

Archive Page

Sightings and news from July to December 2008

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This page contains sightings details of all the butterflies and moths reported to the [Sightings page](#) between July and December 2008.

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

December 2008

Friday 26th December

Sunday 21st December at 12 noon a **Brimstone** in roadside vegetation at roundabout south of services on road north of Baldock. Brimstone in flight - seen from passing car - David Arch

Tuesday 23rd December

Free to a good home - Butterfly Conservation has been asked they could find a new home for a traditional Slide Projector with a 150w lamp which takes 35mm slides. If any member or a local natural history group is interested, please contact me via the email address above - at present the projector is in NW2 - Liz Goodyear

Saturday 20th December

Red Admiral seen outside the Gap at No1 Poultry EC2 (TQ327812) at 14.00 today right next to Bank tube station. It flew closely alongside the building back and forth exploring crevices looking for hiding place to roost. Weather was warm and sunny about 12-13 degrees. Malcolm Hull

Monday 15th December

NFU Mutual's £ for £ pledge pays off

Thanks to a surge in donations the target has been reached!

BC's Chairman, Maurice Avent, has praised the generosity of NFU Mutual to the STOP EXTINCTION Appeal. "The timely £ for £ pledge has revitalised Butterfly Conservation's 40th Anniversary Appeal in its closing stages, doubling donors' contributions. I am delighted to tell you that our members and supporters rose to the challenge and with huge thanks to the NFU Mutual, we have just passed the £100,000 target." Butterfly Conservation relies heavily on donations to its annual appeal to plan and carry out conservation all over the UK to save butterflies, moths and their habitats. Martin Warren, BC's Chief Executive commented "Given the current financial downturn, this fund could not have come at a better time. I know our projects really are making a difference and several species are responding well to treatment. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this appeal and especially to NFU Mutual for their magnificent support. The generosity of everyone who has donated to the appeal shows how the need for large scale and ongoing conservation action is now widely recognised." Keep an eye on the national website for news of our 2009 Appeal: in conjunction with the Landfill Communities Fund we plan, not just to double your gift, but to multiply the value ten times over!

November 2008

Saturday 22nd November

Comma seen on fence post, Merryhills Brook, South Lodge Farm this morning by Robin White - news via Robert Callf

Friday 21st November

One Red Admiral sunning itself in Ware Cemetery at lunchtime today (21 Nov). By it ragged appearance the same one in the same place as Wednesday's Andrew Wood

Tuesday 19th November

On Saturday 15th Nov Kate Wood saw 1 Red Admiral at Richard Hale School, Hertford. On 19th Nov 1 Red Admiral on hebe in Wengeo Lane, Ware and 1 basking on a seat in Ware Cemetery
Andrew Wood

Friday 14th November

At lunchtime today in Ware, 1 male Brimstone in Wengeo Lane, 3 Red Admirals in Ware Cemetery, 1 Comma in each of Lower Bourne Gardens, The Bourne and The Ridgeway - Andrew Wood

Today I saw 2 Red Admirals enjoying the sunshine in a glade at Bayfordbury pinetum - Alan Reynolds

To my surprise I saw a red admiral at Amwell bird reserve today - Steve Kiln

Tuesday 11th November

1 Red Admiral in Ware Cemetery and 1 Red Admiral in The Bourne, Ware. Both feeding on ivy - Andrew Wood

1 Comma sunning itself in my Harpenden garden this lunchtime despite the windy conditions - Robin Pearson

Friday 7th November

One Red Admiral on ivy at All Saints, Churchyard, Hertford on Friday - Andrew Wood

Hemel Hempstead, the first sunny morning for several days produced two Red Admirals in the garden. One was seen nectaring on *Colletia Armata* at 10.20 and later resting on a south-facing wall. It was joined at 11.30 by another before they both flew away - Malcolm Newland

Sunday 2nd November

Saw a Red Admiral at Enfield Road, EN2, Sunday 2nd November 2008 at 14:28 GMT. Robert Callf

Ware garden, 1 Red Admiral briefly in front garden around 1.15 - Liz Goodyear

October 2008

Friday 31st October

Hemel Hempstead garden: considering that it was a very cold but sunny morning and that I still had patches of snow from Tuesday on the garage roof and in shaded flower pots I was pleasantly surprised to see a solitary Red Admiral nectaring on *Buddleia Auriculata* as early as 9.40! This hardy individual remained for well over an hour Malcolm Newland

Tuesday 28th October

Was rather chilly on Horsenden Hill meadows today. Big surprise no butterflies. Was very pleasant Monday. I searched the ivy on Sudbury Hill (A path that goes up to Harrow on the Hill). Even sheltered ivy still flowering in full sunshine had nothing but regular flies. Hoping those Red Ad's and Commas are tucked up cosily now as the snow comes down heavily enough to turn the grass and roofs white. I don't remember ever seeing October snow in London before. Certainly not in the last 20 years... - Mike Rubin

News for today (Tues 28th October 2008) - 1 Red Admiral, flew S, at Parkside Farm, Enfield, 10:36 GMT. - Robert Callf

Monday 27th October

Saw a Red Admiral on the ivy in our back garden in Cheshunt this morning enjoying the sunshine - Roger Newbold

Searched for sheltered ivy (that meant walking around to see the opposite side of the fence at the end of the garden, here in Tring). At first I could see 5 and then 7 Red Ad but no sign of Comma. Neither are there any signs of Red Ad larval tents. 2 winters back as they fed on the ivy along the field /garden fenceline (the ivy extends about 60m) females were flying down to lay on the nettles at the hedge base. No sign of that while I was watching today. Not sure if we climbed to the giddy

heights of double figure temperatures either. Sun noticeably warm but wind very cold. I would estimate that it was probably 9 or 10 degrees C. The BBC tell me that Aylesbury's weather station recorded a max of 8C by 1300 hrs. Possibly too cold for Comma to stir? A thunderstorm-like rain and hail storm at 2pm finished my chances for the day, after it cleared the sun was back for another hour and a half but it was noticeably colder. Good to get out in the sun none-the-less - Nick Bowles

Saw a Red Admiral at Barrowfield Road Allotments, Edmonton, N9 (Monday 27th October 2008) at 13:20 GMT - Robert Callf

Saturday 25th October

2 Red Admirals nectaring on Ivy just outside my Harpenden garden today, picture attached also 2 Commas and numerous bees, etc Robin Pearson

Friday 24th October

An unexpected visitor in my neighbour's garden (Hampstead London NW3) today - a Large White fluttering over the late-flowering ivy. Not a rare species, of course, but I don't recall seeing a Large White here so late in the year - I would have expected Red Admirals - Mark Barclay

Wednesday 22nd October

News for today (Weds 22nd October 2008) - **1 female 'helice' Clouded Yellow**, nectaring on dandelions, at **Vicarage Farm, Enfield**, 12:15 BST (the first I have seen this year); 1 Red Admiral, flew SW, at Vicarage Farm, 12:14 BST; 1 Red Admiral, at Parkside Farm, 12:47 BST; 1 Large White, at Park Farm, 13:20 BST. - Robert Callf

Just seen 3 red admirals together on ivy in Verulamium Park, was quite a suntrap! Paul Thrush

Grove Farm (near Sudbury Hill tube station), TQ18, Middlesex. I returned to Grove Farm for the first time in ages. Loads of ivy there still flowering but no leps seen on it despite excellent weather. However I did find 1 speckled wood found on the hill near the estate at Board Way / Bedser Drive, looking fairly fresh. Yesterday on Horsenden Hill I searched all the usual ivy spots but found nothing - Mike Rubin

Tuesday 21st October

Two Comma on Ivy this morning 21 Oct at Amwell Quarries, (along the lane.)- Nigel Agar

Sunday 19th October

Two Red Admirals and a Comma on ivy in my Harpenden garden today at lunchtime when the sun came out for a few minutes - Robin Pearson

Saturday 18th October

Saw a Red Admiral nectaring on michaelmas daisies near Triangular Wood, Trent Park, 13:27 BST, today (Saturday 18th October 2008). Robert Callf

PM Fir and Pond Woods NR - a small copper on the meadow - David Gompertz

On Friday 17th saw a common blue at Rickneys quarry and two small coppers and a large white at Waterford Heath - Steve Kiln

Friday 17th October

Any late reports of October Meadow browns in Herts? A pristine one at Pegsdon today 17th Oct which is pretty late and certainly my latest ever - Stuart Pittman

News for today (Fri 17th October 2008) - 2 Red Admiral, nectaring on Ivy flowers, at Tottenham Cemetery, 12:32 BST, also a Large White here, 12:32 BST and a Speckled Wood, 12:09 BST. Two Red Admiral together, at Bruce Castle Park, N17 at 12:58 BST. Two Red Admiral nectaring on Ivy flowers along Monument Way, N17 at 13:56 BST and a Small White here also. Robert Callf

Thursday 16th October

Here's something our local members may find interesting. "Spot the difference". Postcard from Australia -You find a Painted Lady in Australia that's very similar to the Painted Lady found in

many other parts of the world. Only the [Australian Painted Lady](#) has a row of blue spots on the bottom edge of each hindwing. From something that appears very familiar to something that is quite local and scarce a [Western Dusky Azure](#). We found this butterfly at White Gum Flats 70km north of Albany near to Australia's southern ocean coast - my book says it shouldn't really be found there! Its a "blue" butterfly that's as big as a small tortoiseshell, is darker than a ringlet and flies in short bursts near the ground like a Wall. - Dave Chandler *Click on names to see photos*

Horsenden Hill, hurrah the sun's back! Fresh out there. Saw just 1 Comma on ivy close to Horsenden Lane North in the usual sheltered spot. No sign of the Red Admirals. Also found what looked like a final instar Ruby Tiger caterpillar (grey/brown hair, 2-3cm long, yellow stripe down its back) on grass near the summit. - Mike Rubin

News for today (Thurs 16th October 2008) - 1 Comma, settled, on michaelmas daisies, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 13:03 BST. Robert Callf

Sunday 12th October

In Tring, on Sunday, butterflies similar to Saturday. Though despite being warmer I saw no Red Admiral and fewer whites but I did see a fairly fresh Holly Blue. Nick Bowles

Saturday 11th October

I saw a range of autumnal species today, the first good day that I was able to get out for some time. Not unencumbered, as I had grandchildren in tow, but even so around Tring Herts., I saw Large White 1, Small White 4, Red Ad 3 (2 heading purposefully south), Comma 2 and Speckled Wood 1. Nick Bowles

News for today (Saturday 11th October 2008) - 3 Comma,(1 at 'Old Golf Course', 11:01 BST, 1 near Dew Pond, 11:38 BST, 1 at Vicarage Farm, 12:29 BST); 2 Speckled Wood,(1 Shaws Wood, 11:44 BST, 1 along bridle-path near Merryhills Brook, Trent Park). Also unidentified Whites spp seen. Robert Callf

Stanwell Moor, I have been keeping an eye on what's been flitting through the garden during this week's sunshine, and here are some results: Wednesday 8th October - Comma (1), Large White (m) 1, Small White 2 Friday 10th October - Red Admiral (3), Small White (f) (1) I have attached some photos of the Comma and one of the Red Admirals. The large amount of flowering ivy round here seems to be keeping them happy, though these were basking. Dave Miller

Thursday 9th October

West Watford garden, not one, but two Red Admirals basking in the October sunshine in my garden today (9 Oct) and occasionally visiting the few last flowers on the Buddleia. A Large White was also seen on two occasions. (Photo attached) Archie Lang

News for today (Thurs 9th October 2008) - 1 Large White, at 'Barracks', Vicarage Farm, 11:27 BST; 1 Comma, at Stables, Vicarage Farm, 11:47 BST; 1 Red Admiral, flew SW, Parkside Farm, 12:07 BST; 1 Red Admiral, flew S, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 13:06 BST; 3 Speckled Wood,(1 Dew Pond, 13:28 BST, 1 near Shaws Wood, 13:40 BST, 1 along bridle-path, near Merryhills Brook, 13:45 BST); 1 Peacock, on michaelmas daisies, at South Lodge Farm, 13:50 BST. Robert Callf

Wednesday 8th October

Hemel Hempstead, had fourteen butterflies at the same time in the bright sunshine this morning, eight Red Admirals, five Commas and a single Large White. The main magnet for them was *Colletia Armata* and they also nectared on *Buddleia Auriculata*, Michaelmas Daisy, *Rudbeckia*, *Verbena Bonariensis* and *Viburnum Carlecephalum* which shouldn't be in flower until the spring! Malcolm Newland

Had 2 Small Coppers on Poor's Field, Ruislip this afternoon (8th), but no other butterflies - Dick Middleton

Lovely day, 8th Oct, seen 7 species. In the middle of Broxbourne wood in suntrap, a comma and a peacock. At Rickneys quarry, 2 common blue, 2 small heath, 2 large white and a small white. At Waterford Heath, large and small white, common blue and a small copper - Steve kiln

News for today, so far (Weds 8th October 2008) - 2 Speckled Wood,(1 near Triangular Wood,

12:31 BST, 1 near Sports Field, 13:23 BST); 2 Small Copper,(1, Sect.8, 'New Fields', 12:53 BST, 1 near Church Wood, 13:20 BST); 1 Small White, near Sports Field, 13:23 BST; 1 female Large White, near Sports Field, 13:25 BST; 2 Comma, settled, on michaelmas daisies, set-aside field near Snakes Lane, 13:33 BST and 13:48 BST; 1 Red Admiral, settled on michaelmas daisies, set-aside field near Triangular Wood, 13:37 BST. Robert Callf

Our and about today but noticed 1 Small White at Wilstone Res, Tring, 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Pinewood Building Supplies, Harpenden and 1 Red Admiral in Marquis Lane, Harpenden. Not bad for October! Robin Pearson

Horsenden Hill, Nothing yesterday unsurprisingly in the damp and windy conditions. Was gorgeous today. Didn't want to come back in from my lunchtime walk but alas I have to if I want to be paid. :P Wahay made double figures. 4x Comma (3 on / around ivy, 1 going from dandelion to dandelion) 3x Red Admiral (2 on ivy, 1 heading south at high speed) 2x Speckled Wood 1x White (80% sure it was a Large White) Also: 3x Suspected Vapourer Males (Smallish orange/brown moths flying fast and erratically near trees) 1x Suspected Silver Y (grey very fast wing flaps, and didn't stop long enough on grass to get a good look). 1x Common Darter. Possibly an immature male. Was a dark greyish colour instead of the usual Red (Male) or Green (Female). - Mike Rubin

Tuesday 7th October

Postcard from Perth, Western Australia! Having a lovely time and seeing a few butterflies in the 22 degree sunny bush-lands around Perth WA. Here's a [two-spot lined blue](#), a [klugs xenica](#) and a [rayed blue](#) taken at Yanchep National Park on Monday - Dave Chandler (*message from Liz I might have got the blues the wrong way round, one looks almost like a Wall Brown!*)

Monday 6th October

An hour's walk around the west side of Ware, yielded 6 Commas, 6 Red Admirals, 1 Painted Lady (1st I have seen all year), 2 Large Whites, 2 Small Whites, 1 Green-veined White - Andrew Wood

Horsenden Hill - 2 Red Admirals, 1 Comma and 1 Speckled Wood jostling around one patch of sheltered ivy before the sun faded at lunchtime. (The Red Ads and Comma most likely the same ones I saw last week.) As the sun faded the Red Ads flew up into the trees. Plus one tatty white seen under cloudy skies near the Melville Avenue / Cambridge Avenue junction on the way back. - Mike Rubin

Friday 3rd October

News for Wednesday (1st October 2008) - 2 Comma, together, on michaelmas daisies, near Triangular Wood, Trent Park, 12:50 BST. News for yesterday (Thurs 2nd October 2008) - 1 Comma, near Triangular Wood, 12:06 BST; 2 Small Copper, at 'New Fields', Trent Park, (1 Sect.8, 12:14 BST, 1 nectaring on Bramble blossom, near Church Wood, 12:42 BST); 1 Red Admiral, flew SW, at Vicarage Farm, 13:58 BST. Robert Callf

Thursday 2nd October

Amwell, up the track to the viewing point at Amwell there were 17 Red Admirals and 1 Comma on ivy. Alan Reynolds

Horsenden Hill, only 12C at lunchtime so wasn't expecting much on my lunchtime walk. But still found 5 Speckled Woods, 1 Red Admiral basking, and my biggest surprise was 1 Small Copper briefly landed on thistle (flowers long gone) in front of me - Mike Rubin

September 2008

Monday 29th September

News for yesterday (Sunday 28th September 2008) - Robin White saw 2 Small Copper and 1 Small Heath at the 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park. News for today (Monday 29th September 2008) - 1 Large White, near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 10:32 BST; 1 Small Copper, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 11:51 BST; 2 Comma, edge of Williams Wood, 12:15 - 12:16 BST, including one nectaring on michaelmas daisies; 1 Silver Y, at 'Barracks', Vicarage Farm, 12:49 BST. Robert Callf

Horsenden Hill, not much around in the rather fresh and slightly chilly air. Found 2 very fresh looking Red Admirals and 1 Comma on one sheltered sunny patch of woodland ivy. Large amounts

of ivy elsewhere had nothing. 2 Speckled Woods seen as well as plenty of macro moths on the wing. - Mike Rubin

Sunday 28th September

8 species still on the wing on Saturday 27/9 at Ickleford, Hitchin. Singletons of Common blue /small copper & 4 Small heath in the fallow field, speckled wood, red admiral and numerous commas on the broken bridge ivy patch by gerry's hole pond plus large /small white around the site. And on the 20th at Hexton chalk Pit...still numerous species around best being meadow brown and a well tatty Peacock - Stuart Pittman

5 small coppers waterford heath south on bank on left just inside gate - Steve Kiln

Saturday 27th September

News for today (Saturday 27th September 2008) - 1 Comma, settled, at Park Farm, 11:12 BST; 1 Large White, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 11:58 BST; 1 Comma, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 12:03 BST; 1 Red Admiral, nectaring on Ivy flowers, by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 12:14 BST; 2 Comma, together, nectaring on michaelmas daisies, edge of Williams Wood, 12:38 BST; 1 Comma, along bridle-path near Merryhills Brook, Trent Park, 12:54 BST; 1 Small Copper, along Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm, 13:01 BST; 1 Large White, at 'Barracks', Vicarage Farm, 13:18 BST; 1 Comma, at Allotments, Vicarage Farm, 13:34 BST. Robert Callf

Conditions warm, bright & sunny, no breeze. Sighted this afternoon in Tower Hamlets Cemetery 5 whites (4 unidentified & 1 small white feeding on dandelion), 2 speckled wood and 1 pristine comma. Cherry Eggleton

Friday 26th September

Just a solitary comma in Broxbourne and Bencroft woods, but at Waterford Heath 4 small copper, 4 small heath, 5 commas, 1 red admiral, a brown argus plus many whites. erratum - Last week on 21st /20th I missed off 4 small coppers at Waterford Heath and 1 at Rickneys Quarry. Steve Kiln

Conditions warm bright sunny with slight breeze: 1 x Red Admiral and 1 x Holly Blue sighted during walk in Brompton Cemetery SW10 9UG this PM. both in flight - Cherry Eggleton

News for today (Fri 26th September 2008) - 1 Green-veined White, settled, at Park Farm, 09:37 BST; 1 Green-veined White, at Duncan's Wood, 09:52 BST; 1 Red Admiral, at Park Farm, 09:53 BST; 1 female Large White, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 10:33 BST; 1 female Small Copper, settled, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 10:36 BST; 1 Comma, settled on bridle-path, near Shaws Wood, 11:45 BST; 1 female Large White, nectaring on michaelmas daisies, South Lodge Farm, 11:57 BST; 1 Comma, nectaring on michaelmas daisies, South Lodge Farm, 12:00 BST; 1 Comma, at 'Barracks', Vicarage Farm, 12:41 BST; 1 Comma, at Sidhil's Field, near Firing Range, Vicarage Farm, 12:52 BST. Robert Callf

Thursday 25th September

News for today (Thurs 25th September 2008) - 1 Green-veined White, settled at 'Barracks', Vicarage Farm, 08:58 BST; 1 Red Admiral, nectaring on Bramble blossom, at Park Farm, 10:01 BST; 1 Red Admiral, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 10:55 BST. Robert Callf

Monday 22nd September

ws for yesterday (Sunday 21st September 2008) - 1 Comma, edge of Moat Wood, 09:59 BST; 1 Small Copper, field S of 'Barracks', Vicarage Farm, 12:00 BST. News for today (Monday 22nd September 2008) - 2 Comma, together, on buddleia, by Lower Lake, 11:32 BST; 1 Comma, settled, on cherry tree, Uni-lawns, Trent Park, 13:04 BST; 3 Comma, edge of Williams Wood, (2 together, settled on michaelmas daisies, 1 settled on Ragwort), 13:12 - 13:14 BST. Robert Callf

Sunday 21st September

Weather overcast: Sighting of 1 speckled wood & 2 unidentified whites on Clifford Rd allotment site in North Brent (HA0 1PJ). Later after walking to Horsenden Hill Visitor centre saw another speckled wood in the centre grounds. Cherry Eggleton

20 Brimstones, 3 Brown Argus, 2 Small Copper, 4 Small Heath, 1 Common Blue, 4 Comma, 3 Small Tortoiseshell, 3 Meadow Brown, 5 Large White, 16 Speckled Wood, 3 Treble Bar, 1 Small White at Aldbury Nowers this morning. Also 4 Common Blues & 12 Meadow Brown on Pitstone Hill

- 15 species in one weekend not bad for this time of year! Malcolm Hull

Lovely indian summer. Highlights yesterday at Waterford Heath 2 brimstones, 1 tortoiseshell and a meadow brown. But today 21st I went to Rickneys quarry, on other side of Sacombe Road. In corner by wood saw in morning sunshine. 8 common blues, 2 brown argus, 1 tortoiseshell, 1 meadow brown, 3 small heath, 1 comma, 6 small white, 1 large white and 2 green veined white. Quite a surprise. Last week end 5 red admirals and 6 tortoiseshells in front garden in Bengoe on sedum and cerostigmata etc. If anyone wants a small plant I have a few seedlings good for autumn butterflies. Steve Kiln

Saturday 20th September

A 2nd brood White Admiral has been reported in Norfolk, so keep a look out, [news via uk-leps](#)

45 Small Coppers in an hour at Nomansland Common. They were crowding round the ragwort along the west side of the B651 from the junction of Ferrers Lane up to Wheathampstead cricket club. I've never seen such a concentration before & this may well be because the grass on much of the rest of the common was cut yesterday causing a shortage of nectar sources. Also on the Common I saw 4 Small Heath, Large & Small Whites, Comma, Meadow Brown & Speckled Wood. Elsewhere I had one Small Copper at Gustard Wood Common; a Silver Y at Marshalls Heath; 6 fresh Commas, 1 Red Admiral & 21 Speckled Woods at Bricket Wood. There's been no invasion of Small Tortoiseshells here, though I did see one at Folly Lane St Albans - the only one I've seen locally in the last 3 months. - Malcolm Hull

News for today (Saturday 20th September 2008) - 1 Small White, settled on thistle, at 'Barracks', Vicarage Farm, 11:01 BST; 1 Comma, at Vicarage Farm, 11:18 BST; 1 female Small Copper, settled on horse manure, field near Hadley Rd., at Vicarage Farm, 11:34 BST; 1 Large White, at Parkside Farm, 11:36 BST; 2 Small White, settled at Parkside Farm, 11:58 BST; 1 Comma, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 12:34 BST; 1 Peacock, field S of Rough Lot, Trent Park, 12:54 BST; 1 Comma, by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 13:12 BST; 1 Comma, settled on Ragwort, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 13:27 BST; 1 Silver Y, set-aside field near Williams Wood; 1 Comma, at South Lodge Farm, 13:41 BST. Later, 1 Red Admiral, on michaelmas daisies, set-aside field near Triangular Wood, 15:50 BST; 4 Comma, settled on michaelmas daisies, set-aside field near Triangular Wood, 15:50 - 16:00 BST; 2 Small Copper, together, set-aside field near Triangular Wood, 15:50 BST; 1 Green-veined White, Snakes Lane near Triangular Wood, 15:55 BST. Robert Callf

Friday 19th September

Friday 19th afternoon Fir and Pond Woods NR, few butterflies seen 4 small coppers and an unidentified white on the meadow, 2 speckled woods in the Wood. But in our Potters Bar garden on michaelmas daisies, 4 red admirals, 3 commas and a painted lady - David Gompertz

News for today (Fri 19th September 2008) - 1 Green-veined White, settled, at Parkside Farm, 09:59 BST; 2 Comma, together, nectaring on blackberries, 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 10:40 BST; 1 Common Blue, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 10:51 BST; 1 Comma, by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 11:10 BST; 1 Large White, settled on Buddleia, by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 11:23 BST; 3 Comma, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 12:40 - 12:43 BST; 1 Comma, on bridle-path near Shaws Wood, 12:48 BST. Later 2 Small Heath, (1 Sect.6, Trent Park, 15:41 BST, 1 near Sports Field, Trent Park, 15:49 BST); 3 Comma, together, on michaelmas daisies, near Triangular Wood, 15:57 BST; 2 Red Admiral, on michaelmas daisies, near Triangular Wood, 16:00 BST; 2 Small Copper, on michaelmas daisies, near Triangular Wood, Trent Park, 16:00 BST; 1 Green-veined White, at Snakes Lane, near Triangular Wood, Trent Park, 16:06 BST Robert Callf

Just to let you know that I sighted today at 3.15 pm red admiral feeding on Buddleia in view of platform of South Kensington tube station (Kensington & Chelsea London borough) - Cherry Eggleton

Thursday 18th September

News for today (Thurs 18th September 2008) - 2 Small White, settled, together at Parkside Farm, 10:56 BST; 1 male Large White, settled at Park Farm, 11:07 BST; 1 Comma, at Park Farm, 11:09 BST; 1 Red Admiral, at Park Farm, 11:47 BST; 2 Comma, edge of Williams Wood, 12:34 BST; 1 Comma, near 'Barracks', at Vicarage Farm, 13:24 BST; 1 Comma, Allotments, at Vicarage Farm, 13:39 BST. Robert Callf

Wednesday 17th September

Some more news for Weds 17th September 2008 - 1 Small Heath, Sect. 8, at 'News Fields', Trent Park, 15:00 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, Sect.7, along tube-line, 15:04 BST; 1 Comma, settled on Buddleia, Sect.5, 'News Fields', Trent Park, 15:09 BST. Robert Callf

News for today (Weds 17th September 2008) - 1 Green-veined White, settled, at Parkside Farm, 10:15 BST; 1 Red Admiral, edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park, 11:08 BST. Also a number of Speckled Wood - Robert Callf

Horsenden Hill, despite thickening overcast at lunchtime: 8x Speckled Wood. Mostly fresh and north of the hill. A couple old ones. 3x Whites. 1x Small Copper near the summit. 1x Comma on the wing near the summit almost glowingly fresh looking. 1x Meadow Brown not far from the tennis courts. - Mike Rubin

Tuesday 16th September

News for today (Tues 16th September 2008) - Green-veined White, settled, near Enfield Rd., 13:46 BST - Robert Callf

1 Small copper in weedy field near Batford on 8th September - Darin Stanley

Monday 15th September

Saw my first Small Tortoiseshell for over two years in the garden today along with 5 Red Admirals, the most that I have seen together so far this year, also Large and Small Whites. Buddleia Beijing, Rudbeckia and Verbena Bonariensis were all nectared on - Malcolm Newland

News for today (Monday 15th September 2008) - 1 Red Admiral, settled by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 10:52 BST; 7 Comma, together, along stretch of Brambles, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 11:48 BST - an impressive sight! Robert Callf

Small tortoiseshell in my garden (Bishop's Stortford) plus 3 Red admirals, 3 Large white, 2 Small white and a Green-veined white (all on Buddleia 'Beijing') - Andrew Palmer

Sunday 14th September

Watch out for migrating Small Tortoiseshells - hundreds have been seen. It started two weeks ago with reports from the Bure Marshes west of Great Yarmouth. On Saturday I was in Peterborough and I have never seen so many flying through, or nectaring on dandelions - Liz Goodyear

News for yesterday (Sunday 14th September 2008) - 1 Comma, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 09:36 BST; 1 Comma, at Duncan's Wood, 10:26 BST; 1 Red Admiral, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 12:11 BST; 1 Comma, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 12:13 BST; 2 Red Admiral, flew S, at South Lodge Farm, 12:26 BST; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, at Vicarage Farm, 12:47 BST; 2 Comma, together, on Bramble near Firing Range, at Vicarage Farm, 12:59 BST. Robert Callf

Today 14/9 at the Amwell butterfly bushes: At least **12 Small Tortoiseshells**, 5 Commas (both old and fresh), 1 very tattered Painted Lady (my second only this year) and many Large Whites, Small Whites and Red Admirals. 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Comma and a Large White caterpillar were seen from the viewpoint. Yesterday 13/9, additionally a Holly Blue and 2 Speckled Woods were seen from the viewpoint. Jan Hein van Steenis

Seen today at the Shackledell Grassland (part of Stevenage transect) was a Small Copper and Common Blue. Yesterday, I saw a Brimstone on the same site - my first sighting of the Brimstone for the transect this year! Peter Clarke

A good day for butterflies Sat 13th. Highlights Bencroft wood my first small copper I've seen there in 5 years. Broxbourne West Ride 10 commas on brambles and watermint and 5 speckled wood. Waterford heath 24 comma (15 on south pit, 9 on north) on blackberries. Common blue (2), Brown Argus (1) and small copper (1) on south pit. One red admiral on north pit. When I got home to Bengoe, one small tortoiseshell on cerostigmata. Steve Kiln

Saturday 13th September

There are also lots of toadflax Brocade (*Calophasia lunula*) larvae in some places. The moth is

common in North London and Ched George reports several recent sightings of larvae from north-west Middlesex and from Buckinghamshire. In Hertfordshire, our only records to date are from the extreme south in the North London area - surely it has now spread further north? If you find any caterpillars on either native (yellow) toadflax or on the more common garden (purple) variety then there is no confusion over its identity. We need ALL reports please so we can monitor the spread of this attractive moth that was formerly found only on the coastal shingle at Dungeness and a few places further west in Sussex - Ched George and Colin Plant ([photo to be posted later but here is a photo that Andrew Middleton took last year](#))

Friday 12th September

Stop press! Right this moment a Comma is feeding on the ivy in Kenton. First Comma I've seen in months. I also watched a Green Veined White on the ivy and on nasturtium leaves just after lunch. The only other highlight this week was Wednesday 10th at Horsenden Hill, when I saw 8 Whites (1 +ve ID for Small White), 5 Speckled Woods and 1 Male Holly Blue. Earlier in the week 2 (each) further Whites and Speckled Woods seen. So the ivy is now in bloom. The final big nectar source of the season... Wish I was still at Stockley Park to inspect the huge walls of ivy where I saw lots of Red Admirals having a banquet in previous years. -Mike

Thursday 11th September

Butterflies galore at Ickleford on 10th - 50 Speckled wood's was a surprise and even more numerous than small white. Common blue; small copper, red admiral, small heath, large white and a lovely Brimstone made up the tally of 8 species Stuart Pittman

News for Tuesday 9th September 2008 - 1 Green-veined White, nectaring on Bramble blossom, Park Farm, 10:38 BST; 1 Small White, nectaring on Bramble blossom, Park Farm, 10:38 BST; 1 Red Admiral, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 10:59 BST; 1 Small Heath, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 11:10 BST; 1 Silver Y, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park; 1 Comma, edge of Williams Wood, 12:08 BST; 1 Red Admiral, edge of Williams Wood, 12:09 BST; 2 Comma, along Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm, 12:31 - 12:32 BST. Robert Callf

Wednesday 10th September

News for today (Weds 10th September 2008) - 1 'fresh' female Meadow Brown at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 11:13 BST. 1 Red Admiral, near Lower Lake, Trent Park, 11:45 BST; 1 Red Admiral, edge of Williams Wood, 11:58 BST. Robert Callf

Returned from work this afternoon to see a Small Tortoiseshell on my buddleia, the first one I've seen this year in my Ware garden - Liz Goodyear

Monday 8th September

Sightings for Monday 8th September. Went up to Therfield Heath, and despite the generally gloomy weather was please to see. 1 Female Chalkhill blue, 3 brown argus, inc a mating pair, 10 common blues 3 small copper 2 small heath 3 meadow brown plus a wealth of Red Admiral (5), small tortoiseshell (8), Large, small and green veined whites all feasting on the devils bit scabious which is in flower. Back home to Wareside and found :- 2 common blue 2 brown argus 2 red admiral (one just hatched from the nettles) 2 comma (one hatched from a caterpillar we found in the back garden, nettles again) 3 small tortoiseshell. 1 speckled wood plus the green veined, large and small whites. Also had pink barred sallow in the moth trap, alongside the plethora of underwings (straw, copper, least yellow, large yellow and barred) - Phil MacMurdie

News for today (Monday 8th September 2008) - 3 Red Admiral,(1 along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 10:07 BST, 1 flew S, at Vicarage Farm, 10:19 BST, 1 flew SE, at Park Farm, 11:26 BST). Also a number of Speckled Wood and White spp. Robert Callf

Saturday 6th September

News for today (Sat 6th September 2008) - 2 Small White, on buddleia, near Lower Lake, 11:48 BST; 5 Green-veined White, near Water Grdn., Trent Park, 11:53 - 12:07 BST; 2 Speckled Wood, near Water Grdn., Trent Park, 11:55 - 11:58 BST; 1 Small White, edge of Water Grdn., Trent Park, 11:56 BST; 2 Speckled Wood, together, near Icehouse Wood, 12:09 BST; 4 Small White, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 12:13 BST; 1 Green-veined White, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 12:13 BST. Also a Nymphalid seen near Water Grdn., almost certainly a Red Admiral. Robert Callf

Friday 5th September

GYPSY MOTHS IN NORTH LONDON AND SOUTH HERTS There have been several sightings of female Gypsy Moths (*Lymantria dispar*) in London in during August. This is, of course, a major pest species and is subject to enforced (by DEFRA) destruction. Andrew Wood has kindly uploaded a photo, taken by me, of an egg-mass on an oak branch, to our web site at www.hertsmothgroup.org.uk. Eggs are always laid in a mass like this and covered with protective hairs; they will remain on the trees over winter. If you find one of these in Herts or Middlesex please report it to me IMMEDIATELY. Both the extinct British strain and the present European strain produce females that are not able to fly more than a few metres (in spite of their huge size). Thus, whilst immigrant males often arrive at light traps on the south coast it is not possible for the European strain to establish. Recent outbreaks of this species in North London and Aylesbury, however, are thought to originate from an Asiatic strain introduced with lorries etc. It is now clear that eradication measures at the outbreaks in North London and Buckinghamshire have failed. Therefore, we are now very keen to monitor the spread of this species in London and Hertfordshire. Simply burning it away with a blowtorch and not telling anyone, or telling the local environmental health people, who may not put the record into the recording scheme, potentially deprives us of very important data. Landowners have a duty in law to report occurrences; I will, of course, forward the information once we have confirmed the report. In due course I will publish any data that I receive. Ideally, please take a digital photo so we can confirm and please have an address or a grid reference handy to allow us to go and look. Note that egg masses of the Oak Processionary (another major forest pest that is established in parts of south-west London) are similar (and always on oak). Egg masses like this on oak could, therefore be from either species. Egg masses on other trees will be Gypsy Moth. Please, therefore, also record the tree that the egg mass was found on - or at least say if it was an oak or "not an oak". The larval hairs of Gypsy Moth may be urticating like those of the infamous Brown-tail Moth and may cause serious allergic reaction in some people. The larval hairs of Oak Processionary are far worse and invariably cause such a reaction; they are considered a serious health risk and should be avoided, especially by the elderly and babies. If anyone wishes to use my photo elsewhere in similar publicity please e-mail me for a copy and please ensure that the photographer is acknowledged! Colin Plant ([Contact details on Herts Moth Group website](mailto:colin@hertsmothgroup.org.uk))

Wednesday 3rd September

Horsenden Hill, still plenty of Meadow Browns in the grazing field and one more field north of the hill by the woods that has been spared cutting and is still got a healthy patch of flowering thistle. Not much on the summit in the brisk wind though. 7x Meadow Brown 7x Speckled Wood 3x Small Copper 1x Green Veined White And several cows in the grazing field including one small calf running around like crazy. Hanging on to what's left of this tattered season. Don't like the looks of the rest of the week weatherwise! - Mike Rubin

A few sightings for today (Weds 3rd September 2008) - 1 Green-veined White, settled at Parkside Farm, 10:29 BST; 1 Green-veined White, settled at Park Farm, 10:38 BST; 1 Small White, settled at Park Farm, 10:38 BST. Also a Silver Y at Park Farm, Enfield. Other Whites seen but not specifically identified and a few Speckled Wood. Robert Callf

Tuesday 2nd September

Although I had not set out to find any butterflies the following were noted at Poor's Field, Ruislip this afternoon (2nd Sept.): 2 Meadow Brown; 1 Small White; 1 Green-veined White; 9 Speckled Wood and 4 Small Copper. Dick Middleton

1 Marbled Beauty at rest on the bus-stop this morning at Chase Rd., N14 and a Red Admiral, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 15:00 BST (Tues 2nd September 2008). Robert Callf

Monday 1st September

Fir and Pond Woods - several speckled woods throughout the Reserve and 1 small copper on the Meadow - David Gompertz

A few sightings for today (Monday 1st September 2008) - 1 Red Admiral, at Park Farm, 10:53 BST; 1 female Large White, edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park, 11:21 BST; 1 female Common Blue, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 11:31 BST; 2 Small Heath,(1 near Hadley Rd., at Vicarage Farm, 10:12 BST, 1 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 11:32 BST); 1 female Gatekeeper, set-aside field near Williams Wood, Trent Park, 12:00 BST; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, settled, at 'Barracks', Vicarage Farm, 12:40 BST. Also a number of Small White and Speckled Wood today. Robert Callf

August 2008

Sunday 31st August

Nothing spectacular, except maybe for numbers at the Butterfly-bushes at Amwell GP (TL373131) in the afternoon: 3 Large White, 10 Small White, 1 Green-veined White (probably more), 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 10 Commas (some very fresh), dozens of Red Admirals, 1 Meadow Brown, Also Treble-barred and Silver Y. Also 1 Common Blue in Turnford Marsh (TL369049) - Jan Hein Van Steenis

Saturday 30th August

On Saturday 30th August I secured a Brown Argus on the Horsenden West transect for the second year running. This rather faded individual was in a different section to last year, in an area known locally as 'The Plough'. The Brown Argus was nectaring on creeping thistle along the fence line and I managed a couple of voucher shots which I'll forward when I've got them off my camera. Picked it up in flight by virtue of the somewhat silvery impression - something that I noted on the Upper Thrifts individuals of last year (in contrast to the Common Blues) and which is well described in the literature. Other stuff included the 3 common whites, speckled wood, comma, a single gatekeeper and several meadow browns. On Sunday 31st a check of the same area during a brief spell of sunshine revealed only a Common Blue, but this is actually a vast meadow so lack of success is not that surprising! Other butterflies included 3 Holly Blue and a further Common Blue, all three common whites, speckled wood, meadow brown (tailing off rapidly, now). The relative dearth of vanessids continues - Andy Culshaw

News for today (Sat 30th August 2008) - 1 Red Admiral, flew S, along track at Vicarage Farm, 10:48 BST; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, on thistles, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 11:09 BST; 1 Small Heath, near Hadley Rd., at Vicarage Farm; 3(2 males, 1 female) Common Blue, at Parkside Farm - on Res banking, 11:33 - 11:34 BST; 3 Small White, at Parkside Farm, 11:37 BST; 2 Green-veined White, mating, at Park Farm, 12:11 BST; 1 female Meadow Brown, edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park, 12:17 BST; 2 Red Admiral, on white buddleia, Water Grdn., Trent Park, 12:57 BST; 1 Green-veined White, on white buddleia, at Water Grdn., Trent Park, 12:57 BST; 2 Speckled Wood, at Water Grdn., Trent Park, 13:03 BST; 3 Speckled Wood, together, Icehouse Wood, Trent Park, 13:07 BST; 2 Speckled Wood, together, Williams Wood, Trent Park, 13:20 BST; 1 female Meadow Brown, at Vicarage Farm, 13:38 BST; 1 Red Admiral, flew S, at 'Barracks', Vicarage Farm, 13:44 BST. Robert Callf

Friday 29th August

News for today (Fri 29th August 2008) - 1 Large White, near Firing Range, Vicarage Farm, 08:35 BST; 1 Small White, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 09:31 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 09:36 BST; 2 male Common Blue, at Parkside Farm, on Res banking, 10:01 BST; 3 Speckled Wood, at Parkside Farm, 10:03 BST; 3 Speckled Wood, at Park Farm, between 10:07 - 10:29 BST; 3(1 male, 2 female) Common Blue, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 11:29 - 11:30 BST; 1 Small White, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 11:34 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, edge of Williams Wood, at Vicarage Farm, 12:16 BST. Robert Callf

Thursday 28th August

Saw a worn '**valezina**' form of **Silver-washed Fritillary** today at 1530 while riding along St. Albans Lane. This is at the bottom of Bedmond and runs along Potters Crouch woodland - Clive Burrows

News for today (Thurs 28th August 2008) - 1 Green-veined White, settled, at Parkside Farm, on Res banking, 10:23 BST; 2 Speckled Wood, together, at Parkside Farm, 10:24 BST; 2 Speckled Wood, at Park Farm, 10:29 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, near Duncan's Wood, 11:00 BST; 2 Green-veined White, settled, edge of Water Grdn., Trent Park, 12:00 BST; 1 Large White, edge of Water Grdn., Trent Park, 12:05 BST; 1 Small White, edge of Water Grdn., Trent Park, 12:05 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, edge of Water Grdn., Trent Park, 12:06 BST; 2 Small White, along Leeging Beech Gutter near 'Three Bridges', Trent Park, 12:09 BST; 1 Small White, settled on thistle, along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm, 12:28 BST; 1 Green-veined White, settled on thistle, along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm, 12:28 BST; 1 female Meadow Brown, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 12:31 BST; 1 female Meadow Brown, at 'Barracks', Vicarage Farm, 12:47 BST. Robert Callf

Last Saturday, August 23rd, I had a painted lady on my rough lawn in High Barnet briefly; it flew north over the fence into Hadley Grove. I had only just returned from holiday, so assumed this was part of a major migration, but it seems not too many painted ladies have been reported yet! Hope this is of use - Nigel Taylor

Wednesday 27th August

That's all folks. All the Horsenden Hill Meadows have been mown this week I see. (Except for the grazing meadow.) Yesterday at Grove Farm: An 8/8 overcast dull but mild day. Walked the woodland path exiting via the BMX track. Despite the weather I saw 7 Whites (Atleast 5 were Small Whites), 3 Meadow Browns, and 1 each of Speckled Wood, Female Common Blue and a very late Female Gatekeeper. Today at Horsenden Hill: Another 8/8 overcast dull but mild day. 6 Meadow Browns, 3 Small Coppers (all in Grazing field), 2 Speckled Woods and 1 each of Small Skipper (very elderly) and a white. Most butterflies in the grazing field. The other meadows including Batts and Upper Thrifts now barren. Shame as I was hoping to try and spot my suspected Brown Argus again. Oh well. - Mike Rubin

News for today (Weds 27th August 2008) - 1 Small White, on thistle-head, Park Farm, 10:12 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, at Bay Farm, along Jubilee Path, 10:14 BST; 10+ Speckled Wood, along Jubilee Path at Park Farm, 10:18 - 10:54 BST; 1 Large White, at Park Farm, 10:58 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, edge of Rough Lot, at Trent Park, 11:12 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, edge of Moat Wood, at Trent Park, 11:14 BST; 1 female Meadow Brown, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 11:26 BST; 1 Green-veined White, on thistle-head, by Lower Lake, 11:37 BST; 2 Speckled Wood, together, at Dew Pond, Trent Park, 11:48 BST; 3 Speckled Wood, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 11:53 - 11:55 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, edge of Williams Wood, at Vicarage Farm, 11:59 BST; 1 Green-veined White, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 12:14 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, along track, at Vicarage Farm, 12:27 BST. Also a number of White spp seen in flight only and left unidentified. Robert Callf.

Tuesday 26th August

A few sightings for today (Tues 26th August 2008) - 1 female Meadow Brown, at 'Barracks', Vicarage Farm, 11:36 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, at Parkside Farm, near Hadley Rd Pumping Station, 12:06 BST; 2 male Common Blue, at Parkside Farm, on Res banking, 12:24 - 12:26 BST; 5 Speckled Wood, at Park Farm, between 12:28 - 13:01 BST; 1 male Common Blue, by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 13:35 BST; 2 Speckled Wood, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 13:57 BST; 1 Small White, edge of Williams Wood, at Vicarage Farm, 14:04 BST; 1 Small Heath, set-aside field, at Vicarage Farm, 14:12 BST; 2 female Meadow Brown, set-aside field, at Vicarage Farm, 14:13 - 14:16 BST. Robert Callf

Monday 25th August

News for (Sunday 24th August 2008) - 4 female Meadow Brown, at Vicarage Farm, 13:01 - 13:42 BST; 2 Speckled Wood, near Firing Range, at Vicarage Farm, 13:52 BST. News for (Monday 25th August 2008) - 1 Speckled Wood, by Hadley Rd., at Vicarage Farm, 08:58 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, at Parkside Farm, 09:08 BST; 1 Small White, at Parkside Farm - on Res banking, 09:14 BST; 5 (4 males, 1 female) Common Blue, at Parkside Farm - on Res banking, 09:15 - 09:21 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, at Park Farm, 09:25 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 10:45 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 10:51 BST; 1 female Meadow Brown, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 11:13 BST; 1 female Gatekeeper, Sidhil's Field, at Vicarage Farm, 11:41 BST; 2 Small White, Sidhil's Field, at Vicarage Farm, 11:41 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, Sidhil's Field, at Vicarage Farm, 11:45 BST. Robert Callf

Possible **large tortiseshell** in my Enfield garden 14th this month landing on herbs not 100 per cent as approached from shallow angle flew off and did not return but was larger and plainer than small tort, I mention this in case any one else has had any inconclusive sightings, Brian Dawton

Sunday 24th August

Brown Argus, Small Heath, Common Blue & Small Copper at Nomansland Common, Sandridge - Malcolm Hull

Saturday 23rd August

News for today (Saturday 23rd August 2008) - 1 Speckled Wood, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 09:30 BST; 2 Speckled Wood, at Parkside Farm, 09:44 and 09:56 BST; 1 Green-veined White, settled, at Parkside Farm, 09:57 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, at Park Farm,

09:59 BST; 1 female Meadow Brown, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 10:41 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, at Icehouse Wood, Trent Park, 11:04 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, near Shaws Cottages, 11:13 BST; 1 Green-veined White, settled, on Buddleia, at Shaws Wood, Trent Park, 11:16 BST; 2 Speckled Wood, together, at Williams Wood, 11:20 BST; 1 Small White, settled, on thistle, set-aside field at Vicarage Farm, 11:34 BST; 1 male Common Blue, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 12:04 BST; 1 male Meadow Brown, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 12:10 BST; 1 Large White, at Vicarage Farm, 12:20 BST; 1 Red Admiral, nectaring on blackberry, near Firing Range at Vicarage Farm, 12:51 BST; 2 female Gatekeeper, near Firing Range, at Vicarage Farm, 12:52 and 12:54 BST; 1 Holly Blue, near Firing Range, at Vicarage Farm, 13:18 BST. Robert Callf

Fir and Pond Wood, I had 3 male common blues and at least 1 female on the meadow today and a Brown Argus - David Gompertz

Friday 22nd August

A few sightings for today (Fri 22nd August 2008) - 1 Small Heath, near Hadley Rd, at Vicarage Farm, 10:23 BST; 1 Green-veined White, settled, at Park Farm, 10:57 BST; 1 Small Copper, Uni-lawns, Trent Park, 12:39 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 12:52 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, edge of Williams Wood, at Vicarage Farm, 13:02 BST. Robert Callf

Thursday 21st August

News for today (Thurs 21st August 2008) - 1 Speckled Wood, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 09:55 BST; 2 (male and female) Common Blue, at Parkside Farm, on Res banking, 10:27 BST; 1 Seckled Wood, at Parkside Farm, on Res banking, 10:33 BST; 1 Small Heath, at Park Farm, 10:39 BST; 1 female Common Blue, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 11:22 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, at Icehouse Wood, Trent Park, 11:45 BST; 1 Holly Blue, at Icehouse Wood, Trent Park, 11:47 BST; 1 female Gatekeeper, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 12:00 BST; 1 Large White, edge of Williams Wood, at Vicarage Farm, 12:10 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, hedgerow opposite Williams Wood, at Vicarage Farm, 12:14 BST; 2 Small Heath, along Leeing Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm, 12:28 - 12:29 BST; 1 female Gatekeeper, at 'Barracks', Vicarage Farm, 12:46 BST; 2 female Meadow Brown, at 'Barracks', Vicarage Farm, 12:49 BST. Robert Callf

Wednesday 20th August

News for today (Weds 20th August 2008) - 1 female Meadow Brown, near Hadley Rd., at Vicarage Farm, 10:15 BST; 4 (3 male, 1 female) Common Blue, at Parkside Farm, on Res banking, 10:29 - 10:30 BST; 1 Green-veined White, settled, at Parkside Farm, on Res banking, 10:32 BST; 2 Speckled Wood, at Park Farm, 10:37 - 10:38 BST; 1 Small Heath, at Park Farm, 10:43 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, at Park Farm, 10:53 BST; 1 female Meadow Brown, edge of Moat Wood, 11:31 BST; 1 female Meadow Brown, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 11:40 BST; 1 female Common Blue, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 11:43 BST; 1 female Meadow Brown, by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 11:47 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 12:05 BST; 1 female Gatekeeper, on thistle-head, set-aside field opposite Williams Wood, at Vicarage Farm, 12:20 BST; 3 female Meadow Brown, set-aside field opposite Williams Wood, at Vicarage Farm, 12:20 - 12:24 BST; 1 Small Heath, set-aside field opposite Williams Wood, at Vicarage Farm, 12:26 BST; 2, male and female, Meadow Brown, along Leeing Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm, 12:27 BST; 2 female Meadow Brown, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 12:36 BST; 1 female Gatekeeper, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 12:33 BST; 1 female Meadow Brown, at 'Barracks', Vicarage Farm, 12:50 BST. Also an Angle Shades seen on the pavement of Chase Road, Southgate, placed safely on the trunk of nearby tree. Robert Callf

Tuesday 19th August

News for today (Tues 19th August 2008) - 2 Speckled Wood, together, near Shaws Wood, 12:01 BST; 1 female Gatekeeper, set-aside field near Williams Wood, 12:09 BST; 3 Speckled Wood, at Park Farm, 13:17 - 13:18 BST; 1 female Gatekeeper, at Park Farm, 13:20 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, at Parkside Farm, on Res banking, 13:22 BST; 1 male Common Blue, at Parkside Farm, on Res banking, 13:24 BST. Robert Callf

Monday 18th August

22 people joined the branch field trip to Aldbury Nowers on a warm but mostly cloudy Sunday (17th) afternoon. The condition of the grassland in the main southern enclosures has improved significantly as a result of scrub removal and the introduction of sheep grazing. Rabbit grazing also still occurs, although several individuals were seen with myxomatosis. The wild basil had spread

considerably in the southern most enclosure. Four skippers were seen, three Essex & one Small & no others. There were several dozen blues, throughout the reserve - Mostly Common Blues, about two thirds of which were females. Also four Brown Argus, three in the northern enclosure & one on the top edge of the set aside field. But no Chalk-hill Blues this year. The highlight of the trip were two Dark Green Fritillaries, one male, one female, both in the southernmost enclosure. They were not together, but less than 50 yards apart. This species has not been noted on any previous field trips, though it has been seen in small numbers on the reserve in recent years & recorded by Martin Hicks on his weekly transect. It has previously been considered extinct as a breeding species in the branch area, though I believe this status should now be reviewed. Other butterflies noted included Brimstone, Small Copper, Large, Small & Green-veined Whites, Small Heath, Gatekeeper & Meadow Brown (the most numerous species). Moths included Common Carpet, 6 spot Burnett, Cinabar caterpillars, Grass Veneer & Straw Dot. Many thanks to Ann Piper for her help in IDing the moths - Malcolm Hull

News for yesterday (Sunday 17th August 2008) - 1 Comma, near Firing Range, at Vicarage Farm, 11:26 BST; 1 Small Copper, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 11:53 BST; 2 female Common Blue, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 12:08 BST and 13:55 BST; 6 male Common Blue, at Parkside Farm, on Res banking, 12:21 - 12:25 BST; 1 Holly Blue, at Park Farm, 12:42 BST; 1 Comma, at Parkside Farm near Hadley Road Pumping Station, 13:45 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 13:59 BST; 1 Small Heath, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 14:00 BST. News for today (Monday 18th August 2008) - 1 female Common Blue, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 10:57 BST; 1 female Gatekeeper, near Water Grdn, Trent Park, 11:05 BST; 3 Speckled Wood, together, Icehouse Wood, Trent Park, 11:15 BST; 1 Small Heath, Uni-lawns, Trent Park, 11:17 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 11:22 BST; 1 female Meadow Brown, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 11:25 BST; 2 female Meadow Brown, at Vicarage Farm, 11:35 BST and 11:53 BST; 2 Small Heath, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 11:45 BST and 11:50 BST. Robert Callf

Sunday 17th August

Went back to Waterford Heath today plenty of common blues, in middle square wired off and particularly in glade going down towards settling ponds, one brown argus there and peacocks and browns. Quite sheltered there. At home in Westfield Road on the basil out front had a small copper and elsewhere about 30 whites and a peacock - Steve Kiln

I went past Aldbury Nowers (Herts) this am, so had a look for Chalkies and am 90% certain that one blew/flew past me at speed and never settled, before vanishing out of sight, across the set-aside field between the Duchies piece and the road. I am 100% certain of the DG Frit that settled in that field. Also here Small and GVWhite, Common B, Peacock, Meadow B and Gatekeeper. This was not an extensive search, so no doubt more than this was around - Nick Bowles

Saturday 16th August

Quite pleased with my garden sightings this week 11-16.08.08; Brimstone, Large, Small and Green Vined White, Common and Holly Blue, Red Admiral, Painted Lady, Peacock, Comma, Speckled Wood, Gatekeeper. 12 species in a tiny garden in Tring - Nick Bowles

News for today (Sat 16th August 2008) - 10+ Speckled Wood, along Jubilee Path at Park Farm, between 09:58 - 11:25 BST; 1 Purple Hairstreak, low over grass at Little Beechill Wood, 10:52 BST; 2 Green-veined Wite, settled, at Park Farm, 11:08 and 11:10 BST; 1 female Gatekeeper, at Park Farm, 11:11 BST; 1 Red Admiral, settled on track, at Vicarage Farm, 12:48 BST - superb views thro'scope at 3m. More news for yesterday (Fri 15th August 2008) - 1 female Holly Blue, settled, on Ivy, Chase Rd., N14, at 14:15 BST and 1 Holly Blue, at Dalrymple Close, N14, at 14:24 BST. Robert Callf

Friday 15th August

Went to Waterford heath this afternoon 15th August. Of note -13 common blue on south pit despite the goats rhue having been cut and 6 brown argus 5 on north pit - Steve Kiln

An extremely worn and damaged Silver washed Fritillary, was nectaring on a Buddleia in my garden at Gaddesden Row, nr. Hemel Hempstead, this will be my first ever sighting of this species within walking distance of my home - Michael Pearson

I was delighted to see so many butterflies on my buddleia bush today in my Tring front garden. It has suddenly come to life and I counted at one point today(1pm), 10 Peacocks, 2 Red Admirals, 2 Commas, 2 Brimstones, 1 Gatekeeper and several Whites. - Phil Woodward

Fir and Pond Woods NR. In afternoon sun, several green veined whites, meadow browns and gatekeepers but also 2 small coppers and a common blue on the meadow. David Gompertz

Transect at Wood Lane, Pirton TL145310 - one Dark Green Fritillary on knapweed and on same patch one Common Blue and nearby one Peacock. Otherwise, usual Meadow Browns, Gatekeepers, Large White, Small Whites, 3 Male 1 female Yellow Brimstone and 1 Small/Essex Skipper - Val Fullforth

News for today (Fri 15th August 2008) at Trent Park 'New Fields', between 11:40 - 12:45 BST - 1 female Gatekeeper, on thistles, near Oakwood entrance, 11:38 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, near Triangular Wood, 11:46 BST; 1 Comma, along tube-line, near Oakwood entrance, 11:50 BST; 2 Speckled Wood, together, along tube-line near Oakwood entrance, 11:50 BST; 11 Small Heath, 11:52 - 12:26 BST; 1 Purple Hairstreak, 11:52 BST; 1 Holly Blue, 11:53 BST; 2 Speckled Wood, 11:54 BST and 11:58 BST; 5 Small Copper, 11:57 - 12:35 BST; 2 female Gatekeeper, Sect.8, 12:03 BST; 4 Speckled Wood, Sect.7, 12:06 - 12:08 BST; 2, male and female, Meadow Brown, Sect.6, 12:10 BST; 2 female Gatekeeper, Sect.6, 12:10 BST; 2 Gatekeeper, Sect.5, 12:22 - 12:23 BST; 1 Large White, Sect.5, 12:24 BST; 1 female Meadow Brown, Sect.4, 12:26 BST; 1 Small White, Sect.4, 12:29 BST; 1 female Meadow Brown, Sect.4, 12:30 BST and a number of Meadow Brown and Gatekeeper on thistles near the Sports Field. Robert Callf

Thursday 14th August

News for today (Thurs 14th August 2008) - 1 Small Heath, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 08:47 BST; 1 Peacock, on Buddleia, at Park Farm, 09:23 BST; 5 Speckled Wood, at Park Farm, between 09:25 - 09:39 BST; 1 Purple Hairstreak, settled low down, on Bramble at Park Farm, 09:34 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, edge of Rough Lot, 10:01 BST; 1 Green-veined White, settled on Burdock, edge of Moat Wood, 10:02 BST; 1 Peacock, edge of Moat Wood, 10:02 BST; 1 Small Heath, 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 10:08 BST; 1 male Common Blue, 'Old Golf Course', 10:23 BST; 6 Speckled Wood,(1 at Water Grdn, 10:54 BST, 1 Icehouse Wood, 10:55 BST, 2 near Dew Pond, 10:58 BST, 2 together, at Williams Wood, 11:25 BST); 1 Red Admiral, at 'Barracks', Vicarage Farm, 11:28 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, at Allotments, Vicarage Farm, 11:35 BST. Robert Callf

Wednesday 13th August

News for today (Weds 13th August 2008) - 6(4 males, 2 females) Common Blue, at Parkside Farm, on Res banking, 10:51 - 10:52 BST; 3 Speckled Wood, at Park Farm, 10:57 - 11:12 BST; 1 Small White, settled, at Park Farm, along Jubilee Path, 11:30 BST; 2 Purple Hairstreak, rather worn, settled low down on Bramble, along Jubilee Path at Park Farm, 11:30 BST. Also for Trent Park - 5 Speckled Wood,(1 Sect.7, 14:36 BST, 2 together, Sect.8, 14:58 BST, 2 together, near Triangular Wood, 15:09 BST); 1 Peacock, Sect.8, 'New Fields', 15:00 BST. Robert Callf

Tuesday 12th August

Went for a 5 mile lunch time run at Rothamsted (Harpenden) today (Tuesday 12th), sat down at the end by the sports pavilion and caught sight of a strange butterfly on a bramble leaf. It was a rather tatty male purple hairstreak. Richard Harrington

Bit of a mix different dates. Broxbourne Woods ride 10-Aug Saw commas,several green veined whites, the usual browns and a purple hairstreak on a bramble. Waterford heath: 23-July plenty of butterflies but of note a bedraggled small tortoiseshell my first of the year on south pit. 6th Aug on South pit, of note, a holly blue, 3 common blue, 13 peacocks (five of these on north pit), 2 commas and many browns and whites. Steve Kiln

Horsenden Hill today, I got a royal soaking on the motorbike in the rain this morning! But the sun came out for lunchtime, and a lot of wind! But still managed plenty of butterflies, as well as a good close shot of a Hawker dragonfly (probably a female Migrant Hawker). Skippers: No definites in the strong breeze. V. hard to track the smaller leps. Brown Argus: 1 suspected one in Upper Thrifts. Small and very brown, no hint of blue. But no chance of seeing underside clearly alas. Soon lost it in the breeze. Common Blue: 1 Male, 1 Female Holly Blue: 2 Small Copper: 3-4 Red Admiral: 1 suspected flying over Greenford Road near Kellogg Tower. Whites: 2-3 miscellaneous.

Gatekeeper: 5-6, all females. Meadow Brown: 30+ (Lost count early on - too many!) Speckled Wood: 3-4 1x probable Female Migrant Hawker dragonfly. Other hawkers seen on patrol too, coping effortlessly with the wind. Several miscellaneous macro moths also seen. I guess the micros were staying well hidden in that wind. - Mike Rubin

News for today (Tues 12th August 2008) - 1 male Common Blue, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 10:14 BST; 1 Small Heath, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 10:15 BST; 1 Comma, at Parkside Farm, near Hadley Rd Pumping Station, 10:19 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, at Parkside Farm, 10:23 BST; 3 (2 males, 1 female) Common Blue, at Parkside Farm, on Res banking, 10:34 - 10:37 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, at Park Farm, 10:44 BST; 1 female Common Blue, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 11:26 BST; 1 Small White, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 11:30 BST; 12 Speckled Wood, at Shaws Wood and along bridle-path near Shaws Wood, between 11:55 - 12:01 BST. Also a male Oak Eggar flying low over the Lower Lake, Trent Park - this is about as late as I have seen them - Robert Callf

Monday 11th August

A good selection of butterflies in my Ware garden today, Red Admirals, Commas, Peacocks, Large and Small Whites, Gatekeepers, a Meadow Brown and at least one Holly Blue enjoying the delights of fleabane - Liz Goodyear

News for today (Monday 11th August 2008) - 1 Speckled Wood, at Park Farm, 06:51 BST; 1 Green-veined White, settled, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 08:05 BST. Also Meadow Browns and Gatekeepers. Robert Callf

Sunday 10th August

Fir and Pond Woods NR..... Sunday 10 Aug AM Speckled woods, 1 x Holly blue, Green veined whites, Gatekeepers, Meadow browns, 1 X Small copper - David Gompertz

News for Fri 8th August 2008 - 1 Speckled Wood, at Park Farm, 15:10 BST; 2 male Common Blue, at Parkside Farm, on Res banking, 15:16 BST; 1 male Common Blue, settled on thistle-head, along Leeing Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm, 15:40 BST; 1 Small Heath, settled on thistle-head, along Leeing Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm, 15:40 BST; 1 Green-veined White, settled on thistle-head, along Leeing Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm, 15:43 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 15:49 BST; 1 Comma, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 15:52 BST. Robert Callf

7 August 2008 Transect Wood Lane TL145310 Highlights - a Small Copper, female Common Blue on red clover, 4 Green Veined Whites, 5 Peacocks, numerous Gatekeepers and Meadow Browns and Whites, 1 Yellow Brimstone (male), 7 tatty Ringlets - Val Fullforth

7th August - Brunel University, Uxbridge: At lunchtime today in the Bicentenary Garden I saw 12+ Common Blue, 2 Holly Blue, 4+ Brown Argus, Small Copper, 5 Small Skipper, 2 Speckled Wood, 4 Peacock, Red Admiral, Painted Lady, Large, Small & GV White and numerous Meadow Brown & Gatekeeper. Also, 3 Six-spot Burnet and a Silver-Y Moth. Steve Pash

News for Thurs 7th August 2008 - 1 Peacock, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 10:55 BST; 1 Red Admiral, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 11:02 BST; 5(4 male, 1 'very fresh' female) Common Blue, at Parkside Farm, on Res banking, 11:22 - 11:25 BST; 1 Purple Hairstreak, at Parkside Farm, settled on Sallow, 11:25 BST; 1 Small Copper, settled on Ragwort, at Parkside Farm, on Res banking, 11:25 BST; 1 Green-veined White, settled on Ragwort, at Parkside Farm, 11:29 BST; 2 Speckled Wood, at Park Farm, at 11:33 BST and 11:47 BST; 5 Peacock, at Park Farm, including 4 together, settled on Buddleia, 11:44 BST; 1 Red Admiral, at Park Farm, 11:55 BST; 1 Peacock, near Obelisk, 12:10 BST; 1 Peacock, settled on Burdock, edge of Moat Wood, 12:13 BST; 1 Comma, settled on Burdock, edge of Moat Wood, 12:13 BST; 1 Small Skipper, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 12:22 BST; 11 Speckled Wood,(5 near Shaws Wood, including three together, 12:56 BST, 2 together, near Merryhills Brook, along bridle-path, 13:00 BST; 4 together, settled near Equestrian Centre, 13:07 BST). Robert Callf.

Wed.6th.Aug. 21.10 (Dusk). Whilst strolling towards arcade entrance was overtaken by a Swallow-tailed moth which flew to an hanging basket and settled on petunias, Covent Garden market arcade, Westminster. (Until I got close enough,thought it was a night flying small white!) Len Crouch

Horsenden Hill news for 6th August: My first time back on the hill in ages! Lots of Meadow Browns and Gatekeepers (mostly female so I guess they won't last much longer). One Holly Blue, one male Common Blue. Several assorted whites and Speckled Woods. A couple of very fresh Small Coppers and a few Skippers too. The Grazing MEadow was by far the best place. Lots of activity despite the cloud cover. One female Gatekeeper even took a liking to my hand. I first felt a 'flump' on the back of my left hand. Looked to see the Gatekeeper. As I went for my camera it flew off, did a circuit then landed back a 2nd time at the same spot. Got one shot before it took off again not to return. - Mike Rubin

News for Weds 6th August 2008 - 2 Essex Skipper, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 10:55 BST; 2 Small Skipper, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 10:58 BST; 1 male Common Blue, at Parkside Farm near Hadley Rd Pumping Station, 11:12 BST; 3 Small White, settled, at Parkside Farm, on Res banking, 11:22 BST; 2 Red Admiral, at Park Farm, (1 settled on buddleia, 11:36 BST and another, different, fresh individual near Duncan's Wood, 11:55 BST; 1 Peacock, on buddleia, at Park Farm, 11:37 BST; 1 Large White, on Burdock, near Obelisk, 12:10 BST; 1 Comma, settled on Burdock, edge of Moat Wood, 12:13 BST; 1 female Holly Blue, settled on Burdock, edge of Rough Lot, 12:13 BST; 4 Peacock, together, settled on Burdock, edge of Moat Wood, 12:13 BST; 1 Peacock, at 'Old Golf Course', 12:24 BST; 1 male Oak Eggar, near Water Grdn, 12:33 BST; 1 Small Copper, settled on Ragwort, edge of Water Grdn, 12:42 BST; 1 male Holly Blue, settled on Ragwort, edge of Water Grdn, 12:44 BST; 1 Small White, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Water Grdn, 12:46 BST; 1 male Large White, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, 12:57 BST; 1 Comma, settled on thistles, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 13:11 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, near Firing Range, at Vicarage Farm, 14:05 BST. Robert Callf

Had a white letter hairstreak on 4th August at Aldbury in S1, it was nectaring on ragwort. There were also lots of small heath, small copper, large white, meadow brown, skippers and marbled whites. Paul Thrush

News for Monday 4th August 2008 - 2 Speckled Wood, together, at Parkside Farm, 11:22 BST; 2 Peacock, together, on and around buddleia, at Park Farm, 11:54 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, near Shaws Cottages, 13:25 BST; 1 Comma, at Allotments, Vicarage Farm, 14:15 BST. Robert Callf

A few records for Sat 2nd August 2008 - 1 Small Skipper, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 13:33 BST; 1 Small Skipper, at Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm, 13:50 BST; 1 Holly Blue, at Enfield Road, 14:20 BST. Also lots of Gatekeepers and lesser numbers of Meadow Browns. Robert Callf

Friday 1st August

News for today (Fri 1st August 2008) - 1 Speckled Wood, at Oakwood Park, N14, 10:46 BST. 2 Speckled Wood, at Grovelands Park, Southgate, N14, 11:37 BST and 12:34 BST; 1 Green-veined White, settled, at Grovelands Park, Southgate, N14, 12:29 BST; 1 Large White, at Grovelands Park, Southgate, 12:32 BST. Robert Callf

27.07.08 A walk on the Nicky Line (TL133151 to TL109120) Given the combination of use by the general public and the level of fouling by dogs, our expectation wasn't that high as we set out. However, there were butterflies and, particularly in the margins of fields belonging to Rothamsted Research Centre. Whatever they may be testing on the crops, it wasn't affecting the insects adversely. We ran a couple of counts, gatekeepers being the most frequent with patches where brambles were smothered in butterflies, something we haven't seen in a long time. Over 100 gatekeepers on that check, over 50 meadow brown, similar numbers of speckled wood with large white, small white, brimstone, peacock and small skipper present. There were numbers of burnett moths (mostly six spot counted). We also counted 2 fresh holly blues on the hedges. Speckled Wood was the commonest butterfly under the trees along the walkway - Alun & Chrissie

Thursday 31st July

Saturday 26th, Broxbourne Woods 10am - 2pm Female Purple Emperor seen in willows c200m down the bridleway track from the West carpark at 12.30. Also seen; Small skipper, Holly Blue - 1, Red Admiral - 1, Peacock, Ringlet - Russell Neave

Had **dark green fritillary** on the northern slopes at Aldbury Nowers yesterday (30/7), together with many peacocks, red admiral, brimstone, meadow brown, holly blue, marbled white, common blue and comma. Paul Thrush

Had a short half hour walk over the 'New Fields', Trent Park between 13:30 - 14:00 BST and observed the following - 4 Speckled Wood, (1 at 13:34 BST and 1 at 13:39 BST, 2 together near Triangular Wood, 13:47 BST); 1 Small White, settled on thistle, near Oakwood entrance, 13:36 BST; 2 Peacock, near Oakwood entrance, 13:40 BST and 13:42 BST; 1 male Large Skipper, near Triangular Wood, 13:43 BST; 1 Small Copper, pristine condition, 13:47 BST - Robert Callf

Wednesday 30th July

Silver-washed Fritillary in Balls Wood at lunchtime today, rather tatty. Also the first White Admiral I have seen on the transect walk for two weeks, so a bit of a surprise after what was looking like a short season. A Purple Hairstreak also came low enough down to be recorded on the transect. All the usuals present and Speckled Wood numbers beginning to build towards the August peak. Andrew Wood

Brunel University campus - 30th July 2008 At lunchtime today in the Bicentenary Garden I saw 6+ Common Blue, the most I have seen at any site this year. Also, 8 Peacock, 2 Comma, Red Admiral, Painted Lady, dozens of Meadow Brown & Gatekeeper, 3 Speckled Wood, 4 Small Skipper, Large, Small & GV White, Small Copper, several Holly Blue and 2 Six-spot Burnet moth. Steve Pash

News for today (Weds 30th July 2008) at Trent Park, 'New Fields', between 11:45 - 13:15 BST - 4 Small Copper, between 12:04 - 12:48 BST; 8 Peacock, (1, Sect.8, 12:15 BST, 4 together, on buddleia, near Cockfoster's entrance, 12:34 BST, 3 on thistles, near Triangular Wood, 12:56 BST); 1 Comma, Sect.7, 12:22 BST; 2 Small Heath, Sect.6, 12:25 BST and 12:31 BST - fresh 'second-brood'; 1 Holly Blue, Sect.3, 12:47 BST; 1 Purple Hairstreak, near Triangular Wood, 12:58 BST; 3 Speckled Wood, (2 near Oakwood entrance, 1 Sect.7, 12:20 BST); 1 male Oak Eggar, along tube-line, near Oakwood entrance, 13:06 BST - My first sighting of the year! Also 2 Essex Skipper identified today (Weds 30th July 2008), 1 Sect.6, 12:25 BST and 1 near Sports Field, 12:51 BST. Robert Callf

Oakhill Woods LNR-28/7/08-----1x-Painted Lady f, Red Admiral m, Peacock-f---on Budleja Lochinch-----Myriads Purple Hairstreak on all oaks over 50ft in 6 acres of canopy woodland-some appeared to be egg laying on ash? 12noon-Hexton Chalk pit----myriads male chalkhill blue-----a few females and pairs-----a few Gatekeeper and Meadow brown-----Many Chalking Blues straying into the road and killed by traffic - Kit Jones

News for Monday 28th July 2008 at Trent Park, between 17:25 - 18:00 BST - 1 White-letter Hairstreak, settled on Ash, behind bus-stop, opposite Oakwood tube Station, 17:25 BST - My first of the year!; 2 Speckled Wood, near Oakwood entrance, 17:31 BST; 1 Small Copper, pristine condition, near Cockfoster's entrance, 17:45 BST; 5 Peacock, together, on buddleia, near Cockfoster's entrance, 17:45 BST; 1 Holly Blue, near Cockfoster's entrance, 17:54 BST. Robert Callf

Monday 28th July

Continue to try to cover as much of TL32 & TL 42 as possible, Highlights for this weekend Sunday 28th Dane End (TL 32/20) Various browns, whites etc + peacock, comma, red admiral but one definite silver washed Frit - nectaring on blackberry flowers. Went to plashes wood a site with previous white admiral record - but nothing there apart from many browns (meadow, gatekeeper, ringlet) plus whites. Also purple hairstreak. Am seeking someone in the Cottered area to assist as this area looks to be barren at the moment - done 4 visits with next to nothing to report - Phil MacMurdie

About twenty people attended the butterfly walk at Trent Park on Saturday 26th July 2008 and 16 species of butterfly were recorded, including - Small Skipper, Essex Skipper, Small White, Green-veined White, Large White, 1 Red Admiral, 1 Comma, 4 Peacock, 3 Small Copper, 3 Holly Blue, 4 Purple Hairstreak, Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown, 3 Ringlet, 3 Speckled Wood, can't remember the sixteenth. Robert Callf

On Saturday 26th July 2008 I was returning from a walk with my son and his dog around the Morgan's Walk area of Hertford. We were within 100 metres of our back gate when flying along the hedgerow came a Marbled White. I have discussed the sighting with Andrew and as far as we are aware there are no regular colonies of this species nearby. Obviously a wanderer. Alan Reynolds

Sunday 27th July

Purple Hairstreak in Monks Wood (near the pond), Stevenage at 1330. Saw it walking on a leaf near the top of an oak tree. Also saw my first non-white on the buddleia in my back garden - a Peacock earlier this afternoon. Peter Clarke

Chilterns Festival at Ashridge: Today Alan Downie lead three very well attended butterfly walks and recorded about 16 species between the three walks. Highlights was a brief glimpse of a Silver-washed Fritillary. Other butterflies included Brimstone, Holly Blue, Marbled White, Small Tortoiseshell, Small Copper and numerous skippers, whites, and browns.

Saturday 26th July

3 sightings of PE in Park Wood, Ruislip between 11.30 and 13.15. I was pleased to see a Small Heath on Poors Field where they re-appeared in 2007 after several years of absence. Ringlet, Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper and Small Skipper are present in good numbers this year. Purple Hairstreak, Large, Small & GV White, Holly Blue, Red Admiral, Peacock, Comma and Speckled Wood also seen - Steve Pash

Purple Emperor gliding gently overhead in Black Horse Lane, South Mymms at lunchtime today. Huge numbers of browns, whites & skippers around Potwells, also a dozen Peacocks, Comma, Purple Hairstreak, One Common(!) Blue & a probable Silver-Washed Fritillary - Malcolm Hull

Two fresh new Brimstones seen in the last two days, one from work through office window in Welwyn Garden City and one flying through my Harpenden garden today - Robin Pearson

An additional sighting for yesterday (Fri 25th July 2008) - 1 Holly Blue, at Dalrymple Close, Southgate, N14 at 15:44 BST - Robert Callf.

Friday 25th July

New Brimstones, Peacocks, GV Whites & a Holly Blue in Bricket Wood this morning. Essex Skipper is doing better at the site this year & Purple Hairstreak numbers are now higher after a poor start. SW Fritillary was in the ride, but I was unable to repeat last weeks Purple Emperor sighting. This afternoon at Hexton Chalk pit I saw 145 Chalkhill Blues in a 20 minute timed walk around the reserve. Pretty spectacular, but only about 10% of the numbers I recorded in the same period at the site 2 years ago. The turf height seems significantly higher & I guess this is whats restricting the numbers. - Malcolm Hull

I had a great day yesterday and managed to see 21 species at two sites within the Ruislip and District NHS area. Highlight was a Silver washed Fritillary in Park Wood which was totally unexpected. Also here were a Purple Emperor and a rather 'tatty' White Admiral plus Small Skipper, Speckled Wood, Purple Hairstreak and Holly Blue. Also visited Ladywalk Wood at Maple Cross where I saw one fresh White Letter Hairstreak. Also here were Marbled White (several), Green veined White, Large White, Small White, Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown, Ringlet (several), Red Admiral, Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock, Large Skipper, Essex Skipper and Comma. Quite a day and in glorious weather. John Edwards

News for today (Friday 25th July 2008) between 09:30 and 11:55 BST - 1 Peacock, at 'Barracks', Vicarage Farm, 09:55 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 10:20 BST; 1 Green-veined White, edge of Williams Wood, 10:33 BST; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, on buddleia, by Lower Lake, 10:50 BST - First of the summer-brood I have seen!; 1 Peacock, on buddleia, by Lower Lake, 10:50 BST; 1 Comma, on buddleia, by Lower Lake, 10:50 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, near Sports Field, 11:15 BST; 2 Small Copper, at 'New Fields', Trent Park, 11:25 BST, on thistles and 11:37 BST, on Ragwort; 2 Peacock, at 'New Fields', Trent Park, 11:32 BST, on thistles, and 11:37 BST; 1 Ringlet, near Triangular Wood, 11:40 BST; 1 Green-veined White, near Oakwood entrance, Trent Park, 11:49 BST - Robert Callf.

Thursday 24th July

1 White Admiral 50m past dip in main ride; 5+ Purple Hairstreak; 1 F Purple Emperor at 13.30hrs c120m along main ride from car park flew from oaks just past bracken patch on right - presumably same individual seen in same area twice before by another observer. - Nigel May

Stopped under the elms on the old road at Royston at 6.15 and up to 5 white-letter hairstreak were active around just one of the many elms. It's hard to imagine how many wlh are up in the those trees on just one day! - Liz Goodyear & Andrew Middleton

at 1.20 pm at Transect Wood Lane, Pirton towards top end of path, one White Letter Hairstreak feeding on marjoram. Pair of Large Whites and also pair of Gatekeepers mating - Val Fullforth

Wednesday 23rd July

Northaw Great Wood 11am----5+ Purple hairstreak----Oak canopy /lower yellow trail adjacent too two bridges and Wych Elms---These elms dead and dying ----need felling and burning --have informed H/W council--- very few amounts of-small skipper -ringlet -gatekeeper, meadow brown and speckled wood along rides. This wood does not seem as productive as other sites i have visited in the past 3 months? -----also no really large stands of mature Sallow that PE seem to prefer?? 2pm-Old Courthouse Recreation Ground, Wood Street, High Barnet----! x Marbled White-- --dont think this has been recorded in London Borough of Barnet Before?----GV Whites egg laying on Garlic mustard,--Holly blue on ivy- Large White on feral Nasturtions-----Kit Jones

A male Purple Emperor was seen on open ground on the southern edge of Bishop's Wood near Harefield, I think just within the Herts boundary at approx. on 23rd July - Steve Austin

Today 23rd July, that Peacock is still around in the garden in mint condition. I also observed a Male Gatekeeper try and fail to break and enter through the glass of the patio door. ;) - Mike Rubin

St Albans, Moira and I were both very surprised and very pleased to see a White Admiral (tatty) fly through our garden at 2.30 today - we go to Bricket Wood Common to see them! - Glen Barnes

About 50 Chalkhill Blues at Hexton Chalk Pits today 23/7/08 plus Gatekeepers, Ringlet, Meadow Brown, Large and Green Veined Whites, Small and Essex Skippers (black antennae tips) Brimstone along the lane. No sign of White letter Hairstreak or Dark Green Fritillery - Nigel Agar

at Waterford Heath today plenty of whites and browns but saw my first small tortoiseshell on South pit and a Brown Argus on North. Steve Kiln

King's Langley - Wednesday July 23rd. At long last good numbers of butterfly species seen in Vi Chandler's garden today; two Gatekeepers, five Meadow Browns, a Speckled Wood, four Small Whites, two Small Tortoiseshells, two Peacocks, two Commas and a Red Admiral. Central Park (The Reeds) Watford. TQ 115 973 Around my home in central Watford there were two Peacocks, five Gatekeepers a Meadow Brown & two Holly Blues - David Chandler

Walked the Great Ashby Park transect on Monday in sunny, but windy weather. Numbers increasing, except for Marbled White and Ringlet. 45 Small Skipper, 13 Essex Skipper, 11 Large Skipper, 21 S/E Skippers, 22 Large White, 17 Small White, 3 Green-veined White, 3 Purple Hairstreak, 2 White Letter Hairstreak, 2 Small Tortoiseshell, 10 Comma, 26 Marbled White, 42 Gatekeeper, 204 Meadow Brown, 55 Ringlet. Total 476. I saw my first for the year Hummingbird Hawk Moth today (23rd) in my Great Ashby Garden. - Steve Lane

News for yesterday (Tues 22nd July 2008) - 2 Purple Hairstreak, around Oak, Hog Hill, at Vicarage Farm, 20:26 BST. News for today (Weds 23rd July 2008) - 1 Painted Lady, on buddleia, outside my flat at Dalrymple Close, Southgate, N14 at 10:55 BST, also a Comma here at 10:57 BST. The first butterflies I have seen on this bush this year! - Robert Calf

Tuesday 22nd July

News for yesterday (Mon 21st July 2008) - 1 Small Tortoiseshell, very worn + tatty, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 17:50 BST; 1 Comma, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 17:50 BST; 1 Large Skipper, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 17:50 BST; 1 Peacock, at Parkside Farm near Hadley Rd Pumping Station, 18:18 BST; 3 Purple Hairstreak, together, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at

Vicarage Farm, 19:00 BST. Also Robin White saw a Marbled White on thistles in set-aside field at Vicarage Farm on Fri 18th July 2008 - this is the 26th species recorded in this tetrad since 2005! On Sat 19th July 2008 - 2 Comma, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 15:36 BST and 15:46 BST. - Robert Callf

On Sunday we went to Balls Wood at approx 9.30am and saw, Small Skippers, Gatekeepers, Large Skippers, Ringlets, Large White, GV White, Commas, Speckled Woods, Meadow Browns. We went for a walk this evening and found more trees with Purple Hairstreaks. Sandra and Kevin Standbridge

White Admiral and Purple Emperors in Broxbourne Woods 21 July 08 No sign of WAs in Knebworth Woods this morning 22 July. Comma present - Nigel Agar

Just recorded 2 marbled white butterflies in Westland Green, East Herts. Attached a flyby photo but after recharging camera shall go back to see if I can get a resting photo. Neither stopped flying for the 25 minutes I observed them - Jonathan Forgham

I went up Barnhill before lunch. Just a short walk though as I am still run down. Loads of Gatekeepers (100+). A good few Meadow Browns but numbers well down because the stupid authorities have mown half the meadows!!!! This time last year those barren mown areas were full of nectar sources and hundreds of meadow browns. Also saw 1 Peacock, a number of GV and Small Whites, Small (Essex?) Skippers and Speckled Woods. The yukkiest sighting was a Holly Blue settling on dog poo. Was not about to photograph that one! - Mike Rubin

Thunderfield Grove nature Reserve Wormley 11am----I x Tatty male White Admiral----1x Comma--many Gatekeeper and Meadow Brown ---all on bramble ----- central east - west ride----- Cinnabar Moth larvae on ragwort in car park----also Brown hawk dragonfly-----Large whites abundant---and a few G V W----I x Large Skipper-----Kit Jones

Monday 21st July

Was resting today after a trip. Observed a pristine Peacock gorging itself on the garden Buddleia. Also saw a Male Gatekeeper fluttering around, and a Large White landing on my cucumber plants and Nasturtiums. Earlier in the day someone else saw a Holly Blue at the bottom of the garden. Isn't it lovely when you can rest and still go butterflying? Not bad for suburbia. - Mike Rubin

12 noon--Ix Purple Emperor female on bramble---West Car park Bencroft Wood. **NB--There were two foreign gentlemen at Broxbourne woods carrying nets, Baco foil and rotten fruit---- they asked me if i knew where the PE master tree was--- I guess they were not going on a picnic?---- I have the registration number of their car (Polish plates)}**-----Kit Jones

In the last week, we have received two more Purple Emperor sightings from the Ashridge/Gaddesden/Berkhamsted area of both male and female butterflies.

Sat 19th July - Park Wood, Ruislip Despite the windy conditions I had 2 sightings of PE between 12.40 - 12.55 (possibly the same individual). Purple Hairstreak abundant in good numbers out of the wind. Also 3 Holly Blue, 2 fairly worn White Admiral, 2 Red admiral, Comma, 2 Speckled wood, Large & Small White. The meadows adjacent to Park Wood by the new housing estate were alive with Meadow Brown & Gatekeeper. A few Small Skipper and a Marbled White. Sunday 20th July - Ladywalk Wood, Maple Cross. I saw at least 4 WL Hairstreak, 2 above the Elms and 2 settled on Bramble. Lots of Ringlet, Meadow Brown & Gatekeeper. Also Small Skipper, Essex Skipper, Holly Blue, Marbled White, Peacock, Comma, Red Admiral, Small Copper, Large & Small White. on the small area of Bramble & set-aside on the southern edge of the Wood. The most interesting sighting however was a large Fritillary (prob SW) which flew over my head as I was crossing the footbridge over the M25 (near J17). It settled briefly on Bramble by the mobile phone mast, unfortunately not long enough for me to see its underside to confirm its identity. Steve Pash

Moira and I are still doing our Tuesday walks in Bricket Wood Common and on the 15 July we saw at least 4 Silver Washed's as we walked along the 'Pipeline' path and took photos of them - Glen Barnes

News for yesterday (Sunday 20th July 2008) - 2 Holly Blue and 2 Purple Hairstreak at Oakwood Park, N14 - Robert Callf

Saturday 19th July

Grovelands Park field trip with Enfield Outreach, 15 species of butterfly seen including small copper, holly blue, peacock and purple hairstreaks; few moths trapped but included black arches.

Friday 25th July 8.15pm - Trent Park (Cockfosters/west entrance start) - we will take a look at moths trapped the previous evening, followed by a bat walk with Jackie Wedd / Enfield Outreach - Andrew Middleton

News from 2nd July 08 - Hummingbird Hawkmoth by TeRNS secretary Annie Woodhouse at about 2130 near Allens Gardens, Stoke Newington, London at TQ333872.

On Tues 15th July 2008 visited Oakwood Park, N14 early morning and saw a single Green-veined White settled at 07:02 BST. - Robert Callf

Thursday 17th July

Tue 15th July 08 - Broxbourne Common, after a brief sighting of a male on the 12th at 15.40, 3-4 males were holding territory and chasing around the oaks and ashes at Broxbourne Common, seen 1.30-2pm when it became cloudy; Later a male silver-washed fritillary at Hatfield Forest, Essex - Laurence Drummond

Trent Park---16/7/08----1pm----Hadley Road Woodland Car park-----First fresh Peacock of the year---nectaring on bramble-----1x Purple hairstreak----promenading-on car park gravel.---1x Emperor dragonfly hunting the car park area----Kit Jones

Went out yesterday evening (Weds 16th July 2008) and counted at least 12 Purple Hairstreak,(10+ together over Elms at Duncan's Wood, Enfield Chase, 18:47 BST, and 2 at Park Farm over Oak, 19:03 BST) - Robert Callf.

Tuesday 15th July

Yesterday Jack (aged four and three-quarters!) and I went on our first ever Purple Emperor (*Apatura iris*) expedition. We went to Broxbourne Woods, one of the best sites near our house (40 minutes drive), and immediately encountered several enthusiasts standing around expectantly with telescopes and binoculars. None had been successful that day, and most had never seen a specimen, or only once before in their lifetime. Jack and I weren't all that keen on their chosen spot, so we potted on with Jack eagerly pointing out butterflies left, right, and centre. We reached a junction, headed North a 100 yards, and then, on the path in a sunlit clearing, I spotted horse manure and the unmistakable shape of a Purple Emperor probing away with its proboscis. I was so thrilled - this was my first ever attempt to find PE, and to think we'd had such good luck! In fact, it got so much better - it let us get very close, and was perfectly happy to let us take some photos and video. Eventually it took off, but was evidently not scared, as it came straight for me and Jack, and circled us many times. Then it settled on Jack - and the sequence of photos tells the story! All in all we had 3 separate groundings, with the longest lasting over 20 minutes on my backpack (of tropical vintage, hence steeped in deliciously tempting salts). It was especially favoured, as you can see from the photographers crowding around it! What surprised me was the size of this butterfly - I assumed it would be the same as a Neotropical apaturine (*Doxocopa*), but no, it is the size of a small charaxine - really strong and robust. Quite amazing to see it! Andrew Neild with Jack

Hayes garden, after a very slow start for garden butterflies the following arrived in my garden in Hayes. 1 Comma, 2 Meadow brown, 1 Female Speckled Wood, 1 Red Admiral, 2 Large Whites, 2 Holly Blues and 1 Hummingbird Hawkmoth. Helen George

Pat Hayes took a photo of a male Purple Emperor on her front door, in Potten End, Berkhamsted. "We were so thrilled to have seen the butterfly!! The neighbours came round to have a look too!"

Symondshyde Wood, 1 possibly 2 Male & 1 female SILVER WASHED FRITILLARY, numerous WHITE ADMIRALS, 2 WHITE LETTER HAIRSTREAK (this species gets harder & harder to track down in this wood), No Tortoiseshells - Darin Stanley

A single Purple Hairstreak, was seen settled on Field Maple near Trent Park Equestrian Centre, at 11:48 BST (Tues 15th July 2008). Robert Callf

Brunel University Campus Lunchtime walk on 15/7/08 revealed plenty of Meadow Brown &

Gatekeeper, 4 Small Skipper, 2 Holly Blue, 2 Comma, Red Admiral, Peacock, 2 Lge White and Six-spot Burnet Moth. Steve Pash

Monday 14th July

Records for today (Monday 14th July 2008) - 2 Comma, along bridle-path near Shaws Wood, 14:23 BST and 14:26 BST; 7 Purple Hairstreak, around Ash, edge of Williams Wood, 14:40 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, on Ash, edge of Williams Wood, 14:00 BST; 1 Comma, at Parkside Farm, near Hadley Rd Pumping Station, 15:55 BST; 2 Comma, together, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 16:00 BST. Also, Monday 14th July 2008, - 2 Comma, together, on buddleia at Oakwood entrance, 11:40 BST; 1 male Large Skipper, Sect.1, 'New Fields', 11:45 BST; 1 Small Copper, near Sect.8 'New Fields', 11:55 BST; 1 Green-veined White, near Triangular Wood, 11:57 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, Sect.7, along tube-line, 12:05 BST; 1 Comma, Sect.7, along tube-line, 12:06 BST; 1 female Essex Skipper, Sect.6, 'New Fields', 12:12 BST - My first of the year!; 1 Small Heath, Sect.6, 'New Fields', 12:20 BST; 1 Purple Hairstreak, edge of Church, 12:32 BST; 1 Comma, edge of Church Wood, 12:35 BST. - Robert Callf

Silver-washed Fritillary seen in in the small childrens play area along Adpar Street/Hall Place W2 (Paddington Green) - news via London birders and Alan Reynolds

Sunday 13th July

I had the privilege to watch 5 (I think 4m & 1f) PE together in Park Wood, Ruislip between 11.30 - 12.40 - Steve Pash

Today, I spent most of my time in various Broxbourne Wood locations, yielding: 8 White Admirals (Balls Wood, TL344104 (2); Ermine Street, TL347091; Highfield Wood, TL346083 & TL340081; Cowheath Wood, TL 330077; Claypits Wood ("The Ride"), TL325071; Wormley Wood, TL317053) 1 Red Admiral (Highfield Wood, TL346083) 1 Gatekeeper at Ermine Street, TL347091 Plenty of Purple Hairstreak (one showing nicely at TL342075, until I got my camera of course), Ringlet, Meadow Brown, Speckled Wood, Comma, Large and Small Skipper. I didn't pay too much attention to the whites, but I saw Green-veined White (Balls Wood (2), "The Ride" (1)) and Large White (Balls Wood (3), "The Ride" (1)). After waiting an hour at the trampled grass along the Ride, I gave up on the Purple Emperor that had shown at 12 pm and headed for Wormley Wood. Here I managed to see one chase and two fly-overs between 3:30 and 4 pm, high up above a pond with a small island along the bridleway (I guess TL322055). Earlier, I had a hairstreak along Lord Street that looked like a tattered White-Letter, but then it spread its wings while seated... so a Purple in an elm? The light wasn't great I must admit - Jan Hein Van Steenis

Garden picking up at last with six species seen today, two Holly Blues, Large Whites, Small Whites, Brimstone, Comma and the first Large Skipper since 2006 - Malcolm Newland

34 people attended the branch field trip to Bricket Wood Common, St Albans. On a fairly sunny morning we saw four Silver-washed Fritillaries (3 males, one not sexed), ten White Admiral, three Red Admiral, three Purple Hairstreak as well as numerous Ringlets, Gatekeepers, Meadow Browns, Marbled Whites, Speckled Woods, Small, Large & Green-veined Whites, Large & Small Skippers. Full account to follow in the next branch newsletter...Malcolm Hull

13/7/08--10am-----Broxbourne wood-NNR-----!x Purple Emperor female basking on trunk of Oak tree - main clearing --end of western ride----this was attacked 3x by a large wasp-which seemed to sense the butterflies change of location- -forcing it to escape over the canopy-----also I x female large white--1x large skipper-3x comma----many speckled wood -ringlet and meadow brown--all along the main western ride 1pm Oakhill Woods LNR----First Gatekeepers of the year-- 4x Males--I x female----I x Large White-----Myriads Meadow Brown -and Small Skippers -----4x Comma-----Many speckled wood-----4x six spot burnet moths----2x five spot-----Kit Jones

A delight to see 2 Marbled Whites in an uncultivated triangle of land on the south side of Cooters End Lane, Harpenden, at 0945 this morning: my last sighting in this locality was about two decades ago. Despite the recent weather, the density of butterflies was as great as I can ever recall seeing in this part of Hertfordshire. Incidentally, the record of a Hummingbird Hawkmoth at Tempest Avenue, Potters Bar (Tony Hurford, 10 July) brought back memories: as a young child in the 1950s I was thrilled to find one at no. 26 Tempest Avenue! Alan Jackson

In Hilliers garden centre at Hemel Hempstead yesterday afternoon I saw a fresh looking Humming Bird Hawkmoth nectaring for several minutes on a pot of Verbena "Claret." Said plant is now

residing in my herbaceous border! Malcolm Newland

Some observations for yesterday (Sat 12th July 2008) in the Trent Park Area - 1 Large Skipper, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 13:42 BST; 1 female Large Skipper, at Parkside Farm - on Res banking, 14:02 BST; 2 Comma, together, edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park, 14:42 BST; 1 Purple Hairstreak, settling on Sweet Chestnut flowers, edge of Moat Wood, 14:47 BST; 1 Comma, near Water Grdn., 15:00 BST; 1 Comma, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, 15:15 BST; 1 Red Admiral, along gravel-track, at Vicarage Farm, 15:35 BST. Also a number of Large and Small White, Small Skipper - no Essex positively identified yet, Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper and Ringlet. Robert Callf

Friday 11th July

11 July. Managed to do my transect of The Warren (Colney Heath) today before the rain. A reasonable score; 25 Small/Essex Skipper, 41 Meadow Brown, 24+ Marbled White (mostly fresh; I'm sure there were more, but what with the strong wind & them milling around I didn't want to risk double-counting), 3 Small Heath (all rather tatty), 1 Ringlet (a new species for the site; possibly a couple more mixed in with M.Browns); 3 Gatekeeper (my first this year, shining new), 1 Comma (also brand new) then, nearby a lovely fresh Red Admiral. Cheers one up a bit. John Moss

Broxbourne Wood, Thu 10 July am, male purple emperor 9.39, and Fri 11 again, both times circling low; Wormley Wood Fri 4th Jul 2 clashing male purple emperors; Thu 10 Jul, 4 white-letter hairstreaks at Lord Street nr Hoddesdon where it crosses over the A10 (TL359087) - Laurence Drummond

Northaw Great Wood, 1 purple emperor - Andrew Middleton

Thursday - Bricket Wood - 5 White Admirals, 1 Comma, 3 Silver-washed Fritillaries Friday - Whippendale Wood, Watford - 3 Silver-washed Fritillaries, 2 Comma Symonshyde Wood, Hatfield - 8 White Admiral, 7 Comma, 8 Large Whites - Malcolm Hull

Hemel Hempstead, the generally abysmal butterfly year so far in my neck of the woods was brightened somewhat by seeing a Marbled White on my allotment wildlife garden, the first that I have encountered there, followed at home by my first Ringlet for two years - Malcolm Newland

Just managed to fit my transect walk in today, between the clouds and rain. Numbers and species still increasing, which is good. Three first for the year today Essex Skipper, Gatekeeper and White Letter Hairstreak and the all important numbers; 17 Small Skippers, 2 Essex Skippers, 6 Small/Essex Skippers, 25 Large Skippers, 8 Large White, 1 Small White, 1 Green-veined White, 1 S/G-V White, 1 White Letter Hairstreak, 1 Red Admiral, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Comma, 3 Speckled Wood, 35 Marbled White, 2 Gatekeeper, 121 Meadow Brown, 1 Small Heath, 72 Ringlet. Total 299. A most enjoyable 1 1/2 hours - Steve Lane

At Maple Cross today Comma 4, Large white 2 - Sezar Hikmet

Thursday 10th July

A few observations for today (Thurs 10th July 2008) from 13:10 - 16:00 BST in the Trent Park area - 1 Purple Hairstreak, near Shaws Wood, 13:22 BST; 1 Small Skipper, near Dew Pond, 13:30 BST; 1 Comma, by Lower Lake, 14:00 BST; 1 Red Admiral, at Park Farm, 14:35 BST; 1 female Large Skipper, at Parkside Farm, near Hadley Rd Pumping Station, 15:18 BST; 2 Small Skipper, at Parkside Farm, near Hadley Rd Pumping Station, 15:18 BST; 1 Ringlet, at Parkside Farm, near Hadley Rd Pumping Station, 15:18 BST; 1 Small Heath, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 15:26 BST; 2 male Gatekeeper, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 15:25 and 15:28 BST; 1 Comma, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 15:28 BST; 1 Red Admiral, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 15:28 BST. Also a few Large Whites and Meadow Browns - Robert Callf

You may be interested in a recent sighting of a single Hummingbird Hawkmoth in Potters Bar Where: Tempest Avenue Potters Bar When: Tuesday 8th July 2008 around 18.40 hours for 5 minutes Feeding on lavender bush with proboscis, hovering about 25 mm away from flowers Jerky looping flight Weather: sunny, about 18°C, little wind Flew off due north - Tony Hurford

12 Noon- Oakhill Woods LNR-----Having said there were no records for Ringlet on this site-----one was seen today nectaring on Knapweed!---along with myriads Small skipper and Meadow brown---

two Essex skipper--3X 5 Spot Burnet-----3 Red Admiral-----20 X Speckled Wood-----1 X WL
Hairstreak-nectaring on Hemp agrimony - Kit Jones

Wednesday 9th July

1 PRIVET HAWK MOTH on pavement in Millford Hill, Batford. Alas it appears to have been trodden on or some sort of nasty accident as it was bearily alive when found. Still nice to know they are around. Photo included. Darin Stanley

Dropped into Hexton Chalk Pit this evening (8th July). Weather was marginal but I found a **single male Chalkhill Blue** at about 5.45pm. Also a few Marbled Whites, Small Heaths, Ringlets and Meadow Browns plus a single Small Skipper - Ian Woiwod

Today 8th July was comma day, 11 at Waterford Heath, 6 in broxboune woods, 3 in Bencroft. Also saw White Admiral and Purple hairstreak at Bencroft 15 and Broxbourne 2. Silver washed fritillary and Red Admiral in Broxbourne ride - Steve Kiln

Two fresh male Silver- washed Fritillaries in the main ride at Bricket Wood this morning. This is the fifth year in a row that this species has been recorded at this site. Fresh specimens fairly early in the season suggest that the SWF should now be regarded as resident in the wood. Gatekeepers also out for the first time this year at the site today. White Admiral numbers remain good. Marbled White and Ringlets are also doing well. Purple Hairstreak, Comma, Large and Small Skippers and Red Admiral are also out at present. A newly hatched Scarce Silver-lines moth fell out of an oak tree on to my head!. The Branch field trip at this site is this Sunday, 10 am meeting halfway down School Lane. All welcome. Malcolm Hull

Brunel University Campus, Uxbridge - 8/7/08 Short lunchtime walk in sunshine revealed dozens of Meadow Brown & Gatekeeper, 1 Lge Skipper, 6+ Small Skipper, Large & Small White, 2 Comma, Speckled Wood, Holly Blue, Common Blue and Small Copper. Steve Pash

Broxbourne Woods field trip on Sunday despite horrid weather (we went home at 1 o'clock) was remarkably successful. Those arriving early were treated to a Silver-washed Fritillary nectaring on brambles and a few White Admiral. However in a moment of brightness a large male Emperor flew onto the shallows above our heads and perched there for the duration of the field trip, allowing everyone a good view! The most interesting moment came, when LG commented that something had landed on her but noticing she was under a fir tree assumed it was a fir cone, only for someone to notice a large 'bug' climbing up her leg. This turned out to be a freshly emerged pine hawkmoth which spent the morning on the trunk of said fir tree (once removed from LGs leg), expanding and giving everyone a chance to take a photo of a very fresh hawkmoth - several observers

Not much to report for yesterday (Mon 7th July 2008) - 1 male Large Skipper, edge of Williams Wood, 14:35 BST; 3 Small Skipper, near Lower Lake, Trent Park, 15:20 BST. Other than that just Ringlets and Meadow Browns - Robert Callf

Visited Broxbourne Woods on Saturday afternoon July 5th and walked the loop from the western carpark. Weather generally sunny but blustery. Saw 30+ Ringlet, 30 + Meadow Brown, two Purple Hairstreak, one Small White, one White Admiral, one Red Admiral, four Commas, two Small / Essex Skippers (I'm not sure which) and most impressively what we think was a Silver Washed Fritillary. This was flying rapidly up and down the path from the carpark and did not come to rest but at one stage "buzzed" a comma where it was clear to see that it was about half as large again, had unserrated wings and was a lighter orangey brown in colour - Roger Newbold

Aldbury Nowers, I saw 100+ Ringlet, 75+ Marbled white, 100+ Meadow Brown, 1 Large Skipper, 1 Small Heath, 2 Gatekeeper - Gavin Vicary

I saw a PE high in the trees in Broxbourne Wood on Friday afternoon. July 5 - Nigel Agar

Saturday 5th July

No updates now to mid week

Having just finished our morning walk around Fishers Green, A White Letter Hairstreak landed on our car in the Fishers Green car park. Unfortunately it did not stay long enough to get a picture. It was 12.30 and sunny - Sandra and Kevin Standbridge

Made a two hour afternoon visit to Broxbourne Woods. Among butterflies seen were singles of **Silver-washed Fritillary**, **Purple Emperor** and Comma. Six Purple Hairstreaks, 4 White Admirals, along with 16 Ringlets and 10 Meadow Browns - Clive Burrows

Friday 4th July

Last weekend Dave Beer and myself completed our 3 bird atlas squares, we saw lots of butterflies around each square, but of note, were 3 colonies of Marbled Whites, we have not recorded previously, around 20 butterflies in total. Two quite close to Great Ashby Park and the other between Weston and Halls Green. I have also noticed this year an increase in numbers around Great Ashby Park whilst doing my transect walk. I did my transect walk on Tuesday 1st July and recorded; 8 Small Skippers, 13 Large Skipper, 1 Large White, 2 Green-veined White, 1 female Brimstone, 27 Marbled White, 111 Meadow Brown, 6 Small Heath and 47 Ringlet. Total 217. Steve Lane

Thursday 3rd July

Today's surprise in Horsenden Hill was a tatty looking Small Copper in the grazing meadow. First Small Copper I've seen in ages. Several definite Small Skippers. Zillions of Meadow Browns. 1 5-spot Burnet. Green Veined White. Cloudy conditions made them easier to ID once spotted. Not much else to report though. Thunderstorm hit about 4:30pm - 5pm which made for an entertaining motorbike ride home, but no leps. Some pretty lightning though right over Wembley Stadium. - Mike Rubin

Broxbourne Wood NR, along main ride, c10.05am a male Pemp settled in a willow, sat out a shower, basked, then flew off, also several white admirals here and Hoddesdonpark Wood recently - Laurence Drummond

Bricket Wood 3 July, nothing exciting. Four Marbled Whites in big clearing: TL130007 I presume this is a known locality. Nothing else of interest seen. It rained! Jack Harrison

Oakhill woods LNR East Barnet---- Central Wych elm area----3x W.L. Hairstreak above canopy- 2x Purple Hairstreak----Oak canopy Southern boundary-----One Red Admiral female egg laying on nettles bordering hay field---Numerous Large and Small skippers, Meadow Browns and Speckled Woods -----No Peacock or Tortoiseshell nests recorded this year and no Brimstone caterpillars!--- --this is the first year with no records since 1994. Common blue butterfly and Burnet moths limited to individual sightings-----Ringlet and Small Heath not recorded on this site despite proximity to Trent Park.-----Kit Jones

Broxbourne Woods NR, male Purple Emperor circles me late afternoon - Ian Woivod

Monday 30 June. The Warren (Colney Heath). 31 sparkling new Marble Whites today on my transect (13.40 - 14.30), so many I stopped counting to avoid risk of double counting. Nearly all in same area as last year. 2007 max (29 June) 23. 2006, (28 June) 1. Previous years 0. Seems confirmation of new breeding site. Otherwise Meadow Brown (34), Small Heath (12), Small/Essex Skipper (15), Common Blue (1), Small/GV White (1), all down on last year's nos. Am concerned about low numbers of Small Heath, but the habitat is changing - growing ranker with wet spring & limited mowing - John Moss

26 June. Longmead Farm Meadows (Goffs Oak). I recorded the following on a grassland survey of private land. Meadow Brown (7+), Ringlet (10+), Large Skipper (3), Small Skipper (7+), Comma (10), all very fresh (especially the Comma - stunning). Actual numbers probably considerably higher, but counting butterflies is not easy when one is focussed on ground flora & grasses!. Hope this helps, even if late. John Moss

Wednesday 2nd July

We went for an evening walk in Balls Wood. We saw Ringlets, Meadow Brown, Small Skipper and 6 plus Purple Hairstreaks. The PH were down the track on the right hand side from the main entrance. They were at the top of the largest Oak and a lot of clashing was taking place. This was at approx 7.30pm and in bright sunshine. On our way back out of Balls Wood and in a field just off of London road we saw many oaks all containing PH. Sandra and Kevin Standbridge

News from Saturday, sightings for my Transect walk, around Great Ashby Park, Stevenage. 17 Large Skippers, 2 Green-veined Whites, 1 Red Admiral, 2 Comma, 9 Marbled Whites, 62 Meadow Brown and 40 Ringlet. Weather not perfect, a bit to windy, but mostly sunny - Steve Lane

News for yesterday (Tues 1st July 2008) - 7 Comma, at Trent Park (1 bridle-path near Merryhills Brook, 16:20 BST, 3 edge of Williams Wood, 16:33 BST, 1 Icehouse Wood, 16:45 BST, 2 by Lower Lake, 17:00 BST); 1 Large Skipper, near Shaws Wood, Trent Park; 1 Large White, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park; 1 Red Admiral, Uni-lawns, Trent Park, 16:47 BST; 1 Small White, at Parkside Res., 17:25 BST; 1 male Gatekeeper, at Parkside Res., 17:30 BST; 1 Large White, at Parkside Farm, 17:30 BST; 1 Purple Hairstreak, around Ash, near Hadley Rd Pumping Station, Parkside Farm, 17:40 BST; 2 Small Heath, at Vicarage Farm; 6 Large Skipper, at Vicarage Farm - along gravel-track - Robert Callf.

Tuesday 1st July

Morning visit of one and half hours to Bricket Wood provided 8 White Admirals, 1 Red Admiral, 6 Meadow Browns, 4 Large Skippers, **1 Silver-washed Fritillary** and 14 Ringlets. Two photos attached- 1st July. (White Admiral Photo last week) - Clive Burrows

In my ½ hr lunch break on my Local patch in Batford: 1 Gate Keeper, 1 small skipper, 11 Marbled Whites. Later on at Symonshyde Woods nearby Sandridge: 2 WHITE ADMIRALS - Darin Stanley

Disturbed a roost of about 10 Marbled Whites at Wheathampstead LNR this evening, fortunately one settled back down and let me get close enough for this photo - Robin Pearson

Purple Emperor: one on 1 July seen well in flight 1030 hrs Broxbourne Woods near dip on track from western car park. TL326072 Earlier (0930) two WL Hairstreaks same location as reported Monday at Lord Street nr Hoddesdon where it crosses over the A10 (TL359087) on east side of bridge, north side of road. Poor quality record shot attached (taken from what seemed like a million miles away) - Jack Harrison

Purple Emperor seen at the Northaw Territory today - Andrew Middleton Wood Lane, Pirton TL 145310 Transect - **a Dark Green Fritillary** settling on scabious, the first I have recorded at the site. Numbers of Ringlets, 3 male Yellow Brimstones, Speckled Woods egg-laying, just 1 Large White (had dark body so wasn't fem.Brim), Meadow Browns. Also a superb Broad Bodied Chaser (have a good photo of this) and a Migrant Hawker. At home Hitchin, at 10.30 am 1 July - caught in the breeze so didn't settle, a Painted Lady - Val Fullforth

Sunny day at last- Tues 1st July-At Bencroft wood saw my first white admiral as well as, 2 commas, and small and large skippers and 4 purple hairstreak in Bencroft wood 10 am this morning. At Broxbourne Wood saw 2 commas and a red Admiral in ride. At Waterford heath, both on North and south pit saw 2 commas , and saw 1 marbled white in South pit on south part of eastern bank, also small skippers and small heaths , countless ringlets and meadow browns at all sites but no whites - Steve Kiln

Last night, 30th June, Dave Howdon and I estimated c. 60 Purple Hairstreaks on the wing over just a fraction of Horsenden Hill (the eastern part of the East area and the eastern part of the West (which has less oak). Clearly a sustained emergence compared with Sunday, where just a few were found. Also a Comma on Horsenden East last night - these seem to have been a bit 'down' here this year - Andy Culshaw