


Butterfly Conservation Hertfordshire & Middlesex Branch

Archive Page

Sightings and news from July to December 2012

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This page contains sightings details of all the butterflies and moths reported to the [Sightings page](#) between July and December 2012.

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 2012

Tuesday 18th December 2012

Slightly late report, sorry. On Sunday 16th Dec. a small tortoiseshell flew past me at TL435203 (Bush Wood nr Much Hadham.) It alighted in leaf litter before heading off north. Weather: clear sky, slight breeze and about 7C. Time 1.00pm. Latest I have ever seen this species - Jonathan Forgham

Monday 17th December 2012

Ware garden just after 1 o'clock, Peacock seen flying around and then basking on a conifer in sun - Liz Goodyear

Tuesday 4th December 2012

We were working up at Aldbury Nowers and despite the cold wind we saw a **small tortoiseshell** flying around, it was in very good condition. In sheltered spots there was a tiny bit of warmth! Paul Thrush

November 2012

Monday 26th November 2012

On 23 November had a Red Admiral around the church in Therfield in the autumn sunshine - Andrew Steele

Sunday 18th November 2012

I saw a rather tatty comma feeding on ivy in my garden in Wheathampstead this morning (18th Nov 12) - Paul Unwin

Tuesday 13th November 2012

Robin White reported seeing a Red Admiral in Trent Park (Tuesday 13th November 2012) during the early afternoon. - Robert Callf

I was working up at Aldbury today and saw a comma basking on a fence post, it was very warm this morning up there! - Paul Thrush

Port Vale area of Hertford, 1 Red Admiral just after midday - Andrew Wood

A male Brimstone was flying around my Harpenden garden this morning, looked in very good condition - Robin Pearson

Sunday 11th November 2012

Tue 6th 1 Red Admiral, 1 Comma in Bengoe, 1 Comma in Ware park and 1 Red Admiral in Ware Cemetery. Thu 8th 1 Comma in Sacombe Park. Sun 11th 1 Comma and a Southern Hawker dragonfly in the cattle enclosure, Hartham Common, Hertford - Andrew Wood

Thursday 8th November 2012

We were working up at Aldbury today and saw a male Brimstone flying around, when the sun was out it got quite warm. We also saw one last Tuesday (30/10). - Paul Thrush

Wednesday 7th November 2012

Comma seen today feeding on a rotten pear in Upper Green garden, Tewin - Jim Farr

Tuesday 6th November 2012

Red Admiral seen flying in my neighbour's Ware front garden just after 11 - Liz Goodyear

Red Admiral in my garden today – temp 6 degrees! - Robin Pearson

One rather lethargic Red Admiral was fluttering around a flowering Abelia shrub by a neighbour's front door in Lambourn Gardens, Harpenden yesterday afternoon (5 November) in full sunshine - Alan Jackson

Monday 5th November 2012

News via Robert Callf, Robin White saw a Comma at 11 o'clock this morning on the Setaside field north of Williams Wood, Trent Park. This was his latest date

Saw a Red Admiral at Fir & Pond Woods on Saturday (3rd November 2012) at 13:50 hrs. - Robert Callf

Saturday 3rd November 2012

At 10am to my surprise a red admiral on the cosmos in front garden in Bengoe - Steve Kiln

Friday 2nd November 2012

Saw a Red Admiral at 'Three-bridges', Trent Park this afternoon (Friday 2nd November 2012) at 13:40 hrs, flying around and settling on a Hornbeam branch - Robert Callf

October 2012

Wednesday 31st October 2012

Whilst gardening in a Little Hadham garden a Speckled Wood flew north before alighting on the ground. Latest I have recorded this species in my parish. Previous latest was 6th Oct. 2010. Weather at that time (10am) was sporadic sunshine and light breeze - Jonathan Forgham

Tuesday 30th October 2012

Walked along the River Stort between Bishops Stortford and Harlow Mill today. Saw 1 red admiral at Southmill lock and 2 more at Sawbridgeworth lock. Quite a few other insects on the wing today, including bumble bees and what appeared to be a pair of damselflies mating - Chris Gleeson

Three sightings to report today (Tuesday 30th October 2012) - 1 Comma, nectaring on Michaelmas daisies, edge of Triangular Wood, Trent Park, at 11:15 hrs; 1 Red Admiral, nectaring on Ivy flowers, Snakes Lane, Trent Park (near Animal Corner) at 12:05 hrs; 1 Small Copper, seen in flight, by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 12:31 hrs - Robert Callf

Monday 29th October 2012

A rather tatty Speckled Wood was flitting around my (Harpenden) garden this morning - Robin Pearson

Wednesday 24th October 2012

A couple of butterflies to report today (Wednesday 24th October 2012) - 1 Red Admiral, at Strayfield Road, Clay Hill, Enfield at 14:15 hrs and a male **Holly Blue** settling on Ivy along The Ridgeway, Enfield at Chase Farm Hospital at 14:50 hrs - very fresh and newly emerged - Robert

Callf

Saw a Red Admiral in Oakwood Park, N14 this morning (Tuesday 23rd October 2012) at 11:30 hrs.
- Robert Callf

On Monday 24 October, very surprised to watch a Red Admiral briskly circling the Hatfield Tesco carpark at 2.15 today in light drizzle & temp of only 15C - John Moss

Wednesday 17th October 2012

Good to see a Red Admiral in the garden today, 17th October, in Hayes. It was battered and windswept but stayed around for a while

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/69131641@N04/8096567719/in/photostream>

Helen George

Cheshunt Park, 3 Small Coppers and a Red Admiral in sub optimum conditions - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

In my Ware garden this afternoon a Comma - Liz Goodyear

Saw a Comma nectaring on Michaelmas daisies on the edge of Icehouse Wood, Trent Park this morning (Wednesday 17th October 2012) at 11:25 hrs, also a couple of Silver Y moths along Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm, Enfield this afternoon - Robert Callf & Robin White

Tuesday 16th October 2012

Managed to find one female Small Copper on a thistle head near Church Wood, Trent Park this afternoon, (Tuesday 16th October 2012), despite the strong breeze, at 14:27 hr - Robert Callf

Monday 15th October 2012

Whilst taking the washing off the line (Ware), I found I had a red admiral in my laundry basket on a item of clothing. Removed to safety! - Liz Goodyear

Sunday 14th October 2012

I persuaded the smallest of my three boys that a walk locally (Stanwell Moor) would be a good idea at lunchtime today. The sun was out, and it felt quite warm out of the breeze. We soon found half a dozen Red Admirals on the profusion of ivy hereabouts, along with a single Comma. Suddenly, the Comma took flight, pursued by a something a good deal smaller and brighter. Having seen the Comma off, this individual settled in the sun - a shiny new Small Copper. Amazingly, this is the first one I have seen locally this year - mid-October is an unusual date for a first sighting! Finally, we came across a male Green-veined White, hopefully investigating anything remotely white in his quest for a female. I have seen 23 species in and around Stanwell Moor this year, out of 24 seen over the last five: the missing one this year has been the Clouded Yellow. A 25th, Marbled White, is frustratingly within two miles of here too!

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=26927&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=26930&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=26926&mode=view>

Dave Miller

Rickneys -small white & brown argus, Amwell- 17 red admiral and 5 commas on ivy - Steve Kiln

St Albans, Folly Lane - Visited my allotment this morning and despite the frost last night I saw: Freshly emerged Large White, Comma and Small White all nectaring on Verbena Bonariensis, Peacock nectaring on Sedum, Red Admiral nectaring on Ivy, Small Tortoiseshell, Small White & Comma all nectaring on Blue Buddleia, Small White nectaring on Michaelmas Daisy - Malcolm Hull

Saturday 13th October 2012

Saw a Small White yesterday (Friday 12th October 2012) at Parkside Farm, Enfield on Res banking at 14:23 hrs - Robert Callf. Today (Saturday 13th October 2012) - 1 Small Copper, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Williams Wood, at Vicarage Farm, 10:57 hrs; 1 Red Admiral, along Leeging Beech Gutter near 'Three-bridges', at Trent Park, 13:30 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood, S edge of Williams Wood, at Trent Park, 13:47 hrs - Robert Callf & Robin White.

Wednesday 10th October 2012

Some sightings for today (Wednesday 10th October 2012) - 1 Speckled Wood, at Whitewebbs Wood, 11:00 hrs - in a sunny clearing, whilst watching a Firecrest; 2 Comma, together, settled on Bramble, edge of Whitewebbs Wood, 11:25 hrs and 2 others - 11:50 and 11:53 hrs; 1 Red Admiral, settling on Ivy, Whitewebbs Park, 11:37 hrs; 1 Red Admiral, in Lavender Hill Cemetery, 12:30 hrs. - Robert Callf

I was at Tewin Orchard this afternoon and saw 2 comma and a speckled wood. We were there yesterday and saw a red admiral. - Paul Thrush

Two Small Coppers on Little Mead, Kings Meads - Simon Knott

Tuesday 9th October 2012

Nomansland Common, Wheathampstead - about 8 Small Coppers on what's left of the Ragwort at lunchtime today, between Ferrers Lane and the cricket club.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/robinp2009/8070550496/>

Robin Pearson

I had a call from Diana Farley in Barnet. From 15th sept for last three weeks when it is sunny she has had up to 10 red admirals nectaring on the Ivy flowers in her neighbour's garden. She had never seen anything like it - Steve Kiln

Sunday 7th October 2012

Saw 1 Comma at Forty Hall, Enfield (Sunday 7th October 2012) at 12:33 hrs and 1 Red Admiral nectaring on Ivy flowers at Hilly Fields Park, Enfield, 14:24 hrs. - Robert Callf

Saturday 6th October 2012

Some sightings for today (Saturday 6th October 2012) - 6 Small Copper, at Trent Park (4 at 'New Fields', 13:37 - 13:51 hrs, 1 near Water Grdn, 14:27 hrs, 1 set-aside field N of Williams Wood, 15:45 hrs); 2 Red Admiral, on Ivy flowers, near Animal Corner, Trent Park, 14:03 hrs; 3 Small White, at Parkside Farm - on Res banking, 15:26 hrs. - Robert Callf

Nomansland Common - 33 Small Coppers - I walked the same route round the north side of the common as last weekend. Weather conditions, temperature and time of day were similar - but I saw 4-5 times the number of Small Coppers! There may have been some emerging during the week, but a good number of the butterflies seen did not look fresh. The main difference this week was that three quarters of the coppers were nectaring on Ragwort - last week there were none. Possibly the heavy rain during the week has caused a new flow of nectar? Last years branch report also identified a big increase in coppers in the first week of October - definitely a species to look out for this week. The Warren, Colney Heath - Not such good news here, only one Small Copper, which flew up to intercept a passing Small Tortoiseshell and chased it off, before returning to nectar on Ragwort. 4 Silver Y moths also at this site. Not sure why there were so few coppers here as the habitat looks good. Butterfly World - Small Tortoiseshell, Comma (2), Red Admiral (5), Small White (5) and David Brown also reported Large White this morning. All the nymphalids were on buddleia, apart from a single Red Admiral feeding on Cosmos - Malcolm Hull

Friday 5th October 2012

After church this morning (Friday 5th October 2012) saw three Red Admirals nectaring on Ivy flowers in Oakwood Park, N14 at 11:17 hrs - The Holy Trinity! - Robert Callf

Thursday 4th October 2012

I was working at Alpine Meadow again today, I saw a red admiral, brown argus, common blue and 6 commas nectaring on brambles - Paul Thrush

Some sightings today (Thursday 4th October 2012) - 1 Red Admiral, nectaring on Michaelmas daisies, along Leeging Beech Gutter near 'Three-bridges', Trent Park, 11:00 hrs; 1 Comma, nectaring on Michaelmas daisies, along Leeging Beech Gutter near 'Three-bridges', Trent Park, 11:00 hrs; 1 Large White, near Ride Wood, Trent Park, 11:22 hrs; 1 Comma, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 11:30 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood, at Rough Lot, Trent Park, 12:25 hrs, also a number of Red Admirals were seen flying through - Robert Callf & Robin White.

Wednesday 3rd October 2012

I saw 2 commas yesterday at Alpine Meadow and a red admiral and comma at Tewin Orchard this morning. A bit late but there were 2 red admirals at Tewin Orchard last Wednesday (26/9)- Paul Thrush

A sheltered, sunny spot among the trees at Wilstone Reservoir produced one of each of Comma and Speckled Wood this morning. - Dick Middleton

Tuesday 2nd October 2012

One very hardy Red Admiral flying over the dewy grass on Harpenden Common at 0930hrs. on this cold October morning (2 October) - Alan Jackson

OAKHILL WOODS LNR, East Barnet, 2/10/12-----I x Painted lady on Michaelmas daisy (Only 3rd record for 2012) 4x Red Admiral on Ivy----1x Speckled Wood, 2x Small white, 1x Large white---- Its been a good year for Red admiral in contrast to low Peacock numbers and no records of first gen Tshells. There were very few parasitoids found in captive reared wild Peacock larvae this year---probably the wet Spring?---It is well know that Red admiral seem to be more prone to attack from parasitoids perhaps the wet weather helped more of their larvae survive? Re Tshells we only ever find the larval nests on fairly large patches of nettles out in the fields away from the boundary hedges-- These-patches of undisturbed nettles in open areas are a rare site---either grazed or trampled (especially by travellers horses which seem to be appearing everywhere) -or-cut and sprayed by famers/local authorities. Red admirals will lay singularly and use even solitary small nettles in many diverse locations---so the larvae probably have a better chance of surviving as all the eggs are not in one basket etc. KIT JONES

Monday 1st October 2012

1 Comma, by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 15:05 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 15:28 hrs; 1 Comma, at South Lodge Farm, Enfield, 15:55 hrs. Also saw a White sp in flight over Vicarage Farm, most probably Small White - Robert Callf & Robin White

September 2012

Sunday 30th September 2012

25.09.12 - Batford - 1 SMALL COPPER near weedy field by B653. Has been a diabolical year for butterflies at Batford with No White Letter Hairstreaks, No Brown Argus, No Common Blues, No Purple Hairstreaks & numbers of Marbled whites had dropped in comparison to last year & until today, only one small copper. Small Heath has long since departed after the last sighting was 2 years ago at least. Nothing has changed in the field so unsure what has happened, except for possibly the atrocious weather we had in spring/ summer. A very great shame - Darin Stanley

Saturday 29th September 2012

Thursday to Saturday 27 - 29 Sept, Borehamwood garden, Red Admiral nectaring on Ivy flowers with a max of 9 Red Admiral on 28th also on 28th up to 2 Comma at same site in garden There were Aster and Sedum flower also available but these were being ignored - Jim Terry

Bricket Wood - Comma (5) all nectaring on Ivy. Red Admirals (9) - split between Ivy & Michaelmas Daisies, Speckled Woods (6), Silver Y (2) & Small/GV Whites (2). The new cattle are continuing to attack the Alder Buckthorn. The site managers are aware & considering their options. Butterfly World - Small Tortoiseshell (4) nectaring on Verbena Bonariensis, Red Admirals (5) all on Buddleia, Common Blues (2) & a Small White. I made a late afternoon dash to Nomansland Common & was rewarded with sightings of 7 Small Coppers, all basking on Heather - Malcolm Hull

Sightings for today (Saturday 29th September 2012) - 1 Speckled Wood, worn & faded, near Oakwood entrance, Trent Park, 11:00 hrs; 1 Red Admiral, near Oakwood entrance, Trent Park, 11:06 hrs; 11 Small Copper, at Trent Park (8 at 'New Fields', 11:10 - 11:45 hrs, 3 set-aside field N of Williams Wood, 13:30 - 13:33 hrs); 1 Comma, nectaring on Ragwort, near Triangular Wood, Trent Park, 11:11 hrs; 1 female Small White, near Sports Field, Trent Park, 11:50 hrs; 1 Red Admiral, at Park Farm, Enfield, 12:56 hrs; 2 Silver Y (1 Vicarage Farm and 1 South Lodge Farm); 1 Red Admiral, along Merryhills Brook/Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 14:10 hrs; 6 Comma, together, nectaring on Michaelmas daisies, at South Lodge Farm, Enfield, 14:20 hrs; 8 Red Admiral, nectaring on Michaelmas daisies, at South Lodge Farm, 14:20 hrs; 1 Peacock, nectaring on Michaelmas daisies, at South Lodge Farm, 14:20 hrs - Robert Callf

Friday 28th September 2012

A few sightings for Oakwood Park, N14, Friday 28th September 2012 - 2 Red Admiral, at 11:00 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood, 11:22 hrs and 1 Comma, at 11:53 hrs - Robert Callf

Not very promising morning cold 13 degrees and windy. However at Rickneys I saw 7 species 1 meadow brown, small copper, green-veined white, brown argus, comma, peacock and two red admirals. Mainly sheltering from the wind at the edge of the wood. Went to Amwell birdwatching but on path down on the Ivy flowers there were 12 red Admiral and 9 Commas - Steve Kiln

Thursday 27th September 2012

A good few sightings today (Thursday 27th September 2012) - 1 Small Copper, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 10:32 hrs; 1 Small White, at Parkside Farm, Enfield, 10:52 hrs; 1 Small Copper, at Park Farm, Enfield, 11:36 hrs; 11 Red Admiral (3 Trent Park, 8 South Lodge Farm); 1 Comma, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 13:13 hrs; 10 Comma, at South Lodge Farm (TQ2996) nectaring on Michaelmas daisies, including seven together, 13:40 hrs; 1 Peacock, nectaring on Michaelmas daisies, at South Lodge Farm, 13:40 hrs; 1 Small White, at South Lodge Farm, 13:40 hrs; 1 Comma, along Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm, 13:52 hrs. - Robert Callf & Robin White.

Tuesday 25th September 2012

Some sightings to report today (Tuesday 25th September 2012) - 1 Small Tortoiseshell, at Parkside Farm, Enfield - on S bank of Res, 10:06 hrs; 1 Comma, in maize crop, Parkside Farm, 10:15 hrs; 1 Comma, at Park Farm, Enfield, 10:38 hrs; 1 Comma, nectaring on Michaelmas daisies, edge of Icehouse Wood, Trent Park, 11:48 hrs; 2 Speckled Wood, at Trent Park (1 edge of Icehouse Wood, 11:51 hrs, 1 edge of Williams Wood, 12:20 hrs). Also at least eight Red Admirals seen today - Robert Callf & Robin White

Monday 24th September 2012

Some sightings for you from Saturday: Enfield - Hillyfields - North Enfield Cricket Club, 2 - purple hairstreak high on the old oak tree, 4 red admiral - nectaring on ivy, 3 comma, 2 speckled wood, 4 large white, 9 small white - Phil Macmurdie

Saturday 22nd September 2012

A few sightings for today (Saturday 22nd September 2012) - 3 Speckled Wood, at Trent Park (2 near Triangular Wood, 11:33 and 11:44 hrs, 1 near Church Wood, 12:08 hrs); 7 Small Copper, at Trent Park (3 'New Fields', 11:40 - 12:01 hrs, 3 together, nectaring on Ragwort, 'Old Golf Course', 12:32 hrs, 1 set-aside field N of Williams Wood, 13:35 hrs); 1 Large White, at Park Farm, Enfield, 13:08 hrs; 1 male Common Blue, at Parkside Farm, Enfield, 13:25 hrs; 3 Comma (2 at Trent Park, 11:42 and 12:08 hrs, 1 at Parkside Farm, 13:25 hrs); 1 Red Admiral, at Sidhil's Field, Vicarage Farm, 14:12 hrs; 1 Peacock, settled on corrugated metal at Firing Range, Vicarage Farm, 14:17 hrs. - Robert Callf

Bricket Wood - Comma (8), all nectaring on Ivy, Red Admirals (24) some nectaring on Ivy, but most just basking - no sign that any yet thinking of a return migration, Speckled Wood (11), Small White, Green-veined White. Butterfly World - Red Admiral (12), Comma (2), Small Tortoiseshell (3), - all nectaring on buddleia plus Common Blue (4), Small Copper, Small White (17). The Small Copper was exploring for egg laying sites with her abdomen on a leaf of Common Dock. Searched for an egg after she left but found nothing - probably a good decision as the leaf was dead. Also saw a Large White on the way home, so over 80 butterflies & 9 species, not bad for a cool late September day - Malcolm Hull

Went to see football today and as soon as got off bus 2 x red admirals landed on ivy and a small white was seen also at Long lane, Stanwell - David Gower

Sightings at Coldharbour Lane allotments, Harpenden yesterday (22 September): 3 Commas, 1 Red Admiral, 1 Speckled Wood and at least 40 Small Whites - Alan Jackson

Ware, walking home from work at 5.30 two Red Admirals were basking high up on the pebble dash of a house in the late afternoon sunshine - Liz Goodyear

Friday 21st September 2012

A couple of sightings of Red Admiral today (Friday 21st September 2012) - 1 edge of Icehouse

Wood, 11:30 hrs and another or the same near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 12:01 hrs - Robert Callf

Up to 10 Red Admirals this week on Ivy flowers in our Kimpton Garden, also one Hornet - Robin Smith

Wednesday 19th September 2012

Wheathampstead, 18th & 19th September at 8.30am there were 9 Red Admirals basking in the sunshine - Linda Brooks

4 Small Whites at Sir Hugh Myddleton School, St Johns St EC1 - Malcolm Hull

Sightings for today (Wednesday 19th September 2012) - 1 Small Copper, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 09:55 hrs; 1 Red Admiral, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 10:10 hrs; 3 Comma, together, at Parkside Farm, Enfield, on S bank of Res, 10:22 hrs; 1 Red Admiral, at Parkside Farm, on S bank of Res, 10:22 hrs; 1 Comma, at Park Farm, Enfield, 10:42 hrs; 2 Speckled Wood, together, at Flash Lane, EN2, 12:05 hrs and 1 near Wildwoods Lake, Enfield - Robert Callf

Pinner, Middlesex; and Sarratt, Herts. After reporting one Red Admiral in my Pinner garden yesterday, I was pleased to see no less than five here this morning, all at once, all nectaring on the flowers of an Ivy growing up a conifer. One hour later, in a pub car park in Sarratt, I saw no less than ten fresh Red Admirals, all at once, (plus one Comma), and again all nectaring on a single Ivy bush in the hedge. Perhaps all these Red Admirals are 'filling up' before setting off for the Mediterranean - Graham Elcombe.

Tuesday 18th September 2012

In my St Albans garden today had 5 Red Admirals, 3 Comma, 1 small Tortoiseshell, 1 Small White and one Large White - Andrew Steele

A quick wander around my local patch Stanwell Moor on a much cooler and cloudier day (Sunday 16th). As with everywhere else it seems, Red Admirals dominated. There is a lot of ivy around here, and it is now in flower - most large patches had at least one Red Admiral, and some had several more. Altogether, I counted fifteen, but had the sun been brightly shining, I suspect there would have been rather higher numbers. I also saw six Commas, a Speckled Wood, a Meadow Brown, numerous Whites of all three common types and a solitary Common Blue. Photos:

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=26449&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=26447&mode=view>

- Dave Miller

Six species seen today in my garden in Pinner, Middlesex: Red Admiral, Comma, Speckled Wood, Holly Blue, Large White and Small White - Graham Elcombe

Some sightings for today (Tuesday 18th September 2012) - 2 Comma, at Vicarage Farm (1 Sidhil's Field, 10:30 and 1 along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, 13:34 hrs); 1 Red Admiral, at Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm, 11:00 hrs; 2 Small Copper, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 11:15 hrs; 1 male Comon Blue, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 11:15 hrs; 1 Comma, at Ferny Hill, Enfield, 12:28 hrs; 1 Red Admiral, at Park Farm, 12:34 hrs; 3 Comma, at Parkside Farm, Enfield (2 together, S bank on Res, 13:15 and 1 edge of maize crop, 13:25 hrs); 1 Red Admiral, near Hadley Road, at Vicarage Farm, 13:31 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood, at Enfield Road, EN2, 14:11 hrs. - Robert Callf

Today we walked out from Wheathampstead towards Waterend and were amazed at the number of butterflies we saw. Loads of red admiral - 6 in view at once, comma -2 or 3 together, also large and small whites. Other walkers also commented on the sightings - Ann Doubleday

Monday 17th September 2012

1 x Red Admiral landed on wall during my tea break at Northwood hq, Sandy Lane today - David Gower

My Escallonia Bifida is outperforming everything else in attracting late butterflies to my Hemel Hempstead garden. Today I counted **twenty two Red Admirals**. Two Small Tortoiseshells and two Commas on it all at the same time. One Large and several Small Whites completed the

gathering which was by far the best this year - Malcolm Newland

Some sightings for today (Monday 17th September 2012) - 2 Small Copper (1 along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 09:33 hrs, 1 set-aside field N of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 09:50 hrs); 9 Comma (4 together, edge of maize crop, at Parkside Farm, 10:22 hrs, 1 Park Farm, 10:45 hrs, 3 together, nectaring on Burdock, edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park, 11:35 hrs, 1 by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 11:55 hrs); 1 Red Admiral, at Parkside Farm, at 10:22 hrs; also Robin saw 1 Comma, 1 Red Admiral and 1 Small Copper, at South Lodge Farm, Enfield - Robert Callf & Robin White. P.S., Nice to see a good few Comma today.

Today on my walk around Tyttenhanger Gravel Pits I saw 8 Red Admirals, 5 Small White, 2 Speckled Wood and 1 Comma - Terry Wood

Saturday 15th September 2012

Just a few sightings on Saturday 15th. 2 x small white in Bushey garden (verbena is popular), 2 x small white outside front of house. In Sopwell lane, St Albans 1 x small white & 1 x red admiral - David Gower

Blackthorn Wood - visited with Paul Why and Kevin Hornby who both had possible Brown Hairstreak sightings at this site in the last 3 weeks. Searched the Ash round the wood edge and circular walk before following the Blackthorn hedges along Black Fan Rd and Holwell Hyde Lane. Several Vapourer moths seen but no hairstreaks. Other species included Holly Blue, Small Copper, (both nectaring on Ragwort), Comma (nectaring on ivy blossom), Small Heath and Red Admiral. This afternoon at Bricket Wood Common the main excitement was 8 Longhorn cattle, introduced as the operative end of the new conservation grazing program. Butterflies included 1 Red Admiral, 2 male Brimstones, 4 Comma, 3 of which were perched on mud and one clearly seen to be taking moisture or salts by rubbing its yellow proboscis from side to side on the ground. Also 1 Purple Hairstreak and 10 Speckled Woods. News from Mandy Floyd - over 40 Red Admirals seen on the transect at Butterfly World last Sunday - Malcolm Hull

A few sightings for today (Saturday 15th September 2012) - 1 Comma, at Park Farm, Enfield, at 10:00 hrs; 1 Small Copper, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 10:26 hrs; 1 Comma, nectaring on Michaelmas Daisies, edge of Icehouse Wood, Trent Park, 10:46 hrs; 1 Comma, at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, at 11:35 hrs. Also saw Red Admirals and several Speckled Woods today - Robert Callf

Thursday 13th September 2012

Sightings for today (Thursday 13th September 2012) - 5, 3 males, 2 females, Common Blue, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 11:00 - 11:07 hrs; 2 Small Copper, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 11:03 - 11:07 hrs; 1 Comma, settled on Bramble, by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 13:24 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, at South Lodge Farm, Enfield (TQ2996), 13:57 hrs; also Robin White counted 11 Red Admirals on the walk today - Robert Callf & Robin White

Wednesday 12th September 2012

(Wednesday 12th September 2012) - 2 Small Copper, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 08:35 hrs; 1 Comma, at Parkside Farm, Enfield, 09:05 hrs and several Speckled Wood in Trent Park, including one by the edge of Icehouse Wood, 10:33 hrs - Robert Callf

Oughtonhead this morning just the two species today 5 Red Admirals and 4 x Speckled wood - Kevin Taylor

Tuesday 11th September 2012

On my regular Tuesday dog walk across Harpenden Common this morning I saw exactly one butterfly (at 9.30am): a female Small Copper, in the nettles that cover the dry bed of the third (overspill) pond. It was my first Small Copper of the year. That such sad and lonely sightings are worth recording shows just what an abysmal year it's been! Exactly one week earlier I had a Small Tortoiseshell in my Harpenden garden. I deemed this unworthy of reporting, but it could yet be the garden highlight of the autumn! For the record, I did have a fine male Brimstone in the garden on 19 August - Alan Jackson

1 x red admiral outside Oxhey Wood this morning on way to work - David Gower

A few sightings for today (Tuesday 11th September 2012) - 2 female Meadow Brown, at Vicarage

Farm, Enfield (1 Hog Hill, 09:10 hrs, 1 along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, 09:25 hrs); 1 Comma, nectaring on thistle at Whitewebbs Park, 12:34 hrs; also saw 1 Red Admiral at Vicarage Farm - Robert Callf

Monday 10th September 2012

A few sightings today (Monday 10th September 2012) - 1 female Meadow Brown, along 'road' S of Barracks, at Vicarage Farm, 10:15 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 10:40 hrs; 1 male Common Blue, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 10:50 hrs; 1 Comma, at Parkside Farm, Enfield, 11:25 hrs. Also saw Red Admiral and Speckled Wood today - Robert Callf

Sunday 9th September 2012

Some sightings for today (Sunday 9th September 2012) - 2 Small Copper, together, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Williams Wood, at Vicarage Farm, 09:28 hrs; 2 Small Copper, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 09:30 hrs; 1 male Common Blue, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 09:32 hrs; 2 Small Copper, together, at Park Farm, Enfield, 10:30 hrs; 1 Small Heath, 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 11:15 hrs. Also several Red Admirals were seen flying South - especially whilst I was sat down for a few minutes on the 'Old Golf Course'. - Robert Callf

At Fishers Field Nature Reserve 2 x red admiral, 2 x speckled wood. At Water lane, Watford 4 x small white, 2 x red admiral, 2 x comma, 2 x speckled wood & 1 x silver y. In Bushey garden were 3 x small white, 1 x comma, 1 x small tortoiseshell & 1 x silver y - David Gower

On the buddleia bush at Tyttenhangar gravel pits yesterday, 3 Red Admirals, 6 Silver-Y moths.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/robinp2009/7969810816/>

Robin

Saturday 8th September 2012

Stanwell Moor, this afternoon (8th) my usual walk produced sightings of eight or nine Speckled Woods, a handful of Meadow Browns, about a dozen Small Heaths, fifteen Common Blues, a Holly Blue, a Comma, a Small Tortoiseshell, two Red Admirals and good numbers of Whites of all three types. Vast areas of the open areas I walk through have now been coarsely mown (though islands of wildness do remain), so I hope this haircut has been late enough not to affect anything too much. It is now labelled as a Biodiversity Site rather than a Conservation Area - whether this is better or worse, I know not. - Dave Miller

Bushey garden this morning 4 x small white, 1 x comma, 1 x red admiral. Near to Northolt Park station 6 x small white, 1 x large white - David Gower

On the 'buddleia' walk next to the Grand Union canal at Croxley, Herts. we saw upwards of 30 Red Admirals today; 2 Commas and 1 Peacock. On Croxley Moor 7 Small Heath and 4 Meadow Browns were seen and 2 Small Whites identified. Several Silver-Y moths were also seen on the buddleia - John Hollingdale

We saw 3 Small Tortoiseshells on Buddleia in a garden centre in Kings Langley (turning out to be a good Summer for them I think!). In two Hayes gardens we saw 6 Large Whites, 3 Speckled Wood, 1 Red Admiral and 1 Comma.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/69131641@N04/7954673756/in/photostream>

Helen George

Friday 7th September 2012

Norton Green today noted the following: 1 (or 2) Brimstone, 2 Brown Argus (first of the year), 2 Meadow Browns, 2 Large Whites, 3 Commas, 1 Small White, 1 Holly Blue and 20+ Speckled Woods. Peter Clarke and Bob Clift

I was working at Tewin Orchard on Wednesday 5th and saw 2 red admiral, small copper, speckled wood and a comma - Paul Thrush

Saw one Red Admiral flying around at 08:20 hrs., in Oakwood Park, N14 this morning (Friday 7th September 2012). - Robert Callf

Old rivers nursery site, 2-3 pm, dire, 29 Meadow brown, 1 Speckled wood, 3 Red admiral, 7 Large

white, 3 Common blue, Brown argus and Small copper seem to have disappeared from this site, Common blue are restricted to one area of the top field, is it just a poor year ?. Laurence Drummond

Thursday 6th September 2012

A few sightings today (Thursday 6th September 2012) - 1 female Meadow Brown, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 09:45 hrs; 1 Small Copper, nectaring on thistles, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Williams Wood, at Vicarage Farm, 09:52 hrs. Also saw a few Red Admirals flying South and one flying around Gordon Hill Station at about 13:15 hrs. - Robert Callf

2 x meadow browns in Merryhill Fields, Bushey early evening - David Gower

There are now 5 Red Admirals in the back garden on the Peking buddlieas provided by Clive Farrell at a talk to the Selbourne Society a few years ago. Haven't seen a Peacock or Comma in the garden this year though a Small Tortoiseshell turned up last week; last seen 6 years ago - John Hollingdale

Today on our Redbourn garden geraniums a male Brimstone. Also 3 Peacocks on neighbours buddliea and a Red Admiral on apples - Ernest Leahy

Wednesday 5th September 2012

Some sightings for today (Wednesday 5th September 2012) - 1 female Common Blue, settled on Ragwort, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Williams Wood, at Vicarage Farm, 09:25 hrs; 1 Comma, at Parkside Farm, Enfield, 09:45 hrs; 1 Comma, at Park Farm, 10:10hrs; 2 Red Admiral, at Park Farm, Enfield, 10:10 and 10:40 hrs; 2 Comma, together, nectaring on Burdock, edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park, 11:20 hrs; 1 Red Admiral, nectaring on Burdock, edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park 11:20 hrs; 2 female Meadow Brown, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 11:20 hrs; 3 Small Heath, together, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 12:30 hrs; 1 Small Copper, Sect 3, Trent Park, 12:43 hrs; 1 Purple Hairstreak, near Triangular Wood, Trent Park, 12:48 hrs. In addition a small number of Red Admirals were noted flying South. Also there was a male Common Blue at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park at 11:56 hrs (Wednesday 5th September 2012). I think I may have given you the wrong time for the Small Heath - it was 11:30 hrs. - Robert Callf

Tuesday 4th September 2012

What a lovely day. Unfortunately, all except the last little bit was spent in the office. That last little bit, though, I used to walk my local patch Stanwell Moor in the evening sunshine. Well worth it - the tally was not bad at all: Red Admiral - 2 Comma - 6 Peacock - 1 Small Tortoiseshell - 1 Speckled Wood - 4 Meadow Brown - 7 Small Heath - 12 Green-veined White - 5 Small White - 3 Common Blue - 15 The Common Blues were in the process of roosting (again!) and several females were noted, including a quite brown example. Some of the Small Heaths were attempting to settle in the same spots, but they were made very unwelcome - a completely different reception than that given to other Blues (which often have several species often roosting communally). The final butterfly of the evening was a lovely Small Tortoiseshell, basking on a fence.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=26048&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=26040&mode=view>

Dave Miller

In St Albans garden today 3 Red admirals, 1Peacock, 1 Brimstone, 1 Holly Blue, 1 Large White and 1 Silver Y moth - Andrew Steele

16.30 our warehouse backs onto the Kings Mead at Hertford. We have a huge buddlia bush. at the moment have counted 14 on the plant and four with open wings on our wooden palletts - Phil Turner

Monday 3rd September 2012

Sightings for today (Monday 3rd September 2012) - 3 Red Admiral, at Vicarage Farm, Enfield (1 flew S, 09:56 hrs, 1 flew S, 10:50 hrs, 1 near Hadley Road, 10:55 hrs); 1 Comma, at Barracks, Vicarage Farm, 10:00 hrs; 1 female Brown Argus, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 10:45 hrs - my first record of the year; 2 male Common Blue, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 10:45 hrs; 1 Small Copper, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 10:48 hrs; 1 Comma, at Parkside Farm, Enfield, 11:03 hrs; 1 Silver Y, on Res banking, at Parkside Farm; 2

Speckled Wood, at Park Farm, Enfield, 11:45 hrs; 1 Red Admiral, flew W, at Bay Farm, Enfield, 11:50 hrs; 1 Red Admiral, at Rectory Farm, Enfield, 12:30 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood, at Rectory Farm; 1 Red Admiral, at Strayfield Road, Clay Hill, Enfield, 13:05 hrs. - Robert Callf

Brown Argus seen in Upper Green garden, Tewin. First one ever seen at this location - Jim Farr

3 x silver y moths in Bushey garden tonight - David Gower

I saw my first Hummingbird Hawk Moth (for this year) at Tyttenhanger this afternoon. It was in the Buddleia bush by the Bird Hide together with 5 Red Admirals and 1 Small Tortoiseshell. On my walk I also saw 2 Small Whites and 1 Speckled Wood - Terry Wood

OAKHILL WOODS LNR East Barnet 3/9/12----first T shell of the year---4x Red admiral---2x Speckled wood---6x Small white---1x female Gatekeeper. AMWELL NATURE RESERVE---Stanstead abbotts-----5x Tshell-----6x Red admiral----10x Small white---2x Large white 1x Peacock---1x Comma. - Kit Jones

Norton Green, I spotted 10+ Speckled Woods, 10+ Meadow Browns, 2 Small Heaths and 3 Small Whites but surprisingly still no Common Blues yet this year on this site - Peter Clarke

Sunday 2nd September 2012

Went to pick blackberries in Water Lane, Watford this morning and came across 2 x red admirals and 1 x silver y. In Bushey front garden 1 x small tortoiseshell & 1 x common carpet in back - David Gower

Saw the following today (Sunday 2nd September 2012) - 1 Small Tortoiseshell, settled on grass field near Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 10:30 hrs; 1 male Meadow Brown, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Williams Wood at Vicarage Farm, 10:48 hrs; 1 male Common Blue, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 10:50 hrs; 1 male Common Blue, on Res banking, at Parkside Farm, Enfield, 11:10 hrs; 1 Red Admiral, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 12:25 hrs; 1 Meadow Brown, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 12:30 hrs; 1 Red Admiral, nectaring on Buddleia, by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 12:55 hrs. - Robert Callf

Saturday 1st September 2012

Saw Red Admiral & Comma nectaring on Buddleia in a garden along River View, Enfield Town (Saturday 1st September 2012) afternoon at 15:10 hrs. - Robert Callf

Panshanger Park today, along the new permissive path, from Thieves Lane to the fishing lake, 12 Red admirals, 3 Small tortoiseshell, 1 Comma - Laurence Drummond

2 x Purple Hairstreak at Bricket Wood Common this evening - David Gower

Just a few sightings to report - (Friday 31st August 2012) - 1 Silver Y, at Barracks, Vicarage Farm, Enfield and 1 Small Heath, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, 17:15 hrs. (Saturday 1st September 2012) - 1 female Gatekeeper, along Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm, 11:50 hrs - not sure that I have seen this species in September before, usually just until the end of August. - Robert Callf

August 2012

Friday 31st August 2012

A trip earlier this afternoon to Hexton Chalk Pit yielded a Speckled Wood (by the entrance), 20+ Meadow Browns, 50+ Common Blues, 2 Brimstones, 30+ Chalkhill Blues (all very faded now) and 5+ Brown Argus in about half an hour. Later went along the Icknield Way towards Telegraph Hill and spotted a Small White, 3 Brimstones, a Comma, 20+ Meadow Browns, 20+ Common Blues, 2 Gatekeepers, 2 Chalkhill Blues, a Brown Argus and a Large White. All the 'blues' seen were at Telegraph Hill. Peter Clarke

Best showing of Small Tortoiseshells on buddleia for some years, in Abbots Langley. 8 on bush with 7 Red Admirals, looks like the Peacocks have quickly gone into hibernation around here. A count of 15 Small Whites was made on Oualtine fields in afternoon. - Clive Burrows

Thursday 30th August 2012

Just to confirm saw a female Common Blue at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park yesterday (Wednesday 29th August 2012) - the first that I have seen in Trent Park this year and only the second one locally (after a male at Parkside Farm during the spring), also 1 Red Admiral at Barracks, Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 11:12 hrs. Today (Thursday 30th August 2012) - 1 Red Admiral, at Park Farm, Enfield, 12:00 hrs. - Robert Callf

Butterfly World 28th August Buddleias showing good numbers of Red Admirals, Peacocks and particularly pleasing several Small Tortoiseshells which have been non-existent where I live. Also saw a fresh Painted Lady. Yesterday in my Hemel Hempstead garden I had my first Hummingbird Hawk Moth of the year which spent several minutes nectaring on Buddleias but generally very disappointing. - Malcolm Newland

There was a red admiral in the Grebe House car park on Tuesday (28/8) and there were 2 red admirals at Tewin Orchard yesterday (29/8). - Paul Thrush

Wednesday 29th August 2012

News from Robert Callf, a female Common Blue was seen just after 1 today at Trent Park near the Old Golf Course. This is the first Common Blue he has seen at Trent Park this year and only the second this year, with one seen in the spring when accompanied by Robin White

Tuesday 28th August 2012

At Nomansland Common had 8 Small Heath, 12 Meadow Brown, 2 Large White, 1 Small Cooper, 1 Silver Y Moth and 1 Common Carpet Moth - Andrew Steele

On my walk yesterday at Tyttenhanger Gravel Pits I saw 2 Speckled Wood, 3 Green-veined White, 5 Small White, and 8 Red Admirals (7 of which were on a single Buddleia bush) - Terry Wood

6x Speckled Wood, 3x Meadow Brown, 2x White, 1x Red Admiral, 1x Small Tortoiseshell (super fresh and dark), Atleast 1 Cinnabar Caterpillar 1x Migrant Hawker Dragonfly 10+ Common Darters Barnhill is a mess. Some meadows already cut. Many paths more overgrown than I ever remember. Local dog walkers just as intimidating as ever too... I saw no skippers at all this year. That's a first! Guess I simply missed them... - Mike Rubin

Monday 27th August 2012

Popped into Oxhey Wood (south) and counted 5 x speckled wood and 1 x small white today - David Gower

Sunday 26th August 2012

A trip to Aldbury Nowers we saw 1 Brimstone, 3 Large Whites, 1 Small White, 1 Peacock, 1 Gatekeeper, 1 worn out Brown Argus, 1 interesting Speckled Wood with green colouring, and an abundance of male and female Meadow Browns.

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

- Helen George

1 x holly blue in Bushey Grove Road, 2 x meadow brown at Finch Lane, Bushey. At Water Lane, Watford were 4 x small white, 2 x yellow shell moth & 9 x small white wave moths in brambles. At Fishers Field reserve 1 x small white, 2 x speckled wood, 1 x gatekeeper, 1 x small copper and 1 x straw dot moth - David Gower

Saturday 25th August 2012

A few sightings for today (Saturday 25th August 2012) - 1 Red Admiral, along track, at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 10:11 hrs; 1 Small Heath, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 10:19 hrs; 3 Gatekeeper, near Hadley Road, at Vicarage Farm, 10:36 - 10:40 hrs - looking rather faded now; 1 Purple Hairstreak, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 12:40 hrs; 7 Speckled Wood, Shaws Wood and along bridle-path near Shaws Wood, Trent Park, 12:42 - 12:48 hrs. - Robert Callf

Last night 1 x small dusty wave moth inside our bushey home, 2 x red admirals and 1 x small tortoiseshell in garden today - David Gower

A minimum of 12 Red Admirals on Buddleias in a Garston (Watford) garden in 1-km square TL 11 00. - Colin Everett

Friday 24th August 2012

I did the transect this morning, good numbers of meadow brown still (138 in total), a few gatekeepers, small heath, brown argus and small copper. Off the transect route there was a male chalkhill blue in the furthest northern enclosure and 2 red admiral, peacock and small tortoiseshell nectaring on a small buddleia found on the reserve. On a separate note I visited my family in south Lincolnshire last weekend and was astonished at the number of peacocks I saw up there, within a 10 mile radius of my parents home throughout the weekend I must have seen close to a hundred individuals, from groups of 7-8 on buddleia in a garden centre car park to many nectaring on thistles in a forestry commission woodland and along a disused railway track. I hoped it would be the same down south but doesn't seem to be! - Paul Thrush

3 x red admiral and 1 small tortoiseshell on buddleia in Bushey garden today

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

- David Gower

Thursday 23rd August 2012

A few reports for today (Thursday 23rd August 2012) - 1 Comma, edge of Rough Lot, Trent Park, 10:30 hrs; 1 Red Admiral, nectaring on Burdock, edge of Rough Lot, Trent Park, 10:30 hrs; 3 Small Heath, 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 10:35 - 10:37 hrs; 1 Small Skipper, 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 10:41 hrs - well-worn - quite late? - Robert Callf

At 2pm after a fairly sunny morning, a rather tatty Purple Emperor flew across the Northaw assembly area but didn't stop, it then went cloudy - Andrew Middleton

2 x red admirals in Bushey garden today David Gower

Some catching up to do... All these reports are from Stanwell Moor or nearby.

15th August - While I was at work today, my largest son Toby walked along the path next to the River Colne between Stanwell Moor and Colnbrook. He reported spotting several Small Tortoiseshells, Common Blues, and Small Heaths, and then really annoyed me by showing me the video of the Painted Lady he'd seen. I have yet to encounter one this year...

16th August - This afternoon, I insisted that Toby take me to the place where he had seen the Painted Lady. Naturally enough, it was no longer there, despite there being plenty of wild unkempt buddleia and a good deal of thistles of many types to keep its interest. Oh well... We counted the Common Blues over a mile of path and reached over 25, all but one being males. This is the first week of the second brood, and there are no doubt more to come. We also saw the first of the Brown Argus second showing, a total of five widely spaced out, all males and very active. Peacocks were also now out in good numbers - we must have seen a dozen altogether, mostly nectaring alongside three Small Tortoiseshells and a couple of Red Admirals and Commas. One of the latter was precisely where we had seen it two days ago. Meadow Browns, Gatekeepers and Small Heaths provided the brown contingent, and for the whites, we encountered a male Green-veined foisting his attentions on a female (I think from the pose these were unwelcome, but I'm not sure), plus a few Small ones.

21st August - For once, the sun actually emerged at the same time as I did from work, so I sped off to look around my local patch. It was rather late in the day, so most butterflies were settled down or looking to do so, but I saw Common Blues of both sexes, Meadow Browns, a couple of Gatekeepers and Small Heaths, a Brown Argus and some Small Whites. The Common Blues were seen in several spots, including places I but rarely see them, and the overall number was good too. I chanced a glance up at the oak trees next to the J14 M25 motorway roundabout, and was pleased to see a couple of Purple Hairstreaks dancing around the top. Then, as so often seems to happen, I disturbed another Purple Hairstreak low down on a shrub, and watched it gently meander its way up to join the others. On my way home along the wooded path along the River Colne, I was buzzed by two separate Red Admirals for daring to walk through their patches - one of them briefly settled on me to make the point.

23rd August - Once again, all I had time to do this evening was to see how the Common Blues were doing locally. They had already settled down when I arrived, but had chosen an area right along my chosen route. I consequently found myself amidst a dozen or so roosting Blue butterflies. In amongst them and not so settled, was a Brown Argus. This individual was clearly intent on bedding down with his relatives, but only succeeded in disturbing them. It was interesting to note that he and the female Common Blues generally kept their wings open longer in the fading

light than the male Blues. Meadow Browns were still flying, the odd Gatekeeper and Small Heath, and one Holly Blue. The riverside path had Red Admirals of course, and two Commas and a Speckled Wood. There was one three-way clash between species, a splendid soaring chase around the tops of the ashes and sallows before all retired to their respective vantage points. This Comma was a worn hutchinsoni, but the other one I saw was a fresh summer form, much darker, especially underneath. Finally, there were a few Whites, but in contrast to my last visit, the ones I approached were all Green-veined. Some photos:

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=25168&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=25554&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=25548&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=25550&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=25553&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=25280&mode=view>

- Dave Miller

Wednesday 22nd August 2012

Saw a female Small Copper near Dew Pond, Trent Park today (Wednesday 22nd August 2012) at 12:30 hrs. - Robert Callf

Tuesday 21st August 2012

Today, a Small tortoiseshell in my High Wych garden, another 2 Small tortoiseshell, on Buddleia in The Elms Hertford 15.45. - Laurence Drummond

At Hatfield Aerodrome today had 1 Silver-washed Fritillary, 2 Small Skippers, 1 Gv White, 1 Small White, 15 Meadow Browns, 7 Gatekeepers, 8 Peacocks, 2 Small Tortoiseshell, 4 Red Admirals, 1 Shaded Broad-bar Moth and 2 Udea lutealis moths - Andrew Steele

Jersey Tiger this morning in my Ware garden! - Liz Goodyear

Following a tip off from Dick Middleton who saw 5 Silver-washed Frits on 26/7 at Bishop's Wood. We made our first ever visit to this site on Saturday 28/7 and by following his instructions we saw 3 silver-washed Frits. A single male and then two together. We arrived at approx. 2.15 p.m. and the sun was intermittent but it was great to see these lovely butterflies at this site - Sue & Steve Place

Today had a morning walk around my local Oughtonhead, and saw the following: Still quite a few Gatekeepers about 3 or 4 Red Admirals, 4x GV White, 4x Peacock, 2x Small Copper, and 1x Speckled Wood, Comma, Meadow Brown, Brimstone, Holly Blue, Essex Skipper - Kevin Taylor

One Peacock at Parkside Farm, Enfield today (Tuesday 21st August 2012) at 12:00 hrs. - Robert Callf P.S, Two Holly Blue together at Hyde Park yesterday (Monday 20th August 2012) at 15:49 hrs., also several Speckled Woods here.

Monday 20th August 2012

1 x common swift moth came into our back room last night in Bushey - David Gower

A first, I walked my Wider Countryside Survey in 100% sunshine today! I counted 17 butterflies of 5 species (mostly Meadow Brown), only to complete the walk and find a lovely buddleia in High Cross churchyard and counted 14 butterflies in a matter of seconds and 6 species! - Liz Goodyear

Today at Tyttenhanger Gps had 20 Peacocks with 15 on the Buddleia by the Hide which also contained 10 Commas, 12 Red Admirals (plus 5 more around the site) and 2 Small Tortoiseshell. Elsewhere around the site there was 1 Small Copper, 15 Meadow Browns, 4 Gatekeepers, 1 Gv White, 1 Small White and 7 Large Whites - Andrew Steele

2 Small Tortoiseshells around Buddleias in Vixen Drive Hertford - Laurence Drummond

Keep a watch for migrant moths as well as Jersey Tigers! - new via Colin Plant

Sunday 19th August 2012

Today's Highlights - Blackthorn Wood - At 9.40 this morning Kevin Hornby & I were on the circular walk in the SE corner of Blackthorn Wood, close to the pond, looking for Brown Hairstreak. We saw

a medium size brown butterfly fly out of an ash tree and along the ride for approx 30 feet. It was approx 20 ft off the ground and flew away over the top of a clump of birch. In appearance it was golden/chocolatey brown. The flight was not strong but fairly steady, with wings flapping up and down in typical butterfly fashion. Earlier in the morning we had recorded a dozen Purple Hairstreaks, a Vapourer Moth, Gatekeepers Small Copper and Speckled Wood and are pretty confident it was none of these species. The sighting was on the path within the wood, close to a similar sighting yesterday and another last weekend. But this year we have not seen the species at rest to get a positive ID, although Kevin did achieve this at the site two years ago. **WE NEED YOUR HELP** to try and confirm the butterfly at this site, if possible with a photo. Apart from the Circular path other sites worth looking at are around the perimeter of both Blackthorn & the adjoining Rolls Wood - along the field edge along green lane just north of Blackthorn Wood and along Black Fan Road (watch the traffic). Butterfly World - In the meadows - 2 Small Blues, 13 Common Blues, Dozens of 6 spot Burnett moths, plus Small & Essex Skippers. In the gardens (mostly on the buddleia) 6 Peacocks, 5 Small Tortoiseshells, 4 Red Admirals - Malcolm Hull

Northaw Purple Emperor Assembly area - we arrived at Northaw at 1.30 just after a short deluge. Within seconds of looking what appeared to be a very frail old man turned up, who did a few twirls and flew off. Returned again only to be accompanied by a very smart young man but the frail old man was in hot pursuit and not vice versa! They did a few big twirls and then the larger Emperor took over. Only for a short while later for the smaller Emperor to return. When viewed through the binoculars he wasn't frail just very small and still appeared to be perfectly formed! The smaller male made less appearances but we were quite surprised to see two active Emperors at the Northaw territory on the 19th August when our first sighting there had been on the 4th July! These certainly hadn't got a battering in the recent winds although I believe our side of the country didn't get it quite so bad? Liz Goodyear, Andrew Middleton and Laurence Drummond

Today at Symondshyde Wood had 1 Silver-washed Fritillary in August though looked very eaten also Comma x 1, Red Admiral x 1 and Peacock x 1. Also some late news from Friday with a Holly Blue in my garden plus 2 Large White (pm) and a Holly Blue along Sandridge Road, St. Albans (am) - Andrew Steele

This morning (19 Aug) walking between Waterend and Wheathampstead there is a field mid way that had the following butterflies: One rather tatty white letter hairstreak, 3 small coppers - all very fresh. A good number of meadow browns, One large white and on one small buddleia bush six peacocks - Dr Paul Unwin

4 peacocks and 2 Gatekeepers on buddleia in weedy field near Batford - Robin Pearson

Great excitement, after 3 years I have today 19th August 2012 recorded a Painted Lady in my Hitchin garden at 11.10 am. Yesterday I saw my first Peacock in the garden and during my transect at TL1724 Preston there were 6 Peacock butterflies on a buddleia bush off Chequers Lane. I am now somewhat gobsmacked !! Val Fullforth

Saturday 18th August 2012

Visited the Norton Green and Watery Grove site this morning 0945-1115 am. Recorded 40+ Gatekeepers, 20+ Meadow Browns, 2 G=V Whites, a Small White, a Small Skipper, a Large Skipper, a Red Admiral, a Small Copper (my first one of the year here), 3+ Small Heaths (in the field south-east of Watery Grove - also first of the year) and a Purple Hairstreak near the top of an oak tree towards the bottom of the track - Peter Clarke

Friday 17th August 2012

St Albans - Peacock in my garden - the first one here this year - Malcolm Hull

A large bright male Brimstone on the Latchford road today 3.20 pm - Laurence Drummond

At Bencroft wood 2 silver washed fritillaries, and usual meadow browns and gatekeepers. At Waterford heath south 3 common blues, a brown argus, 6 peacocks, 2 small heath & red Admiral At Rickneys sheltered more from wind 6 peacocks, 1 gatekeeper, meadow browns, 3 small heath, 10 common blues, 6 brown argus and 2 small coppers - Steve Kiln

Sightings for today (Friday 17th August 2012) - 1 Peacock, at 'Barracks', Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 10:50 hrs; 1 Peacock, nectaring on buddleia, Strayfield Road, Clay Hill, Enfield, 13:28 hrs; 6 Peacock, together, nectaring on Burdock, at Whitewebbs Park, 13:45 hrs; 5 Comma, together,

nectaring on Burdock, Whitewebbs Park, 14:00 hrs; 2 Small Skipper, together, at Whitewebbs Park, 14:17 hrs, also a few Speckled Wood, including two together at Bay Farm and another one at Rectory Farm, Enfield. - Robert Callf

Be alert for Jersey Tiger moths - news via Colin Plant

Thursday 16th August 2012

In Kings Langley..several days this week I have seen two peacock butterflies together on buddleia and a wall. Holly blues have been in the ivy and one was laying eggs today August 16th. Photos of the event on Flickr. A small skipper variety was seen in the local lane, but I didn't see which sort. I still haven't seen any common blues or brown argus in the local lane where I have seen them previous years.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/7392841@N04/7795743176/>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/7392841@N04/7795743582/>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/7392841@N04/7795217220/>

Also please do look at my website for more Hertfordshire creatures and views.

<http://www.photoharvester.co.uk/> Elizabeth Debenham

Just two Peacock sightings yesterday (Wednesday 15th August 2012) at Vicarage Farm, Enfield - 1 at 'Barracks', 15:10 hrs and another or the same at Hog Hill, 15:21 hrs. - Robert Callf

Wednesday 15th August 2012

At Balls Wood yesterday (14/08/12) amongst reasonable numbers of Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown, Ringlet and Large Skipper I was pleased to see two White Admirals and two female Silver-washed Fritillaries. One of these was very tatty, and spent an hour alternating between feeding beside the main ride and egg-laying both on nearby trees and on dead branches left on the ground. All the eggs seemed to be placed in nooks and crannies and I failed to find a single one. On the walk back through Hertford Heath reserve I saw one Holly Blue, flitting about on a patch of wet ground. - Paul Why

1 x red admiral in our Bushey garden last Saturday on buddleia..... David Gower

Tuesday 14th August 2012

At last the Peacocks have emerged including 6 on one buddleia in Upper Green garden, Tewin - Jim Farr

White-letter Hairstreak in my garden today, see photo on my flickr page attached.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/stevelane56/7782588092/in/photostream>

Steve Lane

I think this counts as Middlesex! I was enjoying a coffee in the open air forecourt part of Euston Station at midday today, when a Speckled Wood flew past. The nearest decent habitat would have probably been in Regent's Park. Dave Miller

Late afternoon, I had a walk around my local patch near Heathrow. Things are slowly changing - I only saw a very few Gatekeepers (no more than five) and no Skippers. Red Admirals were about in good numbers (seven or eight), but now were largely attracted to various wild buddleia bushes, instead of scrapping along the paths. They were joined (I'm pleased to say) by half a dozen Peacocks. In the open areas, Meadow Browns persisted undiminished (20 to 30 seen as a rough estimate), but flying amongst them were the **second brood Common Blues, probably just over double figures** in the smallish area investigated, and all males. There were a handful of Whites: all we got close to turned out today to be Small ones. Finally, we saw a couple of Holly Blues, a worn hutchinsoni Comma, and a single Purple Hairstreak flying in characteristically unsteady fashion from a bramble blossom up into the top of an oak - Dave Miller

Today at Tyttenhanger Gravel Pits I saw 6 Green-veined White, 5 Peacock, 4 Gatekeeper, 2 Small Skipper, 1 Comma, 1 Meadow Brown and 1 Small Copper - Terry Wood

Monday 13th August 2012

I had a Silver-washed Fritillary visit my Great Ashby, Stevenage garden today.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/stevelane56/7773619160/in/photostream>

- Steve Lane

[Link to photos of the Long-tailed Blue seen on Friday](#) - John Archer

Sightings for today (Monday 13th August 2012) - 2 Peacock, at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 09:45 and 10:08 hrs; 1 Red Admiral, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 10:30 hrs; 1 Small Copper, settled on Ragwort, near Hadley Road/Vicarage Farm, 10:39 hrs; 1 Small Copper, at Park Farm, Enfield, 11:05 hrs; 1 Peacock, at Park Farm, 11:10 hrs; 2 Holly Blue, together, Flash Lane, Enfield, 12:55 hrs; 1 Green-veined White, settling on Burdock, at Whitewebbs Park, 13:05 hrs; 2 Comma, nectaring on Burdock, Whitewebbs Park, 13:05 hrs; 7 Peacock, together, nectaring on Burdock, at Whitewebbs Park, 13:10 hrs; 1 Holly Blue, at Whitewebbs Park, 13:11 hrs. - Nice to see a double figure count of Peacock today! - Robert Callf

Wheathampstead LNR - 1 Small Copper (a first at this site for me) 2 Peacock, Small & Large Whites, Meadow Browns, Gatekeepers.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/7395917@N02/7772866430/>

Robin Pearson

11/8/12- ELLENBROOK FIELDS (FORMERLY HATFIELD AERODROME) 8+ Meadow Brown, 8+ Gatekeeper, 1 x Large White. Also a few Green-veined/Small White - David Wheatcroft

Sunday 12th August 2012

Saw my first **painted lady** of the year near Codicote Bottom (on the track running down from Ayot St Lawrence). I saw a meadow brown on the Ayot Greenway last week with two white 'pupils' on the black eyespot on the underside of its forewing - - Ian Flack

Blackthorn Wood, Welwyn Garden City - At 10.30 this morning I was on the circular walk in the south-east corner of Blackthorn Wood, near the pond. A Golden Brown Hairstreak shaped butterfly flew across the ride about 15 feet above ground. I saw it for about 2 secs before it disappeared into a Rowan tree. It was clearly not either a Purple Hairstreak or Vapourer moth, so while I could not confirm a positive ID, Brown Hairstreak seems a distinct possibility - Malcolm Hull

Saturday 11th August 2012

Camberwell Beauty seen at 4.15pm in Pishiobury Park, Sawbridgeworth - Saturday 11th August 2012. Flew past rapidly, aided by strong wind just east of car park. I followed it to where I thought I saw it land, but could not locate it again. Also seen by three other people that I was with at the time - Andrew Sapsford Warden, Sawbridgeworth Marsh nature reserve (Essex Wildlife Trust).

Blackthorn Wood Welwyn Garden City - A few tantalising glimpses of golden brown butterflies/moths, but no definite ID for Brown Hairstreak. Purple Hairstreak & Vapourer moth both confirmed. Also Brown Argus, Small Copper, Peacock, Ringlet, Red Admiral plus Browns, Whites & Skippers. Other highlights today - Butterfly World - 7 Peacocks & 1 Red Admiral on buddleia ; Bricket Wood Common - 9 Brimstones, 2 Peacocks, 2 Silver-washed Fritillaries, 3 Purple Hairstreaks, 1 Comma, 1 Red Admiral, 1 Essex Skipper - Malcolm Hull

High wych, Old Rivers nursery site, 50+ Meadow brown, 20+Gate keeper, 1 Small skipper and 6 Peacock, 1 more Peacock in my back garden at the end of the walk, the fields at the old nursery site are awash with nectar sources, but comparatively few butterflies, I think the mowing regime here needs re-timing - Laurence Drummond

A few sightings for yesterday (Friday 10th August 2012) - 1 Red Admiral, at Park Farm, Enfield, 10:25 hrs; 1 Peacock, along Salmons Brook at Bay Farm, Enfield, 10:50 hrs; 1 Holly Blue, settling on wet road at Rectory Farm, Enfield, 11:10 hrs; 3 Speckled Wood (1 at Rectory Farm, 11:25 hrs, 1 at Strayfield Road, Clay Hill, 11:30 hrs, 1 at Flash Lane, 12:30 hrs); 1 Peacock, nectaring on Burdock, at Whitewebbs Park, 12:41 hrs. Today (Saturday 11th August 2012) - 1 Peacock, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 10:07 hrs; 1 Peacock, at Parkside Farm, Enfield, 10:52 hrs; 1 Peacock, by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 11:50 hrs; 2 Holly Blue (1 settling on path edge of Water Grdn, 11:58 hrs, 1 Uni-lawns, Trent Park, 12:00 hrs). - Robert Callf

On 24th May this year a Swallowtail visited my garden in Bishop's Stortford. I realised this was very unusual being far from its normal habitats and I reported it to Butterfly Conservation Head Office on the day. It was in pristine condition and stayed nectaring on a garden version of Hemp Agrimony for many minutes. Long enough for my wife to fetch her camera and take a photo albeit not a very clear one. - Robert Stroud

Friday 10th August 2012

There was a **male Long-tailed Blue** at East India Dock Nature Reserve (TQ 391 808) this lunchtime. I have photos in my camera and will e-mail you some over the next day or two, but I thought I should send you the record immediately. I think it's the first London record since they famously bred at Gillespie Park in Islington in the early 1990s - John Archer (Biodiversity Officer, Sustainable Development Team, London Borough of Tower Hamlets)

One Purple Emperor at the Whitewebbs assembly area and then two Emperors at Northaw the second arriving after a 20 minute wait. Two Emperors at Fir & Pond Wood a bit later - all seen by Andrew Middleton. Earlier Laurence Drummond had seen a male on territory at the site in TL32

Near Rickneys quarry, north of Hertford today a Comma and Small Tortoiseshell chased each other this afternoon to some brambles and then behaved exactly as I have seen pairs of Peacocks or Small Tortoiseshells engaged in courtship displays. After a minute or so they spiralled off into the elms in the hedge.

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

- Andrew Wood

OAKHILL WOODS LNR. 10/8/12--Over 100 Gatekeeper on a 2hr walk---20 of them on a 1metre sq of Marjoram accompanied by 3x Meadow brown 1x Comma, 3x GV White, 1x Small white, 5x Six spot Burnet,---2xSmall skipper, 3x Essex skipper AND **1x pristine WL Hairstreak** that nectared for 15mins. We have never recorded WLH this late in the year at OHW. Elsewhere on the site today 3x female Peacock one nectaring on Yarrow and ignoring Budliea? 5x Speckled wood, 3x Holly blue, 2x Large skipper, 2x Red admiral and 2x Comma. Common blue appear to be extinct on the reserve, and no Tshells or Brimstone have been seen this year.-----KIT JONES

Today(10th Aug) and yesterday (9th Aug) a Peacock butterfly has visited the same buddleia in Kings Langley. Red admiral today too, gatekeeper on ragwort and a 2 large white. Yesterday a holly blue and also a 5spot burnet. A quick trip to Aldbury Nowers on the 9th found some meadow brown and 4 marbled whites. No blue there, but some at Ivinghoe at the bottom of the Beacon, including what I think were brown argus and chalkhill species represented - Elizabeth Debenham

Grays Inn Gardens, Holborn - 3 Holly Blues, 2 Small Whites - Malcolm Hull

Thursday 9th August 2012

Counted 300 Chalkhill Blues walking from one end of Hexton Chalkpit to the other in 10 minutes. I reckon that makes about 1500 on the site yesterday. They were everywhere, a magnificent site, also one Dark green Fritillary. Some males have spilled over into the field margins and woodland of Lion Hill and Moor Hill on the other side of the road, strange to see Chalkhill Blue and Ringlets flying in a woodland ride! Three Dark Green Fritillaries and 30 Chalkhill Blues at Telegraph Hill. Good numbers of Brimstone and Peacock also showing in these areas - Andrew Wood

One male Purple emperor on territory at Northaw today, 14.05, appeared to be lively and in good condition, didnt have time to stay to see if any more arrived - Laurence Drummond

1 x holly blue in evening, Bushey garden today - David Gower

Seen today at Gibbet Hill, Weston Hills during grassland survey, Meadow Brown (15+), Brimstone (15+, m & f. There's Alder Buckthorn so they presumably breed here), Gatekeeper (11+), Small/Essex Skipper (3), Common Blue (3), Comma (1), Large White (1), Sm/GV White (7+), Speckled Wood (2), 6-spot Burnet (lots). This is highly diverse chalk grassland with Knapweeds, Scabious, Marjoram etc all in full bloom. Actual nos. probably higher, but eyes were on plants - John Moss

Seen at Tyttenhanger Gravel Pits today 20 Gatekeeper, 6 Green-veined White, 4 Small White, 3 Peacock, 3 Speckled Wood, 1 Meadow Brown and 2 Comma - Terry Wood

The following butterflies were seen this morning on buddleias in a former garden on the southern edge of Copse Wood, Ruislip. 7 Peacock, 5 Gatekeeper, 2 Meadow Brown and one each of Brimstone, Comma and Red Admiral. - Dick Middleton

At Hexton CP no DGF but 4-5 Brown Argus, still 200+ Chalkhill Blues, plus a few of the following: Meadow brown, Ringlet, Gatekeeper, Large White, Brimstone (female) - Robin Pearson

News for yesterday (Wednesday 8th August 2012) - 2 Peacock, at Vicarage Farm, near Hadley Road, 10:22 and 10:34 hrs; 4 Comma, together, nectaring on Burdock at Whitewebbs Park, 12:53 hrs (TQ3299) and 1 Peacock, nectaring on thistle, Whitewebbs Park, 13:25 hrs; 1 Holly Blue, at Lavender Hill Cemetery, 13:47 hrs. Today (Thursday 9th August 2012) at Oakwood Park, N14 - 1 Speckled Wood, 08:42 hrs; 1 Purple Hairstreak, settled on Bramble, 08:53 hrs, also a good few Gatekeepers and Meadow Browns, nectaring on thistles. - Robert Callf

Quite a good morning today at my local Oughton Head, Gatekeepers were everywhere, plenty Small and Essex skippers, 2x Holly blue, 3x Peacock, 4x Brimstone, 1x Speckled wood, 1x Meadow brown, 1x Large white, and 1x small white, and 1x Comma - Kevin Taylor

Tuesday 7th August 2012

At Hatfield Aerodrome had 2 Peacocks, 2 Large White, 1 Green-veined, 40+ meadow Brown, 2 Large Skipper, 20 Essex Skipper, 5 Small Skipper, 15 Essex\small Skipper, 30+ Gatekeepers, 5 Marbled Whites and one Red Admiral plus 2 Udea lutealis moth, 1 Antler Moth, Latticed Heath moth seems a good site for the moths - Andrew Steele

Monday 6th August 2012

Symondshyde Wood Surprised to see SWF in August with 4 though one looked very eaten also Comma x 1, Gatekeeper x 4, M Brown x 2, L White x 1, Sp Wood x 1 Common Carpet moth X 1 - Andrew Steele

Sun 5th Aug 11:50am - 1 hour walk around Bricket Wood. SWF X 1, Marbled white x 2, Gatekeeper (many) 25+ on heather in fenced area, M Brown (many), L Skipper x 1, Ringlet x 4, S white x 7 & L White x 2. - Pete & Angela Ewer

Some sightings for Saturday (4th August 2012) - 1 Peacock, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 11:15 hrs; 1 Purple Hairstreak, around Ash, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 13:50 hrs; 2 Speckled Wood, Shaws Wood, Trent Park, 13:57 hrs - Robert Callf.

Sunday (5th August 2012) - 1 male Oak Eggar, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 12:08 hrs; 1 Comma, 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 12:08 hrs; 2 Small Copper (1 at 'Old Golf Course', 12:13 hrs, 1 Uni-lawns, Trent Park, 12:37 hrs); 1 Holly Blue, nectaring on Bramble blossom, along bridle-path S of Shaws Wood, Trent Park, 13:00 hrs; 1 Six-spot Burnet, still present at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park - Robert Callf & Robin White.

Monday (6th August 2012) - 1 Peacock, 10:50 hrs, 1 Red Admiral, 10:58 hrs, at Crews Hill Station - Robert Callf

At last some good news from my Hayes garden. A Peacock and Red Admiral both looking very pristine, a good sign I'm sure!

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/69131641@N04/7724971842/in/photostream>

Helen George

I did the Aldbury Nowers transect on Friday (3/8/12), it was a very productive day. There's still good numbers of meadow brown about and marbled white, together with gatekeeper, large skipper and small/essex skipper. There were quite a few brimstones out, all looking very fresh, a single common blue, small heath, small copper, single holly blue, 2 comma, dark green fritillary (fewer now than a couple of weeks ago) and a male chalkhill blue in the furthest northern enclosure. Late sightings for 29th July when I did the summer butterfly walk at Aldbury include all of the above bar comma and brimstone but also silver washed fritillary along the Ridgeway. - Paul Thrush

Ware garden butterflies today, produced 2 Peacocks, 1 Comma, 2 Green-veined Whites and a Gatekeeper - Liz Goodyear

Two male Purple Emperors were still on territory this afternoon at the Whitewebbs (Enfield) assembly area, also Red Admirals high up, Holly Blue, Purple Hairstreak and Meadow Brown about - Andrew Middleton

Sunday 5th August 2012

Broxbourne Woods, a forlorn hope of seeing any Emperors ended in failure, however 3 silver washed fritillaries, including 2 egg laying. The first on a pine tree trunk, on the main ride from the car park. One of the last pines before the newly created desert. The fresh female evaded all attempts at a photograph, but laid approx 6 eggs all about 3 ft up the tree trunk, despite a comprehensive search we still couldn't find any. The second egg laying sighting was of a female laying on the more traditional Oak trunk, again about 3ft up the trunk, this time one of the oaks on the south side of the track. Despite several visits this year not managed to see a single emperor or a White Admiral. Other butterflies Ringlet (10), Meadow Brown (13), speckled wood (5), Large White (5), Gatekeeper (6), Large Skipper (3), purple Hairstreak (2). Then off to Hertford Heath and Balls Wood. 1 Silver Washed Fritillary 2 Comma 1 Holly Blue Lots of gatekeeper, meadow brown, 2 ringlet 6 large skipper, 2 small skipper, + 1 pristine Peacock. The first I have seen since about April.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/77676448@N05/7724046642/in/photostream/>

Phil Macmurdie

Spent 18.20-18.40 at Bencroft west car park and watched 10-15 Purple hairstreaks chasing and clashing around the Oaks there - Laurence Drummond

Sunday August 5th in Kings Langley a beautiful SMALL TORTOISESHELL on a buddleia and then on a house wall for a good half hour feeding, sunning itself and broadcasting. I hope it finds a mate.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/7392841@N04/7717077672/>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/7392841@N04/7717077144/>

Elizabeth Debenham

Symondshyde Wood 04/08/12 15:15 - SWF X 6 (3 male), W Admiral x 3, Comma x 2, Gatekeeper x 2, M Brown x 5, S White x 5, Sp Wood x 2 & Ringlet 6+. Old Lady moth in our front room (St Albans)- Angela & Pete Ewer

Transect monitoring somewhat difficult due to variable weather as I expect everyone else is finding - Saw 2 Green Veined White 3 August - Val Fullforth

Saturday 4th August 2012

Five people turned up at Therfield Heath this morning and we had a fairly short walk before the rains came. Lots of Chalkhill Blues, some Meadow Brown and DG Frits were reported. Yellow Shell moth. There is a sizable colony of Essex Skippers + Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper and Small Heath at Deadmans Hill, Sandon Road Peacock in Hitchin garden yesterday. Nigel Agar

On Monday Diane Andrews reported seeing on a visit to Rammey Marsh in Enfield numerous Skippers, Meadow Browns and Gatekeepers, 4 Ringlets, a few whites, 4 Red Admirals, 3 Commas, 2 Peacocks but no Large Skipper.

I've seen only one Purple Hairstreak in Norton Green so far so I thought I'd try my luck in Fairlands Park, Stevenage (part of my transect) last evening. After waiting for 10 minutes or so by the edge of Peartree Wood near the Canyon Adventure Centre I saw one flying over the top of one of the oak trees at around 6:30pm. By the way, since I have not been seeing Purple Hairstreaks in the usual places at Norton Green, the 2 hairstreaks I saw on the 28 July over the elms towards the top end of the track are almost certainly White-Letters and no hint of silver whatsoever! Peter Clarke

The following 4/8/12 - ELLENBROOK FIELDS (FORMELY HATFIELD AERODROME) 22+ X Meadow Brown, 20+ x Gatekeeper, 3 x Marbled White, 2 x Essex Skipper, 1 x Small Skipper, 3 x Small/Essex Skippers, 2 x Green-veined White - David Wheatcroft

In Bushey garden today 3 x large white (+ 1 yesterday), 2 x small white & 1 x holly blue (female). At fishers field 5 x gatekeeper. At Water Lane, Watford 8 x small skipper, 3 x essex skipper, 8 x gatekeeper, 2 x small white David Gower

Friday 3rd August 2012

Today at Hexton CP, 3-6 DG Frits being constantly harassed by Chalkhill Blues, of which there were 2-300, males outnumbering females about 10:1. Didn't see any Brown Argus, just one marbled White, one Large Skipper and a few Gatekeepers and Meadow Browns. One DGF stopped long enough for this record shot:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/7395917@N02/7704204460/>
Robin Pearson

News for yesterday (Thursday 2nd August 2012) - 4 Comma, together, nectaring on Burdock, at Whitewebbs Park, 11:10 hrs and 1 Peacock, also here, 12:32 hrs - the first summer brood that I have seen. Today (Friday 3rd August 2012) - 1 Comma, field near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 09:36 hrs; 1 Red Admiral, at Park Farm, Enfield, 10:15 hrs; 1 Purple Hairstreak, at Parkside House, Enfield, 10:30 hrs. - Robert Callf

Thursday 2nd August 2012

Small tortoiseshell around the eaves of buildings in Much Hadham high street - Laurence Drummond

Still over 70 Chalkhill Blue at Hexton CP. DG Frits still flying. Only one Marbled White yesterday. Now going to Therfield Heath to check out ready for next Sat walk. - Nigel Agar

Passed Fishers Field nature reserve after work spotting 1 x meadow brown & 2 x gatekeeper. At nearby Water lane were 3 x small skipper, 1 x large white, 1 x small white - David Ggower

Olympic Park on the banks of the River Lea yesterday - 2 Small Whites. Wildflower meadows & planted gardens at this site look promising Clerkenwell, New River Head - 1 Small White - Malcolm Hull

On Monday 30th at Hexton Chalk Pit today at 2 Dark Green Fritillaries
http://i38.photobucket.com/albums/e140/cookie_yum/chalkblue57.jpg

Around the entrance over 200-300 Chalkhill Blues on site never seen so many together also marbled whites x 5, 3x Brown Argus, gatekeepers, meadow browns, ringlet but surprising no skippers - Andrew Steele

July 2012

Tuesday 31st July 2012

Saw the following on Friday (27th July 2012) - 2 male Oak Eggar, (1 south edge of Williams Wood, 16:00 hrs, 1 around Upper Lake, Trent Park, 16:34 hrs); 1 Comma, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 16:10 hrs; 1 Small Copper, settled on Ragwort, E edge of Icehouse Wood, Trent Park, 16:15 hrs; 2 Six-spot Burnet, 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 16:40 hrs - my first of the year! 2 Essex Skipper, including a male, 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 16:40 hrs; 1 Red Admiral, near Equestrian Centre, Trent Park, 17:32 hrs. - Robert Callf

Stanwell Moor, a local outing in the stifling heat of a late Heathrow afternoon and early evening. Nothing unusual - the numbers of Gatekeepers are building at the moment, and there is currently a hiatus in the Small Heath world. Meadow Browns abound and have expanded into previously unoccupied areas; Essex Skippers are doing well. 13 species seen: Comma - 4 (all together in a major tussle) Red Admiral - 7 Speckled Wood - 1 Gatekeeper - many Meadow Brown - many Small Heath - 5 Large Skipper - 1 (male) Essex Skipper - many (none scrutinised turned out to be Small Skippers) Brimstone - 1 (male) Green-veined White/Small White - 10 (both definitely present) Holly Blue - 2 Purple Hairstreak - 2 - Dave Miller

This evening (29 July) went to Nomansland for about an hour to look for Purple hairstreaks and after about 20 minutes I saw 2 at about 6oclock also 1x GV White and a comma - Kevin Taylor

Saw one Silver-washed Fritillary at Northaw Great Wood on Thursday (26th July 2012) at 13:10 and 14:53 hrs, in the same area, also 1 Red Admiral at 13:30 hrs. - Robert Callf

White Admiral in Broxbourne Woods 16 July - Nigel Agar

Following seen at Hatfield Aerodrome (Disused) 29 July: 8+ x Common/Essex Skippers 8+ x marbled White 6 x Green-veined White 12+ Gatekeeper 20+ Meadow Brown Coopers Green Gravel Pit (TL 19 09): 1 x Red Admiral 1 x Large White 1 x Green-veined White - David Wheatcroft

Saturday 28th July 2012

We did a 10km circular walk around Hadham Ford this afternoon. Lots of butterflies on the wing: I

saw so many that I quickly gave up keeping count of Ringlets, Meadow Browns, Commas and Large & Small Whites. I also saw a Red Admiral and two Small Skippers, plus a Latticed Heath and some smaller day flying moths. I think I saw more butterflies on the wing today than the total I've seen this year to date, which was pleasing - Chris Gleeson

At Bricket Wood Common today, 7 White Admiral, 6 Silver-washed Frits, a good number of freshly-emerged Brimstones (m&f) plus the usual browns and whites - Robin Pearson

1-2 males performed nicely if widely from 13.00hrs around the same oaks at Whitewebbs. 16:50 back at Whitewebbs, but now only 1-2 lower flying red admirals - Andrew Middleton

On Thursday I went with my grandchildren to Cassiobury Park and we walked through Whippendell Woods where we saw a few browns (usual suspects) in very small numbers, a Small White and by far the best sighting a male Silver Washed Frit. - Nick Bowles

Friday 27th July 2012

Whitewebbs Wood, North Enfield ~ based on work with Liz Goodyear, I was very pleased to at last see two Purple Emperors this afternoon. There was one male, sometimes two, on territory and active high in the oaks in hazy sun between 1 and 4pm, when I left. The weather is forecast as pretty good tomorrow afternoon Sat 27th July, so anyone wishing to join me there tomorrow would be more than welcome. I plan to get to the North Lodge entrance TQ330995 by 12.30 if anyone wishes to meet me there. I would advise bringing binoculars and a collapsible chair, insect cream etc, and some patience. My advice would be to put aside time through to at least 2pm, if not 3pm. North Lodge has good parking on Whitewebbs Lane, north side of Whitewebbs Park, about 300m west of the King and Tinker Public House, or one could walk through Whitewebbs Park or Forty Hall from bus services out of Enfield Town.

<http://streetmap.com/map.srf?x=532770&y=199870&z=120&sv=532770,199870&st=4&ar=y&mapp=map.srf&searchp=ids.srf&dn=642&ax=532770&ay=199870&lm=0>

For interest ~ previous records of singles known to me ~ 1909 Enfield Chase 1909, 2000 Whitewebbs Park 1976, Whitewebbs, Forty Hall 3/4 mile lane, 2003 Forty Hall, 2010 Ferny Hill Farm general area (Robert Callf). Thanks - Andrew Middleton

Pete Clarke and I went over to Spellbrook yesterday morning at 9.30am to the White Letter Hairstreak site opposite the American style Carwash, and saw 2 WHLs in the canopy of the reasonably large oak tree situated in the hedge that contains many hedgerow elms. I had also been 2 days earlier at 6.00pm and after about 20 minutes saw a couple of WHLs flying around the top of the same oak. I have been watching the species at this site for the past 5 years and each year more and more of the larger elms have died off. There was always one elm, the largest, situated next to an electricity sub-station, that was the focus for quite a large colony, but this is looking in a very sorry state now, and probably will not recover next year. There are quite a number of elm suckers in the hedge, so with the help of the oak tree, hopefully the colony will survive. The whole time I have surveyed the site I have never been lucky enough to see one near ground level that I could photograph, even though there are plenty of creeping thistles and bramble flowers for them to nectar on. Nothing would give me greater pleasure than to be able to send you a photograph of a Spellbrook WLH! - Bob Clift

At merryhill fields, Bushey from 5.15 pm for 1 hour = 1 x green veined white, 36 x gatekeeper, 45 x meadow brown, 3 x small skipper, 6 x marbled white, 2 x essex skipper, 1 x 6 spot burnet, 32 x shaded broad bar. David Gower

While doing a timed bird count yesterday morning came across 5 Silver-washed Fritillaries in Bishop's Wood, Harefield. Two distinct groups of 2 and 3. Also saw one White Admiral but could not be too distracted from the bird count! - Dick Middleton

Thursday 26th July 2012

The Purple Emperors were showing well on Tuesday (3pm). Perfect weather conditions as well - Peter Walker

This morning popped into Oxhey wood again opp HMS WARRIOR and found 2 x meadow brown, 1 x small white, 1 x speckled wood. At 3pm went back again just 1 x speckled wood. Onto central woodland 1 x gatekeeper, 2 x speckled wood. Southern woodland long circular walk from car park 2 x small white, 3 x speckled wood. 3 x large skipper, 2 x large white, 4 x gatekeeper, 1 x meadow brown. Lots of bramble seen was hoping for more sightings really. Finished at Prestwick road

nature reserve recording 8 x gatekeeper, 18 x meadow brown, 1 x silver y, 1 x speckled wood, 1 x comma, 3 x small skipper, 1 x small copper. Water lane, Watford 1 x comma while on way home - David Gower

11: 30 am at Nomansland in hot sun saw 5 Purple Hairstreaks in usual oaks mostly high in the trees. 10am Batford public footpath by weedy field only Gatekeeper, Marbled Whites & Meadow Browns no WLH seen - Ernie Leahy

Well over a hundred Chalkhill Blues this morning at Hexton Chalk Pits, also two Dark Green Fritillaries, Marbled White, Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper and Ringlet. Large and Small Skippers - Nigel Agar

Today I went to Therfield heath, i was quite amassed to see 2 Dark green fritillaries on the heath, first I have seen here, also hundreds of Chalkhill blues and plenty of Meadow browns and small heaths, Gatekeepers, Small and G v whites a few Marbled whites and 1x Red admiral, Large white, Ringlet, Essex skipper, Comma - Kevin Taylor

Some news for yesterday (Wednesday 25th July 2012) - Fir & Pond Woods - 1 Ringlet, 15:40 hrs; 2 Marbled White, in meadow enclosure, 15:48 and 15:52 hrs, also a large butterfly over the Oak canopy at 14:57 hrs., briefly - possibly a Purple Emperor, whilst watching a family party of Spotted Flycatchers. At Crews Hill Station - 2 Purple Hairstreaks, settled on Ash - seen from the platform, 17:25 hrs. - Robert Callf

I went to Broxbourne Wood yesterday 25th July from 11:00 until 13:00. I was lucky to see the target species - 1x Purple Emperor in flight (sex unknown; seen about 15 feet off the ground flying NE along the main ride about 100 yards from the West car park), Silver Washed Fritillary (2 males, 1 female) in same general location, and 1x very worn White Admiral (sex not checked; in West car park). However my overriding impression was that butterfly numbers - species and quantity - were disappointingly low. Most plentiful were Ringlets (50+), then a few Meadow Browns, 2 Gatekeepers, 1x Speckled Wood, 2x Small/Essex Skipper, 1x Comma, a few whites very poor despite plentiful nectar sources, damp patches of mud, and wonderful weather! Looked up at canopy regularly and think I might have had a glimpse of 1x (!!!) Purple Hairstreak. My gut feeling is that the work they have done at Broxbourne Woods holds great potential ... but we have to wait until next year when the vegetation has recovered. - Andrew Neild

Wednesday 25th July 2012

15 mins at Oxhey Wood via car park were 3 x gatekeeper, 1 x speckled wood & 2 skippers (not sure which). At 4 pm visited Oxhey Wood directly opposite HMS Warrior but only 1 x speckled wood in 30 mins - David Gower

At Hexton Chalk Pit today at at least 4 Dark Green Fritillaries around the entrance over 100 Chalkhill Blues in that section also marbled whites x 20, gatekeepers, meadow browns, ringlet and lots of small/essex skippers plus 1 Small heath and a Shaded Broad-bar Moth and a Treble- bar Moth on site this all in the entrance to the first chalk Pit area - Andrew Steele

12noon---13.30---BALLS WOOD Nature Reserve ----1x White admiral on bramble flowers---3x SW Frits.----(One female seeking violets---two males patrolling different beats)---1 two yr old (approx) Grass snake---Many ringlets and Meadow brown---2x speckled wood---a few small skippers.---- KIT JONES

Tuesday 24th July 2012

Did my transect in Bencroft wood today saw 11 species including silver washed fritillary again and first small skippers, small white and red admiral there for the year. Also 4 purple hairsteak which have been elusive. Went to Broxbourne ride that is disappointing there considering all the work they have done. Best I saw there was a comma. Met another person who was moaning about his purple emperor tree being cut down. Sent him to Bricket common wood. Went there Sunday 9 silver washed, two white admirals, holly blue, some skippers and plenty of marbled whites but still extremely muddy but nice pint at the old Fox. Talking about muddy, what about the top of Wormley wood, headed up there to try and find SW fritillaries and white admirals. Plenty of ringlets and two white admirals no SWF's. However the mud and damage caused by motor bikes is awful (as mentioned by Laurence), walkway very broken, left path to avoid mud but got scratched to death by brambles. Shame all the work we have done has encouraged bikers to cut through the other way, that is badly muddy now caused by horses but mainly bikes and need better barrier to

keep motor bikes out - they are ruining paths - Steve Kiln

Spent 20 mins in Oxhey woods circular path from car park and spotted 1 x green veined white, 1 x gatekeeper, 1 x large skipper. Will visit again. At Bricket wood common (5.45pm to 8 pm) counted 9 x ringlet, 14 x meadow brown, 2 x white admiral, 6 x large skipper. 18 x small skipper, 3 x essex skipper, 5 x gatekeeper, 15 x marbled white & 7 purple hairstreak all high up on same tree - David Gower

Danemead Tues 24th. On a children's "creepie-crawlie" afternoon saw many Ringlet & Meadow Brown, several Gatekeeper, 1 Silver-washed Frit, c5 Small/Essex Skipper, 1 Large Skipper, 1 pristine Comma, 1 Small/GV White, Emperor & Brown Hawker dragonflies. Then spent 30mins at Broxbourne Woods. Saw many Ringlet & Meadow Brown, a few Gatekeeper, 3 Small/Essex Skipper, 1 Large White. Examined many Oaks at both sites without seeing Purple Hairstreak, despite perfect conditions. Spoke to another watcher at Broxbourne who had also seen 1 White Admiral & 1 SWF earlier. Disappointing to see so few butterflies & other inverts at height of the season - John Moss

Today many Chalkhill Blues all over Therfield heath today, see <http://www.facebook.com/ButterflyConservationHertsMiddlesex> Good numbers of Marbled White, Meadow Brown and Small heath. Gatekeepers seem to be more in evidence now, too. Andrew Wood

I took my wife this afternoon (2.30pm) to the well known site at entrance of Northaw Great Wood and watched 2 male Purple Emperors battling above the tall oak and ash trees - Terry Wood

Silver-Washed Frits and White Admiral at Broxbourne Woods yesterday 23 July. Purple Emperor seen and photographed in the car park in the morning. [Photo that Nigel saw is here.....taken by Paul Why](#). I carried out a WCBS in Knebworth Woodson Tuesday 24 July. Abundant Meadow Browns in Burleigh Meadows (acid grassland), Ringlet in sunlit glades in the woods and a sudden appearance of a Purple Emperor at Norton Green, the little overgrown common between Watery Grove and the main Newton Wood. Noticed it first as a passing shadow when watching Skippers and Meadow Browns on a bramble patch. It circled dramatically and dived into a Sallow near the entrance to Watery Grove. - Nigel Agar

I did the transect today, there were good numbers of meadow brown and marbled white about, 9 dark green fritillary throughout the southern and northern enclosures, gatekeepers, small, large and essex skippers, small white and 3 silver washed fritillary in the woodland glades between the 2 sections of the reserve. Last week (17/7) there were 12 dark green fritillary counted on the transect by Nick Murray (volunteer warden at the reserve) who did the route for me while I was away. Some late news from 12/7 when I did the transect before going on holiday, amongst the high numbers of marbled white and meadow brown there were 2 small tortoiseshell and 2 red admiral, a single holly blue, single small copper and 9 dark green fritillary. - Paul Thrush

Just been doing my washing in the Lauderette at Bramley Road, Oakwood, N14 when a large dark moth flew around and when it settled I identified it as an Old Lady - a species that I have not seen for a number of years. - Robert Callf

At 6.30am this morning there was a Gatekeeper at Coldharbour Lane allotments, Harpenden: the first I've seen this year (perhaps you have to be up at 6am to see them...). On Harpenden Common mid-morning I recorded 6 Marbled Whites, 4 Small Heaths, a Green-veined White and 73 Meadow Browns - Alan Jackson

Some news from the weekend from Horsenden Hill: White-letter Hairstreaks continue - much later than usual, as presumably to be expected this year. On Friday 20th I found a couple of fairly fresh individuals in a new area behind the bowling green. On Saturday there was one near Horsenden Farm and a couple at the N end of Batts Field. The latter was the favoured site 10 or so years ago but the elm habitat became degraded there. There are now a few decent elms there again so they seem to have made a reappearance. I got two in the same place on Sunday's transect, including a fairly tatty individual nectaring on bramble. There was another along the cycle path. On Saturday I had a couple of Purple Hairstreaks around Horsenden Wood. Marbled Whites are doing very well this year - I tallied 30 on the west transect route alone on Sunday. My impression is that Gatekeepers are down this year, but maybe they haven't reached a peak yet? Also netted several Essex Skipper at various places on the site. They just outnumbered netted Small Skippers. The

'new' colony of Ringlets continues on Paradise Fields, though I only found four on Saturday in fairly cloudy conditions. - Andy Culshaw

Monday 23rd July 2012

At Bricket Wood lunchtime was lucky to have a male and female Purple Emperor at ground level within 5 minutes of each other in the same section of wood. A male was observed perching low on small Birch branches, while a large female showed the characteristically common behavior of landing frequently on ground briefly as it moved along a damp track. - Clive Burrows

23/7/12---11am 12 noon--BROXBORNE WOOD main ride gate by bulldozed area (they need to let the willows shoots grow before grazing begins)---1x P Emp on damp mud---I x Comma---I x Brown hawker dragonfly--- Lots of Great crested newt larvae hunting midge larvae in the central pond. 1300.00hrs THUNDERFIELD GROVE ---I x SWF---1x W Admiral -4x Gatekeeper---lots of Cinnabar larvae on Ragwort---I x Comma 1400hrs OAKHILL WOODS LNR East Barnet---I x Marbled white---4x gatekeeper males---1 xComma --- Many meadow browns,six spot burnet and small skippers---very few Ringlets There seem to be more grassland butterflies this year despite the poor weather---My hypothesis is that the damp conditions have limited the predations of Meadow ants---we have hundreds of colonies on site. 4x Roesels Bush Cricket The bad news---no Common blue seen this year---no T shell nests---very few Peacock nests. No Brimstone larvae found--- No orange tip larvae found---Speckled wood numbers are down by half. Whites are very scarce. WLH numbers down. KIT JONES

This evening at Horsenden hill (around entrance from car park and edge of golf course) 11 x gatekeeper, 5 x comma, 5 x green veined white, 26 x meadow brown, 7 x small skipper, 3 x small white, 2 x red admiral and 2 x white letter hairstreak (1 came down onto brambles, a little tatty but worth a photo) - David Gower

Sighting from Yesterday (Sunday): 2 x White-letter Hairstreak along Morgans Walk, Hertford. ~10am. - Shaun Dowman

I went to Danemead to check out some fencing and saw: 1 SWF, 1 purple hairstreak, numerous ringlets, meadow browns and a couple of gatekeepers. I then went to Balls Wood and had one of my best days: 6 silver washed fritillaries, 3 white admirals, 1 purple hairstreak, a red admiral, a couple of gatekeepers and finally numerous small skippers, Meadow browns and ringlets. The rides were buzzing with butterflies! Andy Brown (HMWT)

Some catch up notes from the last few days. July 19th around 6pm at Dellfield meadow, Chipperfield; meadow brown and two small skippers, one could have been an Essex. <http://www.flickr.com/photos/7392841@N04/7630434782/> July 20th in Kings Langley, meadow brown,small skipper,shaded broad bar moth, ringlets, beautiful marbled white, mating ringlet with other interested individuals. <http://www.flickr.com/photos/7392841@N04/7611529860/> July 21st; Aldbury Nowers in evening; one small heath, quite a few marbled whites,several five spot burnets nectaring on purple flowers, one small skipper and lots of meadow browns. July 22nd; Red admiral in Kings Langley garden, then in Barnes Lane,one large skipper on centaury flower, three marbled whites, some ringlets, meadow brown, small skipper, two gatekeepers. Bunkers Park, Hemel Hempstead in evening there were a few marbled whites, lots of meadow brown, at least one ringlet and several mating pairs of six spot burnet on marjoram. July 23rd around midday in Barnes Lane in Kings Langley; at least 4 marbled whites, small skipper, one red admiral and later two more further up the lane, many meadow browns on brambles, ringlet, battered speckled wood,comma, one shaded broad bar moth, then one female large white in garden. I include a link to show the difference between a six spot burnet and five spot burnets. <http://www.flickr.com/photos/7392841@N04/7630828768/> - Elizabeth Debenham

Sunday 22nd July at Lea Valley Park, Cheshunt. 13.30 hrs. very near Youth Hostel, 1 peacock, 1 comma. habitat parks & gardens 13.50 to 14.10 hrs. along Cadmore Lane footpath between the Navigation and Old River Lea, 1 GV white, 2 large white, 2 red admiral, 4 comma, 2 ringlet, habitat semi marshy. 14.20 to 14.40 hrs. continuation just in Essex, 1 small white, 2 large white, 2 red admiral, 1 ringlet, habitat hedgerow. Also saw report of Puss moth caterpillar on bittern hide notice board for 21/07. Sat.21st July Thornbera Road allotments, 14.00hrs--4+ small white, 4+ ringlets .(in previous years, within boundary fence, only odd single ringlets seen but today they are buzzing around long grass growing through neglected roses and gooseberries) - Len Crouch

Sunday 22nd July 2012

Just to let you know I saw a White Admiral (*please note correction*) in Oxhey Woods car park this morning. This is the first time I have ever seen one in the woods and have never heard of any other sightings in the past - Larsen Rivers

Fri 20th Jul :- 15:00 pm Hummingbird hawk moth, around buddleia on approach to platform 11 Watford Junction station. Sun 22nd Jul:- Broxbourne Wood NR, 12:00 - 15:00 Walked around circuit, Purple Emperor (male) 13:00pm at side of path, (exact location - walked to far end of main ride opposite west carpark, turned left, just before second trail post opposite clearing with oak & sallow.) Also 5 x SW Fritillery, 2 x large skipper, 1 x small skipper + many ringlets & meadow brown. Sun 22nd Jul:- Symondshyde Great Wood 15:40 - 16:30 5 x White Admiral, 2 x SW Fritillery, 1 x Comma, 3 x Speckled Wood, 3 x L.Skipper + plenty of Ringlets & Meadow Brown - - Pete & Angela Ewer

During a brief visit to Bricket Wood today had a female Purple Emperor. Recorded at 1pm it was 'riding' up and down along an open stretch of trees in the wood - Clive Burrows

Seen this evening - currently resting on our kitchen window frame, Hoddesdon. Never seen one before (Googled to identify) & is definitely a swallow tailed moth - Sadie Gregg

A very good place to spot many varieties of butterflies is the Wheathampstead Local Nature Reserve off Butterfield Road -- Grid Ref: TL 177131. During only 3 or 4 minutes at the back of it, where there are many wild flowers, I spotted 10+ ringlets, 5 marbled whites, 3 gatekeepers, 2 large white and 2 skippers. - Linda Brooks

In Bushey garden this morning 1 x small white & 1 x red admiral. At Finch lane, Bushey 1 x comma, 9 x gatekeeper, 15 x meadow brown, 4 x marbled whie, 3 x small skipper, 2 x small white, 2 x speckled wood, 1 x red admiral. Finch lane to just passed Jewish cemetary 3 x ringlet, 3 x small skipper, 2 x gatekeeper, 1 x red admiral, 90 x meadow brown, 2 x speckled wood. David Gower

While at Norton Green for a couple of hours this afternoon in almost unbroken sunshine, I saw 10+ Commas, 5+ Gatekeepers, 30+ Meadow Browns, 1 Large Skipper, 1 Large White, 10+ Marbled Whites, 30+ Ringlets, 3+ Small/Essex Skippers (1 of which was definitely an Essex Skipper), 2+ Green-veined Whites, 1 Red Admiral, 5+ Silver-washed Fritillaries (all males), 1 Speckled Wood and 1 White Admiral (flying quite high on the edge of Cannocks Wood, one of the species' hot-spots on the site). No Purple Hairstreaks seen today but one was spotted near the top of an oak tree on the south-eastern edge of Watery Grove close to the track yesterday (21 July). Peter Clarke

Again started at Broxbourne west carpark 10.30, 2 male Silver washed fritillary at the top of the ride, off to Martins green carpark, walked north along ermine street through Danemead reserve then north along bridleway to Monks green, 1 White admiral, 1 male Silver washed fritillary and 2 Purple hairstreaks at the crossway, 1 Comma in Danemead, at Plashes wood 12.00-12.30 2 comma, 2 Purple Hairstreak and 1 Marbled white - Laurence Drummond

Saturday 21st July 2012

Sat 21 July. My son Paul told me spotted a White Admiral in Symondshyde Woods a couple of evenings ago when he was out birding. Also Speckled Woods & Ringlets. Friday 21 July. Took my small grandson to do my Warren transect despite dull weather, expecting to improve. Got rained off half way round but recorded 3 Marbled White, 9 Gatekeeper (1st this), 5 Small Skipper, 14 Meadow Brown, 1 Ringlet, 1 Small Heath before we gave up. Small boy fascinated by caterpillars in football shirts on Ragwort & 2 Buzzards calling low over - John Moss

A bonus at Hexton Chalk Pit, the Dark Green Fritillary cruising the long sward at reserve entrance and my 1st ever Herts DGF, really went for Chalkhill Blues counted over 200 of them and probably more dozens at ones feet at the far end also marbled whites x 8, brown argus x 3 and numerous gatekeepers / meadow browns and odd ringlet plus one small skipper - Stuart Pittman

Had a walk with Robin White today (Saturday 21st July 2012) and we recorded the following: 2 Red Admiral, nectaring on buddleia, near Oakwood entrance, Trent Park, 10:44 and 10:55 hrs; 14 Small Copper, 'New Fields', Trent Park, between 11:17 - 11:56 hrs; 1 Comma, Sect 4, 'New Fields', 12:10 hrs; 1 Red Admiral, field S of Rough Lot, Trent Park, 12:50 hrs; 5 male Antler Moth,

nectaring on Ragwort, 'New Fields', Trent Park, 11:43 - 12:00 hrs; 1 Purple Hairstreak, settled on Ash, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 13:35 hrs; 1 Comma, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 13:35 hrs; 1 Green-veined White, at Vicarage Farm, 13:45 hrs; 1 Small White, at Vicarage Farm - Robert Callf & Robin White

Bencroft wood - twice in a week Silver-washed fritillary and white admiral, also gatekeeper comma and for first time there small heath. In broxbourne west car park ride also Silver-washed fritillary, plenty of large skippers, ringlets & meadow browns but solitary gatekeeper - Steve Kiln

Started today at Brobourn woods main ride. 10.30-11.15, no sun while I was there and nothing of note, off to Wormley got to the south ride at 11.40 and between 11.45 and 12.00 saw 2 male Purple emperors patrolling the Sallows, also seen 1 White admiral, PLEASE NOTE THE PATHS IN WORMLEY ARE VERY SLIPPERY AND UNEVEN, SOME OF THE PUDDLES ARE DEEP, WELLIES AND CARE ARE REQUIRED - Laurence Drummond

1 x comma in Bushey garden this morning. First sighting of anything here for some time - David Gower

Friday 20th July 2012

Sightings for today (Friday 20th July 2012) - 11 Small Copper, at 'New Fields', Trent Park, 14:05 - 15:06 hrs, including three together and ten of which were counted within one hour; 5 Small Heath, at 'New Fields', Trent Park, between 14:05 - 15:11 hrs; 2 male Antler Moths, nectaring on Ragwort - in the same areas as Tuesday - it makes me wonder whether they are the same individuals? 2 male Large Skipper, together, chasing, near Triangular Wood, 14:15 hrs; 2 Comma, Sect 4, 'New Fields', Trent Park, 14:50 and 15:00 hrs, the first was relocated for confirmation; 1 Red Admiral, Sect 4, 'New Fields', Trent Park, 15:01 hrs. - Robert Callf

Thursday 19th July 2012

A great day watching a single Purple Emperor in central Hertfordshire - full report can be read on the Purple Empire

<http://apaturairis.blogspot.co.uk/2012/07/a-classic-day-in-hertfordshire.html>

- Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

This afternoon at around 3pm at Northaw, I saw one butterfly (presumed Purple Emperor) at the top of the 'target tree' plus a couple of sightings of a pair flying together towards the top of the tree. To be honest, they were all fleeting glimpses so a positive ID isn't really possible. But I was pleased to see a magnificent example of Silver-Washed Fritillary on the western blue ride (sadly not on the transect!) - Peter Walker

On a botanical survey of Parkfields Open Space Borehamwood saw 20+ Ringlet, 15+ Meadow Brown (some very tatty), 11+ Small Skipper (including pair mating), c5 Gatekeeper (very fresh), 2 Red Admiral, 1 probable Lge White. Should be a good site for grassland sp. with acres of tall grasses etc. Ringlets seem to be everywhere - John Moss

The firefighters at Hatfield Fire Station found a beautiful Scalloped Oak moth in the vehicle bays today and brought it to me to identify, so I thought I would send you the record. I later let it go in the small patio garden - Christine Shepperson

A visit this afternoon (Thursday 19th July 2012) to Oakwood Park, N14 produced the following sightings, between 13:10 - 14:00 hrs - 1 Green-veined White, 13:22 hrs; 10+ Meadow Brown; 18 Small Skipper; 6+ male Gatekeeper; 1 Red Admiral, 13:36 hrs, 1 Comma, 13:36 hrs - both E of the 10 km line which divides the site. - Robert Callf

Wednesday 18th July 2012

My only opportunity to get out today was after seven this evening. It was warm and there was a bit of late sunshine, and I made for the usual area near J14. Up on the small oak trees next to the A3113, I spotted half a dozen Purple Hairstreaks dancing around. I then watched another make its way unhurriedly across a 50 metre gap from another oak, apparently unaware of pursuit by a hefty dragonfly. However, the somewhat erratic meanderings of the butterfly defeated the straight-line zooming of the other insect and it made it across unscathed. Even at this late hour, the grassy areas threw up dozens of Meadow Browns - the population here has exploded from a mere handful in 2011 - a few Small Heaths and a single Essex Skipper. On the way home along

the wooded bank of the River Colne, I encountered six or more Red Admirals in various spots. These were flying in the gathering gloom under the trees and several landed on me after some quite belligerent swooping and circling. One perched on a hawthorn branch for a while, so I experimented with the flash to see what I could capture.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=23475&mode=view>

- Dave Miller

Broxbourne Woods car park and main ride Sunday afternoon - cool and cloudy conditions. One - probably two - silver washed fritillary. One white admiral. Plenty of meadow browns and a few ringlets - Alex Lewis

Tuesday 17th July 2012

During a couple of hours at Bricket Wood on Tuesday saw 4 Silver Washed Fritillaries, 9 White Admirals and 5 Purple Hairstreaks. All species were fond of basking on fern. A Purple Emperor was spotted gliding through the Oak canopy. 2 White letter Hairstreaks including a pristine female low down on elm were encountered at a colony in Garston - Clive Burrows

On Harpenden Common (between Walkers Road and Southdown Road) at 0930 this morning (Tuesday 17 July) I saw a Marbled White: the first I can recall seeing there in forty years. Another observer saw three more. I also recorded 3 Comma, 4 Small Heath, 1 Large Skipper, 1 Small White, 8 Ringlets and 55 Meadow Browns. Another observer reported seeing 3 Speckled Woods. - Alan Jackson

Some news for today (Tuesday 17th July 2012) - 1 Red Admiral, near Oakwood entrance, Trent Park, 12:43 hrs; 8 Small Copper, 'New Fields', Trent Park, 12:24 - 12:58 hrs - all in pristine condition - first of the summer-brood, including two together (mostly nectaring on Ragwort); 2 Antler Moth, nectaring on Ragwort, 'New Fields', 12:25 and 12:54 hrs - I think this is the first time I have recorded this species at this site! 3 Comma, at 'New Fields', Trent Park, 12:34, 12:59 and 13:15 hrs; 5 Gatekeeper, 'New Fields', Trent Park, 12:46 - 13:20 hrs, including a female; 2 Small Skipper, together, 'New Fields', Trent Park, 12:48 hrs; 4 Small Heath, 'New Fields', Trent Park, 12:50 - 12:58 hrs; 1 Narrow-bordered Five Spot Burnet, 'New Fields', Trent Park, 13:08 hrs - my first record of the year; 1 male Large Skipper, Sect 4, 'New Fields', Trent Park, 13:10 hrs; 1 Painted Lady, nectaring on Bramble blossom, Sect 4, 'New Fields', Trent Park, 13:10 hrs - my first of the year; 2 Marbled White, Sect 4, 'New Fields', Trent Park, 13:19 - 13:21 hrs - first one relocated for confirmation; 2 Red Admiral, at Monken Hadley Common, 14:10 and 14:30 hrs; 1 Comma, at Monken Hadley Common, 14:30 hrs; 5 Small Skipper, at Monken Hadley Common, 15:00 hrs; 4, 2 males, 2 females, Meadow Brown, at Monken Hadley Common, 15:00 hrs; 1 Ringlet, by Beech Hill Lake, 15:36 hrs; 1 Red Admiral, near Cockfosters entrance, Trent Park, 16:10 hrs. -Robert Callf

Just to let you know that I ran a "Beginners Guide to Butterflies" workshop at Minet Country Park in Hayes, Middx on Saturday (14th July) and we got a fantastic view of a purple hairstreak sitting on and flying around bramble scrub (both wings closed and wings open). I knew they were present as they had been sighted in previous years around the top of a particular oak tree but this one seemed quite happy sitting on a bramble leaf. I did make it clear this is a rare sighting - I have never seen one before either so it was very exciting and conclusive evidence that they definitely are present in the park! We also saw 5/6 marbled whites, 2 x small whites, 2 x green-veined whites, 3 x small/Essex skippers, 4 x ringlets, 5 meadow browns, 2 x red admirals as well as the one purple hairstreak. - Jennifer Gilbert (HMWT)

Sunday 15th July 2012

Stanwell Moor, I had an hour to look around locally this morning (15th) and made for the nearer end of the Heathrow Conservation site near J14 of the M25. If you like brown and orange butterflies, you would have had a treat: there were Meadow Browns (12+) and Small Heaths (15+) in abundance, several Skippers (5+) darting amongst them (of which all scrutinised turned out to be of the Essex persuasion) and the first of the season's Gatekeepers (5 - all male). The latter were beautifully deep and rich in colour, making the Meadow Browns and Small Heaths look rather dull in contrast. I also saw three Red Admirals, a Speckled Wood, a Comma and a number of whites - of all three common types (one LW, five SW/GVW). - Dave Miller

On 12 July Kit Jones made several observations (posted on the H&M BC website) regarding recent management practices at Broxbourne Woods NNR. I have made enquiries about the points he raises. In order to address his concerns, and wearing my Wood Warden's hat as well as my BC

hat, I think it important that everyone should be aware that trees were felled in December (outside of the bird nesting season); that tree work within 40m of the pond was undertaken very carefully with a licensed newt worker present and that no mulching of stumps was done within the 40m zone; and that stumps were mulched in April when newts were most likely to be in the pond and out of harm's way and again a licensed newt worker was present. Had these conditions not been observed there would indeed have been cause for concern - Alan Jackson

5.5 hours at Bricket Wood Common in reasonable weather at last, produced the following - 11 Silver-washed Fritillary (1 female), 9 White Admiral, 5 Purple Hairstreak, 1 Gatekeeper (my first of the year), 2 Small Heath, 2 Essex Skipper, 6 Small Skipper, 9 Large Skipper, 4 Comma, 25+ Marbled White, 3 Large White, 30+ Meadow Browns, numerous Ringlets plus 1 Southern Hawker dragonfly - Bob Harris

Some news for Sunday 15th July 2012 - 3 Red Admiral (1 at Barracks, Vicarage Farm, 10:40 hrs, 2 Park Farm, 1 at 12:33 and another at 13:26 hrs); 2 Comma, at Park Farm, Enfield, 12:25 and 13:06 hrs; 1 Essex Skipper, along hedgerow near Hadley Road at Vicarage Farm, at 11:42 - although on Vicarage Farm, is actually in Trent Park tetrad (TQ2996) - finally managed to ID one after checking a number of Small Skipper; 1 Small Heath, at Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 11:07 hrs; 1 Purple Hairstreak, settled along Jubilee Path at Park Farm, Enfield, 13:24 hrs - a fresh individual; 1 Speckled Wood, at Park Farm, Enfield, 13:26 hrs. - Robert Callf

To explain John Edwards is trying to see all UK butterfly species in one year and it was suggested by Patrick Barkham he contact myself or Andrew Middleton, as a result I gave him instructions on how to find the Cheshunt Golf Course planted elms We followed them to the letter and there were 2 WL Hairstreaks fluttering around the top of the left-hand elm by the first tee as soon as we arrived at 9.20 am. We then saw one perched after a few minutes so job done. Not only that by 10.00 am we had added Gatekeeper (along the hedgerow on the way up to the elms) and an Essex Skipper in the meadow behind the car park, one of 3 that we positively ID'd. Small/Essex Skippers were everywhere so we had plenty to choose from. It really shouldn't have been as easy as that! We spent the rest of the day at Hexton Chalk Pit, a lovely little reserve. I'm afraid I didn't make any detailed counts but there were at least 20 each of Chalkhill Blue and Marbled White, 5-6 Dark-green Fritillaries, 2 Gatekeepers, several Small Skippers plus the usual supporting cast of Meadow Browns and Ringlets. Also saw a Grass Rivulet Moth - not sure how common they are down here but it was not one I had come across before. *(details have been sent to Colin Plant)* So all in all a nice day out and very productive. I now have just 5 species left for the year list, so thank you so much for your help which was much appreciated - John Edwards *(normally in North Yorkshire)*

Led a large group to look for Purple Emperors today around the Bridgewater Monument on NT's Ashridge Estate in the N Chilterns (this bit is in Herts, just). Unfortunately, it clouded up during the crucial period but I did see one male just NE of the Monument just before the event, and as we were splitting up we were viciously attacked by a large dark butterfly hell bent on Demonic Malice - more of a sounding than a sighting as the click and swish of wings was very loud! Only one butterfly behaves like that in the UK... - Matthew Oates ([as posted on the Purple Empire blog](#))

There were a couple of Purple Emperors showing well at Ruislip Woods today during a 20 minute sunny interlude from approx noon. They were just inside the wood near the usual spot by St. Vincents nursing home and remained in the canopy. Also in the general area were 1+ Purple Hairstreak, 2 Speckled Wood, 1 Ringlet, 2 Small Skipper. Others had seen White admirals but by the time we looked, the sun had disappeared again. - Andy Culshaw

A brief visit to Ruislip Woods and Lido in poor conditions today yielded my first Gatekeeper, a few Ringlets, a Meadow Brown and a Speckled Wood. - Ched George

In the sunny period during sunday afternoon on 15th July we saw several butterflies in Kings Langley wildflower verges. We saw one large skipper in flight, one in a spider web being eaten, two small skipper, possibly one meadow brown flying, one gatekeeper, several ringlets and three pristine marbled whites on pink clover, may be more; many cinnabar caterpillars on ragwort at different stages of growth and a shaded broad-bar moth - Elizabeth Debenham

On platform 11 at Watford junction 1 x cinnabar moth (didn't take the train!). At bridge under motorway near Garston station 2 x ringlets. Four hours around Bricket wood common counted 44 x marbled white, 1 x small white, 59 x ringlet, 30 x meadow brown, 13 x small skipper, 2 x essex

skipper, 1 x large skipper, 4 x gatekeeper, 1 x speckled wood, 3 x comma (haven't seen since march), 1 x purple hairstreak, 1 x red admiral, 7 x silver washed fritillary, 5 x white admiral, 1 x green oak tortrix moth. - David Gower

Lots of White Admirals at Bricket Wood today still in nice condition, <http://www.flickr.com/photos/naturecatcher58/7577049096/in/photostream/> plenty of silver Washed Fritillaries, Large Skippers and Ringlets not so many Meadow Browns. Nice to be out in the sunshine for once - Ashley Cox

Quite a good day along the river Stort. There are lots of Ringlet on the wing in the little meadow just past Southmill lock, and further down past Spellbrook lock I saw more Ringlet, Red Admiral, Comma, at least one Small Tortoiseshell and a Large White - Chris Gleeson

To my surprise at Bencroft wood saw today at 1pm, one silver washed fritillary, one white admiral, sunning itself on the bracken and a gatekeeper, but not a single white or purple hairstreak. In fields behind plenty of large and small skippers, meadow browns and ringlets - Steve Kiln

HATFIELD AERODROME (Disused) Meadow Brown x 30+ / Ringlet x 20+ / Small Skipper x 5 / Marbled White x 20+ - David Wheatcroft

Northaw Territory, two male Purple Emperors clashing and 8 Purple Hairstreak - Helen Bantock

Heartwood Forest - 12 people joined today's HMBC field trip & were rewarded with a sighting of White letter Hairstreak, the first record I'm aware of from this site. Also seen - Small Heath, Comma, Red Admiral, Small & Large Skipper, Small & GV White, Meadow Brown, Marbled White, Gatekeeper & Ringlet plus Silver Y moth. Full report to follow in the next branch newsletter - Malcolm Hull

At Hexton today between 10:35 and 11:15, 3 Dark Green Fritillary (confirmed by two others with binoculars) 39 Chalkhill Blue (just 1 female) 1 Gatekeeper, 5 Small Heath, 1 Comma plus numerous Marbled Whites and a smattering of Meadow Browns and Ringlets.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/7395917@N02/7573866014/>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/7395917@N02/7573866176/>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/7395917@N02/7573866324/>

- Robin Pearson

Saturday 14th July 2012

Late afternoon, Hexton Chalkpit NR - 3+ DARK GREEN FRITILLARY, numerous Chalkhill blues & Marbled Whites. - Darin Stanley

Friday 13th July 2012

Two White Admirals seen this afternoon at Park Wood, Ruislip (confirming several fleeting glimpses of White Admirals here earlier this week, high in the trees). Also today, one or two Commas, Ringlets in fair numbers, and a few Meadow Browns and Small Skippers - Graham Elcombe

Bricket Wood Common - My first Gatekeeper of the year. Silver-washed Fritillaries out in force - 14 on the transect route, mostly males. White Admirals (8), Red Admirals (2), Comma (4) plus masses of Ringlets & Marbled Whites. The heavy rain has left the site VERY wet, with much surface water & mud. The rain also seems to have affected the honeydew feeding butterflies, with no Purple Emperor & only 2 Purple Hairstreaks seen on the site in over 4 hours. Butterfly World - 2 Ringlets, the first time I have recorded the species at this site & the 24th British butterfly species I've recorded here. 129 6-spot Burnet moths, 20 Meadow Brown, Red Admiral plus a few whites & skippers - Malcolm Hull

3 White-letter Hairstreak after a 10 minute wait at Cheshunt Park but no Purple Emperors at key sites despite strong sunshine - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

Early morning walk today (Friday 13th July 2012) produced 4(2m,2f) Meadow Brown in Oakwood Park, N14, 08:10 - 08:15 hrs. - Robert Callf

Friday 13th. Did my Warren (Colney Heath) transect in fitful sunshine. - 26 Meadow Brown, 16 Marbled White, 12 Small Heath (mostly pretty faded), 16 Small/Essex Skipper (all very bright, too active to see closely), 11 Ringlet. Better than expected, but still disappointing. Probably more lying

low in grass. 1x 6 Spot Burnett, many "grass moths", plenty of Cinnabar Moth cats on Ragwort, but very few other inverts. On Thursday 12th, during 6 hrs botanical survey of Brickendon House complex in bright sunshine and botanically rich grassland saw only one each Speckled Wood, GV White, Ringlet, probable Small White. Very disappointing with so many food/nectar plants - John Moss

Thursday 12th July 2012

Near Stanwell Moor, for various reasons, I walked to Terminal Five and caught a bus to work this morning. One of these reasons was to investigate en route a patch of hedgerow elm trees that might harbour WLH. I saw none; however I was distracted a bit by discovering a thriving little colony of Essex Skippers. These were on the roadside verge on the southeast corner of the roundabout between the A 3113 and the A 3044, close to the airport perimeter. In no more than 20-30 square metres I counted over a dozen. Another case of looking for one thing and finding another - and an example of butterflies hiding under our noses in everyday places. A good thing this verge doesn't seem to get cut, either. The centre of the roundabout itself is also a riot of colour and long grass. - Dave Miller

Broxbourne west car park, 10.50 1 male Silver washed fritillary taking salts from the ground, Plashes wood 1 very fresh Small tortoiseshell - Laurence Drummond

In the morning at Broxbourne main ride 4 Silver-washed Fritillary including a mating pair. 2 White admiral and 1 Comma, 5 Large Skippers and good number of Meadow Browns and Ringlets. In the afternoon at Heartwood 34 Large Skippers, 4 Small Skippers, 2 Large Whites, 2 Red Admiral, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 11 Marbled Whites, 110 Meadow Browns, 51 Ringlets, 2 Small Heaths, 2 Speckled Yellow and a Silver Y. Be warned though ground on site is still very muddy in places - Andrew Steele

1 White Admiral in Bramfield Woods. A **Gatekeeper** along the track from Bramfield to Bramfield Park Wood. Good numbers of Marbled Whites in fields south of Tewin, also 1 Purple hairstreak low down on a Hogweed plant (mature oak very close though). 3 Marbled Whites on my Ware Park transect, including a mating pair, this is as many of this species as seen in the previous 16 years of the Transect - Andrew Wood

News Diane Andrews, 3 Gatekeeper in the Lee Valley near Cheshunt Station (2 x tetrads), 32 Ringlets, 3 Small Skipper, 1 Essex and 5 unidentified. 8 Red Admiral, 12 Meadow Browns. Also 1 Narrow bordered 5 spot Burnet, 165 cinnabar caterpillars, 2 silver y, 3 Shaded Broadbars, 1 Large White, 1 Green-veined, 1 Small and 2 unidentified

Spent 2 hours at the Norton Green site early this afternoon and saw the following: 50+ Ringlets, 20+ Meadow Browns, 5+ Marbled Whites, 3 Red Admirals, 2 Silver-washed Fritillaries (at the same spot as last week), and 5+ Commas. No Purple Hairstreaks, Purple Emperors or White Admirals (yet!) - Peter Clarke

Thankfully today saw some butterflies at Wood Lane, Pirton transect. Red Admiral, 35 Ringlet in 4 of 5 sections, Meadow Brown, Comma, Small White, Small Heath - Val Fullforth

Walk through Bricket Wood between 10 am to 1 pm mostly in the sunshine seeing approx 8 Silver-washed Fritillaries, White Admirals, 2 Commas, Ringlets, Marbled Whites, Large & Small Skippers, Speckled Woods - Ernest Leahy

Some sightings for yesterday (Wednesday 11th July 2012) - 1 Small Skipper, at Lavender Hill Cemetery; 2 Comma, together, edge of Whitewebbs Wood; 5 Ringlet, Whitewebbs Park; 4 Meadow Brown, Whitewebbs Park; 3 Small Skipper, Whitewebbs Park; 1 White-letter Hairstreak, Hilly Fields Park (TQ318987) and 3 Purple Hairstreak, here also - needed to look carefully - not many about at the present time! 1 Red Admiral, Hilly Fields Park - sorry no times today - forgot to take out my watch. - Robert Callf

Today at Hexton Chalk Pit, 1 Fritillary (they are following me around at the moment!) **7 Chalkhill Blues** numerous Marbled Whites, a few Meadow Browns amidst a mass of flowers - Robin Pearson

Broxbourne Woods NNR---1100-----1300hrs 12/7/12-----4x SW Frits----I male in the West car park seemed to be searching for trace minerals with a Red admiral ! (20mins). 2x Small Skipper---10 + Meadow brown----Lots of Ringlets-----No sign of PE----Some mature sallows have been

destroyed in the felling area? Heavy machinery being used around the pond area--not best practice when rare newts are about. Also it seems that a lot of works have been carried out during the nesting season??? KIT JONES

Wednesday 11th July 2012

News from Diane Andrews, 14 Purple Hairstreak at Ally Pally around 5.30pm also 22 Meadow Browns. However, no Burnet moths, peacock caterpillars, only a few whites and no Gatekeeper yet

I visited Bricket Wood on the 9/7/12 and recorded: 2+ White Admirals, 2 Silver-washed Fritillaries, 1 Large Skipper and dozens of Ringlets, Meadow Browns and Marbled Whites. I also paid a visit to Long Dean yesterday (10/7/12) and recorded: 2+ Commas, dozens of Ringlets, Meadow Browns and Marbled Whites - Samuel Perfect

Broxbourne main ride 10.00-12.00, 3 Silver washed fritillary 2 male 1 female, 1 White admiral and 1 Comma - Laurence Drummond

AM Fir & Pond Woods NR HMWT. At last a reasonable number of butterflies on the Reserve...most of them on the meadow. Marbled whites in profusion (12), first purple hairstreaks in a small oak on the N. side of the meadow, also ringlets, 3; small skippers, 5; meadow browns, 4; and a single speckled wood. - David Gompertz

Having waited since noon managed to see at least two **Purple Emperors** between 12.45 and 13.00 this afternoon in Park Wood, Ruislip (behind St Vincents Nursing Home), - Dick Middleton

3 Silver-washed Fritillary, all very new looking on the Balls Wood transect and 1 White Admiral. Saw some possible PE activity around the Sallows by the ponds and went back after the transect but no evidence of Purple Emperors before the heavens opened, but did find a perfectly posed pair of mating Silver-washed Fritillaries see the video at <http://www.facebook.com/ButterflyConservationHertsMiddlesex>
Andrew Wood

Seen today at Tyttenhanger - 2 Marbled White, 2 Comma, 25 Ringlet, 1 Small Heath, 2 Meadow Brown, 1 Speckled Wood and 1 Small White - Terry Wood

Bricket Wood common 10:15 - 11:00, 5 Silver-washed Fritillary (4 males on main ride, 1 female near wooden bridges) 5 White Admiral on main ride
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/7395917@N02/7549093310/>
Symondshyde Great Wood 1 male Silver-washed Fritillary at entrance to bridleway (also Comma, Red Admiral) Batford Approx. 20 Marbled White in weedy field by B653. - Robin Pearson

Have just seen a Silver-washed fritillary on transect (around 11.30 am) in Sherrardspark woods just along from where Gwynneth Jenkins first saw one on her transect a couple of years ago. I also saw a couple of Meadow browns and a Red admiral on the next section of the transect. Luckily the sun was shining when I passed by. Meadow browns are bobbing in and out of the long grass and meadow flowers which Wel Hat Council has been persuaded to only mow in the autumn (and remove the cut grass) on Templewood Vale (on the northern edge of the wood i.e. Knightsfield area of Welwyn Garden). They don't seem to mind overcast days. - Mike and Charlotte

Redbourn, this site is usually good for marbled whites but last week when I visited I only saw 2. However today when the sun shone this morning I saw about 15. When Redbourn Bypass was built in 1984 Harpenden Lane was realigned and flattened leaving the old tarmac lane to nature. There is now a grassy glade surrounded by trees/shrubs. I visit every summer looking for flowers and butterflies. Apart from the marbled whites there were 10+ ringlets and 10+ meadow browns. Also 6 spot burnets and I think treble bar moths. I walk my dog on Rothamsted fields most days. The uncultivated margins are quite good for butterflies and I am seeing ringlets and meadow browns most days. Only one tortoiseshell so far - John Fisher

Tuesday 10th July 2012

Some news for today (Tuesday 10th July 2012) - Silver Y, several, at Vicarage Farm, Enfield; **3+ male Gatekeeper**, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 11:15 hrs, onwards; 1 Marbled White, on Res banking, Parkside Farm, 11:45 hrs; 2 Red Admiral, at Park Farm, Enfield, 12:07 and 12:40 hrs; 1 Red Admiral, at Barracks, Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 14:41 hrs. Also quite a few Small Skippers about in the long grass, but not managed to identify any Essex Skippers yet - Robert

Callf & Robin White. 1 Red Admiral, at Town Park, Enfield, 15:24 hrs - Robert Callf. - Robert Callf

"Earthworks St Albans" Hixberry Lane St Albans, Marbled White butterfly displaying egg-laying behaviour on bank of long grasses - Nadine Brown

Monday 9th July 2012

Saw the following butterflies on Saturday (7th July 2012) - 1 Small Tortoiseshell, along track at Vicarage Farm, Enfield (TQ305973) at 13:23 hrs - the first of the summer-brood for me; 1 male Large Skipper, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Stables at Vicarage Farm, 13:35 hrs; 2 Small Skippers, including a male, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Williams Wood at Vicarage Farm, 13:48 hrs, also a few other Small Skippers in set-aside field N of Williams Wood, Trent Park and along hedgerow near Hadley Road, c10 in total; 1 male Large Skipper, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 13:50 and 1 female here, 13:57 hrs; 1 male Marbled White, on Res banking, at Parkside Farm, Enfield (TQ296983) at 14:15 hrs, and another along hedgerow off Barracks, at Vicarage Farm (TQ306973) at 16:15 hrs; 1 Red Admiral, at Sidhil's Field, Vicarage Farm, 16:32 hrs. - Robert Callf.

Sunday 8th July 2012

Some news from Horsenden Hill today, 8th July. At least 6 Ringlet on Paradise Fields in fairly poor conditions. Also a Purple Hairstreak on Berkeley Fields and a White-letter Hairstreak behind the farm. On the west transect, 14 Marbled White and a couple of Small Skippers. - Andy Culshaw

Saturday 7th July 2012

I had a minimum of 15 Ringlet at Paradise Fields late morning. Ringlet has been essentially a rarity at Horsenden, with the odd sighting from time to time and some evidence of a small colony in Perivale Wood. A surprise to find so many among the more numerous Meadow Browns. Also 2 White-letters near the farm (I had 8 over three separate locations on 1st July) - Andy Culshaw

Bricket Wood Common - 3 new species out this week, **Essex Skipper (2)**, Comma (1) & Purple Hairstreak (4). White Admirals (12) seem to be having a good year, as are Marbled Whites & Ringlets (dozens of each). Silver-washed Fritillary numbers are still low (3, all male) as are Meadow Brown & Large Skipper. No Gatekeepers recorded yet. Purple Emperor glimpsed in the canopy clearing in Mutchetts Wood - Malcolm Hull

Millennium Park, Mile End (TQ3682) **Essex Skipper 7**, Small Skipper 2, Large Skipper 4, Green-veined White 1, Small White 1, Large White 1, Meadow Brown 4 (incl mating pair), Red Admiral 1, Burnet Companion 24, Silver-Y 2. - Rob Smith

A morning visit to Bricket Wood in between the showers brought out the butterflies with 6 White Admiral (including 1 one on the common, 1 Silver-washed Fritillary, 1 Silver Y moth, 6 Speckled woods and Good numbers of Marbled Whites and Large Skippers plus my first southern Hawker of the year.

http://i38.photobucket.com/albums/e140/cookie_yum/bricketetc66.jpg

Andrew Steele

HATFIELD AERODROME (DISUSED): 7/7/12 - 3 x Marbled White 8+ x Ringlet 10+ x Meadow Brown 3 x Small Heath 2 x Small/Essex Skipper. **1/7/12** - 2 x Marbled White 1 x Large Skipper 5+ Meadow Brown 2 x Speckled Wood. **23/6/12** - 1 x Large Skipper 2 x Speckled Wood - David Wheatcroft

Friday 6th July 2012

At Heartwood today after the rain had 27 Large Skippers, 35 Meadow Browns, 21 Ringlets, 3 Red Admirals and 1 Small Heath plus a Black-tailed skimmer first one I've seen at Heartwood Andrew Steele

Broxbourne woods main ride, 3pm-4pm 1 Male Silver washed fritillary, 1 White admiral. Broxbourne common territory 4.15-4.50, no sign in full sun - Laurence Drummond

Had to cancel walk in Wormley due to rain but late on this afternoon at Waterford Heath south saw 6 commas, 13 marbled white, a few small heath, a large and small skipper and plenty of ringlets & meadow browns - Steve Kiln

Thursday 5th July 2012

Aldbury Nowers and Pitstone Hill area, a beautiful sunny day: Numerous Meadow Browns, Ringlets, Small Heaths and Large Skippers, 12+ Marbled Whites, 4+Dark Green Fritillaries. There were also lots of Six-spot Burnets, Grass Moths and Plume Moths on the wing. - Sharon Monahan

Kings Meads - 50+ Meadow Brown, 5+ Ringlet, Small Tortoiseshell, 2 Large Skipper Bengeo (near St Leonard's Church) - Small Heath. **30th June**, Colney Heath - 10+ Marbled White, Small Heath, Ringlet + large numbers of Meadow Brown - Simon Knott

For the last few years I have seen Marbled White's in my garden and yesterday, 05/07/12, saw three along with a few Ringlets. I am convinced that the Marbled Whites breed on a patch of set aside land at the back of my Letchworth garden - Roger Millard

Today I went looking for Purple Emperor and White Admiral at Broxbourne Wood and Balls Wood. Early on, cloud predominated and the air temperature was quite low. I saw none of either species at Broxbourne, but as the sun came out 1 White Admiral was feeding on brambles alongside the path in Highfield Wood at 13:45. During the afternoon the weather improved further and I spotted 3 White Admirals at different parts of the main ride of Balls Wood. All were flying strongly high up amongst branches, and none came down to be photographed. Slightly disappointed, I headed back to the entrance. I turned the corner onto the entrance ride at 17:55 and immediately saw a group of 3 White Admirals sparring in a willow opposite the bench. Two dispersed, and the third came down to feed on brambles. When it flew back up to the willow I sat down on the bench, and soon they all reappeared. I sat watching them until 18:20, when shadows encroached on the brambles - Paul Why

Today in memory of Steve Pash who's patch was Ruislip we visited his St Vincent's Assembly area. We didn't arrive until 15:45 or so and watched the canopy initially from a distance. Andrew picked up a **Purple Emperor** so we went inside the wood but with no luck of finding the right gap. Returning to a convenient point, we both stood with binoculars firmly fixed on a section of the canopy and we treated to several flights and an extended clash of two Emperors at 16:45 after that sunshine and activity stopped. We also visited Bricket Wood and despite intermittent sunshine between 13:00 and 15:00 no Purple Emperors were seen. White Admirals were about but in no way were they trying to be pretenders! - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

I saw a Silver Washed Fritillary at Broxbourne wood today (I was looking for White Admiral and PE) - Brian

At Bricket Wood Common this morning, 2 sightings of Silver-washed Fritillary and 2 of White Admiral, though in each case both were probably the same individual. The SWF provided stunning views down to three feet! The supporting cast was made up of Ringlets (dozens) Meadow Browns, Large Skippers, Marbled Whites and Speckled Wood.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/7395917@N02/7507663860/>

Robin Pearson P.S. Wear waterproof shoes or boots if visiting, it is very boggy in places

10.00-11.30 Broxbourne main ride, just 1 male Silver washed fritillary, Highfield at the crossway 1 White admiral - Laurence Drummond

OAKHILL WOODS LNR----East Barnet. 5/7/12----Newly emerged Marbled white---first absolute proof they now breed on this site and are not just transients-----Small skipper and Meadow brown increasing in numbers----First Six spot burnets of the year-----WL Hairstreak X2 on bramble flowers----- No Ringlets so far?-----A strange looking fly with a black and white hairy bumble bee type body?---seemed to be attacking any insect that flew by and returning to the same perch - KIT JONES

In Kings Langley yesterday July 4th I saw two meadow browns, one pristine large skipper and a ringlet all in a country lane. On a greenhouse panel there was a silver Y. On June 28th I saw a red admiral. - Elizabeth Debenham

Saw my first Ringlets today at Tyttenhanger Gravel Pits. I must have seen about 20 of them, as well as singles of Red Admiral, Meadow Brown and a distant White - Terry Wood

Wednesday 4th July 2012

We were at Amwell, it was quite warm and we saw a red admiral, comma, large skipper, numerous

meadow browns and ringlets. - Paul Thrush

During intermittent sunshine one **Purple Emperor** entered the Northaw Assembly area this afternoon at 14:36. **Purple Hairstreak** were also present - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

3rd July Stanwell Moor: A damp day, but warm. I ventured out locally regardless, and managed to see five Red Admirals, a dozen Meadow Browns, four female Common Blues and twenty or more Small Heaths. I also spotted my first local Ringlet, perched several metres up in a tree.

4th July Stanwell Moor (and a bit further): Surprised to see a bit of sunshine around lunchtime, I ventured out and decided to extend my local walk further north along the River Colne to a point on the road towards Colnbrook known as the Mad Bridge. This is all still part of the Heathrow Conservation area and after the initial landscaping into gentle slopes and creation of the main path, it has been left wild. The poor soil has generated loads of flowering plants, and at present with all the rain it is a very colourful sight (and indeed site!). The commonest butterfly was the Small Heath. Though numbers thin out a bit as you walk north, they were everywhere, and there must be hundreds of them here. Meadow Browns were frequent too, and I was surprised to see so many Common Blues today. These two species are also ubiquitous along this walk. In lesser numbers I found Large Skippers, plus one male Small Skipper; there were Commas and Red Admirals, including two of the latter egg-laying on the generous stands of nettle that border the river; a handful of Whites made an appearance, both Small and Green-veined. However, the highlight of the excursion for me was discovering no less than three Small Tortoiseshells. Two were very new, but the third was a little more careworn. They are the first I've seen this year anywhere I've been.

4th July Harmondsworth Moor: I found time later to see how the Marbled Whites were doing at Harmondsworth Moor. Despite large grey clouds spoiling the sunshine as I arrived, I saw at least a dozen flying and there were no doubt more tucked down in the grass. There were a similar number of Meadow Browns, plus a couple of Small Skippers, but no Common Blues. The colony here and the one a mile away nearer home are well out of synch with each other it seems! - Dave Miller

Never seen Bricket Common so wet underfoot, weather not the best however managed to see **three white admiral**, half a dozen large and small skippers, plenty of marbled whites, meadow browns and ringlets. Saw a single red admiral and a small tortoiseshell. Not enough sun for the fritillaries. Plenty of bramble flowers. Should stay good for a couple of weeks but need some sun - Steve Kiln

Made a dash to Norton Green this afternoon after the sun came out. Overall, the sun was out only 30% of the time so apart from a few Meadow Browns, Ringlets and the odd Large Skipper and Speckled Wood not much to speak of. Walked past Pigeonswick Cottage towards Burleigh Farm and then to Wintergreen Wood where I occasionally see the White Admiral. Spent half an hour in the wood standing on the public footpath but the sun was out for only about a minute so not too surprised not to see much except Meadow Browns, Ringlets and a Large Skipper. On the same way back, the sun came out (typical!), I stopped off in the clearing by Pigeonswick Cottage and saw a beautiful **Silver-washed Fritillary** over the brambles. Was hoping to see a White Admiral at the same spot where I saw my only one last year in the area but no luck this time. Also found a Comma in the 'meadow' by Watery Grove. Of course I searched for the Purple Emperor but perhaps too early after the unseasonal weather we have had. Peter Clarke

This evening in Symondshyde Great Wood - 7 Ringlet, 1 Speckled Wood.
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/7395917@N02/7502044616/>
- Robin Pearson

2 Comma and 1 Small White in Wash Lane, South Mimms behind the Services - Terry Wood

Saw the following on Sunday 1st July 2012 - 1 Red Admiral, Sidhil's Field, at Vicarage Farm, 09:47 hrs; 1 Red Admiral, at Williams Wood, Trent Park, 10:58 hrs; 2 Red Admiral, together, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, 11:10 hrs; 1 male Small Skipper, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, 11:14 hrs; 1 Small Skipper, along hedgerow near Hadley Road, at Vicarage Farm, 11:19 hrs; 1 Large Skipper, near Duncan's Wood, 12:22 hrs; 1 Red Admiral, near Duncan's Wood, 12:22 hrs. Saw the following on Monday 2nd July 2012 at Rye Meads RSPB - 1 Comma, at 14:33 hrs; 2 Red Admiral, at 14:36 and 14:53 hrs. - Robert Callf

Monday 2nd July 2012

Just a brief note to say that there were at least 8 White-letter Hairstreaks at Horsenden Hill on

Sunday 1st July. Six were around one favoured elm between the canal bridge end of the cycle path and the rear gate of the farm (same tree as reported for the previous weeks event), one was along the cycle path itself and a single was in the newly coppiced area immediately behind the farm building. Other butterflies were hard to come by, but I had a couple of Large Skipper, 2 Commas, 3-4 Marbled White, 4 Red Admirals, 3 Speckled Wood, a Large White and a handful of Meadow Browns. I am still to register Small (or indeed Essex) Skipper for the year! - Andy Culshaw

Saturday 30 June, recorded on guided Dragonfly walk on Panshanger Park (east), 20+ Meadow Brown, 2 bright S. Tortoiseshell, 1x Red Admiral. Possibly other species but no opportunity to explore. Should be a good site though with much mature grassland - John Moss

Sunday 1st July 2012

Bricket Wood Common - **Male Silver-washed Fritillary** & **2 White Admirals** seen on today's Herts & Middx Branch Field Trip. Later the same day, 2 tantalising glimpses of what looked like a **Purple Emperor**, at canopy level. Marbled Whites, Meadow Brown, Speckled Woods & Large Skippers all out in good numbers, plus a single Small Skipper. Full report in the next branch newsletter - Malcolm Hull

Five people on the Balls Wood walk today, we saw only Red Admiral, Large Skipper, Meadow Brown, Speckled Wood, Ringlet and a Blood-vein Moth. A couple of other people in the wood who had stuck to one spot reported a White Admiral. Later I also saw a Comma - Andrew Wood

OAKHILL WOODS LNR East Barnet 1/7/12----3x WL Hairstreak on privet flowers (planted in a sunny spot by the Wych elm to make monitoring easier.----Use hemp agrimony in damper areas) 1 x Painted lady female egg laying on nettle ---despite being surrounded by creeping thistles?-----
---Small skipper x4-----Large skipper x 7---Meadow brown x12---Red admiral x 4---Six nests of 2nd instar Peacock larvae (one taken into protective custody)---(Not found any Tshell larvae this year). KIT JONES

Sunday 1st July a very blustery day at Butterfly World we thought ourselves lucky seeing two very lively Small blue's being chased by a Small Skipper. Also saw a Six-spot burnet moth and a yellow & black striped caterpillar on the Kidney Vetch

. <http://www.flickr.com/photos/69131641@N04/7475231906/in/photostream>

- Helen George

A few sightings from the Stort Navigation path, in the vicinity of Rushy Mead nature reserve: 1 comma, 1 gatekeeper and 1 recently deceased red admiral - Christopher Gleeson

Walked along canal from bridge near to Tring station towards Berkhamsted to next bridge but no sightings (heron was patrolling). Field adjacent to Ridgeway counted 6 x marbled white, 12 x small heath, 19 x meadow brown, 6 x ringlet, 1 x large skipper. At Aldbury Nowers lowest enclosure 7 x ringlet, 12 x meadow brown, 1 x dark green fritillary (didn't settle), 23 x marbled white, 1 x speckled wood. Next to lower enclosure on left side = 1 x ringlet, 2 x marbled white, 4 x meadow brown. Up to Duchie's piece = 2 x marbled white, 9 x meadow brown, 3 x ringlet. At top enclosure = 10 x marbled white, 11 x meadow brown, 10 x dark green fritillary (1 high up, 7 low down on thistles & 2 in next section), 14 x ringlet, 5 x large skippers, 1 x red admiral, 1 x treble bar moth. - David Gower

News from Diane Andrews, no Chimney Sweepers at Trent Park on the 25th June just a Small Heath. At Hadley on the 28th June single Chimney Sweeper. First Small Skipper at Alexandra Palace today and two unidentified.

Started today at Danemead, looking much better now, Meadow browns, 3 Large skippers, 1 Comma, Ringlets are back (about 8 seen) but the grazing seems to have done for the Small skippers. On to Broxbourne main ride, very poor 2 Meadow brown and 2 Speckled wood. Wormley wood, despite looking very good just 3 Ringlet and 1 Red admiral, all of the Sallows we pollarded are regenerating well, Balls wood gave my first **2 White admirals** of the year - Laurence Drummond

Butterfly Conservation Hertfordshire & Middlesex Branch

Archive Page

Sightings and news from January to June 2012

 [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 2012.

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](#)

Saturday 30th June 2012

Field Trip report: First part of the day's programme was at Cheshunt Park Golf Club elms to look for White-letter Hairstreak. At 9 o'clock it was raining and windy and no one came along to watch, however on the horizon was some blue sky and during about 10 minutes of good sun at 9.15, at least 5 active males were observed on the sheltered and sunny side of the trees. We then went onto Northaw Great Wood for the woodland butterflies walk where we were joined by four people. The weather was improving and there were several good spells of sunshine, no White Admiral or Silver-washed Fritillaries were observed as we half suspected would be the case....but good numbers of Ringlet and Meadow Brown, also 4 Red Admirals, several Speckled Wood and 3 Large Skipper. The Red Admirals particularly enjoying a sheltered corner where there a fair degree of dog poo! By the afternoon, the weather was considerably better and we watched the territorial area for Purple Emperor, until 3.15. The first report of PE this year was from Surrey the previous day at 2.55pm so we did try! Leaving Northaw we returned to Cheshunt Park and a walk around the meadows produced over 30 Small Heath, 2 Small Skipper, 1 Comma, 15 or so Meadow Brown, 8 Large Skippers and 2 Silver Y moths - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton (*Please email if you would like to see territorial activity and we will try and arrange another opportunity to visit the site*)

Before we met up I went along path to right just past entrance to Northaw great wood and counted 12 x meadow brown & 3 x ringlet - David Gower

Visited Hexton Chalk Pit for approximately an hour during a sunny but blustery period late afternoon on 30th June. Decent number of Marbled Whites (20+) on the wing, particularly in the sheltered areas, several Meadow Browns and Small Heaths and at least 1 Dark Green Fritillary seen both in flight and sunning itself amongst vegetation. - Steve Austin and Gillian Marchant

News for today Saturday (30th June 2012) - 1 Comma, in Town Park, Enfield, 12:10 hrs - my first definite summer sighting this year - Robert Callf

On a quick late afternoon visit to Hexton Chalk Pit saw six Marbled Whites. - John Landels

Friday 29th June 2012

3 x Speckled Wood seen in 15 mins visit to Oxhey Wood today - David Gower

Thursday 28th June 2012

At Waterford Heath south saw first Marbled white of year, plus 2 holly blues on the goats rue, a comma and large skipper, 30 plus meadow brown and half a dozen small heath - Steve Kiln

News for Thursday (28th June 2012) in Trent Park: 5 Small Heath, at 'New Fields', 13:53 - 14:12 hrs, including three together; 3 Large Skipper, at 'New Fields', 14:00 - 14:28 hrs (1 at Sect 8 and 2 at Sect 4); 1 Speckled Wood, Sect 7, 14:05 hrs; 1 Small Copper, very worn & faded, 'New

Fields', Sect 5, 14:19 hrs; 1 Ringlet, Sect 4, 'New Fields', 14:25 hrs - Robert Callf.

At Waterford Heath south saw first Marbled white of year, plus 2 holly blues on the goats rue, a comma and large skipper, 30 plus meadow brown and half a dozen small heath- Steve Kiln

When I went to the Southern Country Park for a 10.30 am start to the butterfly walk I was leading, although it was cloudy - and only recently stopped raining! - it was 23C. I wasn't hopeful of many people turning up, and when no one had by 10.45 I decided to set out on my own to look for some Marbled Whites to photograph in an area of the Park not covered by my usual transect walk. By 11.00am I had a clear blue sky which stayed with me for a couple of hours. I saw 30+ MBs, a ST, 2 LSk and 2 MWs - one of which I stayed on the tail of until I managed to get a picture of him. I'm still amazed that I saw so few LSk. Maybe this heat will hatch a few more out. This time of the year is traditionally low on butterflies, but I would have also expected to see at least one or two of the Whites. Mind you, it was around a force 4-5 Easterly wind in the exposed areas, and I was only searching in the known MW areas. I checked several of the darker male Meadow Browns out, expecting to find a Ringlet, but none seen yet. When I left the Park, the temperature was up to 27C. A shame there were no takers for the walk; I could think of many far worse places to be for a couple of hours on such a lovely morning - Bob Clift

27th June: Harmondsworth Moor It was six o'clock, overcast, but still very warm and muggy. I found good numbers of Meadow Browns of both sexes (over 20 in all), but the star of the evening was a fresh Marbled White, the first I've seen here this year. There were one or two Cinnabar moths, six or seven Burnet Companions, and a lot of smaller moths I could neither identify or photograph to try later!

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=22222&mode=view>

28th June: Stanwell Moor Once again, a very late excursion, and only locally, at the glorious tail end of a hot day. There were numerous sparring Red Admirals again in various spots (mostly the shadier ones) and when I came to the Heathrow conservation area I was met with good numbers (over 30 again) of Small Heaths and more Meadow Browns than I've seen in previous years - I counted 15 in a smallish area. There were still a couple of Common Blues, including a blue female that deserved a photo, but wasn't prepared to sit for one. Six Large Skippers completed the roster here, mainly females now, but beautifully orange in the late sunshine. On the way back, I came across a summer Comma (*f.hutchinsoni*), perching and chasing anything that moved - Red Admirals, dragonflies, swallows - and even reacting to the aircraft taking off from Heathrow which were passing only a couple of hundred feet up. Lovely butterflies, and pleasing to see them out at last. Near to home, I watched a pair of Red Admirals that I took to be courting. They chased in and out of the treetops in close association (with none of the spiralling up and swooping down of their normal dogfights). A couple of times they landed close together 20 feet up, only to take off again after a second or two. I lost track of them when they landed together on the ivy surrounding an ash tree and as far as I could tell, disappeared into it. If this is what they do, it is unsurprising that finding a mating pair is pretty well unheard of. - Dave Miller

My usual elm in Ware, one White-letter Hairstreak immediately on arrival at 11.10 then back to work - Liz Goodyear

Had a quick walk round Bricket wood today, 2 x **white admiral**, 1 x red admiral, 4+ large skipper, 4+ ringlet 2 x speckled wood - Richard Geary

I did the transect this morning, finally some better numbers of butterflies! Highlights were **9 dark green fritillary** throughout, with 2 groups of 3 seen together and one freshly emerged individual whose wings were still drying out. Totals for meadow brown were 106, marbled white 35, ringlet 19, small heath 34, large skipper 6 and a **probable essex skipper**. There were also single **grizzled skipper** (very fresh looking specimen) and small copper - Paul Thrush

Wednesday 27th June 2012

Had a single Red and **White Admiral** in same clearing on ride in Bricket Wood yesterday luntime. - Clive Burrows

Here is my first ever report on sightings of butterflies, Monday 25th June at Aldbury Nowers: Half a dozen Large Skippers:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/81377128@N03/7456099094/in/photostream/>

2 Brimstone, 1 Treble Bar?:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/81377128@N03/7456098134/in/photostream/>

The field below Aldbury Nowers, next to the lay by: 1 Burnet Companion:
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/81377128@N03/7456099746/in/photostream/>

1 Dark Green Fritillary:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/81377128@N03/7456099442/in/photostream>

1 Shaded Broad-bar

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/81377128@N03/7456098628/in/photostream>

also 2 Marbled White, many Meadow Browns and numerous Grass Moths and Light Brown Plume Moths - Sharon Monahan

Saw the following today (Wednesday 27th June 2012) - 1 Red Admiral, at Sidhil's Field, Vicarage Farm, 09:37 hrs; 1 Small Heath, at Vicarage Farm, 10:10 hrs; Ringlets, several, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 10:30 hrs., onwards; **1 Small Skipper**, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 10:35 hrs; 1 female Large Skipper, at Parkside Farm, 10:57 hrs; 1 Red Admiral, at Park Farm, 11:34 hrs; 1 Red Admiral, vista between Rough Lot and Moat Wood, Trent Park, 12:00 hrs; 1 Red Admiral, edge of Icehouse Wood, Trent Park, 12:35 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood, along bridle-path near Shaws Wood, Trent Park, 12:57 hrs; 1 Red Admiral, along Merryhills Brook/South Lodge Farm, 13:00 hrs; 1 Red Admiral, along Merryhills Brook/Vicarage Farm, 13:24 hrs - Robert Callf & Robin White.

Despite the overcast sky did my regular walk of The Warren this afternoon. Results disappointing again. Although temperature was 22C & wind light saw only Small Heath (10), Meadow Brown (11), Common Blue (1) & 1x pristine Marbled White, the 1st this year. Hopefully better results next week. Vegetation even lusher with scrub growing steadily. Rabbits seem less active than past years - or perhaps they just can't keep up - John Moss

Tuesday 26th June 2012

Saw a female Large Skipper Tuesday 26th June 2012 settled on Bramble on the edge of Whitewebbs Wood, 16:35 hrs and a male Meadow Brown in long grass here, 16:52 hrs. - Robert Callf.

I was working up at Aldbury Nowers in the furthest northern enclosure, despite the warm weather butterflies were rather thin on the ground. Sightings were brimstone - male and female, common blue - female, meadow brown - (just one!) and **dark green fritillary**. - Paul Thrush

In Wash Lane today behind South Mymms Services I saw 2 Small Tortoiseshell and 2 Red Admiral - Terry Wood

A walk around my local Oughton Head today. Very few butterflies around, but did see 2x Brimstone, 2x Ringlet first for the year, and 1x Red admiral, 1x Meadow brown, 1x Speckled wood, and 1x Large skipper - Kevin Taylor

Monday 25th June 2012

1 **White-letter Hairstreak** in flight at Cheshunt Golf Club this morning after 10 minutes wait - Andrew Middleton

Seen today in garden at Upper Green, Tewin - 1 Small Heath, 2 Meadow Brown - Jim Farr

A few reports for you - I've been saving them up! **17th June** - Stanwell Moor: An opportunity to have stroll around the local patch presented itself today and off I set: mostly sunny, breezy, but pleasantly warm for a change. The highlight of the excursion was the explosion in Small Heath numbers to between 30 and 40, perhaps more. In the same area, I counted around a dozen Common Blues; in the brambles at the edge of the woodland I saw five or six Large Skippers. Overall, I also encountered a couple of Red Admirals, three Speckled Woods, a Meadow Brown, a Small White and a Holly Blue.

19th June - Harmondsworth Moor: A brief visit after work today, mostly to see if Marbled Whites had appeared (they hadn't). I did however see six fresh Meadow Browns and five Large Skippers, three Small Heaths, and a couple of care-worn Common Blues.

25th June - Stanwell Moor: A very brief opportunity after work to whisk round a small part of my local patch: I saw only one species, but nine Red Admirals isn't bad going in a small area. Six of these were attempting to occupy the same leafy glade next to the river - this does not work and there were constant dogfights and spiralling tussles up into the trees including a group of five at one point - Dave Miller

Seen today at Tyttenhanger Gravel Pits - 8 Meadow Browns, 1 Peacock, 1 Speckled Wood, 1 Small White - Terry Wood

Saw a Speckled Wood settled on a cardboard box outside the 'Food Centre' in Chaseside, N14, next to the busy street, on Friday 22nd June 2012 at 16:47 hrs. - Robert Callf

Sunday 24th June 2012

Despite the mixed weather a decent haul at Heartwood today with 21 Large Skippers, Ringlet, Painted Lady, Meadow Brown and Silver Y moth.

http://i38.photobucket.com/albums/e140/cookie_yum/skippers01.jpg

Andrew Steele

Saturday 23rd June 2012

David Howdon and me led the annual Horsenden Hill **White-letter Hairstreak** walk this morning, 23rd June. To be honest, we thought we were in danger of losing our 100% success rate in finding the species on the walk. We had not seen any this year and it was a bit windy and not too warm. However it was sunny from time-to-time and this was enough to entice 4+ rather fresh individuals to put on a decent show in a sheltered spot near Horsenden Farm. As usual, we used the telescope to good effect and all nine participants enjoyed excellent views. Once everyone was happy, we moved on to find other leps. Burnet Companion was the only species in abundance but we managed 3-4 Red Admiral, a similar number of Common Blues, a Large Skipper, a Large White, 4-5 Silver Y, a Cinnabar and our first local Meadow Browns of the year. We could not find any Marbled White, which would normally be pretty easy on this event. We ran several overnight moth traps and showed off some examples of the catch before and after the walk. Diversity and numbers were a bit low but there was something of interest for everyone. All in all, a very successful event! - Andrew Culshaw

Friday 22nd June 2012

Slightly late but sighting from Tuesday. At Bricket Wood Common had 1 Holly Blue, 6 Large Skippers, 5 Speckled Wood, 8 Meadow Brown and 1 Brimstone

http://i38.photobucket.com/albums/e140/cookie_yum/bitternetc190.jpg

and one Green Oak Tortrix Moth. At Heartwood Forest had 19 Large Skippers, 38 Meadow Browns, 1 Brown Argus, 3 Common Blue, 2 Small Heath and a Painted Lady along with a Silver Y, 6 Mother shipton moths and 1 mystery moth

http://i38.photobucket.com/albums/e140/cookie_yum/Moth.jpg

Andrew Steele

Wednesday 20th June 2012

A few sightings for 19/06/12; quite pathetic for a sunny day in June: Broxbourne Wood: 1 Speckled Wood in the area to the west of the main ride and 4 more in the clearing to its east. Bencroft Wood: 2 Meadow Browns near Emanuel Pollards, and 1 Meadow Brown and 1 Large Skipper in the grassy field to the south. Balls Wood: 1 Comma at the south end of the main ride - Paul Why

Saw a common blue butterfly on the Chadwell bank at King's Meads on 20th June - beautiful condition... Andy Brown

One Holly Blue at Fir & Pond Woods NR Wednesday 20th June 2012 at 17:00 hrs. Saw a couple of Red Admiral at Potters Bar, near Deadman's Bottom (1 settled and 1 flying through at speed). Also a Speckled Wood at Oakmere Park, Potters Bar, 15:55 hrs. - Robert Callf

Visited the Aldbury Nowers NR (North section) in the morning. When the sun came out (about 20% of the time), we saw 1 Large Skipper, 1 Grizzled Skipper, 2+ Small White, 5+ Brimstone, 2+ Common Blue, 2 Red Admiral, 2 Speckled Wood, **2 Marbled White**, 2+ Meadow Brown, 8+ Small Heath and 1 Ringlet. We looked hard for a Small Blue but none seen. In the afternoon went to Butterfly World when we were more lucky with the sun (perhaps 70%) we sighted 1 Large Skipper, 2+ Small Heath, 5+ Common Blue and the best news of all, a Small Blue on the ground and on a kidney vetch flower close to the track leading to the antennae paths. - Bob Clift and Peter Clarke

News from Diane Andrews, on the 19th June 91 Chimney Sweeper moths at Forty Hall but no butterflies. Aldbury Nowers today, 1 Small Blue egg-laying, **1 Marbled White** and 1 Ringlet. Also a

faded Dingy Skipper, 3 Large Skipper, 4 Brimstone, 1 Common Blue, 13 Meadow Brown and 9 Small Heath.

Tuesday 19th June 2012

Trent Park Southern Edge of Ride Wood---2 x Red admiral, 1 x Common blue, 2 x speckled wood, 2 x Meadow brown, 1 x Large skipper. I was shocked to find that the butterfly and wildlife meadow bordering the East of Trent Park had been totally destroyed this Spring. Trees and shrubs have been grubbed out and the whole area sprayed with herbicide. Last year the farmer was asked not to damage the field as lesser whitethroat birds were nesting. The field also contained a colony of slow worms and grass snakes were fairly common. Twenty four species of butterflies had colonised this meadow including marbled white. It was a fantastic area for invertebrates - Kit Jones

A few sightings for Tuesday 19th June 2012 - 1 Holly Blue, at Chase Road, N14 at 14:30 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood, Sect 7, Trent Park, 16:30 hrs; 1 male Large Skipper, Sect 4, Trent Park, 16:42 hrs; 2 male Meadow Brown, (1 by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 17:25 hrs, 1 Parkside Farm, on Res banking, 18:45 hrs). Also a set-aside field N of Trent Park, Williams Wood was cut and sprayed earlier in the year and reduced to a lunar-landscape. This field has been productive for Narrow-bordered Five-spot Burnet Moths in the past (1000's), Common Blue, Brown Argus, Large Skipper, Small Skipper, Essex Skipper, Ringlets, Small Copper, Marbled White amongst others. The actions of ignorant farmers can be bewildering at times! This field had been set-aside since at least 1988 and had developed into quite a haven for wildlife until now - Robert Callf

I saw two Small Heaths on Harpenden Common early this morning (Tuesday 19 June). The plant cover on the grassland to the north of Walkers Road is rich, diverse and floriferous this year this year, with some quite large areas of Bird's-foot Trefoil on the higher ground. It will be well worth keeping an eye on. - Alan Jackson

A remarkable sighting of a **Swallowtail** at Oak Avenue LNR, Hampton today at about 10.10am. Apart from one missing tail, it looked in excellent condition. Presumably this was an escape from somewhere - John Eborall

Did the Aldbury Nowers transect today, a few things about in the sun including my first meadow browns, **ringlet** and large skippers of the year. Quite a few small heaths about, 2 brimstones, holly blue and small white. that I also saw a red admiral and a worn dingy skipper in the northern enclosures (key butterfly area). - Paul Thrush

Did my Warren transect today hoping for better sightings in the finer weather. A bit disappointing, but promising - 10 Small Heath (mainly pairs), 5 Meadow Brown (very fresh & dusky), 2 Common Blue (m+f), 2 Large Skipper (very bright), 1 Small Copper (very worn). No Whites for once. Flora very lush, including areas usually dried up by now, with abundant food/nectar plants in flower. Other inverts include Crane-fly, Common Blue (?) Damselles, various Bees, assorted Moths (5 Cinnabars), Grasshoppers, a Common Hawker (?) Dragonfly. Hopefully butterflies will be better next week - John Moss

Monday 18th June 2012

1 fresh looking Grizzled Skipper at Waterford Heath South Pit - Andrew Wood

Saw a Red Admiral at Wildwoods Lake, Enfield yesterday (Monday 18th June 2012) at 14:20 hrs and a Speckled Wood at Whitewebbs Wood, 14:23 hrs. - Robert Callf

Sunday 17th June 2012

1 Painted lady and 2 Common Blues south of Ware - Andrew Wood

Butterfly World - Three **Small Blues** (all in the dip between the two antennae) this morning. One aggressively chased a male Common Blue (twice the size) which strayed into its territory Also out on the site today - Meadow Brown, Large Skipper, Six Spot Burnet Moth (adults, cocoons & caterpillars) Common Blues, Burnet Companion & Small White. Bricket Wood - Red Admiral taking salts on horse dung, Painted Lady migrating NE at high speed around tree canopy height, Tatty female Brimstone looking for egg laying sight, Early Meadow Brown, Fresh flush of Green-veined Whites and the usual smattering of Speckled Woods - Malcolm Hull

Old Rivers Nursery site and orchard, High wych, Sawbridgeworth, 2 Common blue, 1 Holly

blue(first for me here), 1 Large skipper, 2 Speckled wood and 1 Meadow brown, no WLH around the Elms, and 1 Four spot chaser - Laurence Drummond

Went to Bricket Common today. Saw 4 red admiral and 4 brimstone as well as 2 meadow brown, a small white, some speckled woods and a large skipper. Saw Several orchids and may other wildflowers and a fox and a deer, quite muddy though - Steve Kiln

Thursday 14th June 2012

Some news for Thursday 14th June 2012 - 3 Small Heath, Sect. 6 and Sect. 4, at 'New Fields', Trent Park, 13:25 - 13:34 hrs; 1 male **Meadow Brown**, at 'Rookery Field', Trent Park, 13:57 hrs - my first of the year; 1 Speckled Wood, at Rough Lot, Trent Park, 14:50 hrs; 1 Cinnabar, near Ride Wood, Trent Park, 15:10 hrs; 1 Small White, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 15:23 hrs; 1 Burnet Companion, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 15:23 hrs. - Robert Callf

I visited Broxbourne Wood this afternoon - the sun was out and temperatures were higher than recently so I was quite hopeful. Lepidoptera seen during two hours of wandering in and around the newly-felled area are as follows: 1 Speckled Wood. That's it. Very depressing. I sincerely hope that the usual inhabitants turn up in a few weeks time - Paul Why

Wednesday 13th June 2012

Must do transects, last week hopeless weather did not get out, Sunday blown away on Waterford heath. Checked weather on XC weather, Wednesday looked good, after conservation task in morning set aside afternoon. 2pm at Bencroft pretty cloudy but at least temp 15 ok. not a butterfly at all not even a moth. headed for fields beside woods at least I saw 2 small heaths and a yellow moth. Talking to insect guy in field, he saw red admiral and speckled wood over in Broxbourne woods. Put on i pod in car. Got Elton John thats why they call it the blues. Sounds like our summer. Optimistic and sun coming out. Not a butterfly in Broxbourne glade saw a holly blue in distance in ride. Put on ipod again headed to Waterford heath. Sad eyed lady of the lowlands - Bob Dylan another melancholic song, at Waterford heath the sun out but very damp underfoot. Transect pt 1 ,2,3,4 no butterflies just cinnabar moths 17 (Bar bar bar bar Barbara Ann). Part 5 blank, part 6 finally a butterfly a bedraggled holly blue probably spent the last 5 weeks looking for a mate. Poor thing. part 7, a speckled wood wonders never cease. What a miserly haul. Hey mister congressman what am I going to do ? ----- Well there aint no cure for the summertime blues - Steve Kiln

Saw the following Wednesday 13th June 2012 - 1 Speckled Wood, at Fir & Pond Woods, 13:40 hrs and 1 Straw Dot, in the meadow enclosure here. 2 Red Admiral, at Northaw Great Wood, 15:00 hrs and 16:55 hrs., and 2 Speckled Wood, together, here, 15:00 hrs; 2 Speckled Yellow, at Northaw Great Wood, 16:07 and 16:48 hrs. 1 Red Admiral, at The Ridgeway, Cuffley, 17:10 hrs. - Robert Callf

Sunday 10th June 2012

Wheathampstead, Amwell Lane - saw a cinnabar moth - Linda Brooks

Meadow Brown disused allotments Rye Street Bishop's Stortford - Jim Fish

1 x mullein moth caterpillar on small buddleia in Bushey Garden today - David Gower

Butterfly World - **2 Small Blues**, 3 Silver Y, 13 Mullein Moth caterpillars, 9 Burnet Companion, 2 Six spot Burnet Caterpillars, 3 Small White, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 9 Common Blues, **1 Large Skipper** Bricket Wood Common - 1 Holly Blue, 4 Speckled Wood, 1 Silver Ground Carpet, 2 Brimstone - Malcolm Hull

A few sightings for Sunday 10th June 2012 at Grovelands Park, Southgate: 1 male **Large Skipper**, 12:00 hrs., in enclosed 'meadow' area - my first of the year; 1 female Small White, 12:32 hrs; 1 Burnet Companion, 12:44 hrs; 1 Red Admiral, 12:52 hrs., near Bowling Green; 1 Speckled Wood, at 14:12 hrs. - Robert Callf

A couple of sightings from today: A common blue (or possibly a holly blue, it didn't settle & I only saw it for a few seconds) near the Rhodes Arts Centre, Bishops Stortford. A small copper, Bushy Mead nature reserve (just off the River Stort path. Plus a few large whites. - Chris Gleeson

Saturday 9th June 2012

Saw the following on Saturday (9th June 2012) - **3 Chimney Sweeper**, in usual field, 'New Fields', Trent Park, 14:00 hrs; 2 Burnet Companion, 'New Fields', Trent Park; 1 Speckled Wood, Sect. 7, near Cockfosters entrance, Trent Park, 14:30 hrs; 1 Green-veined White, at Slopers Pond Farm (TQ270989), at 17:00 hrs. - Robert Callf

A walk around Stockers Lake, Rickmansworth, Saturday 9th June I saw 1 small Tortoiseshell and 3 Red Admirals.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/69131641@N04/7169740669/in/photostream/>

Helen George

Wednesday 6th June 2012

After the showers today I was able to have a walk around locally (Stanwell Moor) late this afternoon. It was pretty windy, but the spells of sunshine brought a few hardy souls out. I came across a couple of Red Admirals, vigorously patrolling areas that ten days ago were overseen by Peacocks, a Speckled Wood, several Small Heaths, one Common Blue and my first **Large Skipper** of the year. Moths in evidence included a Burnet Companion, two Mother Shiptons and three Cinnabars. There were a couple of bright yellow individuals that I could not get close enough to to identify or photograph. - Dave Miller

5th June 2012 - Kings Meads, Mother Shipton & Mullein Moth caterpillars. 6th June 2012 - Kings Meads, Silver Y and Bengoe (between St Leonard's Church & River Rib) 2 Small Heath - Simon Knott

During my weekly transect walk this morning at Bishop's Stortford Southern Country Park, although I only recorded 2 Common Blues and an Orange Tip, a large brown/orange low, fast-flying butterfly went past me (travelling south to north) and was soon out of sight. I was very much reminded of the Painted Ladies I saw when they first arrived in their mass migration 3 years ago. I didn't record it, but might if other sightings start to come in! - Bob Clift

Monday 4th June 2012

I spent a couple of hours on the Stort navigation path between Bishops Stortford and Sawbridgeworth this afternoon, but only saw one large white. Conditions were not bad - it was mostly sunny, reasonably warm, the wind was rarely more than a stiff breeze and frequently dropped altogether. Plenty of other insect life was on the wing - several species of bumblebee, two species of damselfly and some lacewings, among others. - Chris Gleeson

Friday 1st June 2012

1st June - Harmondsworth Moor Despite the cloud, it was warm and bright, so after work I had a walk around Harmondsworth Moor near Heathrow. It proved bright enough for four male and two female Common Blues to be active - including a mating pair. There were a few Small Heath (four at most) and one fairly new male Brown Argus, whose underside spotting was faint enough for the distinctive colon mark to be difficult to see - but no other butterflies. There were, however, hundreds of damselflies, mostly of the type that are blue with black "thumbprints" on the wings. One of these had come to an unfortunate end in the embrace of a yellow crab spider - at least they do not dine solely off butterflies. There were also quite a few moths, clearly not being so insistent on the sunshine as their butterfly relatives. I could identify Cinnabar, and Burnet Companion, but not the others. Shameful, I know! An interesting wander, for a cloudy afternoon.

30th May - Stanwell Moor With a bare hour free to have a quick look around my local patch, I set off with thunder rumbling ominously and the odd large raindrop falling. Luckily the storm passed to the southeast but even before the sun re-emerged, I encountered four Red Admirals and a couple of Speckled Woods flying and perching, being disturbed from their vantage points by those raindrops. Out in the open space of the "Heathrow Conservation Site" I found the Small Heath colony in fine fettle, with 14 counted within about 100 metres, but still no Common Blue or Brown Argus. Walking back alongside the River Colne, several (Small/GV) Whites appeared, and a Peacock, plus a single male Orange Tip patrolling and investigating every white flower and butterfly. It seems to have been a long season for them overall. Further Speckled Woods (five in all) appeared, and in a patch where I've not seen one before, a single male Common Blue. Finally - not something I've previously noted here as far as I can remember - a Mother Shipton moth. - Dave Miller

I thought you might be interested to see Bob's photos which are on www.flickr.com/photos/bobclift-butterflies/ website - Peter Clarke

May 2012

Thursday 31st May 2012

News from Diane Andrews, visited Trent Park, it was cloudy with long wet grass, but saw **12 Chimney Sweeper** moths. Diane had previously visited on the 23rd May but not seen any.

Saw a Red Admiral in the Vicarage garden, 2 Sheringham Ave., at St Thomas's Church Thursday 31st May 2012 - Robert Callf

Wednesday 30th May 2012

I did the transect today at Aldbury Nowers, will update you with the sightings tomorrow (busy today!) but I just wanted to let you know I saw a **small blue** in the furthest northern enclosure. - Paul Thrush

Just 2 speckled wood in Water Lane, Watford today - David Gower

Saw the following butterflies yesterday (Tuesday 29th May 2012) - 1 Small Heath, near Cockfosters entrance, Trent Park, 12:57 hrs; 2 Speckled Wood, at Monken Hadley Common, 13:11 and 15:08 hrs; 1 female Holly Blue, at Monken Hadley Common, 14:43 hrs; 1 Maiden's Blush, at Monken Hadley Common, 15:20 hrs - the first that I have seen during the day for a long while! 1 Small Copper, very faded, Sect. 3, 'New Fields', Trent Park, 16:40 hrs. Today (Wednesday 30th May 2012) - 1 male Orange Tip and 1 Speckled Wood, at Gobions Wood NR near Brookmans Park. - Robert Callf

Tuesday 29th May 2012

Broxbourne Wood valley between west and east car park paths today - 5 Speckled yellow moths, 6 Orange Tips, 2 Peacocks. 1 Speckled Wood, 1 Green-veined White. 1 Small heath in the woodland glade south of the cleared area - Andrew Wood

A few sightings to report for yesterday (Monday 28th May 2012) - 3 Small Heath, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 12:45 - 12:48 hrs; 2 Speckled Wood (1 Rough Lot, 13:03 hrs, 1 Moat Wood, 13:26 hrs); 1 male Orange Tip, along Hadley Rd/Park Farm, Enfield, 13:40 hrs; 1 Mother Shipton, at Parkside Farm, 13:44 hrs; 1 Cinnabar, at Parkside Farm on Res banking, 13:47 hrs; 2 male Orange Tip, together, near Firing Range, at Vicarage Farm, 14:40 hrs. - Robert Callf

Late on at Rickneys 2 grizzleds, 2 common blue, 4 small heath and 6 brown argus. At Waterford Heath south on bank had 5 grizzleds, 2 brown argus and 2 common blue first of year there - Steve Kiln

Monday 28th May 2012

I had a walk around Aldbury on **Friday 25th**, totals were 15 grizzled skipper, dingy skipper - 6, small heath - 9, orange tip - 3, brimstone - 5, green hairstreak - 3 and an s/gv white. - Paul Thrush

Visited Aldbury Nowers Nature Reserve (south section) today in almost perfect weather but the breeze picked up a bit later on. Saw the following: 20+ Brimstones, 10+ Orange Tips, 2 Small Whites, 1 G-V White, 1 Large White, 10+ Grizzled Skippers, 5+ Dingy Skippers, 5+ Small Coppers, 5+ Brown Argus, 3+ Common Blues, 2+ Holly Blues, 20+ Small Heaths. We looked hard for the Green Hairstreak but none seen. In addition, we saw a few Burnet Companion and Latticed Heath moths as well as a Cinnabar - Bob Clift and Peter Clarke

Waterford Heath south, starting at 4 o'clock we walked the bank to the Sacombe Road entrance and got there about 4.35. In total we saw 6 Grizzled Skipper, most flying low and some possibly egg laying. Also seen was a Brimstone, 2 Burnet Companion, Silver Y, 2 Small Heath, 1 Common Blue, 1 Small Copper, 1 Brown Argus, Cinnabar and a Mother Shipton. We then walked back straight down the pit but taking the pond to the left and found 2 more Grizzleds in the middle before the pond plus 2 Small Heath and 1 Brown Argus and I forgot to note the end time but no later than 5 o'clock - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

Kings Meads, Speckled Wood, 3 Small Copper, Brown Argus - Simon Knott

Highdown area, first brown argus there today only a few dingy skippers, common blue, brimstone + five orange tips and two mother shipton moths. No green hairstreak though - Stuart Pittman

Sunday May 27th at Aldbury Nowers in evening. One slightly deformed Cinnabar moth flying well, several Treble Bar moths of which one was resting on a twig in sunshine, one Orange Tip and one fast flying small orange butterfly, possibly a Small Copper. Monday 28th in Kings Langley; Holly Blue flying over twice, one Small White, seen from a distance, so 100% I'd not be certain, nectaring on Herb Robert - Elizabeth Debenham

A few sightings for yesterday (Sunday 27th May 2012) - Oakwood Park, N14 - 1 Holly Blue, 10:10 hrs; 2 Burnet Companion, 13:00 hrs - my first of the year! Grovelands Park, Southgate - 1 Holly Blue, 14:06 hrs; 2 Speckled Wood, 13:48 and 14:02 hrs; 1 Mother Shipton, near Bowling Green, 13:13 hrs. Also saw a Peacock along the track at Vicarage Farm, Enfield (TQ305975) on Friday (25th May 2012) at 16:34 hrs. - Robert Callf

Sunday 27th May 2012

Aldbury Nowers "Field below the reserve" Small Copper 2, Burnet Companion 1, Grizzled Skipper 3, Dingy Skipper 7, Mother Shipton (nectaring on Hawthorn) 1, Green Hairstreak 1, Small Tortoiseshell 1, HMWT Reserve - Dingy Skipper 7, Common Blue 4, Treble Bar 1, Brimstone 10, Orange Tip 2, Small Heath 19, Grizzled Skipper 11, Pyrausta moth 2, Green Hairstreak 1, Ruby Tiger 1, Speckled Wood 1, Holly Blue 1, Small Tortoiseshell 1, Small Copper 4. The Kidney Vetch has reappeared in the northern section of the site. I saw no Small Blue at Aldbury Nowers, although they were out in good numbers this afternoon at nearby Pitstone, Bucks "Malcolm Hull

After a bad run on my transects at Heartwood Forest a good numbers of species with Small Heath, Brown Argus, Orange Tip (7), Green veined, Large White (8) and Small White along with Mother Shipton Moth (2) and Cinnabar moth - Andrew Steele

Recent news.....**Thursday 24th May** Weston Hills, much Kidney Vetch, flowering by the Icknield Way, but not in flower at the top of the cuttings east of the Tunnel but no Small Blues or much of anything apart from a Brimstone and Orange Tips.

Friday 25th May Telegraph Hill Large White 1, Green Hairstreak 2, Dingy Skipper 5, Small Heath 1, Common Blue 1, Brimstone 1

Saturday 26th May Ridgeway path east of Aldbury Nowers 1 each of Orange Tip, Brimstone, Green-veined White, Dingy Skipper, Holly Blue, Aldbury Nowers south section Grizzled Skipper 15, Small Copper 5, Small Heath 11, Common Blue 2, Green Hairstreak 1, Brimstone 10, Orange Tip 1, Brown Argus 2, Dingy Skipper 1. Aldbury Nowers north section Common Blue 1, Small Heath 4, Orange Tip 2, Grizzled Skipper 2, Brimstone 4, Small Blue 1, Brown Argus 2, Dingy Skipper 2, Green Hairstreak 1
Andrew Wood

Saturday 26th May 2012

Saw the following butterflies yesterday (Saturday 26th May 2012) at Fir & Pond Woods, Potters Bar - 1 Holly Blue, 12:40 hrs; 2 male Orange Tips, 13:06 hrs; 1 Green-veined White, 13:08 hrs; 1 Peacock, 13:08 hrs; 1 Small Copper, in Meadow, 13:12 hrs. At Northaw Great Wood saw one **Speckled Yellow** and several Brown Silver-lines yesterday (Saturday 26th May 2012). - Robert Callf

Tring Park, recorded a female Green Hairstreak, egg laying in compartment 2 of my old transect walk. First one I have seen there for 3 or 4 years, so they are still around. - Brian Jessop

Butterfly World, Chiswell Green - 11 Common Blue (all male), **4 Burnet Companion**, 1 Cinnabar moth, 1 female orange tip (egg laying on Kale), 1 Small White & several 6-spot Burnet Caterpillars & cocoons. There are absolute masses of Kidney Vetch on site - join me at 10.30 am next Sunday 3 June on the branch field trip to hunt for Small Blue (entry £5).

Bury Dell, Park Street - Small Copper 6 (including 1 nectaring on forget-me-not), Small Heath 5, Brown Argus 1, Common Blue 1, Small White 1. The site looks in great shape with masses of Sheeps Sorrell, Birdsfoot Trefoil & a varied rabbit grazed sward. The government's decision on whether to allow redevelopment as warehousing is due in early July
Bricket Wood Common - Brimstone 18, Brown Silver lines 2, Holly Blue 1, Orange Tip 2, Speckled Wood 2. The big news from this site is that most of the fencing for the conservation grazing has

been put up this week - Malcolm Hull

1 x small white & 1 x holly blue in Bushey garden (on rose) this morning -- David Gower

Took my life in my hands today 26th May visiting Aldbury Nowers for the first time (desperately in need of a car park there). Sighted numerous butterflies including 4 Brimstone, 2 Holly blues, 2 Small Whites, 2 Large Whites, 1 Green Veined, 2 Orange-tips, 1 Red Admiral, a fleeting glimpse of 3 Green Hairstreaks and 3 Small Heaths.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/69131641@N04/7274501852/in/photostream>

- Helen George

Friday 25th May 2012

Hexton Chalkpit, scoured the site on **23rd May** but only 15 dingy skippers one green hairstreak and my 1st common blue of the year - Stuart Pittman

Walked from Drop lane to Munden estate and found 6 x orange tip(2 female), 1 x speckled wood & 1 x holly blue. Around Bricket Wood Common 13 x brimstone(6 female), 6 x orange tip, 1 x small white, 1 x speckled yellow moth, 1 x silver y moth. By bridge under M1 north watford near train station 2 x peacock, 1 x holly blue, 8 x orange tip(2 female), 1 x garden carpet, 1 x common blue. In Bushey at chalk hill 1 X holly blue - David Gower

Hertfordshire Way, Thorley Street, verge of oilseed rape field, 7 small white and 4 orange tips at 8.50 a.m this sunny morning--Len Crouch

Thursday 24th May 2012

Today in Bushey garden 1 x holly blue(yet again), 2 x orange tip & 1 x brimstone (female) - David Gower

Went to Hexton Chalk Pit this afternoon (1220-1255pm) - saw 2 G V Whites, 1 Small White, 1 Holly Blue, 1 Orange Tip and about 5 Dingy Skippers. Near the gate, a Speckled Wood was also seen. Later from the layby on the Hexton and Lilley road which crosses the Icknield Way I walked along the Icknield Way east towards Telegraph Hill. On the Icknield Way, I counted 4 Brimstones, 2 Small Whites, 1 G-V White, 1 Small Tortoiseshell (probably 2nd generation), 1 Peacock and an Orange Tip. On Telegraph Hill, noted 5+ Brimstones, 5+ Orange Tips, 2 Common Blues, 5+ Dingy Skippers, 1 G-V White and a Green Hairstreak. All the Common Blues and Dingy Skippers, and the Green Hairstreak were found on the chalk cutting between the hill and Icknield Way near Hoo Bit - Peter Clarke

Have just returned from a walk in Cheshunt Park this afternoon lasting about 45 minutes. Weather warm and sunny. Saw 12 small heaths, 1 speckled wood, 1 male orange tip and 3 unidentified whites - Roger Newbold

News for yesterday (Wednesday 23rd May 2012) - 1 Holly Blue, Bramley Road, N14, 11:43 hrs; 2 Peacock, 'New Fields', Trent Park(1 Sect., 4, edge of Church Wood, 12:12 hrs and 1, Sect., 8, 12:45 hrs); 2 male Orange Tip, 'New Fields', Trent Park (1, Sect., 4, edge of Church Wood, 12:13 hrs and 1, Sect., 8, 12:43 hrs); 2 Small Copper, 'New Fields', Trent Park (Sect., 6, 12:30 hrs and 12:36 hrs); 3 Small Heath, Trent Park, 'New Fields' (2, Sect., 6, 12:34 and 12:36 hrs, 1, Sect., 8, 12:45 hrs); 1 Holly Blue, Trent Park, Sect., 8, 12:50 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood, Trent Park, Sect., 7, 13:00 hrs; 2 Holly Blue, at Monken Hadley Common, including a female settling on Holly flowers, 13:55 hrs and one, 15:30 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip, at Monken Hadley Common, 14:00 hrs; 1 female Orange Tip, at Covert Way LNR, 13:15 hrs; 1 Small White, at Covert Way LNR, 14:10 hrs; 2 Speckled Wood, at Monken Hadley Common, 14:01 and 15:17 hrs; 1 Large White, at Monken Hadley Common, 15:50 hrs. **Today (Thursday 24th May 2012)** - 2 Holly Blue, at Oakwood Park, N14 and 1 male Orange Tip, at Grovelands Park, N14, 12:48 hrs; 1 Holly Blue and 1 Speckled Wood, at Brookside, N21. - Robert Callf

Wednesday 23rd May 2012

Saw our first **Cinnabar** of the year on Monday (21st May 2012) by the Lower Lake in Trent Park at 12:30 hrs - Robert Callf & Robin White. - Robert Callf

Small Heath day. 20 plus at Cheshunt Park, 18 in field by Bencroft Wood, 3 at Rickneys and 1 at Waterford Heath south. 8 Common Blue at Rickneys of note - Steve Kiln

1 Holly Blue in Bushey garden today - David Gower

Hummingbird Hawkmoth buzzing along a hedgerow south of Tewin today in a field that also had several Small Heath in it - Andrew Wood

Female Brimstone egg laying on alder buckthorn in my Ware garden, four eggs found - Liz Goodyear

Tuesday 22nd May 2012

Frogmore quarry - lunchtime 21C sunny 8 Grizzled skippers focussing on the strawberry patches, Orange-tip 2, Small copper 4, Small Heath 1, Small White 1, Brimstone 1, newly hatched Brown Argus 1 - Trevor Chapman

Quite a good day in the garden today as the temperatures reached 24 degrees. Male and female Brimstones, Small/G-V White, Holly Blue, male Orange Tip and a Speckled Wood. - Robin Pearson

At field adjacent to Tring stn car park, 1 x orange tip & 1 x brimstone(male). In field opposite were 5 x small heath, 1 x orange tip, **1 x burnet companion, 2 x mother shipton**. On bridleway heading onto Aldbury Nowers were 1 x green veined white, 1 x small white, 2 x orange tip, 3 x brimstone(1 female). In southern enclosure at Aldbury Nowers 1 x brimstone (male). In northern section 2 x brimstone(male), 6 x orange tip, **2 x small yellow underwing**, 2 x grizzled skipper, 2 x small heath, 1 x green hairstreak & 1 x dingy skipper. Took quite a few photos, will have to get started in flickr! - David Gower

Whilst recording today, day flying moths seen were **Latticed Heath, Burnet Companion and a Cinnabar** - Liz Goodyear

2 Grizzled Skipper at Rickneys with a few Brown Argus, Common Blue, Small Heath and Small Copper. Nothing on south pit at Waterford Heath apart from orange tips. On north pit grass snake, 2 commas and 4 grizzleds and large white. At broxbourne woods 8 orange tip, holly blue and speckled wood. In Bencroft small copper and comma - Steve Kiln

I just did a walk around Waterford and Rickneys - saw 5+ small heath, 2 holly blue and 1 orange-tip at Rickneys. Very sunny, but quite breezy. I am still on the look out for Grizzled skippers! - Jenny Sherwen

A few sightings for today (Tuesday 22nd May 2012) - 1 Holly Blue, at Gordon Hill, EN2, 11:40 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood, at Lavender Hill Cemetery, Enfield, 11:52 hrs; 1 Holly Blue, at Lavender Hill Cemy, 12:06 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip, at Lavender Hill Cemy, 12:06 hrs; 1 female Large White, at Hilly Fields Park, 12:12 hrs; 3 male Orange Tip, at Hilly Fields Park (2 at 12:12 hrs and 1 at 12:30 hrs); 1 Small White, at Hilly Fields Park, 12:12 hrs; 1 Peacock, at Strayfield Road, Clay Hill, Enfield, 12:37 hrs; 1 male Brimstone, at Hilly Fields Park, 12:39 hrs; 1 Holly Blue, at Hilly Fields Park, 12:40 hrs; 1 female Orange Tip, at Whitewebbs Wood, 13:06 hrs; **1 Mother Shipton**, at Whitewebbs Park, 15:10 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip, at Forty Hall, Enfield, 16:00 hrs; 1 Peacock, at Forty Hall, Enfield, 16:00 hrs; 1 Holly Blue, at Gough Park, Forty Hill, Enfield. - Robert Callf

Stanwell Moor update, internet problems have meant I haven't been able to send stuff in as I wanted. I'll try and play catch-up now!

10th May, Grey skies, a stiff breeze, drizzle in the air - but at least it was warmer than recently, and around midday, you could feel warmth from the sun through thin bits in the cloud cover. Enough to provoke something into flight? I walked around my local patch and found that a couple of Small Whites had been tempted out along with a Peacock making a brave attempt to bask (I nearly trod on it, so unexpected was its appearance). And once again, fast becoming the abiding memory of this soggy spring, the inevitable roosting Orange Tip. An interesting sign has appeared along my usual route. The area to the North East of J14 of the M25, between the motorway and the River Colne, has always been the richest area on my patch for butterflies in terms of variety. Over the last four years, I have seen 23 species here (and a 24th within 100 metres, as the Purple Hairstreaks live in oak trees just away from this area). There has been in past years a particularly strong Small Heath colony. I knew it was owned by BAA and is basically landscaped from spoil that came from the building of Terminal Five - I think it was one of the conditions of that construction. However, it has now acquired a name: the Heathrow Conservation Site Colne Valley. Quite what this means in reality remains to be seen, but at least BAA seem committed to maintaining it as is.

I feel encouraged!

13th May, Another walk locally: Holly Blues were out - I counted 10 before becoming unsure whether duplication was setting in. There were also numerous Orange Tips and Whites both Small and Green-veined. I also encountered my first Large White of the season. Peacocks were back out in force (I saw six), showing how they seem to be able to endure repeated bouts of inactivity in poor weather between short bursts of warmth. A check of the Small Heath colony revealed the first of the year, but just the one. I spotted only one Speckled Wood, too. **21st May,** A brief foray into the local environs late this afternoon after work turned up several Orange Tips, all three of the common Whites, both male and female Brimstones, a Holly Blue and a Peacock. It was warm, and everything had suddenly speeded up. I think I've become used to lethargic butterflies!

22nd May, Mid-afternoon I went and had a first look at Harmondsworth Moor for 2012. There was not a great deal to see, despite very warm sunshine: two Small Heaths, a selection of whites, two or three Brimstones and Orange Tips. However, as I was on the point of leaving, I came across a Brown Argus - and then two more. However, no Common Blues were around yet. I moved back a mile or two down the road to my home patch near Stanwell Moor. This proved more fruitful, with four Small Heaths (one with an extra spot), a dozen or more male Orange Tips and several females, male and female Brimstones and all three Whites in reasonable numbers. A three-way tussle of whites resolved itself into a female Large White and males of the other two species. With respectable numbers of female Orange Tips around too, it really does become hard to distinguish them all without close scrutiny. One Speckled Wood was active in the woodland, along with numerous Holly Blues and half a dozen Peacocks carving the area up into distinct territories. Ten months old and still game for anything. Finally, I spotted a silvery shape darting amongst the wildflowers on a bit of disturbed ground that last year had been a major gas main excavation: a male Brown Argus.

I think that's everything. - Dave Miller

Monday 21st May 2012

Only two Green-veined Whites to report today (Monday 21st May 2012) along Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, at 14:21 hrs and a couple of Silver Y's here also (Robert Callf & Robin White). - Robert Callf

At 4 pm spent an hour at Water Lane, Watford (same walk as previously) and noted 12 x orange tip (4 females), 2 x small white, 3 x green veined white, 1 x holly blue and what appeared to be 2 x garden carpet moths. David Gower

Saturday 19th May 2012

A few butterflies to report today Saturday (19th May 2012) - 1 female Orange Tip, Barracks, at Vicarage Farm, 10:30 hrs; 2 Silver-Y, at Vicarage Farm, 10:35 and 11:06 hrs; 1 Green-veined White, Barracks, at Vicarage Farm, 10:44 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood, near Hadley Road/Vicarage Farm, 11:20 hrs; 1 Green-veined White, Hadley Road/ Parkside Farm, 11:20 hrs; **1 male Common Blue**, at Parkside Farm on Res banking, 11:53 hrs - First for the year! 1 Peacock, by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 13:10 hrs. Also saw a Holly Blue in Oakwood Park on Sunday (13th May 2012) at 14:30 hrs (Robert Callf only). Robert Callf & Robin White

Wednesday 16th May 2012

News from Diane Andrews on a visit to Aldbury Nowers on Wednesday. Despite sunshine when she left home, it was quite cloudy during the visit. Seen throughout the day were 2 Dingy Skipper, 5 Grizzled Skipper, 2 Brimstone, 1 Green-veined White, 5 Orange Tip, 1 Small Copper and 4 Small Heath, no Green Hairstreak seen. She was very disappointed that the 'safe route' she would take from the station, has in places been blocked and the excellent habitat, either mown or grubbed up!

I did the Aldbury Nowers transect and in between cloud cover saw a few butterflies. Totals were dingy skipper 7, Grizzled skipper 6, orange tip 4, small copper 1 and small heath 5. In addition there were 2 more orange tips and single grizzled skipper and dingy skipper on the reserve. - Paul Thrush

Hexton Chalk Pit just after 8.30, 14 Dingy Skipper mostly roosting on seed heads. Telegraph Hill in four minutes at least 10 Dingy Skipper with three chases observed. 2 Green Hairstreak seen later. Hoo Bit, 7 Dingy Skipper and a Green-veined White. Unfortunately cloud and cold wind predominated - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

On May 13th a female holly blue on bluebell in Kings Langley.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/7392841@N04/7188304742/in/photostream>

I went to Sarratt and Belsize also on May 13th looking for orange tips where I had seen them last year. None visible, but I did find an orange tip EGG on garlic mustard. May 16th a holly blue, possibly male, but in flight, same place as before; also one male and a female orange tip twice at different times during the early afternoon in Kings Langley. Life cycle images on Flickr.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/7392841@N04/7210460776/>

Elizabeth Debenham

This afternoon I saw a grand total of three butterflies: A Peacock at Tewin Orchard, a 'white' (probably Green-veined) on Nomansland Common and a male Orange-tip near the car park at Heartwood Forest. Even though the weather was iffy I'm still disappointed not to have seen more.

- Paul Why

Had a look around Water Lane, Watford and noted 12 x orange tip (3 females), 1 x small tortoiseshell, 1 x green veined white(male). At Fishers field nature reserve, Bushey were 2 x orange tip females and 1 x holly blue. - David Gower

Some news for today (Wednesday 16th May 2012) - 1 Small White, along track at Vicarage Farm, 10:45 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood, along Jubilee Path/Park Farm, Enfield, 12:20 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip, at Park Farm, Enfield, 12:20 hrs; 1 Holly Blue, along Jubilee Path/Park Farm, 12:40 hrs; 2, male and female, Orange Tip, along Merryhills Brook/Vicarage Farm, 14:20 and 14:26 hrs; 1 Small White, along Merryhills Brook/Vicarage Farm, 14:20 hrs. - Robert Callf.

At last the sun arrived in my Hayes garden today 16th May bringing in an Orange Tip, Holly blue and a very pristine Green-veined White.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/69131641@N04/7209021028/in/photostream>

Helen George

Sunday 13th May 2012

First Holly Blue of the year seen in Tewin Garden - Jim Farr

News for Sunday (13th May 2012) - Oakwood Park: 1 Speckled Wood, 14:23 hrs; 2 male Orange Tip, 14:23 and 14:45 hrs; **1 Small Heath**, 14:38 hrs - my first of the year! 1 Small Copper, 14:43 hrs. - Robert Callf

Just back from a stroll round Aldbury Nowers, 3x brimstone 5+ orange tip 3x dingy skipper **2x green hairstreak** - Richard Geary

1 x holly blue in Bushey garden today - David Gower

First Holly Blue of the year in my Harpenden garden this morning; obliging settling on a bluebell.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/7395917@N02/7187069148/>

Robin Pearson

Bricket Wood Common - At last, a sunny day when I'm not working. The butterflies seemed full of the joys of Spring. Orange Tips (5) - Courting couple in clump of Cuckoo Flower, two males patrolling, one female nectaring on bluebell; Comma (1); Green-veined White (2); Peacock; Brimstone (14), Courting couple, 1 male nectaring on bluebell, 1 female searching for egg-laying sites, 2 other females & 8 males just cruising around - Malcolm Hull

Saturday 12th May 2012

News for Saturday (12th May 2012) - 1 Holly Blue, settling on damp mud, Sidhil's Field, 10:04 hrs; 1 Peacock, hedgerow off Barracks, Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 10:30 hrs; 1 Peacock, at Parkside Farm, Enfield, 11:10 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood, at Park Farm, Enfield, 11:44 hrs; 3 Peacock, at Park Farm, Enfield, along Jubilee Path, 11:53, 12:07 and 12:21 hrs; 7(5 males, 2 females) Orange Tip, at Park Farm, Enfield, along Jubilee Path, 12:07 - 12:26 hrs; 1 Holly Blue, along bridle-path near Shaws Wood, Trent Park, 14:13 hrs; **1 Small Copper**, along Merryhills Brook at South Lodge Farm, 14:20 hrs - our first of the year! 1 Small Tortoiseshell, along Merryhills Brook at South Lodge Farm, 14:28 hrs - very scarce this spring, first for about a month! 2 Peacock, along Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 14:42 hrs. - Robert Callf & Robin White. - Robert Callf and Robin White

Spent just over half an hour at Norton Green on Saturday afternoon at around 1:30pm when the

weather conditions were not ideal: breezy, about 50% sun and fairly cool. Therefore unsurprisingly only 2 butterflies were spotted: a female Brimstone and a female Orange Tip - Peter Clarke

Highdown area, 6 dingy skippers/ a solitary **green hairstreak** / 7 brimstones and 3 orange tips+
- Stuart Pittman

A better day today at Tyttenhanger, with 6 Orange Tips, 1 Peacock, 1 Speckled Wood, 1 Small White. Also a Holly Blue in my South Mimms garden - Terry Wood

At Finch lane, Bushey 3 x orange tip (1 female) & 3 x Holly blue. Aldenham road 1 x Orange tip. On walk from Finch lane to Patchetts green (via jewish cemetery) 4 x orange tip(1 female), 1 x Holly blue, 1 x speckled wood, 1 x Small Tortoiseshell. At Patchetts Green 1 x Small White & 1 x Orange tip. 1 X Orange tip in Bushey garden - David Gower

Friday 11th May 2012

Some news for Friday 11th May 2012 - 2 Peacock, at Park Farm, Enfield, at 13:30 and 13:35 hrs; 1 female Brimstone, at Park Farm, Enfield, 13:35 hrs; 2(male and female) Orange Tip, at Bay Farm, Enfield, 13:45 - 13:47 hrs; 1 Peacock, at Bay Farm, Enfield, 13:47 hrs; 2 female Orange Tip, at Brooke Wood, The Ridgeway, Enfield, 13:58 - 14:00 hrs; 2 male Orange Tip, at Rectory Farm, Enfield, 14:17 and 14:35 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip, at Whitewebbs Wood, 15:42 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip, at Hilly Fields Park, Enfield, 16:40 hrs. - Robert Callf

Aldbury Nowers, I finally got to do the transect today! Was very pleased to finally see a **dingy skipper** (in the middle southern enclosure). Totals were small copper- 2, grizzled skipper - 8 on the transect with another 3 off route, **small heath** - 2, peacock, large white and brimstone. Elsewhere, in the furthest northern enclosure there was an orange tip, **small heath**, unidentified white species and a female brimstone. It made up for the lack of butterflies last Saturday! - Paul Thrush

At Rickneys today 2pm two grizzled skippers, 1 small copper, **1 brown argus**, 2 orange tip and green veined white. Later at 3.30 on Waterford Heath south 5 grizzleds - Steve Kiln

At Merryhill fields, Bushey 1 x orange tip(male). Onto Finch Lane, Bushey where spotted 4 x orange tip(1 was female), 1 x holly blue, 1 x peacock and 1 x muslin moth(female) - David Gower

On May 8th a female holly blue settled on a raspberry leaf and displayed her wings briefly in sunshine. On May 9th and 10th it rained and was cool. A female orange tip stayed on the same cowslip flower for well over 24hrs and only opened her wings a chink when the sun appeared for a moment today, May 10th. I shall look again in the morning. Both seen in Kings Langley

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/7392841@N04/7173136722/>

Elizabeth Debenham

Tuesday 8th May 2012

Had a **Painted Lady** on oil seed rape fields in Bedmond on Tuesday afternoon. - Clive Burrows

Today I went to Broxbourne Wood as it had been over a month since my last visit. The drizzle started as I arrived, but didn't last long. When the sun finally broke through I saw just two male Orange-tips. After Broxbourne Wood I moved on to Hexton Chalk Pit, hoping to find a Green Hairstreak. No luck there, but I did spot a **Dingy Skipper**, and failed to photograph it. Is this really the first Herts record for 2012? After the sun appeared I spotted a second Dingy feeding on Horseshoe Vetch on the slope of the upper pit - Paul Why

I was at Purwell this afternoon and there was a brief period of sunshine and out came the butterflies! I saw a peacock, 4 speckled wood and 3 unidentified whites plus a green veined white and holly blue on the edge of the reserve - Paul Thrush

News for Tuesday 8th May 2012 - 1 male Orange Tip, at Park Farm, Enfield at 14:07 hrs; 2 Peacock, at Rectory Farm, Enfield, 14:45 and 15:02 hrs; 2 male Orange Tip, together, at Rectory Farm, Enfield, 14:50 hrs; 1 male Brimstone, at Rectory Farm, Enfield, 15:02 hrs; 1 Green-veined White, at Hilly Fields Park, Enfield, 17:40 hrs. - Robert Callf

Monday 7th May 2012

Despite the poor weather again had a **Brown Argus** fly across my car along Beachwood Avenue, St. Albans - Andy Steele

Two butterflies to report for Monday 7th May 2012 - 1 Peacock, at Barracks, Vicarage Farm, Enfield and a male Orange Tip at Parkside Farm, Enfield - Robert Callf

Tuesday 1st May 2012

A couple of butterfly sightings for Tuesday 1st May 2012 - 1 male Orange Tip, near Duncan's Wood, Enfield Chase, 13:20 hrs; 1 Peacock, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 14:35 hrs. - Robert Callf

A brief walk when the rain finally relented Wareside - 16 orange tips, (only one female) 1 brimstone 1 large white The most butterflies I've seen in a day all year so far all in 40 mins. - Phil MacMurdie

Late in day 3pm in Broxbourne Woods in ride saw 14 orange tips and two green veined white. In Rickneys **one grizzled**, 1 orange tip and green veined white. Then onto Waterford south heath on bank after 4pm before rain, **5 grizzled**, 2 peacocks, 2 orange tips and two green veined whites - Steve Kiln

April 2012

Monday 30th April 2012

A lovely day today (30th April), apart from a strongish wind and the fact I was stuck on the inside of the office looking out. I managed a bit of a walk locally after work (Stanwell Moor), and spotted a couple of Orange Tips, a male Small White, and two male and one female Green-veined Whites. The last of these was small and rather dusky, and I initially mistook it in flight for a female Orange Tip. - Dave Miller

I saw my first Holly blue on 30 April in my Watford Garden - Joan Thompson

I finally managed to do my 3rd transect walk of the year yesterday! It was actually quite warm at times! Totals were 3 peacock, 5 orange tip, 2 brimstone, **and 4 grizzled skipper**. Not on the transect were 2 more brimstone, 5 orange tip, a comma, speckled wood and **3 grizzled skipper** - Paul Thrush

Things are looking up. In my Hatfield garden today, 30 April, 3+ Orange Tip (all active m.), Brimstone (f), Small White, GV White, Peacock, all nectaring on Honesty/Forget-me-not/Periwinkle or sun-bathing. Curiously no sign of f. Orange Tip, as we also have a few large Garlic Mustard (in the wrong place, but will have to stay now!). My Warren transect disappointing, only 2 Peacock, 1 Comma, all very active in the sun, ground very water-logged in places - should be good for Cuckoo-flower - John Moss

Returned home to find an Orange Tip roosting on my lawn in Ware. Elsewhere **2 Small Coppers** seen and lots of very active Peacocks - Liz Goodyear

This morning in the Harpenden garden: 1 Small White, 1 Large White, 1 male Brimstone, 1 male Orange Tip and the day is still young! You can add Peacock and Comma to the list - Robin Pearson

1 x holly blue in Bushey garden today - David Gower

Sunday 29th April 2012

Finally got out of the house Wareside - Sunday 29th April at 4pm, 6 orange tips in total. 3 in the garden, one came out of its roost in a hebe bush, can only assume it must have been waiting for days....3 on the railway line - Phil MacMurdie

Stanwell Moor, when the rain finally stopped today around three o'clock, I made a brief foray out along the bank of the distinctly swollen River Colne. In the usual place in the middle of the J14 roundabout, I found two Orange Tips roosting together, one of either sex. The sun appeared sporadically, but only enough to stir the male into life a little. He made a half-hearted attempt to

accost the female, but more cloud caused them both to settle back down tightly. Tomorrow's promised sunshine may give them a better day - Dave Miller

Friday 27th April 2012

Saw the following on Friday 27th April 2012 - 1 male Orange Tip, at Hilly Fields Park, Enfield, 13:50 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood, at Flash Lane, Clay Hill, Enfield, 13:53 hrs; 1 Peacock, was seen to hide in a pile of logs at Brayside Farm, Enfield, at 13:58 hrs., before a shower. - Robert Callf

What weather, blown off Rickneys. In Waterford North pit in a bit of sun at 12.30 by steep bank saw Peacock and one **grizzled skipper**, had to run to avoid dark looking cloud - Steve Kiln

Thursday 26th April 2012

Saw a Speckled Wood at Alexandra Park this morning (Thursday 26th April 2012) at 11:48 hrs. - Robert Callf

Tuesday 24th April 2012

We also went to Waterford Heath on Sunday, after a rain shower, we went to the North Pit at 12.45pm, it was sunny but windy and cool, saw **2 Grizzled Skippers** to the right of the picnic table. Also saw a Angle Shades Moth. photo link

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/sas999/7108779577/>

We then went to the South pit at 1.20pm and saw a single **Grizzled Skipper** on the usual slope - Kevin and Sandra Standbridge

Sunday 22nd April 2012

Saw the following butterflies Sunday 22nd April 2012 - 1 Speckled Wood, Sidhil's Field, at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 09:58 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 13:03 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood, at Dew Pond, Trent Park, 13:06 hrs; 1 Peacock, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 13:15 hrs; 1 female Large White, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 13:17 hrs and a couple of White sp., probably Small, along Merryhills Brook, at Vicarage Farm, Enfield - Robert Callf & Robin White. Robert Callf

I spent the morning at Aldbury Nowers and saw one peacock, one very tatty small tortoiseshell, one male brimstone, **two grizzled skippers** and 4 male orange tips. Photos of orange tips:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/64663114@N03/7107347645/in/photostream>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/64663114@N03/6961281422/in/photostream>

- Miles Attenborough

On 22nd April a pristine male holly blue displayed his wings in the sun in a Kings Langley garden.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/7392841@N04/6957446220/>

- Elizabeth Debenham

1 Grizzled Skipper seen on the north pit near the railway line at Waterford Heath - Liz Goodyear

Stanwell Moor, I did a quick tour of my local patch this afternoon before it rained (again!). Right outside my front door, nectaring on a dandelion on the grass verge was a female Orange Tip. I saw another five altogether: one more female, three males patrolling and a further male roosting on a head of Garlic Mustard. There were singletons of Small White, Speckled Wood and Holly Blue, the last of these still flying even though the cloud had moved across and it had turned dark and cold. Added to these, I came across five Peacocks, something I hadn't seen for three weeks. They were very worn - do they return to hibernation if the weather turns foul, I wonder? - Dave Miller

Bricket Wood Common - First butterflies of the year on my transect walk this morning 6 male Orange Tips, 5 Speckled Woods & a Holly Blue. Not a single hibernator in sight - Malcolm Hull

Friday 20th April 2012

On Friday just before the rain I saw 2 orange tips + a Brimstone in my garden in Stocking Pelham - Andy Brown

Had a walk around my local Oughtonhead today and not a lot about but did see one Orange tip, and a white - Kevin Taylor

Tuesday 17th April 2012

Saw the following butterflies on Tuesday 17th April 2012 - 1 Speckled Wood, Ride Wood, Trent Park, 13:18 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip, at Parkside Farm, Enfield, 13:26 hrs; 2 male Orange Tip, at Whitewebbs Wood, 14:37 and 14:54 hrs; 1 Small White, at Whitewebbs Wood, 14:37 hrs; 1 Comma, at Whitewebbs Wood, 14:51 hrs. - Robert Callf

Went to Rickneys this afternoon 17th at 3pm, in sunny spot sheltered from the west wind, there were **two grizzled skippers**. Plenty of strawberry plants around whereas at Waterford Heath few strawberry plants and no grizzleds and more exposed - Steve Kiln

Monday 16th April 2012

I did the transect today at Aldbury, throughout the reserve I had 2 pristine **grizzled skipper** (both in the south) and 2 male orange tip. - Paul Thrush

Saw a Speckled Wood today (Monday 16th April 2012) at Park Farm, Enfield at 11:00 hrs - Robert Callf & Robin White

Finally some action, although not a lot. Saturday 14th April North Enfield CC - Hillyfields park Enfield 2 orange tips - Sunday 15th April Wareside, 2 orange tips. That's was the sum total for the weekend, despite the bright sunshine. There just doesn't appear to be many flying insects about at all. Bees few and far between. Haven't seen a honey bee yet, only a few bumblebees and some solitary bees. - Phil MacMurdie

Saturday 14th April 2012

On 13th April I had a speckled wood and a male orange tip in Kings Langley within seconds of each other. Then a second speckled wood which was paler than the first had a dog fight with it and disappeared over the fence. I had seen a small white a day earlier which could have been a female orange tip going by size, but unconfirmed. - Elizabeth Debenham

Today at Tyttenhanger Gp had 1 Peacock, 1 Comma and 1 Specked Wood which was in Garden Wood - Andrew Steele

Folly Lane, St Albans - Small White (3), Orange Tip (male) and Speckled Wood on my allotment this morning. However, no butterflies at all on the Bricket Wood transect this afternoon, despite sun most of the way round. On the plus side, I counted well over a thousand violets through the wood, far more than in any previous year, which must be a good sign for the Silver-washed Fritillary population. Garlic Mustard & Cuckoo Flower also seem to be having a good year, which should help the Orange Tips - Malcolm Hull

Saw the following butterflies today (Saturday 14th April 2012) - 1 Comma, edge of Water Grdn, Trent Park, 13:00 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Water Grdn., Trent Park, 13:08 hrs; 1 Peacock, along Leeging Beech Gutter near 'Three-bridges', Trent Park, 13:10 hrs - Robert Callf & Robin White. - Robert Callf

Friday 13th April 2012

Saw my first Holly Blue today in my Hatfield garden + 1x White sp (possibly f. Orange tip or GV White). Also a single Peacock on my Warren transect - John Moss

Thursday 12th April 2012

Saw a Speckled Wood today (Thursday 12th April 2012) at Boxer's Lake, Enfield, at 13:47 hrs. - Robert Callf

Two Holly Blues in my garden today in Hemel Hempstead (Wednesday 11th April 2012) - Ian Burley

Sightings Stanwell Moor, 11th April: Working according to the old adage that if you go out, you may see something, but if you stay indoors you definitely won't, I set off round my patch near Heathrow at around 1715 today, with the sun disappearing behind an ominous dark pile of cumulonimbus that the pilots out of the airport were giving a wide berth to. I headed for the area within the J14 M25 roundabout, where there is garlic mustard in abundance. It was just coming into flower, and providing ideal camouflage for roosting Orange Tips. I found just two, but as is so often the case, they shared the same flower head. Dave Miller

Pleased to see my 1st Speckled Wood of the year in my Hatfield garden at 10.00am (11th April), flitting round flowers then sunning on garage roof, although temp only 12C - John Moss

Saw a Peacock on the edge of an Oilseed Rape field at Vicarage Farm, Enfield on Tuesday 10th April 2012 at 12:27 hrs. - Robert Callf

Saw a male Orange Tip at Anglo Aquarium Plant, Clay Hill, Enfield (Friday 6th April 2012) at 12:52 hrs., also a white butterfly here not positively identified. - Robert Callf

Friday 6th April 2012

Late news: Stockley Park mid afternoon of Saturday 31st March, Small White, Orange Tip and Peacock - Ann Cater

Delighted to report a Peacock sunbathing in my St Albans garden this morning. Walked the Bricket Wood transect route this afternoon. Too cold for butterflies, but I did see two Orange Underwing moths. Winter management has included another acre of coppicing, scub removal and two new scallops on the main ride and clearance work around the main pond. None of the significant Sallows have been removed - Malcolm Hull

Wednesday 4th April 2012

North of Hertford, **1 Grizzled Skipper** seen flying at 11.50 this morning (earliest known date for Hertfordshire previous 9th April in 1893 and 2011). Also seen several pyrausta moths (species unknown!) - Liz Goodyear

I saw a small white today at Chapel Green, Sandon, near Blagrove Common - Paul Thrush

Robin White and myself saw a male Orange Tip at Shaws Wood, Trent Park this afternoon (Wednesday 4th April 2012) at 12:50 hrs. - Robert Callf

1st April 2012 Transect - Wood Lane, Pirton - 12.00 to 13.00 only 13 degrees. Sightings : 1 female Small White nectaring on Blackthorn blossom, 1 Small Tortoiseshell nestling at ground level in the growing wheat, 1 Speckled Wood in the usual section 5 wooded path - Val Fullforth

Tuesday 3rd April 2012

Today I saw 3 speckled wood butterflies in Balls Wood - just before the rain came! - Andy Brown

Monday 2nd April 2012

Only saw two butterflies in my Hemel Hempstead garden today, my first Holly Blue of the year followed by a Speckled Wood which beat my earliest record by no less than three weeks! Malcolm Newland

Batford, Weedy field - 2 HOLLY BLUE, 1 Speckled Wood and on 28.03.12, 2f Orange Tips - Darin Stanley

This morning (10:45ish) I saw the Male Orange Tip in Woodcock Park (that was spotted yesterday by family) on the way back from a shop. This afternoon around the 2pm mark in the Welsh Harp during a half hour walk I spotted the following in much sunnier and warmer than expected conditions: 2x Unknown White 1x Peacock 1x Small Tortoiseshell (a very small one) 2x Male Orange Tip 1x Comma 1x Speckled Wood - Mike Rubin

A few butterflies to report - Yesterday (Sunday 1st April 2012) - 2 Small Tortoiseshell, together, along ditch between Nature Trail and Seedfield Spinney, Trent Park, 13:07 hrs; 1 Peacock, edge of Shaws Wood, Trent Park, 13:45 hrs; 1 Comma, edge of Shaws Wood, Trent Park, 13:45 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, along Merryhills Brook, Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 14:10 hrs. Today (Monday 2nd April 2012) - 2 Speckled Wood, at Fir & Pond Woods, near Potters Bar, 11:07 and 11:25 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood, at bridge over M25 near Fir & Pond Woods, 12:40 hrs; 1 Green-veined White, at Holly Hill Farm, Enfield, 12:47 hrs; 1 female Orange Tip, at Park Farm, Enfield, 13:26 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood, at Parkside Farm, Enfield, 13:33 hrs. - Robert Callf

I did the transect this morning, totals were comma - 3, orange tip - 4 male and 1 female and individual peacock and small tortoiseshell. - Paul Thrush

My first Small Tortoiseshell today, one mid afternoon at Norton Green Stevenage, whilst watching a Ring ouzel - Kevin Taylor

Sunday 1st April 2012

I heard from a member of family that they spotted a male orange tip around the 4:45pm mark in Woodcock Park, Kenton - Mike Rubin

1 X ORANGE TIP seen at Finch Lane, Bushey during quick visit - David Gower

March 2012

Friday 30th March 2012

OAKHILL WOODS LNR 8x Speckled wood---2x GV white----1x Tshell male patrolling nettle patch---
- 2x Peacock on Sallow catkins and cherry laurel blossom. Kit Jones

A fine m. Orange Tip in my Hatfield garden 11.00am today, testing spring flowers for nectar, but didn't stay long - John Moss

Thursday 29th March 2012

I went for a lunchtime stroll to a green space near Brunel University today and was pleased to see a number of butterflies - 3 Small Tortoiseshell, 3 Peacock, 3 Small White, 2 Brimstone (males) and 1 Comma. On returning home I spotted my first Holly Blue of the year in my Uxbridge garden. - Nigel Parsons

Another m. Brimstone in my Hatfield garden today @ 12.45. Keep looking hopefully round Ivy etc for 1st Holly Blues - John Moss

Just had my first **female Orange Tip** of the year in the garden (west side of Bishop's Stortford). Andrew Palmer

Two more sightings to report, both at the Stockley Park. Sighted yesterday (28th March) afternoon, 1 Small Tortoiseshell and 1 Peacock. I had several sightings of the Tortoiseshell, but sadly never where I could say there was more than one. Then this morning I sighted in our Uxbridge garden, 1 small white - Ann Cater

Yesterday I optimistically spent the afternoon at Waterford Heath, having seen the reports of Grizzled Skipper sightings in Sussex. No luck with the Grizzlies I'm afraid, despite the high temperatures, though I did see 2 Peacocks on the northern part of the heath followed by another 2 peacocks (one sparring with either a Comma or Small Tortoiseshell) on the patch of grassland near the end of Barley Croft. On the southern part of the heath I saw one Peacock followed by the afternoon's highlight: my first Orange Tip of the year, a male, flying west from the newly-cleared willows at the south-west corner of the heath towards Waterford Marsh. Also, one day last week I was inspired by the Cambridgeshire sighting of a Green Hairstreak to check out Wood Lane, Telegraph Hill and Hexton Chalk Pit. No success there either. Paul Why

Peacock, Brimstone Hitchin garden yesterday. Small Tortoiseshell, Small White and Brimstone at Old Hale Way allotment site also yesterday - Nigel Agar

Wednesday 28th March 2012

I made my first sightings of 2012 today on a walk between Bishops Stortford and Sawbridgeworth along the Stort navigation path: Several peacocks (including one pair) - near Spellbrook Lock Two brimstones - also in the vicinity of Spellbrook Lock A large white - at Sawbridgeworth station Lots of other insect life on the wing, including plenty of queen bumblebees. - Chris Gleeson

Stanwell Moor area, I spent four hours spanning lunchtime around my local area today, in glorious sunshine and warmth. I eventually lost count of the butterflies, but Peacocks, Commas and Brimstones were around in double figures. Peacocks were particularly numerous, both defending territories and cruising the paths. Two of the Commas exhibited different behaviour, fluttering low in dappled shade in and amongst new nettle growth - I assume these were females looking to lay eggs. In the middle of the roundabout at J14 of the M25, there is a wooded area, with a break cut through along the path of a gas main. This gap and the woodland edges are home to a variety of

species, and today I saw my first Orange Tip of the year here, along with Green-veined Whites and many of the Brimstones. Every white butterfly I checked today was a GVW - but Small Whites are more difficult to approach, so some of the unconfirmed ones may have been Small. In all, five Orange Tips were seen in various spots. Finally, high up in the ivy around a fallen willow, I spotted a male Holly Blue - another first for the year. Six species for a March day, possibly seven. Not bad. No Small Tortoiseshells though, and no Speckled Woods yet either. Dave Miller

I saw at least 4 Orange Underwing around midday in Bramfield Woods today - Terry Wood

News from Diane Andrews, male orange tip in Alexandra Palace, earliest ever!

Woodcock Park (TQ18)- A short walk mid afternoon close to home in Kenton / Harrow revealed: 1x Holly Blue (my first of the year) 1x Unknown White 2x Speckled Wood (having a scrap) - Mike Rubin

Two members of Harrow NHS reported seeing Orange Tips in their back gardens in the last few days - John Hollingdale

Tuesday 27th March 2012

The male Orange Tip which I saw in the Hemel Hempstead garden today beat my previous early record by eleven days, while a Green Veined White was earlier by two days. A male and female Brimstone almost had a close encounter, while I have not seen a Comma yet. Malcolm Newland

Anna Marett and I had a Small Tortoiseshell butterfly in the garden of the house near Mill Farm, Chenies Bottom - Joan Thompson

Stanwell Moor, I did my usual walk today, but quite late (around 1630). I disturbed a Small White on an ornamental plum tree within sight of the house - a good start - and clocked up five Peacocks and three Commas altogether. Checking photos, none looked like any seen last Friday. No Orange Tips or Speckled Woods yet - or precocious Small Heaths! - Dave Miller

I observed a **humming bird hawk moth** today feeding on a clump of aubretia in a garden I was working in at Cholesbury near Tring today - actually in Bucks (*info passed to Upper Thames Branch*) Earliest I have ever seen one. On an adjacent bergenia was a peacock butterfly - Alan Strawn

OAKHILL WOODS LNR East Barnet-----Brimstone male on periwinkle flower----- Small and -GV white on wall flowers----Peacock on Goat willow catkins==KIT JONES

At last I can report the first sighting this year in my Hayes garden. Tuesday 27th March, 2 Holly Blue, **1 Large White** and 1 Small White - Helen George

A walk down the main ride from West Car Park in Broxbourne Woods today produced a single Peacock and 10+ Orange Underwing moths. After I had left, two were later confirmed at Orange Underwing - Alan Reynolds

First Orange Tip this year in garden adjacent to Sherrards Park Wood. Welwyn Garden City. It flew across tops of flower border but did not stop to take sustenance. Hyacinth and wild primrose in bloom. Gwynneth Pearman

Monday 26th March 2012

Just had brimstone in my St Albans garden today first of the year - Andrew Steele

At Rose & Crown garden in Church street spotted 1 x comma my first sighting this year.....David Gower

2 Holly Blues in warm lunchtime sunshine in Twyford Crescent Gardens, Acton, today - Lee Hurrell

Barnhill, a lunchtime stroll over the hill revealed: 1x Speckled Wood (my first of the year) 1x Suspected Orange Underwing (on the wing and not stopping) 2x Peacock. Pretty quiet given the weather. I guess the peacocks had a bad year last year. Not a single Brimstone seen so far, in an area where I have photographed them in the past too. Another note is how dry the ground is for the time of year. Barnhill is usually still a quagmire in March but it is almost bone dry! Lovely

though the weather is I hope the vegetation isn't going to get stunted and affected things adversely... - Mike Rubin

A single **Green-veined White** seen at Fishers Green, Stevenage, just before 3pm - Stefan Hunt

I live in the middle of Berkhamsted town centre yet whilst sitting on my small patio garden on Saturday, March 24 I was visited by a vivid, Brimstone, which swooped about my assembly of potted plants, decided there was nothing of immediate interest and headed off at speed. It was a joyous harbinger of Spring and very uplifting for the soul!! - Mervyn Edgecombe

I saw a comma yesterday near my St Albans house and saw a red admiral this morning at Tewin Orchard. I also saw a comma at Tewin Orchard last Tuesday (20/3) - Paul Thrush

Sunday 25th March 2012

A few sightings for Sunday 25th March 2012 - 1 Comma, at Whitewebbs Park, 13:58 hrs; 1 Small White, at Strayfield Road, Clay Hill, Enfield, 14:45 hrs and 1 Speckled Wood, at Rectory Farm, Enfield, 14:50 hrs. - Robert Callf

One Small White in Bengoe today, our first garden record of any butterfly this year, also an Orange Underwing Moth near Chapmore End, another new location for it - Andrew Wood

Countryside between Almshoebury and Stevenage yielded one Peacock, one Comma and two Small Tortoiseshell. Wasteground at Norton Green gave five Small Tortoiseshell and one Comma. Near the bylaws sign at Watery Grove were two Peacock, two Small Tortoiseshell, two Comma - Stefan Hunt

Horsenden Hill, near hole 6 of the golf course I saw 1 Comma and 1 unknown nymphalid (Peacock or Red Admiral) on the wing mid morning. Later, an unexpected brief return to the hill around 3:30pm revealed more in the meadows below the hill and on the grazing fields on the slope: 4x Peacock, 1x Small Tortoiseshell, 1x Female Orange Tip (90% sure when it settled briefly on a dandelion). - Mike Rubin

A walk around my local patch at Stanwell Moor near Heathrow on **Friday 23rd** produced seven Peacocks, five Brimstones, three Commas and a Small White. The Brimstone behaviour was interesting: I decided they must be freshly awakened, as instead of their customary patrolling of the hedgerows with hardly a pause for breath, they were all nectaring avidly on low-level flowers and barely taking to the air at all. The Peacock numbers seem to reflect those seen in July, rather than September - supporting the early hibernation theory. - Dave Miller

Saturday 24th March 2012

A male **Orange Tip** at Two Bridges Farm, just south of Heathrow T4, and a probable female Orange Tip at Hounslow Heath - John Eborall

Two first sightings to report. On **Friday 23rd**, a beautiful bright m.Brimstone in my garden in Hatfield at 10.30. On Saturday at 11.00 two **Orange Tip** fluttering north along the hedge/verge opposite - John Moss

While having lunch, outside Welwyn Civic Centre, I spotted a Peacock butterfly, my 4th species for the year, flying over the roofs of the houses opposite - Martin Honey

Forty people joined the Sherrardspark Wood Wardens for our walk this morning, butterflies seen were 2 Comma and 1 Brimstone. The AGM and Members's Day was attended by just under sixty people. Many thanks to everyone for attending and our speakers Martin Honey from the Natural History Museum and Paul Thrush of the HMWT. An excellent day! - Liz Goodyear

Had a Brimstone in my front garden midday today in South Mimms - Terry Wood

Spring is here in Kings Langley! This morning over gardens I saw a **holly blue** and a small tortoiseshell both flying high - Elizabeth Debenham

I saw a fresh **Holly blue** at Bedfont Lakes country park at around 11:30 on Saturday 24th March. - Rob Solomon

I have just seen a male Brimstone fly through the garden here at Rusling End Cottage - Julie Wise

Friday 23rd March 2012

We had a Ver Action Group work party this afternoon along the Ver Riverside walk near Moor Mill Drop lane. I had seen Brimstone and a Red Admiral earlier this week (not at Riverside) but the speckled wood flying amongst the riverside trees was a bit of a surprise to me. - John Fisher

At Norton Green, I saw a **Small White** flying as well as about 10 Commas between 1330 and 1400 hours today. Peter Clarke

A few butterflies to report this morning (Friday 23rd March 2012) Boxer's Lake, Enfield - 1 Red Admiral, 10:57 hrs, 1 Comma, nectaring on Willow, 11:00 hrs and 1 Peacock, 11:03 hrs. Lakeside, Oakwood, N14: 1 Speckled Wood, at 11:20 hrs - my first sighting of the year! - Robert Callf

OAKHILL WOODS LNR East Barnet-----Ix female Peacock, 1x male Comma nectaring on Goat willow /Salix Caprea -----KIT JONES

Lovely spring day. At Waterford Heath 5 peacocks and a comma, in Great Molewood 2 brimstone and two commas plus two buzzards - Steve Kiln

Thursday 22nd March 2012

In my Hitchin garden my first butterflies of the season, 1 Comma and 1 Brimstone lovely sunny day. - Val Fullforth

Floodplain Knebworth, 10.00-11.30am 1 Comma, 1 Peacock, 1 Brimstone (male) - Lee Browne

Some sightings for today (Thursday 22nd March 2012) - 1 Small Tortoiseshell, at Parkside Farm, Enfield, 10:58 hrs; 1 Red Admiral, at Park Farm, Enfield, 11:30 hrs; 1 Peacock, settled on Blackthorn, Duncan's Wood, 11:44 hrs and two Orange Underwing flying and settling on Birch in Moat Wood, Trent Park, 12:20 hrs - our first of the year! - Robert Callf & Robin White.

Dane End today, 3 male Brimstone and 1 Peacock, Whempsted 1 Peacock - Laurence Drummond

Wednesday 21st March 2012

Just seen a bright yellow male Brimstone - Spring must be here ! Harpenden - Ken Brown

3 Red Admirals and 1 Peacock seen today at Tyttenhanger Gravel Pits - Terry Wood

Whilst delivering Round-the Houses this morning (Wednesday 21st March 2012) saw a **Small White** in Rushey Hill, EN2 at 11:18 hrs. - Robert Callf

Sat 10 March: Small Tortoiseshell on Parkway, Welwyn Garden City, Tue 20 March: Small Tortoiseshell in field near the Dawley Plantation, west of Tewin. Wed 21 March: Brimstones at Nomansland, Amwell and Wheathampstead; Red admiral at Marshalls Heath; Small Tortoiseshell at Gustard Wood - Ian Flack

Ware area today, 1, male Brimstone at Standon AM, 1 Comma at The Pastures Ware and 1 Small Tortoiseshell in The Blanes - Laurence Drummond

Brimstones at Hexton Chalk Pits today - Nigel Agar

Tuesday 20th March 2012

Park Wood, Ruislip, a wander round the wood in the morning before it clouded over yielded 2 commas and **1 green veined white** along the main east-west ride. (The gvw I had a good look at when it briefly settled). 1 suspected Orange Underwing (but not very clearly - small with orange patches - it shot off into the trees) - Mike Rubin

Walking Stockley Park this afternoon I sighted a single (very beautiful) Comma - Ann Cater

News for today (Tuesday 20th March 2012) - Robin White reports having seen a Red Admiral this

morning at Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm at 11:40 hrs and a Peacock on the Uni-lawns, Trent Park this afternoon at 12:45 hrs. I saw a Comma at Hilly Fields Park, Enfield at 10:30 hrs. - Robert Callf

Just to report coming back home from Oughton Head today saw one male Brimstone, along Lucas Lane in Hitchin - Kev Taylor

Monday 19th March 2012

9.30-11am, North Stevenage Transect, 4 Small Tortoiseshell. 11-11.10am, St Nicks Churchyard, 2 Comma - Lee Browne

Saturday 17th March 2012

News from 15th March - A **Small White** was present in our Cowley, Uxbridge garden on March 15th, our first record for the year, also on that day a Small Tortoiseshell was seen at the Brunel University Bicentenary Gardens. - Roger and Sylvia Morton

Friday 16th March 2012

News via Robert Callf, Robin White saw a **Speckled Wood** at Trent Park on the edge of Shaws Wood today

Thursday 15th March 2012

News from **9th March**, **Holly Blue** seen in Colin Plant's Bishop Stortford garden

Terry Lyle had a **Green-veined White** today at Tower Hamlets Cemetery, his first March record on site, and we both had the year's first Brimstone, surprisingly late. - Bob Watts

Brimstone flying in Hitchin on 7 March both in our garden and on Old Hale Way allotments. Reported again today - Nigel Agar

A walk in the Norton Green area earlier this afternoon yielded 8 Commas (including 2 in a courtship flight) and a Peacock. Most of the sightings including the Peacock were seen towards the northern tip of the field south of Watery Grove. Quite warm, unbroken sunshine and light winds. Peter Clarke

Made an effort today to see what, if any, butterflies would be out in the Ruislip Common/Lido/Woods area. In three hours managed 3 Comma and 2 Peacock. At least it's a start! - Dick Middleton

I saw a male brimstone today at Aldbury, it was in the coppice area in the southern part of the reserve. - Paul Thrush

Robin White and myself saw three Commas today (Thursday 15th March 2012) - 1 at Park Farm, along the Jubilee Path, 12:52 hrs., another in Rough Lot, Trent Park, 13:30 hrs and a third by the Lower lake, Trent Park, 14:12 hrs. - Robert Callf

2 Small Tortoiseshells and a Brimstone at Cromwell Road Allotments, Hertford. 2 Brimstones, 1 Comma and 1 unidentified, though probably Small White at Chadwell bank 1 Peacock on Broadmeads, Ware. **1 Orange Underwing** moth in Ware Park, the first I have seen in 17 years there, on ground at 12.30 - Andrew Wood

This lunchtime I was driving up Mangrove Lane past Freedom Farm (west of Balls Wood) and saw my first white sp of the year flying over the crop - Alan Reynold

Wednesday 14th March 2012

First Red Admiral seen at Letchworth Centre for Healthy Living in the Annexe Garden on 14th March 14.30-15.30. Resting on the underside of the windowsill, took off and flew around the garden, rested awhile on the ground and flew again and rested, then finally disappearing into the woods - Jacqueline George

Monday 12th March 2012

I had a **Speckled Wood** in Monument Glade, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park today sunning itself. My earliest here and strangely no Brimstones yet! - Bob Watts

Out for a walk on Sunday 11 March on Minsbury Hill. Beautiful Brimstone butterfly fluttered furiously around us. Did not settle so could not get a photo - Barry & Cherie

News from Diane Andrews, **Sunday** at Brunswick Park, 2 Comma, 1 Small Tortoiseshell and 1 Red Admiral. Oakhill Woods, 2 Comma. **Today**, Tottenham Cemetary, no butterflies but Ally Pally 1 Comma

One hatched White-letter Hairstreak egg on roadside elm near Theobalds Park - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

Sunday 11th March 2012

Two Comma were nectaring on Sallows in Sidhil's Field, Vicarage Farm at 10:00 hrs., yesterday (Sunday 11th March 2012) and another one was seen on the edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park at 13:25 hrs. A Red Admiral was along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm yesterday (Sunday 11th March 2012) at 10:35 hrs. - Robert Callf

Thu 8 March: Small Tortoiseshell from my office window in Welwyn Garden City at lunchtime - fluttering against the window. **Sun 11 March:** Male Brimstone in my garden in Letchworth Garden City - Ian Small

Just a note to say I had a Brimstone in my Tring garden on Sunday - and very nice it was too. - Jez Perkins

I counted a minimum of 4 Brimstone (all male) and 6 Small Torts with a single Comma in the field behind my house (Tring Herts.), There were at least double the numbers of Brimstone seen locally on my family's bike ride plus a couple more Small Torts and another Comma. On return to my daughter's house (also Tring) there were single Brim and Small Tort in her back garden and then on my cycle home across Tring at 3.40 p.m. there were still at least 4 Small Torts chasing each other about the sunnier edge of the field behind my house. All in all it was odd that I saw no Peacock - Nick Bowles

Saturday 10th Red Admiral at Police Pit, Cheshunt. **Sunday 11th** - Brimstone in our garden in Harpenden - Tim Hill

2 Commas and a Small Tortoiseshell on the edge of Great Stock Wood near Hertford heath and one Comma in Balls Wood

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/25883987@N03/6972932505/in/set-7215762882340822>

5 - Small Tortoiseshell

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/25883987@N03/6826817588/in/set-7215762882340822>

5 - Comma - Andrew Wood

In Great Molewood near Waterford Heath saw 2 brimstones no commas but they won't be long - Steve Kiln

Hobby Horse wood nr Hertford Heath 1 Comma @ 13.32 in new glade - Laurence Drummond

My 1st ones of the year 2 Brimstones at Hexton Chalk Pit today - Stuart Pittman

One Comma seen in Trent Park near Cockfosters at about 1:40pm. It was seen at the north eastern end of the field to the southeast of the north gate/car park - Mike Rubin

Prediction - today will be a butterfly day! Just!

Saturday 10th March 2012

Broxbourne main ride today, **2 Comma** @12.30 when the sun came out - Laurence Drummond

Thursday 8th March 2012

Red Admiral seen in the field east of the Pinetum at Bayfordbury today at around 11am - Shaun Dowman

My first butterfly I saw was 1 Brimstone, male, flying from trees across the road to the other side, WYCH ELM LANE KNEBWORTH **1st March** at 11.56 -11.58 am. Second one, another male

Brimstone, flew out of ivy on the top of the fence and onto the ground, GIRSY LANE KNEBWORTH
1st March at 12.00 - 12.02 - Jacqueline George

Thursday 1st March 2012

I saw my first butterfly of the year today - a **Peacock** in my garden in Letchworth - Ian Small

1 Small Tortoiseshell at private farm site between Royston & Therfield today - Vince Lea

Stanwell Moor, one Red Admiral seen around two o'clock this afternoon high up in a tree close to J14 of the M25... This one had certainly seen better days, and lacked a large piece of the inner edge of one hindwing. The damage didn't appear to hinder its flight in any way, however - Dave Miller

Saw my first Hemel Hempstead garden butterfly of the year this morning. It was a Small Tortoiseshell which visited a clump of purple crocuses and stayed long enough for me to take several photographs of it - Malcolm Newland

1 Red Admiral seen in the woods near the summit (Northwest Side) of Barnhill at about 2pm - Mike Rubin

A male Brimstone flew through the garden at 1:45 pm today, doubling my 2012 species count! - Robin Pearson

February 2012

Wednesday 29th February 2012

A late note to let you know that a **Comma** was in our Cowley, Uxbridge garden on **Sunday, February 26th**, our first of the year - Roger and Sylvia Morton

Tuesday 28th February 2012

Had my first butterfly of the year with 1 Red Admiral seen flying in my St Albans garden today - Andrew Steele

1 Red Admiral fluttering around a flowering ornamental prunus in the road just after lunch (Ware) - Liz Goodyear

Sunday 26th February 2012

Today, I repeated my walk of yesterday in similar weather. This time I saw a Red Admiral along a different stretch of the river, in the open area between the Colne and the M25. Again, it was flying strongly with no intention of staying still. However, in the same area, I disturbed my second species of the year. A **Peacock** flew up and obligingly rested again a little way ahead, long enough for a quick snap from a distance. Then it was up and off into the sunshine
<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=18018&mode=view>
- Dave Miller

Saturday 25th February 2012

Robin White reported having seen a Red Admiral in Trent Park on Saturday 25th February 2012 settled on a Scots Pine on the South edge of Williams Wood at 10:15 hrs. I'm still waiting for my first sighting of a butterfly this year - Robert Callf

My first butterfly of the year today 25th - a Red Admiral flying strongly along the bank of the River Colne at Stanwell Moor. Beautiful sunshine, though nothing like as warm as the last couple of days. I also saw a Lesser-spotted Woodpecker flash by and quickly scuttle round to the far side of the tree on landing. Similar colours to a Red Admiral, funnily enough... - Dave Miller

Friday 24th February 2012

1 Small Tortoiseshell in decent condition spotted at Sunny Hill Park, Hendon, Middx on the hill at about 2:15pm today - Mike Rubin

Thursday 23rd February 2012

Red Admiral sighting today 1pm Charles Square London N1 6HT - Matthew Thomson

I saw a male **brimstone** today at Aldbury Nowers in the northern section, it got fairly warm there this afternoon, Regards Paul Thrush

A Red Admiral in Sawbridgeworth churchyard and a **Brimstone** between Sawbridgeworth and High Wych today 23rd February - Andrew Wood

Whilst working in a garden in Standon I was lucky enough to observe my first **Brimstone** (male) of the year. Average temp in the garden was 13C. - Jonathan Forgham

Just seen my first **Brimstone** of the year at approx 10.30 am 23-02-12 in back garden Panshanger estate Welwyn Garden City - Trevor Brownsell

As expected, a Red Admiral in my Harpenden garden today, hopefully a Brimstone will come along soon.

http://farm8.staticflickr.com/7061/6776903588_195052032e_z.jpg

Robin Pearson

9.30am St Nicks Church Yard, 1 Red Admiral. 9.30-11.30am North Stevenage Transect **2 Brimstone (male)** - Lee Browne Lee Browne

Saturday 18th February 2012

One Red Admiral flying vigorously around the canopy at Hertford North station this morning (Saturday 18th) - Andrew Wood

Thursday 16th February 2012

My Sue has just phoned to say that a Red Admiral is flying on the Brunel Campus in Uxbridge today - Ched George

Wednesday 15th February 2012

Red Admiral Primrose Hill, Kings Langley - Ashley Cox

January 2012

Friday 27th January 2012

09.30-11.30, had my first record of the year 1 Red Admiral on my new North Stevenage Transect route - Lee Browne

Tuesday 17th January 2012

Remarkably my fiancée has just reported seeing a white butterfly outside her office, in Westbourne Grove, London W2. [From her phone photo I think it is a Small White](#). I have no way of knowing but given the recent dip in temperatures I can only assume it had pupated inside somewhere and the warmth sped up emergence. I suppose it could have emerged in the recent double digit warm spell and have survived until today, with London being a few degrees warmer and maybe the chrysalis was in full sun. Or as a long shot, seeing as my fiancée works for an organic food supermarket chain, maybe the chrysalis was brought in from the field and hatched indoors. Who knows! - Lee Hurrell (*The expert opinion is that it probably emerged indoors and for that reason it can't be added to the national 'first sightings' list, as they try as far as possible to limit this to entirely natural occurrences*)

Wednesday 11th January 2012

Small Tortoiseshell seen on **Monday the 9th January** at Lakeside Nature reserve in Tring at 12-05. Did see another one earlier, but didn't record it as it was one that was hibernating in my home and was flying about when the weather warmed up !! Saw a **Red Admiral** today 11th Jan. on the Duckmore Lane Allotments at 11.40 - Brian Jessop

A **Red Admiral** flew across the sunlit patio of my back garden in Harpenden at 11.15 this morning (11 January 2012). - Alan Jackson

Today 11th January, saw one **Red Admiral** along Gresley Way, Stevenage near Box Wood and one in the Great Ashby Park Car Park.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/25883987@N03/6678854393/in/photostream>
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/25883987@N03/6678857559/in/photostream>
Andrew Wood

Thursday 5th January 2012

On New Year's Day, I heard the very sad news that Steve Pash had died suddenly on 31st December. His love was all wildlife including butterflies and will be greatly missed by everyone that knew him, as will his regular contributions throughout the year to the Herts & Middx BC Branch website. Steve was also 100% Purple and his 'patch' was Ruislip Woods - his love and fascination of Purple Emperors was apparent every summer having discovered one of the territories at Ruislip. He was a really nice guy! - Liz Goodyear

Monday 2nd January 2012

We had a **Red Admiral** butterfly land on our patio door glass today 2nd Jan at 12:50 which was in full sunlight in Chorleywood - Dennis Layzell