The State of the UK’s Butterflies

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Data sources

Distribution recording

*Butterflies for the New Millennium* project

⇒ 10-year distribution trends for each of 59 breeding species

- 4.1 million records
Data sources

Population monitoring

*UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme*

⇒ Annual population trends & 10-year trends for 53 species

⇒ Composite trends and indicators

UKBMS Sites
Results 1: declines

Hamearis lucina population trend - 46%
Distribution trend - 30%

54% species decreased in abundance
72% species decreased in distribution
Results 1: declines

*Lasiommata megera*

population trend -37%
distribution trend -21%
Results 1: declines

Habitat specialists abundance trend -18%
Wider Countryside species abundance trend -24%
Results 1: declines

Woodland sites in England abundance trend -51%
Results 2: stabilization

Melitaea athalia
Results 2: stabilization

*Plek Euphydryas aurinia*
Dist Distribution: -9%
Pop Population: +71%

*Eyr Cupido minimus*
Dist Distribution: -4%
Pop Population: +31%
Results 3: increases

*Pararge aegeria*

population trend 42%
distribution trend 20%
Results 3: increases

**Aglais io**

population trend -24%
distribution trend 17%
Results 3: increases

*Polyommatus bellargus*

- Population trend: 33%
- Distribution trend: 30%

- 1995-1999
- New squares 2005-2009
Conclusions 1

• Species continue to decline in spite of targets
• Decline of wider countryside species

But...

• Improvement for some specialists
Conclusions 2

• Retain species-focus of policy & landscape-scale conservation projects
• Increase targeted grants for farmland and woods with high nature value
• Reform ‘entry level’ schemes to improve biodiversity
• Continue surveillance and monitoring
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