

Herts & Middx Butterfly Trends 2015-2019

A few examples

Brown Hairstreak

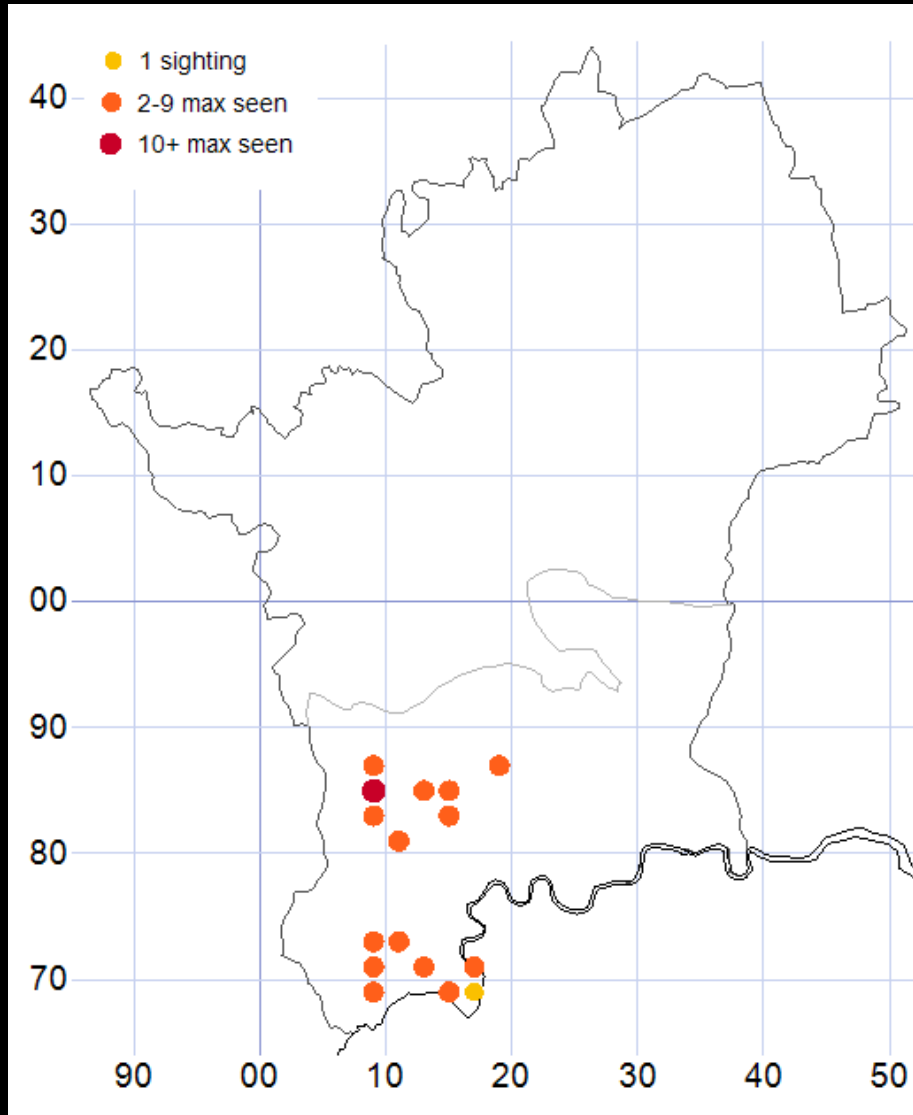
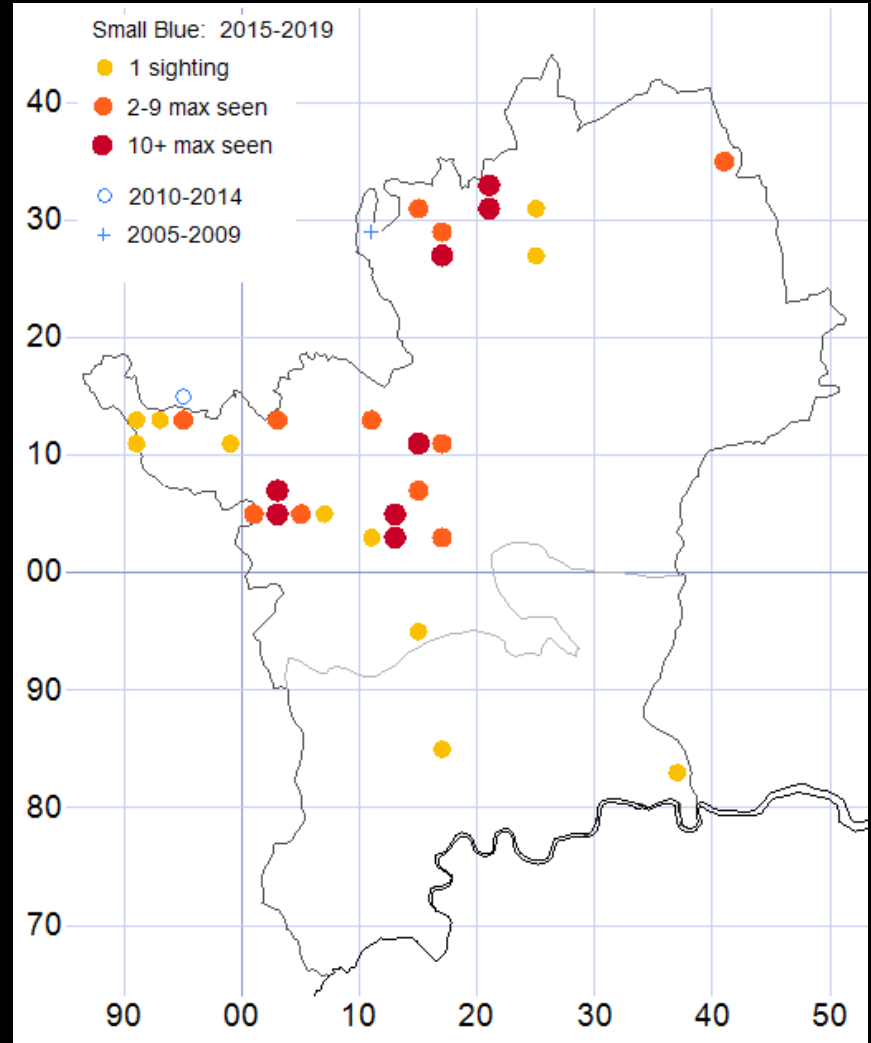


Photo: Nick Furteck

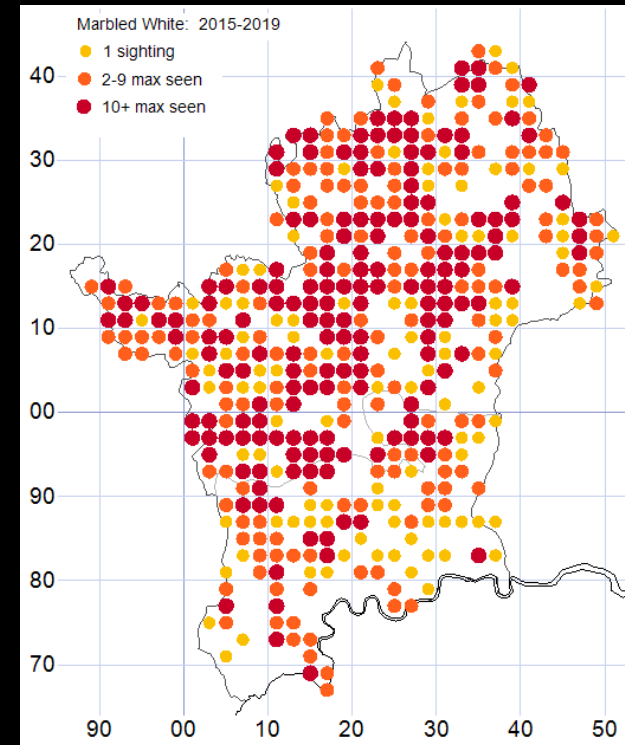
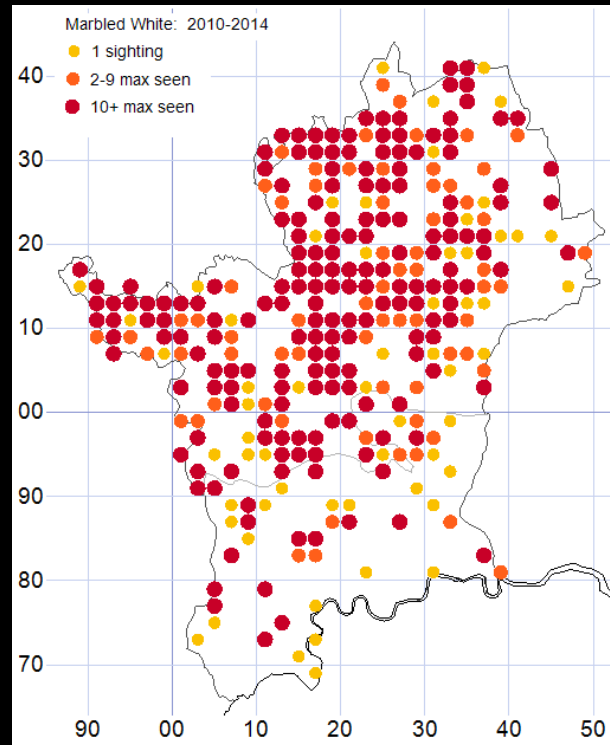
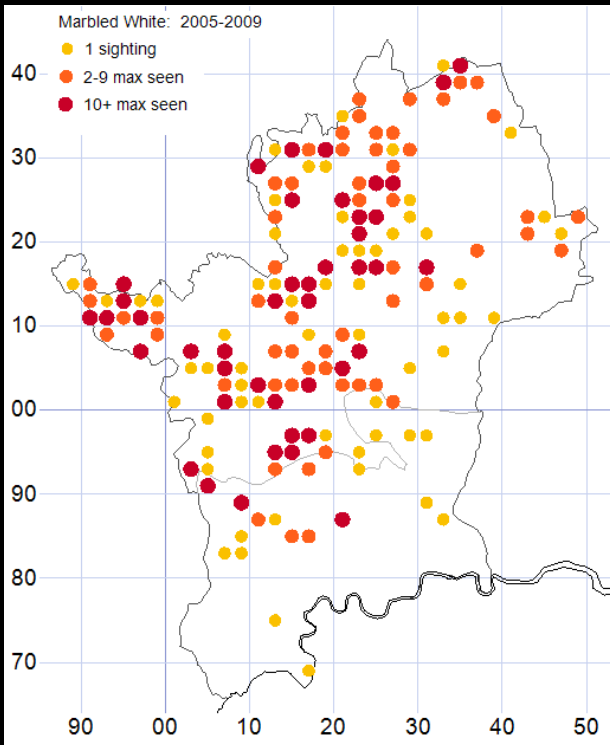
Newly found in Middlesex during this period, mainly records from winter egg hunts.

Small Blue



A return or re-finding at a number of mainly chalky sites during this period. Worth looking wherever there is kidney vetch, which is unfortunately not widely distributed.

Marbled White



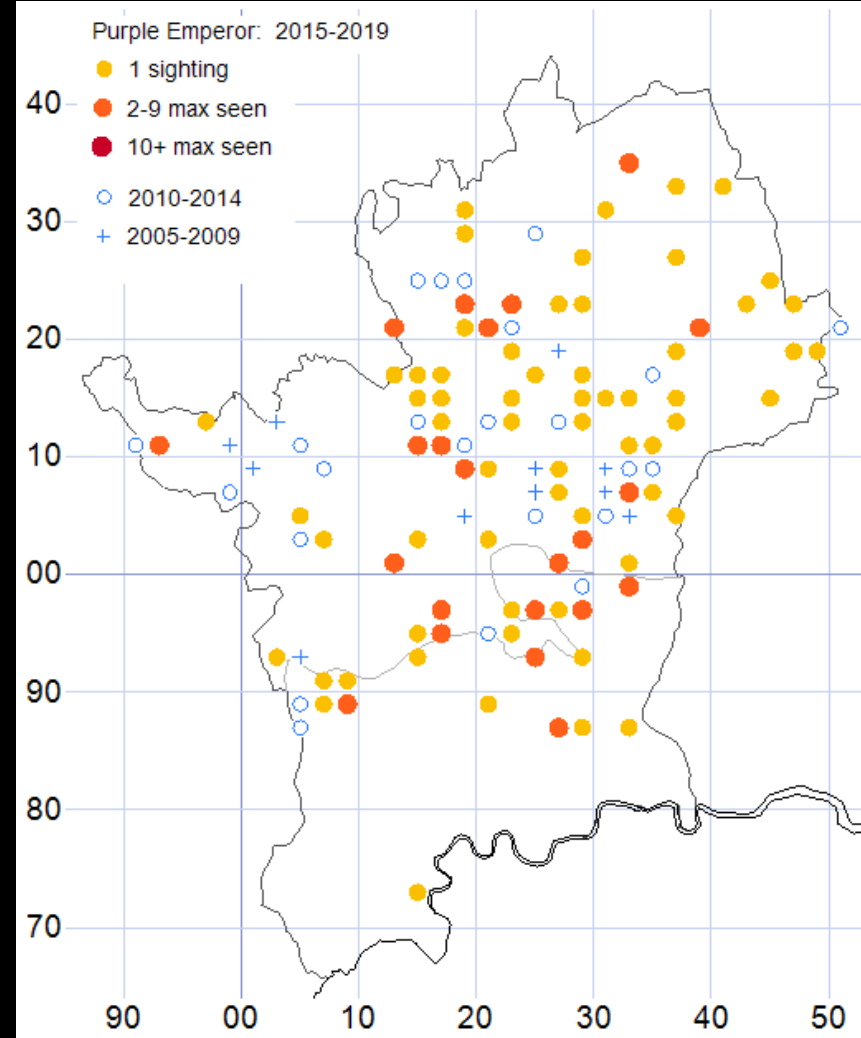
To show the east and southwards expansion of this now common species over the last three 5 year periods



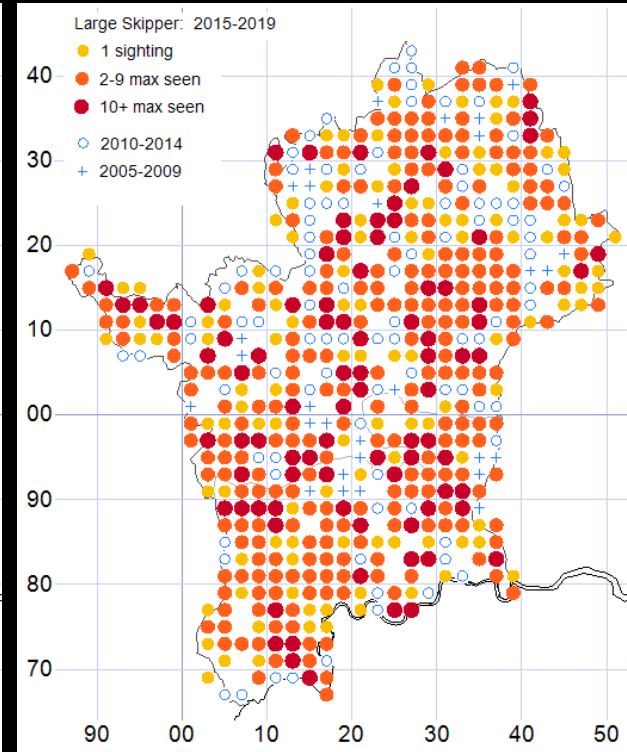
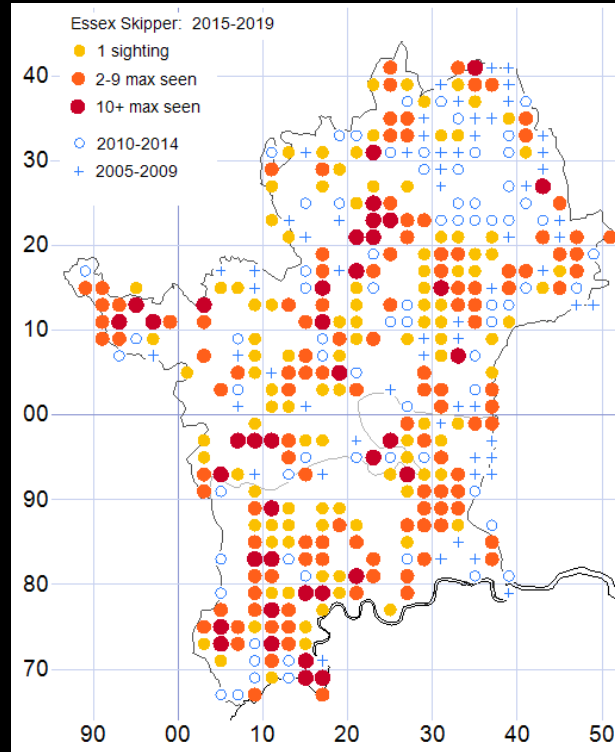
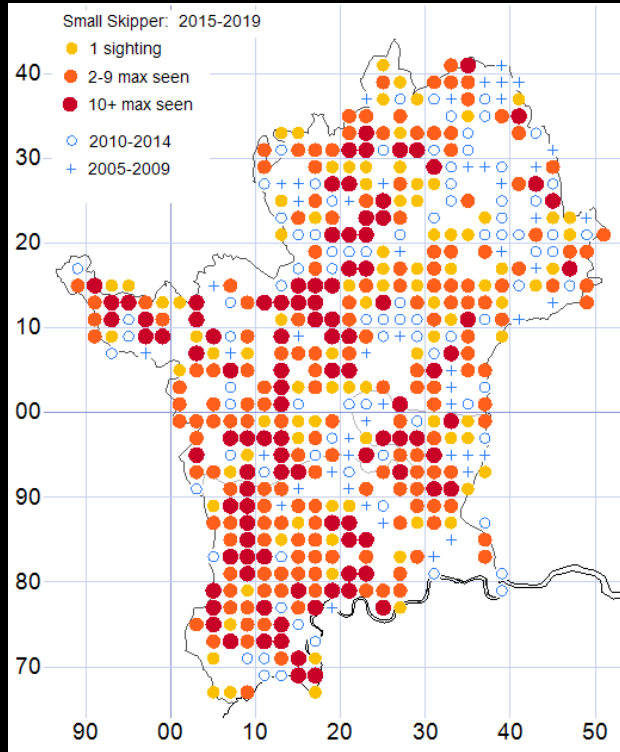
Purple Emperor



The mobility of this species across the landscape is illustrated by the spread of dots and by previously recorded squares with no records in the last 5 year period. The whole map shows the wide distribution outside the very built-up areas.

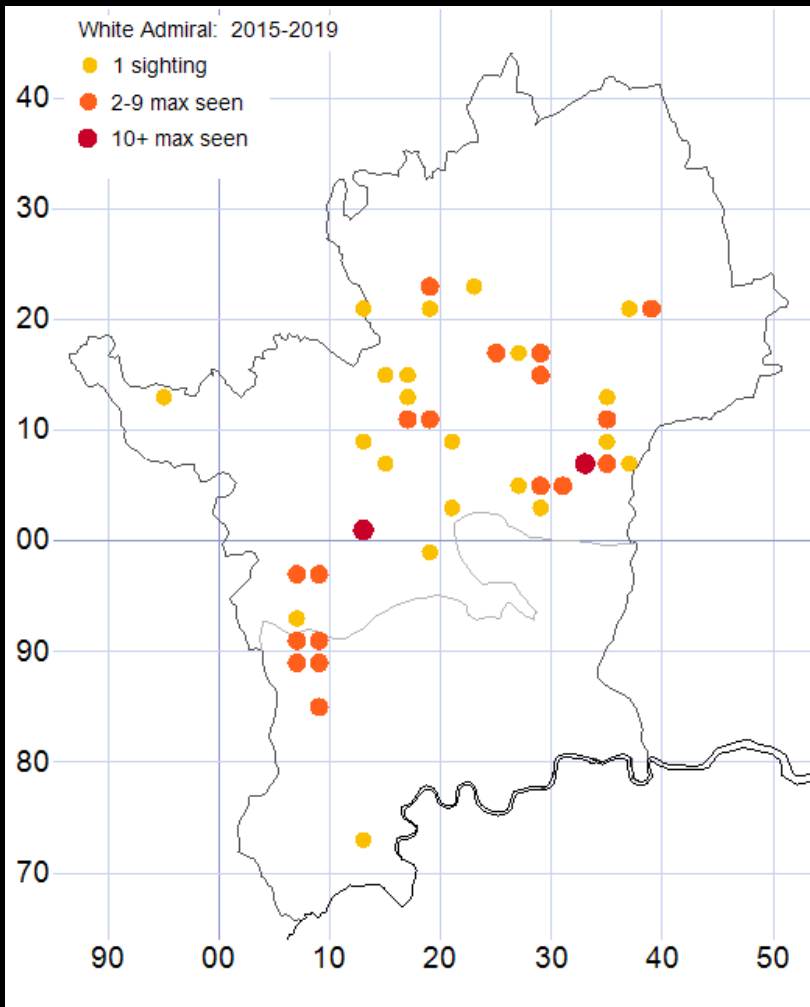


Golden Skippers



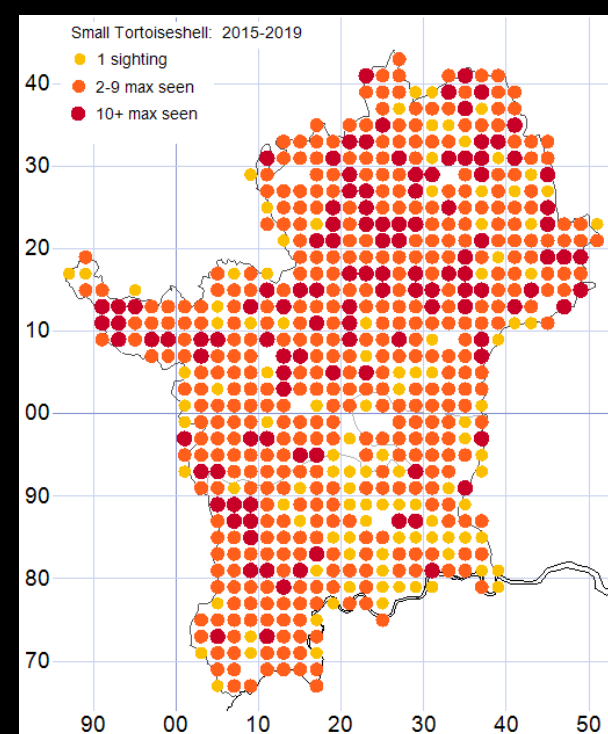
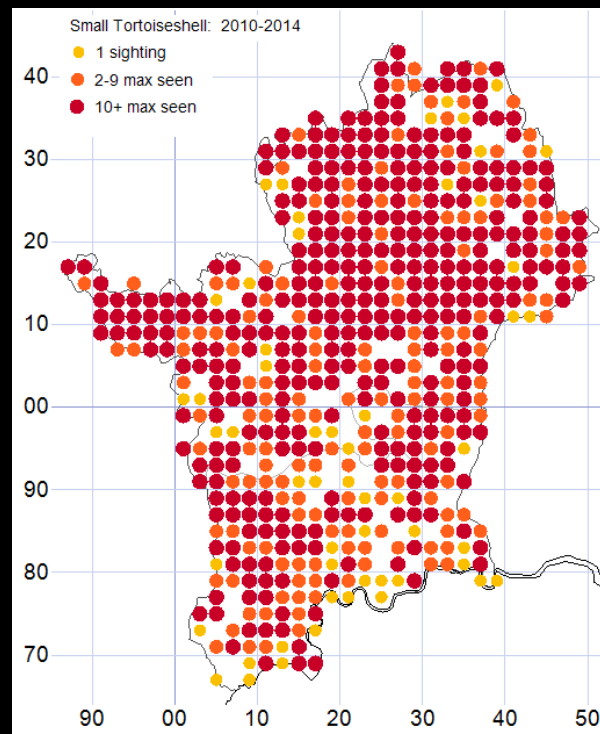
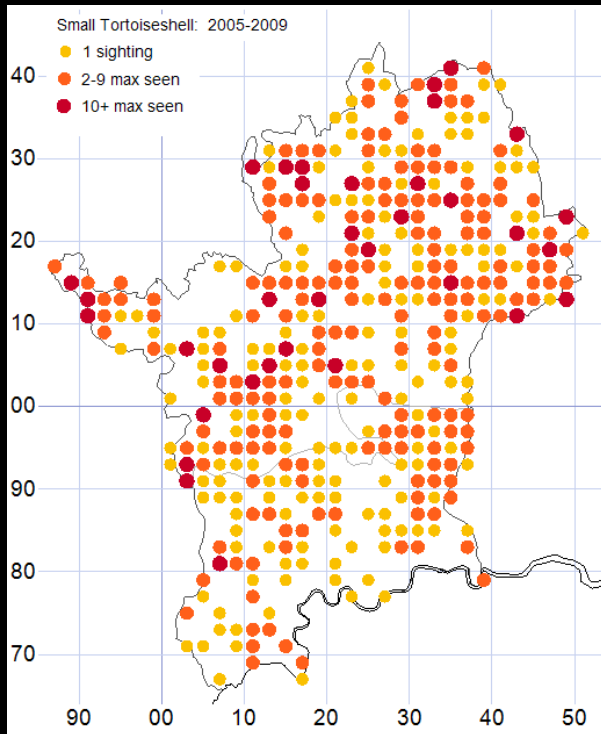
The decline of the three “golden” skippers, particularly the Small and Essex

White Admiral



Declining across much of Britain, confined to wood large enough to have shaded honeysuckle

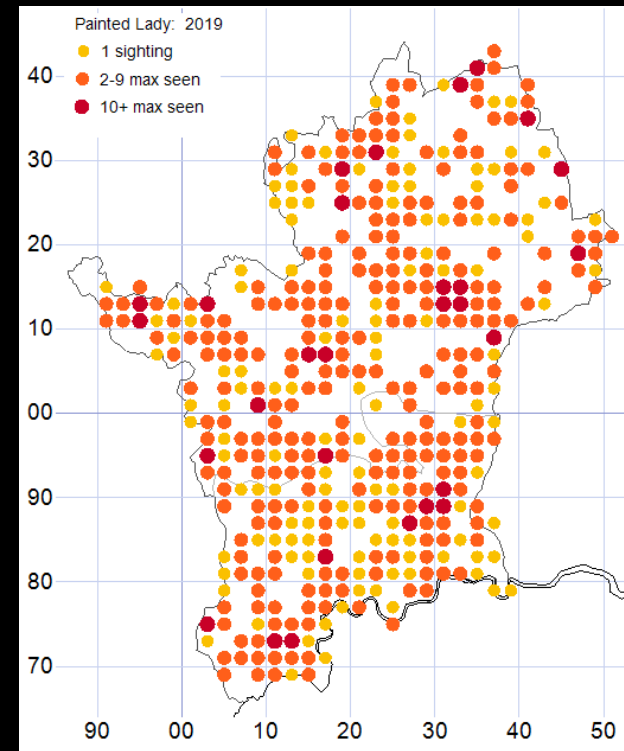
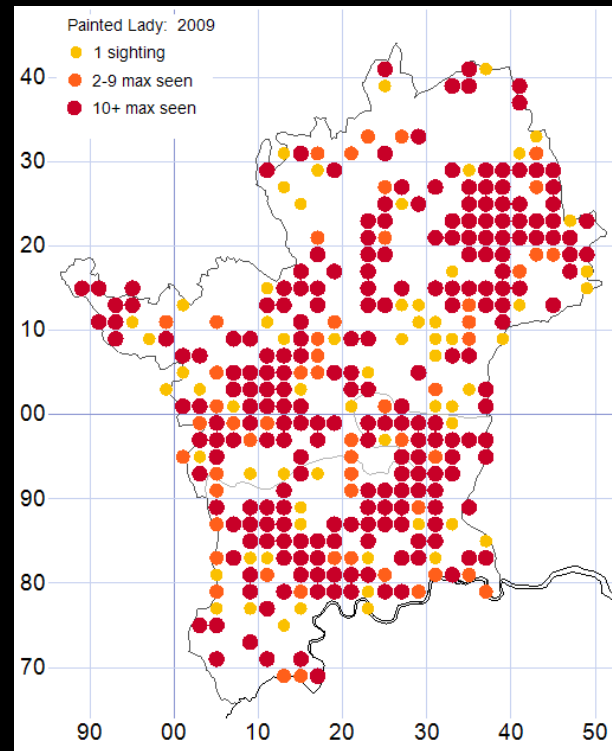
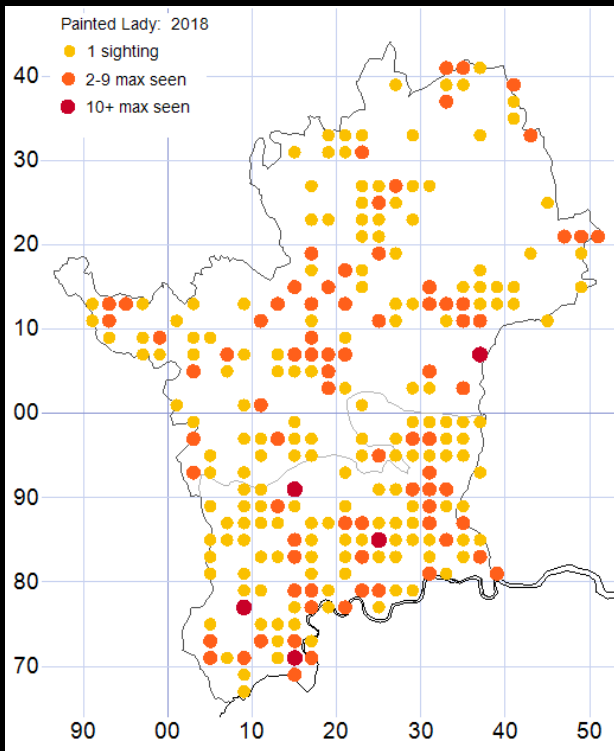
Small Tortoiseshell



The decline in numbers and distribution in 2005 to 2009 followed by a recovery in the last two periods but note that numbers in any square are much lower in the last 5 years



Painted Lady



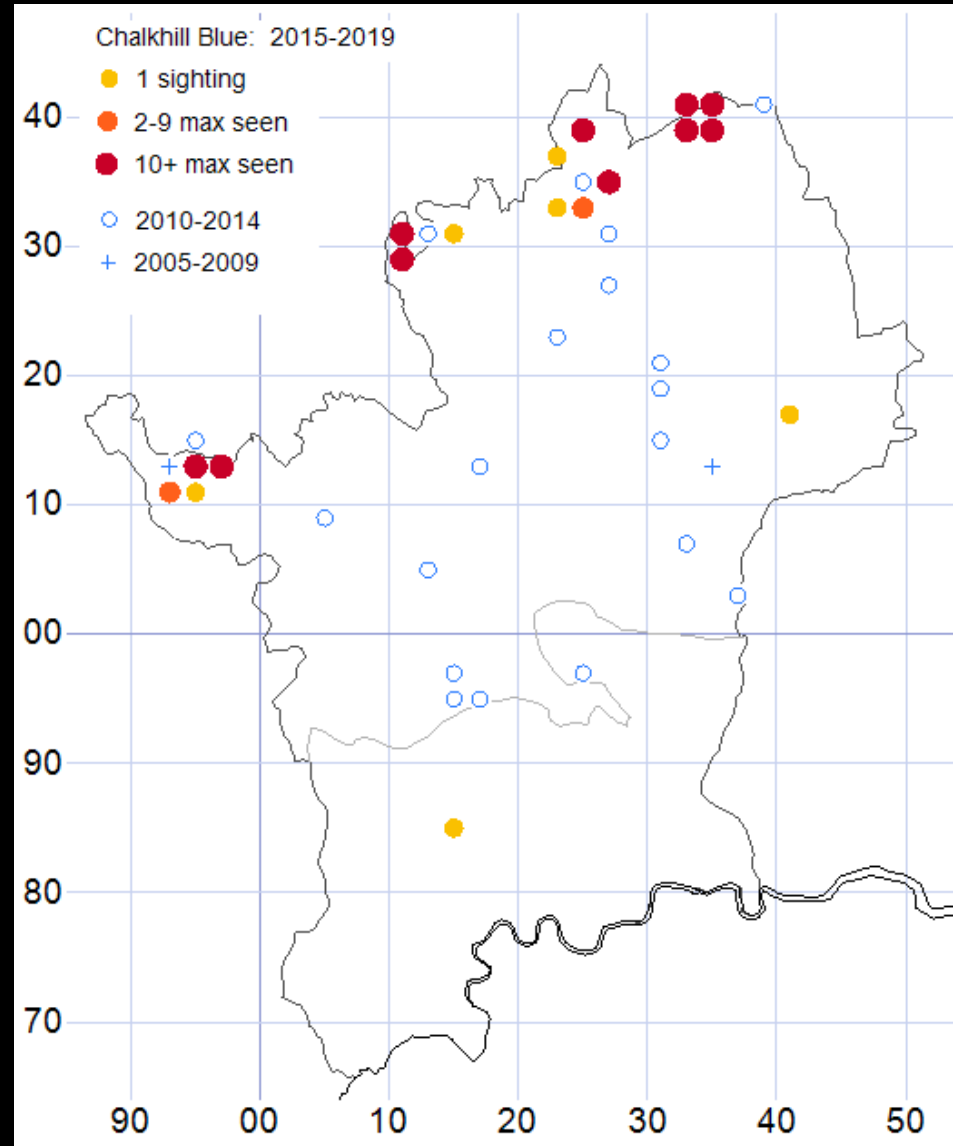
A comparison of the 2009 and 2019 Painted Lady years in our area with a normal year (2018) for comparison. Note the lower numbers at most sites in 2019 compared to 2009



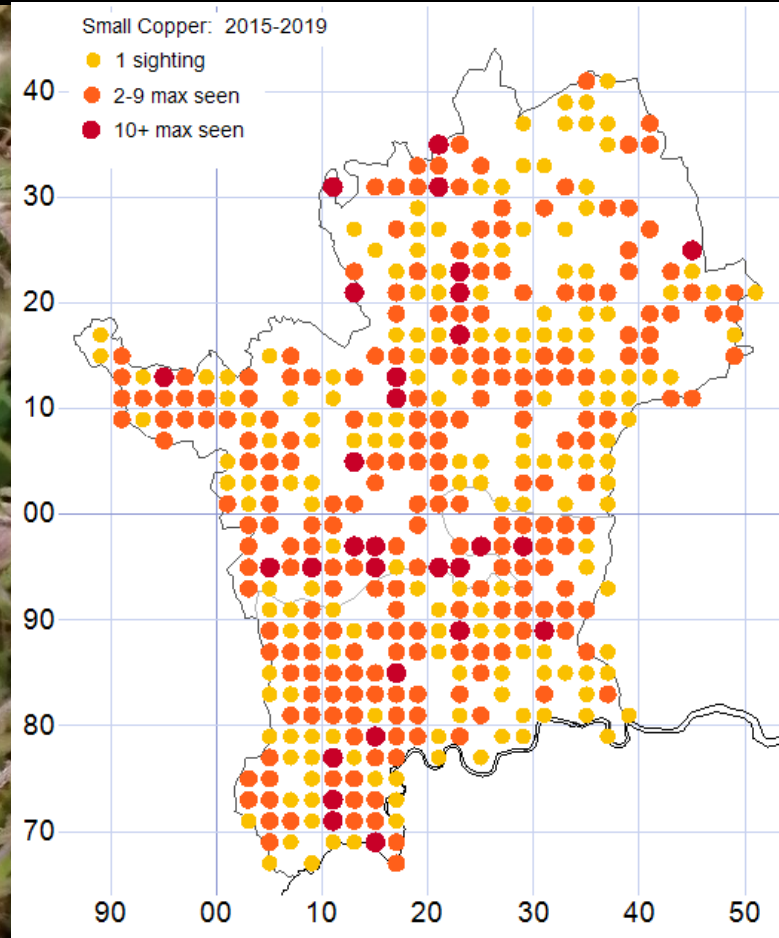
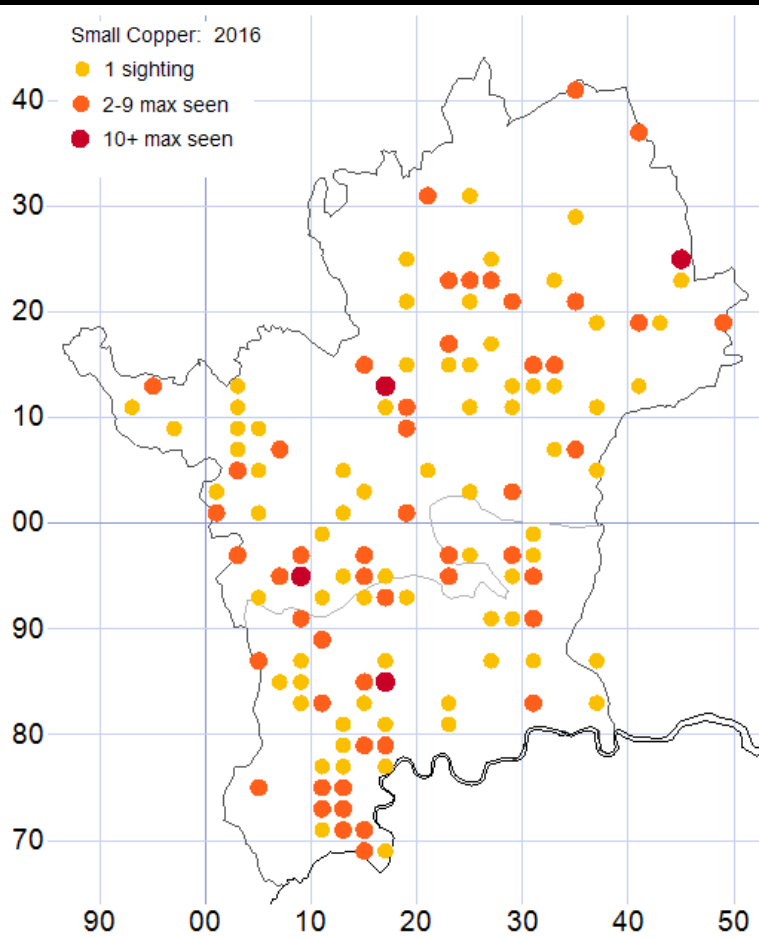
Chalkhill Blue



The open circles show the great dispersal in the bumper year of 2013, but the current period has seen lower numbers and a confinement to the traditional sites. With just a couple of new colonies not too far from them.



Small Copper



The alarming fall in distribution and numbers in 2016 and the recovery in 2017-2019. It is not always clear why we get a sudden drop like this or the recovery.