

BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION UPPER THAMES BRANCH

Grizzled Skipper Report 2021



Taken at Aston Upthorpe Downs, 12th May 2021 (David Hastings)

The Grizzled Skipper is quite widely but thinly distributed in the Upper Thames region, with sightings reported from Ardley Quarry and Calvert Jubilee in the north, Greenham Common and Upton Nurvet in the south, and the Ivinghoe Beacon complex in the east. The Chilterns north and west of High Wycombe and the Aston Upthorpe/Lardon Chase/Hartslock region on the Berkshire Downs are the primary sites in the region. It is also found in the wooded complex between Calvert and Quainton in Buckinghamshire, and the various railway lines that permeate this area.

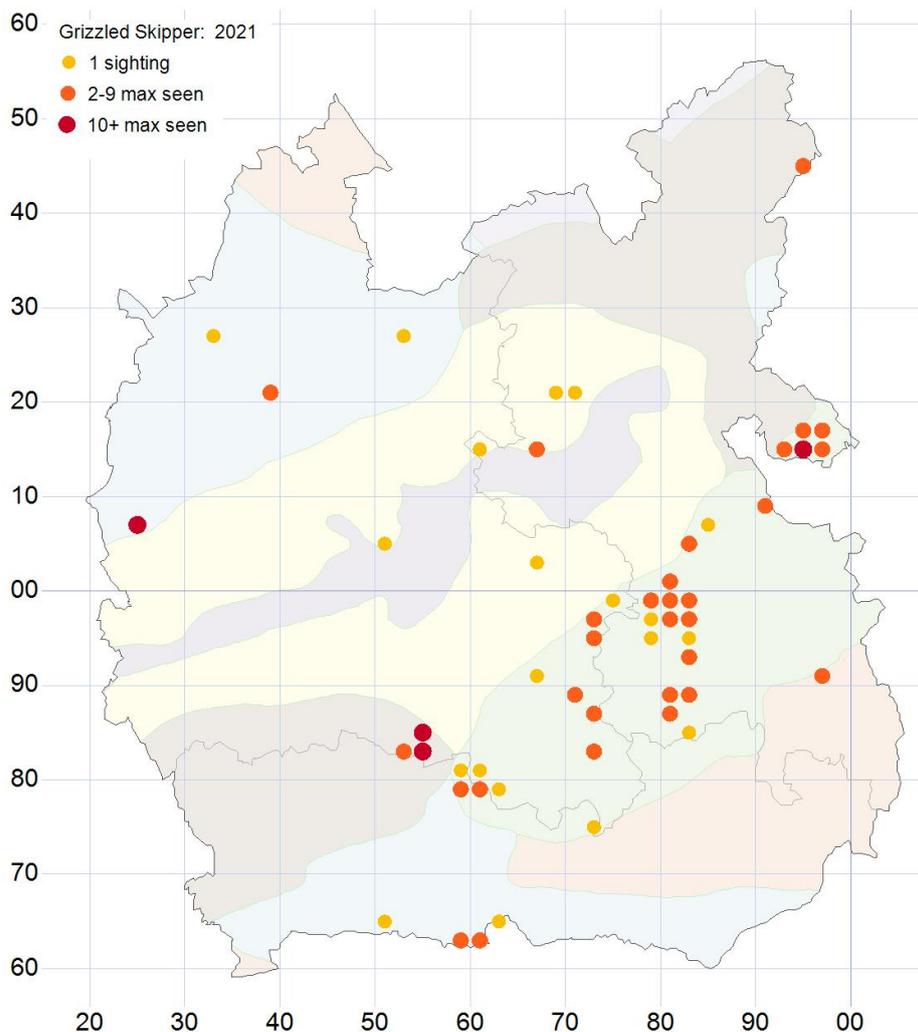
The Grizzled Skipper flight period started early in 2021, with the first sighting being reported at Ivinghoe Beacon on April 2nd. The poor weather in April caused a big delay; the next sighting was not until the 18th. There were only three double-figure counts:

- ◆ 12th May : 16 at Aston Upthorpe Downs
- ◆ 31st May : 21 at Aston Upthorpe Downs
- ◆ 6th June : 13 at Bradwell disused airfield, West Oxon

The last reported sighting was at Lower Basildon on July 7th. The flight period lasted 96 days, the longest since 2012.

Thanks to all those who submitted their records.

Distribution map 2021:



Flight periods:

2002	21st April to 25th June	(66 days)	2012	25th March to 28th June	(96 days)
2003	12th April to 21st June	(71 days)	2013	30th April to 30th June	(61 days)
2004	27th April to 20th June	(55 days)	2014	10th April to 24th June	(76 days)
2005	29th April to 27th June	(60 days)	2015	15th April to 3rd July	(80 days)
2006	27th April to 21st June	(56 days)	2016	20th April to 24th June	(66 days)
2007	14th April to 14th June	(62 days)	2017	8th April to 7th June	(60 days)
2008	3rd May to 17th June	(46 days)	2018	3rd May to 15th June	(44 days)
2009	13th April to 28th June	(77 days)	2019	17th April to 7th July	(80 days)
2010	17th April to 11th July	(86 days)	2020	15th April to 25th June	(67 days)
2011	3rd April to 26th June	(85 days)	2021	2nd April to 7th July	(96 days)