

Overall a mixed year for Rutland butterflies. The season was exceptionally long with 4 species making a first appearance in early February (compared to 3 first appearances not until late March in 2016) and 7 species were still on the wing in October with 2 of these still flying in November (compared to 5 and none respectively in 2016). However the numbers and sites recorded for some species were low. This was particularly the case for all the Whites, except the Marbled White, which continues to spread. 2017 was not a year for migrants, with few Painted Ladies, rarely more than singletons, and no Clouded Yellows at all.

The highlight of the year was the finding of singleton Purple Emperors in the north-east of the county on three occasions in early July. The sighting, and the area, correspond with other internet-reported records of the species in woodland areas of north-east Rutland, both for this year and last year, and also with records from just across the border in south-west Lincolnshire.

Other good news was the evidence of consolidation of the Fritillaries in the county. Compared to 2016, this year Silver-Washed recordings doubled from 3 to 6 sites, while Dark Green increased from 2 sites to 7. Less good was the fact that Grizzled and Dingy Skippers seem to be only just clinging on in the county. And worst news of all was that 2017 brought no records from the former Chalkhill Blue colony at Bloody Oaks. The last record from there is of a singleton in 2015.

As usual many thanks to all those who have contributed records over the year.

Overview

Year	2012 §	2013 §	2014	2015 §	2016	2017
Number of species recorded	29	33	32	31	30	30
Number of recorders submitting records			45		16	17
Number of sites from which records received			48		37	40
Number of records of all species received			727		686	435

§ data incomplete

Species sightings for 2017

	sites seen	number records	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	noteworthy records for the species
Small Tortoiseshell	19	31	3									6	2 x 15, on Buddleja
Brimstone	18	36	3							1			
Red Admiral	18	37	4									19	max 18 on 6th Aug
Peacock	18	31	7								25		
Comma	14	25		9						19			
Orange Tip	17	21			6	25							very short flight period
Holly Blue	8	9			6					27			
Green-veined White	6	9			6					1			
Speckled Wood	13	4			6					1			
Small White	12	18			8							5	
Green Hairstreak	2	4			22	28							
Dingy Skipper	2	2				1/28							poor year sites/nos
Small Heath	6	9				5				1			
Grizzled Skipper	1	2				11	3						poor year sites/nos
Common Blue	13	18				22						1	
Brown Argus	4	8				22						16	
Small Copper	7	16				22						27	
Painted Lady	11	25				23				26			fewer sites/records
Large Skipper	7	9				31		1					
Meadow Brown	11	26					10			27			
Ringlet	8	16					14	31					
Silver Washed Fritillary	6	10					15			1			only 3 sites in 2016
Dark Green Fritillary	7	13					15			3			only 2 sites in 2016
Small Skipper	5	8					15	10					
Marbled White	10	18					15			1			
Essex Skipper	2	2					20	18					
Large White	6	10					21				16		
Gatekeeper	10	14					30			13			
Purple Emperor	2	3						3/10					Singletons only
White-Letter Hairstreak	1	1								4			

 First and last dates species observed and intervening months in which recorded

Reports compiled by Richard Brown
 10 Victoria Road, Stamford, Lincs PE9 1HB
 01780 590707
ribrow@hotmail.co.uk