

# Archive Page

## Sightings and news from January to June 2001

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This page contains sightings details of all the butterflies and moths reported to the [Sightings page](#) between January and June 2001.

Note: These pages have been copied from the original sightings page and some links will no longer work. All images of butterflies or moths have been removed, but most can be found in the [Photo House](#)

### June 2001

**Yesterday** - During my usual 5 hours in TL32 I saw 1 Small Skipper, 4 Large Skipper and 4 Meadow Brown at Fir Tree Farm, **Moor Green**. I also flushed a Green Sandpiper from a ditch which is a fairly early record for autumn passage. Also 10 Meadow Brown at **Moor Hall** and 2 Speckled Wood at **Munden Bury** - Alan Reynolds

I went to **Cranford Park** on the Hillingdon/Hounslow border yesterday (**30 June**) Small Skipper 3, Large Skipper 1, Red Admiral 3, Comma 2, Speckled Wood 2, Meadow Brown 9, Small Heath 1. Also many Peacock larvae on nettles - Andrew Wood

**30th June** - I went to **Balls Wood** this afternoon and had maybe a second **Purple Hairstreak**, a few Meadow Browns and Speckled Woods and a Large Skipper in about an hour - Nick Sampford

Birklands, **St. Albans** - **2 Marbled White** and **2 5-spot Burnet** - Denis Shepperson

Had an excellent walk at **Sharpenhoe Clappers** this morning. Despite a slight breeze and occasional cloud, we saw **1 Clouded Yellow**, 1 Ringlet, many Marbled Whites and **4 Dark Green Fritillary**, amongst the long grasses towards the middle of the meadow. Also saw **2 Chalkhill Blues**, some Small Heaths, Meadow Browns, Speckled Woods, and a couple of Large and Small Skippers. Not many moths, apart from a few Cinnabars. This has definitely been our most rewarding butterfly photo shoot so far this year !! - Lissa and Rachel Smith

**29th June** - Was able to do my **Ware Park** transect today with the lifting of all the Foot & Mouth restrictions. Not brilliant conditions and only a few Large Skippers and Meadow Brown. Did see my first (!) Red Admiral of the year in **Ware Park** on my way home today - Andrew Wood

Visited my "**South Herts**" transect area for fun today - spent about 90 minutes walking around the fields in mainly dull but warm weather and saw 87 Meadow Brown, 14 Large Skipper, 8 Small/Essex Skipper, 2 Speckled Wood, **5 Red Admiral**, 2 Cinnabar and my first **Ringlet** of the year at this site - Liz Goodyear

**Trent Park area** - **1 Painted Lady** seen on **Wed 27th** at 8.10pm - Robert Callf and Robin White

**28th June** - Visited **Cheshunt Park** for the first time today ( A very nice site). Despite some dull, breezy and at times wet weather saw 2 Red Admiral and a **Painted Lady** (all in light rain and hurtling around) also several Meadow Brown, 5 Large Skipper, a Small Skipper and 4 un-identified skippers (skippers only when the sun was out) - Liz Goodyear

I've managed to pop out to **Hemel Hempstead** at lunch time a couple of days ago (**26th**). In the centre of the town on some derelict land I managed to find a Common Blue and a Meadow Brown. On my way into work that day I spotted a **Marbled White** close to the A41/M25 junction

near **Kings Langley**. I also found a Large Skipper in **South Harrow** last **Saturday** - David Cooling

News from the **26th**, a Red Admiral (Vanessa atalanta) flew into our offices at **Whetstone**, North London - the first I've seen this year - Brian Price

**26th June** - News from Phil MacMurdie's **North Enfield** transect for **23rd June** -1 Red Admiral, 2 Green-veined White, 2 Small White, 5 Meadow Brown, 4 Speckled Wood - 14 butterflies in total!

**Horsenden Hill**, Middx - **The White-letter Hairstreaks** are back. I saw **two** on **Sunday 24th** at the usual site in the south east corner of the hill, close to the back gate to Horsenden Farm. This is two days earlier than the 1999 'early' date of June 26th. They were generally over elms but gave best views when perched on an isolated ash. At this site they often come down to bramble flowers, especially later in the season, and should be available for at least three weeks - Andrew Culshaw

Things are getting better. There were 7 species during a one hour walk on part of **Croxley Common Moor**. Large Skipper, Common Blue, Marbled White, Speckled Wood, Meadow Brown, Ringlet, Small Heath - Charles Smith

On my way back from **Codicote** (Hertfordshire) driving down a quiet lane, I saw a **Green Hairstreak** flying, then landing on some grasses on the verge next to a field of Poppies. I got out of the car and managed to have a good look before it flew off. It then landed on some more grasses further down the lane near a stream. At Smug Oak Lane (**Bricket Wood**) on the **23rd June** I saw a Green-Veined White, a Large Skipper, several Small Heaths and Meadow Browns. I also saw the **Marbled White** - mentioned in one of your other messages - Lissa Smith

My "**South Herts**" transect produced a fair number of Meadow Brown and Large Skipper today, but the highlight on my way back was seeing a newly emerged **Purple Hairstreak** in the grass, unfortunately its wings were deformed and I don't think it will be flying very far. Over a four hour period saw over **200 Meadow Brown**, only a quarter of this on the transect, 30 Large Skipper, 3 Common Blue, 4 Red Admiral, a tatty Peacock, 11 Speckled Wood, one white and 3 Silver Y. The wind was quite fresh at times and the best places for Meadow Brown were definitely in the sheltered fields. Got so hot the Skippers weren't stopping for anything and am sure some were Small/Essex not Large. Later in **Northaw Great Wood**, I saw the grand total of 2 Large Skipper and still no White Admiral - Liz Goodyear

**25th June** - I went to **Balls Wood** today in the hope of the first White Admirals and Ringlets but only saw Large Skipper, Meadow Brown and Speckled Wood - Andrew Wood

I walked down my summer lunchtime walk today in hot and sunny weather only to find that my flower meadow had been cut for hay, thereby dispelling any hopes that I might have had for recording Marbled White there again. The hay has been left on the ground to dry, but it is not yet clear whether this is part of a "Management Plan" or whether the hay crop is going to be collected. Nevertheless, it is not very surprising that there were very few butterflies present as a result. I walked around the perimeter hedge (15 mins) where a foot or so of vegetation had been left and saw 6 Large Skipper, 2 Meadow Brown and 1 early **Ringlet**. This is a very good area for Ringlets once they get going. In the lane between the meadow and **Norton Green** (15 mins) I saw 1 Meadow Brown, **1 Small/Essex Skipper**, 1 Large Skipper, 1 Red Admiral, 1 Speckled Wood and 1 Cinnabar Moth. At Norton Green (15 mins) I was able to add 4 Large Skipper and 1 Meadow Brown - Alan Reynolds

News from Trent Park **today** - 3 male Common Blues, **1st female Meadow brown (2)**, a late Burnet Companion and 1 Silver Y - single Brimstone and Red Admiral also reported here recently. Also on the **23rd June** - **1 Small Skipper - Robert Calf and Robin White**

**Broxbourne Woods** - Walked from one end of the wood to the other and back in about 4 hours looking for White Admiral with no success, but saw 12 Meadow Brown, 14 Speckled Wood, **2 Ringlet**, 10 Large Skipper, **2 Small Skipper**, 1 Green-veined White, 1 Red Admiral and 2 Speckled Yellow moths - Liz Goodyear

**23rd June** - I was walking with my Grandad - Charles Smith, near Smug Oak Lane, **Bricket Wood** and spotted a **Marbled White** fluttering around some Oxe-eye Daisies. After a long chase I finally got a photograph - another one to add to my collection - Rachel Smith (Age 13)

Another 4 hours in warm sunshine in TL32 only produced 4 Speckled Wood , 1 Green-veined White and 1 Large White , all at the same site near **Berkedongreen Spring** - Alan Reynolds.

Had another Red Admiral in my **Ware** garden today but not the same individual - yesterday's was in good condition, today's was poor - Liz Goodyear

**22nd June - 22 Speckled Woods**, 4 Meadow Brown and 8 Large Skippers on the **Balls Wood** transect (35 mins) on **20 June**, 2 Large Skipper Wengeo Lane, **Ware - 21 June** (The only butterflies seen in 2 x 45 minute walks around the edge of **Ware on 19 and 21 June**) **2 Large Skippers and 1 Small Copper near Ware Lock on 22 June - Andrew Wood**

Amazing report from Denis Shepperson (via Christine) - he was looking for dragonflies in the Lea Valley on the **19th June** and saw **3 Gatekeeper (Hedge Brown)** at Thistly Marsh, **Cheshunt**. He didn't see his first Meadow Brown until the **20th** at The Warren, **Colney Heath!** He also reports seeing very few butterflies. Christine visited Ball's Park in **Hertford** today and within an hour saw 13 Speckled Wood but only 2 Meadow Brown, although she was in a grassland habitat.

Just seen a butterfly in my **Ware** garden - the first in 2 weeks - 1 Red Admiral - Liz Goodyear

**21st June - A request for help** - The **Horsenden Hill** Rangers would like someone to do a bit of moth recording for them on the hill. It's in the London Borough of Ealing. Can anyone help - if so please contact Liz Goodyear for details

Last night, news came through that a **Large Tortoiseshell** had been found in **Suffolk**. This afternoon Nick Sampford went to see it and his photo is now on the page - unfortunately it never opened its wings and Nick felt that it "wasn't well"

After seeing **Black Hairstreak** over "**the border,**" returned via **Aldbury Nowers**. Visited most parts of the reserve and saw 1 Small Heath, several Meadow Brown, 9 Brimstone, 4 Common Blue(including a female), 5 Brown Argus, 13 Large Skipper, 2 Speckled Wood and 1 Cinnabar. However, the highlight was a rather tatty **Green Hairstreak** - Liz Goodyear

I think Phil and I have a lot in common. After 5 hours in TL32 today in perfect warm and sunny weather I only saw 1 Red Admiral and 1 Large Skipper near **Braughing**. 1 Large Skipper at **Green End** and a few long-distance whites - Alan Reynolds

I was beginning to think it was me but I would normally be seeing lots of butterflies in my suburban **Harrow** garden by now but since the Orange Tips, there has been nothing except the occasional "white". Bumble bees and hoverflies also seem to be down. Presumably the low numbers are related in some way to the exceptionally wet autumn and winter? - Pauline Schofield

**2 Dark Green Fritillary**, freshly emerged on the Barton side of **Sharpenhoe Clappers** sighted on **June 19th** - I know it's just over the border from the Hertfordshire area but it is still an important sighting that could signal a further move (into Herts.) by the species along the Chiltern ridge - Dave Chandler

**Marshall's Heath** on **19th June** saw my first Meadow Brown- Trevor Chapman

**20th June - North Enfield** - I am back treading the path every weekend, although recently during the last three weeks, I have completed the walk six times, during the peak time ( 11:30 - 2:30 approx) on perfect sunny days with a light breeze BUT SAW NEXT TO NOTHING - including yesterday when a total count of 6 butterflies were found. The lowest being on the 11th June when only 2 Small Whites were seen. This doesn't appear to be isolated as "having been at home for the last six weeks" in the garden, all I have seen are isolated singletons of Speckled Wood, Small White and a couple of Holly Blues. Where are all the butterflies. Compared to records of

96,7,9 when these weeks produces 30-60 individuals, counts of 3,5, and 6 are daft. Is anyone else having the same phenomenon of "nothing to report"? - Phil MacMurdie - *Any one else like to comment?*

On **New House Park** (St. Albans) Transect on **18 June** there were **10 Large Skippers**, some much smaller than usual, and another **Painted Lady** sunning themselves on bramble, but no Small or Essex Skippers or Meadow Browns yet. Apart from some Peacocks in April and May this has been a below average year so far. No Small Copper, Brown Argus or Small Heath and only one Common Blue, Small Tortoiseshell and Comma after 12 weeks recording. Very few others. This is a suburban wasteland site with no Foot and Mouth restrictions - Charles Smith

Walked my "**South Herts**" transect today, went early which was a good move as it turned cloudy around midday. Spent just over 3 hours walking around the area which includes walking to the site and saw in total **24 Large Skipper, 22 Meadow Brown**, 2 Speckled Wood, 1 Red Admiral, 4 Common Blue, a very small Green-veined White, 2 Cinnabar and just like last week a possible Brown Argus, which again wouldn't let me identify it for certain. Later, went over to some woods near **Bramfield** and saw in more cloudy conditions (just under 2 hours) **18 Speckled Wood**, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Red Admiral, 2 Meadow Brown, 1 Green-veined White and 3 unidentified whites - Liz Goodyear

**19th June - Trent Park-** 2 rather fresh Small Coppers, **14 Large Skippers** especially on brambles along the field edges, one worn Small Tortoiseshell - Robert Callf and Robin White

One Small Heath, 3 Large Skippers at **Wheathampstead Education Centre** yesterday at 6pm enjoying the evening sun. Cinnabar moths also flying - Trevor Chapman

**17th June** - News from Stuart Pittman - Got a **Small Blue** at **Ickleford** on 13th June. This is my latest June first brood sighting!

**16th June** - On the **14th June** I spent 5 hours in **TL32** on a warm and sunny day surveying dragonflies for the Herts Atlas. Although the dragonflies are now beginning to warm up, I only managed to see **1 Red Admiral** at **Nobles Farm** (TL362246), 1 Small White drinking at a pond at **Wakeley Farm** (TL343270) and 1 or 2 distant "whites" - Alan Reynolds

**The Small & Essex Skipper season will be here shortly!** Charles Smith has kindly sent some images he drew using his computer (before photo-scanning) to highlight the differences between the two species. Click on the images to get a more detailed picture. Note from Charles - I exaggerated what I thought were differences and in "those days" was restricted in colours (*I will include a written account of the differences later - LG*)

**15th June** - Saw my first Meadow Brown for the year and a Small White by Sacred Heart School in **Ware** today - Andrew Wood

News from **Tring Park**. Although parts of Tring Park are not open, Brian Jessop reports that he has permission to walk some of his important Tring Park transect. Highlights include 2 Small Tortoiseshell at the beginning of May and on the **24th May** he saw **4 Dingy Skipper, 3 Grizzled Skipper and 2 Green Hairstreak**. The Green Hairstreaks, although not mating were a pair and were flying around an anthill covered in rockrose. Although sightings are poor this year, he has seen a few Common Blue, Brown Argus, Small Heath and 4 or 5 Large Skipper. He has just seen his first **Meadow Brown** of the year and was also very surprised to see a male **Orange Tip**. There are however, lots of day flying moths this year, including Burnet Companion, Latticed Heath and Mother Shipton. Sightings in his **Tring** garden have also been poor, although he has seen a Holly Blue and a Green-veined White egg laying on aubrieta.

News from **13th - Meadow Brown** seen in **Trent Park** by Robert Callf

**14th June** - In almost perfect weather (contrary to the weather forecast) visited my "**South Herts**" transect and the surrounding area for a 5 hour "stroll" accompanied by Andrew Middleton - but sightings won't break any records, although some were quite nice. Seen were **7 Large Skipper (including a mating pair)**, 3 Peacock, **2 Red Admiral**, 3 Common Blue, 1 Small

Copper, 1 Green-veined White, 1 unknown white and 3 very smart Speckled Woods, also a possible Brown Argus but it wasn't prepared to let us confirm its identity. Moths included Yellow Shell, Cinnabar, Burnet Companion, Small Yellow Underwing, **3 Silver Y** and a day-flying moth yet to be identified - Liz Goodyear

John Hollingdale reports that he saw a **Painted Lady** in his garden in **Harrow** on the **12th**

**13th June - Rammey Marsh** today pm - 4 male Common Blues, 2 Burnet Companions, 1 Mother Shipton - bit disappointing - Andrew Middleton

**12th June** - News from across the border in Essex just (Yates Meadow **Epping Forest**) - saw my first **Meadow Brown** of the year - Andrew Middleton

**11th June** -

9 Small Heaths at Rickneys Quarry nr **Chapmore End** on 4th June - Andrew Wood

**Trent Park area - Large Skipper**, 2 Burnet Companions, 1 Small Yellow Underwing **Thursday 7th** 6 Small Copper and 15 Small Heath, 1 female common blue - various sightings from both Robert Callf and Robin White

News from **5th June Ponders End Lake- 1 Painted Lady**. - Steve Connor

**6th June** - Saw my first Small Heath yesterday (5th June) in **Stevenage**, along with 4 Common Blue - Trevor Chapman

**5th June** - Also a **Dingy Skipper** today! (**Hexton Chalk Pits**) Went to photograph the Green Hairstreaks but did not see any. The famous rubbish dump at HCT was taken away today by contractor and the car park is now fenced and gated. The reserve is still open but Telegraph Hill is still shut although the Icknield Way going through it is open. Pegsdon Hills still closed on the Beds side - Nigel Agar

The usual walk on **Hounslow Heath** produced 1 Common Blue, 6 Small Heath, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 4 Speckled Wood and 10+ Whites that never seem to give me the chance to ID - Chris Court

Things have been fairly quiet on **Horsenden Hill** so far this summer, e.g just low numbers of 7 species in perfect conditions on Sunday (and no Small Heath yet this year after a blank year last summer). I did see a Small White yesterday on **Euston Bus Station** - an odd location for any form of wildlife! - Andy Culshaw

**4th June** - At least two **Green Hairstreaks** at **Hexton Chalk Pits** this afternoon. Both were flying low over the turf in the way that the females do while egg laying. I had no camera with me but was close enough for photographs. It looks as though we do have a colonisation here. Sightings of them in past years have been very sporadic and I have never seen them here myself before today. Also Common Blue and Brimstone. I checked out Ickleford railway line again for Small Blues but no luck. Kidney Vetch in flower. Holly Blue and Orange Tip present. Orange Tip have laid eggs in my garden at **Hitchin** on Jack by the Hedge - Nigel Agar

One **Painted Lady** seen at **New House Park St.Albans** at 3:30 on 4 June - Charles Smith

**Trent Park/Vicarage Farm area** - 1 Common Blue, 3 Mother Shipton, 1 Burnet Companion, **Yesterday** west 'new fields', **19 Small Heath, 10 Small Copper**, 1 male Common Blue, 1 Mother Shipton - R Callf, also R White

Good to get my first **Wall Brown** of the weaker spring brood at **Pirton** in **mid May**, Holly blue numbers picking up. Small Tortoiseshell and Comma still elusive - Stuart Pittman

**May 2001**

**31st May** - We walked from **Bengeo** to **Frogmore** via Stapleford and Watton on reopened footpaths and saw 1 Small Tortoiseshell and an unidentified white in 7 miles walking across fields. No Grizzled Skippers at Waterford Heath or Frogmore (only lepidoptera was a Burnet Companion moth) though the cloud and breeze were probably responsible for that - Andrew and Stephen Wood

I walked along the old Midland Railway at **Ickleford** this morning to look for Small Blues. No sign but worth another look. The habitat seems right and Kidney Vetch is present. Holly Blue, Speckled Wood and Small White were out. Yesterday at **Hexton Chalk Pits**, Mark Allen of the HMWT thought he saw a **Green Hairstreak** - at that moment a Hornet appeared and caused a distraction. Small Copper on Old Hale Way allotments this morning - Nigel Agar

**30th May - Waterford Heath;** Spent 2 1/2 hours searching both the north and south pits this afternoon and found at least **14 Grizzled Skippers**. They were seen along the Sacombe Road side of both pits, down the "stony slope" and near the railway line, highlight though was a **pair mating** on plantain flower head. Also seen were 1 Small Copper, 4 Common Blue, 3 Brown Argus, 4 Orange Tip, 4 Cinnabar, a Small Yellow Underwing and several Burnet Companion moths. A visit in the morning to the **Hoddesdon Quarry** area was very disappointing (dragonflies excluded from this comment) although 12 Burnet Companion and 4 Latticed Heath moths were seen - Andrew Middleton & Liz Goodyear

**29th May** - Things still seem a little slow in getting started west of **Stevenage**. I walked for 30 minutes down a country lane lined with traditional hedgerows and woodland, passing through an area of waste ground and onto one of the flower meadows. It was warm, sunny and in some places reasonably sheltered, but on this "perfect" day I only managed to record 2 Small Copper, 2 Peacock and 2 Orange Tip - Alan Reynolds

News from the **Trent Park area** for the last 7 days. Small Copper maximum seen so far 8 on 24th May. **2 Small Heath** on 24th May and 9 (in an hour May. ) on 26th May. **1 Red Admiral** 25th May and 2 on 27th May. 2 Holly Blue together on the Enfield Road. Male Common Blue 26th **Burnet Companion** White and a **Silver Y** moth on 25th May, also seen Small Yellow Underwing and Mother Shipton - Robert Callf and Robin

**Yesterday 1 Red Admiral** passed through my garden in **Hayes**, Middlesex. **Sunday 27th;** A walk around Stockers Lake in **Rickmansworth** between 10.00 -12.30 produced not a single butterfly - Chris Court

No Grizzled Skippers today at **Frogmore Hall** but plenty of Common Blue and a couple of Brown Argus and Peacock - Trevor Chapman

My husband and I went walkabout the other **Sunday** in **Broxbourne Woods** and we saw a white which would not settle long enough for us to detect its type, a Comma, a couple of Orange Tips and many micromoths, some leafmines and a very verbal Chaffinch - Hilary Cooper

**28th May** - Silver Street area, **EN7**, **Painted Lady** - Martin Shepherd

**Mother Shipton** moth seen on **Nomansland** Common, between St. Albans and Wheathampstead today - Trevor Chapman

News from **last weekend** (slipped through by mistake) - Finally produced a few butterflies in the garden (Tring?) at the weekend. Holly Blue, Orange Tip, Brimstone and Small White. Also have found an Orange Tip on the mustard garlic at the end of next door's garden - they have now been banned from chopping it down - Ian Burrus

Today I visited some more tetrads in TL32 namely D , H , I , M and S . This time I was in the field for 3 hours and recorded 17 butterflies as follows: **Walkern;** 2 Orange Tip, **Bury Grange;** 2 Orange Tip, **Gardners End;** 3 Orange Tip, **Fir Tree Farm;** 3 Orange Tip, 1 Peacock, **Mundenbury;** 1 Brimstone, 1 Peacock, 2 Green-veined White & 2 Orange Tip. The dragonflies do not seem to be doing much better than the butterflies, as I have only seen 4 species up here so far . I don't know whether the season is late this year or that dragonfly

numbers and diversity are poor in this part of the county. No doubt the Herts Dragonfly Atlas will yield the answers - Alan Reynolds

**26th May** - Today , as part of the Herts Dragonfly Atlas, I visited the top five ( geographically speaking ) tetrads in TL32 ie E , J , P , U, Z with one or two minor diversions. This part of the county is particularly barren, being mainly wall-to-wall chemical-drenched arable land. It is particularly worrying that after five hours in the field from 10.30am to 3.30 pm, I only recorded 23 butterflies, particularly as it was a warm and sunny day without much wind. It will be interesting to see what happens during the season as I revisit the tetrads on a monthly cycle. The records are as follows: **Cottered Warren**; 5 Speckled Wood, 3 Orange Tip. **North-West Aspenden**; 6 Peacock, 2 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Orange Tip ( 2 Cinnabar Moth ). **Aspenden Church** ; 2 Green-veined White. **River Rib Aspenden** 1 Orange Tip. **River Quin Hare Street** ; 2 Peacock, 1 Brimstone - Alan Reynolds

**25th May** - My summer lunchtime walk has now re-opened . It consists of a hedge-lined track and 2 rather nice flower meadows, 1 at Norton Green and 1 between **Norton Green** and **Burleigh Meadows**. Yesterday, despite a rather warm day I only managed to see 1 Speckled Wood, 1 Orange Tip, **1 Small Copper** and 2 Peacock. I also saw a Holly Blue in my **Watton-at-Stone garden** - Alan Reynolds  
Lunchtime today <**Frogmore** - **1 Grizzled Skipper** (on main cinquefoil patch, looked fresh and fairly dark where wings meet thorax), **1 Common Blue**, **2 Small Copper** (West bank slope), 1 Brimstone, **1 Brown Argus**(south) 1 Speckled wood and 1 Peacock - Trevor Chapman

**Broxbourne Woods** - over **30 Speckled Yellow** moths but no Grizzled Skipper - Liz Goodyear, Christine Shepperson and Brian Sawford

**4 Grizzlies** seen at **Waterford North Pit** yesterday - news from Christine Shepperson and Ian Wynne saw one **Grizzled Skipper** at **Frogmore** last night at the southern end with planted trees

**24th May** - Walked my "South Herts" transect today for the first time this year, grand total of 1 Large White, 1 Green-veined White and one unidentified white. However walking to the site and back saw 1 Holly Blue, 4 Orange Tip, 3 Peacock, 1 Green-veined White, 1 male Brimstone, 1 Small Tortoiseshell and 5 unidentified whites. Most sightings were made on the footpath running beside the A1M! Also saw a Small Yellow Underwing moth - Liz Goodyear

**23rd May** - Just seen my first **Grizzled Skipper** (singleton) at **Frogmore**. Middle North/West basin area. This was my third 'in season' visit. I forgot how difficult they are to spot. The centre of the quarry is completely full of water but there are enough nectaring plants. The west bank strawberry patch is still there and the north side creeping cinquefoil is verdant - Trevor Chapman

I've spent about 6 hours in total now at **Waterford Heath** looking for **Grizzled Skipper** <color="#000000">and I had one yesterday by the bench very briefly in flight but well enough to id it but tonight. I've had **7 sightings**. 4 by the bench near the yellow broom, 1 between there and the kissing gate and 2 by the bench by the kissing gate. I'm not saying that these were all different but they were sightings but I never got a photo. I had one in the scope but it flew before I could get me camera on it. I will get a picture if its the last thing I do! - Nick Sampford

**Chelsea Flower Show** - sum total of 2 Holly Blue and 3 unidentified "Whites" flew past the BC stand today, although it was reported that an Orange Tip was seen on one of the gardens! - Liz Goodyear

**22nd May** - We went there (**Waterford Heath**) today and spotted **3 Grizzled Skippers**. One below seat on south site and 2 on north site; one between lake and railway on bank and the other on bank in extreme right corner if you are looking north. We were delighted to see them - Sally & John Foster

**21st May** - Spent 1 1/2 hours at **Waterford Marsh** today between 12.30 & 2. I had 86 Orange Tip, 44 Green-Veined White, 23 Small White, 2 Holly Blue, 2 Large White, Brimstone, Peacock and Small Tortoiseshell - these were sightings probably of the same butterfly several times but no Grizzled Skippers - Nick Sampford

News from **Trent Park** today; **6 newly emerged Small Copper**, male Brimstone, 2 Holly blue (settled on ground), at least 10 male and female Orange Tip. No Small Heath yet. Female Muslin moth on **18th**. - Robert Callf and Robin White

Just been out to **Barton Hills** and saw a few **Green Hairsteaks** and **Dingy Skippers** plus the usual Orange Tip, Brimstone, Speckled Wood and Green-veined White - Sally & John Foster

Another visit to **Waterford** produced another **Grizzled Skipper** on Sacombe Road side of South pit but a bit further north - Liz Goodyear

**20th May - Waterford Heath** - This afternoon **1 if not 2 Grizzled Skipper** seen on Sacombe Road side of the South Pit. A Latticed Heath moth was flying with Grizzled Skippers! Also 4 Small Yellow Underwing, **Cinnabar** (North pit by railway), 4 Peacock, 4 Orange Tip, 3 Holly Blue, 1 Green-veined White and an unidentified moth which could have been a Beautiful Yellow Underwing - Liz Goodyear

**18th May** - Late news from **16th - Speckled Yellow** moth seen near **North Mymms** - Liz Goodyear

**14th May** - Male Orange Tip in my garden **North Finchley** on **Saturday 12th**, also Speckled Wood - Tony Clancy

Weekend news from the **Trent Park** area - 6 Orange Tips including 2 females, **8 Small Tortoiseshells**, 8 Speckled Woods plus 2 seen on journey and **Small Yellow Underwing** moth - Robert Callf & Robin White

News from the **11th May**, between 4 & 5pm, at **Uxbridge Alderlade** on Friday afternoon produced 2 male Orange Tip, 1 Peacock, **2 Comma**, 1 Large White (At least 6 other unidentified Whites flying around), 6 Speckled Wood, 3 male Brimstone and at least 4 Holly Blues - Chris Court.

**13th May** - Visited Weston Hills yesterday (**12 May**) and saw lots of **Specked Woods (about 20)** - my first for the year. Also several Holly Blues, Brimstones (watched one egg-laying), Peacocks, Orange Tips and Large White - Ian Small.

**12th May - Female Orange Tip** in my **Ware** garden, a little while later, **3 Orange Tip (2 male/1 female)** were in the garden at one time including one pair mating, looks like all the honesty, garlic mustard and sweet rocket have paid off. Holly Blue also a regular visitor today but don't know whether it is the same butterfly each time or several different ones - Liz Goodyear

**11th May - Trent Park area - 4 Orange Tips (all male)**, 4 Speckled Woods, **2 Comma, Large White**, Green-veined White and many "assorted whites", Peacocks, 2 Holly Blue, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, no Brimstone today but 2 yesterday - Robert Callf and Robin White.

**10th May** - Single **Holly Blue** seen in **Letchworth** by Peta Small and **2 Large Whites** in **Welwyn Garden City** by Ian Small

**Holly Blue** in my garden today at **Tewin**; **Comma** in **Lambdell Wood, Tewin** this afternoon Several Peacocks in Lee Valley, around **Fishers Green**, this morning - Les Borg

I've just seen a **Holly Blue** in **Ware** out side Glaxos while waiting for the Grey Wagtail to appear, this was my first for the year also today Orange Tips, Green-veined Whites, Brimstones and Peacocks in reasonable numbers near **Thundridge** old church might of had Large White too, but female Brimstones do good impressions at a distance - Nick Sampford

Another butterfly sighting from the **Natural History Museum Wildlife Garden** - this time of a **Holly Blue**, the first one for the year - Martin Honey

Still no Grizzled Skipper at **Waterford Heath**, also saw my first **Holly Blue** in the garden today (Ware) - Liz Goodyear

**8th May** - Today I saw a Brimstone and male Orange Tip at **Howe Green**, while looking at the pond there, which although bathed in warm sunshine and free of duckweed for a change, showed no signs of any dragonflies - Christine Shepperson

Today I tried my summer lunchtime walk from **Norton Green** down to the woodmill but it was still closed. In the event I had to make do with a walk down a lane next to the A1. It's just as well that you don't have to rely on butterfly calls for identification!! All I managed was a high-flying White, 2 Peacock and a Small Tortoiseshell. It would appear that **Stevenage** butterflies need more than one warm, sunny day to kick-start them into action - Alan Reynolds.

**Trent Park - 5 Brimstones** (3 males 2 females including a pair together), 1 Orange Tip and good numbers of Peacock and Small Tortoiseshell - Robert Callf and Robin White

**Waterford Heath** - spent 1 1/2 hours looking in vain for Grizzled Skipper, although "one of those look-alike moths" got me excited for a few seconds. However saw 7 Peacock, 1 Green-Veined White, 2 Orange Tip, 2 Speckled Wood, 1 Small Tortoiseshell and 1 Brimstone - Liz Goodyear

40 minute walk in glorious sunshine on **Hounslow Heath** produced **8 Small Tortoiseshell**, 1 Green-Veined White, 2 Brimstone, 7 Peacock, 1 Speckled Wood, 1 Comma, **1 Large White** and quite a few other "Whites" that just wouldn't co-operate - Chris Court

News from Christine Shepperson - yesterday (**7th May**) we visited **Broxbourne Woods** with Margaret and Charlie Nash, where Peacocks were out in force in the (unusual) warm sunshine. We found a total of **17 Peacocks**, several were feeding on Cherry blossom near the East car park. Commas, Speckled Woods and a Brimstone were all on the wing there and Margaret spotted a **Green-veined White** sitting on a sedge, with its wings retracted. It was tiny and almost invisible. When she first saw it I thought it was a leaf glinting in the sun and nearly did not even take a closer look! Denis saw his first **Orange Tip (a male)** on **Butterwick Field** (part of the disused Smallford Pit) on **3rd May** around midday, he also saw a **Large White** nearby. Denis saw his first Speckled Wood of the season on his transect at **Colney Heath Common** on **4th May**. We both saw a **second Orange Tip**, also male flying along a roadside verge at Woodside, near **Hatfield Park** yesterday (**7th May**) in one of the bursts of warm sunshine.

**4th May** - News from **Long Marston** - Margaret Noakes saw a newly emerged **male Holly Blue** in her garden today.

**Dragonfly news - Large Red Damselflies** are being seen - Christine Shepperson.

**Trent Park area - 5 Small Tortoiseshells**, Vicarage Farm track, also 3 Small Whites, 1 Comma, a male Brimstone and 8 Peacocks - Robert Callf and Robin White

News from Andrew Wood - Today in **Ware** near the river I saw my first **Orange Tip** and **Green-Veined Whites(2)** of the year plus Peacocks, Small Tortoiseshells and several "unidentifiable whites." A nice change to have a bit of warm sun. Also saw a Speckled Wood on the **27th April**.

**3rd May - 12 Peacocks** on **Rammey Marsh** and at least **1 Green-Veined White** (possibly 2) and **1 Small White** in **Brimdown** - Andrew Middleton. **Hampstead Heath 2 Brimstones** - Tony Baumber

**Trent Park area;** Nature Trail **1 Speckled Wood, 1 Large White, 1 Comma;** Vicarage Farm **14 Peacocks** - Robert Callf and Robin White.

I had my first **two Orange Tips** today, one at **High Wych** and another at **Much Hadham** - Nick Sampford

I took a walk (about 45 mins) around **Hounslow Heath** **1 female Orange Tip** (my 1st of the Year), **1 Speckled Wood, 1 male Brimstone** (my 1st of the Year), **2 Small Tortoiseshells, 10 Peacocks & 2 other unidentified Whites** - came back to the office to find a **Speckled Wood**. This probably beats my entire numbers for the year so far - Chris Court.

Despite the weather being very warm and sunny the best I could manage this lunchtime during a brief walk round the Wildlife Garden here in **South Kensington, London**, was a somewhat worn **Peacock** nectaring on a pond-side Ranunculus - Martin Honey

Just started to see the first butterflies in my garden (**Ware**) since 1st April - **female Brimstone** nectaring on honesty followed 30 minutes later by a **male Brimstone** and a dark butterfly that "got away" - what a lovely sight. Also saw my first **Speckled Wood** of the year on a hedgerow near my house - LG

### **April 2001**

**28th April** - Just had my first sighting this year of **Orange Tip**, in my garden here in Bishop's Stortford today - Jim Fish. More news from the **27th** - Andrew Middleton on a bike ride from Ponders End to Canary Wharf saw **14 Peacocks, 9 Small Whites and 2 Small Tortoiseshells. Trent Park/Vicarage Farm area, 12 Peacocks, 2 Small Whites, 2 Small Tortoiseshells and 1 Speckled Wood** by the insect field - Robert Callf and Robin White

**27th April** - I've just had my first butterfly of the year for the Wildlife Garden here at the **Natural History Museum** - a **Speckled Wood** sunning itself on the roof of the Entomology building (six floors up in Central London)! - Martin Honey.

A few minutes later a second report came in from Chris Court - looking into the garden at work (**Hounslow**) **4 butterflies** milling around. By the time I got out there to ID the only one left was a **Speckled Wood** (my first for the year). I keep standing at the window now with strange looks from my colleagues - it's amazing what a little sun can do!

Martin Honey also runs a moth trap in the Natural History Museum garden - he reports that last night's results were **1 x Eriocrania subpurpurella (Haworth, 1828), 1 x 1524 Emmelina monodactyla (Linnaeus, 1758), 3 x Hebrew Character, 1x Pale Mottled Willow and 1 x The Herald**. For info it was a 125w mv Robinson run from dusk to dawn (on auto) and emptied at 6.30 this morning . A second E. monodactyla was found this lunchtime. Also a **Peacock** was seen at NHM on **Sunday 22 April** when the garden was open under the garden book scheme - hitching a ride on our coracle! Prompted by today's sightings have just visited my "local patch" which is a swamp again - **7 Peacocks** in a relatively short period all quite content to stay in one place, no other species and still nothing visits my garden - Liz Goodyear

**26th April** - Andrew Wood reports that he saw a **Small Tortoiseshell** and a **Small White** in Ware and his wife, Jane saw a **Holly Blue** in Hertford today. He also saw a **Small Tortoiseshell** by the River Lea in Ware on **24th April**. Robert Callf and Robin White saw a **Peacock, Comma and Small Tortoiseshell** in Trent Park, Enfield today.

**25th April** - Between very heavy showers, I saw **2 Peacock, 1 Comma** and a **Small Tortoiseshell** near Welwyn North Station today - Liz Goodyear. Bowyers Lake, Cheshunt area - **1 Brimstone** nearby - John Fitzpatrick. Chris Court saw a **Red Admiral** in his garden in Hayes on 23rd April

**23rd April** - John Fitzpatrick reports that he saw a probable **Green-Veined White** in his Cheshunt garden yesterday (22nd). He has also seen **2 Small Tortoiseshell** recently in the Cheshunt area. Whilst visiting Fisher's Green (just into Essex) on **12th April**, John & Margaret definitely saw a **Holly Blue**. News from Chris Court of several butterflies sightings this month which included on **April 13th** at Hayes - **1 Small Tortoiseshell** which landed briefly on Pansy and at Alder glade Nature Reserve Uxbridge - **3 Peacock** and on **21st April** at Stockley Park Country Park - **1 Peacock**.

**22nd April** - Last night a Moth Evening was held at Pear Wood, Stanmore. Middx: the original site was off-limits due to foot & mouth restrictions. Four people stayed till 10.45pm and the moths that appeared were: **1 Frosted Green, 2 Brindled Pug, 1 Small Quaker, 11 Common Quaker, 2 Hebrew Character, 1 Grey Shoulder-knot and 1 Early Grey**. The method we used was a 125V m/v bulb suspended over a white sheet and was running until 10.45pm - John Hollingdale

**18th April** - Late news from **1st April**, Ian Burrus reports that he saw **Brimstones, Comma and Peacock** in various Tring gardens that day

**12th April** - Andrew Middleton reports seeing in the Brimsdown area of Enfield, a **Small White** and a **Peacock**. Later, he had a **Small White** in his garden all afternoon, visiting primrose - just mooching about. - **The site is up and running again after a major hiccup - if you have saved this page in favourites please update your link**

**9th April** - My area of rough grass near my house is totally waterlogged but I saw **3 Peacocks** but no other species - Liz Goodyear, Ware. **2 Brimstones** and some **Peacocks** were seen by Bill Cutts & Bill Craig at Amwell (new pit in lane before railway ) and at Trent Park, Enfield, **2 Commas** and **3 Peacocks** were seen by Robert Callf and Robin White

**8th April** - Steve Connor whilst taking a long "trek" from Wormley through the Lea Valley Park (part Herts & part Essex ) to Cheshunt this morning saw lots of **Peacocks** and **1 Small Tortoiseshell**

**6th April** - Trent Park Nature Trail, Enfield, a **Red Admiral** in good condition, disturbed from grass flew around then settled on Robert's head and then flew off - Robert Callf and Robin White

**5th April** - Hertfordshire County Council has agreed to consider re-opening public access to some of the county rights of way and common land in the light of the latest Government advice.

**5th April** - Few people bother to record butterflies in towns, although the records are extremely valuable. Perhaps people might be persuaded to do this to relieve the boredom from the foot-and-mouth outbreak! - John Murray

**2nd April** - I went off down my usual summer lunchtime walk down a country lane to the west of Stevenage only to find that it was closed. I therefore had to confine my records to the more concrete parts of Stevenage and saw **1 Brimstone & 3 Peacock** - Alan Reynolds. In glorious sunshine I saw **c13 Peacocks** and **1 Small Tortoiseshell** whilst walking in the Brimsdown area of Enfield - Andrew Middleton

### **March - January 2001**

**1st April** - **News from yesterday** - Alan Reynolds saw **3 Brimstone** and a **Peacock** in his garden at Watton-at-Stone and on the **30th March**, **2 Brimstones** in Hitchin. Robert Callf whilst visiting Trent Park, Enfield saw a **male Brimstone** on the N/E edge of Ride Wood, later Robert and Robin White were watching an **Orange underwing moth** when a chiffchaff flew out, caught it and took it to a perch to eat!

**31st March** - I have just had **2 Peacocks** flying around my garden - Liz Goodyear. Adrian & Grete Mole saw a **male Brimstone** yesterday and **female Brimstone** today in their back garden (both in Ware)

**30th March** - I have just seen in the space of a few seconds **2 Commas** and a tatty **Peacock** flying around an area of rough grass near my house in Ware - Liz Goodyear. Andrew Middleton also saw **2 Commas** in Ponders End this afternoon. Further sightings, include a **Comma** and **Peacock** at Vicarage Farm, Trent Park, Enfield seen by Robin White and Robert Callf

**29th March** - A **Humming-bird Hawkmoth** was seen by Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton today flying over the Lockwood Reservoir, Walthamstow (only just Essex!), it nectared on some red dead nettle and then flew north. Later Andrew Middleton saw a **Comma** in his garden in Enfield. Andrew Wood reported that he saw **2 Commas** in The Hyde, Ware on **15th March**

**28th March** - The **1st April** is nearly here, which means the start of the **"transect season!"** Please however comply with all access restrictions imposed by the foot and mouth outbreak. In many cases this will prevent recording, at least, during the early weeks of the season.

**15th March** Tony Clancy reported that he saw a **Small Tortoiseshell** in Coppett's Wood, North Finchley on **14th March**

**8th March - Brimstones** were seen in Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire and South Cambridgeshire yesterday - were any seen in Middlesex or Hertfordshire?

**6th March** - A **Peacock** was seen by Robert Callf flying over the horse paddocks just north of Whitewebbs Road /Whitewebbs Wood, North Enfield

**24th February** - Stuart Pittman reports seeing a **Brimstone** at Ickleford today and a **Small Tortoiseshell** on **13th February** at Bragbury End (Stevenage) Garden Centre.

**14th February** - A **Comma** was seen at Parkside Farm, North Enfield by Robin White today ( news from Robert Callf ).

Although **Comma** and **Red Admiral** have now been seen in the Herts and Middx area, news is coming from other parts of England of **Red Admiral**, **Small Tortoiseshell** and **Brimstone** also emerging from hibernation during the recent sunny weather.

**24th January - Red Admiral** seen at Stanmore Country Park - John Hollingdale reports that it was in very good condition.