

It was certainly a very difficult week to end the season's recording! There were a total of 15 zero counts and thank goodness for Speckled Wood which made up 75% of the sightings. The total count for the week was 431 at a density of 3.45 butterflies/transect kilometre, the lowest for Week 26 since 2015 (2.39).

Results Week 26 (Preliminary counts subject to final verification)

Count	No of Species	Count	No of Species	Count	No of Species
Acres Down3	2	Fields Heath23	3	Normandy Marsh0	0
Badminton.....5	1	Frohawk.....0	0	Perrywood Ivy6	2
Ballard3	1	Furzey Gardens.....	l/d	Pignal.....4	1
Barton Common1	1	Godshill6	2	Pimlico Fields.....2	1
Beaulieu Heath0	0	Great Linford18	3	Pitts Wood.....0	0
Black Down.....0	0	Hasley9	3	Pondhead.....5	1
Blackwater2	1	Hawkhill4	2	Pondhead Wood20	1
Blashford North.....33	3	Hightown Common.....0	0	Rockford.....1	1
Blashford South13	5	Holmsley.....15	1	Roe North.....23	2
Breamore24	4	Ibsley0	0	Roe South28	1
Broadley20	2	Janesmoor.....4	1	Roydon The Commons0	0
Brockishill8	2	Janesmoor Plain.....4	1	Southern Fields.....10	4
Broomy Plain0	0	Keeping Marsh0	0	Standing Hat0	0
Claypits Bottom0	0	Kings Copse8	1	Studland Common14	7
Cloven Hill14	4	Lepe16	5	Vales Moor1	1
Dibden Bottom.....0	0	Little Linford11	1	Warren Farm.....9	3
Dur Hill.....0	0	Mockbeggar.....64	7	Wilverley Plain0	0

l/d - still subject to lockdown.

Species	Count	No of Routes	Species	Count	No of Routes	Species	Count	No of Routes
Speckled Wood.....	321	31	Meadow Brown.....	7	2	Common Blue.....	2	1
Small Copper.....	33	13	Comma.....	6	3	Brimstone.....	1	1
Small White.....	30	11	Small Heath.....	4	2	Holly Blue.....	1	1
Red Admiral.....	12	8	Clouded Yellow.....	2	2	Peacock.....	1	1
Large White.....	11	5						



A summary for the year is being prepared, but provisional figures suggest:
 Total Butterflies Counted = 52,861
 Overall Species Diversity = 35 (no White-letter Hairstreak this year)
 Percentage Coverage (once transects started) - an amazing 99.6%
 A big thank you as well to all the moths spotted on transect walks in 2020.

For those who took part in this year's Big Butterfly Count, a [press release](#) (click for link) has been issued with the results, which were surprisingly low.

*When walking Hampshire's rural ways
 On long and buzzy, balmy days
 When insects rise to fill the air
 And butterflies are fluttering there,
 My task is simply to decree
 How many tiny lives I see.
 And when the sun shines all is well
 My valid Count will Stand.
 But autumn comes.
 The days grow cool, rain falls across the land
 'Tis then I don my woolly vest
 Thirteen degrees becomes the test
 It's far too cold to leave my nest
 So let's give the exercise a rest.
 Until next year.....*



Allan Orme, Team Leader, Keeping Marsh and Warren Farm