

Archive Page

Sightings and news from July to December 2005

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This page contains sightings details of all the butterflies and moths reported to the [Sightings page](#) between July and December 2005.

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 2005

Tuesday 20th December

Are these the last butterflies of 2006? Have a great Christmas and best wishes to everyone for 2006

Had a **peacock** in flight near **Baldock** on **11th December**, and one near **Newbury**, Berks on **19th December** - Andrew Middleton

Monday 19th December

Two late red admirals on footpath from **Gosmore to Charlton** (south of Hitchin) on Sunday 11th December 2005 - Stuart Pittman

November 2005

Saturday 19th November

Hatch End, I spotted a small tortoiseshell in the garden this morning in bright sunshine and about 44 F. It was spotted on a flowering Hebe bush at around noon in the garden. This is the latest I can remember seeing any kind of butterfly - John Kreeger

Hemel Hempstead, Red Admiral reported on local allotment this morning although I didn't see it, but when I got home at midday there was one nectaring on Colletia Armata in full sun but with the pond iced-over! - Malcolm Newland

Ware garden, 1 Red Admiral flying around and then basking on the bricks of my neighbour's house at 2pm. My latest garden record for Red Admiral - Liz Goodyear

Friday 18th November

On **Monday 14th November** a Red Admiral was in my garden in **Ruislip** - Steve Pash

Monday 14th November

Epping Forest this morning, one Red Admiral in a sheltered area of woodland - Andrew Middleton

12 November, Government Row, **Enfield Lock**: red admiral south at 13.38 and one north at 14.05 - Martin Shepherd

Sunday 13th November

An off topic congratulations to Robert Callf. Robert was looking for Marsh Tits this morning in Northaw Great Wood, when he realised that he was looking at a Grey-cheeked Thrush. I understand that this is a mega rare vagrant from North American bird and possibly only the third occasion one has been seen away from the coast. Well done Robert, it subsequently caused a huge stir in the birding fraternity with nearly 200 'twitchers' descending on the woods by the end of the afternoon! News via Andrew Middleton and the Herts Birding newsgroup

Today and Saturday, Red Admiral in garden nectaring on Verbena Bonariensis. **N.W.Bishop's Stortford** - Jim Fish

Saturday 12th November

A Red Admiral flying strongly and basking for long periods in warm sunshine along the south edge of Bury Wood near **Felden** (Hemel Hempstead) at lunchtime. Still plenty of other insect activity during the day: Green Shieldbug (now in hibernation colours), unidentified bumble bee, worker Common Wasps in numbers at ivy. Harlequin & Orange Ladybirds were still active beneath Sycamore last weekend at St Albans, though I saw none today - Colin Everett

Kings Langley, at 2.15pm on Saturday 12th November, while I was tidying up the garden for winter, I saw Small Tortoiseshell; it flew up and down the wooden fence and alighted to take in the warm sunshine - David Chandler

Ware garden, 2pm a red admiral seen flying past the kitchen window which is in total shade - Liz Goodyear

Hemel Hempstead, three Red Admirals alternated between nectaring on C.A. and basking in the sunshine on a south-facing brick wall - Malcolm Newland

Friday 11th November

Today at about 1:30 there was a red admiral flying in Manor wood at **Rothamsted**. It flew up from the ground and went straight up above the trees - Andrew Riche

A late sighting of Painted Lady on **2nd November** at **Horsenden Hill**. Rather surprising I thought - David Howdon

Wednesday 9th November

Stanmore Country Park, Red Admiral still around but no sign of any other butts. However a Buzzard paid us a visit and was seen off by the local crows - John Hollingdale

Hemel Hempstead, warm enough in the sunshine for three quite fresh looking Red Admirals and one Comma to be nectaring together on, yes, Colletia Armata and have now extended my latest Comma record by twelve days. Highlight though was seeing a Sparrowhawk at the pond drinking and having a bath - Malcolm Newland

Government Row, **Enfield Lock**, Middlesex: red admiral heading north at 2.20pm in cold sunny weather - Martin Shepherd

Despite the cooler temperatures, the sunshine brought out single Red Admirals in Wengeo Lane and Lower Bourne Gardens in **Ware** and more interestingly a pristine **Small Tortoiseshell** nectaring on dandelion also in Lower Bourne Gardens - Andrew Wood

Wednesday 9th November

Ware garden, a Red Admiral has been in garden most morning, spending awhile nectaring and then flying onto the side of the house, basking there for a few minutes and then back to the buddleia - Liz Goodyear

Thought you might be interested in a couple of pics. Took recently in Kho Samui, Thailand I do not know species. The skipper like one reminded me of our native skippers in behaviour - Tony Clancy (any help with identification appreciated)

Monday 7th November

And still they come.....**Hemel Hempstead garden**, two Red Admirals and a Comma all on Colletia Armata which has now been attracting butterflies since September 25th and is now in full bloom. It's horribly prickly but I wouldn't be without it - Malcolm Newland

Today at **Copped Hall, Essex**, I saw 1 red admiral and 1 comma - Andrew Middleton

London, Cherry Eggleton found a red admiral larva on 8th October, Pupa was found c 12th Oct and it emerged on Sat 5th November

Two red Admirals and more surprisingly a Small White in **Ware** this lunchtime - Andrew Wood

Sunday 6th November

Epping Green near Copy Wood: two red admirals heading south west at 11.15 and 11.27 and a hare seen just inside edge of woodland bank at Copy Wood - Martin Shepherd

Hemel Hempstead, had my latest ever Comma in the garden and saw a Red Admiral on my way to the shops on Friday. Saturday at ten past two in cool and cloudy weather when I was planting some new nectar plants a Red Admiral flew around before settling on *Colletia Armata* where it fed with wings closed for several minutes - Malcolm Newland

Saturday 5th November

Now the butterflies have gone quiet, would visitors like to have a bit of moth news? LG

Ware garden, one Red Admiral nectaring on buddleia but no moths last night!- Liz Goodyear

Hertford garden, 1 Lesser Yellow Underwing last night, but Red Admirals in Hertford and Ware yesterday - Andrew Wood

Friday 4th November

Harrow, one Feathered Thorn was the only moth in the trap this morning. However I saw a Red Admiral, Speckled Wood and Comma at **Stanmore Country Park** today before the clouds rolled in - John Hollingdale

Wednesday 2nd November

Whilst riding my bike between **Brimsdown and Enfield Lock**, I saw a Red Admiral flying around beneath a pylon around noon today, although warm it was very cloudy, but wasn't raining at the time - Andrew Middleton

Tuesday 1st November

Hemel Hempstead garden, I have never seen a Comma in the garden this late in the year until today - Malcolm Newland

Maybe the last Red Admiral for me this year? there was a solitary red ad in the field behind my **Tring** garden this morning - though temp. only 12C - Nick Bowles

Small Copper, single at **Beech Farm** rough Grassland feeding on Dandelion flower- stationary for 10 min in bright sunshine today Tuesday 1-11-05 eventually flew off strongly - Jim Terry

Four Red Admirals in my **Hertford garden** this morning. Three of them in pristine condition, the fourth had a piece missing from the tip of one of its forewings. They were basking in the sun on my grape vine and conifers, and nectaring on the remaining ivy flowers - Richard Bigg

Sunday 30th October

A Red Admiral was at **Beech Farm** early this afternoon - Rupert Pyrah

Ware garden, I was cutting the grass and it was quite dull when a Red Admiral flew through the garden - Liz Goodyear

Saturday 29th October

I saw a single Red Admiral flying rapidly south across a field just north of **St Albans** this afternoon in cool cloudy conditions. I've seen half a dozen Red Ads in the last week, all nectaring/flitting about & this is the first strong flying one for several weeks. I wonder if this is prompted by the change in weather conditions following several warm days? - Malcolm Hull

I saw three red admirals and one speckled wood in **Alexandra Palace park** on **Thursday**. One red admiral landed first on my head and then on my hand ! - Dennis Dell

Thursday 27th October

St. Albans, we had four Red Admirals - good specimens - were feeding on the Buddlia in our garden today - Glen Barnes

Hemel Hempstead, two Red Admirals on *Colletia Armata*, and two Commas on *Aster Frikartii*

Monch and Perennial Wallflower "Bowles Mauve" - Malcolm Newland

Wanstead Flats holly blue, small white & red admiral, then at **Ponders End** looked like a large white, then to **Northaw**, and saw two red admirals fighting it out - Andrew Middleton

Trent Park, 5 Red Admirals in total, 2 basking on rubble at Vicarage Farm, and 3 flying south at various locations. 1 Speckled Wood flying north - Robert Callf

A lunchtime walk around the west side of **Ware** today yielded 1 male Brimstone, 6 Red Admirals, 1 Comma and 1 Large White. The white, comma and a Red Admiral were all sharing the same late flowering buddleia - Andrew Wood

Wednesday 26th October

Tring, still two red admiral in garden today, busy on buddleia and ivy. Seeing them with fieldfares and redwings calling as they pass overhead is a real sign of autumn - Nick Bowles

Tuesday 25th October

I was pleasantly surprised that last weekend's Red Ad count (in my garden - **Tring**) was surpassed (3 this morning Sunday 23rd; 2 last week) but sadly the Comma which was around for at least 13 days was not to be seen. Went out around Tring for bike ride and kept eyes open pm; but cloud and light rain deprived me of further butterflies though I did see a kingfisher - so ample compensation - Nick Bowles

During our HMWT 4 mile circular ramble **Sunday 23 October** in the **Tewin area**, we saw 4 Red Admirals at various sites - Val Fullforth

Beautiful fresh Red Admiral nectaring on Buddleia Weyeriana on my allotment at Folly Lane, **St Albans** on **Saturday** - Malcolm Hull

Friday 21st October

Hemel Hempstead, had two Red Admirals and a Comma in the garden today. Took enclosed photo of Comma resting on Star Jasmine - Malcolm Newland

Thursday 20th October

Holly Blue reported from a garden in **Kennington** lunchtime on Thursday 20 October, only half a mile from the Middx border - Malcolm Hull

Stanmore Country Park, 1 Speckled Wood - John Hollingdale

Today's news from Robert Callf: 1 Red Admiral seen at **Vicarage Farm**, going in a SW direction at 3 pm and one seen in **Enfield Town** by his girlfriend

Tuesday 18th October

London W9 11.00 am 16th October pristine red admiral feeding on ivy flowers on my flat bedroom roof - Cherry Eggleton

Monday 17th October

Just a note to say we had a successful work party, in glorious weather, at **Aldbury Nowers on Sunday**. There were three of us, As for butterflies, the Indian summer allowed us to see: In cmpt.2, where we were working, 1 Small/GV White, 1 (poss 2) Small Copper & 1 tatty Meadow Brown. In cmpt. 3, 1 Brimstone - Mike Pearson

Trent Park news from Robert Callf: **Saturday** 1 Red Admiral, 1 Comma and 1 Small White. On **Sunday** the/a Comma was still present in the same area at Vicarage Farm

Sunday 16th October

I went for a Sunday afternoon walk around **Rickmansworth Aquadome**, and in the pleasantly warm sunshine, was pleased to see a faded but quite active Speckled Wood. There were three darter dragonflies on the river Chess nearby (I'm not sure what type exactly but they were blue/brown sexually dimorphic). David Chandler

News from **15th** - two records of butterfly sightings near **Gutteridge Wood, Hillingdon** which

may be of interest. **1 Clouded Yellow**, and 1 Red Admiral, heading south - Dick Middleton

Stanmore Country Park, saw Speckled Wood and a Holly Blue in the woods before the wind got up. Also Margaret has just said she saw a 'White' in the garden (**Harrow**) today plus a Speckled Wood - John Hollingdale

Saturday, comma at **Westmill**, Red admiral at **Thundridge, Ware and Eastwick** - Nick Sampford

Today in garden **N.W.Bishop's Stortford** (1) Small White (1) Red Admiral (1) Small Tortoiseshell. **Widford to Stanstead Abbots Railway Line** (1) Red Admiral Flying South rapidly (1) Small White (1) Holly Blue. **Saturday 15th Oct**, in garden N.W. Bishop's Stortford (1) Brimstone (M) (1) Small White - Jim Fish

Saturday 15th October - *I am still suffering internet/email problems so am only undating this page at present*

A speckled wood seen at **Hatfield House**, still looked quite fresh. **Sat 8 Oct: Nomansland Common**, near Wheathamstead, several red admirals and a comma. In mid-September near the Dorset coast there was a steady influx of red admirals, one every few minutes - they seem to have dispersed across the country - Roger Gibbons

Hemel Hempstead, first fine day in ages when I haven't seen a Red Admiral so perhaps they have gone south at last. However I had a Comma in the garden on Wallflower "Bowles Mauve" and Michaelmas Daisy, also my latest ever record for a Brimstone - Malcolm Newland

Tuesday 11th October

Red Admiral in **Grosvenor St W1**, close to the junction with New Bond St. It was fluttering around the outside of the buildings at fourth floor level. It made its way slowly along the street, examining the buildings & then disappeared under the eaves - Malcolm Hull

One Large White, **Melbourn** garden, lunchtime today - Guy Manners

Ware garden, 1 Small White, battling against the wind at 4.45 - Liz Goodyear

An excellent hours walk this lunchtime. In **Lower Bourne Gardens, The Hyde and the Cemetery in Ware** revealed 1 each of Speckled Wood, Small Copper, Small Tortoiseshell, Large White and Comma and 3 Red Admirals - Andrew Wood

Monday 10th October

Maple Cross, 1 Green-veined White - Ann Piper

Had a good day today: 3 x large whites **Bishops Stortford, Much Hadham, Thundridge**. Red Admiral: **Bishops Stortford**, Comma: **Thundridge**, Small copper: **Ware**. Angela had a Brimstone & Small copper in **Hertford** - Nick Sampford

Robert Callf's news, today at 3.24 a Painted Lady, **Vicarage Farm**, also 2 Comma and 1 Red Admiral on Michaelmas Daisies at **Trent Park**. Earlier in his road at Oakwood, 1 Comma and a probable Small White. **Sunday 9th, Trent Park area**, 1 Speckled Wood and 1 Comma and on **Saturday** whilst leading a LNHS walk at **Trent Park**, a Speckled Wood.

Today 3.15pm, a Painted Lady at **Berkhamsted** visiting Aster and Dandelion. Not in a hurry to go anywhere - Michael Anderson

King's Langley garden - I was gardening on **Sat October 8th** and saw a Peacock & a Red Admiral when, around 3pm, the sun came out - David Chandler

Saw Small Copper at **Waterford Heath South Pit** nectaring on ragwort on **Sunday 9th** and one Red Admiral basking in sunshine on hop in the **North Pit**, it certainly wasn't going anywhere! Andrew Wood

Saturday 8th October

I've had a reliable report of a **White Admiral in Norfolk on 23rd September**. That's just about

the peak date for the 2nd brood (based on a VERY small sample!) It's the only one I've heard of so far this autumn - anywhere. Any Herts reports or others you know of? - Pat Bonham (Norfolk Branch Recorder)

Friday 7th October

I have today discovered the **Harlequin Ladybird** *Harmonia axyridis* on limes along the A41 at **North Watford**. This is the non-native species about which there has been so much publicity. If it is here at Watford then it is almost certainly elsewhere in Herts. I hope as many of you as possible will search your local districts this weekend and over the next few weeks. An excellent place to start is the leafy growth which emerges from the lower bole of rows of limes growing as street or roadside trees. For identification (which is easy despite the variability of the species) see www.harlequin-survey.org (run by Michael Majerus in Cambridge) or http://www.ladybird-survey.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk/H_axyridis.htm (run by Paul Mabbott, the Recorder for ladybirds in the London Area (which includes south Herts)). The importance of monitoring the increase of this species (which has been spreading through London over the course of the past year) can hardly be overstated - Colin Everett

Peacock Picked up dead in **Melbourn** garden (S Cambs) today - Guy Manners

Tuesday 4th October

During three weekends this autumn and winter, the Dorset Branch of Butterfly Conservation is inviting volunteers to join us for two practical conservation tasks in northwest Dorset staying overnight on the Saturday nights.

Accommodation and supper on the Saturday evenings will be provided at The Green Man Inn at King's Stag. Accommodation will be in tents and caravans parked behind the pub. Meals will be provided - supper (courtesy of Butterfly Conservation Dorset Branch) and breakfast and packed lunch for Sunday. If you can bring a caravan or tent, please let us know. £10 per person will cover everything. If you live locally and plan to attend both days' conservation tasks, we hope you will also join us for the evenings at The Green Man. Lydlinch Common, Deadmoor Common and Alner's Gorse Reserve are notable wildlife sites northwest of Sturminster Newton, areas with a spectacular wealth of wildflowers and rich insect fauna, including several threatened butterfly and moth species. They are relics of a once great expanse of similar habitat on the damp clays of north Dorset, formerly the royal Forests of Gillingham and Blackmore. These sites have suffered from neglect and undergrazing and need substantial scrub clearance to protect the habitats of the target species - Nigel Spring

Sunday 2nd October

Broxbourne Woods Open Day, 4 Speckled Wood and 1 Red Admiral reported and lots of people - various recorders. Also several reports from people that had seen Commas in their gardens for the first time

Saturday 1st October

Non-migrating Red Admirals! **Hemel Hempstead** garden, had four Red Admirals and two Commas at the same time in the garden today. They all seemed to prefer *Colletia Armata*, Michaelmas Daisy, *Rudbeckia*, *Buddleia* and decomposing Mango peel to Ivy flowers which I have in abundance in the hedge. One of the Red Admirals at least has been a regular visitor for well over a week being easily identified by a yellow edge to the rear left hindwing - Malcolm Newland

Monday 26th September

During a couple of hours on **Saturday morning**, whilst doing a little visible migration watching (of birds) at the **London Wetland Centre, Barnes**, we had **18 Red Admiral** fly past heading S.SW. They were all on the same flight line and flying very direct and fast, usually singletons. A few more were seen there on Sunday afternoon - Martin Honey (*originally posted on the uk-leps newsgroup*) The Wetlands Centre is just over the Thames in south London and as Martin also said "given the direction of their flight they would have come from Middlesex".

Still quite a few butterflies around this weekend in my **Brookmans Park** garden. Red Admiral, Comma, GV White and Speckled Wood (plenty of these in **North Mymms Park** on **Saturday**) - Rupert Pyrah

My wife and I saw two Red Admirals at **Rye Meads R S P B** yesterday afternoon just outside the visitor centre - Ian & Sue Hardy

Sunday 25th September

In my garden today **Hatfield** a beautiful fresh m. Brimstone, Red Admiral (we think it roosts in ivy, turning up daily, disturbed by Sparrows), Comma, Large White, 2+ Small White. Much better than yesterday's transect of **Colney Heath** - Small White & Red Admiral in a hurry! **The Warren** slightly better, with **6 fresh Small Copper**, Meadow Brown, Small/GV White & Red Admiral + Comma & Small White off-transect. Last of the season, thank goodness - both sites v. barren after further mowing, but a disappointing year - John Moss

Saturday 24th September

Clouded Yellow in **Bricket Wood** this afternoon. Also out round and about **St Albans today** - Red Admiral, Comma, Speckled Wood, Large White & Small White. The last two in quite good numbers for the time of year, which surprised me as we have had a frost this week - Malcolm Hull

Slow start (especially when large cloud covered sun!) when I arrived at Church Hill (**Therfield Heath NR complex**) at 14:35 today. One dark lep (nymphalid or brown?) flew over hill. Later in sun, good numbers of whites, among which two Small Whites identified. Around 15:35, one fresh-looking **Small Copper**. 'Twas all! - Guy Manners

Thursday 22nd September

Will the White Admiral again be the last butterfly to emerge? This September has been a bit of an "Indian summer" compared with the cool unsettled conditions of September 2004, though not up to the standards of the hot summer of 2003. As you may remember there was a second-brood emergence of White Admirals in the second half of September 2003 in England, the Netherlands and even Denmark that was unprecedented in its scale. In 2004 the only late White Admirals I heard about were several in Woolpit Wood near Stowmarket, Suffolk, in September, two at RSPB Stour Wood, Essex, at the beginning of October, and finally one "in pristine condition" photographed in Dunwich Forest, Suffolk, on the remarkable date of 11 October. May I urge you to visit known White Admiral woods as soon as possible, while this settled weather continues. Many lepidoptera are in a state of change with our changing climate and this is a fascinating indicator species. Of course it's of no advantage to the insects, since they have practically nothing to feed on (no honeysuckle / bramble!) and the low density makes mating highly unlikely, so the population is diminished - Pat Bonham BC Norfolk Branch Recorder (*originally posted on the uk-leps newsgroup*)

Wednesday 21st September

In my **Stevenage garden yesterday** Brimstone, Comma and Small White. Numbers have dropped very quickly over the last two weeks, only single figures each day, but did have 2 fresh looking Red Admirals the other day - Steve Lane

Monday 19th September

Welwyn Garden City, attached is a photo of a **Convolvulus Hawk Moth** which I found dead on the pavement near my home yesterday (Sunday 18th September). Unfortunately it had been squashed either by a bicycle wheel or foot - Tim Hill (Conservation Manager, Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust)

Trent Park field trip report from Saturday. 6 people came along and although sunny, not many butterflies were seen but Robert had his latest ever Meadow Brown sighting, a faded male. Also seen were 1 Small Heath, 2 Small Copper (1 fresh & 1 faded), 6 or so Comma and again about 6 Red Admirals - news from Robert Callf

Saturday 17th September

Two Red Admirals (one fresh, one with tatty hind-wings), **Melbourn Baptist Church** (grounds), today, ca.12:20 BST and a Comma entered and exited my Melbourn (S. Cambs) house at lunchtime - Guy Manners

A couple of sightings to report. On **Friday Sept. 16th**, 2 Red Admirals spotted spiralling in the sunshine in **Maple Cross**. **Today Sept 17th** another Red Admiral in the garden basking on the ground and a pristine Comma seen on hawthorn hedge nearby. Several Large Whites flying but

never landing! The whites (all three common forms) have been really abundant in this area this summer as well as the caterpillars on the rocket in my garden! - Ann Piper

Tuesday 13th September

Hemel Hempstead, had my first Painted Lady of the year on Buddleia "Beijing" which being late flowering has taken over from the fast-fading types. It was in the company of three Red Admirals and they did not co-exist too happily. Also had a Comma on the "Beijing." Will be taking lots of cuttings in the autumn as I regard this relatively new cultivar as a "must" for the butterfly garden - Malcolm Newland

Now back, but around Chicago I saw plenty of Monarchs, a couple of Viceroy's, (of the same monarch family group) an Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, a couple of unidentified whites and the only Painted Lady I've seen this season (anywhere) - Dave Chandler

Thursday 8th September

Hemel Hempstead, in the garden today I saw Speckled Wood, Small Whites, two Commas, four Red Admirals a Small Tortoiseshell and a Humming Bird-Hawk Moth - Malcolm Newland

I had two Red Admirals and three Large whites on Buddleia in my back garden in St Nicholas, **Stevenage** - Ian Hardy

Ware, despite Ice plant's (*sedum spectabile*) reputation as being the second most used garden nectar source, it was only today that I actually saw a butterfly use it! A Small Tortoiseshell - Liz Goodyear

Wednesday 7th September

AM ... on the meadow of **Fir and Pond Woods Nature Reserve** Pair of small coppers....Photo attached. Also seen 2 common blues on meadow and speckled woods in the wood - David Gompertz

Tuesday 6th September

Little Lane, **Melbourn**, S. Cambs, Red Admiral at ca.14:30 - Guy Manners

Monday 5th September

Ponders End, overnight light trap produced a Small Mottled Willow- Andrew Middleton (*note from Colin Plant - "I have no other records for this year. However, I do have records of Jersey Tiger in the London portion of Kent - as genuine immigrants - so it is worth looking out for these sitting on the outside of the trap or on adjacent bushes etc (none of the Kent ones were inside the trap)".*)

Saturday 3rd September

Bricket Wood, a late Purple Hairstreak nectaring - Malcolm Hull

Wanstead Flats (Epping Forest Festival), an early walk around the Flats found Small Heath and Small Copper - Andrew Middleton and Stephen Downie

Very quiet - my count for **Balls Wood** this week was 33% of the previous lowest for this week, if that makes sense - Andrew Wood

Saturday 3rd September

Brown Hairstreak at Whitecross Green Wood, near Arncott, Oxfordshire. 8-10 adults seen, including a mating pair on Oak & a female egg laying on Blackthorn. Also a dozen freshly laid eggs. **This afternoon at Aldbury Nowers**, good numbers of butterflies. In an hour I counted Common Blue 26, Small Heath 20, Brown Argus 16 (including a mating pair), Meadow Brown 51, Brimstone 2, Speckled Wood 2, Large White 1, Small White 3, Green-veined White 3, and Comma 1. No signs of any Skippers or Chalkhill Blues - Malcolm Hull

Wednesday 31st August

Visited **Aldbury Nowers** today and saw one more male Chalkhill B (usual spot near set-a-side field) but no other unusual species. I visited the part where the SSS was seen but no sign of anything much there (the grass seems too long and too coarse for a SSS colony to me; only small areas of suitable turf). Gatekeeper still struggling on but near the end now - Nick Bowles

Ware, a very brief sighting of a Brown Argus which took in three feet of my front garden before flying off down the road - Liz Goodyear

Sunday 28th August

Sightings for **Sunday 28th August. Trent Bridge, Nottingham.** 1 Peacock, 1 Large White, 1 Small White & 11 Defeated Aussies. Brilliant! Sightings for **Monday 29th August**, my **Stevenage garden** 5+ Brimstones, 1 Peacock, 1 Speckled Wood, 1 Meadow Brown, 1 Small Tort and Large & Small Whites - Steve Lane

Out & about round **St Albans** area today, butterfly numbers were low. Species seen - Small copper, small heath, brimstone, Comma Red Admiral, Large, Small & Green-veined Whites, speckled wood, meadow brown. Yesterday, Common Blues on **Uxbridge Common** and small heath at **Bushy Park, Hampton Wick**, (both Middx) - Malcolm Hull

Sunday 28th August

Second brood Brown Argus, Small Heath and Common Blue all very common at **Aldbury Nowers** (and in adjacent areas to the north and the south of the site, where also a few Small Tortoiseshell). Female Brown Argus seen to oviposit on Common Storksbill *Erodium cicutarium*, a distinctive plant for which the map in Dony's Flora of Hertfordshire shows few locations in the west of the county and none in this 10-km square (SP91) - Colin Everett

Saturday 27th August

This will be a good weekend to look out for Brown Hairstreak. The adults have been out for around a month now, mostly located in trees and occasionally nectaring on Angelica. This week females have descended and begun laying on Blackthorn. Look for unkempt hedges/scrub, particularly small plants that have grown from suckers spreading out into the field. The female Brown Hairstreaks usually lay eggs within 1-4 ft of the ground, though can sometimes be seen at rest higher up the bush. The next 2 weeks will be the peak time for egg laying, so well worth searching any suitable Blackthorn. It is also still worth looking in trees & on flowers. (see earlier note). With strong BH populations in adjoining Surrey & Bucks, as well as a recent suspected sighting near Harlow in Essex, I am sure it is only a matter of time until we find the species in Herts or Middx - Malcolm Hull (Brown Hairstreak Species Co-ordinator)

Monday 22nd August

Both Richard Bigg and June Crew have seen 'not right' Chalk-hills. See comments below, to which Andrew Middleton replied "I agree June's is a straight forward female chalkhill, but with the normally telltale margins fairly worn away. Think Richard's likewise chalkhill in so much of its pattern. I think with chalkhills, there can be so many on one site they are renowned for aberrations. My EB Ford has lots of chalkhill aberrations - more so than for other species. It's odd that all the existing dots are well-marked, just some missing, not unlike the recent common blue image of mine on the website. [The Natural History Museum Cockayne Data base](#) of collections is worth checking for something similar. Otherwise, the margins especially, the upperwings and rest of patterns look fairly normal and good for chalkhill. Hope this helps - Andrew Middleton"

Took these two ../photos of a Chalkhill Blue near **Pirton** on **Monday 15th**. All my books, and other photos of this species, show four spots across the base of the hind wing close to the body. This specimen has only two spots. Anyone any ideas - is it a cross with something else? Richard Bigg

We had a very good outing to **Therfield Heath** (Joint field trip with Cheshunt NHS **14th August**). Some good botany and made a list of more than 100 plants. Butterflies emerged soon after noon. It didn't rain until we were nearly back to car park (about 3 o'clock). There were 10 of us - not bad. These photos are of the same individual. I think it is a female chalkhill but someone else thought it was a female common blue. A male chalkhill showed great interest in her.... The same person thought another b/f was a brown argus but I had my doubts about that too. Maybe you could confirm or otherwise the one in the photos, please - June Crew

I was watching a rather battered looking Purple Hairstreak hovering low over the muddy waters of the **infant River Purwell** where it enters a culvert under the East coast Main line yesterday at the point where the river a few yards below where it forms from a confluence of the Ippolilits Brook and the Ashbrook at Ninesprings, Hitchin. Why would a butterfly, normally associated with the tops

of oak trees, suddenly take an interest in brooklime and water cress deep in a dank ditch? There are some oaks, now fairly mature, and growing high on the railway bank above. There seems to be a tendency for hairstreaks to behave untypically towards the end of their lives and turn up in gardens and on camp sites which of course is where we might see them at this time of the year.-- but why do they do it? Nigel Agar

Sunday 21st August When I reviewed the new Upper Thames Branch Atlas earlier this year I was intrigued to see a recent record for Silver Spotted Skipper close to the Herts border. Having liaised with Richard Soulsby, the UTB SSS species champion the location was confirmed as Ivinghoe Beacon, although the 2 records could not be confirmed as accurate, possibly being misidentified Large Skippers. So I set off today to look for SSS at Ivinghoe Beacon & see if I could repeat Nick Bowles sighting of Chalk Hill Blues at Aldbury Nowers. At **Ivinghoe** in one hour I saw 70 Chalk hill Blues, one Essex Skipper and two Small Skippers, but no SSS. At **Aldbury Nowers** I saw **4 Chalk Hill Blues, (2 male & 2 female)**, located in two distinctly separate parts of the reserve. I also saw one very worn looking Small Skipper and one very fresh **Silver Spotted Skipper**. The butterfly I saw was superficially similar to a Large Skipper, about the same size. The upper sides were the same orangy colour, but darker towards the tips. The undersides were marked with bright white spots. It was nectaring on wild basil in an area of short grazed chalk turf with patches of bare soil all around. (The same area in fact where we saw most of the Grizzled & Dingy Skippers on the branch field trip I led in May) I got a good look at it for about 15 seconds & saw both upper & undersides of the wings clearly. I then had a second sighting a few minutes later for another 5 seconds, probably the same individual. I have seen SSS before, but not for some years. I am very familiar with Large Skippers and am certain this was different. The fact it was such a fresh looking individual, the date and location all seem right. I had studied the photos in Tomlinson & Still over lunch & am confident this is a correct identification. Unfortunately the trusty Coolpix has been packed off to Japan for repairs, so no photo available. I see no reason not to publicise the location if other want to look, which was at the foot of the slope in the northern clearing, along the Ridgeway towards Pitstone Hill - Malcolm Hull
For more information on the status of SSS in the Upper Thames Region, read the 2003 Species Champion's report

Saw a **Camberwell Beauty** on **August 5th** in garden in **Digswell, near Welwyn North** train station. Definite sighting, and our first in the UK. Sorry no photos - John Overington

Hemel Hempstead, in the garden today, all the whites, one Gatekeeper, one Peacock continuing the very long flight period which they seem to have had this year, a Red Admiral and late in the afternoon a H B H M which came back three times, finally at 7.40 p.m. when it stayed for quite a while nectaring on purple and white Buddleias. Small Tortoiseshell extremely scarce this year - Malcolm Newland

Saturday 20th August

Aldbury Nowers - as Nick Bowles said, one of the best areas recently was again the edge of the south field - a real sun trap with a wide range of foodplants & nectar sources invading the field; 10+ brown argus, 20+ common blue, gatekeeper, meadow brown, 1 small copper, 1 speckled wood, 2 marsh tits, several bullfinch. **Pitstone Hill** nearby, single m&f chalkhill blue, 1 common redstart - Andrew Middleton & Tony Clancy

Wednesday 17th August

Nick Bowles visited several sites in the Upper Thames area today, looking for his target species **Chalk-hill Blue**, this is part of the email "Then onto **Aldbury Nowers** (just over the border into Herts) here again I saw a definite male and probable female on the Horsey V alongside the 'set aside' field that also supports small amounts of HV. This is another site with annual vagrants and some HV - surely there is scope to increase the amount of HV - preferably out along the edge of the set aside area." *The rest of his news will be on the UTB website*

We did actually see *Apatura ilia* (Lesser Purple Emperor) at last, in the Pyrenees, of the form clytie. Pic attached. Magnificent beast it was, too. A privilege to have been permitted to see it - Roger Gibbons

Managed to get to **Therfield** on the **10th August** - and despite overcast, but warm conditions, saw plenty of Chalk-hill Blues - Clare Gray

Editor's privilege, I am going to bore everyone with my Geranium Bronze photos! It was really interesting to watch them but the species is considered a pest in Europe and if found in this country it needs to be reported. More info

Decided to visit a couple of tetrads in TL41 this afternoon and in particular the **Kettle Green** tetrad. This has to be one of the most difficult tetrads to visit as there is only one road that goes through it and no places to stop bar one which I have used since 1999 to visit the area. To my dismay I found that this point is now the entrance way to a new track and no longer usable. The only alternative was to drive down the adjacent "footpath used as a road" and see whether there was anything flying. Using the driving through method I saw 7 species in about 10 minutes including Small Tortoiseshell. The other tetrad was in **Much Hadham** and I found 9 species by the walking method but that took 50 minutes! I did however, find a Horse Chestnut tree with the leaf mine *Cameraria ohridella* - Liz Goodyear

Friday 12th August

Hemel Hempstead garden ~ A good couple of days with ten species seen. Peacock numbers now drastically reduced from a peak of seventeen on the 6th to just two today. Comma, Gatekeeper, Holly Blue, Meadow Brown, Brimstone, Red Admiral, Large and Small Whites making up the numbers but the two highlights were the second appearance of an even more worn Silver Washed Fritillary which briefly nectared on white Buddleia yesterday, and a fresh male Common Blue which was attracted to Greater Knapweed today - Malcolm Newland

Wednesday 10th August

Welwyn Garden City, during a short walk in Birchall Wood (about 30 minutes) I saw several Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown and Speckled Wood. I also saw my first ever Speckled Wood in my garden this afternoon - Steve Chilton

Tuesday 9th August

Sightings from my **Stevenage** garden, hot and sunny at last. Good numbers of Peacocks, Brimstones, Comma, Small Torts, a small White-letter hairstreak crawling around the lawn, Red Admiral, Large and Essex Skippers, Small and Large Whites, Speckled Wood, Gatekeepers and Meadow Browns ~ Steve Lane

On **Sunday 7th** I went up to the **Icknield Way at Pirton** on the off chance of seeing Chalkhill Blues. Didn't find any but between 10:00 and 12:00 saw Large White (10+), Small White (10+), Gatekeeper (20+), Meadow Brown (5+), Speckled Wood (2), Peacock (3), Brimstone (1, possibly 2), Red Admiral (1), Large Skipper (5+), Small Skipper (3-4), Comma (2) and Common Blue (3-4). Attached is what I think must be a female Common Blue, but I'm not absolutely sure. Also **today (9th August)**, went to **Therfield Heath**, again looking for Chalkhill Blue. Still didn't come across any but did see Common Blue (4-5) and Brown Argus, also attached - Andrew Gaskin

Monday 8th August

Gunpowder Park near Osier Marsh: painted lady on buddleia at 08.15 - Martin Shepherd

I found a **Silver-washed Fritillary** in my garden in **Harrow** and have to report it since it's such an unlikely find. It caught my eye as it fly past. Having seen them before at Bookham Common, I knew what it was just by the jizz, but nonetheless I jumped into action and located it at rest. Superb. Nobody will believe me, I can hardly believe it myself. It almost makes buying a cheap digital camera worthwhile if only to provide proof - Michael Hammond

I attach a photo my husband took of a beautiful moth red underwing image that sat on our living room ceiling for over one hour last Friday 5th August, at **Brookmans Park**- Janet Waters

1 **Hummingbird Hawk-moth** near **Stirling Corner** today - Robert Callf (*news via Andrew Wood*)

Sunday 7th August

Norton Green AM - 15 Peacocks, 1 Female Brimstone. **Hexton PM** - 20 Peacocks, 6 Brimstones (4 Male, 2 Female), **10 Chalkhill Blues**- Steven Penn

At **Bricket Wood** today, Small, Large & Essex Skippers, Large Small & green veined Whites, Brimstone, Peacock, Small Tort, Red Admiral, Comma, Holly Blue, Common Blue, Small Copper, Purple Hairstreak (20), Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown, Speckled Wood.

11 **Brown Hairstreaks** seen yesterday at **Whitecross Green Wood** Oxfordshire including a mating pair. Tips for looking for Brown Hairstreak at this time of year: Females are not yet laying on Blackthorn, but there are two other places to look:

1) In the tree tops - Ash is the preferred species, but they may also be on Oak. Look for Ash trees along the edge/rides of a largish wood. Take care not to confuse with Purple Hairstreaks. They prefer Oak, but are also seen on Ash (both are up there looking for aphid honeydew). The Brown H is an orangy brown colour, The Purple H a dull brown. In flight the Purple H will flash silver & its flight is more erratic.

2) Nectaring, usually fairly close to suitable ash. Flowers it favours are Angelica, Wild Carrot, other Umbellifers, Hemp Agrimony, Bramble. Five of yesterdays BH were seen nectaring (mostly on Angelica). The dry conditions this year have not been particularly good for aphids & BH appear to be coming down to feed on flowers more than usual.

If anyone wants suggestions of places to look for BH, get in touch - Malcolm Hull is the branch Brown Hairstreak Species Co-ordinator

We went to **Bernwood Forest** today in Oxfordshire and saw 7 Brown Hairstreaks ~ Sandra and Kevin Standbridge

Dropped in on **Broxbourne Wood NR** and saw **one tired female Purple Emperor** plus a poor image taken today of a first instar PE larva, which appeared to have hatched by 2nd August (laid 17th July on a nearby leaf). A nectaring white admiral was also seen here today by two other observers - Andrew Middleton

Saturday 6th August

Hexton Chalk Pit - never seen so many butterflies in one place locally must have been well over **1000 Chalk/hill blues** there on the **6th August**. Kicking up dozens every pace you took - Stuart Pittman

A **White-letter Hairstreak** fluttering to the ground by **Kendal Wood** near Radlett, an area with many elms and many colonies of this species. On Friday a female Large White laid 39 eggs singly on the underside of a leaf of Shepherd's Purse at **Garston** (they utilise many wild crucifers as well as wild & cultivated brassicas) - Colin Everett

I had two Red Admirals in my garden in **Stevenage** yesterday **5th of August** - Ian Hardy

Thursday 4th August

You may be interested in a Chalkhill blue and White letter hairstreak (excellent views of underside) at **Aldbury Nowers**. Don't think there is much / any elm or lime around, but I will have a look at the scrub next time - Martin Hicks

We have planted a wide variety of nectar plants to attract insects to our garden in **Hyde Heath, Amersham**. At 2pm today I was looking at the Diptera on our large hemp agrimony bush when a cricket landed. With a beautiful lime green U on the base of the pronotum it is *Metrioptera roeselii* or **Roesel's bush cricket**. As the attached photograph shows, this is clearly a long-winged form (the short wings in the normal form only get half way down the abdomen). Has anyone else encountered this species in our area? Trevor Lawson (*Roesel's is quite common in taller grasslands I've looked at around North London and South Herts - AM*).

Wednesday 3rd August

Just a couple of migrant sightings to tell you about. 1 Painted Lady on a buddleia in Wisden Road, **Stevenage** on Monday 1st August and 2 Red Admirals on a buddleia near the King Pin pub in Stevenage on Wednesday 3rd August - Steven Penn

Tower Hamlets Cemetery ~ An hour's walk at this site today produced - **12+ common blues**, c 4 holly blue, 20+ meadow browns, 1 gatekeeper, 1 red admiral, 1 comma, 10+ speckled woods and numerous small and large whites. More intriguingly was a probable **white-letter hairstreak** seen briefly fly from the canopy of an elm. The cemetery contains some reasonable specimens, a few nearly thirty feet in height - Bob Watts

Hemel Hempstead Changed my mind about going out this morning so was very fortunate to be in the garden when a rather worn **Silver-washed Fritillary** landed on Buddleia "Lochinch." I dashed indoors and grabbed my camera only to find that I was on the last shot of that film. By the

time I had put a new one in, the butterfly was nowhere to be seen. If only I had "gone digital." I had seen one previously on 20th July 1994, that time on bramble and never expected to spot another one. Also had ten common species today including twelve Peacocks at once ~ Cheers, Malcolm Newland

A female **Small Blue** *Cupido minimus* was, to say the least, an unexpected find in **St Albans**!!! When first seen fluttering above the pond in the wildlife garden at the Grebe House headquarters of the Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust, the butterfly was not unlike a small Purple Hairstreak in the contrast of silver and brown. At rest with wings closed, the underwings were similar to Holly Blue but more silver-grey than sky-blue. The upperwings were seen at close range for some time and were an unadorned chocolate-brown with no "jv="+EXjv hint of blue; the abdomen was markedly slender. A male Holly Blue seen ten minutes later looked enormous by comparison. Although I have yet to discuss this directly with the HMWT, this is, as I presume, an inadvertent translocation resulting from the importation of some good chalk downland turf or sub-soil! That this should have produced a second brood is of further interest. Also on site were a female Brimstone and *Pyrausta aurata*. Elsewhere in the district the location near Bricket Wood which held a large second brood of Brown Argus last year is now covered in the densest growth of ragwort I can remember seeing anywhere - Colin Everett

Tuesday 2nd August

Note for 10km sq co-ordinators and interested recorders ~ The weather forecast has at last improved, so if any of you can manage to get out and about, the next couple of weeks would be an ideal time to complete any blank tetrads in your decads that have had no visits this year. With plenty of Browns, whites and skippers still around and blues and Peacocks emerging you should be guaranteed a good total of species. Good hunting, John Murray -

Brimsdown, Enfield ~ continued some tetrad bashing today and came across a tatty large white I thought, but a closer look revealed a **Clouded Yellow helice** form I think, as quite dark edge to upperwings. Otherwise, found a good number of species but small and Essex skipper going over - Andrew Middleton

Sunday 31st July

Robert Callf lead a walk at **Trent Park** for the LNHS on the **30th July**. 18 species were seen, which was the same number as his previous two summer walks. A White letter Hairstreak was seen by Keir Mottram, also 7 Small Coppers, 3 Small Heath and 2 male Oak eggar moths, one was observed for some time. On the **31st** he observed another White letter on Wych Elm at Park Farm which was Robert's latest date

Numerous Chalkhill Blues at **Telegraph Hill this morning**. Also Red Admiral (1) Gatekeepers (many) both Essex and Small Skippers, Large, Small and green veined whites, Meadow brown (few). Six spot Burnets but no sign of DG Frits - Nigel Agar

Saturday 30th July

While I was at **College Lake (Bulbourne, near Tring)** today I noticed on the sightings board a Clouded Yellow has been seen there. No other information I'm afraid and unfortunately just outside Herts I think - Robin Pearson

Friday 29th July

Over the last two days the much improved weather has seen thirteen species visit the **Hemel Hempstead** garden ~ L, S & Green-Veined Whites in good numbers, Gatekeepers, eight Peacocks together mainly on Buddleias, Holly Blues, Two Red Admirals, Meadow Brown, Comma, Brimstone, Speckled Wood, Small Tortoiseshell and my first White Letter Hairstreak since 2001 which spent a long time yesterday nectaring on Buddleia "Pink Perfection". Still waiting for a Painted Lady this year - Malcolm Newland

Had a walk around **Great Ashby Park/Priors Wood** this afternoon, for about 1 hour, lots of activity when the sun came out. Good numbers of most species. 3 Small Coppers, 1 Brimstone, 10+ Peacocks, 20+ Commas, 40+ Brown Argus, 100+ Gatekeepers, 40+ Meadow Browns, 2 Essex Skippers, 10+ Small, 100+ Skippers, 1 Holly Blue, 10+ Common Blues Small and Large Whites - Steve Lane

Thursday 28th July

Stevenage garden - had a bit more time today, when the sun finally came out. Not large numbers of any thing, but a few good ones turned up. White-letter Hairstreak, Brown Argus, Holly Blue, Red Admiral, Peacock, Ringlet, Meadow Brown, Gatekeepers (most numerous), Small & Large White and Speckled Wood - Steve Lane

Tuesday 26th July

I was helping a friend on an allotment in **Barnet** today and saw seven Gatekeepers and one Meadow Brown on a clump of Marjoram with a Small White laying eggs on no prizes for guessing. However the highlight was getting closer to a Purple Hairstreak than I have ever done before, no more than a couple of feet away nectaring on a large Feverfew plant. It was a male and I saw the upper wings clearly as it flitted from flower to flower. There are many mature oaks bordering the site. Sadly I did not have a camera with me - Malcolm Newland

Broxbourne Wood NR - **2 female Purple Emperor** egg laying, one very tatty between 12 and 2. Also at least 2 White Admiral, 1 Large Skipper, Small/Essex Skipper, numerous Purple Hairstreak, Speckled Woods, whites, meadow brown, ringlet, gatekeeper as well as Comma and Peacock. Also a very brief view of an oak egg moth - various recorders

Monday 25th July

Two female Purple Emperors c. 2pm in **Broxbourne Woods** (west carpark site). Numerous (didn't attempt to count) **Chalkhill Blues** at **Therfield Heath**. I didn't walk more than a few yards from carpark so unless it is a particularly productive area, there must be huge numbers on the heath in total - Toby Austin

Saturday 23rd July

Sightings in my **Stevenage garden** for the last week:- Gatekeepers, Small and Large Skippers, Commas, Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell, Ringlets, Meadow Browns, Small and Large Whites, Holly Blue and Hummingbird Hawk Moth - Steve Lane (*photos later*)

Saturday 23rd July

A female was seen egg-laying high within a willow during the recent **Broxbourne Wood NR field-trip**. This image was taken from quite a distance away through a telescope. This egg had just been laid on the midrib of this leaf - Andrew Middleton

Thursday 21st July

Continuation of Mick Velasco's Martin Green carpark sighting on the 16th: I've finally seen a Purple Emperor although not on Danemead but very close. I was at Danemead this morning to meet the family of the lady that enabled the HMWT to purchase Danemead. I had walked to Danemead along the Spital Brook valley & on reaching Ermine Street I went over to the bridge that takes you on to Danemead to look at the butterflies on the brambles by the dried up pond. Among the many Meadow Browns & Ringlets I saw a tatty looking White Admiral. I carried on up to Martin's Green Car Park to meet my visitors. We were also waiting for their cousin to arrive who was driving down from Manchester but she was delayed. I told them I'd seen a White Admiral which they were keen to see so we walked down to the bridge by the dried up pond to see if it was still there. We actually counted 3 White Admirals on the bramble flowers & flying up into the surrounding trees but all had various damage to their wings. After taking a few photographs we walked back up to the car park to see if their cousin had turned up yet, which she had. Whilst she was parking her car I was trying to take a photo of a Gatekeeper I had seen at the edge of the car park when they called out that a good looking White Admiral had just landed on the floor of the car park behind me. I turned around to try & get a good shot with my camera but the angle was not so good. Fortunately it took off & landed quite close to me so I started to take some photos. As I viewed it through the zoom lens I realised that the markings were completely different to the White Admiral I had seen earlier plus it seemed much larger. I told them that it was our lucky day & that I was pretty sure it was a Purple Emperor! As I took some more photos the light caught it at a different angle & I was able to see the purple iridescence- Mick Velasco (Warden HMWT Danemead Reserve)

A walk across **Therfield Heath** this afternoon yielded fairly good numbers of chalkhill Blue numbers with at least 15 sightings, mostly males but also a couple of females. There was an abundance of Gatekeepers with about 50 sightings. Also seen were Large, Small & Green-veined Whites, Meadow Browns, Ringlets, Small & Essex Skippers - Simon Rasch

Wormley Woods NNR - At last....our first visit this year, and it stayed cloudy until early afternoon, which was real pain! For once I was actually looking down and found my first ever grounding outside the Broxbourne Wood NR, a **female Purple Emperor** endeavouring to take moisture from the dry ground just after 3. Unfortunately it flew off. A walk up to the high point to watch the canopy by the pond continued to yield no obvious territory despite some good late afternoon sun. Then back to Derry's Wood and willow alley (the new guided path created through the willows) and immediately Andrew saw two Emperors - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

Wednesday 20th July

News from Saturday 16th - I was walking along at about 4.30pm when a huge black butterfly flew past my face. I watched it for about 30 seconds as it flew around within 10 and 50 feet of me, even at this distance I could see it was a large black butterfly with white bands on its wings. It looked like a White Admiral but much larger, and with a powerful wing beat and soaring flight and I am now convinced I saw a female Purple Emperor. Now here's the weird bit I wasn't in a wood but walking down a road in Datchworth! And it was flying up and down in front of a row of houses, at one point it almost flew into an open window! There are some trees nearby, a couple of large oaks, ash and various others but I could see no willow, although the houses in this area do have large gardens with lots of trees, I even walked down to the nearest wood to have a look about and found willow growing but no sign of Purple Emperor? Might be worth people keeping an eye out in the area (Bramfield, Mardley Heath and Harmergreen Wood)- Lee Browne (*We totally agree - its an area we have felt for a long time had potential, but just hadn't been in the right place at the right time! LG/AM*)

On **Monday 18th** on the main path at **Broxbourne woods NR** beyond the dip I saw a fritillary nectaring on a patch of thistles. It was in rather tatty condition and difficult to ID. I tried to get a photograph but was unable before it flew off. I waited for 10 mins. or so but it did not come back. This was about 11.15am. Some time later walking back again another couple had just seen one in the same place (I assume the same one). They were asking what it might have been. I guess the most likely is the Silver Washed. If so it was not a male. I waited for some time but it did not reappear - Richard Bigg

Tuesday 19th July

Robert Callf has asked if we could publish a Butterfly (and bird watching walk) that he is conducting on 30th July at Trent Park - full details on the

Good view of a **male PE** this afternoon at **Broxbourne Woods** . It was flying over the main ride a few yards from the west car park and settled on the trunk of a fairly young oak tree. It walked about on the bark just below the canopy but was chased off by a couple of hornets. It circled and returned to the same point. Either it was near a hole occupied by hornets or there may have been a lesion on the bark with a leak of sap that attracted both the hornets and the Purple Emperor - Nigel Agar

Monday 18th July

11.45 **Broxborne N.R** near carpark **female P.E** gliding around ride for 15 mins - Brian Dawton

Broxborne N.R., today, a couple of us had at least 2 sightings of **Purple Emperor** - one at 10.15am - the person with me (Les who is warden of wood at Stevenage) thought it was a female but it was going like a train and the other sighting was at 11.40am of a female that landed on oak next to the willow where female was laying eggs yesterday - June Crew

A Marbled White on my transect walk in Southern Country Park, **Bishop's Stortford** on **10th July** - Bob Clift

Sherrardspark Wood, I had white admiral in the garden on and off over the weekend. Indeed, on **Sunday 17th** there were at least 2 individuals - one was a bit tatty with a bit of its hind wing (if that's the correct technical phrase!) missing and the other looked quite fresh - David James

This is bizarre , I've been talking to BC members about White Letter Hairstreaks and then lo & behold I go and see one for myself. The strange thing is that the one I saw was on a yellow tea rose in my mother's back garden on **Saturday July 16th (Kings Langley)** I could not believe my eyes; the nearest Elm is in a hedgerow a field & a half away (300 meters). It used to be a proper

English Elm when I was a child but since Dutch elm disease has just been a thicket of suckers - Dave Chandler

News from 16th, One male **Purple Emperor** after only about ten minutes of looking (c. 12:45 on Saturday) at the usual place - footpath down to bench in **Broxbourne woods** - Toby Austin

News from the 16th, Mick Velasco, warden of HMWT Danemead Reserve took a photo of a **Purple Emperor** in **Martin's Green carpark**!

17th July, Bramfield Woods, I recorded butterfly numbers from 11.30-1.30pm whilst on the move. 20+ Small/Essex Skipper, 2 Large Skipper, 6 Purple Hairstreak (all on one tree), 8 White Letter Hairstreak (one colony from one master tree and all feeding on the same bramble bush), 20+ Gatekeeper, 40+ Meadow Brown, 15 Ringlet, 10 Speckled Wood, 10 Green-veined White, 20+ Small White, 20+ Large White, 20+ Comma, 2 Peacock, 2 Red Admiral, 7 White Admiral - Lee Browne

News from Robert Callf, on the **14th** he saw a Marbled White at **Arkley**. **Saturday 16th, Trent Park** - 2 Peacock, 2 male Oak Eggar, **Sunday 17th**, 1 Marbled White (only second record on transect) 2 Oak Eggar. **Monday 18th, 6 Small Copper**

Sunday 17th July

Broxbourne Wood NR field trip report. What a difference a week makes! Today was fantastic, 9.50 we had our first sighting of a probable male **Purple Emperor** circling around, then 10.45 a female was seen honey dew feeding. 11.15 we had a grounded female near the dip taking moisture and dead on cue just before 12, a female was seen egg-laying. The egg was visible through a scope. From then on there were several other reports of females and a further grounding at 14.05. However, the highlight of the day started to unfold around 14.15 when a member from Suffolk saw a female at a sap run in an oak tree near the carpark. It was then confirmed that were two together. Barry from Beds & Northants has a photo of the synchronised wings of two females side by side. We thought this was good then at 15.15 three females were confirmed in the tree. Then finally **four** when a very tatty (possibly male) individual joined in the fun. Left just before 5 o'clock - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton and many more very contented people including the 16 participants of the CMS Butterfly Walk who joined us for part of the morning

Tring Park: this morning between 11:00 and 12:00: saw no PEs or SWFs. However, just past 12:00 on the steep path from the monument back up to the gate, one female **Purple Emperor** on the ground, then disturbed her again at the top, by the gate - Colin Sturges

100+ Chalkhill Blues at **Hexton Chalk Pits** this afternoon. Small Tortoiseshell at **Old Hale Way allotment site, north Hitchin** - Nigel Agar

Over the last few days I have seen what would appear to be almost an overlap between 2004 and 2005 species. On Monday 11th I saw a tatty Brimstone in Broxbourne Woods. clearly a 2004 one, and then this morning in the garden in Bengoe a fresh one. Even closer was a tatty Peacock in Ware Park Quarry on Thursday 14th, again a 2004 one and what would appear to be a very early 2005 one, by its condition, in Balls Wood yesterday the 16th. These dates seem rather early but I guess the recent hot weather could have forced a few early emergences. Still good numbers of **White Admiral in Balls Wood**, though my impression is that the Ringlets while common are down on last year while the Small/Essex Skippers seem to be doing well as are all the Whites. Also saw one Purple Hairstreak flying very low and resting in long grass for a good length of the entrance ride. Last week many skippers were mud puddling there but its all completely dry there now (a very rare event!)

Saturday 16th July Brent Reservoir Transect, 16 July: Small Skipper 12, Large White 11, Small White 5, G-V White 7, Purple Hairstreak 11, Holly Blue 2, Peacock 1, Comma 2, Speckled Wood 8, Meadow Brown 62, Marbled White 3 and a staggering **246 Gatekeepers** today, surpassing the previous record by over 100! - Andrew Self

Had **4 Purple Emperor** sightings at ride **Broxbourne Woods** today. A male was on ground near car park for about 5 mins - Tony Clancy

Visited the historic PE areas around **St. Paul's Walden** today, but didn't encounter anything

'special'. Sallow is still present so it shouldn't be assumed that they are no longer present in the area. However, what was amazing was the sheer number of Gatekeeper along the hedgerows and brambles especially late afternoon - hundreds literally if not thousands, they were impossible to count - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

Hexton - 16 July am 20+ Ringlets, 15+ Gatekeepers, 15+ Meadow Browns, 15+ Small/Green Veined Whites, 15+ Small/Essex Skippers, 10+ Large Whites, 10+ Marbled Whites, **10+ Chalkhill Blues**, 4 Small Tortoiseshells, 2 Commas, 1 Red Admiral and 1 Silver Y Moth - Steven Penn

It has been quite an interesting few days in my neck of the woods. **9-10th July - Ruislip Woods**, the White Admirals were out in numbers (13+25 over the 2 days), which were evident in all 4 woods. There was the usual high numbers of Purple Hairstreaks but more Commas than usual.

12th July. Two roads from my **South Ruislip** home I pass a Marbled White, but assume mistaken identity as I have never seen one here in the 35 years. 30 minutes later I am taking a picture of a Marbled White in my garden!. Last year I had my first sighting of a Common Blue in my garden. I am wondering what next years newcomer will be? I counted 25+ Marbled Whites in a meadow near High Wycombe where I have never seen a single specimen so I wonder if 2005 is going to be the year of the Marbled White - Nicholas Furtek

Friday 15th July

At the usual spot by the seat in **Broxbourne Wood NR**, a **female Purple Emperor** appeared from over the canopy and settled on a fir tree 15 - 20 ft up. It remained for 30 secs. or so wings spread sunning itself, before disappearing over the trees again. Time was 3.15 pm - Richard Bigg

Just spent a couple of hours in **Tring Park**. At about 5:00 I got a glimpse (no more than 1/2 a second) of something black with a thick diagonal white mark flying into the tree next to me about 10 feet off the ground. Spent the next 45 minutes there but without luck (and starting to doubt it!). Moved on to a clearing and low and behold there she was again (**Purple Emperor**): moving lazily and perching on the lime tree leaves no more than 15 feet off the ground. Had her in the binoculars for about 15 seconds and no sign of any purple. That was about 6:00 and though I spent another 45 minutes there, I didn't see her any more - Colin Sturges

Brian Jessop rang to say he had walked his **Tring Park** transect today and seen **2 Purple Emperors** flying low near him, at around 3 o'clock. Only one could be confirmed as male. He hasn't seen the Silver-washed Frit yet.

Just had a call from my wife that she and our gardener (Giles Whalley - a keen butterfly watcher) have just had very good views of white admiral in our garden backing onto **Sherrardswood**, Welwyn Garden City. We have seen at least 1 in 2 previous summers so it seems there must be a regular colony not too far away. I'm unfortunately stuck at work in London today but will be keeping a close eye on the garden over the weekend! - David James

I've had painted lady twice in the last 2 days once in **Ware High Street** outside 'peacocks' and again today at **Puckeridge** - Nick Sampford (*Nick has just returned from up north with pictures [up later this weekend] of mountain ringlet, large heath, scotch argus, northern brown argus and high brown fritillary*)

Trent Park Transect today, **247 Small Skipper**, 6 Essex Skipper, 3 Large Skipper, 1 fresh Small Copper, 3 Comma, 161 Meadow Brown, 115 Gatekeeper, 7 Ringlet, and 9 Small Heath - Robert Callf

Northaw Great Wood, 13th July - 8 White Admiral - Diane and Richard Andrews

Silver-washed Frit at **Ashridge** on **Thursday** . In the Bucks section though - Don Otter

News from **12th July**. A 40 minute evening walk at the **Wheathampstead LNR** revealed 11 species; Marbled White 19, Small White 4, Gatekeeper 26, Comma 2, Meadow Brown 21, Small Skipper 21, **Painted Lady 1**, Small Copper 1, Large White 1, Small Tortoiseshell 2. What I really went to look for were Purple Hairstreaks but was rewarded with two White-letter Hairstreaks nectaring at ground level in quite different locations. One was feeding on Cow Parsley and the other on Lady's Bedstraw which I thought was un-usual. Photos attached. I haven't located any Elms yet but I'm delighted that a colony of WLH exist on this new reserve. **4th July. Hertford**

Heath. A Purple Hairstreak was accidentally swept into a net during a HNHS entomology field trip. Photo attached - Trevor Chapman

Thursday 14th July

Knebworth Woods, 1 White Admiral in a clearing - Peter Clarke

Hemel Hempstead, garden has picked up considerably. Large Skipper on Verbena Rigida Tuesday, fresh male Brimstone yesterday and eight species today, L, S and G.V. Whites in good numbers particularly Small Whites, Meadow Browns, Comma, several Holly Blues, Gatekeepers, and a single Small Skipper on Lavender. Saw my second pair of mating G.V. Whites today, photo courtesy of my son David - Malcolm Newland

Wednesday 13th July

White Admiral, this evening near **Gobions Wood,** - my first sighting of the species near Brookmans Park. Also what I believe might have been Hairstreaks about 25 feet above my garden, flying around a lombardy poplar - God knows how you can tell them apart at that distance! - Rupert Pyrah

Broxbourne Woods Goose Green End - we went back this morning arrived at car park 9.05, stayed until 10.15 whilst no definite sightings, a possible at the very end of the track at the top near oaks. We then went to **Broxbourne Wood NR** arrived at 10.35, **male Purple Emperor** went onto ground at 11.01 stayed 30secs, left at 1.00pm - Kevin and Sandra Standbridge

Recent news from Robert Callf - in the **Whitewebbs area,** 17 Comma, **2 Oak Eggar moths** at **Hillyfields and Park Farm,** also a new colony of White letter Hairstreak at Park Farm. 20 Purple Hairstreak in **Trent Park. Oaklands/Grovelands** area 3 Essex Skipper and lots of Small Skipper plus 1 Small Heath at Parklands. **1 Painted Lady** at **Hoghill.** This weeks transect news included 133 Small Skipper, 140 Meadow Brown, 18 Small Heath, 21 Gatekeeper, 6 Ringlet and 1 White letter

Tuesday 12th July

Sandra and I parked at **Goose Green** today, arrived 10.15 and walked towards Broxbourne Woods, We had 4 sightings of **Purple Emperor,** the first at 10.35 flying around us and then went up high, it was a quarter of the way down the path. The second was at 11.15 when one landed half way down, took picture but not close to it and it flew up straight away. The third was at 11.35 was at the top of the hill before dip flying high. Last sighting was on our way back near where the second sighting, again flying high. We then went to **Broxbourne Woods car park** and was there about 45 mins, saw female land about 50 yards from seat at about 1.30. We decided to go back about 4.30, whilst we did not see any Emperors, we did find a dead male, it was near the end of the path half way up the last hill, very mangled, appears to be being used by motorcycles which is a shame. Also saw White Letter Hairstreak in Goose Green car park on our return - Kevin and Sandra Standbridge

Steve Lane and I saw **5 Heath Fritillaries** today in **Essex** - Ian Hardy

Broxbourne Woods NR White Admirals, Purple Hairstreak at Brox Wood today. Also PEs but I kept missing them. Also Emperor dragonflies - Nigel Agar

I managed to get up to **Tring Park** by mid afternoon in search of more butterflies yesterday today. I skirted around the main path and the clearings with the willows and brambles several times without any luck but at 5pm I hit the jackpot. I was walking along the main path of the woodland when I decided to double back into an area of lime trees opposite the path that runs into a clearing. I could see from a distance that a large butterfly was flying just off the ground and on closer inspection I saw a beautiful **FEMALE PURPLE EMPEROR** (no purple coloration) feeding off salts from the ground. It settled there for only about 30 seconds before flying off into the wood but I savoured every moment. This was my first sighting of this butterfly here since 2003 and it was in exactly the same spot as I had seen a female Purple Emperor in 2002. I really believe you have to be in the right place at the right time to spot this very elusive species but it was a very thrilling and special experience to see this butterfly again. I looked around the same area for another hour but made no further sightings - Phil Woodward

Aldbury Nowers, fresh **Dark Green Fritillary** at AN **yesterday** - that's two years on the trot. At

least I saw it this year! Lots of skippers - caught a few (Mostly Small but one Essex) but takes a long time, transect nearly two hours. Some Ringlets also look very similar to some Meadow Browns. Otherwise numbers now increasing to last years level - Martin Hicks

Fir & Ponds Wood HMWT Reserve, yesterday **Purple Emperor** were confirmed as present on the site, by looking for territorial activity. A male was seen along the north edge of Pond Wood and not as we would have thought the higher point on Fir Wood. Other species seen were Common Blue, Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper, Ringlet, Speckled Wood, Purple Hairstreak, Red Admiral, Comma, Green veined White, Large White, Small/Essex Skipper - Andrew Middleton, Liz Goodyear with David Gompertz (Reserve Warden)

Monday 11th July

Tim Freed phoned me tonight to say that he had seen a White Letter Hairstreak in the canopy of Narrow-Leaved Elm in a road near **Holland Park, London. Hemel Hempstead**, another Hummer this time on honeysuckle in my garden today along with Large White, Gatekeeper and Speckled Wood but things still on the slow side - Malcolm Newland

Dropped in at **Hexton Chalk Pit** this evening at about 6pm. Saw about **12 Chalkhill Blues**, all male. At least two appeared to be crippled, perhaps as a result of the low rainfall earlier this year. Other species were ringlet, meadow brown, small heath, gatekeeper, red admiral, six-spot burnet and shaded broad-bar moth. Ian

Knebworth Woods, whilst searching the complex, between 10:30 and 12:45 I saw 8 Purple Hairstreaks and 17 Marbled Whites - Peter Clarke

Sunday 10th July

On a visit to **Tring Park** this morning I saw numerous butterflies but was particularly pleased to see a female **Silver Washed Fritillary** gliding down one of the paths that leads up to the wood at about 10-45 and then saw a male perched on a lime tree branch near some brambles at about midday. Unfortunately no sign of the Purple Emperor - Phil Woodward

St Nick's church yard, 11-11.30am. 4 Large White, 2 Small White, 3 Meadow Brown, 1 Large Skipper, 1 Gatekeeper, 1 Red Admiral, 1 Privet Hawkmoth. **Field behind St Nick's church**, 11.45-12.30pm. 5 Small White, 5 Large White, 40+ Meadow Brown, 2 Comma, 7 Ringlet, 15 Small Skipper, 2 Large Skipper, 8 Gatekeeper, 3 Red Admiral, 5 Small Tortoiseshell, 10 Marbled White, 2 Cinnabar Moth, 20 Peacock Larvae - Lee Browne

Stanmore Country Park Field trip, went reasonably well in the morning. We have quite a good population of Purple Hairstreak. Also one or two Marbled White - this is unique for the Country Park. I have only seen the odd specimen before. We tried the pheromones but drew a blank. May have been too late in the day. The evening event got about 30 macros species and some micros which I have yet to look at having been busy all day - John Hollingdale

Bricket Wood field trip species list - Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper, Holly Blue, Green-veined White, Marbled White, Small Skipper, Essex Skipper, Large Skipper, Brimstone (male and female), Speckled Wood, Purple Hairstreak, White Admiral, Large White, Ringlet, Comma, Red Admiral, Large Yellow Underwing, Narrow-bordered 5 spot Burnet and the highlight just at the end a **Silver Washed Fritillary!!!** - Malcolm Hull

Small Tortoiseshell and Gatekeeper at Old Hale Way Allotment site, **Hitchin** and 2 Small Tortoiseshell on buddliea and lavender garden Oakfield estate **Hitchin** - Nigel Agar

In a private mature wood in **south Herts**, I watched a **female Silver-washed Fritillary** spend several minutes on and near the ground in a small sunny area along a path. Once she had moved off I found that the spot contained a number of violets. This is the typical behaviour of a female looking for a place suitable for egg-laying (eggs are laid in bark crevices on tree trunks near violet clumps) - Colin Everett

Just wanted to let you know that the White Admirals were out in force today at **Park Wood, Ruislip** . I counted at least 25 - sometimes four or five at a go! Not bad going considering I saw my first one yesterday - Susie

Broxbourne area today, reports of at least **Purple Emperor** on the ride at the Broxbourne Wood

NR but not a lot to report. **Broxbourne Common** produced one male perched around 1 o'clock seen by Helen Bantock and later one by Andrew Middleton (5 flights late afternoon). However, the territory that can be viewed from the road verge just out of Brickendon near the Golf course entrance on **Pembridge Lane**, was active and just as we were leaving a rather floppy Purple Emperor came through the territory and flew out towards us on the road verge circled and then went off down to we presume the willows on the Reserve. Our feeling is that this was a mated female. Seen by Liz Goodyear, Andrew Middleton, Tony Clancy and Brian Dawton

Following on from a most successful moth day and night I went out today around **Maple Cross** and am pleased to report there seems to be a small colony of active Marbled Whites! I have seen a number over the last week. Also evidence of plenty of small tortoiseshells. Also seen were small and large skippers, several small whites and large whites a couple of commas, meadow browns, a peacock and a gatekeeper. It seems as if July is going to be kind to south-west Herts unlike May and June! Ann Piper

At least two **White-letter Hairstreaks** in **Perivale Wood** today (Sunday 10th) after a long struggle. The elms they are using are only viewable from the shaded side and coupled with the presence of several Purple Hairstreak and the warm conditions, it was difficult to secure a firm ID. Still, nice to confirm that they continue at this site, albeit in small numbers. This is the first time I've seen them here this year despite 3 deliberate forays. Also in PW today, **2 second generation Holly Blues**. Yesterday, 15-20 Purple Hairstreaks around one oak on the western edge of PW in the evening. Also yesterday, on the **Horsenden West transect**, 1 White-letter Hairstreak plus another one 'off-transect' on Horsenden East - Andy Culshaw

Saturday 9th July

Bricket Wood - field trip tomorrow, and as a taster, late news from Malcolm Hull - he saw a **Silver Washed Fritillary** today!

Field trip news at **Broxbourne Wood NR**. Arrived just after 9 and cloudy, remained cloudy to around 1 o'clock. Despite some serious sun, no Purple Emperor were seen until 4.15 when a very brief sighting was made after most people had gone home! The territory at Broxbourne Common also produced only one flight - rather disappointing for the 30 odd people who came along. White Admiral were present, also Purple Hairstreak. Archie Lang whilst walking around the edge of the reserve, it pretty sure he saw a Silver Washed Frit. - Liz Goodyear

Wandering around the field to **SW of Brookmans Park station** there were a lot of butterflies. Must have been well over 100+ Meadow Browns & Gatekeepers (ratio about 3 or 4:1). Also several red Admirals, Large Whites, Skippers (Small or Essex) feeding on clover, a few Ringlets, and 1 Small Tort, and 1 Comma. However I've seen very few Small Whites this year - has anyone else noticed this? Also on **Thursday** my first Marbled Whites of the summer - 2 or 3 in the **Potwells area** - Rupert Pyrah

Friday 8th July

Exciting news from Tyttenhanger Gravel Pits, a favourite spot for bird watchers - Last **Sunday 3rd July** at around 9.00 o'clock while standing at Nettle Hill, Ricky Flesher spotted a large dark butterfly with white markings on the ash tree directly behind the usual watching spot. The butterfly gave good views and after taking notes and consulting books and the web, we came to the conclusion that it was a **Purple Emperor**. David Booth later saw the same (?) butterfly probably a female - at the same spot - Pete Christian (*Pete contacted AM/LG almost immediately and landowners/land managers have been informed - it is stressed that everybody should keep to the public thoroughfares and access points if specifically looking for these insects and not trespass. If you are visiting Tyttenhanger please keep a very watchful look out and in particular for females around the numerous willows between 12 and 2*)

Thursday 7th July

Broxbourne Common this afternoon, despite cool and breezy conditions, a least one male **Purple Emperor** spent the afternoon on territory including one chase/clash. 4 White Admirals, Commas, a Red Admiral, Ringlet, Speckled Wood and many Purple Hairstreak. At one point a Ringlet and a Purple Hairstreak were seen nectaring on Sweet Chestnut side by side - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

Before I forget the trip to Ryewater on 2nd July was a great success and although the sun never

shone, everyone had a very enjoyable day and our host and his helpers were fantastic. I do have a species list for both Ryewater and the trip on Sunday to Martin Down/Vernditch Chase which I will post on a separate page with some pictures when I have the permission of the owner to do so. If you have any photos please let me have them so I can add them to mine (also for the newsletter). It might take a while before they are up though - Liz

Wednesday 6th July

Thank you to Andrew for stepping in at such short notice to man the website whilst the Goodyear internet went down. Word of advice - if there is a thunderstorm don't wait for the storm to get closer, turn off immediately and not after the house about 100feet from you is struck! If you are waiting for a reply to an email please be patient, I have a large backlog to read and photos will take a bit of time - thanks Liz

Just a reminder that the next four or five weeks include peak times for most butterfly species, so from now onwards is the time to visit priority tetrads in your decad. Try and encourage everyone to use the standard recording forms. Best of luck, John Murray

Whilst spending a few days in Ferring, West Sussex with Tim Freed who had his moth trap out last week in his garden. In a very impressive mixed catch there were no less than a staggering 63 Elephant Hawk-moths and a solitary Privet Hawk-moth - Malcolm Newland

I was interested to see the abundance of White Admiral sightings reported. I have just returned from a 3-week holiday in France and in a wood just south of Saumur in the Loire region there were scores of them. I counted over a dozen in the first ten minutes then gave up. Must be a bumper year for them. - Richard Bigg

We went to **Broxbourne Woods** today and had 2 sightings of a **Purple Emperor** one at 1.45 and one at 2.15 when the sun came out. They were high up in the trees not far from the seat, Sandra had her 400 mm lense so took a couple of not very clear shots - Sandra and Kevin Standbridge

Purple Emperor, also flying at one private site in **south Herts** today around the same time - Liz Goodyear & A Middleton (Field trip Brox NR on Sat 9th will hopefully include a late afternoon visit to an assembly area elsewhere in the complex)

Red Admiral on the path behind the **Oakfield estate in Hitchin** on **3 July**, and Marbled White, Large Skipper, Meadow Brown, sm/GV White and Ringlet on **Gravel Hill, Hexton-Lilley road**. This is a very diverse road verge. **5 July** - Nigel Agar

Tuesday 5th July

21 purple hairstreaks around sweet chestnut at **Trent Park** this am, and **two gatekeepers** here last **Saturday** - Robert Callf

Of interest ~ A Large Tortoiseshell was reported on at Dungeness trapping area for the 2nd day (Monday) and put out today (Tuesday), does not say if its still about - Steve Lane

Sunday 3rd July

Spotted a **Painted Lady** (image) at the Shackledell grassland in **Fairlands Valley Park, Stevenage** (part of my transect) at about 2:45 pm yesterday (**2 July**) - Peter Clarke

I too saw a first Gatekeeper at **Weston Hills, Baldock**, on **Sat. 2nd July**. Lots of Small Skippers (no Essex yet), Ringlets, and a few Marbled Whites - Ian Small

Broxbourne Wood NR 11.20-13.15hrs, **male Purple Emperor** briefly on dog's muck then swallow at 12.00 for Alex Lewis & Giles Whalley, then a male flying around Andrew Middleton at 12.25, then a male spotted by Alex (not Liz!) alighted on top of large oak around 13.15, several white admirals ~ also seen by Kevin Qu

Tetrad bashing in TQ38 & 39 - Keir Mottram recently recorded gatekeeper in TQ3088 and **100+ Purple Hairstreaks** at **Alexandra Park**, and I kept seeing **Essex skippers** this am in **Edmonton** plus several gatekeepers. I also recorded 30+ purple hairstreaks this evening in each of the 2 tetrads spanned by **Hilly Fields, N Enfield** - Andrew Middleton

Saturday 2nd July

One **gatekeeper** disturbed in the back garden at **Bengeo** today 2nd July - Andrew Wood

White-letter hairstreak at **Borehamwood** on the **23rd June 2005** 10am in my own garden 10ft up on top of Rose pergola I spotted a small triangular shaped closed wing butterfly. I was able to focus and could see that it was not the usual speckled wood, clearly in view I could see the diagnostic underwing markings with the small orange patch, it was happy to stay in situ for some time and when it did fly it did a small circuit and then returned to almost the same leaf, it did this once more and then flew off. It returned again about 5 min later and stayed for c. 10 min and then disappeared. The morning was of full sun with high temps. I caught a possible view the next day in neighbour's garden but could not be certain - Jim Terry

Friday 1st July

Sightings for **1st July at Broxbourne Wood**, between 11.30 and 1.30 - **1 Purple Emperor** (very brief fly past near to bench), **15+ White Admirals (image)**, 1 Red Admiral, Large Whites, Ringlets, Meadow Browns, Large and Small Skippers and Speckled Woods - Steve Lane and Ian Hardy

Archive Page

Sightings and news from January to June 2005

 [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 2005.

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 2005

1 Marbled White seen on **Sunday 26th June**, at **Dane End, Stevenage** - David Anderson

Wednesday 29th June

Marbled Whites out along the west end of the **Barton Hills near Ravensburgh** - in Beds but very close to Herts - and at **Hexton Chalk Pits**, also Ringlet, Meadow Brown and Small Heath. Small Tortoiseshell at Barton Hills. **Dark Green Frits** reported on the **Pegsdon Hills** - Nigel Agar

Brian Jessop at **Tring Park** had two **Purple Emperor** sightings on Monday around 1 o'clock

Broxbourne Woods NR - Just after 1 as the sun came out, a **male Purple Emperor** was seen flying above the willows, perched three times and then not seen again. The White Admiral in Broxbourne Woods were amazing, and its hard to say how many there were including 1 in **Danemead** later. Must have exceeded 10 and 3 in sight at one time - including one massive brute, it was huge! Also looked at Broxbourne Common for territorial activity but just got very wet instead. There were no sightings. - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

I went to **Broxbourne Woods** this morning. Ringlets very active and a few Meadow Browns and Skippers although a very cloudy morning. However there was a very big butterfly flying high above willows and reeds just inside the wood from the car park on the left of the ride - Nigel Agar

Tuesday 28th June

South Herts, had my first **Purple Emperor** sighting of the year today, watching with Andrew Middleton. Only one male seen and only after watching several oak trees for over 4 hours! We call it patience, others might call it something else - Liz Goodyear

I went with a friend to **Ruislip Woods** today. Got to Ruislip Lido about 2.30 and it was was hot - perhaps 27C - with a bit of a breeze but the rides had plenty of dappled sunshine filtering through the trees. We saw 5 speckled woods, a single green veined white, a very pale brimstone (female I assume), 3 meadow browns, **my first gatekeeper** of the year, but most importantly 8 white admirals at least!!! A jogger who passed us said he'd counted a couple of dozen!! It was a super visit and made up for the poor spring I've had so far!! - Ann Piper

Brent Reservoir - after a poor and disappointing Spring things are improving. During yesterday's transect I had 16 Small Skipper, 9 Large Skipper, 3 Large White, 2 Small White, 2 G-V White, 1 Common Blue, 1 Holly Blue, 2 Comma, 2 Speckled Wood, 54 Meadow Brown, and finally 3 Marbled White (the first of the year) - Roy Beddard

Belated notification of first 2005 sightings for **Bunkers Park**: Thursday 23 June Small

Skipper - 4, Large Skipper - 3 and Marbled White - 3 When I got home after our sub-committee meeting last week, my wife had trapped under a tumbler an Elephant Hawkmoth which had been flying round our sitting room - Michael Pearson

Monday 27th June

Went to **Broxbourne Woods** today between 11am and 1.30 pm in perfect still sunny conditions and at 12.15 I had a male **PURPLE EMPEROR** glide over the willows down the hill towards the bench then disappear to view, Angela see it too it We also had 49 + white admirals [sightings], there were dozens about, 12+ purple hairstreak, 50+ ringlet, 50+ meadow brown, 11 large skipper, 9 comma, 6 speckled wood, singles of small tortoiseshell, red admiral, brimstone, large white and small white - Nick Sampford

Stevenage, field behind St Nick's church 9.30-10am. 14 Meadow Brown, 6 Large Skipper, 1 Small Skipper, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Red Admiral. **Fairlands Valley** wild flower meadow, 7-7.20pm. 22 Meadow Brown, 4 Large Skipper, 1 Six-spot Burnet, 1 Burnet Companion - Lee Browne

26th June, **Ruislip**, at least 12 White Admiral in Park Wood and 3 in Copse wood. 4 Ringlets on Poors Field - Steve Pash

Robert Callf walked his **Trent Park Transect** today and had 95 Small Skipper (No Essex yet), 15 Large Skipper, 129 Meadow Browns, 48 Small Heath, 1 faded Small Copper, 5 Speckled Wood, 2 Red Admirals and 1 off transect, 3 White-letter, 3 Purple Hairstreak, 10 Small Tortoiseshell, 3 Comma (plus 5 off transect) and 1 Ringlet (plus 4 off transect including a mating pair. Also 2 White-letter at **Oakwood Tube Station**.

26th June, **Wheathampstead LNR**. Butterflies on this site at the moment are Meadow Browns (20), Large Skipper (7), Small Heath (2), Green-veined White (2), Ringlet (5), Marbled White (9), Common Blue (2). Day flying moths were mostly 6-spot Burnets (120), with a few NB 5-spot Burnets (5), some Cinnabar(9), Yellow Shell (2), Burnet Companion (3) and Dunbar (1) - Trevor Chapman

Sunday 26th June

Andrew Middleton saw his first **Purple Emperor** of the year in **South Hertfordshire** today just after 3 - news by text

Following their fairly dismal showing in fairly grim conditions yesterday, the **Horsenden Hill** White-letter Hairstreaks were back on form today in sunny conditions. On the Horsenden West transect I bagged 18 in total, including 11 in section one, where we got at least some views yesterday. There was also one nectaring on bramble at this spot. More interesting, perhaps, I had 3 in Upper Mead (section 4) - an area I have not recorded the species before. Here I was able to watch a female egg-laying. Away from the transect I bagged 6 more further along Horsenden Lane between the Ballot Box and the first stile. I also had two Purple Hairstreak in Horsenden Wood and generally more butterflies today than I've seen for a while. This was helped by a glut of Meadow Browns, of course, but I also saw a few Small Torts and Commas for the first time in a while. Little Owl in the usual Paradise Fields tree this morning. - Andy Culshaw

Letchworth, I thought you would be interested to know that I had a **Red-belted Clearwing** moth in the garden last night (the first Clearwing I have ever seen). Found it yesterday evening, roosting (on Phlox). Was still there this morning, but on a different leaf, but had gone by lunchtime, when things had warmed up a bit - Ian Small

Bramfield Wood 4.15-6pm. 100+ Large Skipper, 100+ Meadow Brown, 50+ Ringlet, 12 White Admiral, 9 Red Admiral, 17 Comma, 20+ Speckled Wood, 1 Large White, 2 Small White - Lee Browne

Visited the RSPB reserve at **Rye Meads** this afternoon and in addition to some interesting bird life saw 10 commas, 2 small tortoiseshells, 1 red admiral, one unidentified skipper and several whites. The commas were mainly nectaring on bramble flowers - Roger Newbold

(some photos later)

Marbled White (7), Ringlet (1), **White Admiral (10)**, Small Skipper (3), Red Admiral (3), second brood Comma (2) all out for the first time on at **Bricket Wood** this week. This is the best single week for White Admirals at this site since 1998. Most were seen nectaring on bramble. Also in addition to Purple Emperor be on alert for Silver-washed Fritillary. After last years record sightings there is always the possibility they have breeding in our area - Malcolm Hull

We walked along part of **Ermine Street (Broxbourne Woods)** and then back along the track where we saw the female Purple Emperor last year and saw **15 plus white Admiral** many small and large skipper, 5 Comma, 1 Red Admiral, lots of Ringlets and Meadow Brown. - Kevin and Sandra Standbridge

Steve Lane went south yesterday and first went to Bentley Wood where he saw 10 Silver-washed Fritillary and at a Somerset Wildlife Trust Reserve Open Day he saw 25+ Large Blues!

Saturday 25th June

I joined the field trip to **Horsenden Hill** today - I didn't keep a record of numbers seen (a couple of others were doing so), but I did manage some photos, 2 of which I've attached. One is a **purple hairstreak** and the other is a narrow-bordered 5-spot Burnet (I am reliably informed) - Paul Gee

Help the Herts Moth Group find Four-spotted moth in Hertfordshire (or Middlesex) for the first time in 53 years! [Read more](#)

Friday 24th June

Ken Willmott the country's true Purple Emperor expert had a sighting today at Bookham Common. "The 2005 Purple Emperor season has begun. A male flew into the Bookham Common, Surrey Annual Territory at 3.00 pm this afternoon as a thunderstorm approached. It settled high in the upper branches of a Hornbeam before being disturbed by two flying pigeons and inevitably taking up pursuit! I had waited in the territory for thirty minutes before the Emperor appeared. My hunch paid dividend - an early sighting 24 June 2005. Not quite that midsummers day sighting!" This means we are now on Purple Emperor alert in Herts and Middx!!! - Liz Goodyear

Short walk around **Great Ashby Park, Stevenage**, warm and sunny now the rain has gone. Saw my first Marbled White of the season, plus, 2 Large whites, Speckled Woods, Meadow Browns and Large Skippers. Didn't take the camera so will look again later - Steve Lane

Thursday 23rd June

Hemel Hempstead - Saw two Holly Blues today and one Large White in the garden also a Large Skipper on Corncockle at the allotment - Malcolm Newland

Did some tetrad bashing today in TL41 (it should be noted that particular decadal has no reports of White letter for 2000-2004) and a poorly recorded tetrad near my house! South of **Morley Hall near Wareside**, on a row of elm 10 White-letters including superb aerial clashes high into the sky. Also 1 Comma, 3 Speckled Wood, 12 Meadow Brown, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Holly Blue, 1 Red Admiral, 1 Large White and a Cinnabar moth. Next in TL41 just **outside Widford** by the old railway bridge and along the old track towards Wareside, 3 White-letter on elm and ash (not so numerous), 1 Ringlet, 10 Meadow Browns, 6 Large Skipper, 4 Speckled Wood, 1 Green-veined White, 2 Comma, 1 Red Admiral egg laying on nettles and 2 Small Tortoiseshell. Spent about an hour in each tetrad in 31 degrees heat! - Liz Goodyear with Andrew Middleton's help finding White letter

Simon Rasch and myself found 5+ white letter hairstreaks on the **Crooked Mile, Waltham Abbey way** nr the round cottage also ringlet. Better than that is a **clouded yellow** at **Wareside** I thought I had one yesterday at Stevenage but this was a 100% I watched it for 2 minutes as it flew across a field. I reckon the first purple emperors will be out next week I predict Wednesday - Nick Sampford

At **Aston Clinton Ragpits** (just out of area, I'm afraid) this morning between 08:30 - 10:30 and saw my first marbled whites (2) and ringlets (6)- Colin Sturges

Had a walk around **Great Ashby Park, Stevenage** today, very hot and sunny and saw 60+ Meadow Browns, Common Blues, Large Skippers, Small Tortoiseshell, Small and Large Whites, Small Heaths, Speckled Woods, Comma, Ringlet and 2 Six-spot Burnets - Steve Lane

This morning I had a look for **White-letter Hairstreak** at the usual **Horsenden Hill hotspots**. I'm pleased to report a successful outing - in total **18** were seen between 07.45-08.15 - Andy Culshaw

Wednesday 22nd June

Hemel Hempstead, Small Tortoiseshell on Sweet William and Spanish Scabious, Speckled Wood on Red Valerian, Red Admiral and Holly Blue (still) flying around the garden but very few whites at present. Have recorded eight H B H M's so far! - Malcolm Newland

Today, **1 Ringlet** in my garden, **Bishop's Stortford** - Andrew Palmer

Ruislip Woods, Middlesex: two **White Admirals** seen this afternoon, one newly emerged and still floppy - Graham Elcombe (*photo below*)

Oakwood tube station, today **2 White-letter Hairstreaks**, also Robert forgot to tell me he saw **2 Small Skipper** at **Trent Park** on the 18th - news from Robert Callf by phone

North Enfield this morning, **10 White-letter Hairstreak** and **1 Purple Hairstreak** - news by text from Andrew Middleton

Ware, a brief garden tour produced 1 Small White, an immaculate Red Admiral and a very tatty Peacock, later sightings to be added 1 Large Skipper on lavender and corncockle, Meadow Brown, Speckled Wood and a fresh Comma - Liz Goodyear

Tuesday 20th June

One **White Admiral** at **Balls Wood** today - Andrew Wood

Went to the **Withey Beds** in Rickmansworth today to check on progress. Did not see a great deal despite the warm - even hot sunshine!! Count was 2 common blue, 1 meadow brown (male), 1 small tortoiseshell, 1 red admiral, 1 cinnabar moth and a batch of caterpillars on ragwort, 2 yellow shell moths, 1 white plume moth and many grass moths. The Withey Beds falls into 4 tetrads!! TQ 08 94 marks the centre point. Again I am surprised at how little seems to be about at the moment - Ann Piper (Ann is decadal co-ordinator for TQ09)

I went for a walk over **Balls Wood** at 4 pm and saw a **White Admiral** and a **Ringlet** many Large Skippers and Meadow Browns. I enclose a couple of photos but I was unable to get close as the white admiral was the other side of the ditch and the ringlet was very active and travelled some distance - Sandra Standbridge

Telegraph Hill (10.30-12.00): **1 Marbled White**, 1 Red Admiral (car park), 4 Small Heath, 2 Speckled Wood, 4 Meadow Brown, 1 Large Skipper, 1 Green-veined White. Also 3 Burnet Companion (including a very worn individual looking much like a worn Dingy Skipper), 1 Cinnabar and an immature male Black-tailed Skimmer. No sign of Dingy Skipper adults or caterpillars but three empty egg cases found which although they were milky white/translucent rather than orange, were in all other respects (location on Bird's-foot Trefoil, size and structure), exactly as to be expected (see photograph). The eggshell is not eaten by the caterpillar which leaves and immediately begins to make a tent from several leaves spun together with silk. There is a single curled leaf in the image which may be the first tent (?) along with some more obvious signs of feeding. I assume that the shell is largely transparent (being very thin) and that it is the developing caterpillar that gives the egg its distinctive colouration. It will be interesting to look for caterpillars over the next month - so if anyone wants to continue recording Dingy Skipper outside the flight period I would be very interested in the records. **Hexton**

Chalk Pit (12.25-13.15): 1 **Ringlet**, 1 Common Blue ('blue' female egg-laying), 4 Small Heath, 2 Speckled Wood, 4 Meadow Brown. Again no adult Dingy Skippers. 1 Burnet Companion, 1 Cinnabar. The site looks great - Andrew Palmer

Thundridge, Hummingbird hawk-moth in garden last night - Nick Sampford

Just back from a two-week long trip to Bulgaria. For the first week of my hols it rained torrents but stopped just in time to allow me to stay for almost a week at the lovely Rila National Park (my second visit after five years). I came across at least 24 different butterfly and moth species amongst the meadows of wildflowers and higher up in the mountains - Bob Hazra

Monday 20th June

Robert Callf walked his **Trent Park Transect** on Saturday and saw 180 Small Heath, 42 Large Skipper, 8 Common Blue and 54 Meadow Brown!

Sunday 19th June

Stevenage Garden 2 Large Skippers, and a few Whites in my garden on Saturday 18/6/05 - Steve Lane

Flood plain on Old Knebworth Lane 3-4.30pm. 20+ Common Blue, 20+ Meadow Brown, 2 Brown Argus, 1 Small Copper, 1 Brimstone, 4 Comma, 3 Large Skipper, 1 Small Tortoiseshell and 9 Brimstone Larvae feeding on one tiny sprig of Buckthorn - Lee Browne

Ware garden, a Large Skipper making use of sweet rocket, a new scabious plant bought by my neighbour for looking after her garden whilst on holiday, sage, sweet william and lychnis coronaria(bought from the sales stand!) Also a brief visit from a Small Tortoiseshell - Liz Goodyear

Went for a walk in the **Rickneys and Stonyhills** area Saturday. Literally hundreds of Meadow Browns around the edge of Flowersash Wood, also a few Small Heaths here and there. Several Peacock larval nests, but the breeze kept catching them so photo is rather poor. Also a Yellow Shell and a Cinnabar Moth - Andrew Wood

Saturday 18th June

Hemel Hempstead, over the last two days have had Large White, Green-Veined White, Holly Blues and Speckled Woods in the garden. Yesterday something large and dark was flying north fast at roof - top height, probably a Red Admiral. Today at the allotment a faded but lively Peacock - Malcolm Newland

Finding it a bit quiet lately for butterflies, although on Friday 17th June saw 3 brimstone, large skipper and 2 common blues **Tottenham Marsh** and 1 common blue, **Pymmes Park Edmonton**. Haven't seen a **white-letter hairstreak** in Middx yet, but did see one just over the border at **Yardley Hill, Chingford**, nectaring on bramble this Sat afternoon - Andrew Middleton.

Dark Green Fritillaries have been seen in **Bedfordshire** today - follow the links on left to the Beds & Northants website for more information

Wednesday 15th June

We have made several visits to Balls Wood over the last week and enclose some photos of various moths and butterflies we have seen. Plus we have also had some good sightings elsewhere. In **Balls Wood**, we have seen Large Skippers, Meadow Brown, Speckled Woods, Comma, Elephant hawkmoth in same place as last years spot, Peppered moth (we think), plus 2 others attached (*all photos up asap*) which we are not certain of, a lesser Stag Beetle and lots of Micro moths as well. We have also seen Small Blues in Bedfordshire in large numbers, a 1st for us, also a Small Elephant Hawkmoth, another 1st and a Large Emerald in Surrey - Kevin and Sandra Standbridge

I have had a message this evening from Butterfly Conservation Head Office to say that there will be an item on the Large Blue tomorrow morning on the Radio 4 Today programme between 7 & 9 - Liz Goodyear

Just for the record I saw a male Orange Tip on Monday morning along the bank of the River Stort in **Bishop's Stortford**, it was in a very fresh condition - Jim Fish

Tuesday 14th June

We still need volunteer decadal co-ordinators for our 2005-2009 Mapping Challenge. This is Andrew Middleton's progress - [click here](#). If you can help please email John Murray but copy to me (Liz Goodyear) so I can update the website map. Thanks

As several observers have mentioned Mullein larvae I thought a picture of one, taken today in **Ware Park** might be appropriate. This is one of about eight that had pretty well destroyed half a dozen Mulleins plants. The larvae were a variety of sizes, this one full grown at about 50mm long - Andrew Wood

7-7.30pm a quick search of the flood plain on **Old Knebworth Lane** for roosting butterflies produced 7 Common Blue and 2 Brown Argus. On my walk home from work found my second Lime Hawkmoth of the year in almost the same spot as the last one near **Stevenage Town Centre** - Lee Browne

Waterford Heath - North pit very little to report but south pit yielded 1 Grizzled Skipper and 19 Small Heath, 6 Brown Argus, 8 Common Blue and 1 Meadow Brown. Nearby at **Rickneys** in sunnier conditions, 19 Small Heath, 14 Meadow Brown, 15 Common Blue including several females, 3 Brown Argus, 1 Large White, 1 Mother Shipton and 2 Burnet Companion. Just over the railway line behind housing several mullein plants with Mullein larva munching away - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

Rothamsted - Painted Lady still in the same area when I walked home (18.00), but I have a feeling it was a different individual - it looked a bit smarter - Richard Harrington

Monday 13th June

I went up to **Balls Wood** today, more Meadow Browns and Large Skippers around as well as plenty of Speckled Woods. Also found a Common Blue, only the second on the transect route since 1997. There was also this rather worn Red Admiral, is it a very tired UK overwintered one or a battered new migratory arrival? - Andrew Wood

1 Painted Lady this morning (Monday 13th June, 08.00) **Rothamsted Estate**. Looked like it had had a long journey! (Also, a rather late orange tip at Ashridge yesterday, and a brown argus, but both by a whisker in Bucks not Herts.) - Richard Harrington

Saturday 11th June

At a site near London Colney: several Small Heath (in serious decline in this part of the county during the past decade), male Common Blue, male Meadow Brown, Small Tortoiseshell larvae and two Burnet Companion. Star beetle was the large longhorn *Agapanthia villosoviridescens*, at the SE edge of its British range in Herts but worth looking out for in early summer on ruderal patches. Nearby at Old Parkbury were larvae of the Mullein moth on Great Mullein *Verbascum thapsus*, some of them full-grown. - Colin Everett

I have been asked by several people recently about the cameras and lens being used for the photos on these pages. I thought I might create a link to these details so that everyone can see what camera has taken what. It's just a thought but I don't want to compromise personal security so it might be pictures with the camera type?

Thursday 9th June

On Tuesday Alan Downie alerted me to a 10 metre strip of spindle hedging in Sacombe Road north of Hertford that had been completely defoliated and covered in a silken web, probably the work of the Spindle Ermine moth (*Yponomeuta caganella*). There were no larvae left but nearby were just a few small webs with larvae still in (see picture). These will emerge at the end of the month as

small white moths with black spots. **Today** one **Meadow Brown** near **Wengeo Lane in Ware** together with a Burnet Companion moth. Not far away a Mother Shipton moth in a field by the A10 - Andrew Wood

On **Tuesday** I walked down the lane south of **Norton Green**. In the clearing by the field gate, I saw a single Brown Argus. As far as I can remember this is my first sighting of this species at this site, which I have watched regularly during the summer months over the past few years. Also 5 Speckled Wood - Alan Reynolds

Nick Sampford in his challenge to photograph all UK species this year has photographed 24 species so far and seen 26

Had a Netted Pug yesterday in the garden moth trap. A few have recently been seen in Herts. Normally they are coastal moths feeding on Bladder Campion. I have also managed to catch (photograph) a few butterflies at rest. The Orange-tip was settled for the evening at Wheathampstead Local Nature Reserve. The Holly Blue came down to drink when I had removed duck weed from my pond. The Green-veined White obliged when I helped out with the Marshall's Heath transect - Trevor Chapman

Hexton Chalk Pit (06.05-09.30 including an hours' snooze in the middle!) - Dropped a friend off at Luton Airport hence the unreasonably early start: **5 Dingy Skipper - 2 very worn, 1 Green Hairstreak**, 1 Common Blue, 6 Small Heath, 2 Speckled Wood, 2 Yellow Shell. Also a Narrow-bordered Five-spot Burnet caterpillar on Bird's-foot trefoil - shame it wasn't the other Five-spot - now that would have been worth an early start! Andrew Palmer

Sunday 5th June - Scotland, arrive at 1.30pm, pouring with rain, so we sat in the car for about one and a half hours, the rain stopped and you could just see the sun starting to come out, so we went into the wood to the clearing and saw several Chequered Skippers and Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary - Steve Lane

Wednesday 8th June

Male Holly Blue flying in front of **Royston library**, this afternoon! Nowhere near any plants (though only one block from Priory Gardens, and possibly heading that way) - Guy Manners

Robert Callf rang to say he had been visiting some poorly recorded tetrads today. He saw a **Meadow Brown** at **Stirling Corner off the A1**. Also seen at this site were 5 Common Blue, 1 female Orange Tip and 1 Small Heath. At **Moat Mount Open Space**, Mill Hill he saw **1 Large Skipper** and 1 Small Copper. **Totteridge Fields** produced 1 male Orange Tip, **1 Large Skipper** and 1 Small Copper. Other **Trent Park transect news** from Robert included **146 Small Heath on the 25th May** decreasing to **68 on the 31st May** when the weather was not so good. **Yesterday** he saw 5 Peacocks at **Vicarage Farm**.

Hunsdon Meads (HMWT Reserve) and River Stort towpath (some on the Essex side!) - sightings included Small Copper, Brown Argus, Common Blue, a Red Admiral seen egg laying, Brimstone, Small White, Peacock, Speckled Wood, Holly Blue, 12 Small Tortoiseshell larvae, also Mother Shipton, Burnet Companion, Yellow Shell and a faded Small Yellow Underwing - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

Green Hairstreaks on the **Pegsdon Hills** this morning and at **Telegraph Hill**. I met a couple of naturalists that we all know by sight - I think of them as the Essex Two - but don't know their names, one is Dave I think. They had walked from **Pirton to Pegsdon** and seen **GHs** along Wood Lane or near Tingley Plantation Could have been in either county; Beds or Herts - Nigel Agar

Tuesday 7th June

Saw three **Large Skippers** in **Balls Wood** today, Orange Tips and a Peacock still flying, but mainly Speckled Woods. Lots of Nemophora degeerella flying and spotted one Light Emerald moth - Andrew Wood

You ask if anybody's seen this yet. We saw **2 Large Skipper** on **The Warren (Colney Heath)** on **4 June**, both resting because the weather was glum - John Moss

What luck for **Bucks that College Lake, Tring** sits on their side of the boundary (which runs along the road outside)! This afternoon, 3 brimstone, 1 peacock, 1 large white, 1 brown argus, 1 grizzled skipper, 3 small blues (my first this year) and 10+ common blue - Colin Sturges

Monday 6th June

I went for a cold walk this lunchtime near **Ware** but did see several groups of the longhorn moth *Nemophora degeerella* dancing around bushes despite the poor weather. I also found this comma larva under a nettle leaf near **Westmill Road** in Ware.

Whilst in Norfolk at the weekend visited the local churchyard and in a moment of brightness between rain (yes it rained a lot this weekend) was able to experiment with a new camera and lens. Needless to say picked one of the hardest butterflies to photo for my first attempts - Wall Brown! Thanks to the camera was able to prove there were 3 individuals flying amongst the gravestones and nectaring on floral tributes - Liz Goodyear

Sunday 5th June

Walked along the footpath that runs from Bramfield Road to Holly Grove Lane a little to the south of **Bramfield village**. The field alongside is covered with large swathes of cranesbill at its western end and I saw **13 Brown Arguses** despite the overcast sky and blustery wind, also 1 Common blue and 1 Small Heath. At Archer's Spring on the edge of **Hertford** there were a couple of Common Blues, 1 Holly Blue and a Burnet Companion - Andrew Wood

Waterford ~ several small heath, common blue and brown argus, **2 grizzled skippers** N pit and 1 south pit. **Sat 4th June, 7 chimney sweepers North Enfield area**. Have potted on c200 alder buckthorn seedlings, but still have a tray of c300 strong seedlings for potting for branch stand if anyone is interested - Andrew Middleton

North Mymms area - Approx 20 Speckled Wood inc. 14 on path thru Cangsley Wood. Also 10+ Large White, mainly over rape field. 2 Peacock, 1 Orange Tip and some small unidentified brown ones - Rupert Pyrah

Vicarage Farm, Enfield ~ Robert Callf recorded **3 painted ladies on 27th May** and a single on **31st** - news via Andrew Middleton

Friday 3rd June

1 Painted Lady at Ward's Hurst Farm, **Ashridge** at 11.30 ish today - Michael Anderson

Haven't seen any Large Skipper around here yet and only saw one in Dorset at the weekend. Flood plain on **Old Knebworth Lane**, 12-1.30pm. **30+ Common Blue**, 3 Brown Argus, 2 Large White, 2 Small White, 4 Green-veined White, 2 Brimstone, 1 Small Copper, 1 Red Admiral, 4 Burnet Companion, 1 Mother Shipton, 3 Six Spot Burnet pupa and 1 Larva - Lee Browne

Thursday 2nd June

Tring Park, Large white, burnet companion, common blues, **1 dingy skipper and 5 grizzled skipper** - Jez Perkins (Jez is Species co-ordinator for Grizzled Skipper)

Has anyone seen a Large Skipper in Herts or Middlesex yet?

May 2005

Tuesday 31st May

Just got back from a weekend in Dorset, went down in the hope of seeing a few Marsh Fritillary's, and on Saturday I took a trip out and in the space of one hour I saw over 100 Marsh Fritillary, 100 Dingy Skipper, as well as 1 Small Blue, 8 Grizzled Skipper, 5 Green Hairstreak, 2 Adonis Blue, 1 Small Copper and my first 2 Bee Hawkmoths (unsure if broad/narrow bordered) - Lee Browne (*photos to go up later*)

Aldbury Nowers 11.00-12.10: 1 Common Blue, 2 Brown Argus, 3 Small Copper, 3 Orange

Tip, 9 Small Heath, 3 Brimstone, 2 Peacock, 8 Yellow Shell, 1 Mother Shipton, 3 Cinnabar but failed miserably with Dingy and Grizzled. **Tring Park** 12.50-14.10: 2 Dingy Skipper, 4 Grizzled Skipper, 1 Common Blue, 1 Brown Argus, 8 Mother Shipton, 12 Burnet Companion - Andrew Palmer

Dingy Skippers, Small Heath and Brown Argus on **Pegsdon Hills** on 29 May and Dingy Skippers, Small Heath at **Hexton Chalk Pits** on 30 May - Nigel Agar

Monday 30th May, **Aldbury Nowers** early AM. Wind dropped, yippee!, bit dull still, warming up though. 2 Small Heath, 6 Brown Argus, 1 Grizzled Skipper in pristine condition. Cuckoo calling, hillside looking lovely, if there's a God in heaven this is where he comes on his days off - Ashley Cox

In my **Ware** garden this morning, a Red Admiral hurtling around - Liz Goodyear

Monday 30th May

Fluked a white admiral caterpillar sunbathing today in **Wormley Woods**, first one I've seen, on honey suckle 18" from ground - Andrew Middleton

Went to **Broxbourne Woods** Saturday to see if there were still any Grizzled Skippers about there. Got all excited when I saw a number of brown mottled insects flying about until I managed to follow one by eye and saw it settle. It was a Mother Shipton moth!! I guess the others were also. There were goodly numbers of Speckled Yellow moths as well. The only butterflies I saw were Comma (1) Speckled wood (2) and 2 unidentified whites - Richard Bigg

Sunday 29th May

Redbourn (Herts County Show Ground) - 1 Common Blue found roosting near the Flower Tent - Liz Goodyear

I went up to the **Tring Park** this morning and, using the experience gained with Malcolm on the Nowers, ended up on the escarpment where I saw my first common blue of the season, a couple of grizzled skippers, 2 small heaths and a large white. One of each of the skippers were so "fresh" that the grizzled looked almost like a chequer board, so distinct was the patterning. Beautiful! - Colin Sturges

Saturday 28th May

Saw my first small tortoiseshell larvae on May 25th in **Maple Cross**. Walked several tetrads on Friday May 27th in 30 degree heat! but saw surprisingly little in the **Rickmansworth / Harefield** area. Tally was small tortoiseshell (dead!), 2 peacocks, 4 small /green veined whites, 4 orange tips. I have generally been disappointed this month seeing only ones or twos of most of the common species. Do other recorders think it's been a poor spring? It has been very windy in this south west corner of the county - Ann Piper (*What does everyone else feel?*) (**Ann is decad co-ordinator for TQ09**)

Yesterday, at last some sun! Fields behind **Great Ashby Park**, sunny, but windy. 10+ Small Heaths, 25+ Brown Argus, 5+ Common Blues, Holly Blue, Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell, Orange tip, Green-veined White, Large and Small White - Steve Lane

Telegraph Hill Car Park (11.30) Single rather faded and worn **Painted Lady**. **Telegraph Hill** (11.45) 3 Dingy Skipper, 7 Small Heath, 3 Brown Argus, 2 Orange-tip, 1 Brimstone, 3 Silver-Y, 2 Burnet Companion - Andrew Palmer and jointly with Stuart Pittman: **Hexton** (12.30-13.00) 7 Dingy Skipper, 1 Green Hairstreak, 3 Small Heath, 1 Burnet Companion. **Private site south of Pirton** (13.30) 2 Dingy Skipper, 1 Green Hairstreak, 3 Small Heath, 2 Common Blue, 2 Brown Argus, 1 Brimstone, 3 Silver-Y, 5 Burnet Companion, 1 Mother Shipton. **Ickleford** (14.55-15.20) 2 Small Copper, 7 Small Heath, 7 Holly Blue, 1 Brown Argus, 2 Speckled Wood, 1 Mother Shipton. Also noteworthy was the fact that I found Kidney Vetch on Hexton for the first time despite looking for the last three years! - Andrew Palmer (Andrew is Species co-ordinator for both Dingy Skipper and Small Blue)

Friday 27th May

Disturbed this slightly tatty Mother Shipton in **Ware Park** on the 26th, its the first one that has ever stayed still for me to photograph - Andrew Wood

Hemel Hempstead, 8.30 a.m. a fresh looking Red Admiral arrived in the garden and spent the next 15 minutes nectaring on one Sweet Rocket plant - Malcolm Newland

A nice lunchtime walk in the sunshine at Norton Green Stevenage but a low butterfly count. 1 Orange Tip, a Green Veined White and the nice surprise of my first Red Admiral of the season, a very nice clean specimen too - Malcolm Penn

Aldbury Nowers this afternoon: 2 brimstone, 2 large white, 2 small copper, **2 dingy skipper**, **1 grizzled skipper** and more brown argus and small heath than you could shake a stick at! - Colin Sturges

Thursday 26th May

Hemel Hempstead, 9.05. a.m. my first Humming Bird Hawk Moth of the year whizzing around the Sweet Rocket. Still plenty of Orange Tips, Holly Blues and Green-Veined Whites in the garden - Malcolm Newland

Hexton Chalkpit 11.30-12.15, **c.7 Dingy Skipper**, 3 Small Heath, 2 Burnet Companion, 1 Cinnabar. **Frogmore Pit**: 4 Common Blue - Andrew Palmer

Wednesday 25th May

North Mymms area, first Small Coppers of the year (3 in total). Plenty of other butterflies - Large White, Speckled Wood, Peacock, GV White, Orange Tips (seem to be a lot around this year) and Holly Blue - Rupert Pyrah

Wednesday 18th May

Photo of an Orange Tip taken in my garden in **Hertford**. What I like about this photo is the insect was being buffeted by a gusty wind and if you look closely you can see how the tips of his legs (feet??) are gripping the edge of the flower petal to stop him being blown away - Richard Bigg (*top right*)

Andrew Wood has sent two more interesting and very 'active' photos of the Cocksfoot moth

Another day of clouds and patchy sunshine. However there was a Green Hairstreak active on the **Pegsdon Hills** plus a Peacock, an Orange Tip and, I think, a Small Heath. No Skippers seen - Nigel Agar

Brian Jessop rang this morning to say he had been to **Aldbury Nowers** yesterday, and despite periods of cloud, he saw 7 Grizzled Skipper, 2 Dingy Skipper, 9 Small Heath, 3 Brown Argus, **1 Common Blue** and 1 Green Hairstreak. He then continued up the hill to **Pitstone** and saw 28 Dingy Skipper!

Tuesday 17th May

Waterford area - an early evening roost count found 29 Brown Argus, 3 Small Heath and amongst the Brown Argus was **1 Common Blue** - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

My Small Tortoiseshell larvae in **Ware Park** are 6 days older and have started to go out for a walk. Also, saw a Grizzled Skipper halfway along the footpath in the **Waterford South Pit** that runs to the west of the main track across the pit, the first I have seen on that bit for several years. Also my first Red Admiral of the year in **Ware Park** both on Sunday 15th - Andrew Wood

Sunday 15th May

Seen on a walk round **Alexandra Park** on Sunday 16th May: 2 Large Whites, 2 Holly Blue, 8 Speckled Wood, about a dozen Distant Whites, and to my surprise a Small Copper - the first I've seen - Brian Price

Trent Park - Robert Callf walked his transect and counted 72 Small Heath in one hour

but only one Small Copper. He didn't walk the transect last week so doesn't know how many Small Heath were present a week ago though.

I spent 12 - 2.30pm at the **Flood Plain on Old Knebworth Lane**, butterfly numbers were nothing special 1 Brimstone, 1 Speckled Wood, 2 Orange Tip, 4 Green-veined White. But I did count 8 Mother Shipton moths. Later 4.30 - 5.30pm had a wander round **Frogmore Quarry** where I saw 5 **Grizzled Skipper**, 3 Small Copper, 2 Brown Argus, 3 Peacock, Small Whites, Green-veined Whites and thousands of Small Yellow Underwing Moths - Lee Browne

I decided to visit **Tring Park today** (first time for about 18month) and the numbers of Grizzled Skipper were exceptional. I met Brian Jessop there by chance and we walked his favourite route (not the transect route) for 1.5 hours and saw a minimum of 13 **Grizzled Skipper**, 7 **Dingy Skipper** and 3 **Green Hairstreak** plus all the usual suspects except Small Tortoiseshell and Large White - Nick Bowles

Another walk down the Icknield Way Path near Deacon Hill today. 14 Green Hairstreaks 14 Orange Tips (2 female), 11 Brimstones (2 female), 8 Holly Blues, 4 Peacocks, 5 Small/Green Veined Whites and 1 Common Carpet Moth - Steven Penn

Went out today (Sunday 15th) first to **Bison Hill, Whipsnade** (out of our area, sorry), warm and sunny from 10.30am to 12.45pm. 30+ Green Hairstreaks, 6+ Grizzled Skippers, 1 Small Copper, Orange Tips, Brimstones, Speckled Woods, Holly Blues, 6+ Small Heaths, Green-veined Whites, Large Whites and Small Whites, also 1 Mother Shiptons. Then we went onto **Aldbury Nowers**, again warm and sunny 1.15pm to 2.50pm, 6+ **Grizzled Skippers**, 3+ **Dingy Skippers**, 4+ Brown Argus, Small Copper, Small Heath, Orange Tip, Brimstone, Peacock, Comma and Cinnabar Moth - Steve Lane, Ian Hardy and Richard Pople

Late report from Thursday 12th, **Great Ashby Park**, early afternoon, sunny periods and windy. only common species in good numbers, Orange Tip, Small Tortoiseshells, Peacocks, Green-veined Whites, Brimstones, Large and Small Whites - Steve Lane

Saturday 14th May

Aldbury Nowers - despite the unpromising NE wind, a total of 14 butterfly species were seen. **Green Hairstreak**, one of the main target species was seen in both main sections of the reserve & also in a small clearing on the Ridgeway path which links them - 8 adults in total. **Grizzled Skippers** were in the northern clearing - 7 in total. We were also pleased to see **Dingy Skipper (6)** & Brown Argus (5) present in both sections of the reserve. Other species noted included Small Heath, Small Copper, Brimstone, Green-veined White, Orange Tip, Holly Blue, Large White, Speckled Wood, Small Tortoiseshell & Peacock. Moths included Treble Bar (or possibly Lesser Treble Bar, photo attached, opinions welcome (*photos later*)), Mother Shipton, Cinnabar, Pyrausta Aurata, Small Yellow Underwing & Latticed Heath - Malcolm Hull

Friday 13th May

Did the **Balls Wood Transect** today, despite the wind very good numbers of Green-veined whites in particular. Also, at last, got photos of a female Orange Tip - Andrew Wood

At **Aldbury Nowers** yesterday (12th) I saw my first red admiral and small copper of the year, plus many brimstone and orange tip (male & female), some large whites and a few speckled wood, peacock, holly blue and tortoiseshell. No skippers or hairstreaks but being un-practiced I probably wasn't looking in the right places! - Colin Sturges

Thursday 12th May

St Nick's Church Yard, Stevenage 1.45-2.45pm. I was unable to count the butterflies as there were just so many! By just standing in one place and looking around me I could see at least 10 Holly Blues at one point I stood in front of an Ivy bush which had 6 on it. Large numbers of male (not 1 female) Orange Tips as well as Green-veined, Small and the odd Large White. 2 Speckled Woods and 1 female Ruby Tiger moth. As an estimate I would have to say in that one hour I saw up to 100 Holly Blues the large number probably due to the huge amount of both Holly and Ivy growing in the church yard - Lee

Browne

Wednesday 11th May

Went for a rather cold walk in **Ware Park** today, I found one roosting Orange Tip but Latticed Heath and Small Yellow Underwing moths were flying near the Quarry. I also found a couple of Small Tortoiseshell larval nests - Andrew Wood

I saw my **first Small Blue** (newly emerged) at **Sharpenhoe** today. I also saw for the **first Dingy Skippers [4]** of this year on this same section of the Sharpenhoe transect - David Chandler (news via Beds & Northants branch)

Monday 9th May

I went for a walk down the **Icknield Way Path near Deacon Hill** in Bedfordshire (*but only just*) this afternoon. I saw 10 Green Hairstreaks and 1 Red Admiral - Steven Penn

These pictures show the micro moth called the Cocksfoot Moth *Glyphipterix simplicella*. This is meant to be widespread but there are only a few records each year for Hertfordshire so it is very probably under recorded as it is so small (6mm wingspan) and active by day. It is worth looking on any buttercups from May to July see if you can see it. As the photos show it is very small and much smaller than the hoverflies etc that you will often see on buttercups. This one was in a field in Ware Park on a not very warm or especially bright day today 8th May - Andrew Wood

Can anyone confirm my belief that the caterpillar is that of a copper underwing? I found it on 28 April on some past-their-best sticky buds which somehow, having reached the kitchen door, had not been thrown out. I first noticed the frass which it had dropped all over the counter on which the vase was standing. I had not heard of this insect (or indeed, much else) feeding on horse chestnut leaves. Stupidly, since it still seemed to be feeding, I left it on the twig for one more night and it went walkabout. I hope it survives and I eventually find the moth - Archie Lang (*see above*)

Waterford area - **Saw 3 brown argus, 3 small heath** and one small copper - Andrew Middleton

Sunday 8th May

Hertford, Holly Blue seems to be having a good year. I have had them in my garden, two or three at a time, every reasonable weather day for the last three weeks. I have not seen a Grizzled Skipper on my transect at Waterford yet but that's because I have not been able to do it in good weather. These cold north winds are not helpful - Richard Bigg

Saw a **Duke Of Burgundy** (outside branch area), photo attached. On our way back we popped into **Waterford Heath** (south Pit) and only saw 1 grizzled Skipper but it was Very Windy and Grizzled was being blown all over the place, taking shelter in the Bush Vetch, picture attached - Sandra Standbridge

Waterford Heath - Cloudy with sunny intervals, cold wind Only 2 Speckled Wood on the south pit and 1 Grizzled Skipper on north pits, also 1 Large Red Damselfly. Lots of Orange Tips and Green-veined Whites in **Astonbury Wood** - Steve Lane

Finally caught up with Grizzled Skipper yesterday lunchtime in between the showers, at **Waterford South pit**. Also several Orange Tips and Speckled Wood - Darrel Stanley

May 5 was the day for my first red admiral of the year, which obligingly let me photograph it on this yellow azalea. Gorgeous and seemingly perfect! Unlike the speckled wood, probably younger and less travelled, which was also attracted to the azalea and had clearly (more clearly than this picture shows) had a close encounter of the avian kind. A good day for butterflies in the garden -- holly blues, green-veined

white and orange tip and also this small white which gave me a decent shot. Several butterflies (including this one) attempted to land on these stitchwort flowers, but of course the stems will not support the weight of a butterfly. This one, however, found the stitchwort a good place to rest fairly well concealed, hanging from a bent-over flower.

Friday 6th May

Waterford Heath, South Pit, **2 Grizzled Skippers**, 2 Small Whites, Orange Tip, Large White and Holly Blue - Ian Hardy and Steve Lane

Broxbourne Wood NR - Red Admiral and **Speckled Yellow moth** - Andrew Middleton

Waterford Marshes, on **Sunday the 2/05/05** my wife and I saw several Peacock, 5 Orange Tip, 1 Brimstone, 3 Small White and **2 Painted Ladys** - Ian Hardy

Thursday 5th May

I went to **Waterford Heath** South this morning and again after 3 o'clock. I saw in the morning **one Grizzled Skipper** when the sun came out and many roosting Orange Tips. The afternoon trip was much better as I saw **6 plus Grizzled Skippers**, 1 Large White, 1 Green Veined White, 1 Holly Blue, many Orange Tips (the females busy laying single eggs). I attach 3 photos (*up later*) - Sandra Standbridge

Tuesday 3rd May - *look out for migrants in particular Red Admirals*

Green Hairstreak on the **Pegsdon Hills (just into Beds)** on **May 1** and again **today May 3**. Also today I went after a possible Grizzled Skipper which turned out to be a Common Heath Moth - Nigel Agar

Weekend news

2 Grizzled Skippers on **May 1** at **Aldbury Nowers** - around a month earlier than last year.
. Martin Hicks

Sunday 1st May, we saw our first Orange Tips, Green Veined Whites & our first Speckled Wood on the cherry tree's blossom, in my mother's garden transect in **King's Langley**. The Holly Blues are still around but this Sunday were favouring the buds on the Blackcurrants over the Gooseberries - Dave Chandler

Monday 2nd May - *be ready for Dingy Skipper*

I visited **Hexton** this afternoon. I saw 10 Brimstones (9 male, 1 female), 7 male Orange Tips, 5 Peacocks, 3 Small Whites, 2 Holly Blues, 1 Comma, 1 Speckled Wood and 1 Small Tortoiseshell - Steven Penn

2+ Grizzled Skippers, 3 speckled woods, plus orange tip, holly blue, green veined, small and large white, peacock, brimstone. All at **Waterford north** pit this afternoon - Nick & Angela Sampford and Simon Rasch

Aldbury Nowers - **Green Hairstreak**, **Grizzled Skipper** and a **Small Copper** were seen today. Also later a **Mother Shipton moth** getting ready to confuse everyone - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

Sunday 1st May

Waterford Heath - **2 Grizzled Skipper** moving around pretty quickly in the late afternoon sunshine. Earlier we visited **Frogmore Pit** and **1 Grizzled Skipper** was definitely seen. Also lots of Orange Tip and a Small yellow underwing moth - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

April 2005

Saturday 30th April

Waterford Heath - Arrived around 11 in dull conditions and **2 Grizzled Skipper** were found on the north pit. Walked over to the south pit and one was seen in flight early afternoon in the "usual" place. Also a **Small yellow underwing moth**. Returned to the north pit and 3 were seen, some in

flight. Many Orange Tips, also whites, Holly Blues, Peacocks, female Brimstone and Speckled Wood
- Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton with Simon and Stuart Rasch, and Andrew and Jane Wood

Sightings from my **Stevenage** garden, yesterday - Brimstone, Green-veined White, Small White, Peacock, and first appearance of the year for Orange-tip x 3 and Holly Blue x 2 - Steve Lane

Ware garden, to my surprise I had a **female Emperor moth** in my light trap this morning. According to Colin Plant "there are no recent records for the county west of Hertford" - Liz Goodyear

Friday 29th April

Brilliant day huge counts of butterflies Tom and I travelled the lanes around our house (**Thunderidge**) for four hours. We had 47 unidentified white spec, 38 orange tips 32 males 6 females properly more females in the white count, 17 small white, 14 peacocks, 12 green veined white, 12 brimstone, 10 large white, 9 holly blue and 3 small tortoiseshell. There were butterflies everywhere today. The forecast is for a period of sunny warm weather for the next few days so hopefully there is an emergence of grizzled skippers in the next week -Nick and Tom Sampford (*Everyone needs to be on the look out for Grizzled Skipper*)

Just thought I'd let you know, there was a **hummingbird hawkmoth** at Wyvale Garden Centre, **Hillingdon** - Chris Court

Fir and Pond Woods....6 speckled woods today (*Photo attached*) - David Gompertz

Wednesday 27th April

Hemel Hempstead, cannot recall seeing so many Holly Blues. Had three in view at once in the garden today. Large and Small White also seen but Orange Tips few and far between at the moment - Malcolm Newland

Monday 25th April

2 Holly Blues in the garden at **Royston today** - Simon Rasch

Sunday 24th April - HOT NEWS FROM SHARON HEARLE (NOT HERTS BUT SIGNIFICANT) - 3 Green Hairstreak today on Devil's Dyke near Newmarket -If the sun starts shining again be ready for Grizzled Skipper and Green Hairstreak - LG

Spotted a pristine **Speckled Wood** whilst walking in **Wormley Wood** this afternoon. It was the only butterfly we saw but a real beauty - Roger Newbold

News from 21st, **Beech Farm area**: Plenty of Peacocks and Small tortoiseshells. Also.. Brimstone 1, Orange Tip 1, Small White 1, Green-Veined White (My 1st of year). **Fir & Pond Woods area**: Large White. Also 1 in my **Brookmans Park garden** (1st 2 of year), Orange Tip x 2, Comma. Also several Peacocks around the pond and in Pond Wood - Rupert Pyrah

>Saturday 23rd April

Friday 22nd April

Went out around **North Enfield** today and saw 10 species of butterfly plus a **Humming-bird hawkmoth** - Andrew Middleton

14 small white, 13 orange tip, 12 peacock, 8 small tortoiseshell, 4 brimstone and a holly blue all the sightings were around **Sacombe and Sacombe Green**. Angela had 3 holly blue in **Ware** and Tom had 3 orange tip at **Thundridge school yesterday** 21st april - Nick Sampford

I am playing with a new camera, hence flow of pictures. Two more from Balls Wood today where there were Peacock, Comma, Speckled Wood, Orange Tip, Brimstone, Small, Large and Green-veined whites flying - **Andrew Wood**

Friday 22nd April

Fir and Pond Woods this morning, peacocks x 4, small tortoiseshell x 1, orange tip x 1, brimstone x 1, "whites - unidentified" x 2 - David Gompertz

Peacock, Comma, Brimstone and Small Tortoiseshell at **Pegsdon/Telegraph Hill** this morning. No Green Hairstreak as yet - Nigel Agar

Dobb's Weir, nr Hoddesdon, today, 30min at lunchtime whilst sunny: Brimstone 2, Holly Blue 1, Peacock 8, Orange-tip male and female, Comma 1, Green-veined White 1. Also Moorhen chicks and singing blackcaps. My first butterfly of the year was a Brimstone in February in the French Alps and a Comma at Batford Mill 25 March whilst watching the Waxwings - Trevor Chapman

Thursday 21st April

Brilliant counts of butterflies **today**, 23 orange tips [21 males 2 females] first 2 Green Veined White of the year. 12 peacock, 9 small white, 4 small tortoiseshell, 4 brimstone, 2 holly blue, large white and comma by far the best day of the year. The wayside verges are full of flowers all butterflies seen between **Bishops Stortford and Thundridge**. 4 male orange tips in a stretch of lane together - Nick Sampford

Field behind **St Nick's Church, Stevenage**, 1.30-2.45pm. 23 Tortoiseshell, 18 Peacock, 3 Brimstone 2 male 1 female, 1 Large White, **1 Orange-tip female**, 2 Speckled Wood, 2 Holly Blue. Also 1 early **Lime Hawkmoth** (*photo up later*) near **Stevenage Town centre** - Lee Browne

Ware Widbury Hill. Five species today, Orange tip, Holly blue, Peacock, Brimstone, and Small tortoiseshell, I have never had that many on one day before, in my small patch - Ian Edwards

Found this Brimstone egg laying (*photo to be put up later*) on the chalk bank on the **Meads today**, not a great shot but a good record. I would never have seen the Buckthorn in the scrub if the Brimstone had not have been around. Also several Comma, Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell, Holly Blue around **Ware** today and my first Green-veined White of the year - Andrew Wood

Speckled Wood, Wilbury area suburban **Letchworth**; Peacock and Comma, **Purwell Ninesprings NR**; Orange Tip along Ippolits brook Oakfield estate **Hitchin** - Nigel Agar

Sightings from 1st butterfly walk of the season, new site fields behind **Great Ashby Park**. 1 Speckled Wood, 5 Small Tortoiseshell, 3 Peacocks, 3 Green-veined Whites, 1 Comma and 2 Brimstones. All photos taken today (*to be put up later*) - Steve Lane and Ian Hardy

I saw my first orange tip on the 18/04/2005 along the A1000 at TL259039 (**Brookmans Park**) - Ian Hardy

News from **17 April: Ermine Street (on way to Balls Wood)**: holly blue and speckled wood. **Balls Wood**: orange tip and speckled wood. **18 March, Redburn Industrial Estate, Ponders End**: comma and **19 March, Sewardstone Marsh**. Two brimstones, plus four species at 11.50am on the same pollen-laden willow bush in warm sunshine - **red admiral**, (over-wintering?) small tortoiseshell, peacock and comma - Martin Shepherd

Monday 18th April

The **Holly Blue** I took **today**. It's the first female I have seen this year: I particularly like the butterfly's shadow on the rhododendron leaf. The **Peacock** I took on 1 April, but it's not really a record, I suppose. This was a butterfly that was found in November exhausted on the floor in the house. After administering some sugar water it was put on some kitchen paper in a Greek Yoghourt pot and spent the winter in the garage. It seemed to wake up properly for the first time on April Fool's Day. After giving it some more sugar water I took it outside and put it on some pussy willow which I had brought home for the purpose when in bud some weeks before. It fed on this, allowing me to take pictures for a couple of minutes before suddenly flying off - Archie Lang

First **large white** of year in garden at **Thundridge** and **6 peacock, 2 small tortoiseshells, Comma, small white and a orange tip** all at **Sacombe Church** - Nick Sampford

St. Albans garden : **1 Green-veined White** - Malcolm Hull

Ware garden: **1 Large White** - Liz Goodyear

Sunday 17th April

We saw our **first Holly Blue**, a female with her wings half-open on the Gooseberry bushes & our **first Comma** on the Plum blossom, in my mother's garden transect in **King's Langley** - David and Violet Chandler

Trent Park area - **1 male Brimstone, 1 male Holly Blue, 4 Speckled Woods and 1 male Orange Tip** and 174 24-spot ladybirds, also Orange and Pine - Robert Callf

In the **Buntingford area** - **Holly Blue** at **Great Hormead**, **2 Orange Tips** at **Cherry Green and Westmill**, also **2 Brimstone, 2 comma, 16 peacock, 12 small tortoiseshell and 4 small white** - Nick Sampford

Shepreth L Moor NR and SSSI (just into Cambs), 14:00-15:39. Weather: sunshine, but with cool breeze **Brimstone: 2-4m, ?1f, Speckled Wood: 1, Holly Blue: 2, Small Tortoiseshell: 3-6, Green-veined White: 4 & Peacock: 1** - Guy Manners

Several **Orange Tips** out this morning - 1 at the **Commons LNR, Welwyn Garden City**, 1 in **Balls Wood** and several at **Hertford Heath** - Christine Shepperson

Ware garden - a nice selection of butterflies this morning - **1 Peacock, 1 Speckled Wood, 1 Green-veined White, both male and female Brimstone** nectaring on Honesty and regular visits from a **Holly Blue**, which at one point was taking salts from a patch of mud on the lawn where the guinea pigs had been a few week previous. However, no Orange Tips yet - Liz Goodyear

One male Holly Blue, Sat 16 April, Melbourn village at 13:55 BST, disturbed by gardening activities - Guy Manners

Wednesday 13th April

On one of my occasional visits to the **Chelsea Physic Garden today** I was surprised to see a **Holly Blue** flying in cool cloudy weather - Malcolm Newland

Ware on **11th April**, along the old Lea Widbury Hill, **one Holly Blue, one Peacock** - Ian Edwards

Tuesday 12th April

I have just come back from a holiday in Rajasthan, India and would like some help identifying some butterflies I saw, photos above, the upper wings of the black and white butterfly were similar to the under wing and the other ones upper wings are white with a single black dot on the front wing, I also saw Plain Tiger, Blue Pansy and Large White. In my garden yesterday in **Stevenage** **1 Brimstone, 2 Peacocks and Green-veined White** - Steve Lane

Today, just **1 Peacock** at **Bishops Stortford** - Nick Sampford

Monday 11th April

News from Robert Callf **today, 1 Orange Underwing** moth on a bramble bush in **Trent Park**. Also a **Green-veined white** and 2 unidentified whites. Robert also found a colony of Kidney Spot Ladybirds on a willow he was checking and in the last few days he's seen/found: Pine, 16 spot, 24 spot, 10 spot and the common 7 spot ladybird in Trent Park

First **Orange tip** of the year today in my **Brookmans Park garden**. Also **Small Tortoiseshell, Holly Blue and Peacock** - Rupert Pyrah

News from Nick Sampford - Tom informed me that he had a **Orange Tip** by **Thundridge old church** on **Saturday 9th April** while walking the dogs with a mate and his dad. I asked him to describe it and he said "Shut up Dad it was a orange tip I know what they look like as you've shown me so many!" Tom also has had **brimstone** on **Sunday 10th April** in his Nan's garden **[Wadesmill]** and a **peacock lunchtime today** 11th April which he showed his class mates on the way to dinner - Also from Nick today, **Sunday's news** - all sightings in **Westmill/Buntingford** area: **Brimstone 4, all male; Peacock 4; Small Tortoiseshell 1. Monday's news:** all sightings in **Bishop Stortford/Much Hadham/Thundridge** area - **Brimstone, 17 [16 m 1 f]; Peacock 27; Small Tortoiseshell 11, Small White 4, Orange tip 1 and Comma 1.** The Orange Tip was by Thorley lights Bishops Stortford. Also Angela had **peacock, brimstone and small white butterfly** along Ware Road,

Hertford this morning.

Saw my first **Holly Blue** of the year but not in my garden. Still in **Hemel Hempstead** where I also saw a **Peacock** on Grape Hyacinth. Only one m. **Brimstone** with unidentified white and something very fast which could have been a Red Admiral flying over at home - Malcolm Newland

On **Sunday**, a male **Green-veined White** along Hilfield Lane just south of Patchetts Green near **Aldenham** - Colin Everett

I saw my 1st **Holly Blue** of the year **yesterday** at **Stockers Lake**. Also **4 Small tortoiseshell, 3 Peacock a Comma and a Brimstone** - Steve Pash

Sunday 10th April

Hemel Hempstead, saw my first **male Orange Tip** of the year in the garden today along with several passing male **Brimstones**. At my allotment garden another male **Brimstone** along with two clashing **Peacocks** - Malcolm Newland

Saw our first **male Orange-tip** today at 15:00 hours, just north of the **Amwell Gravel Pit viewpoint**. Several **Peacocks and a Brimstone** also - Phil and Carrin Rhodes

I saw my first **Holly Blue** of the year today. There were two in my garden most of the afternoon (**Welwyn Garden City**). I also saw a few **Peacocks and a single Brimstone** at **Waterend**- Steve Chilton

Saw my first **Holly Blue** of the year in my garden (**Hertford**) this afternoon - Alan Reynolds

Smallford Pit , 11.30 this morning, a **Holly Blue** - Christine Shepperson

I saw a **comma lay on blackcurrant** in my garden this pm (in **Tring** Herts.). A single egg on upper surface of semi shaded leaf about 50cm from ground in a mixed hedge. Also in the garden, the 4 hibernators were joined by my first **Small White** of '04 - Nick Bowles

Monday 4th April

BUTTERFLY TRANSECTS 2005.

To those of you who walk a butterfly transect, this is a reminder that the transect season started on April 1st (Friday), and that therefore all weeks this year start on a Friday and run to the following Thursday. If you know that you are going to have to miss any particular week, please arrange for someone you know to walk it if possible. Otherwise, let me know and I will try and find a replacement walker. This is particularly important in July and the first half of August (weeks 14 to 20) when many species reach maximum numbers. Best of luck, John Murray

These sightings are from me and Simon Rasch - we had a slightly better day yesterday same area around **Westmill/Buntingford**, **19 peacock, 16 small tortoiseshell, 3 brimstone, 2 comma & small white**. Also Simon had a **Holly Blue** at Bullsmoor Lane, **Cheshunt** yesterday morning - Nick Sampford

Sunday 3rd April

Northaw Great Wood, **2 x Brimstone, 4+ Peacock. Tyttenhanger, several Peacocks & 2 Small tortoiseshells. Brookmans Park 1 x Peacock in garden** - Rupert Pyrah

The first transect of the season at **Bricket Wood** produced **eight Peacocks, seven Brimstones (including two females) and single Comma & Small Tortoiseshell**. More impressive was the frequency with which I encountered **orange underwing moths** (*Archiearis spp.*) along the muddy rides: a total of at least 32 were disturbed from such situations along the route, perhaps imbibing fluid or salts. A **male Holly Blue** was also seen on a footpath (although after the transect had been completed, so it will not figure in the results) - Colin Everett

Saturday 2nd April

Had a few butterflies today, **18 peacocks, 8 comma, 4 Brimstone and 2 small tortoiseshell**. They were around the **Westmill/Cherry Green area** with **6 commas** nectaring on blackthorn between **Westmill and Aspenden**. All sightings were from 1.30 to 3 - Nick Sampford

Stevenage, Roebuck Woodland, 2 - 2.30pm. **9 Tortoiseshell, 6 Peacock, 2 Comma, 1 Brimstone. Fairlands Valley**, 4 - 5pm. **7 Peacock, 3 Comma, 2 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Brimstone** - Lee Browne

Lots of butterflies today. In **Brookmans Park garden** **Brimstone x 1, Holly Blue x 1** (1st of year), **Comma x 1, Peacock x 2**. In the **North Mymms area**, **18+ Peacock** spread around the park, **2 x Small tortoiseshell, 1 x Large White (1st of year), 1+ Comma** - Rupert Pyrah

Haven't noticed a record of these little rascals on the sightings page yet, so

2 Speckled Wood seen at **Railway Fields, Haringey**, this afternoon on another gloriously warm and sunny spring day with a bonus of a **male Small White** nectaring on Lesser Celandine, something I don't remember having seen before - Keir Mottram

Friday 1st April

After a butterfly-less few days, a **Peacock and a Comma** were seen 200 yds south of **Brookmans Park** railway station this afternoon - Rupert Pyrah

A male **Holly Blue** on Cherry Laurel bushes adjacent to a holly hedge in gardens at **Garston** near Watford - Colin Everett

Melbourn butterfly sightings, **Small Tortoiseshell - 1, Brimstone - 1 (poss 2) male and possible Comma**. Tostock Farm (a little before noon) - Guy Manners

March 2005

Monday 28th March

1 x **Small Tortoiseshell** at **Tyttenhanger Farm** this afternoon - Rupert Pyrah

Seen at **Ashridge, near The Bridgwater Monument** (nr Berkhamsted) today for the first time in 2005 **1 Comma** - David Chandler

Sunday 27th March

On **Saturday 26th March** - In **Berrygrove Wood near Aldenham** an unidentified **orange underwing moth** (*Archiearis* sp.) basking for several minutes on a sun-soaked woodland ride. Frustratingly, I had forgotten to bring my net (spring always takes me by surprise!) so I could not confirm beyond doubt my suspicions that it may have been the less common species, *A. notha* (the Light Orange Underwing). The larval pabulum of this species is Aspen, of which a number of trees are extant in this aggressively coniferised wood alongside the birch favoured by *A. parthenias*. Also at the site were a Comma, a calling Tawny Owl and displaying Stock Doves. Nearby in the **Bushey** area were widespread **Small Tortoiseshells and Peacocks** and the occasional male **Brimstone**. The previous weekend (**Saturday 19th March**) a day-long walk between **Berkhamsted and Garston** produced **Small Tortoiseshell in six tetrads, Peacock in four, Brimstone (all males) in three and Comma in two**. Overall the four hibernating species seem to be present in fairly typical numbers - Colin Everett

Can anyone help Toby Austin with identities of these butterflies seen in Namibia in December 2004 - Thanks to Pat Bonham and Torben Larsen via Eddie John for help with identifying these 3 species. **Pat suggested** "that the bluey-grey underwings might belong to the *Mimosa* Sapphire (*Iolaus mimosae*) and the "orange-tip" is some *Colotis* sp but too blurred and the yellow thing I really don't know!" **From Eddie John** "I put your question to Torben Larsen, who is about to complete a major book on the Butterflies of West Africa (covering the 15 countries between Senegal and Nigeria, from the tropical rainforests to the edge of the Sahara desert: Mauritania, The Gambia, Senegal, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Bénin, Nigeria, and Niger). So although Namibia is quite some distance away I felt he might be familiar with at least some of the species! He has replied: "We have *Mylothris chloris agathina* (L) and *Colotis euippe omphale* (R). The *Lycaenid* must be a *Hypolycaena*, but the uns markings are quite faint and it lacks the usual black spot of the genus. Hope this helps - Eddie"

Saturday 26th March

Seen at **King's Langley** for the first time in 2005 in Vi Chandler's garden on Saturday **1 Small**

Tortoiseshell - Dave Chandler

Hemel Hempstead, could only manage one **Small Tortoiseshell** (allotment) and one **male Brimstone** (garden) - Malcolm Newland

Today, Holly Blue on peach blossom, **Freezywater, Enfield** - Brian Dawton

3 x Small tortoiseshell in a group 200 yds south of **Brookmans Park station** on west side of track. Also **1 x Peacock** 30yds closer to station. And in my **Brookmans Park garden 1 x Peacock** - Rupert Pyrah

Today in Tring a short walk around the field at the back of house **14 Small Tortoiseshell, 3 Brimstone, 2 Peacock and 2 Comma** - Nick Bowles

Friday 25th March

One **Small Tortoiseshell** on my allotment in **Dark Lane, Cheshunt** this morning and then this afternoon whilst walking around **Bramfield, two Commas, two Small Tortoiseshells and one Peacock** enjoying the Spring sunshine - Roger Newbold

Thursday 24th March

Ware on **18th March**, River Lea - Widdbury Hill area, **Brimstone and Small Tortoiseshell**. Same area **today a Peacock** - Ian Edwards

Wednesday 23rd March

Today....Brimstone - Brookmans Park garden. North Mymms Park area: **1 Brimstone, 1 Comma, 3 Peacock and 1 Small Tortoiseshell** - Rupert Pyrah

Monday 21st March

North Herts today, 1 very tatty Peacock and an **Orange Underwing moth** (not confirmed but stacks of silver birch nearby) - Liz Goodyear

During a 90min visit to **Aldbury Nowers** on **Friday 18 March**, my first of the year specifically for butterflies, I noted: **Peacock - 3, Small Tortoiseshell - 2, Brimstone - 2 and Comma - 2** - Mike Pearson

Sunday 20th March

On **Sat 19th** at **Bricket Wood Common** in 1 hour I saw **2 Brimstone (both male), 2 Peacock & 2 Comma** - Malcolm Hull

Saturday 19th March

Took advantage of lovely sunny day on **Saturday** to have walk around **Maple Cross and West Hyde** - TQ0292 and TQ0391. Saw **2 commas, 2 peacocks and 21!! small tortoiseshells**. Some were basking but a lot were spiralling in twos and threes. Temp. was 19deg - Ann Piper

Loads of butterflies at **Ickleford on the 18th March**, **Brimstones x 12, Small tortoiseshells x 8 plus Peacock x 5 and Comma** - Stuart Pittman

Spring is here hurray! Seen at **King's Langley** in Vi Chandler's garden: **March 18th Small White & Green Veined White**, and **Saturday March 19th a Peacock. Watford Cassiobury Park** area:(near the Watford Town Hall) on **Saturday March 19th a Peacock** - David Chandler

Brookmans Park - garden: **1x Comma, 1x Peacock, Beech Farm** - 1 x **Small tortoiseshell** - Rupert Pyrah

Out and about in the **Ware area** - **Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock and Comma** but not one Brimstone although my daughter saw one in my **Ware garden** whilst I was out! - Liz Goodyear

Friday 18th March

On walk round **Maple Cross** Farm Footpath I saw **4 small tortoiseshells** midday. The first of the year! Ann Piper

Hemel Hempstead, first **Peacock** seen in the garden today. Again it was the pale purple crocus which proved attractive. Just need a Small Tortoiseshell to complete the set - Malcolm Newland

I saw a **Small Tortoiseshell** in Wisden Road, **Stevenage** this lunch time - Steven Penn

Manor Crescent, **Hitchin** 10.45 to 11.45, **1 male and 1 female** Yellow **Brimstone**, **Holly Blue**, **2 Comma** and at 14.45 **1 Peacock**. Also 1 Green Lacewing also 9 Ladybirds, numerous gnats and drone bees. I think Spring is here at last! - Val Fullforth

Brimstone (male) today in **Brookmans Park garden**, 1st Spring butterfly - Rupert Pyrah

Here's today's sightings for me and Simon Rasch. We were out together - also first two photos of the year for you (*will go up in a while*). **Small Tortoiseshell and Brimstone at Thundridge**, **Brimstone at Ware [Kingsway]**, **Brimstone, Small tortoiseshell & Peacock at Cherry Green**, **Buntingford** and a **Brimstone at Royston** - Nick Sampford and Simon Rasch

Just had a **Brimstone** in my front garden in **Tring**. Also numerous **Brimstones**. **1 comma and a peacock** at **Wendover Woods** - just outside our area but very nice all the same - Jez Perkins

News from **Trent Park**, **4 Commas**, **1 Peacock** and **2 Small Tortoiseshells** today - Robert Callf (*Robert had been going out early and missing the butterflies until today and will be sending a weekly report from Trent Park*)

Our first sightings of the season today at **Norton Green, Stevenage**, a pair of **Small Tortoiseshells** and **2 Brimstone** - Malcolm & Christine Penn

Thurs 17th March

Another **male brimstone** at **High Wych** this afternoon - Nick Sampford

Peacock and Small Tortoiseshell at my allotment in **Hemel Hempstead**. In the garden several male Brimstones flew over, two stopping to nectar on purple crocus which also attracted a Comma - Malcolm Newland

Some more sightings today for you. **Single Comma, Peacock, and Small Tortoiseshell** at **St. Albans**. Most interesting of all a **Hummingbird Hawk Moth**, in **Abbots Langley** this afternoon. Seen at close quarters moving along a single story extension, before flying off into the wind - Clive Burrows

This lunchtime at **Ally Pally** in the Conservation Area in gorgeously warm sunshine under cloudless skies though with a stiffish breeze (possible duplicates omitted): **2 Small Tortoiseshell; 2 Comma; 1 Brimstone; 1 Peacock** - Keir Mottram

Today in Garden **N.W. Bishop's Stortford**, **3 Small Tortoiseshell, 2 Comma, 1 Brimstone, 1 Peacock** - Jim Fish

One male Brimstone and **one peacock** in back garden, Woodside, **Watford** - Bob Cripps

A nice male Brimstone in the garden today. At Eliot Road **Royston** - Simon Rasch

One male Brimstone, Abington (Cambs), over A1307, today just before noon - Guy Manners

1 male Brimstone in **Bishops Stortford** this morning and **2 males yesterday** at **Much Hadham** - Nick Sampford

Wed 16th March

1 Comma, 1 Peacock and 1 male Brimstone on **Poors Field, Ruislip** - Steve Pash

Birchall Wood, **Panshanger**, Welwyn Garden City - **2 Comma, 3 Peacock, 4+ Brimstone** - Steve Chilton

I saw **1 male Brimstone and 2 Small Tortoiseshells** in **Ware** today - Andrew Wood

One **Comma** to report "sunbathing" in the garden (**Hemel Hempstead**). By a coincidence it was March 16th last year when I saw my first butterfly of the season - Malcolm Newland

Just to say I saw a **Small Tortoiseshell** today at work in somebody's garden, in **Abbots Langley** - Clive Burrows

Two sightings today, **Brimstone** at **Stanwell Moor**, Middx. Also **Small Tortoiseshell** in my **Ashford** garden, Middx - Ken Purdey

2 **Brimstones** seen this morning in **Berkhamsted**. The first butterflies I have seen this year - Michael Anderson

A **Brimstone** was delighting me in my garden at lunchtime here in **Tring**. I only went out to see if the washing was dry (ahead of predicted rain) and it was flying with difficulty around a clump of ivy. If I had simply looked out the window I wouldn't have been able to see it - Nick Bowles

Today at **Fir and Pond Woods** -2 working party volunteers reported seeing a **Brimstone**. I saw a **Peacock**! -David Gompertz

Around the **Bayford** area this morning, **5 Brimstone and 2 Commas** - Andrew Middleton and Liz Goodyear

Brimstone on the **Pegsdon Hills** this morning -Nigel Agar

Tues 15th March

Just to let you know that I saw my first butterfly of the year today flying past my office window in **Welwyn Garden City** at about 1.30, a **Small Tortoiseshell** - Ian Small

Sat 12th March

Its about time we saw some butterflies - even moths are being elusive!

Tues 1st March

Visitors to this page might be interested in visiting Hitchin Museum to see the 'The "Wild" Life of Brian...' exhibition. This special exhibition is marking the career and retirement of Brian Sawford, Countryside Officer for NHDC, for nearly 40 years and author of the Butterflies of Hertfordshire. I have seen the exhibition and it truly is a wonderful display of Brian's wildlife photos. It is well worth seeing and the exhibition runs until the 19th March - [Click here for more details](#) - LG

February 2005

Sun 5th February - The King's Mead Report 2004 is now online at www.geocities.com/kingsmead2. It contains a section on butterflies - Alan Reynolds

Sat 4th February - Yesterday, on a cold, damp and cloudy day, a **Peacock** butterfly decided to brave the weather and flutter around **King's Mead** - Alan Reynolds

January 2005

Mon 31st January - My pupa had to move with me to Scotland from Ireland since I was reluctant to leave it behind uncared for. But anyway about 3 days ago, a small but interesting moth emerged after spending time in an Altoids tin and being moved from bag to suitcase and so on. It's now flying around my flat in Edinburgh but I'm not sure if it will feed. It'll probably be one of the most travelled moths in the world and I might enter it into the Guinness Book of (Moth) World Records (: - Bob Hazra (see entry 31st December)

Sun 23rd January - Red Admiral in flight today by hedge separating Beech Farm from Hatfield Aerodrome - Rupert Pyrah

12th January - Robert Callf has just rung to say that he saw a Red Admiral flying at Vicarage Farm, Trent Park in Middlesex this morning at 11.40am!