

Miss Whalley's Field

2019 butterflies and day-flying moths

2019 was in general a good year for butterflies, and I recorded 18 species in the field. Highlights were seeing Common blue, Small copper and Brimstone butterflies for the first time (though they may have been present before and I simply didn't spot them). Large skipper, Meadow brown and Ringlet all did better than in 2018. Species that did less well than the previous year include Green-veined white and Small skipper.

Methodology

Timed counts of butterflies were made roughly every week between April and October – sometimes more or less frequently depending on weather and other commitments (I wasn't able to get out to the field during September for instance). Most counts were made during a 20-30 minute walk around the field. Butterflies were only counted when identification was clear. In the case of smallish white butterflies (in particular Small whites, Green-veined whites and female orange-tips) positive identification was often only possible if the butterfly was perching with hindwings visible, thus many white butterflies seen in flight were not recorded.

Day-flying moths

I'm no expert on moths, but recorded them when seen and when I was confident of identification, usually by taking photographs, and in some cases, seeking ID help from experts. In 2019 it was disappointing not to record any Narrow-bordered five-spot burnet moths, a species which I had seen several times in previous years.

Richard Evans
December 2019

Butterflies	7/4	11/4	18/4	21/4	5/5	11/5	13/5	28/5	1/6	9/6	19/6	24/6	30/6	3/7	5/7	16/7	1/8	8/8	12/8	26/8	2/10	Total	
Small skipper													1	23	5	22	14	5	1				71
Large skipper										1	6	19	27	10	12	3							78
Brimstone						1																	1
Large white											1			1		1	6						9
Small white						2	1		1	1						3	4		1	3			16
Green-veined white						1		2	1	3													7
Orange-tip			2	1	2	2	3																10
Small copper							1											1			1		3
Common blue								4	3	2										3			12
Holly blue							1														1		2
Red admiral																1							1
Painted lady											2	6		3			17	5	4	2			39
Small tortoiseshell	3	6	7	3	1							4	1	1	1	1					3	1	32
Peacock			2		1	1	1										5				2		12
Comma																1						1	2
Speckled wood				2				1			3	2					5	1			3		17
Meadow brown											1	4	5	33	16	18	21	11	9				118
Ringlet													6	22	4	7							39
Total	3	6	11	6	4	7	7	7	5	7	13	35	40	93	38	57	72	23	18	14	3	469	

Moths	7/6	9/6	16/6	17/6	19/6	24/6	5/7	29/7	1/8	8/8	Total
Silver-ground carpet	2	1		1	1						5
Cinnabar			1	1			1				3
Flame						1					1
Smoky wainscot								1			1
Silver Y				1						1	2
Udea lutealis (micro moth)									1	14	15
Total	2	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	15	27