

Sightings 2014

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June 2014

Monday 30th June 2014

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards On a shorter walk today I saw my first Gatekeeper of the year which completes the 23 species seen and identified last year. The first Gatekeeper is 10 days ahead of last year's, a pattern that's prevailed throughout with other species I think. Here are the details with usual comments applying to Skippers: Small White: 6 Comma: 4 Large Skipper: 7 Ringlet: 27 Small Skipper: 56 Tortoiseshell: 5 Small Heath: 1 Meadow Brown: 19 Speckled Wood: 2 Red Admiral: 2 Gatekeeper: 1 Marbled White: 1 Large White: 1 - Pete Gore

I have just done my butterfly transect at Panshanger Park for this week and as well as getting the most butterflies since I started it, I also got a Purple Emperor! It was feeding on sheep poo in the grazing fields which is usually the least interesting part of the transect! I was very lucky to get within a foot of it as it fed for a good 5-10mins so was able to get a lot of photos - Jennifer Gilbert

On my walk at Mymms Wash behind South Mimms Services today I saw 2 Comma, 1 Red Admiral, 6 Small Tortoiseshell, 7 Ringlet, 4 Meadow Brown and 2 Small White - Terry Wood

One Marbled white at Broadfield Hall Throcking today - Laurence Drummond

In Balls Wood today on a short walk I saw : 15 skippers, 3 whites, 130 ringlets, 7 meadow browns, 4 small tortoiseshell, 3 commas and 3 white admiral. In Stocking Pelham I saw 9 small tortoiseshell and several meadow browns - Andy Brown

(Today) near St Leonard's Church, Bengoe - Marbled White (Yesterday 29th June) Kings Meads - 40 Ringlet on Mill Mead alone - Simon Knott

First Purple Hairstreak of the year in the Norton Green area on top of one of the oaks on the SW edge of Watery Grove at 1350 hours - Peter Clarke

Bridgewater fields, Ruislip Gardens saw my first 2 Gatekeepers of the year, 4 Small white, 1 Essex Skipper, 2 Small Skipper, 12+ Small/Essex skipper, 15+ Ringlet and 10+ Meadow Brown. Later at Gutteridge wood, Hillingdon, 1 Comma, 1 Small White, 2 Speckled wood, 10+ Small skipper, 8 Meadow Brown and 15+ Ringlet whilst on Gutteridge Meadow 2 Gatekeepers, 1 Large Skipper, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 20+ Ringlet, 15+ Meadow Brown and 25+ Small Skippers - Paul Busby

Sunday 29th June 2014

Noted a few butterflies, 3 Small Tortoiseshells and a Meadow Brown visiting the archaeology dig at Eastcote House Gardens, Middlesex, this morning - Paul Busby

Since moving to South Essex it was great to be back at Hexton chalk pits and was not

disappointed. Chalkhill Blues very much on the wing here now 10-15, Dark Green Fritillary, Marbled Whites, Large Skipper, Meadow Brown, Ringlet, Small Tortoiseshell, Small Heath - Kevin Taylor

St Albans - 3 or 4 White Letter Hairstreaks on the elms at King Harry Lane around 9am this morning. Later at Bricket Wood Common, an unusual sighting of a Blotched Emerald Moth. White Admiral (7), Silver-washed Fritillary (8) Marbled White (35) and Ringlet (134) were all showing in good numbers. Small Skipper, Essex Skipper, Red Admiral & new brood Comma were all recorded for the first time this week. No sign yet of Purple Hairstreak, Gatekeeper or Purple Emperor, though I expect these will all be out well before the date of the branch field trip on Sunday 13 July. Malcolm Hull

At Bayford checked out field around corner from station in Brickendon Lane (TL317081) & FOUND 8 x meadow brown, 61 x ringlet, 3 x large skipper, 7 x marbled white, 10 x small skipper, 2 x shaded broad bar. Further along Brickendon Lane (TL324080) 2 x comma, 2 x meadow brown, 1 x ringlet. At Broxbourne Woods the sun was only out for 40 mins but did see 1 x large white, 7 x speckled wood, 19 x meadow brown, 1 x small white, 1 x comma, 4 x large skipper, 2 x silver washed fritillary, 2 x red admiral, 70 x ringlet, 1 x cinnabar moth. - David Gower

White Admiral, Silver washed Fritillaries and a Purple Emperor at Northaw Great Wood this morning. [I've posted a video of the Emperor on the facebook page](#) taking nourishment from my wife's trousers - Andrew Wood

A few more sightings for Friday 27th June 2014 - 2 Red Admiral (1 near Oakwood entrance at 14:25 hrs, another Sect 7 at 14:41 hrs, Trent Park); 2+ Marbled White, Trent Park (1+ in Sect 4, another in Sect 6); 1 Purple Hairstreak, edge of Church Wood, Trent Park at 14:55 hrs; 2 Small Heath at Trent Park (1 in Sect 1 at 15:14 hrs, 1 in Sect 4 at 14:59 hrs); also several Burnet moths in flight (still not managed to id any yet - not settling!). - Robert Callf

Saturday 28th June 2014

Stanwell Moor, Saturday 28th June: The less said about the weather here the better... Nevertheless, I had a coffee in the local café at lunchtime, and as this is a few hundred metres from the Essex Skipper colony next to the southwest corner of the airport, I carried on to have a peep. Under grey skies with the odd spot of rain, and thunder rumbling in the distance, I found half a dozen of the little chaps perched on the vegetation. They were actually fairly active, despite the lack of sun. This is a very small area, but nevertheless the quest for skippers turned up a Meadow Brown and two Gatekeepers as well.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=53038&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=53040&mode=view>

Dave Miller

Checked out Merryhill Fields, Bushey again this morning and got caught in the rain! Recorded 1 x red admiral, 2 x small tortoiseshell, 39 x marbled white, 3 x large skipper, 3 x small skipper, 185 x meadow brown, 67 x ringlet. Moths were 41 x yellow shell & 10 x shaded broad bar. - David Gower

I saw only 3 Meadow Brown on a mid-morning cloudy walk in Bishops Wood, Batchworth, Hertfordshire and then during a brief 15 minute sunny spell saw 16 Marbled White, 2 Small Tortoiseshell, 2 Large Skipper, 20+ Ringlet and 25+ Meadow Brown on the rough grassland between the London Loop footpath and the golf course just beyond the wood (TQ068926) - Paul Busby

Friday 27th June 2014

Male Gatekeeper seen this morning Friday 27th June 2014 at 11:10 hrs on Res banking at Parkside Farm, Enfield - my first of the year! - Robert Callf

Whilst working on the River Crane, opposite Crane Meadows Nature Reserve, Cranford, Middlesex (TQ103765) saw a Red Admiral, Speckled Wood, 2 Small White, a Large and a Small Skipper with planes from Heathrow directly overhead. Late afternoon, further upstream on Yeading Brook, Ten Acre Wood, Charville, Hayes saw further 2 Red Admirals, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Small White, 2 Commas, 2 Ringlets, 4 Meadow Brown, 4 Large Skipper and a Small Skipper. Finally, at Gutteridge Meadow saw a Marbled White, Essex Skipper, 2 Small Skipper, 10+ Large Skipper, Small Tortoiseshell, 2 Ringlet and 40+ Meadow Brown. Surveyed the line of Elms and Oaks there, but did not see any White Letter or Purple Hairstreaks. - Paul Busby

1 x Brimstone moth & 1 x small magpie in Bushey garden this evening - David Gower

I had a look around Bedfont Lakes Country Park after work today (27th). I hadn't visited for nearly six weeks, so the most interesting area alongside the railway line was now lush with grass and flowers. There was abundant knapweed, bramble, purple vetch, lucerne, plaintain, everlasting pea, marjoram and huge swathes of birds-foot trefoil, all ideal for butterflies. After a wet spell overnight and this morning, the sun was out and it was warm but breezy at six o'clock. It was quickly apparent that the long grass was full of Meadow Browns and Skippers. There were a handful of Large Skippers, but almost every single other individual I checked (and I looked at quite a few) turned out to be a Small Skipper. It was only once I got a chance to look at the photos that I discovered one I'd seen right at the start was of the Essex persuasion. A first for the year for me, and followed very quickly by another. I had seen a Ringlet in amongst the Meadow Browns, but then a much more orange butterfly darted up from the dense ground cover. This was a fresh male Gatekeeper. Other sightings were a single Small Tortoiseshell, one Small Heath, a Green-veined White, and a few more Ringlets.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=52994&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=52995&mode=view>

Dave Miller

I walked home this evening via Tunnel Gardens in Bounds Green, 4 commas including one female (basking close to a male so really got to see how much lighter she was), 3 ringlets, 3 speckled wood, one meadow brown, four large skippers and two whites (they seemed like small whites).

Grid Reference 529170,191375

Photo Female Comma: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/64663114@N03/14513502192/>

Photo Male Comma:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/64663114@N03/14328026388/in/photostream/>

Photo Large Skipper:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/64663114@N03/14514607335/in/photostream/>

Miles Attenborough

Thursday 26th June 2014

This is truly a wonderful event for Nick's family, Nick was such a fan of the Purple Emperor until his sad early death a few years ago and his contribution to the branch website is missed to this day.

Something really strange happened yesterday and although people might not believe it I think it was a sign from my dad Nick Sampford (one of his favourite butterflies was a purple emperor). Yesterday 25th June I had a purple emperor in my garden in Thundridge. It was here for about an hour and a half it was actually landing on my son, daughter, uncle and me I got hundreds of fantastic photos. I will send some photos over in a different email as think maybe that's why the other email never sent as there was quite a few. Not sure if these can be used for anything but I know my dad would have been very proud of them and been very jealous I got to experience such a beautiful butterfly in my garden - Katie Sampford (also it is 2km from MY back garden! - Liz)

[Katie's Pictures.....](#)

Cinnabar moth seen in Garden of the Rose Herts Wed 25 June 2014 - John Nolan

The Shires Golf Course St Albans Road Barnet----large numbers of Meadow brown,large skipper and Marbled white in central conservation area---also many cinnabar moth larvae on Mugwort-(Artemesia)---no ragwort is on this site.----Kitt Jones

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/River Crane Complete walk again, starting in sunshine and horribly humid, ending in cloud with a breeze which was better for a tiring human but worse for butterflies.The highlight definitely was my first **Clouded Yellow** of 2014.This individual was particularly striking in flight, travelling less rapidly than they usually do and keeping low so that I was generally looking at it from above.It showed up as curiously multicoloured with apparently matching hind wings pale and greenish rather than the usual bright yellow which the forewings showed.It landed briefly several times including once on a Viper's Bugloss flower where,wings closed as usual, it looked like a normal Clouded Yellow if perhaps slightly greener than I would expect.A very welcome change from something of a surfeit of Skippers and browns! Here are the details: Red Admiral: 5 Large Skipper: 7 Ringlet: 45 Small Skipper: 51 Comma 5 Meadow Brown: 16 Marbled White: 2 Small White: 4 Small Heath: 1 Tortoiseshell: 8 Speckled Wood: 1 Large White: 1 Clouded Yellow: 1 - Pete Gore

Therfield Heath: Three hours on the heath east of the minor road to Therfield turned up **11 Chalkhill Blues** (all males, including an unusually dark specimen). I believe that this constitutes the earliest recorded sighting of this species in the region (??) and perhaps heralds another bumper year, weather permitting. Also of note amongst 14 species of butterfly recorded were 4 Dark Green Fritillary at two sites, 12+ Small Skipper and a recently-emerged **Gatekeeper**, the earliest one that I've ever seen. At least 300 Marbled Whites (conservative estimate) were spread across the heath, with many nectaring on the Knapweed that has emerged in the last couple of days. - Martin Johnson

I did the transect today, I had the highest total ever since doing the transect of 1018 sightings! Due to the sheer number of butterflies counting was difficult and I suspect there would have been many more not recorded on the transect and the surrounding areas. There were butterflies everywhere with marbled whites the commonest. There were plenty of dark green fritillary around and a few silver washed fritillary. Other species noted were single comma, common blue and small white, good numbers of large skipper, small tortoiseshell and a **gatekeeper**. I wonder if next week's transect will see an even higher figure?! - Paul Thrush

Some sightings for today Thursday 26th June 2014 - 1 Red Admiral, Sidhil's Field at Vicarage Farm at 09:32 hrs; 1 Comma, Sidhil's Field at Vicarage Farm at 09:34 hrs; 4 Small Skipper at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at four widely scattered locations; 1 Red Admiral at Parkside Farm, Enfield at 10:41 hrs; 1 Small Skipper at Parkside Farm; 1 Red Admiral near Duncan's Wood, Enfield Chase at 11:39 hrs; 1 Red Admiral near Obelisk, Trent Park at 11:58 hrs; 1 Comma, edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park at 12:05 hrs; 1 Small Skipper near Dew Pond, Trent Park; 1 Comma along bridle-path near Shaws Wood, Trent Park at 13:20 hrs; 1 Red Admiral along bridle-path near Shaws Wood, Trent Park at 13:20 hrs; 1 Comma along Merryhills Brook/Vicarage Farm at 13:34 hrs; 1 Red Admiral along Merryhills Brook/Vicarage Farm at 13:34 hrs - Robert Callf & Robin White

At Broxbourne ride today saw 4 white admirals, two silver washed fritillaries, several purple hairstreaks, a marbled white, commas, red admirals and large skippers and over 100 ringlets - Steve Kiln

Some sighting news for you..... We visited hay street (braughing) and walked along the footpath along the chalk ridge. The grassland I am informed is a remnant of unimproved grassland and certainly was diverse in nature. Huge swathes of birdsfoot trefoil, black meddick and many other flowers + bee orchids. As for the butterflies, we recorded hundreds of meadow browns, 20+ small heaths, which was nice to see, 50+ common blues, some very worn, whilst others looked rather fresh. 10+ marbled whites, 20+ small tortoiseshell, which looks to be having a superb season. 1 red admiral, 1 brimstone, & several ringlets. Several mother shipton moths, but one very worn **dingy skipper**, which eluded the camera. At Wareside, we raised a next of small tortoiseshell caterpillars at home in wareside, and when fully grown they all zoomed off to pupate. We found pupae in many diverse locations including under the windowsills, on the gate, to name but two, now they have hatched, and we are getting double figure counts daily as the adults feast themselves on the privet and blackberry flowers. Also seen speckled wood, and one hummingbird hawk moth. Elsewhere At Great Hornead we found pyramidal orchids which was a rare treat as well as small heath, common blue, marbled white + various grassland species, but when driving down the lanes we noticed many "dark caterpillars" charging across the road always singles but at various locations. On stopping we picked several up to avoid then being squidged. Several were re-homed into a pot. There were all peacocks. Given the five we have at home have all successfully pupated, I'm hopeful this will be a prelude to a strong emergence in a similar fashion to the small tort's we are seeing. - Phil MacMurdie

Wednesday 25th June 2014

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane I completed my usual full walk in a mix of sunny and cloudy conditions. A noticeable increase in Red Admiral sightings across the sites (with unconfirmed ones in addition to those shown) Several different sightings of 'blue' 'butterflies' in the trees were also unidentifiable but worth watching out for. As usual Skippers are seriously undercounted and the two commoner Browns somewhat less so. Whites increasing too. Here are the details: Tortoiseshell: 5 Small White: 3 Red Admiral: 6 Small Heath: 4 Comma: 8 Speckled Wood: 3 Meadow Brown: 17 Ringlet: 32 Large Skipper: 5 Large White: 1 Small Skipper: 27 Marbled White: 1 - Pete Gore

I visited some footpaths north of Pirton today up near the Bedfordshire border. A farm there is in

entry level stewardship and many of the fields have 6m margins seeded with a variety of plants particularly birdsfoot trefoil. They were alive with Marbled Whites, Meadow Browns, Ringlets and Small tortoiseshells with smaller numbers of Small Heath and Common Blue plus the odd Comma, red Admiral, Large White and Brimstone. Highlight was a very worn but active Dingy Skipper - so another new site in the county. My first Hummingbird hawk-moth of the year by the old tip between Holwell and Hitchin. Andrew Wood

Wilbury Hills picnic area off Stotfold Road, Letchworth Garden City. There were loads of Marbled Whites up there today - well over 20+ with a 10+ number of Meadow Brown, Ringlets and Large Skippers. On the footpath across to Hitchin Lavender farm at least 20 Small Tortoiseshells. - Jill Sawyer

Visited Aldbury Nowers today with a friend from midday until 2:30 pm lovely sunny day on the escarpment so many Ringlets & Marbled Whites we were unable to count them, must have easily been in excess of 100 of each, & 50 Skippers not sure what type probably small, also 10 Dark Green Fritillaries (first ever sighting), 15 Speckled Woods, 6 Small Tortoiseshells, 4 Red Admirals. 2 Small Blues on the downland slopes (again a first sighting), never realised how brown they are). It was just like being in Butterfly heaven, if you live near Tring definitely worth a visit - Paul Gibson

Tuesday 24th June 2014

I've been a bit quiet again, mostly because I've been out and about a fair bit lately! Tuesday 17th June: Towards the end of a long day out I had a circle around locally (Stanwell Moor) to finish off. I saw at least a dozen Large Skippers, with females now emerging too. Small Heaths were gently increasing too - six were counted in a small area along with a couple of Meadow Browns. Finally there were three Red Admirals patrolling various bits of path.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=52190&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=52195&mode=view>

Saturday 21st June: Late in the day a short walk around my local patch at Stanwell Moor produced a Large Skipper, four Small Tortoiseshells, two Commas and no less than seven Red Admirals.

Sunday 22nd June: I had a much longer and further-ranging walk in hot sunshine around the Stanwell Moor area today. I was pleased to see a Ringlet, as I had found none the last couple of years - it was in the same area the last had been seen, so I imagine the colony hangs on. There were only a couple of Large Skippers, but I found an area with several newly emerged Small Skippers which is again an improvement on last year. Carrying on the positive theme, Small Tortoiseshells were actually quite numerous with possibly as many as a dozen spotted along the route I took, and Small Heaths appeared at regular intervals too, though in discreet "hotspots". I saw one rather tired Common Blue, three Commas and one Red Admiral, and unlike the last couple of visits, there were actually some Whites - two definite Large Whites and a mating pair of Green-veined up in a tree. Finally, a head-high stand of nettles was found to be hosting dozens and dozens of Peacock caterpillars - which bodes well for a few weeks time.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=52492&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=52495&mode=view>

Dave Miller

I had a walk at King's Meads today and saw 15 Ringlets, 2 Large Skippers, 1 Red Admiral, 2 Large Whites, 6 Small Tortoiseshell, and 5 Meadow Brown. This afternoon in my South Mimms garden I saw 1 Red Admiral, 1 Small Tortoiseshell and 1 Large White. - Terry Wood

Visited Mad Bess Woods, Ruislip this morning and I saw 5 Ringlet, 6 Meadow Brown, 1 Comma, 2 Red Admiral, 2 Speckled Woods and 4 White Admirals (one perching on hornbeam coppice in a new clearing, two together low down in brambles and 1 flying into the trees at Scout outdoor chapel). I ventured onto the wild-flower rich meadow, between the wood and Duck Hills Road and was amazed to see literally hundreds of butterflies, in half-hour I counted at least 80+ Ringlet, 26+ Meadow Brown, 2 Small Tortoiseshells, 1 Large Skipper, 1 Common Blue, 4 Six-spot Burnet moths and surprisingly 28+ Marbled Whites. In contrast, I visited the cut grass field by the wood and Crematorium and only saw 8 Meadow Browns and a Small Tortoiseshell in 10 minutes. After lunch went to Cheyne Field and saw 8 Large Skipper, 1 fresh Comma, 3 Green-veined Whites, Small Tortoiseshell, 3 Speckled Woods, 1 Red Admiral, 8 Meadow Brown and 5 Ringlet as well as a Emperor Dragonfly. - Paul Busby

Small Blue seen on the Wood Lane transect by Val Fulforth on the 20th June - another confirmed location.

Therfield Heath: 5+ White-letter Hairstreak butterflies in Elms on the Icknield Way: my earliest local record for this species. Also 100+ Marbled Whites spread across the heath (numbers increasing daily), but still no DGF or Chalkhill Blues. - Martin Johnson

Marbled White has returned to the Ware Park Transect this year, also saw a Peacock in good condition could this be the first 2014 generation emerging - it should be huge given the number of larvae around. Six White Admirals and a Silver-washed Fritillary on a 35 minute transect walk at Balls Wood. Several others of both species around too but no Purple Emperors yet - Andrew Wood

While walking my transect this morning there were Marbled Whites everywhere at Shackledell grassland - I counted over 90 in about 15 minutes. - Peter Clarke

A few selected sightings for today Tuesday 24th June 2014 - 1 Red Admiral, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, Trent Park at 12:32 hrs; 4 Small Tortoiseshell, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, Trent Park; 3 Comma (1 set-aside field N of Williams Wood, Trent Park at 12:38 hrs; 2 at Park Farm, Enfield); 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Parkside Farm, Enfield at 12:58 hrs; 3 Small Tortoiseshell at Park Farm, Enfield between 13:12 - 13:19 hrs; 1 Red Admiral at Park Farm, Enfield at 13:25 hrs; 3 Small Tortoiseshell at Bay Farm, Enfield, between 13:32 - 13:39 hrs; 1 Peacock at Bay Farm, Enfield at 13:38 hrs; 5 Ringlet at Brooke Wood near Cuckold's Hill, Enfield at 13:50 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell near Brooke Wood, Cuckold's Hill at 13:52 hrs; 3+ Small Tortoiseshell at Rectory Farm, Enfield; 1 Comma at Rectory Farm, Enfield at 14:09 hrs; male Small Skipper at Whitewebbs Park at 15:30 hrs; 2 Comma at Whitewebbs Park; 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Whitewebbs Park; 1 White-letter Hairstreak, settling on Wych Elm at Hilly Fields Park near Strayfield Road between 15:56 - 16:00 hrs - my first of the year! Also several Ringlet at Whitewebbs Park. - Robert Callf

Single Purple Emperors seen at the following assembly areas this afternoon, Whitewebbs at 13:00 (also Purple Hairstreak and a Comma), Fir and Pond 13:27 and after a period of cloud Northhaw at 14:37 - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

Monday 23rd June 2014

Some news from Horsenden Hill from this morning, 23rd June. At least 15 White-letter Hairstreaks on the east side of the site either from the cycle path/footpath near Horsenden Farm or in the area immediately behind the farm. Although it was warmer, activity seemed to have dried up by early afternoon. Also several Marbled Whites, a Ringlet, 3 Red Admirals, 3 Comma, a Small Skipper and good numbers of Large Skippers. Yesterday a Purple Hairstreak at the rear of Horsenden Farm along with 4 White-letter Hairstreak - Andy Culshaw

A Silver-washed Fritillary was photographed in an Ealing Broadway garden on Sunday 23rd June by Shay Hannon

On my morning walk around Tyttenhanger Gravel Pits today I saw 7 Marbled Whites (first of the season), 20 Ringlets, 5 Small Tortoiseshells, 2 Meadow Browns and 1 Large Skipper - Terry Wood

Humid down at Waterford Heath over 40 marbled whites, 100 plus meadow browns, 50 plus ringlets, also small heath, small tortoiseshells, small and large skippers and small white - Steve Kiln

On Sunday 22 = 1 x common emerald moth seen in Bushey kitchen. Today 1 x red admiral at Northwood hq, Sandy Lane - David Gower

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards. A shorter walk in similar conditions to yesterday: Tortoiseshell: 2 Comma: 11 Ringlet: 27 Small Heath: 4 Small White: 4 Large White: 2 Red Admiral: 1 Small Skipper: 33 Meadow Brown: 14 Common Blue: 2m Speckled Wood: 1 Large Skipper: 3 Marbled White: 4 and 2 Burnet Companion moths. - Pete Gore

A few selected sightings for today Monday 23rd June 2014 - 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Barracks, Vicarage Farm at 10:09 hrs; 1 Shaded Broad-bar, set-aside field near Dew Pond, Trent Park - our first sighting of the year! 1 Red Admiral at Water Garden, Trent Park at 11:24 hrs; 1 Red Admiral near Ride Wood, Trent Park at 11:32 hrs; 7 Marbled White at Trent Park (1 at 'Old Golf Course' at 11:38 hrs, 5 in Sect 4 'New Fields' including a pair copulating, 1 in Sect 6); 1 Purple Hairstreak, edge of Church Wood, Trent Park at 12:25 hrs - my first of the year! 1 female Common Blue, Sect

4 at 12:31 hrs; 1 Small Copper at 'New Fields' Trent Park at 12:58 hrs; 1 male Common Blue, set-aside field near Oakwood entrance, Trent Park; 1 Holly Blue near Oakwood entrance, Trent Park at 13:30 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell near Oakwood entrance, Trent Park at 13:33 hrs - Robert Callf/Robin White.

Visited Park Woods this morning, off Fore Street, Eastcote, Middlesex and saw 65+ Meadow Brown, 25+ Ringlet, 10 Large Skipper, 7 Speckled Wood and a White Admiral disturbed from patch of bramble before flying high into trees. Drove to St Vincents & Haste Hill Golf Course at lunchtime and saw a further 16+ Ringlet, 8+ Meadow Brown, 6 Large Skipper, 4 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Red Admiral, 1 Comma, 1 Brown Argus, 6+ Six-Spot Burnet Moths but alas no Purple Emperors as the weather turned cloudy. Late afternoon, saw a solitary Small Tortoiseshell on the Wild flower beds in Cavendish Park, Pine Gardens, Eastcote - Paul Busby

Sunday 22nd June 2014

08.00 to 09.30 White-letter Hairstreak - various sightings over Elm on the NE side of the Baldock to Norton road, at approx TL236344, from where it crosses the A1(M) for about 400m's. Hard to judge numbers, best estimate 6 to 8, at one point 3 spiralling in the air together. - Roger Millard

1 Red Admiral at Carr's Basin, Town Park at 13:24 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood at Carr's Basin, Town Park at 13:26 hrs; 1 Red Admiral at Pennyfather Lane, EN2 at 13:44 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Enfield Grammar School Playing Field at 13:57 hrs; 1 Holly Blue at Enfield Grammar School, Silver Street at 14:11 hrs - Robert Callf.

Today In Tetrads TQ0291 and 92 at Maple Cross I saw 5 Marbled Whites, 7 Ringlets, 2 Meadow Browns and 2 Small Skippers. These were all close to the M25 so I would like to think the highways agency's planting of wild flowers along the verges is helping - Christina Bessant

At Oxhey Woods nature reserve this morning and "northern woodland" counted 17 x speckled wood and 1 x meadow brown. At "southern woodland" 6 x speckled wood, 1 x small tortoiseshell, 4 x meadow brown, 1 x peacock, 1 x red admiral. Onto Prestwick Road nature reserve = 6 x speckled wood, 48 x meadow brown, 1 x comma, 9 x large skipper, 4 x ringlet, 1 x small tortoiseshell, 1 x narrow bordered 5 spot burnet moth. This afternoon back to Fishers Field = 9 x small tortoiseshell, 1 x Essex skipper, 23 x meadow brown, 5 x ringlet, 3 x small skipper, 3 x speckled wood, 4 x large skipper, 4 x marbled white. Moths were 1 x scoparia pyraella, 1 x burnet companion, 4 x nettle-tap, 1 x green oak tortrix, 1 x timothy tortrix 9 (great name!). At Water Lane, Watford = 2 x comma, 3 x large skipper, 1 x small skipper, 4 x marbled white, 10 x meadow brown, 7 x small tortoiseshell, 1 x common blue, 3 x yellow shell moth. In Bushey garden 1 x comma - David Gower

Spent the day at Brickett Wood Common, mainly in the woods to escape the heat: 3 marbled white, 2 male brimstones, 2 red admirals, 2 silver washed fritillary in the gas main ride, 10 white admirals at various locations, 3 very fresh commas, 15+ large skippers, lots of ringlets and meadow browns (I didn't count but ringlets appeared more plentiful than browns). Some links to photos below:

Comma: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/64663114@N03/14459836896/>

White Admiral: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/64663114@N03/14479561481/in/photostream/>

Silver Washed Fritillary:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/64663114@N03/14459715046/in/photostream/>

Miles Attenborough

Small Tortoiseshells are everywhere in the southern half of Bishops Stortford this weekend, In a meadow beside the Stort Navigation (26), fluttering alongside park hedges, criss-crossing the local bowling green and at 19.30 this evening chasing each other in groups of 3 or 4 over Thornbera Road allotments- Len Crouch

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/River Crane Completed my assorted loops around the above today starting in sun in the late morning and ending in cloudy, very humid, conditions in mid afternoon. Butterflies noted: Tortoiseshell: 7 Small Heath: 3 Speckled Wood: 1 Ringlet: 23 Comma: 2 Small Skipper: 24 Large Skipper: 2 Small White: 4 Meadow Brown: 15 Marbled White: 4 Common Blue: 1 Small Copper: 1 plus 1 each Burnet Companion and Cinnabar moths. Skippers substantially under-counted, the two commoner Browns slightly less so. I spent a few minutes trying to get a clear sight of what turned out to be a faded female Common Blue, feeling guilty about ignoring a few Browns and rather more Skippers, so that when one of the supposed latter

landed just in front of me I felt obliged to pay more attention: only to find myself looking at a Small Copper - the first for several weeks here and likely start of a new brood I think. Marbled Whites are still an unfamiliar sight down here - I thought one on a patch of Hop Trefoil particularly lovely, a very similar image to the Painted Lady seen on Friday. - Pete Gore

BROXBOURNE WOOD CIRCULAR ROUTE, 6 Silver-washed Fritillary, 2 White admiral. BALLS WOOD, 2 White admiral - Laurence Drummond

Ruislip Woods (East End) Several Marbled Whites this morning; a Red Admiral; Ringlets, Meadow Browns etc...and one White Admiral (at last!) - Graham Elcombe

Popped over to the Six Hills site in Stevenage where I saw 2-3 White-letter Hairstreaks flitting over the elm tree tops at about 0900 hours today. - Peter Clarke

Ruislip, St Vincent's assembly area, clash of two Purple Emperors just after 1.15 and then a male on patrol until we left for pastures new. Earlier 2 White Admiral seen in woods. Also watched a female Small Tortoiseshell laying a 'mass' of eggs on nettles. Northaw still empty although we were thrilled to see a Barn Owl fly low past us as we watched - a first! Late afternoon 5+ White-letter Hairstreak at Cheshunt Park, all making short flights then perching - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

Saturday 21st June 2014

Some sightings for Saturday 21st June 2014 - 10 Small Heath at 'New Fields' Trent Park between 16:20 - 17:30 hrs; 4 Comma at 'New Fields' Trent Park; 1 Red Admiral, Sect 7 'New Fields' Trent Park at 16:51 hrs; 1 male Marbled White, Sect 6 'New Fields' Trent Park at 16:56 hrs - my earliest date for this site and a sure sign that they are becoming established at this site! 1 male Small Skipper, Sect 6 'New Fields' Trent Park. Looked for Purple and White-letter Hairstreak without success. 1 Comma at Covert Way LNR at 18:14 hrs, also Ringlet and at least 3 Large Skipper recorded here. 1 Comma near Beech Hill Lake (Jack's Lake) Monken Hadley Common at 18:49 hrs. After shopping noticed a Small Magpie Moth near outside light at ASDA Southgate, Chase Side, N14 and at nearby Allotments 1 Small Tortoiseshell at 19:44 hrs. - Robert Callf

HIGH WYCH/PYE CORNER, 08.35, 5-6 WLH around the elms at Pole Hole, best activity I've seen, high clashes 20ft up over the elms, an numerous chasing, BROXBOURNE WOODS MAIN RIDE, with Paul Why, 5 Silver washed fritillary, 2 White admiral, NORTHAW TERRITORY, no pemps yet but 2 White admirals kept me company - Laurence Drummond

More new species for the year here today at Norton Green - 5+ Ringlets, 4 Marbled Whites, 1 Small Skipper and 1 Silver-washed Fritillary (near Pigeonswick Cottage). Also 20+ Small Tortoiseshells, 40+ Meadow Browns, 3 Small Whites, 3 Common Blues, 2 Red Admirals, 1 Comma, 4 Large Whites, 10+ Speckled Woods and 1 Large Skipper - Peter Clarke

At Hexton Chalkpit today, Marbled Whites lots, Dark Green Fritilleries 4-5, Common Blue 1, **Chalkhill Blue 1 possible**, Meadow Brown, Ringlet, Skipper un identified, Speckled Wood more numerous than usual. most by the gate Nigel Agar

A walk at Mymms Wash behind South Mymms services today unearthed 2 Small Tortoiseshells, 1 Meadow Brown and 1 Peacock - Terry Wood

On Kings Meads this morning: 35 Meadow Brown, 22 Small Tortoiseshell, 15 Large Skippers, 9 Ringlet, 2 Red Admiral + 2 Cinnabar & 1 Yellow Shell. - Simon Knott

Whitewebbs Wood, **Purple Emperor** on territory just after 1.30 and at least **5 Purple Hairstreak** - Liz Goodyear and Laurence Drummond

Friday 20th June 2014

Some news for yesterday Friday 20th June 2014 - 1 Small Tortoiseshell nectaring on neighbours buddleia at Dalrymple Close, N14 at 15:15 hrs - the first that I have seen here this year! 1 Comma edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park at 17:49 hrs; 1 Green-veined White and 2 Large White edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park at 17:55 hrs; 5 Small Tortoiseshell at Park Farm between 18:39 - 18:55 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Parkside Farm, Enfield at 19:19 hrs; **1 Painted Lady** at Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm at 19:49 hrs - settled on track - my first of the year! 2 Small Tortoiseshell at Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 19:49 hrs - settled on track. - Robert Callf

While in Broxbourne Woods, for the purpose of surveying the SSSI, a **Purple Emperor** was sighted resting on the main ride at TL 32602 07209. Just within part of the recently cleared area within the SSSI, at TL 32590 07275, a **Silver-washed Fritillary** was seen. I wasn't specifically recording butterflies within the SSSI but also noted Ringlet, Meadow Brown and Large Skipper. - Barry Tranter

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/River Crane Lengthy walk in sunnier conditions, butterfly numbers increasing significantly although the Heath is lagging a little: Ringlet: 20 Small Heath: 4 Speckled Wood: 2 Comma: 5 Small White: 6 Meadow Brown: 13 Large Skipper: 7 Small Skipper: 16 Common Blue: 2 Painted Lady: 1 Marbled White: 1 Tortoiseshell: 7 and 2 Cinnabar Moths 3 Burnet Companions and 2 6Spot Burnets including one that will no doubt turn out to be the first of many on Greater Knapweed. Ringlet appear to me to be doing very well indeed here - both they and Meadow Brown likely undercounted as are the Skippers. By local standards Tortoiseshell seem to be doing better too. Three Peacock caterpillars encountered at different spots moving purposefully along the footpath. - Pete Gore

Friday 20th June 2-3pm. Pix Brook Meadows Off Cowslip Hill, Letchworth Garden City. 4 Small Tortoiseshell, 2 Common Blue, 6 Meadow Brown (loads of these about at the moment), 1 Ringlet (first I've seen this year), **1 Essex Skipper** (first I've seen). - Jill Sawyer

Therfield heath (west) 1 Large skipper, 1 Brimstone(tatty male) ,1 Red admiral, 75 Small tortoiseshell, 9 Marbled white, Meadow brown ubiquitous,1 Small heath. Therfield heath (east) 1 Small skipper, 1 Large skipper,13 Small tortoiseshell, 58 Marbled white, Meadow brown ubiquitous, 12 Small heath, 2 Ringlet . - Laurence Drummond

This afternoon at Danemead I saw 5 Ringlet, 4 Meadow Brown and 2 Large Skippers - Jenny Sherwen

Today 20th June 2014, 12.00 to 13.30, a walk along SW outskirts of Letchworth Garden City adjacent to and along the "Green Way" Marbled White (50+) **Small Blue (10+)** Common Blue (10+, attached image of what I believed to be a female 'blue variant', am I correct/) Large Skipper (10+) Meadow Brown (30+) Small Skipper (4) Brown Argus (3) - Roger Millard

BATFORD, weedy field - 1 WHITE LETTER HAIRSTREAK in usual location by public footpath, numerous Marbled whites, Common Blues - Darin Stanley

Thursday 19th June 2014

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards. Shorter walk today in cloudy breezy conditions but still rewarding: Large White:1 Tortoiseshell:1 Small Heath: 4 Small White: 3 Comma: 3 Large Skipper: 3 Ringlet: 6 (first of 2014) Meadow Brown: 4 Marbled White: 1 (first of 2014) Speckled Wood: 1 plus 9 Burnet Companions and 2 Cinnabar Moths Contrast with Tuesday when it was sunnier but I omitted the central portion of the Marshalling Yards: Red Admiral: 2 Tortoiseshell: 2 Comma: 1 Small White: 1 Large Skipper: 10 Meadow Brown: 8 Large White: 1 Speckled Wood: 2 and 1 6 Spot Burnet (first of 2014) - Pete Gore

One Marbled white at Moore Green this morning - Laurence Drummond

2 x pseudogyrotoza conwagana seen in Bushey back garden. - David Gower

Saw a male Meadow Brown in meadow enclosure in Grovelands Park, Southgate this afternoon Thursday 19th June 2014, also Yellowshell and Burnet Companion - Robert Callf

Wednesday 18th June 2014

Thorley Wash N.R. At 15:06, took a 30 minute walk in only moderate conditions, from the railway foot crossing along the circular northern footpath-fighting my way through rampant vegetation blocking same in places- and in the more open parts of the path observed 35 small tortoiseshells, 2 large skippers and 2 cinnabar moths. Where the path runs alongside the Stort Navigation I noted about 80 banded damselflies(m&f) and over 100 full grown/nearly full grown peacock caterpillars. A little further north, at 16:00, a 25 minute walk around the set aside field east of Twyfordbury Lane, Thorley, revealed 28 small tortoiseshells and 6 meadow browns including a mating pair. - Len Crouch

Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park, early afternoon, I saw **2 Essex Skipper**, 1 Small Skipper, 3 Large skipper, 4 Essex or Small Skippers, Speckled wood, 7 Small white, Green-veined white, Meadow Brown, 5 Common Blue, 2 Burnet companion moths, Plume Moth, at least 6 Six-spotted Burnet moths and a female Black-tailed Skimmer dragonfly. The buddleia was in full bloom but no butterflies nectaring on it. Bridgewater fields, Ruislip Gardens, Middlesex, late afternoon, I saw 2 Small Tortoiseshell, slightly faded Red admiral, speckled wood, 2 Small white, 2 Large Skipper, Ringlet and at least 12 Meadow Browns, Also 2 cinnabar moths, mating pair of Six-spot burnet moths plus 4 singles, 2 Burnet Companion moths and a Broad-bodied chaser dragonfly. - Paul Busby

1 x small dusty wave moth seen on house wall in Bushey today - David Gower

In Blagrove Common today. Many ringlets and meadow browns also common blues, small tortoiseshell and small skippers and 6spot burnet moth - Steve Kiln

Tuesday 17th June 2014

Walking my transect in Southern Country Park, Bishops Stortford, I encountered a Small Tortoiseshell explosion. I recorded 56 in the hour and a quarter I was recording. The most I have ever recorded of the species in one walk. They were just everywhere and mostly in groups of 3 to 5, especially on the ground basking in the sun (and out of the wind I guess - they had a pretty stiff Force 4 NWesterly to deal with). The nicely timed emergence of the Creeping Thistles was also a magnet for them in the more sheltered areas (see attached pic). I wondered if you have been getting other similar reports? I'm not surprised at the explosion, considering how abundant they were for hibernation at the end of last year's season, and how many of those hibernators were around in the early spring this year. Still, it's hard to believe that only 2 years ago we were all bemoaning the fate of the ST - Bob Clift

Chimney Sweeper report from Diane Andrews, 11th June at King George Fields, Hadleigh 9, 12th June Trent Park 5, 17th June Forty Hall 6. Further searching at Forty Hall on the 17th, **2 Small Skipper** and 2 Ringlets.

Whilst working on the Yeading Brook, Ickenham Marsh, Middlesex, I saw 2 Speckled Woods, 1 Green-veined White, 1 Ringlet, 2 Meadow Browns, 1 Common Blue and a Small Heath. Then a half stroll around the fields near Ickenham Marsh in beautiful sunshine seeing at least 70 Meadow Browns, 4 Ringlet, 4 Large Skippers, 5 Common Blue and 2 Small Heath. Checked Elms in hedgerow but no WLH. Later at Bishops Wood, Batchworth, Hertfordshire, I saw a Comma, 2 Meadow Browns, 4 Speckled Woods and a perched Emperor Dragonfly on a 2Km walk following the red route. - Paul Busby

A couple of hours at Balls Wood this afternoon yielded 7 White Admiral, 20+ Meadow Brown, 15+ Large Skipper, 6 Speckled Wood, 5 Comma, 4 Ringlet, 2 Large White and 1 Red Admiral. I also spotted an Orange-tip pupa and 3 larvae on two Garlic Mustard plants where I'd found eggs not long ago. My (as yet) unsuccessful search for early stages of White Admiral will resume soon. - Paul Why

Bencroft Wood 17th June. First white admiral and first ringlets there today and 4 also **4 small skippers** and 4 large skippers and 5 ringlets in field nearby - Steve Kiln

I went for a walk through Gobions Wood, Brookmans Park today and saw 1 Brimstone, 8 Speckled Wood, 5 Small Tortoiseshell - and in a wild flower meadow alongside there were 15 Meadow Brown and 6 Ringlet (both firsts for the year for me). I also found a nettlebed containing about 50 Peacock larvae - Terry Wood

Quite a few meadow browns around on Waterford Heath today (17th) despite the wind and one marbled white on the south heath - Andy Brown

A good few sightings to report today Tuesday 17th June 2014 - 1 Small Copper at Sidhil's Field, Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 09:23 hrs; 1 Ringlet at Sidhil's Field, Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 09:25 hrs - my first of the year! 5 Small Tortoiseshell at Vicarage Farm, Enfield; 5 Large Skipper at Vicarage Farm, Enfield; 1 Ringlet near Williams Wood at Vicarage Farm at 10:04 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, Trent Park at 10:21 hrs; Cinnabar at Vicarage Farm, Enfield; 2 Ringlet at Parkside Farm on Res banking at 10:50 hrs; **1 male Small Skipper** at Parkside Farm on Res banking at 10:52 hrs - our first of the year! 1 Comma at Park Farm, Enfield at 11:12 hrs; 2

Small Tortoiseshell at Park Farm, Enfield; 3 Ringlet (1 'Old Golf Course', 2 'New Fields') at Trent Park; 1 Small Heath at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 11:55 hrs; 2 Small Tortoiseshell at Trent Park (1 on bramble near Nature Trail at 12:09 hrs, 1 near Oakwood entrance at 13:35 hrs); 1 Comma, edge of Church Wood, Trent Park at 12:29 hrs; Large Skipper 'several' at Trent Park; 1 Small Heath at 'New Fields' Trent Park at 13:06 hrs; Cinnabar near Oakwood entrance, Trent Park; Meadow Brown is also out in numbers - Robert Callf/Robin White

I did the transect today and had over 300 sightings. Highlights included good numbers of marbled white, ringlet and meadow brown, grizzled skipper, brown argus, common blue, small heath, large skipper, brimstone and speckled wood. There were at least 4 dark green fritillary about and many small tortoiseshell. Off transect I also had a green hairstreak and on the walk along the ridgeway from Aldbury village 25 small tortoiseshell and at least 5 large skipper. It seems to be a very good year for small tortoiseshell. I forgot to email you last week but on Wednesday 11th I saw a small blue in N3 which appeared to be egg laying. We've never seen them in this enclosure before! - Paul Thrush

On Kings Meads this morning: 30+ Large Skippers, 26 Small Tortoiseshell, 8 Meadow Brown, 3 Ringlet, 2 male Brimstones, 1 Speckled Wood, 1 Comma + 1 narrow-bordered five-spot burnet and 1000+ Peacock caterpillars on the nettles. - Simon Knott

1 x cinnabar moth seen during break at Northwood HQ, Sandy Lane - David Gower

No new species to report from Norton Green today but I saw a White Admiral by The Firs in Knebworth Woods at about 1435 hours. It was hovering over a clump of bramble but refused to settle. Peter Clarke

I nipped into Bricket Wood this afternoon to see if the SWFs were on the wing (as they are already flying on Benfleet Downs) - but I saw none. However I did see White Admiral (2), Marbled White (5) Ringlet (3) Meadow Brown (8) Speckled Wood (5) Brimstone (3) & Large Skipper (2). - Dave Chandler

White-letter Hairstreak active on Sapporo Autumn Gold elms this morning at Cheshunt Park by the clubhouse, and two separate trees at Wormley West End. Also 1 White Admiral, south side of Wormley Wood - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

Monday 16th June 2014

On a cloudy, breezy day, I saw 4 Speckled Wood butterflies in Mad Bess Woods, Ruislip, Middlesex; then a further 2 Speckled Woods in Copse Wood plus a Meadow Brown in a clearing. During a brief sunny spell on Poor's Field, I saw 2 fresh Small Tortoiseshells, 4 Meadow Browns and 2 Ringlets - Paul Busby

Sunday 15th June 2014

During a brief warm spell today (Sunday) a **White-letter Hairstreak** over elms near Horsenden Farm. - Andy Culshaw

Therfield heath (west), 12 Meadow brown, 1 Marbled white, and 1 Humming-bird hawk, no sign of any Dark green fritts yet despite lots of thistle, weather cloudy and breezy though! - Laurence Drummond

Saturday 14th June 2014

Bricket Wood Common St Albans - 4 new species out on the Common this week - Marbled White, **White Admiral(2)**, Meadow Brown (3) & Small Tortoiseshell (2). Large Skipper numbers have increased to 9, though I still recorded only 1 Ringlet - Malcolm Hull

Back to Merryhill Fields this morning getting caught in heavy rain but eventually noted = 14 x ringlet, 8 x marbled white, 3 x large skipper (all seen for first time this year), 57 x meadow brown, 14 x speckled wood, 4 x small tortoiseshell, 1 x common blue. Moths seen were 37 x yellow shell, 1 x scoparia pyralella, 2 x burnet companion, 1 x common white wave, 2 x straw dot, 3 narrow bordered five-spot burnet, 2 x shaded broad bar, 2 x clouded border.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/bushey54/14234665520/in/photostream/lightbox/>
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/bushey54/14234803597/in/photostream/lightbox/>

Had a peep around Bushey garden last night and discovered 2 x small magpie and 1 x silver y on verbena - David Gower

Friday 13th June 2014

I saw my first **white admiral** of the year, along the 'Gas Ride', Bricket Wood Common. - Chris Newman

Will the Small Tortoiseshell have another bumper year? At Norton Green this morning I saw 11 of them along with 3 Red Admirals, 3 Meadow Browns, 3 Large Skippers (all first of the year here), 2 Commas, 1 Small White, 2 Common Blues and 7 Speckled Woods. - Peter Clarke

I was in Hobby Horse wood (next to Balls Wood) today and saw a couple of speckled woods and also about 8 meadow browns, a red admiral and a large skipper in the central widened ride. At Stocking Pelham today 3 Meadow Browns on the verge in the centre of the village - Andy Brown

Therfield heath (east), 14 Large skipper, 2 Brimstone, 2 Brown argus, (only ?) 3 Common blue, 1 Red admiral, (only?) 3 Small tortoiseshell, 2 Marbled white, 20+ Meadow brown, 8 Small heath, and 1 Ringlet - Laurence Drummond

Thursday 12th June 2014

Three Small Tortoiseshell together over bramble near Water Garden, Trent Park this evening Thursday 12th June 2014 at 18:25 hrs. - Robert Callf

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane Lots of sun, high temperature and little breeze, an exhausting but complete walk on which I saw the following: Tortoiseshell: 3 Comma: 5 Common Blue: 7 Red Admiral: 1 Large Skipper: 14 Small Heath: 1 Meadow Brown: 8 Brown Argus: 1 Speckled Wood: 3 Peacock: 3 Painted Lady: 1 and 10 Burnet Companions plus 1 Cinnabar. - Pete Gore

Sat down in my Ware garden after work and looked up to see 5 Small Tortoiseshells chasing over the roofs and a male Brimstone nectaring on lobelia in one of the hanging baskets - Liz Goodyear

Wednesday 11th June 2014

Small Tortoiseshells are back, good numbers seen today and yesterday, Standon, Colliers End, High cross, Wadesmill, Thundridge, and Cold Christmas, everywhere I went, they were there! - Laurence Drummond

A complete afternoon walk today mostly in sun with little breeze. Small White: 2 Tortoiseshell: 7 (includes 2 pairs about to mate) Small Heath: 1 Peacock: 3 Speckled Wood: 6 Common Blue: 7 Large Skipper: 7 Brown Argus: 1 Meadow Brown: 4 (all male) Comma: 1 Large White: 1 Brimstone: 1 plus 15 Burnet Companion and 2 Cinnabar moths. - Pete Gore

Some sightings for today Wednesday 11th June 2014 - 5 Large Skipper at Whitewebbs Park between 14:25 - 14:47 hrs; 2 Small Tortoiseshell at Whitewebbs Park; 1 Cinnabar Moth at Whitewebbs Park; 6 male Meadow Brown at Whitewebbs Park; Peacock large batch of caterpillars at Whitewebbs Park; 1 Red Admiral at Strayfield Road, Clay Hill at 15:12 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Strayfield Road near train line, 15:15 hrs; 2 Large Skipper at Strayfield Road near train line, 15:15 hrs; 2 Small Tortoiseshell at Rectory Farm, Enfield. - Robert Callf

I went for a walk around Stocking Pelham nature reserve which is next to the transformer station in Crabs Green. There were about 10 common blues, two Brown Argus, and several meadow browns - Andy Brown

Tuesday 10th June 2014

This morning at Kings Meads: 18 Small Tortoiseshell, 2 Meadow Brown, 1 Common Blue + 1 Cinnabar - Simon Knott

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards A similar walk to yesterday but this time a strong breeze made it more comfortable for humans, less so for butterflies Small Heath: 2 Large Skipper: 6 Comma: 2 Speckled Wood: 3 Common Blue: 5 Meadow Brown: 1 Peacock: 1 and 7 Burnet Companions and 1 Cinnabar. I've been averaging 1 Dragonfly a day for a week or two but today there was a noticeable increase including several above the Marshalling Yards meadows and the first

conspicuously blue one near the river - Pete Gore

We had the Aldbury Management plan review meeting today, and with the fantastic weather we saw lots. We saw a **dark green fritillary, marbled white**, red admiral, brimstone (4+), common blue, small blue, **grizzled skipper(2)**, and quite a few orange tip, small heath, large skipper, **ringlet**, meadow brown, green hairstreak, speckled wood and small copper - Paul Thrush

Rye Meads RSPB Reserve, Herts, Tuesday 11 - 2. Very poor with 2 Speckled Wood, a few Peacock, but 1 male Common Blue and 4 Cinnabar Moths - Brian Price

On Patmore Heath today (10th) - I saw a Red Admiral, 2 speckled woods, Small Tortoiseshell, Brimstone, possible Painted Lady and a small heath - Andy Brown

Monday 9th June 2014

Visited a very muddy Bishops Wood, near Batchworth, Rickmansworth and saw 5 Speckled Woods and was surprised to see a Banded Demoiselle in the woods by Silver Birch saplings, then 3 fresh Small Tortoiseshells, 2 Large Skippers and a Broad-bodied Chaser Dragonfly in the adjoining field by the golf course on the London Loop Walk. Saw a further 6 Speckled Woods at Mad Bess Woods, Ruislip, Middlesex, where the Honeysuckle was starting to flower, but no White Admirals seen yet - Paul Busby

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards A shorter walk today in good sunny conditions but nasty humidity. Butterflies: Peacock: 1 Small Heath: 1 Speckled Wood: 3 Comma: 2 Tortoiseshell: 3 Brimstone: 2 Common Blue: 5 Large Skipper: 2 Meadow Brown: 2 Large White: 1 Small White: 1 plus 7 Burnet Companions and 3 Cinnabars. Good to see a Comma back at the bridge over the Crane where I could expect one much of last summer (nettles on the banks here). - Pete Gore

On my walk around Tyttenhanger Gravel Pits this morning I saw 1 Large Skipper and 1 Common Blue (both firsts for me here this year), 6 Small Tortoiseshell, 2 Speckled Wood, 1 Red Admiral and 1 Small Heath - Terry Wood

Some sightings for today Monday 9th June 2014 - Fir & Pond Woods near Potters Bar - 2 Large Skipper at 11:41 and 11:46 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood at 11:52 hrs; 2 Green-veined White at 12:07 hrs. Also we saw 2 Burnet Companion in meadow enclosure - Robert Callf/Bob Husband. Also 1 Large Skipper at Coopers Lane Rd heading towards bridge over M25 at 12:50 hrs; 1 Red Admiral at Little Beechill Wood, Enfield Chase at 13:26 hrs; 1 Peacock at Little Beechill Wood at 13:28 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Little Beechill Wood at 13:28 hrs and 2 Small Tortoiseshell at Park Farm along Salmons Brook; 1 Common Blue at Park Farm, Enfield at 13:50 hrs; 1 Red Admiral at Park Farm at 13:53 hrs; 1 Red Admiral at Parkside Farm, Enfield flew E over Res at 14:01 hrs; 1+ Large Skipper at Parkside Farm at 14:00 hrs; 1 Common Blue at Parkside Farm at 14:03 hrs; 3 Small Tortoiseshell at Parkside Farm (including a courting couple); 4 Small Tortoiseshell at Vicarage Farm, Enfield; 1 Peacock at Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm at 14:39 hrs - Robert Callf.

Norton Common, Letchworth, meadow area 8th June Brimstone, Small Tortoiseshell, 2 Common Blue, 2 Speckled Wood - on the meadow edge. I also saw 2 Burnet Companion moths and a Cinnabar moth. 9th June Meadow Brown (first one I've seen of them for a while) - Jill Sawyer

Sunday 8th June 2014

Saw 2 meadow browns and a small copper in meadows by Tewinbury Reedmarsh - Ian Flack

St Albans - Bricket Wood Common: My first two summer butterflies on this mornings transect walk - a **Ringlet** and a Large Skipper. Brimstones still out in good numbers (9) with both sexes feeding avidly on bramble flowers and females egg laying on Alder Buckthorn. Apart from that just a couple of Speckled Woods, a very worn Comma and one Burnet Companion (a rarity at this site). More newly emerged butterflies this afternoon at Folly Lane - 3 Small Whites (one egg laying on Brussels Sprouts) and a pristine new Small Tortoiseshell, plus a few Speckled Woods and a new nest of Peacock caterpillars, just 1 cm long - Malcolm Hull

On a 6 mile circular walk around Much Hadham this afternoon between 2 and 4.30 - 4 Peacock, at least 12 Small Tortoiseshell, 2 Orange Tips, Large Whites, Small Whites, 1 Large Skipper, 1 female Common Blue, 1 female Meadow Brown, several Speckled Wood. The Speckled Wood, Skipper and Small Tortoiseshell all looked very fresh. Chris Gleeson

My first red admiral this year in Bushey garden. Managed to get to Merryhill fields at 5.20pm and found =5 x meadow brown (also first this year), 1 x common blue, 2 x speckled wood, 2 x brimstone(m), 36 x yellow shell, 2 x silver y, 3 x scoparia pyralella moths, 1 x burnet companion, 1 x latticed heath, 1 x treble-bar, 1 x nemophora degeererella(m), 1 x apotomis moth(looks identical to a sauciana but not sure found in area so could be turbidana!) David Gower

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane My walk began very promisingly with, in quick succession, a fresh Comma and similar Tortoiseshell and the first Small Heath I've seen on the Heath itself. Thereafter however intermittent cloud may have reduced numbers generally. One intriguing miss: a yellow, presumed moth, on the Marshalling Yards. Seen only in flight and about the size of a Clouded Yellow butterfly, flying quite rapidly like one too but entirely in shade and the yellow seemed closer to a Brimstone's Primrose than a Clouded Yellow's Buttercup. I lost it as it reached a more open sunny area so for the moment I'm inclining towards moth not butterfly with insufficient evidence to identify. Here are the full details: Comma: 1 Small White: 3 Tortoiseshell: 4 Small Heath: 1 Red Admiral: 2 Speckled Wood: 6 Common Blue: 8 Peacock: 2 Large White: 1 At least 18 Burnet Companions and 3 Cinnabar Moths. - Pete Gore

Despite being a sunny warm day, only saw 5 Speckled Woods, 4 Burnet Companion Moths and a Large skipper at Horsenden Hill, Middlesex. - Paul Busby

Saturday 7th June 2014

Soon after the sun came out this afternoon I dashed off to Norton Green to find 2 fresh-looking Small Tortoiseshells, 3 Common Blues, 2 Small Whites, 4 Speckled Woods plus 2 Cinnabar and 1 Burnet Companion moths. The majority were seen on the south-facing bank by the public footpath at the north end. Quite a few thistles here are now beginning to come into flower one on which was a Painted Lady having a good feed - a nice surprise! - Peter Clarke

On Kings Meads this afternoon: 1 Brown Argos, 3 Common Blue, 2 Large Skipper, 5+ Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Burnet Companion, 1 Cinnabar and 1 Silver Y. - Simon Knott

Friday 6th June 2014

Today 6th June 2014, 11.00 to 13.30, a walk around the paths on the SW outskirts of Letchworth Garden City; **Small Blue (30+)**, Common Blue (20+ all males), Large Skipper (6), Meadow Brown (4), Brimstone (2 males), Small Tortoiseshell (1), Speckled Wood (4) and Burnet Companion Moth (100+ to many to count)

[Andrew Wood's video footage on Facebook click here](#)

Roger Millard

There are three Small Blue Sites in close proximity which have been confirmed by Andrew Wood as new for Hertfordshire - one is accessible at TL205317

Hounslow Heath /Marshalling Yards/River Crane: A thoroughly enjoyable walk in bright sunshine almost throughout and with minor surprises especially in the light of yesterday's walk over the same terrain. Butterflies: Speckled Wood: 6 Peacock: 3 Common Blue: 13 Orange-Tip: 1 Brown Argus: 2 Meadow Brown: 1 (first of 2014) Green Hairstreak: 4 Large White: 2 Brimstone: 1 Green-Veined White 1 Small White: 1 Tortoiseshell: 2 Comma: 1 (and 11 Burnet Companions and 4 Cinnabars). 13 species is a 2014 high, surprising because 2 of yesterday's, I expected to see, were missing. The Orange-Tip was a female, moving rapidly from one spot to the next like someone searching for a lost diary she's sure will tell her she should be somewhere else..... The 4 Green Hairstreaks, all widely separate on the Marshalling Yards, included one that preceded me on the path in a manner more reminiscent of Peacocks or Tortoiseshells and one in yet another new spot close to the railway above the culverted Crane. The Comma, the first I've seen for a few weeks, but in a spot on the Heath where the spring ones hung on for the longest, was so brightly orange in flight that I was quite relieved when it landed high in a tree and I could see the familiar ragged wings, preventing it becoming an annoying 'unidentified'. Unfortunately I wasn't able to get a close look to see whether it seemed fresh enough to be the start of the new brood. I suspect it was. - Pete Gore

Some sightings for this afternoon Friday 6th June 2014 - 1 Speckled Wood near Oakwood entrance, Trent Park at 13:16 hrs; 1 female Common Blue, set-aside field near Oakwood entrance, Trent Park at 13:25 hrs; 6 Small Heath at 'New Fields' Trent Park; 3 Chimney Sweeper at 'New Fields' Trent Park; 1 Large Skipper Sect 4 'New Fields' Trent Park at 13:50 hrs; 2 male Meadow Brown at Trent Park 'New Fields' (1 at 13:52 hrs and another at 14:19 hrs); 3 male Common Blue (2 near Cockfosters entrance, 1 Sect 6 'New Fields' Trent Park); 3 Speckled Wood Sect 7 'New

Fields' Trent Park 14:38 - 14:39 hrs; 1 Small Copper Sect 8 'New Fields' Trent Park at 14:43 hrs - worn! A few sightings for this morning Friday 6th June 2014 - 2 Speckled Wood together at Oakwood Park, N14 at 08:44 hrs and 2 male Meadow Brown here (1 at 08:46 hrs, 1 at 09:01 hrs). 1 male Meadow Brown at Boxer's Lake, Enfield at 11:00 hrs. - Robert Callf

Thursday 5th June 2014

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/River Crane Despite cloudy conditions and a breeze this was a rewarding walk: Common Blue: 7 Red Admiral: 3 Speckled Wood: 5 Green Hairstreak: 1 Large Skipper:1 (Definitely this time! - a first such for me in 2014) Tortoiseshell:1 plus 9 (at least} Burnet Companions and 1 Cinnabar moth. Trying to count moths at least led to spotting a very faded tatty Green Hairstreak and, by way of contrast, a little later, a very fresh Large Skipper. I haven't checked but the 3 Red Admirals may be a high for me since 2012. Two were involved in skirmishes with Speckled Woods. Flowers at the moment are especially numerous and varied, from the stink of Hogweed to perfumes of several Rose species and Honeysuckle. Just 1 white butterfly seen, probably a Large White. - Pete Gore

A few sightings to report today Thursday 5th June 2014 - 1 Small Tortoiseshell, set-aside field near Dew Pond, Trent Park at 15:38 hrs; 1 male Common Blue, 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 15:54 hrs; 1 Small Heath 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 15:54 hrs; 2 male **Meadow Brown** (1 at Park Farm, Enfield at 16:25 hrs, 1 at Parkside Farm, Enfield at 17:00 hrs); Burnet Companion at Park Farm, Enfield; 1 Small Tortoiseshell settled on bramble at Parkside Farm, Enfield at 17:02 hrs. - Robert Callf

Several **six spot burnets** out near Glaxo's site in Ware. There are many pupal cases waiting to hatch and still a few caterpillars just beginning to pupate. Andrew Wood

Saw 2 Speckled Woods at Cheney Fields, Eastcote at lunchtime then 5 Common Blue, at least 4 Burnet Companion moths, a Small White and a Red Admiral at Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park, late afternoon - Paul Busby

Wednesday 4th June 2014

One newly emerged Small Tortoiseshell resting on grave stones at Lavender Hill Cemetery this morning Wednesday 4th June 2014 at 11:05 hrs. - Robert Callf

Despite cloudy conditions at least 20 Chimney Sweepers active at Forty Hall - Liz Goodyear

Tuesday 3rd June 2014

Oakhill Woods LNR East Barnet---1x Common blue, 2 x Cinnabar moth, 2 x Fresh 1st gen T shells----(-150 wild stock captive bred were released by OakHill Theological College) Shires Golf Course, St Albans Road, Barnet----Conservation area 2-----6x Cinnabar moth, 2x Large skipper, 1x Peacock, 1x Common blue, 1x Mother shipton-----3x Grass snakes----,-6 x-Black tailed skimmer dragonflies. Totteridge fields LNR----7x Chimney sweeper moth, 1x common blue-----KITT JONES

We were working up at Aldbury today in the northern section and saw 3 small blue together (there were likely to be more present as we saw another further along the middle bank in the furthest northern enclosure). There were at least 10 common blue, brown argus, brimstone, small white, 2+Orange tip, dingy skipper, grizzled skipper, speckled wood, green hairstreak and a large skipper. - Paul Thrush

Saw 3 Speckled Woods on a 10 minute lunchtime stroll along the Yeading Brook, Roxbourne Park, Eastcote (TQ 117898) - Paul Busby

A few sightings for Grovelands Park, Southgate this afternoon Tuesday 3rd June 2014 - 2 male Common Blue (1 in 'private meadow' near Priory at 14:45 hrs, another fresher individual near tennis courts 15:34 hrs); 1 Burnet Companion in 'private meadow' near Priory at 14:45 hrs; 5 Speckled Wood seen in total - Robert Callf

15 dingy skippers still flying on 2nd June along with ten common blues 8 small heaths+burnet companion moth, + garden carpet. Mating male and female orange tip at nearby Lilley walk - Stuart Pittman

Monday 2nd June 2014

Down at Waterford heath south lunchtime a dozen or so common blues, two brimstone and my first **meadow brown** of the year. Also plenty of bee orchids - Steve Kiln

Visited Roxbourne Rough local nature reserve near Rayners Lane, Middlesex and saw 25+ Burnet Companion Moths, 2 Common Blues and 2 Speckled Woods then a Green-Veined White by the Yeading Brook in Roxbourne Park. Went onto Newton Farm Ecological Park, Rayners Lane and saw a further 3 Speckled Woods and my first Large Skipper of the year. - Paul Busby

Was at Fishers Field again today briefly only different species seen were 1 x flame carpet & 1 light brown apple moth - David Gower

At Patmore Heath today my first small copper of the year. In Hobby Horse Wood (next to Balls Wood) 5 speckled woods - Andy Brown

Whilst I was having lunch noticed a Speckled Wood at Aldermans Hill near the junction with Broomfield Avenue, N13 at 13:37 hrs this afternoon Monday 2nd June 2014 - Robert Callf

Sunday 1st June 2014

A trip to Norton Green this afternoon yielded just a Small White, a Speckled Wood, a Common Blue and 5 Peacocks (surprised that many still around from last year) all in a 10-minute burst of sun at the start in the northern part. After that, the sun hardly came out at all and no more butterflies were seen - Peter Clarke

At Stocking Pelham - one Green Veined White, two Speckled Woods and a fast flying Painted Lady - Andy Brown

At Water Lane = 3 x peacock, 2 x common blue, 2 x small tortoiseshell, 2 x speckled wood, 1 x brimstone, 3 x nettle-tap, 4 x burnet companion, 2 x silver y. Onto Fishers field = 1 x peacock, 1 x yellow shell, 2 x treble brown spot, 1 x nemophora degeerella (male), 1 x speckled wood - David Gower

Warmer day and I saw at least 9 Small Heath and 21 Common Blue (including a mating pair), as well as a m Brimstone and a Small White on Ickenham Marsh Fields, Middlesex. Disturbed a number of moths including Burnet Companion, Mother Shipton and a Small Yellow Underwing. Pair of Speckled Woods in Eastcote garden - Paul Busby

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/River Crane. A sunnier, hotter day than yesterday but still some afternoon cloud. Burnet Companion moths seemed to be more numerous than all the butterflies together - at least 30 of them and doubtless many more if I'd tried to count properly. Butterflies: Speckled Wood: 5 Common Blue: 10 Large White: 1 Green-Veined White: 2 Brimstone: 4 Small White: 2 Painted Lady: 1 (first for 2014) and 3 Cinnabar Moths. Slightly disappointed not to see any Orange-Tips for the second day running. At the moment looking as though what felt like a good showing for them has come to a rather abrupt halt this year. - Pete Gore

May 2014

Saturday 31st May 2014

First **two large skippers** today on Kings Meads - Simon Knott

A trip to Norton Green this afternoon yielded just a Small White, a Speckled Wood, a Common Blue and 5 Peacocks (surprised that many still around from last year) all in a 10-minute burst of sun at the start in the northern part. After that, the sun hardly came out at all and no more butterflies were seen - Peter Clarke

We took advantage of the sun to look around Stanmore Country Park today. Lepidoptera seen: about a dozen Speckled Woods, a couple of Crambids (moths) but many many Burnet Companion moths; over 50. In previous years the odd one or two have turned up but never like today. Others included a female Orange Tip, a Peacock and a Small Phoenix moth which rested obligingly on the trunk of a nearby tree and near the end three Cinnabar moths. We must do less work and more observing - John and Margaret

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/River Crane Despite beginning in bright sunshine, no wind and temperature above 20C, cloudy conditions soon prevailed and perhaps it was this plus the inevitable changing of the seasons that meant few butterflies: Large White: 1 Speckled Wood: 5 Peacock: 2 Common Blue: 8 Green Hairstreak: 1 Cinnabar Moth: 4 Not much unidentified: a couple of whites, one lively large dark butterfly (Peacock? Red Admiral?) and a likely Small Heath on the Heath. Moths seemed plentiful: at least half a dozen Burnet Companion and a few Mother Shipton I rather lazily ignored mostly. - Pete Gore

Warm, cloudy, humid afternoon and only saw 1 Brown Argus, 1 Cinnabar and 1 Burnet Companion Moth at Bridgewater Fields, Ruislip Gardens, Middlesex plus a Speckled Wood resting on a towel on a washing line in my Eastcote garden in the morning. - Paul Busby

Sightings for today Saturday 31st May 2014 - 2 Burnet Companion at Sidhil's Field, Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 09:45 hrs; 1 male Common Blue at Sidhil's Field, Vicarage Farm, 09:47 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood along Merryhills Brook/Vicarage Farm at 10:47 hrs; batch Peacock caterpillars along Merryhills Brook/Vicarage Farm; 2 Peacock together, set-aside field N of Williams Wood/Trent Park at 12:00 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, Trent Park at 12:02 hrs; 1 Mother Shipton, set-aside field N of Williams Wood; **1 male Large Skipper**, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, Trent Park at 12:08 hrs - our first of the year! 2 Peacock (1 along Leeging Beech Gutter near Water Grdn, at 12:24 hrs, 1 Water Garden, Trent Park, 12:33 hrs); 1 Red Admiral at Water Grdn, Trent Park, 12:49 hrs; 2 male Common Blue between Lower Lake and Ride Wood, Trent Park, 12:52 and 12:57 hrs; Straw Dot near Lower Lake - our first of the year! 6 Small Copper at Trent Park (1 at 'Old Golf Course' 13:04 hrs, 1 'Rookery Field' at 13:25 hrs, 1 Sect 8 'New Fields' at 14:08 hrs, 3 set-aside field near Triangular Wood, 14:23 - 14:25 hrs); 2 Mother Shipton at 'Rookery Field' Trent Park; Silver Y Moth at 'Rookery Field' Trent Park - our first of the year! **2 Chimney Sweeper** at 'New Fields' Trent Park - our first of the year! 4 Small Heath at 'New Fields' Trent Park (2 at 13:51 and 2 at 13:58 hrs); 3 Burnet Companion at 'New Fields' Trent Park; 1 Small Tortoiseshell first of 'summer-brood' Sect 8 'New Fields' Trent Park, 14:09 hrs. Also we saw several Cinnabars at Trent Park 'Old Golf Course'. - Robert Callf & Robin White.

A few sightings to note; Ivinghoe Beacon produced one Duke of Burgundy on 15th May. Burnet companion, Mother Shipton and one Common Blue were seen at Aston Clinton Ragpits on 20th May. An Orange tip flew in a Kings Langley garden on May 25th. May 29th I found a fresh Silver Y in the green house in Kings Langley and set it free. Some butterfly canvases and prints, etc, can be seen at the Chiltern Focus Photographic Exhibition at Chenies Pavilion Gallery on Weds and Thurs 2-5pm until June 26th. - Elizabeth Debenham

I had a walk this morning at Tyttenhanger Gravel Pits on the 29th May and the only butterflies seen were 4 Small Heaths, the first of the year here for me - Terry Wood

Recorded the following Thursday 29th May 2014 at Fir & Pond Woods near Potters Bar - 1 Red Admiral at 14:34 hrs, 1 Speckled Wood at 14:24 hrs, 2 Brown Silver-lines here also. Also two Large White together along Coopers Lane Road near bridge over the M25 - Robert Callf

Wednesday 28th May 2014

I had my first **Painted Lady** of the year on Saturday 24th May in my garden adjacent to Hitch Wood. It was also present all day on Sunday 25th nectaring on Valerian. Also present were Red Admiral, 2 Orange Tips and Green-Veined White. - Colin Brackston

I visited the site near Hoo Wood with Jennifer Gilbert on 25/05/14. We found a single dingy skipper at round about the same place where I saw one last year, we also saw small copper and lots of common blues. No sign of the grizzled skipper unfortunately - Ian Carle

Sunday 25th May 2014

First Small Copper of the year today in the centre of Stocking Pelham village - Andy Brown

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/River Crane Cloud and breeze restricted the number of butterflies but an enjoyable walk nevertheless, during which I was pleased to see two Broomrape flower-stalks. There are published records of Orobanche minor on the Marshalling Yards site so, given the complexity of the family, I'd guess at that as the species. Yarrow was conspicuously close but there are grasses and sundry Pea family members which could also be the host species. Here are the butterflies seen: Speckled Wood: 3 Common Blue: 10 Peacock: 8 Small Copper: 2 Brown Argus: 1 Orange-Tip: 2 Tortoiseshell: 1 Brimstone: 1 and Cinnabar Moth: 1 - Pete Gore

Friday 23rd May 2014

A few sightings for this afternoon Friday 23rd May 2014 - 1 Speckled Wood near Oakwood entrance, Trent Park at 13:30 hrs; 1 Small Copper near Triangular Wood, Trent Park at 13:41 hrs; 1 Silver-ground Carpet near Triangular Wood, Trent Park; 1 Small Heath Sect 6 'New Fields' Trent Park at 13:55 hrs. - Robert Callf

I saw a common blue and a peacock while working at Thorley Wash yesterday - Jenny Sherwen

Wednesday 21st May 2014

My 1st red admiral of the year at Ickleford/Hitchin today along with common blues and a small heath plus the usual suspects of brimstones/orange tips (observations declining now) speckled woods and a peacock At Highdown on 20th Green Hairstreak and Dingy skipper still on the wing - Stuart Pittman

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/River Crane A complete walk today in conditions similar to yesterday: Orange-Tip: 10 Speckled Wood: 10 Peacock: 3 Large White: 3 Common Blue: 14 Brown Argus: 1 (first definite for 2014), Small Heath: 1 Green Hairstreak: 2 Small Copper: 1 Tortoiseshell: 1 Cinnabar Moth: 3 Two Common Blues mating,wings closed,perched on top of a Ribwort Plantain flower-head momentarily looked like a single exotic spotted butterfly. - Pete Gore

Briefly visited Mile End in East London and within an hour saw 2 m Common Blue and 3 Small Whites in Mile End Park (TQ 365822), then a Speckled Wood, a Brown Argus, a Green-Veined White and a m Common Blue along Ackroyd Drive Greenway (TQ 363818) with an abundance of wild flowers and finally onto Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park, seeing a pair of Broad-bodied Chasers, at least 6 Common Blues (4m, 2f) and half a dozen Burnet Companion Moths before the weather turned even more cloudy and breezy - Paul Busby

Plenty of common blues at Rickneys and brown argus. At Waterford heath saw 3 small heath my first and 7 common blue, 3 grizzled skippers in completely different areas incl middle square and small copper in large scraped square near wood - Steve Kiln

Some sightings for today Wednesday 21st May 2014 - 2 Small Tortoiseshell (1 set-aside field N of Williams Wood, Trent Park at 11:00 hrs, 1 near Hadley Road at Vicarage Farm at 11:10 hrs); 2 Red Admiral (1 set-aside field N of Williams Wood, Trent Park at 11:03 hrs, 1 at Parkside Farm, Enfield at 11:22 hrs); 1 Peacock near Hadley Road at Vicarage Farm at 11:13 hrs; 1 Small Heath at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park 13:00 hrs; 1 Mother Shipton at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park 13:02 hrs. - Robert Callf

First Red Admiral of the year from Fox Covert (HMWT reserve) next to Therfield Heath - Andy Brown

Tuesday 20th May 2014

Visited Ickenham Marsh, Middlesex at lunchtime and then the surrounding meadow fields (TQ087855) and despite the cloudy, breezy conditions, I saw 3 Speckled Woods, 2 m Orange Tips, 3 m Common Blue, 4 Small Heath and at least very active 5 Small Coppers (one with a row of blue spots). Also a number of Common Carpet Moths, a Mother Shipton and a Blood-vein moth - Paul Busby

Whilst working at Amwell this morning I saw 3 orange tips, 2 common blues, 1 brimstone and 1 brown argus - Jenny Sherwen

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards A shorter walk today in mostly cloudy humid conditions. Butterflies as follows: Speckled Wood: 10 Common Blue: 11 Small Copper: 1 Green Hairstreak: 1 Small Heath: 1 (first of 2014) and Cinnabar Moth: 2 - Pete Gore

Monday 19th May 2014

Had a quick lunchtime visit today to Coopers Green, Sutton Farm Gravel Pit, to view the Hobbies and noted a single male Common Blue butterfly, my first this year in Herts. Also 2 Green Veined Whites and a Peacock. - Terry Wood

Completed a circular route from the northern section of Yeading Brook meadows, following both the Dog Rose Ramble and Hillingdon Trail to Ten Acre Wood and Gutteridge Wood and pond.

Pleased to see 11 species of butterfly along the route, including my first Red Admiral of the year. Northern section, TQ102827, 1 Small Copper, Speckled Wood, m Brimstone, Small White, Small Tortoiseshell. Yeading Brook Meadow/Michael Frost Park section, TQ 0983, 1 Speckled Wood, 3 Peacocks, 2 Green-Veined Whites, Small Tortoiseshell, m Brimstone, 3 m Orange Tip, 1 Common Blue and 2 Brown Argus. Ten Acre Wood/Yeading Brook, TQ097837 Red Admiral, 6 Peacocks, 2 m Orange Tip. Gutteridge Wood meadow and pond, TQ094843, 1 Small Copper, 1 m Common Blue, 3 Brown Argus. - Paul Busby

Sunday 18th May, Hounslow Heath, Speckled Wood x3, Green Veined White x3, Large white x1, Peacock x5, Small copper x1, Green Hairstreak x3, Small white x1, common Blue x1, Comma X2, Red admiral x1, Orange Tip x 5 - Paul Taylor

Sunday 18th May, my first visit to Aldbury Nowers this year. In lower areas = 6 x orange tip(1 was female), 11 x brimstone(2 female), 3 x brown argos, 3 x small copper, 4 x grizzles skipper, 4 x dingy skipper, 3 x small heath, 5 x burnet companion, 2 x green hairstreak, large white x 1, small white x 2, peacock x 2, common blue x 2, 1 x treble-bar. At higher level = 1 x scoparia pyraella moth(found by andrew), 1 x burnet companion, 1 x treble-bar, 8 x brimstone (1 female), 3 x green hairstreak, 7 x grizzled skipper, 1 x orange tip (m), 3 x common blue, 1 x small heath, 1 x large white. - David Gower

First Small Heath of 2014 on Little Mead, Kings Meads - Simon Knott

We had the annual spring butterflies walk on Saturday with 14 people attending. We saw everything you could hope for including more green hairstreaks than I've ever seen walking around (7+), 5+ grizzled skipper, 5+ dingy skipper, brown argus, common blue, small heath, small copper, orange tip, brimstone and large white. Today I did the transect and the highlights off the route were **2 small blue** in the furthest northern enclosure and a total of 11 green hairstreak! Also plenty of grizzled and dingy skipper, brimstone, common blue and singles of brown argus, small heath and small copper. - Paul Thrush

Saw a Red Admiral in a front garden at Chaseside, Southgate, N14 yesterday Sunday 18th May 2014 at 12:43 hrs - the first that I have since much earlier in the spring, so presumably a migrant? - Robert Callf

Sunday 18th May 2014

Aldbury Nowers, 2 Grizzled and lots of Dingy skippers, numerous Green Hairstreak, Brimstone and Orange tip plus 2 Common Blues and the star of the show, my first ever recording of a **Small Blue** in Herts, he didn't hang around too long but I rattled off a couple of piccies

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/naturecatcher58/14215323824/>

Ashley Cox

Walked along Park Way Common next to Metropolitan tube line, Ruislip Manor, Middlesex, (TQ104873) and saw 2 Speckled Woods, 2 Small Whites and a faded Comma which kept buzzing me and landing on my arm! - Paul Busby

I visited Rushy Mead nature reserve next to the River Stort this afternoon. Conditions were close to ideal, but not that many butterflies were on the wing: Several Large white, 2 small white, 4 peacock, 1 red admiral, 1 orange tip, Red/black day flying moth - looked like a Cinnabar - Chris Gleeson

Tottenham marshes, Sunday 18th May,- Wild Marsh west (TL354911) in ideal conditions between 12.45 and 13.15- 1 large white. 3 small white, several unidentified whites, 10 brimstones (9m. 1f.), and single peacock. Later at picnic area close to Stonebridge Lock, 1 holly blue, 2 very worn peacocks and white plume moth - Len Crouch

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/River Crane. Complete walk. I started out earlier than usual returning around 2.30 at which point, after continuous sunshine and increasing temperatures, it felt to me butterfly numbers were still increasing too. Here are my sightings: Tortoiseshell: 1 Peacock: 17 Brimstone: 5 Orange-Tip: 8 Speckled Wood: 1 Small Copper: 2 Green Hairstreak: 5 Common Blue: 9 (included first females) Large White: 1 Green-Veined White: 1 and a Cinnabar moth. Despite absence of Small White and low GVW not a huge number of uncounted whites. 4 Green Hairstreaks on the Marshalling Yards (in 3 separate locations), 1 on the Heath. To put it mildly this is somewhat unexpected as far as I am concerned. All except the Heath 1 identified, settled. - Pete

Gore

Butterfly World, St Albans to check out the Small Blues and saw 10 in all. Sightings last week had been of individuals nectaring on Horseshoe Vetch, which is doing well & currently in full flower. However I only saw one there & the rest were all on Kidney Vetch at the far end of the antennae slopes. Males were patrolling low above the ground, presumably searching for emerging females. Two males clashed above a particularly promising looking patch of Kidney Vetch. After a couple of minutes duelling back and forth staying close to the ground one flew off and did not return. The second paused to nectar on Birds-foot Trefoil & resumed patrolling - it was still there an hour later, full of vigour. Also Common Blue are out in force - I counted 28 including one female. Brimstones & a Small Copper were seen looking for egg laying sites & Comma, Peacock, Orange Tip & Small White made up the butterfly numbers. Burnet Companion & Mother Shipton Moths both out plus a single Cinnabar - Malcolm Hull

Saturday 17th May 2014

Sightings for today Saturday 17th May 2014 - 1 Silver-ground Carpet near Oakwood entrance, Trent Park - my first of the year! 1 Small Copper at Trent Park along tube-line between Oakwood entrance and Cockfosters entrance, 12:52 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood Sect 7, Trent Park, 12:57 hrs; male Large White at Monken Hadley Common, 13:37 hrs; 1 Orange Underwing repeatedly settling in grass just E of Covert Way LNR - my first of the year! 1 Mother Shipton settled on buttercup just E of Covert Way LNR; 1 male Holly Blue settled on mud in carpark at Monken Hadley Common just W of train line which bisects the site, 14:27 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood at Monken Hadley Common E end of site, 15:47 hrs; 1 Green-veined White at Monken Hadley Common E end of site, 15:50 hrs. - Robert Callf

Panshanger Park, 1 Small Heath, 1 Small Copper, 2 Orange Tips, 6 Peacocks, 6 Small Tortoiseshells, 2 Green-veined Whites - Allan Burrows

At Fishers Field this afternoon in Bushey and came across = 3 x peacock, 1 x small white, 2 x brimstone (1m & 1f), 1 x small tortoiseshell caterpillar, 1 x nemophora degeerella moth. Onto water lane = 5 x orange tip (males), 2 x brimstone(males), 1 x comma, 1 x holly blue(female), 4 x peacock, 2 x small white, 40/50 small tortoiseshell caterpillars on nettle. At our Bushey garden = 1 x mint moth, 8 x light brown apple moths, 1 x tawny speckled pug ? Supposed to be flying from July but nothing else appears similar. David Gower

Saturday plenty of common blues and brown argus at Rickneys and occasional small heath. saw two grizzled skippers on lower part of Waterford Heath south near settling beds - Steve Kiln

The lure of an Alder Buckthorn, brought two female Brimstones into my Ware garden to egglay also one male, also female Orange Tip on Sweet Rocket - Liz Goodyear

Friday 16th May 2014

Four Speckled Wood this morning - two together in Oakwood Park at 09:00 and two at Boxer's Lake, Enfield 10:45 - will have an hour or so over the 'New Fields' later today, so will contact you again later. Later Peacock near Oakwood entrance, Trent Park 13:00 hrs, 6 Small Copper at 'New Fields' Trent Park 13:05 - 13:51 hrs, 2 Small Heath at 'New Fields' Trent Park (1 Sect 5, 13:24 hrs, 1 Sect 6, 13:41 hrs) - my first record of the year - the first was opening and closing it's wings at rest and rubbing it's hindwings together, 1 Mother Shipton at 'New Fields' Trent Park Sect 6 - Robert Callf

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/River Crane. An earlier walk today which still ended in butterfly-discouraging cloudier conditions. Butterflies as follows: Peacock: 9 Orange-Tip: 10 Brimstone: 4 Small Copper: 2 Common Blue: 4 (no females yet) Green-Veined White: 2 Speckled Wood: 1 One of the Small Coppers was the first I've seen on any part of Hounslow Heath this year although not unexpected of course. Whites under-recorded. - Pete Gore

Pair of Speckled Woods in my Eastcote Garden in morning. Male Orange Tip seen on a brief visit to Rural Outdoor Activities Centre, Hayes, Middlesex. Cloudy, but very warm afternoon on Harmondsworth Moor. Not many butterflies, but I saw a large number of Banded Demioselles in the fields, reeds and bushes near the River Colne and Wraysbury River. On the southern Hill section, I saw 1 Small Heath, 1 m Brimstone, 1 Peacock and 2 m Orange Tips. In the Middle Meadow, I went on to observe 1 Small Copper, 1 Peacock, Orange Tip (3m, 1f), 2 Brown Argus and 3 f Common Blue - Paul Busby

Thursday 15th May 2014

HATFIELD AERODROME (DISUSED) -Ellenbrook Fields 15-5-14 Peacock x 6+ Small White x 3 Green-veined White x 3 Orange Tip x 5+ Small Tortoiseshell x 1. PANSHANGER PARK 16-5-14 Green-veined White x 2 Orange Tip x 4 Peacock x 3 Small Copper x 1 - David Wheatcroft

Green Hairstreak today, 15 May, at Bedfont Lakes Southern Section. I had several sightings but quite possibly of the same individual. - John Eborall

An eventful day at Hexton Chalk Pit and Telegraph Hill earlier. We stopped off at Hexton Chalk Pit in the morning at 1030 and immediately saw a Speckled Wood by the gate. After a quiet start we eventually saw 40+ Dingy Skippers, 4 Green Hairstreaks, 5+ Brimstones, a Small White and a Small Heath. We left the pit at about 1150 to go to Telegraph Hill. Nothing much to note until we got to the chalk cutting just off Icknield Way at about 1230. Among the hawthorn we very soon saw 3 or 4 Green Hairstreaks. In all, we counted about 12 Green Hairstreaks most of which descended to ground level later in the afternoon and many of them looked as though they had just emerged with the undersides showing a 'shiny' green. Other sightings included 50+ Brimstones, 20+ Orange Tips, 3 Brown Argus (including a mating pair), 5+ Dingy Skippers, 2 Peacocks, a Common Blue, a Small Copper and a Small Tortoiseshell. We also saw some whites we couldn't identify. - Peter Clarke and Bob Clift

Despite repeating yesterday's walk today's was uneventful and less varied:cloudy conditions on the Marshalling Yards and Crane didn't help.Here are the details: Speckled Wood: 5 Orange-Tip:11 Peacock: 22 Green-Veined White: 4 Brimstone: 3 Large White: 1 Small White: 2 and 1 Cinnabar moth. A vole emerged from the Crane and crossed the footpath in front of me into some Brambles as I walked back along the river. No other sightings I'm afraid. I briefly checked the Marshalling Yards for Gorse,could find none in the vicinity of yesterday's Hairstreak,but a fairly large group of bushes diagonally opposite looked reasonable potential habitat.There are separate bushes elsewhere but a little lost amongst all the flowering Broom - Pete Gore

One hour spent at north end of Frogmore Quarry nr. Stevenage at lunchtime in sun. 8 Grizzled Skipper (2NW, 6NE), 5 Brown Argus, 3 Common Blue males, 3 Orange-tip. The main pit is full of water making it impossible to walk up from the south with some large areas of strawberry plants now covered, also 1 Speckled Wood, 1 Cinnabar - Trevor Chapman

Visited Highgrove Wood, Eastcote, Middlesex after lunch and saw a Peacock and Small White, as well as Large Red Damselflies and a male Broad-bodied Chaser Dragonfly patrolling the pond. Visited the nearby Warrender Park, Wild Flower meadow and saw a further 4 Small Whites and a lively Common Blue. Then early evening, went for a stroll around Bridgwater Fields, Ruislip Gardens and saw a Peacock, Speckled wood, 2 Small Whites, male Orange Tip and 3 Burnet Companion Moths - Paul Busby

Wednesday 14th May 2014

Visited Bricket Wood Common 10:30 to 12:30 sunny & slightly windy, saw no butterflies on the ride, some oaks removed over winter to open up the canopy, very wet underfoot suggest wellies or walking boots if you go. In the area of the SSSI cattle now grazing for the second year to keep growth of strong grasses, ferns & saplings down, observed 6 Brimstones; a knowledgeable friend pointing out the male/female coloring difference, 1 Comma, 1 Peacock, 1 orange tip, 8 large whites. The cattle grazing is helping the heather to regenerate also saw kestrel & Buzzards - Paul Gibson

On The Transect today at Butterfly World **2 Small Blues** spotted nectaring on Horseshoe Vetch, also seen were 2 Orange Tips, 2 Small Tortoiseshells, 7 Brimstones, 1 Small White and 1 Peacock. All in all a very satisfying Walk today! - Mandy Floyd

It's been over a week since my last complete walk across Hounslow Heath to the Marshalling Yards etc so not surprising that today's walk was notable for 'firsts' and altogether one of the most thoroughly enjoyable walks I've had. It began with what was most likely a Common Carpet Moth but whilst I was unsuccessfully trying to get a better look at two intriguing orange/brown butterflies I did see an unmistakable Cinnabar moth, a first for 2014. Still on the Heath my first Common Blue was next but for me personally the best sightings came, as they so often do, on the Marshalling Yards: I was watching a Small Copper walking along my path,reflecting (and empathising) that this little butterfly despite being a strong flyer seems to do a lot of walking, when a flash of green a few feet ahead told me there was something less expected - after 17 years

visiting the Marshalling Yards my first **Green Hairstreak** there! It proved to be a remarkably watchable one too. It was moving around the growth tips of some Common Broom alongside the path. From time to time it seemed to rub its hind-wings together and I wondered if this was associated with egg-laying although I saw no sign of eggs. Nevertheless it seemed purposeful, flitting from tip to tip (and thereby giving me glimpses of the contrasting upper-side of its wings) I hoped its activities would attract the attention of others but when it left after a few minutes I'd still see just this one memorable butterfly. There was one other surprise a little later, which I'm less comfortable with as the butterfly wouldn't settle for long, and it seems somewhat early: a possible Large Skipper. Here are my full details: Green-Veined White: 5 Peacock: 17 Tortoiseshell: 1 Orange-Tip: 5 Brimstone: 2 Large White: 2 Common Blue: 2 Speckled Wood: 7 Small Copper: 3 Green Hairstreak: 1 ?Large Skipper: 1 Small White: 1 Even without butterflies walking would be very enjoyable for the flora: today's seasonal 'firsts' included Ox-Eye, Flag Iris, Ragged Robin, Viper's Bugloss, Red Clover with Composites and Crucifers reminding me what big families they are - Pete Gore

A few sightings to report today Wednesday 14th May 2014 - 1 female Common Blue, field N of Williams Wood, Trent Park at 11:19 hrs - our first of the year! 2 male Orange Tip, together, along Leeing Beech Gutter N of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 11:25 hrs; 1 Cinnabar at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park - our first of the year! 1 male Brimstone edge of Rough Lot, Trent Park, 13:00 hrs; 1 Small Copper near Dew Pond, Trent Park at 13:43 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood along Merryhills Brook/Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 14:16 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell along Merryhills Brook/Vicarage Farm at 14:18 hrs - Robert Callf & Robin White. - Robert Callf

Tuesday 13th May 2014

Visited Albury Nowers between 2:30 to 3:30 sunny but quite windy, recorded 10 Brimstones, 4 Orange Tips, 3 Small whites on the lower slopes & 1 Green Hairstreak on the Ridgeway Path. - Paul Gibson

Identified two butterflies in Grovelands Park, Southgate this afternoon Tuesday 13th May 2014 - 1 Small White near Bowling Green at 13:07 hrs and 1 Small Copper near Tennis Courts at 13:12 hrs - my first of the year! - Robert Callf

Monday 12th May 2014

At Rickneys surprisingly good. 1 grizzled skipper, 4 brown argus, 3 common blue, brimstone, peacock, small tortoiseshell, orange tip, small white, small copper. Only small copper of note at Waterford heath south more exposed to wind. Disappointing to the fabulous butterflies in Provence last week - Steve Kiln

Had a stroll before lunch, around Northolt and Greenford Countryside Park, Middlesex. Marnham Fields section: Lots of whites, managed to identify at least 9 Green Veined Whites, 3 Small Whites, 2 female Orange Tip and one pair, 8 Peacocks and 3 Small Tortoiseshells. Greenford Lagoons cycle path, Speckled Wood and at least one Green-veined White. After lunch, turned cloudier and breezier but went to Yeading Brook Fields, Yeading, Middlesex, and saw 2 Small Coppers duelling, 1 Holly Blue, 4 Peacocks, 1 male Brimstone, 1 male Orange Tip, 1 Small Tortoiseshell and a Green-Veined White. - Paul Busby

Had a hour long walk in Pymmes Park, Edmonton this morning from 10:10 - 11:10 hrs Monday 12th May 2014 and saw one female Large White at 10:34 hrs. - Robert Callf

Saturday 10th May 2014

Millhoppers Pasture, Willstone - Despite the dire weather forecast, the sun was shining for the first of our branch field trips of the Spring. The rain held off all morning & we were able to record Small Tortoiseshell(2), Green-veined White (3), Orange Tip(1), Large White(20 and Common Carpet moth. Reserve Warden Jez Perkins showed us how the grassland areas on the site are benefiting from the conservation grazing regime, by increasing the variation in the turf allowing a diverse range of wild flower species to thrive. Not such luck at Bricket Wood Common this afternoon - it poured with rain, though I did record 4 Brimstones - Malcolm Hull

I spotted 4 Green Hairstreaks today on Hounslow Heath, also saw Orange Tip X2, Green Veined White x4, Speckled Wood X2, all seen a.m - Paul Taylor

Friday 9th May 2014

Despite a blustery day with showers, I saw a Speckled Wood and a faded Peacock at Bridgewater Fields, Ruislip Gardens and then 2 Holly Blues, 2 Small White, a Green-Veined White, a Comma and lots of small caterpillars feeding on nettles. - Paul Busby

Green Hairstreak and Dingy Skippers are active at Hexton Chalk Pit - Nigel Agar

Wednesday 7th May 2014

At Balls Wood this afternoon, in mainly cool and dull conditions, I saw just 2 male Orange-tip and 1 Green-veined White. The main purpose of my visit had been to find White Admiral larvae, which I thought would be large enough by now to be easy to spot, but my three-hour search yielded precisely none. - Paul Why

Tuesday 6th May 2014

Green Hairstreak x 4, Peacock x 4 Speckled Wood x 1 Orange Tip x 1 Small White x 2 Green Veined White x 1 Small Tortoiseshell x 2 - Paul Taylor

Today's walk was a limited one focussing on Green Hairstreak on Hounslow Heath and on the central part of the Marshalling Yards which I hadn't walked for a few days. Breezy with the sun passing in and out of clouds, less than ideal for butterflies. Here are my sightings: Peacock: 19 Green Hairstreak: 1 Speckled Wood: 1 Orange-Tip: 6 Small White: 2 Holly Blue: 2. My first ever Green Hairstreak was more or less exactly where Andrew's video had indicated - many thanks due for that as I only really saw the butterfly by waiting rather than walking. It landed more or less at my feet on some Broom and looked pleasingly er... green, then flew rapidly and erratically across the path confirming that an earlier sighting from a distance was likely to have been the same species if not the same individual. I completed a full walk on Monday minus the Bikers' domain in the Marshalling Yards: Orange-Tip: 13 Peacock: 18 Tortoiseshell: 2 Green-Veined White: 3 Small White: 4 Large White: 1 Speckled Wood: 4 Comma: 1 Brimstone: 2 Small White: 1 I've now seen three very small Orange-Tips, including a rather appealing female not much bigger than a Common Blue. - Pete Gore

Rickneys, eventually found two Grizzled Skipper but before that saw 2 Small Copper, **1 Brown Argus and 1 Common Blue** - Liz Goodyear

Of note in Greater London, Green Hairstreak have been seen at Wanstead Flats (Borough of Redbridge), well worth looking out for this species!

Monday 5th May 2014

Folly Lane St Albans - Spotted two nests of Peacock Caterpillars on the nettle patch on my allotment. The first consists of a tightly knit group of around 50 young caterpillars about 1.5cm long. The second is a more disperse group of mature caterpillars about 4 cm long in groups of two or three on a series of adjoining plants and leaves - Malcolm Hull

Sunday 4th May 2014

I completed the same walk as on Saturday but starting in early afternoon and lingering on Hounslow Heath in another unsuccessful attempt to spot Green Hairstreak. Here are my sightings: Tortoiseshell: 5 Green-Veined White: 5 Peacock: 25 Orange-Tip: 13 Speckled Wood: 4 Small White: 1 Comma: 1 Brimstone: 4 Large White: 1 Unidentified whites as usual but not numerous - Pete Gore

I noticed that **Small Heath** had apparently not been recorded this year when I checked the Butterfly Conservation web site today. At least four were flying at Hexton Chalk Pit this afternoon (Sunday 4 May); also 30+ Dingy Skipper and 10+ Green Hairstreak. - Martin Johnson

Quick stroll around Bridgewater Fields, Ruislip Gardens early afternoon and saw 3 Peacocks, 2 male Orange Tip, 2 Speckled Wood and Green-Veined White. In the garden in Eastcote, I saw a Holly Blue and a Speckled Wood. - Paul Busby

Checked out usual Bushey haunts starting at fishers field this morning where spotted 1 x small tortoiseshell, 3 x orange tips (2m , 1f), 2 x peacock, 4 x small white. At water lane 12 x small tortoiseshell (mostly on dandelion), 8 x orange tip (6m, 2f), 5 x peacock, 7 x small white, 2 x green veined white, 3 x brimstone (m). In Bushey garden 1 x orange tip (m). In late afternoon 2 x

green veined white & 1 x orange tip (m) at finch lane. Lastly at Merryhill Fields were 6 x orange tip (4m, 2f), 7 x brimstone (1 was female), 5 x peacock, 1 x small tortoiseshell, 1 x speckled wood, 3 x green veined white. - David Gower

The Shires Golf Course---St Albans Road ,Barnet-----Fresh Red Admiral and **Cinnabar** moth in conservation area. Oakhill Theological College, East Barnet-----True Crane fly---Clenophora pectinicornis---in old orchard area-----Kitt Jones

Saturday 3rd May 2014

Saturday's walk in full sun but rather late so I suspect I was in the right area of Hounslow Heath but at the wrong time to see Andrew's Green Hairstreak. Here are my sightings - I missed only the inner loop of the Marshalling Yards which was heavily in use by bikers. Brimstone: 3 Peacock: 21 Orange-Tip: 5 Small White: 3 Speckled Wood: 7 Green-Veined White: 2 Comma: 1 Along the Pevensey stretch of the Crane Damsel Flies began to emerge on Monday. By Saturday there were probably hundreds here (but only 1 seen on the stretch through the Golf Course!) Very colourful with the blue-black form predominant. - Pete Gore

A **Green Hairstreak** at Hounslow Heath today. See a short video on the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/ButterflyConservationHertsMiddlesex>
Andrew Wood

Saw a male Orange Tip on the way to buy a newspaper, late afternoon, along the Yeading Brook, Eastcote, Middlesex - Paul Busby

Waterford heath (south,east bank) 2 Grizzled skippers, 1 Small copper - Laurence Drummond

This afternoon at Waterford Heath we saw 3 grizzled skippers, 3 peacocks and 1 small tortoiseshell on the South pit. On the North pit we saw 1 grizzled skipper, 6 peacocks and 3 small whites. Jenny Sherwen

Friday 2nd May 2014

Today, we saw 2 orange tips, 1 grizzled skipper and 1 small copper at Aldbury Nowers - Jenny Sherwen

April 2014

Wednesday 30th April 2014

A goodish early spring so far. I counted over 40 orange tips (38 males and two females) in the Highdown/Pirton area, lagging a poor second was Brimstone on 24 but more pleasing was my most Green Hairstreaks there in a day for some years ie 8, along with six dingy skippers and a **Burnet companion** moth I toddled off to Hexton Chalk pit where as I finished my walk seeing 8 dingy skippers and a solitary green hairstreak - Stuart Pittman

In a couple of hours at Hexton Chalk Pit this afternoon I noted 15+ Brimstone, 4 Orange-tip, 6 Peacock, **8 Dingy Skipper** and 5 Green Hairstreak. Having 4 GHs in my field of view at once was a first for me - Paul Why

My walk began in midday sun, ending in cloudy conditions on the return trip across Hounslow Heath. The most notable change was the growing numbers of Large White and rather large numbers of unidentified Whites (30). Here are the details: Orange-Tip 10 (9m 1f) Green-Veined White: 4 Peacock: 26 Small White: 3 Large White: 4 Holly Blue: 4 Speckled Wood: 3 Brimstone: 2 Tortoiseshell: 4 Speckled Wood actually fewer than in cloudy conditions - possibly too hot and sunny for shade-lovers - Pete Gore

St Albans - Working at home today due to the tube strike. Checked in my outhouse & saw that the last two hibernating Small Tortoiseshells have left since last weekend. The numbers have been going down steadily since early March, so the emergence from hibernation has been staggered over a period of 6 weeks. The first few individuals went in to hibernation in early July 2013, so there have been butterflies hibernating there for nearly 10 months. I must remember to clear away the cobwebs before this year's brood arrives. Elsewhere in the garden male Orange Tips were patrolling past the Garlic Mustard looking for females & a male Brimstone passed through a few times, checking out the Buckthorn with the same thought on its mind. The only female butterfly I

saw was a female Green-veined White, egg-laying on Garlic Mustard - Malcolm Hull

Plenty of orange tips, peacocks and brimstones everywhere. In Broxbourne Wood first **speckled yellow** moth, at Rickneys 3 grizzled skippers and Waterford heath south a further two again near settling beds- Steve Kiln

Earlier this afternoon at Norton Green, I saw my first Speckled Wood here along with 10 Orange Tips, 9 Peacocks, 8 Small Tortoiseshells, 7 G-V Whites and 3 Small Whites in just over an hour. Peter Clarke

Two new moths for the year today for us Wednesday 30th April 2014 - Common Carpet at Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm and **Mother Shipton** Uni-lawns, Trent Park. A few of the butterflies which I recorded today are as follows - 1 Peacock at Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm at 10:20 hrs; 2 Small Tortoiseshell at Vicarage Farm; 1 Holly Blue near Hadley Road at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 10:58 hrs; 1 Comma at Park Farm, Enfield at 11:40 hrs; 1 female Large White at Park Farm, Enfield at 11:58 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Park Farm, Enfield at 12:00 hrs; 1 male Brimstone near Upper Lake, Trent Park at 12:50 hrs - Robert Callf & Robin White.

As the sun came out this morning I went for a walk around Norton Common, Letchworth. It was definitely a day for whites. I saw six male Orange-tips at the same time, Small White, Large White (three at a time), Green-veined White, Brimstone - several times singly and in twos. Peacock on several occasions, a solitary Comma and two sightings of a Speckled Wood. - Jill Sawyer

Tuesday 29th April 2014

At Amwell today 1 Speckled Wood, 3 Peacock, 10+ orange tips, 4 Green- veined and 2 Small Whites - Andy Steele

The best bits of weather haven't coincided with my time off, so I haven't been able to get out much. However, here are a few snippets of news from Stanwell Moor. 21st April. A brief walk at around four o'clock: Two Holly Blues, Two Speckled Woods, a Green-veined White taking minerals from a muddy puddle and two roosting Orange Tips.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=47178&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=47187&mode=view>

26th April. A longer walk around three in the afternoon in reasonable weather. Five Holly Blues, a dozen Orange Tips (only two of them females), ten Green-veined Whites, two Small Whites, five Peacocks, a Comma, a Speckled Wood and a Red Admiral.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=47644&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=47650&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=47648&mode=view>

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<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=47654&mode=view>

29th April. A very late walk after work (it had gone six o'clock). Two roosting Orange Tips and two roosting Green-veined Whites.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=47784&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=47783&mode=view>

I also have one report from Bedfont Lakes Country Park (the path alongside the railway line). 28th April. Around four o'clock, with some sun and a stiff breeze. Five Brimstones (3M, 2F egg-laying), four Green-veined Whites, and one Peacock. - Dave Miller

Monday 28th April 2014

Started my usual Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards walk early to avoid forecast rain which as it turned out never appeared. Still cloudy though but enough sunshine for the following: Orange Tip: 3 Speckled Wood: 6 Small White: 6 Peacock: 6 Green-Veined White: 4 Tortoiseshell: 2 plus perhaps a dozen or so unidentified whites from the three species identified above (i.e. possible females in the case of Orange Tip) - Pete Gore

I had a walk around Bovingdon Brickpits this afternoon(28th April) and found a pair of mating **Dingy Skippers**, my first of the year. - Roger Prue

Went for an hour walk around a damp meadow at Cheyne Field, Eastcote and saw a good selection of Spring butterflies including 2 Peacocks, 1 m Brimstone, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 5 Speckled Woods, 1 Comma, at least 4 Green Veined White, 2 pairs of Orange Tip butterflies and at least 4 singles. Back home in Eastcote, I saw a Holly Blue fluttering around the apple blossom in the

garden. - Paul Busby

A few butterflies to report today Monday 28th April 2014 - 1 Speckled Wood at Parkside Farm, Enfield at 10:03 hrs; 1 Green-veined White, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park at 12:20 hrs; 1 Green-veined White at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 13:25 hrs - Robert Callf & Robin White. Also 1 Speckled Wood and 1 male Orange Tip in Town Park, Enfield at 14:05 hrs - Robert Callf

Sunday 27th April 2014

In dull, chilly conditions, a roost count near Waterford Heath, produced 3 Grizzled Skipper and **1 Small Copper** in 1 hour - Liz Goodyear

Thursday 24th April 2014

Walking home Thursday 24th April 2014 saw a Speckled Wood in Dalrymple Close, Southgate at 17:30 hrs. - Robert Callf

Four male Orange Tips visible at the same time (09:35 hrs) at Bay Farm, Enfield this morning Thursday 24th April 2014 - Robert Callf

More sunshine today and no wind and for once the Heath got the best of the weather. The Marshalling Yards had a Small Copper, very conspicuous as it nectared on Buttercups which made up for relative deficiency in numbers otherwise. Here are the details: Green-Veined White: 7 Orange Tip: 19 Peacock: 13 Brimstone: 1 Comma: 1 Speckled Wood: 13 Small White: **4 Small Copper**: 1 Tortoiseshell: 2 As usual a few unidentified Whites around, including one likely Large White - Pete Gore

Saw 2 Green-veined white, 5 m Orange Tip, 4 small white and 1 Peacock on Long Meadow and Dovecote Copse, Eastcote this morning. One Speckled Wood in my Eastcote Garden, early afternoon and then a Small white in St James Square Gardens (near Euston station). - Paul Busby

Wednesday 23rd April 2014

Completed a walk in cloudy conditions throughout and reached the Cavalry Tunnel without a single sighting although perhaps it was heat rather than sunshine which lured a few butterflies out even on Hounslow Heath on my way home. Here are the details: Peacock: 3 Speckled Wood: 3 Orange Tip: 4 Small White: 3 Tortoiseshell: 1 Comma: 1 - Pete Gore

Our first sighting this year of a Holly Blue in our Pinner garden - Gill & Tony Porter

Tower Hamlets Cemetary, visited this afternoon (Wed 23rd April), despite being cloudy and breezy, managed to see 2 Holly Blue, 1 Speckled Wood, 2 Small Whites and 2 Peacocks - Paul Busby

Saw one Small White and a female Orange Tip in Town Park, Enfield this afternoon Wednesday 23rd April 2014 at 12:00 pm along the New River. - Robert Callf

Monday 21st April 2014

I started my walk in the late morning after the sun had warmed and dried things a little. I didn't manage to avoid rain so yet again the walk along the Pevensey section of the Crane and return stretch of Hounslow Heath produced few sightings but overall it was good with large numbers of whites (c.20) remaining unidentified. My first **Small Coppers** of the year - I thought I saw a Comma land but discovered mating Small Coppers. The female climbed up a dead grass stalk towing the male behind then down again using the under-side of the stalk to get past the still attached male. Here are the details: Tortoiseshell: 2 Orange Tip 15 Brimstone: 2 Green-Veined White: 1 Comma: 1 Peacock: 12 Small White: 7 Speckled Wood: 3 Holly Blue: 1 Small Copper: 2 The unidentified whites likely divided between Small, Green-Veined and Orange-Tip females, not necessarily evenly - - Pete Gore

Amongst other sightings yesterday Monday 21st April 2014 were 3 male Orange Tip together at Park Farm, Enfield and a male Brimstone at Allotments, Vicarage Farm, Enfield - Robert Callf & Robin White

I have seen few Orange Tip now but my first sighting was on 13 April on my garden in Watford - Paul Haylock Rain after one third of Crane Pevensey outgoing, affected most of remainder, all of

returning C/P and all of Hounslow Heath Heather area where there was also thunder several times.

Roughdown Common, Hemel Hempstead - 2 Green Hairstreaks in a thrilling aerial dogfight alongside the A41. They kept clashing ferociously for more than 10 minutes, with an interval of a minute when I managed to get a close look at one of the contestants. A few minutes after the bout resumed they veered right into the middle of the trunk road, oblivious to the surrounding traffic & disappeared from view. I saw no other Green Hairstreaks on the rest of the reserve. So if the battle was over territory it was quite futile, as well as potentially fatal. If this behaviour is typical, no wonder the species is one of our rarest local butterflies! - Malcolm Hull

Friday 18th April 2014

Disappointingly cloudy at Aldbury Nowers this afternoon. I found two **Grizzled Skippers** roosting on dead flowerheads of Gentian, close to the bottom of the slope. Later the sun came out & I saw two Grizzled Skippers flying elsewhere on the reserve. The only other butterflies flying were several Peacocks, an Orange Tip & a few distant whites. Two Small Tortoiseshells were basking on a bank of nettles. Absolutely masses of Cowslips on the reserve this year - more than I've seen here before - could this be the year that Duke of Burgundy returns to this site? Also good numbers of violets both in the meadows and the woods look promising for the two resident fritillaries - Malcolm Hull

April 17th in Barnes Lane, Kings Langley quite a few small tortoiseshells and one peacock on nettles and verges wildflowers, seen for a few days now. Orange tip male in Kings Langley garden, my first of the season. On April 18th a female Holly blue on ivy in the garden - Elizabeth Debenham

Cloudy conditions and a surprisingly chilly breeze meant there were relatively few butterflies on Hounslow Heath or the Marshalling Yards today. Here are the details: Speckled Wood: 11 Comma: 2 Tortoiseshell: 1 Peacock: 2 Holly Blue: 1 Orange Tip: 1 A Speckled Wood In my garden on 16th and 17th April. This was a complete walk. As the afternoon wore on it got cloudier and colder and there were no further butterflies after the outer loop on the Marshalling Yards - Pete Gore

Thursday 17th April 2014

Saw the following species this morning Thursday 17th April 2014 around Boxer's Lake, Enfield between 11:00 - 11:15 hrs - Orange Tip, Green-veined White, Holly Blue and Speckled Wood. Also Speckled Wood at Oakwood Park this morning at 08:55 hrs on the west side of the park. - Robert Callf

Amongst a strong showing of spring butterflies at Horsenden Hill on Tuesday 15th, I had my first **Painted Lady** of the year, nectaring on dandelion. - Andy Culshaw

We did the transect today, highlights were **green hairstreak and grizzled skipper** (both in the southern sections), and a red admiral in the north. Otherwise fairly quiet with a few orange tips, small tortoiseshells and peacocks seen. - Paul Thrush

Just a Speckled Wood flying around my Eastcote Garden, this morning - Paul Busby

Wednesday 16th April 2014

At Aldbury Nowers I was surprised to see my first **Grizzled Skipper and Green Hairstreak** of the year, plus lots of Small Tortoiseshell, Brimstone and Peacock.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/81377128@N03/13899850514/in/set-72157630317408880/>

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/81377128@N03/13899502973/in/set-72157630317408880/>

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/81377128@N03/13899858494/>

Sharon Monahan

Saw a Holly Blue flutter over Camden Lock this afternoon - Paul Busby

Whilst walking the Roughdown Common transect this afternoon, I came across a **Green Hairstreak** sitting on a bramble leaf resting close to the ground. Further on, by a clump of large hawthorn bushes (opposite the water trough) another two were engaged in a frenetic chase for a couple of minutes before returning to perch on the Hawthorn before once again repeating the chase a few more times. This is the first reported sighting at this location for over 3 years (*photo on facebook page*). - Brendan Sheridan

Today (16/4/14) I crossed the border from my home UTB turf for an afternoon stroll in the sunshine around Aldbury Nowers. My sightings are as follows. Brimstone 17, Peacock 6, Orange Tip 10, Small Tortoiseshell 4, **Green Hairstreak 1**, Green Veined White 1, Comma 1 - Clive Sims

Lovely day plenty of Tortoiseshells, peacocks, brimstones, orange tips and whites around Broxbourne woods and Waterford heath. However at Waterford Heath south at bottom near settling beds **two grizzled skippers** on wild strawberry. Also my first **lattice heath** moth on main bank Waterford heath - Steve Kiln

Had a break today Wednesday 16th April 2014 from recording most butterflies but did see a male Brimstone near Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 13:35 hrs. - Robert Callf

Tuesday 15th April 2014

I went for a brief (20 mins) walk in the middle of the three southern fields in Aldbury Nowers about 2pm this afternoon (15 April). I saw 2 Orange Tips, 1 Peacock, 1 Brimstone, a white I couldn't identify and, most surprisingly (as it seems quite early), a **Grizzled Skipper**. (*photo seen*) - Paul Cross

This lunchtime I saw a Holly Blue in Hammersmith's Furnivall Gardens by the Thames - Michael Robinson

Another marathon trek across Hounslow Heath where I explored a little outside my usual paths with no significant effect. Here are the day's sightings: Holly Blue: 8 Orange Tip: 6 Peacock: 38 Comma: 2 Green-Veined White: 5 Brimstone: 5 Tortoiseshell: 11 Speckled Wood: 24 Small White: 2 Large White: 1 Whites now a little under counted. Highlights were moths. The first, flying with Speckled Woods on the Marshalling Yards, I described as like a very small Tiger Moth when seen very briefly on the ground. Looking in Skinner this seems like a passable description of Light Orange Underwing and it was indeed near one of two groups of Aspens. The other two moths in a more open part of the MY have puzzled me somewhat. Initially seen just above head height in a dual/courtship battle they rose together high above me and from 30ft below appeared deep red - Cinnabar colour but otherwise not at all what I'd expect from them. - Pete Gore

Some sightings for today Tuesday 15th April 2014 - 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Parkside Farm, Enfield at 09:55 hrs; 1 Peacock at Park Farm, Enfield at 10:05 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Park Farm at 10:20 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip at Bay Farm, Enfield at 10:40 hrs; 2 male Orange Tip at Brooke Wood, Cuckold's Hill, Enfield at 10:50 hrs; 4 Speckled Wood at Flash Lane, Enfield between 11:25 - 11:38 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Brayside Farm, Enfield at 11:35 hrs; 2 male Orange Tip at Whitewebbs Wood; 1 Comma at Whitewebbs Wood at 12:05 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood at Whitewebbs Wood at 12:10 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip at Hilly Fields Park, Enfield at 13:10 hrs; 1 Small White at Hilly Fields Park, Enfield at 13:10 hrs; 2 male Orange Tip at Gordon Hill Station at 13:35 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood at Gordon Hill Station at 13:40 hrs. - Robert Callf

Monday 14th April 2014

I have some sightings from yesterday. It was an orange-tip haven at Broxbourne Woods yesterday with at least 30 counted, probably more. Also saw my first Speckled Woods of the year, plenty of peacocks, a few brimstones, small tortoiseshells and commas! - Daniel Cooper

Visited Tring, Hertfordshire on Sunday and saw 6 Peacock, 5 Small tortoiseshells, 3 Orange tip and 1 small white, whilst walking a circuit of Wilstone Reservoir Nature Reserve on a sunny breezy afternoon. - Paul Busby

Some sightings for today Monday 14th April 2014 - 1 Peacock along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm at 10:15 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 10:20 hrs; 3 male Orange Tip at Vicarage Farm (1 near Hadley Road, 2 together along Merryhills Brook at 13:02 hrs); 2 male Orange Tip at Parkside Farm, Enfield at 10:38 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Parkside Farm at 10:40 hrs; 2 Speckled Wood together at Parkside Farm at 10:45 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip at Park Farm, Enfield at 10:58 hrs; 3 Small Tortoiseshell at Park Farm, Enfield between 11:20 - 11:30 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip at Uni-lawns, Trent Park at 12:10 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood near Dew Pond, Trent Park at 12:12 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell near Dew Pond, Trent Park at 12:20 hrs; 2 Peacock together edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park at 12:22 hrs; 3 Speckled Wood together at Shaws Wood, Trent Park at 12:25 hrs - Robert Callf & Robin White

On my morning walk around Tyttenhanger Gravel Pits I saw my first 2 Small Whites of the year, together with 15 Peacocks, 11 Orange Tips, 9 Small Tortoiseshells and 5 Green Veined Whites - Terry Wood

Sunday 13th April 2014

Hounslow Heath in the morning, Peacock-12, Green- veined white- 9, Small Tortoiseshell-3, small white-2, Orange Tip-4, Comma-2 - Paul Taylor

My usual walk across Hounslow Heath to the Marshalling Yards etc, again leaving the central MY loop to the bikers.(I will vary my walks shortly - some of these butterflies are getting to know me personally, we've 'met' so many times.) Set out early so may have missed the best of the heat but full sun throughout unsurprisingly led to my first century of sightings, double figures of species and, right at the end of my walk, first Large White of 2014. Here they all are: Holly Blue: 10 Peacock: 41 Green-Veined White: 7 Speckled Wood: 19 Orange Tip: 10 Brimstone: 7 Small White: 4 Comma: 2 Tortoiseshell: 4 Large White: 1 - Pete Gore

I took a circular walk round Coppets Wood Local Nature Reserve in Barnet today in good sunshine. 7 peacocks, 1 comma, 5 speckled wood, 3 male orange tips, 4 female orange tips, 3 small whites. Some photos at: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/64663114@N03/sets/72157643915210615/> Miles Attenborough

Saturday 12th April 2014

A few sightings today Saturday 12th April 2014 - 1 Peacock at Bay Farm, Enfield at 09:45 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip at Whitewebbs Park at 11:00 hrs, also 1 Peacock at Whitewebbs Park. - Robert Callf

Friday 11th April 2014

Yet another walk across Hounslow Heath to the Marshalling Yards and beyond, mostly in cloudy conditions and omitting the central loop I normally do on the M.Y. The highlight was my first Orange Tip females of the year. Here are the details: Speckled Wood: 19 Orange Tip: 8 Peacock: 30 Tortoiseshell: 2 Green-Veined White: 4 Holly Blue: 1 Small White: 1 A Water Vole swimming across the Crane was a welcome sighting in the 'others' category - Pete Gore

Visited Bridgewater Fields, Ruislip Gardens, Middlesex and saw a Comma, a Brimstone, 4 Peacocks and 2 Speckled Wood Butterflies. Drove to South Harefield, Middlesex and walked along the permissive path, adjacent to Dews Farm Sandpits (TQ 057 885) and was pleased to see at least 30 Small Tortoiseshells and 7 Peacocks along a 0.5Km walk, following the route of the pylons along the strip of the field edge. Then onto to the fields by the Grand Union Canal, near Black Jacks Mill Lock, Harefield (TQ 047 902) and saw more Small Tortoiseshells (at least 16) and more Peacocks (at least 7). - Paul Busby

Some sightings for today Friday 11th April 2014 - 4 Peacock (1 at Parkside Farm, Enfield at 11:38 hrs, 1 at Park Farm at 11:45 hrs, 2 edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park at 13:30 hrs); 3 male Orange Tip (1 at Fernyhill Wood at 12:32 hrs, 2 at Trent Park - 1 edge of Rough Lot, 1 edge of Williams Wood); 1 Small Tortoiseshell edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park at 13:30 hrs; 1 Comma edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park at 13:30 hrs; 2 Green-veined White at Trent Park (1 edge of Williams Wood at 13:30 hrs, 1 edge of Shaws Wood, 13:36 hrs); 1 Speckled Wood at Shaws Wood, Trent Park at 13:33 hrs; 1 male Brimstone along bridle-path near Shaws Wood, Trent Park at 13:38 hrs. - Robert Callf

Old Rivers nursery/orchard site High Wych, 22 Peacock, 8 Small tortoiseshell, 3 Orange tip(all male), 2 Brimstone (1 male, 1 female), the main field here was not mowed last year and the scrub is nearly 2 ft tall already - Laurence Drummond

Thursday 10th April 2014

A brief visit to Hexton Chalk Pit this afternoon (after the sun had disappeared) yielded just one Peacock and one Speckled Wood - Paul Why

At the Watercress Beds LNR mid morning had 6+ Oranges Tips, 3 Peacocks and a brimstone - Andy Steele

First Orange Tip in my (Harpenden) garden this year - Robin Pearson

At Norton Green late this morning, I counted 6 Orange Tips (4 males), 2 G-V Whites, 1 Small White as well as 8 Small Tortoiseshells, 9 Peacocks and a Brimstone. - Peter Clarke

Some sightings for today Thursday 10th April 2014 - 4 Peacock at Vicarage Farm (1 Sidhil's Field at 09:50 hrs, 1 Hog Hill at 10:20 hrs, 2 together near Hadley Road at 10:44 hrs); 3 Small Tortoiseshell at Vicarage Farm, Enfield (1 at Barracks at 10:00 hrs, 1 at Hog Hill at 10:20 hrs, 1 along Merryhills Brook at 13:55 hrs); 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Parkside Farm, Enfield at 10:55 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip at Parkside Farm at 11:08 hrs; 1 Small White at Park Farm, Enfield at 11:35 hrs; 4 Small Tortoiseshell around a batch of nettles at Park Farm at 11:46 hrs; 1 Peacock at Park Farm at 11:46 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip at Park Farm at 11:55 hrs; 1 Peacock at Moat Wood, Trent Park at 12:25 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell along Leeging Beech Gutter near Water Grdn., Trent Park at 13:08 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip, along Leeging Beech Gutter near 'Three-bridges', Trent Park at 13:15 hrs; 9 Speckled Wood at Trent Park (1 along Leeging Beech Gutter near 'Three-bridges', 3 together at Williams Wood at 13:18 hrs, 5 together at Shaws Wood); 1 Green-veined White, along Merryhills Brook/ Vicarage Farm at 13:58 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood at Sidhil's Field, Vicarage Farm at 14:16 hrs - Robert Callf & Robin White

I was surveying Balls Wood today and while I was there I saw: 34 Peacocks, 3 Orange Tip, 2 Comma, 1 green veined white, 1 Brimstone and 2 small Tortoiseshells - Andy Brown I also saw a couple of grass snakes and a couple of slow worms on my reptile survey - Andy Brown

We were working at Alpine Meadow today, there were 2 male brimstone, small tortoiseshell, peacock and male orange tip. - Paul Thrush

Sunny spells today at Bedfont Lakes Country Park, Middlesex and I saw a Holly Blue, a Comma, a Brimstone, 9 Peacocks and at least 6 unidentified Whites. - Paul Busby

Wednesday 9th April 2014

Good afternoon for seeing Spring butterflies. I saw at least 8 Small Tortoiseshells, pairing up at the Motte and Bailey Castle site, Manor Farm, Ruislip, Middlesex on the nettle bank then a further 3 Peacocks, perching on blackthorn and 1 Small Tortoiseshell on nearby fields close to the River Pinn. At Eastcote House Gardens, saw 1 Small White and 2 Small Tortoiseshells and on the nearby Long Meadow, I saw 3 Peacocks, 1 Comma, 2 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Speckled Wood, 3 m Orange Tip and whilst at Cheyne Field, Eastcote, I saw a further 7 Peacocks, 5 Commas, 1 Holly Blue, 1 Speckled Wood, 2 m Orange Tip - Paul Busby

First Speckled Wood seen in our Pinner garden today. These appear in the same corner of the garden every year but never anywhere else in the garden - Tony & Gill Porter

In addition to the brimstones, peacocks and small tortoiseshells at Heartwood Forest today there was a female orange tip. Also saw my first green-veined white of the year on some honesty in my back garden in Welwyn Garden City this morning. - Ian Flack

In my Hayes garden. 1 very fresh looking Speckled Wood (photo added to Facebook) and 1 male Orange Tip. Helen George

North east side of Norton Common, Letchworth. First sightings for me this year: two male Orange-tips (in flight) and a Green-veined White settled on blackthorn. - Jill Sawyer

Much better weather today although still some shady spells. I was unable to resist the temptation to repeat yesterday's walk if only for evidence of the influence of weather conditions on butterflies. Here are the results: Peacock: 41 Speckled Wood : 12 Orange Tip: 5 Brimstone: 2 Green-Veined White: 3 Holly Blue: 6 Small White: 3 Comma: 4 Tortoiseshell: 2 Highlights include: 1 My first Holly Blues of the year - they seemed to increase as the afternoon wore on. 2 A strange looking white butterfly which I at first took to be a female Orange-Tip (none seen yet) but turned out to be mating Green-Veined Whites. The male, significantly smaller than the female had almost black-veined wings whilst his mate was also heavily marked on her upper wings. 3 A Tortoiseshell on a Cowslip. Not sure what it was doing there but it looked pleasingly like something out of a child's fairy story. 4 Two Holly Blues on the bare ground; one on mud the other on very dry soil on the Crane footbridge - Pete Gore

Patmore Heath - several Peacocks on the wing and my first Orange tip of the year - Andy Brown

I did the transect at Aldbury today, probably the highest number of butterflies I've seen at this time of year since doing the route! Totals were 15 peacock, 11 small tortoiseshell, 10 brimstone, 3 comma and 6 orange tip. Off transect there was a single green veined white, another 4 brimstone, 3 small tortoiseshell, 5 peacock and 3 orange tip. At Wilstone Reservoir there was a small tortoiseshell and between Tringford and Startops Reservoirs 2 male brimstone. - Paul Thrush

A two hour walk this morning produced the following sightings - 3 Peacock (1 at Water Grdn., Trent Park, 10:31 hrs, 1 at Park Farm, Enfield at 10:55 hrs, 1 at Parkside Farm, Enfield at 11:05 hrs); 2 Small Tortoiseshells at Vicarage Farm (1 along Leeging Beech Gutter at 11:25 hrs, 1 at Sidhil's Field at 11:55 hrs), also few Whites were seen. - Robert Callf

Tuesday 8th April 2014

Whitewebbs on elm, hatched White-letter Hairstreak egg close to seed discs. Seed discs had signs of damage (holes) but no larva visible - Andrew Middleton

Had my first Green Veined White in my South Mimms garden this morning - Terry Wood

A few butterflies to report today Tuesday 8th April 2014 - 2 different Small Tortoiseshell at Ferny Hill Farm, Enfield at 10:22 and 10:32 hrs - around some nice growth of nettles; 1 Peacock edge of Icehouse Wood, Trent Park at 11:06 hrs. - Robert Callf

Another eye-watering walk in the breeze across Hounslow Heath resulted in similar butterfly numbers over all to last week's: Peacock: 4 Orange Tip: 1 Small White: 1 Speckled Wood: 4 Green-Veined White: 2 Comma: 1 Tortoiseshell: 1 Noticeably more Whites around typically moving rapidly looking for females I imagine but making identification unreliable. Also "Presumed Moths" are doing quite well although today I at least got a glimpse of bright orange in one case which suggests a likely identification. - Pete Gore

Monday 7th April 2014

Surprisingly yesterday I saw a weakly flying **Holly Blue** land in my Stevenage (Chells) garden. It landed in a shrub, but unsurprisingly today it had'nt moved an inch and was still there, but a lovely sign of things to come - Colin Alderman

Crane Meadow NR on the 5th April - Orange Tip, and Small Tortoiseshell also 2x Peacocks - Paul Taylor

Having consulted my field guide Waring and Townsend I believe this moth was probably a male Light Orange Underwing based on the pattern on the upperside of the forewing - it was very plain and only had one obvious white mark on the outside edge of each wing. Robin White also believes it was probably a Light Orange Underwing but thinks it was a female. The fact that neither of us checked the antennae or other distinguishing marks means that we cannot be 100% certain about the id, but certainly worth looking for in future springs? I thought once I had realised that there were Aspen along the bridle-path that there was a possibility of finding Light Orange Underwing here. - Robert Callf

First Speckled Wood on Saturday in our Enfield garden - Phil and Carrin Rhodes

Saturday 5th April 2014

Had the first Orange Tip in my South Mimms garden this morning - Terry Wood

Some news for today Saturday 5th April 2014 - 1 Comma at Parkside Farm, Enfield, 10:58 hrs; 2 Peacock at Parkside Farm at 11:15 hrs; 2 Peacock at Park Farm, Enfield at 11:25 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip at Park Farm at 11:42 hrs; 6+ Small Tortoiseshell around a large batch of nettles near Duncan's Wood at 11:52 - 11:55 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood at Shaws Wood, Trent Park at 13:05 hrs - our first of the year! 1 Red Admiral at Shaws Wood at 13:05 hrs; 1 **Light Orange/Orange Underwing** settled on bridle-path between Merryhills Brook and Shaws Wood, Trent Park (near a line of Aspen) at 13:15 hrs - had a close look at it so hopefully may be able to determine which one once I consult the field guide? 2 Small Tortoiseshell at Vicarage Farm - Robert Callf & Robin White, also 1 Speckled Wood along New River at Town Park, Enfield at 14:18 hrs - Robert Callf

OAKHILL WOODS LNR. East Barnet----first male orange tip and **large white** of the year-----Ix small white---4x comma----5x Peacock---3 x Tshell----4x speckled wood- -KITT JONES

Friday 4th April 2014

Just a single Peacock flying rapidly over Eastcote House Gardens, Middlesex on a cloudy, breezy day - Paul Busby

Whilst cloud discouraged most butterflies from flying and I saw none at all on Hounslow Heath, a little sun at the right time meant I was luckier on the Marshalling Yards and that in turn encouraged me to fight my way onto the Pevensy Open Space section of the River Crane where numerous healthy food plants are attracting several species. I added Speckled Wood and Green-veined White to my 2014 list, neither of them surprising as I suspected both were amongst unidentified butterflies seen last weekend. Peacock: 3 Speckled Wood 3 Orange Tip: 1 Comma: 1 Small Tortoiseshell: 1 Green-Veined White : 1 Small White: 3 - Pete Gore

Thursday 3rd April 2014

More from Norton Common, Letchworth. 3rd April: a **Holly Blue** (first sighting for me this year), a Small White (again first sighting) and a Brimstone that stopped long enough to get a quick photo. Eight Peacocks and two Commas zooming around (*photos on facebook*). - Jill Sawyer

Several Brimstones, 3 Peacocks and my first Green-veined White of the season in my Stevenage garden this afternoon.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/stevelane56/13602837104/>

Steve Lane

I saw a Brimstone flying by the Yeading Brook, Rayners Lane, Middlesex then 3 Small Tortoiseshells resting together before spiralling up in rough grassland with lots of dock stalks, behind Headstone Manor, Harrow (TQ 142 898). Decided to go on to 1km square (TQ1894) with few records, Edgwarebury Lane, bridleway to Elstree and just saw 2 Small Tortoiseshells on a grassy bank near the M1 after an hours walk. Think it just Middlesex, London Borough of Barnet. - Paul Busby

Some catch up notes. 16th March around midday peacock butterfly on wild cherry on corner of Appspound Lane junction with A4147 main road leading to St Albans from Hemel Hempstead. Further along the A4147 on the left towards St Albans a patch of wild violets attracted a brimstone a couple of times. Above my head was a small tortoiseshell. 29th March in Barnes Lane, Kings Langley a brimstone going back and forth along the hedgeline. Several peacocks on blackthorn. One was chasing a bumble bee way over my head. 30th March on patch of blackthorn by the A41 bypass tunnel in Barnes Lane, several peacocks again, one comma, one brimstone three times and nearer Kings Langley in same lane, Alan saw six small tortoiseshell on roadside weeds which include nettles and dandelions. Very warm weather. 2nd April, one small tortoiseshell in Barnes Lane, small number of peacocks again on blackthorn and a small white. I think a speckled wood flew against the window in Kings Langley. 3rd April one peacock in Kings Langley garden. March 29th am - freshly hatched Angle Shades moth found in Kings Langley greenhouse - Elizabeth Debenham

On a walk along the River Ver at Redbournbury today between 13:00pm to 14:30pm a count of 5 Brimstones, 2 Peacocks. 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 3 Orange Tip, 1 Comma. - Ernie Leahy

Wednesday 2nd April 2014

At Norton Green, I saw 2 Brimstones (first of the year), as well as 10 Peacocks, 8 Small Tortoiseshells and 2 Commas - Peter Clarke

At HMWT Royston Chalk pit today several Peacocks, Brimstones, commas and a possible Green veined white - Andy Brown

For info I have seen my first Orange Tip Butterfly for this year in my garden, Graveley, near Hitchin, today Wednesday 2nd April 12.30pm. - Helen Lumley

Recorded the following at Whitewebbs Park today Wednesday 2nd April 2014 - male Brimstone, male Orange Tip, Small White, 4+ Peacock and Comma. - Robert Callf

Peacock and Small Tortoiseshell in my garden in Letchworth. We also have a couple of Brimstones who seem to do circuits around the street. Norton Common Letchworth - on the path down the middle of the common a beautiful Peacock sunning itself. South-west side path: I saw a Peacock, a Small Tortoiseshell and a little further away a Speckled Wood. Then a bit later I came up the west side path where there is a load of blackthorn and there were at least six Peacocks and two Commas. *(Picture on branch facebook page)* - Jill Sawyer

Despite the smog, it was good day for butterflies in Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park, London, considering I saw no butterflies at the same location, a fortnight ago. I saw at least 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Brimstone and 3 Peacocks, 2 Small Whites and 2 Speckled Woods. On the way home, later in the afternoon, saw a further Small Tortoiseshell in the Rose Garden by Cavendish Pavilion, Eastcote, Middlesex (TQ 114 873) - Paul Busby

Wednesday 2nd April 2014 Despite cloudy weather, horrible humidity (and a breeze!) and Saharan dust I managed to complete a walk today across Hounslow Heath to the Marshalling Yards. Although I didn't do as much as I'd intended and hence failed to add anything significant to yesterday's sightings here are the butterflies: Peacock: 9 Orange Tip: 2 Small White: 2 - Pete Gore

Tuesday 1st April 2014

The first day of the Transect Season!

Diane Andrews rang, **6 Speckled Woods** at Ally Pally in the afternoon, also 1 Small White, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 4 Peacock and 2 Comma

This afternoon at Hexton Chalk Pit I saw 2 Brimstone, 2 Small Tortoiseshell, a Peacock and a Comma - Paul Why

An afternoon visit to the area around Harefield Place NR (near Uxbridge) resulted in 15 Peacock; 6 Small Tortoiseshell; 1 Comma; 2 male Brimstone and a **Speckled Wood** - Dick Middleton

Visited Bridgewater Fields, Ruislip Gardens, Middlesex in the sunshine today and saw at least 3 Small Tortoiseshells, 2 Brimstone and 1 Peacock as well as 2 unidentified Small/Green Veined Whites patrolling the hedgerows. - Paul Busby

Grays Inn Gardens WC1 - Small White, **2 Green-veined Whites**, 1 Peacock (very faded), 1 Small Tortoiseshell. The main attraction in the garden today is a large clump of purple Honesty, in full flower. This is the first day I've seen more butterflies that have hatched in 2014 than hibernators - Malcolm Hull

Some sightings for today Tuesday 1st April 2014 include the following - 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 10:10 hrs; 1 Peacock at Vicarage Farm at 10:20 hrs; 1 Comma at Vicarage Farm at 10:35 hrs; 1 Peacock at Parkside Farm, Enfield at 11:05 hrs; 1 Comma at Park Farm, Enfield at 11:28 hrs; 1 Small White at Park Farm at 11:53 hrs; 1 Peacock at Park Farm at 11:55 hrs; 2 Small Tortoiseshell at Park Farm at 12:10 hrs; 1 Peacock at Moat Wood, Trent Park, 12:25 hrs; 3 Small Tortoiseshell, including a pair together, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Water Grdn., Trent Park, 13:15 hrs; 1 Comma, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Water Grdn., Trent Park, 13:15 hrs; 1 male Brimstone, along Leeging Beech Gutter near 'Three-bridges' Trent Park, 13:25 hrs - settled; 1 Small White, along Merryhills Brook/Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 14:08 hrs; 1 male Brimstone, field near Enfield Road at Vicarage Farm, 14:35 hrs. Also many other sightings of Peacock which I did not record! Robert Callf & Robin White

Today on the first transect at Thorley Wash we had 4 species - Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell, Brimstone and Small white. All in good numbers. I also saw an **Orange tip** near Twyford Lock. This afternoon at Amwell I saw several Peacocks, Brimstone and a Small white - Jenny Sherwen

I did the transect today, I saw 2 peacocks, 3 small tortoiseshell and a small white. In the surrounding area I saw another 6 peacock, 8 small tortoiseshell and a female orange tip. In Aldbury village I saw 2 male brimstone - Paul Thrush

In my walk at Fir & Pond Woods this morning I saw my first Comma of the year, as well as a male Brimstone and 3 Peacocks. At Tyttenhanger Gravel Pits yesterday I saw 8 Peacocks and 2 Small Tortoiseshells. - Terry Wood

Almost perfect weather this afternoon apart from a period of cloudiness crossing Hounslow

Heath. Whites are keeping their distance making identification difficult but 2 Orange Tip males were my first for 2014 and the only one of last year's 23 species I didn't report to you (as I started reporting in July after they'd finished). Peacock: 24 Small Tortoiseshell 6 Brimstone 2 Comma 4 Orange Tip 2 Small White 1 I spent some time chasing a strange-looking butterfly on the Heath only to find it was the smallest Tortoiseshell I'd ever seen. It also had a slightly lopsided look but I didn't get a chance to examine it closely as despite the apparent handicap it could still fly quite strongly and soon disappeared. - Pete Gore

March 2014

Monday 31st March 2014

Sighted in my Boxmoor garden, 1 small tortoiseshell - feeding on plum tree blossom, 2 male Brimstone, 1 Peacock and 1 male **Orange Tip** fluttering around Honesty plants - Brendan Sheridan

Sunday 30th March 2014

Brimstone in my Ware garden in the morning - Liz Goodyear

At Butterfly World just 2 x small tortoiseshells, in Chiswell Green Lane outside 1 x peacock & 2 x small tortoiseshells. Opposite How Wood station 1 X peacock & 2 x small tortoiseshells - David Gower

Saturday 29th March 2014

Welwyn Civic Centre carpark - 1 Brimstone seen by many!

Orange Underwing moth seen on Hampstead Heath - Helen Bantock

At Berkhamsted in grid square SP 98 08 (tetrad SP90 Z), minima of 2 male Brimstones, 3 Peacocks and 8 Small Tortoiseshells (probably more of the latter, which were common around allotment margins). - Colin Everett

Some sightings for today Saturday 29th March 2014 - 1 Peacock at Vicarage Farm, 09:00 hrs; 1 male Brimstone at Vicarage Farm, 09:04 hrs; 1 male **Orange Tip** along Salmons Brook at Parkside Farm, Enfield at 09:45 hrs - my earliest Enfield area record! 2 Peacock at Park Farm 10:16 and 10:35 hrs; 1 male Brimstone at Moat Wood, Trent Park, 10:50 hrs and what was presumably the same at Rough Lot later; 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Ferny Hill Farm, Enfield at 11:20 hrs; 1 Peacock at Ferny Hill Farm, Enfield at 11:27 hrs; 1 Peacock near Rough Lot and another at Water Grdn., Trent Park; 2 Peacock together along Merryhills Brook/Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 12:37 hrs; 2+ Small Tortoiseshell at Vicarage Farm, Enfield. - Robert Callf

Hounslow Heath in the morning: Red Admiral, Brimstone x 3, Comma, Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell x 2 - Paul Taylor

Only a strong breeze and the fact that it's still March prevented today's walk being ideal for butterflies. I completed a substantial walk omitting the bike-infested inner loop on the Marshalling Yards but replacing it with the Pevensey Road section of the Crane and returning to start across the heathery part of the Heath. Here are the results: Peacock: 14 Comma: 7 Small Tortoiseshell 3 Brimstone : 4 Failed to identify around 10 including a few distant views of Whites and a couple small and dark, one of which flew up into the Birches, another into a large patch of Heather: moths perhaps. - Pete Gore (*possibly Orange Underwing moths*)

Some recent sightings for you in Middx: March 29: Ten Acre Wood: m Brimstone, Small Tortoiseshell; Yeading Brook meadows: 5 m Brimstone, 2 Small White, 2 Peacock; Greenford UB6: 2 Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell, Small White. March 13: Canons Park: 2m Brimstone, Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell. March 9: Ruislip Woods: 5m Brimstone, 4 Peacock, 3 Comma, Small Tortoiseshell + in nearby road, Small White - Neil Anderson

Monday 24th March 2014

Had a walk around Great Ashby Park this morning and saw 2 Peacocks, 2 Small Tortoiseshell and a Comma. On returning home found a **Small White** and a Comma in my Great Ashby garden.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/stevelane56/13376559204/>

Steve Lane

Whilst conditions were only marginal/occasional for butterflies I did at least see some today after failure yesterday. All three were on the Marshalling Yards: Comma: 1 Peacock 1 Small Tortoiseshell: 1 The Tortoiseshell looked particularly good, wings open, spread across four of the stunted Dandelions typical of the thin 'soil' on the site. A reminder yet again that I should consider taking some sort of camera with me on my walks - Pete Gore

A few butterflies to report today 24th March 2014 - 3 Small Tortoiseshell (1 at Park Farm, Enfield at 11:15 hrs, 1 near Duncan's Wood at 11:33 hrs, 1 along Leeging Beech Gutter near Water Garden, Trent Park, 13:02 hrs); 1 Peacock at Nature Trail, Trent Park at 12:43 hrs - Robert Callf & Robin White

Friday 21st March 2014

I saw a male **orange tip** butterfly yesterday, March 20th, at Stockers Lake near Stockers Lock. It seems to me to be an early sighting of this species. Tony Hulls

Tuesday 18th March 2014

One Peacock basking in a sheltered spot at Vicarage Farm this morning Tuesday 18th March 2014 at 11:22 hrs. - Robert Callf

Monday 17th March 2014

Stanwell Moor: Sunday 16th March. On an absolutely brilliant sunny day, I walked around my local patch for the first time this year uninterrupted by water. The paths were still quite muddy where the Colne had overflowed onto them, but the standing water had gone. I was out between about 1100 and 1230, and the first thing I saw was a Comma just warming up in the sunshine. Gradually other butterflies began to appear, and by the time I had returned home I had seen eight or nine Brimstones (all male), five or six Peacocks and around the same number of Small Tortoiseshells. Commas are always slower to emerge here after hibernation, and I only saw one other after the initial sighting. Near home, but too far away to identify for certain, I glimpsed what could well have been a Small White.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=45184&mode=view>

Dave Miller

Just a single Comma flying along the edge of Highgrove wood, Eastcote, Middlesex - Paul Busby

Red Admiral at Devils Dyke Wheathampstead on the 16th March - Ashley Cox

Shorter walk and cloudier conditions produced only three Small Tortoiseshells today Monday 17th March 2014 - 1 at Trent Park and 2 at Vicarage Farm - Robert Callf & Robin White

Counted Sixteen Small Tortoiseshells yesterday 16th March 2014 - 2 at Vicarage Farm, 3 at Parkside Farm, 2 at Park Farm, 1 near Little Beechill Wood, 1 at Vault Hill Wood, 6 at South Barvin Farm (near Vault Hill Wood); 1 along Leeging Beech Gutter near 'Three-bridges' at Trent Park. Also saw several Peacock and one Comma at various localities - Robert Callf

Friday 14th March 2014 - A Peacock in a Garston (Watford) garden bordering woodland (in grid square TL 11 00). Sunday 16th March 2014 - From memory, probably the largest spring emergence of hibernating Small Tortoiseshells for many years (perhaps since the early/mid-1990s). Butterfly records today as follows: (1) South Way derelict land at Abbots Langley TL 10 01 - Peacock; (2) Hunton Bridge TL 08 00 - Small Tortoiseshell; (3) Langleybury TL 07 00 - Peacock; (4) track nr Berrybushes Wood TL 06 00 - Peacock & Small Tort.; (5) near Bucks Hill TL 05 00 - Peacock; (6) Chipperfield Common TL 05 010 - male Brimstone, Comma & Small Tort.; (7) same site in grid square TL 04 01 - 2 male Brimstones, Peacock & 2 Commas; (8) footpath E of Chipperfield TL 05 01 - Peacock & 5 Small Tortoiseshells; (9) A41 footbridge nr Kings Langley TL 06 02 - Peacock & 2 Small Torts.; (10) canal towpath S of Kings Langley TL 07 01 - 2 Small Torts.; (11) South Way gardens at Abbots Langley TL 09 00 - 2 Small Torts.; (12) South Way derelict land TL 09 01 - 2 Small Tortoiseshells. - Colin Everett

Sunday 16th March 2014

Whilst sitting on the Tube, I saw 2 Brimstones and 1 Comma flying in the hedgerow by Northolt Underground Station - Paul Busby

News from Diane Andrews, a Comma and Small Tortoiseshell in her north London garden, followed by a **Holly Blue** emerging from the ivy this afternoon

A male **Green-veined White** at Bengo Nursery this morning - Andrew Wood

Continuing our journey north along the New River Path we saw-Cheshunt-2 Small Tortoiseshells, 5 Peacocks, Mylne Aqueduct, Wormley-2 Small Tortoiseshells, Broxbourne-2 Brimstones, Comma, 5 Peacocks, Small tortoiseshell, Rye House-1 Peacock, 3 Small Tortoiseshells, Rye Common-2 Small Tortoiseshells, 1 Peacock, Great Amwell-6 Peacocks, 1 Brimstone, 4 Small Tortoiseshells, Ware-3 Small Tortoiseshells, 1 Peacock, Hertford-3 Peacocks. The Peacocks and Small Tortoiseshells were either courting couples, sun bathing or nectaring. The most popular nectar source for Peacocks was Blackthorn and for Small Tortoiseshells, Colts foot. The Brimstones were all males and they were all patrolling. Despite these riches of butterflies outdoors, 17 of the 30 butterflies hibernating in my outhouse have still to stir from their winter positions, so we have much more still to look forward to - Malcolm and Anna Hull

At Fishers Field nature reserve, Bushey 3 x brimstone (m), 1 x comma, 3 x peacock, 3 x small tortoiseshell. Was sorry to see land adjacent to here will be housing development as good for skippers!. Onto Water Lane, Watford ,4 x peacock, 1 x brimstone(m), 8 x small tortoiseshell, 1 x comma. In Bushey garden 2 x peacock & 1 x brimstone (m). - David Gower

First (10+) Peacocks at Norton Green today - Peter Clarke

The following seen HATFIELD AERODROME DISUSED): 9th March 2014 - 1 x Comma 2+ Peacock. 13th March 2014 - 4 x Peacock 2 x Small Tortoiseshell - David Wheatcroft

Saturday 15th March 2014

Continued our walk north along the New River starting at Finsbury Park and north to Theobalds Grove. Sunny all way and plenty of butterflies-Myddleton Rd Comma, Small Tortoiseshell, 2 N of Bowes Rd/North Circular Rd Brimstone, 2, Palmers Green library Green Lanes. Small Tortoiseshell, Hedge Lane, Winchmore Hill Small White, Peacock. Orange Tree Pub Winchmore Hill Small Tortoiseshell. Hillyfields Park, Clay Hill Enfield, Peacock, Theobalds Park 2 Small Tortoiseshells - Malcolm and Anna Hull

My butterfly day began with a surprise visit to my own garden from a male Brimstone. Unlike my previous suburban Hounslow garden, where a single Buckthorn bush was all it took to attract Brimstones to breed, there are no food plants here so although he was clearly searching the hedgerow he will have left mate-less on this occasion. That encouraged me out on another walk and although it was largely repeating yesterday's experience good numbers of butterflies are always a cheering sight.: Brimstone: 3 (2m 1 f) Red Admiral:1 Peacock: 8 Small White: 1 Comma 4 The walk similar to yesterday but I added the Crane River Marshalling Yards--Hanworth Road stretch where I knew there was a lot of Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolaris*) that might well be where the local GV Whites and Orange-Tips originate. If so, certainly no sign yet. - Pete Gore

1 x male brimstone in Bushey and 1 x comma at Watercress nature reserve, St Albans today (part closed as still boggy) - David Gower

Just one Small Tortoiseshell seen late afternoon on the wet meadow area of Bridgewater Fields, Ruislip Gardens, Middlesex on Friday 14th March. One Small Tortoiseshell, one Peacock and one Brimstone seen at lunchtime today at Ruislip Lido, Middlesex by the grassy area opposite Haste Hill miniature railway station. - Paul Busby

Norton Common, Letchworth, this afternoon. One Brimstone in flight at the north end. A Comma fluttering around in nettles/scrub and settling now and again (long enough to get a photo eventually). Then a Peacock came along and the comma appeared to be chasing it off. Then it came back and went back to its fluttering. Then the same thing up the path towards the south end - this time a Comma saw a Brimstone off its patch. They seem to be quite territorial at the moment! - Jill Sawyer Phipers

13/03/2014 1 Comma at the northern end of the main ride at Broxbourne Wood. 14/03/2014 1 peacock on Telegraph Hill. 3 sparring Peacocks and 1 Red Admiral at Hoo Bit. Paul Why

Friday 14th March 2014

An extensive walk today across Hounslow Heath to the Marshalling Yards and back across the Heath by a different route. Two 2014 firsts for me but nothing unexpected and little missed for once. Peacock: 2 Small Tortoiseshell: 5 (first of 2014), Comma: 2 **Small White:** 2 (first of 2014). Some of the above sightings linked to flowering Willow and Coltsfoot - Pete Gore

March 14th a Small Tortoiseshell in my front garden in Letchworth feeding on violet - Jill Sawyer Phypers

Some sightings for today Friday 14th March 2014 - 3 Peacock at Trent Park (2 along bridle-path near Shaws Wood, 11:25 hrs, 1 edge of Moat Wood, 13:01 hrs); 5 Comma at Trent Park (1 by Lower Lake, 11:50 hrs, 1 Rough Lot, 12:40 hrs, 3 together edge of Moat Wood, 12:57 hrs); 2 Small Tortoiseshell at Park Farm, Enfield, 13:20 hrs; 1 Peacock at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 14:00 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Vicarage Farm, 14:02 hrs. - Robert Callf

Thursday 13th March 2014

Denis and I went for a short walk down the road to Wilkins Green yesterday afternoon and along the edge of a field of rough grass sunning themselves in the beautiful warm sunshine were 6 Small tortoiseshells and 3 Peacocks. The highlight of our walk! - Christine Shepperson

Wednesday 12th March 2014 Four Small Tortoiseshells feeding on heather in a garden at Coates Way in Garston (Watford) at noon (grid square TL 12 00, tetrad TL10 F). Thursday 13th March 2014 Records as follows: garden at Coates Way in Garston TL 12 00 - 3 Small Tortoiseshells together (same site as 12/3); Garston Park LNR TL 12 00 - 2 Small Tortoiseshells and 3 Commas; gardens at Chichester Way in Garston TL 12 00 - 3 Peacocks together; Bricket Wood Common heather glade TL 12 00 - Peacock; Bricket Wood Common pond TL 13 00 - Peacock; Wall Hall nr Aldenham TQ 13 99 - single Small Tortoiseshell and Peacock; Munden Park TQ 13 99 - 2 Small Tortoiseshells together; footpath at Munden TQ 12 99 - Small Tortoiseshell; footpath near Munden Spring TL 12 00 - Small Tortoiseshell. - Colin Everett

Saw 2 Small Tortoiseshells whilst gardening at Eastcote House Walled Garden, Middlesex and then onto to regular 30 minute stroll around Cheyne Field, Eastcote close to River Pinn, where I saw 3 Comma, 3 Peacock, 2 Brimstone and 1 Small Tortoiseshell on the meadow. Also visited Newton Farm ecology Park, Rayners Lane, Middlesex, close to the source of the Yeading Brook East and saw 3 Small Tortoiseshells and a Brimstone. Followed stream to Newton Park West where a further Small tortoiseshell was seen on a lovely sunny afternoon - Paul Busby

Whilst walking along the edge of the arable field next to Chalfont Road, Maple Cross, between 3 and 4pm yesterday (12th March 2014) I saw 5 Small Tortoiseshell butterflies - Chris Bessant

4 Small Tortoiseshells and 4 Commas at Norton Green this afternoon - Peter Clarke

Wednesday 12th March 2014

My butterfly year started on 8th March with a Small Tortoiseshell basking in the warm sunshine on the wall of my house - Dave Miller

I saw a male Brimstone butterfly by Ravenscourt Park tube station lunchtime today - Michael Robinson

Saw 7 Small Tortoiseshells and 1 Peacock on a 30 minute sunny afternoon stroll around Minet Country Park, Hayes, Middlesex. Then later in the afternoon saw 2 Commas at Ten Acre Wood, Yeading, Middlesex. - Paul Busby

Some news for today Wednesday 12th March 2014 - 3 Peacock (1 near Church Wood, 12:00 hrs, 1 Nature Trail, 12:22 hrs, 1 Ride Wood, 12:40 hrs, at Trent Park); 2 Comma (1 'Old Golf Course' 12:45 hrs, 1 Moat Wood, at Trent Park, 12:50 hrs); 6 Small Tortoiseshell (3 including a pair at Park Farm, 13:32 hrs, 1 at Parkside Farm, Enfield, 13:57 hrs, 2 together at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 14:32 hrs) - my first Small Tortoiseshells of the year - Robert Callf

We saw several Brimstone, Peacock and Small Tortoiseshell butterflies whilst working at Hunsdon Meads today - Jenny Sherwen

Monday 10th March 2014

During a very brief sunny spell at lunchtime, I saw 3 Small Tortoiseshells and 1 Peacock on the mound of the Motte and Bailey Castle site at the Manor Farm complex in Ruislip, Middlesex - - Paul Busby

Sunday 9th March 2014

A Comma and at least one male Brimstone in a garden along woodland edge at Garston (Watford) - Colin Everett

Four species of butterfly recorded at Grovelands Park, Southgate 9th March 2014 - male Brimstone at 12:50 hrs - my earliest Enfield area record; 2 Comma at 12:50 hrs; 3 Peacock (2 at 12:50 hrs and 1 at 15:03 hrs); 1 Red Admiral at 13:30 hrs. Also Robin White saw a Red Admiral in his garden at Enfield Road, EN2 afternoon Sunday 9th March 2014. - Robert Callf

Some sightings for you. Wednesday 5th March Ware - Hoe Lane 1 Brimstone + 1 small tortoiseshell Spotted by my son Oliver (aged 4) and correctly named...good lad! Sunday - Wareside a bonanza Brimstone (9) Small Tortoiseshell (7) Red Admiral (1) Comma (1) Peacock (5) Finally looks like spring has sprung - Phil Macmurdie

First butterflies. In our Hatfield garden today; Small Tortoiseshell sniffing round a pot of dwarf daffs., a smart Comma sunbathing on dead leaves and a Peacock doing a couple of circuits of our Ivy before heading north - John Moss

On Saturday had 1 Brimstone in my garden. On Sunday at Lemsford Springs 15+ Small Tortoiseshells, 6+ Brimstones (only 1 female), 4 Commas and 5 + peacocks and in my garden within 20 minutes 1 Brimstone 5 Small Tortoiseshells and 2 Commas - Andy Steele

Usual walk today but minus the inner loop on the Marshalling Yards where the bikers were busily re-arranging the topsoil. Probably twice as many unidentified butterflies with the bright sunlight and rapid flight combining to reduce many to dark 'somethings' I'd guess more of the same two species that I did identify: Peacock: 8 Comma: 6 If I'm right about many of the unidentified butterflies being Commas too, then this species seems to be doing well here at the moment - Pete Gore

1 comma, 2 peacock, 2 brimstone and 1 small tortoiseshell seen at Bayfordbury today. Also 4 small tortoiseshell and 2 brimstone on Mandeville Road, Hertford - Shaun Dowman

During the course of the day, I saw a variety of butterflies enjoying the warmth around Nicholls Farm, Redbourn, including a Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell, Brimstone and my first **Large White** of the year. Around midday, I drove to Tring and saw numerous Brimstone butterflies en-route and one other White (at Whipsnade, just over the county border) - Peter Tallentire

I saw a Red Admiral on Hounslow Heath on Saturday morning at around 9.30 am and another Peacock today in my Hounslow garden - Paul Taylor

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Rusling End, seen today 1 x Red Admiral, 3 x Peacock, 2 x Male Brimstone - Julie Wise

I had a Brimstone and then 3 Peacocks (chasing each other) in my South Mimms garden today - Terry Wood

At Merryhill Fields, Bushey seen 4 x peacock, 4 x comma (enjoying almond blossom), 1 x male brimstone. 1 x male brimstone in Finch Lane & a peacock nearby to Bushey home - David Gower

On a walk around the Tring Reservoir complex on Sunday morning (09/03/2014) I counted 23 different Brimstones, 5 Small Tortoiseshells and 4 Peacocks enjoying the warm sunshine with temperatures briefly climbing to 18 degrees centigrade. - Charlie Jackson

Good butterfly day today, sunny about 16 Deg C, at Yeading Brook Meadows, Yeading, Middlesex. 2 Peacocks, 11 Small Tortoiseshells (couple of pairs feeding on dandelion flowers) and 4 Brimstones. Saw a further Brimstone in my garden in Eastcote - Paul Busby

Several small tortoiseshells and brimstones in Stocking Pelham today. Also 2 Brimstones just north of Furneux Pelham today - Andy Brown

First sightings this year, all from today: Bishop's Stortford town centre - 2 brimstone, 4 small tortoiseshell (2 courting, 2 fighting over territory) and 3 peacock. Rushy Mead nature reserve - 3 peacock, 1 comma, 1 brimstone. Quite a few bees on the wing as well - Chris

March 8th we had a Comma in the garden in Kings Langley and today March 9th a vibrant Brimstone flew across the neighbourhood and I also disturbed a dark butterfly on the patio which I think was a peacock - Elizabeth Debenham

This morning at Colney Heath we saw 2 Brimstone, 3 Comma, 2 Small Tortoiseshell and 4+ Peacock butterflies on the wing - Jenny Sherwen

Saturday 8th March 2014

Today, just saw a Small Tortoiseshell on the edge of Haste Hill Golf Course, weather warmer but breezier, lots of bumblebees but only one butterfly on a 30 minute walk - Paul Busby

Just two butterflies seen and identified today, a Comma on the Marshalling Yards and a Peacock on Hounslow Heath the latter becoming my first butterfly of the year on the Heath itself. Two unidentifiable butterflies I glimpsed on the Marshalling Yards naturally seemed more intriguing than the others but were in reality probably just one more of each species. - Pete Gore

A Comma along the western edge of Watery Grove, Norton Green - Peter Clarke

Friday 7th March 2014

And further to the below: two small tortoiseshell in a garden in Longmead, Letchworth Garden City. One stopped and sunned itself for a moment, then another joined it and they danced off together. - Jill Sawyer Phypers

Two sightings of Brimstone at Borehamwood. 1ST on Tuesday 5th March briefly mid morning. 2ND on Friday 7th March early afternoon Both seen in rear garden - not seen to alight - Jim Terry

A Peacock basking in the sun on the grass in the north section of Fairlands Valley Park, Stevenage (TL 24 24)- Peter Clarke

A male Brimstone flying at the entrance to Stanborough Park in Garston (Watford) at 1230. Also two separate Nymphalids in the Abbots Langley area later in the afternoon; the combination of their fast flight and the bright, low sun conspired against identification - Colin Everett

Went for a brief walk in the sunshine at Cheyne Field, Eastcote, Middlesex next to the River Pinn, saw 2 Brimstones, 3 Commas and 1 Small Tortoiseshell. - Paul Busby

Pinner Middlesex 7th March: My first butterfly of the year yesterday in my suburban garden here: a Red Admiral, slightly faded, but otherwise in perfect condition. Then, today, a male Brimstone flying fast across the garden - Graham Elcombe

First real spring day - in Great Molewood 3 comma, 2 peacock and 2 brimstone. Brimstone and peacock at home in Bengoe also - Steve Kiln

Robin White reported a Small Tortoiseshell at Vicarage Farm, Enfield yesterday Thursday 6th March 2014. Today Friday 7th March 2014 Robert Callf saw a Comma at Moat Wood, Trent Park at 12:45 hrs.

In the space of half an hour at lunchtime today I had 3 male Brimstone, 2 Peacock, 1 Comma and a Red Admiral in my Harpenden garden - Robin Pearson

My first sightings this year. Today has been a day of Brimstones. All in flight..... 12.15 in flight outside my house, 12.16 in flight bottom of Hawthorn Hill, Letchworth, 12.20ish in flight by the Wilbury Hills picnic area car park Letchworth, 12.30ish in flight roundabout in Hitchin by the station junction of Cambridge Road and Walsworth Road. 2.00ish in flight Woodside car park Walsworth Road Hitchin - Jill Sawyer Phypers

Thursday 6th March 2014

I saw a Peacock fly past me as I was driving through Hounslow today (5.00 pm) My first Butterfly of the year - Paul Taylor

I was surprised to see a **Small White** butterfly today at Bridgewater Fields, Ruislip Gardens, Middlesex. The temperature today was about 12 Deg C, but sunny and it was just about flying before landing on the grass of the recreation fields by the Yeading Brook (*Photo seen*). A dozen frogs in the pond here, maybe spring is here! - Paul Busby

I saw a Comma in the centre of Balls Wood today (6th) - Andy Brown

Just had a Small Tortoiseshell on the patio of my South Mimms garden at about 1:30pm - Terry Wood

Saw a Peacock on the NE edge of Rough Lot, Trent Park this afternoon Thursday 6th March 2014 at 13:05 hrs - Robert Callf

I saw a Small Tortoiseshell in the sun at Amwell this morning - Jenny Sherwen

Wednesday 5th March 2014

Today in St. Albans around Cottonmill Lane had a tatty Peacock flying in the morning sunshine - Andy Steele

News from Diane Andrews today. 1 Small Tortoiseshell and 2 Commas at Brunswick Park, East Barnet. Since Diane has been recording butterflies, this was her earliest date.

Ware garden, Brimstone through several times. Also two dark butterflies chasing but couldn't see what species before they were gone - Liz Goodyear

Tuesday 4th March 2014

Today (Tuesday) at Stockers lake I saw a Peacock - Andy Brown

February 2014

Friday 28th February 2014

A few sightings for this week in my Bishop Stortford garden, Monday 24th Feb: Peacock 1, Brimstone 1 (M), Small Tortoiseshell 2. Wednesday 26th Feb: Red Admiral 1, Thursday 27th Feb: Small Tortoiseshell 2 - Jim Fish

Thursday 27th February 2014

Saw a **Comma** yesterday fluttering around Hatfield Business Park looking a little lost! - Daniel Cooper

Monday 24th February 2014

A male Brimstone in Stratfield Drive Broxbourne at 11.05 today - Laurence Drummond

Brimstone seen today in a sunny garden on Kimpton Road, Welwyn - Ian Flack

We saw a peacock butterfly this afternoon whilst working at Amwell - Jenny Sherwen

On my morning walk today around Tyttenhanger Gravel Pits I saw a Peacock near Tyttenhanger Farm, my first for this year - Terry Wood

Two male Brimstones in Bengoe this morning - Simon Knott

A few early butterflies to report today Monday 24th February 2014 - 1 Comma east edge of Little Beechill Wood, Enfield Chase 10:59 and 2 together on south edge 11:04 hrs, 1 Peacock at South Barvin Farm, Enfield Chase, 11:50 hrs, 1 Peacock at Ferny Hill Farm, Enfield, 12:19 hrs, 1 Peacock along Leeing Beech Gutter near 'Three-bridges' at Trent Park, 13:00 hrs - spring has arrived!?

Robert Callf & Robin White.

A thoroughly enjoyable spring walk this morning, as usual across Hounslow Heath to the

Marshalling Yards and back. All the following are firsts in 2014 for me and all were on the Marshalling Yards or as I was crossing the River Crane (nothing on the Heath yet in other words.)
Brimstone 3 (2m,1f) Comma 1 Peacock 2 - Pete Gore

I have just seen a **Brimstone** in Stocking Pelham today (24th) - Andy Brown

In common with several others we have just seen a **Brimstone** in our garden in Pinner - Gill & Tony Porter

A **Peacock** in my Ware garden as well - Liz Goodyear

I have just seen a male **Brimstone** butterfly in my Crouch Hill garden ! - Helen Bantock

Good morning, a **brimstone** was in our Hitchin garden this morning. First of the year - Martin Banthorpe

Peacock flying in Millfield Lane, Bury Green, near Little Hadham at present - Jono Forgham

Brimstone butterfly in friends Ruislip - Middlesex garden - Helen George

Sunday 23rd February 2014

Norton Green, near Stevenage - Our second Field Trip of the year to look for Brown Hairstreak eggs started in unpromising conditions. As well as steady rain, I noticed that a significant amount of Blackthorn was already in flower in the hedges alongside the road to Stevenage. Once the plant flowers it is very hard to spot the butterfly eggs. Amazingly the flowering season has started about 6 weeks ahead of last year! Luckily it turned out that none of the Blackthorn at Norton Green was flowering and better still seven volunteers turned up to help with the search. Peter Clarke showed us the locations of his Brown Hairstreak sightings last summer and we spent a couple of hours searching promising looking habitat in several different areas along the edge of the wood. Sadly no eggs were found, which does cast doubt on the continuing presence of the species on this site, the last confirmed record here being in 1971. It will be interesting to conduct further searches for the adult butterfly in August & September and to see if it can be captured on a photograph - Malcolm Hull

Saturday 22nd February 2014

I saw a **Brimstone and Peacock** this morning flying around my garden in Redbourn. These are the first I've seen flying this year, though there are quite a few Peacocks and Small Tortoiseshell overwintering in sheds. Separately, there were a lot of Honey Bees out feeding on an early flowering Honeysuckle - Peter Tallantire

Yesterday I saw a **Red Admiral** in Hertford, near the Folly allotments - Jenny Sherwen

I saw two **Small Tortoiseshells** in the field behind my house (Tring), in the spot they normally favour at this time of year - Nick Bowles

Sunday 16th February 2014

Just one day after receipt of the Annual Report (many thanks to all concerned) we have sunshine, little wind and most amazingly of all, no rain! - and my first butterfly since October: a Red Admiral which flew across my path on the Marshalling Yards. A very pleasant surprise - I had to wait until summer last year for one and they remained elusive all year. I completed a full walk as last year but saw nothing further. The walk is not significantly affected by the weather, despite the presence of the River Crane on and under part of it. - Pete Gore

Today at Therfield Heath had a **Peacock** flying in the afternoon sunshine - Andy Steele

I've just seen and photographed a **Small Tortoiseshell** in my garden in Hitchin, Herts
<http://1.bp.blogspot.com/-MliJE4mM3Lw/UwE9mMnc-NI/AAAAAAAAAD7g/GOCstGi5V94/s1600/P1560348.JPG>
- Robert Chapman

Outside of county but.....When we visited the RSPB Sandy Reserve this afternoon we were surprised to find Large White, Peacock, Comma, Small Tortoiseshell & Brimstone butterflies

included in today's sightings (not to mention a White-tailed Bumblebee & a Honey Bee photographed nectaring in Snowdrops). All were seen in sunny sheltered areas. Temp was 10C in the carpark in brilliant sunshine & very little wind. Birds seemed to think it was spring too. Nothing much in our garden yet except a couple of bees - John Moss

Redbourn Golf Club - The sun shone brightly all afternoon to welcome our first branch field trip of the year. The venue at Redbourn is a private sight and the event arranged with permission from the club. The target species was Brown Hairstreak, which over-winters at the egg-stage of its life-cycle. At this time of year the small white eggs can clearly be seen against the dark colour of Blackthorn, the larval foodplant. The Blackthorn hedges on the course are extensive and managed in a way which should make them attractive for female Brown Hairstreaks to lay eggs on. A suspected adult sighting had been reported from this location last summer, so our hopes were high. Unfortunately two hours of searching by our party of four did not locate any eggs. Although the result is disappointing, this was a good opportunity to learn the technique of egg-hunting for this species and we all had an enjoyable afternoon. There will be a further egg-hunting opportunity at Norton Green near Stevenage next Sunday 23rd Feb-see Walks & Talks page on the website for details - Malcolm Hull, Brendan Sheridan, Roger Prue, Paul Cross

Peacock flying indoors on 9th February, Small tortoiseshell flying indoors on 13th February. Both at CM23 - Peter Herring

Monday 3rd February 2014

Here's an unusual sighting for you. 07:34 this morning-driving to Ware station, we chased (all be it slowly) a **Peacock** in Wareside. I assume it had been disturbed from hibernation, as there wasn't a lot of light, but enough to clearly see what it was - Phil Macmurdie

January 2014

Sunday 19th January 2014

Folly Lane Allotments, St Albans - I was surprised to find a fully grown Small White caterpillar, about 3 cm long on my allotment this morning. The caterpillar was carefully aligned along the midrib of a leaf of Purple Sprouting Broccoli and basking in the mid morning sun. Judging by the damage on the leaf it had been feeding fairly recently. My textbooks all agree that Small White caterpillars are seen from May to Sept/October and that the species overwinters as a chrysalis, so I thought I'd report what may be an unusual sighting. We seem to be experiencing quite a warm winter and it would be interesting to know if anyone else has spotted unseasonal caterpillars - Malcolm Hull

Wednesday 16th January 2014

At Kettlewells Farm, Hogg End Lane St Albans in an old barn about 40 roosting butterflies reported by my daughter in law, Cathy Leahy, as a mixture of Peacocks, Small Tortoiseshells & Red Admirals seen Saturday 11 January as they prepared the barn for a wedding. They were carefully re-located in the barn away from the activities. - Ernie Leahy

Saturday 4th January 2014

A **peacock** was seen by Ray Hooper at the HMWT Amwell viewpoint on 3rd January, news via [Herts bird club](#) website - news via Laurence Drummond

A **Red Admiral** was reported from Little Venice on 2nd January, news via Richard Fox and [BC Twitter](#) - @McKenzie6593: @savebutterflies Single Red Admiral, Little Venice, Inner London this a.m.

