

Archive Page

Sightings and news from July to December 2007

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This page contains sightings details of all the butterflies and moths reported to the [Sightings page](#) between July and December 2007.

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 2007

Monday 3rd December

Shenley, this morning a single **Red Admiral** flying along the base of a sun drenched hedgerow at 11.00 - Jim Terry

November 2007

Wednesday 28th November

Spotted a Red Admiral in the garden today in **Hayes**, on a very cold dark morning, It flew in a Jasmine climber, to roost perhaps!! - Penny

Thursday 22nd November

And my personal record continues to stretch. I revisited Grove Farm but failed to find that Speckled Wood again. However on the way back a **Red Admiral** (in good condition) briefly settled on ivy right in front of me near the busy Greenford Road / Whitton Avenue West lights (NW side on WAW) in **Greenford / TQ18**. But too many pedestrians and traffic so it soon flew off again. Conditions similar to yesterday but a degree or so colder. - Mike Rubin

Wednesday 21st November

A new record for me. A **Speckled Wood** surprised me at lunchtime in **Grove Farm, Middlesex (TQ18)** on the hill below the council estate. Not bad considering the recent cold snap. I t was on the wing and got a good look, but quickly lost it in the glare and shadows. My previous latest record was Red Admiral 5th November a few years ago, and for Speckled Wood 30th October this year at the same spot in Grove Farm as today's. Conditions sunny 11C / 7C Dewpoint fairly light wind in that sheltered location. - Mike Rubin

Friday 16th November

Just had a walk over **Trent Park** with Robin J. White (Fri 16th November 2007) and we both saw a Peacock near the Dew Pond, settled on Bramble at 13.26 GMT - my latest record ever for the Enfield area - Robert Callf (Not bad eh, two late butterflies in the same week!).

Monday 12th November

Visited **Broomfield Park, Palmers Green, N13** this afternoon (12th November) and saw a Red Admiral flying around the dilapidated Broomfield House at 12.55 GMT, also adult-winter Mediterranean Gull and male Shoveler in the Park - Robert Callf

A friend a who records for me reported a small tortoiseshell in her garden in **Mill End** last **Sunday Nov 4th**. It was looking a bit tatty ! - Ann Piper

Sunday 4th November

Late season butterfly sighting - in calm warm/sunny conditions at 11am, a Comma flying nearby to the **M1/A405 road junction at Bricket Wood**. - David Chandler

Saturday 3rd November

A few butterflies around **Horsenden Hill** during a LNHS bird walk today, 3rd November: 1 Red Admiral, 2 Speckled Woods and 2 Holly Blues. The first Holly blue was nectaring on ivy flowers on the south side of Horsenden Hill during the morning. The second was discovered after dark while Dave Howdon and I were moth-ing in Perivale Wood, roosting on an ivy flower - Andy Culshaw

Red Admiral in **St Albans** this morning. Small Tortoiseshell at the Millais exhibition at Tate Britain, **Millbank SW1**, Middx - The Blind Girl - Malcolm Hull

Tring, Saturday, someone likes me more than I thought as the weather here this am was glorious. I spent most of it inside waiting for a man to come and fix my set top box but once he had gone I went to play. There were two red ad on the last few buddliea flowers in the garden and two more in the field behind my house, where the shelter of a fence makes for some very warm nettles. These two were both intermittently feeding on ivy and coming down to test the nettle leaves. One laid at least two eggs (image of one attached). Then the sun disappeared so no other species added. Had hoped to find a speckled wood - Nick Bowles

Friday, saw a Red Admiral on the ivy near the playground in the centre of **Gunnersbury Park** just before noon. Hmm some of the ivy there is still flowering. Was hoping to spot some Speckled Woods but a lump of cloud hid the sun for much of my walk. Ho hum. I've only ever seen one November butterfly before - a glimpse of a RA a few years ago one mild Nov 5th at Stockley Park - Mike Rubin

Thursday 1st November

Following on from my recent record of a late holly blue at Railway Fields, today **(1/11/07)** I saw **2 "spiralling" speckled wood** on the **Parkland Walk** (former railway line between Finsbury Park and Alexandra Palace) - David Bevan

Several dozen harlequin ladybirds have invaded the house and are marching purposefully about looking for food (presumably). All appear to be succinea which I have reported to this site: <http://www.harlequin-survey.org/recording.htm> - Robin Pearson

October 2007

Tuesday 30th October

Rebecca Turpin (BTCV officer based at Railway Fields) reported seeing a holly blue at **Railway Fields** today (30/10/07). This is certainly the latest date for the butterfly at RF, but like everybody else we had a poor year at RF - our one highlight being the arrival of a single marbled white on July 13th - a new butterfly for the site - David Bevan

Monday 29th October

A Peacock flying and sunning at **Garston (Watford)** at noon - Colin Everett

Friday 26th October

My first Peacock for over a month at Grove Rd, **St Albans** on **Tuesday 23rd** - Malcolm Hull

Wednesday 24th October

Late news from the **18th October**, 1 Green-veined white seen at the Dew Pond, **Trent Park** by Robin White - news via Robert Callf

Monday 22nd October

Nice to get a late speckled wood at **Ickleford** at Gerry's Hole /pond on Sunday 21st October, the only butterfly I saw - Stuart Pittman

With it being outside the transect season, thought I'd forward the two Speckled Woods seen in **Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park** on Saturday 20th. On Sunday 21st, there was a big (estimated as Small Tortoiseshell <> Red Admiral size), chestnut-brown? moth flying round the lights on Whitechapel tube station about half an hour after dusk. Apologies, I didn't see it settle so can't be any clearer on the description. If it rings any bells at all with anyone for any possible ID then I'd be suitably grateful - Keir Mottram

Sunday 21st October

Up to 5 Red Admirals nectaring in my **Harpenden** garden on ivy flowers throughout the day in temperatures between 7 and 10 degrees C. Also a large bumble bee - Robin Pearson

Saturday 20th October

Tring, I have been at home for last two and bit weeks and seen the number of butterflies in my garden gradually fall away. No more whites and both Peacock and Tortie now only a memory but today three Red Admirals simultaneously and a Comma as well all on/around my buddleia (good number of flowers as a result of a hard 'trim' in July) and to my joy the first Speckled wood for two years a little later in the day. Don't suppose I have ever recorded a first for the year garden species in the last half of October before - Nick Bowles

Thursday 18th October

Waterford area, 1 Common Blue - Andrew Middleton

Wednesday 17th October

News for today - 1 Red Admiral, at **Parkside Farm** at 13.30 hrs. - Robert Callf.

Monday 15th October

By entrance to **Thunderfield Grove**, 1 Comma and something (butterfly or moth) flew through the carpark at Bencroft West. Otherwise despite some really good sunshine - NOTHING. Just some hornets around the remaining ivy flowers and beware of falling acorns, they could hurt!! Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

News for yesterday (Sun 14th October 2007) - 1 Red Admiral, at Park Farm and 1 Speckled Wood, on the edge of Rough Lot, Trent Park - Robert Callf & Phil Rhodes

Thursday 11th October

7 butterfly species today!

Little around but went to **Waterford Heath** at 4pm and saw a solitary small copper on south side and a meadow brown on the north - Steve Kiln

A **Holly blue** was present in **St James's Park** today-the first I've seen for a couple or more weeks - Stuart Paston

Red Admiral, **Ponders End** garden today - Andrew Middleton

This afternoon, 11th October, in absolutely perfect weather, I saw a single Small White over the restoration area of **Aldbury Nowers** northern compartment. Michael Pearson

News for today - 1 Comma, nectaring on thistle head at **Parkside Farm**, also 1 Speckled Wood here along Salmons Brook and 1 Silver Y - Robert Callf

Wednesday 10th October

Paul Thursh at **Aldbury** today photographed a Meadow Brown which must be around a month later than in most years although this year has had some late records - news via Andrew Palmer

Spoke to Robin White today (Weds 10th October 2007) and he said that the Clouded Yellow he saw was last Thurs 4th October 2007 at **South Lodge Farm** - Robert Callf

Monday 8th October

News from Sunday 7th, 1 female Common Blue seen at **Parkside Farm** and a Speckled Wood at Park Farm on the same day - Robert Callf

Friday 5th October

More news for today - 3 Speckled Wood, (2 near Merryhill's Brook, 1 along Leeging Beech Gutter at 'Three-bridges', Trent Park); 1 Comma, along bridle-path near Shaws Wood, Trent Park. Earlier, visited **Trent Park** for an hour (12.00 - 13.00 BST) today and recorded the following: 2 Comma, (1 on Michaelmas daisies, set-aside field near Triangular Wood, 1 Sect. 8 of my transect,

'New Fields'); 1 Small Copper, 'New Fields' near Sport's Field; 1 Large White, near Oakwood entrance. Also a Grass Snake basking on the edge of the cemetery - Robert Callf

Thursday 4th October

News for yesterday (Weds 3rd October 2007) and today (Thurs 4th October 2007) - 1 Speckled Wood near Duncan's Wood, **Enfield Chase** yesterday and 1 Speckled Wood at **Parkside Farm** today near Hadley Road Pumping Station - Robert Callf

Monday 1st October

News for Sun 30th September 2007 - 1 Speckled Wood, near The Obelisk, **Trent Park**. Nothing to report today - Robert Callf

On **Saturday**, one male Brimstone and one Red Admiral (flying SW at quite a height) at **Amwell NR** - Jan Hein van Steenis

September 2007

Saturday 29th September

Fir and Pond Woods NR... on the meadow... 2 small coppers - David Gompertz

News for today - A few whites seen today, only one positively identified as a Small White on Michaelmas daisies at South Lodge Farm - Robert Callf

Friday 28th September

News for today - 1 Red Admiral, sheltering along hedgerow, **Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm** this morning before the rain started. Also a Common Redstart in the same area - Robert Callf

Thursday 27th September

News for today - 1 Green-veined White, on thistle-head along **Merryhill's Brook at Vicarage Farm** - Robert Callf

Wednesday 26th September

Painted Lady in garden lunchtime,nectaring on Verbena Bonariensis. **N.W Bishop's Stortford** - Jim Fish

Only one butterfly seen today (Weds 26th September 2007) - 1 Speckled Wood, along **Jubilee Path at Park Farm** (rather worn, settled in a sheltered sunny spot) - Robert Callf

Tuesday 25th September

On Saturday 22nd September I saw 2 Clouded Yellow on **Poors Field Ruislip**. Also, Small Heath, Small Copper, Brimstone, 5 Speckled Wood, 2 Comma, Small White and Red Admiral - Steve Pash

News for today (Tues 25th September 2007) - 2 Red Admiral, (1 flew S at Parkside Farm, 1 flew S at Vicarage Farm) - Robert Callf

Monday 24th September

Kings Langley, Violet Chandler's garden - few butterflies seen on Saturday (22nd) on the garden transect buddlia only Small Whites; but there were a couple of good sightings of butterflies passing through - a Small Tortoiseshell and a Speckled Wood - David Chandler

News for yesterday (Sun 23rd September 2007) - 4 Speckled Wood, (3 at Trent Park - 2 together, at Shaws Wood, 1 near Merryhill's Brook; 1 at Vicarage Farm). News for today (Mon 24th September 2007) - 1 Speckled Wood, at Park Farm; 1 Small Heath, along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm - getting quite late. Also saw possibly 2 Red Admiral but did not get clinching views - Robert Callf.

Walking across **Datchworth Green** yesterday I was somewhat surprised to see a Painted Lady settled on the grass - Alan Reynolds

Commas, Brimstones Speckled Woods and Red Admiral all out at **Bricket Wood Common** on Saturday. A fresh emergence of Large Whites, Small Whites and Green-veined Whites in **St**

Albans - Malcolm Hull

Went to **Waterford Heath** afternoon **22nd**, saw 3 whites, 2 small heath, one comma, one small heath, one small copper, one meadow brown and a clouded yellow - Steve Kiln

News for Sat 22nd September 2007 - 3 Small Heath, (1 at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 2 at Vicarage Farm - 1 along Merryhill's Brook and 1 near Allotments); 5 Speckled Wood, at Trent Park (1 at Dew Pond, 1 at Shaws Wood, 3 near Merryhill's Brook along bridle-path). Several unidentified White spp., plus a large Nymphalid at distance - Robert Callf

Friday 21st September

News for today - 1 Red Admiral, near Dew Pond, Trent Park; 5 Speckled Wood, (4 at Trent Park - 1 Shaws Wood, 3 near Merryhill's Brook; 1 at Allotments, Vicarage Farm) - Robert Callf

Thursday 20th September

News for today - 1 Red Admiral, edge of Water Grdn., Trent Park; 6 Speckled Wood, at Trent Park (1 edge of Wter Grdn., 1 Shaws Wood, 4 along bridle-path near Merryhill's Brook) - Robert Callf

Wednesday 19th September

Almost trod on a Clouded Yellow in **Ware Park Quarry** this lunchtime. Luckily it eventually settled on some Goat's Rue and I was able to photograph it. The only butterfly I saw there in cool, windy conditions - Andrew Wood

Harpenden at 3pm, just one Red Admiral braving the blustery conditions nectaring on my ivy this afternoon, see pic. - Robin Pearson

Only one butterfly seen today (Weds 19th September 2007) - 1 Speckled Wood, at Shaws Wood, Trent Park - Robert Callf

Tuesday 18th September

Whilst looking for stone & whinchat in set aside field by **Batford** saw 1 common Blue & 1 small copper - Darin Stanley

More news for yesterday (Mon 17th September 2007) - 1 Red Admiral, at Chase Rd., N14, flying around a Yew tree. News for today (Tues 18th September 2007) - 2 Red Admiral, (1 at Vicarage Farm, 1 in set-aside field N of Williams Wood, Trent Park); 3 Speckled Wood, together, in Shaws Wood, Trent Park - Robert Callf

On Wednesday and Thursday (12th and 13th Sep) the Red Admiral was still present in the garden in Kenton, alternating between basking and feeding on the ivy. Not seen it since though. Friday (14th) afternoon up Barnhill and Fryent Country Park I saw 12 Speckled Woods and 4 Whites during a long walk. On Monday (17th) I found 1 Small Copper by a south facing hedgerow in the large field West of Batts Field by Horsenden Hill. This despite 8/8ths cirrostratus and scattered cumulus cloud with the sun barely getting through. In Batts Field itself I saw 1 Speckled Wood (plus possible 2nd one but not sure). Today (18th) at Grove Farm I saw 3 Speckled Woods and 1 unidentified White despite cold temperatures (14C max?). Nothing but flies on the extensive ivy. So just hanging on here in North West London. Speckled Wood definitely the most noted. - Mike Rubin

Monday 17th September

I went over to **Chorleywood Common** on **Saturday 15th** for a walk & to try and see a Common Blue or Small Copper - butterflies I'd seen last year in the hay meadow just to the south of the Black Horse pub. I was sad to see the meadow had been mowed like a lawn and no vetches or sorrels could be seen. At the lower end of the slope near the Metropolitan railway a dozen or so Meadow Browns were still hanging on and two Red Admirals were nectaring on Ivy flowers... But that was just about it! David Chandler

News for yesterday (Sun 16th September 2007) - 2 Comma, (1 along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm, 1 at Parkside Farm); 2 Speckled Wood, together, near Triangular Wood, at Trent Park. News for today (Mon 17th September 2007) - 1 Red Admiral, at Vicarage Farm - Robert Callf

Sunday 16th September

Cheshunt Park ~ Cheshunt Park Golf Course greenkeeper Keith enabled us to run a moth trap Sat/Sun night, and Mark Cooper identified the moths for the group. Not many species, but the list included centre-barred swallow, marbled beauty, willow beauty, large yellow underwings, square-spot and small square spot rustic, rustic, setaceous hebrew character and champion. Of the target grassland species, we encountered c6 small coppers, including one lacking the orange band trailing the upper hindwing, 2 small heath, and two female common blues. In addition, several speckled wood, a red admiral, a comma, and a flyby small tortoiseshell were seen. Towards the end of the walk, Adam Wilson alerted us to a clouded yellow flying over the last meadow, which created more excitement. Thanks to Derek Turner (CMS) and the group of 20 or so people that made for an enjoyable few hours - Andrew Middleton

At Folly Lane, **St Albans** this morning I had Small Tortoiseshell, a rare sight nowadays and Small Copper. This is only the third time I've seen Small Copper at this site in hundreds of visits over the last ten years. This afternoon I visited the two best Small Copper sites locally to see how it was doing there. Conditions were sunny but rather windy, so not ideal and numbers were down on last year. At **Nomansland Common, Wheathampstead** I saw 9 Small Copper and 1 Small Heath. At **The Warren, Colney Heath** I saw 9 Small Heath and 2 Small Copper. At **Gustardwood Common**, a new site for me, I saw no butterflies at all, though there is a reasonable amount of rabbit grazed grass/heather. Other species still out locally include Small & Large Whites, Red Admiral and Speckled Wood - Malcolm Hull

Had permission yesterday 15/9 to explore an amazing massive garden/with carp ponds, flower meadows etc near Balls Park, Hertford the highlight being a humming bird hawk moth photographed on my mobile phone - Stuart Pittman

Saturday 15th September

Waterford Heath, late morning 15th 3 of the following comma, small heath, green-veined white and meadow brown. 2 small copper, one common blue. On **13th** brimstone and painted lady in my garden in **Bengeo** - Steve Kiln

More news for yesterday (Fri 14th September 2007) - 2 Speckled Wood, along Merryhill's Brook at Vicarage Farm; 1 Small Copper, along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm. News for today (Sat 15th September 2007) - 2 Red Admiral, (1 at Vicarage Farm, 1 near Dew Pond, Trent Park); 5 Speckled Wood, (1 Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm; 4 at Trent Park - 2 Icehouse Wood, 1 Dew Pond, 1 Williams Wood); 1 Small White, set-aside field N of Williams Wood; 3 White sp., together, edge of Ride Wood (one of which was identified as a Green-veined White) - Robert Callf

Friday 14th September

On the meadow, **Fir and Pond Woods NR** pm.... 1 small heath, 1 small copper - Seen by Paul Thrush and David Gompertz

News for today (Fri 14th September 2007) - 3 Small Heath, (1 along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm and 2 reported by R.J White at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park); 1 Comma, at Park Farm near Duncan's Wood; 1 Speckled Wood, at Water Grdn., Trent Park. Yesterday (Thurs 13th September 2007) R.J. White reported a Small Copper along Leeging Beech Gutter near Water Grdn., Trent Park - Robert Callf

Thursday 13th September

Waterford Heath south pit, 2 Small Copper, 3 Common Blue, 2 Small Heath, 2+ Meadow Brown and several whites in a hurry. Earlier at **Broxbourne Wood NR**, very little to report apart from a handful of Speckled Woods, ud whites and one pristine comma - Liz Goodyear, Andrew Middleton, Sharon Hearle with Graham Goodall (HBRC) and Fiona Annal (CMS)

More news for yesterday (Weds 12th September 2007) - 1 Green-veined White, settled, along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm; 2 Small Heath, together, along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm. News for today (Thurs 13th September 2007) - 1 Painted Lady, nectaring on thistle, along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm; 2 Small Heath, (1 along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm, 1 at 'Old Golf Course' at Trent Park); 1 Small White, settled, at Parkside Farm; 4 Speckled Wood, (2 at Park Farm, 1 at Duncan's Wood, 1 at Vicarage Farm); 1 Comma, at Park Farm - Robert Callf

Wednesday 12th September

News for today (Weds 12th September 2007) - 2 Small Copper, (1 set-aside field, edge of Triangular Wood and 1 near Sport's Field, Trent Park); 2 Small Heath, (1 edge of Williams Wood and 1 'New Fields', Trent Park); 1 Speckled Wood, Snakes Lane, Trent Park; 1 Comma, near Dew Pond, Trent Park - Robert Callf

Tuesday 11th September

Just a few sightings today (Tues 11th September 2007) - 2 Speckled Wood, (1 Triangular Wood, Trent Park, 1 along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm); 1 Red Admiral, in set-aside field N of Williams Wood, Trent Park). More news for yesterday (Mon 10th September 2007) - 2 Small Copper, at 'New Fields', Trent Park (same individuals as on 9th); 3 Speckled Wood, (1 along tube-line near Cockfoster's entrance, 1 near Oakwood entrance, 1 near Triangular Wood - making a total of 7 in the park for the day); 1 Green-veined White, near Triangular Wood, Trent Park; 1 Painted Lady, nectaring on michaelmas daisies, set-aside field near Triangular Wood, Trent Park; 1 female Meadow Brown, 'New Fields', Trent Park - Robert Callf

Horsenden Hill, yesterday I saw 2 Speckled Woods, 1 Meadow Brown and an unidentified white. Today even worse, with 1 Meadow Brown and 2 Whites (one stopped on a Buddleia - +ve id for Green Veined White). Also since yesterday lunchtime Batts Field has been mowed. :(Lots of nectar sources annihilated as there were still flowering thistles and others yesterday. I think for me the butterfly season is more or less over. Just a moment ago I saw a Red Admiral fluttering around the Ivy in the garden in Kenton. Didn't see it settle though and it soon vanished. As I write this about half a zillion starlings just flew into the garden from the south. Invasion! If only they were butterflies and not common birds. ;) - Mike Rubin

News from 9th September, hugely surprised to see a **Silver-washed Fritillary** in **Abney Park** early this afternoon, whilst taking a walk with several of our members (about 12.15, Sunday 9/9). It settled on the chapel (which you know very well now, of course), for about 30 seconds before flying towards the roof, where we lost sight of it. First site record since 2001, we believe. Also 12+ Speckled Wood, incl. pair mating - Garry [James] & 'Terns'

Monday 10th September

News for yesterday (Sun 9th September 2007) - 4 Small White, (2 along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm; 2 at 'New Fields' at Trent Park); 2 Small Copper, at 'New Fields', Trent Park (Both fresh); 1 Red Admiral, at 'New Fields', Trent Park; 1 female Meadow Brown, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park; 6 Speckled Wood, at Trent Park (1 near Triangular Wood, 2 along tube-line near Cockfoster's entrance; 1 at Dew Pond, 2 around Ash, edge of Williams Wood). News for today (Mon 10th September 2007) - 1 Green-veined White, settled by Lower Lake, Trent Park; 4 Speckled Wood, at Trent Park (1 edge of Moat Wood; 1 Water Grdn; 2 at Dew Pond)- Robert Callf

A **Camberwell Beauty** was seen in **Stevenage** on either **26th or 27th August** - news via John Murray

News for **Fri 7th September 2007** - 1 female Common Blue, along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm; 1 female Meadow Brown, along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm; 1 Speckled Wood, at Vicarage Farm; 1 Painted Lady, along gravel-track at Vicarage Farm; 1 Painted Lady, in set-aside field N of Williams Wood, Trent Park; 2 Small White,(1 at Parkside Farm; 1 set-aside field N of Williams Wood, Trent Park). News for **Sat 8th Sept 2007** - 2 Speckled Wood, (1 at Park Farm; 1 at Dew Pond, Trent Park); 2 Small White, (1 set-aside field N of Williams Wood,Trent Park; 1 along Leging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm) - Robert Callf

Friday 7th -Clouded yellows still at the south side of **Waterford Heath** ,saw 2 today in cloudy conditions, plenty of small heath, meadow browns, a few whites and one red admiral. Nothing on the north side currently - Steve Kiln

Thursday 6th September

Reports for today - 2 Speckled Wood,(1 at Park Farm, 1 at Vicarage Farm); 1 Small White, at Park Farm; 2 male Common Blue, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park; 1 Small Heath, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park; 1 female Clouded Yellow, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, Trent Park (My first for the year!); 1 Comma, along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm. Plus a number of Whites sp. which remained unidentified - Robert Callf

Wednesday 5th September

News for today - 4 Small White, (2 at Vicarage Farm - 1 along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, 1 near firing range; 2 at Trent Park - 1 'Old Golf Course', 1 set-aside field N of Williams Wood); 3 Speckled Wood, (1 at Park Farm, 1 at Vicarage Farm, 1 near Dew Pond, Trent Park); 1 female Meadow Brown, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park; 2, male and female, Common Blue, mating, in set-aside field N of Williams Wood; 1 Painted Lady, on thistles, at 'Barracks', Vicarage Farm - Robert Callf

Tuesday 4th September

I had a walk around **Great Ashby Park** today, during the sunny intervals I saw 1 Small Heath, 1 Brown Argus, 4 Common Blues, 4 Painted Lady's, 10+ Red Admirals, 4 Speckled Woods, many Meadow Browns and Large, Small and Green-veined Whites - Steve Lane

Today (Tues 4th Sept 2007) - 1 Green-veined White, Icehouse Wood, Trent Park; 5 Speckled Wood,(1 at Park Farm, 4 at Trent Park - 1 edge of Ride Wood, 1 Dew Pond, 2 Williams Wood); 1 female Meadow Brown, at Vicarage Farm; 2 Small Heath, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park. More news for yesterday (Mon 3rd Sept 2007) - 1 Green-veined White, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Water Grdn., Trent Park; 2 Small Heath, (1 along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm, 1 by Lower Lake, Trent Park); 1 Speckled Wood, edge of Williams Wood, at Trent Park - Robert Callf

Monday 3rd September

Horsenden Hill, on the **29th** I explored the lower fields. About 10 Meadow Browns and nothing else. Today just 5 butterflies west of the road. 1x Tatty Speckled Wood, 1x Meadow Brown, 1x Suspected Meadow Brown moving too fast to confirm. 1x Comma! (Not seen any of them in a while.) 1x Distant white. No Camberwell Beauties but I can still dream. 8) Meanwhile the ivy looks almost ready to flower now. Hoping that produces one last run of butterflies fattening up for hibernation. Otherwise I am ready for the long winter wait now I guess. - Mike Rubin

More news for yesterday (**Sun 2nd September 2007**) - 1 Red Admiral and 2 Speckled Wood at Oakwood Park, N14. Just visited the 'New Fields' in Trent Park (**Mon 3rd September 2007** between 12.10 - 12.55 BST) and recorded the following - 1 Red Admiral; 2 Small Copper, (1 very fresh, 1 tatty); 5 Speckled Wood and 3 Small Heath - Robert Callf

Pirton transect, still nice to see 9 species on 2nd September, the highlight being a late Gatekeeper, others seen painted lady, red admiral, green- veined white, Brimstone then speckled wood x 5, holly blue x 2, meadow brown x 2, Small white x 5 - Stuart Pittman

On the way to do the **Horsenden West** transect today (**2nd Sept**) I came across a fairly worn male Purple Hairstreak, which struck me as being on the late-ish side given this years generally early emergence. The transect was pretty poor - Meadow Browns are still hanging on (total of 7) and I also had a couple of Holly Blues. The only other species were Speckled Wood and Small White - Andy Culshaw

1 Clouded Yellow, Red Admiral and plenty of Speckled Woods at **Watery Grove** around Sunday lunchtime - Darrel Bryant

I spent around an hour at **Amwell Pits** on Wednesday the 29th of August 2007. And saw a very bright Clouded Yellow flying strongly from the main Viewing point - Ian Hardy

Nipped out to **Waterford Heath** about 5.20 in late afternoon sunshine today **31st Aug** on South side of reserve, despite the wind saw 3 clouded yellows, they like the ragwort and don't mind the wind. Also saw whites, meadow browns and small heaths - Steve Kiln

Saturday 1st September. On a brief visit to **Ruislip Woods** this afternoon I saw a fresh Painted Lady - photo attached - Graham Elcombe

Waterford Heath on **2nd September**, this is the place to come if you have not seen clouded yellow before. Now up to 4 on site today!! Mainly showing in the sunshine. Earlier went to Nomansland in Wheathamstead & saw 2 Small Copper, numerous speckled wood & 1f PURPLE HAIRSTREAK looking very worn, landed on my phone at one point. Think it wanted to make a call. Darin & Lee Also **Waterford Heath South** - 1 Clouded Yellow in usual spot on Saturday 1st at 4 o'clock - Darin Stanley

Had an all too brief sighting of a Clouded Yellow at the ford in **Waterend**, just outside Wheathampstead at 1 pm today. Also by the river were three Banded Demoiselles - Robin Pearson

1 Small White, at Park Farm and 1 Green-veined White, along Leeing Beech Gutter near 'Three-bridges', at Trent Park on **Sun 2nd September 2007**. News for today Sat 1st September 2007 - 3 Small White, (1 allotments, Vicarage Farm, 1 edge of Icehouse Wood, 1 along Leeing Beech Gutter near 'Three-bridges'); 4 Speckled Wood, (1 at Park Farm, 1 Water Garden , 2 edge of Icehouse Wood); 1 female Meadow Brown, edge of Icehouse Wood; 1 Small Heath, along Leeing Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm. 2 female Meadow Brown, at Vicarage Farm **News for Fri 31st August 2007** - 1 Painted Lady, at Parkside Farm; 2 Speckled Wood, (1 near Dew Pond and 1 Williams Wood, Trent Park); 1 Green-veined White, near Dew Pond; 1 female Meadow Brown, at Vicarage Farm; 1 Small White, at Allotments, Vicarage Farm. Late news for yesterday (Thurs 30th August 2007) - 1 female Meadow Brown, at Vicarage Farm - Robert Callf

August 2007

Thursday 30th August

I saw 1 Clouded Yellow yesterday whilst playing golf at **Stevenage Golf Course**. It seemed to be just passing through on it's way West - Steve McLaren

News for today - 2 Speckled Wood, (1 at Parkside Farm, 1 edge of Rough Lot, Trent Park); 1 Green-veined White, along Leeing Beech Gutter near 'Three-bridges', Trent Park; 1 Small White, along Leeing Beech Gutter near 'Three-bridges' - Robert Callf

Wednesday 29th August

Just seen your note on Ealing's Camberwell Beauty over the weekend - reminded me that there was one reported on the LNHS members' egroup earlier in the month, also from a garden. This one was down in **Teddington, just our side of the Thames**. Can't remember if a photo was mentioned - Keir Mottram

News for today (Weds 29th August 2007) - 5 Speckled Wood, (1 along Leeing Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm, 2 at Park Farm; 2 together, at 'Dew Pond', Trent Park); 3 Small Heath, (1 at Parkside Farm, 1 at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 1 along Leeing Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm); 1 Small White, set-aside field N of Williams Wood. Also, 1 Silver Y, set-aside N of Williams Wood. Forgot to mention that I saw a Comma at Ride Wood, Trent Park on Mon 27th August 2007 - Robert Callf

Tuesday 28th August

There was a **Camberwell Beauty** in our **Ealing** garden on Sunday morning **26 August** for about 6 or 7 minutes. It looked in perfect condition and was flying strongly. It fed on buddleia for a few minutes and then flew off westwards. There was a good breeze from the north east at the time. Unfortunately by the time we got the cameras out it had gone - Quentin & Honor Phillipps

Waterford Heath, after seeing the news on the website reporting up to possibly 2 clouded yellows on site, hoping they would stick, thought I would make an effort to get down there & complete my list of butterfly species for the year (unless I am lucky enough to see a Camberwell Beauty to add). Located 2 around the same area as I saw the grizzled skippers earlier in the year, on the South side. Now totaling 51 species. Took some shots with phone camera - Darin Stanley

Went to **Waterford Heath**, near Bengoe, Hertford, yesterday 27th. No Clouded yellow today, but plenty of :- common blue, brown argus, Meadow brown, large white and a few Small heath - Steve Kiln

I have had several Red Admiral, a Peacock, 2 Holly Blues, lots of Small Whites and the odd Large White visit my **Stevenage**, garden over the weekend. In a walk around **Great Ashby Park** on Bank Holiday Monday in slightly overcast conditions, I saw 5 fresh Painted Lady's, 10+ Red Admirals, lots of Meadow Browns, Small and Large Whites and a single Common Blue - Steve Lane

News for (Sun 26th August 2007) - 1 Red Admiral, on buddleia, outside my flat in Southgate, N14 at 13.50 BST; 1 female Meadow Brown, at Vicarage Farm; 8 Small Heath, along Leeing Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm; 1 Small Heath, at Park Farm; 2 Speckled Wood, along Jubilee Path at Park Farm; 5 Speckled Wood, around Ash, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park. (Mon 27th

August 2007) - 2 Small Heath, along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm; 1 Small Heath, at Ride Wood, Trent Park; 1 Small White, near Lower Lake, Trent Park; 1 Speckled Wood, along Merryhill's Brook at Vicarage Farm. (Tues 28th August 2007) - 3 Speckled Wood, (1 along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm, 1 at Park Farm, 1 Icehouse Wood, at Trent Park); 1 Red Admiral, at Parkside Farm; 1 Small White, at Park Farm - Robert Callf

Horsenden Hill, was pretty quiet up there today now all the gatekeepers have gone. Also many fields have been mowed. :(Including the field where the Brown Argus's were seen and the one where the abberant Small Copper was seen. The grazing fields are still full of flowers. But so quiet out there despite good sunny weather. 4x Meadow Brown (All females), 3x Speckled Wood, 1x Holly Blue, 1x Small Copper. Plenty of Crambid type moths in Batts field but precious little else! The swarms of Meadow Browns are all gone. Atleast that field hasn't been mowed and plenty of flowers still. Then on **Greenford Road** by the office entrance I saw another Holly Blue. So 10 butterflies total - Mike Rubin

Monday 27th August

Be on alert for Camberwell Beauties - several reports now from Norfolk, [Cambridgeshire and Essex](#)

Chorleywood Common - Small Copper, Purple Hairstreak, Silver Y, Blood-vein, Antler Moth, Red Admiral, & the usual whites & browns. **The Warren, Colney Heath** - Small Heath - Malcolm Hull

Sunday 26th August

Visited **Aldbury Nowers** to check what we might have seen with better weather on last Sundays branch field trip. Species seen included Small Skipper, Large White, Small White, Brimstone (dozens), Small Tortoiseshell, Painted Lady, Red Admiral, Peacock, Small Copper, Common Blue, Brown Argus, Meadow Brown (dozens), Gatekeeper, Small Heath, Speckled Wood, Common Carpet & Golden Y. Numbers of most species, especially blues were low. Went on to Pitstone Hill - similar range of butterflies, no extra species - Malcolm Hull

I went to **Bencroft** this morning 26th only speckled wood, meadow brown and purple hairstreak. However I went to **Waterford Heath** this afternoon about 3.30 pm and in South Part, I saw a clouded yellow maybe two. I also saw 4 common blue and a few meadow browns and whites - Steve Kiln

Today I saw one Painted Lady along the **Stort near Harlow (Herts. side)**. A further five Painted Ladies were at **Amwell Gravel Pit**. Also quite a few Red Admirals, 1 late Comma, and 1 Peacock - Jan Hein van Steenis

Saturday 25th August

Ware garden, 3 Red Admiral, 2 Comma, 1 Painted Lady, 1 Peacock, Small White and a pristine Small Tortoiseshell in the garden this morning. Making the most of the sunshine and nectaring on buddleia. One Comma stayed on a buddleia flower head without a break for 2 hours. Over 50 Large Yellow Underwings in my light trap this morning and the kitten brought in a very large Elephant Hawkmoth larva which I rescued - Liz Goodyear

More news for yesterday (Fri 24th August 2007) - 2 Small White, along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm; 1 Green-veined White, at Parkside Farm. Today (Sat 25th August 2007) on leaving my flat in Southgate, N14 this morning there was a Painted Lady nectaring on the buddleia outside my neighbours house. Very quiet over the 'New Fields' in Trent Park later between 13.00 and 14.00 BST - 1 Painted Lady; 4 Speckled Wood; 1 Meadow Brown and 4 Small Heath. One unidentified White sp. - Robert Callf

Friday 24th August

This evening in my **Harpenden** garden, In my garden, 1 Red Admiral, 1 Painted Lady on buddleia 'davidii' and 1 Holly Blue, all emerging with the evening sunshine - Robin Pearson

News for today (Fri 24th August 2007) - 1 Green-veined White, edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park; 4 Speckled Wood, (2 along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm; 2 at Park Farm); 1 female Holly Blue, settled at Bramley Rd., N14 - Robert Callf

Thursday 23rd August

We had a Herts Flora Group visit to the Stort **north of Sawbridgeworth** on **Sunday**. There were

not many butterflies or moths about - just the odd Gatekeeper and Meadow Brown, but in the NR proper, we were joined by this unusually cooperative Clouded Yellow, which posed long enough to get nearly in focus for a change! We had expected, from the weather forecast, to be drowned out, but as it turned out, there were some quite sunny bits, and we didn't get wet at all, whilst the 'bugs' were keeping quite still, expecting rain - Steve Hawkins

Tuesday 21st August

A few sightings for yesterday (Mon 20th August 2007) - 3 Speckled Wood, (2 at Trent Park - 1 edge of Moat Wood and 1 by Lower Lake; 1 along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm); 1 female Meadow Brown, edge of Moat Wood at Trent Park; 2 female Gatekeeper, at Trent Park (1 at 'Old Golf Course', 1 set-aside field N of Williams Wood); 1 Red Admiral, on thistles along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm - Robert Callf

Monday 20th August

Ashley Cox, in his note to the website for Monday 13th August, reports seeing "2 newly emerged Common Blues" on Bunkers Park. The very fact that 2 CBs can be considered a noteworthy observation in mid-August, is a clear indication of the very severe effects that this summer's weather has had on the 2nd generation CB on Bunkers Park. The five weeks of Transect wks. 16-20 (mid-July - mid-Aug) normally include the peak flight period, and the majority of sightings, of 2nd gen. CBs. This year, 2007, I have recorded only a total of 11 CBs on transect visits during these five weeks. In 2006 sightings over the same period totalled 245 CBs - a fall of >95%: (av.of sightings for the 7 yrs. 2000-2006 = 217CBs). Michael Pearson

News for yesterday (Sun 19th August 2007) - 1 Small White, at Parkside Farm; 1 male Common Blue, at Parkside Farm; 1 Speckled Wood, at Parkside Farm; 1 female Gatekeeper, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park; 1 Green-veined White, by Lower Lake, Trent Park; 1 Small Heath, by Lower Lake, Trent Park - Robert Callf

Sunday 19th August

Aldbury Nowers field trip report, we saw 5 Meadow Browns, 4 Gatekeepers & a Painted Lady and it didn't rain! - Malcolm Hull

Thursday 16th August

Wheathampstead LNR, 2 Speckled Wood, 1 Holly Blue, 1 Painted Lady, 1 Peacock, 1 Red Admiral, 1 Common Blue, 10 Green Veined White, 1 Brown Argus, 2 or 3 tatty old Gatekeepers & Meadow Browns, grey & overcast. Found a Hornets' nest, how cool is that !! I was careful not to stir it up though - Ashley Cox

Ponders End - Met up with Tony Clancy and we spotted four well-grown holly blue larvae on my front garden alder buckthorn (also saw some holly blue egg-laying a couple of weeks ago. And at last a toadflax brocade larva on my purple toadflax which the bees also adore - Andrew Middleton (images attached)

A few observations for today (Thurs 16th August 2007) - 3 Small Heath, at Vicarage Farm; 4 Gatekeeper, (2 females, at Vicarage Farm; 1 at Park Farm; 1 at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park); 2 Speckled Wood, (1 at Vicarage Farm; 1 at Park Farm); 1 female Meadow Brown, at Park Farm - Robert Callf

Wednesday 15th August

Horsenden Hill, 10+ Meadow Browns (m/f), 1 or 2 Gatekeepers (females) and a Small Copper noted. And 2-3 Speckled Woods. Also saw a 3-4cm long caterpillar crawling quickly across a grass path. Completely black with thick hair except for a brown stripe down the middle of its back. I wonder what species that is? I'm guessing it was final instar looking for a pupating site. I failed to get a pic of it as it kept moving in and out of tufts of grass. I dared not touch it as I had no idea if the hairs were irritants or not. - Mike Rubin

Friday 10th August 07 - **Hoddesdonpark Wood**, one **Purple Emperor** seen gliding fairly high around oaks at 11.20am, large and faded, plus a worn **Silver-washed Fritillary**; both in the central open area by the crossway - news from Laurence Drummond

Monday 13th August

Bunkers Park, single Small Copper, 2 newly emerged Common Blues. Dull and overcast. Anyone

thinking of visiting **Bunkers park** around about now would do well to cross the lane into **Longdean nature reserve**, where in spring is a mass of yellow Buttercups is at the moment a sea of purple Knapweed, well worth a look ;-) - Ashley Cox

Walked from Lilley to **Hexton via Ravensburgh Castle** one way and Hoo Bit the other including 30 mins at Hexton Chalk Pit on **Sunday 12th**. Very little about , a few Painted ladies, Meadow Browns, Gatekeepers and Green-veined Whites and one Holly Blue. At the Chalkpit no more than 50 Chalkhill blues and 10 or so of gatekeeper and Meadow Brown. Very disappointing, especially as the weather was much better than forecast and there were nectar sources a plenty - Andrew Wood

News for yesterday (Sun 12th August 2007) - 1 Red Admiral, at Park Farm; 1 Comma, at Vicarage Farm; 1 Speckled Wood and 4 Small Heath, at Vicarage Farm - Robert Callf

Sunday 12th August

Saturday am - Bricket Wood - Female Silver-washed Fritillary, still in good condition. Brimstones, Peacocks, Small Copper Silver Y & Small Skipper all out, as well as the usual browns & whites. PM at **Wood Lane, Pirton** I added Painted Lady (4 all newly hatched), Brown Argus (4), Holly Blue & Vapourer Moth - Malcolm Hull

Brown Argus on set-aside near **Letchmore Heath** - Colin Everett

Just to let you know that I saw a **female Purple Emperor** in **Broxbourne Woods** yesterday lunchtime. It was fairly worn, but got a good look at it both in flight and when it landed in a tree. Not much else about - a single Holly Blue, some Gatekeepers, Meadow Browns, Speckled Woods and a few Whites - Ian Small

Saturday 11th August

Just a few items of interest - 1 Small Heath, at Vicarage Farm on Tues 7th August and Thurs 9th August. Also today (Sat 11th August 2007) saw a Painted Lady on buddleia outside my flat in Southgate - the first Painted Lady I have seen since 15th July 2007. Seen very few butterflies on this buddleia this year - Robert Callf

Friday 10th August

Went out with Andy Culshaw on 9th around 1130 and found three brown argus including a mating pair. They were in Upper Thrifts on **Horsenden Hill** the next field over from Batt' field where Mike Rubin got his photos. We managed a couple of good shots of the singleton - Martin Smithand after a couple of failures, I finally caught up with the Brown Argus reported by Mike Rubin on Horsenden Hill. In fact I had no success in the meadow where Mike reported his individual, instead finding 3, including a pair in cop, in a nearby meadow. They are pretty aggressive towards the small coppers that are pretty common in the same area. Presumably they must be using storksbills or cranesbills as foodplant on this site, as there is no rock-rose. Noticed that they are only really active in direct sunshine, preferring to sit when the cloud cover rolled in. At least this was useful for photographing them! - Andy Culshaw

Wednesday 8th August

Marshalls Heath (7th August) - 3 ESSEX SKIPPER amongst long grasses - Darin Stanley

Horsenden Hill, pretty quiet overall at lunchtime. Still quite a few meadow browns. But Gatekeepers are much fewer in number now and almost all female. Just one tatty male seen. 5 species seen overall, including that Brown Argus in Batts field again (managed a photo of the spots on the underside of the wings so positively ID'd it). Unidentified White - Just the 1. Meadow Brown - 20-30? Gatekeeper - Less than 10, all but 1 female. Small Copper - 5-6. BROWN ARGUS - 1. I thought I saw a Hairstreak (gotta be Purple) flying overhead but couldn't confirm.
<http://piccies.flybywire.org.uk/ButterfliesMoths/2007/20070806/PaintedLady1.jpg>
<http://piccies.flybywire.org.uk/ButterfliesMoths/2007/20070806/PaintedLady2.jpg>
<http://piccies.flybywire.org.uk/ButterfliesMoths/2007/20070806/PaintedLady3.jpg>
<http://piccies.flybywire.org.uk/ButterfliesMoths/2007/20070808/BrownArgus1.jpg>
<http://piccies.flybywire.org.uk/ButterfliesMoths/2007/20070808/BrownArgus2.jpg>
<http://piccies.flybywire.org.uk/ButterfliesMoths/2007/20070808/BrownArgus3.jpg>
- Mike Rubin

Tuesday 7th August

News for (**Sun 5th August 2007**) - 2 Speckled Wood, near Oakwood entrance, Trent Park; 2 Small Copper, at 'New Fields', Trent Park. News for yesterday (**Mon 6th August 2007**) - 2 Speckled Wood, along bridle-path near Equestrian Centre, Trent Park; 6 Purple Hairstreak, around Ash, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park; 1 female Common Blue, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park; 1 Small Copper, along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm - Robert Callf

Monday 6th August

Horsenden Hill, 8 species spotted today, plus an unidentified white. It seemed rather quiet out there. And too many *#&@** horseflies in the grazing field and in Batts field once again. Meadow Brown - Plenty of tatty ones. Especially the males. Gatekeeper - Mostly females now and decreasing in number. Small Copper - 3 or 4, Speckled Wood - 2 or 3, Green Veined White - 1 positive ID. Another unid'd, white seen on the wing. Common Blue - 1 Male seen in Batts field. Holly Blue - 1, Painted Lady - 1 very fresh but fairly small individual in the northern most meadow West of the road - Mike Rubin

Sunday 5th August

Saw a male **Orange Tip** at **Watford Football Club** this afternoon (**4th August**) in the warm sunshine. - Clive Burrows

Had an excellent afternoon walk in and around **Ladywalk Wood , Maple Cross** on **Wednesday (1st August)**. This is the area where I saw over a dozen white letter hairstreaks last year. I was lucky this time too! Just one butterfly but it was low down basking on bramble so I had a good look! Also saw large white, green-veined white, a small copper, one holly blue and one common blue, a single peacock, several speckled woods and lots of gatekeepers and meadow browns. Then this evening looking out at the oak near my house I spotted two purple hairstreaks spiralling and landing high in the trees. This is my first sighting of these butterflies in my area despite having been searching for some time! Perhaps it will be a good summer after all despite the poor spring - Ann Piper

On **July 28**, I had a single White Admiral in **Ball's Wood** near Hertford Heath, 2 Purple Hairstreaks at the crossing of **Lord Street/Elbow Lane and 1 on Hertford Heath** (south) - Jan Hein van Steenis

Aldbury Nowers: 1 August: Paul Thrush saw both Dark Green (northern Area) and Silver-washed (southern area) Fritillary's today on Aldbury along with another DG on Pitstone Hill. There was also a possible Chalkhill Blue at Aldbury but not seen well. Yesterday he saw a SWF at Wendover Woods and a DGF at Ivinghoe Beacon - Andrew Palmer

Horsenden Hill (1st August) Holly Blue - 3 including one brave one crossing Greenford Road. Purple Hairstreak - 1 on the ground looked as if it was laying eggs on grass stems. Small Copper - Maybe 10 approx 1 unidentified nymph over Greenford Road. Unidentified whites - plenty. Gatekeeper - Loads. Meadow Brown - Loads - Mike Rubin

Grove Farm 31st July 2007: 2 x Small Tortoiseshell. Got close to one on thistle with camera. It decided to then check out the camera (almost landing on it) before moving off, 6 x Gatekeeper, 4 x Meadow Brown, 3 x Speckled Wood 3x Unid'd whites. 2 were suspected GVW, 1 x Red Admiral, 1 x Purple Hairstreak flying around the ground and brambles! (Oak not too far away). 1 x Holly Blue. Where did all the Peacocks go? - Mike Rubin

Horsenden Hill, 30th July now I'm back I had a good look around the New Ballot Box field at lunchtime, before heading to Batts field then back home. 8 species spotted overall: 7-8 Small Coppers (all regular, failed to find the aberant, 1 x Purple Hairstreak - Low on a large oak tree. Got close watching it scour an acorn with its proboscis, 2 x Green Veined White (and another unid's white). Many faded and tatty Meadow Browns. Many faded and tatty Gatekeepers. 3-4 Speckled Woods, 1 x Brown Argus (**Batts Field**), 1 x Holly Blue - Mike Rubin

Butterfly news for **Tues 31st July 2007** - 8 Speckled Wood, at Trent Park (6 near Equestrian Centre along bridle-path, 1 near Shaws Wood, 1 Williams Wood); 1 Comma, near Equestrian Centre; 13+ Purple Hairstreak, at Trent Park (3 near Equestrian Centre, 10+ around Ash, edge of Williams Wood); 3 Peacock, near Lower Lake, Trent Park; 1 male Large Skipper, along bridle-path near Shaws Wood; 1 Brown Argus, set-aside field N of Williams Wood; 1 female Large White, along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm; 1 Green-veined White, along Leeging Beech Gutter

at Vicarage Farm - Robert Callf

News for **Mon 30th July 2007** - 4 Speckled Wood,(3 'New Fields', Trent Park, 1 along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm ; 5 Small Copper, (4 at 'New Fields', Trent Park between 13.17 - 13.58 hrs., 1 at Vicarage Farm, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables); 2 Comma, at 'New Fields'; 2 Holly Blue, (1 along tube-line near Cockfoster's entrance, 1 near Animal Centre); 4 Green-veined White, at Trent Park (3 at 'New Fields', 1 along Leeging Beech Gutter near 'Three-bridges'); 6 Peacock, (1 on buddleia, in Section 5 of my transect, 3 together, around buddleia, by Lower Lake, Trent Park; 2 at Vicarage Farm); 1 Red Admiral, on buddleia, by Lower Lake; 1 Essex Skipper, along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm - Robert Callf

24 people attended my butterfly walk at **Trent Park** on **Sat 28th July 2007**, here are some of the species we saw - 3 Speckled Wood; 1 Large White; 5 Small Copper; 1 Red Admiral; 2 Peacock, together, on buddleia in Sect 5 of my transect; 5+ Purple Hairstreak, on the edge of Church Wood - some of which were settled low down for close views; Holly Blue; 3+ Comma; 2 Essex Skipper; Small Skipper; 1 Small Heath; Meadow Brown and Gatekeeper - Robert Callf

July 2007 On **Sun 29th July 2007**, recorded the following - 1 Red Admiral, at Dalrymple Close, N14; 1 Green-veined White, at Oakwood Park; 1 Speckled Wood, at Oakwood Park, nectaring on blackberry; 1 Essex Skipper and 2 Small Skipper at Oakwood Park. At Grovelands Park, Southgate I recorded the following - 5 Small Skipper; 2 Essex Skipper, mating; 1 Purple Hairstreak; 1 Green-veined White; 3 Peacock, together, on buddleia, near Priory - Robert Callf.

I went to **Symondshyde Wood** on **Friday 27th July** to look for the SWF but found a White Admiral instead - Trevor Chapman

Sunday 29th July

Rousebarn Lane, which runs along one edge of **Whippendell Woods** in Watford: Sat 27 July: There is a small car-park half way along and this has a solitary buddleia, which must be the only one around for hundreds of yards and, given where it is in the woods, is well worth checking out if you are going observing butterflies. Last year it had a Silver-Washed Fritillary on it. This time it, at about 11.30, it was supporting 9 peacocks, several meadow browns and 2 white admirals. Two hours later the white admirals had gone, but there were now about 19 peacocks, several meadow browns and a red admiral and 2 commas. A Gatekeeper there did not appear to be nectaring but had set up its territory amongst the leaves, which would be a bit like trying to set up home in Waterloo station. Also a hornet worker appeared to be trying to hunt the butterflies, but I only saw it tackling peacocks, which just jumped away and flew off. I wonder if the meadow browns would have been so successful. Green-veined white, 1 speckled wood, gatekeepers, another red admiral and quite a few holly blues were seen along Rousebarn Lane. This classic country lane has elm trees and suckers along much of its length, but I failed to see any sign of white-letter hairstreaks as I walked along. I stayed in one place, at the corner of the Lane and the golf-club drive, catching tantalizing glimpses of possible WLHs for three quarters of an hour, the sun going in and out and quite a breeze all decreasing my chances, or so I thought. The matter was confused by what might have been WLHs flying up and challenging passing holly blues, but none of the sightings was conclusive. At that point, just as I was about to give up, I got a definite i.d. of a WLH, perched on a leaf about 20 feet away (viewed clearly through binoculars), in exactly the same location that I saw my very first, about 45 years ago - Andrew King

Saturday 28th July

Marshall's Heath, 1 ESSEX SKIPPER in long grasses - Darin Stanley

What an awful month some far! **Stevenage**, over the last week, with the slight improvement in the weather and the new patio finished, I have noticed a few more species coming into my garden. Holly Blue, Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock, Red Admiral, Comma, Speckled Wood, Ringlet, Meadow Brown, Small, Large and Essex Skippers, Small and Large White and a Hummingbird Hawkmoth - Steve Lane

News for Tues 24th July 2007 - 2 Red Admiral,(1 on buddleia, outside my flat in Southgate, 1 on buddleia, at 'New Fields', Trent Park); 10 Peacock, at Trent Park, 'New Fields' - including 5 together on buddleia in Sect 5 of my transect; 5 Speckled Wood, (4 at Trent Park, 1 at Vicarage Farm); 2 Comma, at 'New Fields', Trent Park; 7 Small Copper, at 'New Fields', Trent Park between 14.15 - 15.05 BST; 1 Green-veined White, at 'New Fields'; 1 Purple Hairstreak, settled on bramble

at 'New Fields'; 1 Small White, along Leeging Beech Gutter near 'Three-bridges', Trent Park; 1 Large White, in Williams Wood, Trent Park; 2 Essex Skipper, settled on thistle head, along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm. Also saw 2 male Oak Eggar today at 'New Fields', Trent Park. I saw a single male Common Blue at the 'New Fields' - Robert Callf

Monday 23rd July

News for today (Mon 23rd July 2007) - 5 Speckled Wood, (4 along bridle-path between Equestrian Centre and Shaws Wood, Trent Park, 1 at Vicarage Farm); 3 Ringlet, (1 set-aside field near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 2 at Vicarage Farm); 2 Green-veined White, Uni-lawns, Trent Park; 1 Essex Skipper, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park; 1 Small White, at 'Old Golf Course'. Also 'lots' of Gatekeeper today - Robert Callf

Broxbourne Woods 22nd July Sunday mid-day. Saw my first female PE basking in sunshine on a beech tree just beyond the dip along the central path. This individual had a couple of bird pecks from the right hind wing. After it flew through the canopy for a while it landed again on a beech tree, and I managed to take further pictures. When I got home I notice that this individual was not damaged, so must have been a second female. **Bedfordshire:** 21st July Saturday, There must have been over 10 Dark Green Fritillaries flying at mid-day on Saturday. A few Chalkhill Blues also, so a good trip out. **Wheathampstead LNR** 15th July Butterfly count for 90 mins up to 6 o'clock. Small Skipper 32, Meadow Brown 13, Ringlet 20, Small White 10, Gatekeeper 20, Large White 3, Comma 2, Large Skipper 1, Marbled White 23, Small Copper 1 - Trevor Chapman

News for yesterday (Sun 22nd July 2007) - 3 Small Tortoiseshell, (2 together, at Vicarage Farm, 1 on thistles at Park Farm); 1 female Essex Skipper, at 'Barracks', Vicarage Farm; 9 Peacock, (1 at Vicarage Farm, 1 at Park Farm, 7 at Trent Park); 2 Green-veined White, (1 along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm, 1 along Leeging Beech Gutter near Water Grdn); 4 Red Admiral, (2 at Vicarage Farm, 1 at Parkside Farm, 1 edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park); 1 Comma, along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm; 4 Purple Hairstreak, (1 at Parkside Farm, 1 at Park Farm, settled on bramble, 2 by Lower Lake, Trent Park); 4 Speckled Wood, (3 at Park Farm, 1 by Lower Lake, Trent Park); 1 male Common Blue, 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park - first of the summer-brood; 1 male Brown Argus, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, Trent Park - very fresh 'straight out of the box'; 1 Holly Blue, at Chelmsford Rd., N14 - Robert Callf

Diane Andrews rang to say that her husband Richard had seen a **Silver-washed Fritillary** in the middle of the **Broxbourne Woods complex** on the **14th July** and that she had had a Hummingbird Hawkmoth recently in their north London garden

Sunday 22nd July

Wheathampstead "Long Meadows" not sure if this is set-aside land but it has remained uncultivated for a good while, you can't miss it, it's adjacent to the Lea Valley Walk and a veritable riot of colour, a sea of Ragwort, Thistles, Musk Mallow, you name it; Quite breathtaking. Peacocks, Small Tortoiseshell, Red Admiral & Comma in abundance as are Small & Green Veined Whites. One or two Small Skippers & Small Coppers some fresh some tatty. But far more unusual for this area were very very good numbers of both Brown Argus & Marbled Whites in fact they far outnumbered everything else (apart from the Grasshoppers that is). Now my kids have all grown up and i've got my Sundays back I'm returning to my old haunts, I grew up in these meadows fishing & chasing Butterflies and these two species were just wishful thinking to me then, mind you, so were Speckled Woods and there were plenty of them around today aswell. The expansion of these three species kind of offsets the loss of the Wall Brown I guess, which I really miss - Ashley Cox

I've been up **Tring Park** a number of times recently in the hope of a glimpse of a PE - all to no avail, however... This morning, saw a **silver washed fritillary** giving a comma a very hard time next to the buddleia bushes at the far (western) end of the ridge, obviously few of his own kind available! - Colin Sturges

Saturday 21st July

One male **Silver-washed Fritillary** showing extremely well sunning itself at 8.55am on bushes in my front garden on the West Side of **Welwyn Garden City** - Anthony Dorman

I brief sighting of **Purple Emperor** at **Tring** and 2 at **Northaw** today - Andrew Middleton

Symondshyde, 1m Silver washed Fritillary (photos), 2 White Letter Hairstreak (1 real close & low

(photo's)), 4+ white Admiral, 1 Green Veined White, numerous Gatekeeper, Ringlet, meadow Brown, large white, comma, Red Admiral & Peacock.....& all in one small area - Darin Stanley

News for today (Sat 21th July 2007) - 2 Speckled Wood, (1 near Shaws Wood, 1 Williams Wood); 2 Holly Blue, (1 male on bridle-path at Shaws Wood, 1 Williams Wood); 1 Purple Hairstreak, around Sweet Chestnut, Williams Wood; 18 Peacock, at Trent Park between 12.40 - 13.40 BST, (1 near Dew Pond, 1 Icehouse Wood, 1 Water Grdn, 3 together, near buddleia around Lower Lake; 12 nectaring on thistles 'Old Golf Course'); 1 Comma, Icehouse Wood; 2 Red Admiral, (1 near buddleia by Lower Lake, 1 'Old Golf Course')- Robert Callf. P.S. The best count of Peacock in the Park for many years!

Barnhill, weather much better than forecast so fancied some fresh air. Yesterday's biblical downpour doesn't seem to have affected the butterflies. Huge numbers of meadow browns, gatekeepers and small (essex) skippers. Good numbers of Speckled Woods too, plus a few Peacocks and Holly Blues. One Red Admiral. Also saw a few Common Darter dragonflies and Common Blue Damsels. As Barnhill has a lot of oak trees I thought I'd look out for Purple Hairstreak as I haven't seen that one here before. The whole walk went in vain there until the last moment, when near the Jubilee Line I thought I saw soem flying high up on an Ash Tree. Then as I headed home I got very close to one with the camera on a young oak near the bridge over the Jubilee Line. Result! First time I've seen any Hairstreak within a mile of home. Also the Ragwort bush had scores of Cinnabar caterpillars on it. I've never seen so many in one place before! Also one huge hairy caterpillar than landed on my neck from who knows where. Unfortunately I flicked it off thinking it was another horsefly (still a few around). First I realised was red goo all over my fingers and an oblong hairy 'twig' falling away to the ground. If I'm up for it I'm tempted to go back up Barnhill later as the first Blackberries are ripe. And with all that rain they are big and juicy! Looking like a good year for them - Mike Rubin

Ware garden - my first garden Small Tortoiseshell seen this year but not pristine but really tatty and faded. Just 2 Peacocks on my buddleia! - Liz Goodyear

Thursday 19th July

News for today (Thurs 19th July 2007) - 1 Ringlet, set-aside field near Oakwood entrance; 1 Holly Blue, near Cockfoster's entrance; 8 Peacock, (4 at Trent Park - 3 'New Fields', 1 by Lower Lake, 4 at Vicarage Farm); 3 Small Copper, at 'New Fields', Trent Park; 3 Comma, (2 at Trent Park; 1 along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm); 1 Large White, at 'New Fields'; 1 Red Admiral, at 'New Fields', Trent Park; 2 Speckled Wood, (1 near Nature Trail, 1 set-aside field N of Williams Wood); 2 Green-veined White, (1 Williams Wood, 1 at Vicarage Farm); 1 Small White, at Vicarage Farm; 1 female Essex Skipper, along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm - Robert Callf

1 Holly Blue outside our **Stevenage** flat today - Ian Hardy

I went up to **Tring Park** this morning (10.30) and although it was fairly sunny when I arrived it soon clouded over. The usual numerous Marbled Whites. Meadow Brown, Gatekeepers and Skippers around but no sign of the Purple Emperor in the cloudy conditions. However I did see a very worn **Dark Green Fritillary** flying continuously up and down the bottom of the steep escarpment leading up to wood. It settled occasionally so that I could identify it and made me feel that my trip had been worthwhile. I feel generally though that it has been rather a frustrating summer for butterfly spotting so far and we can only hope for an improvement in the weather conditions in the second half of the summer - Phil Woodward

Wednesday 18th July

Hexton Chalkpit was alive with **CHALKHILL BLUE's** at 6.45PM this PM. About 80+ around site. Also 1 Marbled White. Numerous gatekeeper & 2 Large Skipper - Darin Stanley

On a wonderful warm evening **2 Dark Green Fritillary** in the southern section of **Aldbury Nowers** (1 at 17.20 egg-laying behaviour but no eggs found: another rather tatty individual at 18.40 nectaring on thistles). Probable Silver-washed at 14.00 but quickly lost to view. Also an asymmetrically aberrant Small Copper (left-hindwing white as in ab. cuprinus). The field next to the reserve and southern paddocks holding large numbers of butterflies (100+ Marbled White plus many skippers and other common species). Overall pretty glorious - Andrew Palmer

1 female **Purple Emperor** in sallows on ride near car park **Broxbourne** at midday before rain -

Tony Clancy

Still not seen a PE at Brox. Went to **Newton Wood, Stevenage** today. Marbled White and Comma but no White Admiral. Bit late perhaps? Nigel Agar

Went to **Great Ashby Park** today for 40 mins at 3.30pm. And saw 4 Comma, 3 Marbled White, 40+ Ringlet, 12 Meadow Brown, 20+ Small Skipper, 2 Peacock and 2 Holly Blue - Ian Hardy

Tuesday 17th July

Batford Irrigation Pond, Batford, after looking & finding these on Sunday over in Essex, managed to locate 1 ESSEX SKIPPER amongst about 16 small skippers nearby the pond. To add to the amazing deluge of excitement saw 2+ purple hairstreaks back in their usual Oak. Then as if it couldn't get any better saw a large type Butterfly shooting by whilst watching the Skippers. Tracked it down & ID'd as a male OAK EGGER moth. On close inspection, as it was going scatty, found it to be flirting with a female - Darin Stanley

Whippendell Woods today - only species of note was a couple of White Admirals in very breezy and occasionally wet conditions - Liz Goodyear & Andrew Middleton

I saw 1 Gatekeeper today outside Andes Travel in **Stevenage** Town Centre - Ian Hardy

Just a few butterflies seen today (Tues 17th July 2007) - 2 Speckled Wood, near Equestrian Centre, Trent Park; 2 Ringlet, set-aside field near Shaws Wood; 1 Peacock, at Vicarage Farm; 1 Red Admiral, at Town Park, 2 Comma, at Vicarage Farm (1 in Sidhil's Field and 1 by Allotments) - Robert Callf.

Aldbury Nowers, Monday afternoon (16th). Lots of marbled whites, ringlets, meadow browns, small skippers, plus one small tortoiseshell, one brimstone, one large skipper, two large whites, one small copper, one dark green fritillary - Dave Mackenzie

Monday 16th July

Marbled White again **Totteridge Valley** Sunday pm - Tony Clancy

On Saturday 14th July I saw **4 Purple Emperor** in **Park Wood, Ruislip**. I arrived in the wood at 11.30, it was warm with more cloud than sunshine but as the day went on the sunshine became more prolonged. I searched the Pylon ride and Grub Ground without any luck so headed towards the high point of the wood near St Vincents Nursing home. At 15.05 I saw 2 males clashing and regularly settling in the canopy mainly on Hornbeam. They were joined by a 3rd individual which I couldn't confirm the sex of although it only appeared once and didn't get involved in any dogfights. This is the same sight I saw 2 males clashing a 2-3 years ago very close to the Nursing home and the entrance to the wood from Fore Street. These 2 males were on display whenever the sun shone and I watched them for an 1 1/4 hrs. I walked back down the path, past house 33 where you had a sighting last year towards the point where the path takes a sharp left turn. Here I saw another male, initially at head height but then it disappeared into the canopy not to be seen again. At 17.40 I returned to the St Vincents end of the wood and 2 males were still clashing in the same place as earlier. Unfortunately I was going out in the evening so couldn't hang around. Other species seen on Saturday in Park Wood: 2 White Admiral, 3 Red Admiral, 5 Peacock, 1 Small T/S, 3 Comma, 4 L. White, 2 S. White, 1 L. Skipper, 4 Speckled Wood, 2 Holly Blue, 2 Ringlet, 1 Marbled White and numerous S/E Skipper, Gatekeeper and Meadow Brown I revisited the site on Sunday morning 10 - 11.30 but saw no PE. It was warm but overcast - Steve Pash

Horsenden Hill, spotted my first summer Peacock today. Very fresh. Lots of the usual Meadow Browns, Skippers, Gatekeepers (caught 2 mating - looked like the female does all the flying while the male dangles below if I observed correctly) and assorted whites. For me the butterfly of the day was Purple Hairstreak. Saw plenty of them up in the oaks. And found one area where it was relatively easy to observe them low down, and I even got a shot of one basking. I'll have to go back and try for more shots. The only closed wing shot that might have been good it went and hid behind a leaf. You can see its tail sticking out from behind...

<http://piccies.flybywire.org.uk/ButterfliesMoths/index.html> Direct links to Purple Hairstreak pics:

<http://piccies.flybywire.org.uk/ButterfliesMoths/2007/20070716/PurpleHairstreak1.jpg>

<http://piccies.flybywire.org.uk/ButterfliesMoths/2007/20070716/PurpleHairstreak2.jpg> - Mike Rubin

News for today (**Mon 16th July 2007**) - 5 Red Admiral, (2 near Oakwood entrance, 1 'New Fields', 2 at Vicarage Farm - 1 Hog Hill and 1 'Barracks'); 5 Comma, (1 at Oakwood entrance, 1 by Lower Lake, 3 along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm); 2 Peacock, (1 set-aside field near Oakwood entrance, 1 along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm); 1 Ringlet, set-aside field near Oakwood entrance; 2 Green-veined White, (1 set-aside field N of Williams Wood, 1 'Barracks'); 1 male Large Skipper, set-aside field N of Williams Wood; 1 Large White, Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm; 1 Speckled Wood at Town Park. **Robin J. White** reports a **female Dark-green Fritillary** in set-aside field N of Williams Wood, **Trent Park** on **Friday 13th July 2007**. News for yesterday (**Sun 15th July 2007**) - 3 Large White, (1 female at Vicarage Farm, 2 at Brooke Wood, off the Ridgeway); 2 Speckled Wood, (1 at Vicarage Farm, 1 at Park Farm); 3 Peacock, (2 at Vicarage Farm, 1 on thistles, at Park Farm); 1 Painted Lady, on thistles at Vicarage Farm; 2 Small Tortoiseshell, (1 on thistles at Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm, 1 on thistles at Park Farm); 1 Small Heath, along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm; 1 Comma, along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm; 1 Holly Blue, along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm; 3 Essex Skipper, along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm - including at least one male (my first of the year); 1 Red Admiral, at Vicarage Farm near Stables; 1 Green-veined White, settled at Parkside Farm - Robert Callf.

Sunday 15th July

King's Langley: I know this sounds incredible but I visited my mother yesterday and she told me she had seen a big mauve blue butterfly with white spots about ten days ago [around 3rd July]. I said to her was it a Common Blue but she said no it was bigger than that and added it was larger than a Red Admiral. We went into the bedroom and looked on the butterfly chart and she pointed out Purple Emperor! I asked mum "are you sure because I would not expect to see a PE in "our road"; but she said "yes I know what I saw and I got a very good look at it on the lavender by the back door before it shot off – and it didn't even go up the garden on to the buddleia". Mum is convinced she saw a PE; she even commented that she knew she had never seen a butterfly quite like this one before so knew it was different. I'm amazed, the nearest Purple Emperor colony is a good few miles away, but I always suspected they are around in the Watford area having found a PE caterpillar (with horns) as a child in the 60s. news via Dave Chandler (*this sighting is only a short distance from a report we received late in 2006 of a male in a garden at Hunton Bridge. There is one common factor, that the willow rich Grand Union Canal is near to both sightings but we could not at present say where they are dispersing to although Whippendell Wood is fairly close and may have an assembly area despite little adjacent habitat*)

Wormley Woods, Derry's Wood area, Laurence Drummond spent from 10am to 2.30pm in Wormley Woods and saw a male **Purple Emperor** cross a gap a little distance from the assembly area at 12.51; also 8 white admirals news via Andrew Middleton br />

Broxbourne Wood Field Trip: a very quiet day despite some reasonable sunshine and warmth. A female Purple Emperor flew around sallow at about 11.30 and then another was seen to suddenly appear in a different sallow, only to fly off. We think she had been there all the time. An occasional White Admiral but Red Admirals, Comma, Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper, Ringlet, Speckled Wood and skippers present - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

Saturday 14th July

Knebworth: On Friday 13th July at around 2:45 pm, I saw a White Admiral amongst the brambles close to the meadow bordering Newton Wood at the south end. Plenty of Marbled Whites but no Purple Hairstreaks or Purple Emperors! Peter Clarke

News for today (Sat 14th July 2007) - 3 Speckled Wood, (1 along Merryhill's Brook near Equestrian Centre, 2 Shaws Wood); 6 Red Admiral, (1 along bridle-path near Shaws Wood, 2 together, on buddleia near Lower Lake, 1 at 'Three-bridges', 2 at Vicarage Farm - 1 along gravel track and 1 on buddleia at 'Barracks'); 2 Ringlet, (1 near Shaws Wood, 1 at Vicarage Farm, around 'Barracks'); 3 Comma, (2 together, Shaws Wood, 1 along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm); 3 Green-veined White, (1 near Dew Pond, 2 along Leeging Beech Gutter near 'Three-bridges'); 1 male Brimstone, near Dew Pond, Trent Park; 1 Large White, set-aside field N of Williams Wood; 2 Peacock, (1 set-aside field N of Williams Wood, 1 along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm); 2 Small Tortoiseshell, together, along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm - Robert Callf

Continuing our quest to find Purple Emperor in north Enfield, watched the edge of **Whitewebbs Wood** this afternoon for about three hours. Nothing.....but numerous white-letter hairstreak flicking around the roadside ash and elm. Also Purple Hairstreak, whites, Comma, Red Admiral,

Holly Blue and lot of Meadow Brown under the woodland canopy - Liz Goodyear & Andrew Middleton

On 13th July 07 I saw a male over **Claypits Wood** at 2.20pm, and Tony Clancy saw a female over the ride in **Broxbourne Wood NR** at around 2.50pm. We didn't see any in Northaw, but Mr Drummond called to report a female seen in **Wormley** (Derrys Wood area) around 1.30pm. - Andrew Middleton

Friday 13th July

I was up at **Aldbury Nowers** this morning and saw the **Dark Green Fritillary** again and managed to get some pics - Paul Thrush (news via Andrew Palmer)

News for today (Fri 13th July 2007) - 8 Ringlet, at 'New Fields', Trent Park; 3 Large White, at Trent Park; 3 Small Heath, at 'New Fields'; 2 Speckled Wood, (1 along tube-line near Cockfoster's entrance, 1 at Nature Trail); 4 Comma, (2 at 'New Fields', 1 by Lower Lake, 1 along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm); 2 Holly Blue, along tube-line near Cockfoster's entrance; 1 Small Copper, at 'New Fields'; 3 Red Admiral, at Trent Park; 1 Peacock, 'fresh', along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm. More news for yesterday (Thurs 12th July 2007) - 3 Speckled Wood in Enfield Town (1 in Town Park, 2 in St. Andrew's Churchyard) - Robert Callf

Thursday 12th July

With HBRC staff, Liz and I visited **Broxbourne Wood NR** in the morning and eventually saw a **female purple emperor** sap run-feeding on the 'feeding tree' oak near the car-park 50 m down the main ride, at around 12.40. The female then perched on some ride willows before flying off down the willow break. We also saw 2 or 3 white admirals here. At Northaw the weather was not amenable to any sightings. We then went to the **south side of Wormley Wood** and saw two males clash-off from a hornbeam by the entrance clearing (somewhere we had looked at in previous years without any luck), then occasional sightings of at least one male at the territory found & described last year (near the willow thickets but inside the taller stands of trees). On exiting the wood, a tatty male circled the clearing area a few times before settling on an ash tree. So probably a minimum of **four Pemps** seen in Wormley and a total of five for the day. At Wormley we also saw at least one white admiral - Andrew Middleton

Symondshyde woods nr Sandridge at 1745: **1m SILVER WASHED FRITILLARY** chasing commas & everything else in sight, 1 white Admiral, several commas, numerous Ringlet - Darin Stanley

Great Ashby Park, I saw 30 + Meadow Browns, 2 Marbled White, 1 White Letter Hairstreak, 10 + Ringlet and 1 Red Admiral this after at 5pm - Ian Hardy

News for today (Thurs 12th July 2007) - 4 Green-veined White, (1 set-aside field near Shaws Wood, 2 together, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, 1 along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm); 3 Ringlet, (1 set-aside field near Shaws Wood, 1 by Lower Lake, 1 along Leeging Beech Gutter near Water Grdn); 1 Small Tortoiseshell, on ragwort at Parkside Farm; 1 Comma, along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm; 1 female Gatekeeper, at Parkside Farm; 2 Red Admiral, along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm; 1 Large White, along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm; 1 Holly Blue, at Enfield Rd., near Jolly Farmer's P.H - Robert Callf

Wednesday 11th July

I went to **Mudchute LNR today** [July 11th] during my lunch-hour to take my second BC field trip of the year at the site. One Surrey & SW London member joined me on my walk. The weather was dull but warm, the sun came fleetingly and the butterflies began to appear. We walked around the perimeter of the site and saw two Essex Skippers, we also found twelve Speckled Woods, thirty Meadow Browns, eight Gatekeepers, six Green-Veined Whites, seven Small Whites, a Peacock and a Red Admiral . We thought seeing a total of eight species on the day, considering the adverse conditions, was very good - David Chandler

Tuesday 10th July

Fir & Pond Wood, saw one **purple emperor** briefly at the territory at the top edge of the wood around 1.30pm, but no clashing, and weather a bit dull - Andrew Middleton

News for today - 4 Speckled Wood, (3 near Equestrian Centre, 1 at Park Farm - very fresh, newly

emerged); 6 Ringlet, (4 set-aside field near Shaws Wood; 2 at Park Farm); 2 Red Admiral, (1 along Leeging Beech Gutter near Water Grdn.; 1 at Vicarage Farm); 2 Green-veined White, (1 at Vicarage Farm; 1 at Park Farm); 1 Comma, at Vicarage Farm along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, at Vicarage Farm along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables - Robert Callf

Monday 9th July

I have attached pictures of the male Purple Emperor, Purple Hairstreak and White Admiral I was lucky enough to photograph. On another note, I managed to see 5 or 6 White Letter Hairstreaks flying around one of the elms at **Spellbrook** (TL4816) at 4.35pm today. The elm in particular was one of the more prominent elms in the hedgerow opposite the American style carwash, and directly opposite a garden with two very large fir trees in it (and usually a couple of fluorescent red DynoRod vans!). I spent about 45minutes in the field behind the hedgerow, which was facing the sun, but quite windblown, without seeing anything. Only as I was leaving and walking along the opposite side of the very busy road did I spot a couple of WLH soaring up from the top of the elm. I stopped of course, and counted 5 or 6 flying in their distinctive erratic way around the top of this particular elm on the shady, but sheltered side. I am spurred on to check out the elms at Thorley Church now if I can find the time when the conditions are reasonably favourable - Bob Clift

This morning I visited **Harmergreen Wood** where I found 6 Marbled Whites last month. Today I also walked round an adjacent large grassy field, and counted a total of 70 Marbled Whites! There were also 10+ Small Skippers, 3 Small Coppers, 6 Gatekeepers and 4 Small Heath's, 2 Red Admirals, large numbers of Meadow Browns and Ringlets and several Large and Green-veined Whites. On my way back home I found 5 more Marbled Whites in **Burnham Green**, in the grassy margins of a pea field - David Booth

News for yesterday (Sun 8th July 2007) - 1 Green-veined White at Cheyne Walk Open Space, N21; 1 Large White at World's End Lane, Enfield and 2 Speckled Wood at World's End; 1 Red Admiral at Bincote Rd., EN2 and 1 Large White here also. 1 Holly Blue at Halewood Hse., Southbury Rd., Enfield Town and 1 Red Admiral here also. News for today (Mon 9th July 2007) - 2 Purple Hairstreak, (1 near Oakwood entrance, 1 settled on Wych Elm, Church Wood, Trent Park); 6 Comma at Trent Park 'New Fields'; 7 Ringlet at Trent Park 'New Fields'; 3+ Green-veined White, at 'New Fields'; 2 (male and female) Small Copper at 'New Fields'; 1 Red Admiral at 'New Fields' - Robert Callf

Sunday 8th July

Bishop's Stortford: On a walk on Sunday morning along the upper river Stort and old allotment site at the Red White and Blue Bishops Stortford. Numerous Meadow Browns, Ringlets, Gatekeepers, 2 Commas, 5 Red Admirals, 20+ Small Tortoiseshells, Small Skippers, Small Whites, and the highlight for me was my first sighting of a Marbled White on the old allotment site - Jim Fish

Tristan Bantock came out to monitor **Purple emperors** and we saw a 'pair' following and 2 clash around 1pm before it went quiet, **Potters Bar area**. Then two at **Northaw** including a very tatty individual, and one Pemp at **Wormley** (plus 4 white admirals there) The rides have been cut at Wormley.....Incredible the devastation to nectar, and breeding habitat for ringlets, large skippers etc, plus all the other plants and associated invertebrates destroyed at the height of the summer. Further into the wood, the mowing machine missed an active will/chiff-chaff nest by 1m, low down in vegetation. Young are in the nest still, being fed. - Andrew Middleton and Tristan Bantock (we will be taking this issue up with the Woodland Trust and Natural England!)

The branch field trip to **Bricket Wood** turned up 19 species - Small & Large Skipper, Small Large & Green-veined White, Brimstone (half a dozen, all males & nectaring on bramble), Peacock, White Admiral (five seen), Red Admiral (at least 8), **Silver-washed Fritillary** (single female, located towards the north end of the main ride), Comma (more numerous than SWF & easily confused in flight), Painted Lady, Purple Hairstreak (several perched on bushes low down), Speckled Wood, Ringlet, Meadow Brown & Gatekeeper. We also saw Silver Y & yellow tail moths - Malcolm Hull (also lots of Marbled Whites!)

Led a field meeting (joint between the London Natural History Society and the British Entomological & Natural History Society) in **Cassiobury Park and Whippendell Wood**, where a possible **seven Silver-washed Fritillaries** (separate groups of two, at least three and two between the 'strawberry fields' and the north ride/central bridleway intersection); no definite

females were seen but these are always more elusive than the males. One White Admiral was seen as were a few Ringlets, but numbers of butterflies and indeed other insects were rather meagre. The few moths identified included a late *Tortrix viridana* - Colin Everett

Hooray Henry, after my 6th visit to **Symondshyde woods** I got lucky. Between 1130 & 133 in Symondshyde woods located **1f Silver Washed fritillary**, 1 White letter Hairstreak (eventually getting them both in the open area by the bridlepath entrance to the wood), & 4 white Admirals. plenty of Meadow Browns, Ringlets, large whites & Green veined whites to be seen plus a large skipper - Darin Stanley

Saturday 7th July

Spent an hour or so watching the **Parkland Walk, Crouch End** trees this afternoon from Crouch Hill bridge where you can look directly into the mid-canopy of the largest elm. As expected, no territorial activity high up and a maximum of 2 w/h seen, but did locate one resting, crawling between leaves and occasionally flying small distances - record shot attached. Other butts around very active, Comma, Holly Blue and Small White - Tristan Bantock

I had a look around **Great Ashby Park** this afternoon, mainly around the entrance by Dixons roundabout, looking for White-letter Hairstreaks. I found 10+ feeding on thistle between 5.45 - 6.45pm, a few looked very fresh. Also seen 1 Red Admiral, hundreds of Meadow Brown and Small Skippers, 5 Marbled Whites, Large Skippers, Ringlets and Spotted Burnets - Steve Lane

Three Silver-washed Fritillary today, 7th July, at **Bricket Wood**, along with 2 Comma, 2 White Admiral, 1 Red Admiral, 1 Marbled white, 30+ Ringlet, Meadow Browns and 2 Large Skipper - Bob Cripps ([field trip there Sunday](#))

Broxbourne Wood NR Field trip report: quite a few people arrived throughout the day all hoping to see **Purple Emperor**. Unfortunately several went home disappointed, 1 tatty male was eventually found in one of the clearings and allowed several observers to get a photo. At 3.30 one flew across the main ride and back and that was it! White Admirals very thin on the ground as well. However, numerous Purple Hairstreak, including some low down giving good views. Lots of Ringlets and Meadow Brown, a few skippers. Also reported throughout the day were Small Tortoiseshell, Red Admiral, Commas, Painted Lady, Holly Blue, whites, large Skipper and new generation Peacocks - various recorders (no Speckled Woods - later confirmed that one was photographed early morning!)

News for today (Sat 7th July 2007) - 4 Red Admiral, (1 at Lake Side, Oakwood, 2 near Shaws Wood, 1 at Park Farm); 4 Comma, (1 at Park Farm, 2 together, at Parkside Farm, 1 at Vicarage Farm); 1 Speckled Wood, near Equestrian Centre, Trent Park; 3 Holly Blue, (1 male, settled along bridle-path, near Shaws Wood, 1 at Parkside Farm, 1 at Town Park, Enfield Town); 4 Purple Hairstreak, around Ash, near Shaws Wood, Trent Park, 6 Ringlet, (1 near Shaws Wood, 5 at Park Farm); 1 male Large Skipper, near Shaws Wood; 1 male Marbled White, settled in set-aside field N of Williams Wood; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, at Vicarage Farm along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables; 1 Green-veined White, settled at Vicarage Farm - Robert Callf.

Friday 6th July

2 meadow browns and a gatekeeper at Tyttenhanger gravel pits Robin Pearson

Thursday 5th July

News from 4th - Today (04/07/07) while doing a little casual birding, if there is such a thing, in **Northaw Great Wood**, my companion and I spotted a Silver-washed Fritillary. We located it on the yellow trail along the boundary with the Cuffley Camp Ground. It was in the first small open glade along the path as you head up hill after you turn right at the gate displaying the Camp Ground sign. It was spotted at approx 12:30 flying in the sunshine after a few light showers. Its size and its bright rufous colouration was most striking. It then settled on some vegetation and basked in the sunshine for some 4 minutes when we were able to observe it, both using Leica 10 x 50 binoculars. What Yvonne Benting and I noticed was that there were small stripes rather than spots on the forewing which for me identified it as a Silver-washed Fritillary and possibly a male. - Ian Thompson

I was searching in vain on **Royston Heath** but was then directed by a non-butterfly man who gave a perfect description of Marbled White and gave me the location of the colony. Extreme east

of the heath at approx TL351402 The density of butterflies is as good as you ever get anywhere with sightings of two per minute or greater. Often five visible at once. Attached picture. But a further visit to the main Chalkhill Blue area to south of fairway no 10 was hugely disappointing. There is an electric fence to control sheep grazing and the turf has been eaten down to a very short sward. Not a flower of any sort to be seen (this is where the Pasque Flowers are abundant in the spring). It seems to be very heavily over grazed and I have never seen it in this state before in the 15 years I have lived in this area - Jack Harrison (*note Sharon Hearle (regional officer) is aware of the problems at Therfield Heath*)

Found new spot for Marbled Whites just of the end of **St Albans Lane, on the Hemel Hempstead to St. Albans road**. They were flying just off the roadside verge and into some private land. It looked a good colony I counted 8 around me in 3 or 4 minutes - Clive Burrows

News for today (Thurs 5th July 2007) - 1 Large White, at Lake Side, N14; 2 Red Admiral, (1 at Williams Wood, 1 at Vicarage Farm) ; 24+ Ringlet, (10 set-aside field near Shaws Wood, 14+ at Vicarage Farm); 6 male Gatekeeper, (1 set-aside field near Shaws Wood, 4 at Vicarage Farm); 1 female Large Skipper, at Vicarage Farm. Also saw a Red Admiral on buddleia outside my flat at Southgate today - the first butterfly I have seen on this bush so far this year - Robert Callf.

Grove Farm, most of the butterflies were seen in the meadow area in 8/8 overcast. Made the whites easier to ID as they actually stopped now and then. 4x White, of which 3 were identified (2 Small, 1 GV), the 4th I suspect might have been a Large but not sure. 2x Meadow Brown (1m, 1f), 1x Small Skipper (Male, light brown antennae), 1x Small Tortoiseshell, 1x Very tatty Speckled Wood, 1x Suspected Common Carpet Moth Plenty of micros around. 1x Suspected Emperor Dragonfly - Mike Rubin

Wednesday 4th July

W.L. & Purple Hairstreak observed on Ash, wednesday midday **Coppetts Wood**. Also Holly Blue - Tony Clancy

Saw 4 White letter Hairstreaks on the field by **Great Ashby Park**, close to the entrance of Pryors Wood, on 3rd July between 11-12 - Darrel Bryant

I went to **Great Ashby Park** this afternoon for 30 mins and saw 5 White Letter Hairstreak, 10 + Meadow Brown 2 Ringlet and 4 Small Skipper - Darin Stanley Ian Hardy - P S These were all seen close to the gate.

Tuesday 3rd July

This afternoon I had a wander around woods just south of **Stevenage** and considering the thunder, showers etc. it was very rewarding. I saw lots of different butterflies but the highlights were 2 separate marbled white, commas, skippers (not sure which) many red admirals, ringlet I think and (I'm pretty certain) a **silver-washed fritillary**. It settled on a large leaf of a wild raspberry cane (just inside the gate from the meadow at the north-west entrance to the wood) and stayed for 5 or 6 minutes with wings fully open flat. When it took off I couldn't get a look at the underwing and I had no guide with me but subsequently looking at the Woodlands for Butterflies leaflet the picture confirmed my sighting - Don Gregory

Did my **Ware Park** transect in a good sunny spell between the showers and was very pleased to get another White Letter hairstreak, this time perched on a lucerne plant at the edge of a big arable field (but near elms), a Small Heath (first here since 1999), Marbled White (first here since 2000) and 4 Small Tortoiseshells (most in one week since 1998), among other more common species - Andrew wood

I saw 4 White Letter Hairstreak, 2 Ringlet, 1 Marbled White and 20 + Meadow Brown in a 20 min walk in **Great Ashby Park** - Ian Hardy

Batford Irrigation Pond, during limited lunch & between showers located 2 Gate Keepers, 4 Marbled Whites, Meadow Browns - Darin Stanley

News for today (Tues 3rd July 2007) - 5 Red Admiral, at Trent Park (1 on flowering privet, near Equestrian Centre, 1 edge of Icehouse Wood, 1 'Old Golf Course', 1 edge of Ride Wood, 1 Camlet Hill); 3 Speckled Wood, at Trent Park (1 along Merryhill's Brook near Shaws Wood, 1 in Shaws Wood; 1 Camlet Moat); 1 Purple Hairstreak, along Merryhill's Brook near Shaws Wood; 3 Comma,

at Trent Park (2 near Shaws Wood, 1 Camlet Hill); 4 male Gatekeeper,(2 set-aside field near Shaws Wood, 1 Park Farm, 1 Parkside Farm); 1 Small White, near Water Grdn.; 11+ Ringlet, (1 Parkside Farm, 3 Park Farm, 7+ at Vicarage Farm - including a pair copulating); 2 Large White, (1 at Parkside Farm, 1 at Park Farm); 3 Small Skipper, at Vicarage Farm - Robert Callf.

Horsenden Hill, most of my walk was in pouring rain. Didn't stop 100's of Meadow Browns from flying in the meadows. Near the end of the walk when the rain stopped I saw a Marbled White, GV White, a few Small Skippers and a Comma. And those Horseflies came out in huge swarms! Yuck! The sooner they die off the better - Mike Rubin

Monday 2nd July

News for today (Mon 2nd July 2007) - 2 White-letter Hairstreak, clashing, behind bus-stop, opposite Oakwood tube; 4 Red Admiral, at Trent Park 'New Fields'; 1 Painted Lady, at 'New Fields'; 3 Large White, at Trent Park - 2 'New Fields', 1 edge of Moat Wood; 7 Small Heath, 6 at 'New Fields', 1 at 'Old Golf Course'; 6 Ringlet, 5 at 'New Fields', 1 at Vicarage Farm; 2 Small Copper, at 'New Fields'; Peacock, a large batch of caterpillars at 'New Fields'; 1 Green-veined White, at 'New Fields'; 2 Comma, 1 at 'New Fields', 1 edge of Moat Wood; 1 male Large Skipper, at Vicarage Farm. 2 Purple Hairstreak; 1 in Nature Trail and 1 in Rough Lot, Trent Park - Robert Callf

4 wlh over the elm at **Cheshunt Golf Course. Wormley Woods**, five or so white admirals, several commas, ringlets, large skippers, small skippers, **one gatekeeper**, red admirals, no purple emperor sightings. Sometime ago the bramble bank inside the entrance at Derry's Wood (south side) has been flailed and all that's grown back are just cleavers & nettles. None of the barmble nectar there anymore - just some small brambles in the other corners - Terry Goddard & Andrew Middleton

News for the weekend is as follows -(Sat 30th June 2007)- Trent Park - saw 2 Ringlet, in set-aside field near Shaws Wood and 2 male Gatekeeper, (1 settled on window pane of Uni-building, 1 set-aside field N of Williams Wood. (Sun 1st July 2007) - 1 male Small Skipper, 1 female Large Skipper, 5 Meadow Brown and 2 Small/ Green-veined White at Cheyne Walk Open Space, N21. 1 Red Admiral and 1 Holly Blue at Halewood Hse., Southbury Rd., Enfield Town - Robert Callf.

Sunday 1st July

We decided to brave the weather and go out locally today to look for Purple Emperor. We went to Goose Green at 8.30 but unable to park, so we went to Danemead instead. When we got to the track where we have seen PE in previous years, it was so muddy, & flooded we gave up. We then went to **Broxbourne Woods** and arrived at 9.45, weather windy and wet. Saw lots of Meadow Browns and Ringlets. Weather brightened up later in the day and during this time we also saw Large White, Large Skipper, White Admirals, Red Admirals, Commas and Purple Hairstreaks. At about 3.30 we into the clearing of the nature reserve and saw our first **Purple Emperor** of the year, it was high in a Silver Birch being blown around and was hanging on for its dear life, we watched it for approx 15mins before it flew towards the main track. We also saw many Purple Hairstreaks in this section and Small Skippers. We left at 5.15 - Sandra and Kevin Standbrige

I visited **Park Wood, Ruislip** this afternoon when the sun came out but no luck searching for PE. I did see my **first Gatekeeper** of the year plus 7 White Admiral, 5 Red Admiral, 4 Comma, 4 Purple Hairstreak, 7 Essex Skipper, 2 Small Skipper, Large Skipper, 2 Large White, 3 Small White, 6+ Ringlet, 4 Speckled Wood and many Meadow Browns. Steve Pash

Despite the fairly overcast conditions early on, today's joint LNHS/BC walk at **Horsenden** was a real success. Dave and myself were joined by two members of the Horsenden ranger team and 8 LNHS/BC members. We got straight into the White-letter Hairstreaks with one sat low down on elm just to the rear of Horsenden Farm, right at the start of the walk. There was some argument over the identification until we realised that it was sat about a foot away from a Purple Hairstreak and that both camps were correct - we were looking at two different butterflies! Once that was resolved it proved a nice opportunity to view these two hairstreaks side-by-side. The walk produced 14 species in sub-optimal conditions: White-letter Hairstreak (3+), Purple Hairstreak (10+), Holly Blue (2), Green-veined White (4), Gatekeeper (8), Meadow Brown (common), Small Skipper (2 and several undetermined Small/Essex), Small Copper (1), Marbled White (1), Large Skipper (1), Ringlet (1 - probably only the 2nd record for the site), Comma (1), Large White (1), Small White (3). The weather perked up a bit after the walk was over and we added 3 further species - Red Admiral, Speckled Wood and Painted Lady - as well as getting better counts of some species. For example, it was pretty good for Comma today and they were all in pristine condition.

Overall numbers for the walk and subsequent transect for key species were: White-letter Hairstreak (4+), Marbled White (3+). The white-letter count is conservative as it concerns 7 sightings. The main excitement for Dave and me was the Ringlet. We saw it flash by and were immediately taken by the dark colouration, apparent lack of orange tones and the obvious white fringe. Luckily it didn't go far and everyone was able to enjoy this rarity - see the attached. I've also attached a fairly poor White-letter photograph. They weren't that accommodating today. Although we had at least 3 nectaring throughout the day and enjoyed good views, they were generally a little too high, a bit tatty or a little too deep into the bramble to get good photos - Andrew Culshaw (joint leader)

Symondshyde Woods - 2+ White Admiral, several Green veined whites, 5+ Ringlets & 1 Humming bird Hawk moth (where's all the White Letter Hairstreaks???) **Hexton** - 1 Large Skipper, several Ringlets (generally devoid of life, guessing cause of the hurricane type winds & Mixed bag of weather) Nearby Sharoehoe Clappers, Beds - 3 Dark Green Fritillaries - Darin Stanley

I joined the butterfly walk at **Horsenden Hill** today. It was a bit showery but fairly warm and still some sunshine at times so plenty of butterflies around. It was a good start with a Purple and White Letter Hairstreak seen on the same tree. I saw the following species: White Letter Hairstreak - At last! 2 seen nectaring after the main walk. Got close. Purple Hairstreak Meadow Browns by the hundred even flying in the rain. Small, Essex and Large Skippers. Gatekeeper - my first ones of the year. Ringlet - Only the 2nd ever recorded at Horsenden Hill apparently. Photos taken in the rain! Marbled White - just the one. Painted Lady - one spotted at warp factor 6. Holly Blue. What did I miss? Someone reported Small Copper too. Also saw a number of miscellaneous moths. And those (censored) horseflies! Good to meet everyone on that walk. And nice to see the pre-caught moths (light traps) on display, and then to watch them as they were released again. Also nice to take it slow instead of a rushed lunchbreak walk. My best White Letter Hairstreak shot: <http://piccies.flybywire.org.uk/ButterfliesMoths/2007/20070701/WLHairstreak7.jpg> Best Purple: <http://piccies.flybywire.org.uk/ButterfliesMoths/2007/20070701/PurpleHairstreak.jpg> Horsenden Hill Ringlet:

<http://piccies.flybywire.org.uk/ButterfliesMoths/2007/20070701/Ringlet1.jpg> and <http://piccies.flybywire.org.uk/ButterfliesMoths/2007/20070701/Ringlet2.jpg> - Mike Rubin

I thought you would like to know of my sighting of a Marbled White in the field behind the houses along the London Road in **Langley** near Stevenage. I have lived here for over 10 years and this is my first sighting. Other butterflies seen this morning, 1st July 2007 1 Painted Lady, several Ringlets and a large number of Meadow Browns - Adrian Pomfret

Archive Page

Sightings and news from January to June 2007

 [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 2007.

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 2007

Friday 29th June

Following up a report from a Bengeo environmental club pupil of a Marbled White sighting, Alan Downie visited a field close to **Stapleford** village today and found numerous Marbled Whites, mating Large Skipper, Meadow Browns, a single lonely Ringlet and an **Essex Skipper**. The field apparently is fantastic!

Went to **Bricket Wood** this afternoon and saw: one red admiral, two speckled woods, one large white, two white admirals, one purple hairstreak, and four meadow browns - Dave Mackenzie

Managed to stop off briefly at **Hexton** again today on the way home from work. I was surprised by the number of marbled whites - I saw 12+. Also saw small heath (4), ringlet(4), meadow brown(6) & speckled wood(3). - Gavin Vicary

News for today (Fri 29th June 2007) is as follows: 1 White-letter Hairstreak, behind bus-stop, opposite Oakwood tube; 2 Painted Lady, at 'New Fields', Trent Park; 2 Ringlet, at 'New Fields'; 3 Small Copper, at 'New Fields'- summer-brood is about 1 or 2 weeks early this year, in line with spring emergence; 2 male Gatekeeper, at 'New Fields'; 11 Red Admiral, (7 in Trent Park, 1 Parkside Farm, 3 Vicarage Farm); 7 Comma, at Trent Park; 10 Small Heath, (9 at 'New Fields', 1 at Vicarage Farm); 1 male Large Skipper, at Vicarage Farm; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, summer-brood, along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm - Robert Callf.

I had a walk around **Cornmill Meadows** (which I think is actually Essex), mainly looking for dragonflies, but found my first and second Gatekeeper of the year, also Red Admiral, Large, Small and Green-veined White, Ringlet, Comma, Small Tortoiseshell, Large Skipper and Meadow Brown - Steve Lane and David Beer

On a birding visit this morning, I saw 2 Marbled Whites - which I have never recorded at **Tyttenhanger** before. Also 2 Gatekeeper, 2 Ringlet, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Small Skipper, c10 Meadow Browns, c10 Large Whites - David Booth

Good variety of species at **Lake Farm Country Park, Hayes**, this morning in between the showers. In about 1.5 hours counted approximately 4 Small Skippers, 1 Large Skipper, 37 Small or Green-veined Whites, 1 Holly Blue, 3 Red Admirals, 7 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Gatekeeper (first of year) and 23 Meadow Browns - Peter Naylor

Not sent in sightings recently for **Brent Reservoir** but managed a transect yesterday (Thursday 28th) during brief sunnyish spell. Total of 150 insects of thirteen species including 21 Marbled White. Had a single W-L Hairstreak last Saturday (23rd) - Roy Beddard

Two Dark Green Frits at **Aldbury Nowers** yesterday - good close views on musk thistle, so no probs with ID. - Martin Hicks

Thursday 28th June

PM (After 17.30) butterflies at **Symondshyde Woods** in the brief sunshine we had: 3 White

Admiral, 3 Purple Hairstreak - Darin Stanley

I went to **Great Ashby Park** this afternoon and in 40 mins saw 20+ Meadow Browns, 4 Marbled White, 3 Large Skippers and 2 Ringlet - Ian Hardy

Just had a very productive afternoon watching butterflies (11.30 - 14.40 BST), here follows a list of my sightings: 1 White-letter Hairstreak, settled low down on Wych Elm behind bus-stop, opposite Oakwood tube; 2 Purple Hairstreak, 1 settled on grass near Oakwood entrance and 1 near Church Wood; 6 Ringlet, 5 at 'New Fields', 1 set-aside field N of Williams Wood; 2 Small Heath, 'New Fields'; 2 Small Copper, 'fresh' second-brood, 'New Fields'; 1 Speckled Wood, along tube-line near Cockfoster's entrance; 3 Red Admiral, 2 'New Fields', 1 edge of Moat Wood; 2 Painted Lady, at 'New Fields'; 4 Large Skipper, 3 at 'New Fields', 1 female, set-aside field N of Williams Wood; 15 Comma, at Trent Park - 5 at 'New Fields', 3 on bramble by Lower Lake, 1 edge of Moat Wood and 6 together around bramble-patch, N of Williams Wood; 2 male Gatekeeper, edge of Church Wood (my first of the year); 1 Green-veined White, settled near Church Wood; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, fresh 'summer-brood', near Sport's Field; 1 Marbled White, edge of Moat Wood (my first of the year) - Robert Callf

Broxbourne Wood NR - butterfly walk this morning. Despite a cloudy outlook, there were several sunny breaks which allowed everyone to see several Red Admirals, meadow browns, ringlets, large and small skipper and a comma and speckled wood. Purple Hairstreak were active in the tree tops and 3 White Admiral were seen on ride side oak and willows. None came down to the brambles whilst we were there just staying higher up making the most of the sunshine - various recorders

Wednesday 27th June

A short walk in Enfield Town today (Weds 27th June 2007) produced 1 Large White, at Enfield Grammar School Playing Field and 1 Red Admiral at Town Park - Robert Callf

Horsenden Hill, found and photographed my first 2007 Marbled White today. Was rather overcast at the time but it was still active. Disturbed several resting (and hidden until they took flight) Meadow Browns and millions of Grasshoppers stalking it. Then beaten into the woods by a swarm of those irritating horseflies. Up the hill a Red Admiral Whizzed past me, and disturbed a Comma. In the grazing field near the top found a 5-spot burnet feeding in the gloom. (Or is it narrow bordered 5-spot?) Then it started raining lightly. Still to work out how to spot a WL Hairstreak! Let alone photograph one. Even when the sun briefly poked through a hole to briefly light up the elms - Mike Rubin

Park Wood Ruislip, Meadow brown 3, Small skipper male 1 - Sezar Heimet

Tuesday 26th June

Grove Farm, went on a short walk after a lunchtime meeting to find one each of Large Skipper, Large White, Small Tortoiseshell and Meadow Brown despite the almost total overcast. Was nice to see anything after the last few days! - Mike Rubin

A few records for today (**Tues 26th June 2007**) - Peacock, a large batch of caterpillars on nettles near Allotments, Vicarage Farm; 4 Red Admiral, (1 Vicarage Farm, near Williams Wood, 2 set-aside field N of Williams Wood, 1 Bramley Rd., N14); 1 Ringlet, set-aside field N of Williams Wood; 1 Purple Hairstreak, in Rough Lot, Trent Park (my first of the year - Robin J White reports one at Vicarage Farm on 14th June 2007 - also in 2005 he reports one on 9th June!); 1 Large Skipper, at 'New Fields'. A quick walk yesterday (**Mon 25th June 2007**) produced one noteworthy record - 1 Comma, settled by the Lower Lake, Trent Park - Robert Callf

Batford Irrigation Pond, Batford. PM (after 18.00) butterflies seen were 3 Marbled Whites, 1 Ringlet, 1 Small Skipper & several Meadow Brown all around the pond. Boy is it cold out there - Darin Stanley

Monday 25th June

Afternoon visit to **Bricket Wood** blessed with a sunny afternoon despite a very poor weather forecast given. Five White Admirals, three Red Admirals and a single **Silver Washed Fritillary** - Clive Burrows

A single **Dark Green Fritillary** at **Aldbury Nowers Nature Reserve** this morning. It was active

along the south side of the public footpath in the northern half of the southern compartment. Also plenty of Marbled Whites and Ringlets throughout the Reserve - Tim Hill

News from Cherry Eggleton - **13th June:** Red Admiral for 3rd year running, lays eggs on nettles in plant container, **Westminster, Central London. 15th June 2007: Clifford Road allotment site, North Brent** - 70 Peacock caterpillars, full size found on nettles allotment plot. By 17th only 10 remained - could not find pupa

Here is the list of butterflies seen in **Ruislip Woods** at yesterday's field trip: purple hairstreak 3 (including one very obliging female!), meadow brown 10+, white admiral 3, large skipper 1, small/essex skipper 2, red admiral 1, ringlet 1, also several grass moths and one possible little emerald/small emerald - several observers

Aldbury Nowers on Saturday afternoon: Dozens of meadow browns, ringlets and marbled whites, two red admirals, one speckled wood, three large skippers, one small skipper, one brimstone, one comma, one small heath and hundreds of five spot burnets, several small whites. I have enclosed pics and as before my identification is suspect so apologies if any of them are incorrectly named - Dave Mackenzie

News for (**Fri 22nd June 2007**) - 2 Holly Blue, at Enfield Town (1 at River View near Crown & Horseshoes P.H., 1 at Enfield Grammar School Paying Field); 1 Comma, at Enfield Grammar Sch. Playing Field; 3 White-letter Hairstreak, above Wych Elms at **Enfield Grammar Sch.** Playing Field - including 2 clashing; 1 Small White, at Enfield Grammar Sch. Playing Field. News for (**Sat 23rd June 2007**) - 1 Holly Blue, near Crown & Horseshoes P.H.; 1 male Meadow Brown, at Chase Green, Enfield Town; 1 Speckled Wood, at Chase Green; 1 Snout, at Chase Green; 1 Speckled Wood, at Carr's Lane; 1 Red Admiral, at Carr's Lane / Bush Hill Prk. Golf Course - Robert Callf. Ann

Saturday 23rd June

I had a phone call from Ian Hardy to say that he was on **Great Ashby Park** and had seen 2 Marbled Whites, so I went to find him. Darrel Bryant also joined us for a walk around the park. We saw 6+ Marbled Whites, Small White, Meadow Brown, 5 Comma, Red Admirals (a couple of fresh ones), Small Heath, Common Blue, Ringlet, 1 Painted Lady, Small Tortoiseshell, Large Skipper, 3 Small Skippers and a Six-spot Burnet - Steve Lane

Broxbourne Wood NR, HMWT Butterfly recording workshop. Despite cloud and earlier rain, day improved and several Red Admiral, Large Skipper, Meadow Brown, Ringlet, Speckled Wood and a Comma. Highlight was a recently emerged Purple Hairstreak on low vegetation and at the very end a **White Admiral** - several recorders

Coppetts Wood, Midday; 6 White-letter Hairstreak on ash clashing, 1 Purple Hairstreak on oak, 1 Painted Lady - Tony Clancy

Friday 22nd June

A long sunny period between 8.30 and 10.30 this morning (22nd June) provided the opportunity to have a good look around the site during my day off work. Best sighting were the numbers of White-letter Hairstreaks on **Horsenden Hill**, with 19+ recorded there along with another 2 in **Perivale Wood**. Other stuff: Marbled White (2; Home Mead and Horsenden Wood Field), Purple Hairstreak (1; Long Mead), my first Small Skippers of the year (5; all netted, all on Horsenden east), Painted Lady (2), Red Admiral (1), Large Skipper (6), Large White (1), Small White (1). Best bird was a Nuthatch in Perivale Wood, my first this year there and a Little Owl (adult this time) on Paradise Fields - Andy Culshaw

Seems to have been a lot of Red Admiral around this week, has anyone else noticed this? Two Red Admiral, together, at Bramley Rd., N14 on 20th June 2007 and one at Halewood Hse., Southbury Rd., Enfield Town, yesterday 21st June - Robert Callf

Spent a couple of hours in **Bricket Wood Thursday** afternoon. Despite the continuing unsettled weather saw 3 White Admirals, 2 Red Admiral, 3 Meadow Browns and singletons of Ringlet and Large Skipper - Clive Burrows

Thursday 21st June

I had my first marbled white of the year on **Horsenden Hill** this evening. Stunning views,

obviously, since I didn't have my camera with me. It was on the rough grassy area opposite The Ballot Box - Bramstons Green South. Nothing else of note - 56+ Swifts about the best. The horse flies are terrible, the worst I can remember - Wood Field and The Pightle are basically no go zones! - Andy Culshaw

Possible Purple Emperor seen by Tom Dunbar at **Ruislip** today

White-letter Hairstreak seen at three sites around Hertford this morning and later at **Cheshunt Park** (south side) on planted elm on edge of golf course, 6 white-letter seen in matter of seconds when sun shone - Liz Goodyear with Andrew Middleton at Cheshunt

Not much to report today - 2 Comma, at 'New Fields', Trent Park; 13 Small Heath, 11 at 'New Fields', 2 at Vicarage Farm; 2 Green-veined White, at 'New Fields' - 'fresh' summer-brood; 2 Speckled Wood, 1 at 'New Fields', 1 at Vicarage Farm; 3 Red Admiral, 1 along Leeging Beech Gutter near Water Grdn., 2 at Vicarage Farm - 1 Hog Hill and 1 near Allotments; 2 male Large Skipper, 1 set-aside field N of Williams Wood and 1 at Vicarage Farm; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, at Vicarage Farm. Also 2 Twenty-Two Spot, on mildewed leaves near Oakwood entrance - my first of the year - Robert Callf.

Wednesday 20th June

3 White-letter Hairstreak **Totteridge valley** (1 on field maple, 2 on prunus) 1 Marbled White - Tony Clancy

Saw a big fritillary yesterday at **Aldbury Nowers** - couldn't get near to it and very restless, but feeding on bramble flowers so I'll put this down as **Silver-washed Fritillary** - Martin Hicks

Had my first Marbled White and Ringlet of the year today in area of scrub between North Road Garden Centre **Stevenage** and the A1 roundabout. Also present were several Large Skipper, numerous Meadow Brown, and 3 Red Admiral - Darrel Bryant

News for today - 2 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 on bramble blossom near Equestrian Centre, 1 at 'Barracks', Vicarage Farm; 7 Red Admiral, 1 along Merryhill's Brook near Equestrian Centre, 3 near Shaws Wood, including 2 together, 1 Williams Wood, 1 Dew Pond, 1 Parkside Farm; 2 Painted Lady, 1 on bramble by Lower Lake, 1 set-aside field N of Williams Wood; 3 Comma, 2 together, at Parkside Farm, 1 at Park Farm; 2 Large White, 1 along Merryhill's Brook near Equestrian Centre, 1 at Vicarage Farm; 3 Large Skipper, 1 male, set-aside field near Shaws Wood, 2 at Vicarage Farm; 2 Speckled Wood, 1 near Upper Lake, 1 at Water Grdn.; 1 male Common Blue, at Parkside Farm; 6 Ringlet, 4 set-aside field near Shaws Wood, 2 at Park Farm; 2 Small Heath, at Vicarage Farm. Also saw my first Brown Hawker of the year by Lower Lake - Robert Callf.

Tuesday 19th June

First Marbled Whites of the season recorded for **Bunkers Park**. The number seen, 13, was the highest first-day count in the 9 years of the BP transect - Michael Pearson

First White letter hairstreak on my **Ware Park transect** since 1998 today (it must have heard about the survey). Different place (and tetrad) to the old sightings. Also good numbers of Red Admiral and Meadow Brown feeding on privet flowers - Andrew Wood

The first W/L hairstreak today in **Abney Park Cemetery** - at the spot with the oak, ash and elm combination - Garry James for TeRNS

Revisited some of the central London areas for White-letter today, whilst it was sunny. First stop **Gibson Square in Islington** and several white-letter seen flying around an ash and the giant elms in the square. Nothing yet as nearby Barnsbury Lane. Then to **Westbourne Green** open space, almost beneath the West Way, and where there are at least 5 medium sized planted elms and some very active white-letter. Lots of clashes and flights around lunchtime. From there we went to look at the elms near to the Broad Walk in **Regents Park** and again active white-letter. Nothing around the elms in Kensington Gardens but still a chance one might get seen. However, the highlight for us was being asked by Paul Whitehouse what we were looking at. When we explained he was very interested although I fear we might just end up as characters in one of his TV shows! Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

A spare half hour in my **Stevenage garden** this afternoon produced, 1 **White-letter Hairstreak**,

2 Red Admirals, 2 Large Skippers, several Meadow Browns and a Large White - Steve Lane

This morning I had a walk around **Harmergreen Wood** near where I live, and found at least 6 Marbled Whites. There were also 2 Small Skippers, 2 Small Heath and many Meadow Browns there - David Booth

Been over Moat Mount Open Space, Totteridge Fields and Arkley today (Tues 19th June 2007) and recorded the following: 7 Red Admiral, (2 at Moat Mount O.S., 1 at Mote End Farm, 1 at Totteridge Fields, 1 at Brent Lodge Farm, Arkley, clashing with a Small Tortoiseshell, 2 at Arkley); 1 Comma, at Mote End Farm; 2 Small Tortoiseshell, (1 at Brent Lodge Farm, 1 at Arkley View, Livery Stables); 1 female Large Skipper, at Mote End Farm; 5 Large Skipper, at Totteridge Fields; 1 Large Skipper, at Brent Lodge Farm; 8 Large Skipper, at Arkley; 3 Small Skipper, at Totteridge Fields; 1 Small Skipper, at Arkley; 1 male Common Blue, at Brent Lodge Farm; 1 Speckled Wood, at Arkley; 1 Burnet Companion, 1 Mother Shipton and numerous Narrow-bordered Five- Spot Burnet at Totteridge Fields. Also 2 White-letter Hairstreak, clashing, behind bus-stop, opposite Oakwood tube. Yesterday (Mon 18th June 2007): 1 Red Admiral, at Town Park, Enfield, in the evening - Robert Callf

Monday 18th June

News for today (Mon 18th June 2007) - 4 Red Admiral, (1 at Vicarage Farm, 2 Parkside Farm, 1 Park Farm); 3 Speckled Wood, (2 Trent Park - 1 near Equestrian Centre, 1 near Shaws Wood; 1 Park Farm); 1 male Common Blue, set-aside field N of Williams Wood; 3 Large Skipper, (1 at Parkside Farm, 2 at set-aside field near Shaws Wood); a small batch of Peacock caterpillars at Park Farm on nettles, and a single large caterpillar on gravel-track at Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm; 2 Ringlet, newly emerged 'black and velvety', set-aside field near Shaws Wood - first of the year for me! Also lots of Cinnabar caterpillars at Parkside Farm on Ragwort and single adults at set-aside field near Shaws Wood and a Vicarage Farm. More news for the weekend - **Sat 16th June 2007:** 3 Comma, 'fresh' summer-brood, (2 'New Fields', 1 set-aside field N of Williams Wood); 7 Large Skipper, (1 'New Fields', 4 together, on bramble, set-aside field N of Williams Wood; 2 Vicarage Farm); 2 male Small Skipper, 'New Fields' - near Sport's Field - my first of the year; 2 Small Tortoiseshell, at Vicarage Farm; 2 Red Admiral, at Vicarage Farm; 1 Painted Lady, at Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm; 3 Burnet Companion, set-aside field N of Williams Wood. **Sun 17th June 2007:** 2 White-letter Hairstreak, together, behind bus-stop, opposite Oakwood tube; 13 Large Skipper, (10 at 'New Fields', 1 set-aside field near Dew Pond; 2 Vicarage Farm); 1 Speckled Wood, at 'New Fields'; 2 Painted Lady, (1 at 'New Fields', Trent Park, 1 at Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm); 7 Red Admiral, (2 'New Fields', 1 Icehouse Wood; 1 Williams Wood - on bridle-path; 3 at Vicarage Farm); 39 Small Skipper, at 'New Fields' Trent Park, between 12.38 hrs. - 13.25 hrs.; 1 Small Copper, at 'New Fields' near Sport's Field - 'very tatty and faded'; 1 Cinnabar, set-aside field near Shaws Wood - Robert Callf

News from **Sunday 10th June** at **Minet Country Park, Hayes, Middx.** I spotted 1 Painted Lady, Cabbage White's, 1 Meadow Brown, 1 Red Admiral, Skippers, 1 Peacock and 1 Tortoiseshell. The nature reserve was officially opened in 2003 and is becoming a huge success in attracting wildlife. As I live nearby, I am hoping to see an increase in butterflies to my garden this year. Saturday 16th June in Hayes Middx I had 1 Red Admiral and 1 Green Veined White and on **Sunday 17th June** 1 Comma and a Meadow Brown. Looking forward to taking some photo's this summer when these lovely little critters slow down long enough for me to take a pic!! - Helen George

Sunday 17th June

Sunday afternoon.... at **Fir and Pond Woods** on the meadow... several meadow browns and small skippers But also 1 painted lady and **1 ringlet**... both first for the year on the Reserve. Happy days! David Gompertz

I recorded **33 Marbled White today**, 17/6/2007, again they were on the waste land adjacent to the **M1/M25**. On my local patch around Abbots Langley I also recorded, Small/Essex 1, Large Skipper 1, Brimstone 1(female), Large White 1, Green-veined White 1, Common Blue 2, Red Admiral 4, Small Tortoiseshell 10, Peacock 1, Comma 1, Meadow Brown 22 - Bob Cripps

Three White Admirals along the main north-south ride on the **Bricket Wood** transect today; also 24 Meadow Browns (including at least one female), six Large Skippers, two Large Whites (or one mobile individual), two Red Ads (ditto), two Small Torts and a Speckled Wood. Nearby at **Munden Spring** a White-letter Hairstreak nectaring on bramble flowers. Disappointing to see that Harlequin Ladybirds now seem to be spreading into these more rural areas - Colin Everett

2 White-Letter Hairstreak **Totteridge Valley**, also Painted Lady & Large Skippers. Sunday Morning - Tony Clancy

Saturday 16th June

Just had a look behind the bus-stop opposite **Oakwood tube** after a heavy shower and observed at least **4 White-letter Hairstreak** around a Lime tree and the Wych Elms here; also 1 Red Admiral and 1 Small White here (13.55 - 14.00 hrs.) - Robert Callf.

Wormwood Scrubs field trip, "Come and have a look at this moth" said Margaret. It was in some-ones' cupped hands. The lady gently open her hands and there was a **Purple Hairstreak**; a new record for the site. We had to shelter in the Lindford Christie Stadium near the end of the walk as the heavens opened. Six other species were seen and the faint call of the nesting Meadow Pipit was heard - John Hollingdale

Friday 15th June

Just a few sightings today (Fri 15th June 2007) between 14.00 - 15.35 BST - 3 Red Admiral, (1 Water Grdn., Trent Park, 2 Vicarage Farm); 1 Small Tortoiseshell, at Vicarage Farm. News for yesterday (Thurs 14th June 2007) - 1 male Large Skipper, at 'New Fields', Trent Park; 4 Red Admiral, at Trent Park - 2 at 'New Fields', 1 Upper Lake, 1 Water Grdn.; 2 Red Admiral, at Vicarage Farm; 1 Painted Lady, at Vicarage Farm; 1 Comma, at 'New Fields', Trent Park; 1 Small White, at Vicarage Farm; 1 Mother Shipton, at Vicarage Farm and 1 Snout, at rest, on railings at Water Grdn. - above stinging nettles - Robert Callf

Thursday 14th June

Despite the forecast went to the **London Borough of Hackney** today to seek out the elms mentioned in [this leaflet](#) and in particular elms in Millfields Park South, St John of Jerusalem Church and Hackney Downs. The trees at these sites are truly huge, and in moments of sunshine between cloud we had white-letter activity at all three sites. The problem is that because the trees are so tall, the butterflies look absolutely minute and it takes awhile to be certain that the small skitty thing seen on the top of the elm really is white-letter. Quite amazing and probably the first records from these trees. For instance around Millfields Park there was no visible nectar so they must be surviving on the elm or London Plane honeydew and its not surprising that no one has seen one there - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

June 13th: was walking on **Northchurch Common** (the big grassy field next to the Northchurch - Ringshall road) and spotted a **grizzled skipper**, it was some way into the field amongst the long grass which seemed an odd location for it. Wasn't really there for the butterflies but did notice a half a dozen or so meadow browns and three painted ladies as well - Colin Sturges

It always seems to rain on my days off just lately, but the sun did show for about 30 minutes today, just long enough for a quick walk around **Great Ashby** Park. I saw lots of Meadow Browns, Common Blues, 3 Large Skippers and a Painted Lady, then it rained again! Steve Lane

We saw White Admiral and Silver-washed Fritillary at Park Heath Corner (the Sussex branch reserve) yesterday + Small P/B. The first two had only emerged that day - John Hollingdale

Wednesday 13th June

Just a few sightings today (Weds 13th June 2007) - 2 Holly Blue, 1 at Old Park Avenue, 1 male, at Town Park on dog's muck 'taking minerals'; also 1 Large White along Gentleman's Row, Enfield Town - Robert Callf

Tuesday 12th June

Omitted to say that we had our first **Horsenden** Meadow Brown on the same day as the W-I Hairstreaks - just the one on **9th June**. My garden moth trap in Greenford (basically adjoining Horsenden Hill) has also had single **Buttoned Snouts** on two recent dates - 24th May and 9th June. Dave Howdon and I also had two Buttoned Snout to MV in Perivale Wood on 25th May - Andy Culshaw

Just made an unplanned detour via **Park Wood Ruislip** on the way home from work as the cloud had completely broken up and it was gorgeous out in the breeze. It was well worth the trip... **1 x White Admiral** - My first of the year. Very fresh! It was basking on a fern leaf but shot off high

into the trees before I could get close. 2-3 x Small Skipper - My first of the year too. I think the Large Skippers were still around too. 1 x Red Admiral. The usual Green Oak Tortrixes, Straw Dots and other miscellaneous moths. No sign of Marbled White yet. But I imagine not long now. I wandered along the main bridleway too but no hairstreaks seen. They are starting to annoy me. Small Skipper and White Admiral (long range):

<http://piccies.flybywire.org.uk/ButterfliesMoths/2007/20070612/SmallSkipper.jpg>

<http://piccies.flybywire.org.uk/ButterfliesMoths/2007/20070612/WhiteAdmiral.jpg> - Mike Rubin

News for today (Tues 12th June 2007) - 3 Large Skipper; 2 Red Admiral; 1 Painted Lady; 1 Peacock and 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Vicarage Farm - Robert Callf.

A Meadow Brown at Ruislip Lido, yesterday on 11th June (photo to be posted) - Sezar Hikmet

Monday 11th June

I had our **first White Admiral** at **Ruislip** (Park Wood) on **Saturday 9th**, and several people have seen more than one on the 10th, including Steve. We have had Large Skippers, Meadow Browns, Painted Ladies, Red Admirals and Speckled Woods in numbers lately - Ched George

Small Skipper at **Horsenden Hill** on Sunday - Dennis Kallmer

Late news from Saturday - I stayed within three miles of Tring and explored by bike in the border country of Bucks/Herts. I saw a Ringlet in FE woods above Dancers End and then a **Marbled White** while exploring a tetrad south of Tring (**nr Pendley**), more Painted Ladys as well through the day plus a late Chiltern but very fresh Dingy Skipper at Aston Clinton Ragpit (Bucks) this morn - Nick Bowles

'Parkland Walk - brief burst of sun at **Crouch Hill** at 4.15 and 3 White-letter Hairstreak appeared at once - Helen Bantock

News for today (**Mon 11th June 2007**) - 4 Red Admiral, 2 Trent Park - 1 near Dew Pond, 1 Shaws Wood; 1 Parkside Farm; 1 Vicarage Farm at Hog Hill; 1 Painted Lady, at Hog Hill; 8 Small Tortoiseshell, at Vicarage Farm, including 'old' and 'new' generations and a courting couple; 2 Small Copper, together, at Trent Park 'New Fields'; 2 male Large Skipper, along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm; 4 Speckled Wood, 3 at Trent Park and 1 at Vicarage Farm; 1 Narrow-bordered Five-Spot Burnet, in set-aside field near Shaws Wood, first of the year; 29 Chimney Sweeper, at Trent Park; 2 Cinnabar, 1 set-aside field near Shaws Wood, 1 set-aside field N of Williams Wood. Also saw my first Orange Ladybird of the year today near Oakwood entrance. News for yesterday (**Sun 10th June 2007**) - Oakwood Park, N14: 12 Large Skipper; 2 male Common Blue; 17 Meadow Brown; 7 Small Heath; 1 Burnet Companion; 1 Mother Shipton, between 12.00 hrs - 12.40 hrs. Grovelands Park, Southgate: 1 male Large Skipper; 1 Holly Blue; 1 Comma; 1 Red Admiral; 2 Speckled Wood; between 12.50 hrs - 14.00 hrs. Enfield Town: 2 Red Admirals, 1 at River Front (TQ330966) and 1 along New River off Silver Street (TQ329969) - Robert Callf.

Sunday 10th June

First **White Admiral** at **Balls Wood** this morning, beautiful condition, also Comma, a couple of meadow Brown, Large skippers, Painted Lady, Red Admiral and of course speckled Wood - Andrew Wood

Just had a text message from Andrew Middleton forwarded from Colin Jupp to say that at 7.15 this evening Colin saw a pristine Purple Hairstreak on foliage at Weald Park in Essex

Alexandra Palace - mirroring occurrences elsewhere in the region I had a minimum of eight individuals (**White-letter Hairstreak**) this afternoon, flitting above the tops of ashes and a maple, and obtained good views when they landed. I was joined by Gareth Richards and Andrew Gardener, at this site traditionally known as the Seascouts. Opposite the allotments and adjacent to the Farmer's Market, this glade is the most productive site within the park, and has usually hosted a few individuals in the past but this is the largest known gathering on one date. There are runt elms present. Also had my first Painted Lady for the year in the Conservation Area - Bob Watts

Harpenden, my first summer season Red Admiral in the garden today, very lively and in perfect condition. Also Brimstone - Robin Pearson

Saturday 9th June

Not part of the White-letter project but we went into central London today, to visit elms identified during winter searches. As it was still cloudy we went to **Battersea Park** first (south of the Thames). We had visited the park in January and identified all the areas of elm - this. We first stopped at Rosery Gate and after a few minutes we saw 3/4 white-letters flying around elm and ash just above gatekeepers cottage. We visited the other elms but nothing seen but returning a further two were seen on ash. From there we went to **Hyde Park** and found 4 Siberian elms close to Rotten Row which are discussed in LNHS literature, almost immediately we saw a White-letter fly, a second individual was also seen. We then tried to locate elm noted elsewhere in the Royal Parks but with less success. Since this is only the second day since emergence, not every site will be active yet - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

Continuing the early White-letter Hairstreak theme, Dave Howdon, Simon Smethurst and myself had at least two on **Horsenden Hill** this afternoon, 9th June. There has to be a question mark as to whether they will still be around for the joint LNHS/BC walk in 3 weeks time - Andy Culshaw

On Friday afternoon, June 8th, in overcast conditions, I saw a solitary Painted Lady on the disused railway sidings North of **Croxley Common Moor**. (This was where, last year in late July, there were huge numbers of Painted Ladies feeding on the buddleias that are abundant there.) - Graham Elcombe

Two Painted Lady here in watery sun in **Tring**, Herts when I went out with the washing at 8am - Nick Bowles

<http://piccies.flybywire.org.uk/ButterfliesMoths/2007/20070608/PaintedLady1.jpg>
<http://piccies.flybywire.org.uk/ButterfliesMoths/2007/20070608/PaintedLady2a.jpg>
<http://piccies.flybywire.org.uk/ButterfliesMoths/2007/20070608/PaintedLady2b.jpg> All of the pics including unidentified moths and a caterpillar are at the usual place at <http://piccies.flybywire.org.uk/ButterfliesMoths/index.html> - Mike Rubin

A few records for **today** (Sat 9th June 2007) - 3 Red Admiral, at Trent Park - 2 'New Fields', 1 edge of Nature Trail; 2 Painted Lady, 1 'New Fields', 1 along Leeging Beech Gutter near Water Garden; 1 male Common Blue, 'New Fields'; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm; 1 Cinnabar, along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm; also of interest were a mating pair of Adonis Ladybirds, on cow parsley along gravel-track at Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm. More news for **yesterday** (Fri 8th June 2007), recorded between 17.50 hrs. - 18.45 hrs. - 1 Speckled Wood, along Merryhill's Brook near Equestrian Centre; 4 Painted Lady at Vicarage Farm; 2 Peacock, at Vicarage Farm; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, fresh - 'summer-brood', at Vicarage Farm; 3, 2 males, 1 female, Large Skipper, together, along Merryhill's Brook at Vicarage Farm - Robert Callf.

Friday 8th June

Stuck at work when all the White-letter news came in, so drove home for lunch past all the **Ware** elms, nothing but returning back walked the very long way back to work from the carpark past [this elm \(scroll down to Bowling Road\)](#) on the corner of Bowling Road, watched for only a few minutes and **1 White-letter** was seen to fly out. Rushed back to work without looking for more - Liz Goodyear

Clay Hill area, 3 white letter hairstreaks over roadside elms around 11.30am. **Cheshunt Park** - 14 small heath, 5 meadow browns, 2 painted ladys. Also Colin Jupp had one White-letter at South Weald, Weald Park Way by A12, Brentwood, Essex in 45 mins - Andrew Middleton

White-letter Hairstreak, had a look on Parkland Walk at midday today when sun came out properly. No bins, but 4-6 small dark, butterflies spiralling and clashing over a sycamore near the elms between **Crouch hill and Mountview rd**. On return at 12.45 did not notice activity. This site is very warm and sheltered and has a lot of heat loving insects, so might be a particularly early one even by London standards - Tristan Bantock

Just walked my transect and some additional areas at the **'New Fields' Trent Park** (Fri 8th June 2007) and recorded the following - 8 Large Skipper; 1 Painted Lady; 1 Red Admiral; 1 Peacock; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, fresh 'summer brood'; 1 Comma; 1 Small Copper, 'tatty and faded'; 4 Speckled Wood; 5 Meadow Brown; 21 Small Heath; 1 Mother Shipton. Yesterday (**Thurs 7th June 2007**) saw 2 Painted Lady at Vicarage Farm in the afternoon - Robert Callf

At **Lake Farm Country Park, Hayes**, single Painted Lady. male Common Blue and Small Tortoiseshell. Also one female Black-tailed Skimmer dragonfly - Peter Naylor

Park Wood, Ruislip, caught a brief spell of hazy sunshine just after lunch. Still no Heath Fritillaries or Red Admirals. Didn't spot any Hairstreaks either. And the sun soon got swallowed by the clouds again. But... 10+x Speckled Wood - they were all over the bridleway. 4x Meadow Brown - my first of the year. 3x Painted Lady - 2 slightly faded and one looking pretty fresh. Got a super closeup photo of the fresh one as increasingly dull conditions were making it more docile although it was still pretty active. I guess the immigration has arrived good and proper. 2x Large Skipper, 2x Silver Y, 1x PEACOCK! Slightly tattered but colours still bright. Basking in dull 8/8 conditions. Lots of Green Oak Tortrix and other unidentified moths too. Got ants in my pants after the clouds cleared mid afternoon. Headed out to **Barnhill** to burn some more energy. 5x Large Skipper, 4x Meadow Brown (3m, 1f), 2x Painted Lady, 2x Red Admiral, 1x Speckled Wood, 1x Small White 1x PEACOCK! (Condition unknown -flying), Zillions of Burnet Companions swarming the meadows. I did keep an eye on oak and other trees with Hairstreaks in mind but nothing noteworthy spotted. - Mike Rubin

My **Bishop's Stortford** garden, a male Orange-tip as the sun came out; it's been a while since I saw the last one.

Thursday 7th June

4 Meadow Brown and a Yellowshell at **Alpine Meadow** - Andrew Palmer

Wednesday 6th June

Wandered around the meadows West of **Horsenden Lane north**. Not many leps around at all. 1 x Large Skipper. (Photographed head on), 1 x Male Common Blue, 1x Red Admiral, A few Burnet Companions. 1x Large pale brown looking lep was disturbed from bramble and blasted off at high speed. Was unable to find it again after that. Shy beggar. Had similar experience yesterday at Grove Farm (only lep I saw yesterday). I now suspect (but can't confirm as only got glimpses) both of these might have been Painted Ladies. Also got a good closeup shot of a dragonfly basking on an empty patch of dried up lakebed like soil, in a long grass meadow. Oh yeah and 1 x White crossing **Greenford Road** near the dreaded Whitton Avenue traffic lights - Mike Rubin

Saw 2 painted ladies this morning at **Colney Heath Community Park**. One looked very fresh the other a bit tatty. Photo' attached - Jez Perkins

Tuesday 5th June

Long Marston, Painted Lady today - John & Margaret Noakes

Just visited **Trent Park 'New Fields'** between 15.20 hrs - 17.00 hrs. (Tues 5th June 2007) and recorded the following - 7 Large Skipper; 3 Small Copper; 1 male Common Blue 'faded'; 3 Meadow Brown; 40 Small Heath; 3 Burnet Companion; 1 Silver Y and **32 Chimney Sweeper** - Robert Callf.

Monday 4th June

I saw my first Large Skipper of the year at **Coppetts Wood, Friern Barnet**, North London on **Saturday**. Very little else despite the wonderful weather - a few Small Whites, two late Peacocks, and 5 Speckled Wood. Brian Price (*This is a correction*)

Got back from Blacktoft Sands RSPB on Saturday afternoon, after a weeks voluntary work. Went for a short walk late Saturday afternoon (June 2nd) and saw my first Meadow Brown of the year - a male in set-aside field N of Williams Wood and a Small Heath at Parkside Farm. Yesterday (Sunday 3rd June 2007) saw the following at the 'New Fields' Trent Park - 1 Peacock; 2 Comma; 4 male Large Skipper; 2 Small Copper; 23 Small Heath; 1 male Meadow Brown; 4 Burnet Companion; 1 Mother Shipton and 1 Silver Y. Also had terrific views of a Weasel - I squeaked at it and it came within a few feet. News for today (Mon 4th June 2007) - 1 Speckled Wood, along bridle-path near Shaws Wood; 2 male Meadow Brown, 1 set-aside field N of Williams Wood, 1 Parkside Farm; 3 Small Heath, 1 Parkside Farm, 1 'Old Golf Course', 1 Vicarage Farm; 3 Yellowshell, 1 set-aside field N of Williams Wood, 2 Parkside Farm; 1 Straw Dot - Robert Callf.

Sunday 3rd June

4pm today **Large Skipper** my garden **Bishop's Stortford** - Andrew Palmer

Friday June 1 at Aldbury Mowers Lots of small heaths, 1 green hairstreak, 3 common blues, 1 washed out small copper, 1 brimstone, 1 large skipper, 1 brown Argus, 1 unknown (very tatty but someone suggested it might be a dingy skipper) and one broad-bodied chaser - Dave Mackenzie

Saturday 2nd June

Noticed a Red-belted Clearwing in our **Enfield** garden about 15 minutes ago (**16:40 2/6/07**). Tried to take a picture but just managed to disturb it, flying up toward a plum tree just outside the garden. Later but not lepidoptera. Observed copulating stag beetles on telegraph pole on Ladysmith Road, Enfield this evening - Phil Rhodes

2 Small Heath in the meadow at **Tyttenhanger** this evening - Robin Pearson

Friday 1st June

1 Dingy at **Tring Park** today (in excellent condition) and reports of 1 Dingy at **Aldbury** (worn) and 1 Green Hairstreak - Andrew Palmer

Forty Hall, Enfield - **two meadow browns**, plus one small copper and 30+ mother shiptons. Searched a large bank of elm in north Enfield for an early white-letter, but no luck yet - Andrew Middleton

MAY 2007

Thursday 31st May

7/8ths cloud cover but for the first time in ages some fleeting sunshine and not raining. So went over **Horsenden Hill**. North side spotted my first Large Skipper of the year on a blackberry bush during a brief sunny spell. Near the summit spotted my first Mother Shipton moth of the year. Also spotted what looked like a Green Oak Tortrix which was very tatty, right wing severely damaged could barely fly. South side spotted a Red Admiral in the grazing meadow. Other than that, nothing! No whites even. - Mike Rubin

Monday 28th May

Aldbury Nowers - I went to Aldbury Nowers again on the **26th May** but not as much about as last week - too grey. Saw 4 Burnet Companion, and 2 Common Blue, a Large White, 2 Small Coppers and a Cinnabar moth - Martin Parr

Saturday 26th May

I spent some time at **Aldbury Nowers** last **Sunday 20th May** from about 11.00 til 3.00 odd. I was looking for Dingy and grizzled skippers and green hairstreaks - all life firsts for me, and found dingy and hairstreak! So was pretty pleased. Hope to try for grizzled again tomorrow. I didn't keep a full count of everything seen but thought the list I did keep may be useful to you:- Green Hairstreak 3 minimum - possibly 7 as saw 2 dog fighting that disappeared over the trees, then 10 minutes and 20 minutes later 2 more still fighting - so either a long fight or more than one pair. Dingy skipper 2 - one in the left hand paddock, one out at the back of the meadow from the layby. Holly Blue 1, Mother Shipton 2, treble bar 3, Cinnabar 3, Peacock 3, Small Tortoiseshell 1, Brown Argus 3. Brimstone, Small copper, Small heath, all lots. Green veined white 1 min and other whites couldn't pin down as too far and fast. Also noted an infestation of caterpillars on the road there from the station - 4 - 5 lots on both sides - Martin Parr

Friday 25th May

Aldbury Nowers today, Diane Andrew's and I spent a couple of hours on site and saw **1 Large Skipper**, 20 Small Heath, 4 Common Blue, 3 Brown Argus, 5 Small Copper, 17 Brimstone, 1 Large White, 1 Speckled Wood, 1 Peacock, 3 Mother Shipton, 5 Burnet Companion, 1 Small Yellow Underwing, 7 Cinnabar, 5 Treble-bar, 1 Common Swift, 5 Yellowshell and 2 Red Kites. Failed to see Dingy, Grizzled or Green Hairstreak. **Whilst we were there someone else had there car broken into in the lay-by.** Then we when over the border to Church End just in Bucks and in deteriorating weather picked up 3 Small Blue, 2 Dingy Skipper and heard Quail - Andrew Palmer

News for today - 3 Speckled Wood, at Trent Park near Equestrian Centre; 2 Peacock at Trent Park (1 edge of Shaws Wood, 1 set-aside field N of Williams Wood); 2 Small Heath, set-aside field near Shaws Wood; 1 Cinnabar Moth, set-aside field N of Williams Wood; 2, male and female, Common

Blue, set-aside field N of Williams Wood; 2 Small Copper, set-aside field N of Williams Wood; 1 Burnet Companion, set-aside field N of Williams Wood; 2 Green-veined White, (1 near Shaws Wood, 1 Vicarage Farm); 1 female Orange Tip, settled on Garlic mustard, near allotments - arching abdomen, possibly egg laying, Vicarage Farm. Forgot to mention I saw another Silver Y moth yesterday (**Thurs 24th May 2007**) at Park Farm, Enfield - Robert Callf

Thursday 24th May

Scarce Swallowtail seen flying at the **Chelsea Flower Show**, Royal Hospital, Chelsea Middx SW3 today, reported on BBC2 this evening. Alan Titchmarsh incorrectly identified it as a Swallowtail & that it would have to travel to Norfolk to find a mate. The pictures of it were good & there can be no doubt it was a Scarce Swallowtail. It was said to have hatched in Chelsea, arriving as a pupa imported from Italy. This appears to be a rare sighting. Colin Plants "Butterflies of the London Area" (1987) records no previous sightings in Middx, though interestingly there was one seen close by in Richmond Park on 20th September 1829! - Malcolm Hull

Horsenden Hill, wandered around the fields West of the hill again (different route this time) today at lunchtime. It was overcast but they were still there and active - especially the coppers. 4x Small copper (2 mating) 3x Burnet Companion 2x Peacock 1x Male Common Blue 1x Speckled Wood 1x Unidentified White Numerous smaller moths of various unidentified species. Then some time after 5pm I saw a Holly Blue fly across the garden back in **Kenton** - Mike Rubin

News for today (Thurs 24th May 2007) - 3 Speckled Wood, Trent Park (1 near Equestrian Centre, 2 near Shaws Wood); 1 Small Heath, set-aside field N of Williams Wood; 1 Small Copper, set-aside field N of Williams Wood; 2 Red Admiral, 1 Parkside Farm, 1 edge of Rough Lot, Trent Park; 1 Small Heath, Parkside Farm; 6 male Common Blue, Parkside Farm; 2 Small Heath, Park Farm; 2 Mother Shipton, 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park; 1 Mother Shipton, Vicarage Farm; 16 Small Heath, Vicarage Farm; 1 Peacock, Vicarage Farm; 1 female Common Blue, Vicarage Farm; 2 Green-veined White, Vicarage Farm; 1 Small White, Vicarage Farm. More news for yesterday (**Weds 23rd May 2007**) - 1 Large White at Lake Side, Oakwood; also 1 Red Admiral and 1 Speckled Wood here also. 1 Red Admiral near Trent Park Equestrian Centre (possibly the same individual); 4 Speckled Wood in Williams Wood, Trent Park; 1 Small Copper, set-aside field N of Williams Wood; 1 male Orange Tip at Parkside Farm; 2, male and female, Common Blue at Parkside Farm and 1 Small Heath here also. Also, Dobrina Dobрева reported a male Orange Tip at Halewood House, Southbury Road, Enfield yesterday - Robert Callf.

Wednesday 23rd May

Was at the **Chelsea Physic Garden** today and saw a couple of Small Whites and a Holly Blue which didn't settle. A large Buddleia Alternifolia in full bloom only had bumble bees on it - Malcolm Newland

Horsenden Hill, I saw 3 Peacocks during a brief early afternoon walk, all seen just west of Horsenden Lane north in the meadows. One settled in front of me and was not tatty at all, and quite active (definitely not elderly like). Female? Also saw 1 Red Admiral, 1 small Copper and 1 Small tortoiseshell. No whites!!! Pretty quiet. Mid afternoon siesta in the heat I guess. (I was late cos a boring and irritating lunchtime meeting postponed my lunchbreak. **22nd May Grove Farm**, short lunchtime walk in the sunshine. Was surprised to find 3 Common Blues (1f,2m) not far from the David Lloyd centre just off the footpath on a small patch of grass / paths / bench. Had no idea they were in the area. Also several small unidentified moths. Also saw 2 speckled woods in the wood, and 1 green veined white on Whitton Avenue - Mike Rubin

Had a very successful day yesterday (**Tuesday 22nd**) **Tring Park** Grizzled Skipper 2, Dingy Skipper 2, Green Hairstreak 2 possibly 3 and **Aldbury Nowers** (see Andrew Palmer's entry) Grizzled Skipper 3, Dingy Skipper 2, Green Hairstreak 2, Small Heath 1, Brown Argus 1 - Jez Perkins

Walked my transect in Trent Park and some additional areas at the 'New Fields' today between 12.00 - 13.10 hrs., and recorded the following - 10 Small Copper; 1 male Common Blue; 1 Peacock; 35 Small Heath; 1 Mother Shipton and 1 Burnet Companion. A few additional sightings for yesterday (Tues 22nd May 2007) - 1 Holly Blue at Halewood House, Southbury Road, Enfield for myself and Dobrina Dobрева reported 3 Speckled Wood here also - Robert Callf

Tuesday 22nd May

Waterford Heath South Pit on **19th May** - 2 Brown Argus, 1 small Heath - Darin Stanley

I went back to **Frogmore Pit** this evening between 4.15 and 5.15 i saw 8 Grizzled Skippers 30+ Brown Argus, 20+ Common Blue, 1 Small Heath, 1 Peacock and 1 Cinnabar Moth - Ian Hardy

Aldbury Nowers - combining what Jez saw up to the point of seeing him with what Paul and I saw: 2 Grizzled Skipper (1 north, 1 south), 2 Dingy Skipper (both south but out of main areas), 3 Green Hairstreak (1 north, 2 south), 7 Small Heath, 5 Small Copper, 3 Peacock, 8 Brown Argus, 4 Common Blue, 14 Brimstone, 1 Holly Blue, 3 Orange-tip, 1 Large White, 2 Green-veined White, 4 Small/GV whites, 5 Cinnabar, 2 Mother Shipton, 7 Burnet Companion, 1 Yellowshell, 1 Small-elephant Hawkmoth (roosting), 1 Small Yellow Underwing, 2 *Pyrausta nigrata* - Andrew Palmer

Female brimstone, egg-laying on recently planted alder buckthorn, just outside the nature conservation area, **Ravenscourt Park**, today (22/05/07)- Paul Clay (photo to be posted)

Had a trip to **Frogmore Pit** today with Ian Hardy. Weather was good, sunny and warm, lots of butterflies and moths. We saw 6 Grizzled Skippers, 10+ Common Blues, 30+ Brown Argus, 1 Small Heath and 2 Large Whites. Moths 1 Treble-bar, 3 Cinnabar and 1 Burnet Companion Steve Lane

Is it a good year for Small Heath? You will recall that I reported one at **King's Meads** on the 20th May 2007, the first for 10 years. Well today I saw another 4 !! Not only that, but the total of 5 were seen on 3 totally different parts of the site. Thoughts of the Small Heath Bus Company. Also 3 Small Copper - Alan Reynolds

Saw 1 Red Admiral at Chase Road, Southgate this morning - flying up the road. Just walked my transect and some additional areas at Trent Park 'New Fields' and recorded the following - 14 Small Copper, in 1 hour (11.30 -12.30 hrs.); 2 Green-veined White; 1 Small White; 28 Small Heath, in 1 hr.; 1 Speckled Wood; 1 Small Yellow Underwing; 2 Burnet Companion; 1 Mother Shipton. More records for today - 2 Speckled Wood at Lake Side, Oakwood; 1 male Common Blue, along Merryhill's Brook at Vicarage Farm; 2 Peacock at Vicarage Farm - 1 along Merryhill's Brook and 1 along Leeging Beech Gutter; 22 Small Heath at Vicarage Farm; 1 Speckled Wood, along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm; 1 Small Copper, in set-aside field N of Williams Wood; 2 Orange Tip, 1 male along Hadley Road at Parkside Farm and 1 female at Vicarage Farm - my first female of the year! 1 Peacock at Parkside Farm; 1 Holly Blue, along Salmon's Brook at Enfield Road and 3 Mother Shipton at Vicarage Farm - Robert Callf.

Countryside Management Walk at **Broxbourne Wood NR** encountered numerous Speckled Yellow moths, a few Speckled Woods, one solitary Red Admiral. Loads of caterpillars also Brown Silver Line and Green Silver Lines moth - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton and fellow walkers

Monday 21st May

Visited **Hexton Chalk Pit** on **Sunday**. Very few butterflies. A few very warn Dingy Skippers, two roosting male Common Blues, one Small Heath, two Brimstone and a Green-veined White - Ian Small

Disturbed several Cinnabar Moths whilst doing some birding at **Blackbridge Tip, Wheathampsted** today - Robin Pearson

News for **yesterday** (Sunday 20th May 2007) - 10 Small Copper, including 2 together; 1 male Common Blue; 2 Peacock; 1 Small White; 1 Speckled Wood; 32 Small Heath; 2 Small Yellow Underwing; 1 Eyed Ladybird; 1 Harlequin Ladybird; 1 Ten-spot - chequered form; 1 Pine Ladybird; 2 Fourteen-spot; **Trent Park**, 'New Fields', between 13.40 - 15.40 hrs. 2 Peacock, 1 Vicarage Farm and 1 Parkside Farm. 1 Mother Shipton, Vicarage Farm. 7 Fourteen-spot; 9 Two-spot; 2 Seven-spot and 1 Harlequin Ladybird, Vicarage Farm, between 15.50 -17.30 hrs. - Robert Callf

Sunday 20th May

Aldbury Nowers, recorded today, 2 x Small Coppers, 2 x Grizzled Skippers, possible 3rd one, and 2 x Dingy Skippers. There were other species, but thought you would like to know about these. All were seen in the usual area near Pitstone Hill end today between 16-25 and 17 -25 - Brian Jessop

Today at **King's Meads** a Small Heath, this is only the 4th record for the site, the last being on the 25th May 1997 - Alan Reynolds

Saturday 19th May

News for today (Sat 19th May 2007) - 2 Small Copper, 1 at 'Old Golf Course', 1 at Vicarage Farm; 1 male Common Blue at 'Old Golf Course'; 3 Small Heath at 'Old Golf Course', also Large White, Small White and Green-veined White identified today - Trent Park Area. Also 1 Red Admiral along Leeging Beech Gutter near 'Three-bridges' - Robert Callf

Friday 18th May

Here is today's news in full - Trent Park 'New Fields' (12.15 hrs - 13.20 hrs.) - 9 Small Copper; 31 Small Heath; 1 Speckled Wood; 2 Peacock, including a female egg laying on nettles; 1 Small White. Also ladybirds of note included my first Eyed Ladybird of the year on wooden fencing near the Oakwood entrance - a cracking specimen - probably brought down by the breezy conditions, also 9 Twenty-Four Spots, on fencing, including 2 pairs mating and 1 Cream-Spot. Visited South Lodge and Vicarage Farms between (13.45 hrs - 14.25 hrs.) and recorded the following - 1 Speckled Wood at South Lodge Farm; 1 male Orange Tip at South Lodge Farm; 1 Painted Lady at South Lodge Farm - my first of the year! 1 female Common Blue, along Merryhill's Brook at Vicarage Farm - my first of the year and 1 Brown Argus in the same area, also my first for the year! 1 Mother Shipton was also along Merryhill's Brook at Vicarage Farm. Not a bad afternoon's fieldwork. News for yesterday (**Thurs 17th May 2007**) - 1 Small Tortoiseshell, along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm; 1 Red Admiral, near allotments at Vicarage Farm and a number of unidentified Whites to distant to identify - Robert Callf

First transect sightings of Common Blue (8) on my **Bunkers Park** transect this pm - Michael Pearson

Aldbury Nowers news from 17th May - Top paddock, 3 Dingy Skipper, 1 Green Hairstreak, 1 Common Blue, 4 Brown Argus, 1 Small Copper, 1 Large White, 1 Small White, 1 Peacock, no Grizzled Skipper, 3 Pyrausta nigrata. Southern section: 2 Dingy Skipper, 5 Small Heath. 2 Small Copper, 1 Green-veined White, 2 Silver-ground Carpet, 1 Mother Shipton - Andrew Palmer

Thursday 17th May

First visited **Pegsdon Hills**, in drizzle or dull conditions, and found 3 roosting Dingy Skipper. Walked up to **Telegraph Hill** and found 2 roosting/semi active Dingy Skipper and 4 eggs! Looked at Hoo Bit and saw nothing. Returned back to Pegsdon and found 2 more roosting Dingy. A total of only 5 over several hours of thorough searching. At the end of the visit day brightened up and 2 active Dingy were seen in area where 2 found roosting! Also seen 1 Common Blue and 1 Brown Argus. Drove on to **Hexton** and the sun came out and immediately found 5 Burnet Companions. We then walked up one side of the pit in sunshine and counted **14 active Dingy Skippers** including a mating pair. As we walked back down the other side cloud returned and they started to roost up and we saw 10 more - a total of 24! Also seen, Brimstone, 1 Green Hairstreak and 1 Small Heath - Liz Goodyear & Andrew Middleton

Waterford Heath south, late afternoon - **16 Grizzled Skipper** roosting across pit - Andrew Middleton

Again rather overcast, but a bit brighter than yesterday. This time I wandered between the **Canal and Horsenden Lane North**. Despite the conditions the Small Coppers were out in force. Some very pale, some very vivid in colour. 10x Small Copper, 2x Green Veined White, 2x Unidentified White, 1x Holly Blue, 1x Peacock (Wasn't expecting this to be around still!)- I also saw what I think might be a Male Ghost moth, and a possible Pyraustia Aurata. Got pics of both so will check them later. Lots of other unidentified small moths easily disturbed in the long grass. - Mike Rubin

News for yesterday (**Wednesday 16th May 2007**) - 1 male Orange Tip, Water Garden; 2 Large White, near Lower Lake; 1 Small White, edge of Ride Wood; 1 Green-veined White, 'Three-bridges'; 1 Small Copper, set-aside field N of Williams Wood; 1 Small Heath, along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm; 1 Silver Y moth, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Water Garden; 1 Mother Shipton, at South Lodge Farm; 1 Cream-spot, Williams Wood; 1 Ten-spot, Williams Wood; 1 Fourteen-spot, along Leeging Beech Gutter near 'Three-bridges' - Trent Park Area - Robert Callf

Wednesday 16th May

MUDCHUTE FIELD TRIP REPORT (May 16th 2007) I went to Mudchute LNR today during my lunch-hour to take my first BC field trip of the year. Unfortunately the press release we sent out was not included or used in the London city papers this morning and so no city-facing workers

joined me on my walk. However, after a dreadful start to the week weather-wise, the sun came out at just the right time and the butterflies began to appear. I was fortunate and saw a Holly Blue. I also then found six Speckled Woods, four Green-Veined Whites & twenty Small Whites. In summary the total number species sightings I have made at the Mudchute site during this butterfly season remains at seven. I return to Mudchute for my second lunchtime field trip walk of the season on Wednesday July 11th [12.30pm] - David Chandler

Horsenden Hill, pretty overcast, but still spotted a few leps. An early bright spell on the north side revealed a Small Copper and what looked like a *Pyrausta Aurata* (got photo, will confirm later). Saw a single White on the South Side near the grazing fields. Then in the meadows on the west side below the road it started raining lightly. Despite that I got buzzed by what must have been a red admiral (all peacocks gone now I think.) Plenty of unidentified small moths around though - Mike Rubin

Visited **Vicarage Farm**, Enfield for 1 hour yesterday evening (Tuesday 15th May 2007) and saw only one butterfly - a Small Heath - Robert Callf

Monday 14th May

Aldbury Nowers after the rain, 3 roosting Dingy Skipper, 2 Small Copper, 2 Brown Argus but no Grizzled Skipper found. **Waterford Heath north**, 1 Grizzled Skipper - Andrew Palmer

Between the downpours on **Saturday (12th)** afternoon I went for a walk in **Ruislip Wood** to look at the Cow Wheat and, when the sun did come out for a short time, I was rewarded with the sighting of a Small Copper - David Chandler

News from 12th, **Hexton Chalk Pits** - 1 Dingy Skipper at 18:30 around the chalk pits - Darin Stanley

Saturday 12th May

Waterford Heath Field Trip Report: The weather could have been better, but the worst of the rain held off until we just got back to the carpark - we were very lucky! Eight people joined Alan Downie to search the north pit for Grizzled Skipper. Two roosting individuals were located and in a moment of sunshine, opened their wings for everyone to see their markings. 22 Brown Argus were counted either roosting or in flight and 1 Small Copper was found roosting. Several Treble/Lesser Treble Bar moths were flying around and caterpillars were found including Orange Tip larvae on garlic mustard - Liz Goodyear

Waterford Heath, an early morning roost count located 5 Grizzled Skipper across the north pit, also 11 Brown Argus, 1 Small Copper and 1 Common Blue. Scattered across the south pit, 6 Grizzleds were found, 2 Small Copper, 1 Brown Argus and a Speckled Wood - Liz Goodyear & Andrew Middleton

Friday 11th May

Not much to report this week, with the weather being the way it is. My sightings are as follows -

Monday 7th May 2007 - 3 Small Heath at Vicarage Farm; 1 Large White and 1 Small White, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Water Garden, Trent Park. **Wednesday 9th May 2007** - 1 Small Copper, along Merryhill's Brook at South Lodge Farm - Robert Callf

Wednesday 9th May

Had my first ever visit to **Hexton Chalk Pit** today and a very interesting place it is too. Not much to report on the lepidoptera front on a dingy morning, just one dingy skipper, but had good views of willow warbler and blackcap and the cow-slips were nice. Rather bizarrely there were pheasants eggs strewn about the place, by a fox I presume, and also a dead mole - Robin Pearson

Sunday 6th May

TWO DAYTIME MOTHS FOR THIS BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND Those people who are out and about at the moment looking for Grizzled and Dingy Skippers might also look out for two target day-flying moths on chalky sites in Hertfordshire. As some people object to attachments, I have uploaded photographs of the moth, taken by Tristan Bantock, to my web space and the links are given below. The Small Purple-barred is a macro moth that should be flying about in the afternoon sunshine today and tomorrow. The caterpillar feeds on Common Milkwort and Heath Milkwort. In flight, it might be overlooked and ignored as one of the common *Pyrausta* (pyralids). The other

species is the pyralid moth *Pyrausta nigrata* – jet black with white lines across the wings. The foodplants are Marjoram, Thyme and other labiates. Both are apparently rare in Hertfordshire but are almost certainly just under-recorded. Both have been recorded flying at Aldbury Nowers in the last few days and *Pyrausta nigrata* has also been seen at Hexton Chalk Pit. Both would be worth looking for all along the north edge of the county from Royston in the east to Tring in the west. If you are on the chalk along our border with Cambridgeshire, you might also keep a look out for the Four-spotted moth. This nationally rare species is now on the wing (rather earlier than normal – but then so are many other things). In rapid flight it can look confusingly like a Grizzled Skipper. There are many other day-flying moths, of course, in addition to these poorly recorded ones. I want all records of all species STRAIGHT AWAY PLEASE – don't wait for the end of the year as that would be too late for inclusion in the book. Good Hunting! Colin Plant

Had a trip out on Saturday first, out of county to Bedfordshire. A bit to overcast, but we did manage 2 Duke of Burgundy, 1 Small Copper and 1 Small White. Second stop was **Hexton Chalk Pit**, 8+ Dingy Skipper and a Small White - Trevor Brownsell, Keith Cherry, Tony Hukin and Steve Lane

During the last week in my **Stevenage garden**, numbers of Holly Blue, Speckled Wood and Orange Tip increasing, Large, Small and Green-veined White, Peacock also seen - Steve Lane

Went on Friday to two of my under recorded tetrads at **Cassiobury Park and Croxley Common Moor**. Saw plenty of orange tips, small/green-veined whites, a couple of peacocks, red admirals and brimstones and a single speckled wood. But the highlight of the day were small heaths posing in the gusty conditions and several small coppers including a mating pair! Earlier this week at the Swillet I had seen mating holly blues. This is a first for me with both species - Ann Piper

More news for **4th May** - 3 male Orange Tip, 1 along Merryhill's Brook at South Lodge Farm, 2 at Vicarage Farm - 1 along Merryhill's Brook and 1 along Leeging Beech Gutter; 1 Green-veined White, at Vicarage Farm - along Leeging Beech Gutter, settled on Garlic Mustard; 1 Small Copper, along Merryhill's Brook at Vicarage Farm; 3 Small Tortoiseshell, at Vicarage Farm - 2 together, along Merryhill's Brook and 1 along Leeging Beech Gutter; 4 Peacock at Vicarage Farm - including a courting couple, settled on the gravel track; 2 Speckled Wood at Vicarage Farm, 1 along Merryhill's Brook and 1 along Leeging Beech Gutter; 6 Small Heath at Vicarage Farm; 1 Peacock at Parkside Farm; 1 Red Admiral, very fresh looking, settled on water trough along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm and also 1 Mother Shipton along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm - Robert Callf

Friday 4th May

Just to let you know that I have seen my first **grizzled skipper and green hairstreak** in **Tring Park** and on my transect walk on the 2-5-07 - so pleased! Brian Jessop

Just walked my **Trent Park** transect and some additional areas at the 'New Fields' and recorded the following - 8 Small Copper; 5 Speckled Wood; 19 Small Heath; 1 male Orange Tip; 2 Small White; 1 Green-veined White; 1 Red Admiral and 1 Peacock. Also recorded my first Burnet Companion and Mother Shipton for the year. News for yesterday (**Thurs 3rd May 2007**) - 1 Small Tortoiseshell, on the edge of Duncan's Wood, Park Farm, also 2 Small White at Park Farm and 2 in Trent Park; 2 Small Copper, along Leeging Beech Gutter near the Water Garden, Trent Park and 1 female / imm., Broad-bodied Chaser, in set-aside field N of Williams Wood - my first of the year. Today's walk was from 12.15 - 13.15 hrs. Also I was looking through the archive yesterday at my Silver-washed Fritillary record for Trent Park on 29th and 30th July 2001 and noticed it was down as a female. I later reconsidered and thought it was probably a male, although I did not see the sex-brands - it always closed it's wings when it settled - probably because it was so hot at the time (32 c). Please could you correct this - Robert Callf

Thursday 3rd May

Hexton Chalk Pit, in cloudy conditions **14 roosting Dingy Skipper across site**. Pegsdon Hills also cloudy - nothing but we did count 95 sheep! **Waterford North, 9 roosting Grizzled Skipper** at three points across site, also 13 Brown Argus, 1 Small Heath, 1 Small Copper and 1 Common Blue also roosting. **Waterford south** (Andrew only), **10 roosting Grizzled Skipper**. Also in Stevenage along Six Hills Way by Marlborough Road, a large elm produced a hatched white-letter egg and larva - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

I saw my first Brown Argus of the year in the Bicentenary Gardens on the **Brunel University**

campus in the same area I discovered a small colony last August. Also 4 Small Copper, 3 Speckled Wood, 5 Orange-tip, GV White, Peacock, Red Admiral and Comma - Steve Pash

More news for yesterday (Weds 2nd May 2007) - 2 Peacock, at Vicarage Farm; 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Vicarage Farm and 1 at Park Farm, Enfield; 1 male Orange Tip at Parkside Farm; 1 Holly Blue along Hadley Rd., at Vicarage Farm; 1 Small Heath at Vicarage Farm and 1 at Park Farm, Enfield - Robert Callf.

Wednesday 2nd May

I visited **Waterford Heath South Pit** in near ideal conditions and saw at **least 5 Grizzled Skipper**, 1 Small Copper and several Brown Argus - Alan Reynolds

Half an hour spent after work at **Waterford North** - **4 Grizzled Skipper** and 7 Brown Argus along the bank. Then at **Waterford South** - **3 Grizzled Skippers** and 10 Brown Argus. Also 2 Small Heath, Brimstone, Small White, Peacock - Trevor Chapman

3 Dingy skippers on the wing on at Highdown **near Hitchin Monday 30th April** along with 16 brimstones, and numerous green hairstreak + one holly-blue /red admiral Stuart Pittman

Walked my transect and additional areas at the '**New Fields', Trent Park** today (Wednesday 2nd May 2007) Recorded the following butterflies - 8 Small Copper; 1 Red Admiral; 4 Peacock; 1 Comma; 2 male Orange Tip; 1 Small White; 4 Speckled Wood; 12 Small Heath - Robert Callf. (12.25 - 13.20 hrs.).

Horsenden Hill this lunchtime: 12x Unidentified Whites, 6x Male Orange Tip, 5x Peacock, 4x Holly Blue, 3x Small Copper, 2x Green Veined White (positive ID), 1x Speckled Wood (but no partridge in a pear tree) All the Green Longhorns appear to have vanished. The oak trees and Hawthorns are quiet again - Mike Rubin

Tuesday 1st May

Hemel Hempstead, garden butterfly species tally for this year up to ten with a Speckled Wood today. Can't remember a better spring for Holly Blues with up to three in view at the same time and egg-laying observed on two of my three hollies. Numerous Orange Tips, Brimstones and Whites nectaring mainly on purple and white honesty Malcolm Newland

Hexton - I was going to e-mail you and say that I had seen **10+ Dingy Skippers** - but I see from the website you went there yesterday and saw 20! I also briefly saw a green hairstreak and the attached moth - I think it might be *pyrausta nigrata* but not entirely sure - Gavin Vicary

Tring Park this afternoon, one lonely green hairstreak, no dingy or grizzled to be seen. Very disappointing - Liz Goodyear

This morning at **Frogmore Pits** I saw **3 Grizzled Skippers**, 1 Small Heath, numerous Small Coppers and Brown Argus, as well as Orange Tip, Peacock, Large and Small White, and a Small Tortoiseshell - Darrel Bryant.

APRIL 2007 News from 28th April - Probable Green H (at distance but rightish colour (blue / green) and size - not a holly blue) and freshly emerged **Grizzled skipper** at **Aldbury Nowers** - Martin Hicks Both in 'second' cmpt. See what turns up this afternoon.

Monday 30th April

Hexton Chalk Pit with Sharon Hearle and Tim Hill and Paul Thrush of the HMWT - safe count of **20 Dingy Skipper** including mating pair, 1 Green Hairstreak, Comma, Large White, numerous Brimstone, orange Tip and Red Admiral. **Telegraph Hill** only **1 Dingy Skipper** but 5 Green Hairstreak. Also Brimstone, Holly Blue, Peacock. **Hoo Bit**, **2 Dingy Skipper**, Small Tortoiseshell and Peacock. Also be warned **Burnet Companion** moths were also seen flying today - Andrew Palmer and Liz Goodyear

Horsenden Hill, just a short walk today. In about 10 minutes I saw 2 very fresh looking Red Admirals (one looked surprisingly small), a Holly blue and a Peacock all just West of Horsenden Lane North. Plus several Unidentified Whites. Otherwise all rather quiet. News from **Saturday** included a visit to **Aldbury Nowers** but before lunch it was rather quiet. Although a Male Orange

Tip did come and say hello. [Pictures from Ivinghoe Beacon](#) - Mike Rubin

News for today - Walked my transect route today in **Trent Park** and some additional areas at the 'New Fields' and recorded the following between 12.00 hrs. - 12.55 hrs. - 3 Peacock; 7 Small Copper, including 2 together; 15 Small Heath; 7 Speckled Wood and 2 Small White - Robert Callf.

Sunday 29th April

First April Small copper for many yrs today at **Ickleford** 29/4 Green hairstreak on the wing at **Highdown** nr Hitchin on **22/4** along with a brown argus - Stuart Pittman

5 Grizzled Skippers plus a Brown Argus on **Waterford North** and 1 Grizzled Skipper and 1 Small Copper on the south pit today - Andrew Wood

Trent Park - New fields - three small heath - Robert Callf

Today at **Rye Meads** there was a lot of butterflies around! 1 large white, 2 small white, at least 5 green-veined white and dozens of orange tip both male and female. There were also 5 speckled woods, 3 holly blue, 3 brimstone, 4 peacock, 1 red admiral and a small tortoiseshell. After that I went to **Waterford Heath** there was not much about on the north side, just a few whites and a couple of brimstone whizzing by in the wind. I did see 1 silver y moth. The south site was a different story with **2 grizzled skippers**, 3 brown argus and 2 small coppers. Also I saw a latticed heath moth and again several whites at the top of the bank along the trees. I then visited **Patmore Heath**, there were not many butterflies about at all, but I did find a small tortoiseshell larval nest (I think) among the nettles and all the caterpillars were just out of it in a heaving mass. (see attached photos) - Simon Rasch

Saturday 28th April

Harpenden, 4 Holly Blues in the garden on ivy, 2 male orange-tip, 1 speckled wood, 1 brimstone, 1 peacock - Robin Pearson

Clouded Yellow at Panshanger - Alan Downie

And for today: 5 sightings of a Holly Blue in my **Tewin** garden this afternoon - maybe the same individual. Orchard Road, Tewin, near Upper Green: 1 x Brimstone & 1 x Red Admiral - Les Borg

A mega day for butterflies. Started at **Batford**, saw 1 orange Tip. **Ayot St. Lawrence** & saw another Orange Tip & a Holly Blue. Then went to **Waterford Heath**, nr Hertford & picked up my 1st ever **Grizzled Skipper** on South pit, saw 3 of them all together, also 1 copper, several Brimstone & an Orange tip. Next stop was **Hexton Nature reserve** where unexpectedly I saw my 1st ever **Dingy skipper**, must have been about a dozen of them around site, **3 Green Hairstreak** (only saw my 1st one ever last week at Pegsdon), 1 Orange tip, 2 Holly Blue, 1 Comma, several Peacock, several Brimstone - Darin Stanley

5 sightings of a Holly Blue in my **Tewin** garden this afternoon - maybe the same individual. Orchard Road, Tewin, near Upper Green: 1 x Brimstone & 1 x Red Admiral - Les Borg

Just led a walk in **Trent Park** this morning for the LNHS (April 28th 2007) Butterflies are as follows - 5 Speckled Wood; 1 Small Copper again on the edge of Ride Wood - same individual as two days ago; at least 2 Green-veined White, settled and a few other Whites; 2 Peacock. 1 Holly Blue, settled near Hockey Centre, Trent Park. News from 27th - 4 male Orange Tip, **Vicarage Farm**; 1 Peacock, Vicarage Farm; 2 Speckled Wood, Vicarage Farm and 1 again at Lakeside, **Oakwood**; 1 Red Admiral, settled at Parkside Farm - very close - seen thro' scope at 2 metres! Robert Callf

News from **Tuesday 24th. Astonbury woods**, Stevenage: 7 male Orange tip, 2 x Female Orange tip, 1 Peacock. My **Tewin garden** on 24th - 2 x Male Orange tip & 2 females, 2 x Holly Blue & 1 x Peacock - Les Borg

Thursday 26th April

Today I spotted a blue butterfly resting on what may have been corn gromwell. I would have said it was definitely a **common blue**. Also saw orange tip, small white, green-veined white, peacock and a genuine holly blue. This was by the William Penn leisure centre in Money Hill near

Rickmansworth - Ann Piper

News for today - 1 Speckled Wood, Park Farm, also 1 in Rough Lot, **Trent Park** and 1 at Lakeside, **Oakwood**; 2 Peacock at Trent Park (1 by Upper Lake and 1 on the edge of Ride Wood); 1 male Brimstone by Lower Lake, Trent Park; 1 Small Copper basking on field edge of Ride Wood - a bit tatty around edge of hind-wing - a sign that it has been on the wing a while; 1 Green-veined White, edge of Ride Wood and a pair of Small White mating here also; 2 male Orange Tip - 1 Vicarage Farm and 1 edge of Ride Wood, Trent Park; 1 Large White, Park Farm also forgot to mention I saw 2 Comma on **Tuesday** - 1 at Park Farm and 1 at the Water Garden, Trent Park - Robert Callf

Wandered around Paradise Fields to the west of **Horsenden Lane North** this lunchtime. 4 x Green Veined white (Settled / feeding and easy to look at thanks to initially cloudy conditions), 2 x Speckled Wood (One albino? - white marks instead of yellow - Photographed.) 1x Small Tortoiseshell, 2x Peacock, 1x Male Orange Tip, 2x Small Copper, Several unidentified whites - Mike Rubin

Trent Park area news from **April 24th** - 2 male Orange Tip at Vicarage Farm and 2 males at Trent Park; 1 Peacock at Parkside Farm and 1 also at Park Farm and Trent Park; 1 Speckled Wood at Park Farm and 3 at Trent Park and 1 female Holly Blue settled at Park Farm - nice view! Robert Callf

Tuesday 24th April

Had a walk around ovaltine fields in **Abbots Langley** this afternoon, encountering 5 Peacocks, 6 small Tortoiseshells, singletons of Holly Blue, Orange Tip, Speckled Wood and Green-veined White - Clive Burrows

Paul Thrush and I had a quick look around **Aldbury** after a meeting and had **1 Dingy Skipper**, 2 Green Hairstreak and Paul had a **Grizzled**. Also Large White and Brown Argus. All in the key area of the northern enclosure. 24th is extraordinarily early for Dingy Skipper in Herts. The earliest in Brian's book is 30 April and the earliest in our database records (1996-) is also 30 April so this may be one of the earliest recorded. - Andrew Palmer

Much Hadham area, a setaside found last September produced **25 Small Coppers** in about 30 minutes including several clashing males, and a mating pair - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

This morning's rain cleared and sun came out at lunchtime just in time for a walk up **Horsenden Hill**. Very humid and muggy! 1 x Small Copper photographed by brambles north side, 1 x Small White by Horsenden Lane North, 1 x Red Admiral just below summit west side. 2x Speckled Wood (1 photographed, another pale one), 2 x Holly Blue, 8 x Peacock (1 photographed) (Mostly on west side just below the Horsenden Lane north) Plenty of unidentified whites. Loads of Green Longhorn moths still on all sides of the hill. After I got back, 1 x unidentified caterpillar crawling up my trouser leg! (2cm, photographed) (Set it down on a leaf outside the office.) - Mike Rubin

Sunday 22nd April

Helen, Tristan and I went to **Wanstead Park** on Sunday, and found a White-letter egg, then found a large larva - must be only 2-3 few weeks at most from pupating - that would mean a possible late May date? Twice as big as I expected. Then we went to the Grizzled Skipper sites - with **4 at Frogmore** plus 2 small coppers, and none found for us early evening at Waterford - Andrew Middleton, Helen & Tristan Bantock

Friday 20th April

Managed **1 Grizzled Skipper** on **Waterford north**, and four roosting evening in **Frogmore Pit** - and none in an hour on Waterford south (just one probable). Small heath, small copper and brown argus also seen - Andrew Middleton

Had a walk this afternoon in the **Braughing Friars/ Albury area**. 3 male Orange tips, 2 Holly Blue, 3 Speckled woods many Peacocks 1 Small tortoiseshell - Ian Edwards

Not so many butterflies in my **Stevenage** garden today due to the cool wind, several visits from Orange tip and Small Whites, 1 Large White and a very territorial Peacock, which even flies up to see off the Blue Tits - Steve Lane

Thursday 19th April

We went back to **Waterford Heath South pit** at 3.00pm today, sunny and windy. Sandra saw the first **Grizzled Skipper** at 3.10pm at the bottom of the slope between the 2 piles of cleared sticks. We then continued having sightings until we left at 5.00pm. We think there were at least 4 different individuals with a total of 15 sightings. We also saw 2 clashing, flying right out into the middle of the field. The others were flying up & down and feeding but mainly staying at the bottom of the slope. Picture attached. Also saw 4 Peacocks, 1 comma, plus whites - Kevin & Sandra Standbridge

North Enfield, small copper Merryhills Brook, 2 re ads - **Trent Park and Park Farm**, also 4 peacock, 2 male orange tip, 3 male brimstone, 4 speckled wood - Robert Callf

I had a walk around **Tyttenhanger** today, plenty of Small Whites and the odd **Large White**, several Orange tips around the stream, also Peacocks and Small Tortoiseshell - Steve Lane & Dave Beer

Horsenden Hill and surrounding fields today at lunchtime: 9 x Peacock, 2 x Holly Blue, 2 x Male Orange Tip, 2 x Speckled Wood, 2 x Small White (Sparring and then settled). Several unidentified whites. Zillions of Green Longhorn swarming on Oak and Hawthorn. On one south facing hedgerow they were there swarming along the whole length. **Grove Farm yesterday (18th)** - very short lunchtime walk. 1 x Male Orange Tip - it settled when a cloud cast its shadow, and I was able to take pictures. 1 x Speckled Wood, 1 x Holly Blue, No Peacocks. Several unidentified whites. Swarms of Green Longhorns observed high up on sunny side of several oak trees. I did not find that Small Copper again - Mike Rubin

Saw eight species in a half hour walk round **Maple Cross**. My largest sighting in one day so far this year! Perfect weather conditions. My first **Large White** of the year - definitely bigger than the other whites around! These included small, green-veined and orange tips. Two speckled woods were disputing territory. A number of holly blues were courting round a large holly tree on the field edge. Saw half a dozen peacocks at least and my first brimstone of the year - they seem less in evidence around this area - Ann Piper

Bowspirit Gardens in Millwall. It's a small green-space right next to the river Thames facing Rotherhithe over on the other bank. As I feared there was not a lot of green space, but there was sufficient nectar around to attract 6 Small Whites, 3 Holly Blues & a Small Tortoiseshell - Dave Chandler

Phone call from Andrew Palmer to say he has seen his first **Green Hairstreak** at **Aldbury Nowers**. Brimstones everywhere, also 2 Small Copper, Green-veined Whites and Peacocks. Later confirmed as **5 Green Hairstreak**

Wednesday 18th April

We went over to the south pit at **Waterford** at 4.20 and looked around for 45 mins. Unfortunately no Grizzled Skipper but we did see our first **Small Copper**, a Small Tortoiseshell, 2 Peacocks and a Large Red Damselfly. We then went to the North Pit at 5.15pm and had no sightings, we left at 5.45, it was sunny but windy. We started the day at **Pegsdon Hills (Bedfordshire)** and saw our first Green Hairstreaks of the year at 10.30am at the end of the valley. There was a lot of movement and it is difficult to give exact numbers but approx 12 were seen. Sunny and cloudy, left at 12.00pm. Elsewhere in **Bedfordshire**, we were lucky to have 2 sightings of a Grizzled Skipper, also saw Speckled Wood and Peacocks - Sandra and Kevin Standbridge

A few butterfly sightings; quite a few Peacocks around everywhere. **Tyttenhanger**, male Orange Tip, two others seen in vicinity on the **17th April**. Plenty of Garlic Mustard food plants. Frogmore lakes, St Albans - Speckled Wood, Holly Blue. Orange Tip also seen nearby - Alan Gardiner

Waterford Heath - an afternoon visit still couldn't produce a Grizzled Skipper but a **Small Heath** was seen on the north pit. Also seen were Peacock, Green-veined White, Brimstone, Orange tip, Holly Blue and Speckled Wood - Liz Goodyear & Andrew Middleton

MUDCHUTE REPORT (April 07)- Having seen several Holly Blues in central Watford over the past weekend, I went over to Mudchute LNR today (April 18th) during my lunch-hour looking for them. I was fortunate and saw three Holly Blues. I also saw one tatty Small Tortoiseshell, a Comma, five

Speckled Woods, three Green-Veined Whites & twelve Small Whites. The total number species sightings I have made at the Mudchute site during this butterfly season is now 7 - Dave Chandler

Tuesday 17th April

Just spotted my first **Small Copper** of the year this lunchtime in a meadow in Grove Farm, **Greenford** (TQ18). [Managed to get a picture too](#). Also saw 5 whites (1 of which disturbed the Copper and allowed me to spot it), 1 speckled Wood, and an Oak tree swarming with those Adelie moths (had a go at picturing them too will check them out later) during a very short walk - Mike Rubin

In the garden today: Brimstone, Peacock (3), Small White, Green-veined White, Orange Tip (2), Holly Blue (2), Speckled Wood - Robin Pearson

Monday 16th April

Another lunchtime walk in the fields west of **Horsenden Lane North**. 2 x Holly Blue (My first of 2007, once flying over a road and over a house), 11 x Peacock (including a couple of scraps, and what looked like a courtship dance.) 2 x Male Orange Tip (One of which was very small.) 7 x Speckled Wood (One was about half the size of all the others, which were normal size. Some were unusually pale.) Several unidentified whites. Plenty of bee flies and other hovering insects. Zillions of these small black insects with very long antennae. Swarming around Hawthorn and Oak in particular. What are they? - Mike Rubin

Waterford Heath - an early morning visit in the hope of locating a roosting Grizzled Skipper proved negative. However, did see a **Brown Argus** - Liz Goodyear

Sunday 15th April

Fir and Pond Wood NR - on the meadow, our first **small copper** of the year - David Gompertz

Saturday 14th April

Chorleywood Common - 6 Brimstone, 5 Peacock, 3 Orange Tip (2 male & one female nectaring on bluebell) Comma, Holly Blue, Large White, Several possible Small/Green Veined Whites & a suspected Small Tortoiseshell. Best of all four Long Horned Cattle, who attended the CMS Open Day as part of the public consultation on the restoration of grazing on the Common - Malcolm Hull
1 Holly Blue, **Totteridge** this afternoon - Tony Clancy

Ware garden, my first female Orange Tip - Liz Goodyear

Wednesday 11th April

After an almost butterfly-free weekend in Skegness, I return to find a male Orange Tip in front of the parish church in **Royston** this afternoon! Guy Manners

On **Tring Park Transect** today 11.04.07, saw my first Orange Tip. It was rather small, a male about the size of a Chalk Hill Blue! Also on my **Miswell Lane** transect I recorded 3 Speckled Woods - Brian Jessop

We had a male Orange Tip in our garden (**Enfield**) on **Saturday 7th April** (notice from web sight others had earlier records). Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock and Comma also. Had a possible Speckled Wood but it shot through fast so I'm not sure - Phil Rhodes

Despite 8/8 local overcast most of the time I saw 7 butterflies during a short lunchtime walk through **Grove Farm, TQ18.**, 1 x Small White resting, and was able to get close for a positive ID. 2 x Peacock both active / flying. 1 x Comma also flying, 2 x Speckled Wood both flying, 1 x Unidentified White flying. Also spotted a moth that looked similar to *Platyptilia Pallidactyla* but not 100% as seen from a distance - Mike Rubin

Tuesday 10th April

Wandered around Paradise Fields to the **West of Horsenden Hill** (TQ18) today. Peacocks everywhere (lost count, easily well into double figures), frequently being disturbed even though 7/8's cumulus spreadout meant lots of cloud shadow. Saw also 2 Commas, 1 Male Brimstone, 1 Speckled Wood, 1 Small Tortoiseshell and an unidentified White (fairly small - I suspect either Small White or Orange Tip Female rather than GVW (definitely not Large White or Female

Brimstone) but not sure). Later in the walk cloud shadow got bad, and saw several Peacocks resting wings open. When I went near they slammed their wings shut as I approached. Some then flew off - Mike Rubin

Good numbers of butterflies visiting my **Stevenage** garden and **Great Ashby Park**. Lots of Peacocks and Brimstones (first female Sunday 8/4/07), Small Tortoiseshell, Small Whites and Red Admiral in smaller numbers. First Orange-tip today (10/4/07) on the park - Steve Lane

Sunday 8th April

In **Kenton** I saw a Comma fly in just before noon and bask in the garden then briefly settle on a heather plant before moving off again. First time I've seen a Comma in the garden this year, if ever (memory hazy about years prior to now). Two whites spotted fluttering past, one before I went out and one after I came back. Down Richmond way I buzzed a large dark butterfly (my bet is a Peacock) while riding the motorbike to see friends. For the first time this year I found bugs hitting my visor too, the bigger ones with quite a clunk at speed. I still haven't seen a moth since December 14th - Mike Rubin

Ware garden, first female Brimstone of the year for me - Liz Goodyear

Saturday 7th April

Here are some recent sightings. **Monday 2nd April**, my first Orange Tip of the year (a male) at **Shrubhill Common**, Hemel Hempstead. **Friday 6th April**, a pair of Speckled Woods performing courtship flight at **Shrubhill Common**, Hemel Hempstead. My first Speckled Woods of the year - Roger Prue

Yesterday in my neighbour's garden (**Hampstead**) an immaculate-looking Comma soaked up the rays - Mark Barclay

Friday 6th April

Just had my first **Orange tip** of the year, a male (Friday 6th April, 3.17, on the path between **Aldbury and the Bridgewater Monument at Ashridge**). This is my earliest ever Orange tip in 20 or so years of recording, the previous earliest being April 11th. I also saw my first Speckled wood of the season at Ashridge, but it was just over the border into Bedfordshire. Loads of Peacocks, Commas and Brimstones - Richard Harrington

Went to the **Rickmansworth Aquadrome** (TQ09) to lead an organised walk. I kept my eyes peeled meanwhile. Round the north-west side of the lakes there were lots of Peacocks (especially round the north side of Stocker's Lake). More seen in the hills south of the lakes. Only one Comma, one male Brimstone and one unidentified white spotted. I agree with a previous poster that Peacock numbers are definitely up on last year and Commas down a bit. This week I have seen far fewer Commas than when they first came out. I wonder where they have gone? Then got back home and spotted a Speckled Wood flying around the garden in **Kenton** (TQ18) - Mike Rubin

Harpenden - 3 Peacocks, 1 Brimstone, 1 Comma today so far, then later **Orange Tip and Holly Blue** - Robin Pearson

Ware garden, my first male **Orange Tip** of the year - Liz Goodyear

Wednesday 4th April

Ware garden, **fresh green-veined white**, just released from closed greenhouse. Probably pupated in there plus several garlic mustard plants seeded inside last year as well! Liz Goodyear

Tuesday 3rd April

Sighting of small white on **Monday** on **Rothamsted Estate, Harpenden** - John Bater.

Monday 2nd April

A **Camberwell Beauty**. TQ1796. Fields north of **Elstree**. I only went there to see what the tetrad looked like - John Hollingdale

Hemel Hempstead, steady stream of Brimstones and two Peacocks in the garden but the best sighting was on the allotment in mid-afternoon when luckily I had my son David and his camera

with me. We walked to the wildlife garden and saw a Peacock, but shortly afterwards saw three Commas in close formation flying around at speed.. One Comma broke away and disappeared while the remaining pair settled on a small tree close by and were soon "in cop" where David was able to take this photo. We were in the right place at the right time as I imagine that this is probably a once in a lifetime sighting - Malcolm Newland

Enjoying the late afternoon sunshine in **Maple Cross** - 7 peacocks and 3 small tortoiseshells - but no Camberwell Beauty as yet!! Ann Piper

Great Amwell, having our lunch in the garden today, we watched a pair of Brimstones doing their courtship for a good half hour. When they had decided on the right variegated ivy leaf, they got down to the serious business. We watched, discreetly of course, for the next hour then left them to it as we had to go shopping. I have just checked (6-30 pm) and the female is still there; I expect the male is having a doze somewhere, saving his strength for tomorrow! - Roy Stringer

1 Speckled Wood **Sewardstone Marsh** - Tony Clancy

Trent Park: 2 Small White, 1 Male Brimstone, 8 Peacock, 2 Comma, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Red Admiral - Robert Callf

I had a walk around **Great Ashby Park** and adjoining farm land, between 12.00 and 14.15, good sunny conditions. Good numbers of butterflies; 20 Peacocks, 14 Brimstone, 8 Small Tortoiseshell, 2 Comma, 1 Small White and 1 Red Admiral - Steve Lane

Sunday 1st April

1 Brimstone, 2 peacocks and a Comma on **Hartham Common, Hertford**. 7 peacock, 4 Comma, 1 Small White **Waterford Heath** South Pit and 2 peacocks and 1 Comma on the North Pit. In **Molewood**, 4 Peacocks, 1 Speckled Wood and a **1 male Orange Tip** - Andrew Wood

In warm, sunny weather and with the help of nine other volunteer wood wardens, I saw 5 Peacocks, 4 male Brimstones and one Comma in and around **Bencroft Wood** today (April 1st). The wood anemones were flowering profusely in Wormley Wood (I'm told they are doing even better in Hoddesdonpark Wood), but I saw only one flowering violet - it will take more than that to bring the Pearl-bordered Fritillaries back to the area I'm afraid! Alan Jackson

I had several visits from single male Brimstones and a Red Admiral to my **Stevenage** garden - Steve Lane

On a trip out to Tring there seemed to be Brimstones everywhere, and at least two Commas in my **Harpenden** garden - Robin Pearson

This is not an April Fool! In just half an hour this morning on my usual walk around **Maple Cross** I saw my first small tortoiseshell of the year. In fact there were 4 all together. These are the first I have seen here since last July! So let's hope they are recovering from last year's poor showing! Also patrolling along the field margin were two whites - small or green veined. Then I spotted a **holly blue** investigating a large holly tree. Lastly a comma flitted around me as I walked along. This was definitely a good start to the month - Ann Piper

Saturday 31st March

Here today a peacock flying over **Wilstone Reservoir** whilst temp about 10C and looking perilously likely to ditch in cold water. Also Brimstone and Peacock in garden (**Tring**) - Nick Bowles

Thursday 29th March

May I be just about the last of your correspondants to confirm my first butterfly sighting of the year - if you see what I mean. This was on 28th March in **Hampstead** in my neighbour's garden on a newly-planted cherry tree. On my attached far-too-distant photo you can just about see a Small Tortoiseshell near the top of the central branch - Mark Barclay

Sightings from **Rickmansworth Aquadrome 27th March**: 1x Brimstone, Small White, Peacock - Jez Perkins

Wednesday 28th March

An odd collection for late March today in **Ware** 1 Speckled Wood, 1 Small White, 1 Red Admiral. (A couple of quick photos attached - see 2007 photo page)- Andrew Wood

I went back to **Mudchute LNR** today (March 28th) during my lunch-hour looking for Small Tortoiseshells which have been scarce in their summer brood in our region. And, fortunately, one worn specimen was seen by me today. I did also find a Comma, a Peacock [male] a **Speckled Wood** that looked like it had been around a while, & **eight Small Whites**. The total number species sightings I have made at the Mudchute site this butterfly season is now 5 - David Chandler

Today I saw 1 Comma on the north side of **Horsenden Hill** and two Peacocks on the western side in the meadows below the road. Nothing else. Very quiet day with little wind. Curious - Mike Rubin

News from Robert Callf - **27th March Trent Park area** - **speckled wood**, red admiral, 4 peacock, 2 comma. and **26th March Trent Park area** - 2 peacocks, 6 comma, 1 small tortoiseshell

Butterflies at and around **Knebworth Woods** on **26 Mar** included Red Admiral, Peacock, Brimstone, Small Tortoiseshell - Nigel Agar

Tuesday 27th March

On **Monday 26th March** walked the Balls Wood transect route and saw 15 Commas, 9 Peacocks and 2 Brimstones, but no Orange or Light orange Underwing moths which I was really looking for. On **Tuesday 27th March**, around the **western edges of Ware** 1 **Small white**, 2 Brimstones, 2 peacocks, 2 Commas and 1 Red Admiral - Andrew Wood

News from the 13th March - I had a brief but clear sighting of a **green-veined white** on Tues, 13 March, mid-morning at **Springwell Lake car park**. It flew from behind the picnic table, across the far corner of the car park, before disappearing behind the hedge into that lorry place. At first, I thought it was a female orange-tip as it definitely wasn't a small white, then as it flew past me I decided it was a GV white - Wendy Wilson

Monday 26th March

Sighting from my **Stevenage garden** today at 4pm, 1 Comma - Steve Lane

The sun brought out a couple of butterflies today for our stroll around **Norton Green Stevenage**, a very nice Brimstone flying strongly along the track and a Comma amongst the Primrose - Malcolm Penn

Saturday 17th March

Hemel Hempstead, well worn Red Admiral flew around the garden early this afternoon and I also saw my first Comma of the year - Malcolm Newland

Friday 16th March

Two red admirals at **Maple Cross** today. Also one at **Inns Lake** and one at **Stockers Lake** - Sezar Hikmet

Wednesday 14th March

First '**small white**' butterfly (seen by a volunteer either SW or GV) seen on **Tuesday 13th**. First Comma seen **14th March**. **Camley Street Natural Park**, Kings Cross. - Tom Clarke

Hemel Hempstead, saw a **Small White** on the allotment this morning - Malcolm Newland

Comma sighted in flight at **Canary Wharf** yesterday **March 13th**. Seen on Middlesex side of the Thames near The Dome - David Chandler

Tuesday 13th March

My first sighting of Brimstone this year in my **Tewin** garden (on **12th March**) - Les Borg

The good March weather seems to be bringing out a number of species. On **Saturday 10th** in our **Welwyn garden City** garden a Red Admiral, our first of this year. **Today (13th)** at **Norton Green** Stevenage a Peacock and 2 Commas - Malcolm Penn

Hitchin, Yellow Brimstone 5/3 11.30 am, Peacock 7/3, Yellow Brimstone 9/3 + 2 ladybirds in the hollyhocks - Val Fullforth

Rothamsted, Manor Wood - two comma's seen midday - Andrew Riche

Ware Sunday 11.3.07 Had a walk out in the spring sunshine saw a Peacock in Christchurch car park. Along the river a Brimstone by Broadmeads flats and another by Ware lock - Ian Edwards

Monday 12th March

Hemel Hempstead, saw two Brimstones, one Small Tortoiseshell and a Peacock at the allotment this morning, my first sightings of these species in 2007 - Malcolm Newland

7 Brimstone at **Aldbury Nowers** today and a Peacock. 5 Brimstone and 2 Peacock at **Long Deans Nature Reserve** and a Comma in my **Bishops Stortford** garden - Andrew Palmer

Enfield, Robert Callf saw a brimstone and 2 commas in Grovelands Park, and 1 comma in Oakwood Park on 11th March

1 Brimstone and **1 Small White**, **Coppetts Wood** today - Tony Clancy

Took advantage of the lovely weather this afternoon for a walk in **Maple Cross**. Saw my first butterfly of the year - a peacock - flying just off the main road and up a farm track - Ann Piper

Amwell Gravel Pits: we saw 5 Brimstones, Comma, Small Tortoiseshell and Red Admiral - Helen & Tristan Bantock

Sunday 11th March

Today in **Royston**, I saw 3 male brimstones and 2 Commas around the area of the town hall car park. Also 2 more Brimstones in **Bishops Stortford** along by the swimming pool - Simon Rasch

12.15, just north of **Regents Park**, Red Admiral flying close to canal between Camden Lock and Little Venice - Malcolm Newland

College Lake, Bucks: Small Tort 1 Peacock 2. Drive back to home in **Tring** (Herts) 3 miles Brimstones 3, **garden Tring** (Herts) Brimstone 2 - poss 3, Small Tortoiseshell 1, **Dancers End, Bucks** Brimstone 2 Peacock 1 Comma 2 - poss 3. No Red Ad all day! - Nick Bowles

I went to **Broxbourne Woods** today and saw 4 species of butterfly:- Red Admiral (1), Brimstone (1), Comma (3) and Peacock (3) - Ian Small

First butterfly of the year for my **Stevenage** garden, six visits from a single Brimstone, between 11am and 12.30pm - Steve Lane

Fir and Pond Woods NR ,one brimstone and 2 commas - David Gompertz

Saturday 10th March

Robert Callf saw 1 quite worn red admiral at **Vicarage Farm** today

3 Red Admiral **Coppetts Wood** today - Tony Clancy

Friday 9th March

Had my first Brimstone of the year by the Emperors Head pub, Chells Manor **Stevenage** on **7/3/2007** - Darrel Bryant

Thursday 8th March - On a sunny afternoon I saw a Small Tortoiseshell and 3 Comma at **Ruislip Lido** - Steve Pash

Thursday 8th March

I went to a very muddy **Balls Wood** today and saw 1 Peacock and 2 Commas, but nothing at all on the way there or back from Ware - Andrew Wood

Two Red admirals at **Kew Gardens (Surrey)** this morning. Managed to get a picture, first of the year - Sezar Hikmet

Much Hadham, two Brimstones along Cox Lane and several other butterflies, too busy to stop and be identified! - Liz Goodyear

Wednesday 7th March

One **Small Tortoiseshell** sunning itself at lunchtime in **Thorley Street** - Tony Moverley

Tuesday 6th March

Hemel Hempstead, went into back garden at noon as it was sunny and warm for March to see a Red Admiral nectaring on Lonicera Fragrantissima. Looked in vain for the usual over wintering suspects. All very strange - Malcolm Newland

Delighted to say I saw my first garden butterfly today in **Hatfield**, a lovely shiny **Comma** on deep blue crocus in brilliant sunshine. (Also saw Bittern & Marsh Tit at Amwell, so things are looking up!) - John Moss

Red Admiral and Brimstone in **Ware Cemetery** and a Brimstone in Wengeo Lane today and a Red Admiral on Hartham Common, **Hertford** on **3 March** - Andrew Wood

A male Brimstone seen today flying across the high street in **Sawbridgeworth** at 13.25 - Simon Rasch

Ware, went outside at 12.45 and thought this is a Brimstone day, and within seconds, a Brimstone flew threw my front garden. 2 more seen, by Poles Lane in **Ware** being chased by a bird, and across the A120 at **Standon** - Liz Goodyear

Saturday 3rd March

Returning to house in **Tring** today, after some morning shopping, I saw a very bright butterfly fly over the road near my house while i was still about 200m away. Certainly seemed to be **Brimstone**, but at that distance could have been a Large White. On arrival at house I checked all around and cursed my luck at missing it, so busied myself emptying the car. While doing so i saw a shadow and looked up to see a male Brimstone fly across my garden and back the way it had come just moments earlier. This good fortune made me rush into back garden where my incautious haste scared up a Red Admiral which also rose and flew over the house. Neither were seen again, nor any other butterfly despite half an hour of searching likely local haunts - Nick Bowles

Friday 2nd March

A Red Admiral flying in sunshine around midday along Whittington Way, **Bishop's Stortford** - Tony Moverley

A Red Admiral at **Aldbury Nowers** today and one outside my house in **Bishop's Stortford** - Andrew Palmer

February 2007

Saturday 24th February

In the rain at lunchtime today, still clinging on in tonight's cold wind, parked up on our front window sill in sylvan(!) **Tower Hamlets**, a Brimstone in lovely nick. So far, so ho-hum. But a Brimstone moth rather than a Brimstone butterfly! That's a bit early, isn't it? Keir Mottram

Wednesday 21st February

On a warm spring-like day at **Amwell**, a Red Admiral - Alan Reynolds

Monday 19th February

1st butterfly of the year for me. A Red Admiral in the front garden (**Harrow**) this morning - John Hollingdale

Sunday 18th February

Just to let you know that out in wooded area near **Stocking's Wood**, off Codicote Road on Saturday saw a beautiful Peacock which posed wonderfully for photos - Terry Rodbard

Friday 16th February

I just thought it might be worth reporting a Red Admiral I saw yesterday, flying around a very urban street in **central London**; about 80-100m north of Euston Road. I've never seen one so early & so central before - Mike Taylor

Thursday 15th February

Red Admiral in flight across A10 at Church Lane traffic lights, **Cheshunt** - Liz Goodyear

Monday 12th February

1 'Early Moth' seen by Sauceywood nr Harpenden at 0100 today. Never seen a winter moth before - Darin Stanley

A lady visiting the sales stall yesterday reported finding a Small White adult which had hatched out in her glass conservatory in St Albans last week. Another visitor had seen a Red Admiral on Sunday morning - news via Malcolm Hull and Liz Goodyear

Friday 9th February

On Saturday **3rd February**, a Red Admiral was nectaring on a Veronica shrub ('Hebe') by the canal towpath (lock No 54) off Ravens Lane at **Berkhamsted** in the late morning; in the afternoon of **Thursday 1st February**, another flew through my garden at **Garston** (Watford); and one flew NW opposite **Watford High Street station** at 1315 hours on **Thursday 25th January**. **Media reports:** BBC News 24 on 4th February featured a photograph taken of a Red Admiral "in London" on **Wednesday 31st January**; at lunchtime on **Monday 29th January**, BBC weather presenter Peter Cockcroft reported that "a butterfly" had just flown past him on the roof of the London Weather Centre in **Holborn WC2** (TQ 30 81); and, finally, in mid-January BBC News also carried a photograph of a Red Admiral from **Uxbridge** - Colin Everett

Potters Bar - My wife drew my attention to a Red Admiral, which was resting on her washing on **1st Feb - Reg Brittain**

Wednesday 7th February

Saw my first moth at **Stanmore Country Park** today at 1pm; a Spring Usher. This is one day earlier than last year and that was a day-flier too - John Hollingdale

Tuesday 6th February

News from 1st Feb, **Ferny Hill, north Enfield** - peacock seen by Robin White - news via Robert Callf

Monday 5th February

It was a warm & sunny afternoon as I made my way to the match in **Watford** on **Saturday February 3rd** when, at 2pm. I saw my first butterfly of the year, a **Comma**, nectaring on a winter flowering shrub at Reeds Chapel, Central Park [nr. Wfd. Jct. Sta.]. It was the highlight of my day because the football was a real disappointment. Bring on the summer! David Chandler

Saturday 3rd February

Hemel Hempstead, Saturday at 11.30 a.m. sunny but cool, Red Admiral in good condition appeared in the garden settling on Buddleia Auriculata which has been flowering since last November. This sighting is my first ever of an "over wintering" Red Admiral and replaces my previous early record for this species which was on the 4th May 1987 - Malcolm Newland

At last I have joined the hallowed band. A definite Red Admiral today looking red (i.e. not orange) and black though distinctly less contrasty than usual. I presume it was long in the tooth. This individual in same area as the one I saw egg laying in December, my back of garden footie pitch in **Tring**. This individual was first alternating wing open basking with wing closed resting and then flew down from the vertical surface of a wooden fence to flutter about and 'taste' the tips of the extensive patch of white dead nettle at the fence base. I thought that there were no nettles about and wished the butterfly would explore an area about 10m to the west with several nettles

growing in a very sheltered position. I was convinced that this butterfly was looking to lay eggs, but although the butterfly found a single tip of stinging nettle that I hadn't spotted and perched on it for longer than any dead-nettle, as far as I could see no eggs were laid and the butterfly then flew up over the fence and was lost from sight into gardens with high walls. I waited a few minutes but it did not reappear. A little later about 300m away another dark butterfly flew rapidly and strongly past me about 8-9m up, through a small copse and it was heading due north. Was it deliberately moving north or was it simply that I saw it during a northward movement around its local patch? Nick Bowles

Watched a Red Admiral enjoying the afternoon sunshine in open country at the junction of Ambrose Lane and Cooters End Lane, **NW Harpenden** - Alan Jackson

Two Red Admirals this morning at **Amwell Nature Reserve** while I was watching the Little Bunting - Robin Pearson andWhilst waiting at **Amwell GPs** for the Little Bunting to show this morning the crowd was entertained by a Red Admiral enjoying the sunshine - Steve Lane

On Thursday I was waiting for the bus opposite the Sow and Pigs pub (**Thundridge**) and a lorry went past I thought a leaf had come out of the gutter and it went quite high in the air then back down again, then it went up and down the building for a good five minutes it was a lovely butterfly. It was orange and a brownish colour as it flew (was the other side of the road so not close views) size maybe a bit smaller than a peacock - Angela Sampford

Thursday 1st February

Today 11.30am at the lake along Hollycross Road between **Ware and Stanstead Abbots**, I saw a **Brimstone** it flew across the lake then along the old lea and flew around the footbridge for awhile - Ian Edwards

Ware garden, a Red Admiral watched me prune the buddleias today, flying around and then back to recharge on the pebble-dashed house front in the sun - Liz Goodyear

January 2007

Monday 29th January

One Red Admiral today on the wing in my rear garden in **Bishop's Stortford** around noon - Tony Moverley

Wednesday 24th January

On **20 January 2007**, I found a live specimen of the **speckled wood**. It was among a pile of dead leaves that I was clearing from my back yard, in **Tring**, Hertfordshire. The yard is surrounded by a ten foot high wall, is cobbled, and has no flowerbeds or grass within it. It is protected from all but severe winds, and the maximum temperature in the yard at ground level on that bright, sunny day was 11°C. Two days earlier (18 January) was a day of great gales and torrential rain, so the butterfly could have been blown into the yard, but its survival is remarkable considering the cold and wet conditions in the exposed piles of leaves. The nearest mixed grassland and woodland is only about 400 metres away, however, in the direction of the source of the prevailing wind. It appeared clean, fresh and undamaged, as if newly emerged from its chrysalis. It had enough strength to cling to my fingers, and when I placed it on some flowers in my greenhouse, it stayed put until it feebly flapped its wings, throwing itself to the ground. Despite several attempts to settle it on flowers, it repeatedly did this. So although not "on the wing", it was amazingly lively considering the conditions. This morning (**21 January**), I can't find it, but it must still be in the greenhouse, although probably now dead - Ray Williams

Had another Red Admiral at home last Friday (**19th**) in **New Southgate**. That's two separate records for home so far this year... - Tom Clarke

Tuesday 23rd January

Just received a record from a **Sarratt** Parish Councillor that he had a Red Admiral roosting on a wall in his garden on **Saturday 20th Jan** - news via Jez Perkins

Saturday 20th January

Just to let you know I had a Red Admiral on the wing in my **Bishop's Stortford** garden, yesterday (19th Jan 2007) - Chris Dee

Yesterday (**19th January 2007**), during my lunch hour, I saw a Red Admiral flying in a street just south of **Kensington Gardens**. I was within 1/2 metre of it and it looked in good condition - Michael Robinson

Friday 19th January

Had a trip to **Rye House RSPB reserve** today and was surprised to see 2 **Peacocks**, flying in the early afternoon sun, my first ever sighting of butterflies in January - Steve Lane

Monday 15th January

A Red Admiral fluttering around the outside of a house in Watton Road, **Ware** this lunchtime - Andrew Wood

Red Admiral today at Walkern Road, **Stevenage**. Seen at 11.45 basking in sun on a wooden pallet after gliding around for a few minutes - Martin Shepherd

2 red admirals on **Tuesday 9th January** at **Camley Street Natural Park**, Kings Cross (NW1 0PW). 1 Red Admiral yesterday **Sunday 14th January** at Oak Hill Park in **East Barnet**. 1 Red Admiral yesterday in my garden, **New Southgate**. It's almost not worth sending them in now, so common!!!! Tom Clarke

Sunday 14th January

About 1pm today, in a sunny and sheltered glade at **Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park**, two **Red Admirals** circling each other in flight which took them out of the glade. Within a couple of minutes, one returned and gave excellent views perched on low-growing vegetation for 10+ minutes, basking, and was still there when we left the area. This insect was in pristine condition. The red bands on its forewings looked quite pale, orange-ish. Does anyone know if the intensity of colour in this band ranges widely and, if so, what determines it? - Keir Mottram (*anyone know???? LG*)

I was volunteering with the Wood Wardens in Hoddesdonpark Wood today: we were removing felled oaks from the archaeologically-important moated area on the southern edge of the wood (the oaks had been felled some time ago and a few had become quite rotten). At about midday I noticed a micro moth (*Tortrix* sp.?) on the ground. As I pointed it out to my colleagues an enormous female hornet dramatically appeared from nowhere. I observed it from a distance of about three feet. We all had excellent views of it before it flew off. A good sighting for Hertfordshire at any time of year, but a real treat for mid-January! OK, you're right, it's not a butterfly.... Alan Jackson

At 10.45 today a **Red Admiral** flew across our front garden in **Bengeo** and settled in a sunny spot on a neighbour's wall - Andrew Wood

Monday 1st January

Debrina Dobрева saw a **red admiral** today near **Enfield Town** ~ news from Robert Callf

Happy New Year. I found a **Red Admiral** this afternoon, 12:20, **near Abbots Langley**. It was on the ground in a hollow protected from the wind and in direct sunlight - Bob Cripps