

Archive Page

Sightings and news from January to June 2010

[▶ Archive Index](#)

[▶ Photo House Index](#)

This page contains sightings details of all the butterflies and moths reported to the [Sightings page](#) between January and June 2010.

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 2010

Wednesday 30th June 2010

News from Tuesday 29 June I walked along the NE bank of Wilstone reservoir from the car park steps up to SP910132. It was very windy. There were lots of damselfly (approx 100) and **60 Small Tortoiseshell**. They were by the path and down the bank; there were probably many more about - Helen

Park Wood, Ruislip - After yesterdays joint H&MBC & RDNHS walk had finished I walked up to the St Vincent's end of Park Wood. Within a few minutes of the sun breaking through at 15.35 a **Purple Emperor** gave 2 short flights across the canopy. I waited another 30 minutes but no more sightings. I expected late emergence this year but perhaps this warm spell has enabled them to get back on track. Ten people turned up for the walk and despite the cloud we all managed to get good views of White Admiral, Ringlet, Purple Hairstreak and all the common species. Good numbers of Marbled White were seen in the field adjacent to Ruislip Lido Car park. - Steve Pash

Two colonies of Marbled Whites at Wheathampstead LNR, about 20 in total, plus dozens of Meadow Browns and Ringlets, only 2 Large Skippers though - Robin Pearson

Batford. Weedy field - now up to 4 WHITE LETTER HAIRSTREAKS around small Oak tree by public footpath as you enter the weedy field - Darin Stanley

Harmondsworth Moor Around 5pm, on a quick ramble I counted dozens upon dozens of Small Skippers, 5 Small Heaths, 20 or so Meadow Browns, 12 Marbled Whites, 1 Green-veined White, and one Large White. The Marbled Whites are clearly established here - Dave Miller

Tuesday 29th June 2010

Garston - Single Marbled White in colony there, along with 12 Ringlets and 5 Meadow Browns. At Bricket Wood 12 White Admiral, 1 Green-veined White, 6 Large Skipper and 2 Purple Hairstreaks, am visit - Clive Burrows

I visited Park Wood in Ruislip yesterday (28th) in search of White Admirals and had a grand total of 33. This is by far the most I have ever seen here . Most were either along the old pylon ride or in the woodland twenty meters either side of it. However, others were further in amongst the scattered clumps of flowering honeysuckle. I did not cover the whole wood so would suggest that my count is an underestimate of the high numbers present. Nowhere near this number were seen here last weekend so this would suggest an immergence over the last two days. - John Edwards Ps I know of a report of around fifteen to twenty White Admirals over the weekend from nearby Bayhurst and Mad Bess Woods (London's Birding) so this looks like being a superb year for this species in the Ruislip area.

Monday 28th June 2010

Stanwell Moor On a late afternoon stroll along the usual route, I came across the following: 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Red Admiral, 6 Commas, 1 Peacock, 4 Large Skippers, 8 Green-veined Whites, 4 Meadow Browns, 30 or more Small Heaths, and 2 Small Skippers (the first here this

year) - Dave Miller

Batford weedy field - - 2 WHITE LETTER HAIRSTREAKS in Oak tree by public footpath as you enter the weedy field - Darin Stanley

Had an early Purple hairstreak drinking from the bird bath in my garden at 11 am Enfield Ridgeway EN2-----No WLH at Oakhill woods LNR as yet - Kit Jones

Sunday 27th June 2010

Bricket Wood. 10 White Admirals, 1 Comma, **1 Silver-washed Fritillary** and 3 grounded Purple Hairstreaks in a morning visit - Clive Burrows

FRI 25/6/10 Bricket Wood/ Grid Ref:TI12884 02143 10 X Speckled Wood 6 X Large Skippers 2 X White Admirals 10 X Meadow Browns 2 X Brimstones (females. nearby Garston Station Fri 26/6/10 1x Comma 1 X Large Skipper 1 X 5 Spot Burnet Moth. Sunday 27/6/10 Merryhill Fields, Bushey Grid Ref Tq 1305594667 76+ Meadow Browns 4 X Common Blue 1 X Speckled Wood 1 X Brimstone(male) 30+ Marbled Whites 50+ Burnet Moths(Ones Could Id Were 5 Spot) 38 X Small Skippers(Possibly A Few Of These Were Large) 10 X Large Skippers - David Gower

Along River Pinn on edge of Ruislip GC. 3 Small Tortoiseshell, 2 Comma, 10+ Meadow Brown, 4 Speckled Wood, 5+ Large Skipper and 6+ NB 5 Spot Burnet - Steve Pash

A late walk (after 7pm, but still nearly 30 degrees) round the environs of Junction 14 of the M25 revealed a large number of Small Heaths settling down for the evening (well over 30), plus a couple of newly emerged Peacocks and two distinctly territorial Red Admirals. Finally, the first **Purple Hairstreaks** were out, zipping around in spectacular dogfights within a few metres of the oblivious traffic on the motorway roundabout - Dave Miller

Not satisfied with yesterdays failure to see white admiral I returned to Balls Wood 12.50-13.15, 4 found gliding and perching along the usual ride - Laurence Drummond

Coppetts Wood, 3-4 White letter Hairstreak clashing above usual Ash tree at 2.30pm Tony Clancy

The joint BC/CMS field meeting at the Chorleywood House Estate TQ 03 97 produced the following species (the counts should be regarded as estimated minima): 1+ Small Skipper, 4+ Large Skippers, 1 male Brimstone, 1 Common Blue, 20+ Marbled Whites, 20+ Meadow Browns and 15+ Ringlets; also 1 adult and several larval Cinnabar moths. Away from that site I noted a Small Tortoiseshell around rather leggy nettles near the A405 at Garston nr Watford TL 10 00. - Colin Everett

Saturday 26th June 2010

Saturday's joint LNHS/BC walk on Horsenden Hill was again successful in locating White-letter Hairstreak. About 24 people took part in the walk - probably about as big as we would like it to get! I had a pre-walk recce around the 'usual' spots for the Hairstreak and located a minimum of 16, flying strongly from about 8.45am in the warm conditions. On the walk itself, we managed a minimum of 10, but none particularly low down. As usual, though, we had the telescope with us and this enabled everyone to get decent looks of at least one Hairstreak. Otherwise, the variety of butterflies was a little poor. Meadow Brown numbers definitely seem down on what we would expect for this time of year. We did manage 5 Marbled White on a couple of meadows. All of the 'small' skippers we netted were Small and there were decent numbers of Large Skipper. Other than that, the odd large White, Speckled Wood, Narrow-bordered 5-spot Burnet and Burnet Companion were around. Immediately after the walk I had a **Purple Hairstreak** on the Horsenden West transect and yesterday (27th) I had 5 White-letters, 3 Marbled Whites and a brimstone around the Farm/east side of the site during a brief visit. - Andy Culshaw with Dave Howdon

Ruislip Park Wood: 6+ White Admiral, 5+ Ringlet, 4 Speckled Wood, 10+ Meadow Brown, 6+ Large Skipper, 2 Large White, 2 Comma, Poors Field: 4 Ringlet, 12+ Meadow Brown, Small Copper Field west of Lido car park: 20+ Marbled White, 10+ Ringlet, 20+ Meadow Brown, 12 Large Skipper, 6+ Small/Essex skipper, 2 Common Blue, 2 Small Tortoiseshell, Comma, Large White, Speckled Wood, 40+ NB 5 spot Burnet, Burnet Companion and Silver Y. Steve Pash

Whilst walking along Stocks road towards Ivinghoe saw **2 Dark Green Fritillaries** at about 4. 30 at separate locations settled on the road verge hedgerow flowers. Generally seemed like butterflies

were becoming very active and there was a lot of Skippers, Meadow Browns and Ringlets flying around here and on the headland conservation areas near Aldbury where I also saw Dark Green Fritillaries again. - Phil Woodward

As me and my dad were taking a walk through Balls Wood on Saturday 26th June, we saw **2 White Admirals**, 1 Comma and dozens of Skippers - Cameron Landels

First: Spent 09.15-10.00 at the Pole Hole elm north of Harlow today no definite wlh just 2 possibles, also 5 large skipper, 1 meadow brown, at balls wood 14 large skipper, 15 meadow brown, 5 speckled wood and 1 ringlet. Then more news for today, a new local walk for me in high wych, straight out of the front door a single meadow brown in the front garden, walk north along high wych lane @200yds then east along the footpath towards Sawbridgeworth, no more butterflies for 500yds until suddenly 3 small tortoiseshell together basking at the side of the rape fields then through the hole in the hedge into an area of what was previously arable fields, and is now open grassland with a surprising diversity of flora dissected with old orchards and scrub, I took a roughly circular walk around the whole area and recorded a further 19 meadow brown, 2 small tortoiseshell, 2 common blue, 9 large skipper and one speckled wood, I will be keeping an eye on this area (TL41S) as I think it could produce some good numbers in the future Laurence Drummond

Dark Green Fritillary at Hexton Chalk Pits yesterday (25 June.) Also 2 Marbled Whites, M/Brown, Ringlet, Common Blue, Small Heath and Large Skipper. No sign of WL Hairstreaks. Hexton definitely is in Hertfordshire! Nigel Agar

So dry everywhere, plenty of ringlets, large skippers and meadow brown at Broxbourne Woods and Waterford Heath south best was 4 marbled whites on waterford heath south pit - Steve Kiln

Friday 25th June 2010

I did the Aldbury Nowers transect today, amongst what you'd expect (good numbers of marbled white, meadow brown, ringlet and skippers) I saw a single painted lady and counted 15 small heath throughout the reserve. I quickly popped over to Pitstone Hill and saw a newly emerged **dark green fritillary** but obviously this is just over the county border! I visited Alpine Meadow this morning and it was alive with butterflies, almost too many to count! I had: Ringlet - 20+ (7 seen together in mating spiral dance) Meadow brown - 16+ Marbled white - 17+ Large skipper - 13+ Small skipper - 3+ Common blue On the farm track leading to the reserve from Bridgewater school I had: Meadow brown - 10 Ringlet Speckled wood - 3 Small tortoiseshell Large skipper These are quite conservative counts, there were so many butterflies on the reserve! - Paul Thrush

At 6.50 pm yesterday, (24th June) I saw my first Marbled White of the year, along with a handful of Large Skippers and Meadow Browns, at the bottom of the large sloping meadow behind Chorleywood House Estate, which leads down to the River Chess, during a pleasant stroll in the evening sunshine - Andy King

Thursday 24th June 2010

Ware town elm tree, instant white-letter activity at 8.45am this morning of two individuals clashing. As I was already late for work I didn't stay. On returning past the tree at 6pm despite sunshine no activity was observed in several minutes of watching - Liz Goodyear ([for more white-letter news.....](#))

Weedy Field/ Batford - 2 MARBLED WHITE - Darin Stanley

Saw four Small Tortoiseshells and one Comma at Vicarage Farm, Enfield this afternoon (Thurs 24th June 2010) between 15:25 - 16:07 BST. Also Robin White reports having seen a **Dark Green Fritillary** on Clover near the Dew Pond, Trent CP this morning (Thursday 24th June 2010) at 11:25 BST. - Robert Callf

Wednesday 23rd June 2010

First Marbled Whites (5) on my Bunkers Park transect for this year - Michael Pearson

Success! 2+ White-letter Hairstreak on Horsenden this evening 5.15-5.30pm. Saw two cavorting around elms and ash alongside the cycle track/footpath adjacent Horsenden Lane and then another (or one of the same) about 100 yards further down the path towards the farm gate. Also a tardy (for this site) male brimstone, 1 red admiral and 2 painted lady. - Andy Culshaw

Dark Green Fritillary on the Pegsdon Hills (Beds) this afternoon, also Small Heaths. Colony of freshly emerged Small Tortoiseshells at Wrights Farm, Pirton - Nigel Agar

News from Diane Andrews on a visit to Aldbury Nowers today in search of Small Blue. A three hour visit from the station at Tring included 3 Small Skipper, 27 Large Skipper, 3 Brimstone, 1 Small Copper, 15 Common Blue, 4 Speckled Woods, 10 Marbled Whites, 71 Meadow Browns, 23 Small Heath, 61 Ringlets and the highlight a **Fritillary** flying across the field beneath Aldbury Nowers, however no Small Blue. *Diane thought the Fritillary was a Silver-washed but it known that Dark Green are flying in Bedfordshire.*

Saw my first Small Skippers of the year on Monday 21st June 2010 - one in Trent CP and another at Vicarage Farm. Also first Six-spot Burnet of the year on Monday and a courting couple of Small Tortoiseshells at Vicarage Farm. Yesterday (Tues 22nd June 2010) saw my first Ringlet of the year in Trent CP. Also saw a Red Admiral along the Jubilee Path at Park Farm, Enfield, yesterday (Tuesday 22nd June 2010) which settled on an Oak at 10:41 BST.- Robert Callf

2 x Small skippers at Nomansland Common, Wheathampsted - Richard Geary

Weedy Field, Batford - 1 Small Skipper, Numerous Meadow Browns - Darin Stanley

White-letter Hairstreak seen at 3 sites in Enfield today, first 3 at Durrants Park, 1 at the elm by the A10 in Edmonton and 2 clashing as we talked to a lady enquiring about what we were looking for in Enfield Town (she also saw them!) - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

Tuesday 22nd June 2010

At last two **white-letter hairstreaks** over the park elms in **Ponders End** this evening at 5.35pm - Andrew Middleton

Park Wood, Ruislip, Middlesex. One **White Admiral** seen this afternoon, half way along the main East - West Ride - Graham Elcombe

Monday 21st June 2010

I had to go to **Aldbury Nowers** after hearing the reports of **small blue** and wasn't disappointed! Managed to find one in the furthest northern compartment (where the major scraping works were done). I also had my first **marbled white**, meadow browns and **ringlets** today. There were quite a few common blues around, some looking quite worn, small copper, brown argus, large skipper, brimstone, small heath and speckled wood. - Paul Thrush

After work this evening, I had a stroll around Harmondsworth Moor to see what was about. A handful of Small Heaths were in evidence, as were quite a number of Meadow Browns, and a solitary Small Tortoiseshell outclassing the others in speed and manoeuvrability. However (firsts for me this year) there were also a host of Small Skippers mostly on knapweed flowers, and thousands of Burnet moths. Finally, the icing on the cake, a brand new Marbled White. Another first for me this year, and the first time I have seen one at this site, or indeed anywhere close to the airport. Some photos attached, including one clearly showing the buff/brown underside of a Small Skipper's antennae. Scores: Meadow Brown 15+ **Small Skipper 15+** Small Heath 5 Small Tortoiseshell 1 **Marbled White 1** - Dave Miller

News from Diane Andrews today on a visit east of Hadley Wood. **1 Small Skipper**, 3 Large Skipper, 2 Common Blue, 7 Speckled Wood, 23 Meadow Brown and 2 Small Heath. On the 13th June she saw 160 Peacock caterpillars at Ally Pally.

Sunday 20th June 2010

Nice to see a small tortoiseshell on our allotment in Dark Lane, Cheshunt this afternoon - the first I have seen this year. Otherwise it was all very quiet apart from one Small White and one White Plume Moth disturbed whilst weeding - Roger Newbold

Car problems have kept me in my own back yard this weekend, so the usual walk close to the M25 beckoned. Never dull, however... The tally was: Small White 5 (including an egg-layer on a wild crucifer) Large Skipper 10+ (including 2 females) Common Blue 6 (all male and rather worn) Brown Argus 1 Speckled Wood 1 Meadow Brown 3 Small Heath 50+ (there were distinctly more

than last week) Red Admiral 3 Comma 3 (all brand new) Small Tortoiseshell 6 (including two performing their courtship ritual. Goodness me, he was a patient chap!) Add to this more Peacock caterpillars that you could count, at every stage of development from tiny hatchlings to 5cm voracious spiny monsters - Dave Miller

More notes for Thursday 17th June. In Chipperfield, Dellfield area, one large skipper, one common blue, one battered small white, two meadow browns and a darter dragonfly. June 20th Bunkers Park, Hemel Hempstead. There were up to ten six spot burnets on one grass or six on a plantain. One meadow brown, but no blues this visit. I found a caterpillar I didn't recognise near the centre path on an ox eye daisy - *picture on photos page*. One oak hookip moth on a window in Kings Langley.

Friday 18th June 2010

Did the **Aldbury Nowers** transect yesterday as Paul on holiday - already....weather fantastic but butterflies surprisingly thin. However, please to see a green hairstreak in the first Cmpt and several **small blue** whilst looking for grizzled skippers in usual place at far end, which I didn't see. I have not seen a small blue before but can confirm sighting as there were also brown agrus flying with them, and I caught one. Carol Lodge from HMWT also saw it. I note from the web site one was seen in the field below AN - I guess this was next to Northfield Road, so they are around, but whether they will stay is another matter - Martin Hicks

A fairly early morning stroll in Oakwood Park, N14 today (Friday 18th June 2010) produced a female Large Skipper at 09:15 BST low down in some grass (presumably just emerged) - Robert Callf

Thursday 17th June 2010

Some news for today (Thursday 17th June 2010) - 1 Red Admiral, at Vicarage Farm, 08:53 BST; 1 male Common Blue, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, 09:19 BST; 3 male Large Skipper, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, 09:21 - 09:23 BST; 1 Common Blue, along Jubilee Path/Park Farm, 10:32 BST; 1 male Large Skipper, along Jubilee Path/Park Farm, 10:34 BST; 1 Common Blue, 'Old Golf Course', Trent CP, 11:21 BST. Also seen a very worn Holly Blue, in Town Park, Enfield this afternoon at 12:35 BST (It just occurred to me that I have not seen many this spring!). News for yesterday (Wednesday 16th June 2010) - 1 Red Admiral, along bridle-path near Merryhills Brook, 12:47 BST; 1 Small Copper, near Dew Pond, Trent CP, 13:00 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, Rough Lot, Trent Park, 13:23 BST; 1 Peacock, at Parkside Farm, 14:17 BST; 2 male Common Blue, at Parkside Farm, on Res banking, 14:30 - 14:33 BST; 1 Red Admiral, at Lonsdale Drive, 16:03 BST. - Robert Callf

I went to Wheathampstead LNR today and there were several butterflies and moths on the wing, several large skippers, 1 orange tip, 2 common blue, 1 cinnabar moth. - Robin Pearson

Last year it was painted ladies. Could this year be the year of burnets? 16th June at Bunkers Park, Hemel Hempstead. I have never seen so many burnet cocoons. There must have been hundreds over the whole area as I lost count along the pathways and had to pick up caterpillars from the path and toss them to safety in the long grass and ox eye daisies. Several burnet mating pairs and numerous burnet caterpillars on the grass and daisies. I took one photo which illustrates the life cycle and another with a camouflaged caterpillar. I saw a small number of meadow browns and surprisingly only two common blues, but it was after 6pm. - Elizabeth Debenham

Wednesday 16th June 2010

Saw a Large Skipper yesterday (15/06) at the back of Wilstone reservoir in a very sheltered spot by the public footpath, it was quite a cool windy day although quite sunny - Alan Gardiner

Chimney Sweepers are still flying at Forty Hall in large numbers - majority along the field edges near Turkey Brook. Also good numbers of Large Skipper, also seen in small numbers Small Copper and Common Blue. White-letter Hairstreaks do not appear to be flying yet (will be any day though) in north London despite determined searching! Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

Female Common Blue in front garden (Ponders End) Seen previously a male and Small Copper - Andrew Middleton

Tuesday 15th June 2010

Some sightings for today (Tues 15th June 2010) - 2, male and female, Common Blue, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, 09:09 - 09:10 BST; 1 male Large Skipper, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, 09:13 BST; 3, 2 males, 1 female, Large Skipper, together, on Res banking, at Parkside Farm, 09:40 BST; 1 male Common Blue, on Res banking, at Parkside Farm, 09:47 BST; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, along Jubilee Path, at Park Farm, 10:58 BST; 1 male Common Blue, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent CP, 12:10 BST; 2 male Large Skipper, edge of Williams Wood, Trent CP, 12:37 - 12:38 BST; 1 Red Admiral, edge of Williams Wood, Trent CP, 12:37 BST; 2 Large Skipper, edge of Shaws Wood, Trent CP, 12:41 - 12:43 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, at Lakeside, N14, 13:01 BST. - Robert Callf

I walked to Junc. 14 at lunchtime today to see what was about. Very little along the river, just a solitary Large Skipper exactly where I saw one on the 7th. However, in the area close to the motorway, I found four more Large Skippers chasing each other around the brambles, a single Meadow Brown (the first around here this year), a very elderly Comma, four Common Blues and an astonishing 30 or more Small Heaths, flying up at every step. All the caterpillar nests (four so far) on the nettles have turned out to be Peacocks - Dave Miller

On Tuesday 15th June at Aldbury Nowers just before sunset I saw a newly emerged six spot burnet resting on a plantain head under the beech trees at top of the hayfield. Evening was very cool so only saw 4 common blue butterflies. Later at a window in Kings Langley a beautiful brimstone moth. Elizabeth Debenham

Monday 14th June 2010

At 12.30 settled on the ground in my Hitchin front garden, my first PAINTED LADY of the season. Apart from good numbers of the white varieties, have not seen anything too exciting on my transect at Wood Lane, Pirton - Val Fullforth

News from Saturday 12th June 5 Painted Lady at Widford. Also 1 hummingbird Hawk moth which crashed into our front lawn as we were having a bit of breakfast. It soon recovered to fly off to nectar at a nearby lilac. 4 painted lady 1 red admiral. We also have a fully grown red admiral caterpillar which is about to turn to a chrysalis on the nettle patch in the back garden. 2 orange tips linger on as well. We also had poplar hawk, elephant hawk, peppered moth, several swallow kitten, clouded silver + many more moths in the trap over the weekend - Phil MacMurdie

Sunday 13th June 2010

In Tring area popped into **Aldbury Nowers** 2.30 sunday. Not best weather, saw 10 plus large skippers, about 8 common blues and small heath, just a single grizzled skipper but to my surprise a **Small Blue** in field below the hill - Steve Kiln (*This is in a similar location to a report a few years ago - they are flying very close just over the Bucks border so it well worth looking for them in the area*)

Visited Waterford Heath South pit, 13th June, saw 2 different Grizzled Skippers, so they are flying pretty late this year, also Common Blue, Brimstone, Small Copper, Small Heath, Large Skipper, Speckled Wood and Meadow Brown. The commonest Lepidoptera was the day flying Burnet Companion moth which were all over the Birds Foot Trefoil. Other larger moths were Cinnabar, Latticed Heath, Silver Y and Straw Dot. On 12th June walked along the footpath on the southern edge of Panshanger Park, still Orange Tips present, along with a fine looking Emperor Moth early instar larva, about 25mm long. See http://homepage.ntlworld.com/zoothorn/emperor_120610.jpg Andrew Wood

Saw my first summer-brood Small Tortoiseshells today (Sunday 13th June 2010) - two at Vicarage Farm - they are exquisite when they first emerge! Also saw a Painted Lady flying N at Park Farm yesterday (Sunday 13th June 2010) at 11:14 BST, also a Green-veined White (summer-brood - well marked), settled here, 11:23 BST. - Robert Callf

Saturday 12th June 2010

Here are a few sightings for today (Saturday 12th June 2010) - 16 Large Skipper,(13 at Trent CP, between 10:21 - 11:56 BST, including a pair copulating; 1 male at Park Farm, 12:30 BST; 2 males at Parkside Farm, 12:58 - 12:59 BST); 4 Speckled Wood,(1 Sect.1, 10:22 BST, 2 together, Sect.7, 10:42 BST, 1 Rough Lot, 11:55 BST); 8 Small Heath,(7 at 'New Fields', Trent CP, 10:31 - 11:08 BST, 1 at Vicarage Farm, 13:34 BST); 1 Silver Y, Sect.6, 'New Fields', Trent CP; 3 Small Copper,

'New Fields', Trent CP, 10:51 - 11:14 BST; 1 male Meadow Brown, 'New Fields', Trent CP, 11:19 BST; 1 Peacock, near Sport's Field, Trent CP, 11:15 BST; 2 Red Admiral,(1 near Sport's Field, Trent CP, 11:20 BST, 1 Park Farm, 12:32 BST); 1 Large White, Rough Lot, Trent CP, 11:55 BST; 2 male Common Blue, at Parkside Farm, 12:49 - 12:55 BST. - Robert Callf

First meadow browns of year one in Broxbourne Wood and two at Waterford Heath south where I also saw 2 large skipper, and one grizzled skipper - Steve Kiln

Friday 11th June 2010

Somewhat astonished to arrive home (Tring) at 4.40pm and see a Painted lady feeding on Dames Violet in front garden. Weather had been poor all day but brightened about 3pm. Also in attendance : Brimstone, Small White, Common Blue - Nick Bowles

Batford - 1 Painted Lady - Daring Stanley

Wednesday 9th June 2010

Red Admiral in School Lane near Welwyn just north-east of Rectory Wood - Murray Brown

Took a trip to Northaw Great Wood today (Wednesday 9th June 2010) and recorded the following leps - Speckled Woods; Speckled Yellows, Brown Silver-lines and a female Pale Tussock, settled on an Oak trunk - Robert Callf

News from Diane Andrews "Thought you might like to know the results of my hunting of Chimney Sweeper. Thursday 3rd June, I didn't make it in time to join Andrew's trip at Forty Hall so I guess there'll be some duplication here - I went round just the meadow area ie on my own for about 1/2 hour: 35 Chimney Sweepers and otherwise just 1 Small Copper, 3 common Blues, 2 Mother Shipton, 2 Burnet Companion plus 1 Silver Y. Then off for a look at Trent Park (saw a Small Tortoiseshell at Turkey Street Station on the way): 84 chimney Sweepers, 10 burnet companions, a cinnabar and 45 Small Heaths, 12 Small Coppers, 15 Common blues and a Peacock, Comma and a Speckled Wood. And some squawking ring-necked Parakeets! On June 4th I thought I'd try investigation King George's Fields, Hadley: 10 Chimney Sweepers, 5 Burnet Companions, 2 Orange Tips, 2 Small coppers, 6 Common Blues, (including a mating pair) a single large skipper - and a Red Admiral my first of the year, believe it or not."

Monday 7th June 2010

Stanwell Moor, after a week away around the South of the UK, in mostly cloudy (but warm) conditions I did the walk from home to Junc.14 today. First to be seen was a brand new Large Skipper (first one here this year). In addition, there were: Green-veined White (1), Small White (1), Holly Blue (1), Speckled Wood (3), Brown Argus (2 - male), Small Heath (12 or more), Common Blue (10 - 2 female, 8 male). Also noted were a couple of Burnet Companion moths, and numerous fresh Cinnabar moths. Three caterpillar nests discovered - two seem to be Small Tortoiseshells and the other Peacocks, but all are still very small and I may have mistook one for t'other... - Dave Miller

Weedy field at Batford, 1 Large skipper, 1m common blue & 1 Meadow Brown - Darin Stanley

I saw an orange tip, common blue and large skipper at Barkway Chalk Pit today - Paul Thrush

News from 4 June 2010 - Forty Hall walk quiet - c35+ chimney sweepers, 3 small copper and 3 common blue (including Diane Andrews' sightings, and a larger number of chimney sweepers recorded at Trent Park). 5 June Broxbourne Wood NNR - quiet, 1 common blue. Rickneys pm 44 common blues, 9 brown argus, 7 small heath, 4 grizzled skippers, small copper, large skipper, silver y, burnet companion - Andrew Middleton

Recent notes: 22nd May at Albury Nowers, a glow worm either female or a larva on path leading between lower enclosures. One peacock, one comma. 27th May in Kings Langley, a garden carpet moth. I searched up the lane which had recently been trimmed back hard, for orange tip eggs on "Jack by the hedge" and was pleased to find over a dozen dotted along the lane. One found the previous week had been hacked. Why does the trimming happen after the butterflies have layed? Many must be killed that way. One tiny caterpillar on the "Jack by the hedge".. orange tip? 30th May at Aldbury Nowers in early evening, a few blues and one argus. Evidence of burnet cocoons. 2nd June at Aldbury Nowers, lots of resting blues at early evening. One mating pair. About 2 dozen

burnet cocoons and about 3 burnet caterpillars ready to pupate. One cinnabar flying over meadow. One small unidentified yellow single stripe caterpillar on grass just up from meadow. One small heath butterfly at rest. 4th June a speckled wood in Kings Langley midday. In early evening a garden carpet moth by roadside on nettles. Female orange tip in Chipperfield fluttering in woodland edge on "Jack by the hedge" flowers. I was pleased to find one burnet cocoon, possibly one small skipper as I had seen them there last year, but it was too fast to be sure which sort. Elizabeth Debenham

Sunday 6th June 2010

Numbers of butterflies down a bit, but saw two red admirals one at Rickeyes and one at waterford heath where I also saw 4 grizzled skippers in areas I'd never seen them before. At home I had a painted lady nectaring on the perennial wallflower - Steve Kiln

Meadows west of Copse Wood, Ruislip (adjacent to Ducks Hill Rd): **12+ Large Skipper** (my first of the year), 6+ Common Blue, 4 GV White 3 Speckled Wood, 5+ Burnet Companion and a Clearwing but not sure which species! - Steve Pash

Near Pitstone (Herts side only) - All sightings in one hour. Single individual seen unless number stated. **Painted Lady**, Silver Y, Speckled Wood, Brimstone, Green Hairstreak (2), Orange Tip, Small Heath (15), Cinnabar Moth (12), Treble Bar (33), Dingy Skipper (7), Burnet Companion (2), Brown Argus (2), Common Blue (166), Large Skipper - Malcolm Hull

Saturday 5th June 2010

Sighting today at Nomansland Common, 10 common blue, 3 orange tips, 2 speckled wood, 4 small white, 2 large white, 1 peacock, 2 Mother shipton and 1 Small elephant hawk moth - Andrew Steele

Sightings for today (Saturday 5th June 2010) - 1 male Orange Tip, at Parkside Farm, 11:00 BST; 2 male Common Blue, on Res banking, Parkside Farm, 11:10 BST; **1 male Meadow Brown**, on Res banking, at Parkside Farm, 11:11 BST - My first of the year! 1 female Orange Tip, settled, at Park Farm, 11:20 BST; 2 Small Copper, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent CP, 12:42 - 12:45 BST; 1 Common Blue, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent CP, 12:44 BST; 1 Small Copper, near Dew Pond, Trent CP, 13:16 BST. - Robert Callf

At Wheathampstead LNR this morning about 5 Common Blues, 1 Small Copper and 2 Orange Tips, then at Waterend several dozen male Banded Demoiselles on the river banks. Robin Pearson

Thursday 3rd June 2010

03.06.10 at 1300 - **1 Meadow Brown**, 3m Common Blues, 1f Orange Tip seen in Weedy field at **Batford** by B653 - Darin Stanley

News for Wednesday 2nd June 2010 - 1 Large White, at 'Barracks', 09:10 BST; 1 Mother Shipton, at 'Barracks', 09:11 BST; Good numbers of Silver Y; 1 Small Copper, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, 10:28 BST; 1 female Large White, along hedgerow N of Williams Wood, 10:32 BST; 1 male Orange Tip, along Hadley Road/Parkside Farm, 10:39 BST; 2 male Common Blue, at Parkside Farm, on Res banking, 11:00 - 11:01 BST; 1 male Large Skipper, on Res banking, at Parkside Farm, 11:02 BST - First of the year! 2 imm Black-tailed Skimmer, on Res banking, at Parkside Farm - First of the year! 3 Mother Shipton, together, on Res banking, at Parkside Farm; 3 Burnet Companion, on Res banking, at Parkside Farm; 1 Cinnabar, on Res banking, at Parkside Farm - First of the year! 1 Small White, settled, at Park Farm, 11:50 BST; 1 Small Yellow Underwing, at Park Farm; 1 Peacock, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent CP, 12:20 BST; 3 Common Blue, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 12:23 BST; 1 Small Copper, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent CP, 12:24 BST; 1 male Orange Tip, by Lower Lake, Trent CP, 12:30 BST; 1 Silver-ground Carpet, at Dew Pond, Trent CP; 2, male and female, Orange Tip, at Lakeside, N14, 13:21 and 13:32 BST. Some news Thurs 3rd June 2010 - 1 Comma (very faded), at Archery Wood, Forty Hall, 12:30 BST; 1 male Orange Tip, at Forty Hall Farm, 13:20 BST. - Robert Callf

East Lane nr Bedmond TL 10 02 - male Orange Tip; near Bedmond TL 09 04 - Small Copper & Speckled Wood; Pimlico nr Bedmond TL 09 05 - 4 Green-veined Whites, 2 Common Blues & 2 Peacocks; Hyde Lane nr Bedmond TL 08 04 - Pair of Small Whites in copulo; Bedmond TL 09 03 - male Orange Tip; Parsonage Farm at Abbots Langley TL 09 02 - male Orange Tip & Peacock. - Colin Everett

Wednesday 2nd June 2010

Whilst out birding today on **Duke's Meadows in Chiswick**, Middlesex, London - I saw a **clouded yellow** fly strongly N/NE. I have experience of the species and have seen them in the Mediterranean and also in the UK, the last one at Beddington Sewage Farm late last summer (Very different locations!), and there's very little around here with which to confuse them! The butterfly showed bright yellowy orange upside of the wings with quite broad black markings on the edge of the wings and flew very deliberately N/NE - Louis Freeland-Haynes

Aldbury Nowers, whilst doing the transect today I saw my first **large skipper** of the year. Counted 48 common blues throughout the site and 10 dingy skipper with a few grizzled skipper and green hairstreak. - Paul Thrush

Today's **Pishiobury Park** walk with CMS was very successful considering the recent horrid weather. It was amazing to see the sun shining and several people joined us. Our first encounter was with a Broad-bodied Chaser but this was quickly followed by several Common Blues and Small Copper. Green-veined White and female Orange Tip showed themselves well and allowed for close examination and help with identification. An Orange Tip egg was also found. Small White and Large White were also seen but not so close to. A Holly Blue also made an appearance. After walking around the field edge we walked through a more enclosed area close to Nursery Wood and several Speckled Wood were seen and our first **Large Skipper** of the year. Several male Orange Tip were seen during the walk and a probable egg laying Red Admiral. Also noteworthy were the number of Silver Y moths as well as singleton Burnet Companion and Mother Shipton. As we walked by the River Stort, a Grass Hopper Warbler was heard and we saw Banded Demoiselles, a Hairy Dragonfly, Large Red, Common Blue and Blue tailed Damselflies. A Red eyed damselfly was seen flying over the river. Later by one of the Park's pond Azure Damselflies were observed. An excellent morning's walk - Andrew Middleton, Liz Goodyear and Fiona Underhill

Rickneys this afternoon, large numbers of Common Blue as well as Brown Argus and Small Heath, an Orange Tip and 1 Grizzled Skipper. Moths included Silver Y, Burnet Companion, Latticed Heath and Cinnabar - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

Tuesday 1st June 2010

Saw a Painted Lady on the beach at Brighton on Sunday looked like it had just flown in.. maybe the start of another influx? Malcolm Hull

May 2010

Monday 31st May 2010

Some sightings for today (Monday 31st May 2010) - 1 Silver Y, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, Trent CP; 1 Mother Shipton, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, Trent CP; 1 Mother Shipton, along horse traing track, Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm; 1 Green-veined White, Sidhil's Field, at Vicarage Farm, 14:10 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, Sidhil's Field, at Vicarage Farm, 14:11 BST. - Robert Callf

Sunday 30th May 2010

Seen at **Wilstone Reservoir** (Tring Reservoirs) today 7 oranged tip butterflies, 3 Common blues, 1 small white, 3 speckled woods, 3 large whites. Seen at **Aldbury Nowers** 22 common blues, 3 Brown argus, 9 Brimstones, 4 Grizzled skipper, 8 Dingy Skippers, 1 Small heath, 1 Small copper, 4 large whites, 1 Green veined Whites, 1 small White, 3 Cinnabar Moths, 4 Common carpet moths and 1 Treble-bar Moth - Andrew Steele

A few sightings for Sunday 30th May 2010 - 1 Mother Shipton at Oakwood Park, N14, 12:46 BST; 1 Burnet Companion at Grovelands Park, Southgate, 12:55 BST; 1 Speckled Wood at Grovelands Park, 13:56 BST. - Robert Callf

Thursday 27th May 2010

I recorded 39 Common Blues during a transect visit on **Bunkers Park** this afternoon. This number is the highest single-visit total for first generation CB since June 2003 (BMS wk.10). I hope this bodes well for the rest of this year - Michael Pearson

A pristine red admiral today at Swallows Farm, Mangrove Lane, **Hertford** - Laurence Drummond

Wednesday 26th May 2010

Early **Chimney sweeper moth** today at **Oakhill woods LNR** - KIT JONES

Rickneys - 5.30-6.30 ~ Roost count, 51 common blues, 13 brown argus, two small heaths, 1 grizzled skipper - Andrew Middleton

Frogmore Gravel Pit - 3.45- 5.15 ~ Roost count, 1 Brown Argus, 14 Common Blue and 9 Grizzled Skipper also Cinnabar moth and 2 Grizzled eggs on Common Agrimony. Earlier in the day we strayed across the border into Bedfordshire and visited Knocking Hoe, nr Pegsdon. Common Blue were so numerous, we couldn't count them, emerging males, mating pairs and egg laying females. Non stop activity. 1 hatched white-letter hairstreak egg on elm by the carpark at the end of Icknield Way as it comes down from the Pegsdon Hills - Andrew Middleton & Liz Goodyear

A few sightings for today (Wednesday 26th May 2010) in Town Park, Enfield - 1 Speckled Wood, 12:36 BST; 1 Green-veined White, settled, 12:39 BST; 1 Silver Y, 12:45 BST - My first of the year! - Robert Callf

Tuesday 25th May 2010

A couple of sightings for today (Tues 25th May 2010) - 1 Holly Blue, at Lavender Hill Cemetery, 10:45 BST; 1 male Orange Tip, at Forty Hall, Enfield, 13:25 BST. - Robert Callf

I was working at **Hexton chalk pit** today and saw a green hairstreak, brimstone - 2 males, speckled wood, many common blues (I counted 15 walking from one end of the reserve to the other) and dingy skipper - had 2 definite sightings but there were probably quite a few more (lots of moths about to add to the confusion!) Paul Thrush

Surprisingly good day for butterflies. Rickneys, I overcounted the brown argus last night there were 27 common blue at least and only 8 brown argus and two small heath, no grizzleds, made up for it on waterford heath on **north pit** 15 common blue, a holly blue, 2 brown argus, 1 orange tip and 4 grizzleds. But on **Waterford heath south** almost all on western bank sheltering from the wind 16 grizzled skippers, 1 small heath, 1 small copper, 2 orange tips ,4 peacocks, 5 brown argus and 7 common blue. Plus burnet companions, treble bar and speckled yellow moths. Most common blues I have seen on Waterford Heath - Steve Kiln

Monday 24th May 2010

Went to **Rickneys** tonight to see roosting butterflies. 2 small heath, 10 brown argus and 25 common blue approx - Steve Kiln

Good sightings on my transect of **The Warren** today with 24 Common Blue (mainly m), 5 Small Copper, 4 Small Heath, 2 Orange Tip (f), 2 Peacock, 2 Small/GV White. Also 3 Common Blue (?) Damsely - John Moss

Counted the following on **Icknield Way and Telegraph Hill** earlier today: 5+ Green-Veined Whites, 15+ Orange Tips, 10+ Brimstones, 4 Small Whites, 15+ Common Blues, 2 Peacocks, 6+ Dingy Skippers, 3 Small Heaths, 2 Holly Blues, a Small Copper and at least 2 Green Hairstreaks. The Green Hairstreaks were found just off Icknield Way towards Telegraph Hill where there is a ditch and a 'picnic' area. - Peter Clarke

After three consecutive weekends visiting **Hexton Chalk Pit**, I eventually see my one and only Green Hairstreak on **Sunday 23rd May** flying low across the grass behind the upper bench. Also Dingy Skippers very abundant - John Landels

First one this year - very fresh looking Buttoned snout in my garden in **Yiewsley** last night - Paul Field

One, possibly two, Brown Argus in **Brunel Bicentenary Gardens** this morning, May 24th, also seen was a Broad-bodied Chaser dragonfly. Both of these were my first of the year for the area - Roger Morton

Sunday 23rd May 2010

News from Diane Andrews: visited **Trent Park** to see if the Chimney Sweepers were flying (not yet!). Saw **61 Small Heath** in an hour. Also 10 Small Copper, 4 Common Blue, 2 Orange Tips, 1

Comma and 3 Burnet Companions.

A few sightings for today (Sunday 23rd May 2010) - Oakwood Park, N14 - 1 Burnet Companion; 1 male Orange Tip, 12:28 BST; 1 Small Copper, 12:45 BST; 1 male Common Blue, 12:46 BST. Grovelands Park, Southgate - 2 Holly Blue, 13:53 and 14:01 BST; 1 Mother Shipton, 14:35 BST. - Robert Callf

I happened to be on the golf course on **Horsenden Hill** during the afternoon (a few friends and I conscripted to practice ahead of some golfing stag weekend...). I was more interested in the butterflies though, especially when a Painted Lady fluttered past - my first of the year. A number of whites seen and an unidentified small dull one (roughly common blue sized or a bit smaller) - Mike Rubin

Saturday 22nd May 2010

Late news from Christine Shepperson - 1 Grizzled Skipper seen at Waterford north pit on Saturday

Enfield Ridgeway EN2---Holly Blue egg laying on Pyracantha flower buds (The orange berry type)-----about 50cms from ground level on a hedge--S E facing-----I have not seen Pyracantha mentioned in any records before? (This is the same hedge that was covered with 40+ Painted ladies nectaring last year) KIT JONES

Very hot at **Hunsdon Mead** this afternoon saw 20-30 small coppers, plenty of orange tips, and a couple of holly blues near Roydon station but highlight was an emperor moth on the mead - Steve Kiln

Some news for today (Saturday 22nd May 2010) - 1 Comma, along Hadley Road/Parkside Farm, 10:47 BST; 2 male Orange Tip, together, along Jubilee Path at Park Farm, 11:47 BST; 1 Small Copper, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent CP, 12:36 BST; 1 male Common Blue, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent CP, 12:37 BST - My first for the year! 1 Mother Shipton, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, 13:30 BST; 1 Holly Blue, Windmill Hill, Enfield , 14:00 BST. - Robert Callf

Good numbers of dingy skipper at **Hexton Chalk Pit** on **21st May** ie 23 + common blues, small heath, orange tip, brimstone etc. Plus at Highdown area 6 dingy skipper and 4 green hairstreak - Stuart Pittman

News from the **19th May**. Visited **Aldbury Nowers** on wed 19th weather was fair for a while, lost count of numbers but spotted , green hairstreak, dingy skipper, grizzled skipper, green veined white, small and large white, orange tip, brimstone, brown argus, common blue, small heath, and a peacock - Richard Geary

Friday 21st May 2010

News from Tues 18 May. On a Wildlife Site survey of **Lamb's Spring Wood** we recorded 5+ Orange Tip (both sexes), 3 Speckled Wood, 1 Peacock, 1 Red Admiral + several possible, Small White/GV White/Orange Tip(f). (It's difficult to follow butterflies when one's peering at ground flora.) - John Moss

Waterford Heath, a hot afternoon produced 2 Grizzled Skipper in the southern part. Also Three Orange Tip, single Brimstone male, and Holly Blue, and seven Peacock - Phil Bishop

Year's first sightings of Common Blues (2) on my **Bunkers Park transect**. Also, 2 Common Blues seen on neighbouring **Long Deans NR** - Michael Pearson

A few sightings for today (Friday 21st May 2010) - 7 Small Copper, (1 by Lower Lake, 12:01 BST, 6 'New Fields' Trent CP, between 12:47 - 13:03 BST); 1 Red-eyed Damselfly, Upper Lake, Trent CP - My first of the year! 3 Small Heath, 'New Fields', Trent CP, between, 12:40 - 12:47 BST; **1 Painted Lady**, 'New Fields', Trent CP, 12:45 BST - My first of the year! 1 Green Carpet, settled, near Shaws Cottages, Trent CP - My first of the year! - Robert Callf

Thursday 20th May 2010

A lunchtime walk at **Brunel University** produced 2 m Common Blue, Holly Blue, 3 Orange Tip, 2 Peacock, 3 Speckled Wood, Large White and Small White. - Steve Pash

I refrained from heading off to exotic distant shires today when the sun peeped through, and ambled off along the **River Colne to J14**. The highlight was that the Small Heath, Brown Argus and Common Blue contingent were back again this year. This already makes 15 of the 22 species seen last year in this neck of the woods. Totals today were: Small Heath 6; Common Blue 2(m); Brown Argus 1(m); Small White 10; Green-veined White 5; Orange Tip 10(all m - no f confirmed at all); Brimstone 1(m); Speckled Wood 2; Red Admiral 1; Comma 1; Peacock 4. I spotted and photographed a GVW egg-laying, and got a bad shot of the resultant egg. One Peacock was in a sorry state, grubbing on the ground for salts and moisture - not much of the latter about, sadly. A little later, I went off to have a look at **Harmondsworth Moor**. A pleasant stroll, though very close to being spoiled by rampant dogs who seem to take exception to people with cameras. I have had countless walks ruined by dogs. Nevertheless, I saw the following: Orange Tip 4(3m & 1f); Brimstone 1(f); Small White 3; Small Heath 3; Small Copper 1; Brown Argus 3(m); Common Blue 6(4m & 2f). I intend to photograph as many different Common Blue females this year as I can - the two seen today were so different and will make an excellent starting point! I also found a couple of miniscule Orange Tip caterpillars on Lady's Smock plants, and a few unhatched eggs. On the moth front, one Burnet Companion was seen, keeping appropriate company with the hundreds (probably thousands) of Burnet moth caterpillars and pupae dotted around. - Dave Miller

Went to **Bencroft Wood** this afternoon, nothing apart from a speckled yellow. However went to Rickneys and saw a few orange tips, then suddenly I noticed about 10 common blues, my first of the year. As well as this, there were 2 or three brown argus, a small heath, three green veined whites and a couple of grizzled skippers. Afterwards at waterford heath south, as well as several peacocks and whites, a couple of Grizzled skippers, and a female common blue and in the north pit a small heath - Steve Kiln

Despite the cloud male orange Tips were fairly numerous on a walk along the River Ver at **Redbournbury** today. I saw 8 in a 1 mile stretch. I took the picture on a small Sony W55 Other butterflies were Green Veined White 2 & Small White 2 - Ernie Leahy

Some news for today (Thursday 20th May 2010) - 2 Holly Blue, 12:07 and 12:15 BST; 1 Green-veined White, 12:13 BST at Grovelands Park, Southgate. News for **yesterday** (Wednesday 19th May 2010) - 1 male Orange Tip, at South Lodge Farm, Enfield, 08:45 BST; 1 Peacock, along Merryhills Brook/Vicarage Farm, 08:55 BST; 1 female Orange Tip, along Merryhills Brook/Vicarage Farm, 08:59 BST; 3 male Orange Tip, at Vicarage Farm, 09:06 - 09:22 BST; 1 Peacock, at 'Barracks', Vicarage Farm, 09:11 BST; 1 female Orange Tip, at 'Barracks', Vicarage Farm, 09:32 BST; 2 Peacock, at Parkside Farm, Enfield, 10:50 and 10:54 BST; 1 Mother Shipton, on Res banking, Parkside Farm - My first of the year! 1 Peacock, near Obelisk, Trent CP, 11:51 BST; 1 Red Admiral, edge of Rough Lot, Trent CP, 12:16 BST; 1 Small Copper, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent CP, 12:20 BST; 1 Small Heath, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent CP, 12:20 BST; 1 Peacock, edge of Ride Wood, Trent CP, 12:25 BST; 1 Red Admiral, settled in ditch, near Ride Wood, Trent CP, 12:25 BST; 1 Peacock, Icehouse Wood, Trent CP, 12:50 BST; 1 Burnet Companion, set-aside field near Williams Wood, Trent CP - My first of the year! 1 Peacock, edge of Williams Wood, Trent CP, 12:58 BST; 1 male Orange Tip, edge of Williams Wood, Trent CP, 12:58 BST; 1 male Orange Tip, near Shaws Wood, Trent CP, 13:06 BST; 1 male Orange Tip, along Merryhills Brook/South Lodge Farm, 13:11 BST; 2 Peacock, together, along Merryhills Brook/South Lodge Farm, 13:17 BST; 1 female Small White, settled, along Merryhills Brook/Vicarage Farm, 13:20 BST; 1 Green-veined White, settled, along Merryhills Brook/Vicarage Farm, 13:20 BST; 2 Peacock, together, along Merryhills Brook/Vicarage Farm, 13:22 BST; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, along hedgerow off 'Barracks', at Vicarage Farm, 13:32 BST; 1 female Orange Tip, along New River in Town Park, Enfield, 13:56 BST. - Robert Callf

Wednesday 19th May 2010

Didn't have long, but visited Rickneys and saw 3 male common blues, 1 grizzled skipper, 3 small heaths, 2 brown argus, one small copper, and a brimstone; and at **Waterford Heath north**, with the sun gone in, two grizzleds on the ground and a small copper - Andrew Middleton

Tuesday 18th May 2010

I saw a red admiral (pristine!), peacock and small copper this morning at **Alpine Meadow**. The route down to the meadow from Bridgewater school produced 2 peacock, 2 green veined white, 3 orange tip, brimstone and an unidentified white. Whilst doing the transect at **Aldbury** I saw my first **common blue** this afternoon (northern enclosures) and found a green hairstreak in the small southern enclosure adjacent to the Ridgeway (I haven't seen them here before) - Paul Thrush

News from Diane Andrews. Today at **Aldbury Nowers** with increasing cloud making it harder to find butterflies: 7 Dingy Skipper, 2 Grizzled Skipper, 8 Brimstone, 1 each Small, Large and Green-veined White, 10 Orange Tip, 1 Green Hairstreak, 3 Brown Argus, 11 Peacock and 2 Small Heath. Moths were 3 Cinnabar, 1 Burnet Companion, 2 Treble bar species, 1 Small Yellow Underwing and 2 Pyrausta Nigrata.

Monday 17th May 2010

Some sightings for today (Monday 17th May 2010) - 5 Small Copper, 'New Fields', Trent CP, 11:55 - 12:09 BST; 3 Small Heath, 'New Fields', Trent CP, 11:58 - 12:20 BST; 1 Peacock, Sect. 8, 'New Fields', 12:09 BST; 2 Speckled Wood, together, Sect. 7, 12:11 BST; 2 Peacock, together, along Jubilee Path, Park Farm, 13:30 BST; 2 male Orange Tip, at Park Farm, 13:47 and 13:56 BST; 1 Red Admiral, at Park Farm, 13:48 BST; 1 male Orange Tip, edge of Williams Wood, Trent CP, 14:31 BST; 2 Small Tortoiseshell, Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm, 14:47 - 14:48 BST; 1 male Orange Tip, along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm, 14:50 BST; 1 Peacock, along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm, 14:54 BST; 1 male Orange Tip, at Sidhil's Field, Vicarage Farm, 15:08 BST; 1 Green-veined White, at Enfield Road, EN2, 15:20 BST. - Robert Callf

Aldbury Nowers, I saw 5 orange tips, 6 brimstones, 3 grizzled skipper (resting on st johns wort seed heads due to the poor weather), 7 dingy skipper, 3 brown argus and 3 small heath throughout the reserve today. Many of these were resting up on seed heads but once the sun did come out the skippers in the key butterfly area in particular were very active - Paul Thrush

c5-6 Dingy Skippers at **Hexton Chalk Pits** this afternoon. Also Brimstone, Orange Tip and Peacock. Orange Tip and Holly Blue in the garden in **Hitchin**. The transect at **Wood Lane, Pirton** on **Friday 14 May** yielded only 3 Orange Tips and 1 Peacock. became rather overcast - Nigel Agar

Saturday 15th May 2010

Bricket Wood Common, St Albans - Orange Tip 7, Brimstone 17, Speckled Wood 3, Common Carpet 1, Peacock 3, Green-veined White 1 - Malcolm Hull

Friday 14th May 2010

Some news for today (Friday 14th May 2010) - 3 Small Heath, between 12:36 - 12:46 BST; 4 Small Copper, between 12:42 - 12:49 BST, at Trent CP. 1 Red Admiral, at Park Farm, 13:40 BST; 1 Peacock, at Park Farm, 13:52 BST. 1 Peacock, at Parkside Farm, 14:07 BST. 2 Small Yellow Underwing, copulating, on Res banking, at Parkside Farm. 1 Holly Blue, at Town Park, Enfield, 15:25 BST. - Robert Callf

On a brief visit to **Aldbury** this morning to check the sheep I saw 2 small heath, 4 dingy skipper, grizzled skipper, small copper, brown argus, brimstone and orange tip - Paul Thrush

Today I saw a male orange tip butterfly in my garden in **Letchworth Garden City**. It fluttered but did not settle and eventually drifted into neighbouring gardens - Peter Groves

Thursday 13th May 2010

Aldbury Nowers, I saw **4 small heath**, 3 small copper, **9 dingy skipper**, 2 green hairstreak, 5 orange tip, 2 brimstone and a peacock today at Aldbury, all in the southern enclosures. When the sun came out it was quite warm, these are the first butterflies I've seen in over 2 weeks! - Paul Thrush

Counted three Speckled Wood in Grovelands Park, **Southgate**, N14 this afternoon (Thurs 13th May 2010) between 15:50 - 15:59 BST. - Robert Callf

Sunday 9th May 2010

It was very cold and overcast on Sunday May 9th for the branch field trip to **Aldbury Nowers**. Four people attended. The sun came out briefly and in two sheltered spots, one in the upper and one in the lower meadow two freshly emerged **Small Heath** were spotted roosting - David Chandler -

Saturday 8th May 2010

9°C and drizzly, **13 grizzled skippers** roosting **Waterford Heath** south, mostly on the south-facing bank, plus a brown argus; Rickneys ~ single grizzled skipper, small copper and **brown argus** - Andrew Middleton

Thursday 6th May 2010

Just a note to say I saw 2 holly blue in central **Hoddesdon** today at the junction of Stansted Road and Lilac Road - Laurence Drummond

Wednesday 5th May 2010

Went to **Hunsdon Mead** saw three small copper, many orange tips, 4 plus speckled woods, a peacock and a few green veined whites - Steve Kiln ([Steve is leading a Butterfly Training Day for the HMWT on the 22nd May 2010](#))

Counted **seven Small Copper** at **Trent CP** today (Wednesday 5th May 2010) between 11:39 - 12:17 BST - My first of the year! - Robert Callf

Enfield Parks Outreach Team **Ramney Marsh** walk for birdsong and butterflies this morning lead by Andrew Middleton with Brian Dawton (Enfield Lock Conservation Group: *"We struggled with butterflies - it was rather cloudy - just orange tip, large white, green-veined white, 1 small tortoiseshell and a peacock. Otherwise, we fared very well, with Brian Dawton spotting a water vole swimming along Turkey Brook/Small River Lea at Prince of Wales Field. At Rammey Marsh, further excitement ensued, with chiff-chaff, willow warbler, sedge warbler, reed warbler, blackcap, garden warbler, lesser whiatethroat and whitethroat all in song. Plus two grasshopper warblers reeling, including one in full view on cow parsley; we saw a latticed heath here, and finally, a Cettis warbler gave us a few bursts of song along the canal."*)

Monday 3rd May 2010

Despite the cold wind I still managed to see 4 male Orange-tip, 3 Speckled Wood a GV White and a Peacock at Ten Acre Wood and adjacent meadows, **Hillingdon** - Steve Pash

Ware garden, a Speckled Wood nectaring on apple blossom - Liz Goodyear

Rotten weather this weekend, but I had to make one brisk stroll along the **River Colne** late this afternoon (Monday 3rd). One spot sheltered from the NE wind harboured a Small White, a Speckled Wood and a fresh male Green-veined White. And that was it! - Dave Miller

Saturday 1st May 2010

One **Dingy** out in the **Highdown area** on 1st May but no green hairstreaks yet - Stuart Pittman

Butterflies seen at **Heartwood Forest** today were 1 orange tipped, 3 speckled wood, 1 small white and 3 large white - Andrew Steele

April 2010

Friday 30th April 2010

This morning 30th April I saw a speckled wood flutter against the window in **Kings Langley**. Later I rescued a beautiful pristine angle shades moth caught in the greenhouse - Elizabeth Debenham

A few sightings for today (Friday 30th April 2010) - 7 Speckled Wood, at Oakwood Park, N14 between 10:37 - 10:40 BST; 7 Speckled Wood, at Grovelands Park, Southgate, N14, between 11:22 - 12:12 BST. - Robert Callf

Wednesday 28th April 2010

I saw **3 dingy skippers** this morning at **Aldbury**, all in the southern part of the reserve. Also had 2 grizzled skippers in the third enclosure together with **2 small copper** and a holly blue. There was another **grizzled skipper** in the key butterfly area and a **green hairstreak** (northern enclosure). Totals for other species throughout the reserve : brimstone - 16, orange tip - 20, peacock - 7 and single speckled wood and small tortoiseshell - Paul Thrush

Started at **Hexton Chalk Pit**, but a bit cloudy but a **Dingy Skipper** was found basking in one of the gulleys. A second one on the top and then after some sunshine we saw 4 clashes involving presumed 8 individuals as they were in different areas including the very north end of the site (closest to Hexton village). Also **4 Pyrausta nigrata** (*they are not supposed to be flying yet?*) but no Green Hairstreaks. Also seen were Brimstones, Peacock, and 2 Speckled Woods at the entrance. On the field egg 2 hatched white-letter eggs were found on elm in two different 'tetrads'. Over the road on the foot path that goes towards Fairy Hole, Comma, Orange Tip, Peacocks,

Brimstones, Small Tortoiseshell and Green-veined White were seen. Then at **Telegraph Hill**, no Dingy Skipper but **4 Green Hairstreak**. Three were seen flying out from a sycamore tree behind the gulleys and clashing high into the sky. One would return to perch on the leaves well off the ground. Later a female was seen on an egg laying run. Also seen were **Burnet Companion and Mother Shipton** moths and a **Small Purple-barred moth**. Over the track in **Hoo Bit**, several burnet companion and a single **Dingy Skipper**. We didn't visit the Pegsdon Hills though - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

Stanwell Moor, another report before the weather changes for the weekend! A lunchtime gentle stroll from the village to J14 and back produced a good crop of butterflies today. There were an abundance (I lost track of numbers) of Whites, mostly Small, but a few Green-veined in amongst them, and including two Large Whites as well. Two female Orange Tips were spotted, their behaviour so different from the males, in that they stop on flowers and pose for photos! Again, there were so many male Orange Tips that I lost count. 8 Peacocks were encountered at regular intervals, starting to look faded and tatty now, but no Commas. Five Brimstones were seen, including one female, five Holly Blues well spread out along the walk, and numerous Speckled Woods - once more I ran out of fingers with these. However, the highlights of the day were **two brand new Small Coppers**. Nine species, 50 or more butterflies - not bad. Dave Miller

Found on a walk in the **Lea Valley** yesterday, Cheshunt to Fishers Green (Tuesday 27th): 30+ male Orange Tip (everywhere), 2 unidentified whites, 1 Brimstone, 2 Holly Blue, 2 Comma, 3 Speckled Wood, 4 Peacock. My first butterfly photo of the year is attached - Brian Price

On derelict land at Lye Lane nr Bricket Wood TL 12 03 - male Orange Tip & Peacock; Blackgreen Wood nr Bricket Wood TL 13 02 - male Orange Tip; Smug Oak Lane nr Bricket Wood TL 14 02 - 4 Orange Tips (including 1 female), Peacock & Speckled Wood; Drop Lane nr Bricket Wood TL 14 01 - 2 male Orange Tips & a Peacock; near Munden House nr Bricket Wood TL 13 00 - 2 male Orange Tips, Peacock, Comma (same location as on 16/3) & Speckled Wood; Blackbirds Lane nr Radlett TL 14 00 - 2 male Orange Tips, 2 Peacocks & a Speckled Wood; Wall Hall nr Aldenham TQ 13 99 - male Orange Tip, Peacock & 2 Speckled Woods; Otterspool nr Aldenham TQ 12 99 - 4 Orange Tips (incl 1 fml), 2 Peacocks & a Comma and **Saturday 24th April 2010** In a Garston (Watford) garden TL 11 00 - male Brimstone, male Orange Tip, 2 Holly Blues, Peacock & Speckled Wood. - Colin Everett

Some sightings from in and around London **Tuesday 27th April Green Park (W1)** Orange Tip 2, Brimstone !!!!!!! - 1 - unexpected - one lone wandering male - clearly lost his A2Z, Small White 1, Peacock 1. **Wareside**, Orange tip - 6, Brimstone - 5 (having a good season from what we have seen in Newmarket close to 50 last Saturday, Small White - 2, Green Veined White 1, Holly blue 1 - Phil MacMurdie

Some news for today (Wednesday 28th April 2010) - 1 Peacock, at Rough Lot, Trent CP, 09:19 BST; 1 Peacock, at Ferny Hill Farm, 09:36 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, at Rough Lot, Trent Park, 09:20 BST; 2 male Orange Tip, along Hadley Road, near Park Farm, 09:56 BST; 2 male Orange Tip, at Park Farm, 10:07 and 10:18 BST; 2 Peacock, at Parkside Farm, 10:37 and 10:40 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, at Vicarage Farm, 11:08 BST; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, at Barracks, Vicarage Farm, 11:16 BST; 1 female Large White, at Barracks, Vicarage Farm, 11:23 BST; 1 Holly Blue, Chase Green, Enfield Town, 12:20 BST; 1 Holly Blue, in Town Park, Enfield, 12:32 BST. - Robert Callf

Horsenden Hill Monday 26th April: Mostly cloudy, maybe 15C, but the sun did start poking through periodically during the walk. 1x Male Orangetip 1x White 1x Speckled Wood. **Grove Farm Tuesday 27th April:** Glorious sunshine. Light winds. 19C. Grove Farm looks quite lush today. A far cry from the wasteland when I last visited. I hope they can maintain it as so. Alas I won't find out. Almost certainly this was my last visit to this location for the foreseeable future. 9x Whites 7x Speckled Wood 7x Male Orange Tip 4x Peacock 3x Unidentified (but probably 2x Speckled Wood and 1x Peacock) 2x Holly Blue (my firsts of the year . Additional: This morning a number of whites (5+, one was definitely a Large White) and a Speckled Wood flew past my Kellogg Tower office window in Greenford. **Horsenden Hill Wednesday 28th April:** More sunshine but hazier and muggier than yesterday. Light winds and 20C. Nice to see Small Coppers for the first time this year. 11x Whites (Including 1 definite Green Veined White and 1 suspected Female Orange Tip) 9x Peacock 3x Male Orange Tip 2x Speckled Wood 2x Small Copper (My firsts of the year) ...**and that is my final regular Horsenden Hill area report** - Mike Rubin

Tuesday 27th April 2010

Went on a wildlife stroll with my small son on **Harmondsworth Moor** after school this afternoon. Very warm, very hazy sun, and in amongst the tadpoles we saw 3 Peacocks, 6 Orange Tips and a couple of Small Whites. We also discovered four separate Orange Tip eggs. One of the Small Whites unusually obliged with a photo - which was fortunate, as it turned out to be an almost completely white individual with just a few black scales. I know the spring ones are less-heavily marked, but I've never come across such a white White before - Dave Miller

Waterford Heath north pit at lunchtime, **1 Grizzled Skipper**. **Frogmore Pit**, probably **4 Grizzled Skipper** and **1 Small Copper**, also Orange Tip, Comma, Peacocks, Brimstone and Speckled Wood. Near Rickney's Pit 2 hatched white-letter eggs on nice roadside elm - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

On Sunday **25th April** my husband saw a pair of holly blues in the morning and I saw two single holly blues later in the afternoon in **Kings Langley**. One speckled wood, one male orange tip closely followed by either a small white or a female orange tip - Elizabeth Debenham

I was at **Purwell** yesterday and saw a comma, orange tip and quite a few speckled woods. Today we were working at **Ashwell quarry** and saw holly blue, peacock, small tortoiseshell, brimstone - 2 and speckled wood (at least 4 about) - Paul Thrush

I was photographing butterflies at **Aldbury Nowers**. I was on the reserve around 11:15 today 24th April and saw 2m 1f Brimstone, 4m Orange Tip, 2 Peacock, 1 or probably 2 Green Hairstreak and **1 Grizzled Skipper**. Most of these butterflies were in the middle of the three meadows/scrapes close to Pitstone Hill. I saw my first male Orange Tip at Aldbury Nowers on the 13th April 2010 - Ian Gamble

Monday 26th April 2010

Mike Rubin commented on a suburban Orange Tip along the A40 near Northolt the other day. I was delighted to see one in my front garden not far from the centre of **Greenford** yesterday, the first one I've ever seen there. Also present were 4 Speckled Woods and 2 Small or GV Whites. - Lee Hurrell

News for today (Monday 26th April 2010) - 1 Peacock, at Park Farm, 13:10 BST; 1 male Orange Tip, at Park Farm, 13:18 BST; 1 Green-veined White, edge of Moat Wood, Trent CP, 13:40 BST; 2 Speckled Wood, Rough Lot, Trent CP, (1 at 13:45 and another at 14:10 BST); 2 male Orange Tip, together, S edge of Williams Wood, Trent CP, 14:50 BST; 1 Green-veined White, at Barracks, Vicarage Farm, 15:05 BST; 1 male Orange Tip, Sidhil's Field, at Vicarage Farm, 15:10 BST; 1 male Orange Tip, at Town Park, Enfield, 15:30 BST. - Robert Calf

On the Ver Meadows at **Redbournbury**, after the sun came out there were numerous ORANGE TIPS in flight until I eventually saw a mating pair. Also there were 4 Speckled Woods on the paths - Ernest Leahy

Sunday 25th April 2010

I did the customary stroll twice over the weekend at **Stanwell Moor**: **Saturday 24th** at about 5pm - 7 Peacocks, 6 Commas, 3 Small Whites and 3 Orange Tips. The last species were already bedded down for the night on flower heads. (I had spent the day at Noar Hill in Hampshire and Denbies Hillside in Surrey, hence the late foray.) **Sunday 25th** after the cloud had broken, at about 3.30pm - 6 Peacocks, 6 Speckled Woods, 6 Small Whites, 1 Holly Blue, 1 Large White, 1 Brimstone, and at least 10 Orange Tips. A clearing in a bit of woodland where a tree had fallen into the river was ruled by an elderly Red Admiral. He had his work cut out flying sorties after four energetic young Speckled Woods - all at once on one occasion. He also saw off an Orange Tip and the Holly Blue, which was trying to settle on the ivy-covered fallen tree (personally annoying, as I would like to have taken its picture!) - Dave Miller

Saw a Green-veined White in the churchyard at St Andrew's, **Enfield Town** yesterday afternoon (Saturday 24th April 2010). - Robert Calf

Saturday 24th April 2010

We went to **Waterford South Pit** this afternoon, arriving at 2.50, we saw over the next hour at

least 5 individuals (**Grizzled Skippers**), unusually they were mainly on the slopes and not on the lower path. Also saw 3 Peacocks, Brimstone, a number of Whites and **Latticed Heaths**. Weather was sunny with a light wind - Sandra Standbridge

Went this morning to **Waterford heath south**, found **two grizzled skippers** but not where I normally see them, because of dry weather not many flowers out. Saw them on north bank of south pit amongst small blue flowers. Also brimstones, peacocks, orange tips a small white and speckled wood. At Rickneys a small tortoiseshell, orange tip and peacocks - Steve Kiln

News from Diane Andrews, 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Brunswick Park, **East Barnet** also 7 Peacocks and a Comma. At **Ally Pally**, 4 Brimstone include one egg laying.

News from **April 23rd**, in **St Albans Woodland Open space** near Sandringham Crescent, at 2.45 pm, 3 Orange Tip males, 1 brimstone. **April 24th**, in **St Albans Woodland Open space** near Sandringham Crescent, at 2.30 pm, 4 Orange Tip (2 males, 2 females) 1 brimstone, and at 2.45pm on a woodland path nearby, a speckled wood - Brian Knight

Fir & Pond Woods NR, Sat afternoon. At least 11 orange tips, 2 peacock, 1 brimstone and one small tortoiseshell - David Gompertz

Some sightings for today (Saturday 24th April 2010) - 1 Peacock, at Ferny Hill Farm, 09:31 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, at Rough Lot, Trent CP, 09:34 BST; 2 Speckled Wood, together, Shaws Wood, 10:10 BST; 1 male Orange Tip, Enfield Chase Station, 11:08 BST - Robert Callf

Friday 23rd April 2010

April in my **Hayes** garden got off to an excellent start. Comma, Peacock, Brimstone, Speckled Wood, Large White, Orange Tip and the arrival of the Holly Blue were very welcome visitors - Helen George

In my **St Albans** garden today saw my first Holly blue of the year - Andrew Steele

Just saw 2 **Grizzled Skippers** on **Waterford South Pit** - Andrew Wood (email sent at 13:54)

I did the transect at **Aldbury** today and after finishing I had a look around the key butterfly area in the northern section and found **3 green hairstreaks** (1 at the top of the enclosure near the gate/stile and 2 on the track right at the bottom. Totals for the reserve today were brimstone -22, orange tip - 25, green veined white - 3 (incl a mating pair), peacock - 6 and a single comma. There were a few whites I didn't identify, there were butterflies everywhere today! - Paul Thrush

The hoped-for *Hesperidae* failed to put in an appearance at **Aldbury Nowers** this morning, the vegetation seems not very advanced so maybe another week or two? Just the usual species on display, though Speckled Wood was my first for the year, and I persuaded an Orange Tip to stay still long enough for the photo. On a more serious note, a lot of broken car window glass in the lay-by so not a good idea to leave anything of value in the car - Robin Pearson

Meanwhile 2 suspected Peacocks and 1 White were spotted flitting by suburban **Kenton** today while washing the car and motorbike and various garden chores... (It's so nice to have Friday afternoons off when the weather is this nice...) - Mike Rubin

Thursday 22nd April 2010

Holly Blue & Speckled Wood in a **Garston** (Watford) garden TL 11 00. - Colin Everett

I've been doing some work at **Hexton** for the past two days, yesterday I saw a peacock and today (22/4/10) I saw 2 male and 1 female brimstone, single comma, small white, peacock and orange tip and at least 6 speckled woods - Paul Thrush

Recorded my first orange tip (male) of the year today (16:05), at **Ash Valley golf club** (between Little and Much Hadham). Flying slowly over privet hedge with garlic mustard growing strongly - Jonathan Forgham

News from **Horsenden Hill Meadows Monday 19th April**: Lovely weather but where did the butterflies go? Last time I walked the meadows they were everywhere. This time hardly anything. 3x Comma 3x Peacock. **Sudbury Hill Tuesday 20th April**: Went to lunch with some colleagues.

Out on the MWKL lawn and nearby I saw 2 unidentified whites. **Horsenden Hill Wednesday 21st April:** Glorious sunshine but a fairly cold breeze and only 11C. Still did better than Tuesday though. 5x Peacock 3x Speckled Wood 3x Whites (One positively identified as Green Veined White) 2x Male Orange Tip 1x Comma. **Horsenden Hill Thursday 22nd April:** Glorious sunshine and this time no wind and 12C (felt a lot warmer). Still fairly quiet. 5x Peacock 5x Whites 4x Male Orange Tip (one missing a hindwing and barely able to fly, one nectaring on bluebells but never long enough to take pics) 1x Speckled Wood. Well the end is nigh for my regular Horsenden Hill reports - Mike Rubin

Wednesday 21st April 2010

A pleasing assortment of early spring species whilst Bird Atlasing in grid square TQ09 (Rickmansworth area) today, as follows: Solesbridge Lane nr Rickmansworth TQ 04 97 - 2 Green-veined Whites around roadside Garlic Mustard; Loudwater nr R'worth TQ 04 96 - Small Tortoiseshell; Loudwater nr R'worth TQ 05 96 - male Orange Tip, Holly Blue & Peacock; Micklefield Hall nr Sarratt TQ 05 97 - 2 Peacocks; Chandler's Cross nr Watford TQ 06 98 - male Orange Tip & Peacock; Westwood Quarry nr Watford TQ 07 98 - Peacock; Hunton Bridge roundabout nr Watford TQ 08 99 - male Orange Tip & Peacock - Colin Everett

Holly Blue at 5.30pm in my garden in **St Albans** - Brian Knight

Some news for today (Weds 21st April 2010) - 1 Small Tortoiseshell, at Barracks, Vicarage Farm, 10:38 BST; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, along Merryhills Brook/Vicarage Farm, 13:41 BST; 1 Comma, along Merryhills Brook/Vicarage Farm, 13:41 BST; 1 Holly Blue, Sidhil's Field, at Vicarage Farm, 13:56 BST - My first for the year (whilst sat in the company of Ted the horse) - Robert Callf

Tuesday 20th April 2010

Some more sightings for today (Tuesday 20th April 2010) - 1 Small Tortoiseshell, at Barracks, Vicarage Farm, 11:20 BST; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, at Parkside Farm, 11:50 BST; 1 Peacock, at Moat Wood, Trent Park, 12:33 BST; 2 Speckled Wood, together, Rough Lot, Trent CP, 12:43 BST; 1 Comma, at Rough Lot, 13:10 BST; 1 Peacock, edge of Williams Wood, 13:34 BST; 2 Speckled Wood, along Merryhills Brook/Vicarage Farm, 13:50 - 13:53 bst; 1 Peacock, along Merryhills Brook/Vicarage Farm, 13:52 BST; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, at Sidhil's Field, Vicarage Farm, 14:10 BST; 1 Peacock, at Sidhil's Field, 14:12 BST; 1 Comma, at Sidhil's Field, 14:12 BST. - Robert Callf

I had 5 peacock, 6 orange tip (including 2 sets of 2 males together) and 3 small tortoiseshell at **Aldbury** late this morning and during a walk around **Wilstone Reservoir** this afternoon I had 4 peacock, 6 small tortoiseshell, and single small white and orange tip - Paul Thrush

Today at **Denham Country Park** Peacock 1, Orange Tip 7, Comma 3, Speckled wood 1 . At **Denham Quarry** Orange Tip 1, Comma 1 - Sezar Hikmet

Was cleaning my car today (**Enfield E2 area**) when two Holly blues came down and started drinking the water on the wet soil. 4x Speckled Wood at **Oakhill woods** LNR EN4 area - KIT JONES

One Small Tortoiseshell at **Tyttenhanger GPs** today, my first of the year. Robin Pearson

Monday 19th April 2010

Saw a male Brimstone settled on dandelions at Chase Road, Southgate, N14, outside Wolfsen Hillel Primary School, **yesterday** afternoon (Sunday 18th April 2010) at 15:52 BST. Also a Comma in the Town Park, Enfield at 15:08 BST. **Today** (Monday 19th April 2010) - 1 Peacock, at Park Farm, 09:20 BST; 1 Peacock, at Fernyhill Wood, 10:01 BST; 1 Peacock, edge of Rough Lot, Trent CP, 10:27 BST; 1 Comma, edge of Shaws Wood, Trent CP, 10:51 BST; 2 Peacock,, together, along bridle-path near Shaws Wood, 11:00 BST; 2 Speckled Wood, at Shaws Wood, Trent CP, 10:53 - 10:54 BST; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, at Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm, 11:25 BST. - Robert Callf

Some news from **Horsenden Hill** from over the weekend (and a bit of older news). Single Small Tortoiseshell present on both days - one on Horsenden West and the other on the East. That makes five for the year for me on the site and takes us well into double figures - not bad when you compare a miserly single record last year. On Sunday 18th I had my first Holly Blues of the year (singles in South Hill Wood and Home Mead) and first **Large Whites** (3 in total on Horsenden East). Peacocks continue in good numbers, as do Commas. Also yesterday 2+ orange-tip, 3

Brimstone, 2 Small White, 3 Speckled Wood. Not bad for a late afternoon stroll. Last Thursday 15th April I found an Orange Underwing egg flying around the Elm Pond area on Horsenden West. Unfortunately I couldn't capture it to secure an identification to species. It was also present on 16th, but an outing on Saturday, armed with improvised long handle nets, was thwarted by the non-appearance of the moth. In terms of foodplants, either species is equally likely - Andy Culshaw

Park Wood, Ruislip, One Orange Underwing moth this afternoon, in the main East-West ride. I'd been slightly doubtful about my identification, until I read Andrew Wood's report of this moth in Balls Wood on April 17th. The single specimen I watched for several minutes, was behaving in exactly the way he described. (But I couldn't get a photo, so I now realise it might have been a Light Orange Underwing!) Graham Elcombe

Sunday 18th April 2010

Some sightings from the weekend: Saturday 17th April 2010 **Horsenden Hill** Noticed a few violets in the woods which I hadn't seen before. We also saw 3 Jays flying together over the summit which was unusual as I've only ever seen single birds before. Maybe a family with a youngster but if so it was in adult plumage. Between 12 noon and 1.15pm my Dad and I saw: Peacock x 17 Comma x 2 Orange Tip (male) x 1 Brimstone (male) x 2 Small or Green Veined White x 3. On return home there was I expected there would be, a Peacock in residency in the front garden. A different individual from last weekend, and I saw 4 in total here today. Another quite worn individual was in residency a bit later on - I wonder if the territories they defend change or they move on. They were quite flighty today, especially at Horsenden Hill. One of the Peacocks in the garden kept buzzing us as we moved about and even, somewhat bravely I thought, chased after a Robin! Highlight in the garden today though was my first Speckled Wood of the year, a male. Also saw one male Small White and 2 other Small or Green Veined Whites in the garden. Sunday 18th April 2010 Allotments, **Greenford Gardens**, Greenford One confirmed male Small White and 2 other Small or Green Veined at the allotment and one further Small or Green Veined seen from the car on the way home - Lee Hurrell

There was a speckled wood and one peacock in **Kings Langley** and another speckled wood about midday today which was a very good condition and a beautiful rich brown. Evening at **Aldbury Nowers** on 18th April another male orange tip which settled in an ash tree when the evening cooled down, one tortoiseshell fluttered into the nettles near the layby and one peacock overhead - Elizabeth Debenham

Stanwell Moor sightings: Glorious weather, and plenty of butterflies. The usual walk to J14, under a sky blissfully free of aircraft and contrails, produced the following: 20+ Peacocks, 5 Small Tortoiseshells, 4 Commas, 6 Brimstones (3m, 3f), 5 Small Whites, 2 Green-veined Whites, and 4 Orange Tips (4m). On return home, I put the camera away, popped into the garden and a splendid new Holly Blue landed on my foot - typical! - Dave Miller

Walks along the Folly Brook area, south of Darlands Lake, **Mill Hill**, this week and last week, brought the following observations: both days warm and sunny; **Sunday 11th**: - 1 Red Admiral, in good condition, but certainly look as if they are overwintering here now; - 2 Peacock - 2 Speckled Wood - 4 Commas in the walk east-west, 3 in the return walk west-east, but not in the same "territories", so therefore between 4 and 7. All hutchinsonii - which is all I see in London these days. **Sunday 18th**: - 2 Speckled Wood - 2 Peacock - 2 Brimstone - 1 Small Tortoiseshell - 1 small pierid, but didn't stay still enough to tell which. No Commas; odd. My regular beat is Hampstead Heath (not visited recently) and Highgate Wood (not seen anything yet, but understand the staff have seen one Brimstone so far). - Michel Hammerson

Had my first male Orange Tip through the (**Harpenden**) garden today, taking the yearly species count to a mighty seven! Robin Pearson P.S. Make that eight now, just had a Holly Blue land on some Ivy

A few sightings for today (Sunday 18th April 2010) - 1 Peacock, at Park Farm, Enfield, at 09:42 BST; 1 Peacock, near Duncan's Wood, 11:07 BST; 2 Speckled Wood, (1 Rough Lot, Trent Park, 10:30 BST, 1 Water Grdn., Trent Park, 11:21 BST); 1 Peacock, edge of Water Grdn., Trent CP, 11:34 BST; **1 male Large White**, Shaws Wood, 11:39 BST; 1 Comma, along bridle-path near Shaws Wood, 11:44 BST; 3 Small Tortoiseshell, (1 at South Lodge Farm, 11:55 BST; 2 along Merryhills Brook/Vicarage Farm, 11:58 and 12:03 BST); 1 Comma, along Merryhills Brook/Vicarage Farm, 12:01 BST; 1 Peacock, along Merryhills Brook/Vicarage Farm, 12:03 BST; 1

male Orange Tip, near Allotments, at Vicarage Farm, 12:42 BST - my first of the year! - Robert Callf

Holly Blue in my neighbour 's garden at 11:30 am - **Redbourn** - Ernest Leahy

A morning walk along the river Beane from the ford at **Aston End to Chells Manor** produced seven Peacock, three Comma and singles of Small Tortoiseshell and Green veined White - Phil Bishop

Saturday 17th April 2010

A Holly Blue in a **Garston** (Watford) garden TL 11 00 (seen again the following day) - Colin Everett

I went to Balls Wood at lunchtime and saw as much orange/Light Orange activity as I have ever seen in any part of the wood with some amount of sunshine. There was plenty of low height activity both flight and crawling on mud. I managed to follow one individual which landed on leaf litter and crawled around for several minutes. (Confirmed by Colin Plant "The bipectinate (feathery) antennae dictate that it is a male Light Orange Underwing - not a female (which has filiform antennae).") <http://homepage.ntlworld.com/zoothorn/archiearis.JPG> and <http://homepage.ntlworld.com/zoothorn/archiearis.wmv> - Andrew Wood (video link may not open in Internet Explorer for some - if not copy link and open in Firefox?)

Spent the afternoon in my garden in **Hatfield** & was rewarded with Brimstone (m), Small White, Orange Tip (m), Small tortiseshell - John Moss

On Saturday 17th April late morning, early afternoon in **Kings Langley**, one small white butterfly with no black markings. Not sure which as it was flying fast. Also a pair of peacock butterflies chasing each other. Afternoon at **Aldbury Nowers** from around 5pm to 7pm in warm sunshine several butterflies including my first orange tip of the season (male), about 7 peacocks throughout the site, one pair, 2 or more commas resting on fence posts and grass. Finally about 7pm a pair of fast flying small tortoiseshells landed and displayed in courtship on stone slabs at the layby nettles. Some other walkers had seen a brimstone - Elizabeth Debenham

Today saw my first of the years female ORANGE TIP at Chequer Lane, **Redbourn**. Also numerous Peacocks, several Small Tortoiseshells & Brimstones along the **Ver in TL11B** - Ernest Leahy

Was walking along te road early afternoon close to **RAF Northolt, south Ruislip**. Spotted a number of Whites and my first Speckled Wood of the year. And a surprisingly suburban orange tip. 5x Whites. One was definitely a **large white**. Others unidentified all fairly small. 1x Unidentified nymphalid (probably Peacock), 1 x Male Orange Tip, 1 x Speckled Wood (My first of the year) Later in the day in Ruislip Gardens area another darkish butterfly shot past a garden. Not sure what it was - Mike Rubin

Excellent sightings 17 April 2010 at Wood Lane, **Pirton** = 10 Yellow Brimstones, females 5 males 5 all partying - 2 Green Veined White, my first Orange Tip, 4 Small Tortoiseshells, 12 Peacocks and just 1 Comma. Photographed a linked pair which seemed to be small white, (black body with grey tips to wings) but the female was so much smaller and 'he' managed to fly around with her attached when I disturbed them and then returned to carry on! - Val Fullforth

Took a walk from **Pye Corner to Latton lock** along the River Stort (herts side)saw 2 male orange tips, a comma and 1 peacock - Laurence Drummond

A few sightings for today (Saturday 17th April 2010) - 1 Peacock, Rough Lot, Trent Park, 10:55 BST; 1 female Brimstone, prospecting along hedgerow at Parkside Farm, 12:25 BST; 1 Small White, at Parkside Farm, 12:34 BST; 1 Peacock, at Parkside Farm, 12:34 BST; 1 Comma, at Vicarage Farm, 12:57 BST; 2 Peacock, together, at Vicarage Farm (time not recorded) - Robert Callf

Seen my first Orange Tip today in **Tring Park!** - Brian Jessop

Friday 16th April 2010

Saw my first Speckled Wood of the year today (Friday 16th April 2010) at Gough Park, **Forty Hill**, Enfield at 14:33 BST. Also a White sp., at Forty Hall (probably a Small) - only seen in flight -

Robert Callf

Locations for Small Tortoiseshells in North Herts and East Beds Weds and today 16/4/10: West of Arlesey, Norton Green, Stevenage dump and Old Hale Way allotments Hitchin. All on regenerating young nettle beds. Many Small Whites at Old Hale Way site - Nigel Agar

Got 4 of my first sightings: 1st Green Veined White, 2nd Speckled Wood and 3rd Holly Blue. Recorded on the 16-4-10 @ Lakeside Nature Reserve, **Tring** and recorded on the **3-4-10** Red Admiral as above - Brian Jessop

Thursday 15th April 2010

Horsenden Hill, sunny, moderate breeze, about 12C. Not a lot on the wing today (too cold? Or too much Icelandic volcanic ash?). But 2 new 2010 species for me and first Male Brimstone too. Ahh man the Orange Tips settled next to each other long enough for me to ID the female but not long enough for a nice picture. 5 x Peacock, 2 x Comma, 2 x Orange Tip (1x Tiny (half the normal size) male, 1x normal sized female, my firsts of the year, 1 x Male Brimstone, 1 x Small White (my first of the year, settled briefly allowing me to ID it) - Mike Rubin

I had 2 small tortoiseshell, 6 peacock, 2 orange tip and single brimstone, comma and an unidentified white at **Aldbury** this afternoon - Paul Thrush Regards Paul

With regard to the headline about good numbers of Small Torts coming through and my own and other reporter's sightings, I thought I'd share a couple of posts from my online diary on this very subject. (I also belong to UK Butterflies and my diary can be found at: <http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/viewtopic.php?f=29&t=3984> if anyone is interested - Lee Hurrell

Small Tortoiseshell near **Arlesey** 14/4/10. Arlesey is in Bedfordshire but the tetrad is partly in Herts - which is why I do a Bird atlas survey here - Nigel Agar

Wednesday 14th April 2010

Another amble around the fields and lanes from Eastwick towards Gilston Park and then down to the River Stort at Harlow and back along the river didn't produce many butterflies as it stayed cloudy far beyond the prediction of sun at 1 o'clock. The first butterfly seen wasn't until the River Stort was reached and it was a Small Tortoiseshell! In total beside the Stort 3 Small Tortoiseshells, 2 Peacocks and 2 Comma. Also a hatched white-letter egg in TL4512! - Liz Goodyear

Comma, Small Tortoiseshells, Peacocks and Small Whites (at least 5) flying beside the Lea just North of the Olympic site. We are walking the Capital Ring and have got thus far - John Hollingdale

Tuesday 13th April 2010

[First Green Hairstreak reported in Cambridgeshire](#)

Beautiful sunny day. 1 Small tortoiseshell seen nectaring on Mahonia flowers in newly opened pub carpark, The Rusty Gun, south of **St. Ippollitts**, at 1.20pm. A first for me in 8 years of observing in Hertfordshire! - Gwynneth Pearman

I have just returned from 4 1/2 hour amble (10km +) across the fields north of **Ware to Wareside** and across to **Thundridge**. Day took awhile to warm up so for the 1st hour or so very little seen and then sightings were only where it was sheltered and sunny. However what was most significant was the number of Small Tortoiseshell I encountered, 14 in total compared to 20 Peacock. The first time for many years (in Hertfordshire) that they have been part of the equation. Several clashes, multiple sightings nectaring in the ditches on dandelions and occasional interactions with the Peacocks. No Comma at all, three hours to see the first and only Brimstone. A few Small White, **1 confirmed Green-veined White** and I was almost home before I saw a Speckled Wood. (no Orange Tip or Holly Blue either) Also 1 hatched white-letter hairstreak egg on elm close to the A10 bypass at Thundridge. Also of note is that this area north of Ware in TL31 is rich in elm along all the old tracks including some extremely large old trees - Liz Goodyear

Hampstead Heath - I saw my 1st Orange-tip this morning (a male), along with several Brimstones. Also seen a Comma & Peacock - Mike Taylor

I saw a comma and a probable small tortoiseshell today at **Tewin Orchard** - Paul Thrush

Meadows below **Horsenden Hill**, another day another lunchtime walk. Sunny, breezy, 13-14C. 21 x Peacock, 1 x Comma, 1x Unidentified Nymphalid (Glimpsed into sun) 1x Unidentified White. (Seemed to be quite big. It wasn't stopping for me to get a good enough look.) - Mike Rubin

Monday 12th April 2010

The warmest day of the spring produced the most butterflies so far this year at **Lake Farm Country Park, Hayes**. In about 2 hours during the early afternoon I counted 26 Peacocks, 5 Small Whites, 3 Commas, 3 Small Tortoiseshells and one male Brimstone - Peter Naylor

Interesting to see what happens if you go out over the same ground on consecutive days! On **Saturday 10th**, I repeated my **Stanwell Moor walk to J14**. It was warmer than Friday, and numbers were up. I eventually lost count of the Peacock population after about 20 - they were popping up every 50 metres or so, and where territories overlapped, many dogfights ensued. Challenges were issued to anything that moved, thwarting my chances of photographing Brimstones (six seen, all but one male) and Commas (five today after none yesterday). I also saw one Small Tortoiseshell. On **Sunday 11th**, the weather had become windy and a lot cooler, and many of the Peacocks stayed away - I saw only six, and no Brimstones or the Small Tortoiseshell. However, there were three Commas, and one brand new male **Orange Tip** pottering about. (I had seen a female Orange Tip on Saturday down at Denbies in Surrey). Finally, I encountered a somewhat worn Red Admiral. I was reading that the number of Red Admirals seen this spring has hardly dropped, despite the very cold winter. It seems the consensus now is that they are genuinely hibernating, as opposed to "overwintering" - which apparently isn't quite the same thing - Dave Miller

Horsenden Hill, clouded over during the lunchtime walk and quite breezy but pleasant 13-14C. Despite that I did spot a few butterflies... 2x Comma, 2x Peacock, 1x Small Tortoiseshell! (Faded but good condition, in Batts Field, 1st Small T I've seen in Middlesex for years.)and 2x Unknown (suspected Comma and Peacock - both on the move and only glimpsed) - Mike Rubin

Sunday 11th April 2010

On the Herts side of **Pegsdon Hills** 2 peacocks, 1 comma, **1 green-veined white**, 1 brimstone - A J Steele

Friday 9 April, In my garden in **Hatfield** today Small Tortoiseshell, 1st of the year, nectaring on a blue primula - John Moss

News from **Friday 9th April, Greenford Park cemetery**, between 5 and 5.30pm I saw my first Peacock of the year and then my first 2 Small Tortoiseshells, one of which I watched bed down for the night under a dock leaf. **Saturday 10th April, Horsenden Hill** My first **Orange Tip** of the year, a male and then my first male Small White. Between 12 noon and 1.30pm also saw Peacock x 12 Comma x 3 Small Tortoiseshell x 1 Brimstone (male) x 1. Had 3 Peacocks in my front garden today too. **Greenford Park cemetery** Small White x 1 Small Tortoiseshell x 2 Peacock x 4. Also saw 4 Peacocks in **Brent River Park** - Lee Hurrell

Saturday 10th April 2010

In the Highfield area of Hemel Hempstead TL 06 08 - a male Brimstone; Old Jeromes near St Albans TL 10 08 - Peacock & Comma; Hogg End Lane nr Hemel Hempstead TL 09 08 - Peacock & Small Tortoiseshell; Buncefield nr Hemel Hempstead TL 08 08 - Peacock - Colin Everett

Saw another Orange Underwing on the edge of Williams Wood, **Trent CP** this afternoon (Saturday 10th April 2010) at 12:08 BST - Robert Callf

Friday 9th April 2010

During my **Morgans Walk** transect I recorded 4 Peacock, 3 Comma and my first **Holly Blue** of the year - Alan Reynolds

The second weekly transect of the year at **Bricket Wood** produced 1 Brimstone, 2 Commas and 13 Peacocks. Nearby in **Garston Park** TL 12 00 there were 4 Peacocks, 3 Commas and 4 Small Tortoiseshells - the latter in a fairly extensive open area of young nettles next to a stream - Colin Everett.

Brimstones were abundant in tetrad TL02Y **Galley Hill**, nr Luton on 8/4/10 when I did my birdatlas count. A possible Small Tort on Icknield Way today near Pegsdon - Nigel Agar

Today's lunchtime walk at **Brunel University** bettered yesterdays with 12+ Peacock, 3 Comma, 2 Small White, 2 male Brimstone and my first **Speckled Wood** of the year - Steve Pash

Today was my first opportunity this year to walk from **Stanwell Moor village** along the river to J14 and back in decent weather (hazy sun and about 17 or 18 degrees). I saw at least 9 Peacocks, plus three Brimstones (2M 1F) and last but not least a Small Tortoiseshell - Dave Miller

Here are my sightings for yesterday at **Aldbury** - 11 brimstone, 1 comma, 14 peacock (groups of up to 4 clashing high in the sky then flying back down to bask) and 3 small tortoiseshell. At **Alpine Meadow** there were 2 brimstone with a peacock and small tortoiseshell along the farm track that leads to the reserve and a brimstone and small tortoiseshell near **Bridgewater school**. I also saw a brimstones flying over the A41 just before Berkhamsted and another flying over station road in Tring - Paul Thrush

In **Brunel University Bicentenary Gardens** this morning (April 9th) were at least two **Speckled Woods**, a Small Tortoiseshell, a Small White and several Peacocks and Commas. Also, there was a male Common Redstart, between 11.30 and 11.45, when it flew into the fenced off area by the River Pinn - Roger Morton

Thursday 8th April 2010

A couple of new butterflies for the year, in our **Cowley** garden this afternoon (April 8th). Firstly a **Small White**, followed by a **Holly Blue**, which in just a few seconds narrowly missed colliding with a feral pigeon, then had to take action to avoid being eaten by a predatory Robin - Roger and Sylvia Morton

13 peacock at work today **St.Albans** - Richard Geary **Whippendell Woods** in West Herts this sunny afternoon: several Peacocks, Commas and Brimstones, not surprisingly. Also, in a glade attached to the 'Strawberry Fields' area: A fresh male **Orange Tip** (at 16.09 hours). It looked rather small to me, but maybe memory from last year is playing tricks - Andy King

Lovely day today 8th. At **Waterford Heath** an abundance of peacocks 30 in all, 27 on south pit, plus 9 commas and 2 small tortoiseshells - Steve Kiln

8 Peacocks, 5 Commas, Brimstone and a **Small White** seen on my **Stevenage transect** earlier today in almost perfect weather - Peter Clarke

A lunchtime walk in the sunshine at **Brunel University campus** produced 9+ Peacock, 3 Comma, **3 Small White** and male Brimstone - Steve Pash

Today (Thursday AM) in **Fir & Pond Woods NR** Peacocks (7), Small tortoiseshell, Comma (2) and 1 Brimstone. Marvellous! - David Gompertz

Horsenden Hill, wahay the best lunchtime walk of the year so far by far. 14C, very sunny and light wind. The Peacocks are on the march! Nothing much other than them and Commas though. 18 x Peacock 8 x Comma - Mike Rubin

Tuesday 6th April 2010

3 peacocks seen today in my garden in **St. Albans** - A J Steele

In my garden in **Hatfield** today, 1+ bright Brimstone (m), 2+ Comma, 2+ Peacock. Have put "+" because pairs & singletons were around at different times throughout the afternoon & I can't be sure they weren't the same ones doing "bumps & circuits" round other gardens. Makes me want to do my first Colney Heath transect when time permits - John Moss

News from Diane Andrews from **Ally Pally** today, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, the first seen here by Diane since April 2007. Also 3 Commas and 4 Peacocks. In her garden 1 Brimstone and 1 Peacock.

I managed to photograph a beautiful fresh comma butterfly in **Kings Langley** at about 11.30am April 6th. It was sunning itself on the patio. It flew over the fence and I saw a comma again later,

but it may have been the same one. I also saw a Brimstone in a nearby deciduous woodland on **March 18th** about 2.30pm - Elizabeth Debenham

The first weekly transect of the year at **Bricket Wood**, produced 5 Brimstones, 4 Commas and 4 Peacocks. There were also many examples of either or both Orange & Light Orange Underwing moths (both species have previously been recorded here and the respective larval foodplants - birch and aspen - are common). Birds included a Long-tailed Tit nest in bramble along the transect and Little Egret, Snipe, Willow Warblers and pairs of Mandarin & Kestrel along the nearby river valley. More surprising was a small bat - clearly a Pipistrelle - feeding at Bricket Wood Common at 1640 hours. In 25 years of wildlife recording this is, I think, only the fourth time that I have observed a bat in flight during broad daylight - Colin Everett

A few sightings for today (Tuesday 6th April 2010) - 3 Peacock, edge of Williams Wood, **Trent Park**, 14:31 - 14:34 BST; 1 Comma, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 14:34 BST. 1 Peacock, by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 14:50 BST. 1 Comma, by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 14:50 BST. 1 Peacock, at Ferny Hill Farm, 15:25 BST. 2 Comma, together, in Moat Wood, Trent Park, 16:12 BST. 1 Peacock, in Moat Wood, Trent Park, 16:14 BST. - Robert Callf

Had 2 brimstone, 2 peacock and 1 small tortoiseshell at **Alpine Meadow** late this morning. Near **Bridgewater School** I had another brimstone and a comma. En route to Aldbury I had another brimstone fly across the road in **Northchurch** and 2 across Station Road in **Tring**. At **Aldbury Nowers** I had a total of 5 brimstone, 5 peacock and 2 small tortoiseshell - Paul Thrush

About 2pm here in **Tring**, 5 butterflies in the garden simultaneously. A Brimstone, 2 Small Tortoiseshells and singles of Peacock and Comma. Primrose, celandines and a fence that keeps the wind down were responsible for this gathering - Nick Bowles

Horsenden Hill, rather windy, but warm and sunny at about 15C. Butterflies seen in the more sheltered spots especially where the Blackthorn is now flowering. Still very muddy in many places. 5x Peacock (with another 2 seen but suspected repeats) 5x Comma - Mike Rubin

A second sighting - today Tuesday 6th April, 1 Peacock - at **Berkley Square - WC1**, sunning itself against one of the large London plane trees - Phil MacMurdie

Finally my first sighting - **Monday 5th April** at **Wareside 1 Small White** - Phil MacMurdie

Sunday 4th April 2010

FUNDING REQUEST FROM JEZ PERKINS.

I am the Reserve Manager for Millhoppers Pasture and also the Species Co-ordinator for the Grizzled Skipper. In September 2010 I will be taking part in an expedition to Tanzania to climb Mount Killimanjaro, at 5,895m it's the highest free standing mountain in the world. The climb will take 8 days and I am aiming to raise money for four charities one of which is our branch of Butterfly Conservation. The proceeds will be spent on our [Reserve Millhoppers Pasture](#). If you would like to make a donation please do so through the following website. Any donations will be very much appreciated: www.sponsor-me.org/kilimanjarointernationalchallenge_jezperkins Thank you - Jez Perkins

Late news from **15th March**: two sightings of Brimstone in flight in **Welwyn Garden City** on suburban roads neighbouring woodland AL8. One rather pale but one bright yellow and **21st March**: Brimstone, male, judging by colouring, seen morning and again midday nectaring on patch of red, and some white heather. Two Comma spending much time around midday nectaring on same patch of heather in my neighbour's garden in **Welwyn Garden City** - Gwynneth Pearman Jenkins

Thursday 1st April 2010

Walked the **Balls Wood** transect today in the cold sun and saw 10 Commas. Conditions were below par! - Andrew Wood

Saw a Comma in a clearing in Moat Wood, **Trent CP** today (Thursday 1st April 2010) at 10:21 BST - Robert Callf

March 2010

Sunday 28th March 2010

3 Commas and 2 Peacocks in **Broxbourne Wood** today - Alan Jackson

Popped down to **Waterford Heath** and woods around, as well as a chiffchaff saw 7 commas and a small tortoiseshell - Steve Kiln

Peacock at Ninesprings, **Hitchin** on the **27th March** - Nigel Agar

Thursday 25th March 2010

Had a small tortoiseshell early this afternoon in the key butterfly area in the northern section at **Aldbury Nowers**, it was fairly warm until the rain started! - Paul Thrush

Wednesday 24th March 2010

I was up at **Aldbury**, it was very warm and sunny for a couple of hours. Saw at least 6 brimstone, 2 comma and a single peacock - Paul Thrush

A male Brimstone, 3 Comma and a Peacock at the **Brunel University** campus at lunchtime - Steve Pash

There was a male Brimstone in Bessemer Road, **Welwyn Garden City** this lunchtime - Chris Dee

Horsenden Hill, sun came out at lunchtime and temperature shot up to 16C. Pretty warm and a bit muggy in the sunshine. But not much butterfly activity. Still almost no nectar sources so hope they hang on tight. 1x Comma on lower North slope of the hill. 1x Peacock in garden on Whitton Avenue East close to Greenford Road junction (a surprise bonus). That unexpected Peacock took my yearly total to 10. Woo hoo... - Mike Rubin

At last six sightings of male Brimstone and two separate Commas in my **Harpenden** garden today, they all managed to evade the clutches of the cats' paws! Robin Pearson

1 Brimstone in the garden in Bengoe and 4 Commas, 3 Brimstones and a Peacock on a walk across **Waterford Marsh** and through Molewood, no butterflies seen on either bit of Waterford Heath though - Andrew Wood

Very happy to see a male brimstone in the garden today (**St Albans**), has passed through 3 times, no now 4 times, not stopping - Richard Geary

Tuesday 23rd March 2010

In my garden in **Hatfield** today, bright male Brimstone heading north, tatty Comma sunbathing, 2 possible Small Tortoiseshell (overhead, flying fast, just a glimpse). I forgot to report a bright male Brimstone on 21 March, also flying north & a Peacock in a friend's garden in Bell Bar on 18 March - John Moss

1 Peacock and 1 Comma in the Hyde, **Ware** - Andrew Wood

Monday 22nd March 2010

1 Peacock and 1 Orange Underwing in **Balls Wood** (now rather more open in parts than in used to before the winter's work by HMWT) - Andrew Wood

Two orange underwing type moths disturbed from strawberry pots while I was clearing out dead leaves today, unfortunately they had disappeared by the time I returned with camera - Robin Pearson

A male Brimstone in a **Garston** (Watford) garden this morning - Colin Everett

Brimstones very active in **Hitchin yesterday**. Possible Small Tortoiseshell this morning - my wife saw it I didn't - Nigel Agar

Sunday 21st March 2010

Today on the Nicky Line at **Redbourn** were 2 male Brimstones fluttering around an Ivy covered fence. Looking forward to more sightings - Ernest Leahy

I saw this Comma in my front garden in **Greenford**, Middlesex on Sunday 21st March - Lee Hurrell

Comma, Peacock and Small Tortoiseshell on Poors Field, **Ruislip** - Steve Pash

My first butterflies of the year. At home in **Bengeo**, one bedraggled comma and at **Waterford Heath** a pristine one. About a month behind last year - Steve Kiln

Fowlmere, north end of village: 1 x male Brimstone; 2x Small Tortoiseshell (tried to commit suicide by flying at car!) **Therfield Heath**, Royston, N Herts: 1x male Brimstone; 2-3x Small Tortoiseshell - Guy Manners

At Roe End near **Markyate** (W of county, just inside Herts): a Peacock along Roe End Lane TL 03 15 and two Small Tortoiseshells on young nettles by track next to Gravelpit Wood TL 04 15. - Colin Everett

Saw a male Brimstone flutter across the Lower Luton Road in the Coldharbour region of **Harpenden** today, also a Red Admiral or maybe a Peacock up at Cooters End Lane - Robin Pearson

Saw two Comma together in Rough Lot, **Trent CP** today (Sunday 21st March 2010) at 12:04 GMT, possibly a third here also. Also saw an **Orange Underwing** flying around Birches in Williams Wood, Trent CP at 13:10 GMT. - Robert Callf

Two Commas, and my first butterflies this year, this afternoon in my **Stevenage** garden in Chells - Phil Bishop

Thursday 18th March 2010

At last and probably behind everyone else! First butterfly of the year (for me) Brimstone on the Wilbury estate in **Letchworth** on 18.3.10 - Nigel Agar

I saw 2 male brimstones today at **Alpine Meadow**, it was warm all day there. We also saw 3 common lizards, so a good day! - Paul Thrush

Managed to see some butterflies today, as follows: **Ickenham Marsh** area; 2 male Brimstone and **Westways Farm area**; 1 each of **Peacock** and Comma - Dick Middleton

Saw my first **Peacock** of the year flying in bright sunshine at 10.40am at the junction of Sun Lane and Holly Bush Lane, Harpenden. Worth mentioning, though, that I've spent 14 hours this week working on my allotment at Coldharbour Lane, Harpenden - and not a single butterfly. No more Brimstones in Harpenden after that early one on 2 March. Did see a honey bee on crocuses in our Harpenden garden though, which has to be good news - Alan Jackson

Saw a **Peacock** on the south edge of Williams Wood, **Trent Park** this afternoon at 12:34 GMT (Thurs 18th March 2010) - Robert Callf

I saw a single **Peacock** on the wing at **Stanborough Lakes** this lunchtime - Chris Dee

3 Commas and **2 Peacocks** seen on **Horsenden Hill** at lunchtime. 17C according to Northolt weather station. But, what are they going to feed on? Still almost no nectar sources anywhere. One of the Commas was tiny. All in fairly good shape. I only needed one more butterfly then I could have reported tripling my tally for the year. Heh. - Mike Rubin

Just seen a butterfly fly off as I came home from work (into the distance!).....Liz

I was working at **Aldbury** on **Monday (15/03)** and had a butterfly fly past fairly fast, I'm 99% sure it was a small tortoiseshell but it didn't stop! It was a bit smaller than a peacock and definitely wasn't a red admiral! Paul Thrush

Wednesday 17th March 2010

First butterfly sighting of the year - **two Brimstones on March 15th**. One in **Nursery Lane Cowley** the other in Bicentenary Gardens on **Brunel University Campus** - Sylvia Morton

Saw another Comma today (Wednesday 17th March 2010) at 13:30 GMT near the Firing Range at **Vicarage Farm, Enfield** - Robert Callf

Tuesday 16th March 2010

A glorious day (around 15 degrees, warm sunshine and little breeze) prompted a trip to **Horsenden Hill**, Middlesex and I was rewarded with **2 Red Admirals and a Comma**. The first RA was in good condition, the second less so. The first Red Admiral was at the top of the hill basking. I then saw a Comma who wasn't hanging about for a photo and as I made my way back a second Red Admiral was in the same location as the first, of which there was no sign. Going by the markings (even if the wing tear had happened while I'd been off walking) they were different individuals. - Lee Hurrell

Single **Comma** in my garden today. **Bishops Stortford** - Andrew Palmer

At **Bricket Wood** a **Comma** flying & basking in bright sunshine near the S edge of Four-acre Plantation TL 13 00 at noon - Colin Everett

5 Commas seen, all basking on the ground in **Whomerley Wood** and sunny sheltered spots near the Canyon Adventure Playground in Stevenage between 1330 and 1400 hours. Temperature barely 13 degrees, light SW breeze and 99% sunshine. Peter Clarke

Male **Brimstone** in **Hertford** garden yesterday and possibly a Peacock today- Jack Doyle

Monday 15th March 2010

Finally a sighting (from my wife) - **2 male brimstones** at **Wareside** - Phil MacMurdie

A single **Comma** seen in **Park Wood Ruislip**. I found several more Purple Hairstreak eggs on Oak trimmings That I had set aside from some ride clearance work in February; about 15 now and more still to locate. - Ched George My first butterfly of the year, a **Small Tortoiseshell** at **Amwell**, Monday 15th March. - Steve Lane

Saw **two Comma today** (Monday 15th March 2010) - 1 South edge of Rough Lot, **Trent Park** at 11:30 GMT, and another in Sidhil's Field, Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 13:10 GMT. These are the first butterflies that I have seen this year. - Robert Callf

Woo hoo! I'm off the blocks at last for 2010 at **Horsenden Hill**. Warm spring sunshine. No coat needed for the first time on my lunchtime walk. Saw **2 Commas** basking and glimpsed **1 female Brimstone** passing over my head. All from North end of Batts field to the tennis courts. - Mike Rubin

First butterfly of the year for me, a **Brimstone**, this morning flying strongly through my garden in **Berkhamsted**. - Michael Anderson

11.50 am My first **Yellow Brimstone** - a beautiful bright yellow fluttered out from the ivy and along the beech hedge and back. Sunny 10 deg on my **Hitchin** garden thermometer. Must be Spring at last ! Val Fullforth

Saturday 13th March 2010

If the sun does shine, apologies but there won't be any updates til Wednesday. I usually say the 13th March for Brimstones but not this year so it will be any day from now if the sun shines and the light levels are good then.....Liz

Responding to the call to look for hibernating Peacocks I searched the outhouse this afternoon & found two. More interesting, I also found a hibernating Comma in the same favoured spot, roosting on the underside of boards on the ground floor ceiling. I think this could be quite an unusual record. Butterflies have hibernated in the same spot each year - up ten individuals, but previously always Small Tortoiseshells & Peacocks, never a Comma. Emmet & Heath describes the Commas as returning to woods to hibernate in trees, whereas my house is in central St Albans, at least a mile from the nearest wood - Malcolm Hull

Tuesday 9th March 2010

News from 2nd March - saw my first **Comma** of the year at the Trust's **Tewinbury Nature Reserve**, sunning itself on a great reedmace seed head - Tim Hill

Friday 5th March 2010

I have just seen my first butterfly of the year. **Red Admiral** on the campus at **Brunel University** - Steve Pash

Thursday 4th March 2010

News from **Tuesday**, 2nd March 2010 12.25 pm **Red Admiral** in **Hitchin** garden. Sunny approx. 7 degrees - Val Fullforth

Wednesday 3rd March 2010

Recorded a **Red Admiral** in a garden in **Much Hadham**, East Herts **yesterday** 02.03.10. Was gardening and trimming buddleia so may have awoken it. Good strong colours, but the red was more of an orange. Alighted on the trunk of a cypress before heading off north westerly at 12.15pm. - Jonathan Forgham

Tuesday 2nd March 2010

One **Small Tortoiseshell** which is the first butterfly I have seen this year in my **Redbourn** garden today. I expect others would have seen more in today's welcome sunshine - Ernest Leahy

One **Comma** basking in Lower Bourne Gardens **Ware** this lunchtime. I visited Balls wood yesterday but saw no butterflies. - Andrew Wood

Saw my first male **Brimstone** today (2 March 2010) shortly after midday flying in bright sunshine in a garden opposite my house in **north Harpenden** - Alan Jackson

I had thought that someone somewhere in our branch area would have seen a butterfly yesterday. Light levels were high and in a sheltered location, it was warm and sunny - keep looking today despite last night's frost. Surely a Comma or Brimstone is going to get tempted out soon? Liz

February 2010

Sunday 21st February 2010

Brown Hairstreak Egg Hunt - today's branch field trip failed to locate any Brown Hairstreak eggs, despite an hours searching in the area close to last summer's sightings of adult butterflies. Suitable Blackthorn remains in the area, despite some heavy trimming of hedges by a local farmer. Highlight of the day was the discovery of a White Letter Hairstreak egg on Wych Elm by Liz Goodyear - Malcolm Hull

Saturday 20th February 2010

This afternoon in a brief spell of warm sunshine at **Danemead Nature Reserve** an immaculate **male Brimstone** butterfly. I claim my prize!! - Alan Reynolds (also seen by Jen Hein van Steenis)

January 2010

Saturday 23rd January 2010

The first butterfly of the year was reported to the website, but unfortunately although it was in London, it was the wrong side of the Thames! "I was sitting in my office in 'Lambeth, London SE1 7HT', yesterday afternoon (21/01/2010) around 14:30hrs, when I noticed a **Red Admiral** butterfly fluttering around the car park. It stayed for approximately 30 mins, resting on highly walls, before eventually flying off" - Matthew Gilbert