

What a start to the 2019 recording season! We had 37 transect results on the first day. A total of 532 butterflies were seen this week at density of 5.33 butterflies/km (compared to 2.89/km in 2018).



Brimstone. Kevin Page

Ten different species were seen overall which is pretty much the maximum to be expected during Week 1 (but no Green-veined Whites which have been seen elsewhere in Hampshire). Seven different species were seen at Mockbeggar, six at Breamore and five at Lepe & Studland Common. Brimstone were the most abundant species followed by Peacock and Speckled Wood. Full figures are: Brimstone (281), Peacock (145), Speckled Wood (52), Orange-tip (18), Comma (14), Red Admiral (8), Holly Blue (5), Small Tortoiseshell (4), Small White (3) and Large White (2).

Orange Underwing moths were recorded at Holmsley and Perrywood Ivy and a very early Brown Silver-line in Roe North.

Results for Week 1

Acres Down9	Fields Heath37	Mockbeggar.....35
Badminton.....10	Frohawk.....13	Normandy Marsh.....2
Ballard.....4	Furzey Gardens.....7	Perrywood Ivy.....10
Barton Common.....0	Godshill.....26	Pignal.....11
Beaulieu Heath2	Great Linford.....20	Pimlico Fields.....n/w
Black Down*	Hasley.....20	Pondhead12
Blackwater19	Hawkhill7	Pondhead Wood.....7
Blashford North.....24	Hightown Common...12	Rockford5
Blashford South18	Holmsley.....5	Roe North23
Breamore53	Ibsley7	Roe South.....1
Broadley.....23	Janesmoor.....12	Southern Fields9
Broomy Plain*	Janesmoor Plain.....4	Standing Hat.....18
Claypits Bottom*	Keeping Marsh7	Studland Common....18
Cloven Hilln/w	Kings Copse6	The Commons11
Dibden Bottom1	Lepe.....10	Vales Moor.....1
Dur Hill.....*	Little Linford.....7	Warren Farm6
		Wilverley Plain.....*

*'Single species' transects due to start in Week 9. n/w - not walked - see below

Last Thursday we met with The RSPB at Franchises Lodge and agreed routes for Cloven Hill and Pimlico Fields, both of which will start recording this coming week.

Weather looks a bit changeable for next week, so don't forget this is a team effort and if you anticipate problems please ask for help especially if you are recording on more than one transect. Good luck to this weeks first time recorders.

Moth to spot: The Orange Underwing (featured last week) may be around for the next couple of weeks - so if you see a small 'butterfly' with brown forewings and orange hind wings, particularly near Birch trees, think moth!



Comma. Eric Read



Orange-tip. John Levell

Another moth flying early in the year is the spectacular Emperor Moth. With a wingspan similar to our largest butterflies, and four notable eyespots, this colourful, fast flying moth can be seen in a range of habitats but is most often associated with heathland areas. The brownish males are most likely to be seen during the day, looking for the scent of a female. They won't stop to nectar as they do not feed, relying entirely on the food eaten by the caterpillar to fuel them in their quest to find a mate.