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TOP 10 BUTTERFLIES TO SPOT

Most of Britain's butterflies are on the wing over the summer months, so it's a great time to get to know them better, says **Adrienne Wyper**

1 BRIMSTONE*Gonepteryx rhamni*

Some say the word 'butter-fly' comes from Britain's only lemon-yellow species. Ranging widely in its long life (up to a year), it is often seen on scrubby grassland and verges, though rarely in Northern Ireland or Scotland.

2 HOLLY BLUE*Colostira argiolus*

The first blue butterfly to emerge in early spring, this is found near holly and ivy, fluttering high above parks, churchyards, hedgerows and woodland, less often in northern England and Scotland.

3 COMMA*Polygonia c-album*

The underside of its orangey-brown, black-dotted, scalloped wings looks exactly like dead leaves so, unsurprisingly, the well-camouflaged comma thrives near wooded areas, particularly in England and Wales.

4 SPECKLED WOOD*Pararge aegeria*

Dappled with beige, these brown butterflies spiral upwards to chase each other. They feed on honeydew secreted by tree-top aphids in lightly shaded woods, gardens and hedgerows, though rarely in northern England.

5 ORANGE-TIP*Anthocharis cardamines*

Only males have the eponymous orange tips to their white wings. See them in damp meadows, woodland glades, riverbanks and gardens, throughout the UK.

6 COMMON BLUE*Polyommatus icarus*

The most widespread blue butterfly has pale-blue wings (orange-spotted underneath) with a white border. It is found across the UK in sheltered, sunny, grassy locations such as dunes, downs, verges and clearings.

7 PEACOCK*Aglais io*

Those multicoloured eyes on reddish wings, reminiscent of a peacock's tail, are designed to scare off predators. Often seen on buddleias in gardens, it is a strong flier and ranges widely, preferring woodland borders.

8 MARBLED WHITE*Melanargia galathea*

Mottled black and white, this distinctive butterfly is fond of purple flowers and grassland areas. It is rarely seen in mid and north Wales or north of Yorkshire.

9 RED ADMIRAL*Vanessa atalanta*

Originally, 'red admirable', this lives everywhere from coasts to city centres, feeding on buddleias, ivy flowers and rotting fruit. Its black wings feature red bands and white spots.

10 SMALL (COMMON) WHITE*Pieris rapae*

White-winged with one or two dark spots, this ubiquitous species is also known as the cabbage white, because it lays its eggs on the brassica family, thus is found in gardens, allotments and farmland.



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Picture: Getty Images

