

Another drop in numbers to 3,621 this week (107/transect) as we begin to lose Silver-studded Blue, Large Skipper and Marbled White. Large and Small White numbers are also falling.



Speckled Wood at Godshill
Ian Lloyd-Williams

Common Blue & Holly Blue are now around in good numbers and we would expect both Small Copper & Small Heath counts to rise before the end of the season. Total count equates to an overall density of 45.5 butterflies/km, nearly 15% down on the corresponding week in 2017.

Twenty-seven different species were seen overall this week:

Gatekeeper (1,379), Meadow Brown (570), Speckled Wood (269), Small White (241), Brimstone (165), Common Blue (152), Silver-washed Fritillary (138), Ringlet (131), Large White (107), Green-veined White (105), Holly Blue (76), Large Skipper (66), Small/Essex Skipper (58, of which 14 were identified as Small Skipper), Comma (30), Grayling (30), Silver-studded Blue (23), Small Copper (22),

Brown Argus (14), Red Admiral (11), Marbled White (8), Peacock (7), Dark Green Fritillary (6 - all at Breamore), Small Heath (6), White Admiral (3), Small Tortoiseshell (2), Painted Lady (1) and Purple Hairstreak (1).



Brown Argus at Janesmoor
Nigel Owen

Results

Week 16: Total - 5,727 Week 17: Total - 3,861 (Figures include exploratory Roe transects)

	Weeks			Weeks			Weeks	
	16	17		16	17		16	17
Acres Down	33	28	Hasley.....	133	58	Normandy Marsh.....	67	58
Badminton	114	171	Hawkhill	256	56	Perrywood Ivy.....	230	219
Barton Common ..	111	93	Hightown.....	18	46	Pignal.....	107	95
Beaulieu Heath ...	105	17	Holmsley	285	108	Pondhead	143	43
Blackwater	108	75	Ibsley	38	40	Pondhead Wood.....	152	88
Breamore	814	616	Janesmoor	107	89	Rockford	98	61
Broadley.....	47	43	Janesmoor Plain...	72	50	Roe North	189	104
Dibden Bottom.....	13	30	Keeping Marsh.....	77	24	Roe South.....	317	136
Fields Heath.....	170	190	Kings Copse	418	180	Standing Hat.....	269	108
Frohawk.....	153	211	Lepe.....	174	113	Studland Common..	106	107
Godshill.....	99	50	Little Linford	89	65	Vales Moor.....	139	28
Great Linford.....	56	84	Mockbeggar.....	299	265	Warren Farm	121	112

It seems that Week 18 will be cooler so please look out for butterflies resting on bracken, heather, (dead) grass etc, especially earlier in the day as they warm up. We're still awaiting our first Clouded Yellow photo of the year and possibly still a chance to get a picture of a Purple Hairstreak but not for much longer!

There are plenty of ticks around at present so do please remember to check yourselves over on return from a transect. If you are at all concerned, refer to your doctor as soon as possible. A useful NHS link is: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/Lyme-disease/>. During our ID walks, John Levell offered us all a tick repellent to be sprayed over clothes and skin (with a hand garden sprayer):

1 part water, 2 parts distilled vinegar, perfumed with oil such as Lavender if you wish



Silver-washed Fritillary (Valezina form) at Perrywood Ivy
Jacky Adams

Moth to Spot: Some moths, like some butterflies, have more than one generation in a year. The **Common Carpet** (<https://www.ukmoths.org.uk/species/epirrhoe-alternata/>), is one such moth. Some were recorded in May in their first flight period and, in a usual year, it would be expected that more would be seen during August and into September, although we will need to see if this is the case, given the present weather conditions! Click on the link above for a picture of this moth which is seen in a range of habitats.