

Sitting in judgment?

Verification from a local and national perspective



**National Biodiversity Network
conference 2016**

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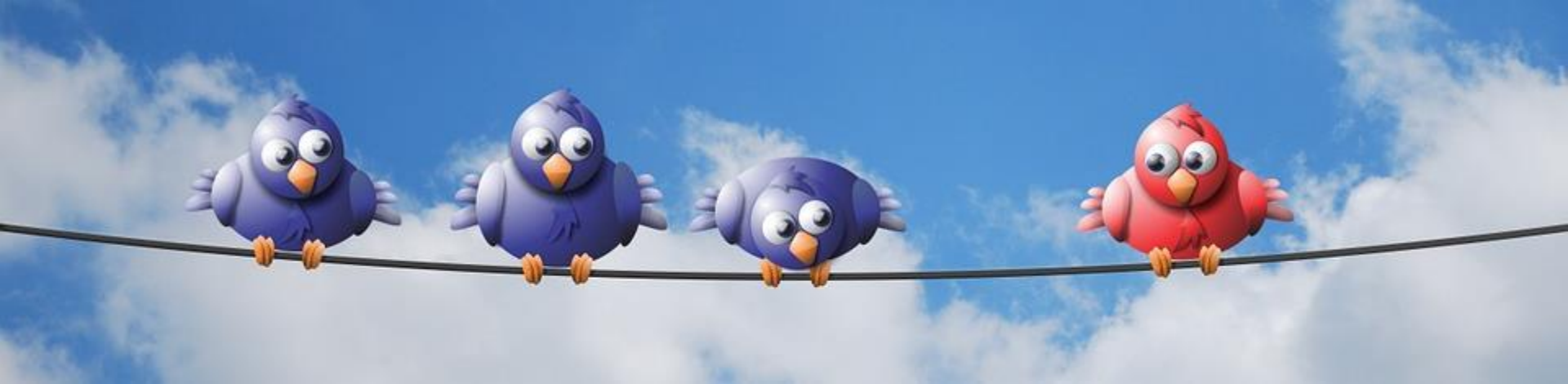


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Verification: how to do it



- ◎ Spotting the odd one out:
 - rare species
 - species with few previous records in the area
 - species at unusual times or in unusual places
- ◎ Plus checks for 'difficult' species



Evidence and judgments

- ◉ With evidence

- photo, notes, sketches, specimens



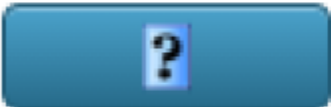


- ◉ Without evidence

- recorder known
- recorder new to verifier



Levels of verification

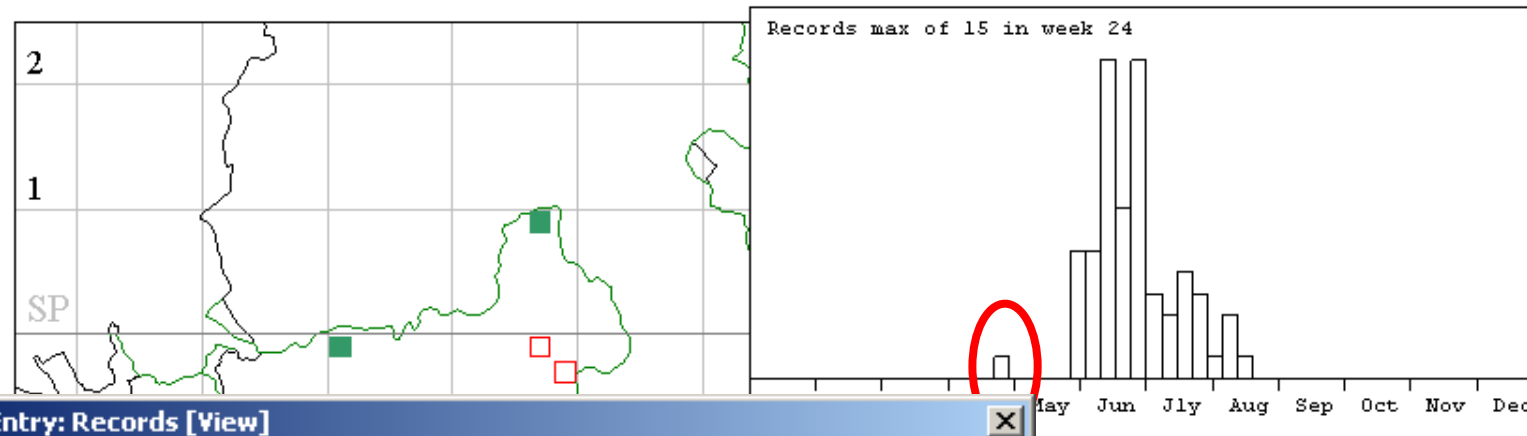


Button	Verification status
	Accepted: Correct
	Accepted: Considered correct
	Unconfirmed: Plausible
	Not accepted: Unable to verify
	Not accepted: Incorrect
[default state]	Unconfirmed: Not reviewed

Help a verifier today

- ⦿ Check distribution, rarity, time of year
- ⦿ For anything unusual or unseasonal, provide supporting evidence
 - photos, sketches, field notes, specimens, second opinions
 - make clear that you realise you've found something unusual
- ⦿ Wise words from John Sawyer: “keep your verifiers well-supplied with tea and cakes”

2331 Apamea unanims (Small Clouded Brindle)



Data Entry: Records [View]

Records Fields Query Help

Owner: 2ac

Taxon Apamea unanims (Small Clouded Brindle)

Quantity 1

Stage Adult

Site Maidenhead: garden of 23 Fullbrook Close (SU892818)

Date 21 Apr 2004

Status Not recorded

Recorder Bernard A.J. Clark

Determiner Bernard A.J. Clark

Method 15W actinic light

Reference Clark, B.A.J. 2004, Day Book

Comment Specimen checked by David White due to unusual time of year and confirmed as Apamea unanims. Retained as a Voucher specimen by David White.

81 Records

First Recorded in 1978

Last Recorded in 2010

Status: Common

■ Records since 2000

■ Records 1990-1999

□ Records before 1990

9

TQ

© 10 Nov 2010

Close

Micro...

Recor...

V - Br...

Data ...

14:59



Challenges

- ◉ Demand outstrips supply
- ◉ Online sharing of verification is a new concept
- ◉ Ensuring decisions are documented
- ◉ Consistency in applying and interpreting decisions
- ◉ Share the load, recruit & train verifiers (& recorders), wise use of automation
- ◉ Communicate, agree roles
- ◉ Develop technology to support this
- ◉ Develop guidance, share what works

IT'S NOTHING
PERSONAL.



COUNTY RECORDER
JUDGMENT DAY