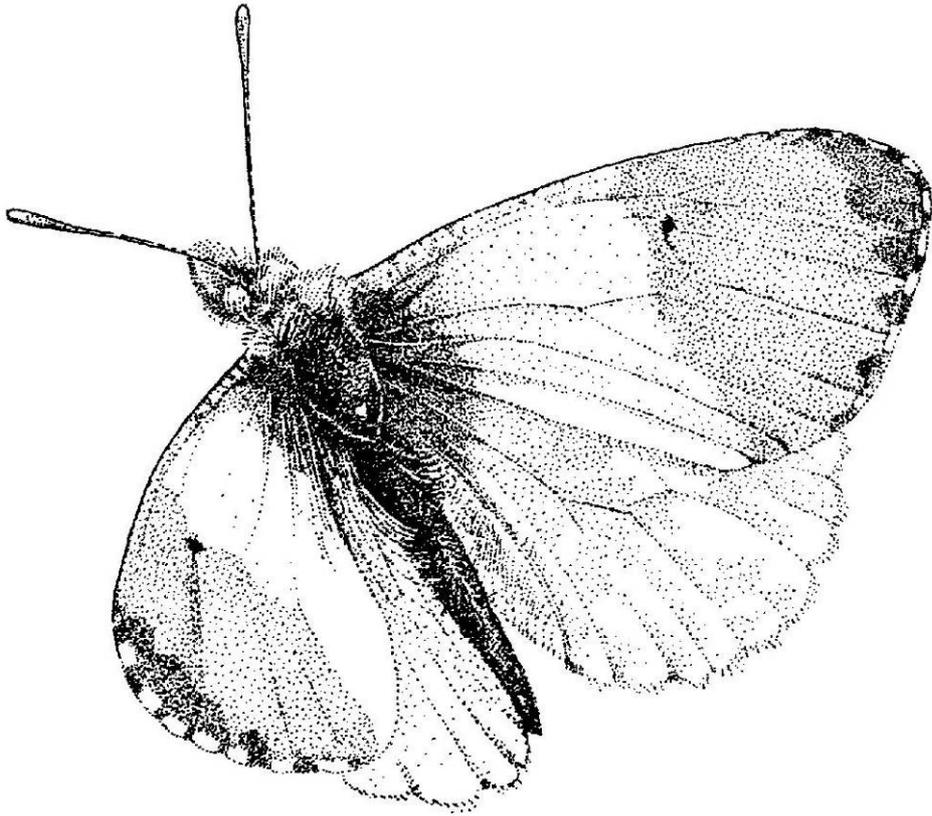


NORTH EAST ENGLAND BRANCH

BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION



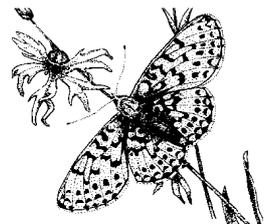
BUTTERFLY SUMMARY

2012



Compiled by Roger Norman & Steve le Fleming

North East England



Butterfly Conservation

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

www.northeast-butterflies.org.uk

* Four of our species now have revised Latin names

RECORDERS' REVIEW

So the summer of 2012 was the worst ever in the North East of England, and we did not see any butterflies... or did we? Yes we did, but not very many. The fall in the numbers of butterflies recorded in our region (11,500 records against 16,454 in 2011) cannot, however, be attributed only to the weather: the level of sunlight was indeed significantly lower than normal between April and August, the rainfall was significantly higher than normal between April and September and the temperatures were generally lower than normal between April and December, (see the graphs on p. 7). And the summer of 2011 was nothing to write home about, so probably affected breeding success and consequent butterfly numbers in 2012.

The fall in numbers must also be at least partly explained by our reluctance as recorders to brave the monsoon that passed for a summer last year. It would be difficult to pick out which species suffered most: the recorder *Homo lepidopterus* or the charismatic Red Admiral, the occasional visitor like the Gatekeeper, which once again failed to put in an appearance, or the ubiquitous Meadow Brown. The low number of records should not reflect on the enthusiasm or diligence of our many recorders; in the circumstances they should be warmly applauded.

So, the low numbers should not be taken as conclusive proof of a population collapse, (in recorders or in butterflies). In fact one or two species apparently managed to thrive, if only modestly: Holly Blue continued its revival from its low point in 2007 when only seven were reported. And in some cases, such as the common Meadow Brown, the average number reported by each individual recorder on each occasion was similar to last year, albeit with a much lower intensity of recording. At the other extreme a much higher intensity of recording on the isolated Marbled White colony at Wingate Quarry produced higher overall numbers than last year, but an almost identical average.

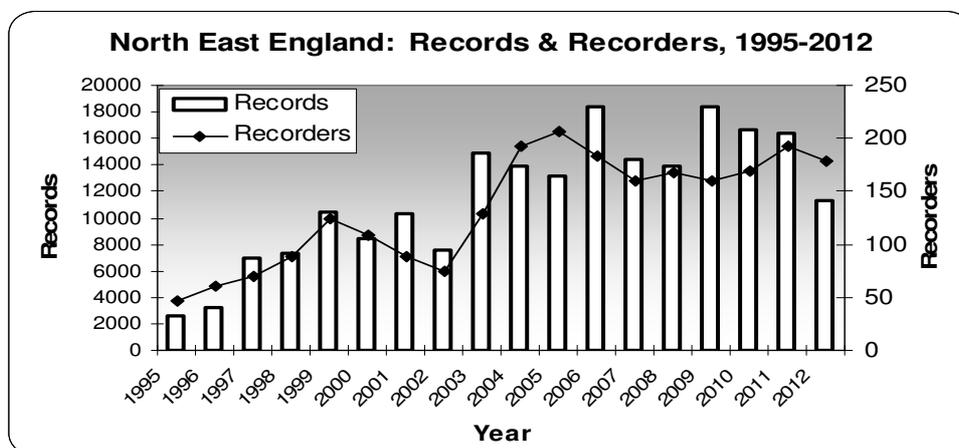
Rough indications like these, and casual records in general, have limited statistical value in calculating numbers, since there is a fortuitous element about them, but they tell us where the butterfly may be found, whether its range is expanding or moving, and with the high levels of recording which our region has usually contributed they can tell us which species are doing well and which not so well. So keep the records coming.

If a species looks as if it is in difficulties, it may be due to the weather, or it may be due to habitat loss, urban or industrial development, changes in agricultural practice, or neglect of natural environment. We can't do anything about the weather, but we may be able to help with habitat management. Dave Liddle has demonstrated this with his work with his Wildlife Trust volunteers for the Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary, and Dave Wainwright's account at the AGM of his Butterfly-Conservation-derived projects in Cumbria and the North Yorks Moors in support of the Pearl-bordered Fritillary and Duke of Burgundy showed how much can be achieved in reversing species loss through practical action.

Our own regional conservation officers, Dave Stebbings in Northumberland and Mike Harris in Co. Durham both welcome volunteers on local projects such as brush clearance to allow food and nectar plants to repopulate a site and other forms of habitat restoration; their details are on the back cover of this report, (don't feel you have to stick only to your own county!). The Branch is launching a project for the Northern Brown Argus in County Durham this summer, which we hope members will take part in, see page 22. We hope that conservation will become more prominent in our activities in the future and ensure we live up more demonstrably to our organisation's name.

It might be thought that the obvious way to help a species recover would be to release captive-bred specimens into its failing site. There are serious reasons for not doing this, which can only be done legally under strict control and for serious scientific reasons, (as was the case with the Marbled White at Wingate Quarry). In this connection it is disappointing to have to report that the Northern Brown Argus seen last year in Northumberland has turned out to have been the result of an 'unofficial' release.

Meanwhile we continue to take our recording seriously as the graph below shows.



One interesting finding to come out of a poor summer was the confirmation of Purple Hairstreak and White-letter Hairstreak in the southern end of the North Tyne valley. This is due to the perseverance of Ray Craig who managed to find a few sunny periods during the flight period to check likely rows of trees along the valley. This is a poorly covered area by observers and although they appear to be on the northern edge of their range in the Tyne Valley in our region, it seems that these species are perhaps more widespread than our records suggest.

In addition to casual records we have something like forty transects going regionally: a transect is a weekly, methodical, slow walk over a set route on a given site, noting numbers of each species seen in each sector within a virtual cube extending five metres in front and up from the ground in front of the walker and 2½ metres to each side and within certain meteorological parameters. These give a much more reliable indication of fluctuations in butterfly population, and with around 1000 transects nationally, a statistically robust picture. For anyone interested there may be opportunities for observing or following transects in 2013; these will be publicised on the website.

The choice of a transect's location is determined by the observer and usually the known presence of particular butterflies, so is not necessarily helpful in judging the health of butterflies in the countryside as a whole; these sites are known to be 'butterfly rich'. An attempt to provide a more general picture was initiated by Butterfly Conservation a few years ago with the Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey, (WCBS). A number of Ordnance Survey National Grid squares were selected randomly and volunteers were invited to select one and to undertake at least two visits a year. Two parallel 1km paths, each divided into five sectors, have to be drawn, permission has to be obtained from the landowner(s) and the sites may prove to be butterfly free or they may be swarming with them. It's a matter of luck, but even a zero count has statistical significance. Volunteers for transects or WCBS should approach Brian Denham whose details are on the back cover.

Last year's weather was, we hope, exceptional. It will be interesting to see if it has affected butterfly numbers and distribution. So, once again, please keep the records coming!

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 2012 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.

Because this annual report and the two newsletters each year consume all our annual income, the Branch Committee wishes to go electronic next year. Please read and respond to the notice below.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

THIS IS THE LAST PROFESSIONALLY PRINTED ANNUAL REPORT. THE REPORT FOR 2013 WILL BE ELECTRONIC. TO RECEIVE A COPY, WE NEED TO KNOW YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS. PLEASE SEND AN EMAIL WITH YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS AND FULL NAME TO OUR MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY JACI BEAVEN AT

jacquelinebeaven@btinternet.com

IF YOU DO NOT HAVE INTERNET ACCESS, PLEASE WRITE OR TELEPHONE TO: JACI BEAVEN 21 WEST ACRES, ALNWICK, NORTHUMBERLAND, NE66 2QA, TEL 01665 510 713 AND WE WILL ARRANGE A PRINT-OUT OF THE REPORT.

IT IS IMPORTANT YOU RESPOND TO THIS NOTICE AS THESE ARRANGEMENTS WILL ALSO APPLY TO OUR TWICE-YEARLY NEWSLETTERS FROM JANUARY 2014.

WEATHER SUMMARY: 2012

Copley Observatory

County Durham

Elevation: 253 metres(830ft)

Grid Reference NZ 084 254

2012	Temperature (°C)							Rain (mm)			
Month	Mean max	Mean min	Mean	Max	Date	Min	Date	Rain	Rain days	Max obs	Date
Jan	5.5	0.3	3.1	9.8	2	-6.3	15	65.5	19	13.6	4
Feb	6.1	0.6	3.3	14.4	28	-6.4	3	24.6	12	7.9	4
Mar	11.7	3.0	7.3	20.1	27	-2.9	6	10.6	8	3.8	3
Apr	8.6	2.1	5.3	13.0	1	-1.7	5	156.9	24	31.1	25
May	13.5	4.8	9.1	24.4	28	-3.4	6	74.3	14	23.0	9
Jun	14.0	7.5	10.7	19.8	27	3.0	5	168.1	19	30.7	21
Jul	16.5	9.9	13.2	21.1	24	4.7	21	106.3	20	31.6	5
Aug	18.5	10.3	14.4	22.4	15	2.1	31	113.8	22	28.9	15
Sep	14.7	7.6	11.1	21.3	9	0.1	23	130.8	18	73.3	24
Oct	10.5	3.6	7.1	14.1	1	-1.5	27	83.1	22	29.7	11
Nov	7.6	1.8	4.7	12.1	20	-3.8	30	122.3	18	36.5	26
Dec	4.9	0.1	2.5	10.3	28	-6.2	14	151.3	26	22.9	20

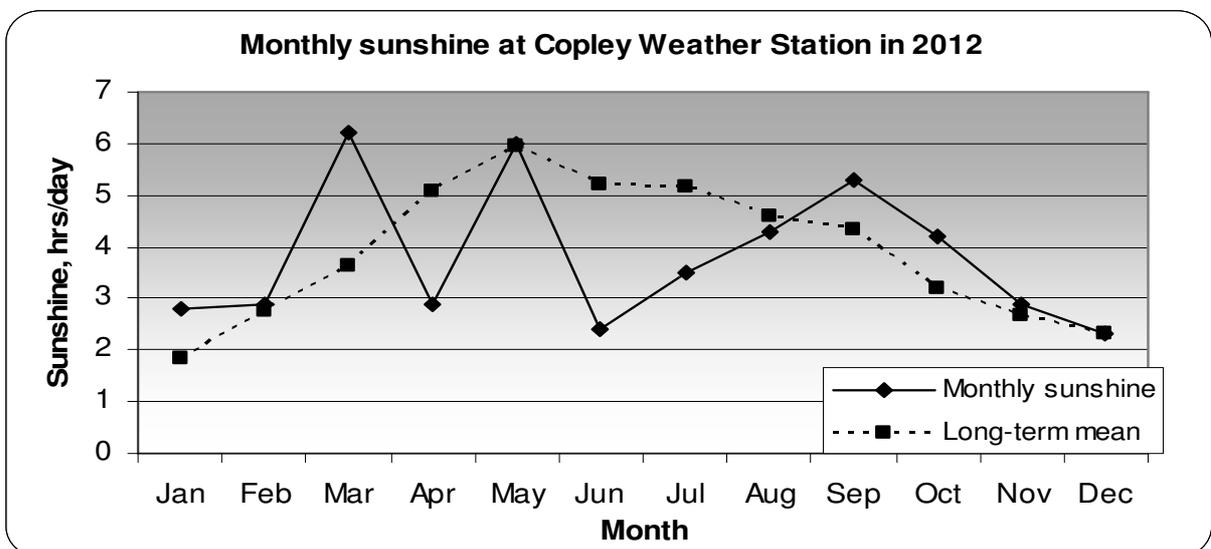
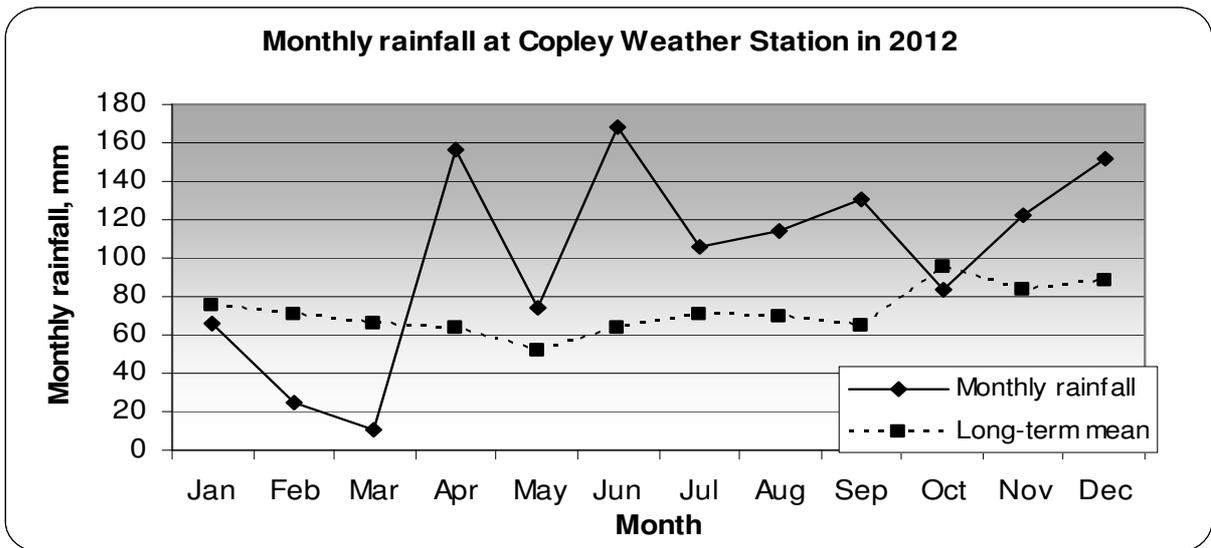
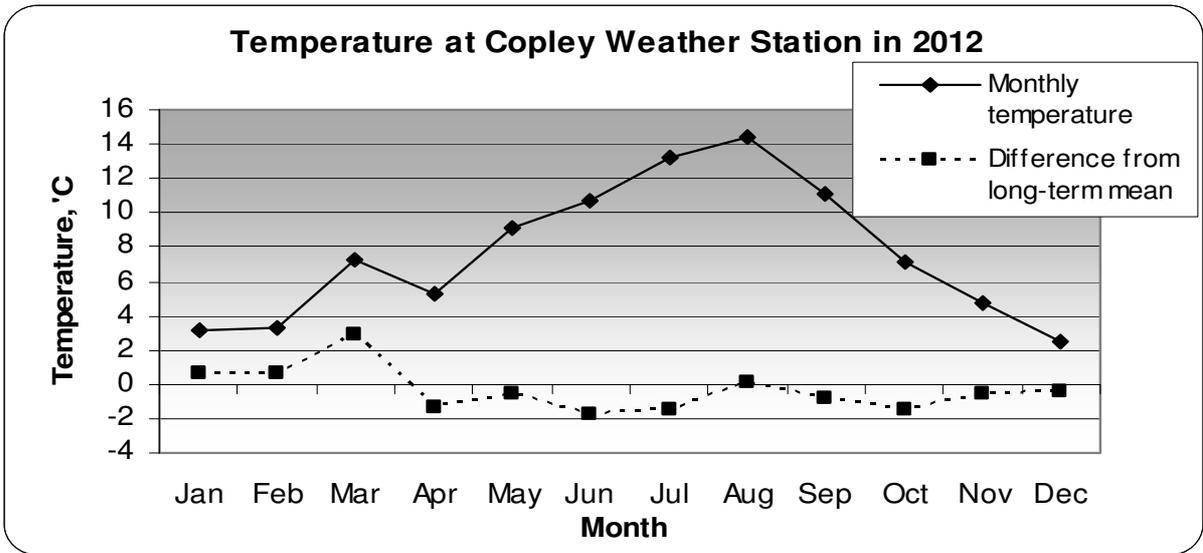
2012 SUMMARY: TEMPERATURE, RAINFALL AND SUNSHINE

DIFFERENCES FROM 1981 - 2010 AVERAGES

Month	Mean (°C)	°C Difference	Rain (mm)	% Difference	Sun (hr/day)	% Difference
Jan	3.1	0.6	65.5	87	2.8	153
Feb	3.3	0.7	24.6	35	2.9	106
Mar	7.3	2.9	10.6	16	6.2	171
Apr	5.3	-1.4	156.9	245	2.9	57
May	9.1	-0.6	74.3	143	6.0	101
Jun	10.7	-1.8	168.1	263	2.4	46
Jul	13.2	-1.5	106.3	150	3.5	68
Aug	14.4	0.1	113.8	163	4.3	94
Sep	11.1	-0.8	130.8	201	5.3	122
Oct	7.1	-1.5	83.1	87	4.2	131
Nov	4.7	-0.5	122.3	146	2.9	109
Dec	2.5	-0.4	151.3	172	2.3	100
2012	7.7	-0.3	1207.6	140	3.8	94

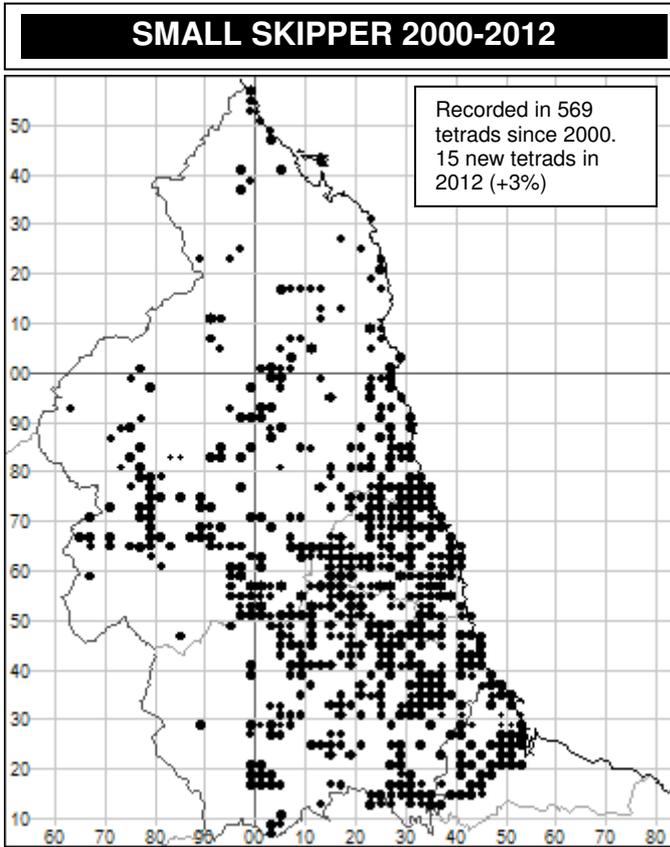
Acknowledgments: The Branch is again grateful to Ken Cook of the Copley Climatological Station, (<http://www.kencook.magix.net/>) for providing the statistical weather data as shown above. Ken comments that after a promising start, 2012 was cool, cloudy and very wet - wettest on his 50 year local record. Summer was wet and dull with June recording only 3 hours more sun than December. There were significant snowfalls in April and October. 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.

These three graphs show the main features of the weather in 2012. The early burst of spring in March brought out a flush of early sightings, but the rest of the spring was a disappointment and most of the summer was very poor with excess rain and lack of sunshine. The autumn was average, and overall, it was a poor year for most species.



Small Skipper (*Thymelicus sylvestris*)

2012: As might be expected with the generally poor summer of 2012, numbers were down on previous years and emergence was later. The first Northumberland sighting was of two near the Rising Sun at Wallsend by Joe Dobinson on the 19th June. The first Durham sighting was one at the Downhill Complex near West Boldon on the 20th June by John Corcoran. Both were almost three weeks later than in 2011.



There were three maximum counts of 50 on one day by Dave Stebbings at Havannah on the 7th August, Roger Norman at Thornley Woods on the 8th August and by K.Walton at Wingate quarry on the 28th July. In 2011 the equivalent peak counts referred to the sighting of 100 individuals.

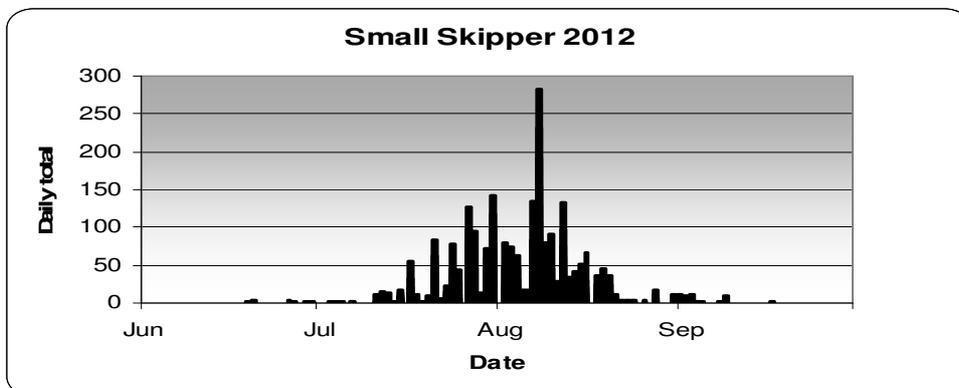
The 8th August produced the most sightings with 282 from 14 recorders from 20 different locations.

Sightings diminished from mid August until the final Durham sighting of one at the Inkerman transect by Dave Wainwright on the 17th September and the final Northumberland sighting by Hewitt Ellis on the Rising Sun CP Wallsend on the 8th September.

A total of 2247 individuals were recorded over the season compared with 3684 in 2011 and 10 in 2009. There was an average of 6.5 individuals per report compared with 8.6 in 2011 and 10 in 2009

Small skippers were on the wing for 91 days and recorded on 62 days – 68%.

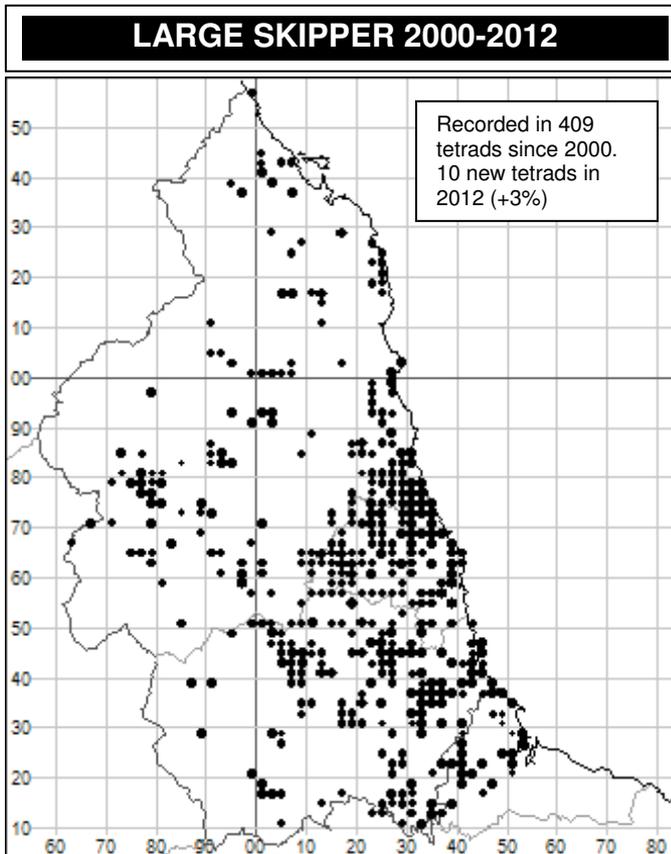
Of the 108 tetrads where Small skippers were recorded in 2012, 15 were new, an increase of 3% on the total over the period 2000-2011.



Large Skipper (*Ochlodes faunus*)

2012: A total of two hundred and two records were received. These recorded 596 individual butterflies. The flight period covered one hundred and eight days and the Large Skipper was seen on sixty of these days, representing 56% of the flight period.

The number of records received was the lowest for many years meaning this was a very poor year for the species, possibly the worst since 2002. The poor summer weather was undoubtedly to blame and the key flight period of June was wet, badly affecting the species and keeping recorders at home!



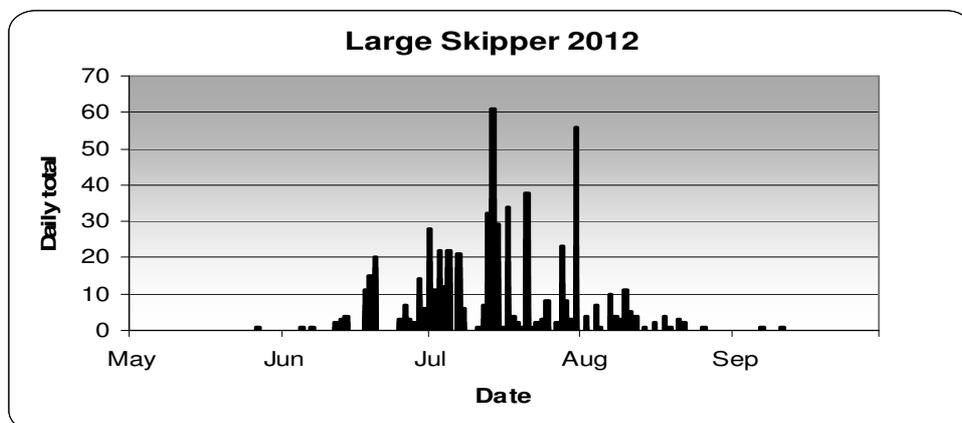
The first record of the season came from Paul Tindall who saw one at Sherburn Railway near Durham on the 27th May. Northumberland's first record was relatively late, Alan Brannon seeing one at Hauxley on Druridge Bay on the 5th June.

Numbers increased through June and peaked in July, probably coinciding with spells of good weather, with the year's maximum regional total of 61 on the 14th July. Reasonable numbers were reported from the usual good sites for Large Skipper such as Wingate Quarry in County Durham and Rising Sun Country Park in Wallsend, but overall numbers were very low.

The main season ended at the end of July with only a handful of records into August and two in September. Most of the August records came the very south of county Durham. The final sighting of the year in County Durham came from John Olley who saw one at Littlewood LNR near Coxhoe on

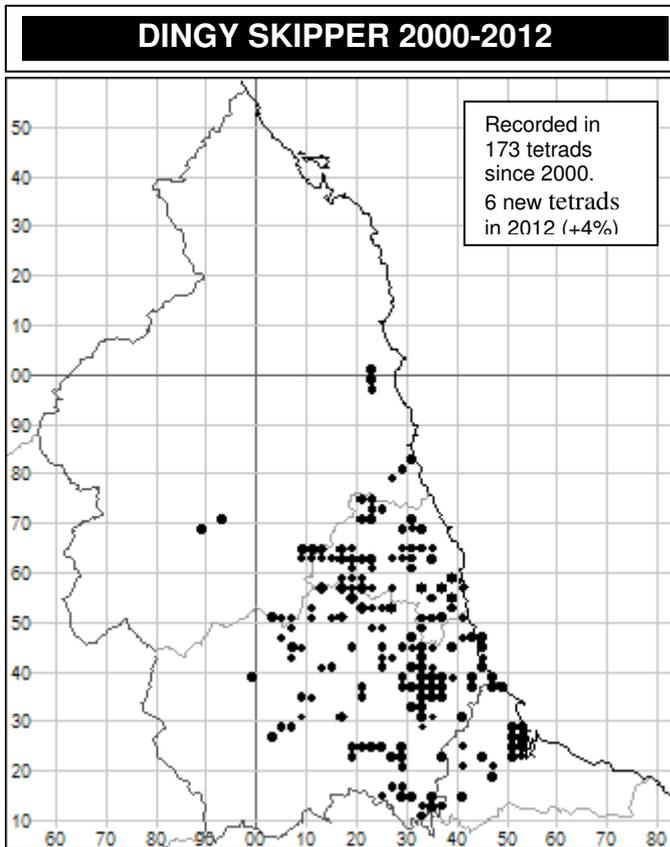
the 7th September. In Northumberland there was a very late record from Joe Dobinson with one at Rising Sun Country Park in Wallsend on the 11th September, making this the latest date the species has ever been seen in the region.

Large Skipper was recorded from 73 tetrads throughout the region in 2012, of which ten were new. It has now been recorded in 409 tetrads throughout the region in the period 2000-2012.



Dingy Skipper (*Erynnis tages*)

2012: On April 28th, Bob Mawson (as he so often does) recorded the region's first dingy skipper from Raisby Way. Single-figure records from County Durham continued to trickle in until Hewitt Ellis recorded Northumberland's first on 16th May from Havannah Local Nature Reserve. Dismal weather during late April and early May no doubt served to keep counts low and it wasn't until the third week of May that things began to pick up.

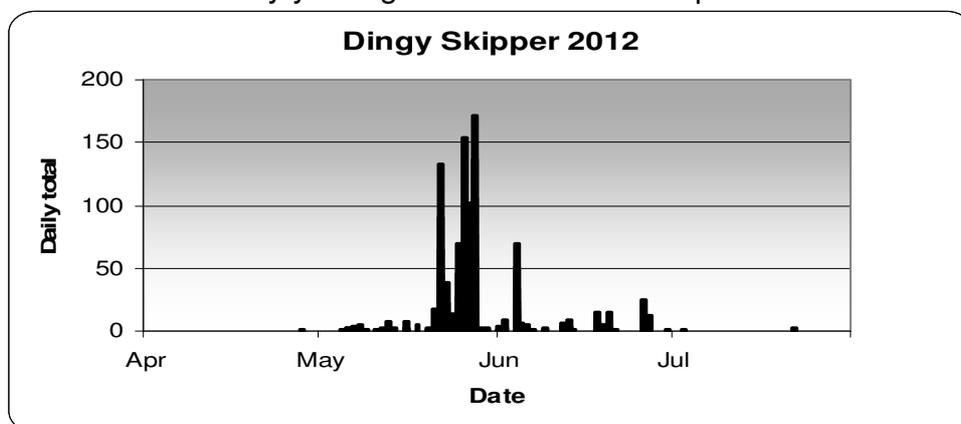


Bob Mawson recorded the region's first double-figure count of 17 from the Raisby Way. Twenty-four other records of double-figure counts were received; some of these were made very late in the flight period, such as those of 25 and 12 by K. Walton on 26th and 27th June from Bishop Middleham Quarry and Waskerley respectively. The highest count of all (83) was made by Brian Pollinger at Tanfield Railway on May 26th; sadly, part of this amazing site is threatened by redevelopment. Special mention should also be made of a count of 47, recorded by Barry and Jean Robinson, from Warden Law the following day.

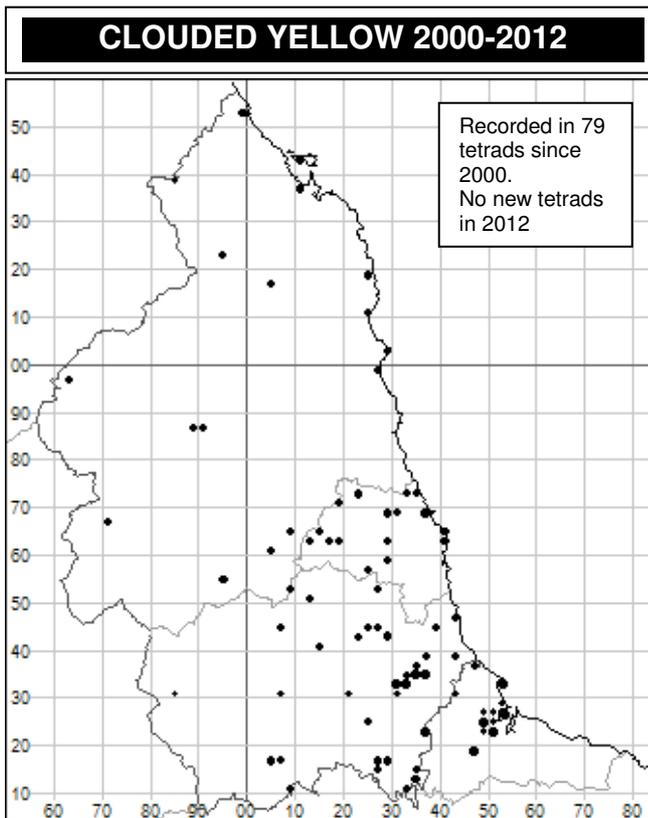
The flight period peaked on May 28th when a total of 172 dingy skippers was recorded from the region's sites – a whole four weeks later than the corresponding date for 2011! Northumberland's latest recorded sighting was made by Keith Smith at Percy Pit on

June 19th; that of County Durham was over a month later, when Graham Mitchell recorded two butterflies at Sherburn Hill on July 22nd. Unlike recent years, there were no sightings of second-generation butterflies.

A total of 937 adult dingy skippers was recorded in 2012, slightly better than the 800 recorded the previous year. Although these figures are much lower than many earlier years, the widespread distribution of the butterfly and its recurrence at several sites from which it has not been recorded for many years give some cause for optimism.



Clouded Yellow (*Colias croceus*)

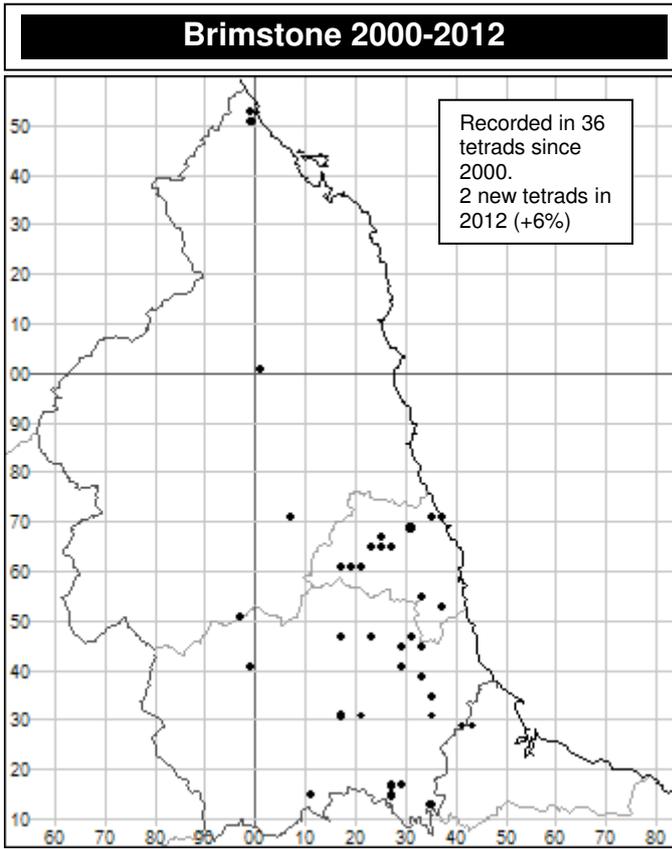


2012: For once there were no reports of Clouded Yellow in 2012. Approximately 80% of records in the region in the past decade have occurred in National Grid square NZ and to the south of Seaton Sluice.



Dingy Skipper, photo by Colin Marlee at Mickley Square on 12th June 2012

Brimstone (*Gonepteryx rhamni*)



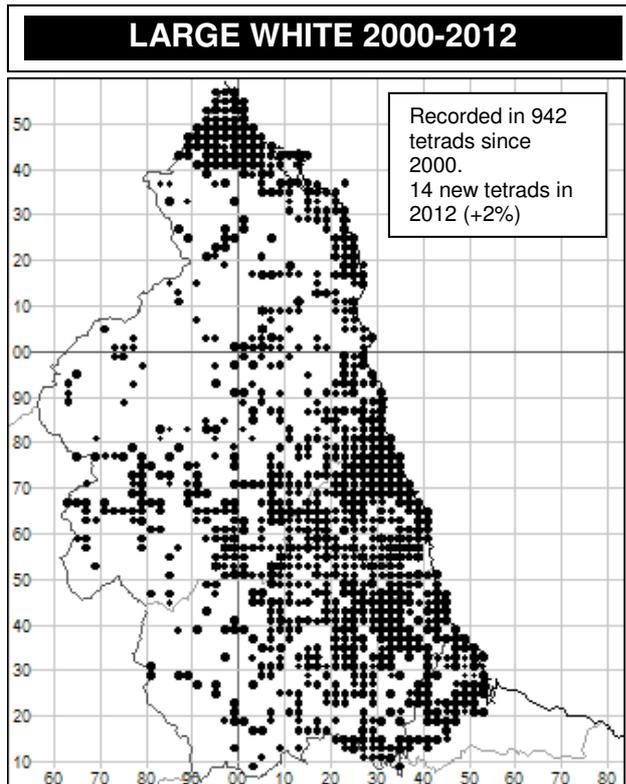
2012: There were only two records of this strong flyer from the south. Tom Tams was lucky enough to see one in a garden in Tynemouth on 22nd April and Eddie Crabtree photographed one in a garden at Stamfordham on 4th July. Like Clouded Yellow, the distribution of Brimstone is mostly in the southern part of grid square NZ.



Brimstone, photo by Eddie Crabtree at Stamfordham on 4th July 2012

Large White (*Pieris brassicae*)

2012: In common with a number of species, Large White had a very poor year in 2012 with only 749 records received of a total of 1646 individual butterflies. This was 41% down on the 1277 records received for this species in 2011 and 54% down on the number of individuals counted in 2011 (3608). It was the worst year recorded for this species during the twelve years of the current century (comparisons with earlier years are unlikely to be meaningful because of different levels of observer effort). Large White was only recorded in 165 tetrads but 14 of these were new. The species was on the wing for a total of 211 days and was recorded on 131 of these (62%).

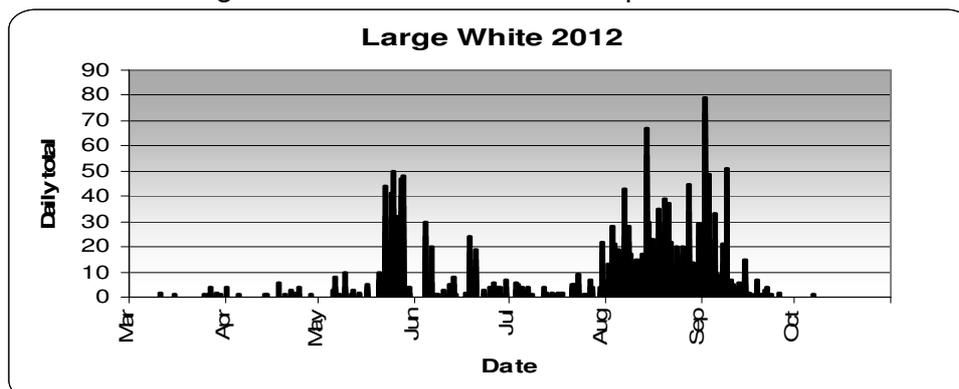


Keith Walton recorded the year's first Large White with a sighting of 2 at Broompark Picnic Site in Durham on 11th March, followed by John Almond who recorded a singleton at Howick near the Northumberland Coast on 15 March. Numbers remained low through April and the early part of May before increasing fairly sharply in the third week of May with the first generation reaching a peak on 25th May when there were 18 records comprising a total of 50 butterflies. The best count achieved during the first generation was by John Corcoran at the Downhill Complex, Boldon also on 25th May. Other high counts during the first generation were made by Sue Wyman at the Wynyard Woodland Park with 14 on 6th June and 12 on 28th May and by Lauren Withrington with 12 at Gibside on 22nd May.

As always, Large White was more abundant during the second generation which reached its highest point at the relatively late date of 2nd September when there were 33 records of the species comprising a total of 79 individuals. The highest individual count was made by Sue Wyman who recorded 19 at Wynyard Woodlands on 7th August and she was also responsible for the next highest count of 17 at the same location on 16th August.

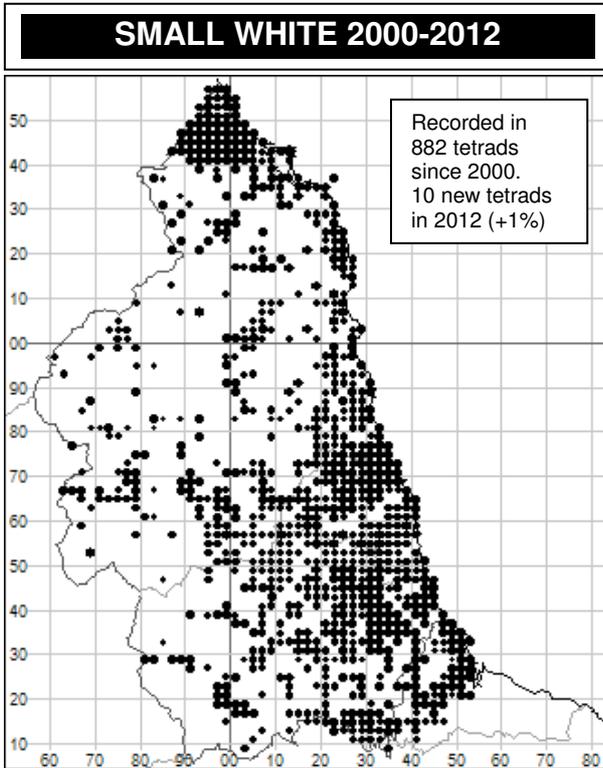
The last records for Northumberland were made by Tom Thirlaway in Gilsland, and by Jaci Beaven in Alnwick on 22nd September and the species' flight season in the region as a whole was more or less over by the end of that month save for a solitary record in October which was noted by Derek Mason on the 7th in Stockton on Tees.

No records of immature stages were submitted for this species in 2012.



Small White (*Pieris rapae*)

2012: A total of seven hundred and ninety-two records were received. These recorded 1796 individual butterflies. The flight period covered two hundred and five days and the Small White was seen flying on one hundred and fifty three of these days, representing 75% of the flight period.



This was probably the worst year we have ever recorded for the Small White in the North East. This year's total of 1796 Small Whites recorded was considerably down when compared to recent years. For example over 9000 individual butterflies were recorded flying in the summer of 2009, and an average yearly figure would be about 5000. The poor summer weather was surely to blame, badly affecting the larval development in June and July.

The first record of the season came from Russell Pannell who saw one at Old Hartley Gardens on 19th March. For Durham the first sighting was by K. Walton with four at Broompark Picnic Site on 22nd March. These are fairly average dates for the first records.

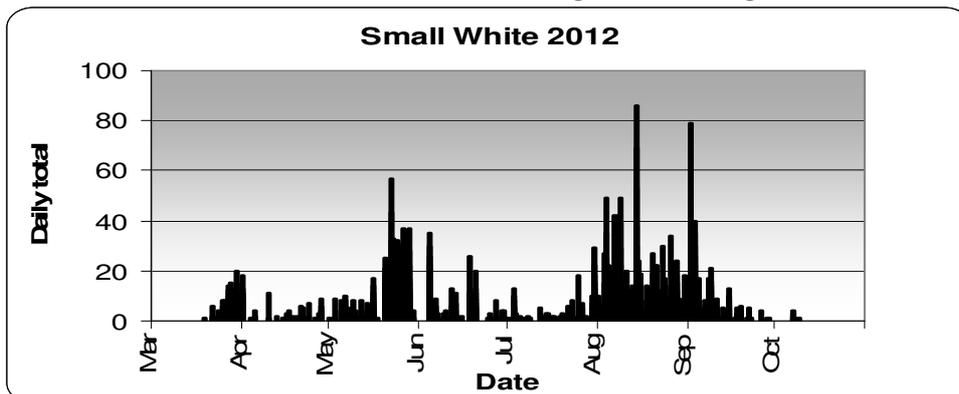
Most unusually only five counts of the spring generation were in double figures. The highest being 15 recorded by R. Tanner at Briardene Farm, Whitley Bay on 18th June. The first

generation peaked in the last two weeks of May but was way below normal peak numbers.

The second generation is normally much more numerous than the first. This year, however, peak numbers of the second generation, in August and early September, were only slightly above first generation numbers. The highest recorded were 21 from Molly Hardie at Cockburnlaw Dunes on 23rd August, 20 reported by Sue Wyman at Wynyard Woodland Park near Stockton on 7th August and 20 seen by Fiona Aungier at Tommy-the-Millers Field near Berwick on 26th August.

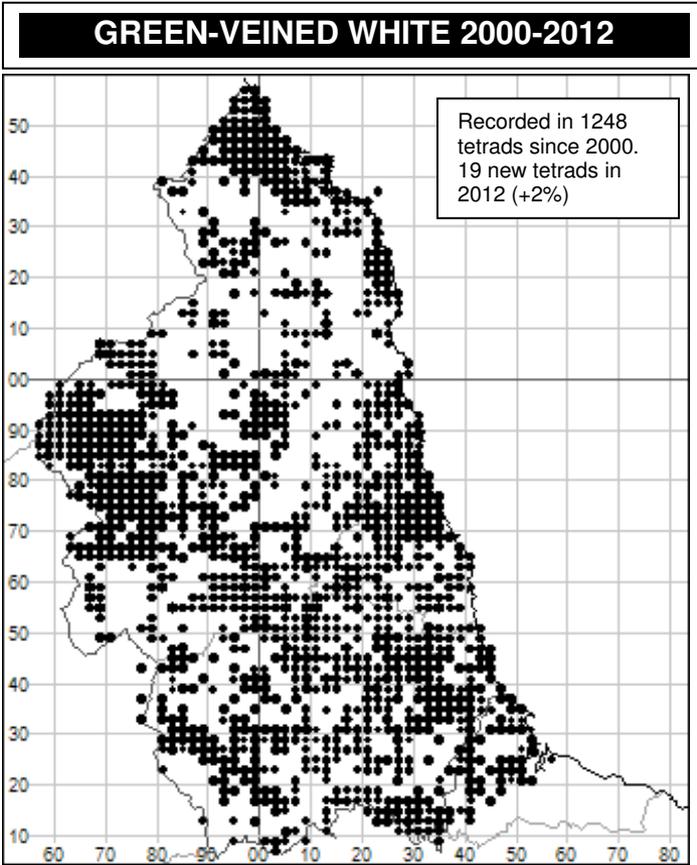
Small numbers of records came in through September with the season ending in the first week of October. Three singles detailed Durham's last sightings, Derek Mason at Stockton on Tees, Les Rowell in a garden in Trimdon and Steve Austin in Russell Woods near Houghton-le-Spring, all on 7th October. Northumberland's last sighting was two days later with Mike Jeffries seeing one at Ouseburn in Newcastle on 9th of the month.

Small White was recorded from 167 tetrads throughout the region in 2012, of which ten were new. It has now been recorded in 882 tetrads throughout the region since 2000.



Green-veined White (*Pieris napi*)

2012: Reporting levels were very low this year: from 769 records submitted in this region a total of 2230 individual Green-veined Whites were logged (in 2011, there had been 1395 records giving a total 5303 individuals and in 2010, 1416 records gave us 8162). A 73% drop in numbers reported in two years and a 44% drop in reports is exceptional, but the species is still our most widespread butterfly and will hopefully recover.



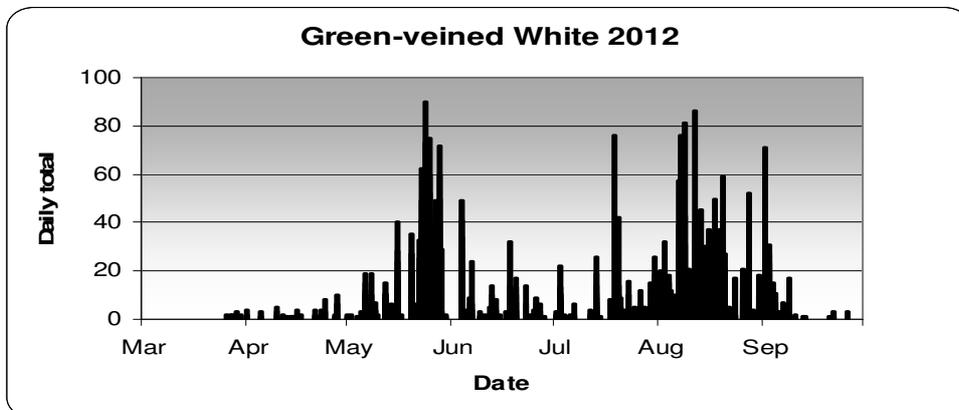
Since 2000, the Green-veined White has been seen in 1248 tetrads in our region; this year it was spotted in 210, 19 of them new, representing a 2% increase in its known range.

The butterfly was seen on the wing from March 26th when Dave Wainwright saw two at Low Barns until 26 September when Jack Mawson saw three near Wheatley Hill, a flight period of 185 days; it was reported on 134 of these (72%). Green-veined White is not often seen in large numbers; most records are of single figures.

The first brood peaked on May 24th with 90 individuals spotted by a total of 24 observers, the largest count being of 26 by Dave Wainwright at his Inkerman transect on 29th of the month. For the second brood, there was a report of 75 from Mark Lamb on Lindisfarne on 19th July and a number of peaks through

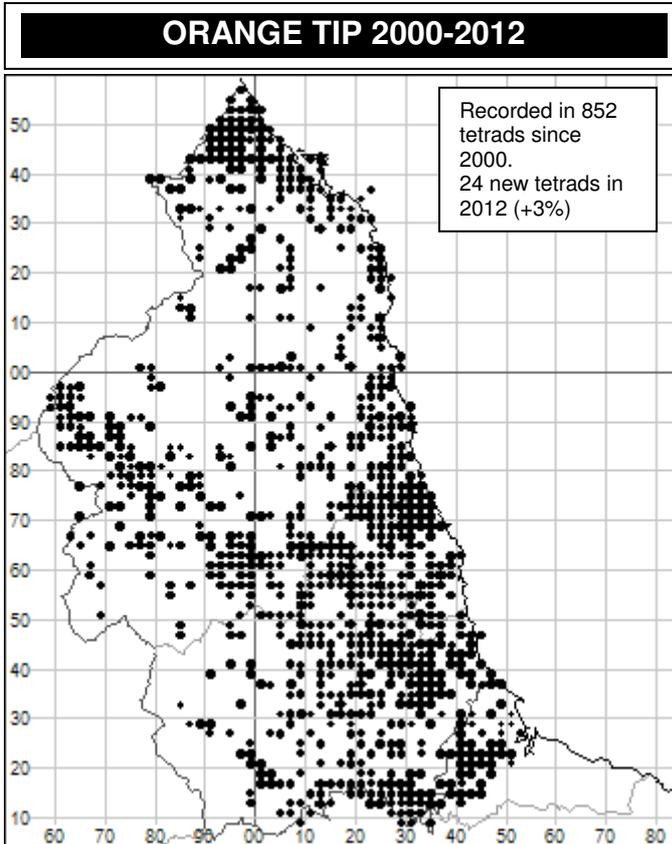
August, the maximum being later than usual on August 12th with 86 seen by 14 observers, the highest individual count that day (46) being by Stewart Sexton at Howick.

There was a late peak of 71 on September 2nd before the season ended quite sharply, with two seen by Keith Smith at Backworth in Northumberland on 22nd and the three by Jack Mawson near Wheatley Hill in Durham on 26th of the month being the last records for the region.



Orange Tip (*Anthocharis cardamines*)

2012: Following the increase in Orange Tip records reported in 2011, the species went into reverse again in 2012 with only 497 records compared to 724 the previous year (31% down) and only 1241 individual butterflies counted compared to 2394 in 2011 (48% down).



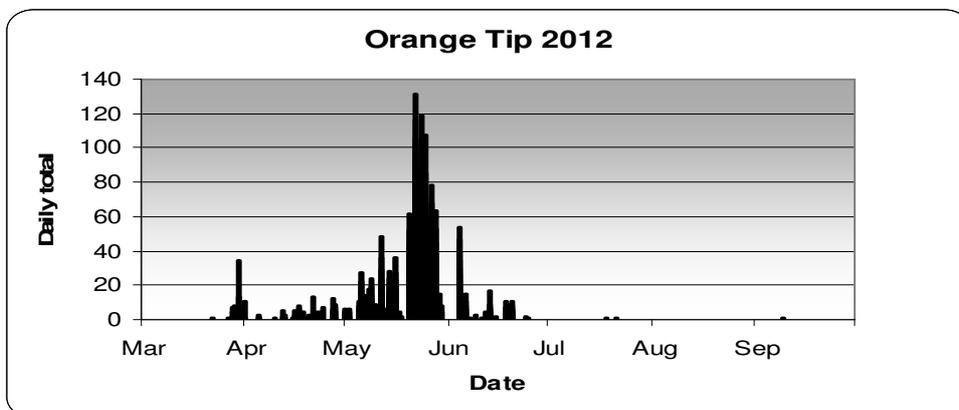
This was no doubt related to the poor weather experienced during much of its main flight period. The first sighting of the year was reported by Keith Smith who saw one at Close House LNR on 27th March. Numbers remained low through April and only started to build in May, reaching their peak on the 22nd of that month when a total of 131 individual butterflies were recorded across the region. Thereafter numbers fell away quite steeply and the species had more or less completed its annual appearance on the wing by the end of June. There were, however, two late sightings in July by H Jackson at Brierdene on the 18th and by Dave Chrisp in Wickham on the 21st and then another long gap until the final sighting of the year on 9th September at the Downhill Complex near Sunderland by John Corcoran.

This was one day short of being the latest ever record for the region. The flight period

therefore lasted for a total of 172 days (compared to 115 in 2011) with the species reported on 66 of these days (38%). There have been a handful of very late records for Orange tip in the last few years and it is unclear quite why these occur.

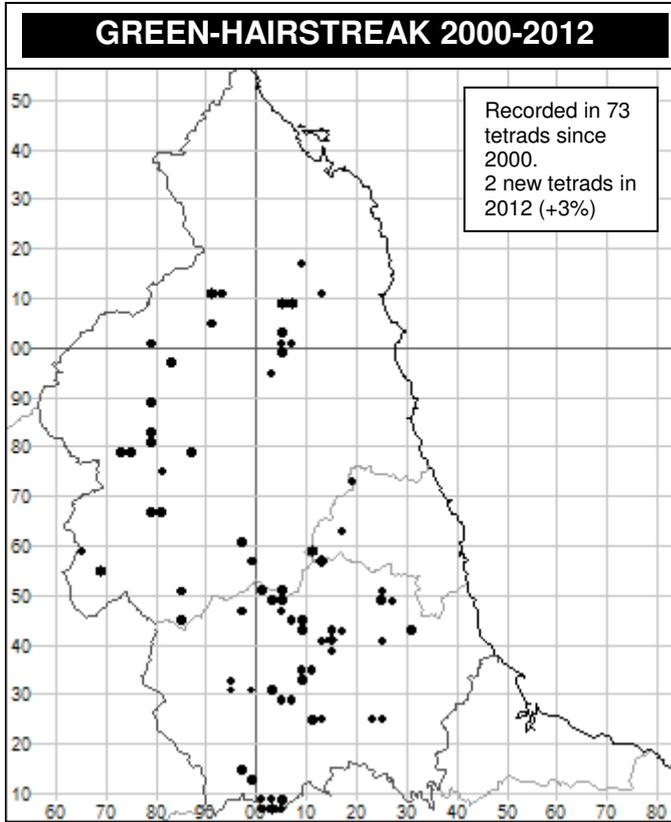
The highest individual count was made by Alan Brannon who saw 22 Orange Tips at Chapman's Well near Burnhope on 25th May. Only one other count exceeded 20 which was Keith Walton's record of 21 individuals at Broompark Picnic Site in the early part of the season on 30 March.

There were twenty records of Orange Tip ova in 2012, submitted by Hew Ellis, Bob Mawson, Mike Hunter and Les Rowell. Hew also reported a single record of an Orange Tip Larva.



Green Hairstreak (*Callophrys rubi*)

2012: 21 reports were received this year from 11 tetrads with a total of 97 individuals recorded during a long 62 day flight period between 29th March and 29th May. The exceptionally fine and sunny weather at the end of March resulted in the first record of the year, 2 butterflies seen by Keith Smith on 29th March in Dipton Woods. This was another record earliest for Keith and Dipton Woods but the good start to 2012 was short lived.

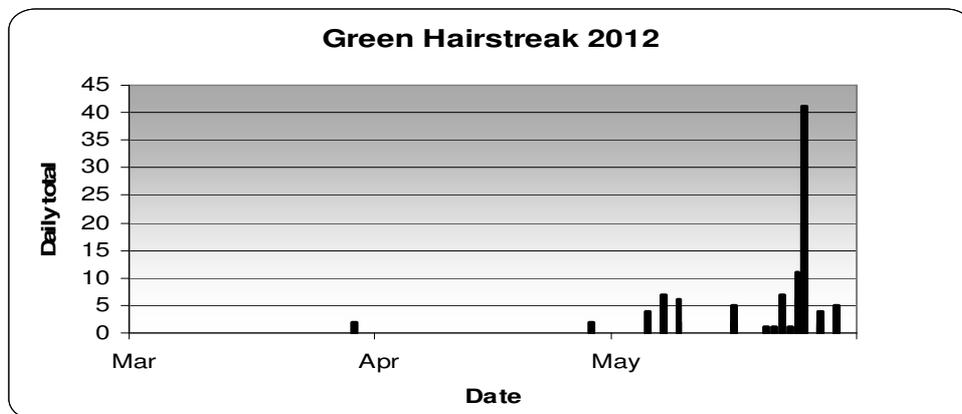


Following the dullest April on record the first three weeks in May were cool, wet and dull. As a result during the next 7 weeks only 24 butterflies were recorded, all from Dipton Woods, apart from the 4 recorded by Graham Beckwith at Lamp Hill on 5th May and the 3 recorded by Dave Wainwright at Hedleyhope Fell on 16th May.

Some warmer and drier weather at the end of the month resulted in the highest numbers for the year, 21 recorded on Garleigh Moor by Joe Dobinson on 25th May. On the same day Peter Webb recorded 20 at West Plantation, Bowes and five days later recorded 5 at Ravock a short distance away which was the last record of a very disappointing spring for this butterfly.

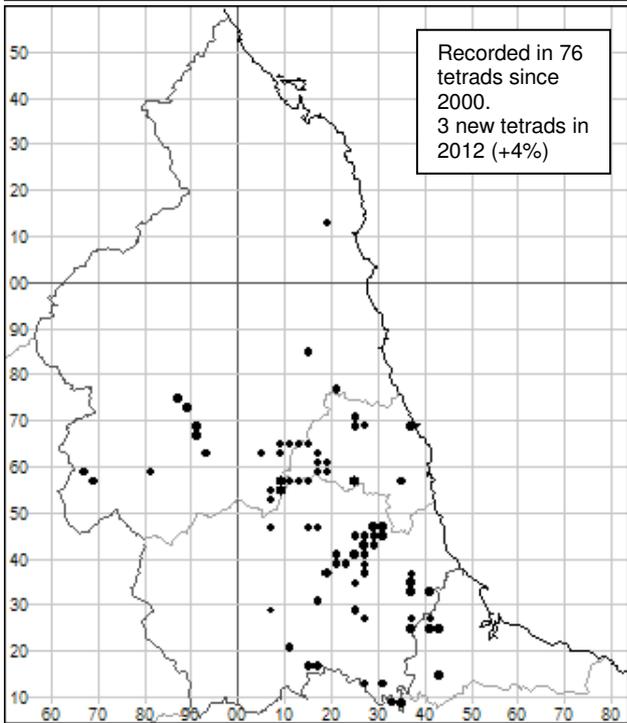
It may be assumed that poor weather for much of April and May affected both recorders and butterflies. Two new tetrads were recorded for the butterfly for the period 2000-2012.

Green Hairstreak was seen on the wing for only 23% of its flight period but the increase in numbers at the end of May when 69 were recorded in the 7 days from 22nd suggests that maybe the butterflies had coped better than the recorders!



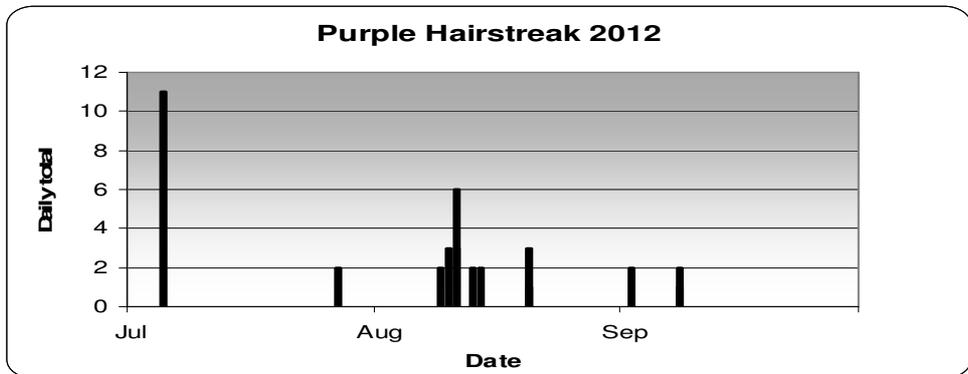
Purple Hairstreak (*Favonius quercus*)

PURPLE HAIRSTREAK 2000-2012



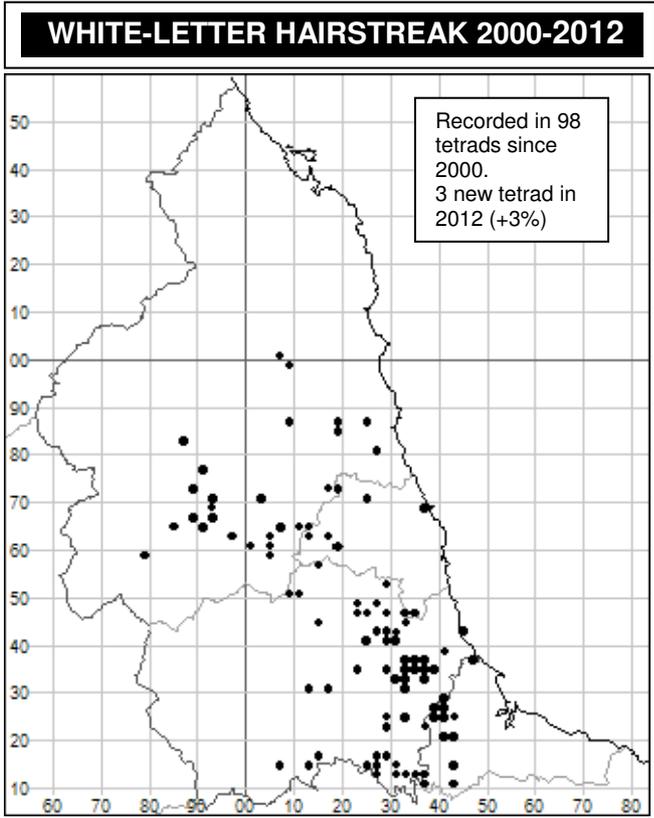
2012: This was a quiet year for Purple Hairstreak sightings, with only 13 records and 35 individuals noted. The first record was of 11 by Graham Beckwith at Aykley Wood, Durham on 5th July and the last by Philip Jordan, Jane Grey and Paul Drummond at Gosforth Park, Newcastle on the late date of 8th September, where they were lucky enough to see the butterfly on the ground and to photograph it. Graham's count of 11 was not only the earliest but by far the largest reported. Ray Craig confirmed the species was present in two new tetrads at the southern end of the north Tyne Valley and commented that it was probably present elsewhere in the valley. He suggested that by far the best time of day to look was later on in the day and after 6pm. The butterfly was only recorded on 10 out of the 66 days flight period, (15%). Let's have more records in 2013!

Bob Mawson found ova at Trimdon Grange in January and March.



Green Hairstreak, photo by Graham Beckwith at Lamp Hill near Alnwick on 5th May 2012

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

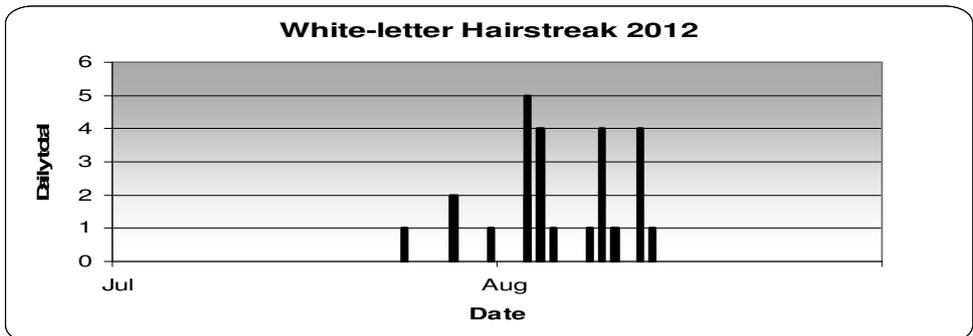


2012: Like Purple Hairstreak, this was a quiet year with only 12 records covering 25 individuals.

Ken Dawson saw the first, a single at Hagg Bank Bridge on the Tyne on 24th July, and the last, a single, was by Bob Mawson at Raisby way on 13th August. Three recorders reported counts of four seen in early August, all in Co. Durham. Ray Craig found the butterfly in two new tetrads in the southern end of the North Tyne Valley, again by dodging showers.

It was on the wing for 11 out of the 21 days flight period, (52%)

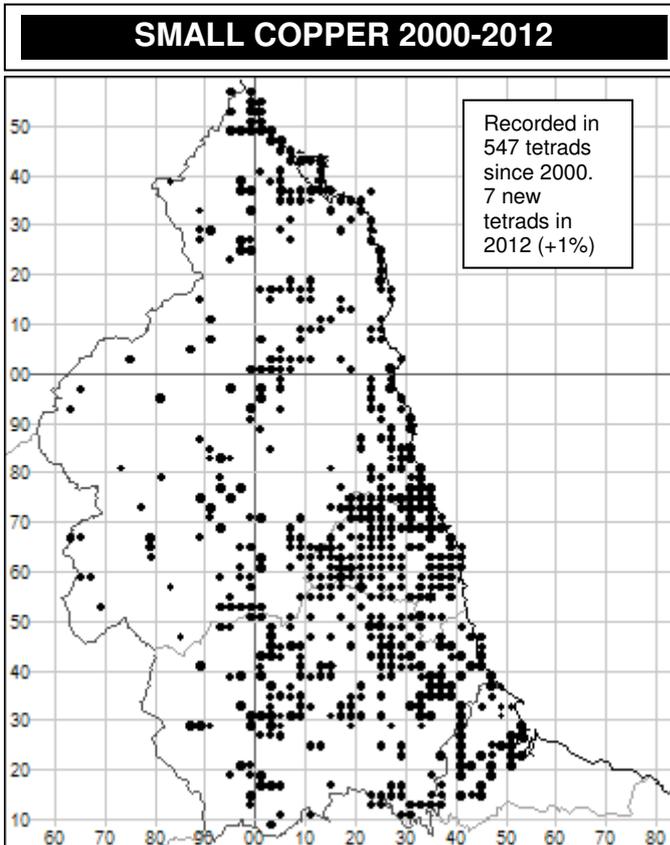
Bob Mawson found ova at Raisby Way on 3rd November.



A late Purple hairstreak, photo by Philip Jordan at Gosforth Park, Newcastle on 8th September 2012.

Small Copper (*Lycaena phlaeas*)

2012: The first Durham report was by Keith Walton at Broom Park on the 26th March. The next Durham sighting did not occur until the 9th May with Dave Wainwright recording one at Hedleyhope Fell. The first Northumberland report was one at Paradise SNCI, in Newcastle slightly earlier on the 6th May by Jonathon Wallace. In 2011 the first Durham report was on the 12th April and first Northumberland report was on the 26th April. It would appear that the warm spell at the end of March triggered the early emergence recorded by Keith.



As in 2010 and 2011 there were two distinct generations. The first was from mid-May to the end of June with a peak of 25 on the 26th of May. The second was from mid-July to the end of September with a peak of 33 on the 2nd September.

Both peaks were considerably lower than in 2011.

The highest individual counts were from Tim & Dorothy Nelson on the 26th May with 12 at Dorman's Pool, North Teesmouth and Dave Wainwright with 12 at Ross Links on the 14th of August. Both were very similar to 2011.

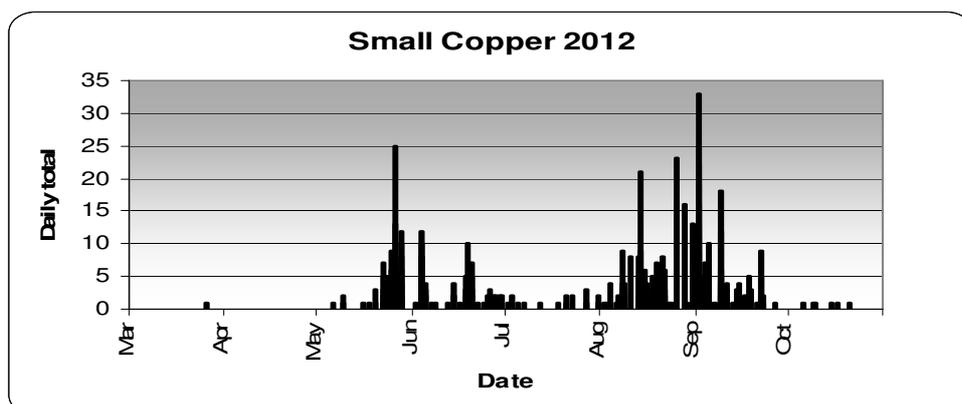
A total of 427 individuals were recorded over the season compared with 1435 in 2011.

Small copper was on the wing for 210 days

and recorded on 91 days - 43%

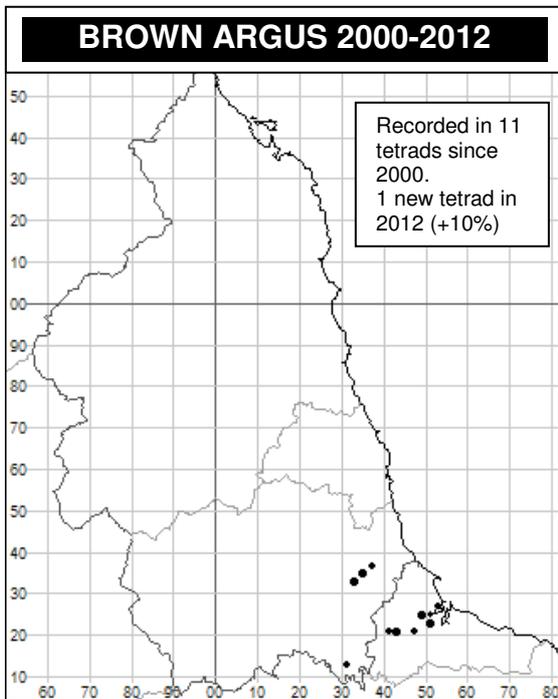
Of the 85 tetrads it was recorded in 2012, 7 were new an increase of 1% over the total for the period 2000-2011..

The last Durham record was one at Trow Quarry near South Shields on the 21st October by Dave Wainwright. The last Northumberland record was one at Scotswood Road in Newcastle on the 17th October by Marty Anderson & Liz Naughton. Bob Mawson submitted three records of larvae and three of ova, all from Raisby Way in Co. Durham.



Brown Argus (*Aricia agestis*)

2012: In a poor year for most species it is not surprising that one of our rarer butterflies did not do well. Only two records were received, one from a previously known site, but one from a new site.



No sightings were reported from the first generation. The two records were from the second generation. The first was from Bob Mawson who saw one at Dorman's Pool on Teesside on 26th August. The second was from Wingate Quarry, a new site for the Brown Argus, where Graham Beckwith reported one on 21st October, the latest date it has ever been recorded in the region. One record for 2011 was inadvertently omitted from last year's report. One was seen by Ian Bond at Seaton Dunes, near Teesmouth on 22nd August 2011.

As in previous years, records of Brown Argus at known Northern Brown Argus sites during the flight period of Northern Brown Argus must be supported by documentation, preferably photographs.

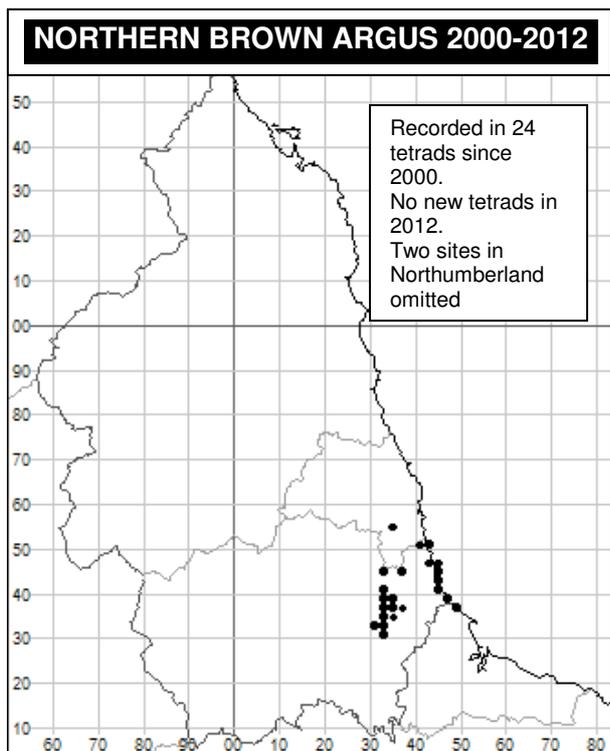


Common Blue, photo by Tim & Dorothy Nelson at Bishop Middleham Quarry on 18th June 2012.

Northern Brown Argus (*Aricia artaxerxes*)

2012: A total of 266 northern brown argus adults was posted for 2012, slightly higher than the corresponding figure for 2011. A large part of the annual total normally derives from the Thrislington transect although it appears that no monitoring of this site was undertaken in 2012. On a positive note, this suggests that the butterfly fared well in 2012, as even without these transect data the annual total exceeded that of the previous year. On the other hand, the fact that monitoring of the region's longest-running transect appears to be discontinued is

a cause of obvious concern. Should anyone be interested in taking up this challenge (full training provided), please contact Dave Wainwright or Michael Harris.



Bob Mawson recorded the region’s first northern brown argus on June 4th, a fairly typical date for the start of the flight season at Bishop Middleham Quarry. Bob recorded three more at the same site five days later, this being the second record of the year.

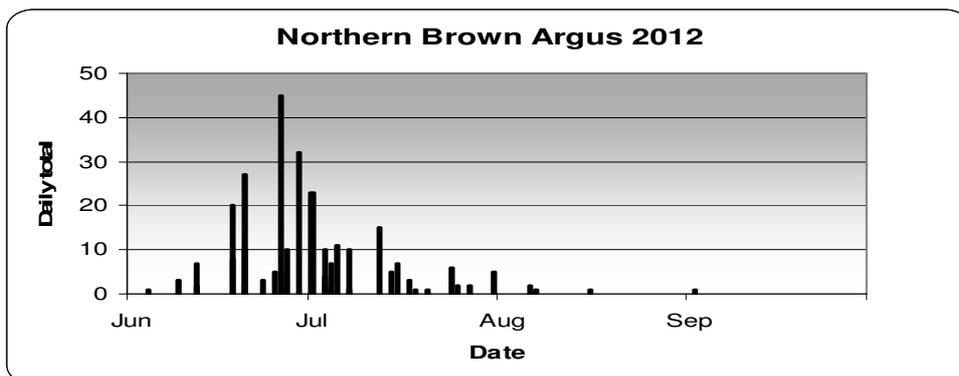
K. Walton recorded the year’s highest count: 40 at Bishop Middleham Quarry on June 26th; this date also heralded the peak of the flight period. Mr. Walton also submitted records from three coastal sites – Crimdon Dene, Chourdon Point and Hart Warren – during the first two weeks of July. These coastal sites really are exceptional habitats for butterflies and day-flying moths; should any reader wish to help with surveys please read on.

Recorders were also active at various other of the region’s sites. In addition to those mentioned there were also records from the following sites: Raisby Hill Grassland (Mark Richardson), Pittington Hill (Derek Charlton), and Littlewood LNR (John Olley).

Once again, there were late records from Bishop Middleham Quarry. This year it was Tim and Dorothy Nelson who recorded the year’s second latest butterfly on August 16th and also the latest on September 2nd. As in previous years, it is not possible to state definitively that these late-flying butterflies were not the closely-related brown argus.

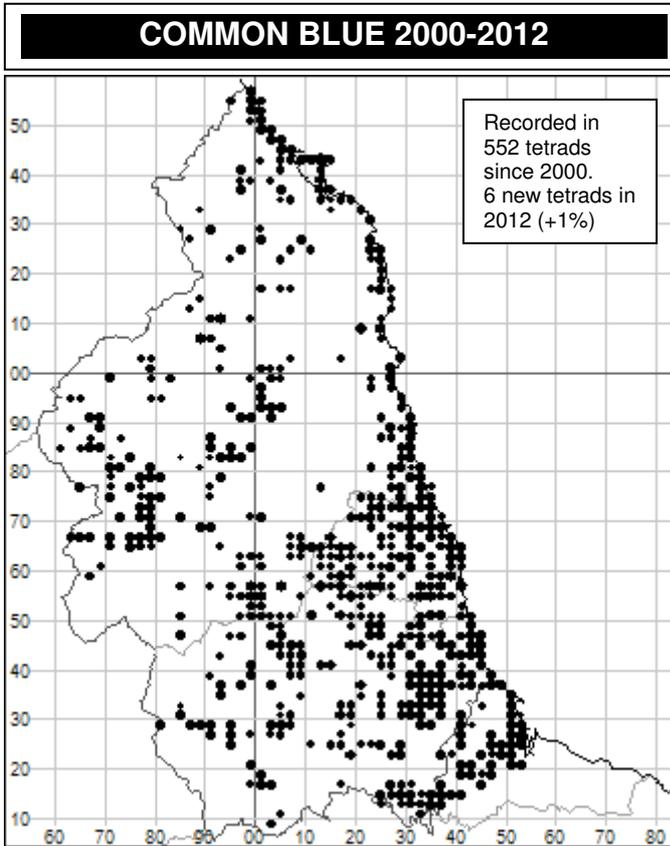
Butterfly Conservation intends to re-survey a large number of northern brown argus sites in 2013. Very roughly, these surveys will take place in June (inland sites) and July (coastal sites). If you would like to help – and full training will be provided – contact either Michael Harris or Dave Wainwright, - see back cover for the contact details.

Since the last report, for 2011, it has been ascertained that the Northumberland record for a site near Elsdon resulted from a deliberate and un-notified release a few years earlier. Dave Stebbings reported that the site may have suffered flooding in 2012 during the poor spring and no butterflies were seen.



Common Blue (*Polyommatus icarus*)

2012: There were 476 reports in 2012 from 97 tetrads with 2766 individuals recorded between 14th May and 17th October. Numbers were well down on the last two years and this was particularly noticeable in May and June when the highest numbers recorded were only in the 20s and 30s compared with individual records of over 100 in previous years.



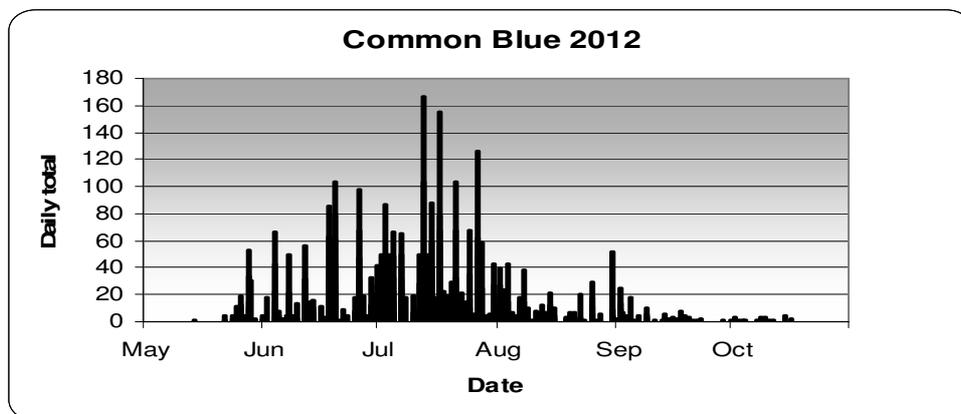
The first record of the year was an individual seen at Morrison Busty Pit Yard by Melvyn Conlong on 14th May. Some better weather at the end of the month resulted in higher numbers flying with a total of 53 butterflies reported by 7 recorders on 28th May and 29 recorded by Robert Mawson on Raisby Way on 29th May.

43 were recorded by K Walton at Crimdon Dene on 3rd July but the highest numbers in 2012 were all recorded at Cambois Dunes; 62 by Trevor Richardson on 13th July, 76 by Keith Smith on 17th July and 64 by Hewitt Ellis on 27th July. There was some good counts from Keith Smith with 60 recorded at Cobalt Business Park on 13th July, an encouraging increase in numbers from the 21 recorded in June last year.

Coastal localities again provided a good number of records but in general, Common

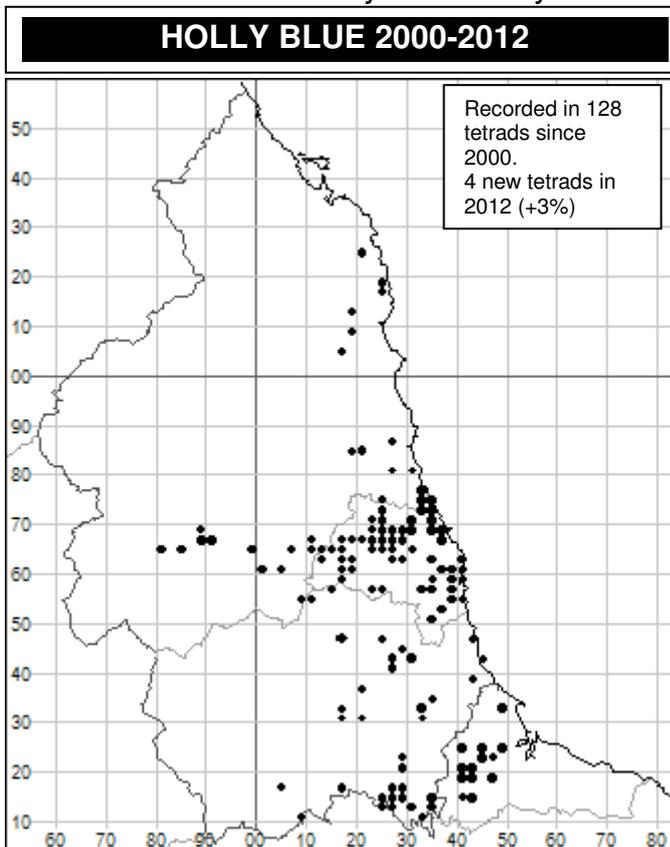
Blue appears to have suffered badly because of the weather and even on these sites numbers were considerably reduced from last year. Marty Anderson and Liz Naughton recorded the last Common Blues of the year, 2 flying close to Scotswood Road in Newcastle on 17th October.

The flight period lasted 157 days and the butterfly was on the wing for 122 days, (78%).



Holly Blue (*Celastrina argiolus*)

2012: A total of 128 records were received of 162 butterflies. Of these records 103 were single specimens, 19 were two's, 3 threes and only 3 fours. Four were seen by Roger Norman in Jesmond Cemetery on 24th May, four by Mike Nattrass in Northumberland Park, North Shields the next day and four by Mike Coates there on 27th May.



Of the 162 recorded 71 were south of the Tyne, 26 in Newcastle, 64 in North Tyneside and only one further north at Morpeth. 162 brings the numbers recorded back to that recorded previous to the disastrous summer of 2009 when only 7 were recorded. (Numbers then slowly increased to 70 in 2010 and 93 in 2011).

There have been no other records from west or north of Newcastle apart from this year's singleton in Morpeth since 2009.

The first one seen in 2012 was by Hewitt Ellis in Northumberland Park on 26th March which is the earliest record to date and the last recorded was seen by A C Edwards in Whitburn on 19th September.

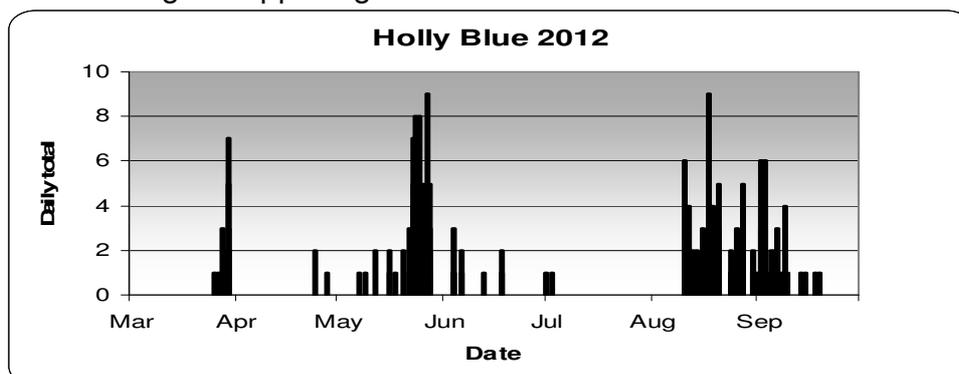
The first brood was on the wing from 26th March until 18th June when 79 were recorded. There were two weeks with no records then singles recorded on 1st and 3rd July. After five weeks with no records the second brood was then seen from 11th

August until 19th September with 81 recorded. Both the spring and summer broods therefore appeared to have been equally strong despite the weather of 2012.

Holly Blues were recorded on 55 days, being 31% of the 178 days' flight period.

They were seen in 31 tetrads in 2012 compared with only 16 in 2011 and so almost double the number were recorded in almost double the number of tetrads. The total number of tetrads that they have now been recorded since 2000 stands at 128 and as in 2011, they were seen in 4 new tetrads, an increase of 3% each year.

The only eggs recorded were those found by Hewitt Ellis, a total of 7 in Preston Cemetery, North Shields on 6th & 12th September, together with two larvae, and 1 ovum in Monkseaton, Whitley Bay on 7th September. 2012 was therefore a surprisingly good year for Holly Blues in our region considering the appalling weather.

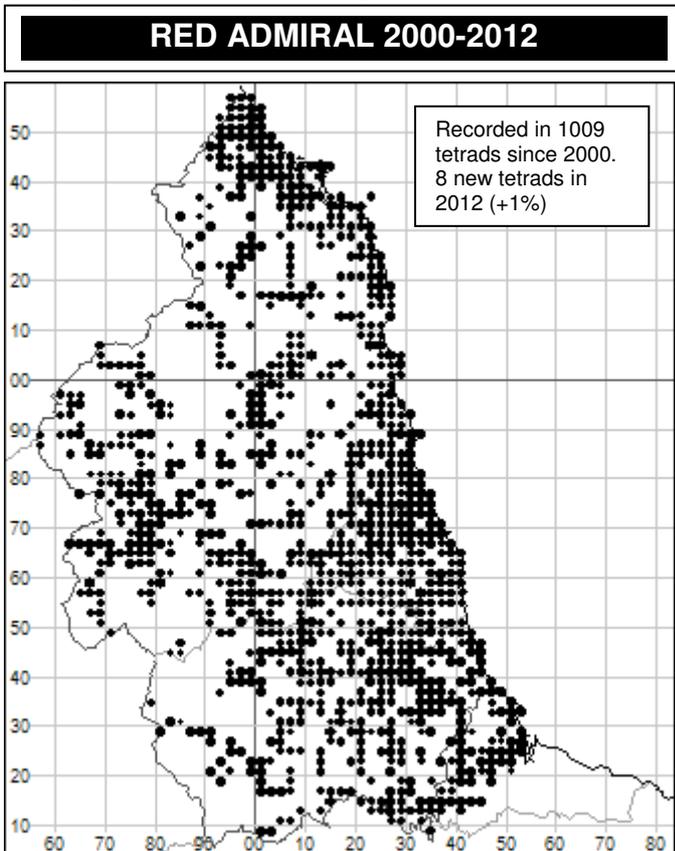


NOTE: The larvae were omitted and erroneous numbers of ova were given in the first version of this pdf and in the printed report.

Red Admiral (*Vanessa atalanta*)

2012: During 2011, more individual butterflies were seen in the August of that year than in the whole of the 2012 season.

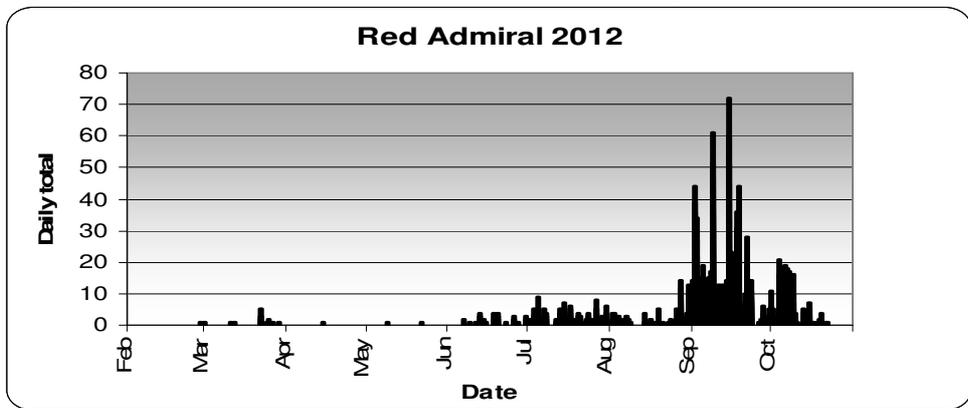
This is a sad reflection on the conditions experienced during the flight period. A total of 563 records were submitted, yielding 910 individual butterflies. This, compared with 1464 records and 3760 butterflies seen in 2011, is less than a quarter of the insects seen and nearly two-thirds fewer reports. Tetrad recordings also followed the same path.



Of the 1009 Tetrads recorded since 2000, only 158 revealed Red Admiral, although there were 8 new tetrads found. In 2011, the butterfly was seen on 248 tetrads. Northumberland again claims the honours of first and last sightings. Stewart Sexton recorded the first on 28th February at Howick and Ian Kerr saw the last on Holy Island on 22nd October. Roger Norman reported 15 at Howick on 19th September and also claims the highest number of records submitted at 41, with 79 individual butterflies seen. Over 33% of sightings were of single butterflies with only four reports in double figures. This compares so badly with the previous year when numbers were much higher.

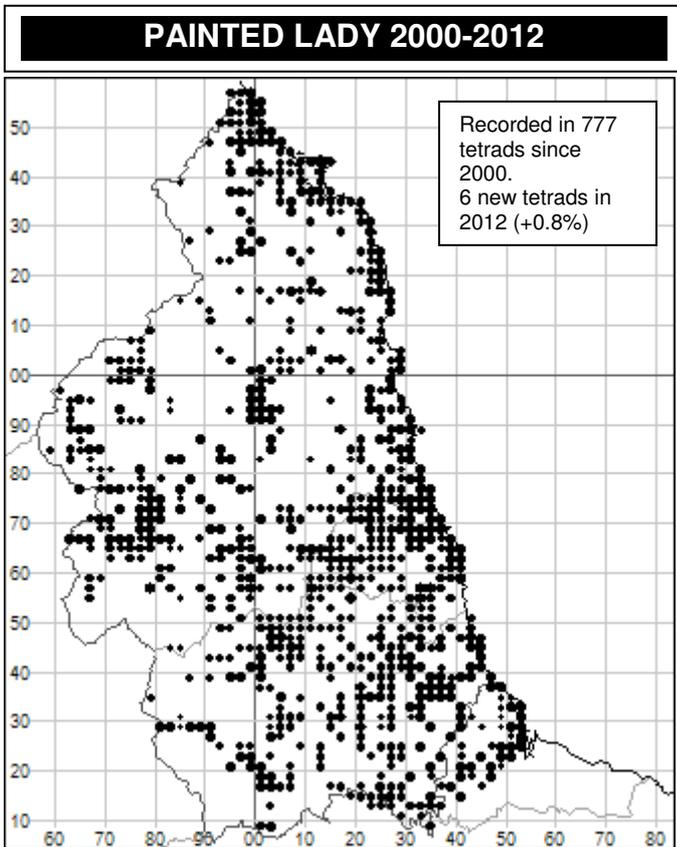
September, when 550 butterflies were recorded from 292 reports, roughly 60% of the total season's sightings.

The butterfly was reasonably widespread throughout the North East England area from Berwick-upon-Tweed to Stockton-on Tees. Although it is more prevalent to the east, the spread between north and south seems to be more even, certainly along the coast. However, as last year, most of the records came from the Tyne and Wear area.



Painted Lady (*Vanessa cardui*)

2012: If 2011 was a very quiet year for Painted Lady, 2012 was, by comparison, almost deafeningly so. It was poor, with only 45 records (54% down on 2011) and 53 individual butterflies (54% down on 2011). 87% of records were for single butterflies. The species was on the wing for 145 days but was only seen on 33 (23%) of these days.

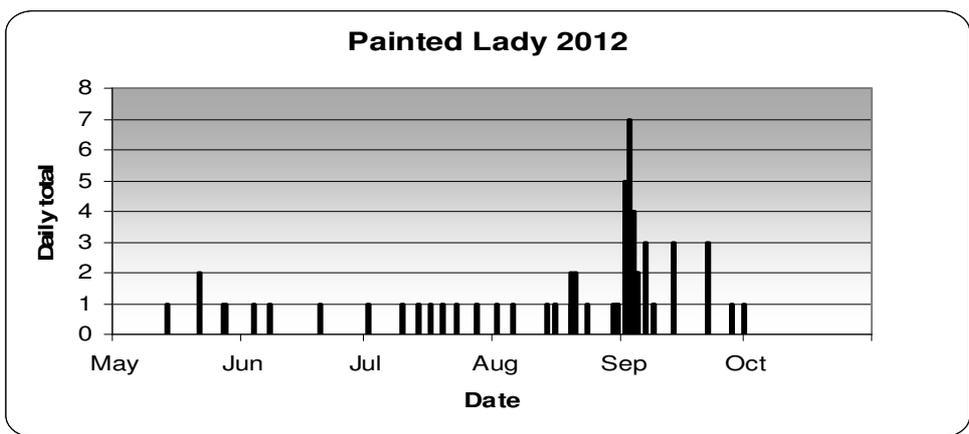


Barry and Jean Robinson saw the season's first in County Durham at Hastings Hill on the 22nd May with the first Northumberland record coming from S. Stone and H. Jackson who had a singleton at Brierdene on the 10th May.

Counts throughout the flight period were very low: only 6 records were for more than a single specimen. Highest counts were of only 3 butterflies, recorded both by John Almond on the 3rd September at Alwick and John Olley at Littlewood LNR on the 14th September.

The last specimen recorded in Northumberland was seen by Neville Stead at Whitley Bay on the 28th September and the last in Durham and of the season was recorded by Simon Hodgson at the Tees Railway Walk on the 1st October.

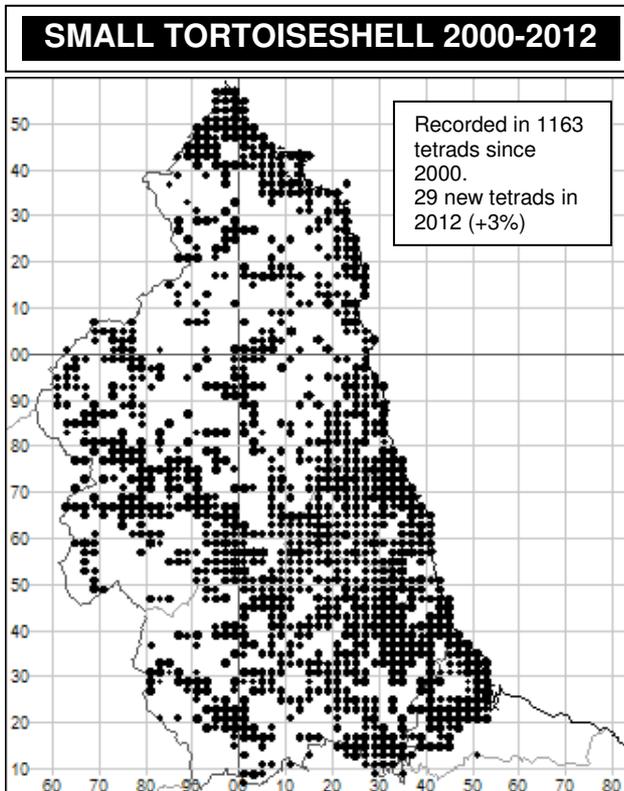
Painted Lady was recorded in 34 tetrads in 2012 and, in spite of it being a very poor year, 6 of these were new tetrads.



Small Tortoiseshell (*Aglais urticae*)

2012: A total of 1186 records were received of 2478 butterflies. Almost all of these records were in single figures, only 23 being in double figures.

The highest individual counts were by A J Johnston and I S Davidson of 13 on 28th March at Big Waters for Northumberland and by Joe Dobinson of 26 on 27th May at Bishop Middleham for Durham.



Second brood highest counts were of 26 by Ian H Findlay on 2nd September at Upper Teesdale for Durham and the highest count of the year of 30 by Mike Nattrass on 6th October at Low Hauxley, Northumberland.

These counts are extremely low when considering that there were previous individual counts of 70 in 2011, of 50 and 60 in 2010 and 180 in 2009 at single sites.

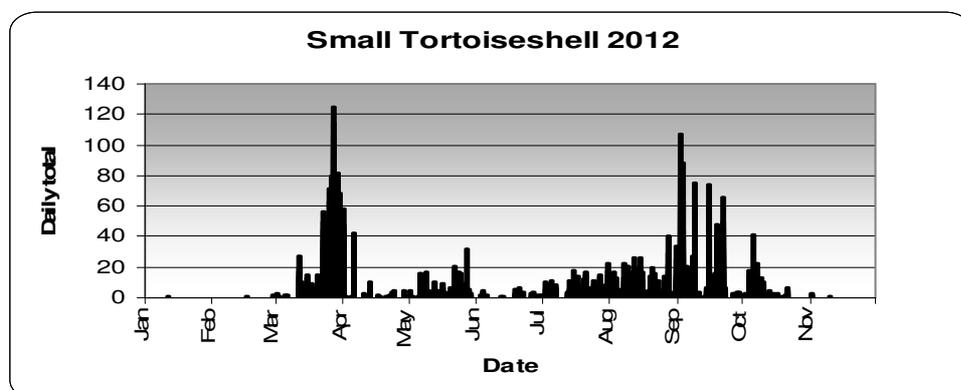
In 2012 the highest joint totals recorded in any one day were 125 on 27th March and 107 on 2nd September.

The first Small Tortoiseshell seen in 2012 was by Graham Mitchell on 11th January at Hardwick Hall and the last recorded was seen by Philip Jordan and Jane Gray in Grey Street, Newcastle on 10th November.

Small Tortoiseshells were recorded on 174 days, being 57% of the 305 days flight period.

They were seen in 260 tetrads in 2012 compared with 296 in 2011. The total number of tetrads that they have now been recorded in since 2000 stands at 1163 with 29 new in 2012 an increase of 3%, a similar increase to the 26 that were new in 2011.

Individual numbers for the last five years have fluctuated between 1886 in 2008 and 4357 in 2010. Since the parasitism of this species has not yet reached this far north in the UK, the fact that 2012 was such the disappointing year must be attributed to the extremely wet weather.

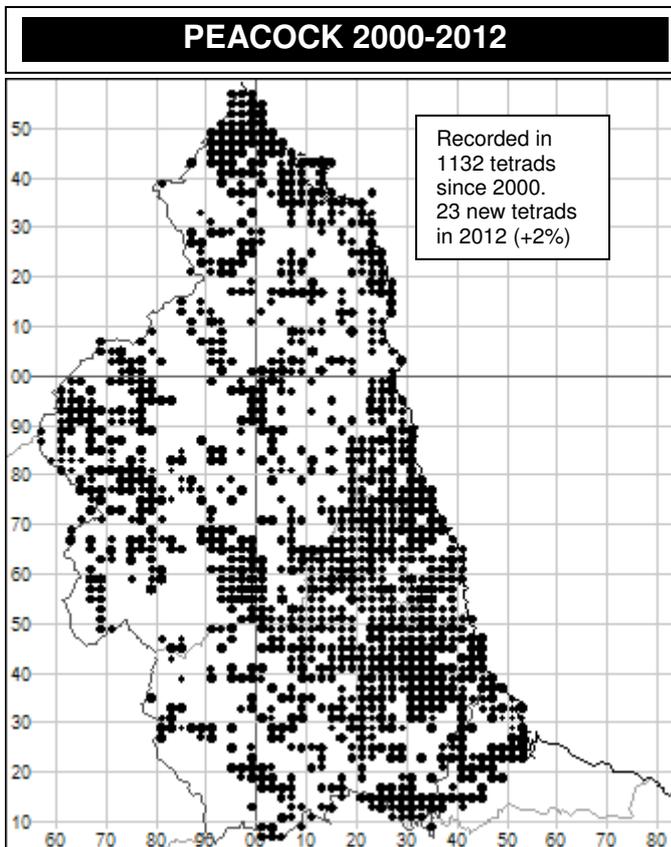


Camberwell Beauty (*Nymphalis antiopa*)

2012: There were no records of this dramatic vagrant from the east in 2012.

Peacock (*Aglais io*)

2012: Honours go to Northumberland for both the first and last Peacock sightings in 2012. John Almond saw the first on 31st January in Alnwick and John Inglis saw the last at Riverdene Garden in Berwick, on 1st November 2013. However, this has not been a spectacular year for the butterfly.



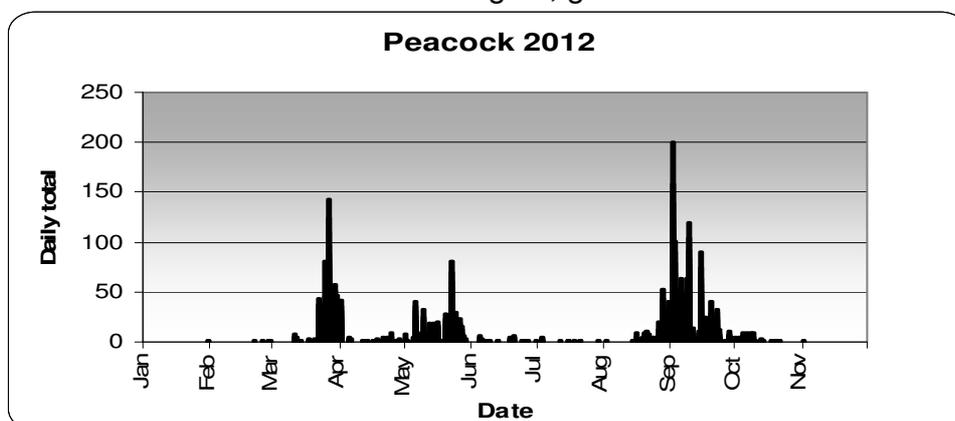
2312 Peacocks were recorded, this in a fall of 1578 on the previous years' total of 3890 individuals, a drop of 40%.

The year 2012 had a shorter flight period than 2011 by a full month. The butterfly was seen on the wing on 139 days, only half of the recorded flight time of 276 days. Peacock was reported on 249 tetrads, an increase of 23 on the previous year but well below the total number available in the North East England area. Since 2000, the number of tetrads recording Peacock has reached 1132 and Peacock remains our third most widely distributed butterfly, behind Green-veined White and Small Tortoiseshell.

Of the 1023 records submitted, only 21 were in double figures, with only 3 being of individual counts above 20. Ian Findlay spotted 41 in Upper Teesdale on 2nd September. This is the record of the year.

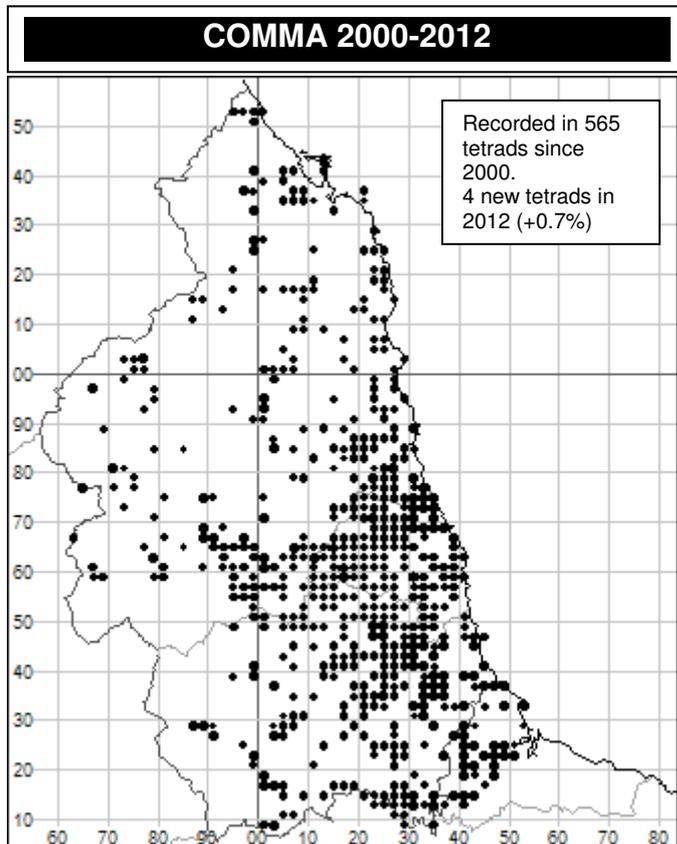
Half of the records, 563 reports, were of single butterflies, unlike other years when multiple Peacocks were seen together. There were exactly 200 reports of 2 butterflies together. The best month for the Peacock was in September when 353 records were submitted with 972 individuals being seen. A total of 200 Peacocks were seen at various locations on 2nd September, from Cocklawburn Dunes, Berwick to Stockton-on-Tees. The month of May recorded 405 butterflies from as far as Low Barns Meadow in the west to Whitley Bay.

Although the Peacock was widely reported throughout the area, the numbers seen were far lower than previous years. It is not difficult to understand the reason for this. What is of greater concern is whether numbers can rise again, given a better season in 2013.



Comma (*Polygonia c-album*)

2012: 2012 was a bad year for the Comma. Although the first one, reported by Neville Stead, on 28th February, at Twizzell Burn was six days earlier than the last year and the last one, on 14th November, seen by Keith Smith at Wylam Haugh, was a four days later, only 221 individuals were seen in the North East England Branch area over a flight period of 261 days. This is a fall in the reported numbers of the butterflies by exactly 50% for the whole of the 2012 season.



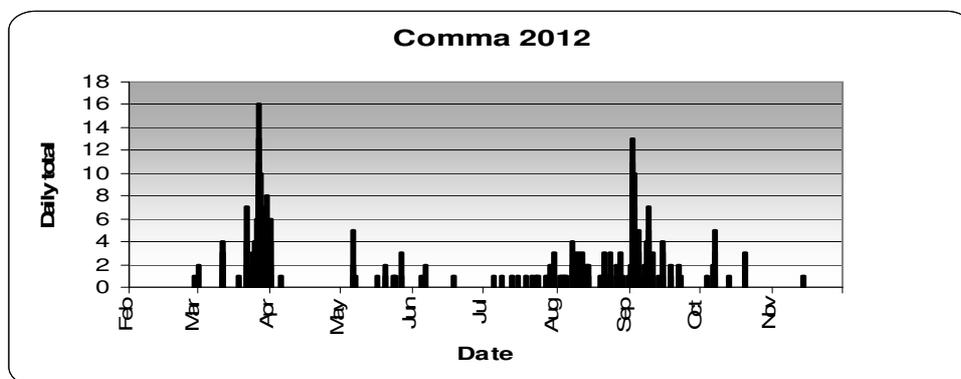
The Comma was only reported flying on 79 days throughout the total flight period of 261 days due, inevitably, to the appalling weather over the summer months.

The butterfly was never reported in double figures, the most being seen at any one time were 3 individuals and these only on seven occasions. There were 132 single sightings between February and November, with March being the best month, with 71 individuals, followed by September when 59 butterflies were seen. The effect of the warm spell at the end of March can be clearly seen when an early flush of butterflies occurred.

Three Commas were recorded in the north of Northumberland, with 3 more in the area between Berwick-on-Tweed and Morpeth. Eastern Northumberland did better and Tyne and Wear recorded most of the

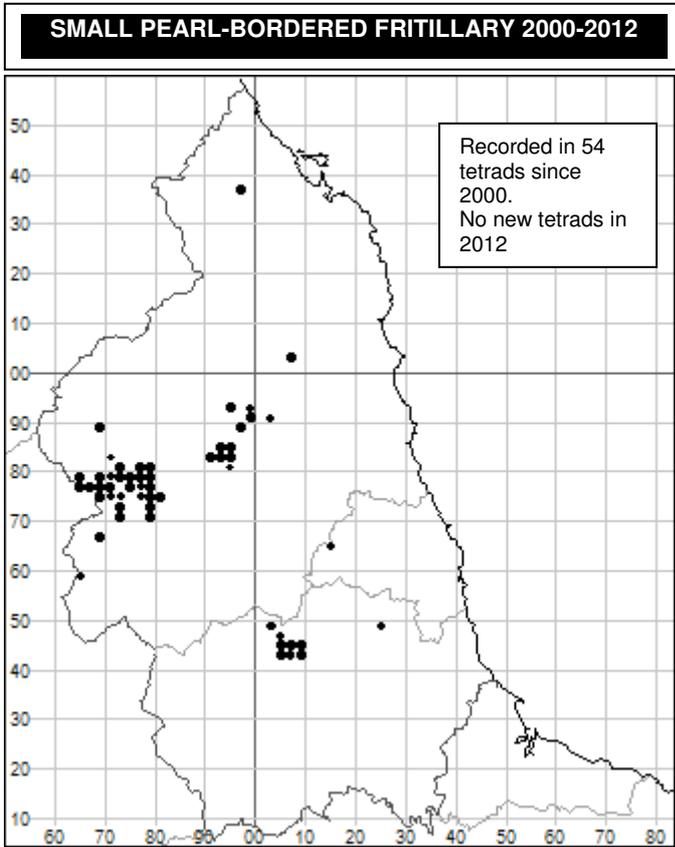
sightings. County Durham was reasonably well represented.

In comparison with the two previous years, reported Comma numbers have dropped considerably. This is corroborated by tetrad monitoring. In 2010 the Comma was seen in 137 tetrads, in 2011 in 116 tetrads and in 2012, only reported in 78 of the possible 565 tetrads in the North East region. Although there is an increase of 4 tetrads overall for 2012, this is a sad reflection on the season as a whole.



Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary (*Boloria selene*)

2012: A total of sixteen records were received. These recorded 173 individual butterflies. The flight period covered fifty two days and the Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary was seen flying on eleven of these days, representing 21% of the flight period. The number of records received was considerably down on recent years. The poor summer weather, particularly in June, must have played a part in that.



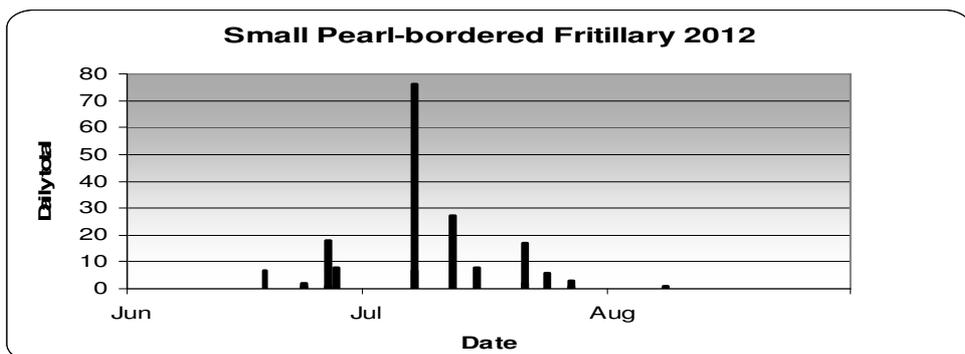
The first record of the season came from Dave Liddle who saw one at Burn Hill on 18th June; only slightly later than the average first date. For Northumberland Keith Smith spotted the first two in Wark Forest on 23rd June.

Nearly half the records received were from Dave Liddle’s Burn Hill transect where he recorded a maximum of sixty-nine on 7th July followed by twenty-seven on 12th July, by far the best counts of the year. Northumberland’s highest was from Graham Beckwith who counted seventeen at Debdon Plantation near Rothbury on 26th June.

The Burn Hill transect produced good numbers through the flight season, so perhaps it was the poor weather that kept recorders at home rather than an actual drop in butterfly numbers. Records were

received from only seven different recorders which may reflect this. Some of the sites, particularly in Northumberland, are quite remote and one would definitely want good weather when visiting them!

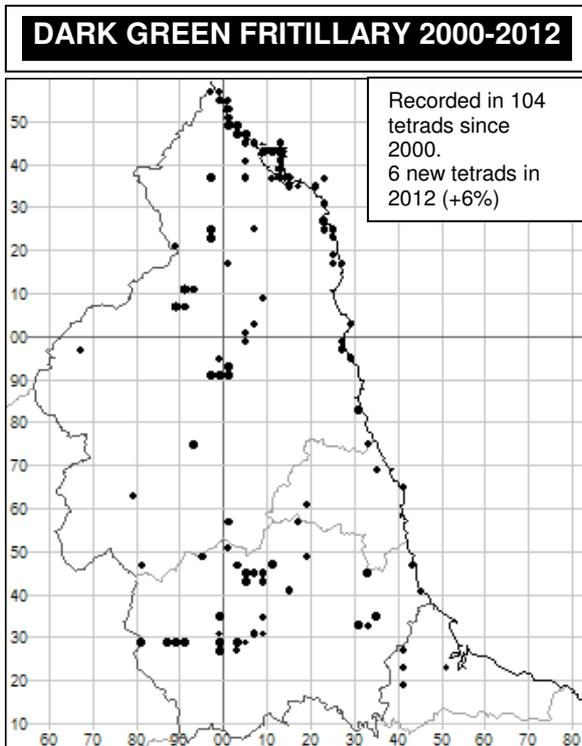
The last Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary record for Northumberland was from Roger Norman with one in Harwood Forest on 27th July. For Durham it ended as it began with Dave Liddle spotting the last of the season with a single butterfly at Burn Hill on 8th August. Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary was recorded from eight tetrads throughout the region in 2012. It was not seen in any new tetrads in 2012. It has now been recorded in 54 tetrads throughout the region in the period 2000-2012.



Erratum: The record from Carole Drake printed as 24th July 2011 in Kielder should have been given as 12th June 2011.

Dark Green Fritillary (*Argynnis aglaja*)

2012: There were only 50 records of Dark Green Fritillary submitted in 2012, 37% down on 2011 and these comprised a total of 472 individual butterflies (29% down on 2011). The species was recorded in 22 tetrads. This was therefore another species that experienced a relatively poor year in 2012. The flight season lasted for 84 days and the species was recorded on 29 of these (35%).

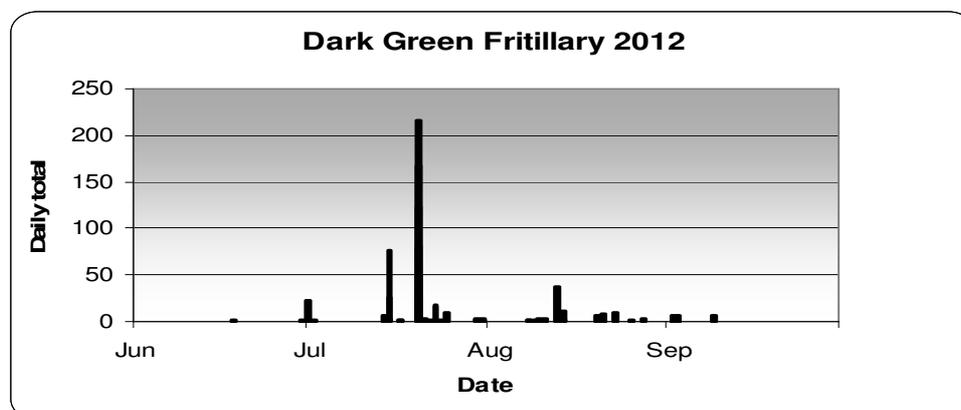


The first sighting of the year was reported by Sue Wyman who saw 1 in Wynyard Woodland Park on 18th June. There was just one other record in June by Bob Mawson who saw one at Raisby Way on 30 June and Northumberland had to wait until 1st July for its first record. This was reported by Ian Kerr who counted 22 on Holy Island. Peak numbers were reached on 20th July when there were 8 records of a total of 216 butterflies. However, three of these reports were from Holy Island suggesting that there may have been a significant amount of double counting. The highest count was achieved by Keith Smith who counted a total of 127 (aggregated over four counts on adjoining sections of the island) and this was also the highest total for the year. Next highest was 50 recorded by Mark Lamb on Holy Island and all but two of the double figure counts reported were also from Holy Island. One of the

exceptions were reported by Dave Liddle who counted 15 at Waskerley on 23 July and the other was reported by Ian Findlay who counted 10 in Upper Teesdale on 14th August.

The species continued to be reported in small numbers through August until the 26th when Ian Kerr recorded the final sighting for Northumberland on Holy Island but in Durham it carried on into September with a small spate of records in Teesdale, the last of which, by Ian Findlay, occurred on the 9th. This record involved no fewer than 6 individuals reflecting a rather good season for the species in Upper Teesdale where Ian recorded several decent counts.

There were six new tetrad records, of particular note being Sue Wyman's record in Wynyard Woodlands on 18 June and Adam Jones' record in Hartburn, Stockton on Tees on 2nd September, both of which were also new 10 km square records.





Mating and male Small Pearl-bordered Fritillaries, photos by Graham Beckwith at Debdon Forest, Rothbury on 26th June 2012.

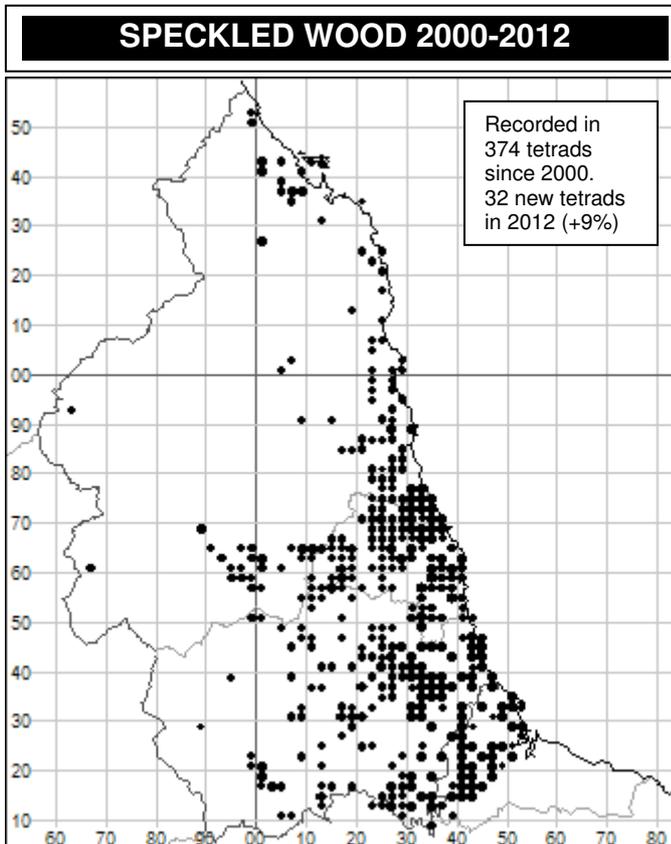


Dark Green Fritillaries, photos by Graham Beckwith at Debdon Forest, Rothbury on 15th July 2012.

Speckled Wood (*Pararge aegeria*)

2012: Although remaining a strong presence, Speckled Wood has, not unexpectedly, had a setback this year. There were several peaks in recorded numbers with the most notable occurring again this year in mid-September.

A total of 920 records were received (a 16% decrease on the 2011 figure), and these included 2892 individual butterflies (a 14% decrease on the 2011 figure). The flight period was shorter than in 2011 lasting 215 days and the butterfly was seen flying on 164 (76%) of those days.



Northumberland's first record of the year was made, again this year, by Keith Smith who had a singleton at Low Prudhoe and 2 at the Spetchells, both on the 22nd March. On the same day K. Walton had Durham's first record, another singleton, at Broompark Picnic Site.

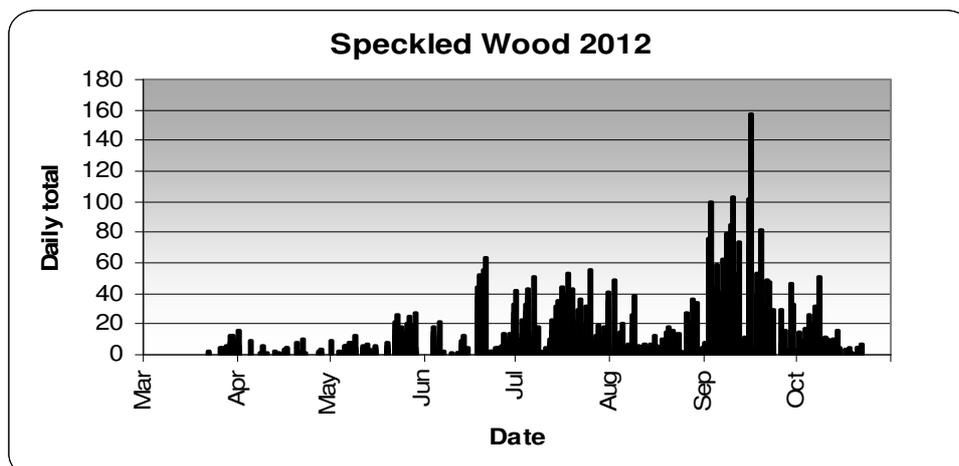
The first double figure count came from Joe Dobinson with 10 at Rising Sun on the 19th June with Gary Shears recording 11 on the 26th at Mainsforth Plantation. Higher counts started to appear in July and Hewitt Ellis had 16 on the 18th July and then Tim and Dorothy Nelson recorded 24 near Hart on the 24th.

There was a further peak in September and the highest count of the year was 55, seen by Mike Coates at North Shields on the 15th. Joe Dobinson had 49 at the Rising Sun on the 7th and Steve Austin had 43 at Russell

Woods on the 28th.

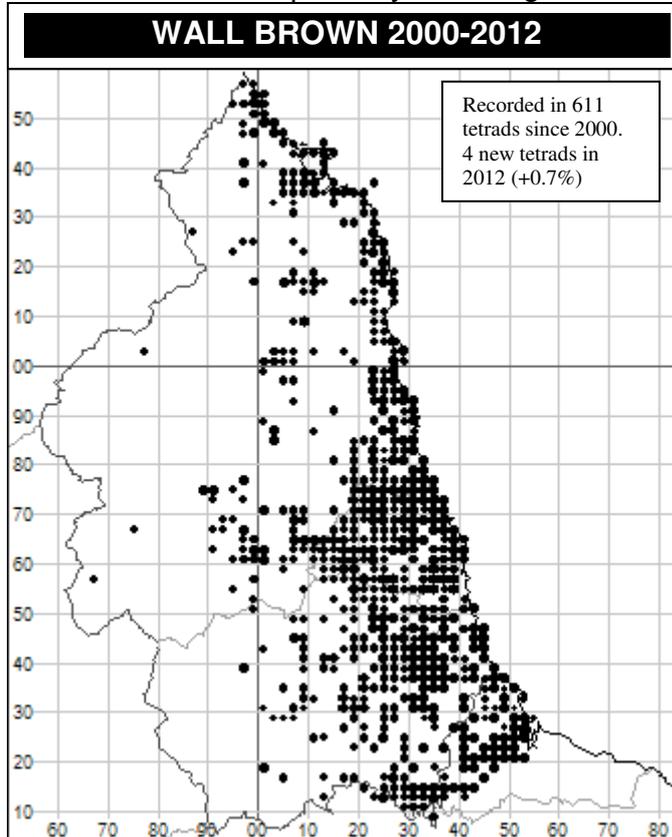
The last record for County Durham was a singleton seen by K. Walton at Broompark on the 21st October and the last record for both Northumberland and the season came from Keith Smith who had 2 at Tynemouth on the 22nd.

In 2012 Speckled Wood was recorded in 164 tetrads throughout the region of which 32 (9%) were new.



Wall Brown (*Lasiommata megera*)

2012: A total of four hundred and forty eight records were received which detailed 1403 individual butterflies quite a fall from the 2204 recorded the previous year. The flight period lasted 166 days and the Wall was seen flying on 88 (53%) of these days. This was the third consecutive year that numbers of Wall have fallen in the region, either affected by the awful summer weather or possibly following the trend being seen in the south of England.



The first sighting in the region came from Fiona Aungier who saw three at Tommy-the-Millers Field in Berwick on 3rd May. For County Durham Alan Brannon with one at Bishop Middleham Quarry, Robert Mawson one at Raisby Way and K. Walton with one at Broompark picnic site near Langley Moor and one at Wingate Quarry all take the honour of Durham's first on 6th May. These are relatively late dates and probably reflect the wet and cold April we experienced in 2012.

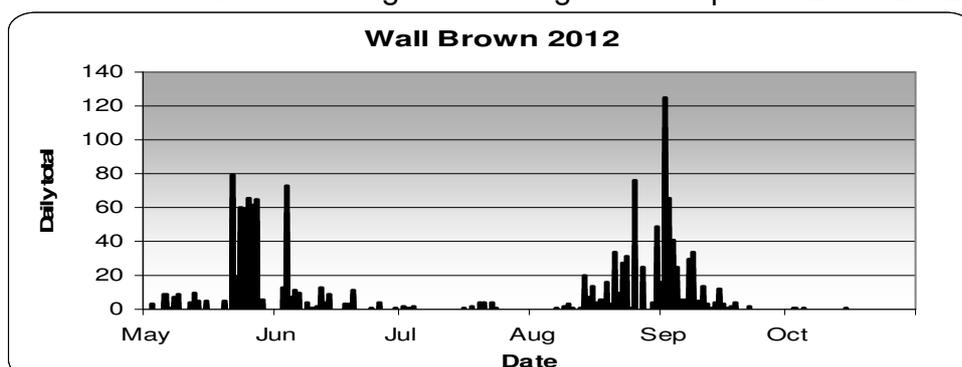
The spring generation peaked in late May and the first week of June. Individual counts were not high and most counts were of fewer than five butterflies. However there were good counts from Barry and Jean Robinson with 12 at Hastings Hill on 22nd May, from Keith Walton with 13 from Wingate Quarry also on 22nd May, and John Corcoran who spotted 14 at Downhill

between Boldon and Sunderland on 24th May. Bishop Middleham Quarry also had some good counts from several recorders.

The second generation peaked in late August and early September. This was definitely later than normal and could have been due to the cold wet summer slowing the development of the caterpillars. Most records were of fewer than ten individuals showing what a poor year the Wall had. The highest count for the region was sent in by M and N Tuck who saw 38 at Druridge Bay on 26th August. Other notable counts came from Tim and Dorothy Nelson with 18 at Bishop Middleham Quarry on 2nd September and Anne Corrigan who saw 17 at Daisy Hill / Waldrige Fell on 3rd September.

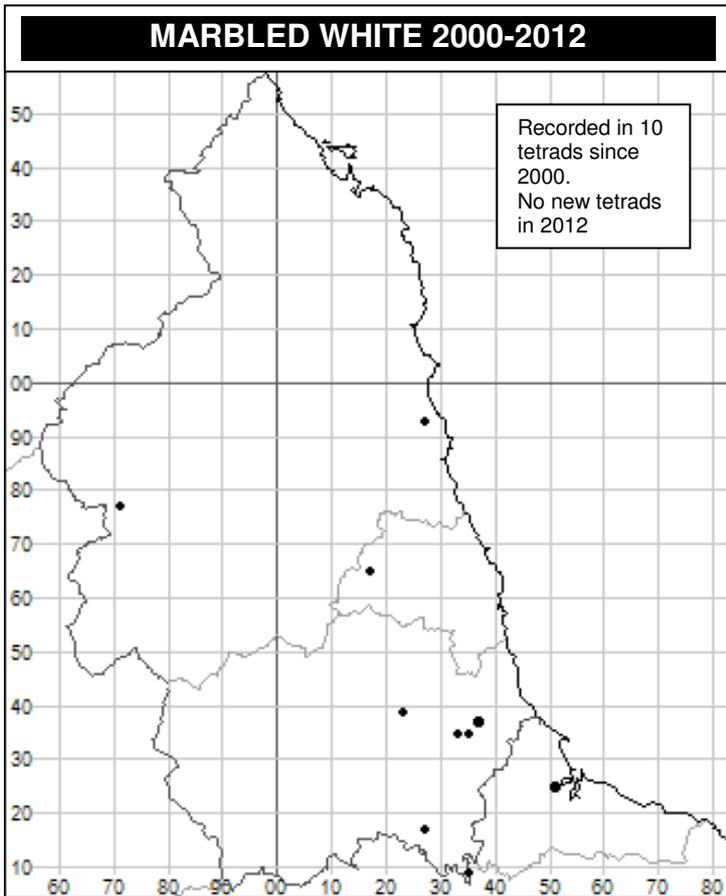
The last record for County Durham was from Robert Mawson who saw one at Raisby Way on 5th October. Russell Pannell spotted the last one in Northumberland and also for the region at Old Hartley Garden near Seaton Sluice on 15th October.

Wall was recorded from 134 tetrads throughout the region in 2012 of which four were new. It has been recorded in 611 tetrads throughout the region in the period 2000-2012.

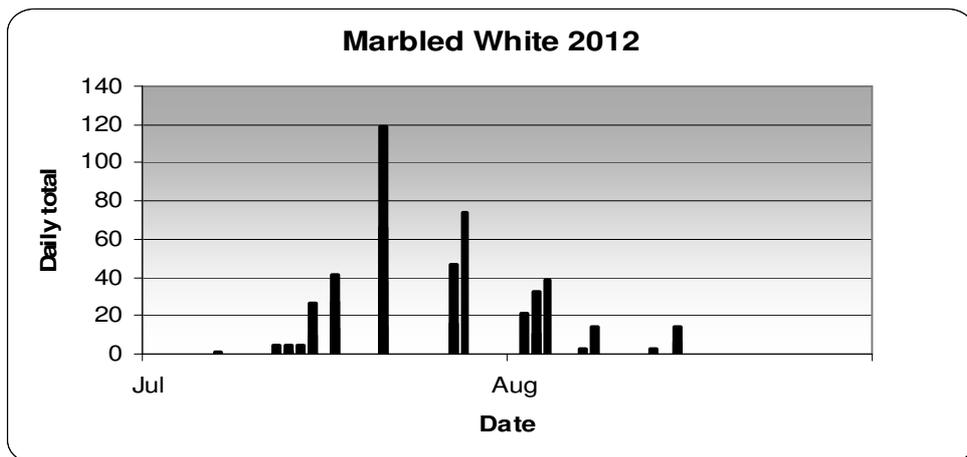


Marbled White (*Melanargia galathea*)

2012: There was no change to Marbled White's introduced status: it breeds at the one site, Wingate Quarry, where it was deliberately released in 2000, so is now considered a native, but once again it has not been spotted anywhere else in our region.

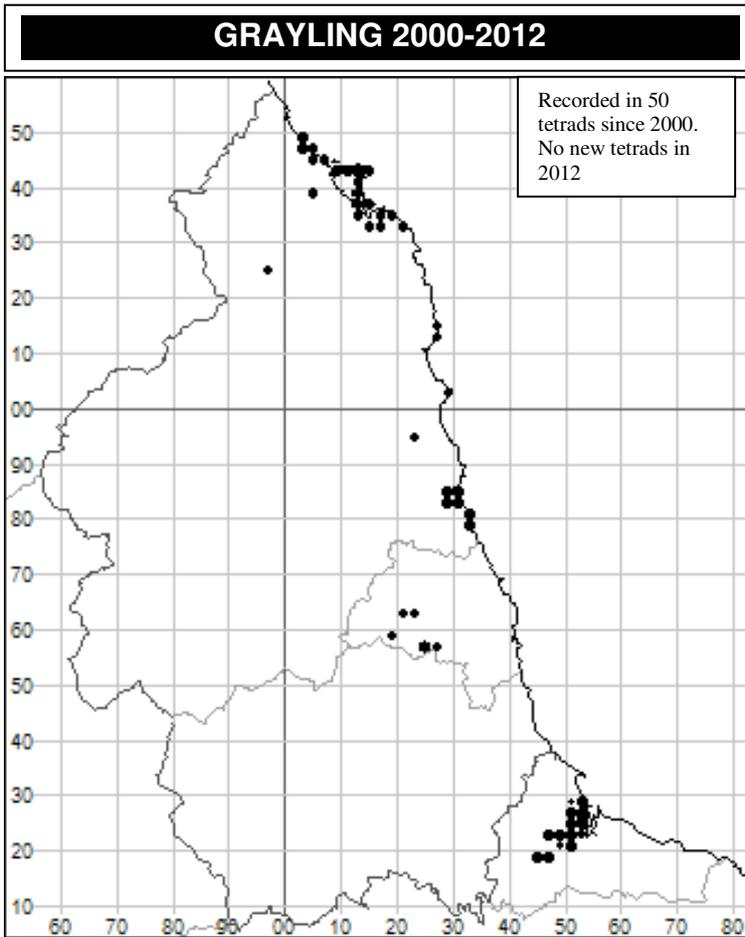


The first was seen by Bob Mawson on July 7th and a total of 447 sightings were logged by 9 observers who made a total of 27 visits on 16 days out of the flight period of 40 days (40%). The peak was reached on July 21st: 119 were counted, 53 of them by Alan Brannon. The highest individual score was claimed by Keith Walton with 74 on July 28th, and the last 8 were seen on August 15th by Steve Austin. This year's high total of sightings is due more to a more concerted level of recording than to any population explosion: last year 19 visits to Wingate produced 318 Marbled Whites, on average 16.7; this year 27 visits produced 447, on average 16.6. But at least the butterfly survived one of our wettest summers on record.



Grayling (*Hipparchia semele*)

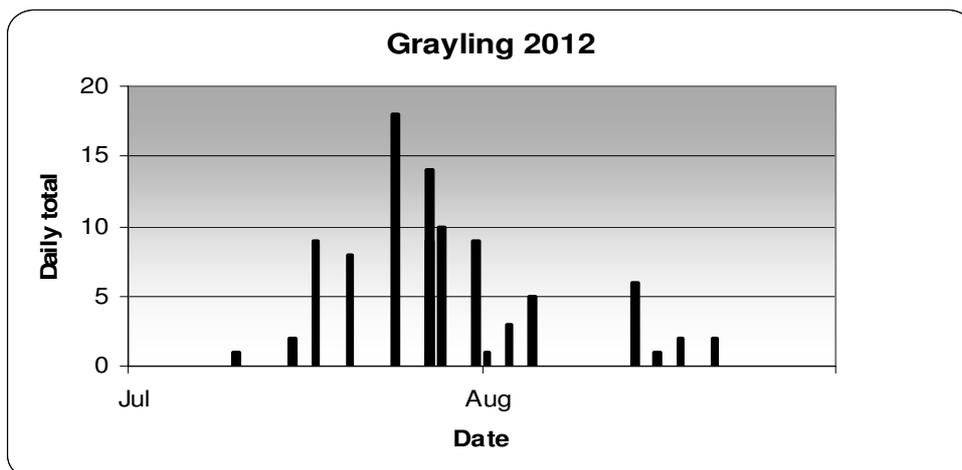
2012: The regional decline of the Grayling continues. During 2012, only 91 butterflies were recorded, less than half the total for 2011 which was itself a desperately poor year.



It's only a few years since several single-site counts, each easily exceeding 100 butterflies, were made and the annual totals ran well into four figures.

Keith Smith recorded the region's first for 2012 with a singleton in the Cambois dunes on 10th July. Derek Charlton recorded Durham's first with singletons from two Teesside sites five days later. Mike Natrass, (July 24th: 18) and Steve Holliday, (July 28th: 10) recorded our region's only double figure counts, both from Cambois. Mike's count represented the peak of the flight period.

A very disappointing flight season was closed in Durham by Derek Charlton's sighting of two graylings at Greatham Creek on August 18th. Northumberland's last were recorded three days later by Dave Wainwright and Diane Chapman in the dunes at Ross in Northumberland.

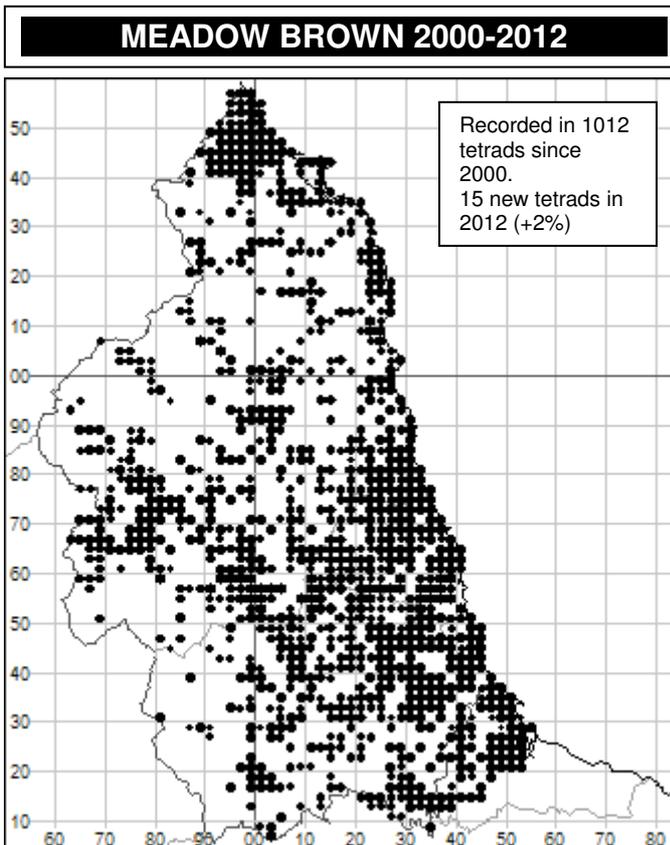


Gatekeeper (*Pyronia tithonus*)

2012: There were no verified records this year of this butterfly for which we are on the very northern fringe of its range.

Meadow Brown (*Maniola jurtina*)

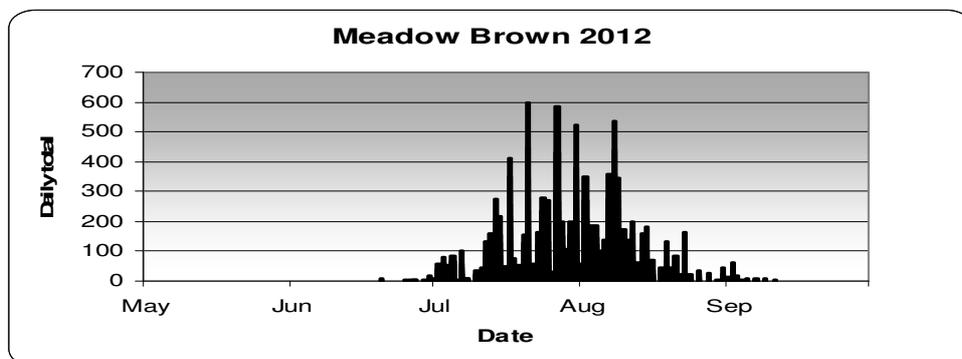
2012: The total number reported of this common species was again down this year, but so was the number of records. From the 816 records submitted a total of 9077 individual Meadow Browns were logged; last year we had 10867 from 958 records. All this tells us definitely is that fewer of us ventured out with the intention of seeing butterflies.



The average number of Meadow Browns sighted per outing was the same each year: about 11. The butterfly has the reputation of being on the wing in weather conditions which most other species find too unfavourable for flight; its apparently poor showing in 2012 should not be assumed to mark a serious decline.

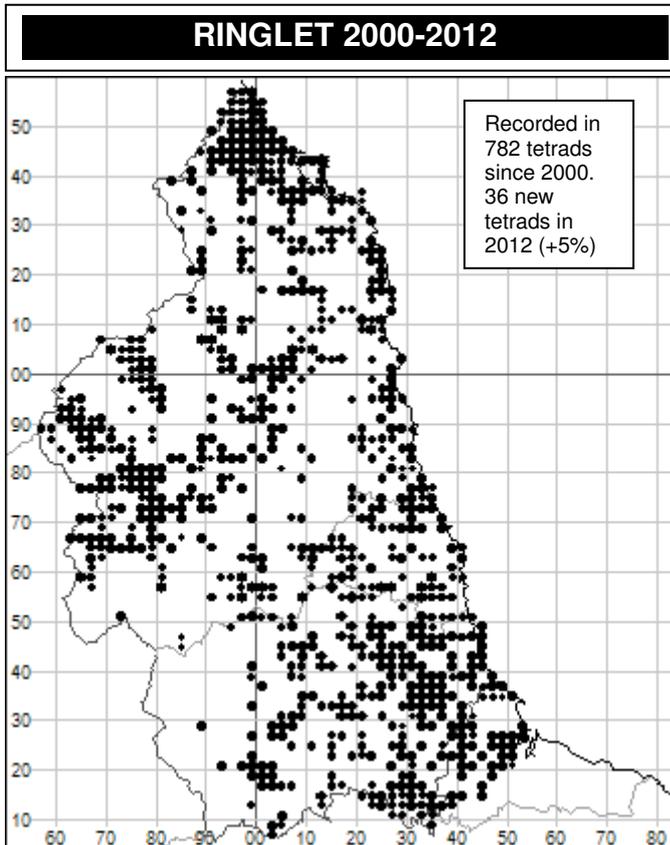
The flight period actually started a day earlier in 2012, on May 14th, when Melvyn Conlong saw a single specimen at Morrison Busty pit yard, Annfield Plain, but only two more were seen in May and none after that until June 20th. Daily counts were still below normal well into July, with 104 counted on 7th, 276 on 14th, 413 on 17th, and the peak of 598 from 27 observers reached on 21st. There were three more daily totals of over 500, the last on August 8th. The most prolific site was Havannah LNR where Dave Stebbings had three counts of over 100 during the season. The

last sighting was by Joe Dobinson on Holy Island on September 22nd. Mating pairs were seen by Bob Mawson on July 17th, 21st and 27th and by Hew Ellis on July 23rd and August 2nd. The butterfly had been seen on 81 days of its flight period of 132 days in 2012, (61%). Since 2000 Meadow Brown has been recorded in 1012 tetrads in our region; in 2012 it was reported in 191, 15 of them new, an increase of over 1%.



Ringlet (*Aphantopus hyperantus*)

2012: The Ringlet is one of a small list of butterflies that are extending their range in the UK and whilst most of the UK's butterflies fared really badly during the wet summer of 2012, it was widely reported that butterflies whose larval stages feed on grasses saw huge increases in adult numbers in 2012.



Ringlet caterpillars feed exclusively on grass species, particularly Cock's foot, Common couch, False brome, various species of Meadow grass (*Poa spp*) and Tufted hair-grass; we might have expected then to have seen a big increase in adult numbers last year due to the wet-induced abundance of lush grass. This didn't in fact occur in our region with numbers actually down from 8011 to 7216 in 2012, a drop of almost 10%.

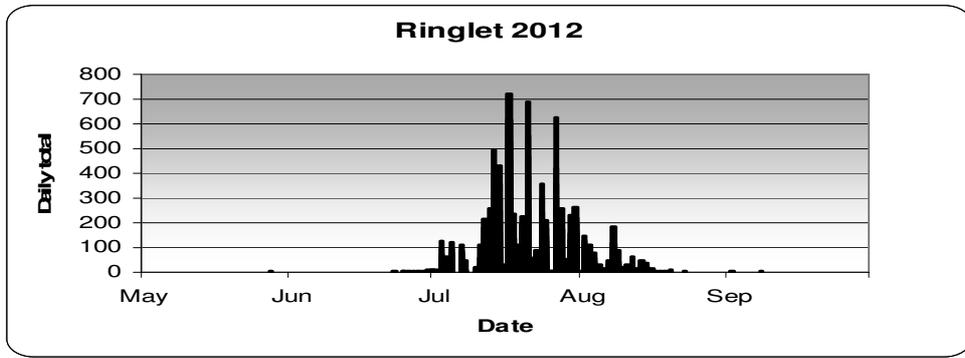
The first Ringlet was seen 5 days earlier in 2012 compared to 2011, on the 14th May at Morrison Busty Pit Yard by Melvyn Conlong; this is the earliest sighting on record for the region. The last recorded sighting was also earlier, by 4 days this year, on the 8th September by S Stone at Brierdene and Neville Anderson at Beamish Museum. Despite the wet summer, the warm start and finish to the year extended the flight period by a day, to 118 days. Both 2011 and 2012

had considerably longer flight periods than the wet summers of 2009 and 2010 when the first adults were seen on the wing on the 10th and 21st June, and the last ones recorded on the 25th August and 1st September, in 2009 and 2010, respectively. Melvyn Conlong's 14th May sighting was only 3 days later than the earliest record for the species, of 15th May in 2000. However, the trend towards wetter summers meant the last record of 8th September in 2012 was considerably earlier than the record of 2nd October 2001.

The butterfly was recorded flying on 68 of the 118 days between May and September 2012, 58% of the total flight period, remarkably similar to 2011. It was observed over this period by over 90 different recorders on 620 occasions.

The first double figure counts by several observers were on 3rd July, Stanley Straughan counting 29 at Ashington Community Woodlands, almost two weeks later than in 2011. The last double figure count was on 15th August at Wingate Quarry by Steve Austin and Graham Beckwith. There were a few records in three figures with the highest being Roger Norman's 206 at Harwood Forest on the 27th July, but nothing to compare with K. Walton's 500 adults at Colliery Wood, Chester Moor on the 2nd July 2011.

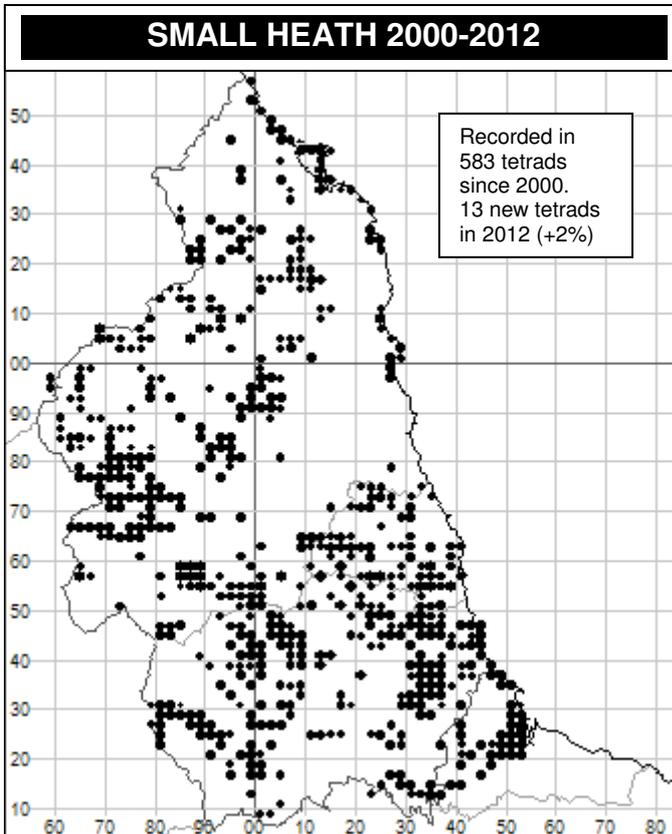
In the region, Ringlet was recorded in 178 tetrads in 2012, 36 of which were new, representing a 5% increase in the total tetrads of 782 it has been recorded in since 2000 in this region. The butterfly is now widespread across the region, whereas ten years ago, there was a distinct gap between populations in the southern part of County Durham and the north and west of Northumberland.



Mating Ringlets, (top), in Wingate Quarry on 21st July 2012 and Wall Brown, (lower), in Stockton on 26th August 2012, photos by Tim & Dorothy Nelson.

Small Heath (*Coenonympha pamphilus*)

2012: A total of four hundred and forty-one records were received. These recorded 3920 individual butterflies. The flight period covered one hundred and sixty-one days and the Small Heath was seen flying on one hundred and fifteen of these days, representing 71% of the flight period.



Considering what has happened to many species in 2012 the Small Heath had quite a reasonable year. Numbers seen were only slightly below average. It has been reported nationally that some species, such as the Small Heath, which rely on grasses as a caterpillar food plant fared reasonably well in the poor summer.

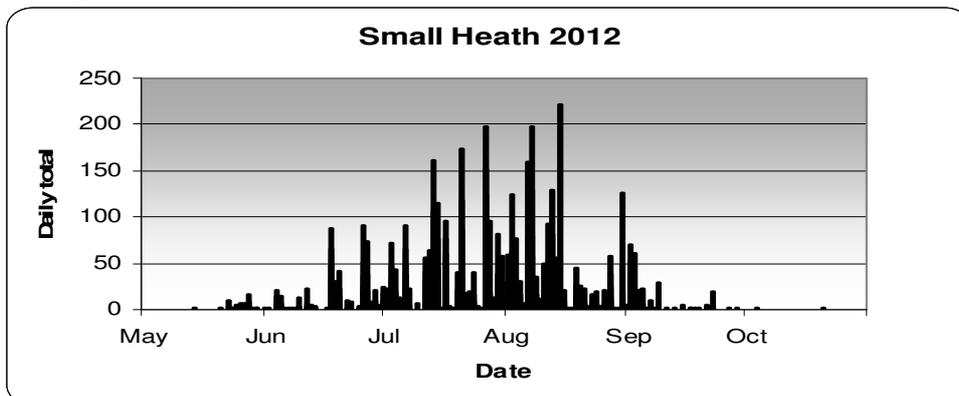
The first record of the season came from Melvyn Conlong who saw one at Morrison Busty pit yard, near Annfield Plain on 14th May. For Northumberland the first sighting was by A. Craggs with nine at Lindisfarne NNR, Holy Island on 23rd May. These were slightly later than average dates for the first records, perhaps due to the wet April.

The season really got going in mid-June with a flurry of records on 18th June. The records came in consistently from then until mid-August. There was a gap at the end of August and then another spike of sightings

in the first week of September. Dave Liddle had good counts on his Burn Hill transect throughout the summer. Wingate Quarry had some high counts from several different observers throughout the flight period culminating in a count of 200 from a joint effort by Graham Beckwith and Steve Austin on 15th August. Mike Taylor had Northumberland's highest count of the year seeing 50 at Druridge Bay on 11th August.

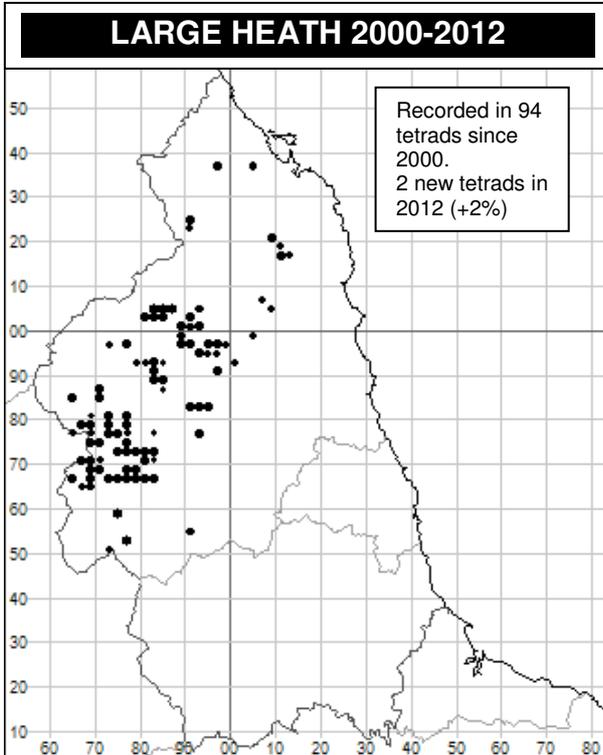
A small numbers of records continued to come in through to the end of September with two records into October. For Northumberland the season ended with Steve Holliday seeing one at Carey Burn, Harthope Valley, near Wooler on 9th September. In Durham the last sighting was by Graham Beckwith who saw one at Wingate Quarry on 21st October.

Small Heath was recorded from ninety-three tetrads throughout the region in 2012, of which thirteen were new for the period 2000-2012. It has now been recorded in 583 tetrads throughout the region in this period.



Large Heath (*Coenonympha tullia*)

2012: Large Heath in our region is found only in upland wetland areas in Northumberland. The remoteness of their habitat and the lack of geographical distribution in the region, inevitably results in low recorded numbers even in good years. But even by our normal low numbers, last year was disastrous for records of the adult butterfly. Recorded sightings were down from 130 to a remarkably low 17!



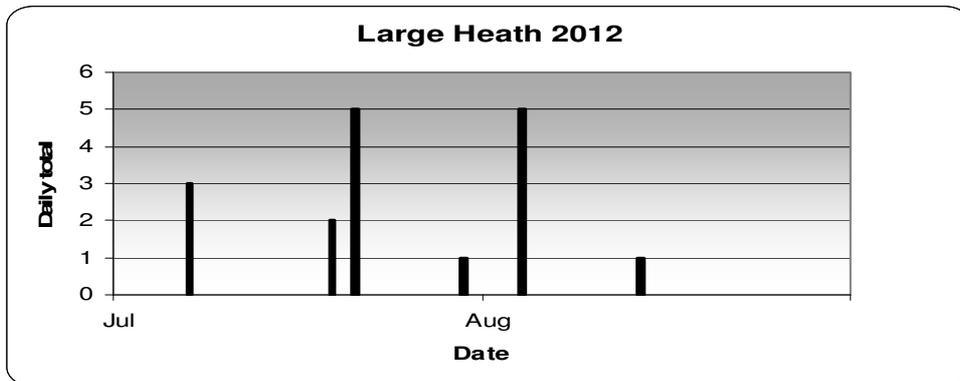
The first record came from Mike Taylor on the 7th July at Grindon Lough and the last on the 14th August at Kiplaw Moss, north of Alston, by John Richards. The latter equalled the record of 1996 for the latest date the species has been recorded in our region.

Two other recorders contributed records: - Mike Coates near Elsdon, and Graham Beckwith near Rothbury. John Richards also found them at a second site he surveyed this year at Hotbank Moss, near Crag Lough.

Much like 2011, they were observed flying on only 6 days, (15%) of the 39 days in the flight period from July to August.

The butterfly has been recorded in 94 tetrads in our region between 2000 and 2012, occurring exclusively in Northumberland and predominantly in the west and north-west of the county.

In 2012 it was recorded in 2 new tetrads, an increase of 2% on the total of 92 recorded between 2000 and 2011.



Acknowledgements We would like to thank our species writers for assisting in the preparation of the annual report: Jaci Beaven, (Red Admiral, Peacock & Comma), Mike Coates, (Holly Blue & Small Tortoiseshell), Brian Denham, (Small Skipper, Small Copper), Steve le Fleming, (Green-veined White, Marbled White & Meadow Brown), Michael Harris, (Ringlet & Large Heath), Roger Norman, (Brimstone, Purple Hairstreak & White-letter Hairstreak), Barry Robinson, (Painted Lady & Speckled Wood), Dave Stebbings, (Large Skipper, Brown Argus, Small White, Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Small Heath & Wall Brown), Dave Wainwright, (Dingy Skipper, Northern Brown Argus & Grayling), Jonathan Wallace, (Large White, Orange Tip & Dark Green Fritillary), and Peter Webb, (Green Hairstreak & Common Blue). We are looking for more volunteers, to write up one or perhaps two species for 2012. We are also always looking to receive more photographs for inclusion in the report, (as JPEG files please). Please contact the Recorders.

CONTRIBUTORS

Sally Adamson, J.M. Almond, Gloria & Neville Anderson, Jeff Anderson, J.C. Anderson, Marty Anderson, Daphne Aplin, Susie Arnott, Joe Ashforth, Fiona Aungier, Steve Austin, Jaci Beaven, Graham Beckwith, S.A. Bell, Dave Blair, Ian Bond, Alan Brannon, R. Braithwaite, Brian Bullough, Ian Burrow, Derek Charlton, Dave Chrisp, Pam Chrisp, Ken Churchman, Mike N. Coates, Jim Cokill, Joannah Collins, Melvyn Conlong, Mike Cook, John Corcoran, Anne Corrigan, Terry Coult, Chris Cox, Eddie Crabtree, A. Craggs, Ray Craig, Ian Davidson, Alan Davis, Andrew Dawes, Ken Dawson, Brian Denham, V. Denham, L. & B. De Whalley, Mark Dinning, Joe Dobinson, Jane Doleman, Paul Drummond, Harry Eales, Alan Edwards, Arthur Edwards, Steve Egglestone, Hewitt Ellis, Tony Everett, Ian H Findlay, Steve le Fleming, A. Foster, Dave Foster, Jeff Fowler, M. Gallon, Karol Gorowski, Jane Gray, Den Gregson, Paula Hambleton, Molly Hardie, Jacqui Harle, Brian Harle, Matt Hawking, Simon Hodgson, Steve Holliday, Michael Holmes, John Hope, D. Howdon, D. J. Humphries, Denise & Mike Hunter, Ann & Malcolm Hutcheson, Steven Hutchinson, John Inglis, Tom Ivison, H. Jackson, Mike Jeffries, Pam Johnson, A.J. Johnston, Adam Jones, Philip Jordan, Ian Kerr, David Lacey, Mark Lamb, Jane Lancaster, John Lawson, Dave Liddle, Graham Lonsdale, S. J. Lowther, Colin Marlee, Ann & Derek Mason, Julie C Mason, Jack Mawson, Joan Mawson, Robert Mawson, Dee McKeown, Graham Mitchell, Fran Mudd, Michael Munro, Mike Natrass, Liz Naughton, David Neil, Tim & Dorothy Nelson, Coralie Niven, David Noble-Rollin, Kaye Norman, Roger Norman, John Olley, Andrew Paciorek, Michael Paciorek, Yolanda Paciorek, Russell Pannell, Anna Pierce, Brian Pollinger, S. Poole, Michael Powell, Stuart Pudney, Claire Rawcliffe, Kevin Redgrave, John Richards, Mark Richardson, Trevor Richardson, Mr B.A. Robinson, Mrs J.A. Robinson, J.A. Roper, Les Rowell, Sarah Sells, Ian Schofield, I. Scott, Stewart Sexton, Gary Shears, Gordon Simpson, Pippa Smaling, Graeme Smith, Keith Smith, Charles Spedding, Neville Stead, David Stebbings, Jill Stewart, Les Stobbs, Kevin Stock, Steve Stone, S. Straughan, Sam Talbot, Tom Tams, Paul Tankard, Roslyn Tanner, Mike Taylor, Tom & Joan Thirlaway, Paul Tindall, M. & N. Tuck, D. Turnbull, Dave Wainwright, Naomi Waite, Daria Wallace, Jonathan Wallace, Kyra Wallace, K Walton, Elizabeth Waterston, Peter Webb, Gary Whitton, John Wilson, Lauren Withrington, Chris Wood, Hannah Woodhouse, Muriel Woodward, Sue Wyman, Ann Young, Gordon Young, Alnwick Wildlife Group, Alnwick & District Natural History Society, 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:

<i>Recorder</i>	<i>Transect</i>
David Laing	Billingham Beck Country Park
Mark Dinning, Steve Le Fleming, Mark Richardson	Bishop Middleham Quarry
Stephen Hutchinson	Brass Castle
Dave Liddle	Burn Hill, and Byerley House
Alan Edwards	Castle Eden Dene NNR – West end
Ian Schofield	Cater House Colliery
Berwick Wildlife Group*	Cocklawburn Dunes
Daphne Aplin	Cowpen Bewley 2 (Woodland Park)
Dave Liddle	Dolly's Wood
M. Gallon, Kevin Redgrave.....	Dunstanburgh Heughs
Lauren Withrington	Gibside (National Trust)
Hannah Woodhouse.....	Hart & Haswell
Dave Stebbings.....	Havannah LNR
Dave Wainwright	Hedleyhope Fell, and Inkerman
A. Craggs, (Natural England)	Lindisfarne NNR
John Olley	Littlewood LNR
Joe Ashforth, Ian Burrow, Chris Cox, Karol Gorowski, Fran Mudd,	Milkwellburn Wood
John Wilson, Melvyn Conlong	Morrison Busty Pit Yard
Tom Iviston David Lacey, Michael Munro, Coralie Niven, Ian Schofield, Les Stobbs,	Newton Hall Junction
.....	Newton Links
Kevin Redgrave (National Trust) ...	Newton Point
Jane Lancaster, Kevin Redgrave...	

Hannah Woodhouse.....	North Gare, Teesmouth NNR
Jeff Fowler	Wynyard Woodland Park - Pickards Meadow
Sue Wyman	Wynyard Woodland Park
Mark Richardson, Mark Dinning	Raisby Hill Grassland
Adam Foster, Graham Lonsdale, Graham Mitchell, Kevin Stock, Paul Tindall	Sherburn Railway
John Lawson.....	Stillington Forest Park
Sally Adamson, Anna Pierce, Simon Hodgson	Tees Railway Walk
Pippa Smaling	The Whinnies LNR, (near Darlington)
Berwick Wildlife Group**	Tommy-the-Miller's Field, Berwick
Ian H. Findlay.....	Upper Teesdale NNR
Alan Davis, Paul Tankard.....	Weetslade Country Park
Pippa Smaling.....	West Park, Darlington
Gary Whitton	Wingate Quarry

* Molly Hardie,

** Fiona Aungier

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	Orange Tip	Terry Coult
Page 11	Dingy Skipper	Colin Marlee
Page 12	Brimstone	Eddie Crabtree
Page 18	Green Hairstreak	Graham Beckwith
Page 19	Purple Hairstreak	Philip Jordan
Page 21	Common Blue	Tim & Dorothy Nelson
Page 32	Small Pearl & Dark Green Fritillaries	Graham Beckwith
Page 39	Ringlets & Wall Brown	Tim & Dorothy Nelson

We always need new photos. The Branch would also welcome any feedback or suggestions to improve future editions of the Annual Report. Please send us photographs, line drawings, suggestions and articles for both the newsletters and annual reports. They are always welcome.

Accepting Records

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 and descriptions in support of Brown Argus, Camberwell Beauty, Gatekeeper, Brimstone and any other more unusual butterfly are essential. In the absence of any photographs, a detailed description for rare species should be submitted. 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.

The Records Committee may look at any record, particularly for rarer species or species seen at unusual times or places or in unusual numbers. The Committee will assess such records and may decline to accept them.

Feedback

When processing and analysing over eleven 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.

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 2010 to 2012. 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 – 2012 are included in the last two columns. Only 4 earliest and 5 latest record dates, (shown in **bold**) were beaten or equalled in 2012. One or two dates may differ from previous tables due to additional records or reappraisal.

FLIGHT PERIOD TABLE								
	2010		2011		2012		Record earliest	Record latest
Small Skipper	5-Jun	21-Sep	29-May	27-Aug	19-Jun	17-Sep	29-May-11	10-Oct-01
Large Skipper	20-May	5-Sep	19-May	2-Sep	27-May	11-Sep	19-May-07/11	11-Sep-12
Dingy Skipper	4-May	16-Aug	22-Apr	5-Aug	28-Apr	22-Jul	18-Apr-03	22-Aug-09
Clouded Yellow			28-Jun	11-Oct			23-May-06	15-Oct-00
Brimstone	15-Jun	26-Jul	19-Apr	28-Sep	22-Apr	4-Jul	5-Apr-07	28-Sep-11
Large White	12-Apr	7-Oct	8-Mar	23-Oct	11-Mar	7-Oct	8-Mar-11	31-Oct-07
Small White	5-Apr	17-Oct	5-Mar	1-Nov	19-Mar	9-Oct	3-Mar-99	1-Nov-11
Green-veined White	11-Apr	7-Oct	8-Mar	28-Oct	26-Mar	26-Sep	8-Mar-11	28-Oct-11
Orange Tip	12-Apr	25-Jul	5-Mar	27-Jun	22-Mar	9-Sep	5-Mar-11	10-Sep-06
Green Hairstreak	22-Apr	3-Jun	9-Apr	26-May	29-Mar	29-May	29-Mar-12	27-Jul-98/08
Purple Hairstreak	21-Jul	9-Sep	4-Jul	22-Aug	5-Jul	8-Sep	4-Jul-11	12-Sep-05
White-letter Hairstreak	17-Jun	5-Aug	15-Jun	5-Aug	24-Jul	13-Aug	15-Jun-11	28-Aug-96/08
Small Copper	29-Apr	10-Oct	12-Apr	29-Oct	26-Mar	21-Oct	26-Mar-12	29-Oct-11
Brown Argus	3-Jun	15-Sep	23-Apr	4-Sep	26-Aug	21-Oct	23-Apr-11	21-Oct-12
Northern Brown Argus	20-May	25-Aug	19-May	1-Sep	4-Jun	2-Sep	19-May-11	2-Sep-12
Common Blue	18-May	12-Oct	15-Apr	15-Oct	14-May	17-Oct	15-Apr-11	26-Oct-08
Holly Blue	21-May	12-Sep	6-Apr	27-Aug	26-Mar	19-Sep	26-Mar-12	21-Oct-06
Red Admiral	21-Mar	17-Nov	22-Mar	24-Nov	28-Feb	22-Oct	23-Jan-06	28-Dec-07
Painted Lady	19-Apr	21-Oct	27-Mar	15-Oct	10-May	1-Oct	27-Mar-11	7-Nov-03
Small Tortoiseshell	28-Jan	2-Nov	4-Jan	22-Nov	11-Jan	10-Nov	1-Jan-05	27-Dec-05
Camberwell Beauty	14-Aug	14-Aug					6-Jul-06	10-Sep-06
Peacock	15-Mar	1-Nov	16-Jan	20-Nov	31-Jan	1-Nov	8-Jan-96	23-Dec-05
Comma	8-Mar	10-Nov	5-Mar	12-Nov	28-Feb	14-Nov	3-Feb-07	18-Nov-08
Small Pearl-bordered Frit.	11-Jun	13-Jul	15-May	30-Jun	18-Jun	8-Aug	15-May-11	21-Aug-07
High Brown Fritillary							30-Jul-06	30-Jul-06
Dark Green Fritillary	23-Jun	31-Aug	14-Jun	4-Sep	18-Jun	9-Sep	7-Jun-06	9-Sep-12
Speckled Wood	10-Apr	30-Oct	5-Mar	29-Oct	22-Mar	22-Oct	5-Mar-11	11-Nov-07
Wall Brown	12-May	21-Sep	23-Apr	12-Nov	3-May	15-Oct	4-Apr-07	12-Nov-11
Marbled White	29-Jun	6-Aug	22-Jun	5-Aug	7-Jul	15-Aug	22-Jun-11	26-Aug-08
Grayling	23-Jun	16-Aug	18-Jun	25-Aug	10-Jul	21-Aug	18-Jun-11	11-Sep-05
Gatekeeper	26-Aug	2-Sep					14-Jul-06	2-Sep-10
Meadow Brown	22-Apr	11-Oct	15-May	29-Sep	14-May	22-Sep	4-Apr-99	14-Oct-95
Ringlet	21-Jun	1-Sep	19-May	12-Sep	14-May	8-Sep	14-May-12	2-Oct-01
Small Heath	4-May	30-Sep	22-Apr	28-Oct	14-May	21-Oct	22-Apr-11	28-Oct-11
Large Heath	22-Jun	8-Jul	28-Jun	6-Aug	7-Jul	14-Aug	4-Jun-96	14-Aug-96/12

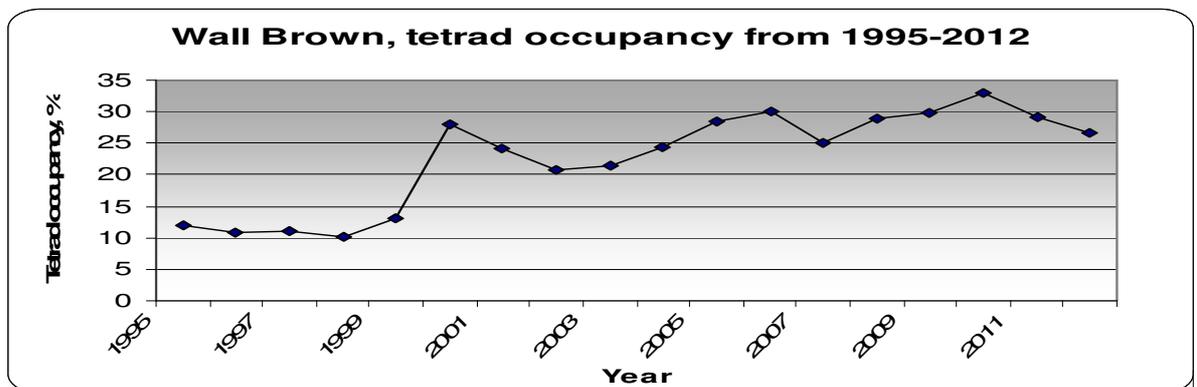
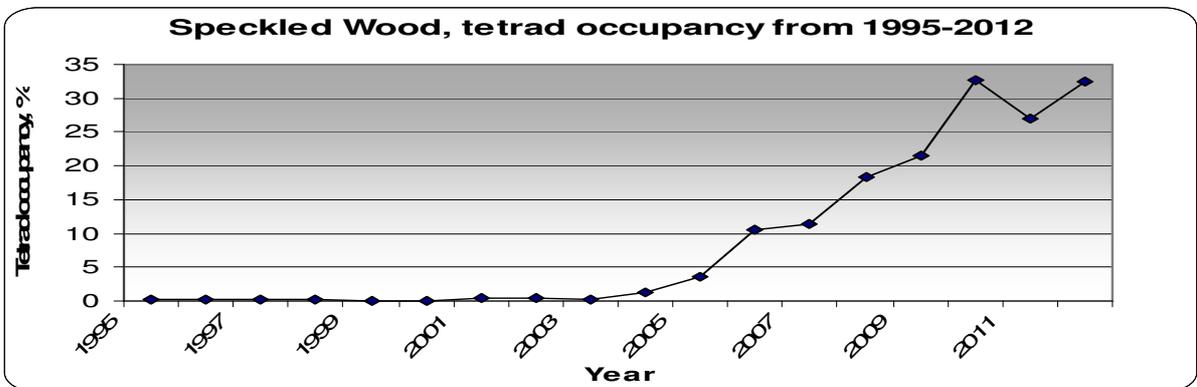
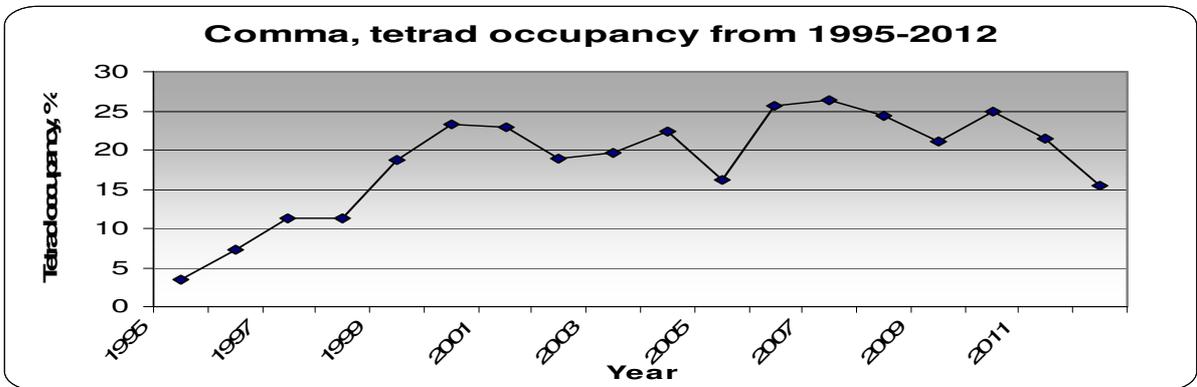
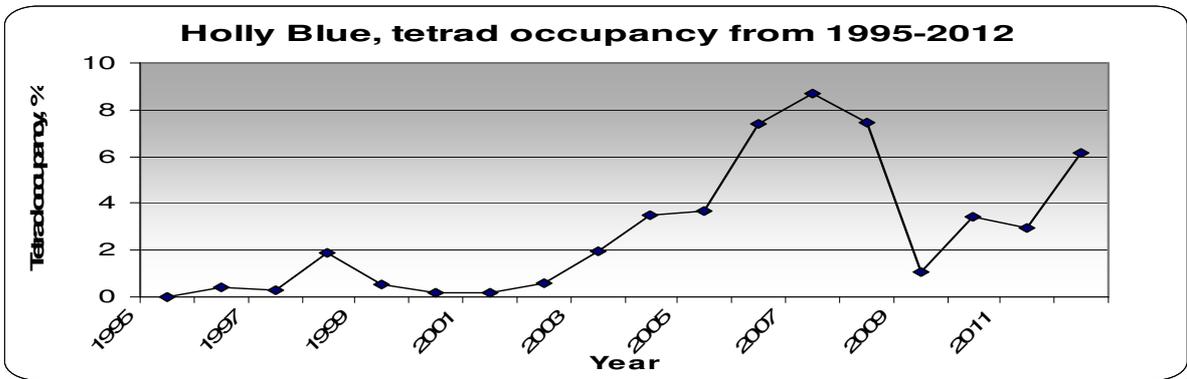
New earliest and latest dates in 2012 are shown in bold print.

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

Tetrads in 2009 (% of all 635 recorded tetrads)	PHASE 4 Tetrads in 2010 (% of all 585 recorded tetrads)	PHASE 4 Tetrads in 2011 (% of all 542 recorded tetrads)	PHASE 4 Tetrads in 2012 (% of all 505 recorded tetrads)	Species	Phases 2, 3 and 4 (2000 – 2012) (% of all 1784 recorded tetrads)
276 (43%)	321 (55%)	278 (51%)	210 (42%)	Green-veined White	1248 (70%)
296 (47%)	290 (50%)	296 (55%)	260 (51%)	Small Tortoiseshell	1163 (65%)
302 (48%)	280 (48%)	254 (47%)	249 (49%)	Peacock	1132 (63%)
240 (38%)	226 (39%)	224 (41%)	191 (38%)	Meadow Brown	1012 (57%)
250 (39%)	230 (39%)	248 (46%)	158 (31%)	Red Admiral	1009 (57%)
297 (47%)	235 (40%)	221 (41%)	165 (33%)	Large White	942 (53%)
266 (42%)	223 (38%)	211 (39%)	167 (33%)	Small White	882 (50%)
171 (27%)	212 (36%)	216 (40%)	161 (32%)	Orange-tip	852 (48%)
171 ((27%)	171 (29%)	184 (34%)	178 (35%)	Ringlet	782 (44%)
324 (51%)	89 (15%)	61 (11%)	34 (7%)	Painted Lady	777 (44%)
192 (30%)	193 (33%)	158 (29%)	134 (27%)	Wall Brown	611 (34%)
113 (18%)	135 (23%)	129 (24%)	93 (18%)	Small Heath	583 (33%)
130 (20%)	140 (24%)	118 (22%)	108 (21%)	Small Skipper	569 (32%)
136 (21%)	146 (25%)	116 (21%)	78 (15%)	Comma	565 (32%)
132 (21%)	135 (23%)	136 (25%)	97 (19%)	Common Blue	552 (31%)
104 (16%)	150 (26%)	136 (25%)	85 (17%)	Small Copper	547 (31%)
105 (17%)	92 (16%)	107 (20%)	73 (14%)	Large Skipper	409 (23%)
138 (22%)	191 (33%)	146 (27%)	164 (32%)	Speckled Wood	374 (21%)
43 (7%)	55 (9%)	46 (8%)	44 (9%)	Dingy Skipper	173 (10%)
7 (1%)	20 (3%)	16 (3%)	31 (6%)	Holly Blue	128 (7%)
21 (3%)	26 (4%)	22 (4%)	22 (4%)	Dark Green Fritillary	104 (6%)
20 (3%)	16 (3%)	13 (2%)	10 (2%)	White-letter Hairstreak	98 (5%)
13 (2%)	7 (1%)	7 (1%)	5 (1%)	Large Heath	94 (5%)
-	-	3 (0.6%)	-	Clouded Yellow	79 (4%)
9 (1%)	12 (2%)	14 (3%)	13 (3%)	Purple Hairstreak	76 (4%)
7 (1%)	10 (2%)	17 (3%)	9 (2%)	Green Hairstreak	73 (4%)
10 (2%)	14 (2%)	15 (3%)	8 (2%)	Small Pearl-bord. Frit.	54 (3%)
9 (1%)	11 (2%)	14 (3%)	6 (1%)	Grayling	50 (3%)
3 (0.5%)	3 (0.5%)	6 (1%)	2 (0.4%)	Brimstone	36 (2%)
4 (0.6%)	9 (2%)	11 (2%)	6 (1%)	Northern Brown Argus	24 (1%)
3 (0.5%)	4 (0.7%)	3 (0.6%)	2 (0.4%)	Brown Argus	11 (0.6%)
1 (0.2%)	1 (0.2%)	1 (0.2%)	1 (0.2%)	Marbled White	10 (0.6%)
1 (0.2%)	2 (0.3%)	-	-	Gatekeeper	8 (0.4%)
-	1 (0.2%)	-	-	Camberwell Beauty	7 (0.4%)
-	-	-	-	High Brown Fritillary	1 (0.06%)
32	33	32	31	Tetrads	1784
				Species	

Phase 4 records are for the first three years only of phase 4 of the Butterflies for the New Millennium Project, i.e. 2010-2012. Occupancy figures for the previous phases, (1995-1999, 2000-2004, 2005-2009) 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. These four species were last shown here in 2007. Speckled Wood has continued its remarkable increase and Holly Blue has undergone some dramatic fluctuations due perhaps to our recent run of generally poor summers. Comma and Wall Brown appear to have stabilised after recent increases.



SUBMITTING BUTTERFLY RECORDS IN 2013

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-2012	Large White	7	
2	Name/s of recorder/s	NZ196858	Morpeth (riverside)	24-Sep-2012	Peacock	2	Very worn
3	Name/s of recorder/s	NZ2514	Baydale Beck Darlington	1-Jul-2012	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 full name, not abbreviated, of the species seen.

Column F- **Please give the actual number seen if possible**, we prefer not to use letters for abundance, (A,B,C,D,E). 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 2013 Annual Report is 30 November 2013.

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

DURHAM

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

or

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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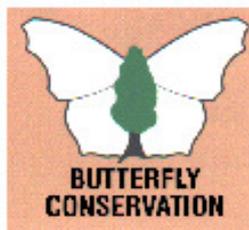
Branch website

www.northeast-butterflies.org.uk

Butterfly Conservation: Regional Office (Northern England)

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