A dive in the total count for the week, to 5,221, seems to indicate that the 2018 peak has now passed. The lack of nectar source, especially on the open forest is clearly evident. The overall rate of 65.55 butterflies/km is down on the corresponding week last year.

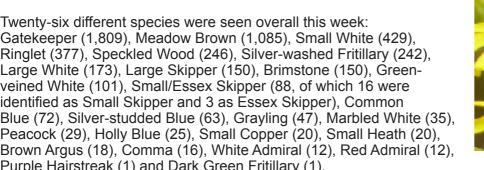


Speckled Wood at Great Linford Mike Barnes

Gatekeeper have increased in numbers and Meadow Brown almost halved. Speckled Wood are making a strong comeback and Grayling counts are twice that of Week 15. Silver-studded Blue and White Admiral are clearly on the wane. No Small tortoiseshell reported this week and Red Admiral are also low in numbers but hopefully expected to increase soon with the arrival of some continental cousins.



Large White at Holmsley Trevor Bumfrey



Essex Skipper at Mockbeggar John Levell

Ringlet (377), Speckled Wood (246), Silver-washed Fritillary (242), Large White (173), Large Skipper (150), Brimstone (150), Greenveined White (101), Small/Essex Skipper (88, of which 16 were identified as Small Skipper and 3 as Essex Skipper), Common Blue (72), Silver-studded Blue (63), Grayling (47), Marbled White (35), Peacock (29), Holly Blue (25), Small Copper (20), Small Heath (20), Brown Argus (18), Comma (16), White Admiral (12), Red Admiral (12), Purple Hairstreak (1) and Dark Green Fritillary (1).

Twenty-six different species were seen overall this week:

## Results

Week 15: Total - 7,712 Week 16: Total - 5,727 (Figures include exploratory Roe transects)

Acres Down         .56         33         Hasley         304         133         Normandy Marsh         .221         67           Badminston         .227         114         Hawkhill         .191         256         Perrywood Ivy         .1,094         230           Barton Common         .88         111         Hightown         .42         18         Pignal         .275         107           Beaulieu Heath         .162         105         Holmsley         .397         285         Pondhead         .164         143           Blackwater         .92         108         Ibsley         .35         38         Pondhead         .164         143           Breamore         .784         814         Janesmoor         .183         107         Rockford         .101         98           Broadley         .62         47         Janesmoor Plain         .61         72         Roe North         .227         189           Dibden Bottom         .115         13         Keeping Marsh         .36         77         Roe South         .258         317           Fields Heath         .146         170         Kings Copse         .362         418         Standing Hat         .170		eeks 16		eeks 16	W6 15	eeks 16
Ordat Elliford The solution into the interpretation of the solution of	Badminston227 Barton Common88 Beaulieu Heath162 Blackwater92 Breamore784 Broadley62 Dibden Bottom115 Fields Heath146 Frohawk324	114 111 105 108 814 47 13 170 153 99	Hawkhill	256 18 285 38 107 72 77 418 174 89	Perrywood Ivy1,094 Pignal	230 107 143 152 98 189 317 269 106

This years Big Butterfly Count started on 20th July and goes through to 12th August. Please visit the following link to download your form. This scheme contributes around 8,000 records for the Hampshire Database. https://www.bigbutterflycount.org/



Small Copper at Vales Moor John French

Moth to Spot: This week's moth to spot is the male Oak Eggar (https:// www.ukmoths.org.uk/species/lasiocampa-quercus/) a large, dark brown moth with a broad, yellowish outer band on the forewing. About the size of a Small Tortoiseshell butterfly, this moth flies fast, in a zigzag pattern, tending to be seen in the afternoon. Despite its name, this moth's larvae feed mainly on heathers, although they can be found on a range of other plants and may be seen in a wide range of habitats including both heathland and woodland rides.