

Butterfly Conservation Hertfordshire & Middlesex Branch

Archive Page

Sightings and news from July to December 2011

 [Archive Index](#)

 [Photo House Index](#)

This page contains sightings details of all the butterflies and moths reported to the [Sightings page](#) between July and December 2011.

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 2011

Thursday 22nd December 2011

I was rather surprised to see a female **Brimstone** sunning itself at 13.45 today near Therfield - Rupert Pyrah

News via Robert Callf, a **Red Admiral** seen by Robin White in Trent Park today at 12.40

Tuesday 20th December 2011

I spotted a **Red Admiral** in my back garden in Stevenage on 20th December. Never seen a butterfly in winter before! - Michelle

Saturday 10th December 2011

One **Red Admiral** moving around the Enfield garden today - Andrew Middleton

One red admiral sunning its self in a front garden of Cornwall Road St.Albans close to some still flowering red valerian - Richard Geary

Friday 9th December - nearly forgot to report I was surprised to see a faded **Small Tortoiseshell** fluttering over drive between our & neighbour's Hatfield house at 10.00hrs in bright sunshine over frost-covered car. Possibly disturbed by contractor working next door. This is my latest ever record. John Moss

November 2011

Sunday 27th November 2011

A Red admiral in my garden in Stocking Pelham today (Sunday 27th) valiantly struggling against the wind! Andy Brown

Friday 25th November 2011

In our back garden in St. Albans on Saturday 19th November I saw a Comma basking on our bay tree in a sunny patch, and later I'm 90% sure a single **Holly Blue** (confirmed by Andrew Wood) higher up on the same tree. No photos I'm afraid! - Nathan Budd

2 sightings for you from Saturday 19th November. Both at Wareside 1 red admiral on ivy flowers and one peacock, flying around our back garden - Phil MacMurdie

Sunday 20th November 2011

1 Red Admiral here in the field behind my house (in Tring) just after lunchtime today (20.11.11). It was moving south west but without any great determination, however this was pretty much against the S wind - Liz Goodyear

One red admiral in the Warren, Hartham Common this afternoon (Sunday 20th)- Andrew Wood

Saturday 19th November 2011

I took a walk at lunchtime around my patch just west of Heathrow. It was beautifully sunny, barely a breeze, and probably around 13 degrees or so. I fully expected to see a Red Admiral, and was not disappointed. By the River Colne, I found three altogether, two of them behaving territorially and basking in the sun, and the third flying vigorously towards the sun at low tree-top height. The first two obliged with photos, and both were well worn. Their tattered wings and thin nearly furless bodies mean (I guess) that come the end of this prolonged warm spell, they are unlikely to survive. There is still nectar around, but they seemed uninterested in the remaining ivy and bramble flowers. Moving on to the more open area next to the M25 and Junction 14, a flash of white caught my eye. A female Brimstone, perhaps. However, it passed close enough to see that it was too small, too white and possessed black markings. It promptly disappeared. Then, by complete chance, ten minutes later and a few hundred metres away on the edge of a bit of woodland, I spotted something identical - and it chose to settle. The butterfly revealed itself to be a female **Green-veined White**. It looked quite new - one hindwing showed a little damage, probably from brambles, but otherwise a lovely dusky late season example. I have to say I have never before seen a Green-veined White in November; I can only imagine that its chrysalis was tucked away in a particularly warm spot, and whatever normally triggers dormancy until spring failed to kick in (or the spring trigger activated prematurely). Anyway, to mutilate the well-worn cliché still further, the fat lady is still warbling, but it's a very unusual tune...

[Link to UK Butterflies and the photo of the Green-veined white](#)

- Dave Miller

Ware garden, 1 Red Admiral - Liz Goodyear

Thursday 17th November 2011

A faded, and relatively small, Red Admiral on the wing at 1354, Stevenage, junction of Sish Lane and Trinity Road. Sunny but not really warm enough, perhaps explaining its unusually rapid flight. - Stefan Hunt

Tuesday 15th November 2011

At 13.45 Almond Hill School, Stevenage Old Town. 1 Red Admiral on Tobacco plant. 14.30 Field behind St Nicks church 1 male Vapourer moth on the wing- Lee Browne

Sunday 13th November 2011

A Red Admiral in my garden in Stocking Pelham sunning itself - Andy Brown

A very active red admiral in the garden this morning, Marshallswick, St Albans - Richard Geary

Red Admiral in the garden yesterday in Hitchin - Nigel Agar

Today (Sunday) 1 Red Admiral flying south through the garden in Bengoe and 2 on Ivy in All Saints Churchyard, Hertford - Andrew Wood

Saturday 12th November 2011

Red Admiral flying around the Ivy in our Hayes garden today - Helen George

Wednesday 9th November 2011

A probable Speckled Wood drifted past our bedroom window in Hatfield late morning during a sunny spell. Quite a surprise. Perhaps it was roosting under the eaves & was stirred by the warmth & absence of breeze - John Moss

Saw a Red Admiral flying around some Hornbeams in Whitewebbs Wood this afternoon (Wednesday 9th November 2011) at 12:58 hrs., before finally settling on one of them. - Robert Callf

Wednesday 2nd November 2011

I saw a red admiral on Monday at Tewin Orchard and a speckled wood yesterday (1/11/11) at Aldbury. One of the volunteers I was working with saw a brimstone although it could have been disturbed as we were brushcutting (it did feel quite warm though so could have been out of its own accord). - Paul Thrush

Saw hummingbird hawkmoth hovering over our garden patio table yesterday 1st November and the day before. Full sunshine in Gustardwood near Wheathampstead - G Walton

Tuesday 1st November 2011

This afternoon (Nov 1st) a fresh looking Holly Blue in my garden Pinner. This is much the latest sighting I have ever recorded. Could this be an insect that would normally have overwintered as a pupa? - Graham Elcombe

2 Red Admirals in Ware Park, 4 on the western side of Ware, 2 in All Saints Churchyard, Hertford and 1 at Cromwell Road Allotments, Hertford - Andrew Wood

Tuesday afternoon (Nov 1st) at the top of the meadow, Fir & Pond Woods NR... a very smart red admiral. - David Gompertz

One Red Admiral flew past me in Primrose Hill Rd, Stevenage Old Town, early afternoon -Stefan Hunt

Today 1st November I saw a Red Admiral out enjoying the sunshine in my garden in Stocking Pelham - Andy Brown

October 2011

Monday 31st October 2011

A rather wind blown Red Admiral in my garden in Stocking Pelham on Sunday the 30th October
â€" Andy Brown

With a bumper apple crop this year I have taken up cider making. Putting the crushed apple pulp 'pomace' , on the compost heap at the Old Hale Way allotment site in north Hitchin, it has attracted Red Admirals 28/10/11 Nigel Agar

Saturday 29th October 2011

Yesterday, 28th Oct, a fairly tatty Small Copper on Horsenden Hill at Paradise Fields. Also two Red Admirals nectaring on ivy nearby on Horsenden West. - Andy Culshaw

Seen at Hatfield Aerodrome (disused) yesterday 28-10-11: 3 x male Brimstone - David Wheatcroft

Just to confirm saw a male Holly Blue from a balcony flat at Grovebury Court, Chase Road, N14 yesterday afternoon (Friday 28th October 2011) at 13:08 hrs - it was in pristine condition and is the latest I have ever seen. - Robert Callf

Friday 28th October 2011

Seen a Speckled Wood, in very good condition, this morning (Friday 28th October 2011) at Boxer's Lake, Enfield at 11:22 hrs., settled on Ragwort. Later around 1 o'clock a Holly Blue was seen flying on Chase Road, Southgate settling on Leylandii - Robert Callf.

Wednesday 26th October 2011

Peacock in Broxbourne Woods yesterday 25th. Red admiral at Lilley in North Herts today - Steve Kiln

Still one Speckled Wood at Fernyhill Wood, Enfield this afternoon (Wednesday 26th October 2011) at 13:00 hrs, settled in a sunny spot. - Robert Callf

Monday 24th October 2011

Two Red Admirals in the garden today, nectaring on a flowering shrub.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/7395917@N02/6275912931/>

Robin Pearson

Robin White and myself saw a Speckled Wood at Ferny Hill Farm, Enfield this afternoon (Monday 24th October 2011) at 12:38 hrs. - Robert Callf

Sunday 23rd October 2011

Red Admiral seen at Norton Green, Nr Stevenage early afternoon, wasteground at rear of travellers site - Stefan Hunt

On Thursday 20th October, I saw a Red Admiral nectaring on a flowering shrub just outside my office to the north of Heathrow. Very sunny, but only 10-11 degrees. On Saturday 22nd October, I found a Speckled Wood sunning itself by the River Colne in Stanwell Moor - again no more than 11 or 12 degrees, but sunny. - Dave Miller

A few butterflies to report today (Sunday 23rd October 2011) - 1 Peacock, flying around the church building at St Thomas's, Oakwood, N14 this afternoon. At Grovelands Park, Southgate, N14 saw 2 Speckled Wood and 1 Red Admiral near the Ranger's Hut at 13:30 hrs. - Robert Callf

Thursday 20th October 2011

1 Holly Blue in Wengeo Lane, Ware, **1 Brown Argus** Ware Cemetery, 3 Red Admirals, The Bourne Ware, repeatedly clashing around a patch of sunlight rather than feeding or flying directionally. A few other Red Admirals around Hertford and Ware Andrew Wood

At least two different Small Coppers in the meadow enclosure at Fir & Pond Woods today (Thursday 20th October 2011) between 11:45 - 12:30 hrs. Also a Red Admiral settled near the charred remains of a bonfire nearby at 11:52 hrs. - Robert Callf

Wednesday 19th October 2011

One Red Admiral on Ivy by garden this morning, shade temperature 8 degrees - Robin Pearson

Tuesday 18th October 2011

Saw a Small Copper in Oakwood Park, N14 today (Tuesday 18th October 2011) settling on Bramble, 11:50 hrs and again in the same area 12:04 hrs., quite faded - no other butterflies today. - Robert Callf

Monday 17th October 2011

I saw a red admiral sunning itself high up in the trees at about 4.30pm on Saturday 15th in Kings Langley. Elizabeth Debenham

Saw a Red Admiral fly South at Parkside Farm, Enfield, today (Monday 17th October 2011) at 11:00 hrs - Robert Callf & Robin White.

Sunday 16th October 2011

Hummingbird Hawk Moth in Hemel Hempstead garden yesterday on Buddleia "Pride of Hever Castle" and Verbena Bonariensis. Saw a late female Common Blue at Butterfly World today. - Malcolm Newland

Red Admirals again today in Hitchin garden - Nigel Agar

Saturday 15th October 2011

Took a 4 hour walk around Hertford and Ware and in total saw **44 Red Admirals**, 2 Commas, 2 Small Coppers (displaying pair), 1 Small White, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Holly Blue - Andrew Wood

A very tatty Speckled Wood in the Harpenden garden today - Robin Pearson

A few sightings for today (Saturday 15th October 2011) - 1 Red Admiral, flew S, at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 10:32 hrs; 1 Red Admiral, flew S, at Park Farm, Enfield, at 11:40 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood, at Wildwoods Lake, Enfield, 14:00 hrs. - Robert Callf

Two Red Admirals on ivy in our Hitchin garden on Friday 14 October - Nigel Agar

Friday 14th October 2011

Today 14th saw a common blue and 2 brown argus at Rickneys. On Tuesday 11th in Bencroft wood a red admiral and two small coppers on a single ragwort plant in the field by Bencroft, so much for ragwort pulling it was one of the few nectar sources around - Steve Kiln

Saw a Speckled Wood today (Friday 14th October 2011) at Lakeside, Oakwood, N14 at 13:10 hrs and a Peacock at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, at 13:42 hrs., near the Firing Range. - Robert Callf

Finally, two Red Admirals on the ivy adjacent to my garden, very fresh-looking but too flighty for a photo, yet - Robin Pearson

Was working at Aldbury yesterday and saw a single small copper and meadow brown in the southern enclosures. - Paul Thrush

Mon 10 Oct Red Admirals and Comma on ivy Amwell Quarry lane. Weds 12 Oct Red Admiral also on ivy Hitchin garden - Nigel Agar

Thursday 13th October 2011

Saw a Small White today (Thursday 13th October 2011) at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, along Merryhills Brook, 14:00 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood, opposite Firing Range, at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 14:20 hrs., also thought I saw a Red Admiral at the 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park. - Robert Callf

Just to report sightings of Red Admiral as follows in my Hitchin garden: 1 seen on 27/09/2011 at 13.00 20 deg., 1 seen 08/10/2011 at 13.00 Cloud 16 deg. and 1 seen 13/10/2011 at 13.30 Overcast 15 deg. All 3 sightings have been near the ivy hedge at side of driveway - today's butterfly had a good fly around the whole back garden before disappearing into next door's garden - Val Fullforth

Wednesday 12th October 2011

Nearby Weedy field, Batford - 1 Large White - Darin Stanley

Small Coppers are still on the wing at the Shackledell Grassland, Stevenage. A now faded individual was seen basking in the sun on top of a grass stem at about 1400 hours today. - Peter Clarke

Tuesday 11th October 2011

Visited Patmore Heath area today and walked several of the paths in and around Albury. Although not very sunny it was about 18d C and we encountered 8 Red Admirals and 1 Small White. Also searched several good areas of elm and in total found 8 white-letter eggs. 6 were on one branch overhanging the footpath! Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

Have had a Comma on the Ivy flowers just outside my garden for the last two days.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/7395917@N02/6234202106/>

Robin Pearson

Saw a Speckled Wood at Capel Manor Gardens, Enfield today (Tuesday 11th October 2011) at 14:05 hrs. - Robert Callf

Monday 10th October 2011

Saw a couple of Speckled Wood today (Monday 10th October 2011) - 1 at Parkside Farm, Enfield, 10:22 hrs and another at South Lodge Farm, Enfield, along Merryhills Brook, 12:30 hrs. - Robert Callf

Sunday 9th October 2011

A burst of warm sunshine (over 20 degrees again today) enticed me out at lunchtime today. My local patch was full of **Red Admirals again - I counted over 25** in twenty minutes of walking and at one point could see seven at once. Many seemed freshly emerged. They were nearly matched in numbers by Speckled Woods, some of which were noticeably small. The only other butterflies seen today were a Holly Blue and a Small White. The former was flying in and around a holly tree overgrown with ivy and surrounded by brambles - which after all must constitute ideal habitat for the species - Dave Miller

Saw two Red Admirals flying South at Vicarage Farm, Enfield this morning (Sunday 9th October 2011) at 11:30 hrs and 11:55 hrs. - Robert Callf

Saturday 8th October 2011

Saw two Speckled Wood together yesterday (Friday 7th October 2011) in Grovelands Park, Southgate, N14, at 16:00 hrs. Also saw a large nymphalid fly SW over Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 10:30 hrs today (Saturday 8th October 2011) most probably a Red Admiral- Robert Callf.

Thursday 6th October 2011

Visited Pymmes Park, Edmonton today (Thursday 6th October 2011) and saw the following - 2 Speckled Wood, 13:45 and 13:55 hrs and 2 Red Admiral, together, 13:52 hrs. Nice and sunny but a lot cooler than of late - Robert Callf

Wednesday 5th October 2011

During occasions of brightness in breezy conditions and still 20c between 11.30 and 1.30, 12 Small Copper, 1 Speckled Wood and 1 Little Owl at Cheshunt Park - Andrew Middleton

Wednesday 5th October 2011 - 2 Speckled Wood (1 at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 09:40 hrs and another near Shaws Wood, Trent Park, 13:10 hrs); 1 Red Admiral, at Park Farm, Enfield, 11:30 hrs. - Robert Callf

Tuesday 4th October 2011

Probably last of good days yesterday at Ickleford 4th October had brown argus, female common blue, first Small coppers at site this year x 2, despite much searching they typically appear when I was not really looking, a speckled wood made up the quartet - Stuart Pittman

Monday 3rd October 2011

Determined to squeeze the last drop of sunshine out of this last day of summer-in-autumn, I took a walk locally by the River Colne at around 4pm. It was still around 25 degrees, despite the low sun, and the butterflies I saw were pretty active. In a sunny gap in the trees right next the river, I found the air patrolled by three Red Admirals, sparring and spiralling as energetically as their forebears had done in the same spot in July. Two Speckled Woods and a Holly Blue became caught up in the aerial display, certainly to the dismay of the latter, who don't usually get involved in that sort of thing. There has been one Holly Blue or another in this spot since early April, six months ago now. Moving on to the open area near the M25, I found that the extensive Small Heath colony was still in evidence, with at least eight individuals seen. Again, these have been around in numbers since April. Finally, back nearly to home, I watched some more Speckled Woods catching the last bit of sun on the ivy. One of them put up a beautiful new Comma, which regained its composure, and then its perch, as the restless Speckled Wood moved on. Dave Miller

Saw 6 small coppers and a brown argus at waterford heath south pit, nothing at all on the north pit but still 4 brown arguses, a common blue and small copper at Rickneys - Steve Kiln

Monday 3rd October 2011 - 1 Red Admiral at Boxer's Lake, Enfield, 13:50 hrs; 2 Speckled Wood, together, at Grovelands Park, Southgate, N14 at 14:32 hrs - Robert Callf

News via Robert Callf, Robin White reported seeing a Small Heath at Vicarage Farm this morning at 10.30

Sunday 2nd October 2011

Saw three Speckled Wood (Sunday 2nd October 2011) - 1 at Oakwood Park, N14, 12:30 hrs and 2 at Grovelands Park, Southgate, N14, 13:00 and 13:50 hrs. - Robert Callf

Saturday 1st October 2011

Saw the following butterflies today (Saturday 1st October 2011) - 1 Small Copper, settled on Michaelmas daisies, Parkside Farm/Res., Enfield, 10:15 hrs; 1 Red Admiral, flew S, at Park Farm, Enfield, 10:40 hrs; 3 Speckled Wood (1 at Rectory Farm, 11:40 hrs, 1 at Strayfield Road, Clay Hill, 11:45 hrs, 1 at Flash Lane, Clay Hill, 11:55 hrs); 1 Small Copper, at Whitewebbs Park, 12:50 hrs; 1 Red Admiral, at Hilly Fields Park, Enfield, 13:10 hrs; 1 Red Admiral, at Gordon Hill Station, Enfield, 13:35 hrs. - Robert Callf

Male **Clouded yellow** Sat 1/10/11 Wilstone Village, new road - John Taylor

Whilst walking in Fairlands Valley Park (part of my Stevenage transect) earlier this afternoon, I spotted a Small Copper at Shackledell Grassland at about 1330 hrs and a Red Admiral just outside the Canyon Play Centre some 5 minutes later - Peter Clarke

September 2011

Friday 30th September 2011

Saw a Red Admiral from the 121 bus along Chase Rd, N14 yesterday morning (Friday 30th September 2011) at 11:22 hrs. - Robert Callf

Probably around 28-29 degrees (the car claimed 30, but it's prone to exaggeration) this afternoon at Heathrow. A quick walk near the River Colne at around 4pm was blessed with a couple of Speckled Woods, a Common Blue (male), a Small White, two Red Admirals, a Comma and four Small Heaths. All were very active in the unaccustomed warmth - I think I've grown used to more sluggish behaviour over this less than sunny summer! - Dave Miller

A pristine angle shades moth was resting on a leaf in Kings Langley on September 22nd in the afternoon. I have seen a speckled wood butterfly for a day or two and again today 30th September in Kings Langley. Elizabeth Debenham

Thursday 29th September 2011

A few butterflies to report today (Thursday 29th September 2011) - 1 Speckled Wood, along bridle-path near Merryhills Brook, Trent Park, 12:20 hrs; 2 Red Admiral, flew SW, at South Lodge Farm, Enfield, 12:25 and 12:35 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, at South Lodge Farm, Enfield, 12:30 hrs. Also a single Small Copper in set-aside field North of Williams Wood, Trent Park, today (Thurs 29th September 2011) at 09:35 hrs - Robert Callf

Wednesday 28th September 2011

Today 28th at Waterford Heath south, 5 small coppers and small white. Yesterday 27th, walking Chiltern ridge at Aldbury Nowers, 3 red admiral, a comma, a large white, a meadow brown, a small copper and several small heaths - Steve Kiln

Berkhamsted to Hemel via Grand Union canal, walk in warm sunshine today 28 Sept, 1 Comma at Berkhamsted, 1 Speckled Wood, 1 Peacock & 1 Small Copper near Boxmoor - Ernie Leahy

Just had a short walk today (Weds 28th Sept 2011) over the 'New Fields' in Trent Park, along some of my old transect here and saw the following: 5 Small Copper, nectaring on thistles and Michaelmas daisies, 11:55 - 12:20 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood, along the board walk near the tube-line, Sect 7, 12:00 hrs; 1 Peacock, nectaring on Michaelmas daisies, set-aside field top of Snakes Lane near the Oakwood entrance, 12:38 hrs. Surprisingly no Red Admiral or Comma here today. - Robert Callf

Tuesday 27th September 2011

Speckled Wood in King Georges Playing Fields, Stevenage, near tennis courts just before 4pm - Stefan Hunt

Saw a single Small White in set-aside field N of Williams Wood, Trent Park yesterday (Monday 26th September 2011) at 13:30 hrs. - Robert Callf

Sunday 25th September 2011

Nomansland Common, Sandridge - Despite a windy and overcast afternoon, 12 people attended the last branch field trip of the year. Butterfly numbers were lower than expected, but we saw a total of 12 Small Coppers and one Small White. This morning at Butterfly World Chiswell Green, I saw 2 Common Blues. At Bricket Wood Common St Albans, butterflies were hard to spot amongst thousands of falling leaves. I managed to pick out 1 Speckled Wood and a Red Admiral, nectaring on ivy blossom - Malcolm Hull

A couple of sightings for today (Sunday 25th September 2011) - 1 Red Admiral, flew S, Parkside

Farm, Enfield, 11:08 hrs; 1 Red Admiral, nectaring on Ivy, along Jubilee Path at Park Farm, Enfield, 11:50 hrs. - Robert Callf

Saturday 24th September 2011

Here are some butterfly sightings for today (Saturday 24th September 2011) - 1 Red Admiral, at Vicarage Farm, 10:45 hrs; 1 Small Copper, at Parkside Farm/Res., Enfield, 11:15 hrs; 1 Comma, on Ivy along Jubilee Path/Park Farm, Enfield, 12:00 hrs; 1 Red Admiral, on Ivy along Jubilee Path/Park Farm, Enfield, 12:00 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood, along Jubilee Path/Park Farm, Enfield, 12:00 hrs; 1 male Common Blue, at Barracks, Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 13:40 hrs. Robert Callf

Friday 23rd September 2011

Speckled Woods and Commas at Broxborne Wood and Bencroft. Meadow brown and small copper at Waterford heath and Rickneys but also two brown argus at Rickneys - Steve Kiln

Thursday 22nd September 2011

A few sightings to report for today (Thursday 21st September 2011) - 1 Small Heath, at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 13:25 hrs; 1 male Small Copper, at Parkside Farm/Res., Enfield, 13:40 hrs; 2 Speckled Wood, together, at Bay Farm, Enfield, 14:30 hrs. - Robert Callf

Red Admiral caught in the moth trap last night along with a Silver Y moth. (Hitchin garden.) Caught one before many years ago and reported it to Ted Ellis, BBC nature presenter at the time, who wrote back and said Red Admirals do occasionally fly at night. - Nigel Agar

I was in Danemead today and saw a speckled wood, a white which I think was a green-veined white and a painted lady. - Andy Brown

Wednesday 21st September 2011 Saw a couple of butterflies today (Wednesday 21st September 2011) - a probable Red Admiral at Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm, Enfield and a Speckled Wood here at 13:50 hrs - Robert Callf & Robin White. - Robert Callf

Tuesday 20th September 2011 Of interest, a Hummingbird hawk moth on buddleia in Easington Road Dane End at 17.20 today - Laurence Drummond

Red Admiral and Comma on Ivy along the lane to Amwell Quarry on Tuesday 20 September. Nigel Agar

A few sightings to report today (Tuesday 20th September 2011) - 1 Small White, at Parkside Farm, Enfield, 12:25 hrs; 2 Speckled Wood, at Park Farm, Enfield (1 at 12:55 and another at 13:20 hrs); 1 Red Admiral, flew S, at Park Farm, Enfield, 13:50 hrs. - Robert Callf

Monday 19th September 2011

Some sightings for yesterday (Sunday 18th September 2011) - 1 Small White, at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 10:50 hrs; 2 Red Admiral, at Vicarage Farm, Enfield (1 flew S, 11:35 hrs, 1 flew SW, 11:38 hrs); 1 Comma, settled on Ivy, at Park Farm/along Jubilee Path, 13:10 hrs; 2 Red Admiral, settled on Ivy, along Jubilee Path/Park Farm, Enfield, 13:10 hrs. Today (Monday 19th September 2011) - 1 Peacock, rather worn and faded, along Strayfield Road, Clay Hill, Enfield, 13:15 hrs; 1 Large White, in Lavender Hill Cemetery, Enfield, 14:45 hrs. - Robert Callf

Sunday 18th September 2011

Stunning Small Copper late morning in recently cleared area to east of dip in main ride, Broxbourne Woods. Alan Jackson

Saturday 17th September 2011

Saw a Comma settled on Ivy along the Jubilee Path at Park Farm this afternoon (Saturday 17th September 2011) at 12:50 hrs., and a Speckled Wood settled on Bramble near the Equestrian Centre at Trent Park at 14:00 hrs. - Robert Callf

Friday 16th September 2011

I did a proper tour of my local patch (Stanwell Moor) at lunchtime today, and found the wooded bits full of Speckled Woods, plus several new Commas, a few Whites, a Peacock and numerous Red Admirals on the ivy flowers. On the same piece of burdock as one of the Commas sat a Silver

Y moth, looking freshly emerged as well. The grassy expanses near the motorway still had a good number of Small Heaths, as many as I'd seen at the wide expanse of Denbies earlier in the day, plus a brand spanking new Common Blue male. I arrived home to find a Small Copper meandering along the grassy roadside verge, and a Holly Blue investigating the (non-flowering) ivy on the side of the house. Rough totals: Small Heath 20 Speckled Wood 20 Red Admiral 10 Small/GV White 5 Comma 5 Holly Blue 3 Common Blue 1 Peacock 1 Small Copper 1 Silver Y moth 1 - Dave Miller

In Bencroft Wood and Broxbourne Wood 12 commas and 4 speckled woods, in field by Bencroft Wood, two small coppers and a late meadow brown. At waterford heath south small copper and meadow brown. At home in Bengoe red admiral, comma, painted lady and humming bird hawk moth - Steve Kiln

Thursday 15th September 2011

Some sightings for today (Thursday 15th September 2011) - 3 Red Admiral (1 Sidhil's Field, at Vicarage Farm, 09:20 hrs., 1 flew S at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 09:40 hrs, 1 Parkside Farm, Enfield, 10:40 hrs); 1 Large White, on michaelmas daisies, set-aside field near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 13:10 hrs; 1 Painted Lady, on michaelmas daisies near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 13:10 hrs; 1 Comma, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 13:15 hrs; 3 Speckled Wood, together, Shaws Wood, Trent Park, 13:20 hrs. - Robert Callf

Wednesday 14th September 2011

Just to report sightings of 5, possibly 6 Red Admirals in the Sherrardspark Wood area (Welwyn Garden City) 1 x Red Admiral on Templewood Vale (Knightsfield area) yesterday. 4 x Red Admirals around the Reddings of which 2 (possibly a third) were in a sunny glade just off one of my transects (I was clearing away a tent and beer bottles), chasing each other (I'm not sure whether or not we had initially disturbed them). The other 2 were flying into gardens of houses which back onto the woods in this location - Charlotte Fox

A few butterflies to report today (Wednesday 14th September 2011) - 1 Red Admiral, along hedgerow N of Williams Wood at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 09:55 hrs; 1 Small Copper, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 10:15 hrs; 1 Red Admiral, settled on Ivy flowers, Strayfield Road, Clay Hill, 12:45 hrs; 1 Red Admiral, at Whitewebbs Park, 13:40 hrs. - Robert Callf

Tuesday 13th September 2011

Saw a Red Admiral at Brayside Farm, Enfield this afternoon (Tuesday 13th September 2011) at 13:45 hrs., flying during a shower. - Robert Callf

Broadwater GP, Holly Blue today - Chris Lamsdell

14.00.14.45, St Nicks Churchyard. 17 Red Admiral, 8 Speckled Wood, 2 Green-veined White and 1 Large White. - Lee Browne

Redbourn Church End. Few Butterflies but several Large Whites passing through the garden & one Red Admiral this morning Yesterday a Speckled Wood - Ernest Leahy

Monday 12th September 2011

Mint condition Red Admirals and one Comma feeding on ivy on the lane up to Amwell Quarry reserve before the rail crossing - Nigel Agar

A few sightings for today (Monday 12th September 2011) at Whitewebbs Park, Enfield: 1 Red Admiral, 14:22 hrs and two Small Copper, 14:25 and 14:33 hrs. - Robert Callf

Sunday 11th September 2011

A short walk along the River Colne near me in Stanwell Moor, on a sunny warm but windy morning, produced only half-a-dozen species. Red Admirals and Commas were on the ivy flowers, and taking an interest in the remaining squishy blackberries. A new batch of Speckled Woods were basking and flitting in and out of the riverside vegetation, along with a few Small and Green-veined Whites. Finally, one solitary very new female Holly Blue had found a rare thistle flower to nectar from, and was hanging on tight. Numbers: Red Admiral 6 Comma 3 Speckled Wood 8 Small White/GVW 5 Holly Blue 1 - Dave Miller

A few sightings to report today (Sunday 11th September 2011) - 1 Red Admiral, at Park Farm,

Enfield, 10:45 hrs; 1 Small White, edge of Icehouse Wood, Trent Park, 11:57 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood, edge of Shaws Wood, about 12:30 hrs; 1 female Small Copper, along Merryhills Brook/Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 12:50 hrs., the variety with a row of blue spots in the hindwing - fresh, the first of the third brood (Robert Callf & Robin White). - Robert Callf

I have just moved house to Stocking Pelham at the far north east of the county so I thought I would send in a few records. Over the past couple of weeks I have seen several Large whites , one speckled wood, one small tortoiseshell and one large, pale butterfly which I think was probably a painted lady " but not positive ID. Hopefully some more interesting sightings next summer ! - Andy Brown (HMWT)

Saturday 10th September 2011

Had a trip to London today and saw the following: Victoria Embankment Gardens (TQ304804) Whilst at the Thames Festival I saw 2 Large White and a Red Admiral nectaring despite a light rain shower. - Rob Smith

Friday 9th September 2011

Saw the following butterflies yesterday (Friday 9th September 2011) - 2 Speckled Wood, together, along bridle-path near Equestrian Centre, Trent Park, 13:34 hrs; 1 Peacock, at Barracks, Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 14:15 hrs; 1 male Meadow Brown, near Hadey Road, at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 15:20 hrs. - Robert Callf

Thursday 8th September 2011

Saw my first Painted Lady of the year today (Thur 8 Sep) on the heather in Sherrardspark Wood, Welwyn Garden City - Ian Flack Ian Flack

Wednesday 7th September 2011

Late news from 29th August: Had three Commas and two Red Admirals at the same time on *Escallonia Bifida* today. It certainly lives up to its reputation as a butterfly magnet as it was clearly preferred to anything else in the garden including *Verbena Bonariensis*, although that did attract a solitary Small White. Yesterday, joining the Commas and Red Admirals were my second Painted Lady of the year, this time a perfect specimen. Also had a Speckled Wood which spent a long time nectaring on *Escallonia Bifida*. Don't see that very often. A Large White also turned up. Today the usual suspects were joined by a Small White plus my latest ever Meadow Brown. It was slightly smaller than average but looked fresh and like the Speckled Wood yesterday behaved very aggressively towards the much bigger Red Admirals. My previous latest Meadow Brown was 27.8.1991! - Malcolm Newland

Saw a couple of butterflies today (Wednesday 7th September 2011) - 1 Red Admiral, settled on the South facing side of Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 10:05 hrs and a Green-veined White settled at Whitewebbs Park at 14:15 hrs. - Robert Callf

Tuesday 6th September 2011

Saw a Green-veined White at Brayside Farm, Enfield today (Tuesday 6th September 2011) at 12:20 hrs. - Robert Callf

Sunday 4th September 2011

Painted Lady in our neighbour's front garden in Harpenden this morning (4 September): just before the Heavens opened. - Alan Jackson

Saturday 3rd September 2011

Seen at Hatfield Aerodrome 1 Common blue, 1 small heath, 1 small copper (very fresh), 5 Speckled woods, 15 large white, 3 small white and 3 meadow browns - Andy Steele

Saw the following today (Saturday 3rd September 2011) - 2 Comma,(1 edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 12:08 hrs, 1 Vicarage Farm, 12:25 hrs). - Robert Callf

Old rivers nursery site, Sawbridgeworth, 13.30 pm, poor, 18 Meadow brown, 4 Speckled wood, 1 Gatekeeper, 1 Common blue, 1 Red admiral and one Painted lady. - Laurence Drummond

Friday 2nd September 2011

I did the transect at Aldbury today with the highlight being a male chalkhill blue in the southern enclosures (Iâ€™ve never seen one in the southern part of the reserve before). There were also 2 red admirals on the buddleia in the northern section together with 3 brimstone. - Paul Thrush

Hatfield aerodrome today, 4 small heath, 1 brown argus and 1 very worn Small copper all in the eastern area. Laurence Drummond

A summer day at last. In Bencroft Wood one small copper and a comma, At Amwell bird reserve 10 Red Admirals on Ivy Flowers plus brimstone and Holly blue and many whites. As well as three Hobbies near the bridge towards Holycross lake being fed by Adults. At Waterford Heath North 3 small coppers, a brimstone and 3 small heath. At Rickneys Small copper and three brown Arguses and small heath - Steve Kiln

Thursday 1st September 2011

Some news for today (Thursday 1st September 2011) - 1 male Meadow Brown, at Parkside Farm/Res., Enfield, 10:25 hrs; 1 Small Heath, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 12:00 hrs; 1 male Meadow Brown, set-aside field near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 13:08 hrs. - Robert Callf

Brunel University Bicentenary Garden A short lunchtime walk produced **2 Clouded Yellow**, 4 Brown Argus, Small Copper, Speckled Wood, GV & Large White and Red Admiral. 31st August - Lime Hawkmoth Caterpillar at the base of a Lime Tree on campus - Steve Pash

August 2011

Monday 29th August 2011

News for today (Monday 29th August 2011) - 1 Small Heath, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Williams Wood, at Vicarage Farm, 09:32 hrs; 1 male Common Blue, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Williams Wood, at Vicarage Farm, 09:34 hrs; 1 female Brown Argus, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Williams Wood, at Vicarage Farm, 09:34 hrs; 2 Small Heath, together, 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 11:35 hrs; 1 female Gatekeeper, set-aside field near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 12:10 hrs; 1 Small Copper, set-aside field near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 12:10 hrs. - Robert Callf

4 x speckled wood and 1 x gatekeeper at Bricket wood common and 1 x yellow underwing in Bushey garden today - David Gower

Sunday 28th August 2011

A couple of sightings today (Sunday 28th August 2011) - 1 Green-veined White and 1 Common Blue near Hadley Road/Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 09:18 hrs. - Robert Callf

Friday 26th August 2011

On August 21st I was at Aldbury Nowers. Weather was beautiful in the evening light. I saw one brimstone, treble bar, a few common blues and possibly brown argus as the row of top wing orange spots continued to the edge. Several small heaths were in evidence with three circling round each other on the marjoram in Dutchy's Piece. The big find was what I believe was a female SILVER WASHED FRITILLARY on brambles in the woodland climb up to the top enclosures.
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/7392841@N04/6069317145/>
Elizabeth Debenham

Humming Bird Hawk Moth on Red Valerian (in the rain) in our Hitchin garden today - Nigel Agar

Thursday 25th August 2011

Saw three Small Heath this afternoon (Thursday 25th August 2011) - two at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 13:00 hrs and another at Ferny Hill Farm, Enfield, 13:40 hrs. - Robert Callf

I did the transect at Aldbury on Monday, along with the usual meadow browns, small heaths and the odd gatekeeper there were quite a few brimstones about, 2 red admirals and single comma, peacock and small tortoiseshell. On the previous Friday (19/8) I'd seen a small tortoiseshell in the large southern enclosure and a single marbled white (which came as a surprise as I haven't seen one in over a month!). - Paul Thrush

Wednesday 24th August 2011

Saw the following today (Wednesday 24th August 2011) - 1 female Brown Argus, roosting in grass, along hedgerow near Hadley Road at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 09:25 hrs; 2 Meadow Brown and 2 Gatekeeper, at Whitewebbs Park, at about 13:30 hrs. - Robert Callf

Jersey Tiger seen today (24 Aug 2011) in the wildlife garden of the Natural History Museum - Martin Honey

Monday 22nd August 2011

Red Admiral at Park Farm, Enfield at 12:40 hrs and one Small Heath at Bay Farm, Enfield, 14:30 hrs., today (Monday 22nd August 2011). - Robert Callf

35 Small Heath, 60+ Meadow Brown and 3 gatekeeper on Hounslow Heath - Chris Slack

Sunday 21st August 2011

Some sightings for today (Sunday 21st August 2011) - 1 Red Admiral, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Williams Wood, at Vicarage Farm, 08:45 hrs; 1 Small Heath, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Williams Wood, at Vicarage Farm, 08:50 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood, at Rectory Farm, Enfield, 10:52 hrs; 2 male Common Blue, at Whitewebbs Park, 11:50 hrs and 1 Brown Argus here as well, 11:50 hrs - the first that I have seen at this site! - Robert Callf

Saturday 20th August 2011

A couple of butterflies to report today (Saturday 20th August 2011) - 1 male Common Blue, at Parkside Farm/Res., Enfield, 10:22 hrs; 1 Comma, edge of Rough Lot, Trent Park, 11:50 hrs. - Robert Callf

Small heaths today, 2 at Hatfield aerodrome and 4 at Colney Heath - Laurence Drummond

Friday 19th August 2011

Two Small Tortoiseshells and two Large Whites at the BMX Olympic track at Stratford - Malcolm Hull

Saw the following today (Friday 19th August 2011) - 1 Small Heath, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Williams Wood at Vicarage Farm, 09:40 hrs; 1 Red Admiral, near Hadley Rd., at Vicarage Farm, 09:50 hrs. Robert Callf (P.S., Still a few Gatekeepers and Meadow Browns but not much else)

Thursday 18th August 2011

Wednesday 17th August 2011

Before sunset on 16th August I saw a humming bird hawk moth nectaring on a buddleia on the corner of country lane between Kings Langley and Chipperfield. It is the second I have seen this year

[Link to pictures](#)

- Elizabeth Debenham

On Monday 15th in Balls Wood - small skippers and large skippers. On Waterford Heath today (Wednesday) 1 small heath - on the eastern bank of the south heath. Andy Brown

Some news today (Wednesday 17th August 2011) - 1 Small Heath, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Williams Wood, Trent Park, 10:20 hrs; 1 male Common Blue, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 10:25 hrs; 1 male Common Blue, at Parkside Farm/Res., Enfield at 11:00 hrs; 1 Red Admiral, at Bay Farm, Enfield, 11:40 hrs; 1 Comma, at Bay Farm, Enfield, 11:42 hrs; 1 Holly Blue, at Whitewebbs Park, 14:00 hrs. - Robert Callf

Tuesday 16th August 2011

Saw a Red Admiral in set-aside field N of Williams Wood, Trent Park today (Tuesday 16th August 2011) at 11:20 hrs. - Robert Callf

Monday 15th August 2011

Sunday 14th - a quick walk through field opposite Tring station counted 10 x meadow brown, 1 x

small heath, 2 x small white, 1 x holly blue. At Aldbury Nowers briefly were 8 x meadow brown, 2 x small heath, 5 x gatekeeper, 3 x small white, 1 x large white, 3 x speckled wood, 1 x marbled white, 1 x gv white. Aldbury nowers (10 mins walk) towards Pitstone hill 12 x meadow brown, 7 x small heath, 1 x gatekeeper, 18 x chalkhill blue (10 male, 8 female). 2 x holly blue at Garston Station - David Gower

Just been to Long Deans Nature reserve and spotted a white letter hairstreak (rather old and tatty specimen!) - John Mynett

Redbourn - Church End area 15 August - While lawn mowing today a worn female Purple Hairstreak landed on our Bramley apple tree about 7 ft up. It stayed for half a minute opening its wings. This is the first I have seen in Redbourn & I don't know of a local colony. Also this morning one Gatekeeper & 7 Large Whites - Ernie Leahy

Saw a single Holly Blue at Strayfield Road, Clay Hill, Enfield this morning at 11:10 hrs (Monday 15th August 2011) and a single Small Heath yesterday (Sunday 14th August 2011) at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, at 08:50 hrs. - Robert Callf

Saturday 13th August 2011

A couple of sightings for today (Saturday 13th June 2011) - 2 Green-veined White, along Jubilee Path at Park Farm, Enfield, 10:34 hrs; 1 Comma and 1 Green-veined White, edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park, 11:40 hrs. - Robert Callf

Friday 12th August 2011

Some sightings for today (Friday 12th August 2011) - 1 Red Admiral, at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 09:30 hrs; 1 male Common Blue, at Parkside Farm/Res., Enfield, 09:52 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, at Bay Farm, Enfield, 10:20 hrs - the first that I have seen for a good few weeks; 1 Holly Blue, at Hilly Fields Park, Enfield, 12:20 hrs. - Robert Callf

Wednesday 10th August 2011

On Tuesday in Broxbourne Woods, a rare painted lady, in Bencroft Wood a small copper - Steve Kiln

Some late reports from last week including a Greenford sighting for Essex Skipper! Tuesday 2nd August: A visit to Greenford Park cemetery after work in warm sunshine yielded 2 Gatekeeper, 3 Meadow Brown, 1 Speckled Wood, 3 Green Veined White, 2 Small White, 3 male Common Blue, 1 Small Copper and most excitingly a male Essex Skipper, the first one I have ever seen there. This brings the number of species seen within the cemetery to 20 - not bad for a small site in West London! Wednesday 3rd August: Another after work visit, this time to West Middlesex Golf Course, in a last ditch attempt for local Hairstreaks. I saw 3 Purple, all out of reach along with 1 Holly Blue, 1 Green Veined White, 2 Gatekeeper, 2 Speckled Wood, 2 Comma and 1 Red Admiral. - Lee Hurrell

Weedy field, Batford - 4 BROWN ARGUS, 1m Common Blue, 2 Small Copper - Darin Stanley

On the HMWT Goldington site at Hertford Heath today during a volunteer workparty we saw: **2 white admirals**, small white, large whites, green veined white, red admirals, gatekeepers, speckled wood and best of all a small oak (sessile) full of purple hairstreaks close to the ground. We counted at least 7 - there were probably more. They were located near the HMWT entrance sign at the mount pleasant entrance to the reserve. - Andy Brown

Saw the following today (Wednesday 10th August 2011) - 2 male Common Blue, at Parkside Farm/Res., Enfield, 09:50 hrs and one Red Admiral settled on the track at Gordon Hill Station, Enfield at 12:30 hrs. Also saw three Blue butterflies in flight at Whitewebbs Park (I think one was a Holly Blue and the others Common Blues - but can't be sure) - Robert Callf

I was working at Aldbury yesterday in the northern section, the 2 male chalkhill blues were still present and there were also 2 red admirals and 2 brimstones about. At Hexton today I saw a few chalkhill blues and a pristine peacock - Paul Thrush

Tuesday 9th August 2011

A lunchtime walk at Tyttenhanger Gravel Pits today produced several Gatekeepers, Meadow Browns and Whites, as well as Comma 3, Speckled Wood 2, Red Admiral 2, Peacock 1, Small

Heath 1. - Terry Wood

22 Chalkhill Blue and 1 Brown Argus on Hexton Chalk Pits. Hexton Common TL1030 WCBS 2 Red Admiral, 33 Small White, 1 Large White, 1 Peacock, 1 Essex Skipper, 6 Meadow Brown. Nigel Agar

I only thought to count at the end of my walk today but felt that the site needs to be monitored 09/08/2011 from Ellenbrook Fields/BAe Hatfield: 1x Silver washed fritillary along SE facing edge of Round Wood, 1x Female Purple Hairstreak egg-laying on oak on SE edge of Home Covert, 15x Small Heath at various points along boundary path north of old runway. Seems to be thriving. 3x Common Blue on boundary path at SW end, 2x Brown Argus on boundary path at SW end, Also numerous Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown, various Whites, Speckled Wood, Small & Large Skipper present and a single Comma. Last week 01/08/2011 I also recorded single Marbled White, Small Copper, Small Tortoiseshell and Peacock - Paul Moss

A few sightings to report today (Tuesday 9th August 2011) - 1 Small Copper, at Parkside Farm/Res., Enfield, 09:50 hrs; 1 Small Heath, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 11:40 hrs; 1 male Large Skipper, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 12:00 hrs - rather faded. - Robert Callf

Monday 8th August 2011

A visit to Fir and Pond Woods this morning...noting butterflies on the meadow but not doing a systematic check. This turned up 2 small tortoiseshells, one of which posed briefly for a photograph. Otherwise I saw a peacock, a small copper, and a GVW. I counted at least 10 gatekeepers and two meadow browns. - David Gompertz

Silver Washed Fritillary still out. today (Monday 8 August). Also a brand new Painted Lady on the mint patch near the West Car park. Looked far too new to be a migrant and was probably a recently emerged, second generation adult. - Nigel Agar

I did the transect today at Aldbury and of interest were 2 male chalkhill blues in the northern section, a red admiral, brimstone and 2 dark green fritillary. There were 13 brown argus across the whole site but only single figure common blue. - Paul Thrush

Saw a Small Copper near the Bowling Green in Grovelands Park, Southgate yesterday (Sunday 7th August 2011) at 14:35 hrs. Today (Monday 8th August 2011) at Parkside Farm/Res., Enfield saw two male Common Blue at 09:52 hrs and one Small Copper at 10:00 hrs. - Robert Callf

Quick report from Tyttenhangar Res TL194052, 2nd August. Conditions - warm, humid, slightly cloudy. First time we have seen Purple Hairstreak at that site. Just one on a low growing oak. Small White and Gatekeeper abundant (24, 17 in count period), Large white 2, Meadow Brown 2, Comma 3, Speckled Wood 2. Brown and Southern Hawkers and various damsels present also. - Alun & Chrissie

Sunday 7th August 2011

Brown Argus seen in the weedy field at Batford - Darin Stanley

Butterfly World, Chiswell Green - Despite unpromising weather forecasts 18 hopefulls turned up for this morning's field trip. We were rewarded with several prolonged sunny spells & some unusual butterfly sightings. Top of the list was **second brood Small Blue**, seen in the large area of Kidney Vetch on the chalk mound antennae. The first individual was nectaring on Bird's Foot Trefoil & stayed still long enough for us all to get a good look and many photos. One, possibly two other individuals were seen by others along the antennae. Another unusual sighting was the Scarlet Peacock, a south american species, escaped from the nearby tropical greenhouse. Numbers of Common Blue (37) were well up on last week, though 6 spot Burnett (70) were down. Despite the hundreds of flowering buddleias, we saw only a single Red Admiral nectaring on them. Small Tortoiseshell, Essex Skipper, Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown and Small White made up the numbers. Malcolm Hull

Friday 5th August 2011

News for today (Friday 5th August 2011) - 1 Peacock, at Barracks, Vicarage Farm, 09:00 hrs; 1 Red Admiral, at Whitewebbs Park, 12:20 hrs; 1 Painted Lady, at Whitewebbs Park, on thistle head, 12:20 hrs; 1 Yellowtail Moth, (found in the grass, edge of Whitewebbs Wood). - Robert Callf

I saw a Clouded Yellow (female) in the gardens of Buckingham Palace when on a guided tour of the state rooms & gardens. I was quite taken aback to see this scarce migrant butterfly right in the centre of our capital city but the palace gardens were most attractive to butterflies. - David Chandler

Aldbury Nowers - Ran a field trip with the U3A to Aldbury Nowers this morning. The site is looking in better condition than it's been for years, with masses of wildflowers in the sections which have been grazed & also rapidly recolonising the soil scrapes. We recorded 1 Dark Green Fritillary, 1 Chalkhill Blue (both Northern section), 1 Silver-washed Fritillary (Turlhanger Wood), A dozen Brown Argus, Small Heaths, Brimstones, Red Admirals, 1 Small Copper, only a few Common Blues and quite a lot of Meadow Browns, Gatekeepers, Green-veined Whites & Speckled Woods, plus a few Small Whites, Large Whites & a lone Small Skipper. Moths included several Treble Bar, Shaded Broad Bar, Mint Moth, 6 spot Burnett. No sign of Small Blue, though its sites in the northern compartment are now clearly marked by wire fences, to restrict grazing on the Kidney Vetch. The flowerheads of the vetch all looked very dead, so there may be a shortage of egg laying sites. Second brood Small Blues have been reported from nearby Pitstone (Bucks) this week, so worth looking for it at potential Herts & Middx sites. At Northfield Rd, Tring, Herts in the afternoon I saw another Chalkhill Blue and 3, possibly 4 second brood Dingy Skippers, one of which I managed to photo. Field trip this Sunday - 10 am Butterfly World, Chiswell Green - Admission at reduced price of £4. This is a potential Small Blue site and the more eyes we can have out the better! - Malcolm Hull

A single Waved Black came to my girlfriend's wall-mounted garden light early a.m. on 6th August 2011 - Des McKenzie

Batford, weedy field - 1 BROWN ARGUS - Darin Stanley

Peacock in grassland opposite Novotel Hotel, near entrance to Knebworth Park. - Stefan Hunt.

Wednesday 3rd August 2011

A couple of sightings of note today (Wednesday 3rd August 2011) - 1 male Common Blue, on Res banking at Parkside Farm, Enfield, 10:00 hrs (one of its wings was deformed) - I saw a Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing near here a few weeks ago with stunted and deformed wings - I wonder if there is something in the environment which is causing this - pesticides or herbicides? 1 Red Admiral, near Allotments, at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 11:45 hrs. - Robert Callf

Carried out the second BTO/ WCBS today 03/08/11 in Knebworth Woods TL2222. Very little beyond Gatekeepers, MBs and Small and GV Whites but Burleigh Meadow acid grassland at TL223228 had a Small Copper. egg laying female - Nigel Agar

Lucas Wood, Todds Green, Nr Stevenage (behind industrial units, TL219260) Spent about 40 mins around the edges of this small woodland from about 1245. Meadow Brown 5+, Gatekeeper 10+, Ringlet 1, Brimstone 1, Red Admiral 1, Whites 15+, Speckled Wood 8+, E/S Skipper 4+, and at least 3 Small Copper. Cinnabar caterpillars on Ragwort. Dormouse signs by western edge of wood. Behind nearby Fisherman P.H., Fishers Green, 2 Holly Blue - Stefan Hunt

After a pretty poor year to date, last night's Highgate Wood trap was heaving, particularly with micros, with which I am only now struggling to come to terms. Best sighting, though, was a Jersey Tiger - our second in four years. Michael Hammerson

Harpenden Road -Redbourn on chalk cutting hill towards Harpenden - 3 Common Blues, one small Skipper, 3 Large Whites and a large stand of Cluster Bell Flowers. Nicky Line Harpenden- end:- 5 Holly Blues, 3 Speckled Woods, 2 Gatekeepers, 5 Large Whites, one Meadow Brown. Ernie Leahy

Tuesday 2nd August 2011

Sunday 31st July Stanwell Moor A local walk in the middle of the day produced the following: 2 Red Admirals, 2 Commas, 1 Peacock, 5 Speckled Woods, 6 Meadow Browns, 15 Small Heaths, 10 Gatekeepers, 2 Large Whites, 3 Green-veined Whites, 6 Brown Argus, 1 Holly Blue and 20 Common Blues (including 7 or 8 females). I was pleased to see the Common Blues as they seem to be scarce elsewhere this year in the second brood. Monday 1st August Harmondsworth Moor Early evening (about 1730), and I hoped to catch a few butterflies before they roosted as the sun was still so hot. Just about successful, as I saw: 12 Gatekeepers, 25 Meadow Browns, 2 Speckled Woods, 2 Small Heaths, 2 Small Skippers, 2 Essex Skippers (and 3 more that could have been

either!), 10 Common Blues (a couple of females only) and finally well over a dozen Brown Argus. The latter were in three distinct locations, all rather fresh and gleaming, and varying greatly in size from Common Blue dimensions downward to the tiny. - Dave Miller

For the first time in my Hayes garden, a Brimstone, feeding on Red Clover in the first year of having a wildflower meadow. Stayed all morning! Helen George

Silver Washed Fritillery. Broxbourne Woods 1/08/11 Agar Nigel

July 2011

Sunday 31st July 2011

News from Horsenden Hill. Minimum 3 Brown Argus on Upper Thrifts, including a mating pair. Prior to mating, the pair were engaged in a curious head-to-head circular dance that went on for a good 3-4 minutes. Good to see that this small population continues on a clay site with no rock rose.

Andy Culshaw

At Fishers Field nature reserve late afternoon were 3 x gatekeeper, 1 x small white, 1 x large white, 1 x speckled wood. Finch lane, Bushey were 13 x gatekeeper, 2 x comma, 3 x small white, 1 x large white, 5 x meadow brown, 1 x small copper. In our Bushey garden spotted 1 x holly blue, 1 x speckled wood, 4 x gatekeeper, 5 x large white, 3 x green veined white, 3 x small white and 2 x shaded broad bar. David Gower

Visited Hexton today, plenty of chalkhill blues, however returned to car to find someone had attempted to steal it. I had parked just outside the reserve on the opposite side of the road, with another car there, I would suggest not parking here as it is a little secluded - - Richard Geary

At Symondshyde wood, me and my dad saw 6 rather faded Purple Hairstreaks and 1 Comma - Cameron Landels

Silver Washed Fritilleries at Ashridge this afternoon. Sunday 31 July. First sunlit clearing on the ridge path past the wooden foot bridge north of the Monument. On Brambles with Large Skippers. - Nigel Agar

At Tyttenhager GP on Saturday the 30th had 40 + gatekeepers, 20 + Large White, 5 GV White, 6 Red Admiral 20 Meadow Browns, 3 Peacocks, 4 Common Blues, 2 Small White 3 Small Heaths, 3 Essex Skipper, 1 Brown Argus, 2 Small Skippers and 1 Small Copper. At Wilstone GP today had 3 Red Admirals, 1 faded Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Small Copper, 10 Gatekeepers and 10 Large Whites - Andy Steele

On Saturday, meadow south of Bencroft wood, TL331061, 09.10 AM of note 6 Small heath, Old rivers nursery site High wych/ Sawbridgeworth, 12.20-13.05, 3 Large white, 1 Ringlet, 5 Speckled wood, 6 Common blue, 7 Brown argus and 12 Small skipper, 30+ Meadow brown and 60+ Gatekeeper. - Laurence Drummond

A few sightings for today (Sunday 31st July 2011) - 1 Peacock, on thistles at Barracks, Vicarage Farm, 09:10 hrs; 1 Small Copper, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Williams Wood, at Vicarage Farm, 09:40 hrs; 1 Small Heath, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Williams Wood, at Vicarage Farm, 09:40 hrs; 1 Small Copper, in set-aside field N of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 09:45 hrs; 1 Small Heath, on Res banking at Park Side Farm, Enfield, 10:00 hrs; 2, male and female, Gatekeeper, copulating, at Bay Farm, Enfield, 10:30 hrs; 1 Red Admiral, at Whitewebbs Park, 12:10 hrs; 2 Green-veined White, at Whitewebbs Wood, 12:20 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood, at Whitewebbs Wood, 12:20 hrs; 1 Holly Blue, settled on Ivy at Hilly Fields Park, Enfield, 12:30 hrs. - Robert Callf

At Broxbourne Wood saw 14 species incl a brimstone and first ever brown argus in Bencroft wood. Brimstones also at waterford heath. - Steve Kiln

Saturday 30th July 2011

A couple of sightings to report today (Saturday 30th July 2011) - 1 Comma, at Sidhil's Field, Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 08:45 hrs; 1 male Common Blue, at Parkside Farm/Res., Enfield, 10:00 hrs. - Robert Callf

Went to Bricket Wood today. At start of Drop Lane were 3 x holly blue, 1 x gatekeeper, 2 x small white and 2 x green veined white. At Bricket Wood starting from School lane spent 3 hours around wood and common. Sightings were 33 x gatekeeper, 3 x ringlet, 7 x silver washed fritillary, 5 x speckled wood, 17 x meadow brown, 12 x small white, 1 x red admiral, 15 x green veined white, 10 x large white, 3 x peacock, 8 x brimstone, 1 x large skipper, 14 x cinnebar caterpillars, 1 x small skipper, 6 x purple hairstreak, 6 x holly blue, 3 x essex skipper - David Gower

At Hertford Heath I saw many Gatekeeper, more Speckled wood I think I have ever seen anywhere, chasing, spiraling and mating everywhere, also many Purple hairstreak some now quite tatty and one very fresh looking Small copper - Laurence Drummon

Friday 29th July 2011

A couple of sightings from Thursday 28th July. In Balls Wood (on the main rides) Silver Washed Fritillary + 2 White Admirals. I also saw a Brimstone and (possible) White letter hairstreak at the main entrance gate to the wood - Andy Brown

At Hexton Chalk Pit NR, TL106300, on Sunday 24th July 2011 between 10.15 & 10.45 I saw **225 Chalkhill Blue**, 2 Brown Argus, 1 Small White, 1 Meadow Brown, 1 Large White. Later the same day at Sharpenhoe Clappers (Bedfordshire) I saw 18 species 376 Chalkhill Blue, the tail end of the Dark Green Fritillaries just 10 seen and only 1 Marbled White - Peter Glenister

Butterflies seen on Colney Heath Thursday 28 July 2011 in the course of a Herts and Middx Wildlife Trust botanical survey. 6 Purple Hairstreak 4 Small Heath 1 Six Spot Burnet 3 Meadow Brown 3 Small White seen by others present:- 1 Red Admiral 1 Small Copper - Nigel Agar

Late this afternoon noticed 2 x meadow brown, 4 x gatekeeper in field opposite St.Vincent's, Northwood Hills. At Poors field 4 x speckled wood, 2 x meadow brown, 20 x gatekeeper, 1 x small skipper, 2 x white banded carpet moth - David Gower

Thursday 28th July 2011

Today I had my first Painted Lady of the year. It was about 3/4 of normal size and a bit battered. Also had a Small Tortoiseshell, and walking to Sainsburys saw a female Common Blue in a neighbour's front garden. Hope it makes it to mine as I haven't had one yet. Malcolm Newland

The following found along Icknield Way and at Telegraph Hill in the morning in almost unbroken sunshine: 1 Holly Blue, 50+ whites, 20+ Meadow Browns, 5+ Speckled Woods, 30+ Gatekeepers, 30+ Brimstones, 30+ Chalkhill Blues, 5+ Ringlets, 1 Red Admiral, 2 Small Skippers, 2 Small Tortoiseshells, 3 Brown Argus, 1 Common Blue, 5+ Marbled Whites and 2 Peacocks. Peter Clarke

Yesterday's sightings (Wednesday 27th July 2011) as follows - 1 Small Copper, at Park Farm, Enfield, 12:00 hrs; 1 Red Admiral, at Duncan's Wood, Enfield Chase, 12:22 hrs (pristine condition); 1 Comma, edge of Rough Lot, Trent Park, 12:45 hrs; 2 Green-veined White, together, edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park, 12:45 hrs; 2 Holly Blue, together, settled on churned up mud of bridle-path near Merryhills Brook/Trent Park, 13:25 hrs. Today (Thursday 28th July 2011) saw the following at Tyttenhanger GP - 1 male Common Blue, 10:50 hrs; 1 Small Copper, 10:55 hrs; 1 Red Admiral, 10:58 hrs; 1 Brown Argus, 11:15 hrs. - Robert Callf

Wednesday 27th July 2011

Telegraph Hill, nr Lilley. In cloudy weather at chalk cutting, at least ten Chalkhill Blues, including two females. Also here were GV white, Gatekeeper, Ringlet, 1 Marbled White, 1 Comma, 1 Six-Spot Burnet. Along neighbouring track Speckled Wood and a Common Footman. - Stefan Hunt

Broxbourne Wood, Monday 25 July, 1 Silver washed fritillary, 2 Ringlet, 9 Gatekeeper, 3 Green Veined White, 9 Meadow Brown, 1 Small Skipper, 1 Peacock, 1 Large Skipper, 5 Purple Hairstreak, 1 Comma, 1 Holly Blue, 1 Red Admiral - Nigel Agar

Tuesday 26th July 2011

Just two Red Admirals to report today (Tuesday 26th July 2011) - 1 Red Admiral, on buddleia at Bay Farm, Enfield, 11:10 hrs and another at Rectory Farm, Enfield, 11:40 hrs. - Robert Callf

The last four days have produced fourteen species in my Hemel Hempstead garden and my 6th

record this year of an HBHM. Highlights were my first White Letter Hairstreak since 2006 and my first Purple Hairstreak since 2001! Peacock numbers show a slight improvement with three at once on the 25th and I had four Red Admirals together on the 24th. Making up the numbers were all the Whites, Meadow Brown, Male Brimstone, Gatekeeper, Speckled Wood, Comma, Holly Blue and Ringlet. Not bad for a small suburban garden! - Malcolm Newland

Monday 25th July 2011

During my work break saw 1 x red admiral & 1 x gatekeeper in Northwood - David Gower

Peacock numbers on my buddleia in Ware increased to 4 this morning (2 on Sunday) - Liz Goodyear

Some news for (Friday 22nd July 2011) - 3 Brown Argus, singles in three different tetrads (1 on thistle along Leeging Beech Gutter near Williams Wood at Vicarage Farm, 11:32 hrs, 1 set-aside field N of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 11:35 hrs, 1 at Park Farm, Enfield, 12:10 hrs); 1 Red Admiral, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, 11:35 hrs; 1 female Large Skipper, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, 11:40 hrs; 1 Red Admiral, at Parkside Farm, Enfield, 11:50 hrs; 1 Peacock, at Parkside Farm, Enfield, 11:50 hrs, 1 Peacock, at Park Farm, 12:58 hrs; 2 Red Admiral, at Park Farm, 12:25 and 12:52 hrs; 2 Comma, at Park Farm, 12:40 and 12:55 hrs; 1 Red Admiral, Water Grdn., Trent Park, 13:35 hrs; 1 Peacock, on buddleia, Water Grdn., Trent Park, 13:42 hrs; 1 Comma, on buddleia, Water Grdn., Trent Park, 13:42 hrs; 1 Red Admiral, near Firing Range, at Vicarage Farm, 14:45 hrs. News for today (Monday 25th July 2011) - 1 Red Admiral, Barracks, at Vicarage Farm; 1 Small Heath, at Vicarage Farm, 10:35 hrs; 1 male Small Copper, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 10:41 hrs; 1 Red Admiral, at Parkside Farm, 11:20 hrs; 1 Red Admiral, at Park Farm, 11:45 hrs; 1 Comma, at Park Farm, Enfield, 12:15 hrs; 5 Peacock, on thistles edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park, 12:57 hrs; 1 Red Admiral, on thistle edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park, 12:57 hrs; 2 Comma, edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park, 12:57 hrs; 1 Small Heath, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 13:03 hrs. Also several other Red Admirals which I saw but did not note the times. - Robert Callf

Sunday 24th July 2011

Norton Green, nr Stevenage. Went to viewpoint for yesterdays star butterfly, not expecting to be lucky. Waited a while, went for a walk, when I returned Peter Clarke was searching. Was describing it to him when a Valezina Silver-Washed Fritillary came down on nearby brambles. This was further up the ride from the bylaws sign where I saw it yesterday. If anyone fancies venturing along this ride be aware that the terrain is difficult, with many hard to see holes. Around brambles further down track, on left toward Pigeonswick were 2 ordinary (sic) SWF, 1 Red Admiral, 2 Holly Blue, 1 Peacock, 2+ Speckled Wood, some GV and L Whites, Meadow Brown, small number of worn Ringlet, and a lot of Gatekeepers. - Stefan Hunt

At Hexton CP today and on Great Butterfly Count, 27 Chalkhill Blue, 1 Dark Green Fritillery (rather battered), 1 Essex Skipper 2 Gatekeepers 1 Specked Wood (by the gate) Large ands Small Whites at Hexton Common i e north of the village Small Tortoiseshell, Small Whites, Gatekeepers - Nigel Agar

[Robin Pearson's flickr link to some Bedfordshire Chalkhill Blues](#)

Today at Tyttenhager GP had 1 White-Letter Haistreak feeding on Ragwort 80 + gatekeepers, 30 + Large White, 10 GV White, 17 Red Admiral at least, 8 Commas 20 Meadow Browns, 3 Peacocks, 2 Holly Blues, 4 Common Blues, 2 Small White 1 Ringlet, 1 Purple hairstreak, 1 Specked Wood - Andy Steele

News from Bricket Wood - 13 Holly Blues on todays transect, by far the highest weekly total in 13 years. Brimstones (6) & Peacocks (5) out today. Purple Hairstreaks, Red Admiral, Gatekeepers, Meadow Browns & Green-veined Whites all out in good numbers. Marbled White, White Admiral, Silver-washed Fritillary Ringlet, Large, & Small, Skippers are all still flying, but numbers well down from their peak 2-3 weeks ago. Common Blue, Essex Skipper, Speckled Wood, Comma, Small & Large Whites also seen today, but no sign of Purple Emperor. One Silver-washed Fritillary was seen nectaring on buddleia, so worth looking out for this species in garden locations after its exceptional year. Butterfly World - Six-spot Burnet moth out in force at Butterfly World this afternoon. 290 recorded on the transect, which comfortably exceeds my previous totals anywhere in St Albans district. Other species flying there today included Peacock, Red Admiral, Small Tortoiseshell, Silver Y, Essex Skipper, Common Blues, Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper & the whites.

Also I think the answer to the Valezina Q is that its very unusual. The only previous Herts sighting I'm aware of is reported in Sawford - Knebworth Woods 7 July 1946! - Malcolm Hull

Went to Norton Green this afternoon for nearly 2 hours and saw the following: 5+ Purple Hairstreaks. 2 Peacocks, 4+ Silver-washed Fritillaries, 20+ Meadow Browns, 20+ Gatekeepers, 2 Ringlets, 10+ Commas, 5+ Marbled Whites, 1 Speckled Wood, 20+ skippers, 30+ whites. The highlight was the sighting of the variant form Valezina of the Silver-washed Fritillary. I saw it several times (with Stephan Hunt who saw it yesterday) towards the bottom of the field between Watery Grove and Cannocks Wood between 1345 and 1415 hrs. At first glance it looked like a large Ringlet and its behaviour was different to the usual females because it tended to favour the shade and did not fly much. Peter Clarke

Some sightings for today (Sunday 24th July 2011) - 2, male and female, Gatekeeper, 12:40 hrs; 1 Green-veined White, 12:45 hrs; 1 Holly Blue, 12:46 hrs, at Oakwood Park, N14. At Grovelands Park, Southgate: 3 Holly Blue, 13:25, 13:30 and 14:35 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood, 13:30 hrs, 2 Red Admiral, on white buddleia, 13:35 hrs. Yesterday (Saturday 23rd July 2011) - 1 Small Copper, at Vicarage Farm, 14:15 hrs; 1 male Oak Eggar, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Williams Wood, 14:35 hrs; 1 Essex Skipper, near Hadley Rd/Vicarage Farm, 14:45 hrs; 4 Speckled Wood, at Park Farm, Enfield, 15:10 hrs. - Robert Callf

Just to let you know during my 15 mins of Big Butterfly Count at lunchtime a couple of circuits around the garden revealed a Silver Washed Fritillary, (thrilling) we have some photos of this, and a Purple Hairstreak plus 4 Admirals, 3 Peacocks, a Common Blue, 3 Gatekeepers, 3 Meadow Browns and 3 Whites. The Fritillary was feeding on Buddleia and Lysimachia clethroides - Julie Wise

Saturday 23rd July 2011

Norton Green, near Stevenage. Was at emperor watchpoint this morning in lousy weather when, during one cloud break, a **Valezina Silver-Washed Fritillary** flew into brambles a few feet away! At the Norton Common Bylaws sign, by the ride at Watery Grove Wood, I was standing on the concrete platform facing North, landed in brambles to my left. Great close-up views, briefly showing pinkish underside, but mostly showing its grey-green upperside. Knew it was an aberrant SWF, but had to look it up when I got in. From what I can gather it is somewhat rare, but how rare? Can someone let me know? Took some pics with a camera phone (3.2mp) which are not exactly pro-quality but show what it is. <http://www.flickr.com/photos/wildmanstefan> Also in same area were comma, gatekeeper, 1 purple hairstreak, whites and a couple of ringlet. Did not see a PE, but do I feel bothered? -Stefan Hunt.

At Hatfield Aerodrome (Disused) today: Few Small/Essex Skipper, 2 x Red Admiral, Few Gatekeeper, Fair numbers Meadow Brown, Few Small White, 1 x Brown Argus and 1 Comma - David Wheatcroft

Near Little Hadham in a field of lucerne, several Latticed Heath moths - Liz Goodyear

Friday 22nd July 2011

Good butterfly day today Friday. In Broxbourne Woods in ride 15 species incl two silver washed Frillaries, 2 small and two essex skipper, common blue and 4 purple hairstreak. Lots of gatekeepers and 40 plus meadow browns. In Bencroft wood 20 green veined whites and gatekeepers and purple hairsteaks in many of the oaks, plus peacocks and red admirals. Went to cock lane in disused gravel pit by A10 9 species incl purple hairstreaks, common blue and many brown argus - Steve Kiln

Had a pleasant 2 hours in mostly sunshine 11am to 1pm on Nomandsland Common finding at least 6 Purple Hairstreaks- 3 really low in the small oaks adjacent to the road . Also seen were 3 Small Coppers, 2 Common Blues, numerous Gatekeepers and a Comma. Later we saw a Painted Lady at a plant nursery at Sandridge. - Ernie Leahy

Got out in the early morning sun and managed to do some recording for: St Nicks Church Yard 9.40- 9.55am. 1 Large White, 1 Small White, 5 Green-veined White, 1 Holly Blue, 7 Speckled Wood, 1 Gatekeeper, 2 Meadow Brown. Field behind St Nicks Church 10- 10.35am. 1 Small Skipper, 6 Essex Skipper, 2 Large Skipper, 3 Large White, 10 Small White, 3 Green-veined White, 2 Small Copper, 5 Brown Argus, 2 Red Admiral, 2 Marbled White, 11 Gatekeeper, 5 Meadow Brown, 3 Ringlet. - Lee Browne

Ware garden at 8.30, at least 10 Red Admiral on the buddleia - Liz Goodyear

Friday 22nd July - over 100 gatekeeper on Hounslow Heath LNR this morning and 1 purple Hairstreak, 2 Brown Argus on site yesterday. Have started full time trapping at the BAA Causeway site on the River Crane with James Webster their ecologist in an area of old flood meadows, alder carr, woodland and reedbeds, first trap yielded up Dingy and Scarce Footman and Bulrush Wainscot along with several Macros. - Chris Slack

Thursday 21st July 2011

A few sightings today (Thurs 21st July 2011) - 1 Essex Skipper, along hedgerow N of Williams Wood at Vicarage Farm, 12:10 hrs; 1 Small Heath, at Parkside Farm, Enfield, 12:25 hrs; 1 Red Admiral, near Firing Range at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 13:32 hrs. Also a fair few Green-veined White at Vicarage Farm today ('summer-brood'). - Robert Callf.

Wednesday 20th July 2011

Managed to get in my first records for the **Big Butterfly Count**. Weather was warm but overcast. 10-10.15am Roebuck Woodland. Green-veined White 3, Meadow Brown 3, Gatekeeper 1, Speckled Wood 1, Red Admiral 1, Silver Y 1. Lee Browne

Tuesday 19th July 2011

A couple of sightings for today (Tues 19th July 2011) at Tyttenhager GP - 1 Marbled White, 14:32 hrs; 1 Red Admiral, 14:45 hrs, also a couple of sightings which I was not able to confirm, one of which was almost certainly a Peacock. - Robert Callf.

Monday 18th July 2011

Bicentenary Garden, Brunel University, the following were active during the short sunny spell at lunchtime: 4 Brown Argus, 8 Gatekeeper, 2 Meadow Brown, 5 Speckled Wood, Comma, Red Admiral & Peacock - Steve Pash

Some sightings for the last few days - (Saturday 16th July 2011) - 1 Six-spot Burnet, field N of Williams Wood at Vicarage Farm, 16:10 hrs. - First of the year! 1 Peacock, at Park Farm, Enfield, 15:40 hrs; 1 Red Admiral, at Bay Farm, Enfield, 17:00 hrs. (Sunday 17th July 2011) - 1 Comma, near Allotments at Vicarage Farm, 11:50 hrs; 2 male Common Blue, at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 12:00 hrs and 12:20 hrs; 1 Peacock, at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 12:00 hrs; 1 Small Copper, at Vicarage Farm, 12:20 hrs; 1 Marbled White, flew over Wildwoods Lake, Enfield (TQ322994) at 14:52 hrs; 2 Purple Hairstreak, settled low down on Oak (after shower) at Hilly Fields Park, Enfield, 15:25 hrs. (Monday 18th July 2011) - 1 Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing, (female - with deformed and stunted wings) at Park Farm, Enfield, 11:00 hrs; 1 Essex Skipper, at Bay Farm, Enfield, 11:10 hrs - my first of the year! 1 Comma, at Bay Farm, 11:15 hrs; 1 female Large Skipper, at Park Farm, Enfield, 11:42 hrs; 1 female Holly Blue, settled low down with wings spread, at Park Farm, Enfield, 11:45 hrs; 1 Comma, at Park Farm, 11:47 hrs; 1 Coma, edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park, 12:24 hrs; 1 Comma, edge of Icehouse Wood, Trent Park, 13:02 hrs; 1 Comma, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 13:06 hrs; 1 Oak Eggar, near Firing Range at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 14:05 hrs. - Robert Callf

Been busy lately - but some recent sightings for you **Sunday 11th July** Hummingbird Hawk Moth - Wareside - on the budleia bushes in the garden Brown Argus Ringlet (7) Red Admiral (5) Peacock (1) Small Tortoiseshell - (8) - Also we raised many from a brood of caterpillars rescued before the hedge cutters came along. Now have another group of approx 20 - busy devouring our nettles. Also Hummingbird Hawk moth at Hunsdon - Crown PH Garden. - on Red Valerian **Friday 15th - Wareside** Peacock (8) Red Admiral (5) Small Tortoiseshell (3) Comma (2) All on the garden budleia. Whilst in the orchard Ringlet (13) Meadow Brown (10) Brown Argus (2) Small Copper (1) Gatekeeper now emerging, seen 2. Small, Large and green veined whites all about also. **Sunday 17th** Broxbourne woods A trip between the heavy downpours to see if we could find the Emperor None seen, no white admiral either - However we were rewarded with some superb views of a fresh female Silver Washed Fritillary, nectaring on the thistles at the cleared area of the woods. Also several ringlets, speckled wood and meadow browns, + many large skipper, which appears to have done very well this year. Phil MacMurdie

Sunday 17th July 2011

Earlier this weekend in kings Langley; Small Tortoiseshell seeing off a Meadow brown from the

buddleja, pair of Red Admiral chasing through the garden. Holly blue and Speckled wood. Today in a short spell of sunshine I found small or essex skipper in flight, one marbled white, gatekeeper and meadow brown in Kings Langley country lane; also a red tailed bumble bee and Large white. Below are pictures of a Peacock and a Small Tortoiseshell.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/7392841@N04/5937353213/>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/7392841@N04/5947195512/>

Elizabeth Debenham

The following At Hatfield Aerodrome (Disused) Today: Gatekeeper - 10+, Small White - 10+, Small Tortoiseshell - 1, Essex Skipper - 4+, Meadow Brown - 10+, Speckled Wood - 3, 8+ Ringlet - David Wheatcroft

Surprised to see a pristine Speckled Wood in my garden this afternoon in Chiswell Green. It managed to dodge the persistent spells and enjoy the brief sunny interludes. - Martin Gore

Just 1 x peacock in front garden (Bushey) today. Just back from Germany where i counted 21 different species - David Gower

Friday 15th July 2011

Ruislip - Copse Wood; 4 Red Admiral, 2 Peacock, 3 Comma, 3 Speckled Wood, lots of Gatekeeper, a few worn Ringlet, Meadow Brown, Large & Small White & lots of very obliging Purple Hairstreak setting low on bramble & other scrub. Meadow next to Lido car park: 3 Marbled White, 4 Ringlet, several Meadow Brown, 6+ Gatekeeper, Red Admiral, Small & large Skipper. Poors Field: Brown Argus, Red Admiral, Small Skipper and Gatekeeper. Park Wood: PE late afternoon at St Vincents end of wood. Steve Pash

Flood Plain on Old Knebworth Lane 9.45-10.45am. Green-veined White 3, Small White 6, Large White 3, Small/Essex Skipper 6, Large Skipper 2, Speckled Wood 2, Meadow Brown 17, Gatekeeper 8, Ringlet 8, Common Blue 2, Holly Blue 3, Brown Argus 3, Small Copper 1, Purple Hairstreak 1, Peacock 1, Small Tortoiseshell 2, Red Admiral 1. Small Skipper

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/63869857@N06/5940736153/>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/63869857@N06/5941294578/>

Lee Browne

Walking the mile to work this morning, I set off at 8.30 and saw 6 Red Admiral on my buddleias or sat on the pebble dash on the house. Also seen 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Comma and 1 Peacock. At the end of the road, another Red Admiral and a White-letter Hairstreak creeping around a evergreen shrub. I assumed that every buddleia bush I passed would provide more sightings. 1 mile later I had seen no more butterflies - Liz Goodyear

Some sightings for today (Friday 15th July 2011) - 1 Comma, near Allotments at Vicarage Farm, 10:32 hrs; 1 Red Admiral, at Parkside Farm, 11:25 hrs; 1 Red Admiral, at Park Farm, 12:05 hrs; 1 Red Admiral, at Bay Farm, Enfield, 12:28 hrs; 1 male Common Blue, at Park Farm, Enfield at 12:20 hrs; 3 Red Admiral, at Rectory Farm, 12:45 - 12:55 hrs; 1 Red Admiral, edge of Whitewebbs Wood, 13:55 hrs; 1 Comma, edge of Whitewebbs Wood, 13:55 hrs. - Robert Callf

During a cloudy afternoon's visit to Norton Green between 1255 to 1515 hours I saw quite a few butterflies including a White Admiral which flew overhead from Watery Grove towards Newton Wood. No definite sightings of the Purple Emperor although there might have been one when one large dark butterfly with some white on its wings flew at and then above me when I walked along the track. Marbled Whites very much in evidence in the field by Watery Grove even if numbers of them are falling elsewhere. Still a lot of golden skippers around, whites, Purple Hairstreaks and Meadow Browns but Ringlets now declining. A Red Admiral and a few Commas also seen - Peter Clarke

Thursday 14th July 2011

In an hours visit to Bricket Wood this morning I recorded 12 Purple Hairstreaks down settling on the bracken. Having struggled to find the odd one at ground level this year, this was surprising. They were all in a similar area and all females. A White letter Hairstreak was also down next to them on a thistle head. 3 White Admirals were hanging on and the Silver washed Fritillaries were still going well with 11 seen. - Clive Burrows

Earlier this week red admiral, small tortoiseshell, holly blue and speckled wood in the garden in Kings Langley. July 14th. It has been quite an afternoon for butterflies in Kings Langley. Driving up a local country lane I disturbed a red admiral, possibly a comma in hedgerow. Walking along a grassy verge where ragwort and clover were growing, I saw small copper, small skippers, one marbled white, ringlets, gatekeepers, meadow brown, small whites -- one pair, at least two large whites, one holly blue (not confirmed), as it was flying so fast along the hedgerow. A bit later I saw a small skipper and small copper on same ragwort. Small tortoiseshell and gatekeeper were enjoying some marjoram. Also there were lots of cinabar caterpillars still and I think one mallow moth. I was just considering it was about time we saw a peacock when there on a buddleja in full display a new PEACOCK and another small tortoiseshell were seen! - Elizabeth Debenham

Walked from just west of A1(M) at Stevenage Symonds Green to Norton Green. Emergence of Peacocks, present in all the expected places. Covered this area last on Saturday and didn't see any. Numerous Red Admirals seen, a lot of of them pristine. At Pigeonswick Cottage, in meadow by small gate (appx TL225228), a Purple Hairstreak and a Silver Y. Also a Hare in nearby long grass. It thought it was hidden, laying 6 feet away, but was off at mega-speed when it saw me point my Nokia. The horse again took an inconveniently close interest in me, but is friendly. Brief view of Silver-Washed Fritillary in Cannocks Wood, part of Newton Wood - Stefan Hunt

A few sightings for today (Thursday 14th July 2011) - 1 Red Admiral, on buddleia near High Barnet Station, 09:20 hrs; 2+ Red Admiral, at Tyttenhanger GP, 10:35 hrs and 11:50 hrs; 2 Marbled White, at Tyttenhanger GP, 10:40 hrs; 1 Peacock, at Tyttenhanger GP (TL1905), 11:50 hrs. - Robert Callf

I went to F & P to look for PEs today at 1.00. I reckon that I saw 3 or even 4 PEs at about 1.30. I also went to Fir and Pond Woods NR to do an odd job or so not expecting a good butterfly day, but I was wrong. I saw 13 species. These included red admirals (4), meadow browns (6), marbled whites (3), gatekeepers at least 7, GVWs (5). There were also 3 small and 1 Essex skipper and one each of small copper, peacock, comma and ringlet. There were also several whites both small and large. - David Gompertz

Wednesday 13th July 2011

A few sightings to report for the past two days - 1 Red Admiral, 12:43 hrs and 1 Holly Blue, 13:10 hrs., both at Grovelands Park, Southgate, N14 on (Monday 11th July 2011). Yesterday (Tues 12th July 2011) - 3 Ringlet, at Park Farm, Enfield, at 08:30 hrs and 1 Red Admiral at Silver Street, Enfield Town, settling on the window of Greggs the Baker, 18:00 hrs. - Robert Callf

Tuesday 12th July 2011

Field behind St Nicks Church, 9.30-11am, not perfect conditions but still a fair few butterflies on the wing, Gatekeeper 6, Meadow Brown 1, Small Tortoiseshell 3, Ringlet 16, Red Admiral 3, Small/Essex Skipper 7, Green-veined White 2, Marbled White 13, Brown Argus 1, Small White 3. If anyone is interested there is a programme on Monday 18th July at 19.30 on BBC4 called Born to be Wild this episode is about butterfly and moth recording and conservation. Lee Browne

News from Sunday 10th July: Woodoaks Farm - in the area of set-aside S of Ladywalk Wood - TQ 029936 Lots of activity with Marbled White, Ringlet, Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper, Small Tortoiseshell, Red Admiral, Peacock, Comma, Large, Small & Essex Skipper, Large, Small & GV White, Speckled Wood, Holly Blue and my first sighting of Brown Argus at this site. Heronsgate - field NE of Bottom Wood - TQ029938 (just in Herts) Small Heath, Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown, Speckled Wood, Small Copper, Red Admiral, Comma, Peacock, GV White, Small Skipper and Holly Blue. Heronsgate - Hill Farm Track - TQ028946 Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper, Speckled Wood, Ringlet, Red Admiral, Peacock, Comma Large & Small White and Holly Blue. **Monday 11th July:** Brunel University, meadow S of Cleveland Rd (not Bicentenary Garden) - TQ056827 Red Admiral, Peacock, Comma, Speckled Wood, Large, Small & GV White, Large, Small & Essex Skipper, Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper, Holly Blue, Small Copper and Brown Argus, a first for this site! Steve Pash

Monday 11th July 2011

Stanwell Moor, a lot of activity around my patch this Sunday lunchtime. Peacocks are now very prominent, with at least a dozen seen; they were mostly nectaring, but one or two were behaving

territorially, so I wonder if they will produce a second brood as in 2009. There were also seven or eight Red Admirals and the same number of Commas. Gatekeepers are building nicely, all males thus far, including an unusual pale golden-coloured one rather than the normal rich orange-brown. Curiously, they had completely replaced the Ringlets along the woodland edge, though the Meadow Browns remain undiminished in number. Speckled Woods had clearly emerged in a new brood, and over a dozen were seen, often in groups of two and three. Holly Blues joined them along the woodland edges, but only five were seen altogether. The Small Heath colony continues strongly, and today they were joined by a host of new Essex Skippers (every one checked was definitely not a Small relative), perhaps as many as 20 of each species. Very difficult to count accurately. Finally, five or six new brood Brown Argus were out, but no Common Blues - odd to see the former but not the latter. At 8pm, a brief sortie confirmed that all the oak trees in the vicinity have Purple Hairstreaks. It was their ideal evening for dancing over the treetops - strong late sunshine and warm, nearly calm, conditions. - Dave Miller

Ruislip Woods. Copse Wood top of Ducks Hill. Midday. Male Purple Emperor settled on damp patch in pathway. Also a few Speckled woods, Gatekeepers, Ringlets, Meadow Browns and Small skippers in nearby clearing plus a dozen or so Purple Hairstreaks shimmying around the tree tops with one settling in a conifer several times for some duration. Disappointingly no White Admirals. Fields towards Lido next to Ducks Hill 5 Marbled Whites, 2 Red Admirals, plenty of Ringlets, Gatekeepers, Meadow Browns and Small Skippers. - Nick Furtak

Spent a productive morning at Watery Grove today around the clearing by the Norton Common Bylaws sign. The highlight was a pristine Silver Washed Fritillary. Other sightings included; 2 Red Admiral, 5+ Marbled Whites, 2 Small Copper, 10+ Purple Hairstreaks, 5+ Comma, Several Gatekeepers, numerous Large and Small Whites, Large and Small Skippers, Meadow Browns and Ringlets. - Darrel Bryant

Silver Washed Fritillaries in Broxbourne Woods today (Monday 11 July) c14:00 hrs on the flowery strip between the two paths not far from the car park. At least three present. Courtship flight observed. Also Commas and Red Admirals seen near the seat at the far end of the reserve. No White Admirals or Purple Emperors seen. Nigel Agar

Sunday 10th July 2011

A few sightings for yesterday (Sunday 10th July 2011) - 1 Painted Lady, at Park Farm, Enfield, 12:10 hrs (fresh); 1 Peacock, at Park Farm, Enfield, 12:15 hrs - the first of the summer-brood that I have seen; 1 Red Admiral, at Strayfield Road, Clay Hill, Enfield, 13:15 hrs. - Robert Callf.

When the sun finally decided to come out this afternoon I walked up to Aldbury Golf course and through the small wood that leads to the Ridgeway Path. I managed to see a Silver-washed Fritillary in this small woodland and then another 3 or 4 further into Aldbury Nowers flying in the sunlit glades. I also saw a Dark-Green Fritillary on the steep slope further up the Ridgeway Path and encouraging numbers of Red Admirals on the brambles which looked like they had just hatched out (I counted 6). Phil Woodward

Visit to Symonshyde today yielded five Silver Washed Fritillaries, including stunning views of mating pair. Also one of the five was on the road just to the west of the gates. Also 4 or 5 White Admirals Robin & Sandra Smith

I saw a Humingbird Hawkmoth at Knebworth Woods at TL223222 nectaring with Ringlets on Bramble near the gate where the path from Pigeonswick comes out into open fields. This was in the course of a WCBS on July 1 - Nigel Agar

Couldn't make the Bricket Wood walk so had a stroll around the weedy field near Batford, three Holly Blues

http://farm7.static.flickr.com/6125/5921915368_3a9c7a3eae_z.jpg

being the only butterflies of note. Robin Pearson

'Interesting behaviour' - I had a call from Alan Storey who visited Broxbourne Wood on 1st July from Lancashire. He reported seeing a White Admiral upside down in a bush with its proboscis in a dead wasp in a disused spiders web, so it would seem taking fluids from the dead insect, behaviour he and I have not come across before. The White Admiral subsequently flew off, so it was not caught in the web - Andrew Wood

Sandra and I went to Balls Wood today from 11.00am until 2.00pm, weather was very warm, cloudy with sunny spells. Along the main ride we saw 1 White Admiral, 1 Red Admiral, 1 Comma, 1 Peacock and lots of Ringlet, Meadow Brown, Small and large Skipper. We then walked to where we had seen the PE last year but no sign this year however we did see 2 Silver Washed Fritillary, 2 White Admiral, 2 Red Admiral, 1 Brown Argus, 3 Purple Hairstreak and again lots of Ringlet, Meadow Brown, Small and large Skipper. Also saw 4 Emperor Dragonflies, 2 Brown Hawks and a Black Tailed Skimmer, Slow Worm and Grass Snake. - Kevin Standbridge

Old rivers nursery site High wych/Sawbridgeworth ,18 Small skipper,2 Brown argus,4 Gatekeeper,1 Speckled wood,3 Small tortoiseshell,1 very fresh Peacock,Meadow brown 40+ and Ringlet 20+. - Laurence Drummond

Saturday 9th July 2011

Norton Green Nr Stevenage. Hummingbird Hawkmoth in meadow next to Pigeonswick Cottage, feeding on flowers in long grasses near small gate. Note, resident horse is inquisitive. Silver-washed Fritillary at Watery Grove. Holly Blue along track that leads from Pigeonswick to High Broomin Wood. Two Gatekeepers on lane near High Broomin Wood. Note also, there is a music festival at Knebworth, so area is not tranquil. Stefan Hunt

Sat 9th July - Park Wood, Ruislip Plenty of PE activity this afternoon between 16.15 - 17.10. At least 3 males in 2 territories. 3 White Admiral, Red Admiral, 4 Comma, 3 Speckled Wood, several fresh Gatekeeper, Small & Large Skipper, Plenty of Ringlet, Meadow Brown & Purple Hairstreak. Steve Pash

Broxbourne Wood Reserve, field trip report. Several people joined us for the annual event, and despite the weather being a bit anti-social, most people were able to get glimpses of Purple Emperor flying overhead although none were seen grounded. Only one White Admiral was seen on the ride but the probable highlight was an pristine female Silver-washed Fritillary which was very co-operative in allowing most people to take a photo. She later went and laid some eggs on a tree trunk in front of us, so we also able to see the eggs! Also seen was a Brown Argus, Red Admiral, Large Skipper, Meadow Brown and Ringlet and numerous Purple Hairstreak. A Gatekeeper was seen by one or two observers. Later a smaller group went to Northaw where spectacular territorial activity between at least two Purple Emperors were seen - various observers including Andrew Middleton and Liz Goodyear

Bricket Wood Common - new species out this week - Brown Argus, Small Copper, Comma & Essex Skipper. Also 2 Purple Emperors & an abundance of Silver-washed Fritillaries, Red Admirals, Purple Hairstreak, Marbled Whites Meadow Browns & Ringlets. White Admirals still holding on. Field trip starts at 10 am tomorrow (Sunday 10th) Butterfly World - new species out this week - Essex Skipper, Purple Hairstreak, second generation Common Blue & Brown Argus. Number of Meadow Brown, Small Skipper and Marbled White all well up on last year. But I've not seen a single new Peacock at any site in St Albans area yet - Malcolm Hull

Have just seen a HUMMINGBIRD HAWK moth on a Buddleja in Kings Langley, 3.15pm. I was out there trying to photograph a red admiral, watching a holly blue and the hawk moth just appeared. Too fast for a photo as it was gone as soon as. - Elizabeth Debenham

Saw a female Large Skipper in Oakwood Park, N14 yesterday afternoon (Friday 8th July 2011) at 13:30 hrs. Also saw a Red Admiral in Trent Park this morning at 11:20 hrs (Saturday 9th July 2011) Sect. 8 of 'New Fields' and a Purple Hairstreak, along Cockfosters Road near the Main entrance to Trent Park, 11:40 hrs. Some sightings for today (Saturday 9th July 2011) - 3 Comma, at Monken Hadley Common, 12:00 - 12:05 hrs., near Beech Hill Lake (TQ 272969); 1 Red Admiral, Monken Hadley Common, near Beech Hill Lake, 12:00 hrs; 5 Ringlet, Monken Hadley Common near Beech Hill Lake, 12:03 - 12:05 hrs; 2(male and female) Large Skipper, Monken Hadley Common near Beech Hill Lake, 12:06 hrs; 3 Small Skipper, Monken Hadley Common near Beech Hill Lake, 12:10 - 12:15 hrs; 1 male Holly Blue, at Covert Way LNR, 12:25 hrs (TQ 265974); 1 Comma, at Covert Way LNR, 12:50 hrs. - Robert Callf

Friday 8th July 2011

Not a brilliant day Friday due to wind and cloud but there is an eruption of brown argus (must be 2nd brood), 11 at rickneys, 16 at waterford heath split equally between north and south. Saw 16

species at Waterford Heath which is high incl common blue, red admiral and small tortoiseshell - Steve Kiln

Thursday 7th July 2011

Chalkhill Blue at Hexton Chalk Pits - Nigel Agar

Some late sightings news - I did the transect on Tues and of particular interest were 4 dark green fritillaries (3 in the south, 1 in the north) and a hummingbird hawkmoth in the largest southern enclosure. There were plenty of marbled whites about, a few gatekeepers, ringlets, meadow brown, small copper, brown argus, small heath, brimstone, skippers, whites and a red admiral. Yesterday there was also a comma and small tortoiseshell in the large southern enclosure. In Verulam Park on Monday I saw a comma, small tortoiseshell and various small/gv whites. I also saw 2 small butterflies spiralling around near a large oak but didn't get a close view. Possibly purple hairstreaks? There was also a red admiral and a holly blue outside my house! - Paul Thrush *(Paul has also received a report of a Purple Emperor found on a driveway just outside Harpenden in the Wheathampstead direction!)*

Wednesday 6th July 2011

Went to Watery Grove PE watchpoint hoping for a break in the weather. Wasn't there very long when the sun returned and my first ever Purple Emperor (male) circled me several times, nearly made contact with my face, then landed on nearby dog deposit 1135am. Stayed for about two minutes then flew up to oak-tops by gate. Didn't manage to wipe the smile off my face all day! - Stephan Hunt

Hounslow Heath LNR, 1 Small Copper, 6 Purple Hairstreak, 4 Ringlet, 12 Small Heath, 1 Painted Lady, Small and Essex Skippers - Chris Slack
Cranebank LNR, A small area of meadows adjacent the River Crane just south of the A4 in London Borough of Hounslow. Red Admiral 3, Meadow brown 10+, Small Heath 3, Ringlet 1, Small Skipper 6 - Chris Slack

July 1st, I saw at least two small tortoiseshells in a field towards Chipperfield from Belsize, Nr. Kings Langley. On brambles a ringlet, meadow brown in grass, large skipper also on brambles. In Kings Langley on 4th July a meadow brown in a wheatfield, 5th July a female holly blue in a garden, 6th July in morning a pristine red admiral, a small white, ringlet and holly blue all in one garden and possibly a small tortoiseshell high up near a house wall. - Elizabeth Debenham

05.04.11 - weedy field, Batford: 1 WHITE LETTER HAIRSTREAK, 1 PAINTED LADY, 06.04.11 - weedy field, Batford: 2 PURPLE HAIRSTREAKS, 1 Holly Blue, 1 small white - Darin Stanley

Tuesday 5th July 2011

4th July Bricket Wood - photo: Clive Burrows

3rd July Broxbourne Wood Main Ride - photo: Laurence Drummond

28th June Broxbourne Woods central path - photo: Laurence Drummond

3rd July Broxbourne Wood Main Ride on bird dropping - photo: Laurence Drummond

27th June Broxbourne Woods Main Ride photo: Laurence Drummond

Norton Green. One Small Heath on path in SE corner of land behind travellers site, also a Purple Hairstreak low on brambles nearby, 1135. A single White-letter Hairstreak (my first) on footpath running northerly from Pigeonswick Cottage adjacent to meadow appx 1230. Superb close views until joggers sent it flying away. Also Speckled Wood here, and at least two Red Admirals. At about 1535 a Purple Hairstreak along cyclepath near Bowling Green, Stevenage Old Town - Stephan Hunt

Knebworth, Watery Grove area, 1 Purple Emperor overhead seen by Andrew Middleton. Also present were at least 1 Silver-washed Fritillary, Marbled White, Red Admiral, Commas, 1 Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown, Ringlets, Holly Blue, Large Skipper (and probably other skippers) Common Blue in field and numerous Purple Hairstreak in the canopy and one low down for Bob to photo - Andrew Middleton, Liz Goodyear joined by Peter Clarkem Bob Clift and Stephan Hunt

Went to Plashes wood today, parked near entrance to Hanging wood 10.50, quick glance at some elm behind Ribford cottage gave a single WL hairstreak, up the footpath through Hanging wood plenty of Meadow browns, Ringlets, Commas, and 2 small skipper, up to Plashes farm and along

the track behind the farm again lots of Meadow brown, Ringlet, Comma, also here 3 Red admiral, 2 Small tortoiseshell, 10+ Large skipper, Purple hairstreak around the oaks and on bramble and thistle, on the walk back 2 more Small tortoiseshell and one Brown argus - Laurence Drummond

Park Wood, Ruislip Silver-washed Fritillary on Grubb Ground at lunchtime today. At least 4 White Admiral, 6+ Ringlet, 4+ Meadow Brown, 5+ Speckled Wood, 3 Large White, several Small/Essex Skipper, 5+ Purple Hairstreak and a Holly Blue. No sign of Purple Emperor. Steve Pash

OAKHILL THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE---Chase side, Southgate N14(hay meadows)-----2x Marbled white, 3x Ringlet-----4x WLH-----all first records for the site. The regular early June cutting put back till 1st August--also seems to have had a positive effect on skipper and meadow brown numbers. KIT JONES

Six White letter Hairstreaks including a female egg laying observed low down on elm on a new site for me in the Bricket wood/ Garston area at lunchtime today. - Clive Burrows

Surprised sighting in my St Albans garden today with a fresh marbled white plus comma and 2 Large whites - Andy Steele

Seen by Kevin Hornby on 2.7.11 at White letter hairstreak 2, **Purple emperor** seen in bushes along path near **Panshanger** playing field. Marbled white 5+, Small tortoiseshell 2 - news via Clive Hornby

Monday 4th July 2011

Broxbourne Woods 4 July Arrived in west Car park at 9:50am in clear sunshine but searched rides until a pair of PURPLE EMPERORS found fluttering in willows at 12:20 pm for about 20 seconds. Seen on the slope just 150 meters W of the ash pile and subsequently 2 brief sightings of one flying over canopy. Another was seen in another part of the wood by a dog walker. Also 2 White Ads , 2 Silver Washes Frits , Green Vined Whites , Commas , & a male Brimstone etc. Ernest Leahy

Monday 4th July - Bicentenary Garden, Brunel University 2 Red Admiral, Comma, 2 Gatekeeper, 5+ Meadow Brown, 3 Speckled Wood, 2 Marbled Whites, Large, Small & GV Whites, Small/Essex Skipper, 2 Holly Blue and 3 NB 5-spot Burnet - Steve Pash

Symondshyde Great Wood - The rides were alive with Silver-washed Fritillaries - I counted 18 in all, but there could well have been more. 6 White Admirals & a solitary White-letter Hairstreak. At Park Croft on Hammonds Lane I had three sightings of a large dark nymphalid flying just above the top of oaks at the highest point in the wood complex. I didn't see it well enough to be 100% sure it was a Purple Emperor, but I think it quite likely. Grid ref of sighting TL191115, though the best viewpoint is 100yards to the west on the public footpath that runs NE from Hammonds Lane - Malcolm Hull

Purple Emperor grounded today at Bricket Wood. Around 1145, sailed down from the oaks and landed in front of me on some bracken. It then popped up a few feet onto a tree sapling. Here it stayed for 15 minutes. It was sighted just a few hundred metres away from my grounded sighting last year, a few days earlier - Clive Burrows

Some Middlesex butterfly sightings: Saturday 2nd July: Park Wood, Ruislip 1.10-3.30pm; 2 Purple Emperors at the northeast end, also 1 Brimstone, 1 Holly Blue, 12+ Speckled Wood, 1 Red Admiral, 2 Ringlet, 2 Large Skipper, Meadow Brown, 4 Purple Hairstreak Sunday 3rd July: Horsenden Hill pm under somewhat cloudy conditions; still 3 White-letter Hairstreaks hanging on, 3 Purple Hairstreak, 1 Red Admiral, good numbers of Small and Green-veined Whites, ca. 9 Marbled White, 4 Holly Blue, 1 Essex Skipper among dozens of Small or Small/Essex skippers. Bizarrely, could not 'buy' a Gatekeeper, although I did have a belated first one of the year the day before. - Andy Culshaw

Old Hatfield Aerodrome 25+ purple hairstreak around 3 large oak trees close to Hatfield Road - Richard Geary

Batford, weedy field : 8+ PURPLE HAIRSTREAKS flying between the 2 Oaks further along the footpath just north of the weedy field. early evening is best - Darin Stanley

Record transect day at Heartwood forest with both Marbled White (8) and Small Skipper(12) highest for the site so far also 2 Essex Skippers, 8 Large Skippers, 8 Gatekeepers, 4 Small Tortoiseshells, 3 Commas, 40 Ringlets, 81 Meadow Browns, 34 Large White, 3 Green-Veined and 1 Small White

http://i38.photobucket.com/albums/e140/cookie_yum/wildlife/hertsbutt08.jpg Then at Symondshyde Great Wood Later had 6 Silver-washed Fritillary, 1 White Admiral, 1 Holly Blue, 1 Comma plus quite a few Ringlets and Meadow Browns - Andy Steele

Some sightings for today (Monday 4th July 2011) - 1 Comma, S of Barracks, at Vicarage Farm, 08:40 hrs and another at Barracks, 08:45 hrs; 1 Painted Lady, along track at Vicarage Farm, 08:55 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 09:15 hrs; 1 male Gatekeeper, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 09:25 hrs and several others seen in various places; 2 Red Admiral, at Park Farm (1 at 10:27 and another at 10:58 hrs); 2 Small Tortoiseshell, at Park Farm (1 at 10:32 hrs and another at 10:55 hrs); 2 Red Admiral, at Trent Park (1 near Obelisk, 11:05 hrs and another at 'Old Golf Course', 11:15 hrs); 1 Comma, edge of Water Grdn., Trent Park, 11:30 hrs; 1 Comma, at Dew Pond, Trent Park, 11:45 hrs; 1 Small Copper, '2nd brood', near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 11:50 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, near Allotments at Vicarage Farm, 12:30 hrs. - Robert Callf

Went yesterday to Bricket Common as I am doing a walk with east herts footpath society tomorrow, butterflies are fantastic there, saw 12 silver washed, 4 white admiral and over 100 marbled whites, plus holly blues, brimstones, red admiral and many browns abounding. The one thing I saw I am sure was a dark green fritillary either that or high brown, I would have thought nothing of it except there was the dark green fritillary reported in Broxbourne woods recently it had the double black edges and wing shape different. Will keep my eyes peeled tomorrow and take my camera this time. Steve Kiln

Saw the first 6 spotted burnet on Wheathampstead LNR on July 1st feeding on a scabious. Linda Brooks

26/6/11 - Steve and myself went up to the PE site near St.Vincent's and arrived at 11.00 a.m. Waited half an hour and nothing showed. We walked around other areas and got back to the site at 2.00 p.m. and within minutes saw at least two flying around on 2/3 occasions and one perched. One stayed perched long enough to get our scope onto it. Also sightings of White Admirals and Purple Hairstreak. 02/07/11 - Steve and myself went up to the purple emperor site twice over the weekend. Just a brief glimpse on Saturday at around 12.10 p.m. before the cloud arrived. Yesterday 03/07 arrived at 10.30 a.m. when it was all blue sky and then the cloud rolled in and we did not see anything. Sue & Steve Place

Sunday 3rd July 2011

I have been to **Hexton chalkpit** this afternoon (3rd July), and there was a single male **Chalkhill Blue**. Later, down the track across the road from the chalkpit, I watched a Dark-green Fritillary flying past - Ian Small

Noticed 1 x holly blue between tring station & tring. At Tring park noted 31 x meadow brown, 1 x small skipper, 1 x small heath, 11 x marbled white, 2 x essex skipper, 33 x ringlet, 1 x small white, 2 x gv white, 2 x large white, 1 x large skipper. Looked like a purple emperor but too fast to be sure, maybe white admiral! Walked via ridgeway tring park to station. = 3 x meadow brown, 1 x small skipper, 1 x marbled white, 27 x ringlet, 4 x small white, 1 x gv white, 1 x speckled wood, 3 x red admiral, 2 x small tortoiseshell. At field opposite tring station by railway line = 10 x 4 spot burnet, 19 x meadow brown, 4 x small skipper, 3 x shaded broad bar moth, 6 x essex skipper, 1 x small heath, 126 x marbled white! , 27 x ringlet, 2 x small white, 1 x small tortoiseshell. Aldbury nowers= 5 x meadow brown, 1 x essex skipper, 5 x small heath, 30 x marbled white, 29 x ringlet, 1 x small white, 1 x large skipper, 2 x large white, 1 x small tortoiseshell, 1 silver washed fritillary. Around ridgeway just passed Aldbury nowers (opposite chalk pit) were 20 x dark green fritillaries on and around thistles and 2 x small tortoiseshells. 1 x white letter hairstreak at stanmore country park (seen twice around elm) - David Gower

Broxbourne Woods (10:00-12:15) 10+ Large White 3 Small White 1 G V White 1 Purple Hairstreak 1M Brown Argus 2 Common Blue 1M Purple Emperor (plus 2 others reported at Bonfire) 3 Comma 5 Red Admiral 2 Silver Washed Fritillary 1 Marbled White 50+ Ringlet 50+ Meadow Brown 2 Gatekeeper 10 Small Skipper 3 Large Skipper - Mike Harris

Early ish start today, glad I did, arrived Broxbourne main ride 09.27, 2 male Purple emperors gliding, chasing and grounding at the eastern end of the ride, one taking a particular liking to some bird droppings on a Bracken frond, on the way back at 10.10 a large male was seen gliding and grounding continually near the car park, so 3 different males present, decided to try Wormley wood, arv 10.20, as soon as I set foot in the ride the sun went in and stayed in for the duration of my visit, nothing of any note seen here. I then went to the Martins green carpark at 11.58, and walked north along Ermine street then across west to the bridleway to Monks green, still mainly in cloud very quiet nothing of note, at Monks green I scanned the canopy of Jepps wood from 12.50-14.30 but saw no sign of any Emperor activity, so inconclusive ?, on the walk back where previously there appeared not to be any (Highfield) I noted 6 White admirals - Laurence Drummond

Decided to pop down to the old Hatfield Aerodrome today for a quick look at numbers and take a few photos, this turned in to a 3 hour walk just to cross the 1st section of grass and 600+ photos to sort. Species seen, silly numbers of small and Essex skippers, and a few large skippers, marbled whites, small and large whites, ringlets, meadow brown, gate keeper, tortoiseshell, small copper, single holly blue, single small heath and to my total surprise a single white-letter hairstreak in the middle of a grassy field! Richard Geary

Saw two White-letter Hairstreaks in Oakwood Park, N14 this morning (Sunday 3rd July 2011) - one settled on Bramble, 09:05 hrs and another settled in grass at 09:40 hrs. This is the first time that I have seen White-letter Hairstreaks at this site, despite looking in previous years. Also several Purple Hairstreaks, including one settled in the grass at 08:32 hrs. 2 Holly Blues (08:45 and 10:00 hrs) and one Comma at 09:45 hrs. At least four Small Skippers at Grovelands Park, Southgate, N14 13:33 hrs; 1 Holly Blue, 13:38 hrs and two male Large Skippers, 13:39 - 13:40 hrs. - Robert Callf

Just back from a walk at Ashridge/Pitstone. Along with loads of dark green fritillaries, marbled whites, ringlets, meadow browns, small heaths, large skippers and speckled woods, I saw a single **clouded yellow**, going like the clappers over Pitstone Hill at 949142. Sadly, this is in Buckinghamshire, a couple of hundred yards from the Herts border but, unless it hung a right very soon after I lost sight of it, it will have entered our territory! First

Alongside the weedy field in Batford today, apart from the usual (sadly no hairstreaks) were two Holly Blue and a male Brimstone. Robin Pearson

I walked up to Tring Park again this morning hoping for a repeat performance of yesterday and I was not disappointed. At about 10.00am I clearly saw a Purple Emperor swooping through the lower branches of the lime trees on the main wooded ride. A minute later further up the ride opposite the gate I could see that it had settled on the path so I quickly ran up to it and got a great view of a pristine male emperor(with the purple sheen). It settled for a good 30 seconds before flying off but it was very close to where I saw the emperor yesterday on the other side of the gate. I thought I would hang around this area for another couple of hours but without any further sightings - Phil Woodward

Saturday 2nd July 2011

Decided to do a late visit to the Broxbourne common territory today, as it has a more westerly aspect it gets the best of the late afternoon sun, arrived at 16.15, by 16.16 I had seen a Purple emperor make two short flights around high up on the veteran oak, two more flights noted up to 16.30, no chasing or clashing seen, so far emergence appears to be low ? - Laurence Drummond

There are a splendid array of marbled white butterflies next to the Clothall Common Estate in Baldock on the same area as last year. It is a patch of uncultivated ground between the end of Aleyn Way and the A505 Royston Road approximately 400ft by 300ft. They started appearing at the end of the week before last and are now very numerous - Anne Rousell

12-4pm, Graffidge Wood, 3 Silver Washed Fritillary - Lee Browne

News from Bricket Wood - Record numbers of Marbled White (72), Ringlet (300) & Silver-washed Fritillary (15) on todays transect. White Admiral (8) & Red Admiral (4) also doing well. Interesting sighting of a female Holly Blue laying on the flower buds of wild hop. Several eggs were laid & we found a small silvery blue egg nestling in this unusual choice of location. After lunch, three

sightings of a male Purple Emperor, probably all the same individual. Join us on the field trip next Sunday, 10th July at 10 am - Malcolm Hull & Colin Everett

On Friday July 1st - at about 5.00pm I saw a Marbled White in a garden in Glenhurst Avenue, Ruislip. This was the first time I have ever seen one of these butterflies - Dr Charles Stephens

On Friday 1st July, during a walk in the late afternoon at Aldbury (Stocks) Golf course saw a Dark Green Fritillary flying across the grassed area amongst the Marbled Whites, Meadow Browns and Ringlet. Saturday 2nd July: Went for a walk early this morning at Tring Park and saw another Dark Green Fritillary flying across the field at about 9.30 am. I then walked up to the main wooded ride at the top of the escarpment and passed through the gate that eventually takes you to an area of Sallow trees, I was really excited and pleased to see a Purple Emperor fly around and settle in the lower undergrowth for a short time (25-30 seconds) before swooping off into the trees. I could not tell if it was a male or female but it was just great to see one at this site once again. - Phil Woodward

Batford (Harpenden), weedy field by the B653 mid-morning today (2 July): a superabundance of Marbled Whites (three figure numbers), Large Skippers and Small Skippers; good numbers of Meadow Browns, Ringlets and Gatekeepers; and several Large Whites, G-V Whites, Holly Blues, Red Admirals and Small Tortoiseshells. One Speckled Wood and one uncooperative Hairstreak (prob W-L) by the rejuvenating elms, one Comma by the main road and a Cinnabar moth by the footpath to the east of the field. - Alan Jackson

A Silver-washed Fritillary seen in Wintergreen Wood over the brambles at around 1145 hrs. Later at 1220hrs, a White Admiral spotted in a clearing (again over brambles) very close to Pigeonswick Cottage. A few Purple Hairstreaks now also out in the Norton Green area. Peter Clarke

At Hatfield Aerodrome (Disused) today: Still Good numbers Marbled White, Fair numbers Large Skipper, Few Small Skipper, 1 x Red Admiral, 2 x Tortoiseshell, 1 x Gatekeeper, 5+ x Small Heath, Good numbers Meadow Brown, Fair numbers Small White & Green Veined White and Fair numbers Ringlet - David Wheatcroft

Walked from Bayford station to BROXBOURNE wood and popped into field just around first bend in road. Found 1 x meadow brown, 1 x comma, 2 x green veined white, 1 x speckled wood, 3 x small white, 20 x ringlet, 12 x Essex Skippers, 6 x small skippers. Around 2 main paths at Broxbourne spotted 40 x meadow brown, 1 x comma, 15 x green veined white, 10 x speckled wood, 9 x small white, 42 x ringlet, 1 x Essex skipper, 3 x small skipper, 1 x large skipper, 9 x red admiral, 2 x large white, 1 x marbled white, 4 x purple hairstreak, 1 x white admiral. Unfortunately I missed a purple emperor by 10 mins I'm told! David Gower

Broxbourne ride this morning 2 silver washed Fritillaries in the main ride plus one in glade. Purple hairstreak in the oaks in glade. In Waterford heath 16 marbled whites and my first gatekeeper - Steve Kiln

I was able to trundle round my usual walk first thing on the 30th June as a change from late afternoon. In all, 16 species were seen, which is quite a tally. Small and GV Whites were out everywhere, starting the day with a visit to the bramble flowers and presenting unusual photo opportunities. Further new Gatekeepers had emerged, and my recently discovered Ringlet colony had at least ten members. New emergences also included second brood Brown Argus, Small Copper, Common Blue and Holly Blue. The final tally, counting down: 25+ Small Heath 12+ Small White/GVW (more of the latter in those checked by about 3 to 1) 10 Ringlet 8 Comma 6 Meadow Brown 4 Large Skipper 4 Gatekeeper 4 Small Tortoiseshell 4 Red Admiral 3 Speckled Wood 1 Peacock 1 Holly Blue 1 Common Blue 1 Small Copper 1 Brown Argus - Dave Miller

Friday 1st July 2011

I just got a call from Andy and Luke from the wildlife trust to go up to **Patmore Heath** as they had just found a new butterfly for the site! I walked up and there it was - see link (the new species is a **Purple Emperor**!!! - news via Gavin Vicary with Andy Brown and Luke Shenton

[Gavin's photos](#) photos/nym/pe/Pe1_2011G.Vicary.JPG

[Gavin's photos](#) photos/nym/pe/Pe2_2011G.Vicary.JPG

[Andy Brown's photos](#) photos/nym/pe/Pe1_2011A.BrownHMWT.jpg

[Andy Brown's photos](#) photos/nym/pe/Pe2_2011A.BrownHMWT.jpg

Went to **Norton Green** this afternoon (1400-1510) to find 3 species in particular: White Admiral, Silver-Washed Fritillary and Purple Emperor. No luck with the first two but to my surprise I saw a **Purple Emperor** at the top of my 'favourite' oak tree about halfway down the SW edge of Watery Grove. I saw it fly very briefly at about 1450 hrs around the top of the tree and had a very good view of it before it settled. Peter Clarke

Started at Goose green car park today 10.05, walked north along Ermine street up to Balls wood, despite loads of good sallow no Purple emperor sighted, in Balls wood 6 white admiral and one Silver washed fritillary and my first Gatekeeper of the year, no sign of any Purple emperor on the walk back to Goose green, stopped off at Broxbourne west car park 11.50 and saw one Purple Emperor down by the Bench, a group of people there had seen a grounded emperor at the far eastern end of the ride, also one White admiral here. Laurence Drummond

Visited Broxbourne Woods between 1000 and 1240 today. Two Purple Emperors seen by me this morning - one on the wood ash pile at the top of the main ride and a second in the grassy clearing west of the pond. At the latter location, two White Admirals were seen, plus many Purple Hairstreaks. At least two or more White Admirals along the main ride. Ringlets and Meadow Browns are out in abundance and there are also a few Comma and Red Admirals too. A Purple Emperor was also seen by others around the car park earlier in the day, and a Silver Washed Fritillary was also reportedly seen (Comma not entirely eliminated!) among the thistles along the stream bed. - Phil Bishop

Bricket Wood Common, butterflies seen today (12 to 1pm) include White Admiral, Red Admiral, Silver Washed Fritillary, Marbled White, Large White, Small White, Small Skipper, Large Skipper, Ringlet, Meadow Brown, Speckled Wood - Terry Wood

Batford, weedy field, 3 PURPLE HAIRSTREAKS, 1 WHITE LETTER HAIRSTREAK, 1x 2nd brood HOLLY BLUE, numerous Gatekeepers, Marbled whites, small Skippers, Meadow Browns, Ringlets & some large Skippers - Darin Stanley

Archive Page

Sightings and news from January to June 2011

 [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 2011.

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 2011

Thursday 30th June 2011

Batford, weedy field - 3 Gatekeepers - Darin Stanley

June 26: Batford. the footpath next to the weedy field at Batford , Herts had at least 4 WHITE LETTER HAIRSTREAKS in flight around the rejuvenating elms but a couple were found nectaring on bramble adjacent to the path one which was easy to photograph. Also in the area were many Marbled Whites , Ringlets , Meadow Browns & Red Ads. June 28: Redbourn, The rough grass field known locally as Aubreys Camp TL085113 has numerous Marbled Whites & Meadow Browns. I also saw several fresh Ringlets & 5 Commas . This is a very productive area for grassland species. June 30: Symonshyde Lane, 3 Silver Washed Fritillaries often on bramble at the public footpath entrance where sadly a lot of the habitat has been spoilt by the logging storage & clearance. Also at that spot one Red Admiral & a Comma. Time there was 10:45- 12 noon. - Ernest Leahy

After drawing a blank down the trails from the West car park at Broxbourne Woods this morning (2 Red Admirals the highlight) I went to the East car park. Nothing seen on the Sculpture trail but 250 yds down the Broxbourne Woods trail (start where the log piles are and walk to just before the ditch with a wooden bridge over it) a Purple Emperor came out of the woods and circled me once before disappearing over the trees. I waited 20 minutes but did not get another sighting - Robin Pearson

Managed a quick visit to the old rivers nursery site today High wych/Sawbridgeworth, Brown argus 1, small skipper 8, Large skipper 1, Small tortoiseshell 3, many Ringlets and Meadow brown, Just before leaving a quick glance up at two hedgrows gave a sighting of a single WL Hairstreak cross from one elm to another, my first at this site - Laurence Drummond

A stroll around The Commons LNR in Welwyn Garden City between 8am & 9am today produced: Small White 7, Meadow Brown 20, Marbled White 2, Ringlet 12, Large White 6, Large Skipper 12, White Lettered Hairstreak 2, Comma 3, Small Skipper 6, Gatekeeper 4, Red Admiral 1 - Chris Beach

Butterflies seen late morning at Tyttenhanger Gravel Pits and Garden Wood included;- Marbled White, Comma, Red Admiral, Speckled Wood, Meadow Brown, Small White, Small Heath, Small Skipper, Ringlet - Terry Wood

I was up at Aldbury yesterday and together with good numbers of marbled white, I saw 2 comma, 2 brimstone, 2 silver washed fritillary and 4 dark green fritillary. Today I was at Purwell Ninesprings and there were lots of ringlets, skippers and whites about and at Beech Farm there were 3 small tortoiseshell together basking on rubble piles. - Paul Thrush

Wednesday 29th June 2011

Ruislip Woods Field Trip: Twenty one people assembled at 10.30 in Ruislip Lido car park on a lovely sunny morning. We headed around the southern edge of the lido into Park Wood and walked the length of the Pylon ride, across Grubb Ground and on to the St Vincent's end of Park Wood. It was a long walk but we were rewarded by the sight of 2 male Purple Emperor. One settled for 10

minutes at the top of an oak in a small clearing, giving everyone the opportunity to see it through my telescope. We also saw several White Admiral, Comma, Purple Hairstreak, Large & Small Skipper, Meadow Brown, Ringlet, Speckled Wood, Large, Small & GV White, Holly Blue, male Brimstone (seen by one of the group) and NB Five-spot Burnet moth. We also saw a Hobby, Southern Hawker Dragonfly and a Violet Ground Beetle sp? We arrived back the cars at approx 13.45. Most people headed off but Ched George and myself explored the fields next to the lido car park. Ched counted 30+ Marbled White and similar numbers of Ringlet. plus Large & Small Skipper, Meadow Brown and Purple Hairstreak. Then to Poors Field where I saw my first Gatekeeper of the year. Ched left and I went to check on the nesting Common Terns on the Lido. As I was watching the terns I noticed a Humming-bird Hawk moth feeding on Lucerne. - Steve Pash

Wheathampstead LNR, Too many to count of ringlets and marbled whites. At one time I saw at least 8 ringlets at one time. Comma feeding on bramble - Linda Brooks

A very visible and strikingly pink Lime Hawkmoth flying in dappled sunlight along Villiers -Sur-Marne Avenue, Thorley Park at 3.30 this afternoon - Len Crouch

29th June Amwell, Marbled White. 27th June Kings Meads, Essex & Small Skipper, 8 Large Skipper, 14 Small Tortoiseshell, 9 Meadow Brown, 13 Ringlet - Simon Knott

Walked along the footpath west from Wheathampstead towards Leasey Bridge Farm. The path has a hedge in places and meadow either side. There were lots of meadow browns, ringlets and small skippers along the length of the path, but it was the marbled whites that were particularly impressive - I started counting them but gave up when I got to 100. I have only recently started walking this route so I don't know if this is normal here or whether it's a particularly good year for them. - Ian Flack

I managed to walk round all my local patch at around 5.30 this evening, and it was well worth it! First up were two new Gatekeepers, the first of the year, soon followed by four or five Purple Hairstreaks around a mature solitary oak by the River Colne completely ignoring a couple of spiralling Red Admirals. I counted eight Commas in various places, staking out territories and chasing anything in sight - including one foolishly pursuing a formidable-looking dragonfly. The line of small oaks by the J14 roundabout were also graced by a handful of Purple Hairstreaks, but they stayed high and energetic in the treetops. Finally, along the damp edge of a piece of woodland, I encountered at least two Ringlets. This is my first sighting of this species here - but I suspect this is more a tribute to my sorry observational powers in previous years rather than the arrival of a new species! However, it is the 24th different species seen across this patch in three years. Watching them, they flitted up and down at low level for a while, as is their habit; then as if a signal had been given, they all made for the trees and settled down about fifteen feet up, in the shade, and became effectively invisible. Fascinating. - Dave Miller

A summary of today's transect walk at Bricket Wood Common is provided at:

<http://hertshobbies.blogspot.com>

- C. M. Everett

4 White Admirals in 50 minutes at Bramfield Woods today, also a Painted Lady and a Hummingbird Hawk-moth and quite a few Red Admirals, recent migrants? Nothing exciting at Bramfield Park Wood, all the permissive paths are closed due to extensive forestry operations currently (looks like most of the conifers are coming out). No interesting species in Plashes Wood, but a few Marbled Whites between there and the A10. Six belted clearwings came to pheromone lures, there is masses of birds foot trefoil on that site. Plenty of Small Tortoiseshells in the arable field edges around Watton at Stone Andrew Wood

Started today at Martins green carpark 12.05, walked through HMWT Danemead 1 White admiral here, out onto the bridleway north to Monks green, at the cross way a Purple emperor flies over my head and into a small oak tree, carried on to Monks green and decided to check out the canopy of Jepps wood that can be viewed from the bridleway, at 13.10 a Purple emperor appeared over the canopy and perched on a high spray of a large ash tree. I stayed until 13.40 but no further activity was seen, maybe a visit later in the season when more are on the wing may confirm if this is a territory, I then walked back south along the bridleway, at the cross way 13.53, I disturbed a grounded male Purple emperor that was probably the same one seen earlier, it flew up into the lower branches of a pine tree, I waited a few minutes for the sun to come out and it flew out of the

tree and landed on the track about 5ft away from me, I watched it crawling around on the track, all the while probing the damp surface, after watching for a few minutes I made my way to the territory at Broxbourne common from 14.20-14.50 no Purple emperors were seen. Laurence Drummond

Waterford Heath Wednesday - Meadow browns, ribglets and skippers + 2 Marbled Whites on the small meadow at the south east corner of the south heath - Andy Brown

Symondshyde Great Wood 14:30 - 15:15. 4-6 White Admiral 400 yds down rutted track South of Bridleway, also two unidentified Hairstreaks. 3 Silver-washed Fritillaries 50 yds along Bridleway - Robin Pearson

Some news for today (Wednesday 29th June 2011) - 1 Small Tortoiseshell, along hedgerow opposite Williams Wood, at Vicarage Farm, 11:15 hrs; 2, male and female, Ringlet, copulating, along hedgerow opposite Williams Wood, at Vicarage Farm, 11:17 hrs; 1 male Common Blue, hedgerow opposite Williams Wood, at Vicarage Farm, 11:20 hrs; 1 Marbled White, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 11:25 hrs; 2 Red Admiral, together, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 11:25 hrs; 1 Red Admiral, at Bay Farm, Enfield; 2 Small Tortoiseshell, at Rectory Farm, Enfield; 1 Comma, at Rectory Farm, Enfield; 7 Small White, together, settling on track at Rectory Farm; 1 Comma, at Whitewebbs Wood; 1 Red Admiral, at Whitewebbs Wood; Ringlet, several, at Whitewebbs Wood; 1 Red Admiral, at Lavender Hill Cemetery, Enfield, at 15:05 hrs - Robert Callf

Monday 27th June 2011

Have had my first Humming-Bird hawkmoths of the year on Lavender Dwarf Munstead Blue - Malcolm Newland

Went to Brox woods. Purple Hairstreak present and Purple Emperor reliably reported also Ringlet, MBs Speck Wood Red Admiral. No one seems to have seen White Admiral yet - Nigel Agar

Sunday 26 July: walked the transect at Templewood Vale, Sherrardspark Wood on a warm, sunny afternoon and recorded the following: 1 red admiral, 4 comma, 43 meadow brown, 5 large skipper, 6 ringlet, 1 small skipper, 1 speckled wood, 1 large white, 3 small/GV-white and 1 white-letter hairstreak. Most of the meadow browns were out amongst the long grasses in the meadow but the other species were on or near the brambles along the fringe of the wood. - Ian Flack

Bicentenary Garden, Brunel University, Uxbridge. 5+ Marbled White, 3 Large White, Comma, Red Admiral, Holly Blue, 2 Speckled Wood, 2 Small Heath, 2 Large Skipper & 3 Small/Essex Skipper (to active to confirm). Steve Pash

-----29c-----11.30am-----Broxbourne woods main ride west car park----1xPE male--on dessicated dog faeces-----2x red admiral---1x Comma. Nothing showing at C camp at 12 noon-----Nothing of interest at Bencroft wood. Oakhill Woods LNR EN2-----Fresh male Peacock and fresh male Brimstone on creeping thistle. KIT JONES

A couple of quick walks round different parts of my patch over the last couple of days: Sunday 26th - very hot and sunny, and a walk along the River Colne produced 3 or 4 new Holly Blues, 3 Small Tortoiseshells, 2 Commas, 2 Red Admirals, a Speckled Wood and 4 Meadow Browns. There were also numerous Small/GV Whites, and a solitary Large White. However, I don't like to add in several dozen newly-emerged Peacocks, as my smallest son and I helped bring them into the world! Virtually no parasitism noted in this batch, incidentally. Monday 27th - equally hot but entirely overcast at 5pm when I ventured over to the patch by J14 of the M25. Small Heaths were flying, but not more than a dozen were seen. However, some were new: they appear to have overlapping broods, having been there constantly since April. In the wooded part, Red Admirals appeared to have emerged in numbers. Though not in the Purple Emperor league, their spiralling dogfights in and around the treetops were most impressive, four or five joining the fray at once. More Holly Blues were about and another fresh Comma. - Dave Miller

Started the day at Broxbourne woods main ride at 08.37, at 0854 I saw a single Purple emperor fly into a small sallow about 70yds east of the stream, then to the Martins green car park at 09.30 walked up the bridleway to Monks green no sign of any Purple emperors here, but as in Brox, more than the usual amount of Red admirals, 1 white admiral seen in HMWT Danemead on the return walk, back to Broxbourne main ride at 10.44 and found a grounded male Purple emperor near the

seat, it flew to some logs and I managed to get it taking salts from my finger, arrived at Wormley wood 11.15, again no sign here of any emperors around the rides but a stint at the territory 12.50-13.21 showed two arriving high over the gap at 13.10, then disappearing, at 13.19 one flew across the gap and perched, then another at 13.21, also 1 white admiral in the main ride - Laurence Drummond

Three Silver-washed Fritillaries in Symondshyde Great Wood this morning on ride South of Bridleway. Robin Pearson

A few sightings for yesterday (Sunday 26th June 2011) at Oakwood Park, N14 - 2 Large Skipper, at 09:50 hrs; 1 Purple Hairstreak, at 09:50 hrs - my first of the year! 2 Speckled Wood, together, at 09:52 hrs; 2 Ringlet, at 12:50 hrs; 1 Comma, at 12:50 hrs. Today (Monday 27th June 2011) sightings at Grovelands Park, Southgate: 1 Ringlet, 12:37 hrs; 2 Small Skipper, 12:42 and 12:48 hrs; 1 Silver Y, at 12:48 hrs; 1 Meadow Brown, at 12:55 hrs. - Robert Callf

Just about to start my regular walk around EC2, Looking out of the office window here in Broadgate (EM2M 2PP) City of London **1 silver washed fritillary**, Perched on the windowsill briefly, in the sun, before taking off (am counting that on my walk, as I doubt I'll see another !!!) Some quick highlights from yesterday (Sunday): Cottered (TL30/28) 1 silver washed Fritillary, happily visiting the village fair. Coombs Wood (30/22). First saw a single marbled white on the grassland area just before the woods entrance in 2009. Sunday we saw a total of 12 individuals, so clearly the colony has become well established and has spread out to cover part of the fields to the west of the woods as two individuals were also seen flying through the woods. Also 10 cinnabar moths (+ lots of caterpillars) 2 small heath 58 meadow brown 8 ringlet 5 small skipper (no Essex skipper) 18 large skipper. Dane End (32/20) 1 marbled white in the park. 1 purple hairstreak on oaks. Lots of ringlets and meadow browns etc everywhere. Saturday Hillyfield Park - Enfield. 20+ purple hairstreak at North Enfield CC. Further to all this Small Tortoiseshell - doing well, lots seen at Wareside = all the site visits from Sunday. - Phil MacMurdie

Pinner, Middlesex. Two Holly Blues in our garden here, both yesterday and today. These must be second brood; but like so many other species this year, this seems exceptionally early - Graham Elcombe.

Hounslow Heath LNR, so hot today everything stopped flying, 5 Purple Hairstreak, 30 Small/Essex Skipper, 2 Ringlet, 3 Small Heath, 20+ Small White, 1 Small Tortoiseshell - Chris Slack

Sunday 26th June 2011

We had an informal two-hour wander round Bricket Wood Common and up the Main Ride, between 11 and 1; weather hot. I was not counting exact numbers for the commoner species, and am sure you have more detailed reports from many others, but the following may be of some help: Small Skipper - only got close enough to one to positively identify it, but saw hardly any other Small/Essex. Large Skipper - quite common; probably several dozen seen. Large White - certainly saw 4. Small/Green-veined White - a small number, maybe 6-10. Green-veined White - 1 close enough for positive identification. White Admiral - about 8. Purple Emperor - did not see one, but spoke to someone who says they did see one earlier that morning - a male going by the purple sheen as it flew off, showing that it was not a White Admiral - on the Main Ride, between the main path and the narrow wooden trackway. Red Admiral - 2, Comma - just 1 (*hutchinsonii*), Silver-Washed Fritillary - about 5, Speckled Wood - 2, Marbled White - about 20, Meadow Brown - quite common - certainly dozens, Ringlet - very common; more, in fact, than I have ever seen in one habitat. Possibly 50-100 or more, if that is of any help! The vagueness of numbers of some species was partly due to the fact that - as another camera-toting spotter confirmed to me - for some reason the butterflies just were not settling. The brambles were in full flower, but apart from a couple of Meadow Browns, and one White Admiral which gave me a decent photo of its underside, little was settling on them. However, I did get one quaint photo - three Tiger beetles mating (yes - three)! - Michael Hammerson

Some sightings for Saturday 25th June 2011 at Regent's Park - **1 Gatekeeper**, 15:06 hrs - my first of the year! 1 Silver Y, 15:06 hrs; 2, male and female, Large Skipper, 15:08 hrs; 3 Small Tortoiseshell, (1 at 15:10 hrs, 2 together, 15:50 hrs); 2 male Small Skipper, 15:11 hrs; 1 Comma, at 15:35 hrs; 1 Red Admiral, at 16:20 hrs; 1 Narrow-bordered Five Spot Burnet, at 15:38 hrs. - Robert Callf

On Saturday 25th June at Bunkers park daisy slope in evening... several marbled whites, some still

flying in late sun, meadow brown, ringlet and 6 spot burnet caterpillars, cocoons and moths around too. Noisy Summer chafer beetles flying over the tree border and out of the daisies at dusk were an amazing site. 26th June in Kings Langley hedgerow brambles and umbelliferae I saw more butterflies than before in this area at one time. Over a 2-3hr wander I saw groups of 4, 2 and 3 small tortoiseshells dog fighting over my head near brambles and nettles. In same patch there were large skipper, ringlet, meadow brown and comma! Further up the lane near oak and hogweed there were more small tortoiseshells flying over the wheat field and settling on hogweed and corn. Ringlet, meadow brown and large skipper again too. This morning a fast orange butterfly, either a comma or small tortoiseshell against my window. Ringlet in my garden for the first time and a large white. - Elizabeth Debenham

Passed through FISHERS FIELD for 1 hour at 5.30 pm today. Noticed 14 x meadow brown, 4 x green veined white, 7 x small skippers and 5 x Essex skippers. - David Gower

3 White Admirals, lots of Ringlets, a few commas and large and small skippers present but no SWF. Andy Brown

Met up with Laurence Drummond, after he had seen a dark green fritillary in Broxbourne Wood NR earlier in the morning. We didn't see any Purple Emperors yet in Wormley Wood, but we did see c3 white admirals, a hummingbird hawkmoth and a marbled white there, then no sightings of Pemp over Fir & Pond Wood yet, but one male PE at North Mymms and two later in the afternoon at Northaw Great Wood. ~ Andrew Middleton and Laurence Drummond

Before meeting Andrew for a tour of south Herts emperor sites I stopped off at Broxbourne woods main ride 08.55 to 10.00, the Dark green fritillary was again seen patrolling the thistle beds along the stream, also one White admiral. - Laurence Drummond

Today went early to Waterford heath and Rickneys, Ringlets everywhere. But four marbled white at Waterford heath south and a colony of marbled whites in the field on other side of Sacombe rd from Rickneys. - Steve Kiln

Huge numbers of Small Heath at this site yesterday. Home Park, or Hampton Court Park, is the deer park associated with Hampton Court Palace. I was mostly in the monad TQ1668, stopped counting at 30+ (chiefly because I was looking for fungi primarily), saw hundreds, and would not be surprised at all if there were thousands over the whole site. Same for Small/Essex Skippers - much less so for Meadow Brown. If Bushy Park, the adjacent site immediately to the north which has much in the way of similar habitat and is much larger, holds equivalent densities then the current population at these two Royal Parks could even approach five figures. I should put in two caveats: firstly, possible over-enthusiasm in extrapolating big numbers from anecdotal small ones; and secondly, Bushy Park certainly had very few Small Heath flying in 2009 when I tramped over that whole site twice a month as part of a fungus survey. An impressive and pleasing sight yesterday, in any event - Keir Mottram

Large number of marbled whites in rough field between Batford and Wheathampstead on the Lower Luton Road (Grid ref TL154150) First seen on the 24th June. - Paul Unwin

We went to Broxbourne Woods today, arrived at 10.30am, Sunny and very hot conditions. Saw no White Admirals but plenty of Large Skippers, Meadow Brown, Ringlet, large Whites, Comma, Red Admirals, Also saw 3 Purple Hairstreaks and around 11.30 we saw a grounded Male Purple Emperor on the path just past the seat. It stayed grounded for approx 10mins. Then flew up to the right (when looking down the track) into the pine trees - http://www.hertsmiddx-butterflies.org.uk/photos/nym/pe/Pe1_2011S.Standbridge.jpg
Sandra and Kevin Stanbridge

Hatfield Aerodrome (Disused): Marbled White x 85+ present - Appears to be healthy colony still
Large Skipper x 6 Small Skipper x 3 Meadow Brown - Good numbers throughout site
Ringlet x 8 Small Heath x 7 Red Admiral x 4 Small White - Fair numbers though out site
Large White x 1 Green-Veined White - Numbers scattered through site
Speckled Wood x 4 - Home Covert (Wood)
Small Tortoiseshell x 1 - David Wheatcroft

Saturday 25th June 2011

Lea Valley Walk Between Wheathampstead & Waterend following seen: Marbled White x 4 Small Tortoiseshell x 2 Ringlet x 5 Small White - Few present Meadow Brown x 15 - David Wheatcroft

3 male Purple Emperor flying in Park Wood, Ruislip. Several aerial clashes from 15.40 until I left at 17.10. Also, White Admiral, 4 - 5 Purple Hairstreak, 2 Comma, Large Skipper and 3+ Speckled Wood. Steve Pash

Gatekeeper visited my garden in Thorley Park at a minute before noon today - Len Crouch

Visited Broxbourne Woods on Friday and in the clearing west of the main ride going north from the W car park, where all the young oak trees are, saw Silver Washed fritillary flying, also plenty of Purple hairstreaks. - Iris Newbery

Friday 24th June 2011

Nice morning out on Hounslow Heath LNR. The main heathland pen saw 20 Small Heath, 14 Small Skipper and 5 Meadow Brown with the odd Red Admiral sitting on the bramble bushes. A trip down the red ride found the first two Ringlet of the year, Holly Blues and a couple of Purple Hairstreak on the stunted heath oaks. Finally spotted a hairstreak on our known White-letter colony at the southern end of the red ride on suckering elm, only a fleeting glimpse so will have to get down next week to confirm if the White-letters are out as there are many Purple Hairstreaks in this area also. Good to be corresponding after recording in Hounslow since 1996.- Chris Slack

I did the transect on Tuesday at Aldbury Nowers, highlights included a red admiral in the southern section and a dark green fritillary in the northern section. I visited today and along with lots of marbled white, meadow browns and ringlets saw a small tortoiseshell and a painted lady. - Paul Thrush

Thursday 23rd June 2011

Yesterday (22nd) I managed to squeeze in a quick visit late in the day to Harmondsworth Moor just north-west of Heathrow. The uncut grassy areas were alive with Meadow Browns, Marbled Whites and Small Skippers, plus five or six Small Heaths. 2010 was the first year I had seen Marbled Whites here, and now their numbers appear to have increased markedly - I counted over 30 in a relatively small area so the overall total must be impressive. Incidentally, I don't believe there were any Essex Skippers out yet - none of the photos I took showed any evidence of any. Other than the above, one Large Skipper and one Red Admiral spotted. - Dave Miller

At Bricket Wood Common today, after a rain shower I had 12 separate sightings of Silver-washed Fritillary (males & females) probably at least 8 individuals. Also 4 White Admirals.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/7395917@N02/5863383530/>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/7395917@N02/5863383632/>

Robin Pearson

I visited the scrubby hillside between Lower Hatfield Road and the railway on the southern edge of Hertford. In a 40 minute visit I noted 57 Marbled Whites, so a good colony here, as well as 41 Ringlets, 20 Meadow Browns, 7 definite Small Skippers (and many more unconfirmed ones), 2 Large Skippers, 5 Small Heaths, 1 Comma and a Narrow Bordered 5 Spot Burnet Moth - Andrew Wood

Wednesday 22nd June 2011

At 15:52 this afternoon we completed our TL20 White-letter challenge in TL2002, a 2km we know very well and knew where to find white-letter but involved a little walking. Earlier in the day we had been thwarted by 'light rain' but managed to complete TL2604 in the morning by finding a hatched egg. Then we waited until the rain stopped and rushed to Colney Heath, and stood there whilst it started to rain again.....but then as the sky brightened up a cloud of Marbled Whites lifted from the grass even though it was still raining. An amazing sight! Andrew picked up a perched white-letter here from some distance which was one of those feats he is renowned for. Then back up the road to Hatfield and the A1000 beside the railway line. By the time I managed to cross the busy road, Andrew had already picked up a white-letter in flight. During the morning we had been driving around Hatfield in the rain looking for elm but turned left into Travellers Lane. If we had turned right into Woods Avenue towards the town centre we would have seen an avenue of planted elm trees!!! Having seen that Hatfield had some Sapporo Autumn Golds (SAGs) we were hopeful that some had been planted in the adjacent 2km square TL2080 and luck was on our side, with two found just inside the 2km square on one of the routes to the University with again Andrew picking up one perched - a good result! Also of note today 2 White Admirals on the

footpath up to Potwells - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

On June 21st during a long evening walk at Bunkers Park on long grass and knapweed in wide grass pathways we counted about 21 marbled whites, 2 small skippers, 6-spot burnet caterpillars and cocoons. June 22nd evening walk at Bunkers Park lower daisy slope, 3 meadow brown, one common blue, about 6 marbled white on daisies and knapweed. - Elizabeth Debenham

I've only been butterfly spotting for the last couple of years, but I'm now completely fascinated by these amazing creatures, and went to Hungary's Northern Uplands during May. Yesterday I saw a purple hairstreak just outside Ashridge Business School and it allowed me to get very close with my high magnification zoom lens. I'm trying to photograph all the butterflies I see, so this will be my 32nd. I hope you enjoy looking at my website (the purple hairstreak is on my homepage).

www.rachelpiper.me.uk

- Rachel Piper

1 Small Heath seen at Little Wormwood Scrubs (which straddles the border of Hammersmith and Kensington approx. TQ230820) yesterday to add to the upsurge in sightings of this species away from its usual haunts, something particularly welcome in urban Middlesex, especially at sites like this one where there is now apparently suitable habitat for (re)colonisation - Keir Mottram

Batford weedy field, 3 WHITE LETTER HAIRSTREAKS, numerous Marbled whites, 3 Ringlets, large & small Skippers, numerous Meadow Browns - Darin Stanley

News from Monday 20th June, Hummingbird Hawkmoth by the main pond at Brunel University and Small Heath in the Bicentenary Garden - Steve Pash

Tuesday 21st June 2011

Emerging male **Silver Washed Fritillary** at Bricket Wood today at luntime. - Clive Burrows

Another successful day looking for white-letter hairstreak when the sun shone between periods of cloud in TL20. A further 8 x 2km squares were completed today with one yesterday making a total of only 5 outstanding although TL2008 could prove elusive as no elm could be found around the new business parks of Hatfield. Then on the way back we dropped in at Northaw and then just after 4 o'clock after a 20 minute wait during moments of good sunshine, a **Purple Emperor** floated across the territory. This is our earliest date - Liz Goodyear & Andrew Middleton

We saw a **Dark Green Fritillary** At Broxbourne Woods today. We watched it between 11-45 and 1-15. Laurence Drummond also witnessed this beautiful Butterfly. It is quite elusive and we first saw it on our walk along the main ride past the small brook on the way up the hill. It then stayed in a large tree until the sun came out and then it went to the brook area and started to nectar on the thistles.

http://www.hertsmiddx-butterflies.org.uk/photos/nym/dgf/Dgf1_2011S.Standbridge.jpg

- Kevin and Sandra Standbridge

Wheathampstead LNR: 14+ Marbled Whites, numerous Meadow Browns and Large Skippers. A few Small Skippers, Ringlets and a single Comma.

http://farm6.static.flickr.com/5102/5856620947_678af8f9fb_z.jpg

- Robin Pearson

Monday 20th June 2011

Bramfield Wood, 20 June: saw a rather tatty white admiral on bramble at the edge of the wide ride leading from the Great Gobions Farm corner of the wood. - Ian Flack

Fir & Pond Woods NR Monday morning. I went to the Reserve to look for dragonflies which were few and far between but butterflies were all over the Reserve. I counted ringlets, 14; marbled whites, 7; meadow browns, 5; large skippers, 5; small skippers, 3 and **one Essex skipper**. There were also 3 speckled woods and one each of common blue, comma, large white and small white. I can't find any small torts though however hard I look though. - David Gompertz

Single Marbled White at Verulamium Park St. Albans- Sunday 19th June. Bricket Wood, Monday 20th- 5 Ringlets, 7 White Admirals, 1 Red Admiral, 1 Purple Hairstreak and a Marbled White. - Clive Burrows

OAKHILL WOODS LNR--20/6/11-----fresh Comma, and Tshells-laying on nettle----Small skipper x4-----Meadow brown having best year on the reserve since 1990s-----except in the anthill meadow where all species are in low numbers-----Ant predation may be a serious problem ???-----KIT JONES

Sunday 19th June 2011

Broxbourne Wood, Early Sunday Afternoon- 19th. June. No white Admiral seen, 28 Meadow Browns within 150 yds. of West carpark, 4 Ringlets further in, a few Large Skippers and Speckled Woods, occasional Small White and single Large White. Weather overcast with a few short sunny spells - Len Crouch

I've just photographed a WL Hairstreak in my Bishops Stortford garden. It's a first for the garden and I don't know of any elms within 1km of here (the closest I've found are near and within Stocking Wood Plantation). It was nectaring on a Hebe flowers Also a HB Hawkmoth today - Andrew Palmer

Today 19th June at Jersey Farm St Albans I saw 1 marbled white, 8 meadow browns, 1 comma, 1 ringlet and some large skippers - Brian Knight

First Ringlets for me in Wormley wood not much else though, the willow logs we banged into the ground are sprouting. In Bencroft wood plenty of Large skippers (12) and 30 meadow brown. At Waterford heath also a few ringlets, a small skipper and two marbled whites. These three species were the earliest I have seen them there - Steve Kiln

At Balls Wood today **1 male Silver washed-Fritillary**, 3 White Admirals, good numbers of Large Skipper and a few Ringlets - Andrew Wood

The following at Hatfield Aerodrome (Disused) today: 1 x Marbled White, 1 x Peacock, Meadow Brown " Good numbers, 1 Small Heath, 2 x Ringlet, 6 x Small Skipper, 1 x Large Skipper and 4 x Small White - David Wheatcroft

Saturday 18th June 2011

Went to Wormley wood today, sw area 10.40 to 11.30, target was White admiral, worryingly despite some warm sunny spells, none were seen, along the ride I saw 1 Comma, 7 Large skipper, 14 speckled wood and 12 Meadow brown. I decided to go to Balls wood to see if WA were flying there or if it was just the cooler conditions keeping them down, very similar numbers of the species seen at Wormley, just 1 White admiral and 1 Ringlet making the difference, both being my first of the year - Laurence Drummond

Wednesday 15th June 2011

Despite the dull weather on Wednesday, a quick stop at Symondshyde Wood around lunchtime yielded two White Admirals. - John Landels

News from Diane Andrews following a visit to Aldbury Nowers on Tuesday 14th. 1 Small Blue, rather tatty showing a bit of interest in the kidney vetch but not very enthusiastically! Also seen during visit including walk from the station were 3 Small Skipper, 23 Large Skipper, 4 Brimstone, 1 Small White, 4 Brown Argus, 9 Common Blue, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Comma, 34 Marbled White, 108 Meadow Brown, 58 Small Heath and 36 Ringlet. Also 33 Narrow bordered 5 spot burnet moths and several Cinnabar moths. At home in North London she had 17 Brimstone eggs laid on her Alder Buckthorn, 11 caterpillars and now 4 have pupated.

I was doing some mowing on King's Meads today and saw 6 Small Tortoiseshells and 2 Painted Ladies - Andy Brown HMWT Reserves officer

On Monday 13 of June while doing my transect at Heartwood had my biggest count of large skipper on site with 37 seen also first Small Skipper of the year and high numbers of meadow brown with 103 seen and also 5 Small Tortoiseshell and 1 Brown argus seen. Links of Small Tortoiseshell and Large Skipper taken at Heartwood

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/andrewsteele/5836396965/>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/andrewsteele/5832797455/>

Yesterday evening 14 of June had 1 fresh comma in my garden - Andy Steele

Despite initial fears that the weather today would be no good for looking for White-letter Hairstreak and with only one day available this week to look, we ended up 'being quite pleased' with our results. What happened was that although, much of the day was primarily cloudy, there were moments of brightness/sunshine which turned inactive white-letters into active white-letters. So with patience looking at elm or adjacent trees such as ash, maple or horse chestnuts the sightings were made. We have set ourselves another challenge and that is to try and find white-letter in every 2km square in TL20. During one visit in the winter, we found eggs in 3 squares and last week adults in one. After today's recording effort we have now completed 11 x 2km squares. We started by looking at the Cheshunt Park planted Sapporo Autumn Gold elms (SAG), where we saw 3 active. Into TL20, we had success close to Northaw and Cuffley. Some elm in Hooks Wood produced a sighting, then behind Dame Alice Owen School (SAG) more activity also one perched on a SAG in Potters Bar Leisure Centre. Elm along Warrengate Road also produced a sighting as did another SAG near Colney Heath. Just outside the 10km square at Colney Heath church we saw two white-letter, one was a female that looked like she was considering egg laying but it became quite dull and she stopped. After that the weather became too cloudy with increased wind so we went home. In total we saw 19 individuals at 9 sites - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton.

Tuesday 14th June 2011

An evening walk at Bunkers Park produced my first male marbled white of the season and 2 white plume moths in the middle section beyond the gate.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/7392841@N04/5836134081/>

I also saw one mating pair of burnets, probably 6 spot as there were several in the main meadow. A few burnet caterpillars were on the grasses and ox-eye daisies. No blues yet, although other walkers thought they had seen them and some browns, but not confirmed. A noisy summer chafer beetle buzzed past my ear. Elizabeth Debenham

Went for a quick stroll around Cole Green Landfill this lunchtime & noted 30+ small heath, 50+ meadow brown, 5+ ringlet, 20+ large skipper, 10+ small skipper, 4+ marbled white, 2 small white, 3 small tortoiseshell & 1 comma. Only managed to get around a small section of the site so would be interesting to know how many small heaths there may be across the site - Chris Beach

One Marbled White (first I've seen here) several Small Heaths and Large Skippers and a Small Tortoiseshell on the wing at Tyttenhanger gravel pits this morning. Robin Pearson

Field behind St Nicks church, 9.30-11.30am. Large Skipper 25, Small/Essex Skipper 6, Meadow Brown 14, Marbled White 3, Small Tortoiseshell 10, Small White 8, Speckled Wood 1, Ringlet 2, Bimstone 1 (male), Cinnabar Moth 2 and 5/6 Spot Burnet 1. This route has turned into a 2 hour transect and I will start recording it as such next year - Lee Browne

Some news for today (Tuesday 14th June 2011) - 1 Red Admiral, Sidhil's Field at Vicarage Farm, 08:45 hrs and 1 Comma at Sidhil's Field, Vicarage Farm, 08:45 hrs. 4 Small Tortoiseshell, at Vicarage Farm (09:02 - 09:20 hrs); 1 Small Skipper, at Parkside Farm/Res., Enfield, 09:33 hrs; 1 male Common Blue, at Parkside Farm/Res., Enfield, 09:39 hrs; 1 male Small Skipper, at Rectory Farm, Enfield, 10:40 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, at Rectory Farm, 10:40 hrs; 1 Comma, at Flash Lane, Enfield, 12:00 hrs. - Robert Callf

Monday 13th June 2011

Batford, Weedy field - 2 WHITE LETTER HAIRSTREAKS at top of Oak, corner of public footpath by B653 - Darin Stanley

Recent news from Diane Andrews. Ally Pally tonight, 6 Purple Hairstreak. Saturday Dollis Valley walk Whetstone, 1 Small Skipper, 6 Large Skipper, 1 Green-veined White, 1 Comma, 1 Speckled Wood, 2 Meadow Brown and c 50 Peacock caterpillars.

1 White Letter Hairstreak low down on Wych Elm, Sacombe Road, Bengoe today Andrew Wood

Bunkers Park transect: year's first sightings of Marbled White - 4 and Ringlet - 2. Michael Pearson

An afternoon visit to Bricket Wood Common produced at least three White Admirals, up to four Purple Hairstreak and a number of the more common species, all on the main ride. Robin Pearson

A couple of sightings today (Monday 13th June 2011) in Grovelands Park, Southgate - 1 Burnet Companion at 13:25 hrs and 1 Speckled Wood at 13:31 hrs. - Robert Callf

Saturday 11th June 2011

Fir & Pond Woods NR..... on the meadow...Large skipper, 2 ; Meadow brown, 1, **Ringlet, 1** (my first of the year) and a Small white. -David Gompertz

Hummingbird Hawkmoth at Butterfly World, **White Admiral** at Bricket Wood - Malcolm Hull

At Hatfield Aerodrome today: Good numbers Meadow Brown1 x Small Heath**2 x Small Skipper** - David Wheatcroft

Bramfield Woods and Field Margin 10am - 2pm. Meadow Brown 41, Large Skipper 45, Speckled Wood 8, Small Tortoiseshell 10, Small White 8, Green-veined White 4, Common Blue 11, Burnet Companion 1, Lobster Moth 1, Humming Bird Hawkmoth 1. About 90% of these records were from the Field Margin around the wood (Common Blue, Tortoiseshell, Meadow Brown and Large Skipper). No White Admiral, White Letter Hairstreak, Ringlet or Purple Hairstreak. Lee Browne

Park Wood: 4 White Admiral, 6+ Large Skipper, 8+ Speckled Wood, 2 Purple Hairstreak & Meadow Brown & Comma. Poors Field: Peacock, 5 Meadow Brown, 4 Large Skipper, Large & Small White, Heart & Dart Moth. Field next to Lido Car park: 5 Large Skipper, 12+ Meadow Brown, 3 Burnet Companion & 5 NB 5-spot Burnet. - Steve Pash

Park Wood, Ruislip: **Five White Admirals** this afternoon; and two Commas, one pristine and the other quite worn - Graham Elcombe

Saw a Red Admiral at South Mimms this morning at 11:25 hrs and three Comma at Whitewebbs Wood (1 at 13:30 and 2 together at 13:45 hrs). - Robert Callf

One **White Admiral** in Balls Wood today but no ringlets yet.Andrew Wood

A **Small Skipper** was seen today at Shackledell Grassland, Stevenage at around 1115 hrs, about 3 weeks earlier than normal here.Peter Clarke

Thursday 9th June 2011

Dick Middleton and I saw **2 White Admiral** and 1 Comma in Park Wood / Grub Ground today. Richard Hutton has seen **1 Marbled White** in field next to lido car park. Ched George

A few records for today (Thursday 9th June 2011) - 1 Small Heath, along track at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 09:55 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, at Park Farm, Enfield, 10:50 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, at Ferny Hill Farm, Enfield, 11:32 hrs; 1 Silver Y, edge of Icehouse Wood, Trent Park, 12:35 hrs - my first of the year! 1 Comma, 'new brood', edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 12:40 hrs; 1 female Large Skipper, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 12:40 hrs. - Robert Callf

I did the transect this morning at Aldbury (only managed the southern half as the rain then poured down) and saw a **dark green fritillary**, 5 large skippers, 9 meadow brown, a **ringlet** (my 1st this year), 16 small heath, speckled wood and a small tortoiseshell. I also saw a red admiral at lunch time in Verulum Park , St Albans. - Paul Thrush

Wednesday 8th June 2011

Just to report the sighting of a Purple hairstreak in a hallway in Welwyn Garden City, (AL8)! - Charlotte Fox

A couple of sightings for yesterday (Wednesday 8th June 2011) - 1 Large Skipper, at Boxer's Lake, Enfield, at 12:00 hrs; 1 Small White, at Pymmes Park, Edmonton, at 13:15 hrs - in the wildlife garden, also a brief sighting here of what may have been a Purple Hairstreak (only seen in flight). - Robert Callf

Tuesday 7th June 2011

I was working in N1 today and saw **2 small blues**, 2+ brown argus, 2 grizzled skipper (1 looking pristine), **dark green fritillary**, meadow brown, 3+ small heath, and a common blue. We have installed some large cages to protect the kidney vetch as it gets eaten by rabbits/deer, hopefully this will give the small blues a chance! - Paul Thrush

Some sightings for today (Tuesday 7th June 2011) - 3 Small Tortoiseshell, at Vicarage Farm,

Enfield (1 at 12:00 hrs and 2 together, 12:12 hrs); 1 Red Admiral, along track at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 12:10 hrs; 1 female Common Blue, at Parkside Farm, Enfield, 12:25 hrs - settled; 1 Large Skipper, at Parkside Farm, 12:25 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, at Park Farm, 12:52 hrs; 1 Red Admiral, at Park Farm, Enfield, 12:55 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood, at Bay Farm, Enfield, 12:57 hrs; 3 male Large Skipper, at Bay Farm, Enfield, 13:00 - 13:02 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, at Bay Farm, 13:00 hrs; 2 Large Skipper, edge of Whitewebbs Wood, 14:45 hrs; 2 Large Skipper, at Hilly Fields Park, Enfield, 16:04 hrs. - Robert Callf

Plenty of large skippers and meadow browns at Waterford Heath south and Rickneys, but pleased to see two new commas and a holly blue at Waterford Heath - Steve Kiln

Monday 6th June 2011

A couple of sightings to report today (Monday 6th June 2011) - 1 Small Tortoiseshell, along track, at Vicarage Farm, 14:03 hrs and a male Large Skipper, along hedgerow off Barracks, at Vicarage Farm, 14:10 hrs. - Robert Callf

Good numbers of White-letter Hairstreak on Horsenden Hill Saturday 4th June, with a conservative count of 12+ individuals, including a photographed mating pair. Most of the white-letters were seen in the area that is reached by taking the path left from the rear exit of Horsenden Farm and then walking down hill. The insects are on fairly low regenerating elms, mainly to the right of the path as you walk downhill. I imagine that given sunny conditions numbers will be quite high in this area over the next week or two. Other than that, my first Painted Lady of the year (also on Saturday) and just two White-letter Hairstreak on Sunday 5th in somewhat inclement conditions. I also had a **Rannoch Looper** to my garden MV trap bordering Horsenden Hill overnight on Friday 3rd/Sat 4th June. - Andy Culshaw

News from Diane Andrews, 1st June at Forty Hall - 156 Chimney Sweepers. 3rd June at Aldbury Nowers in north section, **3 Small Blues including 1 egg laying.** 1 Green Hairstreak and **1 Dark Green Fritillary**

Saturday 4th June 2011

Against expectations, @11.14 am 2 WL hairstreak clash over elm at t1452126, Gilston/High wych, followed by sightings of 2 more to 11.30 lower down on the elms out of the wind, at least 3 weeks earlier than I have seen them here before ?, also 1 Small tortoiseshell and 1 Large skipper. Laurence Drummond

Last Tuesday Bencroft and Broxbourne were full of new large skippers, today Saturday it was the turn of the meadow brown they were everywhere. A broxbourne ride good to see the wild flowers taken over the area where the trees were felled last year, a field of foxgloves, also three orange tips, a small tortoiseshell and many large skippers - Steve Kiln

Had a walk around Aldbury nowers this afternoon had 3 sighting of Small Blue, 1 late green hairstreak, 5 Brimstones, least 30 Small Heaths, least 20 Common Blue, 4 Speckled Woods, least 30 Large Skipper, least 60 Meadow Browns. 2 Green-veined and 5 Large Whites plus 1 Speckled yellow Moth - Andy Steele

I was at a loose end for an hour in the afternoon and there wasn't time before the England - Swiss game to go anywhere, so simply walked around the field/recreation ground at the back of my house. It is in three sections; a large mown area of grass for children's games with swings etc, a rough patch that is never touched, and, the smallest area is a approx full sized football pitch which is mown in season and occasionally out of season. As I entered the rough patch a largish orange-ish butterfly streaked past about 15m ahead of me, at approx head height and flying almost due NW. It is extremely likely to have been a Painted Lady but sadly I was too far from it to be claiming it. Pleased with that and then two Small Torties chasing about, when I saw something I never expected in downtown Tring, a Small Heath. I couldn't find another but did add 3 Large Skippers and a Small White to the list for that walk - Nick Bowles

Friday 3rd June 2011

Butterfly World - 6 Small Tortoiseshells, four of them nectaring on early flowering buddleia, 45 Common Blues, 1 Large Skipper, 1 Small White, 79 Mullein Moth Caterpillars, 6 Burnett Companion, 1 Yellow Shell, 1 Cinnabar moth. Bricket Wood Common - 3 Large Skippers, 4 Meadow Browns, 16 Speckled Wood, 6 Brimstone, 1 Large White, 2 Green-veined Whites -

Malcolm Hull

Large Skipper at Old Hale Way allotments Hitchin today - Nigel Agar

Saw two Red Admirals in Northaw Great Wood this morning (Friday 3rd June 2011) at 09:30 hrs and 09:45 hrs. - Robert Callf

Managed to do the whole of the old Rivers nursery site High wych/Sawbridgeworth, TL4714, 14.15 -15.00 pm, Saw 21 Meadow brown, 11 Common blue, 3 Large skipper and 2 Speckled wood - Laurence Drummond

Thursday 2nd June 2011

A couple of sightings for this evening (Thurs 2nd June 2011) - 2 Small Tortoiseshell, along track at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, between 17:00 - 17:02 hrs., and a Painted Lady here also at 17:00 hrs - my first of the year! - Robert Callf

White-letter Hairstreak are flying on Horsenden Hill as of Thursday 2nd June, a week earlier than our previous earliest records. David Howdon saw one over elms near to the former Magnet and Southern showroom early afternoon and I had 2 cavorting over elms alongside the cycle path close to lamp post 1106 early evening. We have to keep our fingers crossed that they are still on the wing for the event on 25th June. On the moth front, I trapped a Pebble Hook-tip at home on 29th May - a local scarcity with just one previous record in the Horsenden area from 2004. - Andrew Culshaw

Out close to home (near J14 of the M25) this afternoon on a true summer day. The warm sun had brought the Small Heath colony out in numbers - a steady count along 250 metres of path totalled between 50 and 60 individuals. They were flying up in groups of five and six, and almost every step raised one or two. The same area produced three Common Blues, three Large Skippers and two Meadow Browns. Returning to more wooded parts, I encountered two brand new summer Commas (f. *Hutchinsoni*), the first this year. However, pictures were not easy, because apart from their own rivalry, a Large Skipper was intent on chasing one or both out of sight. Not a placid combination of species! There were several Small Whites out again, and in a riverside clearing a Red Admiral had set up shop - following his predecessors of every season I've been watching them. A guaranteed location. - Dave Miller

Wednesday 1st June 2011

I did the Aldbury Nowers transect today, good numbers of small heath and a few meadow browns about but otherwise fairly quiet. I saw a **small blue** (in N1 again), and watched what could have only been egg laying on kidney vetch! The butterfly allowed a close approach and I was able to see it poking its abdomen down many times into the vetch flower heads. - Paul Thrush

Out on a work party today on Waterford Heath; very quiet but did see a large skipper on the south heath, and a green veined white, 2 speckled wood and a small tortoiseshell on the north heath - Andy Brown

May 2011

Tuesday 31st May 2011

Some records for Sunday (29th May 2011) - 1 Burnet Companion, at Barracks, Vicarage Farm, 09:50 hrs; 1 male Common Blue, along hedgerow off Barracks, Vicarage Farm, 10:00 hrs; 1 male Large Skipper, along track at Vicarage Farm, 10:06 hrs; 2 Small White, at Parkside Farm, Enfield, 10:35 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood, at Bay Farm, 10:45 hrs; 1 male Meadow Brown, at Bay Farm, Enfield, 10:45 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, at Rectory Farm, Enfield, 11:21 hrs - first of the summer-brood! 1 male Common Blue, near King's Oak Plain, 11:33 hrs. Sightings for yesterday (Monday 30th May 2011) - 1 Burnet Companion, at Parkside Farm, Enfield; 1 male Common Blue, at Parkside Res., Enfield, 10:30 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, at Park Farm, Enfield, 10:50 hrs; 1 male Large Skipper, near Duncan's Wood, Enfield Chase, 11:15 hrs; 1 Burnet Companion, at Park Farm, Enfield, 11:20 hrs; 1 male Common Blue, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 12:21 hrs; 1 Hear & Dart, set-aside field near Dew Pond, Trent Park; 1 female Common Blue, set-aside field near Shaws Wood, 12:30 hrs; 1 Brown Argus, along Merryhills Brook/Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 13:00 hrs; 1 Small Heath, at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 13:05 hrs. One Burnet Companion today (Tuesday 31st May 2011) at Forty Hall Farm, Enfield. - Robert Callf

OAKHILL WOODS LNR 31st MAY/11-----First Large skipper and Meadow brown of the year, -----fresh TShell female laying on nettle,(we have had More Tshell and Peacock nests this year)--- ----Comma larvae on wild hops----- (planted by us) - Kit Jones

Whilst conducting a habitat condition survey at Rickneys, we saw 9 Small Heath, 15 Brown Argus, 8 Common Blue, 1 Meadow Brown, 1 Large Skipper and a tired Grizzled Skipper this morning. However the highlight was that we checked several Common Agrimony plants for grizzled skipper eggs and we found 15 eggs (hatched and unhatched) 9 larval nests and inspected one and the grizzled skipper larva was sitting in between the folded leaf. Some of the Agrimony was some distance from the key area so the butterfly has been moving around the site this year. Looked at Creeping Cinquefoil, Wild Strawberry and bramble without any success. The white-letter hairstreak pupa found on 3rd May remains unhatched! - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

Monday 30th May 2011

11.45, 1 **White-letter Hairstreak** over the usual **north London** elms - Andrew Middleton

Sunday 29th May 2011

After seeing Lee report a Meadow Brown on UKB during the afternoon, I took advantage of late sunshine to visit Harmondsworth Moor to see if they were out and about there. Sure enough, two new males put in an appearance, but there was little else except one Brown Argus, one male Common Blue and a couple of Large Skippers. Two Small Whites and a Large Skipper were all there was flying earlier in the day nearer home in Stanwell Moor. I did find a nest of Peacock caterpillars, however. - Dave Miller

On my Heartwood transect today had my first meadow browns(3) and 1 large skipper - Andy Steele

I was delighted to see 2 male Large Skippers in Greenford Park Cemetery this morning, this first I have seen there. Later on, at Osterley Park, Middlesex, despite the cloud and breeze, my first Meadow Brown of the year, a male, along with 1 male and 1 female Common Blue. - Lee Hurrell

Saturday 28th May 2011

A few sightings for today (Saturday 28th May 2011) - 2 Speckled Wood,(1 Park Farm, Enfield, 11:21 hrs, 1 edge of Icehouse Wood, Trent Park, 13:20 hrs); 1 male Meadow Brown, field South of Rough Lot, Trent Park, 11:50 hrs - my first of the year! All sightings made whilst in the company of Robin White. Also one Cinnabar at Park Farm, Enfield. - Robert Callf

Wednesday 25th May 2011

One **Meadow Brown** on the area of Bramfield cricket field left to long grass, also 2 Large Skippers, Common Blue, Brown Argus, Orange Tip, Small and Green-veined White there and an adjacent field boundary- Andrew Wood

A quick stroll around my local patch at Stanwell Moor at around 5pm produced very little in the weak sunshine. Six Common Blues (3m 3f) looking rather tired plus eight or nine Small Heath which were contrastingly fresh and bright was the total. However, I did also find several Orange Tip caterpillars of various sizes on rapidly drying out garlic mustard plants. A race against time, perhaps! Rain is forecast, however. - Dave Miller

We had a staff and Trustee day today with the afternoon spent at **Aldbury Nowers**. The undoubted highlight was a **small blue** in the furthest northern enclosure (N1), first spotted by Steve Bound and then seen by the whole Trust. We also had a grizzled skipper + dingy skipper (key butterfly area) and across the reserve we saw common blues (3+), brimstone, small heath, orange tip and green hairstreak (in the coppice area). - Paul Thrush

I saw and photographed my first **Meadow Brown** of the season at the **Southern Country Park** yesterday morning (25th May) around 9.00am. It was a very fresh male, and so dark, until it settled I thought it may have been a Ringlet. - Bob Clift

Tuesday 24th May 2011

King Georges Fields, Hadley, 4 Chimney Sweepers and 1 Brown Argus - Diane Andrews

In Bencroft Wood, 1st large skipper of the year 3 weeks earlier than normal and 15 small heath in field nearby a good year for them too - Steve Kiln

A few sightings for today (Tuesday 24th May 2011) - 1 Cinnabar at Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm, 07:30 hrs; 1 male Large Skipper, settled at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, at 07:50 hrs; 1 male Common Blue, settled at Vicarage Farm, 07:55 hrs; 1 Red Admiral, at Lavender Hill Cemetery, Enfield at 16:50 hrs - settled on brickwork of Church. - Robert Callf

News via Robert Callf, 1 **Meadow Brown** seen by Robin White at **Trent Park** over the New Fields (corrected date)

Sunday 22nd May 2011

A couple of bits and pieces of butterfly/moth news from Horsenden Hill. On Friday 20th May I photographed a pristine Brown Argus in the Paddock on the east side of Perivale Wood. Notable in the sense that this is the first time in recent years we have detected the spring emergence of Brown Argus in the Horsenden area and also for the fact that this appears to be a small colony, with only a sprinkling of records per year, despite careful checking of any 'brown blues' by 2-3 observers. The same day I recorded my first Large Skipper of the year on Paradise Fields and 4th Mother Shipton of the year in Perivale Wood. It seems to have been a good year on Horsenden for Mother Shipton and also for Burnet Companion and Small Yellow Underwing. On Sunday 22nd I photographed a Small Heath on Bramstons Green East - just across the road from the Ballot Box pub. This is the 3rd record of this species from that area this year, with another from Perivale Wood. Though never abundant in the area, this species was readily detected 10+ years ago but in recent times typically none or one records per year has been the norm. Of moth note, I had a Cream-bordered Green Pea to my garden MV trap on the periphery of Horsenden Hill on Thurs 19th May. - Andy Culshaw

Saturday 21st May 2011

Passed through field by railway line again which comes out opposite layby for **Aldbury Nowers**. Recorded 10 x brown argus, 30 x common blue 3 x speckled wood , 2 x brimstone and **1 x small blue** which landed right in front of me (male). I was on way back from Pitstone after recording there and am certain of this. - David Gower

Small Blue male confirmed on transect, 14:00 hrs 21st May in area of suitable habitat (long established kidney vetch adjoining tall grassland) 1st record for us here at **Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park** - news via Ken Greenaway

Started off today at the southern end of Wormley wood, taking the footpath north from from Hammond street, some good willow in places, and an excellent place to view the high ridge that runs east/west through the wood, went to have a look at the area that we worked on in February, some good regeneration of willow and bramble, even a couple of the stakes that we planted have taken, some more work has been done to the north of here, 8 speckled wood seen, off to Broxbourne woods, west car park, along the main ride 1 female common blue, 3 orange tip and 2 green veined white, more work has been done here also, lots of thistles growing in the previously cleared area, on the way along Cock lane just before Broxbourne common, an area off the road to the east that was previously a clearing full of willow has been grubbed out and fenced off, probably for horse grazing ?, Waterford Heath south pit, a quick look along the bottom of the escarpment, 2 Grizzled skipper, 5 Brown argus, 2 Common blue - Laurence Drummond

Seen at Hatfield Aerodrome today 6 Common blues, 1 Small copper, 1 Small heath and 1 Cinnabar moth - Andy Steele

Visited Hexton Chalk Pit this afternoon around 12.30. Weather sunny but windy. Great display of 6 perching Green Hairstreaks on a number of bushes around the site. Also 4 Brimstones and 1 Small Heath. - John Landels

Some sightings for today (Saturday 21st May 2011) - 1 Clouded Silver, at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 13:50 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip, at Vicarage Farm at 14:00 hrs; 2 Cinnabar, (1 at Vicarage Farm, 14:19 hrs and another at Parkside Farm/ Res., Enfield at 14:30 hrs - my first of the year in Middx); 1 male Common Blue, at Parkside Farm/ Res., Enfield, 14:30 hrs and a male Orange Tip, at Parkside Farm/Res., Enfield at 14:41 hrs. - Robert Callf

Friday 20th May 2011

Some news for (Friday 20th May 2011) - 4 Small Copper, at 'New Fields', Trent Park, 12:45 - 13:00 hrs; 1 Large Skipper, settled on Bramble, 'New Fields', Trent Park, Sect 8, 12:45 hrs - my first of the year and I believe my earliest ever! 12 Small Heath, at 'New Fields', Trent Park, 12:50 - 13:07 hrs (9 Sect 6 and 3 Sect 4); 4(2 males, 2 females) Common Blue, Parkside Farm/Res., Enfield, 14:45 - 15:00 hrs. A batch of Peacock caterpillars on nettles at Vicarage Farm - still small. - Robert Callf

Trent Park late afternoon, 62 Chimney Sweeper moths also 35 Small Heath seen - Diane Andrews

Thursday 19th May 2011

I visited the poorly recorded area between north of Hemel Hempstead today, 19th May, not a huge amount flying but highlights were a somewhat battered Dingy Skipper at **Hedgeswood Common**, a new site for the species. A colony of **Chimney Sweeper** moths on the wide road verge at **Cheverells Green** just outside Markyate and another early Large Skipper at Nettleden

Chimney Sweeper

Dingy Skipper - Andrew Wood

Some sightings for today (Thursday 19th May 2011) - 1 Burnet Companion, at Vicarage Farm, 10:20 hrs - my first record of the year! 1 male Common Blue, at Parkside Farm, Enfield, 10:57 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip, at Park Farm, 11:05 hrs; 1 Peacock, at Bay Farm, 11:15 hrs; 2 male Orange Tip, at Rectory Farm, 11:45 hrs; 1 male Common Blue, at Rectory Farm, 11:50 hrs; 2 Green-veined White, at Rectory Farm, 11:55 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood, at King's Oak Plain, 11:59 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip, at Strayfield Rd, Clay Hill, 12:04 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood, at Strayfield Road, 12:05 hrs; 3 Speckled Wood, at Flash Lane, 12:10 hrs; 1 Silver-ground Carpet, at Whitewebbs Wood; 1 Speckled Wood, at Whitewebbs Wood, 13:41 hrs. - Robert Callf

Frogmore Quarry 1:00-1:45 warm, 50% sun: 7 grizzled skippers (1 central, 1 east, 5 north/east slope). Also 3 small coppers, 7 common blues, 6 brown argus, 1 orange-tip. Trevor Chapman

Wednesday 18th May 2011

I was working at Barkway chalk pit on the 17th and saw 2 male orange tips and 3 small whites. - Paul Thrush Reserve Officer

Dingy Skipper, Brown Argus and Green Hairstreak at Wood Lane, Pirton on May 13 - Nigel Agar

Sunday 15th May 2011

Some news for yesterday (Monday 16th May 2011) - 1 Small Heath, at Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm, 10:21 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood, at Park Farm, 11:45 hrs; 2 Speckled Wood, together, at Moat Wood, 12:50 hrs; 2 Brown Silver-lines, Moat Wood, Trent Park - our first of the year! 1 Light Emerald, settled on vegetation, edge of Icehouse Wood, Trent Park - First of the year; 4 Green-veined White, edge of Icehouse Wood, Trent Park, 13:00 hrs; 1 Small White, edge of Icehouse Wood, 13:00 hrs; 1 Small Yellow Underwing, set-aside field near Shaws Wood, Trent Park - our first of the year! 1 Mother Shipton, along Merryhills Brook/Vicarage Farm. - Robert Callf

A colleague brought in a fresh male **Yellow-legged Clearwing** that he picked up in his road in Fulham (London SW6) this morning. Martin Honey

Sunday 15th May 2011

Passed through field by railway line which leads to Northfield rd and Aldbury Nowers and found 3 x small copper, 4 x common blue, 3 x small heath, 1 x brown argus - David Gower

Waterford Heath Walk (Saturday) We had about 24 turn up. Most had picked it up on Herts & Middx go wild leaflet. In the weather conditions cloudy and pretty windy and from north west bad for waterford heath. Found 3 grizzleds sheltering from the wind about 10 or more brown argus and 5 or so common blue and a red admiral and a small copper. Popped into Aldbury Nowers earlier in week and saw lots of small heath, grizzled and dingy but no small blue - Steve Kiln

Saturday, on my transect walk on Shrubhill Common in Hemel Hempstead, I was amazed to find a basking Dingy Skipper. This is my 11th year of transect recording here, and my first ever record for this species. I don't know if this is likely to be a wanderer. Maybe a small colony has been here all the time. I also saw four Mother Shiptons and a Burnet Companion. - Roger Prue

Some sightings for Friday 13th May 2011 - 1 female Orange Tip, at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 12:10 hrs; 4 Small Heath, at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, between 12:15 - 12:18 hrs; 1 Red Admiral, near Hadley Road/Vicarage Farm, 12:25hrs; 1 male Common Blue, at Parkside Farm, Enfield, 12:45 hrs; 1 female Brown Argus, at Parkside Farm, Enfield, 12:46 hrs - pristine condition and my first record for the year! 1 male Orange Tip, at Rectory Farm, Enfield, 13:25 hrs. Also saw a Cinnabar Moth fly past the Yew Tree Hall window at High Leigh, Hoddesdon this afternoon (Saturday 14th May 2011). - Robert Callf

Friday 13th May 2011

ENFIELD RIDGEWAY EN28QL-----13/5/11----- Red admiral female laying on nettles-----
Holly blue drinking from car wash puddles KIT JONES

I was at Butterfly World in the garden area times 11.35 to 11.55, common blues to be seen easily seen and one small copper I noted - Brian Knight

A very bright new Red Admiral nectaring in my St Albans garden this morning (13 May) - Charles Smith

Thursday 12th May 2011

Went on a roost count tonight 8pm. At Rickneys 37 Brown argus, 17 common blue and only one grizzled, getting dark at Waterford heath North and only covered small area 9 brown argus, 3 grizzleds and 2 common blue - Steve Kiln

A few sightings to report today (Thursday 12th May 2011) - 1 Small Heath, set-aside field, near Shaws Wood, Trent Park, 13:20 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip, at South Lodge Farm, 13:35 hrs; 1 Small Copper, along Merryhills Brook/Vicarage Farm, 13:50 hrs; 1 Straw Dot, at South Lodge Farm and a Clouded Silver seen settled at Vicarage Farm, Enfield. These sightings were made whilst in the company of Robin White. - Robert Callf

A short lunchtime walk in the Bicentenary Garden at Brunel University produced 2 Brown Argus, 3 Common Blue, 3 Holly Blue, Speckled Wood, male Brimstone, GV White, 2 Orange-tip and a colleague saw a Small Copper. - Steve Pash

OAKHILL WOODS LNR East Barnet---12th May 2011-----First Mother shipton, Small copper , Common blue (male) and Burnet companion of the year----Brimstone laying on our new Buckthorn hedging----several T-Shell nests in the nettle beds we created in the middle of open field. KIT JONES

Wednesday 11th May 2011

Saw a remarkably early **Purple Hairstreak** today at **Leavesden**. While at work in the gardens I disturbed it from a patch of neetles, taking to the air it flew slowly up into the oak. At first it appeared to be deformed, but I think it was still fully emerging with the forewing still not pumped. It is a garden where I see them in summer, but nowhere near this time! - Clive Burrows (*please note that this record has been confirmed by the Records collator*)

I would like to share very happy news with Butterfly Conservation. Last week (Friday) during Butterfly Transect I have recorded **Green Hairstreak** at **Hounslow Heath**. I am excited as it is second new butterfly for the site in two years. The area where I have seen Green Hairstreak has been recently opened (2 years ago). It is a new bridleway, where it has been second year and some nectaring plants (cows parsley, bramble, bird's foot trefoil etc) are there and recovering from destruction from last 2 years. There is a lot of gorse around and it is not directly by the path. Due to the fact that we have adders on the site we try avoid walking in high grass so we try stay on the paths. The other butterfly was seen the same day by the site ecologist Chris Slack in the same area and definately it was a different butterfly as mine one was already a bit battered and Chris's one was freshly emerged. I am sure it was butterfly not moth as at the begining I thought it was Brown Argus and then it rested on the ground 1-1.5 metre in front of me, butterfly turned around and I saw unmissible green underwing. As I mentioned there is plenty of gorse around so the colony has got abundance of food plant. **Please note: We are not concerned about publicity regarding the Adders, as our population is quite healthy and stable. You just have to be aware of their presence.** - Zuza Kukielka Countryside Ranger at Hounslow Heath

Tuesday 10th May 2011

Sunny 21degrees, time 12:20-1:25 Frogmore Quarry: 20 grizzled skippers (1 central, 4 west, 0 west track, 9 east, 1 south, 5 north slope - one egg laying on creeping cinquefoil). Also 3 small coppers, 13 common blues, 16 brown argus, 1 small heath, 2 brimstone, 4 green-veined whites. Trevor Chapman

Tuesday 10.05.11. 10-11.30am. Flood plain on Old Knebworth Lane. 20 Brown Argus, 4 Small Heath, this is the largest count of both these species I've ever seen at this site. 17 Common Blue (1 Female), 1 Small Copper, 2 Small White, 1 Orange-Tip. Moths, 2 Burnet Companion, 3 Mother Shipton, 1 Cinnabar - Lee Browne

Sightings at Norton Green today (1040-1130 hrs) include 2 Speckled Woods, 4 Common Blues, 3 Small Heaths, Orange Tip, Small White and 2 Mother Shipton moths. Peter Clarke

I persuaded my small son that he might like to investigate a pond after school and we went to Harmondsworth Moor for the first time this year. The pond was a disappointment, being mostly dried up and covered in algae, but nearby on the big white daisies, there were butterflies. We only sampled a very small area (20m by 10m), but saw six Brown Argus (2f, 4m), four Common Blues (2f, 2m), a Small Heath, a Speckled Wood and a Green-veined White. The Orange Tips I would have expected to see must have all gone now. - Dave Miller

Monday 9th May 2011

Appspond Lane nr St Albans TL 10 05 - Green-veined White; Prae Mill nr St Albans TL 12 08 - male Orange Tip & Comma; Hogg End Lane nr St Albans TL 09 08 - Common Blue; Buncefield nr Hemel Hempstead TL 08 08 - 2 male Orange Tips, Holly Blue & Red Admiral (also a Cinnabar moth); Twychells Farm nr Bedmond TL 09 04 - Small Copper. - C. M. Everett

I was very surprised to see a **Large Skipper** on **Sunday 8th May 2011**, at Hilfield Park Reservoir. I see them every year there, but not normally before early June, so I thought it was worth sending this record in - - Tony Blake

On **Saturday (7th May)** I have taken picture of **Large Skipper** at Bedfont Lakes Country Park. It is two weeks earlier than normal, however it was nice surprise as butterfly was sitting still. - Zuza Kukielka

I visited Hill End Pit this morning and saw a male orange tip. At Purwell Ninesprings I saw a small tortoiseshell and at Hexton I saw 5 dingy skippers, a common blue and a green hairstreak. - Paul Thrush Reserve Officer

Field behind St. Nicks Church, 10-11.45am. 24 Orange Tip, 15 Small White and 6 Green-veined White - Lee Browne

This morning, Monday May 9th, a single Brown Argus and two Small Coppers were seen in the Brunel University Bicentenary Gardens. Also of interest there were several Common Blues and a singing Lesser Whitethroat showing very well. - Roger Morton

Saw a batch of 19 Small Tortoiseshell caterpillars on nettles at Vicarage Farm, Enfield (Monday 9th May 2011) this morning - they were well-grown - so fingers crossed hopefully be seeing some nice new adults next month! 1 Mother Shipton, at Vicarage Farm, 08:00 hrs; 1 Mother Shipton, at Parkside Farm/Res., 08:20 hrs; 2 male Common Blue, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 09:15 hrs; 8 Speckled Wood, (2 at Park Farm, 08:41 - 08:42 hrs, 2 together, Camlet Moat, 09:00 hrs, 1 at Moat Wood, 09:06 hrs, 1 by Lower Lake, 09:50 hrs, 2 near Dew Pond, 10:20 - 10:22 hrs); 1 male Large White, edge of Icehouse Wood, Trent Park, 10:15 hrs; 1 Green-veined White, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 10:20 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 10:32 hrs. - Robert Callf

Sunday 8th May 2011

A few sightings for today (Sunday 8th May 2011) - 1 Small Heath, at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 09:35 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip, at Parkside Farm, Enfield, 09:50 hrs., along Salmons Brook; 1 Speckled Wood, at Parkside Farm, 10:06 hrs; 1 Green-veined White, at Rectory Farm, Enfield, 10:40 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood, at Whitewebbs Wood, 12:06 hrs; 1 Mother Shipton, at Whitewebbs Park, 12:34 hrs. - Robert Callf

At Aldbury Nowers(top reserve) yesterday, spotted 4 x brimstone, 2 x speckled wood, 5 x small heath, 2 x brown argus, 1 x large white, 2 x common blue, 1 x small yellow underwing. At field by railway line on way from station to above noticed 1 x orange tip, 2 x small heath, 3 x small copper, 1 x cinnabar moth, 1 x brown argus - David Gower

Saturday 7th May 2011

Afternoon, at Rickneys 20 common blue, 19 brown argus and 4 grizzled. At waterford heath south only two grizzled but 14 brown argus a very good year for them - Steve Kiln

A few casual records from the Hemel Hempstead area, as follows: Westbrook Hay TL 02 05 - Small Copper in field with abundant sorrel (also a Burnet Companion moth); Bourne End Lane TL 01 05 - Common Blue nr A41; Winkwell TL 02 06 - Holly Blue. - C. M. Everett

Sightings for yesterday (Friday 6th May 2011) - 5 Peacock,(1 along Merryhills Brook/Vicarage Farm, 11:31 hrs., 1 field near Hadley Road/Vicarage Farm, 11:50 hrs., 1 at Parkside Farm, 12:00 hrs., 2 at Rectory Farm, 12:55 and 13:05 hrs); 1 male Orange Tip, at Parkside Farm, 12:10 hrs; 1 Green-veined White, at Bay Farm, 12:35 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood, at Strayfield Road, 13:15 hrs; 1 Holly Blue, at Whitewebbs Wood, 14:15 hrs; 1 Comma, at Whitewebbs Wood, 14:15 hrs. A few sightings for today (Saturday 7th May 2011) in Grovelands Park, Southgate, N14 - 2 Speckled Wood, 11:40 and 12:57 hrs; 1 Mother Shipton, at 11:45 hrs. - Robert Callf

Cycling around the web of byways around Levens Green west of High Cross I came across a countryside stewardship site (marked as Trenchern Hills on the 25000 maps) planted with young oak and sallow but edged with and crossed by some poor grassland. In a 20 minute walk around I found 16 Small Heaths with plenty of display activity, 7 Brown Argus including a mating pair also Small Copper, Red Admiral and Orange Tip and Burnet Companion.Andrew Wood

Friday 6th May 2011

Casual records from the Aldenham area, as follows: Otterspool TQ 12 99 - Red Admiral; Wall Hall TQ 13 99 - 2 separate Peacocks; Munden TL 13 00 - Peacock & Red Admiral; Blackbirds Lane TL 14 00 - Small White, 2 Orange Tips (ml, fml) & Small Tortoiseshell. - C. M. Everett

Found a Small Copper colony establishing itself along a recently cleared woodland track along St Albans Lane - Clive Burrows

Small Heath at Tyttenhanger G.P today, as well as Brimstone. Also 2 Holly Blues and 2 Orange Tips in my South Mimms Blanche Lane garden. Yesterday I must have seen a dozen Brimstones at Bricket Wood Common - Terry Wood

Thursday 5th May 2011

OAKHILL WOODS LNR 5/5/11-----First Small heath seen on the reserve for many years.-----
----WLH larvae on ground on dying terminal leaves /seeds of Wych elm-----most of the canopy shoots had been severed and dropped to the floor by Grey squirrels-----defoliating the WLH tree--
--they must have destroyed many larvae. Placed rescued larvae on lower branches. Squirrels also bark stripping Hornbeams!!!-----KIT JONES

Wednesday 4th May 2011

I received an excited call from Diane Andrews this evening soon after she returned from Aldbury Nowers. She caught the train to Tring Station and walked across the fields to Aldbury Nowers. Close to the railway line she saw 5 Green Hairstreak and a Dingy Skipper. She also saw Small Heath, Small Copper, Small White, Orange Tip, Holly Blue, Small Tortoiseshell and a Red Admiral. At Aldbury Nowers walking in from the Pitstone Hill end as she took a footpath past the reserve to the top first, she saw 25 Dingy Skipper, 6 Grizzled Skipper, 1 Comma, 1 Speckled Wood, 10 Orange Tip, 2 Brown Argus, 3 Green Hairstreak, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 10 Brimstone and 8 Common Blue. However, in addition to the sightings near the railway line, she is certain she saw in one of the lower compartments a **Duke of Burgundy**. She was able to get a good view of the hind wings and is positive of her identification - however she would love someone else to confirm her sighting!

Albans Wood nr Watford TL 10 00 - Speckled Wood; Furtherfield nr Abbots Langley TL 09 00 - male Common Blue; Langleybury TL 07 00 - 2 Green-veined Whites, female Orange Tip & 2 Speckled Woods; Topcommon nr Chipperfield TL 05 01 - Green-veined White, Peacock & Speckled

Wood; Whippendell Bottom nr Chipperfield TL 05 02 - Comma; Scatterdells Wood nr Chipperfield TL 05 03 - Holly Blue; Kings Langley Common (S) TL 06 02 - Comma; Kings Langley Common (N) TL 06 03 - Holly Blue & Speckled Wood. - C. M. Everett

Poor butterfly numbers on my walk this morning, the sun was out and it was fairly warm so I guess it was the wind keeping numbers down. Wednesday 04.05.2011, Field behind St. Nicks Church, 9.30 - 11.30am. 1 Brimstone (male), 2 Orange Tip (1 male, 1 female), 1 Small White, 2 batches of Small Tortoiseshell Larvae and 1 Comma Larva. Lee Browne

A few sightings for today (Wednesday 4th May 2011) - 4 Orange Tip, (1 female, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Williams Wood, 10:45 hrs., 1 male N of Williams Wood near Hadley Road, 10:50 hrs., 1 female, along Merryhills Brook, 13:50 hrs., 1 female, near Enfield Rd., 14:20 hrs); 1 male Common Blue, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, 10:50 hrs - my first of the year, but Robin White saw two here yesterday; 3 Mother Shipton, (2 together, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, 10:50 hrs., 1 near Hadley Rd., 11:06 hrs); 2 Small Heath, (1 at Vicarage Farm near Hadley Road, 11:00 hrs., 1 at Parkside Farm, 11:10 hrs); 1 Peacock, at Parkside Farm, 11:20 hrs; 1 Green-veined White, at Rough Lot, Trent Park, 12:45 hrs; 1 Peacock, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 12:55 hrs; 1 Peacock, along Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm, 13:55 hrs. Also saw a few Small Whites today in various places. - Robert Callf

A late walk (between 5 and 6 pm) along my local part of the River Colne at Stanwell Moor revealed my first sightings of Small Heaths in their usual spot close to the M25. There were 8 or 9 diving for cover in the parched grass as it was still pretty windy. Elsewhere I saw 5 male Orange Tips, one male and one female Green-veined White, a couple of male Large Whites, and three aged Commas - Dave Miller

Tuesday 3rd May 2011

Frogmore: 23 grizzled skippers, 2 small coppers, 5 common blues, 13 brown argus, single orange tip, small heath and speckled wood, 2 brimstone. Rickneys in horrid windy conditions: 4 grizzled skippers, 55 brown argus, 3 common blues, 7 small heath, 2 small copper, single red admiral, silver Y, holly blue and brimstone. Also on elm close to Rickneys, we found 4 white-letter larvae this afternoon, on one elm one of the larvae was large and close to pupating. However, on another elm we found one that had turned brown/purple and appeared to be close (if not already) pupating. This means that white-letter could be flying before the end of May!!! Andrew Middleton & Liz Goodyear (with Trevor Chapman at Frogmore)

Recent sightings: 01/05/2011. Widbury/Ware, first Red Admiral x 2. 02/05/2011. Waterford Heath, first Grizzled skippers x 2 and a field near Chapmore End, small heath x 1 - Nicky Parish

Monday 2nd May 2011

This afternoon walked all over Aldbury Nowers and onto Pitstone hill and over the road to Incombe hole. At Aldbury Nowers I recorded 1 x large white, 3 x holly blue, 19 x brimstone(all male), 17 x orange tip(2 female), 4 x green veined white, 2 x peacock, 3 x speckled wood, 26 x small heath, 3 x small copper, 2 x brown argus, 1 x red admiral, 8 x dingy skippers and 7 x grizzled skippers - David Gower

3 Common Blues & an Orange Tip at a very windy Butterfly World this morning - Malcolm Hull

Some sightings for today (Monday 2nd May 2011) - 1 Speckled Wood, at Rectory Farm, Enfield, 10:10 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip, at Rectory Farm, 10:12 hrs; 2 Green-veined White, at King's Oak Plain, 10:20 hrs; 1 Comma, at Whitewebbs Wood, 11:12 hrs - looking rather worn! 2 Speckled Wood, together, Whitewebbs Wood, 11:50 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip, at Hilly Fields Park, 12:52 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood, at Town Park, 13:45 hrs. - Robert Callf

Sighting today May 2 at Nomansland Wheathamstead, 13.00 to 1330, 4 Small coppers, 4 Orange Tips - one small copper image attached. - Brian Knight

Trip to Norton Green (1330-1420hrs) today produced the following results: 11 Orange Tips, 9 other 'small' whites, 2 Speckled Woods, a Peacock and a Small Copper. About 90% sun and wind force 5. - Peter Clarke

Sunday 1st May 2011

Copse Wood, Ruislip, (Middlesex): One Small Copper at Southern edge of the wood - Graham Elcombe.

This morning at Waterford Heath we had a good walk. On north pit 15 grizzled skippers, 7 brown argus, a common blue and various whites. On south pit 4 grizzleds, 5 brown argus, 2 burnet companions and to everyone's delight two small coppers. We then went to Rickneys, saw, a brimstone, 8 brown argus, 6 grizzleds, 2 common blues, 2 small heath and a treble bar. A good haul - Steve Kiln

Me and my dad took a trip to Hexton Chalk Pit and whilst there we saw more than 20 Dingy Skippers, 2 Green Hairstreaks, 4 Brimstones and 2 Common Blues. We saw a great view of a Green Hairstreak sitting on a bush for about 5 minutes - Cameron Landels

Sunday 1st May, Flood Plain on Old Knebworth Lane, 4-5pm, Orange Tip 6, Speckled Wood 3, Green-veined White 4, Small White 2, Comma 1, Brown Argus 1, Around 30 Small Tortoiseshell Larvae and **1 Cinnabar moth**. Lee Browne

Some news for yesterday (Saturday 30th April 2011) - 1 Small Heath, at 'New Fields', Trent Park, 16:55 hrs - my first of the year; 6 Small Copper, at 'New Fields', Trent Park, 17:00 - 17:31 hrs., including two together; 2 Comma, edge of Church Wood, Trent Park, 17:21 and 17:26 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip, near Animal Corner, Trent Park, 17:41 hrs. At late afternoon visit, but produced the 'goods' nonetheless! Today (Sunday 1st May 2011) - 2 Small Copper, together in Oakwood Park, N14, 12:41 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip, at Brookside, N21, 12:45 hrs; 4 Holly Blue, at Grovelands Park, 13:03 - 13:55 hrs; 5 Speckled Wood, between 13:15 - 13:40 hrs; 1 Mother Shipton, in enclosed 'meadow' 13:50 hrs - a first for the year and quite early? - Robert Callf

Bricket Wood Common - 22 Brimstones, 6 male Orange Tips, 3 Peacocks, 1 Comma, 5 Speckled Woods, 1 Holly Blue, Large, Small & Green-veined Whites on today's transect. This is fairly typical of the year to date at this transect ie Brimstones & Orange Tips doing well, but Peacock & Comma numbers both well down. Several extra species seen at Bury Dell, Park Street - Small Copper (2), Small Heath (1), Brown Argus (1), Red Admiral (2) & **Cinnabar moth** (1). Numbers of all species well down at this site, perhaps partly due to the strong easterly wind. It is an acid grassland site on gravel rich soil. Much on the grass is already brown & shrivelled and I suspect caterpillars will struggle to survive unless we get rain soon. First brood Brown Argus is a rare sighting in the St Albans District - Malcolm Hull

April 2011

Saturday 30th April 2011

I went to **Aldbury Nowers** this afternoon (3pm onwards). Very impressed with the number of butterflies in great weather including 15x Dingy Skippers 10x Grizzled Skippers 8x Green Hairstreaks, 12x Small Heath. 3x Brown Argus, 2x Small Copper, 7x Orange Tips and lots of Whites. It was particularly good in the managed areas of the lower slopes with greater numbers of butterflies than 10 days ago when I was last here but butterflies have obviously dispersed throughout the reserve - Phil Woodward

Recording in the Berkhamsted area (unless o/wise stated). Records as follows: Sandpit Green SP 99 06 - Green-veined White (feeding on Dandelion) & 2 Speckled Woods; Long Green TL 00 06 - Large White, 2 Small Whites, Green-veined White, male Orange Tip, Holly Blue & Small Copper (also a Burnet Companion moth); Bankmill Bridge TL 00 07 - 2 male Orange Tips & Holly Blue; canal nr sewage works TL 01 06 - male Orange Tip, Holly Blue & Speckled Wood; Little Heath Lane TL 01 07 - male Brimstone & male Orange Tip; Little Heath TL 01 08 - Green-veined White, male Orange Tip & 3 Speckled Woods; Gutteridge Farm TL 00 08 - 2 Orange Tips (male plus separate female ovipositing on Cuckoo-flower) & Small Tortoiseshell; Long Wood nr Abbots Langley TL 08 02 - 3 Orange Tips (2 mls, 1 fml) & 2 Commas (in aerial pursuit); Parsonage Farm nr Abbots Langley TL 09 02 - 3 male Orange Tips, Holly Blue, 2 Small Tortoiseshells & Speckled Wood; East Lane nr Abbots Langley TL 10 02 - 3 male Orange Tips & Speckled Wood. - C. M. Everett

Friday 29th April 2011

Just 1 x holly blue, 1 green veined white in Bushey garden today - David Gower

Near Abbots Langley TL 10 02 - Large White, male Orange Tip, 2 Holly Blues & Small Tortoiseshell.
- C. M. Everett

Thursday 28th April 2011

A few sightings for yesterday (Wednesday 27th April 2011) - 2 Green-veined White, at Vicarage Farm - one along Merryhills Brook, 10:33 hrs and another near Williams Wood, 11:00 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood, at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 10:50 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip, Sidhil's Field, at Vicarage Farm, 11:30 hrs and a female near the Firing Range here at 11:34 hrs; 2 Speckled Wood, Sidhil's Field at Vicarage Farm, 11:30 hrs; 1 Holly Blue, at St Andrew's Churchyard, Enfield Town, 12:15 hrs; 1 female Orange Tip, at Hilly Fields Park, 13:00 hrs; 1 Holly Blue, at Hilly Field Park, 13:04 hrs; 1 Holly Blue, at Flash Lane Aqueduct, 13:36 hrs; 1 male Large White, at Whitewebbs Woodd, 13:55 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip, at Whitewebbs Wood, 13:55 hrs; 1 Green-veined White, at Whitewebbs Woodd, 14:25 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, at Rectory Farm, 16:30 hrs. - Robert Callf

Recording in the St Albans area on Wednesday, where highlight was egg-laying by Red Admiral. Records as follows: Potters Crouch TL 11 05 - Red Admiral ovipositing on Stinging Nettles along Appspound Lane; Longfield Spring nr Potters Crouch TL 10 05 - Holly Blue; Gorhambury House TL 11 07 - Large White, female Orange Tip, Holly Blue & Speckled Wood; Maynes Farm (Gorhambury Estate) TL 12 08 - male Brimstone & male Orange Tip; Verulamium Park TL 13 07 - Holly Blue, Small Tortoiseshell & Speckled Wood; St Stephens TL 13 06 - female Large White (on Garlic Mustard - possibly egg-laying) & female Orange Tip; Bedmond Lane TL 12 06 - 2 Speckled Woods; Windridge Farm TL 12 05 - Small White; Blunts Lane nr Potters Crouch TL 11 04 - Small Tortoiseshell; Holt Wood TL 11 03 - 2 Green-veined Whites & 3 Orange Tips (2 mls, 1 fml); Waterdale TL 11 02 - male Orange Tip. - C. M. Everett

Wednesday 27th April 2011

A three hour search of both pits at **Waterford Heath**, produced a record count for us of 29 Grizzled Skipper on the north pit, scattered across the entire pit. We recorded 20 on the South Pit with a total **just short of 50 Grizzled Skipper**, our previous highest in 2006 being 35! Also seen of note were Brown Argus, 2 Burnet Companions and Latticed Heath moths. Grizzled Skipper and Brown Argus present at Rickneys, count in progress. In fact 4 Grizzleds were seen at Rickneys, with Brown Argus, a Small Heath and Common Blue present. **After a recount of the notebook, we now have 30 in the north pit and 21 in the south making a total of 51!!!** - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

I also had a single Brown Argus and a brief glimpse of what I think was a *Pyrausta purpuralis/aurata* at Waterford Heath in addition to the Grizzleds I saw - Alan Reynolds

22 Dingy skippers and 3 Green Hairstreaks at **Hexton Chalk** pit today 27th April - Stuart Pittman

Green Hairstreak and Dingy Skipper again at Hexton Chalk Pits today - Nigel Agar

I did the transect this morning with my new wardens at **Aldbury**, the summaries are: **Grizzled skipper 14, there was at least one individual in every enclosure (north and south!)** Dingy skipper 4 Green hairstreak 4
5BrimstoneCommaLarge white 3Small/GV white 13Orange tip 9Small copper 2Speckled woodSmall heath - 6 This is the most grizzled skippers I've ever seen at the reserve, its usually just 1 or 2 while doing the transect. - Paul Thrush Reserve Officer

Tuesday 26th April 2011

Just popped down to Waterford Heath 3.30 today my first two grizzled skippers on South pit. Everything very dry desperately needs rain - Steve Kiln

Monday 25th April 2011

Broxbourne Wood (numbers are minima, as I toured the site several times over) Large White 4+ (3 male; 1 female) Small White 1+ Male Green-veined White 5+ (2 male; 1 female) Orange Tip 15+++ (14+++ male; 1 female) white sp/p. 18+++ Holly Blue 1-2 Comma 1 Speckled Wood 10+++ Adela reaumurella (diurnal longhorn micro-moth) 5. Church Hill (Therfield Heath) (Late visit en route home) Brimstone 1 Male white sp/p. 1-3 (2) - Guy Manners

Seen a few Red Admirals over the last few days - 1 at Strayfield Road, Clay Hill, Enfield on Thursday 21st April 2011 at 17:20 hrs. Another at Vicarage Farm on Friday 22nd April 2011 at 15:55 hrs. and a third at Rectory Farm, Enfield on Saturday 23rd April 2011 at 09:28 hrs. Three Green-veined White in Whitewebbs Wood, Enfield yesterday (Sunday 24th April 2011) between 12:10 and 12:20 hrs., around Garlic Mustard. Also a male Brimstone along the railway-line near Clay Hill yesterday (Sunday 24th April 2011) at 13:46 hrs. Today (Monday 25th April 2011) saw a male Orange Tip and a Comma in Town Park, Enfield. - Robert Callf

Fishers Field were 4 x orange tip & 4 x small white. Bushey garden were 4 x orange tip, 1x green veined white, 2 x holly blue (1 male , 1 female). Finch lane were 11 x orange tip, 5 x speckled wood, 1 x small white, 3 x green veined white - David Gower

Hummingbird hawk moth 1pm at Leavesden, today along with egg laying Red Admiral - Clive Burrows

Small Copper on Poors Field this morning. Lots of Orange-tip, a few Holly Blue and a Mother Shipton. Steve Pash

Just got back from spending a few hours at **Aldbury Nowers** I was there between 11:30am - 1:30pm and spotted approximately: 6x Grizzled Skippers 2x Dingy Skippers 7x Green Hairstreaks 2x Small Coppers 4x Small Heaths 1x Comma 1x Holly Blue 6x Large Whites 10+ Speckled Woods 10+ Brimstones 20+ Orange Tips - Steve Gent

Visited **Aldbury Nowers** this afternoon; 15+ brimstone, 6+ orangetip, 8+ small white, 3 dingy skipper, 6+ grizzled skipper, 3 small heath, 2 holly blue, 1 red admiral, 2 speckled wood, 1 green hairstreak. Chris & Ellie Beach.

On a quick walk locally on Friday morning before heading down to Dover for Easter, I spotted a male Large White by the **River Colne**. There were plenty of other butterflies too, but I wasn't counting today, I'm afraid!

Vast swarms of Adela reaumurella at both - Highgate Wood last week, Bricket Wood yesterday; I would not like to hazard a guess at the numbers represented, but surely scores, and maybe hundreds, of thousands. The attached photo of a group sunning themselves will hopefully amuse . Incidentally, is it just my imagination, or are the great majority of Brimstones and Orange-Tips current flying about males? - Michael Hammerson

Sunday 24th April 2011

Observations (in the Kings Langley area unless o/wise stated), as follows: A41 bridge TL 06 02 - male Orange Tip; Langley Lodge Farm TL 06 01 - Green-veined White (feeding on Dandelion) & 2 male Orange Tips; nr North Grove Wood TL 07 01 - male Orange Tip & Small Tortoiseshell; Berrybushes Wood TL 06 00 - 2 Orange Tips (male & female) & Peacock; Topcommon nr Chipperfield TL 05 01 - 3 male Orange Tips, 3 Holly Blues, Small Tortoiseshell (egg-laying on Stinging Nettles), Peacock, Comma & 3 Speckled Woods; Hunton Bridge nr Watford TL 08 00 - Holly Blue; South Way nr Abbots Langley TL 09 00 - male Orange Tip. - C. M. Everett

Popped in to **Aldbury Nowers** on the way home from Totternhoe today, 8+ green hairstreak 1 x dingy skipper 10+ grizzled skipper 3 x **small heath** and all the usuals.. - Richard Geary

Had an enjoyable afternoon strolling around **Hexton Chalk Pit**; 8+ brimstone, 3+ orangetip, 1 holly blue, 4+ small white, 3+ speckled wood, 2+ green hairstreak, 20+ dingy skipper. Observed several pairs of dingy skippers mating on top of prominent dead sticks - Chris & Ellie Beach

At **Bricket Wood common** 8 Orange tips butterflies, 15 Brimstone (including a pair mating), 3 Holly Blue, 1 comma, 2 Peacock, 5 Small White, 6 Large White and 2 GV White - Andy Steele

Hexton Chalk Pit 8-9am, 14 dingy skippers roosting. **Telegraph Hill** 6 green hairstreaks, 2 dingy skippers, 1 red admiral. **Frogmore** 12 grizzled skippers, **1 brown argus** and 1 red admiral, along with various common butterflies - Andrew Middleton & Laurence Drummond

A male orange tip spent the night roosting on garlic mustard in my Ware garden - Liz Goodyear

Saturday 23rd April 2011

Today briefly went back to FINCH LANE, **Bushey** spotted 7 x orange tip, 1 x brimstone, 2 x holly blue, 8 x speckled wood and 2 x small white David Gower

Good numbers of **Dingy Skipper** today in the **Highdown area** ie 9 and a singleton after much searching of **Hexton chalk pit** on Thursday 21st - Stuart Pittman

At **Hatfield Aerodrome** today had 20+ orange tips, 5 GV whites, 7 Small white, 6 Large White, 2 Speckled Woods, 1 Red Admiral, 1 small Tortoiseshell and 4 Peacock - Andy Steele

A few recent sightings: Thursday 21st April - Ten Acre Wood, Hillingdon Lots (20+) of Orange-tip, 3 GV white, 2 Brimstone (m&f), 8 Speckled Wood, 2 Small Tortoiseshell, 4 Peacock and 6+ Holly Blue. Friday 22nd April - Along the River Pinn adjacent to Ruislip GC Lots (20+) of Orange-tip, 2 Small White, Brimstone (m), 5 Speckled Wood, Small Tortoiseshell, 3 Peacock, Red Admiral and 10+ Holly Blue. Saturday 23rd April - Woodoaks Farm (including Ladywalk Wood), Maple Cross Lots (20+) of Orange-tip, 2 GV White, Small White, 10 Speckled Wood, 3 Small Tortoiseshell, 2 Peacock, Red Admiral, 2 Holly Blue. I have seen lots of Orange-tip (more than I can remember) and Holly Blue in my Ruislip garden during this warm spell of weather. - Steve Pash

Friday 22nd April 2011

In our Bushey garden 4 Orange Tip, 1 Small White, 1 Holly Blue. Walked from Finch Lane (Bushey) to Patchetts Green via Jewish cemetery as last year and spotted = 18 Orange Tip, 10 Small White, 1 Brimstone, 4 Holly Blue, 6 Speckled Wood, 1 Peacock, 1 Green Veined White. - David Gower

At **Tyttenhanger farm** area 2 **Painted Ladies** first of the year for me, 1 Peacock, 5 Orange Tip. Then early evening at Hatfield Aerodrome at least 10 Orange Tips, 2 Peacock, 3 Large White and 1 Speckled Wood. - Andy Steele

Eggs of both Green-veined White and Orange Tip were easily found on a few Garlic Mustard plants in a sunny corner of a Garston (Watford) garden TL 11 00 this morning. Note how early this date is for these eggs when compared with a decade or two ago - 22/4 would once have been a typical date for the first records of adults of these species, not their eggs! It is well worth taking a few seconds to look on Garlic Mustard or other potential food plants (e.g. garden Honesty) over the weekend. - Colin Everett

Saw 1st grizzled at **Rickneys** and a further 5 on the north pit at **Waterford Heath** 2 near railway, 3 behind the lake. On south saw 2 holly blue and 3 green veined whites as well as orange tips, speckled woods and brimstones but no grizzleds - Steve Kiln/Alan Reynolds

Thornbera Road Allotments, Bishops Stortford, just before noon today. 1 Small White, 5 Orange Tips (4m 1f), 1 Brimstone (m), & 2 Peacocks. Interestingly by early afternoon all had disappeared except for the occasional fluttering by of individual male orange tips, (too warm?). In scrub just beyond allotment fence an Holly Blue and Speckled Wood showed briefly whilst returning home at 2 p.m. - Len Crouch

Thursday 21st April 2011

Dingy Skippers at **Hexton Chalk Pits** yesterday and today and **Green Hairstreak** today - Nigel Agar

This morning, I set off round my usual route along the River Colne near **Stanwell Moor**. Orange Tips were everywhere, too many to count accurately, but at least 20. Plenty of Green-veined Whites too - none when approached close enough to tell turned out to be Small Whites. At least 12 were seen. The other abundant species was Holly Blue, with a continuing emergence of fresh specimens it seems, and numbers of over 20 again. Half a dozen Speckled Woods, two Peacocks and a Brimstone rounded off the morning.

After lunch, I visited **Bedfont Lakes CP** with my small son. We generally saw a very similar selection of butterflies as we had at home, with the addition of one Small Tortoiseshell. However, near the railway line just approaching the fishing lake, we saw a patrolling Speckled Wood violently set upon by a small gleaming insect. Once it had calmed down, it revealed itself to be a **Small Copper**. My first of the year, and the first reported in the Park this year too I believe - Dave Miller

I spent today taking pictures at **Aldbury Nowers**. Saw my first **small copper** (1) in the lower

compartment, 4 **Grizzled skippers** including courting male and female, 1 small tortoiseshell, 3 green hairstreaks, 1 speckled wood, 1 holly blue, numerous orange tips, green veined whites as well as male and female brimstones. - Miles Attenborough

Wednesday 20th April 2011

I walked up to **Aldbury Nowers** this morning and was pleased to see at least 7 Grizzled Skippers in all flying on the bottom slopes where the management has been undertaken, at the top of the slope and also one at the bottom of a hedgerow leading down to the road from the site to show the good weather is allowing them to disperse. In addition I saw 2 Green Hairstreaks flying together in the same area as the Grizzled Skippers and another one further up the slope. Numerous Orange Tips and Brimstones also flying around made it a very enjoyable visit so early in the year - Phil Woodward

A female Small Tortoiseshell ovipositing on a nettlebed in the Wildlife Area of Holland Park, west London. First I've seen in town since I can't remember when - Keir Mottram

Today I saw about 4 orange tips and a small tortoiseshell at **Kings meads** - Andy Brown

Speckled Yellow seen at edge of **Fir Wood Potters Bar**. - Greg Keith

1 Speckled Wood, at Flash Lane, Clay Hill, 10:03 hrs., 3 male Orange Tips, together, Hilly Fields Park, Enfield, 10:10 hrs., 1 female Orange Tip, at Lavender Hill Cemetery, 10:15 hrs - the first female that I have seen this year; 2 Holly Blue, together, Gordon Hill Station, Enfield, 10:41 hrs. 1 female Orange Tip, at River View, Enfield, 14:40 hrs - the second female of the day; 1 Peacock, settled on some blue sheeting on Enfield Grammar School Playing Field, 14:55 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood, at Enfield Grammar School, Enfield Town, 15:00 hrs. - Robert Callf

Tuesday 19th April 2011

Fir & Pond woods NR - Peacock x 4, Speckled woods at least 10, Orange tips x 8, Green veined whites x2 and assorted unidentified whites 5 - David Gompertz

Lovely day, working in **Broxbourne Woods** in main ride saw 15 orange tip, 5 brimstones, 1 peacock, 3 speckled wood. **Bengeo** 1st holly blue of year. **Rickneys** 3 orange tip plus a small tortoiseshell. **Waterford heath** 8 orange tips plus two brimstones but no grizzleds. In **Great Molewood** nearby 13 orange tips, 3 speckled woods, a peacock and 2 brimstones. - Steve Kiln

I saw 12 orange tips, about 4 small white/green veined and 2 Brimstones at **Kings Meads** - Andy Brown
Today I saw about 4 orange tips and a small tortoiseshell.

Hexton Chalk Pit 1 **Green Hairstreak**, Brimstone (male and female), Speckled Wood and a probable Peacock.

1 male Brimstone, at Forty Hall, Enfield, flew past 'Burger Van', 12:45 hrs; 1 or 2 Small Tortoiseshell, at Rectory Farm, Enfield, 17:50 hrs; 2 Peacock, at Rectory Farm, Enfield, 17:50 and 18:00 hrs; 1 Holly Blue, at Rectory Farm, 18:05 hrs. - Robert Callf

At **Waterford Heath North Pit** 4 **Grizzled Skippers** between the lake and the pine trees. Otherwise Peacock, Brimstone, Holly Blue, Speckled Wood (south only), Red Admiral (north only) Orange Tip across both pits. - Andrew Wood

Spent 30 mins at **FISHERS FIELD NATURE RESERVE** in Bushey after work today 19/4/11. 2 Comma, 1 Small White, 1 Speckled Wood - David Gower

At the **Weston Hills NR** this morning (1050-1150), I spotted 8 Orange Tips, 4 Holly Blues, 2 Green-veined Whites, 2 Brimstones, a Small White and a Speckled Wood. Later (1220-1340), I walked on the bridleway off Graveley Lane (TL228 283) towards Manor Wood near Willian (TL224 302). 7 Orange Tips. 4 Small Tortoiseshells, 2 Brimstones, 3 Small Whites (+ 10 unidentified whites) and a Peacock counted. The Peacock and one each of the Small Tortoiseshells and Brimstones were seen at (or close to) the Manor Wood site. At both sites, looked for Green Hairstreaks in case I might be lucky. - Peter Clarke

Monday 18th April 2011

Jersey Farm St Albans 11.15 am, a green veined white and two Orange tip males. - Brian Knight

A few sightings to report today (Monday 18th April 2011) - 1 Peacock, at Parkside Farm/Res., Enfield, 10:00 hrs., 1 male Orange Tip, at Park Farm, 10:40 hrs., 1 Speckled Wood, near Nature Trail, Trent Park, 11:45 hrs., 1 Peacock, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Water Grdn, Trent Park, 11:55 hrs., 1 Peacock, at Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm, 12:45 hrs., 3 Small Tortoiseshell, at Vicarage Farm (2 together, along track, Hog Hill, 12:45 hrs. and 1 Barracks, 12:50 hrs.), 1 male Orange Tip, at Sidhil's Field at Vicarage Farm, 12:55 hrs. - Robert Callf

I did the transect today at **Aldbury Nowers**, was particularly pleased with the number of **grizzled skipper** (7 in total). There was an individual in each enclosure in the southern part of the reserve (plus one in the coppice area) with 2 in the key butterfly area in the northern part of the reserve. No dingys yet! Other highlights included a small tortoiseshell, green hairstreak and 2 speckled woods and a holly blue along the Ridgeway between the two parts of the reserve, also a **male common blue** in the southern part of the reserve. - Paul Thrush

Sunday 17th April 2011

1 x Orange Tip in Aldenham Rd, Bushey. At Watercress wildlife garden in St Albans this morning = 14 Orange Tip, 4 Holly Blue, 3 Speckled Wood, 1 Brimstone, 2 Small White, 1 Large White, 1 Comma - David Gower

Saturday 16th April 2011

Frogmore Quarry 11.30-12am. By the time I got out the sun was just disappearing behind the clouds, but I did manage to find 1 **Grizzled Skipper** resting with closed wings waiting for its close up. - Lee Browne

At **Tyttenhanger Farm** today 1 Holly Blue, 1 GV White and 1 Peacock in overcast conditions. - Andy Steele

A few sightings for today (Saturday 16th April 2011) - 2 male Orange Tip, at Hilly Fields Park, 11:10 hrs., 2 male Orange Tip, at Flash Lane, EN2, 11:15 hrs., 1 Holly Blue, at Wildwoods Lodge, Enfield, 11:15 hrs., 1 Small Tortoiseshell, at Flash Lane, EN2, 11:15 hrs., 1 Peacock, at Whitewebbs Park, 13:03 hrs. - Robert Callf

Friday 15th April 2011

Sightings for today (Friday 15th April 2011) - 1 Speckled Wood, near Duncan's Wood, Enfield Chase, 12:00 hrs., 1 Speckled Wood, Ferny Hill Farm, 12:50 hrs., 1 Peacock, field N of Williams Wood, 13:50 hrs., 1 Small Tortoiseshell, along track at Hog Hill, 14:20 hrs., 1 Peacock, along track at Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm, 14:20 hrs., 1 Speckled Wood, along hedgerow off Barracks, Vicarage Farm, 14:30 hrs., 1 Green-veined White, at Barracks, Vicarage Farm, 14:30 hrs - a well marked individual. Also three Small White (1 Trent Park, 2 Vicarage Farm).- Robert Callf.

Tuesday 12th April 2011

Frogmore Pit one lonely but active **Grizzled Skipper** in a sheltered part of the site today. No Grizzleds seen at Waterford Heath even in the sheltered hollows. Otherwise a strong northerly wind blasting through the site so didn't look at the railway plateau - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

I was working at **Aldbury** today and saw a **grizzled skipper** in the key butterfly area. Also on the northern slopes were 6+ male orange tips, a speckled wood and an unidentified white species - Paul Thrush Reserve Officer

A few lepidoptera to report today (Tuesday 12th April 2011) - 1 Streamer, in the stairwell to the flats where I live this morning, in Southgate, N14. 1 male Orange Tip, along Merryhills Brook/Vicarage Farm, 08:50 hrs and 1 Speckled Wood, along Merryhills Brook/Vicarage Farm, 08:55 hrs. 1 Small Tortoiseshell, along track at Vicarage Farm, 09:10 hrs. - Robert Callf

Monday 11th April 2011

On **Saturday 9 April** I went to **Aldbury Nowers** to look for green hairstreaks and didn't see any but I did see a lovely **Grizzled Skipper**. Just the one, repeatedly, so I guess it must have been one of the first of the year. The wild strawberries look in good condition on the hill - lots of flowers.

Sadly I see someone in Somerset is claiming the first sighting on April 8! But I thought I would let you know. Everything seems astonishingly early this year - Patrick Barkham

Walked from Tring station through **Aldbury Nowers** onto Pitstone Hills and back (4 & half hours) yesterday, **Sunday 10**..... small white x 5, green veined white x 1, orange tip x 13, comma x 1, red admiral x 1, speckled wood x 1, **green hairstreak x 5**, small tortoiseshell x 1, brimstone x 33 (29 male), peacock x 4, **grizzled skipper x 1**. Thanks to London Midland took me 3 hours to get back to Bushey!!!! David Gower

There were disappointingly few butterflies at Waterford Heath today. Despite the high-ish temperatures and the delayed rain (which didn't start until I was back home), I saw maybe half a dozen Orange Tips, a Peacock, a Brimstone and a Comma, but that was it. Maybe the breeze kept the numbers down. I'm sure that if any Grizzleds had been around, either Alan (Reynolds) or I would have spotted them - Paul Why

At the Watercress Bed in **St. Albans** today 8 holly blue, 6 orange tip, 4 brimstones 6 large white 3 small white and 1 comma and 1 speckled wood - Andy Steele

Excellent conditions over last 3 days - Friday 8 April - Wood Lane, Pirton, Transect resulted in a total of 31 butterflies over 6 species - predominantly 18 Yellow Brimstone male & female, 4 Orange Tip, 2 Holly Blue, 2 Peacock, 1 Comma and very pleased to see 4 Small Tortoiseshell. Same day had 4 species in my Hitchin garden - Yellow Brimstone, Orange Tip, Holly Blue and Peacock. A pleasant surprise on the 9th April to see a Green Veined White nectaring on Honesty. Sunday 10 April on a short walk at Ickleford Common TL12W Grid Ref.182318 produced sightings of 7 Orange Tip, 5 Small Tortoiseshell, 5 Yellow Brimstone and 3 Holly Blue - Val Fullforth

Some late news from Friday (8/4) - I saw a holly blue along the High Street in St Albans and another in Verulum Park outside Grebe House. Today there was a holly blue immediately outside Grebe House and a brimstone (female) in the park - Paul Thrush Reserve Officer

A few butterfly sightings for yesterday (Sunday 10th April 2011) - 2 Speckled Wood and 1 Holly Blue at Grovelands Park, Southgate. Today (Monday 11th April 2011) - 3 male Orange Tip, together, Whitewebbs Wood, 11:02 hrs., 1 Holly Blue, at Whitewebbs Wood, 11:45 hrs. 1 male Brimstone, at Gordon Hill Station, Enfield, 12:41 hrs. - Robert Callf

Terry Lyle told me today that his first **Holly Blue at Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park was on 22nd March** (pre-dating the earliest Middlesex record on your website).Also my earliest Brimstone at this same site was 8th February, again pre-dating the earliest Middlesex record you have on your website. -Bob Watts

News from last week: 2nd, Goldings wood 1 x peacock; 3rd, Ware 1 x comma 1 x small tortoiseshell. 6th, Chadwell 1 x brimstone, 1 x small tortoiseshell. 6th, Balls wood 1 x brimstone. 7th, Gallows Hill 1 x brimstone and Postwood 1 x orange tip. 10th, Hertford 2 x brimstone 1 x orange tip - Nicky Parish

Sunday 10th April 2011

1 x holly blue, 1 x orange tip in our Bushey garden David Gower

In my **Hatfield** garden today 2+ Holly Blue (m+f), 3+ Orange Tip (m+2f), Large White, Speckled Wood - John Moss

I've just returned from what seems like a long day's walking around the Pirton/Pegsdon/Telegraph Hill area, and am very pleased to report finding a **Green Hairstreak** at around 14:48 on **Telegraph Hill**. It flitted around the same bush for some while, until eventually I decided to leave it in peace and go in search of others. Alas, this was the only specimen I found all day, and the only one I've ever seen. - Paul Why

Quick evening walk around **Broad Colney Lakes** at London Colney brought 1 Comma and 1 Holly Blue out - Andy Steele

Latton Lock (Herts side of the Stort) 1 Orange tip (male, Old Rivers nursery/orchard site **Sawbridgeworth** Orange tip (male) 1 Green veined white, 6 Speckled wood, 1 Large white, 3

Brimstone (all male) and 3 Peacock, despite fields full of dandelions not one Small tortoiseshell. - Laurence Drummond

Saturday 9th April 2011

2 x small white, 1 x holly blue, 1 x comma (resting on rhubarb) in our **BUSHEY** back garden. - David Gower (p.s. in Spain recently and was excited to see swallowtails and walls in friend's garden in Mijas)

Bramfield Woods, 10am-12.30pm. 3 Speckled Wood, 1 Green-veined White, 5 Peacock, 4 Comma, 1 Orange Underwing moth. Norton Green, 1.30pm. 20+ Orange Tip (all male), 1 Brimstone (male), 2 Peacock, 9 Small White, 1 Comma, 1 Green-vein White, 1 Speckled Wood, 1 Orange Underwing moth. Frogmore Quarry, 6-7pm. 1 Orange Tip (male), 1 Peacock - Lee Browne

Another good day in the (**Harpenden**) garden, up to 5 Holly Blue, 3 Brimstone (including m & f mating) 1 Speckled Wood. Robin Pearson

I recorded 3 Orange Tips (amongst Brimstones, peacocks and Small Tortoiseshells) on my week 2 transect walk on Friday - around 3 weeks earlier than normal for Southern Country Park. I also saw my first Holly Blue of the year in **Bishop's Stortford** town centre today - Bob Clift

A few more sightings for yesterday (Friday 8th April 2011) - 1 male Orange Tip, at Gentleman's Row, Enfield Town, 15:10 hrs., and 1 Comma here also, 15:10 hrs. 1 Holly Blue, at St Andrew's Churchyard, Enfield Town, 15:25 hrs and 1 along New River at Enfield Grammar School, Enfield Town, 15:30 hrs. Just two Speckled Wood so far today (Saturday 9th April 2011) at Gough Park, Forty Hall, 10:10 and 10:12 hrs. - Robert Callf

Is it really only 9th April? Returning from an expedition to darkest Surrey to see Green Hairstreaks and Grizzled Skippers, I set off about 4.30 on my local walk. No more than 10 metres down the path, I was met with a host of butterflies - Orange Tips, Peacocks, a Comma, a Small White, and almost a cloud of Holly Blues. Every ivy-clad tree hosted two or three individuals. There must have been dozens altogether. I completed the walk, as the sun became hazier, and saw several more Commas and two female Orange Tips. Overall, the score was (minimum figures): Small White 3 Green-veined White 2 (2m) Orange Tip 8 (6m, 2f) Comma 5 Peacock 5 Speckled Wood 2 **Holly Blue 15+** - Dave Miller

Friday 8th April 2011

Field behind **St Nicks Church**, 10-11.50am. 4 Peacock, 11 Small Tortoiseshell, 2 Holly Blue, 2 Orange Tip (male), 3 Small White, 1 Brimstone (female), 1 Comma. St Nicks Churchyard, 11.50-12am. 1 Holly Blue, 1 Speckled Wood - Lee Browne

A few butterfly sightings to report today (Friday 8th April 2011) - 1 Small White, at Flash Lane, Enfield, 10:50 hrs., 1 Holly Blue, Flash Lane, 10:52 hrs., 1 Holly Blue, Strayfield Road, Clay Hill, 10:56 hrs and 1 Green-veined White, at Rectory Farm, Enfield, 11:22 hrs - my first of the year! - Robert Callf

An early immigrant **Painted Lady** showing extremely well at **Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park**, in Scrapyard Meadow c1230 on Wednesday 6th April was unexpected. - Bob Watts

My first Holly Blue of the year seen while sat with colleagues in the garden of the Battle Axes pub in **Aldenham**, Herts. Nice way to round off my first week of the new job! - Mike Rubin

Had a quick walk around **Therfield Heath** butterflies of note were 2 Small tortoiseshells, 1 holly blue, 1 Comma, 1 Peacock and 3 large whites - Andy Steele

In my Harpenden garden today, several Holly Blue, male Orange-tip, male Brimstones, **1 Large White**, 1 Small White, 1 Peacock, 1 Comma. Robin Pearson

Tyttenhanger Farm Colney Heath 12.30-13.40, 1 Orange tip (male), 2 Green veined white, 2 Small tortoiseshell and 1 Peacock, Much Hadham, south of Mill wood to Sidehill, wood 15.00-16.10, 6 Orange tip (5 male 1 female), 2 Green veined white, 2 Comma, 6 Brimstone (all males) and 3 Peacock, Channocks farm Gilston 16.35, 2 Orange tip (male) - Laurence Drummond

Today 8th April near Jersey Farm Open Space - in a wooded lane, TL170094, this afternoon 2.15pm

in sunny spot, a Speckled Wood. - Brian Knight

Whilst walking my transect in Stevenage this morning, I saw a male Orange Tip fluttering very low close to the ground and 3 Green-veined Whites, the earliest in the season I have recorded for both species. Also counted 3 Speckled Woods (first of the year), 2 Brimstones, 4 Small Whites and a Peacock (at last!). - Peter Clarke

Thursday 7th April 2011

Yesterday I saw 1 Comma near Aldenham Reservoir. Today I went to a small open space (approx TQ173951) between the business park, housing estate and A411 and saw: Peacock: 3 Male Orange Tip: 2 Unidentified White: 1 - Mike Rubin

Speckled Woods: 1 in Bayford Wood and 1 at Balls Park, Hertford -Andrew Wood

Coppetts Wood, Friern Barnet: 6 Peacock, 3 Brimstone, 3 Orange-tip (male), 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Speckled Wood, 3 white sp. Plus assorted Bumblebees and 2 Bee-flies - Brian Price

In own garden Hitchin on 6th April 1 Male Yellow Brimstone, 2 Female Yellow Brimstone. 7th April the first Holly Blue and 1 Peacock basking in sunshine. In Hitchin town centre market square, 1 peacock resting on the pavement outside the coffee shop ! - Val Fullforth

I managed to escape work in time for a quick walk along the Colne again in the late afternoon sun. Another day, something new to see: as well as at least eight Peacocks, a Small Tortoiseshell, a Comma, and two male Orange Tips, there were four assorted whites. Photos for the record confirmed them to be three Green-veined (2m,1f) and a male Small White - Dave Miller

Had 1 Holly blue in the St Albans garden this morning and 1 along Sandridge Road a bit later though could have been the same one - Andrew Steele

Small Tortoiseshell near Graveley yesterday also many Peacocks. Orange Tip in the garden yesterday (Hitchin) also Brimstones and Peacock -Nigel Agar

A few sightings for yesterday (Wednesday 6th April 2011) - 1 Holly Blue, at Chase Road, N14 at 09:30 hrs., 1 male Orange Tip, Snakes Lane, Trent Park, 14:40 hrs., 1 Peacock, at 'New Fields', Trent Park, 14:55 hrs., 1 Speckled Wood, near Nature Trail, Trent Park, 15:32 hrs., 1 Peacock and 1 Comma, SW side of Rough Lot, Trent Park, 16:00 hrs. Today (Thursday 7th April 2011) - 1 Holly Blue, at Lakenheath, Oakwood, N14 at 11:35 hrs., and 1 Holly Blue, at Prince George Avenue, Oakwood, N14 at 14:45 hrs. - Robert Callf

I saw a small white this afternoon at Beech Farm - Paul Thrush Reserve Officer

A morning trip to the Nowers produced only common varieties: Small Tortoiseshell, Brimstone (m + f), Orange Tip and Comma - Robin Pearson

Tring: saw my first Orange Tip, Green Veined White and Holly blue yesterday. No doubt others have seen these too - Brian Jessop

Wednesday 6th April 2011

A lunchtime walk in the Bicentenary Garden at **Brunel University** produced 3 male & 1 female Orange-tip, female Brimstone, Speckled Wood, 2 Peacock, 3 Holly Blue and a possible Common Blue! Steve Pash

A few butterfly records from the Bovingdon area made while carrying out Timed Tetrad Visits for the BTO Bird Atlas. More Small Tortoiseshells than Peacocks - but not many of either when compared to years past. Bovingdon Airfield TL 00 04 - Small Tortoiseshell; N Bovingdon TL 01 04 - male Brimstone; Vale Farm nr Bovingdon TL 01 05 - Peacock; Lower Farm nr Bovingdon TL 00 05 - 5 Small Tortoiseshells along sunny nettled banks. - C. M. Everett

Walking home from work today saw **1 large white** along Sandridge Road, **St. Albans** and had a Orange-tip butterfly in my garden as well - Andrew Steele

Bricket Wood Common, Wednesday 6th April, 12:30 - 13:30, hot sunny 23deg C Brimstone 9, one feeding on celandine, 1 Comma, 1 Orange tip, 1 Small white, 2 Peacocks = Paul Gibson

I visited **Alpine Meadow** this morning and along the farm track which leads to the reserve I saw a holly blue and 2 male brimstones. I did the transect at **Aldbury** today results are: 16 brimstone 4 Orange tip 1 all male 1 Small tortoiseshell 1 Peacock 1 Comma 1 Red admiral. In addition I saw 4 more brimstone and an unidentified white in the furthest northern enclosure (not part of the transect). There were also 2 brimstones and a comma at **Wilstone Reservoir** this afternoon. - Paul Thrush Reserve Officer

Fields behind St Nicks church, 9.30-11.45am 9 Small Tortoiseshell, 4 Peacock, 5 Brimstone, 3 Small White, 2 Comma (1 egg laying), 1 Red Admiral (egg laying). **St Nicks Churchyard**, 1.30-3pm 06.04.2011. 1 Holly Blue, 1 Small White and 1 Brimstone (male). - Lee Browne

In Roebuck Woods, **South Stevenage**, earlier this afternoon, I saw 3 very faded Commas, a female Brimstone, a Small White and a Small Tortoiseshell. No Peacocks at all yet here nor in my transect - not a good sign - Peter Clarke

Just completed my first walk around the **City transect** I set up last season In the warm sun, was suprised to see anything but 2 species is a fine start. 1 - Holly Blue - at Bunhill Row Cemetary (EC1) 1 - Comma - Barbican estate EC2 - Phil Macmurdie

Monday 4th April 2011

I saw a male brimstone today whilst driving the road between Therfield Heath and Therfield village (off the Baldock Road). I was at Alpine Meadow on Monday (28/3/11) and saw a comma with another one near Bridgewater School. - Paul Thrush HMWT Reserve Officer

Just a few early sightings from **Millhoppers**: 2 x Comma, 2 x Small Tortoiseshell and lots of bee flies nectaring on the abundance of creeping cinquefoil. Cowslip and Marsh Marigold close to flowering. Also heard Chiffchaff and Willow Warbler with Red Kite seen from the reserve. - Jez Perkins

Sunday 3rd April 2011

Beaumont (**Redbourn**) 4 Small Tortoiseshells on Blackthorn blossom on Ver Valley footpath. Also one Peacock - Ernest Leahy

A few sightings to report for yesterday (Sunday 3rd April 2011) - Oakwood Park, N14: 1 Peacock, 1 Comma and 1 Speckled Wood, 12:35 hrs., all in the same area. Grovelands Park, Southgate: 1 Peacock, 12:57 hrs., and 1 Holly Blue, 13:35 hrs. The first **Speckled Wood** and Holly Blue that I have seen this year. - Robert Callf

A beautiful Comma flew by in **Kings Langley** - Elizabeth Debenham

I followed my usual route this morning (3rd April) before the cloud spread over - not as warm today as yesterday, but not a deterrent to the butterflies. There were eight Peacocks, six Commas and a Small Tortoiseshell today, but oddly no Brimstones. However, two more species made their debut for the year in the form of two lovely new **Orange Tips and an equally new Speckled Wood** - Dave Miller

First weekly transect walk of the year at Bricket Wood Common produced 1 male Brimstone & 2 Commas. Elsewhere nearby: Wall Hall nr Aldenham TQ 13 99 - Comma; Garston Park nr Watford TL 12 00 - Peacock & Comma; Garston nr Watford TL 11 00 - Red Admiral present in garden for most of afternoon. For any interested, I use my blog at <http://hertshobbies.blogspot.com> as an online journal to record my adventures with wildlife in the local area, with an emphasis on breeding birds, especially raptors. - C. M. Everett

Only one butterfly seen in the garden (**Ware**) but a Small Tortoiseshell which was a nice surprise - Liz Goodyear

Saturday 2nd April 2011

Frogmore Quarry 1pm - 5pm, 2 Brimstone, 2 Peacock, 4 Comma and 1 Herald Moth - Lee Browne

Berkhamsted SP 99 07 - male Brimstone; Long Green nr Berkhamsted TL 00 06 - male Brimstone

(feeding on Dandelions) & Comma - C. M. Everett

Holly Blue in my garden in **Pinner** - the second earliest date I've recorded it in the last eighteen years - Graham Elcombe

The following day (31st March) the Holly Blue was still there. It was raining and it looked even more waterlogged than before. I was worried it was going to be kicked by the postman or the milkman, though this wasn't really likely. However about 12 o'clock the sun started to come out and I went out with a camera. The insect started turning around on its leaf and occasionally opening its wings, revealing itself to be a male. I switched on the camera to be greeted by the message "NO MEMORY CARD." I dashed into the house to where I had left the card by the computer after sending my emails to you, and returned just in time to take these two shots before it took off. Unfortunately the one with the best exposure doesn't show the butterfly's head, alas! The other also has the shadow of a thin leaf on one wing. (The wind was blowing quite strongly, as it often does when the sun comes out.) - Archie Lang

Greenford, despite sunshine being at a premium, I was delighted to see my first non hibernators in the garden today, a male **Holly Blue** and a **Speckled Wood**, also male I think. Also had a rather tatty male Comma. -Lee Hurrell

Today saw 1 Brimstone and 1 Peacock in **St Albans** garden and at **Tyttenhanger Gravel Pits** saw 4 Small tortoiseshells including 2 mating, 1 brimstone, 3 comma and 1 **possible speckled wood** - Andrew Steele

Friday 1st April 2011

St Nicks churchyard 13.30-14.45. Did not hold out much hope of finding any butterflies as the weather was pretty poor and it was pretty windy but at 14.30 I spotted a butterfly fluttering around a patch of Nettles which turned out to be a very worn Red Admiral then as I was leaving at 14.45 there was a comma sitting perched on a grave stone - Lee Browne

One small tortoiseshell at **Norton Green**, Stevenage this afternoon - Laurence Drummond

March 2011

Thursday 31st March 2011

I had an opportunity to revisit an old haunt today after lunch. Saw 8 Commas on **Horsenden Hill** (Batts Field and surrounding area) when the sun came out for a while but nothing else. My first butterflies of the year- Mike Rubin

Sightings for March in my **Hayes** garden. 12th March 1 Red Admiral, **23rd March 2 Small Whites** and 1 Brimstone - Helen George

Wednesday 30th March 2011

News for the last week: 1 x brimstone - Ware road pumphouse. Lunchtime walk beside New River and Ware road. 1 x brimstone - Rib field, rough grass field the farmer allows walking access to. It hasn't been under crops for several years. Prone to flooding. The river Rib flows one side of it and there are large, mature trees and further fields surrounding it. 1 x small tortoiseshell - The Meads near industrial estate near Hertford Lock. Rough grass used for cattle grazing during the summer though no livestock present when saw butterfly. Seen close to service road of industrial estate adjacent to the Meads. 1 x comma - Glaxo (Ware) car park. 1 x comma - On way to bench under A10 flyover. 1 x brimstone- Outside pub The Feathers in Wadesmill. I was waiting outside the pub for my friend to begin a walk with the dogs. On the old A10 through the village. 1 x peacock - Colindale, NW9. Seen outside the building to go out for lunch. Rather grotty built-up area of outer London. The car park has trees and shrubs and the Silk Stream runs close by. 2 x brimstone and 1 x comma - By River Beane near Waterford Heath. Seen along a tree-lined path with a lot of undergrowth beside the river Beane just below Waterford Heath (which is an old gravel workings now being established as a nature reserve)- Nicky Parish

Watford garden, I found this poor little thing today (**Holly Blue**) near a wall at the junction between my front path and the pavement where some self-sown Spanish bluebells were coming up through the tarmac. It was hanging on a bluebell leaf about 50mm from the ground in the rain. I suppose it had emerged this morning before the rain began. (It was only about a metre from

another wall covered in ivy where no doubt it fed as a larva.) (*photo to be posted later*) - Archie Lang

Sunday 27th March 2011

Late news **24th March: Ruislip, Park Wood**. Six Commas, one Brimstone (and nothing else) and 27th March: **Pinner** (Middx) One male **Orange Tip** in my garden - my earliest ever sighting - Graham Elcombe

On **Friday 25th March** I recorded the following during a walk around **Horsenden Hill: Orange-tip (1 male), Small White (1)**, Brimstone (1 male), Small Tortoiseshell (1), Peacock (7), Comma (10). Our mystery Orange Underwing Agg. is back for a second year. Dave Howdon saw it on 25th and we both glimpsed it on 27th. Firm identification has eluded us so far and the food plants for both species are available at the site. There is aspen in the area it has been frequenting, but no birch particularly close by. - Andy Culshaw

Saw a Comma in Grovelands Park, Southgate (Sunday 27th March 2011) at 13:20 hrs. - Robert Callf

Greenford Park Cemetery I had two trips to the cemetery this afternoon and saw 3 different Commas, I think 2 females and 1 deeply dark orange male with a deformed hindwing. The shape was right but was half the size it should be and light tan in colour. **Greenford** At home, another male had set up residence in the front garden in exactly the same spot as last year's first garden Comma. A Peacock flew in around 17.00, they had a dogfight before the Comma returned to his post. - Lee Hurrell

Another walk in perfect weather along the Colne near **Stanwell Moor** this morning (25th) produced another good selection: Peacocks today led the list again with 8, followed by 6 Small Tortoiseshells and the same number of Brimstones. Very encouraging to see the Tortoiseshells, which were notably absent after July last year. Then came **3 Small Whites**, the first of the year, and finally 2 Commas. No Orange Tips - yet... - Dave Miller

Walking around the old settling beds at Waterford Heath on Sunday afternoon, in the woods 4 commas and a peacock but also two chiffchaffs, three treecreepers and a siskin - Steve Kiln

Saturday 26th March 2011

1 Orange Underwing at noon Friday 25th March in Garden Wood **Tyttenhanger** - T. Wood

Despite the weather not being as sunny saw 1 peacock by **Tyttenhanger farm** today around 11am - Andrew Steele

Friday 25th March 2011

A low count of butterflies despite seemingly ideal weather. The numbers of Peacocks are particularly poor so far this year. Hyde Farm woodland nr Kings Langley TL 08 04 (habitat code 41) - Comma; A41 nr Hunton Bridge TL 07 01 (code 84) - Peacock. - C. M. Everett

Friday 25.03.11. Field behind **St Nicks Church** 11am - 3pm. 5 Small Tortoiseshell, 2 Peacock, 4 Brimstone (all male), **1 Green Veined White** and 1 Comma - Lee Browne

I was down at **Balls Wood** yesterday (Thursday 24th March) and saw 20+ Orange Underwing species. I managed to photograph 3-4 individuals which Andrew Wood has identified as **Light Orange Underwings**. A couple of the photos will be posted on the [Herts Moth Group](#) website tomorrow - Alan Reynolds

A peacock butterfly was sunning itself on a roof in **Kings Langley** this afternoon, 25th March - Elizabeth Debenham

Aldbury Nowers, Sightings for today: Southern enclosures: Brimstone 2, Peacock 2, Small tortoiseshell. Northern enclosures: Brimstone: 5 males, Small tortoiseshell 2 and White sp. I also saw a Brimstone as I drove past **Tring Station!** - Paul Thrush HMWT Reserve Officer

First Brimstones of the Year at **Oakhill Woods LNR**----one male and one female----17c-----

we have planted 300 metres of Rhamnus c hedging so should have a few more BS in July-----
-----KIT JONES

Whilst trying to locate a singing male Chiffchaff in a bush in a garden in Corby Cres., EN2 near Boxer's Lake, Enfield today (Friday 25th March 2011) at 11:00 hrs., noticed a Peacock there also - Robert Callf

Thursday 24th March 2011

Further fieldwork in the **St Albans** area produced a few butterfly records: Waterdale TL 11 02 (habitat code 84) - Small Tortoiseshell; Maidenscrouch Farm nr St Albans TL 11 05 (code 84) - Peacock & Comma; Prae Wood TL 11 06 (code 84) - Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock & Comma; Cuckman's Farm TL 12 05 (code 83) - Comma. Also an undetermined orange underwing moth (Archiearis sp.) in flight at the N end of Birch Wood TL 11 05 which - despite its name - is mostly conifer plantation. - C. M. Everett

Here are the first 3 sightings in my garden in **Twickenham** this year. 8th Feb - Red Admiral -- This was a freak warm day at noon and I suspect it was a hibernator which woke up and flew although I doubt it survived the afternoon as temperatures plummeted to below freezing. 23rd March - A single fresh looking Brimstone darting about at speed. 24th March - A single fresh Comma resting on concrete urn in the sun - Alan Winter

Oakhill Woods LNR East Barnet 24/3/2011 17c -----first Tshell of the year and first (3x) --- Peacock----Comma by far the most numerous----No Brimstone as yet---KIT JONES

On Tuesday in the **Broxbourne Woods** ride saw 11 orange /light orange underwing moths in the mud. someone else in our group saw two commas - Steve Kiln

News from Diane Andrews, **Ally Pally** yesterday 2 Brimstones, 3 Peacock, 4 Comma. Today at **Tottenham Cemetary**, 1 Comma and **1 Holly Blue**

A few sightings for that past couple of days: 23/3/11 **Aldbury Nowers**: Southern enclosures 7 Brimstone (6 male, 1 female), comma, 2 peacock Northern enclosures 3 brimstone (all male) and a comma. Today, **Hawkins Wood** 1 brimstone and a comma and **Blagrove Common** 1 brimstone (In **Sandon** village I saw 2 small tortoiseshell, a brimstone and a peacock) - Paul Thrush HMWT Reserve Officer

After spending a fruitless morning at Bricketwood Common I arrived home to find 3 Commas and a Peacock in the back garden (**Harpenden**)! - Robin Pearson

Saw two butterflies in Grovelands Park, Southgate, yesterday (Wednesday 23rd March 2011) - 1 Peacock, at 09:50 hrs., and a male Brimstone near the Bourne Hill entrance at 12:00 hrs. Today (Thursday 24th March 2011) saw a Small Tortoiseshell along the track at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 08:30 hrs., and three Commas together in a clearing in Rough Lot, Trent Park at 10:40 hrs - Robert Callf

Wednesday 23rd March 2011

Fieldwork in **Bedmond/St Albans area**. Butterflies as follows: near Bedmond TL 10 03 (habitat code 84) - Small Tortoiseshell & Peacock; Potters Crouch Plantation TL 10 04 (code 83) - male Brimstone; Gorhambury Estate (W) TL 10 06 (code 84) - Comma - C. M. Everett

Several Brimstones today (23/03) in the Clinton-Baker Pinetum at **Bayfordbury** -Shaun Dowman

First butterflies of the year for me, today I saw a Brimstone, Comma and Peacock at **Balls Wood** - Andy Brown HMWT Reserves Officer

Lovely weather prompted an early exit from the office and a stroll along the side of the River Colne between **Stanwell Moor** and the M25. I counted nine Peacocks, two Brimstones, a Comma, a Small Tortoiseshell and a Red Admiral. The latter had set up shop in precisely the same spot as the first individual last year - a small riverside clearing in a bit of woodland. The feared shortage of Peacocks predicted by some has not come to pass - not around here anyway. I think someone tipped them off that winter would be early and they went into hibernation rather promptly -Dave Miller

Just seen a **male Orange-tip** along Nursery Lane, **Brunel University**. Also, 2 male Brimstone, 2 Peacock and 2 Comma in the Bicentenary Gardens - Steve Pash

Had a good day in the (**Harpenden**) garden today, Brimstones, Commas, a Peacock, a small white butterfly (possible Orange Tip?) and a **Holly Blue** - Robin Pearson

3 Comma, 2 Brimstone, 1 Small Tortoiseshell Hartham Common, **Hertford**. 1 Comma above **Welwyn South Tunnel**. 1 Brimstone and 1 Orange Underwing **Harmer Green Wood**. 2 Peacocks and 3 Commas **Mardley Heath** - Andrew Wood

Coppetts Wood today 23rd, 2 male Brimstone, 1 Peacock and **G.V. White**. - Tony Clancy

Tuesday 22nd March 2011

Field behind St Nicks church, **Stevenage**, 11.30am 1 male Brimstone. St Nicks churchyard, 1.30 - 2pm 2 Commas -Lee Browne

A male Brimstone passing through a Garston (Watford) garden TL 11 00. - C. M. Everett

I was at **Aldbury Nowers** yesterday and saw a Small Tortoiseshell in the large southern enclosure and a comma in the middle southern enclosure with a male Brimstone in the northern section. Today I was working up there all day and saw 3 male brimstones (2 in the southern coppice area) and 1 in the key butterfly area and a comma in the middle southern section -Paul Thrush HMWT Reserve Officer

I was just looking at the Herts & Middx website and thought I ought to let you know that the first of this species I had at this site was on February 8th. - Bob Watts

Monday 21st March 2011

A couple of hours of sunshine in the late morning produced the following records around Bricket Wood: Bricket Wood Common (NW section) TL 12 01 - 3 male Brimstones & 2 Commas; Bricket Wood Common (NE section) TL 13 01 - 2 male Brimstones; Bricket Wood TL 13 02 - 2 male Brimstones & a Comma [also an orange underwing Archiearis sp. flying around flowering willows]. No Small Tortoiseshells or Peacocks. - C. M. Everett

Norton Green 10.30 - 11.30am. 1 Comma feeding from Sallow Catkins and 1 Orange Underwing moth - Lee Browne

Finally a first sighting for 2011 - **Sunday 20th March** - One small tortoiseshell flying around the front garden here in **Wareside**. Also found some young Garden Tiger caterpillars in some deadnettle - Phil MacMurdie

Saw a male Brimstone at Whitewebbs Wood today (Monday 21st March 2011) at 11:30 hrs., also a Comma at the same time. Another Comma was seen along the railway line near Rectory Farm, Enfield at 11:57 hrs. - Robert Callf

Saturday 19th March 2011

Bramfield Woods 11.30am - 3.00pm. 1 Comma, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 6 Orange Underwing Moths - Lee Browne

*News from Essex via birding groups - a **Camberwell Beauty** at **RSPB Rainham Marshes** today* - news via Alan Reynolds and Robin Pearson

Had a mating pair of Commas in my **Stevenage** garden. They were sun bathing on some dark clothing on the washing line -Phil Bishop

My first butterfly of the year Comma in Great Molewood by **Waterford Heath** - Steve Kiln

Saw my first Commas of the year locally today (Saturday 19th March 2011) - 2 together, in Rough Lot, **Trent Park**, at 12:07 hrs and one in Sidhil's Field, Vicarage Farm, 14:30 hrs. Just spent the week up at Saltburn in Cleveland and on the way back yesterday (Friday 18th March 2011) saw a Small Tortoiseshell around some crocuses at Darlington, North Yorkshire - Robert Callf

I saw two male Brimstones down by the River Lea in **Harpenden** today -Robin Pearson

Wednesday 16th March 2011

My first butterfly of the year on **Saturday 12th March** - a Red Admiral in my **Greenford** garden. This was around 09.30, sunny, but no more than 9 degrees. I'm in Worcesterstershire this week and have seen 2 Small Tortoiseshells and a Peacock so far -Lee Hurrell

Tuesday 15th March 2011

I was working at **Aldbury Nowers** today, in the northern section, and saw 2 male brimstones and a peacock - Paul Thrush

Monday 14th March 2011

Some late news from Saturday - one butterfly, probably a comma, flew across Vesta Avenue, **St Albans** at lunchtime. Today we were working at **Waterford Heath** and Andy spotted 2 commas with a 3rd unidentified butterfly (larger and darker) - Paul Thrush

Late news from Saturday.....4 Brimstone Butterflies on Saturday 12th March seen in flight in **Sherrards Park Wood**, Welwyn Garden City. They were seen in different areas of the wood within a short time and thought unlikely to be the same butterfly - Gwynneth Pearman on behalf of Wood Warden Peter Cade

My only sighting so far was a RED ADMIRAL near CHALK HILL, **BUSHEY** on 12 March - David Gower

Sat 12 March: first butterfly sighting of the year in my **Welwyn Garden City** garden: a brimstone. Also saw individuals at **Gustard Wood and East Hyde** -Ian Flack

Saturday 12th March 2011

A butterfly day!

My first butterflies of the year 2 male and 2 female Brimstones in **Graffridge Wood** between 12 and 1.30pm. Observed my first **Brimstone** courtship which consisted of the female flying along, a male flew up to join her the two then dropped down landed on the underside of a bramble leaf and paired all in less than a minute. I was able to photograph them and even though I got within a few cm and clumsily knocked the plant they were on they were oblivious to me - Lee Browne

I saw a single Brimstone and a single Comma butterfly around midday (OS square TL31H - BTO Atlas square nomenclature). These are the first butterflies I've seen this year - N Parish

I saw my first brimstone of the year fly over several gardens in the sunshine in **Kings Langley** - Elizabeth Debenham

Two **yellow Brimstones** & a very fresh **Green-veined White** in my **St Albans** garden soon after 10 am this morning. My first UK butterflies of the year - Malcolm Hull

Whilst walking in fine sunshine around **Much Hadham**, we saw at least **3 Brimstones** around the village and a further two Brimstones around nearby **Perry Green**. A basking **Comma** in a back garden along **Danebridge Road** and a **Peacock** as we entered **Sidehill Wood** were added bonuses - Tony & Mary Moverley

Two male **Brimstones and a Red Admiral** in and around my **Harpenden** garden today -Robin Pearson

My usual walk alongside the **River Colne at Stanwell Moor** produced a **Small Tortoiseshell** in exactly the same spot as the first one I saw last year. A few yards further on I disturbed a basking **Peacock**. Hazy sunshine and around 13 degrees. More reasonable weather forecast, too - Dave Miller

2 Brimstone in **Tring** garden and other Brimstones plus **2 Small Tortoiseshell** in the field behind house this morning - Nick Bowles

Did Miswell Lane Transect (**Tring**) today and saw my first butterfly of the season! A **Brimstone** of course, actually it was two, a male and a female. Also I saw a **Small Tortoiseshell** at **Wilstone Reservoir** at 13-10hrs. Lets hope it gets warmer soon! - Brian Jessop

Fir and Pond Woods NR today **1 Comma, 1 Brimstone**. Delighted! -David Gompertz

Saw a **Brimstone** by the Railway crossing at **Amwell** this morning -Phil Bishop

Caledonian Road, **near Kings Cross** this morning about 10.30 a **male Brimstone** was seen by several branch representatives attending the Branch Liaison Meeting, although not by those representing this branch!!! - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Wood

News from Diane Andrews, a **male Brimstone** in her **north London** garden at 09:50

Wednesday 9th March 2011

While at work in **the City**, my husband reported a **Red Admiral** at Watling St. EC4 in Fidelity Investment's garden on **Monday 7th** - Caroline Clarke (BC Sussex, cttee)

Tuesday 8th March 2011

OAKHILL WOODS LNR East Barnet 8/3/11 10c **two Comma and one Red admiral** (seems to have survived -9 c in December)? - Kit Jones

News from Diane Andrews, **2 Comma** seen spiralling together mid afternoon whilst walking near **Ally Pally**. Also looked yesterday but saw nothing!

Not Hertfordshire or Middlesex but a Small White, seen yesterday (Monday 7 March) at 12 midday by the River Liffey in Dublin City Centre, close to the St James's Gate Brewery - Malcolm Hull

An **Orange (or Light Orange) Underwing moth** seen just after midday in silver birch rich woodland. No butterflies seen despite walking through some really warm sheltered areas - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

Monday 7th March 2011

One **Comma** and one **Small Tortoiseshell** basking in the sunny corners of Lower Bourne Gardens in **Ware** this afternoon - Andrew Wood

February 2011

Thursday 24th February 2011

There was a **Brimstone** flying today in a garden I was working in at Trooper Road **Aldbury** at midday -Alan Strawn

Saw my first butterfly of the year today, and it is a large pale **Brimstone**, in the woods behind my (**Harpenden**) garden - Robin Pearson

Eggs on Eng elm almost under M4 flyover in Boston Manor Hall Park, Brentford. Should be a nice colony there, in a woodland nature reserve than runs under the flyover - Matthew Oates

Wednesday 16th February 2011

The task today at Wormley was a great success, despite the muddy ground conditions and the long walk, the weather was ideal and good humour prevailed. Thanks to everyone who turned up, the Wednesday group, and to Louise for arranging the contractors to transport our tools etc to the site. The chainsaw work that they did contributed greatly to the amount of work we were able to achieve. We hope to be able to do further tasks in this area in the future - Laurence Drummond

Saturday 12th February 2011

I was working at Beech Farm (Coopers Green Lane, St Albans) today and a saw a butterfly fly past at midday, quite high. I'm pretty sure it was a comma (or possibly a small tortoiseshell?), it wasn't dark or big enough to be a peacock or red admiral - Paul Thrush

Tuesday 8th February 2011

A single **Red Admiral** in Duke Street, **Hoddesdon** @11.31 today - Laurence Drummond

January 2011**Sunday 23rd January 2011**

North Ware, so did we come to any conclusion after the equivalent of 8 man hours searching a tree on a cold winter's morning? We did come to a conclusion - The conclusion was that there weren't enough eggs to come to any conclusion. To be precise we found 18 including 1 old egg from 2009/2010! There was no area preference on the tree but 10 eggs were just under buds and 7 on growth joints plus 1 elsewhere. 2 had holes in but were not hatched (last season growth) so probably parasitised, 1 was collapsed. We think in retrospect this was a very good exercise but the tree's actual location was the reason for the lack of eggs, it was very exposed to open fields facing north. It was part of a long length of elm and I could imagine there were more suitable trees in the row - if we had been warmer we might have stayed longer and tested some of the other trees. It was well budded - probably smooth leaved so quite nice elm to search although our preferred elm is always wych elm - Liz Goodyear

Saturday 22nd January 2011

This is very short notice but there will be white letter hairstreak egg hunt on a tree tomorrow for eggs (23rd January) - we plan to start around 10 o'clock but anyone is welcome to come along during the morning. We will probably carry on until about 1 o'clock unless it is very cold or wet. I am not going to look at the forecast! It has fallen over in recent gales and all of the tree is just about accessible - we want to find out how many eggs are on the tree and where the preferred laying place might be. It isn't a huge tree but it is well budded and worth checking. I assume at some point the council will want to clear it away but I can't believe it will be a priority on their part. It on a wide road verge just north on Ware close to the A10 sliproad/old A10.
<http://www.streetmap.co.uk/map.srf?x=535574&y=216325&z=120&sv=535574,216325&st=4&ar=y&mapp=map.srf&searchp=ids.srf&dn=839&ax=535574&ay=216325&lm=0> - Liz Goodyear

Thursday 20th January 2011

Robin White reports seeing a **Red Admiral** at **Vicarage Farm, Enfield** yesterday (**Wednesday 19th January 2011**), whilst in the company of Tom English - news via Robert Callf

Monday 10th January 2011

Report of the conservation task held on Sunday 9 January - last year Purple Emperor was recorded as a resident species at Bricket Wood Common for the first time. Habitat quality on the site for this species has improved in recent years. Removal of secondary woodland has allowed the larval foodplant, Sallow, to thrive in some areas. However it often has to compete with other species such as Birch, Aspen and Hornbeam. So six volunteers from Herts & Middx BC met with the site manager, Mark Carter of the Countryside Management Service. The aim was to remove competing saplings of other species to allow the Sallows to develop into mature trees, which are favoured by female Purple Emperors as laying sites. Saplings identified for removal had been marked with orange paint back in September when they still had leaves on and were easy to identify! [The happy volunteers](#)

The task was completed in just two hours, leaving us time to visit the Purple Emperor master tree. We also inspected an area of the common where Hornbeam is currently being coppiced and learnt that the proposals for extensive cattle grazing in the main clearing are moving a step nearer with a current public consultation. ([click here to follow link - the branch would welcome responses](#))
Malcolm Hull

