

BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION UPPER THAMES BRANCH

Grizzled Skipper Report 2024

David Hastings



Grizzled Skipper at Ardley Wood, Oxon on June 2nd 2024 (David Hastings)

The Grizzled Skipper is quite widely but thinly distributed in the Upper Thames region, with sightings reported from Ardley Wood 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 Oxfordshire/Berkshire Downs are the primary sites in the region.

The first reported Grizzled Skipper sighting was at Hartslock on April 24th. The species had a pretty poor year in 2024 (as did many other species). Only 162 records were submitted (219 were submitted in 2023). There was only one double-figure count: fifteen at Aston Upthorpe Downs on May 10th. Its range continues to contract to its core areas. There were no records from west Oxfordshire and only one from west Berkshire in 2024.

The last reported sighting in the primary flight period was at Lids Down on 21st June. But there were two sightings in August: Aston Upthorpe Downs on the 4th, and Folly Farm near Sulhampstead on the 9th. This suggests that there was a partial 2nd generation in 2024 (despite the poor weather). The primary flight period lasted 61 days. For comparison, the mean flight period from 2003 to 2023 is 70 days.

Please can 10km Square champions (and other surveyors) in Oxfordshire and west Berkshire look for the Grizzly in 2025? See below for the tetrads to concentrate on.

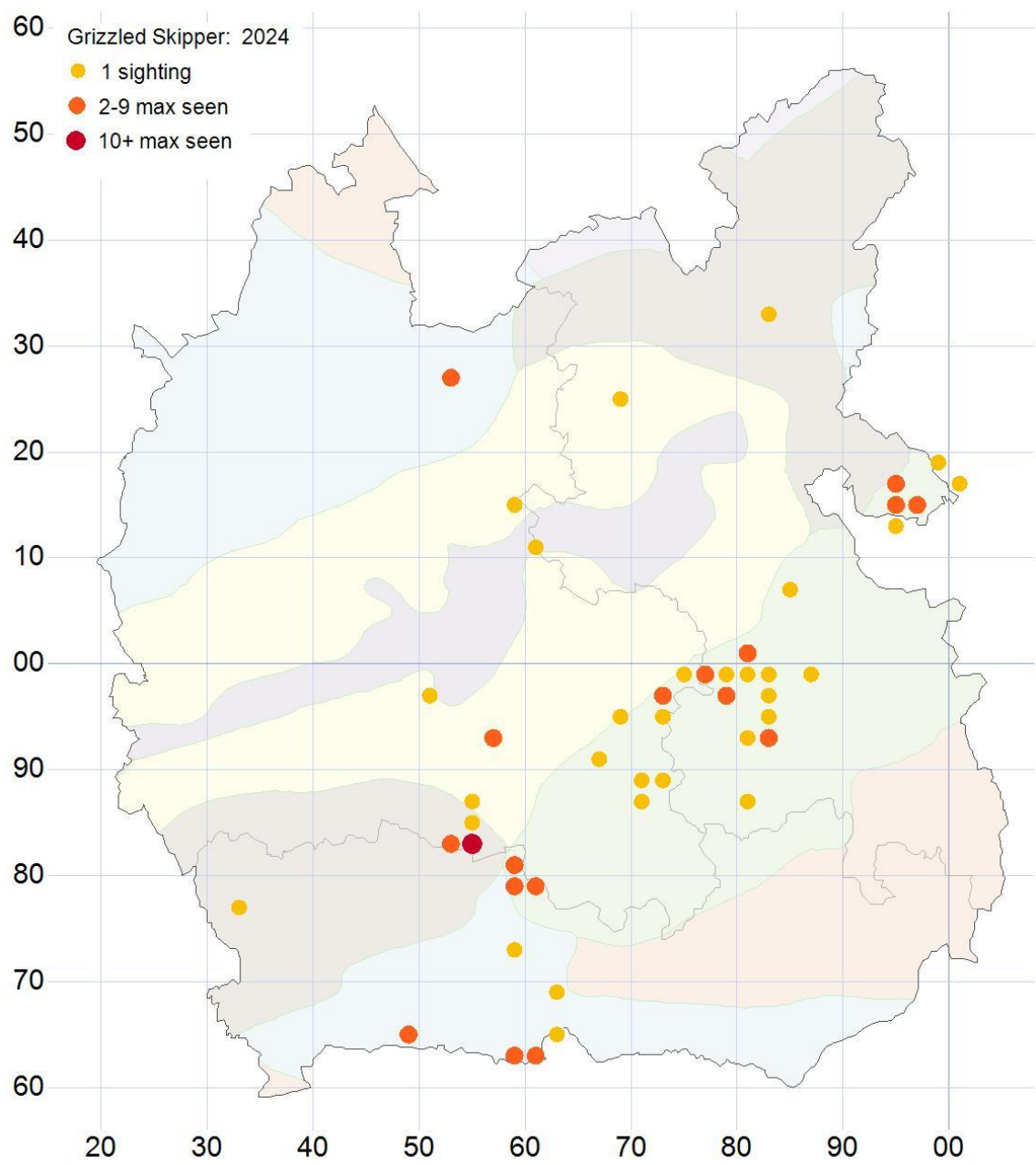
Thanks to all those who submitted their records.

David Hastings

April 2025

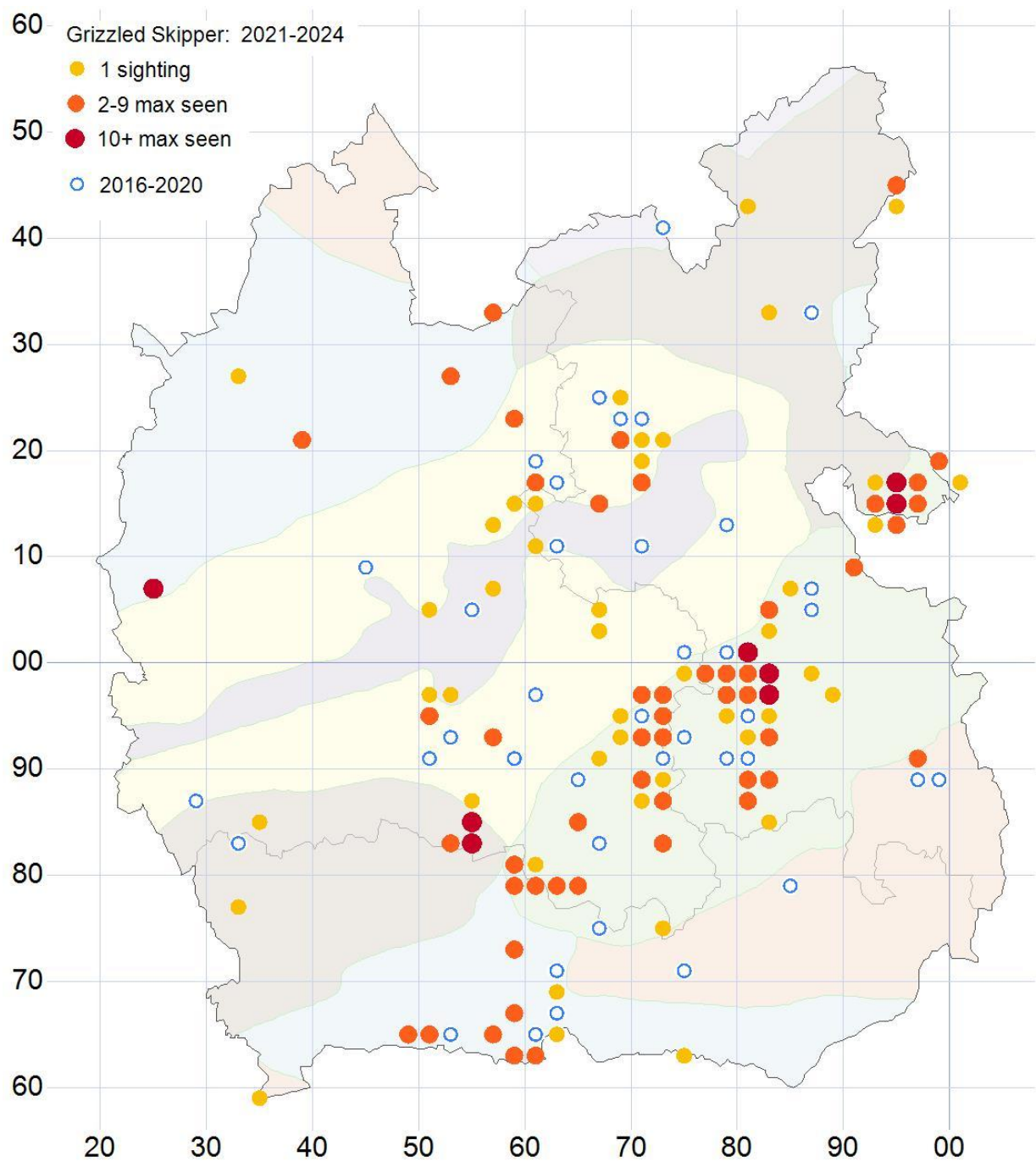
Distribution map 2024

Grizzled Skipper distribution is contracting to its core areas.



Target tetrads in 2025

The circles outlined in blue show tetrads where the species was recorded between 2016 and 2020, but not since. These are the tetrads where surveyors need to look in 2025.



Flight periods:

2003	12th April to 21st June	(71 days)	2014	10th April to 24th June	(76 days)
2004	27th April to 20th June	(55 days)	2015	15th April to 3rd July	(80 days)
2005	29th April to 27th June	(60 days)	2016	20th April to 24th June	(66 days)
2006	27th April to 21th June	(56 days)	2017	8th April to 7th June	(60 days)
2007	14th April to 14th June	(62 days)	2018	3 rd May to 15 th June	(44 days)
2008	3rd May to 17th June	(46 days)	2019	17 th April to 7 th July	(80 days)
2009	13th April to 28th June	(77 days)	2020	15 th April to 25 th June	(67 days)
2010	17th April to 11th July	(86 days)	2021	2 nd April to 7 th July	(96 days)
2011	3rd April to 26th June	(85 days)	2022	10 th April to 28 th June	(80 days)
2012	25th March to 28th June	(96 days)	2023	20 th April to 25 th June	(67 days)
2013	30th April to 30th June	(61 days)	2024	21 st April to 21 st June	(61 days)