

**Butterfly Break, Friday July 19<sup>th</sup> – Sunday July 21st**

**Saturday July 20th**

**Weather: Hot and sunny with a fresh easterly breeze**

Portland Bird Observatory, 0700

Our weekend started with a look at the night's catch from the moth traps of Martin Cade, warden of Portland Bird Observatory. It had been a good night for moths with a huge number trapped including some very large and dramatic species such as Swallowtail, Oak Eggar and Small Elephant Hawk-moth.



*Swallowtail Moth*



*Buff Arches*

Kingbarrow Quarry, 0930

After breakfast we undertook a tour of the quarries in the north-east of the island. Starting from the hotel car park we started in the Dorset Wildlife Trust's only reserve on Portland, Kingbarrow Quarry. As well as a huge list of plants we saw a tremendous range of butterflies including a few Common and Chalkhill Blues amongst large numbers of Ringlets and Marbled Whites. A single Grayling turned out to be the only one seen all day. Finally the young Cuckoo we saw on two occasions was an unexpected highlight for the bird list.



*Small Skipper on Red Valerian*

Admiralty Quarries, 1100

Walking towards the Eastcliffs we explored the more open expanse of the Admiralty Quarries, the botanical highlights being the many hundreds of Pyramidal Orchids and the rare Olive Willow introduced on one of the quarry banks. As expected this site produced our first Silver-studded Blues, but most were well past their best. Kestrels and Ravens both breed in the area and both had young out today. One of the adult Kestrels was seen to catch a Pygmy Shrew.



*Pyramidal Orchid*

Ferrybridge, 1300

Our lunch stop gave us the chance to do a bit more birdwatching with Mediterranean Gull, Knot and Little Tern all added to the list. More coastal plants were seen including Wild Radish and the rare Shrubby Seablite.

Broadcroft Quarry, 1400

This Butterfly Conservation reserve (the first in the country) failed to produce the hoped-for Small Blues but did hold some much fresher Silver-studded Blues and some good plants including Yellow Vetch with its characteristic hairy seed pods.

Southwell, 1500

The clifftop path along the Eastcliffs at Southwell is normally a very reliable site for Lulworth Skipper. Today it let us down but instead produced the Small Blues that we could not find at Broadcroft. A fair exchange! A fine female Wall Lizard was a typical find for this site.

Portland Bill, 1600

Our last chance of seeing Dorset's rarest butterfly, the Lulworth Skipper, was at the southern end of the Admiralty Slopes at the Bill. Here a colony had recently produced a large emergence of butterflies and even though it was a bit late in the day we had no trouble finding several specimens as well as some more Small Blues.

## **Sunday July 21st**

**Weather: Hot and sunny with a fresh easterly breeze**

Ferrybridge, 0930

With the mudflats devoid of tourists we found an even wider range of birds than yesterday with 7 Sanderlings amongst the Dunlins and a pair of summer-plumaged Turnstones nearby. The Mediterranean Gull flock had built up to a very impressive 50 and there were a lot more Little Terns flying around, including one recently fledged youngster.

Wyke Regis, 1000

Hoping to find a Wall butterfly along the Rodwell Trail we instead added 2 more common species that had eluded us yesterday – Speckled Wood and Peacock. This area has a very diverse flora which we greatly enjoyed exploring, especially the very tasty cherries!

Lodmoor, 1200

Sadly the American White-rumped Sandpiper that was here yesterday had left but we did see a good range of birds including Redshank, Lapwing and Little Egret.

Came Woods, 1400

A change of habitat introduced us to a different population of plants and insects in the midst of a uniquely historic landscape of ancient tumuli on the hillside overlooking Weymouth Bay. The fine male Silver-washed Fritillary that turned up in a sunny corner of the woods was easily the most striking butterfly seen of the weekend. As we were getting back into the vehicle we noticed a large web on a Hawthorn bush with a splendid Small Eggar caterpillar on it.



*Small Eggar*

Perryfields, 1600

We finished the weekend with a short visit to Butterfly Conservation's second reserve on Portland, where the Chalkhill Blues were particularly tame as the afternoon started to cool down.



*Chalkhill Blue*

Over our cream tea back at the hotel we were pleased to see that we had found no less than 23 species of butterfly and had amassed a plant list too long to enumerate!

*Bob Ford July 21<sup>st</sup> 2013*

**Butterflies:** 23 species

Large Skipper  
Small Skipper  
Lulworth Skipper  
Small White  
Large White  
Green-veined White  
Brimstone  
Common Blue  
Silver-studded Blue  
Chalkhill Blue  
Small Blue  
Red Admiral  
Peacock  
Comma  
Silver-washed Fritillary  
Small Tortoiseshell  
Marbled White  
Small Heath  
Meadow Brown  
Grayling  
Gatekeeper  
Ringlet  
Speckled Wood

**Moths:** 32 species

Bright-line Brown-eye  
Brimstone Moth  
Brown-line Bright-eye  
Brown-tail  
Brussels Lace  
Buff Arches  
Buff Ermine  
Clay  
Common Emerald  
Coronet  
Dark Arches  
Drinker  
Early Thorn  
Flame  
Garden Tiger  
Heart and Dart  
Lackey  
Large Yellow Underwing  
Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing  
Marbled Green  
Oak Eggar  
Riband Wave  
Rosy Minor  
Scalloped Oak  
Scarlet Tiger  
Silver Y  
Six-spot Burnet  
Small Eggar  
Small Elephant Hawk-moth  
Smoky Wainscot  
Swallow-tailed Moth

**Dragonflies:**

Blue-tailed Demoiselle

Emperor

**Other insects:**

Great Green Bush-cricket

Shield Bug

Garden Chafer

7-spot Ladybird

Soldier Beetle

*Strangalia maculata* (Longhorn Beetle)

**Reptiles:**

Slow-worm (dead)

Wall Lizard

**Mammals:**

Hare (dead)

Bunny

Pygmy Shrew

**Birds:** 56 species

Gannet

Cormorant

Grey Heron

Little Egret

Mute Swan

Canada Goose

Mallard

Buzzard

Kestrel

Oystercatcher

Ringed Plover

Lapwing

Sanderling

Dunlin

Knot

Redshank

Turnstone

Black-headed Gull

Mediterranean Gull

Herring Gull

Lesser Black-backed Gull

Great Black-backed Gull

Little Tern

Sandwich Tern

Stock Dove

Wood Pigeon

Collared Dove

Cuckoo

Swift

Skylark

Swallow

House Martin

Sand Martin

Meadow Pipit

Pied Wagtail

Wren

Dunnock

Robin

Blackbird

Reed Warbler

Whitethroat  
Blackcap  
Blue Tit  
Great Tit  
Magpie  
Jackdaw  
Rook  
Carrion Crow  
Raven  
Starling  
House Sparrow  
Chaffinch  
Greenfinch  
Goldfinch  
Linnet  
Yellowhammer

**Plants** 188 species

Agrimony  
Alexanders  
Apple  
Ash  
Barley  
Beech  
Bellbine  
Birdsfoot Trefoil  
Black Bryony  
Black Knapweed  
Black Medick  
Black Mustard  
Black Poplar  
Blackthorn  
Bramble  
Bristly Ox-tongue  
Broad-leaved Everlasting Pea  
Broad-leaved Eyebright  
Buckshorn Plantain  
Buddleia  
Bullate Cotoneaster  
Burnet Rose  
Burnet Saxifrage  
Bush Vetch  
Carline Thistle  
Cherry  
Chicory  
Cleavers  
Clematis  
Cocksfoot  
Common (European) Gorse  
Common Catsear  
Common Centaury  
Common Chickweed  
Common Field Speedwell  
Common Figwort  
Common Mallow  
Common Ragwort  
Common Reed  
Common Sorrel  
Common Toadflax  
Corky-fruited Water Dropwort

Creeping Buttercup  
Creeping Cinquefoil  
Creeping Thistle  
Crested Dogstail  
Crow Garlic  
Curled Dock  
Cut-leaved Cranesbill  
Daisy  
Dog Rose  
Dogwood  
Dwarf Spurge  
Elder  
English Elm  
False Brome  
False Oat-grass  
Fat Hen  
Fennel  
Field Bindweed  
Field Madder  
Field Maple  
Field Pansy  
Field Poppy  
Fleabane  
Fool's Parsley  
Garlic Mustard  
Glasswort  
Great Hairy Willowherb  
Great Mullein  
Greater Knapweed  
Hartstongue  
Hawkweed Ox-tongue  
Hawthorn  
Hazel  
Hedge (Wood) Woundwort  
Hedge Bedstraw  
Hedge Mustard  
Hemlock  
Hemp Agrimony  
Herb Robert  
Himalayan Cotoneaster  
Hoary Cress  
Hoary Ragwort  
Hogweed  
Holm Oak  
Honeysuckle  
Horse Chestnut  
Horseshoe Vetch  
Ivy  
Ivy Broomrape  
Ivy-leaved Toadflax  
Kidney Vetch  
Knotgrass  
Lady's Bedstraw  
Large-flowered Evening Primrose  
Lesser Burdock  
Lesser Centaury  
Lime  
Lucerne  
Maidenhair Spleenwort  
Marjoram  
Marsh Thistle



Montbretia  
Mouse-ear Hawkweed  
Mugwort  
Musk Thistle  
Nettle  
Olive Willow  
Ox-eye Daisy  
Pale Flax  
Pedunculate Oak  
Pellitory of the Wall  
Pepper Saxifrage  
Perennial Ryegrass  
Pineapple Mayweed  
Ploughman's Spikenard  
Prickly Lettuce  
Prickly Lettuce  
Prickly Sowthistle  
Pyramidal Orchid  
Quaking Grass  
Red Bartsia  
Red Bartsia  
Red Clover  
Red Valerian  
Restharrow  
Ribwort Plantain  
Rock Samphire  
Rock Stonecrop  
Rose of Sharon  
Rosebay Willowherb  
Rosy Garlic  
Rough Hawkbit  
Salad Burnet  
Sallow  
Scarlet Pimpernel  
Sea Purslane  
Self-heal  
Shepherd's Purse  
Shrubby Seablite  
Silverweed  
Slender Thistle  
Small Scabious  
Small Toadflax  
Small-leaved Cotoneaster  
Smooth Hawksbeard  
Smooth Sowthistle  
Soft Brome  
Spear Thistle  
Spindle Tree  
Stemless Thistle  
Sun Spurge  
Sweet Chestnut  
Sycamore  
Tall Fescue  
Tall Melilot  
Teasel  
Thrift  
Timothy  
Turkey Oak  
Tutsan  
Upright Brome  
Upright Hedge Parsley

Viper's Bugloss  
Wall Barley  
Wall Rocket  
Wayfaring Tree  
Weld  
White Clover  
White Stonecrop  
Wild Carrot  
Wild Madder  
Wild Oat  
Wild Parsnip  
Wild Privet  
Wild Thyme  
Winter Heliotrope  
Wood Dock  
Wood Sage  
Wood Spurge  
Woody Nightshade  
Yarrow  
Yellow Rattle  
Yellow Vetch  
Yellow Vetchling  
Yellow-wort  
Yorkshire Fog