

# Archive Page

## Sightings and news from July to December 2009

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This page contains sightings details of all the butterflies and moths reported to the [Sightings page](#) between July and December 2009.

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 2009

#### **Thursday 10th December 2009**

1 Red Admiral flying across Priory Street, Ware in bright sunshine at lunchtime today - Andrew Wood

A December sighting for you, seen today (10th) at Patmore Heath, Red Admiral sunning itself on a tree trunk, along with about 30 Bluebottles, don't they know its December ? - Martin Dodd

#### **Saturday 6th December 2009**

Hot sunshine today, Sunday 6th December, brought out a Red Admiral in our Hayes garden. Good news as I expect it is hibernating here somewhere, which means hopefully I will get to see it again! - Helen George

### **November 2009**

#### **Saturday 28th November 2009**

Red Admiral, near Hillingdon, flying then settling on pavement to bask in weak sunlight - Andy Whitney

#### **Tuesday 24th November 2009**

Noticed a Cream-spot Ladybird at Myddelton House Grdns., Bulls Cross, today (Tues 24th November 2009) on the wheelbarrow I was using for raked leaves. Perhaps not so surprising given the mild weather we are having? - Rober Callf

#### **Saturday 21st November 2009**

One Red Admiral in our Hertford back garden feeding on rotting pears Saturday lunchtime 21 November - Andrew Wood

Even I have now seen a butterfly! A male Brimstone also fluttering around, in my next door neighbour's garden in Ware today at 12.30 - Liz Goodyear

#### **Friday 20th November 2009**

A female Brimstone fluttering on low vegetation on a track leading to Shackledell Grassland, Stevenage at 1335. I have never seen a Brimstone this late in the season before. - Peter Clarke

#### **Thursday 19th November 2009**

Just one Red Admiral in Ware Cemetery today 19th November Andrew Wood

#### **Tuesday 17th November 2009**

4 different Red Admirals in Ware Cemetery this lunchtime. The first butterflies I have seen for 3 weeks - Andrew Wood

I was thrilled to see a peacock butterfly flutter against a window in Kings Langley in sunshine around 12.30pm on November 17th 2009 - Elizabeth Debenham

### **Sunday 15th November 2009**

Red Admiral & Painted Lady nectaring on hebe in my St Albans Garden at lunchtime today - Malcolm Hull

Saw a large dark Nymphalid butterfly in Oakwood Park, N14 this afternoon after church (I saw it through the binoculars whilst it was in flight and could not make out any white in it's wings - so probably not a Red Admiral, though not 100% sure). - Robert Callf

9.30am Painted lady basking on conifer in garden N.W.Bishop's Stortford Jim Fish

### **Saturday 7th November 2009**

Still two Small Copper in set-aside field near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 12:18 GMT (Our latest record by one day!). What is the all time latest record for Herts & Middx? - Robert Callf & Robin White. *The extreme date was 6/11/01. It was 12/10/55 when Brian Sawford wrote his book!* - Andrew Wood

Also Robin White also saw a Painted Lady fly across the Lower Lake in Trent Park today at 10:50 GMT. - news via Robert Callf

### **Wednesday 4th November 2009**

One Small Copper remains in the set-aside field near Dew Pond, Trent Park (TQ2997) at 13:08 GMT - still in good condition and my latest record in Trent Park for eight years. - Robert Callf

I had a close view of a Small Copper today (7th November) in Mad Bess Woods (TQ075891), Ruislip, which is the latest I've ever seen one. Other witness: Michael Hammond - Michael Robinson

### **Monday 2nd November 2009**

1 Painted lady in my garden N.W Bishop's Stortford also 1 Red Admiral Grange Paddocks B. S - Jim Fish

Painted Lady seen next to the north circular in Finchley, approx TQ258899 - Tom Clarke

I thought the Painted Lady season was finally over - but one was seen in our garden in Pinner, Middlesex on Monday 2nd November. Graham Elcombe

One freshly-emerged Painted Lady nectaring in full sun on a Hebe shrub at 1405 in Sun Lane, Harpenden. Whether due to the sun or the nectar I can't be sure - but the insect seemed totally unaware of my presence, allowing me to approach it to within a couple of inches. Alan Jackson

Some interesting late sightings of Small Copper today (Monday 2nd November 2009) in Trent CP - one in rough area between Ride Wood and the Lower Lake, 12:01 GMT, and three, including two together (one of which was in good condition and could conceivably last another week or two) in set-aside field near Dew Pond, 12:18 - 12:21 GMT. If the weather stays reasonably mild I can imagine a late record being broken? Also four Firecrests seen today in Trent Park. - Robert Callf

I saw a late Painted Lady in Robert Avenue St Albans. The date was the 2nd of November 2009 at 12:20, the insect was feeding on a Hebe bush. We have yet to experience an air frost generally in this area although the 17th of October saw temperatures only a fraction above freezing. Alan Gardiner

My garden in Hatfield. A bright Red Admiral flitting round Ivy blossom at 12.30 was a pleasant surprise on a chilly day, the first sighting for 10 days or more - John Moss

### **October 2009**

#### **Saturday 31st October 2009**

A couple of butterflies to report today (Saturday 31st October 2009) - 1 Painted Lady, near Water Grdn., 13:13 GMT; 1 Small Copper, nectaring on Michaelmas daisies, set-aside field near Dew Pond, 13:40 GMT. - Robert Callf

Today 2.30 feeling fed up as spurs were 3-0 down, so go up to Waterford Heath to look for late small coppers, none at all but as i was leaving, in car park on vicarage lane one female CLOUDED YELLOW flew by and settled in silver birch tree. It was in good condition, probably second brood - Steve Kiln

A lone comma at 1445 near the pond at new hall farm Babbs Green, feeding on Blackberry remnants in the afternoon sun - Laurence Drummond

#### **Friday 30th October 2009**

1 Red Admiral seen on a cloudy day near stortford farm park near Bishops stortford - A J Steele

#### **Thursday 29th October 2009**

Another quick walk alongside the River Colne near Stanwell Moor after lunch today (29th) produced a couple of fast-flying Painted Ladies and a Peacock sunning itself on a bramble bush. - Dave Miller

#### **Sunday 25th October 2009**

A quick tour of my local patch in Stanwell Moor during the morning of the 23rd October revealed just the one butterfly, a Red Admiral avidly feeding on ivy. Dave Miller

I see that sightings reports are tailing off, so you might like to hear of a Small Tort on a late dandelion, Red Ad and at least one, possibly two, Painted Lady on ivy at the end of the garden here (Tring) mid-day on Friday 23rd - Nick Bowles

#### **Friday 23rd October 2009** (seven species reported)

At lunchtime, One Red admiral on the Ridgeway in Ware and a Small Copper and Painted lady in a field behind Wodson Park, Ware which still has a pretty good show of Knapweed in flower. - Andrew Wood

Batford - Weedy field by B653 at lunchtime: 1 male COMMON BLUE - Darin Stanley

The fine and warm weather today brought out a Peacock - seen flying in Fairlands Valley Park just outside Monks Wood, Stevenage at 1320 hrs. - Peter Clarke

In my Garden N.W Bishop's Stortford. 2 Painted Ladies, 1 Red Admiral, 1 Small White - Jim Fish

#### **Thursday 22nd October 2009**

Some news for today (Thursday 22nd October 2009) - 5 Small Copper, at Trent Park (1 on Michaelmas daisies, near Lower Lake, 12:34 BST, 4 nectaring on Michaelmas daisies, set-aside field near Dew Pond, 13:03 - 13:06 BST) - a good number so late in the autumn? - Robert Callf

I see from the latest Newsletter that there is some interest in your 2 counties in Heath Fritillary. I'd like to draw to your attention, therefore a caterpillar search field trip scheduled for Saturday 7 November at Thrift Wood, Essex - [details on the Cambs and Essex website](#) - Guy Manners

#### **Sunday 18th October 2009**

A few sightings for today (Sunday 18th October 2009) - 1 Green-veined White, settled, 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 11:56 BST; 4 Small Copper,(3, including two together, nectaring on Michaelmas daisies, 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 11:59 - 12:08 BST, 1 set-aside field near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 12:21 BST); 1 Speckled Wood, along bridle-path, near Merryhills Brook, Trent Park, 12:54 BST. Also two unidentified White sp., (1 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 1 'Barracks', Vicarage Farm). - Robert Callf

#### **Tuesday 13th October 2009**

Lovely autumn day, at Commons nature reserve (Welwyn Garden City) 1 large white, at Rickneys 3 common blue, one brown argus, a small copper, a small white and a painted lady - Steve Kiln

2 Brown Argus and 4 Small Copper on a field NW of Hadley Wood today - news from Diane Andrews

There was a red admiral outside Grebe House (St Albans) this lunchtime, on ivy. I saw 3 comma (all nectaring on bramble together) and 2 small copper at Aldbury yesterday. Have attached a photo of 2 of the commas together. Paul Thrush

One Red Admiral on Ivy in my Harpenden garden this morning plus usual assortment of bees.  
Robin Pearson

### **Monday 12th October 2009**

I'm still getting visits from Painted Lady's in my garden in Hayes, Middx, as well as Peacocks. I've attached a picture of a Painted Lady that came in today, nectaring on a Verbena 'Seabrooks Lavender'. I can't praise this plant enough for attracting insects. It compares to any Buddleia as a magnet for Butterflies, Bees, and especially Moths, Silver Y's in particular, the plant was covered in them this summer. So anyone wanting other idea's on what to plant for our Butterflies and other insects, this is definitely a contender for best performing plant. Its been in flower since the Spring and its still going strong! - Helen George

BENTLEY PRIORY-----6 x Red Admiral (4 females) 3 X Painted lady ( 2 females)----I x Comma, all on a small patch of ivy flowers in full sun behind "The Case Is Altered" Pub. Kit Jones

Sightings for today (Monday 12th October 2009) - 1 Comma, along Merryhills Book, at Vicarage Farm, 10:09 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 10:31 BST; 7 Small Copper,(1 near Lower Lake, 11:02 BST, 6, including four together, on Michaelmas daisies, 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 11:10 - 11:15 BST); 1 Comma, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 11:12 BST. 1 Painted Lady, nectaring on Michaelmas daisies, 'Old Golf Course', 11:15 BST; 1 Small White, settled at Ferny Hill Farm, 11:40 BST; 1 Painted Lady, in flight South of 'Barracks', Vicarage Farm, 13:02 BST; 1 Painted Lady, nectaring on thistles, Sidhil's Field, Vicarage Farm, 13:12 BST. - Robert Callf

### **Sunday 11th October 2009**

Female Common Blue and three Painted Ladies around Bengoe today 11 October. Yesterday 10th October nothing but Small Whites in Bengoe and Bramfield, 6 in total - Andrew Wood

### **Saturday 10th October 2009**

Aldenham Church TQ 14 98 - Red Admiral; Hogg Lane nr Elstree Aerodrome TQ 16 96 - Red Admiral; Elstree Aerodrome/Hilfield Park Res boundary path TQ 15 96 - male Brimstone; Watford Link Road TQ 11 97 - white sp (probably Small White). - Colin Everett

Two painted lady travelling S E through the same gap in the woodland that others went N W in June----- I x fresh male painted lady seen caught in spiders web and released-----I x Comma, 2x Red Admiral on Michaelmas daisies ----- I x Speckled wood and something that looked like a Brown hairstreak but obviously wasnt flying high in the oak canopy.--- KIT JONES

Some news for today (Saturday 10th October 2009) - 6 Small Copper,(4 at 'Old Golf Course', 11:02 - 11:05 BST, 2 together, set-aside field near Dew Pond, 11:41 BST), Trent Park; 1 Painted Lady, nectaring on Ivy flowers, 'Old Nursery', Trent Park, 11:32 BST; 2 Comma,(1 nectaring on michaelmas daisies, set-aside field near Dew Pond, 11:41 BST, 1 edge of Shaws Wood, 11:56 BST); 1 Painted Lady, set-aside field near Shaws Wood, Trent Park, 11:43 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, along bridle-path near Merryhills Brook, Trent Park, 11:59 BST. - Robert Callf

Robin White reported a Common Blue in set-aside field near Dew Pond, Trent Park on Thursday 8th October 2009. - news via Robert Callf

### **Thursday 8th October 2009**

Batford - 1 late male COMMON BLUE beside Lower Luton road & 1 PAINTED LADY in weedy field, at around lunch time - Darin Stanley

A real disappointment today after last week's plenty - perhaps to be expected really. However, the major let down was that the access to the best bit of my local patch (north of the A3113) has been cut off. [I attach a picture of the ominous signs](#). I believe the intention is to turn the area into a country park of some sort, but I suspect it will be rather sanitised in the process. Portions of the wildflower area appear to have been cut short already - perhaps not unreasonable in October. I will keep an eye on what they're up to. On the rest of the walk today (8th), there were two

Peacocks, a Comma and a Red Admiral on ivy flowers, and two Painted Ladies, very new, basking on brambles in between flying energetically around the treetops. Also of note was a Speckled Wood spotted last Sunday (4th) apparently considering laying eggs on the lank grass by my front doorstep. - David Miller

Today in the Bicentenary Garden at Brunel University I saw a small but fresh, brightly coloured Painted Lady. Also Speckled Wood, Peacock & Large White. Steve Pash

A Speckled Wood flying over the pond in Whomerley Wood, Stevenage at around 1400 hrs. Peter Clarke

### **Tuesday 6th October 2009**

A couple of sightings today (Tuesday 6th October 2009) - 1 Red Admiral, flew low over Cuckolds Hill, Parkside Farm, 13:00 BST. 1 Painted Lady, on Res banking, at Parkside Farm, 13:12 BST. - Robert Callf

We were down at the post pond (Ruislip Common) on Saturday afternoon (3/10) near the gate into the woods when we saw a **white admiral** butterfly. It briefly flew round before disappearing back up into a tree. We realise that this is a very late sighting - Sue & Steve Place

### **Sunday 4th October 2009**

A single clouded yellow recorded near Hadham Hall, Little Hadham on 04.10.09. Brief feeding stops as it headed North East at 12.45pm. Flight speed was about 5mph in a light westerly breeze. My first record for the parish - Jonathan Forgham

A Red Admiral at Abbots Langley TL 09 01 - Colin Everett

At Rickneys 4 brown argus and a painted lady, a new one, at Waterford Heath south only 2 small coppers. In Bengoe at home small tortoiseshell and a painted lady - Steve Kiln

### **Friday 2nd October 2009**

I was working at Alpine Meadow yesterday, saw a small copper, comma and speckled wood - Paul Thrush

A few sightings for today (Friday 2nd October 2009) - 2 Small Copper, set-aside field, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 13:57 - 13:59 BST. 1 Painted Lady, at South Lodge Farm, 14:17 BST. - Robert Callf

### **Thursday 1st October 2009**

A few sightings for today (Thursday 1st October 2009) - 1 Painted Lady, at Parkside Farm, at 09:56 BST, 1 Small White, at Parkside Farm, 09:56 BST. 4 Small Copper, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 11:18 - 11:22 BST. 1 Red Admiral, set-aside field near Williams Wood, Trent Park, 12:34 BST. 3 Speckled Wood, together, along bridle-path near Merryhills Brook, Trent Park, 12:48 BST. - Robert Callf

It may be 1st October, but my trip today along the river to the usual patch by the motorway was like something out of midsummer in terms of numbers and variety. First of all, I clocked species number 22 for the year on this spot, by finding two Small Coppers in amongst the Common Blues. These were as numerous as at any time this summer, with 25+, mostly male and some very fresh indeed. Also in with the Blues were two or three Brown Argus, likewise brand new and given the date, a definite third brood (as reported from other sites). Only four Small Heath today however. I spent a couple of hours at the site, during which time Clouded Yellows hurtled through at regular intervals: often in twos, and at least fifteen altogether, probably more. Any that showed signs of stopping were intercepted by Common Blue males and chased away in colourful dogfights. There were a lot of freshly emerged Painted Ladies, again more than a dozen, and a similar number of Peacocks. Finally, along the riverside, four Speckled Woods, three Small Whites, one Large White, and last of all a Red Admiral and a Comma on ivy flowers. 70+ butterflies from 12 species. Not bad for October, I'd say. And a lot of photos to sort out! - Dave Miller

Tower Hamlets Cemetary **Large Tortoiseshell** sighting - we'd like to give you a little bit more info that'll be more accurate. The large tortoiseshell was seen by Terry Lyle on Friday 25th flying 10metres from him in woodland with a light understorey. It was a rich orange butterfly, Red

Admiral size. Terry has seen L. Tortoiseshells before. One in London in 1977 sitting right before him, others flying in France and Spain. As that sighting was at 10metres, he decided to do the transect again on Sunday 27th, in the hope of seeing it again. On section 7 of the transect he did. Terry put it up from open grassland, just as he reached it. It flew to the top of a tall birch 100 metres away and again Terry saw what a rich orange impression it makes in flight - Kenneth Greenway Cemetery Park Liaison Officer

## **September 2009**

### **Wednesday 30th September 2009**

Saw a single Small Copper at the 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park this afternoon (Wednesday 30th September 2009) at 12:08 BST. - Robert Callf

### **Tuesday 29th September 2009**

Tower Hamlets Cemetary, Speckled Wood & Small White still in good numbers here over the last two days plus a single male Common Blue on each day - Keir Mottram

One settled very battered painted lady, so much so that I thought it was something new and one or two others in a dog fight along the edge of the Rose Garden and Butterfly World boundaries on 12 Sept around 5pm. One common blue male in good condition at Ivinghoe on 18th Sept in afternoon. One pristine peacock at around 12.30pm in Kings Langley on 24th Sept and one male brimstone in Kings Langley on 27th Sept which was too fast to take a photo.. Elizabeth Debenham

Spotted a Painted Lady in Fairlands Valley Park, Stevenage near the car park at the southern end. Also 2 Speckled Woods in nearby Whomerley Wood. Peter Clarke

Detailed report of a second brood White Admiral seen at Wimbledon Common on Sunday 27th recieved - news received via Nick Bowles on the Uk-Leps newsgroup

### **Sunday 27th September 2009**

Still feeling quite chilly though it was 1030 and very sunny, I set off today (27th) round the standard route to Junction 14. The usual suspects were all present, but in different numbers to last week: Two Speckled Woods along the riverside, plus a single Red Admiral and only one Comma, but once on the other side of the A3113, things hotted up. There has been a second flush of flowering thistles, and no less than seven Peacocks and three Painted Ladies were making the most of them, along with a Large White and two Small ones. No GVW today. There is still an abundance of big white daisies and tall yellow oxtongue (I think that's what it is!), and these were proving attractive to the Common Blues, which were out in force. I counted 17 males and 7 females before giving in. A few Small Heaths remained (no more than 6 or 7), one of which appeared to be laying eggs. Finally, making a late appearance on the walk, were four Clouded Yellows. Spiralling in pairs when first seen, one male reluctantly sat near enough for a reasonable photo. Not quite the spectacle which I experienced on Friday of 500+ Clouded Yellows by the Sussex coast at Birling Gap, but lovely to see some so close to home nevertheless. - Dave Miller

A Clouded Yellow on the eastern side of the lake at Southern Country Park, Bishop's Stortford (TL474193) on this fine sunny morning, my first of the year. Tony Moverley

The Warren, Colney Heath - 19 Small Coppers & 2 Painted Ladies Bury Dell, Park Street - 8 Small Coppers, 1 Small Heath & 1 Painted Lady - Malcolm Hull

### **Saturday 26th September 2009**

In serene anti-cyclonic conditions the Abbots Langley/Kings Langley areas provided a scattering of records of Red Admirals & Commas on ivy flowers, a Speckled Wood, several Small Coppers and Small Whites (all the whites I was able to check were that species and included egg-laying females). Records as follows: Garston garden TL 11 00 - a Red Admiral around ivy; The Retreat at Abbots Langley TL 08 01 - a Red Admiral flying through; Kings Langley TL 07 02 - 3 Red Admirals (2 on ivy, 1 on Buddleia) & 3 Commas (all on ivy); near New Plantation nr Kings Langley TL 07 04 - 2 Small Coppers (1 feeding on ragwort), 3 Red Admirals (all on ivy) and a Comma (on ivy) [also a Silver Y]; near Bedmond TL 09 03 - 2 Small Coppers at edge of stubble field (1 feeding on Scentless Mayweed); Abbots Langley TL 09 02 - 3+ Small Whites including 2 females ovipositing on winter rape & a Speckled Wood; near Abbots Langley TL 10 02 - a female Small White. - Colin Everett



Saw a small copper yesterday in Brunswick Park - TQ285938 - Tom Clarke

### **Friday 25th September 2009**

Saw a Red Admiral in Oakwood Park, N14 this morning (Friday 25th September 2009) at 08:26 BST. - Robert Callf

St Albans - Red Admiral, Peacock, Painted Lady, Large White, Small White & Speckled Wood all flying today. 19 Painted Ladies in the gardens at Butterfly World was the highlight. Many are quite fresh still so I suspect will still be around for a while, though it closes for the winter after next Sunday (4th Oct) - Malcolm Hull

### **Wednesday 23rd September 2009**

A few sightings for today (Wednesday 23rd September 2009) - 3 Small Copper, (2 'Old Golf Course', 10:40 and 10:42 BST, 1 by Lower Lake, 10:48 BST); 1 Green-veined White, on thistle-head, Sidhil's Field, Vicarage Farm, 12:19 BST; 1 Comma, Sidhil's Field, Vicarage Farm, 12:27 BST; 3 Small White, on thistle-heads, Sidhil's Field, Vicarage Farm, 12:27 BST; 1 Painted Lady, on thistle-head, Sidhil's Field, Vicarage Farm, 12:29 BST. Best Regards, Robert Callf

Wednesday 23rd September 2009 A Red Admiral flying swiftly SW through Aldenham TQ 13 98 at 1520 hours (cf movement of Swallows and Meadow Pipits in the same direction on this afternoon) and Wednesday 16th September 2009 A Painted Lady along Blackbirds Lane near Radlett TL 14 00 this afternoon, looking fresh and behaving territorially. - Colin Everett.

### **Tuesday 22nd September 2009**

I had a red admiral this morning at Aldbury, it was basking between two of the southern enclosures. Paul Thrush

Saw a single Painted Lady on buddleia outside my window in Southgate, N14, this morning (Tuesday 22nd September 2009) at 09:55 BST. - Robert Callf

### **Monday 21st September 2009**

News for today (Monday 21st September 2009) - 1 Small Copper, set-aside field near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 11:31 BST. 1 Comma, along bridle-path near Shaws Wood, Trent Park, 11:41 BST. - Robert Callf

Horsenden Hill, warm sunny and light winds. Perfect for inspecting the ivy. All Speckled Woods were East side of the road. 3 Commas and 1 Red Admiral all on one ivy bush in the nature trail just west of the road. Whites well scattered as usual. Not bad numbers for the time of the year and my best haul of the month by and large. 11x Speckled Wood 5x Whites 4x Comma (All on ivy) 2x Red Admiral (All on ivy) 2x Unidentified (Silhouetted high up as they fluttered past) 1x Painted Lady (Near ivy) Total: 25 - Mike Rubin

Sightings for the weekend - Saturday 19th September North Enfield CC 2 Purple Hairstreak flying across the cricket ground and up into the old master tree. 1 red admiral 1 comma Several green veined whites. Wareside 1 Red Admiral 4 Comma - also nectaring on ivy flowers - which is extensive in the orchard next door. 1 painted lady - somewhat worn but very active. + several whites (green veined and large). The brown argus eggs are all still accounted for and currently unhatched. Also went for a purple hairstreak egg hunt on Sunday and found several on English Oak next to the footpath near Bromley Grid ref 414208 (although no adults seen) - will look at this place next year during flight season. - Phil MacMurdie

### **Sunday 20th September 2009**

Out came the sun on Friday morning (18th), so off I trudged along the Colne to Junction 14 and a little way north. Plenty of butterflies: Six Red Admirals and ten Commas all told, mostly concentrated on one patch of ivy which gets the sun most of the day. Three Peacocks and a Painted Lady on a Buddleia bush by the lake, plus three more Painted Ladies at various spots along the way. There were eight Speckled Woods, evenly spread and varying in wear and a selection of all three Whites. On the north side of the A3114, the patch of Small Heaths produced over a dozen today, and I was pleased to see that there appeared to be another flush of Common Blues, after seeing the last tatty specimen two weeks ago. These were new, and I spotted seven, three females and four males: two engaged in a whirlwind courtship, mating within a couple of minutes.

Finally, disturbed by one of the Blues, up popped a Clouded Yellow, which led me a merry dance as I attempted a close photo - I made do with a long shot, but good enough to show the individual was a male, apparently brand new. On Sunday 20th, I repeated the exercise with three small boys in tow, and we saw a very similar selection (more Peacocks but minus the Clouded Yellow, sadly). However, my eldest son (Toby) spotted a female Common Blue lay an egg, and I managed a good photo of it. - Dave Miller

News for today (Sunday 20th September 2009) - 1 Comma, at Ferny Hill, 11:12 BST. 1 Small Copper, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 11:31 BST. 1 Clouded Yellow, Uni-lawns, Tent Park, 11:49 BST. 2 Small Copper, set-aside field near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 12:06 - 12:08 BST. - Robert Callf

St Albans - A fresh flush of Small whites, with sightings in many locations around in St Albans. Peacocks appear to be coming out of hibernation with 4 seen at different locations around the District. 7 Painted Ladies at Butterfly World, mostly newly emerged individuals. Commas around in good numbers & a few Small Tortoiseshells. Nomansland HMBC Branch Field Trip - Highlight of the weekend 70 Small Coppers, 1 Comma, 1 Common Blue, 1 Speckled Wood, 2 Green-veined White, 2 Peacock & 1 Silver Y. This is the highest total of Small Coppers recorded from one site visit anywhere in Herts/Middx for 14 years - Malcolm Hull

Sunday PM 20th Sept Fir and Pond Woods NR Potters Bar ... 5 small coppers, 2 small whites and a peacock. - David Gompertz

Highlight today 2 small copper at Waterford Heath south near gate, still common blue, brown argus and small heath at Rickneys. At home in Bengoe painted lady, comma and peacock - Steve Kiln

### **Saturday 19th September 2009**

News for yesterday (Friday 18th September 2009) - 1 Clouded Yellow, nectaring on dandelions, Sidhil's Field, at Vicarage Farm, 14:34 BST. 1 Painted Lady, at 'Barracks', Vicarage Farm, 14:39 BST. 1 Small Copper, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 16:39 BST. 1 Comma, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 17:33 BST. Some sightings for today (Saturday 19th September 2009) - 1 Clouded Yellow, at Park Farm, 11:58 BST. 1 Small Copper, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 12:41 BST. 3 Small Copper, set-aside field near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 13:29 - 13:31 BST. 1 Comma, at South Lodge Farm, 13:48 BST. These are my first sightings of Clouded Yellow this year! - Robert Callf

### **Friday 18th September 2009**

Friday 18th Sept In the garden this lunchtime N.W. Bishop's Stortford 6 Commas 1 Peacock 1 Red Admiral 1 Painted Lady (in pristine condition) 2 Small Whites 1 Large White. Painted lady still here 15.30hrs All were nectaring on Michaelmas Daisies and Verbena Bonariensis. Small Tortoiseshell also turned up 16.00hrs Not bad for this time of year - Jim Fish

Horsenden Hill, I didn't look on Tuesday as it was raining. But on Wednesday I found hibernators feeding up on ivy, and were easy to spot even under cloudcover. 4x Comma (all by the nature trail just West of Horsenden Lane north on unshaded ivy. There might even have been a 5th but not sure.) 2x Red Admiral. One with 2 of the Commas on the same ivy. 1 a couple of fields further West. 1x Speckled Wood. 1x Large White. On Thursday I returned to Grove Farm. No leps on the extensive ivy there under the cool overcast. But I found posts blocking the Northeastern end of the meadow below the large grass field and a note saying not to cut due to Japanese Knotweed control. I did see small knotweed plants there indeed. The meadow there was nice with Ragwort and other nectar sources. I wish they'd keep it like that all the time rather than keep raising the plants to the bare soil. Then having been alerted to Knotweed, I noted several large flowering knotweed plants on my way back along the narrow road from David Lloyd (/Bedser Drive) to Greenford Road. (And a large number of conkers. Ahhh those were the days...) I'd never paid attention to these before. But are they any good as a nectar source for butterflies at this sparse end of the season? The flowers were quite extensive. Just like in [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japanese\\_knotweed](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japanese_knotweed) ... - Mike Rubin

### **Wednesday 16th September 2009**

News for today (Weds 16th September 2009) - 2 Small Copper, together, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 11:55 BST. 1 Small Copper, on stubble field E of Shaws Wood, at Vicarage Farm,



12:06 BST. - Robert Callf

Ware garden, 3 Comma on garden ivy flowers this afternoon - Liz Goodyear

### **Monday 14th September 2009**

A couple of sightings of note today (Monday 14th September 2009) - 1 Small Copper, at Cuckold's Hill, Parkside Farm, 10:13 BST. 1 male Common Blue, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 11:41 BST. - Robert Callf

### **Sunday 13th September 2009**

Yesterday afternoon (Saturday Sept.19th) was spent on our Dark Lane, Cheshunt allotment where I was delighted to see as well as a number of whites (mainly small) one male common blue butterfly which nectared on the flowers of some pot marigolds for a while. I can't recall seeing a common blue here before. It seemed to be in good nick and enjoying the September sunshine. - Roger Newbold

Well, I was proved wrong again - there was another butterfly lurking in the cage on Saturday morning (12th)! This one set off determinedly into the sunshine unbothered by wasps, I'm glad to say - making 290 in all (yes, Friday's total was typing error). I did my usual walk straight afterwards, so the count started with one Peacock, followed swiftly by a succession of Commas (seven in all), three Red Admirals and a single Painted Lady. In addition, three Speckled Woods were seen, several Small and/or Green-veined Whites and finally the Small Heath patch produced ten or so, but they are beginning to look pale and tired now. I have no idea where the Peacocks I released have dispersed to, but with strongish winds from all quarters over the period of their emergence, they could be anywhere. I have yet to see one of them again. - Dave Miller

Wareside 12th September Front garden - having decided to re-lay the front lawn, I then had the pleasure of following a female brown argus around who was busy selecting which hedgerow cranberry (Geranium pyrenaicum) seedlings to lay her eggs. I managed to track her for about 30 mins and identify approx 30 small plants that she had laid her eggs on - all now have white plant labels next to them so I don't cut them up as they will be carefully dug up and potted next weekend. She was very selective and only picked the small plants growing in full sun. gently placing an egg either under the leaf or between the curled edge where the stalk joins the leaf itself. The eggs are blue-green in colour and tended to be laid singularly on each plant, only rarely did a plant receive more than one and only then if she flew back to a previously visited specimen. It was interesting that she did not select any of the larger plants only those that were no more than 1cm high and with leaves almost flat to the ground surface. She was then followed by a female small copper who was more interested in the sorrel that was growing in a sunny corner. This now has 5 eggs on two leaves - (and another plant label next to it) so it won't get dug up. It certainly fascinated the kids who wondered what the hell I was up to on my hands and knees in the middle of the lawn / weeds. New lawn to have some daisies these cranberry plants come up everywhere and are great when they get bigger. Other visitors this weekend Comma - drinking from the last of the blackberries. Small Tortoiseshell 1 Several speckled woods (4) - Phil MacMurdie

### **Saturday 12th September 2009**

News for today (Saturday 12th September 2009) - 2 Small Copper, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 10:44 and 10:48 BST. 1 Comma, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 10:48 BST. 1 Red Admiral, near Water Grdn., Trent Park, 10:59 BST. 2 Comma, together, on Bramble, near Water Grdn., Trent Park, 10:59 BST. 2 Comma, together, on Ivy, 'Old Nursery', Trent Park, 11:31 BST. 1 Small Copper, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 11:37 BST. 1 Small Copper, along Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm, 12:07 BST - Robert Callf

Commas and speckled woods abound. Commas - 5 at waterford heath, 9 at broxbourne wood and 2 at Bencroft wood in same order speckled wood 3, 6 and 3. Rickneys 2 small heath, 2 brown argus and 9 common blue also small white and a speckled wood. No small coppers anywhere - Steve Kiln

### **Friday 11th September 2009**

The 189th and last Peacock butterfly (I think...) emerged today. However it met a nasty end almost immediately, being viciously attacked by a wasp. The latter's modus operandi was to bite the butterfly's head off, carry the body to the ground and then sting it to death. Once the butterfly was still, the wasp then abandoned it - Dave Miller

#### **Thursday 10th September 2009**

Some news for today (Thurs 10th September 2009) - 1 Red Admiral, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 09:44 BST; 1 Small Copper, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 11:44 BST; 1 Comma, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 11:46 BST; at least 1 Red Admiral, edge of Shaws Wood, Trent Park, 13:03 BST. - Robert Callf

Records for today at Aldbury Nowers - S2 - Comma S3 - Comma Common blue - 2+ Meadow brown Brown Argus N1 - Comma on buddleia Red Admiral at bottom of horse chestnut track Speckled woods throughout in suitable areas Paul Thrush

Few butterflies in the Bricket Wood/lower Ver valley area; at Smug Oak Lane nr Bricket Wood TL 14 02 a Green-veined White was feeding on flowers of Dandelion and Bristly Ox-tongue. - Colin Everett

#### **Wednesday 9th September 2009**

Yesterday 8th September in my garden in Hayes, 2 Whites, 1 Comma, 1 Red Admiral, all looking in pristine condition. A Hummingbird Hawkmoth which kept flitting in and out of the garden in Hayes for about 20 minutes, feeding on Caryopteris and Verbena 'Peter Seabrook', also looking in very good condition. Helen George

Some news for today (Weds 9th September 2009) - 1 Silver Y, at Parkside Farm, on Res banking, 09:46 BST. 1 Red Admiral, at Parkside Farm, 09:49 BST. 1 Small Copper, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 11:02 BST. 1 Small Heath, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 11:04 BST. - Robert Callf

#### **Tuesday 8th September 2009**

A couple of sightings for today (Tuesday 8th September 2009) - 1 Green-veined White, settled on Ragwort, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 10:20 BST. 1 Comma, settled on Bramble, S of Barracks, at Vicarage Farm, 11:23 BST. Also a number of Small White seen at Vicarage Farm over cultivated field. - Robert Callf

After a day's break, the Peacocks had clearly been watching the weather forecast and went for it big time today. I released a further 145 this morning, punctuated by the solitary Comma, which emerged in the middle of it all. 28 degrees and very sunny. There are still a few left, amazingly. Dave Miller

#### **Monday 7th September 2009**

Some news for today (Monday 7th September 2009) - 1 Red Admiral, at Parkside Farm, 11:41 BST. 1 Comma, edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park, 12:57 BST. 1 Small Copper, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 13:20 BST. 1 Painted Lady, Sidhil's Field, at Vicarage Farm, 16:05 BST. - Robert Callf

I had 2 small tortoiseshells and a red admiral at Wilstone Reservoir on Saturday (5/09). Paul Thrush

#### **Sunday 6th September 2009**

Just to let you know of a **purple hairstreak** in my Harpenden garden, today, Sunday 6th. The usually tatty autumn specimen, but never seen one before in my garden. Not even sure which sex - Richard Harrington

Saw a Red Admiral this morning (Sunday 6th September 2009) in Oakwood Park, N14 at 09:43 BST, which flew across the tennis courts. - Robert Callf

Today at Maple Lodge Nature Reserve TQ 03 92 with Paul Lewis, several species of butterfly included two Small Coppers on ragwort near the owl nestbox, one or two Commas and a Painted Lady. Nearby on buddleias at Maple Cross TQ 02 92 were two Large Whites and three Painted Ladies. Saturday 5th September In north Herts with Rob Clements, the rather few butterflies included two Red Admirals on ivy at Wallington TL 29 33. - Colin Everett

#### **Saturday 5th September 2009**

Some sightings for today (Saturday 5th September 2009) - 1 Red Admiral, flew S, at Vicarage Farm, 09:59 BST. 1 Painted Lady, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, 11:05 BST. 1 Red Admiral, flew SW, at Park Farm, 11:50 BST. 1 Red Admiral, near Ash Wood, Enfield Chase, 12:03 BST. 1 Small Copper, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 13:33 BST. 1 Comma, near Dew Pond, Trent Park,

13:40 BST. 1 Red Admiral, S edge of Williams Wood, 13:54 BST. - Robert Callf.

The first of the chrysalids hatched today, so the day began with releasing ten brand new Peacocks into the sunshine. I set off round my usual local route and encountered no shortage of butterflies. The ivy has flowered, attracting a selection of gleaming Red Admirals - I saw a dozen or more, including some groups. They were also attracted by the rotting blackberries everywhere, as were a Comma and a Speckled Wood. Four of each of these were seen in various spots. Whites were in abundance, mostly Small and Green-veined in equal numbers, but a handful of Large Whites too. The area near the M25 had, if anything, more Small Heaths than ever - I stopped counting after 20. However, the Common Blues had dwindled to just two, and only three Meadow Browns were spotted. Added to all this, I saw four Painted Ladies in a variety of places, including a very new individual on the ivy with the Red Admirals. Eleven different species. - Dave Miller

Butterfly World, Chiswell Green - Painted Ladies still around in good numbers (21 today), including both fresh & worn specimens. Also 2 Red Admirals, 2 Small Tortoiseshells, 4 Common Blues, 1 Silver Y & assorted whites. At the other end of Lye Lane, a very different range of species on Bricket Wood Common - Speckled Woods (37), 7 Commas (5 of them feeding on blackberries), 1 male Brimstone, 1 Red Admiral, 1 Silver Y & whites - Malcolm Hull

### **Friday 4th September 2009**

Two Comma's in my back garden in St Albans feeding on the over-ripe Victoria Plums. At least one was present every time I checked (about half hourly) between 10 am & 3 pm. To put this observation in context, I've never seen more than one Comma in the garden at the same time in the last 15 years & the plum tree has been present for about 10 years. Only other butterfly in the garden today was a Small White, laying on Nasturtiums - Malcolm Hull

### **Thursday 3rd September 2009**

Some observations some a little dated as I've been busy at work But here goes Went back to re-visit some of the tetrad squares where some of the "better" finds have been located. 28/8 Bury Green - Small Heath colony found earlier this year continues to thrive with another 5 individuals found Also small copper (1) Standon (Mill lane) The thriving colony of common blues continues 7 found and 1 brown argus The farm there has a "back garden" which is loaded with trefoil and kidney vetch which is approx 8 inches tall Small blues would love it if only they were around. Elsewhere Wareside Small Copper, Common Blue and Brown Argus seen. The latter egg laying on the trefoils and rock roses planted in the garden. So will watch these develop. North Enfield CC (Hilly Fields) - bit out of my patch but my old cricket club Purple Hairstreak still very common - watched 20+ PH's gently fly across the cricket outfield on their way to the master oak Which is a 400+ yr old tree at the top of the hill. 22/8 Dame Alice Owen school potters bar Purple Hairstreak (3) seen flying across the cricket field nr the M25 - Phil MacMurdie

While Blackberrying along the public footpath behind Bylands House, Dunstable Road, Redbourn I came across a total of 5 Small Coppers sometimes feeding on thistles & Knapweed in the short rabbit grazed turf. Occasionally I have found them on Redbourn Common. The only other Butterfly in this disused paddock was a Meadow Brown - Ernie Leahy

Some news for today (Thurs 3rd September 2009) - 1 Small Copper, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 13:57 BST. 1 Small Copper, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, 14:27 BST. 2 Painted Lady, on thistles, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Williams Wood, 14:35 BST. - Robert Callf

### **Wednesday 2nd September 2009**

News from 31st August: Croxley Common Moor. During a half hour walk across the Eastern end of the Reserve (which is being grazed by cattle) I saw about twenty Small Heaths. Otherwise there were very few butterflies to be seen, despite the warm bright weather. - Graham Elcombe

### **Tuesday 1st September 2009**

I have seen a speckled wood most days over the last week in Kings Langley. On 30th August there was a common wainscot moth in Barnes Lane in the field hedgrow border just outside the village. Yesterday August 31st I saw at least 7 small tortoiseshell butterflies all at once, one white and one painted lady on lavender in Barrowby Road, Grantham, Lincs! (I thought they were worth a mention even though they are out of the local area.) - Elizabeth Debenham

News for today (Tues 1st September 2009) - 2 Painted Lady, flew W, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent

Park, 10:48 and 10:51 BST. 2 Small Copper, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 11:34 and 11:37 BST. 1 male Common Blue, along Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm, 12:00 BST. 1 Painted Lady, on concrete path S of Barracks, at Vicarage Farm, 12:23 BST. - Robert Callf

## **August 2009 2009**

### **Monday 31st August 2009**

Butterfly World, Chiswell Green 31.08.09 - 1 CLOUDED YELLOW at far end of site by steps (looks really good for them, surprised I only saw 1 !), numerous painted ladies & tortoiseshells & a few Common Blues. I even saw 3 Wood whites.....in the tropical house!?! (the only ones we'll have in Herts) Darin Stanley

Speckled Woods still numerous (38 counted) during weekly transect at Bricket Wood, but otherwise only single Comma and scattered Large & Green-veined Whites. Saturday 29th August 2009 Merry Hill nr Bushey: Painted Lady flying rapidly approx SW at 1052 hrs (grid ref TQ 12 93) and 2 Common Blues (grid ref TQ 13 93). Sunday 23rd August Near Elstree Aerodrome TQ 16 96: single Small Copper & Common Blue. Sunday 16th August Aldbury Nowers: Brown Argus watched ovipositing on Common Rock-rose during BC branch field meeting. - Colin Everett.

### **Sunday 30th August 2009**

1 Painted Lady at Parkside Farm, Enfield today (Sunday 30th August 2009) at 10:48 BST and a Red Admiral at Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm at 13:36 BST. - Robert Callf

### **Saturday 29th August 2009**

One Small Copper near Dew Pond, Trent Park, this afternoon (Saturday 29th August 2009) at 13:17 BST. - Robert Callf

In bright, but cool, morning sunshine I set off on my usual walk by the River Colne. There were a fair few white butterflies up and about, mostly of the Green-veined variety - at least a dozen of these were seen. There were about half that number of Small Whites and four or five Large Whites. Having not seen one at all for a couple of weeks, next up was a solitary male Gatekeeper, looking fairly new, too, and then four Speckled Woods at regular intervals along the riverside. Coming to the "new" patch, just on the north side of the T4 link road, the Small Heath colony was as strong as ever, and making an effort to count them properly, I reached 15 in about 10 minutes over a relatively small area. Also noted were four Common Blues, 2m and 2f, almost bereft of colouring now, but still busily chasing each other. Finally in this area was a single Meadow Brown. On the return trip, one Comma and one Painted Lady were seen on a garden Buddleia, and one of the Peacock caterpillar nests seen before had now dispersed, with its inhabitants spread out widely across the nettle bed. My captive Peacocks have now pupated, and sad to say, parasitical maggots have begun to emerge from several of the chrysalises. Quite what proportion will have suffered remains to be seen. The single Comma caterpillar has also pupated, and I am hoping it too didn't swallow something nasty during its caterpillar days! During my clean-out of the insect cage I discovered three Buff Ermine caterpillars on the nettles too - one of these has also pupated, and the remaining two looking to follow suit. These hibernate as pupae I believe, so they will have to be found somewhere cool for the winter. - Dave Miller

### **Thursday 27th August 2009**

**Butterfly World Family Fun Day is being held this Saturday - [click on link for more details.](#)**

Two red admirals today, one in bencroft wood and one in Broxbourne wood near west car park - Steve Kiln

Saw a Small Heath near the Hadley Road at Vicarage Farm, Enfield today (Thurs 27th August 2009) at 11:17 BST. Also saw a few quick flying nymphalids which I was unable to identify. - Robert Callf

### **Wednesday 26th August 2009**

Saw a Small Heath on the 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park this morning (Weds 26th August 2009) at 10:44 BST. - Robert Callf

Spotted in the [Spectator Magazine](#) of 15 August, a report by Ursula Buchan of the sighting of a

**Large Tortoiseshell** at the Gardens of the Rose, Chiswell Green. Her article also mentions seeing Small Tortoiseshell, Painted Lady & Peacock at the same location. Date of the site visit is not mentioned, but probably 1 August - news from Malcolm Hull

### **Monday 24th August 2009**

St Albans - A fresh flush of Speckled Woods at Bricket Wood - over 50 seen. Purple Hairstreaks still there in decent numbers. Butterfly World - Painted Ladies still around in about the same numbers as last weekend, so no further emmigration. Brimstones also now at this site. Nomansland Common - Small Heath, Common Blue, Small Copper & a few Meadow Browns. Common Blues at Jersey Farm. Masses of Large Whites at all locations, Small & Green-veined also doing well - Malcolm Hull

Some news for yesterday (Sunday 23rd August 2009) - 1 male Common Blue, at Parkside Farm, 08:53 BST. 1 Small Heath, at 'Old Golf Course, Trent Park, 09:56 BST. News for today (Monday 24th August 2009) - 2 Small Heath, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 10:58 and 11:07 BST. 1 male Common Blue, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 11:08 BST. 1 Painted Lady, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 11:38 BST. 1 Small Copper, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 12:00 BST. - Robert Callf

### **Saturday 22nd August 2009**

A couple of sightings for yesterday (Friday 21st August 2009) - 1 Painted Lady, near Duncan's Wood, Enfield Chase, 10:00 BST. 1 Small Copper, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 11:18 BST. Sightings for today (Saturday 22nd August 2009) - 1 Small Copper, near Hadley Road, at Vicarage Farm, 08:55 BST. 1 Small Copper, at Parkside Farm, 09:25 BST. 1 Painted Lady, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 10:38 BST. 2 female Common Blue, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 10:40 and 10:46 BST. 1 Red Admiral, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 10:46 BST. - Robert Callf

### **Thursday 20th August 2009**

Every time I report that a species has not been seen recently. They then turn up!!! 3x Common blue, 1 male, 2 females Oakhill Woods LNR *Not seen any Monarchs or Bath white this year though* - Kit Jones

Butterfly notes: 22 July one small skipper in a field margin in Kings Langley, a first in this district for me. On 23rd July a speckled wood. 25th July an Essex skipper in same field. 26th July in Commonwood, Nr Kings Langley. one small copper, no blues this visit. In the same week up to 7 peacocks and one small tortoiseshell in Kings Langley on buddleia. On 27th July in Commonwood I was delighted to find two small coppers as well as a blue! 30th July at midday in Kings Langley there were 5 peacocks, 4 painted lady and a white on buddleia. In evening a large green emperor moth caterpillar was relocated from a passing place in Barnes Lane, Kings Langley, a lucky rescue. 31st July a red admiral and a small tortoiseshell in Kings Langley. The butterfly bush in Kings Langley has been a regular feeding place for Small tortoiseshell for several consecutive days this August too. It was first seen on 31st July. I saw none last year here. 1st August painted ladies, peacocks and a comma. 9th August I videoed a large white dying under my buddleia in Kings Langley. It was being eaten by a wasp. The wasps had been trying to attack several peacocks and whites earlier in the month. On 11th August there were two small tortoiseshell, about 16 painted lady, lots of peacocks and whites, one red admiral. In early evening at Aldbury Nowers 25-30 resting blues in the grassy triangle. I took a photo of a variant common blue or brown argus at rest with no lower line of spots, one small skipper. On 12th August the buddleia had painted lady, peacock and speckled wood, two small tortoiseshell, meadow brown in Kings Langley. 13th August meadow brown and red admiral came to visit the buddleia. 14th August in evening at Aldbury Nowers looking along tree margin of layby field and mostly in the triangle of grass with the central whitebeam, we counted 50+ Common blue at rest. Some were 4 on a single grass! One common blue had a red parasite egg or mite attached. It was a much weakened butterfly. I took a photo. One squashed moth on path possibly a lackey. At Wendover woods we have seen silver washed fritillary, meadow brown, peacock, whites, comma and many wings on the ground under the bush most of which were whites, one dark veined and one meadow brown. Could this have been hornet attack? Also I saw one footman moth. 16th August after 6pm fewer blues than previously seen at this time of day, one dull 6 spot burnet on scabious and a yellow shell at Aldbury Nowers. 16th August a yellow underwing on windowsill in Kings Langley. 17th August two small tortoiseshell on same buddleia flower at one time, spent at least an hour flitting about the buddleia and each other. Painted lady and peacocks now seem to have disappeared, but whites still around. August 19th, One small tortoiseshell today, one or two whites, and last evening a small white plume moth. Also seen in my garden in daylight was a newly emerged orange swift moth. Have not seen



the tortoiseshell since. - Elizabeth Debenham

A few sightings for today (Thurs 20th August 2009) - 2 Small Heath, at Vicarage Farm (1 Barracks, 12:17 BST, 1 Sidhil's Field, 12:20 BST); 1 Painted Lady, set-aside field, N of Williams Wood, 13:03 BST. 1 Painted Lady, on concrete path S of Barracks, at Vicarage Farm, 15:08 BST. Also saw a Common Blue on the 'Old Golf Course' in Trent Park this afternoon at 14:02 BST. - Robert Callf

Went to Rickneys on Wed afternoon for 20mins rather than your 1.5hours. Same distribution although I saw no small coppers and clouded yellows but I've seen them there before. Also went to waterford heath south and very similar mix although I had more common blues and a few brimstones. The one area that is interesting is the north pit where I saw 10 brown arguses and only one common blue as well as the whites and meadow browns. The other day i saw 20 brown arguses at least but if i had done a survey there were probably 50 or more. - Steve Kiln

### **Wednesday 19th August 2009**

I checked out the "new" part of my walk again late this afternoon (19th) in the blazing 30° sunshine: there were even more Small Heaths than yesterday, sparring in groups of three and four and involving unsuspecting Common Blues as well. At one point, a rather larger passer-by was drawn into the melée, and I realised on approaching them that it was a Clouded Yellow. Pausing only to shake off its assailants, it promptly headed off with the breeze in the direction of Terminal 5. Others seen today included three Commas (two old and one brand new), a Red Admiral (but not the one seen a couple of days ago), a couple of Speckled Woods and a Meadow Brown. The local tally now stands at 21 species. - Dave Miller

Rickneys, this morning during a 1 1/2 to 2 hour survey of the site, Common blue 79 (many females selecting areas for egg laying), brown argus 17, small heath 13, painted lady 4, meadow brown 9, small white 3 small coper 2, clouded yellow 2 or 3. Earlier on Waterford Heath south: brown argus 3, common blue 7, Gvwhite 3, small heath 4, meadow brown 9, speckled wood 2, painted lady 1, latticed heath 1, gatekeeper 1 - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

Broxbourne Woods pm, central area, 1 worn female silver-washed fritillary - Laurence Drummond and Andrew Middleton

### **Tuesday 18th August 2009**

I strayed a little from the normal patch and ventured just across to the north side of the link road from the M25 to Terminal 4. Apart from a generous helping of Common Blues, I discovered a thriving colony of Small Heaths, numbering at least a dozen in the small area I surveyed. Every day a new surprise, and a 20th species for the area. - Dave Miller

### **Monday 17th August 2009**

After work today I first spent an hour at Harmondsworth Moor. Not a great deal of variety to report: many Common Blues of both sexes, looking rather battered in some cases, but not diminishing their willingness to get close up and personal. All in all there must have been over 30, perhaps quite a few more as they were beginning to roost. Also seen were 5 Meadow Browns, 4 Small Heaths, 1 Speckled Wood, Whites of all three common species and a single Small Tortoiseshell chasing anything that moved, dragonflies included. After the walk on Harmondsworth Moor, I followed up at about 6 o'clock with the usual stroll along the River Colne to Junc. 14 of the M25. Before leaving the house, I found a brand new Small Tortoiseshell in the garden. Almost immediately into the walk there was a Comma, and then another, followed shortly afterwards by two Red Admirals in aerial combat. Their antics drew my eye to a large oak tree which (how unobservant can you be) I hadn't previously noticed. Lo and behold, around the top were 4 or 5 Purple Hairstreaks. I managed a minute's worth of video, enough to confirm it wasn't my imagination! One Red Admiral then became very friendly (see photo) Further on, I found two Common Blue, one of each, already tucked up for bed on grass stems by the river - unlike the two Painted Ladies zooming up and down on the opposite river bank. On the small oaks near to the motorway, where I had seen them back in July, I saw two or three more Purple Hairstreaks dancing in the late sunshine. Finally, to end the adventure, I found a nest of caterpillars on nettles. I assumed them to be rather dark Small Tortoiseshells (as it is after all August), but enlarging the photos I took convinces me that they are a second brood of Peacocks. It certainly seems an unusual year: I had no idea Purple Hairstreak continued so late, and I have never seen Peacock caterpillars beyond the end of June before. And on top of all the Painted Ladies and Clouded



Yellows too (I saw several at Denbies Hillside last week, so they are well inland now). - Dave Miller

Oakhill Woods LNR-----Purple hairstreak female nectaring on Ragwort 9am Monday----- KIT JONES

A few Small Heath to report today (Monday 17th August 2009) - 1 in Sidhil's Field at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 08:14 BST and two at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 10:13 - 10:15 BST. - Robert Callf

Sun 16th Common blues everywhere, Bencroft fields, Rickneys and Waterford heath, noticed Small heath more common, 4 at Rickneys 2 at waterford heath where also there was a very battered clouded yellow and 4 brimstones - Steve Kiln

Redbourn sightings: 14 Aug : Harpenden Road hill is a chalk habitat with many fine Common Blues, Gatekeepers, Meadow Browns & fresh Painted Ladies(4). Garden visitors include a male Brimstone, Common Blues(2), Small Tortoiseshell( 3), Peacocks, Painted Lady, Green Veined White & Large Whites in abundance. - Ernest Leahy

### **Sunday 16th August 2009**

The meadows adjacent to Ten Acre Wood, Hillingdon, 10+ Common Blue, 3 Small Heath, Small Copper, 2 Small Tortoiseshell, 8 Painted Lady, Peacock, Speckled Wood, dozens of Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown, Small & Large White. Steve Pash

TL3618: completed my second WCS visit just before midday today in pleasant conditions, not a great deal to report but in addition to quite large numbers of Small and Large Whites, 4 Painted Ladies, 6 Brown Argus, 4 Common Blue (plus more on detour), a few Speckled Wood and Meadow Brown, a Holly Blue and a nice surprise a fairly tatty Purple Hairstreak on low vegetation - Liz Goodyear

### **Saturday 15th August 2009**

Bricket Wood, St Albans - Small Copper nectaring on Ragwort in the small meadow on School Lane. This is only the second time this species has been seen on this transect in 5 years, hopefully a sign that last years major decline across Herts may be reversed. Numbers of all other species, apart from Silver Y moths have declined. No Silver-washed Fritillaries this week, but worth recording that this species has done very well at this site in 2009. It was recorded on the transect for 6 weeks in a row, starting on 6 July, with 29 records in total. This compares to a maximum total of 4 recorded on this transect in the previous five years since it recolonised. Malcolm Hull

Ware garden, a Jersey Tiger last night - Liz Goodyear (other reports have subsequently come through from Croxley Green on Wednesday, several in Essex and over 20 individuals seen by Helen and Tristan Bantock on Brockley Station in south London on the 3.08.09. Just on the platform-on vegetation and station signs-they were so easy to see and only two stops from London bridge!)

### **Friday 14th August 2009**

Tatem Park, Enfield, field trip with Enfield Outreach and Heather Frost, Friends of Tatem Park About 20 people came along, on this warm but cloudy afternoon, for a stroll around Tatem Park, adjacent to the North Circular / A10 roundabout....a new park for many people on the visit. First, the meadow bank is being well-managed with a diverse cutting scheme, always retaining some taller flowering patches vegetation. Here, where the birdsfoot trefoil grows, we found several common blues, plus a couple of meadow browns, one painted lady and a silver Y moth; and we took a closer look at some of the meadow plants. After trying out a few tree and shrub IDs, we passed on to the woodland paths where we saw several speckled woods, including a male courting and suffering rejection by a female, plus gatekeeper and comma. Plenty of whites around and time was spent trying to separate large from small around a large buddleia bush. Too cloudy for dragonflies, we only managed to locate a few azure and blue-tailed damselflies, but we did see a nice party of long-tailed tits, a great-spotted woodpecker and young sparrowhawks. It was reported to have been an enjoyable couple of hours. Andrew Middleton

Tuesday 11th at Rickneys, 3 clouded yellows chasing each other amongst the trees, plus 24 common blues and half a dozen brown arguses. At waterford heath 30 common blue (20 on south pit) and 6 brimstones but the surprise was 20 plus brown arguses ,difficult to tell apart from

female common blues, in central area near statues on north pit. A host of whites everywhere however now small whites and green veined together matching number of large whites. Steve Kiln

On Tuesday 11th Aug. we noticed the once familiar flashes of Purple Hairstreaks in the top of Oak trees and one came lower and settled long enough to be firmly identified. It was last seen here in 2004 This morning (Friday 14th) a Clouded Yellow flew past us and settled .Every time it was approached it flew a few metres and resettled. We chased it for about 30 minutes taking digital photographs from a distance before we left it still in the field. . Clouded Yellows were usual here in good Clouded Yellow years. The site,now usually known as Napsbury Fields is at TL 165053 off Heronsway behind New House Park shops, St.Albans. (Our garden, in same tetrad, is at present overcrowded with Painted Ladies, Peacocks, Red Admirals, all 3 Whites, and others, around a large Buddleia every time the sun comes out, first Holly Blue yesterday) Charles and Sheila Smith

13th August at my home in Yiewsley, 1 painted lady in the morning At least 8 Silver Y moths feeding on buddleia in the evening - Paul Field

Saw a single Small Heath at Parkside Farm, Enfield on (Weds 12th August 2009) at 16:25 BST. - Robert Callf

#### **Thursday 13th August 2009**

**Northfield Rd, near Pitstone** (Herts side of the border) - Clouded Yellow, **Dingy Skipper**,lots of **Common Blues (120 in ther first hour, stopped counting after that)**, Small Heath (12), and lower numbers of Brown Argus, Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock, Painted Ladies, Brimstones & Speckled Woods, Gatekeepers, Meadow Browns & the 3 whites. Church End chalk pit, Pitstone, Bucks - **3 Small Blues** (2 of them at a spot only 200 meters from the Herts border), **Dingy Skipper**, Common Blues (122 in 50 mins), Small Heath (13) Ivinghoe Beacon - **Chalkhill Blues (3)**, Small Skipper(1), Marbled White (1) & 24 Common Blues in 2 hours - Malcolm Hull

Sawbridgeworth Marsh nature reserve this afternoon. Arrived with the sun behind the clouds and the only butterfly about a rather splendid male common blue near the entrance gate. Tramped around in the sunshine looking for further common blues without success, butterflies seemed scarce :- 8 rather worn meadow browns, 3 gatekeepers, 5 unidentified small whites before clocking a green veined white, and a single silver Y moth. Reached the county boundary and was rewarded by a purple hairstreak flying from Essex, past me and into some Hertfordshire oaks. Returned to the entrance via the boundary scrub, noting a large white and a painted lady. Not bad, only 21 butterflies but 7 species - Len Crouch.

#### **Wednesday 12th August 2009**

OAKHILL WOODS LNR-----I x Hummingbird hawk moth with several Silver Y---on Buddleia Lochinch The species that have had a bad year so far at this reserve are Small tortoiseshell despite quite a few Spring sightings----- Brimstone, WLH and Ringlet numbers have all been very low. Gatekeeper, Small skipper, Large skipper, Six-spot burnet moth and Purple hairstreak have had a bumper season also Painted lady. Small copper and Common blue not recorded for several years-- --no sign of recolonisation despite plenty of suitable habitat. KIT JONES

#### **Tuesday 11th August 2009**

10 species seen at a couple of locations in 23c degree heat this afternoon. Symondshyde Great Wood 8 Comma, 3 Peacock, Gatekeeper, Red Admiral, male Brimstone, Meadow Brown, Speckled Wood, Large and Green-veined Whites. Wheathampstead LNR 5+ Common Blue - Robin Pearson

News from 19th July: (*missed in error*) I went for a walk up to Tring Park this afternoon and was pleased to count 3 Silver-Washed Fritillaries flying around the brambles in the wooded area at the top of the slope (2.00pm).This was the first time I had seen them here since 2006. I also saw in the same area a probable Purple Hairstreak flitting around the leaves at the top of a hawthorn bush in that familiar hairstreak style of flying.I have always suspected that they may be here but this is the first time I have seen one. No Purple Emperor. Phil Woodward

Some news from Saturday 8th Aug from Horsenden Hill: Netted a Brown Argus at the southern end of Batts Field also 2 Marbled White still hanging on in that compartment. Common Blues everywhere - turning into a really good year for these on Horsenden Hill. And from my garden moth trap (bordering Horsenden Hill) on Tues 4th August - a Jersey Tiger! Quite a long way from traditional haunts - Andy Culshaw

A few sightings for today (Tues 11th August 2009) - 1 Small Copper, at Parkside Farm, on Res banking, 10:09 BST. 1 Comma, at Park Farm, 10:37 BST. 1 Comma, edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park, 10:56 BST. 2, male and female, Common Blue, together, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 11:00 BST. 1 male Common Blue, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 11:40 BST. 1 Small Tortoiseshell, nectaring on thistles, Sidhil's Field, Vicarage Farm, 12:26 BST. - Robert Callf

### **Monday 10th August 2009**

Some news for today (Monday 10th August 2009) - 13 Painted Lady, on buddleia, at Dalrymple Close, N14 at 09:37 BST. 3 Painted Lady, on buddleia, at Grovebury Court, N14 at 09:41 BST. 2 Common Blue, at Parkside Farm, on Res banking, 12:04 BST. 5 Painted Lady, on buddleia, at Park Farm, 12:16 BST. 1 Comma, near Obelisk, at Trent Park, 12:40 BST. - Robert Callf

Just a quick report - I released six brand new Small Tortoiseshells on Friday morning (8th) at exactly the spot the caterpillars had been collected near the River Colne. None lost to parasites. Another batch of 25 has just resulted in 17 chrysalids, with the remainder succumbing to something nasty whilst at the large caterpillar stage. This manifests itself as a cocoon of white silk which I haven't felt like investigating further... I noted exactly the same culprit last year and the year before, though in a bigger proportion of caterpillars. Dave Miller

Ware garden, at least 12 Painted Ladies early morning plus a Small Tortoiseshell - Liz Goodyear

### **Sunday 9th August 2009**

Already this year I've seen huge numbers of Painted Ladies and Large Whites Today it was another one of those rare days when a species is seen in super-abundance, in this case Horse Chestnut Leaf-miner *Cameraria ohridella*, which was flying in swarms of thousands around every horse chestnut tree in the district. Most stuck close to the trees, although some fell down to the ground, allowing a close up view of the tiny dark brown moths with white stripes, only about half a centimeter long. Butterfly World, Chiswell Green - 68 Painted Ladies, double the number of last week. Interestingly they have been breeding on the large numbers of sunflowers at the site; 18 Small Tortoiseshells - my highest total for this species at any Herts site for several years; and 83 Large Whites. I've heard reports of all three species arriving on the Dorset coast in numbers this week as migrants, with Large White being the most numerous. Also at BW today, 4 Common Blues, Peacocks (much lower numbers than last week) Silver Y's Small Whites & a single Red Admiral. - Malcolm Hull

### **Saturday 8th August 2009**

Aldbury Nowers - Over 150 Common Blues - this butterfly is at last living up to its name! Also Dark Green Fritillary, Brown Argus, lots of Brimstones, Small Heath, Small Copper, Large Small & Essex Skipper & much more. See for yourself on the Branch Field Trip at the site next Sunday 16th at 2 pm - [for details see field trip page](#).

AM Fir and Pond Woods on the meadow....many gatekeepers, male and female common blues, small coppers, a small skipper, a meadow brown, peacock, various white and my first brown argus of the year. As usual speckled woods in the woods. David Gompertz

Silver-washed Fritillaries still flying in the Norton Green area. I saw 2 yesterday (both females) at around 11am when the weather was just about perfect. One was in a small clearing very close to Pigeonswick Cottage (TL226 227) and the other along the western edge of the meadow between Watery Grove and Cannocks Wood. I had not seen this species at the site before this season so excellent news. - Peter Clarke

Croxley Green TQ 06 96 - Small Copper; Micklefield Green nr Sarratt TQ 04 98 - 2 Small Whites, Green-veined White, Small Copper, 2 Brown Argus, 2 Painted Ladies, Peacock & 3 Meadow Browns; Chorleywood House TQ 03 97 - mating pair of Common Blues; Micklefield Hall nr Sarratt TQ 05 97 - Brown Argus; Chandler's Cross TQ 06 98 - Small Copper, 2 Common Blues, Painted Lady, 3 Gatekeepers & 2 Meadow Browns. Painted Ladies very widespread including further emigration but intensive raptor surveying left me no time to record details. - Colin Everett

News for today (Saturday 8th August 2009) - 1 male Common Blue, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 14:08 BST. 1 Peacock, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Williams Wood, at Vicarage Farm, 14:19 BST. 1 female Common Blue, set-aside field N of Williams Wood,

14:25 BST. 3 Peacock, on buddleia, at Park Farm, 14:51 - 14:54 BST. 1 Comma, edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park, 15:18 BST. 2 male Common Blue, 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 15:31 BST. - Robert Callf

### **Friday 7th August 2009**

Clouded Yellow at Deadman's Hill, 2 miles NW of Sandon - James Hanlon

Just a short note to let you know that we observed a Clouded Yellow (found by Katie) at Deadman's Hill near Sandon at 18:00 this evening (07 Aug) at grid reference TL 295 367. - Darren Oakley-Martin & Katie Fuller

### **Thursday 6th August 2009**

A Wildlife Site Survey of Thames Water's Maple Lodge Nature Reserve, Maple Cross, Rickmansworth, was carried out on Thurs 30 July. The weather was mixed with sun and some showers; the following butterflies were noted: Large, Small & GV Whites - locally frequent; Peacock - 4; Red Admiral - 2; Painted Lady - 4; Comma - 2; Common Blue - 2; Speckled Wood - 2; Gatekeeper - 1; Meadow Brown - 6. The Reserve Warden reported up to 8 Marbled Whites seen during the previous couple of weeks. Michael Pearson

At Numbers Farm nr Abbots Langley TL 08 02, the first indications of Painted Lady emigration, with 4 flying SW in a couple of minutes at lunchtime; nearby at Abbots Langley TL 09 02, a Holly Blue ovipositing on ivy buds. - Colin Everett.

News for today (Thurs 6th August 2009) - 1 Peacock, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 13:28 BST. 1 male Common Blue, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, 13:32 BST. 1 Comma, at Park Farm, 14:07 BST. 7 Comma, together, edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park, 14:31 BST. 3 Peacock, edge of Moat Wood, 14:33 BST. 3 Painted Lady, edge of Moat Wood, 14:34 BST. 1 male Common Blue, 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 14:51 BST. 1 Peacock, on buddleia, by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 14:57 BST. 2 Green-veined White, copulating, set-aside field near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 15:17 BST. Also a number of Painted Ladies seen but not noted. - Robert Callf

Some more news for yesterday (Weds 5th August 2009) - 1 Painted Lady, near Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm, 14:09 BST. 1 female Common Blue, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 14:42 BST. 1 Painted Lady, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 14:44 BST. 1 Red Admiral, at Parkside Farm, 14:51 BST. 1 Painted Lady, along Leeing Beech Gutter near 'Three-bridges', at Trent Park, 15:07 BST. 2 Comma, (1 edge of Shaws Wood, 15:25 BST, 1 near Merryhills Brook, Trent Park, 15:36 BST). - Robert Callf

### **Wednesday 5th August 2009**

Once again a stroll along the Colne to J14, but a bit earlier than usual (11ish). Very warm and humid, but not a lot of sunshine. Nevertheless, plenty to see: a good dozen Painted Ladies, 5 or 6 Peacocks, but only 2 Commas and no Red Admirals today. A sprinkle of Gatekeepers, but at least 10 Common Blues, including a female (photo attached) happily flying under the cloud cover. I am also pleased to say that I also spotted an unmistakeable Brown Argus in with the blues, a quite different appearance in flight and more aggressive; likely to be a male, I guess. I took a photo of the area where they were flying, just for interest. There was one Brimstone (photo) and a Holly Blue laying on an Ivy flower bud cluster (photo - though I didn't quite catch her in the act). Last but not least, a selection of whites, mostly Green-veined today, including the one depicted with rather unusual black patterning. Not a wonderful photo - sorry. - Dave Miller

Took a group on a butterfly walk at Therfield heath today, weather was surprisingly good, saw hundreds of chalk hill blues, scores of painted ladies, a few common blues and small heath and a clouded yellow, wild flowers lovely. At waterford heath, of note, saw one maybe two clouded yellows, two brimstones, many painted ladies and twenty or more common blues on south pit and four brown argus (3 on north pit) - Steve Kiln

Some news for today (Wed 5th August 2009) - 9 Painted Lady, on buddleia, at Dalrymple Close, Southgate, N14, 09:59 BST. 1 Painted Lady, on buddleia, Chase Road, N14, 10:08 BST. 3 Painted Lady, on buddleia, Avenue Close, N14, 10:13 BST. Saw four Purple Hairstreak at Oakwood Park, N14 this morning (Weds 5th August 2009) at 08:40 BST - Robert Callf

Aldbury Nowers today: Had a very good day at Aldbury, in between taking out saplings, we

counted at least 64 common blue across the whole site. All the figures probably don't represent the true number of everything we saw, there were so many butterflies about today, I've never seen so many! S1 - Large white - 5+ Brimstone - 3+ Brown argus Common Blue - 3+ Small copper - 2 Meadow brown Peacock - 11+ Small white Painted lady S1/S2 Corridor - Speckled wood Painted lady Common blue Peacock - 3 S2 - Common blue - 4 Painted lady Small heath - 2 Brimstone Peacock Large white Meadow brown S3 - Common blue Peacock Brimstone Coppice area - Peacock - 4 Meadow brown Gatekeeper Small white Dingy area - Common blue - 3 S4- Common blue N1 - Ringlet Peacock - 6 Gatekeeper Meadow brown Large skipper Large white Common blue - 9 Small white Brimstone - 4+ N2 - Common blue - 24+ Brimstone - 10+ Small copper Brown argus - 3 Painted lady - 2 Comma Gatekeeper Peacock - 3+ N3 - Upper slope - Peacock - 3+ Common blue - 13+ Brimstone - 5+ Painted lady - 3+ Large white Gatekeeper Bottom slope - Common blue - 3 Gatekeeper Peacock - 3 Painted Lady - 2 N4 - Peacock Common blue - 4+ Brown argus - 2 Small white - 3+ Gatekeeper Small heath Brimstone - 2+ Glade along Ridgeway - Peacock - 8+ Totals - Common blue - 64+ Peacock - 44+ Brimstone - 25+ Brown argus - 6+ - Paul Thrush

### **Tuesday 4th August 2009**

Saw a Painted Lady at Vicarage Farm, Enfield this afternoon (Tues 4th August 2009) at 12:21 BST. - Robert Callf

### **Monday 3rd August 2009**

Had a couple of Small Copper butterflies on the 3rd of August at Tyttenhanger GP at TL 198049. One was a pristine specimen, the other very faded and worn. Photos attached, high resolution images available if needed. I remember seeing a very late Small Copper in November some years back in the same area. Alan Gardiner

Sightings for Sunday 2nd, Bricket Wood Common, St Albans - 6 Common Blues on today's transect, including a mating pair. This is the highest weekly total since the transect began 12 years ago, which is surprising as the species has not been recorded at the site at all during the last 2 years. Good numbers of Brimstones, Peacocks & Green-veined Whites and the Silver-washed Fritillaries are tatty, but still hanging on Butterfly World, Chiswell Green - 63 Large Whites, 32 Painted Ladies (double last weeks number), 17 Peacocks, 4 Small Tortoiseshell, 2 Comma all gorging themselves on the masses of Buddleia, Verbena Bonariensis in the newly planted gardens. Also exciting news that Common Blue has also made it to this site - I saw both male & female in the wildflower meadow - the 12th native species I've recorded here in the 2 months since it opened. Potters Crouch Plantation, St Albans - an unsuccessful late afternoon trip to check for Silver-washed Fritillary. But I could easily have missed it as the small east/west ride was alive with other species. In half an hour I saw 57 Peacocks, 74 Green-veined whites, 12 Comma and yes a Common Blue had found its way here too. Monday 3rd - St Albans - 9 Painted Ladies on my garden buddleia, my highest ever garden total for this species. Also 3 Peacock & several Large and Small Whites - Malcolm Hull

Sightings for today (Monday 3rd August 2009) - 1 Red Admiral, Hog Hill, at Vicarage Farm, 10:31 BST. 1 Common Blue, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 10:42 BST. 1 male Common Blue, at Parkside Farm, on Res banking, 11:12 BST. 3 Painted Lady, at Park Farm, 11:25 - 11:33 BST. 1 Comma, near Obelisk, Trent Park, 12:11 BST. 3 Painted Lady, edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park, 12:15 BST. 2 Peacock, edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park, 12:15 BST. 2 Comma, edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park, 12:15 BST. 1 Peacock, by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 12:26 BST. 2 Painted Lady, near Icehouse Wood, Trent Park, 12:42 BST. A few sightings for yesterday (Sunday 2nd August 2009) - 1 Painted Lady, on buddleia, Dalrymple Close, Southgate, N14, 08:48 BST. 1 male Common Blue, at Oakwood Park, N14, 12:05 BST. - Robert Callf

Leavesden Green traffic island nr Watford TQ 09 99 - 2 Large Whites, Green-veined White, 7 Common Blues, Gatekeeper & 2 Meadow Browns; no Small Heaths, an isolated colony of which had previously seemed to be surviving well here. - Colin Everett.

### **Sunday 2nd August 2009**

Symondshyde footpath entrance:-12.30-1.30pm mostly sunny but some cloudy patches 4 Silver Washed Fritillaries, 1 worn White Admiral, 1 Red Admirals, 3 Peacocks, numerous Commas, Green Veined, Small & Large Whites all on mainly feeding on Burdock. Also Migrant Hawker female, Brown & Southern Hawker males & 3 small Common Toads - Ernest Leahy



Cottonmill Lane nr St Albans TL 15 05 - 5 Large Whites; Prospect Road at St Albans TL 14 06 - 2 Large Whites; Prae Mill nr St Albans TL 12 08 - 5 Green-veined Whites, Painted Lady, Peacock & 2 Speckled Woods; Victoria Street in St Albans TL 15 07 - Large White & Painted Lady; Lye Lane (derelict land) nr Bricket Wood (SE corner) TL 13 02 - 4 Large Whites, Brown Argus, 2 Painted Ladies, 4 Peacocks & Gatekeeper; same site (SW corner) TL 12 03 - 5 Large Whites, Small White, 2 Painted Ladies, 11 Peacocks & Meadow Brown. - Colin Everett.

### **Saturday 1st August 2009**

Some local Offerings. 28.07.09 Weedy field, Batford: 1 SMALL COPPER, 4 Painted Ladies, 1f Common Blue, 2 Marbled Whites - Darin Stanley

August 2009 ~ a series of moth and bat evenings in Enfield's parks (Enfield Outreach) with bat expert Jackie Wedd, and a look at the previous night's moth trap: Wed 5th August 8.00pm Forty Hall, Wed 19th August 8.00pm Town Park, and Fri 28th August 7.30pm Oakwood Park. More details from Andrew Middleton

Long Green nr Berkhamsted TL 00 06 - 5 Large Whites, Green-veined White & 4 Gatekeepers; Bankmill Bridge nr Berkhamsted TL 00 07 - Green-veined Whies, Painted Lady & Gatekeeper; Little Heath Lane nr Berkhamsted TL 01 07 - 29 Large Whites including female ovipositing on Garlic Mustard, 3 Small Whites, 6 Green-veined Whites, Small Copper feeding on ragwort, Brown Argus, 2 Common Blues, 6 Painted Ladies, 3 Peacocks, Comma, 13 Gatekeepers & 7 Meadow Browns; Little Heath nr Berkhamsted TL 01 08 - 5 Large Whites, Small White, 2 Common Blues, Peacock, 4 Gatekeepers & Meadow Brown. - Colin Everett.

1-3pm ~ c15 people joined BCHM and Pam Hallesy of Broxbourne Borough Council (Leisure) to visit Baas Common and Top Field / Cozens Grove Broxbourne. Recent management of these meadows by Pam and the friends has encouraged the wildflowers to flourish in place of the coarse grasses. And as a high quality green space managed with the local community group, Top Field has just won a Green Pennant Award. In addition, the careful 'hay' cutting over several years was rewarded with sightings of several common blues, plus single small copper and brown argus, with small heath scheduled for 2011: Other butterfly species noted were purple hairstreak, meadow brown, gatekeeper, painted lady, peacock, Essex skipper, and whites small and large ~ Andrew Middleton

Just a few sightings for today (Saturday 1st August 2009) - 1 Painted Lady, 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 14:31 BST. 1 Peacock, near Water Grdn., Trent Park, 14:45 BST. 1 Painted Lady, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 15:43 BST. 1 Red Admiral, at Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm, 15:49 BST. - Robert Callf

I did the usual walk to the M25 junction 14 yesterday, in bright sunshine for a change, and saw over a hundred butterflies: Red Admiral (5), Peacock (15+), Painted Lady (20+), Comma (10+), Gatekeeper (10+), Speckled Wood (3), Meadow Brown (3), Large White (10+), Small White (10+), Green-veined White (3), Brimstone (1m), Common Blue (1f - very blue; 15+m), Holly Blue (5). No sign of any Brown Argus... One nest of about 30 Small Tortoiseshell caterpillars was also seen, each about 1cm long at present. The Holly Blues were seen in groups chasing each other around ivy-choked trees about 5 metres above the ground - there could well have been more than five. One detached itself from the squabbles and started to flutter along the ground near my feet, eventually landing and sucking away at damp ground covered in rabbit droppings. Delicious, I'm sure. I'll send you a photo of this at a later date. - Dave Miller

### **July 2009**

#### **Friday 31st July 2009**

Saw a real Painted Lady "hotspot" today on a walk. Grid ref TL294323 (Shaw Green Farm)..several hundred Painted Lady on creeping thistle at field margin ..magnificent. Phil Lumley

**[Butterfly World Family Fun Day is being held this Saturday - click on link for more details.](#)**

Some news for yesterday (Friday 31st July 2009) - 2 Purple Hairstreak, at Oakwood Park, N14 at 08:39 BST. 3 Painted Lady, on thistles, near Oakwood entrance, Trent Park, 12:03 BST. 1 Comma, near Oakwood entrance, Trent Park, 12:03 BST. 1 Comma, near Triangular Wood, Trent Park, 12:12 BST. 1 Peacock, near Triangular Wood, Trent Park, 12:12 BST. 1 Painted Lady, near



Triangular Wood, Trent Park, 12:13 BST. 3 Small Heath, 'New Fields', Trent Park, 12:16 BST. 1 Painted Lady, Sect. 8, 'New Fields', Trent Park, 12:19 BST. 1 Painted Lady, Sect. 8, 'New Fields', Trent Park, 12:19 BST. 2 Painted Lady, Sect. 6, 'New Fields', Trent Park, 12:24 BST. 1 Peacock, Sect. 6, 'New Fields', Trent Park, 12:24 BST. 1 Small Heath, 'New Fields', Trent Park, 12:25 BST. 3 Peacock, near Cockfosters entrance, Trent Park, 12:29 - 12:31 BST. 3 Comma, near Cockfosters entrance, Trent Park, 12:2 BST. 1 Small Heath, Sect. 6, 'New Fields', Trent Park, 12:32 BST. 2 Small Copper, Sect. 5, 'New Fields', Trent Park, 12:34 - 12:35 BST. 3 Painted Lady, Sect. 4, 'New Fields', Trent Park, 12:39 BST. 1 Small Heath, Sect. 4, 'New Fields', Trent Park, 12:41 BST. 1 Small Copper, near Sports Field, Trent Park, 12:51 BST. 2 Painted Lady, near Sports Field, Trent Park, 12:53 BST. 1 Peacock, near Sports Field, Trent Park, 12:53 BST. 1 Comma, near Sports Field, Trent Park, 12:53 BST. 1 Purple Hairstreak, near Nature Trail, Trent Park, 12:59 BST. 4 Peacock, together, on buddleia, by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 13:13 BST. 1 Red Admiral, on buddleia, by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 13:13 BST. 1 Painted Lady, on buddleia, by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 13:13 BST. 1 Comma, on buddleia, by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 13:13 BST. 1 Small Copper, near Water Grdn., Trent Park, 13:27 BST. 1 Comma, on buddleia, Parkside Farm, 13:56 BST. 1 Painted Lady, along track, at Vicarage Farm, 14:14 BST. 1 Green-veined White, at Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm, 14:17 BST. - Robert Callf

Clouded Yellow over RAF Uxbridge today heading west - Chris Lamsdell

A lunchtime walk in the Bicentenary garden at Brunel University produced the following: 40+ Painted Lady (including 11 on one buddleia bush), 7 Peacock, Comma, 4 Speckled Wood, 8 Meadow Brown, 10+ Gatekeeper, 4 Large White, Small White, GV White, Holly Blue, 4 Common Blue and 2 Brown Argus. Steve Pash

Ware garden, at 7 o'clock this morning a Painted Lady flew down onto my patio table, which is in shade - Liz Goodyear

I understand that a Silver-washed Fritillary was seen and photographed by the Lee Navigation bridge by the watchpoint on the 20th July. I have not seen the photograph myself but know a man who has - Alan Reynolds

### **Wednesday 29th July 2009**

Was working up at Telegraph Hill yesterday, at the Treasures grove car park there were 3 comma together, gatekeeper and various whites. On the chalk gullies we had at least 6 chalkhill blues flying around, peacock, meadow brown, gatekeeper, brown argus and brimstone. Today at Alpine Meadow I had a painted lady, common blue, meadow brown and marbled white. - Paul Thrush

A few sightings for today (Weds 29th July 2009) - 1 Small Copper, very fresh, 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 10:41 BST. 2 Painted Lady, 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 10:41 and 10:45 BST. 1 male Common Blue, along Merryhills Brook at South Lodge Farm, 11:25 BST. 2 Painted Lady, together, near 'Barracks', at Vicarage Farm, 11:51 BST. - Robert Callf

### **Tuesday 28th July 2009**

Still three Silver-washed Fritillaries (two separate males and a slightly worn female) along the main N-S ride at Bricket Wood Common during a lunchtime transect visit, which produced 120+ butterflies of a dozen species including two Common Blues (separate male & female) and seven Painted Ladies. - Colin Everett.

News via Colin Everett from Tyttenhanger GP: Butterflies were well represented and included my first CLOUDED YELLOW of the year, a fresh PAINTED LADY, several Peacocks, 4 COMMAS and a Common Blue.

News for today (Tues 28th July 2009) - 1 Peacock, edge of Sidhil's Field, Vicarage Farm, 10:24 BST. 1 Painted Lady, edge of Sidhil's Field, Vicarage Farm, 10:24 BST. 2 Painted Lady, along hedgerow off Barracks, Vicarage Farm, 10:31 BST. 4 Painted Lady, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 10:48 - 10:53 BST. 1 male Common Blue, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 10:51 BST. 1 Peacock, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Williams Wood, at Vicarage Farm, 11:00 BST. 3 Painted Lady, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Williams Wood, at Vicarage Farm, 11:02 BST. 1 Comma, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Williams Wood, at Vicarage Farm, 11:02 BST. 3 Purple Hairstreak, at Park Farm, 11:48 - 11:53 BST. 1 Holly Blue, at Parkside Hse., Hadley Rd., 11:53 BST. 2 Painted Lady, near Duncan's Wood, 12:00 BST. 1 Painted Lady, along Hadley Road at Park Farm, 12:09 BST. 3 Painted Lady, edge of

Rough Lot, Trent Park, 12:19 BST. 10 Peacock, together, on thistles, edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park, 12:21 BST. 3 Comma, edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park, 12:21 BST. 2 Peacock, 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 12:27 and 12:30 BST. 4 Painted Lady, on buddleia, by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 12:33 BST. 2 Peacock, on buddleia, by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 12:33 BST. 1 Peacock, by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 12:40 BST. 1 Comma, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 12:54 BST. 1 Small Copper, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 13:00 BST. 1 Peacock, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 13:06 BST. 1 Comma, near Equestrian Centre, Trent Park, 13:21 BST. - Robert Callf

On a windy day 28th July popped into Rickneys and saw a clouded yellow, very bright in good condition, saw also there 5 common blues, 3 small heaths of note at Waterford Heath south 17 peacocks but no clouded yellows - Steve Kiln

16 Painted Ladies on my transect at Butterfly World in Chiswell Green this afternoon - Malcolm Hull

### **Monday 27th July 2009**

News for today (Monday 27th July 2009) - 1 Painted Lady, at Park Farm, Enfield, 11:43 BST. 1 Painted Lady, along Hadley Rd at Park Farm, 12:06 BST. 1 Painted Lady, edge of Rough Lot, Trent Park, 12:12 BST. 1 Comma, edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park, 12:15 BST. 1 Peacock, 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 12:18 BST. 2 Painted Lady, on thistles, by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 12:26 BST. 1 Large Skipper, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 12:38 BST. 1 Painted Lady, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 12:45 BST. 1 Small Copper, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 12:46 BST. 1 Peacock, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 12:53 BST. 1 male Common Blue, S edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 12:55 BST. 3 Painted Lady, S edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 12:56 - 12:58 BST. 1 Adonis Ladybird, at Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm - first record of the year! saw a Painted Lady at Vicarage Farm, Enfield this morning (Monday 27th July 2009) at 10:51 BST. - Robert Callf

Visited Broxbourne Woods this afternoon (Monday). Weather on the cool side. Saw a good number of whites - at least 30 which seemed to be mainly green veined whites but not all were obliging enough to settle for a while to be easily identified. Also saw 10 meadow browns, eight gatekeepers, five ringlets, four speckled woods, two peacocks, three commas, one red admiral and one white admiral. It was noticeable that when the sky clouded over and there were a few spots of rain how the butterflies seemed to disappear. - Roger Newbold

I took a walk into Balls Wood on Sunday at approx 10.30, weather was warm and partly cloudy. I saw my 1st Silver washed Fritillary in Balls Wood, it was very worn though. Also saw very fresh Painted Lady, 5 Peacocks, 5 Commas, 3 Red Admirals, Large Whites, Green Veined Whites, Small Skippers, Ringlets, Speckled Wood, Meadow Brown and Gatekeepers. - Kevin Standbridge

### **Sunday 26th July 2009**

News for Saturday (25th July 2009) - 2 Peacock, along track, at Vicarage Farm, 17:46 and 17:49 BST. 1 Comma, along Hadley Road near Pumping Station, 18:03 BST. 1 Comma, at Parkside Farm, 18:11 BST. 1 Painted Lady, at Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm, 20:00 BST. Some sightings for yesterday (Sunday 26th July 2009) - 2 Painted Lady, on buddleia, at Dalrymple Close, Southgate, N14 at 10:21 BST. 2 Painted Lady, at Oakwood Park, 12:24 and 12:36 BST. 1 Comma, at Oakwood Park, 12:24 BST. 2 male Common Blue, together, at Oakwood Park, 12:38 BST. 1 Large Skipper, on buddleia, at Grovelands Park, 13:01 BST. 1 Painted Lady, on buddleia, at Grovelands Park, 13:01 BST. - Robert Callf

I visited Symondshyde Wood after heavy rain on Friday 24th & when the sun broke through the butterflies were out in force. At the footpath cross point on the SW side where there is a nice area of Burdock, Nettles & Ragwort numerous fresh Commas, Painted Lady, Peacocks Large & Small Whites. One of each Dark Green Fritillary & White Admiral both worn. At lower gated area 1 Green Veined White & 3 Purple Hairstreaks, plus Meadow Browns & Gatekeepers & a Ringlet. - Ernest Leahy

Sue and Caroline recorded a single Clouded Yellow among the Painted Ladies on our Mardley Heath transect on Saturday afternoon July 27th. It was alighting on teasel and ragwort, and would not stay still long enough for a good photo, though it is unmistakable even from some slightly blurred ones! Sue Stephens

Hogg End nr St Albans TL 11 09 - Green-veined White & Peacock; Hogg End Lane nr St Albans TL 10 08 - 3 Large Whites, 2 Green-veined Whites & 2 Gatekeepers; Punch Bowl Lane (W) nr Hemel Hempstead TL 09 09 - 4 Large Whites, Green-veined White, 3 Painted Ladies, 3 Commas &

Meadow Brown; Punch Bowl Lane (W) nr Hemel Hempstead TL 09 08 - 8 Large Whites, 4 Small Whites, Green-veined White, 4 Painted Ladies, 2 Peacocks, Speckled Wood & Meadow Brown; Eaton Lodge nr Hemel Hempstead TL 08 08 - Large White & Speckled Wood; Westwick Farm nr Leverstock Green TL 08 07 - Gatekeeper attacked in flight by Swallow (falling injured onto road); Westwick Row nr Leverstock Green TL 09 06 - an estimated 300+ white spp in 14-hectare bean field, 5 Large Whites, Small White, 4 Green-veined Whites; Pimlico nr Bedmond TL 09 05 - Red Admiral, Peacock, Gatekeeper & 2 Meadow Browns; nr Bedmond TL 10 04 - 12 Large Whites & Painted Lady; nr Bedmond TL 09 04 - Essex Skipper, 7 Large Whites, 2 Green-veined Whites, Peacock & 3 Gatekeepers; Tenements Farm nr Bedmond TL 10 03 - 10 Large Whites, Painted Lady, 2 Peacocks & Meadow Brown; and finally nr Abbots Langley TL 10 02 - Small Skipper, Painted Lady, Peacock, 2 Speckled Woods & Gatekeeper. - Colin Everett

On cloudy day of note 11 peacocks and 31 large whites and 2 brown argus and a common blue and 5 painted ladies. Second brood of common blues as 4 at rickneys plus 3 brown argus and a few peacocks and painted ladies - Steve kiln

### **Saturday 25th July 2009**

Just after five this afternoon, during a break in the clouds, I counted 20 Painted Ladies, 4 Peacock and a single Large white on a group of butterfly bushes in hedging alongside Obrey Way, Thorley (TL. 481 192). About 15 minutes earlier I passed by a side garden with 11 Large white fluttering around a few cabbages. Len Crouch

Saw a Painted Lady in Dalrymple Close, Southgate this morning (Saturday 25th July 2009) at 10:42 BST - Robert Callf

Fir and Pond Wood, an amazing collection of butterflies on the meadow and in good numbers too....11 species, mainly on the knapweed and marsh thistles, seen in less than an hour. Small, large and green veined whites, meadow browns, numerous gatekeepers, ringlets, peacocks, painted ladies, two commas, a few small skippers and occasional small coppers. Elsewhere in the woods... speckled woods. David Gompertz

At Symonshyde Great Wood this morning, the clearing on the footpath opposite the farm held a large number of butterflies. There were three, maybe four Silver Washed Fritillaries, all quite worn, one White Letter Hairstreak, on White Admiral (also very worn), one Holly Blue, one Red Admiral, and large numbers of Comma, Peacock, Painted Lady, Speckled Woods, all three whites and Purple Hairstreak. On Telegraph Hill, there were small numbers of Chalkhill Blue flying - outnumbered by Common Blue and a single Clouded Yellow on the Bedfordshire side flying south. Phil Bishop

Northaw Great Wood, Saturday afternoon July 25th. A mixed bag of butterflies seen whilst walking the yellow trail (the long route at Northaw Great Wood). Weather a mix of cloud and sun. About 20 whites (mainly small and green veined), five meadow brown, one gatekeeper, five comma, four speckled wood, one peacock and two purple hairstreak. - Roger Newbold

3 Purple Hairstreaks seen this evening all flitting over top of tall oak trees on my transect site in Stevenage. First one at 1820 in Monks Wood near the ponds. The other two were found in the small wood just west of the Peartree pub at around 1835 and 1845. Very sunny and warm (23 degrees) and light winds. Peter Clarke

Watford Junction station TQ 11 97 - Painted Lady; South Bovington TL 01 02 - 50+ Large Whites, 3 Small Whites, 5 Green-veined Whites, 4 Peacocks, 2 Commas, Speckled Wood, Gatekeeper & 2 Meadow Browns; Hogpits Bottom nr Flaunden TL 01 01 - 14 Large Whites, 2 Green-veined Whites, 3 Painted Ladies, Small Tortoiseshell, 2 Peacocks, 2 Commas, Speckled Wood, Gatekeeper & Meadow Brown; Lower Plantation nr Flaunden TL 02 01 - 2 Green-veined Whites, 3 Peacocks, Comma (on horse dung) & Speckled Wood; Flaunden village TL 01 00 - 23 Large Whites, Green-veined White, 8 Painted Ladies, Small Tortoiseshell, 30 Peacocks, 2 Commas, 2 Speckled Woods, Gatekeeper & 3 Meadow Browns; Newhouse Farm nr Flaunden TL 02 00 - 5 Large Whites, Peacock, Gatekeeper & Meadow Brown; Woodman's Farm nr Chipperfield TL 03 01 - 6 Large Whites, 3 Small Coppers feeding on Creeping Thistles, Common Blue, 3 Painted Ladies, Peacock, 2 Speckled Woods, 3 Gatekeepers & 3 Meadow Browns; Chipperfield TL 04 01 - 2 Large Whites, 2 Painted Ladies, Red Admiral & 12 Peacocks; Tower Hill nr Chipperfield TL 03 02 - 5 Large Whites, Green-veined White, 2 Peacocks, Speckled Wood & 8 Meadow Browns; North Chipperfield TL 04 02 - 5 Large Whites, 2 Gatekeepers & 2 Meadow Browns; Badgerdell Wood nr Chipperfield TL 04 03 -

2 Large Whites, 5 Green-veined Whites, Peacock & 3 Gatekeepers; nr Felden TL 04 04 - Large White, 2 Small Whites, 3 Green-veined Whites, Peacock & Gatekeeper; Great Wood nr Apsley TL 05 04 - Speckled Wood; Roughdown Common East TL 05 05 - Painted Lady; and finally Roughdown Common nr Felden TL 04 05 - 7 Large Whites, Small White, 2 Green-veined Whites, 2 Painted Ladies, Peacock, Comma, Marbled White & 8 Meadow Browns. - Colin Everett

### **Friday 24th July 2009**

Saw a Painted Lady this morning ( Friday 24th July 2009) at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 08:28 BST. - Robert Callf

Thursday 23rd July Near M25 Junction 21 TL 11 03 - Large White, Small White, 4 Green-veined Whites, Peacock & 10 Gatekeepers; Gorhambury Estate - Purple Hairstreak nr Maynes Farm TL 12 08 and Red Admiral near entrance TL 13 07. Sunday 19th July Scatterdells Wood nr Chipperfield TL 04 02 - 2 Large Whites & 4 Commas (all on bramble flowers including 3 within a metre). Saturday 18th July Butterfly World nr Chiswell Green TL 12 04 - 3 Painted Ladies, two of which appeared to be fresh. [Also an Adonis' Ladybird.] Sunday 12th July Smug Oak Lane nr Bricket Wood TL 14 02 - Large Skipper, Large White, Green-veined White, 3 Commas, Marbled White & 3 Gatekeepers; Smug Oak nr Bricket Wood TL 13 02 - Green-veined White ovipositing on Garlic Mustard, Purple Hairstreak & Comma. Saturday 11th July Long Wood nr Abbots Langley TL 08 02 - 130+ white spp including 40+ Large Whites and 10+ Small Whites, 2 Peacocks, Red Admiral & 3 Painted Ladies; Parsonage Farm nr Abbots Langley TL 09 02 - Large White & Painted Lady. - Colin Everett

CORRECTION to records for Fri 29th May: the Painted Lady egg-laying at Kendal Wood nr Radlett TQ 17 98 was on Spear Thistle (NOT Creeping Thistle as I originally reported). Sunday 5th July 2009 Lye Lane nr Bricket Wood TL 13 03 - Comma, Speckled Wood, Marbled White, Meadow Brown & Gatekeeper; Blackgreen Wood nr Bricket Wood TL 13 02 - 2 Green-veined Whites, 3 Purple Hairstreaks, Small Tortoiseshell, Comma, 2 Speckled Woods & Ringlet; Smug Oak Lane nr Bricket Wood TL 14 02 - Small Skipper & 2 Commas; near Drop Lane nr Bricket Wood TL 14 01 - 15+ Large Whites, 2+ Small Whites, 2 Commas & 2 Gatekeepers; Jack William's Wood nr Bricket Wood TL 13 01 - Large White, Purple Hairstreak, Red Admiral & 3 Commas. Friday 3rd July The Meads at Bricket Wood TL 12 02 - Painted Lady; Blackgreen Wood nr Bricket Wood TL 13 02 - 2 Large Whites, 3 Purple Hairstreaks, Comma, Meadow Brown & Ringlet; Drop Lane nr Bricket Wood TL 14 01 - 46+ Green-veined Whites feeding on damp gravelly margins of a River Ver ford (23 on each side! - Malcolm Hull has photos) - Colin Everett.

### **Thursday 23rd July 2009**

Horsenden Hill, 22nd July 2009, very windy but otherwise quite pleasant. At one point I watched a Peacock flying furiously backwards. Then the gust briefly lulled and it shot forwards straight into my chest before vanishing downwind and over a hedge. All the Peacocks super fresh, and no doubt ready to nectar up for the hibernation. In many places meanwhile, the Gatekeepers seemed to be ganging up and picking on the Meadow Browns. Tried to get a shot of a Gatekeeper and Peacock feeding on same thistle but Peacock was having none of it. Oh well. Gatekeepers - Scores. Maybe 50+. Some looking rather tatty now. Others still quite fresh looking. Meadow Browns - 30+ Whites - 15+ - more than half were Large Whites Small/Essex Skippers - Only 2 or 3. Common Blue - 3 Males Small Copper - 5+ Peacock - 15+ Speckled Wood - 3+ - Mike Rubin

Some news for Sunday 19th July 2009 - 1 Painted Lady, near Hadley Road, at Vicarage Farm, 14:27 BST. 1 Comma, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 15:26 BST. 1 Comma, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 15:30 BST. 2 Comma, together, near Merryhills Brook, at Trent Park, 15:39 BST. Saw a Painted Lady at Abney Park Cemetery, Stoke Newington Wednesday morning and a Painted Lady on buddleia outside my window in Dalrymple Close, Southgate, N14 at 14:07 BST 22nd July 2009. Some news for Tues 21st July 2009 - 2 Comma, together, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 11:20 BST. 1 Peacock, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Williams Wood, at Vicarage Farm, 11:26 BST. 1 female Common Blue, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Williams Wood. at Vicarage Farm, 11:28 BST. 1 Red Admiral, N of Williams Wood, at Vicarage Farm, 11:38 BST. 1 Essex Skipper, at Park Farm, Enfield, 12:33 BST. 1 Peacock, at Park Farm, 12:34 BST. 1 Peacock, at Icehouse Wood, Trent Park, 13:37 BST. 1 Peacock, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 13:41 BST. 1 Comma, along Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm, 14:01 BST. 1 Peacock, at Barracks, Vicarage Farm, 14:16 BST. 1 male Oak Eggar, near Firing Range, at Vicarage Farm, 14:19 BST. News for Monday 20th July 2009 - 1 Red Admiral, near Allotments, at Vicarage Farm, 09:04 BST. 1 Painted Lady, at Barracks, Vicarage Farm, 09:10 BST. 3 Peacock, on thistles, at Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm, 09:33 BST. 1 Peacock, at Barracks, Vicarage Farm, 10:28 BST. 1 Red Admiral,



at Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm, 10:28 BST. 1 Painted Lady, at Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm, 10:30 BST. 2 Painted Lady, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 10:37 BST. 4 Peacock, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 10:40 - 10:44 BST. 1 Painted Lady, on thistle, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 10:44 BST. 1 Comma, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 10:44 BST. 1 Small Tortoiseshell, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 10:44 BST. 1 Peacock, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Williams Wood, at Vicarage Farm, 10:50 BST. 2 male Common Blue, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Williams Wood, at Vicarage Farm, 10:53 BST. 1 Painted Lady, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Williams Wood, at Vicarage Farm, 10:54 BST. 1 Red Admiral, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 10:59 BST. 1 Comma, at Park Farm, 11:45 BST. 1 Painted Lady, at Park Farm, 12:23 BST. 4 Peacock, edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park, 12:32 BST. 2 Comma, edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park, 12:32 BST. 1 Peacock, on buddleia, by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 12:40 BST. 1 Comma, on buddleia, by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 12:40 BST. 1 Peacock, near Water Grdn., Trent Park, 12:44 BST. 2 Peacock, edge of Icehouse Wood, Trent Park, 12:50 - 12:53 BST. 1 Comma, edge of Icehouse Wood, Trent Park, 12:52 BST. - Robert Callf

Horsenden Hill, 20th July: Plenty of butterflies around despite sunshine being at a premium. Skippers - 5-10 Small / Essex seen. Small Copper - No live butterflies but one fresh looking forewing fragment found attached to a thistle. Comma - About 5 Peacock - About 5 Whites - 10+ Gatekeeper - 20+ Meadow Brown - 20+ Speckled Wood - 2 or 3. - Mike Rubin

Nomansland Common, 20th July 1pm to 3.30 pm Cloudy with some occasional sun but windy. We went with the intension of finding the Purple Hairstreak which was relatively easy with at least 9 good sightings of the insects often keeping low on the small oaks . They were well spread in most small oaks on the N of the car park area to the end of the open area W of the car park in an area I used to find common lizards. However the first hairstreak I found was a White Letter in a roadside oak in Green Lane. I did not notice any nearby elm saplings. Also seen were 2 Peacocks, 1 Marbled White, 4 Commas, numerous unidentified whites. The "umbrella" like oak in the cleared area was good for the Purples but a picnicing family had two lads tree climbing when I came back with my camera so I found an alternative to photograph with 4 megapixels still on my Sony Camcorder. - Ernest Leahy

News from 19th, I was on a non-butterfly walk. But I noted that whenever the sun shone between heavy showers lots of Whites (Large, Small and possibly Green Veined) were on the wing. Just a handful of Meadow Browns though, and only a couple of Gatekeepers. (I also found a dead Female Gatekeeper which was a shame.) Also saw 2 Peacocks and a fresh Painted Lady. That and one of the Peacocks seen flying in the rain! Not seen that before. - Mike Rubin

### **Saturday 18th July 2009**

Some Bricket Wood sightings. 15th July.. injured yellow tail moth at Bricket Wood. 16th July ..At Bricket Wood late pm. Brimstone female among usual skippers, and browns, also a 6 spot burnet. Freshly hatched peacocks, scorpion fly. In my house found a geometer moth probably a Common Wave, but it had a dot on each wing. 17th July another yellowtail at rest under a leaf. Peacocks, skippers, whites, various browns. Met a couple of butterfly spotters who had seen one white admiral earlier in day. 1 purple hairstreak in flight 18th July pm at Bricket Wood spent several hours butterfly twitching. As afternoon warmed up we saw speckled wood, marbled whites both sexes, one tandem pair of small whites, large white, 2 purple hairstreak, ringlets, meadow browns, gatekeepers, 2 resting peacocks on path, 1 painted lady on pile of dung!. Also we saw both sexes of small skipper, possibly one was an Essex, not sure, large skipper, holly blue or small blue, but I was too slow for photo of that. No white admiral or comma seen today. I think that makes 14. Large blue green dragonfly and 7 spot ladybirds... good to see indigenous species. Found uprooted ragwort along the path. Gatekeeper and skipper enjoy nectar on this plant as well as it being food for cinnabar and burnet moths. Elizabeth Debenham

News for yesterday (Friday 17th July 2009) - 1 Peacock, at Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm, 15:15 BST. 1 Red Admiral, at Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm, 15:15 BST. 1 Peacock, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 15:23 BST. 1 Comma, at Parkside Farm, 15:31 BST. 1 Peacock, at Park Farm, 15:56 BST. 1 Comma, by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 16:39 BST. Some sightings for today (Saturday 18th July 2009) - 1 Purple Hairstreak, at Park Farm, 09:56 BST. 1 Red Admiral, edge of Icehouse Wood, Trent Park, 10:56 BST. 2 Comma, together, edge of Icehouse Wood, Trent Park, 10:57 BST. - Robert Callf

Butterfly Survey - Kit Jones & R. A. (Bob) Husband. Saturday 18th July 2009 TQ29D (tetrad 'D')

12.00 Noon Rowley Green LWT Local Nature Reserve, Rowley Lane, Arkley, Barnet. Meadow Brown (many), Gatekeeper (many) males & females noted, Small White, Large White, Comma, Essex Skipper, Large Skipper, Small Skipper, Ringlet, Speckled Wood, Green-veined White, Painted Lady (fresh female), Purple Hairstreak, Peacock (fresh - on Rose-bay Willow herb), Roesel's Bush Cricket, Southern Hawker, Cinnabar Moth Caterpillars (on Ragwort), Hornet, Soldier Beetle. Saturday 18th July 2009 TQ29C (tetrad 'C') 12.30pm Barnet Gate Wood, Hendon Wood Lane, Mill Hill, London (Barnet) NW7 Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper (about 20 on vegetation in corner of hay meadow), Small White, Large White, Comma, Essex Skipper, Small Skipper, Ringlet, Speckled Wood, Green-veined White, Painted Lady (fresh female), Purple Hairstreak, Peacock (fresh), Red Admiral. Southern Hawker, Cinnabar Moth Caterpillars (on Ragwort).

Oakhill Wood LNR, 4pm----Two WLH females on Hemp agrimony--(-same area as the males were using hornbeam keys as launch pads earlier this season)----The entire Oakhill WLH population seems to have relocated into the middle of the wood this year-----none were found on their usual Wych elms on the sunny southern boundary??? ----- NB A friend saw WLH in the front garden of Kitts End Cottages, Kitts End Road, Barnet. last week--- (Part of Wrotham Park estate--scrub elm along roadside) KIT JONES

### Friday 17th July 2009

News from the 16th, another walk to junc.14, at around 1700 this time, and a slightly different selection to three days ago. For one thing, there were more Peacocks than I could count - one patch of thistle had over a dozen - whereas there was not even one on 13th. Also an explosion of Gatekeepers, again too many to count. Commas were around in large numbers too: I have never seen so many, including several four-way aerial tussles. (I think others have remarked on the increase in Comma numbers.) Others seen: Red Admiral (5), Painted Lady (1), Meadow Brown (3), Common Blue (2 male), Holly Blue (1), Small White (3), Green-veined White (2), Large White (4). No Purple Hairstreak today - probably just too early, and the sun was very patchy. Finally, I found two nests of Small Tortoiseshell caterpillars, very recently hatched. By the way, I miscounted the total species for the year for this spot the other day - it should be 18 - Dave Miller

### Thursday 16th July 2009

Bishops Stortford - A nice selection of species on the buddleia and hebe today: 3 Painted Lady (pristine), 3 Small Tortoiseshell (1 or 2 have been around for a couple of weeks now), 2 Peacocks, 2 Comma, 3 Large White (again pristine), several Green-veined White, Gatekeeper and Small Skipper. I suspect the Painted Lady and Large Whites were enjoying the first day(s) of adulthood. This has been the best year for Small Tortoiseshell in the garden for some years - Andrew Palmer

Nomansland Common - 6 Small Copper plus at least 4 Purple Hairstreaks all down low on shrubs following recent heavy rain - Malcolm Hull

Records for today from Aldbury Nowers - S1- Small heath Peacock Gatekeeper S2 - Small white Green veined white S2/S3 Corridor - Brimstone Coppice glade - Marbled white Peacock Meadow brown Gatekeeper Ringlet Ridgeway glades - Silver washed fritillary - at least 2 - 1 female seen and photographed, a male seen and photographed further along the trail with sightings of 2 more fritillary like butterflies flying through the woodlands. Large skipper Comma Peacock Green veined white Speckled wood Small white Ringlet N3- Brimstone Comma N4 - Marbled white - Paul Thrush

Some sightings for today (Thurs 16th July 2009) - 1 Comma, at Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm, 11:37 BST. 1 Small Tortoiseshell, along track at Vicarage Farm, 11:39 BST. 2 Peacock, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 11:46 - 11:47 BST. 1 Red Admiral, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 11:47 BST. 1 Painted Lady, near Hadley Road, at Vicarage Farm, 11:52 BST. 1 Comma, at Parkside Farm, 11:54 BST. 1 Peacock, at Park Farm, 12:13 BST. 1 Purple Hairstreak, at Park Farm, 12:19 BST. 2 Peacock, together, near Duncan's Wood, 12:25 BST. 3 Painted Lady, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 13:18 - 13:21 BST. 2 Peacock, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 13:21 BST. 1 female Small Copper, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 13:21 BST. 1 Red Admiral, by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 13:37 BST. 2 Comma, on buddleia, by Lower Lake, 13:39 BST. 1 Comma, Icehouse Wood, Trent Park, 14:04 BST. 1 Purple Hairstreak, on Ash, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 14:06 BST. 1 Small Copper, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 14:14 BST. 1 Peacock, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 14:17 BST. 1 Comma, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 14:20 BST. - Robert Callf



### Wednesday 15th July 2009

6-spot Burnets have been present on both Bunkers Park and Long Deans NR in greater numbers than I can remember having seen before. Also, this has been a record year for Marbled Whites and Ringlets on my Bunkers Park transect. Michael Pearson

A **Six-belted Clearwing** *Bembecia ichneumoniformis* was recorded this lunchtime in the Wildlife Garden of the Natural History Museum. It's the first time that this species has been recorded there. - Martin Honey

### Tuesday 14th July 2009

A freshly emerged Brown Argus in a small private wood near St Albans - Malcolm Hull

Got home from my tring park transect walk yesterday. Monday 13th July and my son had left a message on my phone. he works at the Tring Icknield Way industrial estate and had just popped out of the factory, when he nearly trod on a butterfly ! it was obviously dying, so decided to pop it round to my house for me to see, thinking he would not be believed. was tatty around the edges, but still alive, just, was this MALE PURPLE EMPEROR!!! Not seen any at tring park again! - Brian Jessop

Last night (13th July) on Horsenden Hill still plenty of Purple Hairstreak around despite the rather windy conditions particularly on the west side. I secured about 20 on Horsenden East, 16 on Horsenden West and 2 on Paradise Fields. On Sunday 12th, still 2 White-letter Hairstreaks along the cycle track close to the farm, with one rather tatty individual nectaring on one of the few remaining bramble flowers in that general area. Saturday 11th, at least 1 Ringlet in Perivale Wood and 3 Marbled Whites on Horsenden West transect. - Andy Culshaw

Some news for today (Tues 14th July 2009) - 4 Peacock, at Vicarage Farm (1 at 'Barracks', 09:01 BST, 1 along track, 09:29 BST, 1 off Hog Hill, 09:34 BST, 1 along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, 11:04 BST); 1 Small Tortoiseshell, at Vicarage Farm, 09:07 BST; 1 female Large Skipper, at Vicarage Farm, 09:09 BST; 1 Common Blue, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 11:14 BST; 1 Red Admiral, at Park Farm, 11:56 BST; 1 Comma, edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park, 12:25 BST; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 12:29 BST; 1 Comma, Water Grdn, Trent Park, 12:44 BST. - Robert Callf

Sighting today at Broxbourne Wood despite sun and showers 1 white Admiral, 2 Red Admiral, 1 large skipper, 100+ ringlets 60+ gatekeepers 30+ meadow browns + Riband Wave moth - A J Steele

### Monday 13th July 2009

Barnhill, Sat 11th July 2009 Went for a test walk up Barnhill with some just arrived hiking sticks (bought for October's Scotland trip). While up there many of the usual suspects. Scores of Meadow Browns and Gatekeepers. A few Skippers, 10-20 each of Whites and Speckled Wood, and one Comma. Kenton Sun 12th July 2009 A pristine Red Admiral (freshly emerged?) found resting on a fence post near Buddleiah. Allowed me to get really close with the camera, even in front of it's head - never done that before. Full frame 12 megapixels could be a candidate for an A4 print. Could even go to A3. Cool! Also Small and Large White seen. Plus a Comma feeding on the Buddleiah later in the day. Harlequin also seen on one tomato plant. - Mike Rubin

Visit to Wilstone Reservoir on Monday 6th July. Strong wind. I walked along the NE bank. Between SP909132 and SP910132 I saw 22 Small Tortoiseshell between 11am and 11.10. The bank had not been cut and there were 7 Tort on one thistle plant. Also I saw 7 Small White flying round hedges and trees. - Helen

News for yesterday (Sunday 12th July 2009) - 2 Red Admiral, (1 edge of Church Wood, 12:21 BST, 1 near tube-line, 14:08 BST, Trent Park); 5 Small Copper, 'New Fields', Trent Park, 12:40 - 14:04 BST. 1 Comma, edge of Church Wood, Trent Park, 12:51 BST. 1 Painted Lady, near Triangular Wood, 13:30 BST. 1 Peacock, near Triangular Wood, Trent Park, 13:47 BST. 1 Marbled White, rather worn and tatty, 'New Fields', Trent Park, 14:11 BST. News for today (Monday 13th July 2009) - 1 Comma, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 10:41 BST. 1 male Marbled White, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 10:50 BST. 1 Small Tortoiseshell, on thistles, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 10:52 BST. 1 Small Copper, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Williams Wood, at Vicarage Farm, 11:02 BST. 1 female Essex Skipper, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Williams Wood, at Vicarage Farm,

11:02 BST. 2 Green-veined White, together, at Park Farm, 11:51 BST. 1 Comma, at Park Farm, 11:55 BST. - Robert Callf

Today at 11am on the Firs and Ponds reserve there were 2 marbled whites in the open meadow area in the centre of the woodland. - Graham Smith

Bricket Wood Common - not so much about on a cool damp morning, so only 15 Marbled Whites, 7 Peacocks, 2 Brimstones (both female), 10 Silver-washed Fritillaries (3 female), 10 White Admirals, 1 Red Admiral, 2 Purple Hairstreaks, 5 Comma & the usual supporting cast of browns whites & skippers - Malcolm Hull

I walked along the River Colne to junction 14 again this evening (around 1900). Along the riverside I encountered the usual Commas setting up their stalls at regular intervals, with a couple of Red Admirals swooping in and being vigorously chased away. I also found a mating pair of Gatekeepers. Further on in the wooded bit right next to the motorway roundabout, there were more Commas and Red Admirals, plus a freshly emerged female Common Blue. This was the darkest, most chocolate-coloured individual I have ever seen, and if it wasn't for the merest sprinkle of blue scales, I would have believed it was a Brown Argus. But there was more interest to come. On the embankment next to the main road from the Airport, where it joins the roundabout, there is a screen of trees of medium height, including two or three oaks. Flying around the tops of these were a dozen or so Purple Hairstreaks. After watching them for a while I realised that they were flying back and forth from the ash trees I was standing underneath. In fact there were more in the ash trees than around the oaks, and lower down. I was able to get a few pictures at extreme 10x zoom, which at least show a recognisable and identifiable butterfly. Finally, to add to the tally, there was one each of Holly Blue, Speckled Wood and Meadow Brown, and three brand new Painted Ladies. Not bad for so late in the day... The overall total for this location this year so far is 17 species. - Dave Miller

### **Sunday 12th July 2009**

Bricket Wood Branch Field Trip (am) - Despite the early rain, 25 butterfly spotters assembled at St Stephens Parish Centre. The hedge there alongside Drop Lane contained a good amount of elm & we saw aprox 4 White-letter Hairstreak, including one at rest. Brimstone, Red Admiral, Essex Skipper, Gatekeeper, Comma & Large White were all on the same hedge. Tearing ourselves away, we headed for the Common, pausing at some oaks on Station Rd, where we had a good view of a single Purple Hairstreak through binoculars & on digital camera. Along the ride, a large cloud passed over & Ringlets were the main species in evidence. But when the sun returned we were rewarded with Marbled White, White Admiral (6 in total) and Silver-washed Fritillary. Unusually the first two SWF's were both females, nectaring close together on bramble. Males patrolled up & down the ride at high speed, behaviour which makes a precise count difficult. At one point three were seen flying together. In total 3 females were positively identified & 2 males, though most of those patrolling are likely to be males. A conservative total is 12, including 11 along the ride plus one more seen later in School Lane. More Marbled Whites were seen on the thistle patch on the Hertfordshire Way, another Brimstone and a new Peacock. In total 19 butterfly species were recorded including (in addition to those mentioned above) Large & Small Skipper, Small & Green-veined White, Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper and Speckled Wood & Comma. Heading back along School Lane we saw several Green-veined Whites & a Skipper taking moisture or salts from mud beside a puddle. Moths included Straw Dot, Dusky Footman & Vapourer. Watercress Wildlife Reserve, Riverside Rd, St Albans (pm) - Visited the site of this new transect on a local nature reserve, where BC have been advising on planting to attract butterflies. Holly Blue, Red Admiral, Comma, Large Skipper, Ringlet, Large, Small & Green-veined White, Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper plus Blood-vein Moth. Also news of a sighting of SWF on last weeks transect (4 July) - Malcolm Hull

### **Saturday 11th July 2009**

10th July 2009 - Broxbourne Woods West on the main ride: Meadow Brown, Comma, Silver-washed Fritillary, Large Skipper, Ringlet, Large White, White Admiral. I wasn't lucky enough to see the sighting of the Purple Emperor! - Marion Moss

News from July 5th. Evening. Found marbled whites, burnets and small skippers on the layby at the south turning to Tring at the Wiggington turn off from the A41 bypass. Later at Aldbury Nowers more marbled whites, ringlets, one fresh 6 spot burnet and some 5 spots beginning to look tatty. Purpose of visit was to find summer chafer beetles which come out just after sunset. Success! Thursday pm July 9th at Bricket Wood along the ride. One vivid brimstone colliding with a white, possibly a female brimstone, several marbled whites feeding on thistles, 1 comma

sunbathing on bridge, many small skippers and large skippers (one with what I think was a tiny parasitic fly on its body), large whites... some mating, small whites, 1 resting ringlet and 1 dead, 1 white admiral, several meadow browns, several gatekeepers, speckled woods. Overall 12 types of butterfly which was a good trip for an afternoon. Elizabeth Debenham

Some news for today (Saturday 11th July 2009) - 2 Comma, at Vicarage Farm (1 'Barracks', 10:20 BST, 1 near Hadley Road, 11:04 BST); 1 Peacock, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 10:57 BST. 1 Purple Hairstreak, at Parkside Farm, 11:25 BST. 1 Red Admiral, Park Farm, 11:45 BST. 1 Red Admiral, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 12:25 BST. 1 Painted Lady, on buddleia, by Lower Lake, Trent Park; 1 female Essex Skipper, by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 12:35 BST. 1 Peacock, near Icehouse Wood, 12:53 BST. 1 Southern Hawker, S edge of Shaws Wood, Trent Park, 13:17 BST - First of the year! 1 Purple Hairstreak, S edge of Shaws Wood, 13:17 BST. - Robert Callf

### Friday 10th July 2009

In Norton Green/Cannocks Wood, 20+ Purple Hairstreaks on low-level vegetation (brambles and bracken) between 1045 and 1200. Whilst searching for Purple Emperors on tree tops in nearby Watery Grove, saw only 3 PHs - too windy for them? - Peter Clarke

Well that was curious. I was busy tending to some tomato plants in warmish / bright / overcast conditions and taking pictures of a growing stalk of them and noticed something different right by my hand. Lo and behold a pair of mating Small Whites sitting there on the tomato plant a centimeter or so from my hand. I wouldn't be surprised if I touched them before I noticed them. They've been fluttering around the area all afternoon. - Mike Rubin

Evening jaunt to Symondshyde wood between 1740 & 1930 found me 3 SILVER WASHED FRITILLARY. 1 of which was a glorious female feeding on thistles, with a male on a separate plant, briefly for about a minute. They were seen about two thirds of the way up of the ride with telegraph poles in. Alas didn't have time to get a shot (as with most butterflies this year). Also numerous PURPLE HAIRSTREAK dotted about most of the wood but mainly around the entrance to the bridle path. Alas yet again no sighting of WHITE LETTER HAIRSTREAK. Knew this species would be a nightmare (though I note that Steve Chilton has had them...lucky guy). - Darin Stanley

Aldbury Nowers, Tring (am) - A cold north wind concentrated the butterflies in south facing shelter belts. 4 Fritillaries - Silver washed male in clearing on the Ridgeway path, another male SWF along the woodland path just behind the layby field & another SWF nearby, plus a likely DGF (not seen at rest) at the bottom of the slope in the clearing north of Turlhanger Wood. Good numbers of Marbled White (60 plus), Comma (9), Ringlets & Whites. Low numbers of Small Copper (2), Common Blue (3 all male), Painted Lady (1), Small Tortoiseshell (2), Red Admiral (1). Species list also included Small, Large, Essex Skippers, Green-veined Large & Small Whites, Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper & Speckled Woods, Moths - Silver Y, Shaded Broad Bar, 6-spot & Narrow bordered 5 spot Burnets. - Malcolm, Dudley & Joyce Hull

Whippendell Wood, Watford (pm) - 12 Silver-washed Fritillaries, of which 9 were confirmed as males and two as females. Also 2 White Admirals, 21 Commas, 1 Red Admiral, 1 Small Copper, 4 Purple Hairstreaks plus the usual range of browns, whites & skippers. This is possibly the highest total for SWF from a single site in Herts for over 40 years, which fully compensated for our lack of success in finding Purple Emperor (yet) - Malcolm Hull and Colin Everett

During a two hour visit to Symondshyde Great Wood today (10th July) I saw five or six White Admiral, two Silver-washed Fritillary and at least two White-letter Hairstreak. I managed to take some decent photographs of the Hairstreak and a few record shots of the Fritillary and White Admiral. There were also several Green-veined Whites, Meadow Browns & Gatekeepers as well as numerous Commas and Ringlets. - Steve Chilton

Parked at the local nature reserve Therfield heath at 09.45 and walked east along the south of the heath, seen were, 50+ meadow brown, 20+ gatekeeper 3 ringlet, 6 large skipper, 16 small skipper, 12 large white, 5 small white, singles of small tortoiseshell, red admiral & brimstone, over on the eastern side, 32 marbled white and **12 chalkhill blue**, some of the marbled whites are already looking worn, I then parked up east of Plashes wood at the Latchford turning, as I walked up the track west I noticed many whites over the cereal crops and along the side of the wood, at the entrance there were 8 ringlets, 6 meadow brown, 2 small skipper, 1 comma, & 4 large white nectaring on a bramble patch, inside the wood was pretty shaded and only 2 speckled wood were

seen here, behind the farm house 3 commas basked, on the bridleway, on one bramble bank there were 12 ringlet and 2 small skipper, seen on the walk back through hanging wood I noted 1 red admiral, 2 small tortoiseshell and 4 ringlet, disappointed not to find any white admiral which have previously been here, although much of the wood is private - Laurence Drummond

I spent a few hours here between 1030 and 1300. Ringlets, Meadow Brown and whites abundant. Male Purple Emperor seen for about fifteen minutes, a little way west of where yesterday's sighting. Another? was seen about an hour later near the seat. Only one White Admiral. Images on my blog <http://philbishopsbirdingblog.blogspot.com/> Phil Bishop

News for today (Friday 10th July 2009) - 2 Purple Hairstreak, near Oakwood entrance, Trent Park, 11:25 BST. 2 Small Copper, 'New Fields', Trent Park, 11:39 - 11:41 BST. 1 Comma, near Sports Field, Trent Park, 11:42 BST. 1 Comma, by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 12:03 BST. 1 Purple Hairstreak, edge of Ride Wood, Trent Park, 12:17 BST. 1 Comma, edge of Ride Wood, Trent Park, 12:17 BST. 1 Red Admiral, at Park Farm, 12:27 BST. 1 female Large Skipper, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 13:01 BST. 1 Red Admiral, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 13:02 BST. 2 Small Tortoiseshell, at Vicarage Farm, 13:13 and 13:29 BST. 1 Painted Lady, at Vicarage Farm, 13:26 BST. - Robert Callf

#### **Thursday 9th July 2009**

Quick jaunt around Hitch wood nr Preston looking for Woodcock found me 5 PURPLE HAIRSTREAK amongst Oaks early PM. - Darin Stanley

Horsendeh Hill, 40+ Gatekeepers 40+ Meadow Browns 10+ Skippers 5+ Whites - including 2 Large Whites and 1 Green Veined White 1x Marbled White 1x Small Copper 1x Comma 1x Red Admiral 1x Speckled Wood 1x Silver Y 2x 6 Spot Burnet - Mike Rubin

Broxbourne Wood Nature Reserve Field Trip ~ a larger crowd than of recent years joined this field trip and soon located a male purple emperor feeding down on the path for an hour or so. The butterfly was in pristine condition and allowed very close approach for all in the 20+ group who wished to take pictures, be it with mobile phone or more professional looking equipment. Eventually it flew to the tree tops, then later made off north, whereupon everyone appeared to be satisfied, apart from a few late arrivals. There were also a few sightings of white admiral, and other more common species, along the main ride. Later, in the afternoon, some of the group went on to Northaw Great Wood where 3 purple emperors were seen ~ Andrew Middleton

The following seen at Hatfield Aerodrome, Hatfield, Hertfordshire Am on the 5th July, Good numbers of Marbled White - judging by the numbers appears to be a colony here. Also good numbers Meadow Brown, 1 x Gatekeeper, also a few Small Tortoiseshell, Small Skipper, & Small White. - David Wheatcroft

#### **Wednesday 8th July 2009**

Monday 6th July While walking my dogs on Monday afternoon, on an open area of Northchurch Common, above Dudswell (SP9710), I saw a staggering number of butterflies. First it was a moderately high number of ringlets and meadow browns going about their business individually. Then when I came to a bramble bush in blossom in a hedgerow, the whole thing seemed to be trembling. Some 50 butterflies, especially gatekeepers and skippers (small, I think), but also plenty of meadow browns, marbled whites and ringlets. Further on, I came round a clump of bushes onto open ground with plenty of thistles. There I counted 40 marbled whites without changing my position. Finally, I should mention that there was a truly enormous number of cinnabar moth caterpillars. Almost every ragwort plant had them, sometimes about 50 to a plant, and there were a good number of plants stripped of leaves. I also came across several cases of a plant with caterpillars on also being visited by one of the moths, perhaps seeking places to lay the next generation. Over this whole area of the common there must be many thousands of the caterpillars. If Butterfly Magazine is correct in recording a national decline of 83 per cent over 35 years, stand by for a dramatic reversal! - Patrick Lepper

Bury Farm, Edgware, Middx, John Rogers and I saw several (about 8) Marbled White Butterflies when undertaking a flora survey on Tuesday 30th June 2009. The farm is in TQ19. These fields are in TQ19X. These fields are under threat of development - cemetery extension - and will be bereft of wildlife if planning permission is granted. Other species: Green-veined White Small & Large Whites Tortoiseshell Meadow Brown Purple Hairstreak Small Skipper Ringlet Five-spot Burnet Moth - Bob Husband.

Horsenden Hill, caught a brief break in the cloud. The only sunshine of the day thankfully timed over lunch. Now all gloomy again. Was warm and muggy. I didn't do a proper count alas so mostly approximations. 30+ Gatekeepers 30+ Meadow Browns - all faded - scales washed off by the heavy rain??? 10-20 Whites including courting small whites and a large white feeding on thistle. 10+ Skippers. Possibly all Small / Essex. 4 Marbled Whites - 3 of them together in Batts Field. 3-4 Commas 1 Holly Blue - the summer brood has arrived! 1 Unidentified Satyrid. A smattering of those C. Culmella moths. Saw no Hairstreaks at all despite keeping my eyes peeled for them. Is it too late now for White Letters? Surely Purples must still be around? - Mike Rubin

## **Tuesday 7th July 2009**

Heartwood Forest, Sandridge - Four additional species, Purple Hairstreak, Small Copper, Essex Skipper & Gatekeeper, bringing my butterfly species total for the site to 20. Most spectacular is the display of Large Whites on a field of unsprayed brassicas to the north & west of Well/Puddlers Wood (TL1511) - based on several estimates of the number within a 10 sq meter area & calculating the total size of the field, I'd say there were approx 5,000 in total. Quite amazing as they flew around individually & in little groups of up to 20 individuals, stretching away right across the field to Round Wood - Malcolm Hull

Horsenden Hill Field Trip report for 27th June 2009: The walk was a success. Prior to meeting everyone, I had a quick spin around the site, registering 17 White-letters including 1 nectaring. A good omen. By the time 17 people had assembled for the walk (including Dave and myself) a bit of cloud had drifted in and activity dropped off a bit. Nevertheless, we quickly scored with White-letters, though they were being a bit uncooperative and it took some time to get good views for everyone. I always take my scope on this walk these days and it proves very useful for getting good views of WLH. We also got some stonking views of freshly emerged Purple H., basking low down. So, the first section of the walk (actually part of section 1 of the Horsenden East transect) registered perhaps as many as 5 White-letters, 2 Purple H and a supporting cast of Comma, Speckled Wood and Large Skipper. Moving onto the cycle track (section 1 of the Horsenden West transect) we registered another 3 WLH with one briefly flirting with the brambles but not settling. Onto Home Mead (covering parts of sections 10 and 11 of the East transect) we had 2-3 Marbled White, Comma, Gatekeeper, Common Blue, Meadow Brown, Small Skipper, our first Essex Skipper of the year (netted and temporarily potted to allow people to appreciate the antennae difference compared with Small) and some other bits and pieces like Narrow-bordered 5 spot and 6 Spot Burnets, Burnet Companion, Silver Y and the attractive micro Agapeta zoegana. We finished off with a visit to our favoured 'honeydew tree' and scored with another 2 Purple H and our best scoped views of WLH of the day. Back to Horsenden Farm to look through the contents of the moth trap that Dave and I had run there overnight. A good selection, including crowd pleasers like Peach Blossom, Poplar Hawk, Buff Arches and Burnished Brass. On last weekends Horsenden West transect there was still at least 1 WLH and good numbers of Marbled White - I got 5 in all. Off transect I got a Ringlet near the Ballot Box pub, only my second locally (though I understand that on Saturday Dave got 'several' in Perivale Wood). Unlikely that we would have overlooked these in the past, so I guess they are continuing to spread - seem to be doing pretty well at Brent Res, for example. - Andrew Culshaw with Dave Howdon

I saw two White Admiral butterflies nectaring and basking on some bramble within my transect (Sherrards Park Wood, Welwyn Garden City) on Thursday. I have been to look in the same area of bramble on two subsequent occasions but have not seen them again. However, on my return through my garden yesterday I saw another basking on some ivy about 8-9ft up an oak tree. It, or another was flying there today in a small clearing adjacent to the house which is on the edge of the woodland. Although I have not seen them nectaring I think they may be attracted by some privet and buddleia blossom which are both out at the moment. I think this may be the first time they have been recorded in this wood though they may have been present in the oak canopy for some time. The Purple Hairstreak are present again this year in some numbers in three oaks bordering our garden. I have not yet visited the other areas where we saw them before - Gwynneth Pearman Jenkins

Today: Nothing! A very heavy shower went through at lunchtime! Monday Grove Farm, Middlesex, TQ18 despite mostly 8/8 cloud and showers: 4x Gatekeeper 2x Meadow Brown 2x Speckled Wood 1x Comma - possibly injured. Was flying very oddly like a fish out of water. Vanished down into the brambles before I could get a closer look. 1x White 1x Unidentified Satyrid. Saturday 4th July, Kenton, Middlesex: A few whites if I remember right. 1x Comma basking on a Pepper plant. 1x Red Admiral flying through. All seen while in the garden. - Mike Rubin



## Monday 6th July 2009

At least 3 Purple Hairstreaks in the tops of oaks in the southern half of Balls Wood this evening.  
Chris Dee

Mating pair of Silver-washed Fritillaries in Bricket Wood. I had a clear view as they flew past "in cop" and landed on Sallow. After 2 mins they lifted off, still joined together & landed briefly on the grass, before flying up into a nearby oak & proceeding with their business 25ft off the ground! This is the first time I have seen this in Herts & possibly the first record of this species breeding since its recolonisation? I recorded a total of 7 SWF on the transect this morning - is easily the highest number ever for a single week. White Admirals are also doing well at the same site with 10 seen this morning. Marbled White is also doing well on the site & Gatekeeper Small & Essex Skippers also put in their first appearance on the transect this week. [The branch field trip around the site takes place this Sunday, 12 July - see Events Diary page for details](#) - Malcolm Hull

I recorded today a manic male sw fritillary in Highfield wood at 14.28, heading wsw along the track, same part where I've been watching the pemps - Laurence Drummond

One Marbled White on Broadmeads, Ware today, I think that is a site first - Andrew Wood

Conducted my WCS walk today in the High Cross area. Despite having to stop for about 20minutes whilst it rained, was surprised how many Marbled Whites were flying along the A10 bypass, also a pristine Small Tortoiseshell and fresh Small Copper were seen. 12 species in total were recorded. Later went to Broxbourne Common hoping to see PE on territory but mostly cloud and very windy in the canopy. At least 3 active White Admirals and 3 clashing Commas in adjacent clearing and the oak/ash were busy with Purple Hairstreaks when the sun decided to shine. - Liz Goodyear

Some news for today (Monday 6th July 2009) - 1 Painted Lady, hedgerow off Barracks, Vicarage Farm, 09:58 BST. 1 Small Tortoiseshell, at Parkside Farm, 10:24 BST. 2 Comma, at Parkside Farm, 10:28 and 10:29 BST. 1 Comma, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 12:00 BST. 1 Purple Hairstreak, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 12:00 BST. 1 Comma, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 12:43 BST. - Robert Callf

3/7/2009 - Firs Wood, Potters Bar, 16:30 At least 4 Marbled Whites - P. Smith

Yesterday's viewing on the green at Westland Green and in the verges along Chapel Lane leading from Little Hadham, Herts (post code SG112AA) Ringlet (100's) meadow brown (100's) small skipper (50+) essex skipper (50+) large skipper (15+) **PURPLE HAIRSTREAK (1:1st for parish on the green at Westland Green) MARBLED WHITE (4) small tortoiseshell (50+ big numbers after the decline of the last few years)** gatekeeper (15+: 1st for 2009) speckled wood (4) painted lady (10) six spot burnet moth (7: on the green at Westland Green, 1st for 2009) - Jono Forgham

## Sunday 5th July 2009

I ventured out into the purple empire again today, unusually for me parked at the goose green car park, then walked south along Ermine street, turned wsw into Highfield wood, white admirals are doing well here this year 8+ seen with a dark aberrant again, many commas, small & large skippers, large whites, meadow browns, ringlets, 1 painted lady and 1 gatekeeper, at 10.25 I stopped at the spot where I saw the emperors yesterday, none were seen until @ 10.50 one was seen to cross the ride in a southerly direction, no more until at 11.09 a sudden burst of activity around the tops of the trees with 3 presumed males clashing and searching the hornbeam and sallow, this again stopped as quickly as it started, @ 11.57 a large male swooped down out of a sallow nearby and shot over my shoulder in an ene direction along the track flying low and fast, it then appeared flying back towards me and showed signs it may ground but did not and I lost sight of it along the track wsw, then a small male showed what I believe is known as sallow searching, made repeated short flights in out and around the top of one sallow, I stayed until 12.40 but no more sightings were made here so I headed wsw along the track, then close to the crossway between Highfield and cowheath woods I nearly stepped on a male feeding on fox dung!!, he flew up and around me and up to the crossway in short very fast bursts and I had trouble keeping a fix on him, he wanted to ground but could not find a spot he was happy with, after me chasing around after him for 15 minutes or so he came back to the fox dung and settled next to it, I crept up to him and as I did he showed off his purple regalia in fine style for around 5 minutes and allowed me to take pics!!, it then hopped up onto the fox dung and fed for another 5 or so minutes before flying of west at around 13.05, now in a daze I turned north along the bridleway towards monks green, at the northern end where the bridleway leaves the wood I noticed a large female emperor gliding



around an oak in a very leisurely fashion ,at one point hovering on the breeze before perching inside the tree,at 13.20 another emperor glided high over the pines here , another fantastic day!  
Laurence Drummond

A great day on the Balls Wood for HMWT today. About 30 attendees saw good views of a number of White Admirals (around 7 probable individuals) including a chasing pair. A male Purple Emperor that was spotted high in a tree, and after a few minutes flew around before sitting in an adjacent one. A couple of Silver washed Fritillaries, one of which flew a eye level along the line of us. Plenty of Large, small/Essex Skippers, Ringlets, meadow Brown, comma, Large and Green-veined whites and a few Speckled Wood and fresh looking Gatekeepers. At the end about a dozen of us went to some of the areas of the wood further to the west and recorded another White Admirals, patrolling the tops of the main Sallow patch, a Purple hairstreak, extremely docile in the grass at ground level, which was happy to be potted and carried to a better vantage point at which point it shot off at high speed as cameras were focussed on it. An early summer Peacock was also seen at the same point as was a Painted lady larva (an adult was also spotted on The Heath by a couple of people before the walk started. Earlier in the week I had been told of Silver Washed-fritillary and Marbled White in the wood and one of today's walkers had seen one in the wood, last Sunday 28 June) So that makes three records in the last two years and with more being seen in Hertford and several at Waterford heath it looks as if they are moving more strongly into south east Herts -  
Andrew Wood

### **Saturday 4th July 2009**

Margaret Grocock, saw a Purple Emperor on private land close to Weepings Wood and the cricket pitch which is between Bayford and Bayfordbury.

After 4.5 hours of searching I eventually saw a male PE glide across the wide ride on Grubb Ground at 15.05. No evidence of activity at the St Vincents end of the wood. Quite a few Purple Hairstreak in the canopy. 2 White Admirals, 4 Red Admirals, 2 Painted Lady, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, reasonable numbers of Large & Small Skippers, at least 1 Essex Skipper, plenty of Ringlet, Meadow Brown, Large White, GV White, 2 Speckled Wood & 7 Comma. - Steve Pash

My wife and I ventured to north Hertfordshire today (Saturday) to Therfield and Kelshall to complete walk 28 in the book "Pub Walks in Hertfordshire" - 3 1/2 miles long. We saw at least 26 small tortoiseshells - I can't remember seeing so many for several years and nearly all looked fresh and bright. We also saw 100+ ringlets, about the same number of whites (mainly small and green veined I think), about 40 meadow browns and several speckled woods, small skippers and one or two large skippers. Weather mid 20s - fairly bright early on and then more overcast. -  
Roger Newbold

After seeing the Purple Emperors (see pics) in Broxbourne Wood (it must be my scope that's mentioned) I went to far-northern Herts where I saw at least three Small Tortoiseshells along Wallington Road near Baldock. - Jan Hein van Steenis

Butterflies on Buddleia - 3 more species today, Large White, Comma & Small White, all nectaring on wild buddleias in Lisson Grove, Marylebone, where I kicked off my contribution Wider "Countryside" Butterfly Survey - Malcolm Hull

Started today at Broxbourne woods main ride 09.00, at least 2 purple emperors seen over and around trees on north side of ride,several observers, no groundings while I was there, at least 6 white admiral, also purple hairstreaks, commas, large and small skippers & lots of browns & one male brimstone. Left at 11.00 for the Martins Green car park Danemead, usual walk north along Ermine Street into hoddessedon park wood, at the crossway my first gatekeeper of the year, happy to report that there are still white admirals here, 2 seen one of which was an aberration, all dark with just a few white spots where the bands should be, then west into highfield wood. More commas ,skippers,browns,a painted lady & 2 more white admirals, as I reached the high point at about 12.15, what I had really hoped to see here, a purple emperor glided over the tree tops to the south of the path & then did circuits of the area for the next ten minutes, then another one arrived from the north and perched high up in a hornbeam spray,the active emperor continued to circle despite the fairly cloudy conditions until it flew over the spray where the other emperor was perched the two butterflies then clashed and headed off west, amazingly then followed by a third ! @ 12.36, one more was seen on the north side of the path @ 12.48, stayed until 13.15 but no more where seen. Tried the broxbourne common territory @13.25-14.00 but by then conditions where very windy an cloudy no pempes where seen. Laurence Drummond

Best ever time in Bencroft Wood this morning 10-11 am, in particular in short ride going towards field, saw silver washed fritillary, 2 white admirals, red admiral, 6 commas, 2 gatekeepers 15 species in all, over 100 butterflies, purple hairstreak on path in front of me as well as in oaks. Then dropped into Broxbourne Ride and saw purple emperor, courtesy of telescope from one of the watchers - Steve Kiln

Some news for today (Saturday 4th July 2009) - 1 Purple Hairstreak, along tube-line near Oakwood entrance, 12:09 BST. 1 Comma, near Triangular Wood, 12:13 BST. 1 Painted Lady, along tube-line near Oakwood entrance, 12:18 BST. 1 Red Admiral, along tube-line near Oakwood entrance, 12:19 BST. 1 Painted Lady, Sect. 6, 'New Fields'; 1 Comma, edge of Church Wood, 12:33 BST. 1 Painted Lady, edge of Sports Field, Trent Park, 12:47 BST. 1 Comma, near 'Three-bridges', Trent Park, 13:30 BST. 1 Purple Hairstreak, at Parkside Farm, 13:44 BST. 2 Comma, at Parkside Farm, 13:58 and 14:00 BST. 3 Small Tortoiseshell, at Vicarage Farm, 14:09 - 14:29 BST. 3 Red Admiral, along track at Vicarage Farm, 14:11 - 14:16 BST. - Robert Callf

A morning visit to Ladywalk Wood at Maple Cross gave excellent views of a fresh White letter Hairstreak on thistle heads along the east edge of the wood. Also here many Ringlet, several Marbled White, one Comma, two Painted Lady, two Small Tortoiseshell and a Small Skipper. In all thirteen species. John Edwards

A White Admiral in Knebworth Woods at 1145 today - Peter Clarke

Spent a couple of hours in Balls Wood yesterday and saw more butterflies on the wing than I have seen for at least 10 years. Hundreds of Meadow Brown and Ringlet, good numbers of Small and Large Skippers but more amazingly 30-40 sightings of White Admiral, with at least 9 separate individuals. Unfortunately no Silver-washed Fritillary or Purple Emperor. Alan Reynolds

Here are a few recent reports from my usual walk along the River Colne to Junction 14 and back: 21st June, about 1830 Comma 3 Red Admiral 2 Painted Lady 1 Small tortoiseshell 1 Large White 2 Large Skipper 1 Small Skipper 1 24th June, about 1400 Comma 7 Red Admiral 2 Small Tortoiseshell 1 Painted Lady 1 Meadow Brown 5 Large White 2 Small White 2 Common Blue 1 (extremely ragged...) 25th June, about 1800 Noteworthy from this last trip were the Painted Lady caterpillars - I suspect there were more in the dense thistle patch, but 4 were close to the path. The Gatekeeper was brand spanking new, and a picture is attached. A splendid little butterfly! Finally, studying the various Comma photos I took revealed that one was more of a "G" than a comma, and another was very definitely an "O". I know these varieties have little scientific significance beyond making a common butterfly more interesting to the likes of me... There is also a picture showing that Commas do not always chase everything else in reach. Totals seen: Comma 5+ Red Admiral 1 Meadow Brown 5+ Large Skipper 3 Green-veined White 2 Small White 2 Painted Lady 1, plus 4 caterpillars Gatekeeper 1 Dave Miller

### Friday 3rd July 2009

30th June. Red admiral flying over patio in Kings Langley, comma on buddleia in neighbouring garden, painted lady in country lane, whites + one meadow brown in garden. July 1st several ringlets on hazelnut tree at Bricket Wood around sunset. July 3rd. Thrilled to have one marbled white in my garden and in evening FOUR marbled whites in Barnes lane, Kings Langley!! Three were resting on umbelliferae flowers and tall grasses between the barley crop and hedgerow. One very active painted lady flying under oak trees and settling on road briefly, one ringlet resting on brambles which is a first for me in this location. Masses of peacock butterfly caterpillars on nettles this week in the lane. Elizabeth Debenham

Today popped into **Therfield heath** while coming back from north. Saw 4 or five **chalk hill blues** plus 10 or so marbled whites. Dropped into waterford heath south and there was a marbled white there too. Steve Kiln

News for today (Friday 3rd July 2009) - Several Gatekeeper, including my first female of the year, set-aside field near Dew Pond, 13:25 - 13:28 BST. 1 Purple Hairstreak, settled on Turkey Oak, near Dew Pond, 13:28 BST. 1 Comma, nectaring on thistles, near Icehouse Wood, 13:33 BST. 1 Small Tortoiseshell, near Icehouse Wood, Trent Park, 13:34 BST. 1 Comma, by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 13:28 BST. 1 Small Tortoiseshell, at Parkside Farm, 14:30 BST. 2 Comma, together, at Parkside Farm, 14:32 BST. 4 Small Tortoiseshell, at Vicarage Farm, between 14:43 - 14:47 BST. 1 Purple Hairstreak, at Vicarage Farm, 14:44 BST. 2 Red Admiral, along track at Vicarage Farm,

14:44 - 14:47 BST. Also there was a Painted Lady at Vicarage Farm, Enfield yesterday (Friday 3rd July 2009) nectaring on thistles at 14:35 BST.- Robert Callf

2nd July - Ruislip/Harefield Yesterday evening at approx 18.30 I saw a WL Hairstreak on Bramble along the bridleway between New Years Green Lane & Bayhurst Wood (TQ 068884). There are young Elms nearby. Also in the vicinity were Plenty of Meadow Browns and at least 6 Comma, a few Gatekeeper, Large Skipper, Small/Essex Skipper, Large & GV White, Red Admiral, & Small Tortoiseshell. Steve Pash

#### Thursday 2nd July 2009

OAKHILL WOODS LNR EAST BARNET, WLH still flying but outnumbered now by Purple H-----  
--First Ringlet and Gatekeeper of year-----Released 106 Peacocks on site that had been taken into protective custody as first instar larvae----44 tachinids also from this batch-----these i destroyed-----New Colony of Marbled white found -----Clay lane fields west of M1 Scratchwood LBB-----  
----(-very few MW records in LBB)---And---WLH x2 on small leaved elm along Jewish cemetery boundary-----this whole area is due for developement unfortunately-----KIT JONES

**Purple emperors** were rampant in Broxbourne woods main ride 09.00-11.00 !, first sighting over the tallows and the smashed up oak, at 09.16, at 09.20 I looked west up the track through my bins only to see a grounded pemp between the bracken patch and the new "clearing" on the north side of the ride,as I approached it I could see he (male) was feeding on some dried belachan paste I had smeared on some stones the day before, it allowed a very close approach, over the next hour or so 3 males were almost constantly gliding & grounding along the ride, flying around our legs & feeding on the belachan, they did not open their wings much when grounded due to the heat I think, a fantastic day, also there to share the spectacle were several others - Laurence Drummond

A bit of good news for a change: Firstly, small tortoiseshell now plentiful on the allotments at back of my house. Secondly, first ever record of a ringlet in my Bengoe garden 25th June. - Jack Doyle

Today (Thurs 2nd July 2009) at Barrowfield Road Allotments, Edmonton saw a Small Skipper and a Comma. - Robert Callf

#### Wednesday 1st July 2009

Bricket Wood, 5 Silver-washed Fritillaries, 4 males and a single female, 11 White Admiral, 4 Purple Hairstreaks were among very large numbers of Ringlets in Bricket Wood this morning. - Clive Burrows

Doing my transect today (**Balls Wood**) when a large butterfly flew past my left shoulder, circled my legs and almost landed on my shoe before flying off into the wood, it was clearly a pristine male **Purple Emperor**. Also saw 6 White Admirals which is a considerable improvement on the last two weeks. Andrew Wood

A long day today, started at Broxbourne woods main ride 09.30-11.20, despite the lack of sunshine until around 10.30, seen were 3 white admiral, 6 comma, 8 large skipper, 4 purple hairstreak, 3 painted lady, many ringlet & meadow brown, no purple emperors, at 13.20 arrived at Martins green carpark and walked north along ermine street and into danemead nature reserve here there were many ringlet and 3 small skipper, on the bridleway west of the reserve 1 white admiral, I then walked back south along the bridleway to broxbourne common to check the canopy gap at the western end of the veteran oaks for emperors from 13.40-14.15, none were seen, then back to **Broxbourne woods** ain ride at 14.35, stood at the back of the grass area just before the bench and at 14.45 saw a large butterfly fluttering around in a willow bush, a quick scan with the bins showed it to be a **purple emperor**, probably newly emerged slowly opening and closing its wings, then more unusually a marbled white went whizzing by !, at 15.20 I decided to walk back to the car and on the southern side of the ride by the patch of bracken noted a large purple emperor gliding around high up over the pines, almost straight away I then noted another emperor flying low along the sculpture trail, I jumped over the wooden railing just in time to see it settle on the path, I tried to approach it slowly but it was off away east through the trees and I could not relocate it - Laurence Drummond

Symondshyde Great Wood, Hatfield - 6 Silver-washed Fritillaries along the bridleway & power cable ride - the most I have seen at this site. Its now 6 years since I first saw this species here & it now appears to have become established in this wood. Also 6 White Admirals - quite a good total

for this wood, but not as high as some years. I saw a courting couple of WA's & also one laying on honeysuckle on the edge of a small clearing, about 12 ft off the ground. Also one Purple Hairstreak, one Large Skipper, nine Commas & lots of Ringlets, Meadow Browns, Speckled Woods & Whites. Heartwood Forest, Sandridge - I'm now up to 16 species at the Woodland Trust site. Huge numbers of Meadow Browns & Large Whites, the latter thriving on fields of unsprayed brassicas. Still quite a few Painted Ladies, with some specimens very faded and others pristine - could this be a rare example of a butterfly meeting its parents? Lots of Commas, Ringlets & Large Skippers plus a few Small Tortoiseshells, Red Admirals, Marbled Whites, Speckled Woods, Cinnabar moths & Small Skippers. The branch are providing information to HMWT who are preparing an environmental study of the site before tree planting commences. This is due in by mid July. If anyone has any butterfly records from the site please let me know. Last but not least, my first butterfly on buddleia this year - a Red Admiral in my St Albans garden - Malcolm Hull

2 Silver-washed Fritillaries in Norton Green Common area, Stevenage at 1200 hours today. Also 100+ Ringlets, 30+ Marbled Whites, 2 Small Tortoiseshells (first seen here for several years), 2 Purple Hairstreaks and a possible White-letter Hairstreak as well as a Red Admiral, several Commas, whites, skippers, Meadow Browns and a Gatekeeper. - Peter Clarke

News for Tuesday 30th June, 1 Red Admiral, at Shaws Wood, Trent Park, 19:01 BST. 1 Comma, edge of Shaws Wood, 19:02 BST. 1 female Large White, near Williams Wood, Trent Park, 19:03 BST. 1 male Gatekeeper, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, 19:43 BST. 6+ Purple Hairstreak, around Oak crown, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 19:50 BST. 2 Purple Hairstreak, at Parkside Farm, 20:07 BST. 7+ Purple Hairstreak, around Oak and Ash, Hadley Road near Pumping Station, 20:40 BST. 3+ Painted Lady, along track at Vicarage Farm, 20:56 BST onwards. News for today (Weds 1st July 2009) - 1 female Large White, at Dalrymple Close, N14, 10:11 BST. 1 Comma, on buddleia, near Oakwood entrance, Trent Park, 10:28 BST. - Robert Callf

Garston railway station TQ 11 99 - Large White, Holly Blue & Red Admiral; nearby at TQ 12 99 - White-letter Hairstreak & Comma, both on Wych Elm. Dome roundabout area in North Watford TQ 11 99 - Red Admiral by Sainsbury store - Colin Everett

Horsenden Hill, only 27-28C today and drier air, so a bit more bearable. 95+x Meadow Browns! 19x Skippers 12x Whites 5x Gatekeeper (All Males) 5x Marbled White 2x Unidentified Hairstreaks - one was close to Kellogg Tower / Greenford Road flying onto an Ash Tree. No Oak or Elm nearby. Curious... The 2nd was around oak so probably Purple. 2-3x Comma 2x Speckled Wood 2x 5 Spot Burnet (looking tatty now) I think that was it. Activity so frenetic in the meadows that it was hard to count and keep track of everything. Also in the morning a Least Carpet moth hitched a ride into the office on my bag. I recognised it but it flew off into an office not to be seen again so failed to catch it and take it outside. Also in the last couple of evenings several Whites (mainly Green Veined) and a Comma spotted in Kenton. The Comma was basking on one of my pepper plants. (Despite the large-hail (1-2cm) and severely heavy thunderstorm last Saturday pm punching holes in and tearing all the leaves the veg plants seem to be coping OK thankfully.) - Mike Rubin

I saw 2 white admirals yesterday (tuesday) in wormley wood entered by the south entrance on hammond street walked along the fence and down the main path going to the right both were not far down the path. Would i expect to see purple emperor in this wood? also today wednesday saw 1 white admiral on the ride from west carpark broxbourne wood no sign of P E have any been seen this year? Paul Coyston

# Archive Page

## Sightings and news from January to June 2009

 [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 2009.

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 2009

#### **Tuesday 30th June 2009**

**Broxbourne Wood NR**, saw a grounded **Purple Emperor** today at 10.55am on the track between the 2 car park, feasting on a piece of dried dogs toilet. Also saw a newly emerged Purple Hairstreak with 2 Commas sitting on a bag of dogs toilet at the end of the main track. Ringlets, Meadow Browns, Whites and Large Skippers were also seen. - Sandra Standbridge also Laurence Drummond

Weedy Field, Batford, this lunch time saw **2 Gatekeeper** along with numerous Marbled whites in the weedy field. - Darin Stanley

I have just been getting **White Letter Neck** at Spellbrook, opposite the American Car Wash. The tallest elm next to the electricity sub station had at least 6 WLHs on this afternoon with another one of the elms further down having at least 2. Although I have seen them flying for the past 2 years, this is the first time that I managed to find a spot in the canopy of the elm that they kept going back to and settling for a minute or two to enable me to get a good close look with my binoculars. This was between 3.15 and 4.15pm today with a temperature of 27C. - Bob Clift

I cut my walk short and stayed north side of the hill today. Was too hot and I started to feel ropery. Still worthy of a post as I saw a definite Ringlet close to the main wood. We have loads of Meadow Browns on Horsenden Hill but not Ringlets so nice to see one come in again. Meadow Browns - Too many to count Skippers - Too many to count Whites - 10+ especially Large Whites Marbled White - 1 Ringlet - 1 - my first 100% id on Horsenden Hill since the single individual in 2007 Comma - 1 Small Copper - 1 - Mike Rubin

Saw a Red Admiral at Town Park, Enfield today (Tues 30th June 2009) Carr's Basin, 13:09 BST. Also a Comma at Lakeside, Oakwood, N14, 13:38 BST. - Robert Callf

#### **Monday 29th June 2009**

Symondshyde Woods, 1m Silver washed fritillary, 7+ Purple Hairstreak, 3 White Admiral all in the entrance area to the wood via the bridle path. Batford Weedy field, 80+ Marbled whites 2 ringlet - Darin Stanley

Some news for today (Monday 29th June 2009) - 1 Comma, at Bramley Road, Oakwood, N14 at 09:45 BST. 1 Red Admiral, at Forty Hill, Enfield, 10:14 BST. 1 Comma, at Forty Hill, 10:16 BST. 1 Painted Lady, at Forty Hall, 10:24 BST. 1 Red Admiral, at Forty Hall, 10:32 BST. 1 Red Admiral, at Lavender Hill Cemetery, Enfield, 13:37 BST. - Robert Callf

Horsenden Hill, phew too hot! I lost count. 29C and almost no wind. Was hoping the White Letters would have come down in the heat so was scouring Brambles and Elm but to no avail. Just the odd individual high up. Saw a couple of high hairstreaks in an oak only area so I assume they were Purples. 50+ Meadow Brown 20+ Skippers 10+ Whites including the biggest Large White I have ever seen 5x Commas 3x Marbled Whites 3x White Letter Hairstreak 2x Purple Hairstreak 2x Gatekeeper (My firsts of the year) 2x Speckled Wood 1x Red Admiral And let a pug type moth out



of Kellogg Tower. I have no idea which species though. It wasn't hanging around for a photo! - Mike Rubin

### **Sunday 28th June 2009**

The Marbled whites appear to have established in this area. The first one i saw was in 2007 at the old Red White and Blue Allotment site. CM23 SAT P.M.. 1 Marbled White on the old Red White and Blue Allotment site. SUN A.M. 3 Marbled White in rough grass field adjacent to the allotment site. Jim Fish

I was in Park Wood on Sunday and saw 4 White Admiral. I specifically went to look for Purple emperor but didn't see any in the wood but did see one on the ground in St Vincents nursing home visitor car park. I got to the woods at 8.30 and it was already 21C. I spent an hour or so in the usual place without any luck. I then decided to view the wood from outside, scanning the canopy from the nursing home. At 10.05 I was chatting to a dog walker when a **Purple Emperor flew past** the 2 of us at ground level then briefly settled. As I approached, it flew and settled on the wheel-arch of a parked car. As I got close, it flew from one car to the underside of another and never reappeared. It was as if it had crawled up into the engine compartment. It was behaving like a male but looked like a female, large, brown and no obvious blue/purple colouration. I continued searching the woods for another 2 hours but no more sightings. Steve Pash

News for - 28th June 2009 at Grovelands Park, Southgate: 2 Small Skipper, near Bowling Green, 11:50 BST. 1 Purple Hairstreak, 12:32 BST. 1 Large Skipper, 13:09 BST. 1 Comma, 13:09 BST. Also a few Meadow Brown. - Robert Callf

Came across the first marbled white of 2009 yesterday. A solitary individual who was not going to pose for a photograph at TL 457228, just east of Little Hadham and north of the A120. Also recorded first Essex skipper of the year, along with a tatty common blue. Following your comments re bio diversity plan for the village, I have now recorded small copper (28.05.09) and another single individual small heath (sameday, both at TL 465219) Photos on my blog. Now for white letter and purple hairstreak plus bring on the clouded yellows. Check out my blog. <http://littlehadhambirding.blogspot.com> - Jonathan Forgham

Sat 27 - Bricket Wood Common - Fresh male Silver-washed Fritillary in one of the newly created mini-clearings in School Lane. Also White Admiral (5), Red Admiral (2), new generation Comma(2), Small Skipper 2), Purple Hairstreak(1), Marbled White(4), Silver y and many Ringlet, Large Skipper, Speckled Wood, Meadow Brown, Ringlet & assorted Whites. Sunday 28 New Commas also out in St Albans today, including one laying on my nettlepatch at Folly Lane allotments. At Butterfly World, Chiswell Green, St Albans, an absolutely stunning display of millions of wildflowers from across the globe have erupted across the 25 acre site. So far they have attracted mostly bees, but Painted Lady, Small Tortoiseshell Large & Small Whites are all on the site, as well as about 16 different tropical species in the newly installed greenhouse - Malcolm Hull

I was lucky enough to see a female Silver-Washed Fritillary gliding around the path on the wooded area at the crossroads of the paths which lead up to The Ridgeway Path and the golf course at around 12.30 at Aldbury Nowers - Philip Woodward

### **Saturday 27th June 2009**

Brent Reservoir, 29 Marbled White, 3 White-letter Hairstreak, 1 Purple Hairstreak (first of the year), 10+ Ringlet (first time recorded at this site). These records were during the weekly transect. - Roy Beddard

SW Frit flying near Bridgewater Monument, Ashridge this morning (Saturday). - Don Otter

Probably two different male Silver-washed Fritillaries in the Aldbury Nowers area, one each at sites separated by about 400-500 metres; also my first **Essex Skipper** of the year, a Small Heath and further Small Tortoiseshells. Records as follows: Castle Hill Farm nr Berkhamsted SP 99 08 - Meadow Brown & 5 Ringlets; Well Farm nr Berkhamsted SP 99 09 - Red Admiral, 23 Meadow Browns & 13 Ringlets; Alpine Meadow nr Berkhamsted SP 98 10 - Large Skipper, Common Blue, Painted Lady, 2 Small Tortoiseshells, 8 Marbled Whites, 25 Meadow Browns & 42 Ringlets; Berkhamsted Common (Brickkiln Cottage area) SP 99 10 - Large White, Painted Lady, 17 Meadow Browns & 21 Ringlets; Berkhamsted Common (Woodyard area) SP 98 11 - Red Admiral, Speckled Wood & 4 Meadow Browns (also Pebble Hook-tip moth); Ashridge Estate (Prince's Riding) SP 98 12

- Red Admiral, Comma, Meadow Brown & 4 Ringlets; Ashridge Estate (nr Aldbury) SP 96 12 - 5 Large Skippers, Comma, 7 Speckled Woods, Meadow Brown & 10 Ringlets; Ashridge Estate (Moneybury Hill) SP 96 13 - Comma, 2 Speckled Woods, Meadow Brown & 15 Ringlets; Howlett's Wood nr Aldbury Nowers SP 95 13 - 2 Small Skippers, Essex Skipper, 4 Large Skippers, Small Tortoiseshell, male Silver-washed Fritillary, Speckled Wood, 10 Marbled Whites, 18 Meadow Browns & 65 Ringlets; Aldbury Nowers (NR) SP 95 13 - Green-veined White, Red Admiral & male Silver-washed Fritillary in glade by Ridgeway (other spp were present in this square but not counted); Tom's Hill nr Aldbury SP 96 11 - Large Skipper, 3 Marbled Whites, 2 Meadow Browns & 10 Ringlets; Newground Road nr Aldbury SP 95 11 - Large Skipper, Painted Lady, Small Tortoiseshell, 4 Meadow Browns, Small Heath & 11 Ringlets. - Colin Everett

Went to Oakhill Wood, East Barnet today (Sat 27th June 2009) with Bob Husband and saw at least four White-letter Hairstreak around Hornbeam and Ash at 10:50 BST - had views of them settled. Also saw 2 Purple Hairstreak here. Saw one rather worn White-letter Hairstreak settled on Ash behind bus-stop opposite Oakwood tube Station at 12:32 BST today. - Robert Callf

### Friday 26th June 2009

The sun broke through at lunchtime. I had my afternoon off. So decided to visit Park Wood. Was hoping to see the Heath Frits but I guess I'm too late. The other notable absence was Marbled White. Was nice to see the White Admirals. My first sighting was when 3 of them shot past my nose having a scrap. Saw a couple of them also fluttering slowly along the ground sometimes settling in shade briefly. But hard to get anywhere near. (Especially when some uncontrolled nutter of a dog bounded past scaring it off.) (I did manage one high res closeup of a White Admiral atleast showing detail of the dark surfaces albeit overexposed white bars.) A nice couple of hours in the woods. The breeze and shade making up for the humidity of the air. 53+ Meadow Brown - some of these might have been ringlets too. 25x Speckled Wood 22x Ringlet (These are the positive ids - others assumed to be meadow brown. My firsts of the year) 20x Skippers (Large and Small) 10x Assorted Whites 10x White Admiral (although 3 of these might have been repeats. My firsts of the year) 8x Comma 1x Burnet moth. 1x Silver Y moth. Total: 150+ (and oh the joys of actually remembering to bring a notebook this time - thanks for all your suggestions during the week. Alas my phone is an ancient Nokia 3310 - much more rugged than modern phones but no note taking abilities! Not sure how to effectively use the camera. I would prefer to write down numbers as that is much easier to collate afterwards.) Plus hundreds of blue damselflies and a few of what looked like black tailed skimmer dragonflies. - Mike Rubin

Visited rough grassland roadside embankments on 24 and 25 June at junction of A1001 and A1000 south of Hatfield (TL230067) and saw good numbers of marbled white (up to 4 in view at a time) and ringlets slightly less abundant. Also good numbers of five-spot burnets (presumably narrow-bordered) Stephen Waters

Some news for today (Friday 26th June 2009) - 1 Painted Lady, near Oakwood entrance, Trent Park, 11:29 BST. 2 Comma, edge of Church Wood, 11:58 and 12:02 BST. 1 Purple Hairstreak, edge of Church Wood, 12:00 BST. 1 Small Heath, near Sports Field, 12:06 BST. 1 Comma, by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 12:28 BST. 3 Comma, together, near 'Three-bridges', Trent Park, 12:41 BST. 1 Red Admiral, at Parkside Farm, 12:53 BST. 1 Small Tortoiseshell, S of 'Barracks', at Vicarage Farm, 13:44 BST. 2 Ringlet, at Vicarage Farm, 13:50 BST. 7 Large Skipper, at Vicarage Farm, between 13:50 - 13:55 BST, including a pair copulating and a male 'trying to get in on the act'. - Robert Callf

### Thursday 25th June 2009

Near Abbots Langley TL 10 02 - 2 Large Whites, 3 Painted Ladies (including 2 flying N), 2 Small Tortoiseshells, Peacock (presumably new brood but colour tones rather subdued), 6 Commas, 4 Speckled Woods, 3 Marbled Whites, 3 Meadow Browns. No Ringlets (which were common here a decade ago) due to succession. Garston TL 11 01 - full-grown Peacock larva - Colin Everett

I am just informing you that on Wimbledon today at about 1 o'clock, during the Venus Williams game, the cameras zoomed in on a white letter hairstreak!!! I couldn't believe it! Of course, none of the commentators said anything because they probably had no idea how special it was to see one! As an avid butterfly watcher for a number of years in Herefordshire I have sadly witnessed the decline of this wonderful butterfly. I saw my last one in Haugh Wood about two years ago. I just had to tell someone and hope that it may be of some use to you and can be recorded down. Ask the BBC for the footage!! Heather Walker. Thanks to Wendy Campbell of Upper Thames Branch here is the footage "If you can watch BBC's 'iplayer' okay on your computer then go to this

tennis match and fast forward to 0.08-55 (it's 8 mins 55 secs into the match - the 3rd game of today's match between Williams & Bondarenko; score is one game all):-"

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/events/wimbledon/p003kbkh>

At 11.00 am today, Pishiobury park car park picnic area 1 WLH on low elms, then at 13.30 made a mistake in going to Wormley wood, as I pulled into the car park I was given false hope by a beautiful white admiral gliding over the bonnet of the car, walked through the picnic area where some very meticulous hornbeam coppicing has been done, there is absolutely no regrowth of anything around these stools, it all looks very sterile, on through what seems like miles of dark and dingy almost silent wood, as expected not much here except 2 speckled wood. Even here where there is hardly any vegetation at path edge what little remained has been strimmed down, into the southern area round Derrys wood along the already wide and firm path more pointless strimming, only two butterflies along here 1 large skipper and 1 meadow brown, no surprise, there are no nectar sources along here, even at the open junction with the chain walk where there are many thistles no more than 4 ringlet 1 large skipper & 4 meadow brown, turned north along the chain walk into what is normally the only part of this wood worth visiting for butterflies I found more strimming the "ride" so overgrown now that little light can enter, found here was 1 ringlet !, head down now decided to take the shortest route north east through the gloom back to the main path then visited the meadow south of Bencroft Wood, this was more like it ! Too many meadow brown to count, c.30+ ringlet, 12 large skipper, 3 comma, & 1 painted lady, in all I would say I probably won't bother with this wood again, great for walking the pooch or a mountain bike scramble, but to call it a national nature reserve is a bad joke - Laurence Drummond

Big thrill here today as a marbled white fluttered against the window pane. I have never seen them before in TL0603 in 30 years - Elizabeth Debenham

Horsenden Hill, rather hot out there. Approx 26C. Was grateful for a breeze to pick up near the end of the walk along with some medium cloud shadow as I walked back to the office. 33x Meadow Brown 19x Skipper (Small and Large, all buzzing around fast in the heat) 7x Burnets (Probably all 5 spot) 4x Marbled White 4x Misc Whites 2x Comma (Both fairly fresh I think) 1x Male Common Blue (Tatty) 1x Suspected Purple Hairstreak (My first of the year if so) Total: 71 + Scores x Chrysoteuchia culmella moths - Mike Rubin

Saw a Small Tortoiseshell at Barrowfield Road Allotments, Edmonton, N9 this afternoon (Thurs 25th June 2009) - Robert Callf

I did my transect on Wednesday 23rd June and recorded some good totals, 9 Small Tortoiseshell, which beats last years, year total. 39 Marbled White and 35 Large Skipper are both day records for the Park and a couple of weeks earlier than last year. Also flying Small Skipper, Common Blue, Painted Lady, Meadow Brown, Ringlet and couple of Whites. No White-letter or Purple Hairstreaks yet. - Steve Lane

### **Wednesday 24th June 2009**

Speckled woods in my garden recently. June 23rd late evening up until sunset at Bunkers Park Hemel Hempstead. The field of oxeye daisies has been mown in wide bands. I hope the common blue butterflies which were on that patch earlier have not had their eggs and caterpillars destroyed. There were many meadow browns too numerous to count. I saw about 2 marbled white, my first in that area ever, several 5 spot burnets and many burnet cocoons on tall grasses, 2 burnet caterpillars on tall grass, 1 lesser stag beetle, 1 large white chrysalis and 1 unidentified white which flew high into a tree. June 24th at Aldbury Nowers concentrating on field and hedgeline up from the layby. Just before sunset went looking along treeline at top of field for summer chafer beetles and found the first of this season along with about 10 marbled whites mostly resting, several 5 spot burnets and at least 2 mating pairs, several cinabar caterpillars and many meadow browns in field. Calm but cool as sun set. Large bats after sunset. - Elizabeth Debenham

Robin White saw a Gatekeeper today in Trent Park - news via Robert Callf

Marbled White and Small Skipper seen at Hexton CP today - Robin Pearson

Had many marbled whites at Aldbury today, in every single enclosure! (north and south). The same for ringlets and meadow browns, there were too many to count. Also had a painted lady in S1, small tortoiseshell and small heath in S2, red admiral and large skipper around the coppice

area and another painted lady in S3. - Paul Thrush

I thought you might be interested in my sightings both today (24/6/09) and yesterday (23/06/09) of a WLH at Hanger Hill Wood, TQ186820, in TQ1882. It was away too quickly for me to photograph yesterday - John Eborall

In bencroft saw ringlets again and first two purple hairstreak of year in my favourite oak. Saw small skippers in fields behind bencroft with plenty of large skippers and ringlets and meadow browns. 11 species at waterford heath incl common blue 4, peacock, small tortoiseshells 2, painted ladies 2 - Steve Kiln

Horsenden Hill, 43 x Meadow Brown 7 x Large Skipper (No Small's) 3 x 5 Spot Burnet 2 x Painted Lady 1 x Speckled Wood 1 x White 1 x Unidentified orange nymphalid (Comma?) Total: 58 (No problems with memory this time.) Plus 1x Male Black Tailed Skimmer dragonfly photographed. Plus 1x giant crane fly with chequered dark markings on its wings photographed. No idea what it is yet... A Horsefly finally got me on the arm while photographing the giant crane fly. Swelling up nicely now. - Mike Rubin

At Therfield heath parked at the local nature reserve 09.50 walked roughly east along the south of the heath, seen were 2 ringlet, 12 meadow brown, 7 large skipper, 5 speckled wood, 1 common blue, 6 small heath, 2 small tortoiseshell, and over the far n/e of the heath on the windiest hill they could find c.20 marbled white. Then visited balls wood @ 14.30, parked at goose green walked north along ermine street, seen here 6 speckled wood 4 ringlet, 3 comma, 4 large skipper, 3 large white, 1 fresh looking painted lady, many meadow browns, one bramble bank near the radio mast was "heaving" with at least 40, I know balls wood is well covered so roughly c.50 meadow brown, c.50 ringlet, c.30 large skipper, c.20 comma, also 2 white admiral in the main ride northern section - Laurence Drummond

## **Tuesday 23rd June 2009**

Diane Andrews visited TL3200 a 2km square which previously had no records and recorded 6 species. In TL3000, along Burnt Farm Lane, from Goffs Oak she saw 2 white-letter Hairstreaks.

1 purple hairstreak and 3 ringlets Northaw Great Wood pm, 3 purple hairstreaks high on an oak in Durants Park, Enfield, 8pm tonight, plus red admiral and comma, also another small tortoiseshell on the allotments - Andrew Middleton, plus from Colin Jupp, 12 WLH in Dagnam Park today, and on 19 June Colin's first female white-letter hairstreak of the year on wych elm in Bedfords Park Essex (with long tails)

We have 4 fields west of the Ruislip lido car park in which we have seen a few Marbled Whites in recent years, some of which continue onto Poors Field and Park Wood Grub Ground. Today the fields contained a minimum of 37 Marbled Whites, a massive increase. A few Painted Ladies still present along with dozens of NB5Spot Burnets and a Burnet Companion. Many Meadow Browns, a few Ringlet and a few Large Skippers. Also a few Small/Eseex but not specifically looked at or for whilst counting MWs. 2 Common Blue. At Harefield there were 41 Marbled White on Coppermill down, MBs, 2 Common Blue, 1 Painted Lady, and 1 Small T'shell. A few Large Skippers and very few Small/Essex again not looked for or counted whilst checking our orchids and counting MWs. In Park Wood today 4 White Admirals were seen along with a few Painted Ladies, Speckled Woods, Meadow Browns, Ringlets, Large Skippers, a Comma, a few Small/Essex and a very fresh Red Admiral. - Ched George

At Wood Lane, Pirton transect 12 June 2009 a male Common Blue feeding on white clover. On 22 June 2009, 18 Ringlets, 6 Meadow Brown, 9 Speckled Wood, 2 Marbled White, 1 Small Skipper, 3 Large Skipper, 2 Yellow Brimstones (1 male/1 female), 1 Small White. On 23 June 2009 at Oughtonhead Lane, Hitchin - 1 Red Admiral, 2 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Painted Lady, 2 Ringlet. Otherwise, nothing special has arrived in my garden to get excited about. - Val Fullforth

Seen today at Amwell nature reserve 3 large skipper, 6 ringlets, 15 meadow browns, 3 large white - A J Steele

First WLH of the year x2-----and a very strange ichneumon type wasp that was attacking leafcutter bee nest holes-----the bees were defending!!!!--this wasp was reddish black had a very long ovipositor---and white sections on its rear legs a bit like leg warmers-----cant find anything like it online. Kit Jones

1 White Admiral on the Balls Wood transect today among the usual stuff. I know that at least 3 White Admirals were seen there today by others. All were flying very low or even resting on the ground. Still good numbers of Small Tortoiseshells in Ware Park (at least compared to recent years). Andrew Wood

White-letter Hairstreaks in good numbers at most of the suitable sites checked today in the Bricket Wood/Garston areas (across four different tetrads); counts given are minima. In contrast Meadow Brown numbers seem very low, barely above those of Marbled White. Records as follows: Garston Park TL 12 00 - Large White, 4 White-letter Hairstreaks on Wych Elms, Comma, Speckled Wood & Meadow Brown; Bricket Wood Common TL 12 01 - Green-veined White ovipositing on Cuckoo-flower, White Admiral & several Ringlets; Moor Mill TL 14 02 - 4 Large Skippers, Brown Argus, Painted Lady, 4 Marbled Whites & 7 Meadow Browns; Smug Oak Lane nr Bricket Wood TL 14 02 - Large Skipper, 2 White-letter Hairstreaks on roadside English Elms, Painted Lady, Comma, Marbled White & Meadow Brown; Smug Oak TL 13 02 - Small Tortoiseshell & 2 Meadow Browns; Lye Lane derelict site nr Bricket Wood TL 13 02 - Painted Lady, 3 Marbled Whites & 2 Meadow Browns; same site TL 12 03 - Marbled White & 2 Meadow Browns; Lye Lane footpath TL 13 03 - Red Admiral & Speckled Wood; Bricket Wood TL 12 02 - 7 White-letter Hairstreaks on robust mature elms in front garden along Old Watford Road S of Parade (2 of these perching on and chasing around adjacent Tulip Tree); and finally Garston TL 11 01 - 2 White-letter Hairstreaks on & near Wych Elms. - Colin Everett

Started today in TL41 at mathams wood 09.48-10.30 conditions were good, full sun & sheltered from the easterly breeze still no WLH seen here, other butterflies seen 2 painted lady, 1 large skipper. Then off to the martins green car park off cock lane at 10.55 walked north along ermine street, 2 speckled wood here, into the east end of danemead nature reserve, still in bright sunshine, 6 meadow brown, 9 ringlet, 3 large skipper, also a slow worm basking on an anthill!, walked back onto ermine street & crossed over into hoddlesdon park wood walked eastwards along the southern boundary 1 meadow brown seen, turned north to the crossway, some really dubious ride management here, the landscape gardeners have not only mowed right to the edges, but also cut & smashed the brambles that were in flower on the side that the few remaining white admirals use the most, I've also seen swf here in the past (not this year I think !) seen here were 7 ringlet, 6 meadow brown, 3 large skipper, 1 comma, now heading west back to ermine street 2 speckled wood seen here, crossed over into highfield wood, as usual many more butterflies here, 13 meadow brown, 15 ringlet, 5 large skipper, 2 comma, 4 speckled wood, continued s/west to the bridleway then back north to danemead nature reserve, only one new butterfly here a pristine red admiral. I then decided on a quick visit to the west carpark at broxbourne woods, many browns along the main ride c.20 ringlet c.15 meadow brown, then finally in the dip a pristine newly emerged white admiral !, this ride is looking very overgrown now, much of the bench area is now in shade & as predicted many of the willow's have become tall and spindly and have broken off !, why have they made random "scallop" instead of pollarding and clearing around some of the willows still in good condition? Laurence Drummond

I saw two White-letter Hairstreaks opposite the Dusty Miller pub in Gilston this lunch time. - Jan Hein

Fir and Pond Woods NR Tuesday 23rd PM On the Meadow ... 40+ ringlets, 18 meadow browns, approx 10 small skippers, 5 marbled whites. Elsewhere on the Reserve, numerous ringlets and meadow browns, 8 speckled woods, one red admiral and a couple of unidentified whites. - David Gompertz

I saw a handful of white-letter hairstreaks today, (hard to count them, as you will know). They were at the junction of Little Green Lane with Rousebarn Lane at Watford/Croxley (by the maintenance access drive for the golf club). An hour's watching (12.35 to 13.25) produced about half an hour's seeing, as the conditions became slightly more overcast than earlier and everything except the bees hid away. They were only seen on the overgrown hedge (about 15 or so feet maximum) by the collapsed barn, right at the corner of the roads, and nowhere else. There is a lot of elm around, lining Rousebarn Lane, and it is hard to believe they would so restricted, but, of course the weather may have been the difficulty. Also seen there were three or four commas, a few small and large whites, one meadow brown, one painted lady (looking quite fresh) and (wow, in Hertfordshire) a small tortoiseshell. - Andy King

News for (Sunday 21st June 2009) at Oakwood Park, N14: 7 Large Skipper, between 11:50 -



12:17 BST. 1 Comma, 11:55 BST. 1 Painted Lady, 12:07 BST. 2 Small Skipper, 12:14 BST. Grovelands Park, Southgate: 2 Comma, 12:59 and 13:33 BST. News for today (Tues 23rd June 2009) - 1 Comma, near Firing Range, at Vicarage Farm, 10:28 BST. 1 Comma, along track, at Vicarage Farm, 10:41 BST. 2 Small Tortoiseshell, along track, at Vicarage Farm, 10:51 BST. A batch of Peacock caterpillars, along track, at Vicarage Farm. 1 Small Tortoiseshell, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 10:54 BST. 1 Small Tortoiseshell, at Parkside Farm, 11:11 BST. 1 Painted Lady, at Park Farm, 11:47 BST. 1 Small Tortoiseshell, at Park Farm, 11:59 BST. 1 Comma, along Hadley Road, near Moat Wood, 12:00 BST. 1 Comma, edge of Moat Wood, 12:08 BST. 1 Painted Lady, edge of Moat Wood, 12:11 BST. 1 Peacock, edge of Ride Wood, 12:17 BST; 1 Comma, by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 12:22 BST. 1 Painted Lady, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 13:16 BST. 1 Purple Hairstreak, around Oak, at Vicarage Farm, 13:17 BST. 1 Painted Lady, at 'Barracks', Vicarage Farm, 13:32 BST. - Robert Callf

Horsenden Hill, whoo, a big count today! I struggled to keep count so these numbers may be out slightly. Getting hot out there. Strong sunshine and 22-23C kept everything very active. Not good for photography as couldn't get close to anything. Atleast the Horseflies were quite inactive for a change. 48x Meadow Brown 22x Skippers (Large and Small) 7x Whites 4x 5 Spot Burnet 3x Marbled White 2x White Letter Hairstreak (seen sparring over the road between the bottom of Batts and the path to the Grazing Field.) 2x Green Oak Tortrix 1x Speckled Wood 1x Small Copper Total: 90 within half an hour - I need a notebook! - Mike Rubin

### Monday 22nd June 2009

Ashford, near Queen Mary Reservoir, while on the golf course at about 8.45am today I saw a Purple Hairstreak at rest on the 2nd fairway and another later on the 7th. This is the first time I have seen one this year although in previous years (excluding 2008) I have usually seen about 5-10 during the season. (I visit on average about twice a week.) - Oliver Halford

Some news for today (Monday 22nd June 2009) - 2 Comma, together, on Bramble, at 'Barracks', Vicarage Farm, 10:12 BST. 1 Small Tortoiseshell, on Bramble, at 'Barracks', Vicarage Farm, 10:13 BST. 2 male Large Skipper, at 'Barracks', Vicarage Farm, 10:20 and 10:31 BST. 1 male Small Skipper, along track, at Vicarage Farm. 1 Small Tortoiseshell, along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm, 10:52 BST. 1 Small Tortoiseshell, near Hadley Road, at Vicarage Farm, 10:58 BST. 1 Comma, at Parkside Farm/Res., 11:19 BST. **1 Purple Hairstreak**, settled on grass at **Park Farm**, 11:27 BST - My first of the year! 1 male Small Skipper, at Park Farm, 11:37 BST. 1 male Large Skipper, at Park Farm. 1 Red Admiral, by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 12:34 BST. 1 Red Admiral, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 13:00 BST. 1 Painted Lady, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, 13:00 BST. 1 Six-spot Burnet Moth, settled on thistle-head with Narrow-bordered Five Spot Burnets - My first of the year! - Observations made in the company of Robin White. - Robert Callf

Horsenden Hill, fairly overcast but bright and mild (~21C). The WLH's were pretty active high up in the Elms. No chance of catching them low. Was nice to see a Marbled White in the grazing field. I did spot a guy hunting for WLH's lower down the slope with a big DSLR but didn't see him again afterwards to point him to the best spot further up. Never mind. 14x Meadow Brown 5x Whites (My first in a while, except for 1 in Kenton at the weekend) 4-5x White Letter Hairstreak (My fists of the year all high up in Elm) 2x Skippers (Possibly 1 large and 1 small) 2x Burnet moth (Almost certainly 5 spot) 1x Painted Lady 1x Comma 1x Marbled White (My first of the year) - Mike Rubin

21 June 2009 (afternoon): Ringlets (2) and Marbled White (1) at Bride Hall, Ayot St Lawrence, both my first records for this year. This estate has some outstanding butterfly habitats - is it well recorded? I suspect not. The Estate Manager led me to believe that the owners may welcome more observers. Alan Jackson

Its been a long time since I last sent in a sighting. I spotted a second generation orange tip (male) flying along by the River Chess at Micklefield Hall (near Chorleywood) on Friday (19th) and also larval nests of peacock and Small Tortoiseshell. - Allen Beechey

Andrew Self and I were checking the elms at the Brent Res. yesterday (21-6-09) for any sign of our tiny WLH colony. During a short spell from 10.45- 11.05 we saw a minimum of five insects during an intense period of activity and witnessed a number of clashes. This is the most we have seen at one time, none were seen last year. The observation was made on the Brent Res. Transect route but unfortunately not during a transect, The square is TQ28D. I hope this is useful. In the same square six Marbled Whites were seen on 20-6-09, the first for the year. - Roy Beddard

Pretty decent afternoon on Horsenden Hill yesterday. White-letter Hairstreaks present in good numbers following last weeks single sighting. On the east transect there were four on section one (the path that is immediately to the rear of Horsenden Farm) and on the west transect there was a single around the elms at the bottom end of the cycle track and 2 in Batts Field. Off-transect there were 3 further up the cycle track and singles in Great Bramstons and on the non-transect section of Batts Field. Should be decent for next Saturday's field trip assuming the weather cooperates! Other species included my first Purple Hairstreak, Gatekeepers (2) and Marbled Whites (2; Batts Field) of the year and 2 Red Admirals, 3 Painted Ladys, 1 Common Blue and at least 15 Commas. - Andy Culshaw

### **Sunday 21st June 2009**

Recording in the northern part of square TQ09 (Watford/Sarratt areas), where Silver-washed Fritillary already out; also White Admirals, Marbled White, Ringlets, Painted Ladies (many now of ghostly appearance) and a good showing of Small Tortoiseshells at one site. Records as follows: Solesbridge Lane nr Sarratt TQ 04 97 - 2 Painted Ladies; Micklefield Green nr Sarratt TQ 04 98 - 2 Painted Ladies, 20 Small Tortoiseshells, Marbled White & 27 Meadow Browns; M25 nr Sarratt TQ 05 98 - 5 Large Skippers, Large White, Speckled Wood, 2 Meadow Browns & 2 Ringlets; Chandler's Cross nr Watford TQ 06 98 - Painted Lady; Whippendell Wood (centre) TQ 07 97 - 2 separate Commas, **male Silver-washed Fritillary** & 10 Meadow Browns; Whippendell Wood (E edge) TQ 08 97 - 2 White Admirals, Red Admiral, 2 Speckled Woods & Meadow Brown; and finally Grove Mill Lane TQ 08 98 - full-grown Peacock larva & Speckled Wood. - Colin Everett

### **Saturday 20th June 2009**

Woodoaks Farm, Maple Cross I specifically went to look for WL Hairstreak at Ladywalk wood but didn't see any despite reasonable spells of sunshine. I did see 5+ Small Tortoiseshell sunning themselves on the farm track. The area of set-aside south of Ladywalk wood was alive with Meadow Brown & Ringlet, a few Marbled White and Large Skipper. I saw my first Small/Essex Skipper of the year. A fresh looking male Orange-tip, 3 Painted lady, 2 Large White, 3 Comma, several Speckled Wood and Silver-Y moth. - Steve Pash

News from Diane Andrews - there are some Peacock caterpillars at Ally Pally. On Tuesday 15th, they were still in clusters but today they have spread out, are getting big and she counted 600 with a further 50 elsewhere. Yesterday she visited the Cheshunt/Turnford area by the River Lea and counted 19 Ringlets across two tetrads. Also 4 Large Skipper, 2 Small Skipper, 4 Painted Ladies and 8 fresh Commas. On the 3rd June she found a cocoon in the ground and has since watched its progress - today a Large Yellow Underwing emerged and flew off.

Hemel Hempstead, pleased to report my first Hummingbird Hawk Moth since 2007 which I found nectaring on Red Valerian in my front garden early this afternoon. Very quiet on the butterfly front although I did see a fresh Small Tortoiseshell earlier in the week - Malcolm Newland

Some sightings for today (Saturday 20th June 2009) - 2 female Large Skipper, together, on Brambles, S of 'Barracks', at Vicarage Farm, 13:18 BST. 1 Small Tortoiseshell, along track at Vicarage Farm, 13:34 BST. 1 Red Admiral, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 13:37 BST. 1 Small Tortoiseshell, near Hadley Road, at Vicarage Farm, 13:40 BST. 1 Comma, near Hadley Road, at Vicarage Farm, 13:42 BST. 1 Comma, at Parkside Farm, 13:47 BST. 1 Comma, at Park Farm, 14:18 BST. 1 Red Admiral, S edge of Rough Lot, Trent Park, 14:47 BST. 3 Small White, along Leeging Beech Gutter near 'Three-bridges', Trent Park, 15:11 BST. 1 Red Admiral, along Leeging Beech Gutter near 'Three-bridges', Trent Park, 15:12 BST. 2 Comma, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 15:18 and 15:22 BST. 3, 2 males, 1 female, Large Skipper, together, on Brambles, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, 15:24 BST. 1 Painted Lady, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 15:33 BST. - Robert Callf

### **Friday 19th June 2009**

OAKHILL WODS -LNR -EAST BARNET, First Small Skippers x4 of the year ,, 3x fresh T Shells, 1x Fresh Comma, 30+ Large Skipper , 10+ five spot burnet moth----20 x meadow brown. No WLH on wych elms yet----but foliage is very scarce as Squirrels bit off most of the leaf and flower buds this Spring.----- now these squirrels are bark stripping the Hornbeams!!!-----Kit Jones

A lunchtime walk in the Bicentenary gardens at Brunel University produced 3 Painted Lady, 2 Small

Tortoiseshell, Comma, Red Admiral, 4 Speckled Wood and 5 Meadow Brown. - Steve Pash

About 40 Large Skippers and 2 Ringlets in Millennium Wood, Stevenage between 1130 and 1145 today. Peter Clarke

Yesterday, the 18th June 2009, I was carrying out a flora survey in Balls Wood when I noticed a rather distinctive moth settled in the vegetation. I took a photograph and Andrew Wood has kindly identified it as a **Red-necked Footman**, a scarce migrant. This is only the 4th record for Herts and the first for Balls Wood - Alan Reynolds

Some news for today (Friday 19th June 2009) - 1 Painted Lady, at 'Barracks', Vicarage Farm, 10:41 BST. 1 Painted Lady, hedgerow off 'Barracks', at Vicarage Farm, 10:45 BST. 1 Red Admiral, along track at Vicarage Farm, 10:55 BST. 1 Painted Lady, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 11:00 BST. 1 Small Heath, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 11:02 BST. 2 Comma, together, along hedgerow near Hadley Road at Vicarage Farm, 11:05 BST. 1 Comma, at Parkside Farm, 11:08 BST. 1 Red Admiral, at Parkside Farm, 11:11 BST. 1 female Common Blue, at Park Farm, 11:36 BST. 1 Red Admiral, at Park Farm, 11:42 BST. 1 Small Tortoiseshell, near Duncan's Wood, 11:53 BST. 1 Red Admiral, along Hadley Road near Moat Wood, 12:01 BST. 1 Painted Lady, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 12:27 BST. 1 Comma, by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 12:32 BST. 4 Painted Lady, around Brambles, edge of Icehouse Wood, 12:47 BST. 1 Red Admiral, edge of Icehouse Wood, 12:47 BST. 1 Small Tortoiseshell, edge of Icehouse Wood, 12:47 BST. 1 Small Copper, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 12:53 BST. 2 Common Blue, along Merryhills Brook/South Lodge Farm, 13:11 BST. Peacock, batch of catapillars, along Merryhills Brook/Vicarage Farm. 1 Painted Lady, near Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm, 13:26 BST. - Robert Callf

The following seen at Hatfield Aerodrome, Herts today pm: 1 x Marbled White 3 x Painted lady 3 x Small tortoiseshell 1 x large White - David Wheatcroft

Managed to visit the mass of elm on the High wych Rd at Pole Hole Farm again today from 11.24 - 11.40, almost constant WLH activity with clashes of up to 4 at a time and singles seen perching at the tops of the elms, I think at least 12 individuals, probably many more, but some parts cannot be viewed without wandering off the footpath, also here 1 common blue, 2 meadow brown & 1 large skipper. Then off to Mathams Wood nr Allens Green 11.55-12.15, viewing conditions were unfavourable due to the strong breeze, no WLH were seen, on the way back to the road singles of red admiral & small tortoiseshell were seen along with one very worn painted lady. Laurence Drummond

Just after 8.30 this morning, I arrived at my Ware elm tree. Wind was fresh and I didn't think the air temperature was that warm but it was sunny. There were immediate clashes and flights or at least 4 butterflies. Just after 8.30 this morning, I arrived at my Ware elm tree. Wind was fresh and I didn't think the air temperature was that warm but it was sunny. There were immediate clashes and flights or at least 4 butterflies

### **Thursday 18th June 2009**

On 14 June I saw 6 common blues not 6 small coppers (*correction*) in field near Bencroft Wood. Today saw small tortoiseshell and painted lady at home in Bengoe and Comma at waterford heath south - Steve Kiln

News for today (Thurs 18th June 2009) - 1 White-letter Hairstreak, settled on Ash, behind bus-stop opposite Oakwood Tube, 11:52 BST - My first of the year! 1 male Large Skipper, near Triangular Wood, 12:00 BST. 1 Comma, 'New Fields', 12:06 BST. 1 Painted Lady, 'New Fields', 12:07 BST. 1 Painted Lady, Sect. 8, 'New Fields', 12:14 BST. 1 male Large Skipper, Sect. 8, 12:14 BST. 1 male Large White, Sect. 7, 12:18 BST. 1 male Small Skipper, Sect. 6, 'New Fields', 12:22 BST. 1 female Large Skipper, Sect. 6, 12:23 BST. 1 Small Heath, Sect. 6, 12:27 BST. 1 Comma, Sect. 5, 12:28 BST. 2 Painted Lady, Sect. 5, 12:30 BST. 2 Comma, Sect. 5, 12:33 and 12:34 BST. 1 Ringlet, Sect. 5, 12:33 BST. 1 batch of Peacock catapillars, Sect. 5. 1 Small Heath, Sect. 12:36 BST. 2 Small Skipper, Sect. 4, 12:38 BST. 2 Ringlet, Sect. 4, 12:39 and 12:40 BST. 2 Small Skipper, Sect. 4, 12:40 BST. 9 Large Skipper, Sect. 4, 12:40 BST - 12:45 BST. 2 Painted Lady, Sect. 4, 12:41 and 12:43 BST. 2 Ringlet, Sect. 4, 12:42 and 12:43 BST. 1 Small Skipper, Sect. 4, 12:45 BST. 1 Comma, Sect. 4, 12:45 BST. 1 Comma, near Sports Field, 12:49 BST. 1 Painted Lady, near Sports Field, 12:49 BST. 1 Ringlet, near Sports Field, 12:55 BST. 1 Painted Lady, near Sports Field, 12:56 BST. 1 Comma, near Triangular Wood, 13:01 BST. 20 Ringlet, Sect. 1 and near

set-aside field near Oakwood entrance, 13:10 BST. 1 Painted Lady, Sect. 1, 13:10 BST. **1 Comma, an aberration**, where the usual pattern is replaced by large patches of black on both forewing and hindwing, near Oakwood entrance, 13:18 BST. **Thought to be ab. 'reichstettensis'** - Robert Callf

Grove Farm Wed 17th June 2009 Fairly overcast day although the sun was trying to shine through the cirrostratus. Decided to revisit grove farm. This place I have not missed. Badly managed for butterflies, and litter / fly tipping everywhere. Not pleasant. All butterflies were near the old BMX track and the nearby mini meadow up the hill. 3x Large Skipper 1x Speckled Wood 1x Painted Lady Horsenden Hill Meadows Thu 18th June 2009 7/8's cloud going overcast. Not a lot of sun. Still saw some leps, including my first 2009 brood comma. 8x Meadow Brown 3x Painted Lady (2 of them were tiny, the size of Meadow Browns. All were faded but undamaged looking.) 2x Burnet 1x Burnet Companion 1x Large Skipper 1x Speckled Wood 1x Comma (Looked very fresh and orange at long range - my first 2009 brood.) 20+ x Peacock caterpillars in a larval web munching away on a stinging nettle. 1x Lawn mower keeping the paths through the meadows open. Too many x blasted Horseflies mobbing me all the way round. - Mike Rubin

### Wednesday 17th June 2009

15 Speckled Wood, 5 Meadow Brown, 2 Ringlet, **2 White Admirals**, and 1 fresh Comma at Bricket Wood in a one and half hour visit this morning. - Clive Burrows

Some news for today (Weds 17th June 2009) - 1 female Large Skipper, S of 'Barracks', Vicarage Farm, 09:51 BST; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, at 'Barracks', Vicarage Farm, 09:53 BST; 1 Painted Lady, along hedgerow off 'Barracks', at Vicarage Farm, 09:59 BST; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, at Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm, 10:02 BST; 1 Painted Lady, at Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm, 10:05 BST; 1 male Large Skipper, along track, at Vicarage Farm, 10:07 BST; 2 Large Skipper, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 10:12 BST; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, near Hadley Road, at Vicarage Farm, 10:15 BST; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, at Park Farm, 11:02 BST; 1 male Large Skipper, at 'Old Golf Course, Trent Park, 11:42 BST; 1 male Large Skipper, set-aside field near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 12:16 BST; 1 male Small Skipper, settled, set-aside field near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 12:17 BST - My first of the year! 1 Ringlet, set-aside field near Shaws Wood, Trent Park, 12:20 BST - My first of the year! 1 male Large Skipper, set-aside field near Shaws Wood, 12:22 BST. Also disturbed a Common Marbled Carpet with a tawny brown panel in Rough Lot today. Robin White reported seeing a Flame Carpet on Sunday - Robert Callf

### Tuesday 16th June 2009

Butterfly sightings at Bricket Wood for 16 June sun in and out today 25 speckled woods, 6 large skippers, 9 meadow browns, 1 large white, 1 X and Y moth, 2 Brown Silver-line Moths - A J Steele

Spent more time searching for WL locally to me today, 10.15-11.00 at near allens green at Mathams wood where the public footpath cuts north through a narrow part of the wood, habitat is mainly neglected ash coppice with much elm at the edges, none were seen here ,I then spent from 11.20 -12.15 at the mass of elm on the north west side of High wych road at Pole hole farm,after a couple of possibles ,at 11.57 2 WL were seen to spiral up from the top of elm,as they drifted across the tops of the elm they were joined by a third !. At 2.40 pm I parked at the local nature reserve at Therfield heath and walked roughly east along the southern edge of the heath,butterflies seen were meadow brown 9, large skipper 5, small heath 15 ,common blue 2, painted lady 2,speckled wood 2, large white 3 & 1 male brimstone - Laurence Drummond

Did some local visits in Herts & Middx today to see how wlh are progressing. Started at Cheshunt Park at around 9.45, a male was seen flying in and then over the course of about 30 mins about 5 or 6 were seen either perched or clashing. Moved along to Cuffley (TL3030), where some road side elm was watched. Eventually a single butterfly was seen jittering around the back of an elm close to houses. Nothing on some planted elms in the grounds of a leisure centre in Potters Bar (TL2400). Then close to Radlett some roadside elms (TL1600) had 1 perched all the time and 2 flying after a period of cloud and south Watford (TQ1296), one perched on ash close to scrappy elm. We then went to the Aquadrome at Rickmansworth (TQ055938) where a few weeks ago LG found 30 planted elms alongside the road that goes through the park. A bit slow to start with but 3 on the first section and then on the second area, we saw numerous clashes and a few perched. Safe count of 7 - this is a fantastic row of elm, which is easy to observe and well worth visiting in the early morning. Any news of counts would be welcome. After Rickmansworth we drove towards Hemel Hempstead via Bovingdon, and despite finding some nice elm in SP9902 nothing was seen. Finally having managed to take the wrong road out of Hemel we found 2 planted elms by a school

(TL0606) and after about 2 mins one white-letter was seen in the canopy. We then went home! We also noticed quite a few Painted Ladies flying through again - Liz Goodyear & Andrew Middleton

2 Marbled Whites at Wheathampstead LNR today, looked quite small so assumed males? - Robin Pearson

There were good numbers of meadow brown at Alpine Meadow today (10+), ringlet, large skipper and speckled wood. On the farmland track leading down to the reserve I had many meadow brown, large white, a small tortoiseshell and speckled wood. Paul Thrush

Twyfordbury Lane, Thorley:-In set-aside field, 27 Meadow Browns and 4 Ringlets - Len Crouch

### Monday 15th June

HADLEY GREEN , BARNET Eastern Grassland alongside A1000 road, 5 x Chimney Sweeper moth, 1 x Painted lady, 3x Large skipper, 10x Meadow brown, 1 x Small Tortoiseshell -----Kit Jones

8 Speckled Woods, 6 Large Skipper, singeltons of Meadow Brown and **White Admiral** in a short morning visit to Bricket Wood - Clive Burrows

Some sightings for today (Monday 15th June 2009) - 1 Comma, on bridle-path near Merryhills Brook, Trent Park, 12:05 BST; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 12:30 BST; 1 female Common Blue, 'Old Golf Course', 12:32 BST; 1 male Common Blue, at Parkside Farm - on Res banking, 13:08 BST; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, at Parkside Farm, 13:11 BST; 1 Red Admiral, near Hadley Road, at Vicarage Farm, 13:23 BST; 1 Painted Lady, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 13:27 BST; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 13:28 BST; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, at 'Barracks', Vicarage Farm, 13:45 BST. - Robert Callf

Six different species about Kimpton Bottom this morning, 5 Painted Ladies only one of which looked full-sized and fresh. Surprised to see a male Brimstone but the highlight was my first Small Tortoiseshell of the season - Robin Pearson

Horsenden Hill, 21-22C but felt much hotter in the strong sunshine with almost no wind. Towering cu's building all around but got lucky this time. Thistles mostly in flower now. Lots of honeysuckle north side too. But no White Admirals spotted. No Hairstreaks or Whites either. 17x Skippers (mostly fast moving. Large and Smalls (my first Small Skippers of the year). Abundant on the north side from summit down to brambles under the oaks.) 14x 5 Spot Burnets (My firsts of the year on Horsenden Hill) 9x Meadow Brown 4x Speckled Wood (All fairly fresh) 1x Male Common Blue 1x Painted Lady (faded but otherwise good condition) Plenty x Green Oak Tortrix (on the north side oaks - Mike Rubin

News for yesterday (Sunday 14th June 2009) - Oakwood Park, N14: 3 Common Blue, 12:11 - 12:14 BST. Grovelands Park, Southgate, N14: 2 Large Skipper, near Church Hill Entrance, 12:26 BST; 1 Red Admiral, 12:42 BST. - Robert Callf

### Sunday 14th June

No Purple Hairstreaks this evening yet on oaks in Durants Park Enfield, but Colin Jupp saw 4 purple hairstreaks over oaks on the west side of deer park at Bedford Park, Essex this evening; 2 WLH on ash near the damselfy pond, also small skipper, comma and est. 1150 NB5spot burnet moths in field SW corner of park - Andrew Middleton

Went to bencroft wood. There were 15 or more Large Skippers, in field by bencroft wood plus 40 or more meadow browns plus 6 Common Blues (*correction*) and 2 small heath. In rides in Bencroft Wood, meadow browns 7 and large skippers 5. Disappointing in Broxbourne Wood just a few meadow browns and a large white. At Waterford heath not seen any skippers yet but plenty of meadow browns and a late **grizzled skipper** yesterday - Steve Kiln

Spent 2 hours this morning searching for white letters, 1hr 09.15-10.15, opposite pole hole farm between pye corner and high wych,there is a substantial amount of elm here,despite constant sunshine and being fully shelterd from the breeze none were seen, I then spent 1hr at Redricks lane layby, 10.25-11.25,again none recorded, I then walked along the River Stort near Latton lock towards pye corner in a westerly direction,along the river 6 speckled wood, 2 small tortoiseshell, 4 large white, 2 meadow brown, 1 emperor dragonfly,I then took the footpath north past holingson



meads on the hill here I found 4 meadow brown, 3 small tortoiseshell, 5 common blue, 2 large skipper 3 large white & 2 emperor dragonfly - Laurence Drummond

Spent a pleasant Sunday afternoon walking through Highfield and Broxbourne Woods starting and finishing in Brickendon ( walk 25 in the "Pub Strolls in Hertfordshire" book.) Weather mainly sunny and warm. Saw 10 Meadow Browns, 9 Speckled Woods, 4 Large Skippers (with a brief glimpse of another skipper later but not sure which), 2 Small Tortoiseshells, 2 Large Whites and one Small White. - Roger Newbold

Durants Park, Enfield at least 7 white-letter in the canopy at around 10.30 today and 4 white-letter at the Cheshunt Park hybrid elms in the early afternoon - Liz Goodyear & Andrew Middleton

### Saturday 13th June

Park Wood, Ruislip. **White Admiral**, Painted Lady and 5 Speckled Wood on Pylon ride. A few Meadow Brown and Large Skipper on Grubb Ground. Steve Pash

Bagged my first White-letter Hairstreak of the year on Horsenden Hill this afternoon (Sat 13th) - about a week earlier than the usual first sighting on this site. It spent most of its time loafing on a small elm at the Horsenden Farm end of the cycle path but did make a couple of brief sorties, including one to see off a Banded Demoiselle - itself quite uncommon on Horsenden. Was pretty quiet in general, with a few Meadow Browns, a Painted Lady, 3 Burnet Companions, 2 Large White, 1 Small White, a Holly Blue and 3-4 Large Skippers. - Andy Culshaw

First summer butterflies at Bricket Wood Common - **Marbled White (1)**, Meadow Brown (4) & Large Skipper (6). Also still a few left over from Spring - Speckled Wood (31), Large White (2) & Male Brimstone (1). At Butterfly World, Chiswell Green I saw Small Tortoiseshell (4), Painted Lady (4) & a few Whites Malcolm Hull

Walked north from the Martins Green car park along ermine street, into Danemead nature reserve, quite dissappointing 1 meadow brown the only butterfly! , crossed into Hoddesdon Park Wood and walked east along the southern boundry then north, at the crossway 1 meadow brown & 3 speckled wood (no early white admirals!), then back west towards ermine st , 3 more speckled wood along here, crossed into Highfield Wood, more butterflies here, 7 speckled wood, 1 meadow brown, 3 large skipper, at the bridleway turned back south then back into Danemead NR, lots of well managed willow, but no butterflies. Laurence Drummond

Ware 'elm tree' my first white-letter sighting of the year at 1.10, just a single butterfly flicking across the canopy (I had visited most sunny days this week) - Liz Goodyear

**12 Small Tortoiseshells** on my Ware Park Transect today, plus 2 more seen in Bengoe and 4 seen yesterday (12th) in a walk around the Pelhams in NE Herts. Also around the Pelhams, **2 male Orange Tips** plus a female Brimstone appearing to egg lay on Dogwood around which a Rustic Shoulder-knot moth was nectaring at around noon, all a bit odd - Andrew Wood

A few sightings for today (Saturday 13th June 2009) - 2 Small Tortoiseshell at Vicarage Farm, 12:30 and 12:44 BST. 2 Large Skipper, together, near Duncan's Wood, Enfield Chase, 13:27 BST. 1 female Large Skipper, 'Old Golf Course', 14:09 BST - my first female of the year; 1 pr Meadow Brown, copulating, 'Old Golf Course', 14:10 BST. 2 Comma, together, by Lower Lake, 14:23 BST. - Robert Callf

### Friday 12th June

Bayford area, 36 Large Skipper in a field west of Bayford and more nearby, 7 burnett moths and 3 Small Tortoiseshell near Little Berkhamstead. No white-letter on elm checked nor at Ally Pally - news from Diane Andrews.

Oakhill Woods LNR, a very Bizarre sighting----**Pearl bordered fritillary** sitting on damp clay on the stream bed-----no previous records for this site or local area-----in fact i thought it was a comma at first-----although this LNR is ancient woodland with plenty of violets----- I guess the individual was a captive bred release?-----4x large skipper, 10 x Speckled woods----1x Meadow brown----- Kit Jones

Thornbera Road allotments, Stortford, arrived early afternoon to find 3 small tortoiseshells visiting my sweet williams, one with with a noticable more extensive dark centre, went home for my

camera but on my return it had gone. However a pristine Narrow-bordered Five-spot Burnet arrived to feed on the nectar for about 10 minutes, lifting its wings both up and out 45 degrees every so often. A full size painted lady was a further visitor - Len Crouch

Today at Fir and Pond Woods NR, our first large skipper of the year.. David Gompertz

At Park Wood, Ruislip today, 5 large skippers and large number of speckled woods also one Meadow brown - Sezar Hikmet

Some news for today (Friday 12th June 2009) - 5 Small Heath, 'New Fields', Trent Park, 14:29 - 14:49 BST. 18 Large Skipper, 'New Fields', Trent Park, 14:40 - 15:09 BST. 1 Painted Lady, near Cockfoster's entrance, Trent Park, 14:45 BST. 1 Small Copper, Sect. 5, 'New Fields', 14:49 BST. 7 Narrow-bordered Five Spot Burnet, 'New Fields', Trent Park - First for the year! 1 Painted Lady, near Sports Field, Trent Park, 15:05 BST. 1 Comma, edge of Church Wood, Trent Park, 14:59 BST. 1 Comma, by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 15:38 BST. 1 Painted Lady, nectaring on Giant Hogweed, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Water Grdn, 15:50 BST. 4 Large Skipper, at Parkside Farm. 2 male Common Blue, at Parkside Farm - on Res banking, 16:10 - 16:11 BST. 5+ Small Tortoiseshell, at Vicarage Farm, (3 along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, including two together, 16:24 - 16:27 BST, 2 together, near Firing Range, 16:50 BST. 3 Painted Lady, at Vicarage Farm, between 16:31 - 16:39 BST. 4 Large Skipper, at Vicarage Farm, 16:38 - 16:52 BST. - Robert Callf

Saw the following yesterday (Thurs 11th June 2009) - 1 Painted Lady, along track at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 12:57 BST. 2 Small Tortoiseshell, at Vicarage Farm - one along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, 13:11 BST and one settled on Bramble near Firing Range, 14:16 BST. Also a batch of Peacock catapillars on nettles at Vicarage Farm. 2 Painted Lady at Parkside Farm, Enfield, 13:31 and 13:33 BST. 5 Common Blue at Parkside Farm, including a female settled. 1 Latticed Heath at Parkside Farm, on Res banking. 1 Large Skipper, at Parkside Farm, on Res banking, 13:45 BST. 2 Large Skipper, along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 13:58 and 14:01 BST. - Robert Callf

#### Thursday 11th June

Saw my first Meadow Brown & **Small Skipper** with 5+ fresh Common Blue today at Ellenbrook Park (on former airfield) Hatfield, despite blustery overcast weather. It's a good bit of "new" habitat, with tall un-mowed mixed grasses and plenty of herbs, including Birds-foot Trefoil, Knapweed, Sorrel, Oxeye Daisy, Red Clover etc. Has ponds & stream with emergent vegetation, so could be good for dragonflies too. Good for birds - lots of Goldfinch, Martins & Skylark. Hopefully it won't be mowed until autumn, then bailed. John Moss

**Ringlet** seen at Trent Park, and **Small Skipper** seen settled at Merryhills Brook by Robin White - news via Robert Callf

Today.....I was down on the Parkland Walk, Crouch End, just now 9.45-10.00 in good conditions and had no activity from the bridge but 2 clashing **white-letter hairstreak** males and a probable third a bit further along. I would have checked earlier if I'd been here. Tristan Bantock

Thornbera Road Allotments, Stortford:- Blustery but sunny this morning with two small tortoiseshells returning repeatedly to a clump of sweet williams. Nothing else about except 3 small white and the occasional bumble bee - Len Crouch.

Horsenden Hill, got diddled by the weather. Big wedge of spreadout blocked out the sun locally for most of the walk. Sun returned just as I was turning back. Hardly anything flying at all despite 17-18C and sunshine early on in the walk. 1x Meadow Brown 1x Burnet Companion 1x Speckled Wood 2x Nettle Tap 1x Suspected White Ermine - Mike Rubin

Oakhill LNR, 1 x Fresh female Red Admiral, 4x large skipper, 5x Speckled wood, 2 x Burnet companion moth, 1 x Rose chafer-----Kit Jones

#### Wednesday 10th June

At Park Wood, Ruislip today in between showers, two small whites and eight Speckled woods. - Sezar Hikmet

## Tuesday 9th June

Saw one male Large Skipper today (Tues 9th June 2009) near Duncan's Wood, Enfield Chase at 13:40 BST. - Robert Callf

Yesterday (Monday 8th) in the late afternoon I discovered three final instar Small Tortoiseshell caterpillars. They looked as though they were just about to go on the move. Today (Tuesday) two were gone but one at least never made it because a segment of its body was present on the nettle. I've never found Small Tortoiseshell caterpillars here at Kenwood before & I've recorded only three adults in four years (2005-08) so, with caterpillars present, I'm hopeful for sightings in 2009. - Mike Taylor

5 Meadow Browns in field by Bencroft Wood, no butterflies on Waterford Heath - Steve kiln

## Monday 8th June

More white-letter were seen at three sites in north London but not on the elm by Enfield Lock by Andrew Middleton yesterday. Today I checked my 'Ware' tree and nothing was seen flying during a spell of sunshine, nor in TL41 near the Dusty Miller PH on the edge of Harlow. After that cloud thwarted my attempts! - Liz Goodyear

Horsenden Hill, a mad dash across the grazing fields to the area where I photographed White Letter Hairstreaks previously (following first reports of them). Then a mad dash back via Batts Field. No Hairstreaks alas. But a few other thinly spread leps to keep me just about interested enough. 16-17C and sunny, but rapidly increasing amounts of cloud cover. 3x Large Skipper 2x Burnet Companion 2x Meadow Brown 1x Male Common Blue 1x Suspected Brown Argus. (Batts Field. One poor quality pic taken before I lost it. Looked rather tatty and worn. May never be certain.) 1x Speckled Wood Plus 1 Mottled Beauty found by the lifts inside Kellogg Tower in the morning. It was still there on my way out to lunch so I picked it up and took it outside (to the bemusement of security) and couldn't resist a brief photo shoot after my walk as it was still where I left it, even if it was sitting wonky. Numerous other unidentified moths. Including that small brown one with prominent white bars and antennae about 3 times the length of its body (I now believe the moth with the white bars and long antennae is a Male Nemophora degeerella moth ) - Mike Rubin

News for today (Monday 8th June 2009) - 1 male Large Skipper, edge of Williams Wood, 11:58 BST; 1 Small Copper, edge of Williams Wood, 12:00 BST; 4 male Large Skipper, 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 12:33 - 12:35 BST; 3 Small Heath, together, 'Old Golf Course', 12:39 BST; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, at Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm, 13:45 BST - My first of the summer-brood. Also a Painted Lady, at Vicarage Farm. - Robert Callf

## Sunday 7th June

A **White Admiral** was flying on Sunday morning in **Park Wood, Ruislip**. It is the earliest date I have recorded for this species. Not much else other than 3 Large Skipper and 3 Speckled Wood - Steve Pash

Saw the following yesterday (Sunday 7th June 2009) at Oakwood Park, N14 - 3 male Large Skipper, between 12:13 - 12:24 BST; 1 Painted Lady, 12:15 BST; 1 male Meadow Brown. - Robert Callf

## Thursday 4th June

North London park, **a single White-letter Hairstreak** seen jittering over elm just after lunch today - Andrew Middleton

On the 30th May, I went to Bencroft Wood, in field nearby I saw 3 skippers I assumed they were large skippers, but they appeared more like small skippers, can small skippers be out so early - Steve Kiln (*they are reported flying in other areas and with the early season of most species this spring??*)

OAKHILL WOODS LNR East Barnet, 1 x (Worn) Painted Lady female on Bramble,--- 8 x Speckled Woods--- 2 x Burnet companion, ---1 x Chimney sweeper-----12x longhorn moths? - Kit Jones  
Late notes for June 2nd. Bunkers Park in Hemel Hempstead in pm up until sunset. 1 or 2 large skipper, several blues one female seemed to be laying eggs in birdsfoot trefoil, possibly 1 meadow brown but too far away to get a close look, 2 painted lady. - Elizabeth Debenham

Horsenden Hill, not even worth reporting today. 17C and sunny. Yet almost nothing but those horseflies that followed me around my entire walk. 2x Large Skipper 2x Small Copper 2x Burnet Companion And a small greyish longhorn type moth with white wing bars and insanely long antennae that thwarted my attempts to photograph it. - Mike Rubin

### Wednesday 3rd June

Brunel University: 2 Common Blue, Small Heath, 3 Speckled Wood, GV White, Cinnabar, Burnet Companion, and Latticed Heath in the Bicentennial Gardens at lunchtime today - Steve Pash

1 HOLLY BLUE, 2 LARGE SKIPPER, 1 GREEN VEINED WHITE, 1m COMMON BLUE, 5+ MEADOW BROWN & 1 PAINTED LADY seen around the Weedy field this lunchtime in Batford TL1514. - Darin Stanley

Horsenden Hill, still a few butterflies around despite overcast and cooler conditions. Go knock almost any oak branch on the north side and chances are loads of Green Oak Tortrixes will scarper all around you. 7x Speckled Wood 3x Large Skipper 1x Male Common Blue 1x Burnet Companion Scores x Green Oak Tortrix. Re Phil MacMurdie's report on 2nd June: yesterday I did see a Peacock larval web on nettles by the canal just west of the meadow brown sighting. Also loads of Thistles growing along there too. I wonder if any of them are host to Painted Lady eggs? - Mike Rubin

OAKHILL WOODS LNR--EAST BARNET -4x large Skipper, 1x Peacock nest ( 2nd Instar), 2x Tortoiseshell nests ( 1st instar) 9x Orange tip larvae---all sizes on garlic mustard pods. 1x Common blue female Windmill Hill Enfield (very busy built up area) KIT JONES

### Tuesday 2nd June

1 HOLLY BLUE, 2 LARGE SKIPPER, 1 GREEN VEINED WHITE, 1m COMMON BLUE, **5+ MEADOW BROWN** & 1 PAINTED LADY seen around the Weedy field this lunchtime in Batford TL1514. - Darin Stanley

**1 Meadow Brown**, 2 Large Skippers and at least 8 Speckled Wood in Ruislip Park Wood today. - Ched George

No Painted Lady migration at all today for the first time (when weather conditions have been suitable) for nearly a fortnight. Blackbirds Lane nr Radlett TL 14 00 - Large White, Painted Lady, Peacock & 2 Speckled Woods. Nearby at Bricket Wood Common during the weekly transect an Orange Tip female was ovipositing on Cuckoo-flower. ADDITION (behavioural note) to records for 19/5: the brassica sp on which the Large White was egg-laying was Charlock (easier to identify now it's in flower!). - Colin Everett

Aldbury Nowers, some sightings for today, including my first meadow brown of the year S1 - **Meadow brown** Common blue 2+ Small heath 2 S1/S2 Corridor Painted lady Common blue. S2 - Small heath. S2/S3 Corridor Speckled wood. S3 - Common blue Brown argus Small copper Orange tip Brimstone Painted lady. Coppice - Painted lady Common blue Brimstone. Area by coppice glade - 3 common blue. Key Butterfly Area - Brown argus Common blue Large skipper Orange tip. N1 - Brimstone - 3+ Common blue - Paul Thrush Reserve Officer

Horsenden Hill, low numbers overall. Warm and sunny (23C) with light breeze. I guess the Painted Lady migration is over in this area. My first Common Blues here too. (Does that mean the ones I saw last month at Denbies were just early?) Highlight is a freshly emerged Male Meadow Brown. I knew it would be an early start! This is probably my earliest ever sighting. 5x Male Common Blue (My firsts at Horsenden Hill of the year.) 3x Small Copper 1x Painted Lady 1x White 1x Burnet Companion **1x Meadow Brown!** (Male, my first of the year. Seen at approx TQ158841) Plus lots of Swallows and blue Damsel flies. - Mike Rubin

Highlights from Sundays tetrad bashing exercise. Generally lower numbers of butterflies from the previous weeks bonanza, However Plashies Farm (TL 3820) Common Blue colony found 4 males seen also Brimstone Potters Green (TL 3424) Common Blue 2, also another colony of Small Heath found on the golf course ( 4 individuals seen) and brimstone. Roman Road track between Great Munden and Cherry Green Large Whites (25) and Orange Tips still found. Nothing else of note. So far this year Small Heath seems to be doing well as we have located three new colonies that we didn't find at the same sites last year. (possibly due to the weather). Brimstone seems to be having a bumper year Holly blue - not so good. Were building up a reasonable picture for TL32 and

TL42 now and should have them finished this year. One thing of note is that I still haven't seen a single larval web of peacock or small tortoiseshell. - Phil MacMurdie

**Chimney Sweeper** moths are now flying. 152! seen at Trent Park on Sunday 31st May also 3 Meadow Browns, 5 Burnet Companions, 8 Small Heath, Small Copper, a peacock, 4 Speckled Wood and a Large White but only 3 Painted Ladies - news via Diane Andrews

### **Monday 1st June**

A female Duke of Burgundy was seen nectaring on chives in a garden near Tring on Saturday 30th May - news via John Murray

Moor Park station TQ 08 93 - Painted Lady flying N; Chorleywood Bottom TQ 02 95 - Painted Lady feeding on Red Valerian in garden; Chorleywood West TQ 01 95 - Painted Lady flying N (also Silver Y); Cassiobury Park TQ 09 96 - Speckled Wood; Leavesden Green traffic island nr Watford TQ 09 99 - Small Copper feeding on Ox-eye Daisy & 4 Common Blues. Finally, 600 metres outside the county in BUCKS a CLOUDED YELLOW paused briefly on Red Clover at Lodge Lane nr Chorleywood (I will send this record to the Upper Thames branch).- Colin Everett

Late afternoon at Commonwood.TL045002, 1 male orange tip, 1 blue, 1 painted lady, 2 green veined whites and no coppers or skippers today. Hay field was cut so habitat changed from yesterday. 1 huge darter dragonfly libellula depressa hunting! - Elizabeth Debenham

HEXTON PIT-----3x Common blue males-----3x Small Heath-----4x Brimstone females-----2x GVWhite-----1x Painted lady----5x Dingy skippers? ( not positively identified)-----and a pair of Turtle doves! LEMS福德 SPRINGS --- 1x Peacock female egg-laying on nettle Many GVWhites on watercress----Many Banded demoiselles male and female-----and one unidentified small buff tailed bumble bee mimic that flew like a hover fly? Kit Jones

There have been more sightings of Hornet Clearwings at the same site, a male and female on the 25th and a single male on the 26th. More moth news, whilst doing my transect on Saturday (Great Ashby Park)I was my first Silver Y, 100's of Burnet Companions and a few Mother Shipton. - Steve Lane (*apologies to Steve but I didn't pick up his first Meadow Brown sighting on the 24th May*)

Saw 2 Small Coppers at Shackledell Grassland, Stevenage today at about 1430 today - the first of the year. No Painted Ladies! Peter Clarke

Today: A quiet day on Horsenden Hill. June gap? At least the Large Skippers are coming out now. 4x Burnet Companion 3x Large Skipper (My firsts of the year.) 3x Whites (One of them was Green Veined.) 3x Speckled Wood 2x What looked like Chrysoteuchia culmella 1x Painted Lady (I guess they've all moved on) 1x Mother Shipton 1x Small Copper Lots of Green Oak Tortrixes on the north side. A few Horseflies in Batts field! They're back! And irritating as ever. Yesterday in Kenton: Watched 1 elderly looking and tatty Male Holly Blue settle nearby as I repotted some tomatoes. No Painted Ladies! Mike Rubin

At Bricket Wood this morning either a possible cloudy yellow or a very bright brimstone just zipped through so impossible to tell for sure. Also around 5 painted ladys, 2 female brimstones 6 veined whites, 5 large whites 1 peacock, 1 Burnet Companion and also a slow worm - A J Steele

May 29th between 8pm-9pm at TL080055 Long Deans park,Bunkers Lane, Hemel Hempstead in the meadow full of oxeye daisies and birdsfoot trefoil.4-5 painted lady fewer than previous visit, 5 common blues, 2 straw dot moths. May 30th around 6pm visited Commonwood again. (TL045002) In Dellfield area 3 large skipper and later 1 pair dancing, 1 painted lady, 3 peacock, 2 speckled wood dancing,1 comma,3 blue (not sure which) 1 large white and a few unidentified whites. On to Aldbury Nowers between 7pm-9pm.1 painted lady,2 cinnabar moths, 5 common blues, one gloworm larva on path, 2 burnet cocoons and 1 burnet caterpillar ready to pupate. May 31st 5pm at Commonwood, near Dellfield we saw 2+ large skipper, 2-3 peacock, 1 or 2 blues, one danced with a small copper ,5 small coppers in the meadow settling on grass or buttercups.Finally a quick look at Long Deans oxeye meadow, no painted lady this evening, but 7 common blues resting. Straw dot and micro moths. - Elizabeth Debenham

### **May 2009**



### Sunday 31st May

The Painted Lady migration appears to be slowing, with smaller numbers today. Lye Lane derelict land nr Bricket Wood TL 12 03 - Brown Argus, 8 Common Blues including female ovipositing on Bird's-foot Trefoil & 2 Painted Ladies (also Burnet Companion); Noke Lane nr Chiswell Green TL 12 04 - Large White & Painted Lady flying W; Park Wood nr Chiswell Green TL 12 05 - female Orange Tip & Painted Lady flying NW; Bedmond Lane nr St Albans TL 12 06 - Painted Lady flying N & Speckled Wood (also Silver Y); nr Prae Wood nr St Albans TL 11 06 - 5 Painted Ladies flying N & Peacock; Millhouse Farm nr Bedmond TL 10 03 - Holly Blue, Painted Lady & Peacock; fields around M25 nr Bedmond TL 10 02 - Painted Lady & Peacock. ADDITION (behavioural note) to records for 25/5: Millhouse Farm nr Bedmond TL 10 03 - the crop in which the 100+ whites were recorded was a 9-hectare field of Garden Peas. - Colin Everett

### Saturday 30th May

Last Thursday 28th May Tony Clancy and I saw a large skipper at Coppetts Wood. Then across the North Circular in St Pancras & Islington Cemetery, we found plenty of orange tip larvae, and eventually one well-grown white-letter hairstreak larva on wych elm. There's a good supply of elms through the cemetery dotted amongst all the limes etc. Numerous painted flying NW that day, including 100 NW through Crews Hill Cricket Ground in 19 minutes - Andrew Middleton

Some news for today (Saturday 30th May 2009) - 4 Common Blue, including a pair copulating, at Parkside Farm - on Res banking, 12:20 BST; **1 male Meadow Brown**, at Parkside Farm - on Res banking, 12:23 BST - My first of the year! 2 Large Skipper, at Parkside Farm, 12:25 and 12:28 BST - My first for the year!; 1 Peacock, at Parkside Farm - on Res banking, 12:27 BST; 1 Cinnabar, set-aside field near Dew Pond, Trent Park. - Robert Callf

### Friday 29th May

A few sightings for today (Friday 29th May 2009) - 1 Holly Blue, at South Lodge Cres., EN2, at 12:27 BST. 2 Speckled Wood, together, along bridle-path near Equestrian Centre, Trent Park, 12:34 BST. 1 Peacock, along Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm, 12:51 BST. 1 male Orange Tip, along Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm, 12:53 BST. 1 male Common Blue, along Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm, 12:54 BST. 1 male Orange Tip, near Duncan's Wood, 14:24 BST. 1 Speckled Wood, Icehouse Wood, Trent Park, 15:04 BST. Also yesterday (Thurs 28th May 2009), apart from a number of Painted Lady, saw a Peacock in Town Park, Enfield at 12:25 BST. - Robert Callf

Been away a week in Yorkshire. Could not understand what the large lightcoloured butterflies was whizzing past us on the Pennine moors about 1.300 ft high until I got home and saw on the website about the painted ladies. Saw three at Waterford Heath today and one at Rickneys, Saw 17 common blue at Waterford Heath most on south and 20 at Rickneys, Saw 1 small copper at Rickneys as well as 7 brown argus and two grizzleds at Waterford heath - Steve Kiln

Batford / weedy field TL1514 lunch time, this lunch time had 7 painted ladies pass through, nearby the weedy field, within 3 minutes. In the weedy I only had 3 painted ladies all together but did see 1 GREEN VEINED WHITE, 1m COMMON BLUE & 1 SMALL COPPER on the 29th and 10 painted ladies around the field around 1330. on the 28th May. - Darin Stanley

27th May; Midday one painted lady settled on the lawn in Kings Langley. At Commonwood mid evening saw one painted lady flying and one stuck to the road. 28th May at afternoon between 4 and 5.30pm in TL080056, Bunkers Lane, Hemel Hempstead north west side of road in field of ox eye daisies with much bird's foot trefoil we saw numerous 'small' blue butterflies and many painted ladies feeding and flying together...One burnet companion. Later between 8.30-9pm we saw a few very fast flying painted ladies settling briefly and one vibrating its wings; also micro moth crambus pratella and various others. - Elizabeth Debenham

The Painted Lady movement shows no sign of slowing, and for the first time since it began I have seen egg-laying - on thistles (probably Creeping Thistle) nr Radlett; although only one was seen at a time, I believe that several different females were ovipositing. Garston TL 11 00 - Painted Lady flying NW; Garston Park TL 12 00 - Painted Lady flying NW; nr Otterspool TQ 12 99 - Green-veined White, male Orange Tip, 20 Painted Ladies flying NW & Peacock (also Silver Y); Aldenham Golf Course TQ 13 98 - 2 Painted Ladies flying NW & 2 Speckled Woods; Round Bush nr Aldenham TQ 14 98 - Large White & 10 Painted Ladies flying NW; Batlers Green nr Radlett TQ 15 98 - Large White, Small White, Green-veined White, Small Copper, 29 Painted Ladies flying N and NW & Peacock; Moses Dell nr Radlett TQ 16 98 - 11 Painted Ladies flying NW; Kendal Wood nr Radlett TQ 17 98 - Brown Argus, 2 Common Blues, 21 Painted Ladies (egg-laying, flying N and NW) &

Speckled Wood; North Borehamwood TQ 18 98 - Large White, Green-veined White, male Orange Tip, 7 Painted Ladies flying NW & Speckled Wood; Wood Hall Farm nr Radlett TQ 18 99 - Large White, 12 Painted Ladies flying NW, Peacock & Speckled Wood; Wood Hall woods nr Radlett TQ 17 99 - Large White & 14 Painted Ladies flying NW; Blackbirds Farm nr Radlett TQ 14 99 - Speckled Wood; Blackbirds Lane nr Radlett TL 14 00 - Large White, Small White, Green-veined White & 6 Painted Ladies flying N; and finally Bricket Wood Common TL 13 00 - 5 Painted Ladies (1 N, 4 NW) (also Mother Shipton). CORRECTION to records for 25/5: grid ref for Millhouse Farm should be TL 10 03; ADDITION to records for 25/5: High Elms Lane nr Garston TL 11 01 - male Orange Tip. - Colin Everett

### Thursday 28th May

Painted Lady migration continuing in the Watford area. Among nectar sources, Ox-eye Daisy and even Common Daisy were used, but planted Dogwood around the Watford Link Road was most popular; adjacent Elder and Dog Rose were entirely ignored. Garston TL 11 00 - Painted Lady; Garston Park TL 12 00 - 6 Painted Ladies flying N; The Gossamers nr Watford TQ 12 99 - 19 Painted Ladies (1 present, the rest N or NW); Woodmere Avenue nr Watford TQ 12 98 - 11 Painted Ladies flying N and NW; Bushey Mill TQ 11 98 - 2 Painted Ladies flying NW; Radlett Road nr Watford TQ 11 97 - 36+ Painted Ladies (half of these on Dogwood, three on Ox-eye Daisies, several on unidentified planted flowers on a roundabout, the rest flying NW) & Peacock; Fishers Field NR nr Bushey TQ 12 96 - male Brimstone, Common Blue, 56+ Painted Ladies (three present, the rest flying NW) & Speckled Wood; Watford Link Road TQ 11 96 - 75+ Painted Ladies (8 flying NW, the remainder all feeding on flowers of Dogwood). - Colin Everett

On the 28th May, at about 3.30, I estimate there being **200-300 painted ladies** nectaring on a 20-metre-long strip of white-flowered bush on the north-west boundary of Barnet General Hospital, near the bus turning point. Andy Reynolds

Sunday 24th May have been off work for the last few days - we did some serious tetrad bashing on Sunday and managed to record 1060 butterflies in total - !!!!! including recording in the entire TL42 tetrad. the migration of painted ladies is interesting to view. had some lunch at a field near Braughing and plotted that there was a painted lady flying past approx every 20 seconds. all flying north no stopping for a pint in the local nectary either. of the total of 1060 butterflies 450 were Painted Ladies. Other highlights were finding a strong colony of Small Heaths at Bury Green (TL4420) and a high number of Brimstones 17 in 45 mins at Braughing (TL3824) and similar at Braughing Friars (TL4024). At Wareside the similar Painted Lady pattern emerges as our house overlooks the Ash Valley to the south the and the Painted Ladies seem to fly straight for us, over the house and beyond, although we now appear to have a resident population of 6 stop overs who nectar on a bush in the front garden. (still there this morning 28th) Monday 25th May elsewhere nothing too exciting, 6 Common Blues at the Dragonfly Walk at Amwell Nature Reserve - Phil MacMurdie

There were two Painted Ladies in my front garden on Tuesday morning, in Chorleywood. - Andy King

Clay Hill Cricket Field, Enfield, 100 painted ladies NW in 19 minutes, from 10.38am - Andrew Middleton

Painted ladies still coming through, about a dozen at Verulamium Park this morning and another 6 at Tyttenhanger later. Robin Pearson

Hemel Hempstead garden, Painted Ladies on Red Valerian in garden from 8.10 a.m. maximum three but a steady stream still flying north over the allotment where I was working between 9.20 and 11.25 a.m. I counted twenty three and certainly missed many more. Back home in the afternoon they were passing over the garden at a rate of one every few minutes. I have never seen anything like it! Malcolm Newland

I saw 3 Painted Ladies today on my transect between about 1115 and 1145. One was 'resting' and the other 2 were flying swiftly in a N direction but they previously stopped as well - Peter Clarke

### Wednesday 27th May

**News of a special Painted Lady timed survey this Saturday - 30th May. [Click here for more details....](#)**

## Tuesday 26th May

*Thanks to everyone sending Painted Lady news and reports for the first time, sorry if I haven't acknowledged you personally*

No sign of the Small Blue at Telegraph today so it's gone on its way. One Dingy there but not worn so possibly a different one from Darin. 3-4 Common Blue and 10+ Painted Lady in immediate area. Also plenty of Silver-Y's around as expected. The peak for Dingy appears to be over early this year (not totally surprising given the changeable weather). A roost count at Hexton produced just 8 hanging on for all they were worth in a strong breeze. Also 1 **Large Skipper** in my Bishops Stortford garden - Andrew Palmer

Painted Ladies seen crossing Mardley Heath in a north westerly direction on Sunday morning. We were not 100% sure what they were as they were moving rapidly, but when we later saw some feeding on our garden plants we realised. Very healthy looking too. Sue Stephens

Some news for yesterday (Monday 25th May 2009) - 2 Small Heath, together, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 12:27 BST; 1 Silver Y, 'Old Golf Course'; 1 Mother Shipton, 'Old Golf Course'; 2 Burnet Companion, (1 Old Golf Course', 1 near Water Grdn); 3, 2 males, 1 female, Common Blue, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 12:32 - 12:36 BST; 4 Silver Y, at Vicarage Farm; 1 male Orange Tip, near Fring Range, Vicarage Farm, 13:52 BST. Also lots of Painted Lady on migration - lost count. - Robert Callf

The migration continues despite overnight rain and a fresh breeze. They are coming through my garden at the rate of about one a minute still. - Robin Pearson

The Painted Lady migration through the Watford area continued: the morning was overcast and none were seen until noon, but thereafter movement was at least as intense as the previous day, with several per minute passing at times. Many were also pausing to feed: Californian Lilac bushes in the West Herts Crematorium at Garston resembled late summer Buddleias, with 30+ Painted Ladies jockeying for position; scanning the edges of Oilseed Rape fields revealed a feeding butterfly every few square metres; and other nectar sources included Red Campion, Meadow Buttercup, Creeping Buttercup, Wild Radish, Cow Parsley & Climbing Hydrangea. No Clouded Yellows, but Silver Y moths were starting to appear in the cereal fields by 4pm. All records as follows: fields around M25 nr Bedmond TL 10 02 - Large White, 13 Painted Ladies (12 flying NW, 1 present), Small Tortoiseshell (faded) & Peacock; Millhouse Farm nr Bedmond TL 11 03 - 100+ white spp over crop field, 2 Large Whites, 3 male Orange Tips, 30+ Painted Ladies (about 50% each migrating & feeding) & Peacock; Whitehouse Farm nr Bedmond TL 11 03 - 100+ white spp in 5-hectare spring-sown rape field (far fewer in winter rape), 3 Large Whites, Small White, 12+ Painted Ladies (2 feeding) & Peacock; Fortunes Farm nr Garston TL 10 01 - 2 Painted Ladies flying NW; in grid square TL 11 01, at least 17 Painted Ladies flying NW in about ten minutes near Garston Manor and 30+ feeding on border & climbing flowers (see above) in the crematorium; and finally Garston garden TL 11 00 - Painted Lady. - Colin Everett

Lots of Painted Ladies in Tring area yesterday. I also saw Dingy, Green H. and Grizzled S. on Aldbury Nowers transect on Sat, so I'm happy. - Martin Hicks

At 0700 on Mon May 25th, on a walk across Lake Farm Country Park, Hayes in West London, I saw four Painted Ladies in the grass, which was surprising as it was still quite cold at that time of the morning. I went back at 1500 hrs to look for more in very warm sunshine. I counted 36 this time in a variety of habitats, including some sunning themselves on the Canal towpath. I then walked across the road to look in Stockley Business Park. One large office building down Furzeground Road had a large car park with multiple bays, each individual bay bordered with a shrub with small white flowers, and which were in full flower. Every bush was covered with dozens of Painted Ladies, all nectaring. My total count was 85, but there were probably over a 100 here. Peter Naylor

North London, had Painted Lady on Red Valerian in front garden Wed 21st May - Tony Clancy

**Monday 25th May** Telegraph Hill 25.05.09: A brief visit to the site found me **1 SMALL BLUE** (photo's to follow shortly), 1 Dingy Skipper (weathered), 1 Brown Argus, 2 Common Blues, 3 painted Ladies (on route toward the Hill). In light of seeing numerous small Blue's around one of the hot spots in beds for them, it was bound to occur in herts at some point this year. Glad I was there for it. Darin Stanley

Arrived in Jersey on 23rd May, large numbers of Painted ladies every day specially coastal regions. Numbers in high hundreds, afternoon sitting in the garden we could see up to 20 per minute. I thought it may be of interest to all. - Sezar Hikmet

Had a minimum of 81 Painted Ladies on Horsenden Hill yesterday afternoon (25th May) between 3.10 & 4.45pm, with 48 of these between 3.35 & 4.00 pm. The true numbers must have been much higher, site wide. After realising that there was a big increase in Painted Ladies since Saturday (where I only recorded 3 on the Horsenden West transect, for example), I stationed myself at Well Meadow (rear of Horsenden Farm) and counted 32 flying north in a 15 minute period. I then moved to Home Mead (a little further west) and counted 16 over the next 10 minutes. Most were not stopping - the odd one lingered briefly to nectar, but soon departed. Also had a couple of Silver Ys (along with 7 of those in a moth trap I ran at home the previous night). Wind was light east to southeast (locally) and it was quite warm (ca. 25C). Things really died down after about 4.30, coinciding with more overcast conditions and the odd spot of rain. Other butterflies included a couple of Orange-tip still hanging on, 5 Common Blues, 6 Speckled Wood, 1 Small Copper, 1 Peacock, 1 Burnet Companion and the three common whites in small numbers. - Andy Culshaw

5 painted butterfly in my garden all on one plant, never seen any since I moved here 6 years ago + 1 Red admiral - A J Steele

Radlett, am delighted to report 5 Painted Lady butterflies feeding on a Mexican Orange bush today. This is the most I have ever seen in our garden at one time in the last 28 years. Ginnie Parker

A massive movement of Painted Ladies all day here in Berkhamsted. It has been virtually continuous and they are still passing through at 7.30 pm despite the impending rain. Without exaggeration I must have seen hundreds pass through today. I have never seen anything like it before. Michael Anderson

On Sunday 24/5, I saw the following: Waterford Heath (South/North) (11:30-13:00 h): 4 Grizzled Skipper (1/3) 4 Painted Lady Common Blue 2 Brown Argus (2/0) Amwell (up to 11:00 h): 2 Painted Lady On Monday 25/5, I saw the following at Amwell (all day): 1 Orangetip 2 Holly Blue 2 Common Blue 25 Painted Lady Jan Hein

Sunday 24th May. Did my transect on The Warren (Colney Heath). 21 Painted Ladies heading fast east to west on & off transect in 50mins. Also relieved to see 4 Small Heath & 3 male Common Blue. Was beginning to think they might not show this year. Also today 25 May, 1 Painted Lady over my garden in Hatfield & 3 over my allotment. Sorry to be slow in reporting. - John Moss

5pm on May 23rd, arriving at Aldbury Nowers. Brimstone 9 sightings over the south and north enclosures including the field tree line. 1 orange tip male in field. 2 large white or female brimstone, flying towards road along the avenue. In S2 and along the path between we saw 1 male orange tip, 1 small heath, 1 battered peacock, 3 brimstones. On path to Northern enclosures we saw 1 orange tip. In the top north enclosure we saw 3 brimstone, 1 orange tip, 2 blue with brownish tint in flight which could have been brown argus, 1 brown argus identified for certain, 1 larger blue in flight. Highlight of the trip was seeing 2 painted lady butterflies still flying at 6.40pm and feeding on brambles. There was a hornet and a scorpion fly. 1 pretty small orange yellow micromoth, either a hooktip or snout shape, (picture enclosed). Very pale damsels were seen in Northern slope, also 1 brown and yellow micromoth, *pyrausta aurata*. May 24th at Aldbury Nowers from about 6pm. 1 Peacock in S1 area, possibly over a dozen small heath mainly in S1, a few brimstones, about 7 blues, 3 or more painted lady, about 7 orange tip of which at least one was female, 3 cinnabar moths in S1 just before 7pm. 1 hornet flew into hole in tree trunk in S1 near Grim's Ditch and emerged a few minutes later. On path between S1 and S2 there was 1 male orange tip. 1 *scoparia arundinata* micromoth on T shirt. In nettles in layby opposite Cow Lane near the A41 bypass, 2 scorched carpet moths. May 25th, 2pm -3.15pm in Commonwood area TL043002 we saw 1 blue probably the holly blue, which flew into holly and out of sight. There was 1 Silver y moth in grass. On dry path through meadow at least 1 orange tip, male, about 4 peacock butterflies, various whites of which 2 were definitely green veined whites on green alkanet and garlic mustard. Thrill of the day was seeing many painted lady butterflies often feeding on white clover in meadow, a pair of mating red damsels, 1 hornet. I have seen several this year in various places in Hertfordshire. Today 2 or 3 painted lady butterflies in Kings Langley. I saw none last year so this is exciting. - Elizabeth Debenham

Sun 24th May - Ruislip, 20+ Painted Lady seen heading north in 2 hours Mon 25th May - Ruislip, again dozens of Painted Lady heading north from late morning onwards. Along the River Pinn at Ruislip GC - 3 Brimstone, 3 Orange tip, 4 Speckled Wood, GV White, Common Blue, Peacock and Silver Y moth. Poors Field - Small Copper, Peacock, 2 GV White. Fields adjacent to Ruislip Lido car park - Small Copper, Burnet Companion and Silver Y moth. Steve Pash

THE RIDGEWAY ENFIELD EN2 30+ Painted lady ( very few males)-----nectaring on Pyracantha blossom ( much preferred)-----also on mauve Hebe and one or two on Bramble-----One on Californian lilac dark blue-----none on Red valerian--- chives--and other garden flowers Large white egg laying on nasturtion----- KIT JONES

The mass northward movement of Painted Ladies across Kenwood and Hampstead Heath has continued for the 3rd successive day. Today at 2.30pm on Week 8 of the Kenwood Transect I recorded 26 in the box (and 22 just outside the box). - Mike Taylor

Nothing much to report from Barnhill apart from the Painted Ladies. Not many seen at first but towards the end of the walk 2-3 a minute were seen. They carried on flying past even while I was walking the streets of Kenton. And another 5 when I glanced out into the garden when I got back. 57x and still counting: Painted Ladies. All over the place. Kenton and Barnhill. 13x Speckled Wood 10x Assorted Whites. 2x Silver Y 1x Large White in Kenton. 1x Male Orange Tip 1x Holly Blue 1x Unidentified Blue 1x Straw Dot 1x Unidentified Blue. 1x Burnet Companion Also 1 Broad Bodied Chaser, 1 suspected Emperor Dragonfly, and loads of Common blue / Azure damselflies. And a few too many feral human teenagers with mobiles blaring out tinny rap music, f'ing and blinding noisily to each other and spoiling the peace. Make that 67x painted ladies and counting. I saw another 10 fly past my window as I wrote this email and had a cuppa. Impressive for suburbia! Never seen so many Painted Ladies in one day in my whole life. And this count was within 3 hours. - Mike Rubin

2 x painted lady's at Hatfield Aerodrome, Hertfordshire, today - 25th may 09 - David Wheatcroft

A number of Painted Ladies in the oil-seed rape field in Kimpton Bottom this morning, I counted 5 but probably many more. Robin Pearson

Painted Lady on 23 May 2009 at 16:45, Nettleden Rd, Little Gaddesden - Dave Morris

I saw a couple of Painted Ladys in TL51C whilst doing bird survey work this morning. They seem to be active in the early morning whilst it is still cool. I need to go back later in the season and possibly later in the day when it is a little warmer. Chris Dee

### **Sunday 24th May**

Small numbers of Painted Ladies heading north around Aston End and the river Beane-roughly one every five minutes, which is very similar to the rates I was getting on the East Kent Downs on the 23rd. Two Brimstone, two Small Tortoiseshell and six Peacock along the river, plus large numbers of Large and Small Whites. No blues or Small Heath yet. - Phil Bishop

Delighted to see the Painted Lady (and Clouded Yellow) reports today. I have just returned from the South Coast (Sussex and Hampshire) – saw a few PL on Saturday, but today have seen a continuous stream coming inland – gave up counting, as it was every couple of minutes for most of the day. Disappointed not to see a Clouded Yellow, but it looks like 2009 could be a 'classic' for butterfly (and presumably moth) migrations. Ian Small

Whilst walking on the underpass of the Monkswood Way/Broadhall Way roundabout in Stevenage, saw a dull-looking Painted Lady on the grassy bank on the NE corner at 1400 hrs yesterday (24 May) - my earliest sighting of this species. - Peter Clarke

The largest movement of Painted Ladies that I have seen in Herts since at least 1996 took place in the Watford area today. Movement was underway by 1000 hrs, initially to the N but from late morning onwards predominantly in a NW direction, and was still going strong when I stopped recording at 1730 hrs. For completeness' sake I give (in chronological order) all my records, which also included Brown Argus, Small Copper & Small Tortoiseshell. Kingswood nr Watford TL 10 00 - 3 Painted Ladies (1 feeding a.m., 2 flying NW p.m.); Furtherfield nr Abbots Langley TL 09 00 - male Orange Tip; Hunton Park nr Watford TL 08 00 - Painted Lady flying N; nr Berrybushes Wood TL 06



00 - 3 Large Whites, 2 Green-veined Whites, male Orange Tip & Painted Lady flying N; nr Bucks Hill TL 05 00 - Large White & Painted Lady flying N; Newhall Farm nr Sarratt TQ 05 99 - 2 Large Whites, Small White, 2 Green-veined Whites, 2 Brown Argus, 3 Painted Ladies flying N & Peacock; Micklefield Green nr Sarratt - 2 Large Whites, 2 Green-veined Whites, total of 20+ Painted Ladies (1 N, 19 NW, 1 feeding on buttercup sp), 2 Peacocks & Speckled Wood (also Mother Shipton); Church End nr Sarratt TQ 03 98 - Small Copper & 2 Painted Ladies flying NW; Chorleywood House estate TQ 03 97 - Green-veined White, male Orange Tip & 3 Painted Ladies flying NW; Solesbridge Lane nr Sarratt TQ 04 97 - 2 Painted Ladies flying NW; Micklefield Hall nr Sarratt TQ 05 97 - 6 Painted Ladies flying NW & Small Tortoiseshell; Model Farm nr Croxley Green TQ 06 97 - 2 Large Whites, 3 Painted Ladies flying NW & Peacock; Croxley Green TQ 06 96 - Peacock & 2 Speckled Woods; Little Green Lane nr Croxley Green TQ 07 96 - Large White & Painted Lady flying NW; Rousebarn Lane nr Watford TQ 08 96 - 2 Painted Ladies flying NW, Peacock & Speckled Wood; Hempstead Road nr Watford TQ 09 98 - Painted Lady flying NW & Peacock; Courtlands Drive nr Watford TQ 09 98 - 3 Painted Ladies feeding on garden flowers; Leavesden Green nr Watford TQ 09 99 - Painted Lady flying NW; and finally Woodside nr Watford TL 11 00 - 4 Painted Ladies flying NW. - Colin Everett

Many Painted Ladies flying NW across Royston/Therfield Heath. I counted at least 40 flying past me in less than an hour as I sat on Church Hill between 3 and 4 this very sunny afternoon. They flew past briskly at 2 - 4 feet following the contour of the land over the Golf Course and the A505 in a NW direction. Randy Drew

21 Painted Ladies flying in a NW direction between Enfield Hill and Winchmore Hill along the New River Walk today - Diane Andrews

24th May. (Great Ashby Park and surrounding farmland), 8 Painted Ladies, 1 Meadow Brown, 3 Common Blue, 3 Peacocks, plus Orangetips and lots of Whites. Dozens of Burnet Companion and a few Mother Shiptons. This morning I had **2 Hornet Clearwings** in **Waitrose car park in Stevenage Old Town**. Photo attached. - Steve Lane

I know it's just in Bucks but visited Church End Quarry between 9 and 10 this morning and thought I'd report at least half a dozen dingy skippers, a couple of small heaths and many small (20+) and common blues. Also one painted lady (my first) so got excited, and have been watching them cross the garden in Tring throughout the rest of the day! No sign of the clouded yellow this far west though. Colin Sturges.

3 x Painted Ladies confirmed on my Bunkers Park transect this pm, Sunday 24 May: two other probables seen flying fast in roughly NW direction. Michael Pearson

Lots of Large, Small and Green Veined Whites together with many Orange Tips mainly nectaring on Sweet Rocket, but forewarned by a Sussex friend of a Painted Lady "invasion" I kept a lookout and saw three at intervals all flying strongly in a northerly direction over the garden. Almost made up for not seeing one last year. - Malcolm Newland

Tony Moverley has just got back from Basildon (Essex) from where he reports a large immigration of Painted Ladies on the same scale as the Clouded Yellows I mentioned earlier. Only Clouded Yellow just flew past my window in Bishops Stortford. Where there's butterflies there will probably be moths - so traps out tonight please for night 4 of the 5 European Moth Nights. Colin Plant

CLOUDED YELLOW BUTTERFLIES - Massive migration taking place now (3pm) in the North Essex/Hertfordshire border area - ones and twos have been passing over the Crishall area of Essex every few minutes for the past several hours. Colin Plant

A very large movement of Painted Ladies has been crossing Kenwood and Hampstead Heath since late yesterday afternoon (Saturday 23rd) and continuing today. As I write this, at 2.20pm, I would describe their movement as a conspicuous and constant procession coming from the south and heading north. - Mike Taylor

Brent Reservoir: 63 Painted Ladies flew north between 08.00-11.30 Andrew Self

Sunday A.M. Bishop's Stortford, on a walk on a farm track between Farnham road and Wickham Hall a very large number of Painted Lady's on migration moving N.W.flying extremely fast, counted at least 200 in the space of half an hour. Jim Fish

Wonderful to see the Painted Ladies back again after no sightings in the garden for four years. Two in the garden in Hayes on Sunday 24th May. Helen George.

In Kenton, TQ18, this morning, about 9:50AM I looked out my window and saw 4 painted ladies in as many minutes fly past at speed, all roughly Southeast to Northwest. They generally seemed pretty faded from what I could glimpse but no doubt about the ID. - Mike Rubin

Returning home with my Sunday paper this morning at about 8.30 a.m., I was delighted to see a Painted Lady by our front door in Rosedale, Cheshunt Initially it flew up and down the road before settling on our osteospermum which was fully open in the bright sunshine. - Roger Newbold

### **Saturday 23rd May**

Clearly a large movement of Painted Ladies taking place. North Bovingdon TL 01 04 - female Brimstone, Green-veined White & male Orange Tip; Bourne End Lane nr Bovingdon TL 01 05 - 85+ white spp visible in c20 hectares of spring-sown rape, Large White ovipositing therein, Small White ditto, 2 Green-veined Whites, male Orange Tip, Holly Blue, Painted Lady flying N & 2 Peacocks; Bovingdon Green TL 01 02 Red Admiral & Speckled Wood; Hogpits Bottom nr Flaunden TL 01 01 - male Orange Tip; near Belsize TL 02 01 - Large White, 2 territorial Painted Ladies at edge of rape field & Peacock; Cottingham Farm nr Bulstrode TL 02 02 - Large White, Green-veined White, male Orange Tip & Painted Lady; Tower Hill nr Chipperfield TL 03 02 - Peacock; Bulstrode Lane nr Chipperfield TL 04 03 - Large White; Featherbed Lane nr Apsley TL 05 05 - Painted Lady flying N nr A41; Felden TL 04 05 - male Orange Tip; and finally Watford Junction station TQ 11 97 - Painted Lady. Friday 22nd May Moor Park estate TQ 08 93 - Holly Blue & 2 Speckled Woods; Sandy Lodge Golf Course TQ 09 93 - Green-veined White & 2 Peacocks. Thursday 21st May Dell Wood nr Whippendell Wood TQ 07 97 - 2 Painted Ladies flying N; Long Newland's Spring nearby TQ 07 96 - 2 Speckled Wood. Wednesday 20th May Incidental recording of common species around the border between Herts & Middx. HERTS Watford Metropolitan station - Large White; MIDDX French Grove nr Northwood TQ 07 91 - 2 Green-veined Whites & Peacock; MIDDX E Harefield TQ 06 90 - Large White & male Orange Tip; MIDDX Copse Wood nr Northwood TQ 08 90 - Green-veined White & male Orange Tip. Tuesday 19th May Munden Spring nr Bricket Wood TQ 12 99 - Large White ovipositing on brassica sp (not yet identified) & Peacock. Also during Bricket Wood Common weekly transect records included a Red Admiral & two female Brimstones ovipositing on Alder Buckthorns - Colin Everett

22 Brimstones at Bricket Wood Common this morning - all female 17 Common Blues at Park St - all but one were males. Also at Park St Small Heath (11), Brown Argus (2) Small Copper (7) & a Cream Wave. Also saw a couple of Painted Ladies this morning & a Silver Y moth. A few Peacocks, Orange Tips & Speckled Woods still out & about, but numbers are well down on last week. - Malcolm Hull

Aldbury Nowers, much more success today in warm hazy sunshine, 4 Grizzled Skippers, 2 Dingy Skippers, 1 Brown Argus, 1 Small Copper, several of Common Blue, Small Heath plus all the commoner varieties. - Robin Pearson

Some news for today (Saturday 23rd May 2009) - 1 male Common Blue, at 'Barracks', Vicarage Farm, 10:43 BST; 1 Painted Lady, at Parkside Farm, 11:42 BST; 1 Latticed Heath, at Parkside Farm, on Res banking - First for the year! 2 Cinnabar, at Parkside Farm, on Res banking - First for the year! 2+ Burnet Companion, at Parkside Farm, on Res banking; 2 male Common Blue, at Parkside Farm, on Res banking; 2 imm Black-tailed Skimmer, at Parkside Farm, on Res banking - First for the year! 2 Peacock, at Park Farm, 12:17 BST and 12:31 BST; 2 Small White, together, at Park Farm, 12:17 BST; 1 Brown Silver-line Moth, near Moat Wood - First for the year! 2 male Orange Tip, together, along Merryhills Brook at South Lodge Farm, 13:44 BST; 1 Peacock, along Merryhills Brook at South Lodge Farm, 13:51 BST; 5 Silver Y, at Vicarage Farm; 1 Small Copper, along Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm, 13:59 BST; 1 Painted Lady, at Vicarage Farm, 14:06 BST. Also saw two Mother Shipton - 1 at Vicarage Farm and 1 in set-aside field near Dew Pond, Trent Park. Also at least 11 Red-eyed Damselfly, on Lily pads, Upper Lake, Trent Park, including mating pairs - First of the year! - Robert Callf

Yesterday (22nd) late afternoon I ambled along my usual walk to Junction 14 and back. It was warm, but not very sunny, but I managed to see a Holly Blue, Large Whites (2), Green-veined Whites (2), a single Orange Tip (male) and a Comma (in reasonable shape, considering its age). All the Peacocks seem to have gone. When I got home, one of my Small Tortoiseshell chrysalids

had hatched, and the butterfly set off energetically from the windowsill towards the Airport. This morning, there was another one - two more to go. Then on arrival at my office (on the A4 Bath Road north of Heathrow) at about 2pm, a Painted Lady flew across the car park. The first I've seen hereabouts this year (though I saw lots on the cliffs at Dover last Monday). - Dave Miller

### Friday 22nd May

Some news for today (Friday 22nd May 2009) - 1 male Orange Tip, at Parkside Farm, 11:24 BST; 1 male Orange Tip, at Park Farm, Enfield, 12:04 BST; 1 Straw Dot, at Parkside Farm - my first of the year! 1 male Common Blue, at Parkside Farm, on Res banking, 11:40 BST; 2 Burnet Companion, at Parkside Farm, on Res banking; 1 Burnet Companion, at Park Farm; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, at Park Farm, 11:56 BST; 2 Peacock, at Park Farm, 12:09 BST and 12:31 BST; 2 male Orange Tip, together, along Merryhills Brook at South Lodge Farm, 13:52 BST; 1 Peacock, along Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm, 13:58 BST. - Robert Callf

Oakhill Woods LNR, Large White Female -egg laying - nasturtium- Green veined white--egg laying - garlic mustard-----I x Brimstone-- on Alder buckthorn-----2x Peacock-----Myriads Speckled woods----- KIT JONES

20th May I saw 4 huge drinker moth caterpillars in Kings Langley, TL0503. They were the length of my middle finger. They were in tall grass at edge of field and newly cropped verge. I hope no others had been destroyed in the process. The evening was cool just before sunset. Weather was warm and calm on 21st May at about 7pm when we saw 3 or 4 small heath and 1 green carpet moth on S1 at Aldbury Nowers. On the field hedgeline we saw 3 or 4 cinnabar just before sunset at about 8.30pm and more than one green carpet moth. A glowworm was on path leading down from Duchie's Piece. Under the single tree which I think is a whitebeam I saw a large creamy beige moth which flew before I identified it. 22 May in Kings Langley TL0503 at 5.30pm weather very windy and sun behind clouds. Saw a female orange tip which came to rest on cow parsley. Very well disguised. 6.30pm saw a micromoth alabonia geoffrella under oaks in ground cover plants. Still windy. - Elizabeth Debenham

### Thursday 21st May

Here are a few sightings for today (Thurs 21st May 2009) - 3 male Common Blue, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, between 11:30 - 11:39 BST; 2 Small Heath, at 'Old Golf Course', between 11:33 - 11:38 BST; 2 Green-veined White, together, at Williams Wood, Trent Park, 12:10 BST; 1 male Orange Tip, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 12:31 BST; 1 male Common Blue, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 12:35 BST; 1 Peacock, along track, Hog Hill, at Vicarage Farm, 12:40 BST; 2 Silver Y, at Vicarage Farm. Also saw a Burnet Companion at the 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park today - Robert Callf

Had a Painted Lady in my garden adjoining Horsenden Hill last night, 20th May. - Andy Culshaw

Horsenden Hill today - not hard to improve on yesterday. A cloud street overhead kept throwing cloud shadow across me but it was warm enough and enough sporadic sunshine to keep things active. Woo hoo Painted Lady! No idea how faded it was but still had a definite salmon colour to it in flight. And surprised to find 2 Peacocks and even a Comma still alive in the field north of Batts. 6x Small Copper (One very fresh - female? The rest all rather faded but still spritely.) 6x Assorted Whites (including 1 each definite of Green Veined and Small). 2x Peacock (Got a close look at one basking under cloud shadow. Still looks fresh! No damage at all. Must be a female?) 2x Speckled Wood (both faded and elderly.) 1x PAINTED LADY! (My 1st of the year, flying past fast and purposefully. Enough of a salmon colour to make the ID 100%) 1x Comma (Elderly and faded but reasonably undamaged - my bet is female) - Mike Rubin

During a wander around **Balls Wood** yesterday saw many of the usual suspects - Green-veined White, Orange Tip, Speckled Wood, Peacock and then settled in front of us.....**a Large Skipper!!!** Must be about a month early - Alan Reynolds

Yesterday 20th May at Maple Cross large whites 7, Green-veined whites 5, Orange tip. Also at my garden at Ickenham Peacock 2, Holly blue, Large white 3, Comma, Orange tip. - Sesar Hikmet

News from 18 May 2009 Wood Lane, Pirton TL140310 transect - Small Copper and 19 May 2009 Hitchin garden Painted Lady - seen for approx. 10 minutes at approx. 12.45 pm - Val Fullforth

### **Wednesday 20th May**

This afternoon (20th May) I walked along a stretch of the River Pinn at Ruislip GC. There was a fair bit of butterfly activity with Small Tortoiseshell, 3 Peacock, 3 Orange-tip, 2 Speckled wood, GV & Small white, 2 Small Copper and Common Blue all recorded.. Steve Pash

News from Diane Andrews. Spent the day at Aldbury Nowers but the sun didn't shine until about 3 o'clock. 3 Green Hairstreak, 7 Dingy Skipper and 4 Grizzled Skipper were the highlights. Also 3 Small Heath, 2 Brown Argus, 11 Common Blue, 1 Small Copper, 8 Brimstone, 6 Cinnabar moths, 1 Small White, 3 Large Whites, 8 Green-veined White, 7 Orange Tips, 1 Comma, 1 Speckled Wood, 3 Common Carpet moths, 3 Small Yellow Underwings and 1 Mother Shipton.

My first visit to Aldbury Nowers so probably looked in all the wrong places. Quite a few Small Heaths and Small Coppers and a Cinnabar Moth were the highlights. - Robin Pearson

Horsenden Hill, given it was warm (17C), bright (some sun but a fair bit of thin cloud) and not too windy I thought there would be plenty. But this turned out to be a very poor lunchtime walk. Still atleast the count wasn't zero and it wasn't a depressing damp gloom... 3x Speckled Wood 2x Burnet Companion 1x Peacock 1x Small Copper 1x Mother Shipton (My first ever at Horsenden Hill) 1x Nettle Tap 1x Green Veined White 1x Unidentified moth with black thorax with white border, brown abdomen. I guess the Orange Tips have finished now. Interesting to see the odd Peacock hanging on still. All the Speckled Woods were very faded. Hoping the next brood will replenish them soon. - Mike Rubin

Had a walk over Pymmes Park, Edmonton with MIND in Enfield today (Weds 20th May 2009) and saw a Speckled Wood in the Wildlife Garden and a Silver Y and Painted Lady in the walled garden. - Robert Callf

Ridgeway, Enfield, PAINTED LADY X3-----PEACOCK X1 -nectaring on lilac-SYRINGA MICROPHYLLA-----2x O TIP males-----2x Holly Blue Kit Jones

### **Tuesday 19th May**

1 Painted Lady in our Bishop's Stortford garden this afternoon. - Mary Moverley

### **Monday 18th May**

In very blustery conditions 17 Grizzled Skipper were found across the north pit at Waterford this morning, and a further 5 on the south pit but by then conditions had got worse! Also seen were Latticed Heath, Burnet Companion, Common Blue and Brown Argus as well as a Silver Y and Andrew found a Grizzled egg on Common Agrimony. Later whilst visiting a nearby area, we found nearly **60 Common Blue** either roosting or easily disturbed from low vegetation. Also 11 Brown Argus and 1 Small Heath - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

1 Painted Lady between Green Tye and Allens Green, south of Stortford this morning (18 May 2009) - Chris Dee

Horsenden Hill - Too windy! Not that the Small Coppers seemed to mind too much. 7x Small Copper 2x Suspected Burnet Companion but not sure. 1x Peacock 1x Female Small White 1x Very faded Speckled Wood. - Mike Rubin

Just to let you know that the orange tip in my last report has been classified by Pete Eeles as "possibly qualifies this as an aberration (antiquincunx)" - Sezar Hikmet

### **Sunday 17th May**

Sunday P.M. Bishop's Stortford, Painted Lady on track west of Bloodhounds wood 15.15hrs, being buffeted by strong winds. Jim Fish

Briefly today there was a painted lady in my Kimpton garden. Struggling in very gusty winds it was soon off. Robin Smith

### **Saturday 16th May**

A male Orange Tip near Gorhambury House TL 11 07 was the only butterfly identified during my walk around this estate near St Albans in blustery conditions. Also a late record for Sunday 10th May: a male Orange Tip at Fishers Field NR near Bushey TQ 12 96. - Colin Everett

One Painted Lady was the highlight at Amwell today. Also Common Blue (1 female), Orange Tip (5), Large White (1), Green-veined White (1) - Jan Hein van Steenis

News for today (Saturday 16th May 2009) - 2 male Common Blue, at Parkside Farm, on Res banking, 11:40 BST - my first of the year; 1 Painted Lady, at Park Farm, 11:52 BST; 1 Small Yellow Underwing, at Park Farm; 1 Burnet Companion, set-aside field near Dew Pond, Trent Park - my first of the year! - Robert Callf

### **Friday 15th May**

After a possible sighting yesterday at Parkside Farm, saw a definite Painted Lady at Vicarage Farm, Enfield today (Friday 15th May 2009) at 14:29 BST - settled. - Robert Callf

Ahh man there was a Lime Hawk Moth sitting next to the intercom on the back security gate at Kellogg Tower this morning. Was so tempted to try and photograph it but couldn't. (And light levels were awful.) That's only my 2nd Lime Hawk Moth, the first being in June 2004 in the West Drayton area. I might well be tempted to go look for it at 11AM when I finish up here. - Mike Rubin

### **Thursday 14th May**

Today at home Ickenham two male orange tips. This year appears to be a good year for orange tip butterflies. Sezar Hikmet

News for today (Thursday 14th May 2009) - 1 Speckled Wood, at Parkside Farm, Enfield at 12:52 BST; 2 Speckled Wood, at Park Farm, Enfield, 12:58 and 13:15 BST. 2 male Orange Tip, at Park Farm, Enfield, 13:03 BST and 13:22 BST. 1 Green-veined White, at Park Farm, 13:05 BST. 2 Mother Shipton, at Park Farm, Enfield, 13:05 and 13:09 BST. 1 Large White, near Duncan's Wood, 13:20 BST. 3 Green-veined White, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 14:27 BST. 1 male Orange Tip, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Pak, 14:30 BST. 1 Small White, along Merryhills Brook/Vicarage Farm, 14:42 BST. 1 male Orange Tip, along Merryhills Brook/Vicarage arm, 14:51 BST. 2 Large White, along Merryhills Brook/Vicarage Farm, 14:55 BST. 1 Peacock, at 'Barracks', Vicarage Farm, 15:06 BST. Robert Callf

### **Wednesday 13th May**

The only lepidoptera seen today (Wednesday 13th May 2009) was a Brimstone moth at the 'Barracks', Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 14:15 BST. - Robert Callf

Records-Mon 11th May 12 noon -Waterford Heath-----3xGrizzled Skips-1xSpeckled Wood,----1x Brimstone---1x Peack- 2xCommon blue---1xSmall copper- South Quarry Kit Jones

I am a member of Norfolk BC branch. I am also a specialist natural history book dealer, and wonder if any of your members may be interested in knowing about the country's largest natural history book fair, taking place this Sunday, 17 May, at Capel Manor Gardens in Enfield. It is organised by the PBFA ( [www.pbfa.org](http://www.pbfa.org)), and is open from 10 to 4, admission £1, refreshments, and two for the price of one admission to the gardens is also available to anyone attending the fair. I will have a stall which includes a range of books on lepidoptera and insects. There is also a specialist butterfly book dealer attending, Aurelian Books. Thank you - Michael Sweeney (Michael Sweeney Books) (*Don't forget it's also Rickmansworth Environmental Fair this weekend!*)

### **Tuesday 12th May**

Today (Tuesday 12th) I saw my first Small Copper of the year on Poors Field. Also 2 male Orange-tip, 3 Speckled Wood, GV White, Comma and 2 Peacocks. On Saturday 9th along a stretch of the River Pinn at Ruislip GC I saw a Small Tortoiseshell, numerous Orange-tip, Large White, GV White, Comma, 4 Peacock and a male Brimstone. - Steve Pash

Horsenden Hill meadows, I guess the wind was the limiting factor again. 15/16C bright and sunny through the thin high cloud but another windy day. 5x White (I think they were all Green Veined) 3x Peacock 3x Speckled Wood 3x Small Copper 1x Small Yellow Underwing.  
<http://piccies.flybywire.org.uk/ButterfliesMoths/2009/20090506/DeadOrangeTip.jpg> - look away now if you are squeamish... - Mike Rubin

News for today (Tues 12th May 2009) - 1 Peacock, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Water Grdn., 11:15 BST; 1 Small White, near Water Grdn., 11:25 BST; 1 male Orange Tip, Rough Lot, 12:05



BST; 1 Green-veined White, Rough Lot, 12:05 BST; 1 Comma, around nettles, edge of Icehouse Wood, 12:33 BST; 1 male Orange Tip, edge of Icehouse Wood, 12:34 BST; 1 male Orange Tip, edge of Williams Wood, 12:45 BST; 1 Green-veined White, edge of Williams Wood, 12:45 BST. Robert Callf

Today at Maple Cross 6 Green-veined whites. At Denham Quarry Orange tip Male 1, Orange tip female 2.- Sezar Hikmet

### **Monday 11th May**

Small Copper seen in Central Watford today by me on Monday 11th May; the first I've ever seen in the middle of the town - Dave Chandler

Spent about an hour on the **Tring Park** escarpment from 2:00 - 3:00 this afternoon. Sunny and warm as it was mostly sheltered from the breeze but nothing smaller than orange tips on what you might call the "vertical" path and likewise on the "diagonal" path. There were brimstones and large (and 'smaller') whites about but I was taking such a time that I expect I was seeing the same few. Just about to give up when I spotted a pair of **male dingy skippers** fighting in the rough patch right at the bottom, next to the gate - Colin Sturges

Three Dingy Skippers at Hexton Chalk Pits this morning - Nigel Agar

Horsenden Hill today, sunny, 16C and rather windy. The wind kept the butterflies subdued alas. Fairly boring walk other than the same bluebell spot again where the same white crab spider on the same bluebell that caught last week's orange tip this time had its fangs sunk into a small bee. It's next door neighbour however had caught a female green veined white which was dangling on a web wearing said spider like a necklace and last small leg movements before death poor thing while rotating in the breeze. 12x Whites (Mostly Green Veined, one Female of which was freshly caught by a crab spider and just about dead. One definite Large White. One suspected female orange tip.) 4x Small Copper 4x Speckled Wood 1x Holly Blue 1x Male Orange Tip. 1x unidentified large brown fast moving lep. 1x Burnet Companion. Zero Peacocks! Have the 2008 brood finished now? - Mike Rubin

News for yesterday (Sunday 10th May 2009) - 1 male Orange Tip, Sect.5, 'New Fields', 10:41 BST; 3 Small Heath, 'New Fields', between 10:44 - 10:48 BST - My first for the year; 1 Small Copper, Sect.5, 'New Fields', 10:45 BST; 1 male Orange Tip, edge of Church Wood, 10:53 BST; 1 Peacock, at Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm, 12:16 BST; 1 male Orange Tip, at 'Barracks', Vicarage Farm, 12:27 bst; 1 Peacock, Sidhil's Field, Vicarage Farm, 12:41 BST. News for today (Monday 11th May 2009) - 1 Green-veined White, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 11:08 BST; 1 Peacock, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 11:10 BST; 1 Green-veined White, at Parkside Farm, 11:15 BST; 1 Large White, at Park Farm, 11:43 BST; 1 Green-veined White, near Duncan's Wood, 11:55 BST; 1 Peacock, at Park Farm, 12:02 BST; 1 Large White, near Obelisk, Trent Park, 12:09 BST; 1 Green-veined White, Water Grdn., Trent Park, 12:33 BST; 1 Green-veined White, along Leeging Beech Gutter near 'Three-bridges', Trent Park, 12:39 BST; 1 Large White, S edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 12:57 BST. Also saw my first female/immature Broad-bodied Chaser of the year, along Leeging Beech Gutter near 'Three-bridges', Trent Park, 12:40 BST. Robert Callf

### **Sunday 10th May**

Plenty of whites along the river Beane-mainly Small White and Orange Tip, but two Green Vein White and a single Large White, also least three Brimstone. Four Peacock, and one Small Tortoiseshell. Single Painted Lady at Chells Manor - Phil Bishop

Saturday - One very large white at Butterfly World, Noke Lane Chiswell Green, St Albans. The very first branch work party at Butterfly World helped the creation of Ivan Hicks Theatre of Insects, part of the Future Gardens complex. We also had a short guided tour around the site with Angela Harkness, the development director. Although the site still looks bare, thousands of butterfly attracting plants & seeds are being planted, ready for the big opening on June 5th - see link attached. <http://www.ivanhicks.co.uk/portfolio45299.html> There will be other working parties and opportunities to visit the site in coming weeks. Details will be posted on the website, but if you are interested in helping, or just finding out more, contact Malcolm Hull at [malcolmhull@ntlworld.com](mailto:malcolmhull@ntlworld.com)

Sunday - am Park Street, near St Albans - 6 Small Copper, Common Blue, Painted Lady, Peacock, speckled Wood, Orange Tip, Large Whitepm - Branch Field Trip to Aldbury Nowers near Tring - a

bumper turnout of 36 butterfly spotters recorded a total of 13 butterfly species Dingy Skipper (14), Grizzled Skipper (2), Green Hairstreak (3), Brown Argus (9), Small Copper (2), Small Heath (6), Common Blue (5), Brimstone(25), Orange Tip(14), as well as assorted Speckled Woods, Peacocks, Large & Green-veined Whites. Moths included Treble Bar, Common & Green Carpet, Mother Shipton, Mint & Cinnabar. I also saw common blue damselfly, my first damsel of the year. It was good to find Green Hairstreak and Grizzled Skipper again after these were absent from last years trip. The most encouraging news is that the rarer butterflies have spread throughout the site, colonising the areas where topsoil was removed, with 8 of the Dingy Skippers being recorded in area N1 - Malcolm Hull

After going to Aldbury Nowers (very good tour),went up to Waterford heath today 5pm. In late sun. 20 grizzled skippers plus, 1 common blue, 2 small coppers, 2 brown argus, 1 small heath and peacocks and whites on south pit on eastern bank - Steve Kiln

Fir and Pond Woods NR HMWT.....Sunday 10th PM Casual observations Speckled woods, peacock, green veined whites, orange tips, 3 small coppers, 1 small heath, comma, small whites, 1 holly blue. - David Gompertz

Incidental recording of common species in hectad TQ19. Near Watford TQ 12 99 - male Orange Tip; near Otterspool TQ 13 99 - 2 Green-veined Whites (including one feeding on Herb Robert flowers); Aldenham Golf Course TQ 13 98 - 2 male Orange Tips & Speckled Wood; near Round Bush TQ 14 98 - male Orange Tip & Speckled Wood; Letchmore Heath TQ 15 97 - Large White, 3 Orange Tips (including pair courting), female Holly Blue, 7 Peacocks & Speckled Wood; near Elstree Aerodrome TQ 15 96 - Peacock & Small Tortoiseshell; nr Patchetts Green TQ 14 97 - Green-veined White, 3 Peacocks & Speckled Wood. - Colin Everett

### **Saturday 9th May**

Incidental recording of common species in the Bovingdon & Flaunden areas. Bovingdon Green pond TL 01 02 - Speckled Wood; Shantock Hall Lane area nr Bovingdon TL 00 02 - Large White, 3 Green-veined Whites, 2 male Orange Tips, Holly Blue, Peacock & 3 Speckled Woods; nr Flaunden TL 01 01 - Green-veined White (ovipositing on Garlic Mustard) & Peacock; Flaunden TL 01 00 - Green-veined White & Speckled Wood; Martin Top Farm nr Chenies TQ 01 99 - Large White, male Orange Tip, male Brimstone & Peacock; Cottingham Farm nr Bulstrode TL 02 02 - Peacock; nr Bulstrode TL 03 02 - Peacock. - Colin Everett

**Waterford Field trip am**, bit cool, **9 grizzled skippers north pit, 9 grizzleds south pit bank**, total 2 peacock, 3 large whites, 2 brown argus, 3 latticed heath, 2 burnet companion, 1 mother shipton, 1 small heath. **Frogmore pm** in better weather - 2 small coppers, 2 orange tips, 6 common blues, 9 brown argus, 2 small heaths, **23 grizzled skippers** (9 west bramble bank, 8 NW, 6 NE area) - Diane Andrews, Tristan Bantock, Andrew Middleton

Some sightings for today (Saturday 9th May 2009) include the following: 1 female Pale Tussock, in set-aside field N of Williams Wood; 1 male Orange Tip, edge of Moat Wood, 12:42 BST; 1 Small Copper, 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 12:53 BST - First for the year! 1 male Orange Tip, Icehouse Wood, 13:18 BST; 1 Green-veined White, Uni-lawns, 13:19 BST; 1 male Orange Tip, along Merryhills Brook / South Lodge Farm, 13:38 BST; 1 Large White, along Merryhills Brook / South Lodge Farm, 13:41 BST; 2, male and female, Orange Tip, together, along Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm, 13:47 BST; 1 Peacock, along Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm, 13:52 BST. - Robert Callf

### **Friday 8th May**

Blowy day, in Broxbourne, in ride 4 speckled wood and 3 green veined white - Steve Kiln

**Thursday 7th May:** Records of common species from sites near Hemel Hempstead. Piccotts End area TL 05 09 - Large White, female Small White ovipositing on oilseed rape, 3 Green-veined Whites, 5 Orange Tips (including 1 female) & Peacock; Picotts End Pools TL 04 09 - Peacock & Speckled Wood; Furtherfield near Abbots Langley TL 09 00 - Speckled Wood. **Wednesday 6th**

**May :** Records of common species from Hemel Hempstead area. Near Leverstock Green TL 08 07 - Green-veined White, male Orange Tip, Comma & Speckled Wood; Buncefield Lane TL 08 08 - Large White, male Orange Tip & Speckled Wood; Cherry Tree Lane TL 08 09 - 4 male Orange Tips; Cupid Green disused railway TL 07 09 - 2 Green-veined Whites including female ovipositing on Garlic Mustard (both were feeding on flowers of this species) & male Orange Tip; near Maylands TL 07 08 - 3 Green-veined Whites including a courting pair, male Orange Tip, Holly Blue, 2 Peacocks

(1 very worn) & 3 Speckled Woods; Westwick Row near Leverstock Green TL 09 06 - Large White, female Orange Tip & Comma. **Tuesday 5th May:** Records of common species from Bricket Wood area. Smug Oak TL 13 02 - male Orange Tip; Moor Mill area TL 14 02 - 2 Orange Tip (1 ml, 1 fml), Peacock & 3 Speckled Woods. Nice to see quite an early *Pyrochroa coccinea* ('Black-headed Cardinal Beetle'), which has increased greatly in the past few years, in nearby Birch Wood - Colin Everett

#### Thursday 7th May

Lunchtime walk Frogmore Quarry, Stevenage - sunny but breezy - 7 Grizzled Skippers, 2 Brown Argus, 2 Common Blue, 1 Small Copper, 3 Orange-tip and a Red Kite! - Trevor Chapman

#### Wednesday 6th May

**Aldbury Nowers** (*don't forget there is a field trip there this Sunday*) A very good day! Myself and Andrew (Palmer) had a good walk around and saw many butterflies, numbers below: S1 - Small heath -4, Small copper - 2, Brimstone, **Grizzled skipper**, Green veined white, Orange tip - 2+, S2 - **Dingy skipper**, Small tortoiseshell. S3 - **Dingy skipper - 2, Grizzled skipper**, Brown argus, Orange tip, Small copper, **Green hairstreak**, Speckled wood, Small white. Open area by coppice - Peacock, Orange tip - 4+, Brimstone - 3+, Green veined white, **Dingy skipper - 2**. Coppice area - Green hairstreak - 2 by entrance and 2 by far side of S3, Brimstone - 3+, Speckled wood, Orange tip - 2+. N1 - **Grizzled skipper**, Peacock, Brimstone, Orange tip. Key Butterfly Area - Orange tip, Brimstone, Large white, Small white, **Green hairstreak - 5, Dingy skipper - 3+**, Small copper, Common blue, Brown argus - 3+. N3 - Green hairstreak, Dingy skipper, Orange tip - 3+, Peacock, Common blue, Brimstone. The totals for **Dingy skipper are 9, Grizzled skipper 3 and Green hairstreak 11**. The Grizzled skipper in N1 was in the newly created grassland (scraped area) as was the dingy and green hairstreak in N3, so this was all very encouraging. The sightings around the coppice area in the southern enclosures and around S3 of green hairstreak were all very exciting as these are also newly created areas/being better managed and it is obviously having a positive effect! Paul Thrush (HMWT Reserve Officer)

Horsenden Hill, sunny, 3/8s cumulus, windy and about 18C. Most of this walk was fairly boring and quiet. But got a shock near the end. In the bluebell clump near 'Peacock city' (north east corner of big field north of Batts) I found a male orange tip motionless and head buried under a bluebell instead of nectaring in it. I moved in, it didn't budge. I touched it and no reaction. It looked in excellent condition. I moved it slightly and found out the reason for its motionlessness. It had just been caught by a white 1cm long spider which was hanging on to its head under the flower like Golem onto the Ring. Well that's nature for you. A big shame for the orange tip but lunch for the spider. 18x Assorted Whites (including 3 definite Green Veined) 12x Speckled Wood 9x Peacock 3x Male Orange Tip (Including the dead one) 1x Small Copper 1x Small Yellow Underwing 1x Mother Shipton (My first of the year, and first since 2007.) - Mike Rubin

News for (Sunday 3rd May 2009) - 1 Red Admiral, S edge of Rough Lot, 10:48 BST - v. worn; 1 male Orange Tip, near Dew Pond, 11:44 BST; 1 Large White, edge of Williams Wood, 11:59 BST; 1 Large White, Hog Hill, at Vicarage Farm, 12:08 BST. - Robert Callf.

Holly Blue at Myddelton House, Enfield, this afternoon. Many Orange Tip at Lee Valley near Cheshunt Lock - Nigel Agar

#### Tuesday 5th May

**Aldbury Nowers**, had brown argus, **dingy skipper (at least 3) and green hairstreak (4+)** in the key butterfly area today, a gentleman walking around also had a grizzled skipper in the same area. There were also small copper, brimstone, peacock and orange tip around - Paul Thrush

Horsenden Hill, the sun came out just in time. Rather windy and humid. About 18C and 3/8's fast moving cumulus and small amounts of top cover. 14x Peacock 10x Assorted Whites (Including 1 definite Green Veined and 1 definite Small) 9x Speckled Wood 7x Orange Tip (5 Male, 2 Female, one of which was being courted by a male, the other feeding on bluebells) 2x Comma (both rather elderly) 1x Holly Blue 1x Small Copper Total: 44 (Almost all south and west of the hill. Not much on the north side.) Plus: 2x suspected small coppers moving very fast having a scrap. Didn't get a clear view. 4x Small Yellow Underwings in the grazing field. (My firsts of the year.) 1x Burnet Companion (My first of the year.) - Mike Rubin

### **Sunday 3rd May**

Despite considerable cloud cover, a visit to Aldbury Nowers this morning produced several sightings across the site. A Small Heath was disturbed in the first enclosure to the right of the path. In the enclosure to the left, a pair of Pale Tussock were found mating on a grass stem and a Small Copper roosting. In the next (3rd) enclosure going up the side of the hillside, another Small Heath was found, also Common and Green Carpet moths. We arrived at the 'top' enclosure about 10.15 and during moments of sunshine, 3 Dingy Skipper were seen (one on a new bare chalk escarpment), 1 Brown Argus, 1 Small Copper, 1 Brimstone and Orange Tip. Returning back down the hillside at the top of '3rd' enclosure a couple of Green Hairstreak were seen clashing in flight on the top edge. Along the bottom track which was in sunshine and sheltered, we saw 1 Dingy Skipper, 1 Orange Tip, 3 Speckled Wood, 1 Brimstone, 2 Green Hairstreak and the highlight a Grizzled Skipper in the most sheltered section of the track/field edge near the road. We then went to Tring Park, and whilst cloudy we looked around as many seed heads that we could, no roosting butterflies were found. By chance we met Nick Bowles as the sun came out at around 4 o'clock and we spread out across the main escarpment watching for any butterfly movement! Apart from a 'white' and Speckled Wood, no butterflies were seen. This is of great concern and we would ask that recorders look at the best areas of Tring Park for the key species of Grizzled Skipper, Dingy Skipper and Green Hairstreak. Please report all visits and negative records are very important! Liz Goodyear & Andrew Middleton with Nick Bowles

### **Saturday 2nd May**

Records of common species from Berkhamsted area. Ashlyns Farm SP 98 06 - Speckled Wood; Sandpit Green area SP 99 06 - Holly Blue, separate male & female Orange Tips and 3 Speckled Woods; near Bottom Farm TL 00 06 - 2 Large Whites & Peacock; near Vale Farm TL 01 05 - Peacock; Bourne End Lane area TL 01 05 - Holly Blue, 2 Green-veined Whites, 2 male Orange Tips, 2 Large Whites, Speckled Wood & 4 Peacocks; near A41 at Bourne End TL 02 05 - Speckled Wood & 2 Peacocks; near Pix Farm TL 01 06 - male Brimstone & male Orange Tip. - Colin Everett

### **9 Grizzled Skipper** on the north pit at Waterford Heath today - Christine Shepperson

Some sightings for today (Saturday 2nd May 2009) - 2 Peacock, along track at Vicarage Farm, 10:47 BST and 10:55 BST. 3, 2 males, 1 female, Orange Tip, at Vicarage Farm between 10:55 - 11:00 BST. 2 male Orange Tip, at Parkside Farm, 11:18 - 11:19 BST. 1 Peacock, at Park Farm, 11:47 BST. 1 Speckled Wood, near Duncan's Wood, 11:50 BST. 1 male Orange Tip, along Hadley Road at Park Farm, 11:57 BST. 2 male Orange Tip, edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park, 12:11 BST. 1 Green-veined White, edge of Rough Lot, 12:13 BST. 1 male Orange Tip, along Merryhills Brook at South Lodge Farm, 13:12 BST. 1 Speckled Wood, along Merryhills Brook at South Lodge Farm, 13:20 BST. 1 Large White, along Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm, 13:21 BST. 1 Speckled Wood, along Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm, 13:22 BST. 1 male Orange Tip, along Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm, 13:24 BST. 1 Speckled Wood, along Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm, 13:25 BST. 1 Peacock, along Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm, 13:26 BST. 1 Large White, along track at Vicarage Farm, 13:31 BST. 2 Peacock, together, along Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm, 13:37 BST. 1 Speckled Wood, along track at Vicarage Farm, 13:39 BST. 1 Peacock, at Barracks, Vicarage Farm, 14:06 BST. 2 male Orange Tip, together, at Barracks, Vicarage Farm, 14:07 BST. 1 Green-veined White, at Barracks, Vicarage Farm, 14:07 BST. 1 Speckled Wood, at Barracks, Vicarage Farm, 14:09 BST. 1 Speckled Wood, near allotments, Vicarage Farm, 14:16 BST - Robert Callf

### **Friday 1st May**

An early morning roost count at **Hexton Chalk Pit** found **17 Dingy Skippers**. At **Telegraph Hill**, 4 Dingy Skippers, **3 Green Hairstreak** and the highlight a **Small Purple-barred moth**. **Hoo Bit**, a Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Dingy Skipper and **1 Burnet Companion moth** - Liz Goodyear & Andrew Middleton

**Five Dingy Skipper** at **Hexton chalk Pit** today and a singleton close to Wood Lane along with **3 green hairstreaks** and 15 brimstones - Stuart Pittman

### **April 2009**

### **Thursday 30th April**

I just had a Brimstone moth fly in again. Got some new pics though including wings closed shots. Heh the cheeky critter flew round and landed on the back of my shoulder when I got the camera

out! Just out of reach. Eventually I let it out the front door and left it spinning and spiralling wildly above the driveway. - Mike Rubin

Grove Farm, the sun unexpectedly tried to shine through the cirrus, and enough heat made it down to tempt out 1x White and 6x Speckled Wood. Grove Farm is filthier than ever, with litter everywhere. Shame it's so badly managed too. They aren't letting the meadow grass grow this year by the looks (freshly cut on the hill), but last year's practice of raising it to the ground has already killed off any butterflies. In 2007 there were Small Coppers there. Not now. At least the Speckled Woods are doing well there though. - Mike Rubin

With some colleagues from the Museum I attended the Perivale Wood Open Day last Sunday 26 April. I saw one and a colleague saw and photographed another - Small Yellow Underwing *Panemeria tenebrata*. I was informed that it had been recorded from Horsenden Hill in 2007 but this may be the first time it's been recorded from Perivale Wood itself. However, it transpires that it was recorded from there in 2005 - Martin Honey

### **Wednesday 29th April**

In suburban garden at Garston near Watford TL 11 00 - 2 Holly Blues, Large White, male Orange Tip & Peacock. The Peacock which I previously reported as active in February subsequently remained in hibernation until at least early April. - Colin Everett

Four **Dingy Skippers** on the **Hexton Chalk Pit Reserve** this afternoon (29th April)- Ian Woiwod

Just a quickie: In about half an hour whilst hanging out washing and pottering in the garden at home in Stanwell Moor (TW19 6AN), I was visited by two Speckled Woods, a Large White (male), an Orange Tip (female) and two Holly Blues. I know my little plot is a bit unruly at the moment, but I thought that wasn't bad at all! - Dave Miller

I was working at **Aldbury** today and managed to get some good sightings. Had a **grizzled skipper** in the southern enclosures (S2/Duchies piece), it flew off before I could get a photo. I also had a very large small tortoiseshell, it was flying fast and rarely settled, again I couldn't catch a photo! Also in S2 were brimstone, small copper, **small heath**, green veined white, peacock and 2 orange tip. In S1 I had 2 **small heath**, comma, small copper, brimstone and various whites. Near S3 in the coppice glade I had a speckled wood and peacock. A couple mentioned that they had seen many green hairstreaks and a few dingy skipper just over the border around Pitstone Hill/Incombe hole, I couldn't locate any in the Key butterfly area or across the southern half of the reserve! Paul Thrush

Horsenden Hill, 16-17C, very light wind, sunny with small cumulus. Not bad considering I shivered my way into work at 6:45AM at 2C and a frost on the roof. 10x Peacock 8x Speckled Wood 7x Assorted Whites 5x Orange Tip (Including 1 +ve ID Female) 1x Small Copper 1x Holly Blue (My first Middx Holly). Total: 32 - Mike Rubin

Terry Lyle had a single male **Common Blue** late afternoon, **Sunday 26th**, at **Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park** - Keir Mottram

### **Tuesday 28th April**

Further to the request from SW Scotland, Dublin Naturalists' Field Club have a list of 10km squares without records. If you are planning a holiday in Southern Ireland this year, you might like to look at the list available on their website. <http://www.butterflyireland.com/>. Follow the links through to [http://www.butterflyireland.com/butterfly\\_records\\_2009\\_&\\_2008.htm](http://www.butterflyireland.com/butterfly_records_2009_&_2008.htm)

News for today (Tues 28th April 2009) - 1 Peacock, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 10:05 BST. 1 Speckled Wood, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 10:07 BST. 1 Green-veined White, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 10:08 BST. 1 Speckled Wood, along bridle-path near Shaws Wood, 12:04 BST. 1 Speckled Wood, along Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm, 12:19 BST. 1 Large White, along Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm, 12:19 BST. - Robert Callf

Horsenden Hill, just caught the last of some sunshine. Clouding over as I got back to the office. xcweather says it was only 12-13C but felt warmer in the sunshine. Almost no wind. 15x Speckled Wood 5x Peacock 4x Small Copper (All in Batts Field) 4x Assorted Whites 4x Male Orange Tip Total: 32 - Mike Rubin



### Monday 27th April

Just to let you know I found a Brimstone moth on my window at about 11pm last night. Very docile it was too allowing closeup pictures without need for a box. [Click here for picture....](#) Then it happily crawled onto my finger so I could let it out the window into the night. I don't expect any butterflies today. Some funny wet stuff is coming out of the sky and it's barely 10C. Not seen that for a while. - Mike Rubin

### Sunday 26th April

Norcott Hill near Northchurch SP 96 10 - Small Tortoiseshell. - Colin Everett

News of well worn **Large Tortoiseshell seen on the Pegsdon Hills** just over the border in Bedfordshire, late afternoon by Ian Small whilst looking for Green Hairstreak, which were present. No Dingys seen.

News via Nick Bowles, Small Blue and Small Heath flying in Buckinghamshire

I visited the site of the Woodland Trust's Heartwood Forest at Sandridge. No new trees planted yet, but some attractive grassy margins have appeared around the edges of the small existing woods on the site. I counted over 50 Peacocks, 1 Painted Lady 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Brimstone, dozens of Large, Small and Green-veined Whites, at least 14 Orange Tips & 2 Speckled Woods. No sign of Holly Blue, which are out in force in St Albans, but I didn't see any Holly on the site either. The branch are helping the Woodland Trust to gain an accurate picture of which species are on the site already in advance of their submitting an Environmental Impact Plan in July. It's a huge site and quite attractive, so if anyone fancies a walk there I'd be interested to know what you see & could suggest interesting areas to visit. Not all areas are yet fully open to the public & there's a map on the WT website at <http://www.woodland-trust.org.uk/appeals/images08/heartwoodmapcol.jpg> - Malcolm Hull (Malcolm's contact details are on the committee page)

Sightings at Coppetts Wood, Friern Barnet today: 16 Speckled Wood, 10 male Orange Tip, 5 definite female Orange Tips, more than 15 unidentified Whites, 6 Peacock and best of all 2 male Brimstone (possibly 3), which I haven't seen here before. This must be my best count since 2006 - Brian Price

No Dingy or Green Hairstreak seen at Hexton - Gavin Vicary

An early morning visit to Grizzled Skipper sites produced **13 Grizzleds** at Frogmore in an hour, scattered across the site. Also 4 Small Copper in total, **1 Brown Argus**, Orange Tip, Large White, Comma and Peacock. No Brimstones though! Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

Stanmore Country Park, quite a good walk today with about a dozen people turning up. Butterflies seen: G/V White, Orange Tip, Holly Blue, Speckled Wood & Peacock. One or two large white butterflies were seen but didn't know if they could be Large Whites or female Brimstones. Have LWs been reported yet as Evelyn Crisp said she could see the black edges on one of them? Last night was far too cold for most of the moths and Ann Piper and I gave up at 10.30 as we were getting too cold. There were 7 moths of five species: Seraphim x 3, Red-green Carpet, Double-striped Pug Early Grey and Nut-tree Tussock. Attendance: 9 last night and about 15 today. - John Hollingdale

### Saturday 25th April

Plenty of grizzled skippers in Waterford Heath yesterday 10 or more - Steve Kiln

News for today (Saturday 25th April 2009) - 1 Speckled Wood, at Park Farm, 10:41 BST. 1 male Orange Tip, at Park Farm, 10:41 BST. 1 Large White, at Park Farm, 10:57 BST. 4 Speckled Wood, Camlet Moat, Trent Park, 11:08 - 11:12 BST. 1 Speckled Wood, Icehouse Wood, 12:08 BST. 1 Large White, Icehouse Wood, 12:08 BST. 1 Speckled Wood, Dew Pond, 12:14 BST. 1 Large White, near Shaws Wood, 12:24 BST. 1 Large White, along bridle-path near Merryhills Brook, Trent Park, 12:28 BST. 1 Speckled Wood, along bridle-path near Merryhills Brook, 12:29 BST. 2 Speckled Wood, together, along Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm, 12:38 BST - Robert Callf

I did my usual walk yesterday late afternoon (making the most of the warm sunshine before the promised downturn in the weather!). Not so many butterflies as usual, probably because the sun was low, but I found two Peacock larval nests next to the River Colne. I assume they are Peacock (the caterpillars are very tiny) as I have not seen a Small Tortoiseshell hereabouts for ages. It

seems quite early to be finding a nest. The other point of interest yesterday was discovering an Orange Tip roost, with five males all settled down on individual adjacent flower heads in the shade on the edge of a bit of wood. I didn't know they did this collectively – maybe a coincidence, I suppose. - Dave Miller

### **Friday 24th April**

Worn **Painted Lady** seen today at ovaltine Fields Abbots Langley - Clive Burrows

**News from Thursday 23rd April:** Garston railway station TQ 11 99 - Speckled Wood, male Orange Tip & Peacock; Park Street TL 14 04 - Holly Blue & male Orange Tip; SW of Hedges Farm near Park Street TL 15 04 - Small Tortoiseshell, 2 separate Commas & 3 Peacocks. - Colin Everett

A few sightings for today (Friday 24th April 2009) - 1 Holly Blue, at River View, Enfield Town, 11:29 BST. 1 Holly Blue, at Gentleman's Row, Enfield Town, 11:32 BST. 1 Holly Blue, at Town Park, Enfield, 12:13 BST. 1 Green-veined White, at Town Park, Enfield Town, 12:13 BST. 1 Speckled Wood, at Town Park, Enfield Town, 12:18 BST. 1 Comma, at Town Park, Enfield Town, 12:21 BST. 1 Peacock, at Town Park, Enfield, 12:37 BST. 1 male Orange Tip, at Town Park, Enfield, 12:37 BST. 1 Large White, at Town Park, Enfield, 12:39 BST - Robert Callf

A quick visit to **Waterford Heath south pit yesterday (thurs)** I saw **5 Grizzled Skippers** and a Green veined white. There were also plenty of Large whites, Peacocks Orange tips and Brimstone - Simon Rasch

### **Thursday 23rd April**

A bit of variety, though still in the same general area: I had a short walk yesterday afternoon (22nd) in the rather artificial park known as Harmondsworth Moor, which is next to the M25, M4 and the River Colne near Heathrow (Grid ref TQ 049776). Butterflies seen included at least six Peacocks, ten Orange Tips (including three females), two Large Whites (one of each), six Green-veined Whites, four Speckled Woods and a Holly Blue - Dave Miller

**Some news for today (Thurs 23rd April 2009)** - 1 Peacock, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 10:47 BST. 3 Speckled Wood, together, at Parkside Farm, 11:02 BST. 1 female Orange Tip, at Parkside Farm, 11:03 BST. 1 Speckled Wood, at Parkside Farm, 11:10 BST. 1 male Orange Tip, at Parkside Farm, 11:11 BST. 1 male Orange Tip, at Park Farm, 11:24 BST. 1 Small White, at Park Farm, 11:35 BST. 1 female Orange Tip, at Park Farm, 11:38 BST. 1 Large White, at Park Farm, 11:57 BST. 1 Speckled Wood, Rough Lot, Trent Park, 12:12 BST. 1 male Orange Tip, edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park, 12:15 BST. 1 Large White, edge of Moat Wood, 12:15 BST. 1 female Large White, Uni-lawns, Trent Park, 12:46 BST. 2 Peacock, together, edge of Williams Wood, 13:05 BST. 1 Speckled Wood, edge of Shaws Wood, 13:10 BST. 1 Peacock, near Shaws Wood, 13:10 BST. 1 Speckled Wood, near Shaws Wood, 13:10 BST. 1 Speckled Wood, along bridle-path near Shaws Wood, 13:15 BST. 2 Small White, copulating, along Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm, 13:26 BST. 1 Peacock, along Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm, 13:27 BST. 1 female Orange Tip, along track at Vicarage Farm, 13:35 BST. 1 Speckled Wood, along track at Vicarage Farm, 13:37 BST. 1 Small Tortoiseshell, at Vicarage Farm, 13:39 BST. 1 Peacock, at Vicarage Farm, 13:40 BST - Robert Callf

**News for yesterday (Wednesday 22nd April 2009)** - 1 male Orange Tip, at South Lodge Farm, 15:18 BST. 1 Speckled Wood, along bridle-path near Equeatrian Centre, 15:21 BST. 1 Holly Blue, along bridle-path near Merryhills Brook, 15:23 BST. 1 Peacock, edge of Shaws Wood, 15:31 BST. 3 Comma, together, edge of Williams Wood, 15:35 BST. 1 Speckled Wood, Uni-lawns, Trent Park, 15:57 BST. 1 mle Orange Tip, by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 16:19 BST. 1 Peacock, edge of Ride Wood, 16:47 BST. 1 Peacock, along Leeging Beech Gutter near 'Three-bridges', 17:01 BST. 1 Speckled Wood, along hedgerow N of Williams Wood, at Vicarage Farm, 17:11 BST. 1 Peacock, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 17:18 BST. 1 Small Tortoiseshell, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 17:18 BST. 1 female Orange Tip, along track at Vicarage Farm, 17:23 BST - my first female of the year! Also saw Paul Whitehouse (comedian) and a film crew (but no cameras) near the Equestrian Centre, 15:20 BST - Robert Callf

Horsenden Hill: Another day another walk to the hill. Cooler at 16-17C and a bit breezier today. You lot must be getting fed up of my repetetive ramblings by now. \*duck\* Shame the weather looks to be deteriorating. 12x Speckled Wood 9x Peacock 6x Assorted Whites 4x Male Orange Tip 2x Comma (Some elderly ones basking on brambles) 2x Small Copper (my firsts of the year, both basking in the grazing meadow) 1x Unknown Nymphalid (50/50 Red Admiral or Peacock in

grounds of Kellogg Tower - didn't stop for me to see properly) - Mike Rubin

**Wednesday 22nd April:** All the following records come from the attractive but under-worked rural areas NW of Watford; butterfly recording was very much incidental to raptor fieldwork. Records dominated by Peacocks & Orange Tips, but a couple of Small Tortoiseshells among them. Also Grass Snakes in two tetrads. Westwood Quarry margins TQ 07 98 - Speckled Wood; Brickfield Spring near Langleybury TQ 07 99 - male Orange Tip; Great Westwood TQ 06 99 - male Orange Tip & Peacock; Bottom Lane near Sarratt TQ 05 99 - Comma, Green-veined White & male Orange Tip; Sarratt E end TQ 04 99 - 2 Peacocks & male Orange Tip; Green End Farm near Sarratt TQ 04 98 - Small Tortoiseshell, Large White, 2 Speckled Woods, male Brimstone & 4 Peacocks; Solesbridge Lane near Sarratt TQ 04 97 - Peacock & male Orange Tip; Micklefield Hall TQ 05 97 - Small Tortoiseshell, 2 Large Whites, 4 male Orange Tips & 5 Peacocks; around Redheath TQ 06 97 - Speckled Wood, male Orange Tip & 5 Peacocks; Sawpit Spring near Chandler's Cross TQ 05 98 - Speckled Wood, male Brimstone & male Orange Tip; near Dell Wood TQ 07 97 - 2 Peacocks & male Orange Tip; Whippendell Wood E edge TQ 07 97 - Speckled Wood; Leavesden Green TQ 09 99 - male Orange Tip and **Tuesday 21st April:** Garston near Watford T L 11 00 - Holly Blue, Speckled Wood - Colin Everett

### Wednesday 22nd April

Kenton, I just had my first ever Angle Shades sighting. I found it on the floor at 11pm as I was about to go to sleep. Must have flown in when I nipped downstairs. Beautiful moth! It was very docile and posed for pictures too. Then let me pick it up and let it out the window again into the night. I guess they are attracted to energy saver tri-colour daylight bulbs then. - Mike Rubin

**Frogmore Quarry** at lunchtime - **2 Grizzled skippers**, 3 Comma, **3 Small Copper**, 1 Brimstone, 5 Orange-tip, 2 Small/GV White - Trevor Chapman

Horsenden Hill, another fine haul numbers-wise even if no definite firsts. Slightly different lunchtime walk route today to normal. Fairly calm, warm and sunny. A touch cooler than yesterday. Perhaps 17-18C. 51 butterflies! Once again would much rather have stayed out there than back into this dead boring office. 16x Speckled Wood 15x Assorted Whites 11x Male Orange Tip - 3 nectaring together in one fenced off field. Just out of range of the camera. Doh! 7x Peacock (Including a couple of unidentified nymphs that were probably Peacock) 1x Male Brimstone 1x Unidentified blue moving at a fair pace at head height near the Kellogg Tower main entrance. Looked a touch dark for Holly Blue (but same size). I have no idea what it was. - Mike Rubin

### Tuesday 21st April

**Help needed to survey threatened butterflies in Scotland** - Andrew Masterton of our south-west Scotland branch is calling for help with some important surveys of Priority butterflies in south-west Scotland. They are Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Chequered Skipper, Mountain Ringlet, Dingy Skipper, Northern Brown Argus. I am passing this link on in case you or someone you know may be visiting the area and may be able to help. He has developed a marvellous website with interactive maps to show you where the colonies are that he wants re-surveyed. All records are to be sent to him via the website <http://www.southwestscotland-butterflies.org.uk/> This is a vast area with some very important colonies so any help would be greatly appreciated. It is also a beautiful part of Scotland, so I am sure you would have a wonderful time. Thank you in advance for your help - Dr Martin Warren

**Waterford Heath** this morning, **3 Grizzleds** waking up on the south pit and **8 in total** on the north pit (4 by the railway and 4 beyond the monument) as the sun started to warm the site up. Also a **Small Copper** and Latticed Heath on the south pit - Liz Goodyear & Andrew Middleton

News for today (Tuesday 21st April 2009) - 1 Green-veined White, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 09:08 BST. 1 Speckled Wood, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 09:08 BST. 2 Peacock at Parkside Farm, 09:10 BST and 09:27 BST. 1 Speckled Wood, at Park Farm, 09:48 BST. 1 Peacock, at Park Farm, 09:52 BST. 2 male Orange Tip, along Jubilee Path at Park Farm, 10:21 BST. 2 Large White, together, along Jubilee Path at Park Farm, 10:21 BST. 2 Speckled Wood, together, along Jubilee Path at Park Farm, 10:22 BST. 1 Peacock at Plumridge Farm, 10:29 BST. 1 male Orange Tip at Plumridge Farm, 10:29 BST. 1 Green-veined White, at Plumridge Farm, 10:37 BST. 1 male Orange Tip, Uni-lawns, Trent CP, 12:11 bst. 1 Peacock, Williams Wood, Trent Park, 12:17 BST. 1 Speckled Wood, near Equestrian Centre, Trent Park, 12:34 BST. Robert Callf

No Dingys or Green Hairstreak seen at Wood Lane near Pirton - Stuart Pittman  
Nor at Hexton Chalk Pit yet - very little of anything other than Brimstones and the occasional Peacock and Comma - Andrew Palmer

Horsenden Hill, another day another warm sunny trip across Horsenden Hill to escape the maddening boredom of the office. Didn't think anything too special but 41 makes my biggest haul yet in pure numbers. Peacocks were testing fresh Nettles in good numbers while also basking. Even in cloud shadows those Orange Tips weren't stopping. Probably ~19C with cumulus clouds growing rapidly aloft. 15x Peacock 13x White 6x Speckled Wood 5x Male Orange Tip 1x Male Brimstone 1x Unidentified brown lep (atleast the undersides were) with fairly pointy wings. Didn't get close to it before it flew off at high speed. Definitely not a speckled wood. No idea what it was. Any ideas? - Mike Rubin

### **Monday 20th April**

Some sightings from the weekend, **18th April Saturday** - Wareside Brimstone 3 G V White - 4 Large White - 2 Small white 2 Peacock 1 Sm Tortoiseshell - 2 Orange tip - 6 **19th April Sunday - Wareside** Brimstone 2 G V White - 2 Large White - 2 Small white 2 Peacock 1 Sm Tortoiseshell - 2 Orange tip - 4 **Widford** Holly blue - 1 Orange tip 3 Small white 2 G V White 2 Speckled wood 1 Peacock 1 **Camberwell Beauty 1 - only the second I have seen in the UK Was fielding at 1st slip at the time for Ware v Buntingford - first cricket match of the season In bright mid afternoon sunshine and it settled about 5 yards from where I was standing. Not sure if any others have been seen at all this year or last. Was in pristine condition, would have liked a better look, had to contain my excitement as we were up against it at the time in the cricket match** - Phil MacMurdie

16.30hr. Thornbera Road Allotments, Bishop's Stortford. 4 Orange tips (2M.2F), 1 Holly blue, 1 Comma, and flying around the outside of an allotment shed one Speckled Wood - Len Crouch

**News from 19th April**, saw my first holly blue in my Bengo garden. Saw a speckled wood in Bencroft Wood on the way to the spurs game - Steve Kiln

Records for today (20/4) at Aldbury are: Northern enclosures - 3 orange tip, peacock, 6 brimstone (probably much higher as there were lots about!) Southern enclosures - 2+ orange tip, comma, peacock, 6+ brimstone, green veined white, small white - Paul Thrush

**News from Saturday April 18th.** Peacock, Brimstone, Orange Tip, Green Veined White, Large White, Small White & Speckled Wood seen in and around The Reeds in central Watford David Chandler

**News for today (Monday 20th April 2009)** - 1 Peacock, Moat Wood, 10:25 BST. 1 Peacock, near Seedfield Spinney, 11:10 BST. 1 Peacock, Uni-lawns, 11:30 BST. 1 female Large White, Williams Wood, 12:02 BST. 1 Comma, edge of Williams Wood, 12:04 BST. 1 male Orange Tip, edge of Williams Wood, 12:04 BST. 1 male Orange Tip, near Shaws Wood, 12:17 BST. 1 Speckled Wood, along Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm, 12:27 BST. 1 male Orange Tip, along Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm, 12:28 BST. 1 Peacock, along Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm, 12:28 BST and another here 12:31 BST. 1 Small White, along Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm, 12:32 BST. 1 Green-veined White, at Vicarage Farm, 12:41 BST. 1 Small Tortoiseshell, at Vicarage Farm, 12:47 BST. 1 Speckled Wood, at Vicarage Farm, 12:52 BST. 1 Comma, near Firing Range, at Vicarage Farm, 12:53 BST. 2 male Orange Tip, together, near Enfield Road, at Vicarage Farm, 12:55 BST. - Robert Callf

**News for yesterday (Sunday 19th April 2009)** - 1 Speckled Wood, at Oakwood Park, 11:51 BST. 10 Speckled Wood, at Grovelands Park, Southgate, N14 between 12:12 - 13:11 BST. 2 Holly Blue, at Grovelands Park, 12:23 BST and 13:11 BST. 1 Peacock, at Grovelands Park, 13:01 BST. 1 male Orange Tip, at Grovelands Park, 13:05 BST. 1 Holly Blue, at Chaseside, Southgate, N14 at 13:40 BST. - Robert Callf

**Sunday 19th April** - At Aldenham Res TQ 16 95 - Large White, Green-veined White, male Orange Tip & Peacock; near Hilfield Park Res TQ 15 96 - 2 Peacocks; near the A41 at Bushey TQ 14 96 - Speckled Wood, male Orange Tip & 4 Peacocks; near Bushey TQ 13 96 - 3 Speckled Woods & 4 Peacocks; near the former university at Bushey TQ 12 96 - Holly Blue, Large White & Speckled Wood. - Colin Everett

**Late news from Saturday 4th April.** In Berkhamsted SP 99 07 - Small Tortoiseshell & Peacock; around Sandpit Green near Berkhamsted SP 99 06 - male Orange Tip, Small White, male Brimstone, 2 separate Commas, 2 separate Peacocks; around Long Green near Berkhamsted TL 00 06 - male Brimstone & Peacock; Bullbeggars Lane near Berkhamsted TL 01 07 - 2 Peacocks chasing; along canal in E Berkhamsted SP 99 07 - Small Tortoiseshell feeding on flowers of cultivated Viburnum. - Colin Everett.

Horsenden Hill, another reasonable haul in the warm unbroken sunshine. 37 butterflies counted. 11x Peacocks - 3 together gorging on bluebell nectar. Several disturbed and revealed by a helpful Orange Tip as it flew along side me for ages as I walked. 11x Whites. 9x Speckled Wood 3x Male Orange Tip. 2x Male Brimstone 1x Unknown Nymphalid (probably a Peacock) - Mike Rubin

Had a holly blue, orange tip and large white in the garden yesterday **(19/4)** in St Albans - Paul Thrush

### **Sunday 19th April**

**Waterford Heath** South, **min 7 grizzled skippers**; Waterford Heath North, **2 grizzled skippers**, also brimstone, orange tip, speckled wood, **lattice heath**. **Frogmore**, **1 grizzled skipper**, **1 small copper** - Tristan & Helen Bantock, Andrew Middleton, also Jack Harrison at Waterford

Afternoon walk along river Beane Sunday 19th April, north of Aston Ford TL276240 to approx TL276245. Three Orange Tip-one male Nine, possibly twelve Peacock Five (minimum) Small Tortoiseshell Nice to see Tortoiseshell again, only managed a few sightings last summer in the entire UK - Phil Bishop

### **Saturday 18th April**

Sandra and I went over to **Waterford Heath South** this afternoon, arriving at 3.45 in full sunshine. We stayed until 4.50pm. We had at least 25 sightings of **Grizzled Skippers**, which involved nectaring, clashing and sun bathing during this time and we estimate that there were at least 5 individuals. We also saw 5 Peacocks and a couple of whites - Kevin and Sandra Standbridge

Sat PM April 18th Fir and Pond Woods NR, Peacocks 7, orange tips 4, commas 2, green veined white 1, speckled wood 1, unidentified whites 2 - David Gompertz

News for today (Saturday 18th April 2009) - 1 Speckled Wood, set-aside field opposite Williams Wood, Vicarage Farm, 10:06 BST. 1 Small Tortoiseshell, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 10:18 BST. 1 Comma, near Hadley Road, at Vicarage Farm, 10:21 BST. 1 Comma, at Parkside Farm, 10:25 BST. 1 Peacock, at Park Farm, 10:51 BST. 1 Peacock, N edge of Rough Lot, Trent Park, 11:42 BST. 2 Peacock, together, SE edge of Rough Lot, 12:13 BST. 1 Peacock, Water Grdn., Trent Park, 12:36 BST. 1 Green-veined White, Icehouse Wood, Trent Park, 12:43 BST. 1 Peacock, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 12:46 BST. 1 female Small White, edge of Williams Wood, 12:49 BST. 1 Green-veined White, edge of Williams Wood, 12:49 BST. 2 Peacock, together, along Merryhills Brook at South Lodge Farm, 13:08 BST. 2 Speckled Wood, (1 along bridle-path near Shaws Wood, 12:58 BST, 1 along Merryhills Brook at South Lodge Farm, 13:02 BST). 1 male Small White, along Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm, 13:14 BST. 1 female Large White, along Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm, 13:17 BST. 1 Peacock, along track, at Vicarage Farm, 13:20 BST. 1 female Large White, along track at Vicarage Farm, 13:20 BST. 1 Small Tortoiseshell, along track at Vicarage Farm, 13:23 BST. 1 Peacock, near Firing Range, at Vicarage Farm, 13:54 BST - Robert Callf

### **Wednesday 15th April**

Considering I have a very small garden in Hayes I do very well for butterflies. Over the past couple of days I have had 2 Small White, 1 Peacock and 1 Orange Tip. Today 15th April I have seen 2 Speckled Wood, 2 Holly Blues, 1 Small White and 1 Peacock. - Helen George

This afternoon I had 3 peacocks, a small tortoiseshell, brimstone and small white in the Key Butterfly Area at Aldbury - Paul Thrush

A good lunchtime haul on Horsenden Hill today. Warm, humid, sunny, about 18-19C. 38 butterflies, my best of the year so far. And the first time this year I've seen good numbers on the north side of the hill. Still a bit squidgy from the overnight showers and thunderstorms (we had



thunder at 5AM apparently) - 14x Peacock, 7x Unidentified Whites. (2 in the grounds of Kellogg Tower, Sudbury Hill), 6x Speckled Wood, 5x Male Orange Tip (My firsts of the year), 2x Unidentified distant non-whites (probably Peacock and Speckled Wood), 2x Large White (1 on Whitton Avenue East), 1x Comma & 1x Brimstone Moth (My first of the year and possibly ever. Seen flying across Cambridge Avenue) - Mike Rubin

News for today (Weds 15th April 2009) - 3 Peacock, at Vicarage Farm, 09:46 - 10:00 BST. 1 Speckled Wood, at Park Farm, 11:34 BST. 1 male Orange Tip, edge of Duncan's Wood, 11:55 BST. 1 Green-veined White, edge of Duncan's Wood, 11:55 BST. 1 Green-veined White, near obelisk, Trent Park, 12:10 BST. 1 Comma, Rough Lot, Trent Park, 12:21 BST. 1 Peacock, near Upper Lake, Trent Park, 12:34 BST. 1 Comma, over Upper Lake, 12:37 BST. 1 Peacock, by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 12:42 BST. 1 Comma, Water Grdn., Trent Park, 12:50 BST. 2 Green-veined White, copulating, along Leeging Beech Gutter near 'Three-bridges', Trent Park, 13:03 BST. 1 Peacock, along Leeging Beech Gutter near 'Three-bridges', 13:03 BST. 1 Comma, Williams Wood, 13:13 BST. 1 Comma, edge of Shaws Wood, 13:16 BST. 1 Small White, along Merryhills Brook at South Lodge Farm, 13:33 BST. 1 male Orange Tip, along Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm, 13:40 BST. 1 Small Tortoiseshell, along Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm, 13:37 BST. 1 Peacock, along Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm, 13:37 BST. 1 male Large White, at Enfield Road, EN2, 14:15 BST. - Robert Callf

Hitchin garden, saw my first Holly Blue of the season in the garden today - 15 April 2009 - Val Fullforth

### **Tuesday 14th April**

Recent news: March 22 TL 117 262 Lilley Park Wood, Herts 2 Comma, April 7 TL 191 302 Ransoms Recreation Ground, Hitchin 1 Green Veined White and 1 Peacock, April 14 Wood Lane, Pirton - Transect 7 Male Yellow Brimstone and 4 Female Brimstone, 3 Small White, 1 Small Tortoiseshell 5 Peacock and 1 Comma (Total 20) - Val Fullforth

**Yesterday** (13th April) was a lovely warm sunny afternoon in **Stanwell Moor**, so off I went to the usual spot by Junction 14 of the M25. Over about an hour (including the walk there alongside the River Colne), I encountered a dozen or so Peacocks, 2 Commas, 4 Speckled Woods, 3 Green-veined Whites (all M), 2 Small Whites (both M), 3 Brimstones (2M, 1F) and at least 8 fresh male Orange Tips. The majority of all these were by the roundabout. One of the Peacocks was attacking anything that moved (including me) and had notable battles with a Comma which attempting to claim the same territory. More sun forecast this week, so I may have to go further afield if I get a chance - Dave Miller

**Horsenden Hill** today, didn't spot Dave's Cinnabar caterpillar or any Orange Tips. It was rather overcast but (thanks to earlier sunshine?) quite warm at about 17C. 5x Peacock, 2x Green Veined White, 1x Comma and 1x Speckled Wood - Mike Rubin

News for yesterday (Monday 13th April 2009) - 1 Peacock, at Park Farm, 13:07 BST, 1 Peacock, at Camlet Moat, Trent Park, 14:13 BST, 1 Speckled Wood, along bridle-path near Shaws Wood, 13:27 BST (My first of the year), 2 Green-veined White, (1 along Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm, 15:45 BST, 1 Sidhil's Field, at Vicarage Farm, 16:05 BST), 1 Comma, along Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm, 15:45 BST. News for today (Tues 14th April 2009) - 1 Comma, at Sidhil's Field, Vicarage Farm, 09:47 BST, 2 Small Tortoiseshell, together, at Vicarage Farm, 10:05 BST, 1 Small White, at Vicarage Farm, 10:28 BST, 1 Peacock, Water Grdn., Trent Park, 13:05 BST. News for yesterday (Monday 13th April 2009) from Robin White - 3 Small Tortoiseshell, along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm, 1 Speckled Wood, at Vicarage Farm and a male Orange Tip here also. Robert Callf

### **Monday 13th April**

Woo hoo after 4 days of dull damp and cool weather (and being envious of those living in the north and west away from this stagnant front) sunshine finally broke through today. I was leading a walking group around the Aquadrome near Rickmansworth and surrounding areas. Was mostly cloudy but enough sun to raise the temps and tempt some butterflies out. As it happens the route map can be seen here: <http://jwalkers.flybywire.org.uk/Mike/Maps/Aquadrome4.html> (I've now led this walk twice for two different groups.) 8 x Whites - Including 1 Female Large White just before wp6. The rest unsure. **3 x Holly Blue** - My firsts of the year. Including a good look at a Male near wp3 and one flying in overcast at wp4. 3 x Peacock 1 x Speckled Wood - between wps 1 and 2. 1 x Red Admiral - My first of the year. Midway between wps 5 and 6 - Mike Rubin

Today 13th April At Bencroft wood - 9 peacocks. At Waterford Heath south 9 peacocks, 3 orange tips, 1 green veined white and one small tortoiseshell - Steve Kiln

I went to the new 'sensory gardens' at **Imperial Wharf**, which has been left with some small boggy areas with ladies' smock etc., on **April 4th** at about midday, warm sunny weather, at TQ263763, recorded Orange Tip, Green veined white, Small tortoiseshell, Brimstone and **Holly Blue** - Max Barclay

### **Wednesday 9th April**

2 Orange Underwing Moths at Bricket Wood on Saturday. A Hummingbird Hawkmoth seen in a Hemel Hempstead garden Sunday morning reported to the BC stall at Capel Manor. Red Admiral at Butterfly World, landed on some newly planted nettles on Tuesday Malcolm Hull

Today 8th April Today at Denham Quarry (Colne Valley) TQ051886 **Speckled wood 1, Orange tip 1**, Peacock 1 - Sezar Hikmet

Barnhill and Fryent Open Space TQ18 - I'm on holiday today. So went for a long bicycle ride up the local hill and nature reserve. 15-16C, windy and about 4/8ths cloud cover. 35 butterflies over about 2 hours. I'm well unfit. Now waiting for my legs to turn back from jelly lol. 13 x Peacock, **7 x Speckled Wood** (My firsts of the year) 6 x Whites (At least one green veined and one small in there) 4 x Comma (2 of them having a good scrap) 5 x Unidentified Nymphs (although probably Peacocks). Lots of Bee flies, hoverflies, bumblebees. Still no orange tips, small tortoiseshells, holly blues or red admirals for me yet this year. Whites and Speckleds the only non hibernators so far. - Mike Rubin p.s. yesterday I saw a few more Peacocks and one Comma on windy Horsenden Hill meadows. Monday was 13 Peacocks and 2 Brimstones, but zero Commas.

Spotted **2 Speckled Woods** in Whomerley Wood (part of Stevenage transect) at about 1330 today. Also on Monday 6 April, saw at least one Small Tortoiseshell in Roebuck Woods, South Stevenage. Did not see one at all last year on several visits at this site. - Peter Clarke

Had another wander around the houses in Stanwell Moor again on the morning of 6th April, and within about 20 minutes had seen two Brimstones (one on pulmonaria in the garden before I'd even set off), two Peacocks, one Small White and a male Green-Veined White settled on aubretia. Hoping now for Orange Tips, of which there have always been quite a few round the village in previous years... - Dave Miller (Dave has sent me a map of where he is recording! Its just next to Jct 14 of the M25! Quote from Dave "The actual best spot is the bit to the ESE of the roundabout, with the red road above and the orange one below. The middle part is wooded, and must have been full of hibernating Peacocks and Commas. A couple of summers ago, I saw 12 different species here on one visit, and the year before, a Clouded Yellow, of all things. This of course is right on the edge of Middlesex - Slough lies just across the Motorway. Quite encouraging really, considering it is hardly the least polluted location on the planet, next to the M25 and half a mile from the end of Heathrow's South runway.")

First **Orange Tip** of the year for me on Horsenden West on Sat 4th April. Freshly emerged and settling low down in the sort of pose reserved for when you don't have a camera with you. Also a Red Admiral nectaring on Blackthorn on Horsenden East summit. Fair numbers of Comma and Peacock and at least 3 Brimstone. On Sunday had another **Orange Tip** at Ruislip Woods along with a few Comma and Peacock (and a Grass Snake). - Andy Culshaw

News for Monday 6th April 2009 - 1 Comma, at Vicarage Farm, 11:26 BST; 1 Small White, at Vicarage Farm, 11:30 BST; 1 Peacock, at Nature Trail, Trent Park, 12:46 BST; 1 Peacock, along Merryhills Brook at South Lodge Farm, 13:50 BST; 1 Peacock, near 'Barracks', at Vicarage Farm, 14:10 BST - Robert Callf

News for Sunday 5th April 2009 - 2 Comma, at Oakwood Park, N14, 11:50 BST and 11:54 BST. Grovelands Park, Southgate: **1 male Holly Blue**, 13:10 BST - first for the year!; 1 Comma, stalked and killed by black cat, 13:47 BST; 3 Peacock, (including two together, 13:51 BST, one at 13:55 BST. Also news for yesterday from Robin White (Sunday 5th April 2009) - **1 male Orange Tip** at Trent Park and two Small Tortoiseshell, (one along Merryhills Brook at South Lodge Farm and one at Vicarage Farm). - Robert Callf

All in TQ18. Kenton Sat 4th April: One unidentified white flew past the garden. Seen from inside.

Kenton Sun 5th April: Photographed a pug or carpet like moth in my room. Will let you know when I identify it. Horsenden Hill Mon 6th April: 13 Peacocks and 2 Male Brimstones. But zero Commas! Where did they all go? In recent weeks they have been numerous and impossible to miss... - Mike Rubin

Sat April 5th at Fir and Pond Woods Nature Reserve Butterflies at last! 4 comma, 5 peacock, 1 large white and 1 unidentified white - David Gompertz

News for Saturday 4th April 2009 - 1 Comma, at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 11:39 BST. 1 Peacock, at Camlet Moat, Trent Park, 13:13 BST. 1 Comma, by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 13:35 BST. 1 Comma, edge of Williams Wood, 13:59 BST. 2 Peacock, edge of Williams Wood, 13:58 BST. 1 Peacock, edge of Shaws Wood, 14:05 BST - Robert Callf

#### **Friday 3rd April**

Just one butterfly seen today (Friday 3rd April 2009) - 1 Comma, S edge of Rough Lot, Trent Park, 14:06 BST. - Robert Callf

**Thursday 2nd April:** A Red Admiral on nettles near Twychells Farm (Bedmond) TL 09 04 - very worn, with most of the left hindwing (including all of the red subterminal band) missing. Small Tortoiseshell on nettles near Abbots Langley TL 10 02 (a traditional site) where also 2 territorial Peacocks and a nearby Comma. Single Commas also near Southend Farm (St Albans) TL 10 08 and on nettles at nearby Hogg End Lane TL 09 08; single Peacocks at the latter site, near Leverstock Green TL 09 06 and near Tenements Farm (Bedmond) TL 10 03. **Wednesday 1st April:** A Large White feeding on blackthorn blossom along Barnes Lane near Kings Langley TL 05 03 at 1250 hours (the same individual as Violet Chandler's?). A Small Tortoiseshell feeding on cultivated Aubretia flowers at Wayside Farm TL 07 02 and a Comma near Badgerdell Wood TL 04 03. Peacocks at Round Wood (Abbots Langley) TL 08 02, Wayside Farm as above, Kings Langley Common TL 06 02 (2 chasing), Barnes Farm TL 06 03, Featherbed Lane (Apsley) TL 05 05 (2 chasing), near Toms Lane (Bedmond) TL 09 03 and at Parsonage Farm (Abbots Langley) TL 09 02. - Colin Everett

Amwell - **1st April:** 2 Sm Tortoiseshell :)) on meadows near the railway line, 4 peacock, 1 red admiral, 2 orange tip in top meadows just below Hollycross Road. That's the second time in a few days that we have seen small tortoiseshell. Let's hope this year sees a recovery in numbers - Alun & Chrissie

#### **Thursday 2nd April**

Two Commas, a Peacock and a freshly emerged (male) Large White seen at Violet Chandler's house in north **Kings Langley** on **Wednesday April 1st** (12.30pm)- news via Dave Chandler

In our gardens this week in **Fulham, London SW6 6NP** I have seen a Brimstone yesterday, Wednesday 1 April and today a Peacock and a **HOLLY BLUE**. I am still seeing lots of small whites but not much else but then a Comma sunning itself on my final security patrol. - Martin Imrie

News for today (Thurs 2nd April 2009) - 1 Comma, at Parkside Farm, 13:23 BST. 1 Comma, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 13:49 BST. 1 Small Tortoiseshell, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 13:50 BST - Robert Callf.

Today at **Denham Quarry (Colne Valley) TQ051886**, Brimstone 1, Peacock 1, Comma 2, Speckled wood 1. Pictures attached - Sezar Hikmet

**Horsenden Hill** - What a difference a day makes! Divide yesterday's total by 10 and you have today's total. 3 Commas and that was it. North sea clag was slow to burn off and still rather nippy at lunchtime. Oh well atleast the sun was shining. On the hill itself East of the road the total was zero! All 3 Commas North end of Batts Field to north side of a deserted 'Peacock City'. Guess the rest were still tucked up in bed having a lie in - Mike Rubin

#### **Thursday 2nd April**

Walked my usual walk from **Stanwell Moor Village to Junction 14 of the M25**, and saw the following, mostly in the lightly wooded bits around the roundabout itself: 12 Peacocks, 2 Brimstones, 2 Small Whites, 1 Comma, and (a first for the year for me) **1 Holly Blue**. Interestingly, I had a walk at Box Hill in Surrey later in the day, and only saw Brimstones there -

far fewer butterflies than in a much less rural setting next to Heathrow! At work today (2nd April), sadly... - Dave Miller

Diane Andrews reports: **Tatem Park, Enfield** - 3 Comma, 2 Peacock, 1 Small White and **1 Speckled Wood**. **Pymms Park, Enfield** - 1 Comma, 1 Peacock and **2 Speckled Woods**.

**Male Orange tip** today my garden west-side of **Bishop's Stortford**. A few Brimstones - Andrew Palmer

Late on this afternoon 8 peacocks and 4 commas on western bank at Waterford Heath south - Steve Kiln

I saw 3 small tortoiseshells this afternoon at **Aldbury** in the southern part of the reserve (had 2 together with the 3rd still in view!), brimstone (at least 1 but it was very mobile so didn't count any more I saw in the area but there could have been more), small white and peacock. Moving onto the northern slopes there were 3 brimstone and 4 peacock about - Paul Thrush

Whilst out on a jog at lunchtime around **Moor Hall barns**, just west of Bishop's Stortford (TL 466188), I disturbed a sunbathing Peacock and was then pleasantly distracted by an ensuing battle with a Comma into whose territory it had appeared to fly. A few moments later, a 'white' fluttered by and paused long enough to confirm a Small White (my earliest ever recorded I reckon) - Tony Moverley

News for today (Weds 1st April 2009) - 1 Comma, along bridle-path near Equestrian Centre, 14:15 BST. 4 Comma, edge of Shaws Wood, 14:27 - 14:30 BST, including three together. 2 Peacock, edge of Shaws Wood, 14:27 - 14:30 BST. 2 Peacock, edge of Williams Wood, 14:32 - 14:35 BST. 2 Comma, edge of Shaws Wood, 14:32 - 14:35 BST - Robert Callf

**Horsenden Hill** today, nice sunny day albeit with too much cloud at times. I extended my walk slightly and explored as much of the meadows and fields West of the hill and road as lunchtime would permit. My largest haul of the year so far albeit nothing 'new' or special to report. 17 x Peacock, 12 x Comma, 1 x Male Brimstone - Mike Rubin

On a rather warm and sunny day at **King's Meads**, after 2 hours all I could manage was 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Comma and 1 male Brimstone - Alan Reynolds

## **March 2009**

### **Tuesday 31st March**

I had a cloudy walk around **Grove Farm, TQ18** just for exercise at lunchtime. I saw one suspected Peacock whizz past me as the sky brightened a bit but otherwise nothing. Curses! The sun came out strongly as a gap came through just as my walk finished - Mike Rubin

Just one butterfly seen today (Tues 31st March 2009) - a Peacock at **Vicarage Farm, Enfield** at 13:21 BST - Robert Callf

### **Monday 30th March**

News for today (Monday 30th March 2009) - 1 Comma, at 'Barracks', Vicarage Farm, 12:55 BST. 1 Peacock, along Leeging Beech Gutter near 'Three-bridges', Trent Park, 13:47 BST. 1 Comma, near Water Grdn., Trent Park, 13:56 BST. 2 Comma, together, by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 14:00 BST - Robert Callf

**Horsenden Hill**, sunny gentle conditions if a little nippy (was -1.5C on my roof overnight and frosty start). Not that much around but enough to take note. Clouded over as my walk ended. Got some good close up macros of a Peacock nectaring on dandelion. East of the road on the hill just 1 Comma and 1 Peacock (near the summit) spotted. The rest all between Batts Field and the tennis court. 5 x Comma, 4 x Peacock, 1 x Female Small White - my first Small White of 2009 seen at southern end of Batts Field nectaring. 1 x Male Brimstone - My first Middlesex Brimstone of 2009 - Mike Rubin

### **Tuesday 24th March**

Probably not worth reporting but 2 x Comma and 2 x Unknown Nymphalids spotted during my

lunchbreak on Horsenden Hill. That was all. I guess too cold (10C?) and windy despite strong sunshine for most. - Mike Rubin

Some more records for you - **Saturday 21st March** Wareside: 2 Brimstone 1 Sm Tortoiseshell 3 Comma 1 Large White 1 Small White. Ware - near Angel Pub on Star Street: 1 Brimstone 1 Comma 1 Small Tortoiseshell. 1 Peacock Gt Amwell Roundabout (A414): 1 Brimstone 1 Sm Tortoiseshell 1 Large White **Sunday 22nd March** Wareside 2 Brimstone 2 Sm Tortoiseshell 3 Comma 1 Large White 1 Small White - Phil MacMurdie

Peacock & Small Tortoiseshell seen at Violet Chandler's house in north Kings Langley on **Friday March 20th** (2pm)- news via Dave Chandler

News for **Sunday 22nd March 2009** - 1 Comma, at Oakwood Park, N14 at 12:30 GMT. 2 Comma, at Grovelands Park, Southgate, N14 at 13:32 GMT and 13:37 GMT - Robert Callf

First sighting in my garden (Maple Cross) of a lovely peacock basking in the sunshine March 22nd. Also a possible sighting of a comma on the fence but not confirmed - too far away! Ann Piper

In woods around Waterford Heath on **22nd March**, 12 commas and a peacock - Steve Kiln

**21st March** at Amwell: 2 Peacock, several Comma, 1 Small White (not seen by me), 1 Brimstone (female) and **1 Green-veined White** - Jan Hein van Steenis

**20th March.** I disturbed a smart **Green-veined White** when picking rhubarb on my allotment in Hatfield today. It kept returning to the rhubarb, presumably because it was warm & sheltered - I'm not aware that this is a food plant - John Moss

#### **Thursday 19th March**

Horsenden Hill "The lower meadows which I explored today were comparatively disappointing (and still very soggy in places). Total was 7 Peacocks and 7 Commas, plus 1 unidentified Nymph up a tree (probably a Comma). Most of the butterflies were around Peacock Central. The lower meadows were rather sparse." Has anyone seen any Small Tortoiseshells in the TQ18 area at all? Not seen a single one. No Red Admirals either.. (No Brimstones but David Howdon reported them so I guess they are around somewhere.) - Mike Rubin

Seen a Comma basking in Dalrymple Close, Southgate, N14 this afternoon at 12:35 GMT (Thurs 19th March 2009) and news for yesterday (Wednesday 18th March 2009) - 2 Comma, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park at 15:55 GMT - Robert Callf

#### **Wednesday 18th March**

In my garden in **SW6** on Sunday 15 we had a Comma visit. It was very dark looking, nearly black with just a few dark orange markings and I really had to study it hard to work out that it was a Comma. Anyway it was my first butterfly of the year and inspired me to go for a walk. In **Bishops Park** at the nature area in the moat garden which is the part nearest the junction of Fulham Palace Road and Fulham High Street I saw two normal bright looking Commas and a Peacock. I then continued my walk over the bridge to the Surrey side where I saw a Red Admiral, a peacock and two male Brimstones on Barnes Common. Since then in my gardens I saw a **Green Veined White** on **Tuesday 17th** and three Small Whites yesterday, Wednesday 18th - Martin Imrie

Lovely spring sunshine today - I took a walk from **Stanwell Moor Village** to right next to the M25 Junction 14 roundabout. During about 40 minutes, I saw 3 Peacocks, 2 Commas and a white of some sort - fairly small, so probably exactly that. Both Commas posed nicely, and one of them then ruined my shot of a Peacock basking by chasing it away with some vigour. Pictures attached. - Dave Miller

A brief 10 minute wander down the farm footpath near home in **Maple Cross** today yielded one peacock basking in the sun who flew off at my approach! - Ann Piper

**Horsenden Hill**, the Peacocks were back. 7 of them in Peacock City north of Batts Field. Commas everywhere again. But no other species to be seen still. Total: 17 x Comma, 8 x Peacock (one on the summit, the rest at Peacock Central). - Mike Rubin

Had a small tortoiseshell on the farm track that leads down to **Alpine Meadow** and a brimstone



within the reserve. Also a small tortoiseshell in **Verulamium Park** this lunch time - Paul Thrush

Sorry these are a bit late. Sunday 15th March - 1 Male Brimstone in a garden in Attimore Road, Welwyn Garden City. Monday 16th March - 1 Male Brimstone and 1 Comma in my garden in Stevenage - Steve Lane

### **Tuesday 17th March**

Had a lovely walk in the sunshine along the grand union canal in Rickmansworth yesterday (March 16th) Saw my first butterflies of the year. A bright yellow (male) Brimstone flying purposefully along the tow path and a brief glimpse of ( 99% certainly) a Small Tortoiseshell which spiralled up from some nettles into the tree tops. Also a number of bumble bees and other insects busying about in the sun! Ann Piper

1 Small White in Ware garden - Michael Goodyear

Horsenden Hill, where did all the Peacocks go? Peacock central just below the hill (North of Batts Field, East end) has been invaded by Commas. Also walked the meadows below the hill to the West. About a Comma a minute. They were everywhere. Nothing else though other than bumblebees and 2 Green Woodpeckers in Upper Thrifts. 21 x Comma 1 x Peacock - Mike Rubin

News for today (Tues 17th March 2009) - 1 Comma, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 10:50 GMT. 1 Small White, at Parkside Farm, seen settled, 11:02 GMT; 1 Comma, at Park Farm, 11:55 GMT, 1 Comma, Moat Wood, 12:20 GMT. 1 Comma, Rough Lot, 12:50 GMT. 1 Comma, by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 13:01 GMT. 1 Peacock, along Leeging Beech Gutter near 'Three-bridges', Trent Park. 2 Orange Underwing, (1 flying around Silver Birch, Moat Wood, 12:20 GMT, 1 settled on ground, Rough Lot, 13:47 GMT) - Robert Callf

### **Monday 16th March**

A male Small White by the railway line near Bushey Mill Lane in North Watford (TQ 11 98). A Comma and a male Brimstone a little further up the line at Garston station (TQ 11 99); three male Brimstones and a Peacock in the Bridgewater Road & Chiltern Park Avenue area of Berkhamsted (SP 98 08). Previously on Sunday 15th March, Peacocks at Elstree Aerodrome (TQ 15 96) (in flight) and near Bhaktivedanta Manor at Letchmore Heath (TQ 14 97) (feeding on catkins of a female Salix caprea) - Colin Everett

Just had to tell someone that I saw my first small tortoiseshell butterfly today (16th March) and found your site. Am so pleased about this as last year I didn't see a single one and that was very worrying. Lots of Red Admirals etc but not a plain little cherry eater. **Ware** - Edie Threadgold

Butterflies are back in my **Hatfield** garden for the first time since 27 Feb, as follows;- Sunday 15th. 3 Comma, 1 Peacock: Monday 16th. 2 Comma. 1 Brimstone (m). Plenty of bees about too. Hopefully this year will be better than last - John Moss

At lunchtime today in the Bicentenary Gardens at **Brunel University** I saw 5 Peacock, 2 Comma, 2 Brimstone & a **Small White**. A work colleague (Ron Jackson) saw a Small Tortoiseshell in the same area - Steve Pash

Sightings for yesterday (Sunday 15th March 2009) - 1 male Brimstone, along Leeging Beech Gutter N of Williams Wood, Trent Park at 10:36 GMT. 4 Comma, (2 together by Lower Lake, 13:08 GMT, 2 together, edge of Williams Wood, 13:32 GMT). 1 Peacock, edge of Williams Wood, 13:30 GMT, Trent Park. Sightings for today (Monday 16th March 2009) - 3 Comma, at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 12:52 - 12:56 GMT, also a Small Tortoiseshell at Vicarage Farm, 12:56 GMT. 1 Peacock along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, Vicarage Farm, 13:17 GMT. 1 Comma, along Leeging Beech Gutter near 'Three-bridges', Trent Park, 13:35 GMT. 2 Comma, by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 13:47 and 13:53 GMT. 1 Peacock, Camlet Moat, 14:50 GMT and 1 Comma, edge of Williams Wood, 15:17 GMT - Robert Callf

I have the Sunday 15th March 2009 Orange Underwing pics online. I looked at good pics on ukleps as well as on ukmoths and from the antennae I'd say Orange Underwing it is?!

[http://www.flybywire.dsl.pipex.com/OrangeUnderwing/20090315\\_OrangeUnderwing1.jpg](http://www.flybywire.dsl.pipex.com/OrangeUnderwing/20090315_OrangeUnderwing1.jpg)

[http://www.flybywire.dsl.pipex.com/OrangeUnderwing/20090315\\_OrangeUnderwing2.jpg](http://www.flybywire.dsl.pipex.com/OrangeUnderwing/20090315_OrangeUnderwing2.jpg) It was 11:30pm. The first moth I saw shooting up high into the trees when I disturbed it. But the black / orange/red pattern was obvious even as it blurred past me. Way too early for Small Copper so was

curious. Then saw the 2nd settle just off the path and was able to take pictures before it (and my walking group) moved on. Both pics are of the same 2nd moth (similar in size to Small Copper butterfly). The location of both of them appears to be 'Foxley Grove' in Herts - TL245164, along the public right of way through the crop field, just where the path kinks away at the north end of that woodland edge. Meanwhile it was T-shirt weather this lunchtime. A very quick walk over the 'Hill' revealed: 7x Peacock 6x Comma 6 or the Peacocks were all in the field directly north of Batts, basking or sparring in groups of 2 and 3 each. 3 of the Commas in Batts Field. One more Peacock nectaring on the blossom by the side of the Ballot Box pub. Remaining 3 Commas along the nature trail north of Batts, the walkway between Batts and the Grazing field, and on the north facing slope as I entered the adjacent field at the opposite end to the Ballot Box blossom.. Spring is back indeed! - Mike Rubin

At Amwell (TL374129): 1 Comma, 1 Brimstone (male) At Balls Wood (TL344106): 1 Comma, 1 Peacock (Lesser?) Orange Underwing was seen (in flight) on both Saturday and Sunday at **Amwell** - Jan Hein van Steenis

Some sightings from **Sunday 15th March Wareside** 2 Brimstone (both males) 1 Comma 1 Peacock ? Not sure - but probably 1 small white.unless it was a white day flying moth. **Widford** (next to River Ash, near church) 3 Brimstone (all males) 4 Comma 1 Peacock 1 Small Tortoiseshell - Phil MacMurdie

Had 2 peacocks this morning on the walk down to **Alpine Meadow**, then 2 brimstone (males) near Bridgewater School. Driving through Northchurch I saw another brimstone. At **Aldbury Nowers** there were 2 peacocks in the southern enclosures together with a male brimstone and a comma whilst on the northern side there were 2 male brimstones in the key butterfly area with a female - Paul Thrush

A walk around the suburban fringes of **Ware** this lunchtime was productive with these totals in an hour: Peacock 7, Small Tortoiseshell 1, Comma 8, Brimstone 5 and more surprisingly, though I see there have been a few other reports from further south, a female **Large White** - Andrew Wood

Late news for yesterday (Sunday) a male brimstone in my **Royston** back garden. Today (Monday) a walk around the **Thundridge and Tonwell** areas via the Rib valley produced 3 peacocks, 3 Commas, 2 Small Tortoiseshell and 2 Male Brimstone - Simon Rasch

Dave Howdon and I got out onto **Horsenden Hill yesterday (Sunday 15th)** and picked up our first butterflies of the season. In Perivale Wood we had 4 Comma, 2 Brimstone and a **Small White** and on Horsenden West we had a Comma and another Brimstone - Andrew Culshaw

### **Sunday 15th March**

Prediction correct!

I couldn't find time for a butterfly walk today but did go for a bike ride from **Tring (Herts.) to Ashridge Forest** (also in Herts.) and back, but I went through Bucks on the way in the area of Pitstone Hill and Stepps Hill. I was busy not falling off and such; but still saw a min. of 8 Brimstone (male), 1 definite Small Tort, 2 Peacock and 1 Comma. I also saw a probable Peacock and a Small Tort/Comma at height against the sun - Nick Bowles

Lovely spring day. Saw 2 Brimstones and 2 Commas at **Waterford heath** and a Comma and Brimstone at home in **Bengeo** - Steve Kiln

I was just north of **Welwyn Garden City** today on a walk. I saw 5 Male Brimstones, 3 Commas and 1 Peacock. Ahh spring is truly here! I also saw 2 of what I presume is a day flying moth, Small Copper sized, with black and red hind wings, and black and white front wings (seen while basking). Flew much like a butterfly. I managed to take a pic or two so will try to ID it later - Mike Rubin

As moreorless expected in today's suitable weather conditions, I (and many others) saw the first 5 butterfly species of the year this afternoon in **Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park**. In order of appearance Red Admiral (2), Brimstone (some, all males), Small White (1), Comma (plenty) and Peacock (1). I would say that these are the expected first five these days in London - early Red Admirals are established, **Small White** comes consistently early, and early Small Tortoiseshell are as rare as hen's teeth - Keir Mottram

Two Male Brimstones & a **Small Tortoiseshell** at **Folly Lane, St Albans**. My first Spring ST locally for two years - Malcolm Hull

News from Diane Andrews - Visited **Alexandra Palace** between 12 and 1 today, saw 2 male Brimstones, 6 Commas, 1 Peacock and a **Small White**

As you predicted, saw my first Brimstone today in **Letchworth** - Ian Small

Went to **Sewardstone marsh** today and saw what I am sure was an **Orange Underwing**. It was resting on some bramble just a few feet away from us near some birches and flew off before we could take a picture. In flight, it looked orange, the size of a Large Skipper. Definitely not a Comma, which we had just seen. Has anyone else seen any this year? Helen Bantock

Great Brimstone prediction! One seen in **Thorley Lane East, Bishop's Stortford** (TL479191) mid morning. - Tony Moverley

Brimstone (later a female) and Comma in my **Harpenden** garden this morning, first leps of the year! Robin Pearson

**Ware** garden at 11 o'clock 2 male Brimstone came through together - Liz Goodyear

### **Saturday 14th March**

Watch out - tomorrow the 15th will be a Brimstone day if the sun shines!!!

A male **Brimstone** seen by Bob Husband at **East Barnet** today - news via Robert Callf

Whilst standing outside St John's church hall at **Boxmoor** today (prior to the meeting) in relatively cloudy conditions, I saw this strange sight - a **Peacock** butterfly flying past, my first of the year - Liz Goodyear

### **Wednesday 11th March**

First butterfly sighting of the year in our **Hayes** garden. Today 11th March a **Brimstone** butterfly - Helen George

### **Monday 9th March**

Saw the **Red Admiral** again today (Monday 9th March 2009) along Leeging Beech Gutter near 'Three-bridges', **Trent Park** at 12:45 GMT - Robert Callf

### **Saturday 7th March**

Looks like my walk up Barnhill just before lunch was timed well. Just after I got back the top cover streamed in and no more sunshine for the moment.. And a result too. In addition to a hoverfly, several bumblebees and the first blossoms opening up, I found one Comma basking at approx TQ193880. Also found a tatty micromoth near TQ189878. All near the end of my walk - Mike Rubin

### **Friday 6th March**

Saw a Red Admiral today (Fri 6th March 2009) nectaring on newly emerged Giant Hogweed along Leeging Beech Gutter near 'Three-bridges', Trent Park at 11:20 GMT, whilst in the company of Robin White - Robert Callf.

### **Thursday 5th March**

Robin White reports another **Red Admiral** on **Monday 2nd March 2009**, along Leeging Beech Gutter near 'Three-bridges', at **Trent Park** at 11:40 GMT - Robert Callf

### **Tuesday 3rd March**

News from **Friday 27th February**, a **Peacock** flying along the edge of rank grassland at South Way near **Abbots Langley** at lunchtime - Colin Everett

Nothing to report in TQ18 Middlesex. Went for a brisk walk over Horsenden Hill at yesterday lunchtime with eyes peeled. That Blackthorn bush near the summit is now almost a month behind last year in flowering (Comma and huge bumblebee nectaring on it early Feb last year). Still not

flowered yet today. Buds slowly enlarging though. Only nectar sources I saw all lunchtime were early daffodils and crocuses in a garden by a busy road - Mike Rubin

My first sighting of the year a Comma seen in the Bernard Heath area of St. Albans enjoying the sun on the afternoon of the 21st of February, [managed to get a photo of the comma enjoying the sun for about an hour](#) - A J Steele

## **February 2009**

### **Friday 27th February**

I'm delighted to report my first butterfly of the year in **Hatfield**, a bright but slightly battered **Comma** sun-bathing in my front garden around 1300 hrs today. With the first frog-spawn in the pond, bumble bees flitting around & the first 7 spot ladybirds, it looks like spring - John Moss

I was out in **Walkern** this morning, doing one of my birdatlas squares and was pleased see a **Small Tortoiseshell**, my first butterfly of the year - Steve Lane

Robin White saw a **Peacock** in a set-aside field at **Vicarage Farm, Enfield** this morning at 11:30 GMT (Friday 27th February 2009) - news via Robert Callf

Lovely spring day 27th Feb saw a **comma** in woods between **Waterford Heath and Waterford Marsh** - Steve Kiln

Just to say that I saw a **Brimstone** butterfly on **Saturday 21st Feb** in flight in **Letchworth**, Herts - Stephen Mason

### **Saturday 21st February**

During a visit to Monks Wood, **Stevenage** saw a **Comma** basking on dead bracken in a clearing at around 2:05 pm (Saturday 21 Feb) - Peter Clarke

First sighting of a **Small Tortoiseshell** here in **Tring**, Herts. I made one circuit of the field about 12.00 as a detour on my way to the shops; on the way back I decided to repeat the circuit now 12.30; and saw a relatively immobile Small Tort basking in strong sun - Nick Bowles

### **Friday 20th February**

A rather interesting sighting today, a fresh **Small white**. Couldn't quite believe it considering the date and recent prolonged cold winter. [Managed to get a shot on my phone camera](#). Butterfly seen while working in **Kings Langley** at 1230 pm, flying well and basking in sun - Clive Burrows

### **Thursday 19th February**

**1 Red Admiral** seen by Robin White, at 11.30 near Dew Pond, **Trent Park** today - news via Robert Callf

### **Monday 16th February**

I visited Bricket Wood Common for the annual Brown Hairstreak egg search on Sat 14 Feb. The amount of Blackthorn (the larval foodplant) in the area is significant, though most is not in good condition for egg laying. Much of the Blackthorn in the wood is over-mature and shaded. Areas of Blackthorn closeby are heavily grazed by horses or flailed. On the plus side, there are signs of Blackthorn regenerating on the south side of Mutchetts Wood, where the Blackthorn hedges ripped out two years ago. And a new hedge containing Blackthorn has just been planted alongside the Ver Valley path, to the east. Despite searching all Blackthorn which looked remotely suitable, no eggs were found. It is now 13 years since the last egg record from this site, which was the last confirmed location in the two counties for this species. If anyone else would be interested in joining me in hunting for Brown Hairstreak eggs or would like guidance on how to search your local area, Malcolm Hull

### **Friday 13th February**

On **10th February**, a **Peacock** seen in a **Garston (Watford)** garden at 1420 hours - basking with wings open but out of the sun, moving but not seen to fly. Max air temperature 4 degrees C and a biting force 4 N'Westerly. Activity presumably the result of disturbance from an unknown source. Still present at dusk in same spot with wings folded - Colin Everett

**Peacock** seen at **Tyttenhanger gravel pits** on **Tuesday 27 January** - Dave Cording

### **Sunday 1st February**

We were having our lunch yesterday ( **31st Jan** ) in the front room of our house in **Potters Bar** when a **brown butterfly** fluttered down the road. I am fairly sure this was a hibernating Small Tortoiseshell that had been disturbed - John Scivyer

### **January 2009**

#### **Tuesday 27th January**

At around 2.30pm today whilst working in **Vicarage Road Cemetary** a Peacock Butterfly flew past then came back towards me then spiralled over a conifer tree. It most likely flew from its hibernation place in the remains of a dead tree we were cutting down. I've seen Red Admirals in winter before but can't recall seeing a **Peacock** before - news via David Hutchinson (seen on Herts Birding newsgroup)

#### **Monday 19th January**

CMS North and East (Tel-01462 459395, email - northeast.cms@hertscc.gov.uk) have arranged a second butterfly conservation task at Broxbourne Wood NR on **Sunday 25th January** at 10pm. Meet West Carpark - if you would like to help please contact CMS for more details.

#### **Wednesday 7th January**

CMS North and East (Tel-01462 459395, email - northeast.cms@hertscc.gov.uk) have arranged a butterfly conservation task at Broxbourne Wood NR on Sunday 11th January at 10pm. Meet West Carpark - if you would like to help please contact CMS for more details.

#### **Sunday 4th January**

Encountered my first butterfly today. An awoken **Comma** dropped out of an Ivy hedge I was trimming while at work in Boxmoor, **Hemel Hempstead** - Clive Burrows