

# Butterflies

**Small Tortoiseshell**  
*Aglais urticae*  
 FP-Nettle  
 Mar-Oct  
 3 broods per year



**Common Blue**  
*Polyommatus icarus*  
 FP-Birdsfoot trefoil,  
 Clover, Lucerne  
 April-Sept  
 2 broods per year



**Essex Skipper**  
*Thymelicus lineola*  
 FP-Brome, Couchgrass  
 June-July  
 1 brood per year



**Timothy grass**  
*Phleum pratense*



**Sheeps Sorrel**  
*Rumex acetosella*



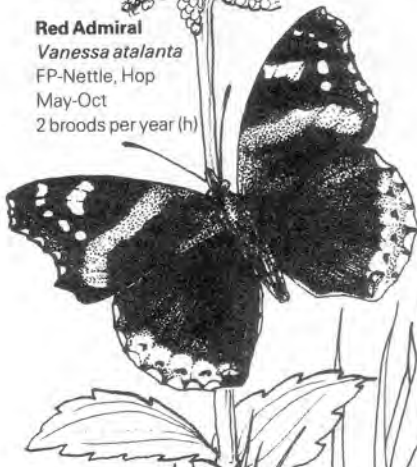
**Wall Brown**  
*Lasiommata megera*  
 FP-Meadow and  
 Cocksfoot grass  
 Mar-Sept.  
 2 broods per yr



**Large White**  
*Pieris brassicae*  
 FP-Cabbage, Wall  
 rocket etc  
 April-Sept  
 2 broods per year



**Red Admiral**  
*Vanessa atalanta*  
 FP-Nettle, Hop  
 May-Oct  
 2 broods per year (h)



**Small Copper**  
*Lycaena phlaeas*  
 FP-Dock, sorrel  
 May-Oct  
 3 broods per year

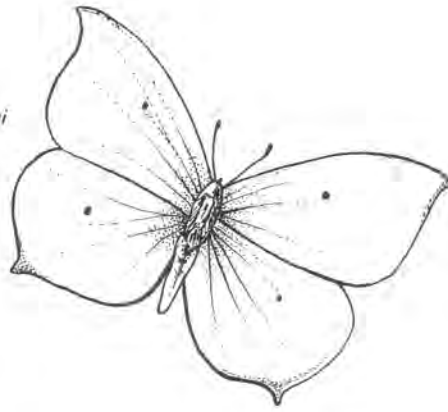


The months the butterfly appears in and the number of broods (generations) are only a rough guide. Illustrations are approximately life-size.

(h) = hibernates (rests during winter) as adult.

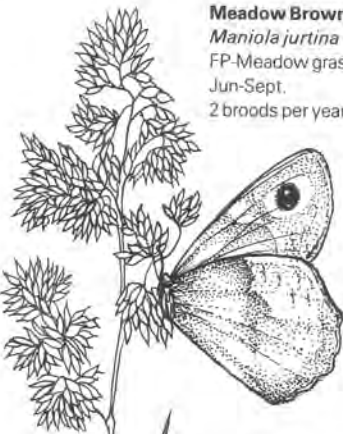
**Brimstone**

*Gonepteryx rhamni*  
FP-Buckthorn  
March-Oct.  
1 Brood per year

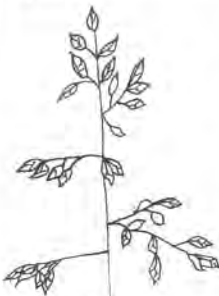


**Cocksfoot grass**  
*Dactylis glomerata*

**Meadow Brown**  
*Maniola jurtina*  
FP-Meadow grass  
Jun-Sept.  
2 broods per year.

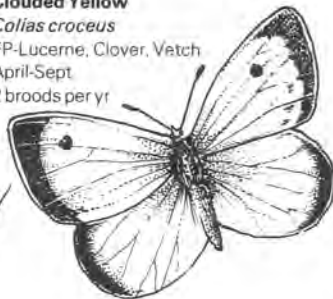


**Annual meadow grass**  
*Poa annua*



**Clouded Yellow**

*Colias croceus*  
FP-Lucerne, Clover, Vetch  
April-Sept.  
2 broods per yr

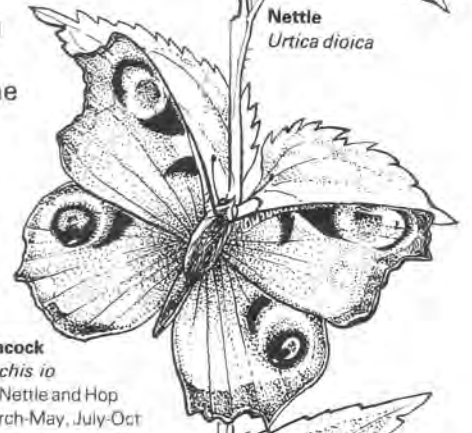


Butterflies ignore many flowers such as poppies which have no nectar, although there is pollen which bees take. Buddleia, Black Horehound and Spearmint are among the Muddie's best butterfly flowers. The main caterpillar foodplants are nettles (Comma, Peacock, Red Admiral and Small Tortoiseshell) and grasses (Meadow Brown, Essex Skipper, Wall). The Yellow Brimstone was an unusual visitor from the countryside in 1983. It is the original 'butter-coloured fly'. Red Admiral, Painted Lady and Clouded Yellow are migrants to Britain. They cannot survive our winters. 1983 was an excellent year for the scarce Clouded Yellows. They bred on the Mudchute. When butterflies rest, they are camouflaged by their underwings. The Peacock's resemble burnt wood. Bright upperwings help male and female find one another. They also help birds spot them, but butterflies' quick flight aids escape. When birds do bite, they often strike the 'eye-spots' which some butterflies have. Wings get torn, but the insect escapes.

**Comma**  
*Polygonia c-album*  
FP-Nettle, Hop and Elm  
Mar-May  
July-Oct  
2 broods per year



**Nettle**  
*Urtica dioica*



**Peacock**  
*Inachis io*  
FP-Nettle and Hop  
March-May, July-Oct  
1 brood per year (h)

