

## Knapp and Papermill Butterfly Report 2018.

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To all intents and purposes with the lovely summer this should have been a better year for numbers but the total sightings from the transect walk every week from April to September showed a very similar figure to last year. – 2017.

Some species did better while others declined. The most prolific species was, as usual, the Meadow Brown but this dropped by 34%. In contrast the Common Blue increased by over 200% reaching a similar figure not seen since 2015, and similarly the Large White did the same as did the Small Copper but with a much smaller figure. The Brimstone also showed an increase to a more usual total as did the Ringlet but overall it seems to be a declining butterfly like the Gatekeeper which has been dropping in numbers each year here since 2015.

The Marbled White numbers may have peaked last year having been rising steadily for a number of years but the Holly Blue appears to be on an up with its regular cyclic activity due to its parasitic wasp! As usual many of the total 26 species appear in the usual small numbers, but it is still very sad not to see many Small Tortoiseshell or Peacock, with the Red Admiral also failing to follow last year's successes.

The Dingy Skipper obviously benefited from the warmth giving more sightings than usual with the White Admiral, Brown Argus and Silver-washed Fritillary also giving pleasing appearances.

With total sightings being around the 2000 mark it does look as this is the benchmark now and the 26 species is very good figure for this reserve tucked away in a wooded valley near Alfrick in west Worcestershire.

Table 1. Butterfly transect counts at Knapp & Papermill Reserve 2014-2018

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Small Skipper	237	215	104	130	109
Large skipper	27	18	11	20	28
Large White	32	37	34	32	75
Small white	9	2	7	16	23
Green Veined white	228	174	193	152	333
Orange tip	64	63	43	49	45
Purple hairstreak	0	0	0	6	2
White-letter Hairstreak	4	0	2	2	1
Small copper	11	3	12	8	18
Brown argus	1	5	0	3	2
Common blue	87	231	87	103	240
Holly Blue	1	9	4	1	13
White admiral	4	2	1	2	2
Red admiral	18	10	7	16	5
Painted lady	0	1	5	5	4
Small tortoiseshell	25	14	6	5	6
Peacock	56	43	13	13	13
Comma	40	46	31	58	51
Silver washed fritillary	1	8	3	8	4
Speckled wood	86	81	56	78	86
Marbled white	64	74	132	174	130
Gatekeeper	78	151	95	89	75
Meadow brown	981	1069	813	1146	762
Ringlet	86	231	187	166	184
Brimstone	26	18	17	10	20
Dingy skipper	4	3	3	3	6
Total	2170	2508	1868	2295	2237
Total species	24	24	24	26	26
Average 6 month rain		53.3	56.8	52.3	47.3