-one different species were seen on the Mockbeggar transect alone and 26 overall. A White-letter Hairstreak was a first for the Breamore transect. Dark Green Fritillary were recorded at Hawkhill after a number of years absence from the transect. At last, a good number of Gatekeeper are around which should keep numbers high as Silver-studded Blue decline.



Dark Green Fritillary at Hawkhill
Bob Annell



Painted Lady at Mockbeggar
John Levell

The 'Mid season summary' is attached for your enjoyment. Overall 32 different species have been recorded and most routes have higher aggregate total counts than at this stage last year, especially Janesmoor Plain, Normandy Marsh, Pignal, Rockford & Vales Moor. However, the following routes have lower counts: Beaulieu Heath North, Breamore, Keeping Marsh, Kings Copse, Studland Common & Warren Farm. The overall graph comparing the weekly densities for previous three years clearly shows that 2018 is one of the best for abundance.

Twenty-six different species were seen overall this week: Meadow Brown (1,789), Ringlet (1,127), Large Skipper (859), Silver-studded Blue (706), Gatekeeper (490), Silver-washed Fritillary (397), Marbled White (312), Small White (300), Small/Essex Skipper (292 - of which 24 were identified as Small Skipper and 1 as Essex Skipper), Large White (156), Green-veined White (109), Brimstone (106), Small Heath (54), Speckled Wood (35), Comma (22), White Admiral (16), Red Admiral (12), Peacock (11), Common Blue (7), Small Copper (4), Small Tortoiseshell (4), Dark Green Fritillary (4), Holly Blue (3), White-lettered Hairstreak (2) and Painted Lady (1).



Large Skipper at Vales Moor
Andrew Boyd

Results

Week 13: Total - 6,146 Week 14: Total - 7,369 (Figures include exploratory Roe transects)

	Weeks			Weeks			Weeks	
	13	14		13	14		13	14
Acres Down	93	55	Hasley.....	190	301	Normandy Marsh ...	193	160
Badminton.....	183	230	Hawkhill	68	210	Perrywood Ivy.....	306	684
Barton Common..	131	130	Hightown.....	12	15	Pignal.....	248	428
Beaulieu Heath	67	138	Holmsley	177	233	Pondhead	61	87
Blackwater	88	120	Ibsley	109	32	Pondhead Wood.....	96	140
Breamore	546	762	Janesmoor	79	129	Rockford	196	42
Broadley.....	21	56	Janesmoor Plain...	55	52	Roe North	82	237
Dibden Bottom....	153	148	Keeping Marsh.....	30	65	Roe South.....	196	314
Fields Heath.....	463	197	Kings Copse	143	149	Standing Hat.....	341	319
Frohawk.....	610	519	Lepe.....	180	233	Studland Common..	49	122
Godshill.....	55	118	Little Linford	73	113	Vales Moor.....	253	211
Great Linford.....	128	91	Mockbeggar	447	410	Warren Farm.....	24	119



Small Copper at Barton Common
Trevor Bumfrey

Last year Week 15 was the peak, so maybe the same this year? Grayling should soon make an appearance on the heathland transects and we will be looking for additional areas to set up transects to specifically monitor this fast declining species. Please look out also for Clouded Yellow, it's about time these summer visitors turned up on our coastal transects.

Moth to Spot: This week's focus is on the **Beautiful Yellow Underwing** (<https://www.ukmoths.org.uk/species/anarta-myrtilli/adult-2/>),

which has been flying for some weeks now on heathland and can be seen through into August. This pretty little moth has an intricate white pattern on a reddish / chestnut background to its forewings and a bright yellow underwing, with a broad black border. The yellow colour will be seen in flight or if the moth rests with its forewings parted. Its larvae feed on heathers, giving something to look out for on heathland transects once the Silver-studded Blues start to disappear.