

Archive Page

Sightings and news from January to June 2003

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This page contains sightings details of all the butterflies and moths reported to the [Sightings page](#) between January and June 2003.

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

JUNE 2003

Mon 30th June - (Some of Nick's news was "lost in transect") **29th June, Broxbourne woods from east car park** [10.30 to 1.30], white admiral [12 sightings], **purple hairstreaks [10]**, ringlets[12], meadow brown [60+], large skipper[20], comma [3], small skipper, small white, large white, holly blue, red admiral, speckled wood, 4 species of dragonfly. **No sign of purple emperor along shallows** but did watch for a hour or so female white admirals laying flat on the shallow branches waiting for males to come along the males were flying very fast in and out the branches covering vast areas in short spaces of time when the pair met they would fly into the woods I see this happen 4 times in a hour. **28th June, Broxbourne woods from east car park** [1.30 to 4], **white admiral [30 sightings], purple hairstreaks [3]**, ringlets[6], meadow brown [60+], large skipper[4], comma [5], small white, large white, holly blue, painted lady, speckled wood. 2 species of dragonfly and a hornet, **23rd June**, comma at **Dane End. 24th June**, painted lady at **Thundridge. 22nd June, Park Wood Bramfield**, ringlets[16], meadow brown [23], Large skipper[14], small white [12], comma, small tortoiseshell, speckled wood, **Broxbourne woods from east car park**, white admiral [9 sightings] excellent views of one nectaring on bramble flowers, ringlets[17], meadow brown [33], large skipper[4], comma, painted lady, speckled wood. - Nick Sampford

Maple Cross, on June 25th. I saw 2 red admirals and a painted lady in the farmland near my house. The weather was only moderate with a hint of rain in the air, quite cloudy but warm. They were in the undergrowth, mostly nettle and grasses and not heading in any particular direction. That afternoon I also saw 1 small/Essex skipper, 2 large whites, 1 small white, 14 tortoiseshells, a pristine comma, and 6 meadow browns. Not bad for variety! - Ann Piper

Horsenden Hill, summary of yesterday's sightings; Large Skipper c.10, Small Skipper c.40(no Essex Skipper positively IDed), Meadow Brown 100+, Gatekeeper 3male, Speckled Wood 4, Common Blue 1, White-letter Hairstreak 4 together at **Horsenden Farm end**, Comma 10, Red Admiral 3, Green-veined. White 3, Silver-Y 1 - Neil Anderson

I don't seem to have sent you my records for last weekend which are 1 Meadow Brown at **Goodfellows Farm**, 1 Large White at **Mardleybury Manor**, 1 Small Tortoiseshell at **Mardleybury**, 1 Small Tortoiseshell at **Slate Hall Farm**, 1 Meadow Brown at **Gannock Green**, 1 Meadow Brown at **Notley Green** - Alan Reynolds

Sun 29th June - 2 White Admirals and a Marbled White amongst butterflies at **Bricket Wood**, this morning - Clive Burrows

Purple Hairstreaks have even reached **Crouch End!** Perfect specimen in my garden today. Also Holly Blue - Helen Bantock

Horsenden Hill News, 29th June Purple Hairstreak (1), Gatekeeper (2), White-letter Hairstreak (7; including at least 3 nectaring), Comma (5), Small Tortoiseshell (2), Painted Lady (3), Red Admiral (2), Speckled Wood (3), Large Skipper (25+), Small Skipper (8), unidentified Skipper (14), Large White (4), Small White (5), Green-veined White (1), unidentified White (2), Meadow

Brown (numerous, not counted), Common Blue (1). **In nearby Perivale Wood** an additional **1 Purple hairstreak** and 1 White-letter Hairstreak. The Purple Hairstreaks and Gatekeepers were my first of the year. News from outside the area from **Brampton Wood**, Cambridgeshire, **28th June**: White Admiral (ca. 10), Black Hairstreak (4) - Andy Culshaw

Broxbourne Woods, first **Purple Hairstreaks** seen today, yesterday at least **30 White Admiral** sightings, but fewer today - Nick Sampford - more news to follow

Brian Jessop has just rung to say he saw 3 Purple Emperor at Tring Park yesterday!

I've just had a look at your site as a result of seeing a **Humming-bird Hawk Moth** on my lavender in my back garden in **Ickenham** (6.30 pm this evening **24th June**). First time I've ever noticed one in this country, and I hope to have pictures of my very good views! Very pleased to find the entry on your pages from Wednesday 18 June to reassure me that I wasn't going mad. Good black and white markings on back end and overall hazy orange effect of rapidly beating wings. Amazingly long proboscis! Liz Ackroyd

Sat 28th June - A further foray into the wilds of **TL33** brought 2 Meadow Brown, 2 Small Tortoiseshell and 1 Large Skipper at **Lyle End Farm**, 1 Red Admiral at **Hyde Hill Farm**, 3 Small Tortoiseshell, 3 Meadow Brown, 1 Ringlet and 1 Comma at **Cave Bridge**, 1 Small Tortoiseshell at **Southfields farm**, 30 Meadow Brown, 1 Painted Lady, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 10 Large Skipper, 1 Large White, 1 Green-veined White and 10 Ringlet at **Broadfield Hall**, and 1 Small Tortoiseshell at **Southern Green farm** - Alan Reynolds

Fri 27th June - Following noted near our house at **Puckeridge** on **June 21st 2003**:- Painted Lady 1 Red Admiral 1 Meadow Brown 4 Small Tortoiseshell 4 Ringlet 7 Speckled Wood 2 Comma 1 Brimstone 1 Large White 1 Skipper sp 1 (Large/Essex/Small) - Murray Orchard

Just a quick line to say that at 08.15am, **26/06/03** I had the pleasure of seeing my 1st Humming bird Hawk Moth. This was in my terraced garden in **Walthamstow** just south of the north Circular Road. It was feeding on summer flowering Jasmine and stayed approximately 15 minutes - Nick Farrer

Weds 25th June - Brian Day phoned me today to report seeing **11 White Admirals** in **Park Wood Ruislip** on Monday 23rd - Andrew Wood

Tues 24th June - Balls Wood, Herts, ten white admirals and around **90 ringlets** - Martin Shepherd

Mon 23rd June - First Marbled Whites of year seen on **Bunkers Park** today. 3 were reported to me by D & T Miller; I recorded one only during a transect walk this pm - Mike Pearson

Sun 22nd June - Ringlet at **Ninesprings Way, Hitchin today**. also at Old Hale Way allotment site last week. Small Heath abundant on **Pegsdon Hills** yesterday in Beds - did not get to the Herts section - too hot - Nigel Agar

At **Broxbourne** today saw 5 **White Admiral**, one at the top of the main ride and four flying around the ferns down the bottom on the right before reaching the bench. Also saw 3 Comma, 2 Red Admiral, 1 Tortoiseshell, several Meadow Brown, Ringlets and just a few Skippers - Lissa Smith

News from **Horsenden Hill**. A total of 10+ White-letter Hairstreaks at two different locations. Most (7+) were around the recently coppiced area to the rear of **Horsenden Farm** on the south facing slope of Horsenden Hill. They were tending to perch on the usual ash tree and spiral high over the nearby elms, but I saw one nectaring on bramble and a couple egg-laying on small (ca. 15foot) elms. The other three were in the traditional spot west of **Horsenden Lane** on the regenerating elm hedge (known locally as Batts Field). They typically emerge slightly later at the latter location as its east facing. Didn't get a chance to check any of the other areas but will hopefully get time to carry out a full survey next Sunday. Other butterflies included comma (5), common blue (1), small skipper (8), large skipper (36), **meadow brown (190+)**, unidentified

white (2). Also got 4 silver Y's and about half a dozen narrow-bordered 5-spotted burnets. Dragonflies included a Black-tailed Skimmer and two Four-spotted Chasers - Andrew Culshaw

White Admiral seen feeding on Bramble, on **Sat 21st June** along Back Lane, Nicolson's Wood (part of **Bramfield Woods**) - Dave Webb

Northaw Great Wood. 1 newly emerged White Admiral in private garden, also 1 Large White, 1 Red Admiral, 2 Meadow Brown & 1 Large Skipper - Chris Beach

Sat 21st June - Hemel Hempstead yesterday, Red Admiral on Cotoneaster Rothschildianus at 7.10 a.m. Then moved on to Hebe, Yarrow and Common Valerian. Large White on Cotoneaster and Sweet William, also Small Tortoiseshell again on Cotoneaster followed by Wild Privet and Hebe. Large Skipper on Scabious and Sweet William. Lastly a faded Painted Lady on Sweet William - Malcolm Newland

2 white letter hairstreaks in **Poles Lane** in elms by the scout hut entrance also comma small skipper and meadow brown 12+ white letter hairstreaks crooked mile near White Round House there were at least 4 showing all the time I was there, feeding on creeping thistle with many eggs laying on the elm and buzzing around the ash trees. Also red admiral 3 comma 10+ small skippers speckled wood small green veined and large white 30 + meadow brown, I was there for about 2 hours - Nick Sampford

Yesterday (**20th June**), on a hot but breezy day at **Kings Mead**, I saw 1 Red Admiral and 13 Small Tortoiseshell along just 80 metres of New River bank by White House Sluice, a further 6 Small Tortoiseshell from White House Sluice to the flyover, with 6 Meadow Brown and 40 Large Skipper under the **flyover** between the New River and the River Lea - Alan Reynolds

Thundridge - I had in my garden **yesterday** 6 small tortoiseshells and 2 painted ladies this a higher count of small tortoiseshells than I had last year so I'm chuffed also had 2 painted ladies 2 large whites and a brimstone at Widford. Last Saturday my dad had a painted lady in his garden which he reckons was half the size of a normal one my first thoughts were a American painted lady but I'm a optimist after talking to Andy he says he's seen specimens in a museum which were like this and they are just stunted specimens. I would of like to of seen it he's looked for it everyday this week but with no luck as of yet - Nick Sampford

Went to my local patch - **Weston Hills**, just outside Baldock. Saw a single male Marbled White - my first for the year. Also fresh Ringlet, Commas, Large and Small Skippers - Ian Small

We spent an enjoyable three hours over at **Tring Park** today and saw 1 White Admiral, 3 Marbled White, 4 Painted Lady, 3 Tortoiseshell, 2 Red Admiral, 5 Small Blue, a large amount of Ringlets, Speckled Wood, Meadow Brown, both Large and Small Skippers, some burnet moths, and 4 Silver Y. Also treated to the sight of a Roe Deer - Lissa Smith

Fri 20th June - Broxbourne Woods, today - **1 White Admiral**, 1 Comma, 1 Large Skipper, numerous Meadow Browns and Speckled Woods, also 1 Peacock Moth - Jim Fish

One pristine **White Admiral** at **Balls Wood today**. The earliest date by four days in my eight years recording here. Also **Ringlet**, comma, meadow brown, Painted lady and large Skipper out in reasonable numbers. Also an observation on late flight dates. **Yesterday** in **Ware Park** I saw a rather ragged Peacock and **today** at **Balls Wood** another two, all of these are 2 weeks later than my latest dates for the over wintering Peacocks. As Peacocks generally emerge end July and with things being about 2 weeks early this year there could be a tiny gap between the last of last year's and the first of this year. **This morning** I had a Painted lady and a Red Admiral both feeding on a Ceanothus in the front garden (**Bengeo**) at 08:15, I don't recall ever seeing butterflies on this bush before and the early flight after a relatively cool night was a bit surprising. The Painted Lady was almost transparent - Andrew Wood

There is a strong Small Tortoiseshell colony at the Old Hale Way allotment site in **Hitchin**. Also Red Admiral and Small White - Nigel Agar

Brentford, 1 newly hatched Comma, 4 Painted Lady & 3 Red Admiral so far, and I haven't left the office yet. The PL & RA heading north showing no signs of stopping. Has there been another migrant influx? Chris (still working hard) Court

Thurs 19th June - This afternoon was hot but windy. Saw **26 small tortoiseshells** in a walk round local farmland in **Maple Cross**. Many were basking out of the wind but several pairs appeared to be courting! Also my first sighting this year of 2 large skippers. One small white looking rather the worse for wear. Plenty of peacock caterpillars well developed by now feeding off nettles. Plus a very active silver Y moth - Ann Piper

Trent Park, yesterday, 1 male Essex Skipper and a **>male Orange Tip** - Robin White (news via Robert Callf)

Wed 18th June - Toby Austin, has sent some wonderful pictures taken in Costa Rica - they are on the World Butterfly Photo House page - please look at them and help Toby identify the species please (*I had wanted to put them up on this page but there is isn't enough space at the moment, sorry LG*)

I finally managed to get in a short visit to one of my favourite sites on Tuesday. I went to the **Aston Clinton Rag Pits** to catch some roosting butterflies (on film!!). I found; **2 fresh Marbled Whites** roosting on a flower head - Allen Beechey

Trent Park, 1 ringlet, 3 red admirals, small heath, several small tortoiseshells - Robert Callf and Robin White

Ponders End - Painted lady emerged between 12:00 and 13:00 hours, then became active around 4pm and flew off strongly from the garden. Watched it pump out some fluid several times, then antennae straightened out, then nothing for 2 hours, then began shivering its wings and opening them - Andrew Middleton

Wed 18th June - I enjoyed stunning and prolonged views of a **Hummingbird Hawk-moth** in our back garden at **Puckeridge on Monday evening 16th June**. It first appeared at 19.15 for a couple of minutes and then again at 21.15 for about 5 minutes. It was feeding on the flowers of white campion (*Lychnis*). I was able to note the yellow hind wing as it hovered and the black and white pattern on the rear end of the otherwise grey body, plus extraordinarily long proboscis. A superb insect! This is the third record for our back garden: one around kitchen window flower basket on 1/9/96 and one around runner bean flowers on 18/7/00 - Murray Orchard

Tues 17th June - Dagenham Chase, another good butterfly day today - at least until the rain came. More Meadow Browns out than last couple of days. 10+ small torts, which is much better than I was getting at Ally Pally. Best sighting of the day was a beautiful beautiful demoiselle. First sighting for me and nice to know it lives up to its name - Tom Clarke

Mon 16th June - Work is now moving back to **Stevenage** so I took the opportunity today to have a look down the lane from **Norton Green**. In half an hour I saw 1 Red Admiral, 1 Common Blue, 1 Comma, 12 Meadow Brown, 10 Large Skipper and 1 Painted Lady - Alan Reynolds

Some butterfly/moth news from **Horsenden Hill** over the weekend: **15th June** (Friends of Horsenden Hill butterfly walk) 10am-12.30pm
Common Blue (6), Painted Lady (2), Large Skipper (30+), Small Tortoiseshell (6), Comma (4), Speckled Wood (4), Red Admiral (1), Meadow Brown (30+). No sign of White-letter Hairstreak at the usual haunts yet. Most remarkable was a **Clouded Buff (Diacrisia sannio)** netted and potted by Rachel Terry and seen by all. Very unusual in Herts/Middx and usually found on heathland. Other moths seen on the walk included Silver Y (2), and Cinnabar. **Today 16th June** (evening) Small Tortoiseshell (5), Painted Lady (1), Red Admiral (1) - Andy Culshaw

Oaklands Tube Station - White-letter Hairstreak today. Trent Park area, 17 Painted Ladies, 19 Small Tortoiseshell, 28 Small Heath, 1 Small Copper also on **Friday 13th, 56 Small**

Heath in one hour - Robert Callf. Also news via Robert, Robin White saw a **Hummingbird Hawk-moth** on the edge of Williams Wood

Sun 15th June - Over the border in Beds - good site for **small blue** - **Sundon Quarry** had at least six before put off by packs motorbike riding youngsters (now I know where all our stolen cars end-up also). Noted single **marbled white** at **Barton Hills** - Phil Rhodes.

Walkern garden, a **Hummingbird Hawk Moth** has been feeding in my garden over this weekend (**14th & 15th June**)...often returning to Honeysuckle and other herbaceous plants. At **Frogmore Estate near Stevenage**, at the **end of May**, **3 or 4 Grizzled Skipper** and a couple of Brown Argus, 10 Common Blue, Cinnabar, plethora of Painted Ladies - Jeff Davies

Sewardstone Marsh, 13.00hrs. **Eight white letter hairstreaks** giving superb views, found earlier today by Enfield Lock Conservation Group and **13 June, Ermine Street/Balls Wood**, (12.00-14.00hrs) Speckled wood (14), large skipper (20), small tortoiseshell (4), comma (3), meadow brown (4), red admiral - Martin Shepherd

Dark Lane, **Cheshunt** allotments, Saw three Small Tortoiseshells, four Meadow Browns, one unidentified skipper and one white butterfly in the distance whilst taking a break from weeding and watering on my allotment. The butterflies were at the bottom end by a wood where there is a lot of grass, nettles and brambles - Roger Newbold

Dagenham Chase, had first Meadow Brown today, lots of **Small/Essex skippers**, 1 small copper and a few small tortoiseshell - Tom Clarke

Sat 14th June - A few records from site visits today, **Tring Park**, Herts: **2 Dingy Skipper**, 3 Brimstone, 1 Common Blue, 1 Brown Argus, 4 Painted Lady, 2 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Red Admiral, 24 Meadow Brown, 12 Speckled Wood, 16 Large Skipper, 21 Burnet Companion, 8 Silver-Y, **4 Yellow Shell. Totternhoe Quarry: Over 1000 Small Blue** on or at the base of the high north-facing cliff, just north of the village (actual count 1035 but this is an under-estimate). Counted between 3.30pm and 5pm with 700 counted on the slopes (but many would have been missed higher up the slopes especially as count mainly refers to flying individuals) and over 300 associated with the roosting area at the base of the cliff. Also counted here 3 Dingy Skipper, 7 Small Tortoiseshell, 5 Large Skipper, 2 Common Blue, 4 Meadow Brown, 6 Cinnabar, 1 Silver-Y, 5 Burnet Companion - Andrew Palmer

I would like to report the sighting of around a **score of small tortoiseshells** earlier this evening at the Radlett Road recreation ground (junction of Radlett Rd and Balmoral Rd, **Watford**.) Although I have previously seen individual specimens on this site this was far and away the largest grouping. Marvellous. As they have become rare in this part of Watford from being extremely common a few years ago. On the plus side we now have orange tips, holly blues and occasional common blues in North Watford when previously their were none to my knowledge - John Liberty

Also, **3 white-letter hairstreaks** chasing over an elm and flying to nectar on lime flowers along road between **King George V & William Girling Reservoirs (Middx)** this afternoon. **Sewardstone** - c 5 fresh comma - Andrew Middleton

Tom Brereton of BC Head Office asked Transect walkers to record when they first saw Marbled Whites, but what may be of more interest locally is that the first **dark green fritillaries** are emerging on Sharpenhoe. Seeing the entry for DGFs on the Hertfordshire Butterfly & Moth Report (just received) it might be useful for our members to, quote "*start looking for the butterfly in those parts of Hertfordshire that stick into Bedfordshire around Barton le Clay*". Angie & I did the **Sharpenhoe Clappers** (Beds) Transect at lunchtime today (Saturday June 14th) and are pleased to report the first **Marbled White (male)** of the season on the site. Also looking newly emerged today, we saw four Dark Green Fritillary (three male one female). Angie & I stopped and watched a particularly darkly marked (upperside) male Dark Green Fritillary finish off pumping up his wings on the ground. Other newly emerged species seen this weekend on Sharpenhoe are Large Skipper and Meadow Brown. NB: Small Blue & Green Hairstreak still flying too - Dave Chandler (news courtesy Beds & Northants Branch)

Another hot day, this time in TL43. Very little butterfly activity with only 2 Small Tortoiseshell at **Old Manor Farm**, 1 Painted Lady at **Abbotsbury Farm**, 1 Painted Lady, 1 Large White and 1 Meadow Brown at **New Lake**, and 1 Speckled Wood and 1 Painted Lady at **Brent Pelham Hall** - Alan Reynolds

Dagenham Chase, Okay, not really in Herts & Middx but thought I might as well continue to pass on news from this sight (my new place of work). Today, **small skippers** and common blues in good numbers, a couple of painted ladies, speckled wood, red admiral and a few commas - Tom Clarke.

1 o'clock, **Sewardstone Marsh, White-letter Hairstreak 1** out on Wych Elm - Andrew Middleton

Took my son to a cricket match at **Hertford** (Balls Park) on **Friday** evening. Spotted a Speckled Wood and two Large Skippers, the latter on some bramble flowers - Roger Newbold

Andrew Middleton's Painted Lady pupa has been added to life-cycle photos below

Fri 13th June - Hemel Hempstead, My **first Humming-bird Hawk-moth** of the year on Red Valerian and Sweet William. Painted Lady, Small Tortoiseshell and a Large White also seen - Malcolm Newland

Just like old times. During my weekly foray at **Kings Mead**, I counted no less than **30 (yes thirty) Small Tortoiseshells in 5 minutes** on the New River bank by White House Sluice. This must be the most I have seen in such a short time since I was a boy (more than 10 years ago !!). Further along the New River towards the flyover, a further 3 Small Tortoiseshells and a male Brimstone! (a little odd?) (*I had 1 in my garden today as well - LG*). Under the flyover, along a 200 metre stretch, I counted 26 Large Skipper, 1 Small Tortoiseshell and 4 Painted Lady resting on the vegetation. Also 4 Meadow Brown on Kings Mead itself. Earlier, in my garden (**Hertford**), 2 Painted Lady flying due west at 10 feet/second. The one on the left had the map - Alan Reynolds

News from **9 June, Rammey Marsh**, mid-morning: Cinnabar - Martin Shepherd

Andrew Middleton trapped a **Small Ranunculus** (a moth once considered extinct) on the night of **11th June** in **Ponders End**.

This is a message from Colin Plant. This spread away from the Thames is expected, and the Lea Valley could easily allow it to reach Herts. The green caterpillars feed on Prickly Lettuce and Great Lettuce (*Lactuca virosa* and *L.seriola*), sitting on the developing flower heads and being EXTREMELY camouflaged until you get your eye in. These are typical plants of derelict land, railway yards, etc. However, adults are on the wing NOW and they do come to light readily. EVERYONE SHOULD LOOK OUT FOR THIS IN HERTFORDSHIRE - we have not yet recorded this species in the county, so first one to find it gets the credit for adding a new macro to the county list. Look it up in the book so you know what to look for. It looks remarkably like an incorrectly coloured Broad-barred White (no surprise there - its the next species along in the checklist). If you catch one, please keep it (will be fine in a tube in the fridge) since someone will need to confirm the identity. If you telephone me, I may be able to come and look the same day

Ware garden this morning, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Red Admiral, 1 Large Skipper and later male Brimstone - Liz Goodyear

Thurs 12th June - Out for a quick break and rescued a freshly emerged Comma inflating its wings from the road, **Brentford** Middlesex - Chris Court

1 female and 1 male common Blue at different sites either side of **Ware Park Quarry** and one on the verge of northbound slip between the A10 and A602 in Ware. 8 meadow Browns near Ware Park Quarry. 3 Painted ladies in Ware Park and 3 **off Westmill Road, Ware** along with a Small Tortoiseshell - Andrew Wood

Brimsdawn/King George V Res/Sewardstone - 12 small tortoiseshell, 4 painted lady - Andrew Middleton

Speckled Yellow moths frequent in **Broxbourne Woods**. Meadow Brown out this afternoon in **Danemead** (part of Brox woods.) - Nigel Agar

Wed 11th June - I thought I should share an interesting report of local butterfly abundance with you from Greg Herbert. Greg visited **Totternhoe Knolls & Quarry (Beds)** tonight and, between 6pm and 6.30pm and on the old chalk quarry face counted an amazing total of **814 Small Blue**. This site is known for its strong colony of "*cupido*", but this total is exceptional - news via Dave Chandler, Beds & Northants Branch

Bunkers Park, 5th June: Painted Lady 10, no particular direction of flight and **9th June: Painted Lady 2**, plus **Meadow Brown and Large Skipper** on the wing now - Dr. Paul Clack

The Painted Lady caterpillar has now pupated and the image will appear later - Andrew Middleton

Tues 10th June - Ponders End, large skipper - Andrew Middleton

Mon 9th June - Hemel Hempstead, got back from the allotment to find **4 painted ladies** at once all on red valerian. This is the greatest number that I have ever seen together since I started keeping records. Thought you might like to see the photo which my son David took with his digital camera - Malcolm Newland

At lunch time today I saw a painted lady in my **Ware** garden, and this afternoon a Red Admiral in **Widbury Hill** - Ian Edwards

Today, walking in the vicinity of **N.W.Bishop's Stortford**, **7 Small Tortoiseshells**, **3 Large Skipper**, 1 Common Blue, 4 Speckled Wood, 1 Brimstone, 1 Small Heath, 1 Painted Lady, **6 Red Admiral**, and **1 Cinnabar Moth**. Also in the **garden N.W.Bishop's Stortford**, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Painted Lady, and 1 Red Admiral, all were nectaring on a small Hebe - Jim Fish

Sun 8th June - A couple of Painted Lady sightings from this weekend: **Sat. 7th June: 1 Bentley Priory**, Middx - not obviously migrating. **Sun. 8th June: 1 Barnes WWT**, Surrey - flying east at high speed (wind assisted) - Andy Culshaw

Sat 7th June - Further to my recent notification of 164 Common Blues counted for Bunkers Park on 2 June, I have just been given CB figures which put mine in the shade. Dulcie & Tom Miller, co-walkers of the **Bunkers Park** transect, did a walk on the hot **Saturday, 31 May**, and counted over **400 Common Blues**. I find these numbers extraordinary in view of the very sharp drop in 2nd brood sightings I reported for August last year; have you any thoughts? Mike Pearson

Ramney Marsh East: Meadow brown (13.30hrs), 30+ common blues, two red admirals on bramble flowers. Also, three painted ladies from this site nectaring on bramble flowers on **5 June**, 09.30hrs - - Martin Shepherd

Today, whilst on dragonfly Atlas duty, I saw 1 Painted Lady, 1 Orange Tip and 2 Red Admiral at **Cave Bridge**, 1 Red Admiral at **Southfields Farm**, 1 Painted Lady at **Broadfield Hall**, 1 Peacock, 1 Red Admiral and 2 Orange Tip at **Southern Green** - Alan Reynolds

Alexandra Palace news from **5th June** - 5 Painted Ladies, 1 Red Admiral, 1 Peacock, 1 Small White, 1 Holly Blue, 2 Commas and 11 Speckled Wood - Diane Andrews (news by phone)

Thu 5th June & Fri 6th June, single Painted Ladies seen both days in **Welwyn Garden City** - one flying down the road as I returned from lunch, and the other from my office window, apparently undeterred by the wind and rain - Ian Small

News from **Monday 2 June**, I recorded **164 Common Blues** on my **Bunkers Park** transect. This is by far the highest single visit total during June that I've recorded since the transect started in 1999. I also note that this is still in week 9; in previous years, June peak counts have been during weeks 10 or 11 - Mike Pearson

Thurs 5th June - 1 Painted Lady basking on the track at **Kings Mead** - Alan Reynolds

At **Balls Wood** today I saw my first **Large Skipper and Meadow Browns** of the year (one of each), also a Small Tortoiseshell which is never numerous in the Wood. There were also a couple of Painted Ladies and as ever plenty of Speckled Woods. Also saw a Small Tortoiseshell in **Ware Park Road** on the **3rd**. - Andrew Wood

Trent Park & Vicarage Farm, Enfield, **male Meadow Brown, 29 small heath, 7 small copper, 8 painted lady**, emperor species of dragonfly, smallish, bright blue base to otherwise brown abdomen, seen for c5 minutes - Robert Callf

I've just counted 4 Painted Ladies in our front garden, here in **Harrow**, feeding on Red Valerian. Margaret and I saw 5+ on yellow rape flowers in the **Hampden Valley**, Bucks on **Tuesday** - John Hollingdale

On my way to check the "Palace trap" (**central Middlesex**) this morning there were no fewer than **17 Painted Ladies** on a probable *Buddleja alternifolia* plant growing in the garden. Many were very faded but some were remarkably fresh - Martin Honey

Saw my first Painted Lady of the year in my **Ware garden** this morning at 8.45 - Liz Goodyear

Tues 3rd June - I forgot to mention that I saw a **Meadow Brown** on **Sunday** too. It was flying down the main path from the car park at **College Lake** - Allen Beechey

Mon 2nd June - **Hemel Hempstead** garden, saw four Painted Ladies today, two were heading northwards in a hurry, one stopped briefly before carrying on, while the fourth one decided to stay for the afternoon, nectaring on Chives, Delphinium, Knautia, Sweet Rocket and pink, white and red Valerian. No other species seen - Malcolm Newland

Brimsgate, Middx, **3 painted ladies, 1 buttoned snout** flew onto a bush and wrapped itself around a twig - Andrew Middleton

News from Robert Callf - **The Trent Park area**. First a correction the Large Skipper was seen on the 26th May and not 27th. Robert was thrilled to report that he has confirmed his sighting of **2 Brown Argus** at Trent Park today. The first one was seen by Robert and Robin White on Friday but he/they were able to get a positive id today. This is a new species for the site. Also seen today, 3 Common Blue, **10 Silver Y moths**, and 1 Small Copper. **2 Large Skipper** were seen by Robin White today. On **30th May** Robert saw **9 Small Copper and 40 Small Heath** in less than one hour

Harold Court, Essex, **15 painted ladies, first meadow brown** - Colin Jupp

Today I saw **2 Painted Lady** in the MBDA car park at **Stevenage** and another at **Kings Mead** - Alan Reynolds

Today Mon, **2 Painted Lady's** in my garden **N.W.Bishop's Stortford** nectaring on Valerian and basking on Gravel. Possibly another migration coming up with the storm last night ? - Jim Fish

I went out on **Sunday** to **College Lake nr. Tring**, to look for, ...well anything small and airborne! Although the weather was brewing up for a storm I managed to see quite a bit. In total I saw **14 Small Blue** (see pictures), 30+ Common Blues, 1 Painted Lady, 1 Brimstone, 1 Female Orange Tip that failed to land thereby robbing me of the chance to complete Liz's photo challenge, 1 Speckled Wood and finally 1 male Chalkhill Blue. I am 105% certain of this last sighting as a) it landed on my foot! (almost!) and b) it was considerably larger than any of the Common Blues that

it was fly with. One of the reserve wardens had also seen one earlier in the week. Oh and still no Green Hairstreaks by the way!! :-(- Allen Beechey

North Harrow, Colin Plant has just informed me that the odd moth I sent to him on Sunday was an **Orange Footman**. This is a rare visitor to Middlesex. It turned up in my garden trap on Saturday night, **May 31st** - John Hollingdale

Sun 1st June - Hertford, it's all a bit worrying. After the early spots of rain, I started some gardening at 11.00am and carried on, with lunch in the garden, until 4.00pm when rain stopped play. In all that time, on a sometimes sunny and warm (24 degs C) day, I did not see a single butterfly. However, thanks to the photographs on the website, I was able to identify a **Burnet Companion** which settled on the grass - Alan Reynolds

East Warwick Res: Painted Lady - 1, **Lockwood Res:** Painted Lady - 5+. **31 May, Tottenham Marshes, Clouded Yellow** - David G Darrell-Lambert

May 2003

Sat 31st May - After 5 hours carrying out dragonfly Atlas work on a hot and sunny day in **TL33**, all I managed to see were 1 Large White at **Mardleybury Manor**, 1 Small White at **Gannock Green**, 1 Common Blue and 2 Orange Tip at Roe Green, 1 Red Admiral, 1 Peacock, 2 Orange Tip and 1 Large White at **Lyle End Farm** and 1 Orange Tip at **Hyde Hill Farm**. Fortunately, dragonflies were rather more numerous - Alan Reynolds

Sewardstone area: **1,260 common blues** between 15.45 and 18.00. Also two small coppers and painted lady - Martin Shepherd

I went over to **Ivinghoe Beacon** (UpperThames Branch NT site in North Bucks) today [May 31st] to see if the butterfly collectors were still around and am very pleased to report that none were seen. However, I did meet a lovely couple from BC's Suffolk Branch who were photographing Duke of Burgundy butterflies. We saw a freshly emerged male and, very pleasing, an egg-laying female. However, even more surprising was a very very early male **Dark Green Fritillary**. It's the first time I've ever seen Dukes & DG Frits on the same day on the same site. I also saw Green Hairstreak, Brown Argus, Common Blue, Brimstone, Small Heath & Large White - Dave Chandler

Ickleford: 2 Small Copper, 25 Common Blue, 1 Orange-tip, 2 Burnet Companion, 3 *Sitochroa verticalis* (pyralid). **Hexton Chalk Pit:** 1 Painted Lady, **2 Dingy Skipper**, 1 Silver-Y, 4 Common Blue, 1 Brimstone in a brief visit (me, not the Brimstone), **Pegsdon:** 1 Painted Lady, 6 Small Heath and over just the border nearby 1 Green Hairstreak, 1 Mother Shipton, 1 Dingy Skipper. Over the border at **Sharpenhoe:** **8 Small Blue (plus 3 eggs)**, 1 Painted Lady, 1 Green Hairstreak, 2 Dingy Skipper, 22 Small Heath, 1 Mother Shipton, quite a few Common Blue - Andrew Palmer

Wed 28th May - I went up to **Tring Park** this evening to look for Grizzled Skipper and Green Hairstreak. Missed out on the Hairstreaks again but did find one very photogenic **Grizzled Skipper** along with **3 Dingy Skipper**, 5 Common Blues and 1 Large White. I did also find three Red Admiral Caterpillars up at the top of the site and several 5 spot Burnet moth caterpillars pupating on grass stems. I also saw a interesting green moth that I couldn't identify. Any ideas? (*Its a Green Carpet, see below*) - Allen Beechey

Frogmore Quarry: In good sunshine only one **Grizzled Skipper** seen after one hour search. Also seen **Common Blue 10, Brown Argus 1**, Small White 1, Orange Tip 1. **26th May, Wheathampstead Education Centre:** **Common Blue 8**, Large White 1, Orange Tip 3 (one feeding from Ragged Robin). Day flying moths Burnet Companion 4, **Cinnabar 1** and a Burnet caterpillar - Trevor Chapman

Tues 27th May - News via Robert Callf, **Trent Park** area **1 Large Skipper** seen by Robin White (*now confirmed as being seen on the 26th May*)

'Quote of the week' from Alan Reynolds - "Anything about Alison?" " Not really, apart from the Green Hairstreaks in my garden." Alison Jones, Holme Norfolk WT, 26th May 2003

Mon 26th May - Ivinghoe, 4 Duke of Burgundy, 1 Brimstone, 2 Common Blue, 2 Brown Argus, Burnet Companion and Mother Shipton moths but no sign of Green Hairstreak. Nearly forgot, lots of Small Heath - Malcolm Newland

Tingley Wood (Highdown), nice to find at least one **Green Hairstreak** in it's traditional spot on the slope - Stuart Pittman

Sun 25th May - Wheathampstead Education Centre: Common Blue 4, Orange Tip 2 - Trevor Chapman

Sewardstone area - 200+ common blues in an hour, also one or two orange tip, large white, peacock and small tortoiseshell. Found brimstone larvae on alder buckthorn and 'my' painted lady (*see image below*) caterpillar is feasting back home on its thistle. Hatched after a week and is now about 6mm long a week later - Andrew Middleton

Sat 24th May - Barton-le-clay: Green Hairstreak 1, Brimstone 4, Dingy Skipper 1, Common Blue 2, Brown Argus 1, Small Heath 3, Large White 1, Orange Tip 2, Common Heath moths 5. **Sharpenhoe Clappers:** Dingy Skipper 2, Common Blue 5, Small Heath 6, Peacock 4, Brimstone 5, Orange Tip 2, Painted Lady 2, Holly Blue 1, plus one probable female Common Heath moth - Trevor Chapman

Ickleford, nice to see a pristine **Brown Argus** at the site today always scarce hereabouts - Stuart Pittman

Fri 23rd May - As a result of perfectly timing my free time and holidays with the worst of British weather, I haven't had the chance to visit any local butterfly sites until recently. Today, though I managed to pay a visit to Aldbury Nowers and a little known site called the Aston Clinton Rag Pits (in Bucks). In the short periods of sunshine I managed to see; **Aldbury Nowers:- 2 Male and 1 female Common Blues** (see pictures), **3 Brown Argus** (one sat still for long enough to have its photo taken!), a Small Heath, 1 Brimstone & 1 Large White. All were seen on the isolated area of grassland in Turlhanger Wood. However, I singularly failed to see my target species; Green Hairstreak and Grizzled Skipper. **Aston Clinton Rag**

Pits:- Just over the border in the badlands of Bucks, this is a cracking little site which as far as I know is relatively unknown to Butterfly recorders. In a brief sunny interlude 8 male and 2 female Common Blues appeared along with 2 Dingy Skippers. The female Common Blues at this site seem to possess a wide variety in wing pattern between individuals (see pictures) - Allen Beechey

Thurs 22nd May - In the recent fine spell before the rains came I visited 35 Tetrads in under-recorded areas of Herts. and recorded Orange Tips in 30 Tetrads, Peacock in 16, Small White in 11, Green Veined White in 9, Brimstone & Small Tortoiseshell in 8, Large White in 7, Holly Blue in 5, Red Admiral in 2, & Comma in 1. Most were singles and there were rarely more than 3 of any species at any site. Many of the sites are roadside verges with Garlic Mustard. I have records of most of these sites from 1985 & 1986 when recording for Brian Sawford's book and I remember seeing swarms of Orange Tips on many of these roadside verges then, but unfortunately we did not record numbers. The very thin scattering of butterflies now was noticeable - Charles Smith

A nice surprise to see a Painted Lady on **Rothamsted Farm** on May 21st. It didn't seem to be going anywhere - Michael Healy

Wed 21st May - Trent Park area, Silver Y, 5 burnet companion moths, several mother shiptons, **7 small copper, 11 small heath**, speckled wood, small yellow underwing. **9 common blues** on old golf course, painted lady - Robert Callf, also Robin White

Cheshunt Park area, over approx 2 hours period came across 1 Mother Shipton, 2 Burnet Companion, 9 Small Yellow Underwing moths, 4 Small Copper, 2 Small Heath, 1 Peacock and 6 Common Blue including a female - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

Grizzled Skipper at **Bunkers Park, Hemel Hempstead**. On **Thursday 15 May**, at about 15h30, I had just completed an uneventful transect walk and was putting off a few spare minutes walking through the meadow which is bounded by sections 1-3 of the transect route. I saw this small brown butterfly/moth flying very close to the ground through the longer grasses. It settled quite near me on a grass stem and I was able to approach within a couple of feet (I could even have touched it) before it flew off. It was obviously a butterfly, not a moth; at rest it held its wings in a "V" position and gently opened and closed them. The underside of the wings was a mottled pale brown; the upper side, which I could not see all of, appeared to be dark chocolate brown (not black) with vividly contrasting white spots; the description "chequered" pattern seemed entirely appropriate. A confirmatory sighting of a single Grizzled Skipper was made in the same area on the following **Saturday, the 17th**, by Dulcie & Tom Miller, who also walk my transect - Michael Pearson

Orange Tips at **Amwell Pit** including a female egg -laying on Wild Turnip (16th May) - Nigel Agar

Sun 18th May - Pegsdon Hills Rather disturbingly - no GHs on their master hedge on the **15th**. Perfect day in high season. Possibly heavy rain squalls had wiped out the individuals seen on the 4 - 5 May. Also an assiduous party of Long tailed Tits were working the site! **Brown Argus** on **Telegraph Hill** - Nigel Agar

Fri 16th May - There were **Painted Ladies** on **Thursday 15th May** at **Shenleybury and Radlett** - Colin Everett

Here's yesterday's sightings in the **Bishops Stortford area**, 1 Holly Blue (Kent Crescent), 1, Brimstone (Cambridge Road) and a white species in West Road - Nick Sampford

Thurs 15th May - Broxbourne Wood NR - 2 speckled woods nectaring on garlic mustard, **c10 speckled yellows**, **2 mother shiptons**, orange tip, large white, couldn't find any grizzled skippers - Andrew Middleton

Finally last week saw 5 Speckled woods in **Darlands NR** on **Tuesday 7th** at between 1/1.30pm - Frank Johnson

Had three butterflies yesterday and here goes: Male orange tip **Sandon**, Painted Lady at **Ashwell** and Green-veined White at **Buntingford** - Nick Sampford

MIGRANT BUTTERFLIES - There have been reports of Painted Lady and other migrant species over the weekend, so as usual, when you see a migrant species, record the direction of flight as exactly as possible. If several keep appearing, switch to the stopwatch function on your wristwatch (if you have one) and time the flight over two identifiable boundaries, such as the two sides of a garden, which can then be used to get the flight speed. Other information such as wind direction, wind speed (Beaufort scale - see transect instructions on the website) and weather conditions are also useful.

TRANSECT WALKERS NEEDED - Denis Shepperson will be unable to walk The Warren and Colney Heath transects next year. These were among the first transects to be established in Hertfordshire - in 1991 and 1992 respectively, and are thus important when measuring long-term trends in species abundance. If you can help, either by taking over, or just standing in to walk the transect now and then, please let me know. The transects are both near Smallford, which is close enough to Hatfield, St Albans, Welwyn or Potters Bar -John Murray

Wed 14th May - Just a single butterfly species to report from urban Middlesex **a male Common Blue** was seen in **The Natural History Museum Wildlife Garden** yesterday (**13/5/03**) and, despite last night's heavy rain, it was still there **this morning at 7am** - tightly hugging a flower stalk - Martin Honey

Mon 12th May - I saw a painted lady on **5/5/03** adjacent to **Aldbury Nowers**, and **two Green Hairstreaks** on **9/5/03** along with another **grizzled skipper** in a different part of the site than before. Several possible dingy skippers but I remain to be convinced they are not moths - Martin Hicks

Sat 10th May - Horsenden Hill Butterfly News; Small Copper (3), Common Blue (3), Orange Tip (4), Large White (1), Green-veined White (2), Peacock (1), unidentified White (Small/G-veined)(2) - Andy Culshaw

Had my first red admiral of the year - it was at **Sewardstone Marsh**, Essex, on **9 May** at 10.15hrs, flying north before settling some distance away - Martin Shepherd

Fri 9th May -Trent Park area 29 small heath, 10 small coppers 1 red admiral, **3 painted ladies**, Also holly blue, 3 small tortoiseshell. - R Callf

Small Heath (2) Common Blue (1) Mother Shipton (3) - lunchtime today on site at work in **Stevenage** - Trevor Chapman

A day off work allowed me to walk the **Highdown** transect, a lovely **Wall** at the top of the Lane and a bonus Painted lady flying. No green Hairstreaks yet though at Tingley wood slope, it is very scrubbed up there now - Stuart Pittman

Thurs 8th May - Searched for Green Hairstreaks and Dukes at **Ivinghoe Beacon yesterday**. Perfect weather but no sightings. Did not check Bison Hill - Nigel Agar

One (probably more but only saw one at a time) at **Marsworth reservoir** in the reed bed on **Sunday**. Also present speckled wood, green veined white - Ian Burrus

Yesterday, Wednesday, on a walk between **Wickham Hall and Bourne Brook** nr Bishop's Stortford, 1 Painted Lady, 1 Small Tortoiseshell (Egg Laying), 1 Brimstone, 5 Orange Tips and 2 Small Whites - Jim Fish (*sorry Jim missed this one, if anyone sent in anything and it's not up - please shout!*)

Wed 7th May - Trent Park area, Vicarage Farm 6 painted ladies. Trent Park 'new fields' - 20 small heath, 4 small copper. Also red admiral, brimstone and c 5 small tortoiseshell - Robert Callf

Yardley Hill, Epping Forest 1 painted lady - Andrew Middleton. Also visited **Waterford Heath/Rickneys** area today, a controlled field walk near railway line in **North Pit**, lasting about an hour produced **10 Grizzled Skipper with 2 more** right up in the north end. **Rickneys**, 1 Small Copper, "**several**" **Painted Ladies**, 1 Red Admiral, Peacocks, whites, Orange Tips (male + female), Brimstones, 2 Holly Blue, 2 Small Tortoiseshell, and the following moths - **several Small Yellow Underwing, 1 Latticed Heath, Burnet Companion and Mother Shipton** - Andrew Middleton and Liz Goodyear

Spent 2 hours up at Waterford (south pit) today and saw **9+ grizzled skippers, 2 small coppers, 20+ orange tips**, 3 brimstone, 2 large white, 10+ peacocks, 1 small tortoiseshell, 10 whites (either green veined or small) - Nick Sampford

Hemel Hempstead garden, first male Brimstone seen since 4th April stopped to nectar on Honesty flowers. My first **Red Admiral** of the season paused briefly before continuing its northward progress. Many Orange -Tips seen with an increasing number of females, also Small and Green-Veined Whites. Forget-Me-Nots equalling Honesty in popularity - Malcolm Newland

Frogmore Quarry nr Stevenage lunchtime today 7/5/03. **Small Copper (1)**, Green Veined White (1), Small White (3), Speckled Wood (1), Peacock (1) and **Common Blue (4)**. Then what I was looking for.....**Grizzled Skippers grand total of 16**. Oh, and 3 burnt-out cars - Trevor Chapman

Three Green Hairstreaks yesterday at the usual master hedge site on the **Pegsdon Hills**. Not easy to see as the hawthorn there is only just coming out and that is where they were nectaring. They seem to take no notice of the Wayfaring Tree which has been out some time. **Dingy Skipper** also present on old chalk pit and **Small Heath** on new grassland. **Unfortunately all the sightings were on the Beds side of the border**. I think we must think of **Telegraph/Pegsdon** as one site. Orange Tip also and Holly Blue reported - Nigel Agar

A very good start to the season, significant rise in brimstone sightings - (from nil). I seem to be finding them all over the place. Also early holly blues + painted ladies flying north (at speed) yesterday, both on the **North Enfield Transect** and in **St. Albans** (whilst playing cricket) - Phil MacMurdie

Tues 6th May - One **Painted Lady** on the **Meads near Sacred Heart school at Ware** about 17:00 today - Andrew Wood

Bedfords Park, (Essex) 10 species of butterfly inc **red admiral**, holly blue, small tortoiseshell, small copper - C Jupp

Trent Park/Vic Farm total 12 species of butterfly inc **4 small coppers, 15 small heaths, 20 speckled woods, painted lady** (Trent and one Vic farm) - Robert Callf & Robin White

Benington Monday pm, farmland: **2 Painted Ladies** along with more usual of which Small Tortoiseshell most numerous - P. Smith

Hemel Hempstead garden, had my first **Painted Lady** this year, 9.30a.m. which stopped to nectar on Viburnum Carlecephalum before continuing its flight northwards. At lunchtime had four Orange Tips in view at once including a pair mating on a Garlic Mustard plant (good choice!). Plenty of Holly Blues on warmer days plus a few whites - Malcolm Newland

3 Painted Ladies seen today all in the vicinity of **Bishop's Stortford** - Jim Fish

Ware Old Lea - This morning I saw one male Orange Tip, noticeably smaller than others I have seen in this area - Ian Edwards

I had **two Painted Ladies** yesterday **5th May: Perivale Wood**, Middlesex - the insect was stationary (it was early and quite cool!) although was doing some sunning. **Broadwater Gravel Pit**, Middlesex). This one was on nettles at the side of the River Colne but then flew out of sight (heading west and gaining altitude over trees) very rapidly - Andy Culshaw

Mon 5th May - Trent Park area, 3 Small Heath, 2 Small Copper. 2 Painted Ladies one Trent Park Church wood area, one Vicarage Farm - Robert Callf, also Robert reports that John Whiteman saw a **Small Heath** at Trent Park on **Sunday**

Saw a **Painted Lady** and **Red Admiral** spiralling together today on **Patmore Heath** - Gavin Vicary

Brimsdown (Mossops Creek) 3 Orange Tips - Helen Bantock

Nice views of **Painted Lady** today at **Tyttenhanger**. Definite near A414 entrance to Fishing club. Then another probable in a rape field between **Tyttenhanger Farm and Colney Heath** - Rupert Pyrah

On a lovely sunny day, if a bit windy, (**May 4**) I saw 4 large whites, 3 small whites, 3 orange tips (2 male, 1 female) 10 peacocks and 8 small tortoiseshells. This was on my usual walk along a farm footpath in **Maple Cross**. I also spotted 3 groups of caterpillars on nettles, quite small still, but almost certainly tortoiseshells not peacocks. I will keep an eye on their progress! - Ann Piper

Red Admiral, 1; Whitehall **Bishops Stortford, Painted Lady 2 Near Bishop's Stortford** - Looks as if you were right, migrants have come in in the last two days - Jim Fish

Wall Brown sunning in pathway leading to flood channel South end of **William Girling Reservoir** (just Middx!) - Tony Clancy (*Tony has told Andrew Middleton many times that Wall was fairly common around south end of WG Res not so long ago {in early 1990s}*)

Sun 4th May - Along the bank of the River Stort **N.W. Bishop's Stortford** today **two Red Admirals**, and numerous Orange Tips all Male - Jim Fish

At **Kings Mead** today, on a very warm and sunny but windy day, I managed to see 1 Brimstone, 20 White sp, 1 Small White, 1 Large White, 7 Orange Tip, 1 Blue sp (presumably Holly), 1 Small Tortoiseshell and 1 Peacock - Alan Reynolds

Out a bit today and saw the following: Bengoe St, **Hertford** Holly Blue 1; **Sacombe Rd Bengoe** Holly Blue 1, Orange Tip 1; **Waterford Heath South Pit Grizzled Skipper 1**, Speckled Wood 1; **Waterford Heath North Pit** Large White 1, Brimstone 1, Orange Tip 1, Green-veined White 1, **Ware Lock** Orange Tip 2 Peacock 2; **Mead Lane Hertford** Orange Tip 1; **Meads near end of Mead lane Hertford Red Admiral 1**; **Ware Park Red Admiral 1**, Peacock 1, Green-veined White 1, Waterford Heath South Pit Peacock 1 - Andrew Wood

Nomansland Common near Wheathampsted - 1 Small Copper - Robert Callf

Fri 2nd May - Had a **Wall Brown** at **Rainham Marshes** on **Wednesday** - Howard Vaughan

I saw an Orange Tip while I was working in my mother's garden (Violet Chandler) in **King's Langley** on Wednesday afternoon (**30th April**) - Dave Chandler

Thurs 1st May - Bishops Stortford, my first Speckled Wood of the year in my garden this morning, choosing the compost heap / wood pile to enjoy a brief spell of sunshine - Andrew Hardacre

Ware garden, a strange event this year - a butterfly - 1 Comma at lunchtime - Liz Goodyear

April 2003

Wed 30th April - 2 Orange Tips today at **Great Hormead** one of each sex - Nick Sampford

Tues 29th April - Ware Old lea Two male Orange Tips this morning - Ian Edwards.

Green Hairstreaks active on the **Pegsdon Hills** this afternoon. None seen at Telegraph Hill or Hoo Bit on the Herts side but the weather was not ideal and I don't know where there is a 'master bush' in this area - unless of course there is just the one that we know about on the Beds side where all the males congregate - Nigel Agar

Trent Park area, 4 Orange Tip - Robert Callf

Mon 28th April - Aldbury Nowers transect (**27th**), thought you might be interested to know that I recorded at least one confirmed **grizzled skipper** on the very last stretch, which I was quite pleased with. I have never seen one before, but clear ID - it was on my finger at one point - Martin Hicks

Sat 26th April - I am still walking over Darlands Nature Reserve, but as yet nothing to report, seen a few butterflies on way over. On Tuesday **22 April** I was in **Mill Hill** and saw two Orange Tips around ten past one - Frank Johnson

Wed 23rd April - Essex, Noak Hill area various sites, **30+ orange tips** inc. 9 males and a female around lady's smock in sheltered spot by farm. 2 brimstone, 8 green-veined.whites, **12 speckled woods**, several peacocks, only single small tortoiseshell, comma and holly blue - Colin Jupp

Rickneys Quarry area, 1 Small Copper - Andrew Middleton and C. Shepperson

Just back from **Waterford Heath, 2 Grizzled Skipper** on north pit near railway line (one was malformed!), left Andrew Middleton and C. Shepperson looking for more although South pit on Sacombe Road side had earlier drawn a blank - Liz Goodyear

Whilst searching the surrounding countryside for JM's elusive Orange-tips, I saw an early **Small Copper** on a site alongside Oxhey Lane near **Watford**. Incidentally I evicted the fourth *Aphomia sociella* (Bee Moth) from our front room this morning. Must be a bee-nest under the floorboards - John Hollingdale

Saw the first **Grizzled Skipper** on the **Waterford North** transect yesterday - Richard Bigg

Tues 22nd April - I'm back at work now and I'm buzzing around the countryside, seen today. **Orange Tips** seen at **Thundridge** [1 m], **Braughing** [2m], 5 between **Braughing and Furneux Pelham** [4m 1f], **Ware** [1 m], **Tonwell** [1 m], **Sacombe park** [2m 1f]. **Bennington** [2 m]. Green-veined white and holly blue at Park Road, **Ware**. 2 small white together at **Furneux Pelham** - Nick Sampford

I saw my first Holly Blue of the year today at lunch time. It was flying round a hawthorn in the car park at the **University of Hertfordshire**. Denis saw his first Holly Blue of the season on his transect at **Smallford Lake** in TL10Y, together with his **first Small Coppers (2)** - C. Shepperson

Mon 21st April - **c20 larvae of white-letter hairstreak** on just the lower seeds and bursting leaves of a roadside elm between the King George and William Girling Reservoirs (**Ponders End**) - Andrew Middleton

Over a period of 2 hours at **Kings Mead** today, I saw 3 Small Tortoiseshell, 2 White sp, 1 Small White, 4 Orange Tip and 1 Peacock - Alan Reynolds

Denis and I took advantage of the warm weather on **Good Friday** to explore parts of East Herts for butterflies. We visited some well known sites as well as some more off the beaten track. Here are the results, some of the Brimstone or Orange Tip records from the NE of the County might fill in a tetrad or two. **Bencroft Wood** (TL3206) - one each of Peacock, Small White, Gv White, Speckled Wood, with lots of Lily of the Valley on the banks of the pond (not yet in flower) and a lot of flowering Oxalis.

Broxbourne Woods - (TL3206) - One Speckled Wood, 2 Peacocks, 2 male Orange Tips, lots of fragile Wood anemones in flower and a Grass snake a good 18" long swimming in the pond.

Much Hadham - (TL4216), a male and female Orange Tip on a lovely stand of Cuckoo Flower on the roadside verge just north of Hadham Mill. **Hadham Mill** - (TL4216) - 4 Orange Tips, 2 GV Whites, 1 Peacock and 2 male Brimstone's. **Hadham Hall** - (TL4422) - Only a Brimstone and 2 Comma's despite bright sunshine and a nice sheltered area of flowery scrubland, which ought to have attracted something! Despite Jack by the Hedge being in evidence along 'The Causeway' nearby, there were no Orange Tips

At **Patmore Heath**, (TL4424), where sheep were grazing peacefully behind an electric fence on part of the site, we only saw a **single Large White** fly swiftly by - no other butterflies although the sun was blazing down. As we drove further north we saw a few butterflies 'en passant' all in, or around, **Stocking Pelham**. At (**TL4226**) we saw a single male Brimstone and at (**TL4428**) two male Orange Tips - C & D Shepperson

Sun 20th April - **Horsenden Hill** butterfly news, **Friday (18th)** a good butterfly walk in the sunny conditions, with 5 Orange Tips, a Brimstone, 2 Holly Blue, and multiple Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell, Comma, Speckled Wood, a Green-veined White, and a **Large White**. Bluebells are almost at their peak in Perivale Wood if anyone fancies a look - Andy Culshaw

Sat 19th April - **First Dukes and Grizzled Skippers seen in the Upper Thames region** - news from Tom Dunbar UTB webmaster. I saw first Dukes of Burgundy in Bucks yesterday. April 18th. Sharpenhoe - The first Green Hairstreak of the season was seen pumping up its wings on a Hawthorn bush. David & Peter Chandler.

12 April - **Whomerley Wood, Stevenage**. 2 Speckled Wood **18 April** - **Whomerley Wood, Stevenage**. 1 Orange Tip together with 10 Speckled Wood - Peter Clarke

Essex news, Harold Court - Tylers Common, Butterfly totals for day various places **1 large white**, 6+ small white, 3 green-veined white, 8 orange tips, 3 holly blue, 3 small tortoiseshell, c20 peacock, 5+ comma, 10+ speckled woods, Colin Jupp

Essex news, Fairlop 2 orange tips, **Hainault**, brimstone, 2 orange tips. - **Sewardstone**, total 8 species of butterfly including **Large White** (missed out on small white and small tort) - sightings by Alan Bell

Fri 18th April - Don't forget the 2003 SPRING CHALLENGE - The 2000-2002 Herts & Middx distribution map for Orange Tip is now online. Please look at it and try and visit as many of the empty tetrads NEAR YOU as possible during the next few weeks. Please email John Murray if you would like more information - Liz Goodyear

>Reported on the UKleps, Grizzled Skipper seen in Cambridgeshire today

Aston End, 4 Brimstones (3m 1f) **3 Orange Tip** (2male **1 female**), 1 Green-veined white, 1 Small White, **Thundridge**, 2 Brimstone (m & f) and Small White and Brimstones at **Tonwell** (2 male) and **Watton at stone by pass** (m & f) - Nick Sampford

Thurs 17th April - Bennington - 1 Orange Tip, **Dane End**, 1 Orange Tip and Brimstone - Nick Sampford

A brisk 20 minute walk in **Broxbourne Woods** resulted in; one Holly Blue, one Speckled Wood, two Peacocks, one Orange Tip and an unidentified white - Roger Newbold

Visited one of John's empty tetrads **on 15th. (TL3416 - off B158 between Wadesmill and Tonwell)** saw no Orange tips but did see the following, Peacock 4, Brimstone 1, S/Green-Vein White 2, Speckled Wood 1, Comma 1, and best of all two Small Tortoiseshells. Is this a sign of their return? - Richard Bigg

Wed 16th April, Lots of butterfly news from Nick Sampford. **16th April, Bennington:** 4 Brimstone (3 male 1 female), 2 whites, Green-veined White. **Ware:** 1 male Brimstone, **Cold Christmas:** 1 male Brimstone, 1 white, 1 male Orange Tip. **A10 by Hanbury Manor:** 1 male Brimstone, 1 male Orange Tip. **Much Hadham:** 1 male Brimstone, 1 male Orange Tip. **Thundridge:** 1 male Brimstone, 2 whites. **15th April, Bennington** 2 Brimstone, m & f, 3 whites, Holly Blue. **Tonwell:** 2 Brimstone male, **Thundridge:** 1 male Brimstone, Ware: 1 female Brimstone, white (poss female Orange Tip), Small Tortoiseshell, **A10 by Hanbury Manor:** 1 male Brimstone, **Dane End:** male Brimstone. **Aston:** 1 white

2 PM today, I saw my first Small White, it was flying through **Finsbury Circus, London** - Dave Chandler

KGV Reservoir area 4 Small tortoiseshells, peacock, male brimstone - Robert Callf.

Trent Park area, 2 brimstones Robin White

Yates/Yardley Hill, 8 speckled woods, holly blue, brimstone, 4 peacock, comma, green-veined and small whites - Andrew Middleton

On **Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th April** I went to the **St. Albans Watercress Beds LNR** and saw the following: Comma x 2, **Red Admiral x 1**, **Small tortoiseshell x 3**, at least 4 x Peacock, Small white x 1, Brimstone x 2 and 1 x Orange tip butterfly - Chris Bowden

Ware - Week 3 of the Transect season, and I have just seen my first butterfly, a Brimstone! An awful start to the year - Liz Goodyear

Sun 13th April - Fishers Green, Essex: **Orange tip**, mid-afternoon, just north of car park on track up to sailing club. Also **Speckled Wood** near **Holyfield Weir** - Martin Shepherd

Trueloves, Epping Forest, Male Brimstone and 3 Peacocks - Helen Bantock

Three butterflies seen in **Vi Chandler's garden in King's Langley** on **Saturday 12th April**: A Peacock, a Comma and a freshly emerged male **Holly Blue** who posed, wings slightly open, on the gooseberry bushes in the warm sunshine - David Chandler

Several sightings of **Holly Blue** in **Ponders End** garden - Andrew Middleton

During 3 hours of recce work in TL33 for the Dragonfly Atlas yesterday (**12th April**) on a beautiful day, all I saw was a Peacock at **Southern Green** and a long distance high speed white. And **today**, during 4 hours of gardening in **Horns Mill, Hertford** on a sunny and warm but windy day, I did not see a single butterfly - Alan Reynolds

Sat 12th April - After looking at your distribution map for **Orange Tips** for 2000-02 we went to **Lemsford Mill in TL21B** and saw **two males** together with 4 Peacocks and a Comma just over the River amongst scrub and brambles at the start of the footpath across Brocket Park. So that's one less tetrad to cover! D & C Shepperson

Just a record of a Brimstone in my **Tewin** garden, early afternoon - Les Borg

Tue 8th April, Speckled Wood at **Weald Park**, Essex - Colin Jupp

Mon 7th April, Small Tortoiseshell at **Brimdown**, Enfield - Andrew Middleton.

Sat 5th April - Sewardstone Marsh, Essex: Had a productive couple of hours this afternoon, 13.15-15.15, in warm, sunny conditions with a slight northerly breeze. Saw **14 peacocks, 13 commas, 11 small whites, four brimstones, two holly blues, two small tortoiseshells, and a speckled wood** - Martin Shepherd

Ware, Widbury Hill two Brimstones, one in the morning along the river. One in the afternoon by the allotments. Also one Peacock. Ian Edwards

Sighted **Waterford**; - Brimstone, Peacock and Comma - Richard Bigg

Holcroft Springs is a woodland area between Harpenden and Kimpton where I do a transect. It is currently a sea of Wood Anemone and I was delighted today to see a **Speckled Wood** nectaring on one of the flowers - Michael Healy

Trent Park area - Small tortoiseshell, **Green-veined white** & peacock - Robert Callf

Sewardstone Marsh, 2 speckled wood - Andrew Middleton, Helen Bantock, Tony Clancy

Orange tip in **Ponders End** garden - Andrew Middleton

Nothing in my Ware garden - Liz Goodyear!

Fri 4th April - Speckled Wood at **Garston** near Watford today - Colin Everett

While at work today released small tortoiseshell from shed and saw my first **speckled wood** of year, both **Kings Langley**. Released 2 peacocks from another shed and saw an **orange tip** in **Abbots Langley**, all today - Clive Burrows

1 Small White south end **W. Girling Reservoir** this afternoon. Tony Clancy

Trent Park area, total 6 Peacock & 4 Comma - Robert Callf

Essex news, Rochetts Farm 3 small whites, small tortoiseshell. **Noak Hill** 4 peacock, comma. **Priors GC** 3 small white, 4 peacock - Colin Jupp

North Harrow, a **Speckled Wood** turned up in the garden just now. First sighting for me - John Hollingdale

At **Kings Mead** today, on a sunny day with a cool breeze, 1 Comma, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Peacock and 2 male Brimstone - Alan Reynolds and C.Shepperson

Fishers Green, Essex: small white at 12.22 between Bittern Watchpoint car-park and the left turn to Hayes Hill Farm - Martin Shepherd

Todays sightings from Nick Sampford, Brimstone (2 males together) and a Peacock at **Thundridge**, and a female Brimstone **Hanbury Manor** (by A10).

Thurs 3rd April - On April 1st, UK-Leps reported that 2 Green Hairstreak were seen at Eldwick (VC64) on 30th March. Nigel Agar (Species Co-ordinator) asks "All members please look out for them"

March 2003

Just a reminder that in the butterfly world, April 1st has another significance: the start of the transect season. If you need recording sheets or transect instructions, these are downloadable from the website at HERE - It's perfect weather for it at the moment - I hope that doesn't mean rain tomorrow **Remember that this year, each week starts on a Tuesday**. If you are planning to start a transect, please read through the transect instructions (on the website) thoroughly before doing so. And if you live near Highdown (north Hertfordshire), Therfield Heath (near Royston), or the St Albans area, we do need someone to help with important transects there. Similarly, if you would like to help with a transect but cannot commit yourself to doing it every week, please let me know as there are plenty of transects near you that need the odd week filling in during holidays etc. Best of luck for a sunny, butterfly-friendly summer - John Murray

Mon 31st March - On walk around footpath near farmland in **Maple Cross** on last day of March saw a small white, 2 commas, **5 peacocks** and **over 20 small tortoiseshells** many flying in pairs or even threes! - Ann Piper

Ware area, my attempt to see 10 species in March failed but I did reach eight with a **Green-veined White** in The Hyde, Ware and best of all a **male Orange Tip** feeding on aubrieta in the garden of a flat in Broadmeads, Ware. I also saw Brimstone, Peacock, Comma and Small Tortoiseshell in various parts of Ware this lunchtime - Andrew Wood

Some recent sightings from Nick Sampford - **Today**, 2 small whites (**Ware & Thundridge**), **female brimstone (Bishops Stortford)**, **Holly Blue (Wadesmill)**. **Sunday 30th**, 1 small white (**Thundridge**), 1 Brimstone (**Rib valley**)

Trent Park, 2 Small Tortoiseshells - R Callf

Bernard Page wrote "After helping at the Disabled Garden with the Wednesday Club, I walked round the garden at **Capel Manor, Enfield** and was lucky to see feeding in full sunshine on aubrieta and magnolia, 2 Comma and 2 Peacock butterflies on **27th March** at 1.30pm"

Sun 30th March - Walthamstow Marshes, Peacock; 2 Small Tortoiseshells. chasing; Small White - Jeremy Gaskell

1 Speckled Wood Coppetts Wood today -Tony Clancy

Holly Blue of my own at home here in **Tring** today. Usual other hibernators as well (i.e. not Red Admiral) Nick Bowles

Brimsgate, 2 Small White, Peacock. Essex - Long Running 2 Peacock. Sewardstone Marsh 2 Brimstone, c5 Peacock, 5 Comma, 2 Small White, 2 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Speckled Wood. Tristan & Helen Bantock, Andrew Middleton

North Harrow - saw a **Holly Blue** in the garden today, but no sign of Speckled Woods yet - John Hollingdale

An earlyish **Small white** at the Valley School wildlife garden, **Stevenage** on **27th March**, and a very nice count of **15 Brimstones** at my **Ickleford** site on **23rd March**. Roll on the spring for Small Blues - Stuart Pittman

Ware garden, virtually no butterflies apart from a **Small White**, but later visits from a male Brimstone, Comma and a pair of Peacock either clashing or pre mating but not totally sure what the behaviour indicated! - Liz Goodyear

Fri 28th March - There was a **Painted Lady** at **Langleybury** near Watford on Thursday afternoon (**27th**). Also **Red Admirals** at three sites on **23rd-24th** and an unidentified white sp near Watford on 26th - Colin Everett (***There have been several reports of migrants so we'd better keep our eyes peeled for immigrant species generally.*** - John Murray)

Tring town - John Wyatt rang to say that he had seen a **Green-veined White** on **18th March**. Also **Red Admiral** on **18th March**, **Small Tortoiseshell**, **15th March** and **Brimstone** since the **15th March**

Henry Stroyan rang to say that he saw a **Red Admiral** on **25th January** on his patio before it flew off over **Harpenden Common**. He has also seen **2 Brimstone**, **2 Comma**, **2 Small Tortoiseshell** and a **Peacock** in the last week

Belated news from **Hampton Hill**. Two & half sightings so far this year; much earlier for me personally than last year - but that's down to awareness more than anything, I suspect. The "half" sighting was too distant to ID so I'm down to two: **Comma: 16th March**, basking in the sun on earth in flower beds. Quick feed from a daff then off over the fence. **Comma: 18th March** and possibly same individual. Weather on both days fine, sunny and still - Amit Chaudhuri

One **Comma** at Watery Grove, **Newton Green** lunchtime today - Trevor Chapman

Thurs 27th March - **Trent Park area**, **5 Small Tortoiseshell**, **Small White**, **2 Comma** - Robert Callf

I saw a couple of **Small Whites** in the vicinity of **Harefield yesterday** but they are probably not the first sightings this year. A **Brimstone** also visited our **Harrow** garden **last weekend**: a welcome sign of spring - John Hollingdale.

Wed 26th March - On **Sunday**, I walked the **Aldbury Nowers** transect (*Allan will be walking the transect this year*) and saw **2 Commas** (both male I think as they had both set up territories with favourite perches. I have enclosed a photo of one of them plus the resident!), **3 Brimstones** and **1 Small Tortoiseshell**. I'll keep you posted on developments at this site throughout the year! I have also enclosed a picture of a Male Brimstone that I took this past weekend in my garden in **Chesham** (Bucks). It was determined to have a midday kip under an Ivy leaf so I took advantage of it and took a shot or two - Allan Beechey

Ware garden - Another butterfly at last, **1 Peacock** - Liz Goodyear

Tues 25th March - **Harold Wood** area **6 Comma**, **4 Peacock**, and in garden **2 Comma & Peacock** - Colin Jupp

1 Small White, Wengeo Lane, **Ware**, **1 Red Admiral Hanbury Manor**. I don't think I have ever seen 6 species in March before and still a few days to go! Andrew Wood

Comma at Fairlands valley park, **Stevenage** - Trevor Chapman

Mon 24th March - Had a **Holly Blue** today at **Stanstead Abbots gravel pits**. It was found by Simon Rasch while we were photographing great crested grebes and id by **ME**, also a brown butterfly probably a Peacock - Nick Sampford

Well a slow start but **15 Brimstones** at **Ickleford** on the **23rd** must be worth a mention a solitary **Small Tortoiseshell** was my first of year and the usual **Comma** duo - Stuart Pittman

Some news from Valerie Fullforth - **6th March, Hitchin garden, Comma; 23rd March, Patmore Heath NR, 4 Brimstone and 1 Comma, West of Patmore Heath, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, South of Furneaux Pelham, 1 Peacock**

Sun 23rd March - **Wheathampstead** garden, **Brimstone and peacock** - Trevor Chapman

Walthamstow Reservoirs, 1 Red Admiral Stephen Harris

Harold Wood garden - **Brimstone, Comma, Small Tortoiseshell, Brentwood** Honey Pot Lane-Weald Rd **6 Peacock, 3 Comma, 3 Small Tortoiseshell** (inc nectaring in prunus & aubretia). - Colin Jupp

Ponders End - Small White, Lippitts Hill - Comma - Andrew Middleton

Saw my first three butterflies of the year today - a **male Brimstone** flying across the road by **Cheshunt golf course** and then a **Comma** and a **male Small White** back home in our garden in **Cheshunt** - Roger Newbold

Ware. This morning in the cemetery at the top of Watton Road I saw a **Small White**. I saw a **Peacock** this afternoon by Widbury farm - Ian Edwards.

Peacock, Comma, and Small Tortoiseshell seen in the **Fishers Green** area this afternoon - Martin Shepherd

2 Commas Wadesmill/ Fishers Green and a **Brimstone** in **Ware** - Nick Sampford

At **North Mymms Park 2 Comma and 1 Peacock**. At **Tyttenhanger Farm, 2 Peacock** - Rupert Pyrah

I had to wait until the **22nd** for my first butterfly - a **Comma**. **This morning, 9 Brimstone and a Peacock** on my walk around **Bloodhounds Wood /Wickham Hall farm** near Bishops Stortford. This is just inside Herts although the boundary does run through the wood! - Andrew Hardacre

Sat 22nd March - Coppetts Wood 1 Comma - Tony Clancy

Fri 21st March - Humming-bird Hawkmoths have been seen in gardens at **Digswell (20th), Datchworth (19th)** and **Enfield(18th)** - news via Colin Plant

Thurs 20th March - The Hyde, **Ware - Brimstone 2, Comma 2, Peacock 1, 1 Small White (seen at rest so a definite)**. Interestingly a walk along the Lea, across Amwell Gravel Pit and back across fields and allotments on Wednesday in good weather produced 0 butterflies. Does this say something about the state of the countryside compared to unkempt urban areas? - Andrew Wood

Trent Park area, total **4 Comma & 1 Peacock** - Robert Callf

Southbury Leisure Centre, 1 Comma near flats - Andrew Middleton

Brimstone news from Hertfordshire's arctic north, **2 males** 'sparring' in our garden in **Ashwell** on Sunday (**16th**) afternoon. Also a **male** flying around Buckthorn at **Ashwell Quarry NR** yesterday **19th** - Chris James

Wed 19th March - Harold Hill, Essex - **Small White** and **Small Tortoiseshell** - Colin Jupp

Brimsgate, 2 Comma, 3 Small Tortoiseshell & Ponders End garden, **1 Comma** - Andrew Middleton

Yesterday at 11.00hrs, saw a **Comma** in **Welwyn Garden City** garden and later 13:30hrs **Peacock** at **Amwell Nature Reserve** - Michael Worby

News from **Berkhamsted, Peacock on Monday** and a **Brimstone today** - Michael Anderson

Hertford - a **male Brimstone** in my garden today - Alan Reynolds

Tues 18th March - Had my first butterfly sighting of the year yesterday (**Monday 17th**) - a **female Brimstone** in **Welwyn Garden City** - Ian Small

I have had quite a few butterfly 'firsts of the year' this week: **Friday, 1 Small Tortoiseshell (Horsenden Farm), Sunday, 1 Brimstone** in my garden at **Barnet, Monday, 1 Peacock. (Horsenden Farm)** and **today** in **Horsenden Farm Wood**, 1 Comma - Rachel Terry

Trent Park area, totals of 3 Comma, **Peacock, 2 Small Tortoiseshell, Red Admiral** for Robert Callf and Robin White. Robert would also have had 3 Orange Underwings but one was snatched by a Robin!

Epping Forest, Comma and Small Tortoiseshell - A Middleton

Mon 17th March - Mudchute Farm area, **Isle of Dogs** (Middx) 1 Brimstone - Sean Huggins and **Weald Park** (Essex) 2 Brimstone and 6 Comma - Colin Jupp

In **St Albans** on **Sunday, 4 Small Tortoiseshells & 3 Comma**. I thought everyone else would have seen similar species, but it appears that apart from Tring, ST's aren't around much in Herts! - Malcolm Hull

10.40 Admiral's Walk Lake, near **Hoddesdon**, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 11.50 **Feilde's Lock** on start of River Stort, Brimstone - Jeff Butcher

Ware, 1 Brimstone, Walton Road and 1 at Amwell End, **1 Peacock** and **2 Small Tortoiseshell** on **the Meads** near Sacred Heart School. **Balls Wood - 3 Brimstone, 7 Comma**, also 3 **Orange Underwing/Light Orange Underwing** moths - Andrew Wood

Important Orange/Light Orange Underwing info from Colin Plant- Charles Watson has just brought me a male Orange Underwing (unfortunately from Hatfield Forest, over the border in Essex). This was fluttering about amongst grasses under an ash tree at 14.30 hours today, 17th March, in the hot bright sunshine. It is clearly worth getting out and looking for this birch feeding species (and its aspen feeding cousin the Light Orange Underwing) this week and next - in lunch breaks or whenever. Don't forget that although the foodplant is a guide, if both trees are present in a wood then you really do need to catch the moth and look at the UNDERSIDE to separate the two. See Skinner page 16 for the appropriate details of how to do this. Please report sightings even if you cannot separate the species out - other people may be able to make repeat visits and sort them later. Both species are hopelessly under-recorded in Hertfordshire. Click here for a picture

Had **Brimstones today** - **Ware**, 1 Park Road and Poles Lane, 1 at **Sacombe Park**, 2 at **Hanbury Manor** [all males], also Emma had 2 male and **1 female Brimstone** at **Presdales school** dinner time, she was well pleased to tell me - Nick Sampford Widespread male Brimstones about in mid and south Bucks today (**Sunday 16th**) as I drove home from a conservation task and then another in my own garden - **Tring**; along with an estimated **18 Small Tortoiseshell** (very definitely 16 could have been over 20) in the field behind my house. Last year the first week of April turned up 22 ST here, so 16 in mid March is encouraging. Several courting couples among a largely male assemblage, but no sign that the females were interested in playing along - busy nectaring on lesser celandine and wild plum - Nick Bowles (news via UK Lep's)

St James's Park, Central London. **3 Brimstones** at lunchtime - I don't recall seeing this species here in previous years - Stephen Harris

Ware, at last I've seen some butterflies! I had just got to the point where I had decided if the butterflies weren't going to come to me, I would have to go to them, when a male Brimstone flew quickly through the garden. Walking down my road, I noticed the sound of what seemed like a lot of bees, looked up and saw a Comma, nectaring on a pink ornamental prunus blossom. A few minutes later, by Dark Lane, **2 male Brimstone** were patrolling the footpath and **2 Comma** were fluttering around. One of the Brimstone could have been the same one that passed through my garden continuing its circuit as all the butterflies were very mobile! No more after that but I then took about 15 attempts to find *Endothenia gentianaeana* in a massive patch of teasels (ouch) - Liz Goodyear

Marshalls Heath, I saw my first butterfly of the year in the garden on **Saturday**: a Comma. I saw nothing on Sunday despite it being warmer - John Murray

Sun 16th March - Ware, in my garden **1 Brimstone** - Ian Edwards.

Denis and I saw our first butterfly of the year today in the car park at **Oxhey Wood LNR**, a **Peacock** in a sunny patch of bracken & brambles - C. Shepperson

Sewardstone Marsh 1 Brimstone - Brian Dawton

Trent Park & Vicarage Farm area, **2 Commas, Peacock, 2 Small Tortoiseshells** (one nectaring on sallow blossom) - Robert Callf

Brookmans Park garden, **1 Brimstone** - Ruper Pyrah

Bengeo, 1 Brimstone & 2 Peacocks in the garden - Andrew Wood

Lippitts Hill area, Essex, **3 Commas** in sheltered spots - Andrew Middleton

Here in **Berkhamsted**, we have seen **1 Brimstone today** and on **Saturday, 1 Comma** - Michael Anderson

Sat 15th March - Trent Park, Orange Underwing (moth) - Robert Callf

Comma 150yds east of St. Marys Church, **North Mymms** - Rupert Pyrah

Mossops Creek, **Brimdown, Small Tortoiseshell** sunning itself - T Clancy & A Middleton

Fri 14th March 2 Commas in The Hyde ware **and 1** in Poles Lane **Ware**. Also a report from a member of Bishops Stortford Natural History Society at the meeting I spoke at last night of a **Small Tortoiseshell** in the **Bishops Stortford** town centre on the weekend of **8/9 March** - Andrew Wood

Thurs 6th March - Rye Meads RSPB, Small Tortoiseshell - R. Cope

Sat 1st March - My first of the year. A **Brimstone** at **Kings Mead (Ware)** today, and then it rained - Alan Reynolds

Ware, just a report of a **Small Tortoiseshell** in my Dad's garden on **Monday 24th**. He said it was flying around his conifer hedge which is a sun trap. Roll on Summer - Nick Sampford

February 2003

Thurs 27th February - Ally Pally, Brimstone, seen yesterday afternoon - Tom Clarke

Wed 26th February - Ware (Chauncy Pool Car Park), **Brimstone** - Andrew Wood

Weald Park (Essex), **Comma** - Colin Jupp

Tues 25th February - Ally Pally, Red Admiral on **Monday 24th** and a **Comma today**, about time too - Tom Clarke

Fri 21st February - Nick Bowles emailed to say that Upper Thames Branch investigated the Large Tortoiseshell and suggested to the owner, the butterfly was put into a box in his garage. On calling around the box was empty but on being shown a set specimen of SMALL Tortoiseshell, the owner decided that the captured butterfly had been a Small not Large - *thanks Nick was letting us know - this is good tip for anyone finding a butterfly that has come out of hibernation early*

Fri 7th February - Anyone interested in a book about the **Butterflies of Russia** - [click here](#)

Wed 5th February - Some news from Stuart Pittman via Dave Chandler (Bed & Northants Branch) (*even though it is just over the border in Bucks*). Had a very intriguing phone call from **Chesham** in mid January was of a Large Tortoiseshell disturbed from a shed. I put the the Bucks branch onto it for a confirmation visit

January 2003

Thurs 30th January - Third hand report of a 'brown butterfly' feeding on a shrub in a garden in **Crouch End** on **Monday 27th**. Comma maybe???(*or Small Tortoiseshell?*) Also another third hand report of a **Red Admiral** in **Islington** on **Sunday 26th** - Tom Clarke

Wed 29th January - I've had a sort out and found this photo taken at Noar Hill in 2001, of a Brown Hairstreak laying an egg - zoom in for more detail - Nick Sampford >>>

Mon 27th January - Ally Pally (Alexandra Palace), 1 Brimstone reported today at 1.30pm - Tom Clarke

Sat 25th January - Just had a report of a **Red Admiral** in the **Stanmore** garden of Peter Peretti today. Peter is the warden of Bentley Priory Open Space, Stanmore - news via John Hollingdale

Sun 19th January - No butterfly news yet, but here are some photos from Clive Burrows - thanks Clive

Fri 10th January - Here are three more butterflies from India. The Common Baron (*Euthalia aconthea*) and Black Rajah (*Charaxes fabius*) are feeding from decaying pawpaw, which I used to attract them. The third butterfly is a Common Grass Yellow (*Eurema hecabe*). I would like to acknowledge the help received from Isaac Kehimkar, co-author of 'Common Butterflies of India' (WWF-India/OUP), in identifying the Black Rajah - Bob Hasra

Tues 7th January - Thanks to Roger Kendrick in Hong Kong for identifying Bob Hazra's unknown Indian butterflies, and Bob has just sent me another image taken in his garden

Thanks for your mail and for forwarding Roger Kendrick's message. After sending you the pictures, I had an opportunity to visit the Indian Museum in Calcutta, where I had a look at the lepidoptera collection. *Cepora nerissa* too is the closest I could come to in terms of identifying the white butterfly, but most museum specimens weren't preserved well enough. I couldn't find the blue and black one in the museum's collection but I think we should go ahead with Roger's tips and label them both as such. I've had luck with more butterflies and shall definitely send you more soon. East Indian winters are like the British spring so there are a couple still flying around. I've managed to 'bait' a few with rotting pawpaw and fermented palm sap. Here's a recent photo; this is *Catopsilia pomona* feeding from a marigold in the garden - Bob Hazra

Sun 5th January (*Not quite Herts or Middx but getting close*) - Just spotted **1 Small Tortoiseshell** sunning itself 2 houses down from mine in Fenny Stratford, **Milton Keynes** - Les

Hill (Also had a Grey Shoulder-knot on 1st January)

The name of your unknown taken in picture from Toby Austin is "Adelpha gelania" I have seen them in a restricted area in the unique pine forest left in Haïti called "Forêt des pins" about 3 1/2 hours drive from Port-au Prince. It is an abundant but very restricted. If it's host plant (a type of tropical thistle) is destroyed which I wouldn't be surprised of; then the butterfly will be extinct. You can also encounter "Anetia numidia" (briarea) and "Anetia jaegeri" in the same forest. I hope this will help you - Bertin Bernard, Quebec City, Canada