

The 2022 Big Butterfly Count - the world's biggest survey of butterflies!

Last year over 107,000 citizen scientists participated, and they submitted a massive 152,039 counts.

This year we really need to reach even more people and collect even more data and for that, we need your help. Count both Butterflies and Day flying Moths.

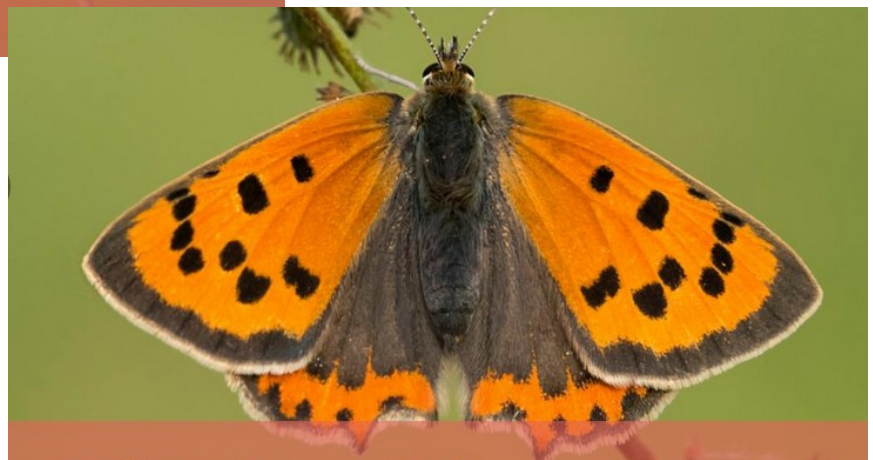
Will you see any of these? If it's a good butterfly day, take **15 minutes** to look and record what you see.

Here are some pictures from Butterfly Conservation to help you:



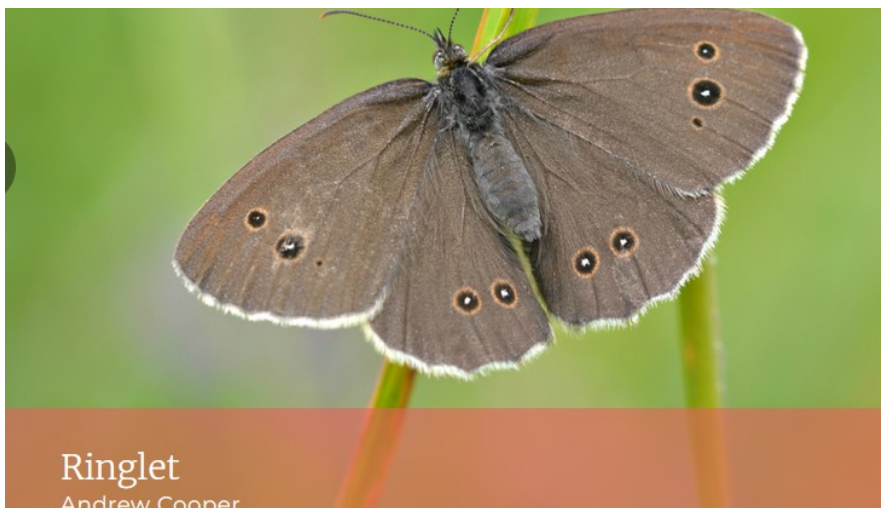
Marbled White (Upperside)

Marbled White - Bob Eade



Small Copper (upperwing)

Bob Eade



Ringlet

Andrew Cooper



Six-spot Burnet
Bob Eade



Painted Lady (upperwing)
Painted Lady - Iain H Leach



Peacock (upperwing)



Orange-tip (male/upperwing)
Adam Gor



Small Tortoiseshell (upperwing)

Iain Leach



Small White (upperwing)

Ryszard Szczygieł



Large White (male/upperwing)

Dean Morley



Comma

Iain Leach

Some help with all those white butterflies!

Golden rules

1. Size is not always a good characteristic to use for identification. As with humans, butterflies vary in size, so although most Large White individuals are bigger than Small Whites, they can occasionally be smaller. Black/grey spots on the wings are also not very helpful, as these vary between males and females as well as between species.
2. You will have to see the underside of the hindwing to be certain of the identification.

Step 1: Underside of the hindwing

The underside of the hindwing, which is obvious when the butterfly is perched with its wing closed over its back, will be one of three different colour patterns:



Blotchy (greeny-grey camouflage pattern all over the wing) = **Orange-tip**



Streaked (greeny-grey lines following the wing veins radiating out from the shoulder towards the outer edge of the wing) = **Green-veined White**



Plain (a creamy-white colour but with no obvious markings) = **Large White or Small White** (see Step 2)

Step 2: Wing tips

The pattern of the underside (described in Step 1) will enable you to identify Green-veined Whites and female Orange-tips. However, for Large White and Small White butterflies, you also need to see the wing tips on the upper side.



Extensive black marks at the wing tips, with black colour continuing a long way along the outer edge of the wing = **Large White**



Less-extensive grey or black marks at the wing tips, with colouration only extending slightly along the outer edge of the wing = **Small White**