

This week, 54% of the butterflies recorded were Speckled Wood. The overall density was 9.7 butterflies/km which is around the same as the last three years for Week 22.



Speckled Wood at Janesmoor
John Lawrence

The 'blues' Common, Holly & Small Copper have been seen in reasonable numbers, also a few Grayling were recorded on the heathland transects. However, perhaps we have reached the end of Gatekeeper until next year?

Just to let you know that four of our five new transects for this year have now been registered with the United Kingdom Butterfly Monitoring Scheme (UKBMS) with new Team Leaders appointed for Roe North.

Being aware that Butterfly Conservation are keen to set up more transects to monitor Grayling (a fast declining species in UK), together with Nigel Owen (Hampshire Grayling Champion), we have been

investigating possibilities over the past few weeks and identified four potential routes. The choice over the heathlands of the New Forest was almost endless and we had to consider accessibility and convenience of our current recording resource although Nigel has already recruited seven recorders to cover what will be 'Single species transects'.

Recording will commence in Weeks 9 or 10 (late May or early June) hopefully to secure early Silver-studded Blue sightings as they fly in similar habitat. We are still awaiting Forestry Commission approval for two of the transects (Wilverley and Claypits), but Broomy Bottom & Yew Tree Heath have been approved and will be added to our 2019 FC Permit. Please contact Bob & Jean or Nigel if you are interested in helping with this new initiative.



Holly Blue at Roe North
Michael Hedge

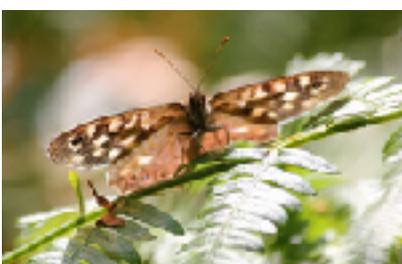
Fourteen different species were seen this week: Speckled Wood (415), Small White (98), Meadow Brown (72), Common Blue (45), Small Copper (37), Large White (23), Holly Blue (22), Brown Argus (15), Small Heath (15), Green-veined White (12), Comma (7), Grayling (7), Red Admiral (3) and Painted Lady (1).

Results

Week 21: Total - 1,116 Week 22: Total - 820 (Figures include exploratory Roe transects)

| Weeks | | Weeks | | Weeks | |
|----------------|--------|-----------------|---------|-----------------|-------|
| 21 | 22 | 21 | 22 | 21 | 22 |
| Acres Down | 3 4 | Hasley | 14 17 | Normandy Marsh | 11 13 |
| Badminton | 27 8 | Hawkhill | 20 22 | Perrywood Ivy | 24 9 |
| Barton Common | 12 7 | Hightown | 1 2 | Pignal | 25 8 |
| Beaulieu Heath | 7 12 | Holmsley | 45 80 | Pondhead | 11 8 |
| Blackwater | 11 13 | Ibsley | 26 3 | Pondhead Wood | 38 13 |
| Breamore | 209 76 | Janesmoor | 23 7 | Rockford | 10 2 |
| Broadley | 9 41 | Janesmoor Plain | 3 19 | Roe North | 43 48 |
| Dibden Bottom | 0 1 | Keeping Marsh | 6 11 | Roe South | 73 * |
| Fields Heath | 75 35 | Kings Copse | 42 18 | Standing Hat | 23 9 |
| Frohawk | 18 6 | Lepe | 32 16 | Studland Common | 16 15 |
| Godshill | 16 23 | Little Linford | 33 32 | Vales Moor | 4 2 |
| Great Linford | 43 51 | Mockbeggar | 151 173 | Warren Farm | 12 16 |

* Transect walked - results awaited



Speckled Wood at Godshill. Diane Strudwick

Moth to Spot The Ruby Tiger (<https://ukmoths.org.uk/species/phragmatobia-fuliginosa/>) has two broods in southern England and may still be on the wing in September. As the name suggests, this moth is a reddish / chestnut colour, with what appears to be a furry head and white antennae. It is widespread as its larvae feed on a variety of herbaceous plants including Plantains and Common Ragwort.