

Sept 2011

The new month began with decent numbers of Speckled Woods, Small Heaths, Red Admirals and Small Tortoiseshells on the wing, but numbers on the Butterfly Transect continued to emphasise the poor quality of the year, with numbers 27% down on the previous poorest of the last five years. Ahead of some thoroughly unpleasant weather that set in on the 6th an unfamiliar butterfly, seen on brambles across the road from the Elms on the 5th, turned out to be a Yellow Admiral, native to Australia; either an escape from a collection or a deliberate release by a local breeder (photo by Ian Hodgson).



Despite the generally small numbers of most species, this has been one of the best years in the history of the Observatory in terms of variety. **Clouded Yellow** was added to the list on the 14th as one fluttered along the road bordering the beach and the next day a **Swallowtail** flew north across Pegwell.

The Butterfly Transect season drew to a close on the 27th with a paltry 5 butterflies, leaving the Annual Index 25.5% down on the previous poorest of the last five years.

