

Pamber Forest Nature Reserve

Quarterly Newsletter



October 2019

There have been several highlights of the summer; although it was an average year for butterflies two species had their best ever year. Brimstone and orange-tip both had record numbers with purple hairstreak, holly blue, red admiral and gatekeeper also having above average years. To balance this out speckled wood had a spectacularly bad year with only a quarter of usual numbers, silver-washed fritillary and green-veined white also had poor years. There were 7 purple emperor seen with 2 on the transect. The hot weather in the summer meant that some species, like white admiral, had extremely short flight periods while purple hairstreaks were attracted down to ground level to get moisture from the drying out ponds when normally they would stay in the canopy. There was an influx of migrant painted ladies in July when I saw 25 along just one ride and thereafter there were small numbers around all summer.

On 23rd July some six-belted clearwing moths were



Brimstone

attracted to a lure a first for the reserve; another first was a tree-lichen beauty on the same day along with a dark crimson underwing. At Inhams Copse a dusky-lemon sallow was trapped on 27th September, an increasingly rare elm feeding species.

A new species of longhorn beetle was recorded, the

nationally scarce large black longhorn beetle.

There were three successful spotted flycatcher nests this year with adults feeding young after fledging. Two hobby's were seen, and a survey of garden warbler territories revealed a fantastic 33 occupied territories all using the active coppice



Large black longhorn beetle

coppices.

The teams of volunteers busied themselves on scrub clearance on the heathland areas and then concentrating on ride edge coppicing before moving on to the larger coppice coupes in September, they put in 175 work days in the three months.

Contractors were used to control bracken in the heathland areas where around 3ha was sprayed.

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Basingstoke
and Deane