

Crab Tree Wood & West Wood, Farley Mount
Butterfly Field Study
Sunday 14 July 2013



Butterflies recorded around Crab Tree Wood & West Wood on afternoon of 14 July, 2013 were:

Brimstone (1 only)	Ringlet
Large White	Meadow Brown
Small White	Small Tortoiseshell (1 only)
Marbled White	Small Skipper
White Admiral	Large Skipper
Common Blue (1 only)	Essex Skipper
Silver Washed Fritillary	Comma
Dark Green Fritillary	Small Heath
Speckled Wood	Six Spotted Burnet moth (listed in the Big
Wall (1 only)	Butterfly Count)
Total = 19	

This beats the previous species tally of 12 (2008) 17 (2009) 15 (2011) but we had a glorious warm day and were in a different place. Perhaps the move from Kings Worthy was the reason for the lack of Gatekeepers and butterflies of the Blue brigade (although one was waiting for me in the garden when I got back). But their lack was more than made up by some delightful new additions - White Admirals - a striking black and white version of their Red cousins and at least two species of fritillaries: Dark Green and Silver-Washed. These large orangey butterflies were in abundance; close observation was needed to pick up the subtle difference in markings.

There was very little to see in the way of orchids apart from a Pyramidal, Common Spotted and Southern Heath (hopefully, this event will be held in an May or June next time) but Wilf pointed out a **Honey Buzzard** - quite a rarity. In fact my ancient Observer's guide (1960) doesn't even have this bird listed in the main section. It's recognizable by its apparent lack of a head when seen soaring and gets its name from its wasp-eating habit.

Next weekend sees the start of Butterfly Conservation's Big Butterfly Count (running until 11 August) They are asking people to spend 15 minutes in a sunny spot counting species. More information and a chart at www.bigbutterflycount.org

Weather: dry, very hot (30+°C)

Gail Alexander, Butterfly Recorder



Brimstone