



Identifying Butterflies



How many of the following butterflies can you spot in your garden and on your walks this summer?



Brimstone



orange-Tip



Peacock



Small Tortoiseshell



Large White



Green-Veined White



Comma



Speckled Wood



Common Blue



Small Copper



The Gatekeeper



Meadow Brown

Brimstone - A large yellow butterfly with a strong, fast flight, one of the first butterflies to be seen in the year. Visits gardens and open countryside from April and throughout the Spring and Summer.

Orange-tip - The Orange-tip visits gardens and open ground in April and May. The male butterflies are easy to spot because of the bright orange tips on the wings.

Peacock - Peacock butterflies that have hibernated through the winter appear as soon as we get warm days. Look for this large bright butterfly basking in the sunshine in sunny parts of the garden and on warm paths throughout the summer.

Small Tortoiseshell - This brightly coloured butterfly is a common visitor to gardens where it seeks nectar on a wide variety of flowers. Like the Peacock its dark spiky caterpillars can be seen feeding in large groups on nettle.

Large White - The largest of the three common white butterflies. The Large White breeds in the UK but also arrives in huge numbers from mainland Europe each year. Its caterpillars are yellow and black and can be found on the surface of cabbages.

Green-veined White - This is a very common butterfly often confused with the Small White. Look for the beautiful green veining on the underside of the wings. This butterfly is very fond of meadows, damp hedges and verges.

Comma - Formally quite scarce this is another butterfly that is spreading north and has become a common butterfly. Look out for a butterfly with orange tinted wings with 'ragged edges'. Visits flowers throughout the Summer and Autumn.

Speckled Wood - This butterfly is spreading up through the United Kingdom and is now found in Scotland. It is a regular visitor to gardens where the territorial males prefers sunny perches from which they patrol the garden. Two butterflies are often seen spiraling up into the air.

Common Blue - This butterfly is definitely not as common as it once was. It has two broods that are to be found in June and August on rough grasslands.

Gatekeeper - The Gatekeeper (formerly Hedge Brown) has successfully spread throughout Cheshire to become one of our commonest butterflies. As its name implies look for this butterfly along hedges and banks from July.

Meadow Brown - Definitely our most common butterfly. Easily found in rough grassland. July and August is the time to search for this large butterfly.

Small Copper - Look in rough grassland and along verges and hedges for this small bright butterfly. It does fly fast but soon settles in the sun.

Red Admiral - Although found throughout the Summer this brilliant butterfly is characteristic of August and September when it is often found feeding on overripe plums and blackberries. Virtually all the Red Admirals are visitors from Europe and migrate to us every year.



Red Admiral

Thank you to David Tomlinson & The Butterfly Conservation (Cheshire and Peak District Branch) for sharing this informative activity. For more information on British Butterflies please go to www.butterfly-conservation.org.