

Archive Page

Sightings from July to December 2001

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

December 2001

Wed 26th December - Hi, Merry Christmas. For the records I saw a **Peacock** at Bowmans Farm, **St Albans** this morning at 11:40. It was nowhere near any buildings, sheds, etc and a little tatty...temperature + 1 - 2 degrees - Dave Hutchinson

Monday 24th December - A Small Tortoiseshell was flying inside 'Boots' in **Hertford** on Friday **21st**; presumably it got disturbed from somewhere - Toby Austin

Monday 10th December - I've just been told (so much for good internal communication!) that a Red Admiral was spotted in the car park adjacent to the **Museum Wildlife Garden** last Tuesday, **27 November** - Martin Honey

Thurs 6th December - I was walking around Epping Forest this morning, and saw 2 Red Admiral in a clearing, one basking and at the same time one flying around - Andrew Middleton

Tues 4th December - Had a **Small Tortoiseshell** at **Amwell** this morning, flying about in the winter sun - Toby Austin

November 2001

Mon 26th November - One Red Admiral in Wengeo Lane, **Ware** sitting on the cemetery wall in a sheltered sunny spot today - Andrew Wood

Thurs 22nd November - News from **Hemel Hempstead** - Malcolm Newland saw a **Red Admiral** in his garden on **19th November**, nectaring on ?laburnum fragrans

Thurs 15th November - Oakwood Park, a large dark butterfly seen briefly - possibly peacock - Robert Callf (*I also had the same problem on Thursday, a butterfly in the garden but seen so briefly I was unable to identify it - LG*)

At long last, my own contribution - very worn Red Admiral landed on bonnet of my (stationary!) car near Hatfield, Herts today - Jack Harrison (*Jack has set up his own webpage detailing all the butterfly records he has received for November*)

Mon 12th November - A visit to **Kew Gardens** on Saturday produced 2 Red Admirals, one in very good condition flew into the Alpine display and began sunning itself. Some late news for **Nov 1st**. 3 Red Admiral and 1 Peacock at **Uxbridge Alder glade nature reserve** - Chris Court

Sat 10th November - My resident Red Admiral is back (it has a nick in its wing) nectaring on my yellow buddleia this morning (**Ware**) - Liz Goodyear

Tues 6th November - 9.30 in makro's carpark in **Enfield** one probable Red Admiral hurtling around - accept it could have been a Painted Lady but fairly certain it was a Red Admiral. My trolley couldn't keep up with it and I lost it - 12 degrees and fairly sunny at the time - is this going to be my last butterfly of the year??? - Liz Goodyear (*I never expected so many butterfly sightings in November!*)

Mon 5th November - Red Admiral 2 in Wengeo lane, **Ware**, 1 in Ware Cemetery, **Nov 4** Red Admiral 1 at The Warren, Hartham Common, Hertford; 1 in Villiers Street, **Hertford** - Andrew Wood

Trent Park 2 Small Coppers - Robert Callf, also Green-Veined White and Speckled Wood seen by Robin White here on Friday

My **Ware garden** - 1 fresh **Painted Lady**, a very dark orange specimen but definite sighting - confirmed by my neighbour Adrian Mole. Earlier, saw a Red Admiral fly across my car near the centre of Ware - Liz Goodyear

Sun 4th November - News from **St. Albans** - Malcolm Hull saw 4 Red Admirals (in "mint condition") nectaring on hebe today, yesterday 2 were seen migrating and 3 again nectaring on hebe

Sat 3rd November - Brent Reservoir, 4 Red Admirals, 1 Small Tortoiseshell & 1 Speckled Wood - our first November record - Andrew Self

On a very warm (16 degs C) flat calm day in November, I went for a days birdwatching on the The Isle Of Sheppey. Even the River Swale was like a millpond. The birds were superb as usual (7 species of bird of prey and no Sparrowhawk !) but it is clear that the butterfly/dragonfly season is nearly at its end as, despite the very favourable weather, we only saw 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Red admiral and 1 Migrant Hawker - Alan Reynolds

Thurs 1st November - Holland Park, Red Admiral flying south along one of the posh streets near tube station - Martin Shepherd

Vicarage Fm and Trent Park, 2 single small coppers and 1 probable small white - Robert Callf

"just over the border" **Copped Hall** Epping Forest - 3 Red Admirals - Andrew Middleton

Hemel Hempstead, Malcolm Newland rang to say he saw a **Red Admiral laying eggs on fresh stinging nettles** at his allotment this morning. When he rang he also had at least 3 possibly 4 Red Admirals in his garden.

October 2001

Wed 31st October - Trent Park area 2 Small Coppers - Robert Callf

Tues 30th October - Trent Park/Vicarage Fm area, 4 Red Admirals, 1 Peacock, 1 Speckled Wood, 3 Small Coppers & Silver Y moth - Robert Callf and Robin White

Sun 28th October - Had 3 Red Admirals in my **Ware** garden this afternoon - Liz Goodyear

Sat 27th October - Alexandra Palace, Still Red Admiral and Speckled Wood about - Tom Clarke

Trent Park/Vicarage Fm 3 Small Coppers, 3 Red Admirals, Robert Callf

Thurs 25th October - Trent Park/Vicarage Fm, 2 red admirals, 1 fem small copper- Robert Callf

Wed 24th October - One Red Admiral and one Peacock (I suspect disturbed from hibernation as it was caught in an old spider's web in the shed, I released it and any further help was met with much wing rustling). Also Red Admirals in **Bengeo** Tuesday and today - Andrew Wood

Yesterday Ian Cox of **King's Langley** had a Peacock flying in his garden

Mon 22nd October - Trent Park/Vicarage Farm area, 7 small coppers, 17 red admirals south for Robert Callf plus 7 red admirals for Robin White - R Callf, R White

Thurs 18th October - On Saturday **13th October**, I saw a specimen of *Celastrina argiolus* (**Holly Blue**) which seemed to have been on the wing for only a short period of time. Earlier this year I saw this species several times in May and later in July in our garden, but I was surprised to see it again last weekend. It seems to be a butterfly of a partial third generation - related to the warm temperatures we had here during the last days. I saw the specimen in **Chiswick Mall**, West London, around 2 pm. - Armin Radtke

Wed 17th October - Trent Park, 2 Speckled Woods, 7 Small Coppers, 9 Comma, 16 Red Admirals both sites - Robin White and Robert Callf

Tues 16th October - Trent Park area - 6 Small Coppers, 4 Red Admirals, 4 Comma - sightings from both Robin White and Robert Callf

Mon 15th October This report came via the Leps-List "Heard a report on Friday from earlier in the day of **2000 Red Admirals per hour (3 hour watch)** passing through **northern France**, at a migration watchpoint in the corner of Mont-Saint-Michel Bay, Normandy" - Tom Brereton BC Lulworth

Sun 14th October - News from Australia! - It seems like the unseasonal warm weather has given you all in England a splendid end to the season, with the migrating Red Admirals and even a Monarch! Its great to read the butterfly year is finishing with a flourish. Although I have seen a Monarch, which is called a Wanderer here, I'm a bit envious because at 22 degrees C. its actually colder here. Never-the-less I've been butterflying today and saw 11 species in Perth's Star Swamp (limestone ridge in an acacia/wattle scrub habitat) including the good old European Painted Lady, which got here on its own steam, and the accidentally introduced Small White, which is regarded as a pest here too. I got a really nice photo of a Long-Tailed Blue, another global traveller, a Wood White, a completely different species to the ones in Salcey Forest Northants. I also snapped at a Western Xenica, which looks and behaves a bit like a Wall, its cousin a Kings Xenica, a Fringed Blue, a Common Grass Blue and a Common Dusky Blue, but missed everthing else because the butterflies all move so quickly down here and it is very hard to get a decent photo' shot - Dave and Peter Chandler

Sat 13th October - King George V Res 100's Red Admirals going south p.m. Never seen visible insect migration like it before - Tony Clancy

In Sandpit Lane **St Albans**. I saw 4 Red Admirals cross a rugby pitch in half an hour. All were flying SSW at top speed. Small Tortoiseshell, Large White & Small White are all still out in St Albans this weekend - Malcolm Hull

Today , on a very warm day in October with the temperature reaching 25 degs C, I went to **Dungeness** for a spot of bird-watching. Apart from a very good day for birds (Lesser Spotted Woodpecker over the garden as we were packing, 5 species of bird of prey including Merlin and Peregrine, Bearded Tit, Little Gull, Black Tern Yellow-legged Gull, Black-necked Grebe etc) the butterflies were also very exciting. Red Admirals were everywhere with an estimate of 100+, 3 Peacock, but the most memorable record of the day must go to the **Monarch** Butterfly which performed a Farnborough-like fly-past before ascending to 30 metres altitude and flying out to sea. A very satisfactory day - Alan Reynolds

Trent Park area, 30+ red admiral mainly south or southwest, 13 comma, 1 painted lady, 2 small copper - R Callf and R White

Fri 12th October - Wengeo Lane, **Ware** 6 Red Admirals, 1 Small White, 1 Brimstone - Ware Cemetery 2 Red Admirals 2 Comma 1 Large White - Andrew Wood

Trent Park/Vicarage Farm/Ferny Hill Fm, 12 Small Coppers (inc 7 males, 5 females, one male had rather brown hindwings lacking in normal markings, 21 Red Admirals, Brimstone, 10 Comma, 3 Speckled Woods, Robert Callf and Robin White who also had a Humming-bird Hawkmoth - in Rough Lot, **Trent Park**

Broxbourne Woods area - 14 Red Admiral flying south, 3 Peacock, 1 Male Brimstone, 1 Comma, 2 Speckled Wood - Andrew Middleton

Thurs 11th October - IMPORTANT NOTICE - There is a working party this Sunday (14th) at Millhoppers starting 10:30 - PLEASE COME ALONG AND HELP! - For more details phone 01296 660072

Wed 10th October - **Trent Park** area, 1 comma, 1 small copper- Robert Callf, also Robin White

Tues 9th October - Jane, my wife, saw a Painted Lady in our garden in **Bengeo** today (Tue 9th). I saw 1 Comma, 1 Small White and 7 Red Admirals in Wengeo Lane, **Ware** and 5 Red Admirals in Ware Cemetery. Also had a Red Admiral in my moth trap last night, it wasn't there at 9.30, was on the outside at 11 and inside by the morning. I also had one in the trap on the 5th - Andrew Wood

Sat 6th October - I am still unpacking from our move to **Hertford**, and today the only butterfly I saw in the garden was a Red Admiral. This, however, was no where as exciting as the Lesser Spotted Woodpecker that came to visit our peanuts a week after we moved in - Alan Reynolds

Fri 5th October - Following my Red Admiral at work (**Whetstone**) on Wednesday, I had a Peacock flying round the warehouse yesterday. It was very weak and worn, and unfortunately died within a few minutes - Brian Price

Thurs 4th October - **Southgate**, Painted Lady nectaring outside flats, **Trent Park**, mating Small Copper, 3 Comma - Robert Callf and Robin White

I am not an expert on butterflies, but am aware that Small Tortoiseshell may exhibit considerable individual variation, and also from brood to brood. The images (opposite) illustrate a "normal" individual and an aberrant individual which exhibits considerable reduction in pale spotting and a marked increase in black smudging and dark veining to an extent which I have not seen before. I would be interested in your comments. Is this a relatively common phenomenon or something to be excited about - Keith Mitchell PS Both butterflies were on the same buddlea at the same time on 31st August (**Stoke Goldington North Bucks**) - *comments welcome LG*

Wed 3rd October - I work in a converted warehouse with lots of glass skylights in North London (**Whetstone**). We had the heating on and then the sun came out, and a Red Admiral started flying around. Obviously it was hibernating and thought it was Spring! - Brian Price

Went out today along Wengeo Lane in **Ware** and around the old Ware Cemetery. These are both full of flowering ivy and so usually very good at this time of year: Wengeo lane: 12 Red Admirals, 1 Comma, 1 Small white, **1 Painted Lady** (feeding on the dark Sedum Autumn Joy, the one butterflies don't like!). Cemetery: 9 Red Admirals, 2 Commas, 1 Speckled Wood, 1 Large White, **1 Painted Lady**. These are the first Painted Lady's I have seen in Herts this year, are they migrants arriving on the southerly winds? My moth trap over the last few nights has shown no sign of migrant activity though - Andrew Wood

Parkside Farm, north Enfield - Comma, speckled wood, small copper and red admiral - R Callf

Tues 2nd October - **Enfield Lock** by Rifles on ivy, 8 red admirals, 3 commas - R Callf

September 2001

Mon 1st October - Trent Park area, **4 small coppers**, Speckled wood, red admiral - R Callf

Fri 28th September - Covert Way NR, Hadleigh area, **22 Commas**, 5 Red Admirals, 1 Holly Blue, all in one hour, **Trent Park** 5 Small Coppers - Robert Callf

Ally Pally - Sunshine brought out a male Brimstone and plenty of Speckled Woods amongst others - Tom Clarke

I did my final transects of the year in **Ware Park** on **Thursday 27th** and the ivy and bramble produced 12 Red Admirals and 6 Commas plus a couple of Large Whites. **Balls Wood** today, **28th**, saw 2 Speckled Woods and surprisingly **2 Peacocks** (I thought they had all gone into hibernation at the end of August!) - Andrew Wood

At 1pm today, both myself and my husband saw in our **St Albans** garden a **Clouded Yellow**. We were looking at our pond when we saw it land on some passion flower where it stayed for just a few seconds before flying off. A few minutes later we saw it again as it flew back over. This is the third Clouded Yellow seen this year, the first one was on May 12th which was also in our garden, the second was seen at Sharpenhoe in late June, and now this one - Lissa Smith

A short walk around the fields and scrubby areas near my house (**Ware**) this lunchtime produced a few whites, 3 Red Admirals, 4 Commas and a **male Brimstone** - Liz Goodyear

Wed 26th September - I've still got Red Admirals, 3 Whites species in my garden (**Thundridge**) also saw a Comma on blackberry nr **Wareside** on Monday, still fingers crossed I mite get a Monarch! - Nick Sampford (*if anyone hears anything on the grapevine - please let LG or Nick know*)

Trent Park/Vicarage Farm - 2 red admiral, 3 green-veined whites - Robert Callf

Tues 25th September - Trent Park, 5 Small Copper, 12 Comma - Robert Callf

Mon 24th September - "Having now got the photograph, it has been easier to identify it. I have enclosed a photo for you, and will be sending one to <http://www.whatsthis caterpillar.co.uk/> - It is an **Acronicta aceris** - **Sycamore**. I am a bit surprised that something so pretty turns into something so ugly! But I guess there are some pretty ugly caterpillars that turn into beautiful butterflies. Once again, thank you for all your help. It has all been very interesting" - Neil (*Neil found this caterpillar in his garden in **Northwood**, Middx and asked the website for help*)

Walked my "South Herts" transect for the last official time this year - in true style, arrived in warm autumn sunshine and within minutes it was raining. When the rain stopped, a pleasant autumn day resumed. Only 6 Comma, 2 Large White and a Small White were seen whilst walking the transect but just off transect saw a Painted Lady which was the first for the site in 2001. Whilst walking back met a bird watcher who said that he had seen at the end July/beginning of August 2 Clouded Yellows! Although several species were not seen on the actual transect route, the only butterfly totally missing from the site this year is Small Heath but this I half expected as only one was seen in 2000 - Liz Goodyear

Sun 23rd September - Late news from **Friday 21st Vicarage Farm/Trent Park** 1 small copper, 1 small heath, 10 comma, 2 red admirals, **Covert way** 2 red admirals - Robert Callf and Robin White

Sat 22nd September - On my transect today at **Brickett Wood**, I saw 3 Commas, 4 Speckled Woods, no brown hairstreaks and 4 Large Whites. In the garden (**St. Albans**) later I saw 2 Small Tortoiseshells & a Small White - Malcolm Hull

I got up to **Balls Wood** (*after helping at Waterford*) 1 Comma, 1 Speckled Wood! - Andrew Wood

Waterford Heath, whilst manning the Sales Stand or during the Guided Walk, we saw 2 Red Admiral, 1 Comma, 2 Speckled Wood, 17 Small White, 1 Large White, 1 Small Copper, 1 Vapourer

& a Triple Bar moth, plus a selection of dragonflies, crickets and ladybirds! - Malcolm Hull, Andrew & Stephen Wood, Alan & Steven Downie, Liz Goodyear. Richard Bigg also said that the ivy in the north-west corner of the North Pit was covered in Red Admiral!

Thurs 20th September - Not Herts or Middx, but Andrew Middleton saw **11 Commas** feeding on blackberries in a relatively short space of time at **Copped Hall** (Epping Forest) today

Wed 19th September - Late news from **Trent Park** on **16th** - Robert & Robin also saw **6 Commas**

Tues 18th September - News from Val Fulforth's **Hitchin** garden "Numerous Large Whites this year since mid-June until 16/9/01 and Holly Blues have been present most of the year since 7/5 until 6/9. Red Admirals - good numbers up to 16/9 and the odd Painted Lady and Small Tortoiseshell. Comma last seen 16/9. Just a few Peacocks, Gatekeepers and Meadow Browns earlier in the year. Rain has now stopped play!"

Sun 16th September - Trent Park 4 Small Copper, 3 Small Heath - Robert Callf & Robin White

Sat 15th September - Vicarage Farm/Trent Park Painted Lady, 2 Small Coppers - Robert Callf & Robin White

Thurs 13th September - I had a **Hummingbird Hawk-moth** in the garden about 11:30 today. Location **Patmore Heath**, nr Bishop's Stortford - Mick East

Wed 12th September - Had a most strange sighting today, a male **OrangeTip**, yep I didn't believe it either - saw it 10 feet away for maybe 2 minutes. It was at **Bishops Stortford** nr St Mary's School. Maybe with all the sun this morning it decided it was spring! - Nick Sampford

I have just put up the last of Nick's images (unless he can get a shot of a Camberwell Beauty or Monarch) - thanks Nick! I already have some "foreign" butterflies waiting to be shown, but please send me your holiday butterfly or moth shots to keep the site cheerful in the winter months - LG

Even though the weather was fairly dull in **Ware**, counted 8 Red Admiral on my buddleia this morning - Liz Goodyear

Sat 8th September - News from **3 Sept** 1 Female Common Blue at **Balls Wood**, in much the same place as my only sighting last year, so a good sign. **7 Sept** 2 Small Tortoiseshell by the New River near the A10 viaduct over the Meads **near Ware** - Andrew Wood

Fri 7th September - Vicarage Farm/Trent Park - 4 Small Heaths, 2 Small Coppers, 2 Meadow Browns, 3 Comma - Robert Callf

Thurs 6th September - On a breezy but seasonally warm day but showing the first signs of Autumn I walked down the lane from **Norton Green** and into **Newton Wood** and saw 4 Small/GV White, 2 Comma, 1 Meadow Brown and **25 Speckled Wood** - Alan Reynolds

Went on a 6 mile "stroll" from the **north of Widford**, through Perry Green and Green Tye, coming back along the River Ash. Although quite breezy, there was a good amount of sun. Most of the walk was beside hedges or across ploughed fields. This area is not renowned for its butterfly habitat! Saw 1 Red Admiral, 20 Speckled Wood, 6 Large White, 2 Green-veined Whites (mating), 1 Silver Y and at least **200 Small White**. Saw over 80 in one field alone (a field of beans mixed with oil seed rape) - Liz Goodyear

Wed 5th September - Tried to walk my **"South Herts"** transect but rain stopped play - match abandoned! However, did manage to see a Small Copper, Common Blue, Brown Argus, Meadow Brown, several Speckled Wood and lots of Small White in very poor weather conditions - Liz Goodyear

Mon 3rd September - Late news from my garden (**Sherrardswood area of WGC**) from **18.8.01** - butterfly seen by me and my gardener (a keen butterfly watcher) and identified by him as a White-Letter Hairstreak - I haven't seen one before but it did look like the photo in my book - David James

Sat 1st September - Nick Sampford has now completed his butterfly challenge - he managed to see and photo nearly every British butterfly except for Mountain Ringlet in one butterfly season - 58 species in total - **WELL DONE** Nick and thanks for sending all the superb images to the website. Although there are a few more images still to be shown, I wondered whether any visitors might like to send me any "holiday" butterfly or moth snaps. I've started with one of mine, a 2-tailed Pasha, the guide book said "difficult to approach" but also that they like ripe fruit, so one ripe peach and almost immediately they started flying down, also have a very poor shot of 2 feeding on the same peach! LG Quite surprised - my **Ware** garden at some point today has had visits from 3+ Small White, 2 Large White, 1 Holly Blue, 1 Speckled Wood, 1 Comma, 1 Small Tortoiseshell & **6 Red Admiral** - Liz Goodyear

August 2001

31st August - We spotted an **Elephant hawkmoth** caterpillar slowly crossing the towpath beside the River Lea near **Ware Lock**. As it was clearly vulnerable to walkers and cyclists, we gently moved it to the undergrowth on one side. It gave us the full two mock eye threatening gesture - Dick Tanner

29th August - A nice surprise, 2 Small Tortoiseshells on my buddleja this morning in **Ware** - Liz Goodyear

28th August - Thanks to Andrew Middleton for looking after the website during my absence - LG

Had 5 Red Admiral in my garden (**Ware**) yesterday (27th), 4 today but almost nought else - Liz Goodyear

21st August Hemel Hempstead - Malcolm Newland rang to say he had not seen any Painted Ladies this year, until the two in his garden (21st) and wondered whether there was any one else experiencing "an influx"?

22nd August - Wall Butterfly on **Pegsdon Hills** today. (between Pegsdon and Pirton) just outside county boundary but they usually spread over the border in the Tingley Wood area. Common Blue and Meadow Brown also present. - Nigel Agar

25-8-01 Trent Park, purple hairstreak on blackberry, 1 red admiral nr **Enfield Town** - **Robert Callf**

Painted Lady in Tony Clancy's **Finchley** garden

24-8-01 I have recently moved into premises at **Dovenby near Cockermouth** and was enthralled by this butterfly (see photo on right) which I believe to be a **Peacock**.- Brian Rushby *An even browner peacock can be found in 'Butterflies' by EB Ford, 1945, Plate 9, where the normally white areas are replaced by golden brown. I believe the BNH Museum is working on making available images of their collection of UK aberations and races on the internet - something to look forward to.*

Trent Park 17 small heaths, female common blue this am - R Callf

23-8-01 Trent Park, common blue, 4 small heath, 4 small copper, **Monkham Hadleigh**, 3 holly blues - Robert Callf

22-8-01 Brimsdown, 4 small tortoiseshells, 1 red admiral - A Middleton

18-8-01 Today, during my weekly venture into **TL32** as part of the **Dragonfly Atlas**, I managed to record 3 Red Admiral, 3 Peacock and 2 Large White on a Buddleja bush at **Stonebury Farm**, 3 Common Blue, 2 Large White and 4 Small White on the **River Rib at Aspenden** and 11 Speckled Wood, 14 Small White, 10 Large White, 3 Green-veined White, 1 Comma and 1 Meadow Brown at **Berkesdongreen Spring** - Alan Reynolds

16-8-01 I visited **Therfield Heath** this afternoon, still reasonable numbers of Chalkhill Blues around, also Common Blue, Brown Argus, Small Heath, Peacock, Small and Large White, Gatekeeper and many Meadow Browns. Have also seen Common Blues this week in **Ware Park and Waterford Heath** on **Mon 13th**. Andrew Wood

I had a strange experience yesterday in my **Herts** garden. I saw an **orangey/yellow butterfly** which I thought was a **Clouded Yellow**. If I'd been in Cornwall, Devon or Dorset, I wouldn't hesitate to ID it as a clouded yellow. In view for nearly a minute, but most of the time flying towards the sun, then over next door's garden and gone. I haven't seen CY this year, but I won't count it. I'm 99% certain it wasn't a white or a brimstone though - Nick Sampford

15-8-01 I went down the lane from **Norton Green** today with the optimistic objective of searching the Blackthorn bushes lining the mown flower meadow for Brown Hairstreaks. Not surprisingly I didn't find any, although the site is very similar to the well-known site in Bernwood Forest Oxfordshire and is probably worth keeping an eye on. I did however manage to see 30 Gatekeeper, 20 Meadow Brown, 5 Peacock, 3 Purple Hairstreak, 1 Green-veined White, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Painted Lady, 1 Common Blue and 1 very tatty Holly Blue. All the skippers seem to have gone - Alan Reynolds

Whitewebbs/Forty Hall - 1 painted lady, 1 red admiral, 20 speckled woods - R Callf

News of Wall just over the Herts border from David Chandler - Angela Chandler saw five newly emerged second generation Wall on the **Sharpenhoe** transect yesterday (14th Aug.). These are the first Wall to be recorded this year on Sharpenhoe because the first generation were missed due to Foot & Mouth disease access restrictions. As you probably know The Wall was a commonplace butterfly when I was a child in King's Langley in the sixties and has declined to such an extent in recent years in the south of England that it is now a special event to see one.

14-8-01 Trent Park 2 Common blues, 3 small coppers, 5 small heaths, 1 holly blue, **Covert Way NR3** purple hairstreaks - Robert Callf

Records from Andrew Wood - **Balls Wood** transect Friday **10th Aug** Meadow Brown 13, Speckled wood 33, Ringlet 2, Gatekeeper 27, Green-veined White 1, Large, Essex, Small Skippers 1 of each. Also one Vapourer Moth. **Ware Park** transect Wed **8 Aug** Small White 1, Green veined White 4, Holly Blue 1, Red Admiral 1, Peacock 1, Comma 3, Speckled Wood 10, gatekeeper 22, Meadow Brown 4

The branch has also been involved in two moth trapping events recently: On **Thu 9th** along with the Herts Countryside Management Service we ran two lights in **Broxbourne Woods** between 20:30 and 22:30. Despite it being a cold night after an atrocious day about 15 people attended and we recorded the following species: Black Arches, Angle Shades, Riband wave, tawny barred Angle, Purple Thorn, Copper underwing, Pebble Hooktip and Lesser Broad Bordered yellow Underwing.

On Sat 11th along with the Cranford Park rangers we ran four lights and sugared trees for national Moth Night at **Cranford Park in West Middlesex** (sandwiched between the M4 and Heathrow Airport) between 20:30 and 23:00. About 35 people attended and we recorded 28 species: Macro moths - Large, Lesser Broad Bordered and Least yellow Underwings, Copper and Svensson's Copper Underwing, Old Lady, Dunbar, Orange Swift, Straw Dot, cloaked minor, flame shoulder, Common carpet, Lychnis, Shuttle Shaped dart, Brimstone, Yellow Shell, Single Dotted wave, Common Rustic, Flame carpet, Poplar Grey, Cabbage Moth, Small square Spot. Micro moths: Mother of Pearl, Water Veneer, Cydia splendana, Agapeta hamana, Pandemis corylana, Agriphila straminella.

From Malcolm Hull 11-8-01 - Wall Brown - reports of this species locally in the last week: **Sat 4 Aug** - A visitor to the Butterfly stall at the **Trent Park** Steam & Countryside show described a number of unusual butterflies he had seen recently around his allotment at **Mill Hill**, close to the M1 & Thameslink line. His description, including underwing matched Wall, although he did not know the name of the species. He then picked it out from the FSC ID chart without hesitation. Interesting, if not conclusive, but then.. I spoke to **Colin Everett** on the phone yesterday evening (**10 Aug**). He reported seeing a small brown butterfly dead on the ground at the Dome roundabout on the A405 at Watford. On close examination this was positively identified as a **Wall**. It is possible that this has been brought in on a vehicle, but I suspect that there may be Walls hanging on somewhere in the area. Colin also reported a sighting of **White Admiral, in Whippendell Woods**, Watford, the first sighting there (as far as either of us is aware) since the 1980's. Tomorrow's my last day butterflying in Herts before I leave for France & I'm torn between a trudge round Bricket Wood for Brown Hairstreak & a trip down the M1 looking for Wall! Lets hope for a long hot day. Malcolm **Fri 10th August - Covert Way NR**, 10 speckled woods, 1 purple hairstreak, **Trent Park/Vicarage Farm** 8 commas - R Calf

Wed 8th Aug - c100+ Chalkhill Blues at **HextonChalk Pits** HMWT Reserve, + a few Common Blues, 1 Comma - Nigel Agar

Thurs 9th August - The Branch Moth trap will be in use at a **Moth & Bat evening** which will take place this **Thursday** at 8.30pm in **Broxbourne Woods**. Meet at Broxbourne east car park. Andrew Wood will be helping out and Jenny Jones (HBRC) will be coming to assist with the bat detection

*Visited **Noar Hill**, Hants for **Brown Hairstreak** yesterday. Saw probably about 6 either fly over or nectaring on bramble. Noted that the most activity seen was when the sun came out for the first time and that one male was observed nectaring on the same 1 metre square area of bramble from about 12 to when we left the site at around 3. If we hadn't have known it was there, sometimes it was almost impossible to see, with its wings tightly closed, head towards us and dead bramble flowers acting as camouflage or obscuring the vision. No wonder they are hard to find! We were also told from a "local" that the peak dates in Hampshire are between 18th - 25th August - LG*

Tues 7th August - Martin Catt has reported today on the Leps List that a **Brown Hairstreak** has been seen nearby in Essex - This is an important sighting as this butterfly could still be found in our two counties - start looking at blackthorn with plenty of close nectar sources but you must be patient - LG

Dave Chandler has reported that Charles Baker (the Beds recorder) has agreed that the green effect in his Speckled Wood photo was caused by hairs refracting the light. "I can detect traces of the effect in some of my Speckled Wood photos but none as striking as this" he said

Visited my **"South Herts"** transect area yesterday - Spent from midday to late afternoon walking around the area in pretty poor conditions including heavy rain! Didn't see a great deal either, not helped by the fact that all but one field is now cut and there is hardly any nectar left. Gatekeepers still out in force considering - 130 on the transect and 55 Meadow Brown. Over the day saw 9 unidentified whites, 2 Large Whites, 77 Meadow Brown, 179 Gatekeeper, 3 Peacock, 10 Common Blue including 1 female, 5 Purple Hairstreak, 1 Red Admiral, 2 Small Copper and 4 Sm/Essex Skippers - Liz Goodyear

Mon 6th August - Trent Park/Vicarage Farm, 6 Small Coppers, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 2 Common Blues - Robert Calf and Robin White

Sat 4th August - Trent Park Small/Essex Skipper 2, Common Blue 1, Small Copper 3, Gatekeeper 6, Speckled Wood 1, Peacock 12, Comma 1, Meadow Brown 67, Small White 1, Purple Hairstreak 2. During a couple of hours wander with the family. **1 Aug** 2 Common Blues along the footpath between the A10 and the quarries just north of **Ware**. (Much of the high earth bank between the quarries and the A10 has been removed this year and this has damaged the attractiveness of the footpath as a butterfly area.- Andrew Wood

At **Gatesbury** on a sunny day but with a cool breeze I recorded 1 male Brimstone, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 20 Meadow Brown, 40 Gatekeeper, 40 Small/Essex Skipper, 2 Small White, 1 Large White, 2 Peacock and 2 Comma - Alan Reynolds

Thurs 2nd August - I visited **Norton Green** today before the rain set in at lunchtime. The weather was overcast with a cool breeze and things were generally fairly quiet. However, I did manage to see 1 Common Blue, 1 Marbled White, 2 Gatekeeper, 20 Meadow Brown, 20 Small Skipper and 1 Essex Skipper - Alan Reynolds

Wed 1st August - *Dave Chandler has sent a picture of an unusually coloured Speckled Wood* - "I've never seen a green flush on a speckled wood like this before. Could it be a trick of the refracted light or is there some odd melanin effect going on? Or is it the digital camera seeing things "differently" to a good fashioned old SLR film camera? Any ideas welcome" - Dave Chandler

July 2001

North Enfield - An interesting sighting last Sunday (**29th**), apart from excellent counts of Peacock, Red Admiral, + the usual grassland species, **TWO SILVER WASHED FRITS !!!!!!!** both in very good condition - The first one I put down to having a but too much sun, but when I saw a second 20 mins later much further away on the transect walk I was very surprised (The North Enfield transect is not an enormous distance, from Trent Park as the Frit flies approx 3 - 4 miles due east, and across open country at that. I had sighted a Large Tortoiseshell some years ago, and there are still good elm suckers in the area and at first i thought it might have been one initially, as there used to be a colony in the area) - Phil MacMurdie (*if in the area - keep looking!*)

On the way to the field gate area south of **Norton Green**, there were 3 Purple Hairstreak fluttering around one of the Oaks along the lane. At the field gate I recorded 2 Peacock, 1 Holly Blue, 20 Meadow Brown, 20 Gatekeeper, 1 Comma, 10 Small/Essex Skipper and 5 Small Whites. Along the ride in **Newton Wood**, I saw 1 Purple Hairstreak, 75 Meadow Brown, 75 Gatekeeper, 4 Ringlet, 20 Small/Essex Skipper and 1 Peacock but no sign of a White Admiral. They must be coming to the end of their flight season. I did, however, see my first Migrant Hawker of the year - Alan Reynolds

Ware - returned from a weekend in Italy and an almost total absence of butterflies (a few distant whites & poss Banded Grayling) to find the garden overflowing with activity, at least 23 Peacock on various buddleia, but favourite sighting was a fresh Brown Argus nectaring on Field Scabious (a first since last years was simply a fly past which cut 2 feet into the front garden!) - Liz Goodyear

Trent Park - 4 Common Blues, 11 Small Coppers, 2 Small Heaths - Robert Callf and Robin White

Recent news from Ian Burrus - Saw large numbers of marbled whites in a rough area left in the park at **Tring** on the evening of **23 Jul**. I would certainly put there numbers in the tens if not higher. Nice to see. Also recorded Large White and Meadow Brown in the garden **25th July (Tring)**. **28/29th July - Wilstone reservoir** Small white, Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper and Holly blue. My garden Small and Large white, Red admiral, Brimstone, Meadow brown, Gate keeper. Parents Garden (SP 921121) Small white, Small tortoiseshell, Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper and Holly Blue

Tue 31-7-01 Trent Park 16 Small coppers - Robert Callf and Robin White

27th July. Lunchtime. In the field gate area (**Stevenage**) I had a single fly-through Marbled White and a fresh Comma nectaring on Bramble flowers. On a woodland ride nearby, a White Admiral was also nectaring on Bramble flowers. Weather hot and sunny. **31st July**. A short lunchtime session again in the field gate area (Stevenage). No sign of the White Admiral, but a weather-beaten Painted Lady basked in a forestry vehicle tyre rut. A handful of fresh Peacock were also present. Most numerous, were Gatekeepers, followed by Meadow Brown, Small/Essex Skippers then Ringlet. A party of 8 Fallow Deer (4 adult female, 2 yearlings and 2 fawns) skirting the wood across a corner of the meadow made the occasion memorable. Keith Mitchell

Trent Park 16 small coppers, 2 red admirals, 1 Essex skipper, 3 small tortoiseshells and 3 commas - R Callf and R White

Mon 30-7-01 Ware Park 1 Small/Essex Skipper, 5 large White, 17 Small/Green Veined White, 2 Small White, 7 Green Veined White, 2 Holly Blue, 5 Red Admiral, 1 Small tortoiseshell, 4 Peacock, 1 comma, 7 speckled Wood, 43 Gatekeeper, 20 Meadow Brown - Andrew Wood

These were seen in the **Waterford Heath** area today - 13 Gate keepers, 12 Meadow browns, 1 Small tortoiseshell, 7 six spot burnets, 2 Large whites, 2 Green veined whites, 22 Peacocks, 4 Speckled woods, 1 comma, 1 brimstone butterfly - Stephen Wood

Trent Park, the **silver-washed fritillary** was seen again in flight in the same area, from 11.0-11.10, also 10 small coppers, 1 red admiral - Robert Callf and Robin White

Sun 29-7-01 Balls Wood 16 Small/Essex Skipper, 1 Small Skipper, 4 Large Skipper., 4 Large White, 1 Green Veined White, 1 Purple hairstreak, 3 Peacock, 4 Comma, 5 Speckled wood, 63 Gatekeeper, 40 Meadow Brown, 18 Ringlet in a 46 minute transect. Also we were joined in the lounge in **Bengeo** at 21.45 by a Small Tortoiseshell, presumably attracted to the lights, though it was ignoring the moth trap light. We had not seen one in the garden all day either - Andrew Wood

1 white admiral was in my garden for a few hours on both Saturday (28th) and Sunday (29th) - seen by several people and photos taken by me (in middle of film so may be a little while before film processed - I'm not a professional photographer!). Garden backs onto **Sherrardswood, Welwyn Garden City**. A couple of holly blues also seen - DAVID J JAMES

Trent Park, in clearings alongside the railway line, Cockfosters end of the park, a female **silver-washed fritillary** was watched nectaring on brambles and rose-bay willowherb from 15.25 to 15.45, also 10 small coppers, 2 small heaths - Robert Callf (Additional note from Robert Callf added 4th May 2007 - Also I was looking through the archive yesterday at my Silver-washed Fritillary record for Trent Park on 29th and 30th July 2001 and noticed it was down as a female. I later reconsidered and thought it was probably a male, although I did not see the sex-brands - it always closed it's wings when it settled - probably because it was so hot at the time [32 c])

Sat 28-7-01 Today I saw 200 butterflies on my transect in **Bricket Wood**, St Albans. This is the highest single week total since I began 5 years ago. Peacock out in good numbers, Gatekeepers very common, Small & Essex skippers both well up. Only seen 1 White Admiral there all year, compared to 40 in 1998. Speckled Wood numbers have also crashed this year. Saw WLH nectaring on bramble in Bricket Wood, but several of the St Albans colonies seem to have gone. Up to 90% of Elm had died in last year or two. Some Wych Elm & even Sycamore appears to have DIED. At Broxbourne Woods this pm saw something which looked like a **large white admiral** trying to enter my metallic blue car, but it wouldn't stay still for a clear ID - Malcolm Hull

Yardley Hill to Lippitts Hill, just outside my Middx area in West Essex, 19 species of butterfly inc. brimstone and a new generation common blue - A Middleton.

Purple emperors are definitely still flying this week gone in Herts in several places - Like MalcoIm, I also try to take special care to identify each 'dark with white' butterfly I see, otherwise I know I may miss out on a PE. Well worth getting as much experience of this species as possible (still flying on territory at Bookham Common last Wed) - as the more one sees, the easier it becomes to do them on 'jizz'.

Fri 27-7-01 I got my White Letter Hairstreak today feeding on creeping thistle near some Wych elm suckers on the wasteland between Park Road in **Ware** and the Glaxo car park. Hopefully got some good pictures of it as well. Apart from that just the usual stuff - Andrew Wood

Saw about 12 purple hairstreak on ash in **Coppett's Wood**, Finchley area, this evening - Tony Clancy

Trent Park, Church Wood, a large, fast and erratic orange/brown moth thought to have been an **oak eggar** flew into the wood around 2.30pm, 4 small coppers - Robert Callf

Bramfield Woods, 17 species of butterfly inc. 3 white admirals, **1 brown argus**, 4 sightings of large, fast and erratic orange/brown moth(s) thought to have been **oak eggars** between 2 and 5pm - Andrew Middleton

26th July - Trent Park/Vicarage Farm - Painted Lady, Small Copper, 2 Essex skippers, 2 Holly Blues, Gothic - R Callf, R White also 1 Red Admiral

News from **Waterford Heath** - 13 Gatekeepers, 12 Meadow Browns, 1 Small White, 2 Green-veined Whites, 5 Large Whites, 3 Commas, 6 Peacocks, 1 Red Admiral, 2 Speckled Woods, 1 six-spot Burnet - Stephen Wood

Visited the Bourne in **Ware** today for 40 mins but no White-Letter Hairstreak despite several mature English elms and sucker growth, also none on Wych elms alongside Poles lane nearby. Plenty of activity high in the trees but all bumble bees. Only saw 7 Gatekeeper, 1 Holly Blue and 1 Large White. Also checked along **Wengeo Lane**, where the lane is on a ridge so the tops of the elms there are at eye level, but again no luck. However where Wengeo lane becomes a footpath there is a small patch (50m square of fine grass and birds foot trefoil with plenty of ants nests and bordered by hawthorn and privet covered in travellers joy - almost downland - and here I saw 4 Six-Spot Burnet (at least one was, as it was dead, the other were not settling as the site is unfortunately deficient in nectar flowers such as knapweed), 4 Shaded Broadbar moths flying in the sunshine, Ringlet, Gatekeeper, Small/Essex Skipper and one **Marbled White**.

24 July - Ware Park transect - Large Skipper 1, Small/Essex Skipper 4, Large White 5, Green-veined White 3, Holly Blue 5, Small Tortoiseshell 1, Comma 3, Speckled Wood 5, Meadow Brown 18, Gatekeeper 39, Ringlet 1.

25 July - Meads Ware Lock to Chalk Bank below Ware Road - Gatekeeper 15, Meadow Brown 17, Red Admiral 1, Small Tortoiseshell 1, Green Veined White 2, Essex Skipper 1. On the chalk bank Gatekeeper 28, Meadow Brown 18, Small/Essex Skipper 8, Large White 1, Small White 1. Six Spotted Burnet 2 - Andrew Wood

25th July - News from **23rd - Broxbourne Woods** near east carpark - 2 White Admiral (c12.00hrs), later one was seen in **Bramfield Park Wood** main ride (17.00hrs) plus Red Admiral and Peacock. **Sharpenhoe Clappers 24th July** had Dark Green Frits, Marbled White, **Chalkhill Blue** + Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown, Ringlet, Large and Small Skippers. Comma on Buddleia in the garden here in **Hitchin** today + frequent Holly Blue and Gatekeeper on garden flowers and hedges - Nigel Agar

Yesterday evening at about 5.30pm I studied two White-letter Hairstreaks in **Perivale Wood**, Middx at the same site I had 6 on July 15th 2000. This is a private nature reserve (the wood is only open to members of The Selborne Society and their guests) adjacent to **Horsenden Hill** (where I reported two other W-l H. areas earlier this year). Holly Blue and Comma also present - Andy Culshaw

I went down to the field gate area (**Stevenage**) today to look for Marbled Whites. This 600 sq metre area is quite attractive with Silverweed, Creeping Thistle, Wild Mignonette, Fleabane, Lady's Bedstraw, Tufted Vetch and Knapweed, possibly only spoilt by the two washing machines, sideboard and bedstead. During 20 minutes in hot and sunny weather I saw 2 Marbled Whites, 20 Meadow Brown, 20 Gatekeeper, 40 Small/Essex Skipper, 1 Holly Blue and 3 Large White. On the return journey up the lane there were 2 Purple Hairstreak fluttering around an Oak tree - Alan Reynolds

Lunchtime today while running (and walking) through **Knebworth Park** and adjacent woodland rides to the north - very approx. 50 Marbled White, 500 Gatekeeper, 500 Meadow Brown, 30 Ringlet, 500 mostly Small Skippers. Just 1 Speckled Wood and 2 Large Skippers, 10ish Small White and 1 Hairstreak flew up into Oak Tree (thought it may have been a White Letter). Also Brown Argus colony and my first Small Tortoiseshell found near exit of A1 to **Stevenage (South)** last week - Trevor Chapman

Today: 1 Holly Blue, 1 Comma, 2 Gatekeepers and 2 Large Whites in my garden (**Tewin**). 1 Brimstone seen in **Bencroft Wood** near Emanuel Pollards car park. (East side) on **23rd July**. 1 White Admiral in main ride of **Balls Wood** on **24th** - looking a bit ragged - Les Borg

25th July - My daughter Linda visited us in Dunstable this last weekend and went around my transect at **Sharpenhoe** with me. We saw two dozen or so Dark Green Fritillaries (as you do this year) but unusually they were stopping on flowers so she was able to get a nice picture on her boyfriend's digital camera. The DGF's are getting a bit old now on site and you can see the colour fade quite well in the picture (*see opposite*) - Dave Chandler

24th July - The usual walk around **Hounslow Heath** produced 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Comma, the Whites were out in reasonable numbers as were Skippers, 2 Holly Blue, 5 Speckled Wood, but Meadow Brown & Gatekeeper were both out in force. Also my first Burnet of the year and dozens of Cinnebar Caterpillars. But the major highlight for me yesterday had to be when I arrived home (**Hayes**, Middlesex) and sat at the bottom of the garden. No sooner had I sat down when a **Small Copper** paid a visit, it didn't stay for long but it made my day. 5 Red Admirals at **Cranford Park** at 7.30pm - Chris Court

Alexendra Palace news - Those of interest from our twenty species.... **Brimstones** out on the wing again, Small Coppers around in small numbers, Red Admirals and Peacocks, very few Small Tortoiseshells, lots of Meadow Browns and Gatekeepers, both Purple and White-letter hairstreaks around - if you know where to find them - Tom Clark

Visited my "**South Herts**" transect area today. In just over 2 hours between 9 and 11.15 counted 482 Gatekeeper (320 on transect compared to 389 this week last year - difference being that last year the grass has been cut and every butterfly had descended on the bramble and thistle lined margins!) Also seen on the transect 17 Small/Essex Skipper, 7 Large White, 3 mixed whites, 1 Small White, 3 Green-veined White, 7 Purple Hairstreak, 1 White-letter Hairstreak (at last!) 1 Small Copper (beautiful), 1 Comma, 1 Speckled Wood, 2 Marbled White and 123 Meadow Brown. No Large Skipper at all, but "off" transect saw several Holly Blues, Peacocks, 2 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Red Admiral and a pair of six-spot burnets. Stopped counting the Gatekeeper after I walked my transect otherwise the numbers could have been in 1000's. Thought I had managed to persuade the landowner to leave the transect area uncut for a few weeks longer, since only a few fields had been cut. The reason was slightly simpler - the tractor had hit "some earth works," got itself damaged and is away being repaired - conservation is achieved by different means! - Liz Goodyear

Trent Park, year high of **14 Small Coppers**, 6 Comma, 3 Peacocks, 3 Speckled Woods, St Andrew's Church, **Enfield Town**, 2 Holly Blues, Southbury Road nearby, 1 Holly Blue, 1 Gatekeeper - Robert Callf

As it was a hot and sunny day I visited **Norton Green** during my lunch hour. In 20 minutes I was able to count 35 Meadow Brown, 42 Small/Essex Skipper (those checked were all Small) and 15 Gatekeeper. Not a single white!! I have also heard of an unconfirmed report of a Marbled White at the gate by my mown flower meadow. I will investigate tomorrow - Alan Reynolds

Malcolm Newland rang to say he had seen his 27 species in his **Hemel Hempstead** garden this morning. At 8.15 sunning itself on the top of his Buddleia weyerna (*spelling?*) was a Purple Hairstreak. The butterfly stayed for 1 1/2 hours and then flew off but Malcolm was able to get a photo by standing on a step ladder! Later he saw both **male and female Brimstone** and a Ringlet (2nd this year) On **July 16th** a Humming-bird Hawk moth visited his lavender and he said that Brian Wildridge had a Humming-bird hawk moth on valerian on **15th** in his garden in **St. Albans**

23rd July - Isle of Dogs (Middx) Taeping Street, a **2nd generation Map butterfly** on budleja - Howard Vaughan (news via Andrew Middleton)

This lunchtime I visited my mown flower meadow (**Stevenage area**). It is now starting to green up with the odd sprig of Clover and Ribbed Melilot. I spent about 20 minutes walking around the perimeter and twice across the middle and managed to record 200 Gatekeeper, 50 Meadow Brown, 30 Ringlet, 50 Small/Essex Skipper, 1 Red Admiral, **1 male Brimstone**, a few whites and 1 Brown Hawker. The Muntjac that I disturbed from the hedge made off across the meadow with four-footed jumps and a white periscope at the rear - Alan Reynolds

At **Balls Wood** today in 46 minutes; Meadow Brown 39, Ringlet 66, Gatekeeper 52, Speckled Wood 8, Holly Blue 1, White Admiral 1, Green Veined White 13, Large White 1, Large skipper 14, Small/Essex Skippers 32 (of which 4 were definitely Essex and 3 Small) - Andrew Wood

Covert Way NR, 4 Ringlets, 22 Gatekeepers, 5 Purple Hairstreaks, 3 Speckled Woods. **Trent Park** - 4 Small Coppers, 2 Purple Hairstreaks, 2 Peacocks - Robert Callf

Ponders End, in my garden, 1 Speckled Wood, 1 Meadow Brown, 2 Holly Blues - Andrew Middleton

For the first time this year, actually have a garden (**Ware**) full of butterflies including a fresh **Peacock** and 2 Small Tortoiseshells on the buddleia - earlier visited **Broxbourne Woods** and saw only one White Admiral over a period of nearly 4 hours. Also came across Nick Sampford with his camera and very tolerant kids! - Liz Goodyear

22nd July - Although the weather was not particularly brilliant - overcast, cool breeze but fairly mild, I ventured up the track to dragonfly ponds near **Berkesdongreen Spring**. The highlight of the trip from my point of view were the 3 Southern Hawkers patrolling a woodland ride, but I also managed to see **100+ whites** (a small batch identification suggested 80 Green-veined Whites and 20 Small Whites) mostly on Scentless Mayweed, 1 Large White, 5 Ringlet, 5 Meadow Brown, 2 Gatekeeper and 3 Speckled Wood. When we came face to face, I am not sure who was the most startled, me or the Fallow Deer!! - Alan Reynolds

My wife and I went for a walk along Gallions Point, **Beckton, London E6** near where we live, and saw countless Burnet moths feeding on buddleia and on the wing (probably the only moth I know about!). Lots of browns, blues and whites butterflies too. Then about half an hour ago while cropping some nettles for a small clutch of Peacock caterpillars I've got that are about to pupate, I saw a Comma - quite a light colouring. First I've seen for years - Ian Tindale

21st July - Trent Park area, White-letter Hairstreak on thistle flower, 3 Red Admirals, 1 Painted Lady, 1 Holly Blue - Robert Callf and Robin White

Yesterday, Friday **20th July** at 2.15pm we again saw a **Purple Emperor** in the same Hertfordshire wood. It was on the same tree as before, this time it flew higher up. We both managed to take a couple of photos with the zoom lens - Rachel & Lissa Smith

I was driving down a rather bumpy farm track towards **Hornbeam Common** when I passed a Hawthorn hedge that was buzzing with brown butterflies (definitely included Meadow Brown and Ringlet), but did not have time to count them. However, at the end of the track leading to my dragonfly pond, I was able to count the single **Painted Lady** nectaring on Creeping Thistle. Later on at **Green End** I saw some Small Whites, Large Whites and Gatekeepers flying over a crop of Hemp **Cannabis sativa** - Alan Reynolds

20th July - Covert Way NR, Hadleigh area, 6 Ringlets, 6 Purple Hairstreaks, 10 Small and 1 Essex skipper identified - Robert Callf, **Trent Park** area 2 Small Coppers, **18 Commas**, 1 Red Admiral, 3 Ringlets, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, **1 Peacock** - Robert Callf, also Robin White

Visited my "**South Herts**" area today - nothing much to note except that I was nearly back at the car when I saw a fresh **Peacock** - Liz Goodyear

On the **18th July** I noticed what appeared to be a small white moth fluttering around the pond in my garden (**Watton at Stone**). I went down to investigate only to find that it was a miniature Small White butterfly. It was nectaring on a flower head of Bloody Cranesbill **Geranium sanguineum** which I subsequently measured to be 30mm in diameter. This would put the total wingspan of the butterfly at 25 mm. Collins Field Guide gives the semi-span (thorax to wingtip) of the Small White forewing as 23-27 mm. Taking the minimum measurement and allowing 4mm for the thorax gives a minimum total wingspan of 50 mm. Therefore the butterfly in my garden was approx half size. Are such specimens recorded very often? - Alan Reynolds (*comments welcome*)

Broxbourne Woods; 1 White Admiral on Hemp Agrimony as reported on 15th. July and another at the pond, which is part way along the walkers only track on the left from the main ride or right if you go anti clockwise. There is a bar across the path at both ends, preventing horse riders using it - Les Borg

I was working with volunteers this Wednesday (**18th July**) to clear bracken from the main ride in **Bencroft Wood** (*part of the Broxbourne complex*). At about 2pm I spotted 2 White Admirals feeding on bramble. The location was on the east side of Bencroft Wood towards Emmanuel Pollards car-park - Paul Jarczewski

18th July - Trent Park 1 Red Admiral, 3 Small Coppers, 1 Purple Hairstreak. **Grovelands Park** 5 Purple Hairstreaks (4 flying in drizzle), **Oakwood Park** 4 Purple Hairstreaks, 2 Commas, 3 Gatekeepers, 1 Meadow Brown - Robert Callf

News from Andrew Wood - Fields and roads near St Leonard's Church, **Sat 14 July, Bengoe:** Meadow Brown 27, Gatekeeper 2, Small Tortoiseshell 2, Holly Blue 1, Small White 1, Large White 1. **Sun 15 July, Balls Wood:** Meadow Brown 111, Ringlet 118, Gatekeeper 16, Comma 4, White Admiral 1, Green-veined White 10, Large Skipper 22, Assorted Small/Essex Skippers 46 In a 50 minute transect. **Today, Ware Park:** Meadow Brown 18, Gatekeeper 30, Essex Skipper 3, Small Skipper 1, Large Skipper 2, Speckled Wood 1, Comma 5, Red Admiral 2, Green-veined White 7, Small White 1, Large White 1, Ringlet 1, Holly Blue 2 and a few assorted Small/GV whites and Small/Essex Skippers in 41 minute transect in humid/sunny/cloudy conditions.

Today , a brief lunchtime walk round the **NH Museum Wildlife Garden** (in sunshine!) was rewarded with a male Gatekeeper flying round the chalk mound - almost six years to the day since the previous record, on 19 July 1995 - Martin Honey

I live Nr. **Daventry** and this amazing fella (**Poplar Hawk moth**) flew in through my office window around midnight last night and settled on my hand. He eventually took off and this morning found him perched on some paperwork! He's still here 24 hours later (18th July) - Marian Stone

17th July - Rachel & Lissa Smith's pictures of the Purple Emperor seen on Sunday are now displayed!

Robert Callf rang to say his brother Richard had a **Humming-bird Hawk moth** fly into his workplace this evening in Hutton, **North Finchley**

Recent news from **the Tring Park area** - Comma, a fresh Small Heath, Small Tortoiseshell and a **Humming-bird Hawk Moth (14th July)**. Nearby a field adjacent to Stubbings Wood, is a mass of thistles - highlights include a Small Tortoiseshell, 2 Red Admiral and a Painted Lady. Lots of Ringlets, Meadow Brown, Marbled White and Gatekeeper - Brian Jessop

I saw **2 White Admiral (Sunday 15 July)**. They were in the same place as I have seen them in previous years, that is to say **Broxbourne Wood**. The first was at about 10.30am, some distance along the main ride leading off the road from Brickendon, just where it meets the first path off to the left. There is a large patch of hemp agrimony there, just coming into flower, and it was flying over this. It is where I have mainly seen them in the past. The second was just by the first entrance to the wood as you come from Brickendon, feeding on bramble flowers at about noon . Of course it might have been the same individual, but I thought it was a little smaller. I also saw a Purple Hairstreak - a good view of it. It may have just emerged from the chrysalis state. Other butterflies about were Commas, Ringlets, Gatekeepers, Large Skippers, Small and Essex skippers (I think - I went down on hands and knees to look at their antennae), Meadow Browns, Small Whites, 1 Large White and 1 Red Admiral - Derwent May

16th July - I am now aware that Purple Emperor have been seen in the last 10 days at three sites on private land elsewhere in Hertfordshire - When out and about can everyone look very carefully - LG

Trent Park area - 1 Essex skipper, 1 faded Painted Lady, 2 Red Admiral today - yesterday 1 Small Copper and 1 Small Heath - Robert Callf

Walked my "**South Herts**" transect today in very little sunshine, saw 32 Small/Essex, 1 Small, 3 Large Skippers, 3 Large, 2 Green-veined White, 5 Purple Hairstreak, 1 Red Admiral, 2 Comma, 5 Marbled White, **210 Gatekeeper**, 135 Meadow Brown and 2 Ringlet (the first this year on the transect) - Liz Goodyear

Malcolm Hull reports that he saw a White-letter Hairstreak on his **Bricket Wood** transect on Saturday

15th July - Fantastic news - Rachel & Lissa Smith were walking in a **Hertfordshire** wood this morning and saw a **Purple Emperor** - "12.25pm, we saw a **PURPLE EMPEROR**. It was on the path as we approached, it then flew onto a small tree before flying up into some larger ones, then over the treetops."

A butterfly walk on **Horsenden Hill**, Middlesex today produced thirteen species including: **White-letter Hairstreak** (13 seen at two localities, allowing photographs as they came down to bramble and creeping thistle); Purple Hairstreak (8); Small Copper (1); Small Tortoiseshell (2); Speckled Wood (1); Gatekeeper (75+); Meadow Brown (60+); Comma (8); Large White (3), Small White (11); Green-veined White (1); Large Skipper (17); Small Skipper (3); Small/Essex Skipper (28+). Also 4 Slow Worms, several Emperor Dragonflies and Lesser Whitethroat with 2 fledged young - Andy Culshaw

This morning , while the sun was still shining , I spent about 2 hours at **Gatesbury** near Braughing recording for the Herts Dragonfly Atlas . On the butterfly front I saw 40 Meadow Brown, 10 Ringlet, 10 Small White, 3 Large White, 2 Gatekeeper, 20 Small/Essex Skipper, 3 Comma and 1 Holly Blue. In the afternoon, in much cooler weather, I saw 3 Comma, 10 Meadow Brown and 10 Small/Essex Skippers at Rib Valley Lakes, **Westmill Farm** - Alan Reynolds

14th July - Trent Park 1 White-letter Hairstreak, Vicarage Farm 1 Ringlet - Robin White

After the rain eventually cleared away I managed to get in 3 hours in TL32 in reasonably warm sunshine. Of this, I spent about an hour at **Wakeley Farm** and saw 20 Meadow Brown, 1 Gatekeeper, 3 Ringlet, 5 Large White, 1 Fox, 1 Muntjac and a family of Kestrel - Alan Reynolds

Yesterday, I visited **Norton Green** to the west of the A1 at Stevenage to photograph dragonflies. It was warm but breezy with intermittent sun . During the hour that I was there I saw 50 Meadow Brown, 50 Small/Essex Skippers , 3 Gatekeepers and 1 Small Tortoiseshell - Alan Reynolds

Bramfield area - yesterday, 1 White Admiral, and 12 Purple Hairstreak maybe more (6 together in a bunch) - Nick Sampford

A Holly Blue yesterday in the garden - **Ponders End** - Andrew Middleton

Last evening was able to enjoy watching Purple Hairstreak in a large oak tree visible from my patio - Liz Goodyear

13th July - A brief walk round the **Museum's Wildlife Garden (South Kensington)** this lunchtime (between the showers) saw all three Whites (Large, Small and Green-veined - small being the most numerous), several Holly Blues, one Red Admiral and one Comma. On the moth front there were several species of grass moth (Pyralidae, Crambinae) on the meadow including *Chrysoteuchia culmella* and *Agriphila straminea* and, on the chalk mound, four examples of the Six-spot Burnet, *Zygaena filipendulae* - Martin Honey

Watery Grove, **Stevenage**. (This isn't next to Alan Reynold's mown flower meadow site. The field that I had success in last year at Watery Grove was mown short and all the butterflies have moved to the adjacent glade) This lunchtime a walk around the glade under the pylons revealed approx. 400 Skippers (all those IDed were Small), 400 Ringlet, 200 Gatekeeper, 50 Meadow Brown, 1 Comma, 1 Large Skipper, 2 Small White, But most interesting were 4 Marbled White in the field

towards the entrance of **Knebworth Park**. Also one magnificent yellow/black long-horn beetle and single moths of Broad-bar, Silver-Y and an un-IDed Burnet. I also found a bush cricket! - Trevor Chapman

In the work garden in **Hounslow**, 2 days ago a Small Tortoiseshell & today a Holly Blue. On the moth front a **Lime Hawk Moth** and what looks like a Yellowtail have both spent 5 days on the outside wall. A Vapourer Mothcaterpillar Has also been found - Chris Court

12th July - Broxbourne Woods - Spent a day walking around the woods, 16 sightings in total of White Admiral, large numbers of Small/Essex Skipper, counted 50 on thistles (a 15 metre square area) in a sheltered field adjacent to the wood (all appeared to be Small). Plenty of Ringlet, although one was seen being eaten by a Southern Hawker in the trees - the dragonfly left the wings! 3 Purple Hairstreak nectaring/resting on plants and 4 Comma fighting over a sunny bramble bush - Andrew Middleton & Liz Goodyear

11th July - Spent 4 hours at **Bramfield Wood** today, I found a bramble bush 100 yards down from the main entrance. In that 100 yards I counted at least **42 Essex Skipper**, 37 Small Skipper, 10 Large Skipper, 21 Ringlet, 25 Meadow Brown, 19 Gatekeeper, 2 Purple Hairstreak, **3 Comma**, 1 Red Admiral, 1 Speckled Wood, 1 Green-veined White, 1 Large White. At some point all of these species were on the bramble bush - 12 species on a day when I thought I might struggle to see any! - Nick Sampford

One **Holly Blue** in **Ware** today sitting open winged in a brief spell of sun between the gales - Andrew Wood

Malcolm Newland rang to say he had seen in his "sheltered" **Hemel Hempstead** garden today, a **White-letter Hairstreak** nectaring on Heliotrope, a **Holly Blue** nectaring on Common Valerian and a Small Skipper. On **Monday**, he saw a Marbled White fly over his garden and on the **20th June**, he had his latest ever sighting of a male Orange Tip (nectaring on Sweet Rocket).

Important Notice - On the 4th July Malcolm Hull reported that **Purple Emperor** had been seen at Bookham Common in Surrey. This means that it is almost certain that they will have emerged in Hertfordshire or Middlesex - If you are going out looking for White Admiral in "sallow rich" woods, please be extra vigilant. If you see a large dark butterfly fly past very quickly or glide round a tree, think "could this be a Purple Emperor". Make detailed notes of the time, what you saw and most importantly, where and don't forget to take your binoculars, they will be needed. Although they do come down to the ground, they spend most the time in the treetops so keep looking up! One other point to note is that they often become active almost immediately the sun shines (or just brightens) after periods of poor weather - Liz Goodyear

10th July - I saw 4 Marbled Whites close together on my transect in **Bricket Wood** this week, which suggests a small colony has now been started following last years first ever sighting at this location - Malcolm Hull

Visited some woods near **Bramfield**, but totally misjudged the weather, thought the improvement would last.....20 minutes into surveying, clouds darkened and spent 1 1/2 hours waiting for the rain to stop. Totally undeterred, I searched for Small & Essex Skippers, roosting on thistle heads. However, I was rewarded by the sight of a White Admiral "basking" on a bramble bush in light rain! Within minutes of the rain stopping the Ringlet and Meadow Brown were flying, and within seconds of the sun briefly appearing another White Admiral flew up. In total, I had 6 White Admiral sightings but think only 3 individuals, some seen flying in very dull conditions. The Small & Essex Skippers remained very docile and out of the 34 I counted, I was able to confirm that 10 were Small Skippers (no Essex). Other sightings (1 hour when it didn't rain) included c100 Ringlet, 6 Gatekeeper, 7 Large Skipper, 1 Red Admiral & 2 Green-veined White, not bad for poor weather. *(It occurred to me that these weather conditions would be ideal for the photographer desperate to supply the website with close up shots of the Small & Essex Skipper antennae for the ID guide page - Nick Sampford is hoping to get a shot but he can't be out in the field everyday!)* - Liz Goodyear

9th July - Sharpenhoe Clappers - **20 + Dark Green Fritillaries**, over 60 Marbled Whites, similar number of Skippers and Meadow Browns. **Northaw Great Wood**, one White Admiral.

Hexton Chalk Pits, approx. 30 Chalkhill Blues with one pair mating whilst I photographed them! - Les Borg

Covert Way LNR, Monken Hadley area, 6 Ringlets, - Christina Lee and Robert Callf, **Trent Park 3** or **4 x 6 spot Burnets, 5 commas - Sun 8th Holly Blue** in a Southbury Road garden (**Enfield**) - Robert Callf

I walked my **Balls Wood** transect today and despite cloudy weather it was still and reasonably warm and the results were not bad. Highlights were **3 White Admirals. 152 Ringlets** in 43 minutes which is the most I have recorded on one visit in 6 years of transecting at Balls Wood. Also saw my first Gatekeeper of the season but no Purple Hairstreaks. Also reasonable numbers of Meadow Brown, Small/Essex and Large Skippers and Comma and one Green Veined White - Andrew Wood

It's This lunchtime I went down to have a look at my mown flower meadow (**nr Stevenage**). The hay has been collected and the vegetation is starting to regrow . It a sad day when a Small Tortoiseshell record causes so much excitement. was a humid, overcast but warm day so I decided to spend half an hour walking around the hedge-lined perimeter which still had a foot or two of uncut habitat . This proved to be very successful with a list of **80 (yes eighty) Ringlet**, 50 Meadow Brown, 30 Small/Essex Skippers (I left my reading glasses which I need for these in the office), 3 Gatekeeper and 1 Roesel's Bush-cricket - Alan Reynolds

Walked my "**South Herts**" transect today in just over an hour, saw 41 Small/Essex Skipper, 2 Small Skipper, 2 Large Skipper, 5 Large White, 6 Purple Hairstreak, 2 Comma, 5 Marbled White, **138 Gatekeeper** & 144 Meadow Brown (last year Gatekeeper were outnumbering Meadow Brown), numbers could have been higher but by the time I finished the transect cloud cover was 100%. Also saw off transect a Small Tortoiseshell. Later (7.30) in my garden in **Ware** had another **Humming-bird Hawk moth** sighting! - Liz Goodyear

Some recent news - Nice to see Marbled Whites at **Redbourn Cutting** today **July 5th**. The wild flowers there are spectacular - worth a visit. My first Gatekeeper today (**July 6th**) on **Harpenden Common** Charles Baker tells me that there are fantastic numbers of **Dark Green Fritillaries** at **Sharpenhoe Clappers** - Michael Healy

A few odd records for you from the last week - **Tring Sewage Farm 3 Jul** - Large Skipper, Meadow Brown, Ringlet. **Tring (My garden) 5 Jul** - Red Admiral, Meadow Brown - Ian Burrus

8th July - News from **7th July Vicarage Farm** pm, **1 fresh Small Tortoiseshell** - summer brood, **1 Painted Lady** - Robert Callf

When the sun eventually came out this afternoon , I went to **Stevenage** to photograph some wild flowers . The site is 2-3 acres of "wasteland" between the Roaring Meg retail park and Stevenage College and is quite remarkable for, despite being in the middle of Stevenage, it is more like a wild flower meadow with carpets of Meadow Cranesbill, Lady's Bedstraw, Knapweed, Yellow Meadow Vetchling and Perforate St John's Wort. Unfortunately, by the time I got there the sun had gone in but it was still very warm and humid. In about half an hour I saw at least 30 Meadow Brown, **1 Small Tortoisehell** and 1 high speed Skipper. I suspect that the site could attract Marbled White - Alan Reynolds.

Early afternoon had a long walk around **Colney Heath Common**, despite being cloudy saw one bright Comma, lots of Meadow Brown and Gatekeepers, a few Whites and many Large and Small Skippers grouped together in one section of grasses by the wood. Two days ago had a new visitor to our **St.Albans garden**, a **White-Letter Hairstreak** - Lissa and Rachel Smith

5th July - Went up to **Broxbourne Woods** tonight with Paul Jarczewski to do a recce for a bat and moth night in August (full details to follow). We were there between 19.45 and 20.30, saw one Red Admiral and several,(difficult to count exactly how many) Purple Hairstreaks high in the oaks around the East car park - Andrew Wood

Alexandra Palace - At the moment Small, **Essex** and Large Skippers, Commas and Gatekeepers are on the wing - Tom Clarke. Nature Conservation Officer for Alexandra Park

Grovelands Park 1 Essex, 20 Small and 1 Large Skipper, 1 male Common Blue, 2 Comma - Robert Callf

Trent Park - 1 ringlet - Robin White

4th July - Trent Park area single Purple Hairstreak, Gatekeeper, Mother Shipton, Painted Lady, male Common Blue, 4 Red Admiral - Robert Callf and Robin White, also 20+ **Purple Hairstreaks** seen around 3 oaks elsewhere at 7.30pm - A Middleton

I went to **Balls Wood**, this afternoon and saw no White Admiral, did see Ringlet, Meadow Brown and Small Skippers and a possible Purple Hairstreak fly round an oak where I saw one on Saturday - Nick Sampford

I don't know if it is of any interest but this morning I saw 2 Marbled Whites circling each other on the verge of the **Stevenage** North slip road of the A1(M)(southbound). At least it made my trip to work more enjoyable - Ian Woiwod

Balls Wood near Hertford 55 minutes visit mid morning. White Admirals - 2 (twice as many as last year!), Ringlet, Meadow Browns, Large Skipper - numerous. Purple Hairstreak - none. Probably a little too early in season. In any case, mid morning isn't the best time, early evening being best. But I did see some Purple Hairstreaks at this time of day last year - Jack Harrison

Denis saw **White letter Hairstreaks** at the **Warren in Colney Heath** and **Wilkins Green Lane in Smallford** (plus one other place that I can't remember!) yesterday. He also saw **Purple Hairstreaks** at **Colney Heath Common** and **BullensGreen Wood** where we went with Margaret Nash yesterday evening and found Marbled Whites. They were hard to count but at least 15 were there together with Large and Small Skippers (no Essex) - Christine Shepperson

Our regular Sunday volunteer team reported that a walker had seen White Admiral butterflies this weekend and clouded yellows) in **Broxbourne Wood**. Also, a White Admiral was spotted by my colleagues at **Symonside** on **Monday** - Paul Jarczewski

Sunday 1st, **Brent Reservoir**, 6 Marbled Whites, **Essex Skipper** - Andrew Self

3rd July - Middx/Herts border **Covert Way LNR**, 1 ringlet, **100+ narrow-bordered 5 spot burnet moths**, **Trent Park** 1 Ringlet, Church Wood, 1st record in Trent Park for Robert, 18 Small Heaths and 3 Small Coppers in the 'New Fields', 3 Red Admiral - Robert Callf, also Purple Hairstreak - Robin White

Cornmill 2 White-letter Hairstreaks, **Broxbourne Woods Mon 2nd**, **4 White Admirals** - Bill Cutts, Bill Craig, Mike Cotton

I had a few common butterflies around **Thundridge** 2 Speckled Woods, Meadow Brown, Small White, Large White, Comma - Nothing too exciting but shows things are moving - Nick Sampford

I saw 1 White Admiral at **Balls Wood** on **2 July**, also Ringlets, Meadow Brown and Small/Essex, Large Skippers but numbers very low. At **Ware Park** today again numbers dreadful but saw a few **Large White** and a Comma and Red Admiral as well as Meadow Brown and Large Skipper, no Small/Essex Skippers - Andrew Wood

Went in my **Ware** (back) garden just before 6pm and there was another/the Humming-bird Hawk moth again on the Dwarf Munstead lavender - Liz Goodyear

Lunchtime today 27C. I first went to **Marshalls Heath** to do a transect. Couple of Red Admirals and Large Skippers. Numbers of Meadow Browns and Small/Essex Skippers rising. Those identified

were Small Skippers. No Gatekeepers yet. Arriving back at work (**Stevenage**) one Red Admiral - Trevor Chapman

This morning in **Balls Wood** - One White Admiral, several Small & Essex Skippers (25 ish.) and countless numbers of Meadow Browns & Ringlets - Les Borg

1 Red Admiral and 1 Speckled Wood at **Uxbridge Alder glade** and have just had a Comma in the garden at work in **Hounslow** - Chris Court

Visited woods near **Bramfield** today - highlights were **1 Humming-bird Hawk moth, 3 White Admiral**, at least **150 Ringlet**, 1 Purple Hairstreak, 1 Comma and **3 White-letter Hairstreak** (2 were observed through binoculars mating on the crown of a field maple) - Liz Goodyear (no Gatekeeper here either)

2nd July - Trent park area, 1 Marbled White, 1st **Gatekeeper** of the year, 2 Red Admirals - Robin White, Vicarage Farm area pm, **3 Painted Ladies** on Hog Hill, Painted Lady Trent Park **Sunday**- Robert Callf

9.15pm **Ware garden** - Just went outside to lock car door, saw a moth on the lavender, and realised it was a **Humming-bird Hawk moth**, couldn't believe my luck - 4th year running - Liz Goodyear

Northaw Great Wood - this afternoon **3 White Admiral** and 3 Ringlet - Andrew Middleton and Jeremy Gaskell

Visited my "**South Herts**" transect today. Spent about 4 hours walking around the fields in the area, and came across at least 289 Meadow Brown, **11 Gatekeeper**, 4 Ringlet (none on the transect), 6 Marbled White, 39 Large Skipper, 5 Small Skipper, 21 Sm/Essex Skipper, 1 Large White, 2 unknown whites, **a newly emerged Comma** and probably 2 White-letter hairstreak, also 5 Silver Y, 1 Cinnabar and 4 of the spotted burnet moths, identity unsure but one probably narrow bordered 5 spot - Liz Goodyear

1st July - Went to **Sharpenhoe Clappers** pm. **Dark Green Fritillaries** showing well, loads of Marbled Whites also **Chalkhill Blue**, Ringlet & Burnet Moths - Tony Clancy

White Admiral today in **Bricket Wood**, also first sightings on the BW transect this year for Small Skipper, Large Skipper and Marbled White. This is only the second ever sighting of Marbled White on the BW transect in 5 years. Red Admiral yesterday (**Saturday**) in St Albans. Not yet seen White letter hairstreak. Dutch Elm disease seems to have struck severely on many of their favourite spots in St Albans, particularly Everlasting Lane and Verulamium Park - Malcolm Hull

Margaret & Charlie Nash visited the Water Meadow, east of **Bricket Wood** today and saw 1 Marbled White. Later Margaret and Linda Archer saw **6 Marbled White** east of **Bullen's Green**.

3 hours spent near **Watton-at-Stone**, I saw 20 Meadow Brown , **3 Red Admiral** and 1 Small White. Pretty disappointing really - Alan Reynolds

News from **Therfield Heath**. Alan Downie reports that the butterflies this year are doing very well, might be the chalk has helped! Earlier in the year good numbers of Small Tortoiseshell and Holly Blue were seen. Alan also saw his first Small Copper at the site. Small Heath, Large Skipper, Meadow Brown numbers are good and the Ringlets have emerged.

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

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Archive Page

Sightings and news from January to June 2001

 [Archive Index](#)

 [Photo House Index](#)

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

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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 browns (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 Callf 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 **Wareon 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 Alder glade** 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** outside 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 **Brimsdown** - 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.