

BRINSLEY HEADSTOCKS
Heritage & Nature Reserve.

BUTTERFLIES and MOTHS

2019

BUTTERFLIES

The mix of unimproved meadow, woodland and hedgerows provide an ideal habitat for a number of butterfly species. The total number of species recorded to date is 21, a very respectable total for a site the size of the Headstocks Nature Reserve. The number of species recorded in 2019 was 17.

2019 was notable for a record number of Peacock butterflies, with a count of 30+ feeding on knapweed flowers in the Long Meadow. We were also fortunate to observe 5 Painted Lady butterflies, also feeding on knapweed.

SMALL SKIPPER *Thymelicus sylvestris*

There were two records of this species in 2019 : two were seen on July 4th and two on July 17th. This species is normally recorded regularly in its flight period, with a maximum of eight recorded in 2015.

ESSEX SKIPPER *Thymelicus lineola*

Not recorded in 2019. The first site record for this species was of a single on August 12th 2015. There had been a few sightings of “possibles” in the preceding days, but the identity was confirmed by netting and close examination in an inspection jar.

LARGE SKIPPER *Ochlodes venatus*

There were two records of this species in 2019 : a single on July 4th and three on July 17th. This was encouraging, as there were no records in 2017 and 2018. Normally present in both the long meadow and the headstocks meadow, although not as numerous as small skipper.

BRIMSTONE *Gonepteryx rhamni*

Disappointingly, there were no records of this species in either 2019. It is normally seen regularly, particularly in spring, although never in large numbers.

LARGE WHITE *Pieris brassicae*

This species was unusually scarce in 2019, with only one record, a single on July 4th. Normally not very numerous on site, although numbers in 2017 and 2018 were much higher.

SMALL WHITE *Artogeia rapae*

Numbers in late summer of this species were unusually high, with a maximum of six on August 20th. The first sighting of the year was of a single on May 15th.

GREEN-VEINED WHITE *Aeshna grandis*

This species was encountered on the majority of site visits in suitable weather, although in smaller numbers than 2018. The first record of the year was for 2019 was a relatively early date of 23rd April, with a maximum of 4 seen on 2nd May.

ORANGE-TIP *Anthocaris cardamines*

Normally a common butterfly in April and May, the first record for 2019 was of a single male on May 3rd, which was three weeks later than normal. Numbers soon increased, however, and a relatively high count of twelve were seen on May 15th.

SMALL COPPER *Lycaena phlaeas*

This is normally a scarce butterfly on the site, but a maximum of six were seen in 2018. Disappointingly, this superb little insect was not seen in 2019.

COMMON BLUE *Polyommatus icarus*

There were three records of this species in 2019, all records relate to single insects. The first was seen on the early date of May 30th, investigating the plentiful Birds-foot Trefoil adjacent to the car park. Further sightings were on July 7th and August 20th. This species was not recorded in 2016 or 2017, although a site record of five were seen on 19th July 2018.

HOLLY BLUE *Celastrina argiolus*

Although this species is often seen in gardens in the village, it is not regularly encountered on the Headstocks nature reserve. There was a single record for 2019, on 29th July.

RED ADMIRAL *Vanessa atalanta*

There were far more records of this species in 2019 than for several years. There were three sightings of singles between July and October, but three were seen on 17th July.

PAINTED LADY *Vanessa cardui*

Following three blank years (2016, 2017 & 2018) 2019 proved to be an “irruption” year for this migratory species, with a wonderful sight of five of this species feeding on Knapweed flowers in the Long Meadow.

SMALL TORTOISESHELL *Aglais urticae*

This species commonly has “blank” years, when none are recorded (e.g. 2015 and 2018), so a single record of two insects on 4th July was encouraging.

PEACOCK *Inachis io*

2019 proved to be a record-breaking year for this species. The first record for the year was on the very early date of 20th March. There were two further records of singles, but on 29th July an amazing total of thirty plus were seen in the Long Meadow, feeding on Knapweed. The average number seen for the last five years was eight, to put this record into context.

COMMA *Polyommatus c-album*

An early sighting on 24th March showed promise of a good year, but sightings petered out, with a single seen on 4th July and three on 17th July.

SPECKLED WOOD *Pararge aegeria*

Normally a fairly common butterfly in summer, but only 6 were seen in 2019 (first date 23rd April). Coincidentally, 6 were also seen in 2017 and the first date was also 23rd April !

GATEKEEPER *Pyronia tithonus*

Recorded as a fairly common butterfly in 2000/2002, but may be scarcer now. The numbers seen in 2019 were much higher than previous years, with a maximum of 20+ on 29th July9

MEADOW BROWN *Maniola jurtina*

A common butterfly in summer, which relishes the meadow habitat of the reserve. The numbers seen in 2019 were fairly average, although much higher than the very hot, dry summer of 2018. There were 20+ on 4th July, 26 on 17th July and 30+ on 29th July.

SMALL HEATH *Coenonympha pamphilus*

Not recorded in 2019. The only site record to date is of a single insect on 20th September 2010.

RINGLET *Aphantopus hyperantus*

This species appeared to be declining on site, but good numbers were seen in 2019. Encouragingly, there were counts of 30+ on both 4th July and 17th July. In contrast, the maximum count in 2018 was only 4, due to the hot, dry summer.

MOTHS

Prior to 2015, only 6 species of moth had been recorded on site. These were mainly day-flying species and the odd nocturnal species accidentally disturbed in the daytime.

All this changed on July 10th 2015, when a nocturnal evening was arranged on the site, which featured a moth-trapping session organised by DaNES (Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Entomological Society). They considered that a total of 80 species trapped on the night would be a good result, but a total of 113 species were actually trapped !.

Four species which had previously been recorded on site were not seen on the trapping session (due to the fact that they are primarily day-flying species). These are shown below, with the species recorded in the trapping session being shown in the table which follows.

The total species of moth now recorded on site is 117.

SIX-SPOT BURNET *Zygaena filipendulae*

CHIMNEY SWEEPER *Odezia atrata*

LUNAR MARBLED BROWN *Drymonia ruficornis*

DARK-BARRED TWIN-SPOT CARPET *Xanthorhoe ferrugata*

Common Name	Taxon

Ghost Swift	<i>Hepialus humuli</i>
Common Swift	<i>Hepialus lupulinus</i>
Pebble Hook-tip	<i>Drepana falcataria</i>
Peach Blossom	<i>Thyatira batis</i>
Buff Arches	<i>Habrosyne pyritoides</i>
Large Emerald	<i>Geometra papilionaria</i>
Common Emerald	<i>Hemithea aestivaria</i>
Small Fan-footed Wave	<i>Idaea biselata</i>
Small Dusky Wave	<i>Idaea aversata</i>
Riband Wave	<i>Idaea aversata</i>
Flame Carpet	<i>Xanthorhoe designata</i>
Large Twin-spot Carpet	<i>Xanthorhoe quadrifasiata</i>
Silver-ground Carpet	<i>Xanthorhoe montanata</i>
Shaded Broad-bar	<i>Scotopteryx chenopodiata</i>
Small Argent and Sable	<i>Epirrhoe tristata</i>
Common Carpet	<i>Epirrhoe montanata</i>
Yellow Shell	<i>Camptogramma bilineata</i>
Purple Bar	<i>Cosmohoe ocellata</i>
Barred Straw	<i>Eulithis pyraliata</i>
Small Phoenix	<i>Ecliptopera silaceata</i>
Common Marbled Carpet	<i>Chloroclysta truncata</i>
Barred Yellow	<i>Cidaria fulvata</i>
Green Carpet	<i>Colostygia pectinataria</i>
July Highflyer	<i>Hydriomena impluviata</i>
Rivulet	<i>Perizoma affinitata</i>
Small Rivulet	<i>Perizoma alchemillata</i>
Sandy Carpet	<i>Perizoma flavofasciata</i>
Foxglove Pug	<i>Eupithecia pulchellata</i>
Wormwood Pug	<i>Eupithecia absinthiata</i>
Mottled Pug	<i>Eupithecia exigua</i>
V-Pug	<i>Chloroclystis v-ater</i>
Green Pug	<i>Pasiphila rectangulata</i>
Dingy Shell	<i>Euchoeca nebulata</i>
Clouded Border	<i>Lomaspilis marginata</i>
Latticed Heath	<i>Chiasmia clathrata</i>
Scorched Wing	<i>Plagodis dolabraria</i>
Brimstone	<i>Opisthograptis luteolata</i>
Lilac Beauty	<i>Apeira syringaria</i>
Scalloped Oak	<i>Crocallis elinguaris</i>
Swallow-tailed Moth	<i>Ourapteryx sambucharia</i>
Peppered Moth	<i>Biston betularia</i>
Willow Beauty	<i>Peribatoites rhomboidaria</i>
Mottled Beauty	<i>Alcis repandata</i>
Engrailed	<i>Ectropis bistortata</i>
Bordered White	<i>Bupalus piniaria</i>
Common White Wave	<i>Cabera pusaria</i>

Common Wave	<i>Cabera exanthemata</i>
Clouded Silver	<i>Lomographa temerata</i>
Light Emerald	<i>Campaea margaritata</i>
Lime Hawk	<i>Mimas tiliae</i>
Elephant Hawk	<i>Deilephila elpenor</i>
Pebble Prominent	<i>Notodonta ziczac</i>
Common Footman	<i>Eilema lurideola</i>
Buff Ermine	<i>Spilosoma luteum</i>
Short-cloaked Moth	<i>Nola cucullatella</i>
Turnip Moth	<i>Agrotis segetum</i>
Heart and Dart	<i>Agrotis exclamationis</i>
Flame	<i>Axylia putris</i>
Flame Shoulder	<i>Ochropleura plecta</i>
Large Yellow Underwing	<i>Noctua pronuba</i>
Lesser Yellow Underwing	<i>Noctua comes</i>
Ingrailed Clay	<i>Diarsia mendica</i>
Purple Clay	<i>Diarsia brunnea</i>
Setaceous Hebrew Character	<i>Xestia c-nigrum</i>
Double Square-spot	<i>Xestia triangulum</i>
Shears	<i>Hada plebeja</i>
Cabbage Moth	<i>Mamestra brassicae</i>
Dot Moth	<i>Melanchnra persicariae</i>
Bright-line Brown-eye	<i>Lacanobia oleracea</i>
Clay	<i>Mythimna ferrago</i>
Smoky Wainscot	<i>Mythimna impura</i>
Common Wainscot	<i>Mythimna pallens</i>
Shoulder-striped Wainscot	<i>Mythimna comma</i>
Shark	<i>Cucullia umbratica</i>
Sycamore	<i>Acronicta aceris</i>
Miller	<i>Acronicta leporina</i>
Dark Dagger agg	<i>Acronicta tridens agg</i>
Small Angle Shages	<i>Euplexia lucipara</i>
Dunbar	<i>Cosmia trapezina</i>
Dark Arches	<i>Apamea monoglypha</i>
Light Arches	<i>Apamea lithoxylaea</i>
Clouded-bordered Brindle	<i>Apamea crenata</i>
Clouded Brindle	<i>Apamea epomidon</i>
Slender Brindle	<i>Apamea scolopacina</i>
Double Lobed	<i>Apamea ophiogramma</i>
Marbled Minor agg	<i>Oligia strigalis agg</i>
Middle-barred Minor	<i>Oligia fasciuncula</i>
Rosy Minor	<i>Mesoligia literosa</i>
Common Rustic agg	<i>Mesapamea secalis agg</i>
Uncertain	<i>Hoplodrina alsines</i>
Mottled Rustic	<i>Caradrina morpheus</i>
Scarce Silver-lines	<i>Bena bicolorana</i>
Green silver-lines	<i>Pseudoips prasinana</i>

Burnished Brass	<i>Diachrysia chrysitis</i>
Silver-Y	<i>Autographa gamma</i>
Beautiful Golden-Y	<i>Autographa pulchrina</i>
Plain Golden-Y	<i>Autographa jota</i>
Spectacle	<i>Abrostola tripartita</i>
Beautiful Hook-tip	<i>Laspeyria flexula</i>
Straw Dot	<i>Rivula sericealis</i>
Snout	<i>Hypena proboscidalis</i>
Fanfoot	<i>Zanclognatha tarsipennalis</i>
Small Fan-foot	<i>Herminia grisealis</i>
Water Veneer	<i>Acentria ephemerella</i>
Mother of Pearl	<i>Pleuroptya ruralis</i>
Small Magpie	<i>Anania hortulata</i>
Mint Moth	<i>Pyrausta aurata</i>
Olive Pearl	<i>Udea olivalis</i>
Bee Moth	<i>Aphomia sociella</i>
Barred Fruit Tree Tortrix	<i>Pandemis cerasana</i>
Bramble-shoot Moth	<i>Notoceliauddmanniana</i>
Knapweed Conch	<i>Agapeta zoegana</i>
Green Oak Tortrix	<i>Tortrix viridana</i>
Yellow Conch	<i>Agapeta hamana</i>