

A dive in the total count for the week, to 5,221, seems to indicate that the 2018 peak has now passed. The lack of nectar source, especially on the open forest is clearly evident. The overall rate of 65.55 butterflies/km is down on the corresponding week last year.



Speckled Wood at Great Linford  
Mike Barnes

Gatekeeper have increased in numbers and Meadow Brown almost halved. Speckled Wood are making a strong comeback and Grayling counts are twice that of Week 15. Silver-studded Blue and White Admiral are clearly on the wane. No Small tortoiseshell reported this week and Red Admiral are also low in numbers but hopefully expected to increase soon with the arrival of some continental cousins.



Large White at Holmsley  
Trevor Bumfrey

Twenty-six different species were seen overall this week: Gatekeeper (1,809), Meadow Brown (1,085), Small White (429), Ringlet (377), Speckled Wood (246), Silver-washed Fritillary (242), Large White (173), Large Skipper (150), Brimstone (150), Green-veined White (101), Small/Essex Skipper (88, of which 16 were identified as Small Skipper and 3 as Essex Skipper), Common Blue (72), Silver-studded Blue (63), Grayling (47), Marbled White (35), Peacock (29), Holly Blue (25), Small Copper (20), Small Heath (20), Brown Argus (18), Comma (16), White Admiral (12), Red Admiral (12), Purple Hairstreak (1) and Dark Green Fritillary (1).



Essex Skipper at Mockbeggar  
John Levell

**Results**

Week 15: Total - 7,712    Week 16: Total - 5,727  
(Figures include exploratory Roe transects)

Weeks		Weeks		Weeks	
	15	16		15	16
Acres Down .....	56	33	Hasley.....	304	133
Badminton.....	227	114	Hawkhill .....	191	256
Barton Common....	88	111	Hightown.....	42	18
Beaulieu Heath ...	162	105	Holmsley .....	397	285
Blackwater .....	92	108	Ibsley .....	35	38
Breamore .....	784	814	Janesmoor .....	183	107
Broadley.....	62	47	Janesmoor Plain...	61	72
Dibden Bottom ....	115	13	Keeping Marsh.....	36	77
Fields Heath.....	146	170	Kings Copse .....	362	418
Frohawk.....	324	153	Lepe.....	221	174
Godshill.....	103	99	Little Linford .....	103	89
Great Linford .....	111	56	Mockbeggar .....	343	299
			Normandy Marsh....	221	67
			Perrywood Ivy.....	1,094	230
			Pignal.....	275	107
			Pondhead .....	164	143
			Pondhead Wood....	179	152
			Rockford .....	101	98
			Roe North .....	227	189
			Roe South.....	258	317
			Standing Hat.....	170	269
			Studland Common..	161	106
			Vales Moor.....	147	139
			Warren Farm .....	167	121

This years Big Butterfly Count started on 20th July and goes through to 12th August. Please visit the following link to download your form. This scheme contributes around 8,000 records for the Hampshire Database. <https://www.bigbutterflycount.org/>



Small Copper at  
Vales Moor  
John French

**Moth to Spot:** This week's moth to spot is the male Oak Eggar (<https://www.ukmoths.org.uk/species/lasiocampa-quercus/>) a large, dark brown moth with a broad, yellowish outer band on the forewing. About the size of a Small Tortoiseshell butterfly, this moth flies fast, in a zigzag pattern, tending to be seen in the afternoon. Despite its name, this moth's larvae feed mainly on heathers, although they can be found on a range of other plants and may be seen in a wide range of habitats including both heathland and woodland rides.