

Archive Page

Sightings and news from July to December 2002

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This page contains sightings details of all the butterflies and moths reported to the [Sightings page](#) between July and December 2002.

Note: These pages have been copied from the original sightings page and some links will no longer work. All images of butterflies or moths have been removed, but most can be found in the [Photo House](#)

November 2002

Fri 17th November - Ally Pally - 1 Red Admiral reported last Sunday - Tom Clarke

Mon 18th November - The Herts Naturalist, the local county natural history journal is available from, Stuart Warrington, Department of Environmental Science, University of Herts, Hatfield. AL10 9AB. The cost is £6.00 (make cheque out to HNHS). In the 2002 edition, there are 2 very interesting articles about moths, by Colin Plant and Tom and Janet Gladwin. It also includes articles about the native Crayfish in Herts, Mistletoe in Herts, and Frogmore Pits - Stuart Warrington

Thurs 7th November - Hemel Hempstead, Red Admiral this am, nectaring on Buddliea *Weyerana* "Sungold" Temperature was only 12c - Malcolm Newland

Trent Park, 1 Peacock seen by Robin White (news via Robert Callf)

Ware - Saw a butterfly fly along roofs of the houses this morning, not sure whether it was a Red Admiral or Painted Lady, but the behaviour was very Painted Lady like - Liz Goodyear

Tues 5th November - Ally Pally, Speckled Wood today - Tom Clarke

Sun 3rd November - Hemel Hempstead - Had a nice fresh-looking **Red Admiral** nectaring on the shrub Colletia Armata. The spines on the shrub are long and extremely sharp but the butterfly negotiated them without damaging itself - Malcolm Newland

One **Red Admiral** on buddleia in our front garden in **Bengeo** this morning - Andrew Wood

Hitchin today at 12 noon - Just taken wellies off after gardening and have just sighted **2 Yellow Brimstones** fluttering around the ivy but not settling to feed. Also a **larger White**, presumably a female - she circumnavigated the entire garden before investigating the ivy which is in full sunshine and a protected spot from the breeze but again, did not settle. Observed these for about 15 minutes before disappearance. Just sat down with coffee and sandwich.....12.25 noticed something else fluttering - a **Comma** which settled on the beech hedge for at least 3 minutes enjoying the sunshine, then flew around again and re-settled in beech hedge again and vanished! - Val Fullforth

A late **Red Admiral** today at **Kings Mead**, flying purposefully south - Alan Reynolds

Sat 2nd November - Shoeburyness area today, **1 Red Admiral!** - Andrew Middleton and Jeremy Gaskell

October 2002

Tuesday 29th October - As co-ordinators of the Purple Emperor project for Herts and Middx Butterfly Conservation, Liz Goodyear and myself (Andrew Middleton) will be reporting this winter on progress so far. As visitors to this website will know, the species could be seen, given patience, at two publicly accessible sites in July 2002. The species is known to be established in four or so widely spaced 10km squares in Herts & Middx, with records coming from a further two 10km squares over the last 20 years. Over the last few years, we have become aware that there is more knowledge out there regarding the haunts of the Purple Emperor than appears in the record books. For completeness, we would encourage contributions from all observers who have any sightings (of their own or possibly from reliable sources), present or past, in Herts & Middx or adjoining areas. Details of date, number, sex, time, weather and the butterfly's behaviour would be valuable, as would the location. Site confidentiality will be respected in full ~ for example, giving just a 10km square could be of great value to the report. More detailed site information would hopefully result in the species being considered in more woodland management schemes. We fully understand the need for confidentiality regarding private sites and that positive management can depend on this. Although in decline, collecting may still be a threat which needs to be considered regarding site confidentiality, but loss of suitable habitat is likely to be a bigger problem - Andrew Middleton

Wed 23rd October - Ware, 1 Red Admiral on buddleia around 1.30 today - Liz Goodyear

Nick Sampford has just built his own website - all his butterfly and bird pictures are now displayed - have a look at

Sat 19th October - A Comma at **Amwell** and a Red Admiral at **Easneye** - Jeff Butcher

Waltham Cross - Red Admiral in Alan Downie's garden

Kingsmead, On a sunny day but with a cold westerly wind, and after an over-night frost, I was rather surprised to see a Red Admiral flying purposefully in a southerly direction - Alan Reynolds

Copped Hall Estate near Epping: red admiral flying south at 13.44 in warm, sunny conditions with a light northerly breeze - it was at head height and moving at an incredible pace...Martin Shepherd

Trent Park area - Red Admiral and Painted Lady, Robert Callf and Robin White

Long Marston, Small Tortoiseshell seen by John Noakes and Nick Bowles at around 1 o'clock and Red Admiral in garden yesterday

Friday 18 Oct - Stevenage, 12:30 - Small Copper seen on grassy bank on north side of Fairlands Way about halfway between the Fairview Road and Lytton Way turn-offs - Peter Clarke

Thurs 17th October - Trent Park, Robert Callf saw **a red admiral and painted lady** Robert Callf saw **a red admiral and painted lady**

Ware Park, 2 Red Admirals today - Andrew Wood

Thurs 10th October - Duncan Fraser writes - This letter was sent to me after I showed Bob Coombes the email re migrations. He was on a short golfing break over the Channel. *"On **Friday, 13th Sept '02** I was in **Le Touquet** and went for a walk/paddle along the length of the beach. The tide was out (about 400 yards) and there was a light breeze from land to sea (ie East). Coming in from the sea (ie West to East) were literally thousands of red admiral butterflies flying against the breeze. By the time I left (about one and a half hours), the tide was coming in along with a seemingly endless supply of butterflies. I also noticed they seemed to be flying 'in pairs'. This extraordinary sight was witnessed by others in our partyR. Coombes 7.10.02. "*

Tues 8th October - North Enfield Vicarage Fm, - Speckled wood - Robert Callf

KGV Reservoir - Speckled wood and red admiral on causeway - Andrew Middleton

Thurs 3rd October - Holyfield/Hayes Hill Farm area. Single red admirals flying south at 13.10, 13.25, and 13.35 - warm, sunny conditions with a favourable breeze. Also, singles flying north west near the abbey at **Waltham Abbey**, 14.10 and 14.15, and one in my garden at **Enfield Lock** on ivy, 16.00 - Martin Shepherd

Found two nice fat common blue caterpillars today still grazing on the undersides of green leaves of bird's foot trefoil at **Rammey Marsh**. Also single red admiral, peacock and speckled wood nectaring on ivy flowers at **Brimsdown** - Andrew Middleton

September 2002

Mon 30th September - North Enfield, Trent Park, **5 small coppers** inc 3 together near the sports field, 4 small white, comma, 3 speckled woods - Robert Callf

Both last year and the year before, substantial southward flights of Red Admiral were seen in late September up to mid-October. I say "substantial", but this is a relative term: rarely was the rate more than one butterfly every few minutes. These migrations are interesting in that they provide evidence for how and why such movements occur, and the more detail you can provide about them, the better. I would be grateful if any details on flight directions of any migratory butterfly (especially Red Admiral, Painted Lady, Clouded Yellow) can be recorded from now through the autumn. Essential information is the species, the date, the place (preferably 6-figure grid reference or postcode) and the direction of flight. Additional information that would be useful is the number of insects passing over what time interval, the speed of flight (time taken for the insect to cross a garden etc. measured with a stopwatch), the weather (wind direction etc) and anything else of interest. Please send observations to me (John Murray), together with copies of any Emails to Liz Goodyear if you don't mind your observation going on the website.

Sun 29th September (the last day of the 2002 transect season!) - Trent Park, **4 small coppers and one small heath** various places on 'new fields', also 1 speckled wood - Robert Callf

Sat 28th September - North Enfield 2 small coppers & 1 small white 'New Fields' - Robert Callf

Wed 25th September - Ware area, I've had 30+ whites, a peacock and a red admiral today, and my friends had a small copper in there garden in New Road today - Nick Sampford

North Enfield, Trent Park. new fields, **2 small coppers** and **2 small heath**, also red admiral, comma and 2 speckled woods seen - Robert Callf

Tues 24th September - Robert Callf reports seeing - **Covert Way NR**, 2 speckled woods, **Trent Park**, new fields, 1 or 2 small coppers, one small heath (*was Robert's latest record to date until 25th!*)

Ware garden - No butterflies at all yesterday (well I didn't see any and I was looking) but today during some sunshine around 2 o'clock 1 Red Admiral on buddleia and 1 Comma and 1 Large White nectaring on Field Scabious - Liz Goodyear

I saw a **Clouded Yellow** yesterday (**Sep 23**) at about 12:30 very close to the spot where one was seen on 16 August. It was flying over the cycle track alongside the north side of Fairlands Way in **Stevenage**. I don't know if it was on a migratory flight or not - it was about 7 feet high flying in a southerly direction and the wind was blowing from the north - Peter Clarke

Sat 21st September - We saw a white, a brown, a nymphalid and a blue butterfly in a brief sunny spell today on Violet Chandler's garden transect in **Kings Langley** - a Green Veined White, a Speckled Wood, a Comma and a Holly Blue. Pretty good for late September in suburbia - Dave Chandler

Today in the garden (**N.W.Bishop's Stortford**), one Comma, one Peacock and one **Hummingbird Hawk Moth** - Jim Fish

Trent park new fields, single small copper and small heath. Also in area 1 red admiral- Robert Callf

Ware garden - 2 Red Admiral and 1 Painted Lady - Liz Goodyear

Tues 17th September - Hitchin (Friday 13th) - Inspecting garden on return from holiday and disturbed 2 Red Admirals from ground level (lawn) and both flew off in southerly direction. **Monday 16th**, 2 Red Admirals feeding on buddleia and ivy blossom - observed for at least 20 minutes in sunshine. Sky became cloudy and I was unable to determine direction of disappearance! Assume taking cover in bush or hedge - Val Fullforth

Fri 13th September - Trent Park, 8 small heath.- Robert Callf

King George V Res - **14 red admirals** (either flying in all directions or not going anywhere at all) - Andrew Middleton

Darlands Nature Reserve, it has been very slow last few weeks, Today saw two Speckled woods dancing upwards in the sun between the trees, one moth not able to identify, walking back from Totteridge to Mill Hill (The Ridgeway) saw two more Speckled Woods and three Red Admirals - Frank Johnson

Wed 11th September - Hemel Hempstead - There was a Red Admiral in the garden when I looked out at 8.05 a.m. Later there were 2 Red Admirals, 2 Commas (3 yesterday), 2 Large Whites, 2 Small Tortoiseshells, a Painted Lady, Small White and my first Small Copper since July 2000. This nectared on Buddleia Lochinch and Tansy but didn't stay long - Malcolm Newland

Pymmes Park, Edmonton, Holly blue, 5 speckled woods - Robert Callf

Tues 10th September - Ware, after yesterdays rain and wind, surprised to see anything in my garden but a brief tour of the buddleia bushes at lunchtime, produced 2 Comma and 5 Red Admiral - Liz Goodyear

Sun 8th September - On the **6 September**, nr Cuffley, Alan Downie saw another **dryas julia** (news via John Murray and Martin Honey) - This is Martin's comments on Leps List posted on the 7th - "My initial thought when hearing about the first sighting was that it was an accidental import, probably with fruit like the first British record. Now I'm more inclined to think they result from a deliberate release (stock is easily obtainable). If they were escapees from a butterfly house I would expect sightings of other exotic species in the same area and I don't know of any. However, there are several butterfly houses in the area so that can't be ruled out as a possible source. One that I'm informed is three miles away from the last specimen sighted (although I can't find out anything about it on the web) - Hope this is of interest"

Sat 7th September - Trent Park, new fields, **3 small coppers, 5 small heaths**, 2 comma, **1 meadow brown**. - Robert Callf

Thurs 5th September - I did not like to mention it before just in case people thought I was going crazy, but on the **27th August** at lunchtime, in Broadgate, very near to **Liverpool Street Station** in Central London, I saw a big Orange & Black butterfly hurtle by. It was nearly as big as a Cardinal but was much more orangy in colour with faint black stripes. I pride myself at being able to identify most UK species on the wing, but this one foxed me. It was only when I read the web page about London sightings of **dryas julia** that I thought could I have seen one too? David Chandler

Wed 4th September - Patmore Heath - This has been the best painted lady year here for 6 years - Gavin Vicary

Tues 3rd September - On **Sunday**, North London Birds posted this news - I saw a large orange moth on the edge of Sunshine Plain in **Epping Forest** at 16.00. Its flight was butterfly-like and it was about the size of a red admiral. There was a noticeable downcurve to the wing tips, and when it alighted, I could see faint downward lines on the wings. I've looked in the only book I've got

that covers moths and I think it was possibly an orange moth but this flies in June/July according to the text, so I'm not sure. Do you have any idea what it might have been? (The thing that struck me the most was its butterfly flight and size, bright orange colour, and lack of any obvious markings.) - Martin Shepherd. Last week the Leps List had news of a similar butterfly seen at Rainham and was identified as a **Dryas Julia** - see picture - Martin has confirmed "This is what I saw - male, 100% certain"

At **Kempton NR** on **1st Sept** AM, the following were seen: Clouded Yellow (x1); Small Copper (x3); Small Heath (x1); several Common Blues; Red Admiral (x2); Speckled Wood (x3) and Meadow Brown - Peter Collins

Sun 1st September - Trent Park 'New Fields', 3.30-4.30pm, **12 small heath**, 2 small copper, 1 common blue, also one meadow brown and one red admiral seen today - Robert Callf

August 2002

Sat 31st August - Lippitts Hill area (Epping) Several common blues inc. two small caterpillars (2&3mm) feeding on birdsfoot trefoil, 3 purple hairstreaks - Andrew Middleton

Thurs 29th August - I saw a **Clouded Yellow** at **Kempton Park Nature Reserve** again on **Sat.24 August** at around 10.00am. - Peter Collins

Tues 27th August - Grovelands Park, **Oakwood**, one purple hairstreak - Robert Callf

On Saturday, **24th August**, I sighted **Clouded Yellow** in my garden in **St. Albans**, that I had not seen for more years than I care to remember. It was certainly a Clouded Yellow, and I believe it to be a male *Colias crocea* - Derek Jeffries

Sun 25th August (news from outside the county) - My wife and I went on the trip to **nr Bicester** this afternoon. Good sightings of **Brown Hairstreak** on both blackthorn and hawthorn. Not close enough to photograph except with a very good tele lens. On the moor itself were Painted Lady, Small Torts, Common Blue and Small Copper. Hobby hawking for dragonflies over the moor - Nigel Agar

Sat 24th August - Ally Pally, a very confused **Orange Tip** on **Wednesday** - Tom Clarke

Fri 23rd August - During my lunch break yesterday, I was in the NPL Directors garden in **Bushy Park** (Teddington) and - much to my surprise - I believe I saw a very worn-looking White Letter Hairstreak. Also there I saw a few Meadow Browns, Speckled Wood, 1 Comma and 1 Holly Blue - Peter Collins

Thurs 22nd August - Nr Ware, today in garden 4+ painted ladies and a small tortoiseshell [first of summer] - Nick Sampford - also I had 22 species between Noar Hill and Ballard Down, 12+ brown hairstreaks, 30+ clouded yellows, 12+ lulworth skippers, 100+ adonis blues, + chalkhill blue, common blue, small blue, holly blue, wall brown, meadow brown, gatekeeper, small white, large white, green veined white, peacock, small tortoiseshell, painted lady, red admiral, small heath, brown argus, brimstone and comma

Hemel Hempstead - At 3.55pm today there were **seven Small Tortoiseshells** nectaring on white and purple Buddleias plus Red Admiral, Painted Lady, Meadow Brown and various whites. Have recorded one and sometimes two Painted Ladies on fifteen out of twenty two days so far in August - Malcolm Newland.

Wed 21st August - Five clouded yellows on **Lea Valley Parks land** between new housing and Osier Marsh - one gave close-up views feeding on a large daisy family species (I think!). Numerous common blues - Martin Shepherd (*news has been issued out of interest but the site is private and not publicly accessible*)

Trent Park, 4 small copper, **33 small heath**, 2 purple hairstreak - Robert Callf

Bishops Stortford, the number of Painted Ladies has decreased markedly today with only five about the garden, also today I had one Small Tortoiseshell - Jim Fish

Stevenage - Saw a couple of Painted Ladies last **Saturday** on the buddliea. Apart from the odd white I see very little else on it - Peter Clarke

Tues 20th August - St James's Park, London SW1, a single Speckled Wood at lunchtime - my first sighting of this species here. Also in St James's Park this summer - 1 Small Copper on 16 August and 2 Red Admirals on 24 June, amongst commoner species - Stephen Harris

Mon 19th August - In my garden **N.W.Bishop's Stortford, Sunday 18th Aug. 13 Painted Ladies**, 1 Red Admiral, 1 Brimstone(male), 1 Holly Blue, 2 Peacock, 2 Meadow Brown, 5 Gatekeeper, plus many Small and Large Whites - Jim Fish

At **Kempton Park Nature Reserve** on **17th August (AM)** I saw **1 Clouded Yellow**, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Red Admiral along with several Common Blues, Gatekeepers and a few Meadow Browns - Peter Collins

Sun 18th August - Biggins Farm - 2 Common Blue, 1 GV White and 1 Gatekeeper. **High Trees Farm** - 1 Comma and 1 Painted Lady. **My Garden** - 3 Painted Ladies - Alan Reynolds

Sat 17th August - Bingles Wood - 3 GV White, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 5 Meadow Brown and 11 Gatekeeper. Near **Colliers End** - 1 **Painted Lady**. **Potters Green** - 4 Speckled Wood. My Garden in **Horns Mill** Hertford - 1 Painted Lady, 2 Speckled Wood and 10 Large Whites - Alan Reynolds

Found and photographed a **White Letter Hairstreak** in **Beane Road Hertford** on **17th Aug** and saw a **Clouded Yellow** at **Bounds Green. Middx** on the same day. Two Small Tortoiseshells in our garden in **Bengeo** and also at The Wick in Bengeo. Several **painted ladies** at both these sites as well today (**18th**). Also good numbers of **Common Blue** at **Waterford Heath South Pit**, also one **Small Heath** and one **Brown Argus** at same site. Andrew Wood

Sat 17th Aug - Rough grassland north of Osier Marsh, Sewardstone (*news has been issued out of interest but the site is private and not publicly accessible*), 9.00-10.30. In very warm and sunny conditions, we were lucky enough to see **5 clouded yellows, 250+ common blues, 20+ meadow browns, and 8 painted ladies** (with a further 8 in a sunny woodland clearing on Osier Marsh plus 3 peacocks and 2 red admirals.) On **Sewardstone Marsh**, we added 1 comma, 3 large white, and 2 speckled wood...Enfield Lock Conservation Group - news from Martin Shepherd.

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16th Aug A Clouded Yellow seen over grass verge on north side of Fairlands Way cycle track about 10 yards West from footbridge into **Stevenage Town Centre** at about 12:30 today (16 Aug). Peter Clarke

Panted lady in my Ware area garden today Also peacock/comma /red admiral /small /green veined and large white, gatekeeper, small skipper, silver y moth, and a large green cricket of some kind - Nick Sampford >>

Five clouded yellows today, 3 on Essex side of Lea Valley around Epping Forest, **2 Rammey Marsh**. Minimum **80 common blues** on rough ground by new housing just south of M25 (east of canal just in Essex - by downy black poplar) and **14 on Rammey Marsh**, Middx - Andrew Middleton

Taken from **Nature notes from the Havant area, Hampshire - Ralph Collins**
12th August - Just one **Brown Hairstreak** (first of the year) was seen today by Mark Litjens at Noar Hill which he also visited yesterday.

Wed 14-8-02 Ally Pally 1st **small copper** of the year today! Tom Clarke
Covert Way LNR, 2 purple haistreaks, **Trent Park** area, 2 small copper and 2 small heath 'new Fields', 2 purple haistreaks Williams Wood - Robert Callf
Finally saw a **clouded yellow** in **Ponders End** at 5.30pm, also **Epping Forest**, 16 species of butterfly including brimstone - Andrew Middleton

Mon 12-8-02 Harold Hill, (Essex) 3 painted ladies in garden - Colin Jupp, Painted Lady
Coppetts Wood Today.-Tony Clancy
KGV Res. 3 painted ladie. **Sun 11th North Enfield**, small copper and c blue Parkside Farm, 1 painted lady Hogg Hill

Ally Pally On butterfly walk yesterday (11th) 12 species, including **purple haistreak** and two **common blues** (first for the year - at last). Tom Clarke
Sun 11-8-02 Walthamstow Res, just in Essex **Clouded Yellow 1, Painted Lady 7, Small Copper 1, Common Blue 10+** - Stephen Harris, Dan England, Ray Kilminster, Dave Lambert.

Sat 10-8-02 Copped Hall, Essex, 1 clouded yellow with c50 whites on thistles - various obs, also three or so single clouded yellows recently for S Hamilton in the Nazeing area of Lea Valley

Thu 8th Aug KGV/WG Res 4 painted ladies, 3 common blues - R Callf, A Middleton
Wednesday 7th August Many **Brimstone** Butterflies seen around the **Radlet Road area of Watford** (TQ114969) both males and females. Also lots of Speckled wood, Gatekeeper, **Small heath** and the occasional Comma. Large whites are common around Watford this year, perhaps unusually so compared with previous years-several specimens have been found dead around the town centre, curiously in absolutely perfect condition; maybe recently hatched following a maiden flight. Anyone else seen this? Su

Wed 7th August Painted lady at **KGV Reservoir**, Enfield, 12.25, north east side. Also comma, small tortoiseshells, small and large whites, meadow browns and gatekeepers around. Red admiral, peacock, and skipper sp on the edge of Pattypool Mead (Sewardstone).
Hemel Hempstead garden - Before the storms arrived I saw 4 Red Admirals, 3 Peacocks, 2 Gatekeepers, a Comma, Holly Blue, Painted Lady (two days in a row) and all the whites in good numbers. Male Brimstone seen yesterday. Will be on the lookout for Camberwell Beauty! Malcolm Newland
Camberwell Beauty news from outside Herts which may be of interest (Insect News Yahoo Group) > Camberwell Beauty. N.YKS, RPTD at Skipwith Common, Camberwell Beauty. SUFF, Lowestoft along Gunton railway line am

Tue 6th Aug Today a **Camberwell Beauty** was seen in **Bedford, Beds**. The Camberwell Beauty was spotted by Paul Colbert in his garden at Box End near Bedford at 13.40 today. He watched it at close range on a bird table before it flew away. Source Charles Baker (Branch recorder for Beds) - there just might be others coming in from the east coast through Essex & Suffolk towards our area. Dave Chandler - Beds & Northants Branch
Trent Pk, Vic Fm area, **painted lady** on burdock, 7 **peacocks**, 7 **purple haistreaks** inc 5 on ash at **Covert Way** - R Callf

Sun 4th Aug Saw a **Painted Lady** on the buddleia in my back garden this afternoon (16.30). Close to **Stevenage** Town Centre. Peter Clarke.....also one by the KGV Res, Lea Valley, today
Saw a **Small White** butterfly
today at **Regent's Park**, London. It was sunning itself on a plant around 1830hrs after the heavy thundery showers.
This was only my second or third butterfly sighting in the park this year. Too much pollution? Bob Hazra

Fri 2nd August - Trent Park, male common blue, **Covert Way LNR**, small copper - R Callf
Brox NR, tried for PE from 12-4pm but no luck - would be nice if someone could squeeze out one more sighting in early August, one **white admiral**, **brimstone**, **poplar hawkmoth** flying and egg-laying on the top of a silver birch at 2.50pm in bright sunshine, 1 hobby. **A10 embankment, Brox**, 4 **brown argus**, 3 common blues, 1 small copper - Andrew Middleton

Thurs 1st August 8 pm US time - Can't keep up with the Purple Emperor news, so far no monarchs or anything real special, although Western Lady and mega large swallowtail just north of **San Fransisco** - Liz Goodyear

31st July 2002 Lea Valley > KGV Res pm, 5 painted ladies, male common blue, WG Res. 2 painted ladies - A Middleton, Rich Cope

30/7/02 13.30 Broxbourne Wood NR, 1 Purple Emperor seen for half minute in sallows 10 meters down ride, also bullfinches & many juv green woodpeckers - B Dawton
KGV Res pm, 1 painted lady - Andrew Middleton

28 July 2002 - I had a look at the **Watery Grove, Newton Wood** area today. Lots of Gatekeepers, some old Ringlet and Meadow Browns. Large and Small Skippers. Purple Hairstreak in oaks. No sign of White Admiral or Fritilleries or even Comma in spite of perfect conditions. Went to **Broxbourne Woods** today. **23 July** .1 very probable overflying **Purple Emperor** flying from sallows to the large oak on the right of the track from the west car park. Further along the track at least 3 White Admirals. Hopefully got a pic of Purple Hairstreak on a low oak on the left of the main ride just beyond the barricade.- Nigel Agar (news forwarded to website by John Murray)

27 July 2002 - Although not evidence of a colony, I have recently seen 3 **dark green fritillaries** in the bits of Hertfordshire that poke into Bedfordshire around Barton le Clay. 1 was on **Telegraph Hill** and 2 were at **Hexton**, on the other side of the road from the reserve. The species seems to have been established for a few years on the Barton Hills NNR and across the valley at Sharpenhoe, so an expansion of range from there is not too surprising. - Jim Reid (news forwarded to website by John Murray)

EC4 - 2 live and 4 trodden on **lime hawk moth** caterpillars found by one of my partners (a keen moth enthusiast in his youth!) underneath lime trees on **New Fetter Lane, London EC4** over the last couple of days - not sure how rare they are but perhaps unusual on a City Street with a couple of lime trees and no other greenery? We found them there last year too! **DAVID J JAMES** (*Larger Moths of the London Area* - Colin Plant - given as category A1 - common and widespread resident)

Mon 29th July, A good walk around **Darlands lake** at lunchtime, 12 Speckled Woods, 2 Gatekeepers, 3 Small Whites, 1 Large White, 1 unidentified Moth and I think I saw a **Fritillary** - will keep an eye out this week. Here is a photograph of one of the Speckled Woods - Frank Johnson

William Girling Flood Channel this evening (Essex/Middx boundary) *1 **Clouded Yellow** - Tony Clancy

Trent Park area, **oak eggar moth** seen well in flight by Church Wood, also 5 purple hairstreak, holly blue, small heath - Robert Callf

On Saturday 27th July Kathryn and I decided to go and look for **Purple Emperors** at **Tring Park** following the reports of sightings in the locality on your web page. We arrived at 12:40pm just as the cloud cover was beginning to break up and took a walk across the grassland from the Hastoe end (by the avenue of Horse Chestnut trees) to the monument. Butterflies on the wing included: **Meadow Brown, Ringlet, Gatekeeper Small Skipper, Large White, Green Veined White and Marbled White**. After walking along the main ride from the monument we took a small path up onto the top of the ridge, at the back of the wood. Along this path there are several Sallow trees along with a stand of Willows. The path passes through a small clearing which contains 1 large Sallow tree and two smaller sallows (there are also two rather large buddleia plants). continued below-

As we walked up the path into the clearing we spotted a Female Purple Emperor circling the clearing (1:15pm). Over the five ten minutes, the butterfly continued to circle the clearing occasionally pausing high in the trees. On at least two occasions the butterfly settled in the shaded side of the large sallow tree, unfortunately just out of sight. Eventually the butterfly flew off over the trees. We continued our walk along the path, which passes a group of sallows and a stand of willows before diving into an area of tall Hawthorn scrub. In this scrub Kathryn spotted a large butterfly flying high across the path into the Hawthorn Scrub. Following it we managed to get another glimpse of it shortly afterwards when it took off from its perch and headed off the way it came. This second sighting was very brief and it was impossible to tell whether it was the same female that we had seen earlier although I think that there is a fair chance that it was. Returning along the path a short while later we were treated to another air display by a Female Purple Emperor in the first clearing. We did have a look for a Master tree but with literally 100's of tall

prominent trees on the top of the ridge, fortunes weren't in our favour!! However for a first time out looking for Purple Emperor's we didn't do too badly! Best regards - Allen Beechey

Sun 28th July 1900hrs **painted lady** on our daisies, Chestnut Road **Enfield** - Brian Dawton
Broxbourne Wood NR late am to 4.30pm-ish, several sightings of **purple emperor** from several areas of the reserve by several observers. Probably one of the best areas was again the main east-west ride lined with willows. For sure, 3 sightings of a female were made here at 12.10, then a long sit-down resulted in a sighting by Nick of a smaller PE above willows mid-pm (anyone remember the exact time?), likely to have been a male because of size, which settled for 10 minutes high up in scrub > see Nick's photo >. Talking to observers who kept on the move around the reserve rather than lie in the shade, an estimate of a minimum total of 4 PEs seems reasonable, although only seen one at a time. Also several sightings of **white admiral**, min 2-3 insects - various observers.

Broxbourne Woods. Female **purple emperor** seen in flight briefly at 12.06 just above the treeline from the bench on main ride near west car park. Also close sightings of purple hairstreak and peacock. Others had seen a **white admiral**. - Martin Shepherd

More importantly: After spending a couple of hours around midday in **Broxbourne Wood on Saturday 27th**, Tom (age five) decided to spend the rest of day drawing all the insects we saw. The drawing took him about five hours and includes one of each species. The insects were: Essex Skipper, Large White, Green-veined White, Small White, Purple Hairstreak, Holly Blue (on the drive back to Ware), Purple Emperor (female, high in Shallows 1:45-2:00pm), Speckled Wood, Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown, Ringlet, Large Red Damselfly, Common Blue Damselfly, Emperor Dragonfly, Southern Hawker, Brown Hawker, Water Boatman, Great Diving Beetle (I think), Unidentified micro moth on grass! I'd be grateful for some help with the moth identification (bottom left on grass)- Toby Austin - the link is now missing

Sat 27th July Monken Hadley Common, ringlet, **Trent Park Fri**, small heath and small copper, 2 purple hairstreak - Robert Callf -

First ever **Ringlet** in 6 years of transect walking at **Bricket Wood**. First sight of Peacock on budleia this year - Malcolm Hull

Went to **Broxbourne Wood NR** at about 12 and had one sighting of **purple emperor**. Helen Bantock and Toby Austin were there already but had not had any sightings. There were plenty of common butterflies about, then at 1.45 Angela picked up a large butterfly flying along the willows which appeared to land. Toby found it roosting high in the willows where it sat for a good ten minutes before flying over our heads and lost to view. We sat there till gone 3 with no more sighting. **White admirals** seem to be dwindling, only saw one all the time we were there, but loads of purple hairstreaks - Nick Sampford

26th July - Subsequent to Trevor Chapman's observation of a probable **Dark Green Fritillary** at **Norton Green, Herts**, (Grid Ref TL228228)} on 24th Jul I can confirm a definite on lunch-time 26th July. I observed a large flighty, butterfly, about the colour of a Comma, which I suspected to be a fritillary of some kind, but could not initially clinch the id. At last it settled on a couple of thistle flowers, to give brief but conclusive views of upper and under sides. The upper wings had typical fritillary markings with a narrow white border around the edge. (1-2 secs). The most noticeable feature of the hind wing underside was the white spots. On closer examination a green wash was noted from the hind wing root spreading up and back towards the spots, but not very extensive. (4-5 secs). Other butterflies noted in the previous two weeks during good weather were **Marbled White** (3) and Large Skipper (1). I have looked for White Admiral in the same place as last year but have had no joy - maybe due to the Brambles having been cleared from the woodland ride. Regards, Keith Mitchell.

I saw no fritillaries at **Newton Green Wood**, but a newly emerged female **Brimstone**, 11 **purple hairstreaks**, one nectaring on ragwort, newly emerged **Peacock** & 4 **Commas** (2 of which were **Hutchinsoni**) - Malcolm Hull

East Herts - Had a sighting of what I can only describe as a **large fritillary**, either dark green or silver washed. I watched it flying from about 50 yards over a field and along a hedgerow. In Hants or Wilts I wouldn't have hesitated to say it was a fritillary. There is a lot of undisturbed woodland (mostly private) with vast amounts of violets in the area and I'll give it another go and report back. I also saw a **Wall** in perfect condition which I presume was newly hatched, plus many whites and gatekeepers, meadow browns, small tortoiseshell, holly blue, small, essex and large skippers. I'm gonna go to Broxbourne for the day tomorrow - if i fail to see any Purple Emperors I won't go

again (until 2003) - Nick Sampford

Broxbourne Wood NR - no sightings of purple emperor reported today in seemingly ideal conditions from mid-morning to 3pm, several sightings of **white admiral** with a minimum of two present - several observers

25th July - Enfield Lock: Peacock in my garden this afternoon along with comma and holly blue...Martin Shepherd

White letter hairstreak seen in my garden this morning (backs onto **Sherrardswood**). Also the pretty much resident pair of bullfinches and marsh tit (no signs of young though) - DAVID JAMES

Lots of **Marbled Whites** last week at **Jersey Farm Open Space, St Albans**. Previous week in **North Mymms Park** had a **Purple Hairstreak, Marbled White** and lots of Gatekeepers, M.browns and Small Skippers - Rupert Pyrah

Walked around **Darlands** yesterday 1pm until 2pm saw six speckled woods and two small whites. Also, the moth I photographed at Darlands on 16th July was identified as *Prays fraxinella* (family Yponomeutidae) by Colin Plant - Frank Johnson

24th July - I am almost 100% sure of a **Dark Green Fritillary** sighting at lunchtime. Orangebrown, larger than comma and flying fast up and down but zig-zag flight over bracken edge of wide glade North/South at very end of track that passes from **Norton Green**, past the Sawmill cottage but before in leaves Newton Wood. I saw another at Box Hill, Surrey at the weekend (my first), and this behaved and flew very similar. Very fast and difficult to follow. Needless to say I never saw it at rest - Trevor Chapman

Trent Park area, single small heath, small copper, purple and white letter hairstreak, two ringlets - news from Robert Callf

Broxbourne NNR - Went up the woods today between 11.30 and 1.30 had **three sightings of purple emperor** all brief. At 12 by big oak over willows and 12.45 over willows right of bench this was two which almost certainly were a male and a female due to the size difference. Also purple hairstreaks and white admirals and a red admiral which keeps flitting up the path like the emperors do - Nick Sampford

23rd July - News from Brian Jessop - On Saturday 20th he had several Purple Emperor sightings at Tring Park. However, on a very serious note, he also saw evidence that someone had been looking for eggs on the butterfly's food plant. If that person is reading this, please note you have been rumbled - *Liz Goodyear and John Murray*

Large numbers of **Chalk-hill Blue** at **Hexton Chalk pit** on the **17th July**. You could not walk through the site without causing them to flutter up. Must have been between 400-600 - Stuart Pittman

Went to **Broxbourne yesterday (Monday)** was there about 1.30 to 5 had no PE sightings at all but saw the normal butterflies, there were 100s of purple hairstreaks and quite a few white admirals - Nick Sampford

22nd July - Broxbourne Woods NNR, 12.10 a fast moving butterfly over willows was too large for white admiral and appeared to us to be a smaller **male-sized purple emperor**. White Admiral still present as well in good numbers **Wormley Wood** pm, a very large orange insect (much larger than comma) which flew past was probably an **oak eggar** moth rather than a fritillary - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton. *Two separate v. large orange moths perhaps this species seen in the Trent Park in mid-July by Robert Callf*

* Additional notes from Andrew Middleton, **Regarding** the observation of presumed **egg-laying activity** by a white admiral, there was a serious purpose in climbing the tree to examine the honeysuckle *in situ*. We and several others have spent a fair while trying to find caterpillars of white admiral so that "we" could say for sure to woodland managers which kind of honeysuckle growth (eg shaded or edge) was being used in Herts, rather than just repeat what is in the books. In this case it appeared from the ground that 5-6 eggs were laid, but on climbing the tree, it was found that only one egg had been laid - it could have been that none was laid if the female found the site to be unsuitable. Now we have a little more confirmed information to help those who manage our counties woods.

20th July - Took a few photos yesterday, off Park Rd and Wengeo lane in **Ware**. As well as these there were odd examples of Ringlet, Meadow Brown, gatekeeper, Speckled wood and Holly Blue but not a lot. Also several Shaded broadbar moths - Andrew Wood

Ally Pally - In what has been a poor year so far, a **clouded yellow** was seen on **Thursday 18th** at 2.30pm around the Palm Court entrance. Shame I didn't see it! - Tom Clarke

Just returned from **Broxbourne NNR** after seeing my first ever **Purple Emperor** on the ground - brilliant! First sighting was of a female flying around sallow at about 12.15 just after the sun came out. Then just before 1.30 we saw a White Admiral egg laying and Andrew Middleton had climbed up a tree to try and take a photo, when a female flew around and down onto the ride. The butterfly was observed on the ground for about 10 minutes, it would settle, then fly around then re-settle and several times flew around our heads at speed before flying off over the willows. Meanwhile Andrew was still up the tree and missed all this but borrowing Nick Sampford's camera managed to get several photos - Liz and Rachel Goodyear, Andrew Middleton, Helen Bantock, Tony Clancy and dog, Nick and Angie Sampford, The Smith family and two other observers whose name I didn't get - *Several photos will be put up in due course*

19th July - Tring Park - 2 Purple Emperor seen today, male at 10.30 and female at 12 o'clock (exact location not known) - Phillip Woodward also White-letter hairstreak seen on the top of the hill at **Aldbury Nowers** on the 15th.

Latest news from **Broxbourne** today - 3 sightings of **Purple Emperor** on central ride from the West carpark, Nick and Angela Sampford, Martin Shepherd and Jeremy Gaskell. Some details from Jeremy > one female at 12.10 photoed, one in flight 15.15 (third sighting later for the Sampfords) (*Good luck everyone and don't be put off going by the cloud - LG*)

Went round **Darlands (16th July)** Saw 4 whites various on the wing, 4 Meadow Browns, 1 Speckled wood and One moth Prays fraxinella (family Yponomeatidae), see attached photo - Frank Johnson

18th July - Broxbourne Woods NNR - Notes from Martin Shepherd (via Andrew Middleton) - I also saw a purple hairstreak today - Jeremy and I had very good views of a female on an oak sapling showing its purple patches very well. And there were a lot of white admirals about...we had 8+ sightings.

More notes on today's **Purple Emperor** sighting from Jeremy Gaskell (via Andrew Middleton) - Jeremy and Martin were walking along when M. kicked a 'white admiral' from the track which landed further along the path. Jeremy got his camera out to take a close up of it, got down and close then realised it had a purple sheen above and orange eyespot below, but in his amazement at seeing a male purple emperor he failed to click the shutter before it flew. Then on settled views the next one appeared to be a worn female, and the next a rather fresh female - so Jeremy is fairly happy with **a probable count of three**. He was just rather shocked to have had success and nearly passed over the first one as a white admiral!

A **female Purple Emperor** seen extremely well on two occasions on the main ride from the West carpark shortly after 3:00 and seen until around 3:20pm. It was first seen at about 2:45pm by two others (Martin Shepherd and Jeremy Gaskell) who alerted me to the fact that they were pretty sure that they had had a brief sighting.

Being in exactly the same spot as my own probable sighting on the 14th and Terry Goddard's sighting on the 16th I agreed that they may well have. I then re-found it at and we all had fairly brief but good views as it settled around the area by the first bench (where the x-roads are); that is until Sam, my three year old, unfortunately flushed it! About ten minutes later it was seen flying down the ride where it settled on a muddy patch by the remains of the stream at the lowest point in the dip of the ride. Here we all (including Sam, but from further back!) had superb views for about five minutes before it departed. What is odd is that after the views by the bench, we all agreed that it was a very worn individual and Jeremy Gaskell actually said he was fairly sure that he had seen tears in the wings. However, when seen well ten minutes later, it appeared reasonably fresh. Trick of the light? We were looking into the sun on the first views which may have shone through the wings making them appear paler and more worn? I find it hard to believe that after looking - admittedly not always in the same area - for six of the last eight days, a total of about twenty hours, that I should see two different females in the space of five minutes! But, it

did appear remarkably different and you never know - Toby Austin with Martin Shepherd and Jeremy Gaskell

17th July - Oxhey, a Marbled White was seen here at a site where we have seen Marbled Whites before. Since reporting it last, extensive unofficial tipping has taken place; fortunately only covering half the unmown meadow. Also the moth, the **Buff Footman**, turned up at a site in **Harrow** last weekend. Colin Plant's book 'The Larger Moths of the London Area' categorised this as a rarity - John Hollingdale

16th July - Broxbourne Woods NNR - After 6 days of looking, Terry Goddard saw a **female Purple Emperor** on the ground along the central ride from the West Carpark at 12 o'clock today. He was able to get within 6 feet, but a dog walker disturbed the butterfly and it flew up. However, it was still visible and Terry pointed it out to the dog walker who was equally thrilled. The Purple Emperor flew off, but then he saw it flying around the dog walker's head before disappearing over the trees. Later to top Terry's day, a Marbled White flew through his **Cheshunt** garden!

Trent Park - news via Robert Callf, Robin White saw a Marbled White yesterday

15th July - Broxbourne Woods NNR - I thought you might like to know that following your report of a Purple Emperor earlier in the week at Broxbourne, my husband and I went there today and at midday we saw a **Purple Emperor** not far from where we saw last years one. It landed briefly on a tree trunk at eye level before flying off over the tree tops, it took off before I could get a photo although I tried to take one anyway, shall see if anything comes out! Lissa Smith

Broxbourne Woods NNR. One possible brief sighting of a **Purple Emperor** yesterday (late afternoon) down ride from West carpark. Fairly sure it was one but can't rule White Admiral out on views - Toby Austin

Finally some good weather, Went over **Darlands Lake** on Sunday 2pm until 3pm, Lots of various whites all on the wing, 1 Red admiral, 6 meadow browns, 1 small skipper, 1 unidentified moth - Frank Johnson

14th July - Ealing Butterfly Walk produced White-letter Hairstreak (5), Purple Hairstreak (4), Holly Blue (1), Small Copper (2), Red Admiral(2) among the commoner species. Examination of the moth trap set overnight was interesting and produced among others a Bufftip (which looks like a broken birch twig). I heard today that a Marbled White has been seen just across the A40 from Horsenden near the Greenford Lagoon - Andy Culshaw

Horsenden Hill News 13 July White-letter Hairstreak (8 Horsenden Hill, 1 Perivale Wood), Purple Hairstreak (7 Horsenden Hill, 6 Perivale Wood), Holly Blue (4), Small Copper (1), Essex Skipper (2), Red Admiral (2) plus tens of Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown, Small and Large Skipper, Small and Green-veined White, Speckled Wood. Dragonflies included my first Banded Demoiselles (2) for the site and 3 Black-tailed Skimmers - Andy Culshaw

A single White Admiral on the **Bricket Wood** transect yesterday. Other species on the wing in **St Albans area** over the weekend Marbled White (Good numbers), Gatekeeper (very few), Ringlet, Meadow Brown Speckled Wood, Red Admiral (Good numbers), Small Tortoiseshell, Comma, Purple Hairstreak, Holly Blue, Large, Small & Green Veined White, Large, Small & Essex Skipper (Small are by far the most numerous) - Malcolm Hull

I was photographing Chalkhill blues this morning at **Hexton chalk pit**. They are now mating and I took a number of images - Les Borg

Trent Park, 8 small heaths, small copper 2nd brood, 2 holly blues, ringlet in tertrad nrth of Trent Park and **Saturday, Northaw Great Wood**, 3 white admirals, 1 white letter hairstreak, 5 ringlets, - Robert Callf

Yesterday - Broxbourne Woods, at about 12.45 pm, I saw what looked like a large, upright, pale leaf at a pool of water on the path about 10 metres away. Raising my bins, I realised it was a **Purple Emperor**! Got out my camera, but found the PE had moved ahead another 10 metres and it then flew off - Helen Bantock

I had an excellent view of a White Admiral at **Mad Bess Wood, Ruislip** today, 14 July 02 at 1355. It settled on the path only a few feet away from me, then flew up into low vegetation and finally up into the trees - John Eborall

Balls Wood Field Trip Just John Whiteman and me, but some good views of Purple hairstreak and White Admiral high up, also saw several lower down earlier on the transect and afterwards. All the usuals also present today, Gatekeeper, meadow brown, speckled wood, Ringlet, comma, large and Green Veined White, Large, Small and Essex Skipper - Andrew Wood (Broxbourne Woods field trip produced 2 White Admiral and many of the usual species as well - LG

During **Dragonfly Atlas Project** work today in **TL31** I saw 1 Small White, 10 Small/GV White and 1 Meadow Brown at the River Rib **Hanging Wood**, 30 Small/GV White, 20 Meadow Brown, 2 Small Tortoiseshell and 1 Small Skipper at **Biggins Farm**, 1 Comma at **New Hall Farm**, 1 Small White, 1 GV White, 1 Meadow Brown and 2 Small Tortoiseshell at **Sawtrees Farm** - 1 Comma at the **River Rib Faddens**, 30 Meadow Brown, 7 Small/GV White, 2 Comma, 1 Red Admiral, and 1 Gatekeeper at the **River Rib Thundridgehill** and 1 GV White, 2 Small White, 1 Large Skipper, 20 Small/GV White, 1 Meadow Brown, 1 Small Skipper and 5 Small Tortoiseshell at **The Meads** - Alan Reynolds

The first **Sharpenhoe Clappers' Chalkhill Blue** of the season was seen on Saturday 13th July. It was a freshly emerged singleton male and was found at the base of the slope on the North-East facing downs on the Barton-le-Clay side of the reserve, which is quite an unusual event because this species normally emerges first on the southern facing slopes of the old chalkpits in the Moleskin area. The Dark Green Fritillaries are still present, but not as many in number as they were this time last year. Other first sightings seen on Saturday for Sharpenhoe in 2002: two dozen Gatekeepers, a Purple Hairstreak & two Commas - David Chandler (New via Beds & Northants) **Yesterday, Balls Wood**. Spent enjoyable couple of hours photographing White Admirals. One almost landed on my leg! Purple Hairstreak briefly down from canopy. Also noted Holly Blue, Brown and Southern Hawker, Common Darter and many of the common species - Phil Rhodes.

12th July - Among the audience at the **Globe Theatre** this afternoon was a large butterfly. It looked very like a Painted Lady, but it did not come close enough for me to be sure. It arrived just in time for Act I and stayed until the middle of Act II - Michael Healy

Purple Emperor have been seen in Hertfordshire this week, but the "poor" weather is making recording and monitoring very difficult - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

11th July - Copped Hall Estate nr Epping, on footpath to hall from main road to Epping, lunchtime: 15+ gatekeepers, large and small skippers, small and large whites, meadow browns, red admiral. **Ermine Street nr Goose Green**, mid-pm: white admiral, speckled wood, two red admirals, five commas, several ringlets, plus whites, small skippers and meadow browns.

Hoddesdonpark Wood - You probably see these all the time but this is my first ever sighting of White Admiral. There must have been at least a dozen males chasing everything from other butterflies to small mosquitoes. The great thing about this was that it all happened in the glade we created specifically for them at Hoddesdonpark - Neil Chamberlain (Woodland Trust)

Stanstead Abbots Gatekeeper, **Broxbourne Woods** (West carpark area) White Admiral x 5, (West and East carpark) Ringlet; Meadow Brown; Small/Large Skipper; Whites etc. **Balls Park Woods, White Admiral x 10+, Small Skipper x 100+ (all checked for no Essex but none!)**, Speckled Wood - one tatty individual, Ringlet; Meadow Brown; Large Skipper; Whites etc - Toby Austin

10th July - During dragonfly atlas work in TL32 today, I saw 20 Meadow Brown, 1 Gatekeeper and 2 Large Skipper at **Langtons Lane** and 10 Meadow Brown and 10 Ringlet at **Potters Green** - Alan Reynolds

Marbled White news via John Murray - 5 were seen at **Jersey Farm Woodland Park** in St. Albans on the 6th, and Sue and Steve Place saw 3 or 4 at **Old Park Wood Nature Reserve, Harefield** on the **7th July**

News from Sun **30 June** (reported by Dulcie Miller) - 11 apparently newly emerged Marbled Whites seen on **Long Deans Nature Reserve**. Sat **6 July** - 5 Marbled Whites recorded for **Bunkers Park** transect, week 14. This visit also saw the first 2 Gatekeepers of the year - Michael Pearson

9th July - Enfield area, Trent Park, 2 white letters by Oakwood bus-stop, 5 ringlets (highest ever count), 14 commas, 2 small heaths, 5 purple hairtreaks, 5 small tortoiseshell, painted lady - Robert Callf

I visited **Hexton Chalk Pit Reserve** this evening between 5.35 and 5.55pm. Despite poor weather I saw **4 male Chalkhill Blues**. The only other species about were 1 Ringlet and 2 Meadow Brown - Ian Woiwod

White Admiral in flight at **Symondshyde Wood** yesterday, despite weather! - Trevor James

8th July - Bengoe - This morning Andrew Wood found a **female Beautiful Snout** in his moth trap - this is only the 4th ever county record!

I eventually ventured out at about 4.00pm, when the sun came out, and went to the **Meads**. In an hour long walk through the grazing marsh and along the banks of the New River, I saw **16 Small Tortoiseshell** (predominantly on the nettles by the New River), 4 Large White, 8 Small/GV White and 8 Meadow Brown - Alan Reynolds

6th July - On a weekend that, from Saturday lunchtime, was forecast to be predominantly sunny, I managed to hit the only period of intermittent sunshine at the **Meads** and saw 1 Red Admiral, 10 Meadow Brown, **6 Small Tortoiseshell** around the nettles by the New River (Small Torts are like buses, you wait for a long time then six come along at once!) and 6 GV/Small White - Alan Reynolds

HOT NEWS Angela Chandler thought she saw a **Clouded Yellow** in the Sainsbury's car park near to **Apsley parish church** (Nr Hemel Hempstead) at 11am this morning. She described it as more deeper yellow than a Brimstone but very fast flying. It was heading north towards Tring. Sounds a "possible" CY to me - Dave Chandler

Trent Park area, ringlet, 5 small heaths, 8 purple hairstreaks, **1 Essex skipper**, 12 small skippers, 4 comma, 5 small tortoiseshells, red admiral and painted lady - Robert Callf

Bramfield Park Wood - spent 3 hours and this is what we saw: 200+ Ringlet, 40+ Meadow Brown, 30+ Large Skipper, 30+ Small Skipper, **2 Essex Skipper**, 2 White Admiral, 10+ Purple Hairstreak, also Small and Large White and a Red Admiral. Went to **Wengeo Lane in Ware**, and spent 2 hours walking up and down looking for White-letter Hairstreak. We never saw one in fact, we probably only saw 10 butterflies but the best being a lovely Comma - Nick Sampford

4th July - Had 12+ white letter hairstreaks along the **Crooked Mile** dinner time also large skipper/comma/small white/meadow brown - Nick Sampford

Saw my first **Gatekeeper** today - Liz Goodyear

Archive Page

Sightings from January to June 2002

 [Archive Index](#)

 [Photo House Index](#)

This page contains sightings details of all the butterflies and moths reported to the [Sightings page](#) between January and June 2002.

Note: These pages have been copied from the original sightings page and some links will no longer work. All images of butterflies or moths have been removed, but most can be found in the [Photo House](#)

June 2002

Fri 28th June - Broxbourne Woods - 3 White Admiral in total despite poor weather conditions, also lots of Ringlet! - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

Tim Sharrock has reported seeing a large butterfly in **Blunham** on **25 June**. His description fits **Large Tortoiseshell** very well. It flew up into some trees when disturbed which this species is said to do - News from Charles Baker (Beds & Northants Branch)

Thurs 27th June - Had a probable **white admiral** [only seen high in the tree tops briefly] and at least 3 **purple hairstreaks** in **Bramfield Wood** last nite plus large skippers, ringlet, meadow brown in good numbers also painted lady in my garden (**Thundridge**) yesterday - Nick Sampford

Wed 26th June - Balls Wood - Spent a couple of hours walking around with the kids after school this p.m. and saw...Large Skipper x 30+, **Small Skipper x 50+**, **White Admiral x 4**, **Purple Hairstreak**, Comma x 3, Ringlet x 30+, Speckled Wood (a few), Large White (a few), Meadow Brown (many) etc. - Toby Austin

5 Purple Hairstreak, Chingford Golf Course (Essex) this morning - Andrew Middleton

5 White letter hairstreaks nectaring on lime tree flowers adjacent to single wych elm, Lea Valley Road, **Ponders End** this morning - Andrew Middleton

Tues 25th June - 5 Painted Ladies on Rothamsted Farm (June 24th). Also what looked very like a Clouded Yellow on the **Nicky Line** - definitely not a Brimstone - Michael Healy

Ware 8.30, I had just returned from the school run to find a Large Skipper nectaring on the lavender in my front garden, the first one for 2 years - Liz Goodyear

Mon 24th June - Saw my first **Ringlet** in Wengeo Lane, **Ware** on Thu **20th**. Good transect at **Balls Wood today, 24th**. In 40 minutes saw: **Ringlet 58, Large Skipper 47, Speckled Wood 20**, 11 Meadow Brown, 2 Comma and 1 each of Painted lady, Red Admiral, Large White, Small Tortoiseshell (first record on the transect since 1999) and **1 WHITE ADMIRAL** - Andrew Wood

Another **Clouded Yellow** today, possibly a yellowish f. helice, investigating medicks seen by Peter Almond on **Stevington Country Walk** news via Charles Baker (Beds & Northants Branch)

Sunday in **Maple Cross**. I saw 2 groups of peacock caterpillars one more advanced than the other on the nettles around adjacent farm land. NO SIGN this year of any tortoiseshells - Ann Piper

Trent park - 45 large skippers (33 in less than 20minutes), 2 fresh comma, 1 small skipper, 2 small heath, 1 small copper, 2 common blues, 1 painted lady **Vicarage Farm** 3 small

tortoisesHELLS - Robert Callf and his weekend round-up - **Sun 23rd Fir and Pond Wood, Small Skipper, Fri 21st in Trent Park**, 15 Large Skippers & **Thurs 20th**, 6 Painted Ladies

Lunchtime stroll along a meadow/bank at work (**Stevenage**) revealed Small Heath (3), Common Blue (5) Meadow Brown (7), no Whites. A few day flying moths: Cinnabar, Thistle Ermine and loads of Yellow Shells - Trevor Chapman

Sun 23rd June - Horsenden Hill; First White-letter Hairstreaks on the wing at Horsenden Hill today - 2 at Home Mead which is to the south side of the summit and 10+ at Batts Fields which is to the east of the site and south of Horsenden Lane. Also Comma (3), Holly Blue (1), Painted Lady (1), and several each of Large Skipper, Meadow Brown and Large White. Also of interest 2 Black-tailed Skimmers - Andy Culshaw

30+ Large Skippers, Red Admiral, few Meadow Browns at **Wheathampstead Education Centre** on Sunday 23 June. At **Ivinghoe Beacon** (not Herts) on **Friday** Chimney Sweeper moths and Ringlet - Trevor Chapman

Bowyers Marsh, Cheshunt - Meadow Brown, Speckled Wood, Red Admiral, Comma, Common Blue, Green-veined White, Silver Y and Cinnabar all on the wing today. Also Shaded Broad Bar and Yellow Shell. Lots of Painted Ladies around nearby on Essex side of River Lea. Stephen Harris

Balls Wood - A quick (20 mins) walk this afternoon produced: Ringlet x c.5-10 (wasn't really counting), Meadow Brown x c.5-10, Large Skipper x c.5-10, Speckled Wood x 3, Painted Lady x 2 (but possibly the same one - similar condition) -Toby Austin

Fri 21st June - One **Clouded Yellow** seen yesterday at **Potton** (Beds.) by Andrew Darrington - news via Charles Baker (Beds & Northants Branch)

Keith Cherry telephoned me yesterday to say that he had a Hummingbird Hawk-moth in his **Welwyn Garden City** garden on **June 19th and 20th** news via John Murray

Small Blue are back on the North Herts site. One laying eggs on Kidney Vetch on **20 June** also **Marbled White, Small Skipper** and Meadow Brown - Nigel Agar

Thurs 20th June - Fresh **Marbled White** seen on A41 sliproad at the **Hemel Hempstead** exit - Andrew Middleton

Wed 19th June - Hemel Hempstead, Saw a **Humming-bird Hawkmoth** hovering around my Delphiniums and Knautia at 3.25pm today. It flew away only to return twice more at 5.30 and 7.30, nectaring on Red, White and pink Valerian on both occasions. Do they have a two hourly feeding cycle or was this just co-incidence? Malcolm Newland

Went to NE Herts today and Denis & I saw very few butterflies, but those we did see were - **Weston Meadows**, 1 Red Admiral, **Wallington Meadows**, Small White, **Wallington Common NR** - 12 Speckled Wood, Large White, Peacock and Red Admiral. **Rushden**, Southern Green, Small White, **Brent Pelham**, 4 Speckled Wood, 4 Meadow Brown, 1 Red Admiral, 1 Large White and a Large Skipper - C. Shepperson

Forty Hall area - 2 Painted Ladies, 2 Small Tortoiseshell, 8 Speckled Wood, **1 Chimney Sweeper moth** - Robert Callf

Tues 18th June - North Herts - At last **Small Blue** appeared yesterday, one in the usual place and better still 2 down the path on the only other bit of Kidney Vetch I have seen on the site - Stuart Pittman

Today, Meads, **Ware** - **2 Small Tortoiseshells**, **Broxbourne Station Carpark**, 1 Holly Blue. **Balls Wood (17th)** 19 Large Skipper, 9 Meadow Brown, 11 Speckled Wood and 1 Painted Lady also my garden **Bengeo**, **16th June** Painted Lady - Andrew Wood

Broxbourne NNR - 2 Ringlet, 18 Speckled Woods, 3 Large Skipper, 1 Large White, 1 Speckled Yellow, 1 Painted Lady, 1 Red Admiral and 1 Silver Y - Andrew Middleton and Liz Goodyear

Mon 17th June - Sewardstone Farmland approaching Epping Forest, 2 Meadow Browns. **Epping Forest**, 2 Red Admirals and many Speckled Woods along the rides. **Copped Hall Estate**, 5 Meadow Browns, 2 Small Copper and 2 Painted Ladies - most butterflies along field edges close to hedgerows - Martin Shepherd

Both Painted Lady and Red Admiral seen near **Walkern** on **8th June** - Trevor James

Horsenden Hill news for today - 1 Painted Lady, 6 Small Heath, 1 Common Blue, 8 Large Skipper and 4 Emperor Dragonflies - Andy Culshaw

Trent Park 25 Small Heath, 13 Meadow Brown, 19 Large Skipper, 1 Small Copper and 8 Common Blue - Robert Callf

On Sat **15th June** at around 11.30 am at **Kempton Park Nature Reserve**, I came across a Painted Lady (flying north) and 1 Large Skipper - both of which were the first that I have seen this year. I also saw 1 Red Admiral, 2 Small Heath, 2 Common Blue (copulating) and 2 Speckled Woods - Peter Collins

Tring, had a Painted Lady on our french lavender for 30 minutes this morning. A really cracking fresh specimen - Ian Burrus

News from **Horsenden Hill** for **15th June** between 14:30 & 15:50. **14 Large Skipper**, 1 Meadow Brown, 1 Speckled Wood, 1 Peacock, and 2 Painted Ladies browsing on bramble flowers also 2 Broad-bodied Chasers - Andrew Culshaw

On Saturday night, a London Natural History Museum Members Event was held in the Wildlife Gardens for National Moth Night, assisted by Emily Funnell of Butterfly Conservation. Despite awful weather the catch (estimating the number of Green Oak Tortrix moths!) was 82+ specimens of 27 species. The "highlight" was adding two new species to the garden list one of which Small Clouded Brindle is a good London record. Also new the Spectacle - Martin Honey.

Other moth night events were held at Aldenham Country Park, Bentley Priory and Ball's Wood

Dave Chandler reports several migrants species coming our way. At 3.30 pm in **Beckenham**, Kent on **15th June**, a Painted Lady migrating north east at 10mph or so and later a basking Red Admiral. First reports of **Dark Green Fritillary** at **Sharpenhoe Clappers** on **15th** as well

Trent Park on Friday **14th** Robert Callf saw 2 Painted Ladies, 2 Large Skipper and 6 Common Blue

There have been reports of Painted Lady and several migrant moths over the last few days. If you should see Painted Lady, Red Admiral, Clouded Yellow or any other apparently migrating butterflies, please try to record:

1. Place where seen (with postcode or 6 figure grid ref if possible)
2. Date and time
3. Number seen in a particular area
4. **DIRECTION OF FLIGHT** (as accurately as possible, i.e. not just N, but NE, NNW or NNE etc.), and if you can, flight speed (e.g. time them across the garden with your watch and then measure the width of the garden - Best of luck - John Murray *(if you have this information please send with your news so that I can pass this on to John)*)

Thurs 13th June - Camley Street Natural Park LWT, King's Cross, today lunchtime - 1 Speckled Wood and 3 Small White (inc. copulating pair) - Fraser Simpson

Wed 12th June - Butterflies on **Epping Forest** buffer lands - 6 Common Blue, 4 Small Heath, 6 yellow shells, 36 Burnet Companion, **4 Meadow Browns, 8 Large Skippers**, 100+ green oak tortrix, 3 Speckled Woods, single fresh Peacock and Red Admiral - Andrew Middleton

Tues 11th June - Trent Park - 2 Painted Ladies, **14 Small Heath**, 3 Small Copper, 1 Comma and 2 Common Blue - Robert Callf

Ware Park 8.20am today, Painted Lady, also Red Admiral lunchtime, **The Meads**. Sunday **9th** - **Large Skipper, Balls Wood** - Andrew Wood

Sewardstone Marsh, Essex. Red admiral seen at 08.30 - landing on various plants and shrubs - Martin Shepherd

Mon 10th June - Had 3 red admirals on the Lea towpath in **Cheshunt** area, and a common blue on **Ramsey Marsh** - Andrew Middleton

Sun 9th June - Still a bit cool on the butterfly front although the dragonfly front isn't much better. During a skirmish into TL31 on Saturday **8th June** I only saw 2 Large White at **Sutes** and 1 Small Heath and 1 Painted Lady at **Biggins Farm** - Alan Reynolds

Sat 8th June - Waterford area, **Large Skipper**. First record for me of a Brimstone in my **Ponders End** garden - Andrew Middleton

Wed 5th June - Migrant news - Had a glimpse of a Painted Lady today (**1st June**) in a rape field south of **Beeson End**. It was settled so I can't supply direction and speed - Michael Healy

I noted a single Painted Lady during a transect visit to **Bunkers Park** at about 3.00pm on Monday, **27 May**. The weather at the time was dull and the butterfly was resting on the mown centre of the grass ride; when disturbed it moved off in a roughly northerly direction, but not with any sense of purpose - Mike Pearson

Hayes 1 Painted Lady stayed in the garden feeding & resting for 40+ mins, had to go out before it left so I can't help with direction etc.also 1 Peacock, 1 Holly blue & several Large whites for that day too, **2nd June**- Chris Court

Painted Lady, 1 indiv, moving north (but flying low & slowly & taking nectar at **Bayfordbury** on **Fri 31st May**, noon. Also, seen, 3 male common blue, 2 orange tip, 2 peacock - Stuart Warrington

Tues 4th June - News from 1st in the Trent Park area - 34 Small Heath in 1hr 20 mins, also 5 Small Copper, 14 Common Blue (11 male/3 female), 1 Red Admiral flying north, several Peacock and 2 Holly Blue, also 9 Mother Shipton and 3 Burnet Companion - Robert Callf

Mon 3rd June - Telegraph Hill (1st June), Dingy Skipper x 1, Green Hairstreak x 1, Brown Argus x 1, + the usual common species. Also, later that day at **Amwell GP**, Female common blue and, at **Balls Wood today**, c.20 Speckled Wood in cloudy weather - Toby Austin

Sun 2nd June - Visited the **Waterford** area this morning, hoping to see a late Grizzled Skipper but no success. However, at a nearby "extraction" site, over a period of 2 hours counted **140 Common Blue**, with timings of 75 in 20 minutes and 35 in 6 minutes, also Cinnabar and Burnet Companion moths and one lonely Brown Argus, a Red Admiral going south and a female Orange Tip. At Waterford South pit in a 15 minute period saw 5 Common Blue, 4 Burnet Companion, 4 Brown Argus and a Red Admiral going north - Liz Goodyear

Sat 1st June - Today, 3 Red Admiral **Stanborough Lakes**, one flying strongly west, the others fluttering around nettles. 1 Brimstone, Beane Road, **Hertford** and **31st May** 1 Red Admiral The Meads, **Ware** - Andrew Wood (*Andrew also reports that he now has 100 species shown on the Bengeo Moth Diary so if you want to know what moths are on the wing or help with identification please visit these pages*)

Just had Red Admiral passing through garden (**Friday**). Unable to judge speed but this one was on a mission and was flying south to north. **Watford area** (grid ref provided). Height 95m. - Bob Cripps (message from John Murray - that's just the kind of observation we need)

During Dragonfly Atlas work in **TL32 and TL31** on a warm and sunny day, I managed to record 3 Speckled Wood at Fishers Farm, 1 Speckled Wood and 2 Orange Tip in the St Edmund's College area, 1 Orange Tip and 1 Common Blue near Colliers End, 1 Speckled Wood and 1 Orange Tip at Potters Green and 1 Red Admiral at Home Farm - Alan Reynolds

Hoddesdon area - Went for an approx 3 hour walk from Barclays Park, up to the A10 and back. Saw several butterflies and moths including a Red Admiral going south, Brimstone, Small, Green-veined and Large White, 3, Holly Blue and 5 Peacock but most amazing was a 100yd stretch of the A10 embankment (adjacent to a Public Footpath) where we saw **13 Common Blue, 5 Brown Argus**, 2 Small Copper, 2 Orange Tip, 3 Burnet Companion, 3 Mother Shipton, Small Yellow Underwing all within about 10 minutes - Liz and Rachel Goodyear

May 2002

Fri 31st May - Hemel Hempstead - 2 Painted Ladies again favouring Sweet Rocket flowers, 5 Large Whites, Holly Blue, female Orange Tip, Small and Green Veined whites - Malcolm Newland

Today's warm weather brought out the dragonflies, but still a bit quiet on the butterfly front with 1 Peacock, 1 Orange Tip and 6 Small/GV White at **Bingles Wood**, 1 Painted Lady, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, and 2 Small/GV White at the River Rib, **Hamels Mead**, 1 Peacock and 2 Small/GV White at Lodge Farm, **Cottered** - The Painted Lady did not seem to be going anywhere in particular - Alan Reynolds

Trent Park area, male Large Skipper (2.10pm), 2 Small Coppers, 9 Small Heath, 3 male Common Blue, 1 Mother Shipton. **Monken Hadley Common** - 1 male Common Blue and Latticed Heath - Robert Callf

St Albans - Had a Painted Lady in the garden the other day nectaring on Red Valarian - first one since 1996!!! - Ian Wynne

Thurs 30th May - A Painted Lady this morning at about 8.45 nectaring on a Buddleia in "the garden of a famous residence at the end of **the Mall**"! There were two Red Admiral there last week in the same spot - Martin Honey

Pirton highlights - Good to see Brown Argus and two **Walls** basking and then circling in a courtship display on **27th May**. Also three Brimstone pairs mating with around twenty Brimstones overall - Stuart Pittman

Milton Keynes - A single **Striped Hawk-moth** taken last night at MV. Looks like they are on the move, reaching Herts. soon?? - Les Hill

Wed 29th May - Copped Hall, Epping Forest - 1 painted lady, **1 white-letter hairstreak** pupa - Andrew Middleton

Trent Park area, Red admiral, **7 small heath**, 5 small coppers - Robert Callf

I saw 1 Red Admiral, 1 Speckled Wood, 2 Small Copper and 2 Common Blue at **Kempton Park Nature Reserve** on **25th May** - Peter Collins

Mon 27th May - Trent Park area, 5 Small Copper, **11 Small Heath** - Robert Callf

Today, on a warm and sunny day, I walked down the lane from the Woodman at **Norton Green**. Despite it being such a beautiful day, I only saw **1 Painted Lady**, 1 Small Heath, 1 Small Copper, 5 Large White, 1 GV White and 5 Small/GV White - Alan Reynolds

Sun 26th May - I saw a Holly Blue, near the Heath End Garden Club's Chocolate Box courtyard show-garden, on Thursday 23rd. at the **Chelsea Flower Show**- Dave Chandler

Sat 25th May - Yates Meadow **Epping Forest, 8 small heaths** - Andrew Middleton

Two Red Admirals at **Amwell GP**, One **Painted Lady** and one Brimstone Moth nearby on the **Easney Estate** - Stephen Harris

Fri 24th May - Hemel Hempstead, Saw my first **Painted Lady** of the year nectaring on white Sweet Rocket 9.30.a.m. May 23rd. Also my first Red Admiral of the year at 12.30 p.m. This flew over the garden heading north and didn't stop. Female Orange Tip ovipositing on Sweet Rocket **24th May**. First ever Cinnabar moth in garden. Have quite a bit of Ragwort so will look out for caterpillars in due course - Malcolm Newland

Thurs 23rd May - c70 Speckled Yellows in **Broxbourne Wood NR**. No Grizzled Skipper. **Cheshunt Park** - 1 small copper - Andrew Middleton

Ware - 4 o'clock, one minute it was pouring with rain, the next minute the sun was shining and I had a Holly Blue, Green-veined White and a **Painted Lady** in the garden - Liz Goodyear

Tues 21st May - Lime hawk moth on window shutter Finchley electrical store **North Finchley** High Road - Brian Dawton.

Sewardstone - Well grown white-letter hairstreak caterpillar on wych elm leaves - Andrew Middleton

Covert Way NR, red admiral and two speckled woods. **Trent Park**, silver Y - Robert Callf

Malcolm Newland reports that he saw a Holly Blue egg laying on gooseberry, he has consulted a national expert and this is believed to be first ever reported case. Holly Blues have also been observed egg laying in his Hemel Hempstead garden on "self fertile" Holly

I saw a Holly Blue on Sunday **19th**, in Bull Lane, **Hertford** - Liz Anderson

Mon 20th May - News from Brian Jessop, Green Hairstreak, Grizzled Skipper and Dingy Skipper all recorded at **Tring Park**, although not in great numbers. At the new Green Hairstreak colony found near **Hemel Hempstead**, 9 were seen on 15th May!

No Small Blue seen at the Herts sites yet although they are flying in Bedfordshire having been seen at Sharpenhoe & Sundon Hills this past week/weekend - news from Dave Chandler and Andrew Palmer

Sun 19th May - Bison Hill, **Whipsnade Downs**, Beds **Duke of Burgundy** (5) plus occasional green hairstreak - Phil Rhodes -(don't forget to visit the Beds & Northants website for butterfly news)

I saw my first Red Admiral of the year this afternoon in **Bengeo**. I would think this is a migrant as I have been getting migrant moths in the trap this week (**Silver Y** and Diamond Backed Moth). Good numbers of Small, Large, Green-veined Whites, Holly Blue and Orange Tip - Andrew Wood

Enfield Lock, POW Fields, **Painted Lady** flew north. **Rammey Marsh**, latticed heath, burnet companion, red admiral. Also, **1 Painted Lady** flew north through **Leyton Flats**, Essex - Andrew Middleton

Trent Park area - 5 small coppers, 6 small heaths, 3 mother shiptons, 3 small tortoiseshells - Robert Callf

Sat 18th May - I was at **Hexton Chalk Pit** today and when it brightened up I counted up to **9 Dingy Skipper** - this was between 18.20 and 18.45 and is my best guess of how many individuals

there were discounting duplicates - which I think is a pretty good number for the site sunning themselves on south-west facing slopes - Andrew Palmer

Aldbury Nowers field trip report - Starting in drizzle, the party first went for a walk along the Icknield Way path through the woods above the site and was rewarded in seeing a family of Great Spotted Woodpeckers, Orange Tip eggs on Garlic Mustard and muse the mysterious puzzle of why Nowers' snails like tree climbing. We found a roosting Brimstone and disturbed another and wondered if that one adult species would be the sum total of our day's efforts. However, eventually, the weather brightened and the sun came out and (pretty late on in the afternoon) we descended to the main butterfly area where were rewarded with, considering the weather, some reasonable butterflying. We saw, close-up a lovely female Holly Blue posing with her wings open and chased a Green Hairstreak and three other Hollies' through the bushes. Large, Small & Green-Veined Whites made an appearance, and, towards the end of the walk, getting on for 4 o'clock, at the bottom of the site near the big briar bush where the Grizzled & Dingy Skippers can sometimes be found, a solitary Speckled Wood made an appearance before we all went happily back to our cars. Patience was rewarded - Dave Chandler and Trevor & Christine Allen, Paul Huckle, Liz & Chris Emary, Valerie Dunbar, Clive & Dorothy Reynolds & John Stevens

Fri 17th May - Trent Park area, 3 small heath, 2 small copper, 2 small tortoiseshell - Robert Callf

Thought I would see a lot today at **Darlands Lake Nature Reserve**, Only saw 1 Peacock and 1 speckled wood plus two small whites. As I was crossing the fields from **Mill Hill East** off the Ridgeway I saw a lot more 6 Orange tips, 5 Speckled Woods, 2 Peacocks, 7 Small Whites, plus 6 on the wing - Frank Johnson

Thurs 16th May - Green Hairstreak active on the **Pegsdon Hills** today. Small numbers. A fleeting glimpse of a territory holding male but also females looking for egg laying sites. I thought one was taking an interest in brambles but two visitors who saw one on Hoo Bit (which is in Herts) saw one laying on Dogwood. **Dingy Skipper and Wall** also present + Peacock, Orange Tip and Brimstone - Nigel Agar

Trent Park area, 4 s.y.underwing, 2 holly blues, 2 mother shiptons, one nectaring on buttercup, **3 small heaths**, 2 small coppers - Robert Callf

This morning, I visited TL30 to visit my last tetrad as part of the Dragonfly Atlas. At **Bayford Lake** I saw 2 Orange Tip, 4 Small/GV White and 1 GV White. At **Bayford cross-roads** 1 Holly Blue. I then moved on to **Kings Mead** where I spent 3 hours carrying out a bird census and saw 90 GV/Small White, 7 Brimstone, 2 Large White, 8 Peacock, 6 Orange Tip and 8 Holly Blue - Alan Reynolds

Aldbury Nowers, 1 Dingy Skipper, 4 grizzled, 3 green hairstreaks, small copper, brown argus and common blue, also red admiral - Bill Cutts and Andrew Middleton

Had a good lunchtime today at **Frogmore Quarry**, Stevenage. Hot sunny day and the **Grizzled Skippers have arrived. 11 in all**. Far better than last year and I didn't check out everywhere. Also seen Small Copper 1, Orange tip 1, Peacock 1, Comma 1, Common Blue 1 and plenty of emmergent damselflies - blue-tails and azures plus one red. Then back at work in **Stevenage** on a grassy bank a **possible Skipper** 1, Small Tortoiseshell 1, Small White 1, Mother Skipton 1 - Trevor Chapman

Late news(*my computer probably*) Butterflies seen **Saturday May 11th King's Langley** Orange Tip (male) - feeding on Bluebells at Mrs Chandler's house - I've never seen them do that before! and

In the afternoon - **Duchies Piece Aldbury Nowers** - I went along to Duchies Piece Aldbury Nowers to rehearse the route and stopping places for the **field trip on Saturday 18th May @2pm**. Although it was cold grey day, about 14 degrees C, I was lucky with the weather for a few bright spells of sunshine raised the temperature sufficiently enough to give me the bonus of seeing a few butterflies. In one particularly special short moment there were eight butterflies flying at the same time and, one, a female Holly Blue alighted on a low branch next to me and opened

her wings fully to display her fine blue colour. Nearby, as I wandered through the field of cowslips, where Duke of Burgundy's may be found, but only Orange Tips were flying today, I knocked up a **male Green Hairstreak** from its perch in a Hawthorn tree, and, with a flash of green & chocolate, it flipped over the hedge and was gone. In a 45 minute reconnoiter visit I total I saw 5 Brimstones, 3 Orange Tips, 1 Green Veined White, 2 Small White, 1 Large White, 3 Holly Blues and 1 Green Hairstreak - Seven species, not bad for a cold May day that was not really meant to be a proper butterfly spotting visit - Dave Chandler

Wed 15th May - During an hour count down the footpath south of **Norton Green**, I saw 5 Large White, 4 GV/Small White, 1 GV White, 1 Small Copper, 1 Orange Tip, 1 male Brimstone, 3 Peacock and 1 Speckled Wood - Alan Reynolds

Trent Park area, **2 Small Heaths** and Small Coppers, **5 small yellow underwings**, 5 Holly Blues during trip - Robert Callf

Tues 14th May - Trent Park, small copper, 3 holly blues - Robert Callf

I came across one fresh looking **Small Copper** at **Kempton Park Nature Reserve** (Surrey/Middx border) on Sunday **12th May** at around 13:00 hrs - Peter Collins

Sat 11th May - Waterford Heath - Late afternoon, at least **6 Grizzled Skipper**, a **Small Copper** and **Common Blue** seen - Nick Sampford

Thurs 9th May - Waterford (South Pit) - Although dull and cold, ideal weather conditions for looking for roosting **Grizzled Skipper** - **6** counted on dead flower heads - Andrew Middleton & Liz Goodyear

Wed 8th May - Went to **Waterford** today, Grizzled Skipper seemed to be everywhere, one picture is of a brown argus attempting to mate a grizzled skipper it was persistent for 15 mins. Is this common behaviour as we might end up with grizzled argus or brown skippers? I had **12+ grizzled skippers** **2+ brown argus**, 2 sightings of **small copper** + orange tip/small and green veined white/peacock and a greenshank on the pool - Nick Sampford

Broxbourne Woods - probable sighting of **2 Speckled Yellow** moths, only brief glimpses - Andrew Middleton

Tues 7th May - Green Hairstreak were active on the **Pegsdon Hills** on Friday (**3 May**) - They were presumably the males displaying and fighting over the hedges. I did not see any on the Hertfordshire side i.e. on Telegraph Hill or on Hoo Bit. They tend to be rather later anyway the site being about 100 feet higher and more windswept - Nigel Agar

Mon 6th May - Important news from Brian Jessop - Brian saw his first **Green Hairstreak** near **Hemel Hempstead** over a week ago but **last Thursday** whilst at **Aldbury Nowers** saw another **Green Hairstreak** and a relatively slow moving **Grizzled Skipper**

Fri 3rd May - Hoddesdonbury GP's Cock Lane - **small copper** nectaring on bugle, **5 latticed heaths** and a **mother shipton** moth - Andrew Middleton

Wed 1st May - Broxbourne Woods, 2 orange tips, 1 speckled wood, 2 green-veined whites - Andrew Middleton and Bill Cutts

Frogmore Quarry, Stevenage lunchtime today, **2 Small Copper**, 2 Green-veined White, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 3 Orange tips, no grizzled skippers seen - Trevor Chapman (also Little Owl, Goldfinches, Martins, 3 Green Woodpeckers, one un-ID damselfly)

April 2002

Mon 29th April - I saw four **Green Hairstreak** (*unfortunately just over the border!*) near **Bulbourne** on Thursday **25th** of April - Tony Croft

Sat 27th April - Rather cool and windy today. All I managed was a very fresh **Red Admiral** at Mardocks Farm nr **Wareside** - Alan Reynolds

Thurs 25th April - Camley Street Natural Park LWT, King's Cross lunchtime Orange Tip (1), Green-veined White (3) - Fraser Simpson

Tues 23rd April - Darlands Lake Nature Reserve (Totteridge) 7 Speckled Woods, 2 Orange tips, 3 Peacocks and a large number of whites on the wing - Frank Johnson

Did both transects today. **Balls Wood** was a record week 4 with 71 butterflies in 29 mins, but nothing special just Peacock, Speckled Wood, Brimstone, Orange Tip, Green veined white and a couple of Orange Underwing Moths. Have already topped the century for Speckled Woods there this year, previous best over these weeks was 44! - Andrew Wood

Trent Park area -At least 8 Orange Tips, 4 Holly Blues, Peacocks and 4 Small Tortoiseshell - Robert Callf

Ally Pally - Here's some general stuff from past couple of days. Did the transect today, but did not see anything on the transect that I hadn't seen already! Pretty sure I got the first Small Copper yesterday, but I was mowing and it shot off so I can't really be sure unfortunately. Plenty of orange tips, sm/gv whites, brimstones and speckled woods. Moderate amounts of large whites, peacocks, commas and holly blues. A few small tortoiseshells - Tom Clarke.

Hertford - On a very warm and sunny day today, I took the day off work and sat in the garden watching the world go by. In the 3.5 hours from 10.00am I saw 1 female Brimstone, 1 Comma, 24 Holly Blue, 5 Orange Tip, 17 Small/GV White, 2 GV White and 2 Large White. However, the highlight of the morning was definitely the appearance of Large Red Damselfly - but I would say that wouldn't I ? Alan Reynolds

First Holly Blue of the year flying down **North Finchley High Road** (North London) yesterday lunchtime. I didn't see any around here last year - Brian Price

Harpenden area - I was out on **Sunday** and was greeted by a different butterfly at every corner it seems, Orange Tip, Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock, Speckled Wood and Small White - Liz Anderson

Sun 21st April - Mossops Creek, **Brimsdown**, 2 holly blue, 2 peacock, 3 small tortoiseshell, 3 GV whites, 2 Orange Tips. Similar species **Sewardstone Marsh**, 20 peacock, male brimstone - Andrew Middleton & Alan Bell

Today , whilst out carrying out some prep work for the dragonfly Atlas, I recorded the following: **Stapleford** - 5 Peacock, 2 Brimstone, pair of Small White mating and Kings Mead, **Ware** - 15 Orange Tip, 10 Peacock, 8 Small/GV White, 1 Small White, 3 Holly Blue - Alan Reynolds

I was out for a walk in the sunshine at lunchtime today around the Boxmoor area of **Hemel Hempstead** and saw a male Orange Tip near the Fishery Inn on the Grand Union Canal 1 and shortly afterwards a Holly Blue at Hemel Hempstead station - Dave Chandler

Ware garden - very little to report, occasional visits from a Holly Blue/s, also male Orange Tip and female Brimstone but very little else - Liz Goodyear

Sat 20th April - **Broxbourne NNR**, whilst helping to train CMS volunteers to record butterflies, Peacocks, Speckled Woods, a Comma, female Orange Tip, Large White, Green-veined White were seen. Later after most people had gone home, 2 male Brimstones, a male Orange Tip and Holly Blue were also seen - various recorders

Thurs 18th April - Camley Street Natural Park LWT, **King's Cross** Orange Tip (1), Holly Blue (1), Peacock (1), Small White (2) - Fraser Simpson

Wed 17th April - Trent Park, 4 Speckled Woods, 2 Orange Tips, **Southbury Road, Enfield**, Holly Blue - Robert Callf

Went to **Waterford** in case Grizzled Skipper had emerged - answer being no, slight wind chill and very few butterflies about but did see a **female Orange Tip** - Liz Goodyear & Andrew Middleton

Tues 16th April - Nick Sampford's first butterfly photo of the year, seen in his Dad's garden in **Ware** - one Small White - *thanks Nick*

Trent Pk/Vicarage Fm - 3 peacock, 2 large white, 1 GV white, male brimstone, 3 speckled wood, 3 small tortoiseshell - Robert Callf

Ramney Marsh - 14 Peacock, 4 Small Whites, 3 small tortoiseshell, **2 red admirals**, 3 comma, 1 green-veined white, 2 male orange tips, 5 unidentified whites. **Prince of Wales Fields**, Enfield Lock, 2 comma, 3 peacock, 1 small tortoiseshell, 1 GV white - Andrew Middleton

Today, in the **Fishers Green** area, I saw Comma, Peacock, Small White, Brimstone, Holly Blue, Speckled Wood, Small Tortoiseshell, and Orange Tip - Martin Shepherd

Things are warming up . During a half hour walk down the lane south of **Norton Green** I saw 4 Brimstone, 8 Peacock, 2 Comma and 1 Small/GV White - Alan Reynolds

A walk around the **Museum Wildlife Garden** this lunchtime produced: 2 Peacock, 2 Small White, 1 Brimstone (male) and 2 Holly Blue and on the moth front: 1 Adela reamurella (male) (another seen by someone yesterday but id not confirmed) - Martin Honey

Sun 14th April - During three hours recce in TL31 as part of the Dragonfly Atlas, the only butterflies I saw were 2 Comma and a Speckled Wood at Home Farm, **Sacombe** - Alan Reynolds

East Warwick Reservoir, **Walthamstow** - Comma and Orange Tip - David Darrell-Lambert

News of Green Hairstreak being seen in Norfolk - [via InsectLine](#)

Fri 12th April - *There have been recent reports of Small Copper & Wall Brown on the Leps List all north of Herts or Middlesex so be on the look out!*

On Friday **5th April** , I saw a male Orange Tip whilst doing about 35mph somewhere on the west side of **Broxbourne Wood**. On Saturday **6th April**, on a beautifully sunny day, but with a bitterly cold easterly wind, I carried out a four hour recce in TL31/32 as part of the Herts Dragonfly Atlas. Despite all this time in the field, I only saw 1 butterfly, a Peacock, near **Potter's Green** - Alan Reynolds

Trent Park area , 2 Peacock, 3 Speckled Woods, Comma, 5 Small Tortoiseshells - Robert Callf

Wed 10th April - Some late news - April 3rd 2002, Speckled Wood - near **Standon Lordship** and Orange Tip seen in **Puckeridge** - Murray Orchard and **24th March** whilst at the RSPB **Rye Mead** reserve Jim Farr saw 7 Peacocks and one Comma

Tues 9th April - I noted **2 LARGE WHITE** in my fathers garden on **8th April**. Stonebury Farm, nr **Dassels** - Allan Burrows

Ashridge/Aldbury Nowers area - 1 youngish **White-letter Hairstreak larvae** found on an isolated elm today, perhaps 2/3 weeks old but already getting fat and juicy - Andrew Middleton (*it is well worth looking for evidence of holes in the seed area of the elm flower, if you find a hole look carefully and you should find a larvae close by - there seems to be an abundance of elm flower this year*)

Mon 8th April - During a half hour walk down the lane south of **Norton Green** in intermittent sunshine, I only managed to see 1 Small/GV White and a Comma - Alan Reynolds

Sun 7th April - Monken Hadley Common 5 speckled woods, 4 peacock, 1 holly blue, 3 comma, orange tip, red admiral - Robert Callf

Small Tortoiseshell at **Amwell Gravel Pits** and Comma at **Danemead NR**, Broxbourne Woods - Toby Austin

Sat 6th April - Despite a chilly wind, a walk round **Uxbridge Alderlade** produced 1 Holly Blue (1st of the year), 1 Comma (1st of the year), 1 Red Admiral, 2 Peacock, 2 Green-Veined White & 8 Speckled Wood - Chris Court

Fri 5th April - My first **Orange Tip** in **Ware** at lunchtime today - Andrew Wood

Trent Pk area, Vicarage Fm **13 Small Tortoiseshells**, single **Green-veined** and Small Whites identified - Robert Callf

Thurs 4th April - News from Brian Jessop - **Apsley 1 male Orange Tip, Tring** (allotments) 1 Small White and **Tring Park** 1 Red Admiral on the **3rd April**. Brian also reported that he had seen lots more Small Tortoiseshell this year.

Holly Blue, first of the year for me today in my garden (**Ware**) - Toby Austin

News from the **3rd - Walthamstow Reservoirs**, (West Warwick). Speckled wood seen on side of reservoir bank close to tree-lined fence at 4.00 p.m., - my first of the year and my first at this site - Martin Shepherd

Robert Callf at **Amwell** today had 10 species of butterfly including **1 male Orange Tip**, 1 Holly Blue, 3 Brimstone, Small and Large White, Red Admiral, Speckled Wood, Comma, Small Tortoiseshell and Peacock.

Several year firsts today. **Brookmans Park** - garden, **Orange Tip**, a Holly Blue (flying round conifers), and a Large White. In **North Mymms Park** a Speckled Wood. Also a Comma (not a year first) and lots of Peacocks - Rupert Pyrah.

I hadn't seen any butterflies at all up to the 24th March,. (The latest ever for me). However at **Ickleford** I was rewarded with a **Green-veined White** on the **24th March**, 3 Speckled Woods on the **29th March** and my earliest personal sighting ever of a Red Admiral on the **30th March**. (Possible a hibernator). I even heard of a Wall Brown in Suffolk in March !! But I haven't been that lucky! Large numbers of Brimstones and Peacocks peak of ten at Ickleford on **24/3** and then declined thereafter, Peacock's over 22 on the 30th March. I had a nice surprise at **Letchworth** Railway Station on 3rd a HOLLY BLUE - Stuart Pittman

Walked my "**South Herts**" transect today and was amazed that the second butterfly was a Small Tortoiseshell, as last year I never saw one on the transect. However it turned out to be the only one today. Also saw in 45 minutes, 1 Brimstone, 1 Speckled Wood, 2 Comma and **25 Peacock**. In total including off transect I saw nearly 50 Peacock! - Liz Goodyear

Wed 3rd April - Hitchin garden, 12.15 saw 3 Holly Blue butterflies, 12.30 1 Peacock. Later, **Telegraph Hill (HMWT Reserve)** - In 18 deg. & 100% sun I visited the site from 14.00 to 15.30 and can report the following, **8 Brimstone**, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 6 Comma and **17 Peacock**, a wonderful start to the season's monitoring - Val Fullforth

I was out for a walk in the sunshine at lunchtime today around the **Broadgate** area of central London when I came across a male Holly Blue (no obvious dark edges to the wings) flapping along quite slowly at about chest height and quite a long flap from the nearest colony I know which is found in and around St Paul's Cathedral. I was behind Liverpool Street Station at the time, which was about 1.30pm. - Dave Chandler

I did my first transect walk of the year at **Balls Wood** today, the best week one ever!. In 33 minutes, 1 Brimstone, **16 Peacocks**, **13 Commas** and **14 Speckled Woods**. Also **13**

Orange/Light Orange Underwings all flying at below 2 metres and many visiting mud patches, something I have seen once before here, a contrast to their usual high flying habits. A couple that I was able to get a better look at came out as **Orange Underwings** checking with the books. After the transect I also saw a Small White, Large White and Holly Blue in the wood and a Small Tortoiseshell in **Ware**. Altogether a good lunch break - Andrew Wood

Brookmans Park garden - 1 Peacock, 1 Small White, 1 Red Admiral, 1 Brimstone - Rupert Pyrah

Ponders End garden - Speckled Wood. **Brimsdawn** - Holly Blue, 7 Peacocks, 2 Small Tortoiseshell - Andrew Middleton

Trent Park area, **Large White**, 4 Small Tortoiseshell and 3 Speckled Woods - Robert Callf

Ally Pally - **GV White**, Small White, Speckled Wood, Brimstone, Comma, Holly Blue and Peacock - though only six of them were recorded on the transect - Tom Clarke

Late news from the **Stanmore** area - Evelyn Crisp saw a Holly Blue on the **28th March**

As it was nice and sunny today I went for a walk at lunchtime around the Museum's Wildlife garden (**South Kensington**, London) and saw: Peacock x 2, Comma x1, **Green-veined White x 1** - Martin Honey

Hounslow - 4 x Peacock, 1 x Red Admiral, 1 x Speckled Wood, 1 x White (?) The R.A. & S.W both firsts for the year - Chris Court

Tesco's carpark **Ware** - Holly Blue and male Brimstone. Later in my Ware garden, **1 Large White**, 1 Small White and a Peacock basking all morning on my fence. Later went for a 2 hour walk across the somewhat sterile fields towards Thundridge with Rachel and saw 3 Speckled Wood, 2 Small White, **21 Peacock**, 2 Brimstone, 1 Comma and amazingly **6 Small Tortoiseshell**. Again the majority of sightings were within a mile of my house or near the few houses I passed - Liz Goodyear

Tues 2nd April - I had a Speckled Wood in my garden in **Letchworth** last Saturday morning (**31 March**). Weather was sunny and warm, and the butterfly only stayed a couple of minutes before flying over into the neighbour's garden. Thought I saw a small white of some sort the previous day - but could not get close enough - Ian Small

Trent Park area - 2 Peacocks, 2 Commas, Speckled Wood - Robert Callf

Mon 1st April - Today I had a Comma and several Peacocks near the Water Pumping Station at **North Mymms** - Rupert Pyrah

Regents Park, one Small Tortoiseshell and one Small White - Andrew Wood

The butterfly transect season starts on Monday April 1st. If you have been thinking of starting up your own transect this year, the transect recording instructions, weekly recording sheets and annual summary sheet can now be downloaded from this website. Click on How to record then on Transect recording. We still need people to take over a few transects which have fallen vacant this year and if you live anywhere in the Hitchin area, St Albans, Watford or Berkhamsted, we'd particularly like to hear from you.

Butterflies are already on the wing, and a number of recorders now also record in March. It is possible to input data from the last week of March (week 0) into Transect Walker software. Data from this week is used in phenology plots, but currently the counts are not used for Annual Indices - John Murray

March 2002

Sat 30th March - King's Langley, Small White & Peacock - so not as good as yesterday - Dave and Vi Chandler

During a half hour recce at **Hamels Mead** for the Dragonfly Atlas today I saw 2 Peacock and 1 Small Tortoiseshell - Alan Reynolds

Potwells area of North Mymms Park today. 6+ Peacock, 1 Comma, 1 male Brimstone - Rupert Pyrah

Fri 29th March - We went to **Rolls Wood and Birchall Wood in Welwyn Garden City**. It was warm and sunny and all four spring species were on the wing. We saw one Small Tortoiseshell, a male and **female Brimstone**, and lots of Commas and Peacocks. We also saw a fast, high flying small white butterfly that disappeared at a rate of knots making identification impossible! There were lots of red and white tailed bumblebees out and about too and a smaller Carder bee as well as several small hovering bee-flies - C. & D. Shepperson.

Fairlop 1 Small White, 3 Commas, several Peacocks & Speckled Wood. My parents garden in **Hainault** several small/gv whites & 1 almost certain Large White, is this a migrant?. Colin Jupp's garden (**Harold Hill**) - 7 Peacocks & single Small White, Comma, **Large White** & Brimstone - Alan Bell (I also had a brief visit from white butterfly in my garden today, it seemed quite large and well marked and at the time felt it wasn't necessarily a Small White - LG)

At the football match in **Watford** this afternoon Pete & I saw a Holly Blue. And, earlier in and around my mother's home in **King's Langley** there were Peacock, Brimstone & Small White flying about. Today was the best day I've had so far for butterflies this year - Dave Chandler (don't forget to visit the new Beds & Northants website - LG)

Holly blue on ivy in my garden **Enfield Lock** and **Thursday 28 March**: Comma, Brimstone, Peacock, and Small White at **Sewardstone Marsh**, (Essex) - Martin Shepherd

Vicarage Fm, Speckled Wood, 5 Comma, Small Tortoiseshell and Peacock, Small/GV White - Robert Callf

Today in **St Albans City** Centre I saw **Holly Blue, Speckled Wood**, Brimstone, Peacock, Comma & Small Tortoiseshell, Unusually wide range for March! - Malcolm Hull

1 Red Admiral this morning about 100m north of the Bridgewater Monument in **Ashridge**, just in Herts - Charles Baker

Brookmans Park garden 1 Brimstone, 1 Peacock, 1 Small White. **Tyttenhanger/ Coursers Road** 4 Peacock, and 1 White - Rupert Pyrah

Sewardstone Marsh area (Essex) around midday - **Orange Tip, Holly Blue**, Peacock and Small Tortoiseshell - Tony Clancy

Lippitts Hill (Essex) area 2 Brimstone, **12 Peacock**, 2 Comma & **Holly Blue** - Andrew Middleton & Tony Clancy

Ware, Brimstone, first of the year just outside my house - Toby Austin

Ponders End - Speckled Wood, Holly Blue and Peacock in the garden this morning - Andrew Middleton

Nazeing (Essex) near the greenhouses, 1 Small White flying around a garden centre, later on a "long" walk from **Ware to Wareside** and back, 12 Peacock, 3 Comma, 4 male Brimstone and **3 Speckled Wood** (most butterflies were seen within 1 mile of my house though) - Liz & Rachel Goodyear

Thurs 28th March - In the grounds of **St.Alban's** Cathedral at 1330 & Peacock in nearby street - Jack Harrison

Whitewebbs, male Brimstone, **7 Peacocks, 10 Commas** - Robert Callf

Essex, **Harold Wood** garden. Today, Speckled Wood, Comma and Peacock, **yesterday Speckled Wood**, also **24th** 4 Peacock, 4 Comma - Colin Jupp

Fishers Green (Essex), Holly Blue & **female Brimstone** - Terry Smith

Copped Hall, (Essex), Red admiral, 2 Peacocks - Andrew Middleton

Ware - 1 male Brimstone and one of those "indeterminate Vanessids, high speed brown jobs" - Liz Goodyear

Wed 27th March - Small Tortoiseshell, **Brookmans Park** - Rupert Pyrah

White species butterfly seen this morning on far side of canal from **Brimsdown** canal towpath near blue Johnson Matthey buildings - Martin Shepherd

Trent Pk/Vicarage Fm area - 2 Peacocks, Red Admiral, 2 Small Tortoiseshells - Robert Callf (also **Small White** last few days - Robin White)

Bramfield area, 3 Peacock and 6 Comma including a pair mating and another of those day-flying underwing moths! - Liz Goodyear

Tues 26th March - News from the weekend. Saturday **23rd Trent Park** - Comma (2), Small Tortoiseshell (1). Sunday **24th Walthamstow Reservoir - Small White (1)**, Peacock (1), Small Tortoiseshell (1). There was also a Red Admiral at Walthamstow Reservoirs which flew over the Peacock. The Peacock immediately chased it for a bit before returning to its nettle patch, so it was probably a male - Fraser Simpson and Alistair Simpson

Mon 25th March - Trent Park area, **9 Comma, 7 Peacocks**, 1 Red Admiral - Robert Callf

Tring, thought my sighting of **3 Small Tortoiseshell** and 2 Brimstone in my garden simultaneously was special as many people struggled to see 3 ST all season last year - Nick Bowles

Welwyn Garden City (Old Railway, Campus West), 2 Brimstone. **Sherrardspark Wood**: 1 Brimstone & 1 Peacock - Andrew Wood

Broxbourne Woods (Danemead & Highfield Wood) - 4 Peacock and lots of high day-flying moths, which were either Orange Underwing or Light Orange Underwing (but it was impossible to get a positive identification) - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

Marshall's Heath - I saw a Brimstone in the garden **yesterday** and two indeterminate Vanessids that didn't settle, one looking very like a Small Tortoiseshell - John Murray

Sun 24th March - King's Mead, Ware, 1.00pm, several Brimstone, Small Tortoiseshell - Deon Haselgrove

Amwell - Peacock today. **23rd March**, 1 dead Small Tortoiseshell in **Stevenage** and 2 Red Admiral at **Stanstead Abbots** on **2nd March** (sorry forgot to tell you about these!) - Toby Austin

Sewardstone Marsh (just Essex), 3 Peacock, **2 Small Whites, Mott Street**, Brimstone, 3 Peacock, Comma - Helen Bantock & Andrew Middleton, also Small Tortoiseshell at **Crouch Hill**

At last, the first butterfly in my new garden (**Hertford**), a male **Brimstone**. Also two high speed brown jobs which did not wait around to be identified - Alan Reynolds

1 Peacock today at **Tyttenhanger** - Rupert Pyrah

Sat 23rd March - Hitchin, there was a **Holly Blue** in the garden yesterday **22 March** and **Brimstone** and **Peacock** at Wicken Fen this afternoon. - Nigel Agar

On a lovely visit to **Broxbourne Woods**, a total of **7 Peacock** and **4 Comma** were seen and a 2 feet long Grass Snake in one of the glades - D. & C. Shepperson

Also in **Broxbourne Woods** - **2 Red Admiral** and **3 Peacock** - Bill Cutts and A Middleton

Trent park area, 6 Comma, 1 Peacock - Robert Callf (*Robert told Andrew Middleton his Commas included pale and darker ones*)

Ware, so far just one solitary male **Brimstone** has ventured into my garden today - Liz Goodyear

Fri 22nd March - Trent Park - Peacock (Rough Lot) - Robert Callf, **Red Admiral** (Barracks) - seen by Robin White news via Robert Callf

Thurs 21st March - Red Admiral near the Goosefield at **Fishers Green**, Essex, at 1.00pm - Martin Shepherd

3 Peacocks today all in the Trapstyle Road area at **Ware** - Andrew Wood

2 really crisp new looking **Peacocks** today at **Amwell** - Nick Sampford

Wed 20th March - Amwell Gravel Pit, I saw a tatty **Red Admiral** today and a **Peacock** there on **Sunday** - Nick Sampford

Tues 19th March - Clive Burrows has seen the website some more beautiful photos from his travels abroad - Thanks Clive

Mon 18th March - Enfield, a very fresh **Comma** on **Saturday** morning, flying into the conservatory, then nectaring on the damson trees then on **Sunday** a fresh **Red Admiral** at North Enfield CC - Phil MacMurdie

Sun 17th March - Rye House, **Hoddesdon**. **Small Tortoiseshell** seen near the New River - Katherine Goodyear

Sat 16th March - Brent Reservoir, first **Brimstone** (male) and **Red Admiral** of the year - Andrew Self. Also a male **Brimstone** was seen on the **10th** by Harry Mackie (news via Andrew Self)

Trent Park 1 Brimstone seen by Robin White - news via Robert Callf

Broadwater GP/Stockers Lake whilst on a LNHS walk **2 male Brimstones, 2 Peacocks, 1 Small Tortoiseshell**, 7 observers news via Robert Callf

Red Admiral in **Brookmans Park** garden - Rupert Pyrah

King George V Reservoir (Essex), 1.00 p.m. - **Small Tortoiseshell**, north basin on Sewardstone side. Was in flight over the water then settled on the stone embankment to enjoy the sun - Martin Shepherd

Ware, first butterfly of the year in my garden at 12.20, **male Brimstone** - Liz Goodyear

Mon 11th March - I have just seen my first **Brimstone** of the year. Seen flying along the roadside (Bullocks Lane, **Hertford**) adjacent to the County Hall woodland - Laura Youell, Herts Biological Records Centre

News from 7th - 11.15 am a **Peacock** was sunning itself in the garden of the Abrook Arms, **Uxbridge**, Middlesex. Later in the afternoon 2 more **Peacocks** landed briefly in my garden in **Hayes**, Middlesex. Causing a well needed, if not brief, lift in spirits - Chris Court

Sat 9th March - Trent Park, Comma (Moat Wood) - Robert Callf, news from Robin White ~ Comma + Peacock (**Thursday**)

Thurs 7th March - *For more butterfly reports from just outside Herts or Middx - visit North London Birds*

My firsts for 2002: **Male Brimstone** Trapstyle Road, **Ware**, **Peacock** Ware Cemetery both lunchtime (also but not butterflies at all but the first Bullfinch I have seen in this area for 2 years in the Hyde at Ware) - Andrew Wood

At last I have seen my first butterfly of the year - a **Comma** down the lane south of **Norton Green** - **Alan Reynolds**

Ally Pally, Small Tortoiseshell, Brimstone, Peacock, Red Admiral & Comma all today! - Tom Clarke.

Tues 5th March - Ally Pally - 1 Comma on the **3rd March** and 1 Red Admiral **today**. Actually disappointed not to have had any more - Tom Clarke

Saw my first butterfly of the year this afternoon whilst driving out of **Stevenage** (12 degrees and sunny at the time). It flew across the road in front of me, but I couldn't see what it was except that it wasn't a Brimstone! - Liz Goodyear

February 2002

Mon 25th February - Ally Pally - 1 Peacock today in the pouring rain. Bit strange, think it may have been disturbed from its hibernation - Tom Clarke

Fri 22nd February - Tate Modern, Red Admiral - David Darrell-Lambert

Trent Park (Rough Lot) **Peacock** - Robert Callf

Wed 20th February - Walthamstow E17 - 2 Red Admirals seen in David Darrell-Lambert's garden on Saturday (**16th**)

Mon 18th February- Trent Park, 2 Red Admirals - Robert Callf & Robin White

Sun 17th February - Had a Red Admiral in **Dagenham**, Essex, **Friday** at midday - Alan Shearman

Sat 16th February - Epping Forest (Yardley Hill), Peacock - Helen Bantock, Tony Clancy & Andrew Middleton

Trent Park area - Red Admiral in Icehouse Wood - Robert Callf, **Comma** seen **14th February** by Robin White

Thurs 14th February - Red Admiral seen on the edge of **Holland Park Orangery** at 1.00pm, just 15 yards or so from where I saw this species on 9 January. Is it likely that this is the same insect? It was basking on a rock in warm sunshine, and then alighted on ornamental heather followed by a crocus before flying off. I had my compact binoculars with me...this was a very

fresh-looking individual. There were also seven bumble bees feeding on the heather - Martin Shepherd - *any comments welcome*

Tues 12th February - Ally Pally - The first **Brimstone** of the year! - Tom Clarke

Saturday 9th, Cornmill Meadows - a Red Admiral - Andy Massey

Sat 9th February - Ally Pally - Another Red Admiral on **Friday 8th**, about midday. Keeps getting better! Tom Clarke

Wed 6th February - News from INSECT NEWS via John Stevens - Peacock seen midday at **Dorrington** nr Worthing, Sussex

Tues 5th February - Small Tortoiseshell chalked up by Robin White in the **Trent Pk/Vicarage Farm** area today - news via Robert Callf

January 2002

Thurs 31st January - Alexandra Palace (Ally Pally) - Red Admiral seen this morning looking in decent shape. Earliest site record - Tom Clarke, Conservation Officer, Alexandra Park

Sat 27th January - News from across the "border" via North London Birds - 9:30, my **Romford** garden - a **Red Admiral** flying around trying to settle by shed (no obvious disturbance) - Ken Barrett

Wed 23rd January - Tuesday 22nd - I saw a **Red Admiral** in flight outside MVC music store in **Watford** High Street, the insect was in absolutely perfect condition. Same day I found a Dark Chestnut moth (*Conistra ligula*) at rest outside Watford market - David Murray

Thurs 17th January - There will be a working party at Millhoppers on Sunday 27th January - tasks will include raking again! For more details please contact John or Margaret Noakes 01296 660072

Wed 9th January 2002 - The first butterflies reported this year! Holland Park Orangery, **West London** at 1.30pm - a **Red Admiral** was flying outside in a sheltered sunny spot close to an old brick wall and large bushy shrubs growing at the foot of a historical building called The Ice House - Martin Shepherd

Broxbourne Woods - Today, Andrew Middleton saw 2 wing parts of a Comma on the ground - presumably the remains of someone's breakfast