

Butterflies for the New Millennium



Butterfly Conservation
in association with the
Biological Records Centre

Winter Newsletter 2012

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

Happy New Year! Well 2012 is over and I'm sure most butterfly recorders are glad to see the back of it. A wet spring and very wet summer put the dampers on butterfly numbers and recording activity, though a few species bucked the trend. Please remember to submit all your 2012 butterfly records to the appropriate [Local Co-ordinators](#) now – they'll need all the records they can get from this poor year. I hope you experienced a few positives from the butterfly year and will already be looking forward to more recording in 2013. We have now completed three years of our current five-year BNM survey (2010-2014), so we need to step things up in the next two years to ensure good recording coverage overall.

2011 butterfly records

Many thanks to all those BNM Local Co-ordinators who submitted their 2011 datasets in line with the 31st March deadline. This speedy turnaround of data is very much appreciated and enables us to carry out additional checks in a timely manner, but also to start using the data for conservation.

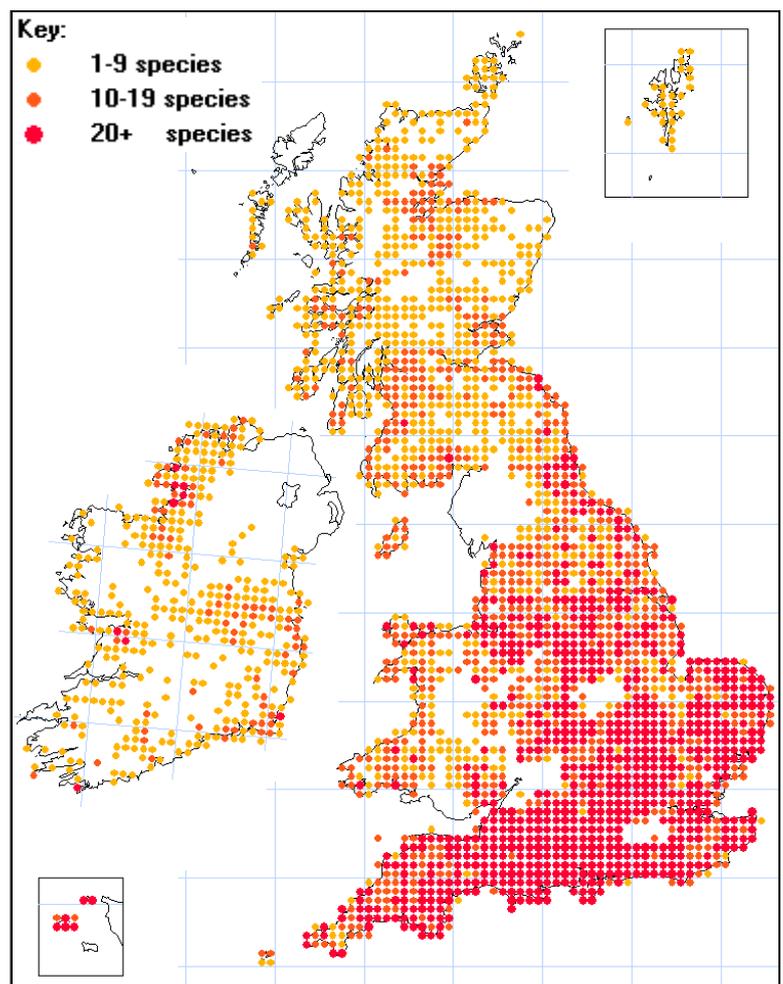
The 2011 data received to date are shown on the map (right). In total 452,330 records have been collated so far for the year.

Our great thanks and appreciation go to ALL the recorders who contribute their time, effort and butterfly records to the BNM recording scheme. Without your support the BNM would not be such a success.

Deadline for 2012 data

Please can all BNM Local Co-ordinators and Branch Recorders note that local datasets for 2012 (together with any updates from preceding years) should be submitted to the BNM by **31st March 2013**.

To help your Local Co-ordinator meet this deadline, please send them your own records a.s.a.p.



Important dates for your diary

- **16 March 2013 Scottish Recordors' Gathering** Birnam Conference Centre, by Dunkeld [info](#)
- **23 March 2013 National Butterfly Recordors' Meeting** (more info to follow)
- **6 April 2013 Northern Ireland Recordors' Day** Peatlands Park, Dungannon
- **20 July – 11 Aug 2013 Big Butterfly Count**

BNM recording app

We are currently working with the Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (CEH) and Bristol University to develop a butterfly recording smart phone app for the BNM recording scheme. This is kindly being funded by CEH so we are very grateful to them. The app should be ready for the next butterfly recording season (e.g. around Easter 2013) and will be available in iPhone and Android versions. Records will be stored in the CEH data 'warehouse' from where they can be accessed directly by BNM Co-ordinators or downloaded annually by BC Head Office and sent out to all BNM Co-ordinators in spreadsheet format.

Redevelopment of Levana recording software

Levana users, in particular those who've been frustrated and unable to use Levana since Microsoft introduced (64bit) Windows 7, will be glad to hear that Jim Asher has been hard at work redeveloping the software. A beta version of the record input, edit, search and export module is completed and being tested. There are numerous improvements including the ability to record all butterflies (including rare migrants) and to record 'presence' as well as abundance values. Work on the new mapping module is starting now. Hopefully we'll be able to see the new Levana in action at the National Meeting in March.

Big Butterfly Count

Big Butterfly Count 2012 refused to be drowned by the rain and did rather well, considering the weather. Just under 27,000 people took part, completing 24,400 Counts. BNM Co-ordinators are welcome to have a copy of Big Butterfly Count records submitted for their areas and many have already requested and received these. We've just heard the good news that Marks & Spencer will once again support Big Butterfly Count next year (20 July – 11 Aug 2013). Please take part yourself and encourage others, especially new recordors and the general public to get involved (www.bigbutterflycount.org).

Recent publications using BNM data

As usual, we've been making good use of the BNM data for academic research as well as practical conservation. A number of scientific papers that utilise BNM data were published in 2012 including:

Thomas *et al.*, 2012. Protected areas facilitate species' range expansions. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* **109**, 14063-14068 – which shows that SSSIs are preferentially used by butterflies and other species that are expanding their ranges.

Mair *et al.*, 2012. Temporal variation in responses of species to four decades of climate warming. *Global Change Biology* **18**, 2439-2447 – which shows remarkable variation in distribution and abundance trends between species and time periods, in relation to climate change.

Pateman *et al.*, 2012. Temperature-dependent alterations in host use drive rapid range expansion in a butterfly. *Science* **336**, 1028-1030 – which examines the range expansion of the Brown Argus and its switch to different larval foodplants.

Receiving this newsletter by E-mail

If you have received a paper copy of this newsletter and would be happy to receive it by e-mail in the future, saving us time and money, please let us know at bnm@butterfly-conservation.org. Many thanks.

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We are very grateful to the Redwing Trust, Countryside Council for Wales, Forest Services, Forestry Commission England, Natural England, Northern Ireland Environment Agency and Scottish Natural Heritage who are helping to fund the BNM project at present. Feel free to pass copies of this newsletter on to others, post it online or to incorporate the information into your own newsletters, so as to help promote butterfly recording. Please contact me if you want to be added to or taken off the mailing list.

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