

Sightings July – December 2014

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When sending in news from a site for the first time, a grid reference or post code would be appreciated. We endeavour to enter all records on the branch data base if sufficient location detail is given. Photos will only be posted in exceptional circumstances, please either use the branch facebook page or provide an online link - thank you

December 2014

Tuesday 30th December 2014

I have read up and I gather it is not at all uncommon, but for me it was a first - a Red Admiral flying up to me as I used our outside gas barbecue at 19:55 on 22nd December 2014. It settled near the garden lighting on a fig tree branch near some ivy and I took a photo on my iPhone. It was a still but quite cold evening in our sheltered south facing South Hampstead garden - Dr Asheesh K Das

Saturday 27th December 2014

Today's Brown Hairstreak egg hunt on Walthamstow Marshes was organised to try and confirm the presence of the species at this site. The location is right on the border of Middx and Essex, the adult sighting reported last August being about 500 meters into Essex. 6 of us searched for just under two hours in ideal conditions. Both the quality and quantity of the foodplant (Blackthorn) was excellent. Surprisingly some of the Blackthorn was already in flower, but not enough to hinder our task. Unfortunately no butterfly eggs were found, though we did locate a couple of moth eggs. The site is an SSSI which lies in the Lea Valley close to the southern end of Epping Forest. There have been a few intermittent records of Brown Hairstreak from the Forest in recent times. The Forest was a renowned location for Brown Hairstreak in Victorian times, although it is widely believed to have died out in the area at the end of the nineteenth century - Malcolm Hull

Thursday 25th December 2014

I was a bit surprised to see a Red Admiral butterfly at Bentley Priory, Stanmore on the 25th December - Phil (photo on the facebook page)

A Peacock fluttering outside a window in Hatfield on 23rd December. - Allan Burrows

Sunday 21st December 2014

A Brown Hairstreak egg hunt is being held on the 27th December at Walthamstow Marshes - full details on [Cambs & Essex Branch website](#) - Please let Rob Smith know if you want to come along.

A Small Tortoiseshell, very beautiful, came into our home in Bishops Stortford today. The kids opened the window, and an hour or two later, the butterfly was cavorting around the ceiling lamp. And it didn't want to leave - I did finally convince it to leave my finger and go outside! - Shoshana Hantman

Friday 19th December 2014

Friday 19th in front garden Bengo - one red admiral - Steve Kiln

Saw a Red Admiral in the sunshine at Bow, East London - Roger Osborne (news via C & E Branch)

Thursday 18th December 2014

A dead Red Admiral on the pavement in North Watford at the junction of St Albans Road and Bushey Mill Lane, in 1-km grid square TQ 10 98. - Colin Everett

Monday 15th December 2014

I was surprised to see a Red Admiral fluttering around some new bike sheds at the University of Hertfordshire (AL10 9AB) on Monday 15th.. It was much smaller than other Red Admirals I have seen this year! Unfortunately it flew off before I had time to get a picture. - Daniel Cooper

Sunday 7th December 2014

While searching for firewood in my St Albans shed, I spotted 13 Small Tortoiseshells & 6 Peacocks all successfully hibernating. I also recorded one dead specimen of each species. There appeared to have been quite a few changing their positions since I last had a good look at them in August. Some of the Small Tortoiseshells have been in hibernation since the second week of July. Malcolm Hull

Saturday 6th December 2014

I've taken up your challenge of a Dec sighting, though I can't be sure on the precise ID! A large dark butterfly flew across in front of me this morning across a paddock at Nicholls Farm. It was either a Peacock or Red Admiral (I strongly suspect the former, but can't be 100% sure). Either way, I was surprised to see it with the frost on the ground, despite the sunshine. Peter Tallentire

November 2014

Sunday 30th November 2014

Interestingly we saw two small tortoiseshell in Ware on Saturday 29th, 1 flying around the Tesco's in the sun The second was whilst in our Wareside orchard, I fancy this one may have been disturbed from a big patch of flowering ivy which had become dislodged from a tree. - Phil Macmurdie

It's not over yet! A walk around my local patch at Stanwell Moor today (Sunday 30th) had no less than three Commas and six Red Admirals to offer. The Commas were happy basking in the sunshine, but some of the Red Admirals had found a large flowering mahonia and were happily nectaring.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=61784&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=61771&mode=view>

This the latest in the year I have seen a butterfly anywhere in the UK - Dave Miller

Saturday 29th November 2014

I was pleasantly surprised to look out of my window earlier today (Saturday) and see a Peacock butterfly flying around my front garden at Nicholls Farm, Redbourn - Peter Tallentire

Today (Nov 29th) a Peacock was sunning itself at West End Essendon - Rupert Pyrah

Saw a Peacock Saturday 29th November 2014 at 13:46 hrs flying around a horse box at Vicarage Farm, Enfield - my latest record for this species! - Robert Callf

Thursday 27th November 2014

Saw a Red Admiral this afternoon Thursday 27th November 2014 on the sunny edge of Monken Hadley Common near the Games Road entrance at 12:23 hrs - flying and settling in branches, whilst trying to relocate a Yellow-browed Warbler which I had seen a few minutes before. - Robert Callf

Tuesday 25th November 2014

1 x small tortoiseshell and 1 x beautiful plume moth in our Bushey bathroom - David Gower

Tuesday 18th November 2014

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards A few hours sunshine, no breeze and temperatures up to 14C made for good walking weather favourable to butterflies and I was duly rewarded with what was

almost certainly a Red Admiral flying strongly across the open central part of the Marshalling Yards in front of me. I was unable to see it settle to get 100% certainty but given the time of year, the colours briefly visible and local trends I'm happy enough with this identification to submit it here. - Pete Gore

Just one Red Admiral seen on Friday 14th November on a late-flowering ivy patch near me in Stanwell Moor. 14 degrees and sunny after torrential rain.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=61453&mode=view>

Dave Miller

Wednesday 12th November 2014

Forty Hall near the school, 2 White-letter Hairstreak eggs found on a small elm overhanging the river and bridge - Andrew Middleton and Liz Goodyear

Robin White reported having seen a Red Admiral along Leeging Beech Gutter near 'Three-bridges' at Trent Park on Monday 10th November 2014 at about 10:30 hrs. - Robert Callf

Monday 10th November 2014

I saw a Painted Lady butterfly today (Monday 10th) on the Hertfordshire Way between Reed and Royston (approx. TL367 387). It seemed to be in good condition: so much so that it flew away before I had time to photograph it! Late or what.... - Martin Johnson

While bird watching at Lemsford Springs I was surprised to see a Peacock (no, not the bird!) fly by - Robin Pearson

Eastcote garden, I saw a Red Admiral camouflaged on an apple tree branch this afternoon, only noticed it as it flashed its wings during a brief sunny spell. - Paul Busby

Sunday 9th November 2014

Still butterflies to report! A lovely sunny afternoon here in Stanwell Moor on Sunday 9th November, with temperatures of around 14 or so. A circuit of my local patch found Red Admirals on all three main stands of flowering ivy, varying from the very worn to the absolutely brand new. There was also a single Comma, and amazingly yet another Holly Blue. This was a male this time, found where I had only seen females a couple of weeks ago - there must be a few around altogether. Nine or ten butterflies of three species, including one you would not expect - not bad for mid-November.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=61281&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=61288&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=61291&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=61284&mode=view>

Dave Miller

Panshanger Park this morning, 4 Red Admirals noted - Allan Burrows

We saw a red admiral in Gosmore this morning, the first butterfly I have seen for over a week. - Jenny Sherwen

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards A very pleasant walk (apart from a few muddy patches) with sunshine throughout and no breeze at all which is unusual on this site at any time of year. Only one butterfly but since it is November who's complaining?! This was a Red Admiral in much the same spot on the Marshalling Yards that I saw the first one that started off my butterfly year back in February - Pete Gore

Friday 7th November 2014

I was surprised to see a Red Admiral this morning flying around in front of the Boots store in the Borehamwood shopping centre. I also had one fly up from the path in front of me at Tyttenhanger Gravel Pits yesterday morning - Terry Wood

Tuesday 4th November 2014

Robin White and myself saw a Red Admiral which settled along Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm, Enfield this afternoon Tuesday 4th November 2014 at 12:47 hrs. Robert Callf

A belated report from my local patch at Stanwell Moor from the glorious afternoon of 31st October when the temperature reached the dizzy heights of 23 degrees. Overall, I spotted at least a dozen Red Admirals, two Commas and two female Holly Blues in a fairly limited area. The second of the Blues was fresh, but had some wing crumpling.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=61127&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=61130&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=61124&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=61126&mode=view>

Dave Miller

Saw 3 brimstones and a peacock near Preston, Herts on Friday 31st - Steve Kiln

Saturday 1st November 2014

2 Clouded Yellows in Panshanger Park, Hertford today - Allan Burrows

A Small, or possibly a Green-Veined White flew over my garden in Pinner this morning - Graham Elcombe

Encouraged by my sightings of Clouded Yellow last Monday I visited the Symondshyde Lane Site again today, 8+ individuals, including a mating pair and 2 separate females one of which was egg laying on what I believe was Birds-foot Trefoil or something very similar. Also a male Common Blue in good condition and a Painted Lady travelling fast across the site in a southerly direction. - Roger Millard

October 2014

Friday 31st October 2014

A Peacock flew across Merryhills Drive, EN2 this morning Friday 31st October 2014 at 11:54 hrs. - Robert Callf

Approx. 11.30 am. a Red Admiral flew across my Hitchin garden from No.7 to No.3 - it was obviously enjoying the lovely sunshine - Val Fullforth

In my Harpenden garden today, Red Admiral, male Brimstone, Speckled Wood and 2 Holly Blues. - Robin Pearson

While working in my Hatfield garden this afternoon I watched a smart Red Admiral nectaring for upto an hour on Viburnum flowers. There were a few nectaring bees around too, including female White-tailed & Carder, presumably preparing to hibernate. Brilliant weather - John Moss

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards Another lovely sunny day, perfect in summer but a little strange for the last day in October. Butterflies (and a moth) frustrated me by staying on wing and only a Small Copper on the Marshalling Yards was readily identifiable. A large Nymphalid and a smaller one on the Heath were most likely Red Admiral and Comma but insufficiently co-operative to satisfy me. The moth on the Marshalling Yards did a very good butterfly impression fluttering around the path and was clearly one of the slender-bodied kind but it didn't land and I was left with just the impression of a Holly Blue-sized moth with pale hindwings and darker brown forewings. There seems to be a large number of possibilities. So on to November I suppose. It's starting to get hard to visualise winter but it will come, won't it? - Pete Gore

Tuesday 28th October 2014

An almost unbelievable day of brilliant warm sunshine: I went round my local patch today at Stanwell Moor, and saw nearly 20 butterflies of four species: a dozen (maybe more) Red Admirals, two/three Commas, two/three Holly Blues (2m and 1f) and a Brimstone (1m). (I also saw some Clouded Yellows down near Bournemouth yesterday, so it's been a good week so far!)

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=61014&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=61011&mode=view>

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<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=61012&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=61016&mode=view>

What an excellently long season! - Dave Miller

A Red Admiral at Fairlands Valley Park (South), Stevenage - Peter Clarke

Red Admiral in our Hitchin garden today - Nigel Agar

Some sightings for an unseasonably warm Tuesday 28th October 2014 - 1 Red Admiral basking on wall and nectaring on ivy, Chalk Lane, Cockfosters at 10:01 and 10:02 hrs. Monken Hadley Common - 2 Comma (one at 11:25 hrs and another at 11:46 hrs); 1 Speckled Wood very faded but not tatty at 11:33 hrs; 1 Red Admiral at 12:23 hrs and two together at 12:39 hrs. - Robert Callf

Still approx. 8 individual Clouded Yellows at Symondshyde Lane today, at least 3 males and up to 5 seen together at any one time. - Robin Pearson

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane A very similar day to yesterday but with less pleasing results despite including the Crane loop in the hope of spotting any Holly Blues which I suspect breed there. In the end I had to settle for just one Red Admiral flying strongly above me on the Marshalling Yards. Should this be the last for 2014 I'll have ended precisely as I began back on February 16th. - Pete Gore

While walking around Pear Wood yesterday 27th, around midday I spotted a Clouded Yellow and a Speckled Wood at TQ17201-93552 - Peter Elton

Monday 27th October 2014

13.00 to 14.00 - Bright Sun and Windy. Clouded Yellow - Symondshyde Lane Site. At least 8 individuals, 5 males flying at the same time, a mating pair and a single female which I believe to be of the "White Form". The female spent most of its time flitting from one clump of vegetation to another only remaining for a few seconds before moving on, could have been egg laying, it was very difficult to keep up with it and impossible to see exactly what it was doing - Roger Millard

Following Saturday's sighting of a Red Admiral in our garden in Pinner, today it (or a close relative) appeared together with a Comma, both in excellent condition & both nectaring as before. At the same time a large light-coloured butterfly (Large White or Brimstone?) was seen flying high over the garden - Tony and Gill Porter

In Stocking Pelham today 2 peacocks and a small tortoiseshell - Andy Brown HMWT

A male Brimstone in Kitchling Lane, Norton Green - Peter Clarke

Whilst walking through the Golden Valley (Ashridge N.T estate SP995126) this afternoon in glorious sunshine, I counted seven Clouded Yellows on a grass slope near the golf course nectaring on Autumn Hawkbit. They were in pristine condition - probably a recent brood - Brendan Sheridan

A nymphalid flew past me in the 'meadow enclosure' in Grovelands Park, Southgate this afternoon Monday 27th October 2014 at 15:26 GMT and I was pleased that it settled in a oak so that I could identify it as a Small Tortoiseshell. - Robert Callf

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards A beautiful sunny day. In the summer this would have meant butterfly sightings well into three figures and a dozen or more species but it's the last week in October so:- Speckled Wood: 3 Comma: 1 Red Admiral: 1 and Holly Blue(?): 1. Unusually I saw nothing on the Marshalling Yards, all my sightings coming on the golf course section of the Heath except for the Holly Blue which flew across the river too quickly for me to get a definite identification. There's about a 5% chance of Common Blue and a similar chance of it being an unknown moth in this particular location. It was pleasing to see a Comma once again in position (as I like to think of it) on the Crane Bridge whilst on the shadier Mill Stream Bridge a Speckled Wood performed a similar role. - Pete Gore

Saturday 25th October 2014

Monken Hadley Common, Red Admiral and Speckled Wood - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

Red Admiral and Comma on the ground and on buddleia at Amwell Quarry - Nigel Agar

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards Despite weather that was rather disappointing compared to forecast I still managed a couple of butterflies (eventually) as I was exiting the Marshalling

Yards. One was probably the same Small White I saw on Thursday, the other annoyingly I couldn't quite satisfy myself was a likely Peacock. The 1 definite sighting pleases me in one other respect - we've now kept our butterflies at least one day longer than 2013 when, as I recall, severe gales ended matters. - Pete Gore

1 x Large Yellow Underwing seen at Northwood HQ, Sandy Lane yesterday - David Gower

Friday 24th October 2014

A pristine Red Admiral nectaring on castor oil plant flowers in our Pinner garden (overcast, no wind & fairly mild) - Tony and Gill Porter

At c. 3:00pm today (24.10.14) I saw a Red Admiral in my garden (postcode NW3) - presumably in search of rotting fruit. None in my garden, unfortunately, so it didn't settle and flew off - Mark Barclay

Thursday 23rd October 2014

Still 5 or 6 Clouded Yellows at the Symondshyde lane site at noon today when the sun appeared. <https://www.flickr.com/photos/99486228@N06/15605040161/>
Robin Pearson

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards After a walk in sunshine but with no butterflies I wasn't very hopeful for today but ended up pleasantly surprised in consistent morning sunshine: Speckled Wood: 2 Red Admiral: 1 Common Blue: 1 and Small White: 1 - Pete Gore

Wednesday 22nd October 2014

Whilst walking around my local patch at Maple Cross today, 22 October, I was amazed to see a clouded yellow butterfly fly past. It settled and then sunned itself in a sheltered patch next to Franklins Wood which is adjacent to an arable field that has been left fallow and is full of clover - Christina Bessant

4 Red Admiral in Trent Park this morning - 1 Sect 1 at 10:48 hrs, 2 together nectaring on michaelmas daisies edge of Triangular Wood at 10:55 hrs and another in Sect 5 at 11:19 hrs, also a nice view of a female Bullfinch in blackthorn Sect 8 and Common Darter near the Oakwood entrance. - Robert Callf

Monday 20th October 2014

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards Just enough sun for butterflies and I saw double the number seen on my last walk. Both of them were Speckled Woods on the Marshalling Yards, the second one flopping (minus a hind-wing), rather than landing, on the grass alongside me. There has been a further assault on the Marshalling Yards by car, this time smashing down the substantial fence that blocked access to the main Cavalry Tunnel before setting fire to the car in the tunnel itself. Various parts had been deposited in the River Crane beforehand. This effectively opens the tunnel for more such invasions although natural light is inadequate for safe/pleasant walking. - Pete Gore

Sunday 19th October 2014

Stocking Pelham one active Red Admiral - Andy Brown HMWT

On a lovely sunny, but breezy late Sunday morning, during river sampling for the Citizen Crane monitoring project, I saw a single Speckled Wood fly up and flutter by and a pair of Common Darters engrossed in egg laying on the river margin of the Yeading Brook, Bridgewater Fields, Ruislip Gardens, Middlesex. - Paul Busby

A few sightings for today Sunday 19th October 2014 - 1 Small Copper set-aside field N of Williams Wood (Trent Park tetrad - TQ2996); 1 Painted Lady at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 11:25 hrs (Trent Park tetrad); 1 Peacock at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 11:27 hrs (Trent Park tetrad) and 1 Red Admiral at Allotments, Vicarage Farm (TQ3097) - Robert Callf/Robin White

Friday 17th October 2014

Jane and I went over to Symondshyde to look at the Clouded Yellows today. There were a minimum of 10 flying when the sun came out as well as 1 Red Admiral and a Vapourer Moth. - Andrew Wood

Although today wasn't as warm and sunny as I'd hoped, the prospect of Clouded Yellows tempted me to Symondshyde this afternoon. In 2.5 hours I saw around 10 individuals across the site, with a maximum of 6 in view at any one time. My only other sighting was a single Peacock sunbathing on the gorse. - Paul Why

A couple of sightings to report in Trent Park today Friday 17th October 2014 - 1 Peacock by lower lake at 13:27 hrs and 1 female Common Blue watched settled for several minutes at 'Old Golf Course' 13:32 - 13:35 hrs (my latest record of this species locally!). - Robert Callf

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards Thought we might have finished apart from occasional emerging from hibernation but today a solitary Speckled Wood was still lurking by the bridges over the stream and river, the only butterfly seen on a relatively sunny walk. The last seen previously were on Friday 10th October: 2 each Speckled Wood and Common Blue (male) - Pete Gore

Thursday 16th October 2014

Four species of butterfly to report today Thursday 16th October 2014 at Trent Park: 1 Comma edge of Moat Wood at 10:37 hrs; 1 Red Admiral edge of Moat Wood at 10:40 hrs; 2 Small Copper nectaring on michaelmas daisies 'Old Golf Course' at 10:45 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood along bridle-path near Merryhills Brook at 11:30 hrs. - Robert Callf

Visited the Symondshyde Lane (Hammonds Lane on some maps) site at lunchtime today, still 9-10 Clouded Yellows flying in the warm sunshine, also Brimstone, Red Admiral and two reddish-brown medium-sized butterflies I couldn't identify. - Robin Pearson

Just a Comma this afternoon at Norton Green, resting or basking on bramble - Peter Clarke

Two Death's Head Hawkmoth larvae eating jasmine leaves which are growing on a pergola structure outside our kitchen in a Hertfordshire garden - Anna Dockerty

Just to record that I observed a Clouded Yellow on Hampstead Heath going purposefully S over Parliament Hill (the only one that I observed at this site in 2014 despite many hours spent bird/butterfly watching there) on Saturday 11th October when I also observed Red Admirals doing the same. Frank Nugent

Tuesday 14th October 2014

1 x beautiful plume moth in bushey garden today - David Gower

The recent reports by Robin Pearson from the disused gravel pits bordered by Coopers Green Lane and Symondshyde Lane variously called Sutton's Farm or Coopers Green Lane gravel pits of several CLOUDED YELLOWS prompted a thorough search in the fine autumn sunshine on Saturday 11th. October 2014. The butterflies can be found just beyond the fence described by Robin on the 3rd. October in Symondshyde Lane. Clouded Yellows, both males and females were found nectaring on dandelions and daisy species in the absence of any flowering clover ranging from the gorse bushes near the fence all the way to the two pits and up to the edge of the escarpment on the right. I counted up to twenty carefully avoiding repeats and photographed different individuals into double figures. The site was later in the afternoon visited by Lee Evans who reported 32+. I think both estimates are on the conservative side and mark an irruption of the species at this location. The site has a few Common Blues also close to the fenceline.

[One of Colin Holtby's photos can be viewed here](#)

Chris Holtby (*hopefully they survived the deluge yesterday*)

Saturday 11th October 2014

Stocking Pelham on Saturday 11th - one probable small copper + 1 small tortoiseshell Andy Brown HMWT

The season continues here in Stanwell Moor. Today 11th, a calm sunny interlude at around midday drew me out onto my local patch again. Five species seen altogether, including a profusion of Red Admirals. I counted over a dozen in two separate patches of ivy, a mixture of bright new specimens and a few more tattered individuals. There was a single Comma in with them, and not far away I saw a Small White and three Speckled Woods still patrolling the path. Further on in the meadow next to the M25, moving along from flower to yellow flower and then plummeting to lie low when the sun went in, there was a male Clouded Yellow. Not quite a brand new one, but likely

to be the offspring of those I saw here back in early August and a very welcome sight. Holly Blues last weekend, a Clouded Yellow today - whatever next?

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=60591&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=60593&mode=view>

Dave Miller

Ponders End garden, 1 Peacock on Buddleia today - Andrew Middleton

One Small Copper on thistle head at Uni-lawns Trent Park Friday 10th October 2014 at 14:30 hrs - looking rather worn - Robert Callf

Friday 10th October 2014

A Comma at Norton Green Friday afternoon - Peter Clarke

3 very smart, new red admirals on the wing at Hadham Hall this morning at 11.00a.m. - Jonathan Forgham

Thursday 9th October 2014

One Red Admiral at Grovelands Park, Southgate on Wednesday 8th October 2014 at 14:08 hrs.

One Red Admiral at Northaw Great Wood on Thursday 9th October 2014 at 10:51 hrs. - Robert Callf

Ware High Street, at 8.50am a Red Admiral flying in front of shop windows - Liz Goodyear

Wednesday 8th October 2014

Still at least 6 Clouded Yellows at the Symondshyde Lane site, grid ref TL 198 104. - Robin Pearson

Tuesday 7th October 2014

News from Sunday 5th October at Wareside. 1 speckled wood, sunning itself on the autumn leaves, 1 small copper, 1 brown argus - looking remarkably fresh. Whizzed about the front garden before departing into the orchard. 2 red admiral on the ivy flowers, 3 large whites, 1 small white, 1 comma. also 2 vapourer moths. All in and around the garden or field opposite. Also at Widford, 1 speckled wood, at the cricket ground. 1 small copper also at the cricket ground. 2 red admiral on the ivy flowers also 1 vapourer moth - Phil Macmurdie

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards Sunshine but strong breezes today but still some butterflies around: Red Admiral: 1 Brimstone: 1 Speckled Wood: 2 Small Copper: 1 - Pete Gore

A few sightings for today Tuesday 7th October 2014 - 1 Red Admiral edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park at 11:15 hrs; 1 Comma edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park at 11:45 hrs; 2 Speckled Wood along bridle-path near Shaws Wood, Trent Park at 11:52 and 11:54 hrs - Robert Callf/Robin White

A sunny but cool morning, only about 12-13 Deg C, but we managed to see a Red Admiral and 3 Speckled Woods during a break at our working party around the square pond at Highgrove Woods, Eastcote, Middlesex - Paul Busby

Sunday 5th October 2014

Very sunny today (5th), but very much chillier than recently (only around 8 degrees at nine this morning). At lunchtime I walked around my local patch again, remembering that sunshine is probably more important than warmth for butterflies. I was rewarded with five Red Admirals, four or five Speckled Woods, a couple of Small Whites, a Comma and some excellent views of another (or perhaps the same) male Holly Blue. It was alternately taking minerals from horse dung on the path and basking on foliage low down. I observed it for half an hour and it was still there when I left.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=60408&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=60395&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=60403&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=60404&mode=view>

Dave Miller

Still 8-10 Clouded Yellows at the Symondshyde Lane site (near Sandridge) also a few Common

Blues.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/99486228@N06/15261354127/>

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<https://www.flickr.com/photos/99486228@N06/15261354307/>

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/99486228@N06/15249266647/>

Robin Pearson

Rescued 1 x peacock tangled up in spiders web in Bushey garden today. At Merryhill Fields 1 x small copper seen in exactly same area as last year. - David Gower

Pleasantly surprised to find a Red Admiral nectaring on Rudbeckia & Ivy flowers in my Hatfield garden today. First for some time. We used to get them regularly into Oct., but this is the first for 2-3 years - John Moss

Saturday 4th October 2014

Saw a single Speckled Wood butterfly on a 5 mile hike along the Yeading Brook, Ickenham Marsh Fields, Middlesex on Saturday afternoon, just after the sun came out after heavy rain showers - Paul Busby

Had 1 Small Copper late Saturday afternoon after the rain at Tyttenhanger Gravel Pit - Andrew Steele

Stanwell Moor, 4th October: Between nine and ten this morning, before the clouds rolled in and the rain poured down, I saw four Red Admirals and two Speckled Woods making the most of the last drop of summer sun.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=60345&mode=view>

Dave Miller

Friday 3rd October 2014

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards More sun so a few more butterfly sightings: Speckled Wood: 7 Common Blue: 1 Small Copper: 1 Small White:1 A misguided attempt at scrap metal recycling has led to the removal of the largest of the three burnt out vehicles from the centre of the site but only as far as the main entry path back to the tunnel. A trail of debris including doors and the engine can be seen. Probably fortunate they didn't reach the tunnel or the river but with the path blocked there can be no more joyriding car thieves entering this way. Walkers and bikers, like mice and water, will always find a way of getting to places they 'need' to go however... - Pete Gore

A visit to Trent Park this afternoon Friday 3rd October 2014 produced the following sightings - 1 female Clouded Yellow near Triangular Wood at 12:49 hrs; 1 Peacock in Sect 8 'New Fields' at 12:52 hrs; 1 Red Admiral in Sect 8 'New Fields' at 12:52 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood in Sect 5 'New Fields' at 13:05 hrs; 3 Small Copper (1 in Sect 4 'New Fields' at 13:13 hrs, 2 near Sports Field at 13:15 and 13:18 hrs); 1 Speckled Wood near Sports Field at 13:16 hrs. The days when there was a regular grass cutting and baling regime seem a long time ago. - Robert Callf

Glorious warm sunshine on what may well be the last day of summer: I made a circuit of my local patch at Stanwell Moor this afternoon. Altogether, I must have seen six Red Admirals, six Speckled Woods, two Large Whites, two Small Heaths, two Holly Blues, a Small White and a Green-veined White. One Holly Blue was nectaring on a thistle and even opened up a little, showing that it was brand new.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=60304&mode=view>

Dave Miller

A Holly Blue seen over Kitchling Lane at Norton Green at around 2pm today. PS Most of the cuttings in the meadow at the common have now been removed! - Peter Clarke

A few butterflies in the Autumn sun, I saw a male Common Blue in the Walled Garden of Eastcote House Gardens, Middlesex and 3 Speckled Woods in the nearby Dovecote Copse near the River Pinn. Then in the overgrown wildflower meadow in Warrender Park, Eastcote, I saw another solitary ragged male Common Blue and at the entrance to the adjacent Highgrove Wood, I saw another Speckled Wood. - Paul Busby

At Sutton's Farm GPs (near Sandridge) today I had at least 12 sightings of CLOUDED YELLOW, males and females, with up to four on view together at one time. Note: This area is bounded by

Woodcock Hill, Coopers Green Lane and Symondshyde Lane and is officially private but people use it to exercise their dogs. There is a small pull-in 100yds up Symondshyde Lane where the fence has been broken down, most the Clouded Yellows were just a few yards in from there. - Robin Pearson

A faded Painted lady in Cutforth Road, Sawbridgeworth on the 2nd October - Laurence Drummond

Thursday 2nd October 2014

A few sightings for today Thursday 2nd October 2014 - 3 Red Admiral at Vicarage Farm, Enfield; 1 male Common Blue settled on thistle set-aside field N of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 10:55 hrs - in fresh condition; 1 Red Admiral at Park Farm, Enfield at 12:34 hrs; 1 male Clouded Yellow at Park Farm, Enfield, 12:36 hrs - in the same area as yesterday. - Robert Callf

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards. First walk in October and off to a good start in bright sunshine: Common Blue: 4 Speckled Wood: 9 Small Copper:3 Small White:1 Red Admiral: 2 One Other possible Red Admiral/Peacock and 2-3 small Whites also seen. Tuesday 30th September 2014 - Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards. Highlight on this day was a Hop Dog, a delightful name for a beautiful creature which grows up to become the rather less impressive Pale Tussock Moth. Evolution has equipped the Hop Dog with camouflage (green), unpalatability (covered in green hair), 'weaponry' (a 'horn' and four tufts) and mimicry (when the caterpillar moves it displays a wasp-like black band between each tuft. I gather they tend to survive well. I've seen wild hops somewhere on my local travels but I'd imagine on the Marshalling yards it had fed on Birch. I spotted it briefly looking conspicuous on the footpath in front of me, probably ready to pupate. Butterflies: Speckled Wood: 8 Common Blue: 5 Small Copper: 2. Sunday 28th September - Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards(part)/Crane. Speckled Wood: 11 Small White:2 Small Copper:1 Common Blue:3 Brown Argus: 1(old, tatty, faded with no hint of blue but didn't see underwings.) - Pete Gore

Wednesday 1st October 2014

Hobby Horse Wood (next to Balls Wood) today 3 Speckled Wood - Andy Brown HMWT

Visited Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park this afternoon, warm and sunny intervals. Pleased to see at least 5 Common Blue, 3 Speckled Woods and 2 Small Whites on the first day of October. Also surprised to see the first "Spring" crocuses of the year - Paul Busby

A very brief look around my local patch in Stanwell Moor on the morning of Sunday 28th: One new third brood Holly Blue, a Peacock, a Small White, three Red Admirals and six or seven Speckled Woods.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=60069&mode=view>

Dave Miller

Some sightings to report for today Wednesday 1st October 2014 - 1 Red Admiral near Hadley Road at Vicarage Farm, Enfield 11:00 hrs; 1 Clouded Yellow at Park Farm, Enfield (TQ2998) at 11:30 - 11:34 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood along Jubilee Path at Park Farm, Enfield at 11:56 hrs; 1 Large White at Ferny Hill Farm, Enfield at 12:10 hrs and 1 Small Copper at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park 12:43 hrs. - Robert Callf

September 2014

Tuesday 30th September 2014

Tuesday 30th September. Did my final transect of The Warren for the season. Only one butterfly recorded (Large White, 1st this year) with a few moths & lots of Common Darter dragonflies. Most thorn & common furze scrub now cut and removed. Hedge margins cut back on 3 sides. All ranker grass & nettle areas mown, with arisings stacked in 2 huge heaps. Looks very barren, with hardly any wildlife & no sign of rabbits for once. Still some flora in flower, especially Dwarf Furze, Heather & Tormentil. The drastic treatment was essential & should lead to healthy regeneration next year. If the planned light summer grazing is introduced, open grassland should be sustained. Next year will reveal how the invertebrate population is affected - John Moss

Seen a Red Admiral flying along Bramley Parade, Oakwood, N14 this afternoon Tuesday 30th September 2014 at 14:35 hrs. - Robert Callf

Short stroll around Highgrove Woods, Eastcote, Middlesex on a sunny warm afternoon and I saw 3 Speckled Wood and a Large White. A Southern Hawker dragonfly was patrolling the pond and a pair of Common darted egg laying - Paul Busby

Sunday 28th September 2014

Nomansland Common, nr Sandridge - Ten of us assembled for the final Herts field trip of the summer season. The weather was warm & sunny and we were greeted with the exciting news that Jackie (who had arrived early for a picnic) had just spotted a Clouded Yellow. Entering the Common we immediately saw a Small Copper nectaring on Ragwort. Close examination through binoculars revealed there were actually four Small Coppers on the same plant. The site looked in great condition with widespread rabbit grazing allowing sheeps sorrell (the larval foodplant) to flourish. Nectar was less abundant than previous years with most of the Ragwort pulled up & much of the site having recently received its annual mow. Nectaring and sunbathing were the two main activities of the Small Coppers, with Heather (Ling) being the most popular nectar source. We also saw a couple of attempted courtships, though neither were successful & a couple of females sitting on sorrell, though no egg laying was observed. In total we saw 45 Small Coppers in 90 minutes, some appearing very fresh and other a bit faded. The only other butterflies seen at the site today were Peacock (1), Speckled Wood (1) & either a Small or Green-veined White plus a Blood-vein moth - Malcolm Hull

On Thursday 25th September, after a Conservation working party on Long Meadow and River Pinn, Eastcote, Middlesex, I saw a Red Admiral on flowering ivy at the entrance of Dovecote Copse, Eastcote House Gardens and a tiny Common Blue in the Walled Garden. Back home, I saw a Speckled Wood and 2 Large White caterpillars. Then today, walking through St Martins Churchyard, Ruislip, I saw 2 Large Whites and a Speckled Wood. - Paul Busby

On Sunday 28th in Stocking Pelham, - GV White, Large White and humming-bird Hawk moth nectaring - Andy Brown HMWT

Identified a Green-veined White along Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm, Enfield this morning Sunday 28th September 2014 at 10:30 hrs, also a Speckled Wood here - Robert Callf/Robin White.

Saturday 27th September 2014

In a couple of very sunny hours out in the garden in Tring, today, I saw 8 butterflies. They were a Brimstone, a Large and a Small White, A Red Admiral, Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock, Comma and Speckled Wood. I never saw two of anything and all the whites were male so probably the same ones going round and round the gardens; and the Brimstone seen 3 times were/was a female; so probably the same one. Couldn't sex the others but only ever one at a time and probably the same ones. Eight butterflies and eight species. - Nick Bowles

On Saturday 27th in Stocking Pelham - a couple of whites, a small copper and a possible small tortoiseshell - Andy Brown HMWT

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards Yet another cloudy, humid day with just enough changes in butterflies to suggest I'm not merely repeating the same individuals. Today's highlights included a Comma nectaring on Aster, a Small Heath in the Marshalling Yards and a Clouded Yellow as I was heading for the tunnel homewards. This obliged by flying strongly in the usual fashion but then settling to nectar on a dandelion giving me time to look closely at the underwings. I momentarily thought the day's sightings were getting progressively more abnormal when a diminutive brown and white butterfly flew past me on the Heath but when it settled this turned out to be a Speckled Wood about half the size of the smallest I've seen before. Here are the details: Comma: 1 Speckled Wood: 15 Common Blue: 2 Small Heath: 1 Clouded Yellow: 1 - Pete Gore

Went to Trent Park 'New Fields' specifically looking for late Small Heath today Saturday 27th September 2014 and managed to find one (a rather worn individual) in Sect 6 at 14:27 hrs - only four days earlier than my latest ever date! Also two Small Copper near the Sports Field 14:07 - 14:08 hrs and one Red Admiral near Oakwood entrance at 14:38 hrs. Friday 26th September 2014 - 2 Speckled Wood near Shaws Wood, Trent Park at 13:30 hrs; 1 Small Copper at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 14:17 hrs; 1 Large White edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park at 14:30 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm at 15:51 hrs and 2 Small Copper at Vicarage Farm at 15:51 and 16:09 hrs. - Robert Callf

Friday 26th September 2014

Nomansland Common, nr Sandridge - 16 Small Coppers plus Small Heath, Common Blue & Speckled Wood. JOIN ME for a stroll round the site this Sunday, 28th Sept - our last field trip of the flight season, starting from the car park at 2pm. For full details select Walks & Talks from the menu on the left - Malcolm Hull

One Speckled Wood in Oakwood Park this morning Friday 26th September 2014 at 08:30 hrs. - Robert Callf

Firstly, on my last report for Bedfont Lakes, I incorrectly said that this was on 25th September - it was in fact 24th... Today (26th), I visited my local patch (Stanwell Moor) at around 4pm. The sun had been out for about an hour and it was nudging 21 degrees. The tally for the walk was 17 Speckled Woods, 4 Red Admirals, 2 Small Heaths, 2 Peacocks, one Green-veined White and one Large White. This is the highest count of Speckled Woods I have made here in one circuit since I started walking around this route in 2007. I assume the Peacocks had been disturbed from hibernation by the warm weather as I haven't seen one for some time.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=59961&mode=view>

Dave Miller

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards Similar to Thursday although walked a little later: Speckled Wood: 14 Common Blue:4 (all female unless 1 was a very faded male) Small Copper: 1 - Pete Gore

Thursday 25th September 2014

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards Although I missed what little sun there was there are still plenty of butterflies and I was able to have a complete walk around the Marshalling Yards as the Railtrack maintenance people who were using (their) site as a parking ground for numerous vehicles on Sunday had all left. It was noticeable that they'd left little trace of their presence unlike some recent bikers who'd staged 2-3 of their bike burning rituals as well as generating above average amounts of other rubbish. Here are the butterflies: Speckled Wood: 19 Small White 2 Small Copper: 3 Common Blue: 1 (male, fresh?) And on Sunday: Small Heath: 1 Speckled Wood: 16 Green-Veined White: 2 Meadow Brown: 1 Small Copper: 2 I haven't checked my figures but Speckled Wood must be close to a new high. Pairs of these brown and white butterflies flying together in the semi-shade make it seem the most autumnal of butterflies and yet it also has a likely claim on the longest season this year unless Red Admiral stages a late bid in November/December. - Pete Gore

Whilst walking up the 'vista' in Trent Park between Rough Lot and Moat Wood this afternoon Thursday 25th September 2014 a Red Admiral flew past S at 15:29 hrs. Wednesday 24th September 2014 - one Speckled Wood at Carr's Basin, Town Park, Enfield at 15:47 hrs. - Robert Callf.

A walk at Bedfont Lakes Country Park late in the day on 24th: *(corrected date from 25th)* three Common Blues and one Meadow Brown. One of the Blues was looking very nearly new.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=59908&mode=view>

- Dave Miller

Wednesday 24th September 2014

Went for a 40 minute walk on Harmondsworth Moor this afternoon in intermittent sunshine and I although I saw hundreds of crane flies, the occasional dragon fly, I only saw 3 butterflies; 1 very worn and ragged Brown Argus, a Large White and a Green-Veined White - Paul Busby

Some sightings to report for today Wednesday 24th September 2014 - 1 Red Admiral at Parkside Farm, Enfield 11:00 hrs; 3 Small Copper at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park between 11:34 - 11:37 hrs; 1 Common Blue at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 11:41 hrs; 4 Speckled Wood at Trent Park. - Robert Callf

My Harpenden garden is still providing sightings of Red Admiral, Comma, Peacock and Small White during the warmer spells - Robin Pearson

On Hertford Heath (Roundings) NR today (24th) a comma, several speckled woods and a silvery

specimen high in the oaks which could have been a late purple hairstreak? - Andy Brown HMWT

Tuesday 23rd September 2014

At Patmore Heath : 2 speckled woods, 2 meadow brown + a small Copper - Andy Brown HMWT

Monday 22nd September 2014

While playing golf Sturday evening at Abbey View golf course at Verulamium Golf course in heavy overcast humid conditions a **Large Tortoiseshell** took flight from some trees a flew rapidly around for a couple of minutes before disappearing over some buildings. There are some good numbers of Elms where it was and around course. - Clive Burrows *(In view of the weather conditions, and in the same situation as the sighting on the 8th September where there have been no other known reports in the UK we are of the same belief that this is probably a released butterfly. Clive agreed "In the current climate of releases this can certainly not be ruled out")*

Saw a Speckled Wood at Vicarage Farm, Enfield Sunday 21st September 2014 at 16:32 hrs. This morning Monday 22nd September 2014 recorded a Small White and a Green-veined White at Vicarage Farm, Enfield. - Robert Callf

Lovely sunny afternoon in Ruislip, Middlesex and at Pinn Meadows (TQ 091 880), I saw 2 Common Blue on Michaelmas Daises on the River Pinn bank, a slightly faded Small Copper around thistle and a Speckled Wood by the scrape with bulrush recently cut. Then around the Old Orchard, Manor Farm Complex, Ruislip, TQ 090 878, I saw a Red Admiral fly across and high up into the trees and a further Speckled Wood and finally in St Martins Churchyard, TQ 092 875, I saw a further 3 Speckled Woods in the graveyard and a Large White fly across to the park - Paul Busby

Sunday 21st September 2014

This morning (21st) a Clouded Yellow near spoil heap on Hatfield Aerodrome, and a Speckled Wood and a Small White in my Brookmans Park garden. - Rupert Pyrah

One Small Copper at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park Thursday 18th September 2014 at 15:28 hrs. Two Comma together near Water Garden, Trent Park Friday 19th September 2014 at 14:19 hrs, also male Common Blue at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 14:37 hrs and two Small Copper (1 at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 14:49 hrs and 1 at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 16:33 hrs). - Robert Callf

Two more brief updates from my neck of the woods. 18th September Stanwell Moor: 12 Speckled Woods, 4 Red Admirals, 3 Small Heaths, 2 Meadow Browns, 2 Small Whites and one Holly Blue. One of the Meadow Browns was egg-laying.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=59628&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=59631&mode=view>

19th September Bedfont Lakes Country Park: 8 Common Blues (6m; 2f), 2 Small Heaths, 2 Brown Argus, one Small White, one Large White, and one Small Copper.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=59677&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=59665&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=59663&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=59670&mode=view>

Dave Miller

Friday 19th September 2014

On a walk around Tyttenhanger Gravel Pits this afternoon I noted 1 Red Admiral, 2 Green-veined White and 1 Small White - Terry Wood

One Speckled Wood at Boxer's Lake, Enfield this morning Friday 19th September 2014 at 11:10 hrs. - Robert Callf

Thursday 18th September 2014

Whilst working in the Walled Garden of Eastcote House Gardens this sunny morning, I saw a number of species attracted to Sedum including a fresh Small Copper, 3 m Common Blue, a Small Tortoiseshell, a Comma and a Small White. Then a 20 minute walk at lunchtime around Long Meadow, Eastcote, Middlesex, I saw 16 very active Speckled Woods and a Red Admiral buzz by. Early afternoon, I saw a further 2 Red Admirals nectaring on flowering Ivy that seemed to content to perch for photos, plus a Speckled Wood and a Small White in the Old Orchard area. Finally,

early afternoon, in search of White Admiral, I visited areas of Mad Bess Woods I had seen White Admiral earlier this year, but only saw a single Speckled Wood. - Paul Busby

In warm and muggy conditions at Norton Green earlier today I saw 12 species (not bad for second half of September): 2 Commas, 5 Speckled Woods, 3 Green-veined Whites, 2 Small Whites, 2 Large Whites, 2 Common Blues and singletons of Small Tortoiseshell, Brown Argus, Red Admiral, very fresh Small Heath, Brimstone and Peacock. - Peter Clarke

Decided to venture over to the side of Trent Park between the Oakwood entrance and the Cockfosters entrance this afternoon Thursday 18th September 2014 and recorded the following between 12:00 and 13:20 hrs - 3 Red Admiral together nectaring on michaelmas daisies in set-aside field near Triangular Wood at 12:15 hrs; 1 Small Heath in set-aside field at 12:18 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell nectaring on michaelmas daisies in set-aside field near Triangular Wood at 12:20 hrs; 2 Comma together in set-aside field near the edge of Triangular Wood at 12:23 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood near Triangular Wood at 12:30 hrs; 1 male Common Blue in Sect 5 'New Fields' at 12:46 hrs; 1 Small Copper Sect 6 'New Fields' at 12:54 hrs; 1 Small Heath Sect 6 'New Fields' at 12:56 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood Sect 7 'New Fields' at 13:00 hrs; 1 female Common Blue Sect 8 'New Fields' at 13:05 hrs; 2 Small Heath Sect 8 'New Fields' at 13:06 hrs; 1 Red Admiral near Triangular Wood at 13:13 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood near Triangular Wood at 13:13 hrs. - Robert Callf

Tuesday 16th September 2014

A few butterflies to report Tuesday 16th September 2014 - 1 Comma edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park at 11:15 hrs; 1 Small Copper at Uni-lawns, Trent Park at 11:36 hrs; 1 Red Admiral along Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 12:29 hrs. A half hour walk in Town Park, Enfield this afternoon Tuesday 16th September 2014 produced the following sightings - 1 Red Admiral at 15:16 hrs; 1 Green-veined White nectaring on michaelmas daisies at 15:28 hrs and 1 Speckled Wood at 15:38 hrs. - Robert Callf

Lovely sunny day clearing up the pond at Highgrove Woods, Eastcote and saw at least 6 Speckled woods and a Large White, as well as 1 Southern Hawker and Common Darter dragonflies, this morning. Then in the afternoon, at Bridgewater Fields, Ruislip gardens saw a further 5 Speckled Woods and a Small White in an half hour walk around the wet meadow near the Yeading Brook - Paul Busby

At Northwood hq, Sandy Lane 1 x small tortoiseshell & 1 large yellow underwing on ivy in Bushey garden - David Gower

Very warm today (16th), and I was able to pop out from work into Bedfont Lakes Country Park at lunchtime. Initially, all I saw was a Small Heath, a Meadow Brown, a Speckled Wood and some Large and Green-veined Whites. However, the sun came out at the time I reached the western end of the path parallel with the railway, and the unmown areas of grass and flowers immediately came to life. I saw at least half a dozen fresh Common Blues, probably a third brood as the second brood were looking tired when I was last here four weeks ago. The males were chasing each other vigorously about in twos and threes, completely overlooking the presence of a couple of females. Caught up in the tussles was an elderly male Brown Argus, resolutely defending his patch. Finally, around the fringes of the conflict I spotted a fairly new Small Copper, and then on the way back to the office, a Peacock flew strongly past me in the opposite direction.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=59550&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=59545&mode=view>

Dave Miller

Monday 15th September 2014

[Look out for Second brood White Admiral?](#)

A very blue female Common Blue seen at Norton Green today - Peter Clarke

News from Saturday: Still plenty of Speckled Woods around today on my local patch at Stanwell Moor, including another rather dark individual with obscured spotting.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=59489&mode=view>

I also saw three or four Red Admirals, a couple of Large Whites and a single fresh-looking male Holly Blue. Had the sun been out, I think I'd have seen more, but the butterflies were all surprisingly active under the warm overcast. I had visited Runnymede earlier in the day, just across the Thames in Surrey, and had a possible sighting of a Brown Hairstreak along the

blackthorn hedge that runs between the river and the Thames Path. I hope to search for eggs during the winter - this area is really very close to Middlesex, and a positive result would be very encouraging in respect of this butterfly spreading north into the county. - Dave Miller

Sunday 14th September 2014

A few sightings for Sunday 14th September 2014 - 1 Speckled Wood at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 09:02 hrs; 1 Small Copper at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 11:26 hrs; 1 Comma at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 11:30 hrs; 1 Common Blue at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 11:33 hrs; 1 Large White edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park at 12:06 hrs; 1 Large White at Vicarage Farm, Enfield - Robert Callf

Did my Warren transect today. Most scrub has been cut & removed from the site. 95% of the area has been mown & arisings removed & stacked in a corner. No visible wildlife except a Red Kite circling low over & a few Tits & Robins in the hedges. Even the Rabbits are lying low! Looks pretty devastated, but should come back well next year. I just hope there isn't too much loss of eggs/larvae/pupae (especially of my precious Marble Whites, which bred in the rankest corner). It's a pity the mowing wasn't left a bit longer, but I guess the contractor wanted to crack on while the weather is favourable & the ground firm, since the work was delayed a year by last winter's wet weather. Am probably signing off until next year - John Moss. PS. I realised today that some of the marker poles protect big anthills. Shows how meticulous the site survey was & bodes well for future management.

Saturday 13th September 2014

Saturday 13th September 2014 - 1 Peacock at Park Farm, Enfield at 11:03 hrs; 4 Small Copper at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park 11:45 - 11:48 hrs; 1 Comma nectaring on blackberries at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 11:50 hrs; 1 Green-veined White near Dew Pond, Trent Park at 12:35 hrs; at least 6 Green-veined White at Vicarage Farm including five together along Merryhills Brook including a pair copulating - Robert Callf.

Friday 12th September 2014

Friday 12th September 2014 - 3 Small Copper at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park 13:26 - 13:33 hrs; 1 female Common Blue near firing range at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 15:53 hrs. - Robert Callf

Chadwell Springs Golf Course nr Ware : 2 Small Coppers - Simon Knott

Four Speckled Wood around ivy at Boxer's Lake, Enfield this morning Friday 12th September 2014 - Robert Callf

News forwarded by Nick Bowles from Peter Edwards. Monday 8 Sept, around 14 15 pm, at Breakspear Crematorium, Breakspear Road, Ruislip, Middx. I was lying in the shade (22c and strong sun, light breeze) when I spotted a large dark butterfly zipping around the small conifers edging the pond for ornamental carp, with waterfall, nr the centre of the Crem. Seen against the bright blue sky it appeared very dark and I initially thought it was an unusually large peacock. But due to its size and odd flight I thought better of it so I stood up to get a better look. It flew briefly inside one of the small conifers (Cupressus type, c. 5m tall), then zipped out after c 2mins and did a circuit, it was then I could see its yellowish brown ground colour, but such a brief glimpse, I needed more. Luckily it settled briefly at c 1m up on the conifer and for a good second and I saw it in all its glory, unmistakably a Large Tortoiseshell! *(it should be noted that there have been several unusual butterflies recorded in the Ruislip area and 'our' opinion is that it is most likely a release/escape)*

Thursday 11th September 2014

Saw a Red Admiral at Vicarage Farm, Enfield this afternoon Thursday 11th September 2014 at 15:18 hrs. - Robert Callf

Wednesday 10th September 2014

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards Despite starting 2 hours earlier in bright sunshine I ended up with a walk very similar to yesterday's - indeed I'm sure many of the butterflies seen are not merely the same species but also the same individuals: Large White: 1 Speckled Wood: 9 Meadow Brown: 3 Small White: 3 Common Blue: 4 Brown Argus: 2 Green-Veined White: 2 Small Copper: 2 Two other sightings seem worth a mention: Directly after turning off the central path on the Heath I found myself following a Muntjac along the centre of the grassy path. This was my most extended

view of the deer this year but there have been a good many sightings (and 'soundings') on both the Marshalling Yards and the Heath. They are undoubtedly breeding and increasing. Later, still on the Heath, a lizard dashed across the grass, the fourth or fifth I've seen this year compared to none last although of course they're a well-known long-term inhabitant of the area. - Pete Gore

A few sightings to report today Wednesday 10th September 2014 - 1 Comma at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park 10:33 hrs, 2 Small Heath at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 12:19 and 12:23 hrs - Robert Callf/Robin White

Tuesday 9th September 2014

Weedy field, Batford - 1 PAINTED LADY - Darin Stanley

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards I somehow managed to find the cloudiest part of the day to walk which led to a list of sightings dominated by Speckled Wood: Speckled Wood: 11 Common Blue: 6 Small White: 2 Small Copper: 1 Meadow Brown: 3 Brown Argus: 1 Green-Veined White: 1 I spent a little time trying to persuade myself that a small, relatively brightly coloured (but faded) Meadow Brown was a Gatekeeper but as, in the end, I could only see 1 white pupil in each eye-spot I've listed it here as a Meadow Brown albeit an unusually small female. - Pete Gore

Some sightings to report today Tuesday 9th September 2014 - 2 Comma at Trent Park (1 at 'Old Golf Course' and 1 near Ride Wood); 1 Red Admiral flew S at Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm, Enfield 11:19 hrs. - Robert Callf

During a Yeading Brook working party this morning at Bridgewater Fields, South Ruislip, I saw a Red Admiral, 4 Speckled Woods and at least 1 Green-veined White. In the afternoon, on the meadow section of Bridgewater fields, Ruislip Gardens saw a further 5 Speckled Woods, 1 Large White and a Green-veined White - Paul Busby

Monday 8th September 2014

Two Peacock on Monday 8th September 2014 - 1 at Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm 15:30 hrs and 1 at Parkside Farm, Enfield at 16:13 hrs. 1 male Common Blue near lower lake, Trent Park at 17:30 hrs. - Robert Callf

A Small Heath found today on the public footpath in northern part of Norton Green - a long time to wait for its first appearance of the year here! Other butterflies spotted include 20+ Speckled Woods, 10+ Commas, 3 Common Blues, 2 Brimstones, several whites and a Small Copper. Latticed Heath and Blood-vein moths also found. Sadly, no Red Admirals although they have been in good numbers here in the last few weeks. Peter Clarke

Beautiful sunny day, saw lots of dragonflies and a few butterflies in my travels. Edge of Highgrove Wood, Eastcote, 1 Green-veined White, 1 Small White and 3 Speckled Woods. Then at Warrender Park one Small White and one Green-veined White. Later at Manor farm complex, Ruislip, 3 Speckled Woods plus a further 3 in St Martins Churchyard, Ruislip. Later at Eastcote House gardens, 1 Red admiral on Sedum and one Small White, then 2 Speckled Woods and 2 Green-veined Whites on Long Meadow and a further Speckled Wood and Green-veined White at Cheney Field, Eastcote - Paul Busby

Sunday 7th September 2014

Two Red Admirals to report for Sunday 7th September 2014 - 1 at Town Park, Enfield at 13:35 hrs and another at Chase Road, Southgate at 14:57 hrs. Saturday 6th September 2014 - 1 Large White at Town Park, Enfield at 14:25 hrs. - Robert Callf

Today in Bushey garden 1 x large white & 1 x comma. At merryhill fields not much around = 3 x speckled wood, 1 x large white, 1 x small copper, 1 x meadow brown, 1 x comma. David Gower

Did my Warren transect today in bright sunshine & no wind. No much - 3 Small copper (ist since spring), 5 lively Small Heath, 2 Small/GV White. Good news is that at long last scrub is being sensively cleared. Site has been carefully surveyed by a sharp-eyed botanist because several small Petty Whin & new patches of Dwarf Gorse have been taped off. Large areas of Heather & Dwarf Gorse were aglow in the sunshine. I look forward to installation of fencing followed by light grazing next year. Also in my garden today, 2 probable Red Admirals, 1 Comma, 2 Small/Gv White, 1 Large White on/over tall Buddleia. John Moss

Ware garden, at least 6 Red Admirals nectaring on different coloured buddleias, also 1 Comma and 1 Small White - Liz Goodyear

Saturday 6th September 2014

Another walk around the leafy bits of Stanwell Moor this afternoon showed that Speckled Woods are emerging in numbers at the moment - I saw at least a dozen. Other than that, there were a handful of Small Heaths, quite a few Small and Green-veined Whites, and a couple of Red Admirals. No sign of any Commas today.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=58844&mode=view>

Dave Miller

At Aldbury Nowers lower areas = 4 x speckled wood, 8 x common blue, 7 x meadow brown, 3 x small heath, 1 x comma, 1 x small copper, 1 x small tortoiseshell, 11 x brown argus, 1 x large white, 2 x small white, 2 x green veined white, 4 x brimstone (2 x male, 2 female), 1 x treble bar moth. In higher enclosure = 8 x speckled wood, 7 x meadow brown, 10 x brown argus, 1 x small heath, 4 x common blue, 2 x treble bar. - David Gower

Just a couple of sightings to report today Saturday 6th September 2014 - 1 Red Admiral at Parkside Farm, Enfield at 09:50 hrs, 1 Green-veined White at Water Garden, Trent Park 11:19 hrs. - Robert Callf

Friday 5th September 2014

A few butterflies to report at Boxer's Lake, Enfield this afternoon Friday 5th September 2014 - 2 Small White nectaring on michaelmas daisies ; 2 Green-veined White; 4 Speckled Wood. - Robert Callf

Today we found 3 caterpillars of Elephant Hawk Moth in our garden here in Berkhamsted in a patch of Lesser Willowherb. They were actively eating during the afternoon. We have taken photos but hope to get better tomorrow. - Michael Anderson

Thursday 4th September 2014

Disturbed a Red Admiral from fallen plums at Parkside Farm, Enfield this morning Thursday 4th September 2014 at 08:50 hrs. - Robert Callf

Walked the 5 miles of the Willow Tree Wander footpath along the Yeading Brook from North Harrow to Ickenham this afternoon and saw the following on route: Streamside open space (TQ124884); 3 Speckled Wood, 1 Large White 2 Small White and another Kingfisher, Roxbourne Park (TQ123875) 3 Speckled Wood, 3 Small White, Queens Walk-Victoria Road section, South Ruislip (TQ110865) 5 Speckled Wood, 1 Large White 3 Small White, 1 Red Admiral, at Spider Park, Bridgwater Fields (TQ105860) 2 Speckled Wood, 4 Green-veined White 2 Small White. The sun went in during the Ickenham Marsh section but disturbed a Green Woodpecker feeding on grass - Paul Busby

News from Saturday 30th August provided warm hazy sunshine, enough to tempt me out for a walk around my local patch. There was no shortage of variety, with once again seven species seen in as many minutes: Red Admiral, Comma, all three Whites, Holly Blue and Speckled Wood. Over the couple of hours I was out, good numbers of all these were seen, plus a Peacock, two Common Blues and several Small Heaths. The Red Admirals and Commas were largely new, as were some of the Whites and Speckled Woods, but both species of Blue were getting rather worn. As well as fermenting blackberries, and a wild buddleia in bloom for the second time, the ivy is now coming into flower and attracting the Red Admirals in particular with its nectar. Despite fluttering around the ivy a great deal, the Holly Blues were more inclined to nectar on what bramble flowers remained. One extra point of interest was when a large and brightly coloured insect fluttered across the path - clearly not a recognisable species of butterfly. I tracked it down to where it had hidden and found it to be a Red Underwing moth: a large and very handsome species rarely seen flying during the day.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=58444&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=58454&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=58461&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=58465&mode=view>

Dave Miller

Wednesday 3rd September 2014

Some sightings for today Wednesday 3rd September 2014 - 1 Comma edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park at 11:16 hrs; 1 male Common Blue at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park 11:24 hrs; 1 Small Heath at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park 11:30 hrs; 2 Green-veined White copulating at Vicarage Farm, Enfield 12:40 hrs; 1 Painted Lady at Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 12:42 hrs. - Robert Callf

At Great Molewood, Bengoe, today 2 Comma and 2 Red admiral on ivy flowers in the Orchard, also 3 Speckled wood spiraling together - Laurence Drummond

On a walk around Tyttenhanger Gravel Pits today I saw 3 Small White, 1 Comma and 1 Small Heath. Also today in my South Mimms garden 1 Speckled Wood and 1 Small White - Terry Wood

Tuesday 2nd September 2014

Wareside: Whilst working from home - managed to find 10 red admirals basking on the late buddleia flowers in the garden, in addition to 1 comma, 4 speckled wood, 8 small white, 6 green veined white, 3 large white, 1 holly blue. Also have several of the late tortoiseshell brood over wintering tucked away in the wood beams of our bedroom, relevant do not disturb signs have been posted. Whilst in the moth trap - had regular Diamond backed moth's showing (4 Tuesday morning) so possible more migrants to come yet. - Phil Macmurdie

A later walk today Tuesday 2nd September 2014 produced a few sightings - 1 Red Admiral at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 09:31 hrs; 1 Peacock near Duncan's Wood at Park Farm, Enfield 12:00 hrs; 1 Comma at Park Farm, Enfield at 12:05 hrs; 1 female Gatekeeper edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park 12:15 hrs (usually not seen after late August); 1 Small Heath at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park 12:25 hrs; 1 Comma by Lower Lake, Trent Park 12:48 hrs. - Robert Callf

At lunchtime today (2 September) in warm sunshine I walked the path to the west of the easterly car park on Nomansland Common, Wheathampstead. Don't get excited: nothing here will make your heart beat any faster. Totals were 11 Common Blues, 3 Meadow Browns, 2 G-V Whites, 2 Small Heaths, 2 Small Whites, 2 Small Coppers, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Red Admiral, 1 male Brimstone and 1 Large White. There were still plenty of knapweeds in flower but little nectaring going on. Flying low amongst the knapweed was a Hornet. Alan Jackson

Went for a 15 minute walk at lunchtime around the fields near Ickenham Marsh and saw 2 Small Heath and 1 Speckled Wood butterflies. Later in the afternoon at Bridgewater Fields, Ruislip Gardens, I saw a further 5 Speckled Woods, 3 Small White and 1 Large White as well as a Kingfisher flying low along the Yeading Brook and a juvenile Green Woodpecker on the grassy bankside. Then at Warrender Park and Highgrove Woods, Eastcote, I saw 2 Green-Veined Whites, at least 1 Small White and 2 more Speckled Woods - Paul Busby

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards After a wet start to the month on Monday my first September butterfly was seen today, a Large White mysteriously attracted to the rear of a red London double-decker bus. After that start subsequent butterflies behaved rather more normally: Large White: 2 Meadow Brown: 7 Speckled Wood: 6 Comma: 2 Small Heath: 1 Red Admiral: 1 Small White: 7 Brown Argus: 7 Peacock: 1 Common Blue: 7 Green-Veined White: 2 Small Copper: 1 Only 1 male Common Blue whereas Brown Argus seems to be increasing. - Pete Gore

While mowing at Ashwell HMWT NR today (2nd Sept) there were 6 Brimstones, a couple of common blues and a brown argus - Andy Brown HMWT

Monday 1st September 2014

A couple of interesting sightings - a brimstone and a humming bird hawkmoth together with the ever attendant small tortoiseshells in stocking pelham on Sunday 31st... Andy Brown HMWT

On both Sunday 24th and Sunday 31st August, at Aldbury Nowers I saw: At least half a dozen red admirals, lots of brown argus, at least two brimstone, one painted lady (on the 24th only), one small tortoiseshell, a peacock and several speckled wood. I also saw a yellow shell moth and was delighted to see a hummingbird hawkmoth. I was also lucky to get some photos:

[Speckled wood](#)

[Painted lady](#)

Meadow brown
Red admiral
Brown argus
Hummingbird hawkmoth
Sharon Monahan

August 2014

Sunday 31st August 2014

Sunday 31st August 2014: Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/River Crane A beautiful autumnal day on which I managed to get slightly sunburnt and saw over 50 butterflies from 11 species. For once the highlight concerned Whites. Close to the Cavalry Tunnel entrance I watched 4 Green-Veined Whites on the footpath, presumably extracting minerals although the path was dry and poo-free as far as I could detect. They kept their wings closed and were comfortable together but were intermittently pestered by 1 or other of 4 Small Whites to which they would respond by what looked like synchronised fluttering of their wings although they would only actually fly in apparent response to vibrations from a train on the line above or from me eventually passing them on the path. At least 2 of The Small Whites were also interested in whatever it was the path offered but were neither as persistent or as comfortable with other butterflies close to them. When I finally looked back at them from the tunnel the GVWs had resumed their preoccupation together on the path. Here are the full details: Small Heath: 1 Meadow Brown: 15 Small White: 10 Speckled Wood: 12 Comma: 3 Green-Veined White: 5 Red Admiral: 1 Peacock: 1 Brown Argus: 2 Common Blue: 4 Holly Blue: 2 Good to see the Holly Blues back to appreciate the Ivy flowers this year. In one or two spots along the River I could smell the perfume of the flowers in the air as I walked. Another Holly Blue was all I saw on Friday 29th August, this one in my own garden. On Thursday 28th August: Speckled Wood: 5 Small White: 5 Red Admiral: 1 Meadow Brown: 10 Small Heath: 1 Common Blue: 6 Clouded Yellow: 1 Holly Blue: 1. This was a walk with sudden appearances and disappearances. First a Kingfisher appeared at the Tunnel entrance flying from me into the culvert but somehow managing to disappear mid-culvert like one last year did (my observational weakness rather than mysterious bird behaviour I think) Later, towards the end of a solitary peaceful walk on the Marshalling Yards, I was startled by the roar of a motor-bike towards me at virtually the same moment as a Clouded Yellow emerged from 'nowhere' to cross the path in front of the bike. The butterfly just about made it safely despite a cloud of dust but became the second brightly coloured creature to disappear inexplicably as far as I was concerned. The not-so-brightly-coloured biker, however, failed to disappear despite my unexpressed fervent wishes. Thursday's Holly Blue was a faded specimen which kept its wings mostly closed - a pity since one brief flick revealed conspicuous substantial black corners to the fore-wings. I would have liked to see the full butterfly with her wings open. - Pete Gore

A few sightings for Sunday 31st August 2014 - 1 Comma settled on wooden fencing along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 08:30 hrs, 1 Small Heath edge of Icehouse Wood, Trent Park at 11:12 hrs, 1 Red Admiral flew SW at Vicarage Farm at 11:50 hrs. - Robert Callf

At Norton Green this afternoon, I saw a blue-spotted form of the Small Copper in addition to several whites, Speckled Woods, a Meadow Brown, 5 Commas, 2 Red Admirals and 2 Common Blues. Incidentally, a white-spotted form of the Red Admiral (white spot in red bands on fore-wings) was seen here on 28 August. Last Silver-washed Fritillary seen on 18 August; Purple Hairstreak on 23 August. - Peter Clarke

Saturday 30th August 2014

Bengeo: Small Heath today by River Beane near St Leonard's Church - Simon Knott

One Red Admiral at Park Farm, Enfield this morning Saturday 30th August 2014 at 09:55 hrs and a very faded female Meadow Brown at Uni-lawns, Trent Park at 10:44 hrs. - Robert Callf

Friday 29th August 2014

A few sightings to report - 1 Green-veined White at Carr's Basin, Town Park, Enfield on Thursday 28th August 2014 at 13:38 hrs. Friday 29th August 2014 - 1 female Meadow Brown at Oakwood Park, N14 at 08:28 hrs, 2 Speckled Wood at Boxer's Lake, Enfield at 10:58 hrs, 1 Speckled Wood at Lakeside, EN2 at 11:15 hrs. 1 male Common Blue at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 13:30 hrs; 1 female Large White at Parkside Farm, Enfield at 14:51 hrs - Robert Callf

There was a Clouded Yellow in the rough grass at the north end of Tyttenhanger main pit yesterday afternoon. Green-veined White, Red Admiral and Large White in my Brookmans Park garden today. - Rupert Pyrah

Thursday 28th August 2014

Saw a Red Admiral nectaring on buddleia flowers in front garden of Chelmsford Road, N14 Wednesday 27th August 2014 at 16:32 hrs. - Robert Callf

A male Brimstone (on scarlet runner bean flowers - where was my camera?), a Peacock, half a dozen Speckled Woods and as many Small Whites at my Harpenden allotment this afternoon (28 August). - Alan Jackson

Wednesday 27th August 2014

Some sightings for today Wednesday 27th August 2014 - 1 female Meadow Brown at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 10:19 hrs; 1 Small Heath at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 10:23 hrs; 1 male Meadow Brown along Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 11:17 hrs and at least 4 Large White at Vicarage Farm, Enfield. - Robert Callf

Sunday 24th August 2014

Enthused by Andrew Wood's Moth Night yesterday (23rd) at Panshanger Park, we took advantage of what looks like the last fine afternoon for a while and walked round to see what's about. Not much - 2 Small Torts, both quite fresh, 1 very worn Meadow Brown and several Small/GV Whites in wood margins. Otherwise a few damsels and bees in sheltered areas round the lake, occasional "grass moths" and 5 House Martins stoking up for the long journey south. Very autumnal, but should be even better habitat by next spring - John Moss

Stocking Pelham, approx 7 small Tortoiseshells, 1 red admiral, 4 whites (GV?) 1 meadow brown and 1 Hummingbird Hawk Moth - Andy Brown HMWT

On Saturday 23rd August, I saw a Large White on Park Way Common, opposite Ruislip Manor station, Middlesex then a Small Tortoiseshell by Stockers Lock on the Grand Union canal, Rickmansworth, Herts. Then today, Sunday 24th August saw a Holly Blue flying along the route of the Notting Hill Carnival, Chepstow Road, London W2, following the procession for a short while! - Paul Busby

Folly Lane, St Albans - Several species have been emerging at this site during the week, with numbers increasing. These are Small White (26 today), Large White (8) Red Admiral (4) and Speckled Wood (3). Other species still on the wing are Small Tortoiseshell (2) and Meadow Brown (1) - Malcolm Hull

Saturday 23rd August 2014

1 Speckled Wood near Dew Pond, Trent Park at 10:14 hrs; 1 Small Copper along Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 11:06 hrs. - Robert Callf

At Merryhill Fields, Bushey again today. Spotted 6 x small white, 9 x common blue(all males), 28 x meadow brown, 3 x small copper, 18 x speckled wood, 1 x comma, 1 x large white & 8 x yellow shell moths. - David Gower

Stocking Pelham a common blue and some meadow browns in the verge outside my house. On the 24th approx 7 small Tortoiseshells, 1 red admiral, 4 whites (GV?) 1 meadow brown and 1 Hummingbird Hawk Moth - Andy Brown HMWT

Bricket Wood Common - Speckled Woods (14), increasing in number - there were as many as all other butterflies combined. First Small Heath (1) of the year at this site, Purple Hairstreak (1) very active in Ash, Comma (1), Gatekeeper (1), Meadow Brown (2), Brimstone (2, male & female), Red Admiral (2), Large (1), Small(1) & Green-veined (2) Whites & Small Tortoiseshell(1) giving the day a very end-of-summer feel - Malcolm Hull

Friday 22nd August 2014

Light Emerald seen to settle on tennis court at Oakwood Park, N14 at 08:25 hrs; 2 Small Heath together at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 12:56 hrs; 1 female Brown Argus nectaring on yellow flowers at Parkside Farm, Enfield (TQ2998) on side of Res bank at 14:03 hrs - my first record of

the year! 1 Peacock at Parkside Farm, Enfield at 14:03 hrs; 1 Small White at Parkside Farm, Enfield at 14:03 hrs. - Robert Callf

Thursday 21st August 2014

A couple of Red Admirals to report today Thursday 21st August 2014 - 1 near Hadley Road at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 09:37 hrs and another near my home address in Southgate, N14 at 11:08 hrs. - Robert Callf

Wednesday 20th August 2014

In our Hatfield garden today, 2 Red Admirals round buddleia & ivy flowers, 1 Comma, resting on foliage, 1 Large White, 2 Small/GV White - John Moss

Some news for today Wednesday 20th August 2014 - 1 Peacock at Parkside Farm, Enfield at 10:39 hrs; 3 Red Admiral (2 flew S at Park Farm, Enfield at 10:53 hrs, 1 edge of Rough Lot, Trent Park at 11:36 hrs) - Robert Callf

Tuesday 19th August 2014

This afternoon Tuesday 19th August 2014 at about 15.30 I had a Clouded Yellow fly through a small meadow where I work at Berkhamsted (HP4 3TP). The butterfly did not stop to nectar but flew through the meadow flying in an easterly direction. Also present in the meadow one each of Brown Argus, Common Blue, Small Copper and Small Tortoiseshell and three Gatekeeper. - Ian Gamble

I saw two Speckled Woods and a Small White in my Eastcote garden, then a further two Speckled Woods by the Highgrove Wood square pond, Eastcote and finally a further five Speckled Woods and a Green-Veined White at Bridgewater Fields, Ruislip Gardens, Middlesex. - Paul Busby

Sunday 17th August 2014

Small Copper on flowers at Vanstone Park Garden Centre, nr Codicote this afternoon - Nigel Agar

A few sightings for today Sunday 17th August 2014 - 1 Common Blue at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 11:56 hrs and after a shower saw a female Gatekeeper and 4 Small White at Vicarage Farm, Enfield. - Robert Callf

Nomansland Common, St Albans - Common Blues (27), Brown Argus (1), Red Admiral (1), Small Copper (1), Small Heath (4), Meadow Brown (11), Gatekeeper (3), Large White (2), Small White (1), Barred Hook Tip moth (2) - Malcolm Hull

Saturday 16th August 2014

Some sightings from Stanwell Moor for Saturday 16th August: It was largely sunny today, though a bit breezy again. My opportunity today was around lunchtime, and only a local walk was possible, but as ever there was something different to see with subtle changes to the same circuit a few days ago. First up was a finding a Common Blue male nectaring less than ten feet from the front door, in amongst half a dozen or so Small and Green-veined Whites. Not much further on, I reached a wild buddleia, where a Red Admiral and a new pre-hibernation Comma were indulging themselves. When disturbed they both headed instead for the blackberries, which are beginning to ferment nicely. This in turn disturbed a couple of Speckled Woods and a Holly Blue. Seven species in five minutes - a good start indeed: it transpired that the new round of Commas were out everywhere - I counted about seven or eight in various spots, mostly on the abundant blackberries.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=57656&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=57654&mode=view>

They were probably exceeded in numbers along the wooded and brambled riverside path by Speckled Woods with maybe a dozen spotted and here too were another four or five Holly Blues, with two seen nectaring together at one point.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=57653&mode=view>

Moving into the large field/meadow area between the river and the M25, I found it had been mown (as last year). As a consequence, the butterflies were all now around the edges, with Meadow Browns, a few Gatekeepers and Small Heaths, and a reasonable showing of Common Blues. These were more than 50% females, and most of these were dark examples, rather than blue ones. Returning home by largely the same route, I paused to see if a Holly Blue would settle, but I disturbed it and at the same time caused a Red Admiral to flutter up a little unsteadily from the

brambles. It was beautifully new, scarcely a mark on the velvet black.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=57647&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=57648&mode=view>

Dave Miller

A few sightings to report today Saturday 16th August 2014 - 1 Peacock at Parkside Farm, Enfield at 09:36 hrs; 1 Painted Lady along track at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 11:25 hrs, also a female Gatekeeper along Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm; 1 Holly Blue at Allotments at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 11:42 hrs. - Robert Callf Went to Ruislip Lido today. Around St Vincent's there were 15 x speckled wood. At Park Wood = 2 x speckled wood, 1 x small copper, 7 x meadow brown, 3 x common blue, 1 x brown argus. Briefly through Poors Field noticed 3 x meadow brown. - David Gower

Bricket Wood Common, St Albans - Common Blue (7), Red Admiral (2), Painted Lady (1), Green-veined White (3), Small White (3), Speckled Wood (7), Small Tortoiseshell (3), Brimstone (1), Large White (1), Meadow Brown (1), Gatekeeper (1), Brown Argus (3), Small Copper (1) - Malcolm Hull

Friday 15th August 2014

On Friday 15th August a Hummingbird Hawkmoth visited one of the buddleias in my garden, the first record here. Brown Argus, uncommon in the area, seem to be having a good year with one on the Perivale Wood transect yesterday (following two earlier sightings there and a couple on the Horsenden West transect on 1st August). Oak Processionary Moth is continuing to come to my garden MV trap despite measures being taken in the area to eradicate them. Has also been good in the garden moth trap for Hoary Footman, Tree-lichen Beauty and Jersey Tiger this year. - Andy Culshaw

We had a butterfly walk up at Aldbury today, lots of brown argus about and common blue, a few meadow brown, gatekeeper, small heath, small copper, small, green veined and large white and a brimstone. Single painted lady and small tortoiseshell and one worn chalkhill blue. There was also a hummingbird hawk moth present in the furthest northern enclosure. - Paul Thrush

Only recorded one butterfly today Friday 15th August 2014 a Green-veined White settled at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 13:40 hrs. - Robert Callf

Thursday 14th August 2014

Late report. Tuesday 12 August. Walked my Warren transect, not expecting much in view of the dull windy weather, although it was 19C. Fortunately the sun emerged as I arrived and it stayed hot and sunny until nearly the end. Highlight was 2 Clouded Yellow (twice last year's first ever sighting), 10 Common Blue (m+f), 1 Meadow Brown, 2 Gatekeeper, 1 brilliant Red Admiral, 1 tatty Small Tort, 1 Small Heath & the first Small White since spring. Site getting hard work now, with galloping scrub impeding part of my route (need to take secateurs again) and much of the remaining open grassland getting rank and uneven. But there were loads of bees, moths, grasshoppers & dragon/damselflies, with Buzzards circling over - John Moss

I was in the meadow adjacent to Frogmore Meadow on Tuesday 12th August when I saw; 5 Clouded Yellow, 1 Tortoiseshell, 2 Comma, 1 Green Veined White, and a number of Common blue and Brown Argus - Peter Elton

A few sightings for today Thursday 14th August 2014 - 1 Common Blue at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 10:16 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood at Parkside Farm, Enfield at 11:16 hrs; 1 Comma at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 12:30 hrs; 1 Common Blue at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 12:31 hrs; 1 Small Heath at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 12:32 hrs; 1 Peacock at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 12:32 hrs. - Robert Callf

Watford Rd, Chiswell Green - Clouded Yellow flying alongside the main road. Butterfly World - Around 30 Common Blues, 2 Brown Argus - Malcolm Hull

Wednesday 13th August 2014

Visited Mile End, London this afternoon and saw at least 3 Small Whites, a male Common Blue and a Speckled Wood in Mile End Park and then at Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park saw a Red Admiral on Buddleia, at least 4 Small Whites, 1 Large White, a faded Gatekeeper, 2 Speckled Woods, at

least 4 male and 3 female Common Blues. - Paul Busby

Tuesday 12th August 2014

Saw a Comma at Boxer's Lake, Enfield today Tuesday 12th August 2014 at 12:00 pm, also Gatekeeper here. - Robert Callf

Have just identified 3 moths seen in garden and Bushey home last Wednesday: = 1 x brindled green, 1 x current pug, 2 x anania perlucidalis. - David Gower

Monday 11th August 2014

A very worn Painted lady butterfly feeding on buddleia in my Little Hadham garden at present. This follows on from last night's mothing where I trapped both a silver y (worn) and a Jersey Tiger, form Lutescens. Maybe a result of yesterday's strong southerlies?

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

Jono Forgham

Hummingbird hawkmoth briefly visited my Thorley Park garden this afternoon to nectar on phlox. Of interest to me as it was the largest specimen of this insect I have ever seen- Len Crouch

Saw two Speckled Wood in Broomfield Park, Palmers Green, N13 this morning Monday 11th August 2014 at 09:16 and 10:00 hrs. Some news for Sunday 10th August 2014 at Grovelands Park, Southgate - 3 Speckled Wood, 1 fresh female Common Blue, also Gatekeeper and Meadow Brown seen. - Robert Callf

Sunday 10th August: I walked part of my local patch near Stanwell Moor around 1500, very soon after the sun came out following the storms or earlier in the day. It was still very breezy, but the sun had got things moving and Small Whites were soon to appear. I then spotted several Speckled Woods and Red Admirals contesting the same bits of path. One Speckled Wood looked worn, probably rain-affected, with some of the spots looking almost green. Further along I saw a Comma flying low along the nettle regrowth at the edge of the path, stopping briefly every four or five seconds - egg-laying perhaps. It was a late example of the summer brood - the hibernating ones will no doubt be appearing soon. Considering the storms of the previous 36 hours, it was good to see plenty of Common Blues, fighting strongly against the wind and nectaring whenever they could get a grip on a thistle. There were a few Meadow Browns, Gatekeepers and Small Heaths, generally looking rather sorry for themselves, but I disturbed a Clouded Yellow from the path which didn't look too bad. It dived to the ground again where I managed to grab a quick photo - confirming that it was neither of the ones I'd seen last weekend. There must be quite a few around. As usual it had plonked itself in amongst a nest of grass stalks, making for a far from perfect picture.

Green-spotted Speckled Wood:

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=57177&mode=view>

Common Blue: <http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=57174&mode=view>

Clouded Yellow: <http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=57176&mode=view>

I visited Bedfont Lakes Country Park after work (1700 or so) on Thursday 7th August. Along the path by the railway line, I came across Common Blues throughout the length, in double figures overall - perhaps 30 or more. There were a handful of Brown Argus in amongst them, mostly at the southwestern end of the path, where I also found a solitary Small Copper. Whites of all three species appeared, Meadow Browns and Gatekeepers were frequent, plus five or six Small Heath, a Small Tortoiseshell, and a Red Admiral. I found a single Common Blue "puddling" on a patch of damp ground - gatherings of Blues doing this are not uncommon abroad, but it seems comparatively unusual here.

Brown Argus: <http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=56857&mode=view>

Small Copper: <http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=56862&mode=view>

Puddling Common Blue:

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=56856&mode=view>

Dave Miller

Saturday 9th August 2014

Recent news from Diane Andrews for the last 7 days. Jersey Tiger seen at Crews Hill. Ramney Marsh, Enfield, 2 Clouded Yellow and 1 at Cheshunt Marsh.

Some sightings for Friday 8th August 2014 - 1 male Common Blue at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park

at 13:34 hrs; 1 Comma at Park Farm, Enfield at 14:17 hrs; 1 Peacock at Parkside Farm, Enfield at 14:24 hrs; 1 Green-veined White at Parkside Farm, Enfield at 14:24 hrs; 1 Red Admiral at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 15:19 hrs. Today 9th August 2014 - 1 male Common Blue at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 10:13 hrs and 3 Speckled Wood along the New River Loop at Town Park, Enfield between 11:38 - 11:44 hrs. - Robert Callf

As soon as I got in my car leaving Norton Green a few minutes after midday I noticed a worn White-letter Hairstreak on the front windscreen and was with me all the way home - crossing 2 tetrads (TL22 22 and TL24 22) in the process! - Peter Clarke

Old rivers orchard/hospital site High wych, 11 Common blue (7 male 4 female) 1 very fresh Small tortoiseshell, 3 Speckled wood, 2 Gatekeeper, 16 Meadow brown, nearly all on the fields with the short sward and lots of clover/knapweed, the long sward just producing 4 Meadow brown, poor numbers generally. Laurence Drummond

Thursday 7th August 2014

A Clouded Yellow was by the main pit at Tyttenhanger GP this morning - David Booth

On my walk around Tyttenhanger gravel pits today I counted 4 Speckled Wood, 3 Brown Argus, 2 Common Blue, 1 Green Veined White, 1 Large White, 5 Small White, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Peacock, 1 Small Heath, 1 Meadow Brown and 2 Gatekeeper. - Terry Wood

Late report. Tuesday 5 August. Impressed to find a pristine Hornet Moth nectaring on Field Scabious in our Hatfield garden. It obligingly sat still while we examined it from above and "face on". It was the dead spit of the illustration on p.42 of my newly acquired "Wild Guide to Britain's Day-flying Moths". Noting its larval food plant we realised there's a huge Lombardy Poplar about 3 gardens away and a row of very old ones at the end of Green Lanes, probably dating from the Thirties. Today 7 August spotted a possible Red Underwing resting on a stone slab on our patio. Muted at rest, it flew off rapidly with a brilliant flash of red, disappearing over the fence & possibly into Ivy on a tree. Otherwise not much to report other than the 3 Whites, up to 4 Gatekeepers, a tatty Speckled Wood, occasional Holly Blues (m+f) & the odd fresh Red Admiral. Peacocks and Tortoiseshells seem to be left for this year. Consequently we are grappling with moths - John Moss

Only one sighting to report today Thursday 7th August 2014 - 1 Comma at Hilly Fields Park, Enfield at 17:12 hrs. - Robert Callf

I put out cheap moth trap last night and was surprised to find seven Jersey Tigers and one Garden Tiger in the morning - Phil Rhodes

Wednesday 6th August 2014

Today I saw my first Holly Blue of this year in my South Mimms garden, also a couple of Small Whites - Terry Wood

Chalkhill Blues numerous but rain battered at Hexton CP 3 Aug also Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper, Comma. Speckled Wood near the gate - Nigel Agar

On Wed 6th August I saw a Purple Hairstreak flying around 3 fairly young Oak Trees at The GlaxoSmithKline site in Stevenage - Christina Bessant

A few sightings for today Wednesday 6th August 2014 - 1 male Common Blue at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 09:20 hrs; 3 male Common Blue at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 12:06 hrs; 1 Small Heath at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 12:06 hrs; 1 Clouded Yellow at Vicarage Farm, Enfield in uncultivated field E of Shaws Wood (TQ2996) - Robert Callf/Robin White

BATFORD - Weedy field by B653 - finally the long awaited CLOUDED YELLOW has graced the weedy field. 1 seen - Darin Stanley

Went to Norton Green early this afternoon and among the butterflies were 40+ Gatekeepers, 50+ whites (of all 3 species), 10+ Common Blues, 10+ Meadow Browns, 5+ Small/Essex Skippers (one of which was Small), 3 Speckled Woods, 3 Peacocks, 3 Small Tortoiseshells and most excitingly a Chalkhill Blue (in the field SE of Watery Grove). Perhaps a male wanderer from Hexton Chalk Pit? -

Peter Clarke

Tuesday 5th August 2014

Saw one Small Tortoiseshell at Tyttenhanger GPs this morning Tuesday 5th August 2014 at 10:23 hrs. - Robert Callf

While working at Thorley Wash today we saw 2 clouded yellows and lots of small tortoiseshells. Jenny Sherwen

A recent update or two from Stanwell Moor: 20th July: The second brood of Common Blues and Brown Argus has emerged in the open field area between the M25 and the River Colne just north of the A3113. The former were evident in good numbers. Also seen were Small Tortoiseshells, Peacocks, a couple of Commas, a Red Admiral egg-laying, Meadow Browns, Gatekeepers, Essex Skippers and a Holly Blue.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=55207&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=55209&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=55212&mode=view>

21st July: A similar walk today in the same area, with the unusual sight of a Holly Blue female repeatedly settling on a twisting piece of hop. Even more unusually it opened its wings.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=55317&mode=view>

There were more fresh Common Blues as well.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=55319&mode=view>

2nd August: A longer walk around my local area today. The day started with a few Speckled Woods and a bright male Holly Blue. The Peacocks and Commas of a fortnight ago have almost all disappeared now, but Red Admirals and Small Tortoiseshells turned up regularly in a variety of spots and habitat types. There were now even better numbers of Common Blues, and again in several spots, though mainly in the field area as before.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=56506&mode=view>

One individual had the deficient spotting not infrequently seen on Chalkhills and Adonis, but not something I've previously seen on a Common Blue.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=56505&mode=view>

There were one or two Brown Argus and Small Heath in amongst them, plus plentiful Meadow Browns and Gatekeepers, both species now looking rather tired. However the high point was encountering Clouded Yellows, flying really fast along the path at low level both into and against the wind. How many was difficult to say, but there were multiple encounters, and at least two individuals were seen at the same time.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=56513&mode=view>

3rd August: a repeat of Saturday, to the extent of meeting the same Clouded Yellow!

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=56520&mode=view>

However, one addition to the list of species for the weekend was a Painted Lady high and active on a wild Buddleia - no photo sadly. This brings this year's species tally for this area to 24, one short of all those I have seen here since 2009. The missing one is the Small Copper - as I waited until October to see this in 2012, there is hope yet!

Dave Miller

Monday 4th August 2014

A very dry Waterford heath south plenty of common blues and meadow brown, also two clouded yellows and a small heath - Steve Kiln

A few sightings today Monday 4th August 2014 - 1 Small Copper at Parkside Farm, Enfield at 10:00 hrs; 1 Comma edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park at 10:52 hrs; 3 Six-spot Burnet at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park; 1 male Common Blue at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 11:06 hrs; 1 Peacock by lower lake Trent Park at 11:23 hrs - Robert Callf/Robin White.

Just seen my first Jersey Tiger in Town Park, Enfield this afternoon Monday 4th August 2014 at 15:39 hrs - seen in flight first but then settled in hedge - not too surprising as Diane Andrews reported two sightings to me recently from Wood Green and Crews Hill. Also a Holly Blue in Town Park. - Robert Callf

Sunday 3rd August 2014

Today at Colney Heath we saw several Gatekeepers, a Clouded yellow and a Jersey tiger moth. Jenny Sherwen

Bricket Wood - Brown Argus (5), spotted on the common today, my first records at the site for 3 years. Common Blue (4) seen for the first time this year, plus the first of a new brood of Small Copper (1). Meadow Browns & Gatekeepers are still around in reasonable numbers, but all other species are now in low numbers or absent. Butterflies spotted were Purple Hairstreak (3) Silver-washed Fritillary (3), Ringlet (2), Peacock (3), Brimstone (1), Small Tortoiseshell (1), Red Admiral (1), Small Skipper (2), Essex Skipper (2), Green-veined White (4) Small White (1), Large White (3) & Speckled Wood (4). Most of the butterflies seen were nectaring with Fleabane, Ragwort, Buddleia & Ling being the main flowers visited. Back in St Albans, my totals of hibernating butterflies in my outhouse are now Small Tortoiseshell 7 (well down on last year) & Peacock 5 (the highest number in 15 years) - Malcolm Hull

Apart from 2 x small white & 3 x large whites 1 x humming bird hawk moths seen on flocks in Bushey garden this evening. - David Gower

Saturday 2nd August 2014

Evening walk with Robin White at Vicarage Farm, Enfield Saturday 2nd August 2014 produced two Painted Lady at Hog Hill and a Vestal in uncultivated field. - Robert Callf

Spent just under 2 hours at Bricket Wood Common sat morning and found= 14 x gatekeeper, 8 x meadow brown, 2 x essex skipper, 1 x peacock, 6 x common blue (1 female), 1 x green veined white, 1 x large skipper, 1 x ringlet. At Bushey garden = 1 x small tortoiseshell, 1 x gatekeeper, 1 x large white and 1 x common rustic moth came into bathroom at night. - David Gower

Here are a few sightings for today Saturday 2nd August 2014 - 2 Comma at Trent Park (1 by lower lake, 1 nectaring on burdock edge of Rough Lot); 1 Small Tortoiseshell nectaring on burdock edge of Rough Lot, Trent Park; 3, 2 males and 1 female, Common Blue at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park. Also found an Antler Moth on thistle at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 12:01 hrs. - Robert Callf

Friday 1st August 2014

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards. Weather breezier and cloudier but still warm. Gatekeeper numbers now clearly declining. I was pondering this thought as I approached some Ragwort where I'd seen some yesterday. Ragwort has done well this year and butterflies and Burnet moths have appreciated the nectar whilst countless Cinnabar caterpillars devour the leaves lower down. Today on this plant there was still a Burnet moth and 2 Gatekeepers on the flower-heads but on closer inspection both the butterflies were dead, heads and body parts missing with only a small amount of gossamer thread possibly holding the wings together, in surprisingly lifelike fashion, to suggest what might have happened. Here are the live butterflies seen: Meadow Brown: 38 Gatekeeper: 34 Speckled Wood: 6 Red Admiral: 1 Comma: 1 Common Blue: 51 Peacock: 1 A few Whites around, distant and small - Pete Gore

Three Speckled Wood in the same area at Lakeside, EN2 this morning Friday 1st August 2014 at 11:12 hrs. 2 Comma at Trent Park (1 near Equestrian Centre, 1 at Water Grdn); 1 Peacock edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park; 1 Green-veined White at Water Garden, Trent Park; 2 male Common Blue (1 at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park, 1 at Park Farm, Enfield); 1 Purple Hairstreak edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park; 2 male Brimstone (1 edge of Rough Lot, Trent Park nectaring on burdock at 13:34 hrs, 1 edge of Duncan's Wood, Enfield Chase nectaring on thistles at 13:50 hrs). Also yesterday Friday August 1st, Robin White reported a Clouded Yellow at Vicarage Farm, Enfield in field just E of Shaws Wood (TQ2996) and The Vestal in the same field. - Robert Callf

First Brown Argus of the year at Norton Green this morning in the field SE of Watery Grove. - Peter Clarke

I had a walk at South Mimms Wash Lane Common this afternoon, bemoaning the lack of butterflies, when a bright Clouded Yellow flew quickly past me (a Hertfordshire first this year for me). Other butterflies seen were 1 Comma, 1 Peacock, 2 Gatekeeper, 2 Meadow Brown, 2 Large White and 4 Small White - Terry Wood

July 2014

Thursday 31st July 2014

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards Similar conditions to yesterday so the butterflies likewise, but

one worth mentioning was my first Tortoiseshell for quite some time. This was a fresh-looking specimen drawn, like its predecessor some weeks ago and sundry Peacocks since, to the two burn-out cars that still adorn the central Marshalling Yards area. I assume that the attraction here is that they're large raised vantage points in an otherwise flat tree-less area rather than any unlikely mineral benefits available on or near them. Here are my details: Gatekeeper: 44 Meadow Brown: 38 Speckled Wood: 2 Comma: 1 Green-Veined White: 4 Common Blue: 44 Tortoiseshell: 1 Small Skipper: 2 Holly Blue: 1 - Pete Gore

Midday today (31 July) at Nomansland Common, Wheathampstead, walking west from the CP: 1 male Clouded Yellow (flew east and not seen again), 27 Common Blues, 19 Meadow Browns, 5 Small Skippers, 5 Gatekeepers and singles of Large White, GV White and Peacock. Expected to find more species: warm, intermittent sunshine, light breeze. Vegetation parched, but a profusion of knapweed flowers with encouraging numbers of honey bees nectaring on them. - Alan Jackson

Wednesday 30th July 2014

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane The walk along the second section of the Crane has now been cleared to make it acceptable to the sane as well as me. Today's walk along this stretch was distantly accompanied by bagpipes playing an adaptation of part of the second movement of Dvorak's New World Symphony (the 'Hovis' ad. to some). Presumably part of a memorial service at the nearby crematorium. A solitary Gatekeeper was all I saw here. These are the rest: Gatekeeper: 62 Meadow Brown: 36 Common Blue: 52 Speckled Wood: 4 Green-Veined White: 1 Small White: 3 Large White: 1 Small Skipper: 1

Some additions to the Butterfly World list on Saturday were a couple of Painted Ladies seen during the morning and a probable female Brimstone. There were more Small Blue present than listed! Some photos taken by Malcolm Bowey on the day can be viewed here: https://www.flickr.com/photos/malcolm_bowey/sets/72157645616390078/

Yesterday Tuesday 29th July 2014 saw a Red Admiral at Chase Road, N14 at 15:23 hrs. Today Wednesday 30th July 2014 seen the following - 2 Comma at Flash Lane Aqueduct at 11:35 hrs, 1 Peacock at Flash Lane Aqueduct at 11:35 hrs, 1 Small Copper at Whitewebbs Park at 11:40 hrs, 1 Peacock at Whitewebbs Park at 11:40 hrs, 1 Comma at Whitewebbs Park at 11:41 hrs. - Robert Callf

We took a walk at Amwell today and saw our first Hertfordshire Painted Lady of this year. We also saw several Red Admiral, Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock, Speckled Wood, Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper and Whites, together with singles of Comma and Common Blue. - Terry Wood

Way back in the mists of time (some years ago) somebody asked us to inspect a sloping field overlooking the Colne Valley at Harefield. It lies between 'The Old Orchard' and 'The Coy Carp'; local pubs. and Jack's Lane circumnavigates it on three sides. I had a look today at the lower slopes. The field is very neglected with tussocky grass and sapling trees. There was no sign of any Blues and food sources were in very short supply. - John Hollingdale

On Patmore Heath - a possible clouded yellow at the north end of the reserve - Andy Brown HMWT

Tuesday 29th July 2014

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards Still good numbers and variety of butterflies around although today was the first for a while without any kind of Skipper. The River Crane was high, fast and murky again after Monday's rain. Here are the sightings: Speckled Wood: 4 Meadow Brown: 39 Common Blue: 47 Gatekeeper: 46 Small White: 2 Large White: 1 Comma: 1 Red Admiral: 1 Painted Lady: 1 Peacock: 1 Green-Veined White: 1 Whites slightly under-counted - they're really not as numerous as I would have expected. - Pete Gore

I did the transect today, lots of different species about. Quite a few silver-washed fritillary and one dark green fritillary, meadow brown, gatekeeper, small, essex and large skipper, small, large and green veined white, plenty of brimstones, single small copper, comma and small heath, a few red admirals and double figure peacocks. There were also lots of brown argus, common blue and a few chalkhill blue. Highlights though were a **dingy skipper** and a small blue (the dingy was in the south in the usual area adjacent to the large field and the small blue was in the furthest northern enclosure). - Paul Thrush

I am a recorder from Northumberland, visiting my daughter near Handworth Park. On the island of

the Crane by the Shot Tower on Saturday, I was very surprised and impressed to have good views (binoculars) of a female Silver-washed Fritillary. There were also 3 Commas, 1 Painted Lady, 2 Red Admirals, 1 Peacock, 6 Holly Blues, 4 Gatekeepers and 2 Ringlets. - John Richards

At Heartwood today Clouded yellow seen on hill by scout hut and also Painted Lady, Brown Argus and lots of Common Blues seen - Andrew Steele

We had a walk at Aldbury Nowers this morning and were lucky enough to find a Dark Green Fritillary, as well as 2 Silver-washed Fritillary, several Common Blue, Chalkhill Blue, Marbled White, Large Skipper, Small Tortoiseshell, Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown and mixed Whites, plus singles of Brimstone, Small Copper, Peacock and Brown Argus - Terry Wood

Today Tuesday 29th July 2014 saw the following - 1 Purple Hairstreak at Vicarage Farm, Enfield; 1 Small Tortoiseshell nectaring on thistle at Park Farm, Enfield; 2 Small Copper at Trent Park (one at 'Old Golf Course' and one at Water Garden); 1 Comma at Water Garden, Trent Park; 1 Red Admiral at Water Garden, Trent Park; 2 Purple Hairstreak settled on Ash at Williams Wood, Trent Park; 1 Comma at Barracks, Vicarage Farm - Robert Callf/Robin White.

Monday 28th July 2014

Two photos taken by David Newland of the Purple Emperor that visited Malcolm Newland's garden in Hemel Hempstead (whilst Malcolm was away!) on the 15th July 2014. It should be noted that Malcolm's garden is a butterfly paradise for nectar and larval foodplants but it chose the watering can!

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=680567492025911&set=o.313540722064920&type=1&theater>

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=680568202025840&set=o.313540722064920&type=1&theater>

Saw two Speckled Wood together in Broomfield Park, Palmers Green, N13 today Monday 28th July 2014 at 10:19 hrs. - Robert Callf

In Stocking Pelham today (28th); several gatekeepers, small tortoiseshells, Green-veined Whites, Large whites, peacocks, red admiral - Andy Brown HMWT

Sunday 27th July 2014

Sunday 27/7/14 in 2.5 hours. Took some friends, Dom, Jane & Billy Thomas from Sussex, around Bricket Wood Common to look for some specialities. Highlight was a female Purple Emperor which landed low down a couple of metres away on bracken and when it flew it even alighted briefly on young Billy's arm! This was on the track which runs parallel to railway line approx. 60 metres nw of the red & white pole. We also saw 7+ Silver-washed Fritillary & 5 Purple Hairstreak, but no sign of any White Admirals. Also noted on our walk were 10+ Small/Essex Skippers, 3 Large Skipper, 10 Brimstone, 1 Red Admiral, 3 Peacock, 1 Speckled Wood, 3 Ringlet and numerous Green-veined White, Gatekeeper & Meadow Brown. Bob Harris

Spent 45 mins at Bricket Wood Common mid day and came across = 12 x gatekeeper, 4 x meadow brown, 1 x white admiral, 2 x brimstone, 1 x ringlet, 1 x large skipper, 4 x large white, many more whites unable to identify, 2 x silver washed fritillaries along main ride and 1 x purple hairstreak came down between them. Missed the purple emperor that landed on young boy earlier! On way back from St Albans on Abbey flyer stopped off again at Common early evening = 1 x comma, 3 x ringlet, 4 x gatekeeper, 2 x silver washed fritillary. At Bricket Wood station = 2 x peacock, 3 x large white. - David Gower

RICKNEYS QUARRY, One Purple emperor still at the Bardon clumps territory, briefly @12.44, also, again, one each of Brown argus and Common blue - Laurence Drummond

Watched a Red Admiral nectaring on neighbours buddleia at Southgate, N14 on Sunday 27th July 2014 at 15:00 hrs and still present at 16:40 hrs. - Robert Callf

One fairly frail Purple Emperor seen at the Northaw Assembly area. Although we started watching at 2 o'clock it didn't make an appearance until 3.30. No activity at Whitewebbs or Fir and Pond - Liz Goodyear, Andrew Middleton and Laurence Drummond

Saturday 26th July 2014

Butterfly World, St Albans - Our first ever New Members' Day was well attended with 35 people joining us. A moth recording trap had been run the previous night at the site and day started with John Murray opening the trap and showing a fine array of moths. During the morning several committee members spoke on different aspects of the branches' work and how new members can become more involved. After lunch, I led a walk around the extensive grounds, following much of the transect route. Small Blues were out in good numbers with around 10 seen. Common Blues are just out and we saw around 40, plus a couple of Brown Argus. Liz Goodyear achieved the best sightings of the day, firstly a male Chalkhill Blue, nectaring on Marjoram, which posed obligingly for photos for several minutes. It appeared in good condition, so had probably emerged quite recently, an indication that the species may be breeding at the site. Two individuals (both male) were spotted here last year and the larval food-plant, Horseshoe Vetch, is thriving at this site. A possible second Chalkhill Blue could not be confirmed. 10 mins later Liz spotted a Clouded Yellow, nectaring on Birds-foot Trefoil. Small Copper, Marbled White, Small and Essex Skipper, Large, Small and Green-veined White, Meadow Brown and Gatekeeper were also seen in the meadows, plus very many 6-spot Burnett moths. In the gardens Peacocks were numerous on the Buddleias, with Small Tortoiseshell and Red Admirals also seen. This site is maturing well and certainly living up to its early promise. A branch field trip is planned here on Sunday 10 August - see Walks & Talks section of this website for details - Malcolm Hull

On 24th July I photographed by the lower lake in Trent Park an insect that was particularly fond of Thistle (*which is confirmed*) as a worn Dark Green Fritillary - Pete Lowman

Visited the 'New Fields' at Trent Park this afternoon Saturday 26th July 2014 and recorded the following between 12:15 - 13:30 hrs - 5 Common Blue (3 together near Triangular Wood at 12:29 hrs, 1 Sect 8 at 12:39 hrs, 1 Sect 5 at 12:55 hrs); 5 Small Copper (1 at 12:31 hrs, 2 Sect 6 one at 12:44 hrs and another at 12:51 hrs, 2 Sect 4 at 13:01 hrs); 1 Comma near Church Wood at 13:07 hrs; 1 Small Heath nectaring on ragwort near Triangular Wood at 13:12 hrs. - Robert Callf

A Clouded Yellow this morning at Pitshanger Park Butterfly Garden, Ealing. Also seen today at the same site: Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown, Common Blue, Holly Blue, Small White. John Eborall

Whilst out, I was reliably informed that a Clouded Yellow briefly stopped in my Ware garden on a Wonder of Peru flower head. Just like Malcolm Newland and his Purple Emperor I wasn't there! - Liz Goodyear

At Northwood hq in Sandy Lane on Friday 1 x common blue. At Carpenders Park station(TQ118934) resting in underpass 1 x poplar hawk moth. At our Bushey garden today(sat) 1 x large white, 2 x small white, 1 x gatekeeper, 1 x peacock. Went for a walk around Cassiobury Park also on sat and came across = 9 x large white, 9 x speckled wood, 21 x gatekeeper, 15 x meadow brown, 9 x small white, 4 x essex skipper, 1 x small skipper, 1 x large skipper, 5 x common blue, 3 x comma, 2 x small tortoiseshell, 1 x peacock, 1 x marbled white. - David Gower

The following seen in Cromer Hyde Farm Area today (TL2111) - while taking part in the Wider Country Butterfly Survey, Large white x 2, Small White x 30+, Painted lady x 1, Peacock x 8, Small Tortoiseshell x 3, Gatekeeper x 10+, Meadow Brown x 6+, Ringlet x 2, Comma x 2, Marbled White x 6+ - David Wheatcroft

Plashes Wood, a male Silver washed fritillary today, surprisingly, my first here, also one each of Brown argus and Common blue, plenty of the common browns and Peacocks. Laurence Drummond

Friday 25th July 2014

2 sightings of a Clouded Yellow this morning about 45 minutes apart at Pitshanger Park Butterfly Garden, Ealing. Possibly the same individual. On the first occasion, it settled and nectared on various plants, giving a good view. On the second occasion, after I had gone back with my camera, it flew around fast for about 30 seconds then flew off. Also seen today at the same site: Small Copper, Gatekeeper, Small Skipper, Meadow Brown, Common Blue. Over the past couple of years, Ealing Council have very successfully converted this former bowling green of about 40 metres square into a butterfly-friendly area. - John Eborall

Broadwater, Colne valley: Clouded Yellow and Painted Lady - singles - Chris Lamsdell

Saw a Large White at Boxer's Lake, Enfield this morning Friday 25th July 2014 at 10:39 hrs on

thistles. Also saw three Peacock on buddleia at Lakeside, EN2 at 10:55 hrs. 1 Holly Blue settled by lower lake, Trent Park at 13:27 hrs, 1 female Common Blue at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 13:38 hrs, 1 Marbled White at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 15:06 hrs, 1 Peacock at Barracks, Vicarage Farm. Also Robin White saw a Marbled White at Vicarage Farm yesterday Thursday 24th July 2014. - Robert Callf

You may have heard about the sightings of the Yellow-legged (or Scarce) Tortoiseshell in the UK most especially near the east coast. Apparently there has been an invasion in the Netherlands and several has crossed over the North Sea. One specimen was seen at Barton near Cambridge on Wednesday so there could be some movement west therefore Hertfordshire might be next! Details can be found on the <http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/index.php> website. - Peter Clarke

Thursday 24th July 2014

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane A walk which began with a fading Painted Lady struggling to cross Richmond Council's Hounslow Heath Open Space shortly followed by a second one, much more vigorous, on the Heath itself held promise which was not fulfilled as far as the species was concerned but still good numbers of other butterflies: Painted Lady: 2 Gatekeeper: 71 Speckled Wood: 8 Large White: 1 Small Copper: 1 Small White: 2 Holly Blue: 1 Meadow Brown: 25 Small Skipper: 9 Comma: 2 Peacock: 7 Green-Veined White: 3 Common Blue: 31 - Pete Gore

Today I spent just over an hour recording in Broxbourne Woods West and about twenty minutes recording in Bencroft Wood; I then made some additional observations at Broxbourne Woods East CP. In Broxbourne Woods West I recorded 8 Silver-Washed Fritillaries (fewer than last year), 1 White Admiral, 3 Commas, 44 Peacocks, 13 Meadow Browns, 27 Gatekeepers, 2 Ringlets, 6 Small/G-V Whites and 1 Common Blue. The large areas of hemp agrimony (and thistles) on the south-east side of the main ride at, and to the north-east of, the stream are good news for butterflies; but the bracken that is encroaching onto the newly-cleared area by the stream to the east of the main ride is not. Being a Wood Warden, and having a keen interest in how the changed management practices will impact upon the butterfly population, I will pass on these, and other observations (see below), to the CMS. In the prevailing hot, dry weather much of the vegetation was parched and much of the newly-cleared area to the north-west of the main ride is almost barren. Yet there were parts of the main ride that had remained quite moist! This illustrates the enormous diversity of habitats that can potentially be developed at this NNR. The heather patch to the north of the newly-cleared area is doing well, thanks to careful management; but the area where orchids grow to the east of the heather has become overgrown by bracken, as has the area to the south that was cleared to connect the heather area to the main area of clearance. Broom is establishing near the heather. Whilst orchids, broom and heather may have few implications for butterflies (moths, perhaps, in the case of the heather and broom), it was encouraging to see hemp agrimony and bird's-foot trefoil already establishing in parts of the newly-cleared area. The newly-cleared area has had a testing year: sodden throughout winter and spring and desiccated in the summer. It will be exciting to see what plant species eventually establish there and what the implications will be for butterflies. At Bencroft I observed a presumed fast-flying female Purple Emperor at around 20 feet. A Silver-Washed Fritillary was also present, as were 5 Red Admirals (absent from Broxbourne West, no idea why). Also seen were 16 Peacocks, 7 Gatekeepers, 4 G-V Whites and 5 Meadow Browns. At Broxbourne East CP I saw another White Admiral, a SWF, a Comma and several G-V Whites. I much appreciated the comments, all of which I can endorse with enthusiasm, of Richard and Sue Wistow from South Wales (20 July). In this context I might mention the species I could have seen today but didn't: Marbled White (seen there last year), Small Copper, Speckled Wood, Purple Hairstreak, Small Tortoiseshell or any of the Skippers. Two species I used to see at Broxbourne Woods in the 1950s and not mentioned by the Wistows (who didn't start looking until 1977) were Pearl-Bordered and even Small Pearl-Bordered Fritillaries (OK, just the one); numbers of common dog-violets are on the increase following the changed management practices at Broxbourne Woods, so who knows? - Alan Jackson

1 x treble brown spot moth came into Bushey house tonight, 1 x large white in garden - David Gower

Encouraged by recent visits to Northaw Great Wood for the Purple Emperor I decided to visit Norton Green this afternoon to search for it. Visited the common at about 2pm and stood watching the oak tops for about an hour with the sun out about half the time. It was almost devoid of activity with just the odd fly and bee. At just after 3pm the sun went behind a big cloud and I decided to walk around the common and take a new viewing position near the byways sign focusing on a willow and the tall oak tree behind it. After a good 20 minutes the sun finally

reappeared and in a very short time the place was a hive of activity with dragonflies, a Purple Hairstreak (which I hadn't seen since the field trip) and a Purple Emperor sped past in front of me towards the track (3:35pm). In the morning walk at Norton Green (north section) I saw loads of Large Whites (50+) and many Peacocks enjoying the teasel. Yesterday a Holly Blue was seen here (first of the year) - Peter Clarke

Some sightings for today Thursday 24th July 2014 at Grovelands Park, Southgate, N14 - 2 Small Copper (one in meadow enclosure at 12:06 hrs and another near tennis courts at 12:25 hrs); 8 Common Blue (two in meadow enclosure at 12:06 hrs, four near tennis courts between 12:27 - 12:32 hrs, 2 near Bowling Green at 12:36 hrs); 10 Six-spot Burnet (3 in meadow enclosure, seven near tennis courts); 2 Speckled Wood near Bowling Green at 12:34 hrs; 2 Peacock nectaring on white buddleia near Priory Hospital at 13:04 hrs. - Robert Callf

I was verry excited to find a white-letter hairstreak in a meadow called Swan's nest in Weston this week - Hilary Bailey

A Clouded Yellow over a pea field near Dane End (the one at Little Munden) this afternoon - Andrew Wood

Wednesday 23rd July 2014

Diane Andrews rang to report a Marbled White at Tatum Park, Enfield (next to the A10) on 14th July. On the 23rd July at Monken Hadley Common, a Chalkhill Blue, Marbled Whites, 3 Antler Moths, 5 Peacock, 1 Comma and 14 Small Coppers in total in TQ2946.

In Bushey garden 3 x peacock, 1 x large white, 1 x riband moth - David Gower

I enjoyed a very agreeable afternoon watching one and then two Purple Emperors at the Northaw Assembly area. I arrived just after 2 as the cloud dispersed and good sunshine commenced and almost immediately an emperor made a flight across the gap. He was a bit bored at first so he chased some bees and then a crow and some more bees.....but about 2.45 he was joined by another emperor (almost the same time last week kicked off) and their tussles continued for about 30 minutes when one finally disappeared for good, never to return. Which one it was is hard to say although I suspect it was the first one I saw that went. Both appeared to be in good condition so no obvious identification points although the second one might have been just a tad bigger? I left at 4 with one still flying in the gap in the sunshine having also chased a pigeon and a Purple Hairstreak - Liz Goodyear

Received a phone call from Robin White yesterday afternoon Tuesday 22nd July 2014 stating that he had seen a Purple Emperor in Trent Park at about 11am on the edge of Williams Wood not far from the Dew Pond - this is a high point in the park and the pond is surrounded by mature willows. He believed that it was a female and it flew over his head at a height of about three metres. Robin was quite excited by this sighting as it is the first Purple Emperor that he has seen. Also yesterday Tuesday 22nd July 2014 I saw three Gatekeeper, 2 males and 1 female and 1 Holly Blue in Town Park, Enfield at 13:15 hrs. Whilst waiting for a train at Crews Hill Station today Wednesday 23rd July 2014 counted the following between 12:10 and 12:25 hrs - at least 7 Peacock, 1 Small Tortoiseshell and 1 Red Admiral nectaring on buddleia near the platform, also noticed a Brimstone Moth just as the train was pulling in - Robert Callf

Peacocks galore. Yesterday at Broxbourne woods ride 90 peacocks on hemp agrimony and thistles, with seven silver washed fritillaries. At Waterford heath south today 95 peacocks on teasels but last week they were on the buddleias. Also a fresh painted lady, a clutch of common blues and a brimstone on the heath - Steve Kiln

Tuesday 22nd July 2014

I did the transect today, good numbers of meadow browns and gatekeepers, they seem to be having an excellent year. Lots of silver washed fritillary around and a few faded dark greens. Saw my first chalkhill blues as well - 3+ together with fresh brown argus, common blue and small copper. Lots of peacock, a few comma, red admiral and small tortoiseshell, large white, green veined white, small white, brimstone, small, large and essex skippers and one ringlet along the Ridgeway. I think I may have seen a holly blue as well but couldn't be sure as it flew away quite high into the surrounding woodland. - Paul Thrush

During a 20 minute visit to Highgrove Wood, Eastcote at lunchtime, I saw a Comma, a Small White

and 8 Speckled Woods. Later in the afternoon, at nearby Warrender Park, Eastcote, I saw a Peacock, a Common Blue, a Gatekeeper, 4 Small Skippers and at least 4 Small Whites within 15 minutes - Paul Busby

Today Tuesday 22nd July 2014 - 8 Comma nectaring on burdock at Flash Lane Aqueduct, Whitewebbs Park at 10:35 hrs; 3 Peacock nectaring on burdock at Flash Lane Aqueduct, Whitewebbs Park at 10:35 hrs, also another 2 nectaring on thistles at Whitewebbs Park; 1 Small Tortoiseshell nectaring on thistles at Whitewebbs Park at 10:47 hrs; 1 Small Copper nectaring on thistles at Whitewebbs Park at 10:50 hrs; 1 Peacock at Hilly Fields Park, Enfield at 11:04 hrs - Robert Callf.

Just to let you know that I found a wing of a purple emperor in Stubbins Wood in Tring. The woodland is behind West Leith in Tring near Tring Park and is managed by Dacorum Borough Council. I had a look around but couldn't find any adult flying just one worn wing on the main path - Jez Perkins

Monday 21st July 2014

I was walking above the main gravel pit at Tyttenhanger today, when a small dark grey butterfly flew out of the long grass so quickly by me that I was unable to trace it. Do you think that it could have been a Small Blue here at Tyttenhanger? Other butterflies were 2 Large Skipper, 3 Essex Skipper, 2 Small Skipper, 2 Marbled White, 1 Small Heath, 1 Red Admiral, 9 Peacock, 6 Green Veined White, 4 Small White, 8 Meadow Brown, and Gatekeepers too numerous to count - Terry Wood

Sunday 20th July 2014

19 people turned up at Heartwood to enjoy a pleasant walk with 16 species seen highlights were 3 small coopers, brown argus, red admiral, all 3 skippers, common blues, speckled wood, small tortoiseshell, peacocks, marbled whites, large white, GV white, small white and big numbers of meadow brown and ringlets - Andrew Steele

Morning walk on Sunday 20th July 2014, in Broxbourne Woods following main spine walk on through Cowheath Wood into Brambles Wood and then down into Danemead Wood. Silver-washed fritillary common (TL 324071, TL 326073, TL 328074, and in various places in Danemead approx TL 344078). As someone who started looking for butterflies locally in 1977 (and now lives in South Wales) it is rather amazing to see silver washed Frits in Herts. In the last 70's there were none. Great to see three white admiral feeding on bramble flowers in Danemead (two were rather dull, not not ragged, but the third looked very fresh and new). No purple emperors, but just the thought that they now live in the oak/hornbeam woods of SE Herts and even Enfield's Whitewebbs Wood is frankly amazing. Also lots of peacocks, good numbers of ringlet, m.browns, a few gatekeepers, and ones and twos of red admirals, small tortoiseshells, commas (including one which was pursued amorously by a male silver washed frit), speckled woods (which again - at least as far as I was concerned- were not found locally in 1977, although conversely and rather sadly we seem to have lost the once ever present wall) and some green veined whites. Richard and Sue Wistow

Visited the old Rivers orchard/nursery site today 09.15-10.30 in a limited walk(to many loose dogs), 46 Small/Essex skipper(enjoying the new long sward)(only one I could get close enough to was def Essex) 4 Green veined white, 1 Common blue(male)(not enjoying the new long sward) 2 Peacock, 26 Gatekeeper, 8 Ringlet and 50+ Meadow brown. Went to Rickneys PM, 1 Purple emperor still on territory at Bardon clumps, also 1 Brown argus and 3 Marbled white - Laurence Drummond

A longish walk north of Baldock today, plenty of butterflies but two highlights. 2 Painted Ladies on a field margin south of Newnham and 2 male Chalkhill Blues in a large very flowery area just east of Baldock between the bypass and the Royston Road. I guess wanderers from Therfield Heath. I was actually surprised at the low number of butterflies in this area which is full of knapweed, scabious and marjoram. Andrew Wood

Thorley Wash noon today, too warm and humid to count butterflies in general but in about 12 minutes along the path between enclosures and old river River Stort counted 30 peacocks nectaring on teasel (Actual number on the nature reserve I would estimate at a minimum of 200), 12 green veined white flying over nettle/ willow scrub, 2 small tortoiseshells and singles of large white, meadow brown, comma, red admiral, common blue, and large skipper. Lucky to disturb from the side of path within the reserve a fresh and pretty little lattice heath moth. Crossing the

neglected meadow outside the nature reserve to return to the main road saw many small/essex skippers flying fast and a few meadow browns and gatekeepers.. Len Crouch

Saturday 19th July 2014

This week in Kings Langley garden, Large White, a few Peacocks, several Small Tortoiseshell, Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown, Ringlet, and yesterday a Small Skipper. On the window a huge moth gave me enough time to identify it with a photo from outside. It was a fresh Broad Bordered Yellow Underwing moth! We visited Aldbury Nowers on Friday in early evening to the lower field along the hedge; nectaring on brambles were Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown, and a Silver Washed Fritillary. Plenty of Meadow Brown, Marbled White and Small Skipper varieties in the grasses. Skippers love the colour of my purple floral skirt as they sit on it to rest. My husband saw a Small Copper. No Brown Argus or Blues in that lower field this visit. Earlier in the week at Ivinghoe Beacon just before sunset we saw some roosting Blues, probably Chalkhill and some Marbled Whites.. Happy hunting - Elizabeth Debenham

St Albans - 8 Small Tortoiseshells have gone into hibernation in my out-house during the last week, though there are still two on the flowers in the garden this afternoon. I also noticed Peacocks searching for suitable hibernating spots this week, with one spending the night in my kitchen on Thursday - wisely it has decided not to come back. So if you want to get hibernating butterflies in your shed its a good time to clear away the cobwebs and leave the door/window open to attract them in - Malcolm Hull

BROXBORNE COMMON, 1 Purple emperor on territory in the gap at the western end, 18.23 (night shift!). PERRY GREEN, 1 very worn and washed out Painted lady near the church, 19.34 - Laurence Drummond

Friday 18th July 2014

For 17 July field trip: Seven of us in all turned up for the field trip to Norton Green although I arrived earlier at 0930 to put some crab paste (no shrimp paste at Asda!) on some low-lying leaves around the open area in the hope of attracting the Purple Emperor. No luck there or anywhere else this morning but we had a satisfying day with the warmth, light winds and intermittent sunshine. The highlights were some fresh looking Silver-washed Fritillaries (male and female) on the common and Purple Hairstreaks on the south eastern edge of Watery Grove. A fellow butterfly enthusiast, Lee, carried out an experiment (which he also attempted yesterday) by spraying some diluted honey solution on some of the lower leaves of the tall and nearest oak tree to the opening to the big open field, to tempt the Purple Hairstreaks down because of the apparent absence of honeydew on the tree leaves. Within minutes of meeting Lee at about 1130am, we were treated with a beautiful male Purple Hairstreak opening its wings on an oak leaf just above eye-level. Overall, between 1030 and 1300, we saw 19 species: 30+ Gatekeepers, 30+ Ringlets, 5+ Large Whites, 5+ Small Whites, 2 Green-veined Whites, 30+ Meadow Browns, 10+ Marbled Whites, 5+ Small Skippers, 2+ Essex Skippers, 50+ Small/Essex Skippers, 1 Large Skipper, 2 Common Blues, 1 Small Copper (very fresh), 5+ Silver-washed Fritillaries, 5+ Purple Hairstreaks, 3+ Peacocks, 2 Red Admirals, 5 Commas, 2 Small Tortoiseshells and a Brimstone. - Peter Clarke and Bob Clift

16th July - an Essex Skipper on lavender in my front garden in Letchworth Garden City - Jill Sawyer

Therfield Heath, Royston - Chalkhill Blues are close to their peak right now and put on a good show for my visit today with over 1,400 recorded. This is a large site and CHBs were seen in most areas at low concentrations. Church Hill and the Rifle Range/ Upper Rifle Range being the hot spots. I saw over 1,000 CHBs within an hour at the latter site. Mostly males were seen with females accounting for only 10 - 15 per cent of individuals recorded. Wild Thyme is the most favoured nectar source, with one extensive patch attracting over 100 CHBs. I also saw 20 male CHBs clustered together feeding on excrement. Dark Green Fritillaries still out with 8 recorded, some looking rather tatty. The only other blue recorded was a single Brown Argus. The small dark butterfly on one of the extensive patches of Kidney Vetch turned out to be a very small female CHB - Malcolm Hull

Thursday 17th July 2014

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards Extreme heat and humidity had an enervating effect on me so just the shorter walk today. Some of the butterflies starting to look a little tired too: Speckled

Wood: 9 Gatekeeper: 86 Meadow Brown: 44 Ringlet: 4 Small Skipper: 57 Peacock: 17 Common Blue: 7 Small White: 2 - Pete Gore

Despite nationally talk that the season is winding down....went to the Northaw Assembly area arriving just after 2.20, and everything seemed very quiet and I thought perhaps 'they' are right. However at 2.40, I was just looking up through my binoculars at a butterfly perched high up thinking it was a Purple Hairstreak and realising it was a Comma when through my binoculars I saw a Purple Emperor fly over. Followed about ten minutes later by a second individual. Numerous clashes and flights continued until I left just after 3 - Liz Goodyear

A few more sightings for today Thursday 17th July 2014 - 1 Comma nectaring on buddleia near Oakwood entrance, Trent Park at 11:00 hrs; 8 Peacock at Trent Park (3 nectaring on buddleia near Oakwood entrance at 11:07 hrs, 2 nectaring on thistles Sect 8, 'New Fields' at 11:20 hrs, 3 nectaring on buddleia Sect 6 'New Fields' at 11:29 hrs); 1 Small Copper near Triangular Wood, Trent Park at 11:15 hrs; 1 Red Admiral Sect 8 'New Fields' Trent Park at 11:19 hrs, also saw c10 Six-spot Burnet at 'New Fields' Trent Park - did not identify any Narrow-bordered Five-spots. - Robert Callf

My garden backs onto woodland (the Nickey Line), and today about 14.30 pm I had a purple hairstreak settled on flowering lobelia - a first for my garden - Roger Thornhill

Whilst surveying at Thorley Wash today we saw a brown argus and a marbled white - a new record for the reserve. There were also lots of small tortoiseshells and peacocks. - Jenny Sherwen

Bourne End - 2 White-letter hairstreaks; Aldbury Nowers Brown Argus (8), Silver-washed Fritillaries (13), Dark Green Fritillaries (6), Common Blue (1) and Brimstones (8). Good numbers of Skippers, with a majority of those checked being Essex - Malcolm Hull

Saw 1 Marbled White at Parkside Farm (TQ2998) on Res banking yesterday afternoon Wednesday 16th July 2014 at 17:11 hrs. Today Thursday 17th July 2014 early morning walk produced 1 Common Blue in flight at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 07:49 hrs. - Robert Callf

Wednesday 16th July 2014

At Verulamium Park on the 14th had 1 Marbled White, 20+ Meadow Browns, 15+ Gatekeepers, 10+ Peacocks, 6 Commas and 10 + Large Whites and 3 Small Whites - Andrew Steele

My first Holly Blue of the year at Six Hills (Common) at 0915 hours feeding on ragwort - Peter Clarke

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane Small White: 3 Speckled Wood: 9 Meadow Brown: 56 Comma: 3 Gatekeeper: 104 Common Blue: 5 Red Admiral: 3 Peacock: 19 Small Skipper: 60 Ringlet: 5 Small Heath: 1 Green-Veined White: 2 - Pete Gore

Hundreds of Chalkhill Blues at Hexton chalk pit today with males outnumbering females about 50 to 1, the other highlight being a single Dark-green Fritillary - Robin Pearson

St Albans - Highlights from today included: Peacocks & Gatekeepers everywhere; seeing Small Blue at Butterfly World (with Louise Hawkins) - 5 second generation individuals, including one female egg laying on a new Kidney Vetch flowerhead. just coming into bloom - we searched and found the egg and also a second egg on another similar flowerhead nearby; at Nomansland Common, 3 Common Blues, Small Copper & Small Heath; at Symonshyde/Titnol's Wood a Purple Hairstreak (rare sight this year) plus a Peacock on-top of an Oak in the master tree grove, impersonating a Purple Emperor (sadly no sign of the Emperor itself at this site) - Malcolm Hull

Lots of Gatekeepers across London at moment. After working in South London, I visited Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park, Mile End, London early afternoon and saw 36+ Gatekeepers, 16+ Small/Essex Skippers, 14+ Small White, 1 Large White, 2 Common Blue, only 2 Meadow Brown, a Comma, 5 Speckled wood and a male Brimstone butterfly. Then at the other end of the Central Line at Bridgewater Fields, Ruislip Gardens, Middlesex, I saw a further 24+ Gatekeepers including one pair, 2 Small Skippers, plus a further 16+Small/Essex Skippers, 3 Speckled Woods, 7+ Small Whites, a Green-veined White and then 3 Commas along the banks of the nearby Yeading brook - Paul Busby

Tuesday 15th July 2014

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards A unique sighting of a butterfly inside the Cavalry Tunnel (where it was disturbed by a cyclist, I think) was probably a Peacock. I wonder if they hibernate in the (relatively) closed part of it which seems to be entered only by graffiti artists of varied skills. Here are the other details: Meadow Brown: 55 Gatekeeper: 110 Small Skipper: 54 Peacock: 13 Speckled Wood: 12 Ringlet: 6 Comma: 2 Common Blue: 7 (2m,5f -unusual) Red Admiral: 3 Small White: 1 Marbled White: 1 Green-Veined White: 1 - Pete Gore

A few selected sightings for today Tuesday 15th July 2014 - 1 Marbled White at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 09:55 hrs; 1 Peacock near Stables at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 10:23 hrs; 4 Peacock edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park on and around thistles at 11:58 hrs; 2 Comma edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park on thistles at 11:58 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell on thistles Uni-lawns, Trent Park at 12:13 hrs; 1 Peacock on thistles Uni-lawns, Trent Park at 12:13 hrs; 3 Small Copper at Trent Park - 1st of the summer-brood (1 Uni-lawns at 12:22 hrs, 1 near Dew Ond at 12:35 hrs, 1 set-aside field near Williams Wood at 12:41 hrs); 1 Small Tortoiseshell edge of Icehouse Wood, Trent Park at 12:25 hrs; 2 Peacock edge of Icehouse Wood, Trent Park at 12:28 hrs; 1 Comma edge of Icehouse Wood, Trent Park at 12:29 hrs - Robert Callf/Robin White.

Open fields near Wallington, beetle bank at TL286335. Marbled White, Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper, Ringlet, Large and Small Skipper, Small Tortoiseshell, Red Admiral, Small White Nigel Agar

Whilst working at Thorley Wash today we saw 1 painted lady, 2 small coppers, 1 male brimstone and lots of fresh peacock butterflies! Jenny Sherwen

During a working party lunchtime break on the River Pinn, Ickenham TQ072871 near proposed HS2 Rail Link, we saw 2 Small Tortoiseshells, a Peacock, a Comma, a Gatekeeper, a Small skipper and a Ringlet. Back home in my Eastcote Garden, 2 Speckled Woods, Red Admiral, Gatekeeper and a Comma visited - Paul Busby

Monday 14th July 2014

We visited Hertford this week-end staying at the camp site near Balls park on Saturday 12th in the camp site we had great views of (we managed to count 6 at one time) White-letter Hairstreaks in a lime tree. On the Sunday 13th we visited Broxbourne Wood Purple Emperor and Purple Hairstreak in the car park, more Emperor's and Hairstreak's plus White Admiral, Silver-washed Fritillary on the walk not sure of post code or map ref but will try to get them if required. A great week-end I hope others will get to see them and enjoy as much as we did. Adrian Buckel

The other day when I was walking through my local park (Cassiobury Park in Watford, Hertfordshire) I was surprised to see a male purple emperor butterfly. I accidentally disturbed it when I started to walk across a bridge (it had been sunning itself on the handrail) and I stopped to watch it for quite a while. After a little while it was joined by a female purple emperor and they flew together for a while before the female flew off. The male kept landing in various places (including my leg) and then flying off to be joined by the female again. It is the first time I've ever seen a purple emperor butterfly but it was so easy to identify - - Vicky Jarman

Hemel Hempstead garden. Something a bit special to report today. I was away today but my son David who is keeping an eye on the garden for me photographed a female Purple Emperor which alighted on a watering can at 13.42 p.m. My garden backs on to a very small area of woodland so this totally unexpected visitor must be a wanderer from I know not where. As I have planted numerous shrubs and plants specifically to attract butterflies I am a bit miffed that this lifetime best chose to pose on such a mundane object! (*and when Malcolm was not at home!!*) - Malcolm Newland

Saturday 12th July - Broxbourne woods. Excellent sightings of 6 White Admiral, including the unusual sight of one drinking the fluids from a dead horsefly (no one mourned the loss of that one) under a leaf. Lots (20+) silver washed Fritillary, 6 marbled whites, 2 common blue, + many Ringlets, meadow browns, gatekeepers. 5 purple hairstreak, but no purple emperor. Not seen any at Broxbourne this year. Did a walk from Stansted Abbots to Widford yesterday Monday 14th July Stansted Abbots on the fields at the top of the village 30+ small tortoiseshell, enjoying the thistles 20+ peacock, 5 red admiral 5 comma 16 essex skippers 2 small skippers 3 large skipper 3 common blue 2 brown argus. + many ringlet, meadow brown, gatekeeper. More to follow in due course - Phil Macmurdie

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane Good butterfly conditions again with noticeably more whites around especially across the Heath.(Under-counted as usual) I didn't walk on Sunday but did get a Holly Blue visiting my garden so not completely butterfly-less! Monday's Sightings: Speckled Wood: 14 Gatekeeper: 133 Small White: 6 Holly Blue: 2 Tortoiseshell: 2 Peacock: 12 Small Skipper: 68 Meadow Brown: 39 Red Admiral: 6 Common Blue: 6 Comma: 7 Green-Veined White: 3 Ringlet: 3 Small Heath: 1 - Pete Gore

A few butterflies and moths to report - Saturday 12th July 2014 - 1 Red Admiral at Park Farm, Enfield at 15:36 hrs and 1 Painted Lady at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 17:20 hrs, also two male Oak Eggar (1 at Park Farm, Enfield at 16:40 hrs, 1 at Lakeside, EN2 at 18:15 hrs) and 4 Six-spot Burnet at Parkside Farm on Res banking. Today Monday 14th July 2014 - 1 Small Tortoiseshell on neighbours buddleia at N14 and 1 Comma on buddleia at Broomfield Park, Palmers Green, N13 at 09:43 hrs, also here (but not on buddleia) 1 Large White at 10:06 hrs and 1 Speckled Wood at 10:38 hrs. - Robert Callf Poles Lane, Thundridge, The following seen this morning feeding on Buddleia in garden. Comma x 1, Peacock x 5, Red Admiral, x 6, Large White x 3, Small Tortoiseshell x 3 - Julie Wise

Lunchtime visit to Copse Wood, Ruislip and saw 4 Speckled Wood, 2 Green-veined White, 3 Gatekeeper and a Ringlet. Then onto Poors Field, Ruislip Common seeing 3 Comma, a Peacock, 12+ Gatekeepers, 2 Speckled Wood, 3 Meadow Brown, a Ringlet and 18+ Small/Essex Skippers. On the return trip, crossed road to Mad Bess Woods and saw a Purple Hairstreak, Peacock, 2 Ringlets, 4 Gatekeepers, Green-veined White and 2 Meadow Brown and finally onto the field on Ducks Hill next to wood, where there were 8 Marbled Whites, 6 Small Skippers, a Ringlet and 35+ Meadow Brown - Paul Busby

Went back to Merryhill Fields, Bushey just after 6 pm. Noted sightings = 62 x meadow brown, 24 x marbled white, 1 x small white, 26 x gatekeeper, 35 x marbled white, 14 x small skipper, 1 x essex skipper, 2 x peacock, 2 x ringlet. Moths were 67 x yellow shell, 13 x shaded broad bar, 13 x crambus periella. - David Gower

Waterford heath south a picture with all the goats rhue and ragwort out. plenty of ringlets, gatekeepers, peacocks, small whites and small tortoiseshells. Yet to see a clouded yellow but saw a silver washed fritillary in settling beds area- Steve Kiln

Went to Rickneys today to follow up Liz's Purple emperor sightings yesterday, started looking around Bardon clumps at 11.30, watching the fallow, s and wood edge but no emperors were seen, at 12.50 I started watching canopy gaps along the eastern edge of the wood but by 13.15 had seen nothing, I then looked at a gap a bit further in and immediately saw a Purple emperor fly across the side of a big Oak(13.17) it made two more flights up to 13.30, leisurely around the gap, both times perching high up on the largest Oak, I stayed until 14.00 but no further activity was seen. Also here earlier were 6 Gatekeepers, 4 Small skipper, 3 Marbled white, 3 Comma, 5 Peacock, 2 Red admiral, 1 Brimstone (male) 1 Common blue(male) and 1 Brown argus - Laurence Drummond

Sunday 13th July 2014

A late report from Heartwood of a Small Blue on the 21st of June - Andrew Steele

Return visit to Therfield Heath near Royston (TL337399) on 12th July at 14.15 for about 45 minutes. Warm (25-26 degrees) and light winds. Large numbers of Chalkhill Blue (200+). There was a swarm of 50-60 individuals a few metres in from the road, opposite the car park. They tended to all fly and land at the same time. Three sightings of Dark Green Fritillary - at least two different individuals. Good numbers of Marbled White, Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown and Six Spot Burnet Moth - Patricia Clegg

We saw 3 Purple Emperors sparring above the tree tops at the Ruislip Woods St Vincent site between about 1pm and 3.30pm on Saturday 12 July. One repeatedly returned to the same vantage point on a sprig that was standing above the general mass of leaves on the favoured oak tree giving good sustained views. - Sue and Steve Place

7th July Pix Brook Meadow (off Cowslip Hill, Letchworth Garden City) one Small Copper - the first I've seen this year. 10th July Wilbury Hills Picnic Area, Stotfold Road, Letchworth GC. Still plenty of Meadow Brown, Ringlets, Marbled Whites, Large and Small Skippers (at least 5+ of these). The

first Gatekeeper I've seen this year. There were also loads of Cinnabar Moth caterpillars. - Jill Sawyer

During a narrow-boat trip and towpath hike with 18 children, we saw 4 Comma, 1 Small White, 2 Red Admirals, a Peacock and 3 Speckled Woods between Coppermill Lock, Harefield and Tesco's, Rickmansworth and back again - Paul Busby

Today in Stocking Pelham ; numerous small tortoiseshells, some whites, a large skipper, meadow browns and a painted lady- Andy Brown HMWT

1 x small tortoiseshell and 1 x holly blue seen briefly in Bushey garden this afternoon - David Gower

Bricket Wood Common, St Albans - Branch Field Trip. Despite the poor forecast 17 people assembled for today's trip. Not many butterflies seen in the first hour, but after that we saw Red Admiral, White Admiral (around 12 in total) & multiple Ringlets, Peacocks, Meadow Browns & a few Gatekeepers, Speckled Woods, Green-veined Whites and Large Skippers. Once the sun came out Silver-washed Fritillaries appeared with several males & females seen. A few Purple Hairstreaks were flitting around the tops of the trees, when a large butterfly flew across the ride and landed in an oak 20 ft off the ground. After much peering through binoculars we agreed it was either a White Admiral or a Purple Emperor, but after 15 mins it raised its wings & then took off - clearly an Emperor, as it flew across the rideside scallop it was intercepted by both a male Silver-washed Fritillary and a probable second Purple Emperor. Continuing into the clearing we added Small & Essex Skippers, Marbled White, Comma, Large White and Brimstone, as well as finding a White Admiral feeding on dog poo. After lunch a few of us headed for Mutchetts Wood, where a few brief glimpses of Purple Emperor were seen high in the oak canopy. While I was finishing my lunch Chris Newman had a clear view of two males clashing. Later at Folly Lane, St Albans, Small Whites and Small Tortoiseshells both out in force plus a Ruby Tiger & Cinnabar Moth. The other sightings this weekend worth mentioning, both from my transect walk on Bricket Wood Common yesterday. The first was a female Dark Green Fritillary, nectaring in the main clearing. An unusual record, I've not recorded one here before and the last record from this site appears to have been in the late 1940's. Close-by I saw a fresh looking female Brimstone egg laying on an unfurling Alder Buckthorn leaf, perhaps a sign that this species is having a partial second generation? - Malcolm Hull

A Chocolate Pansy butterfly seen by Geoff Owen at Ruislip Woods - please note this isn't the first unusual sighting there this year

Whilst walking along the public footpath between Rickneys Quarry and Bardon Clumps this afternoon, a Purple Emperor flew over!!! Later one seen flying around an adjacent oak. I had gone there to look for emperors but hadn't expected it to be that easy. Earlier at High Cross a new emerged Brown Argus - Liz Goodyear

Saturday 12th July 2014

In a quick walk in Symondshyde Great Wood had 6+ Silver-washed Fritillaries with 1 egg laying, 2 Commas, 20+ Ringlets, 15+ large Whites, 10+ meadow Browns, 15+ Gatekeepers, 2 Peacock 3 Marbled Whites and 3 Large Skippers. At Tyttenhanger Gravel Pits 1 Red Admiral, 1 Common Blue, 1 Speckled Woods 5 Commas, 10+ Small Tortoiseshell, 15+ Peacocks 20+ Large Skipper 10 + Small Skippers, 15 + Marbled Whites, 10 + Green-veined Whites, 15+ Large Whites 30+ Gatekeepers 50 + Meadow Browns, 30 + Ringlets - Andrew Steele

At Fishers Field, Bushey in morning = 1 x speckled wood, 7 x meadow brown, 11 x marbled white, 31 x Essex skipper, 26 x small skipper (lost 1 sunglass reading lens while carried away with it's) 1 x large skipper, 14 x gatekeeper, 2 x large white, 2 x small tortoiseshell, 3 x comma, 3 x large white, 1 x silver y, 5 x 6 spot burnet. In afternoon at friend's garden in Walthamstow = 18 x small white, 4 x large white, 2 x comma, 1 x holly blue. A lot of sightings compared with bushey garden despite plenty of butterfly friendly plants, could it be that so many gardens around here are concrete? - David Gower

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane As soon as I saw a Gatekeeper appreciating the morning sun in my garden I guessed this would be a day to see a lot of butterflies. I was not disappointed other than by being unable to get out earlier. Here are the details: Gatekeeper: 118 Green-Veined White: 2 Meadow Brown: 61 Small Skipper: 115 Small Copper: 1 Red Admiral: 5 Ringlet: 3 Peacock: 11 Holly Blue: 2 Comma: 2 Common Blue: 3 Speckled Wood: 12 Large White: 1 Marbled

White: 1 Brimstone: 1 Tortoiseshell: 2 Painted Lady: 1 Small White: 1 Whites commoner than my numbers show. Other high numbers no doubt significantly under-counted. - Pete Gore

This morning at about 11.30 a Purple Emperor visited my garden in Bishop's Stortford. It settled on the ground close to the chicken run and stayed for several minutes. This was long enough for my wife to find her tablet and take some photos. It then settled on her jumper before flying off. - Bob Stroud

A 2-hour stint (1030 am - 1230 pm) at Norton Green today yielded 15 species: 5+ Large Whites, 100+ Ringlets, 3 Commas, 10+ Gatekeepers, 10+ Meadow Browns, 5+ Large Skippers, Red Admiral, 10+ Small Whites, 5+ Purple Hairstreaks, 2 Marbled Whites, 10+ Small/Essex Skippers, 2 Small Skippers, 1 Essex Skipper, 3 Small Tortoiseshells, 5+ Speckled Woods and 1 male Silver-washed Fritillary (no females seen here yet). Peter Clarke

Friday 11th July 2014

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards Rain in the morning and cloud thereafter meant that I wasn't too surprised when I crossed the Heath without seeing a single butterfly and only 1 unidentified Brown and 1 unidentified White before reaching the Cavalry Tunnel. Thereafter as the afternoon advanced sightings steadily improved with the highlight being a very fresh looking male Common Blue. The wind strengthened later which meant that I ended up with a rather peculiar set of sightings entirely limited to the Marshalling Yards: Gatekeeper: 56 Meadow Brown: 38 Small Skipper: 24 Common Blue: 1 Speckled Wood: 1 Peacock: 1 Ringlet: 1 A few Whites around were uncooperative in aiding identification. - Pete Gore

Following the drizzle and cloudy, blustery day, I went for a 20 minute stroll to Cheyne Field, Eastcote and I saw an Emperor Dragonfly, 1 Green-veined White, 1 Gatekeeper and just 3 Ringlet and 4 Meadow Brown - Paul Busby

Thursday 10th July 2014

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane A complete walk in cloudy conditions, taking longer now because there are so many butterflies to record. The yellow-flowered alien, Reflexed Stonecrop (*Sedum rupestre*) is having a particularly good year on the Marshalling Yards and each patch of this attracts multiple numbers of several species. Sightings: Meadow Brown: 50 Small Skipper: 54 Ringlet: 5 Gatekeeper: 105 Speckled Wood: 8 Comma: 6 Red Admiral: 3 Large White: 1 Holly Blue: 1 Tortoiseshell: 3 Peacock: 3 - Pete Gore

Half-hour stroll around Long Meadow, Eastcote at lunchtime after working party on a cloudy, blustery day and I saw a Gatekeeper, Ringlet, Speckled Wood and 16+ Meadow Brown then onto Park Woods, Eastcote, Middlesex walking from Fore Street entrance to Haste Hill and back again and I saw a Peacock, Red Admiral, Purple Hairstreak, 2+ Large Skipper, 2+ Small/Essex Skipper, Green-Veined White, 4 Speckled Wood, 50+ Ringlets and 30 + Meadow Brown, although no Purple Emperor activity - Paul Busby

Wednesday 9th July 2014

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards Despite cloud and wind and a lot of overnight rain there continues to be very large numbers of butterflies around although with rapidly declining numbers of Ringlets: Tortoiseshell: 3 Ringlet: 2 Meadow Brown: 50 Comma: 4 Gatekeeper: 66 Small White: 2 Small Skipper: 55 Red Admiral: 1 Speckled Wood: 6 Peacock: 3 Holly Blue: 1 Small Heath: 1 - Pete Gore

During our lunch break (1300-1320) on conservation work today we spotted a Purple Emperor making several flights, chasing Purple Hairstreaks and also resting at the top of an oak tree at the Mount Pleasant End of the Goldingtons Wood section of Hertford Heath (TL354114). There are three tall trees just behind the HMWT reserve sign, easily scanned from the small area of gravel parking just past the small area of grassland on which the sign stands. The favoured tree was the left hand one looking from the parking space. A white Admiral also in the wood further down towards Haileybury. On Tuesday 8th, a White-letter Hairstreak on a thistle flower by GSK's car park at Ware - Andrew Wood

I had a walk this afternoon behind the Services at Mymms Wash. I saw 4 Marbled White (first I've ever seen here), 1 Peacock, 7 Small White, 1 Large White, 8 Small Tortoiseshell, 9 Comma, 4 Ringlet, 1 Gatekeeper, 2 Meadow Brown, 4 Small Skipper. - Terry Wood

Last week, I saw the first Gatekeepers and a pristine Peacock at Norton Green on 3 July but am still waiting for the elusive Purple Emperor. - Peter Clarke

A few sightings to report today Wednesday 9th July 2014 - 2 Small Skipper together on thistles, Sidhil's Field, Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 09:20 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Barracks, Vicarage Farm at 09:36 hrs; 1 Comma settled on wooden fencing near Williams Wood, Trent Park at 10:23 hrs; 2, male and female, Gatekeeper copulating at Parkside Farm, Enfield on Res banking at 10:48 hrs; 1 Red Admiral at Park Farm, Enfield at 11:29 hrs; 1 Peacock near Duncan's Wood, Enfield Chase at 11:36 hrs; 3 Red Admiral at Trent Park (2 buddleia near Lower Lake, 12:05 hrs, 1 near Dew Pond at 12:31 hrs); 2 Purple Hairstreak settled on Ash, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park at 12:35 hrs - Robert Callf/Robin White.

Last week I saw a few small tortoiseshells and meadow browns in Barnes Lane, Kings Langley. This weekend my husband saw a red admiral and tortoiseshell and meadow brown in Kings Langley garden on Buddleia. Yesterday 8th July, I saw a ringlet and two small tortoiseshells in the garden. Today I saw a peacock and gatekeeper in KL. At Bunkers Lane in the evening there were at least a dozen scattered roosting marbled whites, but not a spectacular number like previous years, one meadow brown and two small skippers. The knapweed and other flowers at Longdeans are very dried up this year except the marjoram which is attracting marbled whites and smells wonderful in full bloom. Cinnabar caterpillars were clustered on a single ragwort. Elizabeth Debenham

Tuesday 8th July 2014

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards. Luckier with my walk, avoiding thunder showers completely. Inevitably this meant more butterflies although I would appreciate a bit more variety: Meadow Brown: 39 Small Skipper: 40 Ringlet: 13 Gatekeeper: 62 Speckled Wood: 3 Tortoiseshell: 1 Peacock: 2 Small Heath: 1 Comma: 1 Small White: 2 - Pete Gore

Purple Emperors active in Broxbourne Woods on 30 June. White Admiral in Hertford Heath on the right spur after the T junction. On bramble/raspberry patch - Nigel Agar

I saw a Red Admiral, a Meadow Brown and a Small White at the edge of Highgrove Wood, Eastcote, Middlesex, whilst on a morning working party. Then walking home through the adjacent wild flower area of Warrender Park, I saw my first Common Blue for a few weeks and 5 Small White, 4 Small Tortoiseshells, 4 Meadow Brown, 2 Ringlet and an Essex Skipper - Paul Busby

Monday 7th July 2014

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards A walk that began in favourable sunny conditions on the Heath but was interrupted by a heavy rain shower at the Crane bridge. I was eventually able to dry off on the Marshalling Yards and had time to note how quickly the butterflies, especially Skippers, react to sun before deciding correctly that more rain was on the way and I'd seen enough for one day: Green-Veined White: 2 Tortoiseshell: 1 Comma: 2 Small Skipper: 45 Meadow Brown: 15 Ringlet: 3 Gatekeeper: 16 Small Heath: 1 Speckled Wood: 3 Large White: 1 Holly Blue: 2 - Pete Gore

A few selected sightings for today Monday 7th July 2014 - 1 Comma at Sidhil's Field, Vicarage Farm at 09:22 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Sidhil's Field, Vicarage Farm at 09:25 hrs; 1 Red Admiral at Park Farm, Enfield at 11:21 hrs; 1 Peacock along Jubilee Path at Park Farm, Enfield at 11:52 hrs - a freshly emerged one - Robert Callf/Robin White.

I thought it time to register I'm still plodding round my Warren transect by reporting on this afternoon's visit. Unfortunately the sky clouded over as I set out, accompanied a light shower, so I was off to a slow start. It soon brightened up & I recorded 58 Meadow Brown, 65 Marbled White, 14 Ringlet, 14 Gatekeeper, 31 Small Skipper, 5 Small Heath, 4 Small White, 11 Large Skipper, 1 Purple Hairstreak. Meadow Browns could be under-stated - resting Marbled Whites obligingly sit at the tops of grasses so are more conspicuous. They only arrived about 5 years ago & numbers are still building. Ringlets are also relatively recent arrivals. Small Skippers wouldn't sit long enough for me to check for the Essex strain, but they are usually present. Sadly the site is scrubbing over rapidly. Last year's grand 5 yr plan to remove scrub & introduce light summer grazing was presumably scuppered by opposition. There was little management until June when unfortunately a margin upto 30m wide on 2 sides was mown, causing me to modify my route to cover the tall margins to which all life had retreated. The mowing could explain why Blues are well down on earlier this year (none again this week) & Small Heath numbers are low. Despite all this the

(painful) highlight was standing shoulder high in a huge Nettle/Thistle bed watching at eye level Marbled Whites, Meadow Brown & others nectaring avidly in brilliant sunshine, while Dragonflies patrolled overhead. And there are loads of small Moths & baby Grasshoppers. - John Moss

I took a walk at Bricket Wood Common today and saw 6 Silver Washed Fritillary, 4 White Admiral, 15 Marbled White, 1 Peacock, 25 Ringlet, 8 Skipper (mainly Small), 6 Meadow Brown, and 7 Whites. News from Friday 4th July : I took a walk at Fir & Pond Woods primarily for dragonflies at the ponds, but counted 12 Marbled Whites (in the meadow area), 14 Ringlets, 6 Meadow Brown, 1 Large Skipper, 1 Small Skipper, 1 Comma, 2 Speckled Wood, and 4 Small White. On my way out of the woods I stopped off in the cornfield and was soon able to watch 2 Purple Emperors chasing above the 'bonsai tree' tops of the oak trees opposite - Terry Wood

Sunday 6th July 2014

In Balls Wood briefly today (6th) - a few ringlets, meadow browns and skippers then finally rewarded by a white admiral despite the dull weather - Andy Brown HMWT

Saw a Red Admiral on my neighbours buddleia, N14 this afternoon Sunday 6th July 2014 at 13:20 hrs. - Robert Callf

Bricket Wood, St Albans - 4 sightings of Purple Emperor today - 13.06 - male flying slowly along the top of the oak canopy alongside the railway through Mutchetts Wood. 13.37 - male flew across the canopy gap in the wood & back again 8 mins later. 14.20 - female on Sallow around head high in the main ride on the Common. Perched a couple of times allowing close views and continued exploring Sallows, though no signs of egg laying observed. This is the first time I've had a positive ID of a female at this site. Two other new species for this year flying today - Gatekeeper and Purple Hairstreak, both in low numbers. Silver-washed Fritillary (9) & White Admiral (10) both out in force & still looking fresh. ***Join me for the annual walk across the site next Sunday, details on the "Walks & Talks" section of the website*** - Malcolm Hull

Today (6th July), I saw about 30 Small Skipper, 20 Meadow Brown, 3 Small White, 1 Large White and a Ringlet in the wildlife area of Roxeth Recreation Ground (HA2 8LE). This is the first time I've seen a Ringlet in South Harrow. - Michael Robinson

Visited Horsenden Hill today and found = 1 x white letter hairstreak, 2 x ringlet, 12 x large skipper, 16 x marbled white, 8 x small white, 18 x gatekeeper (first this year), 19 x small skipper, 5 x Essex skipper, 5 x large white, 6 x comma, 1 x small tortoiseshell, 107 x meadow brown. At least 50 more skippers not identified. Moths seen were 3 x celypha rivulana, 5 x cinnabar, 3 x yellow shell, 1 x narrow bordered 5 spot burnet, 1 x 6 spot burnet, 1 x small magpie. - David Gower

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards A similar walk to Saturday but a little later with some sun and no rain, all of which meant more butterflies. An unusual sighting: the forewings and head of a Ringlet on one of the paths. Here are the details: Meadow Brown: 22 Ringlet 7.5 Small Skipper: 19 Comma: 7 Speckled Wood: 6 Gatekeeper: 18 Red Admiral: 1 Small White: 6 Tortoiseshell: 3 In my last report I seem to have assigned the road I walk down every day to the wrong saint. Should be Stephen the Martyr not John the miscellaneous. - Pete Gore

Saturday 5th July 2014

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards. A shorter walk in cloud and light rain. I made no attempt to look for roosting butterflies and stayed out of the meadows but a good number of species and individuals visible: Peacock: 1 Meadow Brown: 12 Comma: 1 Red Admiral: 1 Speckled Wood: 2 Gatekeeper: 2 Ringlet: 3 Green-Veined White: 1 Slugs were very visible on the paths but no caterpillars until I got to St. Johns Road on the way home where I saw a Lime Hawk Moth caterpillar in the centre of the pavement just as I did last year. This year's was pale lilac as against pink last time, but in any event resembling a disturbingly animated discarded sweet. I moved it to what I hoped was a safer spot to find somewhere to pupate but the pollarded Limes and no doubt the moths have been in their misplaced location in suburban London for c100 years so are likely to continue to provide annual disconcerting moments to local people without my intervention - Pete Gore

First Gatekeeper of the year for me today at Tyttenhangar gravel pits - Robin Pearson

Whitewebbs Assembly area visit - the weather let us down although there was sufficient sun just

after 1 o'clock but no Purple Emperors made an appearance this year. A few Purple Hairstreak made flights though. The highlight though being a large coiled grass snake in the clearing where we wanted to stand and watch from! Liz Goodyear, Andrew Middleton and Laurence Drummond

Friday 4th July 2014

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane A walk in sunshine but with a constant breeze during which I saw the first two Peacocks for a few weeks and a Holly Blue after a much longer interval. Here are the details: Ringlet: 16 Peacock: 2 Small Heath: 2 Meadow Brown: 38 Small Skipper: 55 Comma: 5 Gatekeeper: 6 Speckled Wood: 3 Holly Blue: 1 Red Admiral: 1 Tortoiseshell: 3 Small White: 3 - Pete Gore

Visited Ruislip Lido starting off at St Vincents, Northwood Hills and noted = 2 x speckled wood, 11 x meadow brown, 1 x large skipper, 29 x ringlet, 2 x large white, 2 x red admiral, 1 x small tortoiseshell. Around Haste Hill (GRID TQ090898) = 7 x meadow brown, 25 x ringlet, 1 x marbled white, 1 x comma, 1 x large skipper. Poors field = 1 x small tortoiseshell, 1 x comma, 47 x ringlet, 1 x red admiral, 1 x large white, 1 x marbled white. Finally at home in Bushey garden 1 x small tortoiseshell, 1 x small white. - David Gower

I visited Therfield Heath near Royston between 13.30 and 15.00 today. Very warm but windy. Good numbers of Marbled White, Meadow Brown and Gatekeeper. I counted five Chalkhill Blues and a single Dark Green Fritillary. - Patricia Clegg

A few highlights. On the 3rd July 8 White Admirals and 6 Silver-washed Fritillaries on a walk through Symondshyde Wood. 4th July a Painted lady at High Cross. A video of the woodland species can be seen on the Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=644740288944960>

Andrew Wood

Sightings today Hatfield Aerodrome (Ellenbrook Fields): Marbled White x 18+ Ringlet X 20+ Small Heath x 1 Meadow Brown x 15+ large Shipper x 1 Gatekeeper x 6+ - David Wheatcroft

Had a disappointing morning at Bricket Wood common yesterday. It was warm enough and the sun was out but the breeze and the fading bramble flowers meant hardly any butterflies were landing so photography was well nigh impossible. Despite that, I had nine sightings of male and female Silver-washed Fritillaries, one very small and pale White Admiral, a few Skippers, Brimstones, Small Tortoiseshells and Marbled Whites plus dozens of Ringlets and Meadow Browns. Robin Pearson

Thursday 3rd July 2014

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane Walk as Wednesday, a pleasant breeze in my face on the Heath giving way to high temperatures and enervating humidity. Butterflies seen: Small White: 5 Meadow Brown: 40 Comma: 4 Small Skipper: 40 Ringlet: 13 Small Heath: 5 Green-Veined White: 1 Red Admiral: 1 Gatekeeper: 3 Speckled Wood: 1 Brimstone: 1 Tortoiseshell: 1 Large White: 1 A second burnt-out car has joined the first on the Marshalling Yards, environmental damage becoming both deeper and wider. No further assaults on the River Crane as far as I can see although the riverbank will remain the access point for future cars to get to their demise. - Pete Gore

Yesterday Wednesday 2nd July 2014 some sightings for Grovelands Park, Southgate: 1 Brimstone Moth settled; 10+ Small Skipper, incl 5 together; 2 Large Skipper, male and female; 3 Ringlet; several Meadow Brown; 3 Speckled Wood; 1 Red Admiral at 17:01 hrs. Today Thursday 3rd July 2014 - 1 Marbled White nectaring on knapweed 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 12:47 hrs; 1 Purple Hairstreak around Ash, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park at 13:10 hrs. Also two different Comma at the entrance to Parkside Farm PYO this morning Thursday 3rd July 2014 - Robert Callf

Just wanted to submit a record of a single white admiral butterfly in the grounds of County Hall in Hertford. It was just below the bottom car park flying around oak trees on the bank - Rachel Keen

Wednesday 2nd July 2014

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane A complete walk mostly in sun and only slightly spoiled by the discovery that some time after I left a peaceful deserted site at 5.00PM Monday someone removed a large section of the Cavalry Tunnel gate and dumped it in the river (where else?) in

order to take a car through to be burned in the centre of the MY. Apart from some flattening of vegetation there seems relatively little further damage so the butterflies will likely have got off lightly but I noticed that instead of Monday's perfumes of Melilot and Bedstraw the air seemed full of dust and perhaps other pollution. Here are the butterfly details: Red Admiral: 6 Ringlet: 24 Small Skipper: 76 Meadow Brown: 35 Large White: 2 Comma: 3 Small White: 12 Gatekeeper: 4 Speckled Wood: 2 Tortoiseshell: 4 Small Heath: 1 Large Skipper: 1 - Pete Gore

Spent 1.00 till 2.00 at Fir & Pond today (Wed 2nd) 3 sightings of Purple Emperor between 1.35 and 1.55.. usual place... around left "Bonsai tree". Usual caveats apply... The butterflies were high up and didn't show for long. This might have been the same individual 3 times... there were no upward sorties or clashes. - David Gompertz

Tuesday 1st July 2014

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards A late, cloudy, afternoon walk during which I saw the following: Ringlet: 23 Red Admiral: 1 Comma: 3 Small Heath: 1 Meadow Brown: 20 Small White: 6 Small Skipper: 45 Marbled White: 1 Gatekeeper: 3 Large White: 1 Large Skipper: 2 Tortoiseshell: 2 Speckled Wood: 3 Common Blue: 1 The Common Blue was a notably spotty female, presumably still one of the spring generation hanging on rather than the next brood emerging - at any rate we haven't thus far been entirely without Common Blue for long since their first emergence. More chance encounters with Peacock caterpillars which occur all over the walk as the butterflies did. They seem much more common this year than last when the butterfly itself was subsequently numerous... - Pete Gore

Saw 2 Commas and a Small White whilst working on the River Pinn, Old Eastcote, Middlesex (TQ101884), then a short drive to Haste Hill where I saw a Small Tortoiseshell, 2+ Large Skipper and about equal numbers (20+ each) of Ringlet and Meadow Brown. Waited for a brief sunny spell and was rewarded with good views of a Purple Emperor perched high in Oak canopy before patrolling around canopy between 13.30-13.45. - Paul Busby

Rusling End: Spotted a Silver Washed Fritillary in the garden this lunchtime and 4 Marbled Whites in the meadow plus 2 Small Tortoiseshell, 20 Meadow Browns, 1 Skipper, 6 Ringlets also in the meadow. No Purple Emperors yet though. - Julie Wise

09.00 to 10.00 - NE side of the Baldock to Norton road - White-letter Hairstreak (6+). 10.30 to 12.00 - SW outskirts of Letchworth Garden City - Marbled White (100+), Brimstone (1), Small Blue (1), Common Blue (1), Gatekeeper (1), Ringlet (20+), Meadow Brown (20+), Small Skipper (30+), Large Skipper (5+). - Roger Millard

On my walk around Tyttenhanger Gravel Pits today I saw 6 Marbled White, 5 Small Heath, 2 Gatekeeper (first of season), 3 Large Skipper, 2 Comma, 4 Small Tortoiseshell, 10 Ringlet, 15 meadow Brown, 3 Small White, 2 Green Veined White and a Cinnabar moth - Terry Wood

A few selected sightings for today Tuesday 1st July 2014 - 1 Comma at Sidhil's Field, Vicarage Farm at 09:39 hrs; 1 Red Admiral at Sidhil's Field, Vicarage Farm at 09:49 hrs; 5 male Gatekeeper (1 at Vicarage Farm, 2 at Parkside Farm, 2 at Trent Park); 1 Red Admiral at Parkside Farm, Enfield at 11:10 hrs; 1 Comma at Parkside Farm/Res at 11:21 hrs; 1 Comma at Water Garden, Trent Park at 13:03 hrs - Robert Callf/Robin White.



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Email: elizabethgoodyear@talk21.com and pass on your news

When sending in news from a site for the first time, a grid reference or post code would be appreciated. We endeavour to enter all records on the branch data base if sufficient location detail is given. If sending photos please reduce the image size to about 1mb.

June 2014

Monday 30th June 2014

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards On a shorter walk today I saw my first Gatekeeper of the year which completes the 23 species seen and identified last year. The first Gatekeeper is 10 days ahead of last year's, a pattern that's prevailed throughout with other species I think. Here are the details with usual comments applying to Skippers: Small White: 6 Comma: 4 Large Skipper: 7 Ringlet: 27 Small Skipper: 56 Tortoiseshell: 5 Small Heath: 1 Meadow Brown: 19 Speckled Wood: 2 Red Admiral: 2 Gatekeeper: 1 Marbled White: 1 Large White: 1 - Pete Gore

I have just done my butterfly transect at Panshanger Park for this week and as well as getting the most butterflies since I started it, I also got a Purple Emperor! It was feeding on sheep poo in the grazing fields which is usually the least interesting part of the transect! I was very lucky to get within a foot of it as it fed for a good 5-10mins so was able to get a lot of photos - Jennifer Gilbert

On my walk at Mymms Wash behind South Mimms Services today I saw 2 Comma, 1 Red Admiral, 6 Small Tortoiseshell, 7 Ringlet, 4 Meadow Brown and 2 Small White - Terry Wood

One Marbled white at Broadfield Hall Throcking today - Laurence Drummond

In Balls Wood today on a short walk I saw : 15 skippers, 3 whites, 130 ringlets, 7 meadow browns, 4 small tortoiseshell, 3 commas and 3 white admiral. In Stocking Pelham I saw 9 small tortoiseshell and several meadow browns - Andy Brown

(Today) near St Leonard's Church, Bengoe - Marbled White (Yesterday 29th June) Kings Meads - 40 Ringlet on Mill Mead alone - Simon Knott

First Purple Hairstreak of the year in the Norton Green area on top of one of the oaks on the SW edge of Watery Grove at 1350 hours - Peter Clarke

Bridgewater fields, Ruislip Gardens saw my first 2 Gatekeepers of the year, 4 Small white, 1 Essex Skipper, 2 Small Skipper, 12+ Small/Essex skipper, 15+ Ringlet and 10+ Meadow Brown. Later at Gutteridge wood, Hillingdon, 1 Comma, 1 Small White, 2 Speckled wood, 10+ Small skipper, 8 Meadow Brown and 15+ Ringlet whilst on Gutteridge Meadow 2 Gatekeepers, 1 Large Skipper, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 20+ Ringlet, 15+ Meadow Brown and 25+ Small Skippers - Paul Busby

Sunday 29th June 2014

Noted a few butterflies, 3 Small Tortoiseshells and a Meadow Brown visiting the archaeology dig at Eastcote House Gardens, Middlesex, this morning - Paul Busby

Since moving to South Essex it was great to be back at Hexton chalk pits and was not

disappointed. Chalkhill Blues very much on the wing here now 10-15, Dark Green Fritillary, Marbled Whites, Large Skipper, Meadow Brown, Ringlet, Small Tortoiseshell, Small Heath - Kevin Taylor

St Albans - 3 or 4 White Letter Hairstreaks on the elms at King Harry Lane around 9am this morning. Later at Bricket Wood Common, an unusual sighting of a Blotched Emerald Moth. White Admiral (7), Silver-washed Fritillary (8) Marbled White (35) and Ringlet (134) were all showing in good numbers. Small Skipper, Essex Skipper, Red Admiral & new brood Comma were all recorded for the first time this week. No sign yet of Purple Hairstreak, Gatekeeper or Purple Emperor, though I expect these will all be out well before the date of the branch field trip on Sunday 13 July. Malcolm Hull

At Bayford checked out field around corner from station in Brickendon Lane (TL317081) & FOUND 8 x meadow brown, 61 x ringlet, 3 x large skipper, 7 x marbled white, 10 x small skipper, 2 x shaded broad bar. Further along Brickendon Lane (TL324080) 2 x comma, 2 x meadow brown, 1 x ringlet. At Broxbourne Woods the sun was only out for 40 mins but did see 1 x large white, 7 x speckled wood, 19 x meadow brown, 1 x small white, 1 x comma, 4 x large skipper, 2 x silver washed fritillary, 2 x red admiral, 70 x ringlet, 1 x cinnabar moth. - David Gower

White Admiral, Silver washed Fritillaries and a Purple Emperor at Northaw Great Wood this morning. [I've posted a video of the Emperor on the facebook page](#) taking nourishment from my wife's trousers - Andrew Wood

A few more sightings for Friday 27th June 2014 - 2 Red Admiral (1 near Oakwood entrance at 14:25 hrs, another Sect 7 at 14:41 hrs, Trent Park); 2+ Marbled White, Trent Park (1+ in Sect 4, another in Sect 6); 1 Purple Hairstreak, edge of Church Wood, Trent Park at 14:55 hrs; 2 Small Heath at Trent Park (1 in Sect 1 at 15:14 hrs, 1 in Sect 4 at 14:59 hrs); also several Burnet moths in flight (still not managed to id any yet - not settling!). - Robert Callf

Saturday 28th June 2014

Stanwell Moor, Saturday 28th June: The less said about the weather here the better... Nevertheless, I had a coffee in the local caf   at lunchtime, and as this is a few hundred metres from the Essex Skipper colony next to the southwest corner of the airport, I carried on to have a peep. Under grey skies with the odd spot of rain, and thunder rumbling in the distance, I found half a dozen of the little chaps perched on the vegetation. They were actually fairly active, despite the lack of sun. This is a very small area, but nevertheless the quest for skippers turned up a Meadow Brown and two Gatekeepers as well.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=53038&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=53040&mode=view>

Dave Miller

Checked out Merryhill Fields, Bushey again this morning and got caught in the rain! Recorded 1 x red admiral, 2 x small tortoiseshell, 39 x marbled white, 3 x large skipper, 3 x small skipper, 185 x meadow brown, 67 x ringlet. Moths were 41 x yellow shell & 10 x shaded broad bar. - David Gower

I saw only 3 Meadow Brown on a mid-morning cloudy walk in Bishops Wood, Batchworth, Hertfordshire and then during a brief 15 minute sunny spell saw 16 Marbled White, 2 Small Tortoiseshell, 2 Large Skipper, 20+ Ringlet and 25+ Meadow Brown on the rough grassland between the London Loop footpath and the golf course just beyond the wood (TQ068926) - Paul Busby

Friday 27th June 2014

Male Gatekeeper seen this morning Friday 27th June 2014 at 11:10 hrs on Res banking at Parkside Farm, Enfield - my first of the year! - Robert Callf

Whilst working on the River Crane, opposite Crane Meadows Nature Reserve, Cranford, Middlesex (TQ103765) saw a Red Admiral, Speckled Wood, 2 Small White, a Large and a Small Skipper with planes from Heathrow directly overhead. Late afternoon, further upstream on Yeading Brook, Ten Acre Wood, Charville, Hayes saw further 2 Red Admirals, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Small White, 2 Commas, 2 Ringlets, 4 Meadow Brown, 4 Large Skipper and a Small Skipper. Finally, at Gutteridge Meadow saw a Marbled White, Essex Skipper, 2 Small Skipper, 10+ Large Skipper, Small Tortoiseshell, 2 Ringlet and 40+ Meadow Brown. Surveyed the line of Elms and Oaks there, but did not see any White Letter or Purple Hairstreaks. - Paul Busby

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

I had a look around Bedfont Lakes Country Park after work today (27th). I hadn't visited for nearly six weeks, so the most interesting area alongside the railway line was now lush with grass and flowers. There was abundant knapweed, bramble, purple vetch, lucerne, plaintain, everlasting pea, marjoram and huge swathes of birds-foot trefoil, all ideal for butterflies. After a wet spell overnight and this morning, the sun was out and it was warm but breezy at six o'clock. It was quickly apparent that the long grass was full of Meadow Browns and Skippers. There were a handful of Large Skippers, but almost every single other individual I checked (and I looked at quite a few) turned out to be a Small Skipper. It was only once I got a chance to look at the photos that I discovered one I'd seen right at the start was of the Essex persuasion. A first for the year for me, and followed very quickly by another. I had seen a Ringlet in amongst the Meadow Browns, but then a much more orange butterfly darted up from the dense ground cover. This was a fresh male Gatekeeper. Other sightings were a single Small Tortoiseshell, one Small Heath, a Green-veined White, and a few more Ringlets.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=52994&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=52995&mode=view>

Dave Miller

I walked home this evening via Tunnel Gardens in Bounds Green, 4 commas including one female (basking close to a male so really got to see how much lighter she was), 3 ringlets, 3 speckled wood, one meadow brown, four large skippers and two whites (they seemed like small whites).

Grid Reference 529170,191375

Photo Female Comma: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/64663114@N03/14513502192/>

Photo Male Comma:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/64663114@N03/14328026388/in/photostream/>

Photo Large Skipper:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/64663114@N03/14514607335/in/photostream/>

Miles Attenborough

Thursday 26th June 2014

This is truly a wonderful event for Nick's family, Nick was such a fan of the Purple Emperor until his sad early death a few years ago and his contribution to the branch website is missed to this day.

Something really strange happened yesterday and although people might not believe it I think it was a sign from my dad Nick Sampford (one of his favourite butterflies was a purple emperor). Yesterday 25th June I had a purple emperor in my garden in Thundridge. It was here for about an hour and a half it was actually landing on my son, daughter, uncle and me I got hundreds of fantastic photos. I will send some photos over in a different email as think maybe that's why the other email never sent as there was quite a few. Not sure if these can be used for anything but I know my dad would have been very proud of them and been very jealous I got to experience such a beautiful butterfly in my garden - Katie Sampford (also it is 2km from MY back garden! - Liz)

[Katie's Pictures.....](#)

Cinnabar moth seen in Garden of the Rose Herts Wed 25 June 2014 - John Nolan

The Shires Golf Course St Albans Road Barnet----large numbers of Meadow brown,large skipper and Marbled white in central conservation area---also many cinnabar moth larvae on Mugwort-(Artemesia)---no ragwort is on this site.----Kitt Jones

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/River Crane Complete walk again, starting in sunshine and horribly humid, ending in cloud with a breeze which was better for a tiring human but worse for butterflies. The highlight definitely was my first **Clouded Yellow** of 2014. This individual was particularly striking in flight, travelling less rapidly than they usually do and keeping low so that I was generally looking at it from above. It showed up as curiously multicoloured with apparently matching hind wings pale and greenish rather than the usual bright yellow which the forewings showed. It landed briefly several times including once on a Viper's Bugloss flower where, wings closed as usual, it looked like a normal Clouded Yellow if perhaps slightly greener than I would expect. A very welcome change from something of a surfeit of Skippers and browns! Here are the details: Red Admiral: 5 Large Skipper: 7 Ringlet: 45 Small Skipper: 51 Comma 5 Meadow Brown: 16 Marbled White: 2 Small White: 4 Small Heath: 1 Tortoiseshell: 8 Speckled Wood: 1 Large White: 1 Clouded Yellow: 1 - Pete Gore

Therfield Heath: Three hours on the heath east of the minor road to Therfield turned up **11 Chalkhill Blues** (all males, including an unusually dark specimen). I believe that this constitutes the earliest recorded sighting of this species in the region (??) and perhaps heralds another bumper year, weather permitting. Also of note amongst 14 species of butterfly recorded were 4 Dark Green Fritillary at two sites, 12+ Small Skipper and a recently-emerged **Gatekeeper**, the earliest one that I've ever seen. At least 300 Marbled Whites (conservative estimate) were spread across the heath, with many nectaring on the Knapweed that has emerged in the last couple of days. - Martin Johnson

I did the transect today, I had the highest total ever since doing the transect of 1018 sightings! Due to the sheer number of butterflies counting was difficult and I suspect there would have been many more not recorded on the transect and the surrounding areas. There were butterflies everywhere with marbled whites the commonest. There were plenty of dark green fritillary around and a few silver washed fritillary. Other species noted were single comma, common blue and small white, good numbers of large skipper, small tortoiseshell and a **gatekeeper**. I wonder if next week's transect will see an even higher figure?! - Paul Thrush

Some sightings for today Thursday 26th June 2014 - 1 Red Admiral, Sidhil's Field at Vicarage Farm at 09:32 hrs; 1 Comma, Sidhil's Field at Vicarage Farm at 09:34 hrs; 4 Small Skipper at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at four widely scattered locations; 1 Red Admiral at Parkside Farm, Enfield at 10:41 hrs; 1 Small Skipper at Parkside Farm; 1 Red Admiral near Duncan's Wood, Enfield Chase at 11:39 hrs; 1 Red Admiral near Obelisk, Trent Park at 11:58 hrs; 1 Comma, edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park at 12:05 hrs; 1 Small Skipper near Dew Pond, Trent Park; 1 Comma along bridle-path near Shaws Wood, Trent Park at 13:20 hrs; 1 Red Admiral along bridle-path near Shaws Wood, Trent Park at 13:20 hrs; 1 Comma along Merryhills Brook/Vicarage Farm at 13:34 hrs; 1 Red Admiral along Merryhills Brook/Vicarage Farm at 13:34 hrs - Robert Callf & Robin White

At Broxbourne ride today saw 4 white admirals, two silver washed fritillaries, several purple hairstreaks, a marbled white, commas, red admirals and large skippers and over 100 ringlets - Steve Kiln

Some sighting news for you..... We visited hay street (braughing) and walked along the footpath along the chalk ridge. The grassland I am informed is a remnant of unimproved grassland and certainly was diverse in nature. Huge swathes of birdsfoot trefoil, black meddock and many other flowers + bee orchids. As for the butterflies, we recorded hundreds of meadow browns, 20+ small heaths, which was nice to see, 50+ common blues, some very worn, whilst others looked rather fresh. 10+ marbled whites, 20+ small tortoiseshell, which looks to be having a superb season. 1 red admiral, 1 brimstone, & several ringlets. Several mother shipton moths, but one very worn **dingy skipper**, which eluded the camera. At Wareside, we raised a next of small tortoiseshell caterpillars at home in wareside, and when fully grown they all zoomed off to pupate. We found pupae in many diverse locations including under the windowsills, on the gate, to name but two, now they have hatched, and we are getting double figure counts daily as the adults feast themselves on the privet and blackberry flowers. Also seen speckled wood, and one hummingbird hawk moth. Elsewhere At Great Hormead we found pyramidal orchids which was a rare treat as well as small heath, common blue, marbled white + various grassland species, but when driving down the lanes we noticed many "dark caterpillars" charging across the road always singles but at various locations. On stopping we picked several up to avoid then being squidged. Several were re-homed into a pot. There were all peacocks. Given the five we have at home have all successfully pupated, I'm hopeful this will be a prelude to a strong emergence in a similar fashion to the small tort's we are seeing. - Phil MacMurdie

Wednesday 25th June 2014

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane I completed my usual full walk in a mix of sunny and cloudy conditions. A noticeable increase in Red Admiral sightings across the sites (with unconfirmed ones in addition to those shown) Several different sightings of 'blue' 'butterflies' in the trees were also unidentifiable but worth watching out for. As usual Skippers are seriously undercounted and the two commoner Browns somewhat less so. Whites increasing too. Here are the details: Tortoiseshell: 5 Small White: 3 Red Admiral: 6 Small Heath: 4 Comma: 8 Speckled Wood: 3 Meadow Brown: 17 Ringlet: 32 Large Skipper: 5 Large White: 1 Small Skipper: 27 Marbled White: 1 - Pete Gore

I visited some footpaths north of Pirton today up near the Bedfordshire border. A farm there is in

entry level stewardship and many of the fields have 6m margins seeded with a variety of plants particularly birdsfoot trefoil. They were alive with Marbled Whites, Meadow Browns, Ringlets and Small tortoiseshells with smaller numbers of Small Heath and Common Blue plus the odd Comma, red Admiral, Large White and Brimstone. Highlight was a very worn but active Dingy Skipper - so another new site in the county. My first Hummingbird hawk-moth of the year by the old tip between Holwell and Hitchin. Andrew Wood

Wilbury Hills picnic area off Stotfold Road, Letchworth Garden City. There were loads of Marbled Whites up there today - well over 20+ with a 10+ number of Meadow Brown, Ringlets and Large Skippers. On the footpath across to Hitchin Lavender farm at least 20 Small Tortoiseshells. - Jill Sawyer

Visited Aldbury Nowers today with a friend from midday until 2:30 pm lovely sunny day on the escarpment so many Ringlets & Marbled Whites we were unable to count them, must have easily been in excess of 100 of each, & 50 Skippers not sure what type probably small, also 10 Dark Green Fritillaries (first ever sighting), 15 Speckled Woods, 6 Small Tortoiseshells, 4 Red Admirals. 2 Small Blues on the downland slopes (again a first sighting), never realised how brown they are). It was just like being in Butterfly heaven, if you live near Tring definitely worth a visit - Paul Gibson

Tuesday 24th June 2014

I've been a bit quiet again, mostly because I've been out and about a fair bit lately! Tuesday 17th June: Towards the end of a long day out I had a circle around locally (Stanwell Moor) to finish off. I saw at least a dozen Large Skippers, with females now emerging too. Small Heaths were gently increasing too - six were counted in a small area along with a couple of Meadow Browns. Finally there were three Red Admirals patrolling various bits of path.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=52190&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=52195&mode=view>

Saturday 21st June: Late in the day a short walk around my local patch at Stanwell Moor produced a Large Skipper, four Small Tortoiseshells, two Commas and no less than seven Red Admirals.

Sunday 22nd June: I had a much longer and further-ranging walk in hot sunshine around the Stanwell Moor area today. I was pleased to see a Ringlet, as I had found none the last couple of years - it was in the same area the last had been seen, so I imagine the colony hangs on. There were only a couple of Large Skippers, but I found an area with several newly emerged Small Skippers which is again an improvement on last year. Carrying on the positive theme, Small Tortoiseshells were actually quite numerous with possibly as many as a dozen spotted along the route I took, and Small Heaths appeared at regular intervals too, though in discreet "hotspots". I saw one rather tired Common Blue, three Commas and one Red Admiral, and unlike the last couple of visits, there were actually some Whites - two definite Large Whites and a mating pair of Green-veined up in a tree. Finally, a head-high stand of nettles was found to be hosting dozens and dozens of Peacock caterpillars - which bodes well for a few weeks time.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=52492&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=52495&mode=view>

Dave Miller

I had a walk at King's Meads today and saw 15 Ringlets, 2 Large Skippers, 1 Red Admiral, 2 Large Whites, 6 Small Tortoiseshell, and 5 Meadow Brown. This afternoon in my South Mimms garden I saw 1 Red Admiral, 1 Small Tortoiseshell and 1 Large White. - Terry Wood

Visited Mad Bess Woods, Ruislip this morning and I saw 5 Ringlet, 6 Meadow Brown, 1 Comma, 2 Red Admiral, 2 Speckled Woods and 4 White Admirals (one perching on hornbeam coppice in a new clearing, two together low down in brambles and 1 flying into the trees at Scout outdoor chapel). I ventured onto the wild-flower rich meadow, between the wood and Duck Hills Road and was amazed to see literally hundreds of butterflies, in half-hour I counted at least 80+ Ringlet, 26+ Meadow Brown, 2 Small Tortoiseshells, 1 Large Skipper, 1 Common Blue, 4 Six-spot Burnet moths and surprisingly 28+ Marbled Whites. In contrast, I visited the cut grass field by the wood and Crematorium and only saw 8 Meadow Browns and a Small Tortoiseshell in 10 minutes. After lunch went to Cheyne Field and saw 8 Large Skipper, 1 fresh Comma, 3 Green-veined Whites, Small Tortoiseshell, 3 Speckled Woods, 1 Red Admiral, 8 Meadow Brown and 5 Ringlet as well as a Emperor Dragonfly. - Paul Busby

Small Blue seen on the Wood Lane transect by Val Fulforth on the 20th June - another confirmed location.

Therfield Heath: 5+ White-letter Hairstreak butterflies in Elms on the Icknield Way: my earliest local record for this species. Also 100+ Marbled Whites spread across the heath (numbers increasing daily), but still no DGF or Chalkhill Blues. - Martin Johnson

Marbled White has returned to the Ware Park Transect this year, also saw a Peacock in good condition could this be the first 2014 generation emerging - it should be huge given the number of larvae around. Six White Admirals and a Silver-washed Fritillary on a 35 minute transect walk at Balls Wood. Several others of both species around too but no Purple Emperors yet - Andrew Wood

While walking my transect this morning there were Marbled Whites everywhere at Shackledell grassland - I counted over 90 in about 15 minutes. - Peter Clarke

A few selected sightings for today Tuesday 24th June 2014 - 1 Red Admiral, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, Trent Park at 12:32 hrs; 4 Small Tortoiseshell, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, Trent Park; 3 Comma (1 set-aside field N of Williams Wood, Trent Park at 12:38 hrs; 2 at Park Farm, Enfield); 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Parkside Farm, Enfield at 12:58 hrs; 3 Small Tortoiseshell at Park Farm, Enfield between 13:12 - 13:19 hrs; 1 Red Admiral at Park Farm, Enfield at 13:25 hrs; 3 Small Tortoiseshell at Bay Farm, Enfield, between 13:32 - 13:39 hrs; 1 Peacock at Bay Farm, Enfield at 13:38 hrs; 5 Ringlet at Brooke Wood near Cuckold's Hill, Enfield at 13:50 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell near Brooke Wood, Cuckold's Hill at 13:52 hrs; 3+ Small Tortoiseshell at Rectory Farm, Enfield; 1 Comma at Rectory Farm, Enfield at 14:09 hrs; male Small Skipper at Whitewebbs Park at 15:30 hrs; 2 Comma at Whitewebbs Park; 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Whitewebbs Park; 1 White-letter Hairstreak, settling on Wych Elm at Hilly Fields Park near Strayfield Road between 15:56 - 16:00 hrs - my first of the year! Also several Ringlet at Whitewebbs Park. - Robert Callf

Single Purple Emperors seen at the following assembly areas this afternoon, Whitewebbs at 13:00 (also Purple Hairstreak and a Comma), Fir and Pond 13:27 and after a period of cloud Northaw at 14:37 - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

Monday 23rd June 2014

Some news from Horsenden Hill from this morning, 23rd June. At least 15 White-letter Hairstreaks on the east side of the site either from the cycle path/footpath near Horsenden Farm or in the area immediately behind the farm. Although it was warmer, activity seemed to have dried up by early afternoon. Also several Marbled Whites, a Ringlet, 3 Red Admirals, 3 Comma, a Small Skipper and good numbers of Large Skippers. Yesterday a Purple Hairstreak at the rear of Horsenden Farm along with 4 White-letter Hairstreak - Andy Culshaw

A Silver-washed Fritillary was photographed in an Ealing Broadway garden on Sunday 23rd June by Shay Hannon

On my morning walk around Tyttenhanger Gravel Pits today I saw 7 Marbled Whites (first of the season), 20 Ringlets, 5 Small Tortoiseshells, 2 Meadow Browns and 1 Large Skipper - Terry Wood

Humid down at Waterford Heath over 40 marbled whites, 100 plus meadow browns, 50 plus ringlets, also small heath, small tortoiseshells, small and large skippers and small white - Steve Kiln

On Sunday 22 = 1 x common emerald moth seen in Bushey kitchen. Today 1 x red admiral at Northwood hq, Sandy Lane - David Gower

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards. A shorter walk in similar conditions to yesterday: Tortoiseshell: 2 Comma: 11 Ringlet: 27 Small Heath: 4 Small White: 4 Large White: 2 Red Admiral: 1 Small Skipper: 33 Meadow Brown: 14 Common Blue: 2m Speckled Wood: 1 Large Skipper: 3 Marbled White: 4 and 2 Burnet Companion moths. - Pete Gore

A few selected sightings for today Monday 23rd June 2014 - 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Barracks, Vicarage Farm at 10:09 hrs; 1 Shaded Broad-bar, set-aside field near Dew Pond, Trent Park - our first sighting of the year! 1 Red Admiral at Water Garden, Trent Park at 11:24 hrs; 1 Red Admiral near Ride Wood, Trent Park at 11:32 hrs; 7 Marbled White at Trent Park (1 at 'Old Golf Course' at 11:38 hrs, 5 in Sect 4 'New Fields' including a pair copulating, 1 in Sect 6); 1 Purple Hairstreak, edge of Church Wood, Trent Park at 12:25 hrs - my first of the year! 1 female Common Blue, Sect

4 at 12:31 hrs; 1 Small Copper at 'New Fields' Trent Park at 12:58 hrs; 1 male Common Blue, set-aside field near Oakwood entrance, Trent Park; 1 Holly Blue near Oakwood entrance, Trent Park at 13:30 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell near Oakwood entrance, Trent Park at 13:33 hrs - Robert Callf/Robin White.

Visited Park Woods this morning, off Fore Street, Eastcote, Middlesex and saw 65+ Meadow Brown, 25+ Ringlet, 10 Large Skipper, 7 Speckled Wood and a White Admiral disturbed from patch of bramble before flying high into trees. Drove to St Vincents & Haste Hill Golf Course at lunchtime and saw a further 16+ Ringlet, 8+ Meadow Brown, 6 Large Skipper, 4 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Red Admiral, 1 Comma, 1 Brown Argus, 6+ Six-Spot Burnet Moths but alas no Purple Emperors as the weather turned cloudy. Late afternoon, saw a solitary Small Tortoiseshell on the Wild flower beds in Cavendish Park, Pine Gardens, Eastcote - Paul Busby

Sunday 22nd June 2014

08.00 to 09.30 White-letter Hairstreak - various sightings over Elm on the NE side of the Baldock to Norton road, at approx TL236344, from where it crosses the A1(M) for about 400m's. Hard to judge numbers, best estimate 6 to 8, at one point 3 spiralling in the air together. - Roger Millard

1 Red Admiral at Carr's Basin, Town Park at 13:24 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood at Carr's Basin, Town Park at 13:26 hrs; 1 Red Admiral at Pennyfather Lane, EN2 at 13:44 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Enfield Grammar School Playing Field at 13:57 hrs; 1 Holly Blue at Enfield Grammar School, Silver Street at 14:11 hrs - Robert Callf.

Today In Tetrads TQ0291 and 92 at Maple Cross I saw 5 Marbled Whites, 7 Ringlets, 2 Meadow Browns and 2 Small Skippers. These were all close to the M25 so I would like to think the highways agency's planting of wild flowers along the verges is helping - Christina Bessant

At Oxhey Woods nature reserve this morning and "northern woodland" counted 17 x speckled wood and 1 x meadow brown. At "southern woodland" 6 x speckled wood, 1 x small tortoiseshell, 4 x meadow brown, 1 x peacock, 1 x red admiral. Onto Prestwick Road nature reserve = 6 x speckled wood, 48 x meadow brown, 1 x comma, 9 x large skipper, 4 x ringlet, 1 x small tortoiseshell, 1 x narrow bordered 5 spot burnet moth. This afternoon back to Fishers Field = 9 x small tortoiseshell, 1 x Essex skipper, 23 x meadow brown, 5 x ringlet, 3 x small skipper, 3 x speckled wood, 4 x large skipper, 4 x marbled white. Moths were 1 x scoparia pyralis, 1 x burnet companion, 4 x nettle-tap, 1 x green oak tortrix, 1 x timothy tortrix 9 (great name!). At Water Lane, Watford = 2 x comma, 3 x large skipper, 1 x small skipper, 4 x marbled white, 10 x meadow brown, 7 x small tortoiseshell, 1 x common blue, 3 x yellow shell moth. In Bushey garden 1 x comma - David Gower

Spent the day at Brickett Wood Common, mainly in the woods to escape the heat: 3 marbled white, 2 male brimstones, 2 red admirals, 2 silver washed fritillary in the gas main ride, 10 white admirals at various locations, 3 very fresh commas, 15+ large skippers, lots of ringlets and meadow browns (I didn't count but ringlets appeared more plentiful than browns). Some links to photos below:

Comma: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/64663114@N03/14459836896/>

White Admiral: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/64663114@N03/14479561481/in/photostream/>

Silver Washed Fritillary:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/64663114@N03/14459715046/in/photostream/>

Miles Attenborough

Small Tortoiseshells are everywhere in the southern half of Bishops Stortford this weekend, In a meadow beside the Stort Navigation (26), fluttering alongside park hedges, criss-crossing the local bowling green and at 19.30 this evening chasing each other in groups of 3 or 4 over Thornbera Road allotments- Len Crouch

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/River Crane Completed my assorted loops around the above today starting in sun in the late morning and ending in cloudy,very humid,conditions in mid afternoon. Butterflies noted: Tortoiseshell:7 Small Heath: 3 Speckled Wood:1 Ringlet: 23 Comma: 2 Small Skipper: 24 Large Skipper: 2 Small White: 4 Meadow Brown: 15 Marbled White: 4 Common Blue: 1 Small Copper: 1 plus 1 each Burnet Companion and Cinnabar moths. Skippers substantially under-counted, the two commoner Browns slightly less so. I spent a few minutes trying to get a clear sight of what turned out to be a faded female Common Blue, feeling guilty about ignoring a few Browns and rather more Skippers, so that when one of the supposed latter

landed just in front of me I felt obliged to pay more attention: only to find myself looking at a Small Copper - the first for several weeks here and likely start of a new brood I think. Marbled Whites are still an unfamiliar sight down here - I thought one on a patch of Hop Trefoil particularly lovely, a very similar image to the Painted Lady seen on Friday. - Pete Gore

BROXBOURNE WOOD CIRCULAR ROUTE, 6 Silver-washed Fritillary, 2 White admiral. BALLS WOOD, 2 White admiral - Laurence Drummond

Ruislip Woods (East End) Several Marbled Whites this morning; a Red Admiral; Ringlets, Meadow Browns etc...and one White Admiral (at last!) - Graham Elcombe

Popped over to the Six Hills site in Stevenage where I saw 2-3 White-letter Hairstreaks flitting over the elm tree tops at about 0900 hours today. - Peter Clarke

Ruislip, St Vincent's assembly area, clash of two Purple Emperors just after 1.15 and then a male on patrol until we left for pastures new. Earlier 2 White Admiral seen in woods. Also watched a female Small Tortoiseshell laying a 'mass' of eggs on nettles. Northaw still empty although we were thrilled to see a Barn Owl fly low past us as we watched - a first! Late afternoon 5+ White-letter Hairstreak at Cheshunt Park, all making short flights then perching - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

Saturday 21st June 2014

Some sightings for Saturday 21st June 2014 - 10 Small Heath at 'New Fields' Trent Park between 16:20 - 17:30 hrs; 4 Comma at 'New Fields' Trent Park; 1 Red Admiral, Sect 7 'New Fields' Trent Park at 16:51 hrs; 1 male Marbled White, Sect 6 'New Fields' Trent Park at 16:56 hrs - my earliest date for this site and a sure sign that they are becoming established at this site! 1 male Small Skipper, Sect 6 'New Fields' Trent Park. Looked for Purple and White-letter Hairstreak without success. 1 Comma at Covert Way LNR at 18:14 hrs, also Ringlet and at least 3 Large Skipper recorded here. 1 Comma near Beech Hill Lake (Jack's Lake) Monken Hadley Common at 18:49 hrs. After shopping noticed a Small Magpie Moth near outside light at ASDA Southgate, Chase Side, N14 and at nearby Allotments 1 Small Tortoiseshell at 19:44 hrs. - Robert Callf

HIGH WYCH/PYE CORNER, 08.35, 5-6 WLH around the elms at Pole Hole, best activity I've seen, high clashes 20ft up over the elms, an numerous chasing, BROXBOURNE WOODS MAIN RIDE, with Paul Why, 5 Silver washed fritillary, 2 White admiral, NORTHAW TERRITORY, no pemps yet but 2 White admirals kept me company - Laurence Drummond

More new species for the year here today at Norton Green - 5+ Ringlets, 4 Marbled Whites, 1 Small Skipper and 1 Silver-washed Fritillary (near Pigeonswick Cottage). Also 20+ Small Tortoiseshells, 40+ Meadow Browns, 3 Small Whites, 3 Common Blues, 2 Red Admirals, 1 Comma, 4 Large Whites, 10+ Speckled Woods and 1 Large Skipper - Peter Clarke

At Hexton Chalkpit today, Marbled Whites lots, Dark Green Fritilleries 4-5, Common Blue 1, **Chalkhill Blue 1 possible**, Meadow Brown, Ringlet, Skipper un identified, Speckled Wood more numerous than usual. most by the gate Nigel Agar

A walk at Mymms Wash behind South Mymms services today unearthed 2 Small Tortoiseshells, 1 Meadow Brown and 1 Peacock - Terry Wood

On Kings Meads this morning: 35 Meadow Brown, 22 Small Tortoiseshell, 15 Large Skippers, 9 Ringlet, 2 Red Admiral + 2 Cinnabar & 1 Yellow Shell. - Simon Knott

Whitewebbs Wood, **Purple Emperor** on territory just after 1.30 and at least **5 Purple Hairstreak** - Liz Goodyear and Laurence Drummond

Friday 20th June 2014

Some news for yesterday Friday 20th June 2014 - 1 Small Tortoiseshell nectaring on neighbours buddleia at Dalrymple Close, N14 at 15:15 hrs - the first that I have seen here this year! 1 Comma edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park at 17:49 hrs; 1 Green-veined White and 2 Large White edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park at 17:55 hrs; 5 Small Tortoiseshell at Park Farm between 18:39 - 18:55 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Parkside Farm, Enfield at 19:19 hrs; **1 Painted Lady** at Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm at 19:49 hrs - settled on track - my first of the year! 2 Small Tortoiseshell at Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 19:49 hrs - settled on track. - Robert Callf

While in Broxbourne Woods, for the purpose of surveying the SSSI, a **Purple Emperor** was sighted rested on the main ride at TL 32602 07209. Just within part of the recently cleared area within the SSSI, at TL 32590 07275, a **Silver-washed Fritillary** was seen. I wasn't specifically recording butterflies within the SSSI but also noted Ringlet, Meadow Brown and Large Skipper. - Barry Tranter

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/River Crane Lengthy walk in sunnier conditions, butterfly numbers increasing significantly although the Heath is lagging a little: Ringlet: 20 Small Heath: 4 Speckled Wood: 2 Comma: 5 Small White: 6 Meadow Brown: 13 Large Skipper: 7 Small Skipper: 16 Common Blue: 2 Painted Lady: 1 Marbled White: 1 Tortoiseshell: 7 and 2 Cinnabar Moths 3 Burnet Companions and 2 6Spot Burnets including one that will no doubt turn out to be the first of many on Greater Knapweed. Ringlet appear to me to be doing very well indeed here - both they and Meadow Brown likely undercounted as are the Skippers. By local standards Tortoiseshell seem to be doing better too. Three Peacock caterpillars encountered at different spots moving purposefully along the footpath. - Pete Gore

Friday 20th June 2-3pm. Pix Brook Meadows Off Cowslip Hill, Letchworth Garden City. 4 Small Tortoiseshell, 2 Common Blue, 6 Meadow Brown (loads of these about at the moment), 1 Ringlet (first I've seen this year), **1 Essex Skipper** (first I've seen). - Jill Sawyer

Therfield heath (west) 1 Large skipper, 1 Brimstone(tatty male) ,1 Red admiral, 75 Small tortoiseshell, 9 Marbled white, Meadow brown ubiquitous, 1 Small heath. Therfield heath (east) 1 Small skipper, 1 Large skipper, 13 Small tortoiseshell, 58 Marbled white, Meadow brown ubiquitous, 12 Small heath, 2 Ringlet . - Laurence Drummond

This afternoon at Danemead I saw 5 Ringlet, 4 Meadow Brown and 2 Large Skippers - Jenny Sherwen

Today 20th June 2014, 12.00 to 13.30, a walk along SW outskirts of Letchworth Garden City adjacent to and along the "Green Way" Marbled White (50+) **Small Blue (10+)** Common Blue (10+, attached image of what I believed to be a female 'blue variant', am I correct/) Large Skipper (10+) Meadow Brown (30+) Small Skipper (4) Brown Argus (3) - Roger Millard

BATFORD, weedy field - 1 WHITE LETTER HAIRSTREAK in usual location by public footpath, numerous Marbled whites, Common Blues - Darin Stanley

Thursday 19th June 2014

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards. Shorter walk today in cloudy breezy conditions but still rewarding: Large White: 1 Tortoiseshell: 1 Small Heath: 4 Small White: 3 Comma: 3 Large Skipper: 3 Ringlet: 6 (first of 2014) Meadow Brown: 4 Marbled White: 1 (first of 2014) Speckled Wood: 1 plus 9 Burnet Companions and 2 Cinnabar Moths Contrast with Tuesday when it was sunnier but I omitted the central portion of the Marshalling Yards: Red Admiral: 2 Tortoiseshell: 2 Comma: 1 Small White: 1 Large Skipper: 10 Meadow Brown: 8 Large White: 1 Speckled Wood: 2 and 1 6 Spot Burnet (first of 2014) - Pete Gore

One Marbled white at Moore Green this morning - Laurence Drummond

2 x pseudargyrotoza conwagana seen in Bushey back garden. - David Gower

Saw a male Meadow Brown in meadow enclosure in Grovelands Park, Southgate this afternoon Thursday 19th June 2014, also Yellowshell and Burnet Companion - Robert Callf

Wednesday 18th June 2014

Thorley Wash N.R. At 15:06, took a 30 minute walk in only moderate conditions, from the railway foot crossing along the circular northern footpath-fighting my way through rampant vegetation blocking same in places- and in the more open parts of the path observed 35 small tortoiseshells, 2 large skippers and 2 cinnabar moths. Where the path runs alongside the Stort Navigation I noted about 80 banded damselflies(m&f) and over 100 full grown/nearly full grown peacock caterpillars. A little further north, at 16:00, a 25 minute walk around the set aside field east of Twyfordbury Lane, Thorley, revealed 28 small tortoiseshells and 6 meadow browns including a mating pair. - Len Crouch

Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park, early afternoon, I saw **2 Essex Skipper**, 1 Small Skipper, 3 Large skipper, 4 Essex or Small Skippers, Speckled wood, 7 Small white, Green-veined white, Meadow Brown, 5 Common Blue, 2 Burnet companion moths, Plume Moth, at least 6 Six-spotted Burnet moths and a female Black-tailed Skimmer dragonfly. The buddleia was in full bloom but no butterflies nectaring on it. Bridgewater fields, Ruislip Gardens, Middlesex, late afternoon, I saw 2 Small Tortoiseshell, slightly faded Red admiral, speckled wood, 2 Small white, 2 Large Skipper, Ringlet and at least 12 Meadow Browns, Also 2 cinnabar moths, mating pair of Six-spot burnet moths plus 4 singles, 2 Burnet Companion moths and a Broad-bodied chaser dragonfly. - Paul Busby

1 x small dusty wave moth seen on house wall in Bushey today - David Gower

In Blagrove Common today. Many ringlets and meadow browns also common blues, small tortoiseshell and small skippers and 6spot burnet moth - Steve Kiln

Tuesday 17th June 2014

Walking my transect in Southern Country Park, Bishops Stortford, I encountered a Small Tortoiseshell explosion. I recorded 56 in the hour and a quarter I was recording. The most I have ever recorded of the species in one walk. They were just everywhere and mostly in groups of 3 to 5, especially on the ground basking in the sun (and out of the wind I guess - they had a pretty stiff Force 4 NWesterly to deal with). The nicely timed emergence of the Creeping Thistles was also a magnet for them in the more sheltered areas (see attached pic). I wondered if you have been getting other similar reports? I'm not surprised at the explosion, considering how abundant they were for hibernation at the end of last year's season, and how many of those hibernators were around in the early spring this year. Still, it's hard to believe that only 2 years ago we were all bemoaning the fate of the ST - Bob Clift

Chimney Sweeper report from Diane Andrews, 11th June at King George Fields, Hadleigh 9, 12th June Trent Park 5, 17th June Forty Hall 6. Further searching at Forty Hall on the 17th, **2 Small Skipper** and 2 Ringlets.

Whilst working on the Yeading Brook, Ickenham Marsh, Middlesex, I saw 2 Speckled Woods, 1 Green-veined White, 1 Ringlet, 2 Meadow Browns, 1 Common Blue and a Small Heath. Then a half stroll around the fields near Ickenham Marsh in beautiful sunshine seeing at least 70 Meadow Browns, 4 Ringlet, 4 Large Skippers, 5 Common Blue and 2 Small Heath. Checked Elms in hedgerow but no WLH. Later at Bishops Wood, Batchworth, Hertfordshire, I saw a Comma, 2 Meadow Browns, 4 Speckled Woods and a perched Emperor Dragonfly on a 2Km walk following the red route. - Paul Busby

A couple of hours at Balls Wood this afternoon yielded 7 White Admiral, 20+ Meadow Brown, 15+ Large Skipper, 6 Speckled Wood, 5 Comma, 4 Ringlet, 2 Large White and 1 Red Admiral. I also spotted an Orange-tip pupa and 3 larvae on two Garlic Mustard plants where I'd found eggs not long ago. My (as yet) unsuccessful search for early stages of White Admiral will resume soon. - Paul Why

Bencroft Wood 17th June. First white admiral and first ringlets there today and 4 also **4 small skippers** and 4 large skippers and 5 ringlets in field nearby - Steve Kiln

I went for a walk through Gobions Wood, Brookmans Park today and saw 1 Brimstone, 8 Speckled Wood, 5 Small Tortoiseshell - and in a wild flower meadow alongside there were 15 Meadow Brown and 6 Ringlet (both firsts for the year for me). I also found a nettlebed containing about 50 Peacock larvae - Terry Wood

Quite a few meadow browns around on Waterford Heath today (17th) despite the wind and one marbled white on the south heath - Andy Brown

A good few sightings to report today Tuesday 17th June 2014 - 1 Small Copper at Sidhil's Field, Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 09:23 hrs; 1 Ringlet at Sidhil's Field, Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 09:25 hrs - my first of the year! 5 Small Tortoiseshell at Vicarage Farm, Enfield; 5 Large Skipper at Vicarage Farm, Enfield; 1 Ringlet near Williams Wood at Vicarage Farm at 10:04 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, Trent Park at 10:21 hrs; Cinnabar at Vicarage Farm, Enfield; 2 Ringlet at Parkside Farm on Res banking at 10:50 hrs; **1 male Small Skipper** at Parkside Farm on Res banking at 10:52 hrs - our first of the year! 1 Comma at Park Farm, Enfield at 11:12 hrs; 2

Small Tortoiseshell at Park Farm, Enfield; 3 Ringlet (1 'Old Golf Course', 2 'New Fields') at Trent Park; 1 Small Heath at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 11:55 hrs; 2 Small Tortoiseshell at Trent Park (1 on bramble near Nature Trail at 12:09 hrs, 1 near Oakwood entrance at 13:35 hrs); 1 Comma, edge of Church Wood, Trent Park at 12:29 hrs; Large Skipper 'several' at Trent Park; 1 Small Heath at 'New Fields' Trent Park at 13:06 hrs; Cinnabar near Oakwood entrance, Trent Park; Meadow Brown is also out in numbers - Robert Callf/Robin White

I did the transect today and had over 300 sightings. Highlights included good numbers of marbled white, ringlet and meadow brown, grizzled skipper, brown argus, common blue, small heath, large skipper, brimstone and speckled wood. There were at least 4 dark green fritillary about and many small tortoiseshell. Off transect I also had a green hairstreak and on the walk along the ridgeway from Aldbury village 25 small tortoiseshell and at least 5 large skipper. It seems to be a very good year for small tortoiseshell. I forgot to email you last week but on Wednesday 11th I saw a small blue in N3 which appeared to be egg laying. We've never seen them in this enclosure before! - Paul Thrush

On Kings Meads this morning: 30+ Large Skippers, 26 Small Tortoiseshell, 8 Meadow Brown, 3 Ringlet, 2 male Brimstones, 1 Speckled Wood, 1 Comma + 1 narrow-bordered five-spot burnet and 1000+ Peacock caterpillars on the nettles. - Simon Knott

1 x cinnabar moth seen during break at Northwood HQ, Sandy Lane - David Gower

No new species to report from Norton Green today but I saw a White Admiral by The Firs in Knebworth Woods at about 1435 hours. It was hovering over a clump of bramble but refused to settle. Peter Clarke

I nipped into Bricket Wood this afternoon to see if the SWFs were on the wing (as they are already flying on Benfleet Downs) - but I saw none. However I did see White Admiral (2), Marbled White (5) Ringlet (3) Meadow Brown (8) Speckled Wood (5) Brimstone (3) & Large Skipper (2). - Dave Chandler

White-letter Hairstreak active on Sapporo Autumn Gold elms this morning at Cheshunt Park by the clubhouse, and two separate trees at Wormley West End. Also 1 White Admiral, south side of Wormley Wood - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

Monday 16th June 2014

On a cloudy, breezy day, I saw 4 Speckled Wood butterflies in Mad Bess Woods, Ruislip, Middlesex; then a further 2 Speckled Woods in Copse Wood plus a Meadow Brown in a clearing. During a brief sunny spell on Poor's Field, I saw 2 fresh Small Tortoiseshells, 4 Meadow Browns and 2 Ringlets - Paul Busby

Sunday 15th June 2014

During a brief warm spell today (Sunday) a **White-letter Hairstreak** over elms near Horsenden Farm. - Andy Culshaw

Therfield heath (west), 12 Meadow brown, 1 Marbled white, and 1 Humming-bird hawk, no sign of any Dark green fritts yet despite lots of thistle, weather cloudy and breezy though! - Laurence Drummond

Saturday 14th June 2014

Bricket Wood Common St Albans - 4 new species out on the Common this week - Marbled White, **White Admiral(2)**, Meadow Brown (3) & Small Tortoiseshell (2). Large Skipper numbers have increased to 9, though I still recorded only 1 Ringlet - Malcolm Hull

Back to Merryhill Fields this morning getting caught in heavy rain but eventually noted = 14 x ringlet, 8 x marbled white, 3 x large skipper (all seen for first time this year), 57 x meadow brown, 14 x speckled wood, 4 x small tortoiseshell, 1 x common blue. Moths seen were 37 x yellow shell, 1 x scoparia pyralella, 2 x burnet companion, 1 x common white wave, 2 x straw dot, 3 narrow bordered five-spot burnet, 2 x shaded broad bar, 2 x clouded border.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/bushey54/14234665520/in/photostream/lightbox/>
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/bushey54/14234803597/in/photostream/lightbox/>

Had a peep around Bushey garden last night and discovered 2 x small magpie and 1 x silver y on verberna - David Gower

Friday 13th June 2014

I saw my first **white admiral** of the year, along the 'Gas Ride', Bricket Wood Common. - Chris Newman

Will the Small Tortoiseshell have another bumper year? At Norton Green this morning I saw 11 of them along with 3 Red Admirals, 3 Meadow Browns, 3 Large Skippers (all first of the year here), 2 Commas, 1 Small White, 2 Common Blues and 7 Speckled Woods. - Peter Clarke

I was in Hobby Horse wood (next to Balls Wood) today and saw a couple of speckled woods and also about 8 meadow browns, a red admiral and a large skipper in the central widened ride. At Stocking Pelham today 3 Meadow Browns on the verge in the centre of the village - Andy Brown

Therfield heath (east), 14 Large skipper, 2 Brimstone, 2 Brown argus, (only ?) 3 Common blue, 1 Red admiral, (only?) 3 Small tortoiseshell, 2 Marbled white, 20+ Meadow brown, 8 Small heath, and 1 Ringlet - Laurence Drummond

Thursday 12th June 2014

Three Small Tortoiseshell together over bramble near Water Garden, Trent Park this evening Thursday 12th June 2014 at 18:25 hrs. - Robert Callf

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane Lots of sun, high temperature and little breeze, an exhausting but complete walk on which I saw the following: Tortoiseshell: 3 Comma: 5 Common Blue: 7 Red Admiral: 1 Large Skipper: 14 Small Heath: 1 Meadow Brown: 8 Brown Argus: 1 Speckled Wood: 3 Peacock: 3 Painted Lady: 1 and 10 Burnet Companions plus 1 Cinnabar. - Pete Gore

Sat down in my Ware garden after work and looked up to see 5 Small Tortoiseshells chasing over the roofs and a male Brimstone nectaring on lobelia in one of the hanging baskets - Liz Goodyear

Wednesday 11th June 2014

Small Tortoiseshells are back, good numbers seen today and yesterday, Standon, Colliers End, High cross, Wadesmill, Thundridge, and Cold Christmas, everywhere I went, they were there! - Laurence Drummond

A complete afternoon walk today mostly in sun with little breeze. Small White: 2 Tortoiseshell: 7 (includes 2 pairs about to mate) Small Heath: 1 Peacock: 3 Speckled Wood: 6 Common Blue: 7 Large Skipper: 7 Brown Argus: 1 Meadow Brown: 4 (all male) Comma: 1 Large White: 1 Brimstone: 1 plus 15 Burnet Companion and 2 Cinnabar moths. - Pete Gore

Some sightings for today Wednesday 11th June 2014 - 5 Large Skipper at Whitewebbs Park between 14:25 - 14:47 hrs; 2 Small Tortoiseshell at Whitewebbs Park; 1 Cinnabar Moth at Whitewebbs Park; 6 male Meadow Brown at Whitewebbs Park; Peacock large batch of caterpillars at Whitewebbs Park; 1 Red Admiral at Strayfield Road, Clay Hill at 15:12 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Strayfield Road near train line, 15:15 hrs; 2 Large Skipper at Strayfield Road near train line, 15:15 hrs; 2 Small Tortoiseshell at Rectory Farm, Enfield. - Robert Callf

I went for a walk around Stocking Pelham nature reserve which is next to the transformer station in Crabs Green. There were about 10 common blues, two Brown Argus, and several meadow browns - Andy Brown

Tuesday 10th June 2014

This morning at Kings Meads: 18 Small Tortoiseshell, 2 Meadow Brown, 1 Common Blue + 1 Cinnabar - Simon Knott

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards A similar walk to yesterday but this time a strong breeze made it more comfortable for humans, less so for butterflies Small Heath: 2 Large Skipper: 6 Comma: 2 Speckled Wood: 3 Common Blue: 5 Meadow Brown: 1 Peacock: 1 and 7 Burnet Companions and 1 Cinnabar. I've been averaging 1 Dragonfly a day for a week or two but today there was a noticeable increase including several above the Marshalling Yards meadows and the first

conspicuously blue one near the river - Pete Gore

We had the Aldbury Management plan review meeting today, and with the fantastic weather we saw lots. We saw a **dark green fritillary, marbled white**, red admiral, brimstone (4+), common blue, small blue, **grizzled skipper(2)**, and quite a few orange tip, small heath, large skipper, **ringlet**, meadow brown, green hairstreak, speckled wood and small copper - Paul Thrush

Rye Meads RSPB Reserve, Herts, Tuesday 11 - 2. Very poor with 2 Speckled Wood, a few Peacock, but 1 male Common Blue and 4 Cinnabar Moths - Brian Price

On Patmore Heath today (10th) - I saw a Red Admiral, 2 speckled woods, Small Tortoiseshell, Brimstone, possible Painted Lady and a small heath - Andy Brown

Monday 9th June 2014

Visited a very muddy Bishops Wood, near Batchworth, Rickmansworth and saw 5 Speckled Woods and was surprised to see a Banded Demoiselle in the woods by Silver Birch saplings, then 3 fresh Small Tortoiseshells, 2 Large Skippers and a Broad-bodied Chaser Dragonfly in the adjoining field by the golf course on the London Loop Walk. Saw a further 6 Speckled Woods at Mad Bess Woods, Ruislip, Middlesex, where the Honeysuckle was starting to flower, but no White Admirals seen yet - Paul Busby

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards A shorter walk today in good sunny conditions but nasty humidity. Butterflies: Peacock: 1 Small Heath: 1 Speckled Wood: 3 Comma: 2 Tortoiseshell: 3 Brimstone: 2 Common Blue: 5 Large Skipper: 2 Meadow Brown: 2 Large White: 1 Small White: 1 plus 7 Burnet Companions and 3 Cinnabars. Good to see a Comma back at the bridge over the Crane where I could expect one much of last summer (nettles on the banks here). - Pete Gore

On my walk around Tyttenhanger Gravel Pits this morning I saw 1 Large Skipper and 1 Common Blue (both firsts for me here this year), 6 Small Tortoiseshell, 2 Speckled Wood, 1 Red Admiral and 1 Small Heath - Terry Wood

Some sightings for today Monday 9th June 2014 - Fir & Pond Woods near Potters Bar - 2 Large Skipper at 11:41 and 11:46 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood at 11:52 hrs; 2 Green-veined White at 12:07 hrs. Also we saw 2 Burnet Companion in meadow enclosure - Robert Callf/Bob Husband. Also 1 Large Skipper at Coopers Lane Rd heading towards bridge over M25 at 12:50 hrs; 1 Red Admiral at Little Beechill Wood, Enfield Chase at 13:26 hrs; 1 Peacock at Little Beechill Wood at 13:28 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Little Beechill Wood at 13:28 hrs and 2 Small Tortoiseshell at Park Farm along Salmons Brook; 1 Common Blue at Park Farm, Enfield at 13:50 hrs; 1 Red Admiral at Park Farm at 13:53 hrs; 1 Red Admiral at Parkside Farm, Enfield flew E over Res at 14:01 hrs; 1+ Large Skipper at Parkside Farm at 14:00 hrs; 1 Common Blue at Parkside Farm at 14:03 hrs; 3 Small Tortoiseshell at Parkside Farm (including a courting couple); 4 Small Tortoiseshell at Vicarage Farm, Enfield; 1 Peacock at Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm at 14:39 hrs - Robert Callf.

Norton Common, Letchworth, meadow area 8th June Brimstone, Small Tortoiseshell, 2 Common Blue, 2 Speckled Wood - on the meadow edge. I also saw 2 Burnet Companion moths and a Cinnabar moth. 9th June Meadow Brown (first one I've seen of them for a while) - Jill Sawyer

Sunday 8th June 2014

Saw 2 meadow browns and a small copper in meadows by Tewinbury Reedmarsh - Ian Flack

St Albans - Bricket Wood Common: My first two summer butterflies on this mornings transect walk - a **Ringlet** and a Large Skipper. Brimstones still out in good numbers (9) with both sexes feeding avidly on bramble flowers and females egg laying on Alder Buckthorn. Apart from that just a couple of Speckled Woods, a very worn Comma and one Burnet Companion (a rarity at this site). More newly emerged butterflies this afternoon at Folly Lane - 3 Small Whites (one egg laying on Brussels Sprouts) and a pristine new Small Tortoiseshell, plus a few Speckled Woods and a new nest of Peacock caterpillars, just 1 cm long - Malcolm Hull

On a 6 mile circular walk around Much Hadham this afternoon between 2 and 4.30 - 4 Peacock, at least 12 Small Tortoiseshell, 2 Orange Tips, Large Whites, Small Whites, 1 Large Skipper, 1 female Common Blue, 1 female Meadow Brown, several Speckled Wood. The Speckled Wood, Skipper and Small Tortoiseshell all looked very fresh. Chris Gleeson

My first red admiral this year in Bushey garden. Managed to get to Merryhill fields at 5.20pm and found =5 x meadow brown (also first this year), 1 x common blue, 2 x speckled wood, 2 x brimstone(m), 36 x yellow shell, 2 x silver y, 3 x scoparia pyralella moths, 1 x burnet companion, 1 x latticed heath, 1 x treble-bar, 1 x nemophora degeerella(m), 1 x apotomis moth(looks identical to a sauciana but not sure found in area so could be turbidana!) David Gower

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane My walk began very promisingly with, in quick succession, a fresh Comma and similar Tortoiseshell and the first Small Heath I've seen on the Heath itself. Thereafter however intermittent cloud may have reduced numbers generally. One intriguing miss: a yellow, presumed moth, on the Marshalling Yards. Seen only in flight and about the size of a Clouded Yellow butterfly, flying quite rapidly like one too but entirely in shade and the yellow seemed closer to a Brimstone's Primrose than a Clouded Yellow's Buttercup. I lost it as it reached a more open sunny area so for the moment I'm inclining towards moth not butterfly with insufficient evidence to identify. Here are the full details: Comma: 1 Small White: 3 Tortoiseshell: 4 Small Heath: 1 Red Admiral: 2 Speckled Wood: 6 Common Blue: 8 Peacock: 2 Large White: 1 At least 18 Burnet Companions and 3 Cinnabar Moths. - Pete Gore

Despite being a sunny warm day, only saw 5 Speckled Woods, 4 Burnet Companion Moths and a Large skipper at Horsenden Hill, Middlesex. - Paul Busby

Saturday 7th June 2014

Soon after the sun came out this afternoon I dashed off to Norton Green to find 2 fresh-looking Small Tortoiseshells, 3 Common Blues, 2 Small Whites, 4 Speckled Woods plus 2 Cinnabar and 1 Burnet Companion moths. The majority were seen on the south-facing bank by the public footpath at the north end. Quite a few thistles here are now beginning to come into flower one on which was a Painted Lady having a good feed - a nice surprise! - Peter Clarke

On Kings Meads this afternoon: 1 Brown Argos, 3 Common Blue, 2 Large Skipper, 5+ Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Burnet Companion, 1 Cinnabar and 1 Silver Y. - Simon Knott

Friday 6th June 2014

Today 6th June 2014, 11.00 to 13.30, a walk around the paths on the SW outskirts of Letchworth Garden City; **Small Blue (30+)**, Common Blue (20+ all males), Large Skipper (6), Meadow Brown (4), Brimstone (2 males), Small Tortoiseshell (1), Speckled Wood (4) and Burnet Companion Moth (100+ to many to count)

[Andrew Wood's video footage on Facebook click here](#)

Roger Millard

There are three Small Blue Sites in close proximity which have been confirmed by Andrew Wood as new for Hertfordshire - one is accessible at TL205317

Hounslow Heath /Marshalling Yards/River Crane: A thoroughly enjoyable walk in bright sunshine almost throughout and with minor surprises especially in the light of yesterday's walk over the same terrain. Butterflies: Speckled Wood: 6 Peacock: 3 Common Blue: 13 Orange-Tip: 1 Brown Argus: 2 Meadow Brown: 1 (first of 2014) Green Hairstreak: 4 Large White: 2 Brimstone: 1 Green-Veined White 1 Small White: 1 Tortoiseshell: 2 Comma: 1 (and 11 Burnet Companions and 4 Cinnabars). 13 species is a 2014 high, surprising because 2 of yesterday's, I expected to see, were missing. The Orange-Tip was a female, moving rapidly from one spot to the next like someone searching for a lost diary she's sure will tell her she should be somewhere else..... The 4 Green Hairstreaks, all widely separate on the Marshalling Yards, included one that preceded me on the path in a manner more reminiscent of Peacocks or Tortoiseshells and one in yet another new spot close to the railway above the culverted Crane. The Comma, the first I've seen for a few weeks, but in a spot on the Heath where the spring ones hung on for the longest, was so brightly orange in flight that I was quite relieved when it landed high in a tree and I could see the familiar ragged wings, preventing it becoming an annoying 'unidentified'. Unfortunately I wasn't able to get a close look to see whether it seemed fresh enough to be the start of the new brood. I suspect it was. - Pete Gore

Some sightings for this afternoon Friday 6th June 2014 - 1 Speckled Wood near Oakwood entrance, Trent Park at 13:16 hrs; 1 female Common Blue, set-aside field near Oakwood entrance, Trent Park at 13:25 hrs; 6 Small Heath at 'New Fields' Trent Park; 3 Chimney Sweeper at 'New Fields' Trent Park; 1 Large Skipper Sect 4 'New Fields' Trent Park at 13:50 hrs; 2 male Meadow Brown at Trent Park 'New Fields' (1 at 13:52 hrs and another at 14:19 hrs); 3 male Common Blue (2 near Cockfosters entrance, 1 Sect 6 'New Fields' Trent Park); 3 Speckled Wood Sect 7 'New

Fields' Trent Park 14:38 - 14:39 hrs; 1 Small Copper Sect 8 'New Fields' Trent Park at 14:43 hrs - worn! A few sightings for this morning Friday 6th June 2014 - 2 Speckled Wood together at Oakwood Park, N14 at 08:44 hrs and 2 male Meadow Brown here (1 at 08:46 hrs, 1 at 09:01 hrs). 1 male Meadow Brown at Boxer's Lake, Enfield at 11:00 hrs. - Robert Callf

Thursday 5th June 2014

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/River Crane Despite cloudy conditions and a breeze this was a rewarding walk: Common Blue: 7 Red Admiral: 3 Speckled Wood: 5 Green Hairstreak: 1 Large Skipper:1 (Definitely this time! - a first such for me in 2014) Tortoiseshell:1 plus 9 (at least) Burnet Companions and 1 Cinnabar moth. Trying to count moths at least led to spotting a very faded tatty Green Hairstreak and, by way of contrast, a little later, a very fresh Large Skipper. I haven't checked but the 3 Red Admirals may be a high for me since 2012. Two were involved in skirmishes with Speckled Woods. Flowers at the moment are especially numerous and varied, from the stink of Hogweed to perfumes of several Rose species and Honeysuckle. Just 1 white butterfly seen, probably a Large White. - Pete Gore

A few sightings to report today Thursday 5th June 2014 - 1 Small Tortoiseshell, set-aside field near Dew Pond, Trent Park at 15:38 hrs; 1 male Common Blue, 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 15:54 hrs; 1 Small Heath 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 15:54 hrs; 2 male **Meadow Brown** (1 at Park Farm, Enfield at 16:25 hrs, 1 at Parkside Farm, Enfield at 17:00 hrs); Burnet Companion at Park Farm, Enfield; 1 Small Tortoiseshell settled on bramble at Parkside Farm, Enfield at 17:02 hrs. - Robert Callf

Several **six spot burnets** out near Glaxo's site in Ware. There are many pupal cases waiting to hatch and still a few caterpillars just beginning to pupate. Andrew Wood

Saw 2 Speckled Woods at Cheney Fields, Eastcote at lunchtime then 5 Common Blue, at least 4 Burnet Companion moths, a Small White and a Red Admiral at Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park, late afternoon - Paul Busby

Wednesday 4th June 2014

One newly emerged Small Tortoiseshell resting on grave stones at Lavender Hill Cemetery this morning Wednesday 4th June 2014 at 11:05 hrs. - Robert Callf

Despite cloudy conditions at least 20 Chimney Sweepers active at Forty Hall - Liz Goodyear

Tuesday 3rd June 2014

Oakhill Woods LNR East Barnet---1x Common blue, 2 x Cinnabar moth, 2 x Fresh 1st gen T shells-----(-150 wild stock captive bred were released by OakHill Theological College) Shires Golf Course, St Albans Road, Barnet---Conservation area 2-----6x Cinnabar moth, 2x Large skipper, 1x Peacock, 1x Common blue, 1x Mother shipton-----3x Grass snakes----,-6 x-Black tailed skimmer dragonflies. Totteridge fields LNR----7x Chimney sweeper moth, 1x common blue-----KIT JONES

We were working up at Aldbury today in the northern section and saw 3 small blue together (there were likely to be more present as we saw another further along the middle bank in the furthest northern enclosure). There were at least 10 common blue, brown argus, brimstone, small white, 2+Orange tip, dingy skipper, grizzled skipper, speckled wood, green hairstreak and a large skipper. - Paul Thrush

Saw 3 Speckled Woods on a 10 minute lunchtime stroll along the Yeading Brook, Roxbourne Park, Eastcote (TQ 117898) - Paul Busby

A few sightings for Grovelands Park, Southgate this afternoon Tuesday 3rd June 2014 - 2 male Common Blue (1 in 'private meadow' near Priory at 14:45 hrs, another fresher individual near tennis courts 15:34 hrs); 1 Burnet Companion in 'private meadow' near Priory at 14:45 hrs; 5 Speckled Wood seen in total - Robert Callf

15 dingy skippers still flying on 2nd June along with ten common blues 8 small heaths+burnet companion moth, + garden carpet. Mating male and female orange tip at nearby Lilley walk - Stuart Pittman

Monday 2nd June 2014

Down at Waterford heath south lunchtime a dozen or so common blues, two brimstone and my first **meadow brown** of the year. Also plenty of bee orchids - Steve Kiln

Visited Roxbourne Rough local nature reserve near Rayners Lane, Middlesex and saw 25+ Burnet Companion Moths, 2 Common Blues and 2 Speckled Woods then a Green-Veined White by the Yeading Brook in Roxbourne Park. Went onto Newton Farm Ecological Park, Rayners Lane and saw a further 3 Speckled Woods and my first Large Skipper of the year. - Paul Busby

Was at Fishers Field again today briefly only different species seen were 1 x flame carpet & 1 light brown apple moth - David Gower

At Patmore Heath today my first small copper of the year. In Hobby Horse Wood (next to Balls Wood) 5 speckled woods - Andy Brown

Whilst I was having lunch noticed a Speckled Wood at Aldermans Hill near the junction with Broomfield Avenue, N13 at 13:37 hrs this afternoon Monday 2nd June 2014 - Robert Callf

Sunday 1st June 2014

A trip to Norton Green this afternoon yielded just a Small White, a Speckled Wood, a Common Blue and 5 Peacocks (surprised that many still around from last year) all in a 10-minute burst of sun at the start in the northern part. After that, the sun hardly came out at all and no more butterflies were seen - Peter Clarke

At Stocking Pelham - one Green Veined White, two Speckled Woods and a fast flying Painted Lady - Andy Brown

At Water Lane = 3 x peacock, 2 x common blue, 2 x small tortoiseshell, 2 x speckled wood, 1 x brimstone, 3 x nettle-tap, 4 x burnet companion, 2 x silver y. Onto Fishers field = 1 x peacock, 1 x yellow shell, 2 x treble brown spot, 1 x nemophora degeerella (male), 1 x speckled wood - David Gower

Warmer day and I saw at least 9 Small Heath and 21 Common Blue (including a mating pair), as well as a m Brimstone and a Small White on Ickenham Marsh Fields, Middlesex. Disturbed a number of moths including Burnet Companion, Mother Shipton and a Small Yellow Underwing. Pair of Speckled Woods in Eastcote garden - Paul Busby

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/River Crane. A sunnier, hotter day than yesterday but still some afternoon cloud. Burnet Companion moths seemed to be more numerous than all the butterflies together - at least 30 of them and doubtless many more if I'd tried to count properly. Butterflies: Speckled Wood: 5 Common Blue: 10 Large White: 1 Green-Veined White: 2 Brimstone: 4 Small White: 2 Painted Lady: 1 (first for 2014) and 3 Cinnabar Moths. Slightly disappointed not to see any Orange-Tips for the second day running. At the moment looking as though what felt like a good showing for them has come to a rather abrupt halt this year. - Pete Gore

May 2014

Saturday 31st May 2014

First **two large skippers** today on Kings Meads - Simon Knott

A trip to Norton Green this afternoon yielded just a Small White, a Speckled Wood, a Common Blue and 5 Peacocks (surprised that many still around from last year) all in a 10-minute burst of sun at the start in the northern part. After that, the sun hardly came out at all and no more butterflies were seen - Peter Clarke

We took advantage of the sun to look around Stanmore Country Park today. Lepidoptera seen: about a dozen Speckled Woods, a couple of Crambids (moths) but many many Burnet Companion moths; over 50. In previous years the odd one or two have turned up but never like today. Others included a female Orange Tip, a Peacock and a Small Phoenix moth which rested obligingly on the trunk of a nearby tree and near the end three Cinnabar moths. We must do less work and more observing - John and Margaret

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/River Crane Despite beginning in bright sunshine, no wind and temperature above 20C, cloudy conditions soon prevailed and perhaps it was this plus the inevitable changing of the seasons that meant few butterflies: Large White: 1 Speckled Wood: 5 Peacock: 2 Common Blue: 8 Green Hairstreak: 1 Cinnabar Moth: 4 Not much unidentified: a couple of whites, one lively large dark butterfly (Peacock? Red Admiral?) and a likely Small Heath on the Heath. Moths seemed plentiful: at least half a dozen Burnet Companion and a few Mother Shipton I rather lazily ignored mostly. - Pete Gore

Warm, cloudy, humid afternoon and only saw 1 Brown Argus, 1 Cinnabar and 1 Burnet Companion Moth at Bridgewater Fields, Ruislip Gardens, Middlesex plus a Speckled Wood resting on a towel on a washing line in my Eastcote garden in the morning. - Paul Busby

Sightings for today Saturday 31st May 2014 - 2 Burnet Companion at Sidhil's Field, Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 09:45 hrs; 1 male Common Blue at Sidhil's Field, Vicarage Farm, 09:47 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood along Merryhills Brook/Vicarage Farm at 10:47 hrs; batch Peacock caterpillars along Merryhills Brook/Vicarage Farm; 2 Peacock together, set-aside field N of Williams Wood/Trent Park at 12:00 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, Trent Park at 12:02 hrs; 1 Mother Shipton, set-aside field N of Williams Wood; **1 male Large Skipper**, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, Trent Park at 12:08 hrs - our first of the year! 2 Peacock (1 along Leeging Beech Gutter near Water Grdn, at 12:24 hrs, 1 Water Garden, Trent Park, 12:33 hrs); 1 Red Admiral at Water Grdn, Trent Park, 12:49 hrs; 2 male Common Blue between Lower Lake and Ride Wood, Trent Park, 12:52 and 12:57 hrs; Straw Dot near Lower Lake - our first of the year! 6 Small Copper at Trent Park (1 at 'Old Golf Course' 13:04 hrs, 1 'Rookery Field' at 13:25 hrs, 1 Sect 8 'New Fields' at 14:08 hrs, 3 set-aside field near Triangular Wood, 14:23 - 14:25 hrs); 2 Mother Shipton at 'Rookery Field' Trent Park; Silver Y Moth at 'Rookery Field' Trent Park - our first of the year! **2 Chimney Sweeper** at 'New Fields' Trent Park - our first of the year! 4 Small Heath at 'New Fields' Trent Park (2 at 13:51 and 2 at 13:58 hrs); 3 Burnet Companion at 'New Fields' Trent Park; 1 Small Tortoiseshell first of 'summer-brood' Sect 8 'New Fields' Trent Park, 14:09 hrs. Also we saw several Cinnabars at Trent Park 'Old Golf Course'. - Robert Callf & Robin White.

A few sightings to note; Ivinghoe Beacon produced one Duke of Burgundy on 15th May. Burnet companion, Mother Shipton and one Common Blue were seen at Aston Clinton Ragpits on 20th May. An Orange tip flew in a Kings Langley garden on May 25th. May 29th I found a fresh Silver Y in the green house in Kings Langley and set it free. Some butterfly canvases and prints, etc, can be seen at the Chiltern Focus Photographic Exhibition at Chenies Pavilion Gallery on Weds and Thurs 2-5pm until June 26th. - Elizabeth Debenham

I had a walk this morning at Tyttenhanger Gravel Pits on the 29th May and the only butterflies seen were 4 Small Heaths, the first of the year here for me - Terry Wood

Recorded the following Thursday 29th May 2014 at Fir & Pond Woods near Potters Bar - 1 Red Admiral at 14:34 hrs, 1 Speckled Wood at 14:24 hrs, 2 Brown Silver-lines here also. Also two Large White together along Coopers Lane Road near bridge over the M25 - Robert Callf

Wednesday 28th May 2014

I had my first **Painted Lady** of the year on Saturday 24th May in my garden adjacent to Hitch Wood. It was also present all day on Sunday 25th nectaring on Valerian. Also present were Red Admiral, 2 Orange Tips and Green-Veined White. - Colin Brackston

I visited the site near Hoo Wood with Jennifer Gilbert on 25/05/14. We found a single dingy skipper at round about the same place where I saw one last year, we also saw small copper and lots of common blues. No sign of the grizzled skipper unfortunately - Ian Carle

Sunday 25th May 2014

First Small Copper of the year today in the centre of Stocking Pelham village - Andy Brown

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/River Crane Cloud and breeze restricted the number of butterflies but an enjoyable walk nevertheless, during which I was pleased to see two Broomrape flower-stalks. There are published records of Orobanche minor on the Marshalling Yards site so, given the complexity of the family, I'd guess at that as the species. Yarrow was conspicuously close but there are grasses and sundry Pea family members which could also be the host species. Here are the butterflies seen: Speckled Wood: 3 Common Blue: 10 Peacock: 8 Small Copper: 2 Brown Argus: 1 Orange-Tip: 2 Tortoiseshell: 1 Brimstone: 1 and Cinnabar Moth: 1 - Pete Gore

Friday 23rd May 2014

A few sightings for this afternoon Friday 23rd May 2014 - 1 Speckled Wood near Oakwood entrance, Trent Park at 13:30 hrs; 1 Small Copper near Triangular Wood, Trent Park at 13:41 hrs; 1 Silver-ground Carpet near Triangular Wood, Trent Park; 1 Small Heath Sect 6 'New Fields' Trent Park at 13:55 hrs. - Robert Callf

I saw a common blue and a peacock while working at Thorley Wash yesterday - Jenny Sherwen

Wednesday 21st May 2014

My 1st red admiral of the year at Ickleford/Hitchin today along with common blues and a small heath plus the usual suspects of brimstones/orange tips (observations declining now) speckled woods and a peacock At Highdown on 20th Green Hairstreak and Dingy skipper still on the wing - Stuart Pittman

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/River Crane A complete walk today in conditions similar to yesterday: Orange-Tip: 10 Speckled Wood: 10 Peacock: 3 Large White: 3 Common Blue: 14 Brown Argus: 1 (first definite for 2014), Small Heath: 1 Green Hairstreak: 2 Small Copper: 1 Tortoiseshell: 1 Cinnabar Moth: 3 Two Common Blues mating,wings closed,perched on top of a Ribwort Plantain flower-head momentarily looked like a single exotic spotted butterfly. - Pete Gore

Briefly visited Mile End in East London and within an hour saw 2 m Common Blue and 3 Small Whites in Mile End Park (TQ 365822), then a Speckled Wood, a Brown Argus, a Green-Veined White and a m Common Blue along Ackroyd Drive Greenway (TQ 363818) with an abundance of wild flowers and finally onto Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park, seeing a pair of Broad-bodied Chasers, at least 6 Common Blues (4m, 2f) and half a dozen Burnet Companion Moths before the weather turned even more cloudy and breezy - Paul Busby

Plenty of common blues at Rickneys and brown argus. At Waterford heath saw 3 small heath my first and 7 common blue, 3 grizzled skippers in completely different areas incl middle square and small copper in large scraped square near wood - Steve Kiln

Some sightings for today Wednesday 21st May 2014 - 2 Small Tortoiseshell (1 set-aside field N of Williams Wood, Trent Park at 11:00 hrs, 1 near Hadley Road at Vicarage Farm at 11:10 hrs); 2 Red Admiral (1 set-aside field N of Williams Wood, Trent Park at 11:03 hrs, 1 at Parkside Farm, Enfield at 11:22 hrs); 1 Peacock near Hadley Road at Vicarage Farm at 11:13 hrs; 1 Small Heath at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park 13:00 hrs; 1 Mother Shipton at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park 13:02 hrs. - Robert Callf

First Red Admiral of the year from Fox Covert (HMWT reserve) next to Therfield Heath - Andy Brown

Tuesday 20th May 2014

Visited Ickenham Marsh, Middlesex at lunchtime and then the surrounding meadow fields (TQ087855) and despite the cloudy, breezy conditions, I saw 3 Speckled Woods, 2 m Orange Tips, 3 m Common Blue, 4 Small Heath and at least very active 5 Small Coppers (one with a row of blue spots). Also a number of Common Carpet Moths, a Mother Shipton and a Blood-vein moth - Paul Busby

Whilst working at Amwell this morning I saw 3 orange tips, 2 common blues, 1 brimstone and 1 brown argus - Jenny Sherwen

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards A shorter walk today in mostly cloudy humid conditions. Butterflies as follows: Speckled Wood: 10 Common Blue: 11 Small Copper: 1 Green Hairstreak: 1 Small Heath: 1 (first of 2014) and Cinnabar Moth: 2 - Pete Gore

Monday 19th May 2014

Had a quick lunchtime visit today to Coopers Green, Sutton Farm Gravel Pit, to view the Hobbies and noted a single male Common Blue butterfly, my first this year in Herts. Also 2 Green Veined Whites and a Peacock. - Terry Wood

Completed a circular route from the northern section of Yeading Brook meadows, following both the Dog Rose Ramble and Hillingdon Trail to Ten Acre Wood and Gutteridge Wood and pond.

Pleased to see 11 species of butterfly along the route, including my first Red Admiral of the year. Northern section, TQ102827, 1 Small Copper, Speckled Wood, m Brimstone, Small White, Small Tortoiseshell. Yeading Brook Meadow/Michael Frost Park section, TQ 0983, 1 Speckled Wood, 3 Peacocks, 2 Green-Veined Whites, Small Tortoiseshell, m Brimstone, 3 m Orange Tip, 1 Common Blue and 2 Brown Argus. Ten Acre Wood/Yeading Brook, TQ097837 Red Admiral, 6 Peacocks, 2 m Orange Tip. Gutteridge Wood meadow and pond, TQ094843, 1 Small Copper, 1 m Common Blue, 3 Brown Argus. - Paul Busby

Sunday 18th May, Hounslow Heath, Speckled Wood x3, Green Veined White x3, Large white x1, Peacock x5, Small copper x1, Green Hairstreak x3, Small white x1, common Blue x1, Comma X2, Red admiral x1, Orange Tip x 5 - Paul Taylor

Sunday 18th May, my first visit to Aldbury Nowers this year. In lower areas = 6 x orange tip(1 was female), 11 x brimstone(2 female), 3 x brown argos, 3 x small copper, 4 x grizzles skipper, 4 x dingy skipper, 3 x small heath, 5 x burnet companion, 2 x green hairstreak, large white x 1, small white x 2, peacock x 2, common blue x 2, 1 x treble-bar. At higher level = 1 x scoparia pyralella moth(found by andrew), 1 x burnet companion, 1 x treble-bar, 8 x brimstone (1 female), 3 x green hairstreak, 7 x grizzled skipper, 1 x orange tip (m), 3 x common blue, 1 x small heath, 1 x large white. - David Gower

First Small Heath of 2014 on Little Mead, Kings Meads - Simon Knott

We had the annual spring butterflies walk on Saturday with 14 people attending. We saw everything you could hope for including more green hairstreaks than I've ever seen walking around (7+), 5+ grizzled skipper, 5+ dingy skipper, brown argus, common blue, small heath, small copper, orange tip, brimstone and large white. Today I did the transect and the highlights off the route were **2 small blue** in the furthest northern enclosure and a total of 11 green hairstreak! Also plenty of grizzled and dingy skipper, brimstone, common blue and singles of brown argus, small heath and small copper. - Paul Thrush

Saw a Red Admiral in a front garden at Chaseside, Southgate, N14 yesterday Sunday 18th May 2014 at 12:43 hrs - the first that I have since much earlier in the spring, so presumably a migrant? - Robert Callf

Sunday 18th May 2014

Aldbury Nowers, 2 Grizzled and lots of Dingy skippers, numerous Green Hairstreak, Brimstone and Orange tip plus 2 Common Blues and the star of the show, my first ever recording of a **Small Blue** in Herts, he didn't hang around too long but I rattled off a couple of piccies

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/naturecatcher58/14215323824/>

Ashley Cox

Walked along Park Way Common next to Metropolitan tube line, Ruislip Manor, Middlesex, (TQ104873) and saw 2 Speckled Woods, 2 Small Whites and a faded Comma which kept buzzing me and landing on my arm! - Paul Busby

I visited Rushy Mead nature reserve next to the River Stort this afternoon. Conditions were close to ideal, but not that many butterflies were on the wing: Several Large white, 2 small white, 4 peacock, 1 red admiral, 1 orange tip, Red/black day flying moth - looked like a Cinnabar - Chris Gleeson

Tottenham marshes, Sunday 18th May,- Wild Marsh west (TL354911) in ideal conditions between 12.45 and 13.15- 1 large white. 3 small white,several unidentified whites, 10 brimstones (9m. 1f.), and single peacock. Later at picnic area close to Stonebridge Lock, 1 holly blue, 2 very worn peacocks and white plume moth - Len Crouch

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/River Crane. Complete walk. I started out earlier than usual returning around 2.30 at which point,after continuous sunshine and increasing temperatures, it felt to me butterfly numbers were still increasing too.Here are my sightings: Tortoiseshell: 1 Peacock: 17 Brimstone: 5 Orange-Tip: 8 Speckled Wood: 1 Small Copper: 2 Green Hairstreak: 5 Common Blue: 9 (included first females) Large White: 1 Green-Veined White: 1 and a Cinnabar moth. Despite absence of Small White and low GVW not a huge number of uncounted whites. 4 Green Hairstreaks on the Marshalling Yards (in 3 separate locations), 1 on the Heath. To put it mildly this is somewhat unexpected as far as I am concerned.All except the Heath 1 identified,settled. - Pete

Gore

Butterfly World, St Albans to check out the Small Blues and saw 10 in all. Sightings last week had been of individuals nectaring on Horseshoe Vetch, which is doing well & currently in full flower. However I only saw one there & the rest were all on Kidney Vetch at the far end of the antennae slopes. Males were patrolling low above the ground, presumably searching for emerging females. Two males clashed above a particularly promising looking patch of Kidney Vetch. After a couple of minutes duelling back and forth staying close to the ground one flew off and did not return. The second paused to nectar on Birds-foot Trefoil & resumed patrolling - it was still there an hour later, full of vigour. Also Common Blue are out in force - I counted 28 including one female. Brimstones & a Small Copper were seen looking for egg laying sites & Comma, Peacock, Orange Tip & Small White made up the butterfly numbers. Burnet Companion & Mother Shipton Moths both out plus a single Cinnabar - Malcolm Hull

Saturday 17th May 2014

Sightings for today Saturday 17th May 2014 - 1 Silver-ground Carpet near Oakwood entrance, Trent Park - my first of the year! 1 Small Copper at Trent Park along tube-line between Oakwood entrance and Cockfosters entrance, 12:52 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood Sect 7, Trent Park, 12:57 hrs; male Large White at Monken Hadley Common, 13:37 hrs; 1 Orange Underwing repeatedly settling in grass just E of Covert Way LNR - my first of the year! 1 Mother Shipton settled on buttercup just E of Covert Way LNR; 1 male Holly Blue settled on mud in carpark at Monken Hadley Common just W of train line which bisects the site, 14:27 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood at Monken Hadley Common E end of site, 15:47 hrs; 1 Green-veined White at Monken Hadley Common E end of site, 15:50 hrs. - Robert Callf

Panshanger Park, 1 Small Heath, 1 Small Copper, 2 Orange Tips, 6 Peacocks, 6 Small Tortoiseshells, 2 Green-veined Whites - Allan Burrows

At Fishers Field this afternoon in Bushey and came across = 3 x peacock, 1 x small white, 2 x brimstone (1m & 1f), 1 x small tortoiseshell caterpillar, 1 x nemophora degeerella moth. Onto water lane = 5 x orange tip (males), 2 x brimstone (males), 1 x comma, 1 x holly blue (female), 4 x peacock, 2 x small white, 40/50 small tortoiseshell caterpillars on nettle. At our Bushey garden = 1 x mint moth, 8 x light brown apple moths, 1 x tawny speckled pug ? Supposed to be flying from July but nothing else appears similar. David Gower

Saturday plenty of common blues and brown argus at Rickneys and occasional small heath. saw two grizzled skippers on lower part of Waterford Heath south near settling beds - Steve Kiln

The lure of an Alder Buckthorn, brought two female Brimstones into my Ware garden to egg-lay also one male, also female Orange Tip on Sweet Rocket - Liz Goodyear

Friday 16th May 2014

Four Speckled Wood this morning - two together in Oakwood Park at 09:00 and two at Boxer's Lake, Enfield 10:45 - will have an hour or so over the 'New Fields' later today, so will contact you again later. Later Peacock near Oakwood entrance, Trent Park 13:00 hrs, 6 Small Copper at 'New Fields' Trent Park 13:05 - 13:51 hrs, 2 Small Heath at 'New Fields' Trent Park (1 Sect 5, 13:24 hrs, 1 Sect 6, 13:41 hrs) - my first record of the year - the first was opening and closing its wings at rest and rubbing its hindwings together, 1 Mother Shipton at 'New Fields' Trent Park Sect 6 - Robert Callf

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/River Crane. An earlier walk today which still ended in butterfly-discouraging cloudier conditions. Butterflies as follows: Peacock: 9 Orange-Tip: 10 Brimstone: 4 Small Copper: 2 Common Blue: 4 (no females yet) Green-Veined White: 2 Speckled Wood: 1 One of the Small Coppers was the first I've seen on any part of Hounslow Heath this year although not unexpected of course. Whites under-recorded. - Pete Gore

Pair of Speckled Woods in my Eastcote Garden in morning. Male Orange Tip seen on a brief visit to Rural Outdoor Activities Centre, Hayes, Middlesex. Cloudy, but very warm afternoon on Harmondsworth Moor. Not many butterflies, but I saw a large number of Banded Demioselles in the fields, reeds and bushes near the River Colne and Wraysbury River. On the southern Hill section, I saw 1 Small Heath, 1 m Brimstone, 1 Peacock and 2 m Orange Tips. In the Middle Meadow, I went on to observe 1 Small Copper, 1 Peacock, Orange Tip (3m, 1f), 2 Brown Argus and 3 f Common Blue - Paul Busby

Thursday 15th May 2014

HATFIELD AERODROME (DISUSED) -Ellenbrook Fields 15-5-14 Peacock x 6+ Small White x 3 Green-veined White x 3 Orange Tip x 5+ Small Tortoiseshell x 1. PANSHANGER PARK 16-5-14 Green-veined White x 2 Orange Tip x 4 Peacock x 3 Small Copper x 1 - David Wheatcroft

Green Hairstreak today, 15 May, at Bedfont Lakes Southern Section. I had several sightings but quite possibly of the same individual. - John Eborall

An eventful day at Hexton Chalk Pit and Telegraph Hill earlier. We stopped off at Hexton Chalk Pit in the morning at 1030 and immediately saw a Speckled Wood by the gate. After a quiet start we eventually saw 40+ Dingy Skippers, 4 Green Hairstreaks, 5+ Brimstones, a Small White and a Small Heath. We left the pit at about 1150 to go to Telegraph Hill. Nothing much to note until we got to the chalk cutting just off Icknield Way at about 1230. Among the hawthorn we very soon saw 3 or 4 Green Hairstreaks. In all, we counted about 12 Green Hairstreaks most of which descended to ground level later in the afternoon and many of them looked as though they had just emerged with the undersides showing a 'shiny' green. Other sightings included 50+ Brimstones, 20+ Orange Tips, 3 Brown Argus (including a mating pair), 5+ Dingy Skippers, 2 Peacocks, a Common Blue, a Small Copper and a Small Tortoiseshell. We also saw some whites we couldn't identify. - Peter Clarke and Bob Clift

Despite repeating yesterday's walk today's was uneventful and less varied:cloudy conditions on the Marshalling Yards and Crane didn't help.Here are the details: Speckled Wood: 5 Orange-Tip:11 Peacock: 22 Green-Veined White: 4 Brimstone: 3 Large White: 1 Small White: 2 and 1 Cinnabar moth. A vole emerged from the Crane and crossed the footpath in front of me into some Brambles as I walked back along the river. No other sightings I'm afraid. I briefly checked the Marshalling Yards for Gorse,could find none in the vicinity of yesterday's Hairstreak,but a fairly large group of bushes diagonally opposite looked reasonable potential habitat.There are separate bushes elsewhere but a little lost amongst all the flowering Broom - Pete Gore

One hour spent at north end of Frogmore Quarry nr. Stevenage at lunchtime in sun. 8 Grizzled Skipper (2NW, 6NE), 5 Brown Argus, 3 Common Blue males, 3 Orange-tip. The main pit is full of water making it impossible to walk up from the south with some large areas of strawberry plants now covered, also 1 Speckled Wood, 1 Cinnabar - Trevor Chapman

Visited Highgrove Wood, Eastcote, Middlesex after lunch and saw a Peacock and Small White, as well as Large Red Damselflies and a male Broad-bodied Chaser Dragonfly patrolling the pond. Visited the nearby Warrender Park, Wild Flower meadow and saw a further 4 Small Whites and a lively Common Blue. Then early evening, went for a stroll around Bridgwater Fields, Ruislip Gardens and saw a Peacock, Speckled wood, 2 Small Whites, male Orange Tip and 3 Burnet Companion Moths - Paul Busby

Wednesday 14th May 2014

Visited Bricket Wood Common 10:30 to 12:30 sunny & slightly windy, saw no butterflies on the ride, some oaks removed over winter to open up the canopy, very wet underfoot suggest wellies or walking boots if you go. In the area of the SSSI cattle now grazing for the second year to keep growth of strong grasses, ferns & saplings down, observed 6 Brimstones; a knowledgeable friend pointing out the male/female coloring difference, 1 Comma, 1 Peacock, 1 orange tip, 8 large whites. The cattle grazing is helping the heather to regenerate also saw kestrel & Buzzards - Paul Gibson

On The Transect today at Butterfly World **2 Small Blues** spotted nectaring on Horseshoe Vetch, also seen were 2 Orange Tips, 2 Small Tortoiseshells, 7 Brimstones, 1 Small White and 1 Peacock. All in all a very satisfying Walk today! - Mandy Floyd

It's been over a week since my last complete walk across Hounslow Heath to the Marshalling Yards etc so not surprising that today's walk was notable for 'firsts' and altogether one of the most thoroughly enjoyable walks I've had. It began with what was most likely a Common Carpet Moth but whilst I was unsuccessfully trying to get a better look at two intriguing orange/brown butterflies I did see an unmistakeable Cinnabar moth, a first for 2014. Still on the Heath my first Common Blue was next but for me personally the best sightings came, as they so often do, on the Marshalling Yards: I was watching a Small Copper walking along my path,reflecting (and empathising) that this little butterfly despite being a strong flyer seems to do a lot of walking, when a flash of green a few feet ahead told me there was something less expected - after 17 years

visiting the Marshalling Yards my first **Green Hairstreak** there! It proved to be a remarkably watchable one too. It was moving around the growth tips of some Common Broom alongside the path. From time to time it seemed to rub its hind-wings together and I wondered if this was associated with egg-laying although I saw no sign of eggs. Nevertheless it seemed purposeful, flitting from tip to tip (and thereby giving me glimpses of the contrasting upper-side of its wings) I hoped its activities would attract the attention of others but when it left after a few minutes I'd still seen just this one memorable butterfly. There was one other surprise a little later, which I'm less comfortable with as the butterfly wouldn't settle for long, and it seems somewhat early: a possible Large Skipper. Here are my full details: Green-Veined White: 5 Peacock: 17 Tortoiseshell: 1 Orange-Tip: 5 Brimstone: 2 Large White: 2 Common Blue: 2 Speckled Wood: 7 Small Copper: 3 Green Hairstreak: 1 ?Large Skipper: 1 Small White: 1 Even without butterflies walking would be very enjoyable for the flora: today's seasonal 'firsts' included Ox-Eye, Flag Iris, Ragged Robin, Viper's Bugloss, Red Clover with Composites and Crucifers reminding me what big families they are - Pete Gore

A few sightings to report today Wednesday 14th May 2014 - 1 female Common Blue, field N of Williams Wood, Trent Park at 11:19 hrs - our first of the year! 2 male Orange Tip, together, along Leeging Beech Gutter N of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 11:25 hrs; 1 Cinnabar at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park - our first of the year! 1 male Brimstone edge of Rough Lot, Trent Park, 13:00 hrs; 1 Small Copper near Dew Pond, Trent Park at 13:43 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood along Merryhills Brook/Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 14:16 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell along Merryhills Brook/Vicarage Farm at 14:18 hrs - Robert Callf & Robin White. - Robert Callf

Tuesday 13th May 2014

Visited Albury Nowers between 2:30 to 3:30 sunny but quite windy, recorded 10 Brimstones, 4 Orange Tips, 3 Small whites on the lower slopes & 1 Green Hairstreak on the Ridgeway Path. - Paul Gibson

Identified two butterflies in Grovelands Park, Southgate this afternoon Tuesday 13th May 2014 - 1 Small White near Bowling Green at 13:07 hrs and 1 Small Copper near Tennis Courts at 13:12 hrs - my first of the year! - Robert Callf

Monday 12th May 2014

At Rickneys surprisingly good. 1 grizzled skipper, 4 brown argus, 3 common blue, brimstone, peacock, small tortoiseshell, orange tip, small white, small copper. Only small copper of note at Waterford heath south more exposed to wind. Disappointing to the fabulous butterflies in Provence last week - Steve Kiln

Had a stroll before lunch, around Northolt and Greenford Countryside Park, Middlesex. Marnham Fields section: Lots of whites, managed to identify at least 9 Green Veined Whites, 3 Small Whites, 2 female Orange Tip and one pair, 8 Peacocks and 3 Small Tortoiseshells. Greenford Lagoons cycle path, Speckled Wood and at least one Green-veined White. After lunch, turned cloudier and breezier but went to Yeading Brook Fields, Yeading, Middlesex, and saw 2 Small Coppers duelling, 1 Holly Blue, 4 Peacocks, 1 male Brimstone, 1 male Orange Tip, 1 Small Tortoiseshell and a Green-Veined White. - Paul Busby

Had a hour long walk in Pymmes Park, Edmonton this morning from 10:10 - 11:10 hrs Monday 12th May 2014 and saw one female Large White at 10:34 hrs. - Robert Callf

Saturday 10th May 2014

Millhoppers Pasture, Willstone - Despite the dire weather forecast, the sun was shining for the first of our branch field trips of the Spring. The rain held off all morning & we were able to record Small Tortoiseshell(2), Green-veined White (3), Orange Tip(1), Large White(20 and Common Carpet moth. Reserve Warden Jez Perkins showed us how the grassland areas on the site are benefiting from the conservation grazing regime, by increasing the variation in the turf allowing a diverse range of wild flower species to thrive. Not such luck at Bricket Wood Common this afternoon - it poured with rain, though I did record 4 Brimstones - Malcolm Hull

I spotted 4 Green Hairstreaks today on Hounslow Heath, also saw Orange Tip X2, Green Veined White x4, Speckled Wood X2, all seen a.m - Paul Taylor

Friday 9th May 2014

Despite a blustery day with showers, I saw a Speckled Wood and a faded Peacock at Bridgewater Fields, Ruislip Gardens and then 2 Holly Blues, 2 Small White, a Green-Veined White, a Comma and lots of small caterpillars feeding on nettles. - Paul Busby

Green Hairstreak and Dingy Skippers are active at Hexton Chalk Pit - Nigel Agar

Wednesday 7th May 2014

At Balls Wood this afternoon, in mainly cool and dull conditions, I saw just 2 male Orange-tip and 1 Green-veined White. The main purpose of my visit had been to find White Admiral larvae, which I thought would be large enough by now to be easy to spot, but my three-hour search yielded precisely none. - Paul Why

Tuesday 6th May 2014

Green Hairstreak x 4, Peacock x 4 Speckled Wood x 1 Orange Tip x 1 Small White x 2 Green Veined White x 1 Small Tortoiseshell x 2 - Paul Taylor

Today's walk was a limited one focussing on Green Hairstreak on Hounslow Heath and on the central part of the Marshalling Yards which I hadn't walked for a few days. Breezy with the sun passing in and out of clouds, less than ideal for butterflies. Here are my sightings: Peacock: 19 Green Hairstreak: 1 Speckled Wood: 1 Orange-Tip: 6 Small White: 2 Holly Blue: 2. My first ever Green Hairstreak was more or less exactly where Andrew's video had indicated - many thanks due for that as I only really saw the butterfly by waiting rather than walking. It landed more or less at my feet on some Broom and looked pleasingly er ... green, then flew rapidly and erratically across the path confirming that an earlier sighting from a distance was likely to have been the same species if not the same individual. I completed a full walk on Monday minus the Bikers' domain in the Marshalling Yards: Orange-Tip: 13 Peacock: 18 Tortoiseshell: 2 Green-Veined White: 3 Small White: 4 Large White: 1 Speckled Wood: 4 Comma: 1 Brimstone: 2 Small White: 1 I've now seen three very small Orange-Tips, including a rather appealing female not much bigger than a Common Blue. - Pete Gore

Rickneys, eventually found two Grizzled Skipper but before that saw 2 Small Copper, **1 Brown Argus and 1 Common Blue** - Liz Goodyear

Of note in Greater London, Green Hairstreak have been seen at Wanstead Flats (Borough of Redbridge), well worth looking out for this species!

Monday 5th May 2014

Folly Lane St Albans - Spotted two nests of Peacock Caterpillars on the nettle patch on my allotment. The first consists of a tightly knit group of around 50 young caterpillars about 1.5cm long. The second is a more disperse group of mature caterpillars about 4 cm long in groups of two or three on a series of adjoining plants and leaves - Malcolm Hull

Sunday 4th May 2014

I completed the same walk as on Saturday but starting in early afternoon and lingering on Hounslow Heath in another unsuccessful attempt to spot Green Hairstreak. Here are my sightings: Tortoiseshell: 5 Green-Veined White: 5 Peacock: 25 Orange-Tip: 13 Speckled Wood: 4 Small White: 1 Comma: 1 Brimstone: 4 Large White: 1 Unidentified whites as usual but not numerous - Pete Gore

I noticed that **Small Heath** had apparently not been recorded this year when I checked the Butterfly Conservation web site today. At least four were flying at Hexton Chalk Pit this afternoon (Sunday 4 May); also 30+ Dingy Skipper and 10+ Green Hairstreak. - Martin Johnson

Quick stroll around Bridgewater Fields, Ruislip Gardens early afternoon and saw 3 Peacocks, 2 male Orange Tip, 2 Speckled Wood and Green-Veined White. In the garden in Eastcote, I saw a Holly Blue and a Speckled Wood. - Paul Busby

Checked out usual Bushey haunts starting at fishers field this morning where spotted 1 x small tortoiseshell, 3 x orange tips (2m , 1f), 2 x peacock, 4 x small white. At water lane 12 x small tortoiseshell (mostly on dandelion), 8 x orange tip (6m, 2f), 5 x peacock, 7 x small white, 2 x green veined white, 3 x brimstone (m). In Bushey garden 1 x orange tip (m). In late afternoon 2 x

green veined white & 1 x orange tip (m) at finch lane. Lastly at Merryhill Fields were 6 x orange tip (4m, 2f), 7 x brimstone (1 was female), 5 x peacock, 1 x small tortoiseshell, 1 x speckled wood, 3 x green veined white. - David Gower

The Shires Golf Course---St Albans Road ,Barnet-----Fresh Red Admiral and **Cinnabar** moth in conservation area. Oakhill Theological College, East Barnet-----True Crane fly---Clenophora pectinicornis---in old orchard area-----Kitt Jones

Saturday 3rd May 2014

Saturday's walk in full sun but rather late so I suspect I was in the right area of Hounslow Heath but at the wrong time to see Andrew's Green Hairstreak. Here are my sightings - I missed only the inner loop of the Marshalling Yards which was heavily in use by bikers. Brimstone: 3 Peacock: 21 Orange-Tip: 5 Small White: 3 Speckled Wood: 7 Green-Veined White: 2 Comma: 1 Along the Pevensey stretch of the Crane Damsel Flies began to emerge on Monday. By Saturday there were probably hundreds here (but only 1 seen on the stretch through the Golf Course!) Very colourful with the blue-black form predominant. - Pete Gore

A **Green Hairstreak** at Hounslow Heath today. See a short video on the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/ButterflyConservationHertsMiddlesex>
Andrew Wood

Saw a male Orange Tip on the way to buy a newspaper, late afternoon, along the Yeading Brook, Eastcote, Middlesex - Paul Busby

Waterford heath (south,east bank) 2 Grizzled skippers, 1 Small copper - Laurence Drummond

This afternoon at Waterford Heath we saw 3 grizzled skippers, 3 peacocks and 1 small tortoiseshell on the South pit. On the North pit we saw 1 grizzled skipper, 6 peacocks and 3 small whites. Jenny Sherwen

Friday 2nd May 2014

Today, we saw 2 orange tips, 1 grizzled skipper and 1 small copper at Aldbury Nowers - Jenny Sherwen

April 2014

Wednesday 30th April 2014

A goodish early spring so far. I counted over 40 orange tips (38 males and two females) in the Highdown/Pirton area, lagging a poor second was Brimstone on 24 but more pleasing was my most Green Hairstreaks there in a day for some years ie 8, along with six dingy skippers and a **Burnet companion** moth I toddled off to Hexton Chalk pit where as I finished my walk seeing 8 dingy skippers and a solitary green hairstreak - Stuart Pittman

In a couple of hours at Hexton Chalk Pit this afternoon I noted 15+ Brimstone, 4 Orange-tip, 6 Peacock, **8 Dingy Skipper** and 5 Green Hairstreak. Having 4 GHs in my field of view at once was a first for me - Paul Why

My walk began in midday sun, ending in cloudy conditions on the return trip across Hounslow Heath. The most notable change was the growing numbers of Large White and rather large numbers of unidentified Whites (30). Here are the details: Orange-Tip 10 (9m 1f) Green-Veined White: 4 Peacock: 26 Small White: 3 Large White: 4 Holly Blue: 4 Speckled Wood: 3 Brimstone: 2 Tortoiseshell: 4 Speckled Wood actually fewer than in cloudy conditions - possibly too hot and sunny for shade-lovers - Pete Gore

St Albans - Working at home today due to the tube strike. Checked in my outhouse & saw that the last two hibernating Small Tortoiseshells have left since last weekend. The numbers have been going down steadily since early March, so the emergence from hibernation has been staggered over a period of 6 weeks. The first few individuals went in to hibernation in early July 2013, so there have been butterflies hibernating there for nearly 10 months. I must remember to clear away the cobwebs before this year's brood arrives. Elsewhere in the garden male Orange Tips were patrolling past the Garlic Mustard looking for females & a male Brimstone passed through a few times, checking out the Buckthorn with the same thought on its mind. The only female butterfly I

saw was a female Green-veined White, egg-laying on Garlic Mustard - Malcolm Hull

Plenty of orange tips, peacocks and brimstones everywhere. In Broxbourne Wood first **speckled yellow** moth, at Rickneys 3 grizzled skippers and Waterford heath south a further two again near settling beds- Steve Kiln

Earlier this afternoon at Norton Green, I saw my first Speckled Wood here along with 10 Orange Tips, 9 Peacocks, 8 Small Tortoiseshells, 7 G-V Whites and 3 Small Whites in just over an hour. Peter Clarke

Two new moths for the year today for us Wednesday 30th April 2014 - Common Carpet at Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm and **Mother Shipton** Uni-lawns, Trent Park. A few of the butterflies which I recorded today are as follows - 1 Peacock at Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm at 10:20 hrs; 2 Small Tortoiseshell at Vicarage Farm; 1 Holly Blue near Hadley Road at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 10:58 hrs; 1 Comma at Park Farm, Enfield at 11:40 hrs; 1 female Large White at Park Farm, Enfield at 11:58 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Park Farm, Enfield at 12:00 hrs; 1 male Brimstone near Upper Lake, Trent Park at 12:50 hrs - Robert Callf & Robin White.

As the sun came out this morning I went for a walk around Norton Common, Letchworth. It was definitely a day for whites. I saw six male Orange-tips at the same time, Small White, Large White (three at a time), Green-veined White, Brimstone - several times singly and in twos. Peacock on several occasions, a solitary Comma and two sightings of a Speckled Wood. - Jill Sawyer

Tuesday 29th April 2014

At Amwell today 1 Speckled Wood, 3 Peacock, 10+ orange tips, 4 Green- veined and 2 Small Whites - Andy Steele

The best bits of weather haven't coincided with my time off, so I haven't been able to get out much. However, here are a few snippets of news from Stanwell Moor. 21st April. A brief walk at around four o'clock: Two Holly Blues, Two Speckled Woods, a Green-veined White taking minerals from a muddy puddle and two roosting Orange Tips.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=47178&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=47187&mode=view>

26th April. A longer walk around three in the afternoon in reasonable weather. Five Holly Blues, a dozen Orange Tips (only two of them females), ten Green-veined Whites, two Small Whites, five Peacocks, a Comma, a Speckled Wood and a Red Admiral.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=47644&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=47650&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=47648&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=47645&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=47654&mode=view>

29th April. A very late walk after work (it had gone six o'clock). Two roosting Orange Tips and two roosting Green-veined Whites.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=47784&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=47783&mode=view>

I also have one report from Bedfont Lakes Country Park (the path alongside the railway line). 28th April. Around four o'clock, with some sun and a stiff breeze. Five Brimstones (3M, 2F egg-laying), four Green-veined Whites, and one Peacock. - Dave Miller

Monday 28th April 2014

Started my usual Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards walk early to avoid forecast rain which as it turned out never appeared. Still cloudy though but enough sunshine for the following: Orange Tip: 3 Speckled Wood: 6 Small White: 6 Peacock: 6 Green-Veined White: 4 Tortoiseshell: 2 plus perhaps a dozen or so unidentified whites from the three species identified above (i.e. possible females in the case of Orange Tip) - Pete Gore

I had a walk around Bovingdon Brickpits this afternoon (28th April) and found a pair of mating **Dingy Skippers**, my first of the year. - Roger Prue

Went for an hour walk around a damp meadow at Cheyne Field, Eastcote and saw a good selection of Spring butterflies including 2 Peacocks, 1 m Brimstone, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 5 Speckled Woods, 1 Comma, at least 4 Green Veined White, 2 pairs of Orange Tip butterflies and at least 4 singles. Back home in Eastcote, I saw a Holly Blue fluttering around the apple blossom in the

garden. - Paul Busby

A few butterflies to report today Monday 28th April 2014 - 1 Speckled Wood at Parkside Farm, Enfield at 10:03 hrs; 1 Green-veined White, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park at 12:20 hrs; 1 Green-veined White at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 13:25 hrs - Robert Callf & Robin White. Also 1 Speckled Wood and 1 male Orange Tip in Town Park, Enfield at 14:05 hrs - Robert Callf

Sunday 27th April 2014

In dull, chilly conditions, a roost count near Waterford Heath, produced 3 Grizzled Skipper and **1 Small Copper** in 1 hour - Liz Goodyear

Thursday 24th April 2014

Walking home Thursday 24th April 2014 saw a Speckled Wood in Dalrymple Close, Southgate at 17:30 hrs. - Robert Callf

Four male Orange Tips visible at the same time (09:35 hrs) at Bay Farm, Enfield this morning Thursday 24th April 2014 - Robert Callf

More sunshine today and no wind and for once the Heath got the best of the weather. The Marshalling Yards had a Small Copper, very conspicuous as it nectared on Buttercups which made up for relative deficiency in numbers otherwise. Here are the details: Green-Veined White: 7 Orange Tip: 19 Peacock: 13 Brimstone: 1 Comma: 1 Speckled Wood: 13 Small White: **4 Small Copper: 1** Tortoiseshell: 2 As usual a few unidentified Whites around, including one likely Large White - Pete Gore

Saw 2 Green-veined white, 5 m Orange Tip, 4 small white and 1 Peacock on Long Meadow and Dovecote Copse, Eastcote this morning. One Speckled Wood in my Eastcote Garden, early afternoon and then a Small white in St James Square Gardens (near Euston station). - Paul Busby

Wednesday 23rd April 2014

Completed a walk in cloudy conditions throughout and reached the Cavalry Tunnel without a single sighting although perhaps it was heat rather than sunshine which lured a few butterflies out even on Hounslow Heath on my way home. Here are the details: Peacock: 3 Speckled Wood: 3 Orange Tip: 4 Small White: 3 Tortoiseshell: 1 Comma: 1 - Pete Gore

Our first sighting this year of a Holly Blue in our Pinner garden - Gill & Tony Porter

Tower Hamlets Cemetary, visited this afternoon (Wed 23rd April), despite being cloudy and breezy, managed to see 2 Holly Blue, 1 Speckled Wood, 2 Small Whites and 2 Peacocks - Paul Busby

Saw one Small White and a female Orange Tip in Town Park, Enfield this afternoon Wednesday 23rd April 2014 at 12:00 pm along the New River. - Robert Callf

Monday 21st April 2014

I started my walk in the late morning after the sun had warmed and dried things a little. I didn't manage to avoid rain so yet again the walk along the Pevensy section of the Crane and return stretch of Hounslow Heath produced few sightings but overall it was good with large numbers of whites (c.20) remaining unidentified. My first **Small Coppers** of the year - I thought I saw a Comma land but discovered mating Small Coppers. The female climbed up a dead grass stalk towing the male behind then down again using the under-side of the stalk to get past the still attached male. Here are the details: Tortoiseshell: 2 Orange Tip 15 Brimstone: 2 Green-Veined White: 1 Comma: 1 Peacock: 12 Small White: 7 Speckled Wood: 3 Holly Blue: 1 Small Copper: 2 The unidentified whites likely divided between Small, Green-Veined and Orange-Tip females, not necessarily evenly - - Pete Gore

Amongst other sightings yesterday Monday 21st April 2014 were 3 male Orange Tip together at Park Farm, Enfield and a male Brimstone at Allotments, Vicarage Farm, Enfield - Robert Callf & Robin White

I have seen few Orange Tip now but my first sighting was on 13 April on my garden in Watford - Paul Haylock Rain after one third of Crane Pevensy outgoing, affected most of remainder, all of

returning C/P and all of Hounslow Heath Heather area where there was also thunder several times.

Roughdown Common, Hemel Hempstead - 2 Green Hairstreaks in a thrilling aerial dogfight alongside the A41. They kept clashing ferociously for more than 10 minutes, with an interval of a minute when I managed to get a close look at one of the contestants. A few minutes after the bout resumed they veered right into the middle of the trunk road, oblivious to the surrounding traffic & disappeared from view. I saw no other Green Hairstreaks on the rest of the reserve. So if the battle was over territory it was quite futile, as well as potentially fatal. If this behaviour is typical, no wonder the species is one of our rarest local butterflies! - Malcolm Hull

Friday 18th April 2014

Disappointingly cloudy at Aldbury Nowers this afternoon. I found two **Grizzled Skippers** roosting on dead flowerheads of Gentian, close to the bottom of the slope. Later the sun came out & I saw two Grizzled Skippers flying elsewhere on the reserve. The only other butterflies flying were several Peacocks, an Orange Tip & a few distant whites. Two Small Tortoiseshells were basking on a bank of nettles. Absolutely masses of Cowslips on the reserve this year - more than I've seen here before - could this be the year that Duke of Burgundy returns to this site? Also good numbers of violets both in the meadows and the woods look promising for the two resident fritillaries - Malcolm Hull

April 17th in Barnes Lane, Kings Langley quite a few small tortoiseshells and one peacock on nettles and verges wildflowers, seen for a few days now. Orange tip male in Kings Langley garden, my first of the season. On April 18th a female Holly blue on ivy in the garden - Elizabeth Debenham

Cloudy conditions and a surprisingly chilly breeze meant there were relatively few butterflies on Hounslow Heath or the Marshalling Yards today. Here are the details: Speckled Wood: 11 Comma: 2 Tortoiseshell: 1 Peacock: 2 Holly Blue: 1 Orange Tip: 1 A Speckled Wood in my garden on 16th and 17th April. This was a complete walk. As the afternoon wore on it got cloudier and colder and there were no further butterflies after the outer loop on the Marshalling Yards - Pete Gore

Thursday 17th April 2014

Saw the following species this morning Thursday 17th April 2014 around Boxer's Lake, Enfield between 11:00 - 11:15 hrs - Orange Tip, Green-veined White, Holly Blue and Speckled Wood. Also Speckled Wood at Oakwood Park this morning at 08:55 hrs on the west side of the park. - Robert Callf

Amongst a strong showing of spring butterflies at Horsenden Hill on Tuesday 15th, I had my first **Painted Lady** of the year, nectaring on dandelion. - Andy Culshaw

We did the transect today, highlights were **green hairstreak and grizzled skipper** (both in the southern sections), and a red admiral in the north. Otherwise fairly quiet with a few orange tips, small tortoiseshells and peacocks seen. - Paul Thrush

Just a Speckled Wood flying around my Eastcote Garden, this morning - Paul Busby

Wednesday 16th April 2014

At Aldbury Nowers I was surprised to see my first **Grizzled Skipper and Green Hairstreak** of the year, plus lots of Small Tortoiseshell, Brimstone and Peacock.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/81377128@N03/13899850514/in/set-72157630317408880/>

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/81377128@N03/13899502973/in/set-72157630317408880/>

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/81377128@N03/13899858494/>

Sharon Monahan

Saw a Holly Blue flutter over Camden Lock this afternoon - Paul Busby

Whilst walking the Roughdown Common transect this afternoon, I came across a **Green Hairstreak** sitting on a bramble leaf resting close to the ground. Further on, by a clump of large hawthorn bushes (opposite the water trough) another two were engaged in a frenetic chase for a couple of minutes before returning to perch on the Hawthorn before once again repeating the chase a few more times. This is the first reported sighting at this location for over 3 years (*photo on facebook page*). - Brendan Sheridan

Today (16/4/14) I crossed the border from my home UTB turf for an afternoon stroll in the sunshine around Aldbury Nowers. My sightings are as follows. Brimstone 17, Peacock 6, Orange Tip 10, Small Tortoiseshell 4, **Green Hairstreak 1**, Green Veined White 1, Comma 1 - Clive Sims

Lovely day plenty of Tortoiseshells, peacocks, brimstones, orange tips and whites around Broxbourne woods and Waterford heath. However at Waterford Heath south at bottom near settling beds **two grizzled skippers** on wild strawberry. Also my first **lattice heath** moth on main bank Waterford heath - Steve Kiln

Had a break today Wednesday 16th April 2014 from recording most butterflies but did see a male Brimstone near Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 13:35 hrs. - Robert Callf

Tuesday 15th April 2014

I went for a brief (20 mins) walk in the middle of the three southern fields in Aldbury Nowers about 2pm this afternoon (15 April). I saw 2 Orange Tips, 1 Peacock, 1 Brimstone, a white I couldn't identify and, most surprisingly (as it seems quite early), a **Grizzled Skipper**. (*photo seen*) - Paul Cross

This lunchtime I saw a Holly Blue in Hammersmith's Funnivall Gardens by the Thames - Michael Robinson

Another marathon trek across Hounslow Heath where I explored a little outside my usual paths with no significant effect. Here are the day's sightings: Holly Blue: 8 Orange Tip: 6 Peacock: 38 Comma: 2 Green-Veined White: 5 Brimstone: 5 Tortoiseshell: 11 Speckled Wood: 24 Small White: 2 Large White: 1 Whites now a little under counted. Highlights were moths. The first, flying with Speckled Woods on the Marshalling Yards, I described as like a very small Tiger Moth when seen very briefly on the ground. Looking in Skinner this seems like a passable description of Light Orange Underwing and it was indeed near one of two groups of Aspens. The other two moths in a more open part of the MY have puzzled me somewhat. Initially seen just above head height in a dual/courtship battle they rose together high above me and from 30ft below appeared deep red - Cinnabar colour but otherwise not at all what I'd expect from them. - Pete Gore

Some sightings for today Tuesday 15th April 2014 - 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Parkside Farm, Enfield at 09:55 hrs; 1 Peacock at Park Farm, Enfield at 10:05 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Park Farm at 10:20 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip at Bay Farm, Enfield at 10:40 hrs; 2 male Orange Tip at Brooke Wood, Cuckold's Hill, Enfield at 10:50 hrs; 4 Speckled Wood at Flash Lane, Enfield between 11:25 - 11:38 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Brayside Farm, Enfield at 11:35 hrs; 2 male Orange Tip at Whitewebbs Wood; 1 Comma at Whitewebbs Wood at 12:05 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood at Whitewebbs Wood at 12:10 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip at Hilly Fields Park, Enfield at 13:10 hrs; 1 Small White at Hilly Fields Park, Enfield at 13:10 hrs; 2 male Orange Tip at Gordon Hill Station at 13:35 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood at Gordon Hill Station at 13:40 hrs. - Robert Callf

Monday 14th April 2014

I have some sightings from yesterday. It was an orange-tip haven at Broxbourne Woods yesterday with at least 30 counted, probably more. Also saw my first Speckled Woods of the year, plenty of peacocks, a few brimstones, small tortoiseshells and commas! - Daniel Cooper

Visited Tring, Hertfordshire on Sunday and saw 6 Peacock, 5 Small tortoiseshells, 3 Orange tip and 1 small white, whilst walking a circuit of Wilstone Reservoir Nature Reserve on a sunny breezy afternoon. - Paul Busby

Some sightings for today Monday 14th April 2014 - 1 Peacock along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm at 10:15 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 10:20 hrs; 3 male Orange Tip at Vicarage Farm (1 near Hadley Road, 2 together along Merryhills Brook at 13:02 hrs); 2 male Orange Tip at Parkside Farm, Enfield at 10:38 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Parkside Farm at 10:40 hrs; 2 Speckled Wood together at Parkside Farm at 10:45 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip at Park Farm, Enfield at 10:58 hrs; 3 Small Tortoiseshell at Park Farm, Enfield between 11:20 - 11:30 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip at Uni-lawns, Trent Park at 12:10 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood near Dew Pond, Trent Park at 12:12 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell near Dew Pond, Trent Park at 12:20 hrs; 2 Peacock together edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park at 12:22 hrs; 3 Speckled Wood together at Shaws Wood, Trent Park at 12:25 hrs - Robert Callf & Robin White

On my morning walk around Tyttenhanger Gravel Pits I saw my first 2 Small Whites of the year, together with 15 Peacocks, 11 Orange Tips, 9 Small Tortoiseshells and 5 Green Veined Whites - Terry Wood

Sunday 13th April 2014

Hounslow Heath in the morning, Peacock-12, Green- veined white- 9, Small Tortoiseshell-3, small white-2, Orange Tip-4, Comma-2 - Paul Taylor

My usual walk across Hounslow Heath to the Marshalling Yards etc, again leaving the central MY loop to the bikers.(I will vary my walks shortly - some of these butterflies are getting to know me personally, we've 'met' so many times.) Set out early so may have missed the best of the heat but full sun throughout unsurprisingly led to my first century of sightings, double figures of species and, right at the end of my walk, first Large White of 2014. Here they all are: Holly Blue: 10 Peacock: 41 Green-Veined White: 7 Speckled Wood: 19 Orange Tip: 10 Brimstone: 7 Small White: 4 Comma: 2 Tortoiseshell: 4 Large White: 1 - Pete Gore

I took a circular walk round Coppets Wood Local Nature Reserve in Barnet today in good sunshine. 7 peacocks, 1 comma, 5 speckled wood, 3 male orange tips, 4 female orange tips, 3 small whites. Some photos at: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/64663114@N03/sets/72157643915210615/> Miles Attenborough

Saturday 12th April 2014

A few sightings today Saturday 12th April 2014 - 1 Peacock at Bay Farm, Enfield at 09:45 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip at Whitewebbs Park at 11:00 hrs, also 1 Peacock at Whitewebbs Park. - Robert Callf

Friday 11th April 2014

Yet another walk across Hounslow Heath to the Marshalling Yards and beyond, mostly in cloudy conditions and omitting the central loop I normally do on the M.Y. The highlight was my first Orange Tip females of the year. Here are the details: Speckled Wood: 19 Orange Tip: 8 Peacock: 30 Tortoiseshell: 2 Green-Veined White: 4 Holly Blue: 1 Small White: 1 A Water Vole swimming across the Crane was a welcome sighting in the 'others' category - Pete Gore

Visited Bridgewater Fields, Ruislip Gardens, Middlesex and saw a Comma, a Brimstone, 4 Peacocks and 2 Speckled Wood Butterflies. Drove to South Harefield, Middlesex and walked along the permissive path, adjacent to Dews Farm Sandpits (TQ 057 885) and was pleased to see at least 30 Small Tortoiseshells and 7 Peacocks along a 0.5Km walk, following the route of the pylons along the strip of the field edge. Then onto to the fields by the Grand Union Canal, near Black Jacks Mill Lock, Harefield (TQ 047 902) and saw more Small Tortoiseshells (at least 16) and more Peacocks (at least 7). - Paul Busby

Some sightings for today Friday 11th April 2014 - 4 Peacock (1 at Parkside Farm, Enfield at 11:38 hrs, 1 at Park Farm at 11:45 hrs, 2 edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park at 13:30 hrs); 3 male Orange Tip (1 at Fernyhill Wood at 12:32 hrs, 2 at Trent Park - 1 edge of Rough Lot, 1 edge of Williams Wood); 1 Small Tortoiseshell edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park at 13:30 hrs; 1 Comma edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park at 13:30 hrs; 2 Green-veined White at Trent Park (1 edge of Williams Wood at 13:30 hrs, 1 edge of Shaws Wood, 13:36 hrs); 1 Speckled Wood at Shaws Wood, Trent Park at 13:33 hrs; 1 male Brimstone along bridle-path near Shaws Wood, Trent Park at 13:38 hrs. - Robert Callf

Old Rivers nursery/orchard site High Wych, 22 Peacock, 8 Small tortoiseshell, 3 Orange tip(all male), 2 Brimstone (1 male, 1 female), the main field here was not mowed last year and the scrub is nearly 2 ft tall already - Laurence Drummond

Thursday 10th April 2014

A brief visit to Hexton Chalk Pit this afternoon (after the sun had disappeared) yielded just one Peacock and one Speckled Wood - Paul Why

At the Watercress Beds LNR mid morning had 6+ Oranges Tips, 3 Peacocks and a brimstone - Andy Steele

First Orange Tip in my (Harpenden) garden this year - Robin Pearson

At Norton Green late this morning, I counted 6 Orange Tips (4 males), 2 G-V Whites, 1 Small White as well as 8 Small Tortoiseshells, 9 Peacocks and a Brimstone. - Peter Clarke

Some sightings for today Thursday 10th April 2014 - 4 Peacock at Vicarage Farm (1 Sidhil's Field at 09:50 hrs, 1 Hog Hill at 10:20 hrs, 2 together near Hadley Road at 10:44 hrs); 3 Small Tortoiseshell at Vicarage Farm, Enfield (1 at Barracks at 10:00 hrs, 1 at Hog Hill at 10:20 hrs, 1 along Merryhills Brook at 13:55 hrs); 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Parkside Farm, Enfield at 10:55 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip at Parkside Farm at 11:08 hrs; 1 Small White at Park Farm, Enfield at 11:35 hrs; 4 Small Tortoiseshell around a batch of nettles at Park Farm at 11:46 hrs; 1 Peacock at Park Farm at 11:46 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip at Park Farm at 11:55 hrs; 1 Peacock at Moat Wood, Trent Park at 12:25 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell along Leeging Beech Gutter near Water Grdn., Trent Park at 13:08 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip, along Leeging Beech Gutter near 'Three-bridges', Trent Park at 13:15 hrs; 9 Speckled Wood at Trent Park (1 along Leeging Beech Gutter near 'Three-bridges', 3 together at Williams Wood at 13:18 hrs, 5 together at Shaws Wood); 1 Green-veined White, along Merryhills Brook/ Vicarage Farm at 13:58 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood at Sidhil's Field, Vicarage Farm at 14:16 hrs - Robert Callf & Robin White

I was surveying Balls Wood today and while I was there I saw: 34 Peacocks, 3 Orange Tip, 2 Comma, 1 green veined white, 1 Brimstone and 2 small Tortoiseshells - Andy Brown I also saw a couple of grass snakes and a couple of slow worms on my reptile survey - Andy Brown

We were working at Alpine Meadow today, there were 2 male brimstone, small tortoiseshell, peacock and male orange tip. - Paul Thrush

Sunny spells today at Bedfont Lakes Country Park, Middlesex and I saw a Holly Blue, a Comma, a Brimstone, 9 Peacocks and at least 6 unidentified Whites. - Paul Busby

Wednesday 9th April 2014

Good afternoon for seeing Spring butterflies. I saw at least 8 Small Tortoiseshells, pairing up at the Motte and Bailey Castle site, Manor Farm, Ruislip, Middlesex on the nettle bank then a further 3 Peacocks, perching on blackthorn and 1 Small Tortoiseshell on nearby fields close to the River Pinn. At Eastcote House Gardens, saw 1 Small White and 2 Small Tortoiseshells and on the nearby Long Meadow, I saw 3 Peacocks, 1 Comma, 2 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Speckled Wood, 3 m Orange Tip and whilst at Cheyne Field, Eastcote, I saw a further 7 Peacocks, 5 Commas, 1 Holly Blue, 1 Speckled Wood, 2 m Orange Tip - Paul Busby

First Speckled Wood seen in our Pinner garden today. These appear in the same corner of the garden every year but never anywhere else in the garden - Tony & Gill Porter

In addition to the brimstones, peacocks and small tortoiseshells at Heartwood Forest today there was a female orange tip. Also saw my first green-veined white of the year on some honesty in my back garden in Welwyn Garden City this morning. - Ian Flack

In my Hayes garden. 1 very fresh looking Speckled Wood (photo added to Facebook) and 1 male Orange Tip. Helen George

North east side of Norton Common, Letchworth. First sightings for me this year: two male Orange-tips (in flight) and a Green-veined White settled on blackthorn. - Jill Sawyer

Much better weather today although still some shady spells. I was unable to resist the temptation to repeat yesterday's walk if only for evidence of the influence of weather conditions on butterflies. Here are the results: Peacock: 41 Speckled Wood : 12 Orange Tip: 5 Brimstone: 2 Green-Veined White: 3 Holly Blue: 6 Small White: 3 Comma: 4 Tortoiseshell: 2 Highlights include: 1 My first Holly Blues of the year - they seemed to increase as the afternoon wore on. 2 A strange looking white butterfly which I at first took to be a female Orange-Tip (none seen yet) but turned out to be mating Green-Veined Whites. The male, significantly smaller than the female had almost black-veined wings whilst his mate was also heavily marked on her upper wings. 3 A Tortoiseshell on a Cowslip. Not sure what it was doing there but it looked pleasingly like something out of a child's fairy story. 4 Two Holly Blues on the bare ground; one on mud the other on very dry soil on the Crane footbridge - Pete Gore

Patmore Heath - several Peacocks on the wing and my first Orange tip of the year - Andy Brown

I did the transect at Aldbury today, probably the highest number of butterflies I've seen at this time of year since doing the route! Totals were 15 peacock, 11 small tortoiseshell, 10 brimstone, 3 comma and 6 orange tip. Off transect there was a single green veined white, another 4 brimstone, 3 small tortoiseshell, 5 peacock and 3 orange tip. At Wilstone Reservoir there was a small tortoiseshell and between Tringford and Startops Reservoirs 2 male brimstone. - Paul Thrush

A two hour walk this morning produced the following sightings - 3 Peacock (1 at Water Grdn., Trent Park, 10:31 hrs, 1 at Park Farm, Enfield at 10:55 hrs, 1 at Parkside Farm, Enfield at 11:05 hrs); 2 Small Tortoiseshells at Vicarage Farm (1 along Leeging Beech Gutter at 11:25 hrs, 1 at Sidhil's Field at 11:55 hrs), also few Whites were seen. - Robert Callf

Tuesday 8th April 2014

Whitewebbs on elm, hatched White-letter Hairstreak egg close to seed discs. Seed discs had signs of damage (holes) but no larva visible - Andrew Middleton

Had my first Green Veined White in my South Mimms garden this morning - Terry Wood

A few butterflies to report today Tuesday 8th April 2014 - 2 different Small Tortoiseshell at Ferny Hill Farm, Enfield at 10:22 and 10:32 hrs - around some nice growth of nettles; 1 Peacock edge of Icehouse Wood, Trent Park at 11:06 hrs. - Robert Callf

Another eye-watering walk in the breeze across Hounslow Heath resulted in similar butterfly numbers over all to last week's: Peacock: 4 Orange Tip: 1 Small White: 1 Speckled Wood: 4 Green-Veined White: 2 Comma: 1 Tortoiseshell: 1 Noticeably more Whites around typically moving rapidly looking for females I imagine but making identification unreliable. Also "Presumed Moths" are doing quite well although today I at least got a glimpse of bright orange in one case which suggests a likely identification. - Pete Gore

Monday 7th April 2014

Surprisingly yesterday I saw a weakly flying **Holly Blue** land in my Stevenage (Chells) garden. It landed in a shrub, but unsurprisingly today it had'nt moved an inch and was still there, but a lovely sign of things to come - Colin Alderman

Crane Meadow NR on the 5th April - Orange Tip, and Small Tortoiseshell also 2x Peacocks - Paul Taylor

Having consulted my field guide Waring and Townsend I believe this moth was probably a male Light Orange Underwing based on the pattern on the upperside of the forewing - it was very plain and only had one obvious white mark on the outside edge of each wing. Robin White also believes it was probably a Light Orange Underwing but thinks it was a female. The fact that neither of us checked the antennae or other distinguishing marks means that we cannot be 100% certain about the id, but certainly worth looking for in future springs? I thought once I had realised that there were Aspen along the bridle-path that there was a possibility of finding Light Orange Underwing here. - Robert Callf

First Speckled Wood on Saturday in our Enfield garden - Phil and Carrin Rhodes

Saturday 5th April 2014

Had the first Orange Tip in my South Mimms garden this morning - Terry Wood

Some news for today Saturday 5th April 2014 - 1 Comma at Parkside Farm, Enfield, 10:58 hrs; 2 Peacock at Parkside Farm at 11:15 hrs; 2 Peacock at Park Farm, Enfield at 11:25 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip at Park Farm at 11:42 hrs; 6+ Small Tortoiseshell around a large batch of nettles near Duncan's Wood at 11:52 - 11:55 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood at Shaws Wood, Trent Park at 13:05 hrs - our first of the year! 1 Red Admiral at Shaws Wood at 13:05 hrs; 1 **Light Orange/Orange Underwing** settled on bridle-path between Merryhills Brook and Shaws Wood, Trent Park (near a line of Aspen) at 13:15 hrs - had a close look at it so hopefully may be able to determine which one once I consult the field guide? 2 Small Tortoiseshell at Vicarage Farm - Robert Callf & Robin White, also 1 Speckled Wood along New River at Town Park, Enfield at 14:18 hrs - Robert Callf

OAKHILL WOODS LNR. East Barnet----first male orange tip and **large white** of the year-----Ix small white---4x comma----5x Peacock---3 x Tshell----4x speckled wood- -KIT JONES

Friday 4th April 2014

Just a single Peacock flying rapidly over Eastcote House Gardens, Middlesex on a cloudy, breezy day - Paul Busby

Whilst cloud discouraged most butterflies from flying and I saw none at all on Hounslow Heath, a little sun at the right time meant I was luckier on the Marshalling Yards and that in turn encouraged me to fight my way onto the Pevensy Open Space section of the River Crane where numerous healthy food plants are attracting several species. I added Speckled Wood and Green-veined White to my 2014 list, neither of them surprising as I suspected both were amongst unidentified butterflies seen last weekend. Peacock: 3 Speckled Wood 3 Orange Tip: 1 Comma: 1 Small Tortoiseshell: 1 Green-Veined White : 1 Small White: 3 - Pete Gore

Thursday 3rd April 2014

More from Norton Common, Letchworth. 3rd April: a **Holly Blue** (first sighting for me this year), a Small White (again first sighting) and a Brimstone that stopped long enough to get a quick photo. Eight Peacocks and two Commas zooming around (*photos on facebook*). - Jill Sawyer

Several Brimstones, 3 Peacocks and my first Green-veined White of the season in my Stevenage garden this afternoon.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/stevelane56/13602837104/>

Steve Lane

I saw a Brimstone flying by the Yeading Brook, Rayners Lane, Middlesex then 3 Small Tortoiseshells resting together before spiralling up in rough grassland with lots of dock stalks, behind Headstone Manor, Harrow (TQ 142 898). Decided to go on to 1km square (TQ1894) with few records, Edgwarebury Lane, bridleway to Elstree and just saw 2 Small Tortoiseshells on a grassy bank near the M1 after an hours walk. Think it just Middlesex, London Borough of Barnet. - Paul Busby

Some catch up notes. 16th March around midday peacock butterfly on wild cherry on corner of Appspound Lane junction with A4147 main road leading to St Albans from Hemel Hempstead. Further along the A4147 on the left towards St Albans a patch of wild violets attracted a brimstone a couple of times. Above my head was a small tortoiseshell. 29th March in Barnes Lane, Kings Langley a brimstone going back and forth along the hedgeline. Several peacocks on blackthorn. One was chasing a bumble bee way over my head. 30th March on patch of blackthorn by the A41 bypass tunnel in Barnes Lane, several peacocks again, one comma, one brimstone three times and nearer Kings Langley in same lane, Alan saw six small tortoiseshell on roadside weeds which include nettles and dandelions. Very warm weather. 2nd April, one small tortoiseshell in Barnes Lane, small number of peacocks again on blackthorn and a small white. I think a speckled wood flew against the window in Kings Langley. 3rd April one peacock in Kings Langley garden. March 29th am - freshly hatched Angle Shades moth found in Kings Langley greenhouse - Elizabeth Debenham

On a walk along the River Ver at Redbournbury today between 13:00pm to 14:30pm a count of 5 Brimstones, 2 Peacocks. 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 3 Orange Tip, 1 Comma. - Ernie Leahy

Wednesday 2nd April 2014

At Norton Green, I saw 2 Brimstones (first of the year), as well as 10 Peacocks, 8 Small Tortoiseshells and 2 Commas - Peter Clarke

At HMWT Royston Chalk pit today several Peacocks, Brimstones, commas and a possible Green veined white - Andy Brown

For info I have seen my first Orange Tip Butterfly for this year in my garden, Graveley, near Hitchin, today Wednesday 2nd April 12.30pm. - Helen Lumley

Recorded the following at Whitewebbs Park today Wednesday 2nd April 2014 - male Brimstone, male Orange Tip, Small White, 4+ Peacock and Comma. - Robert Callf

Peacock and Small Tortoiseshell in my garden in Letchworth. We also have a couple of Brimstones who seem to do circuits around the street. Norton Common Letchworth - on the path down the middle of the common a beautiful Peacock sunning itself. South-west side path: I saw a Peacock, a Small Tortoiseshell and a little further away a Speckled Wood. Then a bit later I came up the west side path where there is a load of blackthorn and there were at least six Peacocks and two Commas. *(Picture on branch facebook page)* - Jill Sawyer

Despite the smog, it was good day for butterflies in Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park, London, considering I saw no butterflies at the same location, a fortnight ago. I saw at least 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Brimstone and 3 Peacocks, 2 Small Whites and 2 Speckled Woods. On the way home, later in the afternoon, saw a further Small Tortoiseshell in the Rose Garden by Cavendish Pavilion, Eastcote, Middlesex (TQ 114 873) - Paul Busby

Wednesday 2nd April 2014 Despite cloudy weather, horrible humidity (and a breeze!) and Saharan dust I managed to complete a walk today across Hounslow Heath to the Marshalling Yards. Although I didn't do as much as I'd intended and hence failed to add anything significant to yesterday's sightings here are the butterflies: Peacock: 9 Orange Tip: 2 Small White: 2 - Pete Gore

Tuesday 1st April 2014

The first day of the Transect Season!

Diane Andrews rang, **6 Speckled Woods** at Ally Pally in the afternoon, also 1 Small White, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 4 Peacock and 2 Comma

This afternoon at Hexton Chalk Pit I saw 2 Brimstone, 2 Small Tortoiseshell, a Peacock and a Comma - Paul Why

An afternoon visit to the area around Harefield Place NR (near Uxbridge) resulted in 15 Peacock; 6 Small Tortoiseshell; 1 Comma; 2 male Brimstone and a **Speckled Wood** - Dick Middleton

Visited Bridgewater Fields, Ruislip Gardens, Middlesex in the sunshine today and saw at least 3 Small Tortoiseshells, 2 Brimstone and 1 Peacock as well as 2 unidentified Small/Green Veined Whites patrolling the hedgerows. - Paul Busby

Grays Inn Gardens WC1 - Small White, **2 Green-veined Whites**, 1 Peacock (very faded), 1 Small Tortoiseshell. The main attraction in the garden today is a large clump of purple Honesty, in full flower. This is the first day I've seen more butterflies that have hatched in 2014 than hibernators - Malcolm Hull

Some sightings for today Tuesday 1st April 2014 include the following - 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 10:10 hrs; 1 Peacock at Vicarage Farm at 10:20 hrs; 1 Comma at Vicarage Farm at 10:35 hrs; 1 Peacock at Parkside Farm, Enfield at 11:05 hrs; 1 Comma at Park Farm, Enfield at 11:28 hrs; 1 Small White at Park Farm at 11:53 hrs; 1 Peacock at Park Farm at 11:55 hrs; 2 Small Tortoiseshell at Park Farm at 12:10 hrs; 1 Peacock at Moat Wood, Trent Park, 12:25 hrs; 3 Small Tortoiseshell, including a pair together, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Water Grdn., Trent Park, 13:15 hrs; 1 Comma, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Water Grdn., Trent Park, 13:15 hrs; 1 male Brimstone, along Leeging Beech Gutter near 'Three-bridges' Trent Park, 13:25 hrs - settled; 1 Small White, along Merryhills Brook/Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 14:08 hrs; 1 male Brimstone, field near Enfield Road at Vicarage Farm, 14:35 hrs. Also many other sightings of Peacock which I did not record! Robert Callf & Robin White

Today on the first transect at Thorley Wash we had 4 species - Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell, Brimstone and Small white. All in good numbers. I also saw an **Orange tip** near Twyford Lock. This afternoon at Amwell I saw several Peacocks, Brimstone and a Small white - Jenny Sherwen

I did the transect today, I saw 2 peacocks, 3 small tortoiseshell and a small white. In the surrounding area I saw another 6 peacock, 8 small tortoiseshell and a female orange tip. In Aldbury village I saw 2 male brimstone - Paul Thrush

In my walk at Fir & Pond Woods this morning I saw my first Comma of the year, as well as a male Brimstone and 3 Peacocks. At Tyttenhanger Gravel Pits yesterday I saw 8 Peacocks and 2 Small Tortoiseshells. - Terry Wood

Almost perfect weather this afternoon apart from a period of cloudiness crossing Hounslow

Heath. Whites are keeping their distance making identification difficult but 2 Orange Tip males were my first for 2014 and the only one of last year's 23 species I didn't report to you (as I started reporting in July after they'd finished). Peacock: 24 Small Tortoiseshell 6 Brimstone 2 Comma 4 Orange Tip 2 Small White 1 I spent some time chasing a strange-looking butterfly on the Heath only to find it was the smallest Tortoiseshell I'd ever seen. It also had a slightly lopsided look but I didn't get a chance to examine it closely as despite the apparent handicap it could still fly quite strongly and soon disappeared. - Pete Gore

March 2014

Monday 31st March 2014

Sighted in my Boxmoor garden, 1 small tortoiseshell - feeding on plum tree blossom, 2 male Brimstone, 1 Peacock and 1 male **Orange Tip** fluttering around Honesty plants - Brendan Sheridan

Sunday 30th March 2014

Brimstone in my Ware garden in the morning - Liz Goodyear

At Butterfly World just 2 x small tortoiseshells, in Chiswell Green Lane outside 1 x peacock & 2 x small tortoiseshells. Opposite How Wood station 1 X peacock & 2 x small tortoiseshells - David Gower

Saturday 29th March 2014

Welwyn Civic Centre carpark - 1 Brimstone seen by many!

Orange Underwing moth seen on Hampstead Heath - Helen Bantock

At Berkhamsted in grid square SP 98 08 (tetrad SP90 Z), minima of 2 male Brimstones, 3 Peacocks and 8 Small Tortoiseshells (probably more of the latter, which were common around allotment margins). - Colin Everett

Some sightings for today Saturday 29th March 2014 - 1 Peacock at Vicarage Farm, 09:00 hrs; 1 male Brimstone at Vicarage Farm, 09:04 hrs; 1 male **Orange Tip** along Salmons Brook at Parkside Farm, Enfield at 09:45 hrs - my earliest Enfield area record! 2 Peacock at Park Farm 10:16 and 10:35 hrs; 1 male Brimstone at Moat Wood, Trent Park, 10:50 hrs and what was presumably the same at Rough Lot later; 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Ferny Hill Farm, Enfield at 11:20 hrs; 1 Peacock at Ferny Hill Farm, Enfield at 11:27 hrs; 1 Peacock near Rough Lot and another at Water Grdn., Trent Park; 2 Peacock together along Merryhills Brook/Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 12:37 hrs; 2+ Small Tortoiseshell at Vicarage Farm, Enfield. - Robert Callf

Hounslow Heath in the morning: Red Admiral, Brimstone x 3, Comma, Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell x 2 - Paul Taylor

Only a strong breeze and the fact that it's still March prevented today's walk being ideal for butterflies. I completed a substantial walk omitting the bike-infested inner loop on the Marshalling Yards but replacing it with the Pevensy Road section of the Crane and returning to start across the heathery part of the Heath. Here are the results: Peacock: 14 Comma: 7 Small Tortoiseshell 3 Brimstone : 4 Failed to identify around 10 including a few distant views of Whites and a couple small and dark, one of which flew up into the Birches, another into a large patch of Heather: moths perhaps. - Pete Gore (*possibly Orange Underwing moths*)

Some recent sightings for you in Middx: March 29: Ten Acre Wood: m Brimstone, Small Tortoiseshell; Yeading Brook meadows: 5 m Brimstone, 2 Small White, 2 Peacock; Greenford UB6: 2 Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell, Small White. March 13: Canons Park: 2m Brimstone, Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell. March 9: Ruislip Woods: 5m Brimstone, 4 Peacock, 3 Comma, Small Tortoiseshell + in nearby road, Small White - Neil Anderson

Monday 24th March 2014

Had a walk around Great Ashby Park this morning and saw 2 Peacocks, 2 Small Tortoiseshell and a Comma. On returning home found a **Small White** and a Comma in my Great Ashby garden.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/stevelane56/13376559204/>

Steve Lane

Whilst conditions were only marginal/occasional for butterflies I did at least see some today after failure yesterday. All three were on the Marshalling Yards: Comma: 1 Peacock 1 Small Tortoiseshell: 1 The Tortoiseshell looked particularly good, wings open, spread across four of the stunted Dandelions typical of the thin 'soil' on the site. A reminder yet again that I should consider taking some sort of camera with me on my walks - Pete Gore

A few butterflies to report today 24th March 2014 - 3 Small Tortoiseshell (1 at Park Farm, Enfield at 11:15 hrs, 1 near Duncan's Wood at 11:33 hrs, 1 along Leeging Beech Gutter near Water Garden, Trent Park, 13:02 hrs); 1 Peacock at Nature Trail, Trent Park at 12:43 hrs - Robert Callf & Robin White

Friday 21st March 2014

I saw a male **orange tip** butterfly yesterday, March 20th, at Stockers Lake near Stockers Lock. It seems to me to be an early sighting of this species. Tony Hulls

Tuesday 18th March 2014

One Peacock basking in a sheltered spot at Vicarage Farm this morning Tuesday 18th March 2014 at 11:22 hrs. - Robert Callf

Monday 17th March 2014

Stanwell Moor: Sunday 16th March. On an absolutely brilliant sunny day, I walked around my local patch for the first time this year uninterrupted by water. The paths were still quite muddy where the Colne had overflowed onto them, but the standing water had gone. I was out between about 1100 and 1230, and the first thing I saw was a Comma just warming up in the sunshine. Gradually other butterflies began to appear, and by the time I had returned home I had seen eight or nine Brimstones (all male), five or six Peacocks and around the same number of Small Tortoiseshells. Commas are always slower to emerge here after hibernation, and I only saw one other after the initial sighting. Near home, but too far away to identify for certain, I glimpsed what could well have been a Small White.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=45184&mode=view>

Dave Miller

Just a single Comma flying along the edge of Highgrove wood, Eastcote, Middlesex - Paul Busby

Red Admiral at Devils Dyke Wheathampstead on the 16th March - Ashley Cox

Shorter walk and cloudier conditions produced only three Small Tortoiseshells today Monday 17th March 2014 - 1 at Trent Park and 2 at Vicarage Farm - Robert Callf & Robin White

Counted Sixteen Small Tortoiseshells yesterday 16th March 2014 - 2 at Vicarage Farm, 3 at Parkside Farm, 2 at Park Farm, 1 near Little Beechill Wood, 1 at Vault Hill Wood, 6 at South Barvin Farm (near Vault Hill Wood); 1 along Leeging Beech Gutter near 'Three-bridges' at Trent Park. Also saw several Peacock and one Comma at various localities - Robert Callf

Friday 14th March 2014 - A Peacock in a Garston (Watford) garden bordering woodland (in grid square TL 11 00). Sunday 16th March 2014 - From memory, probably the largest spring emergence of hibernating Small Tortoiseshells for many years (perhaps since the early/mid-1990s). Butterfly records today as follows: (1) South Way derelict land at Abbots Langley TL 10 01 - Peacock; (2) Hunton Bridge TL 08 00 - Small Tortoiseshell; (3) Langleybury TL 07 00 - Peacock; (4) track nr Berrybushes Wood TL 06 00 - Peacock & Small Tort.; (5) near Bucks Hill TL 05 00 - Peacock; (6) Chipperfield Common TL 05 01 - male Brimstone, Comma & Small Tort.; (7) same site in grid square TL 04 01 - 2 male Brimstones, Peacock & 2 Commas; (8) footpath E of Chipperfield TL 05 01 - Peacock & 5 Small Tortoiseshells; (9) A41 footbridge nr Kings Langley TL 06 02 - Peacock & 2 Small Torts.; (10) canal towpath S of Kings Langley TL 07 01 - 2 Small Torts.; (11) South Way gardens at Abbots Langley TL 09 00 - 2 Small Torts.; (12) South Way derelict land TL 09 01 - 2 Small Tortoiseshells. - Colin Everett

Sunday 16th March 2014

Whilst sitting on the Tube, I saw 2 Brimstones and 1 Comma flying in the hedgerow by Northolt Underground Station - Paul Busby

News from Diane Andrews, a Comma and Small Tortoiseshell in her north London garden, followed by a **Holly Blue** emerging from the ivy this afternoon

A male **Green-veined White** at Bengo Nursery this morning - Andrew Wood

Continuing our journey north along the New River Path we saw-Cheshunt-2 Small Tortoiseshells, 5 Peacocks, Mylne Aqueduct, Wormley-2 Small Tortoiseshells, Broxbourne-2 Brimstones, Comma, 5 Peacocks, Small tortoiseshell, Rye House-1 Peacock, 3 Small Tortoiseshells, Rye Common-2 Small Tortoiseshells, 1 Peacock, Great Amwell-6 Peacocks, 1 Brimstone, 4 Small Tortoiseshells, Ware-3 Small Tortoiseshells, 1 Peacock, Hertford-3 Peacocks. The Peacocks and Small Tortoiseshells were either courting couples, sun bathing or nectaring. The most popular nectar source for Peacocks was Blackthorn and for Small Tortoiseshells, Colts foot. The Brimstones were all males and they were all patrolling. Despite these riches of butterflies outdoors, 17 of the 30 butterflies hibernating in my outhouse have still to stir from their winter positions, so we have much more still to look forward to - Malcolm and Anna Hull

At Fishers Field nature reserve, Bushey 3 x brimstone (m), 1 x comma, 3 x peacock, 3 x small tortoiseshell. Was sorry to see land adjacent to here will be housing development as good for skippers!. Onto Water Lane, Watford ,4 x peacock, 1 x brimstone(m), 8 x small tortoiseshell, 1 x comma. In Bushey garden 2 x peacock & 1 x brimstone (m). - David Gower

First (10+) Peacocks at Norton Green today - Peter Clarke

The following seen HATFIELD AERODROME DISUSED): 9th March 2014 - 1 x Comma 2+ Peacock. 13th March 2014 - 4 x Peacock 2 x Small Tortoiseshell - David Wheatcroft

Saturday 15th March 2014

Continued our walk north along the New River starting at Finsbury Park and north to Theobalds Grove. Sunny all way and plenty of butterflies-Myddleton Rd Comma, Small Tortoiseshell, 2 N of Bowes Rd/North Circular Rd Brimstone, 2, Palmers Green library Green Lanes. Small Tortoiseshell, Hedge Lane, Winchmore Hill Small White, Peacock. Orange Tree Pub Winchmore Hill Small Tortoiseshell. Hillyfields Park, Clay Hill Enfield, Peacock, Theobalds Park 2 Small Tortoiseshells - Malcolm and Anna Hull

My butterfly day began with a surprise visit to my own garden from a male Brimstone. Unlike my previous suburban Hounslow garden, where a single Buckthorn bush was all it took to attract Brimstones to breed, there are no food plants here so although he was clearly searching the hedgerow he will have left mate-less on this occasion. That encouraged me out on another walk and although it was largely repeating yesterday's experience good numbers of butterflies are always a cheering sight.: Brimstone: 3 (2m 1 f) Red Admiral:1 Peacock: 8 Small White: 1 Comma 4 The walk similar to yesterday but I added the Crane River Marshalling Yards--Hanworth Road stretch where I knew there was a lot of Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolaris*) that might well be where the local GV Whites and Orange-Tips originate. If so, certainly no sign yet. - Pete Gore

1 x male brimstone in Bushey and 1 x comma at Watercress nature reserve, St Albans today (part closed as still boggy) - David Gower

Just one Small Tortoiseshell seen late afternoon on the wet meadow area of Bridgewater Fields, Ruislip Gardens, Middlesex on Friday 14th March. One Small Tortoiseshell, one Peacock and one Brimstone seen at lunchtime today at Ruislip Lido, Middlesex by the grassy area opposite Haste Hill miniature railway station. - Paul Busby

Norton Common, Letchworth, this afternoon. One Brimstone in flight at the north end. A Comma fluttering around in nettles/scrub and settling now and again (long enough to get a photo eventually). Then a Peacock came along and the comma appeared to be chasing it off. Then it came back and went back to its fluttering. Then the same thing up the path towards the south end - this time a Comma saw a Brimstone off its patch. They seem to be quite territorial at the moment! - Jill Sawyer Phipers

13/03/2014 1 Comma at the northern end of the main ride at Broxbourne Wood. 14/03/2014 1 peacock on Telegraph Hill. 3 sparring Peacocks and 1 Red Admiral at Hoo Bit. Paul Why

Friday 14th March 2014

An extensive walk today across Hounslow Heath to the Marshalling Yards and back across the Heath by a different route. Two 2014 firsts for me but nothing unexpected and little missed for once. Peacock: 2 Small Tortoiseshell: 5 (first of 2014), Comma: 2 **Small White**: 2 (first of 2014). Some of the above sightings linked to flowering Willow and Coltsfoot - Pete Gore

March 14th a Small Tortoiseshell in my front garden in Letchworth feeding on violet - Jill Sawyer Phypers

Some sightings for today Friday 14th March 2014 - 3 Peacock at Trent Park (2 along bridle-path near Shaws Wood, 11:25 hrs, 1 edge of Moat Wood, 13:01 hrs); 5 Comma at Trent Park (1 by Lower Lake, 11:50 hrs, 1 Rough Lot, 12:40 hrs, 3 together edge of Moat Wood, 12:57 hrs); 2 Small Tortoiseshell at Park Farm, Enfield, 13:20 hrs; 1 Peacock at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 14:00 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Vicarage Farm, 14:02 hrs. - Robert Callf

Thursday 13th March 2014

Denis and I went for a short walk down the road to Wilkins Green yesterday afternoon and along the edge of a field of rough grass sunning themselves in the beautiful warm sunshine were 6 Small tortoiseshells and 3 Peacocks. The highlight of our walk! - Christine Shepperson

Wednesday 12th March 2014 Four Small Tortoiseshells feeding on heather in a garden at Coates Way in Garston (Watford) at noon (grid square TL 12 00, tetrad TL10 F). Thursday 13th March 2014 Records as follows: garden at Coates Way in Garston TL 12 00 - 3 Small Tortoiseshells together (same site as 12/3); Garston Park LNR TL 12 00 - 2 Small Tortoiseshells and 3 Commas; gardens at Chichester Way in Garston TL 12 00 - 3 Peacocks together; Bricket Wood Common heather glade TL 12 00 - Peacock; Bricket Wood Common pond TL 13 00 - Peacock; Wall Hall nr Aldenham TQ 13 99 - single Small Tortoiseshell and Peacock; Munden Park TQ 13 99 - 2 Small Tortoiseshells together; footpath at Munden TQ 12 99 - Small Tortoiseshell; footpath near Munden Spring TL 12 00 - Small Tortoiseshell. - Colin Everett

Saw 2 Small Tortoiseshells whilst gardening at Eastcote House Walled Garden, Middlesex and then onto to regular 30 minute stroll around Cheyne Field, Eastcote close to River Pinn, where I saw 3 Comma, 3 Peacock, 2 Brimstone and 1 Small Tortoiseshell on the meadow. Also visited Newton Farm ecology Park, Rayners Lane, Middlesex, close to the source of the Yeading Brook East and saw 3 Small Tortoiseshells and a Brimstone. Followed stream to Newton Park West where a further Small tortoiseshell was seen on a lovely sunny afternoon - Paul Busby

Whilst walking along the edge of the arable field next to Chalfont Road, Maple Cross, between 3 and 4pm yesterday (12th March 2014) I saw 5 Small Tortoiseshell butterflies - Chris Bessant

4 Small Tortoiseshells and 4 Commas at Norton Green this afternoon - Peter Clarke

Wednesday 12th March 2014

My butterfly year started on 8th March with a Small Tortoiseshell basking in the warm sunshine on the wall of my house - Dave Miller

I saw a male Brimstone butterfly by Ravenscourt Park tube station lunchtime today - Michael Robinson

Saw 7 Small Tortoiseshells and 1 Peacock on a 30 minute sunny afternoon stroll around Minet Country Park, Hayes, Middlesex. Then later in the afternoon saw 2 Commas at Ten Acre Wood, Yeading, Middlesex. - Paul Busby

Some news for today Wednesday 12th March 2014 - 3 Peacock (1 near Church Wood, 12:00 hrs, 1 Nature Trail, 12:22 hrs, 1 Ride Wood, 12:40 hrs, at Trent Park); 2 Comma (1 'Old Golf Course' 12:45 hrs, 1 Moat Wood, at Trent Park, 12:50 hrs); 6 Small Tortoiseshell (3 including a pair at Park Farm, 13:32 hrs, 1 at Parkside Farm, Enfield, 13:57 hrs, 2 together at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 14:32 hrs) - my first Small Tortoiseshells of the year - Robert Callf

We saw several Brimstone, Peacock and Small Tortoiseshell butterflies whilst working at Hunsdon Meads today - Jenny Sherwen

Monday 10th March 2014

During a very brief sunny spell at lunchtime, I saw 3 Small Tortoiseshells and 1 Peacock on the mound of the Motte and Bailey Castle site at the Manor Farm complex in Ruislip, Middlesex - - Paul Busby

Sunday 9th March 2014

A Comma and at least one male Brimstone in a garden along woodland edge at Garston (Watford) - Colin Everett

Four species of butterfly recorded at Grovelands Park, Southgate 9th March 2014 - male Brimstone at 12:50 hrs - my earliest Enfield area record; 2 Comma at 12:50 hrs; 3 Peacock (2 at 12:50 hrs and 1 at 15:03 hrs); 1 Red Admiral at 13:30 hrs. Also Robin White saw a Red Admiral in his garden at Enfield Road, EN2 afternoon Sunday 9th March 2014. - Robert Callf

Some sightings for you. Wednesday 5th March Ware - Hoe Lane 1 Brimstone + 1 small tortoiseshell Spotted by my son Oliver (aged 4) and correctly named...good lad! Sunday - Wareside a bonanza Brimstone (9) Small Tortoiseshell (7) Red Admiral (1) Comma (1) Peacock (5) Finally looks like spring has sprung - Phil Macmurdie

First butterflies. In our Hatfield garden today; Small Tortoiseshell sniffing round a pot of dwarf daffs., a smart Comma sunbathing on dead leaves and a Peacock doing a couple of circuits of our Ivy before heading north - John Moss

On Saturday had 1 Brimstone in my garden. On Sunday at Lemsford Springs 15+ Small Tortoiseshells, 6+ Brimstones (only 1 female), 4 Commas and 5 + peacocks and in my garden within 20 minutes 1 Brimstone 5 Small Tortoiseshells and 2 Commas - Andy Steele

Usual walk today but minus the inner loop on the Marshalling Yards where the bikers were busily re-arranging the topsoil. Probably twice as many unidentified butterflies with the bright sunlight and rapid flight combining to reduce many to dark 'somethings' I'd guess more of the same two species that I did identify: Peacock: 8 Comma: 6 If I'm right about many of the unidentified butterflies being Commas too, then this species seems to be doing well here at the moment - Pete Gore

1 comma, 2 peacock, 2 brimstone and 1 small tortoiseshell seen at Bayfordbury today. Also 4 small tortoiseshell and 2 brimstone on Mandeville Road, Hertford - Shaun Dowman

During the course of the day, I saw a variety of butterflies enjoying the warmth around Nicholls Farm, Redbourn, including a Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell, Brimstone and my first **Large White** of the year. Around midday, I drove to Tring and saw numerous Brimstone butterflies en-route and one other White (at Whipsnade, just over the county border) - Peter Tallentire

I saw a Red Admiral on Hounslow Heath on Saturday morning at around 9.30 am and another Peacock today in my Hounslow garden - Paul Taylor

I saw a Red Admiral on Hounslow Heath on Saturday morning at around 9.30 am and another Peacock today in my Hounslow garden - Paul Taylor

Rusling End, seen today 1 x Red Admiral, 3 x Peacock, 2 x Male Brimstone - Julie Wise

I had a Brimstone and then 3 Peacocks (chasing each other) in my South Mimms garden today - Terry Wood

At Merryhill Fields, Bushey seen 4 x peacock, 4 x comma (enjoying almond blossom), 1 x male brimstone. 1 x male brimstone in Finch Lane & a peacock nearby to Bushey home - David Gower

On a walk around the Tring Reservoir complex on Sunday morning (09/03/2014) I counted 23 different Brimstones, 5 Small Tortoiseshells and 4 Peacocks enjoying the warm sunshine with temperatures briefly climbing to 18 degrees centigrade. - Charlie Jackson

Good butterfly day today, sunny about 16 Deg C, at Yeading Brook Meadows, Yeading, Middlesex. 2 Peacocks, 11 Small Tortoiseshells (couple of pairs feeding on dandelion flowers) and 4 Brimstones. Saw a further Brimstone in my garden in Eastcote - Paul Busby

Several small tortoiseshells and brimstones in Stocking Pelham today. Also 2 Brimstones just north of Furneux Pelham today - Andy Brown

First sightings this year, all from today: Bishop's Stortford town centre - 2 brimstone, 4 small tortoiseshell (2 courting, 2 fighting over territory) and 3 peacock. Rushy Mead nature reserve - 3 peacock, 1 comma, 1 brimstone. Quite a few bees on the wing as well - Chris

March 8th we had a Comma in the garden in Kings Langley and today March 9th a vibrant Brimstone flew across the neighbourhood and I also disturbed a dark butterfly on the patio which I think was a peacock - Elizabeth Debenham

This morning at Colney Heath we saw 2 Brimstone, 3 Comma, 2 Small Tortoiseshell and 4+ Peacock butterflies on the wing - Jenny Sherwen

Saturday 8th March 2014

Today, just saw a Small Tortoiseshell on the edge of Haste Hill Golf Course, weather warmer but breezier, lots of bumblebees but only one butterfly on a 30 minute walk - Paul Busby

Just two butterflies seen and identified today, a Comma on the Marshalling Yards and a Peacock on Hounslow Heath the latter becoming my first butterfly of the year on the Heath itself. Two unidentifiable butterflies I glimpsed on the Marshalling Yards naturally seemed more intriguing than the others but were in reality probably just one more of each species. - Pete Gore

A Comma along the western edge of Watery Grove, Norton Green - Peter Clarke

Friday 7th March 2014

And further to the below: two small tortoiseshell in a garden in Longmead, Letchworth Garden City. One stopped and sunned itself for a moment, then another joined it and they danced off together. - Jill Sawyer Phypers

Two sightings of Brimstone at Borehamwood. 1ST on Tuesday 5th March briefly mid morning. 2ND on Friday 7th March early afternoon Both seen in rear garden - not seen to alight - Jim Terry

A Peacock basking in the sun on the grass in the north section of Fairlands Valley Park, Stevenage (TL 24 24)- Peter Clarke

A male Brimstone flying at the entrance to Stanborough Park in Garston (Watford) at 1230. Also two separate Nymphalids in the Abbots Langley area later in the afternoon; the combination of their fast flight and the bright, low sun conspired against identification - Colin Everett

Went for a brief walk in the sunshine at Cheyne Field, Eastcote, Middlesex next to the River Pinn, saw 2 Brimstones, 3 Commas and 1 Small Tortoiseshell. - Paul Busby

Pinner Middlesex 7th March: My first butterfly of the year yesterday in my suburban garden here: a Red Admiral, slightly faded, but otherwise in perfect condition. Then, today, a male Brimstone flying fast across the garden - Graham Elcombe

First real spring day - in Great Molewood 3 comma, 2 peacock and 2 brimstone. Brimstone and peacock at home in Bengoe also - Steve Kiln

Robin White reported a Small Tortoiseshell at Vicarage Farm, Enfield yesterday Thursday 6th March 2014. Today Friday 7th March 2014 Robert Callf saw a Comma at Moat Wood, Trent Park at 12:45 hrs.

In the space of half an hour at lunchtime today I had 3 male Brimstone, 2 Peacock, 1 Comma and a Red Admiral in my Harpenden garden - Robin Pearson

My first sightings this year. Today has been a day of Brimstones. All in flight..... 12.15 in flight outside my house, 12.16 in flight bottom of Hawthorn Hill, Letchworth, 12.20ish in flight by the Wilbury Hills picnic area car park Letchworth, 12.30ish in flight roundabout in Hitchin by the station junction of Cambridge Road and Walsworth Road. 2.00ish in flight Woodside car park Walsworth Road Hitchin - Jill Sawyer Phypers

Thursday 6th March 2014

I saw a Peacock fly past me as I was driving through Hounslow today (5.00 pm) My first Butterfly of the year - Paul Taylor

I was surprised to see a **Small White** butterfly today at Bridgewater Fields, Ruislip Gardens, Middlesex. The temperature today was about 12 Deg C, but sunny and it was just about flying before landing on the grass of the recreation fields by the Yeading Brook (*Photo seen*). A dozen frogs in the pond here, maybe spring is here! - Paul Busby

I saw a Comma in the centre of Balls Wood today (6th) - Andy Brown

Just had a Small Tortoiseshell on the patio of my South Mimms garden at about 1:30pm - Terry Wood

Saw a Peacock on the NE edge of Rough Lot, Trent Park this afternoon Thursday 6th March 2014 at 13:05 hrs - Robert Callf

I saw a Small Tortoiseshell in the sun at Amwell this morning - Jenny Sherwen

Wednesday 5th March 2014

Today in St. Albans around Cottonmill Lane had a tatty Peacock flying in the morning sunshine - Andy Steele

News from Diane Andrews today. 1 Small Tortoiseshell and 2 Commas at Brunswick Park, East Barnet. Since Diane has been recording butterflies, this was her earliest date.

Ware garden, Brimstone through several times. Also two dark butterflies chasing but couldn't see what species before they were gone - Liz Goodyear

Tuesday 4th March 2014

Today (Tuesday) at Stockers lake I saw a Peacock - Andy Brown

February 2014

Friday 28th February 2014

A few sightings for this week in my Bishop Stortford garden, Monday 24th Feb: Peacock 1. Brimstone 1 (M), Small Tortoiseshell 2. Wednesday 26th Feb: Red Admiral 1, Thursday 27th Feb: Small Tortoiseshell 2 - Jim Fish

Thursday 27th February 2014

Saw a **Comma** yesterday fluttering around Hatfield Business Park looking a little lost! - Daniel Cooper

Monday 24th February 2014

A male Brimstone in Stratfield Drive Broxbourne at 11.05 today - Laurence Drummond

Brimstone seen today in a sunny garden on Kimpton Road, Welwyn - Ian Flack

We saw a peacock butterfly this afternoon whilst working at Amwell - Jenny Sherwen

On my morning walk today around Tyttenhanger Gravel Pits I saw a Peacock near Tyttenhanger Farm, my first for this year - Terry Wood

Two male Brimstones in Bengoe this morning - Simon Knott

A few early butterflies to report today Monday 24th February 2014 - 1 Comma east edge of Little Beechill Wood, Enfield Chase 10:59 and 2 together on south edge 11:04 hrs, 1 Peacock at South Barvin Farm, Enfield Chase, 11:50 hrs, 1 Peacock at Ferny Hill Farm, Enfield, 12:19 hrs, 1 Peacock along Leeging Beech Gutter near 'Three-bridges' at Trent Park, 13:00 hrs - spring has arrived!?

Robert Callf & Robin White.

A thoroughly enjoyable spring walk this morning, as usual across Hounslow Heath to the

Marshalling Yards and back. All the following are firsts in 2014 for me and all were on the Marshalling Yards or as I was crossing the River Crane (nothing on the Heath yet in other words.)
Brimstone 3 (2m,1f) Comma 1 Peacock 2 - Pete Gore

I have just seen a **Brimstone** in Stocking Pelham today (24th) - Andy Brown

In common with several others we have just seen a **Brimstone** in our garden in Pinner - Gill & Tony Porter

A **Peacock** in my Ware garden as well - Liz Goodyear

I have just seen a male **Brimstone** butterfly in my Crouch Hill garden ! - Helen Bantock

Good morning, a **brimstone** was in our Hitchin garden this morning. First of the year - Martin Banthorpe

Peacock flying in Millfield Lane, Bury Green, near Little Hadham at present - Jono Forgham

Brimstone butterfly in friends Ruislip - Middlesex garden - Helen George

Sunday 23rd February 2014

Norton Green, near Stevenage - Our second Field Trip of the year to look for Brown Hairstreak eggs started in unpromising conditions. As well as steady rain, I noticed that a significant amount of Blackthorn was already in flower in the hedges alongside the road to Stevenage. Once the plant flowers it is very hard to spot the butterfly eggs. Amazingly the flowering season has started about 6 weeks ahead of last year! Luckily it turned out that none of the Blackthorn at Norton Green was flowering and better still seven volunteers turned up to help with the search. Peter Clarke showed us the locations of his Brown Hairstreak sightings last summer and we spent a couple of hours searching promising looking habitat in several different areas along the edge of the wood. Sadly no eggs were found, which does cast doubt on the continuing presence of the species on this site, the last confirmed record here being in 1971. It will be interesting to conduct further searches for the adult butterfly in August & September and to see if it can be captured on a photograph - Malcolm Hull

Saturday 22nd February 2014

I saw a **Brimstone and Peacock** this morning flying around my garden in Redbourn. These are the first I've seen flying this year, though there are quite a few Peacocks and Small Tortoiseshell overwintering in sheds. Separately, there were a lot of Honey Bees out feeding on an early flowering Honeysuckle - Peter Tallantire

Yesterday I saw a **Red Admiral** in Hertford, near the Folly allotments - Jenny Sherwen

I saw two **Small Tortoiseshells** in the field behind my house (Tring), in the spot they normally favour at this time of year - Nick Bowles

Sunday 16th February 2014

Just one day after receipt of the Annual Report (many thanks to all concerned) we have sunshine, little wind and most amazingly of all, no rain! - and my first butterfly since October: a Red Admiral which flew across my path on the Marshalling Yards. A very pleasant surprise - I had to wait until summer last year for one and they remained elusive all year. I completed a full walk as last year but saw nothing further. The walk is not significantly affected by the weather, despite the presence of the River Crane on and under part of it. - Pete Gore

Today at Therfield Heath had a **Peacock** flying in the afternoon sunshine - Andy Steele

I've just seen and photographed a **Small Tortoiseshell** in my garden in Hitchin, Herts
<http://1.bp.blogspot.com/-MliJE4mM3Lw/UwE9mMNc-NI/AAAAAAAD7g/GOCstGi5V94/s1600/P1560348.JPG>
- Robert Chapman

Outside of county but.....When we visited the RSPB Sandy Reserve this afternoon we were surprised to find Large White, Peacock, Comma, Small Tortoiseshell & Brimstone butterflies

included in today's sightings (not to mention a White-tailed Bumblebee & a Honey Bee photographed nectaring in Snowdrops). All were seen in sunny sheltered areas. Temp was 10C in the carpark in brilliant sunshine & very little wind. Birds seemed to think it was spring too. Nothing much in our garden yet except a couple of bees - John Moss

Redbourn Golf Club - The sun shone brightly all afternoon to welcome our first branch field trip of the year. The venue at Redbourn is a private sight and the event arranged with permission from the club. The target species was Brown Hairstreak, which over-winters at the egg-stage of its life-cycle. At this time of year the small white eggs can clearly be seen against the dark colour of Blackthorn, the larval foodplant. The Blackthorn hedges on the course are extensive and managed in a way which should make them attractive for female Brown Hairstreaks to lay eggs on. A suspected adult sighting had been reported from this location last summer, so our hopes were high. Unfortunately two hours of searching by our party of four did not locate any eggs. Although the result is disappointing, this was a good opportunity to learn the technique of egg-hunting for this species and we all had an enjoyable afternoon. There will be a further egg-hunting opportunity at Norton Green near Stevenage next Sunday 23rd Feb-see Walks & Talks page on the website for details - Malcolm Hull, Brendan Sheridan, Roger Prue, Paul Cross

Peacock flying indoors on 9th February, Small tortoiseshell flying indoors on 13th February. Both at CM23 - Peter Herring

Monday 3rd February 2014

Here's an unusual sighting for you. 07:34 this morning-driving to Ware station, we chased (all be it slowly) a **Peacock** in Wareside. I assume it had been disturbed from hibernation, as there wasn't a lot of light, but enough to clearly see what it was - Phil Macmurdie

January 2014

Sunday 19th January 2014

Folly Lane Allotments, St Albans - I was surprised to find a fully grown Small White caterpillar, about 3 cm long on my allotment this morning. The caterpillar was carefully aligned along the midrib of a leaf of Purple Sprouting Broccoli and basking in the mid morning sun. Judging by the damage on the leaf it had been feeding fairly recently. My textbooks all agree that Small White caterpillars are seen from May to Sept/October and that the species overwinters as a chrysalis, so I thought I'd report what may be an unusual sighting. We seem to be experiencing quite a warm winter and it would be interesting to know if anyone else has spotted unseasonal caterpillars - Malcolm Hull

Wednesday 16th January 2014

At Kettlewells Farm, Hogg End Lane St Albans in an old barn about 40 roosting butterflies reported by my daughter in law, Cathy Leahy, as a mixture of Peacocks, Small Tortoiseshells & Red Admirals seen Saturday 11 January as they prepared the barn for a wedding. They were carefully re-located in the barn away from the activities. - Ernie Leahy

Saturday 4th January 2014

A **peacock** was seen by Ray Hooper at the HMWT Amwell viewpoint on 3rd January, news via [Herts bird club](#) website - news via Laurence Drummond

A **Red Admiral** was reported from Little Venice on 2nd January, news via Richard Fox and [BC Twitter](#) - @McKenzie6593: @savebutterflies Single Red Admiral, Little Venice, Inner London this a.m.

