

# Sightings 2015

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## December 2015

### Tuesday 29th December December 2015

I was working in Tring this morning and opposite the Natural History Museum there in an Ivy clad garden a Brimstone could be seen whirling around in a sheltered patch of sunshine. My latest ever butterfly! - David James

I was quite convinced I had gone mad today when a **speckled wood** flew past me, so I gave chase and confirmed my id. It was a fresh individual clearly confused by this unseasonal weather. Seen at Burston Rose Garden centre Chiswell Green - Richard Geary

### Monday 28th December December 2015

Saw a Small Tortoiseshell today flying beside Osprey Lake, Panshanger Park, Hertford - Allan Burrows

I have just seen a very fresh-looking Brimstone butterfly in our St Albans garden. It's 12.45hrs on a sunny but chilly day. Unfortunately I wasn't quick enough to take a photo. - David Curry

### Saturday 19th December 2015

One Brimstone in our garden in Hertford this morning - Andrew Wood

### Thursday 17th December 2015

I just saw a red admiral fly over my garden in Hertford! (sent at 09:33) Jenny Sherwen

### Wednesday 16th December 2015

I saw a red admiral on my car bonnet yesterday in Thundridge Hertfordshire yesterday! Always reminds me of my dad but could not believe in December I was seeing one. Katie Sampford

### Thursday 9th December 2015

Had a flypast from a red admiral this afternoon in the weak sunshine at the Pinetum at Bayfordbury. - Ian Flack

### Friday 4th December 2015

Peter Elton photographed this Red Admiral near Pear Wood Stanmore today 4th Dec.  
<https://twitter.com/HarrowNCF>  
news via John Hollingdale

**Wednesday 2nd December 2015**

A Peacock butterfly was seen today at Stanmore Country Park by Steve Bolsover (news via John Hollingdale)

**November 2015****Wednesday 25th November 2015**

Holly Blue seen at Aylett's Nursery, St Albans on Sunday 8/11/15 - Frank Tuck

**Wednesday 18th November 2015**

Had a Red Admiral in the Harpenden garden late morning braving the blustery conditions - Robin Pearson

**Sunday 15th November 2015**

One Small Tortoiseshell sunning itself this afternoon at Folly Lane allotments, St Albans - Malcolm Hull

A female Brimstone fluttering around ivy in our back garden in Hertford, probably disturbed from hibernation by the winds - Andrew Wood

**Friday 13th November 2015**

Having thought I had seen my last butterfly of the year, I could not believe it today when whilst at work as a teacher in a school at Bushey, I looked out of the window and saw a Red Admiral. With a squally wind, dark scudding clouds and a temperature I suspect was barely into double figures the last thing I was expecting to see was a butterfly. However, what I initially thought could be a leaf swirling around in the wind was clearly a butterfly flying in spite of the elements. Perhaps it had been dislodged from a quiet place of hibernation, I don't know but it was still a remarkable sight. - Roger Newbold

**Thursday 12th November 2015**

At Rye Meads today I saw a Peacock and a comma enjoying the sun - until it went in! I also saw a dragonfly - possible migrant hawk? Andy Brown

Recorded a comma butterfly in a garden in Little Hadham this morning. Clear and still, temp 15C. - Jono Forgham

One Red Admiral on my Harpenden garden Ivy today during a spell of sunshine

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/99486228@N06/22363877403/>

Robin Pearson

**Sunday 8th November 2015**

One Red Admiral flying around Hertford North Station on Sunday 8th, in very dull but mild conditions - Andrew Wood

**Sunday 1st November 2015**

**Holly Blue** in my Hemel Hempstead garden while I cut my grass! - Ashley Cox

We were thrilled to see a bright Comma fluttering in warm sunshine in our Hatfield garden outside our patio doors today. This is the latest record for any butterfly here - John Moss

Butterfly I have seen today (01 Nov 2015): 1 red admiral - Walsworth Common, Hitchin  
TL19263038 - David Inward

Brimstone at Home Covert Hatfield Aerodrome today 13.00 - Rupert Pyrah

1 Red Admiral seen at Heartwood forest today east side of the road approx grid ref TL181110. Also had a Brimstone in my St. Albans garden at lunchtime - Andrew Steele

A male Brimstone, 3 Red Admirals and a Comma on my Harpenden garden Ivy today - Robin Pearson

Harpenden Common (St Johns Wood area): 1 female Brimstone fluttering around a bramble bush and then settling on a leaf to bask. Very relaxed! - David Hunt

## **October 2015**

### **Saturday 31st October 2015**

Red Admiral and Comma seen at car park near Letchworth Swimming Pool at approx 11.00 on 31st October - Patricia Clegg

King George V Reservoir, Enfield: 3 Red Admiral and 1 Small Tortoiseshell - Andrew Middleton

Two Red Admirals in my garden today. - Robin Pearson

### **Friday 30th October 2015**

Today next to Patmore Heath I saw a comma or Red Admiral flying purposefully towards the heath. Andy Brown

### **Wednesday 28th October 2015**

A sunny spell at lunchtime today brought out three Red Admirals and a Comma to my Harpenden garden Ivy. - Robin Pearson

### **Tuesday 27th October 2015**

A Red Admiral was feeding on our Killarney strawberry tree yesterday (27 Oct) at Thorley Park, Bishop's Stortford - Chris Dee

On a warm and sunny afternoon, spotted a Red Admiral flying across a fairway at Little Hay golf course near Bovingdon. - Brendan Sheridan

Had a very tatty Speckled Wood in the Harpenden garden today, along with a Red Admiral and a Comma. - Robin Pearson

2 perfect condition Red Admirals at East End Green [TL295108] today. Flying around each other up and down the village green and sunbathing on the grass - Christopher Benton.

A balmy afternoon on Nomansland Common produced 2 Brimstone, 1 male and 1 female, but no Small Coppers, unfortunately - David Hunt

One sighting from a sunny Sunday walk, a fresh Comma in the fields at Wareside. Moths are still about, had 10 species in the trap over the weekend - Phil Macmurdie

### **Monday 26th October 2015**

Watton-at-Stone: 1 Small White and 1 Peacock in field margins just SW of Watton-at-Stone (TL2918) - Aaron Clements-Partridge

Seen 11 individual butterflies of 4 species this afternoon, Monday 26th October 2015 as follows - 5 Comma (4 at Trent Park -2 nectaring on michaelmas daisies set-aside field near Triangular Wood, 1 nectaring on ivy flowers, Snakes Lane near Hockey Centre at 14:00 hrs, 1 nectaring on michaelmas daisies near Water Garden at 14:27 hrs, 1 at Park Farm at 15:19 hrs); 1 Peacock nectaring on michaelmas daisies, set-aside field near Triangular Wood, Trent Park at 13:25 hrs; 2 Red Admiral nectaring on ivy flowers, Snakes Lane near Hockey Centre, Trent Park at 14:00 hrs; 3 Small Copper at Trent Park (2 near Sports Field, 1 at 'Old Golf Course'). - Robert Callf

Red Admiral on my Harpenden garden Ivy flowers this morning, looks quite fresh.

<https://flic.kr/p/zji7hX>

Robin Pearson

### **Sunday 25th October 2015**

A Peacock today at the birding pit at Tyttenhanger GP - Rupert Pyrah

A relatively warm lunchtime visit to Nomansland Common produced 1, rather torpid, Small Copper female basking in the hazy sunshine. The hornet nest I have been watching has been partially dug

out, presumably by a badger, although judging by the comings and goings, the lower storeys of the nest still survive - David Hunt

Just avoided the frost in St Albans last night, but too cool for butterflies to be active today. Inspected my shed and found 15 hibernating Small Tortoiseshells plus one Peacock. Visited Nomansland Common and found just a single Small Copper, which gratefully accepted the offer of resting on my hand for 10 minutes to warm up - Malcolm Hull

### **Tuesday 20th October 2015**

Male Brimstone enjoying the sun today fluttering around some variegated yellow privet in my St Albans garden the colour match was brilliant - Mandy Floyd

On the 20th at Tewinbury a small white + a comma - Andy Brown

A mild and sunny lunchtime stroll on Nomansland Common produced 1 male Brimstone and 5 Small Copper, including a mating pair. The three remaining Coppers were busily laying eggs on sheep's sorrel. Nice to see that they had survived the cold and inclement weather of the past few days. - David Hunt

A Clouded yellow today at Waterford heath in the sunshine - Steve Kiln

'A good burst of early afternoon sun at last! I had not seen a butterfly since the 9th but today a Comma and Red Admiral in the northern part of Norton Green. - Peter Clarke

### **Wednesday 14th October 2015**

One Red Admiral near Firing Range at Vicarage Farm, Enfield this morning at 10:12 hrs  
Wednesday 14th October 2015, also three Comma (2 at Park Farm nectaring on bramble blossom at 11:35 hrs, 1 nectaring on Ivy at Water Garden, Trent Park at 12:23 hrs). - Robert Callf

A sunny but rather chilly morning search of Nomansland Common revealed nothing until about 11.00am when first one, then another Small Copper emerged from their overnight roosting places deep in the long grass and, in a rather languid fashion, flew off to nearby ragwort flowers for breakfast. Over the next 45 minutes I counted 8 Small Copper, 7 being females still replete with eggs (I think they will need to get a move on if they are to lay all their eggs). Amongst the 8 Small Coppers were 2 ab. caeruleopunctata. A Small White and a Comma, both basking in the weak sunshine, were also seen - David Hunt

### **Tuesday 13th October 2015**

Two Red Admirals nectaring on Ivy at Snakes Lane near Hockey Centre, Trent Park (TQ 288 969)  
Tuesday 13th October 2015, also one Comma nectaring on Bramble blossom at Park Farm, Enfield.  
- Robert Callf

Bit of a surprise in my Ware garden was that at 09:45 this morning in dull weather and reading only 9 degrees Centigrade on my car thermometer, I had a Humming-bird Hawk-moth flying around my flowering lavender - it keeps flowering! - Liz Goodyear

### **Monday 12th October 2015**

Had a Comma and a fresh-looking Red Admiral in the garden (Harpenden) today. - Robin Pearson

An afternoon ramble on Nomansland Common produced 17 Small Copper, including some very fresh-looking specimens and one with the left forewing rather more yellow than the usual coppery hue; and 1 extremely faded and almost scale-less Speckled Wood enjoying the autumn rays - David Hunt

### **Sunday 11th October 2015**

A couple of butterflies on Sunday 11th October 2015 - 1 Comma nectaring on bramble at Park Farm, Enfield at 10:39 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park at 12:09 hrs - Robert Callf/Robin White.

Brent Reservoir, 1 Large White - Shailesh Patel

A few butterflies still around at Nicholls farm, Redbourn today. I saw a small white in the back

garden and a Comma in a horse paddock. Peter Tallantire

News from Friday 9th Oct. A fresh-looking Speckled Wood seen on ivy foliage in our Pinner garden - Tony Porter

### **Friday 9th October 2015**

I guess I was wrong, still 2 Small Heath at Trent Park (1 Sect 1 at 13:08 hrs, 1 Sect 6 at 13:37 hrs) this afternoon Friday 9th October 2015, also this afternoon between 13:00 - 14:00 hrs - 3 Comma (1 Sect 1 at 13:06 hrs, 1 nectaring on michaelmas daisies near Triangular Wood at 13:17 hrs, 1 nectaring on michaelmas daisies Sect 8 at 13:43 hrs); 2 Red Admiral (1 Sect 1 at 13:10 hrs, 1 nectaring on michaelmas daisies near Triangular Wood at 13:16 hrs); 3 Small Copper (2 near Sports Field 13:26 - 13:28 hrs, 1 Sect 6 at 13:36 hrs); Silver Y set aside field near Triangular Wood. - Robert Callf

### **Thursday 8th October 2015**

Red Underwing moth last night in Stocking Pelham - Andy Brown

Two butterflies to report today Thursday 8th October 2015 - 1 Comma at Park Farm, Enfield at 10:32 hrs and 1 Peacock settled on grass at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 12:36 hrs - Robert Callf/Robin White.

A mono-specific morning on Nomansland Common with 13 Small Copper sited, 4 on the north side nectaring on and around heather and the remainder on the south side where they were feasting on ragwort and yarrow flowers. 1 Grey Shoulder-knot moth sitting on bark of an oak tree - David Hunt

### **Sunday 4th October 2015**

Folly Lane St Albans - disturbed a very fresh Red Admiral from my Blackberry hedge, where I suspect it had been feeding overnight. After a short flight it settled on flowering Ivy. 4 Small Whites and a faded Small Copper all feeding on Verbena Bonariensis. Comma was the only other species spotted at this site this morning - Malcolm Hull

Still one Small Heath Sect 8 'New Fields' Trent Park at 12:59 hrs - I guess this will probably be the last date here? 1 Comma Sect 8 12:59 hrs, 5 Small Copper at Trent Park (2 Sect 5 at 13:15 hrs, 2 near Sports Field at 13:20 hrs, 1 nectaring on michaelmas daisies near Triangular Wood at 13:30 hrs). - Robert Callf

Butterfly I have seen today (04 Oct 2015): 1 red admiral - Highover Way, Hitchin TL19693045 - David Inward

### **Saturday 3rd October 2015**

Still one Small Heath in Sect 8 at 13:30 hrs Saturday 3rd October 2015 (a new latest date for Trent Park!), also in Trent Park - 3 Comma (all nectaring on michaelmas daisies - 1 Sect 8 at 13:29 hrs, 1 Sect 3 at 13:57 hrs, 1 near Triangular Wood at 14:06 hrs); 1 Small Copper nectaring on ragwort near Sports Field at 14:00 hrs. Yesterday Friday 2nd October 2015 - 1 Comma nectaring on michaelmas daisies edge of Water Garden, Trent Park at 14:50 hrs. - Robert Callf

A fresh Comma seen flying across Pinn Meadows, Ruislip after a pond working party then 2 Speckled Woods in my Eastcote garden after an absence of a few weeks - Paul Busby

Nomansland Common - 29 Small Coppers, meadow brown, speckled wood and large white - Malcolm Hull

### **Friday 2nd October 2015**

Some sightings for Friday 2nd October 2015 at Trent Park from 11:50 - 13:00 hrs - 2 Speckled Wood (1 near Oakwood entrance 11:59 hrs, 1 near Triangular Wood 12:39 hrs); 2 Small Heath Sect 8 'New Fields' 12:03 - 12:08 hrs; 4 Small Copper (1 Sect 5 12:22 hrs, 2 near Sports Field 12:29 - 12:30 hrs, 1 near Triangular Wood 12:39 hrs); 1 male Brimstone settled near Oakwood Lodge, Snakes Lane at 13:00 hrs. - Robert Callf

Small Tortoiseshells in St Leonards Road, Bengoe (video on Branch Facebook page) and Ware Cemetery, Commas at Chadwell Bank and Wulfrath Road, Ware, Brimstone at Chadwell Bank,

Green-veined White at Broadmeads, Ware and Small Whites at Broadmeads, Cromwell Road Allotments, Hertford and Ware Park Quarry. - Andrew Wood

Nomansland Common north side: 1 Meadow Brown; 1 Small Heath; 1 Speckled Wood; 8 Small Copper (mostly females briefly nectaring on a heather patch and then flying off for tens of metres, presumably to oviposit in the patches of sheep's sorrel growing in the bunny lawn. A good few hornets about but only one nest located. Nomansland Common south side: 1 Small Copper female nectaring on hawkweed. Heartswood Forest: 0 butterflies seen - David Hunt

#### **Thursday 1st October 2015**

One female Large White at Lakeside, EN2 Thursday 1st October 2015 at 15:25 hrs. - Robert Callf

Small Whites at Kimpton churchyard and outside Hatfield Galleria. A Speckled Wood also at the Galleria - Andrew Wood

Some sightings for Thursday 1st October 2015 - 2 Comma nectaring on michaelmas daisies edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park 11:58 hrs; 2 Small Heath - 1 Sect 8 at 13:03 hrs and 1 near Sports Field at 13:32 hrs - equals my latest ever date and of course I will be trying again tomorrow to extend this; 4+ Small Copper - 2 Sect 5 at 13:18 hrs, 2 near Sports Field, Trent Park; 1 male Meadow Brown near Sports Field, Trent Park 13:25 hrs - my latest ever date for this species! 1 Speckled Wood near Triangular Wood, Trent Park at 13:38 hrs. - Robert Callf

One hour stroll around Frogmore Gravel Pit early this afternoon yielded 2 Small Coppers including one ab. caeruleopunctata ('blue badges'), a solitary Small Heath, Small White and Comma. - Peter Clarke

Good variety of butterflies at Harmondsworth Moor, still with plants in flower, this sunny but blustery afternoon. I saw a Brown Argus, a Comma, at least one Small Tortoiseshell, a Small Copper and 3 Small Whites - Paul Busby

An afternoon visit to a sunny Harpenden Common yielded just 1 Speckled Wood. Nectar sources such as hawkweed and clover flowers regenerating after the annual cut, and a strongly fermenting fall of apples in the old orchard adjacent to the St Johns Wood section, had no takers - David Hunt

Recent butterflies on the ivy flowers, mainly red admiral and comma + the odd white As a foot note - we saw second brood orange tip this year and found some late caterpillars on some regenerating hedge mustard. The last caterpillar pupated last weekend along with the large whites. We had approx. 2 dozen eating the hedge mustard leaves, which then dispersed up the walls etc. We kept 5, four successfully pupated, one was parasitized, much to the consternation of my 5 year old. Interestingly, of the others we found on walls etc, 4 out of 5 were also parasitized. So our strike rate was good. - Phil Macmurdie

#### **September 2015**

##### **Wednesday 30th September 2015**

Visited Oakwood Park, N14 this afternoon Wednesday 30th September 2015 hoping to find third brood Small Copper, but despite having found them here in the summer none were present, just one Speckled Wood. - Robert Callf

Lunchtime walk at a sunny but blustery Butterfly World and saw 3 Small Whites, 2 Commas and a Peacock - Paul Busby

##### **Tuesday 29th September 2015**

Harrow Cemetery, 1 Small Copper - Shailesh Patel

Sightings for Tuesday 29th September 2015 at Trent Park: 3 Comma nectaring on michaelmas daisies near Triangular Wood 13:15 - 13:20 hrs, 4 Small Copper 'New Fields' 13:28 - 13:59 hrs, 5 Small Heath 'New Fields' - 2 near Sports Field 13:27 - 13:30 hrs, 1 Sect 6 at 13:53 hrs, 2 Sect 8 at 14:00 hrs - quite a surprising number for so late in the season, but perhaps not given the weather conditions? - Robert Callf

Sunny afternoon walk across Ickenham Marsh Fields and saw 2 Small Coppers, 6 Speckled Woods

including a trio spiralling up into the air for some minutes and 2 Small or Green-Veined Whites - Paul Busby

Heartwood (11:30am - 12:15pm) 2 Small white & 1 Common Blue. Nomansland north side (12:15pm - 13:15pm) 5 Small copper (In fringes), 1 Meadow brown, 1 Comma & 1 Small white. Nomansland South side (13:15pm - 14:00pm) No small coppers found - Peter Ewer

### **Monday 28th September 2015**

Some sightings for Monday 28th September 2015 - 1 Comma edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park at 10:59 hrs; 2 Speckled Wood at Flash Lane, Enfield 14:03 and 14:15 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood at Hilly Fields Park at 14:45 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood at Gordon Hill Station at 15:08 hrs; 1 Large White at Windmill Hill, Enfield Town. Two Red-green Carpet near outside lights at ASDA Southgate Sunday 27th September 2015. - Robert Callf

I checked the south side of Nomansland Common this afternoon as it has now had its annual cut. Not much about as, except at the periphery, most of the nectar sources have been removed. The north side of the road was more productive with 2 Small White, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Meadow Brown, 2 Speckled Wood and about 15 Small Copper, mostly females going about their business laying eggs on the sheep's sorrel and with a couple of rather tattered males still jousting, but only half-heartedly, perhaps because of the stiff breeze. My Harpenden garden attracted a Red Admiral to the buddleia. - David Hunt

### **Sunday 27th September 2015**

One Speckled Wood at Park Farm Saturday 26th September 2015. 2 Comma Sunday 27th September 2015 - 1 along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables at Vicarage Farm 11:19 hrs, 1 along Leeging Beech Gutter N of Williams Wood (TQ2997) at 12:26 hrs. - Robert Callf

Nomansland Common, near Sandridge - 20 people joined our last branch field trip of the year to look for Small Coppers. The weather was overcast but with sunny spells. We searched around the areas where heather and sheep sorrel (the larval food plant at this site) are plentiful. In total 25 Small Coppers were recorded, many posing obligingly for photos. Others were sun bathing or nectaring, mainly on heather, but ragwort and yarrow were also being used. We saw three spectacular aerial combats between rival males, one of which ended with both individuals disappearing over the top of the oak canopy. All individuals seen were very fresh and I would expect numbers to continue to build in the coming week, weather permitting. Other species recorded were Small Heath, Common Blue, Meadow Brown (3), Speckled Wood (3) and (a probable) Green-veined White. Elsewhere in St Albans area I saw Red Admirals nectaring on Ivy, Comma and Speckled Wood feeding on Blackberries and Large White - Malcolm Hull

Comma this morning at West End Essendon - Rupert Pyrah

### **Saturday 26th September 2015**

A Comma and a Red Admiral in my Harpenden garden today - Robin Pearson

Butterfly I have seen today (26 Sept 2015): 1 speckled wood - verge between Kimbolton Crescent north and railway, Stevenage TL249216 - David Inward

In Stocking Pelham today a red admiral and a Brimstone - Andy Brown

Two Small Whites seen in playing field near Eastcote tube station - Paul Busby

### **Friday 25th September 2015**

Some more sightings for Friday 25th September 2015 - 1 Red Admiral and 1 male Meadow Brown (fresher than the one a few days ago) nectaring on michaelmas daisies set-aside field near Triangular Wood, Trent Park at 14:13 hrs. Speckled Wood and Small White at Park Farm, Enfield (TQ2998) at 15:37 hrs. One Large Ranunculus at ASDA Southgate near outside lights. - Robert Callf

2 Speckled Wood at Oakwood Park, N14 this morning Friday 25th September 2015 at 09:05 hrs. 1 Speckled Wood at Boxer's Lake, Enfield at 11:18 hrs. - Robert Callf

The Nomansland Common **Small Copper** emergence continues apace **with 20+** seen this



morning showing some nice spot variations and a couple of ab. *caeruleopunctata*. Other butterflies seen included 3 Meadow Brown; 1 Small Heath; 1 Speckled Wood, 4 Small White; 1 Brown Argus, 3 Common Blue males, 3 Comma (although 2 were more Heartwood Forest than Nomansland) plus 1 Antler moth. The Meadow Brown were still in nice condition, which is rather more than could be said for the rather tatty Common Blue males, and the Commas were wonderful. As I left the common, a tractor and topper were preparing to enter, presumably for the annual cut. - David Hunt

A Hummingbird Hawk-moth inside the 'Age Concern' charity shop in North Watford at grid ref TQ 1095 9811 this afternoon, flying between the overhead lights and the shop windows (and occasionally investigating some of the more flowery clothes as potential nectar sources). Elsewhere, anyone searching for a late Clouded Yellow over the next month or so could consider visiting Pouchen End Lane west of Hemel Hempstead, where there is a field dominated by Red Clover just east of the lane (at grid ref TL 028 073); the field is private but can be viewed with binoculars from the lane. - Colin Everett

News from Sunday 20th September 2015, a Red Admiral feeding on ivy at Bullbeggars Lane east of Berkhamsted TL 006 071, another in flight along the canal nearby at Bankmill Bridge TL 008 071, and a Red Admiral and a Comma both on ivy by the canal at Little Heath Lane TL 016 067. - Colin Everett

#### **Thursday 24th September 2015**

Another trip to Nomansland Common to admire the emergence of the Small Copper third brood. Despite the windy day, the sunny intervals brought the butterflies out: 4 Small White; 1 Green-veined White; 1 Comma; 2 Small Heath; 10+ Small Copper, including 3 ab. *caeruleopunctata*; and 1 Antler moth - David Hunt

A few sightings for Thursday 24th September 2015 - 1 Red Admiral at Allotments, Vicarage Farm at 10:55 hrs, 1 Speckled Wood at Brooke Wood, Enfield (TQ 302 986) at 12:55 hrs, 1 Red Admiral at Strayfield Road, Enfield at 13:31 hrs. - Robert Callf

Saw a fresh Comma at Eastcote House walled garden this morning and 2 Speckled Woods, one at nearby Dovecote Copse, the other across the River Pinn bridge in Long Meadow. - Paul Busby

Butterflies I have seen today (24 Sept 2015): 1 small white - Arlesey Road, Ickleford TL183311, 1 red admiral - allotments off Arlesey Road, Ickleford TL18263111. - David Inward

**20 Commas** in a 300m stretch of Blackberries at Heartwood Forest today a great sight - Andy Steele

#### **Wednesday 23rd September 2015**

A few butterflies this morning Wednesday 23rd September 2015 - 2 Speckled Wood at Trent Park (1 edge of Icehouse Wood, 1 near Dew Pond); 1 Small White near Dew Pond, Trent Park and 1 Green-veined White set-aside field near Dew Pond, Trent Park. Between 12:40 - 14:00 hrs in Trent Park: 6 Comma (4 nectaring on michaelmas daisies near Triangular Wood 13:00 - 13:05 hrs, 2 near Sports Field); 3 Small Heath (including one fresh); 2 Meadow Brown male displaying to female near Sports Field (quite surprised to see two together given the rather late date?); 2 Small Copper near Sports Field 13:15 - 13:17 hrs - - Robert Callf

Nothing noteworthy relating to butterflies today at Norton Green but Tony and I spotted a Hummingbird Hawk moth feeding on honeysuckle down the track about 100 metres south of Norton Green Farm. Also a Raspberry Clearwing was seen near the same spot some weeks ago - Peter Clarke

#### **Sunday 20th September 2015**

1 Humming-bird hawk moth nectaring on buddleia in my south Harpenden garden (notified to MigrantWatch) - David Hunt

One Red Admiral edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park on Sunday 20th September 2015 at 11:10 hrs. - Robert Callf

Folly lane St. Albans - small copper ab. *Radiata* nectaring on sedum this morning. The orange



band on the edge of the upper side hindwing is replaced by a band of alternative brown and orange Quite striking and not something I've noticed before. Other butterflies on the wing included another small copper, two very fresh commas, speckled wood, several faded small whites and three very fresh looking large white, possibly the start of a third brood. Malcolm Hull

#### **Saturday 19th September 2015**

One Small Heath at Vicarage Farm, Enfield Saturday 19th September 2015 at 12:33 hrs. Both looking fairly fresh, so perhaps they will last until late September/early October. Also a 'worn' female Common Blue at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park Saturday 19th September 2015 at 14:37 hrs. - Robert Callf

A return trip to Nomansland Common to see if I could get a better photograph of the brown Argus aberration snelleni was not successful from that point of view but, on an almost perfect day, a good variety of butterflies were about their business, including 6 Small White; 1 male Brimstone; 3 Meadow Brown; 5 Small Heath; 7 Small Copper (including one female aberration caeruleopunctata - the one with the blue spots on the hind wing); 10+ Common Blue; 2 Brown Argus and 5 Antler moths. The Small Copper seemed to be a fresh emergence, the ab. caeruleopunctata female mating very rapidly with a normal male. Of note was a Common Lizard youngster from this years brood. The few ragwort plants proved very popular with the Small Coppers and Antler moths, a reminder that this oft-loathed plant has an important place as a nectar source for many insects.

<https://flic.kr/p/yNWY9t>

<https://flic.kr/p/xSQdB3>

David Hunt

Brief visit to Bridgewater Fields, Ruislip Gardens and saw 2 Small Whites and a Comma - Paul Busby

#### **Friday 18th September 2015**

A few Small Whites this afternoon Friday 18th September 2015 - 1 at Parkside Farm and 2 at Vicarage Farm. One Small Heath at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park Friday 18th September 2015 at 14:26 hrs. - Robert Callf

During the sunny intervals, Nomansland Common put on a reasonable show this afternoon with 10+ Small White; 3 Meadow Brown; 1 Small Heath, 6 Common Blue; 2 Brown Argus (one of which had pronounced areas of whitish scales around each of the black discal spots); 1 Comma and 3 Antler moths - David Hunt

#### **Thursday 17th September 2015**

Although a pleasantly sunny afternoon, Harpenden Common produced only one Small White, I think freshly emerged but at any rate in A1 condition, and a lonesome Speckled Wood. - David Hunt

Harrow Cemetery, 1 Common Blue - Shailesh Patel

#### **Wednesday 16th September 2015**

Millhoppers Pasture, Willstone near Tring - Despite the dire weather forecast, the sun was shining at the start of today's habitat management task at the branches own butterfly reserve. Large White and Speckled Wood both put in an appearance, together with 8 volunteers, mostly from the Chilterns Society. The rain held off until one and by then we'd made great progress cutting back the Blackthorn and other vegetation along the hedgeline. Many thanks to all those volunteers who came and dates for future tasks will be published soon. Malcolm Hull

#### **Monday 14th September 2015**

Ware garden, Speckled Wood - Liz Goodyear

During a brief sunny spell this afternoon went for a walk in Trent Park between 12:50 - 13:40 hrs which produced the following sightings for Monday 14th September 2015 - 1 male Large White near Triangular Wood at 12:58 hrs, 1 Comma nectaring on michaelmas daisies near Triangular Wood at 13:03 hrs, 4 Small Heath between 13:11 - 13:31 hrs. - Robert Callf

Ponders End garden, Hummingbird Hawkmoth - Andrew Middleton

Harrow Cemetery, 1 Small Copper and 1 Light Emerald moth - Shailesh Patel

### **Sunday 13th September 2015**

Folly lane St. Albans - small copper, comma, speckled wood, large and small whites on my allotment this morning - Malcolm Hull

At Stocking Pelham today couple of Red Admirals some whites and a Brimstone - Andy Brown

### **Saturday 12th September 2015**

A few sightings for Saturday 12th September 2015 - 1 Comma nectaring on blackberries near Water Garden, Trent Park at 14:18 hrs; 2 Small Heath at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 14:37 hrs. - Robert Callf

I was having a walk down in the Chilterns on Saturday and on route we stumbled upon the reserve of Aldbury Nowers. What a fantastic little site! We found 4 Brimstone, a single Red Admiral, 2 Common Blue, 6 Brown Argus and 2 Chalkhill Blue (male and female). Unfortunately we had a lot of ground to cover on our yomp so I couldn't stay for long. - David James.

### **Friday 11th September 2015**

Some sightings for Friday 11th September 2015 - One Small Heath at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 14:34 hrs. 4 Speckled Wood and 1 female Green-veined White at Boxer's Lake, Enfield. One Small White at Merryhills Drive, EN2 at 11:47 hrs. - Robert Callf.

Yesterday I went to the crop-field (maize) south of Watery Grove and spotted a Clouded Yellow flitting between ragwort and other yellow flower-heads before it headed-off at speed south westward - Don Gregory

Two male Brimstones and a late(ish) Meadow Brown, all feeding on a flourishing colony of Devil's-bit Scabious at Bricket Wood Common TL 131 007; also a Painted Lady along Noke Lane near the entrance to Butterfly World TL 128 036. - Colin Everett

### **Thursday 10th September 2015**

Saw a Small White, a Speckled Wood and a Comma by the River Pinn, Ickenham (TQ 0787) whilst river sampling on a sunny afternoon, then at Ickenham Marsh fields (TQ 0885) saw another 4 Speckled Woods, 3 Small Heaths and at least 5 Small Whites and a Large White. - Paul Busby

Found a Hummingbird Hawkmoth this morning Thursday 10th September 2015 at Rectory Farm, Enfield (TQ 311 988) seen in flight it soon settled on a hedgerow - my first views of one settled (right antenna was open and left retracted) at 10:15 hrs. Also one Red Admiral settled on Ivy at Flash Lane, EN2 at 10:37 hrs. Wednesday 9th September 2015 - 1 Red Admiral basking on wall at Oakwood Station at 16:17 hrs. - Robert Callf

### **Wednesday 9th September 2015**

Saw two Red Admirals nectaring on buddleia from platform of Oakwood Station (TQ 293 959) on Tuesday 8th September 2015 at 16:30 hrs. Two Small Whites at Vicarage Farm, Enfield on Wednesday 9th September 2015. - Robert Callf

Half-hour stroll around Butterfly World in a brief sunny spell at lunchtime and was rewarded by seeing 2 Painted Ladies, 2 Red Admirals, 2 Commas, 1 Brown Argus, a female Brimstone, a Small Tortoiseshell on various Buddleia and also at least 5 Small Whites and 6 Common Blues (3 male and 3 female). - Paul Busby

### **Tuesday 8th September 2015**

I must have become sensitised to autumn Brimstones... There was a male flying near the Ver at Redbournbury (TL1209) on Sunday afternoon (6th). Many Small Whites and quite a few Speckled Woods, too. - David Utting

Male Brimstone during a spell of sunshine in my Ware garden today - Liz Goodyear

### **Monday 7th September 2015**

Jersey tiger in the garden this morning (High wych) - Laurence Drummond

Twenty minute walk at Bridgewater Fields, Ruislip Gardens and saw at least 5 Small Whites and 2 Speckled Woods late morning with sunny spells. - Paul Busby

2 Brown Argus at Vicarage Farm, Enfield (TQ3097) on Monday 7th September 2015 at 09:20 hrs. - Robert Callf

### **Sunday 6th September 2015**

Some sightings for Sunday 6th September 2015 - 3+ Small Heath at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park; 1 Red Admiral edge of Rough Lot, Trent Park at 11:35 hrs; 1 female Meadow Brown at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 11:51 hrs; 1 Comma along bridle-path near Shaws Wood, Trent Park at 12:43 hrs; 8 Speckled Wood at Trent Park - Robert Callf/Robin White. Also female Large White and Common Blue in Trent Park - Robert Callf

An hours lunchtime stroll along the pylon path opposite Dew Farm Sandpits nature reserve, South Harefield (TQ0588) and along the field margins of rough pasture saw at least 9 Small Whites, 4 Common Blues, 2 Small Copper and a Brown Argus, plenty of dragonflies, damselflies and hoverflies as well. Back in my Eastcote garden saw 3 Speckled Woods. - Paul Busby

Bricket Wood Common St Albans - Speckled Woods were today's star performers, with many feasting on blackberries along the ride I counted a total of 16. I also saw 3 Brimstones, 2 faded Purple Hairstreaks, Red Admiral, Peacock, Vapourer moth, Meadow Brown, Small and Green veined Whites. In St Albans City I added a few more species this afternoon - Holly Blue, Painted Lady, Small Tortoiseshell, Comma and Large White - Malcolm Hull

A 2 hour stint on a warm and sunny afternoon on Nomansland Common produced a good haul considering the recent miserable weather: 10+ Meadow Brown (some looking very fresh); 8 Speckled Wood; 10+ Small Heath; 3 Large White; 10+ Small White; 1 Green-veined White; 2 female Brimstone; 1 Comma; 1 Small Copper (very fresh); 10+ Common Blue; 2 Brown Argus; and 1 Silver-Y moth. My south Harpenden garden had 1 Red Admiral and 2 Small White nectaring on the buddleia, and a Holly Blue male sunning itself on the grapevine - David Hunt

At the BBQ at Lemsford springs I saw a couple of large whites, a couple of commas, several speckled woods and a holly blue - Andy Brown

### **Thursday 3rd September 2015**

A couple of sightings for Wednesday 2nd September 2015 at Town Park, Enfield: 1 Holly Blue and 1 Green-veined White. Thursday 3rd September 2015 - 1 Painted Lady flew S low over stubble at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 12:39 hrs. - Robert Callf

Saw a Large White and 4 Speckled Woods clashing in hedgerow at Manor Farm, Old Orchard area, Ruislip and then a solitary Common Blue and a further 3 Speckled Woods in the field bounded by Mad Bess Woods and Ducks Hill Road, Ruislip - Paul Busby

I saw 1 **silver washed fritillary** and lots of speckled woods at Danemead NR yesterday - Jenny Sherwen

### **Wednesday 2nd September 2015**

Butterflies I have seen today (02 Sept 2015): 2 speckled wood, 1 large white - St Nicholas Park, Stevenage TL251270 - David Inward

Half-hour lunchtime stroll at Butterfly World and saw 2 Painted Ladies, 2 Red Admirals, a Peacock, at least 4 Small Whites, 15 Common Blues and a Brown Argus. Then onto a cloudy Normansland Common for an hours late afternoon walk and saw 2 Small Coppers, 2 Small Heaths, 3 Small Whites, a Brown Argus and 8 Meadow Browns. - Paul Busby

### **Tuesday 1st September 2015**

Sightings for Tuesday 1st September 2015 - One Comma nectaring on blackberries near Water Garden, Trent Park at 15:51 hrs, Antler Moth at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park - freshly emerged and image taken by Mr DP Lowman. - Robert Callf

Today, a very faded Brown Argus (first of the year) and the blue-spotted form of a Small Copper (ab. caeruleopunctata) in the field south of Watery Grove. Small Coppers in general doing well here this year. - Peter Clarke

Quick visit to the Walled Garden at Eastcote House Gardens, Middlesex and saw 3 Small Whites, 2 Speckled Wood and a Holly Blue. - Paul Busby

One Large White nectaring on buddleia at Dalrymple Close, N14 this afternoon Tuesday 1st September 2015 at 13:48 hrs. - Robert Callf

## **August 2015**

### **Sunday 30th August 2015**

Faded female Gatekeeper at Parkside Farm, Enfield on Res banking Sunday 30th August 2015 at 10:02 hrs - quite possibly the last that I will see this year? Also The Vestal in long grass at Park Farm, Enfield (TQ2998) - the first that I have seen this year! - Robert Callf

Overcast afternoon walk at Yeading Brook Meadows, Yeading, Middlesex but saw a Small Copper, a Brown Argus, a male Common Blue, 3 Speckled Woods, 5 Small Whites and 8 Meadow Brown. - Paul Busby

Folly lane St. Albans - painted lady, holly blue and six small whites were the only butterflies active on a gloomy bank holiday weekend afternoon - Malcolm Hull

Great Ashby garden, a hummingbird hawkmoth visiting approx. every hour from 5.30pm to last sighting at 7.20pm to same buddleia bush as the 23rd but with no butterfly competition this time due to the overcast weather . - Colin Alderman

### **Saturday 29th August 2015**

Saturday 29th August 2015 - 2 Small Heath at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park and 1 Common Blue by Lower Lake, Trent Park. - Robert Callf

Butterflies I have seen today (29 Aug 2015): 8 speckled wood - Icknield Way by railway near Ickleford TL1830, 1 small white - Icknield Way west of Letchworth TL1932 - David Inward

Croxley Common Moor Despite very cloudy conditions this afternoon, we saw: Small Heath (1), Gatekeeper (1), and Small Tort (1). - Graham Elcombe.

Following on from yesterday's morning trip, an afternoon visit to Nomansland Common, in rather warm and humid, if overcast conditions, produced many more Whites (mostly Green-veined with a few Small and Large), a few Meadow Brown and Speckled Wood, 5 Small Heath, 10+ Common Blue, 5 Brown Argus, 1 Small Copper, 3 Painted Lady (2 of which had been seen the previous day and were still nectaring in the same spot) and a rather nice Red Admiral basking on thistle down. My south Harpenden garden had few visitors, namely a Small White, Large White and a rather fresh Small Tortoiseshell. - David Hunt

Visited Bridgewater Fields, Ruislip Gardens at lunchtime and saw a Small Heath, 2 male Common Blues, at least 2 Large Whites and 6 Speckled Woods. Late afternoon saw a solitary Meadow Brown in the drizzle in the field next to Copse Wood, Ruislip, plenty of moths though. - Paul Busby

Stocking Pelham Saturday 29th - a few whites during the sunshine, then a Hummingbird Hawk Moth turned up when the rain started ! Andy Brown

### **Friday 28th August 2015**

One Holly Blue settled on ivy at Bramley Road, N14 Friday 28th August 2015 at 12:45 hrs. 3, 2 males, 1 female, Common Blue at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 16:02 hrs and 1 Small Heath at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 17:09 hrs. - Robert Callf

...at last a good day to check out the butterflies! Nomansland Common produced a few rather tired Meadow Brown, several Speckled Wood, 3 Small Heath, a couple of Small White, 1 Peacock, 2 Painted Lady and 10+ Common Blue. A small group of Dark Bush-crickets were sunning

themselves on a bramble bush. A quick ramble over to Well Wood, part of the Heartwood Forest complex, revealed 2 Large White, 2 Meadow Brown, 1 Gatekeeper, 1 Small Heath, 1 Brown Argus female and 3 Common Blue males. Dutch Elm Disease is evident on the regenerating elms located along the south-west margin of the wood. - David Hunt

Saw 3 Small Whites and a Speckled Wood by the River Pinn, Ickenham (TQ 0787) on a blustery afternoon then at Ickenham Marsh fields (TQ 0885) saw another Speckled Wood, a Small White, a Small Heath and 2 Holly Blues in hedgerow with flowering Ivy. - Paul Busby

Went to Bencroft woods about noon, you realise summer is over, very few meadow browns left to be replaced by speckled woods, to my delight there was a jersey tiger moth on the buddleia and commas sunning it on old blackberries. Not a single silver-washed fritillary left in Broxbourne woods but plenty of common blues near the west car park - Steve Kiln

#### **Thursday 27th August 2015**

One female Common Blue at Parkside Farm on Res banking; 2 Speckled Wood together at Parkside Farm, Enfield (TQ 296 982); 2, male and female, Common Blue at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park and 1 Speckled Wood at Trent Park. - Robert Callf

Butterflies I have seen today (27 Aug 2015): 1 comma - Stevenage Road near Chantry Lane bus stop, near Little Wymondley TL22172710 1 speckled wood - track to horse field from Chantry Lane Wymondley Bury roundabout, near Todds Green TL21892693 - David Inward

This afternoon saw my first clouded yellow of the year on Waterford heath south - Steve Kiln

#### **Tuesday 25th August 2015**

First Painted Lady in my Ware garden this year - Liz Goodyear

One Small Heath at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park this morning Tuesday 25th August 2015, also I noticed 3 Speckled Wood in Trent Park. - Robert Callf

Butterfly I have seen today (25 Aug 2015): 1 green-veined white - Meadway Playing Field, Symonds Green South, Stevenage TL22192475. However I missed seeing Jeremy Corbyn et al by about a kilometer! - David Inward

#### **Monday 24th August 2015**

News from Diane Andrews. Overnight 22nd August in her north London garden moth trap, 2 more Jersey Tigers with yellow hindwings. 12th August Rammey Marsh near Enfield Lock, 14 Holly Blue and in the last few days seen double figures of Speckled Wood at Alexandra Park, Tottenham Cemetery and near Cheshunt Station. Previous weeks lower numbers until now.

#### **Sunday 23rd August 2015**

Butterflies I have seen today (23 Aug 2015): 1 small white - Walsworth Common, Hitchin TL1930 1 small white, 1 large white - Meadowbank/Common Rise/Cooks Way north, Hitchin TL1930 1 small white, 1 cinnabar moth caterpillar on ragwort - Meadowbank/Common Rise/Cooks Way south, Hitchin TL1929 - David Inward

One Painted Lady settled on track at Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm, Enfield Saturday 22nd August 2015 at 17:00 hrs. Sunday 23rd August 2015 - 3 Gatekeeper (2 at Parkside Farm 1 at Park Farm); 1 female Common Blue at Parkside Farm, Enfield at 08:45 hrs; 1 Small Heath at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 09:23 hrs. - Robert Callf

#### **Saturday 22nd August 2015**

Some sightings for Trent Park on Saturday 22nd August 2015 between 12:50 - 13:45 hrs - 4 Common Blue; 14 Small Heath; 1 Small Copper; 1 Red Admiral and few Meadow Brown. - Robert Callf

Butterflies I have seen today (22 Aug 2015): 2 large white, 1 speckled wood, 3 holly blue - Hampson Park, Pin Green, Stevenage TL2425 - David Inward

Bourne End slip road/A41 - 4 Small Blues, 5 Common Blues, 10 Six spot Burnet moths, 2 Brown Argus. Northfield Rd, Tring, Herts - 54 Common Blues, 4 Chalk-hill Blues, 2 Brown Argus, 2

Clouded Yellows, 1 Comma, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Small Heath, 3 Brimstones, 6 Treble Bar moths. The Clouded Yellows were both very fresh looking. The alternative larval food plant, Common Birds foot trefoil is abundant at this site and it is possible that the butterfly has bred there. Both of the CYs I saw were busy nectaring on Wild Basil alongside the Brimstones, unusual to see the two yellow species flying together. I ventured on to Pitstone Pit (Bucks) and saw 4 more Small Blues within 100 yards of the Herts border. Back into Herts at Aldbury Nowers HMWT reserve I saw 1 Dark Green Fritillary, 3 Peacocks, 3 Chalk-hill Blues, 21 Brown Argus, 41 Common Blues, 17 Brimstone and 2 Small Heath. A female Brown Argus was egg laying on miniature rock rose plants growing on top of an anthill - Malcolm Hull

The glorious weather brought out many butterflies at Norton Green Common today including 2 or 3 Silver-washed Fritillaries, 2 or 3 Purple Hairstreaks, Peacock, Comma, Holly Blue, Speckled Woods, Gatekeepers, Meadow Browns, whites (mostly Large) and faded Small Skippers (more difficult to distinguish from Essex now). Painted Lady seen here yesterday afternoon. In the field south of Watery Grove, Small Coppers and Common Blues were still flying as well. After discovering the Gatekeeper aberration on 11 August I have been looking hard at Gatekeepers at other places for this variation but none found until today at the same spot! A different specimen though as it has only one black spot below the eyespots but only on the left hand side. Even more unusual. - Peter Clarke

Therfield Heath (old rifle range): clouded yellow (flew through heading NW), 50+ common blues (fresh plumage), 30+ chalkhill blues (very tatty), brown argus, small skipper. Martin Johnson

Hummingbird hawkmoth for 3 mins only on small buddleia bush also pristine red admiral that stayed all day, Great Ashby ( Stevenage ) at 12.25pm - Colin Alderman

### **Friday 21st August 2015**

Saw a Speckled Wood in Pymmes Park, Edmonton this afternoon Friday 21st August 2015. - Robert Callf

This afternoon (21/8/2015) was bright and sunny so I did a butterfly count at Bovingdon Brickworks: 5 x Red Admiral, 7 x Peacock, 9 x Large White, 7 x Small White, 2 x Small Tortoiseshell, 2 x Comma, 3 x Painted Lady, 10 x Meadow Brown, 9 x Gatekeeper, 1 x Holly Blue, 12 x Common Blue, 5 x Speckled Wood and 1 x Small Copper. There has also been an obvious passage of wandering Painted Ladies this week: 17/8/2015: 1 x Painted Lady; 19/8/2015: 1 x Painted Lady; 20/8/2015: A dull, dark day but notable were 2 x Painted Lady, 1 x Hummingbird Hawk-moth (already reported to HNHS). Photographs of the Hummingbird Hawk-moth and the Painted Ladies can be found at <http://www.naturalworldnotes.blogspot.co.uk/> - Lucy Flower

At Stocking Pelham this afternoon (Friday 21st) ; large whites, comma, 2 peacocks, red admiral, gatekeeper, Brimstone, 2 painted ladies and a hummingbird hawk moth mostly on my buddleia - Andy Brown

### **Thursday 20th August 2015**

One Painted Lady Wednesday 19th August 2015 nectaring on buddleia along side of tube line at Oakwood Station (TQ 293 959) at 14:02 hrs. One female Common Blue at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park Thursday 20th August 2015 at 10:00 hrs. - Robert Callf

On Therfield Heath today Thursday 20th - on Church Hill (next to Fox Covert NR) quite a few Chalkhill blues, male and female flying despite the wind, plus a couple of meadow browns. Andy Brown

### **Wednesday 19th August 2015**

A few butterfly sightings for Wednesday 19th August 2015 - 3 Common Blue (1 at Parkside Farm on Res banking, 2 at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park), 2 Purple Hairstreak settled on ground in Trent Park - both rather worn (1 edge of Moat Wood, 1 edge of Icehouse Wood). Otherwise a few Meadow Browns and Gatekeepers, Small White. - Robert Callf

Still 1 Ringlet and ! Silver washed Fritillary on my Balls Wood Transect today, also a few Gatekeepers, Meadow Browns, Speckled Woods and Green-veined White and Peacock. Also an Elephant Hawk-moth larvae on Hairy Willowherb. (See Larva and Silver-washed Fritillary on our Facebook page). At Ware Park Holly and Common Blues and a Small Heath as well as all the



Whites, Gatekeepers, Meadow Brown and Speckled Wood. - Andrew Wood

Butterflies I have seen today (19 Aug 2015): 1 common blue, 1 large white, 1 small white - Coreys Mill Lane east, Stevenage TL231264, 2 large white, 1 small white, 1 holly blue - footpath from North Road to St Nicholas (west end), Stevenage TL2326, 5 small white - footpath from North Road to St Nicholas (east end), Stevenage TL2426, 1 speckled wood - St Nicholas Church yard south, Stevenage TL241261. - David Inward

Went to pick blackberries this morning at Water Lane, Watford and came across = 1 x comma, 2 x holly blue, 1 x meadow brown, 2 x mother of pearl moths. At Bushey garden 3 x small white. - David Gower

### **Monday 17th August 2015**

Tower hamlets cemetery park, Mile End - 9 holly blues, 5 common blues, silver washed fritillary, comma, large skipper plus whites and Browns. No sign of any kidney vetch - Malcolm hull

Three Holly Blues at Carr's Basin, Town Park, Enfield Monday afternoon 17th August 2015, including a female nectaring on Burdock. - Robert Callf

Last night 1 x riband wave moth found in bathroom. 1 x large white & 1 x holly blue in Bushey garden today. At Merryhill Fields once most of sun had gone = 6 x meadow brown, 7 x gatekeeper, 2 x large white, 2 x small white, 2 x yellow shell. - David Gower

On my walk around Tyttenhanger Gravel Pits today as well as many Large and Small Whites I saw 3 Small Heath, 1 Common Blue, 2 Brown Argus, 1 Essex Skipper, 2 Gatekeeper and 4 Meadow Brown. - Terry Wood

There was an adult male Brimstone on our buddleia today and yesterday (TL157086) in Sandridge Road, St Albans. Not something I can recall seeing in our garden in August before. - David Utting

### **Sunday 16th August 2015**

A few sightings for Sunday 16th August 2015 - 1 Small Copper along Salmons Brook near Stables at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 11:15 hrs, also a female Common Blue here. Two male Common Blue at Parkside Farm, Enfield and one female at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park. One Comma at Park Farm, Enfield at 12:00 hrs. - Robert Callf

After the recent annual cut of Harpenden Common, the knapweed and other flowering plants are now largely confined to some uncut marginal areas. On a warm day, albeit with frequent cloud cover, butterflies were relatively few, the exceptions being 20+ of each of Common Blue and Green-veined White. A few faded Meadow Brown and about equal numbers of Gatekeeper were also seen plus 1 Small Heath, 1 Small Copper and 1 Speckled Wood. Skippers were notable by their absence and, I think, another bad year for Essex Skipper - David Hunt

Heartwood Forest, Sandridge - visited the Kidney Vetch field and searched for an hour before the sun went in. No luck with Small Blue, but good numbers of Common Blue (132), Small Heath (43), Small Copper (6) Holly Blue (8) and Brown Argus (3). also a few Browns, Whites, Essex Skipper and Silver Y. Cloudier after lunch at Sutton GP near Symonshyde, but good numbers of Brown Argus (11), Common Blue (17) plus Small Heath, Silver Y and 6 spot Burnet. - Malcolm Hull

### **Saturday 15th August 2015**

At Waterford heath south, highlights - three recently emerged brimstones, a silver washed fritillary, holly blues 8 outnumbering Common blues 5. Good year for holly blues. and a small heath and a painted lady. Steve Kiln

Completed my August Wider Countryside Survey at High Cross today, highlights were 10 Holly Blue, 2 Brown Argus, 1 Small Heath and a Humming-bird Hawk-moth - Liz Goodyear

Three Common Blues, 2 males, 1 female, at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park this morning Saturday 15th August 2015 at 10:15 hrs. Had another walk over Trent Park this afternoon Saturday 15th August 2015 and recorded the following between 12:30 - 13:30 hrs - 4 male Common Blue (3 Sect 1, 1 Sect 6); 11 Small Heath including one opening and closing wings whilst settled (quite unusual to see this) - my first double figure count of the year at this site! 3 Small Copper incl. one

with row of blue dots on hindwing - var. *caeruleopuncta*? 1 Comma Sect 4 edge of Church Wood at 13:04 hrs; 2 Purple Hairstreak settled on Oak, Snakes Lane, 13:30 hrs. Robert Callf

Several Holly Blues in our Redbourn garden this morning. One fed on a white Heather in our rockery. One Painted Lady passed through - Ernie Leahy

Butterflies I have seen today (15 Aug 2015): 1 large white, 1 small white - St Faiths Close, Hitchin TL19863030 1 small white, 2 common blue (1 male, 1 female), 1 gatekeeper - Walsworth Common, Hitchin TL 1930 - David Inward

Jersey Tiger in Sawbridgeworth - Richard Hogg

Bricket Wood Common - Today's butterflies looked quite elderly, resembled an over sixties outing. Three Silver washed Fritillaries just one Purple Hairstreak and a dozen Meadow Browns and Gatekeepers, plus a Red Admiral, with so much wing missing it took some time to get a positive ID. Today's star species 22 Holly Blues, best total at this site in 20+ years of weekly recording. Also some fresh Small Coppers, Common Blues and Speckled Woods. 7 Brimstones and 2 Peacocks were all feeding greedily before their hibernation. Numbers of Large and Small Whites were well down, though Green-veined Whites put in a strong showing. Malcolm Hull

Back to Ruislip woods today and recorded 8 x speckled wood, 2 x holly blue, 5 x green veined white in Copse wood. At Poor's Field 3 x meadow brown, 7 x gatekeeper, 1 x small white, 1 x speckled wood, 1 x yellow shell, 1 x mother of pearl, 1 x straw dot. Next to Haste Hill station 1 x holly blue (caught by a dragonfly), 2 x large white, 4 x green veined white, 1 x speckled wood, 3 x gatekeeper, 3 x common blue, 1 x painted lady, 5 x small white, 3 x small copper, 1 x essex/small skipper, 4 x meadow brown, 1 x brown argus, 1 x peacock ,1 x silver y. - David Gower

#### **Thursday 13th August 2015**

Jersey Tiger moth inside Hanger Lane tube station - news via Paul Richens

Verulamium park, St. Albans - white letter hairstreak nectaring on creeping thistle at 10.15 this morning - Malcolm Hull

#### **Wednesday 12th August 2015**

Harrow Cemetery, 9 Common Blue, 6 Gatekeeper, 4 Brown Argus, 1 Small White, 1 Small Copper, 1 Holly Blue and 2 six-spot Burnet. Shailesh Patel

Half-hour lunchtime stroll around overcast Butterfly World and saw a fresh Painted Lady and a Peacock, 3 Small Tortoiseshells, 2 Essex Skippers, a Brown Argus, 3 faded Gatekeepers, 4 Large Whites, 15+ Small Whites, 20+ male and 6+ female Common Blues and at least 21 Small Blues. Then late afternoon a brief visit to Pinn Fields Ruislip, Middlesex and saw 6+ Small Whites and 2 Gatekeepers. - Paul Busby

Butterflies I have seen today (12 Aug 2015): 1 holly blue - St Faiths Close, Hitchin TL1987230303 1 large white, 2 green-veined white, 1 small white, 1 common blue - Graveley NE, near Stevenage TL2328 - David Inward

#### **Tuesday 11th August 2015**

At Fishers Field nature reserve, bushey =2 x green veined white, 2 x large white, 2 x speckled wood. In Bushey garden = 1 x holly blue, 2 x large white, 1 x green veined white. Lastly at Merryhill Fields without any sun = 1 x Small Copper, 1 x small white, 6 x meadow brown, 5 x gatekeeper, 1 x green veined white, 1 x holly blue ( extremely tiny about half the size of most ), 30 x yellow shell, 1 x magpie moth, 1 x anania coronata. Photos on facebook. - David Gower

Late news from 27th July 2015, a **Purple Emperor** in an Enfield Southgate garden, then 3rd August a Jersey Tiger moth - Angela Parker (pictures on facebook page)

I found a Jersey Tiger moth on a hibiscus bush in my Enfield garden - Maureen Prior

A few sightings for Tuesday 11th August 2015 - 1 Small Copper at Parkside Farm, Enfield on Res banking; 1 Brown Argus at Bay Farm, Enfield; 4 Common Blue 3 males, 1 female, at Bay Farm, Enfield; 1 Small Copper at Bay Farm, Enfield; 1 Painted Lady nectaring on thistles at Bay Farm,

Enfield (TQ 2946 9870) at 11:38 hrs; 1 Purple Hairstreak at Rectory Farm, Enfield; 1 Jersey Tiger seen in flight and settled at Strayfield Road, EN2 (TQ 3155 9895) - my first of the year! 1 Comma at Flash Lane Aqueduct at 12:56 hrs; 1 Ringlet - quite fresh, edge of Whitewebbs Wood at 13:00 hrs; 2 Holly Blue S edge of Whitewebbs Wood at 13:00 hrs. - Robert Callf

Two Jersey Tigers in my Ware garden trap this morning - Liz Goodyear

Harrow Cemetery, 2 Small Copper, 1 Meadow Brown, 6 Gatekeeper, 4 Common Blue, 1 Speckled Wood and 2 Brown Argus. Shailesh Patel

A number of Gatekeepers seen today by Watery Grove included one of aberration excessa, two extra spots on forewings below the eye-spots - Peter Clarke

### **Monday 10th August 2015**

A Purple Emperor report seen coming down to horse dung on the 21st July at Bloodhounds Wood, near Bishops Stortford, TL465223 by a horse rider who "knows what they are looking at" - news via Laurence Drummond

I went to Hexton Chalk Pit today and was pleased to see high numbers of Chalk Hill Blue (must of been 200+) still on the wing although most of them were quite tatty now. Other species seen; Brimstone x12, Gatekeeper x9, Meadow Brown x8, Small White x4, Common Blue x3, Large White x2, Green-Veined White x2, Small Skipper x1, Brown Argus x1 and Peacock x1. Daniel Cooper

Some sightings for Trent Park Sunday 9th August 2015 - 6 Common Blue; 9 Small Heath between 13:22 - 14:00 hrs; 2 Small Copper ( 'fresh' female, Sect 6 13:31 hrs, male, 13:55 hrs); 4 Six-spot Burnet; 1 Holly Blue Sect 4. Also saw a Hummingbird Hawkmoth briefly outside 184 Chase Road, N14 at 14:44 hrs yesterday 9th August 2015 (very near where I saw one in June!). One Painted Lady at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park this morning Monday 10th August 2015 at 09:04 hrs.- Robert Callf

### **Sunday 9th August 2015**

Reports of the Emperors demise have been greatly exaggerated! I'm beside myself with joy; here's my news: I'm overjoyed to report after no sighting whatsoever yesterday that the Purple Emperor put on a right regal show today on Hampstead Heath. Photos I took today show much wear and tear but you'd never have known it from his behaviour. He seemed extraordinarily active, first appearing at 13:11 and chasing everything in sight: Woodpigeons seemed to really aggravate him, a Parakeet was escorted off the premises and Purple Hairstreaks and Red Admiral summarily dispensed with. Don't know what was eating him but he spent the day variously seeing off intruders and perching obligingly. HIM remained visible until 17:20 when I watched him leap from his perch and appeared to glide through one of the assembly trees to be seen no more. - Frank Nugent

Went to RICKNEYS QUARRY today, and saw 1 Clouded yellow, 6 Purple hairstreak, 1 Brown argus, 18 Common blue, 4 Holly blue, 2 Red admiral, 1 Painted lady, 7 Peacock, 3 Comma, 13 Gatekeeper, 14 Meadow brown, 2 Small heath, and 6 Ringlet. At WATERFORD HEATH NORTH PIT, 2 Brimstone (males), 1 Small copper, 5 Brown argus, 3 Holly blue, 2 Peacock, 3 Gatekeeper, 4 Meadow brown and 1 Ringlet. The north pit is suffering from scrub invasion again, mainly at the southern end. - Laurence Drummond

News from Diane Andrews. She has only seen three Painted Ladies this year in total. However 5 Jersey Tigers so far. 7th August in her garden trap with red hindwing. Last night 2 with the yellow hindwing.

Brent Reservoir, 1 Common Blue, 1 Meadow Brown, 3 Speckled Wood, 4 Gatekeeper and 1 Holly Blue. Shailesh Patel

### **Saturday 8th August 2015**

News from Diane Andrews. Ringlet in her north London garden on the 18th July. Silver-washed Fritillary on 2nd August in TQ2797 east of Hadleigh Wood near pond. Toadflax Brocade and Jersey Tiger in her garden trap and on 7th August a Jersey Tiger at Turkey Street Station

Although I don't live that close to a wood, my front garden (Maple Cross) is partly shady due to

mature Hazel, Plum and Whitebeam trees. I also possess lots of violets. Yesterday lunchtime 7th August 2015, I saw a very tatty female Silver Washed Fritillary briefly visit and land in it, just long enough to get a positive identification, along with a Speckled Wood Butterfly. - Chris Bessant

A day of mixed fortunes on Hampstead Heath today. I watched for Purple Emperor all afternoon today in mostly decent weather but saw not the briefest glimpse of HIM. However...as I approached the assembly area I saw a male Silver Washed Fritillary basking in the sunshine at 10:30. This follows a sighting of a basking female not far from today's location last Sunday, 2nd Aug at 12:30. I'm not aware of any other records of SWF on the Heath though there have been odd sightings by others at nearby Highgate Wood over the years. The SWF is my 25th species for the Heath. - Frank Nugent

I arrived 2pm Northaw today, and at 3pm a rather worn and weary emperor turned up and did a good number of patrols until we left at 4.15pm. - Andrew Middleton

A couple of less common species at the Brickworks this morning... Bovington Brickworks (Box Moor Trust): 1 x Silver-washed Fritillary (male, decent condition except for small nick in right forewing) TL00720256; 2 x Painted Ladies (one with missing/stunted growth of right antenna). Otherwise, there's a good second generation of Common Blues at the site. Other species seen: Peacocks, Brimstones, Gatekeepers, Ringlets, Meadow Browns, Small Whites, Green-veined Whites, Small Tortoiseshell, Speckled Woods, Red Admirals, Small and Large Skippers and Six-spot Burnet moths. A41 Bourne End/Hemel Hempstead slip roads: 3 second generation Small Blues; 10+ Common Blues; 30+ Six-spot Burnets. - Lucy Flower

### **Friday 7th August 2015**

Butterfly World, 8 Common Blue, 1 Gatekeeper, 1 Comma and 1 Small White. Shailesh Patel

1 x large white, 1 x mother of pearl moth in Bushey garden early evening. At Fishers field 1 x holly blue, 1 x speckled wood, 1 x mother of pearl. At water lane, watford 22 x mother of pearl all on nettles. - David Gower

### **Thursday 6th August 2015**

St. Albans - seven purple and gold pyrausta moths on my kitchen ceiling this evening. An unusual sighting indoors and not one I have recorded before. Searching round for an explanation, I identified a bunch of marjoram I cut last weekend as part of my dried herbs project, as a likely source. Luckily the moths were all easily persuaded to vacate the kitchen in favour of the garden - Malcolm Hull

Some sightings for Thursday 6th August 2015 - 10+ Common Blue including two females, 2 Brown Argus, 1 Small Copper in a productive corner of a field of long grass and thistles at Bay Farm, Enfield (TQ 290 989); 1 Small Copper at Parkside Farm, Enfield near Res banking; 4 Holly Blue (1 at Strayfield Road, EN2, 1 at Flash Lane, EN2, 1 at Hilly Fields Park, 1 at Gordon Hill Station); 2 male Common Blue at Whitewebbs Park, 1 Peacock nectaring on thistles at Whitewebbs Park at 13:50 hrs, 1 Small Copper nectaring on ragwort at Whitewebbs Park; 2 Green-veined White (1 at Flash Lane Aqueduct, 1 at Hilly Fields Park). - Robert Callf

Harrow Cemetery, 12 Common Blue, 2 Brown Argus, 1 Small White and 7 Gatekeeper. Shailesh Patel

Butterflies I have seen today (06 Aug 2015): 6+ small white, 10+ large white, 6+ gatekeeper, 1 common blue, 1 meadow brown, 1 6-spot burnet-moth, 1 small blue - field SW of Highfield School, Letchworth and north of Hitchin Garden Centre TL2031. This field is about half a kilometer south of the Hillbrow Small Blue field. No Kidney Vetch seen. David Inward

Silver-washed Fritillary and White Admiral. Both butterflies had seen better days, but we were delighted to see these two together at Danemead, Broxbourne Woods late Sunday afternoon - 2/8/15. - Phil and Carrin Rhodes.

Ashwell springs NR today Thursday - lots of butterflies; 10+ Brimstones, 2 peacocks, 2 common blues, several large whites, 1 small tortoiseshell Andy Brown

### **Wednesday 5th August 2015**

A few sightings for Wednesday 5th August 2015 - 1 Ringlet (worn) at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 1 male Common Blue and 1 Small Copper at Parkside Farm, Enfield on Res banking (TQ 2998), 1 Peacock near Dew Pond, Trent Park at 12:56 hrs. - Robert Callf

Today at Thorley Wash I saw 2 common blue, 5 peacock, 1 red admiral and 1 clouded yellow. I tweeted a photo of the c yellow at the branch Twitter - Jenny Sherwen

### **Tuesday 4th August 2015**

Nomansland Common produced the usual complement of whites and browns, but of particular interest, 2 Purple Hairstreak flying around the top of an oak tree, 4 Brimstone (3 females, 1 male) nectaring on various wild flowers (curiously the male showed little interest in the nearby females), and a new emergence of at least 10 Common Blue males. A Hornet Mimic Fly was seen on a wild privet bush, a frequent haunt for this hoverfly species. - David Hunt

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane An early start in bright sunshine which soon gave way to heavy cloud and even a little rain so butterfly numbers not too bad given the weather:

Gatekeeper: 34 Meadow Brown: 15 Purple Hairstreak: 1 Small White: 9 Comma: 2 Speckled Wood: 5 Holly Blue: 3 Common Blue: 7 Red Admiral: 1 Peacock: 1 large White: 3 Brimstone: 1 - Pete Gore

Well after a number of years trying to find White letter hairstreaks, I find them when I'm not really looking or expecting them whilst out looking for purple hairstreaks. Am assuming the male chalkhill blue is a wanderer from therfield, it was my son Oliver (aged 5!!!) who spotted it first as I thought it was a holly blue, until we caught it in a moth pot that was still in my camera bag whilst nectaring. He was adamant that it was a chalkhill blue, and was right, because "it was bigger and a pale colour". I take my hat off.... Sunday 2nd August Marshland wood (Widford) (TL426153) At 10:30am Purple hairstreak - 4 Large Skipper - 1 Essex Skipper - 1 Small Skipper - 1 + various browns etc. Pegs lane and farmland (Widford) TL412164 Really good site - loads of trefoils, thistles agrimony etc. Brown Argus - 13 Common blue - 12 Essex Skipper - 3 Small Skipper - 6 Chalkhill Blue - 1 (male) Small copper - 2 White Letter Hairstreak - 1 nectaring on hemp Agrimony Holly blue - 2 Brimstone - 1 + various other regulars. Woods - Nr Mardocks Farm - TL391143 Small Skipper - 3 Peacock - 14 Common Blue - 2 Essex Skipper - 5 White Letter Hairstreak - 8 - most nectaring on thistles Purple Hairstreak - 5 Comma - 2 + various others Several of the WLH's looked reasonably fresh as they still had their tails, although were easily disturbed when trying to photograph. Wareside - Village Hall White Letter Hairstreak - 2 - both nectaring on Hemp Agrimony (photo's available). Monday 3rd August 2015 Therfield Heath - Church Hill (Just the important ones) Chalkhill Blue - 50+, including several mating pairs. Dark Green Fritillary - 1. Tuesday 4th August Broxbourne Woods - West Silver Washed Fritillary - 10 + - including egg laying on willow trunks, next to the main ride. Common blue - 1 Purple Hairstreak - 5 - Phil Macmurdie

Butterflies I have seen today (04 Aug 2015): 4 large white, 1 speckled wood, 1 small white, 1 peacock, 1 comma - St Albans Drive area including open space between Martins Way and Weston Road, St Nicholas, Stevenage TL2426. 5 gatekeeper, 2 large white, 1 unidentified blue, at least 3 5-spot burnet (many others which I was unable to count the spots, but probably 5) (no more small blues) - St Nicholas Churchyard, Stevenage TL2426 David Inward

One Holly Blue nectaring on michaelmas daisies at Lakenheath, N14 at TQ 296 952 on Sunday 2nd August 2015 at 18:30 hrs. Sightings for Tuesday 4th August 2015 in Oakwood Park, N14 between 12:40 - 13:30 hrs - 1 Holly Blue (W of 10 km line); 4 Common Blue, 3 males, 1 female (1 W of 10 km line, 3 E of 10 km line); 5 Small Copper (1 W of 10 km line, 4 E of 10 km line); also 1 Six-spot Burnet on knapweed (E of 10 km line). Two Holly Blues along Pennyfather Lane, EN2, Enfield Town yesterday afternoon Monday 3rd August 2015 at 16:20 hrs. Seems to be good numbers around at present - not recording all the ones I see. - Robert Callf

### **Monday 3rd August 2015**

Butterflies I have seen today (03 Aug 2015): 1 peacock, 1 small white, 4 large white, 1 unidentified blue, 1 meadow brown - area around the Martins Way/Grace Way junction, St Nicholas, Stevenage TL2426. David Inward

In Bushey garden this morning= 1 x large white, 1 x green veined white, 2 x holly blue, 1 x peacock. This afternoon spent 3 hours at Bricket wood common and noted= 12 x green veined



white, 7 x ringlet, 3 x peacock, 24 x gatekeeper, 31 x meadow brown, 3 x small white, 1 x white admiral(damaged hindwing), 6 x silver washed fritillary(my first this year), 13 x holly blue, 3 x large white, 1 x marbled white, 1 x small copper(on heather), 6 x speckled wood, 3 x essex/small skippers(unable to i.d), 33 x whites (unable to i.d), 1 x yellow shell, 2 x 6 spot burnet, 2 x silver y, 2 x common blue(f), 5 x brimstone(4f). No sign of emperors or hairstreaks unfortunately. - David Gower

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane Walked mid morning to mid afternoon mostly in cloud: humid, warm and breezy (typical Hounslow): Speckled Wood: 6 Green-Veined White: 2 Holly Blue: 3 Small White: 9 Gatekeeper: 27 Large White: 8 Common Blue: 4 Meadow Brown: 15 Brown Argus: 1 Red Admiral: 1 Comma: 2 Painted Lady: 1 Peacock: 1 - Pete Gore

Robin White saw a Jersey Tiger at Enfield Road, EN2 Monday 3rd August 2015 at 09:10 hrs. news via Robert Callf

News for Sunday 2nd August 2015 - 3 Large White nectaring on buddleia near Oakwood entrance, Trent Park, also other sightings in Trent Park included the following: 2 Red Admiral; 5 Peacock; 25 Six-spot Burnet (not including those too faded to identify with certainty); 3 Comma; 1 Small Heath; 3 Common Blue - 2 males, 1 female; 4 Small Copper; 2 Holly Blue; 1 female White-letter Hairstreak, flew from thistles and settled on Bramble, edge of Church Wood at 13:08 hrs - thought that I had missed out on this species this year, so pleasantly surprised. Also we did not see it in Trent Park last year. Robin White reported a Brown Argus along Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm, Enfield (TQ 298 967) Sunday 2nd August 2015 which was still present Monday 3rd August 2015. Sightings for Monday 3rd August 2015 include the following - 2 male Common Blue at Parkside Farm, Enfield (TQ2998) and 1 Peacock and 1 Comma at Parkside Farm, 1 Holly Blue at Park Farm, Enfield, 1 male Common Blue at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park, 1 Painted Lady nectaring on thistles at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 11:45 hrs, 1 Peacock nectaring on thistles at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 11:45 hrs, 2 Holly Blue at Trent Park, 1 Holly Blue along Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm, 1 Peacock nectaring on buddleia at Vicarage Farm, Enfield - Robert Callf/Robin White.

We had a Jersey Tiger in our Enfield garden yesterday 2/8/15 - Phil Rhodes

News from 2nd: On Harpenden Common there were many Small White, good numbers of Green-veined White, 3 Large White (the large assemblage present 2 days ago seems to have dispersed), 2 Brimstone females, many Meadow Brown and Gatekeeper, 4 tatty Ringlet, 5 fresh Speckled Wood, 7 male Common Blue, 1 Brown Argus, 2 Small Skipper and 1 Painted Lady, a slightly faded male, I think. A BBC for my south Harpenden garden produced 2 Large White, 5 Small White, 3 Green-veined White, 2 Gatekeeper, 3 Holly Blue and 1 Peacock - David Hunt

### **Sunday 2nd August 2015**

Sunday in Stocking pelham - did my great big butterfly count: 8 Large Whites, 1 meadow brown, 1 gatekeeper, 5 small tortoiseshell, 4 red admirals and 9 Peacocks - Andy Brown

Lots of butterflies in my South Mimms garden today, with a first ever Gatekeeper, as well as Speckled Wood, Holly Blue, Comma, Peacock, Large and Small Whites - Terry Wood

Nomansland Common Wheathampstead - **Purple Emperor**, Small Copper 4, Purple Hairstreak 3, Brimstone 1, Common Blue 9, Small and Essex Skippers 18, Peacock, Silver Y plus many Browns and whites Folly Lane, St Albans - First ever Purple Hairstreak on my allotment after 20 years recording! This one nectaring on Hemp Agrimony. Dozens of Butterflies, with Gatekeepers, Large and Small Whites particularly prominent Malcolm Hull

Butterflies I have seen today (02 Aug 2015): 3 unidentified blue (probably common blue - definitely not small blue!), 1 gatekeeper - St Michaels Road, Hitchin TL1929 1 speckled wood, 2 large white, 3 small white, 1 unidentified blue - by pond on Walsworth Common, Hitchin TL197300 - David Inward

Danemead, Broxbourne Woods-1 White Admiral feeding on bramble flowers, with at least two Silver-washed Fritillary-late this afternoon. We also had several Comma, Peacock. Phil and Carrin Rhodes.

Hillbrow LGC - 16.30 to 17.45: Small Blue 15+; Brown Argus 3; Common Blue 10+. Roger Millard



Once again Iris overcame me and so I returned to Hampstead Heath. The **Purple Emperor** appeared shortly before 13:00 and flew excitedly over the Assembly area a few times. There were three further solo flights until at 14:42 I'm delighted to report a second Emperor arrived whereupon a spectacular chase and clash ensued. A terrific spiralling clash took place about 10 mins later after which both disappeared over the top of an oak. Only one Emperor returned and flew on and off until 15:54 after which I saw nothing more - Frank Nugent

As soon as walked out into our bushey garden this morning found a lot of sightings in short space of time majority on various buddleia = 1 x gatekeeper, 6 x large white, 3 x small white, 4 x peacock, 3 x holly blue. Onto fishers field nature reserve and a lot of activity on scabious etc = 12 x gatekeeper, 1 x peacock, 2 x holly blue, 4 x large white, 1 x speckled wood, 2 x red admiral, 1 x green veined white, 1 x common blue, 2 x essex/small skippers too fast to i.d. Spent a little over an hour at water lane, watford = 2 x red admiral, 12 x gatekeeper, 6 x peacock, 10 x green veined white, 3 x holly blue, 2 x brimstone(1m/1f), 2 x small white, 4 x large white, 3 x brown argos, 2 x 6 spot burnet, 2 x essex skipper, 1 x small copper. At least 30 more whites and 8 skippers unable to i.d. Lastly at friends garden in walthamstow,e17 = 1 x comma, 4 x large white, 1 x gatekeeper, 6 x holly blue, 1 x yellow shell. I have never seen so many holly blues in previous years in fact only 3 last year & over 40 so far! - David Gower

A great Transect today at Butterfly World. Small Skipper 1, Essex Skipper 3, Brimstone 9, Large White 19, Small White 25, Small Copper 2, Small Blue 52, Brown Argus 5, Common Blue 48, Holly Blue 2, Red Admiral 3, Small Tortoiseshell 1, Peacock 26, Comma 2, Gatekeeper 19, Meadow Brown 15. The second brood of Small Blues can be seen in many areas now. - Mandy Floyd

The rearranged Heartwood Forest walk produced 15 species with highlight a egg laying Purple Hairstreak with Holy Blues, Common Blues, 2 Brown Argus, 2 Essex Skippers, Gatekeepers, Meadow Browns, Peacocks, Commas, 1 Speckled Wood, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 4 Brimstones and Green-veined, Small and Large White. Also Six Spot Burnet moths, 2 Silver Y Moths, Garden Tiger and cinnabar caterpillars - Andy Steele

Friday 31st July a silver washed fritillary was seen at Grub Ground Ruislip Woods Ref TQ097887 - Sue and Steve Place

### **Saturday 1st August 2015**

Saturday August 1, I was with Malcolm Hull doing the butterflies transect at Bricket Wood Common. I saw 2 Holly Blue, 9 Gatekeeper, 16 Meadow Brown, 1 Essex Skipper, 1 Peacock, 1 Small White, 1 Green-veined White, 3 Ringlet, 1 Small Skipper and 2 Large White. Malcolm's count could be different from mine. Shailesh Patel and Malcolm Hull

At Northwood hq , sandy lane 2 x gatekeeper, 1 x large white. Walked around Oxhey woods in afternoon when sun had mostly gone. Northern woodland spotted 1 x large white, 2 x green veined white, 5 x holly blue. Nothing in central woodland and just 1 x peacock, 1 x meadow brown in southern woodland - David Gower

Hampstead Heath, after a very brief glimpse of the **Purple Emperor** at 12:30, from 12:38 there could be no mistaking it. No clashes and no chases as only one Emperor was visible at any given time. Flights around the Assembly area were as follows: 4 flights between 12:38 and 13:00. 3 flights 13:00-14:20 but the largest number of flights were made 15:00-16:11 when HIM made no fewer than 10 flights. After that I saw nothing. So HIM made it into August and showed no sign of slowing down today. - Frank Nugent with Helen Bantock

Some sightings for Town Park, Enfield Saturday 1st August 2015 - 1 Painted Lady nectaring on flowers 12:41 - 13:00 hrs at least, 2 Comma nectaring on flowers, Gatekeeper, 2 Holly Blues, Large White, Small White and Speckled Wood - Robert Callf.

Butterflies I have seen today (01 Aug 2015): 1 small blue - male, stayed on a bit of grass whilst I could get a good view. Underwing silvery with very small black dots, upperwing blackish with very faint blue at base. Whitish fringe of wing. No orange anywhere. length of wing approx 1cm. Smaller than holly blue seen later. No kidney vetch seen, but birdsfoot trefoil present. Seen in SE corner of St Nicholas churchyard, near Stevenage TL24112615. 1 gatekeeper, 8 large white, 2 small white, 3 speckled wood, 1 holly blue, 1 green-veined white - St Nicholas Churchyard/Weston Road Cemetery, Stevenage TL2426. 1 green-veined white - St Albans Drive, St Nicholas, Stevenage TL244264. - David Inward

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane. After three consecutive Saturday morning walks that tended towards the apocalyptic (2 major fires followed by flooding) it was something of a relief to enjoy a perfectly normal August walk today: Gatekeeper: 59 Peacock: 7 Meadow Brown: 12 Purple Hairstreak: 1 Green-Veined White: 5 Small White: 11 Red Admiral: 2 Speckled Wood: 5 Large White: 7 Common Blue: 5 Brown Argus: 1 Brimstone: 2 Ringlet: 1 Comma: 1 Holly Blue: 6 Small Skipper: 1 The Hairstreak was a very faded, ragged specimen that spent quite a bit of time moving from one ripe blackberry to another. On the Marshalling Yards one female Common Blue was seen in one of the most blackened burnt areas moving steadily from one tiny green speck of green to another, shoots that seemed to be Birds Foot Trefoil. - Pete Gore

## July 2015

### Friday 31st July 2015

One Small Tortoiseshell nectaring on thistles at Vicarage Farm, Enfield on Thursday 30th July 2015 at 08:40 hrs. One Holly Blue at South Lodge Cres., Enfield Friday 31st July 2015 at 12:18 hrs. Also a number of Gatekeeper around Boxer's Lake, Enfield this afternoon Friday 31st July 2015 - they are probably at the height of their season at present - Robert Callf

I have been keeping an eye on the Small Blue colony along the verge of the A41 at Bourne End/Hemel Hempstead. In previous weeks, I've found numerous larvae with their heads buried in Kidney Vetch and today there were 3 fresh Small Blue but terflies. Also 1 Common Blue, 1 Small Skipper, 1 Six-Spot Burnet and 2 Pyrausta moth species (either aurata or purpuralis but couldn't get a decent look, unfortunately). Over on the opposite A41 slip road, I was very surprised to find at least 32 Six-Spot Burnets (incl. numerous mating pairs) all on Field Scabious, and 1 Common Blue - Lucy Flower

First Painted Lady of the year feeding on Knapweed at Norton Green Common today - Peter Clarke

### Thursday 30th July 2015

Swallow-tailed Moth in bus-stop shelter at Chase Road, N14 (TQ 295 950) this morning Thursday 30th July 2015 - a common species, but what a beauty! - Robert Callf

On a sunny day, if suffering from a rather cool northerly wind, Harpenden Common produced a good crop of butterflies with 15 species seen. Good numbers of very nice condition Large White (great to see them making a comeback from 2014) and lower numbers of Small White and Green-veined White, Meadow Brown, Ringlet (now mostly rather worn), Gatekeeper, 5-6 Small Skipper, 2 Holly Blue, 2 Common Blue males, 5 Comma, 1 Peacock, 1 Red Admiral, 5 Speckled Wood, 1 Small Copper and 3 Purple Hairstreak. A rather worn female Purple Hairstreak, with very little purple-effect left, was basking on willow herb before flying up into an oak tree where two other individuals, at least one a male judging from the purple flashes, were also present. Brown Argus, which were rather common last year, are now decidedly scarce, although whether from an unusually late cut of the common in 2014 or a mild winter is not possible to say. - David Hunt

A few brief bursts of sunlight were enough to see 4 Silver-washed Fritillaries in Bramfield Park Wood today. Others highlights amongst all the whites and browns were Painted lady at Waterford Heath and Bramfield Woods, Purple Hairstreak at Bramfield Woods and a Brown Argus on the field margin outside Bramfield Park Wood Andrew Wood

Late news: I found a **Purple Emperor** on my wife's car bonnet, in our driveway in Walkern on 16th July 2015 - Simon Crockford (picture on FB page)

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane Although weather was mostly dull there was little sign remaining of the floods that turned Saturday's walk into a paddle through a seriously overflowing River Crane. Butterflies still quite good although most looking faded and worn: Gatekeeper: 55 Large White: 11 Small White: 15 Green-Veined White: 3 Meadow Brown: 6 Comma: 2 Brimstone: 1 Speckled Wood: 4 Small Skipper: 1 Peacock: 2 Holly Blue: 10 Ringlet: 1 Common Blue: 1 - Pete Gore

The following seen at Ellenbrook Fields (Former Hatfield Aerodrome) today 30/7/15: 1 off Painted Lady, 4+ Large White, 3+ Small White, 1 off Comma, 10+ Gatekeeper, 4+ Meadow Brown, 4 off Ringlet, 4 off Peacock - David Wheatcroft

Butterflies I have seen today (30 July 2015): 1 ringlet, 3 gatekeeper, 9 large white, 2 small white - footpath on edge of arable field south of cricket ground, Graveley, near Stevenage TL2327. - David Inward

Hummingbird hawkmoth nectaring on Phlox maculata in my Thorley Park garden at 1p.m. today. Not surprised as this plant was visited by single hummingbird hawkmoths on several days whilst in flower during both 2013 and 2014. Favoured also this afternoon by a single peacock and two large whites. Was however surprised yesterday by a 9 a.m. visit during sunny but cool and windy weather of a rather tiny large skipper, perhaps a shade under small skipper size. - Len Crouch.

### **Wednesday 29th July 2015**

Today I recorded **Purple Emperor** in my home village of Abbots Langley. Had good views of a female as it searched through an apple orchard looking for egg laying sites. Time was 1230. In all my years in the village it's the first time I've recorded here. - Clive Burrows

A bright moment on an otherwise dull day at Broxbourne Woods. Walking down the main ride from the West car park I found a very raggedy female **Purple Emperor** hanging in the long grass. She allowed me to pick her up and posed for some photographs sitting on the back of my hand. With a little gentle stroking she opened her wings and let me place her on the wooden fence next to the ride. There she remained for a few minutes before fluttering up into the trees. Magic! - Christopher Benton.

Butterflies I have seen today (29 July 2015): 1 small tortoiseshell, 4 gatekeeper, 6 large white - NCN12 cycleway through arable fields south of Graveley TL2227 - David Inward

Some sightings for Tuesday 28th July 2015 - 2 Peacock at Trent Park (1 edge of Moat Wood, 1 edge of Williams Wood), 1 Small Copper at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 16:15 hrs, male Oak Eggar edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park at 16:38 hrs, 1 Shaded Broad-bar at Vicarage Farm. Today Wednesday 29th July 2015 - 1 Essex Skipper in 'wildflower meadow area' at Broomfield Park, Palmers Green, N13 at 10:44 hrs, 2 Holly Blue at Fox Lane, N13 (nr junction with Bourne Hill), 1 Holly Blue and 1 Comma at Grovelands Park, Southgate. - Robert Callf

Breezy overcast day, 20 minute lunchtime stroll around Butterfly World and saw 10 Small Blue, 4 Common Blue, 3 male and 1 female Brimstone, 6 Peacocks, a Large White, at least 10 Small Whites, 4 faded Gatekeepers, 5 Meadow Brown, 3 Small Skipper and a Red Admiral. Then an hours walk at Bricket Wood Common and saw at least 6 Green Veined and 4 Small Whites, 2 Large Whites, a Ringlet, 3 Meadow Brown, 3 Gatekeepers, a Comma, a Speckled Wood, 3 Peacocks and a Red Admiral - Paul Busby

### **Tuesday 28th July 2015**

Big butterfly count for 15 minutes in breezy conditions in field opposite St Vincents Nursing Home, Northwood Hills, Middlesex and saw a male Common Blue, 2 fresh Peacocks, a Ringlet, 13 Gatekeepers and 7 Meadow Brown - Paul Busby

Morning at Ruislip Woods, 4 Speckled Wood, 4 Gatekeeper, 1 Meadow Brown, 1 Green-veined White and 2 Holly Blue and in the afternoon, Harrow Cemetery, 14 Gatekeeper, 4 Common Blue, 1 Speckled Wood, 2 Meadow Brown and 2 Six-spot Burnet - Shailesh Patel

Butterflies I have seen today (28 July 2015): 1 comma, 1 peacock, 1 large white, 1 small white - Roebuck Wood, Stevenage TL2422 - David Inward

Despite the cool breezy conditions, and following information posted below by Andrew, three Small Blues were easily located in the meadow below HillBrow, Letchworth late this afternoon on the way home from work. Thanks for the opportunity to see this scarce little butterfly - Phil Rhodes

25/7/2015 Lots of Holly Blues in my Hemel garden during sunny spells

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/naturecatcher58/19908532288/in/dateposted-public/>

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/naturecatcher58/19908614940/in/dateposted-public/>

Ashley Cox

### **Monday 27th July 2015**

One Comma at Gentleman's Row, Enfield Town on Thursday 23rd July 2015 at 15:25 hrs. One Small Copper nectaring on thistle-head at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park this morning Monday 27th July 2015 at 10:48 hrs. Also today 2 Comma, 2 Holly Blue and 2 Gatekeeper in Town Park, Enfield this afternoon. - Robert Callf

Jane and I went up to the Hillbrow site in Letchworth today to see if the second brood Small Blues were flying despite the windy and cloudy conditions. We were not disappointed seeing nine individuals flying, roosting and taking salts from the path and dog poo. This is well above numbers of last year for this brood. Most of the Small Blues were in the shelter of the hedge separating the two fields. Large and Small Whites were common along with smaller numbers of Gatekeeper, Marbled White, Ringlet, Peacock, Common Blue and Brown Argus. Moths included Dusky Sallow, Yellow Shell, Silver Y, Nemophora metallica and numbers of Pseudargyrotoza conwagana swarming around privet. A visit to Norton Common added Holly Blue, Speckled Wood, Green-veined White to the day's list with virtually no sunshine in evidence. Some pictures on Facebook - Andrew Wood

I thought I should let you know of some Butterfly sightings that we have recently had at Maple Lodge Reserve (Members access only) 11th July 2015 Purple Hairstreak, seen and photographed by S and S Place. 18th July 2015 Silver-washed Fritillary. Seen and photographed by C.A.J. Hulls First for the reserve. 21st July 2015 White Letter Hairstreak. Seen and photographed by C.A.J. Hulls First for the reserve. There have been many recent improvements to the reserve and in one particularly spot there is now a warm sunny spot with plenty of nectaring flowers. Consequently this area attracts a great many butterflies. - Chris Bessant (photos will be posted on FB)

### **Sunday 26th July 2015**

While I was looking out at the rain this morning (26th) I saw a Humming bird hawk moth buzzing around - apparently oblivious to the conditions in Stocking Pelham - Andy Brown

### **Saturday 25th July 2015**

Following the heavy rain all day yesterday and knowing how that can decimate butterflies it was with some trepidation that I returned to Hampstead Heath to check on the Purple Emperors. While waiting to check the Master Territory all seemed well as every species I'd seen just a couple of days ago was out and about including a very confiding Purple Hairstreak. On my last visit the Emperor appeared first at 12:16 but not today. Previous visits saw them appear around 13:00 but not today. As time passed, the heart sank. 14:00 came and went with the sun and cloud. To my great relief at 14:10 the **Emperor** appeared followed by a second a minute or so later. Lots of chasing and a few clashes ensued after which only one was visible whenever the sun came out, sometimes mostly just perching. More chases and clashing occurred just after 16:00 but both vanished from 16:40 when the sun was replaced by thick cloud. It's possible that one did cross the Spaniards Rd and alight in an oak directly in front of the sun on the Sandy Heath side at 17:30 but I'm not 100% sure as my view was obscured at that point and 2 Red Admirals were throwing me off the trail - Frank Nugent

Went back to Ruislip Woods today and sightings were = at St Vincents, Northwood Hills 1 x red admiral, 6 x speckled wood, 3 x purple hairstreak. At Park Wood 17 x gatekeeper, 2 x comma, 2 x small skipper, 4 x essex skipper, 1 x holly blue, 2 x large white, 1 x small white, 3 x meadow brown. 1 x ringlet. Onto Poor's Field = 23 x meadow brown, 1 x silver y, 7 x gatekeeper, 1 x comma, 2 x ringlet, 1 x essex skipper, 1 x large white, 1 x small white. Lastly in Copse Wood = 1 x white admiral, 1 x peacock, 3 x comma, 5 x green veined white, 2 x small white, 3 x meadow brown, 7 x holly blue( 4 x females), 3 x ringlet, 4 x speckled wood, 3 x large white, 7 x gatekeeper, 1 x common white wave - David Gower

New Members' Day walk around the Butterfly World grounds produced a fantastic number of Small Blue in various locations. Also Common Blue, 1 Small Copper, Small and Essex Skippers, Gatekeepers, Meadow Browns, Peacocks, Comma, Small Tortoiseshells, a single Brimstone and Small and Large White. Also Six Spot Burnet moths, cinnabar caterpillars and Nemophora metallica long horned moths on the field scabious. A great day which everyone present enjoyed - Branch Committee

In Bencroft wood last Saturday saw my first white admiral why are they so poor this year? Today the highlight was in the field behind Bencroft wood on one ragwort flower ( much maligned plant) were a small copper, a small skipper, a gatekeeper, a purple hairstreak and 2 six spot burnet moth

not a bad haul. A few common blues there as well as holly blues. Broxbourne wood still had 8 silver washed fritillaries but not as many as the 20 of last week - Steve Kiln

#### **Thursday 23rd July 2015**

A few butterfly sightings from Northaw on the 23rd between 12:30 and 2:30 PM. Purple hairstreaks seen around oaks in five or six different places. In the various clearings/glades small skipper common with some fresh Essex skippers, and a few tatty large skippers still left. Meadow Browns, ringlet, and gatekeepers all common in similar situations: a few speckled woods. Four or five sightings of silver-washed fritillaries, with a slightly tatty white admiral drinking from one of the few small muddy puddles found. A couple of peacocks, a comma, holly blue and small/green veined whites. One possible tantalising glimpse of a purple emperor - very high, fast flying, and dark and white but far too fleeting and unsure to count. Also lots of brown hawker dragonflies in open glades and hornets in at least three places. - Richard Wistow

Harrow Cemetery, 10 Gatekeeper, 4 Common Blue, 1 Ringlet, 1 Green-veined White and 4 Six-spot Burnet. Shailesh Patel

Broxbourne Woods. Fair numbers of Ringlets and Gatekeepers especially when the sun came out and a fair number of whites (mainly Small Whites, I think). Also about 10 or even 12 Silver Washed Fritillaries at the top end of the main ride, some looking rather worn. Also 1 Meadow Brown, 3 Small/ Essex Skippers but the highlight was a **Purple Emperor** by the pond - Roger Newbold

Made a further visit to Hampstead Heath today to check on the **Purple Emperors**. 17-22°C, intermittent sun and lots of cloud. HIM appeared at 12:16, earlier than on my previous visits. Tangled with a Purple Hairstreak at 12:35 and made regular flights. At 13:07 a second Emperor appeared and between then and 14:15 had 3 major chases and a couple of clashes, with a Red Admiral joining in at one point. A lull as the cloud loomed but a chase then at 15:00 & a clash at 15:34 before... the arrival of the third Emperor. All 3 in a chase at 15:38 after which one perched while the other two continued. After 15:50 I saw only one Emperor and that only briefly. I left at 17:30. I hope that these observations are helpful. I'm curious as to why I only see the third Emperor for a few minutes this visit and previous. - Frank Nugent

A few sightings to report for Thursday 23rd July 2015 - 2 Comma at Trent Park (1 edge of Moat Wood, 1 nectaring on buddleia by lower lake); 1 Six-spot Burnet at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park, 2 Peacock nectaring on buddleia by lower lake, Trent Park, 1 Red Admiral edge of Icehouse Wood, Trent Park, 1 Painted Lady nectaring on thistles at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 12:48 hrs, 2 Peacock nectaring on thistle at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 12:54 hrs - Robert Callf/Robin White.

#### **Wednesday 22nd July 2015**

Male Oak Eggar flew rapidly along edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park Wednesday 22nd July 2015 at 15:45 hrs. One Essex Skipper at Park Farm, Enfield at 16:23 hrs Wednesday 22nd July 2015. - Robert Callf

Jersey Tiger Kentish Town garden - Karen Han

Broadwater Gravel Pits, 1 Painted Lady - Chris Lamsdell

Butterflies I have seen today (22 July 2015): 3 small white, 1 small tortoiseshell, 1 meadow brown, many unidentified whites - Walsworth Common, Hitchin TL1930 - David Inward

#### **Tuesday 21st July 2015**

Abney Park Cemetery: **Purple Emperor** butterfly (female), NE edge of cemetery, viewed from adjacent garden. Flew into the cemetery late morning - ADH & Tony Butler Picture on facebook

A few sightings from the field trip to Trent Park with Andrew Wood for Tuesday 21st July 2015 - 2 Painted Lady (one nectaring on buddleia near Oakwood entrance at 09:30 hrs, another on thistles edge of Oak Wood), good numbers of Large Whites were seen, at least 10 Peacocks, 2 Small Copper (one 'New Fields' 09:45 hrs, and another edge of Oak Wood) - both newly emerged, 4 Six-spot Burnet, 2 Silver Y, 3 Holly Blue, 1 Common Blue at 'Old Golf Course' several Comma including two nectaring on buddleia near lower lake. Also some people saw a Red Admiral. A total of 16 species of butterflies. - Robert Callf and Shailesh Patel and others



I went up to Tring Park this morning more in hope than expectation and when I got to the seat that says 'peaceful' at the top of the escarpment I turned left for a change rather than going right and came to the area which has been cleared and has a noticeboard that says 'restore the view'. I then noticed a large dark butterfly flying just off the ground (10.15) and I moved quickly towards it at which point it glided down the path just over my head and the blue colours were unmistakeably those of a **Purple Emperor**. I chased it down the glade and it almost came to ground at one point before flying off over the trees. It was rather a fleeting glimpse but a positive ID nevertheless and the first one I have seen here for 4 years. The numbers and variety of butterflies were very impressive up at Tring Park this morning with several Silver Washed Fritillaries gliding along the sides of the rides, a very worn Dark Green Fritillary, several Small Tortoiseshells, and good numbers of Commas, Red Admirals and Peacocks also starting to come out. Phil Woodward

A sunny morning at Bricket Wood Common, mostly along the gas wayleave, produced a tally of 16 species with good numbers of Large White, Small White, Green-veined White, Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper, Ringlet, Large Skipper and Small Skipper. Also seen were about 10 White Admiral, now rather ragged; about 5-6 female and 10-15 male Silver-washed Fritillary; 1 very fresh Speckled Wood; 2 Peacock; 3 Comma; 1 freshly emerged female Brimstone; about 5 Holly Blue; and 2 Purple Hairstreak. A White Admiral seemed to be laying eggs on honeysuckle growing on the ground beneath bracken, this near to the fence bordering the heath area - David Hunt

I was at Waterford today and noticed a large butterfly circling around the dog bins at the southern end of the south heath. When it settled it was clearly a **Purple Emperor** - a woodland butterfly. I think it may have drifted over from Great Molewood which is nearby. I also called in at Balls Wood and saw 3 silver washed fritillaries and a white admiral - Andy Brown

In Bushey garden late afternoon 1 x small tortoiseshell, 1 x holly blue, 1 x yellow shell. - David Gower

Butterflies I have seen today (21 July 2015): 1 holly blue, 1 gatekeeper - Purwell Meadows, Hitchin TL1994730063 1 gatekeeper, 3 large white - Burymead Recreation Ground, Stevenage Old Town TL2325 - David Inward

### **Monday 20th July 2015**

A few sightings to report for Monday 20th July 2015 - 1 Six-spot Burnet settled on Res banking at Parkside Farm, Enfield (TQ2998) - new for the year and 1 Essex Skipper here also. 1 Antler Moth on thistle head at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park - new for the year - Robert Callf/Robin White.

Butterflies I have seen today (20 July 2015): 1 small tortoiseshell, 2 green-veined white, 1 gatekeeper - footpath along Ash Brook from Ashbrook to Wymondley Road, near Hitchin TL2028 - David Inward

### **Sunday 19th July 2015**

Bardon Clumps woods, Sacombe Road, Grid ref=TL320157. Comma=3 Peacock=3 Red Admiral=2 Holly Blue=2 Gatekeeper=10+ Purple Hairstreak=6+ White Letter Hairstreak=1 Essex Skipper=1 Purple Emperor=1. The **Purple Emperor** was sunbathing at the top of the low oaks at the Chapmore End side of the woods where the bridleway runs along the edge of the quarry. Time about 4.30pm. - Christopher Benton

Visited Telegraph Hill today. The main hollow is getting rather scrubbed up but did see 3 Chalkhill Blues and a dark Green Fritillary and quite a few Marbled Whites. Good numbers of Marbled Whites at Hoo Bit on the other side of the track but the highlight was a count of 54 *Nemophora metallica* long horned moths all on scabious flowers. Then onto Hexton Chalk Pit where the blustery conditions were concentrating the Chalkhill Blues in the more sheltered areas. There are plenty there but I would estimate numbers are around a third of those of the last two years. Several Dark Green Fritillaries there too. A walk along the footpaths on the other side of the road between Lion Hill and Moor Hill showed only 13 Chalkhill Blues but more remarkably I found a pair of mating Silver-washed Fritillaries that flew off just as I got the camera ready. Large numbers of the common butterflies along this path and alongside Burwell Plantation. Some pictures on Facebook - Andrew Wood

Just did my butterfly count at Harrow Cemetery on 19 July and what did I see in 15 minutes, 1



Meadow Brown, 9 Gatekeeper, 2 Small Skipper and 1 Small Copper - Shailesh Patel

20 six-spot burnet moths and one Common Blue in 5 minutes at Suttons GP, Near Symonshyde  
Clouds of butterflies at Cromer Hyde Farm Lemsford - perhaps 2000 whites, mostly large and small on an unsprayed field of brassicas. Also hundreds of meadow Browns, small/Essex skippers, gatekeepers small tortoiseshell and ringlets, plus lesser numbers of Comma, Painted Lady, Peacock, Green veined and Marbled White. freshly emerged Painted Ladies and Peacocks on my allotment in St Albans, but Large and Small Whites dominant here also with small clouds of them twirling around the Innula, Verbena And Buddleia - Malcolm Hull

Sightings for 18th July:- 1 Silver-washed Fritillary, 4 Comma, a nice fresh Red Admiral, Peacock, Large Skipper, Marbled White, Meadow Brown, Ringlet, and Green-veined, Small, Large Whites. During the afternoon at the main entrance gate to Great Ashby Park & my garden. 19th July:- White-letter Hairstreak, Peacock, Comma, Meadow Brown and Green-veined, Small, Large Whites. - Steve Lane

Butterflies I have seen today (19 July 2015): 1 small tortoiseshell, 1 holly blue - Walsworth Common, Hitchin, TL1930 1 gatekeeper - St Faiths Close, Hitchin TL19863029 - David Inward

Today I returned to Hampstead Heath for the first time since Saturday 11th July and thought I would submit this little report. I arrived at 11:30 which I knew to be a little early but useful in that I can record that there was no sign of the Emperors despite lots of other species on the wing. The weather was at least 22°C, very sunny but with quite a breeze swaying the tops of the trees. At 13:18 the show began! A bit surprising given that the sun had by now been replaced by cloud and for the next hour it became a bit of a battle between sun and cloud. An Emperor in flight around the usual trees was joined by a second and the most breathtaking clashes ensued for about 10 mins. Joy unconfined as at 13:30 a third Emperor joined the other 2 and all three flew together. After about 5 mins the the third Emperor was lost to sight and I never saw it again all day. But for the next hour constant sparring occurred between the other two. Sometimes peace and harmony was restored but pass a few minutes and the clashing would commence again. After about 14:30 only one Emperor was visible, sometimes perching, sometimes making short flights around the trees. The Emperor had to contend with quite a breeze and could be seen being tossed hither and thither oftentimes. The temperature had by now risen a few degrees and as the afternoon wore on the short flights became less regular. At 17:45 I witnessed something completely different. An Emperor flew to a tree (this tree now in full sun for the first time now that it had moved to the west) I had not seen it alight on before, just next to the other trees and settled on a leafless part of a branch about a third of the way from the top. Sometimes it was moving ever so slightly, sometimes motionless and sometimes it walked along the branch. Just after 18:00 the Emperor leapt into the sky and flew as if euphoric for a few minutes around the tree before disappearing from view somewhere near but not at the top. I stayed for another half an hour but did not see any Emperors again today. - Frank Nugent

Whitewebbs Field Trip Report: As quite common cloud built up exactly at the allotted time. We were joined by six interested people and went to the gap in the wood, but nothing happened unfortunately. With Laurence Drummond, we then went on to Northaw Great Wood, where at 2 o'clock a very dominant male Purple Emperor took up residence in the usual gap. Numerous flights and some perching took place for all to see. It was obvious there were other Emperors nearby and suddenly two chased through only for the dominant Emperor to chase after them - making a chase of three! Purple Hairstreak were present at both Whitewebbs and Northaw and a Silver-washed Fritillary flew through the canopy where we watching. Around 3, the others left and Andrew and myself stopped at Fir and Pond Wood where two males could be seen in the canopy in 'the usual place.' We then went back to Whitewebbs where around 4 o'clock we had brief glimpses of one Emperor - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

### **Saturday 18th July 2015**

After river sampling at Yeading Brook, Bridgewater Fields. Ruislip Gardens, I saw 2 Holly Blue, Comma, Large White, dozen or more Small/Green-veined Whites, Speckled Wood, 20+ Gatekeeper, 4+ Meadow Brown, 3+ Ringlet and a fresh Peacock. Carried out 2x15 minute Big Butterfly Counts (already submitted on-line). First on Yeading Brook river bank, bramble patch with a small Buddleia and saw 2 Red Admirals, 4 Holly Blue, Small Tortoiseshell, Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper, Small and Green Veined White. Secondly in my Eastcote garden and was surprised to a fresh Brown Argus as well as usual 2 Holly Blues, Comma, Speckled Wood, Large and 2 Small Whites, Green Veined White and 2 Gatekeepers. Then early evening walk from Baker Street to

Euston through Regents Park and saw a Comma and a Small White. - Paul Busby

The **BIG BUTTERFLY COUNT** starts today. After downloading the app I settled down in front of the buddleia bush in my garden in St Albans. First butterfly to arrive was a Painted Lady. Small Tortoiseshells appear to have been glued to the buddleia, Innula and thyme all week and I saw four of those in the 15 minute slot. But there are six more which have already gone into hibernation in my garden shed- should I count them too? Then a Holly Blue passed through and three Large Whites descended on the buddleia, followed in the fourteenth minute by a Red Admiral. Great fun, do give it a go and tell your friends, it's a great way to make more people aware of butterflies and moths - Malcolm Hull

White-letter Hairstreak at the Abbey View golf course site in King Harry Lane, St Albans. But only one sighting in 90 mins searching from 8am in good weather conditions. Bricket Wood Common - 25 Silver-washed Fritillaries, with males and females seen in roughly equal numbers, many nectaring along the gas pipe ride alongside 9 White Admirals. One female SWF seen flying low over violets and brushing them with her feet, but she flew high into the trees without laying an egg. Six sightings of **Purple Emperor** in the canopy gap in Mutchetts Wood during a 30 minute period at lunchtime. Storm damage during the winter has opened up the view and I saw the Emperor land on a high point in the oak canopy and perch for 5 minutes and then return several times to cruise round the crown of the same tree. Down on the ground, numbers of Gatekeepers and Peacocks were up, Marbled White, Ringlets and Large Skippers all down. I positively identified one Essex Skipper, though the vast majority today were Small Skippers - Malcolm Hull

A few sightings for Saturday 18th July 2015 - 2 Holly Blue at Hilly Fields Park, Enfield, 1 Red Admiral at Hilly Fields Park, Enfield at 14:05 hrs, 1 Large Skipper at Whitewebbs Wood, 1 Large Skipper at Hilly Fields Park, Enfield, 1 Peacock on thistle at Whitewebbs Wood at 15:05 hrs, 1 Silver Y at Hilly Field Park, Enfield, 2 Small Skipper together at Hilly Fields Park, Enfield at 15:30 hrs, 1 Comma at Hilly Fields Park, Enfield at 15:40 hrs, 1 Red Admiral at Strayfield Road, Enfield at 15:47 hrs. Also two male Beautiful Demoiselle along Turkey Brook at Hilly Fields Park and a male Southern Hawker at Beggars Hollow, Clay Hill. - Robert Callf

Butterflies I have seen today (18 July 2015): 2 small tortoiseshell, 3 small white, many unidentified whites - Walsworth Common, Hitchin, TL1930 - David Inward

Ruislip Woods NNR, this was part of LHNS walk joint with Ruislip NHS which was led by Neil Anderson. **2 Purple Emperor**, 2 White Admiral, 2 Purple Hairstreak, 1 Large Skipper, 1 Peacock, 2 Comma Butterfly and 1 Six-spot Burnet - Shailesh Patel

### Friday 17th July 2015

A few notable finds at Bovington Brickworks. 14 *Nemophora metallica* (Brassy longhorn) on Field scabious (TL007025) (photos and details on my blog, [here](#)). 2 6-Spot Burnet (TL008026) and 1 worn Painted Lady (TL005026). - Lucy Flower

Silver-washed fritillary (male) in our garden on the western edge of Bishop's Stortford this afternoon around 4pm on buddleia. - Andrew Palmer

We visited Therfield Heath today in rather blustery but sunny conditions. There were many fewer Chalkhill Blues around than in the last two years. But we counted 60 on Church Hill and 108 on the Rifle Range with smaller numbers scattered around other spots. There were also 5 Dark Green Fritillaries, good numbers of Marled White, Meadow Brown and Gatekeeper and smaller numbers of Large and Small Skippers, Small heath, Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell, Large and Small White. Also present was one of the rare long horned moth *Nemophora metallica* and 2 Six Spot Burnet Moths (Burnets seem to be having a very poor year). Of the Chalkhills only 2 were females, so perhaps emergence is late. The one mating pair we found had a female either with deformed wings or possibly mated while still emerging. Pictures on Facebook and Twitter. A large area between the Golf Course and the path towards Therfield Road is surrounded by an electric fence and being grazed by sheep. Andrew Wood

I was very pleased to see at least six white admirals on the gas pipeline ride near Bricket Wood Common today (17th July). Thanks to all those who posted where to find these lovely butterflies. - Sharon Monahan

Cloudy morning at Eastcote House Gardens for London in Bloom judging, saw a Holly Blue at the

entrance to Dovecote Copse, then over River Pinn footbridge to Long Meadow seeing double figures of Meadow Brown, Gatekeepers and Whites. After judging, went onto River Pinn sampling at Pinn Meadows, Ruislip and saw a Small Copper, Holly Blue, Comma, 5+ Small Skipper, 40+ Gatekeepers particularly attracted to a few specimens of Ragwort, 30+ Meadow Brown, 6+ Ringlet, 20+ Whites including 1 Large, 7+ Small Whites and 4+ Green Veined Whites - Paul Busby

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane. A thoroughly enjoyable morning/early afternoon walk despite some cloud and strong breezes. Sightings included a first definite Purple Hairstreak on the Marshalling Yards a fresh male Common Blue and a memorable few minutes next to a small patch of Thistles on the Heath where I watched multiples of 10 species all nectaring in the morning sunshine: Gatekeeper: 110 Meadow Brown: 17 Comma: 13 Peacock: 8 Small White: 21 Green-Veined White: 3 Large White: 11 Large Skipper: 1 Ringlet: 5 Small Skipper: 21 Holly Blue: 6 Speckled Wood: 4 Painted Lady: 1 Brimstone: 1 Purple Hairstreak: 3 Red Admiral: 6 Common Blue: 1 - Pete Gore

I've been up to Reynolds Wood (Hitchwood area) five times so far this month and finally saw **Purple Emperor** yesterday; 8 single tree-top flight sightings between 12.50 and 13.30, so quite pleased. Earlier visits were rewarded by views of the 'more common' species - including Skipper, Purple Hairstreak and last Friday a beautiful male SWF. Watched it for over an hour as it flitted non-stop around the glade, challenging anything in its path - Donald Gregory

A somewhat windy, if intermittently sunny, morning stroll around Nomansland Common produced 16 species of butterfly: Large White; Small White; Green-veined White; Meadow Brown; Ringlet; Marbled White; Gatekeeper; Large Skipper; Small Skipper; 1 Holly Blue nectaring on bramble; several Small Tortoiseshell; 3 Red Admiral, 2 of which were very nice and the other tatty; 2 fresh Peacock; 1 rather worn White Admiral contentedly nectaring in a bramble patch; 1 male **Purple Emperor**, slightly scratched and with a couple of chunks missing from the wing margins, perched in a silver birch sapling (unfortunately not enough sun to persuade him to open his wings fully); and 2 Purple Hairstreak, one of which was definitely female (I suspect the other was as well), both perching relatively low on oak leaves. Pleasing to see the White Admiral, a species I have not previously been aware of on Nomansland, although they occur a couple of miles away in Symondshyde Great Wood. The Purple Emperor was a total surprise, although odd ones seem to turn up at unexpected locations - maybe an eviction from another wood? - David Hunt

#### Thursday 16th July 2015

Norton Green field trip report: Pretty good day: The weather forecast at the beginning of the day for our walk did not look too promising but as it turned out for ten of us we enjoyed at least 80% sunshine even if the wind at times was a little breezy. A few minutes after we set off at just after 10:30 we saw a Comma almost immediately basking on a bramble leaf. About two-thirds way down the track we viewed the blackthorn hedge on the western side and the tall oak trees behind for Purple Hairstreak and Purple Emperor. A Purple Hairstreak was seen near the top of a blackthorn hedge and it settled on one of its leaves, which most if not all of us spotted. We probably saw 2 or 3 Purple Hairstreaks flitting above the blackthorn and onto a nearby Poplar and Oak tree at this spot. As we entered the meadow between Watery Grove and Cannocks Wood more butterflies were about including many Meadow Browns, Ringlets, Whites of all kinds although only one Green-veined White. Marbled Whites, Small and Large Skippers and several fresh Gatekeepers were also on the wing, At least 3 Silver-washed Fritillaries with some Commas impressed us with their flight. In the field south of Watery Grove, we spotted a newly-emerged Small Copper and one of us saw a blue (probably Common Blue). Burleigh Meadow presented us with the usual common species as above plus a small colony of Essex Skipper. One of the highlights of the trip was finding the Dyer's Greenweed flower in good numbers at the SW end of the meadow. On our way back to the lay-by, near Pigeonswick Cottage a Speckled Wood was seen by the track. After everyone else left, Bob and I stayed behind for an hour and a half mostly to look for Purple Emperor on the SW edge of Watery Grove. I had laid down some salmon paste (my local Waitrose store didn't stock any of the shrimp variety) in the open area on the edge of the track but we didn't have any luck there either! Nevertheless, we saw at least couple more Purple Hairstreaks and a lovely Peacock on the brambles. Just before we reached the lay-by, we saw a Small Tortoiseshell on Creeping Thistle by the pond opposite Norton Green Farm. - Peter Clarke

In addition to the usual denizens of Harpenden Common (Large White, Small White, Green-veined White, Small Tortoiseshell, Comma, Meadow Brown, Ringlet, Small Heath, Marbled White, Large Skipper and Small Skipper) I saw my first Small Copper and Essex Skipper for the Common this year. Flying around an oak in the St John's Wood area of the Common was a solitary Purple

Hairstreak, the first time I have seen one at the southern end of the Common - David Hunt

Today my wife and I made our annual visit to Northaw Great Wood, to check for the **Purple Emperors**. At 1:30 we watched 2 males chasing about high above in the regular place near the main entrance, and this year they seem to be favouring the Ash rather than the Oaks. Regards Terry Wood ps I'd also like to report that one day last week we had 2 Ringlets in our South Mymms front garden, the first I've seen here. - Terry Wood

Great news - I was just doing my transect at Patmore Heath and I was looking up at the oaks as I had noticed the purple hairstreaks were out, when a purple emperor landed on the oak I was looking at. It was only there briefly before it flew strongly to another oak. I chased over there but lost it. However, no doubt - **purple emperor**. - Gavin Vicary

Plashies Wood - from about 4:00pm. Silver Washed Fritillary - 1 - not previously seen these here, one pristine male Ringlet - 40+ - realistically over a hundred Meadow Brown - 20 Gatekeeper - 2 Large White - 15 Green Veined White 20+ - sets mud puddling Small White - 3 Large Skipper - 5 Small Skipper - 3 Silver Y - 5 Comma - 8 Peacock - 3 Small Tortoiseshell - 10. Ware - Fanshaws - ground next to swimming pool Small Skipper - 18 Essex skipper - 5 Marbled White - 1 Large White - 4 Green Veined White - 3 Large Skipper - 2 Ringlet - 10+ Meadow Brown - 10+ Gatekeeper - 3. Wareside - ( - my garden + orchard) Small Tortoiseshell - 12 Peacock - 5 Comma - 2 Red Admiral - 2 Large White - 3 Small White - 2 Green Veined White - 3 Large Skipper - 2 Small Skipper - 5 Ringlet - lots 10+ Meadow Brown - 5 Gatekeeper - 3 - Phil Macmurdie

Some sightings recorded for today Thursday 16th July 2015 - 1 Essex Skipper at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 08:25 hrs, 2 Red Admiral at Park Farm, Enfield at 09:28 and 09:53 hrs, 1 Essex Skipper at Park Farm, Enfield at 09:54 hrs, 2 Essex Skipper at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 10:15 hrs, 1 Small Skipper at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 10:15 hrs, Cinnabar caterpillars on ragwort in set-aside field near Williams Wood, Trent Park, 1 Comma edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park at 10:59 hrs, 1 Peacock at Shaws Wood, Trent Park at 11:03 hrs, 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Vicarage Farm, Enfield - Robert Callf/Robin White. P.S., Nice to have close up views of several Essex Skippers - which look fresh and newly emerged - Robert Callf

Fir and Pond Woods NR - a great butterfly session. My first gatekeepers this year on the Reserve, 6; meadow browns 15, marbled white 6, ringlet 13, large white 7, small white 1, gvw 1, small skipper 9, large skipper 2, common blue 1 and a purple hairstreak. - David Gompertz

A visit to Balls Wood revealed loads of butterflies, highlights were skippers, 2 White Admirals 4 marbled whites and a painted lady. Others included; ringlets, peacocks, meadow brown, gatekeepers, GV white and large whites - Andy Brown

Yesterday Wed 15th went to Broxbourne woods mid afternoon after rain good butterflies. Saw, many ringlets, gate keepers, 9 silver washed fritillaries , one **purple emperor** in glade, purple hair-streaks, commas, no white admirals but small and Essex skippers in open glade and a common blue and brown argus to my surprise. today at Rickneys purple and white letter hairstreaks, plenty of commas. At Waterford heath south - one silver washed fritillary and many commas - Steve Kiln

Butterflies I have seen today (16 July 2015): 2 gatekeeper, 2 ringlet, 1 small tortoiseshell - Stevenage Road, Ashbrook to Little Wymondley TL2027 David Inward

### Wednesday 15th July 2015

Twenty minute lunchtime stroll at a cloudy Butterfly World and saw a Small Blue, faded Painted Lady, fresh Peacock, Large White, 2 Green Veined White, 10+ Gatekeepers, 5+ Meadow Brown, 2 Small Skippers and 3 Marbled Whites. Then an hour stroll with sunny spells along the Gas Pipeline ride and back over railway bridge at Bricklet Wood Common and saw 3 White Admiral, 6 Silver Washed Fritillary, a Marbled White, a fresh Peacock, a Comma, 2 Holly Blue, 40+ Ringlet, 10+ Meadow Brown, 10+ Gatekeepers, 4+ Small Skippers and lots of (20+) Whites, including 7 Large White, a Small White and 6 Green Veined Whites. - Paul Busby

Went to Bardon Clumps today 13.40-14.40, in a brief sunny spell at 13.48 1 **Purple emperor** seen around the tallest Oaks, then nothing, quite a few Purple hairstreaks as well. Laurence Drummond

Bovingdon Brickworks: Butterflies: 14 Marbled White, 17 Ringlet, 1 Comma, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 2 Red Admiral, 1 Peacock (+ c8 Peacock caterpillars on nettle), 15 Meadow Brown, 6 Small Skipper (none candidates for Essex), 3 Large Skipper, 13 Gatekeeper, 1 Large White, 2 Small White, 3 Speckled Wood. Moths: 1 The Snout (*Hypena proboscidalis*), 4 Nettle-tap (*Anthophila fabriciana*) + 5/6 Spot Burnet sp. (in flight - couldn't tell which) - Lucy Flower

Baldock to Norton Bury road at TL236344; White-letter Hairstreak - many sightings over Elm on the NE side of the road from where it crosses the A1(M) for about 300m's. Hard to judge numbers, best estimate at least 10, at separate positions two groups of 3 spiralling together plus other sightings in different places - Roger Millard

Harrow Cemetery, 22 Gatekeepers, 1 Meadow Brown, 5 Small Skipper, 4 Green-veined White, 3 Holly Blue and 1 Speckled Wood. Shailesh Patel

## **Tuesday 14th July 2015**

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane. After missing my walk for the first time in July yesterday but nevertheless managing to spot a Holly Blue in my own garden I didn't have high hopes for a cloudy afternoon today but was pleasantly surprised by relatively high numbers seen even if an awful lot were Gatekeepers: Gatekeeper: 81 Ringlet: 9 Purple Hairstreak: 1 Small Skipper: 7 Green-Veined White: 6 Small White: 12 Large White: 4 Meadow Brown: 14 Speckled Wood: 2 Peacock: 2 Comma: 1 Holly Blue: 5 Whites increasing. I watched a Red Kite circling slowly over the burnt section of the Marshalling Yards, somewhat adding to the already 'Gothic' feeling here -skeletal trees bearing nothing but cooked black apples being another example. - Pete Gore

I went up to the Hillbrow site today, it is awash with Kidney Vetch, including some good swathes on the area cleared last autumn. I was looking for larvae. Unfortunately it was very wet around midday in Letchworth which hampered my searching but I did find one full grown larvae being attended by an ant. I found two other seed heads with ants on but no more larva. I suspect I may have been a little early to find good numbers of full grown larvae - a project for others who visit in the next couple of weeks. I have a posted picture on the Facebook site. Also despite the poor weather there were many Marbled Whites, Small Whites and large Whites and smaller numbers of Gatekeeper, Ringlet and Meadow Brown, Small and Essex Skippers and one Red Admiral. Andrew Wood

Overcast, humid afternoon after a morning of drizzle. In Mad Bess Woods, Ruislip saw a single Purple Hairstreak fly up from a patch of bramble. However on adjacent field/meadow saw a Large White, couple of Small Skippers, 50+ Meadow Brown, 40+ Ringlet, 30+ Marbled Whites (mostly perched) and 12+ Gatekeepers (margin of field). Afternoon, brief sunny spell in garden brought out a Holly Blue, Green Veined White and a Speckled Wood - Paul Busby

Butterflies and moth I have seen today (14 July 2015): 2 meadow brown, 1 cinnabar moth caterpillar (on common ragwort) - NCN12 cycleway beside Hitchin Road, Stevenage TL2226 - David Inward

Some sightings for Tuesday 14th July 2015 - 5 Gatekeeper at Oakwood Park (W of 10 km line), 1 Small White here also (W of 10 km line), 3 Ringlet (W of 10 km line) and 1 Speckled Wood (E of 10 km line). Also 1 Ringlet and 1 Gatekeeper at Boxer's Lake, Enfield this afternoon. Some sightings for Saturday 11th July 2015 - 1 Red Admiral at Shaws Wood, Trent Park at 14:25 hrs, 1 Peacock edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park at 14:30 hrs, 2 Small Tortoiseshell together nectaring on buddleia by lower lake, Trent Park 14:55 hrs, 1 Comma by lower lake, Trent Park at 14:56 hrs, 2+ Purple Hairstreak at Park Farm, Enfield (TQ2998) at 15:30 hrs, 1 Red Admiral at Park Farm, Enfield at 15:37 hrs, 1 Peacock at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 16:14 hrs, 1 Painted Lady at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 16:30 hrs and 1 Small Tortoiseshell here, 1 Holly Blue near Firing Range at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 16:40 hrs. - Robert Callf

## **Sunday 12th July 2015**

News from 10th Silver-washed Fritillary in Sherrard's Park Wood, Welwyn Garden City this afternoon. Grid ref: TL 23000 13716 Drew Lyness

Butterflies I have seen today (12 July 2015): 4 small white, 1 large white, 1 small tortoiseshell plus many unidentified whites - Walsworth Common, Hitchin TL1930 1 small tortoiseshell - Woolgrove Road, Hitchin TL19793023 - David Inward



First ever Marbled White in the garden today in Bengoe. - Simon Knott

No sunshine at all on today's branch field trip to Bricket Wood Common. 27 people joined the walk and as we made our way along the ride Ringlets started to appear, followed by Meadow Browns and a White Admiral. A large dark butterfly was seen by some in the tree canopy, but we didn't get a good enough view to be sure if it was a Purple Emperor. A nest of sawfly larvae attracted some interest. As we moved in to the clearing butterfly numbers started to increase with good numbers of marbled whites, Ringlets as well as Meadow Brown, Small and Essex Skipper, Small, Large and Greenveined Whites. After most of the party headed back a few of us searched further for Purple Emperor but with no luck. We did add Large Skipper, Peacock and Silver washed Fritillary to the days list. Rain started soon after 1pm and we headed home. We saw over a hundred butterflies in a morning with no sun and the temperature only 16 degrees - Malcolm Hull

Brent Reservoir, Holly Blue, Small Skipper, Ringlet, Marbled White, Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown and Common Blue - Shailesh Patel

### Saturday 11th July 2015

I visited the Ruislip Woods complex on Saturday between 11 and 1.30, coinciding with it becoming overcast for much of the time. However I had several sightings of a **Purple Emperor** high up on the oaks at St Vincent's around 1130 and a female Silver-washed Fritillary looking for egg laying sites at the entrance to Mad Bess Woods off Ducks Hill. Otherwise low numbers of the expected species. Andrew Wood

Visited Bricket Wood Common on Saturday from 3.30 till 6.00. Saw 8 White admiral, two female Silver Washed Fritillary, 3 male silver washed fritillary, 1 red admiral, 1 comma, 1 beautifully fresh peacock, 3 Gatekeepers, 10 marbled whites, 5 large whites, 3 small whites, 6 meadow browns, 12 ringlets, 8 large skippers. The white admirals were now looking a bit tatty. A few pics at the following links:

Peacock; <https://www.flickr.com/photos/64663114@N03/19609054466/in/dateposted-public/>  
White Admiral: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/64663114@N03/19628307282/in/dateposted-public/>

Female Silver Washed Fritillary:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/64663114@N03/19639533021/in/dateposted-public/>  
Miles Attenborough

I spent the whole afternoon at Hampstead Heath watching **Purple Emperors**. An incredible experience made more so because the Heath is my local birding (and butterfly) patch and ironic because on the day they were found on my patch I had gone to Bookham to see them there! Which once again just goes to show what's under our noses! Just for the record, yesterday it was 2 Emperors best observed from the path leading down to a private house from Spaniards Rd. I saw nothing before 1pm just as you say but after that 1 or 2 were visible regularly in superb weather (never had to wait long before an individual glided by) until I left at 6pm. Clashes between two Emperors were a joy to behold as well as clashes with a particularly aggressive Red Admiral, which also highlighted just how much larger was the Emperor even though on occasion HIM did seem to be in retreat! Interestingly, the spats with the Admiral didn't occur until late pm. The clashes between Emperors were dramatic and as well as spirals both males would venture far further when clashing than I ever observed an individual venturing when activity seemed confined to just a few trees. Perching was often on the ends of the trees nearest the small break between trees as I'm sure you witnessed too. Amusingly, at one point a leaf was doing a very good impression of an Emperor as it glided between the trees and the Emperor must have thought so too since it had a go at it! - Frank Nugent

Robin White reported to have seen a male **Purple Emperor** at Williams Wood, Trent Park this morning Saturday 11th July 2015 at about 10:45 hrs, also he saw an Oak Eggar here. - news via Robert Callf

Decided to go to THERFIELD HEATH today to see the Dark green fritillary's, parked at the NR at 09.40 and walked east and onto the golf course where there is a small sheltered coombe, I found 5, 4 males and 1 female, also around 30 Marbled whites, 3 Gatekeepers and a single Small heath - Laurence Drummond

Back to Ruislip Woods this morning. At Copse Wood 5 x white admirals (mostly on hillingdon trail),



2 x red admirals (my first this year), 3 x gatekeeper, 1 x peacock, 1 x small white, 16 x ringlet, 6 x comma, 6 x speckled wood, 11 x meadow brown, 8 x large white, 4 x green veined white. On entering hillingdon trail from Poors Field did meet up with 3 guys and a dog who had seen a purple emperor up in the canopy at this spot around 10.30am so just missed out!. At Poors Field 41 x ringlet, 2 x large skippers, 26 x meadow brown, 3 x marbled white, 1 x comma, 1 x small tortoiseshell, 1 x small white, 1 x large white, 1 x gatekeeper, 1 x white admiral which landed on honeysuckle(see facebook photo). At Northwood Hills, St Vincents area 2 x ringlet, 1 x large skipper, 6 x speckled wood, 4 x meadow brown, 1 x large white, 1 x **purple emperor** appeared at 2.36p.m. which i spotted 4 or 5 times until 2.45( up in oak canopy). 4 x purple hairstreaks seen again lower down. At Bushey station (TQ118953) 1 x small tortoiseshell, 1 x comma and once arrived home was greeted by 1 x ringlet, 1 x meadow brown in Bushey garden. - David Gower

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane A memorable early morning walk for both good and bad reasons. Intent on identifying Purple Hairstreaks I found this pleasantly easy albeit with the aid of binoculars. After two failed attempts to focus on small silvery butterflies flying high in Oaks on my path across the Heath I found a tree with several butterflies and was able to establish that they were indeed the Purple Hairstreaks that had eluded me previously. I counted 5 flying in this tree and my total includes the 2 earlier individuals but not subsequent sightings above trees alongside the Crane and one on the Marshalling Yards. I will try to get a better sense of these in future days. They are, of course, well known over many years on the Heath - their absence hitherto in my records probably says more about me than them. On entering the Marshalling Yards I noticed there'd been what I took to be another grass fire (but bad enough even so to account for the Chicory seen flowering earlier in the week.) As I walked around the undamaged left-hand side of my loop misgivings grew as I noted signs of water that could only have come from the fire-services. I made my way down the right-hand side parallel with the railway and the scale of the disaster became increasingly apparent. Far more than just grass burned and many spots where I've counted butterflies have vanished : Broom, Brambles, Honeysuckle small trees all gone. The origin of the fire appears to be a bike: a new burnt out wreck has appeared since yesterday. The site will recover, left to itself and there may even be surprise reappearances of plants lost over the years in the scrubby areas now destroyed but inevitably butterfly numbers will be affected this year and next. Here are today's sightings: Holly Blue: 1 Meadow Brown: 18 Gatekeeper: 79 Small White: 9 Large White: 2 Purple Hairstreak: 7 Ringlet: 11 Comma: 7 Speckled Wood: 5 Peacock: 3 Small Skipper: 24 Large Skipper: 1 Green-Veined White: 2 and 1 Six-Spot Burnet moth - Pete Gore

St. Albans - I visited two more white letter hairstreak sites in suburban St. Albans this morning. At Temple view, Oyster fields, the elm was plentiful, but I saw just one WLH, in an hour. Vapourer moth out in force at this site. At Batchwood Drive/Green lanes junction the taller elms have died and I saw no WLH, tho I did see red admiral and holly blue. I'm beginning to think WLH are having another poor year round here - Malcolm Hull

### Friday 10th July 2015

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane Another hot sunny walk from late morning to afternoon: Meadow Brown: 37 Small Skipper: 82 Small White: 13 Gatekeeper: 87 Large Skipper: 3 Comma: 9 Ringlet: 18 large white: 8 Holly Blue: 7 Green-Veined White: 2 Tortoiseshell: 1 Peacock: 1 Speckled Wood: 3 Small Heath: 2 Red Admiral: 2 - Pete Gore

I probably did see a **Purple Emperor** at the site today at around 12:25 pm at the southern end of the common between Watery Grove and Cannocks Wood but only for a second before I lost track of it.

Whilst working at Eastcote House Garden in the morning saw a Red Admiral, Comma, 3+ Small White, a Holly Blue and a Small Skipper keep returning to muddy river bank. At lunchtime, visited Cheney Field, Eastcote but saw relatively few butterflies including a Green Veined White, Small White, 2 Ringlet, a Speckled Wood, a Small Skipper, 4 Meadow Brown and 2 Gatekeepers. Then in my Eastcote garden pleased to see my first Meadow Brown, a Small White and 3 Large Whites duelling around Giant Knapweed patch, also a Speckled Wood and 2 Holly Blue. Later at Bishops Wood, Batchworth, Herts saw 2 White Admirals, a Large Skipper, Comma, Small Tortoiseshell, 3 Ringlet, 4 Meadow Brown and 3 Small Skippers. Onto the edge of the golf course and saw a large number of Gatekeepers (40+), 20+ Meadow Brown, 15+ Small/Essex Skipper, 6 Marbled White, 4 Ringlet, a Green Veined White and a Small Tortoiseshell. - Paul Busby

A short visit to Hexton CP this morning was rewarded by 50+ male Chalkhill Blue (only a couple of females were seen), several slightly tired-looking Dark Green Fritillary males and females, and the

usual Meadow Brown, Small Heath, Ringlet, Marbled White, Small Skipper gang, Of interest was a Hummingbird Hawk moth. The track on the opposite side of the road produced a Gatekeeper and Large White. plus numerous Small Tortoiseshell feasting on marjoram and creeping thistle blossoms. - David Hunt

Harrow Cemetery, Holly Blue, Ringlet, Gatekeeper, Small Skipper, Meadow Brown and 1 Small Copper - Shailesh Patel

Verulam Park, St Albans - looking for White letter Hairstreaks this morning and I had to work hard to find any. Eventually found two males clashing above the clump of elm halfway up Bluehouse Hill. Marbled White, Meadow Brown, Ringlet, Small Tortoiseshell and Large Whites all doing well here, but Skipper numbers seem very low. Also saw my first Herts Gatekeeper of the year Bricket Wood Common - Silver Washed Fritillaries are out in force, with 14 individuals recorded plus 7 White Admirals. Gatekeeper just out at this site and also saw my first new brood Peacocks and first butterflies of the year nectaring on buddleia (Large Whites). Purple Hairstreak numbers still seem very low with only 2 recorded and Purple Emperor is still proving elusive, despite watching its master tree clump for 1.5 hours. - Malcolm Hull

At Hawkins wood - near Therfield today (10th July) walking up from Chapel green there were several large whites and speckled woods together with a small skipper. At Hawkins wood there were about 15 speckled woods and by the bridleway there were 6 large whites and a large skipper - Andy Brown HMWT

On our way through Stanmore Country Park we had two sightings of Silver-washed Fritillary. Once going up and then coming back from Wood Farm. Was it the same one, dunno. Yesterday Margaret saw what she thinks was also a fritillary on Wood Farm - John Hollingdale

#### **Thursday 9th July 2015**

Balls Wood: **purple emperor** (around small pond at the west (far) end of the main ride), 3+ white admiral, 3 silver-washed fritillary, 10+ purple hairstreak (in oak along approach track to reserve entrance), 15+ comma, 10+ large white and literally hundreds of ringlets and large skippers along the rides, amongst 15 species seen. - Martin Johnson (Picture on the Facebook page)

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane Sunshine throughout with inevitable consequences:  
Comma: 8 Meadow Brown: 39 Gatekeeper: 93 Small Skipper: 69 Speckled Wood: 2 Ringlet: 18  
Holly Blue: 7 Small White: 9 Red Admiral: 2 Large White: 7 Green-Veined White: 1 Small Heath: 1  
Large Skipper: 2 Painted Lady: 1 An afternoon walk with the Painted Lady appearing at the end in the early evening, unusually nectaring on Perennial Sweet Pea. - Pete Gore

At Northwood hq 1 x gatekeeper (my first this year), 1 x large white, 1 x meadow brown - David Gower

In my Thorley Park back garden this afternoon, two new male holly blues nectaring on geranium sp., a small tortoiseshell on Scabious, 2 gatekeepers reminding me that the grass needs cutting, and singles of large and small white passing through. Yesterday at Tottenham cemetery just a single speckled wood defying the blustery conditions - Len Crouch

Some sightings for Thursday 9th July 2015 - 1 Comma at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 09:31 hrs, 1 Red Admiral at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 09:50 hrs, 1 Red Admiral at Park Farm, Enfield at 11:13 hrs, 1 Comma nectaring on buddleia by lower lake, Trent Park at 11:47 hrs, 1 Red Admiral at Water Garden, Trent Park at 11:58 hrs, 1 Comma edge of Icehouse Wood, Trent Park at 12:08 hrs, 1 Peacock edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park at 12:15 hrs, 2 Purple Hairstreak at Trent Park (1 Icehouse Wood, 1 Williams Wood), 1 Red Admiral at Allotments, Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 13:09 hrs - Robert Call/Robin White.

A return visit to Symondshyde Great Wood produced 14 species: Small White, Large White, Green-veined White, Ringlet (many), Meadow Brown, Speckled Wood, Marbled White (one lost soul in the middle of a wood!), Gatekeeper, Large Skipper, Small Skipper, Comma, Red Admiral, White Admiral (3 sightings but I think only 2 individuals) and Silver-washed Fritillary (about 20 sightings with at least 5 males and 3 females, one of the latter only just emerged and still down amongst the grass stems drying off its wings). Disappointing to see so few White Admiral - maybe a late emergence is due, but it is beginning to look like they had a poor winter/spring. Oh. And one hare, seemingly as lost as the Marbled White! - David Hunt

A great butterfly afternoon at Fir & Pond Woods NR especially on the meadow. The list is :-  
Speckled woods 3, Large white 5, Small white 4, GVW 1, Marbled whites 16, Ringlets at least 28,  
Meadow brown 9, Comma 1, Purple hairstreaks 2. No PEs! - David Gompertz

Latest news Thursday July 9, Harrow Cemetery, Large Skipper, Small Skipper, Ringlet,  
Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown, 3 Holly Blue and 1 Six spot Burnet - Shailesh Patel

This afternoon we went to the St. Vincent's site in Park Wood hoping to see **Purple Emperors**. We arrived at 2.45p.m. and immediately saw one fly through the usual gap. At least 3 individuals were seen and one or two perched up and could be viewed with binoculars. Also seen here was a Purple Hairstreak. On our return home via the Pylon ride we saw a White Admiral at the junction with Grubb ground. Sue and Steve Place

Bright afternoon sunshine at Horsenden Hill, Greenford, Middlesex and saw at least 6 White Letter Hairstreaks across 2 locations. Also saw a Holly Blue, Six Spot Burnet Moth, 9 Commas, only 6 Marbled White, 4 Ringlet, 4 Speckled Wood, 5 Large and at least 7 Small Whites, 25+ Meadow Brown, 20+ Gatekeepers, 5+ Large Skippers and 30+ Small/Essex Skippers. In my Eastcote garden saw a Holly Blue, Comma, Large White and a Speckled wood - Paul Busby

A walk around Balls Wood revealed, loads of ringlets, meadow browns, skippers large whites, red admiral, a few commas and 3 White Admirals flying very fast - Andy Brown HMWT

(05/07/15): I saw large numbers of butterflies: (actual numbers will be much larger) Approx 50 marbled white, approx 50 ringlet, approx 10 large white, approx 10 small skipper, approx 10 small tortoiseshell, approx 10 meadow brown, 1 comma, 1 green-veined white - small triangular meadow east of A1(M) and south of Knights Templar School playing field, probably part of Knights Templar School nature reserve, Baldock TL239331. News from the 5th July, 4 meadow brown, 2 marbled white, 3 large white, 1 riband wave moth *Idaea aversata* - field west of Highfield School playing field, Letchworth TL2031 4 marbled white, 2 ringlet - Rosehill Hospital, Cambridge Road, Letchworth TL20793091 - David Inward

We went to Balls Wood at lunchtime today. We had three sightings of a White Admiral (my husband saw one first). They were seen within ten minutes along a 100 metre-or-so path so I couldn't say whether they were different individuals or the same one. Also saw loads of Ringlets and Meadow Brown, 10+ Skippers, a couple of Small White and Large White, Speckled Wood and Small Tortoiseshells, one Red Admiral and only one Marbled White. - Jill Sawyer

Saw a White Admiral in Scotts Road Ware on 6/7/15 - Neil Campbell

### **Wednesday 8th July 2015**

A few sightings for Grovelands Park, Southgate for Wednesday 8th July 2015 - 2 Comma, 2 Ringlet, 3 Small Skipper and male Gatekeeper. - Robert Callf

**Purple Emperor** seen on Tuesday at 16:45 on a garden path in King's Langley. I'm so thrilled, it's the first one I've seen in real life! I only saw it, because instead of going in the front door, I went round the back, and he was just sitting on the path, with the sun on him. I panicked to get my phone out to take a pic, and just as I got him perfectly framed, the sun went in, and he closed his wings! I say there for a few minutes, and decided to risk just touching the edge of his wings, and he very obligingly opened them for me - Kim Seager Picture on Branch Facebook and Twitter(*it should be noted that Kim works with Amy Paterson who saw a female at her work place last year in Berkhamsted!*)

A few sightings for Tuesday 7th July 2015 - 1 Comma edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park at 18:03 hrs, 1 Comma at Park Farm, Enfield at 18:25 hrs and at least 2 Small Tortoiseshell at Parkside Farm, Enfield and 2 Shaded Broad-bar on Res banking here (TQ 2998). - Robert Callf

Butterflies I have seen today (08 July 2015): 1 marbled white, 2 meadow brown - tumuli at junction London Road/Six Hills Way, Stevenage TL237237 - David Inward

At TL344400 on 7th July - large numbers of Marbled White and Meadow Brown, three Dark Green Fritillary and a single Chalkhill Blue. - Patricia Clegg

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards (part) I had to cut short this morning walk after completing the outer Marshalling Yards loop so butterfly sightings much reduced accordingly. A Peacock on the Heath was the first of the summer brood I've seen: Holly Blue: 1 Speckled Wood: 1 Gatekeeper: 20 Small Skipper: 4 Peacock: 1 Meadow Brown: 8 Ringlet: 9 Green-Veined White: 2 Painted Lady: 1 Small White: 1 Comma: 3 - Pete Gore

Late afternoon/early evening stroll around Copse Wood, Ruislip and adjacent field. In the field saw a Red Admiral, Small White, 2 Commas, 60+ Marbled White, increasing number of Ringlets (70+), Gatekeepers (12+), Small and Essex Skippers (50+) with decreasing number of Meadow Brown (20+) and Large Skippers (5+). By early evening, sun had come out and in Copse Wood saw at least 6 Purple Hairstreaks, 4 Ringlets, 2 Meadow Brown as well as 2 Red Admiral, 2 fresh Commas and a Speckled Wood. - Paul Busby

### **Tuesday 7th July 2015**

Butterflies I have seen today (07 July 2015): 1 meadow brown - Little Wymondley bypass verge (Titmore Green section) TL2126 6 ringlet - Little Wymondley bypass verge (Ashbrook section) TL2027 - David Inward

Some sighting for Tuesday 7 July at Harrow Cemetery, Large Skipper, Ringlet, Holly Blue, 1 Green-veined White, Gatekeeper and 1 Comma. Shailesh Patel

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane. With a strong breeze and much cloud, conditions were far from ideal but the promised rain never appeared and butterflies were quite good in an afternoon walk: Holly Blue: 4 Small Skipper: 29 Meadow Brown: 19 Ringlet: 19 Gatekeeper: 31 Small White: 3 Speckled Wood: 2 Green-Veined White: 5 Comma: 11 Tortoiseshell: 1 Large Skipper: 1 Red Admiral: 1 - Pete Gore

Saw a Red Admiral and Small White by the Victoria Road bridge (TQ 107862) over the Yeading Brook after a morning working party. Then further upstream in Roxbourne Park (TQ 1186) saw a Holly Blue, Comma, Large White, Small Skipper, Ringlet, Meadow Brown, 3 Speckled Wood and at least 8 Small Whites despite a cloudy, drizzly afternoon. - Paul Busby

### **Monday 6th July 2015**

Butterflies I saw today (06/07/15): 1 comma, 2 ringlet - cycleway Stevenage Station to Stevenage Old Town TL2324 - David Inward

Harrow Cemetery, Ringlet, Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper, Large Skipper, 1 Holly Blue and 1 Silver Y moth. - Shailesh Patel

On a visit to Bricket Wood Common this morning I saw the following species;- White Admiral, Silver-Washed Fritillary, Marbled White, Ringlet, Meadow Brown, Comma, Large White, Speckled Wood, Large, Small and Essex Skipper - Terry Wood

Some sightings for Monday 6th July 2015 - 2 Small Tortoiseshell at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 2 Purple Hairstreak settled on oak at Parkside Farm, Enfield near Res (TQ2998) - our first of the year! 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Park Farm, Enfield, 2 Comma at Park Farm, Enfield at 09:29 hrs, 1 Clouded Silver at Park Farm, Enfield, 1 Red Admiral at Park Farm, Enfield at 09:34 hrs, Silver Y at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park, 1 Comma along bridle-path near Shaws Wood, Trent Park, 1 Shaded Broad-bar along Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 1 Painted Lady at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 11:43 hrs - Robert Callf/Robin White.

We went up to Hexton Chalk Pit this morning and saw 2 Chalkhill Blue, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 50+ Marbled White (they were everywhere!) and 20+ Meadow Brown and 3 Speckled Wood by the road entrance. - Jill Sawyer

Female Brimstone in Ware garden this morning (I have an Buckthorn in my garden!) - Liz Goodyear

I'm well behind with reports at the moment, but I promise to catch up even if they are just brief lists... However, today (6th) was notable in that there were three sightings of new broods on my local patch: Holly Blue, Peacock and Brown Argus.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=72143&mode=view>  
<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=72127&mode=view>

Also a very pale Comma.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=72138&mode=view>

Dave Miller

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane A very pleasant morning walk, butterflies noticeably increasing in numbers and variety as the day warmed up: Meadow Brown: 24 Ringlet: 38 Gatekeeper: 45 Green-Veined White: 2 Large Skipper: 2 Marbled White: 1 Speckled Wood: 6 Small Skipper: 52 Comma: 4 Large White: 6 Small White: 3 Brimstone: 1 Red Admiral: 1 Holly Blue: 1. The Red Admiral only showed itself as it tried to get away from a very aggressive male Ringlet which was odd to watch to say the least. The Ringlet eventually gave up and reverted to normal Ringlet behaviour whilst the Red Admiral settled back in the grass where it had evidently been roosting before the unwelcome attention. - Pete Gore

A breezy yet relatively sunny day on Harpenden Common produced a good haul of butterflies with many Marbled White, Meadow Brown, Ringlet and Small Tortoiseshell; 10+ Small Skipper (no Essex as yet); 1 Common Blue male; 1 Comma; 1 Red Admiral; 2 Large White; 2 Small White, several Small Heath; 2 Large Skipper and a female Purple Hairstreak streaking about in the usual locality amongst a bramble bank. Also seen were almost mature Cinnabar moth larvae, although I don't recall seeing any adults this year (6-spot Burnets are also decidedly scarcer than usual) - David Hunt

### **Sunday 5th July 2015**

Woodland assembly area close to A10, north of Ware, at least one **Purple Emperor** was present this afternoon - Liz Goodyear and Laurence Drummond

We took my mother in wheelchair to Butterfly World today all really impressed with designer gardens and meadows. Once sun came out recorded 47 x small tortoiseshell, 14 x ringlet, 5 x marbled white, 5 x large white, 18 x meadow brown, 7 x small skipper, 6 x small white, 1 x large skipper, 2 humming bird hawk moths, 2 x 5 spot narrow bordered burnets. 1 x comma, 1 x small tortoiseshell in Bushey garden late afternoon - David Gower

This morning's field trip attracted 8 hardy souls to a rather damp Balls Wood and Hertford Heath, although it did stop raining fairly early on. Not surprisingly no big woodland species but numerous Ringlets, a few Meadow Browns, several Small Skipper (positive ids aided by their reluctance to fly in the gloom), Large Skipper and a gatekeeper. Also a larval nest of Hawthorn Moth and a female Drinker moth (Moths on Twitter). Also Blue Damselfly, Blue tailed damselfly and Common darter. Common Cow wheat is now prolific on the heath following the last two year's clearances. Andrew Wood

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane. An afternoon walk starting in sun but ending in cloud and a few spots of rain so no butterflies on the return journey. Previously however: Meadow Brown: 16 Small Skipper: 51 Ringlet: 26 Small White: 3 Holly Blue: 3 Comma: 5 gatekeeper: 16 Large White: 3 Speckled Wood: 1 Green-Veined White: 1 Red Admiral: 4 - Pete Gore

Visited an old meadow immediately south of where the Hertfordshire Way footpath meets the Stort Navigation .(TL491189). A 30 minute stroll round the perimeter revealed 4 large skippers, 5 large whites, 5 small whites, 2 green veined whites, 11 small tortoiseshells mostly nectaring on bramble blossom, 4 commas, 72 meadow browns including mating pairs, and 28 ringlets. A few of the ragwort were burdened with cinnabar larva, 19 nearly full grown on one plant and 10 sharing with 3 soldier beetles on another, although only 4 cinnabar moths seen. Len Crouch

I visited Symonshyde this afternoon. Good to see several SWF, White Admirals & the only species to add to David Hunts list was a Small Skipper. - Malcolm Hull

### **Saturday 4th July 2015**

I enjoyed spending an hour in Broxbourne Woods on Saturday afternoon. The temperature was about 28 degrees and sunny but quite blustery. I wonder if this had something to do with the butterflies being unwilling to settle? The highlight though was seeing at least 8 Silver Washed Fritillaries (mainly on the main ride from the West car park across the almost dried up brook at the bottom.) They were hard to count though as they were flying up and down in the usual fashion. Other sightings included 20+ Ringlet and Meadow Brown, about 10 Large Skipper, several Small or Essex Skipper, several Large Whites and singles of Comma, Green Veined White and Speckled Wood. - Roger Newbold



Went to Ruislip Woods on sat afternoon and around St Vincents area were 21 x meadow brown, 19 x ringlet, 1 x small skipper, 1 x speckled wood, 2 x large white, 4 x purple hairstreak(my first this year), 3 of them at purple emperor hot spot. Onto Park Wood= 28 x meadow brown, 17 x ringlet, 3 x large white, 3 x comma, 1 x speckled wood, 4 x small skipper. At copse wood 2 x speckled wood and in Poors Field =10 x meadow brown, 16 x ringlet, 1 x speckled wood, 1 x large skipper, 1 x comma, 1 x small skipper. In Bushey garden 1 x meadow brown, 1 x silver y - David Gower

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane After thunderstorms in the night it was pleasant to have damp ground under my feet and standing water back on the Heath and the Marshalling Yards for the first time in weeks. Most of my walk was in the morning: Chicory flowers open when I arrived at the Marshalling Yards but closed by the time I started the return stretch. Butterflies: Meadow Brown: 30 Small Skipper: 53 Comma: 11 Ringlet: 32 Speckled Wood: 1 Green-Veined White: 2 Red Admiral: 3 Large White: 2 Gatekeeper: 15 Tortoiseshell: 1 Marbled White: 1 Small White: 1 Large Skipper: 2 A large grass fire on Pevensy Open Space, a smaller one on the Marshalling Yards, presumably before the rain last night. - Pete Gore

In 2012 we had a report of a Purple Emperor being seen at Kenwood, adjacent to Hampstead Heath. Today was the first time we had had an opportunity to visit Hampstead Heath in optimum conditions. The highest point is along the Spaniards Road next to the radio mast. We sat down in our chairs at 12:15 and started watching the canopy above the road, each of us looking in different directions. 1000s of cars drove past made worse by road works creating, a continuous traffic jam beside us. Also many joggers, cyclists and walkers!! By 13:45 having only seen dragonflies, a Purple Hairstreak or two, a possible White-letter Hairstreak and Vapourer moths we walked up the road, and onto the heath, watching more oaks slowly making our way back to the highest point but from within the wood. At 14:35 Andrew sat down to watch a gap and almost immediately saw a chase of two **Purple Emperors**. Further sightings were made and then moving towards the track that leads to a private house, we saw more flights of at least two individuals. This is 7.5k from the centre of London and probably one of our most significant finds made harder by the location. There is a video on the Facebook page but you really have to look very hard and replay it several times to see the Emperor which eventually perches on the left side. - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

Went to BALLS WOOD this morning and saw 4 White admirals, but only in the favoured area, not spread around so looks like they are just starting here. BROXBOURNE WOODS west main ride full of Silver washed fritillary's about 14 all told but dashing around all over the place and hard to count, at one time I had six in one vista, also there singles of Small skipper, Comma, Painted lady and Small tortoiseshell. Laurence Drummond

10 Small Tortoiseshell in my Ware garden at 10:30 - Liz Goodyear

I arrived on Six Hills Common at just after 10am and within 5 seconds of viewing the elm tops I saw a White-letter Hairstreak in the 'gap' the spot I saw one on 25 June. I continued looking for another minute or two and 2 or 3 more specimens were flying around. Over the last few years I have never seen one in the afternoon or evening. I walked towards Norton Green and Knebworth Woods. Near Pigeonswick Cottage at around 1pm, a couple of male Silver-washed Fritillaries were patrolling an area of bramble and one of them even chased off a Large White! No sign of the purple species or the White Admiral but the site is renowned for fairly late emergences! However, a number of female summer-brooded Green-veined Whites appeared to be probing plants close to the ground presumably to find where to lay eggs, Garlic Mustard, one of its foodplants, is prominent on both sides of the track (Chadwell Road). Seems a bit early! - Peter Clarke

### Friday 3rd July 2015

Friday 3rd July. Visited my Warren transect in near-perfect weather, 23C, light breeze. Found 100s of Marbled Whites mixed in with Meadow Browns & Ringlets. too many to count accurately. Transect record is Marble White 118, Meadow Brown 73, Small Skipper 37, Ringlet 23, Small Heath 5, Small Tort. 1, Small White 1, Large White 1. Skippers could well include Essex, but all too lively to view closely. It looks as though last autumn's scrub clearance combined with mild, dry winter and recent hot weather has benefitted butterflies and other inverts. I look forward to the next visit - John Moss

After reading DM report of a Purple Emperor in Copse Wood yesterday I decided to pay a visit to the wood this morning. I walked along the Hillingdon Trail to where it bears left(TQ085896). There



to my amazement i spotted a large butterfly land on the ground no more than 12ft away. Yes it was a **Purple Emperor**. It then decided to fly straight at me displaying its purple sheen glowing in the sunshine. Also there was a pristine Comma. I continued up the main N/S ride where fortunately I bumped into Dick Middleton (for the first time) and reported my sighting. He requested that I submit my sighting to you. He himself had been checking for White Admirals, but not seen any up to then. On my return journey I turned east down the main east/west ride. where after approx. 150meters, I could not believe my luck there on the ground was 2 very fresh White Admirals! - Ian Grant

Some sightings from yesterday evenings survey Wareside - disused railway track 1 - small skipper 8 - small tortoiseshell 2 - red admiral 1 - comma 7 - meadow brown 1 - ringlet But no hairstreaks - Phil Macmurdie

Highlights of a roundabout walk from Hatfield to Welwyn Garden City. A Purple Hairstreak on the road alongside Symondshyde Great Wood (see Branch Facebook page), 8 Silver-washed Fritillaries and 1 white Admiral along the Power way leave in the wood and a Gatekeeper in the Picnic area. Another gatekeeper and 2 White -letter Hairstreaks near the Crooked Chimney pub at Cromer Hyde. The hairstreaks flying around a low hedge almost on the road junction. - Andrew Wood

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane. A walk in almost continuous sunshine with a similar pattern of butterflies to Wednesday: Small White: 2 Holly Blue: 2 Meadow Brown: 28 Comma: 8 Ringlet: 38 Small Skipper: 88 Gatekeeper: 11 Red Admiral: 1 Speckled Wood: 4 Large Skipper: 2 Marbled White: 2 Tortoiseshell: 1 Large White: 1 Small Heath: 1 - Pete Gore

Went to Waterford heath south this morning a lot of butterflies. over 100 ringlets, and 65 marbled white a record there, and plenty of meadow browns and skippers, commas and small tortoiseshells starting to show - Steve Kiln

A few sightings for this morning Friday 3rd July 2015 - 2 Large Skipper, 5 female Meadow Brown together nectaring on knapweed at 09:15 hrs at Oakwood Park, N14. Also 1 Ringlet at Boxer's Lake, Enfield at 10:55 hrs. - Robert Callf

This friday lunchtime we had a red admiral, ringlet and meadow brown within a few mins of each other in Kings Langley. It pays to have a wild garden. :) - Elizabeth Debenham

Aldbury Nowers, Meadow Brown, Ringlet, 10+ Marbled White, 1 Small Copper, 1 Common Blue, 1 Brown Argus, 1 Gatekeeper, 1 Speckled Wood, 1 Small Heath and 1 Dark Green Fritillary. - Shailesh Patel

Did the butterfly transect at Thorley Wash N.R. just after mid-day and noted 2 small/essex skippers, 7 large skippers, 5 large whites, 7 small whites, 1 green veined white, 1 fresh small copper. 1 painted lady, 1 red admiral. 16 small tortoiseshells, 1 comma and 40 meadow browns. Proceeded to Pig Lane to check if any ringlets were flying in this part of the Stort Valley and walked northward through the set aside field immediately east of Twyford Bury Farm. After going only a short distance I was pleasantly surprised to see a marbled white, small heath and early gatekeeper all within a dozen yards of each other. I have visited this location (TL494194) every July for several years and have never seen a marbled white here before and also cannot recall seeing any small heath here in the last five years - Len Crouch

Bricket Wood Common, St Albans - Three new species emerged since last weekend - Silver-washed Fritillaries (4 seen, all males), Purple Hairstreak and new brood Brimstones. Numbers of Ringlets and Large Whites both increasing. Spent an hour at lunchtime in in Mutchetts Wood looking for Purple Emperor in its usual treetop haunts. Ideal weather conditions, but no luck today - I expect it to appear any day now - Malcolm Hull

A 4 hour stint in Symondshyde Great Wood produced 3 White Admiral, mostly imbibing from muddy ground or soil on the track rather than nectaring; 18 sightings of male Silver-washed Fritillary, although quite how this translates into individuals is another matter - I saw 2 males together on bramble on one occasion, but otherwise they were very active and sunning themselves in trees about 5-6 metres from the ground; Speckled Wood (many); Meadow Brown; Ringlet; Small White; Large White; Large Skipper; and a solitary Comma. Timber operations have been in progress of late, the usually clear and floriferous area near the gate being mostly under piles of conifer logs awaiting collection - David Hunt

The following seen at ELLENBROOK FIELDS (FORMER HATFIELD AERODROME) today: Comma x 2 Marbled White x 45+ Meadow Brown x 38+ Small Skipper x 20+ Ringlet x 50+ Red Admiral x 4+ Speckled Wood x 2 Large Skipper x 4+ Small Tortoiseshell x 10+ + Cinnabar Moth x 6 Gatekeeper x 5+ - David Wheatcroft

I was lucky enough to be invited to the US Ambassadors Independence Celebrations yesterday (02/07/15) at his residence at Winfield House, Regents Park. The gardens and grounds are impressive but I was taken with the fact that an area at the rear of the lawns is managed for wildlife and incorporates a wildflower meadow and thistle patch. Needless to say that I started looking around for butterflies and saw the following in the general area of TQ275828: Meadow Brown- 7, Large Skipper- 2, Large White- 1, Red Admiral-1, Small Tortoiseshell- 1. Comma-1, Speckled Wood-1, - Bill Stone, Suffolk Butterfly Recorder,

### Thursday 2nd July 2015

Had a pleasant surprise this afternoon in Copse Wood, Ruislip (TQ082901) when a large butterfly coming along the track towards me turned out to be a male **Purple Emperor**, it even had the decency to land almost at my feet. - Dick Middleton

Two Hornet Moths in Black Poplars on path from Sacombe Road to Rickneys Quarry - the first tree I looked at - no more on the other 40 or so! Many Marbled Whites in the field on the landfill between Woodhall Park and Stapleford. (see twitter) A White Admiral and 2 Silver-washed Fritillaries in Bramfield Park Wood, 4 White Admirals in Bramfield Wood and one in Brickground Wood (see Facebook) - Andrew Wood

Harrow Cemetery, Ringlet, Gatekeeper, Marbled White, Large Skipper, Meadow Brown and at Harrow Recreation Ground, 1 Small Tortoiseshell. Shailesh Patel

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane. Another morning walk in an unsuccessful attempt to avoid forecast rain which then didn't fall in the afternoon. Still plenty of butterflies though: Ringlet: 66 Meadow Brown: 34 Small Skipper: 59 Small White: 2 Gatekeeper: 6 Green-Veined White: 1 Painted Lady: 1 Marble White: 2 Small Heath: 1 - Pete Gore

Some sightings for today Thursday 2nd July 2015 - at least 7 Marbled White 'New Fields' Trent Park between 15:09 - 16:20 hrs, 1 male Common Blue Sect 8 'New Fields' Trent Park at 15:24 hrs, many Small/Essex Skipper (no Essex positively identified) including 12 Small settled on wet mud Sect 8, 'New Fields' Trent Park at 15:27 hrs, 1 Large White Sect 6 'New Fields' Trent Park, 10+ Small Heath at 'New Fields' Trent Park, 1 Small Tortoiseshell Sect 5 'New Fields' Trent Park at 15:40 hrs, 1 Large Skipper Sect 5 'New Fields' Trent Park, 1 Gatekeeper Sect 5 'New Fields' Trent Park at 15:44 hrs, 2 Comma together Sect 4 'New Fields' Trent Park, 2 Large Skipper Sect 4 'New Fields' - Robert Callf. P.S., Spent 15 mins watching edge of Church Wood for White-letters, but no success - Robert Callf

### Wednesday 1st July 2015

Start off with some sightings from yesterday 1st July - Widford - cricket ground **5 purple hairstreak**, trooping across the ground at 7:30pm 2 red admiral 2 small tortoiseshell 1 large white 3 small white 2 meadow brown 2 ringlet. And one very large dark butterfly with white flashes, which if I was at Broxbourne woods would have been happy to conclude on as an A. Iris, but given the location and not getting a clear enough view will defer to large dark butterfly with white flashes. Moth trap was bulging this morning - lots in pots awaiting ID. Notables include:- Another cream bordered green pea, leopard moth, small yellow wave, small blood vein (new for garden, or bathroom to be precise), + approx. 80 other species - Phil Macmurdie

For those that attended the field trip at Marshalls Heath on Sunday 28th June - the moth list is available [here](#)

1 July, Harrow Cemetery, Meadow Brown, 3 Ringlet, 1 Marbled White, 1 Male Gatekeeper, 2 Small Skipper and 1 Burnet Companion. Shailesh Patel

Butterfly and moth I saw today (01/07/15): 1 meadow brown butterfly - garden, St Faiths Close, Hitchin TL1986130303, 1 silver-ground carpet moth Xanthorhoe montanata ssp montanata - door porch, St Faiths Close, Hitchin TL1985330307 - David Inward

Early stroll about 9am around Springwater Lake, Colne Valley Regional Park and saw my first Gatekeeper, 2 Red Admirals, 3 Comma, 6 Small and 1 Large White, 3 Large and 3 Small Skippers, 3 Speckled Woods, 5 Ringlet, 10+ Meadow Brown and Six-Spot Burnet Moth. Then mid-morning at Mad Bess Woods saw my first White Admiral along the bridleway path, 1 Large and 1 Small White, 4 Large and 1 Small Skipper, Speckled Wood, 40+ Meadow Brown and 3 Marbled White. In the meadow next to Ducks Hill Road, the majority of the butterflies had migrated to the field edges in really hot weather and included 20+ Marbled White, 60+ Meadow Brown and at least 4 Ringlet. After lunch walking to shops I saw 2 Holly Blue, a Small Tortoiseshell, 2 Large and 1 Small White and a Large Skipper along the Tube line edge of Park Way Common, Ruislip Manor (TQ 1087). - Paul Busby

Went back to Water Lane, Watford this evening at 6.30 and came across 63 x marbled white, 3 x ringlet, 2 x meadow brown, 2 x small white, 6 x essex skipper, 28 x small skipper(a few of these possibly essex). - David Gower

# Sightings January to June 2015

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## June 2015

### Tuesday 30th June 2015

I saw a few brief glimpses of a **Purple Emperor** over a 20 minute period at 2.20pm observing the Oak Canopy at St Vincents, Haste Hill, Northwood Hills. Earlier in the field opposite St Vincents Nursing Home saw 8 Marbled White, 5 Small Skippers, Speckled Wood, Small Tortoiseshell, Small White and at least 40+ Meadow Brown, 2 Ringlet and 5 Six-Spot Burnet Moth. Brief visit to Highgrove Wood and pond and saw a Large White, Red Admiral, Ringlet and 3 Meadow Brown. In the morning had visited Pinn Meadows, Ruislip (TQ0988) to visit the newly created ponds and drainage ditches and saw at least 100+ Meadow Brown, 7 Ringlet, 7 Large Skipper, 4 Small Tortoiseshell, 4 Comma along river vegetation, a Small White, Speckled Wood, 6 spot Burnet moth, Burnet Companion and a Red Admiral. Finally around 8pm, on way to river sampling at River Pinn, Ickenham near railway bridge (TQ0787) on a still sunny and warm evening saw another Red Admiral, Large Skipper and at least 20 Meadow Brown starting to roost in trees - Paul Busby

A few butterflies to report today Tuesday 30th June 2015 - 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Hilly Fields Park, Enfield at 13:09 hrs, 1 Ringlet at Hilly Fields Park, Enfield at 13:10 hrs, 1 Comma at Whitewebbs Wood at 14:41 hrs, 1 Red Admiral at Wildwoods Lake, Enfield at 15:04 hrs, 1 Holly Blue at Hilly Fields Park, Enfield at 15:25 hrs, 4 Small Tortoiseshell at Rectory Farm, Enfield. P.S., Waited until 14:30 hrs, but no sign of Purple Emperor - Robert Callf.

Butterfly I saw today (30/06/15): 1 small tortoiseshell - Walsworth Common TL19673017 - David Inward

Today at Fir & Pond Woods we counted 27 marbled whites, 5 speckled wood, 8 meadow brown, 9 small skipper, 2 large skippers on the meadow. I have tweeted and also put some photos up on the BC facebook page. We have a Magical Meadows walk planned next Wednesday (10-midday) please feel free to publicise this. People can book on via our website - <http://www.hertswildlifetrust.org.uk/events/2015/07/08/magical-meadows?instance=0> - Jenny Sherwen

At least 4 White-letter Hairstreaks at Cheshunt Park near the clubhouse and a Hornet Moth on a Black poplar on the course itself (see Facebook/Twitter). Hundreds of Meadow Browns in the meadows - Andrew Wood

1 X small tortoiseshell, 1 x ringlet, 1 x yellow shell in Bushey garden today. Last night 3 x small dusty wave moths in bathroom. 1 x marbled white at Northwood hq. - David Gower

A rather fresh, late **Orange Tip** yesterday in Bricket Wood / Garston area. - Clive Burrows

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane. Gatekeepers have emerged to add to the overwhelmingly dominant orange and brown colours here: Tortoiseshell: 1 Small White: 2 Comma: 7 Meadow Brown: 30 Ringlet: 25 Small Skipper: 98 Gatekeeper: 4 Large White: 4 Marbled White: 4 Common Blue: 1 Speckled Wood: 4 Small Heath: 1 Large Skipper: 1 - Pete Gore

**Purple Emperor** flew across the Whitewebbs Assembly area at 13:23, also 1 **Purple Hairstreak** seen. We had been watching from 12:30. Forty Hall by bridge, 1 White-letter Hairstreak and more Beautiful Demoiselles seen (in the shade), Banded Demoiselle now present as well - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

### Monday 29th June 2015

Finally nailed my first **White Admiral** for the year this pm in Mad Bess Wood, Ruislip, along the track known as the Hillingdon Trail. A supporting cast of 10+ Meadow Brown; 6 Speckled Wood; 2 each of Large White, Comma and Red Admiral and a Small Skipper. - Dick Middleton

Many Small tortoiseshell, around Sawbridgeworth and High wych today, probably a hundred seen all told, nice to see them back - Laurence Drummond

Butterfly I saw today (29/06/15): 1 small white - cycle way at roundabout Six Hills Way/Lytton Way, Stevenage TL237238 - David Inward

I went for a stroll around Long Meadow, Eastcote and saw my first ever 3 Marbled Whites in this location, as well as 65 + Meadow Brown, 3 Ringlet, 2 Small white, 1 small Tortoiseshell, a Speckled Wood, 2 Red Admirals, 4 Large Skippers, a Small Skipper and 2 Commas. Great to see damselflies and a Broad-bodied Chaser dragonfly buzzing about and perching on the plants in the newly created backwater to the River Pinn - Paul Busby

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane. Very large numbers of butterflies for us in late morning/early afternoon sunshine with Skippers and Browns particularly under counted. Slightly surprised to see a male Brimstone on the return journey across the Heath - seems early or very late but as it was flying vigorously over the trees I couldn't otherwise tell what condition it was in: Ringlet: 40 Meadow Brown: 41 Small White: 6 Comma: 7 (at least) Green-Veined White: 2 Tortoiseshell: 1 Large Skipper: 8 Speckled Wood: 3 Marbled White: 2 Small Skipper: 76 Large White: 2 Red Admiral: 2 Small Heath: 3 Brimstone: 1 and 1 Burnet Companion moth - Pete Gore

**4 Silver-washed Fritillaries** at Broxbourne Wood this afternoon. No sign of any other big woodland species. Ringlet, Meadow Brown and Marbled White abundant in the glebe fields at Little Berkhamsted, also my first Narrow-boarded 5 spot Burnet moths of the year in the fields above Bayford Wood. - Andrew Wood

Hillbrow Letchworth GC - 09.00 to 10.30:- Small Blue - 3 only; Marbled White - 100+; Small Skipper - 15+; Large Skipper - 5+; Meadow Brown - 20+; Ringlet - 20+; Common Blue - 3 well worn; Small Tortoiseshell - 1 - Roger Millard

Here is today's latest news. Harrow Cemetery, 29 June, 2 Large Skipper, 5 Meadow Brown, 1 Brown Argus and 2 Small Skipper. - Shailesh Patel

A few sightings for Saturday 27th June 2015 - 2 Painted Lady at Vicarage Farm, Enfield and 7 Small Tortoiseshell here also. 1 Marbled White at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 14:02 hrs. - Robert Callf. Today Monday 29th June 2015 - 1 Comma along Leeging Beech Gutter near Williams Wood at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 09:38 hrs, **1 male Gatekeeper** at Parkside Farm, Enfield - our first of the year! 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Parkside Farm, Enfield, 2 Small Tortoiseshell together at Park Farm, Enfield at 10:34 hrs, 2 Common Blue, male and female, at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park, 1 Small Heath at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 10:52 hrs, 1 Small Tortoiseshell at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 10:57 hrs, 1 Comma by lower lake, Trent Park at 11:03 hrs, 1 Red Admiral by lower lake, Trent Park at 11:08 hrs, 1 Painted Lady set-aside field near Dew Pond, Trent Park at 11:22 hrs, 1 Essex Skipper identified at Vicarage Farm, Enfield - after checking a number of Small Skippers, 1 Painted Lady at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 12:09 hrs, 2 Small Tortoiseshell at Vicarage Farm, Enfield - Robert Callf/Robin White.

A sunny morning at Hexton CP produced an abundance of Marbled White, a good showing of Ringlet, Meadow Brown, Small Heath and Small Tortoiseshell, 2 pairs and a number of male Dark

Green Fritillary, the males almost continuously searching the grass, presumably for females, 2 rather battered Common Blue, **1 Chalkhill Blue male**, 2 Large Skipper, 1 Dingy Skipper and a Burnet Companion. Orchids were represented by Common Spotted, Twayblade (now mostly well past), Fragrant, Pyramidal and Bee. Good to see the site doing so well - David Hunt

Couple of sighting reports for you Saturday - 27th June Widford - cricket ground, 2 x hummingbird hawk moth 3 x ringlet 2 x large white 5 x meadow brown 7 x small tortoiseshell 1 x painted lady Wareside, 2 x ringlet 1 x meadow brown. + **1 red tipped clearing**, which I have never seen before around here. Also lots of very young cinnabar caterpillars on the ragwort in the orchard. We also have several brimstone pupae which we reared from eggs off the buckthorn bushes that we have, and are now finding another group of young larvae again. - Phil Macmurdie

### Sunday 28th June 2015

King George Reservoir, late afternoon 11 Small Tortoiseshell and 1 Painted Lady - Andrew Middleton

Spent 90 mins at Stanmore Country Park late afternoon. Sightings were 114 x meadow brown, 29 x ringlet, 4 x marbled white, 1 x small skipper, 3 x small tortoiseshell, 36 x burnet companion, 2 x cinnabar, 7 x yellow shell, 2 x narrow bordered 5 spot burnet, 1 x straw dot. - David Gower

Saturday 27 June. Best day yet on my Warren transect, despite cloudy, blustery weather, with 33 Marbled White, 29 Meadow Brown, 12 Ringlet, 9 Small Heath, 3 Small Torts., 1 Common Blue, 1 Peacock, 1 Large Skipper & 1 Cinnabar Moth. Lots of little white moths, grasshoppers, bees & Common Blue Damselles - John Moss

Well the weather was the worst imaginable for a butterfly field trip: cloudy and rainy throughout, but nonetheless 16 people turned up. I had run the moth trap overnight and so had Trevor Chapman in Wheathampstead, so we had 50 species of moths to examine, including Small Elephant Hawk, Burnished Brass, Brown Silver-line, Buff-tip and Blastodacna hellerella. We then walked around the Heath, and to my amazement saw both target species. There were plenty of Marbled White, plus Ringlet, Small Skipper, Small Tortoiseshell and Meadow Brown all flying around in the rain, plus Yellow Shell moth, Bishops Mitre Shieldbug, immature Sloe Bug, Hornet, and some day-flying micro-moths yet to be identified. Amazing what is around under such conditions - John Murray (Pictures on Facebook) the moth list is available [here](#)

Moth I saw on 24/06/15: 1 lesser yellow underwing Noctua comes in stair well St Faiths Close, Hitchin TL1985730307 - David Inward

### Saturday 27th June 2015

Spent the morning at Bricket Wood Common and briefly came across 2 x **white admirals** (the first appearing from brambles and ferns in open area the second high up heading towards open area above wooden bridges/concrete path), 26 x ringlet (also first sightings), 8 x speckled wood, 31 x meadow brown, 62 x marbled white, 4 x small skipper, 11 x large skipper, 8 x small tortoiseshell, 2 x small heath, 1 x small white, 2 x large white, 1 x painted lady, 1 x brimstone(f), 1 x burnet companion, 1 x brown silver-line. At Merryhill Fields in afternoon 272 x meadow brown, 1 x small white, 3 x speckled wood, 40 x marbled white, 1 x comma, 22 x large skipper, 9 x small skipper, 29 x ringlet, 1 x holly blue, 3 x small tortoiseshell, 1 x straw dot, 1x scopia pyraella, 14 x yellow shell, 2 x shaded broad bar, 1 x burnet companion, 2 x narrow bordered 5 spot burnet. - David Gower

I saw **3 white admirals** today (27 June 2015) along the 'Gas Ride', Bricket Wood Common - Chris Newman

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane. A late afternoon/early evening walk for me in very warm humid conditions: lots of butterflies. Highlight for me was a small 'cloud' of at least 10 Small Skippers rising together hectically over a small triangle of grassland which contained a good many more. I've come to the conclusion though that Skipper physical activity is inversely connected to my own mental activity... By way of contrast a single very fresh looking Green-Veined White was the first for a little while: Meadow Brown: 23 Large Skipper: 10 Comma: 1 Large White: 1 Ringlet: 13 Red Admiral: 2 Small Skipper: 60 Speckled Wood: 1 Small White: 2 Small Heath: 1 Tortoiseshell: 4 Green-Veined White: 1

A visit today at Hexton Chalk Pits and saw many Marbled Whites they were every where, good



numbers of Dark Green Fritillary and Ringlet plus 1x of Brimstone, Small Heath, Meadow Brown - Kevin Taylor

This walk was led by John Hollingdale on Saturday 27 June at Stanmore Country Park, TQ 172927 in which I was with group. What we saw: - 10+ Ringlet, 7 Speckled Wood, 2 Large Skipper, 11+ Meadow Brown, 3 Marbled White and 1 Cinnabar - Shailesh Patel

A warm and sunny day produced a pleasing abundance of butterflies on Harpenden Common with 30+ Marbled White (including a number of females), many Meadow Brown, 30+ Ringlet, 20+ Small Heath, 10+ Small Tortoiseshell, 3 rather tatty Common Blue males, 1 Speckled Wood, 2 Large Skipper, 1 Small Skipper, 1 Large White, 1 possible Holly Blue flying fast and high, 1 Brown Argus male battling with a Ringlet and 2 Six-spot Burnet bumbling along. A Marbled White female, with two males in attendance, spiralled up to a height of about 10 metres before diving down very rapidly into the grass, leaving the males still circling one another. - David Hunt

Saw the following at Oakwood Park, N14 yesterday afternoon Friday 26th June 2015 - 3 Large Skipper - 2 males, 1 female near Conservation Pond at TQ 298 951 and 1 female Marbled White nectaring on knapweed and 2 male Small Skippers at TQ 304 952, also several Meadow Browns. - Robert Callf

### Friday 26th June 2015

Paid a brief visit to Horsenden Hill yesterday early evening, 25th June. Highlight was at least 1 White-letter Hairstreak over elms close to the road, viewed from Batts Field. Suspect that in good conditions earlier in the day there will be several in this area or along the footpath/cycle path. Also 8+ Marbled Whites, 3 Large Skippers, 7 Common Blues, 30+ Burnet Companions and about 10 Meadow Browns in the evening sunshine. - Andy Culshaw

An Unusual Common Blue variation missing orange spots on the underside was spotted by Hilary Bailey in Weston between Baldock and Stevenage. They were seen on 15th and 23rd June [See Facebook page for pictures](#). - news via Andrew Wood

Diane Andrews visited Forty Hall meadows on 25th and found only 7 Chimney Sweepers. 140+ Meadow Brown, 2 Large Skipper, 1 Small/Essex Skipper, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 fresh Comma, 1 Speckled Wood, 2 Ringlet, 1 Marbled White. Along path to A10 1 Large Skipper, 1 Essex Skipper plus other possible Essex/Small, 2 Marbled White, 3 Meadow Brown, 4 ringlet. 1 nest of Peacocks seen at Ally Pally on 19th June. Still no Painted Ladies.

In Bushey garden 1 x small magpie, 3 x light brown apple, 2 x apotomis sauciana, 1 x double-striped pug. - David Gower

### Thursday 25th June 2015

On my visit to Maple Cross today I saw: Butterflies: Meadow Brown <https://flic.kr/p/v9dxAs>  
<https://flic.kr/p/ueFMVv>

Brimstone, Large White, Speckled Wood Moths: Snout <https://flic.kr/p/vbQSAC>

Figure of Eighty <https://flic.kr/p/uTXCeS>

Small Magpie <https://flic.kr/p/uTXD5j>

Sharon Monahan

The following seen at ELLENBROOK FIELDS (FORMER HATFIELD AERODROME) today: Comma x 1 Marbled White x 15+ Meadow Brown x 20+ Peacock x 2 Ringlet x 6+ Red Admiral x 5 Speckled Wood x 1 Large Skipper x 6+ + Cinnabar Moth x 1 - David Wheatcroft

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane. Fresh-looking Commas today and increasing numbers of Whites going unidentified albeit on a small scale so far: Red Admiral: 5 Ringlet: 21 Small Heath: 1 Comma: 4 Small Skipper: 35 Marbled White: 6 Meadow Brown: 14 Small White: 2 Common Blue: 1 Large White: 4 Speckled Wood: 5 Large Skipper: 4. Regular sightings of Marbled White are pleasing but I'm slightly unnerved by the fact that I've yet to see 2 together anywhere this year leaving me fearing sometimes that this highly mobile butterfly could, at worst, be a single individual or two. I may be under-recording by omitting suspected repeats or over-recording as described. It's probably too much to hope for the meadows-full I've seen in other counties but still.....At least what is certain is that they're easier to see than in 2014 and persisting over more days. Flowers doing particularly well include Centaury, Musk Mallow, White Bryony and Honeysuckle -a garden species I suspect which is spreading both in the usual way and by starting

entirely new plants. Discovered a group of 10-12 Feet high Hemlock on the the Heath today - hadn't particularly noticed the pong from the flowers before, unmissable here. - Pete Gore

A few sightings for yesterday afternoon and early evening Wednesday 24th June 2015 - 1 Mother Shipton set-aside field near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 2 Painted Lady at Vicarage Farm, Enfield and 4+ Small Tortoiseshell at Vicarage Farm, Enfield - Robert Callf. Today Thursday 25th June 2015 the following sightings were noted: 1 Small Tortoiseshell nectaring on thistle at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 09:56 hrs, 1 Painted Lady at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 1 Burnet Companion at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 2 or 3 Burnet Moths set-aside field near Dew Pond, Trent Park (one was confirmed as Narrow-bordered Five-spot), 1 Painted Lady near Ride Wood, Trent Park at 11:02 hrs, 1 Small Heath at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park, 1 Common Blue at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park, 5 Marbled White at 'New Fields' Trent Park, including four together, 9+ Small Heath at 'New Fields' Trent Park, 1 Small Tortoiseshell Sect 5 'New Fields' Trent Park - Robert Callf/Robin White.

Nomansland Common, Wheathampstead around midday today (25 June): 8 Common Blues, 1 Large Skipper, 5 Small Heath, 16 Meadow Browns, 4 Marbled White, 2 Small Skipper, 2 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Ringlet and 3 Burnet Companion. Knapweed still some way off flowering, so it may be some time before things liven up. Alan Jackson

Hot, humid but mostly cloudy afternoon, I visited field opposite St Vincents, Haste Hill, Northwood and saw 80+ Meadow, 14 Marbled White, 7 Common Blue, 2 Small White, 5 Small Tortoiseshell, 6 Large Skipper, 5 Ringlet, 6 Six-spot Burnet moths. then at Park Wood, a fresh Comma, 2 Small Skipper, 6 Large Skipper, 2 Ringlet, 4 Speckled Wood and another 30+ Meadow Brown - Paul Busby

A warm and sultry afternoon traipsing around Harpenden Common produced at least 15 Small Tortoiseshell avidly nectaring on brambles and seeking mates, 10+ Meadow Brown, 5 Small Heath, 6 Marbled White (all males), 3 Ringlet males, 3 Common Blue males and 1 male Large Skipper, the Ringlet and Large Skipper being my first records for the Common this year - David Hunt

Brent Reservoir, Middlesex, TQ 218 877, 2 Large Skipper, 1 Speckled Wood, 13 Marbled Wood, 5 Meadow Brown and 1 Cinnabar. Shailesh Patel

Found 2 **White-letter Hairstreaks** at Six Hills Common earlier today at around 10:45 am - one flitting over the top of one of the elms and the other quite low down (about 1m above ground) offering me great opportunities for a close-up photo - see one posted on Facebook page. Peter Clarke

I did the transect today, good numbers of marbled white (200+) meadow brown (70+) and ringlet (50+). Had a painted lady and small tortoiseshell in the southern enclosures, quite a few large skippers, small heath, 2 dark green fritillary and a single common blue. Yesterday at Grebe House there were 2 red admirals flying around the buddleia in the wildlife garden. - Paul Thrush

1 comma, 5 small tortoiseshell, 3 speckled wood, 1 red admiral - Standalone Farm NW/path along River Pix, near Letchworth TL2034 - David Inward

### **Wednesday 24th June 2015**

Harrow Cemetery TQ 146 885, 2 Large Skipper, 5 Meadow Brown, 1 Common Blue, 1 Common Footman and 2 Burnet Companion - Shailesh Patel

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane. I started in mid-morning which might be the reason for a slight reduction in numbers overall. A few highlights: Ringlets seem to be increasing although not yet as common as 2014. My first Six-Spot Burnet moth of the year spotted nectaring on Scabious (*Knautia arvensis*) on Pevensy open space. A Cinnabar moth also flying in the same area just to confuse things. Three Small Heaths, flying goldenly together in the sunlight on the South side of the Heath were the first I can remember seeing in this area, certainly this year. Most days now I feel as if I'm just missing butterflies making me want to return the next day to find them: Small White: 2 Tortoiseshell: 2 Small Skipper: 36 Common Blue: 2 Meadow Brown: 16 Red Admiral: 1 Large White: 1 Speckled Wood: 4 Ringlet: 12 Marbled White: 4 Large Skipper: 5 Small Heath: 3 and 1 each 6 Spot Burnet and Cinnabar moths. I followed a very small butterfly for a while in one of the long grass areas of the Heath and was relieved to be able to identify it positively as an unusually small female Common Blue. - Pete Gore

Spent 1 hour at Water Lane, Watford late afternoon and found 1 x speckled wood, 8 x meadow brown, 23 x marbled white(first this year), 1 x common blue, 2 x large skipper, 8 x small tortoiseshell, 2 x small skipper(first), 1 x **essex skipper**(first & sadly killed by white spider), 1 x peacock(still flying despite losing most of hindwings), 3 x nettle-tap, 1 x straw dot, 1 x treble bar, a small tan coloured moth seen with bright red dot in middle of forewing unable to id. At Fishers Field 2 x small tortoiseshell, 1 x peacock. Lastly in bushey garden 1 x treble bar, 1 x clouded border. - David Gower

Went to CHESHUNT PARK this morning, as I parked the car the first signs of the sun breaking through were apparent, at 10.09 2 **White letter hairstreak** clashed up high over the eastern end of the Elms, 3 more sightings of singles to 10.35. No sign of any WLH at the HIGH WYCH elms so I guess they are just starting in the warmer Lee valley. Spent 2 hours searching BALLS WOOD this afternoon, Meadow brown, Speckled wood and Large skipper all well represented, also 1 Red admiral and 1 Painted lady, no sign of any White admiral or Ringlet yet. Laurence Drummond

**White-letter Hairstreak** flying along Turkey Brook, Enfield at Forty Hall by road bridge and close to the A10 this morning - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

Robin White reported three new species for the year today Wednesday 24th June 2015 - Marbled White at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, Narrow-bordered Five-spot Burnet set-aside field near Dew Pond, Trent Park and Shaded Broad-bar here also. - Robert Callf

Tuesday 23rd June: First Ringlet of 2015 in Bengoe near St Leonard's Church. Monday 22nd June: Kings Meads my first ever **Red-tipped Clearwing** (photo on Twitter site) - Simon Knott

### **Tuesday 23rd June 2015**

Some warm late afternoon sun tempted me to go butterfly hunting on my local patch. Between 5:30 and 6:00 pm I saw at least 10 Marbled Whites, 10 Meadow Browns with several Large Skippers and a single Small Skipper at the Shackledell Grassland. Earlier at around 5:15 pm a very fresh Red Admiral was basking some 3 metres up on an oak tree leaf in Whomerley Wood where a few Speckled Woods were also flying around. - Peter Clarke

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane. Despite cloudy conditions especially on the Heath, numbers are increasing and there's clearly been a significant increase of Meadow Browns and Ringlets since Sunday. They and the Skippers are somewhat under-counted: Speckled Wood: 7 Red Admiral: 3 Peacock (very tatty): 1 Ringlet: 11 Meadow Brown: 25 Large Skipper: 4 Small Skipper: 44 Marbled White: 3 Common Blue: 1 Tortoiseshell: 4 When watching one particular Small Skipper I saw it fly up a few inches to a Yarrow flower-head where there were two others established, mating. He fluttered his wings rapidly and continuously alongside them for a little while and when this got no reaction began to try to push between them first on the flower-head itself and then from short aerial attacks. I thought for a moment or two he was going to achieve his aim but then on one of his short flights he was distracted by yet another Skipper and hurried off after her (I presume.) The other two continued their efforts at ensuring the species' survival and I left them to it noting that last year's generation seemed to have done a pretty good job at least on the Marshalling Yards. Moths on the other hand seem to be fairly poor here this year. - Pete Gore

Ruislip Woods, Small Skipper, Marbled Whites, Meadow Browns, Speckled Wood (a lot), and a very fresh Small Tortoiseshell - Graham Elcombe

Butterflies and a moth seen at Harrow Cemetery, Middlesex on Monday 22 June. The grid reference is TQ 146 885. 2 Large Skipper, 1 Brown Argus, 1 Speckled Wood, 1 Meadow Brown, 2 Burnet Companion - Shailesh Patel

Today at Thorley Wash I saw 4 large skippers and 4 small tortoiseshell butterflies - Jenny Sherwen

### **Monday 22nd June 2015**

Butterflies I saw today (22/06/15): 2 meadow brown, 3 speckled wood - Shephalbury Park, Stevenage TL2522 - David Inward

Cloudy, drizzle, occasional sunny spell but still saw 45+ Meadow Brown and a Marbled White in the field by Ducks Hill Road and Mad Bess Woods saw 2 Large skipper, 2 speckled wood and 5 meadow brown - Paul Busby

This pm in Kings Langley; one silver y moth freed from front porch, small tortoiseshell and meadow brown in garden - Elizabeth Debenham

A few sightings to report today Monday 22nd June 2015 - 1 Ringlet Sect 8 'New Fields' Trent Park at 12:18 hrs, 1 male Large Skipper edge of Covert Way LNR at 13:15 hrs, 5 Yellow-barred Longhorn 'dancing together' S edge of Monken Hadley Common at approx. TQ 25574 97064, male Meadow Brown, 1 Ringlet and 2 Speckled Wood at Monken Hadley Common - Robert Callf

The long-awaited Marbled Whites have appeared on Harpenden Common, presumably from an overnight hatch as they were absent yesterday. I saw 5 altogether, plus 6 Small Tortoiseshell, about 20 Meadow Brown (including the first female), 10+ Small Heath and 3 Common Blue. - David Hunt

### **Sunday 21st June 2015**

A celebratory solstice ramble around Harpenden Common, in gusty and semi-overcast conditions, produced about 15 Meadow Brown (still all males), 5 Common Blue, 6 Small Heath, 2 very fresh Small Tortoiseshell, 1 feisty Red Admiral, 1 Speckled Wood, 1 Chimney Sweeper moth and a solitary Burnet Companion. - David Hunt

I have not seen these species reported at these sites (at least this year) Small blue: Heartwood Forest, 21 June. On kidney vetch in area with lots of kidney vetch. Only one seen, but no sun and blustery wind. Brown argus: 14 June, Ellenbrook Fields. Brown argus: 13 June, Heartwood Forest, west side - Martin Webb

Some sightings for today Sunday 21st June 2015 - 1 Painted Lady settled along track at vicarage Farm, Enfield at 10:10 hrs, 1 Red Admiral along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 10:20 hrs, 1 Red Admiral at Parkside Farm, Enfield at 10:35 hrs, 1 Small Tortoiseshell 'summer-brood' on Res banking at Parkside Farm, Enfield at 10:45 hrs, 1 male Large Skipper at Parkside Farm, Enfield at 10:45 hrs, 1 Painted Lady at Park Farm, Enfield at 11:29 hrs, 1 Red Admiral edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park at 11:39 hrs, 1 male Common Blue at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 11:45 hrs, 1 Red Admiral near Ride Wood, Trent Park at 11:54 hrs, 1 male Large Skipper by Lower Lake, Trent Park at 11:57 hrs, 1 Large Skipper near Williams Wood, Trent Park at 12:18 hrs, 1 Treble Brown Spot along hedgerow near Equestrian Centre, Trent Park, 1 female Holly Blue along Merryhills Brook at South Lodge Farm, Enfield at 12:36 hrs, 1 Large Skipper at South Lodge Farm, Enfield, c10 Large Skipper along Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 1 Yellow-barred Longhorn at Vicarage Farm, Enfield near Firing Range - Robert Callf/Robin White.

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane. Cloud and wind a little discouraging but numbers increased as the afternoon warmed: Small Skipper: 20 Speckled Wood: 7 Marbled White: 2 Common Blue: 1 Large Skipper: 6 Meadow Brown: 6 Ringlet: 3 Red Admiral: 3 Painted Lady: 1 Tortoiseshell: 3 and 1 Burnet Companion. The Tortoiseshells look fresh, not the faded tatty ones seen a few weeks ago. - Pete Gore

Did a circular walk from Kimpton to Ayot St Lawrence. Butterflies seen included 5 meadow browns, 6 speckled wood, 2 large skippers, 2 brimstone, a nest of peacock caterpillars on nettles, 1 cinnabar moth. Also briefly visited Tunnel Gardens Bounds Green North London TQ 29278 91499. 1 Large Skipper and 3 speckled wood in late afternoon intermittent sun. Photo of Skipper: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/64663114@N03/18412039423/in/dateposted-public/> Miles Attenborough

Butterflies I saw today (21/06/15): 3 meadow brown, 1 small tortoiseshell, 3 speckled wood - Walsworth Common, Hitchin TL1930 - David Inward

At Waterford heath my first marbled whites, plenty of meadow browns and single small heath but plenty of orchids. In Bencroft woods large skipper and red admiral, plenty of large skippers a few small and many meadow browns in field nearby.. Steve Kiln

### **Saturday 20th June 2015**

Hummingbird Hawk-moth flying around valerian at 0845 this morning in Duncombe Road, Hertford - Andrew Wood

## Friday 19th June 2015

The National BC website reports White-letter Hairstreak seen London on 18th June 2015. Richard Fox has confirmed this was in the London Borough of Havering

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane Not quite as consistently sunny as yesterday but there's no stopping them now. Skippers under-counted significantly. Good to see 4 pristine Red Admirals. Together with the Painted Ladies they make a welcome change from the smaller species: Large Skipper: 13 Speckled Wood: 9 Painted lady: 3 Red Admiral: 4 Small Heath: 3 Green-Veined White: 1 Meadow Brown: 13 Common Blue: 5 Marbled White: 2 Small Skipper: 26 Small White: 1 Large White: 1 Holly Blue: 1 Tortoiseshell: 2 - Pete Gore

Hot and humid day in Ruislip, visited the field by Copse Wood and saw my first Small Skipper of the year, at least 12 Large Skippers, 20+ Meadow Brown, a Common Blue, Speckled Wood, a Painted Lady as well as a Yellow Shell moth and numerous Burnet Companion moths. Then through Copse Wood and saw 10 Speckled Woods and a Meadow Brown and across the road to the field by Mad Bess Wood and saw 90+ Meadow Browns, 4 Large Skippers, a Common Blue, a Red Admiral, my first 2 Ringlets on the edge of field, a Small Copper, a Mother Shipton moth and more Burnet companion moths and dragonflies. Then finally completing circular route on flowering knapweed saw my first 3 Marbled Whites of the year - Paul Busby

Saw one Small Tortoiseshell 'summer-brood' at Vicarage Farm, Enfield Thursday 18th June 2015 at 15:50 hrs. Friday 19th June 2015 - 1 Red Admiral at Allotments, Chase Road, N14 at 17:00 hrs and more interesting - a Hummingbird Hawkmoth feeding from 'pink flowers' in front garden/driveway of 170 Chase Road, N14 between 17:05 - 17:06 hrs (the first that I have seen since one at St. Lawrence, IOW on 29th March 2012) - so well pleased! - Robert Callf

Diane Andrews reports that she saw 16 Chimney Sweepers at King George Fields, north London in gusty conditions, 1 Mother Shipton, 1 Silver Y, 1 Yellow Shell, 1 Straw Dot, 1 Burnet Companion, 4 Common Blue, 39 Meadow Brown, 2 Speckled Wood, 1 Large White, 1 Red Admiral but no Painted Ladies.

## Thursday 18th June 2015

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane. Sunshine throughout and after yesterday's uncertainty re Small Skipper there's no denying it today, the total of 15 for Small and 16 for Large being substantially understated. The first Ringlets too. They and the other non-Skipper species shown being as close to completely counted as I can reasonably get: Speckled Wood: 8 Small Heath: 2 Large Skipper: 16 Meadow Brown: 7 Ringlet: 2 Small Skipper: 15 Common Blue: 3 Small White: 1 Holly Blue: 1 Marbled White: 3 Tortoiseshell: 3 and 3 Cinnabar moths. Other moths mixed in with the Skippers too just to make it even harder to sort them all out - Pete Gore

Half hour lunchtime stroll around Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park and saw a Large Skipper, a Meadow Brown, a Small Tortoiseshell, a Cinnabar moth and at least 8 Burnet Companion moths, 4 Small White, a Speckled Wood and 8 Common Blue butterflies as well as an Emperor Dragonfly patrolling the small pond area - Paul Busby

Bunkers park - Good number of large large skippers. A few Meadow browns. Nomansland common - Marbled white, small heath, Meadow brown and Red admiral all present. Ashley Cox

The following seen today Ellenbrook Fields (Former Hatfield Aerodrome). Meadow Brown x 2 Painted lady x 2 Red Admiral x 3 Small Heath x 4 Small Tortoiseshell x 8+ Speckled Wood x 2 Large Skipper x 5+ - David Wheatcroft

I've been able to do some proper counts around Box Moor Trust land this week. The findings were as follows: 17/06/2015 Westbrook Hay meadows. Dellfield meadow (TL029057) 3 Small Tortoiseshell 4 Meadow Brown 4 Common Blue 4 Yellow Shell 1 Burnet Companion 1 Large Skipper 1 Celypha lacunana. Hay Wood (TL030056) 3 Yellow-barred Longhorn (1 female, 2 male, different locations with grid ref). Bovingdon Reach meadow (TL028052 & surrounding area). 12 Meadow Brown 6 Common Blue 2 Yellow Shell 11 Burnet Companion 1 Garden Grass-veneer. Ramacre Wood (TL024049). 24 Yellow-barred Longhorn (an all male gathering!). 18/06/2015 Bovingdon Brickworks (TL008027 & surrounding area) Speckled Wood 4 Meadow Brown 16 Small Tortoiseshell 1 Yellow-barred Longhorn 2 (males) Common Blue 7 Dingy Skipper 1 Marbled White 1 (first of the year) Painted Lady 1 (first of the year) Large White 1 Yellow Shell 1 Hummingbird Hawk-moth 1. Bovingdon Reach meadow (concentrating on a small area, where 85+ Bee Orchids



are thriving, TL030053) Painted Lady 1 Brown Argus 1 Small Tortoiseshell 3 Common Blue 6 Meadow Brown 6 Burnet Companion 1 Yellow Shell 1 Rush Veneer (*Nomophila noctuella*) 1. Grass verge of A41 7 Small Blues - Lucy Flower

Moths I am seeing now (13:31 18/06/15): 2 mating Eyed Hawk-moth *Smerinthus ocellata* on wall of front door porch looking remarkably like shrivelled dead leaves St Faiths Close, Hitchin TL1985330307 - David Inward

### Wednesday 17th June 2015

My first Marbled White of the year at Danesbury LNR, near Welwyn [field overlooking A1] - Christopher Benton

Thorley Wash I saw 1 small copper, 3 common blues, 2 painted ladies, 2 small whites and 1 red admiral - Jenny Sherwen

I'm not sure if my email sent yesterday (16th)! I saw a few **marbled whites** and meadow browns at Alpine Meadow yesterday plus a common blue and holly blue. At Aldbury on the transect I saw **marbled whites**, meadow browns, small heaths, common blues, brown argus, large white, brimstone and **dark green fritillary** - Paul Thrush

Sightings today Wednesday 17th June 2015 include the following: 3 Painted Lady at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 2 Large Skipper at Vicarage Farm, Enfield - male and female, 1 male Common Blue at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 1 Common Blue set-aside field near Dew Pond, Trent Park at 10:29 hrs, 1 Straw Dot set-aside field near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 2 male Large Skipper at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park, 9 Small Heath at 'New Fields' Trent Park, 1 Chimney Sweeper at 'New Fields' Trent Park, 1 male **Small Skipper** Sect 6 'New Fields' Trent Park at 11:54 hrs - our first of the year! 1 Painted Lady Sect 8 'New Fields' Trent Park at 12:07 hrs and finally after checking many Meadow Browns - **1 Ringlet** set-aside field near Snakes Lane, Trent Park at 12:33 hrs *flying more slowly and 'bouncing on a string'\** - our first of the year! - Robert Callf/Robin White *\*classic behaviour - I say bobbing along!*

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane. A very Hounslow mix of sunshine, cloud, humidity and breeze, and mixed but growing numbers of butterflies. A pleasure to see a **Marbled White** which seemed to decrease here last year. One sighting doesn't make a colony but at least it's early enough to suggest they might have bred on the Marshalling Yards last year - and in the general area there where I saw several together back in 2013. Skippers are noticeably on the increase but I haven't convinced myself of Small Skipper yet: Speckled Wood: 8 Green-Veined White: 1 Large Skipper: 12 Common Blue: 2 Marbled White: 1 Meadow Brown: 4 Tortoiseshell: 1 Small Heath: 1 and 2 Cinnabar moths. Having miscounted earlier we're actually at 20 species for 2015 here now - 4 more of last year's to come - Pete Gore

On Harpenden Common this afternoon I watched a Painted Lady busily laying eggs on stinging nettle, ribwort plantain and buttercup leaves. The ribwort plantain was by far the favourite choice with some 30+ eggs laid, up to five on a single leaf - not sure if this was optimism or desperation! - David Hunt (*an interesting observation*)

Lunchtime stroll around a windy but warm Butterfly World and saw at least 13 Small Blue, 9 Common Blue, 10 Small Tortoiseshell, 5 Meadow Brown, 2 Brown Argus, male Large Skipper, Burnet Companion moth and a Painted Lady. Then at Bricket Wood Common, at least 9 Speckled Wood, 3 Meadow Brown, 3 Large Skipper, male Brimstone, a Red Admiral and a couple of Banded Demioselles - Paul Busby

Butterflies I saw today (17/06/15): 3 common blue, 1 small blue, 1 meadow brown, 1 orange tip - field containing tumulus, west of Letchworth TL2031 - David Inward

We saw 3 painted ladies and lots of cinnabar moths yesterday while working at Thorley Wash - Jenny Sherwen

On Tuesday 16th in the morning, I saw a scruffy Painted Lady and a Hummingbird Hawk moth on valerian in Kings Langley. Later a Speckled Wood appeared. - Elizabeth Debenham

### Tuesday 16th June 2015

Colliers End, Gore lane just west of the A10, 1 Meadow brown and 1 Painted lady - Laurence

Drummond

Hillbrow LGC - 16Jun2015 - 15.00 to 17.00: Small Blue - Still good numbers; Common Blue - 10+ including a very striking blue form fm; Brown Argus - 1; Large Skipper - 2m & 3fm; Meadow Brown - 2; Painted Lady - 1 - Roger Millard

At Northwood hq 2 x meadow brown, 1 x small white. In Bushey garden early evening 2 x small magpie, 1 x yellow shell, 1 x treble brown spot. - David Gower

Today on Little Mead, Kings Meads: 4 Small Copper, 4 Large Skipper, 3 Common Blue, 7+ Meadow Brown, Small Tortoiseshell & Peacock + 3 Cinnabar & Mother Shipton - Simon Knott

Butterflies I saw today (16/06/15): 2 speckled wood - Greenway south of Woolgrove School, Letchworth TL235320, 1 Brimstone - Greenway west of Woolgrove School, Letchworth TL235322 - David Inward

Late afternoon stroll around the small meadow at Bridgwater Fields, Ruislip Gardens and saw tens of moths and butterflies. On the meadow, I managed to identify a Silver Y, Mother Shipton and 2 Burnet Companion moths as well as 5 Meadow Browns, at least 1 Small Heath and male Large Skipper. Around the small copse, I saw 3 Speckled Woods and a very active Red Admiral, which was only my second of the year - Paul Busby

A few Painted Ladies in the Great Hormead/Meesden/Anstey area in North east Hertfordshire. The oddest sighting was 4 male Orange Tips all in the same place near Meesden on a date as late as June 16th - Andrew Wood

The Meadow Brown emergence is proceeding apace at Harpenden Common with 8, all males, seen today. Other butterflies included 5 Common Blue, 4 Small Heath, 1 Red Admiral, 1 Mother Shipton moth and 2 Burnet Companion moths - David Hunt

### **Monday 15th June 2015**

Some sightings for Monday 15th June 2015 - Silver Y edge of Shaws Wood at Vicarage Farm and 2 at Parkside Farm, Enfield, 4 Speckled Wood together at Williams Wood, Trent Park at 12:28 hrs, 4 male Common Blue at Vicarage Farm, Enfield - along margin of field N of Williams Wood and 1 male at Parkside Farm, Enfield, 1 Painted Lady at Park Farm, Enfield at 13:12 hrs, 1 Red Admiral at Park Farm, Enfield at 13:21 hrs, 1 Yellow Shell at Bay Farm, Enfield, 1 Holly Blue at Lavender Hill Cemetery, Enfield at 15:23 hrs, 2 Large Skipper near Brooke Wood, Cuckold's Hill, Enfield at 13:57 hrs - my first of the year at last, 1 Red Admiral at Rectory Farm, Enfield, settled on track at 14:08 hrs, 1 Holly Blue at Hilly Fields Park, Enfield at 15:09 hrs. - Robert Callf

Visited Haste Hill and Park Wood, Ruislip; in the field opposite St Vincents I saw 10 Common Blue, 2 Silver Y moths, 13 Meadow Brown and equal number of Burnet Companion moths, plus a couple of dragonflies. Around the edge of the golf course, I saw 2 Speckled Wood and another Meadow Brown and another Burnet Companion, then a long circular walk through Park Woods and glades and saw another 3 Speckled Wood, a Silver Y, a Meadow Brown and a Common Blue - Paul Busby

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane. A pleasant walk, a mix of sunshine and cloud. The first Meadow Browns of 2015 here were the twentieth species of the year. 4 Painted Ladies is a high for me in these records at least. They were much separated though but included one investigating thistles on Pevensey Open Space: Tortoiseshell: 1 Speckled Wood: 6 Common Blue: 5 Large Skipper: 4 Painted Lady : 4 Meadow Brown: 2 Peacock: 1 and 1 Cinnabar moth - Pete Gore

Visited Cheverell's Green west of Markyate today to see if the Chimney Sweeper colony is still there and it is, I counted 27 in one of the few rural Hertfordshire colonies I'm aware of. Small Copper, Common Blue, Meadow Brown and Red Admiral also present. South west of Bourne End 2 Small Blues hanging on on a single Kidney Vetch and a Painted Lady. Pictures on Facebook - Andrew Wood

I saw another hummingbird hawk moth today and a few mins later a speckled wood, both around 1pm in Kings Langley. Some links and topics which may be of interest to you and others.

<https://flic.kr/p/uDWCJU>

<https://flic.kr/p/upeqQw>

Also you might like to see my thread about verge cutting and damage to butterflies and orchids

habitats.

<https://flic.kr/p/ugqWT3>

<https://flic.kr/p/tAHU5d>

It seems to be a problem throughout so I am pleased that my own parish council are taking my letter seriously. Perhaps other parishes will too. We shall see.

Elizabeth Debenham

This morning: My first Painted Lady for many years along New River, Kings Meads. Also first Large Skippers on Kings Meads and in Bengoe - Simon Knott

On Oughtonhead Common, Hitchin (TL167303) today (June 15th) I saw 2 Painted Lady butterflies, and a Meadow Brown, also male Common Blue, Brimstone, Orange Tip, Speckled Wood and Red Admiral. - Helen Lumley

Before 10am on 15th June in my garden in Kings Langley two fresh butterflies, one painted lady and a small tortoiseshell on valerian - Elizabeth Debenham

### **Sunday 14th June 2015**

My usual route through Harpenden Common, on an overcast yet fairly mild afternoon, flushed out a Meadow Brown (my first for the year), 3 Small Heath and a male Common Blue. Moths included a very fresh Chimney Sweeper, 1 Yellow Shell and 2 Burnet Companion - David Hunt

Cloudy afternoon but warm, visited Mad Bess Woods, Ruislip and the adjacent Ducks Hill Road meadow. In the meadow, I saw 4 male Common Blue, 14 Meadow Brown and similar number of Burnet Companion moths, whilst in the woods saw 2 Speckled Wood - Paul Busby

### **Saturday 13th June 2015**

Visited Trent Park (TQ283965) hoping to see chimney sweepers (only seen in Somerset before in warm but wet conditions) due to Diane and Sharon's sightings previously. Was quite damp but found them eventually. Total sightings were chimney sweepers x 27, yellow shell x 8, meadow brown x 13, common blue x 3, small heath x 7 Pictures to facebook page - David Gower

Cloudy afternoon after a morning of drizzle, saw a single Meadow Brown and several Burnet Companion moths in field South of Copse Wood Ruislip. In wood and meadow saw tens of the Longhorn Moth *Nemophora degeerella* dancing in the sunshine in glades, interesting to watch in the air. The honeysuckle is in bloom, so looking forward to seeing White Admiral again soon. Then onto Pinn Meadows, Ruislip where I saw further 10 male Meadow Browns and more Burnet Companion moths - Paul Busby

### **Friday 12th June 2015**

Bob Husband and myself saw a Painted Lady settled on bramble at Grovelands Park, Southgate Friday 12th June 2015 at 15:16 hrs. - Robert Callf

At least three, possibly more chimney sweeper moths in Brook Farm Open Space buttercup meadow, Totteridge TQ256945 (a meadow which has lots of pignut, now going over). I have lived here 17 years but never knew these moths lived in this field. (I am not saying they are new: I just never noticed them before). One meadow brown male - Peter Conway

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane. Too warm, too humid and far too much cloud! I would have actually appreciated a bit more than the few spots of rain we got but in the circumstances the butterflies etc. weren't too bad at least as far as variety is concerned: Painted Lady: 1 Speckled Wood: 4 Small White: 1 Large Skipper: 3 Common Blue: 1 (Think this one may have been the first female I've seen this year), Small Heath: 1 Peacock: 1 and 3 Cinnabar, 1 Silver Y moths. Also 1 Stag Beetle flying. I walked the Pevensy section of the Crane but without seeing any butterflies which is not unusual at this time. There has been clearance work on the half of the path nearest the Marshalling Yards which was just as well as I'd again forgotten my secateurs. The whole path is reasonably walk-able at present. - Pete Gore

Three Speckled Woods and a few Banded Demoiselles at Crane Park Island Nature Reserve, Whitton, SW Middlesex - Paul Busby

A medium sized Fritillary visited my south Harpenden garden and then sunned itself about 2

metres up in an ivy. From a distance it looked like a rather worn Marsh/Heath/Glanville Fritillary, so I assume it was a local release of captive bred stock, rather than a migrant. Unfortunately, it flew off before I could get a better look or take a photo - David Hunt

#### **Thursday 11th June 2015**

On Thursday 11th I revisited the land off Hillbrow in Letchworth in sunny, warm conditions but still a sharp breeze. The Small Blues were flying but mainly in the more sheltered areas near the railway on both sides of the hedge. In all I saw 27 adults. Also many Common Blues, several Brimstones and a Brown Argus. At Clothall Common I counted 59 Grass Rivulet Moths in the area near the Royston Road where Yellow Rattle grows on the chalk bank. This is an impressive colony of this uncommon moth. - Andrew Wood

A visit to Northaw Great Wood today Thursday 11th June 2015 produced the following sightings - 1 male Meadow Brown, Holly Blue, several Speckled Wood and several Brown silver-line, but no sign of any Speckled Yellow. - Robert Callf

Great excitement this evening as we had 2 hummingbird hawk-moths feeding on the garden valerian. We hadn't seen any in Kings Langley for years. Earlier in the week there was a fresh speckled wood in the greenhouse and today I saw a little blue butterfly in flight which was probably a holly blue. Elizabeth Debenham

As promised, a bit of catching up, so I'll be brief! Stanwell Moor. 3rd June: Common Blues and Brown Argus, plus a late male Orange Tip nectaring on bramble.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=69107&mode=view>

5th June: Over 20 Common Blues, plus Brown Argus, Speckled Woods and Small Heaths in reasonable numbers too. A Small White, an Peacock in surprisingly good condition, and no less than three Red Admirals. Finally, a lovely new Large Skipper.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=69269&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=69275&mode=view>

6th June: Similar to yesterday with even more Common Blues and two Red Admirals that were not those seen the day before.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=69353&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=69359&mode=view>

7th June: As previously reported, A Painted Lady and Meadow Brown, both firsts for the year from this spot. Also two Holly Blues and a few Speckled Woods.

10th June: One White (probably Small), one Holly Blue and one Large Skipper.

11th June: A walk today at the same time as yesterday, but in temperatures much higher. Two Brimstones and a Small White to start with, with once again frequent Common Blues, Brown Argus and Small Heaths (25+, 5+ and 15+ respectively). There were a couple of Meadow Browns bowling along in the wind, plus one Small Tortoiseshell, one Red Admiral and one Large Skipper.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=69756&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=69759&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=69758&mode=view>

Dave Miller

#### **Wednesday 10th June 2015**

This afternoon, I followed up on your information about the Kidney Vetch being planted along the A41. Approx 250 metres (as the crow flies) from where I found the Small Blue on Monday, I came across at least another 12 Small Blues. This was along the verge of the A41 in Hemel Hempstead (*we recommend it as not a particularly safe place to visit*). There was plenty of Kidney Vetch for them as well. I also disturbed a Yellow Shell and Burnet Companion from that area. Back at Dellfield meadow, 2 Grass Rivulets were still being blown around in the wind there. - Lucy Flower

On a warm, cloudy, breezy day whilst working in the Theatre of Insects garden at Butterfly World we saw a Painted Lady, 2 Small Tortoiseshells, Cinnabar moth and a Humming Bird Hawk Moth. Then a 20 minute walk through the meadows at lunchtime and saw a Silver Y moth, Cinnabar moth, Burnet Companion moth, 8+ Common Blue and at least 30 Small Blue including one pair. Then late afternoon visited Ducks Hill Meadow, Ruislip (field between Mad Bess Woods and Ducks Hill Road) and saw a Mother Shipton moth, 20+ Burnet Companion moths, 1 Small Copper, 1 male Common Blue and my first 4 Meadow Browns and 2+ Large Skippers of the year plus a "tropical" butterfly - Paul Busby

Butterfly I saw today (10/06/15): 1 speckled wood - footpath opposite The Birches, Willian Road,

near Hitchin TL20773029 - David Inward

Identified 1 Green-veined White settled at Whitewebbs Wood this afternoon Wednesday 10th June 2015 at 13:24 hrs. Also identified Alabonia geoffrella at Forty Hall CP near Turkey Brook. - Robert Callf

I was up at Aldbury on Monday morning and saw 1 small blue, 3 green hairstreak, quite a few common blue and brown argus, small heath, single male orange tip and speckled wood. Today there were at least 2 small blue in the furthest northern enclosure with common blue and brown argus and a worn dingy skipper. - Paul Thrush

Couple of sightings for you, 9th June Wareside 1 painted lady - migrating up the Ash valley from the south rapidly. 1 **clouded yellow** shortly after. Still seeing fresh Orange Tips (3). Also had a couple of silver Y moths in the moth trap as well, which given that everything else has been so sparse were welcome visitors.. Suggests we are beginning to see some migrants coming in. - Phil Macmurdie

### **Tuesday 9th June 2015**

Here are some butterfly and moth sightings:

9th June 2015 - Diane Andrews very kindly showed me around Trent Park today. Even though it was not very warm or sunny we saw approx. 12 x Chimney Sweepers,

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/81377128@N03/18642364762/in/photostream/>

1 x Mother Shipton, <https://flic.kr/p/upoa9h>

5 x Yellow Shell and 1 Cinnabar. Butterflies included: 6 x Meadow Brown, 7 x Small Heath and 3 x Common Blue.

Other recent sightings are: 1st June, Bricket Wood: Small Fanfoot

<https://flic.kr/p/tXjHMF>

3rd June, Aldbury Nowers: Brimstone, Speckled Wood and a few Common Blues. Lots of Burnet Companions, a Silver Y, Scoparia Pyralella, Common Carpet Moth and a Small Elephant Hawkmoth:

<https://flic.kr/p/u3fMjQ>

4th June, Garston garden: 1 x White Ermine

<https://flic.kr/p/upoa9h>

Sharon Monahan

I saw two common blues and a painted lady whilst working at Thorley Wash today - Jenny Sherwen

About 12 of us assembled on the land behind Hillbrow in Letchworth on a cool, increasingly dull and windy morning. Not to be defeated we set off and at the bottom of the first field near the railway we found 6 roosting Small Blues as well as a Small Copper. A brief spell of sun saw one flying by the Greenway but best of all was a small patch of Long grass at the opposite end of the first field down by the hedge where more and more were found roosting until we reckon there were 17 in a triangle of land less than 3 metres along each side. We also found a couple of Small Whites and 5 Common Blues. Moths were represented by 6 Yellow Shells, 4 Burnet Companions, Straw Dot, Celypha lacunana, Chrysoteuchia culmella, Sitochroa verticalis and a plume moth to be identified. If the weather had been kinder all these counts would have been higher, though photography of the Small Blues might have been harder! - Andrew Wood

Saw a Painted Lady settled on track at Vicarage Farm, Enfield this afternoon Tuesday 9th June 2015 at 14:40 hrs. Some sightings for Sunday 7th June 2015 - at least 3 Common Blue at Oakwood Park, N14 - 2 males, 1 female, 5+ Burnet Companion here also. 1 Speckled Wood at Houndsden Gutter, N21 at 12:45 hrs and 1 Speckled Wood at Grovelands Park, Southgate at 12:54 hrs. Some sightings for Monday 8th June 2015 - 1 Painted Lady flew W at Merrivale, N14 at 10:29 hrs, 1 Red Admiral along Salmoms Brook at Enfield Road, EN2 at 13:49 hrs, 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Holly Hill Farm, Enfield at 15:36 hrs, 1 male Meadow Brown at Holly Hill Farm, Enfield at 15:44 hrs - my first of the year! - Robert Callf

### **Monday 8th June 2015**

David Kirk (Box Moor Trust, Chairman) and I were out searching for Grass Rivulet and Small Yellow Underwing moths at Dellfield meadow, Westbrook Hay, Hemel Hempstead this morning. In doing so, we came across a single **Small Blue** butterfly (at grid reference TL02930592). It's the first either of us has ever seen at the meadow or indeed in Hemel Hempstead. There's no Kidney



Vetch that I know of in the area but there are other vetches which I guess it will be feeding on. Probably just a fly through but wonderful to see. - Lucy Flower

Today on Little Mead, Kings Meads: 6 Small Heath + 2 Mother Shipton & Cinnabar - Simon Knott

Just to let you know that I have witnessed a Hummingbird Hawk Moth in my garden in New Barnet - Jean Colborne

A Sunday sunny afternoon ramble on Harpenden Common produced about 20 Common Blue, 3 Small Heath, 2 Small White, 1 Brown Argus, 1 Red Admiral, a couple of Burnet Companion and what I think was a rather spritely Speckled Yellow - David Hunt

### **Sunday 7th June 2015**

Butterfly World, St Albans - 12 members and guests attended today's branch field trip and recorded a total of around 25 - 30 Small Blues, spread widely across the site. Also 3 Painted Ladies, 15 Common Blues, Brown Argus, Burnett Companion, Large White, Small White, Brimstone, Small Tortoiseshell and a Broad bodied Chaser. We visited the new British Butterfly Garden sponsored by the branch and were pleased to find two of the Small Blues nearby - Malcolm Hull

A record number of Small Blues spotted at Butterfly World today on my Transect, 45 in total, they are now spreading out on the site and can be seen in several areas. Also recorded 4 Brimstone, 2 Large White, 1 Small White, 1 Green Veined White, 1 Orange Tip, 47 Common Blue, 8 very lively Painted Lady and 1 Peacock. - Mandy Floyd

Hillbrow Letworth GC - 07Jun2015, a half hour visit this pm - Small Blues more widespread with an increase in numbers over my last visit, at least 20 counted - Roger Millard.

**Hummingbird Hawk Moth** on garden valerian today (Sunday 7th June) - Trevor Chapman

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane. After yesterday's in my garden today's Painted Lady on the Marshalling Yards was almost expected. I also saw my first Large Skipper of the year there too: Speckled Wood: 7 Common Blue: 8 Painted Lady: 1 Large White: 2 Holly Blue: 1 Large Skipper: 1 Brimstone: 1 Comma: 1 Tortoiseshell: 1 and 4 Burnet Companion Moths. Most of the summer flowers are now blooming including Viper's Bugloss, Sulphur Cinquefoil, Evening Primrose and Broomrape but noticeably all less conspicuous than last year. Conditions generally very dry with regular small fires not helping.

I'm a bit behind with sightings, but I'll try and catch up shortly! However, I wanted to post the first Meadow Brown of the year today (7th) from my patch in Stanwell Moor (plus a couple of Painted Ladies).

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=69467&mode=view>

Dave Miller

At Merryhill Fields, Bushey recorded 9 x speckled wood, 1 x peacock, 4 x meadow brown (first of year), 1 x large skipper(first), 4 brimstone(all female), 2 x burnet companion, 1 x straw dot, 1 x scoparia pyraella, 1 x crambus lathoniellus. In Bushey garden this evening 4 x light brown apple moths. - David Gower

Very fresh, very lively (though stayed to be photographed on Euonymus leaf) Painted Lady in my Harpenden garden at 5.15pm this afternoon (7 June). - Alan Jackson

Spotted a Painted Lady in St Albans yesterday, 6th June, 2015. 12.30 - Jeannie Mehta

### **Saturday 6th June 2015**

News from Diane Andrews. Diane has been visiting Trent Park for the last two weeks but only today did she see **Chimney Sweeper** moths in the breeze, 21 in total. Also 4 Burnet Companion, 1 Silver Y, 3 Meadow Brown, 17 Small Heath and 10 Common Blue.

A few butterflies to report this morning Saturday 6th June 2015 - 1 Painted Lady nectaring on bramble edge of Covert Way LNR at Monken Hadley Common at 08:25 hrs. 1 Small Heath near Church Wood, Trent Park at 10:37 hrs and 1 Red Admiral edge of Trent Park Cemetery at 10:40 hrs. - Robert Callif

Ruislip Woods Two or three Painted Ladies this-afternoon nectaring on bramble flowers, all in pretty good condition; but otherwise very few butterflies - Graham Elcombe

A Large Skipper and **2 Chimney Sweeper** moths at Totteridge Woods, 1 Painted lady at Oak Hill Park, East Barnet - Andrew Wood

At Water Lane, Watford this morning without much sun noted 1 x holly blue, 5 x common blue (2 females), 1 x brown argus, 2 x nemophora degeerella, 1 x silver y, 2 x burnet companion. At Beechcroft Road, Bushey was surprised to see 1 x painted lady in a front garden - David Gower

Red Admiral in my Thorley Park garden at 15 hrs today and another in Redricks Lane, Sawbridgeworth at 13.30 hrs yesterday (TL 466133)- Len Crouch

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane A walk in fairly breezy conditions with frequent cloud, Speckled Woods dominated but the highlight of the day came some two hours after the walk back in my own garden with my first Painted Lady of the year. Here are the full sightings: Speckled Wood: 17 Orange-Tip: 2 Large White: 1 Holly Blue: 2 Common Blue: 3 Peacock: 1 Small White: 1 Painted Lady: 1 and 1 Cinnabar Moth. - Pete Gore

Very lively Painted Lady feeding hungrily on Sweet Rocket in my garden in St Albans this afternoon. Earlier at Bricket Wood Common, Chris Newman and I saw 2 Red Admirals, Large Skipper, Holly Blue, Common Blue, Comma, Peacock, Large White, 4 Speckled Woods, 7 Brimstones, Small Emerald moth and hundreds of Longhorn moths - Malcolm Hull

### Friday 5th June 2015

News from Diane Andrews after a visit to Aldbury Nowers on Thursday 4th June. 2 Dingy Skipper, 12 Brimstone, 4 Green-veined White, 5 Orange Tip, **1 Meadow Brown**, 1 Green Hairstreak and 2 Small Blue in the northern section. Also 2 Brown Argus, 1 Common Blue, 1 Peacock and 3 Small Heath. On the 26th May in her north London garden, a Painted Lady.

Two beautifully fresh and very lively Painted Ladies in my St Albans garden nectaring on Pyracantha at 6 pm today, hopefully the first of many more to come. - Mandy Floyd

My first **Meadow Brown** seen on Waterford Heath this afternoon. [Photo on the Facebook Page](#)  
Andrew Wood

Saw one Speckled Wood in Merryhills Drive, EN2 this morning Friday 5th June 2015 at 10:58 hrs. - Robert Calf

Have only seen Whites and a couple of late Holly Blues this week until today when my early Small Copper record going back to 1996 was beaten by six weeks. The fresh looking individual was nectaring on Red Valerian in the front garden but flew away before it could be photographed. Two Cinnabar moths, rarities in the garden like the Small Copper have also been seen, perhaps as a result of planting some Ragwort in the back garden. - Malcolm Newland

### Thursday 4th June 2015

Noted a couple of sightings today Thursday 4th June 2015 - 1 Silver-ground Carpet along Salmons Brook at Bay Farm, Enfield and 1 male Common Blue E edge of Williams Wood at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 09:43 hrs. A few more sightings for Thursday 4th June 2015 - 9 Small Heath at Trent Park between 11:51 - 12:38 hrs, 1 Peacock Sect 1, Trent Park at 11:53 hrs, 7 Common Blue including at least one female at Trent Park, 1 Small Copper at 'New Fields' Trent Park at 12:05 hrs, 1 Clouded Silver Sect 8 'New Fields' Trent Park along blackthorn hedgerow - my first of the year! - Robert Calf

Thursday 04Jun2015 - 10.15 to 12.00 - Hillbrow Letchworth GC. **Small Blue - 20+ (on main site, includes 2 mating pairs) & 2 (on bridleway)**, Common Blue - 10+ (includes 1 fm), Brimstone 2fm & 4m, Orange Tip 3m, Burnet Companion 20+, Small Yellow Underwing - 1 - Roger Millard

Butterflies I saw today (04/06/15): 1 orange tip female, 2 holly blue - Fishers Green lane, Stevenage TL2226 - David Inward

At Northwood HQ today 1 x holly blue, 1 x large white - David Gower

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane A hot sunny afternoon with a reasonable numbers of butterflies given the time of year: Holly Blue: 2 Small Heath: 2 Tortoiseshell: 1 Speckled Wood: 8 Peacock: 4 Red Admiral: 1 Common Blue: 6 Small White: 1 Green-Veined White: 1 and 1 Burnet Companion moth. - Pete Gore

Therfield Heath east side: 12+ Small Heath, 8 Common Blue (6 males), 3 Brown Argus, 2 Brimstone. Therfield Heath west side: 2 Small Heath, 1 (male) Common Blue and 3 Brown Argus including one (on Church Hill) with white spots on the upper fore wings (*the pictures will be available to view on our Facebook page asap*). Also Burnet Companion, Latticed Heath, Mother Shipton and 2 unidentified Burnet moths. - Martin Johnson

I spent almost 5 hours today visiting location around the Baldock Bypass to see if there were, in well nigh, perfect conditions any Small Blues on the vast amounts of kidney vetch in the area. Checked thick stands of plants, isolated ones in bare soil, sheltered plants, exposed plants but found none. Plenty of Common Blues, a few Brimstones, 2 Large Skippers, Peacocks and Orange Tips, all the whites and one Small Heath. There were good numbers of the rare in Herts, Grass Rivulet flying in the afternoon sunshine at the junction of the A505 and Baldock road east of Baldock.

[Pictures on the Facebook page](#)

Andrew Wood

### **Wednesday 3rd June 2015**

Some sightings for Wednesday 3rd June 2015 - 1 male Common Blue at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 10:16 hrs, 1 Peacock at Parkside Farm, Enfield at 10:32 hrs, 2 Burnet Companion at Parkside Farm, Enfield on Res banking, 2 male Common Blue at Parkside Farm, Enfield on Res banking, 1 Mother Shipton at Cuckold's Hill, Enfield, 1 Peacock at Rectory Farm, Enfield, 1 Comma at Whitewebbs Wood at 12:27 hrs. - Robert Callf

Working with the London Wildlife Trust at their flower-rich Yeading Brook Meadow site and saw a Small Copper, Brown Argus, 2 male Common Blues, Peacock, Speckled Wood and a few unidentified Whites along-with 20+ Burnet Companion, a Mother Shipton and Yellow Shell moths - Paul Busby

### **Tuesday 2nd June 2015**

Tuesday 3rd June, following a morning to celebrate the opening of the British Butterfly Garden at Butterfly World on a very windy and cloudy day, I visited the field opposite St Vincents Care Home, Haste Hill, Northwood Hills, lots of meadow flowers and insects including 2 large dragonflies, damselfly, hover flies and beetles (hope they don't get it short again this year). In a brief sunny spell I saw a Small White resting on bramble, 7 male Common Blue and a Burnet Companion Moth. Then by Eastcote House Gardens, a fresh Speckled Wood landing on piles of sawdust from a cut tree and finally over the River Pinn to see a Small Copper and another Burnet Companion Moth. Back home, surprised still to see 2 Holly Blues and Speckled Wood flying around old Privet hedge - Paul Busby

### **Monday 1st June 2015**

Some sightings in Grovelands Park, Southgate today Monday 1st June 2015 - 3 Common Blue (2 males 'meadow enclosure' at 11:43 hrs, 1 female near tennis courts 12:57 hrs), 1 Holly Blue near Rangers' Hut 13:14 hrs and 1 Speckled Wood near Rangers' Hut 13:14 hrs. - Robert Callf

Harpenden Common, on a rather windy day, disgorged 5 male Common Blue clinging on to stems and flower heads for dear life, and 2 Small Heath. - David Hunt

## **May 2015**

### **Sunday 31st May 2015**

Some sightings for you from Oliver and I on 28th May. Hexton Chalk Pit. Fab morning with a picnic and what a stunning site - Dingy Skipper present in really strong numbers (20+) Common Blue - 8 Green Veined White - 2 Large White 2 Brimstone - 16 Speckled Wood 1 Small heath 2 Green Hairstreak - 2 (found by Ollie aged 5) Orange Tip - 7 Peacock - 2 Some day flying moths - latticed heath (several), burnet companion, cinnabar (1), mother shipton and Pyrausta nigrata (10+) Not

much from Wareside - Phil Macmurdie

Three Speckled Wood clashing around old Apple Tree during brief sunny spell after morning of rain in my Eastcote garden - Paul Busby

St Albans - fresh looking Cinnabar moth took off from my asparagus bed this afternoon - Malcolm Hull

### **Saturday 30th May 2015**

Saturday 30th May. Visited my Warren transect, temp 16C, brisk breeze with sunny spells. Recorded 3 very tatty Peacock, 2 fresh Common Blue and 8 Small Heath including 5 in a brisk, brief "dogfight". Not much else visible other than a few small moths, flies & craneflies, but an excited flock of c50 Starling, 9 Jackdaws and 2 Green Woodpeckers feeding in various areas plus many fresh Molehills suggests there is plenty of food for predators. Sadly, removal of most of the scrub means the usual spring warblers etc are missing. However scrub removal has exposed a large patch of Petty Whin, now rare & there should be a fine display of Heather and Dwarf Furze in August for those interested in unusual local flora. I hope there will be plenty of butterflies too - John Moss

Some sightings for today Saturday 30th May 2015 - 1 Speckled Wood at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 08:53 hrs, 1 Speckled Wood at Park Farm, Enfield; 1 Brown Silver-lines at Moat Wood, Trent Park - our first of the year! 2 male Common Blue at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 11:30 hrs, 1 Blood-vein at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park and 2 Cinnabar here also. - Robert Callf

Butterflies I saw today (30/05/15): 2 speckled wood - Walsworth Common, Hitchin TL19683009 1 orange tip - road verge by allotments, Luton Road, Great Offley TL14032688 - David Inward

Just a Comma and few unidentified Whites at Cheyne Field, Eastcote and a Burnet Companion moth at Long Meadow, Eastcote - Paul Busby

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane. A pleasantly sunny afternoon walk with plenty of variety but still relatively low numbers: Orange-Tip: 2 Common Blue: 3 Holly Blue: 3 Brown Argus: 2 Speckled Wood: 9 Green-Veined White: 2 Red Admiral: 1 Large White: 1 Small White: 1 Tortoiseshell: 1 Peacock: 1 My first two Dragonflies of the year were seen on Thursday, too briefly to identify but looked like two different species. The usual colourfully varied Damsel Flies have been common for a few weeks but in much smaller numbers than in 2014. Moths scarcer too but 2 Burnet Companions seen on the Marshalling Yards today - Pete Gore

### **Thursday 28th May 2015**

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane. Another breezy day with a lot of cloud but slight signs of increasing numbers of Speckled Wood and Common Blue: Speckled Wood: 9 Green Hairstreak: 1 Holly Blue: 1 Peacock: 1 Common Blue: 4 Orange-Tip: 1. From Muntjac to Ring-Necked Parakeets Hounslow can provide a lot of alien background noise. Today it was the turn of the Marsh Frog, a croak somewhat like a sadly constipated duck, I suspect, but louder. As usual this one proved impossible to see somewhere in the River. - Pete Gore

Butterflies I saw today (28/05/15): 2 green-veined white - top of railway cutting by Arch Road bridge, Little Wymondley TL21062798 - David Inward

1 x small magpie moth in Bushey garden (shed). David Gower

Some sightings for Grovelands Park, Southgate today Thursday 28th May 2015 - 1 Red Admiral at 12:33 hrs, 2 Holly Blue at 12:34 hrs and 2 Speckled Wood - Robert Callf

### **Wednesday 27th May 2015**

27th May: Stanwell Moor. Early afternoon today round the usual route. Most notable was the continuing rise in numbers of Common Blues, and there were more females, some of which were very Blue. I also found Brown Argus in three separate locations today. Also seen: two or three Brimstones; Large Whites, Green-veined Whites and a couple of male Orange Tips, all along the same "corridor" between bits of woodland; two or three Speckled Woods; half a dozen or so Small Heaths; four Peacocks; four Holly Blues. Also there was the brief appearance of a brand new Small Tortoiseshell, the first of the next generation.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=68510&mode=view>  
<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=68500&mode=view>  
<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=68506&mode=view>  
Dave Miller

Butterflies I saw today (27/05/15): 2 orange tip, 1 peacock - land behind Bucks Head PH, Little Wymondley TL2127. 1 holly blue - top of cutting of Little Wymondley by-pass TL2148026838 - David Inward

Some sightings for today Wednesday 27th May 2015 - 1 male Brimstone along Leeging Beech Gutter N of Williams Wood, Trent Park at 10:42 hrs, 1 Peacock at Park Farm, Enfield at 11:22 hrs, 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Park Farm, Enfield at 11:25 hrs, 1 Silver Y at Park Farm, Enfield, 1 Small Copper at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 12:19 hrs, 1 Green-veined White edge of Icehouse Wood, Trent Park at 12:50 hrs, 1 Burnet Companion set-aside field near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 1 Red Admiral along bridle-path near Merryhills Brook at Trent Park at 13:09 hrs, 1 Mother Shipton at Vicarage Farm, Enfield - Robert Callf/Robin White.

1 male Brimstone at Carr's Basin, Town Park, Enfield at 14:05 hrs - Robert Callf.

### Tuesday 26th May 2015

I saw a Holly Blue whilst walking by Gordon Square Garden. Nothing exciting I know but perhaps an area with few butterfly sightings? Shaun Dowman

Despite a sunny afternoon, very little activity on Harpenden Common/St John's Wood: 1 virtually scaleless Peacock, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 2 Small Heath, 1 very fresh Burnet Companion - David Hunt

14.45 to 15.30; Hillbrow Greenway, Letchworth GC - My 5th visit to this site since mid May and at last my first **Small Blues 3**; Common Blue 2; Brimstone 2fm & 1m; Orange Tip 3m; Burnet Companion 3; holly Blue 1; - Roger Millard.

Stanwell Moor, another quick trip out locally towards the end of the afternoon today. I found a couple of Common Blues really close to home on a small area of flowery meadow (I suspect it will be "tidied" by mowing shortly).

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=68456&mode=view>

There was also a Brown Argus, which I have never seen here before, the nearest colony I'm aware of being half a mile off.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=68452&mode=view>

Elsewhere along the walk there were Speckled Woods, Holly Blues, Peacocks, Small Heaths, Large Whites and a single Comma. However, while investigating a sheltered spot for roosting Blues, I found a very active **Large Skipper**, my first of this year.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=68459&mode=view>

Dave Miller

First Common Blue, Mother Shipton and Burnet Companion of the year in field south of Watery Grove today. Both moths were on silverweed flowers. Small Copper also on these flowers at the same spot last week (20th). 2 Brown Argus on Mill Hill near Chapelfoot just east of the B656. No Speckled Woods at all yet at Norton Green. - Peter Clarke

1 x small white and 1 x brown argus at Northwood HQ today - David Gower

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane. Too much cloud for perfect butterfly conditions and the Marshalling Yards, which had acquired a burnt out 'white' van, also had a large amount of smoke from an untended grass fire I dealt with. The following butterflies still flew however: Speckled Wood: 7 Holly Blue: 2 Orange-Tip: 4 Peacock: 2 Common Blue: 2 Comma: 1 Large White: 2 Tortoiseshell: 1 - Pete Gore

Croxley Common Moor Seen this afternoon: Small Copper (2), Speckled Wood (2), Cinnabar Moth (2); plus Brimstones, Small Tortoiseshells and Peacock - Graham Elcombe.

Butterfly I saw today (26/05/15): 1 Brimstone - Roundabout by Three Moorhens PH, Hitchin TL18642832 - David Inward



I've been getting behind a bit! Catching up now...

21st May: Bedfont Lakes CP. A longer visit today and better weather, and there were far more butterflies. Three or four each of Brimstones and Peacocks, a Small Heath, a Holly Blue, a female Orange Tip and half a dozen each of Brown Argus and Common Blue.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=67898&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=67894&mode=view>

21st May: Stanwell Moor. A late and rather short trip out locally. I saw a couple of Holly Blues, including a male basking in the late sun, several Small Heaths, a male Orange Tip, a GV White, an amazingly fresh-looking Peacock and a very decrepit Small Tortoiseshell.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=67903&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=67904&mode=view>

23rd May: Stanwell Moor. A longer trip out on my local patch before the sun disappeared completely. Two new Speckled Woods, three or four Holly Blues, including another obliging female, several Peacocks and assorted Whites, quite a few Small Heaths now, and spread more widely, and finally the first Brown Argus and Common Blues here this year. There were four or five of each, concentrated in the same quite small area.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=68089&mode=view>

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<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=68072&mode=view>

24th May: Stanwell Moor. A repeat of yesterday, and with similar results. Brimstones and Orange Tips were additions today, and the Common Blues were more numerous and widespread.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=68184&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=68191&mode=view>

Dave Miller

### **Monday 25th May 2015**

Some sightings for Monday 25th May 2015 - 2 Common Blue at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park, 1 Peacock by Lower Lake, Trent Park. 1 Silver-ground Carpet set-aside field near Dew Pond, Trent Park, also identified 2 Alabonia geofrella at Vicarage Farm, Enfield - along Leeging Beech Gutter near Williams Wood - an attractive species which is probably overlooked - Robert Callf/Robin White.

Butterflies I saw today (25/05/15): 2 speckled wood - footpath on east side of railway by Hitchin Station TL19562970 - David Inward

Visited Fishers Field late morning and came across 2 x peacock, 1 x speckled wood, 2 x small white, 1 x large white. Onto Water Lane, Watford and did get some sun enabling me to see 3 x brimstone (1 was female), 12 x orange tip(all male), 4 x peacock, 4 x small tortoiseshell, 6 x small white, 3 x green veined white, 1 x holly blue (female), 1 x painted lady which i don't recall recording in this area. Today photos here <https://www.flickr.com/photos/bushey54/>  
David Gower

On the 22nd went to north pit at Waterford heath at least 10 brown argus amongst strawberry and low bramble also whites, a comma and a grizzled skipper and small copper. Today 25th at home in Bengoe while gardening discovered a recently emerged poplar hawk moth - Steve Kiln

### **Saturday 23rd May 2015**

Just a few sightings today from Aldbury Nowers in very cloudy weather. At higher section 1 x small heath, 2 x common blue, 1 x treble bar moth, 1 x scoparia pyralella, 1 x treble bar. In lower enclosures 1 x brown argus, 2 x burnet companion, 2 x common carpet, 1 x nettle tap.

[www.flickr.com/photos/bushey54/no\\_8699/in/photostream](http://www.flickr.com/photos/bushey54/no_8699/in/photostream)

[www.flickr.com/photos/bushey54/no\\_8707/in/photostream](http://www.flickr.com/photos/bushey54/no_8707/in/photostream)

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[www.flickr.com/photos/bushey54/no\\_8721/in/photostream](http://www.flickr.com/photos/bushey54/no_8721/in/photostream)

David Gower

### **Friday 22nd May 2015**

Some sightings today Friday 22nd May 2015 - 1 Painted Lady at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at Hog Hill

at 11:10 hrs, 1 Blood-vein at Vicarage Farm, Enfield - our first of the year! 1 Red Admiral along Leeging Beech Gutter near Williams Wood at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 11:30 hrs, 2 Large White along Leeging Beech Gutter near Williams Wood at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 11:33 hrs, 1 Holly Blue at Parkside Farm, Enfield at 11:39 hrs, 1 Brown Argus at Parkside Farm, Enfield on Res banking (TQ2998) at 11:52 hrs - my first of the year! 2 Silver-ground Carpet E edge of Little Beechill Wood, Enfield Chase - my first of the year! - Rober Callf/Robin White

A rather poor day was brightened up by a Painted lady in a field near Ridge - Andrew Wood

#### **Thursday 21st May 2015**

In today's warm, sunny conditions, I counted at least 7 Brown Argus at Bovington Brickworks, likely more. Other butterflies & moths in the immediate area were: Orange-tip (2m, 1f), Large White (m & f), Small White, Green-veined White, Small Tortoiseshell (3), Peacock (2), Dingy Skipper (3), Common Blue (2m), Burnet Companion moth (1), Silver-ground Carpet moth (2) - Lucy Flower

A rather battered and faded Painted Lady has spent most of this afternoon in my garden in Potten End - Paul Cross

Butterflies I saw today (21/05/15): 1 small white - Walsworth Common, Hitchin TL19663012, 2 Brimstone, 4 orange tip - Great Wymondley TL2128 - David Inward

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yard/Crane A beautiful afternoon with continual sunshine encouraging good numbers of butterflies including the first Brown Argus of the year I've seen. A few uncounted Whites and with Common Blue numbers increasing slightly whilst Holly Blues remain common I now have a few unidentified Blues escaping me. Here are the identified sightings: Peacock: 16 Small White: 2 Tortoiseshell: 4 Orange-Tip: 2 Large White: 3 Speckled Wood: 3 Holly Blue: 6 Common Blue: 3 Small Copper: 1 Brown Argus: 1 Green-Veined White: 1 Brimstone: 2 - Pete Gore

I saw 4 Peacocks, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 male Brimstone, 1 Speckled Wood and at least 10 male Orange Tip and one female, at least 12 Green Veined White and at least 3 male Common Blues during a day working party at Bittern's Field, Brent River Valley Park, Hanwell, London Borough of Ealing (TQ 14 81), then late afternoon I saw 3 Speckled Wood including a clashing pair, 1 Peacock and a male Orange tip at Bridgewater Fields, Ruislip Gardens and finally a Holly Blue still in my Eastcote garden - Paul Busby

#### **Wednesday 20th May 2015**

Quick 20 minute lunchtime stroll at Butterfly World on a breezy, cloudy, occasional sunny spells and saw a Small Blue and male Common Blue. Then late afternoon saw a further 2 male Common Blue and lots of juvenile Damselflies in the small field between Stockers/Bury Lakes and the Grand Union Canal (TQ 051 932) and finally a Green Veined White at the other end of Stockers Lake near the River Colne footbridge (TQ 043 932)- Paul Busby

I had a quick stroll along the path next to the railway at Bedfont Lakes Country Park after work today at around five. The sun was out after a mostly cloudy day, and the wind dropped a bit, but all I saw was a solitary female Common Blue. However, she was a little gem.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=67817&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=67820&mode=view>

Dave Miller

Saw 3 Small Copper - 2 males, 1 female - settled on buttercups near Bowling Green at Grovelands Park, Southgate Wednesday 20th May 2015 between 15:40 - 15:50 hrs. - Robert Callf

#### **Tuesday 19th May 2015**

One Small Yellow Underwing at Whitewebbs Park this afternoon Tuesday 19th May 2015 on S edge of Whitewebbs Wood. One Holly Blue settled at St Andrew's Church, Enfield Town this morning Tuesday 19th May 2015 at 11:15 hrs. - Robert Callf

Just a Small White on buttercups and a Green-Veined White bankside on Cow Parsley at Riverside Walk, River Pinn, Ickenham (TQ 0787)- Paul Busby

### **Sunday 17th May 2015**

Half-hour stroll around a meadow close to the River Pinn near Hillingdon House Farm Fields, Uxbridge (TQ 0684) and saw a Small Copper, male Common Blue, 2 Peacocks, 2 Speckled Woods, male Orange Tip and about half a dozen unidentified Small/Green Vein Whites - Paul Busby

WATERFORD HEATH, today, SOUTH PIT, along the escarpment, 2 Small heath, 2 Brown argus (thanks Tony Harkin) 1 Grizzled skipper. NORTH PIT, 2-3 Grizzled skipper - Laurence Drummond

A visit to Harpenden Common produced 5 Orange Tip (3 female, 2 male); 2 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 male Brimstone, 1 Small Heath, 1 Holly Blue and 1 Red Admiral, the latter apparently ovipositing on nettles (I didn't fancy wading in to check...). The Red Admiral and the Small Heath were my first species records for the Common this year - David Hunt

Small Copper seen at HMWT Amwell Hollycross lake on 15 5 15 - Darren Bast

2 Painted Lady and Holly Blue at my allotment in North Finchley on Saturday 16 May - Tony Clancy

### **Saturday 16th May 2015**

A visit today (16th) to Butterfly World in sunny but breezy conditions. A good variety of species seen, including several Small Blues in two distinct areas (between the "antennae" chalk banks, and also along the boundary fence with the Gardens of the Rose). Also seen was a Painted Lady, battling north against the wind, Brimstones (ten or so), Orange Tips (3 or 4), a Small Tortoiseshell, a Peacock, Common Blues (3 or 4), a Small Copper and a Brown Argus.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=67531&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=67533&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=67527&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=67526&mode=view>

There were a few moths around, too, including several Burnet Companions, what looked like a Silver Y, and a couple of Cinnabars.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=67530&mode=view>

Dave Miller

A few sightings for today Saturday 16th May 2015 - 1 Silver Y, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, Trent Park - our first of the year! 1 Painted Lady at Park Farm, Enfield at 11:13 hrs, 2 Peacock (1 at Parkside Farm, 1 Park Farm), several sightings of Large White, several sightings of Orange Tip including a pair by lower lake, Trent Park at 12:17 hrs and 1 Red Admiral at Shaws Wood, Trent Park at 12:50 hrs - Robert Callf/Robin White.

Various sightings: Monday 11th Rickneys 2 common blues, 2 brown argus and two grizzled skipper. On Waterford Heath south on Tuesday 12 - 3 grizzled skippers, 2 holly blue, 2 brimstone, orange tips and peacocks plus **speckled yellow** moth. Today in field by Bencroft wood small copper and small heath - Steve Kiln

Today I started off at Butterfly World and saw at least 2 Small Blues, Green Veined White, Orange Tip Male and Female, Brimstone. Then onto Waterford Heath and saw Grizzled Skipper, Small Copper, Common Blue, Peacock - Kevin Taylor

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane. A better day than yesterday with plenty of afternoon sun: Holly Blue: 8 Orange-Tip: 1 Peacock: 16 Speckled Wood: 3 Green Hairstreak: 1 Green-Veined White: 3 Brimstone: 4 Common Blue: 1 Tortoiseshell: 3 - Pete Gore

### **Friday 15th May 2015**

I saw 3 peacocks, 4 small tortoiseshells and a red admiral at Thorley Wash today. We also had our first common blue on Wednesday 12th. - Jenny Sherwen

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane. A little sun in the afternoon brought a few butterflies out as follows: Small Copper: 3 Small White: 2 Peacock: 1 Green-Veined White: 4 Tortoiseshell: 1 Speckled Wood: 1 Large White: 1 - Pete Gore

Sarratt: In the fields beside the River Chess (MR 037 978) two Small Coppers - possibly three. (Also a lot of Mayflies emerging on the river.) - Graham Elcombe

Butterfly I saw today (15/05/15): 1 orange tip - Meadowbank north, Hitchin TL19603000 - David

Inward

We saw at least 6 Peacocks, 4 Cinnabar Moths and a male Common Blue at Crane Meadows, London Wildlife Trust site near Heathrow Airport (TQ 0976), then another Peacock at Lake Farm Country Park, Hayes (TQ 0880) and finally just a Speckled Wood at Bridgewater Fields, Ruislip Gardens, Middlesex - Paul Busby

### Wednesday 13th May 2015

I visited the Bovingdon brick-works in perfect conditions for butterflies and was rewarded with sightings of 3 Orange tips, 2 Holly Blues (on the approach path), 2 Brimstones and most significantly, Dingy skippers in large numbers throughout the site (I counted at least 18). They were particularly attracted to the clumps of Bugle. The other surprise discovery was a single **Green Hairstreak** which I believe is the first recorded sighting at this location. - Brendan Sheridan

An afternoon stroll around my local patch at Stanwell Moor on Wednesday 13th in brilliant warm sunshine. Once again, Holly Blues were ubiquitous and numerous and I lost count after a dozen or so. Probably the next most frequent butterfly was the Green-veined White (not a single one observed closely enough to tell was a Small White). There were also a few Large Whites (all males), Brimstones (males too), and Orange Tips (both sexes represented). Two Speckled Woods were seen, and two elderly Commas in adjacent territories still battling it out.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=67296&mode=view> In similar vein, there were no less than nine different Peacocks, three of which were staked out so close to each other that their scuffles were almost constant. These three were amazingly tattered, but still able to demonstrate astonishing aerobatics and graceful flight - despite them probably being into their tenth month of life.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=67307&mode=view> Finally, the first of this year's Small Heaths were now flying, with three new individuals seen.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=67302&mode=view>

Dave Miller

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane A beautiful day, I was sorry to have to stop mid-afternoon when butterfly numbers were still increasing. The highlight was my first Small Heath of the year de pendably in the same small area of the Heath where I saw them in 2013 and 2014. By contrast after asserting I'd never seen a Green Hairstreak away from one patch of the Heath, inevitably today one appeared on the footpath near the exit to the golf course. Initially I wasn't too happy with my identification but some 2 hours later on the return journey the butterfly (or another) was still there and this time allowed plenty of opportunity to confirm its identity. By then I'd also seen one -at last- near the main patch of Gorse on the Marshalling Yards. Even then it didn't stay near the Gorse but preferred to cross the path to some Broom where it 'posed' beautifully on a flower. Elsewhere 2 male Small Coppers had a colourful extended aerial battle which ended eventually when one landed on some May blossom presumably for refuelling. Whether he was the victor or the vanquished was impossible to tell - Pete Gore

1 x male orange tip at Northwood HQ, 1 x holly blue in Eastbury Road (TQ117953) near Bushey station and 1 x light brown apple moth in Bushey garden - David Gower

First cinnabar moth at Shire golf club Barnet.. - Kitt Jones

Frogmore, Grizzled Skipper counts similar to 'yours' yesterday - these in sunshine at lunchtime today - 16 total Also Peacock 2 Brimstone 2 GV White 3 Small Copper 3 Brown Argus 5 Moths - Treble-bar and P auratus. Previous visits were too early and nil counts. I'm pleased by the extent of the strawberry plants this year - Trevor Chapman

On my Transect today at Butterfly World my first sighting of a Small Blue. The butterflies I saw today at Butterfly World. **2 Small Blue**, 3 Common Blue, 4 Brimstone, 6 Large White, 7 Orange Tip, 1 Small White, 1 Peacock, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 2 Green Veined White. Also a Painted Lady (*added later*) - Mandy Floyd with Juliet Morton

A few sightings for today Wednesday 13th May 2015 - 1 male Common Blue at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 13:27 hrs, 1 Small Copper at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 13:24 hrs, **3 Mother Shipton** at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park - my first of the year! 1 Cinnabar at Park Farm, Enfield, 1 female Orange Tip at Parkside Farm, Enfield at 14:25 hrs, 1 Painted Lady settled on track at Hog

Hill, Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 15:03 hrs. Also saw a rather worn female Holly Blue settled at Enfield Road, EN2 near Jolly Farmers this afternoon at about 16:00 hrs. - Robert Callf

Butterflies I saw today (13/05/15): 2 speckled wood, 3 orange tip - Almonds Lane Cemetery, Stevenage TL2425 - David Inward

A Painted Lady on the track between Wilbury Hills, Letchworth and Cadwell Farm, Ickleford - Jill Sawyer

### **Tuesday 12th May 2015**

First opportunity to look for Grizzleds this year, late afternoon between 16:30 and 18:30 search at Frogmore, we counted 15 individuals mostly roosting, and mostly roosting on last year's dried seedheads of the mint (some photos on the FB page). Site not so waterlogged but now some of the back paths overgrown due to lack of visitors because of last year's high water levels. Also Brown Argus and **Burnet Companion** - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

One male Brimstone settled along Salmons Brook at Enfield Road EN2 yesterday Monday 11th May 2015 and today Tuesday 12th May 2015 counted 7 Holly Blue and 2 Speckled Wood at Grovelands Park, Southgate late morning/early afternoon. Found a large **Oak Eggar larva** low down on edge of Church Wood, Trent Park yesterday afternoon Monday 11th May 2015, also had a brief glimpse of what was probably a **Painted Lady** - which flew past quickly at Parkside Farm, Enfield yesterday afternoon at about 16:30 hrs. - Robert Callf

Butterflies I saw today (12/05/15): 1 brimstone, 2 speckled wood, 1 comma - path along river Oughton (Westmill Farm section), Hitchin TL1730, 2 brimstone - path along river Oughton (Chalky section), Hitchin TL1630 - David Inward

1 x holly blue at Northwood HQ today - David Gower

### **Monday 11th May 2015**

Butterflies I saw today (11/05/15): 1 brimstone - St Faiths Close, Hitchin TL19863031, 1 small tortoiseshell - Walsworth Common, Hitchin TL1930, 3 orange tip - willow plantation, Ickleford TL1831, 2 peacock, 3 brimstone, 2 orange tip, 2 speckled wood, 2 small white - land between old Bedford railway line and Great Northern line, Ickleford TL1831, 4 orange tip, 1 speckled wood, 1 holly blue - Burymead Springs south, Hitchin TL1830 - David Inward

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane. Similar to yesterday but with more variety including 2 year firsts: Common Blue and Small Copper and several small moths with a definite **Cinnabar** following a likely brief glimpse a week ago and what I think may have been the first two Burnet Companions of the year. Here are the details: Tortoiseshell: 1 Peacock: 23 Orange-Tip: 2 Brimstone: 1 Large White: 1 Holly Blue: 9 Green-Veined White: 1 Common Blue: 1 Speckled Wood: 3 Small Copper: 2 Small White: 1 Comma: 1 Green Hairstreak: 1 and Cinnabar moth: 1 - Pete Gore

Trent park today on transect I saw Large white, male Orange tip, Comma, 3 speckled woods, 1 poss 2 common blues, Holly blue and a Peacock - Simon Pegg

Today I saw a **Painted lady** on Bricket Wood Common. It only settled for an instant before it disappeared, but it would be hard to mistake the pointy black wing tips, with white and they orange-yellow markings below - Chris Newman

Went in search of Small Copper and Small Heath today Monday 11th May 2015 at Trent Park and saw the following butterflies - 1 female Orange Tip, Sect 1 at 11:28 hrs, 1 Comma near Triangular Wood at 11:32 hrs, 3 Speckled Wood Sect 7 at 11:56 hrs, 1 Holly Blue Sect 7 at 11:57 hrs, 2 Small Heath Sect 6 at 12:01 hrs, 1 Green-veined White Sect 4 at 12:18 hrs, 1 Small Copper near Triangular Wood at 12:28 hrs, 1 male Orange Tip near Triangular Wood at 12:34 hrs, 2 Green-veined White near Triangular Wood at 12:34 hrs. - Robert Callf

Central London - green veined white and small white in Temple Gardens, Fleet Street EC4 at lunchtime - Malcolm Hull

Warm, over 20 Deg C, but overcast day. At Bridgewater Fields, Ruislip Gardens, I saw a Holly Blue, Small White, Speckled Wood and at least 3 m Orange Tip; then at Highgrove Woods,



Eastcote around the square pond I saw a number of Large Red Damselflies, some paired plus a Peacock, at least 3 Orange Tip, including a pair and 4 Speckled Woods; finally at Long Meadow, Eastcote I saw a Comma, Holly Blue, Peacock, Small White, at least 2 Green Vein Whites, 5 Orange Tips and 6 Speckled Woods including a pair - Paul Busby

Small Copper basking on public footpath between Little Almshoe and Lower Titmore Green (TL205260) at about 11 am. Later visited Hill End Chalk Pit NR near Hitch Wood where 5 Brimstone, 2 Large White, 3 Peacock and an Orange Tip were seen - Peter Clarke

### Sunday 10th May 2015

Butterflies I saw today (10/05/15): 1 brimstone, 2 holly blue, 2 orange tip, 2 unidentified large white, 1 unidentified small white - Walsworth Common, Hitchin TL1930, 2 orange tip, 1 unidentified large white - Purwell Meadows (west part), Hitchin TL1929, 4 orange tip, 3 brimstone - Purwell Meadows (east part), Hitchin TL2029, 2 orange tip, 2 brimstone - Purwell Park, Hitchin TL2029, 1 brimstone - road verge by Centre for the Arts, Willian Road, Hitchin TL19913009 - David Inward

Spent an hour at Aldbury Nowers this afternoon. 1 grizzled skipper, 1 dingy skipper, **1 brown argus**, 1 small heath, 9 male brimstones, 3 female brimstones, 3 female orange tips, 5 male orange tips, 1 male large white

Photos at: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/64663114@N03/17499386172/>

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/64663114@N03/17313646978/>

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/64663114@N03/17500837621/>

Miles Attenborough

Today, on a walk along the River Stort between Bishop's Stortford station and Spellbrook Lock: **1 Common Blue**, 1 Brimstone, 10 + Orange Tips, Large Whites and Small Whites. At Rushy Mead nature reserve: 1 Peacock, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Speckled Wood. - Chris Gleeson

Hackney Marsh north TQ3686 my first **common blue (1 male)** and silver y (1) - Paul Robinson

Quite a lot of activity today in my south Harpenden garden: 1 male Small White, 1 Large White (I think a male but a fly-by); 2-3 Holly Blue females basking and one laying an egg on a holly flower bud; at least 2 Holly Blue males, now rather tatty and relaxed enough for nectaring on Cotoneaster horizontalis and Mexican Orange blossoms; 1 male and several female Orange Tip, the latter feeding on Garlic Mustard and laying eggs. Interestingly, one of the female Orange Tip showed a good scattering of orange scales along the apical costal margin of each wing, these extending down a short distance along some of the subsidiary apical veins/ - David Hunt

The 20 of us on the walk this morning at Waterford Heath had 11 sightings of Grizzled Skippers which represented probably a minimum of 7 individuals. They were on both the South and North Heaths. The best spot was the Settling beds on the South Heath where 3 were clashing together. Also Brimstone, Speckled Wood, Orange Tip, Large White and Holly Blue. - Andrew Wood

Travelling into London, late afternoon, I saw male Brimstones along the tree line at both Northolt and Perivale Tube stations - Paul Busby

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards (part)/Crane. Cloud and wind meant less than ideal conditions but didn't prevent reasonably good numbers of butterflies. There seemed to be more fast movement than recently meaning quite a few whites and several others avoided satisfactory identification. The highlights for me were two Green Hairstreaks. One on the Marshalling Yards on the footpath as if seeking minerals rather than nectar. A map of my sightings on this site would show individuals spread out at all points of the site. By contrast today's other Hairstreak was the first I've seen this year on the Heath in a more or less identical spot amongst the Gorse near the railway to last year's first Green Hairstreak - the area where all my Heath sightings have been made. Here are the full details: Peacock: 17 Large White: 4 Brimstone: 2 Green-Veined White: 3 Green Hairstreak: 2 Orange-Tip: 1 Holly Blue: 6 Speckled Wood: 1 Small White: 3 Tortoiseshell: 2 - Pete Gore

Bricket wood common, St. Albans - 47 Brimstones on today's transecting walk, including several females laying on the taller Alder Buckthorns. Most sightings were of males patrolling, with a few nectaring on bugle and bluebells. Peacock, Orange Tip, Small Tortoiseshell, Large and Green-veined Whites, Holly Blue and Speckled Woods all flying today - Malcolm Hull

Shrubhill Common, Hemel Hempstead I saw my first Dingy Skipper of the year on my transect walk - Roger Prue

Spent afternoon in our Bushey garden today and recorded 2 x holly blue, 1 x green veined white, 1 x large white, 1 x mint moth, 1 x light brown apple moth  
[www.flickr.com/photos/bushey54/SAM\\_8693/in/photostream](http://www.flickr.com/photos/bushey54/SAM_8693/in/photostream)  
[www.flickr.com/photos/bushey54/SAM\\_8675/in/photostream](http://www.flickr.com/photos/bushey54/SAM_8675/in/photostream)  
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[www.flickr.com/photos/bushey54/SAM\\_8691/in/photostream](http://www.flickr.com/photos/bushey54/SAM_8691/in/photostream)  
- David Gower

Around midday today at Aldbury Nowers (Duchies Piece) I saw six Brimstones (5M,1F), one Peacock, three Orange Tips (2M,1F), two Dingy Skippers and one **Small Heath** (the first one I've seen there this year). - Paul Cross

Some sightings for Sunday 10th May 2015 - 1 Large White, E edge of Little Beechill Wood, Enfield Chase at 10:05 hrs, 2 Small Tortoiseshell at Holly Hill Farm, Enfield, 1 male Orange Tip at Holly Hill Farm, Enfield at 10:26 hrs, 3 Large White at Fir & Pond Woods near Potters Bar, also at this site were a female Orange Tip, 3 Peacock, 2 Speckled Wood, 1 Small White and 1 Small Tortoiseshell. 1 male Brimstone at Chequers Mead Farm, Coopers Lane Road, Potters Bar. - Robert Callf

### **Saturday 9th May 2015**

Tring Park HMBC field trip led by Martin Hicks - One male Orange Tip, One male Brimstone. The afternoon was overcast, but 5 people turned up for the walk. This is a chalk grassland site, thick with cowslips and with woodland of various ages and scrub along the chalk scarp slope - Malcolm Hull

A few butterflies in Grovelands Park, Southgate, N14 this afternoon Saturday 9th May 2015 - 4 Speckled Wood, 1 male Large White, 3 Holly Blue at 13:12 hrs. P.S., Had a brief look for Common Blues and Small Coppers without success - Robert Callf.

### **Friday 8th May 2015**

I saw 2 Holly Blues again in my Eastcote garden this cloudy morning, this time they were settling on a bed of forget-me-not blue flowers - Paul Busby

A couple of moth sightings today Friday 8th May 2015 - **Cinnabar** at Parkside Farm near The Pump House (TQ3098) and Common Carpet at Park Farm, Enfield (TQ2998) - both new for the year. - Robert Callf

I saw 3 orange tips at Hunsdon Meads this morning, 2 males and 1 female - Jenny Sherwen

I have been visiting Waterford Heath NR on a regular basis and have seen Grizzled Skippers in the clearing by the silt beds [South pit]. 1 on Sunday 3rd May, 4 on Monday 4th May, 2 on Thursday 7th May. I have not seen them anywhere else at Waterford Heath or accross Sacombe Road at the former quarry site despite the vast amounts of Wild Strawberry growing on the slopes there. - Christopher Benton

### **Thursday 7th May 2015**

Lots of Holly Blues and Horse Chestnut leaf Miner moths plus Orange Tip, Peacock and Speckled Wood at Kensal Green cemetery today. Also my first Silver Y of the year and a Small copper. Andrew Wood

Despite a blustery day with only sunny spells, I saw 2 Peacocks, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Speckled Wood and at least 16 Orange Tip (mostly male), 6 Green Veined white and 3 Holly blues during a half day working party on the River Brent at Bittern's Field, Hanwell, London Borough of Ealing (TQ 14 81). - Paul Busby

Some sightings for Thursday 7th May 2015 - 1 female Orange Tip at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 10:47 hrs - the first female that I have identified this year, 1 **Small Yellow Underwing** settled on dandelion head at Bay Farm, Enfield (TQ 30021 98483) at 12:28 hrs - my first of the year! Also

saw male Orange Tip, Holly Blue and Speckled Wood at Hilly Fields Park, Enfield this afternoon. - Robert Callf

## **Tuesday 5th May 2015**

Dingy Skippers at Hexton CP on 1/5/15 - Nigel Agar

## **Monday 4th May 2015**

The following seen on 4th May 2015, ELLENBROOK FIELDS (FORMER HATFIELD AERODROME, 1 x Peacock, 1 x Speckled Wood, 1 x Painted Lady - David Wheatcroft

A few sightings for Monday 4th May 2015 - 1 male Orange Tip at Little Beechill Wood at 10:47 hrs and 1 Peacock and 1 Small Tortoiseshell here also, 6 Small Tortoiseshell at Plumridge Farm, Enfield between 11:42 - 11:55 hrs, 1 Red Admiral edge of Shaws Wood, Trent Park at 12:38 hrs, 1 Holly Blue along Salmons Brook at Enfield Road, 13:30 hrs and 1 Holly Blue at Chase Road, N14 at 14:23 hrs. - Robert Callf

On Monday in Stocking Pelham 2 Brimstones, orange tip, peacock, green veined white, small tortoiseshell and a holly blue - Andy Brown

Pristine Holly Blue, m, and GV White in my Hatfield garden, first this year. On my Warren transect only 2 Peacock, 1 GV White (2 more off-site), despite bright sunshine and T 18C. Virtually no wildlife over grassland apart from 1 Rabbit and Buzzard and Kestrel over. The site may take time to recover from last autumn's scrub removal and mowing - John Moss

7 species at Waterford heath south including all three whites. 4 grizzled skippers incl 3 in settling beds area one in open field - Steve Kiln

Walked along the fields near and around Ickenham Marsh and Yeading Brook and saw 8 Peacock, a male Brimstone and at least 2 Small Tortoiseshells and 5 male Orange Tip. In my Eastcote Garden, I unusually saw a female Orange Tip butterfly, not seen this before in the garden - Paul Busby

Walked the New River from Bullsmoor to Rye House today, many Holly Blues and Orange Tips. Highlight was a **Small Heath** <http://ow.ly/MusFX> and **Latticed Heath** moth on the edge of Cheshunt at virtually the same spot. - Andrew Wood

A ramble around St John's Wood and Harpenden Common revealed 2 male Orange Tip, 1 female Orange tip, 1 female Speckled Wood, 1 Holly Blue, 2 Peacock, 1 Comma, and 3 Green-veined White - 2 male, 1 female. One of the GVW was flying around a Green-winged Orchid, although it did not land. The Ophioglossum colony On Harpenden Common now has about 30 plants visible, all within a very small area. Of note, no Brimstone seen today - even the regular resident of St John's Wood was absent Garlic mustard plants in my Harpenden garden now sport a number of Orange Tip eggs and although females are frequent visitors to the flowers, few seem to lay eggs at the moment. - David Hunt

Went back to Fishers Field today and found 1 x brimstone (m), 1 x speckled wood. At Ashlyn Close, Bushey (TQ122 961) 1 x holly blue. Back at Water Lane, Watford 5 x peacock, 26 x orange tip (15 male), 3 x brimstone (2 male), 5 x green veined white, 8 x small tortoiseshell, 2 x speckled wood, 2 x large white, 2 x holly blue, 1 x small white.

[www.flickr.com/photos/bushey54/SAM\\_8658/in/photostream/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/bushey54/SAM_8658/in/photostream/)

[www.flickr.com/photos/bushey54/SAM\\_8667/in/photostream](http://www.flickr.com/photos/bushey54/SAM_8667/in/photostream/)

Onto Merryhill Fields, Bushey 2 x small white, 2 x small tortoiseshell, 2 x large white, 8 x brimstone(all male), 6 x peacock, 3 x orange tip(m), 1 x speckled wood. - David Gower

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane. An earlier walk to catch the sun and an improvement on yesterday although still plenty of cloud: Small White: 2 Tortoiseshell: 2 Orange-Tip: 4 Peacock: 20 Green-Veined White: 4 Speckled Wood: 10 Holly Blue: 12 Large White: 3 Brimstone: 3 Comma:1 At Least a dozen unidentified whites. - Pete Gore

Butterflies I saw today (04/05/15): 1 small white, 1 orange tip - scrub and road verge, Cambridge Road, east of Meadowbank, Hitchin TL197299 1 orange tip, 1 holly blue - Walsworth Common, Hitchin TL1930 3 orange tip, 1 small white, 1 small tortoiseshell, 2 speckled wood, Purwell Meadows (east part), Hitchin TL2029 - David Inward

### **Sunday 3rd May 2015**

At Water Lane, Watford this afternoon recorded 3 x small white, 5 x green veined white, 24 x orange tip (7 were females), 2 x brimstone (1 x f, 1 x m), 11 x small tortoiseshell, 1 x peacock, 4 x holly blue. At Fishers Field just 1 x green veined white & 1 x peacock as became cloudy again. Lastly at Finch Lane, Bushey 1 x brimstone(m), 3 x orange tip (1 f), 3 x speckled wood, 2 x peacock. - David Gower

After the rain had 3 Holly Blues and 1 male Orange Tip butterfly in my garden - Andrew Steele

After a morning of rain, we had a warm 19 Deg C sunny spell this afternoon, before clouding over again and becoming breezy. In my Eastcote garden I saw a Holly Blue, a Speckled Wood and a Large White butterfly. Then along the River Pinn in Eastcote at Cheney Field, I saw 3 Holly Blue, at least 5 Green Veined Whites, 3 male Orange Tips, 2 Speckled woods, a Peacock and my first Large Red Damselfly of the year, whilst along Long Meadow, I saw at least 8 Green Vein Whites (including 2 pairs), 3 Orange Tips, a Large White, 3 Peacocks and 3 Speckled Woods. Found a small number of green caterpillars with a cream line in the Elm field boundary - Paul Busby  
<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10205619548901705&set=o.313540722064920&type=1>  
<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10205619521541021&set=o.313540722064920&type=1&theater>

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane. After a few days away it was good to get an opportunity for a walk but despite getting most of the afternoon sun there was far too much cloud and wind to make the day good for butterflies: Holly Blue: 2 Tortoiseshell: 3 Small White: 2 Peacock: 8 Brimstone: 1 Green-Veined White: 1 Speckled Wood: 2 - Pete Gore

### **Saturday 2nd May 2015**

Two butterflies at Fir & Pond Woods nr Potters Bar this afternoon Saturday 2nd May 2015 - 1 Speckled Wood at 12:25 hrs and 1 male Orange Tip at 12:32 hrs. - Robert Callf

Butterfly (only one) I saw today (02/05/15): 1 small white - St Faiths Churchyard, Hitchin - David Inward

### **Friday 1st May 2015**

Went for a quick stroll along the River Pinn at Long Meadow, Eastcote and the majority of the butterflies seen were Whites, about a dozen or so, of which I managed to identify 1 Small White, 1 Green Veined White, 1 female Orange Tip and 3 male Orange Tip, Also saw 2 Speckled Woods - Paul Busby

### **April 2015**

#### **Thursday 30th April 2015**

Butterflies I saw today (30/04/15): 1 orange tip - Gipsy Lane north, Hitchin TL2029 2 orange tip - Purwell Ninesprings nature reserve, Hitchin TL2029 - David Inward

I saw at least 18 White butterflies walking along the Yeading Brook Meadows, London Wildlife trust site in Hayes, Middlesex, London Wildlife trust site (TQ 1082), I managed to identify at least 6 female Orange Tip around Garlic Mustard and 4 males in this vicinity, not sure about the rest. Also saw 5 Peacocks, 4 Small Tortoiseshells and 5 Speckled Woods. - Paul Busby

Recorded the following species of butterfly at Chase Green, Enfield Town this afternoon Thursday 30th April 2015 - Orange Tip, Holly Blue, Peacock and Speckled Wood. Saw one male Orange Tip in Town Park, Enfield this morning Thursday 30th April 2015 at 11:11 hrs. - Robert Callf

#### **Wednesday 29th April 2015**

Stanwell Moor. After a truly awful morning of cold and rain, sunshine finally appeared and I had an hour on my local patch from five till six. I saw six butterflies only, but as has happened before, all six were different species. The rollcall was: Holly Blue, Comma, Green-veined White, Speckled Wood, Large White and Red Admiral. The GVW was taking salts from the damp path, and the Red Admiral was a relatively fresh individual nectaring avidly on low-growing flowers, and I would guess it to be a recent immigrant from the continent rather than a local over-wintered example. - Dave Miller

1 x brimstone at Northwood HQ yesterday - David Gower

### **Tuesday 28th April 2015**

In Hawkins Wood (near Therfield village) today (28th) two orange tips + one Brimstone Andy Brown

During a training course visit to the ponds at Highgrove Woods, Eastcote, Middlesex, a Peacock, a Speckled Wood, a Comma and at least 2 Orange Tips were seen, also a bedraggled Ruby Tiger Moth was rescued from the pond surface - Paul Busby

### **Monday 27th April 2015**

I saw 2 freshly emerged **Small Coppers** at Croxley Common Moor (TQ083949) today, 27th April 2015. Photo on the Facebook page. - Chris Bessant

Saturday 25th April: A tour of my local patch in and close to Stanwell Moor and the river Colne. Holly Blues still going strong, with over a dozen seen along the route.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=66063&mode=view>

Aside from a few Speckled Woods and a Comma, all of the other butterflies were Whites of various types, predominantly Green-veined ones now.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=66061&mode=view>

Both Large and Small were also spotted, and five or six Orange Tips, including one female.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=66067&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=66069&mode=view>

Today (27th), on a much cooler late afternoon, one Holly Blue, three GVW and a Peacock were all that made an appearance - Dave Miller

Butterflies I saw today (27/04/15): 4 orange tip, 3 speckled wood - path next to River Oughton, Bedford Road end, Hitchin TL1730 1 speckled wood - Burford Way, Hitchin TL17453072 - David Inward

### **Saturday 25th April 2015**

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane. Cloudy conditions but there were butterflies around: Green-Veined White:2 Peacock: 2 Speckled Wood: 8 Holly Blue: 6 Orange-Tip: 4 Large White: 1 Small White: 2 - Pete Gore

I have been making regular visits to Tunnel Gardens a Green Space above the Main Line Railway Tunnels behind my house. This connects between Cline Road and Durnford Road in Bounds Green. Grid Reference TQ294913 - Nearest Post Code N11 2AJ. This Council managed green space had become completely overgrown by brambles but local people are now beginning to take action and make new clearings which will hopefully be beneficial for the butterflies. Over the last week I have walked through each day and seen a female brimstone, Speckled Woods, a Comma, Holly Blues, One Green Veined White one Female Orange Tip and a peacock. Today during a one hour visit I saw 8 speckled woods, 2 holly blue, one peacock and one unidentified white butterfly. Today's photos at following links:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/64663114@N03/17079478170/>

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/64663114@N03/17079265438/>

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/64663114@N03/17079263998/>

Miles Attenborough

Thursday 23rd April 2015 - 2 Holly Blue at Gentleman's Row, Enfield Town at 15:48 hrs and 1 at Southbury Road, Enfield Town at 16:20 hrs. - Robert Callf

### **Friday 24th April 2015**

Saw my first **grizzled skipper** on Waterford Heath south, but not on main bank but down in bottom bit near settling beds where they took down trees 3 years ago - Steve Kiln

### **Thursday 23rd April 2015**

Butterflies I saw today (23/04/15): 2 small tortoiseshell - Westmill Lane south part, Hitchin TL1730. 1 orange tip - Mill Lane south part near Hitchin SE TL1730. 3 orange tip - Mill Lane middle part near Hitchin TL169309. 3 orange tip, 1 Brimstone, 1 small tortoiseshell - Mill Lane NW part near Hitchin TL1631. 1 orange tip, 1 Brimstone, 1 small tortoiseshell - path from Mill Lane to



Hambridge Way, near Ickleford TL1631. 1 Brimstone - Hambridge Way, near Ickleford TL1631. 4 small tortoiseshell - Hambridge Way east part, near Ickleford TL1731. 1 small tortoiseshell - Bedford Road, near Ickleford TL1731. 1 Speckled wood, 4 small tortoiseshell - Icknield Way east of Bedford Road, Ickleford TL 1731. Butterflies I saw Wednesday 22nd: 1 orange tip - path next to railway off Wymondley Road, Hitchin TL202287. 2 peacock, 1 small tortoiseshell - cow grazed field with moat at Great Wymondley TL2128. Butterflies I saw Tuesday 21st: 1 peacock, 6 speckled wood - paths to west of Hadley Green west part, Barnet TQ2497 - David Inward

Turned out to be a sunny afternoon after all. At lunchtime, I saw a Speckled wood at St Martins Churchyard, Ruislip (TQ 09 87) and 2 Small Tortoiseshells at the Motte & Bailey site at Manor Farm Complex, Ruislip (TQ 08 87) then later in the afternoon went for a hours walk on Poor's Field, Ruislip Common (TQ 08 89) and saw 2 Commas, 1 Speckled Wood, 1 Holly Blue and at least 15 Peacocks, 6 Orange Tip, 1 Green-Veined White and 1 Small Tortoiseshell - Paul Busby

On my regular ramble this afternoon in St John's Wood, Harpenden, I saw what I presume to be the resident Brimstone male, 1 Orange Tip male, 1 Holly Blue in a hurry to be somewhere else, 1 Large White female basking, 1 Small White male basking and nectaring on wild cherry blossom, a pair of mating Speckled Wood, and a comma supping juices from a fresh dog turd. Harpenden Common was a disappointment: 2 rather tatty Small Tortoiseshells and a male Orange Tip, although a group of nice ferns made up for the lack of butterflies. - David Hunt

1 x holly blue at Northwood HQ today - David Gower

Some sightings for yesterday Wednesday 22nd April 2015 at Grovelands Park, Southgate, N14 - 4 Speckled Wood, including two together, 1 Peacock and 1 Comma. Today Thursday 23rd April 2015 - 1 Speckled Wood and 1 Holly Blue at Town Park, Enfield. - Robert Callf

Wednesday 22nd at Hexton Chalk Pit, 10.30 to 12.00 - Green Hairstreak - 2; **Dingy Skipper** - 3; Holly Blue - 1, all in the upper(south) section. - Roger Millard

### Wednesday 22nd April 2015

I had a **Painted Lady** settle by my feet yesterday, but by the time I raised my camera to my eye it was off! I was just outside of my transect in Bishop's Stortford by a row of flowering hawthorns facing an arable field (possibly wheat). - Bob Clift

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane. Cloudy and breezy so a steep decline in the butterflies seen: Holly Blue: 2 Peacock: 15 Tortoiseshell: 4 Brimstone:1 Speckled Wood: 7 Green-Veined White: 1 - Pete Gore

I saw my first speckled wood of the year at Amwell this morning. I also saw 2 male and 1 female orange tip - Jenny Sherwen

### Tuesday 21st April 2015

Glad to say saw my first **grizzled skipper** this afternoon at Rickneys quarry. Also my first speckled wood in Broxbourne woods. Plenty of orange tips, peacocks, green veined whites and, brimstones in Broxbourne woods and Waterford Heath - Steve Kiln

At Northwood hq 1 x small tortoiseshell and 1 x holly blue. In Woodwaye near Bushey station 1 x holly blue (GRID TQ112949). 1 x holly blue in Bushey garden. At Fishers Field early evening 1 x comma and 1 x peacock. Lastly at Water Lane, Watford 13 x small tortoiseshell - David Gower

I did the transect today at Aldbury Nowers, highlights were **2 green hairstreak** (with another off transect) and **2 grizzled skipper** (with another 2 in the furthest northern enclosure, again off transect). There were god number of brimstone about including 5 together, orange tip, small white, small tortoiseshell, peacock and comma. - Paul Thrush

Just got back from Hexton Chalk Pit where I had hoped to see a Green Hairstreak. I failed in this but I did see a **Dingy Skipper** (photo on Facebook and Twitter). The Chalk pit was in full sun and about 18 degrees but I was underwhelmed by the scarcity of Butterflies to be seen. - Juliet Morton

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane. Another beautiful day with one surprise for me, like yesterday relating to Green Hairstreak. I first saw 2 more on the opposite side of the Marshalling Yards from yesterday's in a very sunny spot much favoured by many butterfly species. These two

had a short very rapid skirmish before disappearing out of sight. No sign of yesterday's Green Hairstreak and annoyingly someone had allowed a small fire to burn grass around the Broom where I saw it. After leaving the Marshalling Yards I proceeded to the first leg of my Crane loop where, more or less in the centre, I was amazed to see what I first took to be two more Green Hairstreaks again flying rapidly around together. Admittedly this was another very sunny spot but very much in old woodland. The shrub they were fighting over was Hawthorn with some Ivy within it against a much larger tree not yet in leaf (Ash I think) not at all a place I would ever expect to find this butterfly. I stayed watching for quite some time and was entertained by a seemingly endless procession of butterflies from 8 or 9 species including a third Green Hairstreak disputing the territory with the other two. Here are the full details of today's sightings: Holly Blue: 29 Small White: 2 Large White: 3 Orange-Tip: 14 Peacock: 43 Green-Veined White: 3 Brimstone: 4 Speckled Wood: 10 **Green Hairstreak: 5** Tortoiseshell: 6 Red Admiral: 1 A lot more whites went unidentified -over 30- including 3 or 4 larger ones which perhaps are likely Large Whites rather than, say, female Brimstone. - Pete Gore

Two year firsts in my South Mimms garden today - a Holly Blue and a Green Veined White, as well as the regular Orange Tip and Peacock - Terry Wood

Lovely sunny day, but the streams are very low and soil very dry, we could do with some rain, anyway the butterflies seem to like it. Along the Celadine Route following the River Pinn through Eastcote/Pinner (TQ 11 89) I saw a Holly Blue at Pinner Memorial Park, then across to Cheney field I saw 2 Commas, a Green-veined White, Large White, at least 6 Orange Tip and another 3 Holly Blues, whilst at Long Meadow a further 5 Holly Blues, 3 Speckled wood, 2 Peacocks and 6 Orange tip. After lunch I visited Bridgewater Fields along the Yeading Brook (TQ 10 85) and saw a Green-veined White, 4 Speckled Wood, 2 Peacock, 2 Holly Blues, 3 Orange Tip and upstream (TQ 10 86) I saw a Small Tortoiseshell, 3 Peacocks, 2 Speckled Wood, 2 Holly Blue, Small White and at least 3 Orange Tip. Finally at home I saw my first 2 Green-veined Whites and another Holly Blue in my Eastcote garden - Paul Busby

A few more sightings for today Tuesday 21st April 2015 - 3 Holly Blue, top of Snakes Lane near Oakwood entrance, Trent Park at 13:45 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip, Sect 4, Trent Park at 14:13 hrs and 1 male Brimstone near Oakwood entrance, Trent Park at 14:43 hrs. - Robert Callf

Robin White and myself saw a male Brimstone along bridle-path near Merryhills Brook at Trent Park this morning Tuesday 21st April 2015 at 11:38 hrs. - Robert Callf

Saw one Comma along New River in Town Park, Enfield yesterday afternoon Monday 20th April 2015 at 13:18 hrs. - Robert Callf

### Monday 20th April 2015

I paid a visit this afternoon to Hexton Chalk Pit for my usual quarry. It felt much warmer than the forecast 16C, though none of the shrubs there were yet in full leaf and some had no foliage at all. In a couple of hours I saw 1 Peacock, 1 Holly Blue, 1 Wavy-barred Sable (**Pyrausta nigrata**), 10+ Brimstone and ... **2 Green hairstreak:** one on an Ivy bush just outside the reserve and one feeding on Blackthorn flowers - the first time that I have ever seen a GH feeding. The Blackthorn was popular with many other species and I was so engrossed that I didn't make it to Telegraph Hill, Hoo Bit or the Pegsdon Hills - Paul Why

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane. A beautiful day, excellent for butterflies. The highlights included my first Green Hairstreak of the year, amongst Broom in a spot where I saw several on the Marshalling Yards last year, and a new high for Holly Blue. Oddly, Orange-Tips were much fewer than last week but I did see another female on the opposite side of the M.Y. from the last two but again lingering amongst Cress. Here are the full details: **Holly Blue: 24** Speckled Wood: 11 Large White: 2 Brimstone: 11 Peacock: 40 Tortoiseshell: 6 Orange-Tip: 4 Small White: 5 **Green Hairstreak: 1** Red Admiral: 1 Comma: 1. If I make the not unreasonable assumption that a Green-Veined White was likely to be amongst the 10 or so unidentified Whites seen then all 12 of the species seen so far this year were seen today - Pete Gore

One hour lunchtime stroll across nettle bordered rough fields near Dew Farm Sandpits Nature reserve in South Harefield (TQ 05 88), where last year I saw 30+ Small Tortoiseshells, this years count still an impressive 25 Small Tortoiseshells, 13 Peacocks, 6 Orange-Tip and a male Brimstone. Also saw 2 Holly Blue paired on tall conifer hedge at Dews Farm, South Harefield (TQ 056 878). Late afternoon, walked along Yeading Brook through Roxbourne Park, Eastcote (TQ 11

86) along wooded trail and then field edge and saw 6 Speckled Wood, 4 Holly Blue, 4 Comma, 2 Large White, 6 Orange Tip, 2 Small Tortoiseshells and at least 1 Peacock. - Paul Busby

Today on two walks around Norton Common I saw three Speckled Woods (together and first I've seen this year), three Holly Blues (flying separate sightings), two Peacocks, four Brimstones, two Small Tortoiseshells and an Orange Tip. - Jill Sawyer

A couple of hours spent in the environs of Nomansland Common/Bull Lane, Harpenden (TL170125) produced a good haul: about 6 Small White, around the same number of Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Large White, 3 male and 2 female Brimstone, 3 Peacock, 3 female and 2 male Orange Tip (females nectaring on garlic mustard; males patrolling and indulging in aerial arguments over territory, occasionally nectaring on dandelions and gorse), 1 Holly Blue and **1 male Common Blue**, the latter flying very low and even around my feet at one point - David Hunt

One Speckled Wood and one Small Tortoiseshell at Rectory Farm, Enfield this morning Monday 20th April 2015. - Robert Callf

### **Saturday 18th April 2015**

Saw my first green-veined white of the year, in the Pinetum at Bayfordbury - Ian Flack

Wheathampstead LNR - On a walk about Wheathampstead LNR I saw my first Large White and three Orange-tips. Holly Blues are appearing in the garden now as well - Trevor Chapman

I popped into the southern part of Bedfont Lakes Country Park this afternoon (18th) for the first time. I was rewarded with two **Green Hairstreaks**, one of which posed nicely for the camera. There were good numbers of Holly Blues and Speckled Woods as well, plus the ever-present Peacocks and Commas.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=65551&mode=view>

PS. Another report from Stanwell Moor later with more Holly Blues in it - they are having a good year so far round here.

Dave Miller

Back home after the Hairstreak excitement, another tour of the local environs at Stanwell Moor seemed in order. Once again, it was the Holly Blues that dominated. In a sheltered spot, holly and ivy grow close together, and male Blues were patrolling the latter, with occasional pauses there or on the brambles. However, there was also activity on the holly. I watched a Holly Blue flutter in and out of the spiny leaves and dense branches, stopping frequently on the stems at all angles - underneath, in sun, in shade - but concentrating on the tiny flower buds. This was a female, almost certainly laying. A couple of males took a brief interest, and she put them off with rapid wing fluttering and a hoisted abdomen - but she took no notice of me less than a foot away. Presumably I didn't identify as a predator, or she was too engrossed in her egg-laying activity. She paused from time to time to rest, which involved some opening of the wings. I saw good numbers of Holly Blues again over the whole of the walk, but it was noticeable that the males are starting to look a little worn now and decidedly grey in some cases. What else? Well, it was very breezy, so most activity was confined to sheltered parts. Peacocks and Commas continued to contest the paths and perching places on the brambles, and there were also three Small Tortoiseshells joining them today. Naturally enough, there was a Red Admiral, but not in the usual spot - a new arrival? There were a few Speckled Woods and Whites, but only a couple of Orange Tips. There really aren't many about so far.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=65558&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=65559&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=65566&mode=view>

Dave Miller

Saw a **Common Blue** last Monday on west bank of Startops Reservoir. It definitely wasn't a Holly blue - Dave Hutchinson

Some more sightings for yesterday Friday 17th April 2015 - 3 Green-veined White at Trent Park (1 Shaws Wood, pr copulating set-aside field nr Dew Pond); 2 Speckled Wood, Shaws Wood, Trent Park at 12:35 hrs; 2 Comma at Trent Park (1 Shaws Cottages, 1 nr Ride Wood); 2 male Orange Tip at Shaws Wood, Trent Park; 1 male Orange Tip nr Duncan's Wood, Enfield Chase; 1 Speckled Wood at Vicarage Farm, Enfield. Today Saturday 18th April 2015 - 1 Speckled Wood at Whitewebbs Wood. - Robert Callf

Spent day in Bushey garden only sighting so far 1 x holly blue - David Gower

I visited Cranford Park, Middlesex to go on a "Bluebell Walk" and at lunchtime was pleased to see at least 18 Holly Blues flying around the Ivy clad walls of the Stables, Secret Garden and old estate walls. I saw more Holly Blues in half hour than I saw all of last year! A fair number of Whites were also seen and managed to identify 2 Large Whites, 6 Green-Veined Whites, 4 male Orange Tips along-with 2 Speckled Woods, a Comma and at least 6 Peacocks. I then drove onto Bedfont Lakes Country Park, but alas no Green Hairstreaks seen, but in quite blustery conditions saw a male Brimstone, 2 Small Tortoiseshells, 8 Peacocks and both a male and female Orange Tip.  
- Paul Busby

On a walk around Hatfield Forest (Essex) this afternoon, I saw 5 Peacocks, 1 Brimstone, 1 Red Admiral, 3 Orange Tips, 2 Small Whites and probably a Speckled Wood - Chris Gleeson

Butterflies I saw today (18/04/15): 1 small tortoiseshell, 1 unidentified small white - St Faiths Close, Hitchin TL198303. 16 small tortoiseshell - Walsworth Common, Hitchin TL1930 - David Inward

### **Friday 17th April 2015**

Path alongside river Colne by Willows Farm / Tyttenhanger Park TL190046 between London Colney and Colney Heath: 8+ Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Peacock, 1 White in flight (?Large) - Steve Evans and Ann Lee

One Holly Blue around Ivy at Boxer's Lake, Enfield this morning Friday 17th April 2015 at 10:28 hrs and another settled on Holly at South Lodge Cres., EN2 at 10:50 hrs. - Robert Callf

Good selection of butterflies today, I saw 2 Speckled Wood, 1 Small White, at least 3 Orange Tip, 2 Peacocks and 2 Small Tortoiseshells on a half-hour walk across Bridgewater Fields, along the Yeading Brook, Ruislip Gardens (TQ 1086) then later a Comma basking on the brickwork of the Chiltern Railway bridge across the River Pinn, Ickenham (TQ 073 871) during river sampling - Paul Busby

I've been out locally in Stanwell Moor late in the afternoon on both 16th and 17th.

16th April - One fresh, but rather crumpled Green-veined White, and one roosting Orange Tip.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=65363&mode=view>

17th April - Three resting Holly Blues, one of which did eventually stir. Also one Speckled Wood.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=65467&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=65468&mode=view>

Dave Miller

### **Thursday 16th April 2015**

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane. Cloudier conditions, wind and even some rain but still no butterfly shortage: Holly Blue: 2 Peacock: 22 Speckled Wood: 8 Orange-Tip: 2 Comma: 3 Green-Veined White: 1 Tortoiseshell: 2 Small White: 1 - Pete Gore

Saw two male Brimstones in Town Park, Enfield yesterday Wednesday 15th April 2015 at 13:38 hrs, also a Holly Blue here at 13:44 hrs - Robert Callf. A few sightings today included our first Speckled Wood of the year in Trent Park (1 Rough Lot at 11:45 hrs and 1 Shaws Wood at 12:38 hrs), also saw a male Orange Tip along Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 12:59 hrs - Robert Callf/Robin White.

I saw my first Holly Blue of the year on Norton Common at lunchtime. And a Brimstone and a Peacock on Baldock station (flying over the tracks). - Jill Sawyer

Another glorious sunny day so I cycled around Hertfordshire on the lookout. There were Peacocks, Brimstones and Small Tortoiseshells throughout, to numerous to list. In addition, the following were noted. 1 male Orange Tip in Sherrardspark Wood [Welwyn Garden City], 2 Speckled Woods fighting on the cycle path in Harpenden [TL141156], 2 male Orange Tip at the quarry entrance to Panshanger Park, Panshanger Lane. The old station site at Cole Green at 5.00pm was most productive. In 30 minutes I saw the following, 1 Holly Blue [possibly the same individual seen yesterday], 1 Speckled Wood, 1 male Orange Tip, 1 Red Admiral and 1 Comma - Christopher Benton

I saw a Holly Blue and male Orange Tip, whilst Riverfly sampling on the River Pinn, Dovecote Copse, Eastcote (TQ 108 888) then my first pair of Speckled Woods in my Eastcote Garden. - Paul Busby

In my South Mimms garden this morning I watched as a male Orange-Tip quickly pounced and locked onto an unsuspecting female as it flew in too close. - Terry Wood

Butterflies I saw today (16/04/15): 1 small tortoiseshell, 7 brimstone, 2 peacock, 1 unidentified small white Oughtonhead Common SE TL1629 1 small tortoiseshell, 1 brimstone, 1 peacock, 1 unidentified large white Oughtonhead Lane TL1729 - David Inward

### **Wednesday 15th April 2015**

Between Aldbury Nowers and Pitstone hill - orange tip (male), holly blue, small white, plus heaps of peacocks, brimstones and orange tips. Unfortunately the green hairstreak was just over the border in Bucks. - Rikki Harrington

Another late afternoon walk around my local patch, on an unusually hot day for mid-April. Holly Blues have now emerged in good numbers - I saw ten individuals on the walk, and as far as I could see, they were all males. The main highlight of the walk was my first Large White of the year, nectaring on low-growing purple flowers.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=65345&mode=view>

The rest of the roster included: four Orange Tips, five or six Small/GVW (two were definitely GVW), five Peacocks, seven Commas, five Speckled Woods and a Red Admiral patrolling the path near the bridge over the Colne.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=65348&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=65342&mode=view>

- Dave Miller

Butterflies I saw today (15/04/15): 1 male brimstone, 1 peacock, 1 unidentified small white at St Faiths Close, Hitchin. 1 male brimstone - Walsworth Common, Hitchin. 3 small tortoiseshell, 2 unidentified large white, 1 unidentified small white, 1 male brimstone, 2 peacock - field paths off Purwell Estate, Hitchin TL2029 1 small tortoiseshell, 7 brimstone, 2 peacock, 1 unidentified small white - Wymondley Woods and surrounds, near Great Wymondley TL2129 - David Inward

Some sightings for today Wednesday 15th April 2015 - 1 Comma at Whitewebbs Wood at 09:48 hrs, 3 Peacock at Whitewebbs Wood at 10:08 hrs and 2 Peacock at Flash Lane at 10:14 hrs, 1 Large White at Flash Lane, Enfield at 10:20 hrs, 2 Small Tortoiseshell at Rectory Farm, Enfield. Tuesday evening 14th April 2015 - 3 Small Tortoiseshell at Parkside Farm, Enfield - Robert Callf

On my visit to Pear Wood, Stanmore TQ1709 9369 today I saw 3 Speckled Wood (first seen on Thursday 9th April) 1 Green veined White, 2 Brimstone, 1 Orange Tip and a number of Small Tortoiseshell, Comma's and Peacocks - Peter Elton

New records for me for 2015 were 1 Holly Blue and 1 male Orange Tip in a south Harpenden garden and Speckled Wood and Holly Blue, plus several Peacocks, Small Tortoiseshells, 2 Brimstones and a Green-veined White on Harpenden Common. The 4-5 Commas of last week seemed to have dispersed from the Common. - David Hunt

Today in various parts of Norton Common, Letchworth: 6 Peacocks, 11 Small Tortoiseshells, 5 Brimstones (including the first one this year that sat still long enough to photograph it), 4 Commas and a male Orange-tip (in flight, but I definitely got a flash of orange). - Jill Sawyer

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane. Another lovely day for butterflies. This Year's first Large White seen on the main road near the end of my walk, brought the species total seen to 10 for the first time this year and 2 Holly Blues in my garden were the 99th and hundredth individual sightings identified. I was surprised when two white butterflies fluttering around a patch of a white-flowering Cress turned out to be the first 2 female Orange-Tips I've seen so far this year. I've no proof they were going to lay there but it certainly looked as if they might and as I normally associate them with Hedge Garlic or Lady's Smock this was a new possibility to me. Today's details: Holly Blue: 11 Orange-Tip: 14 Tortoiseshell: 9 Peacock: 53 Brimstone: 3 Speckled Wood: 4 Green-Veined White: 2 Small White: 2 Comma: 1 Large White: 1 I again saw 2 Orange (or Light Orange) Underwing moths. Both seemed to wish to land on the path as if seeking minerals like



various butterflies do. Unlike them though they never settle properly and vibrate vertically or 'bounce' as if their legs were all fitted with tiny springs even when they do settle. - Pete Gore

On my walk around Tyttenhanger gravel pits this morning I saw my first 2 Orange Tips and 4 Green-veined Whites chasing each other across a field of Rape. Other butterflies seen were 9 Peacocks, 11 Small Tortoiseshell and 1 female Brimstone - Terry Wood

## **Tuesday 14th April 2015**

Just some casual observations around our neighbourhood. Nothing amazing just run of the mill!  
13th April 2015: 1 no Brimstone, 2 no Peacock, 3 no Small Tortoiseshell - St Ippolyts churchyard.  
1 no Brimstone, 4 no Peacock, 2 no Small Tortoiseshell- St Ippolyts sewage treatment works. 14th April 2015 1 no Brimstone - Little Wymondley Substation, 2 no Peacock 1 no Brimstone, 5 no Small Tortoiseshell- St Ippolyts churchyard 6 no Peacock - St Ippolyts sewage treatment works - Michael Hooper

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane. With 8 sightings even before I reached the Heath in continual sunshine and temperature above 20 this was always going to be a good butterfly day and they didn't disappoint: Holly Blue: 10 Speckled Wood: 3 Brimstone: 7 Peacock: 52 Orange-Tip: 4 Comma: 2 Small White: 2 Tortoiseshell: 9 Green-Veined White: 1 (1st identified in 2015 for me). One highlight occurred immediately as I emerged from the tunnel and disturbed a White butterfly. As I contemplated chasing it up the steep embankment I spotted what seemed to be a small white moth. I was even more surprised when this gave chase to 'my' butterfly. Evidently thwarted in its intentions the 'moth' returned and settled, showing itself to be a male Orange-Tip slightly smaller at rest than a Holly Blue. It's unlikely he'd been chasing a female (probably a male Small White) but as he seems to compensate for what he lacks in size with a great deal of ambition I could only wish him the best of luck in his quest! One other thing that seems to me to becoming clear here is that I think we have a welcome recovery in Holly Blue this spring, as hoped. - Pete Gore

During a morning working party on the River Pinn, near Pynchester Moat, Ickenham, Middlesex, (TQ 072 867) we saw at least 3 Holly Blues, 4 Orange Tip, Comma, Brimstone, 2 Peacocks and 2 Small Tortoiseshells. Then further upstream, after lunch on a butterfly walk through Pinn Meadows, Ruislip (TQ 09 88) we saw at least 12 Small Tortoiseshells, 6 Peacocks and a Brimstone. Back home in my Eastcote Garden, I saw a further 2 Holly Blues. - Paul Busby

Great weather for butterflies today. Morning visit to Gobions Wood and Park. 8 small tortoiseshells, 6 peacocks, 3 brimstones and 1 comma. Afternoon walk around Heartwood Forest and Normansland Common. 28 peacocks, 8 brimstones, 10 small tortoiseshells, 2 commas and at least 4 unknown whites. Cycled back to Hertford along the Cole Green way and stopped at the old Cole Green station site. 1 Holly blue coming down to feed on the lesser celandine. - Christopher Benton

Today at Thorley Wash I saw 1 small white, 2 orange tips, 6 brimstones and lots of small tortoiseshells and peacocks - Jenny Sherwen

It was all happening at Bayfordbury this afternoon! Saw my first orange tips, speckled wood, large white and commas of the year, along with peacocks, brimstones and a small tortoiseshell. - Ian Flack

Butterflies I saw today: 2 small tortoiseshell, 3 peacock, 1 female orange tip, 8 male brimstone, 1 unidentified large white (probably female brimstone) at Oughtonhead Common, Hitchin TL1630. 1 female brimstone Swinburn Ave, Hitchin. 1 male brimstone, 1 unidentified small white at St Faiths Close, Hitchin - David Inward

In my garden in Church Lane, Pinner this afternoon: one Holly Blue, and one Small White - Graham Elcombe

A few sightings for today Tuesday 14th April 2015 - 1 Comma at Flash Lane Aqueduct at 09:34 hrs, 1 Green-veined White at Flash Lane Aqueduct at 09:34 hrs, 1 Green-veined White at Strayfield Road, Enfield at 10:48 hrs, 1 Comma at Rectory Farm, Enfield at 11:08 hrs. Also two Holly Blue together along New River at Carr's Basin, Town Park at 11:35 hrs - my first sighting of the year! Also one Peacock along New River at Town Park, Enfield this morning at 11:30 hrs. - Robert Callf

My first definite Green-veined White of the year fluttering around weeds and settling briefly in a south Harpenden garden. Several Peacocks, 4-5 Small Tortoiseshells, a Comma, a Small White and a male Brimstone, St John's Wood, Harpenden - David Hunt

### **Monday 13th April 2015**

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane. Mostly cloud so much reduced numbers but variety quite good: Holly Blue: 3 Speckled Wood: 4 Peacock: 7 Red Admiral: 1 Small White: 1 (first confirmed this year) and two Orange/Light Orange Underwing moths. Both gave me quite a bit of time observing them flying low and the second kept landing on the path but wouldn't settle. After sending walk details yesterday I disturbed a Holly Blue whilst pruning Ivy in my garden. - Pete Gore

More sightings from Stanwell Moor. Friday 10th April: Warm and sunny. Still lots of Peacocks and Commas on my local patch, with a sprinkling of Whites and Brimstones and a couple of Orange Tips. Far more Small Tortoiseshells today, including one hassling a Peacock amorously. My first sightings today of a Speckled Wood and a **Green-veined White**.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=65144&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=65142&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=65136&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=65145&mode=view>

Sunday 12th April: Very windy, but brilliant sunshine. Reduced activity from the bigger butterflies, though a few Peacocks and Small Tortoiseshells were both seen along my usual walk. There was also an Orange Tip, several whites and a few Brimstones, one of which I watched settle into a routine which included a regular stop in the same place. I waited and managed to get a photo during one of its breaks.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=65207&mode=view>

A couple of Speckled Woods were hiding from the wind along sheltered parts of the path, and a Red Admiral appeared in the same spot by the bridge. Finally, immediately outside my front door, I came upon not one but two Holly Blues. They were battling the wind (and each other) but one stopped long enough to be caught on camera.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=65208&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=65211&mode=view>

Monday 13th April: A late stroll around the local circuit (nearly five o'clock) not long after the sun came out produced four or five whites including at least one of each (Small and GVW), and an Orange Tip. I counted just three Peacocks, and a Holly Blue in quite a different location to yesterday. More good weather in prospect - hopefully the Orange Tips will appear in numbers! - Dave Miller

### **Sunday 12th April 2015**

Saw one Small Tortoiseshell at Rectory Farm, Enfield today Sunday 12th April 2015 at 10:52 hrs. - Robert Callf

Butterflies I saw today (12/04/15): 4 small tortoiseshell, 1 peacock at Walsworth Common Hitchin TL1930. 1 peacock along path between Wilbury Way industrial area and railway, Hitchin TL1930. 1 small tortoiseshell, 4 brimstone, 1 peacock on edge between Wilbury Way industrial area and arable field, Hitchin TL1931 - David Inward

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane. A complete walk but sunshine and breeze gave way to cloud and wind by the time I passed through the Tunnel for the return journey. All the following therefore on the longer 'outgoing' stretch: Peacock: 29 Tortoiseshell: 5 Comma: 2 Holly Blue: 4 and just 1 Small or Green-veined White - Pete Gore

Thornbera Road allotments B/Stortford. 14.30 hrs Sunday 12th April, 5 small tortoiseshells including a courting couple, 2 peacocks and zero Pieridae - Len Crouch

Visited Watercress Nature Reserve in St Albans briefly and found 2 x brimstone(male), 1 x orange tip (male). At nearby Sopwell Nunnery ( TL151064) 1 x brimstone(male), 2 x small tortoiseshell. - David Gower

### **Saturday 11th April 2015**

Some sightings for Saturday 11th April 2015 - 1 **Green-veined White** at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 11:26 hrs - our first of the year! 3 Peacock at Moat Wood, Trent Park at 12:45 hrs; 2 Comma at

Trent Park ( 1 at Moat Wood and 1 at Rough Lot); 1 Small Tortoiseshell near Dew Pond, Trent Park at 13:38 hrs; 2 Small Tortoiseshell along Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm, Enfield - Robert Callf/Robin White

I saw today (11/04/15) 1 small tortoiseshell butterfly at Westmill Lane, Hitchin - David Inward

On a walk along the River Stort today: at Rushy Mead nature reserve, 1 Peacock, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 2 Commas; at Thorley Wash, 4 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Peacock. - Chris Gleeson

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane. Rain in the morning and significantly breezier, cooler conditions meant that butterfly numbers were much reduced with all the whites absent. I did however see my first Speckled Wood of the year. Details: Peacock: 9 Speckled Wood: 1 Comma: 1 Tortoiseshell: 1 - Pete Gore

### **Friday 10th April 2015**

I saw my first Brimstone in my South Mimms garden, along with a Peacock that seemed set on chasing it away - Terry Wood

I just saw a Holly Blue in my Hertford garden, my first of the year! I also saw 4 peacocks, 3 small tortoiseshells and 2 brimstones at Amwell this morning - Jenny Sherwen

Woodland footpaths between North Mymms and South Mimms to west of A1(M): Comma x 1, Peacock x 4 - Steve Evans and Ann Lee

I saw today (10/04/15) 2 Peacock butterflies at St Faiths Close, Hitchin - David Inward

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane. Another lengthy walk today covering all the same ground as the four previous this week. This one affected by intermittent cloud. Unidentified Whites are increasing but not much and my continuing failure to get a definite identification has at least lessened to the extent that I am certain we have one or other of Small White and Green-Veined White around and most likely both. Here are the rest: Peacock: 57 Brimstone: 9 (All male) Holly Blue: 3 Comma: 2 Orange-Tip: 2 Tortoiseshell: 2 - Pete Gore

I had a **Large White** in my St Albans Garden this afternoon - Mandy Floyd

Harpenden Common: 2 male Brimstones; 3 Peacocks, about 6 Small Tortoiseshells and 4 Commas. The Commas are the first I have seen this year, one female appearing to be laying eggs on new nettle shoots. Another female showed a distinct lack of interest in the attentions of a hopeful male, closing her wings until he gave up and flew off - I presume she had already mated at some point. - David Hunt

Some sightings for Friday 10th April 2015 at Grovelands Park, Southgate: at least 5 Peacock including two together and 2 Comma. - Robert Callf

Watched a Holly Blue sunbathing on the lichen-covered roof of my neighbours flat at 10am this morning in Bengoe - Christopher Benton

### **Thursday 9th April 2015**

Some sightings for today Thursday 9th April 2015 - 2 Peacock together near Duncan's Wood, Enfield Chase at 11:59 hrs, 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Parkside Farm, Enfield at 12:27 hrs, 3 Small Tortoiseshell at Vicarage Farm, 1 Small White at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 12:53 hrs, 1 male Brimstone nectaring on dandelions at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 12:57 hrs, 3 Peacock at Vicarage Farm. Also two butterflies at Town Park, Enfield - 1 Small Tortoiseshell at 13:58 hrs and 1 Peacock at 14:03 hrs. - Robert Callf

Butterflies seen today 09/04/15: Alban Way, near Smallford - 1 Peacock, TL200073, 1 Brimstone TL196071. 1 Peacock butterfly at St Faiths Close, Hitchin - David Inward

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane. Another beautiful sunny day with my first definite sightings of Orange-Tips this year and an increase in Holly Blue. 3 out of 4 seen were on paths, including one very fresh and lively-looking male which was still on my path where I'd left it whilst I went round the Crane/Pevensey loop. (The fourth was checking the top of a hedgerow in typical Holly Blue fashion). Two small orange sightings on the Marshalling Yards, including one

which flew up into the Birches, so no doubt Underwings although there are Aspens around too and I can never manage to view this moth long enough to get a real description. Here is my summary: Brimstone: 8 Holly Blue:4 Tortoiseshell: 9 Peacock: 48 Comma: 6 Orange-Tip: 2 A few unidentified whites but the only one I got close to turned out to be a female Brimstone. On the Marshalling Yards I saw no-one all the time I was there so was surprised to find a fire burning in a hole dug last year by bikers whilst constructing one of their 'jumps.' On inspection the fire consisted mostly of two new-looking bikes/mopeds, the last bits of their tyres emitting black smoke into the otherwise clear sky. Sometimes human behaviour can be far more difficult to comprehend than butterflies! - Pete Gore

Only 1 x Brimstone seen in Bushey garden this afternoon - David Gower

### **Wednesday 8th April 2015**

***The following description fits an Orange Underwing/Light Orange Underwing precisely!!!***

*Since both silver birch and aspen are found on Bricket Wood Common, the exact species can't be confirmed but do look out for this moth - it is not a Small Copper!*

On 6 April, walking across Bricket Wood Common, shortly after 2:00 pm, I noticed a puzzling lepidopteran! The insect was flitting around in the low area on the bridleway side of the bank, about 1-2 feet above the ground, for a minute or two without settling to give me a clear view before it moved away, and I lost sight of it. This behaviour seemed more like a butterfly than most moths, which usually seem to make short, purposeful flights. On the wing it looked brown with a hint of orange, much as a small tortoiseshell would, but it was very small for a butterfly, like a small copper. It seemed too early in the year for a small copper (which would probably have looked brighter orange) or a hairstreak. On my walk I also saw a comma, a brimstone, a white that was small and a dozen or so each of small tortoiseshells and peacocks; no surprise amongst them! - Chris Newman

Butterflies seen today 08/04/15: 1 Peacock, 2 small tortoiseshell - Knebworth cemetery and adjacent path - David Inward

Walked from home to patchetts green this afternoon (including a pint at "the three compasses")! At Finch Lane, Bushey 1 x small tortoiseshell, 2 x peacock. Just pass jewish cemetery (TQ137970) 1 x small tortoiseshell, 2 peacock and in field next to stables over A41(TQ137972) near to Patchetts Green 6 x small tortoiseshell, 2 x peacock and 1 x comma. - David Gower

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane. I missed the morning sunshine and experienced a much cloudier walk still with plenty of butterflies although nothing new and no unidentified whites: Peacock: 40 Brimstone: 3 Tortoiseshell: 4 Comma: 3 - Pete Gore

There were loads of Small Tortoiseshells on Norton Common this afternoon. In a little scrubby area on the east side I watched at least 10 zooming around and defending their territory from a couple of Peacocks and a Comma. I also saw a further 8 Small Tortoiseshells, 2 Commas and 5 more Peacocks. Only one Brimstone spotted today though. - Jill Sawyer

A male Brimstone and Peacock butterfly spotted this morning in my Rustling End garden - Julie Wise

Lots of butterflies yesterday [Tuesday 7th April]. Waterford Heath NR. 8 peacocks, 2 small tortoiseshells, 2 brimstones. Balls Wood NR. 14 peacocks. Hertford heath NR. 4 peacocks. KingsMeads NR. 8 peacocks. 3 Brimstones flying together at Cromer [Hertfordshire] on Monday 6th April - Christopher Benton.

Quite a few sightings of Peacock today Wednesday 8th April 2015 included four together around Blackthorn blossom near the Dew Pond, Trent Park at 12:24 hrs, also two Small Tortoiseshell here. Saw a female **Large White** at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 13:14 hrs today - my first of the year! Yesterday afternoon Tuesday 7th April 2015 after 16:00 hrs - 5 Peacock and 2 Small Tortoiseshell at Vicarage Farm, Enfield and 1 Peacock at Park Farm, Enfield. - Robert Callf

### **Tuesday 7th April 2015**

A very fresh Peacock at Waterford north pit on Monday, in the gloom. Two male Brimstones at High Wych today - Laurence Drummond

News from Diane Andrews. On a visit to Tottenham Cemetery today she saw 1 Holly Blue, **3**

**Speckled Woods**, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Brimstone, 1 Peacock and unknown identified white butterfly.

Hampstead Heath, still no Orange Underwings. However, we did see two Holly Blues-one in our garden and one on the Parkland walk and Brimstone, Comma, Small Tortoiseshell and Peacock on Hampstead Heath. **Speckled Wood** on the Parkland Walk - Helen Bantock

Just thought I would mention the remarkable number of butterflies I have seen in the last 2 days flying around the area near my garden where I live in Tring(HP23). There have been at least 5/6 Small Tortoiseshells(in great condition) flying around in the warm sunshine settling on flowers as well as 2/3 Peacocks and several Brimstones. Interestingly I did not see as many butterflies when I went out for a walk earlier today around the wider countryside of Aldbury Nowers and I would say there were more than I saw here this time last year when we had a similar situation with some good weather in April. I live right next to a busy road so it obviously does not put them off. - Phil Woodward

1 Brimstone, 1 Peacock - St Faiths Close, Hitchin. 1 Brimstone - opposite entrance to Station Approach, Hitchin, TL19302974, 1 Peacock - south edge of Knebworth recreation ground TL253203. David Inward

Today I have had 3 Brimstones, 3 Small Tortoiseshells and a Peacock in my SG6 garden. On a walk across Norton Common, Letchworth, I saw a further 6 Brimstones and 2 Peacocks. - Jill Sawyer

In Balls Wood today (7th) 8 peacocks, 4 Brimstones and a comma. On Hertford Heath (Roundings) 2 Peacocks and 1 Brimstone - Andy Brown HMWT

Today I walked along the path by the railway in Bedfont Lakes Country Park. There were dozens of Peacocks along the length of the path, along with a few Commas, Brimstones and the odd Small White. There was lots of aerial dogfighting, plus a bit of courtship behaviour amongst the Peacocks.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=65007&mode=view>

I also managed to fit in another walk later on around my local patch at Stanwell Moor. Today I was rewarded by my first Orange Tip of the year, a rather sluggish male which potted along the path and then basked in the late afternoon sunshine.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=65013&mode=view>

Dave Miller

Broxbourne woods full of peacocks, brimstones, commas and an occasional small tortoiseshell and my first **orange tip**. Also chiff chaffs everywhere - Steve Kiln

Repeated yesterdays walk and spotted 1 x small tortoiseshell & 1 x peacock in Bushey garden. At Water Lane 8 x small tortoiseshell, 4 x brimstone including 1 female, 6 x peacock. Lastly at Fishers Field 1 x brimstone ,2 x small tortoiseshell, 2 x peacock. A lovely day - David Gower

St John's Wood, Harpenden: 1 Small White, 1 male Brimstone, 2 Peacocks and several Small Tortoiseshells flying with the Peacocks or basking on the ground; Harpenden Common: 3 male Brimstones flying together, one stopping to feed on a dandelion flower for a brief period, 3 Peacocks and at least 6 Small Tortoiseshells cavorting in groups of 2 or 3 or basking; garden in south Harpenden: 1 male Brimstone regularly patrolling (seen on 5 occasions) and a Peacock. A good day! - David Hunt

**Holly Blue** in Bengoe this afternoon - Simon Knott

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane. More sunshine and lots more butterflies including my first **Holly Blue** of the year and 4 or 5 of the inevitable Unidentified White category. Summary of those identified: Tortoiseshell: 4 Peacock: 51 Brimstone: 6 Comma: 2 Holly Blue: 1 - Pete Gore

It was beautifully warm this afternoon in Kings Langley with a peacock butterfly settling briefly on the lawn and a male **holly blue** in a holly bush; also various bees, a beefly and my first wasp of the season - Elizabeth Debenham



## Monday 6th April 2015

Here are my butterfly sightings for Monday the 6th April in Stotfold (TL223368), just north of Letchworth. Brimstone x17, Small Tortoiseshell x18, Peacock x9 and Small White x1 - Daniel Cooper

First day of transect yesterday in Trent park. Despite being a bit windy, the sun was out and saw Brimstones, tortoiseshell, small white, red admiral, comma and peacocks. A good start! - Simon Pegg

Some sightings for Monday 6th April. Wareside: **1 Orange Tip** - first for year fresh as a daisy 8 Brimstone - all males, 1 peacock, 3 small tortoiseshell. Hertford - Kings Mead: 1 small white, 6 brimstone, 6 small tortoiseshell, 3 peacock. Things finally on the move - Phil Macmurdie

Had a brimstone, peacock and small tortoiseshell in my WGC garden this afternoon. Also saw brimstones at a few places within Hatfield Park. Ian Flack

A bumper day for butterflies. At 10.30 a Brimstone flying north up Green Lanes. At 11.15, I liberated 1 Peacock & 1 Small Tort fluttering against my garage window. Another Brimstone crossed my garden later. My first visit to my Warren transect produced 11 Peacock & 2 Comma. A promising start to the season on a site quite exposed now following last summer's scrub clearance. Today's butterflies were mostly round sheltered margins. John Moss

Many **Twitter** reports today including a first report of **Orange Tip** at Panshanger Park seen by Jenny Sherwen and Dave Howdon getting a photo of a **Light Orange Underwing** moth at Horsenden Hill. Too many news items to list individually.

Our first butterfly records, 5th April - Brimstone, Stevenage Road, St Ippolyts. 6th April - 2 x Small Tortoiseshell in our garden in St Ippolyts and 1 x Small tortoiseshell St Ippolyts Sewerage Treatment Plant - Mary and Michael Hooper

On detour to shops via Fishers Field, bushey spotted 1 x small tortoiseshell and at Water Lane, Watford counted 5 x small tortoiseshell, 3 x male brimstone, 1 x peacock. At home in Bushey garden 1 x peacock and late afternoon at Merryhill Fields 13 x peacock & 4 x small tortoiseshell. On way home 1 x peacock in Beechcroft Road, Bushey (TQ121958) - David Gower

Walking home from work this afternoon (6th) near Bedfont Lakes Country Park, I spotted a Peacock, a Brimstone and a Small White. Just to the south of the cargo area at Heathrow, I saw further Brimstones and Small Whites, plus a likely Comma. Arriving home in Stanwell Moor, I then set out for the first proper circuit of my local patch this year in decent weather. Over a leisurely hour and a half, Commas, Peacocks and Brimstones predominated, all very active and tussling with each other, though the Brimstones really weren't interested unless they found a Small White. There were a few of these, and like the Brimstones, they were completely unapproachable. I found a single Red Admiral, in exactly the same spot as the one I saw on 22nd March, but the photos show a different individual. Finally, on the approach to home there is a wide grassy area where dandelions and daisies are now emerging. Most years, this is where I see my first local Small Tortoiseshell, and today was no different, with one individual nectaring on a dandelion.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=64949&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=64943&mode=view>

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<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=64947&mode=view>

- Dave Miller

Tristan and I walked over to Hampstead Heath and had 2 Brimstones and a Peacock there and a Small White on the Parkland Walk. No Orange Underwings though. Tristan found a lot of small beetles-several different ones -in a muddy pool by the last remnant of wet heath that is fenced off - Helen Bantock

2x small whites and 2x peacocks @ TQ102750, 1x **Holly blue** @ TQ125749, - Paul Taylor

Tweeted my sightings earlier but thought I ought to send you an email too. I saw my first **orange tip** this afternoon in Lady Hughes Wood, Panshanger. I also saw 2 brimstone, 4 peacocks & 6 small tortoiseshells in my garden (Hertford). - Jenny Sherwen

2 brimstones, one peacock and a small tortoiseshell in Stocking Pelham today (6th) - Andy Brown

On waste ground opposite Croxley Common Moor (on the other side of the Canal); ten or more Peacocks, seven Brimstones (all males), four Small Tortoiseshells and three Commas. All these insects seemed to be in near-perfect condition. Graham Elcombe.

Bricket wood common - fantastic sunny morning to kick off the Transect year. 4 male Brimstones, 1 comma and 8 Peacocks. One Peacock was nectaring on goat willow along with a host of bee species, showing what a valuable nectar source this plant can be. One pair of peacocks were courting, preparing to start a new butterfly year - Malcolm Hull

A few reports to make - 1 Peacock at Camlet Moat, Trent Park at 11:40 hrs on Sunday 5th April 2015. Today Monday 6th April 2015 - 1 male Brimstone at Whitwebbs Wood at 09:31 hrs, 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Whitwebbs Wood at 10:33 hrs and 2 Peacock and 2 Comma here also. - Robert Calf

What a start to the transect season! For my Stevenage transect today I counted 30 Peacocks (a record for an overwintering adult) and 13 Small Tortoiseshells (also the most I've seen of this species in early spring). Anything to do with the fact that today is the first really fine, mild day weather-wise this year to encourage the butterflies to be more active? On the other hand, only 2 Commas and they weren't flying - strange! - Peter Clarke

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane. What a difference a few extra degrees heat and continuous sunshine makes! Here are today's sightings: Brimstone:9 (2 females my first of the year), Peacock:25 includes my first of the year, Tortoiseshell: 3 Comma:1. A fleeting glimpse of what may well have been an Orange-Tip but it managed to disappear disconcertingly quickly before I had time to confirm. - Pete Gore

PM .... Fir & Pond Woods NR HMWT....4 brimstone and 8 peacocks seen at different sites around the Reserve. - David Gompertz

Today (6/4/15) in Ruislip Woods (mainly edge of Poors Field, the LNR + Copse Wood) I counted: 8 male Brimstone, 1 **Small White** Reservoir Rd, 8 Peacock, 3 Comma (all in the LNR), 4 Small Tortoiseshell - Neil Anderson

Colney Heath garden - 1 Brimstone and 1 Peacock in our back garden. Both species seen twice so possibly more than 1 of each. Don't recall ever seeing a Brimstone in our garden before. Steve Evans and Ann Lee

Butterflies seen today (06/04/2015): 6 Brimstone, 2 Peacock - Burymead Springs, Hitchin TL187310, 1 Brimstone - Cadwell Lane industrial area north, Hitchin TL189308, 1 Brimstone - Cadwell Lane playing field north, Hitchin TL189307, 1 Brimstone, 2 small tortoiseshell - Cadwell Lane playing field south, Hitchin TL190306, 1 Brimstone, 1 comma, 1 Peacock, 10 small tortoiseshell - Walsworth Common, Hitchin TL1930, 1 Brimstone - St Faiths Close, Hitchin TL19863031 - David Inward

During a walk along the river Stort this afternoon I saw: Near Bishops's Stortford station: 5 small Tortoiseshells, 3 peacocks. Rushy Mead nature reserve: 1 small tortoiseshell. Thorley Wash nature reserve: 4 peacocks, 1 comma - Chris Gleeson

Peacock butterfly in Hitchin garden - Martin Banthorpe

First confirmed sighting this year of a pristine Peacock this morning in Eastcote garden, an unidentified "Vanessid"-type butterfly having been fleetingly glanced through the window on March 26th - Gill and Tony Porter

### **Sunday 5th April 2015**

1 Small tortoiseshell butterfly seen today 05/04/15 Burymead Springs, near Hitchin - David Inward

I was pleased to see a Small Tortoiseshell whilst on a walk around Royston Heath. 3.35pm - Kevin Wilson

My first sighting this year was a small tortoiseshell which landed on a blue hyacinth in our Bushey garden today. Went on a walk to Water Lane and Fishers Field but no sun or sightings. - David Gower

### **Friday 3rd April 2015**

I was surprised to see a probable Comma zoom round in my Hatfield garden today & disappear before I could focus on it. Time 14.40, T. c12C, cloudy, no breeze. This is only the 2nd this year. Hoping for warmer weather to start my transect walks - John Moss

### **Thursday 2nd April 2015**

I saw a peacock yesterday at Amwell viewpoint. Today I saw 1 peacock and 1 small tortoiseshell at Hunsdon Meads - Jenny Sherwen

Some sightings for Grovelands Park, Southgate today (Thursday 2nd April 2015) - 1 Red Admiral at 13:24 and 14:46 hrs, 1 male Brimstone at 14:42 hrs and 2 Comma together at 14:48 - 14:51 hrs. - Robert Callf

I saw today (02 Apr 2015) 2 Brimstone butterflies, one at Harkness Court, Hitchin and at least 1 at St Faiths Close, Hitchin. Both are flats and gardens. It could have been the same butterfly. - David Inward

March 20th afternoon - Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock settled and feeding and Brimstone in flight. My garden Letchworth Garden City. Brimstone in flight on Norton Common, Letchworth Garden City. April 2nd Norton Common - 2 Brimstone, Small Tortoiseshell in flight and a Comma feeding - Jill Sawyer

Brimstone, 02/04/2015, Pirton Road Hitchin Herts, TL172289, Andy Banthorpe

A couple of butterfly records from Harpenden: Thursday 2nd April 2015: 1 male Brimstone patrolling the edges and rides of St John's Wood, Harpenden; 1 female Brimstone investigating bushes along a hedgerow and sunning herself on a low bank, Harpenden Common plus 1 Peacock at same location. 1 Peacock in a south Harpenden garden. - David Hunt

Bengeo this afternoon : Peacock, Comma and male Brimstone - Simon Knott

Red Admiral, comMa and brimstone in Enfield today! - Simon Pegg

Saw brimstone in Graveley and 2 peacocks, 2 commas and one small tortoiseshell at Waterford heath south and 2 chiffchaffs - Steve Kiln

### **Wednesday 1st April 2015**

One Comma settled on field at Vicarage Farm, Enfield (TQ3097) at 13:27 hrs this afternoon Wednesday 1st April 2015. - Robert Callf

Hertford Heath 1st April - on the Goldington site, one Brimstone in the large ride near Haileybury - Andy Brown

Peacock reported at Amwell Reserve by [Amwell Birding on Twitter](#)

### **March 2015**

#### **Tuesday 31st March 2015 March 2015**

On Tuesday 31st March, I saw my first comma settled on a fallen camellia bloom in Kings Langley about 12.30pm in sunshine. Elizabeth Debenham

I saw a comma butterfly at Ivel Springs, Baldock - David Inward

#### **Friday 27th March 2015 March 2015**

I saw two quite active Comma butterflies at Cheney Fields, Eastcote, Middlesex - Paul Busby

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane Pevensey 2 male Brimstones on the Marshalling Yards. A mix of cloud and sunshine. Cowslips blooming on Pevensey and a party of Mallards seem to have

discovered the joys of echo by quacking loudly in the Crane's culvert under the Marshalling Yards. Still a slow start for butterflies though. - Pete Gore

I saw 1 Small Tortoiseshell at lunchtime today at Mymms Wash behind the South Mimms Services - Terry Wood

### **Monday 23rd March 2015**

Two butterflies in Trent Park today Monday 23rd March 2015 - 1 Comma on south edge of Rough Lot at 11:43 hrs and 1 Red Admiral in set-aside field near Dew Pond at 12:22 hrs - Robert Callf/Robin White

I took a walk around Tyttenhanger gravel pits this morning and saw my first Comma of the year in the Garden Wood area. As I returned along the river Colne, ahead of me a butterfly flew across my path and then away across the river; I think it was probably a Small Tortoiseshell. - Terry Wood

### **Sunday 22nd March 2015**

Today (22nd) was my first stroll around my local patch at Stanwell Moor this year in decent weather. I was rewarded with my first two sightings: an unexpected Small White, and a thoroughly expected Red Admiral. No Peacocks, Commas, Small Tortoiseshells or Brimstones yet, though.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=64666&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=64667&mode=view>

I should also report I saw a Peacock at Bedfont Lakes Country Park on 12th - Dave Miller

### **Friday 20th March 2015**

One Small Tortoiseshell along Salmons Brook at Parkside Farm, Enfield Friday 20th March 2015 at 14:59 hrs. - Robert Callf

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane/Pevensy. A bright sunny afternoon followed a cloudy morning concealing the eclipse and I finished slightly frustrated with three times as many unidentified sightings as identified - the one butterfly I did have time to recognise was a Comma on the path which connects the Crane/Pevensy section of my walk to the Marshalling Yards. This is a favoured area for both Comma and Small Tortoiseshell with extensive nettle-beds on both sides. - Pete Gore

### **Wednesday 18th March 2015**

A red admiral was settled inside a camelia bloom in my garden in Kings Langley on March 18th on a sunny lunchtime - Elizabeth Debenham

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards /Crane/Pevensy. Just two butterflies on today's walk, mostly in sunshine: a Comma on the Marshalling Yards and on the return journey across the Heath where the Gorse is in full bloom amongst the Heather my first Small Tortoiseshell of the year. The Willows are now in bloom and attracting sundry insects but not yet butterflies. - Pete Gore

### **Sunday 15th March 2015**

My first butterfly of the year. Barley, near Royston on the 10 March 2015. Brimstone - Christopher Benton

### **Friday 13th March 2015**

Saw a Small Tortoiseshell settled on the path near the lake in Grovelands Park, Southgate, N14 this afternoon Friday 13th March 2015 at 12:22 hrs. - Robert Callf

### **Thursday 12th March 2015**

On 'Celandine Walk', by River Pinn between Pinner and Eastcote, (MR 113 892): Three Small Tortoiseshells, and one Comma, all in very good condition. - Graham Elcombe

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane/Pevensy A lengthy walk today, all of it in sunshine. My first Brimstone of the year near a much-favoured spot on the Marshalling Yards followed by a second, also male, on the River Crane section of the Crane/Pevensy loop I walk. This section has seen fairly substantial clearance of scrub and the installation of a small footbridge across the Pevensy drainage channel where it flows into the Crane. If sustained this will make it easier to

walk and perhaps a little bit more open for butterflies. One other sighting on the Marshalling Yards is my first unidentified of the year -most likely a Comma. - Pete Gore

Peacock left its hibernation quarters in the space above my dustbin cupboard earlier today. This afternoon, I saw a Comma basking on a piece of rock by the brook at Shackledell Grassland only a metre or two away from my Peacock sighting last week. Most of the grassland was mechanically cut down to ground level in the winter so it will be interesting to see what will turn up later in the year. A Small Tortoiseshell (with most of one of its hindwings missing) was basking on the grass in Fairlands Valley Park just south of Six Hills Way. Still waiting for my first Brimstone! - Peter Clarke

A few sightings for today Thursday 12th March 2015 - 1 Peacock edge of Shaws Wood, Trent Park at 13:36 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell near Shaws Cottages, Trent Park at 13:37 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell near Dew Pond, Trent Park at 13:44 hrs and probably a different one edge of Williams Wood at 13:46 hrs; 1 Comma nectaring on emerging Giant Hogweed along Leeging Beech Gutter near 'Three-bridges' Trent Park at 13:58 hrs - my first of the year - Robert Callf

### **Wednesday 11th March 2015**

Three butterflies to report today Wednesday 11th March 2015 - 2 Small Tortoiseshell near Shaws Cottages, Trent Park (south facing side) at 10:35 hrs and 1 Red Admiral at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 11:10 hrs - Robert Callf/Robin White.

2 small tortoiseshells at Marsworth Reservoir this morning and one at Aldbury Nowers later on this morning. - Paul Thrush

2 small tortoiseshells seen today (11/03/2015) at grassy area at entrance to Lanterns Lane wood, Gresley Way, Stevenage - David Inward

### **Tuesday 10th March 2015**

News from Diane Andrews, 3 Small Tortoiseshell at Brunswick Park, East Barnet.

Small Tortoiseshell at Old Hale Way allotment site and Brimstone Hitchin garden, both 10 March 2015 - Nigel Agar

Saw my first **Speckled Wood** of the year And first ever for March at Western corner of Startops Reservoir Tring at about 1pm today. Another was half way along the North East side of Wilstone Reservoir about an hour later. It was sunny with a temperature of about 13 degrees C. - Graham Beevor

Sunny afternoon and blue skies and I saw a Red Admiral basking and circling around a new clearing of Highgrove Wood, Eastcote (TQ14882) and then briefly a Small Tortoiseshell by the paddling pool flower bed in Warrender Park, Eastcote, Middlesex (TQ104878). - Paul Busby

2 small tortoiseshell butterflies seen today, Walsworth Common, Hitchin TL1971130219. sunny warm dry. - David Inward

Rather surprisingly, given the weather, just 2 Small tortoiseshell chasing along the gardens in Kingsway Ware. Laurence Drummond

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards Despite many hours spent walking in sunny weather, including even on Saturday 7th March when the temperature reached 15 or so, butterflies have eluded me until today with a Red Admiral on the Marshalling Yards and, on the return journey across the Heath via the railway path, a brief glimpse of my first Comma of the year. I'm surprised to be still waiting for Brimstone and Peacock. - Pete Gore

We had our first Brimstone of the year at Thorley Wash today! It was a pale female - Jenny Sherwen

Tuesday afternoon, Fir & Pond Woods NR...a comma sunning itself by the path at the top of the meadow. - David Gompertz

In Stocking Pelham today a Red Admiral enjoying the sunshine - Andy Brown HMWT

Saw a Peacock at Vicarage Farm, Enfield this morning Tuesday 10th March 2015 at 11:52 hrs. -



Robert Callf

I took a lunchtime walk today in Wash Lane Common (behind South Mimms Services) and watched my first Small Tortoiseshell of the year fly past me - Terry Wood

My garden in Hitchin produced on 7th March at 10.45 am a pristine Yellow Brimstone - really deep yellow. Early on 10th 9.50 am although only 6 deg. Small Tortoiseshell flew from sunny house wall to front garden and up the road ! Val Fullforth

### **Monday 9th March 2015**

Only a male Brimstone so far in the garden (Hemel Hempstead) - Malcolm Newland

Finally the sun is (*was*) out.... Saturday 7th March 1 brimstone - tescos in Ware, 2 brimstones - Wareside - one male one female. Also had a mint moth (*Pyrausta aurata*) in the kitchen - Which makes up for the lack outside.. - Phil Macmurdie

### **Sunday 8th March 2015**

In Stocking Pelham today one Peacock and one small tortoiseshell - Andy Brown HMWT

I saw a peacock butterfly in my garden in Hertford yesterday and a comma in Colney Heath today - Jenny Sherwen

### **Saturday 7th March 2015**

There is more news on the Facebook page under '[It is a Brimstone day](#)'

Male brimstones at several locations and a single peacock in Sherrardspark Wood - Ian Flack

Sawbridgeworth - one Brimstone and one small Tortoiseshell - my first Butterflies of the season! - Andy Brown HMWT

News from Diane Andrews.....First butterfly of the year in her north London garden, a male Brimstone. In the afternoon, a **Comma** at Alexandra Palace

A few sightings to report today Saturday 7th March 2015 - 1 Peacock S edge of Rough Lot, Trent Park at 12:18 hrs; 2 Small Tortoiseshell together nectaring on emerging Giant Hogweed along Leeging Beech Gutter near 'Three-bridges' Trent Park at 12:58 hrs; also a probable Peacock seen in flight at Vicarage Farm - Robert Callf/Robin White.

I saw my first butterflies of the year. 1 Brimstone at the entrance to The Priory, Bridge Street, Hitchin TL18392883 over a patch of coltsfoot by a pond. 1 Brimstone and an unidentified blackish butterfly on the road verge Cambridge Road, Hitchin, east of Meadowbank TL19612991, over a patch of lesser celandine and daisies. It was sunny and warm but windy, so there may have been quite a few around. - David Inward

I went on a nature walk "First Signs of Spring" at Cranford Country Park, Middlesex lovely warm Spring day and we were rewarded with the following sightings: 2 male Brimstones along an ivy covered perimeter wall backing onto the M4 (TQ-099782), then a **Comma** along a hedgerow (TQ099774) and finally another male Brimstone flying across the bankside of the River Crane (TQ102778). - Paul Busby

My first butterfly of the year: a male Brimstone in my Harpenden garden. It's already been followed by three more. A total of five male Brimstones in our part of Harpenden today, plus my first Small Tortoiseshell of the year. For good measure, another male Brimstone at the allotment at Coldharbour (also in Harpenden). - Alan Jackson

Sighting of female brimstone along Batchwood Drive St Albans today - Andy Steele

I just thought I would let you know that today (Sat 8th) I saw a male brimstone at Northolt Station (TQ132 845) in some scrub alongside the railway track - David Coolling

A Peacock in Belmont Road, Hemel Hempstead on Friday 6th March and a Red Admiral along the New River in Hornsey on March 7th - Andrew Wood

And they are off! 16 degrees in St Albans at lunchtime and today's sightings did not disappoint. 5 Small Tortoiseshells and 1 Brimstone in St Albans, 2 Brimstones in Chiswell Green, 4 Brimstones and **4 Comma** at Bricket Wood Common. Wet conditions on the Common limited management works this winter, but the pond has been cleared and brambles/scrub removed from parts of the clearing. Sallows, Alder Buckthorn and Gorse has been retained in areas that have been cut - Malcolm Hull

Saw 2 Brimstone today in private woods at Southern Green, Rushden - John Dingemans

Beautiful fresh Brimstone circling my Hatfield garden today. First this year - John Moss

They are out again. Three peacocks and a brimstone at Waterford heath and back in our garden in Bengoe 3 tortoiseshells, a peacock and a brimstone - Steve Kiln

First sighting today (7th Mar) of male Brimstone in garden in Hitchin - Martin Banthorpe

First garden (Harpenden) butterfly of the year for me this morning - a male Brimstone. - Robin Pearson

#### **Friday 6th March 2015**

At Stanmore Country Park today, 6th.March I saw two Brimstone Butterflies along the ride by marker post No19 - Peter Elton

Peacock at Shackledell Grassland by the brook earlier today at around 2 pm. By the way, the Red Admiral I saw by Watery Grove was on 18th Feb - Peter Clarke

A Small Tortoiseshell in my garden (on crocus) midday today, 6th March. Location: Ruislip, postal code HA4. - Philip Toms

#### **Thursday 5th March 2015**

A Small Tortoiseshell in my front garden (on crocuses) in Letchworth Garden City. This is my first sighting this year and spotted as I was reading the new Butterfly Conservation Magazine! - Jill Sawyer

#### **Wednesday 4th March 2015**

Robin White saw a Red Admiral settled along Leeging Beech Gutter near Water Garden, Trent Park Tuesday 3rd March 2015 late morning news via Robert Callf

#### **Tuesday 3rd March 2015**

Had my first butterfly sighting of the year today Tuesday 3rd March 2015 - 1 Peacock flew past me near Shaws Cottages, Trent Park at 13:30 hrs - Robert Callf

#### **Monday 2nd March 2015**

A large Red admiral, in good condition, gliding around gardens in Ware park road Hertford, along the unmade part where the Rib meets the Lee - Laurence Drummond

#### **February 2015**

#### **Friday 27th February 2015**

I saw 2 Small Tortoiseshells 100m apart in Tring at about 13.00. One was taking moisture from some mud for about 30 minutes. I can't recall seeing nymphalids do that, from mud? - Nick Bowles

This morning I visited Myddleton House in Enfield to see the famous display of Snowdrops. I was thrilled to see my first Butterfly of the year - a Red Admiral sunning itself on one of the Snowdrop flowers!- Terry Wood

Wednesday 25 February. Saw my first butterfly of the year: a **brimstone** in the Pinetum at Bayfordbury - Ian Flack

### **Wednesday 25th February 2015**

My first Butterfly of the year, a Red Admiral out of hibernation. Basking in the sun on the grass at Letchworth Centre for Healthy Living, 17th February at 2.30.till 3.46pm. - Jacqueline George

### **Wednesday 18th February 2015**

I saw a Red Admiral in Barnard Park, Islington on a flowering Hebe. It was a gloriously sunny day. - Jo Murray

Nice red admiral in horse pastures at Gosmore /nursing home environs - Stuart Pittman

Red Admiral on SW edge of Watery Grove at about 1330 hours (*corrected date 07/03/15*) - Peter Clarke

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards After several butterfly-less walks in reasonably good conditions (8th,9th and 15th) today was perhaps 1 degree warmer and brought out my first butterfly of the year, a Red Admiral sunbathing on the riverside path just after I emerged from the Cavalry Tunnel on my return journey. It stayed for some time, eventually flying high and strongly up-river past me. Another sighting, much smaller, flew butterfly-like across my path as I approached the heather alongside the railway. Given the time of year I assume this was most likely a moth but despite searching and waiting a little while I was unable to see it again or get sufficient information to try to identify it. - Pete Gore

### **Tuesday 17th February 2015**

1 Peacock Butterfly on farm track at Southern Green, near Buntingford. Just to follow that I had a Small Tortoiseshell in my garden at Southern Green. - John Dingemans

I saw my first butterfly of the year today. A Peacock in Tring cemetery - Nick Bowles

### **Tuesday 10th February 2015**

16.15 today, a Small Tortoiseshell, hunkered down along the side of a step between floor 7 and 8 at Tower heights Hoddesdon, maybe woken by yesterdays warmth and now trying to get back into hibernation! Laurence Drummond

### **Monday 9th February 2015**

Peacocks, we had two in our Ashwell garden today Surprised to see them so early - Richard Holdsworth

I saw a small tortoiseshell flying, and subsequently settling, on Bricket Wood Common - Chris Newman

### **Sunday 8th February 2015**

Went to Norton Green this afternoon searching for Red Admirals and Purple Emperor larvae (on 2 willows around Watery Grove). I did not find either but I was very pleased to see a Small Tortoiseshell basking in the sun on the south-facing bank in the northern section by the travellers' site. Although the air temperature was generally about 7 degrees the bank afforded some shelter from the north-westerly winds. Peter Clarke

First butterfly for me this year, a Peacock today (8th Feb) in Gunnels Wood Road Stevenage-near junction with Six Hills Way - Phil Bishop

### **Monday 2nd February 2015**

Red Admiral flying in sun at lunchtime in the grounds of Bio Products Laboratory, Elstree - Anna Hull

### **January 2015**

### **Monday 26th January 2015**

A male **Brimstone** butterfly in Park Wood 15th January, flying around in coppice area - Dr Colin Bowlt

Deep joy yesterday: whilst tidying up the garden I came across two Orange-tip pupae (a few

photos on the facebook page). Last year I had observed half a dozen OT larvae grow up to full size on a single Garlic mustard plant that had self-seeded in my garden and I searched diligently around the area for the pupae but without success, until yesterday. Tidying up around the base of a shrub (*Spiraea japonica*) over a meter away from the site of the Garlic mustard, what looked like a green leaf emerging caught my eye enough to give it a second look. It only took a couple of seconds for me to realise that I had found the OT pupa I had been looking for. A more intense search of the shrub only revealed one more pupa, about 20cm away. Both pupae were of the green variety, rather than the more common brown. I just hope that they don't fall prey to the robins and wrens that are nesting in a nearby hedge; it would be great to have the opportunity to photograph the next stage of their development. - Bob Clift

### **Sunday 11th January 2015**

A **Red Admiral** flying in the sun around noon today on The Warren, Hartham Common, Hertford - Andrew Wood

### **Friday 9th January 2015**

**Red admiral** on Friday 9th 10.40 AM. Fir & Pond Woods NR at the lower edge of Pond Wood by the meadow. Great views - David Gompertz

### **Wednesday 7th January 2015**

Reporting from Middle Temple Garden EC4Y 7AT. One **Peacock** butterfly seen today 7th January 2015 picture attached (see Facebook page). It was indeed a grey day and a light wind which picked up as the day went on. The temperature here in central London was about 9 degrees. Interestingly the silvery material in shot is scrap of tin foil so one assumes the butterfly had worked out that its beneficial reflective properties. But Tom (*photographer*) would agree that it may be disturbance out of hibernation- a useful reminder not to overdo the tidying. - Kate Jenrick  
Head Gardener Middle Temple

