

# Archive Page

## Sightings and news from January to June 2007

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This page contains sightings details of all the butterflies and moths reported to the [Sightings page](#) between January and June 2007.

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

### JUNE 2007

#### Friday 29th June

Following up a report from a Bengeo environmental club pupil of a Marbled White sighting, Alan Downie visited a field close to **Stapleford** village today and found numerous Marbled Whites, mating Large Skipper, Meadow Browns, a single lonely Ringlet and an **Essex Skipper**. The field apparently is fantastic!

Went to **Bricket Wood** this afternoon and saw: one red admiral, two speckled woods, one large white, two white admirals, one purple hairstreak, and four meadow browns - Dave Mackenzie

Managed to stop off briefly at **Hexton** again today on the way home from work. I was surprised by the number of marbled whites - I saw 12+. Also saw small heath (4), ringlet(4), meadow brown(6) & speckled wood(3). - Gavin Vicary

News for today (Fri 29th June 2007) is as follows: 1 White-letter Hairstreak, behind bus-stop, opposite Oakwood tube; 2 Painted Lady, at 'New Fields', Trent Park; 2 Ringlet, at 'New Fields'; 3 Small Copper, at 'New Fields'- summer-brood is about 1 or 2 weeks early this year, in line with spring emergence; 2 male Gatekeeper, at 'New Fields'; 11 Red Admiral, ( 7 in Trent Park, 1 Parkside Farm, 3 Vicarage Farm ); 7 Comma, at Trent Park; 10 Small Heath, ( 9 at 'New Fields', 1 at Vicarage Farm ); 1 male Large Skipper, at Vicarage Farm; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, summer-brood, along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm - Robert Callf.

I had a walk around **Cornmill Meadows** (which I think is actually Essex), mainly looking for dragonflies, but found my first and second Gatekeeper of the year, also Red Admiral, Large, Small and Green-veined White, Ringlet, Comma, Small Tortoiseshell, Large Skipper and Meadow Brown - Steve Lane and David Beer

On a birding visit this morning, I saw 2 Marbled Whites - which I have never recorded at **Tytenhanger** before. Also 2 Gatekeeper, 2 Ringlet, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Small Skipper, c10 Meadow Browns, c10 Large Whites - David Booth

Good variety of species at **Lake Farm Country Park, Hayes**, this morning in between the showers. In about 1.5 hours counted approximately 4 Small Skippers, 1 Large Skipper, 37 Small or Green-veined Whites, 1 Holly Blue, 3 Red Admirals, 7 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Gatekeeper (first of year) and 23 Meadow Browns - Peter Naylor

Not sent in sightings recently for **Brent Reservoir** but managed a transect yesterday (Thursday 28th) during brief sunnyish spell. Total of 150 insects of thirteen species including 21 Marbled White. Had a single W-L Hairstreak last Saturday (23rd) - Roy Beddard

**Two Dark Green Frits** at **Aldbury Nowers** yesterday - good close views on musk thistle, so no probs with ID. - Martin Hicks

#### Thursday 28th June

PM (After 17.30) butterflies at **Symondshyde Woods** in the brief sunshine we had: 3 White

Admiral, 3 Purple Hairstreak - Darin Stanley

I went to **Great Ashby Park** this afternoon and in 40 mins saw 20+ Meadow Browns, 4 Marbled White, 3 Large Skippers and 2 Ringlet - Ian Hardy

Just had a very productive afternoon watching butterflies (11.30 - 14.40 BST), here follows a list of my sightings: 1 White-letter Hairstreak, settled low down on Wych Elm behind bus-stop, opposite Oakwood tube; 2 Purple Hairstreak, 1 settled on grass near Oakwood entrance and 1 near Church Wood; 6 Ringlet, 5 at 'New Fields', 1 set-aside field N of Williams Wood; 2 Small Heath, 'New Fields'; 2 Small Copper, 'fresh' second-brood, 'New Fields'; 1 Speckled Wood, along tube-line near Cockfoster's entrance; 3 Red Admiral, 2 'New Fields', 1 edge of Moat Wood; 2 Painted Lady, at 'New Fields'; 4 Large Skipper, 3 at 'New Fields', 1 female, set-aside field N of Williams Wood; 15 Comma, at Trent Park - 5 at 'New Fields', 3 on bramble by Lower Lake, 1 edge of Moat Wood and 6 together around bramble-patch, N of Williams Wood; 2 male Gatekeeper, edge of Church Wood ( my first of the year); 1 Green-veined White, settled near Church Wood; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, fresh 'summer-brood', near Sport's Field; 1 Marbled White, edge of Moat Wood (my first of the year) - Robert Callf

**Broxbourne Wood NR** - butterfly walk this morning. Despite a cloudy outlook, there were several sunny breaks which allowed everyone to see several Red Admirals, meadow browns, ringlets, large and small skipper and a comma and speckled wood. Purple Hairstreak were active in the tree tops and 3 White Admiral were seen on ride side oak and willows. None came down to the brambles whilst we were there just staying higher up making the most of the sunshine - various recorders

### **Wednesday 27th June**

A short walk in Enfield Town today (Weds 27th June 2007) produced 1 Large White, at Enfield Grammar School Playing Field and 1 Red Admiral at Town Park - Robert Callf

**Horsenden Hill**, found and photographed my first 2007 Marbled White today. Was rather overcast at the time but it was still active. Disturbed several resting (and hidden until they took flight) Meadow Browns and millions of Grasshoppers stalking it. Then beaten into the woods by a swarm of those irritating horseflies. Up the hill a Red Admiral whizzed past me, and disturbed a Comma. In the grazing field near the top found a 5-spot burnet feeding in the gloom. (Or is it narrow bordered 5-spot?) Then it started raining lightly. Still to work out how to spot a WL Hairstreak! Let alone photograph one. Even when the sun briefly poked through a hole to briefly light up the elms - Mike Rubin

**Park Wood Ruislip**, Meadow brown 3, Small skipper male 1 - Sezar Heimet

### **Tuesday 26th June**

**Grove Farm**, went on a short walk after a lunchtime meeting to find one each of Large Skipper, Large White, Small Tortoiseshell and Meadow Brown despite the almost total overcast. Was nice to see anything after the last few days! - Mike Rubin

A few records for today ( **Tues 26th June 2007** ) - Peacock, a large batch of caterpillars on nettles near Allotments, Vicarage Farm; 4 Red Admiral, ( 1 Vicarage Farm, near Williams Wood, 2 set-aside field N of Williams Wood, 1 Bramley Rd., N14 ); 1 Ringlet, set-aside field N of Williams Wood; 1 Purple Hairstreak, in Rough Lot, Trent Park ( my first of the year - Robin J White reports one at Vicarage Farm on 14th June 2007 - also in 2005 he reports one on 9th June! ); 1 Large Skipper, at 'New Fields'. A quick walk yesterday ( **Mon 25th June 2007** ) produced one noteworthy record - 1 Comma, settled by the Lower Lake, Trent Park - Robert Callf

**Batford Irrigation Pond, Batford**. PM (after 18.00) butterflies seen were 3 Marbled Whites, 1 Ringlet, 1 Small Skipper & several Meadow Brown all around the pond. Boy is it cold out there - Darin Stanley

### **Monday 25th June**

Afternoon visit to **Bricket Wood** blessed with a sunny afternoon despite a very poor weather forecast given. Five White Admirals, three Red Admirals and a single **Silver Washed Fritillary** - Clive Burrows

A single **Dark Green Fritillary** at **Aldbury Nowers Nature Reserve** this morning. It was active

along the south side of the public footpath in the northern half of the southern compartment. Also plenty of Marbled Whites and Ringlets throughout the Reserve - Tim Hill

News from Cherry Eggleton - **13th June:** Red Admiral for 3rd year running, lays eggs on nettles in plant container, **Westminster, Central London. 15th June 2007: Clifford Road allotment site, North Brent** - 70 Peacock caterpillars, full size found on nettles allotment plot. By 17th only 10 remained - could not find pupa

Here is the list of butterflies seen in **Ruislip Woods** at yesterday's field trip: purple hairstreak 3 (including one very obliging female!), meadow brown 10+, white admiral 3, large skipper 1, small/essex skipper 2, red admiral 1, ringlet 1, also several grass moths and one possible little emerald/small emerald - several observers

**Aldbury Nowers** on Saturday afternoon: Dozens of meadow browns, ringlets and marbled whites, two red admirals, one speckled wood, three large skippers, one small skipper, one brimstone, one comma, one small heath and hundreds of five spot burnets, several small whites. I have enclosed pics and as before my identification is suspect so apologies if any of them are incorrectly named - Dave Mackenzie

News for ( **Fri 22nd June 2007** ) - 2 Holly Blue, at Enfield Town ( 1 at River View near Crown & Horeshoes P.H., 1 at Enfield Grammar School Paying Field ); 1 Comma, at Enfield Grammar Sch. Playing Field; 3 White-letter Hairstreak, above Wych Elms at **Enfield Grammar Sch.** Playing Field - including 2 clashing; 1 Small White, at Enfield Grammar Sch. Playing Field. News for ( **Sat 23rd June 2007** ) - 1 Holly Blue, near Crown & Horeshoes P.H.; 1 male Meadow Brown, at Chase Green, Enfield Town; 1 Speckled Wood, at Chase Green; 1 Snout, at Chase Green; 1 Speckled Wood, at Carr's Lane; 1 Red Admiral, at Carr's Lane / Bush Hill Prk. Golf Course - Robert Callf. Ann

### **Saturday 23rd June**

I had a phone call from Ian Hardy to say that he was on **Great Ashby Park** and had seen 2 Marbled Whites, so I went to find him. Darrel Bryant also joined us for a walk around the park. We saw 6+ Marbled Whites, Small White, Meadow Brown, 5 Comma, Red Admirals (a couple of fresh ones), Small Heath, Common Blue, Ringlet, 1 Painted Lady, Small Tortoiseshell, Large Skipper, 3 Small Skippers and a Six-spot Burnet - Steve Lane

**Broxbourne Wood NR**, HMWT Butterfly recording workshop. Despite cloud and earlier rain, day improved and several Red Admiral, Large Skipper, Meadow Brown, Ringlet, Speckled Wood and a Comma. Highlight was a recently emerged Purple Hairstreak on low vegetation and at the very end a **White Admiral** - several recorders

**Coppetts Wood**, Midday; 6 White-letter Hairstreak on ash clashing, 1 Purple Hairstreak on oak, 1 Painted Lady - Tony Clancy

### **Friday 22nd June**

A long sunny period between 8.30 and 10.30 this morning (22nd June) provided the opportunity to have a good look around the site during my day off work. Best sighting were the numbers of White-letter Hairstreaks on **Horsenden Hill**, with 19+ recorded there along with another 2 in **Perivale Wood**. Other stuff: Marbled White (2; Home Mead and Horsenden Wood Field), Purple Hairstreak (1; Long Mead), my first Small Skippers of the year (5; all netted, all on Horsenden east), Painted Lady (2), Red Admiral (1), Large Skipper (6), Large White (1), Small White (1). Best bird was a Nuthatch in Perivale Wood, my first this year there and a Little Owl (adult this time) on Paradise Fields - Andy Culshaw

Seems to have been a lot of Red Admiral around this week, has anyone else noticed this? Two Red Admiral, together, at Bramley Rd., N14 on 20th June 2007 and one at Halewood Hse., Southbury Rd., Enfield Town, yesterday 21st June - Robert Callf

Spent a couple of hours in **Bricket Wood Thursday** afternoon. Despite the continuing unsettled weather saw 3 White Admirals, 2 Red Admiral, 3 Meadow Browns and singletons of Ringlet and Large Skipper - Clive Burrows

### **Thursday 21st June**

I had my first marbled white of the year on **Horsenden Hill** this evening. Stunning views,

obviously, since I didn't have my camera with me. It was on the rough grassy area opposite The Ballot Box - Bramstons Green South. Nothing else of note - 56+ Swifts about the best. The horse flies are terrible, the worst I can remember - Wood Field and The Pightle are basically no go zones!  
- Andy Culshaw

Possible Purple Emperor seen by Tom Dunbar at **Ruislip** today

White-letter Hairstreak seen at three sites around Hertford this morning and later at **Cheshunt Park** (south side) on planted elm on edge of golf course, 6 white-letter seen in matter of seconds when sun shone - Liz Goodyear with Andrew Middleton at Cheshunt

Not much to report today - 2 Comma, at 'New Fields', Trent Park; 13 Small Heath, 11 at 'New Fields', 2 at Vicarage Farm; 2 Green-veined White, at 'New Fields' -'fresh' summer-brood; 2 Speckled Wood, 1 at 'New Fields', 1 at Vicarage Farm; 3 Red Admiral, 1 along Leeging Beech Gutter near Water Grdn., 2 at Vicarage Farm - 1 Hog Hill and 1 near Allotments; 2 male Large Skipper, 1 set-aside field N of Williams Wood and 1 at Vicarage Farm; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, at Vicarage Farm. Also 2 Twenty-Two Spot, on mildewed leaves near Oakwood entrance - my first of the year - Robert Callf.

### Wednesday 20th June

3 White-letter Hairstreak **Totteridge valley** (1 on field maple, 2 on prunus) 1 Marbled White - Tony Clancy

Saw a big fritillary yesterday at **Aldbury Nowers** - couldn't get near to it and very restless, but feeding on bramble flowers so I'll put this down as **Silver-washed Fritillary** - Martin Hicks

Had my first Marbled White and Ringlet of the year today in area of scrub between North Road Garden Centre **Stevenage** and the A1 roundabout. Also present were several Large Skipper, numerous Meadow Brown, and 3 Red Admiral - Darrel Bryant

News for today - 2 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 on bramble blossom near Equestrian Centre, 1 at 'Barracks', Vicarage Farm; 7 Red Admiral, 1 along Merryhill's Brook near Equestrian Centre, 3 near Shaws Wood, including 2 together, 1 Williams Wood, 1 Dew Pond, 1 Parkside Farm; 2 Painted Lady, 1 on bramble by Lower Lake, 1 set-aside field N of Williams Wood; 3 Comma, 2 together, at Parkside Farm, 1 at Park Farm; 2 Large White, 1 along Merryhill's Brook near Equestrian Centre, 1 at Vicarage Farm; 3 Large Skipper, 1 male, set-aside field near Shaws Wood, 2 at Vicarage Farm; 2 Speckled Wood, 1 near Upper Lake, 1 at Water Grdn.; 1 male Common Blue, at Parkside Farm; 6 Ringlet, 4 set-aside field near Shaws Wood, 2 at Park Farm; 2 Small Heath, at Vicarage Farm. Also saw my first Brown Hawker of the year by Lower Lake - Robert Callf.

### Tuesday 19th June

First Marbled Whites of the season recorded for **Bunkers Park**. The number seen, 13, was the highest first-day count in the 9 years of the BP transect - Michael Pearson

First White letter hairstreak on my **Ware Park transect** since 1998 today (it must have heard about the survey). Different place (and tetrad) to the old sightings. Also good numbers of Red Admiral and Meadow Brown feeding on privet flowers - Andrew Wood

The first W/L hairstreak today in **Abney Park Cemetery** - at the spot with the oak, ash and elm combination - Garry James for TeRNS

Revisited some of the central London areas for White-letter today, whilst it was sunny. First stop **Gibson Square in Islington** and several white-letter seen flying around an ash and the giant elms in the square. Nothing yet as nearby Barnsbury Lane. Then to **Westbourne Green** open space, almost beneath the West Way, and where there are at least 5 medium sized planted elms and some very active white-letter. Lots of clashes and flights around lunchtime. From there we went to look at the elms near to the Broad Walk in **Regents Park** and again active white-letter. Nothing around the elms in Kensington Gardens but still a chance one might get seen. However, the highlight for us was being asked by Paul Whitehouse what we were looking at. When we explained he was very interested although I fear we might just end up as characters in one of his TV shows! Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

A spare half hour in my **Stevenage garden** this afternoon produced, 1 **White-letter Hairstreak**,

2 Red Admirals, 2 Large Skippers, several Meadow Browns and a Large White - Steve Lane

This morning I had a walk around **Harmergreen Wood** near where I live, and found at least 6 Marbled Whites. There were also 2 Small Skippers, 2 Small Heath and many Meadow Browns there - David Booth

Been over Moat Mount Open Space, Totteridge Fields and Akley today (Tues 19th June 2007) and recorded the following: 7 Red Admiral, ( 2 at Moat Mount O.S., 1 at Mote End Farm, 1 at Totteridge Fields, 1 at Brent Lodge Farm, Arkley, clashing with a Small Tortoiseshell, 2 at Arkley ); 1 Comma, at Mote End Farm; 2 Small Tortoiseshell, ( 1 at Brent Lodge Farm, 1 at Arkley View, Livery Stables ); 1 female Large Skipper, at Mote End Farm; 5 Large Skipper, at Totteridge Fields; 1 Large Skipper, at Brent Lodge Farm; 8 Large Skipper, at Arkley; 3 Small Skipper, at Totteridge Fields; 1 Small Skipper, at Arkley; 1 male Common Blue, at Brent Lodge Farm; 1 Speckled Wood, at Arkley; 1 Burnet Companion, 1 Mother Shipton and numerous Narrow-bordered Five- Spot Burnet at Totteridge Fields. Also 2 White-letter Hairstreak, clashing, behind bus-stop, opposite Oakwood tube. Yesterday ( Mon 18th June 2007): 1 Red Admiral, at Town Park, Enfield, in the evening - Robert Callf

### Monday 18th June

**News for today ( Mon 18th June 2007 )** - 4 Red Admiral, ( 1 at Vicarage Farm, 2 Parkside Farm, 1 Park Farm ); 3 Speckled Wood, ( 2 Trent Park - 1 near Equestrian Centre, 1 near Shaws Wood; 1 Park Farm ); 1 male Common Blue, set-aside field N of Williams Wood; 3 Large Skipper, ( 1 at Parkside Farm, 2 at set-aside field near Shaws Wood ); a small batch of Peacock caterpillars at Park Farm on nettles, and a single large caterpillar on gravel-track at Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm; 2 Ringlet, newly emerged 'black and velvety', set-aside field near Shaws Wood - first of the year for me! Also lots of Cinnabar caterpillars at Parkside Farm on Ragwort and single adults at set-aside field near Shaws Wood and a Vicarage Farm. More news for the weekend - **Sat 16th June 2007**: 3 Comma, 'fresh' summer-brood, ( 2 'New Fields', 1 set-aside field N of Williams Wood); 7 Large Skipper, ( 1 'New Fields', 4 together, on bramble, set-aside field N of Williams Wood; 2 Vicarage Farm ); 2 male Small Skipper, 'New Fields' - near Sport's Field - my first of the year; 2 Small Tortoiseshell, at Vicarage Farm; 2 Red Admiral, at Vicarage Farm; 1 Painted Lady, at Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm; 3 Burnet Companion, set-aside field N of Williams Wood. **Sun 17th June 2007**: 2 White-letter Hairstreak, together, behind bus-stop, opposite Oakwood tube; 13 Large Skipper, ( 10 at 'New Fields', 1 set-aside field near Dew Pond; 2 Vicarage Farm ); 1 Speckled Wood, at 'New Fields'; 2 Painted Lady, ( 1 at 'New Fields', Trent Park, 1 at Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm ); 7 Red Admiral, ( 2 'New Fields', 1 Icehouse Wood; 1 Williams Wood - on bridle-path; 3 at Vicarage Farm ); 39 Small Skipper, at 'New Fields' Trent Park, between 12.38 hrs. - 13.25 hrs.; 1 Small Copper, at 'New Fields' near Sport's Field - 'very tatty and faded'; 1 Cinnabar, set-aside field near Shaws Wood - Robert Callf

News from **Sunday 10th June** at **Minet Country Park, Hayes, Middx**. I spotted 1 Painted Lady, Cabbage White's, 1 Meadow Brown, 1 Red Admiral, Skippers, 1 Peacock and 1 Tortoiseshell. The nature reserve was officially opened in 2003 and is becoming a huge success in attracting wildlife. As I live nearby, I am hoping to see an increase in butterflies to my garden this year. Saturday 16th June in Hayes Middx I had 1 Red Admiral and 1 Green Veined White and on **Sunday 17th June** 1 Comma and a Meadow Brown. Looking forward to taking some photo's this summer when these lovely little critters slow down long enough for me to take a pic!! - Helen George

### Sunday 17th June

Sunday afternoon.... at **Fir and Pond Woods** on the meadow... several meadow browns and small skippers But also 1 painted lady and **1 ringlet**... both first for the year on the Reserve. Happy days! David Gompertz

I recorded **33 Marbled White today**, 17/6/2007, again they were on the waste land adjacent to the **M1/M25**. On my local patch around Abbots Langley I also recorded, Small/Essex 1, Large Skipper 1, Brimstone 1(female), Large White 1, Green-veined White 1, Common Blue 2, Red Admiral 4, Small Tortoiseshell 10, Peacock 1, Comma 1, Meadow Brown 22 - Bob Cripps

**Three White Admirals** along the main north-south ride on the **Bricket Wood** transect today; also 24 Meadow Browns (including at least one female), six Large Skippers, two Large Whites (or one mobile individual), two Red Ads (ditto), two Small Torts and a Speckled Wood. Nearby at **Munden Spring** a White-letter Hairstreak nectaring on bramble flowers. Disappointing to see that Harlequin Ladybirds now seem to be spreading into these more rural areas - Colin Everett



2 White-Letter Hairstreak **Totteridge Valley**, also Painted Lady & Large Skippers. Sunday Morning - Tony Clancy

### **Saturday 16th June**

Just had a look behind the bus-stop opposite **Oakwood tube** after a heavy shower and observed at least **4 White-letter Hairstreak** around a Lime tree and the Wych Elms here; also 1 Red Admiral and 1 Small White here (13.55 - 14.00 hrs.) - Robert Callf.

**Wormwood Scrubs** field trip, "Come and have a look at this moth" said Margaret. It was in some-ones' cupped hands. The lady gently open her hands and there was a **Purple Hairstreak**; a new record for the site. We had to shelter in the Lindford Christie Stadium near the end of the walk as the heavens opened. Six other species were seen and the faint call of the nesting Meadow Pipit was heard - John Hollingdale

### **Friday 15th June**

Just a few sightings today (Fri 15th June 2007) between 14.00 - 15.35 BST - 3 Red Admiral, (1 Water Grdn., Trent Park, 2 Vicarage Farm); 1 Small Tortoiseshell, at Vicarage Farm. News for yesterday (Thurs 14th June 2007) - 1 male Large Skipper, at 'New Fields', Trent Park; 4 Red Admiral, at Trent Park - 2 at 'New Fields', 1 Upper Lake, 1 Water Grdn.; 2 Red Admiral, at Vicarage Farm; 1 Painted Lady, at Vicarage Farm; 1 Comma, at 'New Fields', Trent Park; 1 Small White, at Vicarage Farm; 1 Mother Shipton, at Vicarage Farm and 1 Snout, at rest, on railings at Water Grdn. - above stinging nettles - Robert Callf

### **Thursday 14th June**

Despite the forecast went to the **London Borough of Hackney** today to seek out the elms mentioned [in this leaflet](#) and in particular elms in Millfields Park South, St John of Jerusalem Church and Hackney Downs. The trees at these sites are truly huge, and in moments of sunshine between cloud we had white-letter activity at all three sites. The problem is that because the trees are so tall, the butterflies look absolutely minute and it takes awhile to be certain that the small skitty thing seen on the top of the elm really is white-letter. Quite amazing and probably the first records from these trees. For instance around Millfields Park there was no visible nectar so they must be surviving on the elm or London Plane honeydew and its not surprising that no one has seen one there - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

**June 13th:** was walking on **Northchurch Common** (the big grassy field next to the Northchurch - Ringshall road) and spotted a **grizzled skipper**, it was some way into the field amongst the long grass which seemed an odd location for it. Wasn't really there for the butterflies but did notice a half a dozen or so meadow browns and three painted ladies as well - Colin Sturges

It always seems to rain on my days off just lately, but the sun did show for about 30 minutes today, just long enough for a quick walk around **Great Ashby** Park. I saw lots of Meadow Browns, Common Blues, 3 Large Skippers and a Painted Lady, then it rained again! Steve Lane

We saw White Admiral and Silver-washed Fritillary at Park Heath Corner (the Sussex branch reserve) yesterday + Small P/B. The first two had only emerged that day - John Hollingdale

### **Wednesday 13th June**

Just a few sightings today (Weds 13th June 2007) - 2 Holly Blue, 1 at Old Park Avenue, 1 male, at Town Park on dog's muck 'taking minerals'; also 1 Large White along Gentleman's Row, Enfield Town - Robert Callf

### **Tuesday 12th June**

Omitted to say that we had our first **Horsenden** Meadow Brown on the same day as the W-I Hairstreaks - just the one on **9th June**. My garden moth trap in Greenford (basically adjoining Horsenden Hill) has also had single **Buttoned Snouts** on two recent dates - 24th May and 9th June. Dave Howdon and I also had two Buttoned Snout to MV in Perivale Wood on 25th May - Andy Culshaw

Just made an unplanned detour via **Park Wood Ruislip** on the way home from work as the cloud had completely broken up and it was gorgeous out in the breeze. It was well worth the trip... **1 x White Admiral** - My first of the year. Very fresh! It was basking on a fern leaf but shot off high

into the trees before I could get close. 2-3 x Small Skipper - My first of the year too. I think the Large Skippers were still around too. 1 x Red Admiral. The usual Green Oak Tortrixes, Straw Dots and other miscellaneous moths. No sign of Marbled White yet. But I imagine not long now. I wandered along the main bridleway too but no hairstreaks seen. They are starting to annoy me. Small Skipper and White Admiral (long range):

<http://piccies.flybywire.org.uk/ButterfliesMoths/2007/20070612/SmallSkipper.jpg>

<http://piccies.flybywire.org.uk/ButterfliesMoths/2007/20070612/WhiteAdmiral.jpg> - Mike Rubin

News for today ( Tues 12th June 2007) - 3 Large Skipper; 2 Red Admiral; 1 Painted Lady; 1 Peacock and 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Vicarage Farm - Robert Callf.

A Meadow Brown at Ruislip Lido, yesterday on 11th June (photo to be posted) - Sezar Hikmet

### Monday 11th June

I had our **first White Admiral** at **Ruislip** (Park Wood) on **Saturday 9th**, and several people have seen more than one on the 10th, including Steve. We have had Large Skippers, Meadow Browns, Painted Ladies, Red Admirals and Speckled Woods in numbers lately - Ched George

**Small Skipper** at **Horsenden Hill** on Sunday - Dennis Kallmer

Late news from Saturday - I stayed within three miles of Tring and explored by bike in the border country of Bucks/Herts. I saw a Ringlet in FE woods above Dancers End and then a **Marbled White** while exploring a tetrad south of Tring (**nr Pendley**), more Painted Ladys as well through the day plus a late Chiltern but very fresh Dingy Skipper at Aston Clinton Ragpit (Bucks) this morn - Nick Bowles

'Parkland Walk - brief burst of sun at **Crouch Hill** at 4.15 and 3 White-letter Hairstreak appeared at once - Helen Bantock

News for today (**Mon 11th June 2007**) - 4 Red Admiral, 2 Trent Park - 1 near Dew Pond, 1 Shaws Wood; 1 Parkside Farm; 1 Vicarage Farm at Hog Hill; 1 Painted Lady, at Hog Hill; 8 Small Tortoiseshell, at Vicarage Farm, including 'old' and 'new' generations and a courting couple; 2 Small Copper, together, at Trent Park 'New Fields'; 2 male Large Skipper, along Leeing Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm; 4 Speckled Wood, 3 at Trent Park and 1 at Vicarage Farm; 1 Narrow-bordered Five-Spot Burnet, in set-aside field near Shaws Wood, first of the year; 29 Chimney Sweeper, at Trent Park; 2 Cinnabar, 1 set-aside field near Shaws Wood, 1 set-aside field N of Williams Wood. Also saw my first Orange Ladybird of the year today near Oakwood entrance. News for yesterday (**Sun 10th June 2007**) - Oakwood Park, N14: 12 Large Skipper; 2 male Common Blue; 17 Meadow Brown; 7 Small Heath; 1 Burnet Companion; 1 Mother Shipton, between 12.00 hrs - 12.40 hrs. Grovelands Park, Southgate: 1 male Large Skipper; 1 Holly Blue; 1 Comma; 1 Red Admiral; 2 Speckled Wood; between 12.50 hrs - 14.00 hrs. Enfield Town: 2 Red Admirals, 1 at River Front (TQ330966) and 1 along New River off Silver Street (TQ329969) - Robert Callf.

### Sunday 10th June

First **White Admiral** at **Balls Wood** this morning, beautiful condition, also Comma, a couple of meadow Brown, Large skippers, Painted Lady, Red Admiral and of course speckled Wood - Andrew Wood

**Just had a text message from Andrew Middleton forwarded from Colin Jupp to say that at 7.15 this evening Colin saw a pristine Purple Hairstreak on foliage at Weald Park in Essex**

**Alexandra Palace** - mirroring occurrences elsewhere in the region I had a minimum of eight individuals (**White-letter Hairstreak**) this afternoon, flitting above the tops of ashes and a maple, and obtained good views when they landed. I was joined by Gareth Richards and Andrew Gardener, at this site traditionally known as the Seascouts. Opposite the allotments and adjacent to the Farmer's Market, this glade is the most productive site within the park, and has usually hosted a few individuals in the past but this is the largest known gathering on one date. There are runt elms present. Also had my first Painted Lady for the year in the Conservation Area - Bob Watts

**Harpenden**, my first summer season Red Admiral in the garden today, very lively and in perfect condition. Also Brimstone - Robin Pearson

## Saturday 9th June

Not part of the White-letter project but we went into central London today, to visit elms identified during winter searches. As it was still cloudy we went to **Battersea Park** first (south of the Thames). We had visited the park in January and identified all the areas of elm - this. We first stopped at Rosery Gate and after a few minutes we saw 3/4 white-letters flying around elm and ash just above gatekeepers cottage. We visited the other elms but nothing seen but returning a further two were seen on ash. From there we went to **Hyde Park** and found 4 Siberian elms close to Rotten Row which are discussed in LNHS literature, almost immediately we saw a White-letter fly, a second individual was also seen. We then tried to locate elm noted elsewhere in the Royal Parks but with less success. Since this is only the second day since emergence, not every site will be active yet - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

Continuing the early White-letter Hairstreak theme, Dave Howdon, Simon Smethurst and myself had at least two on **Horsenden Hill** this afternoon, 9th June. There has to be a question mark as to whether they will still be around for the joint LNHS/BC walk in 3 weeks time - Andy Culshaw

On Friday afternoon, June 8th, in overcast conditions, I saw a solitary Painted Lady on the disused railway sidings North of **Croxley Common Moor**. (This was where, last year in late July, there were huge numbers of Painted Ladies feeding on the buddleias that are abundant there.) - Graham Elcombe

Two Painted Lady here in watery sun in **Tring**, Herts when I went out with the washing at 8am - Nick Bowles

<http://piccies.flybywire.org.uk/ButterfliesMoths/2007/20070608/PaintedLady1.jpg>  
<http://piccies.flybywire.org.uk/ButterfliesMoths/2007/20070608/PaintedLady2a.jpg>  
<http://piccies.flybywire.org.uk/ButterfliesMoths/2007/20070608/PaintedLady2b.jpg> All of the pics including unidentified moths and a caterpillar are at the usual place at <http://piccies.flybywire.org.uk/ButterfliesMoths/index.html> - Mike Rubin

A few records for **today** (Sat 9th June 2007) - 3 Red Admiral, at Trent Park - 2 'New Fields', 1 edge of Nature Trail; 2 Painted Lady, 1 'New Fields', 1 along Leeging Beech Gutter near Water Garden; 1 male Common Blue, 'New Fields'; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm; 1 Cinnabar, along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm; also of interest were a mating pair of Adonis Ladybirds, on cow parsley along gravel-track at Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm. More news for **yesterday** ( Fri 8th June 2007 ), recorded between 17.50 hrs. - 18.45 hrs. - 1 Speckled Wood, along Merryhill's Brook near Equestrian Centre; 4 Painted Lady at Vicarage Farm; 2 Peacock, at Vicarage Farm; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, fresh - 'summer-brood', at Vicarage Farm; 3, 2 males, 1 female, Large Skipper, together, along Merryhill's Brook at Vicarage Farm - Robert Callf.

## Friday 8th June

Stuck at work when all the White-letter news came in, so drove home for lunch past all the **Ware** elms, nothing but returning back walked the very long way back to work from the carpark past [this elm \(scroll down to Bowling Road\)](#) on the corner of Bowling Road, watched for only a few minutes and **1 White-letter** was seen to fly out. Rushed back to work without looking for more - Liz Goodyear

**Clay Hill area, 3 white letter hairstreaks** over roadside elms around 11.30am. **Cheshunt Park** - 14 small heath, 5 meadow browns, 2 painted ladys. Also Colin Jupp had one White-letter at South Weald, Weald Park Way by A12, Brentwood, Essex in 45 mins - Andrew Middleton

**White-letter Hairstreak**, had a look on Parkland Walk at midday today when sun came out properly. No bins, but 4-6 small dark, butterflies spiralling and clashing over a sycamore near the elms between **Crouch hill and Mountview rd**. On return at 12.45 did not notice activity. This site is very warm and sheltered and has a lot of heat loving insects, so might be a particularly early one even by London standards - Tristan Bantock

Just walked my transect and some additional areas at the **'New Fields' Trent Park** ( Fri 8th June 2007 ) and recorded the following - 8 Large Skipper; 1 Painted Lady; 1 Red Admiral; 1 Peacock; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, fresh 'summer brood'; 1 Comma; 1 Small Copper, 'tatty and faded'; 4 Speckled Wood; 5 Meadow Brown; 21 Small Heath; 1 Mother Shipton. Yesterday (**Thurs 7th June 2007** ) saw 2 Painted Lady at Vicarage Farm in the afternoon - Robert Callf



At **Lake Farm Country Park, Hayes**, single Painted Lady. male Common Blue and Small Tortoiseshell. Also one female Black-tailed Skimmer dragonfly - Peter Naylor

**Park Wood, Ruislip**, caught a brief spell of hazy sunshine just after lunch. Still no Heath Fritillaries or Red Admirals. Didn't spot any Hairstreaks either. And the sun soon got swallowed by the clouds again. But... 10+x Speckled Wood - they were all over the bridleway. 4x Meadow Brown - my first of the year. 3x Painted Lady - 2 slightly faded and one looking pretty fresh. Got a super closeup photo of the fresh one as increasingly dull conditions were making it more docile although it was still pretty active. I guess the immigration has arrived good and proper. 2x Large Skipper, 2x Silver Y, 1x PEACOCK! Slightly tattered but colours still bright. Basking in dull 8/8 conditions. Lots of Green Oak Tortrix and other unidentified moths too. Got ants in my pants after the clouds cleared mid afternoon. Headed out to **Barnhill** to burn some more energy. 5x Large Skipper, 4x Meadow Brown (3m, 1f), 2x Painted Lady, 2x Red Admiral, 1x Speckled Wood, 1x Small White 1x PEACOCK! (Condition unknown -flying), Zillions of Burnet Companions swarming the meadows. I did keep an eye on oak and other trees with Hairstreaks in mind but nothing noteworthy spotted. - Mike Rubin

My **Bishop's Stortford** garden, a male Orange-tip as the sun came out; it's been a while since I saw the last one.

#### **Thursday 7th June**

4 Meadow Brown and a Yellowshell at **Alpine Meadow** - Andrew Palmer

#### **Wednesday 6th June**

Wandered around the meadows West of **Horsenden Lane north**. Not many leps around at all. 1 x Large Skipper. (Photographed head on), 1 x Male Common Blue, 1x Red Admiral, A few Burnet Companions. 1x Large pale brown looking lep was disturbed from bramble and blasted off at high speed. Was unable to find it again after that. Shy beggar. Had similar experience yesterday at Grove Farm (only lep I saw yesterday). I now suspect (but can't confirm as only got glimpses) both of these might have been Painted Ladies. Also got a good closeup shot of a dragonfly basking on an empty patch of dried up lakebed like soil, in a long grass meadow. Oh yeah and 1 x White crossing **Greenford Road** near the dreaded Whitton Avenue traffic lights - Mike Rubin

Saw 2 painted ladies this morning at **Colney Heath Community Park**. One looked very fresh the other a bit tatty. Photo' attached - Jez Perkins

#### **Tuesday 5th June**

**Long Marston, Painted Lady** today - John & Margaret Noakes

Just visited **Trent Park 'New Fields'** between 15.20 hrs - 17.00 hrs. ( Tues 5th June 2007) and recorded the following - 7 Large Skipper; 3 Small Copper; 1 male Common Blue 'faded'; 3 Meadow Brown; 40 Small Heath; 3 Burnet Companion; 1 Silver Y and **32 Chimney Sweeper** - Robert Callf.

#### **Monday 4th June**

I saw my first Large Skipper of the year at **Coppetts Wood, Friern Barnet**, North London on **Saturday**. Very little else despite the wonderful weather - a few Small Whites, two late Peacocks, and 5 Speckled Wood. Brian Price (*This is a correction*)

Got back from Blacktoft Sands RSPB on Saturday afternoon, after a weeks voluntary work. Went for a short walk late Saturday afternoon ( June 2nd ) and saw my first Meadow Brown of the year - a male in set-aside field N of Williams Wood and a Small Heath at Parkside Farm. Yesterday ( Sunday 3rd June 2007 ) saw the following at the 'New Fields' Trent Park - 1 Peacock; 2 Comma; 4 male Large Skipper; 2 Small Copper; 23 Small Heath; 1 male Meadow Brown; 4 Burnet Companion; 1 Mother Shipton and 1 Silver Y. Also had terrific views of a Weasel - I squeaked at it and it came within a few feet. News for today ( Mon 4th June 2007) - 1 Speckled Wood, along bridle-path near Shaws Wood; 2 male Meadow Brown, 1 set-aside field N of Williams Wood, 1 Parkside Farm; 3 Small Heath, 1 Parkside Farm, 1 'Old Golf Course', 1 Vicarage Farm; 3 Yellowshell, 1 set-aside field N of Williams Wood, 2 Parkside Farm; 1 Straw Dot - Robert Callf.

#### **Sunday 3rd June**

4pm today **Large Skipper** my garden **Bishop's Stortford** - Andrew Palmer

**Friday June 1 at Aldbury Mowers** Lots of small heaths, 1 green hairstreak, 3 common blues, 1 washed out small copper, 1 brimstone, 1 large skipper, 1 brown Argus, 1 unknown (very tatty but someone suggested it might be a dingy skipper) and one broad-bodied chaser - Dave Mackenzie

### **Saturday 2nd June**

Noticed a Red-belted Clearwing in our **Enfield** garden about 15 minutes ago (**16:40 2/6/07**). Tried to take a picture but just managed to disturb it, flying up toward a plum tree just outside the garden. Later but not lepidoptera. Observed copulating stag beetles on telegraph pole on Ladysmith Road, Enfield this evening - Phil Rhodes

2 Small Heath in the meadow at **Tythenhanger** this evening - Robin Pearson

### **Friday 1st June**

1 Dingy at **Tring Park** today (in excellent condition) and reports of 1 Dingy at **Aldbury** (worn) and 1 Green Hairstreak - Andrew Palmer

**Forty Hall, Enfield** - **two meadow browns**, plus one small copper and 30+ mother shiptons. Searched a large bank of elm in north Enfield for an early white-letter, but no luck yet - Andrew Middleton

## **MAY 2007**

### **Thursday 31st May**

7/8ths cloud cover but for the first time in ages some fleeting sunshine and not raining. So went over **Horsenden Hill**. North side spotted my first Large Skipper of the year on a blackberry bush during a brief sunny spell. Near the summit spotted my first Mother Shipton moth of the year. Also spotted what looked like a Green Oak Tortrix which was very tatty, right wing severely damaged could barely fly. South side spotted a Red Admiral in the grazing meadow. Other than that, nothing! No whites even. - Mike Rubin

### **Monday 28th May**

**Aldbury Nowers** - I went to Aldbury Nowers again on the **26th May** but not as much about as last week - too grey. Saw 4 Burnet Companion, and 2 Common Blue, a Large White, 2 Small Coppers and a Cinnabar moth - Martin Parr

### **Saturday 26th May**

I spent some time at **Aldbury Nowers** last **Sunday 20th May** from about 11.00 til 3.00 odd. I was looking for Dingy and grizzled skippers and green hairstreaks - all life firsts for me, and found dingy and hairstreak! So was pretty pleased. Hope to try for grizzled again tomorrow. I didn't keep a full count of everything seen but thought the list I did keep may be useful to you:- Green Hairstreak 3 minimum - possibly 7 as saw 2 dog fighting that disappeared over the trees, then 10 minutes and 20 minutes later 2 more still fighting - so either a long fight or more than one pair. Dingy skipper 2 - one in the left hand paddock, one out at the back of the meadow from the layby. Holly Blue 1, Mother Shipton 2, treble bar 3, Cinnabar 3, Peacock 3, Small Tortoiseshell 1, Brown Argus 3. Brimstone, Small copper, Small heath, all lots. Green veined white 1 min and other whites couldn't pin down as too far and fast. Also noted an infestation of caterpillars on the road there from the station - 4 - 5 lots on both sides - Martin Parr

### **Friday 25th May**

**Aldbury Nowers** today, Diane Andrew's and I spent a couple of hours on site and saw **1 Large Skipper**, 20 Small Heath, 4 Common Blue, 3 Brown Argus, 5 Small Copper, 17 Brimstone, 1 Large White, 1 Speckled Wood, 1 Peacock, 3 Mother Shipton, 5 Burnet Companion, 1 Small Yellow Underwing, 7 Cinnabar, 5 Treble-bar, 1 Common Swift, 5 Yellowshell and 2 Red Kites. Failed to see Dingy, Grizzled or Green Hairstreak. **Whilst we were there someone else had their car broken into in the lay-by.** Then we went over the border to Church End just in Bucks and in deteriorating weather picked up 3 Small Blue, 2 Dingy Skipper and heard Quail - Andrew Palmer

News for today - 3 Speckled Wood, at Trent Park near Equestrian Centre; 2 Peacock at Trent Park ( 1 edge of Shaws Wood, 1 set-aside field N of Williams Wood); 2 Small Heath, set-aside field near Shaws Wood; 1 Cinnabar Moth, set-aside field N of Williams Wood; 2, male and female, Common

Blue, set-aside field N of Williams Wood; 2 Small Copper, set-aside field N of Williams Wood; 1 Burnet Companion, set-aside field N of Williams Wood; 2 Green-veined White, ( 1 near Shaws Wood, 1 Vicarage Farm); 1 female Orange Tip, settled on Garlic mustard, near allotments - arching abdomen, possibly egg laying, Vicarage Farm. Forgot to mention I saw another Silver Y moth yesterday ( **Thurs 24th May 2007** ) at Park Farm, Enfield - Robert Callf

#### **Thursday 24th May**

**Scarce Swallowtail** seen flying at the **Chelsea Flower Show**, Royal Hospital, Chelsea Middx SW3 today, reported on BBC2 this evening. Alan Titchmarsh incorrectly identified it as a Swallowtail & that it would have to travel to Norfolk to find a mate. The pictures of it were good & there can be no doubt it was a Scarce Swallowtail. It was said to have hatched in Chelsea, arriving as a pupa imported from Italy. This appears to be a rare sighting. Colin Plants "Butterflies of the London Area" (1987) records no previous sightings in Middx, though interestingly there was one seen close by in Richmond Park on 20th September 1829! - Malcolm Hull

**Horsenden Hill**, wandered around the fields West of the hill again (different route this time) today at lunchtime. It was overcast but they were still there and active - especially the coppers. 4x Small copper (2 mating) 3x Burnet Companion 2x Peacock 1x Male Common Blue 1x Speckled Wood 1x Unidentified White Numerous smaller moths of various unid'd species. Then some time after 5pm I saw a Holly Blue fly across the garden back in **Kenton** - Mike Rubin

News for today ( Thurs 24th May 2007) - 3 Speckled Wood, Trent Park ( 1 near Equestrian Centre, 2 near Shaws Wood); 1 Small Heath, set-aside field N of Williams Wood; 1 Small Copper, set-aside field N of Williams Wood; 2 Red Admiral, 1 Parkside Farm, 1 edge of Rough Lot, Trent Park; 1 Small Heath, Parkside Farm; 6 male Common Blue, Parkside Farm; 2 Small Heath, Park Farm; 2 Mother Shipton, 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park; 1 Mother Shipton, Vicarage Farm; 16 Small Heath, Vicarage Farm; 1 Peacock, Vicarage Farm; 1 female Common Blue, Vicarage Farm; 2 Green-veined White, Vicarage Farm; 1 Small White, Vicarage Farm. More news for yesterday ( **Weds 23rd May 2007** ) - 1 Large White at Lake Side, Oakwood; also 1 Red Admiral and 1 Speckled Wood here also. 1 Red Admiral near Trent Park Equestrian Centre ( possibly the same individual ); 4 Speckled Wood in Williams Wood, Trent Park; 1 Small Copper, set-aside field N of Williams Wood; 1 male Orange Tip at Parkside Farm; 2, male and female, Common Blue at Parkside Farm and 1 Small Heath here also. Also, Dobrina Dobrova reported a male Orange Tip at Halewood House, Southbury Road, Enfield yesterday - Robert Callf.

#### **Wednesday 23rd May**

Was at the **Chelsea Physic Garden** today and saw a couple of Small Whites and a Holly Blue which didn't settle. A large Buddleia Alternifolia in full bloom only had bumble bees on it - Malcolm Newland

**Horsenden Hill**, I saw 3 Peacocks during a brief early afternoon walk, all seen just west of Horsenden Lane north in the meadows. One settled in front of me and was not tatty at all, and quite active (definitely not elderly like). Female? Also saw 1 Red Admiral, 1 small Copper and 1 Small tortoiseshell. No whites!!! Pretty quiet. Mid afternoon siesta in the heat I guess. (I was late cos a boring and irritating lunchtime meeting postponed my lunchbreak. **22nd May Grove Farm**, short lunchtime walk in the sunshine. Was surprised to find 3 Common Blues (1f,2m) not far from the David Lloyd centre just off the footpath on a small patch of grass / paths / bench. Had no idea they were in the area. Also several small unid'd moths. Also saw 2 speckled woods in the wood, and 1 green veined white on Whitton Avenue - Mike Rubin

Had a very successful day yesterday (**Tuesday 22nd**) **Tring Park** Grizzled Skipper 2, Dingy Skipper 2, Green Hairstreak 2 possibly 3 and **Aldbury Nowers** (see Andrew Palmer's entry) Grizzled Skipper 3, Dingy Skipper 2, Green Hairstreak 2, Small Heath 1, Brown Argus 1 - Jez Perkins

Walked my transect in Trent Park and some additional areas at the 'New Fields' today between 12.00 - 13.10 hrs., and recorded the following - 10 Small Copper; 1 male Common Blue; 1 Peacock; 35 Small Heath; 1 Mother Shipton and 1 Burnet Companion. A few additional sightings for yesterday (Tues 22nd May 2007) - 1 Holly Blue at Halewood House, Southbury Road, Enfield for myself and Dobrina Dobrova reported 3 Speckled Wood here also - Robert Callf

## Tuesday 22nd May

**Waterford Heath South Pit** on **19th May** - 2 Brown Argus, 1 small Heath - Darin Stanley

I went back to **Frogmore Pit** this evening between 4.15 and 5.15 i saw 8 Grizzled Skippers 30+ Brown Argus, 20+ Common Blue, 1 Small Heath, 1 Peacock and 1 Cinnabar Moth - Ian Hardy

**Aldbury Nowers** - combining what Jez saw up to the point of seeing him with what Paul and I saw: 2 Grizzled Skipper (1 north, 1 south), 2 Dingy Skipper (both south but out of main areas), 3 Green Hairstreak (1 north, 2 south), 7 Small Heath, 5 Small Copper, 3 Peacock, 8 Brown Argus, 4 Common Blue, 14 Brimstone, 1 Holly Blue, 3 Orange-tip, 1 Large White, 2 Green-veined White, 4 Small/GV whites, 5 Cinnabar, 2 Mother Shipton, 7 Burnet Companion, 1 Yellowshell, 1 Small-elephant Hawkmoth (roosting), 1 Small Yellow Underwing, 2 Pyrausta nigrata - Andrew Palmer

Female brimstone, egg-laying on recently planted alder buckthorn, just outside the nature conservation area, **Ravenscourt Park**, today (22/05/07)- Paul Clay (photo to be posted)

Had a trip to **Frogmore Pit** today with Ian Hardy. Weather was good, sunny and warm, lots of butterflies and moths. We saw 6 Grizzled Skippers, 10+ Common Blues, 30+ Brown Argus, 1 Small Heath and 2 Large Whites. Moths 1 Treble-bar, 3 Cinnabar and 1 Burnet Companion Steve Lane

Is it a good year for Small Heath? You will recall that I reported one at **King's Meads** on the 20th May 2007, the first for 10 years. Well today I saw another 4 !! Not only that, but the total of 5 were seen on 3 totally different parts of the site. Thoughts of the Small Heath Bus Company. Also 3 Small Copper - Alan Reynolds

Saw 1 Red Admiral at Chase Road, Southgate this morning - flying up the road. Just walked my transect and some additional areas at Trent Park 'New Fields' and recorded the following - 14 Small Copper, in 1 hour (11.30 -12.30 hrs.); 2 Green-veined White; 1 Small White; 28 Small Heath, in 1 hr.; 1 Speckled Wood; 1 Small Yellow Underwing; 2 Burnet Companion; 1 Mother Shipton. More records for today - 2 Speckled Wood at Lake Side, Oakwood; 1 male Common Blue, along Merryhill's Brook at Vicarage Farm; 2 Peacock at Vicarage Farm - 1 along Merryhill's Brook and 1 along Leeging Beech Gutter; 22 Small Heath at Vicarage Farm; 1 Speckled Wood, along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm; 1 Small Copper, in set-aside field N of Williams Wood; 2 Orange Tip, 1 male along Hadley Road at Parkside Farm and 1 female at Vicarage Farm - my first female of the year! 1 Peacock at Parkside Farm; 1 Holly Blue, along Salmon's Brook at Enfield Road and 3 Mother Shipton at Vicarage Farm - Robert Callf.

Countryside Management Walk at **Broxbourne Wood NR** encountered numerous Speckled Yellow moths, a few Speckled Woods, one solitary Red Admiral. Loads of caterpillars also Brown Silver Line and Green Silver Lines moth - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton and fellow walkers

## Monday 21st May

Visited **Hexton Chalk Pit** on **Sunday**. Very few butterflies. A few very warn Dingy Skippers, two roosting male Common Blues, one Small Heath, two Brimstone and a Green-veined White - Ian Small

Disturbed several Cinnabar Moths whilst doing some birding at **Blackbridge Tip, Wheathampsted** today - Robin Pearson

News for **yesterday** ( Sunday 20th May 2007 ) - 10 Small Copper, including 2 together; 1 male Common Blue; 2 Peacock; 1 Small White; 1 Speckled Wood; 32 Small Heath; 2 Small Yellow Underwing; 1 Eyed Ladybird; 1 Harlequin Ladybird; 1 Ten-spot - chequered form; 1 Pine Ladybird; 2 Fourteen-spot; **Trent Park**, 'New Fields', between 13.40 - 15.40 hrs. 2 Peacock, 1 Vicarage Farm and 1 Parkside Farm. 1 Mother Shipton, Vicarage Farm. 7 Fourteen-spot; 9 Two-spot; 2 Seven-spot and 1 Harlequin Ladybird, Vicarage Farm, between 15.50 -17.30 hrs. - Robert Callf

## Sunday 20th May

**Aldbury Nowers**, recorded today, 2 x Small Coppers, 2 x Grizzled Skippers, possible 3rd one, and 2 x Dingy Skippers. There were other species, but thought you would like to know about these. All were seen in the usual area near Pitstone Hill end today between 16-25 and 17 -25 - Brian Jessop

Today at **King's Meads** a Small Heath, this is only the 4th record for the site, the last being on the 25th May 1997 - Alan Reynolds

### **Saturday 19th May**

News for today ( Sat 19th May 2007) - 2 Small Copper, 1 at 'Old Golf Course', 1 at Vicarage Farm; 1 male Common Blue at 'Old Golf Course'; 3 Small Heath at 'Old Golf Course', also Large White, Small White and Green-veined White identified today - Trent Park Area. Also 1 Red Admiral along Leeging Beech Gutter near 'Three-bridges' - Robert Callf

### **Friday 18th May**

Here is today's news in full - Trent Park 'New Fields' (12.15 hrs - 13.20 hrs.) - 9 Small Copper; 31 Small Heath; 1 Speckled Wood; 2 Peacock, including a female egg laying on nettles; 1 Small White. Also ladybirds of note included my first Eyed Ladybird of the year on wooden fencing near the Oakwood entrance - a cracking specimen - probably brought down by the breezy conditions, also 9 Twenty-Four Spots, on fencing, including 2 pairs mating and 1 Cream-Spot. Visited South Lodge and Vicarage Farms between (13.45 hrs - 14.25 hrs.) and recorded the following - 1 Speckled Wood at South Lodge Farm; 1 male Orange Tip at South Lodge Farm; 1 Painted Lady at South Lodge Farm - my first of the year! 1 female Common Blue, along Merryhill's Brook at Vicarage Farm - my first of the year and 1 Brown Argus in the same area, also my first for the year! 1 Mother Shipton was also along Merryhill's Brook at Vicarage Farm. Not a bad afternoon's fieldwork. News for yesterday ( **Thurs 17th May 2007** ) - 1 Small Tortoiseshell, along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm; 1 Red Admiral, near allotments at Vicarage Farm and a number of unidentified Whites to distant to identify - Robert Callf

First transect sightings of Common Blue (8) on my **Bunkers Park** transect this pm - Michael Pearson

**Aldbury Nowers news from 17th May** - Top paddock, 3 Dingy Skipper, 1 Green Hairstreak, 1 Common Blue, 4 Brown Argus, 1 Small Copper, 1 Large White, 1 Small White, 1 Peacock, no Grizzled Skipper, 3 Pyrausta nigrata. Southern section: 2 Dingy Skipper, 5 Small Heath. 2 Small Copper, 1 Green-veined White, 2 Silver-ground Carpet, 1 Mother Shipton - Andrew Palmer

### **Thursday 17th May**

First visited **Pegsdon Hills**, in drizzle or dull conditions, and found 3 roosting Dingy Skipper. Walked up to **Telegraph Hill** and found 2 roosting/semi active Dingy Skipper and 4 eggs! Looked at Hoo Bit and saw nothing. Returned back to Pegsdon and found 2 more roosting Dingy. A total of only 5 over several hours of thorough searching. At the end of the visit day brightened up and 2 active Dingy were seen in area where 2 found roosting! Also seen 1 Common Blue and 1 Brown Argus. Drove on to **Hexton** and the sun came out and immediately found 5 Burnet Companions. We then walked up one side of the pit in sunshine and counted **14 active Dingy Skippers** including a mating pair. As we walked back down the other side cloud returned and they started to roost up and we saw 10 more - a total of 24! Also seen, Brimstone, 1 Green Hairstreak and 1 Small Heath - Liz Goodyear & Andrew Middleton

**Waterford Heath south**, late afternoon - **16 Grizzled Skipper** roosting across pit - Andrew Middleton

Again rather overcast, but a bit brighter than yesterday. This time I wandered between the **Canal and Horsenden Lane North**. Despite the conditions the Small Coppers were out in force. Some very pale, some very vivid in colour. 10x Small Copper, 2x Green Veined White, 2x Unidentified White, 1x Holly Blue, 1x Peacock (Wasn't expecting this to be around still!)- I also saw what I think might be a Male Ghost moth, and a possible Pyraustia Aurata. Got pics of both so will check them later. Lots of other unidentified small moths easily disturbed in the long grass. - Mike Rubin

News for yesterday ( **Wednesday 16th May 2007** ) - 1 male Orange Tip, Water Garden; 2 Large White, near Lower Lake; 1 Small White, edge of Ride Wood; 1 Green-veined White, 'Three-bridges'; 1 Small Copper, set-aside field N of Williams Wood; 1 Small Heath, along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm; 1 Silver Y moth, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Water Garden; 1 Mother Shipton, at South Lodge Farm; 1 Cream-spot, Williams Wood; 1 Ten-spot, Williams Wood; 1 Fourteen-spot, along Leeging Beech Gutter near 'Three-bridges' - Trent Park Area - Robert Callf

### **Wednesday 16th May**

**MUDCHUTE FIELD TRIP REPORT** (May 16th 2007) I went to Mudchute LNR today during my lunch-hour to take my first BC field trip of the year. Unfortunately the press release we sent out was not included or used in the London city papers this morning and so no city-facing workers



joined me on my walk. However, after a dreadful start to the week weather-wise, the sun came out at just the right time and the butterflies began to appear. I was fortunate and saw a Holly Blue. I also then found six Speckled Woods, four Green-Veined Whites & twenty Small Whites. In summary the total number species sightings I have made at the Mudchute site during this butterfly season remains at seven. I return to Mudchute for my second lunchtime field trip walk of the season on Wednesday July 11th [12.30pm] - David Chandler

**Horsenden Hill**, pretty overcast, but still spotted a few leps. An early bright spell on the north side revealed a Small Copper and what looked like a *Pyrausta Aurata* (got photo, will confirm later). Saw a single White on the South Side near the grazing fields. Then in the meadows on the west side below the road it started raining lightly. Despite that I got buzzed by what must have been a red admiral (all peacocks gone now I think.) Plenty of unidentified small moths around though - Mike Rubin

Visited **Vicarage Farm**, Enfield for 1 hour yesterday evening (Tuesday 15th May 2007 ) and saw only one butterfly - a Small Heath - Robert Callf

### **Monday 14th May**

**Aldbury Nowers** after the rain, 3 roosting Dingy Skipper, 2 Small Copper, 2 Brown Argus but no Grizzled Skipper found. **Waterford Heath north**, 1 Grizzled Skipper - Andrew Palmer

Between the downpours on **Saturday (12th)** afternoon I went for a walk in **Ruislip Wood** to look at the Cow Wheat and, when the sun did come out for a short time, I was rewarded with the sighting of a Small Copper - David Chandler

News from 12th, **Hexton Chalk Pits** - 1 Dingy Skipper at 18:30 around the chalk pits - Darin Stanley

### **Saturday 12th May**

**Waterford Heath Field Trip Report:** The weather could have been better, but the worst of the rain held off until we just got back to the carpark - we were very lucky! Eight people joined Alan Downie to search the north pit for Grizzled Skipper. Two roosting individuals were located and in a moment of sunshine, opened their wings for everyone to see their markings. 22 Brown Argus were counted either roosting or in flight and 1 Small Copper was found roosting. Several Treble/Lesser Treble Bar moths were flying around and caterpillars were found including Orange Tip larvae on garlic mustard - Liz Goodyear

**Waterford Heath**, an early morning roost count located 5 Grizzled Skipper across the north pit, also 11 Brown Argus, 1 Small Copper and 1 Common Blue. Scattered across the south pit, 6 Grizzleds were found, 2 Small Copper, 1 Brown Argus and a Speckled Wood - Liz Goodyear & Andrew Middleton

### **Friday 11th May**

Not much to report this week, with the weather being the way it is. My sightings are as follows - **Monday 7th May 2007** - 3 Small Heath at Vicarage Farm; 1 Large White and 1 Small White, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Water Garden, Trent Park. **Wednesday 9th May 2007** - 1 Small Copper, along Merryhill's Brook at South Lodge Farm - Robert Callf

### **Wednesday 9th May**

Had my first ever visit to **Hexton Chalk Pit** today and a very interesting place it is too. Not much to report on the lepidoptera front on a dingy morning, just one dingy skipper, but had good views of willow warbler and blackcap and the cow-slips were nice. Rather bizarrely there were pheasants eggs strewn about the place, by a fox I presume, and also a dead mole - Robin Pearson

### **Sunday 6th May**

**TWO DAYTIME MOTHS FOR THIS BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND** Those people who are out and about at the moment looking for Grizzled and Dingy Skippers might also look out for two target day-flying moths on chalky sites in Hertfordshire. As some people object to attachments, I have uploaded photographs of the moth, taken by Tristan Bantock, to my web space and the links are given below. The Small Purple-barred is a macro moth that should be flying about in the afternoon sunshine today and tomorrow. The caterpillar feeds on Common Milkwort and Heath Milkwort. In flight, it might be overlooked and ignored as one of the common *Pyrausta* (pyralids). The other

species is the pyralid moth *Pyrausta nigrata* – jet black with white lines across the wings. The foodplants are Marjoram, Thyme and other labiates. Both are apparently rare in Hertfordshire but are almost certainly just under-recorded. Both have been recorded flying at Aldbury Nowers in the last few days and *Pyrausta nigrata* has also been seen at Hexton Chalk Pit. Both would be worth looking for all along the north edge of the county from Royston in the east to Tring in the west. If you are on the chalk along our border with Cambridgeshire, you might also keep a look out for the Four-spotted moth. This nationally rare species is now on the wing (rather earlier than normal – but then so are many other things). In rapid flight it can look confusingly like a Grizzled Skipper. There are many other day-flying moths, of course, in addition to these poorly recorded ones. I want all records of all species STRAIGHT AWAY PLEASE – don't wait for the end of the year as that would be too late for inclusion in the book. Good Hunting! Colin Plant

Had a trip out on Saturday first, out of county to Bedfordshire. A bit to overcast, but we did manage 2 Duke of Burgundy, 1 Small Copper and 1 Small White. Second stop was **Hexton Chalk Pit**, 8+ Dingy Skipper and a Small White - Trevor Brownsell, Keith Cherry, Tony Hukin and Steve Lane

During the last week in my **Stevenage garden**, numbers of Holly Blue, Speckled Wood and Orange Tip increasing, Large, Small and Green-veined White, Peacock also seen - Steve Lane

Went on Friday to two of my under recorded tetrads at **Cassiobury Park and Croxley Common Moor**. Saw plenty of orange tips, small/green-veined whites, a couple of peacocks, red admirals and brimstones and a single speckled wood. But the highlight of the day were small heaths posing in the gusty conditions and several small coppers including a mating pair! Earlier this week at the Swillet I had seen mating holly blues. This is a first for me with both species - Ann Piper

More news for **4th May** - 3 male Orange Tip, 1 along Merryhill's Brook at South Lodge Farm, 2 at Vicarage Farm - 1 along Merryhill's Brook and 1 along Leeing Beech Gutter; 1 Green-veined White, at Vicarage Farm - along Leeing Beech Gutter, settled on Garlic Mustard; 1 Small Copper, along Merryhill's Brook at Vicarage Farm; 3 Small Tortoiseshell, at Vicarage Farm - 2 together, along Merryhill's Brook and 1 along Leeing Beech Gutter; 4 Peacock at Vicarage Farm - including a courting couple, settled on the gravel track; 2 Speckled Wood at Vicarage Farm, 1 along Merryhill's Brook and 1 along Leeing Beech Gutter; 6 Small Heath at Vicarage Farm; 1 Peacock at Parkside Farm; 1 Red Admiral, very fresh looking, settled on water trough along Leeing Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm and also 1 Mother Shipton along Leeing Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm - Robert Callf

#### **Friday 4th May**

Just to let you know that I have seen my first **grizzled skipper and green hairstreak** in **Tring Park** and on my transect walk on the 2-5-07 - so pleased! Brian Jessop

Just walked my **Trent Park** transect and some additional areas at the 'New Fields' and recorded the following - 8 Small Copper; 5 Speckled Wood; 19 Small Heath; 1 male Orange Tip; 2 Small White; 1 Green-veined White; 1 Red Admiral and 1 Peacock. Also recorded my first Burnet Companion and Mother Shipton for the year. News for yesterday ( **Thurs 3rd May 2007** ) - 1 Small Tortoiseshell, on the edge of Duncan's Wood, Park Farm, also 2 Small White at Park Farm and 2 in Trent Park; 2 Small Copper, along Leeing Beech Gutter near the Water Garden, Trent Park and 1 female / imm., Broad-bodied Chaser, in set-aside field N of Williams Wood - my first of the year. Today's walk was from 12.15 - 13.15 hrs. Also I was looking through the archive yesterday at my Silver-washed Fritillary record for Trent Park on 29th and 30th July 2001 and noticed it was down as a female. I later reconsidered and thought it was probably a male, although I did not see the sex-brands - it always closed it's wings when it settled - probably because it was so hot at the time (32 c ). Please could you correct this - Robert Callf

#### **Thursday 3rd May**

**Hexton Chalk Pit**, in cloudy conditions **14 roosting Dingy Skipper across site**. Pegsdon Hills also cloudy - nothing but we did count 95 sheep! **Waterford North, 9 roosting Grizzled Skipper** at three points across site, also 13 Brown Argus, 1 Small Heath, 1 Small Copper and 1 Common Blue also roosting. **Waterford south** (Andrew only), **10 roosting Grizzled Skipper**. Also in Stevenage along Six Hills Way by Marlborough Road, a large elm produced a hatched white-letter egg and larva - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

I saw my first Brown Argus of the year in the Bicentenary Gardens on the **Brunel University**

**campus** in the same area I discovered a small colony last August. Also 4 Small Copper, 3 Speckled Wood, 5 Orange-tip, GV White, Peacock, Red Admiral and Comma - Steve Pash

More news for yesterday ( Weds 2nd May 2007 ) - 2 Peacock, at Vicarage Farm; 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Vicarage Farm and 1 at Park Farm, Enfield; 1 male Orange Tip at Parkside Farm; 1 Holly Blue along Hadley Rd., at Vicarage Farm; 1 Small Heath at Vicarage Farm and 1 at Park Farm, Enfield - Robert Callf.

### **Wednesday 2nd May**

I visited **Waterford Heath South Pit** in near ideal conditions and saw at **least 5 Grizzled Skipper**, 1 Small Copper and several Brown Argus - Alan Reynolds

Half an hour spent after work at **Waterford North** - **4 Grizzled Skipper** and 7 Brown Argus along the bank. Then at **Waterford South** - **3 Grizzled Skippers** and 10 Brown Argus. Also 2 Small Heath, Brimstone, Small White, Peacock - Trevor Chapman

3 Dingy skippers on the wing on at Highdown **near Hitchin Monday 30th April** along with 16 brimstones, and numerous green hairstreak + one holly-blue /red admiral Stuart Pittman

Walked my transect and additional areas at the '**New Fields**', **Trent Park** today ( Wednesday 2nd May 2007 ) Recorded the following butterflies - 8 Small Copper; 1 Red Admiral; 4 Peacock; 1 Comma; 2 male Orange Tip; 1 Small White; 4 Speckled Wood; 12 Small Heath - Robert Callf. ( 12.25 - 13.20 hrs. ).

**Horsenden Hill** this lunchtime: 12x Unidentified Whites, 6x Male Orange Tip, 5x Peacock, 4x Holly Blue, 3x Small Copper, 2x Green Veined White (positive ID), 1x Speckled Wood (but no partridge in a pear tree) All the Green Longhorns appear to have vanished. The oak trees and Hawthorns are quiet again - Mike Rubin

### **Tuesday 1st May**

**Hemel Hempstead**, garden butterfly species tally for this year up to ten with a Speckled Wood today. Can't remember a better spring for Holly Blues with up to three in view at the same time and egg-laying observed on two of my three hollies. Numerous Orange Tips, Brimstones and Whites nectaring mainly on purple and white honesty Malcolm Newland

**Hexton** - I was going to e-mail you and say that I had seen **10+ Dingy Skippers** - but I see from the website you went there yesterday and saw 20! I also briefly saw a green hairstreak and the attached moth - I think it might be *pyrausta nigrata* but not entirely sure - Gavin Vicary

**Tring Park** this afternoon, one lonely green hairstreak, no dingy or grizzled to be seen. Very disappointing - Liz Goodyear

This morning at **Frogmore Pits** I saw **3 Grizzled Skippers**, 1 Small Heath, numerous Small Coppers and Brown Argus, as well as Orange Tip, Peacock, Large and Small White, and a Small Tortoiseshell - Darrel Bryant.

**APRIL 2007 News from 28th April** - Probable Green H (at distance but rightish colour (blue / green) and size - not a holly blue) and freshly emerged **Grizzled skipper** at **Aldbury Nowers** - Martin Hicks Both in 'second' cmpt. See what turns up this afternoon.

### **Monday 30th April**

**Hexton Chalk Pit** with Sharon Hearle and Tim Hill and Paul Thrush of the HMWT - safe count of **20 Dingy Skipper** including mating pair, 1 Green Hairstreak, Comma, Large White, numerous Brimstone, orange Tip and Red Admiral. **Telegraph Hill** only **1 Dingy Skipper** but 5 Green Hairstreak. Also Brimstone, Holly Blue, Peacock. **Hoo Bit**, **2 Dingy Skipper**, Small Tortoiseshell and Peacock. Also be warned **Burnet Companion** moths were also seen flying today - Andrew Palmer and Liz Goodyear

Horsden Hill, just a short walk today. In about 10 minutes I saw 2 very fresh looking Red Admirals (one looked surprisingly small), a Holly blue and a Peacock all just West of Horsenden Lane North. Plus several Unidentified Whites. Otherwise all rather quiet. News from **Saturday** included a visit to **Aldbury Nowers** but before lunch it was rather quiet. Although a Male Orange

Tip did come and say hello. [Pictures from Ivinghoe Beacon](#) - Mike Rubin

News for today - Walked my transect route today in **Trent Park** and some additional areas at the 'New Fields' and recorded the following between 12.00 hrs. - 12.55 hrs. - 3 Peacock; 7 Small Copper, including 2 together; 15 Small Heath; 7 Speckled Wood and 2 Small White - Robert Callf.

### **Sunday 29th April**

First April Small copper for many yrs today at **Ickleford** 29/4 Green hairstreak on the wing at **Highdown** nr Hitchin on **22/4** along with a brown argus - Stuart Pittman

**5 Grizzled Skippers** plus a Brown Argus on **Waterford North** and 1 Grizzled Skipper and 1 Small Copper on the south pit today - Andrew Wood

**Trent Park** - New fields - three small heath - Robert Callf

Today at **Rye Meads** there was a lot of butterflies around! 1 large white, 2 small white, at least 5 green-veined white and dozens of orange tip both male and female. There were also 5 speckled woods, 3 holly blue, 3 brimstone, 4 peacock, 1 red admiral and a small tortoiseshell. After that I went to **Waterford Heath** there was not much about on the north side, just a few whites and a couple of brimstone whizzing by in the wind. I did see 1 silver y moth. The south site was a different story with **2 grizzled skippers**, 3 brown argus and 2 small coppers. Also I saw a latticed heath moth and again several whites at the top of the bank along the trees. I then visited **Patmore Heath**, there were not many butterflies about at all, but I did find a small tortoiseshell larval nest (I think) among the nettles and all the caterpillars were just out of it in a heaving mass. (see attached photos) - Simon Rasch

### **Saturday 28th April**

**Harpenden**, 4 Holly Blues in the garden on ivy, 2 male orange-tip, 1 speckled wood, 1 brimstone, 1 peacock - Robin Pearson

**Clouded Yellow** at Panshanger - Alan Downie

And for today: 5 sightings of a Holly Blue in my **Tewin** garden this afternoon - maybe the same individual. Orchard Road, Tewin, near Upper Green: 1 x Brimstone & 1 x Red Admiral - Les Borg

A mega day for butterflies. Started at **Batford**, saw 1 orange Tip. **Ayot St. Lawrence** & saw another Orange Tip & a Holly Blue. Then went to **Waterford Heath**, nr Hertford & picked up my 1st ever **Grizzled Skipper** on South pit, saw 3 of them all together, also 1 copper, several Brimstone & an Orange tip. Next stop was **Hexton Nature reserve** where unexpectedly I saw my 1st ever **Dingy skipper**, must have been about a dozen of them around site, **3 Green Hairstreak** (only saw my 1st one ever last week at Pegsdon), 1 Orange tip, 2 Holly Blue, 1 Comma, several Peacock, several Brimstone - Darin Stanley

5 sightings of a Holly Blue in my **Tewin** garden this afternoon - maybe the same individual. Orchard Road, Tewin, near Upper Green: 1 x Brimstone & 1 x Red Admiral - Les Borg

Just led a walk in **Trent Park** this morning for the LNHS ( April 28th 2007 ) Butterflies are as follows - 5 Speckled Wood; 1 Small Copper again on the edge of Ride Wood - same individual as two days ago; at least 2 Green-veined White, settled and a few other Whites; 2 Peacock. 1 Holly Blue, settled near Hockey Centre, Trent Park. News from 27th - 4 male Orange Tip, **Vicarage Farm**; 1 Peacock, Vicarage Farm; 2 Speckled Wood, Vicarage Farm and 1 again at Lakeside, **Oakwood**; 1 Red Admiral, settled at Parkside Farm - very close - seen thro' scope at 2 metres! Robert Callf

News from **Tuesday 24th. Astonbury woods**, Stevenage: 7 male Orange tip, 2 x Female Orange tip, 1 Peacock. My **Tewin garden** on 24th - 2 x Male Orange tip & 2 females, 2 x Holly Blue & 1 x Peacock - Les Borg

### **Thursday 26th April**

Today I spotted a blue butterfly resting on what may have been corn gromwell. I would have said it was definitely a **common blue**. Also saw orange tip, small white, green-veined white, peacock and a genuine holly blue. This was by the William Penn leisure centre in Money Hill near

**Rickmansworth** - Ann Piper

News for today - 1 Speckled Wood, Park Farm, also 1 in Rough Lot, **Trent Park** and 1 at Lakeside, **Oakwood**; 2 Peacock at Trent Park ( 1 by Upper Lake and 1 on the edge of Ride Wood ); 1 male Brimstone by Lower Lake, Trent Park; 1 Small Copper basking on field edge of Ride Wood - a bit tatty around edge of hind-wing - a sign that it has been on the wing a while; 1 Green-veined White, edge of Ride Wood and a pair of Small White mating here also; 2 male Orange Tip - 1 Vicarage Farm and 1 edge of Ride Wood, Trent Park; 1 Large White, Park Farm also forgot to mention I saw 2 Comma on **Tuesday** - 1 at Park Farm and 1 at the Water Garden, Trent Park - Robert Callf

Wandered around Paradise Fields to the west of **Horsenden Lane North** this lunchtime. 4 x Green Veined white (Settled / feeding and easy to look at thanks to initially cloudy conditions), 2 x Speckled Wood (One albino? - white marks instead of yellow - Photographed.) 1x Small Tortoiseshell, 2x Peacock, 1x Male Orange Tip, 2x Small Copper, Several unidentified whites - Mike Rubin

**Trent Park area** news from **April 24th** - 2 male Orange Tip at Vicarage Farm and 2 males at Trent Park; 1 Peacock at Parkside Farm and 1 also at Park Farm and Trent Park; 1 Speckled Wood at Park Farm and 3 at Trent Park and 1 female Holly Blue settled at Park Farm - nice view! Robert Callf

### **Tuesday 24th April**

Had a walk around ovaltine fields in **Abbots Langley** this afternoon, encountering 5 Peacocks, 6 small Tortoiseshells, singletons of Holly Blue, Orange Tip, Speckled Wood and Green-veined White - Clive Burrows

Paul Thrush and I had a quick look around **Aldbury** after a meeting and had **1 Dingy Skipper**, 2 Green Hairstreak and Paul had a **Grizzled**. Also Large White and Brown Argus. All in the key area of the northern enclosure. 24th is extraordinarily early for Dingy Skipper in Herts. The earliest in Brian's book is 30 April and the earliest in our database records (1996-) is also 30 April so this may be one of the earliest recorded. - Andrew Palmer

**Much Hadham area**, a setaside found last September produced **25 Small Coppers** in about 30 minutes including several clashing males, and a mating pair - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

This morning's rain cleared and sun came out at lunchtime just in time for a walk up **Horsenden Hill**. Very humid and muggy! 1 x Small Copper photographed by brambles north side, 1 x Small White by Horsenden Lane North, 1 x Red Admiral just below summit west side. 2x Speckled Wood (1 photographed, another pale one), 2 x Holly Blue, 8 x Peacock (1 photographed) (Mostly on west side just below the Horsenden Lane north) Plenty of unidentified whites. Loads of Green Longhorn moths still on all sides of the hill. After I got back, 1 x unidentified caterpillar crawling up my trouser leg! (2cm, photographed) (Set it down on a leaf outside the office.) - Mike Rubin

### **Sunday 22nd April**

Helen, Tristan and I went to **Wanstead Park** on Sunday, and found a White-letter egg, then found a large larva - must be only 2-3 few weeks at most from pupating - that would mean a possible late May date? Twice as big as I expected. Then we went to the Grizzled Skipper sites - with **4 at Frogmore** plus 2 small coppers, and none found for us early evening at Waterford - Andrew Middleton, Helen & Tristan Bantock

### **Friday 20th April**

Managed **1 Grizzled Skipper** on **Waterford north**, and four roosting evening in **Frogmore Pit** - and none in an hour on Waterford south (just one probable). Small heath, small copper and brown argus also seen - Andrew Middleton

Had a walk this afternoon in the **Braughing Friars/ Albury area**. 3 male Orange tips, 2 Holly Blue, 3 Speckled woods many Peacocks 1 Small tortoiseshell - Ian Edwards

Not so many butterflies in my **Stevenage** garden today due to the cool wind, several visits from Orange tip and Small Whites, 1 Large White and a very territorial Peacock, which even flies up to see off the Blue Tits - Steve Lane



### Thursday 19th April

We went back to **Waterford Heath South pit** at 3.00pm today, sunny and windy. Sandra saw the first **Grizzled Skipper** at 3.10pm at the bottom of the slope between the 2 piles of cleared sticks. We then continued having sightings until we left at 5.00pm. We think there were a least 4 different individuals with a total of 15 sightings. We also saw 2 clash, flying right out into the middle of the field. The others were flying up & down and feeding but mainly staying at the bottom of the slope. Picture attached Also saw 4 Peacocks, 1 comma, plus whites - Kevin & Sandra Standbridge

**North Enfield**, small copper Merryhills Brook, 2 re ads - **Trent Park and Park Farm**, also 4 peacock, 2 male orange tip, 3 male brimstone, 4 speckled wood - Robert Callf

I had a walk around **Tyttenhanger** today, plenty of Small Whites and the odd **Large White**, several Orange tips around the stream, also Peacocks and Small Tortoiseshell - Steve Lane & Dave Beer

**Horsenden Hill and surrounding fields** today at lunchtime: 9 x Peacock, 2 x Holly Blue, 2 x Male Orange Tip, 2 x Speckled Wood, 2 x Small White (Sparring and then settled). Several unidentified whites. Zillions of Green Longhorn swarming on Oak and Hawthorn. On one south facing hedgerow they were there swarming along the whole length. **Grove Farm yesterday (18th)** - very short lunchtime walk. 1 x Male Orange Tip - it settled when a cloud cast its shadow, and I was able to take pictures. 1 x Speckled Wood, 1 x Holly Blue, No Peacocks. Several unidentified whites. Swarms of Green Longhorns observed high up on sunny side of several oak trees. I did not find that Small Copper again - Mike Rubin

Saw eight species in a half hour walk round **Maple Cross**. My largest sighting in one day so far this year! Perfect weather conditions. My first **Large White** of the year - definitely bigger than the other whites around! These included small, green-veined and orange tips. Two speckled woods were disputing territory. A number of holly blues were courting round a large holly tree on the field edge. Saw half a dozen peacocks at least and my first brimstone of the year - they seem less in evidence around this area - Ann Piper

**Bowspirit Gardens in Millwall**. It's a small green-space right next to the river Thames facing Rotherhithe over on the other bank. As I feared there was not a lot of green space, but there was sufficient nectar around to attract 6 Small Whites, 3 Holly Blues & a Small Tortoiseshell - Dave Chandler

Phone call from Andrew Palmer to say he has seen his first **Green Hairstreak** at **Aldbury Nowers**. Brimstones everywhere, also 2 Small Copper, Green-veined Whites and Peacocks. Later confirmed as **5 Green Hairstreak**

### Wednesday 18th April

We went over to the south pit at **Waterford** at 4.20 and looked around for 45 mins. Unfortunately no Grizzled Skipper but we did see our first **Small Copper**, a Small Tortoiseshell, 2 Peacocks and a Large Red Damselfly. We then went to the North Pit at 5.15pm and had no sightings, we left at 5.45, it was sunny but windy. We started the day at **Pegsdon Hills (Bedfordshire)** and saw our first Green Hairstreaks of the year at 10.30am at the end of the valley. There was a lot of movement and it is difficult to give exact numbers but approx 12 were seen. Sunny and cloudy, left at 12.00pm. Elsewhere in **Bedfordshire**, we were lucky to have 2 sightings of a Grizzled Skipper, also saw Speckled Wood and Peacocks - Sandra and Kevin Standbridge

A few butterfly sightings; quite a few Peacocks around everywhere. **Tyttenhanger**, male Orange Tip, two others seen in vicinity on the **17th April**. Plenty of Garlic Mustard food plants. Frogmore lakes, St Albans - Speckled Wood, Holly Blue. Orange Tip also seen nearby - Alan Gardiner

**Waterford Heath** - an afternoon visit still couldn't produce a Grizzled Skipper but a **Small Heath** was seen on the north pit. Also seen were Peacock, Green-veined White, Brimstone, Orange tip, Holly Blue and Speckled Wood - Liz Goodyear & Andrew Middleton

**MUDCHUTE REPORT** (April 07)- Having seen several Holly Blues in central Watford over the past weekend, I went over to Mudchute LNR today (April 18th) during my lunch-hour looking for them. I was fortunate and saw three Holly Blues. I also saw one tatty Small Tortoiseshell, a Comma, five

Speckled Woods, three Green-Veined Whites & twelve Small Whites. The total number species sightings I have made at the Mudchute site during this butterfly season is now 7 - Dave Chandler

### **Tuesday 17th April**

Just spotted my first **Small Copper** of the year this lunchtime in a meadow in Grove Farm, **Greenford** (TQ18). [Managed to get a picture too](#). Also saw 5 whites (1 of which disturbed the Copper and allowed me to spot it), 1 speckled Wood, and an Oak tree swarming with those Adeline moths (had a go at picturing them too will check them out later) during a very short walk - Mike Rubin

In the garden today: Brimstone, Peacock (3), Small White, Green-veined White, Orange Tip (2), Holly Blue (2), Speckled Wood - Robin Pearson

### **Monday 16th April**

Another lunchtime walk in the fields west of **Horsenden Lane North**. 2 x Holly Blue (My first of 2007, once flying over a road and over a house), 11 x Peacock (including a couple of scraps, and what looked like a courtship dance.) 2 x Male Orange Tip (One of which was very small.) 7 x Speckled Wood (One was about half the size of all the others, which were normal size. Some were unusually pale.) Several unidentified whites. Plenty of bee flies and other hovering insects. Zillions of these small black insects with very long antennae. Swarming around Hawthorn and Oak in particular. What are they? - Mike Rubin

**Waterford Heath** - an early morning visit in the hope of locating a roosting Grizzled Skipper proved negative. However, did see a **Brown Argus** - Liz Goodyear

### **Sunday 15th April**

**Fir and Pond Wood NR** - on the meadow, our first **small copper** of the year - David Gompertz

### **Saturday 14th April**

**Chorleywood Common** - 6 Brimstone, 5 Peacock, 3 Orange Tip (2 male & one female nectaring on bluebell) Comma, Holly Blue, Large White, Several possible Small/Green Veined Whites & a suspected Small Tortoiseshell. Best of all four Long Horned Cattle, who attended the CMS Open Day as part of the public consultation on the restoration of grazing on the Common - Malcolm Hull  
1 Holly Blue, **Totteridge** this afternoon - Tony Clancy

**Ware** garden, my first female Orange Tip - Liz Goodyear

### **Wednesday 11th April**

After an almost butterfly-free weekend in Skegness, I return to find a male Orange Tip in front of the parish church in **Royston** this afternoon! Guy Manners

On **Tring Park Transect** today 11.04.07, saw my first Orange Tip. It was rather small, a male about the size of a Chalk Hill Blue! Also on my **Miswell Lane** transect I recorded 3 Speckled Woods - Brian Jessop

We had a male Orange Tip in our garden (**Enfield**) on **Saturday 7th April** (notice from web sight others had earlier records). Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock and Comma also. Had a possible Speckled Wood but it shot through fast so I'm not sure - Phil Rhodes

Despite 8/8 local overcast most of the time I saw 7 butterflies during a short lunchtime walk through **Grove Farm, TQ18.**, 1 x Small White resting, and was able to get close for a positive ID. 2 x Peacock both active / flying. 1 x Comma also flying, 2 x Speckled Wood both flying, 1 x Unidentified White flying. Also spotted a moth that looked similar to *Platyptilia Pallidactyla* but not 100% as seen from a distance - Mike Rubin

### **Tuesday 10th April**

Wandered around Paradise Fields to the **West of Horsenden Hill** (TQ18) today. Peacocks everywhere (lost count, easily well into double figures), frequently being disturbed even though 7/8's cumulus spreadout meant lots of cloud shadow. Saw also 2 Commas, 1 Male Brimstone, 1 Speckled Wood, 1 Small Tortoiseshell and an unidentified White (fairly small - I suspect either Small White or Orange Tip Female rather than GVW (definitely not Large White or Female

Brimstone) but not sure). Later in the walk cloud shadow got bad, and saw several Peacocks resting wings open. When I went near they slammed their wings shut as I approached. Some then flew off - Mike Rubin

Good numbers of butterflies visiting my **Stevenage** garden and **Great Ashby Park**. Lots of Peacocks and Brimstones (first female Sunday 8/4/07), Small Tortoiseshell, Small Whites and Red Admiral in smaller numbers. First Orange-tip today (10/4/07) on the park - Steve Lane

### **Sunday 8th April**

In **Kenton** I saw a Comma fly in just before noon and bask in the garden then briefly settle on a heather plant before moving off again. First time I've seen a Comma in the garden this year, if ever (memory hazy about years prior to now). Two whites spotted fluttering past, one before I went out and one after I came back. Down Richmond way I buzzed a large dark butterfly (my bet is a Peacock) while riding the motorbike to see friends. For the first time this year I found bugs hitting my visor too, the bigger ones with quite a clunk at speed. I still haven't seen a moth since December 14th - Mike Rubin

**Ware garden**, first female Brimstone of the year for me - Liz Goodyear

### **Saturday 7th April**

Here are some recent sightings. **Monday 2nd April**, my first Orange Tip of the year (a male) at **Shrubhill Common**, Hemel Hempstead. **Friday 6th April**, a pair of Speckled Woods performing courtship flight at **Shrubhill Common**, Hemel Hempstead. My first Speckled Woods of the year - Roger Prue

Yesterday in my neighbour's garden (**Hampstead**) an immaculate-looking Comma soaked up the rays - Mark Barclay

### **Friday 6th April**

Just had my first **Orange tip** of the year, a male (Friday 6th April, 3.17, on the path between **Aldbury and the Bridgewater Monument at Ashridge**). This is my earliest ever Orange tip in 20 or so years of recording, the previous earliest being April 11th. I also saw my first Speckled wood of the season at Ashridge, but it was just over the border into Bedfordshire. Loads of Peacocks, Commas and Brimstones - Richard Harrington

Went to the **Rickmansworth Aquadrome** (TQ09) to lead an organised walk. I kept my eyes peeled meanwhile. Round the north-west side of the lakes there were lots of Peacocks (especially round the north side of Stocker's Lake). More seen in the hills south of the lakes. Only one Comma, one male Brimstone and one unidentified white spotted. I agree with a previous poster that Peacock numbers are definitely up on last year and Commas down a bit. This week I have seen far fewer Commas than when they first came out. I wonder where they have gone? Then got back home and spotted a Speckled Wood flying around the garden in **Kenton** (TQ18) - Mike Rubin

**Harpenden** - 3 Peacocks, 1 Brimstone, 1 Comma today so far, then later **Orange Tip and Holly Blue** - Robin Pearson

**Ware** garden, my first male **Orange Tip** of the year - Liz Goodyear

### **Wednesday 4th April**

**Ware** garden, **fresh green-veined white**, just released from closed greenhouse. Probably pupated in there plus several garlic mustard plants seeded inside last year as well! Liz Goodyear

### **Tuesday 3rd April**

Sighting of small white on **Monday** on **Rothamsted Estate, Harpenden** - John Bater.

### **Monday 2nd April**

A **Camberwell Beauty**. TQ1796. Fields north of **Elstree**. I only went there to see what the tetrad looked like - John Hollingdale

**Hemel Hempstead**, steady stream of Brimstones and two Peacocks in the garden but the best sighting was on the allotment in mid-afternoon when luckily I had my son David and his camera

with me. We walked to the wildlife garden and saw a Peacock, but shortly afterwards saw three Commas in close formation flying around at speed.. One Comma broke away and disappeared while the remaining pair settled on a small tree close by and were soon "in cop" where David was able to take this photo. We were in the right place at the right time as I imagine that this is probably a once in a lifetime sighting - Malcolm Newland

Enjoying the late afternoon sunshine in **Maple Cross** - 7 peacocks and 3 small tortoiseshells - but no Camberwell Beauty as yet!! Ann Piper

**Great Amwell**, having our lunch in the garden today, we watched a pair of Brimstones doing their courtship for a good half hour. When they had decided on the right variegated ivy leaf, they got down to the serious business. We watched, discreetly of course, for the next hour then left them to it as we had to go shopping. I have just checked (6-30 pm) and the female is still there; I expect the male is having a doze somewhere, saving his strength for tomorrow! - Roy Stringer

1 Speckled Wood **Sewardstone Marsh** - Tony Clancy

**Trent Park**: 2 Small White, 1 Male Brimstone, 8 Peacock, 2 Comma, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Red Admiral - Robert Callf

I had a walk around **Great Ashby Park** and adjoining farm land, between 12.00 and 14.15, good sunny conditions. Good numbers of butterflies; 20 Peacocks, 14 Brimstone, 8 Small Tortoiseshell, 2 Comma, 1 Small White and 1 Red Admiral - Steve Lane

#### **Sunday 1st April**

1 Brimstone, 2 peacocks and a Comma on **Hartham Common, Hertford**. 7 peacock, 4 Comma, 1 Small White **Waterford Heath** South Pit and 2 peacocks and 1 Comma on the North Pit. In **Molewood**, 4 Peacocks, 1 Speckled Wood and a **1 male Orange Tip** - Andrew Wood

In warm, sunny weather and with the help of nine other volunteer wood wardens, I saw 5 Peacocks, 4 male Brimstones and one Comma in and around **Bencroft Wood** today (April 1st). The wood anemones were flowering profusely in Wormley Wood (I'm told they are doing even better in Hoddesdonpark Wood), but I saw only one flowering violet - it will take more than that to bring the Pearl-bordered Fritillaries back to the area I'm afraid! Alan Jackson

I had several visits from single male Brimstones and a Red Admiral to my **Stevenage** garden - Steve Lane

On a trip out to Tring there seemed to be Brimstones everywhere, and at least two Commas in my **Harpenden** garden - Robin Pearson

This is not an April Fool! In just half an hour this morning on my usual walk around **Maple Cross** I saw my first small tortoiseshell of the year. In fact there were 4 all together. These are the first I have seen here since last July! So let's hope they are recovering from last year's poor showing! Also patrolling along the field margin were two whites - small or green veined. Then I spotted a **holly blue** investigating a large holly tree. Lastly a comma flitted around me as I walked along. This was definitely a good start to the month - Ann Piper

#### **Saturday 31st March**

Here today a peacock flying over **Wilstone Reservoir** whilst temp about 10C and looking perilously likely to ditch in cold water. Also Brimstone and Peacock in garden (**Tring**) - Nick Bowles

#### **Thursday 29th March**

May I be just about the last of your correspondants to confirm my first butterfly sighting of the year - if you see what I mean. This was on 28th March in **Hampstead** in my neighbour's garden on a newly-planted cherry tree. On my attached far-too-distant photo you can just about see a Small Tortoiseshell near the top of the central branch - Mark Barclay

Sightings from **Rickmansworth Aquadrome 27th March**: 1x Brimstone, Small White, Peacock - Jez Perkins

### Wednesday 28th March

An odd collection for late March today in **Ware** 1 Speckled Wood, 1 Small White, 1 Red Admiral. (A couple of quick photos attached - see 2007 photo page)- Andrew Wood

I went back to **Mudchute LNR** today (March 28th) during my lunch-hour looking for Small Tortoiseshells which have been scarce in their summer brood in our region. And, fortunately, one worn specimen was seen by me today. I did also find a Comma, a Peacock [male] a **Speckled Wood** that looked like it had been around a while, & **eight Small Whites**. The total number species sightings I have made at the Mudchute site this butterfly season is now 5 - David Chandler

Today I saw 1 Comma on the north side of **Horsenden Hill** and two Peacocks on the western side in the meadows below the road. Nothing else. Very quiet day with little wind. Curious - Mike Rubin

News from Robert Callf - **27th March Trent Park area** - **speckled wood**, red admiral, 4 peacock, 2 comma. and **26th March Trent Park area** - 2 peacocks, 6 comma, 1 small tortoiseshell

Butterflies at and around **Knebworth Woods** on **26 Mar** included Red Admiral, Peacock, Brimstone, Small Tortoiseshell - Nigel Agar

### Tuesday 27th March

On **Monday 26th March** walked the Balls Wood transect route and saw 15 Commas, 9 Peacocks and 2 Brimstones, but no Orange or Light orange Underwing moths which I was really looking for. On **Tuesday 27th March**, around the **western edges of Ware 1 Small white**, 2 Brimstones, 2 peacocks, 2 Commas and 1 Red Admiral - Andrew Wood

**News from the 13th March** - I had a brief but clear sighting of a **green-veined white** on Tues, 13 March, mid-morning at **Springwell Lake car park**. It flew from behind the picnic table, across the far corner of the car park, before disappearing behind the hedge into that lorry place. At first, I thought it was a female orange-tip as it definitely wasn't a small white, then as it flew past me I decided it was a GV white - Wendy Wilson

### Monday 26th March

Sighting from my **Stevenage garden** today at 4pm, 1 Comma - Steve Lane

The sun brought out a couple of butterflies today for our stroll around **Norton Green Stevenage**, a very nice Brimstone flying strongly along the track and a Comma amongst the Primrose - Malcolm Penn

### Saturday 17th March

**Hemel Hempstead**, well worn Red Admiral flew around the garden early this afternoon and I also saw my first Comma of the year - Malcolm Newland

### Friday 16th March

Two red admirals at **Maple Cross** today. Also one at **Inns Lake** and one at **Stockers Lake** - Sezar Hikmet

### Wednesday 14th March

First '**small white**' butterfly (seen by a volunteer either SW or GV) seen on **Tuesday 13th**. First Comma seen **14th March. Camley Street Natural Park**, Kings Cross. - Tom Clarke

**Hemel Hempstead**, saw a **Small White** on the allotment this morning - Malcolm Newland

Comma sighted in flight at **Canary Wharf** yesterday **March 13th**. Seen on Middlesex side of the Thames near The Dome - David Chandler

### Tuesday 13th March

My first sighting of Brimstone this year in my **Tewin** garden (on **12th March**) - Les Borg

The good March weather seems to be bringing out a number of species. On **Saturday 10th** in our **Welwyn garden City** garden a Red Admiral, our first of this year. **Today (13th)** at **Norton Green** Stevenage a Peacock and 2 Commas - Malcolm Penn



**Hitchin**, Yellow Brimstone 5/3 11.30 am, Peacock 7/3, Yellow Brimstone 9/3 + 2 ladybirds in the hollyhocks - Val Fullforth

**Rothamsted**, Manor Wood - two comma's seen midday - Andrew Riche

**Ware Sunday 11.3.07** Had a walk out in the spring sunshine saw a Peacock in Christchurch car park. Along the river a Brimstone by Broadmeads flats and another by Ware lock - Ian Edwards

#### **Monday 12th March**

Hemel Hempstead, saw two Brimstones, one Small Tortoiseshell and a Peacock at the allotment this morning, my first sightings of these species in 2007 - Malcolm Newland

7 Brimstone at **Aldbury Nowers** today and a Peacock. 5 Brimstone and 2 Peacock at **Long Deans Nature Reserve** and a Comma in my **Bishops Stortford** garden - Andrew Palmer

**Enfield**, Robert Callf saw a brimstone and 2 commas in Grovelands Park, and 1 comma in Oakwood Park on 11th March

1 Brimstone and **1 Small White, Coppetts Wood** today - Tony Clancy

Took advantage of the lovely weather this afternoon for a walk in **Maple Cross**. Saw my first butterfly of the year - a peacock - flying just off the main road and up a farm track - Ann Piper

**Amwell Gravel Pits**: we saw 5 Brimstones, Comma, Small Tortoiseshell and Red Admiral - Helen & Tristan Bantock

#### **Sunday 11th March**

Today in **Royston**, I saw 3 male brimstones and 2 Commas around the area of the town hall car park. Also 2 more Brimstones in **Bishops Stortford** along by the swimming pool - Simon Rasch

12.15, just north of **Regents Park**, Red Admiral flying close to canal between Camden Lock and Little Venice - Malcolm Newland

**College Lake, Bucks**: Small Tort 1 Peacock 2. Drive back to home in **Tring** (Herts) 3 miles Brimstones 3, **garden Tring** (Herts) Brimstone 2 - poss 3, Small Tortoiseshell 1, **Dancers End, Bucks** Brimstone 2 Peacock 1 Comma 2 - poss 3. No Red Ad all day! - Nick Bowles

I went to **Broxbourne Woods** today and saw 4 species of butterfly:- Red Admiral (1), Brimstone (1), Comma (3) and Peacock (3) - Ian Small

First butterfly of the year for my **Stevenage** garden, six visits from a single Brimstone, between 11am and 12.30pm - Steve Lane

**Fir and Pond Woods NR** , ....one brimstone and 2 commas - David Gompertz

#### **Saturday 10th March**

Robert Callf saw 1 quite worn red admiral at **Vicarage Farm** today

3 Red Admiral **Coppetts Wood** today - Tony Clancy

#### **Friday 9th March**

Had my first Brimstone of the year by the Emperors Head pub, Chells Manor **Stevenage** on **7/3/2007** - Darrel Bryant

**Thursday** 8th March - On a sunny afternoon I saw a Small Tortoiseshell and 3 Comma at **Ruislip Lido** - Steve Pash

#### **Thursday 8th March**

I went to a very muddy **Balls Wood** today and saw 1 Peacock and 2 Commas, but nothing at all on the way there or back from Ware - Andrew Wood

Two Red admirals at **Kew Gardens (Surrey)** this morning. Managed to get a picture, first of the year - Sezar Hikmet

**Much Hadham**, two Brimstones along Cox Lane and several other butterflies, too busy to stop and be identified! - Liz Goodyear

### **Wednesday 7th March**

One **Small Tortoiseshell** sunning itself at lunchtime in **Thorley Street** - Tony Moverley

### **Tuesday 6th March**

**Hemel Hempstead**, went into back garden at noon as it was sunny and warm for March to see a Red Admiral nectaring on Lonicera Fragrantissima. Looked in vain for the usual over wintering suspects. All very strange - Malcolm Newland

Delighted to say I saw my first garden butterfly today in **Hatfield**, a lovely shiny **Comma** on deep blue crocus in brilliant sunshine. (Also saw Bittern & Marsh Tit at Amwell, so things are looking up!) - John Moss

Red Admiral and Brimstone in **Ware Cemetery** and a Brimstone in Wengeo Lane today and a Red Admiral on Hartham Common, **Hertford** on **3 March** - Andrew Wood

A male Brimstone seen today flying across the high street in **Sawbridgeworth** at 13.25 - Simon Rasch

**Ware**, went outside at 12.45 and thought this is a Brimstone day, and within seconds, a Brimstone flew through my front garden. 2 more seen, by Poles Lane in **Ware** being chased by a bird, and across the A120 at **Standon** - Liz Goodyear

### **Saturday 3rd March**

Returning to house in **Tring** today, after some morning shopping, I saw a very bright butterfly fly over the road near my house while I was still about 200m away. Certainly seemed to be **Brimstone**, but at that distance could have been a Large White. On arrival at house I checked all around and cursed my luck at missing it, so busied myself emptying the car. While doing so I saw a shadow and looked up to see a male Brimstone fly across my garden and back the way it had come just moments earlier. This good fortune made me rush into back garden where my incautious haste scared up a Red Admiral which also rose and flew over the house. Neither were seen again, nor any other butterfly despite half an hour of searching likely local haunts - Nick Bowles

### **Friday 2nd March**

A Red Admiral flying in sunshine around midday along Whittington Way, **Bishop's Stortford** - Tony Moverley

A Red Admiral at **Aldbury Nowers** today and one outside my house in **Bishop's Stortford** - Andrew Palmer

## **February 2007**

### **Saturday 24th February**

In the rain at lunchtime today, still clinging on in tonight's cold wind, parked up on our front window sill in sylvan(!) **Tower Hamlets**, a Brimstone in lovely nick. So far, so ho-hum. But a Brimstone moth rather than a Brimstone butterfly! That's a bit early, isn't it? Keir Mottram

### **Wednesday 21st February**

On a warm spring-like day at **Amwell**, a Red Admiral - Alan Reynolds

### **Monday 19th February**

1st butterfly of the year for me. A Red Admiral in the front garden (**Harrow**) this morning - John Hollingdale

### **Sunday 18th February**

Just to let you know that out in wooded area near **Stocking's Wood**, off Codicote Road on Saturday saw a beautiful Peacock which posed wonderfully for photos - Terry Rodbard

### **Friday 16th February**

I just thought it might be worth reporting a Red Admiral I saw yesterday, flying around a very urban street in **central London**; about 80-100m north of Euston Road. I've never seen one so early & so central before - Mike Taylor

### **Thursday 15th February**

Red Admiral in flight across A10 at Church Lane traffic lights, **Cheshunt** - Liz Goodyear

### **Monday 12th February**

1 'Early Moth' seen by Sauceywood nr Harpenden at 0100 today. Never seen a winter moth before - Darin Stanley

A lady visiting the sales stall yesterday reported finding a Small White adult which had hatched out in her glass conservatory in St Albans last week. Another visitor had seen a Red Admiral on Sunday morning - news via Malcolm Hull and Liz Goodyear

### **Friday 9th February**

On Saturday **3rd February**, a Red Admiral was nectaring on a Veronica shrub ('Hebe') by the canal towpath (lock No 54) off Ravens Lane at **Berkhamsted** in the late morning; in the afternoon of **Thursday 1st February**, another flew through my garden at **Garston** (Watford); and one flew NW opposite **Watford High Street station** at 1315 hours on **Thursday 25th January**. **Media reports:** BBC News 24 on 4th February featured a photograph taken of a Red Admiral "in London" on **Wednesday 31st January**; at lunchtime on **Monday 29th January**, BBC weather presenter Peter Cockcroft reported that "a butterfly" had just flown past him on the roof of the London Weather Centre in **Holborn WC2** (TQ 30 81); and, finally, in mid-January BBC News also carried a photograph of a Red Admiral from **Uxbridge** - Colin Everett

**Potters Bar** - My wife drew my attention to a Red Admiral, which was resting on her washing on **1st Feb - Reg Brittain**

### **Wednesday 7th February**

Saw my first moth at **Stanmore Country Park** today at 1pm; a Spring Usher. This is one day earlier than last year and that was a day-flier too - John Hollingdale

### **Tuesday 6th February**

News from 1st Feb, **Ferny Hill, north Enfield** - peacock seen by Robin White - news via Robert Callf

### **Monday 5th February**

It was a warm & sunny afternoon as I made my way to the match in **Watford** on **Saturday February 3rd** when, at 2pm. I saw my first butterfly of the year, a **Comma**, nectaring on a winter flowering shrub at Reeds Chapel, Central Park [nr. Wfd. Jct. Sta.]. It was the highlight of my day because the football was a real disappointment. Bring on the summer! David Chandler

### **Saturday 3rd February**

**Hemel Hempstead**, Saturday at 11.30 a.m. sunny but cool, Red Admiral in good condition appeared in the garden settling on Buddleia Auriculata which has been flowering since last November. This sighting is my first ever of an "over wintering" Red Admiral and replaces my previous early record for this species which was on the 4th May 1987 - Malcolm Newland

At last I have joined the hallowed band. A definite Red Admiral today looking red (i.e. not orange) and black though distinctly less contrasty than usual. I presume it was long in the tooth. This individual in same area as the one I saw egg laying in December, my back of garden footie pitch in **Tring**. This individual was first alternating wing open basking with wing closed resting and then flew down from the vertical surface of a wooden fence to flutter about and 'taste' the tips of the extensive patch of white dead nettle at the fence base. I thought that there were no nettles about and wished the butterfly would explore an area about 10m to the west with several nettles

growing in a very sheltered position. I was convinced that this butterfly was looking to lay eggs, but although the butterfly found a single tip of stinging nettle that I hadn't spotted and perched on it for longer than any dead-nettle, as far as I could see no eggs were laid and the butterfly then flew up over the fence and was lost from sight into gardens with high walls. I waited a few minutes but it did not reappear. A little later about 300m away another dark butterfly flew rapidly and strongly past me about 8-9m up, through a small copse and it was heading due north. Was it deliberately moving north or was it simply that I saw it during a northward movement around its local patch? Nick Bowles

Watched a Red Admiral enjoying the afternoon sunshine in open country at the junction of Ambrose Lane and Cooters End Lane, **NW Harpenden** - Alan Jackson

Two Red Admirals this morning at **Amwell Nature Reserve** while I was watching the Little Bunting - Robin Pearson and .....Whilst waiting at **Amwell GPs** for the Little Bunting to show this morning the crowd was entertained by a Red Admiral enjoying the sunshine - Steve Lane

On Thursday I was waiting for the bus opposite the Sow and Pigs pub (**Thundridge**) and a lorry went past I thought a leaf had come out of the gutter and it went quite high in the air then back down again, then it went up and down the building for a good five minutes it was a lovely butterfly. It was orange and a brownish colour as it flew (was the other side of the road so not close views) size maybe a bit smaller than a peacock - Angela Sampford

#### **Thursday 1st February**

Today 11.30am at the lake along Hollycross Road between **Ware and Stanstead Abbots**, I saw a **Brimstone** it flew across the lake then along the old lea and flew around the footbridge for awhile - Ian Edwards

**Ware** garden, a Red Admiral watched me prune the buddleias today, flying around and then back to recharge on the pebble-dashed house front in the sun - Liz Goodyear

#### **January 2007**

##### **Monday 29th January**

One Red Admiral today on the wing in my rear garden in **Bishop's Stortford** around noon - Tony Moverley

##### **Wednesday 24th January**

On **20 January 2007**, I found a live specimen of the **speckled wood**. It was among a pile of dead leaves that I was clearing from my back yard, in **Tring**, Hertfordshire. The yard is surrounded by a ten foot high wall, is cobbled, and has no flowerbeds or grass within it. It is protected from all but severe winds, and the maximum temperature in the yard at ground level on that bright, sunny day was 11°C. Two days earlier (18 January) was a day of great gales and torrential rain, so the butterfly could have been blown into the yard, but its survival is remarkable considering the cold and wet conditions in the exposed piles of leaves. The nearest mixed grassland and woodland is only about 400 metres away, however, in the direction of the source of the prevailing wind. It appeared clean, fresh and undamaged, as if newly emerged from its chrysalis. It had enough strength to cling to my fingers, and when I placed it on some flowers in my greenhouse, it stayed put until it feebly flapped its wings, throwing itself to the ground. Despite several attempts to settle it on flowers, it repeatedly did this. So although not "on the wing", it was amazingly lively considering the conditions. This morning (**21 January**), I can't find it, but it must still be in the greenhouse, although probably now dead - Ray Williams

Had another Red Admiral at home last Friday (**19th**) in **New Southgate**. That's two separate records for home so far this year... - Tom Clarke

##### **Tuesday 23rd January**

Just received a record from a **Sarratt** Parish Councillor that he had a Red Admiral roosting on a wall in his garden on **Saturday 20th Jan** - news via Jez Perkins

##### **Saturday 20th January**

Just to let you know I had a Red Admiral on the wing in my **Bishop's Stortford** garden, yesterday (19th Jan 2007) - Chris Dee

Yesterday (**19th January 2007**), during my lunch hour, I saw a Red Admiral flying in a street just south of **Kensington Gardens**. I was within 1/2 metre of it and it looked in good condition - Michael Robinson

#### **Friday 19th January**

Had a trip to **Rye House RSPB reserve** today and was surprised to see 2 **Peacocks**, flying in the early afternoon sun, my first ever sighting of butterflies in January - Steve Lane

#### **Monday 15th January**

A Red Admiral fluttering around the outside of a house in Watton Road, **Ware** this lunchtime - Andrew Wood

Red Admiral today at Walkern Road, **Stevenage**. Seen at 11.45 basking in sun on a wooden pallet after gliding around for a few minutes - Martin Shepherd

2 red admirals on **Tuesday 9th January** at **Camley Street Natural Park**, Kings Cross (NW1 0PW). 1 Red Admiral yesterday **Sunday 14th January** at Oak Hill Park in **East Barnet**. 1 Red Admiral yesterday in my garden, **New Southgate**. It's almost not worth sending them in now, so common!!!! Tom Clarke

#### **Sunday 14th January**

About 1pm today, in a sunny and sheltered glade at **Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park**, two **Red Admirals** circling each other in flight which took them out of the glade. Within a couple of minutes, one returned and gave excellent views perched on low-growing vegetation for 10+ minutes, basking, and was still there when we left the area. This insect was in pristine condition. The red bands on its forewings looked quite pale, orange-ish. Does anyone know if the intensity of colour in this band ranges widely and, if so, what determines it? - Keir Mottram (*anyone know???? LG*)

I was volunteering with the Wood Wardens in Hoddesdonpark Wood today: we were removing felled oaks from the archaeologically-important moated area on the southern edge of the wood (the oaks had been felled some time ago and a few had become quite rotten). At about midday I noticed a micro moth (*Tortrix* sp.?) on the ground. As I pointed it out to my colleagues an enormous female hornet dramatically appeared from nowhere. I observed it from a distance of about three feet. We all had excellent views of it before it flew off. A good sighting for Hertfordshire at any time of year, but a real treat for mid-January! OK, you're right, it's not a butterfly.... Alan Jackson

At 10.45 today a **Red Admiral** flew across our front garden in **Bengeo** and settled in a sunny spot on a neighbour's wall - Andrew Wood

#### **Monday 1st January**

Debrina Dobрева saw a **red admiral** today near **Enfield Town** ~ news from Robert Callf

Happy New Year. I found a **Red Admiral** this afternoon, 12:20, **near Abbots Langley**. It was on the ground in a hollow protected from the wind and in direct sunlight - Bob Cripps