

WWA Butterfly Report 2009

This was the first year of surveying which means the survey is not complete and may be subject to some errors as the three monitors gradually got to grips with the task.

The start of the season (April 1st) was missed as we needed some training before starting. Recording began in the week beginning 20th May and the last records were on the week commencing 16th September. The 3 monitors managed between them to record weekly, missing only one week (beginning 17th June), either because of non-availability or because the weather was too poor. Overall 12 species were recorded. In addition another 4 species were observed on the Reserve at other times and by other people. This gives a total of 16 species for the Reserve. As a comparison, the Butterfly Gardens in their first year, starting with bare ground, recorded 12 species and Herts & Middlesex Butterfly Conservation tetrads record between 11 and 25 species in locations within the St. Albans area.

Butterflies	WWA	Butterfly world	St. Albans area
Small Heath	monitored	nothing recorded	nothing recorded
Meadow Brown	monitored	nothing recorded	nothing recorded
Gatekeeper	monitored	nothing recorded	nothing recorded
Marbled White	nothing recorded	nothing recorded	nothing recorded
Speckled Wood	monitored	nothing recorded	nothing recorded
Comma	monitored	nothing recorded	nothing recorded
Peacock	monitored	nothing recorded	nothing recorded
Small Tortoiseshell	monitored	nothing recorded	nothing recorded
Painted Lady	monitored	nothing recorded	nothing recorded
Red Admiral	casual observation	nothing recorded	nothing recorded
White Admiral	nothing recorded	nothing recorded	nothing recorded
Holly Blue	monitored	nothing recorded	nothing recorded
Common Blue	casual observation	nothing recorded	nothing recorded
Brown Argus	nothing recorded	nothing recorded	nothing recorded
Small Copper	nothing recorded	nothing recorded	nothing recorded
Purple Hairstreak	nothing recorded	nothing recorded	nothing recorded
Orange Tip	monitored	nothing recorded	nothing recorded
Green Veined White	monitored	nothing recorded	nothing recorded
Small White	monitored	nothing recorded	nothing recorded
Large White	monitored	nothing recorded	nothing recorded
Brimstone	casual observation	nothing recorded	nothing recorded
Large Skipper	nothing recorded	nothing recorded	nothing recorded
Small/Essex Skipper	nothing recorded	nothing recorded	nothing recorded
Skipper	nothing recorded	nothing recorded	nothing recorded
<i>skipper</i>	casual observation	nothing recorded	nothing recorded
Clouded yellow	nothing recorded	casual observation	nothing recorded

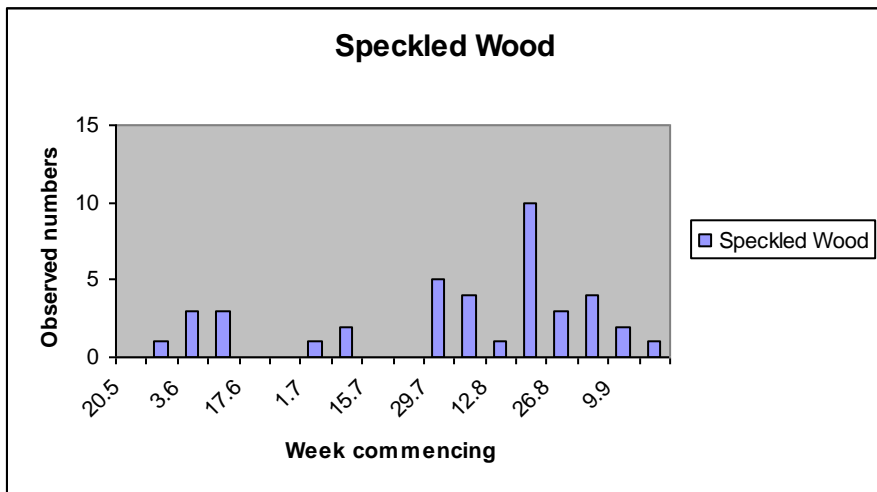
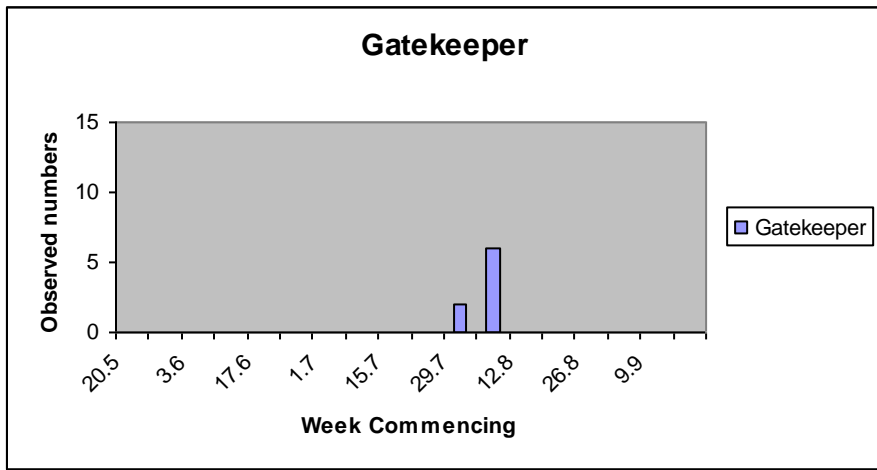
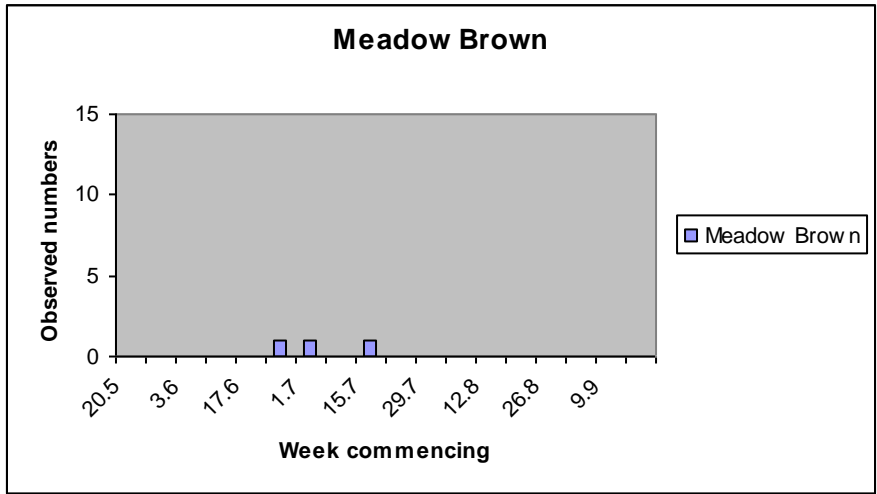
	monitored
	casual observation
	nothing recorded

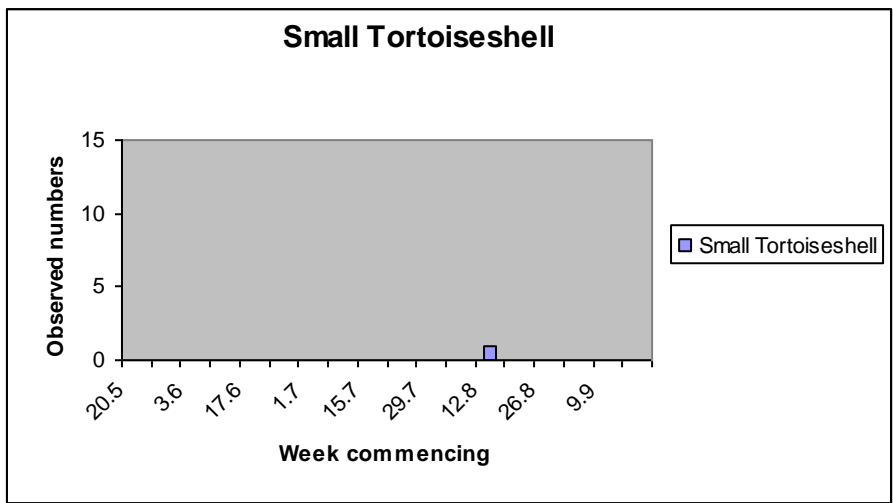
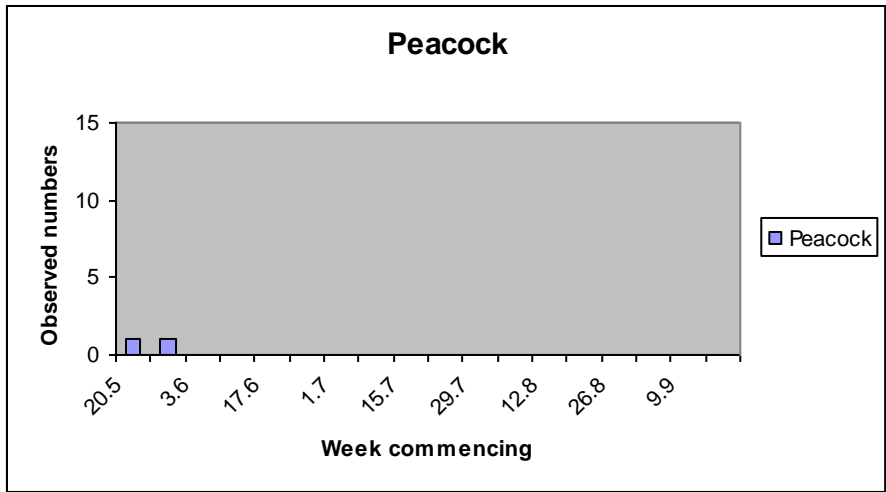
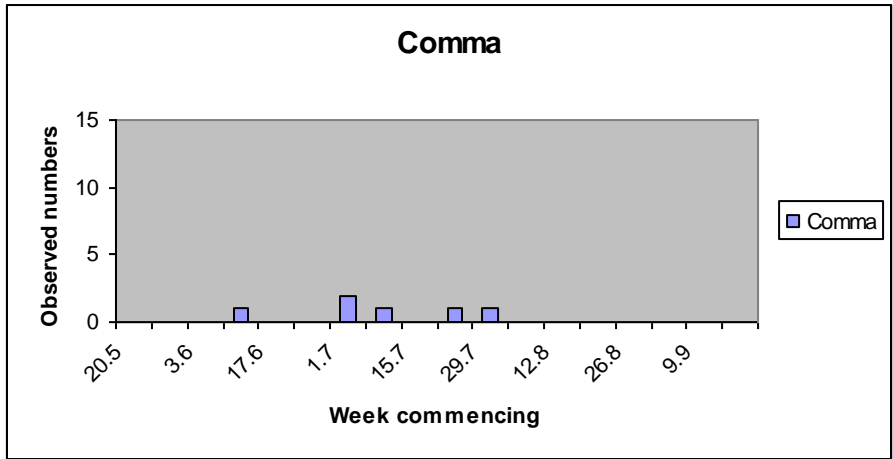
As might be expected we had more woodland species and fewer meadow species. Although we did have painted ladies we were not on a main flight path (they avoid woods) so we did not see some of the spectacular numbers recorded elsewhere.

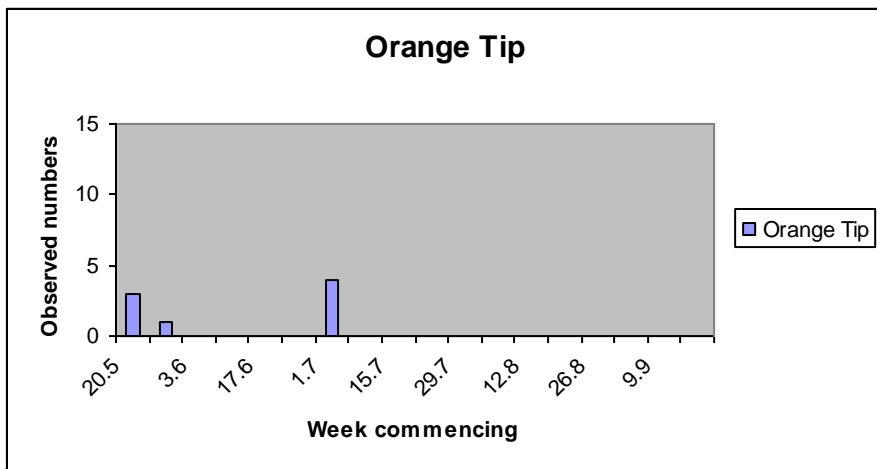
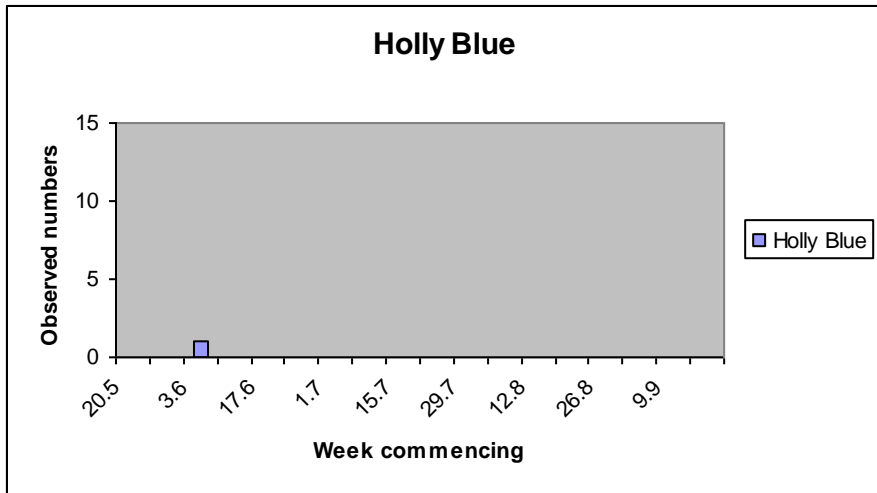
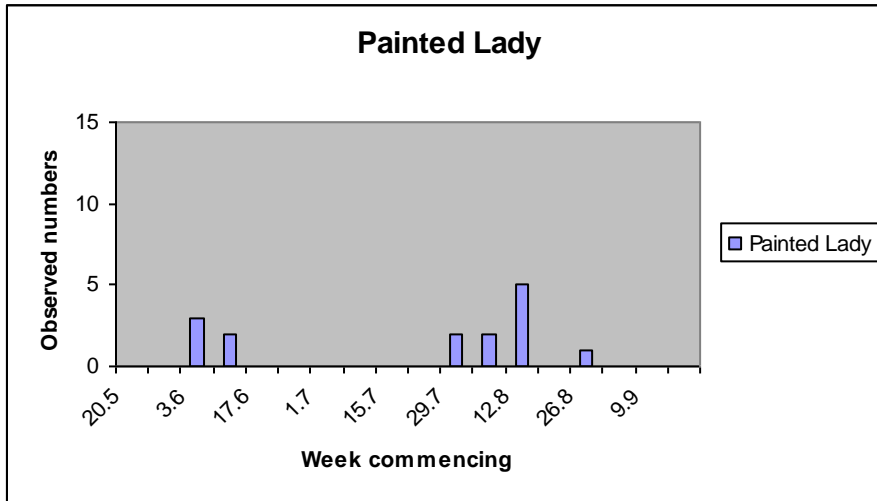
The records show a dip in numbers in early July. This is normal as it is a period between flight times for several species. Numbers also fluctuated with the weather and we were unable to record in poor weather.

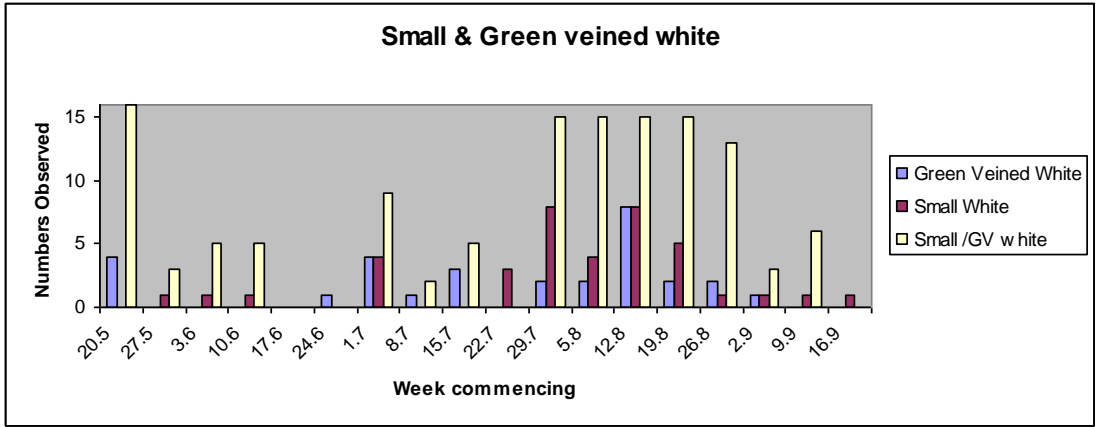
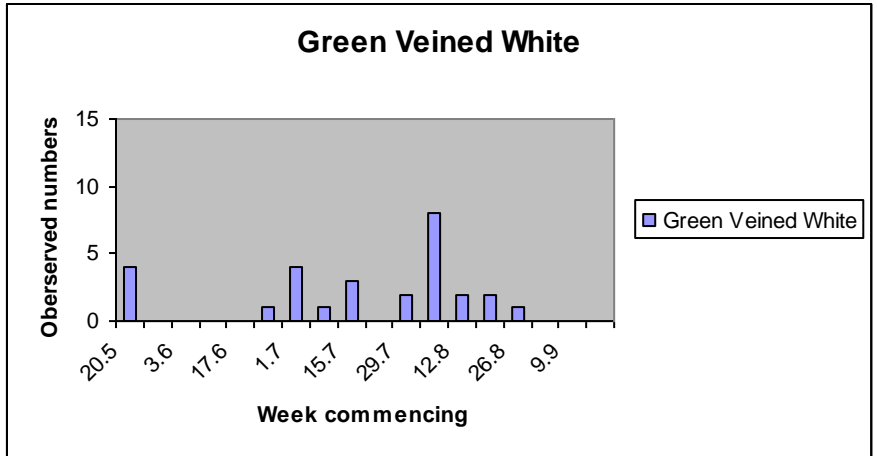
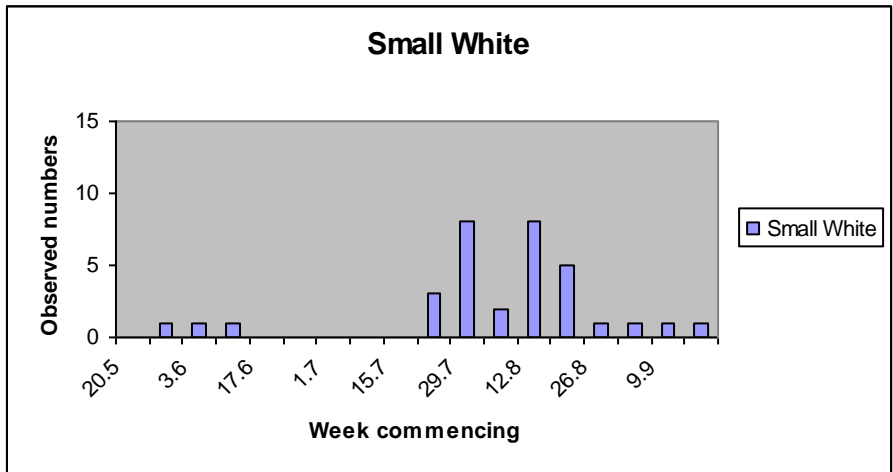
MORE DETAILED RECORDS ARE KEPT BY MARGARET HARRIS

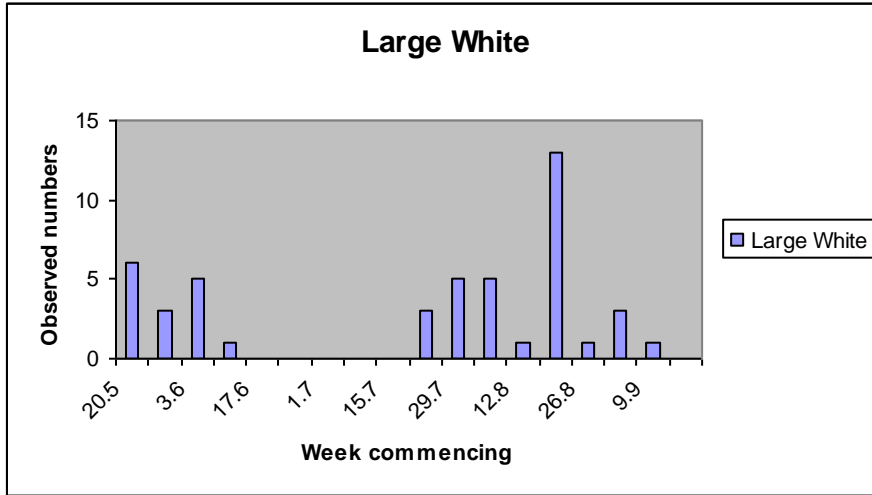
Margaret
1.1.10











Maximum Numbers Recorded by transect survey

W/C	Meadow Brown	Gatekeeper	Speckled Wood	Comma	Peacock	Small Tortoiseshell	Painted Lady	Holly Blue	Orange Tip	Green Veined White	Small White	Small /GV white	Large White
20.5					1				3	4		16	6
27.5			1		1				1		1	3	3
3.6			3				3	1			1	5	5
10.6			3	1			2				1	5	1
17.6													
24.6	1									1			
1.7	1		1	2						4	4	9	
8.7			2	1						1		2	
15.7	1									3		5	
22.7				1								3	3
29.7		2	5	1			2			2	8	15	5
5.8		2	4	1			2			2	4	15	5
12.8		6	1			1	5			8	8	15	1
19.8			10							2	5	15	13
26.8			3				1			2	1	13	1
2.9			4							1	1	3	3
9.9			2								1	6	1
16.9			1								1		

Mean Transect numbers

w/c	Meadow Brown	Gatekeeper	Speckled Wood	Comma	Peacock	Small Tortoiseshell	Painted Lady	Holly Blue	Orange Tip	Green Veined White	Small White	Small /GV white	Large White
20.5					1				3	4		16	6
27.5			1		1				1		1	3	3
3.6			3				3	1			1	5	5
10.6			3	1			2				1	5	1
17.6													
24.6	1									1			
1.7	1		1	2					4	4		9	
8.7			2	1						1		2	
15.7	1									3		5	
22.7				1							3		3
29.7		2	4	1			2			1	4	15	5
5.8		4	2				5			5	2	15	3
12.8			1			1				2	3	15	1
19.8			5				1			2	4	15	9
26.8			3							1	1	13	1
2.9			3								1	3	3
9.9			2								1	6	1
16.9			1								1		