

BUTTERFLY SPOTTER SHEET

These six different types of butterflies may be found in meadows. Butterflies are more likely to be flying on sunny, dry days. Look out for flowering species of wildflowers which will be attractive to butterflies, as their nectar is a source of food. Butterflies begin their life-cycle by hatching from eggs as caterpillars. They often feed on different plants as caterpillars than as adult butterflies.



Which wildflowers
were the butterflies
you saw feeding on?



Meadow Brown, (c) Mark Kilner, flickr



Meadow Brown

On the wing June—September, this common grassland butterfly is medium-sized, mainly brown with pale orange patches on the ends of the wing. It flies even in dull weather and has only one eyespot on each forewing.

Ringlet

Unlike the meadow brown, the Ringlet has lots of eyespots (with pale 'rings' around them) and sooty, darker brown wings with white edges. It flies even on dull days with a characteristic 'bobbing' flying style.

Ringlet, (c) Chris Parker, flickr



Marbled White, (c) Domimik Hofer, flickr



Marbled White

The Marbled White has beautiful black and white markings and is on the wing from June to August. It often favours purple wildflowers such as Field Scabious (pictured).

Smallcopper, (c) Nick Ford, flickr



Small Copper

Small in size and Copper in colour, this butterfly flies between April and October. It often feeds on Ragwort or thistles as an adult and can be found in dry, sunny habitats.

Common Blue, (c) Steve Chilton, flickr



Common Blue

Flying between April and October, the common blue can be distinguished from other blue butterflies by its orange spots, large size and bright markings. The upperside of its wings are blue edged with white.

Small skipper, (c) Steven Cross, flickr



Small Skipper

Small and orange, this butterfly is on the wing between June and August. Feeding on thistles and knapweed, the Small Skipper hovers close to the ground and lays its eggs in grasses.