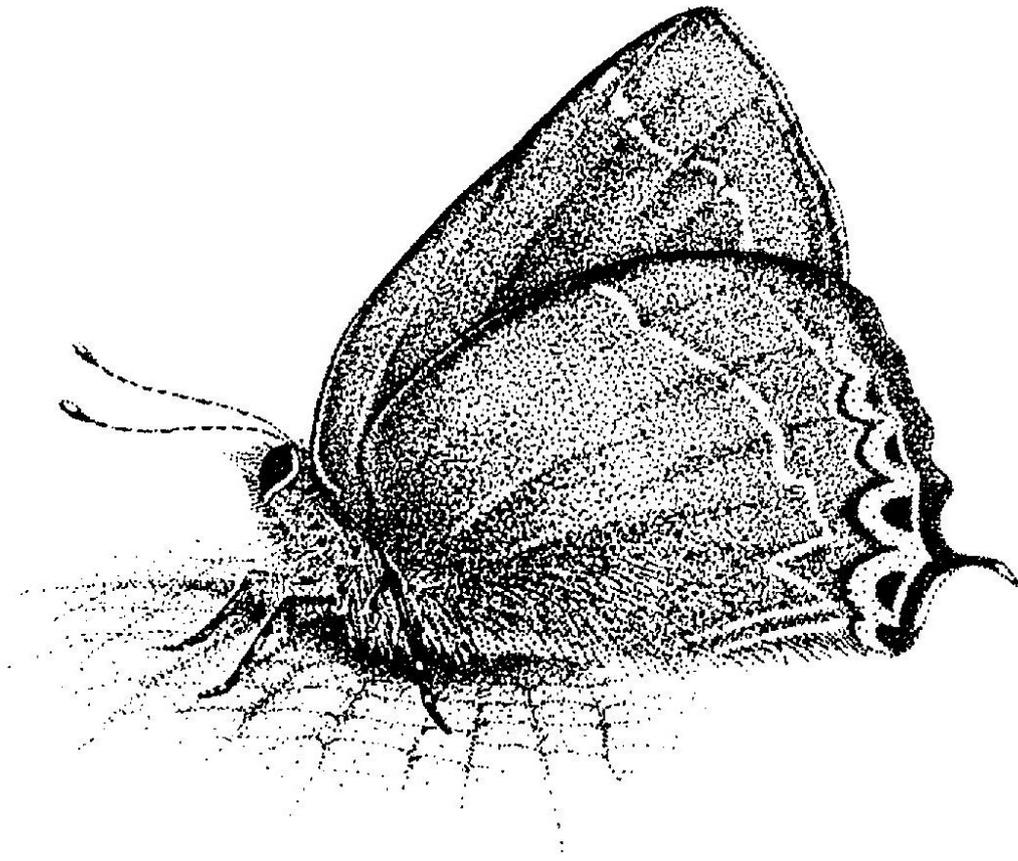


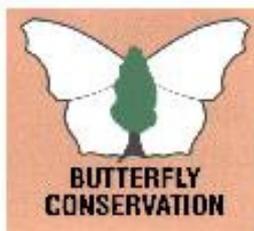
NORTH EAST ENGLAND BRANCH

BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION



BUTTERFLY SUMMARY

2010



Compiled by Roger Norman & Steve le Fleming

North East England



Butterfly Conservation

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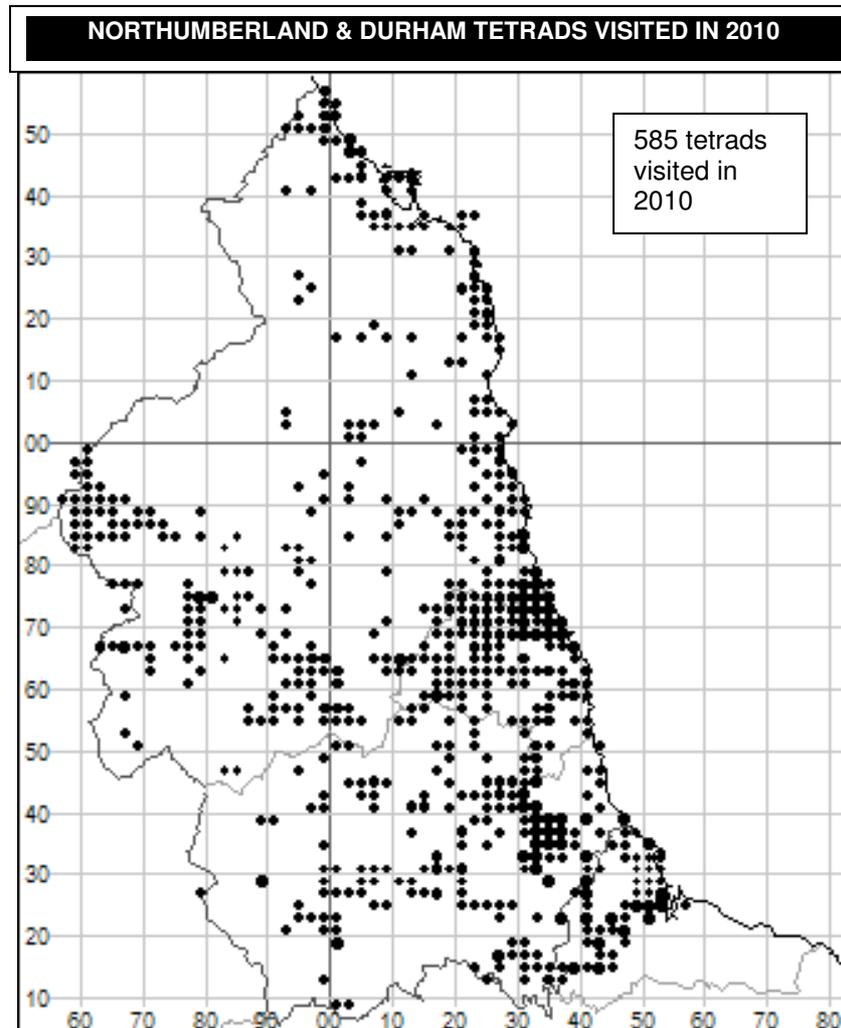
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The latest annual report, newsletter and Branch details are available on the website:

www.northeast-butterflies.org.uk

RECORDERS' REVIEW

Introduction: The recorded butterfly sightings for 2010 did not quite come up to last year's all-time record of over 18,500, but the results were excellent. Below we show where the recording took place in 2010, with a total of 585 tetrads visited.



Recording: Recording is a major contribution to butterfly conservation: the records from the 160-plus contributors who submitted their casual sightings, from other wildlife organisations, the National Trust and from the transect walkers who submitted records from their weekly surveys of 30 specific sites in the region add up to provide strong indications of changes in butterfly populations. If thought advisable, habitat restoration work can then be undertaken, organised by our own conservation officers or in support of local authorities or other wildlife organisations. All our activities are of course voluntary.

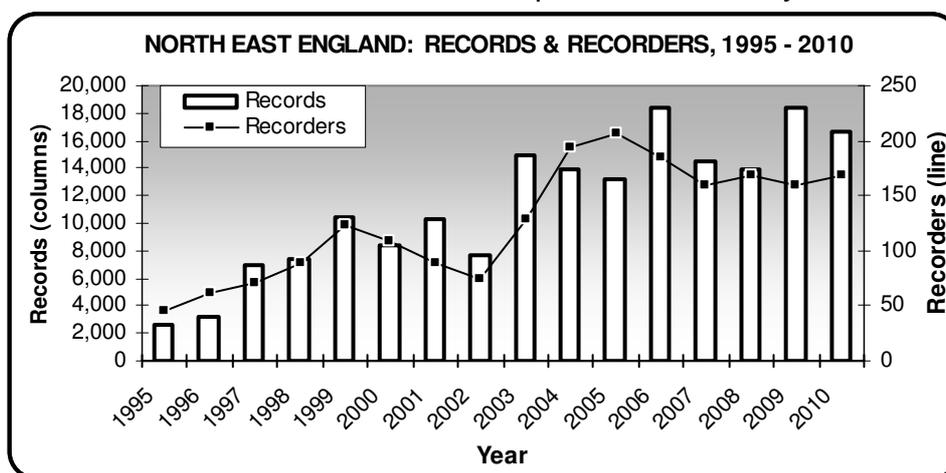
On this last point may we appeal for more volunteers to join the Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey? WCBS was initiated by Butterfly Conservation two years ago to try to gain a general picture of butterfly distribution, not just in the hotspots of people's gardens or the sites patrolled by transect walkers, but in a random scatter of OS grid squares which might or might not contain any butterflies. Our region is under-represented in the Survey. Volunteers are asked to choose a square or squares from a list, and are then sent a map of their chosen square(s) and asked to plot two 1 km. walks on them, ideally parallel and not closer than 200 metres apart. After obtaining permission if required from landowners they submit the route to B.C. for approval and undertake a minimum of two walks in the summer, recording all the butterflies in each sector. This will almost certainly introduce you to a new patch. WCBS was something of an experiment, but is now planned to continue for at least three more years; volunteers should

approach our transect co-ordinator Brian Denham whose details are on the back cover of this booklet or via the website.

2010 was again spoilt for some by a very wet July. Those butterflies whose numbers peak usually in July suffer badly, unless they can adapt: Small Skipper, here on the northern edge of its distribution, proved vulnerable, while the ubiquitous Meadow Brown, though down in numbers even on last year, once again proved resilient (see the individual species reports which follow). Those species which peak at other times were not generally so badly affected; indeed, perhaps luckily, rarities including those given priority under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan flourished: Northern Brown Argus made an early start and thrived, Dingy Skipper had an excellent year, as did Purple Hairstreak. Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary did well, Grayling was up, recovering slightly from its previous slump, Dark Green Fritillary ranged further than previously recorded, and Small Heath peaked in June, earlier than last year and so managed to keep its numbers up. Large Heath was slightly down, however, as was Green Hairstreak. The southern half of our region can now include Speckled Wood among its common species and it continues to spread, Comma reversed its decline, Holly Blue made a tentative start towards recovery from last year's disastrous slump, and Small Copper was abundant after a relatively late start. Large Skipper was up slightly despite a poor showing in July, Small Tortoiseshell was on the increase, apparently not yet hit by the dreaded parasitic *Sturmia bella* fly, but Large and Small Whites were apparently not as prolific as usual and Gatekeeper has not yet ventured further north than the southern corner of our region.

As for immigrants, Painted Lady arrived in smaller numbers than normal, even ignoring the 2009 record year, and Red Admiral was also down. Their relative, the Camberwell Beauty, made a single reappearance after 4 years. Win some, lose some, but overall it seems we mainly won in 2010.

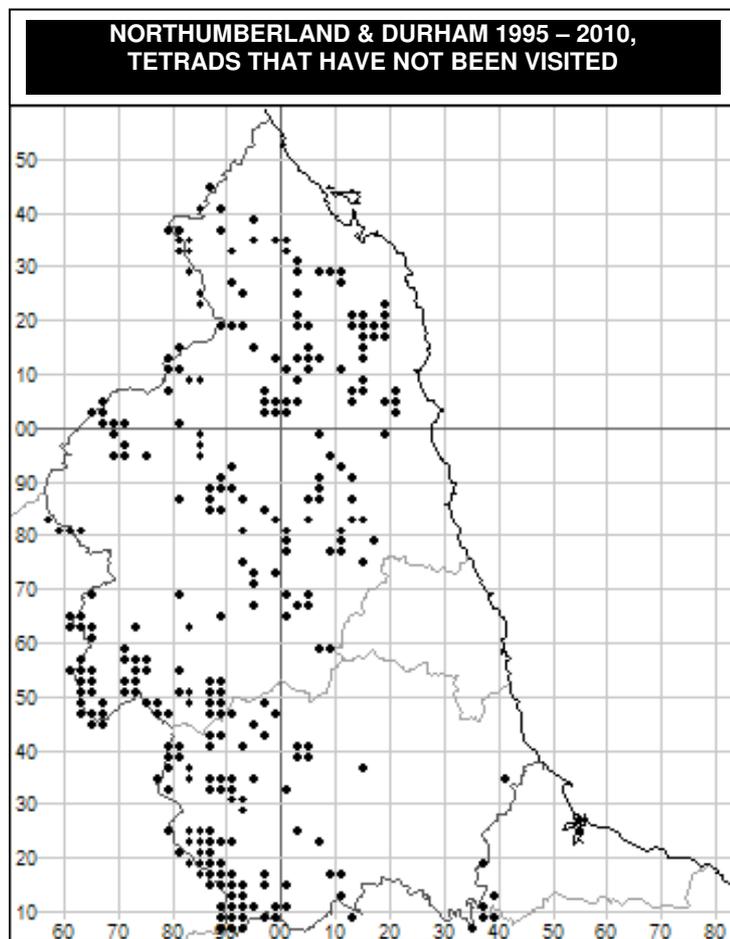
The graph below shows that our records database grew steadily over the first part of the Butterflies for the New Millennium Project and that recorders have maintained their enthusiasm over the subsequent years, with the third highest number of records submitted, despite the fluctuations in our summer weather that we have experienced recently.



Given the population of this corner of England and our relatively small membership, this is a magnificent total and congratulations are due to everyone who took part. Whereas casual records are used to assess distribution and ranges, transect data is used to assess changes in abundance from year to year and decade to decade and is a key conservation tool. A record number of transects were covered in 2010. In the meantime, we trust you will all keep on recording, particularly of our less common species as without records, we cannot tell how they are faring.

2009 marked the end of the third five-yearly phase of the Butterflies for the New Millennium Project. The end of the first phase was marked by the publication of the Millennium Atlas¹ and the end of the second phase by an update². The latest update is now being prepared, the maps for which are presented in reference 3.

The map below shows the tetrads from which we have not yet received records since the start of the BNM project in 1995



There are still 290 tetrads (2km x 2km squares) among the 2229 which constitute our region which have never had a butterfly recorded, so some original observations can still be made. The more records we get the happier we are and there are still tracts of upland in the west of both counties that have not been visited since the BNM started in 1995. There may well be some of our scarcer, specialist butterflies waiting to be found.

2009 saw the implementation of our North East England Branch of Butterfly Conservation website, www.northeast-butterflies.org.uk, set up and managed by Jonathan Wallace; interesting sightings can be e-mailed to him for posting on the site, as can good photos. News of events and details of good butterfly sites in the region, and dates of the AGM, etc. are also to be found here.

A massive thank you is due to all those recorders who diligently collate and send in their records, every one of which contributes to the developing picture of the state of our butterflies and ultimately of our environment in general. Any casual record of a sighting showing species, number, date and OS grid reference number is welcome; it is helpful if records are submitted 'electronically' as explained on the inside back cover of this Summary, or else by post on the yellow casual record sheet which came with it. We know the effort this requires, and hope that in producing this 2010 Butterfly Annual Report, we have done justice to you all. The recorders would like to thank everyone who sent records and photographs in, without whom, this report would not be possible. We hope that you find it interesting and a valuable record of the year's butterfly action.

Whilst the photographs in the report are in black & white for cost reasons, they can be seen in colour in the website version which can be downloaded until approximately Easter 2012.

- 1 Asher, J., Warren, M., Fox, R., Harding, P., Jeffcoate, P., Jeffcoate, S., 2001. *The Millennium Atlas of Butterflies in Britain and Ireland*. OUP, Oxford.
- 2 Fox, R., Asher, J., Brereton, T., Roy, D., Warren, M., 2006. *The State of Butterflies in Britain and Ireland*. Pisces Publications, Newbury, Berks.
- 3 Fox, R., Asher, J., 2010. *2010 Atlas of Butterflies in Britain and Ireland*. Butterfly Conservation Report No. S10-20

WEATHER SUMMARY: 2010

Copley Observatory

County Durham

Elevation: 253 metres(830ft)

Grid Reference NZ 084 254

2010	Temperature (°C)							Rain (mm)			
Month	Mean max	Mean min	Mean	Max	Date	Min	Date	Rain	Rain days	Max obs	Date
Jan	1.8	-1.9	-0.1	7.4	27	-5.4	09	66.0	20	12.1	05
Feb	3.0	-2.0	0.5	7.0	06	-5.9	21	59.2	22	9.5	26
Mar	8.0	0.8	4.4	13.9	03	-6.8	07	73.2	17	16.2	29
Apr	11.9	2.6	7.3	18.3	28	-4.6	02	16.3	7	6.2	02
May	13.3	3.9	8.6	27.7	22	-4.2	12	30.7	14	6.8	26
Jun	17.8	8.4	13.1	22.6	27	3.3	15	73.1	10	19.3	08
Jul	18.5	10.7	14.6	23.5	10	5.9	06	96.6	16	36.9	20
Aug	17.4	9.1	13.3	21.1	20	4.2	31	47.3	13	13.7	12
Sep	15.9	8.5	12.2	20.0	03	3.6	30	82.1	19	27.7	06
Oct	11.2	5.2	8.2	15.4	04	-1.0	25	63.9	21	14.4	01
Nov	5.8	0.9	3.3	13.6	04	-9.4	28	152.5	24	17.6	11
Dec	1.6	-3.4	-0.9	7.1	11	-10.4	21	42.1	16	11.8	27

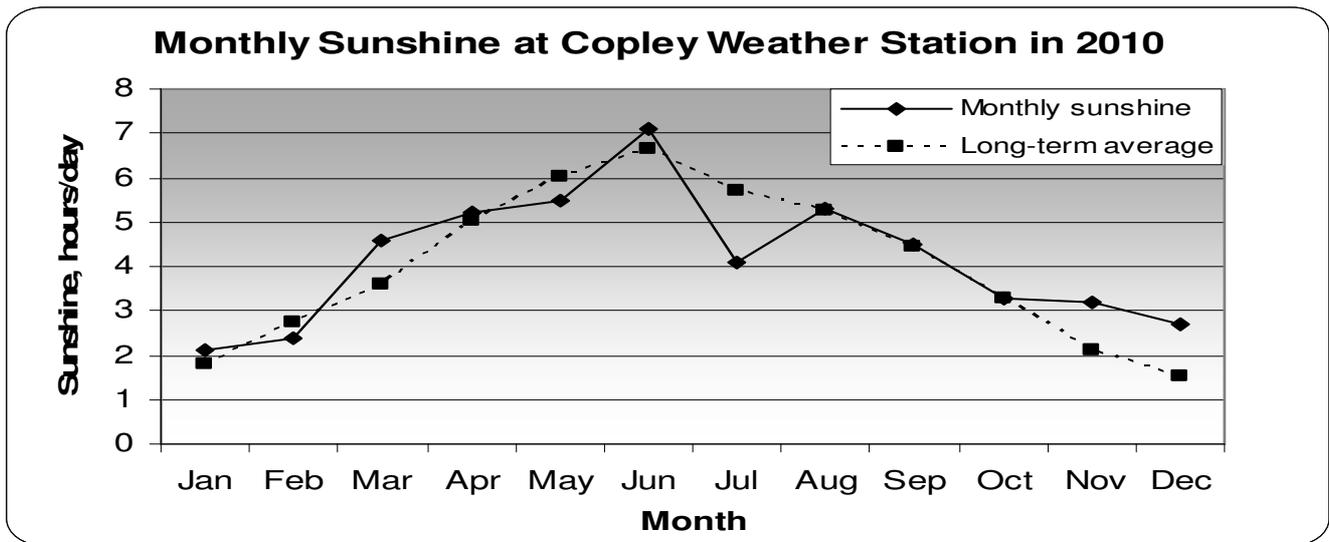
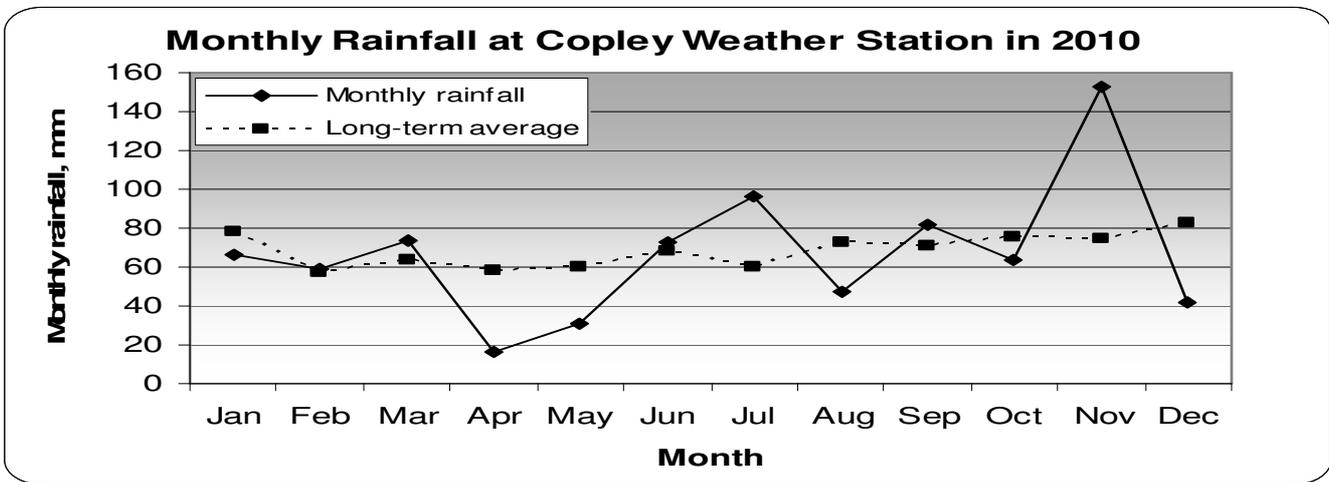
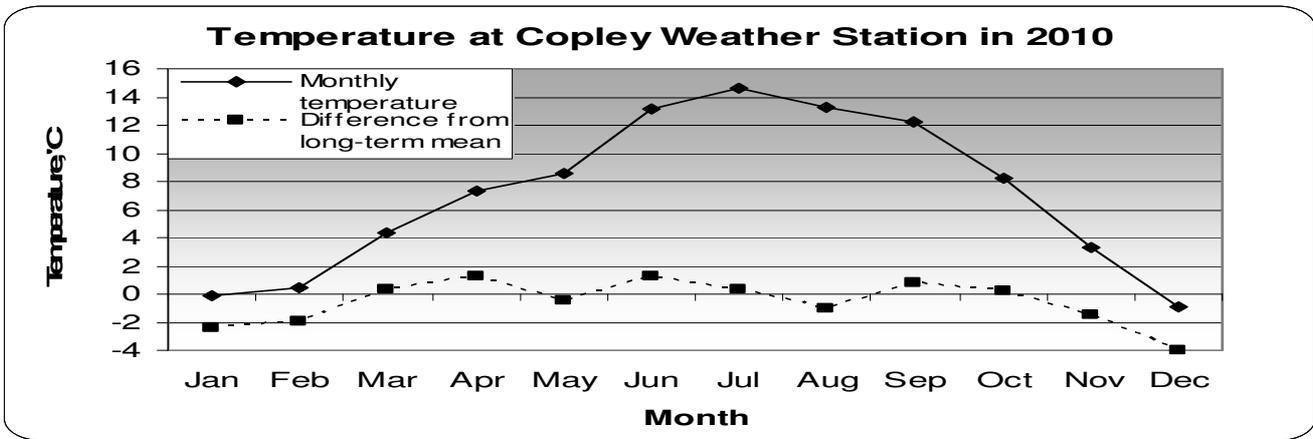
2010 SUMMARY: TEMPERATURE, RAINFALL AND SUNSHINE

DIFFERENCES FROM 1971 - 2000 AVERAGES

Month	Mean (°C)	°C Difference	Rain (mm)	% Difference	Sun (hr/day)	% Difference
Jan	-0.1	-2.4	66.0	84	2.1	117
Feb	0.5	-1.9	59.2	104	2.4	88
Mar	4.4	0.3	73.2	115	4.6	128
Apr	7.3	1.3	16.3	28	5.2	103
May	8.6	-0.4	30.7	51	5.5	91
Jun	13.1	1.3	73.1	107	7.1	107
Jul	14.6	0.3	96.6	161	4.1	72
Aug	13.3	-1.0	47.3	65	5.3	101
Sep	12.2	0.8	82.1	116	4.5	101
Oct	8.2	0.2	63.9	85	3.3	100
Nov	3.3	-1.5	152.5	205	3.2	151
Dec	-0.9	-4.0	42.1	51	2.7	175
2010	7.0	-0.6	803.0	98	4.2	104

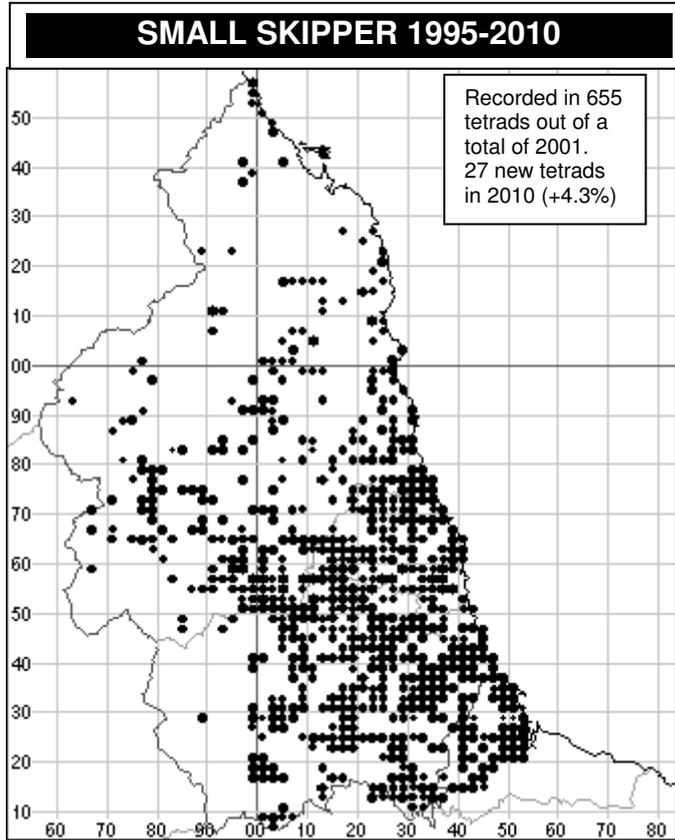
Acknowledgments: The Branch is again grateful to Ken Cook of the Copley Climatological Station (<http://copley.website.orange.co.uk>) for providing the statistical weather data as shown above. Ken comments that 2010 was the coldest year since 1986 with high incidences of snowfall and frost at the beginning and end. It was a dry, sunny year with only July being dull and wet. Much of the winter precipitation was snow. Given the strong links climate and weather have on butterflies, this data provides valuable context to the annual report. Butterfly Conservation would like to thank Ken for collating the data above, and for allowing its subsequent use in this report.

The three graphs below show the main features of the weather in 2010. Apart from both winters, temperature was close to average for the butterfly season. The dry spring must have helped many first broods but unfortunately, the rather wet and dull July was a disappointment. Just like 2009, this was a hindrance to field-work during what should have been a peak month for surveying some of our specialist butterflies.



Small Skipper (*Thymelicus sylvestris*)

2010: A total of 426 (449) records were received with a total of 3222 (4584) individuals being recorded. The figures shown in brackets are for the 2009 season. They indicate a 30% decrease in numbers recorded since the previous year.



The first Durham sighting was by Pippa Smaling with 6 at the Whinnies LNR near Darlington on the 11th of June. This was later than the first sighting in Northumberland, which was by Mike Coates with 2 in Northumberland Park, North Shields on the 5th of the month.

There was one record of 100 in one day, also by Mike Coates, on the 23rd July at Longframlington Common in Northumberland and Hew Ellis recorded 114 on waggonways around Shiremoor on 11th of the month. The average sighting per report was 7.5, again this was down on the 2009 of approximately 10 individuals per report.

The majority of sightings were in July with 2 peaks of approximately 240. The peak abundance appeared to be on the 23rd July when 254, (the total of all recorded sightings

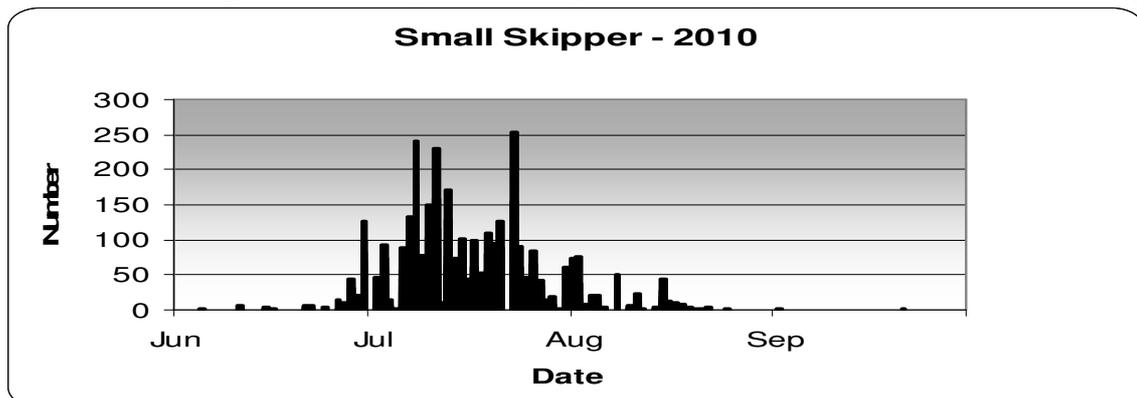
on one day) were reported.

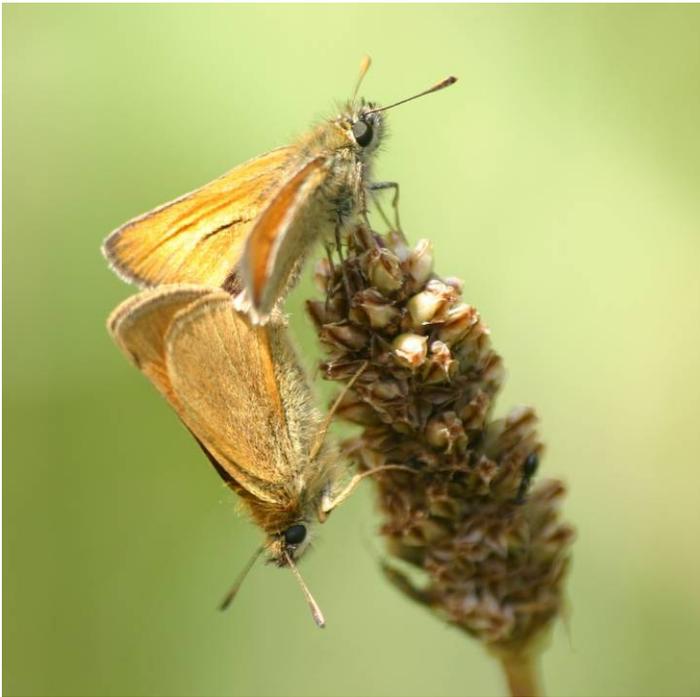
Sightings gradually tapered off through August, with the final sighting for Durham being 1 for Dave Liddle at Burn Hill on the 9th September and the final sighting for Northumberland being 3 for Jim Martin and Eileen Meek at Hauxley NR on the 21st September.

Small Skippers were on the wing for 109 days and recorded on 73 days, i.e. 67% of the time, compared to 72% in 2009. Of the 140 tetrads in which it was recorded in 2010, 27 were new, a 4% increase on the 1995-2009 total.

The 2009 Annual Report for the UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme¹, which is an analysis of national transect records, showed a steady decline since 1976 although there was a slight recovery in 2009.

1 Botham, M.S., Brereton, T.M., Middlebrook, I., Cruickshanks, K.L., Zannese, A. & Roy, D.B. 2009. *United Kingdom Butterfly Monitoring Scheme report for 2009*. CEH Wallingford.

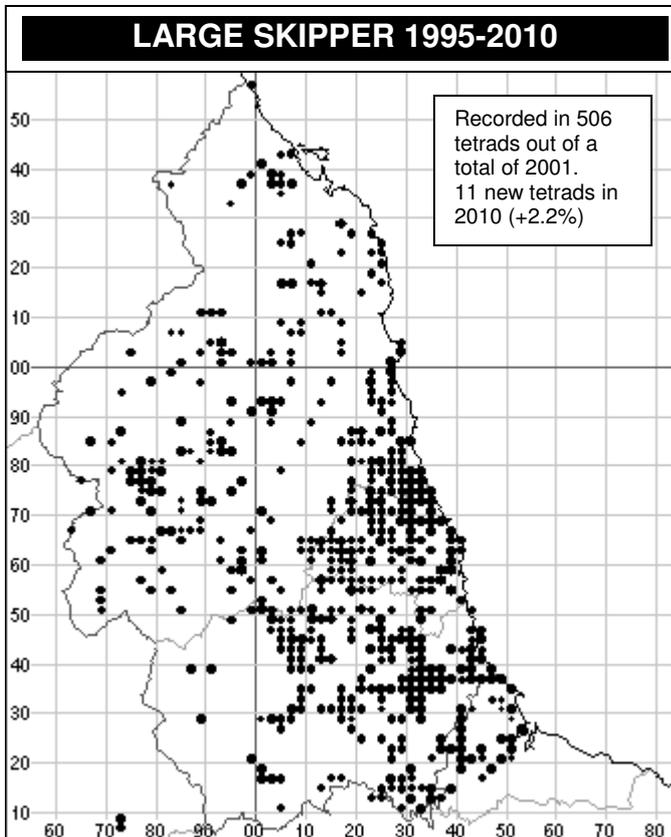




Small Skippers, photo by Alan Davis

Large Skipper (*Ochlodes faunus*)

2010: A total of two hundred and fifty-five records were received. These recorded 1054 individual butterflies. The number of records received was a little down on the previous year but the number of individual butterflies seen was slightly up. However, it was still a below average year for the species.



The first appearance of the year was in Dalton Piercy, near Hartlepool, where Ian Bond saw one on 20th May; this is only one day short of the record earliest sighting for the region. The first Northumberland record came from Hewitt Ellis who saw three at Druridge Bay Country Park on the Northumberland on 3rd June.

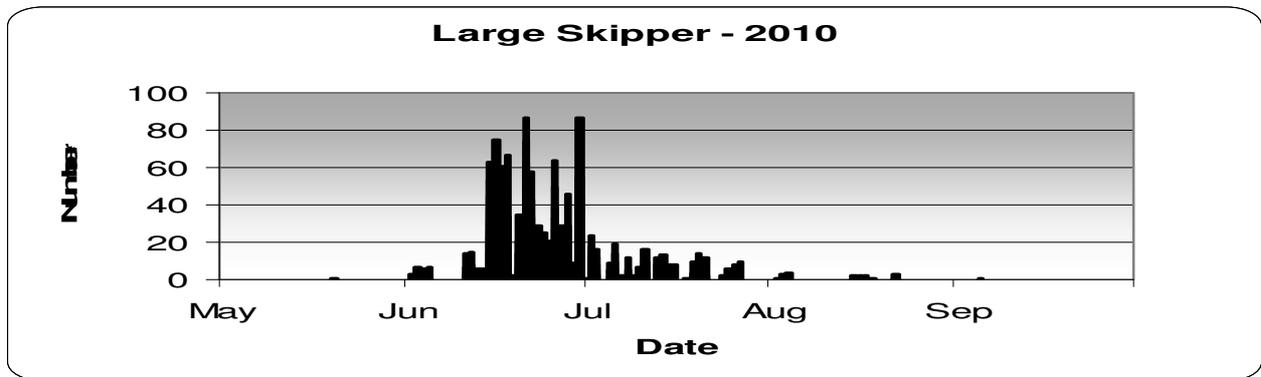
There was quite a pronounced peak to the season in the second half of June, with numbers before and after this period quite low. The highest total anywhere in the region came from Hewitt Ellis who counted a notable 33 at near Crow Hall Farm, Holywell on North Tyneside on 18th June. The highest total reported from Durham was only one behind this figure, with Graham Beckwith seeing 32 at Aykley Wood, Durham on 30th June.

There were good counts throughout the flight season from West Park Nature Reserve near Darlington sent in by Pippa Smaling. Several people also reported good numbers at The Whinnies and Bishop Middleham Quarry. The final record of the season for Northumberland came from Mike Coates who saw two at Brierdene near Whitley Bay on 16th August, quite a late date. The last record for Durham

and for the region came from Frank Barber with one on Raisby Way on 5th September. This date is the latest ever recorded in the region for this species.

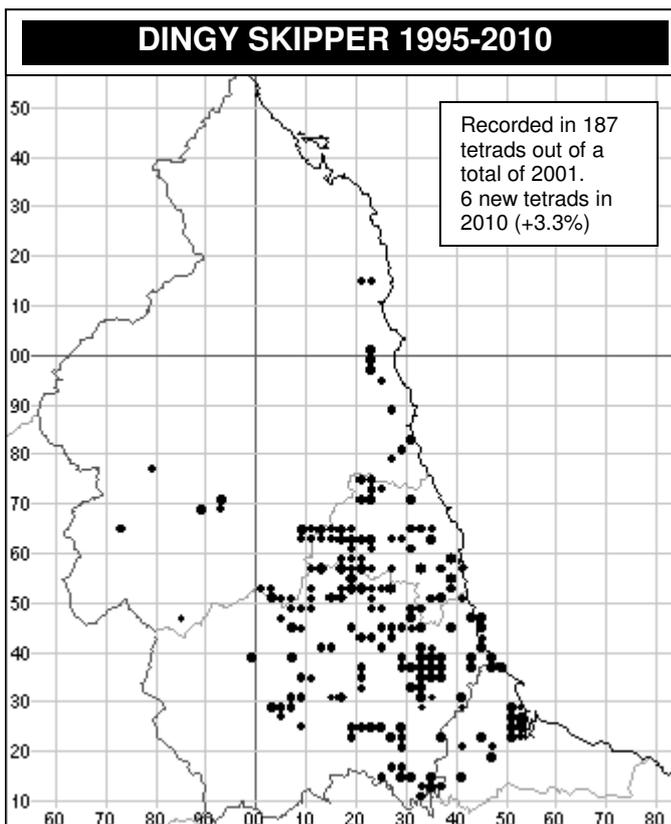
The flight period covered one hundred and nine days and the Large Skipper was seen on fifty-six (51%) of these days.

Large Skipper was recorded from 92 tetrads throughout the region in 2010 of which eleven were new.



Dingy Skipper (*Erynnis tages*)

2010: For once Bob Mawson didn't report Durham's first sighting of this species (although he did record its second). Instead, it was Sid Storey, out on the Raisby Way on May 4th, who got the season underway. Ten days later, Keith Smith recorded Northumberland's earliest when he saw two at Havannah LNR



The region's first double-figure count was made on May 17th by Bob Mawson at one of the region's most prolific sites: Raisby Way. Bob was the only person to record a pre-adult stage, an ova also at Raisby Way.

In total, 42 double figure counts were recorded; a truly exceptional statistic. Tim and Dorothy Nelson counted no fewer than 70 during a visit to Bishop Middleham Quarry on May 22nd. For many recorders, this would be a once-in-a-lifetime experience; not so Brian Pollinger, who had recorded a truly staggering 128 adults the previous day at Marley Hill. This was easily the year's highest count and surpasses any other single-site count made in our region.

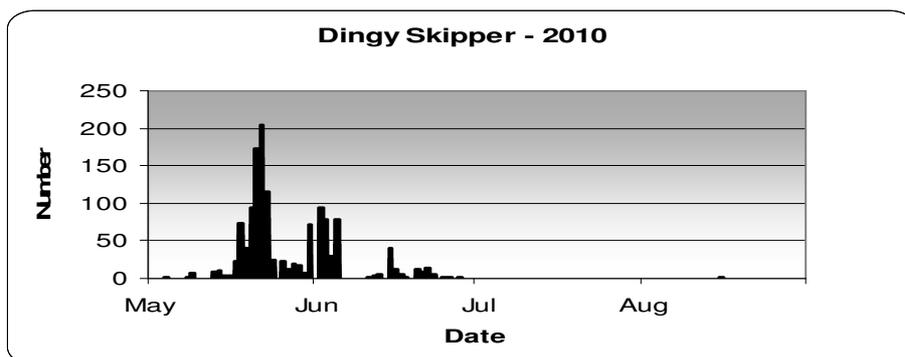
Other double-figure counts are too numerous to list individually, but one of the most pleasing aspects was that many were

made at less-recognised sites. These included: Brenkley Old Colliery (36 seen by Roger Norman) which was Northumberland's highest count for the year. Many other sites produced double-figure counts for the first time. Further good news came from Path Head Quarry, where Brian Pollinger recorded 16 adults, and Simpasture Junction where Dave Wainwright counted 12. Butterfly Conservation provided guidance on restoration schemes that were implemented at both sites a few years ago. These counts indicate that habitat creation is succeeding.

The flight period appeared to peak on May 22nd with a regional total of 204 adults recorded that day.

Northumberland's season ended on June 14th, when Derek Hilton-Brown saw one at Newburn Haugh in western Newcastle. For the second year running, second generation specimens were seen in County Durham. Following on from Becky Hetherington's August 22nd 2009 record from Stargate Pond in Blaydon, Tim and Dorothy Nelson recorded two on 16th August at The Whinnies LNR to the east of Darlington. A partial second generation was reported elsewhere in the UK, although it appears most records derived from locations south of Northampton.

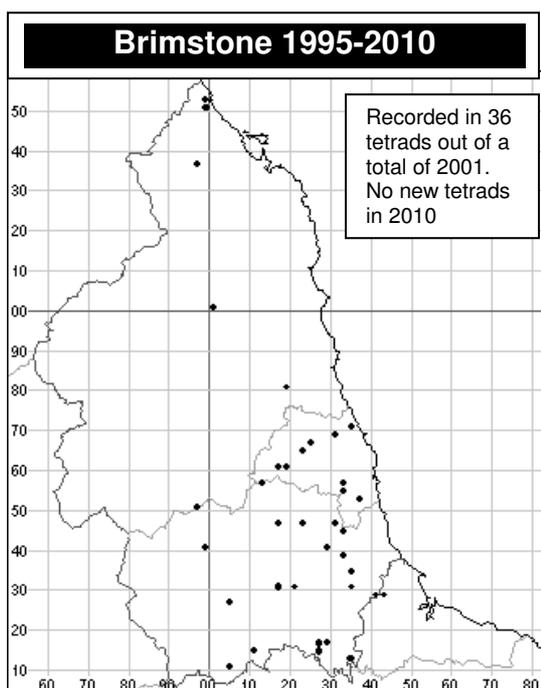
A total of 1344 adult Dingy Skippers was recorded in 2010. In summary, a superb year for this species!



2010: Clouded Yellow (*Colias croceus*). For the third year running, there were no reports of Clouded Yellow received.

Brimstone (*Gonepteryx rhamni*)

2010: there were only 4 records for this wanderer to our area, with none of the records from new tetrads.

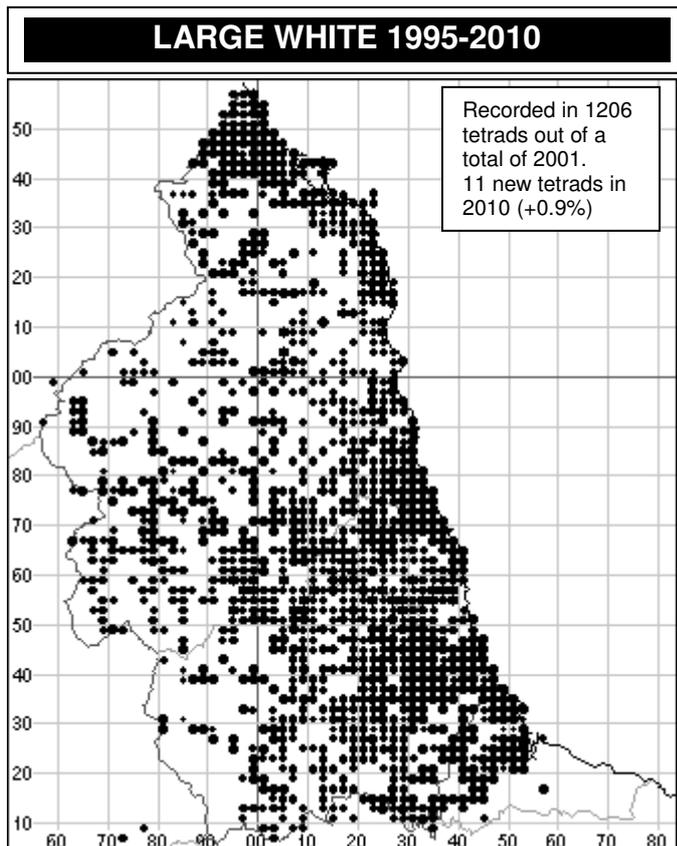


The first record of the year was on 15th June from Steve Le Fleming who saw 1 at the Lanchester Railway Walk. Later in June (28th), R Telfer saw another in a garden in Tweedmouth and then the same observer saw another (possibly the same individual?) on the 7th July 2010. Finally the last record was on the 26th July and came from a site that has had records for the species in most years in recent times – Darlington West Park Nature Reserve. The record of two was made by Pippa Smaling who has seen the species here on a number of occasions. There is not a great deal to be drawn from the records apart from the fact that the butterfly is seen in and around Darlington in most years. This is perhaps to be expected, being in the south of our area and nearest to some of the established populations in North Yorkshire. However, there is nowhere that one can go with the expectation of seeing the butterfly – it is pretty much pot luck!

As has been commented in previous reports, the species is restricted by the distribution of the larval food plant – Buckthorn species – which is not present in our area to any significant extent. This makes colonisation of our area very difficult and largely dependent on gardens and amenity planting.

Large White (*Pieris brassicae*)

2010: There were 1302 records of the Large White comprising 4714 individual butterflies, suggesting that this butterfly had a less successful year than in 2009 (when 2061 records were received and 7875 individuals counted). It was recorded in 235 tetrads of which 11 were new and it was seen on 154 days within an overall flight period that lasted 179 days (86%).



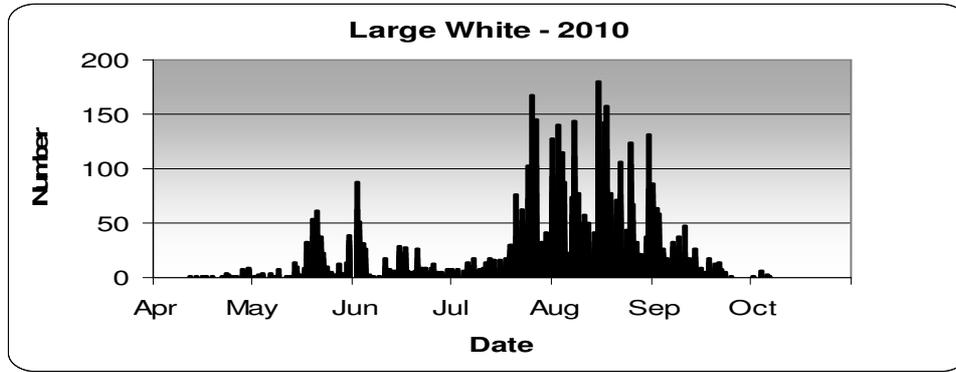
The first record of the year was by Graham Beckwith who saw one at Sniperley Park, Durham on 12th April. The species was seen in only small numbers throughout April and only began to pick up in the second half of May. The peak of the first generation was reached on 2nd June when there were 12 records comprising 87 individual butterflies across the two counties. The highest individual count during the first generation was 40 butterflies recorded on Inner Farne on 20th April whilst 25 butterflies, recorded by Mike Coates on 2nd June at East Holywell, Whitley Bay, represented the highest count on the mainland.

The second generation began to emerge with numbers starting to climb again in the first week of July. Numbers rose steeply during the final ten days of July and reached their peak on 15th August when there were 35 records comprising a total of 180

individual butterflies – somewhat lower than the peak in 2009 when 400 Large Whites were recorded in 32 separate records. The highest individual count during the second generation was made by Pippa Smaling who counted 64 at West Park Nature Reserve, Darlington on 26th July. Two other counts of 50 or more individuals were made: 53 Large Whites were counted on 17th August by Morag Marsden at Gibside, whilst Mike Jefferies recorded 50 at Ouseburn Farm, Newcastle on 31st August.

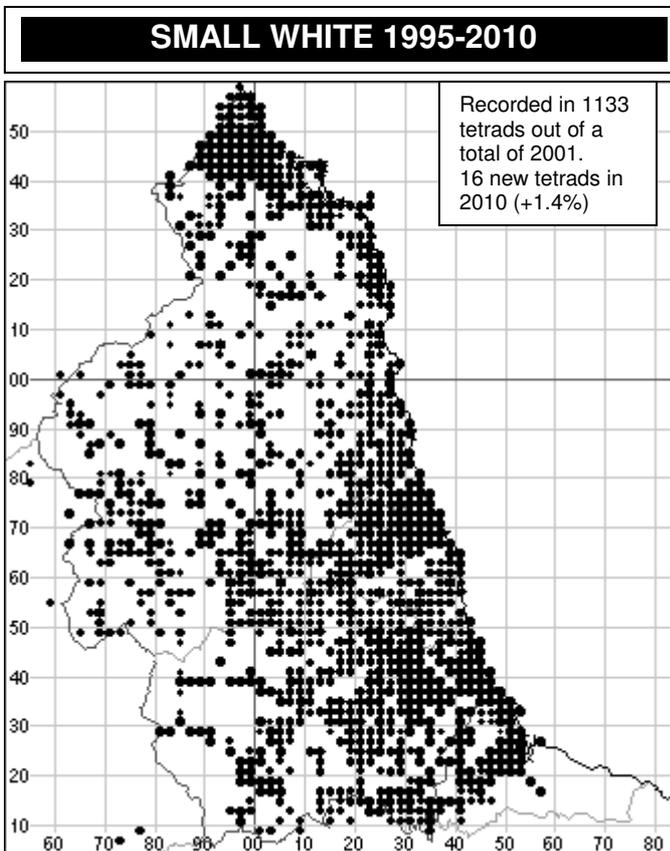
Numbers of sightings fell away during September and the final records for County Durham were on 21st September when singletons were recorded by Frank Barber at Kelloe Garden, John Hope at Thrislington NNR, Pam Chrisp in Whickam and Pippa Smaling at the Whinnies LNR. The species persisted on the wing for a further two weeks or so in Northumberland where there were 6 records in October. Malcolm and Ann Hutcheson claimed the honour of the final sighting of the year of a singleton at East Ord, Berwick on 7th October.

There were 7 records of immature stages of Large White in 2010. These comprised one record of ova by Mike Jefferies at Ouseburn Farm, Newcastle, five larval records, including three from Newcastle, also by Mike Jefferies, plus one each from Dave Wainwright at South Shields and Bob Mawson from Raisby Way and, finally, one pupal record by Dave Wainwright in South Shields.

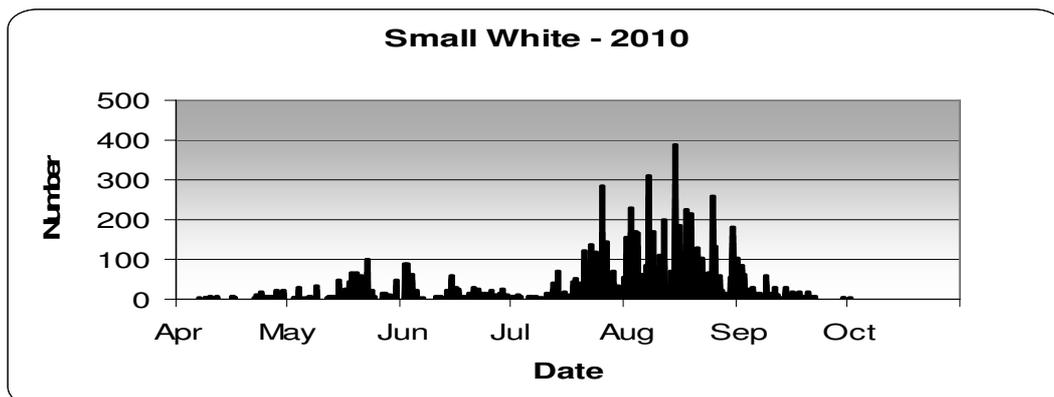


Small White (*Pieris rapae*)

2010: The first record for Small White this year was on the 5th April, This was by Mike Hunter at Middleton-St-George. This was followed on 7th April by one recorded by David Blair at Highbury in Newcastle. It was not until the 9th May that double figures were reached, this was a record of 11 made by Pippa Smaling. at the Whinnies in Darlington

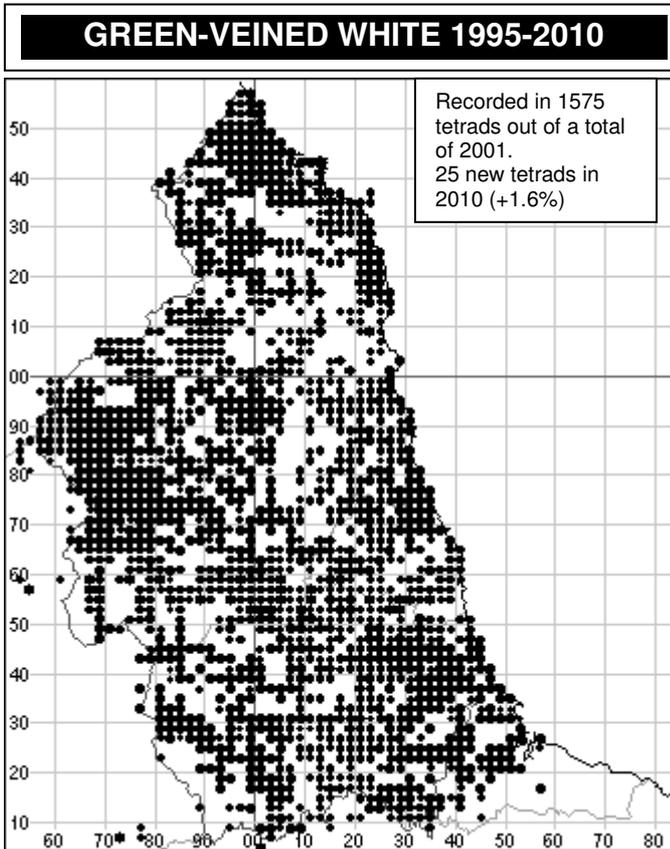


It was not until 15th May before double figures were seen again with 10 seen by David Stebbings at the Iris Brickfield site in Newcastle and 12 at Brierdene by Brian Robson. Mike Coates had 45 at Harwood Forest on 19th May, this being the highest count of the spring generation. The summer generation started in mid-July and peaked in mid-August when the largest peak of the year occurred with a high of 120 recorded by Frank Barber on 9th August at Coxhoe. Numbers fell away in the second half of September and the last record was on 17th October with a singleton seen at Hartlepool by Julie Mason. Small White numbers were down on last year with 7622 individuals reported from 1481 records, compared with 9372 from 1760 records in 2009. The flight period was 196 days and the butterfly was on the wing for 165 days, (84%).



Green-veined White (*Pieris napi*)

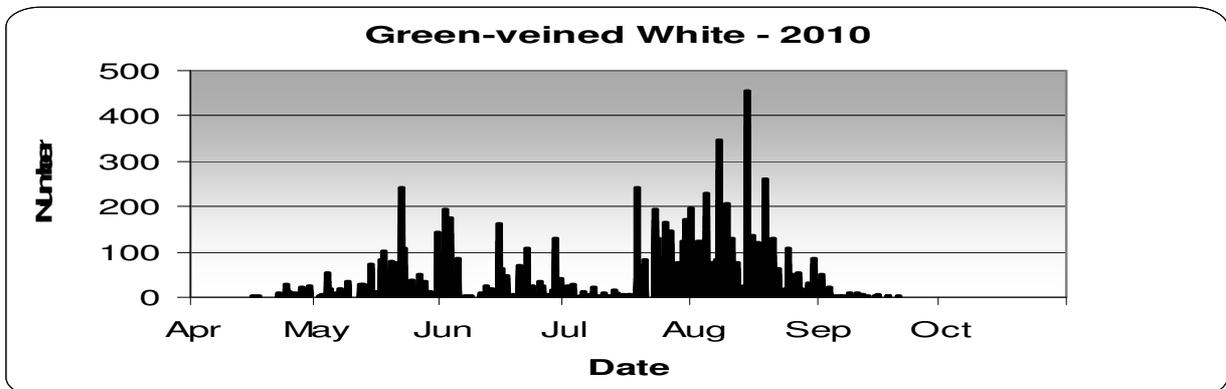
2010: A total of 8162 Green-veined Whites, plus five mating pairs, was logged in the region from 1416 records, representing an increase in reporting levels over 2009 (6668 and 1399 respectively). The butterfly was recorded on 158 of the 180 days (88%) of its reported flight period (2009 – 84%) and found in 321 tetrads, 25 of them new – over 1% expansion on the 1550 tetrads in which it was logged between 1995 and 2009.



The first reported sighting was of a singleton by Mike Hunter on 11th April at Dormans Pool, N. Tees Marshes. Recorders reported only single figures in April and the first count of over 20 came only on 17th May. The spring generation appeared to peak in late May with a total of 242 seen by 16 observers on 22nd May and 195 on 2nd June. Few large individual counts of this widespread butterfly were reported though Dave Liddle had 98 on 2nd June and 200 were claimed by Brian Galloway at Whittle Wood on 19th July for the second generation. In addition, 150 were seen by Mike Henry at Prestwick Carr on 10th August. Other high daily totals were received for 8th August with 348 and 15th August, with 457. This latter figure was the largest daily count for the year, comparing well with the peak of 429 recorded on 6th August 2009.

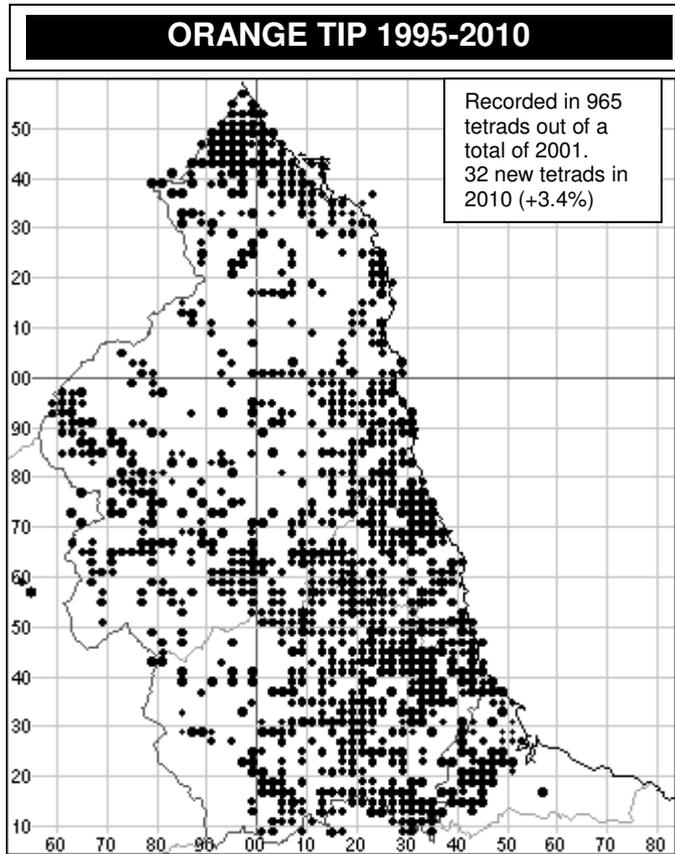
Numbers then fell away rapidly, with only a few reported through September and the last sighting was reported by S. Stone at Brierdene in Whitley Bay on 7th October.

Mating pairs were seen on 25th April, 4th, 17th and 22nd May, and 2nd August, and eggs found on 24th May, 2nd June, 27th July and 12th August.



Orange Tip (*Anthocharis cardamines*)

2010: There were 529 records of Orange Tip submitted in 2010, down 6% on 2009, but the total of 1,705 individuals recorded was 19% up on the previous year. The species was recorded in 212 tetrads of which 32 were new. The flight period lasted 105 days and the species was reported on 70 of these days (67%).



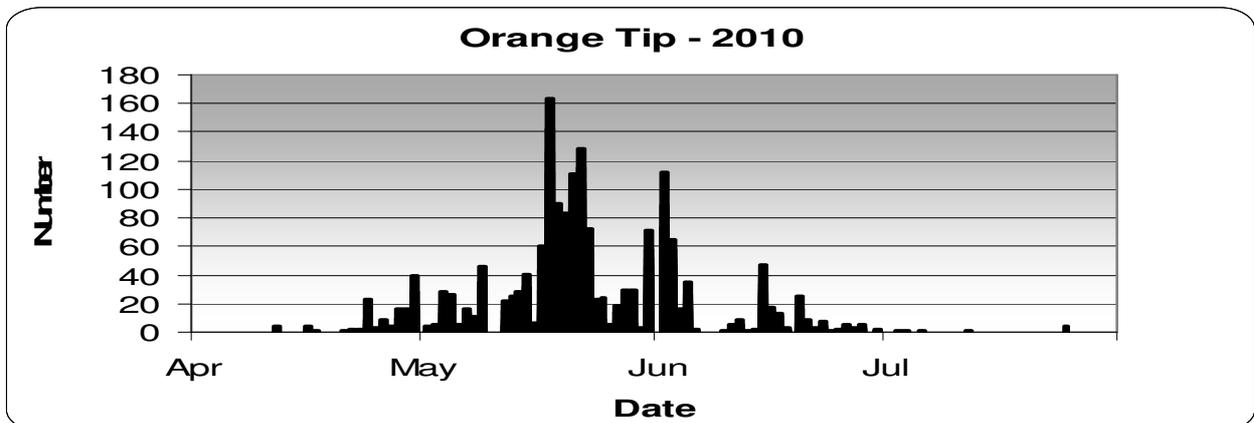
Credit for the first sighting of the year goes to Ann and Gordon Young who reported 4 on the 12th April at Bridge End, Hexham. Other early season sightings were 2 seen by Hewitt Ellis at the Rising Sun Country Park on 16th April, 2 at Wylam Picnic Site by Keith Smith also on the same day and 1 at Warkworth seen by John Almond the following day.

Numbers climbed through the second half of April and early May reaching a peak on 18th May when 32 records were made with a combined total of 163 individuals. Numbers dropped away in late June and July and the final record of the season was made on 25th July when Tim and Dorothy Nelson recorded 4 at Cowpen Bewley Woodland Park.

The highest individual count of the year was made by Mike Coates who counted 35 in Harwood Forest, Northumberland on 19

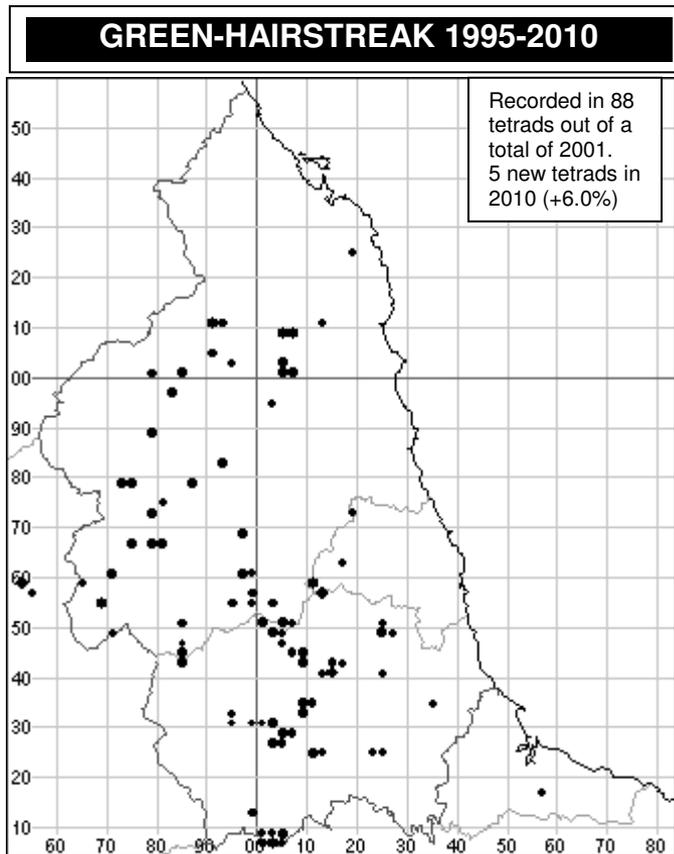
May. There were six other counts of 20 or more individuals. Four of these were at Tanfield Lea Marsh where Karen Fisher recorded 20 on the 5th May, 24 on the 19th, 23 on the 29th and 23 again on 2nd June. The other two were by Mike Hunter who counted 20 at the Whinnies LNR on 13th May and John Olley who counted 20 at Binchester on the 18th of the month.

There were 25 records of Orange Tip ova in 2010. 20 of these were from Hew Ellis, four from Bob Mawson and one from Ken Dawson. Bob Mawson also submitted 6 records of larvae.



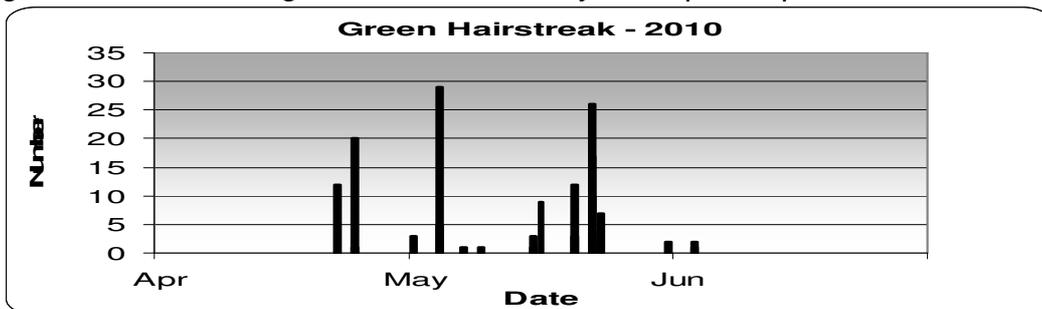
Green Hairstreak (*Callophrys rubi*)

2010: There were 22 records from 12 separate reporters with records in 5 new Tetrads.



The first record of the year was for the same site that has posted the first records in recent years – Dipton Woods. 12 were seen there by Keith Smith on 22nd April. This is 11 days later than the first record last year, however given the prevailing early spring weather, this is perhaps not too surprising. The peak count was of 24 at the same site (by the same observer) on the 4th May. This seems to coincide with the overall records for the species in saying that the best period to observe the butterfly is at the very end of April into early May. However, records did continue well into May but did not exceed single figures at any site. There were 3 separate records of 9 in May:- on 16th at Lamp Hill, on 20th at Dipton Woods, and on 22nd at West Plantation. The last record of the year was at a new location of Prestwick Carr by Roger Norman on 3rd June.

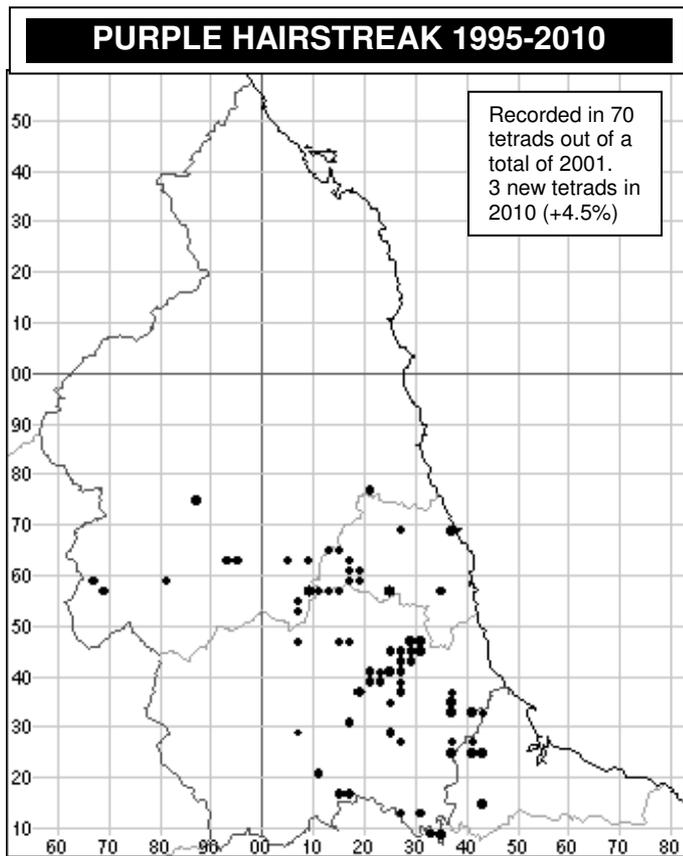
This is not an obvious butterfly to spot easily when out in the field and it probably continues to be likely that it is under-recorded in our area. It is worth checking any sheltered sunny spots where the main larval food plant (bilberry) grows as there is a good chance this may turn up the species in new locations.



Green Hairstreak, photo by Mike Coates

Purple Hairstreak (*Neozephyrus quercus*)

2010: there were 29 records from 9 separate reporters with records in 3 new Tetrads.

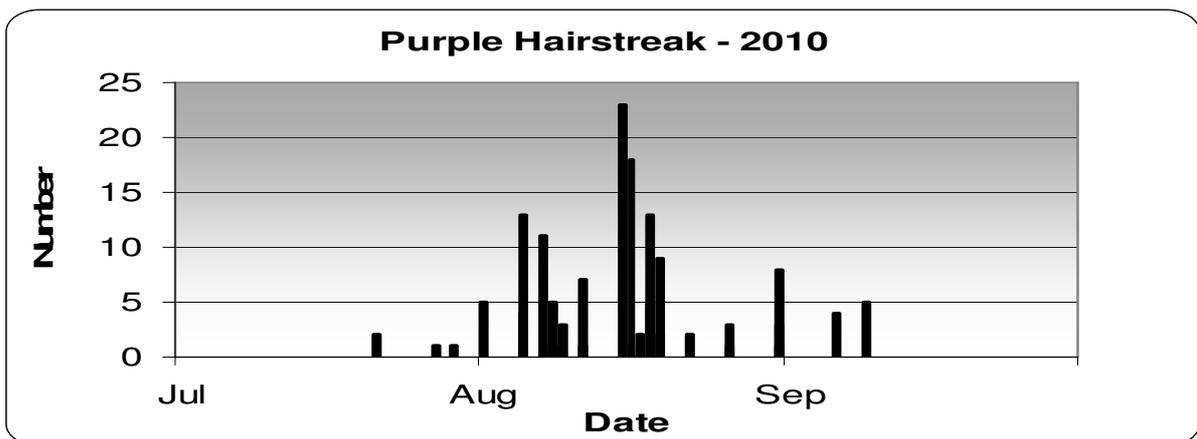


These represent more records received than in recent years and the reports were also spread across 12 sites which are also more than in the last 3 years. The butterfly was recorded over a reasonably long flight period between the first record on 21st July and the last record on the 9th September.

The first record was by Graham Beckwith of 2 individuals at Aykley Wood. There were 3 reports of the insect being seen in double figures – there were all by the same reporter (Robert Mawson) and were of 11, 23 and 17 individuals on the 7th, 15th & 16th August respectively. All were from the same site – Fox Cover near Raisby Way.

It is worth looking for the butterfly in any woodland containing sheltered, sunny oak trees as, like all the Hairstreaks in our area, it is almost certainly under-recorded. Due

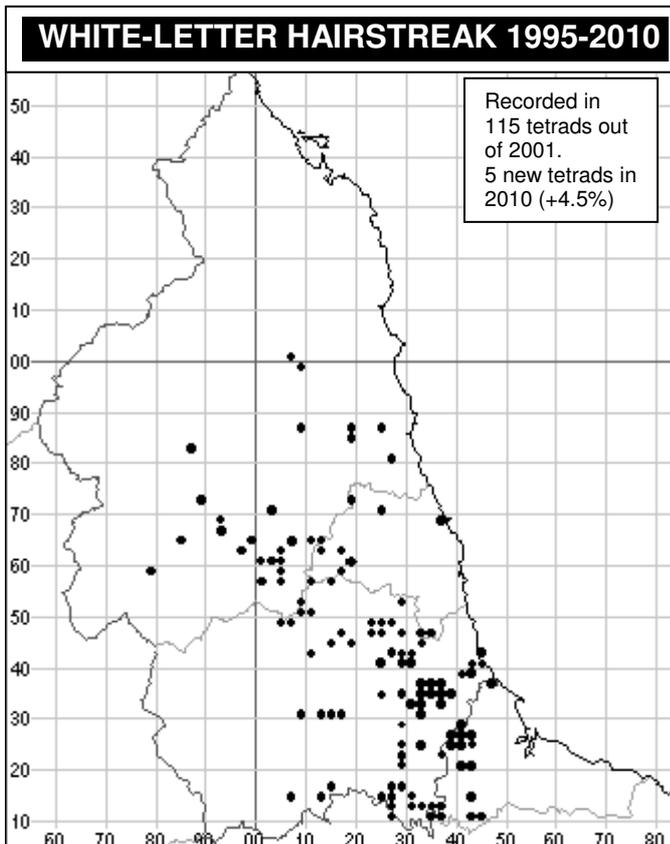
to its behaviour of staying largely in the tree canopy, it is a butterfly that has largely to be actively looked for and therefore few casual records are forthcoming.



White-letter Hairstreak (*Satyrium w-album*)

In 2010, there were 39 records from 16 observers with records coming from 5 new Tetrads. Three of the new sites were along the Tyne Valley, with the other two in south-east Northumberland

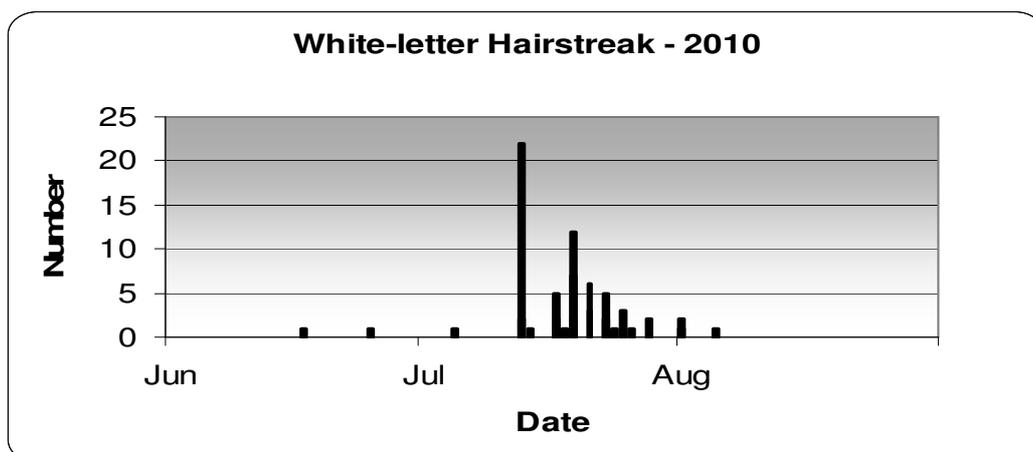
With one exception, the maximum number seen at any one time was 5 - which is perhaps typical of this difficult-to-observe butterfly. However there was one excellent record of 20 seen by Ken Dawson on the 13th July near Warden Bridge, Hexham.



Bob Mawson also contributed 12 useful records of the immature stages of the species from 4 separate sites, with the bulk of the records coming from Raisby Way.

Once you know where to look for these, this can extend the period during which you can find evidence of the butterfly during the year. Peak flight for the species appears to have been during the second half of July.

The species is capable of sustaining itself on fairly small elm trees (the larval food plant) and it is worth looking for it anywhere where these trees occur. The adult butterflies do occasionally descend from on-high to nectar on flowers, with bramble and thistle being popular, so it's also worth checking these as well if nearby. The butterfly can be reasonably mobile and it is also probably under-recorded in our region.

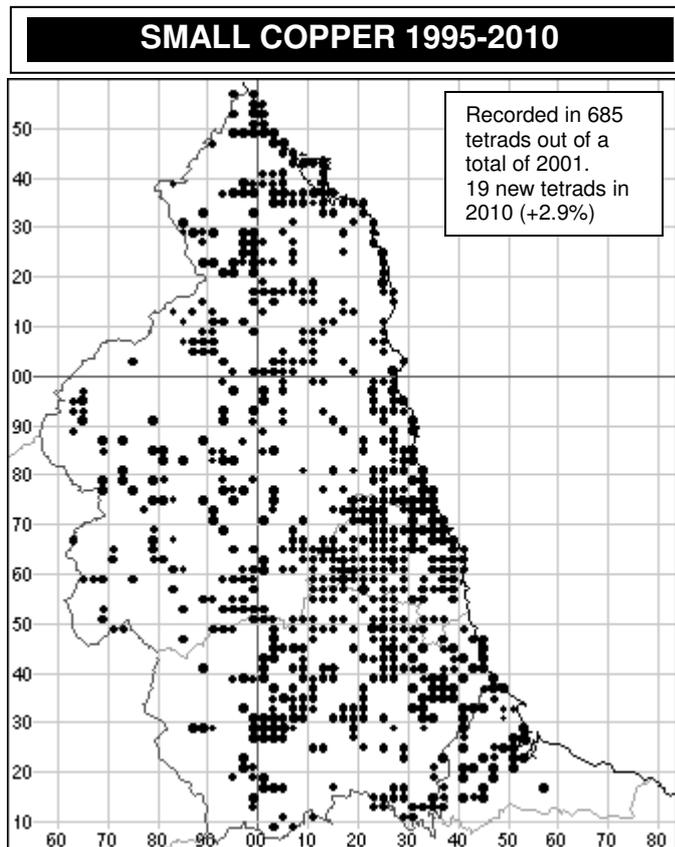




White-letter Hairstreak, photo by Alan Davis.

Small Copper (*Lycaena phlaeas*)

2010: A total of 524 records were received. This is a continuing improvement over the last two years, when 340 were submitted in 2008 and 389 in 2009. A total of 1768 individual butterflies were recorded, this was also a gain on 2009 when 981 were recorded. This increase in individuals was 80% and many observers reported an excellent year.



Once again the first Small Copper was recorded by Bob Mawson with 4 at Raisby Way on the 29th April. The first Northumberland record did not turn up until the 16th May when the Alnwick Wildlife Group reported one from Branton Pond near Powburn.

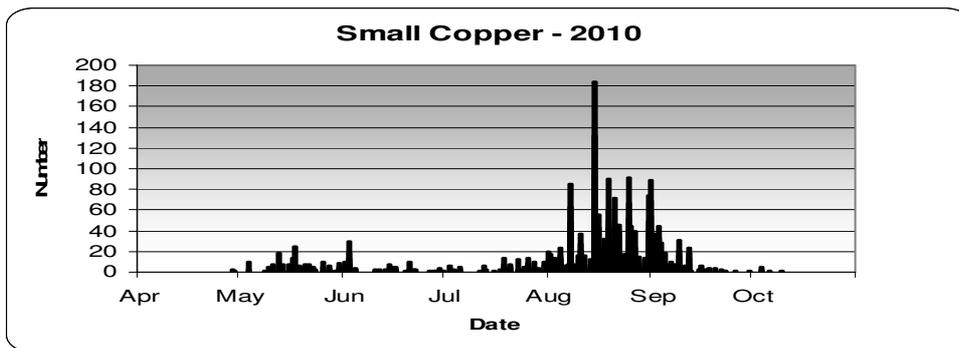
There were two distinct generations, the first, quite small one, peaking at the end of May and the second generation, much larger one, covering the period from mid July to early September. By far the highest daily total for one day was 184 on the 15th August, with 52 being counted over a 550m stretch of bridleway at Prestwick Carr by Roger Norman. On the same day Dave Stebbings counted 38 at the nearby Havannah LNR on his transect and Heather Dunn had 34 at Winlaton.

The last recording for Northumberland was by Hew Ellis in a garden in Tynemouth on 6th October and Durham's last record was

by Bob Mawson at Raisby Way on 10th of the month.

Small copper were on the wing for 165 days and recorded on 114 days, (69%). Of the 150 tetrads in which it was reported in 2010, 19 were new ones. The 2009 Annual Report of the UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme, (see page 8), shows that numbers have remained almost

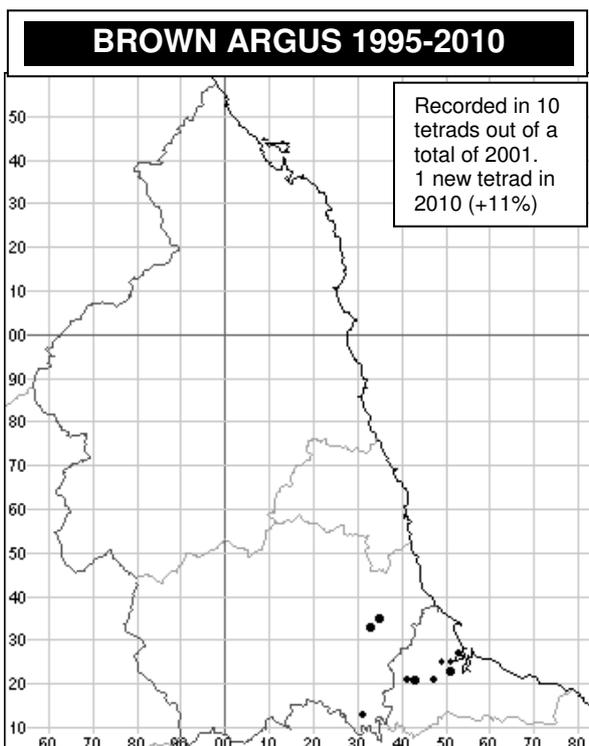
steady since 1976 and in the northeast, Small Copper have done very well over the past three years



Small Coppers, photo by Tim Nelson.

Brown Argus (*Plebeius (Aricia) agestis*)

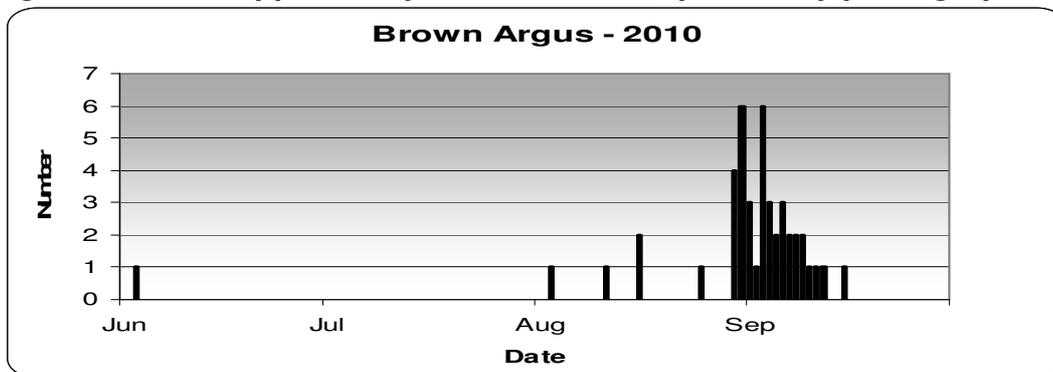
2010: A small number of records of sightings from the south of the region were received from four observers.



The first sighting was from Tim and Dorothy Nelson who saw one at Dormans Pool in the Tees estuary on 3rd June. It was not until 3rd August that the next report came in with Daphne Aplin finding one on her Cowpen Bewley 2 transect. The transect then produced three more sightings, the last on 3rd September. Robert Wood also reported one, at New Road, Billingham on 25th August. The only other sightings were from Robert Mawson who sent in several reports from Raisby Way in late August and early September. The peaks were 6 on 31st August and 5 on 3rd September. His final record was one seen on 15th September. Robert Mawson also sent in sightings of eggs and larvae also from Raisby Way through September, October and November.

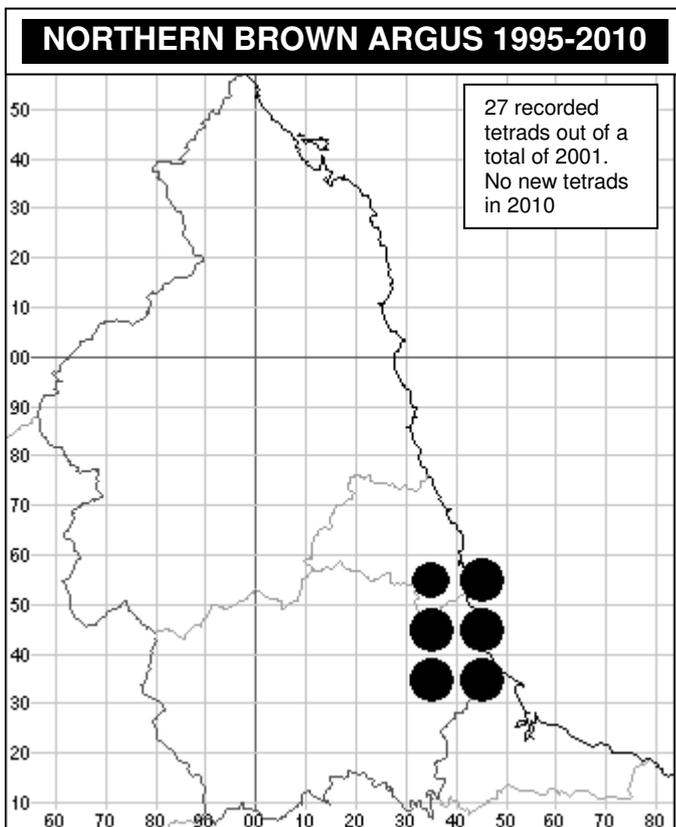
It is possible that this butterfly is widespread throughout the south of our region in areas of suitable habitat, but is probably at a low density, so that finding it is purely a matter of chance. Furthermore, the likelihood is that it may be mis-identified as female Common Blue or the closely related Northern Brown Argus unless it is examined closely, so it is possibly still under-recorded. Recorders are urged to report sightings to the County Recorder or Assistant Recorders as soon as they are made, and to try and photograph the butterfly so that a positive I.D. can be made.

Records at known Northern Brown Argus sites during the flight period of Northern Brown Argus must be supported by documentation, preferably photographs.



Northern Brown Argus (*Aricia artaxerxes*)

2010: A total of 264 Northern Brown Argus adults was posted for 2010, slightly lower the corresponding figure for 2009. Dave Wainwright recorded a single larva at Blackhall Rocks on April 17th, the only coastal record for the species and also the only recorded sighting of a pre-adult stage.

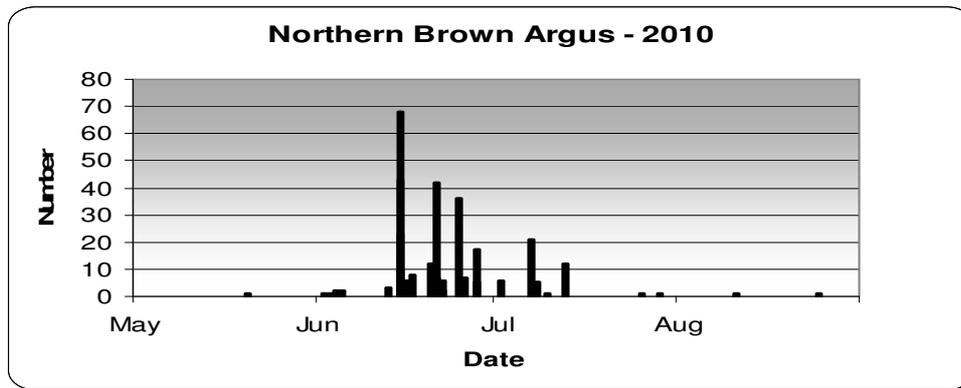


Unlike some previous years, a fair number of inland sites were visited during the flight period. Steve Le Fleming recorded the season's first on the early date of May 20th – nine days earlier than any previous record. Steve spotted this individual at Bishop Middleham Quarry. John Hope recorded the region's second on June 2nd from Thrislington Plantation, a much more typical date. As usual, it was these two sites that provided the bulk of the year's records. John Hope made the best annual count of 36 adults at Thrislington on June 26th. Apart from these sites, the species was also recorded from Raisby Hill Grassland on different dates by Mark Dinning and Mark Richardson, from Little Wood LNR by Bob Mawson, from Hastings Hill by Barry & Jean Robinson and from Sherburn Hill by Dave Wainwright.

Following on from the rediscovery of the species at Hastings Hill in 2009, Dave Wainwright visited Pittington Hill and found seven adults. The species had not been seen here since 1997 and has presumably recolonised from Sherburn Hill, which lies some 2.5km to the

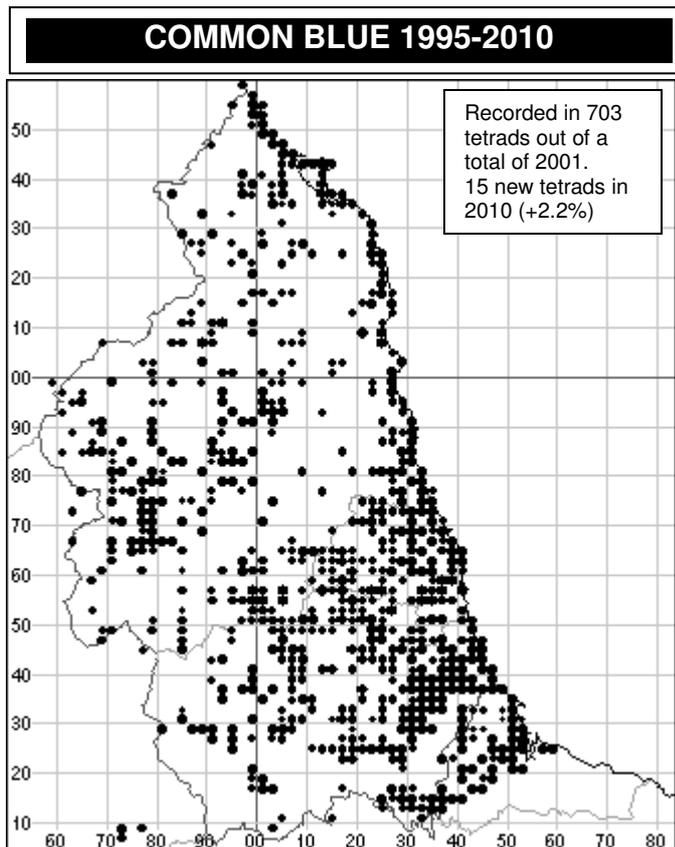
south. The return of the species to these two sites is extremely good news, given that there are a number of other sites where it has not been recorded recently.

John Hope's sighting of a single adult at Thrislington on August 25th wrapped up the season.



Common Blue (*Polyommatus icarus*)

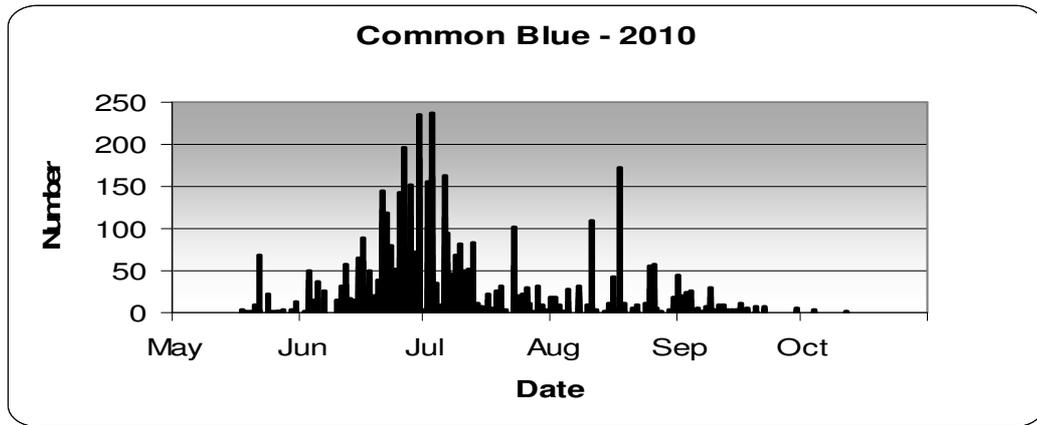
2010: A total of 4204 Common Blues was recorded from 538 reports, a decrease on the 4537 from 579 reports in 2009, and the 5041 and 660, respectively, in 2008. The butterfly was seen on 113 days (76%) of its reported flight period of 148 days. It was found in 135 tetrads in the region in 2010, 15 new, expanding its known range in the region by just over 2% over the 688 in which it had been observed between 1995 and 2009.



The first three specimens were reported on 18th May by Tim and Dorothy Nelson at Dormans Pool, North Tees Marshes, who also found 65 at Bowesfield Marsh, Stockton on 22nd. However, only 8 counts of between 20 and 30 were made in the next month, though a total of 145 was reached by 19 butterfly watchers on 21st June, and Paul Tankard found 40 on 22nd June at Bishop Middleham, contributing to that day's tally of 119. Late June saw the highest counts: Molly Hardie counted 77 at Cocklawburn Dunes contributing to 25th June's total of 142 from 8 observers; 13 observers recorded 197 specimens on 26th, 12 saw 152 on 28th and 17 saw 324 on 30th. 156 were reported on 2nd July and 237 on 3rd. Numbers of sightings then declined except for 23rd July when 102 were counted and in August, Ian Bond recorded 100 on 11th at Seaton Dunes and Tim and Dorothy Nelson found 165 on 18th at Tees Barage, making that day's total 172.

Otherwise August and September provided only modest counts and the last sighting was reported by Hew Ellis on 12th October at Silverlink, North Shields.

The pattern of occurrences was similar to 2009, with the population peaking at the end of June and the start of July but with a secondary peak in mid-August, - could this be a small second generation we are seeing?



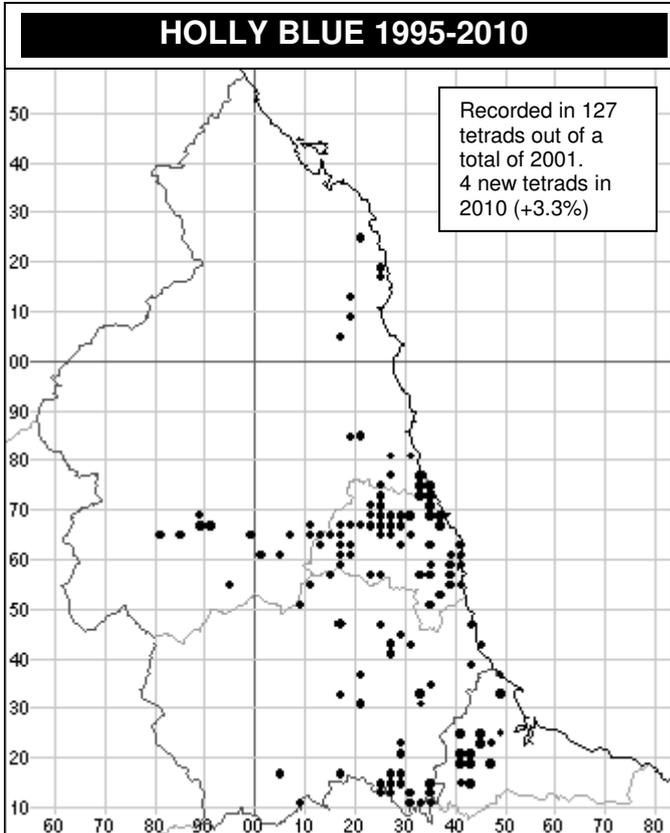
Brown Argus, photo by Bob Mawson.



Female Common Blue, photo by Bob Mawson.

Holly Blue (*Celastrina argiolus*)

2010: 2010 was a much better year than 2009, when only 7 individuals were recorded. The year produced 51 records, of 70 individual butterflies, ten times better than 2009! Mr A C Edwards spotted the first of the spring brood at the SAFC Academy on 21st May; 4 individuals were reported as far apart as Billingham and Gosforth Park followed this within two days. No other sightings of the first brood were recorded, and the next sightings were not made until 3rd July.

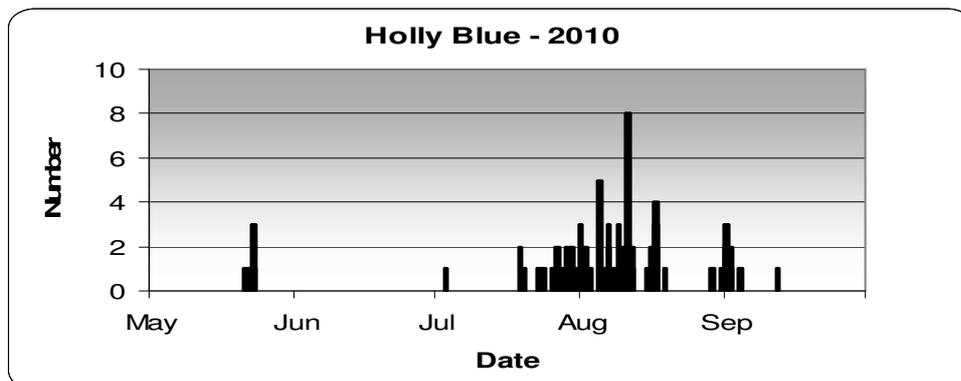


Tim and Dorothy Nelson were the best recorders, seeing Holly Blue in their Stockton garden at intervals from 19th July through until 4th September. They also reported 5 butterflies on 5th August at Preston Park, Stockton, followed by 7 individuals on 11th August at the same location. Of the 70 butterflies counted for the entire north-east region, 29 were reported from Tim and Dorothy's garden, and with another 12 sighted at Preston Park, they are the Holly Blue champions of the year with over half the numbers being recorded within their immediate area.

The butterfly was reported as on the wing on 35 days out of a recorded flight period of 115 days. This is only 30% of the available flight time, but twice as long as in 2009.

The Holly Blue hardly penetrated Northumberland in 2010, the furthest north in 2010 being Tynemouth, and Jesmond and Gosforth, in Newcastle. The butterfly has clearly recovered somewhat after the disastrous year of 2009, although numbers were still only half of those reached in 2008 and only a quarter of its peak year of 2007 when 284 were recorded.

The good news is that the butterfly was recorded in 4 new tetrads during 2010, bringing the total to 127 for our branch area. The not so good news is that it was spotted in only 20 of those tetrads. Let us hope that the recovery continues in 2011 and it resumes its expansion in the region.

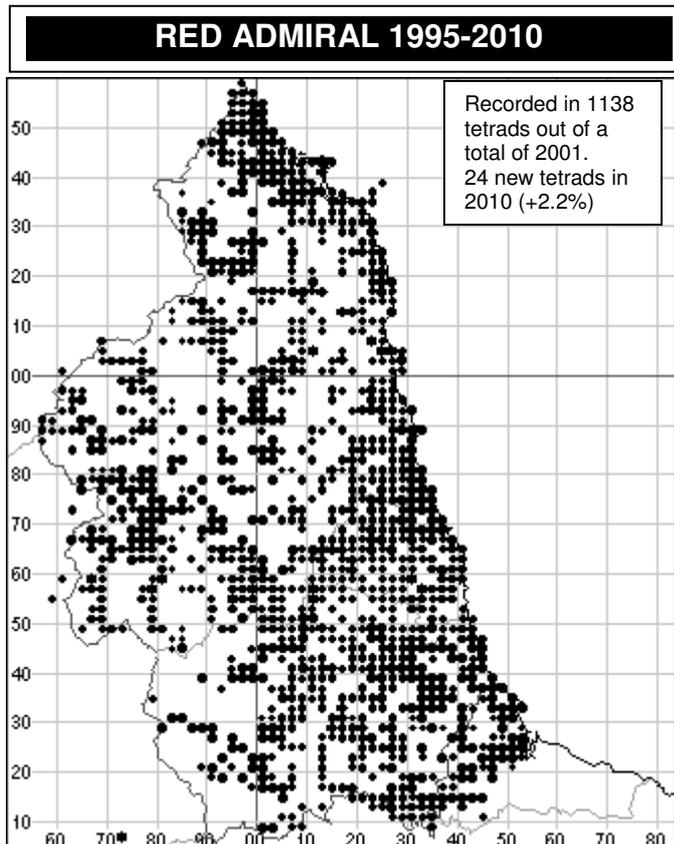




Holly Blue, photo by Tim Nelson.

Red Admiral (*Vanessa atalanta*)

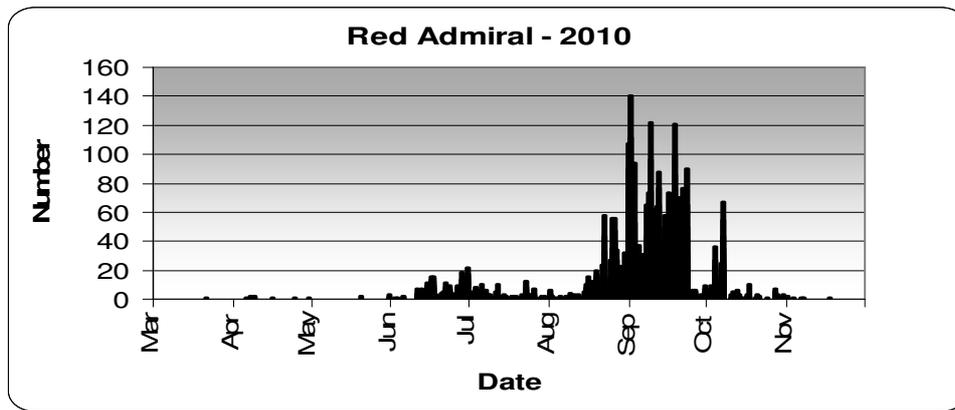
2010: The first Red Admiral was sighted on 21st March, by Mike Coates at Whitley Lodge, Whitley Bay, and the last was reported by Neville Stead on 17th November, also at Whitley Bay. A total of 992 records have been received, which is 165 less than in 2009. The butterfly flew on 140 days out of a possible total of 242 days, and 2943 individual butterflies were counted, including a magnificent 323 Red Admirals over the season on the Farne Islands. This is a total increase of 295 insects on last year, however, there have been fewer reports from the north of the region, the furthest north being those from Berwick-upon-Tweed.



Of the total number of records submitted, 944 were for single figure sightings, 573 of those were for individual butterflies. Most butterflies were recorded flying between 20th August and 20th September, when a total of 1771 were seen, but Tom Thirlaway counted 213 individuals in his Gilsland Garden, from 28th June until 11th October, and Graham Mitchell, supplied 29 records from Hardwick Hall between 11th June and 31st August, totalling 202 butterflies.

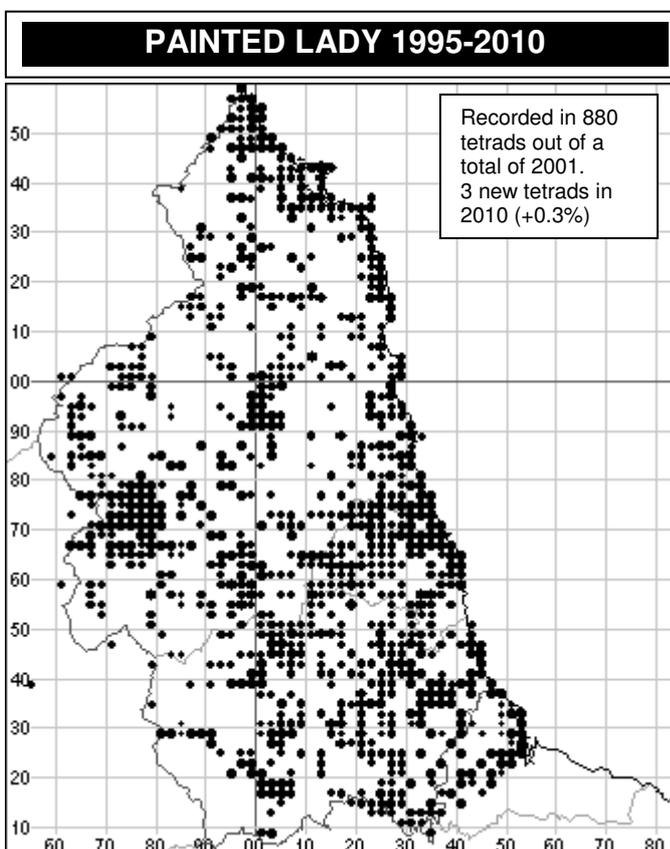
Ian Findlay holds this year's record for the most Red Admirals seen at a site on one day, with 41 individuals reported in Upper Teesdale on 3rd September. The best overall day was 31st August when 140 insects were reported from as far apart as Smeafield Farm near Belford, Northumberland and Upper Teesdale to Corbridge.

The Red Admiral has been recorded on 24 new tetrads in 2010, bringing the total number to 1138 for the branch area. However, the butterfly was only reported from 230 of these in 2010. Once again, the concentration of sightings has been in County Durham, Cleveland and Tyne and Wear, presumably reflecting where observers live. Inland Northumberland remains under-recorded for even this relatively common species.



Painted Lady (*Vanessa cardui*)

2010: A comparatively small total of 163 records were received, which detailed 246 individual butterflies. Painted Lady was on the wing for a total of 186 days but was seen on only 74 (40%) of these days.



After the bumper year for this species in 2009 it was a very poor year in 2010. The number of individual butterflies seen in 2010 represented a 97% drop on the 2009 total! This often happens that poor years follow good years for this species. Its migration is notoriously erratic.

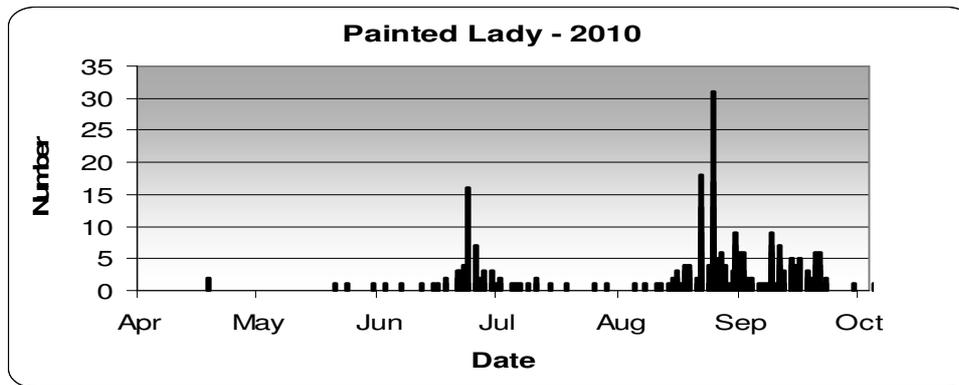
The first record for the region came in from John Almond who saw two at Ellington in Northumberland on 19th April. This was over a month before the second record. The first record for Durham was one seen by Yolanda Paciorek at Howden le Wear on 24th May.

From late May sightings were reported from all over the region but in very low numbers. The majority of records were of single butterflies only. The highest count for the year was fifteen which were reported by the Alnwick Wildlife Group at Smeafield Farm in

north Northumberland on 24th June. The only other count in double figures was from Ian Davidson who saw fourteen at Newton Point, also in north Northumberland, on 25th August.

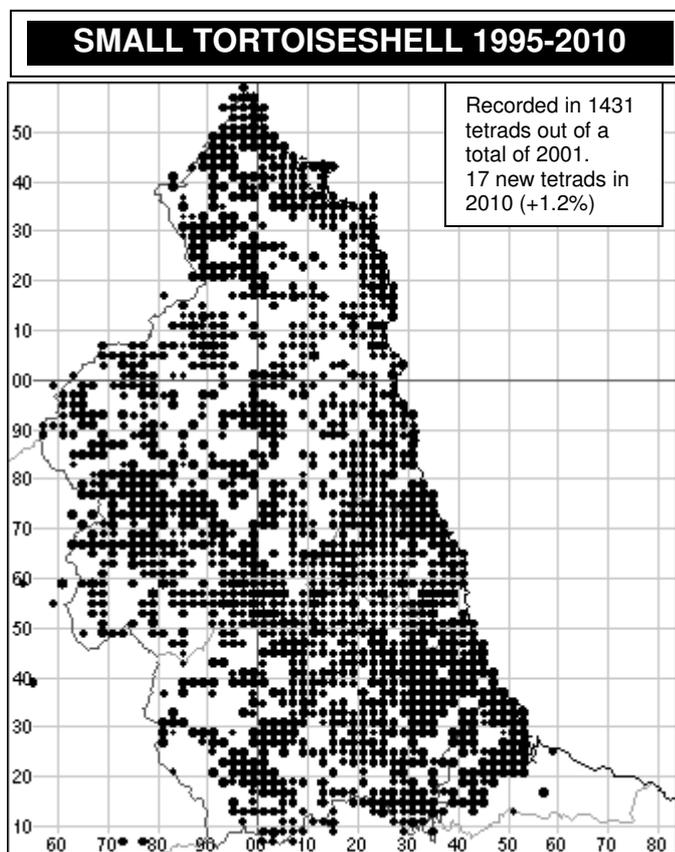
The last records for County Durham were one seen by Gordon Simpson at West Auckland and one spotted by Peter Webb at Bishop Auckland both on 23rd September. The final record for Northumberland and for the region was from Ann and Malcolm Hutcheson who saw one at East Ord just outside Berwick on 21st October.

The Painted Lady was recorded in 89 tetrads in the region and despite the poor year it was recorded in three new tetrads 2010.



Small Tortoiseshell (*Aglaia urticae*)

2010: Small Tortoiseshell appears to have a better year in 2010 than in 2009. There were 1524 records of 4357 individuals, both figures being up on the previous year, when the totals were 1420 records and 3509 individuals respectively. It was recorded in 290 tetrads, of which 17 were new.

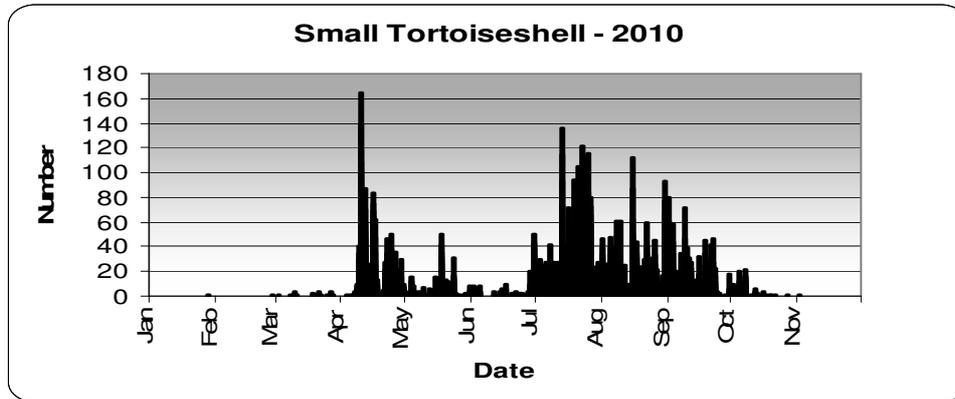


The first record for this butterfly was on the 28th January and was seen by John Day at County Hall in Durham. The second was by Brian Robson at Killingworth on 28th February and there was then a steady flow of reports though March. The highest total for the first generation and indeed for the year was on 10th April when 164 were recorded, with Heather Dunn counting 25 at Winlaton and Roslyn Tanner, 21 at Brierdene Farm at Whitley Bay.

The second generation emerged at the end of June and they were then recorded through until the last, seen on 2nd November by Jack Mawson near Wheatley Hill. The second generation peaked between mid July and mid August with the maximum daily total being 136 on 13th July. High numbers were seen in July with 60 by John Olley on 16th July at Old Stillington and another 50 at Castle Lake/Bishop Middleham on 24th July,

again by John Olley. Mike Henry recorded Northumberland's highest count with 46 at Prestwick Carr on 10th August.

The flight period, including the two early records, was 279 days and the butterfly was on the wing for 187 of those, (67%). So far, we do not seem to be witnessing any of the declines that are occurring in the south of the country as a result of the parasitism that is causing concern. Twenty-seven records were received of ova and larvae from four recorders.

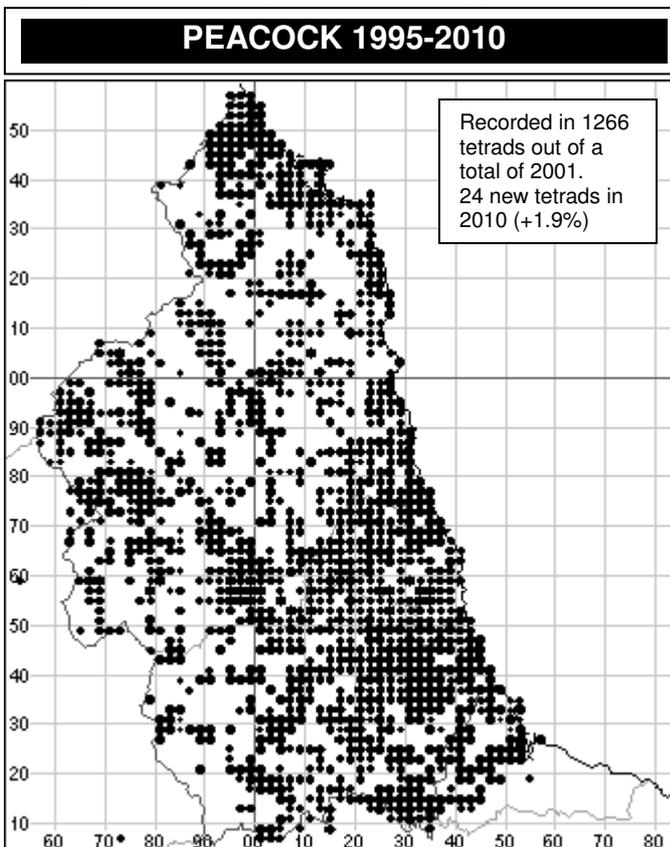


Camberwell Beauty (*Nymphalis antiopa*)

2010: After a gap of three years, one was recorded by a lucky observer. Andy Caesar saw one whilst on holiday at Middle Skerr near Cocklawburn on the north Northumberland coast on 14th August. The previous records for the county for this rare wanderer from the east were for five or perhaps six in the autumn of 2006. A total of either 17 or 18 have now been recorded in the last 16 years, with all but four in either 1995 or 2006.

Peacock (*Inachis io*)

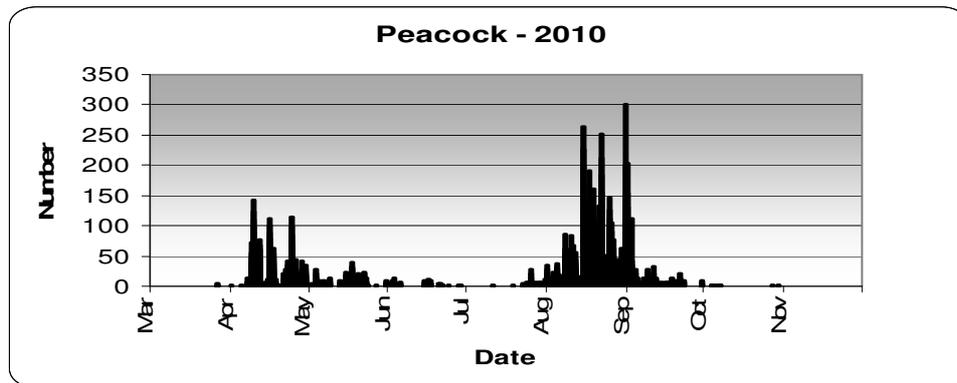
2010: Although the numbers look good, at 4772 individual butterflies being recorded, this is a drop of over 900 on 2009. A total of 1431 records of Peacock sightings were submitted. The peacock flew on 157 days out of a total of 232 days, only 68% of the available time, and although it was reported on 24 new tetrads, it was only seen on 280 out of a possible 1266 for our branch area. Looking at the maps, the majority of sightings are from south of the Tyne, and large areas in north Northumberland would appear to be under-recorded. Of the records sent less than 250 came from Northumberland, and very few from the north of the county. Berwick-upon Tweed supplied the butterfly's most northerly reports.



The first Peacock to be seen in 2010 was spotted by Stanley Straughan in his garden in Ashington on 15th March, and the last by Kevin Redgrave, on 1st November at Brunton near Embleton. The butterfly was seen regularly throughout the flight period for each generation, but the best two days were 15th and 31st August when 264 and 300 individuals respectively, were recorded.

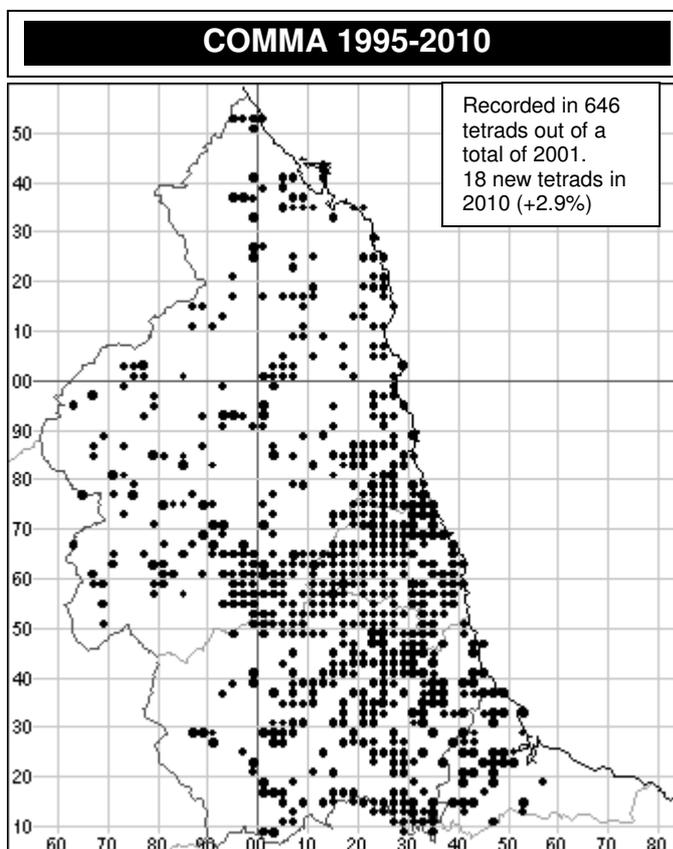
Michael Holmes reported the largest number when he counted 100 butterflies at Slaley Hall on 31st August, and Ian Findlay had 71 individuals in Upper Teesdale on 3rd September. The highest point came between 15th August and 8th September, when 2513 individual butterflies were noted, and 481 individual records were submitted. Single insect sightings amounted to 665; these were spread throughout the flight period.

Pam Crisp sent 48 sightings, reporting 119 individuals, 46 records with 138 individuals came from an Alnwick garden, but Michael Holmes counted 286 butterflies, and 27 records from Slaley.



Comma (*Polytonia c-album*)

2010: 836 individual Comma butterflies were recorded between 8th March and 10th November 2010, an increase of 82 from 2009. During this time, 307 of these sightings were of a single butterfly, spread out throughout the Branch area, although not very many reports have come from the north of the Branch area, 5 were seen in Berwick-upon-Tweed, between 27th July and 21st September these being the most northerly records. A total of 9 individuals were reported by Kevin Redgrave from a garden in Brunton near Embleton, and 6 were seen in Alnwick. Further south, the spread of reports were much more uniform. The Havannah Nature Reserve at Hazlerigg produced 85 individuals over a period of several months from 9th April to 18th September. The butterfly was seen on 132 days out of a flying time of 248, a percentage time of 53%.

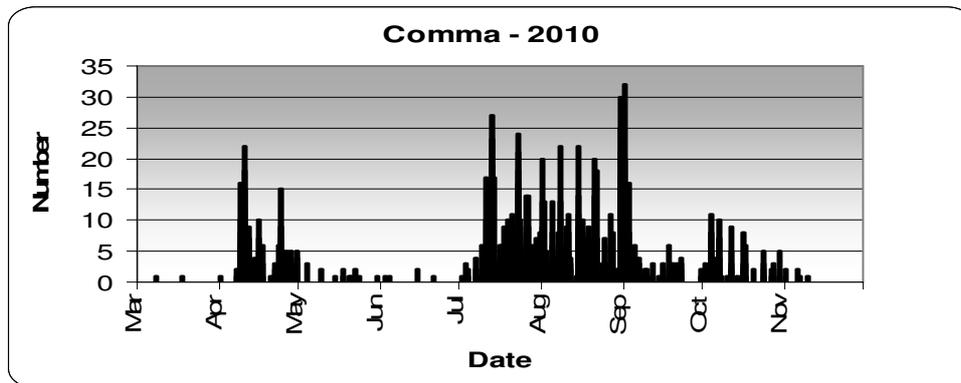


Keith Smith spotted the first Comma at Newburn, on 8th March and Steve Austin recorded the last at Hawthorne Dene on 10th November. There were only 4 records where double figures were reported, from Prudhoe on 14th July, Derwent Walk Country Park on 2nd August, Castle Eden Dene NNR on 22nd August (where 11 individuals were counted at each site), and Castle Eden Dene NNR again, on 1st September, where 12 Commas were seen.

Throughout April records of sighting were very regular, then there was a dip when only 15 reports were sent between the beginning of May and the end of June, but from 1st July, when the second generation emerged, 371 records were submitted throughout the next three months. The best two days of the season were on 31st August and 1st September when 30 and 32 individual butterflies were counted. Numbers

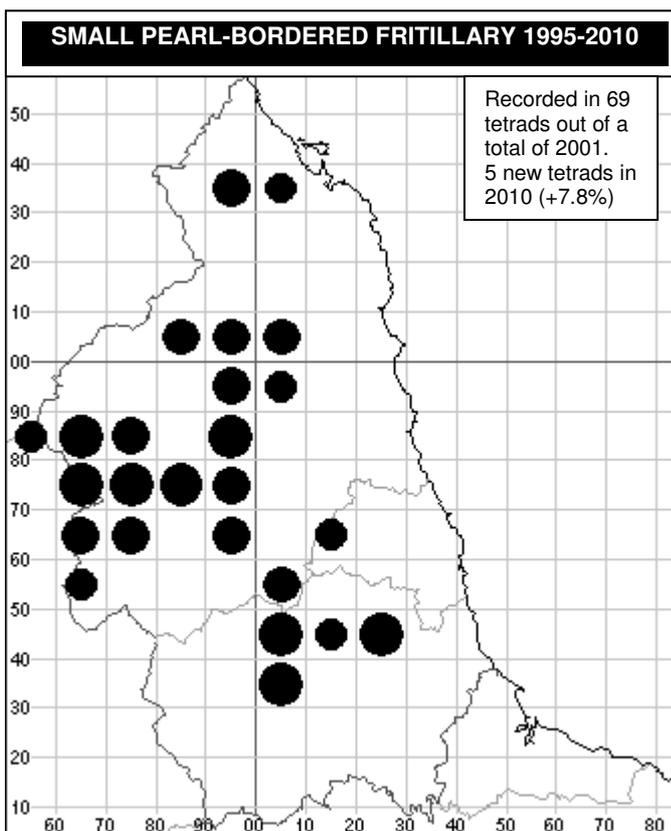
continued well into October, and there were 4 reports in November.

The Comma was reported on 18 new tetrads, and our Branch area has now recorded the butterfly on 646 tetrads. However, in 2010, it was only seen on 146 of these. There is a clear pattern showing that the butterfly is becoming well established in the southern areas of the Branch, but that it has yet to penetrate into the north in any significant numbers.



Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary (*Boloria selene*)

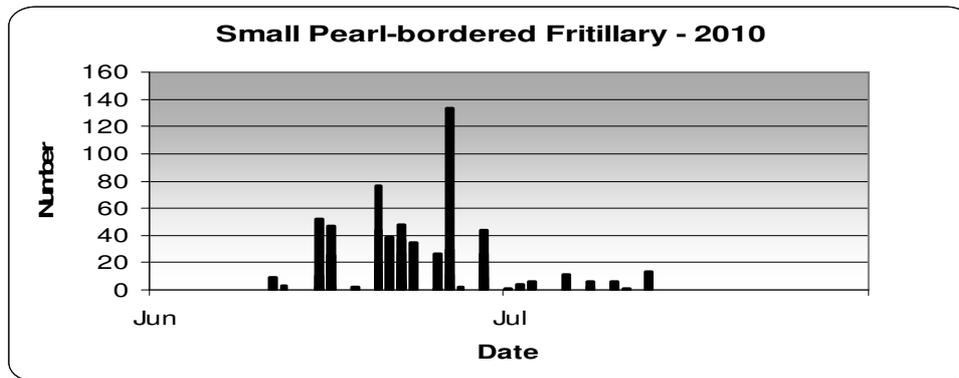
2010: The 2010 season proved to be a good one for this species, which benefited from fine weather, from spring right through the flight period. It was recorded from 5 new tetrads in Northumberland.



The first record came from the A68 sites via Dave Liddle and Karen Fisher, where 9 were seen on 11th June. This was followed on the 12th, with 3 being seen by Dave Stebbings near Castleside. Keith Smith had the first Northumberland record, with 2 at Crozier Hill, in the Wark Forest area near the Pennine way on the 15th of the month. The Burn Hill area on the Waskerley Way proved the most productive site in June, with 39 on 21st, 35 on 23rd and an impressive 104, seen by Dave Liddle on the 26th. The highest count for Northumberland came from Hewett Ellis, who had 19 near Sweethope Lough.

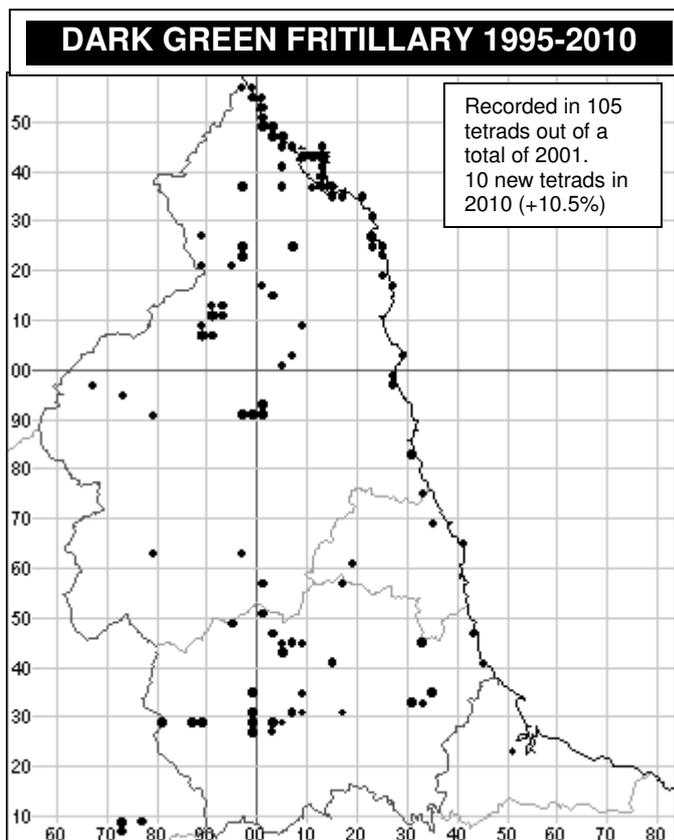
Keith Smith had more records near the Pennine Way, with 14 at Ladyhill and 17 by Gofton Burn, both on the 29th. The most noteworthy records were from Debdon, near Rothbury by Graham Beckwith, who found a total of three butterflies at two closely

adjacent sites. Four other new sites were found, two by Roger Norman, south and east of Sweethope, and the others by Hew Ellis and David Stebbings, at sites to the north of Sweethope. The number of sites now found in Central Northumberland suggests that there are more colonies to be found in this area. The last record of the season came again via Dave Liddle, of 13 by the Waskerley Way on 13th July.



Dark Green Fritillary (*Argynnis aglaja*)

2010: There were 66 records of Dark Green Fritillary in 2010, an increase of 16% from the previous year, whilst the number of individuals recorded was 759, an increase of 13% compared to 2009. In an encouraging year for the species, it was recorded in 26 tetrads of which 10 were new. The flight period lasted from 23rd June until 31st August and the species was recorded on 35 of the possible 70 days within this period (50%).



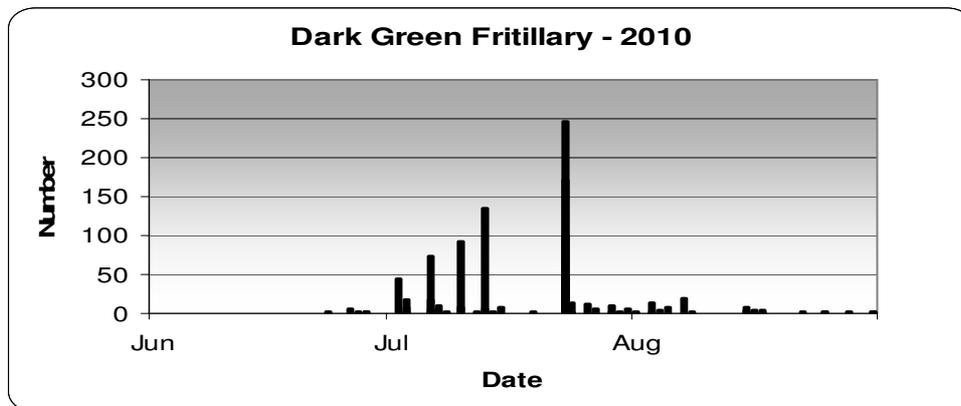
The first record of the year, on 23rd June, was in the Waskerley area by Dave Wainwright. Numbers built steadily through July and peak numbers were recorded on 23rd July when a total of 246 individuals were counted. The highest individual count of the year came from the Waskerley area where Dave Liddle, Shona O'Neill and Sarah Hunter counted 128 on 13th July, underlining the remarkable expansion of the species in this area over the past three years.

Holy Island, as usual, also provided large numbers of Dark Green Fritillary and Keith Smith recorded a total of 137 there on 23 July, split into three separate counts on adjoining sections of the island. Other high counts, all on Holy Island were 85 counted by Stanley Straughan on 10th July, 56 counted on 6th by A Craggs and 74 counted by Ian Kerr on 23rd July (and therefore

possibly overlapping the count by Keith Smith on the same day).

As well as the usual smattering of records along the North Northumberland coast, it was encouraging to see a small number of records from a variety of inland sites in 2010. In addition to the Waskerley records already mentioned, other noteworthy sightings included several records in three new tetrads in Upper Teesdale by Dave Wainwright on 23rd July, Ian Cook's record of a single individual in a new tetrad at Plankey Mill on the River Allen, two new tetrad records close to Rothbury by Graham Beckwith on 27th June and 6th July and Dave O'Brien's record of a single individual in Bishop Middleham Quarry on 28th June which was also a new tetrad record. Roger Norman counted 12 at a colony in Harwood Forest on 24th July that had previously been reported in 2005. Also of note was a record of a single

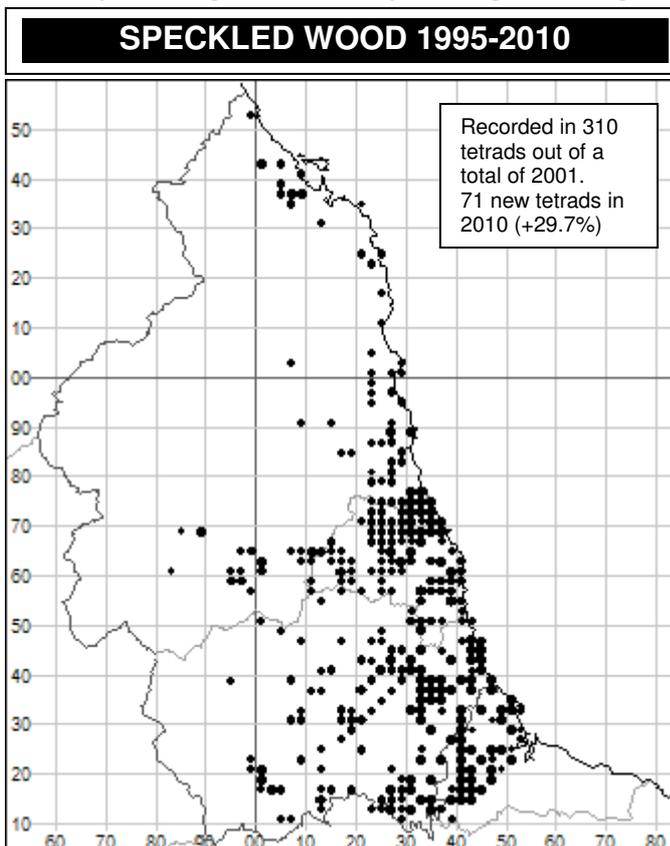
individual made by the National Trust wardens on Brownsman Island on 5th July. This was only the 7th record of the species in the Farne Islands since 2000. Small numbers were seen throughout August and the final records of the year on 31st August were, made by Ian Findlay in Upper Teesdale and Kevin Redgrave at Newton Links, Northumberland.



Speckled Wood (*Pararge aegeria*)

2010: A total of 956 records were received and these recorded 3339 individual butterflies, this was up from 2832 butterflies in 2009. The flight period lasted 204 days and Speckled Wood was seen flying on 158 (77%) of these days.

Record numbers of Speckled Wood were seen yet again in 2010, and the butterfly continues to be spreading more widely through the region



Robert Mawson reported finding larvae and pupae at Trimdon pit heap through February and March, but the flight season started on 10th April in 2010. On that day Mike Hunter saw one at Middleton St George near Darlington, and Tim and Dorothy Nelson also saw one at Preston Park in Stockton.

Northumberland's first record came in six days later and unsurprisingly from the south of the region. This was from Keith Smith who saw two at the Spetchells near Prudhoe on 16th April. The spring brood counts were generally in single figures with the few double figure counts coming from the south of the region.

There was a peak in numbers at the end of June and beginning of July, with a total of 74 individuals being counted on 30th June. During this mid-summer peak, Mike

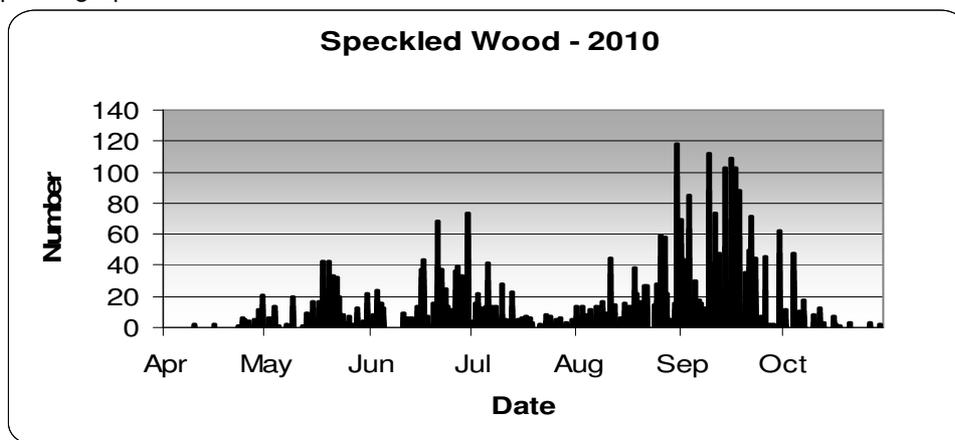
Natgrass reported 29 from Preston Cemetery, North Shields on 21st June and James Lyall saw 20 at Thrislington on 10th July.

The highest counts for the region came in September after the summer generation had emerged. The highest came from Stanley Straughan who saw an impressive 73 in woods just north of Ashington on 17th September. The highest count for Durham was 51 seen by Tim and Dorothy Nelson at Preston Park Stockton on 14th September.

The last sighting for Durham came from Tim and Dorothy Nelson who saw 3 at Tylery Wood on 21st October. The last record for Northumberland was from Keith Smith with two at Backworth in North Tyneside on 30th October.

Speckled Wood was recorded from 191 tetrads throughout the region in 2010 of which 71 were new, a 30% increase in recorded tetrads for the species, showing it is continuing to expand throughout the region.

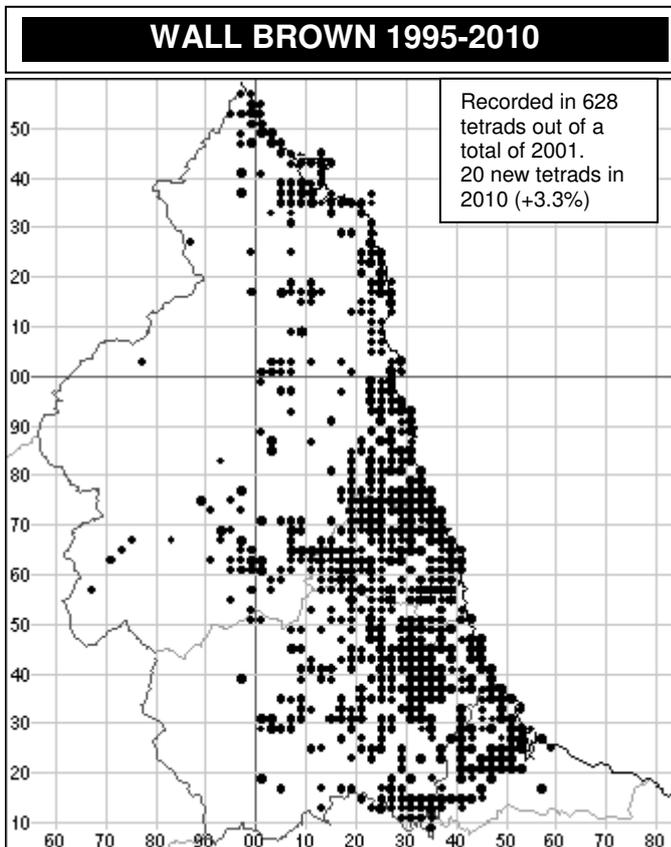
Note: Due to a data processing error, the printed version of the text for Speckled Wood contained errors. The above text, map and graph have been corrected.



Speckled Wood, photo by Mike Coates.

Wall Brown (*Lasiommata megera*)

2010: A total of seven hundred and thirty nine records were received, these recorded 3234 individual butterflies. These figures are well down on the very good year of 2009 but are about normal for the species. The flight period lasted 133 days and the Wall was seen flying on 98 (74%) of these days, a little below average for recent years.

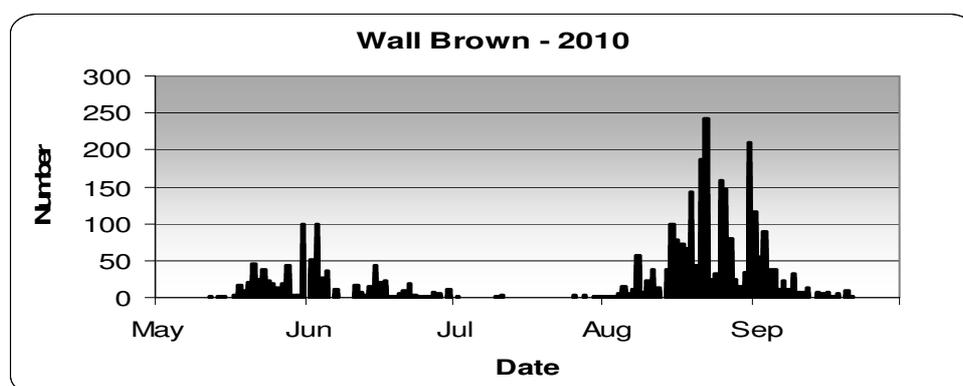


The first sighting in the region came from Kevin Redgrave who saw one at Newton Links on the north Northumberland coast on the 12th May. Durham's first record came just two days later on 14th May when Robert Mawson reported sighting one on the Raisby Way. These are later than average dates for the first sightings of Wall and are probably due to the cold winter and spring meaning the over wintering caterpillars did not start feeding again until later in the spring. The spring generation peaked at the very end of May and early June. The highest count for the spring generation came from Graham Beckwith who saw 27 at Running Waters Quarry near Durham on 31st May, a good count for the first brood. There were only a handful of sightings in July as the second generation developed. Reports then started to come in again in the second week of August. The second generation peaked in the second half of

August and the first week of September.

Northumberland's highest count was a very creditable 102 from Mike Coates at Brierdene Farm, Whitley Bay on 22nd August. The highest number seen in County Durham came from Steve Austin who counted 27 at Blackhall Rocks, north of Hartlepool also on 22nd August. Good numbers were seen in the first half of September, but the season ended rather suddenly and a little earlier than in recent years. For County Durham the last record was from John Olley who saw six at Castle Lake, Bishop Middleham on the 20th September. The final record for Northumberland was from Ian Davidson who saw one at Annstead Dunes near Seahouses on 21st September.

Wall was recorded from 192 tetrads throughout the region in 2010 of which twenty were new.

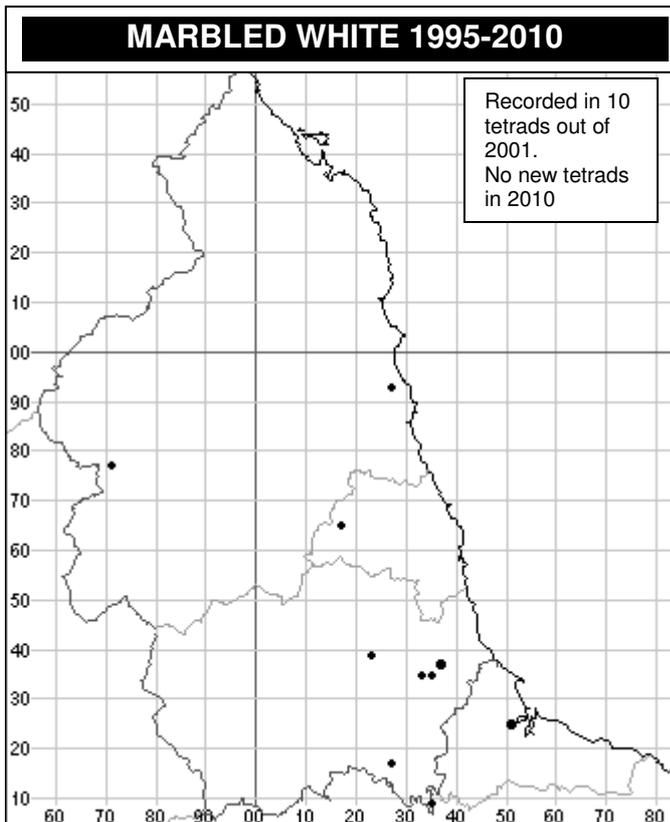




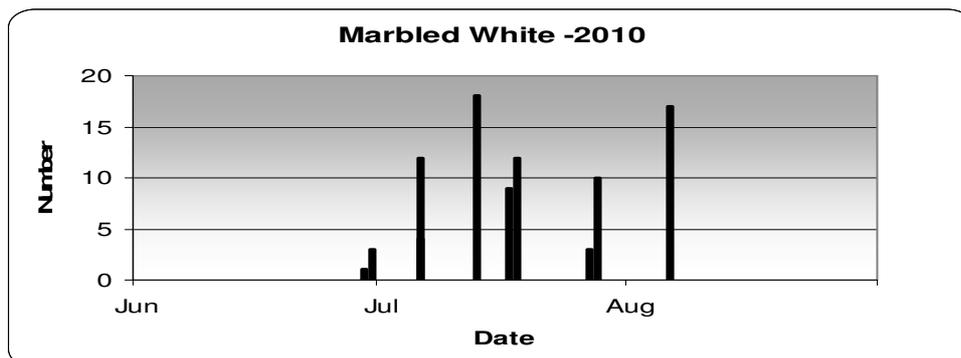
Wall Brown, photo by Bob Mawson.

Marbled White (*Melanargia galathea*)

2010: Marbled White was again confined to its 2000 release site of Wingate Quarry, so no new tetrads were recorded.

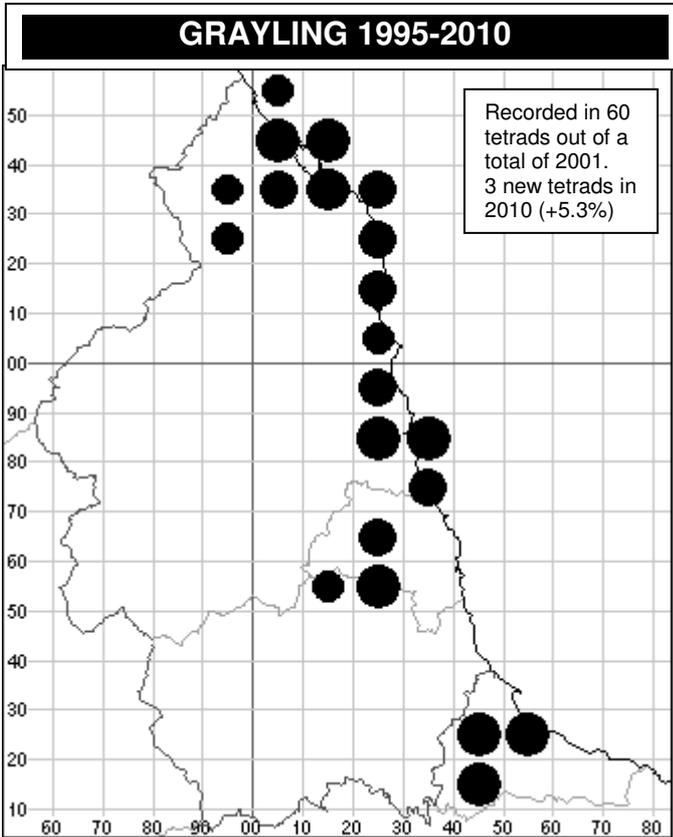


A total of 85 individuals were recorded by 7 observers who made 10 visits in total on 9 days, (23% of the butterfly's reported flight period of 39 days), between 29th June and 6th August. Bob Mawson saw the butterfly first on 29th June, and the highest 'individual' sighting was of 18 by Tim and Dorothy Nelson on 13th July, but Gary Whitton found 17 on 6th August – the butterfly's final appearance in the year. The butterfly does not appear to have lost further ground from its very poor showing in 2009 (83 sightings, compared with 164 in 2008). There were no records from the south of the region, where individuals, presumably from populations further south in Yorkshire, had been recorded in previous years.



Grayling (*Hipparchia semele*)

2010: The first confirmed sighting, comprising two adults seen on 23rd June, was made at Dorman’s Pool, a very productive brownfield site on Teesside. Tim and Dorothy Nelson were the lucky recorders. Almost two weeks elapsed before A. Craggs recorded Northumberland’s first from Lindisfarne on July 6th. By this point, Tim and Dorothy Nelson, revisiting Dorman’s Pool, had already recorded the region’s highest count of 72 on 3rd July. A further visit, on 9th July, yielded a count of 69

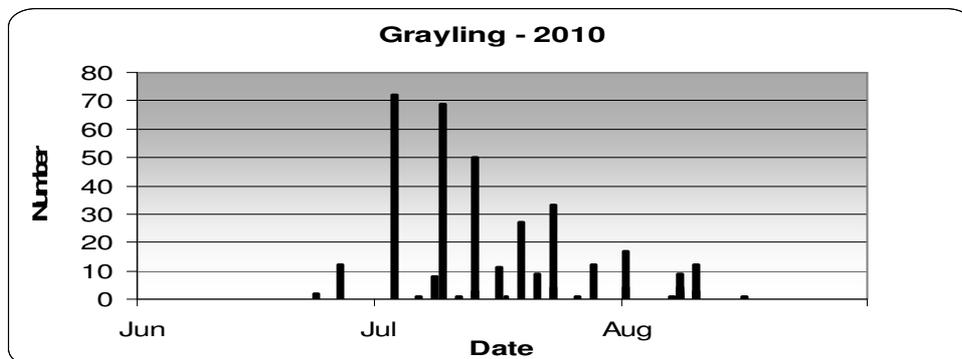


The only other sites to record double-figure counts were Greenabella Marsh (Robert Woods, 47 on 13th July) and Cambois (Mike Coates, 11 on 16th July).

Numbers declined rapidly after the end of July with only one double-figure count being made at Dorman’s Pool. Durham’s latest sighting was made by Robert Woods at Seal Sands on 10th August; Ian Bond recorded Northumberland’s six days later in the dunes at Bamburgh.

Overall, the Grayling appears to have attained a rather mediocre level of abundance in 2010. The annual total of 349 was more than twice that of 2009 but was only a fraction of the totals recorded in 2005 and 2006. Poor July weather may partially explain this recent decline in numbers, although research, undertaken by

one of Yorkshire’s eminent lepidopterists, has shown that many moth species that pupate within subterranean cocoons have also declined recently, possibly indicating that other factors are involved.

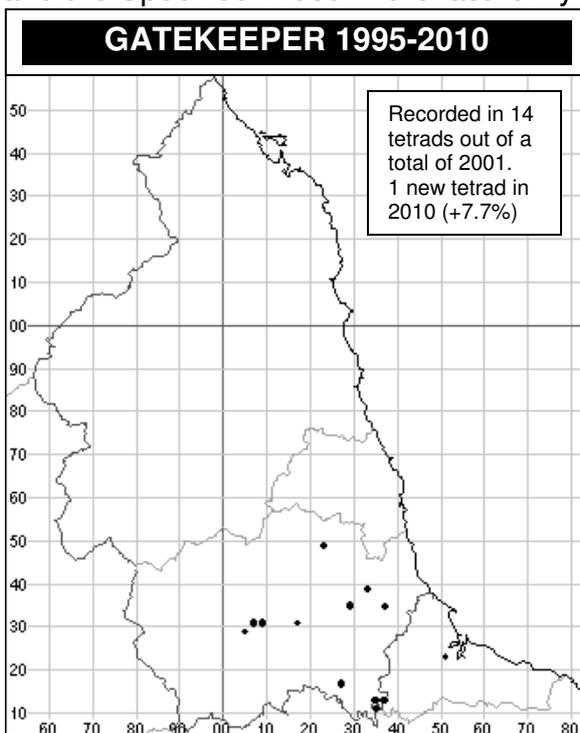




Grayling, photo by Bob Mawson.

Gatekeeper (*Pyronia tithonus*)

2010: The Gatekeeper is a species that one would expect to be spreading northwards through our region, following the 'trend' set by others such as the Small Skipper in the 1990s, and the Speckled Wood in the last few years.



However, records are, so far, largely confined to a handful of sightings in the south of the region. There were three records for 2010, the first one was at a new site at the new Wynyard Woodland Park transect by Sue Wyman on 26th July, this is a typical date.

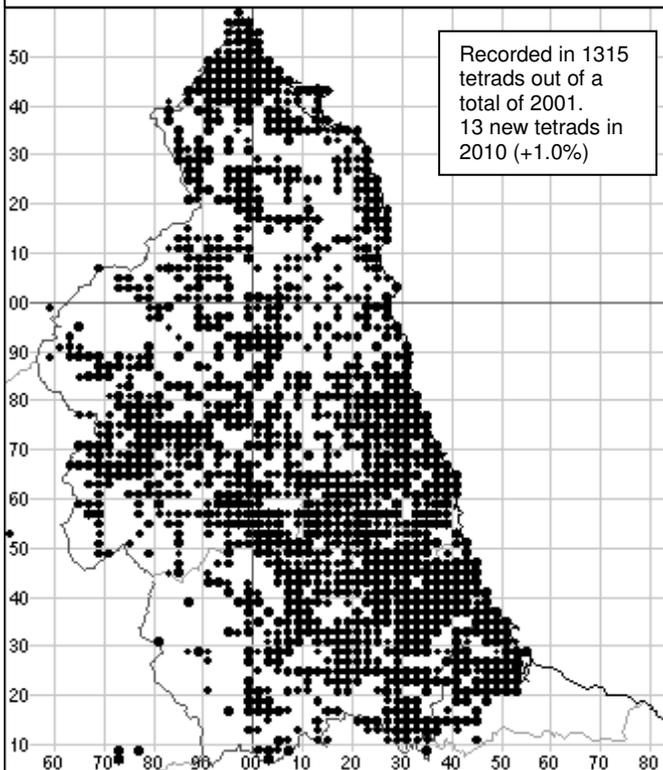
The other two records were also of singles, seen by Pippa Smaling at West Park Nature Reserve, near Darlington on 26th August and 2nd September.

These latter two sightings are remarkably late, with all previous records for the region being in the last two weeks of July and the first two weeks of August.

Meadow Brown (*Maniola jurtina*)

2010: A total of 12,455 Meadow Browns, plus two mating pairs, was logged in the region from 948 records, representing a decrease in reporting levels over 2009 (16,678 from 1089 records). The butterfly was recorded on 99 of the 173 days (57%) of its reported flight period (2009: 87 out of 110 = 79%) and found in 13 new tetrads (a 1% increase in its reported distribution since 1995). The butterfly was seen on 99 days (57% of its reported flight period of 173 days)

MEADOW BROWN 1995-2010

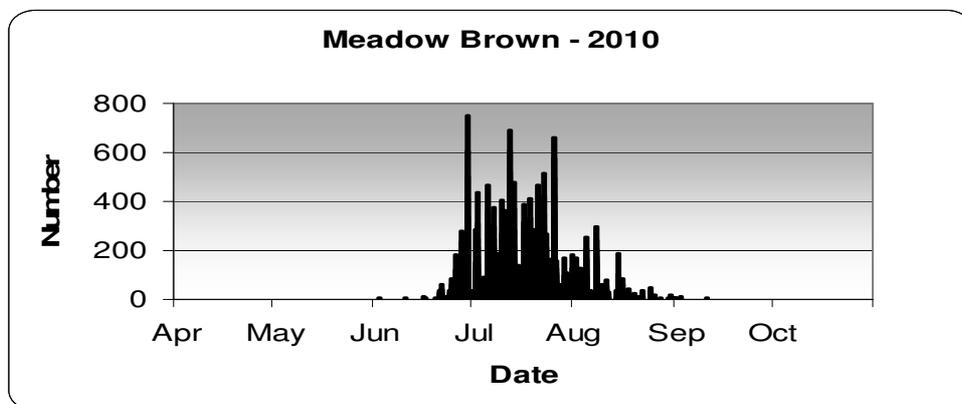


The first sighting was by Tom Iviston on 22nd April at Newton Hall Junction on the outskirts of Durham; this was a month earlier than last year's first on 25th May. The next was seen on 9th May. Numbers built up slowly with only single-figure counts until 22nd June when 11 and 15 were seen by two observers and the day's total came to 60 from 14 observers.

The year's peak came on 30th June with a total of 749 seen by 32 observers, this was down on the peak count of 1118 from 36 observers in 2009. The butterfly was sporadically prolific in July with individual counts of over 100 on 3rd, 6th, 10th, 14th, 20th and 21st, suggesting a fairly healthy population for this ubiquitous species in unfavourable weather.

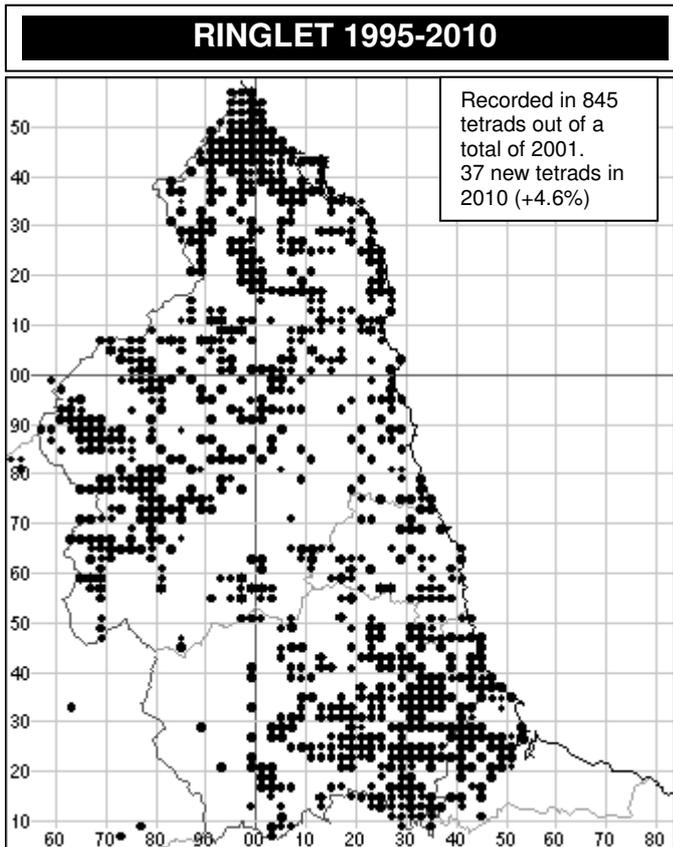
Top scorer was Dave Stebbings with 156 on 20th July. No counts of over 15 came in after mid August. The penultimate sightings for 2010 were on 20th September, but the last record of the year by Graham Beckwith in Gateshead on 11th October was a month later than 2009. Mating pairs were reported on 15th and 19th July.

The 'extra' months at the start and end of the season were a surprise, but were not reflected in the overall figures for the butterfly's numbers.



Ringlet (*Aphantopus hyperantus*)

2010: Although Ringlet has been expanding its range regionally over the last few years, it had a relatively poor year in 2010. A total of 504 records were received and a total of 5830 individual Ringlets were recorded. This was a 29% decrease on the 8178 individuals recorded in 2009. The butterfly was on the wing for 73 days and recorded on 54 days (74%)



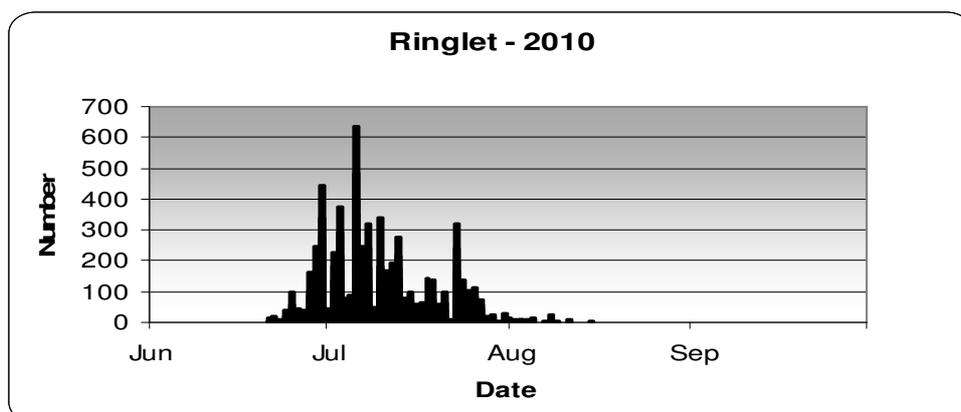
The first records were for the 21st June when six recorders all reported Ringlet: Frank Barber at Raisby, Keith Smith at Earsdon Junction, Matt Hawking at Jarrow, Jack Mawson at Pit Pond, John Hope at Thrislington NNR, and 7 by Bob Mawson at Raisby Way. The start of the season was 11 days later than 2009, perhaps surprising given the dry spring.

From the first recording there were then regular low numbers of sightings until the end of June when there was a peak of 442 on the 30th of the month, (total of all records in one day). This was followed by another peak of 634 on the 6th of July and a third peak of 318 on the 23rd July.

There was one individual record of 159 in one day on the 10th July at Burn Hill by Dave Liddle with another 4 recorders each sighting over 100 in one day.

Numbers gradually fell until the last sighting was a single Ringlet at Smeafield Farm on the 1st September by Alnwick Wildlife Group.

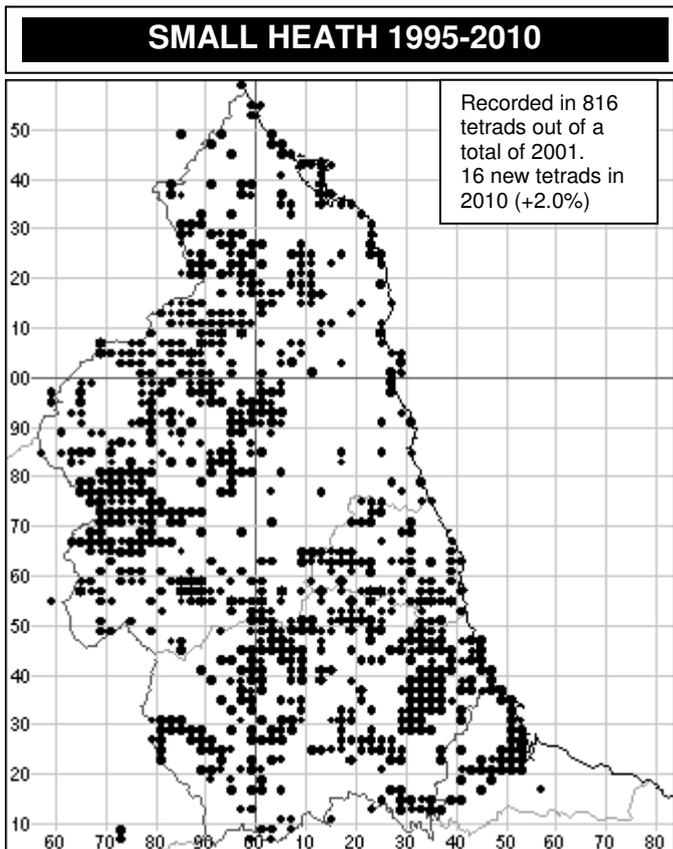
The 2009 Annual Report indicates that Ringlets have steadily increased since 1976 and it is also increasing its range. In the north east the distribution has previously shown a distinct gap between records from north Northumberland and from County Durham. This gap is slowly closing with 37 of the 158 tetrads where the butterfly was recorded in 2010 being new and many of them being located in this gap.



Small Heath (*Coenonympha pamphilus*)

2010: Small Heath appears to have had a similar year to 2009. A total of 496 records were received with a total of 4300 individuals being recorded. (4350 in 2009). The first sightings were by Tim & Dorothy Nelson at Coatham Woods and the Whinnies LNR near Darlington on

the 4th May – 6 days earlier than last year. The first Northumberland recording was by Kevin Redgrave at Newton Links on the 21st May.

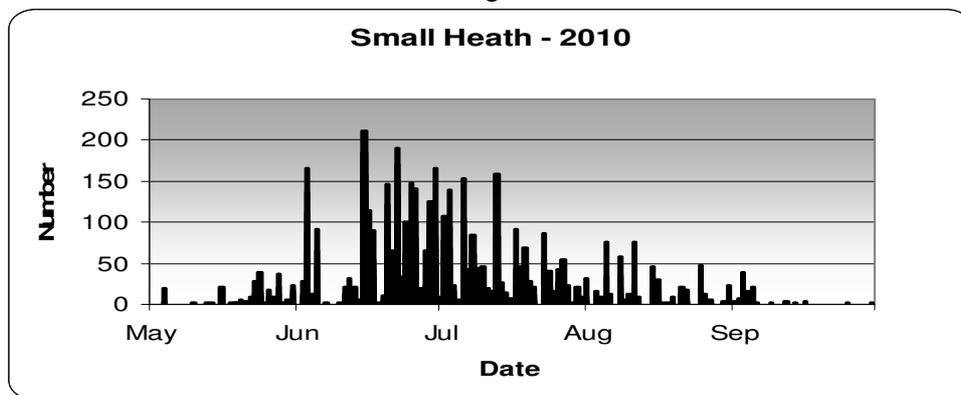


Numbers were low until the last week in May and they gradually increased with daily totals of 100 to 200 through mid June to mid July. Sightings then gradually reduced over the rest of the summer with the final sighting being a single Small Heath by Pippa Smaling at the Whinnies LNR on the 30th of September.

There was one individual record of 75 in one day on the 13th July by Kevin Redgrave at Newton Links. This was the largest single count of the year, and two other notable counts were by Robert Woods with 62 at New Road, Billingham on 30th June and by Keith Smith at War Carr near Greenhead of 60 on 25th June. The average individual count for the year was about 8.5.

Small Heath was on the wing for 150 days and recorded on 109 days, (73%).

The 2009 Annual Report for 2009 for the UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme, (see page 8), indicated a general steady national decline since 1976 although it is doing better in Scotland. It is not clear whether this is reflected in our region.

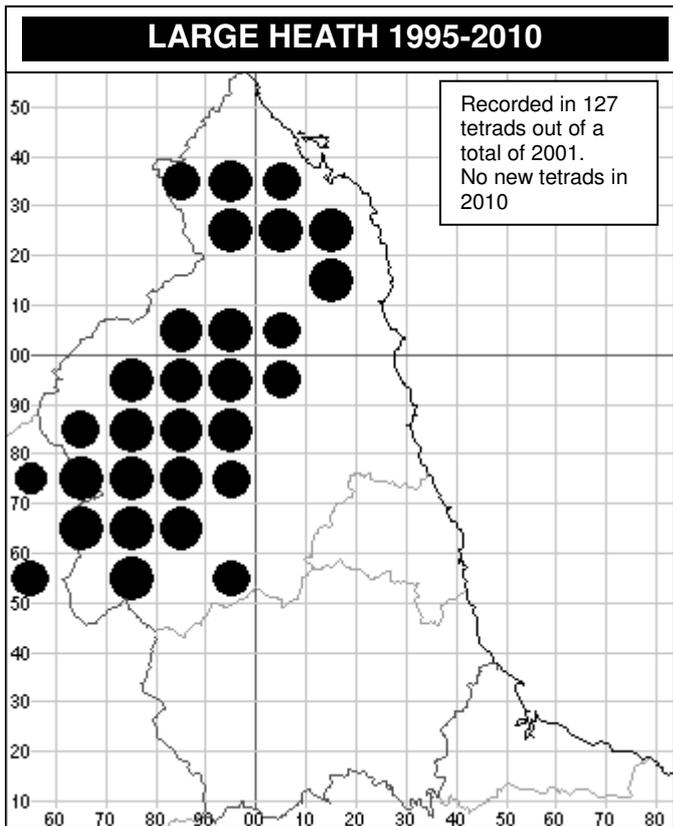


Large Heath (*Coenonympha tullia*)

2010: The Large Heath was recorded in 7 tetrads in 2010 of which none were new. There were 18 records in total and the number of individual butterflies counted was 153. It was on the wing for 38 days and was recorded on 12 of these (32%).

These numbers were all slightly down on 2009, (when there were 26 records of 176 individual butterflies), but the low observer effort on this species means that it is not possible to draw any conclusions as to whether or not this reflects any actual population trends.

Because of the number of sites and the difficulties of accessing them, it is very difficult for one or two observers to cover all of the potential sites within a summer and so some of the sites visited in 2009 were not visited in 2010 so that other sites could be checked for the presence of the species.

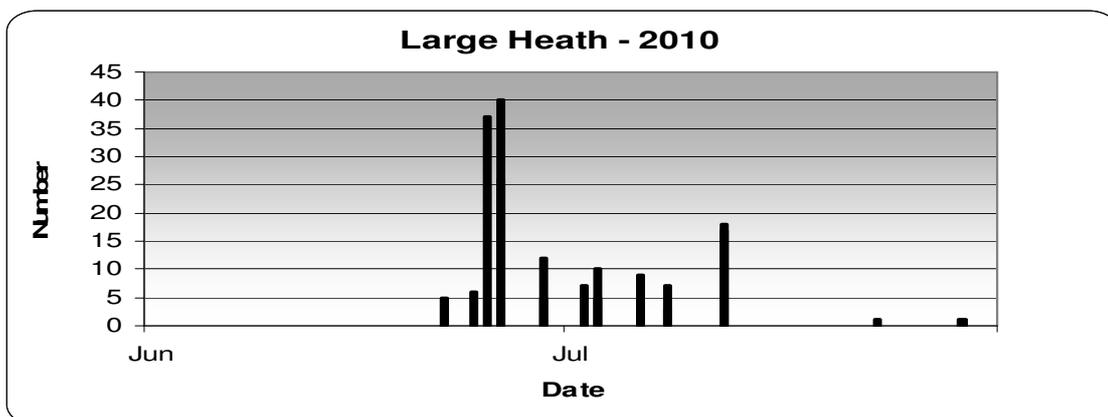


As in 2009, the bulk of the records came from two sources: Keith Smith and the National Trust Ranger Team (namely John Taylor, D Berrie and H Wakley) who between them provided all but one of the records. The one record that was not made by either the National Trust team or Keith Smith was made by Graham Beckwith who saw 3 Large Heaths at Harbottle Crags on 6th July.

The first record of the year was on 22 June when Keith Smith counted 5 on Simonburn Common. Keith also made the highest count of the year with 37 recorded at War Carr near Greenhead. Double figure counts were also made by the National Trust at Crag Lough with 26 on 26th June and 17 counted on 12th July and at Castle Nick, near Once Brewed with 14 on the 26th June. The final record of the year was from Castle Nick where D Berrie recorded a

singleton.

As noted above, the Large Heath is a significantly under-recorded species yet, as a UK BAP species that is potentially vulnerable to climate change, it is important that its population should be monitored. In order to be able to track its fortunes more effectively the recorders are keen to receive more records of this species and would be very pleased to hear from anyone who might be interested in visiting the moors in July.



Acknowledgements We would like to thank our species writers for assisting in the preparation of the annual report: Jaci Beaven, (Holly Blue, Red Admiral, Peacock & Comma), Ken Dawson, (Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary & Gatekeeper), Brian Denham, (Small Skipper, Small Copper, Ringlet & Small Heath), Cliff Evans, (Small White & Small Tortoiseshell), Steve le Fleming, (Green-veined White, Common Blue, Marbled White & Meadow Brown), Steve Kirtley, (Brimstone, Green Hairstreak, Purple Hairstreak & White-letter Hairstreak), Roger Norman, (Camberwell Beauty), Dave Stebbings, (Large Skipper, Brown Argus, Painted Lady, Speckled Wood & Wall Brown), Dave Wainwright, (Dingy Skipper, Northern Brown Argus & Grayling), and Jonathan Wallace, (Large White, Orange Tip, Dark Green Fritillary & Large Heath) We are looking for more volunteers, to write up one or perhaps two species for 2011. We would also like to receive more photographs for inclusion in the report, (as JPEG files please). Please contact the Recorders.

CONTRIBUTORS

J. M. Almond, Martyn Anderson, Daphne Aplin, Fiona Aungier, Steve Austin, Frank Barber, Jaci Beaven, Graham Beckwith, D Berrie, Dave Blair, Stephen Block, Ian Bond, Arthur Bowes, Graeme Bowman, Andrew Bunten, Neil Burton, Andy Caesar, Vicky Catley, Dave Chrisp, Pam Chrisp, Ken Churchman, P. Clark, Mike N. Coates, Jamie Coleman, Melvyn Conlong, Ian Cook, Mike Cook, A. Craggs, Ian Davidson, Alan Davis, Ken Dawson, John Day, Mark Dinning, Geoff Dobbins, Paul Drummond, Maria Drummond, Mrs. A. Dunk, Heather Dunn, Arthur Edwards, Amanda Edwards, Hewitt Ellis, Ian H Findlay, Karen Fisher, Steve le Fleming, Margaret Fletcher, Jeff Fowler, B. Galloway, Molly Hardie, Jacqui Harle, Brian Harle, Mike Hein-Hartmann, M. Henry, Rebecca Hetherington, Matt Hawking, E. Hawkins, Derek Hilton-Brown, Richard Hockin, Simon Hodgson, Michael Holcombe, Steve Holliday, Michael Holmes, John Hope, David Howdon Mike Hunter, Sarah Hunter, Ann & Malcolm Hutcheson, Steven Hutchinson, Tom Iviston, H Jackson, Mike Jeffries, Philip Jordan, Ian Kerr, David Laing, Simon Lamplough, Jane Lancaster, Dr Ronald Lane, John Lawson, Dave Liddle, Jenny Loring, James Lyall, Peter Maddison, David Major, Roger Manning, Morag Marsden, Jim Martin, Julie C Mason, Jack Mawson, Joan Mawson, Robert Mawson, Doug McCutcheon, Dee McKeown, Helen McDonald, B. Mclean, Chris McLaren, Eileen Meek, Peter Minnikin, Graham Mitchell, Ian Moorhouse, Francis Mudd, Bob & Collette Murphy, Mike Nattrass, Liz Naughton, Dorothy Nelson, Tim Nelson, David Nicol, Coralie Niven, Kaye Norman, Roger Norman, Dave O'Brien, John Olley, Shona O'Neil, Andrew Paciorek, Yolanda Paciorek, Russell Pannell, Brian Pollinger, Mrs J. Pollinger, S. Poole, Stuart Priestly, John Rae, Kevin Redgrave, John Richards, Mark Richardson, Paul Robins, Mr B.A. Robinson, Mrs J.A. Robinson, Ian Robinson, Brian Robson, Mora Rolley, Les Rowell, Mike Russell, Ian Scott, Peter Shield, Gordon Simpson, Pippa Smaling, Keith Smith, Graham Smith, Neville Stead, David Stebbings, David Steel, Les Stobbs, S. Stone, Sid Storey, S. Straughan, Paul Tankard, Roslyn Tanner, John Taylor, Rena Telfer, Tom & Joan Thirlaway, D. Turnbull, Enid Turnbull, Dave Wainwright, H Wakley, Jonathan Wallace, Elizabeth Waterston, Stephen Watson, C. Watts, Peter Webb, Gary Whitton, John Wilson, Lauren Withrington, Robert Woods, Sue Wyman, Ann Young, Gordon Young, Alnwick Wildlife Group, Berwick Wildlife Group, , Natural England, The National Trust, with apologies for any accidental omissions.

Both 'casual' records and transect counts are important for assessing the health of our butterfly populations. Butterfly Conservation would like to thank the following transect walkers:

Recorder	Transect
David Laing	Billingham Beck Country Park
Mark Dinning, Steve Le Fleming,	Mark Richardson Bishop Middleham Quarry
Dave Liddle	Burn Hill
Arthur Bowes	Castle Eden Dene NNR – West end
Berwick Wildlife Group*	Cocklawburn Dunes
Daphne Aplin	Cowpen Bewley 2 (Woodland Park)
Vicky Catley, Chris McLaren,....	Derwent Walk Country Park
Morag Marsden, Helen McDonald,	Lauren Withrington Gibside (National Trust)
Dave Stebbings	Havannah LNR
Dave Wainwright.....	Hedleyhope Fell & Inkerman
A. Craggs, C. Watts (Natural England)	Lindisfarne NNR
Stephen Hutchinson, John Wilson, Melvyn Conlong	Morrison Busty Pit Yard
Coralie Niven, Les Stobbs, Tom Iviston	Newton Hall Junction
Kevin Redgrave (National Trust)	Newton Links
Jane Lancaster	Newton Point
Mark Richardson, Mark Dinning	Raisby Hill Grassland
Rebecca Hetherington, Brian Pollinger	Stargate Ponds and Bewes Hills

John Lawson.....	Stillington Forest Park
Karen Fisher, Dave Liddle	Tanfield Lea, near Stanley
Simon Hodgson	Tees Railway Walk
Pippa Smaling.....	The Whinnies LNR, (near Darlington)
John Hope	Thrislington Plantation
Berwick Wildlife Group**	Tommy-the-Miller's Field, Berwick
Ian H. Findlay.....	Upper Teesdale NNR
Pippa Smaling.....	West Park, Darlington
Gary Whitton,.....	Wingate Quarry
Sue Wyman	Wynyard Woodlands Park
P. Clark, David Major	Wynyard Woodlands Park – Thorpe Wood
Jeff Fowler	Wynyard Woodlands Park – Pickards Meadow

* Fiona Aungier, Molly Hardie, John Rae & Enid Turnbull,

** Fiona Aungier, Stephen Block & Enid Turnbull.

Brian Pollinger from Gateshead Council's Countryside Management Team is thanked for co-ordinating records for the Gateshead region through Thornley Woodland's Centre. Bob Mawson is credited for submitting records from a small, but enthusiastic band of recorders in the Trimdon area and Kevin Redgrave for sending in transect counts from the National Trust for the Northumberland coast. Thank you to the following for the photographs and illustrations used in this report.

Front Cover	White-letter Hairstreak	Terry Coult
Page 9	Small Skipper	Alan Davis
Page 16	Green Hairstreak	Michael Coates
Page 19	White-letter Hairstreak	Alan Davis
Page 20	Small Copper	Tim Nelson
Page 23	Brown Argus & Common Blue	Bob Mawson
Page 25	Holly Blue	Tim Nelson
Page 33	Speckled Wood	Michael Coates
Page 35	Wall Brown	Bob Mawson
Page 37	Grayling	Bob Mawson

We always need new photos, send yours in to appear in the next annual report – and in colour on the website version!

With the increasing number of butterfly records now being submitted, and with it the increasing chances of finding locally rare species, a reminder that photographs or descriptions in support of the following five species should be sent with each record: Brown Argus, Large Tortoiseshell, Camberwell Beauty, Gatekeeper and Brimstone. In the absence of any photographs, a detailed description in support of the sighting should be submitted. In addition to these species, any record of Essex Skipper will need to be fully documented.

A brief description should also accompany any out of place records, such as a species seen outside its normal flight period, e.g. a Small Skipper seen in the first week of June or earlier, or a species seen well outside its currently known range, for example Northern Brown Argus in Northumberland.

Feedback

When processing and analysing over sixteen thousand records, plus comparisons to previous years, it is almost inevitable some mistakes will slip through. If anyone does notice any errors please inform your Butterfly Recorders. The Branch would welcome any feedback or suggestions to improve future editions of the Annual Report. Please send us photographs, line drawings and articles for both the newsletters and annual reports. They are always welcome.

FLIGHT PERIOD TABLE

This table relates to both Durham and Northumberland, and records the first and last flying record of each species for the three-year period 2008 to 2010. Insects found in undisturbed hibernation or in the larval stage have been excluded. For ease of reference, any record early/late sightings during the BNM project period 1995 – 2010 are included in the last two columns. Only four earliest and two latest record dates were beaten or equalled. One or two dates may differ from previous tables due to additional records or reappraisal.

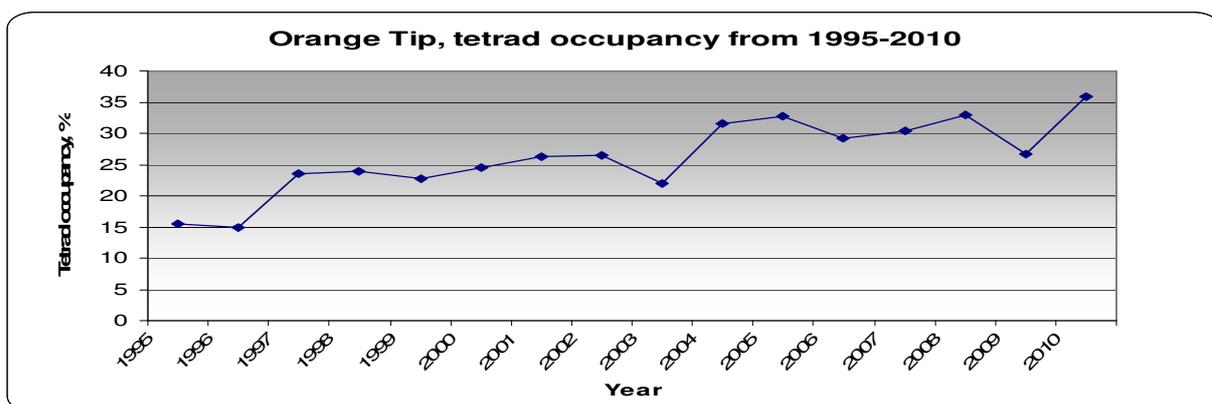
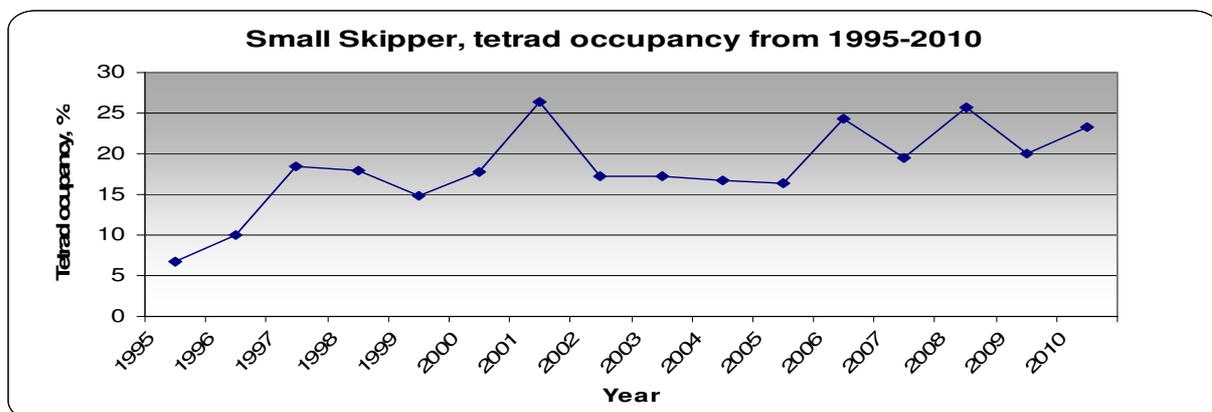
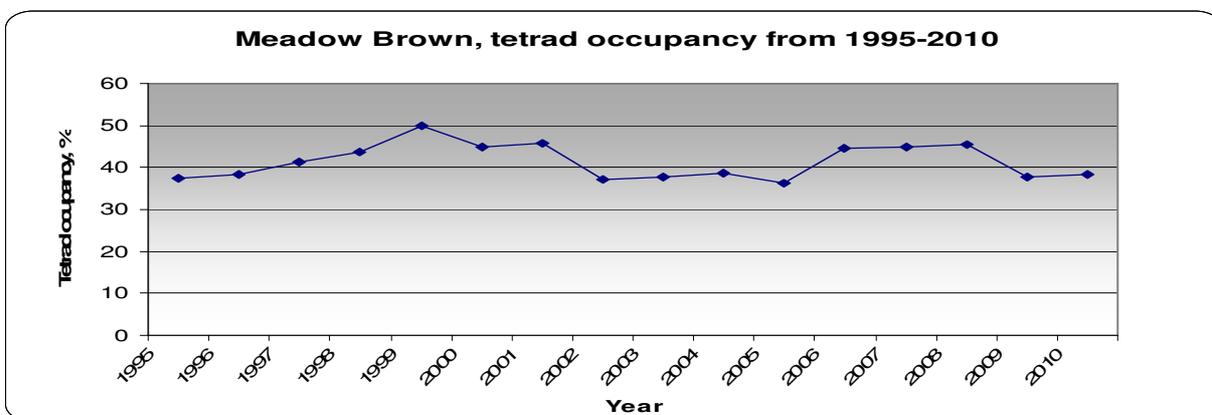
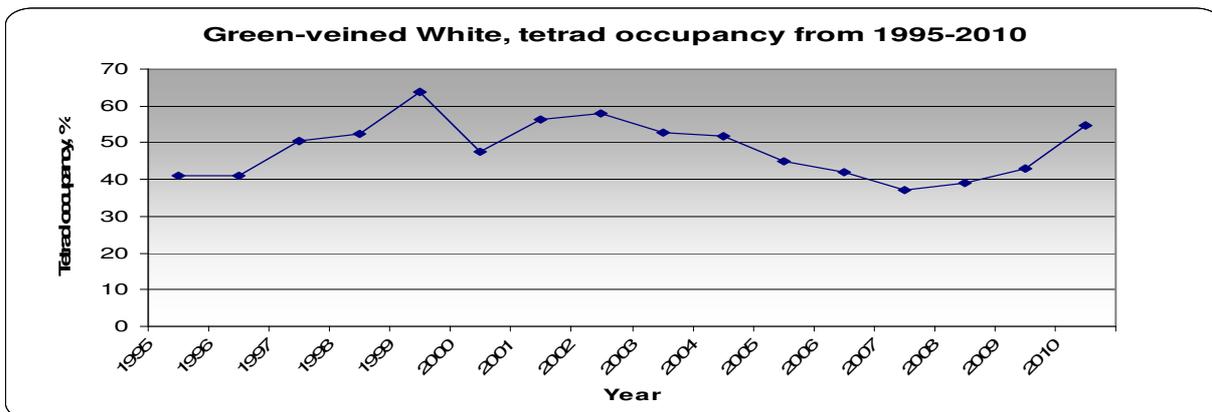
FLIGHT PERIOD TABLE								
	2008		2009		2010		Record earliest	Record latest
Small Skipper	7-Jun	21-Sep	8-Jun	1-Sep	5-Jun	21-Sep	5-Jun-10	10-Oct-01
Large Skipper	31-May	15-Aug	24-May	17-Aug	20-May	5-Sep	19-May-07	5-Sep-10
Dingy Skipper	9-May	27-Jun	25-Apr	22-Aug	4-May	16-Aug	18-Apr-03	22-Aug-09
Clouded Yellow			13-Jun	1-Jul			23-May-06	15-Oct-00
Brimstone	10-May	1-Jul	31-May	4-Aug	15-Jun	26-Jul	5-Apr-07	5-Sep-97
Large White	1-Apr	13-Oct	18-Mar	12-Oct	12-Apr	7-Oct	17-Mar-99	31-Oct-07
Small White	3-Apr	8-Oct	17-Mar	18-Oct	5-Apr	17-Oct	3-Mar-99	30-Oct-05
Green-veined White	27-Apr	9-Oct	30-Mar	4-Oct	11-Apr	7-Oct	9-Mar-97	18-Oct-97
Orange Tip	31-Mar	24-Jun	31-Mar	3-Jul	12-Apr	25-Jul	30-Mar-03	10-Sep-06
Green Hairstreak	6-May	27-May	11-Apr	3-Jun	22-Apr	3-Jun	11-Apr-97/03/09	27-Jul-98/08
Purple Hairstreak	21-Jul	23-Aug	14-Jul	27-Aug	21-Jul	9-Sep	6-Jul-03	12-Sep-05
White-letter Hairstreak	19-Jul	28-Aug	1-Jul	13-Aug	17-Jun	5-Aug	16-Jun-05	28-Aug-96/08
Small Copper	20-Apr	12-Oct	25-Apr	12-Oct	29-Apr	10-Oct	13-Apr-03	28-Oct-07
Brown Argus	29-May	27-Sep	31-May	19-Aug	3-Jun	15-Sep	29-May-08	27-Sep-08
Northern Brown Argus	5-Jun	15-Aug	1-Jun	27-Aug	20-May	25-Aug	20-May-10	29-Aug-07
Common Blue	7-May	26-Oct	21-May	3-Oct	18-May	12-Oct	28-Apr-07	26-Oct-08
Holly Blue	13-Apr	20-Sep	18-Apr	28-May	21-May	12-Sep	1-Apr-99	21-Oct-06
Red Admiral	28-Jan	15-Nov	17-Mar	28-Nov	21-Mar	17-Nov	23-Jan-06	28-Dec-07
Painted Lady	8-May	19-Sep	12-Apr	29-Oct	19-Apr	21-Oct	4-Apr-07	7-Nov-03
Small Tortoiseshell	11-Feb	25-Nov	9-Jan	31-Oct	28-Jan	2-Nov	1-Jan-05	27-Dec-05
Camberwell Beauty					14-Aug	14-Aug	6-Jul-06	10-Sep-06
Peacock	22-Jan	6-Dec	10-Mar	4-Nov	15-Mar	1-Nov	8-Jan-96	23-Dec-05
Comma	13-Mar	18-Nov	13-Mar	11-Nov	8-Mar	10-Nov	3-Feb-07	18-Nov-08
Small Pearl-bordered Frit.	11-Jun	21-Jul	10-Jun	15-Jul	11-Jun	13-Jul	1-Jun-03	21-Aug-07
High Brown Fritillary							30-Jul-06	30-Jul-06
Dark Green Fritillary	2-Jul	29-Aug	22-Jun	26-Aug	23-Jun	31-Aug	7-Jun-06	7-Sep-07
Speckled Wood	16-Apr	20-Oct	2-Apr	11-Oct	10-Apr	30-Oct	2-Apr-09	11-Nov-07
Wall Brown	8-May	11-Oct	19-Apr	1-Oct	12-May	21-Sep	4-Apr-07	21-Oct-07
Marbled White	1-Jul	26-Aug	30-Jun	13-Aug	29-Jun	6-Aug	25-Jun-03	26-Aug-08
Grayling	13-Jul	2-Sep	5-Jul	22-Aug	23-Jun	16-Aug	23-Jun-10	11-Sep-05
Gatekeeper	21-Jul	11-Aug	23-Jul	11-Aug	26-Aug	2-Sep	14-Jul-06	2-Sep-10
Meadow Brown	4-Jun	1-Oct	25-May	11-Sep	22-Apr	11-Oct	4-Apr-99	14-Oct-95
Ringlet	14-Jun	30-Aug	10-Jun	25-Aug	21-Jun	1-Sep	15-May-00	2-Oct-01
Small Heath	21-May	16-Oct	11-May	24-Sep	4-May	30-Sep	4-May-10	16-Oct-08
Large Heath	1-Jul	23-Jul	24-Jun	11-Jul	22-Jun	8-Jul	4-Jun-96	14-Aug-96

**TETRAD OCCUPANCY IN NORTHEAST ENGLAND -
COMPARISONS FOR THE
BUTTERFLIES OF THE NEW MILLENNIUM PROJECT (PHASES 1, 2, 3 & 4)**

Tetrads in 2007 (% of all 639 recorded tetrads)	Tetrads in 2008 (% of all 524 recorded tetrads)	Tetrads in 2009 (% of all 635 recorded tetrads)	PHASE 4 Tetrads in 2010 (% of all 585 recorded tetrads)	Species	Phases 1,2,3 and 2010 (1995 – 2010) (% of all 2001 recorded tetrads)
238 (37%)	207(40%)	276 (43%)	321 (55%)	Green-veined White	1575 (79%)
266 (42%)	238 (45%)	296 (47%)	290 (50%)	Small Tortoiseshell	1431 (72%)
287 (45%)	242 (46%)	240 (38%)	226 (39%)	Meadow Brown	1315 (66%)
305 (48%)	282 (54%)	302 (48%)	280 (48%)	Peacock	1266 (63%)
203 (32%)	224 (43%)	297 (47%)	235 (40%)	Large White	1206 (60%)
198 (31%)	191 (36%)	266 (42%)	223 (38%)	Small White	1133 (57%)
255 (40%)	196 (37%)	250 (39%)	230 (39%)	Red Admiral	1138 (57%)
197 (31%)	171 (33%)	171 (27%)	212 (36%)	Orange-tip	965 (48%)
165 (26%)	43 (8%)	324 (51%)	89 (15%)	Painted Lady	880 (44%)
180 (28%)	167 (32%)	171 ((27%)	171 (29%)	Ringlet	845 (42%)
108 (17%)	116 (22%)	113 (18%)	135 (23%)	Small Heath	816 (41%)
120 (19%)	118 (23%)	132 (21%)	135 (23%)	Common Blue	703 (35%)
135 (21%)	104 (20%)	104 (16%)	150 (26%)	Small Copper	685 (34%)
130 (20%)	136 (26%)	130 (20%)	140 (24%)	Small Skipper	655 (33%)
175 (27%)	131 (25%)	136 (21%)	146 (25%)	Comma	646 (32%)
164 (26%)	156 (30%)	192 (30%)	193 (33%)	Wall Brown	628 (31%)
121 (19%)	75 (14%)	105 (17%)	92 (16%)	Large Skipper	506 (25%)
76 (12%)	99 (19%)	138 (22%)	191 (33%)	Speckled Wood	310 (15%)
39 (6%)	32 (6%)	43 (7%)	55 (9%)	Dingy Skipper	187 (9%)
1 (0.2%)	4 (0.8%)	13 (2%)	7 (1%)	Large Heath	127 (6%)
57 (9%)	40 (8%)	7 (1%)	20 (3%)	Holly Blue	127 (6%)
23 (4%)	8 (2%)	20 (3%)	16 (3%)	White-letter Hairstreak	115 (6%)
19 (3%)	18 (3%)	21 (3%)	26 (4%)	Dark Green Fritillary	105 (5%)
4 (0.6%)	-	-	-	Clouded Yellow	85 (4%)
7 (1%)	6 (1%)	7 (1%)	10 (2%)	Green Hairstreak	88 (4%)
9 (1%)	8 (2%)	9 (1%)	12 (2%)	Purple Hairstreak	70 (3%)
14 (2%)	12 (2%)	10 (2%)	14 (2%)	Small Pearl-bord. Frit.	69 (3%)
13 (2%)	12 (2%)	9 (1%)	11 (2%)	Grayling	60 (3%)
4 (0.6%)	2 (0.4%)	3 (0.5%)	3 (0.5%)	Brimstone	36 (2%)
3 (0.5%)	6 (1%)	4 (0.6%)	9 (2%)	Northern Brown Argus	27 (1%)
1 (0.2%)	4 (0.8%)	1 (0.2%)	2 (0.3%)	Gatekeeper	14 (0.7%)
-	-	-	1 (0.2%)	Camberwell Beauty	12 (0.6%)
1 (0.2%)	6 (1%)	1 (0.2%)	1 (0.2%)	Marbled White	10 (0.5%)
3 (0.5%)	2 (0.4%)	3 (0.5%)	4 (0.7%)	Brown Argus	10 (0.5%)
-	-	-	-	High Brown Fritillary	1 (0.05%)
33	32	32	33	Tetrads	2001
				Species	

Phase 4 records are for the first year only (2010). Occupancy figures for the previous phases are given in previous reports

These graphs illustrate the distribution of four of our commoner species over the life of the Butterflies for the New Millennium Project. Whilst Green-veined White and Meadow Brown are both broadly stable, Small Skipper and Orange Tip both appear to be slowly becoming more widespread.



SUBMITTING BUTTERFLY RECORDS IN 2011

Records are the bedrock of conservation and the North East Branch welcomes records of all species, for all dates and places, and of course for all forms.

As in previous years, there are two ways of sending your records in. For those without a home computer, the existing yellow paper casual record sheets will continue unchanged. However, if you have a PC, the Branch would strongly urge you to send in your records using a spreadsheet such as Microsoft Excel or equivalent. Each record should occupy one line and the format of the spreadsheet should look something like the following example:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Name/s of recorder/s	NZ274423	Palace Green, Durham City	22-Aug-2011	Large White	7	
2	Name/s of recorder/s	NZ196858	Morpeth (riverside)	24-Sep-2011	Peacock	2	Very worn
3	Name/s of recorder/s	NZ2514	Baydale Beck Darlington	1-Jul-2011	Comma	1	<i>Hutchinsoni</i> form

Column A - Recorder/s names.

Column B - Grid reference, which should be two letters, (NT, NU, NY or NZ), followed by four or six numbers. The first two (or three) numbers are the Easting, read from the top or bottom of OS maps, the last two, (or three) numbers represent the Northing, read from either side of the map.

Column C - Site name. For obscure place names please include a nearby town or village.

Column D - Date-please try to follow the format shown, **(this is really important)**

Column E - The name of the species seen.

Column F- **Please give the actual number seen if possible**, we no longer use letters for abundance, (A, B, C etc). For larva (L), ova (O), pupa (P) or mating (M) records, please use the appropriate code letter, optionally adding numbers seen.

Column G - For any comments you may wish to add.

Optionally, you can add a habitat code to an extra column, (column H), if you wish.

A blank spreadsheet, with the date formatted, is available, if needed, from the recorders. Electronic records are most easily sent as an email attachment. However, you can also send them in by post on floppy disc, memory stick or CD. The deadline for records to be included, and credited, in the 2010 Annual Report is 30 November 2010.

Depending on where you live, please send all records to:

DURHAM

Steve Le Fleming
 7 Albert Street,
 Durham, DH1 4RL
 0191 386 7309
 lsklef@aol.com

NORTHUMBERLAND

Roger Norman
 1 Prestwick Gardens, Kenton,
 Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE3 3DN
 0191 285 8314
 roger@norman784.plus.com

please note this is a new email address

To avoid records being lost on the internet, we will try to acknowledge all emails within 14 days. If you do not hear from us please telephone us.

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