

Archive Page

Sightings and news from July to December 2008

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This page contains sightings details of all the butterflies and moths reported to the [Sightings page](#) between July and December 2008.

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 2008

Friday 26th December

Sunday 21st December at 12 noon a **Brimstone** in roadside vegetation at roundabout south of services on road north of Baldock. Brimstone in flight - seen from passing car - David Arch

Tuesday 23rd December

Free to a good home - Butterfly Conservation has been asked they could find a new home for a traditional Slide Projector with a 150w lamp which takes 35mm slides. If any member or a local natural history group is interested, please contact me via the email address above - at present the projector is in NW2 - Liz Goodyear

Saturday 20th December

Red Admiral seen outside the Gap at No1 Poultry EC2 (TQ327812) at 14.00 today right next to Bank tube station. It flew closely alongside the building back and forth exploring crevices looking for hiding place to roost. Weather was warm and sunny about 12-13 degrees. Malcolm Hull

Monday 15th December

NFU Mutual's £ for £ pledge pays off

Thanks to a surge in donations the target has been reached!

BC's Chairman, Maurice Avent, has praised the generosity of NFU Mutual to the STOP EXTINCTION Appeal. "The timely £ for £ pledge has revitalised Butterfly Conservation's 40th Anniversary Appeal in its closing stages, doubling donors' contributions. I am delighted to tell you that our members and supporters rose to the challenge and with huge thanks to the NFU Mutual, we have just passed the £100,000 target." Butterfly Conservation relies heavily on donations to its annual appeal to plan and carry out conservation all over the UK to save butterflies, moths and their habitats. Martin Warren, BC's Chief Executive commented "Given the current financial downturn, this fund could not have come at a better time. I know our projects really are making a difference and several species are responding well to treatment. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this appeal and especially to NFU Mutual for their magnificent support. The generosity of everyone who has donated to the appeal shows how the need for large scale and ongoing conservation action is now widely recognised." Keep an eye on the national website for news of our 2009 Appeal: in conjunction with the Landfill Communities Fund we plan, not just to double your gift, but to multiply the value ten times over!

November 2008

Saturday 22nd November

Comma seen on fence post, Merryhills Brook, South Lodge Farm this morning by Robin White - news via Robert Callf

Friday 21st November

One Red Admiral sunning itself in Ware Cemetery at lunchtime today (21 Nov). By it ragged appearance the same one in the same place as Wednesday's Andrew Wood

Tuesday 19th November

On Saturday 15th Nov Kate Wood saw 1 Red Admiral at Richard Hale School, Hertford. On 19th Nov 1 Red Admiral on hebe in Wengeo Lane, Ware and 1 basking on a seat in Ware Cemetery
Andrew Wood

Friday 14th November

At lunchtime today in Ware, 1 male Brimstone in Wengeo Lane, 3 Red Admirals in Ware Cemetery, 1 Comma in each of Lower Bourne Gardens, The Bourne and The Ridgeway - Andrew Wood

Today I saw 2 Red Admirals enjoying the sunshine in a glade at Bayfordbury pinetum - Alan Reynolds

To my surprise I saw a red admiral at Amwell bird reserve today - Steve Kiln

Tuesday 11th November

1 Red Admiral in Ware Cemetery and 1 Red Admiral in The Bourne, Ware. Both feeding on ivy - Andrew Wood

1 Comma sunning itself in my Harpenden garden this lunchtime despite the windy conditions - Robin Pearson

Friday 7th November

One Red Admiral on ivy at All Saints, Churchyard, Hertford on Friday - Andrew Wood

Hemel Hempstead, the first sunny morning for several days produced two Red Admirals in the garden. One was seen nectaring on *Colletia Armata* at 10.20 and later resting on a south-facing wall. It was joined at 11.30 by another before they both flew away - Malcolm Newland

Sunday 2nd November

Saw a Red Admiral at Enfield Road, EN2, Sunday 2nd November 2008 at 14:28 GMT. Robert Callf

Ware garden, 1 Red Admiral briefly in front garden around 1.15 - Liz Goodyear

October 2008

Friday 31st October

Hemel Hempstead garden: considering that it was a very cold but sunny morning and that I still had patches of snow from Tuesday on the garage roof and in shaded flower pots I was pleasantly surprised to see a solitary Red Admiral nectaring on *Buddleia Auriculata* as early as 9.40! This hardy individual remained for well over an hour Malcolm Newland

Tuesday 28th October

Was rather chilly on Horsenden Hill meadows today. Big surprise no butterflies. Was very pleasant Monday. I searched the ivy on Sudbury Hill (A path that goes up to Harrow on the Hill). Even sheltered ivy still flowering in full sunshine had nothing but regular flies. Hoping those Red Ad's and Commas are tucked up cosily now as the snow comes down heavily enough to turn the grass and roofs white. I don't remember ever seeing October snow in London before. Certainly not in the last 20 years... - Mike Rubin

News for today (Tues 28th October 2008) - 1 Red Admiral, flew S, at Parkside Farm, Enfield, 10:36 GMT. - Robert Callf

Monday 27th October

Saw a Red Admiral on the ivy in our back garden in Cheshunt this morning enjoying the sunshine - Roger Newbold

Searched for sheltered ivy (that meant walking around to see the opposite side of the fence at the end of the garden, here in Tring). At first I could see 5 and then 7 Red Ad but no sign of Comma. Neither are there any signs of Red Ad larval tents. 2 winters back as they fed on the ivy along the field /garden fenceline (the ivy extends about 60m) females were flying down to lay on the nettles at the hedge base. No sign of that while I was watching today. Not sure if we climbed to the giddy

heights of double figure temperatures either. Sun noticeably warm but wind very cold. I would estimate that it was probably 9 or 10 degrees C. The BBC tell me that Aylesbury's weather station recorded a max of 8C by 1300 hrs. Possibly too cold for Comma to stir? A thunderstorm-like rain and hail storm at 2pm finished my chances for the day, after it cleared the sun was back for another hour and a half but it was noticeably colder. Good to get out in the sun none-the-less - Nick Bowles

Saw a Red Admiral at Barrowfield Road Allotments, Edmonton, N9 (Monday 27th October 2008) at 13:20 GMT - Robert Callf

Saturday 25th October

2 Red Admirals nectaring on Ivy just outside my Harpenden garden today, picture attached also 2 Commas and numerous bees, etc Robin Pearson

Friday 24th October

An unexpected visitor in my neighbour's garden (Hampstead London NW3) today - a Large White fluttering over the late-flowering ivy. Not a rare species, of course, but I don't recall seeing a Large White here so late in the year - I would have expected Red Admirals - Mark Barclay

Wednesday 22nd October

News for today (Weds 22nd October 2008) - **1 female 'helice' Clouded Yellow**, nectaring on dandelions, at **Vicarage Farm, Enfield**, 12:15 BST (the first I have seen this year); 1 Red Admiral, flew SW, at Vicarage Farm, 12:14 BST; 1 Red Admiral, at Parkside Farm, 12:47 BST; 1 Large White, at Park Farm, 13:20 BST. - Robert Callf

Just seen 3 red admirals together on ivy in Verulamium Park, was quite a suntrap! Paul Thrush

Grove Farm (near Sudbury Hill tube station), TQ18, Middlesex. I returned to Grove Farm for the first time in ages. Loads of ivy there still flowering but no leps seen on it despite excellent weather. However I did find 1 speckled wood found on the hill near the estate at Board Way / Bedser Drive, looking fairly fresh. Yesterday on Horsenden Hill I searched all the usual ivy spots but found nothing - Mike Rubin

Tuesday 21st October

Two Comma on Ivy this morning 21 Oct at Amwell Quarries, (along the lane.)- Nigel Agar

Sunday 19th October

Two Red Admirals and a Comma on ivy in my Harpenden garden today at lunchtime when the sun came out for a few minutes - Robin Pearson

Saturday 18th October

Saw a Red Admiral nectaring on michaelmas daisies near Triangular Wood, Trent Park, 13:27 BST, today (Saturday 18th October 2008). Robert Callf

PM Fir and Pond Woods NR - a small copper on the meadow - David Gompertz

On Friday 17th saw a common blue at Rickneys quarry and two small coppers and a large white at Waterford Heath - Steve Kiln

Friday 17th October

Any late reports of October Meadow browns in Herts? A pristine one at Pegsdon today 17th Oct which is pretty late and certainly my latest ever - Stuart Pittman

News for today (Fri 17th October 2008) - 2 Red Admiral, nectaring on Ivy flowers, at Tottenham Cemetery, 12:32 BST, also a Large White here, 12:32 BST and a Speckled Wood, 12:09 BST. Two Red Admiral together, at Bruce Castle Park, N17 at 12:58 BST. Two Red Admiral nectaring on Ivy flowers along Monument Way, N17 at 13:56 BST and a Small White here also. Robert Callf

Thursday 16th October

Here's something our local members may find interesting. "Spot the difference". Postcard from Australia -You find a Painted Lady in Australia that's very similar to the Painted Lady found in

many other parts of the world. Only the [Australian Painted Lady](#) has a row of blue spots on the bottom edge of each hindwing. From something that appears very familiar to something that is quite local and scarce a [Western Dusky Azure](#). We found this butterfly at White Gum Flats 70km north of Albany near to Australia's southern ocean coast - my book says it shouldn't really be found there! Its a "blue" butterfly that's as big as a small tortoiseshell, is darker than a ringlet and flies in short bursts near the ground like a Wall. - Dave Chandler *Click on names to see photos*

Horsenden Hill, hurrah the sun's back! Fresh out there. Saw just 1 Comma on ivy close to Horsenden Lane North in the usual sheltered spot. No sign of the Red Admirals. Also found what looked like a final instar Ruby Tiger caterpillar (grey/brown hair, 2-3cm long, yellow stripe down its back) on grass near the summit. - Mike Rubin

News for today (Thurs 16th October 2008) - 1 Comma, settled, on michaelmas daisies, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 13:03 BST. Robert Callf

Sunday 12th October

In Tring, on Sunday, butterflies similar to Saturday. Though despite being warmer I saw no Red Admiral and fewer whites but I did see a fairly fresh Holly Blue. Nick Bowles

Saturday 11th October

I saw a range of autumnal species today, the first good day that I was able to get out for some time. Not unencumbered, as I had grandchildren in tow, but even so around Tring Herts., I saw Large White 1, Small White 4, Red Ad 3 (2 heading purposefully south), Comma 2 and Speckled Wood 1. Nick Bowles

News for today (Saturday 11th October 2008) - 3 Comma, (1 at 'Old Golf Course', 11:01 BST, 1 near Dew Pond, 11:38 BST, 1 at Vicarage Farm, 12:29 BST); 2 Speckled Wood, (1 Shaws Wood, 11:44 BST, 1 along bridle-path near Merryhills Brook, Trent Park). Also unidentified Whites spp seen. Robert Callf

Stanwell Moor, I have been keeping an eye on what's been flitting through the garden during this week's sunshine, and here are some results: Wednesday 8th October - Comma (1), Large White (m) 1, Small White 2 Friday 10th October - Red Admiral (3), Small White (f) (1) I have attached some photos of the Comma and one of the Red Admirals. The large amount of flowering ivy round here seems to be keeping them happy, though these were basking. Dave Miller

Thursday 9th October

West Watford garden, not one, but two Red Admirals basking in the October sunshine in my garden today (9 Oct) and occasionally visiting the few last flowers on the Buddleia. A Large White was also seen on two occasions. (Photo attached) Archie Lang

News for today (Thurs 9th October 2008) - 1 Large White, at 'Barracks', Vicarage Farm, 11:27 BST; 1 Comma, at Stables, Vicarage Farm, 11:47 BST; 1 Red Admiral, flew SW, Parkside Farm, 12:07 BST; 1 Red Admiral, flew S, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 13:06 BST; 3 Speckled Wood, (1 Dew Pond, 13:28 BST, 1 near Shaws Wood, 13:40 BST, 1 along bridle-path, near Merryhills Brook, 13:45 BST); 1 Peacock, on michaelmas daisies, at South Lodge Farm, 13:50 BST. Robert Callf

Wednesday 8th October

Hemel Hempstead, had fourteen butterflies at the same time in the bright sunshine this morning, eight Red Admirals, five Commas and a single Large White. The main magnet for them was *Colletia Armata* and they also nectared on *Buddleia Auriculata*, Michaelmas Daisy, *Rudbeckia*, *Verbena Bonariensis* and *Viburnum Carlecephalum* which shouldn't be in flower until the spring! Malcolm Newland

Had 2 Small Coppers on Poor's Field, Ruislip this afternoon (8th), but no other butterflies - Dick Middleton

Lovely day, 8th Oct, seen 7 species. In the middle of Broxbourne wood in suntrap, a comma and a peacock. At Rickneys quarry, 2 common blue, 2 small heath, 2 large white and a small white. At Waterford Heath, large and small white, common blue and a small copper - Steve kiln

News for today, so far (Weds 8th October 2008) - 2 Speckled Wood, (1 near Triangular Wood,

12:31 BST, 1 near Sports Field, 13:23 BST); 2 Small Copper, (1, Sect.8, 'New Fields', 12:53 BST, 1 near Church Wood, 13:20 BST); 1 Small White, near Sports Field, 13:23 BST; 1 female Large White, near Sports Field, 13:25 BST; 2 Comma, settled, on michaelmas daisies, set-aside field near Snakes Lane, 13:33 BST and 13:48 BST; 1 Red Admiral, settled on michaelmas daisies, set-aside field near Triangular Wood, 13:37 BST. Robert Callf

Our and about today but noticed 1 Small White at Wilstone Res, Tring, 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Pinewood Building Supplies, Harpenden and 1 Red Admiral in Marquis Lane, Harpenden. Not bad for October! Robin Pearson

Horsenden Hill, Nothing yesterday unsurprisingly in the damp and windy conditions. Was gorgeous today. Didn't want to come back in from my lunchtime walk but alas I have to if I want to be paid. :P Wahay made double figures. 4x Comma (3 on / around ivy, 1 going from dandelion to dandelion) 3x Red Admiral (2 on ivy, 1 heading south at high speed) 2x Speckled Wood 1x White (80% sure it was a Large White) Also: 3x Suspected Vapourer Males (Smallish orange/brown moths flying fast and erratically near trees) 1x Suspected Silver Y (grey very fast wing flaps, and didn't stop long enough on grass to get a good look). 1x Common Darter. Possibly an immature male. Was a dark greyish colour instead of the usual Red (Male) or Green (Female). - Mike Rubin

Tuesday 7th October

Postcard from Perth, Western Australia! Having a lovely time and seeing a few butterflies in the 22 degree sunny bush-lands around Perth WA. Here's a [two-spot lined blue](#), a [klugs xenica](#) and a [rayed blue](#) taken at Yanchep National Park on Monday - Dave Chandler (*message from Liz I might have got the blues the wrong way round, one looks almost like a Wall Brown!*)

Monday 6th October

An hour's walk around the west side of Ware, yielded 6 Commas, 6 Red Admirals, 1 Painted Lady (1st I have seen all year), 2 Large Whites, 2 Small Whites, 1 Green-veined White - Andrew Wood

Horsenden Hill - 2 Red Admirals, 1 Comma and 1 Speckled Wood jostling around one patch of sheltered ivy before the sun faded at lunchtime. (The Red Ads and Comma most likely the same ones I saw last week.) As the sun faded the Red Ads flew up into the trees. Plus one tatty white seen under cloudy skies near the Melville Avenue / Cambridge Avenue junction on the way back. - Mike Rubin

Friday 3rd October

News for Wednesday (1st October 2008) - 2 Comma, together, on michaelmas daisies, near Triangular Wood, Trent Park, 12:50 BST. News for yesterday (Thurs 2nd October 2008) - 1 Comma, near Triangular Wood, 12:06 BST; 2 Small Copper, at 'New Fields', Trent Park, (1 Sect.8, 12:14 BST, 1 nectaring on Bramble blossom, near Church Wood, 12:42 BST); 1 Red Admiral, flew SW, at Vicarage Farm, 13:58 BST. Robert Callf

Thursday 2nd October

Amwell, up the track to the viewing point at Amwell there were 17 Red Admirals and 1 Comma on ivy. Alan Reynolds

Horsenden Hill, only 12C at lunchtime so wasn't expecting much on my lunchtime walk. But still found 5 Speckled Woods, 1 Red Admiral basking, and my biggest surprise was 1 Small Copper briefly landed on thistle (flowers long gone) in front of me - Mike Rubin

September 2008

Monday 29th September

News for yesterday (Sunday 28th September 2008) - Robin White saw 2 Small Copper and 1 Small Heath at the 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park. News for today (Monday 29th September 2008) - 1 Large White, near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 10:32 BST; 1 Small Copper, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 11:51 BST; 2 Comma, edge of Williams Wood, 12:15 - 12:16 BST, including one nectaring on michaelmas daisies; 1 Silver Y, at 'Barracks', Vicarage Farm, 12:49 BST. Robert Callf

Horsenden Hill, not much around in the rather fresh and slightly chilly air. Found 2 very fresh looking Red Admirals and 1 Comma on one sheltered sunny patch of woodland ivy. Large amounts

of ivy elsewhere had nothing. 2 Speckled Woods seen as well as plenty of macro moths on the wing. - Mike Rubin

Sunday 28th September

8 species still on the wing on Saturday 27/9 at Ickleford, Hitchin. Singletons of Common blue /small copper & 4 Small heath in the fallow field, speckled wood, red admiral and numerous commas on the broken bridge ivy patch by gerry's hole pond plus large /small white around the site. And on the 20th at Hexton chalk Pit...still numerous species around best being meadow brown and a well tatty Peacock - Stuart Pittman

5 small coppers waterford heath south on bank on left just inside gate - Steve Kiln

Saturday 27th September

News for today (Saturday 27th September 2008) - 1 Comma, settled, at Park Farm, 11:12 BST; 1 Large White, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 11:58 BST; 1 Comma, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 12:03 BST; 1 Red Admiral, nectaring on Ivy flowers, by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 12:14 BST; 2 Comma, together, nectaring on michaelmas daisies, edge of Williams Wood, 12:38 BST; 1 Comma, along bridle-path near Merryhills Brook, Trent Park, 12:54 BST; 1 Small Copper, along Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm, 13:01 BST; 1 Large White, at 'Barracks', Vicarage Farm, 13:18 BST; 1 Comma, at Allotments, Vicarage Farm, 13:34 BST. Robert Callf

Conditions warm, bright & sunny, no breeze. Sighted this afternoon in Tower Hamlets Cemetery 5 whites (4 unidentified & 1 small white feeding on dandelion), 2 speckled wood and 1 pristine comma. Cherry Eggleton

Friday 26th September

Just a solitary comma in Broxbourne and Bencroft woods, but at Waterford Heath 4 small copper, 4 small heath, 5 commas, 1 red admiral, a brown argus plus many whites. erratum - Last week on 21st /20th I missed off 4 small coppers at Waterford Heath and 1 at Rickneys Quarry. Steve Kiln

Conditions warm bright sunny with slight breeze: 1 x Red Admiral and 1 x Holly Blue sighted during walk in Brompton Cemetery SW10 9UG this PM. both in flight - Cherry Eggleton

News for today (Fri 26th September 2008) - 1 Green-veined White, settled, at Park Farm, 09:37 BST; 1 Green-veined White, at Duncan's Wood, 09:52 BST; 1 Red Admiral, at Park Farm, 09:53 BST; 1 female Large White, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 10:33 BST; 1 female Small Copper, settled, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 10:36 BST; 1 Comma, settled on bridle-path, near Shaws Wood, 11:45 BST; 1 female Large White, nectaring on michaelmas daisies, South Lodge Farm, 11:57 BST; 1 Comma, nectaring on michaelmas daisies, South Lodge Farm, 12:00 BST; 1 Comma, at 'Barracks', Vicarage Farm, 12:41 BST; 1 Comma, at Sidhil's Field, near Firing Range, Vicarage Farm, 12:52 BST. Robert Callf

Thursday 25th September

News for today (Thurs 25th September 2008) - 1 Green-veined White, settled at 'Barracks', Vicarage Farm, 08:58 BST; 1 Red Admiral, nectaring on Bramble blossom, at Park Farm, 10:01 BST; 1 Red Admiral, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 10:55 BST. Robert Callf

Monday 22nd September

ws for yesterday (Sunday 21st September 2008) - 1 Comma, edge of Moat Wood, 09:59 BST; 1 Small Copper, field S of 'Barracks', Vicarage Farm, 12:00 BST. News for today (Monday 22nd September 2008) - 2 Comma, together, on buddleia, by Lower Lake, 11:32 BST; 1 Comma, settled, on cherry tree, Uni-lawns, Trent Park, 13:04 BST; 3 Comma, edge of Williams Wood, (2 together, settled on michaelmas daisies, 1 settled on Ragwort), 13:12 - 13:14 BST. Robert Callf

Sunday 21st September

Weather overcast: Sighting of 1 speckled wood & 2 unidentified whites on Clifford Rd allotment site in North Brent (HA0 1PJ). Later after walking to Horsenden Hill Visitor centre saw another speckled wood in the centre grounds. Cherry Eggleton

20 Brimstones, 3 Brown Argus, 2 Small Copper, 4 Small Heath, 1 Common Blue, 4 Comma, 3 Small Tortoiseshell, 3 Meadow Brown, 5 Large White, 16 Speckled Wood, 3 Treble Bar, 1 Small White at Aldbury Nowers this morning. Also 4 Common Blues & 12 Meadow Brown on Pitstone Hill

- 15 species in one weekend not bad for this time of year! Malcolm Hull

Lovely indian summer. Highlights yesterday at Waterford Heath 2 brimstones, 1 tortoiseshell and a meadow brown. But today 21st I went to Rickneys quarry, on other side of Sacombe Road. In corner by wood saw in morning sunshine. 8 common blues, 2 brown argus, 1 tortoiseshell, 1 meadow brown, 3 small heath, 1 comma, 6 small white, 1 large white and 2 green veined white. Quite a surprise. Last week end 5 red admirals and 6 tortoiseshells in front garden in Bengoe on sedum and cerostigmata etc. If anyone wants a small plant I have a few seedlings good for autumn butterflies. Steve Kiln

Saturday 20th September

A 2nd brood White Admiral has been reported in Norfolk, so keep a look out, [news via uk-leps](#)

45 Small Coppers in an hour at Nomansland Common. They were crowding round the ragwort along the west side of the B651 from the junction of Ferrers Lane up to Wheathampstead cricket club. I've never seen such a concentration before & this may well be because the grass on much of the rest of the common was cut yesterday causing a shortage of nectar sources. Also on the Common I saw 4 Small Heath, Large & Small Whites, Comma, Meadow Brown & Speckled Wood. Elsewhere I had one Small Copper at Gustard Wood Common; a Silver Y at Marshalls Heath; 6 fresh Commas, 1 Red Admiral & 21 Speckled Woods at Bricket Wood. There's been no invasion of Small Tortoiseshells here, though I did see one at Folly Lane St Albans - the only one I've seen locally in the last 3 months. - Malcolm Hull

News for today (Saturday 20th September 2008) - 1 Small White, settled on thistle, at 'Barracks', Vicarage Farm, 11:01 BST; 1 Comma, at Vicarage Farm, 11:18 BST; 1 female Small Copper, settled on horse manure, field near Hadley Rd., at Vicarage Farm, 11:34 BST; 1 Large White, at Parkside Farm, 11:36 BST; 2 Small White, settled at Parkside Farm, 11:58 BST; 1 Comma, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 12:34 BST; 1 Peacock, field S of Rough Lot, Trent Park, 12:54 BST; 1 Comma, by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 13:12 BST; 1 Comma, settled on Ragwort, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 13:27 BST; 1 Silver Y, set-aside field near Williams Wood; 1 Comma, at South Lodge Farm, 13:41 BST. Later, 1 Red Admiral, on michaelmas daisies, set-aside field near Triangular Wood, 15:50 BST; 4 Comma, settled on michaelmas daisies, set-aside field near Triangular Wood, 15:50 - 16:00 BST; 2 Small Copper, together, set-aside field near Triangular Wood, 15:50 BST; 1 Green-veined White, Snakes Lane near Triangular Wood, 15:55 BST. Robert Callf

Friday 19th September

Friday 19th afternoon Fir and Pond Woods NR, few butterflies seen 4 small coppers and an unidentified white on the meadow, 2 speckled woods in the Wood. But in our Potters Bar garden on michaelmas daisies, 4 red admirals, 3 commas and a painted lady - David Gompertz

News for today (Fri 19th September 2008) - 1 Green-veined White, settled, at Parkside Farm, 09:59 BST; 2 Comma, together, nectaring on blackberries, 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 10:40 BST; 1 Common Blue, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 10:51 BST; 1 Comma, by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 11:10 BST; 1 Large White, settled on Buddleia, by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 11:23 BST; 3 Comma, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 12:40 - 12:43 BST; 1 Comma, on bridle-path near Shaws Wood, 12:48 BST. Later 2 Small Heath, (1 Sect.6, Trent Park, 15:41 BST, 1 near Sports Field, Trent Park, 15:49 BST); 3 Comma, together, on michaelmas daisies, near Triangular Wood, 15:57 BST; 2 Red Admiral, on michaelmas daisies, near Triangular Wood, 16:00 BST; 2 Small Copper, on michaelmas daisies, near Triangular Wood, Trent Park, 16:00 BST; 1 Green-veined White, at Snakes Lane, near Triangular Wood, Trent Park, 16:06 BST Robert Callf

Just to let you know that I sighted today at 3.15 pm red admiral feeding on Buddleia in view of platform of South Kensington tube station (Kensington & Chelsea London borough) - Cherry Eggleton

Thursday 18th September

News for today (Thurs 18th September 2008) - 2 Small White, settled, together at Parkside Farm, 10:56 BST; 1 male Large White, settled at Park Farm, 11:07 BST; 1 Comma, at Park Farm, 11:09 BST; 1 Red Admiral, at Park Farm, 11:47 BST; 2 Comma, edge of Williams Wood, 12:34 BST; 1 Comma, near 'Barracks', at Vicarage Farm, 13:24 BST; 1 Comma, Allotments, at Vicarage Farm, 13:39 BST. Robert Callf

Wednesday 17th September

Some more news for Weds 17th September 2008 - 1 Small Heath, Sect. 8, at 'News Fields', Trent Park, 15:00 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, Sect.7, along tube-line, 15:04 BST; 1 Comma, settled on buddleia, Sect.5, 'News Fields', Trent Park, 15:09 BST. Robert Callf

News for today (Weds 17th September 2008) - 1 Green-veined White, settled, at Parkside Farm, 10:15 BST; 1 Red Admiral, edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park, 11:08 BST. Also a number of Speckled Wood - Robert Callf

Horsenden Hill, despite thickening overcast at lunchtime: 8x Speckled Wood. Mostly fresh and north of the hill. A couple old ones. 3x Whites. 1x Small Copper near the summit. 1x Comma on the wing near the summit almost glowingly fresh looking. 1x Meadow Brown not far from the tennis courts. - Mike Rubin

Tuesday 16th September

News for today (Tues 16th September 2008) - Green-veined White, settled, near Enfield Rd., 13:46 BST - Robert Callf

1 Small copper in weedy field near Batford on 8th September - Darin Stanley

Monday 15th September

Saw my first Small Tortoiseshell for over two years in the garden today along with 5 Red Admirals, the most that I have seen together so far this year, also Large and Small Whites. Buddleia Beijing, Rudbeckia and Verbena Bonariensis were all nectared on - Malcolm Newland

News for today (Monday 15th September 2008) - 1 Red Admiral, settled by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 10:52 BST; 7 Comma, together, along stretch of Brambles, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 11:48 BST - an impressive sight! Robert Callf

Small tortoiseshell in my garden (Bishop's Stortford) plus 3 Red admirals, 3 Large white, 2 Small white and a Green-veined white (all on Buddleia 'Beijing') - Andrew Palmer

Sunday 14th September

Watch out for migrating Small Tortoiseshells - hundreds have been seen. It started two weeks ago with reports from the Bure Marshes west of Great Yarmouth. On Saturday I was in Peterborough and I have never seen so many flying through, or nectaring on dandelions - Liz Goodyear

News for yesterday (Sunday 14th September 2008) - 1 Comma, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 09:36 BST; 1 Comma, at Duncan's Wood, 10:26 BST; 1 Red Admiral, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 12:11 BST; 1 Comma, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 12:13 BST; 2 Red Admiral, flew S, at South Lodge Farm, 12:26 BST; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, at Vicarage Farm, 12:47 BST; 2 Comma, together, on Bramble near Firing Range, at Vicarage Farm, 12:59 BST. Robert Callf

Today 14/9 at the Amwell butterfly bushes: At least **12 Small Tortoiseshells**, 5 Commas (both old and fresh), 1 very tattered Painted Lady (my second only this year) and many Large Whites, Small Whites and Red Admirals. 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Comma and a Large White caterpillar were seen from the viewpoint. Yesterday 13/9, additionally a Holly Blue and 2 Speckled Woods were seen from the viewpoint. Jan Hein van Steenis

Seen today at the Shackledell Grassland (part of Stevenage transect) was a Small Copper and Common Blue. Yesterday, I saw a Brimstone on the same site - my first sighting of the Brimstone for the transect this year! Peter Clarke

A good day for butterflies Sat 13th. Highlights Bencroft wood my first small copper I've seen there in 5 years. Broxbourne West Ride 10 commas on brambles and watermint and 5 speckled wood. Waterford heath 24 comma (15 on south pit, 9 on north) on blackberries. Common blue (2), Brown Argus (1) and small copper (1) on south pit. One red admiral on north pit. When I got home to Bengoe, one small tortoiseshell on cerostigmata. Steve Kiln

Saturday 13th September

There are also lots of toadflax Brocade (*Calophasia lunula*) larvae in some places. The moth is

common in North London and Ched George reports several recent sightings of larvae from north-west Middlesex and from Buckinghamshire. In Hertfordshire, our only records to date are from the extreme south in the North London area - surely it has now spread further north? If you find any caterpillars on either native (yellow) toadflax or on the more common garden (purple) variety then there is no confusion over its identity. We need ALL reports please so we can monitor the spread of this attractive moth that was formerly found only on the coastal shingle at Dungeness and a few places further west in Sussex - Ched George and Colin Plant ([photo to be posted later but here is a photo that Andrew Middleton took last year](#))

Friday 12th September

Stop press! Right this moment a Comma is feeding on the ivy in Kenton. First Comma I've seen in months. I also watched a Green Veined White on the ivy and on nasturtium leaves just after lunch. The only other highlight this week was Wednesday 10th at Horsenden Hill, when I saw 8 Whites (1 +ve ID for Small White), 5 Speckled Woods and 1 Male Holly Blue. Earlier in the week 2 (each) further Whites and Speckled Woods seen. So the ivy is now in bloom. The final big nectar source of the season... Wish I was still at Stockley Park to inspect the huge walls of ivy where I saw lots of Red Admirals having a banquet in previous years. -Mike

Thursday 11th September

Butterflies galore at Ickleford on 10th - 50 Speckled wood's was a surprise and even more numerous than small white. Common blue; small copper, red admiral, small heath, large white and a lovely Brimstone made up the tally of 8 species Stuart Pittman

News for Tuesday 9th September 2008 - 1 Green-veined White, nectaring on Bramble blossom, Park Farm, 10:38 BST; 1 Small White, nectaring on Bramble blossom, Park Farm, 10:38 BST; 1 Red Admiral, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 10:59 BST; 1 Small Heath, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 11:10 BST; 1 Silver Y, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park; 1 Comma, edge of Williams Wood, 12:08 BST; 1 Red Admiral, edge of Williams Wood, 12:09 BST; 2 Comma, along Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm, 12:31 - 12:32 BST. Robert Callf

Wednesday 10th September

News for today (Weds 10th September 2008) - 1 'fresh' female Meadow Brown at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 11:13 BST. 1 Red Admiral, near Lower Lake, Trent Park, 11:45 BST; 1 Red Admiral, edge of Williams Wood, 11:58 BST. Robert Callf

Returned from work this afternoon to see a Small Tortoiseshell on my buddleia, the first one I've seen this year in my Ware garden - Liz Goodyear

Monday 8th September

Sightings for Monday 8th September. Went up to Therfield Heath, and despite the generally gloomy weather was please to see. 1 Female Chalkhill blue, 3 brown argus, inc a mating pair, 10 common blues 3 small copper 2 small heath 3 meadow brown plus a wealth of Red Admiral (5), small tortoiseshell (8), Large, small and green veined whites all feasting on the devils bit scabious which is in flower. Back home to Wareside and found :- 2 common blue 2 brown argus 2 red admiral (one just hatched from the nettles) 2 comma (one hatched from a caterpillar we found in the back garden, nettles again) 3 small tortoiseshell. 1 speckled wood plus the green veined, large and small whites. Also had pink barred swallow in the moth trap, alongside the plethora of underwings (straw, copper, least yellow, large yellow and barred) - Phil MacMurdie

News for today (Monday 8th September 2008) - 3 Red Admiral,(1 along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 10:07 BST, 1 flew S, at Vicarage Farm, 10:19 BST, 1 flew SE, at Park Farm, 11:26 BST). Also a number of Speckled Wood and White spp. Robert Callf

Saturday 6th September

News for today (Sat 6th September 2008) - 2 Small White, on buddleia, near Lower Lake, 11:48 BST; 5 Green-veined White, near Water Grdn., Trent Park, 11:53 - 12:07 BST; 2 Speckled Wood, near Water Grdn., Trent Park, 11:55 - 11:58 BST; 1 Small White, edge of Water Grdn., Trent Park, 11:56 BST; 2 Speckled Wood, together, near Icehouse Wood, 12:09 BST; 4 Small White, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 12:13 BST; 1 Green-veined White, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 12:13 BST. Also a Nymphalid seen near Water Grdn., almost certainly a Red Admiral. Robert Callf

Friday 5th September

GYPSY MOTHS IN NORTH LONDON AND SOUTH HERTS There have been several sightings of female Gypsy Moths (*Lymantria dispar*) in London in during August. This is, of course, a major pest species and is subject to enforced (by DEFRA) destruction. Andrew Wood has kindly uploaded a photo, taken by me, of an egg-mass on an oak branch, to our web site at www.hertsmothgroup.org.uk. Eggs are always laid in a mass like this and covered with protective hairs; they will remain on the trees over winter. If you find one of these in Herts or Middlesex please report it to me IMMEDIATELY. Both the extinct British strain and the present European strain produce females that are not able to fly more than a few metres (in spite of their huge size). Thus, whilst immigrant males often arrive at light traps on the south coast it is not possible for the European strain to establish. Recent outbreaks of this species in North London and Aylesbury, however, are thought to originate from an Asiatic strain introduced with lorries etc. It is now clear that eradication measures at the outbreaks in North London and Buckinghamshire have failed. Therefore, we are now very keen to monitor the spread of this species in London and Hertfordshire. Simply burning it away with a blowtorch and not telling anyone, or telling the local environmental health people, who may not put the record into the recording scheme, potentially deprives us of very important data. Landowners have a duty in law to report occurrences; I will, of course, forward the information once we have confirmed the report. In due course I will publish any data that I receive. Ideally, please take a digital photo so we can confirm and please have an address or a grid reference handy to allow us to go and look. Note that egg masses of the Oak Processionary (another major forest pest that is established in parts of south-west London) are similar (and always on oak). Egg masses like this on oak could, therefore be from either species. Egg masses on other trees will be Gypsy Moth. Please, therefore, also record the tree that the egg mass was found on - or at least say if it was an oak or "not an oak". The larval hairs of Gypsy Moth may be urticating like those of the infamous Brown-tail Moth and may cause serious allergic reaction in some people. The larval hairs of Oak Processionary are far worse and invariably cause such a reaction; they are considered a serious health risk and should be avoided, especially by the elderly and babies. If anyone wishes to use my photo elsewhere in similar publicity please e-mail me for a copy and please ensure that the photographer is acknowledged! Colin Plant ([Contact details on Herts Moth Group website](mailto:colin@hertsmothgroup.org.uk))

Wednesday 3rd September

Horsenden Hill, still plenty of Meadow Browns in the grazing field and one more field north of the hill by the woods that has been spared cutting and is still got a healthy patch of flowering thistle. Not much on the summit in the brisk wind though. 7x Meadow Brown 7x Speckled Wood 3x Small Copper 1x Green Veined White And several cows in the grazing field including one small calf running around like crazy. Hanging on to what's left of this tattered season. Don't like the looks of the rest of the week weatherwise! - Mike Rubin

A few sightings for today (Weds 3rd September 2008) - 1 Green-veined White, settled at Parkside Farm, 10:29 BST; 1 Green-veined White, settled at Park Farm, 10:38 BST; 1 Small White, settled at Park Farm, 10:38 BST. Also a Silver Y at Park Farm, Enfield. Other Whites seen but not specifically identified and a few Speckled Wood. Robert Callf

Tuesday 2nd September

Although I had not set out to find any butterflies the following were noted at Poor's Field, Ruislip this afternoon (2nd Sept.): 2 Meadow Brown; 1 Small White; 1 Green-veined White; 9 Speckled Wood and 4 Small Copper. Dick Middleton

1 Marbled Beauty at rest on the bus-stop this morning at Chase Rd., N14 and a Red Admiral, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 15:00 BST (Tues 2nd September 2008). Robert Callf

Monday 1st September

Fir and Pond Woods - several speckled woods throughout the Reserve and 1 small copper on the Meadow - David Gompertz

A few sightings for today (Monday 1st September 2008) - 1 Red Admiral, at Park Farm, 10:53 BST; 1 female Large White, edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park, 11:21 BST; 1 female Common Blue, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 11:31 BST; 2 Small Heath,(1 near Hadley Rd., at Vicarage Farm, 10:12 BST, 1 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 11:32 BST); 1 female Gatekeeper, set-aside field near Williams Wood, Trent Park, 12:00 BST; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, settled, at 'Barracks', Vicarage Farm, 12:40 BST. Also a number of Small White and Speckled Wood today. Robert Callf

August 2008

Sunday 31st August

Nothing spectacular, except maybe for numbers at the Butterfly-bushes at Amwell GP (TL373131) in the afternoon: 3 Large White, 10 Small White, 1 Green-veined White (probably more), 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 10 Commas (some very fresh), dozens of Red Admirals, 1 Meadow Brown, Also Treble-barred and Silver Y. Also 1 Common Blue in Turnford Marsh (TL369049) - Jan Hein Van Steenis

Saturday 30th August

On Saturday 30th August I secured a Brown Argus on the Horsenden West transect for the second year running. This rather faded individual was in a different section to last year, in an area known locally as 'The Plough'. The Brown Argus was nectaring on creeping thistle along the fence line and I managed a couple of voucher shots which I'll forward when I've got them off my camera. Picked it up in flight by virtue of the somewhat silvery impression - something that I noted on the Upper Thrifts individuals of last year (in contrast to the Common Blues) and which is well described in the literature. Other stuff included the 3 common whites, speckled wood, comma, a single gatekeeper and several meadow browns. On Sunday 31st a check of the same area during a brief spell of sunshine revealed only a Common Blue, but this is actually a vast meadow so lack of success is not that surprising! Other butterflies included 3 Holly Blue and a further Common Blue, all three common whites, speckled wood, meadow brown (tailing off rapidly, now). The relative dearth of vanessids continues - Andy Culshaw

News for today (Sat 30th August 2008) - 1 Red Admiral, flew S, along track at Vicarage Farm, 10:48 BST; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, on thistles, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 11:09 BST; 1 Small Heath, near Hadley Rd., at Vicarage Farm; 3(2 males, 1 female) Common Blue, at Parkside Farm - on Res banking, 11:33 - 11:34 BST; 3 Small White, at Parkside Farm, 11:37 BST; 2 Green-veined White, mating, at Park Farm, 12:11 BST; 1 female Meadow Brown, edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park, 12:17 BST; 2 Red Admiral, on white buddleia, Water Grdn., Trent Park, 12:57 BST; 1 Green-veined White, on white buddleia, at Water Grdn., Trent Park, 12:57 BST; 2 Speckled Wood, at Water Grdn., Trent Park, 13:03 BST; 3 Speckled Wood, together, Icehouse Wood, Trent Park, 13:07 BST; 2 Speckled Wood, together, Williams Wood, Trent Park, 13:20 BST; 1 female Meadow Brown, at Vicarage Farm, 13:38 BST; 1 Red Admiral, flew S, at 'Barracks', Vicarage Farm, 13:44 BST. Robert Callf

Friday 29th August

News for today (Fri 29th August 2008) - 1 Large White, near Firing Range, Vicarage Farm, 08:35 BST; 1 Small White, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 09:31 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 09:36 BST; 2 male Common Blue, at Parkside Farm, on Res banking, 10:01 BST; 3 Speckled Wood, at Parkside Farm, 10:03 BST; 3 Speckled Wood, at Park Farm, between 10:07 - 10:29 BST; 3(1 male, 2 female) Common Blue, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 11:29 - 11:30 BST; 1 Small White, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 11:34 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, edge of Williams Wood, at Vicarage Farm, 12:16 BST. Robert Callf

Thursday 28th August

Saw a worn '**valezina**' form of **Silver-washed Fritillary** today at 1530 while riding along St. Albans Lane. This is at the bottom of Bedmond and runs along Potters Crouch woodland - Clive Burrows

News for today (Thurs 28th August 2008) - 1 Green-veined White, settled, at Parkside Farm, on Res banking, 10:23 BST; 2 Speckled Wood, together, at Parkside Farm, 10:24 BST; 2 Speckled Wood, at Park Farm, 10:29 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, near Duncan's Wood, 11:00 BST; 2 Green-veined White, settled, edge of Water Grdn., Trent Park, 12:00 BST; 1 Large White, edge of Water Grdn., Trent Park, 12:05 BST; 1 Small White, edge of Water Grdn., Trent Park, 12:05 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, edge of Water Grdn., Trent Park, 12:06 BST; 2 Small White, along Leeging Beech Gutter near 'Three Bridges', Trent Park, 12:09 BST; 1 Small White, settled on thistle, along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm, 12:28 BST; 1 Green-veined White, settled on thistle, along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm, 12:28 BST; 1 female Meadow Brown, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 12:31 BST; 1 female Meadow Brown, at 'Barracks', Vicarage Farm, 12:47 BST. Robert Callf

Last Saturday, August 23rd, I had a painted lady on my rough lawn in High Barnet briefly; it flew north over the fence into Hadley Grove. I had only just returned from holiday, so assumed this was part of a major migration, but it seems not too many painted ladies have been reported yet! Hope this is of use - Nigel Taylor

Wednesday 27th August

That's all folks. All the Horsenden Hill Meadows have been mown this week I see. (Except for the grazing meadow.) Yesterday at Grove Farm: An 8/8 overcast dull but mild day. Walked the woodland path exiting via the BMX track. Despite the weather I saw 7 Whites (Atleast 5 were Small Whites), 3 Meadow Browns, and 1 each of Speckled Wood, Female Common Blue and a very late Female Gatekeeper. Today at Horsenden Hill: Another 8/8 overcast dull but mild day. 6 Meadow Browns, 3 Small Coppers (all in Grazing field), 2 Speckled Woods and 1 each of Small Skipper (very elderly) and a white. Most butterflies in the grazing field. The other meadows including Batts and Upper Thrifts now barren. Shame as I was hoping to try and spot my suspected Brown Argus again. Oh well. - Mike Rubin

News for today (Weds 27th August 2008) - 1 Small White, on thistle-head, Park Farm, 10:12 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, at Bay Farm, along Jubilee Path, 10:14 BST; 10+ Speckled Wood, along Jubilee Path at Park Farm, 10:18 - 10:54 BST; 1 Large White, at Park Farm, 10:58 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, edge of Rough Lot, at Trent Park, 11:12 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, edge of Moat Wood, at Trent Park, 11:14 BST; 1 female Meadow Brown, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 11:26 BST; 1 Green-veined White, on thistle-head, by Lower Lake, 11:37 BST; 2 Speckled Wood, together, at Dew Pond, Trent Park, 11:48 BST; 3 Speckled Wood, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 11:53 - 11:55 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, edge of Williams Wood, at Vicarage Farm, 11:59 BST; 1 Green-veined White, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 12:14 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, along track, at Vicarage Farm, 12:27 BST. Also a number of White spp seen in flight only and left unidentified. Robert Callf.

Tuesday 26th August

A few sightings for today (Tues 26th August 2008) - 1 female Meadow Brown, at 'Barracks', Vicarage Farm, 11:36 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, at Parkside Farm, near Hadley Rd Pumping Station, 12:06 BST; 2 male Common Blue, at Parkside Farm, on Res banking, 12:24 - 12:26 BST; 5 Speckled Wood, at Park Farm, between 12:28 - 13:01 BST; 1 male Common Blue, by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 13:35 BST; 2 Speckled Wood, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 13:57 BST; 1 Small White, edge of Williams Wood, at Vicarage Farm, 14:04 BST; 1 Small Heath, set-aside field, at Vicarage Farm, 14:12 BST; 2 female Meadow Brown, set-aside field, at Vicarage Farm, 14:13 - 14:16 BST. Robert Callf

Monday 25th August

News for (Sunday 24th August 2008) - 4 female Meadow Brown, at Vicarage Farm, 13:01 - 13:42 BST; 2 Speckled Wood, near Firing Range, at Vicarage Farm, 13:52 BST. News for (Monday 25th August 2008) - 1 Speckled Wood, by Hadley Rd., at Vicarage Farm, 08:58 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, at Parkside Farm, 09:08 BST; 1 Small White, at Parkside Farm - on Res banking, 09:14 BST; 5 (4 males, 1 female) Common Blue, at Parkside Farm - on Res banking, 09:15 - 09:21 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, at Park Farm, 09:25 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 10:45 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 10:51 BST; 1 female Meadow Brown, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 11:13 BST; 1 female Gatekeeper, Sidhil's Field, at Vicarage Farm, 11:41 BST; 2 Small White, Sidhil's Field, at Vicarage Farm, 11:41 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, Sidhil's Field, at Vicarage Farm, 11:45 BST. Robert Callf

Possible **large tortiseshell** in my Enfield garden 14th this month landing on herbs not 100 per cent as approached from shallow angle flew off and did not return but was larger and plainer than small tort, I mention this in case any one else has had any inconclusive sightings, Brian Dawton

Sunday 24th August

Brown Argus, Small Heath, Common Blue & Small Copper at Nomansland Common, Sandridge - Malcolm Hull

Saturday 23rd August

News for today (Saturday 23rd August 2008) - 1 Speckled Wood, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 09:30 BST; 2 Speckled Wood, at Parkside Farm, 09:44 and 09:56 BST; 1 Green-veined White, settled, at Parkside Farm, 09:57 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, at Park Farm,

09:59 BST; 1 female Meadow Brown, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 10:41 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, at Icehouse Wood, Trent Park, 11:04 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, near Shaws Cottages, 11:13 BST; 1 Green-veined White, settled, on Buddleia, at Shaws Wood, Trent Park, 11:16 BST; 2 Speckled Wood, together, at Williams Wood, 11:20 BST; 1 Small White, settled, on thistle, set-aside field at Vicarage Farm, 11:34 BST; 1 male Common Blue, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 12:04 BST; 1 male Meadow Brown, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 12:10 BST; 1 Large White, at Vicarage Farm, 12:20 BST; 1 Red Admiral, nectaring on blackberry, near Firing Range at Vicarage Farm, 12:51 BST; 2 female Gatekeeper, near Firing Range, at Vicarage Farm, 12:52 and 12:54 BST; 1 Holly Blue, near Firing Range, at Vicarage Farm, 13:18 BST. Robert Callf

Fir and Pond Wood, I had 3 male common blues and at least 1 female on the meadow today and a Brown Argus - David Gompertz

Friday 22nd August

A few sightings for today (Fri 22nd August 2008) - 1 Small Heath, near Hadley Rd, at Vicarage Farm, 10:23 BST; 1 Green-veined White, settled, at Park Farm, 10:57 BST; 1 Small Copper, Uni-lawns, Trent Park, 12:39 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 12:52 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, edge of Williams Wood, at Vicarage Farm, 13:02 BST. Robert Callf

Thursday 21st August

News for today (Thurs 21st August 2008) - 1 Speckled Wood, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 09:55 BST; 2 (male and female) Common Blue, at Parkside Farm, on Res banking, 10:27 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, at Parkside Farm, on Res banking, 10:33 BST; 1 Small Heath, at Park Farm, 10:39 BST; 1 female Common Blue, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 11:22 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, at Icehouse Wood, Trent Park, 11:45 BST; 1 Holly Blue, at Icehouse Wood, Trent Park, 11:47 BST; 1 female Gatekeeper, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 12:00 BST; 1 Large White, edge of Williams Wood, at Vicarage Farm, 12:10 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, hedgerow opposite Williams Wood, at Vicarage Farm, 12:14 BST; 2 Small Heath, along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm, 12:28 - 12:29 BST; 1 female Gatekeeper, at 'Barracks', Vicarage Farm, 12:46 BST; 2 female Meadow Brown, at 'Barracks', Vicarage Farm, 12:49 BST. Robert Callf

Wednesday 20th August

News for today (Weds 20th August 2008) - 1 female Meadow Brown, near Hadley Rd., at Vicarage Farm, 10:15 BST; 4 (3 male, 1 female) Common Blue, at Parkside Farm, on Res banking, 10:29 - 10:30 BST; 1 Green-veined White, settled, at Parkside Farm, on Res banking, 10:32 BST; 2 Speckled Wood, at Park Farm, 10:37 - 10:38 BST; 1 Small Heath, at Park Farm, 10:43 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, at Park Farm, 10:53 BST; 1 female Meadow Brown, edge of Moat Wood, 11:31 BST; 1 female Meadow Brown, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 11:40 BST; 1 female Common Blue, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 11:43 BST; 1 female Meadow Brown, by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 11:47 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 12:05 BST; 1 female Gatekeeper, on thistle-head, set-aside field opposite Williams Wood, at Vicarage Farm, 12:20 BST; 3 female Meadow Brown, set-aside field opposite Williams Wood, at Vicarage Farm, 12:20 - 12:24 BST; 1 Small Heath, set-aside field opposite Williams Wood, at Vicarage Farm, 12:26 BST; 2, male and female, Meadow Brown, along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm, 12:27 BST; 2 female Meadow Brown, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 12:36 BST; 1 female Gatekeeper, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 12:33 BST; 1 female Meadow Brown, at 'Barracks', Vicarage Farm, 12:50 BST. Also an Angle Shades seen on the pavement of Chase Road, Southgate, placed safely on the trunk of nearby tree. Robert Callf

Tuesday 19th August

News for today (Tues 19th August 2008) - 2 Speckled Wood, together, near Shaws Wood, 12:01 BST; 1 female Gatekeeper, set-aside field near Williams Wood, 12:09 BST; 3 Speckled Wood, at Park Farm, 13:17 - 13:18 BST; 1 female Gatekeeper, at Park Farm, 13:20 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, at Parkside Farm, on Res banking, 13:22 BST; 1 male Common Blue, at Parkside Farm, on Res banking, 13:24 BST. Robert Callf

Monday 18th August

22 people joined the branch field trip to Aldbury Nowers on a warm but mostly cloudy Sunday (17th) afternoon. The condition of the grassland in the main southern enclosures has improved significantly as a result of scrub removal and the introduction of sheep grazing. Rabbit grazing also still occurs, although several individuals were seen with myxomatosis. The wild basil had spread

considerably in the southern most enclosure. Four skippers were seen, three Essex & one Small & no others. There were several dozen blues, throughout the reserve - Mostly Common Blues, about two thirds of which were females. Also four Brown Argus, three in the northern enclosure & one on the top edge of the set aside field. But no Chalk-hill Blues this year. The highlight of the trip were two Dark Green Fritillaries, one male, one female, both in the southernmost enclosure. They were not together, but less than 50 yards apart. This species has not been noted on any previous field trips, though it has been seen in small numbers on the reserve in recent years & recorded by Martin Hicks on his weekly transect. It has previously been considered extinct as a breeding species in the branch area, though I believe this status should now be reviewed. Other butterflies noted included Brimstone, Small Copper, Large, Small & Green-veined Whites, Small Heath, Gatekeeper & Meadow Brown (the most numerous species). Moths included Common Carpet, 6 spot Burnett, Cinabar caterpillars, Grass Veneer & Straw Dot. Many thanks to Ann Piper for her help in IDing the moths - Malcolm Hull

News for yesterday (Sunday 17th August 2008) - 1 Comma, near Firing Range, at Vicarage Farm, 11:26 BST; 1 Small Copper, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 11:53 BST; 2 female Common Blue, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 12:08 BST and 13:55 BST; 6 male Common Blue, at Parkside Farm, on Res banking, 12:21 - 12:25 BST; 1 Holly Blue, at Park Farm, 12:42 BST; 1 Comma, at Parkside Farm near Hadley Road Pumping Station, 13:45 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 13:59 BST; 1 Small Heath, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 14:00 BST. News for today (Monday 18th August 2008) - 1 female Common Blue, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 10:57 BST; 1 female Gatekeeper, near Water Grdn, Trent Park, 11:05 BST; 3 Speckled Wood, together, Icehouse Wood, Trent Park, 11:15 BST; 1 Small Heath, Uni-lawns, Trent Park, 11:17 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 11:22 BST; 1 female Meadow Brown, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 11:25 BST; 2 female Meadow Brown, at Vicarage Farm, 11:35 BST and 11:53 BST; 2 Small Heath, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 11:45 BST and 11:50 BST. Robert Callf

Sunday 17th August

Went back to Waterford Heath today plenty of common blues, in middle square wired off and particularly in glade going down towards settling ponds, one brown argus there and peacocks and browns. Quite sheltered there. At home in Westfield Road on the basil out front had a small copper and elsewhere about 30 whites and a peacock - Steve Kiln

I went past Aldbury Nowers (Herts) this am, so had a look for Chalkies and am 90% certain that one blew/flew past me at speed and never settled, before vanishing out of sight, across the set-aside field between the Duchies piece and the road. I am 100% certain of the DG Frit that settled in that field. Also here Small and GVWhite, Common B, Peacock, Meadow B and Gatekeeper. This was not an extensive search, so no doubt more than this was around - Nick Bowles

Saturday 16th August

Quite pleased with my garden sightings this week 11-16.08.08; Brimstone, Large, Small and Green Vined White, Common and Holly Blue, Red Admiral, Painted Lady, Peacock, Comma, Speckled Wood, Gatekeeper. 12 species in a tiny garden in Tring - Nick Bowles

News for today (Sat 16th August 2008) - 10+ Speckled Wood, along Jubilee Path at Park Farm, between 09:58 - 11:25 BST; 1 Purple Hairstreak, low over grass at Little Beechill Wood, 10:52 BST; 2 Green-veined White, settled, at Park Farm, 11:08 and 11:10 BST; 1 female Gatekeeper, at Park Farm, 11:11 BST; 1 Red Admiral, settled on track, at Vicarage Farm, 12:48 BST - superb views thro'scope at 3m. More news for yesterday (Fri 15th August 2008) - 1 female Holly Blue, settled, on Ivy, Chase Rd., N14, at 14:15 BST and 1 Holly Blue, at Dalrymple Close, N14, at 14:24 BST. Robert Callf

Friday 15th August

Went to Waterford heath this afternoon 15th August. Of note - 13 common blue on south pit despite the goats rhue having been cut and 6 brown argus 5 on north pit - Steve Kiln

An extremely worn and damaged Silver washed Fritillary, was nectaring on a Buddleia in my garden at Gaddesden Row, nr. Hemel Hempstead, this will be my first ever sighting of this species within walking distance of my home - Michael Pearson

I was delighted to see so many butterflies on my buddleia bush today in my Tring front garden. It has suddenly come to life and I counted at one point today(1pm), 10 Peacocks, 2 Red Admirals, 2 Commas, 2 Brimstones, 1 Gatekeeper and several Whites. - Phil Woodward

Fir and Pond Woods NR. In afternoon sun, several green veined whites, meadow browns and gatekeepers but also 2 small coppers and a common blue on the meadow. David Gompertz

Transect at Wood Lane, Pirton TL145310 - one Dark Green Fritillary on knapweed and on same patch one Common Blue and nearby one Peacock. Otherwise, usual Meadow Browns, Gatekeepers, Large White, Small Whites, 3 Male 1 female Yellow Brimstone and 1 Small/Essex Skipper - Val Fullforth

News for today (Fri 15th August 2008) at Trent Park 'New Fields', between 11:40 - 12:45 BST - 1 female Gatekeeper, on thistles, near Oakwood entrance, 11:38 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, near Triangular Wood, 11:46 BST; 1 Comma, along tube-line, near Oakwood entrance, 11:50 BST; 2 Speckled Wood, together, along tube-line near Oakwood entrance, 11:50 BST; 11 Small Heath, 11:52 - 12:26 BST; 1 Purple Hairstreak, 11:52 BST; 1 Holly Blue, 11:53 BST; 2 Speckled Wood, 11:54 BST and 11:58 BST; 5 Small Copper, 11:57 - 12:35 BST; 2 female Gatekeeper, Sect.8, 12:03 BST; 4 Speckled Wood, Sect.7, 12:06 - 12:08 BST; 2, male and female, Meadow Brown, Sect.6, 12:10 BST; 2 female Gatekeeper, Sect.6, 12:10 BST; 2 Gatekeeper, Sect.5, 12:22 - 12:23 BST; 1 Large White, Sect.5, 12:24 BST; 1 female Meadow Brown, Sect.4, 12:26 BST; 1 Small White, Sect.4, 12:29 BST; 1 female Meadow Brown, Sect.4, 12:30 BST and a number of Meadow Brown and Gatekeeper on thistles near the Sports Field. Robert Callf

Thursday 14th August

News for today (Thurs 14th August 2008) - 1 Small Heath, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 08:47 BST; 1 Peacock, on Buddleia, at Park Farm, 09:23 BST; 5 Speckled Wood, at Park Farm, between 09:25 - 09:39 BST; 1 Purple Hairstreak, settled low down, on Bramble at Park Farm, 09:34 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, edge of Rough Lot, 10:01 BST; 1 Green-veined White, settled on Burdock, edge of Moat Wood, 10:02 BST; 1 Peacock, edge of Moat Wood, 10:02 BST; 1 Small Heath, 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 10:08 BST; 1 male Common Blue, 'Old Golf Course', 10:23 BST; 6 Speckled Wood,(1 at Water Grdn, 10:54 BST, 1 Icehouse Wood, 10:55 BST, 2 near Dew Pond, 10:58 BST, 2 together, at Williams Wood, 11:25 BST); 1 Red Admiral, at 'Barracks', Vicarage Farm, 11:28 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, at Allotments, Vicarage Farm, 11:35 BST. Robert Callf

Wednesday 13th August

News for today (Weds 13th August 2008) - 6(4 males, 2 females) Common Blue, at Parkside Farm, on Res banking, 10:51 - 10:52 BST; 3 Speckled Wood, at Park Farm, 10:57 - 11:12 BST; 1 Small White, settled, at Park Farm, along Jubilee Path, 11:30 BST; 2 Purple Hairstreak, rather worn, settled low down on Bramble, along Jubilee Path at Park Farm, 11:30 BST. Also for Trent Park - 5 Speckled Wood,(1 Sect.7, 14:36 BST, 2 together, Sect.8, 14:58 BST, 2 together, near Triangular Wood, 15:09 BST); 1 Peacock, Sect.8, 'New Fields', 15:00 BST. Robert Callf

Tuesday 12th August

Went for a 5 mile lunch time run at Rothamsted (Harpenden) today (Tuesday 12th), sat down at the end by the sports pavilion and caught sight of a strange butterfly on a bramble leaf. It was a rather tatty male purple hairstreak. Richard Harrington

Bit of a mix different dates. Broxbourne Woods ride 10-Aug Saw commas,several green veined whites, the usual browns and a purple hairstreak on a bramble. Waterford heath: 23-July plenty of butterflies but of note a bedraggled small tortoiseshell my first of the year on south pit. 6th Aug on South pit, of note, a holly blue, 3 common blue, 13 peacocks (five of these on north pit), 2 commas and many browns and whites. Steve Kiln

Horsenden Hill today, I got a royal soaking on the motorbike in the rain this morning! But the sun came out for lunchtime, and a lot of wind! But still managed plenty of butterflies, as well as a good close shot of a Hawker dragonfly (probably a female Migrant Hawker). Skippers: No definites in the strong breeze. V. hard to track the smaller leps. Brown Argus: 1 suspected one in Upper Thrifts. Small and very brown, no hint of blue. But no chance of seeing underside clearly alas. Soon lost it in the breeze. Common Blue: 1 Male, 1 Female Holly Blue: 2 Small Copper: 3-4 Red Admiral: 1 suspected flying over Greenford Road near Kellogg Tower. Whites: 2-3 miscellaneous.

Gatekeeper: 5-6, all females. Meadow Brown: 30+ (Lost count early on - too many!) Speckled Wood: 3-4 1x probable Female Migrant Hawker dragonfly. Other hawkers seen on patrol too, coping effortlessly with the wind. Several miscellaneous macro moths also seen. I guess the micros were staying well hidden in that wind. - Mike Rubin

News for today (Tues 12th August 2008) - 1 male Common Blue, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 10:14 BST; 1 Small Heath, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 10:15 BST; 1 Comma, at Parkside Farm, near Hadley Rd Pumping Station, 10:19 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, at Parkside Farm, 10:23 BST; 3 (2 males, 1 female) Common Blue, at Parkside Farm, on Res banking, 10:34 - 10:37 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, at Park Farm, 10:44 BST; 1 female Common Blue, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 11:26 BST; 1 Small White, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 11:30 BST; 12 Speckled Wood, at Shaws Wood and along bridle-path near Shaws Wood, between 11:55 - 12:01 BST. Also a male Oak Eggar flying low over the Lower Lake, Trent Park - this is about as late as I have seen them - Robert Callf

Monday 11th August

A good selection of butterflies in my Ware garden today, Red Admirals, Commas, Peacocks, Large and Small Whites, Gatekeepers, a Meadow Brown and at least one Holly Blue enjoying the delights of fleabane - Liz Goodyear

News for today (Monday 11th August 2008) - 1 Speckled Wood, at Park Farm, 06:51 BST; 1 Green-veined White, settled, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 08:05 BST. Also Meadow Browns and Gatekeepers. Robert Callf

Sunday 10th August

Fir and Pond Woods NR..... Sunday 10 Aug AM Speckled woods, 1 x Holly blue, Green veined whites, Gatekeepers, Meadow browns, 1 X Small copper - David Gompertz

News for Fri 8th August 2008 - 1 Speckled Wood, at Park Farm, 15:10 BST; 2 male Common Blue, at Parkside Farm, on Res banking, 15:16 BST; 1 male Common Blue, settled on thistle-head, along Leeing Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm, 15:40 BST; 1 Small Heath, settled on thistle-head, along Leeing Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm, 15:40 BST; 1 Green-veined White, settled on thistle-head, along Leeing Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm, 15:43 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 15:49 BST; 1 Comma, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 15:52 BST. Robert Callf

7 August 2008 Transect Wood Lane TL145310 Highlights - a Small Copper, female Common Blue on red clover, 4 Green Veined Whites, 5 Peacocks, numerous Gatekeepers and Meadow Browns and Whites, 1 Yellow Brimstone (male), 7 tatty Ringlets - Val Fullforth

7th August - Brunel University, Uxbridge: At lunchtime today in the Bicentenary Garden I saw 12+ Common Blue, 2 Holly Blue, 4+ Brown Argus, Small Copper, 5 Small Skipper, 2 Speckled Wood, 4 Peacock, Red Admiral, Painted Lady, Large, Small & GV White and numerous Meadow Brown & Gatekeeper. Also, 3 Six-spot Burnet and a Silver-Y Moth. Steve Pash

News for Thurs 7th August 2008 - 1 Peacock, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 10:55 BST; 1 Red Admiral, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 11:02 BST; 5(4 male, 1 'very fresh' female) Common Blue, at Parkside Farm, on Res banking, 11:22 - 11:25 BST; 1 Purple Hairstreak, at Parkside Farm, settled on Sallow, 11:25 BST; 1 Small Copper, settled on Ragwort, at Parkside Farm, on Res banking, 11:25 BST; 1 Green-veined White, settled on Ragwort, at Parkside Farm, 11:29 BST; 2 Speckled Wood, at Park Farm, at 11:33 BST and 11:47 BST; 5 Peacock, at Park Farm, including 4 together, settled on Buddleia, 11:44 BST; 1 Red Admiral, at Park Farm, 11:55 BST; 1 Peacock, near Obelisk, 12:10 BST; 1 Peacock, settled on Burdock, edge of Moat Wood, 12:13 BST; 1 Comma, settled on Burdock, edge of Moat Wood, 12:13 BST; 1 Small Skipper, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 12:22 BST; 11 Speckled Wood,(5 near Shaws Wood, including three together, 12:56 BST, 2 together, near Merryhills Brook, along bridle-path, 13:00 BST; 4 together, settled near Equestrian Centre, 13:07 BST). Robert Callf.

Wed.6th.Aug. 21.10 (Dusk). Whilst strolling towards arcade entrance was overtaken by a Swallow-tailed moth which flew to an hanging basket and settled on petunias, Covent Garden market arcade, Westminster. (Until I got close enough,thought it was a night flying small white!) Len Crouch

Horsenden Hill news for 6th August: My first time back on the hill in ages! Lots of Meadow Browns and Gatekeepers (mostly female so I guess they won't last much longer). One Holly Blue, one male Common Blue. Several assorted whites and Speckled Woods. A couple of very fresh Small Coppers and a few Skippers too. The Grazing MEadow was by far the best place. Lots of activity despite the cloud cover. One female Gatekeeper even took a liking to my hand. I first felt a 'flump' on the back of my left hand. Looked to see the Gatekeeper. As I went for my camera it flew off, did a circuit then landed back a 2nd time at the same spot. Got one shot before it took off again not to return. - Mike Rubin

News for Weds 6th August 2008 - 2 Essex Skipper, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 10:55 BST; 2 Small Skipper, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 10:58 BST; 1 male Common Blue, at Parkside Farm near Hadley Rd Pumping Station, 11:12 BST; 3 Small White, settled, at Parkside Farm, on Res banking, 11:22 BST; 2 Red Admiral, at Park Farm, (1 settled on buddleia, 11:36 BST and another, different, fresh individual near Duncan's Wood, 11:55 BST; 1 Peacock, on buddleia, at Park Farm, 11:37 BST; 1 Large White, on Burdock, near Obelisk, 12:10 BST; 1 Comma, settled on Burdock, edge of Moat Wood, 12:13 BST; 1 female Holly Blue, settled on Burdock, edge of Rough Lot, 12:13 BST; 4 Peacock, together, settled on Burdock, edge of Moat Wood, 12:13 BST; 1 Peacock, at 'Old Golf Course', 12:24 BST; 1 male Oak Eggar, near Water Grdn, 12:33 BST; 1 Small Copper, settled on Ragwort, edge of Water Grdn, 12:42 BST; 1 male Holly Blue, settled on Ragwort, edge of Water Grdn, 12:44 BST; 1 Small White, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Water Grdn, 12:46 BST; 1 male Large White, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, 12:57 BST; 1 Comma, settled on thistles, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 13:11 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, near Firing Range, at Vicarage Farm, 14:05 BST. Robert Callf

Had a white letter hairstreak on 4th August at Aldbury in S1, it was nectaring on ragwort. There were also lots of small heath, small copper, large white, meadow brown, skippers and marbled whites. Paul Thrush

News for Monday 4th August 2008 - 2 Speckled Wood, together, at Parkside Farm, 11:22 BST; 2 Peacock, together, on and around buddleia, at Park Farm, 11:54 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, near Shaws Cottages, 13:25 BST; 1 Comma, at Allotments, Vicarage Farm, 14:15 BST. Robert Callf

A few records for Sat 2nd August 2008 - 1 Small Skipper, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 13:33 BST; 1 Small Skipper, at Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm, 13:50 BST; 1 Holly Blue, at Enfield Road, 14:20 BST. Also lots of Gatekeepers and lesser numbers of Meadow Browns. Robert Callf

Friday 1st August

News for today (Fri 1st August 2008) - 1 Speckled Wood, at Oakwood Park, N14, 10:46 BST. 2 Speckled Wood, at Grovelands Park, Southgate, N14, 11:37 BST and 12:34 BST; 1 Green-veined White, settled, at Grovelands Park, Southgate, N14, 12:29 BST; 1 Large White, at Grovelands Park, Southgate, 12:32 BST. Robert Callf

27.07.08 A walk on the Nicky Line (TL133151 to TL109120) Given the combination of use by the general public and the level of fouling by dogs, our expectation wasn't that high as we set out. However, there were butterflies and, particularly in the margins of fields belonging to Rothamsted Research Centre. Whatever they may be testing on the crops, it wasn't affecting the insects adversely. We ran a couple of counts, gatekeepers being the most frequent with patches where brambles were smothered in butterflies, something we haven't seen in a long time. Over 100 gatekeepers on that check, over 50 meadow brown, similar numbers of speckled wood with large white, small white, brimstone, peacock and small skipper present. There were numbers of burnett moths (mostly six spot counted). We also counted 2 fresh holly blues on the hedges. Speckled Wood was the commonest butterfly under the trees along the walkway - Alun & Chrissie

Thursday 31st July

Saturday 26th, Broxbourne Woods 10am - 2pm Female Purple Emperor seen in willows c200m down the bridleway track from the West carpark at 12.30. Also seen; Small skipper, Holly Blue - 1, Red Admiral - 1, Peacock, Ringlet - Russell Neave

Had **dark green fritillary** on the northern slopes at Aldbury Nowers yesterday (30/7), together with many peacocks, red admiral, brimstone, meadow brown, holly blue, marbled white, common blue and comma. Paul Thrush

Had a short half hour walk over the 'New Fields', Trent Park between 13:30 - 14:00 BST and observed the following - 4 Speckled Wood, (1 at 13:34 BST and 1 at 13:39 BST, 2 together near Triangular Wood, 13:47 BST); 1 Small White, settled on thistle, near Oakwood entrance, 13:36 BST; 2 Peacock, near Oakwood entrance, 13:40 BST and 13:42 BST; 1 male Large Skipper, near Triangular Wood, 13:43 BST; 1 Small Copper, pristine condition, 13:47 BST - Robert Callf

Wednesday 30th July

Silver-washed Fritillary in Balls Wood at lunchtime today, rather tatty. Also the first White Admiral I have seen on the transect walk for two weeks, so a bit of a surprise after what was looking like a short season. A Purple Hairstreak also came low enough down to be recorded on the transect. All the usuals present and Speckled Wood numbers beginning to build towards the August peak. Andrew Wood

Brunel University campus - 30th July 2008 At lunchtime today in the Bicentenary Garden I saw 6+ Common Blue, the most I have seen at any site this year. Also, 8 Peacock, 2 Comma, Red Admiral, Painted Lady, dozens of Meadow Brown & Gatekeeper, 3 Speckled Wood, 4 Small Skipper, Large, Small & GV White, Small Copper, several Holly Blue and 2 Six-spot Burnet moth. Steve Pash

News for today (Weds 30th July 2008) at Trent Park, 'New Fields', between 11:45 - 13:15 BST - 4 Small Copper, between 12:04 - 12:48 BST; 8 Peacock, (1, Sect.8, 12:15 BST, 4 together, on buddleia, near Cockfoster's entrance, 12:34 BST, 3 on thistles, near Triangular Wood, 12:56 BST); 1 Comma, Sect.7, 12:22 BST; 2 Small Heath, Sect.6, 12:25 BST and 12:31 BST - fresh 'second-brood'; 1 Holly Blue, Sect.3, 12:47 BST; 1 Purple Hairstreak, near Triangular Wood, 12:58 BST; 3 Speckled Wood, (2 near Oakwood entrance, 1 Sect.7, 12:20 BST); 1 male Oak Eggar, along tube-line, near Oakwood entrance, 13:06 BST - My first sighting of the year! Also 2 Essex Skipper identified today (Weds 30th July 2008), 1 Sect.6, 12:25 BST and 1 near Sports Field, 12:51 BST. Robert Callf

Oakhill Woods LNR-28/7/08-----1x-Painted Lady f, Red Admiral m, Peacock-f---on Budleja Lochinch-----Myriads Purple Hairstreak on all oaks over 50ft in 6 acres of canopy woodland-some appeared to be egg laying on ash? 12noon-Hexton Chalk pit----myriads male chalkhill blue-----a few females and pairs-----a few Gatekeeper and Meadow brown-----Many Chalking Blues straying into the road and killed by traffic - Kit Jones

News for Monday 28th July 2008 at Trent Park, between 17:25 - 18:00 BST - 1 White-letter Hairstreak, settled on Ash, behind bus-stop, opposite Oakwood tube Station, 17:25 BST - My first of the year!; 2 Speckled Wood, near Oakwood entrance, 17:31 BST; 1 Small Copper, pristine condition, near Cockfoster's entrance, 17:45 BST; 5 Peacock, together, on buddleia, near Cockfoster's entrance, 17:45 BST; 1 Holly Blue, near Cockfoster's entrance, 17:54 BST. Robert Callf

Monday 28th July

Continue to try to cover as much of TL32 & TL 42 as possible, Highlights for this weekend Sunday 28th Dane End (TL 32/20) Various browns, whites etc + peacock, comma, red admiral but one definite silver washed Frit - nectaring on blackberry flowers. Went to plashes wood a site with previous white admiral record - but nothing there apart from many browns (meadow, gatekeeper, ringlet) plus whites. Also purple hairstreak. Am seeking someone in the Cottered area to assist as this area looks to be barren at the moment - done 4 visits with next to nothing to report - Phil MacMurdie

About twenty people attended the butterfly walk at Trent Park on Saturday 26th July 2008 and 16 species of butterfly were recorded, including - Small Skipper, Essex Skipper, Small White, Green-veined White, Large White, 1 Red Admiral, 1 Comma, 4 Peacock, 3 Small Copper, 3 Holly Blue, 4 Purple Hairstreak, Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown, 3 Ringlet, 3 Speckled Wood, can't remember the sixteenth. Robert Callf

On Saturday 26th July 2008 I was returning from a walk with my son and his dog around the Morgan's Walk area of Hertford. We were within 100 metres of our back gate when flying along the hedgerow came a Marbled White. I have discussed the sighting with Andrew and as far as we are aware there are no regular colonies of this species nearby. Obviously a wanderer. Alan Reynolds

Sunday 27th July

Purple Hairstreak in Monks Wood (near the pond), Stevenage at 1330. Saw it walking on a leaf near the top of an oak tree. Also saw my first non-white on the buddleia in my back garden - a Peacock earlier this afternoon. Peter Clarke

Chilterns Festival at Ashridge: Today Alan Downie lead three very well attended butterfly walks and recorded about 16 species between the three walks. Highlights was a brief glimpse of a Silver-washed Fritillary. Other butterflies included Brimstone, Holly Blue, Marbled White, Small Tortoiseshell, Small Copper and numerous skippers, whites, and browns.

Saturday 26th July

3 sightings of PE in Park Wood, Ruislip between 11.30 and 13.15. I was pleased to see a Small Heath on Poors Field where they re-appeared in 2007 after several years of absence. Ringlet, Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper and Small Skipper are present in good numbers this year. Purple Hairstreak, Large, Small & GV White, Holly Blue, Red Admiral, Peacock, Comma and Speckled Wood also seen - Steve Pash

Purple Emperor gliding gently overhead in Black Horse Lane, South Mymms at lunchtime today. Huge numbers of browns, whites & skippers around Potwells, also a dozen Peacocks, Comma, Purple Hairstreak, One Common(!) Blue & a probable Silver-Washed Fritillary - Malcolm Hull

Two fresh new Brimstones seen in the last two days, one from work through office window in Welwyn Garden City and one flying through my Harpenden garden today - Robin Pearson

An additional sighting for yesterday (Fri 25th July 2008) - 1 Holly Blue, at Dalrymple Close, Southgate, N14 at 15:44 BST - Robert Callf.

Friday 25th July

New Brimstones, Peacocks, GV Whites & a Holly Blue in Bricket Wood this morning. Essex Skipper is doing better at the site this year & Purple Hairstreak numbers are now higher after a poor start. SW Fritillary was in the ride, but I was unable to repeat last weeks Purple Emperor sighting. This afternoon at Hexton Chalk pit I saw 145 Chalkhill Blues in a 20 minute timed walk around the reserve. Pretty spectacular, but only about 10% of the numbers I recorded in the same period at the site 2 years ago. The turf height seems significantly higher & I guess this is whats restricting the numbers. - Malcolm Hull

I had a great day yesterday and managed to see 21 species at two sites within the Ruislip and District NHS area. Highlight was a Silver washed Fritillary in Park Wood which was totally unexpected. Also here were a Purple Emperor and a rather 'tatty' White Admiral plus Small Skipper, Speckled Wood, Purple Hairstreak and Holly Blue. Also visited was Ladywalk Wood at Maple Cross where I saw one fresh White Letter Hairstreak. Also here were Marbled White (several), Green veined White, Large White, Small White, Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown, Ringlet (several), Red Admiral, Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock, Large Skipper, Essex Skipper and Comma. Quite a day and in glorious weather. John Edwards

News for today (Friday 25th July 2008) between 09:30 and 11:55 BST - 1 Peacock, at 'Barracks', Vicarage Farm, 09:55 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 10:20 BST; 1 Green-veined White, edge of Williams Wood, 10:33 BST; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, on buddleia, by Lower Lake, 10:50 BST - First of the summer-brood I have seen!; 1 Peacock, on buddleia, by Lower Lake, 10:50 BST; 1 Comma, on buddleia, by Lower Lake, 10:50 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, near Sports Field, 11:15 BST; 2 Small Copper, at 'New Fields', Trent Park, 11:25 BST, on thistles and 11:37 BST, on Ragwort; 2 Peacock, at 'New Fields', Trent Park, 11:32 BST, on thistles, and 11:37 BST; 1 Ringlet, near Triangular Wood, 11:40 BST; 1 Green-veined White, near Oakwood entrance, Trent Park, 11:49 BST - Robert Callf.

Thursday 24th July

1 White Admiral 50m past dip in main ride; 5+ Purple Hairstreak; 1 F Purple Emperor at 13.30hrs c120m along main ride from car park flew from oaks just past bracken patch on right - presumably same individual seen in same area twice before by another observer. - Nigel May

Stopped under the elms on the old road at Royston at 6.15 and up to 5 white-letter hairstreak were active around just one of the many elms. It's hard to imagine how many wlh are up in the those trees on just one day! - Liz Goodyear & Andrew Middleton

at 1.20 pm at Transect Wood Lane, Pirton towards top end of path, one White Letter Hairstreak feeding on marjoram. Pair of Large Whites and also pair of Gatekeepers mating - Val Fullforth

Wednesday 23rd July

Northaw Great Wood 11am----5+ Purple hairstreak-----Oak canopy /lower yellow trail adjacent too two bridges and Wych Elms---These elms dead and dying ----need felling and burning --have informed H/W council--- very few amounts of-small skipper -ringlet -gatekeeper, meadow brown and speckled wood along rides. This wood does not seem as productive as other sites i have visited in the past 3 months? -----also no really large stands of mature Sallow that PE seem to prefer?? 2pm-Old Courthouse Recreation Ground, Wood Street, High Barnet----! x Marbled White-- --dont think this has been recorded in London Borough of Barnet Before?-----GV Whites egg laying on Garlic mustard,--Holly blue on ivy- Large White on feral Nasturtions-----Kit Jones

A male Purple Emperor was seen on open ground on the southern edge of Bishop's Wood near Harefield, I think just within the Herts boundary at approx. on 23rd July - Steve Austin

Today 23rd July, that Peacock is still around in the garden in mint condition. I also observed a Male Gatekeeper try and fail to break and enter through the glass of the patio door. ;) - Mike Rubin

St Albans, Moira and I were both very surprised and very pleased to see a White Admiral (tatty) fly through our garden at 2.30 today - we go to Bricket Wood Common to see them! - Glen Barnes

About 50 Chalkhill Blues at Hexton Chalk Pits today 23/7/08 plus Gatekeepers, Ringlet, Meadow Brown, Large and Green Veined Whites, Small and Essex Skippers (black antennae tips) Brimstone along the lane. No sign of White letter Hairstreak or Dark Green Fritillery - Nigel Agar

at Waterford Heath today plenty of whites and browns but saw my first small tortoiseshell on South pit and a Brown Argus on North. Steve Kiln

King's Langley - Wednesday July 23rd. At long last good numbers of butterfly species seen in Vi Chandler's garden today; two Gatekeepers, five Meadow Browns, a Speckled Wood, four Small Whites, two Small Tortoiseshells, two Peacocks, two Commas and a Red Admiral. Central Park (The Reeds) Watford. TQ 115 973 Around my home in central Watford there were two Peacocks, five Gatekeepers a Meadow Brown & two Holly Blues - David Chandler

Walked the Great Ashby Park transect on Monday in sunny, but windy weather. Numbers increasing, except for Marbled White and Ringlet. 45 Small Skipper, 13 Essex Skipper, 11 Large Skipper, 21 S/E Skippers, 22 Large White, 17 Small White, 3 Green-veined White, 3 Purple Hairstreak, 2 White Letter Hairstreak, 2 Small Tortoiseshell, 10 Comma, 26 Marbled White, 42 Gatekeeper, 204 Meadow Brown, 55 Ringlet. Total 476. I saw my first for the year Hummingbird Hawk Moth today (23rd) in my Great Ashby Garden. - Steve Lane

News for yesterday (Tues 22nd July 2008) - 2 Purple Hairstreak, around Oak, Hog Hill, at Vicarage Farm, 20:26 BST. News for today (Weds 23rd July 2008) - 1 Painted Lady, on buddleia, outside my flat at Dalrymple Close, Southgate, N14 at 10:55 BST, also a Comma here at 10:57 BST. The first butterflies I have seen on this bush this year! - Robert Callf

Tuesday 22nd July

News for yesterday (Mon 21st July 2008) - 1 Small Tortoiseshell, very worn + tatty, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 17:50 BST; 1 Comma, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 17:50 BST; 1 Large Skipper, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 17:50 BST; 1 Peacock, at Parkside Farm near Hadley Rd Pumping Station, 18:18 BST; 3 Purple Hairstreak, together, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at

Vicarage Farm, 19:00 BST. Also Robin White saw a Marbled White on thistles in set-aside field at Vicarage Farm on Fri 18th July 2008 - this is the 26th species recorded in this tetrad since 2005! On Sat 19th July 2008 - 2 Comma, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 15:36 BST and 15:46 BST. - Robert Callf

On Sunday we went to Balls Wood at approx 9.30am and saw, Small Skippers, Gatekeepers, Large Skippers, Ringlets, Large White, GV White, Commas, Speckled Woods, Meadow Browns. We went for a walk this evening and found more trees with Purple Hairstreaks. Sandra and Kevin Standbridge

White Admiral and Purple Emperors in Broxbourne Woods 21 July 08 No sign of WAs in Knebworth Woods this morning 22 July. Comma present - Nigel Agar

Just recorded 2 marbled white butterflies in Westland Green, East Herts. Attached a flyby photo but after recharging camera shall go back to see if I can get a resting photo. Neither stopped flying for the 25 minutes I observed them - Jonathan Forgham

I went up Barnhill before lunch. Just a short walk though as I am still run down. Loads of Gatekeepers (100+). A good few Meadow Browns but numbers well down because the stupid authorities have mown half the meadows!!!! This time last year those barren mown areas were full of nectar sources and hundreds of meadow browns. Also saw 1 Peacock, a number of GV and Small Whites, Small (Essex?) Skippers and Speckled Woods. The yukkiest sighting was a Holly Blue settling on dog poo. Was not about to photograph that one! - Mike Rubin

Thunderfield Grove nature Reserve Wormley 11am----I x Tatty male White Admiral----1x Comma---many Gatekeeper and Meadow Brown ---all on bramble ----- central east - west ride----- Cinnabar Moth larvae on ragwort in car park----also Brown hawker dragonfly-----Large whites abundant---and a few G V W----I x Large Skipper-----Kit Jones

Monday 21st July

Was resting today after a trip. Observed a pristine Peacock gorging itself on the garden Buddleia. Also saw a Male Gatekeeper fluttering around, and a Large White landing on my cucumber plants and Nasturtiums. Earlier in the day someone else saw a Holly Blue at the bottom of the garden. Isn't it lovely when you can rest and still go butterflying? Not bad for suburbia. - Mike Rubin

12 noon--Ix Purple Emperor female on bramble---West Car park Bencroft Wood. **NB--There were two foreign gentlemen at Broxbourne woods carrying nets, Baco foil and rotten fruit---- they asked me if i knew where the PE master tree was--- I guess they were not going on a picnic?---- I have the registration number of their car (Polish plates)}**-----Kit Jones

In the last week, we have received two more Purple Emperor sightings from the Ashridge/Gaddesden/Berkhamsted area of both male and female butterflies.

Sat 19th July - Park Wood, Ruislip Despite the windy conditions I had 2 sightings of PE between 12.40 - 12.55 (possibly the same individual). Purple Hairstreak abundant in good numbers out of the wind. Also 3 Holly Blue, 2 fairly worn White Admiral, 2 Red admiral, Comma, 2 Speckled wood, Large & Small White. The meadows adjacent to Park Wood by the new housing estate were alive with Meadow Brown & Gatekeeper. A few Small Skipper and a Marbled White. Sunday 20th July - Ladywalk Wood, Maple Cross. I saw at least 4 WL Hairstreak, 2 above the Elms and 2 settled on Bramble. Lots of Ringlet, Meadow Brown & Gatekeeper. Also Small Skipper, Essex Skipper, Holly Blue, Marbled White, Peacock, Comma, Red Admiral, Small Copper, Large & Small White. on the small area of Bramble & set-aside on the southern edge of the Wood. The most interesting sighting however was a large Fritillary (prob SW) which flew over my head as I was crossing the footbridge over the M25 (near J17). It settled briefly on Bramble by the mobile phone mast, unfortunately not long enough for me to see its underside to confirm its identity. Steve Pash

Moirs and I are still doing our Tuesday walks in Bricket Wood Common and on the 15 July we saw at least 4 Silver Washed's as we walked along the 'Pipeline' path and took photos of them - Glen Barnes

News for yesterday (Sunday 20th July 2008) - 2 Holly Blue and 2 Purple Hairstreak at Oakwood Park, N14 - Robert Callf

Saturday 19th July

Grovelands Park field trip with Enfield Outreach, 15 species of butterfly seen including small copper, holly blue, peacock and purple hairstreaks; few moths trapped but included black arches.

Friday 25th July 8.15pm - Trent Park (Cockfosters/west entrance start) - we will take a look at moths trapped the previous evening, followed by a bat walk with Jackie Wedd / Enfield Outreach - Andrew Middleton

News from 2nd July 08 - Hummingbird Hawkmoth by TeRNS secretary Annie Woodhouse at about 2130 near Allens Gardens, Stoke Newington, London at TQ333872.

On Tues 15th July 2008 visited Oakwood Park, N14 early morning and saw a single Green-veined White settled at 07:02 BST. - Robert Callf

Thursday 17th July

Tue 15th July 08 - Broxbourne Common, after a brief sighting of a male on the 12th at 15.40, 3-4 males were holding territory and chasing around the oaks and ashes at Broxbourne Common, seen 1.30-2pm when it became cloudy; Later a male silver-washed fritillary at Hatfield Forest, Essex - Laurence Drummond

Trent Park---16/7/08---1pm---Hadley Road Woodland Car park-----First fresh Peacock of the year---nectaring on bramble-----1x Purple hairstreak----promenading-on car park gravel.---1x Emperor dragonfly hunting the car park area----Kit Jones

Went out yesterday evening (Weds 16th July 2008) and counted at least 12 Purple Hairstreak,(10+ together over Elms at Duncan's Wood, Enfield Chase, 18:47 BST, and 2 at Park Farm over Oak, 19:03 BST) - Robert Callf.

Tuesday 15th July

Yesterday Jack (aged four and three-quarters!) and I went on our first ever Purple Emperor (*Apatura iris*) expedition. We went to Broxbourne Woods, one of the best sites near our house (40 minutes drive), and immediately encountered several enthusiasts standing around expectantly with telescopes and binoculars. None had been successful that day, and most had never seen a specimen, or only once before in their lifetime. Jack and I weren't all that keen on their chosen spot, so we potted on with Jack eagerly pointing out butterflies left, right, and centre. We reached a junction, headed North a 100 yards, and then, on the path in a sunlit clearing, I spotted horse manure and the unmistakable shape of a Purple Emperor probing away with its proboscis. I was so thrilled - this was my first ever attempt to find PE, and to think we'd had such good luck! In fact, it got so much better - it let us get very close, and was perfectly happy to let us take some photos and video. Eventually it took off, but was evidently not scared, as it came straight for me and Jack, and circled us many times. Then it settled on Jack - and the sequence of photos tells the story! All in all we had 3 separate groundings, with the longest lasting over 20 minutes on my backpack (of tropical vintage, hence steeped in deliciously tempting salts). It was especially favoured, as you can see from the photographers crowding around it! What surprised me was the size of this butterfly - I assumed it would be the same as a Neotropical apaturine (*Doxocopa*), but no, it is the size of a small charaxine - really strong and robust. Quite amazing to see it! Andrew Neild with Jack

Hayes garden, after a very slow start for garden butterflies the following arrived in my garden in Hayes. 1 Comma, 2 Meadow brown, 1 Female Speckled Wood, 1 Red Admiral, 2 Large Whites, 2 Holly Blues and 1 Hummingbird Hawkmoth. Helen George

Pat Hayes took a photo of a male Purple Emperor on her front door, in Potten End, Berkhamsted. "We were so thrilled to have seen the butterfly!! The neighbours came round to have a look too!"

Symondshyde Wood, 1 possibly 2 Male & 1 female SILVER WASHED FRITILLARY, numerous WHITE ADMIRALS, 2 WHITE LETTER HAIRSTREAK (this species gets harder & harder to track down in this wood), No Tortoiseshells - Darin Stanley

A single Purple Hairstreak, was seen settled on Field Maple near Trent Park Equestrian Centre, at 11:48 BST (Tues 15th July 2008). Robert Callf

Brunel University Campus Lunchtime walk on 15/7/08 revealed plenty of Meadow Brown &

Gatekeeper, 4 Small Skipper, 2 Holly Blue, 2 Comma, Red Admiral, Peacock, 2 Lge White and Six-spot Burnet Moth. Steve Pash

Monday 14th July

Records for today (Monday 14th July 2008) - 2 Comma, along bridle-path near Shaws Wood, 14:23 BST and 14:26 BST; 7 Purple Hairstreak, around Ash, edge of Williams Wood, 14:40 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, on Ash, edge of Williams Wood, 14:00 BST; 1 Comma, at Parkside Farm, near Hadley Rd Pumping Station, 15:55 BST; 2 Comma, together, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 16:00 BST. Also, Monday 14th July 2008, - 2 Comma, together, on buddleia at Oakwood entrance, 11:40 BST; 1 male Large Skipper, Sect.1, 'New Fields', 11:45 BST; 1 Small Copper, near Sect.8 'New Fields', 11:55 BST; 1 Green-veined White, near Triangular Wood, 11:57 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, Sect.7, along tube-line, 12:05 BST; 1 Comma, Sect.7, along tube-line, 12:06 BST; 1 female Essex Skipper, Sect.6, 'New Fields', 12:12 BST - My first of the year!; 1 Small Heath, Sect.6, 'New Fields', 12:20 BST; 1 Purple Hairstreak, edge of Church, 12:32 BST; 1 Comma, edge of Church Wood, 12:35 BST. - Robert Callf

Silver-washed Fritillary seen in the small childrens play area along Adpar Street/Hall Place W2 (Paddington Green) - news via London birders and Alan Reynolds

Sunday 13th July

I had the privilege to watch 5 (I think 4m & 1f) PE together in Park Wood, Ruislip between 11.30 - 12.40 - Steve Pash

Today, I spent most of my time in various Broxbourne Wood locations, yielding: 8 White Admirals (Balls Wood, TL344104 (2); Ermine Street, TL347091; Highfield Wood, TL346083 & TL340081; Cowheath Wood, TL 330077; Claypits Wood ("The Ride"), TL325071; Wormley Wood, TL317053) 1 Red Admiral (Highfield Wood, TL346083) 1 Gatekeeper at Ermine Street, TL347091 Plenty of Purple Hairstreak (one showing nicely at TL342075, until I got my camera of course), Ringlet, Meadow Brown, Speckled Wood, Comma, Large and Small Skipper. I didn't pay too much attention to the whites, but I saw Green-veined White (Balls Wood (2), "The Ride" (1)) and Large White (Balls Wood (3), "The Ride" (1)). After waiting an hour at the trampled grass along the Ride, I gave up on the Purple Emperor that had shown at 12 pm and headed for Wormley Wood. Here I managed to see one chase and two fly-overs between 3:30 and 4 pm, high up above a pond with a small island along the bridleway (I guess TL322055). Earlier, I had a hairstreak along Lord Street that looked like a tattered White-Letter, but then it spread its wings while seated... so a Purple in an elm? The light wasn't great I must admit - Jan Hein Van Steenis

Garden picking up at last with six species seen today, two Holly Blues, Large Whites, Small Whites, Brimstone, Comma and the first Large Skipper since 2006 - Malcolm Newland

34 people attended the branch field trip to Bricket Wood Common, St Albans. On a fairly sunny morning we saw four Silver-washed Fritillaries (3 males, one not sexed), ten White Admiral, three Red Admiral, three Purple Hairstreak as well as numerous Ringlets, Gatekeepers, Meadow Browns, Marbled Whites, Speckled Woods, Small, Large & Green-veined Whites, Large & Small Skippers. Full account to follow in the next branch newsletter...Malcolm Hull

13/7/08--10am-----Broxbourne wood-NNR-----!x Purple Emperor female basking on trunk of Oak tree - main clearing --end of western ride----this was attacked 3x by a large wasp-which seemed to sense the butterflies change of location- -forcing it to escape over the canopy-----also I x female large white--1x large skipper-3x comma----many speckled wood -ringlet and meadow brown--all along the main western ride 1pm Oakhill Woods LNR----First Gatekeepers of the year--4x Males--I x female----I x Large White-----Myriads Meadow Brown -and Small Skippers -----4x Comma-----Many speckled wood-----4x six spot burnet moths----2x five spot-----Kit Jones

A delight to see 2 Marbled Whites in an uncultivated triangle of land on the south side of Cooters End Lane, Harpenden, at 0945 this morning: my last sighting in this locality was about two decades ago. Despite the recent weather, the density of butterflies was as great as I can ever recall seeing in this part of Hertfordshire. Incidentally, the record of a Hummingbird Hawkmoth at Tempest Avenue, Potters Bar (Tony Hurford, 10 July) brought back memories: as a young child in the 1950s I was thrilled to find one at no. 26 Tempest Avenue! Alan Jackson

In Hilliers garden centre at Hemel Hempstead yesterday afternoon I saw a fresh looking Humming Bird Hawkmoth nectaring for several minutes on a pot of Verbena "Claret." Said plant is now

residing in my herbaceous border! Malcolm Newland

Some observations for yesterday (Sat 12th July 2008) in the Trent Park Area - 1 Large Skipper, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 13:42 BST; 1 female Large Skipper, at Parkside Farm - on Res banking, 14:02 BST; 2 Comma, together, edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park, 14:42 BST; 1 Purple Hairstreak, settling on Sweet Chestnut flowers, edge of Moat Wood, 14:47 BST; 1 Comma, near Water Grdn., 15:00 BST; 1 Comma, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, 15:15 BST; 1 Red Admiral, along gravel-track, at Vicarage Farm, 15:35 BST. Also a number of Large and Small White, Small Skipper - no Essex positively identified yet, Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper and Ringlet. Robert Callf

Friday 11th July

11 July. Managed to do my transect of The Warren (Colney Heath) today before the rain. A reasonable score; 25 Small/Essex Skipper, 41 Meadow Brown, 24+ Marbled White (mostly fresh; I'm sure there were more, but what with the strong wind & them milling around I didn't want to risk double-counting), 3 Small Heath (all rather tatty), 1 Ringlet (a new species for the site; possibly a couple more mixed in with M.Browns); 3 Gatekeeper (my first this year, shining new), 1 Comma (also brand new) then, nearby a lovely fresh Red Admiral. Cheers one up a bit. John Moss

Broxbourne Wood, Thu 10 July am, male purple emperor 9.39, and Fri 11 again, both times circling low; Wormley Wood Fri 4th Jul 2 clashing male purple emperors; Thu 10 Jul, 4 white-letter hairstreaks at Lord Street nr Hoddesdon where it crosses over the A10 (TL359087) - Laurence Drummond

Northaw Great Wood, 1 purple emperor - Andrew Middleton

Thursday - Bricket Wood - 5 White Admirals, 1 Comma, 3 Silver-washed Fritillaries Friday - Whippendale Wood, Watford - 3 Silver-washed Fritillaries, 2 Comma Symonshyde Wood, Hatfield - 8 White Admiral, 7 Comma, 8 Large Whites - Malcolm Hull

Hemel Hempstead, the generally abysmal butterfly year so far in my neck of the woods was brightened somewhat by seeing a Marbled White on my allotment wildlife garden, the first that I have encountered there, followed at home by my first Ringlet for two years - Malcolm Newland

Just managed to fit my transect walk in today, between the clouds and rain. Numbers and species still increasing, which is good. Three first for the year today Essex Skipper, Gatekeeper and White Letter Hairstreak and the all important numbers; 17 Small Skippers, 2 Essex Skippers, 6 Small/Essex Skippers, 25 Large Skippers, 8 Large White, 1 Small White, 1 Green-veined White, 1 S/G-V White, 1 White Letter Hairstreak, 1 Red Admiral, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Comma, 3 Speckled Wood, 35 Marbled White, 2 Gatekeeper, 121 Meadow Brown, 1 Small Heath, 72 Ringlet. Total 299. A most enjoyable 1 1/2 hours - Steve Lane

At Maple Cross today Comma 4, Large white 2 - Sezar Hikmet

Thursday 10th July

A few observations for today (Thurs 10th July 2008) from 13:10 - 16:00 BST in the Trent Park area - 1 Purple Hairstreak, near Shaws Wood, 13:22 BST; 1 Small Skipper, near Dew Pond, 13:30 BST; 1 Comma, by Lower Lake, 14:00 BST; 1 Red Admiral, at Park Farm, 14:35 BST; 1 female Large Skipper, at Parkside Farm, near Hadley Rd Pumping Station, 15:18 BST; 2 Small Skipper, at Parkside Farm, near Hadley Rd Pumping Station, 15:18 BST; 1 Ringlet, at Parkside Farm, near Hadley Rd Pumping Station, 15:18 BST; 1 Small Heath, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 15:26 BST; 2 male Gatekeeper, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 15:25 and 15:28 BST; 1 Comma, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 15:28 BST; 1 Red Admiral, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 15:28 BST. Also a few Large Whites and Meadow Browns - Robert Callf

You may be interested in a recent sighting of a single Hummingbird Hawkmoth in Potters Bar Where: Tempest Avenue Potters Bar When: Tuesday 8th July 2008 around 18.40 hours for 5 minutes Feeding on lavender bush with proboscis, hovering about 25 mm away from flowers Jerky looping flight Weather: sunny, about 18°C, little wind Flew off due north - Tony Hurford

12 Noon- Oakhill Woods LNR-----Having said there were no records for Ringlet on this site-----one was seen today nectaring on Knapweed!--along with myriads Small skipper and Meadow brown---

two Essex skipper--3X 5 Spot Burnet-----3 Red Admiral-----20 X Speckled Wood-----1 X WL
Hairstreak-nectaring on Hemp agrimony - Kit Jones

Wednesday 9th July

1 PRIVET HAWK MOTH on pavement in Millford Hill, Batford. Alas it appears to have been trodden on or some sort of nasty accident as it was barely alive when found. Still nice to know they are around. Photo included. Darin Stanley

Dropped into Hexton Chalk Pit this evening (8th July). Weather was marginal but I found a **single male Chalkhill Blue** at about 5.45pm. Also a few Marbled Whites, Small Heaths, Ringlets and Meadow Browns plus a single Small Skipper - Ian Woiwod

Today 8th July was comma day, 11 at Waterford Heath, 6 in Broxbourne woods, 3 in Bencroft. Also saw White Admiral and Purple hairstreak at Bencroft 15 and Broxbourne 2. Silver washed fritillary and Red Admiral in Broxbourne ride - Steve Kiln

Two fresh male Silver- washed Fritillaries in the main ride at Bricket Wood this morning. This is the fifth year in a row that this species has been recorded at this site. Fresh specimens fairly early in the season suggest that the SWF should now be regarded as resident in the wood. Gatekeepers also out for the first time this year at the site today. White Admiral numbers remain good. Marbled White and Ringlets are also doing well. Purple Hairstreak, Comma, Large and Small Skippers and Red Admiral are also out at present. A newly hatched Scarce Silver-lines moth fell out of an oak tree on to my head!. The Branch field trip at this site is this Sunday, 10 am meeting halfway down School Lane. All welcome. Malcolm Hull

Brunel University Campus, Uxbridge - 8/7/08 Short lunchtime walk in sunshine revealed dozens of Meadow Brown & Gatekeeper, 1 Lge Skipper, 6+ Small Skipper, Large & Small White, 2 Comma, Speckled Wood, Holly Blue, Common Blue and Small Copper. Steve Pash

Broxbourne Woods field trip on Sunday despite horrid weather (we went home at 1 o'clock) was remarkably successful. Those arriving early were treated to a Silver-washed Fritillary nectaring on brambles and a few White Admiral. However in a moment of brightness a large male Emperor flew onto the tallows above our heads and perched there for the duration of the field trip, allowing everyone a good view! The most interesting moment came, when LG commented that something had landed on her but noticing she was under a fir tree assumed it was a fir cone, only for someone to notice a large 'bug' climbing up her leg. This turned out to be a freshly emerged pine hawkmoth which spent the morning on the trunk of said fir tree (once removed from LG's leg), expanding and giving everyone a chance to take a photo of a very fresh hawkmoth - several observers

Not much to report for yesterday (Mon 7th July 2008) - 1 male Large Skipper, edge of Williams Wood, 14:35 BST; 3 Small Skipper, near Lower Lake, Trent Park, 15:20 BST. Other than that just Ringlets and Meadow Browns - Robert Callf

Visited Broxbourne Woods on Saturday afternoon July 5th and walked the loop from the western carpark. Weather generally sunny but blustery. Saw 30+ Ringlet, 30 + Meadow Brown, two Purple Hairstreak, one Small White, one White Admiral, one Red Admiral, four Commas, two Small / Essex Skippers (I'm not sure which) and most impressively what we think was a Silver Washed Fritillary. This was flying rapidly up and down the path from the carpark and did not come to rest but at one stage "buzzed" a comma where it was clear to see that it was about half as large again, had unserrated wings and was a lighter orangey brown in colour - Roger Newbold

Aldbury Nowers, I saw 100+ Ringlet, 75+ Marbled white, 100+ Meadow Brown, 1 Large Skipper, 1 Small Heath, 2 Gatekeeper - Gavin Vicary

I saw a PE high in the trees in Broxbourne Wood on Friday afternoon. July 5 - Nigel Agar

Saturday 5th July

No updates now to mid week

Having just finished our morning walk around Fishers Green, A White Letter Hairstreak landed on our car in the Fishers Green car park. Unfortunately it did not stay long enough to get a picture. It was 12.30 and sunny - Sandra and Kevin Standbridge

Made a two hour afternoon visit to Broxbourne Woods. Among butterflies seen were singles of **Silver-washed Fritillary, Purple Emperor** and Comma. Six Purple Hairstreaks, 4 White Admirals, along with 16 Ringlets and 10 Meadow Browns - Clive Burrows

Friday 4th July

Last weekend Dave Beer and myself completed our 3 bird atlas squares, we saw lots of butterflies around each square, but of note, were 3 colonies of Marbled Whites, we have not recorded previously, around 20 butterflies in total. Two quite close to Great Ashby Park and the other between Weston and Halls Green. I have also noticed this year an increase in numbers around Great Ashby Park whilst doing my transect walk. I did my transect walk on Tuesday 1st July and recorded; 8 Small Skippers, 13 Large Skipper, 1 Large White, 2 Green-veined White, 1 female Brimstone, 27 Marbled White, 111 Meadow Brown, 6 Small Heath and 47 Ringlet. Total 217. Steve Lane

Thursday 3rd July

Today's surprise in Horsenden Hill was a tatty looking Small Copper in the grazing meadow. First Small Copper I've seen in ages. Several definite Small Skippers. Zillions of Meadow Browns. 1 5-spot Burnet. Green Veined White. Cloudy conditions made them easier to ID once spotted. Not much else to report though. Thunderstorm hit about 4:30pm - 5pm which made for an entertaining motorbike ride home, but no leps. Some pretty lightning though right over Wembley Stadium. - Mike Rubin

Broxbourne Wood NR, along main ride, c10.05am a male Pemp settled in a willow, sat out a shower, basked, then flew off, also several white admirals here and Hoddesdonpark Wood recently - Laurence Drummond

Bricket Wood 3 July, nothing exciting. Four Marbled Whites in big clearing: TL130007 I presume this is a known locality. Nothing else of interest seen. It rained! Jack Harrison

Oakhill woods LNR East Barnet---- Central Wych elm area----3x W.L. Hairstreak above canopy- 2x Purple Hairstreak----Oak canopy Southern boundary-----One Red Admiral female egg laying on nettles bordering hay field---Numerous Large and Small skippers, Meadow Browns and Speckled Woods -----No Peacock or Tortoiseshell nests recorded this year and no Brimstone caterpillars!--- --this is the first year with no records since 1994. Common blue butterfly and Burnet moths limited to individual sightings-----Ringlet and Small Heath not recorded on this site despite proximity to Trent Park.-----Kit Jones

Broxbourne Woods NR, male Purple Emperor circles me late afternoon - Ian Woiwod

Monday 30 June. The Warren (Colney Heath). 31 sparkling new Marble Whites today on my transect (13.40 - 14.30), so many I stopped counting to avoid risk of double counting. Nearly all in same area as last year. 2007 max (29 June) 23. 2006, (28 June) 1. Previous years 0. Seems confirmation of new breeding site. Otherwise Meadow Brown (34), Small Heath (12), Small/Essex Skipper (15), Common Blue (1), Small/GV White (1), all down on last year's nos. Am concerned about low numbers of Small Heath, but the habitat is changing - growing ranker with wet spring & limited mowing - John Moss

26 June. Longmead Farm Meadows (Goffs Oak). I recorded the following on a grassland survey of private land. Meadow Brown (7+), Ringlet (10+), Large Skipper (3), Small Skipper (7+), Comma (10), all very fresh (especially the Comma - stunning). Actual numbers probably considerably higher, but counting butterflies is not easy when one is focussed on ground flora & grasses!. Hope this helps, even if late. John Moss

Wednesday 2nd July

We went for an evening walk in Balls Wood. We saw Ringlets, Meadow Brown, Small Skipper and 6 plus Purple Hairstreaks. The PH were down the track on the right hand side from the main entrance. They were at the top of the largest Oak and a lot of clashing was taking place. This was at approx 7.30pm and in bright sunshine. On our way back out of Balls Wood and in a field just off of London road we saw many oaks all containing PH. Sandra and Kevin Standbridge

News from Saturday, sightings for my Transect walk, around Great Ashby Park, Stevenage. 17 Large Skippers, 2 Green-veined Whites, 1 Red Admiral, 2 Comma, 9 Marbled Whites, 62 Meadow Brown and 40 Ringlet. Weather not perfect, a bit to windy, but mostly sunny - Steve Lane

News for yesterday (Tues 1st July 2008) - 7 Comma, at Trent Park (1 bridle-path near Merryhills Brook, 16:20 BST, 3 edge of Williams Wood, 16:33 BST, 1 Icehouse Wood, 16:45 BST, 2 by Lower Lake, 17:00 BST); 1 Large Skipper, near Shaws Wood, Trent Park; 1 Large White, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park; 1 Red Admiral, Uni-lawns, Trent Park, 16:47 BST; 1 Small White, at Parkside Res., 17:25 BST; 1 male Gatekeeper, at Parkside Res., 17:30 BST; 1 Large White, at Parkside Farm, 17:30 BST; 1 Purple Hairstreak, around Ash, near Hadley Rd Pumping Station, Parkside Farm, 17:40 BST; 2 Small Heath, at Vicarage Farm; 6 Large Skipper, at Vicarage Farm - along gravel-track - Robert Callf.

Tuesday 1st July

Morning visit of one and half hours to Bricket Wood provided 8 White Admirals, 1 Red Admiral, 6 Meadow Browns, 4 Large Skippers, **1 Silver-washed Fritillary** and 14 Ringlets. Two photos attached- 1st July. (White Admiral Photo last week) - Clive Burrows

In my ½ hr lunch break on my Local patch in Batford: 1 Gate Keeper, 1 small skipper, 11 Marbled Whites. Later on at Symonshyde Woods nearby Sandridge: 2 WHITE ADMIRALS - Darin Stanley

Disturbed a roost of about 10 Marbled Whites at Wheathampstead LNR this evening, fortunately one settled back down and let me get close enough for this photo - Robin Pearson

Purple Emperor: one on 1 July seen well in flight 1030 hrs Broxbourne Woods near dip on track from western car park. TL326072 Earlier (0930) two WL Hairstreaks same location as reported Monday at Lord Street nr Hoddesdon where it crosses over the A10 (TL359087) on east side of bridge, north side of road. Poor quality record shot attached (taken from what seemed like a million miles away) - Jack Harrison

Purple Emperor seen at the Northaw Territory today - Andrew Middleton Wood Lane, Pirton TL 145310 Transect - **a Dark Green Fritillary** settling on scabious, the first I have recorded at the site. Numbers of Ringlets, 3 male Yellow Brimstones, Speckled Woods egg-laying, just 1 Large White (had dark body so wasn't fem.Brim), Meadow Browns. Also a superb Broad Bodied Chaser (have a good photo of this) and a Migrant Hawker. At home Hitchin, at 10.30 am 1 July - caught in the breeze so didn't settle, a Painted Lady - Val Fullforth

Sunny day at last- Tues 1st July-At Bencroft wood saw my first white admiral as well as, 2 commas, and small and large skippers and 4 purple hairstreak in Bencroft wood 10 am this morning. At Broxbourne Wood saw 2 commas and a red Admiral in ride. At Waterford heath, both on North and south pit saw 2 commas , and saw 1 marbled white in South pit on south part of eastern bank, also small skippers and small heaths , countless ringlets and meadow browns at all sites but no whites - Steve Kiln

Last night, 30th June, Dave Howdon and I estimated c. 60 Purple Hairstreaks on the wing over just a fraction of Horsenden Hill (the eastern part of the East area and the eastern part of the West (which has less oak). Clearly a sustained emergence compared with Sunday, where just a few were found. Also a Comma on Horsenden East last night - these seem to have been a bit 'down' here this year - Andy Culshaw

Archive Page

Sightings and news from January to June 2008

 [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 2008.

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 2008

30th June 2008

One Small Tortoiseshell in Ware Park at 1700 tonight. A few Meadow Browns, Ringlets and Large Skippers on Kings Meads at lunchtime. But I did count 43 Narrow bordered 5 spot burnets on the path below the A10 flyover - Andrew Wood

Therfield Heath, excellent numbers of Marbled White, at the north east corner of the reserve TL351402. As soon as the sun came out, up to 5 seen in the air. Hard to estimate total size of colony but it must be 100+. It is a STRONG colony and the limitation to further expansion could be shortage of favourite nectar plants, Knapweed - Jack Harrison

6+ White letter Hairstreak at Coppetts Wood clashing over Ash at 9.45 am on Thurs 26th June - Tony Clancy

Horsenden Hill, headline of the day: My first Gatekeeper of 2008 spotted in Upper Thrifts! Just the one spotted. A beautiful pristine Male. But didn't stay still long enough for a picture. Otherwise the whole hill was swarming with Meadow Browns and miscellaneous Skippers (large and small atleast). Plenty of Speckled Woods too. Plus one fresh new Comma, and a dark blue/grey lep hairstreaking its way high over a hedge. Dunno exactly what it was. Purple Hairstreak maybe? (Oak wasn't that far away.) Also plenty of Burnets on the move too. But nothing much else to report. I was looking out for Ringlets to repeat last year's record, but none spotted. - Mike Rubin

Oakhill Wood Woods EN4 LNR, Central area/ stream confluence next to snapped off London Plane tree /flying in canopy of large Wych elm-----these elms are dying off this year-----as are the suckers---- - Kit Jones

News for today (Monday 30th June 2008) at Trent Park, 'New Fields', between 12:05 - 13:30 BST - At least 30 Ringlets, although not individually counted; 7 Large Skipper; 1 Gatekeeper, Sect.8 - My first of the year, only seen in flight, but 100% sure; 3 Comma, all summer-brood, (1 Sect.7, 12:41 BST, 1 Sect.6, 12:47 BST, 1 Sect.4, 13:00 BST); 5 Small Heath, between 12:50 - 13:15 BST; 1 Red Admiral, Sect.3, near Church Wood, 13:06 BST; 1 Purple Hairstreak, Snakes Lane, 13:22 BST. A number of Small Skipper and Meadow Brown. News for yesterday (Sunday 29th June 2008) at Oakwood Park, N14, between 16:00 - 17:00 BST - 1 male Purple Hairstreak; 1 Red Admiral, at 16:05 BST; 3 Large Skipper; 3 Small Skipper and Meadow Browns - Robert Callf

Kings Langley: I know this sounds incredible but I visited my mother on Saturday and she told me she had seen a big black and white butterfly with white stipes last week [Thursday June26th]. I asked her was it a Marbled White but she said no it was bigger than that and added it was as large as a Peacock. She went into the bedroom and looked on the butterfly chart and she pointed out a White Admiral! I asked mum "are you sure because I would not expect to see a WA in Barnes Rise" and she said she had got a very good look at it because it was trapped in the greenhouse and I had to let it out.. Mum is convinced she saw a WA; she even commented that just like the PE that passed through her garden in July last year she knew it was different from what she had seen in the garden before. Again I'm amazed, the nearest White Admirals are in woods a few miles away near Watford, but that said I know that WAs are flying at present in the Watford area

because I saw a half dozen on my BC field trip to Ruislip about a week ago. ps Only Meadow Browns flying in Vi's garden on Saturday 28th..... not a white to be seen! - David Chandler

Horsenden Hill: The joint BC/LNHS walk on Saturday morning, 28th June, went well with 13 participants in addition to Dave Howdon and myself. After showing off the contents of the overnight moth trap (highlights Small Elephant Hawk Moth, Poplar Hawk, Scarce Silver Lines) we successfully checked out a spot for Slow-worm, seeing about 9-10 in total. Then off to our first stop for White-letter Hairstreak, our prime target species for the day. We quickly found four individuals over the low elms alongside the footpath/cycle path near the Horsenden Lane canal bridge. One or two sat up briefly to allow views through binoculars or through the telescope, but most people were more satisfied when we got a nectaring individual at head height on bramble. A very obliging Purple Hairstreak was sat in the elms in the same area and allowed prolonged scrutiny using the telescope. We crossed the road into Batts Field, picking up commoner stuff like Meadow Brown, Speckled Wood, Large White and Large Skipper, along with Burnet Companion. This area of the site used to be one of the better spots for W-IH, but the elm habitat here has deteriorated in recent times and we found none here. Great Bramstons was relatively unproductive (as usual!) but once we got out onto Home Mead we quickly discovered three Marbled Whites along with Small Skipper and Narrow-bordered 5-spot Burnet Moth. After a successful morning I set out to do the Horsenden West transect just after noon and found 6 White-letters on section one (the same spot where we had four examples in the morning). This was quickly eclipsed by the appearance of a White Admiral in Section 2 (Batts Field). This was my first confirmed White Admiral for the site (following a tantalising glimpse of a high flying individual a few years ago), though I know of one or two records here over the last few years. Unfortunately it did not linger and was only seen by one other lucky individual. On my way back home I netted my first Essex Skipper of the year and also picked up a couple of **Gatekeepers**. - Andy Culshaw

News from Diane Andrews: walking from Tring Station to Aldbury Nowers across the fields 263 Ringlets and 72 Marbled Whites were counted in an hour in cloudy and windy conditions. Also at Ally Pally on the 25th 2 Painted Ladies.

About 5 White-letter Hairstreaks were seen around noon on the east side of the overpass where Lord Street crosses the A10 (TL359087) (both sides of the road). A nice spot: many tree tops are at head height! Between 2 and 3 pm, single White Admirals were seen three times in or over a large patch of bramble in Highfield Wood. Also present there: 1 Red Admiral, 1 very worn Comma, 2 Large and 1 Small Skipper and plenty of Common Ringlets - Jan Hein van Steenis

Just completed my first walk for Herts & Mddx BC at Ladywalk Wood in Maple Cross on Sunday morning. The weather was alternately hot and humid then cloudy and windy! In the 2 hours or so we saw the following butterflies - 1 comma, 2 red admirals, 1 lone large white. There were a few large skippers but a great many meadow browns and ringlets. We lost count after a couple of dozen of each. Our target species for the walk was white letter hairstreak. We saw several pairs spiralling above the trees and got a closer look through binoculars at one which was settled on ash. I was also very pleased to see several dozen marbled whites throughout the area. In fact they seemed as common as the meadow browns. It was disappointing to see no signs of peacock or small tortoiseshell caterpillars on any of the nettles. Finally we also saw a narrow bordered 5 spot burnet and a shaded broad bar moth, some black tailed skimmers and a skylark - Ann Piper

A walk round Wheathampstead LNR produced 20+ Marbled Whites, numerous Meadow Browns and Ringlets, 1 Small Skipper, 10+ 5-spot Burnet Moths, 1 Shaded Broad Bar, 1 Red Admiral

News for Fri 27th June 2008 - 2 Ringlet, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 13:46 BST; 1 Small Skipper, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 14:09 BST; 1 Small White, at Park Farm; 1 Speckled Wood, at Park Farm, 14:44 BST; 1 Painted Lady, at Park Farm, 14:48 BST - only my second record for the year!; 1 Small Heath, at Parkside Farm, 15:10 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, at Parkside Farm, 15:17 BST; 3 Large Skipper, at Vicarage Farm (1 along Leeging Beech Gutter near Williams Wood, 15:30 BST, 1 along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, 15:34 BST, 1 at 'Barracks', 15:55 BST); 1 Small Heath, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 15:37 BST; 1 Red Admiral, near Firing Range, at Vicarage Farm, 16:00 BST, also a Weasel here.

Thursday 26th June

A White Admiral seen in Knebworth Woods at around 1050 am today plus several Meadow Browns and Ringlets. - Peter Clarke

Monday 23rd. Ruislip Woods. Finally things have started picking up. 2 **Purple Hairstreak**, 1 Red Admiral, 1 Comma, many Speckled Woods, a dozen or so Ringlets and 15 White Admiral sighted throughout Park, Mad Bess and Copse Woods plus Large and Small/Essex skippers and many Browns along the fringes. A solitary Common Blue seen clinging on for life out of the wind in the scrubby area on the steep eastern hillside of Haste Hill golf course. 5 Marbled Whites and many Mother Shiptons and Browns on Ruislip common (north west of the Lido car park). Highlight of this 3 hour observation was having a 'fresh as a daisy' White Admiral basking on my leg but much too quick for me to photograph - Nick Furtek

Just visited the 'New Fields', Trent Park between 14:05 - 15:20 BST and recorded the following - 12 Ringlet, (6 in Sect.1, 14:11 - 14:17 BST; 5 'New Fields', between 14:25 - 14:57 BST, 1 set-aside field near Triangular Wood, 15:12 BST); 7 Large Skipper, between 14:11 - 15:02 BST; 12 Small Heath, between 14:15 - 15:05 BST; 4 Small Skipper; 2 Speckled Wood, Sect.7, 14:34 - 14:36 BST; 2 Comma, Sect.4, one 'faded', 14:52 BST and one 'fresh', 14:58 BST; 1 Narrow-bordered Five-Spot Burnet, Sect.1; 1 Burnet Companion, Sect.6 - Robert Callf

Went over to Oak Hill Park, East Barnet again yesterday (Weds 25th June 2008) with Bob Husband and saw the following - 3 Large Skipper, including a female; 1 Comma - the first 'summer-brood' I have seen; Meadow Brown and at least four Speckled Wood - Robert Callf

Wednesday 25th June

Found 6 White Admirals in an early morning trip to Bricket Wood. Settling frequently in the ideal sun/cloud conditions. Also 2 Ringlets and a pair of Large Skippers. - Clive Burrows

Whilst picking my granddaughter up from school today, we saw 4 Marbled Whites, 3 Ringlets and a Meadow Brown all by the Welcome to Stevenage sign, between Sainsbury's and Stevenage North/A1 junction - Steve Lane

Batford, seen in my lunch: ½ hr. 2 Marbled White, 4 Large Skipper, 1 Ringlet, 1 Common Blue, 2 Small Heath, Numerous Meadow browns - Darin Stanley Popped down to Waterford Heath south pit, this morning 25th, it was cloudy and windy with little sun. saw 30 plus meadow browns, a couple of small heath ,ten ringlets a small white and to my surprise a marbled white. photos attached - Steve Kiln

News for yesterday (Tues 24th June 2008) - 1 Red Admiral, bridle-path near Merryhills Brook, Trent Park, 15:34 BST; 3 Speckled Wood,(2 together, bridle-path near Merryhills Brook, 15:34 BST, 1 near Shaws Wood, Trent Park, 15:39 BST); 4 Ringlet,(3 edge of Williams Wood, 15:48 BST, 1 near Dew Pond, 15:53 BST); 1 male Large Skipper, edge of Williams Wood, 15:48 BST; 1 Common Blue, at Parkside Farm - on Res banking, 16:40 BST; 1 Large Skipper, at Parkside Farm - on Res banking, 16:45 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, at Parkside Farm, near Hadley Road Pumping Station, 16:55 BST; 2 Small Heath, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 17:01 and 17:03 BST; 5 Large Skipper, along gravel-track, at Vicarage Farm, 17:19 - 17:25 BST, including at least one female - Robert Callf.

Tuesday 24th June

On 24th June Tuesday, at Balls Wood, I saw my first White Admiral of the year at 1.55pm. 1 newly emerged Comma plus 1 very worn,lots of Speckled Woods, Large Skippers, Ringlets & Meadow Browns Plus a Buzzard . Yesterday I walked through Balls Wood along Ermine Rd to Goose Green and then into Broxbourne Woods taking the path right of the pond. The track to start with was very muddy and overgrown but I managed to walk to the top of the hill, my sighting were 1 Large White, Large Skippers, Meadow Browns and Ringlets. I also saw puddles along the track that contained many Tadpoles and baby Newts. (I hope the puddles don't dry out.) - Sandra Standbridge.

Horsenden Hill, nothing as exciting as yesterday but it still had its moments... Nice to see the return of the Marbled White. 22x Meadow Brown 2x Speckled Wood 1x Unidentified Skipper. 1x Unidentified White 1x Straw Dot 1x Silver Y - got very close to it unusually. 1x Suspected White Letter Hairstreak 1x MARBLED WHITE! My first of 2008. Tracked it for more than 5 minutes around the field closest to the tennis courts (north end) but it wasn't stopping at all. Several Crambid type moths. Several dragonflies always nice to see. - Mike Rubin

3 fresh Marbled White on my transect in exactly the area where I recorded large numbers last summer for the first time. My hope that a new breeding species on the site is establishing could be

correct. Otherwise not a lot - 1 Large Skipper, 7 Small Heath, 21 Meadow Brown, 2 Common Blue (m), 1 Small White, but best score so far this year - John Moss

Monday 23rd June

Quite a few marbled whites, meadow brown and ringlets at Alpine Meadow yesterday (23/06) - Paul Thrush

On the way home about 4:45'ish I saw a large Red Admiral sized lep chasing cars on Kenton Road between Harrow and Kenton Station. It looked black apart from a faint white edge all around. It was briefly flying alongside me in the adjacent lane so got a reasonable view of it for a second or two. The first thought was Camberwell Beauty but surely not such a rare vagrant in such an urban environment? Never seen one before except in pictures. Anyone got any idea what else it could have been? A large moth perhaps? It was quite a strong flyer. I so wanted to stop to try and photograph it but had no chance as it was moving fast, and I couldn't stop anyway. Ah well made the commute home more interesting... - Mike Rubin

This afternoon, Mon 23 June, I recorded the first Marbled Whites of the year (6) on my Bunkers Park transect. The total of six seen is very much in line with the totals of first-day sightings of previous years, which gives hope for the year as a whole. Numbers of Large Skippers were seen, but not a single Small/Essex Skipper. I recorded only one Common Blue, which seems to indicate the probable end of the CB's early flight period for this year. If this proves to be the case, 2008 will have been the CB's worst early season showing since 1999, the first year of Bunkers Park's existence. Michael Pearson

Observations for yesterday (Sun 22nd June 2008) between 11:40 - 14:35 BST, at Oakhill Park and Wood, East Barnet - 5 Speckled Wood; 1 Meadow Brown; 1 Small White and 1 Holly Blue. News for today (Monday 23rd June 2008) - 1 Large Skipper, near Oakwood entrance, 12:56 BST; 5 Small Heath, at 'New Fields', Trent Park, between 13:01 - 13:40 BST; 4 Large Skipper, Sect.4, 'New Fields', Trent Park; 4 Small Skipper, Sect. 4, 'New Fields', Trent Park - my first of the year!; 2 Ringlet, (1 Sect. 4 , 'New Fields', 13:55 BST, 1 on Bramble, by Lower Lake, 14:45 BST - my first of the year!); 1 Large Skipper, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 14:40 BST; 1 Red Admiral, near 'Old Nursery', Trent Park, 14:13 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Water Grdn., 14:55 BST; 1 Small Heath, at Parkside Farm, 15:12 BST; 1 male Large Skipper, at Parkside Farm, 15:15 BST; 3 Small Heath, at Vicarage Farm (2 along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, between 15:42 - 15:45 BST, 1 along gravel-track, 15:50 BST); 1 male Large Skipper, at 'Barracks', Vicarage Farm, 16:02 BST; 1 Holly Blue, at Enfield Road, 16:13 BST. 5 Speckled Wood in Sect. 7 and 8 between 13:09 - 13:13 BST, Trent Park - Robert Callf

Was pleased to find a small colony of small heaths north of Furneaux Pelham (TL 4228) at the boggy end of a field - Phil MacMurdie

Monday lunchtime saw 2 Marbled Whites, 13 Meadow Brown and 2 Common Blue at work, Stevenage - Trevor Chapman

Horsenden Hill, gorgeous day outside at lunchtime today. And at last some positive White Letter Hairstreak sightings. All over too quickly. Back to work... 15x Meadow Brown - at least 1 female. 6x Speckled Wood 4x White Letter Hairstreak. 2 dogfighting, 1 resting high up in elm but visible. Managed long range photograph I think. 4x 5 spot Burnet, 2 mating. 2x Large Skipper 1x Female Common Blue 1x Red Admiral 1x Unidentified White - my first white in ages. Manyx Fast moving Skippers that I couldn't ID. And a darkish blueish tinted unidentified butterfly flying low across the mown grass just south of the tennis courts carpark (Horsenden Lane North). From the colour and size my closest match is White Letter Hairstreak but behaviour seemed wrong (if it had zig zagged a bit more and flown a bit higher I would have said yeah as elm trees close by). Definitely not Common Blue. - Mike Rubin

Fir and Pond Woods Nature Reserve. Monday AM June 23 Several meadow browns and ringlets on the meadow. Also there were a common blue, 2 or 3 large skippers, a small skipper and a marbled white. Speckled woods seen throughout the Reserve - David Gompertz

Sunday 22nd June

Small numbers of White-letter Hairstreak continue at Horsenden Hill today (22nd June) with 3 on the cycle path close to the gates of Horsenden Farm, 1 further uphill from here but still viewable

from the cycle path and 2 seen by David Howdon at another area to the rear of the farm building. Good numbers of Speckled Woods on site and at least 7 Red Admirals today - Andrew Culshaw

Friday 20th June

On 20th June Friday, at **Park Wood, Ruislip** lots of speckled wood, two large skippers, 1 comma very fresh looking specimen with lovely colours - Sezar Hikmet

A few sightings for Friday (20th June 2008) - 1 Large Skipper, near Oakwood entrance, Trent Park, 13:47 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, near Triangular Wood, 13:48 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, 14:46 BST; 4 Large Skipper, at Vicarage Farm (2 along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, 14:52 BST and 15:00 BST, 2 at 'Barracks'); 2 Small Heath, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, Vicarage Farm, 14:57 BST and 15:00 BST; 1 Red Admiral, at Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm, 15:08 BST - flew off NW strongly (My first record in the Enfield Area since April). A number of Meadow Brown - it is easy to take for granted how attractive this common grassland species is? Robert Callf

Thursday 19th June

Horsenden Hill, most of walk in cloud shadow. Fairly cool and breezy. 4x 5 Spot Burnet, all on the wing. 2x Large Skipper (Males) 2x Speckled Wood 2x Meadow Brown (Both Males) 1x Red Admiral (Cloud-bathing on path) **1x Small Skipper** (Photographed - male, pale brown antennae - > Not an Essex) Saw several more 'Suspected Skippers' but in the cloud shadow they more readily resting. One was my first Small Skipper of the year. Some were almost certainly Large Skippers too. - Mike Rubin

News for today (Thurs 19th June 2008) - 2 Speckled Wood, near Oakwood entrance, Trent Park, 10:26 BST; 9 Large Skipper, (8 at 'News Fields', Trent Park, between 10:32 - 11:10 BST, 1 at Parkside Farm, 12:42 BST); 1 Speckled Wood, near Triangular Wood, 10:36 BST; 11 Small Heath, (5 at 'New Fields', Trent Park, between 10:40 - 11:00 BST, 2 at Park Farm, between 12:19 - 12:30 BST, 4 along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, between 13:08 - 13:12 BST); 1 Speckled Wood, by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 11:45 BST; 1 Green-veined White, near Obelisk, Trent Park, 12:10 BST; 1 Large White, near Obelisk, Trent Park, 12:10 BST, with Green-veined White; 4 Speckled Wood, at Park Farm, between 12:22 - 12:30 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, at 'Barracks', Vicarage Farm, 13:23 BST. Also a number of Meadow Brown at various localities - Robert Callf.

Stopped at the **Ware** elm tree on the way to work, and despite overnight gales, three White-letter seen clashing high up in the canopy at 8.40am, at 5.30 just one was seen jittering around - Liz Goodyear

Wednesday 18th June

A few observations for today (Weds 18th June 2008) - 2 batches of Peacock catapillars at Vicarage Farm - one contained 23 larvae; several Meadow Brown; 3 Large Skipper, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, Vicarage Farm, between 14:43 - 14:54 BST. 1 unidentified White species. News for yesterday (Tues 17th June 2008) - 7 Large Skipper, at 'New Fields', Trent Park, between 13:20 - 14:00 BST; 8 Speckled Wood, at Trent Park (2 near Oakwood entrance, 13:20 BST, 1 near Triangular Wood, 13:24 BST, 2 Sect. 7, 13:25 BST; 2 Nature Trail, 14:10 BST, 1 near Dew Pond, 14:52 BST); 12 Small Heath, at 'New Fields', Trent Park, between 13:28 - 14:00 BST; 3 Meadow Brown, at 'New Fields', Trent Park, between 13:28 - 14:04 BST; 2 Large Skipper, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 14:25 BST; 1 Small Copper, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 14:56 BST; 3 Large Skipper, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 14:58 - 15:00 BST; 1 Burnet Moth (probably Narrow-bordered Five-spot - only seen in flight), set-aside field near Dew Pond, Trent Park; 1 Emperor Dragonfly, near 'Barracks', at Vicarage Farm - Robert Callf

Tuesday 17th June

Hornet moth! I found some likely looking trees in Hertford and this morning at about 0830 I struck lucky, though only this one specimen, but still the first I've seen. A very obliging photographic model too. Some pictures are here:

<http://homepage.ntlworld.com/zoothern/hornet.htm> Andrew Wood

No White Admirals yet on my **Balls Wood** transect, walked today 17th June. Mainly Speckled Woods, a few large Skippers and Meadow Browns and **2 Ringlets**. Small Heath, Red Admirals and Meadow Browns at Ware Park Quarry yesterday 16th June This has to be the worst year I have

ever had for recording common butterflies - Andrew Wood

Today at **Park wood** Large skippers 5, **white admiral** - Sesar Hikmet

Park Wood, Ruislip: Saw two **White Admirals** this-afternoon, in the main ride - probably the same two seen by Dick Middleton on Sunday. (Definitely two, and not one, twice.) I watched one of them on the ground for ten or fifteen minutes. It was drinking from a mud puddle, and then feeding off droppings on the nearby path - like a newly emerged Purple Emperor- Graham Elcombe

News for yesterday (Monday 16th June 2008) - 2 male Large Skipper, Sect. 1, 'New Fields', 14:15 BST and 14:20 BST, ; 1 Speckled Wood, 14:32 BST, 'New Fields'; 2 Small Heath, 'New Fields', (1 Sect. 8, 14:36 BST, 1 Sect. 5, 14:49 BST); 1 Meadow Brown, at Park Farm, 15:42 BST; 8 Meadow Brown, at Parkside Farm - on Res banking; 4 male Common Blue, at Parkside Farm - on Res banking; 1 Burnet Companion, at Parkside Farm - on Res banking; 1 Shaded Broad-bar, at Parkside Farm - on Res banking; 1 Small Heath, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 16:15 BST; 1 Peacock, very old and tatty, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 16:18 BST; 2 male Meadow Brown, at Vicarage Farm, near 'Barracks', 16:35 BST and 16:38 BST also my first immature Common Darter at Parkside Farm yesterday (Mon 16th June 2008) on Res banking - Robert Callf.

1.15-3.15pm spent in **Balls Wood** looking for W.A but none seen. I did see plenty of Speckled Woods, 1 Meadow Brown and at least 10 Large Skippers also 2 Black-Tailed Skimmer and a Broad bodied Chaser. Sandra Standbridge

Monday 16th June

3 White-letter Hairstreaks between 10-10.30am this morning at **Horsenden Hill**. All three around the 'usual' haunt - close to or alongside the cycle path by the main entrance to Horsenden Farm ranger station. Couldn't find any around the back of the farm or on Batts Field or Upper Mead, but still early, I guess. Also photographed a Small Heath on Home Mead, the first I have seen at the site for many years. Maybe Mike Rubin's Small Heath/Small Copper from last week was the former species after all? Pretty quiet otherwise - Meadow Browns, Speckled Woods and a few Large Skippers. For those who get further afield, up to 5 Black Hairstreaks were flying in Cambs, yesterday - Andy Culshaw

News for Friday (13th June 2008) - 1 Small Heath, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 15:14 BST; 1 female Large Skipper, at Park Farm, 16:04 BST; 14 Meadow Brown, at Parkside Farm - on Res banking; 1 Common Blue, at Parkside Farm - on Res banking; 1 Small Heath, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, Vicarage Farm, 16:43 BST. The BC guided walk in conjunction with Enfield Parks Dept on Saturday (14th June 2008) produced 1 Small Copper and 1 Common Blue, at 'New Fields', Trent Park, several Meadow Brown and Speckled Wood and c6 Large Skipper and at least 10 Small Heath, including four together. News for Sunday (15th June 2008) - 7, 4 males and 3 females, Large Skipper, at Oakwood Park, between 12:37 - 12:49 BST; 1 male Meadow Brown, at Oakwood Park, 12:47 BST; 1 male Common Blue, at Oakwood Park, 12:52 BST. At Grovelands Park, Southgate, N14 - 3 Speckled Wood; 1 male Large Skipper, at 13:46 BST - Robert Callf.

Sunday 15th June

Saw one or two **White Admirals** in flight this afternoon (Sunday) along the main ride in **Park Wood, Ruislip**. There were a few Meadow Browns, Speckled Woods and Large Skippers to be seen as well - Dick Middleton

Started the day by stopping at my Ware elm at 8.40 to see if there was any activity, just one White-letter seen in the top of the canopy. Then met Andrew at Forty Hall, in north Enfield and watched the elms by the road, which the previous day had not had any activity. This was about 9 o'clock and within a minute or so active males were seen. We then drove down the A10 to Edmonton where there are two elms by the busy road! We watched for a few minutes and then there was activity across the canopy. This was a new 2km square for Andrew so we moved onto to another 2km square in TQ39, which skirts the edge of Alexandra Palace. This was a lot harder, lots of scrappy elm but all really hard to view. Eventually after over an hour of walking around the site we gave up and continued to Totteridge and just selected a 2km square at random. We searched really hard but the only elm was pretty poor and being so early in the season we realised that we would have been very lucky to be successful. Finally we went to Crews Hill, another site visited yesterday on the hope that White-letter would be seen but still nothing - Liz Goodyear & Andrew Middleton (hardly any butterflies were flying!)

Saturday 14th June

Tristan Bantock saw at least 2 **White-letter Hairstreak** clashing, **Crouch End, north London** this morning at 10 o'clock. I then visited my 'elm tree' in **Ware** and had at least 6 flights/clashes across the canopy at 1 o'clock. None were seen by Andrew Middleton at sites in Enfield though - Liz Goodyear

Wednesday 11th June

News for today (Weds 11th June 2008) - 15 Speckled Wood,(1 at Hilly Fields Park, 10:50 BST, 1 at Flash Lane, 10:53 BST, 5 at Whitewebbs Wood, 11:40 - 11:48 BST; 1 Whitewebbs Road, 11:50 BST, 2 'Archery Wood', 12:05 BST and 12:30 BST, 5 at Goff Park, Forty Hill, 14:10 - 14:15 BST); 1 Common Blue, set-aside field near 'Archery Wood', 12:45 BST - Robert Callf

I spent 1 1/2 hours in **Balls Wood** and saw 4 Large Skippers, 1 Meadow Brown and 9 Speckled Wood. On the outskirts 1 Oak Roller Moth - Sandra Standbridge

Tuesday 10th June

Nothing very interesting on butterfly front. Down at **Waterford Heath** I saw only one brown Argus on North pit, better on South sit, 9 common blue, 2 meadow brown and 1 grizzled. But in the middle part where it is fenced off, and where I saw, meadow brown, grizzled skipper and 3 common blue - Steve Kiln

News for today (Tues 10th June 2008) between 15:00 and 16:00 BST - 3 Speckled Wood,(1 near Oakwood entrance, 15:01 BST, 1 near Triangular Wood, 15:15 BST, 1 Sect 7, 15:21 BST); 9 Small Heath,'New Fields', Trent Park, between 15:10 - 15:44 BST; 4 Large Skipper, at 'New Fields', Trent Park, between 15:17 - 15:32 BST; 1 male Meadow Brown, 'New Fields', Sect 4, 15:37 BST; 1 Small Copper, near Church Wood, 15:42 BST; 2 Burnet Companion, near Sports Field - Robert Callf

Horsenden Hill, correction for yesterday. After observing today's only Small Copper I think yesterday's 'Small Heath' was actually a copper not a heath. Today down in the meadows West of the hill was very disappointing for June. 4 Speckled Woods, 1 Small Copper and just as I was heading back, 1 elderly Peacock. Thazzit. No moths to speak of. Zillions of unrelenting horseflies made the walk very unpleasant. - Mike Rubin

Sunday 8th June at **Little Britain Lake in Cowley** I saw 2 Speckled Wood, 1 Large and 1 Small White. At **Minet Country Park** in Hayes I spotted 1 Small Heath and 2 Small White - Helen George

Monday 9th June

Forty Hall, 105 chimney sweepers, 2 meadow browns, 2 large skippers, 1 small heath. No sightings yet of WLH at Crews Hill, Enfield, today. **Thu 5th June 08** in dull weather, **Frogmore** 2 grizzled skippers & 5 common blues, **Waterford Heath** south 3 grizzled skippers - Andrew Middleton

Horsenden Hill - Gasp! Too hot. And way too quiet. Despite 25C+ and almost unbroken sunshine was very quiet. 6-8 Speckled Woods. 1 each of Male Common Blue, Small Heath, Holly Blue and Meadow Brown (My first of 2008). Moths on the otherhand were abundant. Lots of Crambids in the grasses. Most notable again were quite a few Burnet Companions, and scores of Green Oak Tortrix's in the oak trees on the North side of the hill. Every time I shook a branch lots of them flew out and scrambled for the grass. - Mike Rubin

Sunday 8th June

Friends of Tring Reservoirs held a moth trap at Wilstone Reservoir for National Moth Night. The following were trapped: Silver-ground Carpet (3) Cream Wave, Twin-Spot Carpet, Common Marbled Carpet, Eyed Hawkmoth, Green carpet, Common Swift, Pale Prominent, Rustic Shoulder Knot, Marbled Minor agg (3) Brimstone moth, Setaceous Hebrew Character, Small Angle Shades, Buff Ermine, Large Nutmeg, Small-Square Spot, Flame Shoulder, Fox-glove Pug (2) Broken-barred Carpet, Cloded Silver, Straw Dot, White Ermine, Garden Carpet, Square-spot Rustic, Heart & Dart, Common Rustic. Lynne & Colin Lambert

Saturday 7th June

Went to Park Wood, **Ruislip**, Middlesex just before lunchtime. 8-10 Speckled Woods. Otherwise

nothing! Honeysuckle in bloom so hopefully not long the White Admirals appear? Mid afternoon after a grey spell the sun re-appeared and I decided to walk up **Barnhill** for some exercise. Glad I did as I saw my first Red Admiral for over 6 months. A little worn so almost certainly an immigrant. Also saw more Speckled Woods, lots of Burnet Companions, my first Straw Dots of the year. No Large Skippers or Meadow Browns yet (both common on the hill in previous years). Plus more moths I have yet to ID. And lots of Blue Damselflies as well as my first Large Reds of the year. All the blues I photographed were male Azures. Suspected Emperor dragonfly patrolling the pond at the summit. - Mike Rubin

News for today (Sat 7th June 2008) - 1 male Common Blue, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, Vicarage Farm, 13:07 BST; 1 Peacock, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 13:08 BST; 3 Small Heath, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 13:10 - 13:11 BST; 11 Common Blue, at Parkside Farm, on Res banking, 13:30 - 13:40 BST; 1 Burnet Companion, at Parkside Farm, on Res banking; 3 male Meadow Brown, at Parkside Farm - on Res banking; 1 Cinnabar, at Parkside Farm - on Res banking; 2 Green-veined White, at Duncan's Wood, 14:00 BST; 1 Small White, at Duncan's Wood, 14:00 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, edge of Moat Wood, 14:15 BST; 1 Small Heath, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 14:19 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 15:11 BST - Robert Callf.

Friday 6th June

News for today (Fri 6th June 2008) - 1 Small Heath, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, Vicarage Farm, 14:53 BST; 1 Green-veined White, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 14:58 BST, were the only butterflies I saw today - Robert Callf

Thursday 5th June

Observations 5th JUNE 2008 - 3 Small Copper, at 'New Fields', Trent Park, between 14:52 - 15:29 BST; 8 Small Heath, at 'New Fields', Trent Park, between 14:57 - 15:33 BST; 2 Small Heath, along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm, between 16:58 - 17:00 BST; 1 male Large Skipper, Sect. 4, 'New Fields', Trent Park, 15:20 BST; 1 Small Copper, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 15:47 BST; 2 Speckled Wood, (1 along hedgerow N of Williams Wood, 16:10 BST, 1 field near Hadley Rd., 16:14 BST); 9 Common Blue, at Parkside Farm - around Res banking, 16:30 BST; 1 Small Heath, at Parkside Farm, 16:32 BST; 1 Mother Shipton, along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm, 4 Burnet Companion at the 'New Fields', Trent Park, 2 Cinnabar, (1 set-side field near Dew Pond, 1 at Parkside Farm - on Res banking); 1 Burnet Companion, at Parkside Farm - on Res banking. - Robert Callf.

Butterflies - Not a lot seen recently continuing to tetrad bash the two target squares and will be hunting out any white admirals this month. Moths - much more so - I regularly set up the moth trap in the back garden (Wareside). 31st May 2008 Privet Hawk Moth - (although got eaten by a bat !!!!) Poplar Hawk Moth - 4 Barred Hook Tip Blood Vein Clouded Border Pale Tussock (4) Brimstone (4) Ermines etc A total of 27 different species have been identified, and 51 moths. Last night 5th June Poplar Hawk Moth 2 Privet Hawk Moth 1 Elephant Hawk 1 Common footman 1 - (understand this doesn't normally flu until July, but have photos of it) Buff and White ermine (10+) Pale Tussock 1 Scorched wing 4 White spotted Pug 2 (have photos) Again 20+ species so far identified, and 50+ moths. Having fun with these moths - as I'm slowly learning some of the names, most of which I had never heard of before and certainly not seen. Nothing rare seen (as far as I know) - Phil MacMurdie

I wasn't looking today, but did spy 1 Speckled Wood in the garden this evening in **Kenton** - Mike Rubin

Found **7 Chimney Sweepers** at **Totteridge Fields** today, also C. Blue, Burnet Companion and Cinnabar - Tony Clancy

Wednesday 4th June

4 Small Copper, at 'New Fields', Trent Park, between 14:48 - 15:25 BST; 10 Small Heath, at 'New Fields', Trent Park, between 14:54 - 15:20 BST; 1 Small Heath, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, 16:06 BST; 3 Small Heath, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, Vicarage Farm, between 16:31 - 16:36 BST; 1 Chimney Sweeper, near Church Wood; 1 Cinnabar, near Sports Field; 2 Speckled Wood, (1 near Shaws Cottages, 15:42 BST, 1 Williams Wood, 15:47 BST); 2 Brown Argus, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, 16:15 BST - My first for the year!; 1 Black-tailed Skimmer, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, 16:20 BST - Robert Callf.

Went to **Bencroft Wood** 4th June, as is typical in June very little there, just one speckled wood. However I ventured firstly into field bordering on Bencroft wood and saw a **meadow brown** and a common blue, because of this I tried next field up near Wormley wood, saw 5 common blues and a small copper - Steve Kiln

Horsenden Hill, 4 x Speckled Wood, 2 x Common Blue females. Lots of crambid type moths. Lots of pesky horseflies. Guess the ground was a bit too damp after yesterday's downpour - Mike Rubin

Monday 2nd June

News for today (Mon 2nd June 2008) at Trent Park - **52 Chimney Sweeper**, at 'New Fields'; 8 Small Heath, (7 at 'New Fields', between 12:25 - 13:16 BST, 1 at 'Old Golf Course', 13:51 BST); 4 Burnet Companion, at 'New Fields'; **3 male Large Skipper**, (1 at 'New Fields', Sect 4, 12:50 BST, 2 at 'Old Golf Course', 13:50 and 13:52 BST); 1 Green-veined White, edge of Church Wood, 12:53 BST; 1 Small Copper, near Church Wood, 13:11 BST; 2 Speckled Wood, (1 near Long Grdn car-park, 13:25 BST, 1 near Sports Field, 13:10 BST) - Robert Callf

Horsenden Hill, high teens, sun occasionally briefly breaking through. Just 7 Burnet Companions, 4 Small Coppers and 1 Speckled Wood. Always a pleasant walk though. This time despite the horseflies getting more and more active now. Oh yeah and saw my first blue damselflies of the year. The individual male I photographed was an Azure Damsel, not a Common Blue one. - Mike Rubin

May 2008

Saturday 31st May

Aldbury Nowers 1 dingy skipper, several brimstones, 1 grizzled skipper west enclosure of south part of reserve, **large skipper**, orange tip; also good numbers of small heath, common blue, mother shipton, burnet companion all sites; 1 orange tip and several brown argus; nearby in **Bucks**, Pitstone area, 6 small blue, 4 dingy skipper, 1 green hairstreak; Church End Quarry, 25 small blue, 3 dingy skipper, 1 green hairstreak, 2 large skipper - Andrew Middleton & Tony Clancy

Observations for today (Sat 31st May 2008) are as follows - 1 Cinnabar, set-aside field near Dew Pond, 14:03 BST; 2 Small Heath, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 14:27 BST; 1 Small Heath, at Parkside Farm, 15:26 BST; 1 Peacock, at Park Farm, 15:06 BST; 1 Large White, at Ferny Hill Farm, 14:50 BST; 4 Common Blue, at Parkside Farm - on Res banking, 15:28 - 15:35 BST - My first of the year. Also a number of Small / Green-veined White seen - Robert Callf.

Friday 30th May

Visited **Northaw Great Wood** today (Fri 30th May 2008) and saw two Speckled Yellow. Only saw two butterflies - a Speckled Wood and an unidentified white, probably Green-veined. - Robert Callf

Poor conditions today, very cloudy. Went to **Waterford heath** South Pit 3pm. Saw 6 common blue, 1 brown argus, 1 grizzled skipper, 1 peacock and my first small copper. If anyone finds my maroon jumper it is somewhere amongst the goats rhue on south Pit. Steve Kiln

Thursday 29th May

Frogmore, nr Stevenage, 1-2pm overcast but humid 4 Grizzled Skippers, 4 Brown Argus, 1 Common Blue and 1 Mother Shipton moth - Trevor Chapman

Trent Park, setaside fields, a Cinnabar ab *flavescens* (red replaced by yellow) seen today by Robin White - news via Robert Callf

Horsenden Hill, ahh nice to have summer return again. Still rather soggy out there. Felt rather humid. Not that much around but they are there somewhere. 6x Small Copper, 4x Speckled Wood, 3x Peacock 1x Holly Blue 1x Small White 1x Tatty Male Orange Tip 1x Unknown White 1x Small Yellow Underwing 1x Burnet Companion. Loads of small Crambid type moths in the grass. At least 5 other red / brown leps in Batts Field that could have been Burnet Companion or Small Copper. **Several of those dreaded horse flies. They're back!!!** Now it's clouded over. Timing! - Mike Rubin

Not much to report today (Thurs 29th May 2008) - 1 Small Copper, near Oakwood entrance, Trent

Park, 14:06 BST; 1 Small Heath, at 'New Fields', Trent Park, 14:20 BST; 2 Burnet Companion, at 'New Fields', Trent Park - Robert Callf.

Wednesday 28th May

I spent 3 1/2 hours in **Balls Wood** yesterday, not much on the butterfly side only 1 Speckled Wood, 1 Common Blue, 15 Drinker moth Caterpillars and lots of other Caterpillars which I cannot identify - Sandra Standbridge

Tuesday 27th May

Took doggie for a walk up **Bunkers Park** after work, she didn't get one yesterday in that bank holiday deluge. All green and verdant, quite humid with the sun not quite able to peep through, it's looking a picture though in the wild flower meadow, with the Trefoil, Medicks & Clover in luxuriant beds. Only saw 3 Common Blues, all male and all looking stunning. If we get a bit of sun this week I reckon this place will burst into life. Still female Orange Tips about & 1 Small White - Keep an eye out for the Broomrape - Ashley Cox

Sun 25th May - managed 1 small heath at **Cheshunt Park** in the rain; Tue 27th May - surprise of a **large skipper** just into **Essex** at Yardley Hill, Chingford, plus a common blue - Andrew Middleton

A few observations for today (Tues 27th May 2008) - 1 Small Yellow Underwing, near Dew Pond, Trent Park; 1 Small Heath, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 14:22 BST; 2 Small Copper, together, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 14:25 BST; 1 Green-veined White, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Water Grdn; 1 Small Heath, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, Vicarage Farm, 15:20 BST; 1 male Orange Tip, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, Vicarage Farm, 15:23 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, along track at Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm, 15:45 BST; 1 Green-veined White, along hedgerow off 'Barracks', 15:51 BST. Also of interest was a Hairy Dragonfly, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, Vicarage Farm - Robert Callf

News from 22nd May, first Common Blue seen on the grassy bank south of **Monks Wood** very near the football ground at around 1130 am. A possible Painted Lady seen in the **Roebuck Woods area** (TL 225244) at about 11am. Probably a little early in the season for the Painted Lady but the winds have been blowing in from the east in the last few weeks. Peter Clarke

Monday 26th May

Nice to see dingy skippers out at last at **Highdown** on Saturday 24th MAY six in all along with 2 female orange tips & 9 Brimstones and my 1st Common blue of the year - Stuart Pittman

At **Therfield Heath** on Saturday: 1 Orange Tip, 1 Large White, 3 Small Heath, 3 Brown Argus. Also quite a few Mother Shipton moths - Jan Hein van Steenis

Waterford Heath north, Saturday 24th - 1 bedraggled Grizzled Skipper seen in brief visit - Christine Shepperson

News for today (Fri 23rd May 2008) - 1 Holly Blue, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, Vicarage Farm, 12:30 BST; 1 Small Heath, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, Vicarage Farm, 12:32 BST; 1 female Orange Tip, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, Vicarage Farm, 12:37 BST; 1 male Orange Tip, at Parkside Farm, 12:46 BST; 1 Small Copper, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 13:25 BST; 3 Small Heath, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 13:30 BST; 4 Speckled Wood, (1 edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 14:00 BST, 2 along Merryhills Brook at South Lodge Farm, 14:08 BST and 14:13 BST, 1 along Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm, 14:17 BST); 2 Small Heath, in set-aside field along Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm; 1 Peacock, along track at Vicarage Farm, 14:35 BST; 1 male Orange Tip, in Sidhil's Field, Vicarage Farm, 14:45 BST. Also seen today 2 Blood-vein Moth, 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park; 1 Burnet Companion, 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park; 2 Silver-ground Carpet, Water Grdn and Icehouse Wood; 1 Small Yellow Underwing, near Dew Pond, Trent Park ; a male Broad-bodied Chaser, at Water Grdn, Trent Park and numerous Red-eyed Damselfly by the edge of Lower Lake, Trent Park - Robert Callf.

Friday lunchtime (23rd May) 1-1:50pm. **Frogmore**, Stevenage 6 Grizzled Skippers mostly on lower area NE of lake. A good showing of strawberry plants here this year. One GS seen laying egg on higher ground North of lake. Also seen Common Blue 3, Small Copper 1, Peacock 1, Small White, and 3 Fallow deer, 1 Buzzard - Trevor Chapman

Thursday 22nd May

Waterford North – 11 grizzled skippers, 4 common blues, 2 small heaths, 1 small tortoiseshell; **Waterford South**, only had time to search the main bank area, 15 grizzled skippers, 2 common blues, 1 small heath, 2 brown argus, 5 latticed heath, 5 burnet companion, 2 mother shipton, 1 black tailed skimmer – Andrew Middleton

This afternoon near **Maple Cross**, Peacock, Brimstone, Orange tip, Holly blue – Sesar Hikmet

I recorded the first of this year's Common Blue (2 only) on my **Bunkers Park** transect. The only other butterflies I saw were a few Small/GV whites: I suspect 2008 may turn out be a "thin" year, but I hope I'm wrong. – Mike Pearson

Wednesday 21st May

A little cold in the morning at **Forty Hall** for a field trip, but had a good range of songbirds, and a few butterflies including 2 small coppers. At **Frogmore** pm we saw 11 grizzled skippers (1 egg on bramble, 1 on agrimony), 3 brown argus, 3 common blue, 2 small coppers, comma, peacock and orange tip. Andrew Middleton, later with H & T Bantock and Diane Andrews

At my garden today Holy blue, small white, and comma, at **Ickenham** Middlesex. Photo of comma & small white attached – Sesar Hikmet

Went to **Telegraph Hill** today. Small Heaths appeared on the Pegsdon Hills today but otherwise I only saw Brimstones and Peacocks. However I met a wildlife photographer I know slightly at Telegraph Hill and he told me he had been taking pictures of Green Hairstreaks, Dingy and Grizzled Skippers in the gullies earlier this morning. c10.30 a.m. It was getting slightly more overcast and we saw none while we were both there – about half an hour around midday. I was rather puzzled not to see any grassland butterflies as there was intermittent sunshine and have personally never seen Grizzled Skips at Telegraph although Dingys and GH are frequent enough. This man is knowledgeable and I think his record should stand – Nigel Agar

Royston, Holly Blue today – Guy Manners

Some more observations for today (Weds 21st May 2008) – 2 Peacock, at Vicarage Farm (1 N of Williams Wood, 14:40 BST, 1 along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, 14:57 BST); 2 Small Tortoiseshell, at Vicarage Farm (1 along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, 14:55 BST, 1 near Firing Range, 15:20 BST); 1 Small Copper, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, Vicarage Farm, 15:00 BST; **1 Painted Lady**, at 'Barracks', Vicarage Farm, 15:15 BST – pristine condition and my first for the year! – Robert Callf

Aldbury Nowers had 3 green hairstreak this afternoon in the key butterfly area (northern part of the reserve), also a brown argus there. Had single dingy skipper in S1 (1st large paddock to right of ridgeway). Got some pics of the hairstreaks, will send a few next week once I've uploaded them (am out of the office now til tues). Still no grizzled skippers! – Paul Thrush

News for today (Weds 21st May 2008) for Trent Park – 1 Small Copper, near Oakwood entrance, 11:40 BST; 7 Small Heath, at 'New Fields', between 11:48 – 12:11 BST; 3 Speckled Wood, (1 near Oakwood entrance, 11:35 BST, 1 Sect 7, 11:57 BST, 1 Sect 5, 12:05 BST); 1 Burnet Companion; 1 Mother Shipton. No sign of any Chimney Sweeper yet – Robert Callf

Horsenden Hill, much of today's walk in cloudshadow. Given the conditions (quite mild and 4-5/8ths cumulus) the word 'pants!' comes to mind. Plenty of moths but none stopping for photos or ID's. In the end I think I found the back of the line for Noah's ark. All 2 by 2. 2x Small Copper, 2x Speckled Wood, 2x Peacock – I thought they had finished for the spring. 2x Shield bugs mating (photographed), 2x Harlequin ladybirds on the same baby elm as the bugs. In Batts field one shot by me. Wasn't sure if it was a 3rd Small Copper or a Burnet Companion or something else. – Mike Rubin

Tuesday 20th May

Just to say that I found a single Orange-tip egg in **Hitchin** on 20/05/2008. It was on Garlic Mustard by Butt's Close – Andy Banthorpe

During a hour after lunch found impressive numbers of Orange Tips in a sheltered field at ovaltine fields **Abbots Langley**. With a later emergence this year, this species has been very common over

the last few weeks. Today 12 were noted along with 15 Green-veined Whites and singeltons of Large and Small White - Clive Burrows

I did my transect walk around **Great Ashby Park** today, weather was warm and sunny, but a little windy. I saw 1 Small Heath, 1 Common Blue (both 1st for year), 1 Holly Blue, 1 Speckled Wood, 2 Orangetip, 2 Green-veined White, 5 Large White, 6 Small White and 10+ Burnet Companion - Steve Lane

Horsenden Hill, slightly better today. A fair bit warmer. (14-15C?). Still not that much about though. The sun came out for the middle 15-20 min's or so of my walk. Otherwise overcast. 7x Speckled Wood - Many of which were very pale - more like white spots instead of yellow. 3x Small Copper, 2x Green Veined White - positive ids when settled. 1x White (Suspected 3rd Green Veined on the wing, 1x Holly Blue, 1x Small Yellow Underwing, 1x Burnet Companion (my first of 2008) - Mike Rubin

Had 2 dingy skipper at **Aldbury** today, in the southern section close to the large field you walk across from the layby. Attached is a pic. Also had brown argus, orange tip, small heath and brimstone - Paul Thrush

Monday 19th May

Another early morning start to count roosting butterflies but this time in the Aldbury Nowers/Pitstone area. Started searching at 6.45 in clear but cold conditions and located 2 Grizzled Skipper roosting in the Hertfordshire Pitstone 'area.' In total we counted 25 Dingy Skipper over a 2 hours period, most were roosting but by 8.30 the sun was shining and the site warming up so the last few individuals were either basking, nectaring and two were seen clashing. Also seen were 1 Brown Argus, 17 Common Blue, 6 Small Heath and 6 Burnet Companion. In the Bucks section, 3 Dingy, 1 Common Blue, 2 Small Heath and a Cinnabar moth. However by now the wind had got up, the clouds come over and it was really quite cold! We then went to Church End which is in Buckinghamshire but only just and sightings included 8 Dingys and 2 Small Blue. From here we walked up to the Pitstone Hill end of Aldbury Nowers, where it started sunny but quickly clouded over and just 1 Dingy Skipper was seen and a further 5 at the bottom of the hill close to the field edge. No Green Hairstreaks were seen, and we left Tring at about 1 o'clock - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

Very cloudy and windy but popped up to **Waterford heath**. On north pit saw 1 small heath and a grizzled skipper and a green veined white. On south 8 grizzled skippers, well spread and 1 brown argus on eastern bank, first I have seen - Steve Kiln

7 Grizzled Skippers this morning at **Frogmore Pits** in breezy conditions with sunny intervals. Also present was 1 Brown Argus - Darrel Bryant

Grove Farm, barely worth reporting yet again. Grand total was 1 Green Veined White. Nothing else despite the sun coming out. Too cold. Maybe 12C. I am also visiting Grove Farm less and less often now as it is getting very dodgy and unpleasant there now. Fly tipping and litter everywhere, and last year's practice of razing the vegetation completely to the ground has almost certainly impacted the butterflies. (The first in the county sightings there were very common species that occur away from the affected areas.) The meadow on the slope looks gorgeous now, but almost nothing there to speak of. No moths or butterflies much at all. Unlike last year. Shame that. - Mike Rubin

Sunday 18th May

Despite cool & cloudy weather 19 people showed up for the Branch field trip at **Aldbury Nowers**. In the sunny spells a good range of species were seen, though none in high numbers. These included Dingy Skipper (4), Orange Tip, Brimstone, Large White, Small White, Green-veined White, Holly Blue, Common Blue (1), Brown Argus (2), Green Hairstreak (2), Speckled Wood, Small Heath (7) Moth sightings, expertly identified by Diane Andrews included, Common Carpet, Green Carpet, Cinabar Pyrausta Nigrata & Mother Shipton. Common Blue Damselflies were also in evidence. A passing rambler informed us he had seen a Small Tortoiseshell just outside the reserve on the Ridgeway path. There was also a report of a **Wall Brown** at **Shrubbs Hill Common** near Hemel Hempstead last week. - Malcolm Hull

Wednesday 14th May

Went out for two hours yesterday evening and saw only two butterflies - 1 Peacock at Vicarage Farm, 17:45 BST and 1 Green-veined White, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, Vicarage Farm, 18:40 BST - Robert Callf

Had an early start at **Frogmore Pit**, on Weds 14th between 9.30-11am, and had at least 10 Grizzled Skippers at various locations of the pit. Also Orange Tip and Green Vined White were present. Then onto **Pegsdon Hills** arrived at around 12 midday, quite breezy and overcast walked from the pub along the central valley only to find 1 Dingy Skipper 2 Brimstones 3 Peacocks and several Small Heath - Darrel Bryant

Green Hairstreak and Dingy Skipper at **Hexton Chalk Pits** this morning. Speckled Wood on the woodland path at the entrance - Nigel Agar

A **very early** morning roost count at **Hexton Chalk Pit** produced **31 Dingy Skipper** (our highest ever count anywhere) and 1 Small Heath. Too early for Green Hairstreak. We then moved onto the **Pegsdon Hills** (still cloudy) and found just 2 roosting Dingy using a majoram seed head (2 on the same head) in the absence of any knapweed. A further 3 were found in another paddock. By now the day was warming up and we arrived at **Telegraph Hill** to find Dingy flying, just a minimum of 2 seen, and probably 6 Green Hairstreak, also 1 Small Heath. 1 Dingy at **Hoo Bit**. Back to Pegsdon via a different slope, in sun but quite fresh, and just 2 Green Hairstreak, 2 Small Heath and just 1 Dingy in the first paddock we had visited where we found 2 roosting first thing. Finally visited **Knocking Hoe**, where in total we saw 10 Dingy, 11 Green Hairstreaks and 22 Small Heath. It then became cloudy.... Liz Goodyear & Andrew Middleton

Out of county butterflies (Tuesday 13th May): Went to sheltered gully near top of **Ivinghoe Beacon** and saw pristine Duke of Burgundies, Grizzled and Dingy Skipper, Small Heaths, Large White, and several Brimstones and Peacocks. Malcolm Newland

Wet Horsenden Hill, barely worth reporting today. But what the hey. 2x Speckled Wood seen in the big field just north of **Horsenden Lane North** before it started raining. I then abandoned the walk and made a beeline back to base. Oh well it was a good run of weather while it lasted. - Mike Rubin

Tuesday 13th May

Walked both pits of **Waterford Heath**. North pit quite exposed to north wind. Only saw three grizzled skippers but 2 in new areas. South Pit more sheltered from wind, **Grizzled skippers everywhere, I saw 23** but must be many more. saw five on glade going down to settling pits, 13 on east bank by Sacombe road, and in many other new places. Saw many orange tips and green veined whites and three holly blues, but also first Small heath on eastern bank at north end - Steve Kiln

Not sure if I got to see the single Small Heath in **Stevenage** before Andrew at lunchtime today. I didn't see him at work but also saw a Small Heath and one Holly Blue at about 12:30 - Trevor Chapman

Butterflies seen this afternoon 12 May 2008 between 2 & 4pm at **Therfield Heath, Royston**: Peacock (several); Large White (3); Small White (2); Green-veined White (2); Orange Tip (2); Brimstone (several); **Small Heath (2) & Brown Argus (5)**. Weather, fine and sunny with a moderate breeze in exposed parts, but very warm and wind free in protected areas.....Randy Drew

Frogmore - an hours search found **13 Grizzled Skipper** scattered across the whole site, including egg laying females, also 1 of each Small Copper and Brown Argus. Lots of Holly Blue around today, also egg laying on Dogwood flowers and Mother Shipton was present on another site! Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

News for yesterday (Monday 12th May 2008) - 1 Speckled Wood, at Lakeside, Oakwood, N14, 16:28 BST; 1 male Orange Tip, at Lakeside, Oakwood, N14, 16:30 BST. 2 Speckled Wood, near Equestrian Centre, Trent Park, 16:35 BST. 1 Peacock, at Vicarage Farm, 16:55 BST. 1 Peacock, at Parkside Farm, 17:13 BST. 1 male Orange Tip, at Parkside Res., Enfield, 17:30 BST. 1 Small Tortoiseshell, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, Vicarage Farm, 17:50 BST. Observations for today (Tues 13th May 2008) are as follows - 1 male Orange Tip, at Hilly Fields Park, Enfield,

12:37 BST. 1 Speckled Wood, at Flash Lane, 12:42 BST. 1 Speckled Wood, at Whitewebbs Wood, 13:50 BST. 1 Speckled Wood, at Archery Wood, Forty Hall, Enfield, 14:00 BST. 2 male Orange Tip, near Archery Wood, Forty Hall, Enfield, 14:00 BST. 1 Holly Blue, along bridle-path, Forty Hall, Enfield, 14:16 BST. 2 Holly Blue, together, at Forty Hall, 14:45 BST. 1 Speckled Wood, at Forty Hall, 14:50 BST. 1 Holly Blue, at Myddleton Avenue, Enfield, 15:00 BST - Robert Callf.

Horsenden Hill, another sunny day another lunchtime walk. Highlight of the lunchbreak was first Small Coppers. One at the bottom of the grazing field, and one at the north end of Batts field. Otherwise pretty quiet. I wonder if the Peacocks have started to die off? 4x Speckled Wood 3x Peacock 3x Holly Blue 3x White 2x Small Copper (my first of 2008) 1x Green Veined White 1x Male Orange Tip - Mike Rubin

Monday 12th May

Stevenage, lunchtime Monday 12 May. **1 Small Heath**, 5 Holly Blues, including one egg laying on Dogwood flowers, 1 Cinnabar Moth, 100s of Horse Chestnut leafminer moths on a Chestnut trunk and flying around the tree. Many Scarce Umber caterpillars on Maple, Ash, Hawthorn, Hornbeam and Rose - Andrew Wood

In hot sunshine I went down to **Mudchute LNR** today (May 12th) during my lunch-hour looking for spring butterflies. I was very fortunate and found a new species for the site - an Orange Tip. I also saw 2 Holly Blues, 8 Speckled Woods, 16 Green Veined Whites & 2 Small Whites. The total number species sightings I have made at the Mudchute site this butterfly season is now 6. - David Chandler

Sunday 11th May - just over the county border into Beds, **3 Small Heath** seen at Pegsdon Hills - Ian Small **Saturday 10th May** I spotted the following butterflies: A Large White butterfly and an Orange tip in **Hillingdon**. In my garden in Hayes an Orange Tip and a number of Holly Blues, its turning out to be a good year for them! **Sunday the 11th May** a visit to **Ruislip Woods** yielded 5 Speckled Wood, 3 Large Whites, 1 Small White and as I walking away from the woods much to my surprise I spotted a male Meadow Brown, rather early to see them in mid May. I also also saw a Small White Wave moth - Helen George

Saturday 10th May

Visited **Hexton chalk-pit** this afternoon. Saw about 5 Dingy Skippers, but no Green Hairstreak (perhaps not looking in the right area). Most abundant Lepidoptera was the Pyralid moth *Pyrausta nigrata*, which was very common. Photos of each attached. One Burnet Companion. Other butterflies were Brimstone, Orange Tip, Speckled Wood, Holly Blue, Green-veined White, Peacock - Ian Small

Waterford Heath - training day with the HMWT: We visited the north pit first and although 'normal' butterflies were hard to find, at least 10 Grizzled Skipper were seen, the majority close to the bramble bank near the railway. We then went across to the south pit, by now it was very hot, but 10 Grizzleds were seen on the south pit on or close to the Sacombe Road bank. Two more were seen clashing on the path that leads to the old 'silt beds' away from the main area which was a nice surprise. One latticed heath and a burnet companion were seen but no Brown Argus, Small copper or Common Blue which was very disappointing - several recorders.

Frogmore Pit, 5 Grizzled skipper, 1 Brown Argus and 1 Small copper found - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

Painted Lady basking on farm track, near Hoggates Wood **Bishop's Stortford** - Jim Fish

Observations for today (Sat 10th May 2008) are as follows - 4 male Orange Tip, at Vicarage Farm (1 along hedgerow off 'Barracks', 09:50 BST; 2 males, together, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Stables, 12:00 BST; 1 near firing range, 12:32 BST); 1 Peacock, at Vicarage Farm, 09:52 BST; 1 Small White, at Vicarage Farm, 09:55 BST; 1 Green-veined White, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Stables, Vicarage Farm, 10:10 BST; 1 Holly Blue, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Williams Wood, at Vicarage Farm, 10:10 BST; 1 Small White, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 10:15 BST; 8 Speckled Wood, (6 at Trent Park, including three together, Shaws Wood; 1 at Parkside Farm, 12:03 BST; 1 along track at Vicarage Farm, 12:15 BST); 1 Peacock, at Park Farm, 11:25 BST; 1 female Orange Tip, at Park Farm, 11:38 BST; 2 male Orange Tip, at Parkside Farm; 1 Large White, Sidhil's Field, Vicarage Farm. Also of some interest - saw my first Brown Silver-lines today in Williams Wood, Trent Park. Saw my first Common Blue Damselfly of the year today at

Park Farm, Enfield. Later, Just spent an hour (14:30 - 15:30 BST) over the 'New Fields', Trent Park and recorded the following: 9 Speckled Wood,(1 near Oakwood entrance, 14:42 BST, 7 in Sect. 7 at 15:00 BST, 1 Snakes Lane, 15:26 BST); 1 male Orange Tip, edge of Church Wood, 15:10 BST and my first Small Copper of the year near the Sports Field, 15:16 BST. Also saw a Holly Blue at Bramley Road, Oakwood at 14:30 BST. - Robert Callf

Friday 9th May

In the gloomy but very mild and humid 8/8 lunchtime overcast I saw 2 Holly Blues (or could be the same one?) fly past in the garden while I munched, as well as loads of Horse Chestnut Leaf Miner moths under the conker tree, and a Carnation Tortrix moth in the front driveway at **Kenton** - Mike Rubin

Went to **Waterford heath -south** 3pm today 9th . Saw the usual but on the eastern bank saw 9 grizzled skippers including mating pair on photos attached. Bit out of focus unfortunately. In wood saw my first comma. The south is much more productive than the north and not nearly as good as it was last year same time. I saw two grizzled skippers today about 5pm and they were on middle bank about 30-40 yards from wher steep gravelly path goes down. Have seen little butterflies at far end. On path down to river seen whites, brimstones & orange tips,protected from wind. At top in woods holly blues,orange tips and whites. In glade walking through near car park peacocks,speckled woods,holly blues, seen small coppers there - Steve Kiln

In a 15 minute visit to **Waterford North Pit** in still and heavy conditions found 5 on the bank, at least 3 individuals, otherwise just 1 Peacock. Passing through the South Pit **1 Grizzled Skipper** at the bottom of the east bank, I though I had a another but close examination showed the small Pyralid moth *Pyrausta purpuralis* feeding on Wild Strawberry. I though the absence of Latticed Heaths and Brown Arguses was making spotting Grizzled easier, hadn't reckoned with that one - Andrew Wood

Butterflies seen today (Fri 9th May 2008) include the following - 1 Speckled Wood, at Parkside Farm, 12:06 BST; 2 Large White, at Park Farm; 1 female Orange Tip, near Duncan's Wood, 12:47 BST; 1 female Orange Tip, at Park Farm near Hadley Road, 12:52 BST; 1 Peacock, near Lower Lake, Trent Park, 13:25 BST; 4 Speckled Wood, at Trent Park (1 edge of Williams Wood, 13:40 BST, 1 near Shaws Wood, 13:45 BST, 2 near Equestrian Centre, 13:50 BST); 1 Small Yellow Underwing, near Dew Pond. Also on Weds 7th May 2008 one Small Yellow Underwing, edge of Shaws Wood, Trent Park, 14:30 BST - my first of the year. Whilst waiting for a train at Edmonton Green Station (Thurs 8th May 2008) saw a Speckled Wood settle near the platform at 12:41 BST - Robert Callf

Thursday 8th May

Saw my 1st green hairstreaks x 5 at Highdown on **6th May** plus 14 brimstones and a few orange tips, no dingy skippers yet though Stuart Pittman

Herts border, Church End quarry, 11 dingy skippers, 1 green hairstreak, small copper and common blue, red kite, no small blues seen yet; adjacent chalk pit, 16 dingy skipper, 3 green hairstreak including egg laying on birdsfoot trefoil, 1 grizzled skipper base of bank at SP948139; 1 Duke Ivinghoe Beacon (4 seen by others); Aldbury Nowers NW section only, 1 green hairstreak (10 reported across site) - Andrew Middleton & Tristan Bantock.

Having met Andrew Palmer at **Hexton Chalk Pit** yesterday (8 May), I was kindly asked to submit a list of the eleven butterflies species I recorded there on Wednesday 7 May 2008 between the hours of 11 and 12am. These are:- Large White (3); Small White (1); Green-veined White (3); Orange Tip (4); Brimstone (several); Speckled Wood (1); Peacock (2); Small Tortoiseshell (2); Holly Blue (several); Green Hairstreak (3) & Dingy Skipper (4). Weather was warm approx 22C with a gentle breeze - Randy Drew

Hexton Chalk-Pit: 6 Green Hairstreak and **6 Dingy Skipper**. We met someone who had both species there yesterday (7 May). **Telegraph Hill: 3 Green Hairstreak and 1 Dingy Skipper**. - Diane Andrews and Andrew Palmer

Quick stroll around **Hexton Chalk pit nature Reserve** after work at 18.30 found me **2 Dingy Skippers** (rubbish photos to follow), 1 Green Hairstreak, 1 Holly Blue. shows these things stay up late - Darin Stanley

Fir and Pond Woods NR..... 1 brimstone, 2 speckled woods, orange tips, 1 peacock, and a pair of **small copper** butterflies on the Meadow - David Gompertz

Yesterday 7th May at **Colne Valley park** Holly Blue (1), Orange tip (3 males), Green veined white (3), Comma (2) picture attached. Same day at **Ickenham** in my garden, Orange tip (1), Holly blue (2 males) picture attached, comma (1) - Sezar Hikmet

Been tetrad bashing and whilst it hasn't exactly yielded anything special as such, the results have been ok, In summary - **3rd May 2008: Plashes wood (TL 3620 & 3820)** 11 orange tip, 12 peacock 1 Small tortoiseshell 1 Large White. **Wareside** Orange tip 10 Peacock 3 Small White 1 Large white 1 Brimstone 3 Comma 1. Lots of other sightings elsewhere but I'll spare you the details. Of more peacocks and orange tips - Phil MacMurdie

Horsenden Hill: Gasp! Too hot! And I think the butterflies agreed. Not so many around again. Walked over the summit this time. 10x Speckled Wood, especially in and around the woods. 3 having a tangle together at one point. 7x Peacock. Again either moving fast or resting wings closed, except for one basker. 5x Holly Blue 2x Male Orange Tip. No whites! - Mike Rubin

Wednesday 7th May

I went to **Waterford Heath** today at 3pm very hot but quite windy. In north part, a bit disappointing but saw the usual suspects orange tips, whites, peacocks, and a brimstone and a speckled wood, but returned after walking south part and saw 1 **grizzled skipper** on the middle bank. At the south side saw 2 **grizzled skippers** on eastern bank amongst the wild strawberries. Saw the same species as the north but also my first **common blue** and a holly blue - Steve Kiln

Horsenden Hill, bit warmer today. I walked the meadows below the hill this time. Didn't do quite so well. Again most of the butterflies in the meadows immediately West of Horsenden Lane North. Peacocks and Speckled Browns were not basking today. Too warm. Generally resting close to the shadows wings closed if not on the wing. 9x Peacock. 3 spotted together resting on the shady side of a log. Tried to take photo but scared them away instead. Doh! 5 x Speckled Wood mostly in the shadows. 4 x Holly Blue, 2 x Orange Tip, one Male, one Female, both nectaring. Got a shot of the Male but looked overexposed. Failed to get the female. 1 x Green Veined White, with rather squashed looking wings. 3 x unidentified whites - Mike Rubin

Balls Wood - 4 Peacock, 2 Green-Veined White, 3 Speckled Wood, 3 Orange Tip - Sandra Standbridge.

Tuesday 6th May

I seem to have a number of Holly Blue butterflies probably due to the abundance of wild Ivy. On Sunday 4th May several Holly blue in the garden in Hayes Tuesday the 6th of May two Orange Tips in my friends garden in Ruislip - Helen George

Waterford Heath north – 2 **grizzled skippers**; Waterford Heath south along main bank, 8 grizzled skippers mostly basking / nectaring low down, 1 latticed heath, 1 burnet companion, 1 small copper, peacock, orange tip; **Frogmore** 1 grizzled skipper; **Stapleford** 1 large white, peacock – Andrew Middleton & Martin Greenland

Observations for today (Tues 6th May 2008) - 1 Peacock, near Triangular Wood, 11:00 BST; 1 Holly Blue, 'New Fields', at 11:02 BST; 2 Speckled Wood, together, Sect. 7, along tube-line near Cockfosters entrance, 11:10 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, at Prince George Ave., N14, 11:53 BST. 4 Peacock, at Vicarage Farm; 2, male and female, Orange Tip, at Vicarage Farm; 1 Speckled Wood, along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, along hedgerow off Hog Hill, at Vicarage Farm, 13:47 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, Williams Wood, at Trent Park, 14:10 BST; 2, male and female, Orange Tip, together, along bridle-path near Shaws Wood, 14:30 BST; 2 Speckled Wood, along bridle-path near Equestrian Centre, 14:43 BST; 3 Holly Blue, together, at Lakeside, N14, 14:52 BST. Also today (Tues 6th May 2008) saw a female Muslin Moth on the edge of Church Wood, Trent Park this morning at 11:20 BST - in flight and settled. Just a couple of observations to report amongst many. Saw three Holly Blue together along River View, Enfield Town yesterday (Mon 5th May 2008) at 17:10 BST, flying around Ivy and Holly. - Robert Callf

Felt good on **Horsenden Hill** this lunchtime. No longer humid, and atleast 20C+. (Northolt METAR says 22C at 12:50pm.) Unbroken sunshine. Albeit rather windy. But pleasant. 9x Peacock, almost all on the move. Warm enough that they were not basking even when at rest (wings closed). 7x

Orange Tip, including 1 nectaring female. But failed to get a shot! 6x Speckled Wood, 3x Holly Blue, 1x Green Veined White nectaring, 4x Fast flying or fighting nymphs, probably Peacocks too. 3x Unidentified whites - Mike Rubin

Monday 5th May

At **Waterford Heath South**, I saw **4 Grizzled Skippers** (got very hard after 13:35 h), 2 Holly Blues and 1 Small Tortoiseshell. Latticed Heath tried to fool me into taking it for a skipper as well. At **Hertford Heath SSSI** I had 2 Speckled Wood (and 1 Large Red Damselfly). I lost count of Orangetips and Peacocks today, but a displaying male Peacock at Waterford Heath was interesting - Jan Hein van Steenis

Today (5th May) I saw a Holly Blue in **Northolt**, Middlesex. Don't know how well reported that grid is so thought I'd let you know. Was at a friend's place at the time and it was fluttering around a Laurel bush outside. - Mike Rubin

I would like to report that I saw my first ever **Humming Bird Hawk Moth** in our garden in **Harpenden** today - Euan Bruce

A long walk this pm took me miles and miles from **Pitstone church to Aldbury Nowers** by a very convoluted route. Important details: i.e. not listing every Brimstone etc There were **5 Dingy Skipper and 1 Green Hairstreak** at Pitstone. No sign of Small Blue - though I started here in very weak sun - so possibly they are out now a few hours later. The kidney vetch there is in flower. Crossing the road I walked the edge nearest Herts. (in fact I probably walked almost exclusively in Herts.) and saw 1 Green Hairstreak and 1 Grizzled Skipper. I don't have GPS but feel sure from the map that both these key species were inside the Herts. border. If I had time and the legs for it a traverse of the south west facing slope may well have provided a Bucks record too - but my ankles protested the angle of the hillside and I had to give up. Old age? If I had persisted I think I would have been too focussed on staying upright on the slippery hillside, to look carefully for tiny butterflies. I walked the buffer strip at the top of the quarry where it meets Pitstone Hill and saw **13 Green Hairstreaks** in about 20 mins - all definitely different individuals - and all in Bucks. I walked a big circle around Pitstone hill but saw little, only 1 Green Hairstreak worthy of note here. Quite blowy up there. Then into what I still think of as Turlhanger Wood - adjacent to Pitstone Hill and referred to as Aldbury Nowers by many. I still think of Duchies Piece as Aldbury N. Anyhow, it was getting late now and I was losing sun into hazy clouds, though 4 poss 5 species of whites and Peacocks still very active (3.30 -ish) and again a solitary Green H of note. It will be very interesting to see how the scraped areas and in particular the shaped scrapes develop. I fear that the already common thistles (several already in flower) will dominate much of the lightly scraped area, in two years time. The deeper scrapes should be far longer gaining vegetation. Home to rest and find Peacock, Orange Tip and Holly Blue in garden plus, the only one seen all day, - a Small Tort - Nick Bowles

Bencroft wood today 3.30 saw 2 speckled wood, one orange tip, 2 green veined white and a peacock. **Waterford Heath North** 3rd May 11.30 am: 1 large white, 2 orange tips, 1 holly blue, 1 brimstone, 3 peacock and a speckled wood. **South today 5th May late** 4pm: 6 orange tips, 3 peacocks, 1 brimstone, holly blue, speckled wood and green veined white- Steve Kiln

Saw our first Green Hairstreaks at Pegsdon Hills on Sunday, also went onto Bison Hill and saw more there. Picture attached - Sandra and Kevin Standbridge

Saturday 3rd May

I did my Bird Atlas square at **Walkern village** and surrounds (TL22Y) and saw my first Holly Blue for the year, also 1 Brimstone, 9 Peacocks, 4 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Speckled Wood, 2 Large White, 3 Small White and 5 Orangetips (all males) - Steve Lane

Hexton Chalk Pit, **1 Green Hairstreak**, 2 Holly Blues & numerous Brimstone seen this afternoon. No Dingys though - Darin Stanley

We went to **Waterford South** and arrived at 2.25 and immediately saw our first **Grizzled Skipper** of the year at 2.30. Over the next 1 1/2 hours we had 11 sightings and we believe this was 4/5 individuals. Also saw 3 male Orange Tips and 1 female, 3 Peacocks and an Angle Shades. We enclose a couple of record shots - Sandra and Kevin Standbridge

Sightings for today are as follows - 2 Small Tortoiseshell, at Vicarage Farm (1 at 'Barracks', 10:55

BST, 1 along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, 11:27 BST); 2 Peacock, at Vicarage Farm (1 along gravel-track, 11:00 BST, 1 along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, 11:25 BST); 2 Peacock, at Parkside Farm (1 at 11:35 BST, 1 at 11:48 BST); 6 Orange Tip,(2 at Vicarage Farm, 1 near Hadley Road, 11:30 BST, 1 at Sidhil's Field, 14:12 BST; 2 females at Park Farm,(1 at 12:02 BST, 1 at 12:13 BST); 1 male along Hadley Road at Park Farm, 12:37 BST; 1 male, at Uni-lawns, Trent Park, 13:20 BST); 2 Brimstone,(female nectaring on dandelion, at Parkside Res., 11:57 BST, 1 male, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 13:23 BST); 1 male Large White, at Ferny Hill Farm, 12:40 BST; 1 Peacock, at Ferny Hill Farm, 12:40 BST; 1 Peacock, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 13:26 BST; 2 Speckled Wood, at Shaws Wood, 13:30 BST - Robert Callf.

Friday 2nd May

News for today (Fri 2nd May 2008) - 3 male Orange Tip,(2 males, at Parkside Farm, 11:55 BST, 1 along bridle-path near Shaws Wood, 13:58 BST); 1 female Large White, at Parkside Farm, 11:57 BST (My first of the year); 5 Peacock,(1 at Parkside Farm, 12:00 BST; 2 together, edge of Moat Wood, 13:10 BST; 1 'Old Golf Course', 13:17 BST; 1 near Dew Pond, 13:45 BST); 1 Small White, by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 13:31 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 13:50 BST - Robert Callf.

No Grizzleds at Waterford Heath yet - Andrew Middleton

Thursday 1st May

Today at Stockers Lake orange Tips 2 males. Peacock and two green-veined white. Photos of two attached. Could not get a picture of Orange tip - Sezar Hikmet

April 2008

Tuesday 29th April

Kenton Saturday 26th April - A warm 20C+ day, already 15+ early morning. An unidentified white (Small or Green veined) flew past the garden around 8AM. Grove Farm - Monday 28th April: Fairly overcast and showery conditions. Despite that found a Speckled Wood in the wooded section of the area. Horsenden Hill Meadows - Tuesday 29th April: Lunchtime walk in the wake of a big heavy shower. Cool and damp but strong sunshine making the gravel paths steam. Saw nothing except for one single Male Orange Tip on the wing just below the grazing field near the road / entrance to Batts field - Mike Rubin

<http://piccies.flybywire.org.uk/ButterfliesMoths/index.html>

Monday 28th April

Had a walk around the Great Ashby Park and Box Wood between 11am and 3pm, weather sunny intervals and some light showers. I saw 2 Speckled Wood, 1 Brimstone, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Small White and 10+ Peacocks. Not a transect walk, a bird atlas walk - Steve Lane

Only got out late yesterday (Mon 28th April 2008) and saw the following: 1 male Orange Tip, along bridle-path near Merryhills Brook, Trent Park, 16:10 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, at Shaws Wood, Trent Park, 16:20 BST - Robert Callf.

Sunday 27th April

Seen around a sunny Watford (Central Park) on Saturday 26th; Orange Tip, Green Veined White (2) Small White (2) Brimstone and a Red Admiral - David Chandler

News for the weekend is as follows: Saturday 26th April - 1 Speckled Wood at Lakeside, Oakwood, N14, 15:45 BST; 1 Small White, settled, along Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm, 16:00 BST; 3 Peacock at Vicarage Farm (1 along Merryhills Brook, 16:01 BST, 1 at 'Barracks', 16:07 BST, 1 along Leeging Beech Gutter, 16:20 BST); 2 Peacock, together at Parkside Farm, 16:53 BST. 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Vicarage Farm, 16:02 BST. Sunday 27th April 2008: 1 male Orange Tip at Parkside Farm, 09:41 BST; 1 Peacock at Parkside Farm 09:52 BST; 2 Peacock at Park Farm (1 at 10:10 BST, 1 near Duncan's Wood, 10:27 BST)- Robert Callf.

Amwell 26th April TL31, I believe (TL3712) At last some warm sunshine and good weather for butterflies. 15 orange tip - the orange tips were very fresh, one particularly stunningly bright individual seen in front of the central viewing area. They were very active in the warm sunshine, mostly over nettles but also all along the meadow on the opposite side of the lane from the reserve. 5 Brimstone including 2 in a mating flight/contest, 6 Peacock including two spiralling

together, 2 Green Veined White nr Hollycross Lake, 4 Small White 3 Holly Blue - 2 in meadow opposite reserve and one on path up to the railway crossing point - Alun & Chrissie

News from Saturday April 26th - spring trio of Orange Tip, Brimstone & Holly Blues on the wing in Hemel Hempstead - Ashley Cox

Still relatively easy to see Small Tort here. Just walk out of my garden into field behind - at least 4 within two mins. Or stay in garden seat with a mug and wait 30 mins for one to come in and nectar. a real breath of spring here in Tring too; similar species around Tring, Herts., and in Wendover Woods a large forest area about 2 crow flying miles west of Tring (but in Bucks not Herts.) on 26th April: Brimstone, un-id Small or Green-veined White, Orange-tip, Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock, Speckled Wood. I also visited BUCKS sites with colonies of Grizz/DIngy/Green Hstrk/Small Copper, but no sign of any. Simply more of the same species as above. No sign of Holly Blue anywhere. Slow worm and Grass snake, Buzzard, Red Kite and my first singing Whitethroats of the season added to the fun NO species of particular interest yet but at least Orange Tip and Speckled wood now under my belt for the year. I will keep you posted - Nick Bowles (*Green Hairstreak has been seen out of county*)

Saturday 26th April

Some more species in the last few days but no time to post photos - did see my first Red Admiral in St. Augustine though - LG

Arrived at Waterford Heath South at 2.45pm, weather was sunny and a few clouds, saw 6 Peacocks and Small Tortoiseshell searched for 1/2 hour but no GS. Then went over to Waterford Heath North and saw 12 Peacocks, Male Orange Tip, Female Brimstone, Small Tortoiseshell and a White but too far away to ID, alas no GS. However, we saw our first 2 Large Red Damselflies of the year and we believe a Ruby Tiger Moth. Sandra and Kevin Standbridge

1st holly blue in my Harpenden garden today (26th April), 1st comma (I always seem to be late with them), 1st large white (not a female brimstone) and 1st small or green veined white (not a female orange tip). 1st orange tip (a male) today just outside St Albans abbey. Heaps of peacocks and brimstones, three commas and three small tortoiseshells whilst running on the Nickey line and thereabouts. At last! - Richard Harrington

Friday 25th April

Observations for today (Fri 25th April 2008) - 10 Peacock,(1 near Shaws Wood, 12:40 BST; 1 Shaws Wood, 12:47 BST; 1 along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, Vicarage Farm, 13:06 BST; 2 Park Farm, 13:28 BST and 13:33 BST; 2 at Parkside Farm, 13:11 BST and 13:32 BST; 1 at Ferny Hill Farm, 14:05 BST; 1 at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 14:33 BST; 1 edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 14:57 BST). 1 Speckled Wood at Park Farm, 13:37 BST - Robert Callf

On St Georges Day (**23rd**) In Bencroft wood 2 peacock. In Broxbourne Wood 1 comma, 3 peacock, 1 orange tip. At home in Bengoe, 3 peacocks pursued by cats and a holly blue. On **25th April** Waterford heath, 8 peacocks, 1 brimstone and 1 orange tip. Steve Kiln

Orange Tip - Seen at Millstream close in Hertford 21.4.08 - Craig Hornby

Thursday 24th April

Had a walk around Great Ashby Park, Stevenage. Between 2pm & 2.30pm (Transect bashing). I saw 1 Orange tip, 2 Green-veined White (both first for the year), 5 Brimstones and 9 Peacocks. Also 4 Buzzards circling around the park - Steve Lane

Had an evening walk yesterday (Weds 23rd April 2008) and saw the following: 1 Small Tortoiseshell, along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm, 17:20 BST; 1 Peacock, at Vicarage Farm, 17:25 BST; 2 Peacock, together at Parkside Farm, 17:55 BST - Robert Callf

Wednesday 23rd April

Front clearing as I set off at lunchtime. Explored the meadows between Greenford Road and Horsenden Lane North. Despite big cloudshadow found 2x Speckled Wood 'basking' (cloudbathing?) and 1x Peacock just off Greenford Road (close to the canal). closer to the hill the

sun came out properly and was quite warm. But just 1 Peacock. The bluebell patch where yesterday's Peacock acrobat and orange tip were were deserted. Final score 2 all. - Mike Rubin

Tuesday 22nd April

21st April A Speckled Wood, a Brimstone, a Comma, and three Peacocks, all seen in quick succession, in the field NW of Ruislip Reservoir car park. 22nd April Eight Peacocks and one Comma seen in half an hour (but nothing else) in the old railway sidings North of Croxley Common Moor. Graham Elcombe.

Afternoon of Tues. 22nd April, Thornbera Road Allotments, Bishops Stortford, one small white, one male brimstone and one rather big small tortoiseshell settled on cow manure that I got within one foot of before it flew off. - Len Crouch

More sightings for today (Tues 22nd April 2008) - 1 male Orange Tip, at Lakeside, Oakwood, N14, 14:02 BST (My first of the year); 5 Peacock,(4 at Vicarage Farm, 1 at 'New Fields', Trent Park); 2 Small Tortoiseshell, together, along Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm, 14:16 BST; 2 Speckled Wood,(1 at 'Barracks', Vicarage Farm, 14:25 BST; 1 near Oakwood entrance, Trent Park, 15:45 BST); 1 Small White, along Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm, 14:12 BST, also three other whites seen but not specifically identified - Robert Callf

MUDCHUTE REPORT The sun came out from behind the clouds at long last and I went down to Mudchute LNR today (April 22nd) during my lunch-hour looking for any butterflies I could - having not seen a single butterfly in Herts or Middx this year at all. I was very fortunate and found 17 butterflies: 3 Holly Blues, 3 Speckled Woods, 1 Brimstone, 8 Green Veined Whites & 2 Small Whites. The total number species sightings I have made at the Mudchute site this butterfly season is now 5. Dave Chandler

Had a short walk round Hertingfordbury at lunchtime, spotted 1 small white, 1 large white, 1 holly blue, 1 red admiral, 1 comma and 3 peacock, must be the warm weather bringing them out - Robin Pearson

Saw ten Peacocks today but nothing else - where are all the Whites? The Peacocks were all seen in Trent Park - 1 south edge of Rough Lot, 11:00 BST, 1 near Dew Pond, 11:35 BST, 3 edge of Williams Wood, 11:40 BST, 5 at Shaws Wood, between 11:45 - 11:50 BST - Robert Callf

Yesterday at Grove Farm, despite fairly warm and sun breaking through thin cloud, no butterflies at all! Today on Horsenden Hill, warm (16C+), light wind and nearly unbroken sunshine. A dizzy total of 31 butterflies. 25 Peacocks (including one upside down hanging from a bluebell wings open), 2 Male Holly Blues (my firsts of 2008), 1 very pale Speckled Wood, 1 Comma, 1 Big white (suspected female Brimstone from the angular wings and fast flight pattern - my first of 2008 if so) and 1 Male Orange Tip also feeding on bluebells (first confirmed of 2008). The Orange Tip was so busy feeding on the bluebells that my camera lens pretty much touched it without it flinching. All in full sunshine too. (Normally they don't stop moving in sun and impossible to get near!) - Mike Rubin

Monday 21st April

Saw three butterflies today (Monday 21st April 2008) - 2 Peacock and 1 Speckled Wood, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park at 13:45 BST - Robert Callf

I went for a wander up **Barnhill** (TQ18) in the afternoon when the sun broke through. But butterfly numbers were very poor despite mild conditions (15C). 2 Speckled Woods, 1 Peacock and 1 White (suspected Orange Tip female from rounded wings and flight pattern) - Mike Rubin

Thursday 17th April

Last weekend - 12th April 2008 TL3024 - St Johns Wood, 1 Comma, 1 peacock, 1 speckled wood. Some roe deer also. TL3426 - Wakeley - (path) 1 Peacock - Phil MacMurdie (whilst tetrad bashing!)

Went to Waterford Heath (South) at approx 2pm, saw 5 Peacocks but no early GS. Did see 1st Male Orange Tip over Fishers Green near Bittern hide today. Sandra Standbridge

Horsenden Hill (15th April)Yah boo a cloud followed me around for much of the walk. But when it

finally shooed away and warm sun came out there were plenty of Peacocks west of the hill. Atleast 12 counted in total. No other species at all though! - Mike Rubin

News for today (Tues 15th April 2008) - 1 Small Tortoiseshell, along track at Vicarage Farm, 11:50 BST. 1 Comma, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 12:52 BST. 3 Peacock, at Trent Park (2 edge of Williams Wood at 13:20 BST and 1 edge of Shaws Wood, 13:30 BST) - Robert Callf

Monday 14th April

I saw my first **Orange-tip** of the year today in the grounds of **Brunel University**. Peacock, Brimstone and Small White also seen - Steve Pash

A few butterflies were seen today (Monday 14th April 2008) - 1 White sp., seen at distance at Vicarage Farm, also a Peacock here at 11:55 BST. 2 Comma, together in clearing, Rough Lot, Trent Park at 13:00 BST and 1 Peacock, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park at 13:45 BST. Also heard a Cuckoo singing at Vicarage Farm this morning - Robert Callf

Grove Farm today, 3 Peacocks and a tiny and battered looking Speckled Wood spotted before showers threatened to spoil the walk. Didn't feel very warm out there either. But better than the miserable weekend just gone! - Mike Rubin

Saturday 12th April

Only one butterfly seen today (Saturday 12th April 2008) - 1 Comma, in a clearing in Rough Lot, **Trent Park** at 13:40 BST. - Robert Callf

Had a Red Admiral in the garden (**Harpenden**) today - Robin Pearson

Thursday 10th April

Hitchin garden 12.30 on 10 April 2008 11 deg. Sunny 1 Peacock drew warmth from curtain protection over a shrub and perched for 2/3 minutes - Val Fullforth

Sightings for today [10/4]. Had a walk around **Great Ashby Park**, Stevenage this afternoon and saw **1 Large White**, 1 Comma and 5 Peacocks - Steve Lane

News for today (Thurs 10th April 2008) - 1 Peacock, basking in Dalrymple Close, Southgate at 10:40 BST. Also one Peacock at Vicarage Farm at 11:45 BST. Saw my first **Speckled Wood** of the year in Shaws Wood, Trent Park at 14:30 BST, also a Red Admiral here simultaneously - Robert Callf.

Wednesday 9th April

Hemel Hempstead, had my first Peacock of the year in the back garden today, also saw my first **Speckled Wood**, a small but pristine specimen, but this was on the bridle path behind the house. Pity, as it would have beaten my earliest record by 14 days - Malcolm Newland

A **male Orange Tip** in **Letchworth** at midday today - Brian Sawford

Today a walk along the railway line from **Turkey Street Station** to Carterhatch Lane produced some good sightings: 2 Small Tortoiseshells behind Enfield Cemetery, 8 sightings of Peacock all the way along, a Small White and a very obliging Comma (shame I only had the work's camera). Also, before I left home, a Male Brimstone in my garden at Eliot Road, **Royston** - Simon Rasch (*please note this is Simon's job!*)

Wood Green at 3.30 this afternoon a **female Orange Tip** (100% sure!) settled on Spanish Bluebell - phone call from Diane Andrews

At **Balls Wood** Wednesday lunchtime **1 Orange Tip**, 1 Small White, 7 Peacocks, 2 Commas and **1 Orange Underwing Moth**. **Broadmeads, Ware** on **Tuesday** lunchtime 2 Small Tortoiseshells, 1 Small White and 1 Peacock - Andrew Wood

Maple Cross, looked out onto the back garden lunch time and saw a **male orange tip** fluttering around our daffodils! Is this the first sighting this year? It's certainly the first one I've seen - Ann Piper

News for today (Weds 9th April 2008) - 5 Peacock,(1 at Vicarage Farm at 12:00 BST; 1 at Parkside Farm at 12:35 BST; 3 at Trent Park - (1 in Moat Wood at 13:25 BST, 1 by Lower Lake at 14:02 BST, 1 edge of Williams Wood at 14:30 BST); 4 Small Tortoiseshell,(2 together at Vicarage Farm at 12:03 BST, 1 at Parkside Farm at 12:25 BST, 1 at Trent Park, edge of Williams Wood at 14:30 BST); 2 Comma at Trent Park - (1 by Lower Lake at 14:05 BST, 1 near Dew Pond at 14:15 BST). Also **1 Orange Underwing** on the ground near the Dew Pond, Trent Park at 14:25 BST - my first of the year! - Robert Callf

A Peacock in the garden in **Hayes** and a Small White flying in **Pield Heath Road near Hillingdon Hospital**. Helen George

Saw Small Tortoiseshell yesterday (08/04/08) at Oak Farm **St Albans** while carrying out a roving visit to the TL10Z tetrad. My first one this year - Alan Gardiner

Horsenden Hill, a tad warmer today. 10-11C according to xcweather but felt warmer in the strong sun and light winds. 4 Peacocks on the West and Southwest sides of the hill. The last one happily sat on my finger and posed while a cloud attacked the sun. Then got my camera very close to one resting Small White by Horsenden Lane North while reluctantly returning to the office. - Mike Rubin

Tuesday 8th April

Despite it being only 8-9C, I saw 1 **Speckled Wood** (my first of 2008, basking in a sunny sheltered part of the woods) and 1 Peacock (only my 2nd of 2008) during my lunchtime walk through **Grove Farm, Greenford**, TQ18. - Mike Rubin ([18 reasons why there were no butterflies reported on Sunday!](#))

(Missed by mistake the other day) **News from 4th April**, inspired by seeing the holly blue this morning I had a local walk around **Maple Cross** this afternoon. The thermometer said nearly 20*c . I netted over a dozen peacocks (not literally!) many of them spiralling in pairs. Also saw 3 whites - one was a definite small white and the others could have been small or green-veined, I was not quick enough for a proper ID. Then a male brimstone appeared and lastly a small tortoiseshell. So a good start to April!! - Ann Piper

Monday 7th April

News from the **4th: Marshalls Heath, 1 Holly Blue, 1 small tortoiseshell** - Darin Stanley

News for **Friday 4th April 2008** is as follows: 10 Peacock,(9 at Vicarage Farm - seven of which were along Merryhills Brook; 1 at Trent Park - on the edge of Shaws Wood, 17:23 BST). 1 Comma, along Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm. Fridays weather was in stark contrast to yesterday's - Robert Callf

Friday 4th April

In my **Maple Cross** garden this morning in Maple Cross I saw my first **Holly Blue** of the year on a holly bush! More sightings - last Tuesday April 1st, a friend in **Mill End** saw a small white in her garden and the previous Thursday March 27th there was a small tortoiseshell in the neighbour's garden - Ann Piper

One **Holly Blue** seen this morning, April 4th, in my garden in **Pinner**, (Middlesex) - Graham Elcombe

Thursday 3rd April

Sightings for today (Thurs 3rd April 2008) are as follows: 5 Peacock - 2 edge of Williams Wood at 13:52 BST, 1 edge of Rough Lot, 14:20 BST, 1 in clearing, Moat Wood, 1 at Park Farm at 15:25 BST. 2 Comma,(1 in Shaws Wood, 13:48 BST and 1 edge of Williams Wood at 13:53 BST) - Robert Callf

Things are starting to move now, with 4 Peacock and **1 Green-veined White** at **King's Meads** this morning. Couldn't find any Red Arrows or Typhoons but did manage 1 Chinook - Alan Reynolds

Saw my first **Small White** of the year and a Peacock at **Turnford Brook in Cheshunt** - Sandra Standbridge

Tuesday 1st April

Horsenden Hill, phew it was warm today. Nice! Rather a lot of cloud and breezy at times but enough sun to make it rather pleasant. And the result for Horsenden Hill at lunchtime: 1 Peacock, 2 7-spot ladybirds, 9 red arrows and 4 typhoons! This is not an April Fool! Near the end of my walk (soon after 1pm) I heard a huge roar. Scrambled the camera and powered up and hammered the shutter when they appeared. Managed a lucky shot which I'll check out later. Had no time to think focus or zoom. Cool to get anything at all as I had no idea they were coming (or else I would have waited at the top of the hill!). - Mike Rubin

Only one butterfly seen today (a bit too breezy) - a **Small Tortoiseshell** along the gravel-track at **Vicarage Farm** this afternoon at 14:15 BST. - Robert Callf

News from **Sunday 30th March** - **Carpenders Park** Brimstone, **Park Street** Brimstone, **Potters Bar Small/GV White** - Jez Perkins

March 2008

Monday 31st March

Grove Farm, Greenford, and more today at lunchtime. A cloudy day. But the sun shone through a gap for a few minutes during a short lunchtime walk. One Comma and One Small White (my first of 2008) positively id'd. Got a good close look at the **Small White** when it landed to nectar less than a metre from me - Mike Rubin

Saw two Peacocks in Trent Park this afternoon (Mon 31st March 2008) - 1 along bridle-path near Merryhills Brook and another on the edge of Williams Wood - Robert Callf

Maple Cross, I have just seen my first butterfly of the year. At last! It was a peacock sunning itself on a daffodil at the bottom of my garden in Maple Cross. I'm not sure that I can ever recall seeing any butterfly on a daffodil before. Normally their seasons don't often overlap! Ann Piper

I saw in **Balls Wood** today 2 Comma and 3 Peacock. Over Fishers Green yesterday near Normans pond 1 Male Brimstone - Sandra Standbridge

Sunday 30th March

Saw three butterflies yesterday (Sunday 30th March 2008) - 1 Small Tortoiseshell, settled along Leeging Beech Gutter at **Vicarage Farm**, at 15:15 BST; 1 Peacock at **Parkside Farm**, at 15:25 BST; 1 Comma, in Moat Wood, **Trent Park** at 16:20 BST. My first dates for the year for these species - Robert Callf

First butterflies of the year. Brimstone at Old Hale Way, allotments **Hitchin** Brimstone and Red Admiral my **Hitchin** garden - Nigel Agar

In the sunshine on **Poors Field, Ruislip** I saw 4+ Peacock, 2 Comma and 2 male Brimstone - Steve Pash

Visited **Purwell Ninesprings HMWT Nature Reserve** this morning 11.30 am, Saw 2 x Brimstone, 1 Comma basking in the sun at ground level, and 1 Red Admiral. At 1.30 am at **The Millstream P.H. Hitchin** in the car park, adjacent the stream and garden, 1 Brimstone and 1 Red Admiral. 2.20 pm arrived home and saw 1 Brimstone in own **Hitchin garden** - Val Fullforth

In the garden in **Hayes** a Peacock basking on the ground and what looked like a small White or perhaps a day flying moth? flying into Honeysuckle before disappearing into the bushes - Helen George

Weather also much better than I dared hope, here in **Tring**, Herts. - virtually sunny all day from 9am. A Peacock by 9.30 basking in garden and then several Brimstone 'fly throughs' and a Comma in the afternoon. Walked around the field behind the house at about 12pm and I could see 5 Brimstones flying simultaneously and 2 Small Torties chasing about. Also a single Comma. (Previous years have returned early April sightings of 10 -15 STorties so the numbers might be down this spring). On a shortish drive (20 mins) to nearby Ivinghoe (Bucks) I saw 14 Brimstones; only one a female - obviously today was a good day for male Brimstone spotting in this area. Searched nettle beds that held Red Admiral larvae this time last year but nothing except some

tents of green moth larvae (of Burnished Brass I think). Hope everyone else enjoyed the day as much as me - Nick Bowles

1 Brimstone, 1 Comma and 1 Peacock at **Waterford Heath** and 2 Peacocks and 1 Brimstone in various parts of **Bengeo** today - Andrew Wood

Park Wood, Ruislip - Woo hoo! March is saved! Having royally screwed up the forecast and not gone gliding thinking we were in for heavy showers all day, I decided to pay Park Wood a visit. In the areas surrounding the coppiced area I saw 5-6 flighty Commas basking in strong sun and having good scraps. Also saw 1 small dark nymph near the Fore Street entrance to the Bridleway. No idea what it was. Looked too small for Peacock or Red Admiral. I guess Small Tortoiseshell is a possibility. I didn't go too far as further West the bridleway was impassable without seriously big wellies. (Glad I didn't come in from the South entrance!) The clearing West of the coppiced area was also badly flooded in the middle. But the Commas were found in dry areas. - Mike Rubin (trying not to look at that sky...)

2 male Brimstones, one on Gresley Way, **Stevenage** by Box Wood and the other in my Great Ashby garden - Steve Lane br />

Thursday 27th March

Recorded my first butterfly of the year, a **small tortoiseshell** adjacent to Muggins Wood, 1 mile east of **Little Hadham Ford** on 27th March. 3.00pm on a relatively mild and sunny afternoon - Jonathan Forgham

I saw 3 Peacock Butterfly on the outskirts of **Balls Wood** on the **27th March** - Sandra Standbridge.

One Peacock in Lower Bourne Gardens, **Ware** lunchtime today - Andrew Wood

Single Peacocks at Beech Farm near **St Albans** (TL 18 08) and by Knights Wood near **Tyttenhanger** (TL 18 05) - Colin Everett

Stevenage, saw my first butterfly this year - a Comma in Millennium Wood (adjacent to Whomerley Wood) at around 3:10pm today. The area is part of my transect (Stevenage). - Peter Clarke

Fir and Pond Woods, a comma by the Old Pond ... first butterfly seen on the Reserve this year - David Gompertz

The hot sunshine is bringing out the butterflies. A Peacock and a Comma in the garden in **Hayes** - Helen George

Sunday 23rd March

National news

Humming-bird Hawk-moth and Painted Lady online survey with BBC Radio 4

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/worldonthemove/>

Butterfly Conservation has developed an exciting online survey of these two migrant species in association with Radio 4's major series World on the Move and as part of the Garden Moths Count initiative. The survey will run throughout 2008 on the Butterfly Conservation website and gives us a great opportunity to raise awareness and engage with the general public. Anyone who sees a Humming-bird Hawk-moth or Painted Lady butterfly can use the simple but amazing interactive mapping on the website to zoom in on satellite images (down to the scale of your own garden) and log their sightings. This will enable us to track the arrival in the UK of these wonderful creatures on their journey from North Africa and southern Europe, and then to map their spread here during the summer. We are also keen to hear observations of interesting behaviour (such as courtship, mating, egg laying, plants used for nectaring, reverse migration in the autumn or hibernation) which can be recorded in a comments box in the online recording system. What we do know about the migration of these spectacular insects comes from observations over the centuries from amateur recorders, but there is still much to learn and we hope that the public will help in 2008.

National Butterfly Recorder's Meeting 29 March 2008

Final call for bookings for this popular annual event. It is not too late to book and we would appreciate any quick promotion you can achieve locally via email/websites. Details of the meeting

and booking are: Booking is still open for the ever-popular annual National Recorders' Meeting. It will take place at the Birmingham and Midland Institute (see www.bmi.org.uk for a map). The National Recorders' Meeting provides feedback about both butterfly recording and monitoring undertaken through the Butterflies for the New Millennium and UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme projects (including progress in the wider countryside monitoring pilot). Butterfly population trends for 2007 will also be unveiled for the first time at the meeting! In addition, we will hear from guest speakers about exciting butterfly projects making use of recording and monitoring data to assess the impacts of climate change, habitat management and other issues. Anyone interested in butterflies is welcome; you don't have to be an active recorder. However, we do require advanced booking and there is a (heavily subsidised) registration fee of £5 per person, made on the day, to help cover the costs of venue hire, tea/coffee and buffet lunch. If you would like to book a place please contact Diane Garland at Butterfly Conservation (01929 400209 or info@butterfly-conservation.org) AS SOON AS POSSIBLE providing your name, address and contact number.

Monday 17th March

One **Brimstone** seen flying around **Hillingdon Hospital, Uxbridge** on Saturday morning - Helen George

News from Saturday 15th - A single **Brimstone** here in **Tring** Herts both today and yesterday and today a brief glimpse of dark silhouette that appeared from shape to be a Peacock, on its way into the shelter of a thick conifer after the sun vanished. Even if we are headed back towards colder weather, spring is on its way (at last) judging by the plants and various invertebrates that are out and about- Nick Bowles

On **Friday 14th March**, one lone brave **Brimstone** at **King's Meads** - Alan Reynolds

Wednesday 12th March

One **Peacock** travelling at 60mph at **Nettleden 12th March**. Here's a little aside for anyone who fancies braving the March winds, there's a nice show in Stocking Springs and the adjacent Round Spring at the moment. A nice taste of old Hertfordshire coppiced woodland - Ashley Cox

Tuesday 4th March

Tring, 1st March, I should have been at UTB event, I couldn't believe my doubly bad luck when I spotted the rotary washing line snapped and fallen over. Went out to retrieve washing and very nearly stepped on **Comma** basking on bare ground. About 5 mins later it flew fairly strongly into a pyracantha bush, or so I thought but I couldn't find it so possibly it doubled back or went straight through and out the other side. So, not such bad luck and my species count for 2008 has doubled. I don't keep records accessible so not certain but probably my earliest Comma - Nick Bowles

I saw my first Red Admiral of the year at Hall Marsh Scrape, **Fishers Green** on **Tuesday 26th February** - Sandra Standbridge

February 2008

Tuesday 26th February

Hemel Hempstead garden, 11.20 a.m. in the back garden a **Red Admiral** was flying in the sunshine while I was pruning eleven of my buddleias! - Malcolm Newland

One slightly tatty **Peacock** in a sheltered spot in The Hyde at **Ware** lunchtime today (26th). I managed to get a quick shot of it - Andrew Wood

Sunday 24th February

At **Amwell Nature Reserve** ... **2 red admirals** - David Gompertz

Saturday 23rd February

My friend in **Mill End** who records in her garden for me reported a butterfly which darted past her as she opened her garden shed this **Tuesday Feb 19th**. She caught sight of a flash of red and is pretty certain it was a red admiral but is not 100% sure. Nevertheless it was a butterfly! She is fairly sure it must have been hibernating in the shed and was woken up by the sunshine! - new via Ann Piper

Wednesday 20th February

Early sighting records - **9th February** - nr **Waltham Abbey** just inside the Herts border :) : Red Admiral (single) **17th February** - **Lemsford Springs** : **Peacock** and Red Admiral sighted. Both singles. Both spotted while birdwatching. The first one literally crossed the lens as I (Alun) was counting geese in a field. It just drifted through, causing me to snatch up the binoculars and follow its progress as it headed over the brambles and out of sight - Alun & Chrissie

Monday 18th February

Whilst watching a male Lesser Spotted Woodpecker in **Grovelands Park, Southgate** this afternoon a **Red Admiral** flew past at 15:25 GMT - Robert Callf

We saw a **Red Admiral** today, nectaring on Oregon Grape against a sunny wall in a sheltered housing complex in **Hayes** Middx - John Hollingdale

Sunday 17th February

Sighting of fresh **brimstone** on **10th Feb 2008** in our garden at **Hitchin** - Martin Banthorpe

Thursday 14th February

News from **Monday 11th February**, Ordnance Road, **Enfield Lock**: **Red Admiral** at 12.45 in flight close to the railway station - Martin Shepherd

Tuesday 12th February

I finally saw my first butterfly of the year today – a **Red Admiral** floated past me in **Stocking Pelham** around lunchtime - Tony Moverley PS and yes, it's just inside the Herts border!

A male **Brimstone** was seen today, 12 Feb, at 1pm flying in **Gubblecote** in the far NW corner of the county - Peter Bygate

We had a **Peacock** at **Aldbury Nowers** yesterday, in the northern enclosures, at around 14.30. We're back there today so might see some more! - Paul Thrush

My wife saw a **Red Admiral** on **Sunday February 10th** flying near our home on the Rosedale estate, **Cheshunt** - our first sighting of the season. Hopefully there will be many more to come - Roger Newbold

Monday 11th February

We saw a very smart male **Brimstone** flying south down our road in **Hatfield** around **midday on 8 Feb**. It was a welcome complement to the bumblebees & honey bees buzzing round crocus & heather flowers in our garden - John Moss

I saw a lovely pristine **peacock** butterfly sunning itself by lower **Spring Pond** on **Saturday (Feb 10th)** - Steve Bolsover

Horsenden Hill, on the south side of **Horsenden Hill** there are some blossoming bushes near the summit in full sun. Just before 1pm today I saw and photographed a **Comma** nectaring on one bush. My first ever February butterfly
<http://piccies.flybywire.org.uk/ButterfliesMoths/2008/20080211/EarlyComma.jpg> - Mike Rubin

I saw a very fresh **Brimstone** in my garden on **Saturday (Wheathampstead)** and so a few flaps and it was probably made it to Marshalls Heath - Paul Unwin

Sunday 10th February

No butterflies to report I'm afraid but I saw at least a dozen honey bees feasting on gorse this morning in the lovely sunshine! Maybe this is a sign of good things to come! This was along the main road in Maple Cross - Ann Piper

At about 4pm (**9th February**) in **Bishop's Stortford cemetery**, I caught sight of what I thought was initially just one **Red Admiral**. But as it flew past I saw that there were actually two, in tandem, as if joined together and flying as one - Mary Moverley

Saturday 9th February

I had a **Brimstone** in my garden here in **Tring** at just before 12 and so did two others I met this pm (1 from just North of Aylesbury Bucks and the other Oxford). So presumably plenty about in our neck of the woods today. It might be of interest that I joined the Upper Thames Branch trip to Bucks in search of Black Hairstreak eggs. 12 man hours turned up just two eggs. Not an easy species to monitor at this stage. No sign of vanessids (or blackthorn flower and the latter probably not for several weeks; plenty of bullace blossom in Tring though) - Nick Bowles

Just (12.30) had a stunning **male Brimstone** butterfly flutter over our back garden in **Harpenden** in bright sunshine - exactly eight weeks earlier than in 2007 and 2006! - Alan Jackson

Guessing you might have a relative flood of sightings in today's beautiful weather. We had a **male Brimstone**, early afternoon, flying through **Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park** - Keir Mottram

Friday 8th February

At lunchtime today a **fast flying butterfly** flew past me from behind and disappeared over a fence into a field at **Broadmeads Ware**. Too fast to positively identify and could not give chase but almost certainly either peacock or red Admiral by its size - Andrew Wood

January 2008

Wednesday 30th January

Saw my first butterfly of the year today (**Weds 30th January 2008**) a worn and tatty **Red Admiral** basking on an ornamental shrub at **Forty Hall, Enfield** this afternoon at 12:25 GMT - Robert Callf

Sunday 20th January

At lunchtime today I spotted a **butterfly** on the wing close to the **Bridgewater Monument above Aldbury**. I think I was just inside Herts. It didn't stop but it came fairly close and I am 90% sure it was a Peacock. Local conditions were 8/8 overcast low cloud but mild at about 13C. (It wasn't raining at the time although later in the walk it did!) That was a pleasant January surprise bonus. Wish it would have settled so I could have been 100% sure. But the deep red/purple velvety hint, very dark underside, flight pattern and the motion-blurred white pattern at the tips hinted at Peacock rather than Red Admiral. Then the wind blew it away into the woods and it was lost from view - Mike Rubin