

BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION UPPER THAMES BRANCH

Green Hairstreak Report 2013

Dave Turnbull



Photo © Dave Turnbull

Numbers of Green Hairstreaks were well down from normal in 2012 following the very wet Spring and I finished last year's report doubting their ability to recover well this year. However I am glad to say that this robust little butterfly proved me wrong.

The first sighting, in the Upper Thames region, was from **Sands Bank** on the 24th April, some four weeks later than 2012 (which was exceptionally early). From then on sightings were regular throughout their flight period and it seemed that every report to the website contained sightings of Green Hairstreaks.

Ivinghoe Beacon figured well in both reports and numbers seen, but some of this is due to the area being frequented for the Duke of Burgundy. The **Devil's Punchbowl** again produced the largest number seen in one visit with 50+ seen on the 25th May. The following day 20+ were seen at **Ivinghoe** and the next day 10+ at **Pitstone** which beat my previous best of 8 at the quarry.

After this peak, numbers reduced to single figures but were still regular until the 27th June when the last ones for the year were reported from **Aston Rowant** and **Wildmoor Heath**.

In total throughout this year's 9 week flight period, 220 were seen from 49 reports compared to 99 and 26 reports last year, so bounce back they did. Their numbers were back near average but considering how they suffered last year I would say that they had a good year.

My thanks to everyone who sent in their sightings.

Dave Turnbull 2013