

BUTTERFLIES

This is a good area for butterflies. "The New Atlas of Dorset Butterflies" lists 46 that can be seen in Dorset and of those up to 32 of those may be seen in the gardens, farm land or chalk hills around Sutton Poyntz. I have listed them below.

<p>Small Skipper/ Essex Skipper</p>	<p>Small Skipper/ Essex Skipper Although distinct butterfly species these skippers are very difficult to separate in the field, so if you see one it's probably is a "Small", although there is a small chance it is an "Essex".</p>
<p>Lulworth Skipper</p>	<p>Lulworth Skipper. These like warm sheltered grassland left ungrazed to allow Tor grass to grow in clumps</p>
 <p>A photograph showing two Large Skippers (Gonepteryx rhamni) perched on bright yellow flowers. The butterflies have greenish-brown wings with a distinct orange-red band near the tips.</p>	<p>Large Skipper. Common. Hibernates as a caterpillar, resumes feeding in the spring where it will moult twice more before the chrysalis stage. That lasts about 3 weeks and so adults can be seen flying from mid May to mid August</p>
<p>Dingy Skipper</p>	<p>Dingy Skipper. Can be found on the chalk hills, where it lays it's eggs on Bird Foot Trefoil.</p>
 <p>A close-up photograph of a Clouded Yellow butterfly (Colias chloris) feeding on a cluster of small red flowers. The butterfly's wings are a vibrant yellow with several dark brown spots and a white ring near the base of the hindwing.</p>	<p>Clouded Yellow. Rarely survives our cold winters hence it occurs primarily as an irregular migrant. Fair to say its turning up is unpredictable, numbers vary wildly and whilst it is usually seen in May and June it can be much earlier. Dorset along with Devon receives more than any other county. It likes our grass downlands and, as can be seen in the picture, clover. They breed quickly and the home grown generation can be seen flying by late July to August. This</p>

	in turn sometimes produces a second batch which can be seen late September to October
Brimstone.	Brimstone.
Large White.	Large White.
Small White.	Small White.
Green-veined White.	Green-veined White.
Orange Tip.	Orange Tip.
White Letter Hairstreak.	White Letter Hairstreak. Probably extinct around here now as it depends on Elm trees which themselves have all but disappeared from Sutton Poyntz.
	Small Copper.
Small Blue.	Small Blue.
Brown Argus.	Brown Argus.



Common Blue. (male)
These hibernate as caterpillars and enter the chrysalis stage in the spring. First flight times are between mid May to mid June. Second broods can be seen late July to September and if a rare third brood is achieved this can be seen in October.



Common Blue. (Female)
Not much blue to be seen in Dorset female "Blues" but this changes the further north you go.



Adonis Blue.
The Dorset Downlands are a stronghold for this butterfly where they live in tight knit colonies. Very sedentary in habit so if some calamity should befall a colony, even if circumstances were to subsequently change for the better, there is not much chance of them returning without manual intervention. We are fortunate to have them locally.
They hibernate as caterpillars emerging in April/May. First flight time is May and a second brood can be seen in August to September.

Holly Blue.

Holly Blue.

	<p>Red Admiral. This is primarily a migrant that winters in Mediterranean areas. The main arrival time is from April to June and these breed here producing a generation that can be seen flying from about August. The return trip south commences when the temperatures start to drop, in late summer or early autumn. These will die after breeding in the wintering grounds and the new crop will start the cycle again the following year. Some will not migrate but remain here and these can be seen flying quite late into the winter. Although they try to hibernate, unless the winter is mild they will not survive.</p>
<p>Painted Lady.</p>	<p>Painted Lady.</p>
<p>Small Tortoiseshell.</p>	<p>Small Tortoiseshell.</p>
	<p>Peacock Can be seen almost any month of the year. A single brood is produced, and the adults start emerging in July/August. These then feed up in preparation for hibernation. They emerge from this in early spring and the males then form territories which they defend against other males. Eggs are laid in May but the adults can live on into July to almost overlap the emerging next generation.</p>
<p>Comma.</p>	<p>Comma.</p>
<p>Dark Green Fritillary.</p>	<p>Dark Green Fritillary. This has been included in the list optimistically.</p>
<p>Silver Washed Fritillary.</p>	<p>Silver Washed Fritillary. Another optimistic inclusion, although the coppicing work in the wood near the Water Works may prove to be to it's liking.</p>



Speckled Wood
 Uniquely for a British butterfly, the Speckled Wood passes the winter hibernating either as a caterpillar or chrysalis. In Spring the chrysalis's develop into the first adults and go on to produce the first of the two generations for the year. The emerging caterpillars will eventually grow into adults and breed but not for some time later. The consequence of this uncoordinated breeding is that adults can be seen at anytime from Spring through to Autumn even though individuals only live for about a week



Wall.

Marbled White.

Marbled White.

Grayling.

Grayling.

Gatekeeper.

Gatekeeper.

Meadow Brown.

Meadow Brown.

Small Heath.

Small Heath.

Ringlet.

Ringlet.