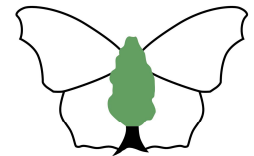


Butterflies for the New Millennium



**Butterfly
Conservation**
*in association with the
Biological Records Centre*

Summer Newsletter 2009

Butterflies for the New Millennium is the national recording scheme for butterflies in Britain and Ireland and is organised in the UK by Butterfly Conservation and the Biological Records Centre and in the Republic of Ireland by The Dublin Naturalists' Field Club. The initial survey work (1995-99) was used to assess the status of all native species in *The Millennium Atlas of Butterflies in Britain and Ireland*. New data from 2000-04 were incorporated in *The State of Butterflies in Britain and Ireland* published in 2006. Recording continues so as to provide up-to-date information for nature conservation, public education and research.

Introduction

The production of this "summer" newsletter has slipped somewhat, but I'm sure that you were all so busy out recording butterflies during the summer months that you wouldn't have had time to read a newsletter until now anyway! As you will be aware, we are now coming to the end of the current five-year survey period (2005-2009), in which we will hopefully have resurveyed the length and breadth of our islands and produced a comprehensive set of records. These will be used in 2010 to undertake the next assessment of the changing state of butterflies in Britain and Ireland. The five years have been quite varied, ranging from reasonably good butterfly years in 2005 and 2006 to awful years in 2007 and 2008. We'll have to wait and see what picture the data paint for this year. I am certainly aware of some excellent efforts being made to increase recording effort during 2009, so many thanks to all of you who've been out and about recording for the Butterflies for the New Millennium (BNM) project.

The state of butterflies 2010

The next six months are the most important part of the whole five-year survey period. **Now** is the time to send in all your butterfly records for 2009 (and any for previous years that you've not got around to submitting) to the appropriate Local Co-ordinator / County Recorder. Don't wait until Christmas, it will be too late! If you don't know who to send your records to, you can find contact details at www.butterfly-conservation.org/text/251/recording_contacts.html or by phoning Butterfly Conservation on 01929 400209.

For Co-ordinators / County Recorders, the important deadline is

31 January 2010

This is the deadline for submission of computerized and verified county datasets for 2005-2009 for inclusion in the next analysis and "State of..." report.

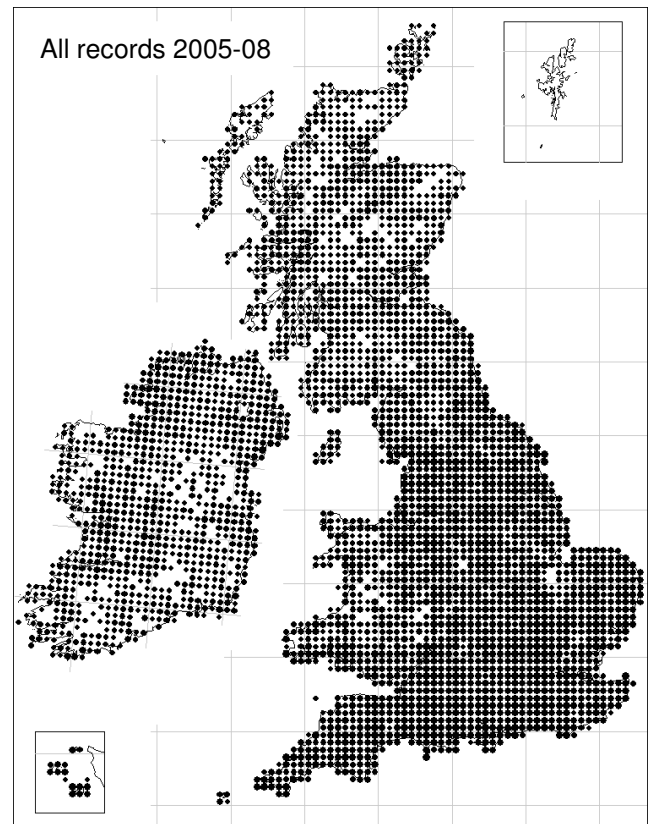
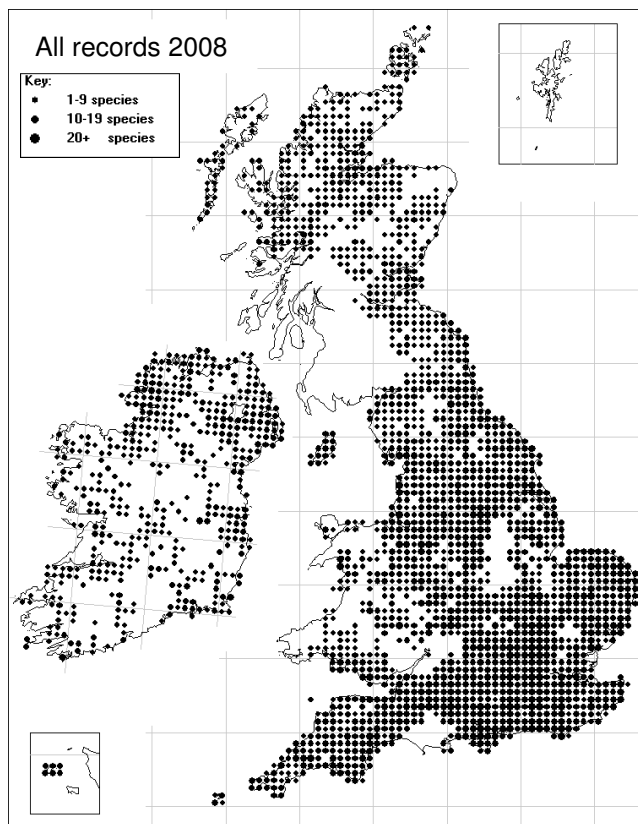
Plans are being made for the reporting of the next assessment. We do not currently envisage another atlas-style book but will certainly produce a glossy, summary document along the lines of *The State of Britain's Butterflies 2007*. As 2010 is the International Year of Biodiversity, the results of the BNM analysis will carry extra resonance and it will be important to make politicians and policy makers aware of the changing status of our butterfly species. It is likely that we will make a distribution atlas available online with the new data, to complement the published summary.

We have already amassed an impressive number of records for the 2005-08 period (over 1.6 million records in total, including the summary records provided from the UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme), with all of this year's data still to come in. Well done to all of you for your great efforts, skill and enthusiasm in keeping the momentum of the BNM scheme going for another five years!

Butterfly Conservation

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However, as the map below (left) demonstrates, at present there is a worrying time lag in data reaching the national database. With everyone's attention focusing on the 2009 records, it is of concern that we have yet to receive 2008 data from quite a few areas. In several cases, we are missing data for preceding years too. If you are in this situation and envisage problems in getting all the data sorted before the 31 January deadline, please contact me as soon as possible to see if there is anything Butterfly Conservation can do to help.



National Butterfly Recorders' Meeting: Saturday 6 March 2010

The ever-popular annual National Butterfly Recorders' Meeting will take place on 6 March 2010 at the Library Theatre of the Central Library in Birmingham and is open to anyone with an interest in butterflies and recording. As regular participants will know, this meeting is always an interesting and enjoyable experience, so please put it in your diary now. Further announcements about the programme and details of how to book your place will be circulated nearer the time.

Grab a Grid Ref

I'm sure that many of you are already making use of websites such as Multimap, Streetmap and the Ordnance Survey's Get-a-map to help with recording and with verification of other people's records. While these sites are great for checking locations against grid references, the Grab a Grid Reference site developed by Keith Balmer, BNM co-ordinator for Bedfordshire, is fantastic for getting accurate grid references for your records. The site has both regular maps and satellite images, both zoomable, and will display a set of squares representing different levels of grid reference resolution for any given location you click on. Although set up for use in Bedfordshire, it works across the OS grid for Great Britain and the Isle of Man. The site can be found at

<http://homepage.ntlworld.com/keith.balmer/BNHS/focuson/getagridref/html/index.htm>

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Feel free to pass copies of this newsletter on to others or to incorporate the information into your own newsletters, so as to help promote butterfly recording. I can provide an electronic copy if that helps. Please contact me if you want to be added to or taken off the mailing list.

The John Ellerman Foundation generously provided funding for this newsletter.

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