

# Archive Page

## Sightings and news from July to December 2004

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This page contains sightings details of all the butterflies and moths reported to the [Sightings page](#) between July and December 2004.

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](#)

### December 2004

**31st December** - At **Wicken Fen**, Cambs **today**, a **Small Tortoiseshell** was seen in the Visitors' Centre - news via Guy Manners

*Bob Hazra sent me an email of good wishes for 2005, I thought I would share this "Right now I'm trying to get a caterpillar I got from a packet of peas and baby sweetcorn at Tesco to turn into a pupa. The import was from Zambia, the caterpillar's green and around 2" long with a few hairs. It fed on both the corn and peas" - Bob Hazra*

On **Wednesday December 29th** my wife and I attended an early evening Christmas carol concert at **Christchurch, Waltham Cross**. Halfway through the service we were distracted by the sight of a **small tortoiseshell** which flew up to the rafters and then back down again to land on one of the pews in front of us. Here it remained until the end of the service when I carefully picked it up and placed it on one of the floral arrangements. Presumably the warmth from the central heating and candles had disturbed its hibernation. However, seeing it reminded me of how the sight of such vanessids used to be a fairly regular occurrence in this church - Roger Newbold

**30th December** - On **Christmas day** we had a **red admiral** butterfly in our dining room with us as we ate our Christmas dinner. I had had the window open while cooking the dinner and noticed it resting on the dining room window. It stayed quite still for over half an hour then began fluttering its wings and at this point we opened the door and it flew out. This happened approx. 1pm. I live in **East Yorkshire** - Fred (*not local but a nice email I have received today - LG*)

**24th December** - Were any butterflies seen yesterday? Malcolm Newland was optimistic and did look but didn't see anything in his garden in Hemel Hempstead

**19th December, Happy Christmas - thanks to everyone who continues to support the sightings page by sending in news! LG**

**11th December** - Computer problems mean that it is difficult to update at the moment but did anyone see any butterflies today? I saw a bumble bee in my front garden today around midday - Liz Goodyear

**5th December** - A **hummingbird Hawk-moth** was making itself at home on the Buddleia at work **today, 1st October**, in **Stevenage** (MBDA Ltd). This follows an earlier record in July - Keith Mitchell (*this email arrived in my inbox yesterday! LG*)

### November 2004

**Sun 21st November - Don't forget: The Butterfly Conservation National AGM & Members' Day is on Saturday 27th November. It is being held at the Cranfield University, Silsoe Campus.**

**Tues 16th November** - Whilst enjoying a drink outside the Candlestick pub, **West End, Essendon** on **November 13th**, my wife and I were surprised to see a **Red Admiral** fly past. It didn't hang about. Considering that it was quite nippy and about three o'clock in the afternoon it was a pleasant surprise - Roger Newbold

**Sat 13th November** - Today, a **Silver Y** making the most of the late afternoon sun in our front garden in **Hertford** - Alan Reynolds

Just had a **small tortoiseshell** at **Eastwick** just inside Herts border. I think its my latest ever butterfly a real surprise - Nick Sampford

Back garden, **Melbourn** (S. Cambs), 11:20. Red Admiral flew up high (over top of house level) and away (along row of houses). Same one as Thursday? - Guy Manners

**Fri 12th November** - **Hemel Hempstead** garden; had a rather worn **Red Admiral** which spent ages nectaring on Colletia Armata in the garden this morning - Malcolm Newland

Water garden, **Trent Park**, **1 Peacock** at 11.30 - Robin White (news via Robert Callf)

**Thurs 11th November** - **1 Comma** in **Ware Cemetery** feeding on Ivy flowers **today** - Andrew Wood

**Today** in Garden **N.W.Bishop's Stortford**, **Red Admiral** on Yellow Buddleia -Jim Fish

**Vicarage Farm**, **1 Red Admiral today** - Robin White & Robert Callf

**Red Admiral**, fluttering around then resting on apple tree in back garden, **Melbourn** (S. Cambs), 14:30 - Guy Manners

**Wed 10th November** - **Harrow Weald**, 1 knot grass caterpillar - Hayley Rose

**Sat 6th November** - One of our neighbours, Carol Smith reports **three Red Admirals** on her hebe bushes on **5th November** in **Bengeo** - news from Andrew Wood

**Wed 3rd November** - **1 Red Admiral**, 300 yards south of **Brookmans Park station** - Rupert Pyrah

**1 Red Admiral**, **Bengeo** and **1 near Amwell End, Ware** - Andrew Wood

**Tues 2nd November** - Butterfly news from Andrew Wood, **Sun 31 Oct**, **1 Brimstone** at **Balls Wood**; **Thu 28 Oct**, **1 Comma** near **Waterford** and **Fri 29 Oct 1**, **Red Admiral** in **Bengeo**

**Mon 1st November** - On **Saturday 30th October**, **Lemsford Village** at around midday a **Peacock** , taking advantage of the sunny weather - Malcolm & Christine Penn

#### **October 2004**

**Sat 30th October** - **St Albans**, a **male Brimstone** in my garden at 2 pm, spent about 15 minutes fluttering around & through the hebe bushes. He showed no interest in nectaring & seemed to be searching for a place to hibernate - Malcolm Hull

**Red Admiral and Brimstone** in Garden **N.W. Bishop's Stortford** - Jim Fish

**Ware** garden, **1 Red Admiral** pottering around in the shade at 4.15 this afternoon before flying off - Liz Goodyear

**Upshire**, **3 red admirals**, also reported **one peacock** and a **white sp** - Andrew Middleton

**Fri 29th October - Red admiral at Bishops Stortford** on **27th October** - Nick Sampford

**Thurs 28th October - Hemel Hempstead, one Red Admiral and one Comma** in the garden this morning - Malcolm Newland

**Today** in the garden **N.W. Bishop's Stortford, 2 Red Admirals** nectaring on a Yellow Buddleia - Jim Fish

**Wed 27th October** - News from Robert Callf. On **Sunday 24th**, Robert joined the LNHS for a walk around **Sewardstone** (Essex), they saw 4 species, **1 male Brimstone, Peacock, a white and Holly Blue**. On **Monday 25th** at **Trent Park**, Robert and Robin White saw a **Red Admiral** and **yesterday (26th)**, Robin White saw a **Speckled Wood at Trent Park**

**Tues 26th October** - A Merveille du Jour in the lighted subway connecting **Bricket Wood Common to Garston Park**. Oddly enough, I have not recorded the species here before, probably partly because I have never trapped on the Common later than September. Hornets have evidently had an excellent year (as the report in the latest British Wildlife states): in square TQ19 over the past couple of months I have found them in the churchyard in Aldenham (regularly), in the burial ground at Radlett and at the edge of Aldenham Country Park, in addition to previously established sites - Colin Everett

**Painted Lady** in field behind the Cricket Field **Bishop's Stortford**, basking on Dock Leaf. Also from **Saturday 23rd** in garden **N.W.Bishop's Stortford a Hummingbird Hawk Moth** - Jim Fish

**1 Peacock** this lunchtime at **Norton Green** - Alan Reynolds

**Sun 24th October - Bedfords Park** (nr Harold Hill, Essex), **2 speckled woods & 1 red admiral** - Colin Jupp

**2 small coppers** at **Wilstone** reservoir today at 11:00 - Dave Hutchinson

One **Red Admiral**, New Road, **Melbourn** (S. Cambs), ca.12:35 today - Guy Manners

**Fri 22nd October - Dagenham Chase**, we had a **small copper** here yesterday (**21st**) - Tom Clarke

**Thurs 21st October - King's Langley** on **Monday, 1 Peacock** news via Dave Chandler

3 butterflies for you from **Monday**, all **Ware** = High Street, **green veined white**, Croft Road, **small tortoiseshell and red admiral**. They're still hanging on - Nick Sampford

**Tues 19th October - Bedford's Park, Essex: speckled wood** - Colin Jupp

**Mon 18th October - Essex; Green-veined white** nectaring on dandelion and **small white** at **Harold Hill**, **large white** at **Warley Hill, Brentwood** - Colin Jupp

**Middlesex, Enfield Lock 1 red admiral** on ivy, **Rammey Marsh 1 peacock** - Andrew Middleton

**Wed 13th October - Holly Blue** feeding on Buddleia at **Walkern, Wednesday 13th** .....also loads of Hornets (including the odd large queen!) east of Walkern, near St Johns Wood, Bassus Green - Jeff Davies

**Sun 10th October** - A tantalising late blue sighting, my latest ever **holly blue?** Whilst gardening on a warm lunchtime in **Lower Stondon, BEDS**, I saw the infernal creature about twenty yards away it certainly looked blue, but I can honestly say I could only be 60% sure. Could not chase it far cos my neighbours would not be keen on me rushing through their kitchen to their backyard - Stuart Pittman

**Fri 8th October** - Due to a mechanical problem at our publisher's mailing house, a small number of Butterfly Conservation members will not have received a copy of the autumn issue of Butterfly magazine this September. If you have not received Butterfly issue 87, please could you contact Butterfly Conservation at Lulworth on 0870 7744309 or info@butterfly-conservation.org, and they will ensure that you are sent a copy straight away

**Wed 6th October** - News from **Mon 4th October** p.m. In garden **N.W.Bishop's Stortford**. Red Admiral (2), Small Tortoiseshell(2), Brimstone (1), Large White and Small White - Jim Fish

**Sat 2nd October** - Today in the **Sewardstone area** I saw 3 red admirals, 1 peacock, 3 small whites, 1 small copper and **one fresh adult common blue** - Andrew Middleton

### **September 2004**

**Thurs 30th September - Hemel Hempstead**, My **fourteenth record of Humming-bird Hawkmoth** for the garden this year was nectaring on Verbena Bonariensis in late afternoon. I didn't expect to see so many as the weather hasn't been up to much - Malcolm Newland

**Wed 29th September** -Two- tailed Pashea seen on Sept 3rd 2004.

Also in the area, Monarchs!, Lungs Short Tailed Blue, Long tailed blue, Geranium Bronze (introduced South African pest!) and Swallowtail.

This is the only place in mainland Europe you can see five breeding species of Swift (Little, White rumped, Pallid, Common and Alpine).

Plus an amazing migration....Bee-eaters, Honey Buzzards, Black Kites etc. Bonellis Eagle breed on the Cliffs..... Jeff Davies

**Sun 26th September - Wheathampstead: 5 Small Copper on Blackbridge Tip**, also a few Small and one Large White, one Comma and one Peacock - Trevor Chapman

Went to **Sewardstone** and found 2 common blue larvae on bird's foot trefoil, also saw 2 red admirals and 3 small whites - Andrew Middleton >>>>> its about 3mm long

**Ware** garden, a Speckled Wood - Liz Goodyear

**Thurs 23rd September - Vicarage Farm**, 1 Small Heath - Robin White & Robert Callf

*We have now started the last week of the 2004 transect season - don't forget to send your results in!*

**Sun 19th September** - I was surprised to see a very fresh Small copper in my garden in **Hayes** Middlesex, stayed for close on an hour and a half sunning itself - Chris Court

At **King's Mead** this morning 1 Small Copper, also 1 on the **12th September** - Alan Reynolds

**Sat 18th September** - The Ruislip Woods Trust is holding a day of talks on the Ruislip Woods on Saturday 30th October (10 - 3.45). Tickets are £5 - contact Ray Massey on 01895 634253. The meeting will feature illustrated talks on the History of the woods by Eileen Bowlt, the Birds by Ian Johnson, Bats by Patty Briggs, Plants by Colin Bowlt, Butterflies & Moths by Ched George and others on management & conservation. I think it will be an interesting and enjoyable day - Steve Pash

**Thurs 16th September - Ware garden**, first for the year, 1 Hummingbird Hawkmoth on buddleia - Liz Goodyear

**Wed 15th September** - In my garden N.W **Bishop's Stortford**, Painted Lady (1) Red Admiral (2) Comma (1) Small Tortoiseshell (1) Large and Small Whites few. The Red Admirals and Painted Lady were in the Garden right up until sunset nectaring on Verbena Bonariensis and Buddleia - Jim Fish

A colleague rang me this afternoon with a report of a large yellow caterpillar with a tail in his garden. I told him what it sounded like but that it was rather improbable, then rushed up there. It was, indeed, **a death's head hawk**. It is in the pre-pupation stage and we have photographed it and given it some soil. It's the first record for the **Rothamsted Estate**, I'm pretty sure - Richard Harrington

**Essendon** area, 3 Red Admirals flying south, otherwise just 2 Comma, 1 Speckled Wood and rather a lot of whites, only one settling long enough to confirm that it was a Small White - Andrew Middleton

**Sun 12th September** - There seems to be a new brood of comma about. I had 3 on my transect at **Bricket Wood yesterday**, the most since the spring. Today I saw 2 very fresh specemins, one nectaring on Sedum Spectabile on my allotment at **Folly Lane St Albans** & another nectaring at Michaelmas Daisies at the **Rothamsted Institute, Harpenden**. Apart from that, numbers of Large, Small & Green-veined Whites as well as Speckled Woods have been good. Nothing else seen this weekend apart from a single (non-migrating) Red Admiral - Malcolm Hull

**Fri 10th September - News from 3rd, Blackbridge landfill site, 1 clouded yellow & numerous small heath** - Darin Stanley

**Tues 7th September** - I thought you might be interested in this picture of a Golden Twin-spot *chrysodeixis chalcites* that I caught in my garden in **Greenford**, bordering Horsenden Hill overnight on **14th/15th August**. Colin Plant has confirmed the record which seems to be an exceptional record, especially for suburban west London - Andy Culshaw

Since the weather was so nice, I thought I would visit some of the tetrads in **TL41**, that I should have visited in July! I was hoping to record some late summer butterflies but.....I visited 5 tetrads, and apart from numerous white species, saw very little else. Grand total of 3 Comma, 1 Red Admiral and 1 1/2 speckled wood. My initial thought was that the majority of the whites were Small, but sampling told me otherwise, and those I saw on the field edges or along the old railway line at Widford were split 50/50 with Green-veined and a handful of Large adding to records. I did not sample any flying in the middle of fields though. A lovely day to be out but not if you wanted to see lots of butterflies (other than whites). Meanwhile in my **Ware** garden this morning, just from the kitchen window, I saw 2 Comma & 1 Red Admiral. 1 Comma enjoying a rotten pear I had left out. Later a Peacock on the buddleia (I should have stayed at home!) - Liz Goodyear

**Mon 6th September - News from 1st, One Clouded Yellow** still on the **Pegsdon Hills**. Also a Painted Lady and Brimstone - Nigel Agar

**Sun 5th September** - This morning at Harpenden Rd, **St Albans**, Herts, I saw a Red Admiral flying rapidly in a South-westerly direction about 2 meters above the ground. In two hours at the same spot I saw 5 more Red Ads, all heading in the same direction at the same speed - I estimate about 20-25 miles per hour. Is this the first return migration of the year? Has anyone else seen signs of similar behaviour? - Malcolm Hull

**Clouded Yellow**, patrolling Grass Verge this morning alongside track between the Farnham road and Wickham Hall Farm, **Bishop's Stortford** - Jim Fish

One Speckled Wood in **Therfield Heath NR** in the woods bordering the W side of the Therfield-Royston road. Church Hill (aka the hill to the SW of the reserves): Large and Small Whites in abundance (no green-veined identified today); 2+ female Brown Argus (one clearly on its last legs); several male and female **Chalk-hill Blues** (some very tatty, others quite fresh-looking); three Small Tortoiseshell; one Comma; three or more Meadow Browns, and plenty of Small Heaths - Guy Manners

Near **Patchetts Green** on rough ground between the M1 and A41 a very worn Brown Argus, two Common Blues and 8+ Small Whites, the latter feeding on the drying edge of manure piles. Otherwise rather quiet today in the **Aldenham/Bushey** areas with only Large and Small Whites, Speckled Woods, a few remaining female Meadow Browns and the odd Red Admiral. A Painted Lady (presumably the same individual) appeared regularly on garden buddleias at **Garston (Watford)** on many dates between 16th August and 2nd September - Colin Everett

Moira and I were at **Aldbury Nowers** on the **17 August** and saw at least **3 Chalk-hill Blues** & took photos. Am attaching the photos plus one of Chalk-hills mating taken at nearby Pitstone Hill. There seemed to be a greater number of them at Pitstone Hill - Glen Barnes

**Fri 3rd September** - At **Therfield** near Royston, **3 Clouded Yellows**, several Small Heath and Common Blues, high numbers of Large and Green Veined Whites - Darrel Bryant

### **August 2004**

**Mon 30th August** - In between the showers today: **Hexton** - Small White 20+, Speckled Wood 14, Meadow Brown 7, Brimstone 4 (2 male, 2 female), Gatekeeper 1. **Walkern** - Small White 20+, Speckled Wood 8, Comma 1 - Steven Penn

**Sun 29th August** - After looking through a few books I think Pat Sullivan's caterpillar is that of the Lobster Moth! I was unsure before because I could not see its head and front three pairs of legs which should be longer than those on most caterpillars - Lee Browne

**Thurs 26th August** - News from the early August, Andrew Hardacre in **Bishops Stortford** had a Small Copper in his a garden on the **7th**, a garden first

A big surprise at **Balls Wood today** where among all the Speckled Woods I saw a somewhat battered, but active **White Admiral**. This is 26 days since my last sighting despite having been able to walk the transect in reasonable conditions each week since then. This beats the previous late date of 21 August in 1996 on the transect and means this year the White Admiral has been "on the wing" here from 17 June to 26 August, that is 70 days which is way over any previous year I have recorded here. By its condition I don't think there can be any question of this being a second brood as some sites outside Hertfordshire had last year - Andrew Wood

Moth record from Lee Valley (**Gunpowder Park** - Sewardstone, Essex): Latticed Heath *Semiothisa clathrata* (second generation) - Andrew Palmer

### ***Can anyone help with the id of this caterpillar photo sent to the website***

Approx 4cm long and found near Tywyn (on the coast some miles north of Aberystwyth). The caterpillar was actually found in place named Corris which is 14 miles east from Tywyn. The length of it was approximately 4 cm and the background in the picture is some wood. It was found in a back yard - Pat Sullivan

After looking through a few books I think Pat Sullivan's caterpillar is that of the Lobster Moth! I was unsure before because I could not see its head and front three pairs of legs which should be longer than those on most caterpillars - Lee Browne

**Tues 24th August** - Lots of Clouded Yellow moving through...one in **Walkern** on **Saturday** and up to half a dozen in the **Therfield heath area** last week (**Wednesday and Thursday**) - Jeff Davies

I was at **Hexton** on **Sunday**. I saw 2 Painted Ladies, 1 Common Blue, 2 Speckled Woods, 10+ Meadow Brown and 10+ Small White. Painted Lady photo attached - Steven Penn

**Yesterday, Flood plain on Old Knebworth Lane**, Small Copper 1. Gatekeeper 3. Meadow Brown 20+. Speckled Wood 1. Common Blue 20+. Brown Argus 4. Small White 10+. Large White 3. and 3 Small Heath which is the first time I've seen this species at this site! Lee Browne

**News from out of county**, we went to **Aston Rowant** on **Sunday** for the first time and saw our first Silver-Spotted Skippers, 5 in all, we also saw a Clouded Yellow, Brown Argus, common and Chalkhill Blues, Meadow Browns, Speckled Wood, Large & Small Whites, Small Heaths and Small Coppers( the most we have ever seen in 1 place). We then went onto **Bernwood Forest** to see if we could spot the Brown Hairstreak, it must have been our lucky day, we arrived about 1.30 and



saw 5 different individuals and whilst Sandra got a photo, they were very flighty and the one she took the photo of was not in great condition. Photos attached. The majority of them were only a few feet off the ground on Blackthorn. We also had a Clouded Yellow fly past us, lots of Common Blues, Meadow Browns and a quick glimpse of a Purple Hairstreak - Kevin and Sandra Standbridge

**Sunday 22nd August** - Weekend news from Robert Callf, male Clouded Yellow **Trent Park area** and 2 Painted Ladies on buddleia outside flat in **Southgate**

Ann Piper has visited five central tetrads for the mapping challenge, leaving the remaining blanks looking vulnerable.

Just got back from a weeks holiday in **Dorset** where I saw two species new to me, the Lulworth Skipper and Adonis Blue. Also saw Grayling, Silver Studded Blue and Wall Brown as well larva of Eyed Hawkmoth, Emperor Moth and Fox Moth... If anyone gets the chance I recommend visiting Studland Bay, Durlston and Wareham Forest - Lee Browne

**Sat 21st Aug** We went to **Pegsdon Hills** in Beds today and saw **4 Clouded Yellows, lots of Chalkhill Blues**, 2 Painted Ladies, 4 Brown Argus, 3 Brimstones, common blues, large and small whites, meadow browns, gatekeepers, small coppers, small heaths, lots of moths and 4 Buzzards, hobby and kestrels.( 2 photos enclosed) A good day out. Kevin and Sandra Standbridge

Excellent views of fem **clouded yellow** Tylers 'Wood' **Thames Chase** site nr M25, Essex, plus several painted ladies - Colin Jupp

**Tue 17th Aug** Seen in our garden in **Hertford Heath** today, 1 gatekeeper, various Whites, small Tortoiseshell and 1 Elephant Hawkmoth caterpillar, which was found by our Springer Spaniel. We have also had in our garden every day for the last week a Sunbird, which is feeding on Phygillies. We would appreciate it if someone could identify it for us - Kevin and Sandra Standbridge  
Looking in the Field Guide to the Birds of West Africa, the Sunbird may be *Nectarinia verticalis* (Olive Backed/Green-headed Sunbird). Jim Fish

At least three of Clouded Yellows at **Therfield Heath** today, on the flowery banks NE of the Therfield village A505 road, adjoining the golf course - Jeff Davies

Saw a **Clouded Yellow** at 13:00 today flying south through **Ware Park Quarry**. Andrew Wood

Stopped off on some wasteland by the North Circular towards Ally Pally and recorded several meadow browns, and single common blue and small copper - AM

I saw 17 Orange Swift and 4 Marbled Beauty moths around my garden in **Stevenage** last night (**16th Aug**). No moth trap required. Steven Penn

Recent sightings from Rupert Pyrah - **21 June** - North Mymms Park - White Admiral @ Redwell Wood. **26 July** - NMPk - Small Copper. **15 August** - NMPk - Common Blue. **14 August** - Dame Alice Owens School, Potters bar - **Clouded Yellow**

**Sunday 15th August** - At **King's Mead**, 2 Meadow Brown, 1 Holly Blue, 1 Red Admiral, 1 Essex Skipper, 1 Small Skipper, 2 Painted Lady, 3 Common Blue and 2 Brown Argus. **Also a Brown Argus on the 8th August**. The Argus records are the first for the site - Alan Reynolds

**Stevenage Transect - Millennium Wood**, at about 1:30pm a **Clouded Yellow** seen amongst the thistles Peter Clarke

Went to the gravel pits at **Bengeo**, 4 small heaths, 3 male and 1 female common blue, Red Admiral, Green Veined White and Large White, meadow browns and gatekeepers. Also 8 Treble-Bar moths, angle shades moth and a Dun-bar - Kevin and Sandra Standbridge

I spent an hour at **Norton Green** this afternoon and saw 10+ Gatekeepers, a dozen Large Whites, Meadow Browns, 3 Painted Lady and 5 Common Blue - Ian Hardy

**Sun 25th July - Chorleywood area** - I came home at about 12.30 pm to find a **Marbled White** butterfly on my Zepherin Drouhin rose in the front garden of my house. I have not seen it before or since - Katharine Hornsby

**Fri 13th Aug** - Today (approx 13.00) I saw a tatty Silver Washed Fritillary at the entrance to **Brampton woods**, Cambs (I've notified their recorder). On **Wednesday 9th** at about 16.00 hours, good sunshine between mega thunderstorms, I popped into Whitbarrow Scar, Cumbria and saw 5 High Brown Fritillaries (two still in good nick), 6 Silver Washed frits (various conditions) and 1 tatty Dark Green Frit. A few Wall browns were also present. At 18.00 hours, still dry and sunny, I saw dozens of Scotch Argus and a couple of unidentified Frits at Arnside Knott. Not a bad couple of hours! Jeff Davies

A **Yellow Belle**, new moth for me last night in **Enfield**, Middx, was this . I've since read it tends to be coastal, and is also established alongside the Thames in East London. Colin Plant's Herts moth list gives the last record for Herts dated 1834. Andrew Middleton

**Wed 11th Aug - Richard Bigg** has 'bashed' several more tetrads in TL42 - see updated map

I saw several common blue, brown argus, small heath, brimstone and marbled white at **Aldbury Nowers**, then over the border at **Pitstone Hill** I enjoyed 3 male chalk-hill blues and 2 clouded yellows - A Middleton

Enquiry from **Yaxley, Peterborough**: I have a buddleja in the garden which attracts a huge number of butterflies of different types and it now seems to have attracted something else! Not being a expert (or even a novice), I haven't got a clue what it might be, can you help please? Fred Holmwood

In answer to Fred Holmwood's query about the caterpillar found on his Buddlia it is a Privet Hawkmoth Larva and Buddlia is a known Larval food plant... Lee Browne

**Blackbridge Landfill, 3 clouded yellow, 30+ small Heath**, 1 comma, large whites, meadow browns, 2 tortoiseshell - Darin Stanley

**Tue 10th Aug** - Three Clouded Yellows seen on three successive days in deepest Bedfordshire over the long weekend including one on the Sharpenhoe Clappers transect; three across Hertfordshire & one just over the border at Ivinghoe Beacon (Bucks) so I wonder if we are going to have another Clouded Yellow year this year? This signs look promising from here in the South Midlands and I've asked my two branches to go on " CY alert" David Chandler

Visited 10km square **TQ 29 (Dancers Hill, Scratchwood, Dollis Hill, Finchley etc)** after the rain and managed to find meadow brown and gatekeeper in 6 of the 7 blank tetrads before running out of time. Also found small heath, small copper, common blue, brown argus, purple hairstreak, holly blue, speckled wood and various whites, but of the 150 butterflies noted, only one was a Nymphalid - a painted lady in Brunswick Cemetery, shortly before I was asked to leave. There are still blank tetrads in need of a visit, mainly into central London (SE Middx) and NE Herts, and also dotted around elsewhere - the summer visit is especially concerned with recording meadow brown and gatekeeper, so can be 'fairly' easy. Any blank summer tetrads surveyed, please email me and I'll update the map - thanks Andrew Middleton

**Sun 8th Aug** - My parents were at **Frogmore** on Sunday and they saw a tatty **Silver Washed Fritillary** on a buddleia. I have attached the photo taken by Douglas Penn - Steven Penn

Went for a walk this afternoon in a field near **Knebworth** Golf course and found one feeding on Lady's Bedstraw. - Lee Browne

**Gunpowder Park**, nr Waltham Abbey: seven **clouded yellows**, 12.30-2.30pm - Martin Shepherd/Enfield Lock Conservation Group



Saw a **Clouded Yellow** in a field by the A30 in Staines (TQ068729) on my way back from tetrad recording on Staines Moor. At **Staines Moor**, my sightings included Common Blue (29), Small Copper (13), Painted Lady (1), Small Heath (2), as well as good numbers of Meadow Brown. - John Eborall

**Norton Green** - Visited the area south of Norton Green today between 3 and 4pm in the hope of finding a Silver-Washed Fritillary but to no avail. Still saw some Purple Hairstreaks, Small/Essex Skippers, Speckled Woods, Holly Blues, whites, a Painted Lady, a Small Tortoiseshell as well as many Gatekeepers and Meadow Browns. Peter Clarke.....Failed to see the Silver Washed Fritillary this morning between 1030 and 1240. I did see several Purple hairstreaks, and one Painted Lady among the masses of Gatekeepers, Meadow browns, Skippers and Whites. - Phil Bishop

Near **Bricket Wood** a **Clouded Yellow** flying back and forth over a set-aside field between Munden Spring and Munden Drive; also two Brown Argus and a Small Copper there. On the Bricket Wood transect walk numbers were about 40% of those recorded in the preceding two weeks but included Brown Argus, Painted Lady, 3 Small Copper and still 3 (very worn) Large Skipper - Colin Everett

**Clouded Yellow** flying over disused allotments **Rye Street Bishop's Stortford**. Jim Fish

**Sat 7th Aug** - 1 Clouded Yellow at **Dagenham Chase** about 2.30pm today (Saturday) - Tom Clarke

**Therfield Heath**: good numbers of small heath mid-afternoon (20+) - Martin Shepherd

2 **clouded yellows** seen **Sat. 7th Aug.** at **Duchies Piece**, and 1 on top of Ivinghoe Beacon - Barry Palfrey

**Coverage of several tetrads** in the **Abbots Langley** area produced two Brown Argus in the very sympathetically managed St Lawrence Churchyard in the High Street, Small Copper in two tetrads and Painted Ladies on garden buddleias at two sites - Colin Everett

**Silver Washed Fritillary @ Norton Green**, seen several times (same individual) 12:30 - 1:30pm. Also P. Hairstreak & Small Copper. - Toby Austin

**Fri 6th Aug - lunchtime- Silver Washed Fritillary** was still at **Norton Green** (since the 2nd). Same place. Also Brimstone (1) Small Copper (2), Peacock (1), Purple Hairstreak (3), Holly Blue (1), Common Blue (1), Small Skippers, Browns and Whites. - Trevor Chapman

I went to the Oxfordshire woods today and saw c15 brown hairstreaks at various locations - see **Upper Thames** website for more information - Andrew Middleton

**Scrub Hill, Thorndon Park Essex**, clouded yellow for Martin Wright, 15+ brown argus, 8 small heath, 10 small copper - news from Colin Jupp who missed the CY .Als, Thames Chase area, 14 brown argus, 6 painted lady, good nos common blue, 5 small copper.

**THURS 5TH AUG**, LUNCHTIME WALK DOWN LANE SOUTH OF **NORTON GREEN** BETWEEN 12 AND 1PM PRODUCED THE **SILVER WASHED FRITILLARY** APPROX 300 YARDS SOUTH OF WOODMANS ARMS PUB AND AS FAR DOWN TO THE CLEARING WHERE A SOFA HAS BEEN DUMPED. THIS BUTTERFLY SPENDS MOST OF ITS TIME FLYING UP AND DOWN THE LANE, BUT SETTLES OCCASIONALLY ON THE SPEAR THISTLE WHERE GOOD VIEWS WERE OBTAINED. ALSO SEEN WERE SEVERAL PURPLE HAIRSTREAKS, HOLLY BLUE, SMALL COPPER, AND PEACOCKS. - DARREL BRYANT

**Wed 4th August** - An evening visit to the oak-dominated **Tanners Wood** in Abbots Langley established that Purple Hairstreaks are present, but the small count of five in half an hour (1930 to 2000 hours) suggests that the population at this site is fairly low. Nonetheless, this is the first record of the species for the tetrad (TL00 V) although my comments in respect of Harebreaks Wood last week also apply in the present case - Colin Everett

I saw a **Silver Washed Fritillary** in the lane south of **Norton Green** today. TL 229 230 - Steven Penn

Walked along **Nicky Line** today at 13:15 and spotted a Purple Hairstreak on an oak tree at about 50m East of track to Woodend Farm (TL087099). Also, in **Tring Park** on 17/07/04 at 16:00 saw a Hummingbird Hawk Moth on Lady's bedstraw - Roger Prue

**Bedfords CP, Essex**, 19 species of butterfly today inc. 3 skippers, holly and c.blue, 5 vanessids inc. a painted lady, single white-letter and purple hairstreak, also 13 species of Odonata - Colin Jupp

This morning (4th) on **Gunpowder Park** (former Royal Ordnance Site), Waltham Abbey, **Essex** - **2 Clouded Yellow** and a Painted Lady - Andrew Palmer

**Gunpowder Park**, nr Waltham Abbey: **two clouded yellows**, small copper and two painted ladies this lunchtime. Also two painted ladies in **Enfield Lock** garden this afternoon, plus gatekeeper...a garden first - Martin Shepherd

**Tue 3rd August** - I took a walk around the fields at the gravel pits at **Bengeo** (on the right hand side where the old works are still present) the weather was not very nice and only saw a few Gatekeepers, Meadow Browns and Large and Small Whites but on the way back saw a beautiful Black Arches Moth - Sandra Standbridge

**Mon 2nd August** - On a hot and sunny day, I took a stroll down the lane south of **Norton Green**. I stopped to watch a group of whites nectaring on Spear Thistle, when I saw an orangey-brown butterfly a bit further on, which I assumed would be a Comma or Painted Lady. On closer inspection it turned out to be a **Silver-washed Fritillary**. I watched it for about 30 seconds from a range of 1 metre when it flew off north up the lane. I carried on to the field gate where there are more nectaring plants on the off chance of seeing another, but no luck. I returned to the spot and was joined by Malcolm Penn, where we relocated the butterfly and watched it for a further 2 minutes, in flight and settled down to ranges of 2 metres - Alan Reynolds

I was in **Newton Wood** this afternoon and saw 40+ Gatekeeper, 20+ Meadow Brown, 10 Purple Hairstreak, 20+ Large Skipper, 1 Marbled white, and 20+ Large Whites - Ian Hardy

Good news I've seen a **silver washed fritillary** in same location as last two years. Due to work I haven't spent much time there as I would like but spent my lunch break there today. It was seen within 500 yards from where the two were first seen last year and half a mile away from where the one was seen 2 years ago. Also **wall brown, Saturday 31st July nr Buntingford** in a small garden centre on the Buntingford /Hare Street Road. First painted lady yesterday in my garden (**Thundridge**) on buddleia in total I had 11 species visit the garden - Nick Sampford

**Sun 1st August** - I was in the **Bramfield area** today doing a search for White Admirals of which I found two, when I spotted a **Silver-washed Fritillary**. Managed to get a few pic's - Lee Browne

Sightings for **31/7/04** for **Great Ashby Park/Box Wood area**:- 3 Small Copper, **40+ Brown Argus**, 1 Brimstone, Common Blue, Holly Blue, 2 Essex Skipper, 100+ Gatekeepers, Meadow Brown, Peacock, Large, Small and Green Veined Whites, all being chased by 3 Migrant Hawkers - Steve Lane

1 Painted Lady, **12 Holly Blue** at **Coppetts Wood Sat. 31st July** - Tony Clancy

Went for walk in **Balls Wood** this morning, saw hundred plus Gatekeepers, 10 Peacocks, Meadow Browns, 4 large Skippers, small skippers, Large, Small and Green Veined Whites in good numbers, a few Speckled Woods and 2 worn Ringlets also saw 2 Brown Argus, we also saw a Purple and Gold Pyralid and we think some form of Carpet Moth. **In the past week** we have seen in our garden in **Hertford Heath**, a White Letter Hairstreak, a Purple Hairstreak, 3 Holy Blues, Large, Small and Green Veined Whites, Gatekeepers, Meadow Browns, Peacocks, Small Tortoiseshell, Commas, lots of Old Lady Moths, Brimstone Moth, Large Yellow Underwing and an Emerald moth. We also had a

Barn Owl flying around the garden. A couple of pictures are attached - Sandra and Kevin Standbridge

Tom Clarke reported **Marbled White** from **Ally Pally on 29th** a first for the site, I think. Whilst out there on **Saturday** (31st) looking unsuccessfully for the little rascal, I did see 2 Small Copper and 3 Common Blue amongst myriad Whites, Gatekeeper and Meadow Brown. David Bevan reports record numbers on his transect at **Railway Fields** over the last two weeks, topping the hundred a fortnight ago, including 74 Gatekeeper - astonishing numbers for such a small site. Railway Fields also had a **Toadflax Brocade** in the moth trap on **Friday 30th**. Are their numbers exploding also? Marcel Ashby reports 5 this year in his trap up the road in Wood Green! - Keir Mottram

**Bricket Wood transect:** 184 butterflies of 14 species. A good year there for Small Skipper and probably the best ever for Large Skipper, of which 7 were still on the wing. Numbers of Speckled Wood - having a poor year, as has been widely noted - have begun to pick up over the past few days. Evidence of dispersal into the wood by Small Copper & Holly Blue; oviposition by Green-veined White on *Cardamine pratensis* (Cuckoo Flower). Also on the site were two common longhorn beetles (*Leptura strangalia* and *L. melanura*) and the obligatory worker Hornet. In nearby **Garston Park** six Small Coppers (including a pair courting but not mating) and a Purple Hairstreak low down on an oak. Several eggs of the latter species were found during a fairly cursory search: they are very easy to find, may be searched for any time between now and the end of winter and are often on young 'scrub' oaks; one tree on which I found an egg could not have been more than ten years old - Colin Everett

Summer tetrad visits from **30th July**, Started at 12.00 - 13.15, Walked along **Icknield Way Path off A.507 North East of Baldock** passed Ivel Grange to TL250 360 returning NE / SW on bridleway to meet lower track from Bygrave and back to Blackhorse Farm. Small Skipper 2, Large Skipper 5, Large White 16, Small White 44, Green Veined White 2, Brown Argus 1, Holly Blue 3, Small Tortoiseshell 1, Peacock 1 (in middle of wheatfield down on the path), Comma 4, Gatekeeper 10, Meadow Brown 3, Total 92 - Val Fullforth

**Ware garden**, the Peacock count got to 14 today - Liz Goodyear

## **JULY 2004**

**Sat 31st July** - On a hot and sunny day during dragonfly Atlas work 3 Holly Blue, 1 Small Copper, 25 Small White, 2 Peacock, 4 Meadow Brown and 10 Gatekeeper at **The Grove Golf Club**, 1 Speckled Wood, 3 Common Blue, 5 Gatekeeper, 3 Marbled White, 5 Small Skipper, 1 Essex Skipper, 10 Small White and 1 Red Admiral at **Sarratt Bottom** - Alan Reynolds

An update to my previous records from these **three Stevenage** sites. All sites still showed good numbers of Gatekeeper and Meadow Brown. 20+ Small, Large and Green Veined Whites and still a few Essex and Small Skippers but obviously coming to the end of their season. Did not see any Small Tortoiseshell: Roebuck Woodland, also saw Small Copper 3. Holly Blue 8. Speckled Wood 10. Peacock 4. Comma 2. Flood plain on Old Knebworth Lane, also saw Small Copper 8. Speckled Wood 3. Common Blue 30+. Brown Argus 10+. Peacock 6. Comma 2. Brimstone 1. Waste land between golf course and rail track, also saw Small Coppers 10+. Common Blue 10+. Brown Argus 5+. Peacock 4. Spent a great deal of time in the area of **Norton Green and Newton Wood last Friday 23rd and Saturday 24th** and must have seen 100+ Purple Hairstreaks. 50+ Marbled Whites and uncountable numbers of Gatekeepers, Meadow Browns, Small and Essex Skippers as well as good numbers of all three Whites, Small Coppers and Large Skippers - Lee Browne

An unspectacular dozen species in **tetrad TQ19 P (between Aldenham and Radlett)** included Small Copper and Small & Essex Skipper, all of which were found at the derelict and unmanaged former PYO Fruit Farm near **Blackbirds Farm**. At the south end of **Radlett** in an adjacent tetrad a variety of insects on Tansy included at least three examples of the Nationally Notable Adonis' Ladybird. Elsewhere nearby one Marbled White at **Netherwyld Farm** and two playful Weasels in Drop Lane near Bricket Wood - Colin Everett

**Ware garden**, by 11 o'clock, at least 4 Gatekeeper, 1 Meadow Brown, 2 Comma, 2 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Red Admiral, Small, Green-vein & Large Whites, all mostly nectaring on fleabane, marjoram, buddleia & scabious but also a Holly Blue gorging itself on Hebe "Blue Skies" which is also a favourite of the Gatekeepers! 2 o'clock update, increase 1 Holly Blue seen to 3 in the garden simultaneously, 1 site selecting for egg laying purposes and add Small Skipper & a late Large Skipper - Liz Goodyear

**Fri 30th July - Stevenage**, a lunchtime walk at work produced 10 species in 20 minutes. Small Copper (5) doing well, as were **Small Heath (6)**. But new to site was **Brown Argus (2)**; a good year for these maybe. Also Painted Lady (1), Small Whites, Common Blue (1), Meadow Browns, Peacock (2), and Small Skipper (2). Gatekeepers being the most numerous species at the moment - Trevor Chapman

**Thurs 29th July** - I was walking near **Norton Green** again this lunch time and a couple pointed out a **White Admiral** to me - Steven Penn

Counted **27 Purple Hairstreaks** on 13 (mainly lone-standing) Oaks in the south side of **Sunny Hill Park, Hendon**, between 1910h and 2010h last night. One observed flying over c30m of open grassland to an Ash tree. Late news from **Saturday 24 July**: 16 species found in the **Mill Hill to Totteridge area east of Darlands Lake Nature Reserve**: Large Skipper (just one), Small Skipper (hundreds), Essex Skipper (hundreds), Large White, Small White, Green-veined White, Holly Blue, Purple Hairstreak, Small Copper, Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock, Comma, Red Admiral, Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper (hundreds), and Speckled Wood. Also 11 species at the north end of **Sunny Hill Park, Hendon** by the A1: Small White (3), Large White (6), Green-veined White (2), Small Skipper (26), Essex Skipper (12), Small Copper (1), Purple Hairstreak (2), Holly Blue (1), Peacock (1), Meadow Brown (16) and Gatekeeper (42) - Fraser Simpson

On **Wednesday**, started from **Pirton Village - Icknield Way** Path, Brimstone 2, Large White 17, Small White 37, Green Veined 6, Peacock 3, Speckled Wd 4, Gatekeeper 22, Meadow Br 6, Ringlet 1, Total 98. In a bid to see Dragonflies at the request of Christine Shepperson, at 12.30 we ventured into TL12P near **Old Wellbury** to the grassland area there. Numerous Gatekeeper, Whites, Meadow Brown, but also saw 3 Marbled Whites, 2 Small Tortoiseshell and 1 Small Skipper. Highlight..... Bullfinches 2 - Dragonflies NONE! - Val Fullforth

**Wednesday** in tetrad TL10 B near the **M25 west of Bricket Wood**, a veritable population explosion of **Brown Argus: 40+** in a location I have not previously known to hold more than one or two, although there is an abundance of Geranium spp. Also present were 3 Small Coppers and single Common Blue & Essex Skipper, as well as the Nationally Notable hoverfly *Volucella inanis* and the beetle *Oedemera nobilis*. In the evening at **Harebreaks Wood NR** in North Watford at least **24 Purple Hairstreaks** counted in 15 minutes (1920-1935 hours) despite cloud and a stiff breeze. A quick examination of all the obvious sources shows no previous records of the species in this tetrad (TQ19 E) but this is almost certainly because neither I nor anyone else has ever looked for them properly before - Colin Everett

**Tues 27th July** - 6pm in **Stevenage** - 7 Holly Blues, 2 Large Whites and 1 Small White.

**Saturday** - my parents visited **Hexton** and they saw 1 Red Admiral, 6 Peacocks, 4 Small Tortoiseshells, **25+ Chalkhill Blues**, 20+ Brimstones (male and female), 6 Ringlets, 25+ Meadow Browns, 20+ Gatekeepers, 30+ Large, Small/Essex Skippers, 20+ Whites (Large, Small and Green Veined), 2 Marbled Whites and 1 White Letter Hairstreak - Steven Penn

**Bricket Wood**: 2nd brood Brown Argus, **single White Admiral**, Small Copper & Marbled White and good numbers of Small Skipper and Holly Blue. By nearby **Munden Drive** a White-letter Hairstreak on a fence beneath a single elm tree (Wych Elm-type); looking into the canopy of the tree revealed it or another individual in flight. Although an isolated tree it is <400 metres from the nearest known WLH colony and may be supporting a population of its own. **Warm evenings over the next week or two would be an ideal time to "tetrad-bash" for Purple Hairstreaks: counts this evening in the Bricket Wood tetrad (TL10 F) included 66 in Garston Park in fifteen minutes (1920-1935 hours) and 71 along the southern edge of Mutchetts Wood in half an hour (1940-2010 hours).** I strongly suspect that activity had decreased by the time the second count commenced; the best time is probably roughly half an hour either side of 7pm - Colin Everett

**Radwell**, on public footpath, (near River Ivel and Radwell Lake), explosion of Gatekeepers on brambles and grasses 50+ a number of Meadow Browns, 6-7 Ringlets around same area in grasses. Also 2 Brown Hawkers - chasing & fast flying. Drove slowly around area **TL 230 360 to TL 230 380** i.e. east of A.1 to Hullockpit Hill/Newnham/Caldecote and back to the A.1. Numerous large white, small white over arable fields of wheat, beans and along lane verges. Also Gatekeepers evident - Val Fullforth

News from **Sunday 25th July - Wheathampstead - Hummingbird Hawk-moth** on Red Valerian in High Ash Road - Trevor Chapman

**Mon 26th July - Box wood area 10+ brown argus**, 1 small copper, 1 peacock, ringlet, gatekeeper, meadow brown and small skippers all in good numbers also 5 Purple Hairstreaks in **Watery Grove**, Norton Green about 10 days ago - Darrel Bryant

**TQ0674**, One of the sites I visited at the weekend in this tetrad was a bit of a star. I found 3 Brown Argus, 1 Essex Skipper, 2 Essex/Small Skippers and 1 Small Copper was well as the usual whites and browns. All this within ¼-½ mile of the Heathrow cargo terminal. The site is not particularly pretty, simply wasteland with lost of old tyres and other bits of rubbish. I also saw E/S Skippers at another site in the same tetrad that is effectively adjacent to the airport perimeter road. I have seen Small Heath in that area before but unfortunately not this time - David Cooling

This afternoon, 16:00-17:00 - **Therfield Heath NR** (sensu stricto): White species, 3. Fox Covert NR: White sp/p., several Gatekeeper 2, Meadow Brown/Ringlet, 1 Church Hill: **Chalk-hill Blue: seemingly abundant** (males) in bright sunshine, single 360-degree scan yielded 15 males from near top of hill; however, the species was over-spilling (at least over-flying) over hill ridge (N), and down slope to W and SSW---I would guess in excess of 60 flying males; 1-2 females provided excellent views of upper and under wings atop hill in sun, males only "posed" when clouds obscured sun (wish I'd had a camera there!). Males aggressive toward each other and to whites, occasionally flying up to almost 2 m with whites. Small White, numerous (6+++ ) Large White, quite a few, but not as numerous as Small Peacock, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Gatekeeper, 5+++ (numerous at bottom of SSW slope) Meadow Brown, maybe 3++Essex Skipper, 1 Poss. Small Skipper, 1Burnett moth sp., 4++ - Guy Manners

**Sun 25th July - News from 20 July:** We examined the foliage around **Goose Green car park** looking for White Hairstreaks but no luck. We then walked north to the radio mast and then back to the car park seeing Gatekeepers, Meadow Browns, Ringlets, Small Skippers, Comma, Green-veined White, Holly Blue and Speckled Wood but no White Admiral. Weather was dull. Crossed road and walked down ride and turned right heading towards Broxbourne Wood. We scanned the oak where we had seen the Purple Hairstreaks on the 13th and saw two of them again, on another nearby oak. We stopped at the puddle where I had photo'ed the Purple Emperor male and had first seen the Purple Hairstreaks and we scanned the tree tops but no sighting of Purple Hairstreaks. Carried on down the ride and saw three Hares come out of the trees and run up the ride towards us. They almost reached us before they realised that we were there and ran back into the trees. I took 3 photos, 1 of which is reasonable. A few moments later a Muntjac left the trees where the Hares had, and crossed the ride. We turned back before we reached Broxbourne Wood. The sun was now starting to appear for short periods of time. We had almost reached the junction where we turn right to return to the car park when Moira spotted a tatty White Hairstreak on a thistle. 2 photos taken. Other butterflies, etc seen on this section of the walk as follows - White Admirals, Commas, Peacocks, Holly Blues, Gatekeepers, Meadow Browns, Whites, Cinnabar Moth cats feeding on Ragwort, Brown Hawker, Southern Hawker and Blue Damselfly **Yesterday, 24 July**, we had a Marbled White on the Hebe in our **St. Albans garden** - a first garden sighting for us! It was in the company of Comma, Small Tortoiseshell, Gatekeeper, Holly Blue and Large Whites - Glen & Moira Barnes

Saw 16 butterfly species in 2hrs of tetrad surveying in the **Edmonton area**, most interesting species for this suburban area being **small copper, common blue** and purple hairstreak. Found larvae of **Small Ranunculus** quite easily on prickly lettuce in 3 tetrads, as well as trapping one last night in **Ponders End** (10th this year) and seeing 30+ eggs on the flower buds of a prickly lettuce plant in my garden - Andrew Middleton

**Male Silver-washed Fritillary again seen in a Herts wood today**



**Sat 24th July** - Derry's Wood, **Wormley Woods**, 2.00-3.00pm: **seven white admirals** and several ringlets - Martin Shepherd

Went on Robert Callf's walk round **Trent Park** today. Plenty of butterflies about and 16+ species which I'm sure he'll report. "1 **hummingbird hawk moth** at Trent Park seen by the fungus-foraging subgroup which got detached inadvertently from the main party on Robert Callf's excellent walk - sorry, Robert!" - Keir Mottram

An hour in tetrad TQ19 N at **Letchmore Heath** (roughly between Radlett and Hilfield Park Res) yielded 13 species, including Purple Hairstreak, Small Copper and both Small & Essex Skipper. Nearby in tetrad TQ19 I a few species included three Small Coppers (as well as many Six-spot Burnets) in a wild patch, evidently created for butterflies, in the grounds of the former **US University at Bushey** and a pair of Holly Blues fluttering about in copula at **Bushey Cemetery** - Colin Everett

**Highdown**, Nice to see two white -letter hairstreaks on the old transect at wood lane today. Up until today I thought holly blue was only having an average year but to count 15 in a stretch of 200yards I thought pretty exceptional!! Also big Large white numbers of 31 and 30 gatekeepers just on one small marjoram patch, the icing on the cake was a **Chalkhill blue** well away from usual Herts haunts (of course the Beds colony at Knocking hoe is nearby ) my best butterfly day of the year with 16 species - Stuart Pittman

I had a large fritillary in my back garden (**Wareside**) this afternoon, **Saturday 24 July**. I got a clear view of the top as it paused briefly on my hemp agrimony, but it whizzed off before giving me any view of the underwing. From my limited observation, and reading your site, it seems most likely to have been a **silver-washed**. I am a novice at butterflies, but there isn't much I could have mixed it up with: much bigger and rounder than the commas and no black and white like a painted lady (and the wrong shape). I also had a white-letter hairstreak which I am quite certain of, as it stayed nice and still while I checked it out! - Nicky Huckle

**Fri 23rd July - Stevenage area** of scrub opposite Stevenage garden centre. Park in bus stop and walked over bank and species seen, 1 peacock, 4 small tortoiseshell, 3 comma, 3 brimstone, small, large and green veined white, 2 marbled white (viewed from bus stop) 40+gatekeeper,30+meadow brown, good numbers of small and large skippers, and several holly blues.all between 2-3pm - Darrel

Sights for **Great Ashby Park/Box Wood** for **22/23 July** 10+ Brown Argus, 3 Marbled Whites, Small and Essex Skippers, Large, Small and Green Veined Whites, Small Tortoiseshell, Holly Blue, 30+ Gatekeepers, Meadow Brown and Ringlet. Sights for my Stevenage garden: Brimstone, Comma, Red Admiral, Peacock, Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper, Holly and Common Blue, Ringlet, Large, Small and Green Veined Whites, Small Skipper, **Hummingbird Hawk Moth** and Nut Tree Tussock - Steven Lane (*Steven has sought advice on his Wall sighting, so is now unsure but whatever it was, it wasn't a normal Hertfordshire butterfly!*)

At lunchtime I walked the same route through **Norton Green** as Alan Reynolds did on Tuesday. I saw plenty of Meadow Browns, Gatekeepers, Small\Essex Skippers, Small\Green Veined Whites. Also 1 Red Admiral (photo attached), 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Peacock, 1 Brimstone (photo attached), 2 Marbled Whites, 2 Large Whites and the highlight of the day, a White Letter Hairstreak - Steven Penn

A visit to **Broxbourne woods** this afternoon (2.30 - 4pm) revealed the following: **3 White Admirals** - 1 of which was pristine (near the Hemp agrimony) 1 Peacock, 1 Comma, 1 Brimstone, several Meadow browns & skippers (not sure if Essex or small) 4 Large whites. No Purple Emperors seen - Les Borg (*they are still about though so do keep looking - LG*)

Visiting the apparently unrecorded tetrad TQ09 T (west of Watford), I spent an hour in the superb (if dog-infested) **Whippendell Wood SSSI**. A dozen species included **2 White Admirals**, 3 Small Coppers and 1 (possibly 2) White-letter Hairstreaks. Examples of all three species were nectaring on Creeping Thistle in glades in the middle of the wood, as were most of the butterflies recorded. Nearby a Purple Hairstreak low down on oaks on The Grove estate. Holly Blues everywhere in the



district so if any of you have not already recorded this species or Small Copper in your local tetrad(s), then go get 'em this weekend! - Colin Everett

**Thurs 22nd July** - Had a **clouded yellow** by **St Edmunds College** today about 2.15 watched it for 3/4 minutes on the setaside field by the bus stop - Nick Sampford

I spent an hour in tetrad TQ19 E (for which there are no recent records) at lunchtime. Fieldwork was centred on **North Watford Cemetery** where four Small Coppers indicated the presence of colonies on at least two discrete stands of sorrel and shows how the species can respond when municipal areas are not too closely or too frequently shaved. Also among the 11 species noted were several scattered Holly Blues - Colin Everett

**Tues 20th July** - *There is the possibility that collectors are visiting the Broxbourne Wood NR - there have been two reports now of people seen with nets or accessories. There are some people who have a legitimate reason for using/holding a net but when it is hidden from view as someone passes, that's when it starts to look suspicious - please keep a watch out for these people so they can't do what they want to do - LG*

**Broxbourne Wood NR**, I was also there **yesterday** morning; arrived about 10.30 and a single male Purple Emperor was visible, mainly sitting in the trees, with one or two soars between branches. Alarming, about 11.00, while it was sitting in full view, wings folded, about 20' above the ground, we saw a flurry in the foliage behind where it was sitting, and the **Purple Emperor** was not seen again (at least, not up to the time I left at about 11.45. It may, therefore, alas, have been eaten by a bird! - Michael Hammerson

**Mon 19th July - Batford Golf Pond** 1000 - 1230, 6+ Marbled White, 30+ Gatekeeper, 1 small copper, 2 meadow brown, 1 Holly Blue, 2 Green veined White, Large whites, 3 comma, 1 speckled wood, small skipper, 1 peacock, 1 small Tortoiseshell and later at 18:45, 5 Purple Hairstreaks - Darin Stanley

**Amwell nature reserve**, birdwatchers viewpoint: **Peacock** at 17.15 - Martin Shepherd

Brother, Adrian saw a **Silver-washed Fritillary** at home (*home to be confirmed*), upon returning **yesterday afternoon**. The sighting was at 5 and on buddleia. I wish I hadn't gone back to work! I saw a **Hummingbird Hawk moth** at 9 this morning, also on the Buddleia at home - Clive Burrows

This lunchtime, I took a walk down the lane south of **Norton Green** to the flower meadow between Norton Green and Burleigh Meadow. The meadow was in excellent shape and a blaze of colour with Lady's Bedstraw, Agrimony, Creeping Thistle, Black Knapweed, Betony, Centaury and many more. The sun came out and I think that I can safely say that I haven't seen so many butterflies in one place for at least 20 years. There were Small White, Large White, Comma, Small Tortoiseshell, Ringlet and absolutely dozens of Meadow Brown, Small Skipper and Gatekeeper. But the highlight was 10 Marbled White because, as far as I can remember, previously I have only seen singletons at this site - Alan Reynolds

**Broxbourne Wood NR**, Finally made it... ! Met about seven others already there. **Purple Emperor** reportedly seen around 10:30 this morning. Small Skipper, 3++; Small White, numerous; Purple Hairstreak, c.3+; White Admiral, 3; **Peacock**, 2 (between the car parks); probable Speckled Wood, 1 (between car parks); Gatekeeper, 1; Meadow Brown, numerous; Ringlet, 1 - Guy Manners

**Nick Sampford's report from Saturday 17th** when he held a special day at **Broxbourne Wood NR**, showing off optical equipment. A small group of people had gathered by 10.15 when the heavens opened up and it poured for nearly hour, we all hid under our umbrellas and waited patiently for it to break. By 11.15 it stopped and it warmed up and at 11.30 a male purple emperor flew rapidly around the willows and oak and disappeared into the main wood, the group was now 30+ people and most saw a very brief but good view of a male emperor. By 12 all the butterfly action had stopped and it had started raining again a few people had decided to call it a day, but 20 + people decided to brave it and sit it out and by 1 the weather had brightened. A few people drifted off and more arrived keeping the numbers at around 20 for most of the day. At 2.06

a female Purple Emperor was seen in the willows, which performed for nearly 10 minutes. At 2.25 a male purple emperor flew rapidly along the willows and disappeared, then at 2.40 and at 2.42 male purple emperors were seen 300 m apart along the track neither stayed long enough for everyone to see both of them - Nick Sampford (*several photos later*)

We went to **Goose Green car park** and did a repeat of last Tuesday's walk. Did not see any White Admirals as we walked north up the path but did see a Holly Blue, Ringlets, Small Skipper, Gatekeeper, Comma and, when we returned to the car park, on the plants beside it, 3 Small Tortoiseshells. Crossed the road and walked down the path past two ponds. Walked towards Broxbourne Wood and then turned back. We saw 6 **White Admirals** on the outward walk and 3 on the way back also 1 Red Admiral, Small Tortoiseshell, 2 Gatekeepers and 5 Commas. No Purple Emp. seen but on the way back we stopped by 'his' puddle and looked and saw 3 small butterflies flying around the top of a tree. They were Purple Hairstreaks! And one came down and drank from beside the puddle for 10 minutes giving me photos. We carried on heading back and we saw 2 more purple Hairstreaks on a Turkey Oak - Glen Barnes

Coming in to work this morning I added yet another new species to the list for the **Museum's Wildlife Garden**, without even running the light trap! The moth was sitting on the wall of the Entomology block, having been attracted to one of the security lights. The moth in question was a slightly worn example of the **Small Ranunculus Hecatera dysodea** ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775), the recent re-coloniser - Martin Honey

**Sun 18th July - Stevenage garden; 1 White-letter Hairstreak (female? I think), Wall, Gatekeeper, Ringlet, Small Skipper, Large and Small White. Great Ashby Park/Box Wood, 6 Marbled Whites, 20+ Gatekeepers, 10+ Ringlets, 10+ Small Skippers, 10+ Essex Skippers, Large and Small Whites, 3 Small Tortoiseshells.** Most of these butterflies were sighted on a short path between the very end of Box Wood and a small plantation area on Great Ashby Park - Steve Lane

**Broxbourne Wood NR** field trip report; the day started gloomy and not one butterfly was flying. About 25 people (more later) came along and waited for the rain to stop and for the sun to shine. The rain did stop but the sun didn't really get going and several people after seeing White Admiral, as well as some roosting Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown & Ringlet when it was dull decided to go home. However at 2.06 hrs, in better sunshine a female was seen and almost immediately joined by a **second Purple Emperor**. One of these dived into the trees and was observed **feeding from a sap run for 40 minutes**. A while later one of these females was seen flying around the willows giving a fantastic aerial display to the remaining onlookers, some having only just arrived as the first activity started (they were very lucky). Patience was the word of the day! At 4pm some of us then drove around to **Broxbourne Common** and we were all about to leave when we spotted a male flying in the same gap found yesterday. Another flight and it perched in view on the top of an oak in weak sunshine - we then realised that there was a second Purple Emperor about 2 feet away on a different perch. A purple hairstreak flew past and one of the Emperor's took chase, seemingly unaware that the other Emperor was only 2 feet away, who also started to chase the hairstreak away. Realising that they had company they then gave the onlookers several amazing aerial clashes, returning on several occasions to perch within feet of each other. The sun was still weak but eventually it would appear that one had greater energy and managed to evict the other Emperor from the territory as we then saw just one male patrolling the gap. This all happened in the space of 30 minutes around 5 pm. A great day and enjoyed by many but also in the end missed by many - Various observers

**Stanmore Country Park** field trip report; it was still raining slightly at 11am but not enough to warrant a waterproof. However the sun came out after midday. We saw 11 species of butterfly, including the Purple Hairstreak, and 4 day-flying species of moth. We enjoyed it - John Hollingdale

**Sat 17th July** - On a mainly overcast morning during dragonfly Atlas work, 2 Large White, 1 Speckled Wood, 1 Meadow Brown, 10 Green-veined White, 5 Gatekeeper and 1 Small Tortoiseshell at **Bury Lake. News from 16/07/04**, On a pleasant afternoon at **King's Mead**, 1 Small Copper, 1 Large White, 13 Small White, 7 Green-veined White, 1 Holly Blue, 28 Gatekeeper, 90 Meadow Brown, 1 Ringlet, 30 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Large Skipper, 61 Small Skipper, 2 Essex Skipper and 2 Comma.

**2 Silver-Washed Fritillaries were reported at one site in Hertfordshire today**

Male **Brimstone** seen near **Broxbourne Common** - Andrew Middleton

Visited three **Stevenage** sites today all on map 166 all sites showed large numbers of Small and or Essex Skippers, Small Tortoiseshell, Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown, Small, Large and Green Veined Whites and Comma butterflies: **Roebuck Woodland**, also saw **Small Copper 2**. Holly Blue 5. Red Admiral 1. **Flood plain on Old Knebworth Lane**, also saw **Small Copper 3**. Ringlet 5. Purple Hairstreak 1. **Waste land between golf course and rail track**, also saw **Small Coppers 10**. Marbled Whites 2. **Brimstone 1** - Lee Browne

A male **Red-tipped Clearwing moth** attracted to a combination pheromone lure at a location in the **Ver valley**: the fifth site in the Watford/St Albans areas where the species has been discovered using this method (cf only a handful of previous records for the county). The males are now getting a bit worn but they should still be around for a few days yet. No noteworthy butterflies. Very late news for **Tuesday 6th July** - the first **male Vapourer moth** of the summer on the wing at Gallows Hill near **Abbots Langley** - Colin Everett

Bricket Wood, good numbers of new Brimstone were flying today - Malcolm Hull

**Broxbourne Common** (public footpath off Cock Lane near Ermine St. car park) - we arrived just before 4.30 this afternoon at this predictable territory site (an area of large veteran oaks at one of the highest points in the Broxbourne Woods complex). At 4.35 a **male Purple Emperor** was seen to arrive in a gap and several flights were observed, culminating in a superb aerial clash of 2 males above the trees with the victor returning to take up residence on his territory in the late afternoon sunshine - Liz Goodyear & Andrew Middleton

**Fri 16th July** - The butterflies are a bit thin on the ground where I live. Let's hope for a change in the weather. **Stevenage area, 14 July**: Comma, **15 July**: Gatekeeper, **16 July**: Large White - Steven Penn

2 sightings of **female Purple Emperor** at **Broxbourne Woods** this pm. At 2.50 and 3.15, one was also seen to fly to large oak further up the hill - Tony Clancy

Never believe a weather forecast during the Purple Emperor flight period! We arrived at **Wormley Woods** today from the south side and the weather improved very quickly, although not perfect, it was good enough for us to see **female Purple Emperor** and probably 2 others. These were our first observations of females in this wood and the first sightings for this year from here. Also several **White Admiral** still present - Liz Goodyear & Andrew Middleton

**Thurs 15th July - Enfield Lock: holly blue** over River Lea at 18.40 - Martin Shepherd

Brilliant view of a **male Purple Emperor** feeding on the path at **Broxbourne Wood** On **Tues 13 July**. Also a **emale** early trodden on on the circular path back to the car park. Did not have my camera! - Nigel Agar

News from **13th July**: one **Hummingbird Hawk Moth** spotted at Fairlands Valley Park, **Stevenage** Lee Browne

**Broxbourne Wood NR** - late afternoon, **female Purple Emperor** around sallows in 100% cloud - Andrew Middleton & Liz Goodyear

**Wed 14th July** - Hatfield London Golf Club, Bedwell Park, **Essendon** 1 Marbled White by 11th tee S.E. corner - Phil Smith

I saw a purple hairstreak yesterday at **Birklands Meadow, St Albans** looked a bit poorly and was hanging onto a cocksfoot stem! - Liz Anderson

**Tues 13th July - Broxbourne Wood NR** - 1 grounded male **Purple Emperor** along main ride, also **4 White Admiral** and White letter Hairstreak at **Brickendon Green** - Diane & Richard Andrews

**Sun 11th July - roxbourne Wood NR**, only **ne purple emperor** sighting; usual place - a female probably egg laying on the willow at approx 10.20am. Cloudy at the time. Rain kept off all day and sun struggled through briefly at times. Also had good view of purple hairstreak at about 2pm - just outside the wood on the continuation of the main ride (photo up later) - June Crew with the B.N.A.

Just saw **Hummingbird Hawk Moth** in **Coppetts Wood** flying and settled by some wild flowers on the wooded walk - Tony Clancy

**Wormley Wood** south side am, **3 White Admiral** in poor weather conditions but no Purple Emperor seen. This site is very important and really needs to be monitored for Purple Emperor the minute the sun shines. If anyone has any free time please visit the site, wait for the sun to shine and watch all the paths from the south side. There are more willows (emperor caterpillar food plant) in Wormley (to the best of our knowledge) than any other wood in Hertfordshire - Liz Goodyear & Andrew Middleton.

Female **Purple Emperor** by willows in **Broxbourne Wood NR** around 10.40am - News from Helen Bantock

**Sat 10th July - Ermine Street car park, Goose Green** four white letter hairstreaks at 09.05 in the hedge dividing Ermine Street from the track to Elbow Lane Farm. **Balls Wood**: species seen included three white admirals, red admiral, purple hairstreak, speckled wood. Thistle patch on nearby farmland: 16 small tortoiseshells. Ermine Street: comma. White letter hairstreaks still around near the car-park on my return then it started to rain - Martin Shepherd

**Broxbourne Wood NR Field Trip report**: The forecast was that the day would start sunny but turn showery later! Yes the day did start sunny but the showers weren't really showers but downpours and in one case took "a while" to pass through. We set up and arrived by the bench at about 9.45 to be told that the early birds had seen a **female Purple Emperor** at 9.30. By 11 o'clock and still with the sun shining nearly 40 people lined the main ride from the car park and a report came through that a male had been seen on the outer path near the hemp agrimony. Everyone deserted the leaders to go and try and see the butterfly (several did) but whilst the majority were away, a **male** flew down the ride and to the delight of the remaining onlookers alighted on the track to enjoy the pleasures of some "dog muck." The male Emperor stayed on the track for nearly 20 minutes during which time LG was able to call back the majority of onlookers. Eventually it flew off but nearly everyone present got a fantastic view of this rather battered male (see photos). Unfortunately the first of the showers passed through and although a few more brief glimpses of one in flight were seen nothing as exciting happened again and many of the onlookers decided to go home. A few stalwarts hung on but only had the briefest of sightings in the early afternoon. A **White Admiral** however, posed for sometime on some holly whilst it probed a fly. A few White Admiral made an appearance along the ride but numbers were considerably lower than in previous weeks. Purple Hairstreak were regularly seen flitting around the tops of the oaks especially after the second deluge passed through. It was really nice to see so many BC members, many having come from other branches just to see Purple Emperor - thank you to everyone that came along - Liz Goodyear & Andrew Middleton

**Holly Blue** in **Melbourn** (S Cambs) **this morning** (Saturday) - Guy Manners

**Fri 9th July** - Started in **Goose Green Car Park** at 9.45am and went north up Ermine St, nothing of interest, very cloudy no sun. We then went South and walked along an adjacent track. To start with, little activity then Sandra saw a butterfly come from the willows on the right hand side, it then flew over my head and landed on an unopened thistle about a foot off of the floor. It was a **female Purple Emperor**. It landed at 10.50am and stayed on the same thistle until 12.10pm, it had been very cloudy until then and it had stayed closed, when the sun rays came out, it opened immediately and stayed that way until 12.25pm, when it flew up high over the pine trees to the left. We returned this evening at approx 6.00pm, very sunny but no sign however we did see approx 20 plus Purple Hairstreaks flying around the top of the oak trees having a jolly time \_ Kevin and Sandra Standbridge

I've been searching the Internet trying to find out what I have discovered in our bedroom over the last week and have identified them as Elephant Hawk Moths, thank-you! We have in the last week evicted three identical creatures from our house in **Olney**, Bucks - Neil French

**Thurs 8th July - News from the roxbourne area on the 6th** - Having looked at the web site and seen that **Goose Green car park** was a good starting point for looking for both White Admirals and Purple Emperors, my wife and I went there on the 6 July 2004. We walked south down Ermine Street and then on an adjacent track between 1.15 and 1.30 we had three sightings of **two male Purple Emperors**. The first was of a male drinking from a puddle - we watched it for approx. 5 mins and I took photographs. It flew off and we carried on down the ride. We then saw the second male 'feeding' on a small piece of horse dropping - bright yellow tongue. It flew and then landed on a large horse dropping (both were dry rather than fresh) and fed. More photos taken. We watched for approx 5 mins, during which time it flew around my legs before returning to the dropping, and left it feeding. Good numbers of **White Admirals** (and other butterflies) were seen and photo'ed and we also saw a deer. An excellent outing - Glen & Moira Barnes

**Tues 6th July - Hertfield Heath**, some sightings from this afternoon. Fox Covert NR: ringlet/meadow brown, 1; Meadow Brown, 1. Church Hill: Small Skipper, 1; skipper sp(p)., 3+; Brimstone, 1 fem.; "larger" white, 1+; "small" white, 2+++; Small Tortoiseshell, 2; Comma, 1; Gatekeeper, 1+; Meadow Brown, numerous (10s); Small Heath, common (4++); Ringlet, 2-3+; Yellow Shell (moth), 1 - Guy Manners

No great revelation but nice to see Purple Hairstreak somewhere new on the old railway line at **Wheathampstead**. Small tortoiseshells doing very well all round that area too! Stuart Pittman

**Mon 5th July** - *if you see a Purple Emperor in Herts or Middx please let me know (in confidence if preferred). Additional information such as the time of the sighting, the butterfly's behaviour and how long you spent watching would also be appreciated. This will all help our conservation efforts* - Liz Goodyear

**Broxbourne Wood NR**, 1030-1200 main ride from west car park for only about 300 metres into the wood. White Admirals seen about one every three or four minutes. Numerous Meadow Browns, not quite as many Ringlets, Large and Small Skippers in good numbers (only 'smalls' identified were Small, no Essex). At least a dozen Commas and **one positive Purple Emperor sighting was the highlight** - Jack Harrison

I see from your webpages that you picked up the sighting of **Purple Emperor** in **Broxbourne Woods** on **Saturday** from Birdguides. I put the record out, but not having any internet access at home, couldn't email you sooner. I couldn't believe my luck - it was the first time I'd been looking for emperors anywhere (I moved down to Herts from Norfolk in October), it was pretty windy, and not exactly warm either. Anyway, after over 90 minutes of searching, and only 4 White Admirals to show for it, the Emperor appeared. Initially it glided round me and my girlfriend, landed in an oak for a minute (showing purple gloss), and then came down to some animal droppings on the path, where it fed for at least ten minutes. Then it was up into the canopy again, and not seen for the next ten minutes - David Bradnum (*photos above*)

**Sewardstone Marsh**. Purple hairstreak on oak, 09.00. Also small tortoiseshell and red admiral. **News from 4th, Rammey Marsh; two gatekeepers** (12.20 and 13.50.) - Martin Shepherd

**Sun 4th July - news from Saturday 3rd July, Barnes Rise King's Langley** Garden Transect, we saw our **first Marbled Whites** in my mother's garden in King's Langley. This species is a rare visitor to the garden - the nearest known colony being in Bunkers Park some 3 km away - Dave Chandler

2 Meadow Brown, 1 Ringlet and 18 Small Tortoiseshell at Grove Golf Club, 1 Red Admiral and 2 Meadow Brown at **Chorleywood Common**, and 2 Marbled White, 30 Ringlet, 2 Small Tortoiseshell and 2 Large Skipper at **Sarratt Bottom**. Small Tortoiseshells seem to have made a significant comeback this year, compared to a couple of years ago - Alan Reynolds

Both Marbled Whites and Ringlets very common along and adjacent to **M25 verges south of Sarratt** (a traditionally little-visited but very attractive part of the county). Several other common



species present there including a Red Admiral, a couple of **Gatekeepers** (there should be quite a few of these out now) and a Yellow Shell which was more heavily marked than Herts examples tend to be (very dark margins to the median fascia). Other moths included a Small Blood-vein inside **Chorleywood** tube station and two Old Ladies in a **Garston** subway (there will be others in your local subway, cellar or even garden shed). Mostly too cloudy today for clearwing-luring, however - Colin Everett

We saw our first **gatekeeper** in **Balls Woods** on the portable loo, of all places also saw a Footman moth and a Blood-vein and all the usual butterflies. Tried to see Purple Emperor in Broxbourne Woods but no luck - Kevin & Sandra Standbridge

**Sat 3rd July** - Insect News male **Purple Emperor** at **Broxbourne Woods, Herts** on ground along main ride from west car park between 11:05-11:15 - news via Birdguides news

We parked at **Goose Green car park** and walked towards **Hertford Heath** on Ermine Street, we saw loads of ringlets, meadow browns, large and small skippers, a comma, **3 White Admirals** but no emperors. We then went back to the car park and headed in the opposite direction, we then turned right after pond along the bridle path up the hill all the way to where it joins Broxbourne Woods. We saw 2 Purple Hairstreaks (photo enclosed of one of them but it was very windy and hard to get a clear picture), **over 30 White Admirals**, 6 commas, Small Tortoiseshell, loads of Ringlets, meadow browns, small and large skippers, Common Rustic moth, vapourer caterpillar and lots of Cinnabar caterpillars on ragwort - Kevin and Sandra Standbridge

**Fri 2nd July** - Following yesterday's message, marbled whites are now being seen all over **Rothamsted Farm**. It looks as if there was a major redistribution last year from their known colony on the Harpenden to Redbourn Road. Their spread has probably been aided by the Countryside Stewardship Scheme the farm is now under and last year's hot summer - Ian Woiwod

News from **27th June: Tyttenhanger** - Comma 7, Red Admiral 2, Small Tort 3, Common Blue 1 Small Skipper 9, Large Skipper 5, Large White 1, Small White 1. **Also 27th June: Wheathampstead LNR** (Development Centre) - Large Skipper 3, Ringlet 2, Marbled White 14, Small Heath 13, Meadow Brown 7, Small Skipper 2 (but 15 later on 30th), Common Blue 3. Masses of NB 5-spot Burnets too. **30th June: tevenage** - lunchtime walk at work. Small Heath 18, Meadow Brown 7, Small Skippers 32, Marbled White 9, Small Tort 2 - Trevor Chapman

**Thurs 1st July** - I dropped in on the **Hexton Chalk Pit** this evening on the way home and saw a single male **Chalkhill blue** (photo attached), also single marbled white, 6 small heath and a couple of meadow browns (also a buzzard and a hobby with a swallow it had just caught). Earlier in the day I discovered a colony of marbled whites on a set-aside field on **Rothamsted farm**, also the colony on the southbound **Stevenage North** sliproad and roundabout of the A1(M) is still going strong - Ian Woiwod



# Archive Page

## Sightings and news from January to June 2004

 [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 2004.

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 2004

**Wed 30th June** - I went down **Ermine Street** today, no Emperors I am afraid but I did see a White Letter Hairstreak in **Goose Green Car Park**, but I could not get a picture. Also saw along Ermine St, Large Skippers, **White Admiral**, Meadow Browns and lots of Ringlets - Sandra Standbridge

**Bricket Wood transect** in dry and reasonably warm conditions with periodic sunshine but a stiff SW breeze: 42 butterflies of 13 species including one **White Admiral** (but more elsewhere on the site), three Purple Hairstreaks all put up from ground level possibly having emerged this morning (and perhaps pointing towards a good year to come for this species), the three common Skipper species including a freshly-emerged **Essex** with wings not yet expanded, two Ringlets (which have been recolonising the site since 2002 having been absent during the 1990s) at widely separated locations, two Marbled Whites, one male Brimstone and a Red Admiral.

At the edge of the site was a male *Oedemera nobilis*, a beetle which is spreading in south Herts and is well worth looking out for. The males are distinctive, as they have swollen hind femora and elytra which do not wholly cover the abdomen; they are bright green and about nine millimetres in length (there is an illustration in the Collins Pocket Guide to Insects). Any records should be sent to the HNHS Coleoptera recorder Trevor James.

On Sandra Standbridge's moth photos: that in the lower right picture is the common Tortricid *Agapeta hamana*, the larvae of which feed in the roots of thistles. The moth in the upper right is heavily worn (note the scales missing on the thorax) but appears to be a Pyralid. In the lower centre is a Pyralid of the sub-family Crambinae (a 'grass moth') (possibly *Crambus pascuella*) but again a more precise ID is not really possible - Colin Everett

**Tues 29th June** - There was a **Marbled White today** at the **Minet Country Park**, Springfield Road, Hayes (Middlesex). This is the first record for the site, which I, and others have been visiting for several years - Colin Conroy

The first **Purple Emperors** were seen in **Hertfordshire today**, 1 male was seen on territory and perched in view for 20 minutes. Unfortunately increasing cloud cover this afternoon reduced potential activity. At another site a male was disturbed by a hornet during cloudy weather - Liz Goodyear & Andrew Middleton (confirmed reports have also come from Surrey, Upper Thames and Kent where I received this message with photos which I shall forward to BC Kent "*Thought you might like to know that a Purple Emperor, male, visited my garden, near Ide Hill, Kent, this afternoon. It flew around and settled in the patio area several times. It had no problem with my taking photo's, even from two inches away. Magic. First time that I've seen one. I have attached four photo's, in which it was drinking moisture from the moss that is in between the bricks on the patio*")

I went over the **Cornmill Meadow** and saw, mating Small Skippers, Large Skippers, Meadow Browns, Small Tortoiseshell, 2 Commas, mating Burnet Moths and 2 unidentified moths of same species (*Shaded Broadbars*) - Sandra Standbridge

News from **Sunday**, during Dragonfly Atlas work, I recorded 1 Meadow Brown and 1 Speckled

Wood at **Batchworth Heath**, 8 Meadow Brown at Moor Park Golf Club, 1 Large Skipper, 1 Red Admiral, 2 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Comma and 1 Brimstone at **Hampermill Lake** and 2 Speckled Wood at **Cassiobury Park** - Alan Reynolds

**Mon 28th June** - I found this moth outside my flat in **Stevenage** **21st June** - Steven Penn (see below *Buff Ermine*)

**Broxbourne Wood NR, today**, at least **10 White Admiral** some looking very fresh as well as a tatty aberrant. Also in the area Large Skipper, Small Skipper, Comma, Speckled Wood, 2 Common Blue, Red Admiral, Ringlet & Meadow Brown but no Purple Emperor yet - Liz Goodyear, Andrew Middleton with Nigel Agar (however Purple Emperor were flying in Hampshire yesterday!)

News from **25th, Telegraph Hill** Marbled White, Large and Small Skippers, Ringlet, Small Heath & Meadow Brown. Nearby on the **Pegsdon Hills** in Beds, all these plus Painted Lady and Small Tortoiseshell - Nigel Agar

**Sun 27th June** - 5 or so ringlets seen in **Hatfield** House grounds this morning, first time I have seen them there. **Whipsnade Downs** (afternoon) ringlets in their hundreds, also around 40 marbled whites - Roger Gibbons

Visited **Bentley Wood near Salisbury**. PE are not yet out & the site had been well visited by people looking for them today. Masses of Silver Washed Frit, White Ad, Ringlet & Meadow Brown. Small Pearl Bordered Frits still hanging on. Marbled Whites, WLH, Red Ad, Comma Small Torts, small skips, a Brimstone, Large & Small Whites, Small heath & Speckled Woods also seen - Malcolm Hull

**News from Monday, Marbled white** at **Bishop Stortford** on the embankments of the by-pass by the tea kiosk watched for 3/4 mins before disappearing over the bank. **Today's sightings [Sunday 27th June] - Crooked mile nr Waltham Abbey** 4/5 white letter hairstreaks around the ash by the round bungalow. **Spent 2 hours in Broxbourne Woods** looking for a early purple emperor [no luck]. But here are the totals: **white admiral** 40+, meadow brown 100+, ringlet 10+, large skipper 10+, speckled wood 3, plus singles of **purple hairstreak** [around oak by bench], comma, peacock, small tortoiseshell, red admiral, small white, large white. Most of the white admirals are going over and look pretty tatty, the purple hairstreak was first for the year - I've attached a few photos - Nick Sampford

**Horsenden Hill, today's** event passed off pretty well. The weather cooperated and we had a total of 16 participants (including myself and Rachel). Rachel set the ball rolling with a selection of moths from the MV trap that was run overnight at Horsenden Farm. We had some pretty good crowd pleasers like Elephant Hawk, Lime Hawk, Peach Blossom and Burnished Brass. I'll include a fuller list of moths when I send in the report. As for the walk itself, we got most of the things we were hoping for: 10.00-12noon **White-letter Hairstreak (9 individuals at two locations including 3 nectaring on Creeping Thistle), Purple Hairstreak (6)**, Small Tortoiseshell (3), Comma (3), Speckled Wood (1), **Marbled White** (1 on southern slope of Horsenden Hill "Home Mead"), Large Skipper (14), Small Skipper (11), Painted Lady (3), Red Admiral (3), Large White (3), Meadow Brown. Day-flying moths: Narrow-bordered Five-spot Burnet (4), Cinnabar (2), Heart and Dart (1), Large Yellow Underwing (1) - Andrew Culshaw

Saw my first **small skipper** of the year whilst weeding on my allotment in **Cheshunt** this afternoon. Also several whites. Otherwise fairly quiet - Roger Newbold

**Sat 26th June - news from Friday, Broxbourne Wood NR - 4 White Admiral**, 1 Ringlet, 3 Large Skipper, 1 Comma and 19 Meadow Brown. **Brickendon Green, 1 White-letter Hairstreak** on bramble - Diane Andrews

Sandra and I went for a late evening walk over **Balls Wood** and saw an elephant hawkmoth, a few straw dots, many micro moths, ringlets low in the grass and lots of other moths - Kevin and Sandra Standbridge

James Fish's observation that his Humming-bird Hawk-moth at Balls Wood may have been ovipositing on Cleavers (see news for Wed 16th June) is of some interest as the one I saw near **Bushey** three days earlier was also taking an interest in this species of plant. At the time this puzzled me as Cleavers isn't a potential nectar source (although had the moth wanted such, it could have found many suitable flowers in the nearby gardens or allotments). It may be worth checking Cleavers for larvae in several weeks' time.

Sandra Standbridge's moth is a male *Archips podana*, a common and very attractive member of the micro-moth family Tortricidae. The larvae are polyphagous (i.e. are not fussy about what they eat). The adults are familiar in moth traps during high summer but can also be found by day resting on foliage. - Colin Everett.

**Fri 25th June - Millhoppers Transect today- mating pair of Essex Skipper** seen - Margaret Noakes

**Correction Monday 21st June, Wormley Open Spaces, entry should have read Large Skipper not Essex Skipper - none reported as of today - LG**

**Thurs 24th June** - Sandra went to **Balls Wood today** and saw **six White Admirals**, some of which are already starting to look very worn - Kevin and Sandra Standbridge

**Tues 22nd June** - I recorded first **Marbled Whites** of this year at **Bunkers Park (2); and Long Deans (6)**. Also first sighting on Bunkers Park of **Small/Essex Skippers (3)**, one of which was positively identified as a Sm. Skipper, the other two were most likely Smalls - Mike Pearson

Spent 3 1/2 hours scouring tetrads in **TL41** today, before the sun went in! Grand total of 2 Large Skipper in 8 tetrads visited. Visiting times depended on how quickly one was seen. All in all rather poor, especially since 5 years ago, in two of today's blank tetrads, at the same sites visited one was seen almost immediately - Liz Goodyear

At **Horsenden Hill** (1130-1330) I saw **White-Letter Hairstreak (1), Ringlet (1), and also Large Skipper, Small Skipper**, Meadow Brown, Comma, Speckled Wood, Red Admiral, Small Tortoiseshell, Common Blue, Large White. I have never before seen a Ringlet in the Ealing area - John Eborall

**On June 21st** near **West Hyde** church saw over a dozen small tortoiseshells basking in the sun. Looked very fresh! Also my first Large Skipper this year and a Speckled Wood. **June 22nd.** large batch of Peacock caterpillars along **Maple Cross** farm track but only a couple of small tortoiseshells despite having seen many batches of caterpillars a couple of weeks ago - Ann Piper

**Ickleford area**, Small heath on **13/6** first record to my knowledge for the site. Small copper, brown argus and common blue all doing okay there also - Stuart Pittman

**Mon 21st June - News from 19th**, in and around **Rickmansworth Aquadrome** as part of the Dragonfly Atlas Project, 1 Meadow Brown, 4 Small Tortoiseshell and 2 Speckled Wood at Bury Lake, 1 Small Tortoiseshell by the **River Colne**, 2 Red Admiral and 1 Speckled Wood at **Batchworth Lake**, and 1 Comma, 1 Red Admiral and 4 Speckled Wood on the **Grand Union Canal** - Alan Reynolds

**Wormley Open Spaces, Small and Essex Skipper (error should have read Large Skipper) observed** - Andrew Middleton

**News from Saturday 19th June - Gutteridge wood, Hillingdon** **1 White Admiral** on the south east corner of the wood. As far as I am aware this is only the 2nd record for this species in that area. The 1st was by Ann Rix on 8/7/98. On the same day close by in the meadows to the **north of Ten-Acre wood** were **3 Gatekeeper, 12+ Small Heath, dozens of Meadow Brown and Large skipper (the most I have seen for a long time in that area), 4 Common Blue, 3 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Small Copper, 1 Red Admiral and 1 Painted Lady** - Steve Pash

**Trent Park 14th June transect, 121 small heath, 6 small copper, 24 large skipper. One small skipper on Sat 19th** - news from Robert Callf

**Harold Hill/Weald area, Essex, Sat 19th 50+ white-letter hairstreaks** in several good colonies so far - Colin Jupp

**Sun 20th June - Horsenden Hill News** - Not much time for a full swing around the area, but **4 White-letter Hairstreaks** on elm and ash on the south facing slopes of Horsenden Hill on Saturday 19th June. The first one was seen on **Wednesday (16th)** in the same area by Rachel Terry, so it looks like we should have something to show people **on the LNHS/Butterfly Conservation walk next Sunday** (weather permitting) - Andy Culshaw

**White Admirals** on my transect at **Bricket Wood**. By far the most seen in a single week in the last 6 years and 10 days earlier than usual. Fairly good numbers of Large Skippers - In **St Albans, 3 White-letter hairstreaks** on Wych Elm at **Folly Lane & 1 on Wych Elm at Everlasting Lane** - Malcolm Hull

We went over to our local **Balls Wood** in Hertford Heath, saw **6 White Admirals, 8 Ringlets, 2 Small Skippers, Meadow Browns, Large Skippers, Speckled Woods, 2 Red Admirals** and a small moth which we are trying to identify, Have enclosed various photos, including the mystery moth!! Sandra went to Cornmill Meadow yesterday and saw a mass hatching of small skippers and 5 spotted burnet moths - Kevin & Sandra Standbridge

**Bob Hasra has just returned from a holiday in Italy - this is his report.** My first sighting of the Green Hairstreak was near Lake Tovel on 4 June. Here I came across at least a dozen of them. Some of them were laying tiny eggs on the heather growing around the lake. I also saw what I believe to be a small fritillary species but it was too fast for me to make a definite id. Also present were the familiar Orange-Tip, Small Tortoiseshell and Red Admiral. The lake environs were also host to a number of day-flying moths of which I have one on video. About 1820m altitude in Merano, I came across two skippers- the Grizzled Skipper and another species I've yet to find out about. Both were basking in sunshine on the banks of a small mountain stream. Although I didn't see any wild strawberry plants at that altitude, there were plenty around the cablecar base-station and I certainly helped myself to the fruit ( :

Near Trento I came across the Common Swallowtail for the first time. In fact a Scarce Swallowtail was flying around in the same area too. It flew close to my head and back a number of times. Has anyone else noticed this behaviour ? I later saw the butterfly feeding from Valerian but from inside the cablecar so couldn't get any pictures. Around this area I came across some unfamiliar species of 'blue' butterflies (Lycaenids) but need to get my pictures back from the lab before I can identify them or post them to you. Wish I could've stayed in Italy longer to find out what butterflies were coming out of the large chocolate-brown chrysalises hanging from the roof of the cablecar station in Sardagna ! - Bob Hasra

**Sat 19th June - Hot news from across the border**, I saw my first **(3) Dark Green Fritillaries** on **Sharpenhoe/Moleskin** today in their usual haunts. Two of the three looked like freshly emerged males. Also other first flight sightings this year for the site were Marbled White & Ringlet - David Chandler

**Fri 18th June** - Today I saw the most unusual moth, that I had never seen before, searching the internet I found this to be a Elephant Hawk Moth. I see that this is quite a common moth, but all the same one that I had ever seen before, sitting on the front wall of my house, at 15:00 on the 18th June in **Sandridge** - here is a photo taken on my mobile phone, may not be the best quality, but now I have found your website will take pics and try to identify everything that I see - Craig Henderson

**Thurs 17th June** - Did a transect training run at **Balls Wood**. Highlight was **5 pristine White Admirals** in 53 minutes. Very good views probably as the weather was less than perfect for high flying. Plenty of **Large Skippers, Meadow Browns** and **Speckled Woods** and a couple of **Ringlets** and **Red Admirals**. Also several Bloodvein and Straw Dot moths - Andrew Wood

**Weds 16th June - News from 15th;** Pheromone, clearwing record: **Hexton Chalkpit 1st Six-belted Clearwing** came 11.33am (lure put out 11.29), 2nd at 11.38. Lure 150mm above ground.

Another location on site 12.02, single individual came after 4 minutes. Also **Humming-bird Hawkmoth** at site - Andrew Palmer

**Thundridge, news from 14th**; I've had first **meadow brown** in garden - Nick Sampford

**Balls Wood. Large Skippers** (many) **Speckled Wood, Meadow Brown, Ringlet**, also **Hummingbird Hawkmoth** (the Hummingbird Hawkmoth appeared to be egg laying on Comon Cleavers, although this is not listed as a food plant it is in the same family as the Bedstraws, unfortunately I did not have a hand lens with me to search the plant) - James Fish

Saw my first summer brood **Small Tortoiseshell** on **Widbury Hill** today. Also Burnet Companion and a few **Meadow Browns** and a **Large Skipper** - Andrew Wood

**Mon 14th June** - First **Large Skipper** seen in the garden - John Murray

Robert Callf rang to to say Robin White had seen a **Purple Hairstreak** on a blackthorn, this morning at **Vicarage Farm**

From **Horsenden Hill, Painted Lady (3), Large Skipper (13), Common Blue (5), Comma (1), Meadow Brown (7** - my first of the year), **Small Copper (1)**. Also Burnet Companion (8) and Narrow-bordered Five-spot Burnet (10) **12th Highlights** (personal preference) of 80+ species from a moth trap run at **Horsenden West Meadows** (with Rachel Terry and David Howden) - Elephant Hawk Moth (1), Small Elephant Hawk Moth (2), plus Blotched Emerald, Beautiful Hook-tip, Bird's wing, Barred Straw, Blue-bordered Carpet - Andrew Culshaw

**Sun 13th June** - A **Hummingbird Hawk-moth** along a footpath in parkland/pasture near **Bushey** at 1420 hours. Later at 1615 hours a male **Red-tipped Clearwing** moth came to a combination pheromone lure along the **River Colne near Watford** (a new tetrad record) - Colin Everett

In 3 hours at **King's Mead** on a hot sunny day, I still managed to see only **2 Common Blue, 8 Large Skipper, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Painted lady, 2 Meadow Brown** and **1 Peacock** - Alan Reynolds

Saw **two white letter hairstreaks** at 10.10 on and around prunus species at **Sewardstone Marsh** - Martin Shepherd & Enfield Lock Conservation Group

**Sat 12th June** - In 5 hours on a fairly reasonable day, the only butterflies I saw were **2 Speckled Wood** at **Maple Lodge** and a **Speckled Wood** and **Painted Lady** at **Pynesfield Lake** - Alan Reynolds

Saw my **1st large skipper** this morning in my **Greenford** garden, initially basking on Calceolaria flower +c.O.5 hr later nectaring on herb robert. Possibly same individual seen in pm nectaring on red valerian. The only butterfly I did see today! I did find a 6-spot burnet larva beside some bird's-foot trefoil + possibly about to pupate on thrift flower stalk - Neil Anderson

**Fri 11th June** - Just seen a **Meadow Brown** at **Telegraph Hill**. First for us - Sally and John Foster

**2 Painted Lady and Red Admiral Coppetts Wood** this afternoon - Tony Clancy

**1 White letter Hairstreak** seen between reservoirs, **Ponders End** - **Andrew Middleton**

Went over our local **Balls Wood in Hertford Heath** this morning, saw 10 speckled woods, 1 red admiral, 3 large skippers, lots of moths, which we are still trying to identify and will send pictures at a later time. 1 female emperor dragonfly, 3 male broad bodied chasers and 2 females. We then went to a site in **Northants** for the first time and were amazed at the number of **Black Hairstreaks**, Sandra attaches a photo showing one that has recently emerged from its chrysalis,



which it is standing on. We also saw a painted lady, a meadow brown, 5 large skippers, a worn comma, and loads of the oak rollers - Sandra & Kevin Standbridge

**Ramney Marsh, Middx:** painted lady (08.43) and red admiral (09.43) both at rest on bramble. Also five large skippers and two common blues - Martin Shepherd

We saw a Painted Lady in **Whitton** (Middlesex) just outside our house (**8th June**). It was evening so it was resting and difficult to say which way it was going - Eleanor Lawrence

I also saw painted lady (my 1st UK this year) at noon (**9th June**) flying determinedly along tube track at **Ravenscourt Park Stn** in E.direction. In my own **Greenford** garden I disturbed a **silver-Y** whilst watering some pots (again 1st of year) - Neil Anderson

I had another **4 Meadow Browns yesterday (10-6)** at **Brent Reservoir** on the transect I share with Andrew Self, also 1 Painted Lady there. 1 Painted Lady and 3 Red Admirals in and around **Barnet** on mapping visits (**9th June**). None were in any great hurry with one Red Admiral on a house wall and the other three insects all on Bramble. I had a very early **Meadow Brown this afternoon (10th June)** at **Potters Lane Barnet**. Another feature of the past three or so weeks has been the large number of Small Copper, I've had it in 9 out of the 11 tetrads that I am visiting in TQ29. On one walk (**23rd May**) **Whitings Hill/Dollis Valley West** I had **19 Small Coppers!** - Roy Beddard

**2 Painted Ladys** and **Red Admiral** seen in **Coppetts Wood** - Tony Clancy

**Thurs 10th June** - The answer to the picture link below is *Actias luna* (*Saturnidae*), the Luna Moth - thanks to the ukmoths newsgroup for the identification - LG

Had a brief walk round the **Museum's Wildlife Garden** before I left **yesterday evening** and was pleased to see lots of Six-spot Burnet larvae and cocoons (the colony seems to be doing very well now) but was even more pleased to add a new species to the list for the garden, Burnet Companion. I saw at least three, possibly four, including a pair in cop. A nice moth for urban Middlesex - especially so close to Cromwell Road - Martin Honey

**Ware garden** - another Painted Lady this morning, a much larger individual - Liz Goodyear

3 Large Skippers & 2 Painted Ladies recorded on **Bunkers Park yesterday, 9 June**. The P Ladies were loitering and not going anywhere particular. 14 Common Blues were seen. In spite of 30C temperatures on Tuesday, this number was 93% down on the same week last year - Mike Pearson

I saw a Painted Lady **yesterday** (8 June) while doing my **Colney Heath transect** around 1400 hrs. It wasn't flying anywhere much, more browsing on Bramble in a sheltered spot (wind c4). It looked tatty & tired. Saw Large Skipper **Sun 6 June** on **The Warren**, unfortunately off-transect - John Moss

**Wed 9th June** - We went for a walk today at **Balls Wood in Hertford Heath** and saw 5 large Skippers, 5 Speckled Woods, a pair of White Ermine moths, a Treble Brown Spot and possibly a cream bordered green pea or Green Oak roller ( our moth knowledge is not great and we have included pictures of these to help identification). We then went to **Wicken Fen in Cambs** and saw another unusual moth which we think is a Silver Barred moth, we also saw 5 Brimstones, 5 Speckled Woods, 3 Large Skippers and hundreds of dragonflies. Sandra got her first photo of an Emperor Dragonfly and we also saw 2 other firsts, Scarce Chaser and Four spotted Chaser - Kevin & Sandra Standbridge

**Weald Park, Essex, 1 meadow brown, 39 common blues, painted lady**, plus two more **Harold Hill (plus 2 Sewardstone)** - Colin Jupp

**Trent Park area, 8 painted ladies, 1 meadow brown**, brown argus **Vicarage farm** - Robert Callf



On **Monday** 1 Red Admiral in **Ware Park**. On **Tuesday 8th** on **Kings Meads near Ware 11 Large Skippers** and 1 Common Blue at **Chadwell Springs Chalk Bank**. **Today:** 7 Common Blues, 3 Large Skippers and a Cinnabar Moth at **Ware Park Quarry** and one Painted Lady on the entrance to the **Quarry footpath on Westmill Road Ware** - Andrew Wood

**Stevenage** - my parents had a Red Admiral in their garden this afternoon - Steven Penn

*I received an email today with this message "this is on my door. Can you tell me what it is?" Click here for picture - Answer will be posted tomorrow and the sender lived in North central Pennsylvania if that is a clue! - LG*

Saw a Small Copper at Glade Lane Meadow, **Ealing** this afternoon. This is the first Small Copper I have seen since 2001. Also 2 Common Blues - John Eborall

We saw large skipper, speckled wood and **ringlet** yesterday for the first time this year at **Aldbury Nowers**, as well as **grizzled skipper** which still around. I have previously picked up green hairstreak and dingy skipper on the transects, which is good although few in number - Martin Hicks

One **painted lady** seen in my **St. Albans garden**, 4.25pm, **yesterday** - Liz Anderson

**Ramsey Marsh, Middx:** large skipper and red admiral this morning (08.35) - Martin Shepherd

I also saw several Painted Ladies on The Lizard last week so they are certainly "on the way". One **Large Skipper at Horsenden Hill** on **Sunday 6th June** allowed close approach and a quick photograph - Andy Culshaw

It may be that a migration has arrived in Britain. Can you please keep a look out for this and other butterflies, not forgetting to record direction of flight (as exactly as possible rather than just North), numbers seen in a given time, where you saw them, and the date and time. It would also be very useful if you can make records of the speed of flight, by using a stop watch or digital watch to time the passage of the butterfly between two points, such as one side of your garden to the other. These records are very rarely made but are of extreme interest - John Murray

9.50 am, **Painted Lady** in **Ware** garden nectaring - Liz Goodyear

8 o'clock this morning **Painted Lady** in my garden **N.W. Bishop Stortford** - Jim Fish

**Tues 8th June** - Just to let you know that I found a Mother Shipton moth when walking along the public footpath through the fields of **Harrow School** on **Sunday 6 June** - Michael Robinson

**Barnet area, 1 Painted Lady** at National Institute for Medical Research in the grounds at 10.40 am 2nd June - Frank Johnson

**Mon 7th June - Frogmore Quarry** - just **2 Grizzled Skippers** found this lunchtime. Had almost given up searching. Also 7 Small Copper, 8 Common Blue (all males). On what is left of the lake there were 2 Emperor Dragonflies, 5 Broad-bodied Chasers and plenty of Azure damselflies. News from 6th June - **Wheathampstead LNR** (nr. Development Centre) - Small Heath on the up this year with ten plus in the grassland area. Common Blues also doing well. Caterpillars of burnet moths getting very large now. Also first Mother Shipton moth from this site - Trevor Chapman

**King's Langley Garden Transect, yesterday**, we saw our first **Painted Lady** of 2004 in my mother's garden in King's Langley - David Chandler

**Sun 6th June - Today** walking the disused **Allotments Rye Street Bishops Stortford** and in the vicinity of Wickham Hall. Speckled Wood 3, Holly Blue 1, Common Blue 3, Orange Tip 1xM, 1xF, Red Admiral 1, Small White 5, Small Copper 1, Mother Shipton 2, Yellow Shell 2, and numerous colonies of Small Tortoiseshell caterpillars - Jim Fish

**Thurs 4th June** - Sandra Standbridge's Large Skipper photos see below have been identified as a Large Skipper *ab pallida* - see Natural History Museum's Cockayne Data Base website for more details Identification was helped by contributors of uk-leps

Had small copper and common blue at **Grovelands** today - Andrew Middleton, Robert Callf and Bill Cutts

Last year, on 2 June 2003, I counted a record single visit total of 164 Common Blues on my **Bunkers Park transect; yesterday**, 2 June 2004, I saw just 3 !!! - Mike Pearson

**Tues 1st June - 2 Red Admirals yesterday** in Potters Crouch Plantation, **near St Albans** - Malcolm Hull

## **May 2004**

**Mon 31st May - Trent Park, c75 small heath**, plus small coppers today, and mating Brown Argus yesterday - Robert Callf and Robin White

Saw a **red admiral** steaming north through **Tring** (Herts.) today. Presumably a migrant from warmer shores - Nick Bowles

**Therfield Heath**, late afternoon (17:45 for about 50 minutes), with alternating cloud and sunny spells. Obviously still a little cool for evening sunning by butterflies! Church Hill, Small Heath, 1 at western end of hill. Many undistinguished silvery "micro" moths. Treble-bar moth species (Common or Lesser), 1-2 on lower slopes at eastern end of hill - Guy Manners

News from **Sunday**, a **Red Admiral**, Hoggates Wood, **Bishop Stortford** - Jim Fish

Some sightings from the weekend. **Friday 28th, Digswell railway cutting, Welwyn North Station** - Good amount of wild strawberry no Grizzled Skipper's unfortunately. 3 burnet companion, 1 large white, 1 common blue. Also numerous Speckled Woods in **Hamergreen Wood**. **Sat 29th, Aldbury Nower's** - 5 Common Blue, 2 Large White, 6 Burnet Companion, 1 Small Copper. **Sun 30th, Tring Park** - 3 Grizzled Skipper (hurrah) 2 Dingy Skipper, 2 Common Blue, 1 Orange Tip, 3 Large White, 3 Brimstone, 5 Mother Shipton, 10 Burnet Companion - Jez Perkins

Green Hairstreak, Dingy Skippers and Small Heath have been active at **Telegraph Hill**. Grizzled Skippers reported but not found by me. Common Blue flying at **Pegsdon Hills last week**, also Brown Argus at **Telegraph Hill** - Nigel Agar

I thought you might be interested in some photos I took last year of Variations, I think the silver washed is called an *Valezina* (we saw it at Bentley Wood and the Skipper in the woods at Hertford Heath - Sandra Standbridge

Some photo's taken last week. The Grizzled Skipper, at Waterford, and the Common Blue, near Hertford. The mating Privet Hawk moths were on an old post in my garden and were 'busy' all Friday morning. They parted around mid-day and spent all afternoon and evening till dark recovering - Richard Bigg

**Sun 30th May** - Today, **Westbrook Hay, Boxmoor**, Large White, small copper, common blue & **painted lady** (and lots of those micro moths with the huge antennae). I will keep you informed in future of any other notable sightings in Hemel - Dave Hutchinson (*we met Dave at the Herts County Show*)

Went for a walk this afternoon around the set aside fields along the River Rib between **Ware Park and Bengoe** and before the rain saw 1 Brown Argus, 3 Peacocks, 2 Orange Tips, several unidentified whites and these moths: 1 Mother Shipton moth, 1 Lime Speck Pug actively feeding and 1 Garden Pebble - Andrew Wood

**Sat 29th May** - Went to the **Cornmill Meadow** today and saw mating buff-tip, **1 large skipper**, cinnabar moth, small copper, 2 Burnet caterpillars, getting ready to cocoon at the top of grasses - Sandra Standbridge

**Fri 28th May** - At work, **Stevenage**. 8 Small Heath with 7 Cinnabar and 1 Burnet Companion moth, and 4 Azure Damselflies. **Frogmore Quarry** lunchtime - only **2 Grizzled Skippers** but not that warm, 3 Small Coppers, 1 Large White and 2 GV White. 3 Azure and 1 Large Red Damselfly. Then on to Astonbury Golf Club lily pond to see 3 Red-eyed and 50 Azure Damselflies. Also a nice Little Owl - Trevor Chapman (more Dragonfly news)

One of my 'local moth-ers' in **Ealing** finally managed to buy his own trap. On its second outing in the back garden, it turned up a rather nice record- **Buttoned Snout**. There is a reasonable sized patch of hops growing on Horsenden West, where the old cottages were. So this could well be a resident species for the site. His garden is not that far away from the area in question. Moth was taken by David Howdon, but the pictures mine - Rachel Terry

**Thurs 27th May** - Decided to try and visit two more tetrads today, but unfortunately forgot my binoculars! Visited **TL3610** between Hertford Heath and the A10 and after over 40 minutes saw my first Orange Tip, also seen, were Green-veined White, a Peacock, Large White and Speckled Wood. Then drove to **Dobbs Weir** and had a lovely walk by the river but saw only a pair of mating Green-veined White. Then walked towards the railway line and found an amazing field of moths mostly Burnet Companion and Mother Shipton. The lack of "bins" was very frustrating! Eventually after spending 40 minutes again in the same tetrad saw 2 Orange Tip (they are like buses you don't see any for ages and then 2 come along!) Nice to see a Brown Argus and Common Blue as well plus a fox - Liz Goodyear

We went into **Bedfordshire** on **Saturday** and saw in excess of 3 Dukes, mating Brown Argus, 2 pairs we think!, 6 Grizzled Skipper, 3 Brimstone, 3 Orange Tip. Then went to **Ivinghoe Beacon** and saw our first Dingy Skippers at least 8. 25th May - Over the **Cornmill meadow** I saw a tree full of I think Lackey caterpillars ( Photo attached). I also saw 2 common blue and 2 small coppers and hairy dragonfly - Kevin and Sandra Standbridge

I was in **Langley** on **Tuesday** lunch time. I saw 3 Orange Tips (2 male, 1 female), 1 Large White and 1 Small Tortoiseshell. I have attached a photo of the female Orange Tip - Steven Penn

**Wed 26th May** - Are you going on holiday to Europe this year? If so visit this website which has been set up by Butterfly Conservation - LG

Visited **Aldbury Nowers** after work yesterday about 6 o'clock and had 4 Brimstones, 1 Large White and numerous Common Blues. It clouded over as I got there so it wasn't hugely productive - Jez Perkins

**Mon 24th May** - Small Copper, 1 at **Amwell** this pm. My first here for a number of years - Toby Austin

**Thurs 20th May** - Some pictures including moths to look for during the day including:- I found a small group of Small Yellow Underwings near **Ware Park Quarry** on **Tuesday**, went back with the camera yesterday and found only one. Here is a picture - Andrew Wood

**Wed 19th May -Stevenage** (lunchtime walk at work) - **4 Small Heath, 1 Common Blue**, 5 Burnet Companion, 6 Cinnabar and 5 Blue Damselflies (one confirmed Common) - Trevor Chapman

" Dukes" I've put some of the pictures on the web page - link below. I think they're mostly males, but the variation within the colony seemed quite dramatic - especially the darkest one. Not that I've ever seen so many in one place that I could make the comparison! Note that they're nearly all sitting on very low bramble leaves - Roger Gibbons

**Telegraph Hill yesterday** on my transect - **4 Brown Argus**. Also heard reports of **Dingy Skipper, Grizzled Skipper and Green Hairstreak** been seen, also **yesterday** on the same site and **Pegsdon Hills** where I noticed another 2 Brown Argus and 3 Small Heath - Valerie Fullforth

**Tues 18th May** - Lunchtime today **Frogmore Quarry**, after 70min searching found **6 Grizzled Skippers**. Plenty of Tormentil and a single patch of Wild Strawberry down from the NE corner. Also 4 Small Copper, **1 male Common Blue**, 2 GV White, 4 Orange-tip, **1 Red Admiral**. Plenty of Pyrausta moths flying too. And the constant sound of Cuckoo, Whitethroat, Lesser Whitethroat, Blackcap, Goldfinch and Yellowhammer - Trevor Chapman

**Aldbury Nowers** - 10.30-1.30pm, **c.8 Grizzled Skipper (west meadow near Pitstone Hill only) including one egg laid under leaf of agrimony, 7 dingy skipper** total spread through all meadows, **2 green hairstreak, c16 small copper** also egg laid under edge of sorrel leaf, brimstones, orange tips, holly blue, **6 Brown Argus**, Small Tortoiseshell, comma, speckled wood, various whites, cinnabar, mother shipton, burnet companion, small yellow underwing, *pyrausta sp.* **Pitstone Hill pm - c.15 green hairstreak, 5 dingy skipper, 1 small heath** - Andrew Middleton & Liz Goodyear

I went walking the dogs in balls wood **Hertford Heath today**, saw 4 male brimstones and a comma. Also went to Fishers Green today and just outside Pinders car park, I saw my first Puss Moth - - Sandra Standbridge

**Mon 17th May** - Green-Veined White feeding on Forget-me-nots in my **Brooksmen Park** garden today - Rupert Pyrah

During a Dragonfly Atlas recce in TQ09 on Sunday 16th May, 2 Orange Tip, 2 Peacock, 1 Small Tortoiseshell and 3 Small White at Piper's Farm - Alan Reynolds

Some butterfly news for last weekend: **16th May, Aldbury Nowers, Herts, Grizzled Skipper (3+ in the paddock to the right of the path as you walk up the hill from the road)**, Brimstone (10+), Orange-tip (5), Comma (1), Peacock (4), Small Tortoiseshell (1), **Small Copper (6)**, Holly Blue (1). Also Cinnabar (6) and Garden Carpet (1). **15th May Horsenden Hill, Middx, Common Blue (1), Small Copper (1)**, Large White (1), Small White (11), Green-veined White (12), Small/Green-veined White (9), Orange-tip (8), Peacock (6), Holly Blue (1), Small Tortoiseshell (1), Comma (1). David Howdon and I ran a light in **Perivale Wood on Friday evening (14th May)** - confirmed identifications were Brimstone moth 2, Sandy Carpet 3 (in trap) + 4 (on the wing about the site), Ruby Tiger 1, Sallow Kitten 1, Lychnis 1, Oak Hook tip 1, Pale Tussock 1, Chinese Character 1, Tinea Trinotella 1, Brindled Pug 3, Twenty-Plume moth 1, White Shouldered House Moth 1, Least Black Arches 1. One unidentified micro is with Rachel Terry to see if she can work it out! Andy Culshaw

News from **Sat 15 May and Sun 16 May - Whipsnade Downs**: generally warm 20-22 C but mostly cloudy pm - "**dukes**" recently emerged and looking very fresh - counted 20 total (on each day) in about five separate locations over several hundred metres - very active in the brief spells of sunshine - met someone who had just come from **Ivinghoe Beacon** and counted 31 - also 2-3 grizzled skippers and 2-3 green hairstreaks although the master tree seems more dead than alive - lots of brimstones and orange tips and the odd green-veined white - Roger Gibbons

**Aldbury Nowers**, arriving just before 10 a.m. I quickly saw Brimstone 2, Orange Tip 5, Green Veined White 1, **Small Copper 3**, Holly Blue 1, **Brown Argus 1**, Peacock 1 and several Pyraustra micros (aurata and purpuraris - I believe) plus 2 Mother Shipton but no Grizzled Skipper in 30 minutes - Nick Bowles

Many tetrads were visited over the weekend - please check the updated map when done (it will take a little while) - The main area now is central/north Middlesex. These tetrads are more random, with many having little potential habitat or places to park. If you can visit any of these please let myself and John know. Thank you to everyone that went out and filled the map so superbly

**Sun 16th May** - Went over to **Ivinghoe Beacon** on **Sunday** to photograph Dukes : Mainly below bend in road saw **10 Duke of Burgundy** mainly, **2 Dingy Skippers, 1 Green Hairstreak, 5**

Brimstones, 2 Orange tips, 1 Small Tort, 1 Mother Shipton, 2 Burnet Companion, Cinnabar and a Tree Pipit. Last week no sign of Grizzled Skipper at Frogmore Quarry but I bet they have emerged now - Trevor Chapman

### **Weekend Field Trips Roundup**

**Sunday - Waterford Heath** - 6 people attended and went home very happy! In total **13 Grizzled Skipper** were seen, 11 on the south pit and 2 on the north pit. Everyone found one for them self! Total species seen in addition to Grizzleds were 2 Cinnabar moths, 2 Brimstone, 1 Green-veined White, 2 Latticed Heath (so everyone was able to see the difference), 4 Orange Tip, 7 Burnet Companions, **1 Small Copper**, **1 Small Heath**, 2 Holly Blue, 1 Peacock, 1 Comma, 1 Speckled Wood, 1 Large and 1 Small White, and 2 Roman Snails - Alan Downie

**Saturday - Aldbury Nowers**, after the 2 previous years events were dogged by bad weather, Saturday, was a lovely sunny day. Unfortunately no Grizzled or Dingy Skippers were seen, but 9 people attended and were rewarded with sightings of WHITES: Brimstone 11, Large White 5, Small White 4, Green Veined White 11, Orange Tip 14. BLUES & COPPERS: **Green Hairstreak 4**, Holly Blue 1, **Small Copper 5**. ARISTOCRATS: Small Tortoiseshell 1, Peacock 3. BROWNS: Speckled Wood 1 and several species of moth - Dave Chandler (*Thanks to everyone who came along and in particular the field trip leaders - next week is National Moth Night and 23rd May - Bedfont Lakes*)

**Sat 15th May - North Herts**, nice to see **Green hairstreak and dingy skipper** hanging on there today (**Sat 15 May**) My last records for Dingy Skipper on this private site were back in 1997!! - Stuart Pittman

A walk around the **Ashridge Estate** in the afternoon was notable chiefly for the fact that I saw only one Speckled Wood in this apparently prime location. Earlier Malcolm Hull and I found a **Silver Y** in a gully on **Ivinghoe Beacon** in Bucks - Colin Everett

**Aldbury Nowers**, visited today after the branch field trip & saw **Green Hairstreak 2**, **Grizzled Skipper 5**, Comma 4, Speckled Wood 1, Orange Tip 9, Green-Veined White 15, Peacock 3, Holly Blue 3 Large White 1, Brimstone 19, **Small Copper 1**, **Mother Shipton & Burnett Companion Moths**, Over the border in Bucks at **Inchcombe Hole** I saw **4 Small Heaths** & at **Ivinghoe Beacon** a **Duke of Burgundy** & **Silver Y moth** - Malcolm Hull (*sorry forgot to credit this earlier*)

**Trent Park**, **4 small copper**, **3 small heath**, **3 mother shipton**, **2 burnet companion** - Robert Callf

**Thundridge garden** - 12 orange tips, **small copper**, green veined and small white in garden today - Nick Sampford

**Friday 14th May - Waterford Heath**, had **3 grizzled skippers** by the bench at **Waterford** late **yesterday** afternoon plus 20+ orange tips large, green veined and small white, female brimstone and holly blue - Nick Sampford (*Nick has a new macro lens!*)

**Rickneys area, Hertford** this afternoon, **4 Small Copper**, **2 Burnet Companion** & **1 Latticed Heath moth**. Tetrad bashing in East Herts again didn't produce anything spectacular apart from a **Small Yellow Underwing** moth in a field at **High Wych!** - Liz Goodyear

**Thurs 13th May - are**, along the old Lea this morning 3 male Orange tip, 1 female Orange tip, peacock - Ian Edwards

Lunch time walk near **Norton Green** today. I saw 2 small whites and 1 orange tip - Steven Penn

Tetrad bashing in East Herts before the cloud took hold didn't produce anything extra ordinary, although Orange Tip seemed to be in good numbers. Did see a **Cinnabar** moth near **areside** and on my return there was a fox in my garden, watching the guinea pigs! - Liz Goodyear

**Mon 10th May** - A couple of casual sightings from the Tube in blank Spring tetrads on the way home this evening: - **East Acton Tube station** - Large White and Orange Tip and near Park Royal Road, North Acton - Orange Tip. Hardly counts as 'covering' the tetrads, but it's better

than nothing - John Eborall (*these tetrads were not just blank spring tetrads but had **no records at all** - help like this is continually welcome; thanks John - LG*)

Graham White and myself have produced a King's Mead Bird Report for 2002, which not only covers that year, but also breeding records back to 1994 and beyond. Copies of the report can be down-loaded from the King's Mead website at: [www.geocities.com/kingsmead2](http://www.geocities.com/kingsmead2)- The website (and future reports) also covers butterflies - Alan Reynolds

**Late news from the 7th May** - visited **Kensal Green Cemetery** this morning and saw 3 Orange Tips, 1 Holly Blue, 2 Speckled Woods, 1 Peacock, 2 Green Veined Whites, 1 Small White and a number of unidentifiable whites - Andrew Wood

Now had orange tip in all three tetrads if you are marking them on the map. Found this **white-letter larva** today on elm flowers near **Cuffley (Soper's Viaduct)**. Picture's a bit poor but may be of interest - Andrew Middleton

**Ware** garden, the sun came out and almost immediately 2 female Orange Tips checking out my garlic mustard - later 1 male - Liz Goodyear

**Sun 9th May - Waterford Heath** this afternoon (3.30 - 4.30) in 100% cloud and rain, **3 roosting Grizzled Skipper** - Liz Goodyear

**Fri 7th May - south Norfolk**, in really quite dull conditions, **4 Grizzled Skipper** seen, in flight and roosting before the "rain" - news via Sharon Hearle (BC Anglia RO)

**Thursday, are**, along the old Lea I saw my first definite sighting of a Green-veined White, also each day this week there have been 3+ Orange tips about, as well as this years first Grass snakes - Ian Edwards

**Fir and Pond Woods Nature Reserve (HMWT)** 10.00 to 13.00, Orange tips (several), Green veined white 1, speckled woods 2, brimstone 1 male, peacocks 2 - David Gompertz

**Wed 5th May** - First speckled wood seen in the garden this year in **Barnet** - Nigel Taylor

**Ware** garden, in a brief moment of sunshine, one male Orange Tip seen near the honesty this morning - Liz Goodyear

**Tues 4th May - Sewardstone, Essex, 2 small coppers** on the roadside verge on **Sunday 2nd May** Sewardstone Road - Simon Rawlinson

**Mon 3rd May** - On **May 2nd** I was walking along the **Chelsea Embankment** towards the Tate gallery when I was passed by a Holly Blue which was flying westwards. I had previously seen several Small/Green-Veined Whites in the **Chelsea Physic Garden**. Still haven't recorded Holly Blue in my own garden - Malcolm Newland

**Sun 2nd May - 21 Orange Tips** on the **Bricket Wood** Transect **today**. Highest total recorded for any week since it began in 1997 - most years I haven't recorded that number at the site all season. Today's other highlight - two Ruby Tiger Moths in my back garden (**St Albans**). Never seen one there before - Malcolm Hull

## **APRIL 2004**

**Tues 27th April** - I spent four hours at **Waterford** yesterday and despite excellent weather didn't see a grizzled skipper. I did have 10 orange tips, 4 peacocks, 3 small tortoiseshells and a small white - Jez Perkins (**Branch Grizzled Skipper co-ordinator - in addition to the 2004 challenge, we do need everyone out looking for Grizzled Skipper when they emerge as well, at new and old sites - LG**)



**Mon 26th April - More Grizzled Skipper sightings in the Upper Thames Branch region today - news via Tom Dunbar (UTB Grizzled Skipper species champion)**

**Ware** - I took a walk along the river, and over Widbury Hill after work today and saw the following: 5 Orange Tip, 1 Speckled Wood, 1 Comma, 1 Peacock, 5 Small Tortoiseshell, 2 Small White. **Yesterday** on the track from Widbury farm to Priors Wood I saw 8 Small Tortoiseshell and 1 Brimstone - Ian Edwards

We were at **Waterford** on **23rd April**, but did not find any Grizzled Skipper. Denis and I saw our first Orange Tip (male) at **Bullens Green** on **16 April**, but then saw no more of them until **23rd April** when there was a male over the grassland at **Hertford Heath**. Also on **23 April** Denis spotted his first Holly Blue at **Essendon**. On the **24 April** we saw a Speckled Wood at **Smallford Pit** and yesterday a Small White at **Berrygrove Wood** near **Aldenharn** plus lots of Green-veined Whites and an abundance of Small Tortoiseshells (37 in all) along the River Colne near **Otterspool**, mostly basking on sunny clumps of nettle. The same afternoon Denis saw his first **Large White** at King George playing fields in **Welwyn Garden City** - Christine Shepperson

**Sun 25th April - Wendover Bucks yesterday** Nick Bowles saw on his transect **his first Grizzled skipper** of the year - news via UKleps

Went on to **Waterford Heath** - spent about an hour there but no Grizzled Skipper for me. Robert Callf told me that Jeremy Gaskell saw a **Humming-bird hawkmoth** at **Vicarage Farm** on **Saturday**. I saw orange tip lay eggs on garlic mustard at **Fairlop, Essex**, with Alan Bell, and a Holly Blue there was his first site record in 26 years - Andrew Middleton

**Maple Cross**, in my garden in the last few days I have seen both Holly Blue and Orange Tip. My first of the season. Both seem to be patrolling through my area. Also visited by Peacock and Small Tortoiseshell - Ann.Piper

Group Visit to **Houghton Head Common, Hitchin** starting at Ref. TL178308 and walking to TL162300 (just under 2 km). Time: 10.30 - 12.30. Temp: 19 deg - 10 Yellow Brimstones, 10 Orange Tips, 1 Small White, 5 Holly Blue, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 3 Peacock, 8 Speckled Wood - Val Fullforth

I see someone else also had a **Common Blue** on Sat 24th April, in North Herts. I saw one at **Ickleford** and can't recall them ever being out earlier there. Good *peridae* numbers, 16 Orange tips, 10 brimstones and some G-V Whites, although some were Orange Tip females I'm sure but couldn't get on them long enough to be dead certain - Stuart Pittman

**King's Langley** Garden Transect, transect week 4 - Today we saw our first Holly Blue in my mother's garden in King's Langley. On Friday 23rd, we saw a male Peacock & Large White. The only other species seen this year at this site in King's Langley were Small Tortoiseshells recorded in transect week 3 - Dave Chandler

**Ware** garden, hard to believe but I have just seen the first butterfly in my garden since the 31st March, a Holly Blue (okay I have been out on some of the better days but even when at home "on good days" I have seen nothing!) - Liz Goodyear

**Sat 24th April - Bramfield**, 2 Holly Blues, 1 Orange Tip, at the Horns Bull Green 1 Brimstone, at **Bramfield Wood** 1 Brimstone and 1 Orange Tip. **Recent news, on 19th April** a **Red Admiral** in **Ware Park** and **23rd April** at **Balls Wood**, 1 Green-veined White, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 12 Peacocks, 2 Commas and 8 Speckled Woods. **On 23rd April**, 2 Holly Blues and an Orange Tip in **Bengeo** (Jane Wood) - Andrew Wood

**Ware**, walking along Musley Lane this morning I saw a female Small White. During the past week I have had daily sightings of Orange Tip along the old Lea - Ian Edwards

I have a few sightings to send you later but I thought you would be interested in one in particular. I saw a **male Common Blue** near **Hexton** today - Steven Penn

Orange tip, holly blue and green-veined white in my garden today in **Barnet**. Orange tip first seen about four days ago - Nigel Taylor

**Enfield garden** adjacent to Enfield Playing Fields - Orange-tip, Speckled Wood, and Holly Blue now on the wing - Phil Rhodes

During a beautiful sunny and hot day at **King's Mead**, I saw 11 Small Tortoiseshell, 7 White sp, 4 Peacock, 5 Orange Tip, 3 Brimstone and 2 Holly Blue. In the afternoon at **Maple Lodge Nature Reserve**, 2 Brimstone, 4 Holly Blue, 6 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Speckled Wood and 4 Peacock - Alan Reynolds

Male Orange-tip "breezed" through garden in **Melbourn** this morning - Guy Manners

**Fri 23rd April** - I saw a couple of Peacocks opposite the pub in **Norton Green today** - Steven Penn

**Barnet**, this **Orange Tip** photo was taken at my home address on the **16th April**. Have also had my first **Large White** on **22nd April**, with a nice fresh peacock - Rachel Terry (*this record of an Orange Tip means there is now one less square on the "map" to visit between now and the end of May for more details of the 2004 Mapping Challenge - LG*)

I had a look for Green Hairstreaks on the **Pegsdon Hills** today but could not find any. None on the usual master hedge. Brimstone and Peacock were flying. Small Tortoiseshell at Old Hale Way allotments in **Hitchin**. Orange Tip at Silvermead, **Broxbourne yesterday** - Nigel Agar

**Shepreth Moor NR (S Cambs)** 1-2 males Brimstone, 2 (1 poss. female brimstone) White sp(p)., 3 Speckled Wood. **Church Hill (Fox Covert NR,)** 2 males Brimstone, 2-4 Peacock, 1 Comma, + 2-5 strong-flying nymphalids, (maybe overlap with Peacock count) + 1 Seven-spot Ladybird - Guy Manners

**Thurs 22nd April - Therfield Heath NR:** 1 Speckled Wood, **Church Hill:** 2-4 Peacock, 1 Comma, **Church Hill-Fox Covert border:** 1 Peacock, **Fox Covert NR:** 1 Peacock. I was well displeased with the weather: glorious sunshine in Melbourn all morning... Then it clouded over literally as I was donning my trainers at the edge of the reserve complex! Nearly missed the Speckled Wood, as it flew across the path and landed about 4-5 m up a tree. Peacock at E side of Church Hill was very jumpy. Sometimes interacting with Comma, could not tell if the same insect was following me or I had 2 or 3. Definite 2nd at W end of the Hill. Plenty of Pasque Flowers, along with "violets" and Cowslips. Still precious little offering nectar to our beautiful friends. Guess what? It's now sunny again! Guy Manners (*there is "a law" to describe this type of weather - LG*)

**Wed 21st April - News from 17 April** - male Holly Blue at Commonswood Reserve, **Welwyn Garden City** - Roger Gibbons

**Tues 20th April - Orange Tip**, nice to get the "lady of the hedgerow " at **Ickleford** today a few weeks later than 2003 though, along with my first **Cuckoo** - Stuart Pittman

One **Holly Blue** and one **Small White** this morning (**20th April**) in the front garden of my house in **Pinner** - Graham Elcombe

**Sat 17th April** - Visited **Tetrad TQ0472** this afternoon. It is largely filled by **Staines Reservoir**. Stanwell Burial Ground and Staines Cemetery had seemed likely butterfly areas but produced nothing, too breezy perhaps. Having said that I did get 1 Small Tortoiseshell on the reservoir bank. So this square is up and running (limping?) - Dick Middleton (*This area is in desperate need of visits so any offers of help is really appreciated - LG*)

Nice female **Holly Blue** in **Tring** today, my first and I have seen **Green Hairstreak** already but **5 miles over our border in Bucks** - Nick Bowles

Today, during an excursion into **TQ09 for the Dragonfly Atlas**, saw my first **Orange Tip** at **Croxley Green**, and 13 Small Torts and 2 Peacock at The Grove Golf Course, **Watford** - Alan Reynolds

**Ramsey Marsh: speckled wood** at 11.34 on the edge of Turkey Brook - Martin Shepherd

**Fri 16th April - Hemel Hempstead**, was working on my allotment this morning when I saw a Comma fluttering around my gooseberry bushes. It stopped several times and I was able to approach it closely enough to see that it was a female ovipositing. I am not aware that this is a recognised larval food plant and the choice is even more strange with a large clump of lush nettles only a couple of metres away - Malcolm Newland

I had a walk at lunch time today and I saw 4 Peacocks near **Norton Green** and also saw a Peacock in **Stevenage** on the **14th** - Steven Penn

**Ware**, along the Old Lea this morning one Peacock. In my garden late morning my first **Orange Tip** of the year a male - Ian Edwards

**Cheshunt Park**, 1 male **Orange Tip**, Holly Blue & Peacocks. **Tetrad bashing** in the **Theobalds area**, 1 female **Brimstone**, pair of mating **Green-veined Whites**, plus Small Tortoiseshell, Comma, Small White and Peacock. **Cuffley area near Sopers Viaduct**, Peacocks, Comma, Small Tortoiseshell and a white. Apart from the first Orange Tip and Holly Blue, no more although it did get cloudy and no Speckled Wood - Andrew Middleton

**Thurs 15th April** - One of the volunteers working in Pond Wood said they had an **Orange Tip** & a **Brimstone** in their **Potters Bar garden yesterday** (13th). Today in the **North Mymms Park** area my first two Commas of the year (also several Peacocks in the vicinity). Also my second Small white - **Brookmans Park** - Rupert Pyrah

**Wed 14th April** - *Still no Orange Tip report in our branch area but they are flying in other areas - LG*

Today at **Pond Wood, Potters Bar** - 6 Peacocks, plus my first **Brimstone**. And in my garden **Brookmans Park**), a Peacock and my first **Holly Blue** - Rupert Pyrah

Walked the **Icknield Way from Pirton to Lilley** & saw **Brimstone 31, Peacock 27, Small Tortoiseshell 16, Comma 5**, A good deal of work on track widening has taken place recently, which should improve this section of the path as a butterfly habitat over time - Malcolm Hull

**Garston (near Watford): Holly Blue** flying strongly in the sunshine and news from **Mon 12th April, Radlett area**: one unidentified (small) white species; one male **Brimstone**; Peacock & Comma well represented; Small Tortoiseshell the commonest species. A Stoat (not a frequent sight in this part of Herts) flushed a Little Owl near Field House Farm - C M Everett

**Tues 13th April** - Even more butterflies in **Folly Lane today**, including Comma, which was absent yesterday. Also had a Comma in my **St. Albans garden** (quite a rare event) which appeared to be nectaring on *Clematis Almondi* - Malcolm Hull

On a short walk along a farm footpath in **Maple Cross** today around 4.30pm I saw 12 tortoiseshells mostly basking in late sunshine and 2 commas. Ann Piper

**Hummingbird Hawkmoth** feeding on Aubretia this morning 11.30am in Julian's garden in **Bishop Stortford** - Jim Fish

Yesterday had a brimstoneat **Amwell** flying north along the canal by the watchpoint at about 3.30pm - Nigel Taylor

**Mon 12th April** - I was in **Walkern** today and I saw 2 Brimstones, 2 Peacocks, 1 Comma and 1 Small Tortoiseshell - Steven Penn

Had a few more **today** - 4 peacocks in the Potwells area (**North Mymms**), 2 at **Tyttenhanger Farm**, plus my 1st **Small White** there also - Rupert Pyrah

At **Folly Lane, St Albans** this morning **24 Small Tortoiseshells** - 10 sunning themselves on a single patch of nettles, other nectaring on damson & dandelions, 4 Peacocks, 1 Small White, 1 Brimstone - male patrolling up & down a hedge, **1 Speckled Wood** - my first of the year. At **Bricket Wood** this afternoon 11 Peacocks, 8 Brimstones (7 of them male), 6 Comma, 1 Small Tortoiseshell. Both Peacocks & Commas nectaring on Blackthorn - Malcolm Hull

Small Tortoiseshell sunning itself at **Tyttenhanger GP** on **April 9th** - my 1st (and only) sighting of the year. Looking back at last year's records, they're very late this year. I've been birding for 3+ hours for the last 4 days, and not a sausage otherwise - Rupert Pyrah

**Sat 10th April - Yesterday** I visited the two blank squares in the NE Uxbridge area, Small Tortoiseshell (1) in Swakelys Park, Ickenham. Small Tortoiseshell (6), Comma (1) and Brimstone (1) along the **River Pinn, adjacent to Ruislip Golf Course at West Ruislip** - Dick Middleton (*Thanks Dick - if everyone watching this website could do this, it would really help our challenge! If you watch outside our branch area, all other BC branches need help as well, just contact your local branch organiser*)

**Yesterday, 9 April Sewardstone Marsh:** small tortoiseshell. **Cheshunt Marsh:** small tortoiseshell. **Rammey Marsh:** four small tortoiseshells. Late news from **31 March - small white**, near Lytton Way, **Stevenage**. - Martin Shepherd

**Tues 6th April** - If you are feeling short of butterflies at the moment try **Wormley Wood**. On **Friday 2/4/04** there were **12 peacocks and 20 commas** plus probable small tortoiseshell fighting over territory in the open glades in the middle of the wood. These are minimum numbers as I did not note them all as I was trying to catch *Eriocrania* at the time and ignoring things over a couple of mm in size! Mark Cooper (*Mark is a moth person!*)

**Sun 4th April - Rye Meads**, 1 butterfly seen on a sheltered warmer bank, could have been Small Tortoiseshell but not able to get close, otherwise too cold - Liz Goodyear

**Sat 3rd April** - *Whilst helping at Capel Manor Gardening Show today, we were told on two occasions by local people that they had seen **Holly Blue last week** - LG*

Sightings news from Nick Sampford - **2nd April**; Small tortoiseshell at **Ware** & Brimstone at **Colliers End**. **31st March:** Peacocks at **Much Hadham, Thundridge & Ashwell**. Small tortoiseshell at **Much Hadham & Ashwell [4]**. Comma at **Much Hadham [2]**, **Thundridge, Buntingford & Ashwell**. Brimstone at **Puckeridge [f]**, **Buntingford, Sandon [2]**, **Ashwell**.

**Fri 2nd April** - First **Small White** of year for me, today 2nd April in front garden in **>Melbourn (Cambs)**, feeding on Common Dandelion (15:28 onwards) - Guy Manners

News from the **31st March**, saw a **Small White** in **central London (close to Waterloo Station)** this lunchtime - Paul Johnson (*Paul has confirmed that the butterfly was south of the Thames!*)

This is to remind you that as of the day after tomorrow **[now yesterday]**, butterflies will be dusting off their wings and sallying forth in their millions to grace fields, woods and derelict urban wastelands, just so that you can have the pleasure of counting them...Transect weeks begin on a Thursday this year. If you are planning to start a transect, please read through the transect instructions (click here) on the website thoroughly before doing so. If you need recording sheets or transect instructions, these are also downloadable from the website. And if you would like to just help out on a transect now and again, please Email me and I will put you in contact with a transect near you.

Finally, 2004 is the last year of our second "Butterflies for the new Millennium" project, so butterfly mapping is a priority this year, and there are dozens of blank and poorly-recorded areas waiting for a visit. The Branch Annual Report is going to be late this year, so if you would like more information on where to record, please Email me. Wishing you a sunny and butterfly-filled summer - John Murray

**Thurs 1st April -**

**Ponders End garden, 1 Red Admiral** this lunchtime, in poor sunshine - Andrew Middleton  
**Therfield Heath-Fox Covert NR complex** news from **30th March, 2-3 male Brimstone, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 1-2 Comma, 2 Peacock**, also **Therfield Heath NR, 1 male Brimstone** - Guy Manners

To the records already sent in **yesterday** on such a beautiful spring day, I can add from the lane by **Norton Green 10 Brimstone, 1 Comma, 8 Small Tortoiseshell and 6 Peacock** - Alan Reynolds

**March 2004**

**Wed 31st March** - I'm sure you'll get loads of emails after today's glorious weather. For what it's worth, I saw the following in **Ally Pally [Alexandra Palace]** this lunchtime (12-2):- **5 Small Tortoiseshell, 3 Brimstone, 2 Comma, 2 Small White, 1 Peacock**. Good to see so many reports of Small Tortoiseshell. Maybe its troubles of the last few years in the southeast are over - Keir Mottram

Took an hour's walk from **Ware down the river to Amwell Pit and back over Widbury Hill** and saw in total **2 Commas, 3 Peacocks, 2 Brimstones and 23 Small Tortoiseshells** - Andrew Wood

**Be ready for Small White (Norfolk & London, Waterloo) and Orange Tip (Warwickshire) News via UK-Leps - LG**

**Ware garden**, now seen three butterflies this year, a **male Brimstone** flew through the garden and I found a **Comma** nectaring on Grape Hyacinth when putting out the washing. Incidentally, a white towel is now covered in "black bug like things." - Liz Goodyear

**Tues 30th March - Brimstone** male by **Thundridge Hall** news via Tom - he was really pleased to tell me he'd seen a brimstone - Nick Sampford

**Essex, Bedfords Park, (Metropolitan Essex) ~ 2 brimstone, 1 red admiral, 33 small tortoiseshells, 28 peacocks, 22 comma** - Colin Jupp

I have been out and about in Hertfordshire and have also seen my first butterflies of the year today. I saw **two Brimstones** on the outskirts of **arpenden** and **two in Stevenage**. I then saw **two Small Tortoiseshells** in my parent's garden in **tevenage**. I saw **4 Brimstones** as I drove between **Hitchin and Hexton** this afternoon. Over the road from **Hexton** (part of the circular walk) I saw **4 Brimstones, 4 Peacocks, 3 Small Tortoiseshells and 1 Comma** - Steven Penn

Went for a walk west of **Ware** at lunchtime and saw at various different locations a total of **3 Small Tortoiseshells, 1 Peacock, 3 Brimstone and 4 Commas** - Andrew Wood

**Peacock** here this afternoon, at **Berkhamsted**. Also here a **Brimstone** on **Tuesday, 16 March**. Sorry this one is late. Also a **Brimstone** this morning near **Tringsford Reservoir** - Michael Anderson

Brilliant day drove from

Bishops Stortford to Harlow via Allen's Green then Harlow to Ware via Roydon around 12 - 2 and had **Brimstone (7 including 2 female), Comma (4 including 2 together), Small Tortoiseshell (1). Brimstone** also Park Road, **Ware** [Angela's sighting]. Off now to do school run might see a few more - Nick Sampford

**Wormley and Broxbourne Wood**. Counted **ten Comma, four Peacock, one Small Tortoiseshell and one male Brimstone** - first butterflies I've seen on the wing this year! Phil Rhodes

I saw my first butterfly of the season at 1pm today - a washed out **Small Tortoiseshell** in **Finsbury Circus**, central London - Dave Chandler



**Ware garden**, at last I have just seen my first butterfly of the year, **1 Peacock** - Liz Goodyear

**Tues 23rd March** - Here are two pictures from my archives; the first moth (pearl-like wings) came to fluorescent lighting one evening in eastern India. The second is a Blue Pansy I saw one spring morning in NE India. The *Glyphodes bivitalis* was about an inch and a half to two across from wing tip to tip. By the way, I saw my first butterfly of the year today (**22nd March**) in Ireland. I'm in **Waterford** and saw a Small Tortoiseshell fly by - Bob Hasra (*Thanks to the ukmoths email group and Martin Honey for help with identification*)

Some late news, reported to me by a friend **1 Yellow Brimstone and 1 Small Tortoiseshell** flying over gardens of cottages along Chalkdell Path, Lucas Lane, **itchin** - Val Fullforth

**Sun 21st March** - At **Garston** this morning a female **Small White** found on a garden pavement, presumably having emerged from a shed or other warm environment. She is unlikely to survive the weather which is forecast for the coming week - Colin Everett

**Thurs 18th March** - I saw, rather surprisingly given the cloud and breeze, one **Small Tortoiseshell** today flying around flowering blackcurrant in Buryfield Way in **Ware** - Andrew Wood

Few more butterflies from **yesterday**, **Brimstone** at **Sawbridgeworth by train station** and **Brimstone Ware** in Croft Road in Dad's garden. **Thundridge**, Tom saw a **Peacock** on the way to lunch yesterday [he described it as the brown one with big eyes]. Don't look like there be any about today - Nick Sampford

**Wed 17th March** - **Cobbins Brook, Essex, 4, Peacock, Comma, Small Tortoiseshell, Ponders End, White Species (smaller)** - Andrew Middleton

**2 Orange Underwing species** (moth) Williams Wood, **rent Park** - Robert Callf

**Ware (Old Lea Widbury Hill )** I sat by the river for half an hour this morning, and watched a **Small Tortoiseshell** sunning its self. Also three times a **Brimstone** flew past me, not sure if it was three separate butterflies or one on a circuit - Ian Edwards

One **Brimstone** near **Sele Mill, Hertford** @ approx. 09.45hrs. **Small tortoiseshell** outside Herts at the **Bittern watchpoint** this morning - Les Borg

**2 Small Tortoiseshell yesterday(16/3/04)** at Brunel University, **Uxbridge** - Steve Pash

I was passing my local launderette in **Muswell Hill**, North London last night (**16th March**) when I noticed the inmates pointing at something on the door frame inside - it turned out to be a fresh **Lime Hawk-moth** *Mimas tiliae*, months early - Brian Price

**Welwyn Garden City**, 11.00hrs, saw **comma** in garden - Michael Worby

10am, phone call from Nick Sampford to say he had just seen his first **Brimstone** of the year, flying around the **Rush Green Roundabout near Hertford**

Had a **Red Admiral** yesterday (**15/3/04**), in the **Turnford Brook** area - Jez Perkins

**Tues 16th March** - **Peacock** at 12.05 in St James' Churchyard, **Enfield Highway** - Martin Shepherd

It felt like Spring for the first time today, and I saw my first butterfly of the year - a **Red Admiral**, which flew past my office window in **Welwyn Garden City**, just after lunch. It seems rather early for a migrant to have arrived, so I assume it is probably one which managed to overwinter somewhere - Ian Small

Went up to Balls Wood for half an hour at lunch time and saw **5 Brimstones, 6 Commas** and **Peacock**, but no Orange Underwing Moths - Andrew Wood

**London N18 (Edmonton area), 2 Small Tortoiseshells** in the yard this morning - Gavin Vicary

**Ponders End garden**, 1pm, brief sighting of an orange butterfly, possible Comma but not definite - Andrew Middleton

**Mon 15th March** - My cousin was down **Saturday** and had a **Peacock** at **Thundridge** along the river - Nick Sampford

**Wed 3rd March - Yesterday** I saw a **Red admiral** on the western edge of Ladywalk Wood, **Maple Cross**. It was basking in the early afternoon (13.10) sun on the footbridge over the M25. I know this record is close to the county boundary but I think it just falls into Hertfordshire - Steve Pash

**Mon 1st March - are** (Widbury Hill ) **Thursday 26/2/04**. I found a **Peacock** at work, it was on a pallet outside in the frost. I took it into the warmth of my office and gave it some sugar water on a saucer, it fed from this and flew about the office. Its still OK **today** (1.03.04 ) I will release it tomorrow once the frost has cleared - Ian Edwards

## February 2004

**Sun 29th February - Winter Meeting**, a big thank you to everyone for coming despite the forecast of bad weather (which didn't happen). We hope you all enjoyed it, despite the technical hitches and it was nice to see so many new faces! - Liz Goodyear

**Sun 15th February** - While the generally cloudy days may have temporarily dampened hopes for the appearance of further overwintering butterflies, a MV moth-trap operated in a back garden at **arston (Watford)** overnight from the 14th produced a single **Common Quaker**. The first adults of this common spring species typically appear in the 2nd or 3rd week of March (occasionally in late February in advanced years). If the moths are making an earlier start to this year, I suggest the moth-trappers do so as well! - Colin Everett

**Thurs 12th February** - Put the trap out in **Stanmore Country Park**, last night. Two points: had an early **Double-striped Pug** and three Dotted Borders. The last look very much like Scarce Umbers. **About 60 macros in total**. Small and Pale brindled Beauty, March Moth, Spring Usher, one Early Moth, Chestnut and Satellite were the the other species. I'm still sorting out the micros - John Hollingdale

**Wed 11th February - Hitchin**, today at 13.25 a **Red Admiral** flew up against conservatory window, fluttered and then disappeared in garden vegetation. Believe the squirrel who was scurrying around in the beech hedge, may have disturbed it - Val Fullforth

On **Monday (9th Feb)**, Tony Bliss and 9 others in a walking group watched a **Painted Lady** sunning itself on the south side of **Flamstead** church at 1pm that day - news via Charles Baker (Beds & Northants Branch)

**Sun 8th February** - First Butterfly of the year yesterday in **Hyde Park**, Westminster - a **Red Admiral**, fairly pecked - Malcolm Hull

**Sat 7th February** - 11.25, **Painted Lady** at Harold Hill, Essex - Colin Jupp news via Andrew Middleton

We saw a very fresh looking **Red Admiral** at **Fishers Green** today. It was sunning itself on a path - Kevin and Sandra Standbridge

**Fri 6th February** - Must be getting warmer .....**Humming-bird Hawk Moth yesterday** - seen at Crews Hill Nursery (Middlesex - near Whitewebbs Wood) by John Widgery - News via Colin

Plant

**Thurs 5th February - Watford**, I thought I would send this record to you. It was of **Small Tortoiseshell** in my front garden **today**, approx 12:00. It was either in or on a lavender plant when I disturbed it. It flew up, settled on the wall, then moved off - Bob Cripps

**Wed 4th February** - Vicarage Farm, **Trent Park area** 11.15am, **PPeacock** in good condition, fluttered along field-edge and settled briefly - Robert Callf and Robin White  
2 o'clock, just saw a **Small Tortoiseshell** in The Hyde at **Ware** flitting around a sheltered bit of the A10 embankment - Andrew Wood

## **January 2004**

**Fri 23rd January - North Harrow**, I tried the Heath trap in a different part of the garden last night and lo and behold not one but two moths were in it this morning; the Chestnut and Dark Chestnut - John Hollingdale

**Sat 17th January** - Late news from the **11th January** - Diana Furley on a local BNA walk was surprised to see a **Red Admiral** flying in Graffridge Wood, **Knebworth** last **Sunday**

**Mon 12th January** - *(news via John Murray - In view of the weather yesterday, the observation below doesn't surprise me. I expected to see butterflies yesterday too. Did anyone else see anything?) Wheathampstead area*, You might be interested that I saw a butterfly this morning (**11th January**) at the top of Marshall's Heath Lane, where it joins The Slype! I tried, but failed, to get a really close view of it when it landed briefly. From its size and what I could see of its appearance I am sure it was a **Peacock**, though I did not get a clear view of the "eyes" - Peter Wilkinson

**Thurs 1st January - Harrow**, at 7.30 this evening Margaret spotted a **Large White** flying around the kitchen. Is this a record? We think it came from a tray of plants brought to the Ruislip Barn in September by Alan Downie. Under one pot was a pupa and I put it in a flower pot full of compost took it home and forgot it. I've put it in the garage now but I don't think it will survive - John Hollingdale