

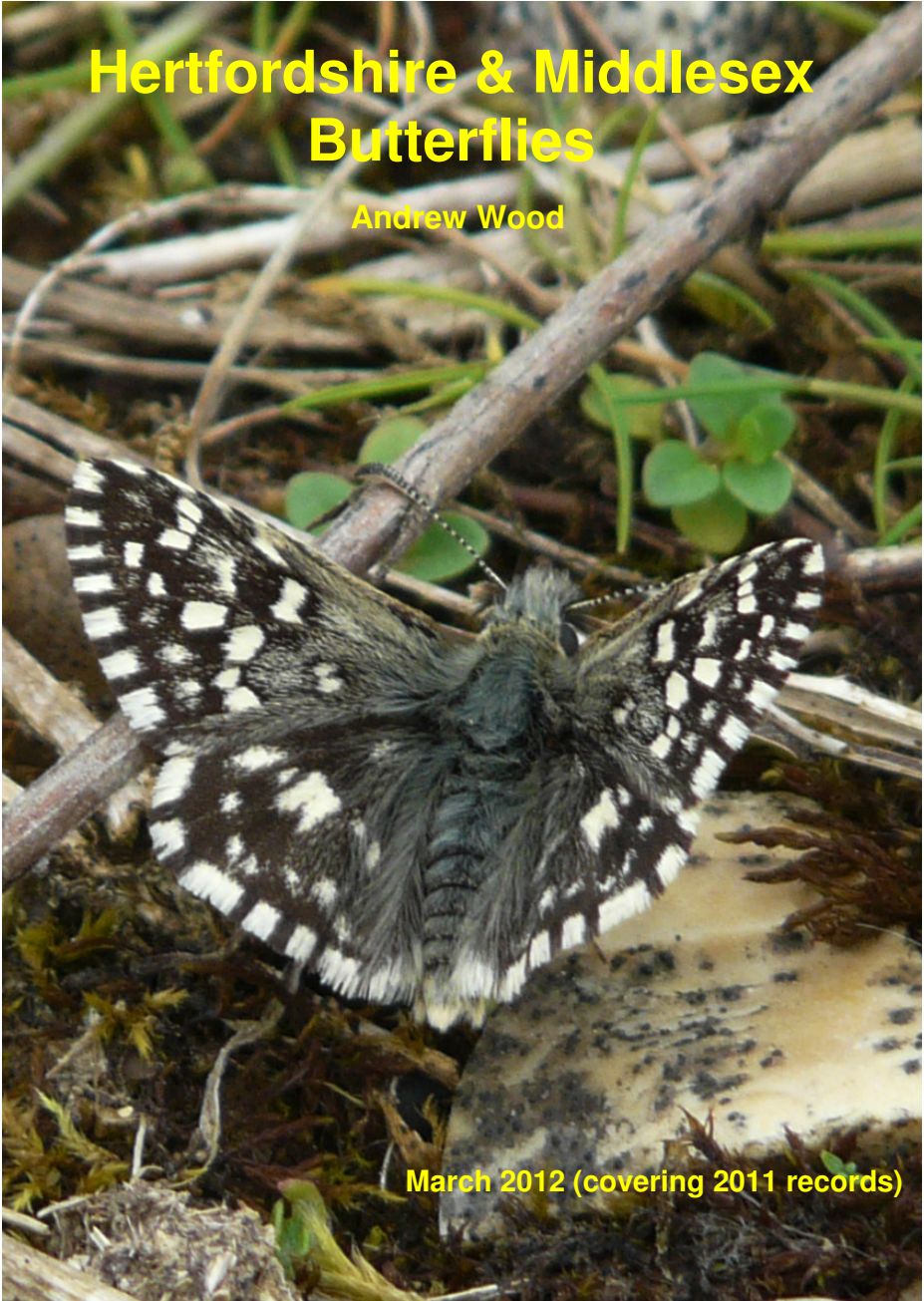


**Butterfly
Conservation**

Saving butterflies, moths and their habitats

Hertfordshire & Middlesex Butterflies

Andrew Wood



March 2012 (covering 2011 records)

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INTRODUCTION

2011 saw a very early and warm spring, followed by a rather cooler and wetter summer (especially during the Big Butterfly Count!) and then a mild and sunny autumn. As you will read under the individual species this had a significant effect on the fortunes of many of our species. Overall it was a good year but alarm bells are still ringing for the Peacock, Small and Essex Skipper and there are signs that the Comma may be about to have difficulties.

This publication can only exist due to the efforts of over 900 enthusiastic volunteers (see the list on the back cover) who have contributed 23000+ records. The huge increase since 2010 is mainly due to records received from the Big Butterfly Count that took place in the summer. These records (one or more species seen on a particular date at a particular location) range from organised surveys to garden lists to butterflies noted while people are out and about. Please read and use this booklet and, if you are not already a contributor, send in your sightings for 2012 on paper or by email to the branch record collator (details on back cover) by November 9th 2012.

Big Butterfly Count numbers are used to show the distribution of species, but have not been used for the flight charts as this survey was limited to three weeks in high summer and to have included them would unduly skew these charts.

Our branch website <http://www.hertsmiddx-butterflies.org.uk/> has a very active sightings page and we welcome all submissions to this too. Anything sent there is added to the records received for inclusion in the branch database and this report.

Butterfly Conservation is the national charity supporting the work of conserving butterflies and moths and their habitats. We are part of a branch network that you automatically join if you support the conservation and recording of butterflies by becoming a member of BC.

Species not included in the main section

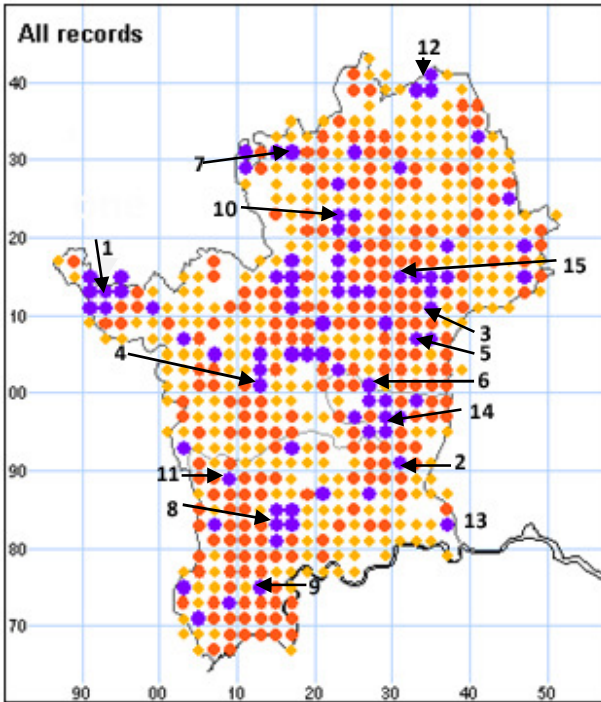
Duke of Burgundy *Hamearis lucina*: One very probable sighting was received from Diane Andrews at Aldbury Nowers for this nationally very rare species, which is present just over the Buckinghamshire border. Diane wrote: "May 4th. The Duke settled mostly in a V shaped position but kept darting at any other butterfly that came near... fortunately for me it returned to settle where I first saw it and I managed to obtain good views of the underside as well as the upper. Judging from its actions I presume it was a male, maybe a wanderer, I couldn't find any others in the area." BC is starting a major project to study this butterfly in 2012.

SOME GOOD BUTTERFLY SITES IN HERTFORDSHIRE & MIDDLESEX

This is not an exhaustive list but a pointer to a spread of sites across our area

| Map | Site, Grid Reference, Brief details | Good site (rare or high numbers) - Date included if 2011 only |
|-----|---|---|
| 1 | Aldbury Nowers (SP 951129) Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust (HMWT) reserve north west of Tring | Brimstone, Dark Green Fritillary, Dingy Skipper, Green Hairstreak, Grizzled Skipper, Small Blue |
| 2 | Alexandra Park TL296901 Park around Alexandra Palace in LB Haringey | Common Blue, Purple Hairstreak |
| 3 | Balls Wood TL 348106 At Hertford Heath 2 miles south of Hertford | Purple Hairstreak, Ringlet, Silver- washed Fritillary, White Admiral |
| 4 | Bricket Wood Common TL131017 North east of Watford | Purple Emperor, Ringlet, Silver- washed Fritillary, White Admiral |
| 5 | Broxbourne Woods TL323070 A large complex of woods west of Hoddesdon and south of Hertford. Grid ref above is for Broxbourne Wood west car park | Purple Emperor, Silver-washed Fritillary, White Admiral |
| 6 | Fir & Pond Woods TL277012 HMWT reserve 2 miles east of Potters Bar | Purple Emperor, Ringlet, Silver- washed Fritillary, White Admiral |
| 7 | Hexton Chalk Pit TL 107299 South of Hexton, turning off B655 | Chalkhill Blue, Dark Green Fritillary, Dingy Skipper, Green Hairstreak, |
| 8 | Horsenden Hill TQ 161845 Bisected by Horsenden Lane North between Perivale and Sudbury in LB Ealing. | Meadow Brown, Small Copper, White-letter hairstreak |
| 9 | Hounslow Heath TQ141748 Off Staines Road, Hounslow | Green Hairstreak 2011, Meadow Brown, Purple Hairstreak |
| 10 | Norton Green (Cannocks Wood/Watery Grove) TL229231 West of A1M at Stevenage. Accessed from byways south of Norton Green | Marbled White, Purple Emperor, Purple Hairstreak, Ringlet, Silver- washed Fritillary, White Admiral |
| 11 | Ruislip Woods TL080896 A complex of woods north of Ruislip along Ducks Hill Lane in LB Hillingdon | Purple Emperor, Ringlet, Silver- washed Fritillary, White Admiral |
| 12 | Therfield Heath TL347404 Downland west of Royston by A505 | Chalkhill Blue, Marbled White, Small Skipper |
| 13 | Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park TL367823 Southern Grove E3 nr Mile End Central Line station | Silver-washed Fritillary, Small Blue 2011 |
| 14 | Trent Park TL280969 Near Cockfosters Piccadilly line tube station | Purple Hairstreak, Small Copper, Small Heath |
| 15 | Waterford Heath TL 318150 HMWT reserve North of Hertford, accessed from Sacombe Road not via Waterford | Brown Argus, Grizzled Skipper, Small Heath |

Please check local driving/parking/public transport directions. These sites may be uneven and/or muddy so please go prepared.



Squares Recorded and Key Sites

2 kilometre squares (tetrads) for which records were received in 2011

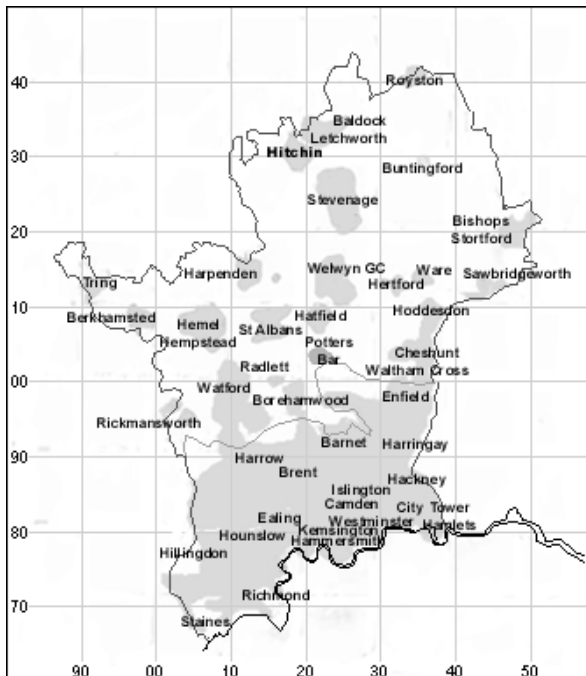
Key:

- 1-10 species
- 11-20 species
- 21+ species

We have records from 554 out of 686 full or part squares in our area for 2011. 589 have been visited in 2010-2011. As you can see there are still some unrecorded squares in south east Middlesex and west and north east Herts.

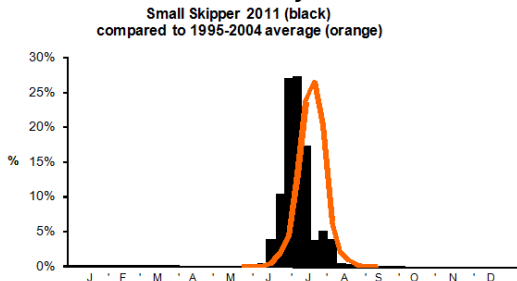
Major urban areas

To put the position of records into context this is a map on the same grid of the major urban areas in Herts & Middx.



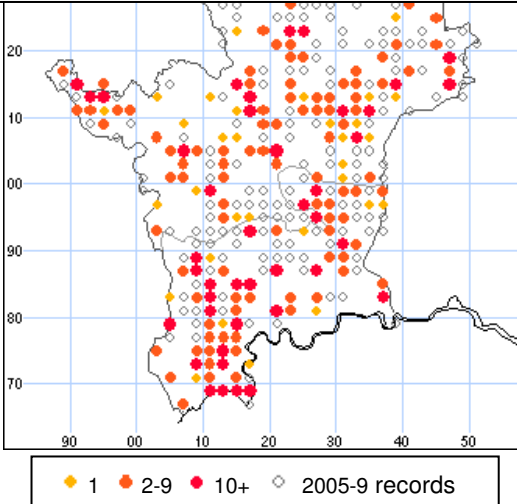
KEY TO THE SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Common Name *Scientific name*



The flight period showing proportion of species flying in any week compared with the 1995-2004 average

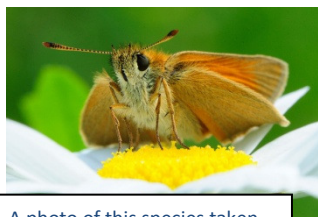
Small Skipper
Map showing 2 km squares where a species has been recorded in 2010-2011 split into 1, 2-9 or 10 or more recorded on a single occasion and the recent historical range.



Notes on the species during the year
per the Ess
greater decline in distribution. Some caution is ne
record these two species as an aggregate due to
noticeable gap in central Herts for this species in

Brief status for species

Widespread but declining



A photo of this species taken by one of our members

First: 16 June
Last: 16 Aug
Peak week: 25 Jun -1 Jul

| Distribution % squares | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| 2011 | 28% (155) |
| 2010 | 25% (87) |
| 2005-9 mean | 27% |

| Abundance (transects) | |
|-----------------------|----|
| 2011 | 27 |
| 2010 | 32 |
| 2005-9 mean | 42 |

| Distribution change |
|-------------------------------|
| Up 3% compared with 2005-2009 |

| Abundance change |
|----------------------------------|
| Down 36% compared with 2005-2009 |

First sighting
Last sighting
Peak Week when most seen
Distribution % squares. The % and number of 2km squares with records in which this species was recorded
Abundance (transects) Average number of a species seen on transects (so comparable year on year)
Distribution and Abundance change compared with the recent 5 year period to smooth out year to year comparisons

Small Skipper *Thymelicus sylvestris*

Widespread but declining

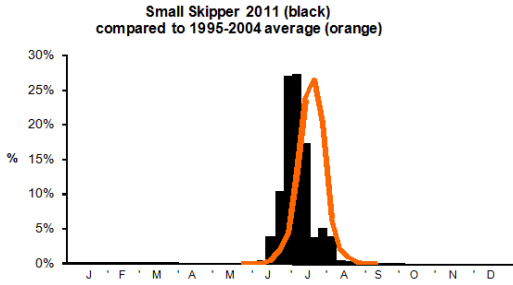
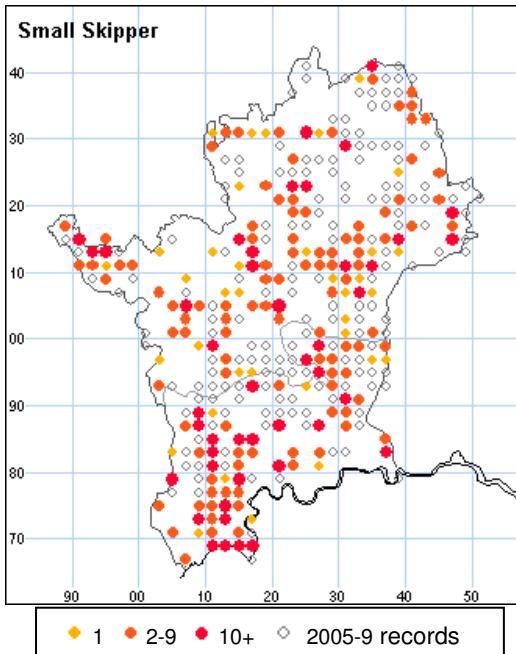


Photo Lee Browne

First: 4 June

Last: 22 Aug

Peak week: 2-8 July



| Distribution % squares | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| 2011 | 28% (155) |
| 2010 | 25% (87) |
| 2005-9 mean | 27% |

| Abundance (transects) | |
|-----------------------|----|
| 2011 | 27 |
| 2010 | 32 |
| 2005-9 mean | 42 |

| Distribution change |
|-------------------------------|
| Up 3% compared with 2005-2009 |

| Abundance change |
|----------------------------------|
| Down 36% compared with 2005-2009 |

The Small Skipper continues to give cause for concern, for as with several other species the distribution is virtually unchanged in recent years, but the numbers recorded at most sites have dropped below even last year’s low numbers. This is reflected in Diane Andrews comment, “hardly any sizeable counts” and in this from Michael Hammerson on June 27 at Bricket Wood Common “only got close enough to positively identify Small Skipper but saw hardly any other Small/Essex. The warm spring brought this species out very early as noted by Peter Clarke, “A Small Skipper was seen at Shackledeil Grassland, Stevenage (11 June), about 3 weeks earlier than normal here”.

Essex Skipper *Thymelicus lineola*

Widespread but declining

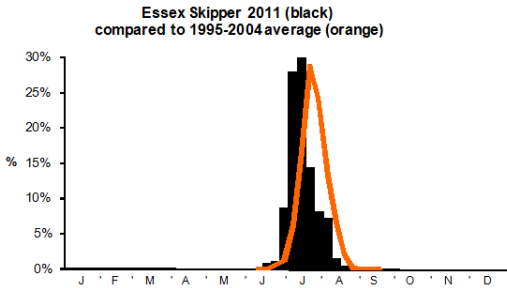
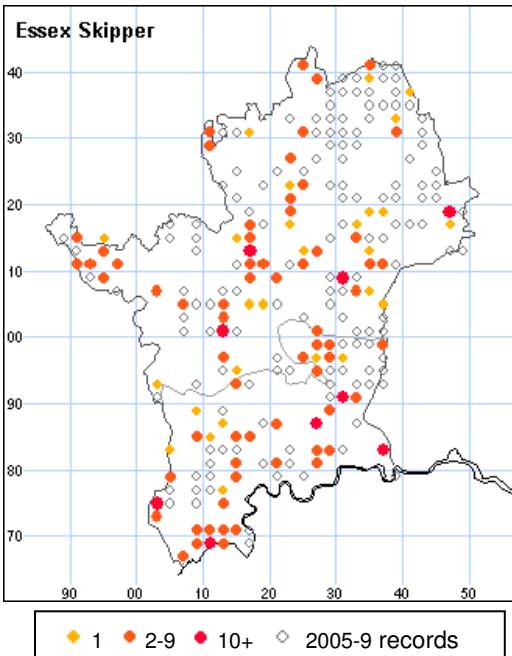


Photo Dave Miller

First: 11 June

Last: 13 Aug

Peak week: 9-15 July



| Distribution % squares | |
|------------------------|----------|
| 2011 | 16% (86) |
| 2010 | 12% (37) |
| 2005-9 mean | 17% |

| Abundance (transects) | |
|-----------------------|----|
| 2011 | 17 |
| 2010 | 19 |
| 2005-9 mean | 46 |

| Distribution change |
|---------------------------------|
| Down 6% compared with 2005-2009 |

| Abundance change |
|----------------------------------|
| Down 63% compared with 2005-2009 |

Compared to 2010, distribution of the Essex Skipper has increased, though not to the levels of the longer term pattern. It is interesting to see that it is as well distributed in the Middlesex area as in the Hertfordshire area, indeed there are some big gaps in east Hertfordshire despite there having been a concentrated effort to record in this largely arable area. As with the Small Skipper the flight period was well ahead of the long term average and again not a surprise after the warm spring. Indeed 11th June equals the earliest ever first sighting in our area (2009).

Large Skipper *Ochlodes faunus*

Widespread & common

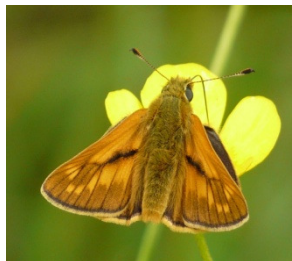
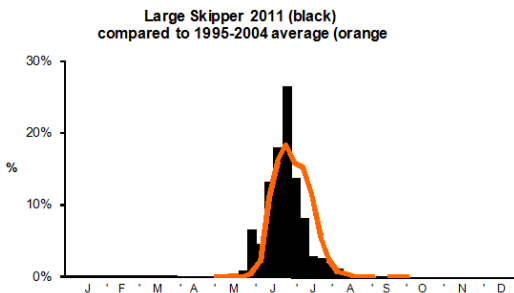
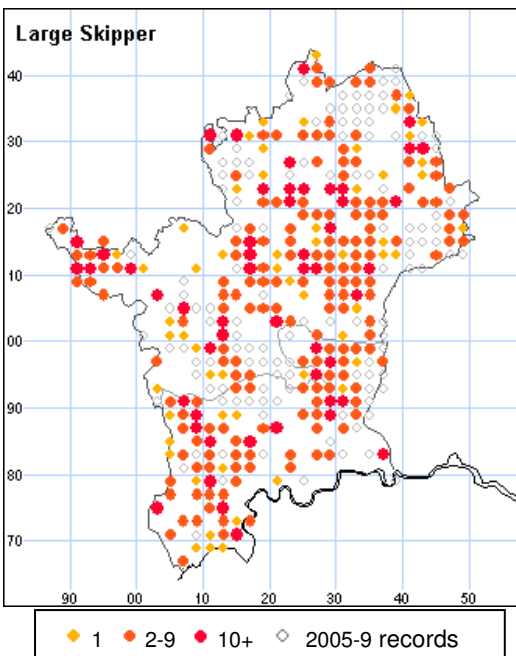


Photo Andrew Wood



First: 7 May
Last: 21 Aug
Peak week: 18-24 Jun

| Distribution % squares | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| 2011 | 42% (231) |
| 2010 | 36% (124) |
| 2005-9 mean | 28% |

| Abundance (transects) | |
|-----------------------|----|
| 2011 | 34 |
| 2010 | 25 |
| 2005-9 mean | 20 |

| Distribution change |
|--------------------------------|
| Up 50% compared with 2005-2009 |

| Abundance change |
|--------------------------------|
| Up 70% compared with 2005-2009 |

Large Skippers appeared very early. Tony Blake saw one at Hilfield Park Reservoir on 8th May as he observes “I see them there every year, but not normally before early June” and another was seen on the 7th May at Bedfont Lakes in the south west of area. This latter date is the earliest ever in Hertfordshire and Middlesex by 9 days and yet the flight period is much closer to the long term average than the other golden skippers. Could the weather seeming to have less influence on its flight period have any relation to its continued success compared to the two smaller golden skippers?

Dingy Skipper *Erynnis tages*

Restricted but stable

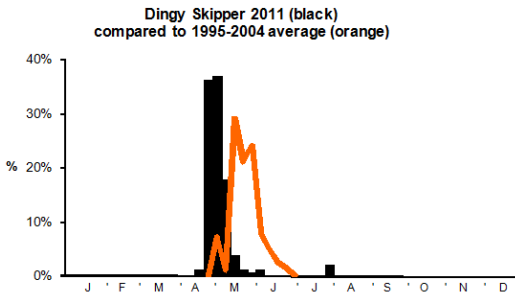
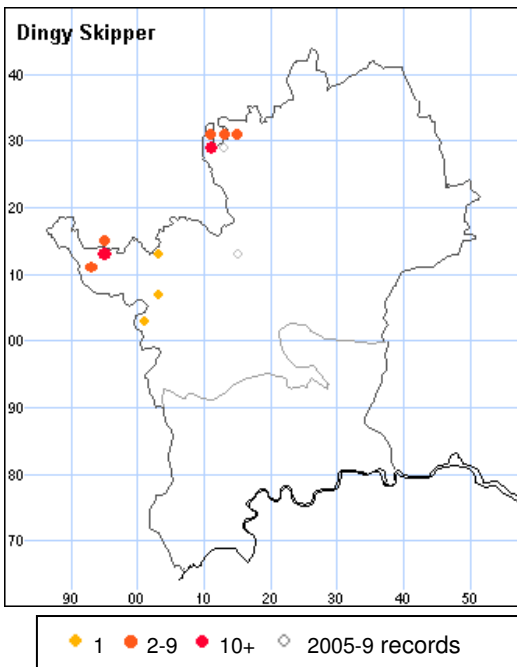


Photo Chris Beach



First: 20 Apr

Last: 5 Aug

Peak week: 30 Apr-6 May

| Distribution % squares | |
|------------------------|---------|
| 2011 | 2% (10) |
| 2010 | 1% (6) |
| 2005-9 mean | 1% |

| Abundance (transects) | |
|-----------------------|----|
| 2011 | 7 |
| 2010 | 18 |
| 2005-9 mean | 11 |

| Distribution change |
|--------------------------------|
| Up 50% compared with 2005-2009 |

| Abundance change |
|------------------------------|
| Too little data to calculate |

Roger Prue sent in this very interesting news, "Shrubhill Common ... on the Western edge of Hemel Hempstead ... we have introduced a mowing regime which has resulted in a lot more bird's foot trefoil ... I am in my 11th year of transect recording at this site, and I was surprised to find a Dingy Skipper here on May 14th 2011. Today (24/5/11) at Bovingdon Brick Pits I was just thinking that if Shrubhill Common could have Dingy Skippers why not Bovingdon Brick Pits, when one landed on the path ahead of me. A further one was found by Andrew Wood at Hedgeswood Common near Markyate on 19th May. Malcolm Hull noted, "The highlight for me was seeing four second brood Dingy Skippers near Aldbury Nowers on 5 August, no doubt linked with the good spring weather, ... allowing time for the second brood to emerge.

Grizzled Skipper *Pyrgus malvae*

Restricted & rare

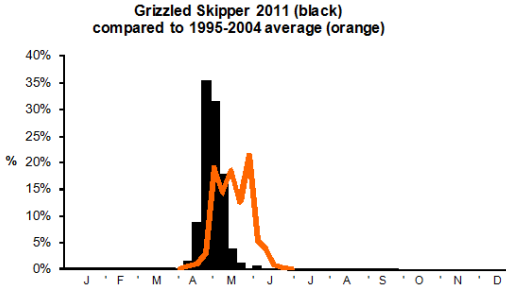
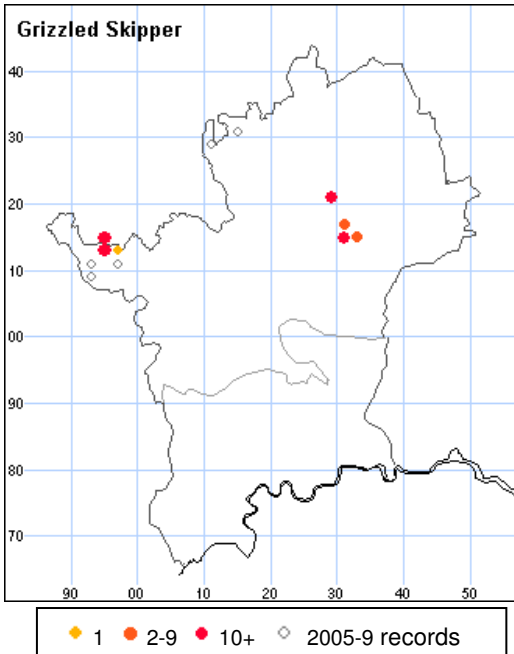


Photo Alan Reynolds

First: 9 Apr

Last: 7 Jun

Peak week: 23 Apr-29 Apr



The Grizzled Skipper has maintained its presence at its key sites. The flight period was remarkably early as the chart above shows. 9th April is a joint earliest date and there was a quick peak, a whole month earlier than in 2009, and very few records after mid May. This is a graphic illustration of what a warm spring can do to the emergence and flight of butterflies. The transect abundance only tells part of the story as counts by Andrew Middleton and Liz Goodyear at the two Waterford Heath Pits on the 27th April found 21 in the south and 30 in the north. These are record counts for this species. It is also being reliably seen east of Waterford Heath on the reclaimed Rickney's Quarry site.

Clouded Yellow *Colias croceus*

Less common migrant

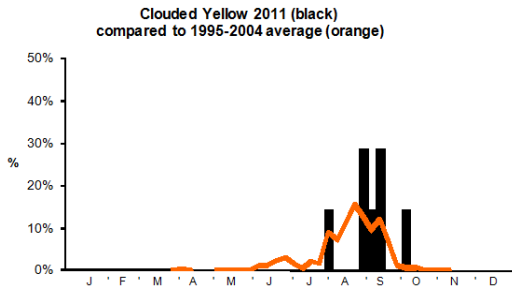
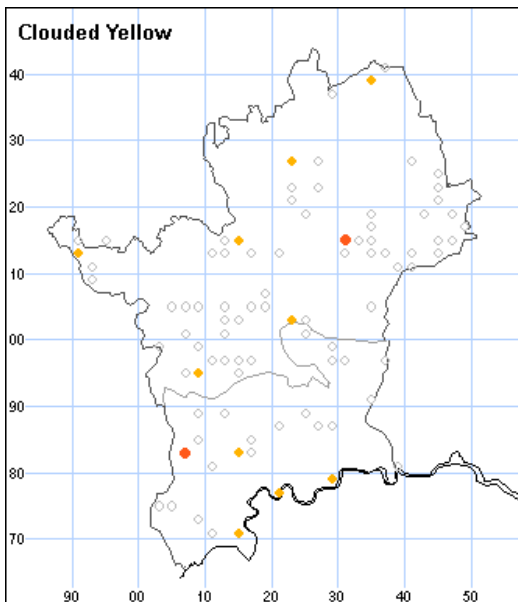


Photo Andrew Wood



First: 5 Aug
Last: 2 Oct
Peak week: 27 Aug – 2 Sep,
10-16 Sep

| Distribution % squares | |
|------------------------|--------|
| 2011 | 1% (6) |
| 2010 | 1% (6) |
| 2005-9 mean | 5% |

| Abundance (transects) | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 2011 | 0 |
| 2010 | 3 |
| 2005-9 mean | 2 |

| Distribution change | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Down 80% compared with 2005-2009 | |

| Abundance change | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| To little data to calculate | |

As in 2010 this migrant species was hardly recorded in our area. There were only six records in the entire year and none of these were early in the year. As a migrant its appearance is controlled by conditions far to the south of the UK and its presence or not here has no significant conservation implications for us. Proving that something interesting can turn up anywhere David Chandler reported “I saw a Clouded Yellow (female) in the gardens of Buckingham Palace Friday 5th August when on a guided tour.

Brimstone *Gonepteryx rhamni*

Widespread

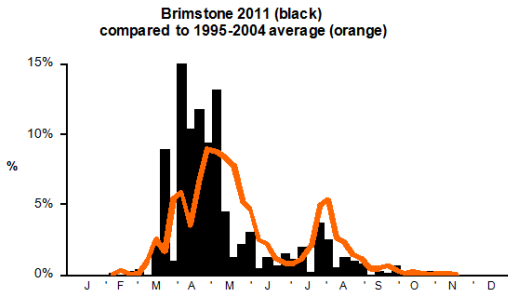
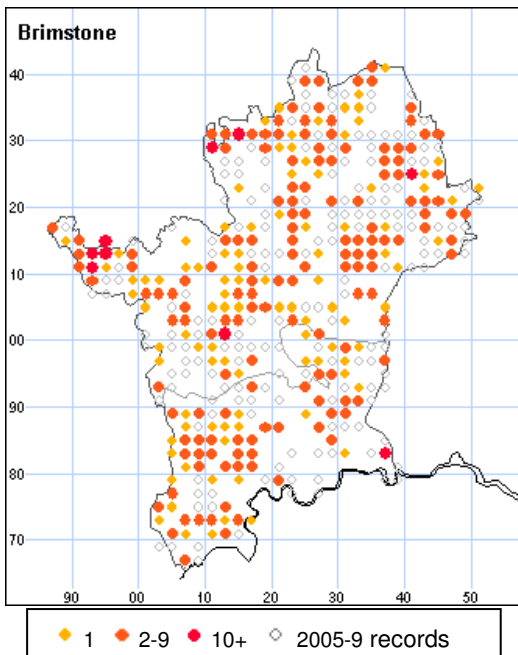


Photo Miles Attenborough



First: 8 Feb
Last: 28 Oct
Peak week: 2-8 Apr

| Distribution % squares | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| 2011 | 36% (202) |
| 2010 | 36% (127) |
| 2005-9 mean | 37% |

| Abundance (transects) | |
|-----------------------|----|
| 2011 | 27 |
| 2010 | 14 |
| 2005-9 mean | 20 |

| Distribution change |
|---------------------------------|
| Down 3% compared with 2005-2009 |

| Abundance change |
|--------------------------------|
| Up 35% compared with 2005-2009 |

A slight decline in distribution is within the narrow band of change that this species shows over time, but most encouraging is that where it was seen it was in almost twice the numbers of 2010 and well above the longer term average. Lee Browne sent in this note about Brimstones at Graffidge Wood near Knebworth on 13 March. "Observed my first Brimstone courtship. The female flying along, a male flew up to join her and the two dropped down, landed on the underside of a bramble leaf and paired all in less than a minute." In North London Diane Andrews noted that the first eggs were laid on her garden Alder Buckthorn on April 23rd, 3 weeks earlier than the previous earliest date in 2008.

Large White *Pieris brassicae*

Widespread & common

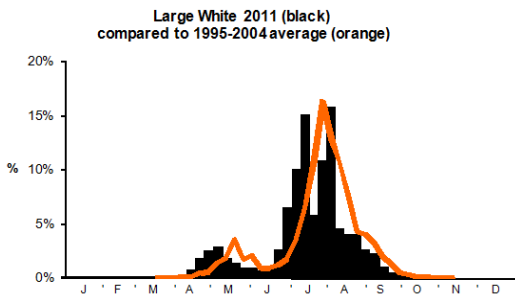
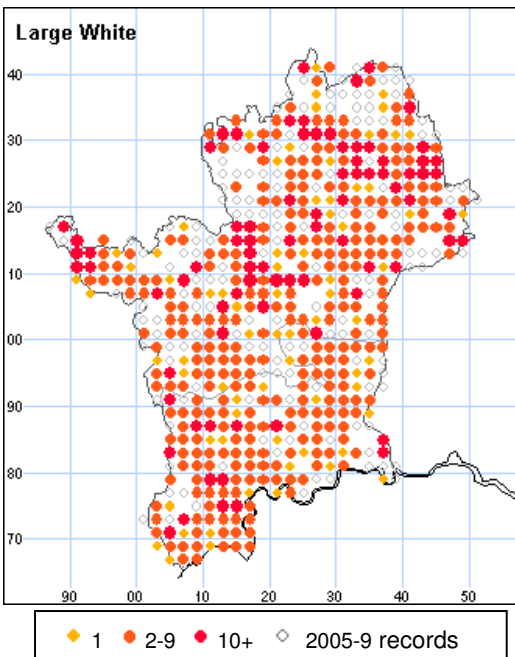


Photo Andrew Wood



First: 6 Apr
Last: 12 Oct
Peak week: 30 Jul – 5 Aug

| Distribution % squares | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| 2011 | 73% (403) |
| 2010 | 48% (167) |
| 2005-9 mean | 58% |

| Abundance (transects) | |
|-----------------------|----|
| 2011 | 27 |
| 2010 | 54 |
| 2005-9 mean | 54 |

| Distribution change |
|--------------------------------|
| Up 26% compared with 2005-2009 |

| Abundance change |
|----------------------------------|
| Down 50% compared with 2005-2009 |

Numbers declined severely in 2011 but the distribution increased, this would seem to be consistent with a species still being badly affected by its parasites but in no danger of disappearing. Interestingly 4 out of the top 10 counts were at one location - on the Heartwood Forest Transect where woodland is gradually replacing arable fields at Sandridge just north of St Albans. The warm spring effect can be seen in the flight pattern where the small spring emergence from overwintered pupae was noticeably earlier than average as was the main summer emergence.

Small White *Pieris rapae*

Widespread & common

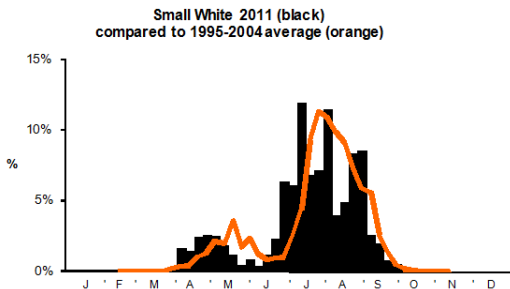
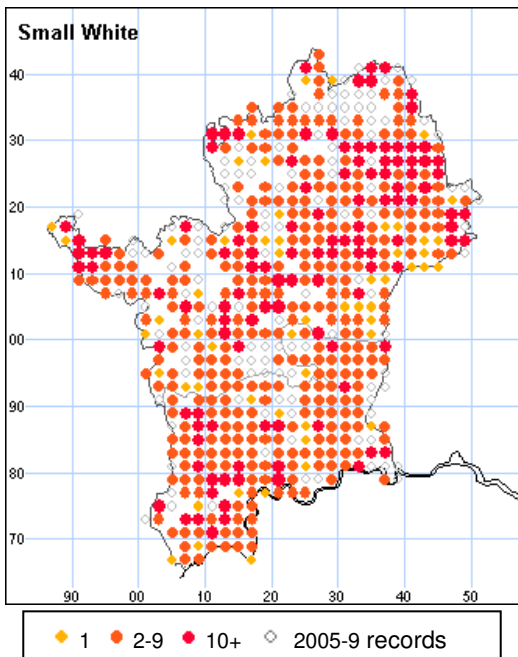


Photo Robin Pearson



First: 23 Mar
Last: 17 Oct
Peak week: 9-15 July

| Distribution % squares | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| 2011 | 80% (443) |
| 2010 | 56% (195) |
| 2005-9 mean | 58% |

| Abundance (transects) | |
|-----------------------|----|
| 2011 | 84 |
| 2010 | 59 |
| 2005-9 mean | 67 |

| Distribution change |
|--------------------------------|
| Up 38% compared with 2005-2009 |

| Abundance change |
|--------------------------------|
| Up 25% compared with 2005-2009 |

A suburb year for the Small White with big increases in distribution and abundance. During drier periods in the spring and summer it was not unusual for groups of up to a dozen to be seen on the ground around damp patches or bonfire sites imbibing minerals from the ground, often in association with Green-veined Whites. The flight period and peak were almost identical to 2010 but both broods were generally on the wing earlier than last year. Much of this success has to be due to the large fields of oil seed rape in much of Hertfordshire that provide much of the food plant for this butterfly. In the more urban areas it is likely to be a more traditionally “cabbage” white.

Green-veined White *Pieris napi*

Widespread & Common

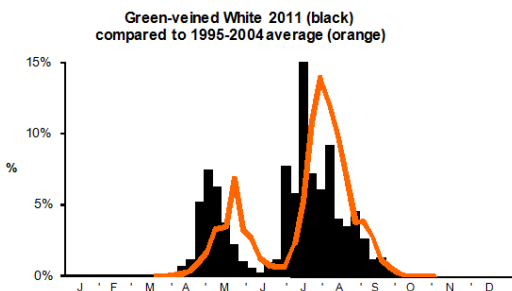
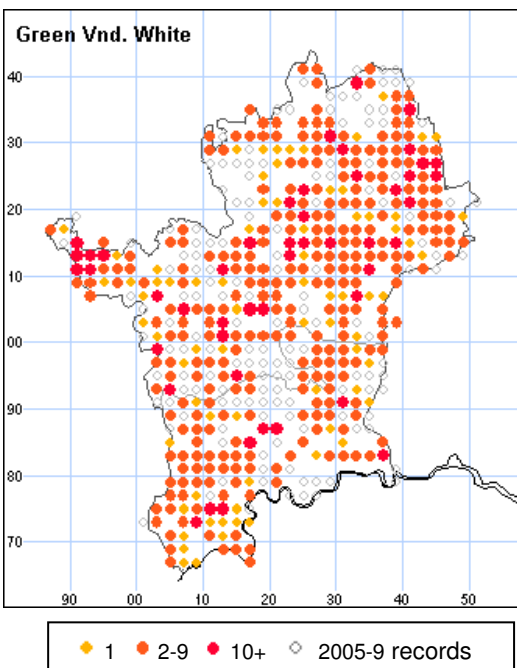


Photo Dave Miller

First: 12 Mar
 Last: 19 Nov
 Peak week: 10-16 July



| Distribution % squares | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| 2011 | 61% (337) |
| 2010 | 46% (161) |
| 2005-9 mean | 47% |

| Abundance (transects) | |
|-----------------------|----|
| 2011 | 76 |
| 2010 | 45 |
| 2005-9 mean | 54 |

| Distribution change |
|--------------------------------|
| Up 28% compared with 2005-2009 |

| Abundance change |
|--------------------------------|
| Up 43% compared with 2005-2009 |

Green-veined White has enjoyed a good year. Numbers and distribution were well up on the longer term averages. The flight pattern shows a pretty standard split in the two broods but happening well ahead of the long term average in terms of actual flight times. Most remarkably the first date seen was 5 days earlier than ever before and the last date was a month later than ever before. The late sighting was made by Dave Miller walking on Stanwell Moor on 19th November where he noted a female Green-veined White “It looked quite new – one hindwing showed a little damage probably from brambles but otherwise a lovely dusky late season example” (photo above). On 22nd April Colin Everett noted, “eggs of both Green-veined White and Orange Tip found on a few garlic mustard plants – this would have been a typical date for first adults a decade or two ago”.

Orange Tip *Anthocharis cardamines*

Widespread & Common

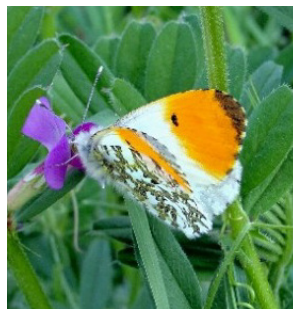
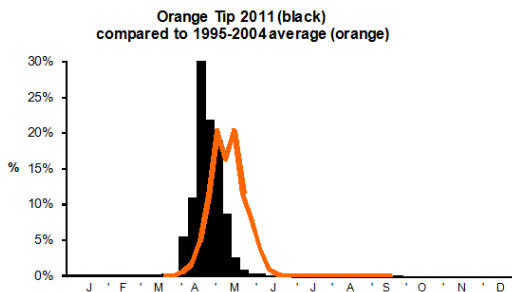
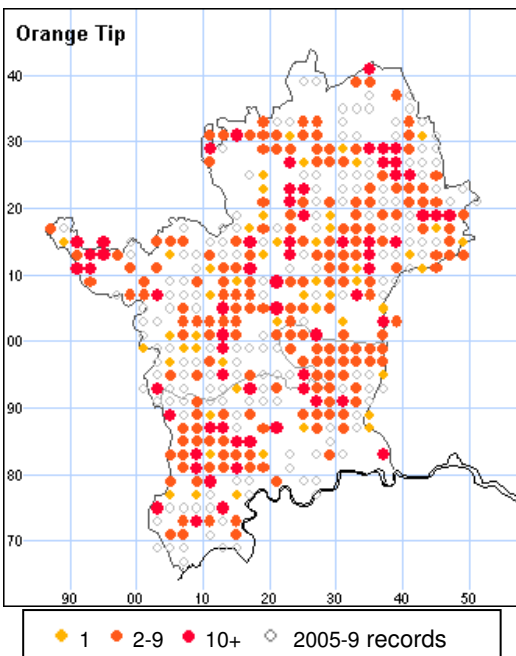


Photo Dave Miller



First: 23 Mar

Last: 4 Jun

Peak week: 16-22 Apr

| Distribution % squares | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| 2011 | 42% (232) |
| 2010 | 49% (171) |
| 2005-9 mean | 43% |

| Abundance (transects) | |
|-----------------------|----|
| 2011 | 31 |
| 2010 | 20 |
| 2005-9 mean | 14 |

| Distribution change |
|---------------------------------|
| Down 2% compared with 2005-2009 |

| Abundance change |
|---------------------------------|
| Up 221% compared with 2005-2009 |

There was a slight drop in the percentage of squares for this attractive butterfly, but the numbers seen were hugely up so there seems little to be concerned about. It is well distributed across the two counties, except in the most urbanised and most intensively farmed areas. Not surprisingly it was on the wing early, with 23rd March being a new earliest flight date and finished early with only 4 records in early June. Occasionally there seems to be a second partial brood of this species in the summer, but despite the early flight dates there was no evidence of this in 2011

Green Hairstreak *Callophrys rubi*

Very rare & restricted

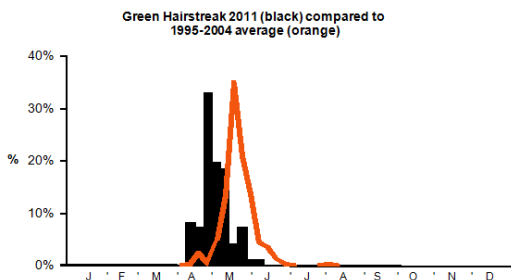
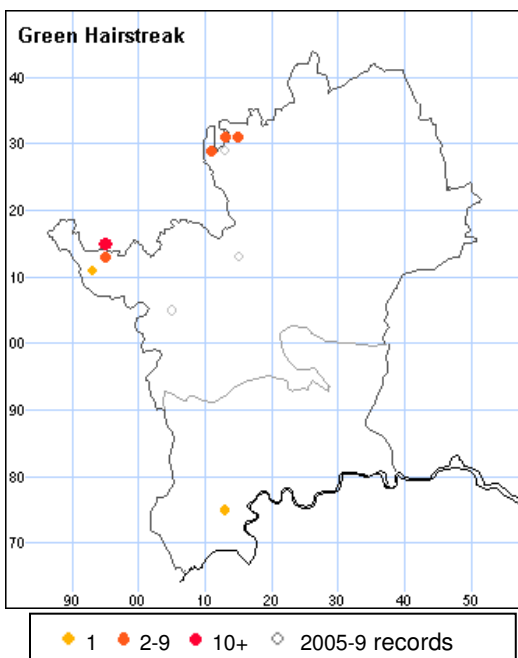


Photo Miles Attenborough



First: 10 Apr

Last: 4 Jun

Peak week: 23 – 29 Apr

Distribution % squares

| | |
|-------------|--------|
| 2011 | 1% (7) |
| 2010 | 1% (4) |
| 2005-9 mean | 1% |

Abundance (transects)

| | |
|-------------|---|
| 2011 | 8 |
| 2010 | 6 |
| 2005-9 mean | 4 |

Distribution change

Too little data to calculate

Abundance change

Too little data to calculate

The most exciting news for this species is its rediscovery in Middlesex after many years. This was at Hounslow Heath on the 5th May, Zuza Kukielka who was walking the transect route there reported, “The area where I have seen Green Hairstreak has been recently opened (2 years ago). ...at the beginning I thought it was a Brown Argus and then it rested on the ground 1-1.5 metres in front of me, butterfly turned around and I saw unmistakable green underwing.” At its established sites in north Hertfordshire (Aldbury Nowers and Hexton Chalk Pit) it has had a good season and again as a spring butterfly been in flight very early, 10th April being a record early date. Here good numbers can be seen as John Landels noted, “Great display of 6 perching Green Hairstreaks on a number of bushes around the site”.

Purple Hairstreak *Neozephyrus quercus*

Common around oaks

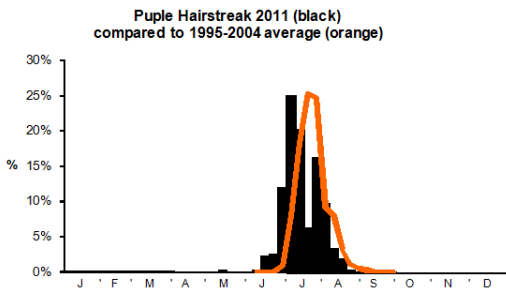
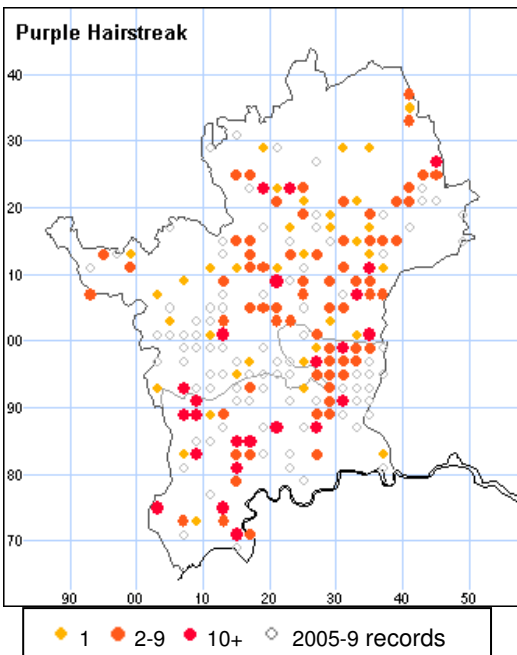


Photo David Gower



First: 11 May

Last: 22 Aug

Peak week: 2-8 July

| Distribution % squares | |
|------------------------|----------|
| 2011 | 16% (91) |
| 2010 | 21% (74) |
| 2005-9 mean | 16% |

| Abundance (transects) | |
|-----------------------|----|
| 2011 | 11 |
| 2010 | 16 |
| 2005-9 mean | 10 |

| Distribution change |
|-----------------------------------|
| No change compared with 2005-2009 |

| Abundance change |
|--------------------------------|
| Up 10% compared with 2005-2009 |

Our earliest record by over a month (11th May) was reported by Clive Burrows, "...at Leavesden. While at work in the gardens I disturbed it from a patch of nettles, taking to the air it flew slowly up into an oak. At first it appeared deformed, but I think it was still fully emerged with the forewing still not pumped. This is exceptional especially as the next record was 8th June which would otherwise have been our earliest ever record.

This is a species that tends to need to be looked for as it generally flies high around oaks, especially in the early evening. However the absence from northern Hertfordshire is possibly genuine given the lesser numbers of trees in the chalk and intensively arable agriculture of these areas

White-letter Hairstreak *Satyrion w-album*

Common around elm

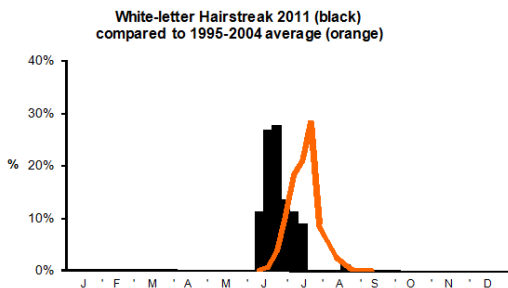
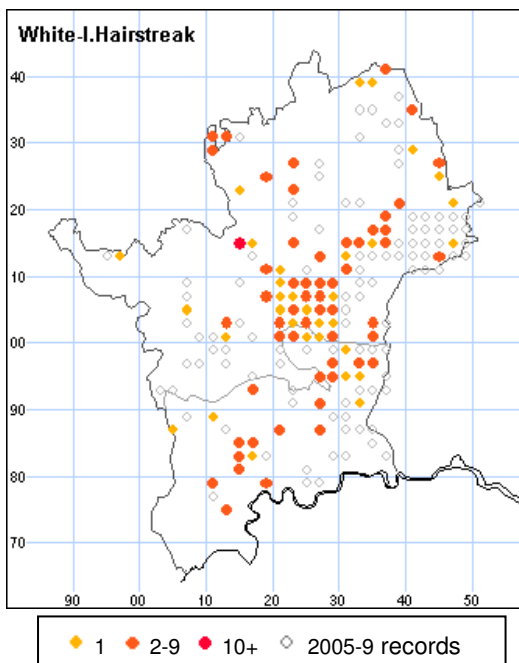


Photo Paul Thrush



First: 30 May

Last: 15 Aug

Peak week: 18-24 Jun

Distribution % squares

| | |
|-------------|----------|
| 2011 | 11% (63) |
| 2010 | 11% (38) |
| 2005-9 mean | 10% |

Abundance (transects)

| | |
|-------------|---|
| 2011 | 1 |
| 2010 | 9 |
| 2005-9 mean | 5 |

Distribution change

Up 10% compared with 2005-2009

Abundance change

Down 80% compared with 2005-2009

The map above needs some explanation. One 10km square is full of records and all the others are rather bare. This is because Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton set out to find it in this area and as you can see succeeded. Elm is not as rare or as devastated by Dutch Elm disease as is popularly thought and a similar intensive search would turn it up in many more squares (see square TL4010 full of grey dots from a similar activity carried out in the 2005-2009 period). The abundance data relates purely to transect walks which are not good for recording high flying butterflies, so needs also treating with caution. 30 May is a record earliest date for this species, seen at a regular site in Durants Park in Ponders End in north London.

Small Copper *Lycaena phlaeas*

Widespread & common

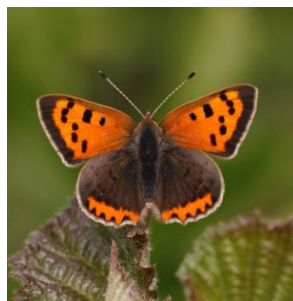
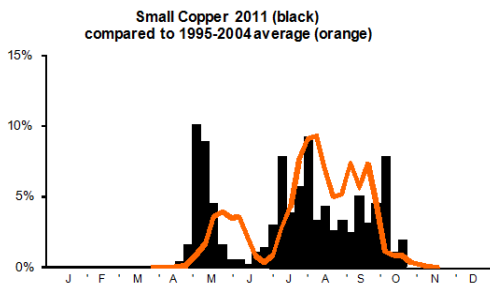
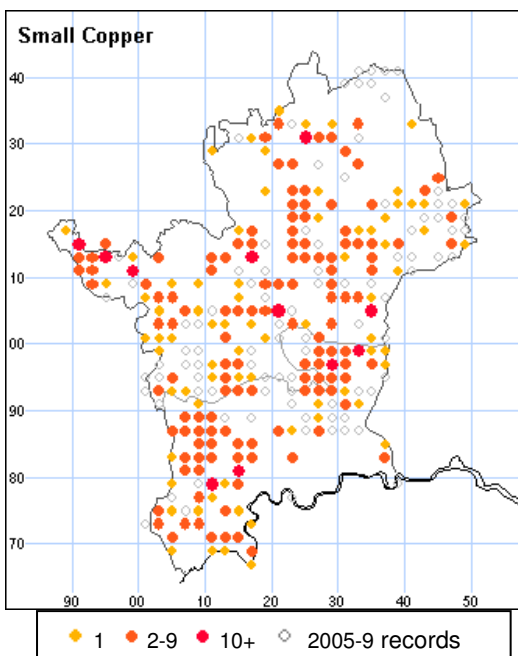


Photo Miles Attenborough

First: 20 Apr

Last: 28 Oct

Peak week: 30 Apr- 6 May



Distribution % squares

| | |
|------|-----------|
| 2011 | 30% (167) |
|------|-----------|

| | |
|------|-----------|
| 2010 | 32% (111) |
|------|-----------|

| | |
|-------------|-----|
| 2005-9 mean | 21% |
|-------------|-----|

Abundance (transects)

| | |
|------|----|
| 2011 | 10 |
|------|----|

| | |
|------|----|
| 2010 | 17 |
|------|----|

| | |
|-------------|----|
| 2005-9 mean | 11 |
|-------------|----|

Distribution change

Up 42% compared with 2005-2009

Abundance change

Down 10% compared with 2005-2009

A very short sharp first brood and a much more protracted second brood reflected the warm early spring. Distribution is well up over the longer term average and as the map shows it is just as likely to be seen in the suburban areas of north and west Middlesex as it is in Hertfordshire. Steve Kiln noted "Plenty of Small Coppers", at Bencroft Field in the Broxbourne Woods complex. However like several other species numbers at comparable transect sites dropped in 2011 compared to 2010. The map clearly shows that this species seems unable to thrive in both heavily urbanised areas and areas of intensive arable agriculture, presumably because its food plant sorrel cannot thrive in these environments.

Small Blue *Cupido minimus*

Very rare & restricted

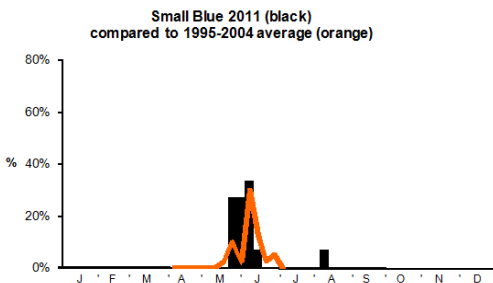
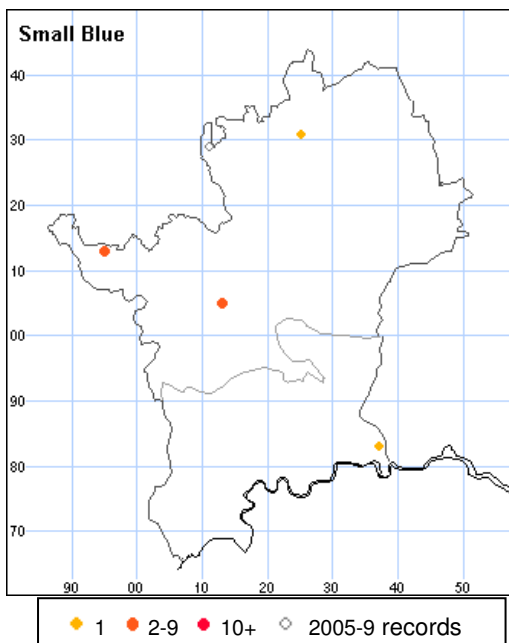


Photo Kenneth Greenway - Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park

First: 21 May

Last: 8 Aug

Peak week: 4 – 10 Jun



| Distribution % squares | |
|------------------------|---------|
| 2011 | >1% (4) |
| 2010 | >1% (1) |
| 2005-9 mean | 0% |

| Abundance (transects) | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 2011 | 8 |
| 2010 | 3 |
| 2005-9 mean | 0 |

| Distribution change | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| To little data to calculate | |

| Abundance change | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| To little data to calculate | |

On 1st June at Aldbury Nowers Paul Thrush “watched what could have only been egg-laying on Kidney Vetch! ...I was able to see it poking its abdomen down many times into the vetch flower heads.” on the 3rd Diane Andrews saw 3, “one of them egg laying on Kidney Vetch”. Surprisingly there were records from Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park where Kenneth Greenway noted “Small Blue male caught on transect, 21st May in area of suitable habitat (long established Kidney Vetch adjoining tall grassland); and at Butterfly World where Malcolm Hull comments, “Small Blue here is intriguing. A significant swathe of Kidney Vetch is now well established on site, adjacent to the large areas of Birds-foot Trefoil, a favoured nectar source. There must be a fair chance the butterfly can become established there.”

Brown Argus *Aricia agestis*

Widely distributed

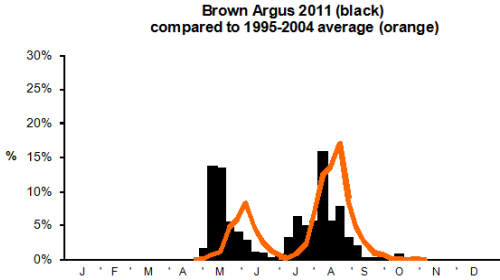
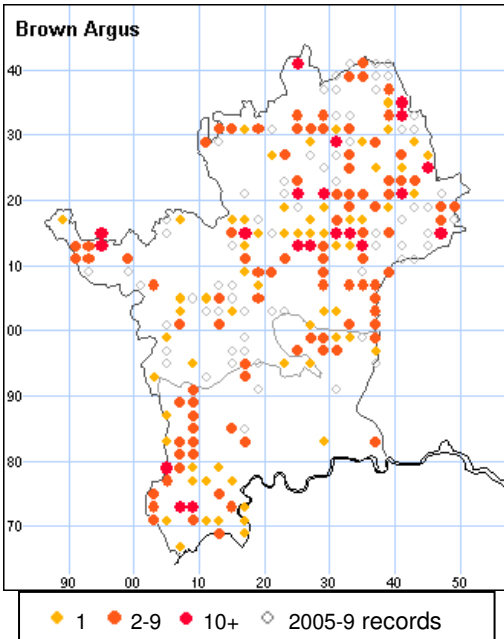


Photo Lee Browne

First: 24 Apr
Last: 20 Oct
Peak week: 30 Jul – 5 Aug



| Distribution % squares | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| 2011 | 26% (142) |
| 2010 | 18% (64) |
| 2005-9 mean | 11% |

| Abundance (transects) | |
|-----------------------|----|
| 2011 | 19 |
| 2010 | 18 |
| 2005-9 mean | 15 |

| Distribution change |
|---------------------------------|
| Up 136% compared with 2005-2009 |

| Abundance change |
|--------------------------------|
| Up 27% compared with 2005-2009 |

A superb year. Over the last 20 years this species has advanced, dropped back and then advanced again and it is now widely distributed in less built up areas. It is less widespread in Middlesex so these comments from Andy Culshaw at Horsenden Hill are good news, “Prior to mating the pair were engaged in a curious head to head circular dance... Good to see that this small population continues on this clay site”. They have the ability to make use of wild geranium species which grow readily in disturbed ground such as field margins. It was present on many conservation strips around the fields of east Hertfordshire. 20th October was our latest ever date for this species, recorded on dumped soil on the edge of an urban cemetery in Ware. A few other very late records suggest there may have been a partial third brood.

Common Blue *Polyommatus icarus*

Widespread & common

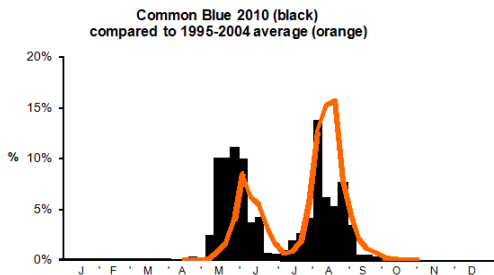
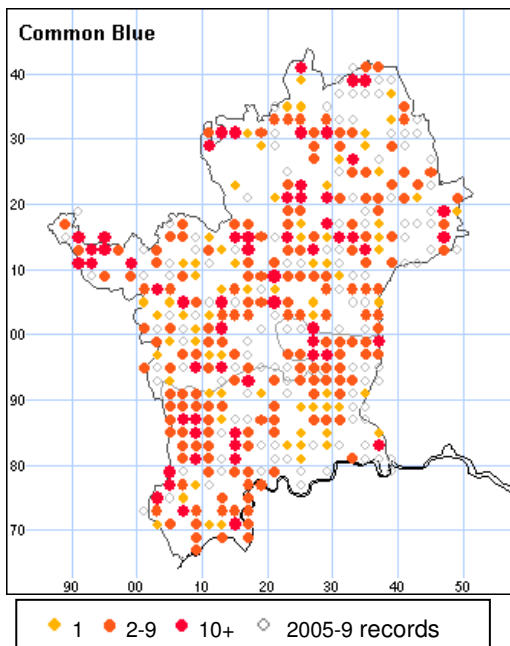


Photo Andrew Wood

First: 17 Apr

Last: 18 Oct

Peak week: 30 Jul – 6 Aug



| Distribution % squares | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| 2011 | 44% (243) |
| 2010 | 44% (146) |
| 2005-9 mean | 31% |

| Abundance (transects) | |
|-----------------------|----|
| 2011 | 19 |
| 2010 | 83 |
| 2005-9 mean | 30 |

| Distribution change |
|--------------------------------|
| Up 38% compared with 2005-2009 |

| Abundance change |
|----------------------------------|
| Down 37% compared with 2005-2009 |

The trends for the Common Blue are unusual, it remains well distributed, except in the more built up areas of Middlesex and the arable areas of east Hertfordshire. However numbers have dropped significantly against the long term average and spectacularly compared to last year. Colonial species, such as this, are often found in large numbers, but apart from the transect at Butterfly World where Malcolm Hull notes, “Common Blues accounted for more than half of all butterflies seen, having formed a massive colony on the acres of planted Birds-foot Trefoil”. There were hardly any records with more than double figures seen. Why this should be is not clear but we have seen this with several other species and it clearly needs to be monitored.

Chalkhill Blue *Lysandra coridon*

Common at known chalk sites

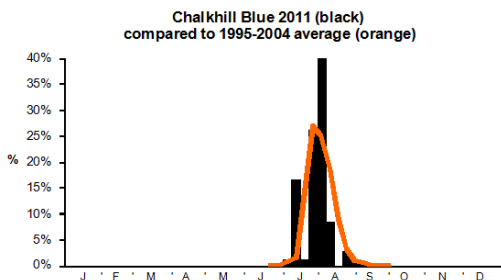
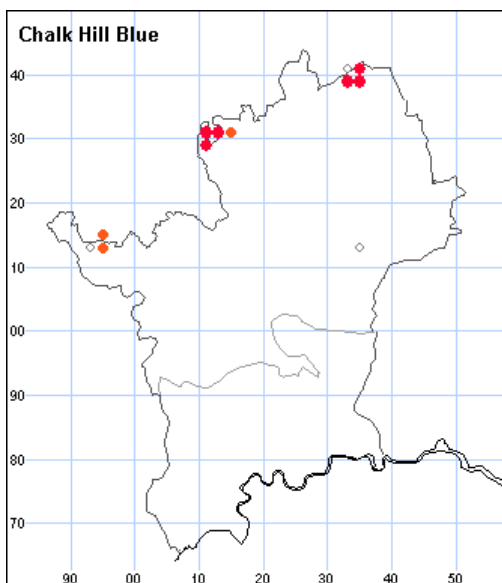


Photo Paul Thrush

First: 29 Jun
Last: 9 Sep
Peak week: 30 Jul – 5 Aug



◆ 1 ● 2-9 ● 10+ ◇ 2005-9 records

| Distribution % squares | |
|------------------------|--------|
| 2011 | 2% (8) |
| 2010 | 2% (7) |
| 2005-9 mean | 1% |

| Abundance (transects) | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| 2011 | 290 |
| 2010 | 284 |
| 2005-9 mean | 96 |

| Distribution change | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| To little data to calculate | |

| Abundance change | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Up 302% compared with 2005-2009 | |

The Chalkhill Blue exceeded last year’s good results in 2011 and could be seen in good numbers at both major sites, Therfield Heath and Hexton Chalk Pit. For instance Peter Glenister noted “On 24th July between 1015 and 1045 I saw 225 at Hexton Chalk Pit. On 31st July Alan Beale counted 417 in 32 minutes in his transect walk at the Top of the Rifle Range at Therfield Heath. Compared to many of the spring species the flight period was not unduly early, but a record of one on June 29th meant that for the first time ever all the species in our area had made an appearance in the first half of the year!

Holly Blue *Celastrina argiolus*

Widespread & common

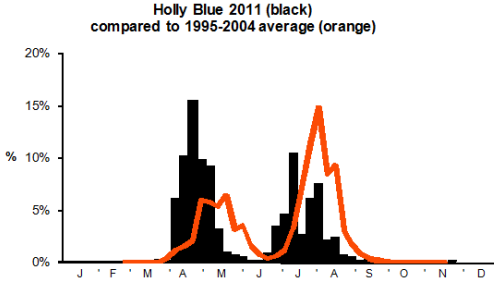
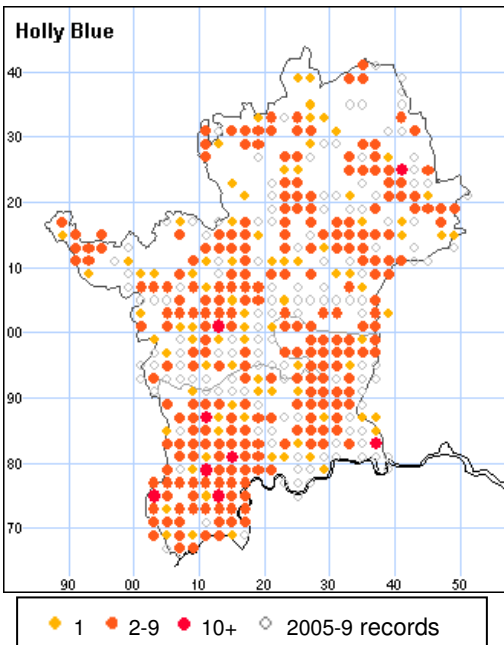


Photo Dave Miller

First: 22 Apr

Last: 19 Nov

Peak week: 16-22 July



| Distribution % squares | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| 2011 | 53% (292) |
| 2010 | 43% (151) |
| 2005-9 mean | 41% |

| Abundance (transects) | |
|-----------------------|----|
| 2011 | 16 |
| 2010 | 9 |
| 2005-9 mean | 12 |

| Distribution change |
|--------------------------------|
| Up 29% compared with 2005-2009 |

| Abundance change |
|--------------------------------|
| Up 33% compared with 2005-2009 |

The partial third brood was again seen in six sightings in October but even more remarkably, two were seen in November! Graham Elcombe recorded one on 1st November in Pinner and Nathan Budd reported an exceptionally late example, briefly flying around a bay tree in his St Albans garden on 19th November, the latest ever by 8 days in our area. On 2nd July, Colin Everett and Malcolm Hull recorded a Holly Blue, "ovipositing on the flower buds of Wild Hop in School Lane, Bricket Wood. ...nearby Ivy flower buds had not yet formed. The warm spring weather seemed to have accelerated the development of the butterfly, but not the food plant and this is an interesting example of the butterfly adapting its behaviour. "

White Admiral *Limenitis camilla*

Local in woodland

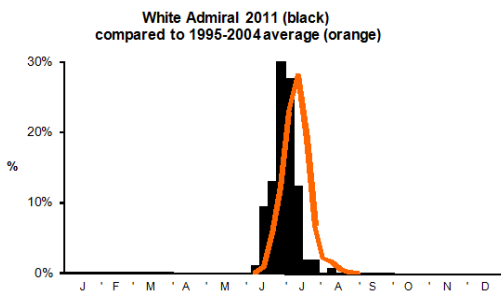
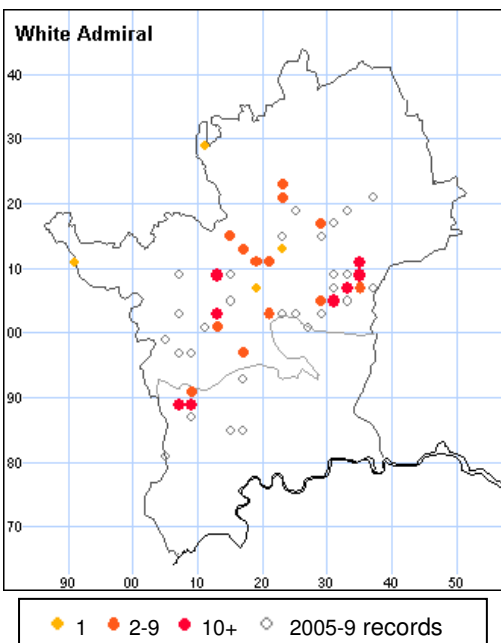


Photo Robin Pearson



First: 9 June
Last: 12 Aug
Peak week: 25 Jun -1 Jul

| Distribution % squares | |
|------------------------|---------|
| 2011 | 3% (17) |
| 2010 | 5% (18) |
| 2005-9 mean | 4% |

| Abundance (transects) | |
|-----------------------|----|
| 2011 | 18 |
| 2010 | 16 |
| 2005-9 mean | 11 |

| Distribution change |
|----------------------------------|
| Down 25% compared with 2005-2009 |

| Abundance change |
|--------------------------------|
| Up 63% compared with 2005-2009 |

White Admiral was in evidence in all its usual south Herts and north west Middlesex haunts and slightly increased in numbers. Not too much should be read into the apparent distribution drop as it is probably recorded most years in most of its haunts so if, as this year, there is a big increase in overall recorded squares there will be a decrease in the percentage of squares containing it. Malcolm Hull’s observation from Bricket Wood is typical, “White Admiral numbers were in line with the long term average, but up on last year”. A number of woods in Hertfordshire have had widespread thinning work carried out in the last year which has included the removal of honeysuckle and this may affect White Admiral numbers. We will be keeping a close eye on this.

Purple Emperor *Apatura iris*

Local in woodland

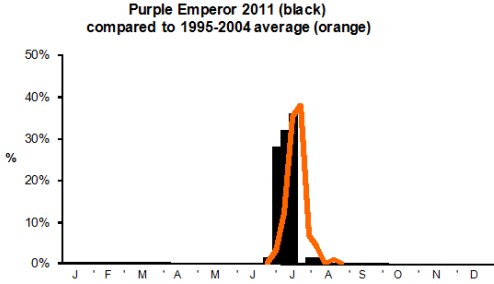
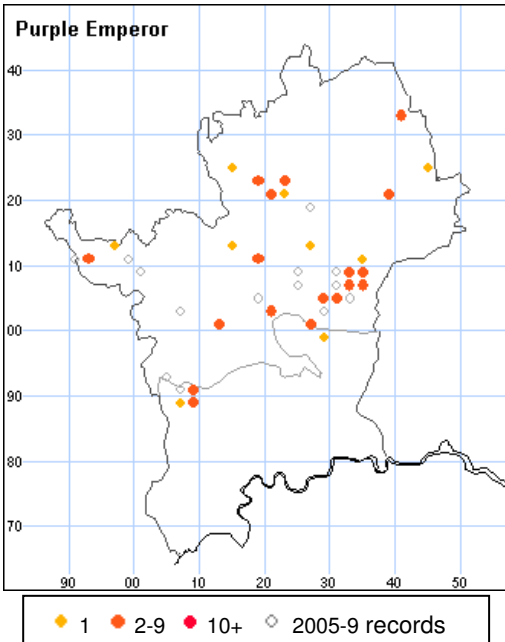


Photo Andy Brown

First: 21 June

Last: 30 Jul

Peak week: 9-15 July



| Distribution % squares | |
|------------------------|---------|
| 2011 | 4% (22) |
| 2010 | 5% (18) |
| 2005-9 mean | 3% |

| Abundance (transects) | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 2011 | 1 |
| 2010 | 2 |
| 2005-9 mean | 2 |

| Distribution change | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Too little data to calculate | |

| Abundance change | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Too little data to calculate | |

Last year's earliest date was again broken with a record on 21st June at Northaw Great Wood and as the flight chart above shows it was a very early season with most sightings at the end of June or in the first week of July. It continues to be found in new localities, perhaps most unusual was the example (pictured above), found at Patmore Heath in north east Herts well away from its core area. For many people an Emperor sighting makes a deep impression, for example Stefan Hunt noted, "Went to Watery Grove ...wasn't there very long when the sun returned and my first ever Purple Emperor circled me several times, nearly made contact with my face, then landed on nearby dog deposit. Stayed for about two minutes then flew up to oak-tops by gate. Didn't manage to wipe the smile off my face all day!"

Red Admiral *Vanessa atalanta*

Common migrant

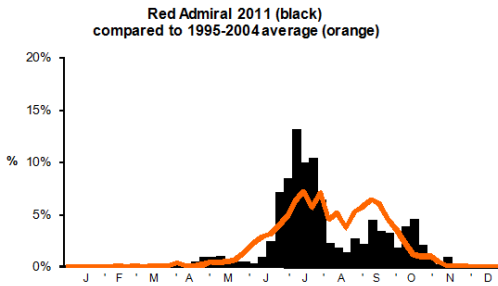
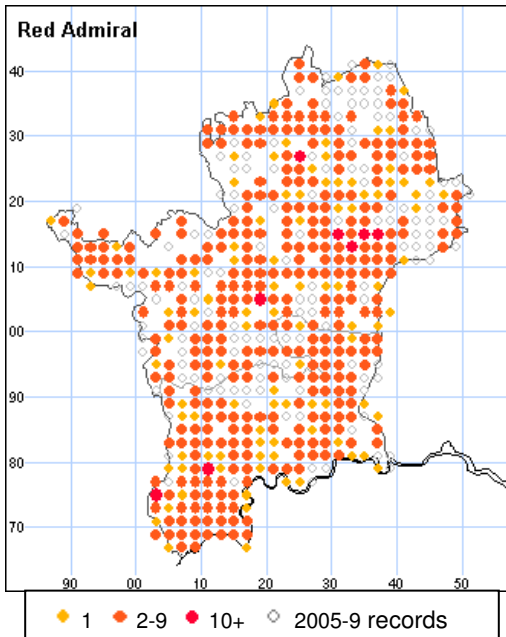


Photo Robin Pearson



First: 20 Jan

Last: 20 Dec

Peak week: 16-22 July

| Distribution % squares | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| 2011 | 74% (409) |
| 2010 | 45% (156) |
| 2005-9 mean | 51% |

| Abundance (transects) | |
|-----------------------|----|
| 2011 | 14 |
| 2010 | 5 |
| 2005-9 mean | 10 |

| Distribution change |
|--------------------------------|
| Up 45% compared with 2005-2009 |

| Abundance change |
|--------------------------------|
| Up 40% compared with 2005-2009 |

A phenomenal year for this species which shows real signs of being a true resident. There were a number of records in the spring which presumably were over wintered adults and then in late June a huge number of sightings. Most of these were probably the result of migration from the continent. By the end of July most of these had disappeared rather than being topped up with more migrants as generally happens and it seems likely that the ones seen in the autumn were the offspring of the big influx. In 2011 they were a common sight on flowering ivy throughout the autumn with odd ones seen on sunny days right up to Christmas. On 22nd September Nigel Agar found one over night in his garden moth trap.

Painted Lady *Vanessa cardui*

Variable migrant

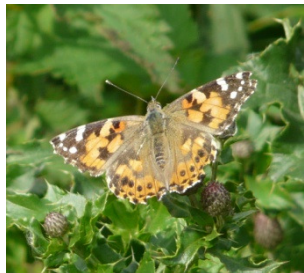
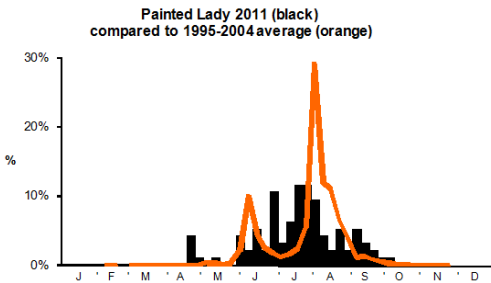
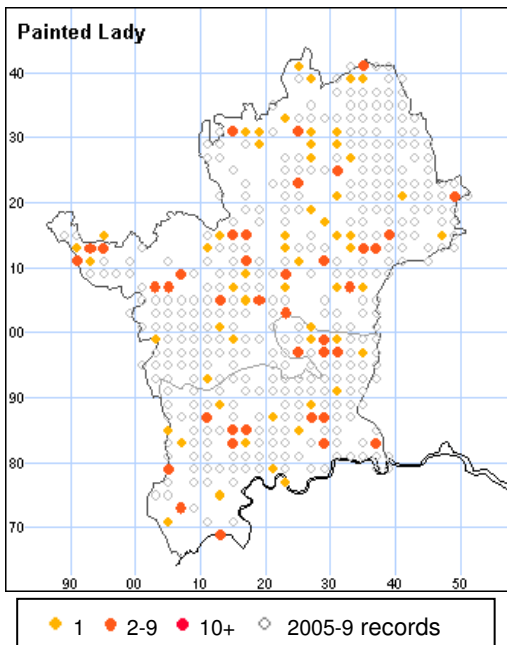


Photo Andrew Wood



First: 6 Apr

Last: 2 Oct

Peak week: 16-22 July

| Distribution % squares | |
|------------------------|----------|
| 2011 | 12% (65) |
| 2010 | 13% (45) |
| 2005-9 mean | 33% |

| Abundance (transects) | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 2011 | 1 |
| 2010 | 7 |
| 2005-9 mean | 0 |

| Distribution change |
|----------------------------------|
| Down 64% compared with 2005-2009 |

| Abundance change |
|----------------------------------|
| Down 42% compared with 2005-2009 |

As in 2010 the Painted lady was not a common butterfly and its whole flight pattern was markedly different to the long term average. There is a peak in mid July which coincides with the appearance of large numbers of Red Admirals and then a rather late flight in August/September. On 8th August Nigel Agar noted, "... brand new Painted Lady near the [Broxbourne Wood] West Car park...far too new to be a migrant, probably a recently emerged, second generation adult". Unlike most species Painted Lady was on the wing later than usual. It was never seen in large numbers, most records being of individuals with four being the most seen and as in 2010 that was at the Butterfly World Transect.

Small Tortoiseshell *Aglais urticae*

Widespread

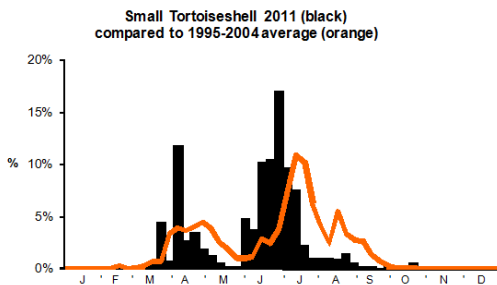
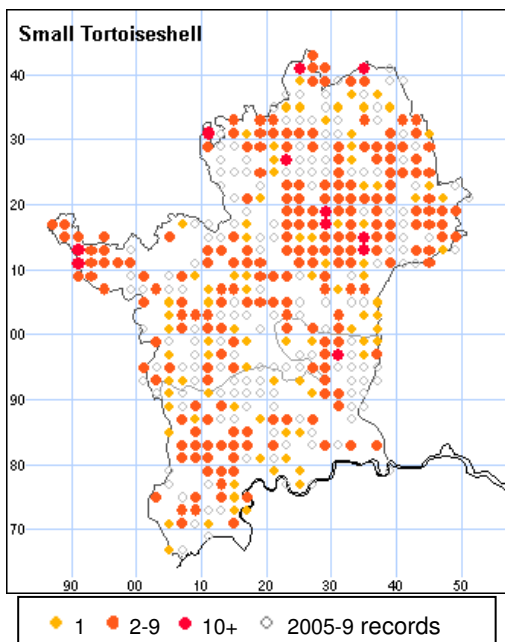


Photo Andrew Wood

First: 28 Feb

Last: 15 Oct

Peak week: 25 Jun - 1 July



Distribution % squares

| | |
|------|-----------|
| 2011 | 47% (262) |
|------|-----------|

| | |
|------|-----------|
| 2010 | 36% (124) |
|------|-----------|

| | |
|-------------|-----|
| 2005-9 mean | 37% |
|-------------|-----|

Abundance (transects)

| | |
|------|---|
| 2011 | 9 |
|------|---|

| | |
|------|---|
| 2010 | 8 |
|------|---|

| | |
|-------------|----|
| 2005-9 mean | 10 |
|-------------|----|

Distribution change

Up 27% compared with
2005-2009

Abundance change

Down 10% compared with
2005-2009

There are signs that the Small Tortoiseshell may be staging a recovery after the last few years' declines. The butterflies emerging in the spring from the 2010 emergence seem to have been quite successful in breeding and there was a strong and early mid summer brood. The map shows that currently this species is much more widely found in rural areas rather than the city, despite its association with gardens. Diane Andrews noted, "very few small tortoiseshells again and almost all of them in the more rural areas". Elizabeth Debenham noted, "On 26th June in Kings Langley " I saw groups of 4, 2 and 3 dog fighting over my head... further up there were more flying over the wheat field and settling on hogweed"

Peacock *Inachis io*

Widespread but declining?

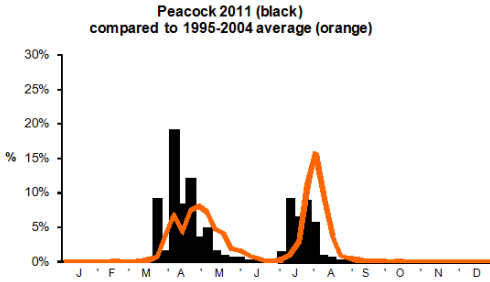
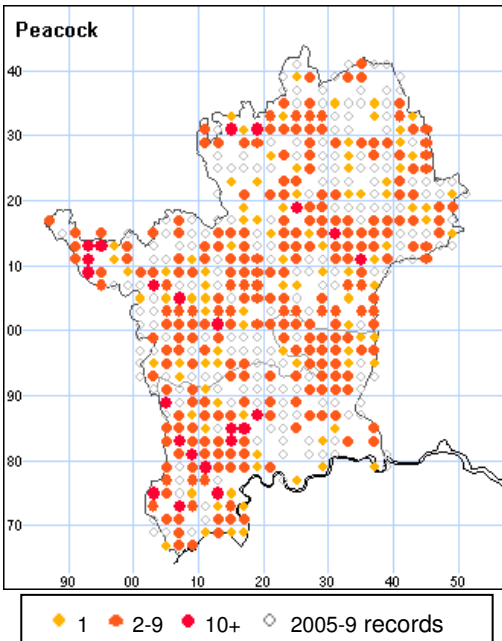


Photo Andrew Wood

First: 2 Mar

Last: 19 Nov

Peak week: 16-24 Apr



| Distribution % squares | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| 2011 | 55% (320) |
| 2010 | 52% (180) |
| 2005-9 mean | 57% |

| Abundance (transects) | |
|-----------------------|----|
| 2011 | 10 |
| 2010 | 36 |
| 2005-9 mean | 31 |

| Distribution change |
|---------------------------------|
| Down 4% compared with 2005-2009 |

| Abundance change |
|----------------------------------|
| Down 67% compared with 2005-2009 |

In 2010 we expressed serious doubts at the prospects for the Peacock in 2011 and there is some evidence of continuing problems. The distribution is holding up but the numbers seen have plunged by two thirds, not surprisingly, following 2010's very small autumnal brood. Diane Andrews observed Peacock larvae at Alexandra Park. "One cluster of c.50 sizeable larvae together on nettles on 31st May. On 12th June these were fully grown and dispersing by which date three more clusters of smaller larvae, c100 in total were visible and another web of tiny shrivelled ones, presumed casualties of the recent hot sunshine". Interestingly all the highest counts on transects were in south west Middlesex. The summer brood was smaller than the spring emergence which suggests that numbers may fall further in 2012.

Comma *Polygonia c-album*

Common & widespread

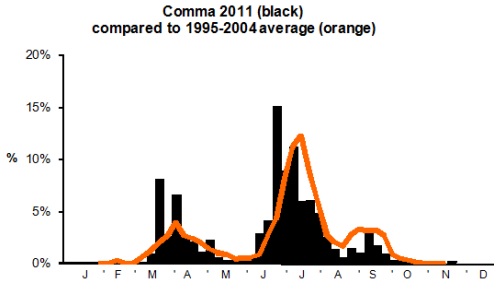
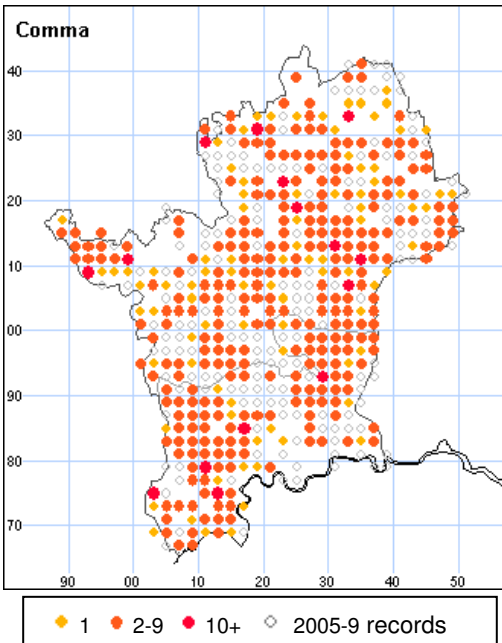


Photo Robion Pearson



First: 12 Mar

Last: 19 Nov

Peak week: 16-22 July

Distribution % squares

| | |
|-------------|-----------|
| 2011 | 58% (320) |
| 2010 | 57% (198) |
| 2005-9 mean | 50% |

Abundance (transects)

| | |
|-------------|----|
| 2011 | 15 |
| 2010 | 22 |
| 2005-9 mean | 28 |

Distribution change

Up 16% compared with 2005-2009

Abundance change

Down 43% compared with 2005-2009

Rather like the Peacock the Comma is widely found, but its numbers seem to be dropping, though not as alarmingly. We only have 4 counts in double figures compared to 14 in 2010. Whether this is for similar reasons to recent declines in the closely related Small Tortoiseshell and Peacock is not clear. The flight pattern was very close to the long term average but with a slight bias to the first half of the year, with the autumn emergence being rather smaller than usual. This may be an ominous sign for 2012. On a lighter note Phil Bishop reported, "had a mating pair of Commas in my Stevenage garden. They were sun bathing on some dark clothing on the washing line"

Dark Green Fritillary *Argynnis aglaja*

Rare but increasing

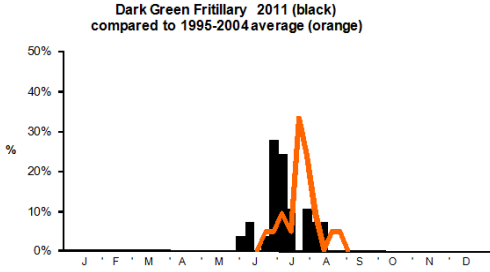
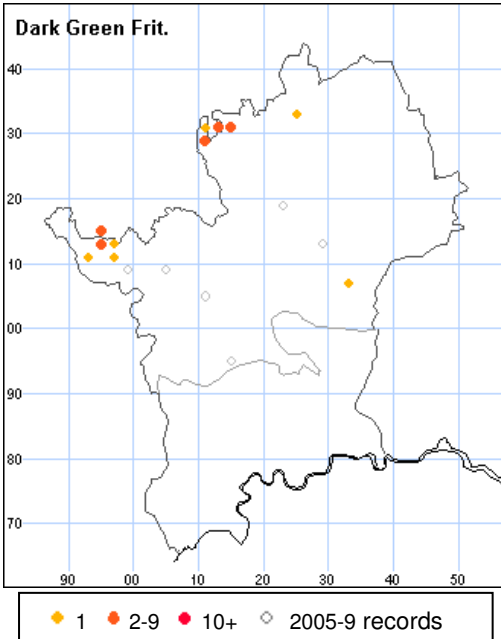


Photo Sandra Standbridge

First: 3 Jun

Last: 8 Aug

Peak week: 25 Jun – 3 Jul



| Distribution % squares | |
|------------------------|--------|
| 2011 | 2% (8) |
| 2010 | 2% (6) |
| 2005-9 mean | 0.7% |

| Abundance (transects) | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 2011 | 8 |
| 2010 | 3 |
| 2005-9 mean | 3 |

| Distribution change | |
|---------------------|--|
| No change | |

| Abundance change | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| To little data to calculate | |

There has been little change from last year but it is encouraging that numbers at Aldbury Nowers have increased. The most surprising record was this one from Sandra & Kevin Standbridge, "... we saw a Dark Green Fritillary at Broxbourne Woods today. We watched it between 11-45 and 12-15. It is quite elusive and we first saw it on our walk along the main ride past the small brook on the way up the hill. It then stayed in a large tree until the sun came out and then it went to the brook area and started to nectar on thistles." It was seen by several observers at this time. Its origin is unknown but is on the opposite side of Hertfordshire from the known sites. This is the butterfly pictured above.

Silver-washed Fritillary *Argynnis paphia*

Local in woodland

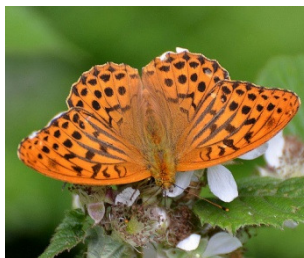
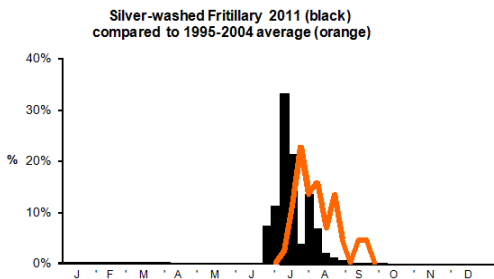
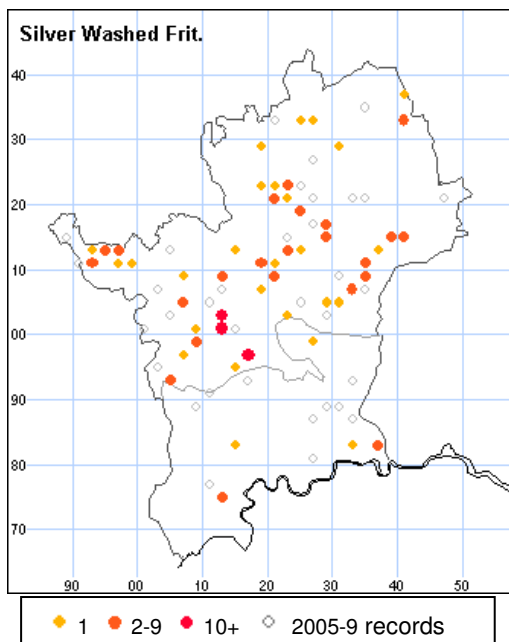


Photo Robin Pearson

First: 19 June

Last: 21 Aug

Peak week: 2-8 July



| Distribution % squares | |
|------------------------|----------|
| 2011 | 6% (30) |
| 2010 | 10% (34) |
| 2005-9 mean | 4% |

| Abundance (transects) | |
|-----------------------|----|
| 2011 | 12 |
| 2010 | 10 |
| 2005-9 mean | 3 |

| Distribution change |
|--------------------------------|
| Up 50% compared with 2005-2009 |

| Abundance change |
|---------------------------------|
| Up 400% compared with 2005-2009 |

The seeming reduction in distribution since last year is explained in the White Admiral entry. This species continues to do very well with double figures recorded on several transect walks at its stronghold in Bricket Wood Common near St Albans. The 19th June is a record earliest date. Penetration into Middlesex is still very limited, with just a repeat record at Tower Hamlets Cemetery in 2011. A new Hertfordshire site is on the old BAe airfield at Ellenbrook west of Hatfield, which is generally a good site for butterflies. The grey “Valezina” form was seen by Peter Clarke and Stefan Hunt near Watery Grove, Knebworth on 23rd and 24th July. Peter observed, “At first glance it looked like a large Ringlet and its behaviour was different to the usual females because it tended to favour the shade and did not fly much”.

Speckled Wood *Pararge aegeria*

Widespread & common

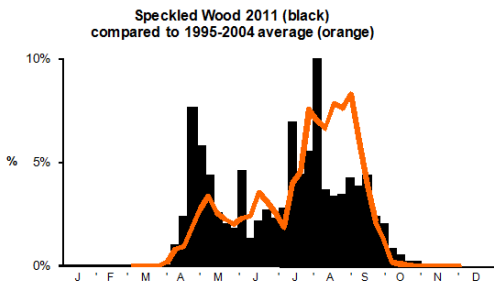
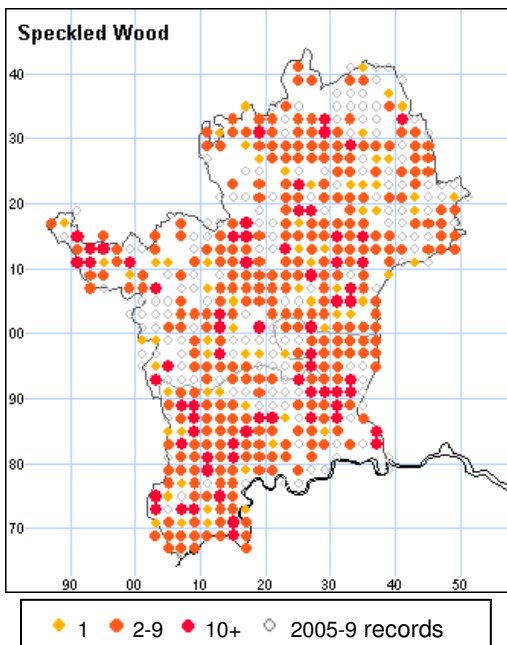


Photo Andrew Wood

First: 2 Apr

Last: 9 Nov

Peak week: 30 Jul – 5 Aug



| Distribution % squares | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| 2011 | 67% (373) |
| 2010 | 54% (188) |
| 2005-9 mean | 58% |

| Abundance (transects) | |
|-----------------------|----|
| 2011 | 87 |
| 2010 | 67 |
| 2005-9 mean | 74 |

| Distribution change |
|--------------------------------|
| Up 15% compared with 2005-2009 |

| Abundance change |
|--------------------------------|
| Up 18% compared with 2005-2009 |

The drop off in 2010 has been reversed in 2011 and the data above shows that this species is ahead of its longer term distribution and abundance. What is noticeable is that the warm spring again meant that a higher proportion than normal flew in the spring and that the peak normally well into August was right at the beginning of the month. Although it is generally found in wooded shady areas, the grey dots show it to have been very widely distributed, so it would be interesting to look out for it in north east and south west Hertfordshire in the next year.

Marbled White *Melanargia galathea*

Widespread in Herts

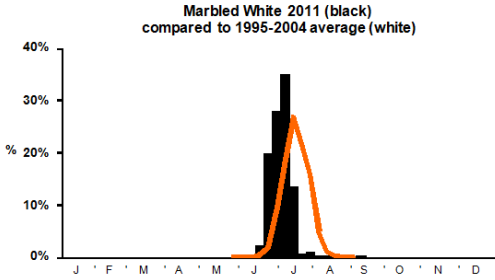
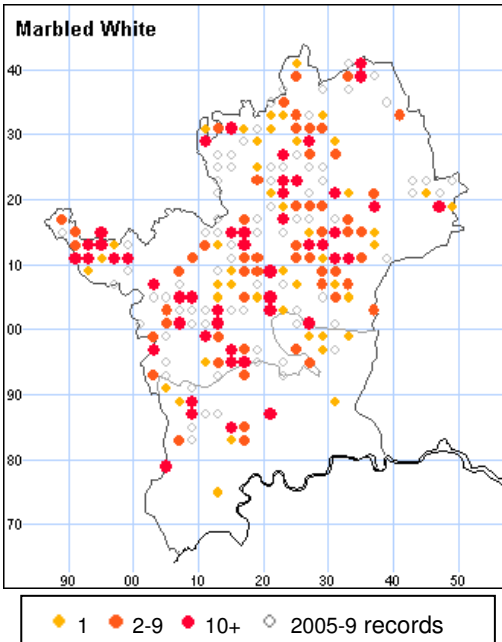


Photo Robin Pearson



First: 9 June

Last: 3 Sep

Peak week: 2-8 July

Distribution % squares

| | |
|-------------|-----------|
| 2011 | 22% (119) |
| 2010 | 21% (74) |
| 2005-9 mean | 16% |

Abundance (transects)

| | |
|-------------|----|
| 2011 | 71 |
| 2010 | 49 |
| 2005-9 mean | 61 |

Distribution change

Up 37% compared with 2005-2009

Abundance change

Up 16% compared with 2005-2009

Marbled White continues to be a success story and there are many strong colonies in areas where grass is left to grow such as uncultivated field edges. This species normally has a very constant flight period but the warm spring affected it with the bulk of the flight over by mid July. Despite that the record from 3rd September is our latest ever. Diane Andrews wrote, “ ... in my treks through four neighbouring tetrads I was pleased to see Marbled Whites in each area as none were marked there in the maps for 2000-2004 and 2005-2009 or 2010. It was found at several new sites around Hertford indicating a further southwards and eastwards expansion of this species.

Gatekeeper *Pyronia tithonus*

Widespread & common

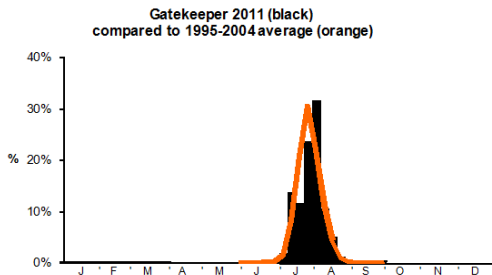
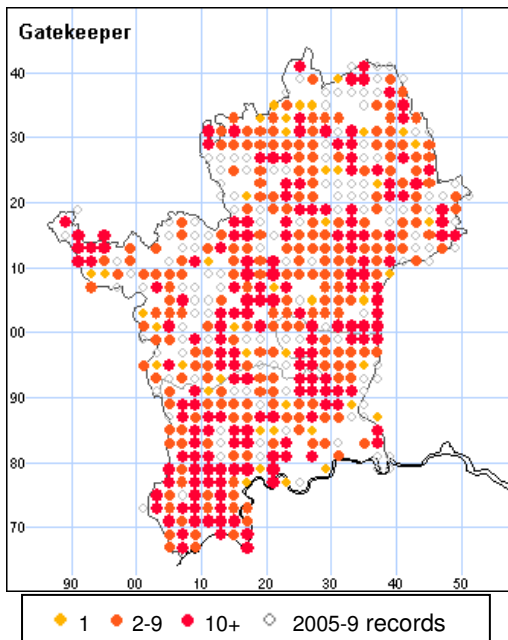


Photo Lee Browne

First: 2 June

Last: 29 Sep

Peak week: 30 Jul – 5 Aug



| Distribution % squares | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| 2011 | 70% (386) |
| 2010 | 52% (180) |
| 2005-9 mean | 49% |

| Abundance (transects) | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| 2011 | 99 |
| 2010 | 99 |
| 2005-9 mean | 123 |

| Distribution change |
|--------------------------------|
| Up 41% compared with 2005-2009 |

| Abundance change |
|----------------------------------|
| Down 19% compared with 2005-2009 |

The Gatekeeper had a strong year, though the abundance is still down against the longer term average, if unchanged from 2010. However compared to the similarly singly brooded Marbled White, there is no evidence that the warm spring had any great effect on the flight period. It actually peaked later than both last year and the long term average. It actually peaked later than both last year and the long term average. The first date of 2nd June was one day later than the record of 1st June in the very hot summer of 1976. All the counts of over 90 individuals were in Middlesex, a contrast to the mid 1980s when this species was absent from all but the more rural fringes of Middlesex.

Meadow Brown *Maniola jurtina*

Widespread & Common

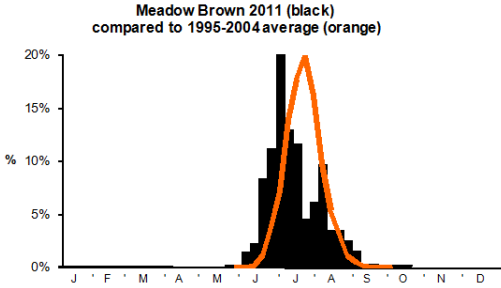
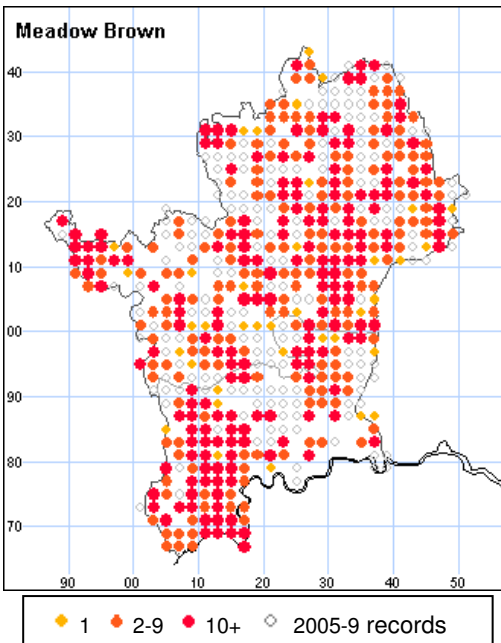


Photo Andrew Wood

First: 19 May

Last: 14 Oct

Peak week: 25 Jun – 1 Jul



| Distribution % squares | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| 2011 | 64% (355) |
| 2010 | 51% (178) |
| 2005-9 mean | 56% |

| Abundance (transects) | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| 2011 | 216 |
| 2010 | 173 |
| 2005-9 mean | 273 |

| Distribution change |
|--------------------------------|
| Up 14% compared with 2005-2009 |

| Abundance change |
|----------------------------------|
| Down 26% compared with 2005-2009 |

The Meadow Brown keeps pace with the Gatekeeper but it flew early this year despite not setting any first or last records. There were encouraging reports such as these from Kit Jones at Oakhill Woods reserve in Barnet, “...having best year on the reserve since 1990s”. At Oakhill Theological College, “regular early June cutting put back until 1st August seems to have had a positive effect on Meadow Brown numbers”. But some were less good as Mike Taylor at Kenwood noted, “the main reason for this year’s low overall tally of butterflies was the low number of Meadow Browns, Kenwood’s most common butterfly. In this, their worst year, only 134 were recorded. This is a pale shadow of their best year, 2008, when 323 were recorded, and it is well below the average of 225 for the years 2005-2010”.

Ringlet *Aphantopus hyperantus*

Increasing

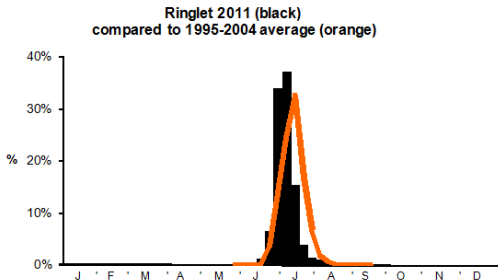
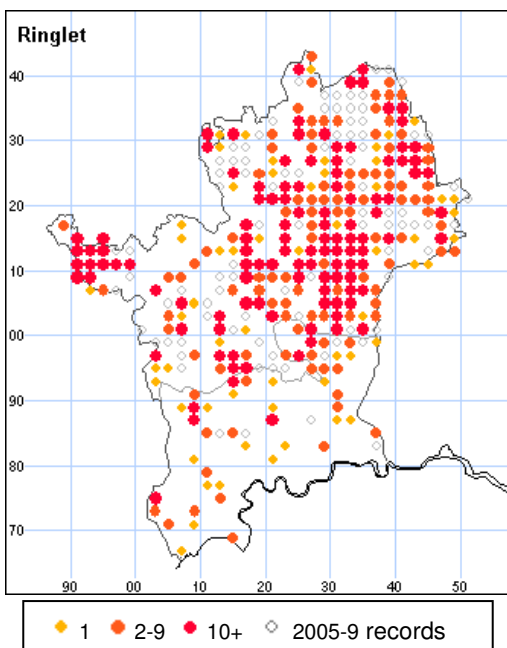


Photo Andrew Wood

First: 5 June

Last: 21 Aug

Peak week: 2-8 July



| Distribution % squares | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| 2011 | 41% (227) |
| 2010 | 38% (133) |
| 2005-9 mean | 25% |

| Abundance (transects) | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| 2011 | 128 |
| 2010 | 130 |
| 2005-9 mean | 103 |

| Distribution change |
|--------------------------------|
| Up 64% compared with 2005-2009 |

| Abundance change |
|--------------------------------|
| Up 22% compared with 2005-2009 |

Maintaining its increase of 2010, the Ringlet is an increasingly familiar butterfly, particularly through the centre of Hertfordshire. It still has yet to penetrate deep into the built up areas of Middlesex, where its favoured habitats of damp and somewhat shady grassland, are in rather short supply. At favoured sites very large numbers can be seen in a short period. For instance on 1st July 407 were counted in 43 minute transect walk at Balls Wood.

Small Heath *Coenonympha pamphilus*

Widespread

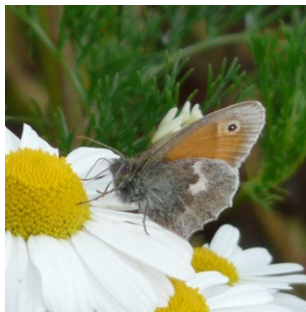
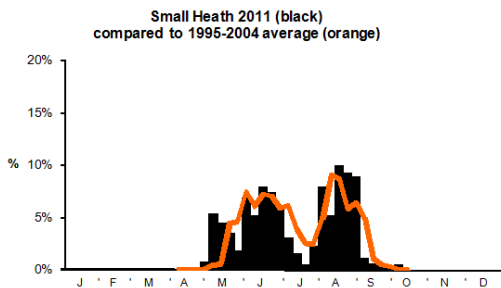
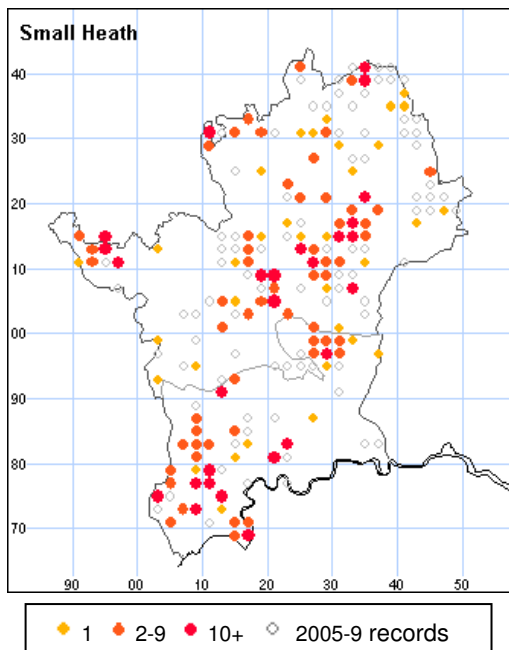


Photo Andrew Wood

First: 24 Apr

Last: 5 Oct

Peak week: 27 Aug – 2 Sep



| Distribution % squares | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| 2011 | 19% (103) |
| 2010 | 13% (46) |
| 2005-9 mean | 14% |

| Abundance (transects) | |
|-----------------------|----|
| 2011 | 58 |
| 2010 | 52 |
| 2005-9 mean | 36 |

| Distribution change |
|--------------------------------|
| Up 35% compared with 2005-2009 |

| Abundance change |
|-------------------------------|
| Up 6% compared with 2005-2009 |

The Small Heath, like the other reasonably common brown species did well in 2011, with the flight times being very close to the longer term average. There was a slightly earlier start to the spring flight, not surprising given the weather. Brownfield sites can be good for this species; Chris Beach noted “Went for a quick stroll around Cole Green landfill and noted 30 Small Heath. Only managed to get round a small section so would be interesting to know how many there may be across the whole site”. Good numbers were also seen at sites such as Rickneys Quarry and Stanwell Moor (by J14 of the M25) as well as the more expected sites such as Aldbury Nowers, Bushey Park and Trent Park.

RECORDERS – Many thanks to everyone who submitted records in 2011:

Janet Abranson; Audrey Adams; Nigel Agar; Isabella Aitken; Rita Akerman; John Akers; Zahra Akkerhuys; Alison; Pamela Allen; Steve Allen; Tony Allen; Alun & Chrissie; John Amatt; Neil Anderson; Sheena Anderson; Helen Anderton; Diane Andrews; Jo Angell; Charlotte Antoniou; Bill Ardagh; Sallie-Anne Arlington; Tallulah Armour; Sally Armstrong; Sheila Artiss; Carole Ashley; Natasha Askew; Miles Attenborough; David Attrill; Arthur Austin; Janine Avison; Kate Aylett; Mustapha Azzam; Rachel Bagenal; Hilary Bailey; Chris Bains; Helen Baker; Christine Balchin; Jane Balderson; Jet Baldwin; Joanne Ball; Maureen Ball; Frankie Ballard; Carole Banks; J.H. 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Phillpot; Sharon Pickard; Lorna Pidgeon; Luisa Pieris; Anita Pilnick; Karen Pine; Rachel Piper; Stuart Pittman; Steve Place; Sue Place; Debbie Pledge; Steve Plummer; Nick Pollard; Pat Pottinger; Eileen Prestwich; John Previte; Brian Price; **Catherine Price**; Sara Price; Libby Probert; John Procter; **Roger Prue**; Rupert Pyrah; Catharine Quinton; Beverly Rabbitt; Marion Ramsey; Annette Randall; Sally Ranger; Shirley Ranson; Alison Raven; Jill Ray; Michael Ray; Ann Reardon; Kevin Reeves; Carol Regulski; Jim Reid; Louise Restell; **Alan Reynolds**; Lesley Ribeiro; Yiana Ridley-Faux; R. Rin; Zohra Rizvi; Alex Roberts; Gabriel Roberts; Heide Roberts; Meg Robinson; Colleen Robson; R Roche; J Rodgers; Kayleigh Rogers; **Donald Room**; Laura Roomes; Vivien Rosenthal; Janet Rosewall; Andrew Ross; Tony Rowan-Wicks; Jenny Rowland; George Roy-Rostron; Mike Rubin; Caroline Russell; Louise Russell; Lynn Russell; Susan Russell; Marjrie Rutland; Susan Sadie; Heather Salisbury; Nicola Samuel; Eileen Samuroff; Harriet Sand; Ann

Sanders; Pamela Sanderson; Tim Sands; Frances Saunders; Lesley Saunders; Mavis Scammell; Les Scriver; Gerald Sealy-Bell; Lisa Seaman; Miranda Seldon; **Andrew Self**; Evelyn Semple; Hilary Sepahy; Valerie Seymour; Ian Shackelton; Becky Shaftoe; Keith Shallcross; Craig Sharp; Sarah Sharp; Tricia Sharpe; Carol Shaw; Vivien Sheehan; Joy Sheldrake; Fiona Sheppard-Foley; Brendan Sheridan; Emma Sherrington; **Jenny Sherwen**; **Alison Shipley**; Karen Shute; Angela Silver; Nicolas Simbault; Karen Simmons; Emma Simpson; Steve Simpson; Anne Sinclair; Chris Slack; John Sloan; Francesca Smaldone; Ian Small; Jane Smart; Carol Smith; Charles Smith; David Smith; Judith Smith; Ken Smith; Linda Smith; Marian Smith; **Martin Smith**; Mike Smith; Robert Smith; Robin Smith; Jose Snowdon; Barbara Sohi; **Rob Solomon**; Jenny Sorensen; Carol Spooner; Peter Spring; R. Stables; Roger Stacey; Brett Stafford; Helen Stamp; Kevin Standbridge; Sandra Standbridge; Chris Stanford; Darin Stanley; Mary Starling; Sheila Stayte; Alexis Steadman; Andy Steele; Charles Stephens; **Sue Stephens**; Jane Stephenson; June Stillwell; Mary Stone; Shelley Stonehouse; Elena Stoyanova; Ian Strafford; Alan Strawn; Jennifer Strickland; Eamonn Sullivan; Samantha Summerton; David Sutherland; Leslie Sutherland; Jill Swainson; Sue Swift; Sarah Tash; Sally Tawil; Alan Taylor; Archie Taylor; John Taylor; Kevin Taylor; Michelle Taylor; Mike Taylor; Tabitha Taylor; Zofia Taylor; Ebba Taylor-Pugh; **Kayla Terry**; Alan Thomas; **David Thomas**; Linda Thomas; R Thomas; Kelly Thompson; Faye Thomsit; Andy Thomson; Grant Thorne; John Thornton; **Paul Thrush**; Kat Tible-Taylor; Kyle Tiernan; M Tisdale; Matthew Todd; George Toll; Eric Tomlinson; Lindsey Toms; Caroline Tough; Lorraine Tough; Paul Townsend; Ruth Trenergy-Leach; Robert Tripp; Gini Trower; Judy Tucker; Elizabeth Turner; David Turton; M Ulamoleka; Mairead Ulamoleka; Paul Unwin; Lorraine Vadham; Lynn Vaghela; Richard Vain; Julia Vellacott; Lesley Venn; **Gavin Vicary**; Jayne Vince; Sam W; Colin Wade; Bruce Waite; Mark Wakelin; Alastair Walker; Kathryn Walker; **Peter Walker**; Clive Wallis; Alan Walton; David Ward; Elizabeth Ward; Flora Ward; Emilie Wareham; Anne Warner; Bruce Warner; C Warren; Martin Warren; Stuart Warrington; Fran Waterhouse; Pat Watt; Patricia Watt; Bob Watts; WD; Carole Webb; Diane Webb; Maxine Webber; Sue Webber; James Webster; Wee Liang Yong; Ann Weeks; James Weist; Penelope Welch; Russell Welch; Helen West; Hilary Weston; Robert Whatley; David Wheatcroft; Geoffrey Wheeler; Linda Wheeler; Lorna Whitaker; Edwin White; Robin White; Paul Why; Miranda Whyte; Natasha Wickliffe; Emma Wild; Kate Wilkinson; Kim Williams; **Leslie Williams**; Sally Williams; Alan Wilson; Maggie Winkworth; Alan Winter; Julie Wise; Sally Witham; **Andrew Wood**; Jane Wood; Kate Wood; Mark Wood; Stephen Wood; Terence Wood; Terry Wood; Annie Woodhouse; Ian Woodward; Lisa Woodward; Phil Woodward; Samantha Woodward; Gillian Woon; Rosemary Wootten; Denise Wren; Carole Wright; Christopher Wright; Dane Wright; Doreen Wright; Emma Wright; Kevin Wright; Peter Wright; Paula Youens;

Recorders in bold undertook one or more transect walks during the year. Detailed results from our 50+ regularly walked Butterfly Transects can be found at our branch website or are available in print from Andrew Wood (details below)

| Branch Contacts | |
|--|---|
| <p>Branch Chairman & Records collator Andrew Wood, 93 Bengeo Street, Hertford SG14 3EZ Tel: 01992 503571 zoothorn@ntlworld.com</p> | <p>Branch Organiser/Secretary: Liz Goodyear, 7 Chestnut Avenue, Ware. SG12 7JE Tel: 01920 487066 elizabethgoodyear@talk21.com</p> |