

New Forest Transect Group Newsletter 2020

Week 15

It was another decent week of good counts, mainly from the New Forest Inclosures where 'browns' are flying in high numbers. A total of 6,746 butterflies were recorded equating to a density of 57.28 butterflies/transect kilometre. This is far less than the 2018 density for Week 15 (94.15) but the peak in 2018 was not achieved until Week 16.



This week saw the first record of Purple Hairstreak this year (Lepe) while the only routes not to record Gatekeeper were Ballard Water Meadows, Black Down & Pimlico Fields. Mockbeggar had the highest diversity with 19 different species. The total number of Meadow Brown recorded this year now stands at 7,498, exceeding Silver-studded Blue by 935 - a sure sign that the latter are declining fast. White Admiral too are less abundant, only being recorded at Kings Copse this week.

Results Week 15 (Preliminary counts subject to final verification)

Count	No of Species	Count	No of Species	Count	No of Species
Acres Down61	10	Fields Heath112	16	Normandy Marsh24	6
Badminton.....61	12	Frohawk.....286	16	Perrywood Ivy486	14
Ballard31	6	Furzey Gardens.....	l/d	Pignal.....326	15
Barton Common71	9	Godshill82	12	Pimlico Fields.....148	8
Beaulieu Heath18	5	Great Linford220	12	Pondhead.....44	9
Black Down.....93	5	Hasley191	16	Pondhead Wood69	9
Blackwater49	10	Hawkhill.....103	12	Rockford.....61	9
Blashford North.....135	15	Hightown Common.....21	9	Roe North.....126	15
Blashford South....114	11	Holmsley.....176	12	Roe South.....348	13
Breamore.....866	17	Ibsley22	6	Roydon The Commons....63	9
Broadley95	9	Janesmoor.....66	8	Southern Fields.....88	16
Brockishill318	14	Janesmoor Plain.....20	6	Standing Hat.....232	12
Broomy Plain39	5	Keeping Marsh50	10	Studland Common128	12
Claypits Bottom26	6	Kings Copse.....234	15	Vales Moor.....46	3
Cloven Hill147	13	Lepe250	14	Warren Farm.....102	8
Dibden Bottom.....46	3	Little Linford.....135	11	Wilverley Plain45	5
Dur Hill.....31	7	Mockbeggar.....241	19		

l/d - still subject to lockdown.

Species	Count	No of Routes	Species	Count	No of Routes	Species	Count	No of Routes
Meadow Brown.....	1,597	43	Peacock.....	172	32	Comma.....	25	11
Gatekeeper.....	1,083	46	Green-veined White .	163	16	Small Copper.....	22	11
Ringlet.....	880	28	Brimstone	114	22	Dark Green Fritillary .	16	5
Large Skipper	473	25	Speckled Wood.....	111	24	Brown Argus	14	2
Silver-studded Blue.....	424	23	Red Admiral.....	108	27	Grayling.....	9	6
Small White.....	370	33	Holly Blue	66	21	Essex Skipper.....	8	2
Large White	283	37	Small Heath.....	46	17	White Admiral	5	1
Small/Essex Skipper.....	259	22	Common Blue.....	45	10	Purple Hairstreak.....	3	1
Marbled White.....	214	23	Small Skipper	38	12	Small Tortoiseshell.....	2	1
Silver-washed Fritillary.....	196	21						



Friday 17 July sees the start of this year's Big Butterfly Count, which lasts until Sunday 9th August. Just choose your favourite butterfly spot and record for 15 minutes. Further information can be found at <https://bigbutterflycount.butterfly-conservation.org/>.

Moth Report: Again, few moths were seen in Week 15 with Silver Y the most frequently reported. Six-spot Burnet has also been spotted and Cinnabar is also still flying - you may see its yellow and black caterpillars on Ragwort, which can be noted on the moth recording sheet but please make it clear that it is the caterpillar you have seen. Also look out for the delightful Hummingbird Hawk-moth as it hovers sipping nectar from flowers as these are around at the moment.