

Transects Report - 2009

On Butterfly Conservation web site there is a map which indicates the number of transects in each country and individual counties.

In England there are records for 1253 transects, Scotland 118 transects, Wales 81 transects and Ireland 12 transects. There are records which exist for all transects which have at some time been recorded but are not necessarily active now.

In the North East which includes Durham, Tyne & Wear and Northumberland there are records for 47 transects, of which there are 30 currently recorded transects.

2009 has been a relatively good year compared with recent years. It is the 3rd best year since 2000 behind 2003 & 2006 with 2008 and 2007 being the poorest since 2000. The best year since 2000 was 2003

There were a total of 25,462 butterflies recorded on North East transects in 2009

Meadow Brown and Ringlet were the most common with 5544 and 3290 respectively.

The lowest numbers were for Brimstone 1, Gatekeeper 2 and Clouded Yellow 2.

As I wrote previously, 30 Transects were recorded in 2009. We lost two transects and gained 2 new ones.

There was a large influx of Painted Lady during 2010 – At the RSPB Saltholme I counted in excess of 100 over a 100m length of scrub and wildflowers.

Speckled Wood continued to increase. In some areas it is becoming the most common butterfly and the one with the longest flight period.

Please continue to record your transect as we have one of the largest numbers of transects in the northern half of England and a continuation of records is essential.

Recorders for new transects would be welcome.

Elsewhere in the newsletter you will find an article on the Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey. We desperately need some more recorders for this scheme. It is not difficult and only needs 3 to 4 visits over the summer.

The scheme only started in 2009 but has now got funding to continue through 2010 & 2011. Please read the report and consider helping with the survey

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