

Pamber Forest Nature Reserve

Quarterly Newsletter



October 2017

With the summer complete it is a good time to reflect on the highlights during this period. The butterfly season was a remarkably good one with most species recording increases on last year (not difficult I hear you say) but it is the sheer scale of the increases that are notable. Meadow brown recorded its best year since 1992 with an increase of 695 on last year; silver-washed fritillary was up by 514 not bettered since 2010 and white admiral rose from 17 to 63. A single purple emperor was seen on dog poo on 9th July. In terms of moths a very good record was of the bilberry leafminer, searches for the mines were successful in late September, this is the only area in Hampshire that this species is currently known from. Two blue underwing have been recorded this year on 3rd and 25th September during targeted recording for this species. By far the most bizarre record was of a high brown fritillary on 3rd July (see photo below) this surely must have been a release as the nearest colony of this endangered species is over 200 miles away in Devon. There were some interesting bird records; two firsts for the site were a little egret that was in the sewage works

are monitored, these included very young ones so it is encouraging to see they are successfully breeding on site.

The oak trees have produced a vast crop of acorns this year, it is like walking on marbles in places and the cattle have been taking advantage of this; hoovering



Slow worm



and flew off over Inhams Copse on 5th July and a honey buzzard seen flying by at lunch on 9th July. The fungus season started very early when plenty of boletes, russulas and parasols appeared as early as late July and this continued throughout August with the very odd looking dog stinkhorn in early September. The latter part of the summer has also been very good for slow worms with up to 5 under one felt in the areas they

them up within the grazed area!

Volunteers put in 125 work days during the 3 months a great effort considering many are on holiday during the summer! Most of this effort was in ride edge coppicing scrub removal from heathland and fencing a recently coppiced area of chestnut.

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Basingstoke
and Deane