

Sightings 2013

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December 2013

Monday 30th December 2013

Saw a large butterfly near the sports field at Trent Park on Saturday 28th December 2013 at 13:20 hrs - only saw it briefly possibly a Red Admiral or Peacock. - Robert Callf

Wednesday 25th December 2013

I attended midnight mass on 24th / 25th Dec at Pinner Parish Church - my wife is a priest and was presiding at the service. I couldn't help but notice a butterfly that was flying around the church for the latter part of the service (i.e. after midnight). I managed to find it settled after proceedings were over and it was a Small Tortoiseshell. I also had an unidentified butterfly sp at Hilfield Park Reservoir on Sunday 22nd Dec. It was Peacock / Small Tortoiseshell / Red Admiral size, but silhouetted against the sky and, even with binoculars, I couldn't see any details. Tony Blake

Wednesday 11th December 2013

Spotted yesterday (10th December 2013) in Bisham Gardens, Highgate - an active **peacock**. The temperature was around 6 degrees C. I presume the butterfly had been disturbed in its roost. It was flying well, and I trust it found a suitable new perch. - Simon Bullivant

Monday 9 December: a **peacock** was seen, wings closed, on a sunny path alongside Fish Wood (approx 300m SE of the Codicote Road by Stocking Springs Wood). Ian Flack

November 2013

Tuesday 19th November 2013

A couple of recent sightings which I thought might be worth a report. 7th Nov - A decidedly cold looking Comma trying to find shelter in my hedge. I caught this with no trouble and put it in my shed, where it will hopefully survive the winter. 19th Nov - A Tortoiseshell sunning itself on the back wall of my house in Hitchin. - Dick Hawker

Friday 15 November: saw a comma sunning itself on the southern edge of Pismire Spring at Heartwood Forest - Ian Flack

Sunday 17th November 2013

Came across 1 x peacock in back room of Bushey house today and transferred it to shed - David Gower

Ware, a Peacock flying around outside the house this morning in cloudy conditions. Presume been disturbed from hibernation - Liz Goodyear

Robin White reported a Red Admiral Friday afternoon 15th November 2013 on the SW edge of Rough Lot, Trent Park. - Robert Callf

Tuesday 14th November 2013

Saw a large dark butterfly which flew through the trees on the SW edge of Rough Lot, Trent Park before 14:00 hrs this afternoon Tuesday 12th November 2013 - possibly a Peacock, but I could not be sure. - Robert Callf

Sunday 10th November 2013

Two more Red Admirals seen at Stanwell Moor on Sunday 10th November in exactly the same spot as the last one a week ago. Not the same insects either! - Dave Miller

A red admiral flew into a garden in Kings Langley. It fluttered against the window and over the bushes in the late morning sun - Elizabeth Debenham

Ware garden, 1 Red Admiral flew overhead - Liz Goodyear

Monday 4th November 2013

Saw a Red Admiral again today Monday 4th November 2013 at Trent Park nectaring on ivy at the top of Snakes Lane near the Staff Office, 13:12 hrs. - Robert Callf

Sunday 3rd November 2013

Seems I spoke too soon: another Red Admiral seen today in exactly the same spot as yesterday - but definitely a different individual. - Dave Miller

Two Red Admirals to report today Sunday 3rd November 2013 - one along Leeging Beech Gutter near 'Three-bridges' at Trent Park 10:28 hrs and another seen at Library Green, Church Street, Enfield Town 11:36 hrs. - Robert Callf

Saturday 2nd November 2013

Around lunchtime today (2nd), I took advantage of a burst of warm sunshine to look around my local patch at Stanwell Moor for the first time in ages. Very few flowers of any type are left, just the last of the ivy, which was attracting good numbers of bees. I had pretty well given up on seeing a butterfly, but right at the completion of my loop a Red Admiral buzzed me at high speed. I watched it set off after a large bumble bee before it curved back round again to settle ahead of me on the grass.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=41428&mode=view>

Maybe the last of the year - who knows? Dave Miller

October 2013

Thursday 31st October 2013

On 29th there were both Red Admiral and Brimstone flying in a cold wind in Tring and then another Red Ad (far more worn) on 30th (also Tring) in far warmer conditions, but I didn't spend so long outside looking on Wednesday - Nick Bowles

Robin White saw what was presumably the same Clouded Yellow as the other day at Vicarage Farm yesterday 30th October 2013 along Leeging Beech Gutter N of Williams Wood. He also saw a White sp (Small or Green-veined) in Trent Park at the 'Old Golf Course' - Robert Callf

Wednesday 30th October 2013

Unidentified White species (possibly Large White) fluttering round Oaks in bright sunshine outside houses opposite Northaw Great Wood at midday - John Moss

One Red Admiral in our Hayes garden today feeding on late flowering Buddleia 'Sungold' - Helen George

At least one Red Admiral again in my Ware garden, couldn't confirm that the second butterfly was the same species though - Liz Goodyear

Tuesday 29th October 2013

Borehamwood, Small Copper seen in flight close by around flowering Mahonia shrub - recorded once yesterday and again today in same place. interacting with feeding flies and Bee species - Jim Terry

In the calm before the storm came across 1 x red admiral on cosmos in Bushey garden on Sunday -David Gower

News for Saturday 26th October 2013 - Robin White saw the following: 1 Clouded Yellow in field N of Williams Wood at Vicarage Farm, also Small White and Comma at Vicarage Farm and 1 Red Admiral edge of Icehouse Wood at Trent Park. Today Tuesday 29th October 2013 - 1 White sp edge of Vault Hill Wood (only seen in flight at a distance); 1 female Brimstone settled in grass between Ride Wood and Lower Lake, Trent Park, 13:20 hrs (our latest record ever here!); 1 Peacock at Water Garden, Trent Park, 13:35 hrs - Robert Callf & Robin White.

Ware garden, two Red Admirals this afternoon nectaring on my Sweet Williams - Liz Goodyear

Sunday 27th October 2013

Plastic 2 - Real Flowers 0. Had two Red Admirals on my Meripac Butterfly Nectar dispenser this morning. They ignored the flowering Colletia Armata from which it hangs possibly to avoid tearing their wings on the sharp spines - Malcolm Newland

Ware garden, a Red Admiral spent most of the morning nectaring on a Sweet William plant - Liz Goodyear

Saturday 26th October 2013

Red admiral and small tortoiseshell still flying in my garden on 23rd October Central Hitchin - Stuart Pittman

A lovely male (I think - very yellow anyway) brimstone in my garden in Letchworth today fluttering around the broom bush - Jill Sawyer

Thursday 24th October 2013

Saw a Peacock and Comma in the Hemel Hempstead garden today, not on flowers, but enjoying the sunshine on a south facing brick wall - Malcolm Newland

A Comma fluttering round Ivy flowers in sunshine in my Hatfield garden today - John Moss

A thoroughly enjoyable walk in warm, bright sunshine with little breeze today. A male Brimstone flew across my path on Hounslow Heath and although that was the only butterfly I saw on the Heath a Speckled Wood on the footbridge across the stream followed by another Speckled Wood, 4 Small Coppers and a Small White on the Marshalling Yards made the walk well worthwhile. Three of the Small Coppers were close together in sparse vegetation and I watched one flitting and walking seeking Sorrel leaves although I couldn't convince myself she actually managed to deposit any eggs whilst I was there. Only the Small White was nectaring (on Hawkbitt). - Pete Gore

In bright, warm sunshine today there were 2 male Brimstones and 2 Small Whites flying around the Coldharbour allotments in Harpenden. Back home in north Harpenden a Peacock was energetically flying around the rooftops - Alan Jackson

Male clouded yellow, roosting on a swede plant on my allotment in Therfield. It was in pristine condition, and was photographed on the 9th October. - Erwin Phillips

An outstanding number of butterflies seen today Thursday 24th October 2013 at Trent Park: 4 Peacock (3 different individuals in set-aside field near Triangular Wood, 12:15, 12:18 and 12:27 hrs and another one near Water Garden 13:30 hrs); 2 Red Admiral nectaring on Michaelmas Daisies set-aside field near Triangular Wood, 12:23 and 12:25 hrs; 3 Comma (1 nectaring on Michaelmas Daisies near Triangular Wood, 12:27, 1 nectaring on Ivy top of Snakes Lane near Ranger's Office, 13:00 hrs and another near Water Garden, 13:38 hrs); 2 different Speckled Wood near Triangular Wood, 12:30 and 12:33 hrs; 1 female Brimstone top of Snakes Lane near Ranger's Office, 13:05 hrs; 2 different Small Copper - one quite fresh and the other quite faded at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park, 13:50 and 13:52 hrs - so fourteen individuals of six species! - Robert Callf

There is a Painted lady on Ivy in my Harpenden garden this afternoon, possibly one of the five I released two weeks ago.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/99486228@N06/10458302483/>

Robin Pearson

Wednesday 23rd October 2013

A Red Admiral and a female Brimstone on SW edge of Watery Grove this afternoon - Peter Clarke

Tuesday 22nd October 2013

On Sunday 20th - a rather miserable looking speckled wood on Hertford Heath -(Roundings) - Andy Brown

Thursday 17th October 2013

One Peacock at Fir and Pond Woods Thursday 17th October - Andrew Wood

A few butterflies to report today Thursday 17th October 2013 - 1 Speckled Wood near Obelisk, Trent Park, 10:45 hrs, 2 Small White (1 edge of Icehouse Wood, Trent Park, 11:45 hrs, 1 Vicarage Farm, 12:00 hrs). Robin reported two Comma together at Vicarage Farm - Robert Callf & Robin White.

One Red Admiral in our Pinner garden this-afternoon - the first this year, here. (No sign yet of third-generation Holly Blues that we have seen here in recent years - as late as 19th Nov in 2011. On full alert!) Graham Elcombe

Another pleasant autumn walk today across Hounslow Heath to the Marshalling Yards and back. As has become my recent habit I paused at a patch of Asters on the Heath and today saw a Red Admiral. On Tuesday 15th the same flowers attracted a Small Copper and a surprisingly colourful (in flight) female Meadow Brown. On Saturday 12th a Comma was nectaring. On the Marshalling Yards themselves, 1 Speckled Wood (1 on Tuesday too)) and three Small Coppers, one of these on Yarrow, surprisingly resilient as a strong breeze caused its wings to blow. Today was the first butterfly-friendly day when I saw no Whites (1 on each of the earlier days at too great a distance to attempt to identify). - Peter Gore

Tuesday 15th October 2013

One Small Copper at Parkside Farm, Enfield on Res banking today Tuesday 15th October 2013 at 10:42 hrs - Robert Callf & Robin White.

Saturday 12th October 2013

St Albans, Folly Lane - Newly emerged Large White in a brief sunny spell on my allotment this morning. At lunchtime I returned to Nomansland Common. The Small Coppers were active despite a temperature of 13 degrees and intermittent sun. The main activities were sunbathing and nectaring, with Ragwort and Ling the two favourite nectar sources, though scabious, creeping thistle, antirrhinum, yarrow and cats ear were also being used. Retracing my route round the north eastern area of the site the number of sightings was 20 per cent down from last week at 24. Continuing round the western heath area I added another 24, so 48 today in total in one hour, with the sun out for a little less than half that time. Cool weather is a good time to study the butterflies closely as they are quite docile and easily come to hand - Malcolm Hull

Two Small Copper (looking very fresh) this afternoon Saturday 12th October 2013 at 14:30 hrs at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park on thistle head - Robert Callf & Robin White.

Thursday 10th October 2013

I was surprised to see a Red Admiral in my (Harpenden) garden at 10 o'clock this morning, in chilly, breezy conditions - Robin Pearson

Wednesday 9th October 2013

Two more walks, mostly in cloudy conditions, to Hounslow Heath and the Marshalling Yards as usual. Today one Small White on the way to the Heath followed by a Small Copper at rest, wings open and conspicuous near Asters on the Heath, and then a Peacock flying strongly apparently looking for shelter. Yesterday 2 Small Whites and a Painted Lady, all on the Marshalling Yards, the

latter close to a late blooming Buddleia where I saw one on Sunday. - Pete Gore

One Speckled Wood today Wednesday 9th October 2013 at Park Farm, Enfield at 11:15 hrs - Robert Callf & Robin White

I was working at Alpine Meadow yesterday, there were at least 7 commas together on the brambles surrounding the meadow and a few speckled woods - Paul Thrush

Sunday 6th October one very small speckled wood and one peacock in a clearing in a wooded area of Norton Common, Letchworth Garden City. Monday 7th October five large whites seen in a 10 minute walk down Hawthorn Hill and Longmead in Letchworth Garden City - Jill Sawyer Phypers

Tuesday 8th October 2013

1 x peacock in Bushey house today - David Gower

One Small Copper at Oakwood Park this morning Tuesday 8th October 2013 at 10:45 hrs. - Robert Callf

There was a Red Admiral with the Comma at South Lodge Farm, Enfield yesterday Monday 7th October 2013 nectaring on Michaelmas Daisies at 13:55 hrs - Robert Callf & Robin White

Monday 7th October 2013

Yesterday Sunday 6th October 2013 - 1 Small Tortoiseshell, nectaring on Michaelmas Daisies, set-aside field near Triangular Wood, Trent Park, 12:06 hrs; 1 Small Copper, set-aside field near Triangular Wood, 12:09 hrs; 3 Comma, at Trent Park (2 set-aside field near Triangular Wood, 12:09 and 12:17 hrs, 1 Sect 8, 12:47 hrs); 1 Peacock, Sect 4, Trent Park, 12:30 hrs; 5 Speckled Wood at Trent Park (3 near Triangular Wood, 12:17 hrs, 1 Sect 4, 12:31 hrs, 1 Sect 8, 13:05 hrs); 1 Small White, Sect 8, 13:01 hrs. Today Monday 7th October 2013 - 3 Comma (2 Trent Park, 1 by Lower Lake, 13:20 hrs and 1 Icehouse Wood, 13:30 hrs, 1 nectaring on Michaelmas Daisies at South Lodge Farm, 13:55 hrs); 1 Small White, settled at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 14:06 hrs. - Robert Callf

In the afternoon sunshine, I saw 2 Speckled Woods and a Small Copper at the south end of Fairlands Valley Park (part of my transect) - Peter Clarke

Amwell reserve - Sunday morning 5 commas and 2 red admirals nectaring on the Ivy - Steve Kiln

Sunday 6th October 2013

A walk around Woodhall Park, Sacombe Park and surrounding areas north of Hertford today produced 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 2 Peacocks, 1 Brimstone, 4 Commas, 5 Speckled Woods and 7 Small Whites. Andrew Wood

Nomansland Common - On a fleeting visit at lunchtime I saw 30 Small Coppers and 1 Peacock. The Meadow by the cricket pitch has been mown and the coppers are located on the sorrell/heather area north of Ferrers Lane and along the unmown banks of the ditches along the Lane itself where a few nectar sources remain. I only stayed for 15mins, so only saw a quarter of the site, I expect total numbers of Small Coppers will be significantly higher - Malcolm Hull

Over the weekend in and around my garden Small White, Comma, and a very fresh looking male Brimstone - Kevin Taylor

You may be interested in the following Butterflies I saw as I wandered round Nicholls Fm, Redbourn - 9 Peacock of which 5 were sheltering in a shed but the others were flying about in the orchard. - 1 Small Copper feeding on wild daisy - numerous small whites feeding on daisies and thistles in overgrown paddocks. As an aside, I have seen far fewer Red Admirals this year than is usually the case. However, Peacocks and Small Tortshells have been present in much larger numbers than usual. Peter Tallantire

Hemel Hempstead, today in the garden making the most of the sunshine were four Red Admirals, the most that I have seen together this year, two Commas, two Peacocks a Small White and both a male and female Brimstone. Nectar sources used were escallonia, buddleia, rudbeckia, Michaelmas daisy, yellow single dahlia, verbenia bonariensis, and a "Meripac Butterfly Nectar" dispenser in the

form of a large yellow plastic flower which attracted a Comma! Malcolm Newland

Delighted to find a lovely new Comma mooching in my garden this afternoon, followed by a fast-flying Peacock on a mission & a rather aimless Small White. I also visited the Furze/Field/Warren management plan display At Colney Heath, presented by the Parish Clerk & CMS. The model appears to be Bricket Wood Common. DEFRA funding is available, so the provisional plan is to remove hawthorn & old gorse this winter, followed by fence installation next spring & light grazing by about 8 cattle for about 12 weeks from August. This should return the site to good quality heathy grassland in a couple of seasons, although I'm a bit twitchy about the initial impact on wildlife. Needless to say I saw no butterflies today, despite the warm sunny morning - John Moss

After a sunny start to the day it was perhaps inevitable that clouds would appear as soon as I stepped outside but despite that and the Butterfly-less Hounslow Heath it caused the Marshalling Yards made up for it a little: Painted Lady 1 Small Tortoiseshell 1 Small White 8 Small Copper 4 Comma 1 Red Admiral 1 - Pete Gore

Saturday 5th October 2013

Counted six Small Coppers on Michaelmas Daisies at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park yesterday afternoon Friday 4th October 2013 at 16:10 hrs. Also Robin White saw a Red Admiral at Vicarage Farm, Enfield yesterday Friday 4th October 2013. Today we saw a Speckled Wood at South Lodge Farm, Enfield and few Small Whites in the area - Robert Callf, Pete Lowman & Robin White.

Hemel Hempstead, the hour or so of warm sunshine produced two Red Admirals, a Peacock, Small White and a Comma which nectared on Escallonia, Buddlia and Verbena Bonariensis. The Comma continued to feed on Escallonia long after the sun had gone in - Malcolm Newland

Thursday 3rd October 2013

Hemel Hempstead, had a Hummingbird Hawk Moth on Buddleia Beijing this morning before the clouds rolled in, and after it had rained a Red Admiral visited Escallonia Bifida - Malcolm Newland

Wednesday 2nd October 2013

Unexpected sunshine at lunchtime was enough to encourage me to walk my usual route across Hounslow Heath to the Marshalling Yards. A thoroughly enjoyable autumn walk mostly in sun and relatively still, humid conditions. Butterflies: Comma 1 Small Heath 1 Speckled Wood 2 Small White 11 Small Copper 1 Common Blue 1 (male, fresh - Pete Gore

September 2013

Monday 30th September 2013

Three Clouded Yellows active with a Small Copper this morning at Bunkers Lane. - Clive Burrows

I had two Red Admirals nectaring on my Escallonia Bifida. A far cry from last year but better than nothing! - Malcolm Newland

One Small Copper nectaring on Michaelmas Daisies at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park, 12:06 hrs. Also several Speckled Wood still around (2 Park Farm, 1 Vicarage Farm) - Robert Callf & Robin White.

At Norton Green this afternoon, I saw 4 Commas, 5 Speckled Woods and a male Brimstone. - Peter Clarke

Tempted by warm sunshine to autumn flowers in my Hatfield garden 1 bright Comma, 1 fading Small Tort & 1 very worn Small White. Still no Red Admirals on the ivy flowers though. We usually have them right into October. - John Moss

I left work at half past four with just enough time to pop into Bedfont Lakes Country Park. The low sun had come out and despite a breeze it was quite warm. I saw three butterflies: a male Green-veined White that was impossible to approach, a female Meadow Brown nectaring on a scabious (one of the few flowers left), and a [very new male Common Blue](#). I suspect this was a third brood individual; the second brood was out about nine weeks ago now and there would have been enough time for the cycle to go round again. - Dave Miller

Sunday 29th September

St Albans - Small Tortoiseshell disturbed from its hiding place in my apple crate prior to today's harvest. Carefully placed it into my outhouse where there are now 30+ Small Tortoiseshells hibernating. Small Whites are still out in force on my allotment. A Red Admiral was eyeing up the rotting windfall apples and a fresh Comma flew up from the wild hop. Nearby a Peacock was sunning itself on the ground. This afternoon at Bricket Wood Common numbers of Speckled Wood (7), were well down from last week. However Commas are on the increase with 5 recorded, including one nectaring on ivy and another feeding on a Blackberry fruit. Interesting to note that Commas were the most common butterfly in April at the start of the season and also doing well right at the end - Malcolm Hull

Just 1 x speckled wood at Merryhill Fields this morning - David Gower

11 species. at Rickneys 2 common blue and a brown argus. At Waterford Heath clouded yellow, red admiral, peacock, comma, small copper, speckled woods and the whites. - Steve Kiln

Saturday 28th September

Saw a Comma at Vault Hill Wood, Enfield Chase this morning. - Robert Callf.

Did my transect of The Warren (locally known as Furze field) today. Not much about - 2 Small Heath in hazy sunshine, temp 19C. However very pleased to find a notice at the entrance advertising a meeting on Sun 6 Oct to explain new plans to introduce "light summer grazing" with cattle. There has been no real management for some years & the site is rapidly scrubbing over so grazing could do wonders. If anybody is interested the meeting is 10.00-12.30 on the Common at Colney Heath, with refreshments & a guided tour of Furze field. There was an attempt by CMS some years ago to introduce grazing, which collapsed under local opposition. Let's hope the new plan succeeds. - John Moss

1 x comma on buddleia in Bushey garden this morning - David Gower

12 Small whites, 1 large White and 2 Commas at Wood End near Benington. 1 Clouded yellow on conservation strip east of Wood End. - Andrew Wood

Friday 27th September 2013

[Here is a pic of a Small Copper](#) on Nomansland Common. - Robin Pearson

1 Peacock near Queen Hoo, Tewin today, 1 Red Admiral and 2 commas at Tewin Orchard. 1 Small Copper at Waterford Heath South Pit. 1 Red Admiral near Bramfield and 1 Green-veined White near Sele Broom Wood west of Sele Farm, Hertford. Small numbers of Speckled Wood and Small White generally around the Bramfield and Tewin areas. - Andrew Wood

Thursday 26th September 2013

One red admiral was sunning itself on a wall at 4.50pm in Kings Langley - Elizabeth Debenham

Another Clouded Yellow sighting today at lunchtime. This was at Bunkers Lane, where I have recorded it periodically ever since the explosion year of 1984. This was a single fresh specimen, wondering slowly along the clover heads. - Clive Burrows

Small white and a large white, again interested in the buddleia and a speckled wood on Norton Common (also Letchworth) on Thursday 26th. - Jill Sawyer Phypers

1 Small Copper at Hog Hill Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 15:25 hrs and 1 Speckled Wood at Park Farm, Enfield at 16:05 hrs. - Robert Callf.

Wednesday 25th September 2013

I saw a small tortoiseshell on the last of the buddleia in my garden in Letchworth Garden City. - Jill Sawyer Phypers

On Nomansland Common between 4-4:30 pm I counted 19 Small Coppers nectaring on the few remaining ragwort flowers, mostly near the cricket club. No other butterflies seen. - Robin Pearson

1 probable Painted Lady seen briefly in Sidhil's Field at Vicarage Farm, 09:43 hrs, 2 Small Copper at Trent Park (one near Ride Wood, 11:15 hrs and another at 'Old Golf Course', 11:25 hrs), 1 Common Blue at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park, 11:37 hrs.- Robert Callf.

Hounslow Heath - Marshalling Yards :Not as good as yesterday - too cloudy: Small White 17 Speckled Wood 2 Common Blue 2 Small Copper 1. - Pete Gore

Tuesday 24th September 2013

A Brimstone and Clouded Yellow seen on Tuesday will at work in gardens at Watford - Clive Burrows

Hounslow Heath - Marshalling Yards: Sunny throughout and virtually no breeze. Small White 21 Small Heath 1 Comma 2 Speckled Wood 2 Brimstone 1 Common Blue 1 Brown Argus 1. Despite being rather battered and faded the Argus was moving amongst low -growing isolated plants and eventually appeared to lay on an Erodium plant. -Pete Gore

Report from Stanwell Moor, 24th September: Nothing ventured... Though it was five o'clock, the sun still shone after I finished work, so I decided a walk round part of my local patch couldn't hurt. I hoped there might be the odd Speckled Wood or Red Admiral, but the shadows were right down over the ivy, the buddleia and the pathside verges and shrubs, and aside from two or three whites still flying at high level, I saw nothing. Nothing, that is, until I walked randomly across the middle of the last piece of meadow just before getting back home. This at least was fully lit by the lowering sun. Suddenly, right in front of me near the ground I saw a Clouded Yellow. It proved to be a brand spanking new male, which I was then able to admire from both sides at close range: absolutely beautiful in the strong golden light which enhanced its colour noticeably. On 4th August I saw my first Clouded Yellow of the year not far from this spot - a female which I suspected was laying eggs (though I couldn't find any in a brief search afterwards). Could this pristine male butterfly be the offspring of that female?

[See Picture here](#)

[See Picture here](#)

- Dave Miller

Widford meadow by ash several whites and Speckled Woods but also a Jersey Tiger moth - Steve Kiln

I was working up at Aldbury today, still quite a few butterflies about. Highlight was a clouded yellow, the first I've seen on the reserve. Other species about today were single brown argus, common blue -2, small copper - 2, small heath, speckled wood, small white, meadow brown, brimstone - 5+, red admiral and comma - 5+ - Paul Thrush

About noon in brilliant sunshine across several gardens in Kings Langley, there was a rapid flying sulphur yellow butterfly, probably a clouded yellow as it seemed smaller and brighter than a brimstone and there were several in Barnes lane a few weeks ago - Elizabeth Debenham

A few sightings to report today 24th September 2013 - 1 Red Admiral settled along Jubilee Path/London Loop at Park Farm, Enfield at 12:40 hrs, 3 Speckled Wood along Jubilee Path/London Loop at Park Farm, Enfield, 12:43 - 12:50 hrs, 1 Small Copper nectaring on Michaelmas Daisies at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park, 13:20 hrs. Also still a few Small Whites seen. - Robert Callf.

I saw 3 speckled woods and 2 commas at Danemead this afternoon. I also had a possible purple hairstreak, I shall look again tomorrow! - Jenny Sherwen

Friday 20th September 2013

Friday 20th September Hounslow Heath - Marshalling Yards: Sunny Meadow Brown 2 Comma 4 Speckled Wood 3 Small White 28 Small Copper 2 (1m,1f) Common Blue 2 Large White 3

I watched a particularly lovely female Small Copper perched with open wings on a Plantain seed-head amongst all the dead dull herbage.It was only when I spotted slight movement immediately

behind her and I moved a little that I realised she was engaged in much more important activity than mere sunbathing and had been masking from me the much smaller, duller male. I was surprised how different the two sexes in this species actually looked when seen close together like this. - Pete Gore

About 4pm, feeding on buddleia for about 30 minutes a Hummingbird Hawkmoth, Berkhamsted. The only other feeder was a single red admiral.- Chris Side

After waiting for more than a week for some decent sunshine, I visited Norton Green earlier today to find 20+ Speckled Woods, 5+ Small Whites, 2 Commas and a fresh female Meadow Brown (second brood?). For the record, the last time I saw a Silver-washed Fritillary here was on the 2nd Sept and Purple Hairstreak the 4th Sept- Peter Clarke

Today (20th) one bedraggled comma near Hawkins Wood (near Therfield village). Andy Brown

Popped into Merryhill Fields after work today and came across 1 x small white, 1 x speckled wood, 1 x small copper.- David Gower

I was at Stocker's Lake, Rickmansworth (TQ049939) today. On the south west side between 1.40PM and 2.20PM, I saw four speckled wood, a comma and a brimstone enjoying the sunshine and the blackberries. - Jill Sawyer

The sun shone today and at last it became quite warm. I found myself able to go out of the office for an hour and used the time to have a walk in Bedfont Lakes Country Park. On the first bit of wild ground I came across, I spotted a flash of orange, and soon tracked down a Small Heath, and then a second. There was a third very drab-looking butterfly with them, which turned out to be the most worn Small Copper I think I've ever seen. I wandered on a bit, and several whites appeared, none of which were close enough to identify for certain. A Meadow Brown erupted from the path and flew up into a tree, and then I glimpsed a flash of blue amongst the predominantly yellow flowers. This proved to be a very fresh-appearing male Common Blue. Whether this is a late emerging second brood individual or one from a new third brood, I couldn't say. I also found a very worn male of the same species, with barely a blue scale left. After a bit more walking, I turned around and headed back to the office. I encountered another two Meadow Browns and one more Small Heath away from where I'd seen the others earlier, and managed to spot a nectaring Green-veined White without disturbing it first. After such a spell without seeing anything much, it was good to find five, probably six or seven, different species still flying (in some cases, only just!). However, it was disappointing not to see a single Red Admiral on the masses of flowering ivy present, nor any Commas either. - Dave Miller

Thursday 19th September 2013

Approx. 25+ speckled wood butterflies in Balls Wood - disturbed while I was mowing.- Andy Brown

Oakhill Woods LNR East Barnet----2x fresh Large white-----3rd Generation??? 1x Holly blue-----
Hampden Square East Barnet---1x Red under-wing moth--rescued from the pavement---very large torpid specimen---I placed it on some Red valerian in a nearby garden Â Â -Kitt Jones

Wednesday 18th September 2013

Two or three speckled woods in Barnes Lane, Kings Langley. There were also some small whites. - Elizabeth Debenham

I'm still taking advantage of whatever sunshine there is to go for a walk across Hounslow Heath to the Marshalling Yards. Here are today's sightings: Green-Veined White:1 Small White:16 Gatekeeper:1 Comma:1 Small Copper:1 Speckled Wood:1 The Gatekeeper was a surprise. I first saw it in flight as a brightly coloured butterfly and when it landed, wings closed, wasn't expecting Gatekeeper at all but the eye spot was clearly visible and given the size of the butterfly I can't see any alternative to a rather late Gatekeeper. - Pete Gore

Sunday 15th September 2013

After a butterfly-less walk in cloudy conditions earlier in the week, on seeing sunshine this morning I decided to try again. I lost the sun for the last two thirds, along with the butterflies, and a strong

breeze throughout was no help, but the earlier sightings were still quite pleasing on a complete Hounslow Heath - Marshalling Yards walk: Speckled Wood 5 Small White 5 Small Copper 3 Green-Veined White 1 Comma 1 Meadow Brown 1 Common Blue 2 (1m, 1f) - Pete Gore

Friday 13th September 2013

Yesterday afternoon along the River Colne at Tyttenhanger gravel pits I saw 6 Green Veined White and 2 Speckled Wood - Terry Wood

Wednesday 11th September 2013

At Tyttenhanger GPs yesterday had 7 Speckled Woods and a Angle Shades moth - Andy Steele

Robin White and myself saw a Small Copper at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park this morning
Wednesday 11th September 2013 at 11:10 hrs. - Robert Callf

Tuesday 10th September 2013

In my Hatfield garden today 1 bright Comma, 1 GV White. Where are the Red Admirals? On Ellenbrook Meadows c11.30 hrs, 7+ Meadow Brown, 3+ Common Blue (M + F) - John Moss

Monday 9th September 2013

Seen today in my Little Hadham garden: 1 Humming-bird Hawk-moth feeding on buddleia for a few minutes at 12.05. I am now the very proud owner of 6 photos of buddleia flowers and no moth!! Weather: constant rain - Jono Forgham

Thursday 5th September 2013

I completed my usual Hounslow Heath - Marshalling Yards walk early today, partly to avoid the heat on a very still day. On Monday several fires were burning on the Heath when I was leaving. The fire brigade, in attendance, blamed children. I counted 8 separate fire sites on my walk alone, fortunately with fairly limited damage mostly to dry grass and thistles. Butterflies overall quite good: Large White 3 Small White 27 Meadow Brown 13 Small Heath 2 Speckled Wood 8 Common Blue 12 Small Copper 3 Clouded Yellow 4 Red Admiral 1 And Monday 2nd September: Meadow Brown 17 Small White 13 Large White 13 Common Blue 19 Speckled Wood 6 Clouded Yellow 1 Gatekeeper 2 Comma 1 - Pete Gore

Wednesday 4th September 2013

I left work at four and headed straight for Bedfont Lakes Country Park, a mere five minutes walk away, on what has been another really hot and sunny day. Everywhere was looking distinctly arid, and flowers for nectaring butterflies were few and far between now. I made for the path next to the railway, where some marjoram was still blooming and there were a sprinkling of scabious as well. Initially, everything I saw was in energetic flight, but towards five o'clock what butterflies there were started to settle and nectar. Meadow Browns sought out the scabious flowers, whereas Common Blues and the odd Brown Argus preferred the marjoram, or settled on birds-foot trefoil plants. Small Heaths were more in evidence than a fortnight ago, the only species seen for which this was true. I saw one nectaring, during which it repeatedly fidgeted and flicked its wings open and closed, affording the unusual view of its upperside. There were all three White butterflies around, and a bit of a kerfuffle amongst some of these resolved itself into a mating pair of Green-veined Whites being hassled by another male and a male Small White. The interlopers cleared off, leaving the couple resting on a bramble. The contrast in colour between the two was quite stark: the female was bright lemon-yellow underneath, the male plain white: both with grey veins. Finally, a couple of Clouded Yellows bowled by at speed and disappeared towards the sun and I lost track of them.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=39687&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=39685&mode=view>

Dave Miller

Just a couple of butterflies to report today Wednesday 4th September 2013 - 1 Clouded Yellow flew South at Parkside Farm, Enfield (TQ3098) at 14:43 hrs, East of the 10 km line which divides this site and 1 Small Heath at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, at 15:45 hrs. - Robert Callf

I saw a Painted Lady on a Buddleia in Blanche Lane, South Mimms this morning along with a Peacock, A Small Tortoiseshell and several Whites. - Terry Wood

When birdwatching on Tuesday 3 Sept at Croxley Common Moor I saw a Painted Lady & Small Heath - Geoff Lapworth

Tuesday 3rd September 2013

Walked my 'old' transect yesterday afternoon Monday 2nd September 2013 with Simon Pegg who is considering taking it on and we saw the following - 3 Common Blue (1 Sect 1, 2 Sect 8); 7 Small Heath, including two together; 2 female Meadow Brown and 3 Small Copper (2 Sect 5, 1 Sect 8). If only the cutting and baling of the grass was still carried out this would be a much better site! Today Tuesday 3rd September 2013 - 1 The Vestal at Rectory Farm, Enfield - the first that I have seen for many years of the pretty fragile looking moth; 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Rectory Farm, Enfield, 11:27 hrs. Still good numbers of White sp at this site. - Robert Callf

Sunday 1st September 2013

Nothing exciting to report during today's local walk. In Bushey garden 4 x large white, 5 x small white, 1 x speckled wood (first seen in garden this year). Onto Fishers Field = 3 x large white, 13 x speckled white, 3 x small white, 1 x silver y. Water lane, Watford = 6 x speckled wood, 3 x large white, 6 x small white, 1 x comma, 1 x green veined white, 1 x silver y, 1 x straw dot. Finch Lane, Bushey = 8 x speckled wood, 7 x large white, 2 x small white. Lastly Merryhill Fields when sun faded = 4 x common blue, 5 x meadow brown, 1 x small white, 3 x speckled wood, 1 x small copper, 2 x straw dot, 1 x silver y. - David Gower

Saw one Red Admiral flying South at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 11:35 hrs this morning Sunday 1st September 2013. - Robert Callf

Have had a Hummingbird Hawk Moth (Presumably the same one) in the Hemel Hempstead garden for six consecutive days. Is this a record? Speckled Wood, Comma, three Small Tortoiseshells, Peacock, Red Admiral, Large, Small and Green Veined Whites including some very small specimens also visited the garden today. Saw a Small White being attacked and carried off by a wasp. I've never witnessed that before. Malcolm Newland

August 2013

Saturday 31st August 2013

At Bricket Wood common Saturday morning not much around = 15 x speckled wood, 1 x comma, 1 x meadow brown, 1 x small white. At Drop Lane = 1 x green veined white, 1 x small white, 2 x speckled wood. Lastly at Bricket Wood station on buddleia = 6 x small white, 2 x comma, 2 x large white - David Gower

Well that's a new one for me or I've been out in the sun too long, just been joined on my driveway in Marshalswick, St. Albans by a fresh immaculate meadow brown - Richard Geary

Friday 30th August 2013

Counted three Speckled Wood in Oakwood Park, N14 this morning Friday 30th August 2013 and saw a Peacock settled at Park Farm, Enfield this afternoon at 12:57 hrs. - Robert Callf

Thursday 29th August 2013

Visited Enfield Town yesterday afternoon Wednesday 28th August 2013 and saw a Small Tortoiseshell and a Red Admiral nectaring on buddleia at 77 Southbury Road at 15:55 hrs. Today 29th August 2013 - 2 Comma at Park Farm, Enfield, 11:47 and 11:50 hrs, 3 Small Heath at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 12:12 - 12:15 hrs, 2+ Common Blue at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 2 Small Copper at 'Old Golf Course' and 1 Red Admiral by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 12:18 hrs. - Robert Callf

Rickneys Quarry, 2 Clouded yellow, 30+ Common blue, 4 Brown argus, 1 Brimstone (female), 1 Red admiral, 3 Green-veined white. Waterford heath north, 1 Clouded yellow, 4 Common blue, 2 Brown argus Waterford heath south, 1 Clouded yellow, 34 Common blue, 2 Brown argus, 1 Small tortoiseshell, 1 Purple hairstreak (on ash in the car park) - Laurence Drummond

Wednesday 28th August 2013

There has been a recent hatch of slightly undersized small tortoiseshells in this part of Thorley Park and this morning I counted 10 on a clump of white buddleia at the bottom of Appleton Fields.

Later at Thornbera Road allotments, B/St. 10+ small white, 2 large white, one comma, one peacock, -two normal sized small tortoiseshells favouring dahlia 'Teesbrook Audrey'- and single fresh specimens of red admiral and brimstone. - Len Crouch

Latest from Hounslow Heath - Marshalling Yards in sunshine with no breeze for once: Wednesday 28th August 2013 Small White 18 Meadow Brown: 16 Small Heath 1 Common Blue 14 Large White 13 Speckled Wood 6 Brown Argus 1 Painted Lady 1 Peacock 1 The Brown Argus was the first I've seen on The Heath as distinct from the Marshalling Yards Also, belatedly from Sunday 25th August, same walk after substantial rain: Small White 22 Meadow Brown 16 Common Blue 16 Large White 5 Speckled Wood 3 Gatekeeper 1 Small Copper 1 Clouded Yellow 1 - Pete Gore

While searching for Brown Hairstreaks at Norton Green this afternoon there were still some Silver-washed Fritillaries about albeit in a rather tatty state. Also a few Purple Hairstreaks low down including one gorging on blackberry for a good few minutes at around 3 pm - Peter Clarke

A few sightings for today Wednesday 28th August 2013 - 2 male Common Blue at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 11:02 hrs, 3 Small Heath at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 11:05 hrs; 2 female Meadow Brown (1 by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 11:27 hrs and another along Merryhills Brook/South Lodger Farm). - Robert Callf

Tuesday 27th August 2013

Had a Hummingbird Hawk Moth which spent ages in the Hemel Hempstead garden from 10.05 a.m. until lunchtime visiting some of my sixteen buddleias. Also seen were eight Small Tortoiseshells, two Red Admirals, two Peacocks numerous Small and a few Large Whites, a male Brimstone and my first Painted Lady of the year. Malcolm Newland

Saw another Chalk hill Blue male this time in Rickneys Quarry together with clouded yellows and many common blues. Also a Silver washed fritillary in lower part of Waterford Heath south by settling ponds, last Friday saw 15 brimstone there only 2 today - Steve Kiln

A painted lady feeding on buddleia at Hadham Ford at 11a.m. today. In company with 3 peacock, 9 sm tortoiseshells and 6 large whites - Jono Forgham

For the second time this year I had a Painted Lady in my Hitchin garden, plus Small Tortoiseshell - Kevin Taylor

I saw a very worn Silver-washed Fritillary in Rough Hills Meadows (TL3193510262) Bayfordbury yesterday (26/08/13) at around 4pm. - Shaun Dowman

Park Wood, Ruislip One Silver-Washed Fritillary seen this afternoon, in the Eastern section of the wood - Graham Elcombe

Saw a female Gatekeeper along the Jubilee Path/London Loop at Park Farm, Enfield this morning at 10:15 hrs. - Robert Callf

Monday 26th August 2013

Back to Merryhill Fields at 5 p.m today = 3 x large white, 7 x small white, 9 x meadow brown, 6 x small copper, 12 x common blue, 1 x peacock, 1 x speckled wood, 1 x yellow shell, 1 x brimstone moth, 1 x shaded broad bar, 1 x straw dot, 1 x silver y. - David Gower

See my Northaw Great Wood blog:

http://www.fongw.org.uk/?page_id=65

It's been a great year for Purple Hairstreaks - Peter Walker

Sunday 25th August 2013

Panshanger Airfield - Visited with Andrew Wood and Paul Why to check out this site, where there have been reports of Brown Hairstreak in recent years. This is a large unfertilised and unsprayed grassland site, with a significant amount of rabbit grazing around the perimeter. Small Heath were the most common butterfly - we recorded a total of 45, but there were probably many more on the site. Other short grass loving butterflies included Brown Argus (7), Small Copper (3) & Common Blue (6). Our main focus of attention was the considerable amount of Ash and Blackthorn around the airfield perimeter. Despite a couple of intriguing glimpses we had no confirmed Brown

Hairstreak sightings - the search continues! Malcolm Hull

I realised that with work and weather and other commitments, I hadn't had a good look at my local patch for nearly three weeks, and decided to make good the omission this afternoon. After a selection of Whites in the front garden on the dandelions, the walk started as it often does, with a territorial Red Admiral and a couple of Commas, and several Speckled Woods fluttering about in the shade. However, the next sighting was a bit of a surprise, with a Small Heath seen a considerable distance (a good km or so) from the usual area. Progressing along the edge of the river, there were more Commas (all quite worn ones) and several Common Blues, male and female, and far more than I've seen before in this particular part of the walk. One of the females was entirely brown, not a blue scale to be seen, and I had to make sure it wasn't a Brown Argus. Another was found wandering amongst the trefoil plants, and after she'd flown off, I found a tiny white dot on top of a leaf - a single egg. No doubt there were more if I'd looked, but they are very small and only by taking a photo and zooming in could I be sure it definitely was an egg. My attention was then grabbed by a small butterfly with a different type of flight altogether - a worn Small Copper. This was the first I've seen on my patch this year (but I had to wait until October for one in 2012...). Just before moving on to the open field north of the A 3113, a bright new Comma appeared, intensely orange and brown, and such a contrast to its faded cousins seen earlier. In the field area itself, I was greeted by a basking Small Tortoiseshell that looked to be freshly emerged. The abundance of Meadow Browns had now dwindled to a few very dull individuals, and there fewer than the were of Small Heaths - though there were not as many of these as I expected. Common Blues were all along the path at regular intervals, and having seen so many small ones this year, and so many dark females, I very nearly ignored the Brown Argus that jinked across in front of me. Again, this was the first of these I've seen here this year, and I'm glad to say the second and third followed quickly afterwards. Returning the way I'd come, I had a different perspective on a "wild" buddleia. There were several Whites and a couple of Peacocks enjoying the purple bloom, but my eye was drawn to a pinky-brown butterfly that periodically sailed off in great arcing flights before coming back to the same spray of flowers. It was a Painted Lady, and yet another species I'd not seen here this year. That brought my local species tally for the year to 23, with only Ringlets being absent this time round from my all time local list. A good afternoon! - Dave Miller

Painted lady (1st. sighting this year) in Welwyn Garden City garden all day; Male purple hairstreak also seen twice this afternoon - Denise Beynon

One Clouded Yellow at Nomansland this morning once the rain had stopped. I had to chase it for miles to get a piccy

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/naturecatcher58/9590663169/>

Still, I need the exercise - Ashley Cox

Went to Merryhill Fields at 4.30 this afternoon and came across = 1 x clouded yellow, 5 x small copper, 21 x common blue (7 females), 3 x large white, 4 x small white, 22 x meadow brown, 1 x yellow shell, 4 x shaded broad bar, 3 x silver y. In Bushey garden 5 x large white, 6 x small white, 1 x green veined white, 1 x small tortoiseshell, 5 x silver y, 1 x mint moth. - David Gower

Friday 23rd August 2013

Two sightings to report today 23rd August 2013 - 1 Comma at Park Farm, Enfield at 09:48 hrs and 1 male Common Blue at Rectory Farm, Enfield at 10:57 hrs. Also a good number of Whites at Rectory Farm. - Robert Callf

Tuesday 20 August. Another late report, in my Hatfield garden today 7+ Small Torts (very bright), 3+ Peacock, 1 Brimstone (bright male), 1 Comma (very faded), assorted Whites, probably including GVs - John Moss

Thursday 22nd August 2013

Saw a male Common Blue along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm, Enfield this afternoon 22nd August 2013 at 14:08 hrs, during a bright interlude. - Robert Callf

Wednesday 21st August 2013

First Small Copper of the year on my transect at Shackledell Grassland, Stevenage earlier this afternoon - Peter Clarke

Several Clouded Yellows still present yesterday morning along with Small Copper and a couple Common Blues at Barnes Lane. A late afternoon visit today didn't produce any Clouded Yellows at the usual site but I did see one flying across KL School playing field and 2+ Purple Hairstreaks were once again at the edge of the Nucket, - Samuel Perfect

News from Diane Andrews, walking TL3002 east of Cuffley, saw 2 Clouded Yellow. Other butterflies included, whites, brimstone, small copper, common blue, small tortoiseshell as well. Ramney Marsh 31 Common Blue today.

Tuesday 20th August 2013

Tuesday 20th August 2013 My usual walk via Hounslow Heath to the Marshalling Yards. Despite favourable weather fewer sightings now as various species end. Small White 29 Small Heath 1 Meadow Brown 17 Gatekeeper 2 Speckled Wood 3 Common Blue 37 Brown Argus 1 Large White 5.
- Pete Gore

Monday 19 Aug. Did my Warren transect. Nos. down but still a good range of species, with Meadow Brown 24 (mostly tatty), Common Blue 20 (including 7+ females), 8 Gatekeeper, Purple Hairstreak 1 (the only one I've seen this year, but I'm sure there are more), Large White 3, Small Heath 6 (mostly very fresh), GV White 2, Small White 7, Peacock 2, Small Tortoiseshell 1, Clouded Yellow 1 (a 1st for the site). No sign of Skippers or Coppers. In my Hatfield garden today, 20 August, 2 Painted Lady, 5+ Peacock, 3 Small Torts, Large, Small & GV Whites, all around Buddleia. Over last 2-3 wks have also seen occasional Red Admiral, Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper & Holly Blue (they breed here). Painted Ladies seem to be regulars. John Moss

My office has moved very close to Bedfont Lakes Country Park, so I was able to spend a lunchtime hour there today. Walking from one entrance to the other via the track adjacent to the railway, I managed to see four Clouded Yellows, several dozen Common Blues, six or seven Brown Argus in a variety of places, two Small Coppers, Meadow Browns, Gatekeepers and Large and Small Whites. However, despite lots of wild buddleia, I didn't see a single Nymphalid of any species. After work, a very quick look at my local patch in Stanwell Moor produced three Commas, two Speckled Woods and quite a few roosting Whites. However, it was nearly seven, and the sun had almost gone. Autumn is not so far away... - Dave Miller

Whilst making calls at Broxbourne common today, 1 male SWF flew out of the wood and across the gardens. Laurence Drummond

We visited both the St Vincents, Ruislip and Northaw territories today, hoping to see a male emperor still active - sadly none were seen - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

I did the transect today, totals were 401 on the transect with another 78 sightings off transect. Highlights include a total of 89 brimstones, they were everywhere today! Still plenty of meadow browns and various whites but much less than in previous weeks and I only saw 1 marbled white and 1 large skipper today. There were lots of common blue (39), brown argus (41), small heath (22) and small copper (13). I only saw 1 fritillary today - a male silver washed in the coppice area in the south, much fewer peacocks now - 19 and 6 small tortoiseshell. I forgot to let you know that last week (tuesday and thursday) I was working at wilstone reservoir and nectaring on hemp agrimony were quite a few peacocks and an immaculate red admiral. - Paul Thrush

On Nomansland Common today, 1 very obliging CLOUDED YELLOW (views down to 3 feet) otherwise many Common Blues, Silver Y's and the usual browns and whites.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/99486228@N06/9555458068/>(Preview)

Robin Pearson

A few sightings for today 20th August 2013 - 1 female Common Blue at Parkside Farm, Enfield on Res banking, 08:32 hrs; 1 Red Admiral flew SW at Bay Farm, Enfield, 09:12 hrs; 1 Painted Lady at Plumridge Farm near Ash Wood, Enfield Chase, 09:55 hrs; 2 Small Heath at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park; 4 male Common Blue at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park; 1 Peacock, edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park, 10:23 hrs; 3 Small Copper at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park. - Robert Callf

Monday 19th August 2013

Still several Clouded Yellows on the wing when I visited them at the usual site down Barnes Lane this afternoon. Also 3 Purple Hairstreaks at the top of the oak trees at the edge of the Nucket, - Samuel Perfect

Prompted by recently reported sightings of Clouded Yellows in meadows adjacent to Barnes Lane, Kings Langley we visited the site this morning. On arrival the sky was ominously overcast & nothing appeared to be flying. After 5 or 10 minutes the sun re-appeared & we were treated to the sight of at least 15 CYs, about the same number of Common Blues & 2 Small Coppers. Whites incl. Green-veined & a few Meadow Browns were evident as were many unidentified micro moths. We would like to express our thanks to those members who bother to report sightings so that less well-informed members such as us can benefit from your expertise - Tony & Gill Porter

Sightings for today from Little Britain Lake & surrounding Colne Valley area: Small Copper 2 Brown Argus 2 Holly Blue Common Blue 7 Speckled Wood 17 Large White 16 Small White 2 Comma Peacock Small Tortoiseshell - Nige Sluman

Saw two Small Heath today Monday 19th August 2013 - 1 along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 07:42 hrs and another at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 09:50 hrs; 6 Small Copper, including five together at 'Old Golf Course' at 09:50 hrs and another one by Lower Lake 10:03 hrs, Trent Park - Robert Callf

Sunday 18th August 2013

I recently went to see the Clouded Yellows which I only found out were down the road from me yesterday! I counted at least 13, five in the field closer to Barnes Lane and eight in the adjacent field. Many of my butterfly sightings also go up on my blog

<http://samuelbirding.blogspot.co.uk/>

Samuel Perfect

Sightings this afternoon (Sunday 18 August) on Nomansland Common, Wheathampstead (west of the car park) included a pristine Painted Lady, a Small Skipper, 2 Small Coppers, 2 Small Tortoiseshells, 2 Peacocks, 2 Gatekeepers, 10+ Meadow Browns, 10+ Small Heaths, 10+ Large Whites, 50+ Small Whites, 50+ G-V Whites, 100+ Common Blues and several hundred Silver-Y moths. Most of these species were nectaring on the very large area of knapweed. - Alan Jackson

On Nomansland Common this morning, 1m Chalkhill blue, 4 Purple Hairstreaks including 2 egg-laying, 4 Painted Lady, 4 Essex Skippers, 5 Peacocks, 3 Small Tortoiseshells 40+ Silver Y moths, 40+ Large Whites 30+ Common Blues 20+ Small Coppers, 15 + Small Whites and a few GV whites, 10 + Meadow Browns and 7 Gatekeepers. At Tyttenhanger GP this afternoon 1 Clouded Yellow 1 Purple Hairstreak 25+ Peacocks, 10+ Small Tortoiseshells 10+ Silver Y moths, 15+ Large Whites 30+ Common Blues (including 1 very small looking one but not a small blue) 12 Small Coppers, 5 + Small Whites 30 + Meadow Browns, 10+ Gatekeepers. And in my St Albans Garden 2 Peacocks, 7 large Whites, 1 Small Tortoiseshell and a male Brimstone - Andy Steele

Clouded yellows are still in a Barnes Lane meadow, Kings Langley. I counted several on Friday 19th, common blues, small coppers too. Six small tortoiseshells on the Buddleia in a garden. Sunday 18th. Sadly, I found a dying elephant hawk moth caterpillar on the drive in Kings Langley. It was being eaten by wasps, but had been partly squashed. Just this week I had been wondering if there were any on my fuschia as we have had them in previous years although not recently. I had a further search and found one healthy elephant hawk caterpillar. I hope that one survives. I understand they are becoming rare so please everyone watch your garden fuschias as well as the willowherb in the countryside. Elizabeth Debenham

HMWT Danemead 14.45-15.30, 1 Clouded yellow, 1 Brimstone(male), 1 very fresh Small tortoiseshell, 3 Peacock, 1 Comma, 1 SWF (male, a bit washed out but otherwise intact) 3 Speckled wood, around 10 Meadow brown - Laurence Drummond

While doing some Blackberrying on Waterford heath north by the steep sandy cliff I saw to my surprise a male chalkhill blue, a bit off course. Also there common blues and brown argus. on the south pit plenty of common blues, and many whites, less peacocks than recently, 2 small tortoiseshell, 2 brimstones, 2 small copper, 3 small heaths and a holly blue - Steve Kiln

A single slightly faded male Purple Emperor, still on territory at Northaw this afternoon, plus numerous Purple Hairstreak flying around - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

Saturday 17th August 2013

Hatfield, 4 Purple hairstreaks around an Ash tree in the hedge between Notcutts garden centre and

Ellenbrook fields, caused a brief heart flutter at 8.40 this am(lots of Blackthorn in the landscape here!). Laurence Drummond

Counted at least three Common Blue, 2 males and 1 female, at South Lodge Farm, Enfield this morning Saturday 17th August 2013 between 10:52 - 11:00 hrs. - Robert Callf

Friday 16th August 2013

In Bushey garden late afternoon = 1 x small tortoiseshell, 1 x large white, 3 x silver y, 1 x mint moth, 1 x small white - David Gower

Thursday 15th August 2013

In Stocking Pelham on Thursday 15th a Clouded Yellow on the verge by the road - Andy Brown

Saw two Antler Moth at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park this morning Thursday 15th August nectaring on thistle heads in preference to Ragwort. - Robert Callf

Today I visit somewhere new Purwell ninesprings in Hitchin and saw many Gatekeepers, Large White, GV White, Meadow Brown, Brimstone, Red Admiral, Common Blue - Kevin Taylor

At about 12.30pm on Sunday my friend Giles Whalley phoned to tell me he had just seen a female purple emperor in his garden in Lemsford, near WGC. I quickly drove to his garden at the Bocket Hall gatehouse, but of course it had gone. Giles knows his butterflies, and I am sure he really did see a PE. He described it as very tatty. We hung around for half an hour but it did not return. However, we did have very good views of a SW fritillary. The area is very attractive for butterflies, with buddleia, nettles, sallows. etcetera - I counted 12 peacocks on one bush - Alex Lewis

August 14th another visit to the Barnes Lane meadow in Kings Langley produced at least 5 clouded yellow in the first part of the field and more in the second, although they may have flown over the fence. They were active and fluttering around each other and nectaring on clover. One was rather battered. A small copper saw off one clouded yellow and returned to ragwort to feed. Several blues were displaying and feeding on birdsfoot trefoil. I hadn't seen any in that field last year so I am pleased they are back. Meadow brown and gatekeeper were also present. Silver Y was also there. Three small tortoiseshells were on a Kings Langley buddleia along with several peacocks today and on 14th; some whites a gatekeeper, both yesterday and today along with silver Ys. I forgot to mention a week or two ago a red underwing was on the window. Elizabeth Debenham

Wednesday 14th August 2013

One Common Blue (a female) seen in my garden In Pinner - the last time I saw one here was nineteen years ago! Graham Elcombe

Therfield Heath, numerous Chalkhill Blues and several Common Blues and one Clouded Yellow - Jim Farr

From a walk along the River Stort this afternoon from about 1.30 - 3.30: Lots of large and small whites, and also lots of peacocks all over the place - I soon gave up counting. Near Spellbrook lock I saw a male common blue (the first I have seen at this location), and also what I assumed to be 2 females. One of which was confirmed as Brown Argus! At Bushy Mead nature reserve there were 4 small tortoiseshells, at least 2 commas and some more meadow browns - Chris Gleeson

1 x peacock and 1 x Old lady moth in Bushey house yesterday - David Gower

NOMANSLAND COMMON, Wheathampstead - 1m CHALKHILL BLUE, being mobbed by a couple of 2 male common blues but looked quite settled by the track that runs adjacent to Ferrers Lane, about 300 yards west from the car park (took photos). Also 3 PAINTED LADIES on the opposite side of the road. - Darin Stanley

Butterfly World update, I was pleased to see the Chalkhill Blue, Clouded Yellows and Small Heaths again. The totals are: Clouded Yellow 2 Large White 11 Small/Gn Veined White 12 Small White. 33 G V White 6 Small Blue 6 Common Blue 54 Chalkhill Blue. 1 Small Tortoiseshell 27 Peacock 29 Gatekeeper 2 Meadow Brown 6 Small Heath 2 - Mandy Floyd

This afternoon at 3pm having arrived 5 minutes earlier a Purple Emperor flew around the Northaw

territory. This was repeated on several more occasions until heavy cloud arrived at 3.20 and we left - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

On Nomansland Common, Wheathampstead this morning, 3 Clouded Yellows, Painted Lady, dozens of Silver Y moths, also Common Blues and Small Coppers. The area where the Clouded Yellows were is 100 yds from the main car park back towards Harpenden.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/99486228@N06/9510067269/>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/99486228@N06/9508165593/in/photostream/>

Robin Pearson

Some sightings for today Wednesday 14th August 2013 - 1 Peacock, edge of Rough Lot, Trent Park, 09:35 hrs; 7 Common Blue, including a pair copulating, 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 09:40 - 10:02 hrs; 5 Small Copper, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 09:40 - 09:50 hrs; 1 male Brown Argus, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 09:45 hrs; 1 Purple Hairstreak, settled on Bramble near Water Garden, Trent Park, 10:04 hrs; 2 Small Tortoiseshell, together, nectaring on thistles, along Merryhills Brook at South Lodge Farm, Enfield, 10:42 hrs; 1 Peacock, at South Lodge Farm, 10:45 hrs - Robert Callf

I saw 2 small coppers and 5+ common blues on Harpenden Common hayfield this morning. There are still good numbers of meadow browns and gatekeepers. Jenny Sherwen

Hemel Hempstead garden - Still large numbers of Large, Small and Green Veined Whites. Peacocks reached a maximum of twelve, mainly on various Buddleias. Two Small Tortoiseshells, a male and a female Brimstone, single Red Admiral and Gatekeeper completed the tally but no Painted Ladies - Malcolm Newland

Tuesday 13th August 2013

Saw a Peacock again today Tuesday 13th August 2013 on buddleia in Dalrymple Close, Southgate, N14 at 12:55 hrs. Also a Small Copper nectaring on Ragwort in Oakwood Park, N14 at 13:38 hrs.

Saw three Speckled Wood in Grovelands Park, Southgate yesterday Monday 12th August 2013 between 13:57 - 14:02 hrs. - Robert Callf

First Painted Lady in my Ware garden since August 2009 - Liz Goodyear

Had a quick walk around the park late afternoon and saw 2 male Chalkhill Blues (I think this is a first record for Great Ashby Park and the nearest colonies I can think of are Hexton Chalk Pit or Royston Heath), also Essex Skipper, Common Blue, Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper and lots of Whites <http://www.flickr.com/photos/stevelane56/9502011889/>
Steve Lane

Lots of Common Blue at Nomansland Common, including some pretty blue females.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/naturecatcher58/9496082371/>

Good numbers of Small Copper and clouds of Large, Small and Green Veined Whites - Ashley Cox

Monday 12th August 2013

A complete walk across the Heath and around the Marshalling Yards. Butterflies generally looking faded and tattered but nevertheless still there in reasonable quantities despite a strong breeze and intermittent cloudiness: Large White:11 Small White:13 Meadow Brown:19 Small Copper:2 Gatekeeper:12 Painted Lady:3 Speckled Wood:6 Comma:2 Common Blue:15 Peacock: 7 Green-Veined White:1 Small Tortoiseshell:1 The Tortoiseshell is the first I've seen for a few weeks and looked fresh: More Please! - Pete Gore

We watched 2 sparring at the high point of the oaks by St Vincent's nursing home Park Wood on 11 Aug 13. This is the latest date we have seen them at this site. Sue & Steve Place

Just one sighting to report - 4 Comma, together on edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park at 10:28 hrs today 12th August 2013. Saw two Peacock yesterday afternoon Sunday 11th August 2013 on buddleia at Tresilian Ave., N21 at 14:15 hrs from W9 bus. - Robert Callf

Sunday 11th August 2013

Clouded Yellow - My first in Herts for a year or two, today at Beech Farm pits TL20Z - Rupert Pyrah

Sunday afternoon 11th Aug, I was about to go over to Nomansland again to have a clouded yellow search, but thought I would check out the Barnes Lane meadow in Kings Langley, just opposite the school playing field. I hadn't seen any common blue last year so hoped to find some. Looking over the gate I saw a dash of yellow. At first it could have been a gatekeeper in sunlight, but no, it was a Clouded Yellow. Rushing into the field to get a closer look I eventually notched up at least 5 Clouded Yellows and more as I walked into the second part of the field leading down to the woodland and circuiting the field. About 5 common blues, male and female were displaying near the path in the lower part of the field toward Rucklers Lane and 2 small coppers.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/7392841@N04/9487910959/>

An afternoon well spent! Catching up on the last week.... July 25th I thought I saw a purple emperor fly high above the trees in Barnes Lane. The wings were in silhouette and looked sharply triangular with cut out patches of white in the strong sunlight. It had a very direct flight across the road. Last week we had up to 12 peacocks on the buddleia in Kings Langley and 1 small tortoiseshell has visited for several days too including Sunday 11th; also 2 commas on the buddleia, Gatekeepers and meadow brown also visit the marjoram in the garden. 2 commas and a red admiral in Barnes Lane at the edge of a wheat field near oaks for two days running. Elizabeth Debenham

I was very lucky to find a male Chalkhill Blue at Norton Green in the field north of Pigeonswick Cottage (TL225227) this morning at 1050 hours - Peter Clarke

A few sightings for today 11th August 2013 - 1 male Small Copper at Plumridge Farm, Enfield, 10:10 hrs; 3 male Common Blue at South Lodge Farm, Enfield, 11:22 - 11:25 hrs; 1 Comma at South Lodge Farm, Enfield, 11:25 hrs; 1 Peacock at South Lodge Farm, Enfield, 11:25 hrs; 1 male Common Blue at 'Barracks' Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 11:42 hrs; 1 Peacock at 'Barracks' Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 11:45 hrs. - Robert Callf

I went up to Broxbourne Ride Thursday afternoon and there were a lot of peacocks in ride and silver washed fritillaries and 1 white admiral. I went further than I normally do as someone said there were tons of peacocks up there, beyond the stream there is a lot of hemp agrimony there and also water mint. I decided to go back in morning when it is usually better. I went today at 11am. I saw 15 species, plenty of gatekeepers, meadow browns and whites especially green veined whites. 32 peacocks, 1 white admiral, small tortoiseshell, red admiral, comma, brimstone and small skipper. 2 common blues, 2 silver washed fritillaries and 3 ringlets. but no purple emperors - Steve Kiln

Saturday 10th August 2013

National Moth Weekend - We spent two hours last night at Stanmore Country Park. A total of ten people came along; some with more knowledge of moths than they were prepared to admit. The highlight was a total of seven+ Tree-lichen Beauty's. This species has not been recorded there before although I have had this species in the back garden. Thirty three macros and sixteen micros ID'd. A friend, Peter Peretti saw a Clouded Yellow in Aylett Nurseries AL2 1DH on Aug 6th - John Hollingdale

Here are some records for Totteridge Valley (the area surrounding Darlands Lake in tetrad TQ2493). I did not record all the species seen on these days, just the more notable species/numbers as per below. 13th July 2013: 40+ Ringlets, 4 Marbled Whites, 4 Small Tortoiseshell, 3 Commas, and 30+ Small / Essex Skippers (some individuals of each confirmed). 10th August 2013: 1 Brown Argus, 1 Comma, plus lots of Snout moths in rank grasslands. I've never seen Brown Argus at this site before despite it being my 'local patch' for the last 8 years. Also I've only seen odd singles of Marbled White in previous summers and have never before seen anything like the number of Ringlets as on July 13th (but possibly I have not before visited in peak flight periods). - Ian Ellis

Waterford heath south pit, 1 Clouded yellow, 2 Brown argus and one male Common blue - Laurence Drummond

St Albans, Abbey View Rd - First Painted Lady of the year in my street, nectaring on Buddleia this morning. It was accompanied by 10 Peacocks 1 Small Tortoiseshell 5 Large Whites 2 Gatekeepers 1 Small White and 1 Silver Y moth. No Peacocks yet hibernating in my outhouse, but there are now 21 hibernating Small Tortoiseshells, an increase of 4 since last week. If you have a shed where Peacocks might hibernate, NOW IS A VERY GOOD TIME TO CLEAR OUT ANY SPIDERS

WEBS. later at Northfield Rd Tring, 2 Chalkhill Blues, 1 Silver washed Fritillary 80 Common Blues 3 Brown Argus and 20 Brimstones - Malcolm Hull

12 am 2 clouded yellows on Waterford Heath south, also common blues and brown argus of note - Steve Kiln

A few sightings for today 10th August 2013 - 1 Magpie Moth, found in grass border of field along hedgerow at Plumridge Farm - the first that I have seen for many years! 1 Peacock, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 10:25 hrs; 1 male Common Blue, along Merryhills Brook at South Lodge Farm, Enfield, 10:38 hrs. - Robert Callf

For some reason I was never quite in the right sort of mood for butterfly spotting on Friday, leaving Hounslow Heath with a grand total of 2 and not feeling enthusiastic enough to cover the inner portion of the Marshalling Yards. However as I was walking towards the Cavalry Tunnel to return home via the Heath my mood changed abruptly when a Clouded Yellow flew strongly towards me, landed close by for long enough for me to get a good view of the underside of its wings, before continuing its journey past me. When one flew towards me again a few yards further on I began to wonder what sort of a butterfly treat was in store for me but when I watched carefully I saw the butterfly turn and come back 50 yards to repeat yet again - so only 1 really! First of the year of course, second on the Marshalling Yards (2001?). Here are my other sightings, under-recording due to initial grumpiness: Meadow Brown 15 Gatekeeper 9 Small White 17 Common Blue 8 Painted Lady 3 Speckled Wood 1 Large White 7 Peacock 3 Red Admiral 1 Clouded Yellow (male) 1 - Pete Gore

KGV Reservoir, EN3: Painted Lady at 08.40 and Clouded Yellow at 10.13. Martin Shepherd

Friday 9th August 2013

Having been dragged by my wife this afternoon to an 'Open Garden' event in Woodside Place, Wildhill, I was overjoyed when a Clouded Yellow butterfly flew through the garden. The first Clouded Yellow I've seen in Hertfordshire. - Terry Wood

1 painted lady mixed in with 14 large whites, 2 commas, 2 small tortoiseshells, 1 red admiral, 5 peacocks and 4 silver y on the garden buddleia this afternoon. Garden in Chapel Lane, Little Hadham SG11 2AA, Weather; sunny intervals 21C Time: 3.45pm Date: 09.08.13 - Haven't heard of too many PL records in Herts this year. However,, a small invasion arrived at Dungeness on 1.08.13, so this maybe one from that group. Suspect there are more about. However, 1st record for the village since the huge invasion of May 2009 - Jono Forgham

8th August - On Hertford heath (Roundings) 2 white admirals and 1 Silver washed fritillary. In Balls Wood 5 White Admirals, 1 silver washed fritillary various whites skippers etc. + 1 painted lady - Andy Brown

No surprises; but I enjoyed seeing fourteen different species yesterday, 8th August, at the Buddleia Walk and adjoining waste ground, on the other side of the canal from Croxley Common Moor. They were: Large, Small and Green-Veined Whites, Brimstones, Peacocks, Commas, Small Tortoiseshell and Red Admirals; Meadow Browns, Gatekeepers and Speckled Wood; Common Blue (one only), Small Copper and finally, two or three Purple Hairstreaks high up in an oak tree - Graham Elcombe

Yesterday King George V Reservoir, EN3: Clouded Yellow on the Middlesex side at 09.50 on rough grass bank - very close views. Also 2 Common Blue. - Martin Shepherd

Saw a Peacock nectaring on buddleia at 77 Southbury Road, Enfield Town yesterday afternoon Thursday 8th August 2013 at 14:33 hrs. Seems to be good numbers about judging from recent reports. - Robert Callf

Thursday 8th August 2013

Seen today at Stockers Lake: 30+ Peacocks (mostly on Buddleia), large numbers of Whites, 3 male Brimstones, 4 Commas, 2 Speckled Woods, 1 Meadow Brown & fleetingly 1 unidentified small, blue butterfly (as opposed to a Small Blue butterfly). Many dragonflies seen. Tony & Gill Porter

I am very pleased to report a sighting of a male Chalkhill Blue on my Butterfly World Transect today, a new species for this site, also my first 5 Painted Ladies for this year looking very fresh. -

Mandy Floyd

I did the transect yesterday, another big total of 610 sightings! There are so many butterflies up there at the moment, highlights yesterday including 72 peacocks throughout the whole reserve, small copper, small heath, masses of whites, brimstones, skippers, red admiral, comma (3), common blue, chalkhill blue, brown argus and meadow browns. I saw 5 silver washed fritillaries (the highest number I have ever seen on the reserve) and they are making the most of the marjoram and thistles. At one point I had a dark green and silver washed nectaring on adjacent knapweeds which made for a good comparison opportunity. - Paul Thrush

Nomansland Common, Sandridge - **6 Clouded Yellows**, the most I have ever seen at one site in Herts! Also on the wing, hundreds, possibly thousands of Silver Y moth, Small Copper(18) Small Heath(5), Brown Argus (1), Common Blue (14), Purple Hairstreak(7, all in one tree), plus a mass of whites browns peacocks and a few shabby looking small and Essex skippers and Small Tortoiseshells - 15 butterfly species in total. Later at Bricket Wood Common I added Silver washed Fritillary, White Admiral, Ringlet, Brimstone, Speckled Wood, Holly Blue and Comma. The SWF males along the ride have been replaced by females looking for egg laying sites. one checked me out quite carefully, wisely deciding to deposit her eggs elsewhere. I saw another lay three eggs on an oak at heights of 1ft 18 inches and 2ft above ground. Malcolm Hull

I took a circular walk north of Tonwell. In the area between TL343180 and 349187 I saw hundreds if not thousands of butterflies. The most common species were large white, ringlet and meadow brown but I also saw comma, peacock, common blue and at least 2 clouded yellow. There were lots of Silver Ys - Barrie Stockwell

A Silver-washed Fritillary seen in Whomerley Wood, Stevenage (first since 2006) at about 3:40pm. Peter Clarke

Lots of butterflies at Thorley Wash today, mostly nectaring on purple loosestrife, hemp agrimony and fleabane. We saw 15+ clouded yellows, 2 painted ladies, 1 brown argus, 3 small coppers, and lots of peacocks and whites. - Jenny Sherwen

Holly blues today, in/around Great Amwell, 1 in Cautherly lane, in Gypsy lane and 1 along Pepper hill. Laurence Drummond

I had a quick trip to Hexton Chalk Pit on Tuesday morning and saw 1,000+ Chalkhill Blue, 1 male Brimstone, Meadow Browns, Ringlets, Gatekeepers, Comma, Peacocks, Marbled White, Large White, Small White, Green-veined White and Brown Argus.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/stevelane56/9462838957/> (Preview)

Steve Lane

Some sightings for today Thursday 8th August 2013 - 1 Painted Lady, settled on wall at Enfield Road, EN2, at 07:20 hrs; 1 male Common Blue, at Vicarage Farm, 08:20 hrs; 1 Peacock at Parkside Farm, 08:42 hrs; 1 female Brown Argus at Parkside Farm (TQ2998) at 08:50 hrs, basking on dry earth - first for the year locally! 1 male Yellow Tail Moth, edge of Ash Wood, Enfield Chase; 2 Antler Moth nectaring on Ragwort, 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park, 10:17 hrs; 1 Purple Hairstreak, settled on Ragwort, 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 10:17 hrs; 1 Small Heath at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 10:25 hrs; 1 Small Copper along Merryhills Brook at South Lodge Farm (TQ2996) at 11:15 hrs; 1 Painted Lady nectaring on thistles along Merryhills Brook at South Lodge Farm, 11:17 hrs; 5 Peacock together nectaring on thistles along Merryhills Brook at South Lodge Farm, 11:17 hrs - my largest group together so far this summer; 1 Comma at 'Barracks', Vicarage Farm, 11:35 hrs. - Robert Callf

Thought you may like to know I just spotted a Jersey Tiger moth on my BUDDLEIA Black Knight Davidii. Postcode NW11. - David Rosenthal

06.08.13 - weedy field, BATFORD-1 BROWN ARGUS, 2 Small Coppers, 4m (1f) Common Blues, 1 marbled White, numerous peacocks, large whites, small whites, 1 small skipper, Ringlets, Meadow Browns, 1 Red Admiral. Good years so far at Batford with species variety. Good year to for Common Blues. - Darin Stanley

Wednesday 7th August 2013

An explosion of Peacocks (50+) nectaring on thistles at Norton Green in the open area south-west

of Watery Grove earlier this afternoon. Also saw the first Brown Argus in the field west of Pigeonswick Cottage plus many whites, browns and a few skippers. A Marbled White was still flying as well as a few Silver-washed Fritillaries and Purple Hairstreaks - Peter Clarke

Thornbera Road allotments, Stortford, this afternoon, one Essex skipper nectaring on a lavender plant along with 5 small white males. Could not help noticing how dusky some of the small white females were, including one with upper fore-wing veins very strongly outlined in black, evident even from about 10 yards, underside when settled was typical small white. Yesterday there, disturbed a magpie moth which flew to a nearby blackcurrent bush and counted at mid-day 25+ small white, 4 large white, single comma in strawberry patch and 5 gatekeepers nectaring on a few sprigs of flowering mint. Added today one each of small tortoiseshell and peacock - Len Crouch

Record number of butterflies at Waterford Heath on my transect. Almost 300 butterflies 14 species 59 large whites and 50 peacocks but not a single red admiral and only one tortoiseshell - Steve Kiln

Upper Green garden, Tewin, Peacocks everywhere including 25+ on one White Buddleia bush! - Jim Farr

Seen a Holly Blue in Town Park, Enfield this afternoon Wednesday 7th August 2013 at 13:00 hrs. Robin White reported having seen a Clouded Yellow yesterday Tuesday 6th August 2013 at Vicarage Farm, Enfield (TQ3097). - Robert Callf

Tuesday 6th August 2013

While working out on the island on Great Hardmead Lake at Amwell this morning we saw a clouded yellow fly over. Jenny Sherwen

There was a botany survey of Ickleford Common north of Hitchin on Aug 1 carried out by members of the Herts and Middx Wildlife Trust. Butterflies seen were Comma, Gatekeeper, Peacock Meadow brown, one old Brown Argus, new second brood Common Blue colony. Large Small and Green Veined White, Brimstone Aug 5 Hertford Heath/Balls Wood. White Admiral, Comma, Meadow brown, Gatekeeper. Large and Small White. Nigel Agar

A few sightings for today Tuesday 6th August 2013 - 1 Common Blue at Parkside Farm on Res banking (TQ2998) at 08:50 hrs; 1 Comma at Park Farm, Enfield along Jubilee Path, 09:45 hrs; 1 Small Copper along Jubilee Path at Park Farm, 09:55 hrs; 1 male Antler Moth nectaring on Ragwort at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 10:35 hrs - the first that I have seen this year! 3 Small Copper together on Ragwort 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 10:35 hrs, including a courting couple; 1 Peacock nectaring on Ragwort 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 10:35 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood along bridle-path near Merryhills Brook/Trent Park, 11:10 hrs; 1 Peacock at South Lodge Farm, Enfield, 11:16 hrs. Some late news for Saturday 3rd August 2013 - 1 female Holly Blue, settling on Bramble flowers, Shaws Wood, Trent Park, 14:55 hrs; 1 Peacock at Park Farm, Enfield, 15:42 hrs; 2 Comma together along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables at Vicarage Farm, 16:35 hrs. - Robert Callf.

Oughtonhead today a bit sun in sun out but still saw Large and Small Whites every where lost count, Gatekeepers x8+, Commax1, Meadow Brown, Speckled Wood, Peacock, Brimstone - Kevin Taylor

Monday 5th August 2013

Whilst doing a plant survey yesterday at Aldbury I sneakily started counting butterflies once the sun came out. In the key butterfly area in the northern section there were 2+ brown argus, 5 chalkhill blue, meadow brown, large white, marbled white, green veined white, 5+ small white, 4 peacock, a male silver washed fritillary, dark green fritillary, 3+ common blue, brimstone, comma and small/Essex skipper. They were all nectaring on marjoram which is attracting large numbers of butterflies now it is flowering. In N3 there was another silver washed fritillary, 7 peacock, large, small and green veined white, gatekeeper and brimstone. In N1 there were 6 common blue, 7 brown argus, , 5 chalkhill blue, large white, large skipper, meadow brown, small/Essex skipper, red admiral, 5 gatekeeper, brimstone, peacock, and green veined white. In the south during the cloudy morning we saw a brown argus, meadow browns and a peacock and comma. The chalkhill blue total (10) is the highest Iâ€™ve had on the reserve, although this does seem small compared

to Hexton! - Paul Thrush My latest sightings from the Marshalling Yards after a lengthy walk when I avoided the rain until the last 100 metres along the road home and got thoroughly soaked. Conditions were not good on Hounslow Heath at the start - cloudy and breezy - so virtually all my sightings were on the Marshalling Yards: Monday 5th August Peacock 16 Meadow Brown 11 Gatekeeper 10 Common Blue 10 Speckled Wood 5 Brown Argus 1 Large White 10 Small White 17 Green-Veined White 1 Comma 4 Small Copper 1 Red Admiral 1 Painted Lady 4 The Argus is a first for me on the site although it's actually confirmation of one seen on 31st July. Then I wasn't able to eliminate Common Blue female completely; this time, with patience and crawling through the grass, I was. (Common Blue females seen here are in any event always a dull grey mix rather than brown). The butterfly doesn't really 'belong' here - I can't think of any Geraniaceae on site let alone Rock Roses but there are houses the other side of the tree belt so gardens are always a possibility. - Pete Gore

News for yesterday 4th August 2013 - 6 Small Copper at 'New Fields', Trent Park, 15:22 - 15:43 hrs; 1 Peacock, near Cockfosters entrance, Trent Park, 15:45 hrs; 1 Comma, edge of Church Wood, Trent Park, 15:55 hrs. Today Monday 5th August 2013 - 1 Red Underwing settled by the front door of 19 Enfield Road, EN2 at 07:00 hrs - 'shivering' it's wings and displaying it's underwing; 1 Comma at Little Beechill Wood, Enfield Chase, 08:40 hrs; 1 Peacock, at Parkside Farm, Enfield; 1 Peacock at Holly Hill Farm, Enfield, 09:05 hrs; 1 Ringlet, 'quite tatty' at Barvin Hill, Coopers Lane Road, 09:10 hrs; 1 Essex Skipper at Fir & Pond Woods, near Potters Bar; 3 Small Copper at Fir & Pond Woods, near Potters Bar. - Robert Callf

Sunday 4th August 2013

Am very pleased to report sighting 11 Small Blues, and two pairs mating, on the kidney vetch at Butterfly World this morning. - Mandy Floyd

This afternoon we were walking around Stockers Lake and we saw a clouded yellow (our first one) few gatekeepers and several peacocks. I took a good picture of the clouded yellow. Lovely place for wildlife! Cristina Budden

A female Silver washed fritillary at HMWT Danemead at 11.00. At Hertford Heath nr Mount Pleasant end, 10-15 Purple hairstreaks low down, around a small Oak. Laurence Drummond

At Chiswell Green lane (grid TL130045) 1 x gatekeeper, 1 x large white, 2 x small white. At Three Hammers pub (TL133045) nearby = 3 x peacock, 3 x small white. Butterfly world = 29 x small white, 28 x large white, 14 x gatekeeper, 3 x 6 spot burnet, 18 x 5 spot burnet (or narrow bordered?), 8 x meadow brown, 1 x comma, 2 x red admiral, 25 x peacock, 7 x common blue, 2 x small tortoiseshell, 1 x green veined white, 2 x silver y, 1 x brimstone (male), 1 x black veined white moth (although late flight season can't find anything else it could be)

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/bushey54>

David Gower

Spent the morning at Aldbury Nowers in the sheltered lower sections as very windy. Don't think I have ever photographed so many species in one day. 1 pristine female brimstone, 1 male brimstone, 1 red admiral, 3 peacocks, 2 commas, 5 tired looking marbled whites, 2 Brown Argus, 9 male common blues 1 female common blue, 5 small coppers all very fresh, 3 silver washed fritillary, numerous meadow brown and gatekeepers, few tatty ringlets, 5 small/Essex skippers, 5 large skippers, numerous large and small white 2 green veined white and 1 what I think was a chalk hill blue, it was flying off and distinctly lighter and larger than the common blues but I didn't get a good look. This afternoon walked through Tunnel Gardens near my home in Bounds Green North London, 13 Gatekeepers, 2 very fresh holly blues, 5 whites, 4 speckled woods and 3 meadow browns. A great day - Miles Attenborough

I'm very behind with my reports at the moment, but I thought I would let you know I saw a Clouded Yellow today on my local patch in Stanwell Moor, just a few feet from the River Colne. When first seen it was on a small Birds' Foot Trefoil plant, and as I'm pretty sure it was a female, it may have been egg-laying. I'm aware a few have been seen further south since last Thursday's strong hot southerly winds, so they may be moving gradually northwards now.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=37220&mode=view>

More reports of other (less exciting) things soon. - Dave Miller

At last a Red Admiral! Also a second brood Holly Blue together with a female Common Blue. Making up the numbers were lots of Whites, a Gatekeeper and several Peacocks. Malcolm.

1) HATFIELD AERODROME (D1SUSED) - ELLENBROOK FIELDS Green-veined White x 3 Marbled White x 1 Gatekeeper x 30+ Meadow Brown x 10+ 1) Sutton Farm GP - (TL19651007) Large White - 15+ Small White x 10+ Painted lady (On Buddleia) x 1 Comma x 1 Spotted Wood x 1 Gatekeeper x 10+ Meadow Brown x 7+ Common Blue x 1 David Wheatcroft

Saturday 3rd August 2013

Went to the Ruislip Lido today and walked around Park wood & Poors field finding = 38 x gatekeeper, 5 x small white, 2 x green veined white, 40 x meadow brown, 2 x red admiral, 2 x large white, 8 x speckled wood, 1 x shaded broad bar, 6 x ringlet, 8 x purple hairstreak, 1 x peacock, 3 x small skipper, 2 x silver y , 1 x comma & 1 x small copper (my first this year). - David Gower

Five Small Coppers this afternoon, at Croxley Common Moor. Graham Elcombe

Hummingbird Hawk moth feeding on phlox flowers in my Thorley Park garden at 7 p.m. this evening. Len Crouch

Holly Blue in the (Harpenden) garden today, first one since April. - Robin Pearson

A good Transect at Butterfly World on Thursday 1st August, my totals were: Small White 29 Large White 8 Peacock 27 Small Tortoiseshell 5 Common Blue 6 Small Blue 7 Brown Argus 1 Gatekeeper 25 Meadow Brown 12 Small Skipper 4 Essex Skipper 1 Large Skipper 2 Red Admiral 1 Comma 1 Brimstone 1 - Mandy Floyd

Yesterday, and again this morning, I tried to get a second sighting of the White Admiral at Westfield, Harpenden - but no luck. Whilst looking yesterday I did see a dozen or so Peacocks, a Red Admiral, a Small Tortoiseshell, a Comma, half a dozen Purple Hairstreaks, several Small Skippers, a couple of Ringlets, several Gatekeepers, Large, Small and G-V Whites, numerous Meadow Browns and three or four Marbled Whites. In our nearby North Harpenden garden we had a Comma (var. hutchinsoni) and the second Holly Blue of the year (they've had a very poor year here). This morning all the species seen yesterday were again present at Westfield apart from Small Tortoiseshell, Comma and Red Admiral. I was interested to read Chris Shortall's report of an Orange Tip on Harpenden Common yesterday. A fellow allotment holder at Coldharbour Lane, Harpenden, told me she'd seen an Orange Tip there this week. I politely said it would have been an exceptionally late record, but it seems she may indeed have seen one (few people would fail to identify an Orange Tip). - Alan Jackson

A few more sightings for yesterday Friday 2nd August 2013 - 1 Peacock at Dalrymple Close, N14 at 15:12 hrs; 4 Small Copper at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 18:00 - 18:05 hrs, nectaring on Ragwort. Also we disturbed a Bordered Beauty from long grass along Salmons Brook at Park Farm, Enfield (TQ2998) near Sallow bushes in the evening - Robert Callf & Robin White

Friday 2nd August 2013

Orange Tip, Harpenden Common - a very fresh **male orange tip** near the Walker's Road roundabout on Harpenden Common at around 13:20 today. Grid ref TL 136 130 Quite a surprise! - Chris Shortall

1 x red underwing in Bushey home this morning. In garden 2 x large white, 2 x small white, 1 x comma, 2 x peacock, 1 x pyrausta aurata moth. - David Gower

Copse Wood, Ruislip (approx TQ085901). A Silver-washed Fritillary this afternoon. - Dick Middleton

A few sightings for today 2nd August 2013 - Oakwood Park, N14: 1 Common Blue, 12:35 hrs - W of the ten km line; 3 Small Copper nectaring on Ragwort - 2 W of ten km line and 1 E; 1 Peacock, 12:42 hrs. Boxer's Lake, Enfield: 1 Comma, 13:25 hrs. - Robert Callf

On this morning's dog walk in Westfield, Harpenden (TL134158 - the edge of a field belonging to YWAM) my wife saw a White Admiral. She is very familiar with this species: we watched them a few days ago in North Norfolk. There are few sites in Harpenden from which they have been reported and I am not aware of any previous records from this one. I went there to look for myself and found none (no sun) - but I did see two worn Marbled Whites. I cannot recall seeing Marbled Whites in this locality before. Yesterday I saw several male Brimstones: at Coldharbour allotments

in Harpenden and in our garden in north Harpenden. Alan Jackson

Saw a clouded yellow near Sailor's Grove at Bayfordbury yesterday afternoon (Thur 1 Aug) - Ian Flack

Thursday 1st August 2013

Late sightings from the 27th of July at Hatfield Aerodrome 1 Silver Washed Fritillary a ragged female, 1 Red Admiral, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Common Blue, 3 6 spot Burnet moth, 5 Speckled Woods and good numbers of Marbled White, Ringlet, Meadow Brown, Peacocks, Small, Essex and Large skipper, Large and Green Veined White - Andy Steele

Another good day with whites into double figures, five Gatekeepers favouring candytuft, four Peacocks mainly on Buddleia "Buzz," a female Brimstone which spent over an hour nectaring on Betony, a worn Meadow Brown and an Essex Skipper which spent even longer on lavender Dwarf Munstead Blue, (new late record,) and finally a Comma. A Silver Y moth put in an appearance and there was still a solitary Peacock on "Buzz" at 7.30 p.m. Still haven't recorded a Red Admiral or Painted Lady this year. Malcolm Newland

At last first sighting this year of a holly blue in Bushey garden today - David Gower

I live adjacent to Hitch Wood, near Preston, south of Hitchin. Within 100yds of the house the following were observed today: 2 Common Blue, 12+ Peacock, 3 Essex Skipper, 2 Small Skipper, 1 Large Skipper, 5 Purple Hairstreaks, 15 Meadow Browns, 12 Gatekeeper, 6 Small White, 2 Green-veined White, 2 Ringlet, 1 Red Admiral. However, much more noteworthy, was a male Purple Emperor which visited my new, yet to be finished, pond where it spent over 10 minutes feeding. In the 15 years I have lived here this is my first sighting for Hitch Wood. - Colin Brackston

I did the transect today at Aldbury, still large numbers of butterflies of quite a few species. Highlights included 51 peacock, 48 brimstone and 66 large white of a total of 643 sightings today! (621 of these were on the transect). Like a few weeks ago there were so many butterflies it was very difficult keeping count! There were still good numbers of meadow browns which were covering the knapweed that is now in flower. I've never seen so many peacocks or brimstones (and the other whites) on the reserve, they were favouring marjoram and thistles, particularly on the northern side. Other sightings included brown argus, common blue, small copper, small heath, silver washed (5) and dark green fritillary (5), marbled white, ringlet, small, essex and large skipper, small and green veined white, comma and chalk hill blue. - Paul Thrush

My wife and I drove to Northaw Great Wood today at 1:30pm. At the recognised spot near the main entrance we were able to watch 2 Purple Emperors battling above the Oak and Ash trees- Terry Wood

Sighted today between 1300-1430 at Park Wood, Northwood Hills, at least three Purple Emperor, possibly up to six - Danton Briggs, John Edwards, Patty Briggs, Kelly Roberts

On my visit to Norton Green this afternoon I saw the following: 100+ whites (many of which were Large Whites), 30+ Gatekeepers, 20+ Meadow Browns, 10+ skippers, 8+ Silver-washed Fritillaries, 5+ Peacocks, 5+ Purple Hairstreaks, 5+ Ringlets, 1 Marbled White (probably a first in August!) and finally a Purple Emperor which flew past over my head just outside Pigeonswick Cottage towards Cannocks Wood. However, my main purpose today was to find a White Admiral but again to no avail. Maybe it is breeding in the more private or inaccessible parts of the woods. Peter Clarke

Today I saw another clouded yellow at Thorley Wash, this is the third I know of that has been seen there this year! I also saw a Common Blue and lots of Small tortoiseshell caterpillars on the nettles. Jenny Sherwen

A short walk around Balls wood today 1st August - I saw about 100 butterflies - a mixture of whites, skippers, commas, gatekeepers, peacocks, ringlets, meadow browns and best of all 3 White Admirals - Andy Brown HMWT

Whilst working in a private garden in Aldbury, Herts yesterday (31/07/2013) I saw at least **15 Small Coppers** around a few small Wild Marjoram plants in a small paddock adjoining the garden.

I was told by the owner that there were at least 25 the evening before. Quite a spectacular sight! - Charlie Jackson

July 2013

Wednesday 31st July 2013

Seen this afternoon Wed 31st July 2013 at Hexton Chalk Pit NR TL1029 between 4.30 and 5.10pm. A large number of Chalkhill Blue butterflies. There were probably many more there as I only walk along well worn tracks. Mostly they were settled on short grass or on grass stems. Rarely see so many in a small area 368 Chalkhill Blue 4 Common Blue 9 Meadow Brown 2 Ringlet 2 Brown Argus 1 Marble White 2 Large White 3 Gatekeeper - Peter Glenister, Butterfly Recorder for Bedfordshire

Normally I expect to see more butterflies in my Hemel Hempstead back garden which is next to a bridle path and small wood but today I saw far more in the front garden nearly all which were nectaring on the paler blue of my two Buddlia "Buzz." Numerous Large, Small and Green Veined Whites, two Peacocks, a Gatekeeper, a Comma but the "star" was a Marbled White, a rare visitor indeed. Sadly it was chased away by a couple of whites who objected to its presence. By a strange coincidence I had a Marbled White on the same day last year. - Malcolm Newland

Tuesday 30th July 2013

Saw two Comma this afternoon Tuesday 30th July 2013 on the edge of Whitewebbs Wood. - Robert Callf

1 x peacock in Bushey garden and 1 x least carpet moth in kitchen - David Gower

Monday 29th July 2013

Purple Hairstreaks showing well at Bricket Wood at lunchtime today (Monday) with 12 seen. White Admirals and Silver-washed Fritillaries, now past their peak but one and 5 seen respectively. Purple Emperor perched low, basking on Oak tree and a fresh Common Blue. All ended with another thunderstorm - Clive Burrows

A complete walk today (Hounslow Heath to Marshalling Yards) after a morning rain-shower with just a short interruption for rain whilst I sheltered in the wooded area near the river. From a butterfly point of view the breeze was much more disruptive. As I suspected Skippers survive in reasonable numbers, seeming to favour the dying flowers of Viper's Bugloss rather than fresh ones. A Roe Deer was a not unexpected first-ever definite sighting on the Marshalling Yards. I can't decide whether this is a welcome development or not. Meadow Brown: 24 Small White: 26 Gatekeeper: 40 Green-Veined White: 5 Speckled Wood: 10 Large White: 4 Small Skipper: 9 Comma: 4 Peacock: 19 Large Skipper: 1 Small Copper: 1 Painted Lady: 1 (My first of the year, 21st and likely last species of the year on this site unless we get a wanderer or a belated Essex Skipper recognised.) Common Blue: 1 Red Admiral: 4. 6 Spot Burnet: 23 Sadly, no Small Tortoiseshell again. It looks to me as if any recovery for this species will have to take place away from this corner of Middlesex - Pete Gore

Have seen a male silver washed fritillary in our Ickenham, Uxbridge back garden. Around 18.00hrs on Friday 26th July. Around for 20 minutes or so. Can't say which direction it went I'm afraid. Fed on a cone flower and rested on Ivy. Wind SW, weather good. David Glen

Some surprise sightings this weekend no doubt blown down by the wind on Sunday. In general I am finding several strong colonies of Essex skippers, all appearing to be doing well in various places. Saturday 27th July Wareside: Amongst the grassland species Essex Skipper is doing well, good colonies along the disused railway track: (9) seen But more important I found over 20 larval webs in various stages of development all small tortoiseshell, most were on small new growths of nettles below 6 inches from the soil, some were huge with hundreds of caterpillars in the web. I hadn't seen as many as this ever brings back happy memories of my childhood. Lets hope the flies haven't visited them and they provide a bumper crop of hibernators. In the garden at home 20+ peacock all on the buddleia, also comma and red admiral seen egg laying on the nettles in the garden. Sunday - some highlights whilst tetrad bashing **Combs Wood:** grassland field verge. (TL136218) 1 Chalkhill blue: pristine male being blown about, doubtless emanating from Therfield heath 4 marbled white 1 purple hairstreak, although far from ideal conditions for these as the wind was very strong. Dane End Tributary (TL349230) There really isn't much in this square but was surprised to find (an photo) a very worn old lady Dark Green Fritillary nectaring on thistles and

knapweeds.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/77676448@N05/9390150121/>(Preview)

Lets hope she found some violets on her wind blown travels. Haultwick (TL335234) 1 Marbled white, 7 Essex skippers + various grassland species - Phil Macmurdie

Sunday 28th July 2013

Sunday 28th July 2013 An afternoon walk in cloudy, breezy conditions, leaving the central area of the Marshalling Yards to the bikers: these two factors no doubt helping to make this the first day for quite a while when I saw no Skippers.: Meadow Brown 6 Small White 11 Gatekeeper 33 Large White 3 Speckled Wood 6 Green-Veined White 1 Peacock 14 Comma 4 Small Copper 1 Red Admiral 1 6-Spot Burnet 12 Ate my first blackberries as Birch leaves showered down on me: positively autumnal! - Pete Gore

Saw a Red Admiral at Vault Hill Wood, Enfield Chase today 28th July 2013 at 10:45 hrs. Also found a nest of Small Tortoiseshell caterpillars at Plumridge Farm, Enfield in cut border of field - not much left for them to feed on! Yesterday 27th July 2013 - 1 Peacock at Chelmsford Road, N14 at 15:55 hrs and another or the same at Chase Road, N14 Allotment site at 16:15 hrs. - Robert Callf

Saturday 27th July 2013

Had a Silver-washed Fritillary in my Great Ashby garden this afternoon for around 20 minutes before it headed off west towards Box Wood

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/stevelane56/9376382471/>

Steve Lane

Belated sightings report for Friday 26th July at Croxley Common Moor & the adjacent 'Buddleia Walk', Grid Ref. TQ 083 948. No specific count undertaken but a good variety of species evident- Large, small & probable Green-veined whites in abundance, many Meadow Browns, Ringlets, Gatekeepers, Small/Essex Skippers, several Commas, Peacocks mostly nectaring on one of the many Buddleia bushes together with 1 (seen twice?) or 2 fresh-looking male Brimstones. A few Speckled Woods & a collection of Cinnabar larvae busily demolishing a Ragwort growing alongside the River Gade. Disappointingly no Marbled Whites were seen which was the reason for our visit having been told there were lots there the previous week- a classic case of "You should have been here last week.....". Tony & Gill Porter

St Albans - I was fooled by the forecast of rain all day and spent the morning in St Albans City centre shops. Infact it turned out sunny, but all was not lost as butterflies have moved into the city centre big time. Large and Small Whites were everywhere with at least one or two always in view. Buddleia is really coming into its own, even though many bushes are not yet in flower. The best "bush", 30 ft high in the civic centre garden contained 7 Peacock, 2 Large White, 3 Small White, 1 Comma and a Hummingbird Hawkmoth (my first of the year). In total my inner urban haul (butterflies on Buddleia only) was 34 Peacock 2 Small Tortoiseshell, 3 Comma 29 Large White, 22 Small White 2 Gatekeeper 1 Brimstone, 1 Marbled White. I also spotted a Holly Blue on ivy This afternoon I headed off to Buddleia HQ (Butterfly World) where I saw (all on Buddleia) 61 Peacocks, 9 Small Tortoiseshell, 3 Comma, 24 Large White, 8 Small White 25 six spot burnet 3 Gatekeeper 4 Meadow Brown plus 2 very fresh Painted Ladies. Also at this site were hundreds of six spot burnet in the meadows plus new brood individual of Brown Argus, Small Blue and Common Blue. There have been several reports of Purple Emperor at this site during the week and I'd be interested to hear from anyone who has a confirmed or suspected sighting - Malcolm Hull

Ware garden this morning, White-letter Hairstreak nectaring on Hemp Agrimony, also 4 Peacocks and 1 Comma - Liz Goodyear

Not sure if this counts as a record. I just went to pick up a parcel and ended up giving a male white letter hairstreak a lift on my car window near London Rd, Hertford. I was about to look for an Elm to leave the butterfly on when it flew off. Jenny Sherwen

Friday 26th July 2013

A Jersey Tiger seen in an Enfield house last night - Carrin and Phil Rhodes

Bricket Wood Common - torrential rain during the week does not seem to have impacted butterfly numbers, though all the brown species were slightly down on last week. Silver washed Fritillary numbers are still high with 14 seen, including a female egg laying on a gnarled Birch tree. Eggs

were deposited at heights of 2,4,6 and 8 feet above the ground. I have waited over 16 years to see Purple Emperor on the transect. No sooner had I seen one perched on top of an oak than a second flew by and a chase ensued high above the ride. White Admiral numbers were down (6 seen), but they are often elusive in the afternoon. New generations of Peacocks, Brimstones and Green veined Whites were out in force, Purple Hairstreaks were active in every other tree and a few Holly Blues drifted through. Also spotted a Silver Y moth along the ride. Lots of butterflies on Buddleia today after the rain - 4 Peacocks, a Silver washed Fritillary and a Meadow Brown in Bricket Wood, lots of Peacocks a few Small Tortoiseshells, Large Whites and six spot Burnetts on Buddleia at Butterfly World and Five Peacocks and a Gatekeeper on Buddleia in my St Albans garden. Later, at Bricket Wood Common - I walked along the rides for half an hour between 8 and 8.30pm this evening and saw at least 63 Purple Hairstreaks. This species becomes very active in mid evening at this time of year and there were two or three on nearly every oak tree, positioned near the top of the tree in the last rays from the setting sun. There's probably some on an oak tree near you, so why not pop out during the evening over the next few days and have a look. You could be surprised, this species has can be recorded anywhere oaks grow, even in central London - Malcolm Hull

At Balls wood and Hertford Heath had 1 Purple Hairstreak, least 8 silver washed fritillary and 4 White Admiral, 15+ green veined white, 10+ small Whites 30+ meadow brown, 6 comma, 30+ large white, 20+ gatekeeper, 30+ large skipper, 30+ small skipper, 3 Essex skippers 6 brimstone, 15 ringlet and 8 speckled wood. At Amwell around the lake had easily 50 Peacocks loving the Buddleia, 40+ large White lots getting minerals from the mud, 6 Gatekeepers, 15+ Meadow Browns and 15+ comma - Andy Steele

Friday 26 July. In my Hatfield garden today, 4 Peacock, 3+ Small Torts, 2 Gatekeeper, several Small Whites, including at least 1 GV, several Large White. Buddleia is of course a special attraction & others seen on this and other garden flowers in the last few days include a pair of mating Meadow Browns, Commas, Ringlets & even a lovely new male Brimstone. Still no Holly Blue though, even though they've bred on our Holly/Ivy for years. Monday 22 July. Good results on my Warren transect again, with abundant Meadow Brown, 47 Small/Essex Skipper (ID'd 1 Essex which kindly sat still long enough for me to examine it), 31 Marbled Whites, only 19 Gatekeepers, + Ringlets, all 3 Whites, a Comma & even 3 Small Heath. No sign of Blues yet, but plenty of Burnetts & other moths, bees, grasshoppers etc. The site has been un-managed for 2 yrs now, apart from occasional mowing of surrounding rides. Scrub is developing but the site still hums with wildlife this summer. John Moss

Bushey garden sightings on buddleia = 4 x peacock, 2 x comma, 1 x meadow brown, 1 x brimstone(female), 2 x large white - David Gower

Apart from the five Gatekeepers in my Harrow garden (they like Marjoram) we have just seen a Fritillary; probably a Silver-washed. Must mow the lawn more often - John Hollingdale

Oughtonhead today. Butterflies were everywhere you looked Gatekeepers in there 100s, many Meadow Browns and Ringlets, Large White x4, Small Whites again many, GV Whitex3, Speckled Woodx3, Marbled Whitex5, Essex Skipperx2, Commax3, Brimstonex3, Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell x1 - Kevin Taylor

Another lengthy walk around Hounslow Heath, the River Crane and the Marshalling Yards in cloudy but warm weather. Butterflies particularly numerous (and undercounted) on the Marshalling Yards: Friday 26th July 2013: Small White 18, Tortoiseshell 1, Meadow Brown 12, Small Skipper 9, Peacock 19, Large White 4, Brimstone 1, Gatekeeper 29, Common Blue 1, Small Copper 1 (my second of the year), Red Admiral 1, Burnet Moth 40 - Peter Gore

Thursday 25th July 2013

Some sightings for yesterday Thursday 25th July 2013 - 6 Peacock (1 edge of Williams Wood, 16:32 hrs, 2 together, edge of Moat Wood, 17:10 hrs, 1 Park Farm, Enfield, 17:27 hrs, 1 field near Hadley Road/Vicarage Farm, 18:00 hrs, 1 at Barracks/Vicarage Farm, 18:25 hrs); 1 Essex Skipper at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 16:40 hrs; 1 Small Skipper at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 16:40 hrs; 1 Comma at Duncan's Wood, Enfield Chase, 17:20 hrs; 18 Small/Green-veined White on damp patch of mud at Park Farm, Enfield, 17:25 hrs - approximately 50/50 % of each; 2 Small Tortoiseshell together at Park Farm, Enfield, 17:35 hrs; 4 Comma together along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 18:10 hrs; 1 Marbled White nectaring on Burdock along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables at Vicarage Farm, 18:10 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell along

track South of Barracks at Vicarage Farm, Enfield. - Robert Callf

I did the transect this afternoon at Aldbury. I walked up from Aldbury village and counted butterflies along the footpath until I reached the reserve. Totals for this section were 15 small/green veined white, 34 meadow brown, 2 small tortoiseshell, 1 comma, 2 marbled white, 12 large white, 6 gatekeeper, 4 large skipper, 3 brimstone, 3 ringlet and 1 speckled wood (total 83). The transect total was 434, the commonest species were meadow brown. There were 3 dark green fritillary and 1 male chalk hill blue on the transect together with definite sightings of Essex and small skipper. Away from the transect the furthest northern enclosure had 3 ringlets, 8 marbled white, 15 small/ green veined white, 9 gatekeeper, 4 large skipper, 9 small/Essex skipper, 1 each definite of Essex and small skipper, 12 meadow brown, 9 brimstone and 4 male chalk hill blue. In the coppice area in the southern part of the reserve there was single peacock, ringlet, small white and silver washed fritillary, 5 large skipper and 2 gatekeeper - Paul Thrush

Park Wood, Ruislip - Three or four Purple Hairstreaks this afternoon - Graham Elcombe

A few sightings for yesterday 24th July 2013 - 2 Small Copper, at 'New Fields', Trent Park, 16:25 and 16:30 hrs, nectaring on Ragwort; 1 Peacock, at 'New Fields', Trent Park, 16:25 hrs; 1 male Oak Eggar, edge of Church Wood, Trent Park, 16:50 hrs; 25+ Six-spot Burnet, at New Fields', Trent Park; 5 Comma, at Trent Park (2 together edge of Church Wood, 1 Water Garden, 2 together edge of Williams Wood); 1 Marbled White at 'New Fields', Trent Park, 16:57 hrs; 1 female Purple Hairstreak, settled by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 17:22 hrs; 2+ Small Tortoiseshell at Vicarage Farm, Enfield. Today 25th July 2013 - 1 Peacock, again nectaring on Buddleia, Dalrymple Close, Southgate, N14 at 14:45 hrs and 1 Comma at Chase Rd, N14 at 14:47 hrs. - Robert Callf

Omitted news from Saturday 13th July, Wareside Marbled White in the orchard (a first) + 15 small tortoiseshell Also 5 Essex skipper in the fields. Sunday 14th July, Broxbourne woods 1 purple emperor who obliged for some pic's, + 1 white admiral. 8 (minimum) silver washed Fritillary, they were everywhere. We were treated to several enchanting nuptial flight displays where the male appears to fly under and over the female. Definitely one to video - Phil Macmurdie

Apologies for the delay in getting these sightings to you! On Monday evening I was working at Tewin Orchard, there were single peacock, comma, large white and small white, numerous meadow brown, a couple of marbled white, gatekeeper and large skipper. Also on Monday at Tewinbury there were numerous whites nectaring on thistles, small, green veined and large. At Hexton yesterday (24/7) there were thousands of chalkhill blue, it really is a good year for them! Also there were large white, small white, speckled wood, comma, marbled white, gatekeeper, meadow brown and peacock. At Hill end pit there were meadow browns and a comma whilst at Purwell there were speckled wood, small white, large skipper and meadow brown. - Paul Thrush

Wednesday 24th July 2013

A quick visit to Broxbourne Woods (1st car park after Brickendon G. C.) at 3.00pm - 4.00pm. Not too much about: Pair of silver washed fritillaries ensuring next year's specimens, 3 purple hairstreaks, 25+ meadow browns, 10+ ringlets, 2 small skippers, 7 gatekeepers, 2 large whites was about it. Surprised not to see any white admirals. However, few reasonable photos of swf's. Last one would make a good quiz question! Fairly high up, photo with 300mm lens! - Jono Forgham

I found a Marbled White this morning (24/7/13). Location was below the A10 where it crosses over Gore Lane, near Barwick, High Cross - Mark Wilkinson

News via Herts Birding yahoo group, Purple Emperor seen at Grove Lane carpark, Whippendell Woods today

Barnet Gate Wood, Arkley-----after many years of rumours and fruitless searching ----1 x Purple Emperor male on horse dung .----Kit Jones

Just returned from our allotment in Cheshunt. No sign of the adult small tortoiseshells that have been around for the last three weeks (at least four around our particular plot) but I was delighted to see a nest of young small tortoiseshell caterpillars on a clump of nettles by the shed - Roger Newbold

In Bushey garden late afternoon = 1 x comma, 3 x small white, 3 x peacock - David Gower

In case it hasn't been reported I and a couple of others saw a PE about 50yds from the front entrance of Balls Wood. it was displaying above an oak tree near the first seat that you come to. Look NW and it was near a conifer - Andy Brown HMWT

Saw a Peacock nectaring on Buddleia outside my window in Dalrymple Close, Southgate, N14 on Monday 22nd July at 15:10 hrs and today Wednesday 24th July 2013 at 12:00 hrs. Robert Callf P.S., Today also saw a Holly Blue in Oakwood Park, N14 at 13:35 hrs.

Tuesday 23rd July 2013

Today at Hertford Heath Goldington (HMWT) 23rd July - I walked the main ride north of the Hertford Road in the hope of seeing PEs but instead I saw : 10 + Gatekeepers, 2 Red Admirals, numerous Ringlets, Meadow Browns, Large Whites and a couple of Green veined whites- Andy Brown

Some news for today 23rd July 2013 - At Oakwood Park, N14 saw the following: 10+ Gatekeeper; 10+ Meadow Brown; 18+ Small Skipper; 2 Speckled Wood; 2 Small Copper, on Ragwort; 1 Peacock; 7 Six-spot Burnet. At Grovelands Park, N14 noted the following: 1 Comma at 13:22 hrs and 3 Six-spot Burnet - Robert Callf.

Monday 22nd July 2013

This morning at about 1030 I was very excited to find a Purple Emperor at the north end of Ruislip Lido. It was resting on the top of the name board for one of the stations (Haste Hill) for the miniature railway that runs round the lake. I have a photo taken with my mobile phone, I could not get closer than about 2m so it is not very good. I am willing to forward a copy if that would be useful. The observation was in a position near some willows and is about 0.6km from a high point in Copse wood. There are high oak trees there - Don Rutherford

In an hour and a half wonder through Bricket Wood at luncheon today had 3 Purple Emperors, 11 White Admirals, 21 Silver-washed Fritillaries, 6 Marbled Whites, 4 Brimstones and 5 Purple Hairstreaks amongst the butterflies seen. - Clive Burrows

News from 18th July, weedy field, BATFORD-2 PURPLE HAIRSTREAK, 2 WHITE LETTER HAIRSTREAK - Darin Stanley

Whilst doing a bit of gardening today, turned out to be a good day for Butterflies in my garden in Lucas lane Hitchin. Great to see a Marbled White I did not really have them down as a garden Butterfly also seen Large White, Small White, Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock, Ringlet, and Gatekeeper - Kevin Taylor

At least 1 Purple Hairstreak over the oak tops in Peartree Wood near the Canyon Play Centre, Fairlands Valley, Stevenage at 1830 hours - Peter Clarke

Saturday 20th July Wareside 1 - Marbled White in our orchard. New for the area Plus many ringlet (12), Gatekeeper (7), meadow brown (14), Large Skipper (3), Small Tortoiseshell (5) + large small and green veined white. Sunday 21st July Wareside-I went back to photo some of the marbled whites in the morning to be greeted by **2 wall browns**
Photo on flickr-<http://www.flickr.com/photos/77676448@N05/9345919954/> There are also currently 12 of what I believe to be the longhorn moth Nemophora metallica,, the highest count we made was 23 Again photo's on flickr
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/77676448@N05/9343138505/> Elsewhere Sandon Fields (TL322343) In amongst the huge numbers of Ringlet (21), meadow Brown (84), Gatekeeper (54), there is a good colony of small skipper (21) and a small colony of Essex skipper (3). Also seen Brown Argus (1), small heath (2), Marbled White (5), and Small Tortoiseshell (10), including two egg laying on nettles. - Phil MacMurdie

A Chalkhill Blue has been seen at Hilfield Reservoir by Steve Murray as has Purple Emperor - news via Bob Cripps

A few sightings today 22nd July 2013 - 2 Peacock (1 Uni-lawns, Trent Park, 09:30 hrs and another at Allotments, Vicarage Farm, 10:20 hrs - the first of the summer-brood that we have seen); 1 Comma edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 09:40 hrs - Robert Callf & Robin White

Had a good butterfly day in my Great Ashby garden yesterday (21st July). A White-letter Hairstreak came in circled the pond several times, then landed on a lily pad and had a drink of water - never seen that before

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/stevelane56/9339605247/>

Also 2 Small Tortoiseshell, 5 Comma, 1 Marbled White on its way to Great Ashby park, Large White, Small White, Green-veined White, Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper, Ringlet and Large Skipper. On Great Ashby Park - lots of Marbled Whites, Large Skippers and Small Skippers. Also Six-spot Burnets - Steve Lane

Sunday 21st July 2013

Merry Hill Woodlands Trust site - Sightings of the usual heathland suspects, but of note were c4 Purple Hairstreak and one Clouded Yellow flying strongly south west along the main footpath from the Merry Hill entrance. - Danton Briggs

In Bushey garden today= 3 x large white, 4 x small white, 1 x meadow brown, 4 x small tortoiseshell, 1 x comma. At Fishers Field =gatekeeper x 22, ringlet x 3, large white x 6, small white x 12, small skipper x 13, essex x 5, large skipper x 2, small tortoiseshell x 6, meadow brown x 14, marbled white x 5, comma x 1, peacock x 1, narrow bordered 5 spot burnet x 1. At Water lane = narrow bordered 5 spot burnet x 5, shaded broad bar x 1, riband wave x 2, green veined white x 3, essex skipper x 15, small skipper x 4, marbled white x 24, small white x 11, comma x 1, gatekeeper x 16, meadow brown x 1, small tortoiseshell x 2, large white x 1. - David Gower

A female Purple Emperor seen at Norton Green probably egg-laying on a willow on the western edge of Watery Grove close to the track at about 2:15pm. Several Purple Hairstreaks also flying now. Peter Clarke

Sighting are as follows Friday 19th July 2013 - 3 Small Tortoiseshell at Park Farm, Enfield, 06:45 - 07:25 hrs; 1 Comma at Chase Road, N14 Allotment site, 16:25 hrs. Saturday 20th July 2013 - 7 Gatekeeper at Grovelands Park, Southgate, N14 also here 3 Speckled Wood, 22 Small Skipper (no Essex identified), 1 Large Skipper and 2 Six-spot Burnet. Also Small Tortoiseshell and Comma at Chase Road, N14 Allotment site. Sunday 21st July 2013 - 1 Six-spot at Parkside Farm, Enfield on Res banking (TQ2998); 3 male Gatekeeper at South Barvin Farm, Enfield; 2, male and female, Gatekeeper at Enfield Town Library Wildlife Garden, Church Street, 11:45 hrs. - Robert Callf

2 Marbled White at Totteridge Fields on Friday 19th July - Tony Clancy

Saturday 20th July 2013

I visited Hexton Chalk Pit this afternoon and was totally amazed at the numbers of Chalkhill Blues, not just hundreds but literally thousands and thousands all over the reserve, possibly even more than ten thousand! Being relatively hazy sun meant that many of them were resting and easy to get close to: stupendous! Also many Marbled White and a couple of Dark Green (?) Fritillaries. Phil Barron

In Bushey garden 3 x large white. At Merryhill fields from 3.30 to 6.30 p.m = small tortoiseshell x 7, comma x 3, small white x 12, narrow bordered 5 spot burnet x 28, essex skipper x 29, small skipper x 69 (much easier to id this time as mostly resting), shaded broad bar x 24, marbled white x 169, large skipper x 12, ringlet x 24, speckled wood x 3, meadow brown x 275, gatekeeper x 74, peacock x 1, yellow shell x 10. - David Gower

Friday 19th July 2013

Jane and I went for a walk around Bramfield Wood today. We saw 10 White Admirals, 2 Silver-washed Fritillaries and Jane spotted (as in almost kicked) a male Purple Emperor grounded on a dog poo on one of the tracks. We were able to observe it for several minutes happily sucking minerals.

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=10201014043465518&set=o.313540722064920&type=2&theater>

Andrew Wood

No luck with Purple Emperors in Bricket Wood today, but considerably more Purple Hairstreak activity, with 25 sightings in the canopy gap in 45 minutes. Elsewhere on the Common, 3 female Brimstones nectarine on thistles, the first of this summers new brood, also my first of this

summers Peacocks. near St Albans, my first second brood Common Blue of this year. Malcolm Hull

Another visit to Amwell today and saw my first Gatekeeper of the year also lots of Meadow Browns, Ringlets, Small Tortoiseshell, Large White, GV White, Large Skipper, Comma, Red Admiral. Kevin Taylor

1 x small tortoiseshell in Bushey garden today - David Gower

A bit of a surprise today I saw a Silver Washed Fritillary on the edge of Patmore heath nature reserve, sunning itself on a bush on the north side of the heath. Not really a heathland species ! Andy Brown HMWT

Thursday 18th July 2013

At Balls Wood today 18th July during a guided walk for staff and trustees of HMWT, there were 10+ White Admirals, several Silver washed Fritillaries, meadow browns, ringlets and skippers and definitely 2, possibly 3 Purple Emperors witnessed by 35 people ! 1 stayed on the ground for about 10 mins. (3.45 pm) Absolutely stunning! Andy Brown HMWT

Copse Wood, Ruislip - Four White Admirals this afternoon. Also second brood Holly Blues have appeared in my Pinner garden in the last few days. Graham Elcombe.

Ten Small Tortoiseshells, apparently hibernating in my out-house, all perched in dark corners on the ceiling. Earlier in the week I saw them gorging themselves all day on flowers in the garden, but hibernation this early is unexpected. This location is a favourite winter hibernating spot & I keep a count of the number of hibernating individuals each year. Over the last 15 years the highest number previously has been 7 (about 10 years ago) and the lowest 0 (for the last two winters). So a count of 10 suggests the species is doing very well just now. Also spotted a dead Small Tortoiseshell on the back door step this morning, the body neatly wrapped in a shroud of spiders web! - Malcolm Hull

At last some Purple Emperors at Broxbourne: two along the newly-opened path between Broxbourne Wood and Highfield Wood, and two on Broxbourne Wood main ride. All males. One was in flight, one on a tree trunk and two grounded. Also four White Admirals and large numbers of Silver-washed Fritillaries. Paul Why

. I went for a walk at Hertford Heath Nature Reserve/Balls Wood near the College Arms Pub and saw lots of Small or Essex Skippers, Ringlets, Meadow Browns, two small tortoiseshells and a Red Admiral and whites on Ermine Street - Dave and Alex

Latest butterfly sightings from Hounslow Heath To Marshalling Yards, morning only. Thursday 18th July, 2013 Most pleasing sight of the day was three Peacocks, an early sign, I hope, that we'll have at least as good numbers as the spring. Gatekeeper 39 Small Skipper 31 Meadow Brown 10 Large White 5 Ringlet 2 Green-Veined White 1 Small White 12 Comma 6 Tortoiseshell 3 Speckled Wood 1 Peacock 3 My spot count on the only of several Burnet moths to settle was 5 but I'm not convinced and will try again shortly. Pete Gore

A Purple emperor at the far end of the main ride Brox, seen by Paul Guban, around 8.30 am. - Laurence Drummond

Wednesday 17th July 2013

Brox main ride 08.05-08.50, Plenty of SWF and now Small skippers and Gatekeepers on the wing, 2-3 male Purple emperors along the ride down to the stream, and my first grounded female in the car park, none of the emperors grounded on the track but were landing on vegetation, one male probed a thistle head for a couple of seconds then burrowed itself into the grass at the side of the path, they seemed desperate to find some moisture, I met Paul Guban there who took some snaps, a walk north along Ermine Street from Goose Green to Balls Wood gave nothing of note, PM I checked the territory's at Blackfan Wood and Broxbourne Common 14.30-15.30 to no avail, although Blackfan is now so overgrown you can't see the area where they used to perch - Laurence Drummond

Off to my local patch after work this evening (around 6 with the temperature touching 30 still), and I decided to check out the Essex Skipper colony right next to the roundabout between the A3044 and the A3113. There were about a dozen flying, and having examined all I could, I took

one last photo. Looking now, I find I had a Small Skipper amidst the crowd of Essex. Near to this spot, there is a patch of thistle and long grass next to the junction between the A3044 and the road into Stanwell Moor. Ten minutes here produced two Commas, a Small Tortoiseshell, a Gatekeeper, a Holly Blue and my first new Peacock of the summer. Despite a few largish hedgerow elms, I found no WLH. Back on the riverside part of my walk, I entered the usual glade to find two Red Admirals gliding around in the shade, accompanied by a Speckled Wood and two more Holly Blues. Further on, I came out into the open area north of the A3113 to be surrounded by dozens of Meadow Browns. Along the hedges there were also lots of Gatekeepers; Large Skippers still leapt at anything moving (though they are getting more ragged by the day) and several Commas joined in. There was also a Small Tortoiseshell nectaring on Ragwort: it remained there throughout my whole visit. There is also a colony of Essex Skippers here, and it did not disappoint - and once again there was a Small Skipper in the mix. Finally, only one Small Heath appeared, and there were several Large and Green-veined Whites seeking spots in the shade to nectar. I checked all three localities where Purple Hairstreaks are usually found, and saw a few high up in two out of the three.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=35833&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=35834&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=35830&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=35829&mode=view>

- Dave Miller

17.07.13 - weedy field in BATFORD - 3 WHITE LETTER HAIRSTREAKS (good to see them still around after being absent last year), Marbled whites, Gate keepers, Ringlets, Meadow Browns, large & small skippers also about. - Darin Stanley

For the last 2 days we have sighted a ringlet butterfly in the Wildlife Garden at the Natural History Museum SW7.- Larissa Cooper

Just a quick message to report some sightings tonight of 2 white letter hairstreaks nectaring on bramble at an entrance to great ashby park from 6pm to last sighting at 7pm at grid reference 264267 on brambles before the hump into grass of park - Colin Stratford

Numbers are on the increase both on Hounslow Heath and the Marshelling Yards but it's mainly Browns And Whites and on the way back I reflected I'd seen more Vanessids on dog poo (three Commas, separately) than on the many Buddleias on the site. Tortoiseshell 4 Small Skipper 36 Gatekeeper 27 Meadow Brown 12 Large White 10 Speckled Wood 2 Small White 8 Comma 5 Ringlet 3 A blue butterfly seen was a likely Common Blue male but I'm not optimistic of seeing many despite earlier numbers -the BF Trefoil is shrivelled and lost in the very successful taller grasses.I've also 'lost' the Sheep's Sorrel so may be lucky to see any Small Copper this year. Burnet moths doing reasonably well. - Pete Gore

My visit to Norton Green earlier yielded the following: 50+ Meadow Browns, Gatekeeper, 50+ Ringlets, 20+ Marbled Whites, 50+ Speckled Woods, 5+ Large Skippers, 5+ Small/Essex Skippers, 10+ Large Whites, 10+ other whites, 3 Small Tortoiseshells, 1 Comma, 2 Purple Hairstreaks and 2 male Silver-washed Fritillaries (first of the year in the clearing just off the track near Pigeonswick Cottage). By the way, saw the first Holly Blue on 12th. Searched hard for the Purple Emperor and White Admiral but with no success. Peter Clarke

Wider Countryside survey in TL1013 yesterday, Hexton Common (not Chalk Pits) Many Ringlets and Meadow Brown. Small Tortoiseshells. Interesting thing is that this green lane on the Gault clay has been surfaced with crushed chalk and has been colonised by Chalkhill Blues presumably from the Hexton Chalk Pits south of the village and about a mile away. Never seen Chalkhill Blues except on chalk grassland before - Nigel Agar Hexton Common has elm hedges and looks ideal for WL Hairstreaks. At one point saw a dark butterfly high up but probably a high flying Ringlet.

Tuesday 16th July 2013

This afternoon at Balls Wood amongst many Silver-washed Fritillary, White Admiral, Meadow Brown, Ringlet, Speckled Wood and skippers (uncounted numbers of each), 1f Brimstone and 5 Comma I saw 1 Red Admiral, only my second of the season. Earlier at Broxbourne Wood I'd seen 10 Silver-washed Fritillary, 6 White Admiral, 2 Large White, uncounted numbers of Meadow Brown, Ringlet, Speckled Wood and skippers, and 2f Purple Hairstreak, but still no Purple Emperors - Paul Why

Things picking up at last in the Hemel Hempstead garden with Speckled Wood, Meadow Brown, Comma, Small Tortoiseshell, many Large, Small, and the odd Green Veined White during the last few days and tonight at 6.25 p.m. a Hummingbird Hawk Moth on lavender. Rather worrying is the complete absence of Ladybird larvae and adults. The aphids are taking over! Malcolm Newland

Today I visit Amwell and saw my first Essex Skipper of the year also seen Small Tortoiseshell, Meadow Brown, Ringlet, Large Skipper, Comma, Large White, Speckled Wood - Kevin Taylor

Parked at Martins green car park 10.00, at HMWT Danemead 1 White admiral, walked north along the bridleway to Monks green, at the crossway 2 White admiral, 1 SWF (female) just north of the crossway a Purple emperor on the path flushed by a dragonfly. Brox woods main ride 10.50-11.30, 1 White admiral, 7 SWF 5 males 2 females, 1 Purple hairstreak, male down on the path near the car park. Laurence Drummond

I saw a Meadow Brown in Victoria Embankment Gardens Whitehall Section (TQ 303 802) this morning. As a visitor to London, this wasn't a butterfly I was expecting to see at this location! - Adrian Dexter

Bricket Wood - met up with Chris Newman to look for Purple Emperors in Mutchets Wood. We had about 20 sightings in three hours, probably all the same individual, apart from the last one at 3.45, which was of two together in a chase. We found an improved viewpoint across the railway line and were rewarded with several views of the Emperor perching near the crown of the oak, as well as long glides around the tree canopy and once across the railway line. Elsewhere on the common 11 Silver washed Fritillaries, 10 White Admirals, 5 Purple Hairstreak and increasing numbers of Gatekeepers - Malcolm Hull

12 Silver-washed Fritillaries and 2 White Admirals (10 last Friday) on the Balls Wood Transect today, but quite a number of White Admirals active during a more relaxed walk afterwards. Visitors to the wood came up the entrance ride saying they had seen a Purple Emperor drop down from high up and fly past them about 100 yards down the ride, around 1520. - Andrew Wood

Single Purple Emperors at Broxborne Woods, Northaw Great Wood and Whitewebbs Park. Many SWF,s at Broxbourne - Tony Clancy & Brian Dawton

A few sightings for today Tuesday 16th July 2013 - Several Gatekeepers (Parkside Farm, Park Farm and Trent Park); 1 Marbled White at Park Farm, between Hadley Road and Duncan's Wood, 08:57 hrs; 1 Purple Hairstreak settled on grass along vista near Obelsik Trent Park, 09:05 hrs - our first of the year here; 1 Comma edge of Rough Lot, Trent Park, 09:10 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell 'Show Field' Trent Park, 09:35 hrs; 1 White-letter Hairstreak, settled on Elm edge of Church Wood, Trent Park, 09:45 hrs - our first record at this site for several years! 4 Marbled White at 'New Fields', Trent Park; At least 3 Six Spot Burnets 'new Fields', Trent Park; 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Chase Green, Enfield Town, 11:30 hrs - Robert Callf & Robin White

Monday 15th July 2013

Had a grounded Purple Emperor at Bricket Wood today just after 2pm. - Clive Burrows

Best records for years on my Warren transect. 162 Meadow Brown (too many to count - they're everywhere), 67 Marbled White (biggest count since they arrived c5 yrs ago), 42 Small Skipper (probably include some Essex - too mobile to ID), 7 Ringlet (probably more mixed in with MBs), 2 :Large White, 9 Small Heath, 2 Small Tortoiseshell in a hurry, 1 Small White, 4 Gatekeeper (1st this year). 300+ on a small site has to be good. Also 7 6-spot Burnett 2 large Dragonflies (Southern Hawker?) & Damselles with lots of other small moths, bees, grasshoppers etc. Flowers are good too. Thank goodness for Transect Walker online. Saves a lot of work all round. John Moss

I had a report from Chris Newman of two Purple Emperors clashing in Mutchetts Wood, Bricket Wood Common yesterday afternoon. Today, Symonshyde Great Wood, nr Hatfield - a pair of male Silver washed Fritillaries clashing along the power cable ride. This continued for 5 mins before they were joined by a third and then a fourth SW fritillary. amazing side as they went up and down, back and forth along the ride trying to knock each others spots off, before finally breaking into two smaller fights. 12 SWFs in this wood today in total. White Admirals also out in force, but disappointingly no Purple Emperor, despite watching the high spot where I have seen it before for over an hour. Nomansland Common, nr Sandridge - a female Dark Green Fritillary, my first ever record of this species from St Albans District. Other butterflies include 2 new brood Common

Blues, new brood small copper, Purple Hairstreak, Essex Skipper, Gatekeeper 2 Small Heath and my first Silver Y moth of the year. Last but not least I had 4 Small Tortoiseshells in my St Albans garden to day, my first sighting this year of a butterfly nectaring on buddleia - I expect this will become a common sight If the weather holds - Malcolm Hull This morning I was carrying out a farmland bird survey at Hammonds End Farm (NW of Beesonend Lane, between Harpenden and Redbournbury). There were very large numbers of Marbled Whites around; nothing remarkable about that, they're doing well here - but this was at 6.15am! A little later they were joined by good numbers of Ringlets and Small Skippers. - Alan Jackson

At least a dozen Silver Washed Fritilleries and one fleeting glimpse of a White Admiral in Broxbourne Wood. plus Ringlets and Meadow Browns. Bencroft Wood had two more Silver Washed frits and numerous Ringlets. - Nigel Agar

Out with the old and in with the new! Saw a male orange tip flying at Gustardwood Common last Friday (12 July) and saw my first gatekeeper of the year today in Welwyn Garden City - Ian Flack

Just some highlights - fabulous counts of small tortoiseshells at the moment. Saturday 13th July Wareside Marbled White I the orchard (a first) + 15 small tortoiseshell Also 5 Essex skipper in the fields Sunday 14th July] Broxbourne woods 1 purple emperor who obliged for some pic's, + 1 white admiral. 8 (minimum) silver washed Fritillary, they were everywhere. We were treated to several enchanting nuptial flight displays where the male appears to fly under and over the female. Definitely one to video. - Phil Macmurdie Today (Monday 15th July) I saw a Gatekeeper at Butterfly World at about 12.45pm - out in the garden area - Brian Knight

Gatekeepers at Waterford heath and also saw a silver washed fritillary to my surprise by wood next to Rickneys quarry - Steve Kiln

Sunday 14th July 2013

Brox main ride 09.40-10.20, 4 SWF, 2 males and 2 females, went to Wormley wood and trudged up and down the rides without success so I decided to leave and join Andrew at Whitewebbs as I entered the Bencroft west car park at 11.40 I noticed a male Purple emperor flying around a Sallow, it came down, alighted briefly on a post and then settled on a log where it walked around and showed flashes of purple before finding something to its liking in a crevice in the log as it was still there when I left at 11.55 ! Incidentally, it totally ignored a large pile of dog poo 3ft away ! . - Laurence Drummond

Field trip ~ Whitewebbs Enfield 2 clashing purple emperors 12.50 onwards, later 2 clashing PEmps over Fir & Pond Wood also seen earlier by David Gompertz, 4.30 two chasing males through Northaw, purple emperors that is ~ Andrew Middleton

Bricket Wood this morning least 2 Silver-washed Fritillaries, 8 White Admirals, Male Brimstone, 2 Gatekeepers, 2 Small Tortoiseshell, 3 Large White and 2 Green-veined white and good numbers of Marbled White, Ringlets and skippers. Also in my garden this morning had Brimstone Moth, Elephant Hawk moth and Buff-tip - Andy Steele

St. Albans - better numbers of White letter Hairstreak out today. 5 at Temple View, Oysterfields (none seen at this site at similar time and weather conditions during the week). 3 at Verulamium Park, 5 at King Harry Lane and 4 at Watling St. Several sightings of **False Orange Hairstreak (aka Vapourer moth)**, a first for me for this year - Malcolm Hull

A BC guided walk with Welwyn Naturalists Soc and others Going from the Live and let Live at Pegsdon round the back of Hexton Village to Hexton Common. many Ringlets and Meadow Browns and some Small Tortoiseshells. Then through the village to Hexton Chalk Pits. Many Marbled Whites, Chalkhill Blues and some Dark Green Fritilleries. Nigel Agar

Bricket Wood Common 10:00-13:00 I recorded min. 8 White Admiral, 7+ Silver-washed Fritillary (2 female), 2 Purple Hairstreak (1 on track to Bucknell's Lane. 1 on main ride adjacent to railway), 25+ Marbled White, 2 Gatekeeper, 6 Comma, 2-3 female Brimstone egg-laying + 1 male, 4 Speckled Wood, 7 Large White, 1 Green-veined White + numerous Ringlet, Meadow Brown, Large Skipper & small Skipper sp. Bob Harris

Sundays on the Marshalling Yards are often dominated by the motorbike scrambling community who have used the site for over 40 years and are in no small part responsible for the constant

churning of the topsoil which enables so many of the insect attracting atypical-for-the-locality plant species to survive and thrive. Today was no exception so a little less time spent there, more on the Heath. Sightings: Tortoiseshell 3 Ringlet 13 Small Skipper 14 Small White 5 Gatekeeper 6 Speckled Wood 6 Large White 3 Comma 1 Brimstone (male) 1 Marbled White 1 Small Heath 1. The absence of Meadow Brown isn't a clerical error or contempt for the common but a record of what I saw (or rather, didn't see.) - Pete Gore

Saturday 13th July 2013

Exciting news from Horsenden Hill today, where I discovered a **Dark Green Fritillary**! This was mid afternoon while doing the west transect in Batts Field. It was nectaring on knapweed but occasionally visiting bramble flowers. It was continually harassed by Marbled Whites. A good range of other butterflies inc at least 5 White-letter Hairstreaks, 3 Purple Hairstreak, several Small Skippers, 4 Ringlet and our first Gatekeepers of the year. - Andy Culshaw

Painted lady at Thornbera Road allotments, Stortford --16.00 hrs today--Len Crouch

There were two males cashing at Whitewebbs from 1.15 to 2pm when I was there, so it's now looking good for tomorrow Sunday. - Andrew Middleton

Bricket Wood - At 1 pm a male Purple Emperor glided powerfully across the canopy clearing in Mutchets Wood, followed by a second similar sighting a few minutes later. Two other first sightings for this site for this year - Purple Hairstreak, seen twice in the same canopy clearing and Gatekeeper, two seen in the main clearing on the common. Also at this site today, 7 Silver-washed Fritillaries, including a courting couple (first female this year) and 13 White Admirals. Marbled Whites now out in force and (amazingly late) female Brimstones still egg laying on Alder Buckthorn - Malcolm Hull and Mandy Floyd. This afternoon I visited Potters Crouch Plantations and Great Furzefield Wood between Bedmond and Potters Crouch. Pleased to record my first ever White Admiral from this site - Malcolm Hull

Saw a Small Tortoiseshell in Templewood, Welwyn Garden City around lunchtime today - John Yates

Brox main ride, 09.00-09.40 ,4 male Silver washed fritillary, 1 White admiral, Wormley wood sw area, 7-8 White admiral around the rides, 12.49 at the territory 1 male Purple emperor entered from the east and appeared to perch on the oak at the front of the gap out of view, stayed until 13.15 but no further sign, also 1 Purple hairstreak there. Laurence Drummond

This hot morning walked along public footpath to the Aubreys ,Redbourn and in the 150 meters I did counted 22 Marbled whites generally feeding on thistles. Also Meadow Browns ,Ringlets & Skippers. A broad Bodied Chaser also seen . OS ref approx TL096112. Good numbers of Small tortoiseshells locally. Ernest Leahy

Upper Green Tewin, Marbled White and Ringlet seen today and numerous Meadow Browns. Jim Farr

At 0900 hours this morning I decided to take a look at the elms by the Six Hills near Stevenage Police Station. Almost straight away I saw at least 5 White Letter Hairstreaks flitting around the tops with two of them spiraling up - Peter Clarke

Friday 12th July 2013

At lunch time today we went to Goldings wood. We entered by the entrance next to the school entrance and walked straight until we came to the corner of a horse field (lots of skewbald and piebald horses). At that point you can turn right onto a footpath or onto a bridleway running parallel to the footpath. We went on the bridleway and about 50-100 yards down on the left just before the path opens out to a wide ride, I saw a purple hairstreak and Henrik had a good view of a **purple emperor** - Nicky Chart

Much the same walk as Wednesday but with an extra area of Hounslow Heath added by turning right immediately after passing through the trees at the entrance. This takes me along a bramble and nettle filled area unsurprisingly more attractive to butterflies than the main Loop path which I rejoined further along. Comma 7 Tortoiseshell 2 Large Skipper 1 Small Heath 5 Ringlet 29 Small Skipper 40 Small White 5 Meadow Brown 3 Gatekeeper 3 Large White 1 Red Admiral 1 The Red Admiral seen on the way back through the Heath, when I'm normally avoiding double-

counting, was my first for this year. The walk was a little earlier than others c1.30 - 3.15 on site/s. - Pete Gore

Went to Wormley wood this afternoon but didn't stay long as someone was in the main ride strimming IN JULY, PART OF A NNR? I DON'T THINK SO!, just one White Admiral but I didn't stay, the strimmers have also been out at Broxbourne woods, along the sculpture trail, in the west car park an unusually pale Painted lady flying around some thistles and landing on the ground, along the main ride, 4-5 male Silver-washed fritillary and one Purple Hairstreak. Off to HMWT Balls wood, this site is increasingly superb, peaceful, one of the few woods I genuinely enjoy visiting, worth the membership money on its own, 2 male Silver washed fritillary, and an amazing 14 White admiral around the wood, but mostly north of the "fluttering butterflies" seat - Laurence Drummond

The first appearance of a Gatekeeper in my Hayes garden.
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/69131641@N04/9269035521/>
Helen George

Oak Hill Woods LNR-----12/7/13-----Ringlet are now in large numbers-----Ix Marbled white---- 2x Tshells----and the usual Skippers and Meadow browns. - Broxbourne Wood 1pm--no PE but 3x SWF-----Bencroft Wood----1x Comma, 2x Tshells----Northaw Great Wood---No PE-----White-Webs wood---no PE. T shells doing well this year---Anybody know what the fungi is that emerges as a filament from T shell pupae?-----out of 10 captive larvae 5 were infected----five emerged safely----Kitt Jones

Saw 3 Small Tortoiseshells today (12th) on nettles in the conservation area of Ravenscourt Park as well as 1 Small White - Michael Robinson

This afternoon I walked the Mopes Farm Bridleway at West Hyde and counted 80+ Small Tortoiseshell along a half mile stretch. They were mainly on the flowering thistles on the edge of the cereal crop and this is certainly a good year for the species everywhere. However, this is a record for me so far this summer - John Edwards

large numbers of Marbled Whites at Gibbet Hill, Baldock this morning. It is chalk grassland above the Weston Hills woodland. Site of a HMWT grasslands course. Hexton Chalk Pits had Chalkhill Blues, Dark Green Fritillaries and Marbled Whites. Also Small Tortoiseshell. Has any else noticed a considerable revival of Small Torts this year? Seen several times at Hitchin garden and allotment site recently and now at Hexton CP. Walk from Pegsdon to Hexton this Sunday. 10.00 a.m. at the Live and Let Live - Nigel Agar

I visited Hillfield park reservoir near Elstree, where there have been historic reports of Dark green fritillary. DGF appears to be increasing numbers and expanding in Herts and I was keen to find out if it has yet reached this site. A few tantalising glimpses of large orange butterflies all turned out to be Commas. But it's an interesting site including both short and long grassland, scrub and woodland, plus a large lake. Total count for the day were 11 Comma, 16 Small Tortoiseshell, 54 Marbled White, 275 Meadow Brown, 206 Ringlet, 18 Large Skipper, 23 Small/Essex Skipper (the only two I checked closely were Small), 3 Speckled Wood, 2 Common Blue, 4 Large White, 7 Small/Green veined White (the one I checked was Green veined), 5 ? Spot Burnett moth (the two I checked were narrow bordered five spots) plus one White Plume moth - Malcolm Hull

On my weekly walk at Tyttenhanger Gravel Pits today I was surprised to see at least a dozen Marbled Whites, more than ever before. As well as 6 Large Skipper, 8 Small Skipper, 1 Red Admiral, 7 Small Tortoiseshell, 7 Small Heath, 25+ Ringlets, 25+ Meadow Brown, 4 Speckled Wood and 5 Whites - Terry Wood

Sightings for today Friday 12th July 2013 - 1 male Marbled White at Vicarage Farm, Enfield (TQ3097) at 11:08 hrs; 2 male Gatekeeper (1 at Vicarage Farm, 1 at Parkside Farm) - my first of the year; 1 Comma at Park Farm, Enfield, 11:45 hrs; 2 Small Tortoiseshell at Park Farm; 40+ Ringlet, counted along the ride in Little Beechill Wood, Enfield Chase with smaller numbers of Meadow Brown; 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Little Beechill Wood, 12:30 hrs; 1 Small Skipper at Little Beechill Wood; 2 Small Tortoiseshell at Vault Hill Wood; 1 Comma at South Barvin Farm, Enfield, 13:00 hrs; 1 Comma at Ash Wood, Enfield Chase, 13:17 hrs; 1 Comma, on dogs muck, edge of Rough Lot, Trent Park, 13:25 hrs; 2 Small Tortoiseshell at Trent Park - 1 by Lower Lake and another near Dew Pond; 1 Comma, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 13:52 hrs. - Robert Callif

Thursday 11th July 2013

After work today I visited Harmondsworth Moor, primarily to see how the Marbled Whites were doing. It was around 5, but the heat was keeping them largely down in the grass, and they only appeared if disturbed. However, it became apparent that there were reasonable numbers (I counted into double figures) in a relatively small area, but they were outnumbered five to one at least by Meadow Browns. Having reassured myself that the colony was surviving well, I started to look at what else was flying. There were dozens of Small and Essex Skippers (probably a majority of the former, simply because I found them in more places), but both were clearly identified. The Essex were my first of the year. In amongst the myriad of Meadow Browns I then identified a solitary Gatekeeper - again a first for the year. Finally, I also saw several Small Tortoiseshells, and a Comma and a Large Skipper endlessly tussling over the same bit of path. They were there when I arrived, and still battling it out when I left an hour later.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=35408&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=35411&mode=view>

Dave Miller

Today at Aldbury had 11+ dark green fritillary, 9 small tortoiseshell, 8+ Speckled Woods, 40+ Large Skippers, 1 common blue, 6 small heath and a good number of Peacock caterpillars on the nettles and too many to count of the Meadow Browns and Marbled whites also a possible *Hedya ochroleucana* moth At Symondshyde Great Wood on the main track 1 White Admiral, 1 Marbled White, 1 Comma 15 + Ringlets and 7 Meadow Browns - Andy Steele

On a visit to Bricket Wood today I counted 9 White Admirals, more than I'd ever seen before. Also 15 Marbled White, 7 Large Skipper, 3 Small Skipper, 2 Brimstone (1 m, 1 f), 20 Ringlet, 14 Meadow Brown, 6 Speckled Wood, 3 Comma, 1 Peacock and 1 Cinnabar. On my return to South Mymms I had a quick visit to Mymms Wash and saw 8 Commas, 4 Small Tortoiseshell, 3 Large Skipper, 5 Ringlet, 6 Meadow Brown and 4 Small White. - Terry Wood

This afternoon on a strip of undisturbed rough grass & scrub between Green Lanes allotments & A1(M) Hatfield, 7+ Small Tortoiseshell, 10+ Meadow Brown, 1+ Ringlet, 3+ Large White, 1 Marbled White, 3 Small Skipper, 1 Essex Skipper, 1 Comma seen in 10 mins, nectaring on Brambles, Thistles, Meadow Scabious etc. This stretch was completely cleared, except for trees on the M-way bank, 3-4 years ago for M-way improvements. It has been undisturbed since & has regenerated into good habitat especially for birds, insects etc - John Moss We have seen **two purple emperor** butterflies at the St. Vincents site in the Ruislip Woods today (11/7) between 2.00 p.m and 2.45 p.m. They perched high up and we managed to get reasonable views through our telescope. Also at the same spot one purple hairstreak. White admirals are also being seen in the woods - Sue & Steve Place

I was walking over the grasslands over the top of the north tunnel at Digswell/Welwyn North (TL249164), and there were clouds of marbled whites there feeding on the thistles & field scabious. I estimate >200 MBs in an area of a couple of acres, plus similar numbers of meadow brown, and 50+ ringlet and gatekeeper, plus maybe 20 large skippers feeding on the wood edge brambles and a few speckled wood, small tortoiseshell and large whites. Very nice to see this area of chalky grassland / wood edge supporting so many butterflies. - Stuart Warrington

This evening spent an hour at Water Lane finding = marbled white x 53, small skipper x 10, Narrow Bordered 5 spot burnet x 1, small tortoiseshell x 11, comma x 4, essex skipper x 7. Onto Fishers Field = small skipper x 5, essex skipper x 7, large skipper x 4, meadow brown x 7, marbled white x 3, small tortoiseshell x 2 - David Gower

Latest butterflies as follows: Thursday 11th July 2013 Walk as 10th but exiting Marshalling Yards to Pevensey Road Local Nature Reserve (TW13 5HB) then out to road. Small Tortoiseshell 2 Large Skipper 3 Ringlet 16 Small Skipper 6 Meadow Brown 9 Small White 3 Speckled Wood 4 Comma 2 - Pete Gore

Bricket Wood - White letter Hairstreak in Drop Lane and another in Smug Oak Lane. Silver-washed Fritillary on the Common, my first of the year! Infact 5 SWFs in total (all male) in the main ride. 8 White Admirals in the same. Ride plus another 4 elsewhere on the Common. But no Purple butterflies out yet - Malcolm Hull

Sightings for today 11th July 2013 - 3 Ringlet at Vicarage Farm, 09:25 hrs; 2 Small Skipper at Vicarage Farm; 2 Small Tortoiseshell at Vicarage Farm; 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Parkside Farm,

Enfield, 10:15 hrs; 2 Small Tortoiseshell at Park Farm, 10:35 and 10:50 hrs; 2 Comma at Park Farm, Enfield, 10:50 and 11:18 hrs; 1 Comma, edge of Rough Lot, Trent Park, 11:28 hrs; 4 male Small Skipper, settling on wet mud by Lower Lake, 11:45 hrs - presumably taking mineral salts - interesting behaviour; 1 Red Admiral by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 11:45 hrs; 1 Comma, by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 12:00 hrs; 1 Small Heath near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 12:25 hrs; 1 Comma, near Shaws Wood, Trent Park, 12:40 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell along Merryhills Brook at South Lodge Farm, Enfield, 12:50 hrs - Robert Callf & Robin White.

Wednesday 10th July 2013

Went to Merryhill Fields again to forget about the dentist. Ended up spending 3 hours there from 5pm. Spotted 116 x meadow brown, 38 x ringlet, 42 x marbled white, 2 x small tortoiseshell, 4 x comma, 19 x large skipper, 24 x small skipper, 16 more skippers unable to id but no Essex seen, 6 x yellow shell, 7 x shaded broad-bar (first this year), 2 x cephala lacunana (first), 29 x narrow bordered 5 spot burnet - David Gower

I did the transect today at Aldbury, the reserve was alive with butterflies. The total for the transect was 676 butterflies but there were so many more on the reserve and even doing the transect was difficult as there was so much activity! Highs included 296 marbled white, 57 large skipper, 145 ringlet, 144 meadow brown, 19 dark green fritillary, and 4 small tortoiseshell. It was great to see so many skippers and the fritillary numbers are a record for me on the transect. There were also single common blue, brown argus, 2 small heath, 4 small/Essex skipper, a white sp and 2 speckled wood. - Paul Thrush

A single Purple Emperor was present again today at Whitewebbs (field trip will be this coming Sunday 14th). There was however an imposter, a Small Tortoiseshell was trying to get in on the act. No sightings at Northaw when I visited - Liz Goodyear

St Albans, Batchwood Drive - 3 White letter Hairstreaks. Symondshyde Great Wood - 4 White Admiral and 2 Red Admiral, all flying in the same ride - Malcolm Hull

National Grid nature reserve at Stocking Pelham--all sightings in Herts part of reserve--Between 13.25 and 13.55 today my wife and I saw 10 large skippers , 7 small/Essex skippers(too fast to distinguish), 1 small white, 2 common blues, 97 meadow browns and 12 ringlets flying over the tall grass section west of the transformer station compound. Between 14.30 and 14.50 in the wooded south panhandle we added 2 green veined white, 2 commas and 8 speckled woods . On our return to the tall grass area we noted a single marbled white in this corner of N.E. Herts. - Len Crouch

Had an afternoon walk today around Hexton Chalk pits and saw maybe 40+ Marbled Whites, 20+ Dark Green Fritillaries, 30+ Chalkhill Blue, and also good numbers of Speckled Woods, Ringlets, Meadow Brown, Small Heath - Kevin Taylor

The Walk: Enter Hounslow Heath via Edgar Road entrance (TW4 5QQ). Proceed via signposted London Loop walk to River Crane turn left (off the loop) along the riverbank, crossing the railway via the Cavalry Tunnel into Feltham Marshalling Yards (Jubilee Mail Centre on part of original site is TW4 5XX). Then meander in an erratic and inconsistent manner for c2 hours. This last part I've been doing since 1997. Wednesday 10th July. Lack of sun and too much breeze so not as many butterflies as yesterday.: 4 Commas, 1 Small Heath, 3 Speckled Wood, 18 Small Skippers, 1 Large Skipper, 1 Marble White 2 Small Tortoiseshell, 2 Small Whites 1 Meadow Brown and **1 Gatekeeper**. The last was my first of the year and a very obliging fresh-looking specimen. On the way back (same route) I was at last able to resolve something that had been troubling me, when I got a clear look at a resting Ringlet - a personal first for me though it was on the Heath not the Marshalling Yards. It undoubtedly explains the quite large number of very dark Browns I've been conscious of in the last three days. The shortage of Meadow Browns is more worrying - no females seen at all yet. (there were three other Ringlets around the same patch of Bramble where I confirmed my first.) Tuesday 9th July Speckled Wood 3 Small Heath 1 Small Skipper 48 Small White 2 Comma 2 Meadow Brown 5 Marbled White 5 Holly Blue 2 Large White 1 Monday 8th July Didn't keep a record but saw my first ever Marbled White on the Marshalling Yards site. The species site total including the Ringlets is 22 all-time. 18 for me so far this year with a reasonable chance of seeing the other 4 yet although I'll need luck for Clouded Yellow. I have never seen anything which I felt was an Essex Skipper here although I believed I could identify them at another site in Greenford in the past. It would, of course be preposterous for me to claim I've eliminated the possibility of 1 or more amongst all the Skippers on the site, their numbers being a

lot bigger than my counts show. - Peter Gore

Some sightings for today Wednesday 10th July 2013 - 3 Ringlet at Forty Hall, Enfield; 2 Small Tortoiseshell at Forty Hall, Enfield, 12:48 and 12:56 hrs; 1 Essex Skipper at Forty Hall, Enfield; 3 Small Skipper at Forty Hall, Enfield; 1 Comma at Forty Hall, Enfield, 13:20 hrs; 4 Small Tortoiseshell at Guy Lodge Farm, Whitewebbs Road, 14:10 hrs; 1 Comma at Guy Lodge Farm, Whitewebbs Road, 14:10 hrs; 3 Comma, together, at Whitewebbs Wood, 15:05 hrs; 2 Large Skipper at Whitewebbs Park, 15:07 hrs; 2 Small Skipper at Whitewebbs Park, 15:10 hrs; 2 Small Tortoiseshell at Whitewebbs Park; 3 White-letter Hairstreak at Hilly Fields Park, Enfield, 15:43 - 15:50 hrs, settled and around Wych Elms - Robert Callf.

Tuesday 9th July 2013

1 x meadow brown at Northwood hq & 1 x small white, 1 x riband moth in Bushey garden - David Gower

A bumper day on my Warren transect at last; 117 Meadow Brown (at least - too many to count accurately), 38 Marbled White, 6 Ringlet (probably more - I have difficulty separating them from dark MBs flying briskly), 21 Small Skipper (possibly including Essex), 10 Small Heath, 1 Speckled Wood, 2 Peacock (1 faded, second bright), 1 Small/GV White, 7 6-spot Burnet. Also several Common Blue (?) Damselfly, 1 large high-flying Dragonfly, loads of bees, grasshoppers, small moths. Peered hopefully at tops of Oaks etc but no sign of Purple Hairstreak. 100% sun, light N breeze, 26C & everything very active - John Moss

Arrived at 13:00hrs at the north Enfield site found last year by Andrew Middleton and located what I hoped was the obscure gap in the canopy.....Waited, moved around and return and got a fleeting glimpse of something special. Then at 13:40 a **Purple Emperor** made his presence known high up in the neck breaking gap! I decided to then check out two other sites just over the M25 including the Northaw territory. Despite watching both for some time, nothing appeared, not even a Purple Hairstreak (present at Enfield though) so I went back. A 30 minute wait had to be endured but finally he appeared again, making several flights, perching and then a chase. I could not confirm that it was definitely a second emperor but his/their behaviour had been indicative of two being present (flying faster). After that activity subsided and I left the site at 16:30 very satisfied - Liz Goodyear

I just did a Wider Countryside survey in TL2222 today July 9 (My BTO circuit but it is in Hertfordshire) Knebworth Woods Species were:-- Meadow Brown 65, Ringlet 55, Speckled Wood 10, Small Skipper 8 Large Skipper 3, Small White 3 Marbled White 1, Small Tortoiseshell 3, Comma 1 Purple Hairstreak 2. Got a good picture of a male Purple Hairstreak that was on the grass - Nigel Agar

Painted Lady, one on footpath between Gosmore and Charlton 6.00pm Sunday 7th July, not many about - Stuart Pittman

Good numbers of Marbled White at Harmondsworth Moor, most in a flower-rich field at the SW corner of the site. I counted 19, but there must have been many more. Meadow Brown also abundant. Also seen: Large Skipper, Comma, Small Tortoiseshell (9), Small Skipper, Small Heath, Small White, Essex Skipper (1 positively identified), Green-veined White, Speckled Wood, Common Blue (2 only). - John Eborall

I went on my Wider Countryside transect walk this morning at Trimms Green and was delighted to record, among several other species, 34 Small Tortoiseshells. At one stage I counted 10 of them nectaring together on a swathe of Creeping Thistle. Is this an explosion we are having? I haven't seen them in such numbers for several years. And if they have been in such decline over the past few years and given the awful spring weather we had, where have they all come from? I did come across quite a number of ST larvae 3 or 4 weeks ago, more than I would normally notice. - Bob Clift

2 Comma's and the very welcome return of the Small Tortoiseshell, 2 in our Hayes garden today. <http://www.flickr.com/photos/69131641@N04/9248241810/>

Just to follow up on sightings of the Small Tortoiseshell. We had one in our Hayes garden last week, this is the second sighting we've had so far this year of a Tortoiseshell. They have been absent from our garden for quite a few years so good to see them making a welcome return. - Helen George

A Small Heath seen on my Stevenage transect today for the first time since 1999 - Peter Clarke

We saw 30+ small tortoiseshells, 5 peacock and 1 clouded yellow at Thorley Wash Nature Reserve today - Jenny Sherwen

Monday 8th July 2013

Today a short visit to park Wood, several Large Skippers, Small Tortoiseshell, Speckled Wood. Three White Admirals flying about. One flew around my legs but would not settle - Sezar Hikmet

At Balls Wood this afternoon, 6 sightings of White Admiral in 3 hours, almost all at various points along the main ride. The first was at 15:00 up in the trees almost opposite the new viewing platform, and the second was at 15:20 around the brambles farther along. The third was at 16:40 near brambles on the parallel ride to the west. While I was chatting to another (unsuccessful) spotter by the entrance ride, at 17:10 the fourth WA appeared in the trees, crossed the entrance path and flew northwards along the edge. My new acquaintance thanked me for pointing it out to him, but described it as the worst WA sighting he'd ever had. My fifth sighting was at 17:55 around the brambles at the southern end of the main ride, again in the trees, but it pleased me by landing on a path repair and probed the new surface. I managed a few record shots, then headed for home, relatively happy. As I turned up the entrance path at 18:10 a sixth WA landed virtually at my feet, again on a newly-patched piece of path, and allowed me to take a few more shots from ground level. I suspect that some of these sightings were the same individual although the locations were well-separated. It could be a good year for WAs at Balls Wood. Also present throughout were large numbers of Speckled Wood, Meadow Brown and Large Skipper, 10+ Comma and a handful each of Ringlet and Large White. Paul Why

I spotted a beautiful Red Admiral, 2 Small Tortoiseshells and a couple of Meadow Browns on the fields behind Ragged Hall Lane, St Albans all before 9 am this morning! - Mandy Floyd

Telegraph Hill, nr Lilley - 6 Dark Green Fritillaries, 150 Ringlets, 40 Marbled Whites, 26 Meadow Browns, Speckled Wood 7, Small Tortoiseshell 3, Large Skipper 2, plus singles of Common Blue, Comma, Small Heath, Small White, Burnet Companion and Cinnabar moth. Hexton Chalk pit - 32 Dark Green Fritillaries, **1 Chalkhill Blue** (my first of the year), Dingy Skipper, 5 spot Burnet moth plus similar range of other species to Hexton This afternoon at Therfield Heath the highlights were 1 DGF, **3 Chalkhill Blues**, 2 Brown Argus, 29 Small Heath, 2 Small Skipper - Malcolm Hull

At Northwood hq, Sandy Lane 1 x small tortoiseshell, 1 x garden carpet. 1 x small magpie moth in Bushey garden also - David Gower

At Norton Green today, counted 5+ Small Tortoiseshells, 40+ Ringlets, 3 Large Skippers, 20+ Meadow Browns, 2 Marbled Whites (first), 2 Common Blues, 3 Small Heaths, 2 Small Whites, 20+ Speckled Woods, 5+ Small Skippers (first), 3 Commas (at least one of which was the hutchinsoni form) and the first Purple Hairstreak. Peter Clarke

Just to let you know at Wilstone yesterday there were at least 6 small tortoiseshells along one section of track from the lower Icknield way to the reservoir - Paul Thrush

Broxbourne Woods this afternoon 8 July. Painted Lady in the newly cleared area and on the pond - literally it settled on the scum. No sign of WAs or PEs as yet. Newly minted Small Tortoiseshells on the flowers at Riverside Garden Centre, Hertford nr Bayfordbury - Nigel Agar

Went to Broxbourne Woods, in Bencroft wood and field nearby 50 ringlets, 80 plus meadow brown, 6 large skippers, one comma and a silver-washed fritillary. In Broxbourne glade plenty of ringlets, meadow browns and large skippers but also I think another silver washed fritillary both flying very fast - Steve Kiln

Marbled White and Dark Green Fritillaries active at Hexton Chalk Pits on 8/07/13 plus Common Blue, Large Skipper and Small Heath. Speckled Wood near the gate. - Nigel Agar

Some sightings for today 8th July 2013 - 1 Small Tortoiseshell, Sidhil's Field at Vicarage Farm, 07:45 hrs; 1 Green-veined White, at Barracks, Vicarage Farm, 07:50 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables at Vicarage Farm, 08:22 hrs; 1 Comma, near Hadley Road at Vicarage Farm, 08:28 hrs; 2 Small Tortoiseshell at Park Farm, Enfield, 09:10 hrs and

09:20 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell near Duncan's Wood, Enfield Chase, 09:25 hrs; 1 Comma, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 09:58 hrs; 2 male Marbled White, 'New Fields', Trent Park, 10:30 and 10:40 hrs - in different fields; 1 Comma, near Oakwood entrance, Trent Park, 11:20 hrs. Good numbers of Ringlet in Trent Park also and several Small Skipper positively identified. A few Narrow-bordered Five Spot Burnet Moths at 'New Fields', Trent Park - Robert Callf & Robin White.

I came across a large stand of very mature elm trees in Thorley just behind where my daughter lives a few months back and decided to give them the White Letter Hairstreak check yesterday (Saturday) at around 4.30pm. I wasn't surprised to see a colony of WLHs buzzing around the top of them. There were at least 5 or 6. - Bob Clift

A brief report on the BC walk at Horsenden Hill on Saturday 6th July. The good news was that we kept up our 100% record for White-letters on this event, with at least 6 seen in the usual spot behind Horsenden Farm. There were 8 participants who enjoyed fantastic views of perched white-letters through the telescope. Other than that, the numbers of butterflies were a bit on the low side. A total of ten species including 2-3 Ringlets (Paradise Fields) and a Small Tortoiseshell. No Marbled White were found, but later on we recorded several after the walk was finished. We showed off the contents of 3 x MV and 2 x actinic traps at the end of the event. Most people enjoyed Peach Blossom, Burnished Brass, Small Elephant Hawk and Poplar Hawk, but for us the major spectacle was the presence of 100 Buff Arches in just one MV trap. Our previous high count for this species being just 15 individuals! Later in the afternoon I had 3 White-letters on the West transect (top end of Batts Field), a Painted Lady on Horsenden West and a Purple Hairstreak behind Horsenden Farm. - Andy Culshaw

Sunday 7th July 2013

Took 6 locals out today for a butterfly walk, recording the following west of Hadham Ford and East of Westland Green (TL434218 to TL 419220) Meadow brown 100+, small tortoiseshell 9, small skipper 25+, ringlet 25+, small white 2, large white 2, speckled wood 1, small heath 1, Essex skipper 1 CLOUDED YELLOW 1 at TL426215. A fast flying specimen heading south. - Jono Forgham

At Fishers Field in 30 mins noted = 4 x small tortoiseshell, 1 x Essex skipper, 3 x small skipper, 6 x meadow brown, 1 x comma, 3 x speckled wood, 1 x yellow shell. Onto Water Lane for similar time = 11 x marbled white (my first of year), 4 x meadow brown, 1 x comma, 5 x small tortoiseshell, 1 x common blue. 1 x speckled wood, 1 x large white, 2 x common white wave, 1 x yellow shell, 1 x green veined white. Next up was Finch Lane = 1 x small tortoiseshell, 2 x marbled white, 14 x meadow brown, 2 x small skipper, 2 x speckled wood. At Merryhill fields = 59 x meadow brown, 9 x burnet moths (looked like narrow bordered 5 spots but most didn't rest for long), 21 x marbled whites, 20 x ringlet, 2 x brimstone(males), 4 x speckled wood, 6 x small skipper, 5 x large skipper (lots more skippers i couldn't identify), 1 x common blue, 1 x small tortoiseshell , 1 x yellow shell. - David Gower

GU Canal (Aylesbury Arm) between Marsworth & Puttenham 2 DGFritillary, 2 Marbled White, many Meadow Brown, 7 Ringlet. Also 80+ White-legged Damselflies - Bob Harris

Hexton Chalk Pit today--12.30 to 13.00 in north/central area, 12+ meadow brown, 11+ marbled white, 10+ ringlets, 1 small white and within a 7 minute period disturbed two dark green fritillaries from grass and saw another flying north. ---13.00 to 13.10 along east side, several browns and marbled whites, 3 small heath, 6+ common blue and a single brown argus. --13.15 at southern limit of site along edge of barley field, two squabbling dark green fritillaries spiraling together 20 ft in air with another in view 25 yds away. Returning to car, 1 speckled wood near Hexton Road and 3 small tortoiseshells beyond gate on west side of road - Len Crouch

Late afternoon Ware garden butterflies: First Small Tortoiseshell just before 6. Just before 7 a Ringlet, the first garden record for over 12 years, then at 8.10 a Red Admiral checking out a wine glass - Liz Goodyear

Field trip report: Bricket Wood Common - Great weather for today's branch field trip. White Admirals were the star of the show, all looking very fresh, but generally they were up in the trees and not easy to photograph. We eventually saw one taking salts or moisture from a newly laid path and were able to get close to confirm the ID. Altogether we saw a total of at least 7 White Admirals. Also out today some newly emerged Marbled Whites, Commas Small Skippers and Small Tortoiseshell. Large Skippers were out in good numbers, with many Ringlets and a few Meadow Browns, Speckled Woods and Brimstones. The lunchtime extension to look for Purple Emperor was

not successful - as with many species, the poor weather earlier this year appears to have delayed its emergence - Malcolm Hull

Cheshunt Park, at least two active White-letter Hairstreak, but no Purple Emperors noted at the Northaw territory - Andrew Middleton, Liz Goodyear and Laurence Drummond

Marbled White on the window this mornng (Hitchin) - Nigel Agar

Friday was a busy day for news, we received an email from Paul Moss who had been visiting Heartwood Forest and has seen a **female Monarch**. *We would stress that having been in touch with Paul we are of the opinion this would have been a non naturally occurring insect - i.e. a released specimen! Several observers have been back to find the butterfly with no success* Paul reported. 'Unfortunately no shots, I had been photographing butterflies all afternoon and as my camera battery went flat 5 minutes earlier I was heading back to my car when I saw what I thought must be a silver washed fritillary because of the size, even though it was not a place I would expect a swf to be - right in the middle of a field! I tried to coax the camera back to life without joy and then came home, recharged it and returned to see if I could relocate it but it was 7:30 by then and clouding over with very few butterflies showing. From the car park walk uphill to the nearby information board and map and take the path that leads to the right and uphill at angle a cross the slope. This path joins another that runs alongside the hedge, the first oak is in the hedge and just right of the junction. Walk uphill to the very next oak and that is where it was. It was patrolling the area here circa 5pm and being chased by at least 1 painted lady. In size I would estimate the wing span as twice the size of the painted lady, strong flight with gliding and floating turns too. As I couldn't get a photo I waited for it to settle on the white flowers on the left of the bush here, can't tell you what plant I'm afraid, and carefully studied it through binoculars from a distance of some 20' whilst it fed, noting the white markings on the wing and the black rather than brown markings. When I got home to recharge my battery the very first thing I did was Google monarch butterfly as I was already confident that was what it was as I have seen pictures many times in the past.' Paul Moss (*However on UK Leps there is a report from Chris Lamsdell Insect News: London, Monarch still at Rainham Marshes RSPB in wildlife garden mid-afternoon*)

Sightings for Thursday 4th July 2013 at Vicarage Farm, Enfield - 5 Large Skipper, 1 Comma, 4 Small Tortoiseshell and 2 Ringlet. Yesterday 6th July 2013 - 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Allotments, Chase Road, Southgate, N14 at 16:05 hrs. Today 7th July 2013 - 1 White-letter Hairstreak at Hilly Fields Park, Enfield at 11:45 and still present around the same Wych Elm at 13:35 hrs (Sorry Andrew Wood this was correctly mapped last year!); 1 Ringlet at Whitewebbs Wood, 12:10 hrs; 1 Red Admiral at Whitewebbs Park, 12:15 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Whitewebbs Park, 12:15 hrs; 1 Ringlet at Hilly Fields Park, 13:45 hrs; 1 Comma at Lavender Hill Cemetery, Enfield, 13:47 hrs. Also several Small/Essex Skipper at Whitewebbs Park - only seen in flight. - Robert Callf

An hour and a half at Bricket Wood Common today produced 10+ Marbled Wlte, 10+ Ringlet, 10+ Meadow Brown, 10+ Speckled Wood, 1 Large Skipper, 1 Large White, but dissappointingly only 1 White Admiral and no Fritillaries at all, in spite of temperatures up to 28C ! - Pete Waldron

Saturday 6th July 2013

I motorbiked it to Park Wood where it was already heating up by mid morning. I saw my first skippers for 2 years. I didn't get a good view of all of them but I suspect they were all Large Skippers. The 'Meadlets' are either Meadow Brown or Ringlet (not sure which), so I decided to invent a new name... The highlight was at the western end of the main ride where a pair of White Admirals were very actively having multiple scraps above my head. I couldn't get near enough for decent photos. But one landed wings closed briefly looked like a purple emperor... Large skipper x8 Ringlet x7 Comma x3 White Admiral x7 Meadow brown x12 Speckled Wood x10 Meadlets x6 (Plus a Large White in the street East of the wood where I parked.) I nipped to Horsenden Hill before going home. Was nice to see Cinnabars and Burnets again. The Burnets were not stopping in the heat but I seem to remember they are all Narrow Bordered 5 spot ones there. Nice to bump into David Howdon on my way in. I briefly saw 2 White Letter Hairstreaks flitting around the top of an elm tree. That was all I saw of them. But much better than not at all! Large skipper x9 Comma x2 Meadow brown x5 Speckled Wood x2 Cinnabar x2 Burnet (probably Narrow Bordered 5 spot) **x4 White Letter Hairstreak x2** By 1:30pm it was too hot even in the shade and I was running low on water so I retreated home to my lovely aircon unit! - Mike Rubin

Had a **Silver-washed Fritillary** at a surprise site, of a garden at the back of Abbots Langley village on Saturday afternoon. - Clive Burrows

Aldbury Nowers - Encouraged by this weeks report from Paul Thrush, I visited Aldbury Nowers to establish how many **Dark Green Fritillaries** are now on the reserve. Starting at the southernmost end I walked the whole site and found DGF spread fairly evenly over the reserve & present in 7 of the 8 main compartments. Exact numbers are difficult as they hide in the grass & when they fly travel long distances quickly over a large area. By avoiding possible duplications I arrived at a count of 36 DGFs, although I suspect the actual number could be higher. I've certainly never seen anywhere near the number of this species in Herts before and if proof is still needed that they are now resident on site, I photographed a mating pair.. Ringlets were the most numerous species with over 500 recorded, followed by Meadow Browns(200+), Marbled Whites (145) and Large Skipper(30) I saw 56 (mainly) Small Skippers, though the last one I checked was definitely an **Essex Skipper** (my first of the year) Small Tortoiseshell (7) Speckled Wood (8), Narrow bordered 5 spot Burnet (14). As well as this profusion of early summer butterflies, there were also a small number of fairly tatty butterflies hanging on from the spring, including 1 Small Blue, Brown Argus (2), Small Heath (10), **Grizzled Skipper (1), Dingy Skipper**, Common Blue (7) and Brimstone(3) (inc male & female) - So I saw nearly 1000 butterflies in just over 2 hours, and the best news is that there are many more still to emerge! Malcolm Hull

Hatfield Aerodrome (Disused) - Ellenbrook Field 16/7/13: Larger Skipper - x 2 Common Blue x 1 Small Tortoiseshell x 8+ Meadow Brown x 9+ Marbled White x 1 Ringlet x 15+ Small Heath x 2 - David Wheatcroft

Thirty minutes on the Hay Field on Harpenden Common this morning (6 June) produced 1 Burnet Companion, 1 Comma, 1 Ringlet, 2 Small Whites, 3 Small Heaths, 3 Small Tortoiseshells and 47 Meadow Browns. But the highlight was a magnificent, flowering (Early Purple?) Orchid, the first I've seen there. - Alan Jackson

Hunsdon Lodge farm, concrete road west of Black hut wood, 30+ Small tortoiseshell!, large nettle beds here being the contributing factor. Wormley wood, sw area, 2 Comma, my first of the summer period, White admiral 0 also 0 at Bencroft, 0 at Balls wood, 0 at Broxbourne and 0 at Goldings wood. PHHH ! - Laurence Drummond

1 x white plume moth in Bushey front garden this evening - David Gower

Friday 5th July 2013

Short visit to Bricket Wood mid afternoon produced 4 Large Skippers, 2 Brimstone, 3 Meadow Browns, 7 Speckled Wood and a single **White Admiral**, some 10 days later than my usual first sighting of this species here, over many years. - Clive Burrows

In Bushey garden this evening 1 x garden carpet, 1 x yellow shell, 2 x light brown apple moths - David Gower

Friday afternoon at Waterford Heath south pit 13 marbled white, 6 small tortoiseshell , a comma and 50 or so meadow browns - Steve Kiln

I had a very enjoyable Transect today at Butterfly World with large sightings of both the Common and Small Blue my totals today were| Small Tortoiseshell 28, Common Blue 26, Green veined white 2, Meadow Brown 29, Small Blue 10, Large Skipper 1, Marbled White 2 - Mandy Floyd

As the car thermometer was reading 24C I decided to have another attempt for **White-letter Hairstreak** at my local site on Napsbury Lane near St Albans (approx TL162055). Finally found at least 4 battling around the topmost branches of one of their favourite elms alongside the golf course, but could not catch them lower down or nectaring on flowers, so only poor silhouette shots, I'm afraid. Also seen on site were 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 2 Large Skipper, 2 Speckled Wood, several Cinnabar Moths, 5+Meadow Brown, 10+ Ringlet. - Pete Waldron

Park Wood, Ruislip One **White Admiral** this afternoon; and almost certainly a new brood Comma - Graham Elcombe.

At Norton Green this morning, 10+ Meadow Browns, 5+ Ringlets, 20+ Speckled Woods, 2 Small Whites, 3 Small Heaths, a Small Copper and a Small Tortoiseshell. However, surprisingly, I have not seen a Large Skipper here yet. In the afternoon, in Fairlands Valley Park, Stevenage, I saw the first Meadow Browns, Ringlets and a Marbled White (all at Shackledell Grassland) and a very

ageing Peacock (a year old perhaps?) about 50 metres north of the Canyon Play Centre. Peter Clarke

In a field in the Ruislip Common area (TQ084894) today I recorded the following: 5 Marbled White; 4 Small Tortoiseshell, 2 Small Skipper; 2 Large Skipper; 10+ Ringlet and 20+ Meadow Brown. Fields to the west (either side of Ducks Hill Road) produced another 6 Marbled White. - Dick Middleton

On my weekly walk around Tytttenhanger Gravel Pits I saw 25 Meadow Browns, the first there for the year. Also 8 Ringlets and 3 Speckled Woods - both also firsts there, as well as 3 Small Heath, 1 Peacock and 1 Large White - Terry Wood

High wych/Sawbridgeworth Rivers hospital/orchard site, 21 Large skipper, 1 very worn Large white, 2 Common blue(1 male 1 female), 6 Small tortoiseshell, 4 Speckled wood, 50+Meadow brown, and 12 Ringlet also 22 Six spot burnet and 11 Burnet companion - Laurence Drummond

Bricket Wood Common - Small Heath - my first record from this site after 18 years of regular visits and the 30th butterfly species I've seen there. The recent introduction of cattle grazing has resulted in areas of short grassland habitat which the Small Heath favours. Ringlet numbers are building with about 30 seen today. Meadow Browns, Large Skipper, Speckled Wood, Comma, Small Tortoiseshell, Brimstone and Green- veined White also flying. No sign yet of the larger summer butterflies, but with the weather set fair I have high hopes for the branch field trip on Sunday - see events page for details. Malcolm Hull

I just saw 2 marbled whites on Harpenden Common, my first of the year! Jenny Sherwen

I did spot three Small Tortoiseshells this very morning sunning themselves including one that spent a whole half hour on a window sill at Harwoods Road, West Watford. This is pleasing to see as they have been extremely scarce. I did spot one dead Small Tort last week with common garden ants disassembling the body. Perhaps the odd fluctuations in the weather may have affected it unfortunately leading to it's demise. - Balraj

Thursday 4th July 2013

I had a lunchtime walk at Mymms Wash behind the Services and saw my first Ringlet and Speckled Wood of this year. Also 8 Small Tortoiseshell, 6 Small White, 1 Large White and 1 Peacock - Terry Wood

Better results on my Warren transect today, but still well below previous years, with 36 Meadow Brown, 11 Small Heath, 2 Common Blue, 2 Large Skipper (1st this year), 1 Marbled White (1st this year). I was relieved to see the MWhite. They usually peak at 20-30 about now & I was beginning to wonder if they'd died out. Hopefully better figures all round next visit. John Moss

Very good view of a **purple hairstreak** in Park Wood, Ruislip this morning - Les Avey (pictures on facebook)

Visited Balls Wood today (4th) but still no summer woodland species flying, just plenty of Speckled Woods and Large Skippers and the first Small tortoiseshell I have seen in the wood on a transect walk since 2006. Marbled White at Trenchern Hills on Wednesday 3rd Andrew Wood

A few sightings for yesterday 3rd July 2013 - 1 Comma near Shaws Wood, Trent Park, 14:43 hrs, 4+ Small Tortoiseshell at Vicarage Farm, including two together along track at Hog Hill. - Robert Callf

This afternoon, July 4th, on a visit to Brunel University's Bicentenary Gardens a Marbled White was seen, our first site record. Also present were Large and Small Skippers and several Ringlets. There was no sign today of a Brown Argus seen on Tuesday. Also found were 24 Bee Orchids and 13 Pyramidal Orchid flower spikes. - Sylvia and Roger Morton

I did the transecting today, good numbers of marbled white, meadow brown and ringlet, at least 6 dark green fritillary, large skipper, small skipper, small copper, speckled wood, small tortoiseshell and brimstone. Most surprising was quite a fresh looking dingy skipper in one of the southern enclosures. - Paul Thrush

Small tortoiseshell on the up, saw 14 individuals today, around Braughing, Hay street, Puckeridge, Cherry green, Westmill and Buntingford - Laurence Drummond

Sightings from Stanwell Moor: **30th June** A very late (1900) and brief trip round my local patch surprised me with no less than three new brood Commas all in the same area. Also seen was a Small Tortoiseshell, and several Large Skippers, Small Heaths and Meadow Browns.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=34744&mode=view>

1st July Another very quick sortie late afternoon (1700) over a different stretch from yesterday. I saw two Red Admirals and three Speckled Woods, and my small son spotted about a dozen Vapourer moth caterpillars in a shrub a few doors down from home.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=34749&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=34746&mode=view>

We have also been rearing a few Small Tortoiseshell caterpillars, and released these in ones and twos since the end of last week as they emerged.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=34438&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=34437&mode=view>

Dave Miller

Wednesday 3rd July 2013

There was a Clouded Yellow nectaring on the gardens at Silkin Court, Stevenage all afternoon on Wednesday 26th June 13. My first of the season. - Mike Harris

Monday 1st July 2013

I went to Balls Wood this afternoon, half-hoping for an early WA or SWF. But none seen, just 5 Meadow Brown (along the entrance path), 4 Large Skipper (along the main ride) and 30+ Speckled Wood all around the site - - Paul Why

I had a look at Broxbourne Wood today. It is looking less stark than it did last year and a lot drier - no seas of mud this time.. Butterflies included 1 Orange Tip (is this the first ever for July??) 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 6 Meadow Browns and 3 Large Skippers. Incidentally the management now say they will close and refurbish the car parks one by one. Just in time for the White Admiral and PE season - Nigel Agar

Sightings today 1st July 2013 - 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 10:05 hrs; 1 Painted Lady at Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm, 10:18 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Parkside Farm, Enfield, 10:50 hrs; 2 Large Skipper at Parkside Farm; 1 Narrow-bordered Five Spot Burnet at Parkside Farm, Enfield - our first of the year! 1 Peacock at Parkside Farm, 11:10 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Park Farm, Enfield, 11:17 hrs. 1 Speckled Wood near Obelisk, Trent Park; 2, male and female, Common Blue at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 11:56 - 12:00 hrs; 1 female Clouded Yellow at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 12:10 hrs - our first of the year! 1 Small Copper at 'New Fields', Trent Park, 12:40 hrs - Robert Callf & Robin White.



Archive Page

Sightings and news from January to June 2013

 [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 2013.

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 2013

Sunday 30th June 2013

Sightings for Saturday 29th June 2013 - 2 Speckled Wood at Fir & Pond Woods, near Potters Bar, 12:55 hrs; 1+ male Large Skipper at Fir & Pond Woods, 13:20 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Fir & Pond Woods, 13:23 hrs - summer-brood; 11+ Meadow Brown at Fir & Pond Woods; 2 Small Tortoiseshell, together, at Holly Hill Farm, Enfield, 14:25 hrs; 1 Large Skipper, at Little Beechill Wood, 15:08 hrs; 3 Peacock at Vault Hill Wood, Enfield Chase; 1 Ringlet at South Barvin Farm, Enfield, 15:30 hrs; 2 Large Skipper at South Barvin Farm, Enfield, 15:35 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Plumridge Farm, Enfield, 15:45 hrs; 1 Large Skipper at Ferny Hill Farm, Enfield, 16:03 hrs. Sightings for Sunday 30th June 2013 - 1 Small Tortoiseshell, Sect 1, Trent Park, 14:17 hrs; 15 Large Skipper at Trent Park, 14:20 - 15:12 hrs; 15 Small Heath at Trent Park, 14:35 - 15:20 hrs; 3 Ringlet at Trent Park; 1 Small Copper, Sect 6, Trent Park, 15:05 hrs. - Robert Callf & Robin White.

News from 29th June 2013, Large Skipper on Common Spotted Orchid in Upper Green garden, Tewin. Speckled Wood seen most days - Jim Farr

At field other side of bridge from Garston station 1 x large skipper, 1 x red admiral, 1 x meadow brown, 2 x speckled wood. Onto Bricket Wood common where i found 3 x speckled wood, 5 x meadow brown, 6 x brimstone (4 female), 1 x ringlet, 1 x comma, 1 x green oak tortrix. 2 x small tortoiseshell at Water Lane just after 6 pm. - David Gower

At Bricket Wood Common this am 10+ speckled woods, 8+ brimstones, 4 Meadow Brown, 1 large Skipper and **a possible Purple Hairstreak** also 1 Small Tortoiseshell in my St. Albans garden early evening - Andrew Steele

Clouded Yellow near Panshanger today, looked like a helice pale female form - Andrew Wood

Clouded Yellow, at Heartwood today - west side of site on large area of clover - Martin Webb

We saw a female Clouded yellow nectaring on comfrey at Thorley Wash Nature Reserve this afternoon - Jenny Sherwen

Small Tortoiseshell in the Hitchin garden this mornng - Nigel Agar

A worn Small Copper (my first of the year) seen in the field north of Pigeonswick Cottage and 2 Small Whites, 10+ Speckled Woods and 2 Peacocks elsewhere in Norton Green today - Peter Clarke

High Wych, my largest count of Small tortoiseshell for many years today with a mind blowing 7 (this was a years worth of sightings only a few years ago) sunning along the path between the rapeseed fields ENE of the village on the way to the Rivers hospital/orchard site this morning, at the site on the main fields the sward has been allowed to grow very high this year and this has shaded out the clover and thyme plants, floral diversity has taken a hit here, the only butterflies seen, fitting in with the new long sward, 11 Large skipper, but surprisingly 1 Brown argus in their

usual spot but where none were seen last year, across the rest of the site in a more favorable sward, 3 Large skipper, 19 Meadow brown, 3 Common blue all males, 5 Speckled wood (in the shady track between the fields), 1 Small tortoiseshell, and a large pinky Nymphalid that whizzed through most likely a Painted lady, also 2 Bee orchids and 3 Pyramidal orchids - Laurence Drummond

Saturday 29th June 2013

At Merryhill Fields, Bushey = 26 x meadow brown, 10 x large skipper, **2 x small skipper** (my first of year), 6 x brimstone (1 female), 3 x common blue, 1 x ringlet (my first of year), 2 x peacock, 2 x speckled wood, 2 x small tortoiseshell, 1 x burnet companion, 3 x straw dot, 2 x green oak tortrix, 1 x yellow shell. - David Gower

Bricket Wood Common - Speckled Woods are the stars of the show today, with 20 recorded on today's transect walk. Brimstones are still out in force with a total split evenly between males and females. A few summer butterflies have started to emerge with just 1 Ringlet, 2 Meadow Browns and 4 Large Skippers. Other sightings included a Green veined White and a Small Magpie Moth. Butterfly World, Chiswell Green - only a mile away, but in butterfly world this site is on a different planet this week with little overlap in terms of species. Today I saw **7 Small Blues, 27 Common Blues, 1 Clouded Yellow, 7 Small Tortoiseshells** 4 six spot Burnet moth, 5 Yellow Shell, 3 Burnet Companion, 21 Meadow Browns and. 2 Large Skippers - Malcolm Hull

A walk round Oughtonhead today, saw good numbers of Brimstone, 2x Red Admiral, 2x Meadow Brown, 1x Speckled Wood and Common Blue - Kevin Taylor

Took an enjoyable walk across Hertford heath and round Balls wood. Balls wood looks superb now with the work that has been done there, Speckled woods made up the vast majority of the sightings with 50+ around the area, the late spring has certainly slowed things down, others included just 2 Large skipper, 2 Meadow brown and a Small tortoiseshell. Danemead could only give 1 Speckled wood. I tried my local elms at Pole hole farm but no WLH seen, also 1 fresh Small tortoiseshell here - Laurence Drummond

Sightings 29/6/13 - Hatfield Aerodrome (Disused) - Ellenbrook Fields Small heath x 5 Speckled Wood x 1 - David Wheatcroft

I saw a male orange tip today at Bayfordbury and another male orange tip near Essendon this afternoon. - Shaun Dowman

In Barnes Lane, Kings Langley between 1-2pm we saw many small tortoiseshells. Two were mud puddling by the roadside near nettles and brambles and further up the lane near the A41 bypass a field full of scentless mayweed and pineapple weed revealed at least 9 small tortoiseshells! On the verge opposite there was a late cinnabar moth and a my first ringlet - Elizabeth Debenham

A catch up listing. June 9th, We saw less than 20 common blues at Bunkers Lane, Hemel Hempstead ox eye daisy field. June 16th, also in Bunkers Lane Hemel Hempstead we saw a few common blues. June 17th, found a Burnet Companion at Bunkers and about 10 common blues. June 19th, a green veined white in Kings Langley nectaring on Herb Robert. June 24th, in Bunkers field about 9 common blues and several burnet cocoons. June 25th, No common blues in Bunkers, but a large hungry red admiral caterpillar munching through a nettle stalk which it later broke.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/7392841@N04/9154047624/in/photostream/>

Numerous burnet cases on grass. June 26th A small tortoiseshell was nectaring on valerian in a Kings Langley garden. My first large skipper in pristine condition on brambles in a Barnes Lane field in Kings Langley. Also a fast flier probably a small tortoiseshell as there are plenty of nettles.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/7392841@N04/9151771983/in/photostream/> June 27th in the garden in Kings Langley several Nemophora degeerella micro moth males with long antennae.

More photos in an Exhibition which includes a few butterflies and an Aldbury Nowers view. http://www.watfordobserver.co.uk/events/Kings_Langley/875415.Photographs_of_Chiltern_Views_and_Wildlife/

Elizabeth Debenham

Thursday 27th June 2013

At Bricket Wood Common this pm despite the cloud I saw 1 Painted Lady, 8 Large Skippers, 8+ Speckled Wood, 6 Brimstone at least 1 pair dancing and 3 Meadow browns plus a Hornet in the woods and at least 4 Broad-bodied Chaser on the common - Andy Steele

East of Redbourn today I saw my first meadow browns (3), ringlets (2) and large skippers (3) of the year, along with 2 brimstones and 3 speckled woods. Ian Flack

At Balls Wood today my first large skipper of the year - Andy Brown

Two Speckled Wood in Tottenham Cemetery today Thursday 27th June 2013 at 11:58 hrs. - Robert Callf

Wednesday 26th June 2013

I had some very good sightings yesterday at Butterfly World, over the whole Transect I recorded 41 Common Blues, 6 Small Blues, 1 Large White, 2 Small Whites, **Clouded Yellow**, Small Heath, 4 Meadow Browns, 2 Small Tortoiseshell, 3 Large Skippers - Mandy Floyd

Seen today (26th June) at Bedfont Lakes country park was a single **Clouded yellow**, along the path adjacent the railway line posing for several minutes before flying onto the nearby hedgeline. - Rob Solomon

In Bushey garden 1 x yellow shell , 1 x light brown apple moth. At Merryhill Fields, Bushey 4 x meadow brown (my first of year), 2 x speckled wood, 3 x large skipper (my first of year), 1 x small tortoiseshell, 1 x brimstone(male). At Water Lane 15+ nettle tap moths, 2 x speckled wood, 1 brimstone (male), 1 x small tortoiseshell, 1 x yellow shell, 3 x treble bar, 1 x common blue, 1 x large skipper. Lastly 3 x speckled wood at Fishers Field - David Gower

Last Wednesday (19th June) on the transect I saw a **dark green fritillary**, 2 green hairstreak, 3 dingy skipper, 1 grizzled skipper, large skipper, green veined white, 3 brimstone, small copper, 5 brown argus, 8 common blue, 21 small heath and 9 meadow brown. Today was very productive, I had my first **marbled white and ringlet**, lots of meadow brown and small heath, small copper, brimstone, white sp, large skipper, brown argus, common blue, 3+ dark green fritillary and 2 very fresh looking grizzled skipper. - Paul Thrush

In an hour spent at Bricket Wood Common I saw 3 Large Skippers, 2 Speckled Wood, 8 Brimstone (mostly female). No sign of White Admiral or SW Frit but the brambles are just coming into flower so shouldn't be long now - Robin Pearson

A few sightings today 26th June 2013 - 1 Speckled Wood at Oakwood, N14 at 11:58 hrs. 1 Speckled Wood at Houndsden Gutter, N21 at 12:25 hrs. 3 Speckled Wood at Grovelands Park, N14 and 1 Burnet Companion here. - Robert Callf

Very little sunshine at Norton Green earlier this afternoon so very few butterflies were flying but saw 3 Small Whites, 1 Large White, 1 Speckled Wood and 1 Common Blue (which I failed to find here last year!) - Peter Clarke

Tuesday 25th June 2013

News from Diane Andrews. A visit to Forty Hall meadows today recorded 76 Chimney Sweeper moths, 1 Mother Shipton, 1 Silver Y, 1 Large Skipper, 5 Speckled Wood and 3 Meadow Brown. In a different tetrad the New River Walk she found 50 Peacock larvae on nettles.

Baas Hill area of Broxbourne, 1 **Clouded Yellow** - Andrew Middleton

1 x large white, 1 x large yellow underwing & 2 x light brown apple moths in Bushey garden - David Gower

On my walk around Tyttenhanger Gravel Pits today I saw 2 Small Heath, 4 Whites, 2 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Peacock, 1 Cinnabar and my first Large Skipper of the year - Terry Wood

Sightings for today Tuesday 25th June 2013 - 2 Speckled Wood, together, at Sidhil's Field, Vicarage Farm, 08:58 hrs; 2 Small Tortoiseshell at Vicarage Farm, Enfield (1 along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, 09:28 and 1 along Merryhills Brook, 13:15 hrs); 2 Large Skipper at Vicarage Farm, Enfield (1 along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, 09:30 and 1 along Merryhills Brook, 13:28 hrs); 2+ male Meadow Brown at Parkside Farm, Enfield; 1 Peacock at Parkside Farm, Enfield, 09:45 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood, at Bay Farm, Enfield, 10:28 hrs and another at Park Farm, Enfield, 10:40 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood, at Little Beechill Wood, Enfield, 10:45 hrs; 1 male Large

Skipper, at Little Beechill Wood, Enfield Chase, 10:55 hrs; 3 male Meadow Brown at Little Beechill Wood, 10:55 - 11:00 hrs; 1 Large White, at Vault Hill Wood, Enfield Chase, 11:03 hrs; 1 Peacock, at Vault Hill Wood, 11:04 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood, at Vault Hill Wood, 11:05 hrs; 1 Small Copper, set-aside field near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 12:35 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip, at South Lodge Farm and Vicarage Farm, along Merryhills Brook, 13:25 hrs onwards; 1 Peacock, along Merryhills Brook/Vicarage Farm, 13:28 hrs. Robert Callf & Robin White

I did my weekly walk across the Hay Field on Harpenden Common this morning (Tuesday 25 June). The scorching sun (the temperature reached 14 degrees) brought out 1 Meadow Brown, 1 Small Heath and 1 Green-veined White. Apart from a couple of yellow Shell moths there were few other insects around. The good news is that the flowers in the Hay Field are very spectacular indeed and it is well worth going there to see them - Alan Jackson

Wood Lane, Pirton, nice to see a late Orange tip + Red Admiral, speckled woods there on 20th June - Stuart Pittman

Monday 24th June 2013

Sightings for Monday 24th June 2013 - 1 Small Tortoiseshell, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 10:35 hrs - our first of the summer-brood; 1 male Meadow Brown, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables at Vicarage Farm, 10:40 hrs; 1 Clouded Border, at Parkside Farm, on Res banking; 1 Speckled Wood, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 13:12 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood, along Merryhills Brook/Vicarage Farm, 13:50 hrs; 2 Large Skipper, along Merryhills Brook/Vicarage Farm, 13:52 hrs. Robert Callf & Robin White

Went back to Water Lane, Watford early evening. Sightings were 1 x skipper (probably large but not 100% sure), 3 x common white wave, 9 x yellow shell, 40 x nettle tap. At fishers field 1 x yellow shell & 8 x nettle tap. 4 x light brown apple moths in our Bushey garden tonight - David Gower

Saw a male Orange Tip at Park Farm, Enfield (TQ285983) near Ferny Hill on Thursday 20th June 2013 at 15:45 hrs - still looked fresh, also a male Common Blue at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 15:30 hrs. - Robert Callf

We (wife and family) visited Aldbury Nowers NR on **16 June 2013** (late morning). Overcast but occasional bright spells. Spotted 2 Peacock, 1 Common Blue (male), 2 Dingy Skippers, 10 Small Heath and **one large fritillary (accepted as Dark Green)** on the wing which I would probably say was a Dark Green Fritillary. It didn't look like a Silver-washed Fritillary. Unfortunately, only saw it for 20-30 secs before losing sight of it when it went to ground so I never saw it's underwing. David Smith County Butterfly Recorder (Yorkshire)

Sunday 23rd June 2013

At 4p.m had a look around Water Lane, Watford. Noted 4 x speckled wood, 6 x yellow shell moths, 2 x common white wave, 6 x nemophora degeerella. Actually spotted 70-100 micro moths but despite photos unable to id yet (The 70-100 moths seen in Water Lane were nettle tap moths.!) - David Gower

Bricket Wood Common - at last, the start of summer! But today's weather was more typical of early Spring, mostly cloudy with showers and sunny spells and the temperature struggling to get to 17 degrees. New species for the year on this site today were Large Skipper (1 seen) and Silver Ground Carpet Moth (1). Also a new flush of Speckled Woods (7). Male and Female Brimstone both still out - 3 seen all nectaring on creeping thistle, also a single Small White, nectaring on Meadow Vetchling - Malcolm Hull

Oak Hill Woods---LNR East Barnet-----23/6/13 -20 final instar L White larvae on single small Garlic mustard plant----- --2x Peacock first instar nests on nettle in centre of field away from hedgerows----- 20x Tshell 3rd instar larvae---on same nettle bed----- -4x 2nd instar Brimstone larvae on very small P Buckthorn cutting isolated in woodland glade - Kitt Jones

Saturday 22nd June 2013

Wednesday 19 June. Late report, but on my Warren transect I recorded 21 Small Heath & 3 fresh male Common Blue. Small Heaths seem to be thriving this year - I've already recorded many more than in the whole of last year. Hopefully the Blues will make a similar recovery. Otherwise a few

assorted Whites, 1 Peacock & 6 Cinnabars. Hopefully Marbled White & Meadow Brown will show soon - John Moss

I walked around Stocker's Lake this afternoon and saw two butterflies during the occasional brighter interludes: a small tortoiseshell and a red admiral (my first of the year) - Ian Flack

Friday 21st June 2013

Saw two male Large Skippers at Whitewebbs Park this afternoon Friday 21st June 2013 at 14:03 and 14:05 hrs. - Robert Callf

Thursday 20th June 2013

1 x brimstone moth in Bushey garden tonight - David Gower

Very few butterflies encountered on my walk around Tyttenhanger Gravel pits today - 1 Peacock, 1 Small Heath, 1 Common Blue, 1 Large White and 1 Cinnabar. But I have to add that yesterday in my South Mimms garden I saw 1 Comma, and 1 fairly late Orange Tip. - Terry Wood

Wednesday 19th June 2013

Had a walk around Therfield heath today on a rare sunny day and saw Small Heaths were everywhere a good few Common Blues, 2 Large White, 2m Brimstone, and 2 Brown Argus - Kevin Taylor

My first painted lady of the year, at 17.40 **18th June** on precisely the same 20m stretch of path on the Rothamsted Estate, Harpenden, where I always see them first. There is undoubtedly something special about this spot. - Richard Harrington

News from Diane Andrews, visiting King George Field, Hadley. 12 Chimney Sweepers, 1 Silver Y, 1 Burnet Companion, 1 Yellow shell, Speckled Wood and a **Meadow Brown**

Sightings for today Wednesday 19th June 2013 - 1 female Green-veined White, along Merryhills Brook/Vicarage Farm, 10:09 hrs and 1 male here, 10:20 hrs; 3 Speckled Wood, at Shaws Wood, Trent Park, 10:45 hrs; 2 Large Skipper, together, set-aside field near Shaws Wood, Trent Park, 10:50 hrs - our first of the year; 1 Cinnabar, edge of Icehouse Wood, Trent Park; at least 4 male Common Blue, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 11:25 - 11:30 hrs, but probably more; 1 Peacock, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 11:32 hrs; 2 Small Heath, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park; 19 Small Heath, at 'New Fields', Trent Park, 12:10 - 12:30 hrs; 5 Chimney Sweeper, at 'New Fields', in usual field, Trent Park - our first of the year; 2 Small Copper, at 'New Fields', Trent Park, 12:29 - 12:35 hrs and another Sect 7, along board-walk near tube-line, 12:43 hrs; 2 male Common Blue, at 'New Fields', Trent Park, 12:40 and 12:51 hrs; **2 male Meadow Brown**, at 'New Fields', Trent Park, 12:35 and 12:51 hrs - our first of the year. - Robert Callf

Saw my first **Meadow brown** and large skipper in field next to Bencroft wood. At Waterford heath south very late orange tip and grizzled skipper, plenty of common blues - Steve Kiln

A couple of common blues and a couple of whites plus one peacock on the chalk bank at King's Meads today 19th - Andy Brown

Tuesday 18th June 2013

2 Small Heaths in the Hay Field, Harpenden Common, this morning (18 June) - Alan Jackson

An afternoon walk at Oughtonhead only the two Butterflies seen again 1 Common Blue, 1 Brimstone - Kevin Taylor

Monday 17th June 2013

News from Diane Andrews, a visit to Trent Park today, found **5 Chimney Sweeper** moths but no butterflies other than 18 Small Heath, also 1 Mother shipton and 1 Straw Dot moth

Sunday 16th June 2013

I had a quick look at the Grizzled skipper site near Hoo Wood today on the way back from my walk. Unfortunately I didn't see any - infact I only saw three buttrflies all day. The only butterfly I saw on the Grizzled Skipper site - was an extremely worn Dingy Skipper. It would be nice to see some common butterflies there! - Ian Carle

Butterfly World, Chiswell Green, St Albans - HMBC Branch Field Trip - Despite the dire weather forecast, 8 people showed up. The weather was mostly cloudy, but a few sunny spells allowed us to see a few butterflies. Common Blues were the most numerous with 12-14, mostly males seen sunbathing & occasionally nectaring in the meadows. We had three, possibly five sightings of Small Blue, the main target species. They were seen in two distinct areas of the site & posed obligingly for photographers. The larval food plant, Kidney Vetch is still plentiful on the chalk slopes & on other areas of the site. Brown Argus & Large Skipper were both recorded, as were Large, Small & Green-veined White, Common Carpet, Cinnabar Moth & many Burnet Companions. The sheer variety of wild flowers, birds & insects makes this a very rewarding site to visit - Malcolm Hull - Malcolm Hull

Saturday 15th June 2013

Stanwell Moor, sunshine really was at a premium again today, it was windy, and mid-afternoon there was a prolonged downpour. However, I set off round my local patch regardless, knowing there'll always be something. I started off with the sheltered glade by the River Colne today, where the wind at least couldn't reach. This was occupied by a couple of Speckled Woods and a Red Admiral: as I've commented before there is always one in residence here year in year out. Moving on to the more open areas, when the sun shone the Small Heaths appeared - an attempt at counting them reached 25, but they were so wind-blown it was difficult to be sure. I counted ten Common Blues as well, including two females, and two Large Skippers keeping to the more sheltered bits. Other than that, a couple of Green-veined, one Small and one Large White completed the picture. I had seen a group of three Holly Blues close to home yesterday, but none appeared today. I kept an eye out for Orange Tip caterpillars too, and found them on most clumps of garlic mustard I examined. Oddly, I have yet to find a Green-veined White caterpillar on these plants, though it is certainly one they eat.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=33683&mode=view>

Dave Miller

A couple of hours around Oughtonhead common today, again not a lot of sun and windy and only 2 Butterflies seen. 1 Small White & 1 GV White - Kevin Taylor

Friday 14th June 2013

Transects today Friday. Grizzled skippers and orange tips at Rickneys and Waterford Heath south my latest for these.. also plenty of small heath and common blue - Steve Kiln

1 x small magpie moth in our Bushey garden this evening - David Gower

Hatfield Aerodrome (Disused) - Ellenbrook Fields. Sighting on 14th June 2013 - Constant cool breeze not ideal for Butterflies: Green-veined White - 2+ Peacock - 1 Small Tortoiseshell - 2 + Few 'Skipper' species & 'Blues' briefly in flight - unable to give certain ID - David Wheatcroft

News for Friday 14th June 2013 - 1 Peacock at Whitewebbs Park, 17:00 hrs, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, at Whitewebbs Park, 17:02 hrs - worn! 1 male Brimstone at Hilly Fields Park, Enfield at 17:15 hrs. Also saw an 'orange' butterfly around Flash Lane Aqueduct briefly - probably just a Comma. - Robert Callf

Thursday 13th June 2013

News for Thursday 13th June 2013 - 1 Speckled Wood, at Park Farm, Enfield, at 15:07 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip, at Park Farm, Enfield, at 15:10 hrs; 2 Silver-ground Carpet, at Little Beechill Wood, Enfield Chase; Silver Y, at Little Beechill Wood, Enfield Chase; 1 Speckled Wood, at Vault Hill Wood, Enfield Chase, at 15:37 hrs. - Robert Callf

At the weekend I found a single orange egg of an orange tip butterfly underneath the flower head on five separate garlic mustard plants in my garden in Bounds Green North London. Four days later I now have five caterpillars sitting on the now flowerless heads of five plants ranging in length from 6 to 12mm. The attached photos are of the larger one. In the close up you can see droplets of what Jeremy Thomas discusses in "The Butterflies of Britain and Ireland" as possibly being a sweet liquid to attract ants, but as he says in his book there is no signs of ants taking an interest as yet. My son and I will follow their development with interest!

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/64663114@N03/9035655134/in/photostream/>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/64663114@N03/9035655654/in/photostream/>
Miles Attenborough

Wednesday 12th June 2013

Saw a Burnet Companion at Oakwood Park, N14 this morning Wednesday 12th June 2013 at 11:10 hrs. Also one Speckled Wood in Oakwood Park, N14 this morning Wednesday 12th June 2013 at 10:47 hrs. - Robert Callf

Monday 10th June 2013

Friday 7th June 2013 - 1 Mother Shipton, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables at Vicarage Farm, 10:55 hrs; 2 male Orange Tip (1 at Parkside Farm, 11:25 hrs, 1 at Park Farm, 11:33 hrs): 4 Small White, together, at Rectory Farm, Enfield at 12:25 hrs; 2 Large White, at Rectory Farm, Enfield at 12:25 hrs; 2 Speckled Wood, at Strayfield Road, Clay Hill, Enfield, 12:30 hrs. Saturday 8th June 2013 - 3 Small Heath, at Vicarage Farm, Enfield - one at 12:08 hrs and two in a different area at 15:15 hrs; 1 Peacock, at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 12:10 hrs; 1 female Orange Tip, at Park Farm, Enfield, 12:35 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip, at Vault Hill Wood, Enfield, 13:25 hrs; 1 Peacock, at Park Farm, Enfield, at 12:55 hrs; 1 Silver Y, at Little Beechill Wood and 3 Silver Y at South Barvin Farm, Enfield. Monday 10th June 2013 - 1 Green-veined White, at Little Beechill Wood, Enfield, 11:45 hrs. - Robert Callf

Sightings at Hexton Chalk pits yesterday evening, 6 Dingy Skippers, 5 Small heaths and 1 Common Carpet Moth - Andy Steele

Went to Aldbury Nowers lower sections late Sunday afternoon and found 24 x small heath, 1 x common blue, 1 x large white, 6 x brown argos, 12 x common carpet moths, 1 x treble bar, 6 x burnet companion - David Gower

Saturday 8th June 2013

On Weds 5th June in evening a quick trip along the lower hedgeline of Aldbury Nowers found no resting butterflies, but several unidentified moths. On Thursday 6th June walked along the grass at bottom of Ivinghoe Beacon near the cattle grid and saw 2 resting common blues and 3 small heaths. Friday 7th June a quick evening walk through the centre of the sloping field from the seat down to Bunkers Lane, Hemel Hempstead found 3 roosting common blues and 8 burnet moth cases on tall grasses and ox eye daisies - Elizabeth Debenham

St Albans News - Despite the cold north wind and clouds, most Spring Butterflies are still around, though numbers are down on previous weeks. At Bricket Wood Common Brimstones are still the main attraction with 8 on today's transect. Holly Blue, GV White and Common Carpet also at this site. At Smug Oak Lane nearby I saw Orange Tip and Small White. At Colney St I added Speckled Wood, Cinnabar moth, Small Heath and Comma - Malcolm Hull

1 x large white in Bushey garden and at Cassiobury Park, Watford 3 x large white & 1 x brimstone late afternoon - David Gower

Friday 7th June 2013

First **Large skipper** of the year for me this evening at the old Rivers nursery site, High Wych/Sawbridgeworth, being blown along on the breeze. - Laurence Drummond

At Ashwell Quarry today : 3 Large Whites, 5 Brimstones, 3 small heath 1 common blue and 1 orange tip - Andy Brown

Thursday 6th June 2013

On a quick tour of my local patch (Stanwell Moor) this afternoon, I saw my first **Large Skipper** of the season. Also seen were four Speckled Woods, six Small Heath, a Peacock, a Red Admiral, a Large White, a Common Blue, and several Small/GV Whites. This may be the first UK sighting of a Large Skipper, as no date is yet shown on the BC website for a first sighting.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=32964&mode=view>

Dave Miller

During a visit to Sarratt Bottom this afternoon we encountered at least 6 Peacocks mud-puddling by the footbridge where the river has burst its banks- all appeared to be in good condition, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 4-5 Orange Tips, 3 Common Blues & 1 Small Copper together with a few 'whites'. A

single White Ermine moth & 2 Cinnabar were also seen. In our garden in Pinner for the last 2-3 weeks we have had 1,2 or occasionally 3 Holly Blues whenever the weather is suitable. Also, a number of Orange Tips which have appeared most days have kindly deposited their eggs on several Lady's Smocks - Gill & Tony Porter

Had a good walk around Waterford Heath today, most of the Butterflies I saw was on the bank by the picnic table. 6+ Brown Argus, 3 Grizzled Skipper, 3 Small Heath, 2 Small Copper, 2 Common Blue, Holly Blue, and a Peacock - Kevin Taylor

Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park - 8 Common Blues, 3 Burnet Companions, 13 Brimstones, 2 Speckled Woods, 4 Large Whites, 17 Small/Green-veined Whites, 1 Holly Blue, 1 Large Red Damselfly. I saw about 40 Kidney Vetch plants, but no sign of Small Blue - Malcolm Hull

Today Thursday 6th June 2013 - Grovelands Park, Southgate - 1 Speckled Wood, at 12:20 hrs and 1 Green-veined White at 12:48 hrs, otherwise very quiet for leps - Robert Callf

Wednesday 5th June 2013

News via Malcolm Hull from Butterfly World: **4th June** 3 Common Blues and a **Small Blue** recorded by Mandy Floyd on the Transect **5th June** First Small Heath on the site see report from Louise Hawkins below : *I have just returned to my office after an exciting walk around the site. Along with about half a dozen Common Blues, a brimstone and whites I saw a Small Copper and Small Heath!*

Just over the county border but of interest: Just had to report clouds, (well dozens anyway) of small blue in the tall grass and hawthorn at the eastern edge of Church End Quarry, Pitstone this evening. I know it's just over the border in Bucks but hey! Counted 11 catching the last of the sun in one small clump of grass - poor picture taken with my phone attached - I think you see 8 of them (*picture on facebook page*). - Colin Sturges

2 Speckled Wood, together at Fir & Pond Woods at 11:36 hrs; 2 Peacock, here at 12:20 hrs and 2 male Orange Tip, also Mother Shipton here. - Robert Callf.

Walked on the track NE of Ayot St Lawrence to find a few orange tips, a small heath and a small copper - Ian Flack

Bit of catching up again! **21st May Stanwell Moor:** Around 1800: Five GVW and five Orange Tips, all looking to settle down for the evening.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=31875&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=31874&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=31866&mode=view>

23rd May Stanwell Moor : Around 1700: poor weather day, but a burst of late sun. Two GVW and a Small White.

26th May Stanwell Moor: A glorious day, which I limited to looking around my local patch. It was a day dominated by white butterflies, with all three species much in evidence, plus several Orange Tips and Brimstones. Completing the picture were ten or so Holly Blues, five rather tatty Peacocks and a couple of Speckled Woods. I'm still waiting for Small Heaths, Brown Argus and Common Blues to make an appearance.

1st June Stanwell Moor 1800 or so: One Peacock and four Orange Tips (including a female).

2nd June Stanwell Moor: I stayed local today, and walked along the extended version of my usual ramble by the River Colne right up to the road through Colnbrook. I was pleased to see that at long last the Common Blues were out (but only two thus far, a male and a female about half a mile apart unfortunately!), and also the Small Heaths. This is one long colony, or a series of linked colonies, and in full swing can boast butterflies into three figures. Today, I counted 30 or so over quite a wide area, and in some of the hotspots (by the link bridge to Heathrow T5, for example), five or six were jousting together. It is clear they prefer areas where the soil is poor and the grass grows thinly, so what is after all just an enormous spoil heap suits them pretty well. The other species in any numbers seen today was the Peacock. I counted eight in various places, basking, nectaring on buttercups, or just swooping and diving just for the hell of it. Most were rather worn, but others still amazingly bright with life in them still - quite possibly a whole year on from when they were black and spiny, munching the riverside nettle beds. Also seen were a couple of Holly Blues, a Speckled Wood, a variety of Whites and a Brimstone or two, but not one Orange Tip. I also found a Small Tortoiseshell larval web.

2nd June Harmondsworth Moor: Still local, I had an afternoon wander around Harmondsworth

Moor. This is normally good for Common Blues and Brown Argus, but none were to be seen today. Four or five Small Heaths were out, but nothing like the numbers I had seen earlier not that far away. In fact, there really wasn't much to be seen at all - a couple of Peacocks and a few Whites. Most of these appeared to be Large Whites, and as the sun was a bit come-and-go, I tracked a female, then a male down and managed some reasonable pictures of this relatively awkward customer.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=32790&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=32789&mode=view>

3rd June Stanwell Moor: A gentle stroll today around the shorter version of my local area walk. Before long I encountered what I took to be a Holly Blue, flying around and over the nettles, brambles and ivy-entwined shrubs by the river. Just to check, I took a long shot of it when it settled, and discovered that it was in fact a Common Blue some considerable distance from where I normally see them. I can only speculate where the colony actually is... There were ten or so Small Heaths in the small fraction of their habitat here that today's walk took in, popping up out of the grass each time the sun re-emerged from a cloud, plus an inevitable Peacock still defending the same patch of path that he did yesterday. With sun forecast for some days to come, he could still be around next week. Aside from that there was a genuine Holly Blue, and several Whites. These included the whitest male Small White I've ever seen, to the extent that the photos I tried to take were so over-white that no detail showed at all. There was also a very bright white Green-veined male, with which I had (marginally) more success, and a more standard Small White with a lovely lemon underside.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=32851&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=32853&mode=view>

Dave Miller

Tuesday 4th June 2013

I decided to have a good look around Bovingdon Brickpits this afternoon. Two years ago, I recorded a Dingy Skipper there, but today I recorded no fewer than 13 Dingy Skippers. In fact, I saw more Dingy Skippers than any other Butterfly species. I also managed to see a Small Yellow Underwing. - Roger Prue

News from Diane Andrews, 2nd June at Trent Park: 9 Small Heath and 1 Small Copper (no Chimney Sweepers yet). 3rd June at Ally Pally, 2 Common Blue, 1 Small White, 1 Peacock, 1 Comma, 1 Large White and 1 Small Copper.

I was working up at Aldbury Nowers today, so many butterflies! Best of all I saw a **small blue** in the furthest northern enclosure. We were working only in the north, there were grizzled and dingy skippers in every enclosure, a single green hairstreak, at least 5 brown argus, 4+ common blue, 5+brimstone, 8+small heath, small white, orange tip and speckled wood - Paul Thrush

Saw a male Common Blue on the south-facing grass verge south of Monks Wood, near the football ground roundabout, Stevenage at about 1:45 pm - the first of the year - Peter Clarke

At the weekend we saw some orange tips around Kings Langley and Sarratt; some Small white and green veined as well. Evidence of eggs in Holly Hedges Lane, between Belsize and Flaunden. Last evening June 3rd an Angle Shades moth flew in Kings Langley house. I managed to set it free - Elizabeth Debenham

Some sightings for today Tuesday 4th June 2013 - 1 male Common Blue, at Sidhil's Field, Vicarage Farm, 09:35 hrs - First sighting of the year; 1 female Large White, Sidhil's Field, Vicarage Farm, 09:35 hrs; 1 Peacock, at Barracks, Vicarage Farm, 10:02 hrs; 2 Large White, along Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm, female at 10:17 hrs and a male at 10:25 hrs; 2 male Orange Tip, along Merryhills Brook/Vicarage Farm, 10:20 hrs; 1 Green-veined White, along Merryhills Brook/Vicarage Farm; 1 Small Copper, along Merryhills Brook at South Lodge Farm, 10:35 hrs; 1 Small Copper, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 11:02 hrs; 1 Green-veined White, along bridle-path near Merryhills Brook at Trent Park, 10:45 hrs; 2 Speckled Wood, at Shaws Wood, Trent Park, 10:50 - 10:52 hrs; 1 female Large White, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 10:58 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 11:04 hrs; 1 Peacock, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 11:32 hrs; 2+ Small Heath, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 11:33 - 11:35 hrs; 1 Burnet Companion, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park; 1 Small Yellow Underwing, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park; 1 Peacock, at 'New Fields', Trent Park, 12:41 hrs; 11+ Small Heath, at 'New Fields', Trent Park, 12:43 - 13:01 hrs; 2 Small Copper, together, at 'New Fields', Trent Park; 1 male Brimstone, near Oakwood entrance, Trent Park, 13:38 hrs. Encouraging to see a few more Small Heath today - Robert Callf & Robin White

Monday 3rd June 2013

Stevenage - Small Heath 11, Holly Blue 1, Brown Argus 2, Common Blue 1, Small White 1, GV White 1. Cinnabar and Burnet Companion moths also flying - Trevor Chapman

News via Malcolm Hull from Butterfly World, two male common blues seen around the steps leading to the giant ant. They were reported as having a right go at each other! Also seen a few Burnet Companions.

Saw a Holly Blue, settled on nettles at Town Park, Enfield at 16:36 hrs on Saturday 1st June 2013. Today Monday 3rd June 2013 - 1 Holly Blue, at Strayfield Road, Clay Hill, Enfield, 12:17 hrs; 2 male Orange Tip, at Clay Hill/Flash Lane, Enfield, 12:30 hrs; 1 Peacock, at Flash Lane, Enfield, 12:35 hrs; 1 Mother Shipton, edge of Archer's Wood, N of Forty Hall, Enfield, 14:30 hrs; 1 Holly Blue, at Archer's Wood, N of Forty Hall, Enfield; 1 male Orange Tip, along Turkey Brook at Forty Hall, Enfield, 15:13 hrs; 1 Holly Blue, at Bulls Cross, Enfield, 15:15 hrs; 1 Holly Blue, at Gough Park, Forty Hill, Enfield, 15:45 hrs - Robert Callf

Today at Tyttenhanger Gravel Pits I found a Brown Argus on the meadow between the main pit and the model railway, the first I have seen here. There were also 3 Peacocks, 3 Orange Tips, 6 Small Heaths, 4 Small Whites and 1 Cinnabar. In the afternoon a walk at Mymms Wash (behind the Services) produced 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 4 Orange Tips, 2 Peacocks and 4 Small Whites. - Terry Wood

A walk around Oughtonhead today and saw about a dozen male and 3/4 female Brimstone, Holly Blue, Comma, GV White, Orange Tip, Peacock plus a Small White on the way - Kevin Taylor

Balls Wood - various butterflies though low numbers despite the weather : Large White, Speckled Wood, Orange Tip, Comma, Peacock and one Holly Blue. Danemead HMWT reserve - 5 Peacocks - very disappointing! Andy Brown

Sunday 2nd June 2013

I saw two grizzled skippers today (02/06/2013) in a meadow north of Hoo Wood near Gaddesden - Ian Carle Of note very late orange tips Broxbourne woods and Waterford heath, first **common blues** of year for me 2 in Waterford Heath one in Rickneys, 7 brown argus in Waterford heath. Also saw 3 small heath and 7 grizzled skippers on Waterford heath south but in different areas from normal in glade near settling beds and near picnic table and low on left of bank - Steve Kiln

Gardening all day but only 2 x large white & 1 small white seen in Bushey garden - David Gower

Saturday 1st June 2013

Some butterfly and moth reports for today (Saturday 1st June 2013) - 1 Brown Silver Lines, Moat Wood, Trent Park; 1 Small Heath, 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 11:57 hrs; 1 Cinnabar, 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 12:00 hrs; 2 Small Copper, together, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 12:30 hrs; 1 Green-veined White, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 12:37 hrs; 1 Green-veined White, along Merryhills Brook/South Lodge Farm, 12:57 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip, along Merryhills Brook at South Lodge Farm, 13:03 hrs; 1 Comma, along Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 13:18 hrs; 1 Peacock, at Barracks, Vicarage Farm, 13:40 hrs. - Robert Callf.

May 2013

Friday 31st May 2013

On Friday 31st May - visit to Frogmore quarry, Stevenage for one hour at lunchtime. Sunny and warm. Finally the Grizzled Skipper are out. 12 in all - 7 NorthEast, 1 in the middle, 1 at South West entrance and 3 together half way up West rim path, though these three appeared a little less fresh. Also a good number of Brown Argus 8 in central open areas, Orange-tips 3, GV White 1, Small Whites 3, Peacock 4 and a Small Heath. A few P.niger moths also flying - Trevor Chapman.

Saw three Speckled Yellow together at Northaw Great Wood today Friday 31st May 2013 at 14:50 hrs, also 2 Peacock, 1 Comma and 2 Speckled Wood here. - Robert Callf

Roughdown Common, a single **Common Blue (male)** flitting amongst Common Bird's foot Trefoil on the sunny embankment. - Brendan Sheridan

Visited Hexton Chalk Pit in early afternoon and counted 6 Green Hairstreaks (4 low lying individuals near entrance and two over head high on sycamore/maple close to the road), 30+ Dingy Skippers, 10+ Brimstones, 5+ Small Whites, 5+ Green-veined Whites, 3 Small Heaths, 2 Peacocks and 1 Speckled Wood. Later went to Telegraph Hill and saw 2 Green Hairstreaks, 10+ Dingy Skippers, 5+ Brimstones, 5+ Small Whites, 5+ Green-veined Whites and 5+ Orange Tips - Peter Clarke and Bob Clift

On my walk around Tyttenhanger Gravel Pits Small Heaths had emerged in force. I counted 5 as I walked around Pits, together with a selection of about 15 mixed Whites and Orange Tips, and a couple of Peacocks - Terry Wood

Monday 27th May 2013

Some sightings for Sunday 26th May 2013 - 1 Green-veined White, near Triangular Wood, Trent Park, 10:40 hrs; 1 Small Copper, near Triangular Wood, Trent Park, 10:50 hrs; 1 Peacock, near Triangular Wood, Trent Park, 10:55 hrs; 2 Green-veined White, (1 Sect 8, 11:00 hrs, 1 Sect 7, 11:05 hrs, Trent Park); 2 Speckled Wood, Sect 7, Trent Park, 11:05 - 11:08 hrs; 1 Small Heath, Sect 6, Trent Park, 11:10 hrs - my first of the year! 1 Small White, Sect 6, Trent Park, 11:12 hrs; 1 Common Carpet, Sect 6, Trent Park; 1 male Brimstone, edge of Church Wood, Trent Park, 11:39 hrs; 1 female Orange Tip, Church Wood, Trent Park, 11:41 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip, near Hockey Centre, Trent Park, 11:50 hrs; 1 Peacock, edge of Nature Trail, Trent Park, 12:05 hrs; 1 female Orange Tip, around Garlic Mustard, arching abdomen, Rough Lot, Trent Park, 13:03 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip, Rough Lot, Trent Park, 13:12 hrs; 3 Peacock, at South Barvin Farm, Enfield, 13:14 - 13:18 hrs; 1 Comma, at Vault Hill Wood, 13:29 hrs; 1 Peacock, at Vault Hill Wood, 13:30 hrs; 3 Peacock, at Park Farm, Enfield, 14:02 - 14:19 hrs; 1 female Orange Tip, at Park Farm, Enfield, 14:18 hrs. 27th May 2013: saw the following in Oakwood Park, N14 - 2 Holly Blue, 1 male Large White and 2 Speckled Wood - Robert Callf

Another look at Hexton Chalk Pits today. 12 Dingy Skippers, 2 Brimstone and 1 Small Heath. Holly Blue and Speckled Wood in the wood and by the road. No Green Hairstreaks. Saturday's Green Hairstreaks were low flying egg laying females and rather tatty so perhaps the season is now over for them. It is nice that the colony has survived because there were sightings last year. Holly Blue at St Albans Abbey gardens yesterday - Nigel Agar

Oak Hill Woods LNR East Barnet-----I female Brimstone egg laying on very small self set Alder Buckthorn plants whilst ignoring the large and luxurious mature shrubs-----Female orange tip egg laying on Garlic mustard-----Every year the woodland floor beneath the Wych Elms is carpeted with the leaf buds and flowers of the trees-----these are bitten off by grey squirrels. These shoots often contain the doomed larvae of WLH----which cannot make it back to living shoots still on the trees.-----The Wych elms near footpaths are not so badly affected, due to the presence of dog walkers and pedestrians disturbing the squirrels. Even though the "footpath trees" appear to be in less favourable aspects for WLH---they always produce WLH in season. The trees that are stripped by the squirrels although being in sheltered sunny areas hardly ever have WLH adults. The hypothesis is that grey squirrels can have a significant negative impact on small local populations of WLH-----Kitt Jones

Inspired by (and jealous of) Andrew Wood's discovery of Silver-washed Fritillary larvae, I visited Balls Wood today in the hope of finding a White Admiral larva. Although I'd read up on the egg-laying habits of the females and I was confident that the larvae would by now be large enough to spot, in my four hours there I didn't find a single one. But I did see 20+ Speckled Wood, 15+ m Orange-tip, 15+ 'small white butterflies', 6 Peacock, 5 Large White, 2 Green-veined White, 1 Comma and 1 Mother Shipton - Paul Why

Tring Park 17C 14.10 Scarp Orange Tip 11, Green Hairstreak 1, Peacock 5, Brimstone 14, Comma 1, GVWhite 6, Small White 2, Large White 2. Parkland Orange Tip 1, Small Healt 1 probable Mother Shipton or Dingy Skipper 1 poss? - Nick Bowles

Sunday 26th in afternoon we saw a holly blue in Kings Langley garden. Male and female orange tips fluttering in woodland among "Jack by the Hedge" with one male feeding on bluebells in Sarratt. Brimstone in flight along Chipperfield Road in Kings Langley. Monday 27th a CINNABAR moth flying in Kings Langley garden at 8.30am!

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/7392841@N04/8854555393/>

- Elizabeth Debenham

Fir & Pond Wood NR. A good butterfly count in spite of the wind. Lots of orange-tips again across the Reserve, 9 males counted and 1 female. Small whites 2, peacocks 2, speckled woods 2 and 9 assorted but unidentified "whites". - David Gompertz

Today 27/5/2013 - Bricket Wood Common 11:30-13:30. In Sunny but blustery conditions I recorded 17 Brimstone (7 female), 4 Speckled Wood, 7 Large White, 4 Green-veined White, 5 Orange Tip, 6 Peacock, 1 Holly Blue Sat 25/5/2013 between 13:00-15:00 at Aldbury Nowers I recorded the following. 6 Grizzled Skipper, 2 Dingy Skipper, 1 Green Hairstreak, 3 Small Heath, 11 Orange Tip (2 females), 10+ Brimstone (1 female), 6 Green-veined White, 4 Small White, 2 Peacock, plus 1 Burnet Companion. - Bob Harris

Here are the butterflies and moths seen at Aldbury Nowers on Mondayday 27th May: Green Hairstreak, Small Heath, Large White, Orange-tip, Brimstone, Common Carpet Dingy Skipper - <http://www.flickr.com/photos/81377128@N03/8857956188/>
Grizzled Skipper - <http://www.flickr.com/photos/81377128@N03/8857347091/>
Mother Shipton - <http://www.flickr.com/photos/81377128@N03/8857339825/>
Sharon Monahan

In a short time in the garden (Harpenden) I noticed Speckled Wood (first of year) Brimstone, Peacock, Comma, Holly Blue, plus a few whites.
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/robinp2009/8853542703/>
Robin Pearson

Sunday 26th May 2013

I walked my Butterfly transect at Shrubhill Common, Hemel Hempstead today and was pleased to see at least three Dingy Skippers, one of which I managed to photograph. My only previous record was of one specimen, two years ago. I also saw a **Small Yellow Underwing** moth, my first since 2006. (Photo on facebook page) - Roger Prue

Seen this morning at Heartwood Forest during botanical survey of regeneration area beside Puddler's Wood, 7+ Orange Tip (m), 1 Brimstone (m), 2 Peacock, 10+ Small/GV White or Orange Tip (f), 1 Holly Blue. A glorious morning with Skylarks, Blackbird, Chiff Chaff, Whitethroat etc singing & no sign of disease in the young & old Ash trees. The strip of young Elms along Well Wood appears pretty healthy. Don't know if it harbours WL Hairstreak. John Moss

Bushey garden sightings were 2 x large white, 2 x small white, 1 x orange tip. Merryhill fields, bushey 3 x peacock, 8 x orange tip (5 females), 2 x large white, 6 x small white, 3 x brimstone (all males), 2 x speckled wood, 1 x small toiteseshell, 2 x holly blue. Finch lane, bushey 3 x large white, 4 x small white, 3 x peacock, 1 x holly blue, 4 x orange tip (1 female), 1 x brimstone, 3 x green veined white. David Gower

Better butterfly day. Highlights in field by Bencroft Wood, 5 small coppers, 2 small heath, and lacewing, **speckled yellow and burnet companion** moths. At Waterford Heath south 5 grizzled skippers and at Rickneys 1 grizzled skipper, plus 3 brown argus my first this year very late by four weeks - Steve Kiln

In Stocking Pelham, one small copper, several orange tips + a couple of whites enjoying the sunshine - Andy Brown

Saturday 25th May 2013

In field next to Tring Station 1 x orange tip(male), path leading to Aldbury Nowers 2 x brimstone (males), 2 x small white. At Aldbury Nowers totals were 10 x small heath, 8 x common carpet moth, 15 x brimstone (1 x female), 4 x small white, 13 x orange tip (2 female), 1 x green hairstreak, 5 x green veined white, 4 x grizzled skipper, 1 x dingy skipper - David Gower

Saw 2 Speckled Woods in Grovelands Park, Southgate, on Thursday 23rd May 2013 at 13:55 and 14:15 hrs. Today Saturday 25th May 2013 recorded the following butterflies - 1 female **Small Copper**, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Williams Wood, at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 10:40 hrs - our first of the year; 1 female Orange Tip, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Williams Wood, at Vicarage Farm, 10:41 hrs; 1 Peacock, at Parkside Farm, Enfield, 11:10 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip, at Parkside Farm, 11:10 hrs - both settling in Oil seed rape field; 1 Green-veined White, by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 12:35 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 13:01 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 13:01 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip, at South Lodge Farm,

Enfield, 13:58 hrs; 1 Green-veined White, along Merryhills Brook/Vicarage Farm; 1 female Large White, hedgerow off Barracks, at Vicarage Farm, 14:23 hrs - Robert Callf & Robin White.

Bricket Wood Common, St Albans - Brimstones out in force, with equal numbers of males and females now flying. 19 recorded on the transect walk, but there were many more flying on the site. Orange Tips and Green-veined Whites also doing well plus small numbers of Large White, Peacock, Holly Blue and Speckled Wood. This last species appears to be having another poor year at this site. also my first Treble Bar Moth of the year. Just up the road at Butterfly World, Chiswell Green, I saw 3 Brimstones, 2 Orange Tips, 5 Small White, 2 Treble Bar moths and my first Burnet Companion moth of this year - Malcolm Hull

Had a walk around Hexton chalk pit today and saw x12/15 Dingy Skipper, x3 Green Hairstreak, x3 Brimstone, and Specked Wood, Orange Tip. - Kevin Taylor

Hexton Chalk Pits today, Brimstone 6, GV White 2, Green Hairstreak 4, Dingy Skipper 10+, Orange Tip 1, Large White 1 - Nigel Agar

Friday 24th May 2013

On **Thursday, 23rd** - lousy butterfly weather but some sun at 4 o'clock at Waterford Heath south on bank high up two grizzled skippers and a green veined white then cloud came again - Steve Kiln

On **Wednesday 22nd May** - visit to Frogmore quarry, Stevenage at lunchtime. Overcast but bright. The only butterfly I saw was a fresh **Brown Argus** - Trevor Chapman

On **Wednesday**, Waterford Heath South in the early afternoon in cool and windy conditions, 5 Grizzled Skippers roosting - 4 high up on seed heads and one low down on speedwell.

<http://www.facebook.com/ButterflyConservationHertsMiddlesex>

Andrew Wood

On **Tuesday** two Silver-washed Fritillary larvae (the first I've ever seen) and more signs of feeding activity on Dog Violets at Balls Wood.

http://sphotos-f.ak.fbcdn.net/hphotos-ak-frc3/971126_10200660758593617_328980967_n.jpg

Also one Orange Tip egg on Lady's Smock - Andrew Wood

Whilst conducting a private survey on **Monday** two roosting **Small Copper** were observed - Liz Goodyear

Penny George on the facebook page reports a **Small Heath** from Aldbury Nowers on the **12th May**

Sunday 19th May 2013

Some sightings for Sunday 19th May 2013 - 1 Small White, at Cheyne Walk Open Space, N21 at 12:50 hrs; 1 Green-veined White, at Cheyne Walk Open Space, N21 at 12:52 hrs; 1 female Holly Blue, at Boxer's Lake, Enfield, 14:00 hrs; 3 Speckled Wood, together, at Boxer's Lake, Enfield, 14:00 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip, at Boxer's Lake, Enfield, 14:03 hrs - Robert Callf

Here are some of the butterflies and moths I saw at Aldbury Nowers today, Sunday 19th May: Green Hairstreak, Orange-tip (f), Grizzled Skipper

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/81377128@N03/8754009207/>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/81377128@N03/8754010341/>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/81377128@N03/8754012051/>

also Brimstone, Large White, Peacock. Moths: Pyrausta Nigrata, Mint Moth, Common Carpet

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/81377128@N03/8755129704/>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/81377128@N03/8755136292/>

Sharon Monahan

I saw a **Small Heath** in Aldbury Nowers (Herts) on **16th May** and noticed that it wasn't in the first sightings list - Paul Cross

Was in St Albans today and noted 3 x small white, 2 x large white, 1 x holly blue in Russell Avenue

back garden - David Gower

Hexton, at least 15-20 Dingy Skippers widespread over site.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/robinp2009/8753905681/>

Robin Pearson

I visited Hexton Chalk Pit 9.30 to 11.30 today mixture of sun and cloud. I saw 1 peacock, 3 green hairstreaks, 1 male holly blue, around a dozen dingy skippers and a male brimstone who was content to let a fly rest on his wing. Some links to pics below.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/64663114@N03/8755194690/in/photostream/>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/64663114@N03/8755190020/in/photostream/>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/64663114@N03/8754068511/in/photostream/>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/64663114@N03/8754066223/in/photostream/>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/64663114@N03/8754069431/in/photostream/>

Miles Attenborough

Saturday 18th May 2013

Didn't see anything in our garden today but popped into Fishers Field nature reserve just before 5pm and noticed 3 x male orange tips & 1 x speckled wood as well as 3 "whites" i couldn't identify - David Gower

Thursday 16th May 2013

A few sightings for Thursday 16th May 2013 - 1 male Orange Tip, at Chequers Mead, Potters Bar, 12:45 hrs; 4 Peacock, at Fir & Pond Woods, between 13:10 - 13:45 hrs; 2+ Green-veined White, at Fir & Pond Woods; 3 Speckled Wood, at Fir & Pond Woods; 1 male Orange Tip, at Fir & Pond Woods, 15:00 hrs. - Robert Callf

At Hexton Chalk Pit today were at least **20 Dingy Skipper**, 5m/1f Brimstone, 1m Orange-tip and 2 Green Hairstreak, one of which was an egg-laying female. I watched her with interest, then spent a long time unsuccessfully trying to photograph one of her eggs, which had been laid on Common Rock-rose. Also present were large numbers of the moth *Pyrausta nigrata*. - Paul Why

Had a walk around the Hexton chalk pits today first time ever been there. I saw at least a **dozen Dingy Skippers** today 2x Green Hairstreak, 3x Brimstone one being a female, 1x Orange Tip and Peacock - Kevin Taylor

Tuesday 14th May 2013

An orange tip egg on a cuckoo flower stem.... Fir & Pond Woods May 14th (low power stereo microscope)

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=464745246941471&set=o.313540722064920&type=1&theater>

David Gompertz

Monday 13th May 2013

Stanwell Moor, today was a different sort of day: I didn't get out round my local area until three, and it was windy, quite cool, but with longish sunny spells. I saw a few Holly Blues (but not like yesterday's abundance), five or six Speckled Woods, one Peacock, and a selection of Whites. I approached one or two - the first was a female Orange Tip, and all the others identifiable turned out to be Green-veined Whites today. In addition, I saw six or seven male Orange Tips, battling against the wind and settling fairly readily every time the sun dimmed. Photo opportunities increased - but the wind made things very trying!

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=31423&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=31422&mode=view>

Dave Miller

Saw a Speckled Wood on East edge of Icehouse Wood, Trent Park this morning at 11:20 hrs and a male Orange Tip along Hadley Road at Parkside Farm, Enfield, 13:35 hrs (Monday 13th May 2013). Also a couple of White sp - Robert Callf & Robin White.

Sunday 12th May 2013

Stanwell Moor, an hour or so around my local patch on a reasonably sunny Sunday morning provided a fair bit of interest. Once again, by far the most numerous butterfly was the Holly Blue.

There must have been twenty or more altogether, often in groups of two or three, both males and females. They were more inclined than usual to settle lower down for some reason, which was good. In addition, Small and Green-veined Whites were frequent, along with Orange Tips of both sexes. There was also a solitary male Large White, only just bigger than his cousins. Speckled Woods were also well in evidence, definitely a better showing than last year, but with no Peacocks and only one Comma (a female I suspect, as it was crawling over low-level nettle and hop leaves), they may well have had their time in the sun. Finally, there was one Red Admiral, occupying a riverside glade territory that has attracted his forebears certainly since I started walking this route seven years ago. He had to share it with a couple of Speckled Woods and several Holly Blues - which kept him very busy.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=31364&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=31363&mode=view>

Dave Miller

Sunday morning at Fir & Pond Woods NR....13 orange tips ... perhaps reflecting the number of cuckoo flowers in bloom on the Reserve. Also 1 peacock, 4 gwws and 8 unidentified whites. - David Gompertz

Despite the unpromising weather forecast I ventured out to Bricket Wood Common this morning. Three new species recorded for the transect this year - Orange Tip (2, both female, 1 nectaring on Garlic Mustard), Holly Blue (1, taking moisture/salts from a patch of mud) & Orange Underwing moth sp. (1, flew up into a birch tree). This later sighting is unusually late - I normally see Orange Underwings in March/April. Also good numbers of Brimstones flying today. 13 males, mostly congregating in the Brimstone meadow near School Lane. I finally recorded my first female Brimstone for this site in 2013, initially nectaring on a Dandelion, but soon fighting off the attentions of an amorous male. The rejected suitor then turned up a second female further along the ride, only to suffer a second rejection. With male Brimstone sightings on the common outnumbering females by about 10 to 1 this year, it's been a frustrating time for the male Brimstones. The conservation grazing (10 English Longhorn cattle) has resumed on the site & will be present for the next six weeks. Last autumn the cows caused concern by attacking the Brimstones' foodplant, Alder Buckthorn. Fortunately their winter retraining programme appears to be working & there is no sign of further damage this year. Also spotted - Peacock (6) Speckled Wood (2), Green-veined White (10, including a mating pair), Large White (1) & Comma (1, egg laying on wild hop). The temperature on the Common reached 14 degrees & the sun lasted until 1.30. The forecast was 10 degrees max & no sun after midday and this made a crucial difference. Important lesson - don't take the weather forecast too literally! - Malcolm Hull

1 x orange tip in Bushey garden today - David Gower

Dingy Skippers (2) active at Hexton Chalk Pits around mid day today. Plus Orange Tips and a Peacock. Dingy Skippers are on the grassy west bank of the upper pit - Nigel Agar

Friday 10th May 2013

Hatfield Aerodrome (Disused) - Ellenbrook Fields: 3 x Green-veined White, 2 x Orange Tip (Males) - David Wheatcroft

Tuesday 7th May 2013

1 x Holly Blue in Ye olde Green Man pub garden, Batchworth Heath - David Gower

I did the transect today at Aldbury Nowers, it was fantastic. Highlights included 8 grizzled skipper, 16 Brimstone, 10 orange tip, large white, green veined white, green hairstreak and a peacock. There were probably a lot more orange tips and brimstones across the whole reserve. I also saw a comma near Grebe House in St Albans and there was a holly blue there last Thursday (2/5). - Paul Thrush

News from the 6th. In our Bushey garden = 2 x green veined white, 3 x orange tip (males), 1 x large white. Finch Lane, Bushey = 9 x orange tip (1 female), 5 x speckled wood, 2 x small white, 2 x large white, 1 x holly blue. In Aldenham Road, Bushey TQ12 7964 = 1 x holly blue (my first this year), 1 x large white. Walk from Finch Lane to Patchmore Heath via cemetery = 2 x peacock, 2 x orange tip (males), 2 x small tortoiseshell, 2 x small white. Lastly Merryhill Fields, Bushey = 2 x orange tip (males), 1 x large white, 8 x peacock, 2 x comma, 7 x brimstone (2 females), 4 x speckled wood, 2 x small white - David Gower

Last Thursday I was poll clerking in a church in Gt.Munden, Herts. Immediately I noticed 3 butterflies trapped against one of the stain glass windows. As we were not rushed off our feet my main concern was to rescue the butterflies. A couple of them appeared to be caught up in some dust and spiders webbing. As the window was quite high up it wasn't easy to get them to come down. In the meantime I found 2 dead ones on the floor and both of them were Peacocks. Eventually between me and the Presiding Officer (I think he thought I was quite obsessed, which I probably was) we managed to get the 3 butterflies to a lower area and I managed to cup them in my hands and take them outside, (not all at once !) Amazingly all 3 were Peacocks. Later we noticed another one flitting around in the church and realised a window was open. We managed to close it and then also rescue this butterfly; again, it was a Peacock - Jan Geggus

Another synopsis of a week with a lot of butterflies. Apologies for the sheer bulk of this message, but it's a good reflection on the weather and the numbers and variety seen.

30th April Staines - Three Holly Blues, one posing right next to where I was parked:

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=30698&mode=view>

One Peacock, Two Whites

1st May Harmondsworth Moor - After work, I popped into Harmondsworth Moor, as I had exactly a week ago. Within five minutes, I had seen five butterflies of five different species: a Peacock, A Comma, an Orange Tip (at long last!), a Brimstone and a White (Small or Green-veined). This boded well: I set off along the same circuit as last week, and saw many of the same butterflies, mostly Peacocks and Commas, tussling with each other over the same stretches of path. However, I also came across two further Brimstones and several Whites, another Orange Tip and a very worn Small Tortoiseshell. At least two of The Whites were definitely of the Green-veined persuasion, and one obligingly settled to "puddle" on a patch of damp mud. Returning to the car along a shadier part of the path, a Speckled Wood passed in the opposite direction, and near the car park, I spotted a Holly Blue over a tall stand of brambles.

2nd May Stanwell Moor - A stroll around my local patch. The first butterfly I saw was a Red Admiral.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=30819&mode=view>

I imagine this was a migrant, as any that overwintered would have appeared before now if they hadn't perished in the prolonged cold winter. This was an aggressive insect, repeatedly diving at me as I tried to photograph a Speckled Wood and seeing off a Holly Blue and then even an unsuspecting Robin. Moving on, it was clear that there had been a significant emergence of Green-veined Whites and Orange Tips. Two of the latter had wasted no time at all, and I found them in flagrante on a bramble - looking somewhat uncomfortable, it must be said. As the sun lowered, the Orange Tips stopped their patrolling and came to a stand of Garlic Mustard where they basked, nectared and settled down - beautifully camouflaged on the flower heads. I also watched a Brimstone make its way amongst the leaves of an ivy plant - effectively disappearing so good was the camouflage. On top of all this, I lost count of the Peacocks and Commas. They were everywhere along the paths, tussling with each other over overlapping territories. Finally, I encountered a Small Tortoiseshell over the nettle beds - looking decidedly worn now.

3rd May Stanwell Moor - Early morning for a change, but I just had time for a brief tour of the local patch. Yesterday's Speckled Wood was up and about, but apart from four or five Green-veined Whites, an Orange Tip, and a couple of Holly Blues fluttering around a neighbour's box hedge, nothing else was stirring.

4th May Bedfont Lakes (northern part) - Only a Peacock and a couple of Commas seen at Bedfont.

4th May Stanwell Moor - I returned home and did the usual circuit here, which proved a better idea, as I saw two Speckled Woods (both seemed a bit pale, and one had larger spots than usual), and several Commas and Peacocks. I checked a small patch of Cuckoo Flower to find the Orange Tips had got there first: two eggs were in evidence, still quite pale.

5th May Stanwell Moor - Within a few metres of the start of today's walk, I had seen a Speckled Wood, a Holly Blue, a Green-veined White, a Peacock and a Comma. As I walked, the sun started to break through a little and it became quite muggy. I saw five or six more Green-veined Whites, a couple of Orange Tips (including one basking way up in a hawthorn tree), two more Holly Blues, and more Peacocks and Commas. I also saw another first for the year, a male Large White which I disturbed nectaring on a dandelion. I also found another Orange Tip egg, quite orange this time, and a couple more of these butterflies roosting amongst the garlic mustard.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=30972&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=30969&mode=view>

6th May Stanwell Moor - After my trip to Aldbury Nowers, I went out locally again. Every day is different: today Holly Blues were the most numerous species (thirteen seen altogether), and several more Speckled Woods had emerged too (seven seen in all). Brimstones, Orange Tips, GVW

and Large Whites, Commas and Peacocks completed the picture. It has been a real joy to see so many Peacocks and Commas in recent weeks, and I shall miss being dive-bombed by the former and hustled by the latter when they disappear, probably fairly soon. The Commas in particular are looking very tired now.

7th May Stanwell Moor - Work today. However, as it was still warm at six when I returned home, I had to venture out round my home patch just in case. I soon encountered a Speckled Wood and a Green-veined White, both headed for the trees, presumably to roost. A little further on, I found a couple of Orange Tips on a variety of wild parsley. The male was persistently bothering the female, who was displaying the typical abdomen-in-air rejection attitude. Eventually, she became fed up, and flew off across the river. The thwarted male then fluttered around the spot where she'd been for a good five minutes before he gave in and went up into the trees. I carried on to the patch of garlic mustard where I'd seen roosting Orange Tips a few days ago. Sure enough, there were another pair here. The female was still settling down, but I imagine the male had preceded her as he was oblivious to her presence a few flowerheads away. Moving on again I spotted two more, this time a mating pair settled on a bluebell in the low sunshine. Oh, and I also saw three Peacocks, defending their various bits of path to the end of the day.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=31130&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=31129&mode=view>

Dave Miller

Just 2 Grizzled Skippers and 1 Dingy Skipper at Aldbury Nowers 11am today.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/robinp2009/8716540881/>

Robin Pearson

My Norton Green visit (1320-1410 hrs) yielded a Small White, 6 Orange Tips, 6 G-V Whites and 3 Peacocks. No Speckled Woods today although one was seen here last week on 2 May - Peter Clarke

Some news for yesterday (Monday 6th May 2013) - 1 Holly Blue, at Allotments, Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 09:25 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip, at Barracks, Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 09:42 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, at Barracks, Vicarage Farm, 09:43 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood, at Williams Wood, Trent Park, 10:50 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood, at Shaws Wood, Trent Park, 11:03 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip, edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park, 12:05 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip, at Duncan's Wood, Enfield Chase, 12:20 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip, at Parkside Farm, Enfield, 13:10 hrs; 1 Silver Y, at Park Farm, Enfield, 12:45 hrs - my first of the year! 1 Holly Blue, at Southbury Road, Enfield Town, 15:07 hrs - Robert Callf. A few sightings for today (Tuesday 7th May 2013) - 2 Peacock, together, along Leeging Beech Gutter near 'Three-bridges', Trent Park, 08:32 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood, at Rough Lot, Trent Park, 09:10 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip, at Plumridge Farm, Enfield, 09:45 hrs; 1 Silver Y, at Plumridge Farm, Enfield, 09:50 hrs; 2 Speckled Wood, together, at Vault Hill Wood, Enfield Chase, 10:00 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood, at Little Beechill Wood, Enfield Chase, 10:13 hrs; 1 Comma, along Jubilee Path at Park Farm, 10:20 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, at 11:10 hrs; 3 Small White, together, along track at Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm, 11:20 hrs; 2 Green-veined White, together, at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 11:25 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip and 1 Holly Blue, at St Andrew's Churchyard, Enfield Town, 13:45 hrs - Robert Callf

Monday 6th May 2013

I walked across from the NT car park at Pitstone Hill to Aldbury Nowers. The Buckinghamshire hillside was almost devoid of butterflies, but... Once over the county boundary and into the reserve, with its south-facing, sheltered, chalk scree slope (try saying that a few times after a glass of ale), things changed. Within a minute or two, I spotted a Grizzled Skipper, and over the next hour or so I saw at least four definite individuals. There were probably more, but I only photographed four of the nine or ten separate encounters. Brimstones abounded (15+), with both sexes represented, and there were plenty of Orange Tips (12+) and Green-veined Whites (10+) too. At the bottom of the slope, I found two Green Hairstreaks, and as I left the reserve later, another passed me, crossing the county boundary from Bucks into Herts. A sighting record for both counties?

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=31083&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=31080&mode=view>

Dave Miller

At Hexton Chalkpit this afternoon (6 May) there was a single **Dingy Skipper**, but no sign of Green Hairstreaks. Large numbers (>100) of the pyralid moth *Pyrausta nigrata*. Orange Tips and Brimstones common, plus a few Green-Veined and Small Whites and a single Comma. Earlier

today at Weston Hills, Orange Tips and Brimstones again common, with lesser numbers of Green-veined and Small Whites, but also a single Holly Blue and a few Peacocks. Ian Small

Quite a few sightings on a walk in the countryside around Braughing today. Lots of peacocks (every 20 - 30 metres along the bridle way, with quite a few territorial disputes). Plenty of large and small whites and orange tips (including one mating pair) plus 3 brimstones, at least 2 small tortoiseshells and 2 speckled wood. As I was driving there I saw what was probably a holly blue. Quite a few bumble bees on the wing as well. All in all a very pleasant afternoon - hopefully the first of many this year. Chris Gleeson

In my Hayes garden, 4 Holly Blues, 1 Large White, 2 Orange Tips, male and female, and 1 Speckled Wood.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/69131641@N04/8714054911/in/photostream>

Helen George

Had an amazing day for butterflies in Kings Langley in Barnes Lane. My husband saw a red admiral; we both saw up to about eight orange tips including male and female, two commas, a few peacocks flying over the road and hedges with one settling on nettles. I think it was laying eggs as there were already quite large clusters of eggs on the nettles. Later in the afternoon one more orange tip in the garden and two holly blues - Elizabeth Debenham

Aldbury Nowers, Tring - 1 Green Hairstreak, 7 Grizzled Skippers. Northfield Rd, Tring - **7 Dingy Skippers** (2 in Herts, 5 in Bucks), 4 Grizzled Skippers (3 in Herts, 1 in Bucks), 1 Pyrausta Aurata moth. Brimstones, Peacocks, Orange tips out in force on all sites plus a few Whites - Malcolm Hull

Following up on Rob Solomon's report from 03 May, I visited Bedfont Lakes Southern section this morning and eventually saw a **Green Hairstreak**. It only gave its position away when it decided to pick a fight with one of the numerous Holly Blues around. - John Eborall

Sunday 5th May 2013

Kings Langley garden we had a speckled wood, large white and male orange tip within moments - Elizabeth Debenham

Today only spotted 5 x orange tips(1 female) at Aldbury Nowers, no other species - David Gower

A few selected sightings to report today (Sunday 5th May 2013) - 1 Small Tortoiseshell, along track at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 08:30 hrs; 1 Comma, at Park Farm, Enfield, 09:15 hrs; 3 Peacock, together, East edge of Little Beechill Wood, Enfield, 09:50 hrs; 1+ Green-veined White, at Little Beechill Wood, 09:55 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip, at Vault Hill Wood, Enfield, 10:00 hrs; 1 male Large White, at Vault Hill Wood, 10:05 hrs; 3 Peacock, together, at Plumridge Farm, Enfield, 10:25 hrs; 1 Green-veined White, at Ferny Hill, Enfield, 10:55 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 12:10 hrs; 2 Speckled Wood, together, Shaws Wood, Trent Park, 12:15 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip, at Barracks, Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 12:50 hrs. - Robert Callf

Whilst working in my Thorley Park back garden this morning, a holly blue, small white, male orange tip and male brimstone passed through. The first three occasionally returning - Len Crouch

Saw my first Speckled Wood of the year today whilst walking back down Andrews Lane, Cheshunt with the Sunday morning paper. I was quite surprised to see any butterfly as it was just after 8 15 a.m. and the temperature according to the weather station at home was just above 8 degrees celsius. It flew down to the ground as I walked past. Later on our allotment in Dark Lane, Cheshunt we saw a number of Small Whites. As we were there for over two hours it was difficult to say exactly how many as some could have been the same butterfly seen twice but I would estimate probably about half a dozen different individuals. We also saw a Red Admiral and a Holly Blue. - Roger Newbold

At Waterford Heath had 1 Grizzled Skipper (north side) 7 Orange tips, 8 Peacocks, 3 Large White, 3 Brimstone including 1 female and 1 comma today - Andrew Steele

Saturday 4th May 2013

Saw a Holly Blue from the bus at Slades Hill, Enfield, EN2 today (Saturday 4th May 2013) at 12:50 hrs. - Robert Callf

At Fishers Field nature reserve, Bushey 2 x orange tips (relaxing around forget me nots), 1 x small white, 1 x comma. Onto Water Lane, Watford where found 2 x orange tip, 2 x small white, 1 x green veined white, 2 x peacock and 1 x small tortoiseshell - David Gower

Bricket Wood Common St Albans - Not a great day weather wise and the butterflies didn't get going until mid afternoon. Peacocks were the most numerous species with 8 recorded, including two females egg-laying on nettles in Pear Tree Wood. I recorded 5 Brimstones, all male - curiously I have yet to see a single female this year. 4 Green-vein Whites, one nectaring on Prunus and the others a courting trio - my first sighting of this species in 2013. 2 Small Tortoiseshells, which is a fairly rare species on the Common. 2 Small Whites, 1 Speckled Wood and 1 Large White - the latter two species also my first sightings this year. And finally a single Comma- having emerged from hibernation before the other species and peaked early, numbers of this species are now tailing off - Malcolm Hull

Friday 3rd May 2013

A single **Green Hairstreak** seen on the south side of Bedfont Lakes country park (just inside the gate off of challenge road) - Rob Solomon

In our Hatfield garden today, 1 Peacock, 3+ Orange Tip (1m, 2f), 2 Small White, 1+ Holly Blue (they breed here & were never sure if one near house is the one seen a couple of minutes earlier elsewhere. There are certainly m & f about). A good day - John Moss

Waterford heath (south) 1.30-15.00, **4-5 Grizzled skippers** along the eastern bank, 2 spiraling together on two occasions, 2 Orange tip, 4-5 Peacock - Laurence Drummond & Paul Why

Saw a Peacock at Scratch Wood near Sterling Corner yesterday (Thursday 2nd May 2013) at 11:45 hrs - Robert Callf & Bob Husband. Today (Friday 3rd May 2013) - 1 male Orange Tip, at Lonsdale Drive, EN2, at 10:35 hrs - my first of the year; 1 Speckled Wood, at Boxer's Lake, Enfield, 10:37 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip, at Boxer's Lake, Enfield, at 10:45 hrs; 1 Comma, at Boxer's Lake, Enfield, at 10:45 hrs; 1 Peacock, at Boxer's Lake, Enfield, at 10:48 hrs; 1 Holly Blue, at Merryhills Drive, EN2, at 10:58 hrs. - Robert Callf

Possibly out of Herts and just into Bucks on 1st May in Chenies Manor garden a male orange tip. Two or more peacocks flying round each other and several on dandelions and basking on a gate in Chess valley on road leading to Flaunden. One small tortoiseshell in field just of forestry commission track on border of Herts and Bucks just off the road to Flaunden as above. May 2nd two orange tip males and two females during the day in Kings Langley garden on honesty flowers. One of the males and females decided not to pair up and the male fluttered high over the garden. Also attracted to honesty were a brimstone and two large whites. Peacock nectaring on dandelion in Barnes Lane - Elizabeth Debenham

Spring has really got going now. First time this year around my local patch Oughtonhead Common had nine species today. Brimstones seem to be doing very well this year they were everywhere also 3x peacock 3 or 4 Orange Tips, 2x Comma, Small White, Small Tortoiseshell, Red Admiral, Holly Blue, Speckled Wood - Kevin Taylor

1 x brimstone at Northwood HQ in Sandy Lane seen during my lunch break - David Gower

Thursday 2nd May 2013

More lunchtime surprises in London zone 2 today. Near Primrose Hill I saw my first Holly Blue of the year. Then along Regents Canal just west of the London Zoo aviary I saw a male Orange tip. 2 Commas, a Large White, a Male Brimstone and 3 Whites (1 maybe a female OT, the others were probably not). - Mike Rubin

St Albans - 3 butterflies in my garden at lunchtime and each one a first for me this year - Orange Tip (male) Holly Blue and Large White - Malcolm Hull

I did the Aldbury Nowers transect yesterday, I recorded brimstone, orange tip, peacock and green veined white and in addition 3+ orange tip and 3+ brimstone in the coppice area. At Wilstone yesterday there were peacock and small tortoiseshell on the reservoir banks. Today there were more brimstones about in the southern enclosures at AN and **green hairstreak** (very kindly pointed out to me by a visitor so I can't take the credit for finding it! He'd seen one yesterday in the same place). - Paul Thrush

At Heartwood Forest had 20 Peacocks, 11 Orange tips, 3 Brimstones, 2 Small Tortoiseshells, 2 Large Whites, 1 Green Veined White and 1 Specked Wood - Andrew Steele

Wednesday 1st May 2013

Saw my first Orange Tips of the year, during a lunchtime walk in Regents Park. A tiny male seen near the SE corner of London Zoo. Then saw 3-4 whites near the NW end of the park, but I suspect these were all the same female OT on patrol. So I'll say 2 OT's, one male one female. - Mike Rubin

At Hexton Chalk Pit this afternoon I saw fewer butterflies than hoped for. My totals were: 5 Peacock, 1 Comma, 1 Red Admiral, 4 Brimstone (one busy egg-laying) and **2 Green Hairstreak**. Nice to see them there again having failed to find any at all in 2012. I later searched for GHs at Telegraph Hill but saw none, although I did spot one over the border on the Pegsdon Hills, along 'anthill ridge' - Paul Why

One **Grizzled Skipper** early on this morning on Waterford Heath South Pit. Despite our work party being around the bank for much of the morning no more were seen - Andrew Wood

2 Grizzled skippers on the Waterford Heath north. Lots of other butterflies on both Heaths (Peacocks, whites, orange tip, Brimstone, tortoiseshell and holly blue) - Andy Brown

My wife & I having been members for less than a week have today been diligently scanning our garden & the area adjacent to the River Chess at Sarratt Bottom. As "newbies" I thought I would convey our findings. In our garden in Pinner today we have had a Holly Blue constantly returning to a holly bush, small whites & one Orange tip (male) which spent a long time on an as yet unopened Aquilegia bud. Our foray to Sarratt yielded 5 Brimstones (including a "courting" trio - 2 males, 1 female), at least one Peacock & one Comma puddling on mole hill soil close to the river bank. There were also whites & a small orange/brown butterfly which disappeared too quickly to be identified - Tony Porter

A single Small Tortoiseshell near the playground at Ruislip Lido today - Nigel Sluman

Had a pre-lunchtime walk at Mymms Wash behind the Services and saw 3 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Brimstone and first times for 1 Orange Tip and 3 Small Whites. Then after lunch in my South Mimms garden had another Orange Tip and Small Tortoiseshell, and a first Holly Blue! - Terry Wood

Sightings for today (Wednesday 1st May 2013) - 2 Peacock, at Barracks, Vicarage Farm, 11:05 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, at Barracks, Vicarage Farm, 11:40 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 12:30 hrs; 1 Comma, along Leeging Beech Gutter near 'Three-bridges', Trent Park, 12:35 hrs; 1 Green-veined White, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Water Garden, Trent Park, 12:43 hrs; 1 female Brimstone, by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 12:58 hrs and 1 male Brimstone, edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park, 13:15 hrs. Also a number of Peacocks which I did not record - Robert Callf & Robin White.

In my Harpenden garden at lunchtime today: Holly Blue, male Orange Tip, Peacock and 1 unidentified white (poss female Brimstone). Add male Brimstone to previous list please Here's a pic of the aforementioned Holly Blue in my garden.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/robinp2009/8697949583/>

Robin Pearson

April 2013

Tuesday 30th April 2013

I was working at Wilstone Reservoir today, I saw a brimstone, small tortoiseshell, comma and peacock - Paul Thrush

I saw my first holly blue of the year in Harpenden - Jenny Sherwen

On my walk at Tyttenhanger Gravel Pits on Monday 29/4/13 I encountered my first Green Veined White of the year, along with a Comma, a Small Tortoiseshell and 3 Peacocks. - Terry Wood

On Monday in Pinner: Orange Tip (male) in my garden in Church Lane - Graham Elcombe

A few sightings to report today (Tuesday 30th April 2013) - 1 Peacock, along Leeging Beech Gutter near 'Three-bridges', Trent Park, 10:38 hrs; 1 Comma, along Leeging Beech Gutter near 'Three-bridges', Trent Park, 10:38 hrs; 1 Small White, along Leeging Beech Gutter near 'Three-bridges', Trent Park, 10:40 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Water Garden, Trent Park, 10:43 hrs; 1 Peacock, Rough Lot, Trent Park, 11:27 hrs; 1 Comma, at Plumridge Farm, Enfield, 12:03 hrs; 1 Peacock, at Vault Hill Wood, Enfield, 12:15 hrs; 1 Peacock, along hedgerow opposite Williams Wood, at Vicarage Farm, 13:30 hrs; 2 Small Tortoiseshell, together, at Bay Farm, Enfield, 12:42 hrs; 1 Comma, at Bay Farm, Enfield, 12:43 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, along hedgerow opposite Williams Wood, at Vicarage Farm, 13:28 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, along track at Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm, 13:40 hrs; 2 Small Tortoiseshell, together, at Barracks, Vicarage Farm, 13:46 hrs; 1 Peacock, near Firing Range, at Vicarage Farm, 13:50 hrs. Also a number of Whites were seen - Robert Callf

3 Holly Blues and 1 Small White at the same time here in Hoddesdon next to Sainsburys petrol station, despite walking around in the vicinity I could not find any Holly, plenty of Ivy though - Ben Sale

On Sunday 28th April - Hatfield Aerodrome (Disused) - Ellenbrook Fields 1 x Small Tortoiseshell
David Wheatcroft

Monday 29th April 2013

A brief synopsis of recent sightings in the south-west corner of Middlesex... 23rd April: Park Avenue, Staines - A Holly Blue in the shrubbery of Riverbridge School, a Small Tortoiseshell, a Small White and two Peacocks. 23rd April: Stanwell Moor - Six Peacocks, a Small White, a Comma and a Holly Blue 25th April: Harmondsworth Moor - Twelve Peacocks (possibly more), six Commas and a Brimstone 28th April: Stanwell Moor - One Comma and the first Speckled Wood of the year 29th April: Stanwell Moor - One Green-veined White, another first here this year. Hopefully as the weather gently improves this week, there might actually be an Orange Tip! - Dave Miller

Just seen a large white nectaring on honesty in Kings Langley around noon April 29th - Elizabeth Debenham

Saw my first Speckled Wood of the year yesterday (Sunday 28th April 2013) in Shaws Wood, Trent Park, at 15:35 hrs - Robert Callf. Today (Monday 29th April 2013) - 1 Peacock, at Park Farm, Enfield at 12:56 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, at Whitewebbs Park, 14:56 hrs; 1 Comma, at Flash Lane, Enfield, at 15:13 hrs - Robert Callf

Small white/female orange tip in Balls Wood plus 3 peacocks on Waterford Heath south - very quiet generally - Andy Brown

I saw 2 peacocks, a comma and brimstone at Tewin Orchard last Thursday (25th April) - Paul Thrush

Sunday 28th April 2013

News from 21/04/2013 Peacock at Stotfold Mill. 28/04/2013 Speckled Wood ([pic on facebook](#)) at Digswell Lake - Helen Cope

Saturday 27th April 2013

I am reporting a sighting of a male Orange Tip yesterday 26th April at 1 30 pm on the Par 3 at Redbourn Golf Club, Kinsbourne Green Lane. I understand that there have not been many sightings so far. The area was sheltered and very warm in the sun - Mandy Floyd

Friday 26th April 2013

I thought it may be of interest to you that I saw a fresh looking **Grizzled Skipper** halfway up the main footpath on Aldbury Nower on the afternoon of 25/4/13. Fresh as in freshly emerged - I first saw it when it was disturbed and flew weakly about a short distance and settled on a blade of grass where it remained for a long time even though I approached closely, so I wonder if it's wings had fully hardened. I wish I'd brought my camera along! - Frank Tuck

A few butterflies to report today (Friday 26th April 2013) - 1 Comma, at Park Farm, Enfield, at 12:35 hrs; 1 Peacock, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 13:38 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 13:44 hrs; 1 Peacock, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 13:44 hrs. Still no sign of any Orange Tips or Speckled Woods - Robert Callf & Robin White

It has been good week of sightings for me. On 20th April a fast white butterfly flew over the Duchies Piece path at Aldbury Nowers. It was either a small white or a female orange tip. It didn't stop for a closer look. 23rd April a large male brimstone flew over a garden in Kings Langley, then either a comma or small tortoiseshell was on the patio, but it didn't stop long enough for a proper ID. 25th April the weather was so warm it brought out several butterflies in the vicinity, namely brimstone, holly blue landing on a grape hyacinth and comma on the patio. Two chasing large butterfly silhouettes were above my head in The Nap, Kings Langley. I could only guess at peacock by its behaviour, but unsure - Elizabeth Debenham

Upper Green Gardens, Tewin, first Holly Blue seen yesterday - Jim Farr

Thursday 25th April 2013

At Devil's Dyke, Wheathampstead on a botanical survey this morning, 4 Brimstone (3m+1f), 5+ Peacock, **1 Speckled Wood**, 1 Holly Blue. Encouraged by this & despite high winds did my Warren transect & recorded 5 more Peacock. They must be having a good year (so far!)- John Moss

I did the transect yesterday at Aldbury Nowers, despite the warm conditions it was pretty quiet, I saw single orange tip, small tortoiseshell, brimstone and peacock. There was also a peacock at Alpine Meadow. - Paul Thrush

First Brimstone on my Stevenage transect at about 11am along the eastern edge of Whomerley Wood - Peter Clarke

A few butterflies to report today (Thursday 25th April 2013) - 1 Peacock, near Merryhills Brook at Trent Park, 10:57 hrs; 1 Peacock, at Plumridge Farm, 12:18 hrs; 2 Peacock, at Vault Hill Wood, Enfield Chase, 12:45 hrs; 1 Red Admiral, edge of Icehouse Wood, Trent Park, 11:16 hrs - my first of the year - a rather worn specimen; 2 Comma, edge of Icehouse Wood, Trent Park, 11:20 hrs; 1 Comma, at Vault Hill Wood, 12:45 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, at Park Farm near Little Beechill Wood, 13:05 hrs; 1 Comma, at Park Farm near Little Beechill Wood, 13:05 hrs; 1 Comma, at Park Farm, 13:20 hrs; 2 Peacock, at Park Farm, Enfield, 13:20 hrs - Robert Callf. P.S., Also a few Whites including Large and Small.

Yesterday at King's Meads orange tip, tortoiseshells, peacocks and brimstones, Today 25th Waterford Heath commas, peacocks and brimstones - Andy Brown

Wednesday 24th April 2013

News from Diane Andrews, **2 Speckled Wood** in Tottenham Cemetary today, one had it's left hind wing missing but still flying well. Also 1 Peacock, a white and 4 Holly Blue. Diane also has 6 small Alder Buckthorn plants which she would like to rehome. Anyone interested please contact Liz Goodyear

Yesterday, Holly Blue in my garden in the morning, first this year. On my Green Lanes allotment this afternoon, Small White, 2 Comma/Small Tortoiseshell - not sure which. They were very energetic & made no attempt to settle - John Moss

Only recorded a few of the butterflies that we saw today (Wednesday 24th April 2013) - 1 female Large White, flying around an oilseed rape field, Ferny Hill Farm, Enfield, 11:10 hrs - my first of the year! 1 Small Tortoiseshell, along ditch near Seedfield Spinney, Trent Park, 11:40 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, along Merryhills Brook/Vicarage Farm, 12:57 hrs. Also a number of Peacock and Comma seen - Robert Callf & Robin White. Yesterday (Tuesday 23rd April 2013) - 1 male Green-veined White, Shaws Wood, Trent Park, 16:06 hrs - my first of the year! 3 Comma, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 16:11 - 16:15 hrs; 1 Peacock, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 16:15 hrs; 2 Small Tortoiseshell, together, Plumridge Farm, Enfield, 17:25 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, along track, at Vicarage Farm, 19:05 hrs - Robert Callf.

3 Small Tortoiseshell + 4 Peacock on nettles alongside R. Ver, just N. of Shafford Farm near Redbournbury this morning - Pete Waldron

At Norton Green earlier this afternoon, spotted 4 Brimstones (all male), a Comma, a Peacock and a Small Tortoiseshell - Peter Clarke

Pinner, Middx. A single Holly Blue in my garden in yesterday (April 23rd); and previously (on Saturday 20th April) a single Comma - Graham Elcombe

Tuesday 23rd April 2013

At Amwell Nature Reserve today had 1 Small White, 3 Peacocks and 1 Comma and at Therfield Heath had 8 Peacocks, 2 Brimstone and 2 comma - Andy Steele

Thornbera Road allotments, Stortford, warm and Sunny, 1 p.m. today, 3 Peacocks, 2 Small Tortoiseshells; 2,15 p.m., one comma nectaring on the first gooseberry flowers and ignoring a nearby Majorie plum in almost full bloom. 2.45 p.m. Female brimstone lazily crossed full width of allotments heading in a NNE direction. Whites conspicuous by their absence - Len Crouch

Lincoln Inn Fields WC2 Small White. Grays Inn Gardens WC1 - 2 male Peacocks, clashing with each other and a passing Comma. 1 Small White - Malcolm Hull

Despite the new Hitchin railway extension devastating the site ie loss of all small copper/common and blue and brown argus habitat. The usual eary suspects still abound 15 Brimstones/12 Peacocks, 5 Commas, Small Tortoiseshell and my 1st Large White of the year - Stuart Pittman

1 x Peacock and 1 x Small Tortoiseshell at Ellenbrook Fields (Hatfield Aerodrome) today - Shaun Dowman

I was working at Hexton Chalk Pit today, we saw a small tortoiseshell, peacock, comma, 3+ Brimstone (male and female). On the drive back between Hexton village and Hitchin I counted 8 Brimstone and there were 2 near Jersey Farm. - Paul Thrush

Had a morning walk around Amwell today and saw 2 male Orange Tips, male and female Brimstones and lots of Peacocks - Steve Lane

Peacocks everywhere today. At Broxbourne Wood, 5 peacocks, green veined white, brimstone, small tortoiseshell. At Bencroft wood my first orange tip. At Waterford Heath 4 commas, 7 peacocks, 1 small tortoiseshell, 1small white. Great Molewood - 6 commas, 4 peacocks and Rickneys 6 peacocks - Steve Kiln

Monday 22nd April 2013

News for yesterday (Sunday 21st April 2013) - 1 Small Tortoiseshell, basking on black plastic sheeting, edge of shelter-belt, Vicarage Farm, 10:55 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, hedgerow opposite Williams Wood, Vicarage Farm, 11:10 hrs; 1 Peacock, near Williams Wood, Vicarage Farm, 11:03 hrs; 1 Peacock, hedgerow opposite Williams Wood, Vicarage Farm, 11:10 hrs; 3 Peacock, at Parkside Farm, 1 at 11:23 hrs, and 2 at 11:33 hrs; 1 Comma, at Parkside Farm, 11:33 hrs; 2 Comma, at Park Farm, 11:56 and 12:20 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, at Park Farm, 12:10 hrs; 2 Peacock, together, at Little Beechill Wood, Enfield Chase, 12:25 hrs; 4 Peacock, at Vault Hill Wood, Enfield Chase, 2 at 12:40 and 2 at 12:50 hrs; 2 Peacock, at Plumridge Farm, Enfield, 12:55 and 13:14 hrs; 1 Peacock, edge of Ash Wood, 13:18 hrs; 1 Comma, at Ash Wood, 13:30 hrs; 1 Comma, edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park, 13:45 hrs; 1 Comma, near Water Garden, Trent Park, 14:00 hrs; 1 Comma, nectaring on Sallow, along Leeging Beech Gutter N of Williams Wood, 14:15 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 14:17 hrs - Robert Callf. Today (Monday 22nd April 2013) - 1 Peacock, Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm, 09:40 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, at Park Farm; 1 Peacock, at Park Farm, 11:08 hrs; 1 Comma, at Park Farm, 11:15 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, at Park Farm, 11:23 hrs; 1 Peacock, along Merryhills Brook/Vicarage Farm, 12:45 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, at Barracks, Vicarage Farm, 13:20 hrs - Robert Callf & Robin White.

Saturday 20th April at Old Park Wood, Harefield. 2 Peacocks & 1 Comma. For anyone interested the Bluebells look like they won't be fully out for another 3 weeks. Sunday 21st April in my Hayes garden, 1 Comma, 1 Peacock and a **Green-veined White**.
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/69131641@N04/8667989959/in/photostream>
Helen George

Over the weekend at Stocking Pelham, I saw several small tortoiseshells, a couple of Brimstones, a

couple of Peacocks a **green veined white** and a possible speckled wood - Andy Brown

News from Diane Andrews, 14th April at Alexandra Palace, 1 Brimstone, 2 Small Tortoiseshell, 3 Peacock and 3 Comma. 20th April Brunswick Park 6 Peacock, 6 Comma, 3 Small Tortoiseshell and a **Holly Blue**. Today at Tatum Park, 3 Peacock and 2 Comma

Sunday 21st April 2013

In the garden this weekend (Hemel Hempstead) I saw my first Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell and **Large White** of the year together with a Brimstone and Comma. Yellow Hyacinths and Primulas were popular nectar sources. Malcolm Newland

You may be interested that I today found a peacock butterfly trying to get out of my closed garage window. I opened a window hoping that the fresh air would help it to find the escape route but it did not help. I called my daughter & granddaughter to come and see this beautiful creature. My granddaughter took several photos before my daughter carefully picked it up when it closed its wings & released it into the atmosphere. It flew away at great speed & height across two gardens & then we lost sight of it. It occurred at 2.30pm on 21.4.13 I live in Ruislip Middlesex - FS

Yesterday walked along Finch lane, Bushey but no sightings. Today my first sighting of year 1 x peacock in our Bushey front garden - David Gower

A small male **Orange Tip** visited my Harpenden garden today, picture included.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/robinp2009/8668298810/>

Robin Pearson

I was able to spend more time ambling around my local patch today. The Peacocks were suddenly the most numerous, appearing regularly at intervals all along the route I take. Where territories overlapped, spiralling dogfights ensued, and by the time I returned home I had seen thirteen individuals; to this I could add six Commas and five Small Tortoiseshells. I also saw three Brimstones, including a female, plus three Whites. The only one of these I managed to approach closely was a male Small White with deformed wings - this did not seem to inconvenience him at all. At one point a male Brimstone set off in hot pursuit of a White, and showed no sign of giving up, even forcing it to the ground a couple of times. They normally call it a day quite quickly when they realise the error.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=30390&mode=view> - Dave Miller

Saturday 20th April 2013

my first trip out for a few days and not as long as I would have liked: just a quick ramble locally on the home patch produced a couple of Peacocks and Small Tortoiseshells, plus a Brimstone and an unidentified White seen a bit of a way off. Once again, one of the Small Tortoiseshells was on a dandelion on my front lawn, within a metre of the house. I think I've already seen more of these than in the whole of last year (which was itself better than 2011).

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=30348&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=30347&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=30346&mode=view>

- Dave Miller

Saw a Comma hovering over some primulas in my back garden at about 10 am. Very sunny but cold at around 7 degrees so very brave! Peter Clarke

Looks as though spring is here at last, bringing our first butterflies this year. At 10.00 am a handsome Peacock sunbathing in our Hatfield front garden, followed at 12.30 by a splendid male Brimstone, on a mission over the back garden. 2.00 - 2.40 pm on my Warren transect, 5 Peacock, 2 Small Tortoiseshell, 2 Comma, all very bright & brisk. Brilliant sunshine all day, with light breeze, temp at 10.00 am 10C, rising to 15C this afternoon. I hope it lasts! - John Moss

News for today (Saturday 20th April 2013) - 1 Comma, near Triangular Wood, Trent Park, 12:35 hrs; 2 Peacock, near Triangular Wood, Trent Park, 12:35 hrs and 12:40 hrs; 1 male Brimstone, nectaring on Dandelion, near Triangular Wood, Trent Park, 12:45 hrs - my first of the year! 1 Peacock, near Cockfosters entrance, Trent Park, 12:57 hrs; 1 Peacock, near Church Wood, Trent Park, 13:08 hrs; **1 female Small White**, near Obelisk, edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park, 14:00 hrs - my first of the year! 1 Peacock, near Obelisk, Trent Park, 14:02 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, nectaring on Dandelion, at Plumridge Farm near Ash Wood, 14:08 hrs (TQ2898); 2 Peacock,

together, edge of Ash Wood, 14:15 hrs; 1 Comma, at Plumridge Farm, Enfield, 14:20 hrs; 2 Peacock, at Plumridge Farm, 14:24 and 14:30 hrs; 1 Peacock, at Vault Hill Wood, 14:38 hrs; 1 Comma, at Vault Hill Wood, 14:45 hrs; 3 Peacock, at Park Farm, Enfield, 1 at 15:07 and 2 together at 15:25 hrs; 2 Comma, together, at Park Farm, 15:25 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, at Parkside Farm, Enfield, 15:43 hrs; 1 Peacock, at Parkside Farm, 15:43 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Stables at Vicarage Farm, 16:03 hrs; 1 Peacock, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 16:05 hrs; 2 Small Tortoiseshell, together, along track at Vicarage Farm, 16:08 hrs. - Robert Callf

Alleluia! Saw my first butterflies of the year today. It's been a long wait - two small tortoiseshells and one comma on our allotment in Dark Lane, Cheshunt enjoying the sunshine - Roger Newbold

Ruislip Woods: At least fifteen Commas this afternoon, plus ten Peacocks and one female Brimstone - Graham Elcombe

Bricket Wood Common, St Albans - I recorded Small Tortoiseshell (2) and Peacock (6) at this site today for the first time in 2013. Comma is still the most numerous species on the Common with 13 recorded, including two courting couples and a female egg laying on nettles. 5 Brimstone also recorded - all males, four of them patrolling & one nectaring on Forget-me-not. The females appear to still be in hibernation. Its interesting that the emergence of Brimstones appears to have been delayed by the long winter, whereas the Comma, which is having an excellent year is much closer to its "normal" timescale. Usually Brimstones are out before Commas. The two species emergence appears to be well aligned to their larval food-plants. The nettles used by the Comma are in perfect condition for egg laying, whereas the Alder Buckthorn used by the Brimstone appears to be several weeks away from being in suitable condition for egg laying. Malcolm Hull

First butterfly I've photographed in 2013, a Comma in my Harpenden garden (the Brimstones just won't stay still).

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/robinp2009/8665990964/>

Robin Pearson

The following this morning at Hatfield Aerodrome *(Disused) 1 x Peacock 1 Small Tortoiseshell - David Wheatcroft

Friday 19th April 2013

I can report that last Sunday 14th April on Horsenden Hill, David and I finally clinched the ID of some 'Orange Underwings' that we had been noting in small numbers over previous years. We succeeded in netting two examples and they proved to be Light Orange Underwing. Besides the two netted, we saw at least another 10 individuals, presumably of the same species as they were flying around aspen. We had suspected that they would be Light Orange over the preceding years due to the aspen connection, but nice to have concrete proof at last. The location is the western hedge of Batts Field, which is shown on the various signs located around the site. They are mainly around the higher aspens but occasionally coming down to almost ground level around some suckering aspen on the edge of the field. - Andy Culshaw and Dave Howdon

The only butterfly which I was able to identify Wednesday 17th April 2013 was a Peacock settled near Flash Lane Aqueduct at Whitewebbs Wood, 13:07 hrs, otherwise had brief views of two others elsewhere. - Robert Callf

At Tyttenhanger GP yesterday had 1 Comma and 1 Small Tortiseshell - Andy Steele

Wednesday 17th April 2013

It was definitely a Peacock day today, with 2 in my South Mimms garden, and 4 at Tyttenhanger Gravel Pits - Terry Wood

Tuesday 16th April 2013

Upper Tewin Green garden, Small Tortoiseshell seen today - Jim Farr

Monday 15th April 2013

Comma sunbathing in the early morning sun on shrubs in front of Morrisons cafe, Fleetville, St. Albans at 0800 this morning. Flew off after 10 minutes as it became too breezy - Martin Gore

I attempted the transect at Aldbury Nowers today, saw 2 male brimstones and a peacock (all in the south). At Alpine Meadow this morning there was a peacock with another along the farm track on the way down to the meadow - Paul Thrush

Today (Monday 15th April 2013) - 1 Small Tortoiseshell, along track at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 09:00 hrs; 1 Peacock, at Parkside Farm, Enfield, 09:25 hrs; 1 Peacock, at Plumridge Farm, Enfield, 10:58 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, at Uni-lawns, Trent Park, 12:08 hrs; 1 Comma, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 12:15 hrs; 1 Peacock, along Merryhills Brook/Vicarage Farm, 12:45 hrs - Robert Callf & Robin White

Sunday 14th April 2013

Well spring has finally sprung, Sunday 14th April, Wareside: 2 brimstone, 1 peacock, 1 small tortoiseshell. Standon Mill Lane walk: 6 Small Tortoiseshell, 5 Brimstone, 4 Peacock, 1 Comma, **1 SMALL WHITE** - Hopefully more news this week - Phil, Lorraine and Oliver Macmurdie

Sunday 14th April 2013 - 1 Comma, at Plumridge Farm (TQ2999) settled on Bramble, 10:05 hrs; 1 Comma, at Moat Wood, Trent Park, 10:32 hrs; 1 Comma, along Leeging Beech Gutter near 'Three-bridges', Trent Park, 11:00 hrs; 1 Peacock, along Leeging Beech Gutter near 'Three-bridges', Trent Park, 11:00 hrs; 1 Comma, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 11:12 hrs; 1 Comma, near Shaws Wood, Trent Park, 11:37 hrs - Robert Callf

A brimstone and a comma in Stocking Pelham - Andy Brown

Had first butterflies in my garden in South Mimms today. 1 Comma and 1 Small Tortoiseshell - Terry Wood

I am very pleased to report from my Hayes garden 2 small Tortoiseshells. This is amazing news for me as sightings of Small Tortoiseshells in this area in recent years, has been very rare. Also today 1 Comma - Helen George

The season is finally underway here near Heathrow: As promised by the weather forecast, the sun shone and the temperature here at Heathrow reached the dizzy heights of 19.5 degrees. A stroll around my local patch was in order, and I covered a fair part of it in two hours this morning. The butterflies were out at long last. In all, I counted 21 individuals along the route, with little chance of there being any "repeats". Four species were out and about, and the overall tally was five Brimstones, four Peacocks, four Small Tortoiseshells and no less than eight Commas. A couple of the Commas were indulging in what I took to be courting behaviour, one following the other through the branches of a flowering pussy willow, alighting regularly: one would sidle up close behind the other before the other flew on to another twig where they would repeat the exercise. Eventually, the chasing male (I assume) gave up and went to bask in the sun, whilst the female disappeared into the trees. I was pleased to see so many Small Tortoiseshells (especially as two were at the end of the walk on the grass outside my house!). In recent years, to see one before the summer months around here has been unusual. A long-awaited start to the season here, but a good one. - Dave Miller

My first garden butterfly of the year today. 18C already at 10:30AM. Comma spotted nectaring on heather flowers before a local Meerkat decided the Comma would make a good broach![Link on facebook](#) Mike Rubin

Brimstones and peacocks were seen distributed throughout Sherrardspark Wood today - Ian Flack

Despite the windy conditions, four more male Brimstones flew through the garden in Harpenden during the day. That's as many as we'd ever get at this time of year, so no complaints about the season so far! Quite a few bumble bees in the garden, too (nectaring mainly on the Pulmonaria): but a dearth of insects in the nearby farmland and hedgerows - Alan Jackson

Bricket Wood Common - 10 Commas, all sunbathing, 4 male Brimstones, all patrolling rapidly. Butterfly World - Two Small Tortoiseshells, first nectaring on Colts-foot and then courting on the ground nearby - Malcolm Hull

Sunny but windy, Bencroft Wood 4 commas 2 peacocks. Broxbourne Wood ride 1 comma 1 peacock. Waterford Heath 1 brimstone, 4 peacock, 1 comma and a couple of chiff chaffs. Great Molewood nearby, 3 comma, 1 peacock and 3 commas. Nice to see some butterflies again - Steve

Kiln

I hope we all have a good 2013 for butterflies. I am delighted to report my first sighting of a healthy small tortoiseshell in Kings Langley. It was in a parked canvas topped vehicle where it may have hibernated. When the door opened it flew high over the houses before I could photograph it. You may be interested to know that my photo of Aldbury Nowers which I entered into the International Garden Photographer of the Year Competition 6, (IGPOTY) won 2nd place in the Breathing Spaces category. It shows one of the butterfly enclosures. Do take a look. The image is also on my website.

<http://www.photoharvester.co.uk/>

Elizabeth Debenham

At HMWT Amwell viewpoint today 2 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Peacock, at Bramfield woods 1 male Brimstone - Laurence Drummond

Berkhamsted Common, Comma, Brimstone (x2) - Michael Spittles

Several sightings today: A brimstone on the B1256 through Takely. On a 10 km walk around the village of Tilty, I saw 7 peacocks and one small tortoiseshell - Chris Gleeson

1 x Brimstone Butterfly (Male) seen in flight near Harpenden Road, St Albans - David Wheatcroft

Had 1 female Brimstone and 1 Peacock at Maple Lodge this morning and at Heartwood Forest 5 Peacocks and 1 Small Tortoiseshell despite the wind this afternoon - Andy Steele

We saw a female Brimstone, a Peacock and a Small Tortoiseshell at Ball's Wood NR this afternoon - Jenny Sherwen

A male Brimstone by the Dome roundabout near North Watford at 1130 hours. (My first - and probably only - butterfly during a two-week spring break between bird survey contracts.) - Colin Everett

I had just popped indoors and through the kitchen window I saw a '**white**' butterfly shoot through the garden (not female Brimstone). A female Brimstone and Peacock have also been seen in my Ware garden today - Liz Goodyear

At last! Male Brimstone in our sunny Harpenden garden early this morning - - Alan Jackson

I recorded a Small Tortoiseshell and a Comma this morning in a couple of the more sheltered parts of my Bishops Stortford transect. Lovely out at 17C, but a stiff force 5 to 6. - Bob Clift

I saw a Brimstone fluttering across the road and into Bancroft Gardens in Hitchin yesterday at 12:30 lunchtime. First butterfly I've seen this year so very exciting! Eilidh McIntosh

Peacock and Brimstone in my Harpenden garden this morning - Robin Pearson

Wednesday 10th April 2013

Male Brimstone in my Harpenden garden today - Robin Pearson

Saw a Comma flying around the Hemel Hempstead garden today - Malcolm Newland

Three butterflies to report today (Wednesday 10th April 2013) - 1 Comma, Shaws Wood, Trent Park, 12:50 hrs; 1 Peacock, along Merryhills Book/Vicarage Farm, 13:20 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, at Barracks, Vicarage Farm, 13:35 hrs - Robert Callf & Robin White

A fresh small tortoiseshell at Roundwood Close Hitchin at mid day - Martin Banthorpe

Today 10th - at Ridlins Mire we saw a Brimstone during a work party then after the volunteers had left I saw a comma - Andy Brown (PS. Andy - you just missed the comma!)

Monday 8th April 2013

One Small Tortoiseshell in fields north of St Nicholas church Stevenage today - Andrew Wood

Two Orange Underwings were flying at the top of some mature birches on Hampstead Heath at 2.30 pm . It was sunny but still with an east wind - Helen Bantock

News from Sunday 7 April: Saw two Brimstones in Sherrardspark Wood today Ian Flack

News from April 6th 2013, Croxley Common Moor Two very fresh looking Small Tortoiseshells; and a Brimstone flying high in nearby Moor Lane - Graham Elcombe

Finally the sun comes out - 1st report for 2013 Saturday 6th April, 3 small tortoiseshells at Braughing of which 2 were preparing for nuptials... Let how the weather holds out and the season can finally get started - Phil Macmurdie

Sunday 7th April 2013

Hemel Hempstead, having just put my camera away after failing to photograph the female Goldcrest which is a regular visitor to my bird feeders I was delighted to see a **Hummingbird Hawk Moth** nectaring on a clump of Primulas flowering by the back door. Of course by the time I had grabbed my camera it had departed but I have never seen one this early before. (*On checking my records I had forgotten that I saw a hummer on 6th March 1997!*) Would have made a great photo, ah well.... Malcolm Newland

2 Commas out today in my garden in Woodside Park (N12), plus 2 more near Folly Brook south of Darlands Lake - Ian Ellis

Had 1 comma in the garden (St Albans) today - Andy Steele

I saw a Comma on the south side of Horsenden Hill on Saturday 6th April at about 4pm - Michael Robinson

No butterflies out at all on Bricket Wood Common this afternoon. However Anna Hull reported a Brimstone this lunchtime in the garden of The Old Bell PH on Luton Rd, Harpenden - Malcolm Hull

A brief visit from a male Brimstone in my Ware garden today - Liz Goodyear

Five Commas and an **Orange Underwing species** in Balls Wood today and one Comma in Ware Park - Andrew Wood

I also saw my first butterflies of the year today. 3 Commas near a still rare nectar source and 1 Small Tortoiseshell on Barnhill in TQ18. All basking in warm hazy sunshine, about 10C on the ground and almost no wind. That plus my first cross country glider flight of the year yesterday makes it officially end of winter for me! - Mike Rubin

Saw three butterflies this afternoon (Sunday 7th April 2013) - 1 Comma, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 14:03 hrs; 1 Comma, along Merryhills Brook/South Lodge Farm, Enfield, 14:25 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, settled along Merryhills Brook/Vicarage Farm, 14:33 hrs. Also yesterday (Saturday 6th April 2013) Robin White saw a Comma in his garden afternoon around some Ivy. - Robert Callf

Saturday 6th April 2013

Brimstone in garden today in Wheathampstead - Paul Unwin

First butterfly of the year for Stocking Pelham - comma - very active in the sun - Andy Brown

Had a small tortoiseshell in my sunny Welwyn Garden City garden at midday - Ian Flack

Small Tortoiseshell on Waterford Heath (South) today - Jenny Sherwen

Yellow Brimstones in my Hitchin garden on 5 March 2013 saw 2 in front garden at 11.15 a.m. and 12.30. Today 6 April again saw 2 in back garden one at 12 noon and another at 3 pm. Enjoying the long awaited sunshine (8 deg in the shade) - Val Fullforth

One male Brimstone this afternoon. At Oughtonhead Lane. First of the year hopefully it gets better from here - Kevin Taylor

Tuesday 2nd April 2013

One **Holly Blue** through my Harpenden garden today - Robin Pearson

2pm Fir & Pond Woods NR, our first butterfly of the year, a welcome **Comma** - David Gompertz

The welcome sight of a **small tortoiseshell** seen basking in the mid afternoon sun on Roughdown Common (Boxmoor). A nice way to start the 2013 Transect. - Brendan Sheridan

March 2013

Sunday 10th March 2013

2 male Brimstone along Redcar Drive Stevenage at 1pm on Tuesday 5th March - Mike Harris

Friday 8th March 2013

This is to let you know that whilst walking around the GSK site at Stevenage last Tuesday (5th March), I saw a Small Tortoiseshell butterfly - Chris Bessant

Wednesday 6th March 2013

I saw a male Brimstone yesterday Tuesday in Thundridge along Cold Christmas Lane. Here's hoping for a better summer than last year - Julie Wise

Robin White saw three butterflies yesterday (Tuesday 5th March 2013) - 1 Red Admiral, along Leeging Beech Gutter near 'Three-bridges', Trent Park and 2 Small Tortoiseshells - one in Shaws Wood - probably just emerged from hibernation and another along Merryhills Brook at South Lodge Farm, Enfield. - Robert Callf

Tuesday 5th March 2013

I disturbed a Comma on a patch of crocuses in my Hemel Hempstead front garden at 12.45 pm this afternoon. Quite made my day! - Malcolm Newland

First butterfly of the year for me; a male Brimstone along the Yeading Brook, South Ruislip - Dick Middleton

One Comma sunning itself at Hoo Bit this afternoon. My first of the year - Paul Why

I saw a brimstone butterfly in rough ground behind Woodlands Road in Thundridge today 5.3.13 at 2pm - Katie Sampford (Nick's daughter :))

Fleeting view of a Comma in my Harpenden garden today (5 March) - Alan Jackson

I saw a male Brimstone today in Eliot Road, Chells area, Stevenage, Approx midday - Colin Alderman

Saw my first butterfly of the year today: a comma sunning itself in my Welwyn Garden City garden - Ian Flack

We saw 1 male brimstone and a comma on Harpenden Common today! - Jenny Sherwen

Tuesday lovely spring day. In Bencroft Wood three commas in mid afternoon, Also one at Waterford Heath and one at Great Molewood nearby. A Brimstone in Bengoe at home.. - Steve Kiln

5 Commas seen on my Stevenage transect earlier this afternoon - Peter Clarke

We were working up in the north at Aldbury Nowers today in the key butterfly area and had **4 male brimstone** together - Paul Thrush

Male brimstone in Harpenden garden today - Rob Pearson

Today 1 Peacock at Capons Wood near Wyddial, 1 Comma in Layston churchyard and 1 Brimstone in Buntingford - Andrew Wood

A male Brimstone at Thorley Park (housing estate), Bishop's Stortford, this lunchtime - Chris Dee

Monday 4th March 2013

Baas Hill area of Broxbourne, 1 **Small Tortoiseshell** - Andrew Middleton

A **Small Tortoiseshell** at Port Hill, Hertford today - Laurence Drummond

Sunday 3rd March 2013

St Albans - I noticed what looks like a Large White pupa stuck onto the underside of my shed roof. This prompted a wider search of the shed, which revealed two hibernating Peacocks. I was concerned to see a large number of cobwebs surrounding one of them, so fetched my feather duster to clean the away. BIG MISTAKE. The Peacock opened its wings & hissed loudly at me & repeated the behaviour seven or eight times, leaving its wings open for several seconds each time so I got a full "stare" from its eye spots. It made me feel quite nervous, so must be truly intimidating for any small creature which disturbs the butterfly. I recall reading that the hiss is produced by expelling air from a compartment in the Peacocks body. I cant think of any other butterfly I know which makes a sound. I've also read that this behaviour uses up a lot of precious energy, which is not good. So if you are lucky enough to have Peacocks hibernating in you shed, leave them well alone! - Malcolm Hull

I saw my first **Comma** of the year today, at Colney Heath in a hedgerow by the river Colne - Jenny Sherwen

February 2013

Thursday 28th February 2013

If you have trouble seeing the menu bar on Internet Explorer 10 click the compatibility view icon next to the refresh symbol!

Tuesday 19th February 2013 Just to let you know that I saw a **Small Tortoiseshell** at 12.30pm, Tues 19 February 2013 flying strongly in the full sunshine at Sunnyside allotments, Berkhamsted. It was surprisingly speedy as I chased along the paths to try and keep up! - Darren Flint

Wow, **4 Small Tortoiseshell**, it cant have been more than 9C in Tring but the Miswell footie field margins had at least 4 and possibly 5 males spread around its perimeter. 2 were decidedly unhappy and hardly moving but the others were flying strongly (which is why I am unsure about total number as I lost sight of one before connecting with what seemed a darker 5th(?) that might have been the 4th driven along the field boundary ahead of me - Nick Bowles

A **Peacock** in my neighbours front garden this afternoon in Ware - Liz Goodyear

I saw a **Brimstone** butterfly heading south east in the Chaulden area of Hemel Hempstead at approx midday today 19/02/2013.... - Peter Gatehouse

January 2013

Sunday 27th January 2013

I saw a **Red Admiral** today (27th Jan) flying along Cleveland Street, W1 near the junction with Riding House St. at about 1pm not far from the Telecomm Tower. The temperature was about 10 degrees C - Michael Robinson

Monday 14th January 2013

I saw a **Red admiral** flying in G block..Loftus Road Stadium. QPR on Saturday 12th Jan 2013 about midday - Graham Bellamy

Wednesday 9th January 2013

I saw a **Red Admiral** fly into my Maple Cross garden and sun itself on my south facing garage wall before it was chased off by a Blue Tit - Christina Bessant

Tuesday 8th January 2013

I just thought I would let you know that we had a **Red Admiral** sunning itself on our garden wall in Hitchin at lunchtime today - Dick Hawker

Friday 4th January 2013

Have just been told that a **Red Admiral** was sunning itself in my garden this morning (Stevenage)
- Phil Bishop

On the evening of the 3rd of January was suprising to find a Small Tortoiseshell inside my St Albans house released into my shed so it should survive the winter - Andrew Steele

Not, perhaps, the first genuine 'new butterfly of 2013', but a hibernating Comma was still present on the underside of a dead branch in Perivale Wood on 1st January. We first found it during a dusking trip to the wood on 15th December 2012 - Andy Culshaw

Some moth sightings for a change - I have seen single Spring Ushers both in the garden and Stanmore Country Park - John Hollingdale