


BUTTERFLIES

This is a good area for butterflies. There are about 70 resident in Britain and approaching 50 occur in and around these parts although that number does include some that are extremely rare if not extinct.

	<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>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 in turn sometimes produces a second batch which can be seen late September to October</p>
	<p>Common Blue. 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. This picture is of a male.</p>



Common Blue.
This picture is of a female.
Not much blue to be seen in our 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.



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 that 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.
