

# BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION UPPER THAMES BRANCH

## Grizzled Skipper Report 2023

David Hastings



*Grizzled Skipper at Aston Upthorpe Downs (© 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.

The first reported Grizzled Skipper sighting was at Incombe Hole (Ivinghoe Hills) on April 20<sup>th</sup>. There were six double-figure counts this year:

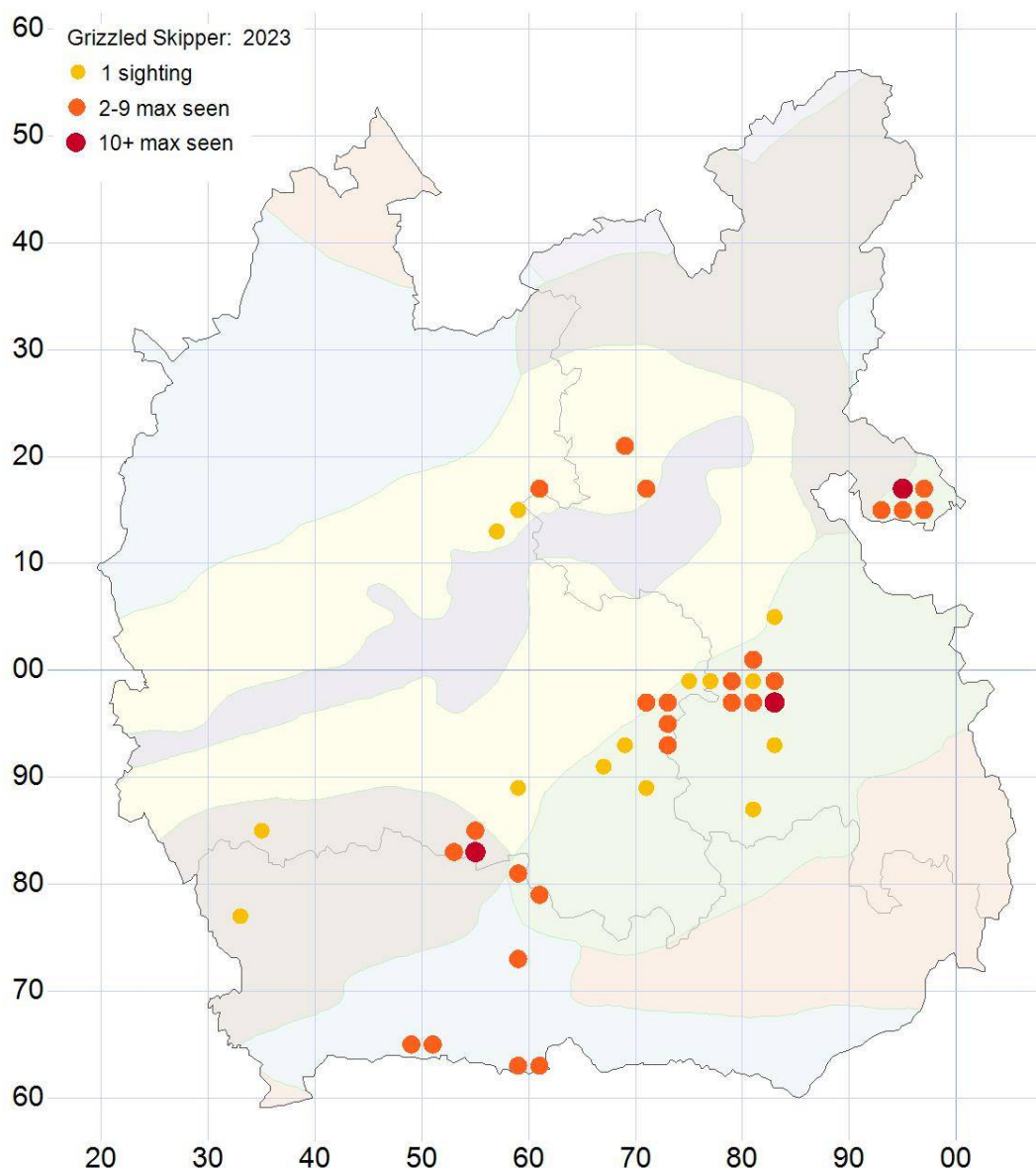
- ◆ 11<sup>th</sup> May : 18 at Ivinghoe Beacon, Bucks
- ◆ 14<sup>th</sup> May : 11 at Bradenham, Bucks
- ◆ 20<sup>th</sup> May : 15 at Aston Upthorpe Downs, Oxon
- ◆ 24<sup>th</sup> May : 11 at Swains Wood, Bucks
- ◆ 27<sup>th</sup> May : 14 at Ivinghoe Beacon, Bucks
- ◆ 27<sup>th</sup> May : 10 at Oven Bottom, Oxon

There were four new 2km square records in 2023, but the bad news is that distribution has reduced significantly compared to 2022, with hardly any sightings in the west of Oxfordshire. Please can 10km Square champions in Oxfordshire look for the Grizzly in 2024?

The last reported sighting was at Oven Bottom, Oxon on 25<sup>th</sup> June. The flight period lasted 67 days, which was the same as in 2020 (but still well above the low of 44 days in 2018).

Thanks to all those who submitted their records.

Distribution map 2023



**David Hastings**

March 2024

## Flight periods:

<b>2003</b>	12th April to 21st June	(71 days)	<b>2014</b>	10th April to 24th June	(76 days)
<b>2004</b>	27th April to 20th June	(55 days)	<b>2015</b>	15th April to 3rd July	(80 days)
<b>2005</b>	29th April to 27th June	(60 days)	<b>2016</b>	20th April to 24th June	(66 days)
<b>2006</b>	27th April to 21st June	(56 days)	<b>2017</b>	8th April to 7th June	(60 days)
<b>2007</b>	14th April to 14th June	(62 days)	<b>2018</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> May to 15 <sup>th</sup> June	(44 days)
<b>2008</b>	3rd May to 17th June	(46 days)	<b>2019</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> April to 7 <sup>th</sup> July	(80 days)
<b>2009</b>	13th April to 28th June	(77 days)	<b>2020</b>	15 <sup>th</sup> April to 25 <sup>th</sup> June	(67 days)
<b>2010</b>	17th April to 11th July	(86 days)	<b>2021</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> April to 7 <sup>th</sup> July	(96 days)
<b>2011</b>	3rd April to 26th June	(85 days)	<b>2022</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> April to 28 <sup>th</sup> June	(80 days)
<b>2012</b>	25th March to 28th June	(96 days)	<b>2023</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> April to 25 <sup>th</sup> June	(67 days)
<b>2013</b>	30th April to 30th June	(61 days)			

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February 2024