

Archive Page

Sightings and news from July to December 2002

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This page contains sightings details of all the butterflies and moths reported to the [Sightings page](#) between July and December 2002.

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](#)

November 2002

Fri 17th November - Ally Pally - 1 Red Admiral reported last Sunday - Tom Clarke

Mon 18th November - The Herts Naturalist, the local county natural history journal is available from, Stuart Warrington, Department of Environmental Science, University of Herts, Hatfield. AL10 9AB. The cost is £6.00 (make cheque out to HNHS). In the 2002 edition, there are 2 very interesting articles about moths, by Colin Plant and Tom and Janet Gladwin. It also includes articles about the native Crayfish in Herts, Mistletoe in Herts, and Frogmore Pits - Stuart Warrington

Thurs 7th November - Hemel Hempstead, Red Admiral this am, nectaring on Buddleia *Weyerana* "Sungold" Temperature was only 12c - Malcolm Newland

Trent Park, 1 Peacock seen by Robin White (news via Robert Callf)

Ware - Saw a butterfly fly along roofs of the houses this morning, not sure whether it was a Red Admiral or Painted Lady, but the behaviour was very Painted Lady like - Liz Goodyear

Tues 5th November - Ally Pally, Speckled Wood today - Tom Clarke

Sun 3rd November - Hemel Hempstead - Had a nice fresh-looking **Red Admiral** nectaring on the shrub Colletia Armata. The spines on the shrub are long and extremely sharp but the butterfly negotiated them without damaging itself - Malcolm Newland

One **Red Admiral** on buddleia in our front garden in **Bengeo** this morning - Andrew Wood

Hitchin today at 12 noon - Just taken wellies off after gardening and have just sighted **2 Yellow Brimstones** fluttering around the ivy but not settling to feed. Also a **larger White**, presumably a female - she circumnavigated the entire garden before investigating the ivy which is in full sunshine and a protected spot from the breeze but again, did not settle. Observed these for about 15minutes before disappearance. Just sat down with coffee and sandwich.....12.25 noticed something else fluttering - a **Comma** which settled on the beech hedge for at least 3 minutes enjoying the sunshine, then flew around again and re-settled in beech hedge again and vanished! - Val Fullforth

A late **Red Admiral** today at **Kings Mead**, flying purposefully south - Alan Reynolds

Sat 2nd November - Shoeburyness area today, **1 Red Admiral!** - Andrew Middleton and Jeremy Gaskell

October 2002

Tuesday 29th October - As co-ordinators of the Purple Emperor project for Herts and Middx Butterfly Conservation, Liz Goodyear and myself (Andrew Middleton) will be reporting this winter on progress so far. As visitors to this website will know, the species could be seen, given patience, at two publicly accessible sites in July 2002. The species is known to be established in four or so widely spaced 10km squares in Herts & Middx, with records coming from a further two 10km squares over the last 20 years. Over the last few years, we have become aware that there is more knowledge out there regarding the haunts of the Purple Emperor than appears in the record books. For completeness, we would encourage contributions from all observers who have any sightings (of their own or possibly from reliable sources), present or past, in Herts & Middx or adjoining areas. Details of date, number, sex, time, weather and the butterfly's behaviour would be valuable, as would the location. Site confidentiality will be respected in full ~ for example, giving just a 10km square could be of great value to the report. More detailed site information would hopefully result in the species being considered in more woodland management schemes. We fully understand the need for confidentiality regarding private sites and that positive management can depend on this. Although in decline, collecting may still be a threat which needs to be considered regarding site confidentiality, but loss of suitable habitat is likely to be a bigger problem - Andrew Middleton

Wed 23rd October - Ware, 1 Red Admiral on buddleia around 1.30 today - Liz Goodyear

Nick Sampford has just built his own website - all his butterfly and bird pictures are now displayed - have a look at

Sat 19th October - A Comma at **Amwell** and a Red Admiral at **Easneye** - Jeff Butcher

Waltham Cross - Red Admiral in Alan Downie's garden

Kingsmead, On a sunny day but with a cold westerly wind, and after an over-night frost, I was rather surprised to see a Red Admiral flying purposefully in a southerly direction - Alan Reynolds

Copped Hall Estate near Epping: red admiral flying south at 13.44 in warm, sunny conditions with a light northerly breeze - it was at head height and moving at an incredible pace...Martin Shepherd

Trent Park area - Red Admiral and Painted Lady, Robert Callf and Robin White

Long Marston, Small Tortoiseshell seen by John Noakes and Nick Bowles at around 1 o'clock and Red Admiral in garden yesterday

Friday 18 Oct - Stevenage, 12:30 - Small Copper seen on grassy bank on north side of Fairlands Way about halfway between the Fairview Road and Lytton Way turn-offs - Peter Clarke

Thurs 17th October - Trent Park, Robert Callf saw a **red admiral and painted lady** Robert Callf saw a **red admiral and painted lady**

Ware Park, 2 Red Admirals today - Andrew Wood

Thurs 10th October - Duncan Fraser writes - This letter was sent to me after I showed Bob Coombes the email re migrations. He was on a short golfing break over the Channel. *"On **Friday, 13th Sept '02** I was in **Le Touquet** and went for a walk/paddle along the length of the beach. The tide was out (about 400 yards) and there was a light breeze from land to sea (ie East). Coming in from the sea (ie West to East) were literally thousands of red admiral butterflies flying against the breeze. By the time I left (about one and a half hours), the tide was coming in along with a seemingly endless supply of butterflies. I also noticed they seemed to be flying 'in pairs'. This extraordinary sight was witnessed by others in our partyR. Coombes 7.10.02. "*

Tues 8th October - North Enfield Vicarage Fm, - Speckled wood - Robert Callf

KGV Reservoir - Speckled wood and red admiral on causeway - Andrew Middleton

Thurs 3rd October - Holyfield/Hayes Hill Farm area. Single red admirals flying south at 13.10, 13.25, and 13.35 - warm, sunny conditions with a favourable breeze. Also, singles flying north west near the abbey at **Waltham Abbey**, 14.10 and 14.15, and one in my garden at **Enfield Lock** on ivy, 16.00 - Martin Shepherd

Found two nice fat common blue caterpillars today still grazing on the undersides of green leaves of bird's foot trefoil at **Rammey Marsh**. Also single red admiral, peacock and speckled wood nectaring on ivy flowers at **Brimsdown** - Andrew Middleton

September 2002

Mon 30th September - North Enfield, Trent Park, **5 small coppers** inc 3 together near the sports field, 4 small white, comma, 3 speckled woods - Robert Callf

Both last year and the year before, substantial southward flights of Red Admiral were seen in late September up to mid-October. I say "substantial", but this is a relative term: rarely was the rate more than one butterfly every few minutes. These migrations are interesting in that they provide evidence for how and why such movements occur, and the more detail you can provide about them, the better. I would be grateful if any details on flight directions of any migratory butterfly (especially Red Admiral, Painted Lady, Clouded Yellow) can be recorded from now through the autumn. Essential information is the species, the date, the place (preferably 6-figure grid reference or postcode) and the direction of flight. Additional information that would be useful is the number of insects passing over what time interval, the speed of flight (time taken for the insect to cross a garden etc. measured with a stopwatch), the weather (wind direction etc) and anything else of interest. Please send observations to me (John Murray), together with copies of any Emails to Liz Goodyear if you don't mind your observation going on the website.

Sun 29th September (the last day of the 2002 transect season!) - Trent Park, 4 small coppers and one small heath various places on 'new fields', also 1 speckled wood - Robert Callf

Sat 28th September - North Enfield 2 small coppers & 1 small white 'New Fields' - Robert Callf

Wed 25th September - Ware area, I've had 30+ whites, a peacock and a red admiral today, and my friends had a small copper in there garden in New Road today - Nick Sampford

North Enfield, Trent Park. new fields, **2 small coppers** and **2 small heath**, also red admiral, comma and 2 speckled woods seen - Robert Callf

Tues 24th September - Robert Callf reports seeing - **Covert Way NR**, 2 speckled woods, **Trent Park**, new fields, 1 or 2 small coppers, one small heath (*was Robert's latest record to date until 25th!*)

Ware garden - No butterflies at all yesterday (well I didn't see any and I was looking) but today during some sunshine around 2 o'clock 1 Red Admiral on buddleia and 1 Comma and 1 Large White nectaring on Field Scabious - Liz Goodyear

I saw a **Clouded Yellow** yesterday (**Sep 23**) at about 12:30 very close to the spot where one was seen on 16 August. It was flying over the cycle track alongside the north side of Fairlands Way in **Stevenage**. I don't know if it was on a migratory flight or not - it was about 7 feet high flying in a southerly direction and the wind was blowing from the north - Peter Clarke

Sat 21st September - We saw a white, a brown, a nymphalid and a blue butterfly in a brief sunny spell today on Violet Chandler's garden transect in **Kings Langley** - a Green Veined White, a Speckled Wood, a Comma and a Holly Blue. Pretty good for late September in suburbia - Dave Chandler

Today in the garden (**N.W.Bishop's Stortford**), one Comma, one Peacock and one **Hummingbird Hawk Moth** - Jim Fish

Trent park new fields, single small copper and small heath. Also in area 1 red admiral- Robert Callf

Ware garden - 2 Red Admiral and 1 Painted Lady - Liz Goodyear

Tues 17th September - Hitchin (Friday 13th) - Inspecting garden on return from holiday and disturbed 2 Red Admirals from ground level (lawn) and both flew off in southerly direction. **Monday 16th**, 2 Red Admirals feeding on buddleia and ivy blossom - observed for at least 20 minutes in sunshine. Sky became cloudy and I was unable to determine direction of disappearance! Assume taking cover in bush or hedge - Val Fullforth

Fri 13th September - Trent Park, 8 small heath.- Robert Callf

King George V Res - **14 red admirals** (either flying in all directions or not going anywhere at all) - Andrew Middleton

Darlands Nature Reserve, it has been very slow last few weeks, Today saw two Speckled woods dancing upwards in the sun between the trees, one moth not able to identify, walking back from Totteridge to Mill Hill (The Ridgeway) saw two more Speckled Woods and three Red Admirals - Frank Johnson

Wed 11th September - Hemel Hempstead - There was a Red Admiral in the garden when I looked out at 8.05 a.m. Later there were 2 Red Admirals, 2 Commas (3 yesterday), 2 Large Whites, 2 Small Tortoiseshells, a Painted Lady, Small White and my first Small Copper since July 2000. This nectared on Buddleia Lochinch and Tansy but didn't stay long - Malcolm Newland

Pymmes Park, Edmonton, Holly blue, 5 speckled woods - Robert Callf

Tues 10th September - Ware, after yesterdays rain and wind, surprised to see anything in my garden but a brief tour of the buddleia bushes at lunchtime, produced 2 Comma and 5 Red Admiral - Liz Goodyear

Sun 8th September - On the **6 September**, nr Cuffley, Alan Downie saw another **dryas julia** (news via John Murray and Martin Honey) - This is Martin's comments on Leps List posted on the 7th - "My initial thought when hearing about the first sighting was that it was an accidental import, probably with fruit like the first British record. Now I'm more inclined to think they result from a deliberate release (stock is easily obtainable). If they were escapees from a butterfly house I would expect sightings of other exotic species in the same area and I don't know of any. However, there are several butterfly houses in the area so that can't be ruled out as a possible source. One that I'm informed is three miles away from the last specimen sighted (although I can't find out anything about it on the web) - Hope this is of interest"

Sat 7th September - Trent Park, new fields, **3 small coppers, 5 small heaths**, 2 comma, **1 meadow brown**. - Robert Callf

Thurs 5th September - I did not like to mention it before just in case people thought I was going crazy, but on the **27th August** at lunchtime, in Broadgate, very near to **Liverpool Street Station** in Central London, I saw a big Orange & Black butterfly hurtle by. It was nearly as big as a Cardinal but was much more orangy in colour with faint black stripes. I pride myself at being able to identify most UK species on the wing, but this one foxed me. It was only when I read the web page about London sightings of **dryas julia** that I thought could I have seen one too? David Chandler

Wed 4th September - Patmore Heath - This has been the best painted lady year here for 6 years - Gavin Vicary

Tues 3rd September - On **Sunday**, North London Birds posted this news - I saw a large orange moth on the edge of Sunshine Plain in **Epping Forest** at 16.00. Its flight was butterfly-like and it was about the size of a red admiral. There was a noticeable downcurve to the wing tips, and when it alighted, I could see faint downward lines on the wings. I've looked in the only book I've got

that covers moths and I think it was possibly an orange moth but this flies in June/July according to the text, so I'm not sure. Do you have any idea what it might have been? (The thing that struck me the most was its butterfly flight and size, bright orange colour, and lack of any obvious markings.) - Martin Shepherd. Last week the Leps List had news of a similar butterfly seen at Rainham and was identified as a **Dryas Julia** - see picture - Martin has confirmed "This is what I saw - male, 100% certain"

At **Kempton NR** on **1st Sept** AM, the following were seen: Clouded Yellow (x1); Small Copper (x3); Small Heath (x1); several Common Blues; Red Admiral (x2); Speckled Wood (x3) and Meadow Brown - Peter Collins

Sun 1st September - Trent Park 'New Fields', 3.30-4.30pm, **12 small heath**, 2 small copper, 1 common blue, also one meadow brown and one red admiral seen today - Robert Callf

August 2002

Sat 31st August - Lippitts Hill area (Epping) Several common blues inc. two small caterpillars (2&3mm) feeding on birdsfoot trefoil, 3 purple hairstreaks - Andrew Middleton

Thurs 29th August - I saw a **Clouded Yellow** at **Kempton Park Nature Reserve** again on **Sat.24 August** at around 10.00am. - Peter Collins

Tues 27th August - Grovelands Park, **Oakwood**, one purple hairstreak - Robert Callf

On Saturday, **24th August**, I sighted **Clouded Yellow** in my garden in **St. Albans**, that I had not seen for more years than I care to remember. It was certainly a Clouded Yellow, and I believe it to be a male *Colias crocea* - Derek Jeffries

Sun 25th August (news from outside the county) - My wife and I went on the trip to **nr Bicester** this afternoon. Good sightings of **Brown Hairstreak** on both blackthorn and hawthorn. Not close enough to photograph except with a very good tele lens. On the moor itself were Painted Lady, Small Torts, Common Blue and Small Copper. Hobby hawking for dragonflies over the moor - Nigel Agar

Sat 24th August - Ally Pally, a very confused **Orange Tip** on **Wednesday** - Tom Clarke

Fri 23rd August - During my lunch break yesterday, I was in the NPL Directors garden in **Bushy Park** (Teddington) and - much to my surprise - I believe I saw a very worn-looking White Letter Hairstreak. Also there I saw a few Meadow Browns, Speckled Wood, 1 Comma and 1 Holly Blue - Peter Collins

Thurs 22nd August - Nr Ware, today in garden 4+ painted ladies and a small tortoiseshell [first of summer] - Nick Sampford - also I had 22 species between Noar Hill and Ballard Down, 12+ brown hairstreaks, 30+ clouded yellows, 12+ lulworth skippers, 100+ adonis blues, + chalkhill blue, common blue, small blue, holly blue, wall brown, meadow brown, gatekeeper, small white, large white, green veined white, peacock, small tortoiseshell, painted lady, red admiral, small heath, brown argus, brimstone and comma

Hemel Hempstead - At 3.55pm today there were **seven Small Tortoiseshells** nectaring on white and purple Buddleias plus Red Admiral, Painted Lady, Meadow Brown and various whites. Have recorded one and sometimes two Painted Ladies on fifteen out of twenty two days so far in August - Malcolm Newland.

Wed 21st August - Five clouded yellows on **Lea Valley Parks land** between new housing and Osier Marsh - one gave close-up views feeding on a large daisy family species (I think!). Numerous common blues - Martin Shepherd (*news has been issued out of interest but the site is private and not publicly accessible*)

Trent Park, 4 small copper, **33 small heath**, 2 purple hairstreak - Robert Callf

Bishops Stortford, the number of Painted Ladies has decreased markedly today with only five about the garden, also today I had one Small Tortoiseshell - Jim Fish

Stevenage - Saw a couple of Painted Ladies last **Saturday** on the buddleia. Apart from the odd white I see very little else on it - Peter Clarke

Tues 20th August - St James's Park, London SW1, a single Speckled Wood at lunchtime - my first sighting of this species here. Also in St James's Park this summer - 1 Small Copper on 16 August and 2 Red Admirals on 24 June, amongst commoner species - Stephen Harris

Mon 19th August - In my garden **N.W.Bishop's Stortford, Sunday 18th Aug. 13 Painted Ladies**, 1 Red Admiral, 1 Brimstone(male), 1 Holly Blue, 2 Peacock, 2 Meadow Brown, 5 Gatekeeper, plus many Small and Large Whites - Jim Fish

At **Kempton Park Nature Reserve** on **17th August (AM)** I saw **1 Clouded Yellow**, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Red Admiral along with several Common Blues, Gatekeepers and a few Meadow Browns - Peter Collins

Sun 18th August - Biggins Farm - 2 Common Blue, 1 GV White and 1 Gatekeeper. **High Trees Farm** - 1 Comma and 1 Painted Lady. **My Garden** - 3 Painted Ladies - Alan Reynolds

Sat 17th August - Bingles Wood - 3 GV White, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 5 Meadow Brown and 11 Gatekeeper. Near **Colliers End** - 1 **Painted Lady**. **Potters Green** - 4 Speckled Wood. My Garden in **Horns Mill** Hertford - 1 Painted Lady, 2 Speckled Wood and 10 Large Whites - Alan Reynolds

Found and photographed a **White Letter Hairstreak** in **Beane Road Hertford** on **17th Aug** and saw a **Clouded Yellow** at **Bounds Green, Middx** on the same day. Two Small Tortoiseshells in our garden in **Bengeo** and also at The Wick in Bengeo. Several **painted ladies** at both these sites as well today (**18th**). Also good numbers of **Common Blue** at **Waterford Heath South Pit**, also one **Small Heath** and one **Brown Argus** at same site. Andrew Wood

Sat 17th Aug - Rough grassland north of Osier Marsh, Sewardstone (*news has been issued out of interest but the site is private and not publicly accessible*), 9.00-10.30. In very warm and sunny conditions, we were lucky enough to see **5 clouded yellows, 250+ common blues, 20+ meadow browns, and 8 painted ladies** (with a further 8 in a sunny woodland clearing on Osier Marsh plus 3 peacocks and 2 red admirals.) On **Sewardstone Marsh**, we added 1 comma, 3 large white, and 2 speckled wood...Enfield Lock Conservation Group - news from Martin Shepherd.

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16th Aug A Clouded Yellow seen over grass verge on north side of Fairlands Way cycle track about 10 yards West from footbridge into **Stevenage Town Centre** at about 12:30 today (16 Aug). Peter Clarke

Panted lady in my Ware area garden today Also peacock/comma /red admiral /small /green veined and large white, gatekeeper, small skipper, silver y moth, and a large green cricket of some kind - Nick Sampford >>

Five clouded yellows today, 3 on Essex side of Lea Valley around Epping Forest, **2 Ramme Marsh**. Minimum **80 common blues** on rough ground by new housing just south of M25 (east of canal just in Essex - by downy black poplar) and **14 on Ramme Marsh**, Middx - Andrew Middleton

Taken from **Nature notes from the Havant area, Hampshire - Ralph Collins**
12th August - Just one **Brown Hairstreak** (first of the year) was seen today by Mark Litjens at Noar Hill which he also visited yesterday.

Wed 14-8-02 Ally Pally 1st **small copper** of the year today! Tom Clarke
Covert Way LNR, 2 purple hairstreaks, **Trent Park** area, 2 small copper and 2 small heath 'new Fields', 2 purple hairstreaks Williams Wood - Robert Callf
Finally saw a **clouded yellow** in **Ponders End** at 5.30pm, also **Epping Forest**, 16 species of butterfly including brimstone - Andrew Middleton

Mon 12-8-02 Harold Hill, (Essex) 3 painted ladies in garden - Colin Jupp, Painted Lady
Coppetts Wood Today.-Tony Clancy
KGV Res. 3 painted ladie. **Sun 11th North Enfield**, small copper and c blue Parkside Farm, 1 painted lady Hogg Hill

Ally Pally On butterfly walk yesterday (11th) 12 species, including **purple hairstreak** and two **common blues** (first for the year - at last). Tom Clarke
Sun 11-8-02 Walthamstow Res, just in Essex **Clouded Yellow 1, Painted Lady 7, Small Copper 1, Common Blue 10+** - Stephen Harris, Dan England, Ray Kilminster, Dave Lambert.

Sat 10-8-02 Copped Hall, Essex, 1 clouded yellow with c50 whites on thistles - various obs, also three or so single clouded yellows recently for S Hamilton in the Nazeing area of Lea Valley

Thu 8th Aug KGV/WG Res 4 painted ladies, 3 common blues - R Callf, A Middleton
Wednesday 7th August Many **Brimstone** Butterflies seen around the **Radlet Road area of Watford** (TQ114969) both males and females. Also lots of Speckled wood, Gatekeeper, **Small heath** and the occasional Comma. Large whites are common around Watford this year, perhaps unusually so compared with previous years-several specimens have been found dead around the town centre, curiously in absolutely perfect condition; maybe recently hatched following a maiden flight. Anyone else seen this? Su

Wed 7th August Painted lady at **KGV Reservoir**, Enfield, 12.25, north east side. Also comma, small tortoiseshells, small and large whites, meadow browns and gatekeepers around. Red admiral, peacock, and skipper sp on the edge of Pattypool Mead (Sewardstone).
Hemel Hempstead garden - Before the storms arrived I saw 4 Red Admirals, 3 Peacocks, 2 Gatekeepers, a Comma, Holly Blue, Painted Lady (two days in a row) and all the whites in good numbers. Male Brimstone seen yesterday. Will be on the lookout for Camberwell Beauty! Malcolm Newland
Camberwell Beauty news from outside Herts which may be of interest (Insect News Yahoo Group) > Camberwell Beauty. N.YKS, RPTD at Skipwith Common, Camberwell Beauty. SUFF, Lowestoft along Gunton railway line am

Tue 6th Aug Today a **Camberwell Beauty** was seen in **Bedford, Beds**. The Camberwell Beauty was spotted by Paul Colbert in his garden at Box End near Bedford at 13.40 today. He watched it at close range on a bird table before it flew away. Source Charles Baker (Branch recorder for Beds) - there just might be others coming in from the east coast through Essex & Suffolk towards our area. Dave Chandler - Beds & Northants Branch
Trent Pk, Vic Fm area, **painted lady** on burdock, 7 **peacocks**, 7 **purple hairstreaks** inc 5 on ash at **Covert Way** - R Callf

Sun 4th Aug Saw a **Painted Lady** on the buddleia in my back garden this afternoon (16.30). Close to **Stevenage** Town Centre. Peter Clarke.....also one by the KGV Res, Lea Valley, today
Saw a **Small White** butterfly today at **Regent's Park**, London. It was sunning itself on a plant around 1830hrs after the heavy thundery showers. This was only my second or third butterfly sighting in the park this year. Too much pollution? Bob Hazra

Fri 2nd August - Trent Park, male common blue, **Covert Way LNR**, small copper - R Callf
Brox NR, tried for PE from 12-4pm but no luck - would be nice if someone could squeeze out one more sighting in early August, one **white admiral**, **brimstone**, **poplar hawkmoth** flying and egg-laying on the top of a silver birch at 2.50pm in bright sunshine, 1 hobby. **A10 embankment, Brox**, 4 **brown argus**, 3 common blues, 1 small copper - Andrew Middleton

Thurs 1st August 8 pm US time - Can't keep up with the Purple Emperor news, so far no monarchs or anything real special, although Western Lady and mega large swallowtail just north of **San Fransisco** - Liz Goodyear

31st July 2002 Lea Valley > KGV Res pm, 5 painted ladies, male common blue, WG Res. 2 painted ladies - A Middleton, Rich Cope

30/7/02 13.30 Broxbourne Wood NR, 1 Purple Emperor seen for half minute in sallows 10 meters down ride, also bullfinches & many juv green woodpeckers - B Dawton
KGV Res pm, 1 painted lady - Andrew Middleton

28 July 2002 - I had a look at the **Watery Grove, Newton Wood** area today. Lots of Gatekeepers, some old Ringlet and Meadow Browns. Large and Small Skippers. Purple Hairstreak in oaks. No sign of White Admiral or Fritilleries or even Comma in spite of perfect conditions. Went to **Broxbourne Woods** today. **23 July** .1 very probable overflying **Purple Emperor** flying from sallows to the large oak on the right of the track from the west car park. Further along the track at least 3 White Admirals. Hopefully got a pic of Purple Hairstreak on a low oak on the left of the main ride just beyond the barricade.- Nigel Agar (news forwarded to website by John Murray)

27 July 2002 - Although not evidence of a colony, I have recently seen 3 **dark green fritillaries** in the bits of Hertfordshire that poke into Bedfordshire around Barton le Clay. 1 was on **Telegraph Hill** and 2 were at **Hexton**, on the other side of the road from the reserve. The species seems to have been established for a few years on the Barton Hills NNR and across the valley at Sharpenhoe, so an expansion of range from there is not too surprising. - Jim Reid (news forwarded to website by John Murray)

EC4 - 2 live and 4 trodden on **lime hawk moth** caterpillars found by one of my partners (a keen moth enthusiast in his youth!) underneath lime trees on **New Fetter Lane, London EC4** over the last couple of days - not sure how rare they are but perhaps unusual on a City Street with a couple of lime trees and no other greenery? We found them there last year too! DAVID J JAMES (*Larger Moths of the London Area* - Colin Plant - given as category A1 - common and widespread resident)

Mon 29th July, A good walk around **Darlands lake** at lunchtime, 12 Speckled Woods, 2 Gatekeepers, 3 Small Whites, 1 Large White, 1 unidentified Moth and I think I saw a **Fritillary** - will keep an eye out this week. Here is a photograph of one of the Speckled Woods - Frank Johnson

William Girling Flood Channel this evening (Essex/Middx boundary) *1 **Clouded Yellow** - Tony Clancy

Trent Park area, **oak eggar moth** seen well in flight by Church Wood, also 5 purple hairstreak, holly blue, small heath - Robert Calf

On Saturday 27th July Kathryn and I decided to go and look for **Purple Emperors** at **Tring Park** following the reports of sightings in the locality on your web page. We arrived at 12:40pm just as the cloud cover was beginning to break up and took a walk across the grassland from the Hastoe end (by the avenue of Horse Chestnut trees) to the monument. Butterflies on the wing included: **Meadow Brown, Ringlet, Gatekeeper Small Skipper, Large White, Green Veined White and Marbled White**. After walking along the main ride from the monument we took a small path up onto the top of the ridge, at the back of the wood. Along this path there are several Sallow trees along with a stand of Willows. The path passes through a small clearing which contains 1 large Sallow tree and two smaller sallows (there are also two rather large buddleia plants). continued below-

As we walked up the path into the clearing we spotted a Female Purple Emperor circling the clearing (1:15pm). Over the five ten minutes, the butterfly continued to circle the clearing occasionally pausing high in the trees. On at least two occasions the butterfly settled in the shaded side of the large sallow tree, unfortunately just out of sight. Eventually the butterfly flew off over the trees. We continued our walk along the path, which passes a group of sallows and a stand of willows before diving into an area of tall Hawthorn scrub. In this scrub Kathryn spotted a large butterfly flying high across the path into the Hawthorn Scrub. Following it we managed to get another glimpse of it shortly afterwards when it took off from its perch and headed off the way it came. This second sighting was very brief and it was impossible to tell whether it was the same female that we had seen earlier although I think that there is a fair chance that it was. Returning along the path a short while later we were treated to another air display by a Female Purple Emperor in the first clearing. We did have a look for a Master tree but with literally 100's of tall

prominent trees on the top of the ridge, fortunes weren't in our favour!! However for a first time out looking for Purple Emperor's we didn't do too badly! Best regards - Allen Beechey

Sun 28th July 1900hrs **painted lady** on our daisies, Chestnut Road **Enfield** - Brian Dawton
Broxbourne Wood NR late am to 4.30pm-ish, several sightings of **purple emperor** from several areas of the reserve by several observers. Probably one of the best areas was again the main east-west ride lined with willows. For sure, 3 sightings of a female were made here at 12.10, then a long sit-down resulted in a sighting by Nick of a smaller PE above willows mid-pm (anyone remember the exact time?), likely to have been a male because of size, which settled for 10 minutes high up in scrub > see Nick's photo >. Talking to observers who kept on the move around the reserve rather than lie in the shade, an estimate of a minimum total of 4 PEs seems reasonable, although only seen one at a time. Also several sightings of **white admiral**, min 2-3 insects - various observers.

Broxbourne Woods. Female **purple emperor** seen in flight briefly at 12.06 just above the treeline from the bench on main ride near west car park. Also close sightings of purple hairstreak and peacock. Others had seen a **white admiral**. - Martin Shepherd

More importantly: After spending a couple of hours around midday in **Broxbourne Wood on Saturday 27th**, Tom (age five) decided to spend the rest of day drawing all the insects we saw. The drawing took him about five hours and includes one of each species. The insects were: Essex Skipper, Large White, Green-veined White, Small White, Purple Hairstreak, Holly Blue (on the drive back to Ware), Purple Emperor (female, high in Shallows 1:45-2:00pm), Speckled Wood, Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown, Ringlet, Large Red Damselfly, Common Blue Damselfly, Emperor Dragonfly, Southern Hawker, Brown Hawker, Water Boatman, Great Diving Beetle (I think), Unidentified micro moth on grass! I'd be grateful for some help with the moth identification (bottom left on grass)- Toby Austin - the link is now missing

Sat 27th July Monken Hadley Common, ringlet, **Trent Park Fri**, small heath and small copper, 2 purple hairstreak - Robert Callf -

First ever **Ringlet** in 6 years of transect walking at **Bricket Wood**. First sight of Peacock on budleia this year - Malcolm Hull

Went to **Broxbourne Wood NR** at about 12 and had one sighting of **purple emperor**. Helen Bantock and Toby Austin were there already but had not had any sightings. There were plenty of common butterflies about, then at 1.45 Angela picked up a large butterfly flying along the willows which appeared to land. Toby found it roosting high in the willows where it sat for a good ten minutes before flying over our heads and lost to view. We sat there till gone 3 with no more sighting. **White admirals** seem to be dwindling, only saw one all the time we were there, but loads of purple hairstreaks - Nick Sampford

26th July - Subsequent to Trevor Chapman's observation of a probable **Dark Green Fritillary** at **Norton Green, Herts**, (Grid Ref TL228228)} on 24th Jul I can confirm a definite on lunch-time 26th July. I observed a large flighty, butterfly, about the colour of a Comma, which I suspected to be a fritillary of some kind, but could not initially clinch the id. At last it settled on a couple of thistle flowers, to give brief but conclusive views of upper and under sides. The upper wings had typical fritillary markings with a narrow white border around the edge. (1-2 secs). The most noticeable feature of the hind wing underside was the white spots. On closer examination a green wash was noted from the hind wing root spreading up and back towards the spots, but not very extensive. (4-5 secs). Other butterflies noted in the previous two weeks during good weather were **Marbled White** (3) and Large Skipper (1). I have looked for White Admiral in the same place as last year but have had no joy - maybe due to the Brambles having been cleared from the woodland ride. Regards, Keith Mitchell.

I saw no fritillaries at **Newton Green Wood**, but a newly emerged female **Brimstone**, 11 **purple hairstreaks**, one nectaring on ragwort, newly emerged **Peacock** & 4 **Commas** (2 of which were **Hutchinsoni**) - Malcolm Hull

East Herts - Had a sighting of what I can only describe as a **large fritillary**, either dark green or silver washed. I watched it flying from about 50 yards over a field and along a hedgerow. In Hants or Wilts I wouldn't have hesitated to say it was a fritillary. There is a lot of undisturbed woodland (mostly private) with vast amounts of violets in the area and I'll give it another go and report back. I also saw a **Wall** in perfect condition which I presume was newly hatched, plus many whites and gatekeepers, meadow browns, small tortoiseshell, holly blue, small, essex and large skippers. I'm gonna go to Broxbourne for the day tomorrow - if i fail to see any Purple Emperors I won't go

again (until 2003) - Nick Sampford

Broxbourne Wood NR - no sightings of purple emperor reported today in seemingly ideal conditions from mid-morning to 3pm, several sightings of **white admiral** with a minimum of two present - several observers

25th July - Enfield Lock: Peacock in my garden this afternoon along with comma and holly blue...Martin Shepherd

White letter hairstreak seen in my garden this morning (backs onto **Sherrardswood**). Also the pretty much resident pair of bullfinches and marsh tit (no signs of young though) - DAVID JAMES

Lots of **Marbled Whites** last week at **Jersey Farm Open Space, St Albans**. Previous week in **North Mymms Park** had a **Purple Hairstreak, Marbled White** and lots of Gatekeepers, M.browns and Small Skippers - Rupert Pyrah

Walked around **Darlands** yesterday 1pm until 2pm saw six speckled woods and two small whites. Also, the moth I photographed at Darlands on 16th July was identified as *Prays fraxinella* (family Yponomeatidae) by Colin Plant - Frank Johnson

24th July - I am almost 100% sure of a **Dark Green Fritillary** sighting at lunchtime. Orangebrown, larger than comma and flying fast up and down but zig-zag flight over bracken edge of wide glade North/South at very end of track that passes from **Norton Green**, past the SawMill cottage but before in leaves Newton Wood. I saw another at Box Hill, Surrey at the weekend (my first), and this behaved and flew very similar. Very fast and difficult to follow. Needless to say I never saw it at rest - Trevor Chapman

Trent Park area, single small heath, small copper, purple and white letter hairstreak, two ringlets - news from Robert Callf

Broxbourne NNR - Went up the woods today between 11.30 and 1.30 had **three sightings of purple emperor** all brief. At 12 by big oak over willows and 12.45 over willows right of bench this was two which almost certainly were a male and a female due to the size difference. Also purple hairstreaks and white admirals and a red admiral which keeps flitting up the path like the emperors do - Nick Sampford

23rd July - News from Brian Jessop - On Saturday 20th he had several Purple Emperor sightings at Tring Park. However, on a very serious note, he also saw evidence that someone had been looking for eggs on the butterfly's food plant. If that person is reading this, please note you have been rumbled - Liz Goodyear and John Murray

Large numbers of **Chalk-hill Blue** at **Hexton Chalk pit** on the **17th July**. You could not walk through the site without causing them to flutter up. Must have been between 400-600 - Stuart Pittman

Went to **Broxbourne yesterday (Monday)** was there about 1.30 to 5 had no PE sightings at all but saw the normal butterflies, there were 100s of purple hairstreaks and quite a few white admirals - Nick Sampford

22nd July - Broxbourne Woods NNR, 12.10 a fast moving butterfly over willows was too large for white admiral and appeared to us to be a smaller **male-sized purple emperor**. White Admiral still present as well in good numbers **Wormley Wood** pm, a very large orange insect (much larger than comma) which flew past was probably an **oak eggar** moth rather than a fritillary - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton. *Two separate v. large orange moths perhaps this species seen in the Trent Park in mid-July by Robert Callf*

* Additional notes from Andrew Middleton, **Regarding** the observation of presumed **egg-laying activity** by a white admiral, there was a serious purpose in climbing the tree to examine the honeysuckle *in situ*. We and several others have spent a fair while trying to find caterpillars of white admiral so that "we" could say for sure to woodland managers which kind of honeysuckle growth (eg shaded or edge) was being used in Herts, rather than just repeat what is in the books. In this case it appeared from the ground that 5-6 eggs were laid, but on climbing the tree, it was found that only one egg had been laid - it could have been that none was laid if the female found the site to be unsuitable. Now we have a little more confirmed information to help those who manage our counties woods.

20th July - Took a few photos yesterday, off Park Rd and Wengeo lane in **Ware**. As well as these there were odd examples of Ringlet, Meadow Brown, gatekeeper, Speckled wood and Holly Blue but not a lot. Also several Shaded broadbar moths - Andrew Wood

Ally Pally - In what has been a poor year so far, a **clouded yellow** was seen on **Thursday 18th** at 2.30pm around the Palm Court entrance. Shame I didn't see it! - Tom Clarke

Just returned from **Broxbourne NNR** after seeing my first ever **Purple Emperor** on the ground - brilliant! First sighting was of a female flying around sallow at about 12.15 just after the sun came out. Then just before 1.30 we saw a White Admiral egg laying and Andrew Middleton had climbed up a tree to try and take a photo, when a female flew around and down onto the ride. The butterfly was observed on the ground for about 10minutes, it would settle, then fly around then re-settle and several times flew around our heads at speed before flying off over the shallows. Meanwhile Andrew was still up the tree and missed all this but borrowing Nick Sampford's camera managed to get several photos - Liz and Rachel Goodyear, Andrew Middleton, Helen Bantock, Tony Clancy and dog, Nick and Angie Sampford, The Smith family and two other observers whose name I didn't get - *Several photos will be put up in due course*

19th July - Tring Park - 2 Purple Emperor seen today, male at 10.30 and female at 12 o'clock (exact location not known) - Phillip Woodward also White-letter hairstreak seen on the top of the hill at **Aldbury Nowers** on the 15th.

Latest news from **Broxbourne** today - 3 sightings of **Purple Emperor** on central ride from the West carpark, Nick and Angela Sampford, Martin Shepherd and Jeremy Gaskell. Some details from Jeremy > one female at 12.10 photoed, one in flight 15.15 (third sighting later for the Sampfords) (*Good luck everyone and don't be put off going by the cloud - LG*)

Went round **Darlands (16th July)** Saw 4 whites various on the wing, 4 Meadow Browns, 1 Speckled wood and One moth Prays fraxinella (family Yponomeatidae), see attached photo - Frank Johnson

18th July - Broxbourne Woods NNR - Notes from Martin Shepherd (via Andrew Middleton) - I also saw a purple hairstreak today - Jeremy and I had very good views of a female on an oak sapling showing its purple patches very well. And there were a lot of white admirals about...we had 8+ sightings.

More notes on today's **Purple Emperor** sighting from Jeremy Gaskell (via Andrew Middleton) - Jeremy and Martin were walking along when M. kicked a 'white admiral' from the track which landed further along the path. Jeremy got his camera out to take a close up of it, got down and close then realised it had a purple sheen above and orange eyespot below, but in his amazement at seeing a male purple emperor he failed to click the shutter before it flew. Then on settled views the next one appeared to be a worn female, and the next a rather fresh female - so Jeremy is fairly happy with **a probable count of three**. He was just rather shocked to have had success and nearly passed over the first one as a white admiral!

A **female Purple Emperor** seen extremely well on two occasions on the main ride from the West carpark shortly after 3:00 and seen until around 3:20pm. It was first seen at about 2:45pm by two others (Martin Shepherd and Jeremy Gaskell) who alerted me to the fact that they were pretty sure that they had had a brief sighting.

Being in exactly the same spot as my own probable sighting on the 14th and Terry Goddard's sighting on the 16th I agreed that they may well have. I then re-found it at and we all had fairly brief but good views as it settled around the area by the first bench (where the x-roads are); that is until Sam, my three year old, unfortunately flushed it! About ten minutes later it was seen flying down the ride where it settled on a muddy patch by the remains of the stream at the lowest point in the dip of the ride. Here we all (including Sam, but from further back!) had superb views for about five minutes before it departed. What is odd is that after the views by the bench, we all agreed that it was a very worn individual and Jeremy Gaskell actually said he was fairly sure that he had seen tears in the wings. However, when seen well ten minutes later, it appeared reasonably fresh. Trick of the light? We were looking into the sun on the first views which may have shone through the wings making them appear paler and more worn? I find it hard to believe that after looking - admittedly not always in the same area - for six of the last eight days, a total of about twenty hours, that I should see two different females in the space of five minutes! But, it

did appear remarkably different and you never know - Toby Austin with Martin Shepherd and Jeremy Gaskell

17th July - Oxhey, a Marbled White was seen here at a site where we have seen Marbled Whites before. Since reporting it last, extensive unofficial tipping has taken place; fortunately only covering half the unmown meadow. Also the moth, the **Buff Footman**, turned up at a site in **Harrow** last weekend. Colin Plant's book 'The Larger Moths of the London Area' categorised this as a rarity - John Hollingdale

16th July - Broxbourne Woods NNR - After 6 days of looking, Terry Goddard saw a **female Purple Emperor** on the ground along the central ride from the West Carpark at 12 o'clock today. He was able to get within 6 feet, but a dog walker disturbed the butterfly and it flew up. However, it was still visible and Terry pointed it out to the dog walker who was equally thrilled. The Purple Emperor flew off, but then he saw it flying around the dog walker's head before disappearing over the trees. Later to top Terry's day, a Marbled White flew through his **Cheshunt** garden!

Trent Park - news via Robert Callf, Robin White saw a Marbled White yesterday

15th July - Broxbourne Woods NNR - I thought you might like to know that following your report of a Purple Emperor earlier in the week at Broxbourne, my husband and I went there today and at midday we saw a **Purple Emperor** not far from where we saw last years one. It landed briefly on a tree trunk at eye level before flying off over the tree tops, it took off before I could get a photo although I tried to take one anyway, shall see if anything comes out! Lissa Smith

Broxbourne Woods NNR. One possible brief sighting of a **Purple Emperor** yesterday (late afternoon) down ride from West carpark. Fairly sure it was one but can't rule White Admiral out on views - Toby Austin

Finally some good weather, Went over **Darlands Lake** on Sunday 2pm until 3pm, Lots of various whites all on the wing, 1 Red admiral, 6 meadow browns, 1 small skipper, 1 unidentified moth - Frank Johnson

14th July - Ealing Butterfly Walk produced White-letter Hairstreak (5), Purple Hairstreak (4), Holly Blue (1), Small Copper (2), Red Admiral(2) among the commoner species. Examination of the moth trap set overnight was interesting and produced among others a Bufftip (which looks like a broken birch twig). I heard today that a Marbled White has been seen just across the A40 from Horsenden near the Greenford Lagoon - Andy Culshaw

Horsenden Hill News 13 July White-letter Hairstreak (8 Horsenden Hill, 1 Perivale Wood), Purple Hairstreak (7 Horsenden Hill, 6 Perivale Wood), Holly Blue (4), Small Copper (1), Essex Skipper (2), Red Admiral (2) plus tens of Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown, Small and Large Skipper, Small and Green-veined White, Speckled Wood. Dragonflies included my first Banded Demoiselles (2) for the site and 3 Black-tailed Skimmers - Andy Culshaw

A single White Admiral on the **Bricket Wood** transect yesterday. Other species on the wing in **St Albans area** over the weekend Marbled White (Good numbers), Gatekeeper (very few), Ringlet, Meadow Brown Speckled Wood, Red Admiral (Good numbers), Small Tortoiseshell, Comma, Purple Hairstreak, Holly Blue, Large, Small & Green Veined White, Large, Small & Essex Skipper (Small are by far the most numerous) - Malcolm Hull

I was photographing Chalkhill blues this morning at **Hexton chalk pit**. They are now mating and I took a number of images - Les Borg

Trent Park, 8 small heaths, small copper 2nd brood, 2 holly blues, ringlet in tertrad nrth of Trent Park and **Saturday, Northaw Great Wood**, 3 white admirals, 1 white letter hairstreak, 5 ringlets, - Robert Callf

Yesterday - Broxbourne Woods, at about 12.45 pm, I saw what looked like a large, upright, pale leaf at a pool of water on the path about 10 metres away. Raising my bins, I realised it was a **Purple Emperor!** Got out my camera, but found the PE had moved ahead another 10 metres and it then flew off - Helen Bantock

I had an excellent view of a White Admiral at **Mad Bess Wood, Ruislip** today, 14 July 02 at 1355. It settled on the path only a few feet away from me, then flew up into low vegetation and finally up into the trees - John Eborall

Balls Wood Field Trip Just John Whiteman and me, but some good views of Purple hairstreak and White Admiral high up, also saw several lower down earlier on the transect and afterwards. All the usuals also present today, Gatekeeper, meadow brown, speckled wood, Ringlet, comma, large and Green Veined White, Large, Small and Essex Skipper - Andrew Wood (Broxbourne Woods field trip produced 2 White Admiral and many of the usual species as well - LG

During **Dragonfly Atlas Project** work today in **TL31** I saw 1 Small White, 10 Small/GV White and 1 Meadow Brown at the River Rib **Hanging Wood**, 30 Small/GV White, 20 Meadow Brown, 2 Small Tortoiseshell and 1 Small Skipper at **Biggins Farm**, 1 Comma at **New Hall Farm**, 1 Small White, 1 GV White, 1 Meadow Brown and 2 Small Tortoiseshell at **Sawtrees Farm** - 1 Comma at the **River Rib Faddens**, 30 Meadow Brown, 7 Small/GV White, 2 Comma, 1 Red Admiral, and 1 Gatekeeper at the **River Rib Thundridgehill** and 1 GV White, 2 Small White, 1 Large Skipper, 20 Small/GV White, 1 Meadow Brown, 1 Small Skipper and 5 Small Tortoiseshell at **The Meads** - Alan Reynolds

The first **Sharpenhoe Clappers' Chalkhill Blue** of the season was seen on Saturday 13th July. It was a freshly emerged singleton male and was found at the base of the slope on the North-East facing downs on the Barton-le-Clay side of the reserve, which is quite an unusual event because this species normally emerges first on the southern facing slopes of the old chalkpits in the Moleskin area. The Dark Green Fritillaries are still present, but not as many in number as they were this time last year. Other first sightings seen on Saturday for Sharpenhoe in 2002: two dozen Gatekeepers, a Purple Hairstreak & two Commas - David Chandler (New via Beds & Northants) **Yesterday, Balls Wood**. Spent enjoyable couple of hours photographing White Admirals. One almost landed on my leg! Purple Hairstreak briefly down from canopy. Also noted Holly Blue, Brown and Southern Hawker, Common Darter and many of the common species - Phil Rhodes.

12th July - Among the audience at the **Globe Theatre** this afternoon was a large butterfly. It looked very like a Painted Lady, but it did not come close enough for me to be sure. It arrived just in time for Act I and stayed until the middle of Act II - Michael Healy

Purple Emperor have been seen in Hertfordshire this week, but the "poor" weather is making recording and monitoring very difficult - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

11th July - Copped Hall Estate nr Epping, on footpath to hall from main road to Epping, lunchtime: 15+ gatekeepers, large and small skippers, small and large whites, meadow browns, red admiral. **Ermine Street nr Goose Green**, mid-pm: white admiral, speckled wood, two red admirals, five commas, several ringlets, plus whites, small skippers and meadow browns.

Hoddesdonpark Wood - You probably see these all the time but this is my first ever sighting of White Admiral. There must have been at least a dozen males chasing everything from other butterflies to small mosquitoes. The great thing about this was that it all happened in the glade we created specifically for them at Hoddesdonpark - Neil Chamberlain (Woodland Trust)

Stanstead Abbots Gatekeeper, **Broxbourne Woods** (West carpark area) White Admiral x 5, (West and East carpark) Ringlet; Meadow Brown; Small/Large Skipper; Whites etc. **Balls Park Woods, White Admiral x 10+, Small Skipper x 100+ (all checked for no Essex but none!),** Speckled Wood - one tatty individual, Ringlet; Meadow Brown; Large Skipper; Whites etc - Toby Austin

10th July - During dragonfly atlas work in TL32 today, I saw 20 Meadow Brown, 1 Gatekeeper and 2 Large Skipper at **Langtons Lane** and 10 Meadow Brown and 10 Ringlet at **Potters Green** - Alan Reynolds

Marbled White news via John Murray - 5 were seen at **Jersey Farm Woodland Park** in St. Albans on the 6th, and Sue and Steve Place saw 3 or 4 at **Old Park Wood Nature Reserve, Harefield** on the **7th July**

News from Sun **30 June** (reported by Dulcie Miller) - 11 apparently newly emerged Marbled Whites seen on **Long Deans Nature Reserve**. Sat **6 July** - 5 Marbled Whites recorded for **Bunkers Park** transect, week 14. This visit also saw the first 2 Gatekeepers of the year - Michael Pearson

9th July - Enfield area, Trent Park, 2 white letters by Oakwood bus-stop, 5 ringlets (highest ever count), 14 commas, 2 small heaths, 5 purple hairbreaks, 5 small tortoiseshell, painted lady - Robert Callf

I visited **Hexton Chalk Pit Reserve** this evening between 5.35 and 5.55pm. Despite poor weather I saw **4 male Chalkhill Blues**. The only other species about were 1 Ringlet and 2 Meadow Brown - Ian Woiwod

White Admiral in flight at **Symondshyde Wood** yesterday, despite weather! - Trevor James

8th July - Bengoe - This morning Andrew Wood found a **female Beautiful Snout** in his moth trap - this is only the 4th ever county record!

I eventually ventured out at about 4.00pm, when the sun came out, and went to the **Meads**. In an hour long walk through the grazing marsh and along the banks of the New River, I saw **16 Small Tortoiseshell** (predominantly on the nettles by the New River), 4 Large White, 8 Small/GV White and 8 Meadow Brown - Alan Reynolds

6th July - On a weekend that, from Saturday lunchtime, was forecast to be predominantly sunny, I managed to hit the only period of intermittent sunshine at the **Meads** and saw 1 Red Admiral, 10 Meadow Brown, **6 Small Tortoiseshell** around the nettles by the New River (Small Torts are like buses, you wait for a long time then six come along at once!) and 6 GV/Small White - Alan Reynolds

HOT NEWS Angela Chandler thought she saw a **Clouded Yellow** in the Sainsbury's car park near to **Apsley parish church** (Nr Hemel Hempstead) at 11am this morning. She described it as more deeper yellow than a Brimstone but very fast flying. It was heading north towards Tring. Sounds a "possible" CY to me - Dave Chandler

Trent Park area, ringlet, 5 small heaths, 8 purple hairbreaks, **1 Essex skipper**, 12 small skippers, 4 comma, 5 small tortoiseshells, red admiral and painted lady - Robert Callf

Bramfield Park Wood - spent 3 hours and this is what we saw: 200+ Ringlet, 40+ Meadow Brown, 30+Large Skipper, 30+ Small Skipper, **2 Essex Skipper**, 2 White Admiral, 10+ Purple Hairbreak, also Small and Large White and a Red Admiral. Went to **Wengeo Lane in Ware**, and spent 2 hours walking up and down looking for White-letter Hairbreak. We never saw one in fact, we probably only saw 10 butterflies but the best being a lovely Comma - Nick Sampford

4th July - Had 12+ white letter hairbreaks along the **Crooked Mile** dinner time also large skipper/comma/small white/meadow brown - Nick Sampford

Saw my first **Gatekeeper** today - Liz Goodyear