

Sightings 2016

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June 2016

Thursday 30th June 2016

Heartened to see 2 Small Tortoiseshell in St James's Park this afternoon - Frank Nugent

At Water Lane, Watford late afternoon 3 x meadow brown, 3 x marbled white, 2 x ringlet - David Gower

Moth I have seen today 30/06/16: Riband Wave moth (non-banded form) *Idea aversata* ab. *remutata* - St Faiths Close, Hitchin - David Inward -

The following seen Panshanger Park 30-06-16: 27+ x Meadow Brown 4+ x Marbled White 6+ x Small Heath 3 x Small Tortoiseshell 1x Large White - David Wheatcroft

Some sightings for Thursday 30th June 2016 - 1 Small Tortoiseshell nectaring on neighbours buddleia at Dalrymple Close, N14 (TQ 296 951) between 10:12 - 10:26 hrs, **1 Hummingbird Hawkmoth** along edge of Allotments at Vicarage Farm, Enfield (TQ 309 969) at 11:00 hrs, 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 11:05 hrs, 1 Silver Y at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 1 Cinnabar at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 1 Silver Y at Parkside Farm, Enfield, 1 Cinnabar at Park Farm, Enfield, 4 Small Tortoiseshell at Park Farm, Enfield, 4 Ringlet at Park Farm, Enfield, 2 Meadow Brown pair copulating at Park Farm, Enfield, 1 Red Admiral at Park Farm, Enfield at 12:27 hrs, 2 Marbled White at Trent Park (1 edge of Rough Lot, 1 'Old Golf Course'), 1 Silver Y at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park, 3 Small Skipper at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park, 1 Burnet Companion at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park, 2 Large White (1 at Vicarage Farm, 1 at Trent Park Equestrian Centre) - Robert Callf.

Tuesday 28th June 2016

I was walking across Church Fields, Harrow on the Hill on Tuesday morning when I saw what I thought was a Marbled White. On closer inspection it proved to be a very pale, almost white Painted Lady. The black markings were as expected but the normal pink/orange background was completely absent. A most unusual sight. - Allan Lunn

On The Warren today as the weather deteriorated (20C but overcast & windy) 15 Meadow Brown, 11 Marbled White, 3 Ringlet, 1 Small Heath, 1 Common Blue, most disturbed in long grass. Also 8 orchids now. Cattle chomping steadily. John Moss

Three **White Admirals** including a well worn one at Bricket Wood on Tuesday morning. Butterfly numbers are still low at moment here, with the complex suffering badly from saturation. - Clive Burrows

Late morning completed butterfly survey of Long Meadow, Eastcote and pleased a number of Brimstone caterpillars on the Alder Buckthorn planted by the Friends of Eastcote House Gardens last year. A Small Tortoiseshell at Pinn Meadows, Elmbridge Drive (TQ100884) around nettle bank. Then a walk through Park Wood (TQ 09 88) with at least 12 Ringlets, 8 Meadow Browns and 6 Speckled Woods. Then in the field opposite St Vincents (TQ 09 89) saw another Ringlet and at least 18 Meadow Browns but no Marbled Whites. Finally, before river sampling of the River Pinn, Breakspear saw a Red Admiral in the hedgerow (TQ 073 872). Paul Busby

Ruislip St Vincents, no Purple Emperor at the assembly despite sufficient sunshine between 1 and 2. 1 **Purple Hairstreak** in the canopy though - Andrew Middleton and Liz Goodyear

After two mornings with no luck on White-letter Hairstreaks at Six Hills Common I found one this morning at 9:25 am over the elm tops in the 'gap'. It was pleasantly warm so quite a few Meadow Browns and moths (probably grass veneer) flying around on the grassland - Peter Clarke

Harpenden Common: 7 Marbled White; 8 Meadow Brown; 1 Ringlet; 1 Small Tortoiseshell; 1 Small Skipper - virtually all sitting tight because of the windy and overcast conditions - David Hunt

Early afternoon, Monday 27 June, 2016: pristine Dark Green Fritillary nectaring on thistles by northern edge of car park at Therfield Heath (near Royston). Alan Jackson

Butterfly I have seen today 28/06/16: 1 meadow brown - on southbound bus stop shelter, Bancroft, Hitchin TL18472926 - David Inward

Just a few notes from Oakwood Park, N14 this morning Tuesday 28th June 2016 between 07:15 - 09:20 hrs - 5+ Large Skipper, Speckled Wood, 1 Comma at 09:16 hrs, 1 Small Skipper and numerous Meadow Browns and a single Ringlet. Some butterfly counts for Trent Park on Tuesday 28th June 2016 between 10:20 - 11:45 hrs - 14 Small Heath, 23 Ringlet, 2 Comma, 4 Large Skipper including a pair together, 30+ Small Skipper, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 4 Marbled White, 1 Large White, 1 Painted Lady near Triangular Wood at 11:30 hrs. A few more sightings for Tuesday 28th June 2016 - 1 Small Tortoiseshell at South Lodge Farm, Enfield (TQ 297 965) and 5+ Small Tortoiseshell at Vicarage Farm, Enfield (TQ 305 975), also here 1 Painted Lady at 14:00 hrs, 2 Small Skipper, 3 Large Skipper and 2 Ringlet - Robert Callf

Monday 27th June 2016

I saw a **Marbled White** on Thursday 16th June, Grid Ref TL 145 030 - Margaret Huitson

Numbers of butterflies increasing on Lake Farm transect, Hayes, Middlesex, then onto the River Pinn at Philpots Farm (TQ 062 819) and whilst river sampling I saw a Kingfisher and 2 Banded Demioselles. In the grassland saw a Small Tortoiseshell and a Small White - Paul Busby

Seen a male **Dark Green Fritillary** in Oakwood Park, N14 this afternoon Monday 27th June 2016 - seen briefly at 14:18 hrs (almost thought I was hallucinating) and again (thankfully) from 14:33 - 14:42 hrs during which time it was seen nectaring on Bramble blossom and settled in long grass when it clouded over briefly. It was seen on both sides of the 10 km line which divides this site at TQ 300 952 and TQ 299 951 and was in very good condition. This sighting follows two seen in Trent Park by Robin White and Pete Lowman in previous years, so pleased to finally see this species in the Enfield area! Also in Oakwood Park this afternoon from 13:50 - 15:10 hrs - 13 Meadow Brown, 12 Large Skipper, 3 Ringlet, 4 Burnet Companion, 9 Small Skipper, 1 Painted Lady (E of 10 km line), 2 Comma (W of 10 km line), 4 Marbled White 3m 1f, imm Common Darter and imm male Black-tailed Skimmer. 2 Ringlet at Boxer's Lake, Enfield (TQ 305 962) and 3 Meadow Brown and 2 Large Skipper at World's End, Enfield (TQ 310 964) - Robert Callf.

Some sightings for you from Sunday 26th June Hay Street (TL392260). On the grass meadow which in my view with a little work would make a superb reserve. Meadow Brown - 61 Ringlet - 12 Marbled White - 12 Common Blue - 18 Brown Argus - 1 Small Heath - 3 Large Skipper - 6 Small Tortoiseshell - 2 Small White - 1 Red Admiral - 1 Moths - loads of grass moths Silver y - 4 Snout - 1 Yellow Shell - 3 - Phil Macmurdie

The following seen at Ellenbrook Fields (Former Hatfield Aerodrome) 27-6-16. 1 x Comma 3 x Marbled White 2+ x Meadow Brown 11+ x Ringlet 2 x Small Tortoiseshell 1 x Speckled Wood 2 x Large Skipper - David Wheatcroft

Sunday 26th June 2016

Went back to Merryhill Fields, Bushey this morning as weather was reasonable for a change. Recorded 1 x small tortoiseshell, 26 x large skipper, 6 x speckled wood, 11 x marbled white, 78 x meadow brown, 40 x ringlet, 1 x small skipper, 15 x yellow shell, 5 x shaded broad bar, 1 x narrow bordered 5 spot burnet. Also checked out Bushey Manor Field (TQ128 958) and found 39 x meadow brown, 2 x large skipper, 1 x ringlet. In afternoon visited Fishers Field briefly seeing 1 x marbled white, 1 x small tortoiseshell, 1 x speckled wood, 1 x yellow shell. Onto Water Lane, Watford coming across 1 x small white, 1 x small tortoiseshell, 2 x meadow brown, 3 x marbled white, 1 x bright line brown eye moth. - David Gower

Therfield Heath near Royston TL338399 - Saturday 25th June **1 Dark Green Fritillary** 3 Ringlets 30+ Meadow Brown 12 Marbled White Sunny, 19 degrees - Patricia Clegg

A most pleasant hour spent at the south enclosure of Aldbury Nowers between 11.30 and 12.30 today. Small Skipper x1, Ringlet x13 and then when sun broke through clouds I was treated to lovely sight of multiple Marbled White 15+ and Meadow Brown 25+ although truthfully I lost count at that point. Also a single Six Spot Burnet - Chris Hilling

Few more butterflies on the Cranford Country Park transect today including a Red Admiral and a Small Heath but no White Letter Hairstreaks as yet around the elms. Then off transect TQ103781 saw a fresh Small Tortoiseshell - Paul Busby

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Unlike yesterday no rain but otherwise the usual cloud-dominated weather we've seen so much of. Butterflies similar too but likely building in numbers if one could be in the right places when the sun briefly appears: Ringlet: 9 Speckled Wood: 1 Comma: 4 Large Skipper: 2 Small Skipper: 7 Meadow Brown: 10 Tortoiseshell: 7 - Pete Gore

After seeing White-letter-hairstreaks with you and Andrew at Cheshunt park I went to WATERFORD HEATH SOUTH, Marbled whites just starting here with 3 seen, also my first Small skipper of the year, RICKNEYS QUARRY, 2 Marbled white and what must have been a female **Clouded yellow**, very large and bright + 1 Small heath seen., I then went to BALLS WOOD, couldn't find any White admirals but Ringlets well out with 7 seen, also 2 Painted lady, on the way back across HERTFORD HEATH I stopped to assess a couple of potential Purple emperor spots and had a **Purple hairstreak** zoom through, high along the Oak canopy, very early and unexpected ! - Laurence Drummond

Horsenden Hill, 7 Meadow Brown, 1 Common Blue, 2 Comma, 1 Large Skipper, 1 Marbled White, 1 Painted Lady and 2 White-letter Hairstreak. This walk was led by Dave Howdon - Shailesh Patel.

Some sightings for Sunday 26th June 2016 at Trent Park (10:50 - 11:40 hrs) - 1 Painted Lady nectaring on Bramble blossom 11:06 hrs, 19 Small Skipper at 'New Fields', 1 male Large Skipper Sect 8 'New Fields' at 11:10 hrs, 4 Burnet Companion, 1 Marbled White at 'New Fields' at 11:22 hrs, 4 Common Blue at 'New Fields', 15 Small Heath at 'New Fields' 1 Speckled Wood at 11:35 hrs. Sunday 26th June 2016 (11:45 - 12:45 hrs) at Monken Hadley Common (TQ 265 971) - 2 Speckled Wood, 30+ Ringlet, 1 Silver Y, 4 Small Skipper, 5 Large Skipper, 1 Narrow-bordered Five-spot Burnet, 2 Burnet Companion, 2 Marbled White together at 12:14 hrs - Robert Callf.

This morning 26th cloudy but over 30 meadow brown at Waterford Heath south together with, 2 small heath, 4 ringlets and a comma and my first marbled white I have seen - Steve Kiln

Several White-letter Hairstreak present at Cheshunt Park on the Sapporo Autumn Gold this morning - Laurence Drummond, Liz Goodyear, Andrew Middleton and Dan and Indy Danahar (filming a project for UKButterflies - watch this space!)

Saturday 25th June 2016

Harpenden Common: 17 Meadow Brown; 2 Ringlet; 2 Common Blue; 5 Burnet Companion; 1 Chimney Sweeper (quite worn compared to the one seen yesterday). Of some interest, my first

sightings on the Common of Marbled White and Ringlet this year were both +2 days of last year's date - perhaps things are catching up after a slow start - David Hunt

White-letter Hairstreaks (at last) seen at Durants Park, Enfield today - Andrew Middleton

Some sightings for the afternoon of Saturday 25th June 2016 at Grovelands Park, Southgate - 2 Large Skipper, 8 Meadow Brown, 2 Ringlet and 2 Burnet Companion - all in the 'meadow area' near the Priory Hospital (TQ 302 941) - Robert Callf.

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Good numbers of butterflies around in short sunny spells but cloud and a lengthy light thunder-shower meant only the most determined were seen on the latter half. The river was back within its banks leaving a lot of muddy puddles with stranded fish on the paths. Small Heath: 3 Comma: 3 Red Admiral: 3 Tortoiseshell: 3 Speckled Wood: 1 Ringlet: 8 Large Skipper: 3 Small Skipper: 4 Meadow Brown: 4 Painted Lady: 1 Marbled White: 1 - Pete Gore

Friday 24th June 2016

Harpenden Common: 7 Meadow Brown, 1 Marbled White (male), 1 Small heath, 1 Yellow Shell, 1 Chimney Sweeper, 6 Burnet Companion. Lure attempts for Six-banded Clearwing were negative - David Hunt

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. An enjoyable and memorable walk despite only intermittent sunshine as I waded along the Crane in flowing flood-water often above knee height. I disturbed a Red Admiral on some nettles, their tops currently only just above the water. It glided slowly over a greatly extended river to the opposite bank at the bottom of the golf course. Passing through the Pevensey section surrounded with innumerable multi-coloured Damselflies I startled a Field Vole which swam across my path, both of us out of our more usual element I suppose. Butterfly highlights included my first Marbled Whites of the year and I'm pleased by the frequency I'm seeing Tortoiseshells, fresh and immaculate. I got the feeling that in consistently sunnier conditions I'd have soon been heading into really high numbers of some species: Speckled Wood: 2 Comma: 3 Red Admiral: 2 Small Heath: 1 Tortoiseshell: 6 Meadow Brown: 5 Small Skipper: 4 Ringlet: 5 Common Blue: 3 Marbled White: 5 Painted Lady: 1 - Pete Gore

Butterfly I have seen today 24/06/16: 1 male brimstone - Coreys Mill Lane, Stevenage TL22992645 - David Inward

Some sightings for Friday 24th June 2016 at Trent Park between 13:25 - 14:50 hrs - 23 Small Heath at 'New Fields', 3 Ringlet, 1 Small Copper at 13:42 hrs, 18 Small Skipper (the majority were positively identified and no Essex Skipper were identified), 2 Common Blue (1 male, 1 female), 3 Large Skipper including male and female, 1 Cinnabar, 2 Silver Y, 2 Narrow-bordered Five-spot Burnet Sect 4 'New Fields' - my first of the year! 1 Marbled White at 14:35 hrs - my first of the year! Also a few larvae and pupae of Burnet Moths were seen, but were not identified to species - Robert Callf

Thursday 23rd June 2016

Just seen a batch of Peacock caterpillars on nettles at Allotments near ASDA Southgate on Thursday 23rd June 2016 - Robert Callf.

Tuesday 21st June 2016

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. After yesterday's rain the river was again high but the floods had abated so that it was a question of avoiding mud and puddles rather than paddling. A reasonable amount of morning and early afternoon sunshine led to a few butterfly highlights: my first Ringlets of the year, the unlikely-seeming sight of Comma as the commonest species and a Large Skipper egg-depositing on grass blades in the grassier half of the Pevensey loop. Here are the full details: Comma: 5 Tortoiseshell: 3 Ringlet: 2 Meadow Brown: 1 Small Skipper: 4 Small Heath: 1 Large Skipper: 3 Speckled Wood: 2 Small White: 1 - Pete Gore

Morning working party on Yeading Brook (TQ 11 86) and group saw 3 Speckled Wood then half hour afternoon walk around the Ruislip Common field/scrub south of Copse Wood yesterday and saw 30+ Meadow Brown, 9+ Large Skipper, my first Small Skipper and 4+ Burnet Companion moths - Paul Busby

Harpenden Common: 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 2 Meadow Brown, 1 Common Blue, many Nettle-tap, many Burnet Companion, many Crambus lathoniellus, 1 Yellow Shell. My south Harpenden garden: 1 Green-veined White. Southdown allotments: 1 Currant Clearwing (TIP lure) - David Hunt

1 x brown house moth and another green pug in our Bushey bathroom in evening - David Gower

Did my Warren transect today in dull weather, 20C, light SW wind. Best score this year; 7 cows (5 Highland, 2 Longhorn), 23 butterflies - 1 Large Skipper, 2 Common Blue(bright males), 3 Marbled White, 12 Meadow Brown, 3 Small Heath, 2 Ringlet. Lots of Burnett Companions and largish white "grass moths". Despite warmth, few butterflies except Meadow Bs on the wing. Cattle very docile, resting in one corner, meaning yet another slight deviation from my usual route. Dogs now required to be on lead, which probably means there won't be any while cattle present. Apparently cattle will remain until it's clear whether they're controlling scrub re-growth. It's a big field so it'll be interesting to see what impact they have. It's also a big area for butterflies to spread out now, so the "hot spots" on the original transect route will probably vanish - John Moss

Monday 20th June 2016

A few of my sightings for Monday 20th June 2016 - 1 Ringlet at Bay Farm, Enfield at 14:15 hrs (TQ 301 985), 2 Large Skipper at Cuckold's Hill near Brooke Wood at 14:23 hrs (TQ 303 985), 1 Holly Blue at Flash Lane, Enfield at 15:13 hrs (TQ 319 989), 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Brayside Farm, Enfield at 16:07 hrs (TQ 320 989), 2 Holly Blue at Hilly Fields Park, Enfield at 16:13 hrs (TQ 318 987) - Robert Callf.

The lousy weather has meant rather limited scope for going out and not many butterflies seen. On all four trips around Stanwell Moor below, there was virtually no sunshine at all. However, my trip in much better conditions to Harmondsworth Moor today turned up my first Marbled White of 2016.

14th June Stanwell Moor

Common Blue - 5 Meadow Brown - 6

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB//download/file.php?id=89364&mode=view> Small Heath - 1
One Common Blue was of the variety ab. flavescens, where the orange/red underside spots are lemon yellow instead.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB//download/file.php?id=89362&mode=view>

15th June Stanwell Moor

Large Skipper - 4 (the first here this year)

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB//download/file.php?id=89418&mode=view>

Common Blue - 2

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB//download/file.php?id=89413&mode=view>

Small Heath - 3

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB//download/file.php?id=89415&mode=view>

Meadow Brown - 3

18th June Stanwell Moor

Meadow Brown - 15+ Small Heath 5+ Common Blue - 5+ Large Skipper - 3 Small Tortoiseshell - 1
The Tortoiseshell was a rather dusky individual.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB//download/file.php?id=89577&mode=view>

19th June Stanwell Moor

Common Blue - 3 Large Skipper - 5+ Small Heath - 15+ Meadow Brown - 15+ Small Tortoiseshell - 1 Small White - 2 A nest of Peacock caterpillars was also found, and there are plenty of Orange Tip caterpillars still to be seen on various cruciferous plants.

20th June Harmondsworth Moor

Brilliant sunshine late afternoon, so I paid my first visit to Harmondsworth Moor for a while. It was quite windy too, and the few butterflies I saw were blown around quite a lot. Meadow Brown - 5+ Large Skipper - 3

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB//download/file.php?id=89737&mode=view>

Small Tortoiseshell - 1 This was a very golden-orange individual.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB//download/file.php?id=89742&mode=view>

Marbled White - 1 My first of the year.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB//download/file.php?id=89741&mode=view>

Dave Miller

Sunday 19th June 2016

A Poplar Hawk Moth and a pristine Speckled Wood in my greenhouse on Sunday, 19th, the moth precariously perched on a very spiny cactus. Tony and Gill Porter

My sightings for today June 19th... New Mill, Tring - meadow north side canal opposite flour mill 8.30am Meadow Brown x2, **Small Blue x1** Small Heath x2 Speckled Wood x1 Marbled White x1 + Barred Yellow Moth x3 + Burnet Companion Moth x2. Aldbury Nowers - south enclosure 10am **Dark Green Fritillary x1 Marbled White x2** Meadow Brown x3 Small heath x2 Speckled Wood x2 - Chris Hilling

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey I managed to catch much of the morning sunshine and see a reasonable number of butterflies including 3 expected year firsts: Large Skipper: 2 (a bit later than usual), Speckled Wood: 1 Tortoiseshell: 3 Meadow Brown: 7(first of year). Common Blue: 6 Small Skipper: 7 (first of year). Holly Blue: 1 Painted Lady: 2 - Pete Gore

Orange Tips still around with males seen today at Balls Wood and near Rickneys quarry - Andrew Wood

Two Meadow Browns seen at Phasels Wood campsite (TL 05 04). - Paul Busby

Brent Reservoir, 1 Comma, 1 Meadow Brown, 1 Large Skipper and 1 The Cinnabar Moth - Shailesh Patel

A41 Boxmoor/Bourne End exit, 10:50: I was counting and photographing the Bee Orchids at this location (37 spikes) when my first **Marbled White** of the year came to join me. - Lucy Flower

I've recently entered the 21st century and got a smartphone. I'm now using the iRecord Butterflies app that I've downloaded from Butterfly Conservation and I've submitted two records of butterflies seen today (19th) - 3 Meadow Brown, 1 Common Blue and 1 Burnet Companion at Roxeth Recreation Ground, South Harrow (TQ145859) - 1 Red Admiral and 1 Small Skipper at Churchfields open space, Harrow-on-the-Hill (TQ150875). I also sent a record of a Red Admiral in my garden in South Harrow on 5 June 2016. - Michael Robinson

Saturday 18th June 2016

Cranford County Park, 2 Meadow Brown, 1 Yellow Underwing, 1 Silver Y and 1 Light Emerald - Shailesh Patel

In overcast conditions at around 6pm, while strolling around Shackledell Grassland, I disturbed a **Marbled White** - totally unexpected. Peter Clarke

Friday 17th June 2016

Some sightings for Friday 17th June 2016 - 1 Snout and 1 Nettle-tap on nettles near Allotments at Vicarage Farm, Enfield (TQ 309 969), 2 Small Tortoiseshell at Vicarage Farm, Enfield - my first of the summer brood, **1 Ringlet** at Parkside Farm/Res on banking (TQ 2998) at 14:30 hrs - my first of the year! Burnet Companion at Parkside Farm/ Res on banking, 3 Meadow Brown at Park Farm, Enfield including my first female of the year, 1 Brown Silver-line edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park (TQ 288 976), 1 Small Heath at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 15:31 hrs - Robert Callf

Harpenden Common: 1 Common Blue (male), 1 Small Heath, 5 Speckled Wood (4 males, 1 female), 1 Meadow Brown (male), 5 Burnet Companion and 1 Yellow Shell. Good to see the Speckled Wood, my first of the year, as they seem to have had poor success on the Common since their last really good year in 2014. David Hunt

Half hour walk along flower rich Yeading Brook Meadow nature reserve, Yeading, Middlesex along former pipeline works and saw at least 110+ Burnet Companion Moths mostly around Birds Foot Trefoil, but just 7 Meadow Browns. Closer to Yeading Brook saw a Banded Demioselle and about dozen Small Tortoiseshell caterpillars on a stinging nettle - Paul Busby

Thursday 16th June 2016

More heavy rain showers in Ruislip but afterwards in search of some early Marbled Whites or woodland butterflies, I visited Mad Bess Woods and the fields adjoining SE of wood. (TQ 08 89). No Marbled Whites seen as yet, but saw 38+ Meadow Browns, 6+ Large Skippers, 14+ Burnet Companion moths, 2 Yellow Shell and 3 fresh Small Tortoiseshells and a bright Red Admiral. In the woods just a solitary Carpet Moth but scented honeysuckle and elderflower in bloom - Paul Busby

Burnet Companion and Meadow Brown in long grass near tennis courts at Grovelands Park, Southgate this afternoon Thursday 16th June 2016 at 16:35 hrs - Robert Callf

Wednesday 15th June 2016

My first Meadow Brown of the year, seen at Fairlands Valley Park yesterday afternoon, had 4 black spots on the underside hindwings - probably less than 5% of the population will have 4 or more of these spots. - Peter Clarke

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. I tried to time my walk for maximum sunshine and whilst I avoided any rain I wasn't terribly successful at spotting butterflies. A Small Heath was the only one on the Heath, a Red Admiral, a Tortoiseshell and a Mother Shipton moth were seen on the Marshalling Yards and a second Tortoiseshell on the Pevensey loop. Both the Small Tortoiseshells were flying strongly and looked fresh when they landed briefly so I suspect they're part of the second brood rather than remnants of the first. - Pete Gore

1 x heart and dart and 1 x small magpie in Bushey garden today - David Gower

A few sightings for Wednesday 15th June 2016 - 1 male Common Blue at Vicarage Farm (TQ 300 972), 1 male Common Blue at Parkside Farm on Res banking at 14:55 hrs, 1 male Large Skipper near Duncan's Wood at Park Farm, Enfield, at 15:28 hrs (TQ 290 988), 1 Small Heath at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 15:43 hrs, 1 Mother Shipton at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park, also several Meadow Browns seen at Vicarage Farm - Robert Callf

Butterfly I have seen today 15/06/16: 1 male brimstone - St Faiths Close, Hitchin - David Inward

Tuesday 14th June 2016

After a heavy rain shower I visited Stanmore Country Park (Wood Farm extension) - TQ 17 93, in preparation for the Grand Opening Event on June 25th with lots of free wildlife events and tours. Fantastic views all across London and pleased to see an abundance of wild flowers, lots of Ox Eye Daisy, Comfrey and Birds Foot Trefoil flowering and during a brief sunny spell saw loads of bees, dragonflies and other insects including at least 16 Common Blue (mostly male), at least 9 Meadow Browns and 3 Large Skippers. An abundance of Burnet Companion Moths with more than 35 seen and 2 Silver Y. - Paul Busby

I saw a single meadow brown today at Amwell in between the showers! - Jenny Sherwen

A few sightings for Grovelands Park this afternoon Tuesday 14th June 2016 - 1 Yellow Shell, 1 male Meadow Brown and 1 female Common Blue near tennis courts (TQ 307 946) - Robert Callf

Another burst of sightings from me up to June so far:

Stanwell Moor 28th May. Around the middle of the day with intermittent sunshine. Small Heath 15+ Orange Tip 5+ including a male taking minerals from a damp path GVW 5+ Holly Blue 3 Red Admiral 1 Common Blue 1 - a nice blue female

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB//download/file.php?id=88127&mode=view>

Stanwell Moor 2nd June. Poor weather. No butterflies, but a couple of Orange Tip caterpillars

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB//download/file.php?id=88502&mode=view>

Stanwell Moor 3rd June. A bit of brightness late afternoon. GVW 2

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB//download/file.php?id=88571&mode=view>

Small Heath 1 A nest of Small Tortoiseshell caterpillars

Stanwell Moor 5th June. Warm and sunny, but not much flying. Small Heath 10+ Orange Tip 2 Large White 2 Common Blue 2 Red Admiral 1 Common Blues now starting to emerge.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB//download/file.php?id=88687&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB//download/file.php?id=88688&mode=view>

Stanwell Moor 7th June. Thundery and warm, with a bit of sunshine. Holly Blue 2 Speckled Wood 1 Small Heath 10+ with new ones still emerging

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB//download/file.php?id=88872&mode=view>

Common Blue 5+ Brown Argus 1 - the first of the year here

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB//download/file.php?id=88849&mode=view>

Painted Lady 1 - also the first one here this year

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB//download/file.php?id=88861&mode=view>

Red Admiral 2. Both the Red Admirals I saw readily came down to settle on my hand. One was slightly aberrant, with yellow-orange patches in the forewing bands and an overall orange-red colour.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB//download/file.php?id=88870&mode=view>

Bedfont Lakes CP (North) 9th June. Sunny and warm. Not much flying, however: variety perhaps but not numbers. Common Blue 4 Holly Blue 3

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB//download/file.php?id=88998&mode=view>

Large Skipper 2 Speckled Wood 1 Red Admiral 1 Whites (not identified) 3 Brimstone 2 Brown Argus 1 (the first here this year)

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB//download/file.php?id=88994&mode=view>

Meadow Brown (the first I've seen anywhere this year) 1

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB//download/file.php?id=88995&mode=view>

Dave Miller

Despite intermittent drizzle, I had an hours walk around the Ruislip Common field/scrub south of Copse Wood yesterday and saw my first 9 Meadow Brown, 3 Large Skipper, 3 Mother Shipton and a Cinnabar moths of the year, as well as a Small Heath butterfly and amongst the grassland moths saw another 5 Burnet Companion moths. Perhaps Summer is on its way? Paul Busby

1 female Holly Blue at Dalrymple Close, N14 (TQ 297 950) on Sunday 11th June 2016 at 13:45 hrs. 1 male Meadow Brown and 2 Burnet Companion at Grovelands Park near tennis courts (TQ 307 946) on Monday 13th June 2016 at 14:55 - 14:56 hrs - Robert Callf.

Sunday 12th June 2016

Moth I have seen today 12/06/16: 1 cinnabar moth (*Tyria jacobaeae*) - Ransoms Recreation Ground, Hitchin TL19062990. - David Inward

I saw but a single butterfly on Hampstead Heath today during an afternoon stroll. Happily it was my first Meadow Brown of the year - Frank Nugent

Saturday 11th June 2016

Butterflies I have seen today 11/06/16: 1 Speckled Wood - Walsworth Common, Hitchin TL19673012, plus many small blues, some brimstones and others on HMBC walk at land behind Hillbrow, Letchworth, led by Andrew Wood, no doubt recorded elsewhere. - David Inward

Brief visit to Bridgewater Fields, Ruislip Gardens after river sampling and saw numerous moths including a Silver Y and 2 Burnet Companion, a Broad Bodied Chaser dragonfly as well as a Holly Blue and a Small White butterfly. Nice to see a female Mallard with a dozen ducklings swimming along flooded path - Paul Busby Moths seen in bathroom at Bushey home last night were 1 x common pug, 1 x small dusty wave and 1 x green pug. In garden was 1 x small magpie on nettles as in previous years. At St James Church Bushey cemetery 1 x speckled wood - David Gower

Friday 10th June 2016

Harrow Cemetery, 1 Speckled Wood and 1 Meadow Brown - Shailesh Patel

Some sightings for Friday 10th June 2016 - 1 Yellow Shell at Oakwood Park E of 10 km line which divides the site, 2 Large Skipper at Trent Park (1 Sect 1 at 12:12 hrs, 1 near Triangular Wood at 12:22 hrs), 1 Small Copper at 'New Fields' Trent Park at 12:18 hrs, 6 Small Heath at 'New Fields' Trent Park, 4 male Meadow Brown at 'New Fields' Trent Park, 1 Holly Blue near Cockfosters entrance, Trent Park at 12:38 hrs, 5 Speckled Wood at Monken Hadley Common scattered along length of site, 1 Holly Blue at Monken Hadley Common at 13:56 hrs, 1 Yellow-barred Longhorn (*Nemophora degeerella*) at Monken Hadley Common (TQ 269 970) and 1 Green-veined White at Monken Hadley Common (TQ 272 969) at 14:59 hrs - Robert Callf.

Butterflies and diurnal moths seen on Harpenden Common on a hot and steamy afternoon: 3 Common Blue, 3 Small Heath, 1 Small/Essex Skipper, 2 nests of Small Tortoiseshell larvae, 10+ Burnet Companion, 10+ Nettle-tap, 10+ Crambus lathoniellus plus 2 White Ermine moths sitting quietly on a post - David Hunt

A41 Bourne End/Boxmoor turn-off, 11:10-11:50: I spent some time along the eastbound embankment this morning. 27 Small Blues and I've spotted numerous eggs on Kidney Vetch over the past 2 weeks (with some already seemingly hatched). Lovely too to see 2 Bee Orchids and Pyramidal and Common Spotted Orchids in this area. On the westbound exit (up near the A4251 roundabout) there were another 7 Small Blues, 3 Burnet Companion and a Yellow Shell moth. Also, a wonderful spread of Quaking-grass amongst the Ox-eye Daisies. A few photos here:

<http://naturalworldnotes.blogspot.co.uk/2016/06/small-blue-eggs-pretty-things-in-ugly.html> - Lucy Flower

4 x burnet companions at Water Lane, Watford late afternoon - David Gower

Thursday 9th June 2016

Delighted to see a Painted Lady again in St James's Park at lunchtime. Also seen were 1 Holly Blue, 1 Large White and 1 Small White. Also saw a Holly Blue outside Westminster Abbey on the way to the Park - Frank Nugent

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. A beautiful sunny afternoon walk although a slightly disconcerting one. I crossed most of the Heath without seeing any butterflies or anything else of note and it was only when I reached the river that I discovered we (or somewhere up-river) had evidently had a considerable amount of rain so that I was now required to paddle down a flooding river to continue. The butterflies too were not quite as expected (or hoped) - no sign of any of the mid-summer ones here yet and instead I saw my first Comma and Green-veined White for a few weeks in the not too flooded Pevensey section. A Six Spot Burnet moth was the first of its kind this year. Here are the full details: Speckled Wood: 2 Red Admiral: 1 Common Blue: 7 Painted Lady: 3 Brown Argus: 1 Comma: 1 Green-Veined White: 1 Small Copper: 1 plus 2 Mother Shipton moths and 1 Six Spot Burnet. The three Painted Ladies were seen widely separately in time and location; even so I considered not counting the second until I saw the third, on the grounds that either there's three or one persistently following me, the former being somewhat more likely. - Pete Gore

Some sightings for Thursday 9th June 2016 between 12:25 - 13:25 hrs at Trent Park - 3 **Yellow-barred Longhorn** (*Nemophora degeerella*) near Oakwood entrance, Trent Park, 1 Large Skipper Sect 1 'New Fields', 12 Small Heath at 'New Fields' Trent Park, 4 **Chimney Sweeper** at 'New Fields' Trent Park, 3 male **Meadow Brown** at 'New Fields' Trent Park, 1 Cinnabar Sect 6 'New Fields', 3 male Common Blue at 'New Fields' Trent Park, 1 Silver Y at 'New Fields' Trent Park, 2 Burnet Companion at 'New Fields' Trent Park, 1 Holly Blue at 'New Fields', Trent Park at 13:14 hrs, 1 Speckled Wood near Oakwood entrance, Trent Park at 13:21 hrs. A few more sightings for Thursday 9th June 2016 - 1 Red Admiral along bridle path near Equestrian Centre at Trent Park at 15:10 hrs, 4 male Meadow Brown at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 1 male Large Skipper at Parkside Farm, Enfield on Res banking at 16:00 hrs (TQ 297 983), 1 male Common Blue at Parkside Farm, Enfield on Res banking at 16:04 hrs, 1 Silver-ground Carpet at Parkside Farm, Enfield on N banking of Res - Robert Callf

Wednesday 8th June 2016

Female Green Hairstreak sighted at **Oughtonhead** on Monday. She was laying eggs - Dieter Iwan

Joy unconfined as I watched a Painted Lady in St James's Park at lunchtime today, this the only Butterfly there visible - Frank Nugent

Saw a Holly Blue and a Green Veined White at Cowley Lock on the Grand Union Canal (TQ 05 82) before the torrential downpour - Paul Busby

Harpenden Common on a muggy but cloudy day: 2 Small Heath, 1 Common Blue male, 3 Burnet Companion, and many small micros around the gorse, all of those examined being *Cydia ulicetama* - David Hunt

Tuesday 7th June 2016

Visited fields behind Hillbrow, Letchworth Garden City Sunday 5 June pm. 20+ Small Blue plus Common Blue, Brimstone, Holly Blue and Burnet Companion. - Dave Cording

Fir and Pond Woods NR... seen Tuesday morning on the meadow one lonely Painted Lady. - David Gompertz

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Cloudy and very humid, butterflies were harder to spot: Common Blue: 7 Peacock: 1 Small White: 3 Speckled Wood: 4 Large White: 1 Orange-Tip: 1 Red Admiral: 1 Holly Blue: 2 plus 1 each Burnet Companion and Cinnabar moth. - Pete Gore

Whilst paddling up the River Pinn clearing invasive plants from the riverbank at Pinn Meadows, Ruislip (TQ 09 88) we saw at least 3 Green Veined Whites including one egg laying on Garlic Mustard by the river edge - Paul Busby

The following seen Ellenbrook Fields (Former Hatfield Aerodrome): 4 x Small Heath 1 x Peacock 1 x Large White 4+ x Orange Tip 2 x Common Blue 1 x Cinnabar - David Wheatcroft

A 2 hour search at Rickneys for Grizzled Skipper produced 8 sightings, including egg laying females. A newly laid egg was found on Wild Strawberry and another egg found on Common Agrimony. The White-letter Hairstreak has finally pupated. Also recorded were Holly Blue, Red Admiral, Peacock, Brown Argus, Common Blue, Small Heath, Mother Shipton, Burnet Companion and Cinnabar moths. At Frogmore with thunder rumbling in the distance, only 6 Grizzled recorded. Also seen were Common Blue, Small Copper, Small Heath, Orange Tip (male), Peacock, Burnet Companion and Cinnabar moths - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

Monday 6th June 2016

Did my Warren transect today. 2 Small Heath, 2 Common Blue, all very fresh, 1 Peacock and 1 Small/GV White. This may not seem much, but it's a vast improvement on last week's zero and previous weeks' random passing Peacocks, Whites and Orange Tips. Have had more in my garden. John Moss

Painted lady on the Icknield way crossing of the Baldock Bypass. Comma, Speckled wood, Common Blue, Brown Argus, Holly Blue (egg laying on Dogwood), Green-veined White and Brimstone at Gibbet Hill, Weston Hills. 11 Small Heath, 4 common Blue and 19 Grass Rivulet moths at Clothall Common. 27 Small Blues both roosting and in flight in the Hillbrow fields at Letchworth. - Andrew Wood

In field behind Bencroft wood I saw two small heath, two **meadow brown** and a **small skipper** both my first for the year. Also there were 2 burnet companion moths - Steve Kiln

Managed to photo a Speckled Yellow moth at Northaw Wood today, photo of FB page, also Brown Silver-line moths present. No butterflies seen though - Liz Goodyear

Did my usual lunchtime Butterfly walk at this time of year in St James's Park today and saw only 1 male Brimstone and a glimpse of a White. Those aside, despite glorious weather and all those flowers and floriferous shrubberies, I found absolutely nothing else. Zero. Zilch. Nada. Never remotely numerous in this Park, this was truly terrible. Never have I noticed it more, never the absence so achingly felt - Frank Nugent

A few sightings for Monday 6th June 2016 - 1 Holly Blue at Flash Lane, Enfield at 12:38 hrs, 1 female Holly Blue at Flash Lane Aqueduct, Enfield at 13:14 hrs, 1 Holly Blue at Whitewebbs Wood near North Lodge at 13:38 hrs, 1 Speckled Wood at Whitewebbs Wood at 13:35 hrs, 1 female Large White, 2 Small White, 1 Red Admiral and 1 male Common Blue at Whitewebbs Farm, Enfield (TL 329 001), 2 Speckled Wood near Archery Wood, Forty Hall Park (TQ 334 996), 1 male Orange Tip near Archery Wood - Robert Callf.

Harrow Cemetery, 1 Common Blue, 2 Speckled Wood and 1 Burnet Companion - Shailesh Patel

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Continuing sunny weather, slightly fewer butterflies and a glimpse of my first dragonfly of the year, species not identifiable. Butterflies as follows: Holly Blue: 5 Small Heath: 1 Large White: 1 Speckled Wood: 7 Orange-Tip: 2 Common Blue: 10 Brown Argus: 2 Small White: 2 Brimstone: 1 Peacock: 2 and a very worn Tortoiseshell. Two Cinnabar moths, one Burnet Companion - Pete Gore

Spent an hour at Merry hill fields, Bushey after work. 3 x male brimstone, 1 x speckled wood, 1 x small Heath, 1 x large skipper which was my first this year. Also 1 x speckled wood at Oxhey woods southern woodland today- David Gower

Sunday 5th June 2016

A Large Skipper at Wollensbrook Fields, Hoddesdon, also a Small heath. One Painted lady at Broadmeads, Ware. - Andrew Wood

Ickleford, orange tips still on wing nice and fresh, 1st small heath of year there at any rate, + 4 brimstones NO common blues at all this year at this site - Stuart Pittman

Elated to see a Painted Lady today 5th June on Mardley Heath which spent a long time on daisies (*Bellis perennis*) in the grass verge - Caroline Phillips

Had a female Small Blue this afternoon at Heartwood on transect (section 6), Two good views but too warm to photograph. Also good numbers of Small Heath plus a few Speckled wood and singles of Common Blue and Orange Tip with good number numbers of Mother Shipton and Burnet Companion - Andrew Steele

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey, Good to have the sunny weather back after a dreary week. A wide assortment of butterfly species duly took advantage: Painted Lady: 2 Small White: 7 Speckled Wood: 5 Large White: 1 Peacock: 2 Brown Argus: 4 Common Blue: 8 Small Copper: 1 Orange-Tip: 3 Tortoiseshell: 1 Red Admiral: 1 Brimstone: 1 Small Heath: 1 Holly Blue: 2 plus 1 each Mother Shipton and Burnet Companion moths - Pete Gore

A very fresh looking Painted Lady in my garden in Hogpits Bottom, Flaunden this morning - Jill Saunders

Checked out lower sections at Aldbury Nowers before walking onto Picton. Sun was still behind clouds but did see 2 x orange tip males, 3 x green veined white, 4 x yellow shell. Along Northfield Road opposite Marshcroft Lane (SP945 134) 1 x red admiral, 1 x speckled wood. Later on just past Park Hill Farm (SP943133) in Marshcroft Lane were 1 x painted lady, 3 x large white, 1 x orange tip, 3 x brimstone (1 female). Along canal heading towards Tring (SP945 130) noted 1 x female brimstone and 1 x specked wood. In field next to Tring station (SP952 123) were 1 x painted lady and 1 x common carpet - David Gower

Painted Lady at North Mymms Park (TL22240362) and Hertfordshire Way (TL28010545). Small Tortoiseshell on Hertfordshire Way (TL27410538 and TL28720554). Male Brimstone, 2 Holly Blue and 1 Large White in Brookmans Park (TL24400400) - Rupert Pyrah

I observed these Butterflies and Moths while birding on Hampstead Heath today : 1 Mother Shipton, 4 Painted Lady, 1 Small Copper, 7 male and 2 female Brimstone, 6 Holly Blue, 1 Silver Y, 2 Burnet Companion, 2 Peacock, 2 Large and 4 Small White, 1 Common Blue, 2 Speckled Wood, 1 male Orange-tip - Frank Nugent

In my Hatfield garden today, 2 bright Painted Ladies + 1 Holly Blue - John Moss

Some butterfly sightings from a lovely summer's day (at last!) at Aldbury Nowers: Grizzled Skipper, Dingy Skipper (very tatty), Small Blue (very tatty), Orange-tip, Brimstone, Brown Argus, Small Heath, Common Blue. Moths - Cinnabar and Mother Shipton - Sharon Monahan

Some fine weather at last! During a late afternoon/early evening walk in Six Hills Common I spotted a Brown Argus, 3 Common Blue and a Large White. Across London Road outside the Asda superstore, I was thrilled to see a Painted Lady feeding on firethorn flowers. - Peter Clarke

Had an 1.5 hour walk around Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park and met some of Friends Group clearing woody glades there. We saw a Sparrowhawk attack a crow in one of the glades and I saw my first Painted Lady of the Summer. Also at least 3 male and a 1 female Brimstones at Tower Hamlets. Also saw at least 3 male Common Blue, 5 Holly Blue including one egg laying female on Lucerne, a Large White, a Small White, 2 Green Veined Whites, 2 male Orange Tip and a Speckled Wood. Also saw 2 Burnet Companion, a Silver Y and a Small Purple and Gold moth. On way home, at about 5pm walked from Ruislip gardens station across Bridgewater Fields and saw a worn Peacock, a Holly Blue, a Speckled Wood and a Small White - Paul Busby

Bovingdon Brickworks (TL0002), 13:20-14:00: a short visit and by no means a thorough count (concentrating on Common Blue and Brown Argus). 2 Common Blues - just beginning to emerge, nearly 2 weeks later than the previous 2 years. No Brown Argus and I think it's almost certain that the colony has died out for the moment. In the previous 2 years, it was sustained by the annual plants Dove's-foot and Cut-leaved Crane's-bill and from what I gather these types of colonies can be short-lived (ref: <http://www.amentsoc.org/publications/bulletin/articles/british-butterflies->

[larval-foodplant.html](#)). Perhaps wanderers will recolonise in the future. Other sightings from the visit: 5 Burnet Companion moths, 1 Speckled Wood, 1 Orange-tip, 1 Dingy Skipper, 4 Whites (sp. unidentified) + countless Diamond-back moths disturbed as I walked through the longer grasses. - Lucy Flower

Harrow Cemetery, 1 Common Blue and 1 Burnet Companion - Shailesh Patel

Saw a single fairly fresh-looking Painted Lady in our Pinner garden basking in warm sunshine - the first recorded here since before 2013. Tony and Gill Porter

At Waterford Heath north today 3 painted ladies, a grizzled and 3 brown argus, on south heath 8 holly blues, a brown argus, brimstone and 6 burnet companion at rickneys 3 painted ladies a holly blue and a red admiral - Steve Kiln

Saturday 4th June 2016

Some more sightings for Saturday 4th June 2016 - 1 male Common Blue at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 15:10 hrs, 1 Green-veined White at Park Farm, Enfield at 15:23 hrs, 1 Nettle-tap at Park Farm, Enfield (TQ 288 984), 2 Painted Lady at Park Farm, Enfield 16:01 - 16:03 hrs were settled on bare patches of earth amongst bean crop, circa 50 Small Tortoiseshell caterpillars were a pleasing find on nettles at Park Farm, 2 male Common Blue at Parkside Farm, Enfield on Res banking 16:15 - 16:16 hrs (TQ 297 982), 1 Green-veined White at Vicarage Farm, Enfield near Hadley Road at 16:40 hrs, 1 Mother Shipton at Vicarage Farm, Enfield - Robert Callf.

Went out late afternoon and nothing seen at Fishers Field. At Water Lane, Watford nearly gave up but noted 4 x green veined white, 1 x small white, 1 x small brown apple moth and 1 x mother shipton (don't recall seeing here before)- David Gower

Visited Trent Park 'New Fields' from 11:35 - 13:10 hrs Saturday 4th June 2016 and recorded the following - 4 Speckled Wood, 1 Holly Blue, 2 male Common Blue, 1 Large White, 7 Small Heath between 12:21 - 12:39 hrs and 3 Mother Shipton. Checked the field where the Chimney Sweeper occurs without success - perhaps they will be out in the next few days - Robert Callf

Friday 3rd June 2016

A couple of sightings for Grovelands Park, Southgate for Friday 3rd June 2016: 1 Holly Blue at 14:48 hrs, 1 male Common Blue perched on buttercup near tennis courts (TQ 307 946) in pristine condition, somehow looked brighter than usual in the dull conditions at 14:53 hrs - Robert Callf

Another cold and windy day on Harpenden Common. No butterflies (there's a surprise) but still a good few Diamond-back moths, 10+ Nettle- tap, 3 *Cauchas rufimitriella* and 1 *Crambus lathoniellus*. Micros, micros, micros - not a butterfly to spot - David Hunt

Walked the Roughdown transecting this afternoon. Weather not very promising but rewarded with one Green Hairstreak and one **Large Skipper**. - Brendan Sheridan

Thursday 2nd June 2016

Cold and very windy best describes Harpenden Common this afternoon. However, my usual ramble included a male Orange Tip, well hunkered down and hanging on grimly, half a dozen or so Small Tortoiseshell caterpillars ensconced in neatly rolled nettle leaves (some rolls containing 2 larvae), literally scores of Diamond-back moths sheltering in the nettle beds, 3 Nettle Tap Moths and a male *Nemophora degeerella*. All of these records were made in the old sand/gravel extraction area - somewhat more sheltered than the Harpenden tundra. - David Hunt

Wednesday 1st June 2016

Having found 6 Grizzled Skipper roosting on Waterford Heath north last evening in the shelter 'of the cliff' returned today and found 7 and sadly again the one that didn't make it! Most were on Perforate St Johns Wort or similar, 1 on Forget-me-not flower head, and 1 on Bramble seeds. Prior to that searched Rickneys in all the sheltered areas and found just 1 as well as a Common Blue and a Brown Argus. I also refound the pupating White-letter Hairstreak larvae from last week. I also got absolutely drenched! I took countless photos (now on the Facebook page) but the only Grizzled to come out was that of one found on a bramble simply because the bramble stem was more sturdy and not being whipped around in the wind. These butterflies have been roosting without any chance of activity for over 48 hours. This is seriously bad news and they are open to

similar attacks from spiders as per the picture and other predators! Also many Diamondback moths, a tiny migrant species that is being reported in large numbers, there must have a migration of millions? Liz Goodyear

May 2016

Tuesday 31st May 2016

News from Laura Baker of the HMWT, to say that an observer took a photograph of a Small Blue egg on Kidney Vetch in the top compartment at Aldbury Nowers on the 27th May. "I found only seven Kidney Vetch flower-heads open, but six of them each has a single Small Blue egg"

Late afternoon walk today around Waterford Heath with a neighbour in damp, drizzly, windy conditions found 8 Grizzled Skipper roosting, mostly under 'the cliff' on the north pit plus 1 further individual, eaten by a spider. 1 Common Blue found. Nothing found on the south pit but that might have been because we were distracted by the profusion of very active Roman Snails - Liz Goodyear

Sunday 29th May 2016

During a blustery, if intermittently sunny afternoon walk on Harpenden Common I saw just 3 Orange tip males, 1 Common Blue male, a group of about 10 Small Tortoiseshell larvae (with a couple of tachinids loitering close by...) and 1 female Adela reaumurella nectaring on garlic mustard. - David Hunt

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. I must have been walking for at least an hour before there was any sun or butterflies but once the former got through the clouds the butterflies emerged and included a very small female Holly Blue (about half normal size) and a Small Heath in the Pevensey loop which is unusual if not actually a first: Speckled Wood: 1 Orange-Tip: 2 Common Blue: 8 Brown Argus: 2 Holly Blue: 1 Comma: 1 Brimstone: 2 Small Heath: 1 Small White: 5 Peacock: 3 Large White: 3 Green Hairstreak: 1 and one Mother Shipton moth - Pete Gore

Late half hour walk from St Marys Church, Harefield across to scrubby grassland overlooking Colne Valley and saw a male Orange Tip and a Holly Blue (TQ 05 89) along the overgrown path then at least 3 Green Veined White nectaring on an abundance of Hoary Cress (TQ 04 89) - Paul Busby

Spent under an hour at Water Lane today and counted 2 x orange tip males, 2 x green veined white, 1 x brown Argus, 1 x common blue, 1 x burnet companion - David Gower

Saturday 28th May 2016

Chiswell Green - **227 Small Blues**, 1 very fresh Small Tortoiseshell, 2 Common Blues, 1 Holly Blue. The Small Blues were all located just outside the Butterfly World fence line and right next to the public footpath just waking up from their roost in long grass and sunning themselves as I arrived making them very easy to spot. I've never seen such a concentration of them close up. Some very fresh and chocolate colour, others looking silvery blue. Saw about 200 in 200 yards spread very evenly along the trial beds and about 1 every 10 yards along the field path which follows the southern border of Butterfly World. On the way back they were flying around in groups of up to 10 - spectacular - Malcolm Hull

1 x large white at Finch Lane, Bushey today - David Gower

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Cloudier conditions today but I was pleased to see a second Painted Lady, this time at rest on a Bramble leaf. The Brown Argus sighting may well be the same individual I first saw and have seen several days since in the same small patch of grass and flowers next to the path. He rests conspicuously on a Ribwort Plantain flower, taking regular flights around his small patch, making the occasional visit to pink Geranium flowers below, then back to his original perch. Here are the full details: Orange-Tip: 4 Common Blue: 5 Peacock; 1 Small White: 2 Speckled Wood: 4 Painted Lady: 1 Holly Blue: 3 Large White: 2 Brown Argus: 1 - Pete Gore

Butterfly sightings for Woodcock Hill, Sandridge (tl1710) for the 28 of May, 3 Small Heath, 1 Red admiral, 3 Peacocks, 2 Large White, 1 Orange Tip and one Holly Blue Andrew Steele

Some sightings for Saturday 28th May 2016 at Fir & Pond Woods (TL 275 006) - 1 Speckled Wood, 1 Holly Blue, 1 male Orange Tip and 2 Peacock and what looked like a Latticed Heath seen only in flight. At Oakmere Park, Potters Bar (TL 262 013) - 1 Red Admiral and 1 Holly Blue - Robert Callf.

I visited Bovingdon Brickworks yesterday (27-5-16). Saw 4 Dingy Skippers but very little else despite fine conditions late morning. On Tuesday I visited the A41 Bourne End exit site. I saw around a dozen Small Blues from the top of the embankment (south bound exit) and there is Kidney Vetch in abundance with some well established clumps. The Kidney Vetch plugs planted at Roughdown are now small plants. Approx 70% have survived and look like becoming established. None are in flower at the moment. - Brendan Sheridan

Friday 27th May 2016

A few sightings for Friday 27th May 2016 - 1 Speckled Wood at Chalk Lane, Cockfosters at 11:45 hrs, 2 Holly Blue at Monken Hadley Common (1 far W end of site and 1 near Beech Hill Lake), 1 Peacock at Monken Hadley Common at 13:45 hrs (TQ 267 970) - Robert Callf

Butterflies I have seen today 27/05/16: 2 holly blue - St Faiths Close, Hitchin - David Inward

At Hertford Heath Goldington reserve near Mount Pleasant I saw my first Red Admiral of the year plus some orange tips and whites (GV?) Andy Brown HMWT

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. An all afternoon/all sunny walk. No species was numerous, even allowing for unidentified whites, but with 14 species seen the total of sightings was still a respectable 40 identified, including my first 2016 Painted Lady, flying rapidly on its way, as they do: Large White: 1 Green-Veined White: 3 Brimstone: 2 Small Heath: 2 Common Blue: 8 Tortoiseshell: 1 Speckled Wood: 3 Peacock: 4 Orange-Tip: 6 Small White: 3 Painted Lady: 1 Green Hairstreak: 3 Brown Argus: 1 Holly Blue: 2 and one each Burnet Companion and Mother Shipton moths - Pete Gore

The following at Panshanger Park 27-06-16 - Small Heath x 1 Peacock x 1 - David Wheatcroft

Finally managed a trip to WATERFORD NORTH PIT today, walked all the way round until finally finding 2 GRIZZLED SKIPPER, a male and female in a courtship chase, something I have not seen before, also around the site 1 Small copper, 4 Brown argus, 3 Common blue (2 male and 1 female) and 3 Holly blue (all males). - Laurence Drummond

Thursday 26th May 2016

Bedfont Lakes north part, I managed an extended lunch hour out of work today and had a wander along the path by the railway. Common Blues were out at last, but I saw several Holly Blues as well confusingly nectaring on vetches and apparently looking to lay eggs on them. At the spot where I'd seen a Green Hairstreak on 14th, I found two more, including a female looking to lay on Birds-foot Trefoil. I would say that the area has been successfully colonised from the other side of the railway, and with luck may spread all along this path and perhaps into other parts of the park. Close to the Hairstreaks, I also found another surprise - the first Large Skipper of the season. Normally they would appear here in June, so a week or so early with everything else late. The tally for the walk: Common Blue - 5+ Holly Blue - 4 Orange Tip - 5+ GVW - 2 Brimstone - 2 Green Hairstreak - 2 Speckled Wood - 1 **Large Skipper - 1**

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB//download/file.php?id=87972&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB//download/file.php?id=87970&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB//download/file.php?id=87977&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB//download/file.php?id=87982&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB//download/file.php?id=87983&mode=view>

Dave Miller

Visited Northaw Great Wood (TL 280 042) and recorded the following - 7 **Speckled Yellow** including one settled in grass at 09:12 hrs and 2 Brown Silver-line, also 1 Speckled Wood at 11:55 hrs - Robert Callf.

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. A beautiful morning when butterflies and moths seemed to go out of their way to confuse: A group of Gorse bushes I've been watching for weeks finally had its first visitor, moving from leaf-tips to leaf-tips. It was a Holly Blue. A little later a butterfly fluttering around Bird's Foot Trefoil turned out to be a Green Hairstreak. Mother Shipton moths aren't at all choosy as long as it's yellow: one on Hawkbit, two on Bird's Foot Trefoil

and they seem to enjoy butterfly company, providing considerable distraction to their human observer. I spent much of the walk in a spirit of anticipation without ever quite knowing what it was I should anticipate. In the end perhaps it was the Small Heath which was a somewhat belated first of the year and thankfully behaved just like a Small Heath. Here are the details: Tortoiseshell: 1 Brimstone: 1 Green-Veined White: 6 Small White: 4 Comma: 1 Peacock: 4 Orange-Tip: 4 Speckled Wood: 2 Large White: 2 Holly Blue: 4 Small Copper: 1 Green Hairstreak: 5 Common Blue: 8 Small Heath: 1 and 3 Mother Shipton plus 1 Cinnabar moth. - Pete Gore

An afternoon ramble around Nomansland Common, Wheathampstead, produced 5 Brimstone (3 female, 2 male); 3 Green-veined White; 2 Small White; 7 Orange Tip (5 males, 2 females); 1 Peacock; 2 Common Blue (both males); and a single Small Heath. No Small Copper, despite their abundance last autumn and, somewhat surprisingly, no Speckled Wood yet. A host of undetermined micro moths were whizzing around the gorse bushes.

<https://flic.kr/p/H82aZs>

<https://flic.kr/p/GBQqUM>

David Hunt

Wednesday 26 May. Upto 3 Holly Blue in my Hatfield garden most days. Only other species lately 2 Small/GV Whites, seen from window and vanished by the time I got to the door. My grandson says he's seen "lots" of Whites around Green Lanes School grounds. They certainly pass along the hedge opposite us - John Moss

Wednesday 25th May 2016

Just back from walking my dog, thought I would investigate the footpath behind the Rose Garden at Chiswell Green. I wasn't disappointed! I counted, without any difficulty, over 50 roosting Small Blues on the long grass which is growing by the fence, I went round the corner into the field and followed the fence where there were still more. Thanks to Clive Burrows for spotting them in the first place, it was very exciting to find so many in such a short space of time. No kidney or horseshoe vetch or birdsfoot trefoil to be seen on that side of the fence though - Mandy Floyd

Tuesday 24th May 2016

Some sightings for Tuesday 24th May 2016 - 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Park Farm, Enfield at 13:01 hrs, 1 Large White edge of Duncan's Wood at Park Farm, Enfield at 13:08 hrs, 1 Red Admiral at South Barvin Farm, Enfield at approx TQ 283 992, at 13:38 hrs, 2 Speckled Wood at Vault Hill Wood, Enfield Chase at approx TQ 283 991 at 13:45 hrs, 1 Peacock at Vault Hill Wood at 14:01 hrs, 1 Comma at Little Beechill Wood, Enfield at 14:10 hrs, 1 Large White at Little Beechill Wood at 14:11 hrs, 1 Speckled Wood at Park Farm, Enfield at 14:46 hrs, 1 Peacock at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 15:22 hrs, also identified Longhorn Beetle (*Anaglyptus mysticus*) along Salmon Brook at Park Farm - Robert Callf

Another holly blue in Bushey garden late afternoon. Still waiting to record a different species here! - David Gower

Rickneys, 15 Grizzled Skipper including in areas previously not recorded, 1 egg on Common Agrimony, also seen were Small Copper, Brown Argus, Common Blue, Small Heath and a Peacock and Cinnabar and Burnet Companion moths. We also found a White-letter Hairstreak larvae about to pupate. Weather wasn't brilliant so numbers could have been even higher. Later at Frogmore in relatively improved conditions we saw 23 Grizzled Skippers including a female lurking low on hawthorn. Also recorded were Brown Argus and Common Blue including a mating pair of Common Blue. Also Cinnabar and Burnet Companion moths - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

Tring Park - Green Hairstreak, Dingy Skipper, 2 Red Admirals - Malcolm Hull, Mandy Floyd, Nick Bowles, Martin Hicks, Sarah Meredith

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Sunshine for the first half only, with butterfly numbers reduced accordingly: Holly Blue: 4 Small White: 3 Large White: 1 Peacock: 1 Orange-Tip: 1 Speckled Wood: 1 Small Copper: 1 Green-Veined White: 1 Common Blue: 2 - Pete Gore

Monday 23rd May 2016

A few sightings for Monday 23rd May 2016 - 1 Small Copper Sect 1, Trent Park at 14:45 hrs, 2 Small Heath together Sect 8, Trent Park at 15:01 hrs, 1 Green-veined White edge of Church Wood,

Trent Park at 15:30 hrs, 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Park Farm, Enfield at 16:55 hrs - Robert Callf.

Nice to see the Small Blues at Chiswell Green (Butterfly World) site have spread outside along public footpath land and fields. Managed to count 21 individuals in half an hour today this afternoon. - Clive Burrows

Another few days-worth of sightings from my local patch at Stanwell Moor.

Thursday 19th May (late afternoon)

There was a bit of watery sunshine after I finished work, so it was worth a quick trip out. Holly Blue - 7 GVW - 6 Small Heath - 4 Orange Tip - 2 Red Admiral - 2 Peacock - 1

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB//download/file.php?id=87459&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB//download/file.php?id=87457&mode=view>

Saturday 21st May (lunchtime)

Very little sunshine, just some quite warm brightness. Holly Blue - 4 GVW - 4 Speckled Wood - 2 Orange Tip - 1 All the Holly Blues were female, and opened up quite readily under the overcast skies. One was quite fresh. One of the others was seen flying in the rain that started around three o'clock.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB//download/file.php?id=87575&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB//download/file.php?id=87577&mode=view>

Sunday 22nd May (lunchtime) Much sunnier than Saturday. Small Heath - 10+ This species is emerging well across a wide area now. Holly Blue - 7 I spotted a blue butterfly flying way out in the open over the field/meadow area, fluttering between clumps of what I think is lucerne. I was expecting this to be the first Common Blue of the year, but it was in fact another Holly Blue, and it was apparently egg-laying on the lucerne.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB//download/file.php?id=87631&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB//download/file.php?id=87630&mode=view>

Speckled Wood - 4

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB//download/file.php?id=87634&mode=view>

GVW - 5+ Large White - 3 Orange Tip - 5+ Peacock - 1 Red Admiral - 1 - Dave Miller

A better day on Harpenden Common with 1 female Brimstone, 5 Green-veined White, 1 male Orange Tip, 1 Peacock, 1 male Common Blue, 3 Holly Blue and 1 Small Yellow Underwing. My south Harpenden garden produced the usual Orange Tip (1 male) and Holly Blue (1 female, 1 male) - David Hunt

Behind Hillbrow, Letchworth Garden City. Went up there about 4pm. 3 Small Blues, 4 Brimstones, 2 male Orange-tips, 5 assorted Whites in flight and a Small Yellow Underwing moth. - Jill Sawyer

At last on my third visit to Hillbrow at Letchworth this year I found Small Blues. Four in the upper field mostly around the grass near the hedge and two on the track below the hedge. The kidney vetch here is small and only a few plants are in bud, on the Baldock bypass the vetch is knee height and in full flower and there were no Small Blues at any point near the bypass or at Clothall Common. 17 Small Heath at Clothall Common at the base of the slope near the houses. Otherwise a few Brimstone, Holly Blue, Orange Tip and single Peacock, Common Blue, Large White in the Letchworth/Baldock area - Andrew Wood

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. A pleasant sunny morning with good numbers and variety of butterflies. Slightly surprised to see a rather worn looking Comma still around: Speckled Wood: 6 Large White: 3 Small Copper: 1 Holly Blue: 6 Green Hairstreak: 2 Orange-Tip: 5 Green-Veined White: 2 Small White: 3 Common Blue: 3 Comma: 1 Brown Argus: 2 Peacock: 2 Brimstone: 2 - Pete Gore

A Red Admiral was out and about in St James's Park this morning at 08:45 - Frank Nugent

Sunday 22nd May 2016

Purwell Nine Springs nature reserve, Hitchin. 1 Holly Blue, 1 Comma, 1 Peacock, 1 Green-veined White 2 male Orange-tips - Jill Sawyer

A few sightings for Sunday 22nd May 2016 - 2 Small Copper and 1 Burnet Companion at Oakwood Park (all E of 10 km line which divides site) and 1 Holly Blue at Grovelands Park at 14:30 hrs - Robert Callf

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Despite the frustration once again of

spending the first two thirds of my walk in cloudy conditions and the return through suburban streets in full sun, this was an enjoyable walk overall with plenty of variety. The Green Hairstreaks on the Heath were easy to see and watch and included for the first time this year two in the same spot. What I presume were females crawled slowly, reluctant to fly, around fresh leaf tips of Gorse and Broom. Just before leaving the Heath for home I spent a little time on my knees admiring the intricate patterns on a Mother Shipton moth as it nectared on a Buttercup. It eventually flew strongly away and I made a mental note of how like a butterfly it seemed in flight. Here are my full details: Orange-Tip: 4 Large White: 4 Small Copper: 1 Green-Veined White: 2 Common Blue: 2 Holly Blue: 6 Brown Argus: 3 Small White: 5 Red Admiral: 2 Green Hairstreak: 4 Brimstone: 1 and 1 Mother Shipton moth - Pete Gore

At St Albans this afternoon and passed a male and female holly blue together on same leaf in St Peters Street (TL146 068). Later on 2 more holly blues in Russell Avenue garden. Nothing at all at Fishers Field this morning but at Water Lane, Watford, a cluster of small tortoiseshell caterpillars on nettles, 6 x holly blue, 1 x male brimstone, 9 x orange tip (5 females), 3 x small white, 1 x peacock, 2 x green veined white, 1 x burnet companion, 1 x painted lady (see Facebook photo) - David Gower

I had a very fresh looking Brown Argus today (22 May 2016) on the dam at Hilfield Reservoir. Note there is no public access (Herts and Middx Wildlife Trust members may arrange loan of a key via the Trust - details on their website). Tony Blake

I saw a Painted Lady on Hampstead Heath today and also 1 (*caeruleopunctata* form) Small Copper. Though primarily birding I did also note 3 (female) Brimstone, 3 (male) Orange-tip, 4 Holly Blue, 1 Large White, 2 Small White, 2 Green-veined White, 2 Peacock and 1 Small Tortoiseshell. Frank Nugent

2+ Holly Blues, M + F very active in my Hatfield garden in afternoon sun - John Moss

Bovingdon Brickworks (TL0002), 11:30-12:30: a visit to check for Brown Argus and Common Blue (still no sign). A bonus incidental was a fairly fresh Small Copper (approx TL00800262) - Lucy Flower

A walk to Rickmansworth Canal Festival through Stockers Lake Nature Reserve and the return trip along Grand Union Canal towpath (TQ0493) and saw 2 male Orange Tip, 2 Green Veined White and a Small White - Paul Busby

Saturday 21st May 2016

Brimstone Moth seen in flight and settled on hawthorn by Lower Lake, Trent Park late morning Saturday 21st May 2016 - Robert Callf

News from Thursday 20th, dull, cloudy, breezy afternoon at Wood Farm, Stanmore Country Park TQ1793 but saw 4 female Orange Tip and a Common Purple and Gold moth. Later early evening, a male Orange Tip, another Common Purple and Gold moth and a common Carpet Moth at Hillbrow, Letchworth - Paul Busby

Friday 20th May 2016

Lucy Flower and I visited Aldbury Nowers today, North and South, primarily to look for the Small Blue, we didn't manage to see any or any evidence of Kidney Vetch, we did cover pretty much all of the site, but of course may have missed some if it's not in flower yet. However we did see several very fresh Brown Argus and one or two unusual moths. I have listed everything below in case you want to use it for the sightings page. Lucy has photos of all the moths if you need to check the ids. Some of her photos can be seen on her blog

<http://naturalworldnotes.blogspot.co.uk/2016/05/all-leps-are-brown.html>

Butterflies: Here are our recorded sightings..... Aldbury Nowers North Dingy Skipper 7 Orange Tip 5 Small Heath 2 Brown Argus 5 Grizzled Skipper 1 Aldbury Nowers South Brimstone 9 Green Veined White Orange Tip 6 Grizzled Skipper 2 Small Heath 1 Moths: Treble-bar (*Aplocera plagiata*), Mother Shipton (*Callistege mi*), Small Yellow Underwing (*Panemeria tenebrata*), Wavy-barred Sable (*Pyrausta nigrata*) and Common Purple & Gold (*Pyrausta purpuralis*) - Mandy Floyd and Lucy Flower

2 Holly Blue at Town Park, Enfield Thursday 19th May 2016 at 16:34 hrs. A few sightings for Friday 20th May 2016 - 1 male Orange Tip at Covert Way LNR at 12:11 hrs, 1 male Orange Tip

and 1 female Large White at Monken Hadley Common. 1 Small Heath near Cockfosters entrance at Trent Park at 14:06 hrs and third instar larva of Oak Eggar here on path at TQ 284 965 - Robert Callf

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Timed it wrong today really. After completing the first two Marshalling Yards loops I had a single Speckled Wood noted. Fortunately I persisted and the sun finally came out so that there was plenty to see on the later half and even a Brimstone in my own garden when I got back. Here's the final details: Speckled Wood: 5 Green-Veined White: 1 Orange-Tip: 3 Small White: 1 Holly Blue: 2 Peacock: 1 Green Hairstreak: 2 Large White: 2 Brimstone: 3 - Pete Gore

Thursday 19th May 2016

Bovingdon Brickworks (TL0002), 13:45-14:45: Dull, grey and overcast the whole visit, also blustery at times (far from ideal conditions). Mainly a trip to check for Brown Argus and Common Blue without any luck. Very little on the wing: 1 Red Admiral, 4 Orange-tip, 4 Green-veined White and 1 Large White. Next stop, the A41 Bourne End/Boxmoor turn off, 15:10-15:40: Still overcast and blustery but glad to see at least 12 Small Blues, including a mating pair, and 1 fresh Burnet Companion moth. The Small Blues were mainly perched, low down in the grasses/flowers (out of the wind, if possible), with their wings spread wide, trying to catch any available sunlight/warmth. The Kidney Vetch is just beginning to form flowers. - Lucy Flower

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Cloudy conditions but still butterflies around: Orange-Tip: 2 Large White: 4 Speckled Wood: 1 Small White: 1 Green-Veined White: 2 Common Blue: 1 (first female) Holly Blue: 3 - Pete Gore

One Speckled Wood at Whitewebbs Farm, Enfield (TL 325 003) at 12:00 hrs and another at Gordon Hill Station and Brimstone Moth here also - Robert Callf

News from 17th May at Great Ashby Park, 6 Small Heath, 2 Holly Blue, 12 Orange-Tip, 3 Peacock, 1 Brimstone, 12 Burnet Companion and lots of Whites.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/stevelane56/26814669900/in/dateposted-public/>

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/stevelane56/26485152383/in/dateposted-public/>

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/stevelane56/26994542452/in/dateposted-public/>

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/stevelane56/27020575701/in/dateposted-public/>

Steve Lane

Wednesday 18th May 2016

Small Blue seen this afternoon at Aldbury Nowers North. - Laura Baker

Catch up time from Dave Miller.....

1st May Stanwell Moor (afternoon)

Brimstone - lots GVW - 5 Small White - 2 Orange Tip - 6 Holly Blue - 1 Speckled Wood - 2 Peacock - 2 Red Admiral - 1

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB//download/file.php?id=85840&mode=view>

4th May Stanwell Moor (late afternoon)

Orange Tip - 3 Holly Blue - 4 Plus Orange Tip eggs

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB//download/file.php?id=86075&mode=view>

5th May Stanwell Moor (late afternoon)

Holly Blue - 16 GVW - 5 (inc. mating pair) Small White - 3 Peacock - 5 Speckled Wood - 3 Brimstone - 3 Orange Tip - 7 Comma - 1

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB//download/file.php?id=86274&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB//download/file.php?id=86275&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB//download/file.php?id=86276&mode=view>

8th May Stanwell Moor (late afternoon)

Holly Blue - 20+ GVW/Small White - 15+ Orange Tip - 10+ Red Admiral - 1 Large White - 1 A very warm evening, with the Whites and Blues very active and difficult to count.

9th May Stanwell Moor (morning/lunchtime)

GVW/Small White - 10+ (Mostly GVW) Orange Tip - 10+ Large White - 3 Speckled Wood - 5 Peacock - 6 Holly Blue - 20+ Today, I decided to concentrate on the Holly Blues. With very hazy (or no) sunshine, but still very warm, they didn't fly so energetically. The males, however, patrolled the hedgerows endlessly, accosting every female they came across - which happened quite often. The females tended to stay in an around the ivy and holly, and I watched several wandering about inside the foliage and laying eggs on holly flowers in quite deep shade. One

particular piece of hedgerow containing both plants borders a lakeside field/meadow and was home to dozens of Holly Blues today. (It is also only two minutes walk from home.) The females seemed willing to sit open up a bit today, when they weren't in the depths of the bushes, but the males barely stopped.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB//download/file.php?id=86598&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB//download/file.php?id=86601&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB//download/file.php?id=86594&mode=view>

11th May Stanwell Moor (early evening)

Holly Blue - 3 Small White - 1 GVW - 6 One Holly Blue was seen flying in light drizzle under overcast skies. It was warm, however.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB//download/file.php?id=86758&mode=view>

12th May: Not a local sighting, but you may wish to see this remarkable Pearl-bordered Fritillary aberration seen at Bentley Wood today.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB//download/file.php?id=86809&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB//download/file.php?id=86813&mode=view>

12th May Stanwell Moor (afternoon)

Holly Blue - 10+ Speckled Wood - 6 GVW/Small White - 10+ (Still mostly GVW) Large White - 3

Orange Tip - 10+ Red Admiral - 1 Small Heath - 3 The first Small Heath of the year here.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB//download/file.php?id=86858&mode=view>

You have posted my report for both parts of BF CP already, but more detail below, and links to photos.

14th May Bedfont Lakes Country Park (North side) (morning)

GVW - 5+ Small White - 5+ Orange Tip - 5+ Brimstone - 5+ Speckled Wood - 3 Holly Blue - 3 Peacock - 2 Painted Lady - 1 Green Hairstreak - 1

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB//download/file.php?id=86970&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB//download/file.php?id=86962&mode=view>

Bedfont Lakes CP (South Side) (lunchtime)

Orange Tip - 5+ Speckled Wood - 3 Holly Blue - 2 Green Hairstreak - 1

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB//download/file.php?id=86972&mode=view>

14th May Stanwell Moor (late afternoon)

Red Admiral - 4 Small Tortoiseshell - 1 GVW - 4 Small Heath - 1 One Red Admiral, one GVW and the Small Heath were all very fresh. The Tortoiseshell, however, was very tatty indeed.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB//download/file.php?id=86986&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB//download/file.php?id=86983&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB//download/file.php?id=86990&mode=view>

15th May Bedfont Lakes CP (N)

Far fewer butterflies today. Of note was a brand new Burnet Companion moth.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB//download/file.php?id=87169&mode=view>

Phew! There we are, up to date - Dave Miller

Tuesday 17th May 2016

Lunchtime break at Yeading Brook working party at Queens Walk bridge, South Ruislip and saw a male Orange Tip, 2 Holly Blues and a Small white - Paul Busby

News from 16th, Did my Warren transect after 10 day gap. Results disappointing - 2 Small White, 2 Peacock, a probable GV White and possible 3rd Peacock. No sign of Small Heath, Small Copper or Common Blue. Very few bees or other inverts except a couple of small moths in shelter of gorse and a St Mark's Fly. I'm concerned that removal of most scrub, bramble and mature gorse from the centre and margins has left little shelter for wildlife. Only the tall north side hedge provided shelter in the chilly NW wind although T was 16C. Buttercup, Pignut, Violet, Tormentil, Common Vetch, Oxeye Daisy, Strawberry and Cuckoo Flower all coming into flower without noticeably attracting inverts. Hopefully things will improve - John Moss

Started early at Rickneys 08:20 and just as the sun had started to warm the site up and the Grizzled Skipper were basking so quite hard to find, but walking the main pit for an hour we found 8 Grizzled Skipper, 2 Brown Argus, 1 Small Copper and 5 Small Heath. We then went to meet Paul, our track escort from Network Rail so we could survey a section of railway track for Grizzled Skipper. This year was the best ever with 27 records including several chases, two males chasing a female and a female egg laying on agrimony (egg located). We also recorded several Small Yellow Underwing moths, Cinnabar moths, a Burnet Companion, Orange Tip, Large White, Red Admiral, Brown Argus and Holly Blue. (*Some photos will appear on the FB page*). After lunch we then looked at Frogmore, by now it was a mixture of sun and cloud, so finding activity was hard but we saw 12 although in better conditions we should have seen more. Other species seen were Cinnabar

moths, Brown Argus, Comma, Brimstone, Orange Tip and our first 2 Common Blues of the year - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

Some sightings for Monday 16th May 2016 - 1 Holly Blue at Parkside Farm along Salmons Brook at 16:39 hrs, 1 Peacock at Parkside Farm along Salmons Brook at 16:43 hrs, 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 17:02 hrs, 1 Painted Lady settled at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 17:05 hrs, 2 Holly Blue at Enfield Road, EN2 near Jolly Farmers PH. Maiden's Blush near outside lights at ASDA Southgate. Sightings for Tuesday 17th May 2016 - 1 Holly Blue at The Ridgeway, Enfield near Slades Hill at 10:55 hrs, 3 Peacock at Fir and Pond Woods near Potters Bar, 1 Holly Blue at The Causeway, Potters Bar at 13:30 hrs - Robert Callf.

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Looking for morning sunshine I wasn't very successful but was left with one memorable sighting (a first of the year): As I was about return to the Heath I spotted a Red Admiral flying very rapidly round in circles as if tied to an invisible carousel. Then I noticed it was being attacked regularly from below by a much smaller butterfly. In the end the Red Admiral departed and I was left to admire the aggressor, an immaculate dark chocolate Brown Argus, possibly the smallest butterfly I can hope to see here but making up for its lack of size with lots of attitude. Full sightings: Speckled Wood: 3 Green-Veined White: 7 Small Copper: 1 Small White: 2 Red Admiral: **1 Brown Argus**: 1 Holly Blue: 3 - Pete Gore

I managed to get early release from work yesterday so went on a butterfly hunt in Whippendell woods, Cassiobury. I must of seen 10+ male Orange-tip on the wing. I had even more sightings of white butterflies, but uncertain as to name the species. At least some of them would have been female Orange-tip and others Green-veined whites. Came across a Peacock basking in the sun and my first sighting of a Red-admiral this year which stayed put for a close up photo. - Peter Fewell

I visited Hexton Chalk Pit yesterday afternoon for about an hour and a half. Sunny and around 17C air temp. Excellent! Lots of Dingies everywhere and particularly the upper compartment. I should think I saw about 30. Also 3 each Green Hairstreaks and Burnet Companions. I thought the reserve was in excellent condition, scrub under control, just - David Newland

Monday 16th May 2016

At Waterford heath south this afternoon highlights - 4 grizzled skippers in settling beds two mating, three brimstones- two mating, also small heath in open area and brown argus on bank - Steve Kiln

Along the riverside path between Wheathampstead and Water End: 1 Small Heath (at TL197142); 1 Small White; 1 Brimstone; and multiple Holly Blue, Orange-tip, Small Tortoiseshell, Green-veined White and Peacock. - Aaron Clements-Partridge

Photographed a **Painted Lady** on my transect walk this morning in Bishop's Stortford Southern Country Park. I disturbed it and it dived into the undergrowth. *Picture will be posted on Facebook* - Bob Clift

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. A mostly sunny morning walk notable for my first **Common Blue** (male) of the year, helping to push the day's species into double figures even without much help from the hibernators: Holly Blue: 15 Speckled Wood: 6 Small White: 4 Orange-Tip: 6 Large White: 2 Green Hairstreak: 2 Common Blue: 1 Green-Veined White: 2 Tortoiseshell: 1 Small Copper: 1 - Pete Gore

A few of my sightings for Monday 16th May 2016 from 12:00 - 13:35 hrs at Trent Park - 1 male Orange Tip near Oakwood entrance at 12:04 hrs, 3 Speckled Wood (2 together near Oakwood entrance at 12:04 hrs, 1 near Cockfosters entrance at 12:38 hrs), 2 Mother Shipton at 'New Fields' at approx TQ 285 968 - my first sightings of the year and perhaps a few days later than usual? 4 Holly Blue, 1 Small Heath at 'New Fields' 13:08 hrs, 2 Small Copper (1 at 13:17 hrs off transect, 1 at 13:28 hrs in Sect 1) - Robert Callf.

Sunday 15th May 2016

Some sightings for Oakwood Park on Sunday 15th May 2016 - 3 Holly Blue including a female, W of 10 km line which divides the site, 1 male Large White E of 10 km line which bisects the site, 1 male **Common Blue** at 14:31 hrs E of 10 km line which bisects the site, 1 Small Copper at 14:34 hrs E of 10 km line which divides the site, 5 Speckled Wood W of 10 km line which bisects the site.

Identified *Pyrausta aurata* on edge of Conservation Pond at 15:15 hrs - my first record of this species! Also 1 female Holly Blue at Chelmsford Road, N14 at 15:34 hrs Sunday 15th May 2016. - Robert Callf.

In my back garden today, Bounds Green North London. 1 comma, 1 speckled wood, 2 female orange tips, 1 male orange tip, 1 green veined white, 15 holly blues. Photos:
Comma: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/64663114@N03/26424149513/in/dateposted-public/>
Holly Blue: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/64663114@N03/27027253555/in/dateposted-public/>
Speckled Wood: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/64663114@N03/26424050143/in/dateposted-public/>

On a walk through Tunnel Gardens green space and back today (Grid Reference TQ292914) : 9 speckled woods, 1 peacock, 8 holly blues, 1 green veined white five male orange tips, 2 female orange tips, 1 male brimstone, 3 unidentified white butterflies and four different shield bugs on one seed head. - Miles Attenborough

A male Brimstone flying along tube line near Perivale Wood (TQ 158 835) and at least 1 Small White on grass area of Marble Arch roundabout (TQ 278 809) - Paul Busby

This morning at Fishers Field 1 x peacock and 4 x holly blue. At Water Lane, Watford spotted 3 x orange tip(2 males), 2 x peacock, 2 x holly blue, 1 x brimstone(male), 1 x small white, 2 x green veined white. In Bushey garden 1 x holly blue and at Bushey station 1 x brimstone(male). - David Gower

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Sunnier and warmer than yesterday with predictable consequences: Holly Blue: 7 Speckled Wood: 10 Orange-Tip: 10 Green Hairstreak: 2 Peacock: 1 Brimstone: 3 Green-Veined White: 4 - Pete Gore

3 Small White, 2 Orange Tip, 1 Speckled Wood and 2 Peacock, Brent Reservoir - Shailesh Patel

Wendover Canal (disused branch, behind Wilstone Reservoir and in Herts): **2 x Green Hairstreak**, 1 x Red Admiral, 1 x Brimstone, 1 x Speckled Wood, 5 x Orange-tip and 10+ Small Whites - Sharon Monahan

At Rickneys two grizzled skippers and my first brown argus and small heath of the year. Also green veined small whites, holly blue and orange tip - Steve Kiln

Saturday 14th May 2016

Bovingdon Brickworks walk, the day dawned cold and as we drove over it was showing only 8d C on the car temperature gauge!!! Not good but the sun was trying and unfortunately as a result the Dingy Skipper had moved on from roosting so we weren't able to find any hugging to knapweed seed heads. We were joined by several Box Moor Trust volunteers and a good time was had by all. Everyone contributing their own knowledge and experience to everyone's mutual benefit. The following were seen: Dingy Skipper 7, Orange Tip 4, Small Heath 1, Speckled Wood 2, Brimstone 1, G V White 7, Large White 1, Peacock 2, Latticed Heath 1, Burnet Companion 1 - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

I did a dress rehearsal today at Bedfont Lakes to see what we might see tomorrow. It was cool, a bit breezy, but mostly sunny throughout. Unfortunately, there were no Common Blues, Brown Argus, Small Copper or Small Heath. However... Walking along the path by the railway, as I passed a big bank of brambles, I spotted a **Green Hairstreak**. This is the first I've seen north of the railway - it was immediately next to where the southern part of the park also borders the railway line and I imagine it had wandered across. I took one truly awful blurred shot of it, but have the record. Further on, whilst in a futile attempt to take a photo of a male Orange Tip, I was aware of a much larger salmon-pinky orange butterfly nearby. This was a really dark Painted Lady, the first of the year, and a bit of a surprise. Others seen in the park were all the Whites, Brimstones, Orange Tips, Holly Blues, Speckled Woods and Peacocks. I also found a minuscule Orange Tip caterpillar which I should be able to relocate tomorrow with a bit of luck. I also visited the southern part of the park. I headed for the spot where I'd seen the Green Hairstreak last year, but drew a blank. However, I went on further to the other side of the railway from where I'd been earlier, and bingo - there was a Green Hairstreak, and this time I managed a photo. So - all I need to do is repeat all this tomorrow! - Dave Miller (*photos on facebook*)

At least two male Orange Tips this afternoon Saturday 14th May 2016 at Monken Hadley Common

- one possibly two near Jack's Lake TQ270 969 and the other near railway line at TQ 261 970 - Robert Callf

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey A sharp temperature drop and intermittent sunshine but still reasonable numbers of butterflies, including a Green Hairstreak on the Heath at last, very near to the spot I first saw one 2 years ago: Green-Veined White: 6 Small White: 3 Orange-Tip: 1 Holly Blue: 12 Speckled Wood: 2 Peacock: 1 Green Hairstreak: 1 Large White: 1 - Pete Gore

Friday 13th May 2016

Today at Danemead I saw 3 orange tip (2m and 1f), a latticed heath and a very faded orange underwing moth Jenny Sherwen

Holly Blue and Orange Tip, Harrow Cemetery - Shailesh Patel

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Breezier than yesterday but a good day for sightings nevertheless, including a Green Hairstreak in last year's fire-affected area, spending quite some time moving around the now much lower growth and apparently interested in unopened bramble flowers. What feels like an annual colourful sighting of a Small Copper on a Buttercup was also welcome and my first Cinnabar moth of the year, this one seen at ground level as I was stepping through the Gorse bushes on the Heath: Holly Blue: 6 Green-Veined White: 4 Orange-Tip: 4 Speckled Wood: 6 Green Hairstreak: 1 Peacock: 5 Brimstone: 1 Comma: 1 Large White: 4 Small White: 1 Tortoiseshell: 1 Small Copper: 1 and one **Cinnabar** Moth - Pete Gore

2 male Orange Tip and 5 Speckled Wood at Boxer's Lake, Enfield this morning Friday 13th May 2016 - Robert Callf

Thursday 12th May 2016

Loads of butterflies on the wing in Balls Wood: Holly blues, Peacock, Brimstone, large white, green veined white (poss), orange tips and speckled wood - Andy Brown HMWT

Some sightings for 12th May at Aldbury Nowers: 5+ Dingy Skipper, 2 Brimstone, 1 Peacock, 1 Small Heath, 1 Orange-tip, 1 Green-veined White, plus 1 **Burnet Companion** moth - Sharon Monahan

Late news.....Apologies for the tardiness (been away on holiday) but I went to Hexton chalk pit on the **3rd May** and saw **4 Dingy Skipper** and 1 Brimstone. - Dan Cooper (*picture on Facebook page*)

I'm a bit behind with sightings at the moment, but will catch up soon! One sighting of note: Three **Small Heaths** seen today (12th May) at Stanwell Moor - my first of the year. Dave Miller (*don't forget the walk being lead by Dave at Bedford Lakes this Sunday 15th*)

First Red Admiral and confirmed sightings of Large White on Cranford Country Park transect today. Then a Holly Blue at Eastcote tube station - Paul Busby

Good news from my Transect at Butterfly World today, **8 Small Blues**, the first ones I have seen this year, 6 Brimstones, 2 Orange Tips, 1 Peacock and 1 Small Tortoiseshell. Cycling home I was joined by 2 Holly Blues and 2 Large Whites and an Orange Tip and 2 Brimstones, so at last the weather is improving for butterfly sightings! - Mandy Floyd (*Mandy has permission to continue walking the transect to monitor the butterflies*)

Bovingdon Brickworks (TL0002), 11:00-12:00: Butterfly numbers are still low around the site, unfortunately. Seen today: 4m Orange-tip, 1m Green-veined White, 2 Speckled Wood, 1 Peacock, 3 Dingy Skippers (TL005026) (different specimens, I think, from the 1 I reported on 6/5/2016), 1 Holly Blue, 1 Small Tortoiseshell and 4 unknown White species (too distant or fast to identify & still getting my eye back in after the winter!). Still no Common Blue (yet) nor Brown Argus. The latter is the one I am most keen to see after a poor year last year (only c7 specimens in the first brood) and their food plants being accidentally covered during the crucial second brood stage. Bourne End/Boxmoor A41 turn-off, 14:20-15:20: I have been checking this location every weather-appropriate day since the start of May. Today, I was very pleased to find the first emergence of **3 Small Blue** butterflies, nectaring on Common Mouse-ear, Grass Vetchling, Red and White Clover, Cowslips and Buttercups. Also 1 Holly Blue and 1 fresh Mother Shipton (Euclidia mi) moth - Lucy

Flower

At Telegraph Hill today 3 Green Hairstreaks, 1 Dingy Skipper, **1 Brown Argus** and **2 Burnet Companion** moths as well as Brimstones and Orange Tips. The site is getting scrubbed up but there is still some Rock rose and Horseshoe vetch where the rabbits are grazing the grass. At Hoo Bit on the other side of Icknield Way 2 Dingy Skipper and 1 Mother Shipton moth. Then on to Hexton Chalk Pit where in a 10 minute walk not going back on myself I counted 23 Dingy Skippers, including a mating pair being hassled by another male. Also **3 Small Purple Barred** Moths and 1 **Common Heath** moth (rare or under recorded in Hertfordshire, despite its name). Also on site Brimstone, Orange Tip and Holly Blue but though I was there for 45 minutes in all no Green Hairstreak. *Some photos and video will be on facebook later.* - Andrew Wood

A few sightings for Thursday 12th May 2016 in Trent Park - 1 male Orange Tip near Triangular Wood at 11:51 hrs, 1 Green-veined White Sect 8 at 12:03 hrs, 1 Speckled Wood Sect 8 12:03 hrs, 1 Green-veined White Sect 8 at 12:08 hrs, 1 Small Copper Sect 6 12:15 hrs - my first of the year! 2 male Orange Tip Sect 5 'New Fields' 12:20 and 12:22 hrs, 1 Peacock Sect 4 at 12:24 hrs, 1 female Large White Sect 4 at 12:26 hrs, 1 Peacock near Sports Field at 12:37 hrs, **1 Small Heath** at 'New Fields' off transect at 12:46 hrs - my first of the year! 3, 1 male, 2 female, Orange Tip along Snakes Lane 13:29 - 13:30 hrs, 1 Holly Bue at Snakes Lane at 13:30 hrs, Adela reaumurella (1 edge of Church Wood, at least 8 around oak, Snakes Lane) - Robert Callf. - Robert Callf

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Mostly sunshine again after recent rain. The river was high, wide and fast-flowing. It had clearly flooded across the footpaths and through the Cavalry Tunnel, washing away the fresh wood-chips from the Pevensey path. One noticeable change in butterfly behaviour was that Holly Blues were often to be seen on the bare footpaths, presumably seeking minerals. Whites were a little more settled but mainly Green-Veined including a pair seen mating, the female apparently nectaring on a Hawthorn flower until she flew off, male still attached. Here are the details: Holly Blue: 17 Peacock: 4 Brimstone: 4 Orange-Tip: 3 Green-Veined White: 8 Speckled Wood: 5 Large White: 1 Small White: 1 Tortoiseshell: 1 and one likely Mother Shipton moth - Pete Gore

5 Holly Blue, 2 (M) Orange Tip, 1 Speckled Wood, 1 Small Copper. Harrow Cemetery - Shailesh Patel

Butterflies I have seen today 12/05/16: 1 holly blue - junction of Bedford Road and Grammar School Walk, Hitchin TL18312928, 1 peacock - Walsworth Common, Hitchin TL19713013. - David Inward

Wednesday 11th May 2016

Dull weather Grizzled Skipper roost counts north of Hertford today. Started at Rickneys and found 4 roosting, all on the Sacombe Road banks. Then onto Waterford Heath north and again only 4 (1 in flight) in the area near to the railway line on the remaining seed heads. At Waterford Heath south, there were 2 on Sacombe Road bank and a further 3 in the filter beds. At Frogmore, the weather started to brighten up and we suspect many had come off their overnight roosting seed heads and subsequently hard to find when it clouded over again. In total we found 4 all but 1 were seen flying. Also recorded here were a **Brown Argus**, 2 Small Copper, 1 Orange Tip, 1 Green-veined White, 1 Peacock, 1 Holly Blue and 1 **Mother Shipton** moth - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

Some sightings for you: Sunday 8th May Therfield heath - car layby at entrance to jubilee wood 2 x red admiral Therfield heath - Church Hill, 1 small heath 4 brimstone. Green End, 5 orange tip 2 large white 1 green veined white. Wareside, 8 orange tip 2 comma 2 small tortoiseshell 1 red admiral 3 green veined white 2 small white 5 brimstone. Finally we now have eggs on the buckthorn bushes in the front garden, although not many. (dingy skipper + green hairstreak out at Devils dyke Cambs) - Phil & Oliver MacMurdie

Monday 9th May 2016

A few more sightings for Monday 9th May 2016 at Chase Green, Enfield Town (TQ 322 969) - 1 Speckled Wood, 2 Holly Blue - Robert Callf.

Waterford Heath, 3 Grizzled Skippers (2 North side & 1 South), 4 Peacocks, 2 Small White, 2 Holly Blue, 3 Green-veined White and several Orange-tips. photo links for Grizzled Skippers <https://www.flickr.com/photos/stevelane56/26913696145/in/dateposted-public/>

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/stevelane56/26640661060/in/dateposted-public/>
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/stevelane56/26913701885/in/dateposted-public/>
Steve Lane

1 Brimstone, 1 Orange Tip and 3 Holly Blue, Harrow Cemetery - Shailesh Patel

A few sightings for Monday 9th May 2016 - 1 Speckled Wood Icehouse Wood at 0904 hrs, 1 male Large White set-aside field near Dew Pond, Trent Park 0910 hrs, 1 male Orange Tip at South Lodge Farm, Enfield at 0924 hrs - Robert Callf

Butterflies I have seen today 09/05/16: 1 speckled wood - Walsworth Common, Hitchin TL19713023, 1 male orange tip - Walsworth Common, Hitchin TL19703012, 1, possibly 2, holly blue, 4 male orange tip - Harpenden Common TL1313 - David Inward

Sunday 8th May 2016

Some sightings of Sunday 8th May 2016 - 1 Speckled Wood, 1 male Brimstone and 1 male Orange Tip at Oakwood Park, N14 (TQ 299 951) all west of 10 km line. 1 male Orange Tip and 1 Speckled Wood at Boxer's Lake, Enfield. 1 male Large White and 1 male Orange Tip at Lakeside, EN2 at 13:10 hrs - Robert Callf

Walked along Tunnel Gardens green space in Bounds Green Haringey, between 5.30 and 6.00 this evening saw 8 Speckled wood, 2 male orange tip, 1 brimstone and 5 holly blues including one mud puddling in some damp earth. Some speckled wood pics at:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/64663114@N03/26803070132/in/dateposted-public/>

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/64663114@N03/26292252323/in/dateposted-public/>

Miles Attenborough

Visited Aldbury Nowers and recorded 8 x orange tip (7 males), 3 x brimstone(males), 1 x peacock, 1 x green hairstreak, 2 x grizzled skipper in lower sections. At higher sections were 1 x speckled wood, 7 x orange tip (4 males), 4 x brimstone(males), 3 x green hairstreak, 2 x red admiral, 2 x small white, 5 x grizzled skipper, 1 x holly blue, **10 x dingy skipper**. Found another holly blue in Bushey garden also - David Gower

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/ Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. On another beautiful morning, I was pleasantly surprised to see my first **Red Admiral** of the year in a usual spot amongst the nettles near the river. Here are the full details: Holly Blue: 12 Brimstone: 6 Green-Veined White: 3 Peacock: 6 Orange-Tip: 7 Comma: 1 Speckled Wood: 6 Tortoiseshell: 1 Small White: 2 Green Hairstreak: 1 Red Admiral: 1 Small Copper: 1 When a small butterfly landed on the path in front of me, wings closed, I expected to see a Green Hairstreak but as there wasn't even a hint of green I ended up scrabbling closer along the gritty path looking at a rather dull brown butterfly. I eventually concluded this was a male Small Copper camouflaging itself by concealing its fore-wings and this seemed to be confirmed by a brief flash of brighter colours when it finally flew up. Meanwhile on the River Crane Mrs. Mandarin Duck was having a hard time keeping all 11 newly hatched offspring together, in part due to constant flapping around of her mate. - Pete Gore

Butterflies I have seen today 08/05/16: 1 small tortoiseshell - north corner, Walsworth Common, Hitchin TL19253037, 1 male orange tip - path by railway, Walsworth Common, Hitchin TL19273042, 1 male orange tip - Cadwell Playing Field NW, Hitchin TL189307, 1 male orange tip - Cadwell Lane north, Hitchin TL188308, 1 male orange tip - by scrap yard fence Burymead Springs, Hitchin TL18733095, at least 6 male orange tips, 1, possibly 2, speckled wood - Burymead Springs, Hitchin TL186309, 2 orange tip - railway embankment off Cadwell Lane, Hitchin TL18843094, 1 holly blue - on ivy, path by River Hiz, off Grove Road, Hitchin TL19043040. - David Inward

While covering a transect today had my first small copper of the year at Nomansland Common - Andrew Steele

Stopped briefly at Aldbury Nowers yesterday morning 7th saw 3 grizzled skippers and a green hairstreak and at least 10 brimstones. Today 8th saw grizzled skippers at Waterford heath south and Rickneys and saw 2 small copper at Rickneys too where there is a huge bank of wild strawberry - Steve Kiln

Saturday 7th May 2016

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey Mostly a morning walk with plenty of sun so not surprisingly the best to date in 2016 for both species and numbers. The highlight was my first **Green Hairstreak** of the year. Like last year this surprised me by appearing in the Pevensey/Crane section, resting for a moment on a Cow Parsley flower and then a Hawthorn leaf before flying strongly into the wooded area along the river. More likely Green Hairstreak areas still seem to be without them: Holly Blue: 9 Comma: 4 Peacock: 8 Orange-Tip: 11 Small Copper: 3 Green-Veined White: 3 Brimstone: 5 Green Hairstreak: 1 Speckled Wood: 3 Small White: 1 Large White: 1 Tortoiseshell: 1 Also had my first 2016 sighting of a Damsel-Fly, a dark one flying near the culvert entrance. First of very many no doubt. - Pete Gore

Tring Park butterfly and wildflower walk lead by Martin Hicks. 1 Orange tip, 1 Peacock and 2 Brimstone - Shailesh Patel

Butterflies I have seen today 07/05/16: 1 male orange tip - road verge by Purwell Meadows, Cambridge Road, Hitchin TL19822999, 1 peacock - Priory Park, Hitchin TL184285, 1 male orange tip - Priory Park, Hitchin TL183286. - David Inward

At St James church cemetery, Bushey 1 x large white, 2 x holly blue. In Bushey garden 2 x holly blue. Later on at Water Lane, Watford were 4 x orange tip males, 3 x small tortoiseshell, 1 x holly blue, 1 Green-veined White. Lastly at Fishers Field were 3 x orange tip males - David Gower

The following seen near Waterend area (Near Wheathampstead) - TL2014; 4 X Peacock 1 x Small Tortoiseshell 1 x Holly Blue 2 x Brimstone (Males) 4+ x Orange Tip - David Wheatcroft

Spent two hours in Grovelands Park, Southgate this afternoon Saturday 7th May 2016 from 1135 - 1335 hrs and noted the following - 4 Speckled Wood including two together, 2 Holly Blue and 1 male Orange Tip - Robert Callf.

Folly lane St. Albans - Brimstone laying eggs on One of the Alder Buckthorns on my allotment this morning. The first time I've seen egg laying at this site, 12 years after I planted the trees. Shortly afterwards she was accosted by two males and flew very slowly backwards, wings beating frantically for nearly 10 minutes. Orange Tips out in force with 6 patrolling males, 3 Holly Blues, Large and Green veined Whites, Speckled Wood and Peacock - Malcolm Hull

Friday 6th May 2016

Bovingdon Brickworks (TL0002) this morning: first **Dingy Skipper** of the year (just the one at TL00530260), Speckled Wood (1), Orange-tip (2m, 1f), Peacock (3), Small White (1). Other butterflies already seen at the site this year: Brimstone, Small Tortoiseshell and Comma. - Lucy Flowers

First **grizzled skipper** at Waterford Heath south in settling beds, plenty of orange tips, brimstones, peacocks, green veined whites, small whites and a couple of small tortoiseshells. whitethroat chiff chaff and blackcaps singing - Steve Kiln

Spent the early afternoon of Friday 6th May 2016 around Enfield Town and recorded the following: 1 female Holly Blue settled on holly hedgerow at Library Green at 12:40 hrs, at least 3 Holly Blue in Town Park including two probing wet mud at Carr's Basin, 1 female Orange Tip at Town Park at 13:06 hrs, 1 Speckled Wood nectaring on tree flowers (possibly Sycamore) at 13:21 hrs, 1 Holly Blue at Gentleman's Row at 13:33 hrs. Also saw and heard a Garden Warbler in Town Park - Robert Callf

In my south Harpenden garden: 2 Small White, 2 Holly Blue, 1 Orange Tip (male) and 1 Brimstone (male). On Harpenden Common (Herts BC transect): 2 Holly Blue, 2 Green-veined White, 2 Brimstone (one male, one female) and 1 Peacock. David Hunt

An early afternoon 30 minute stroll along a few paths on the western side of Rye Meads nature reserve revealed 8+ male orange tips, 5+ brimstones, 3 small tortoiseshells, 2 peacocks and 2 small white butterflies. (All sightings between the River Lea and the Toll House Stream.)- Len Crouch

Thursday 5th May 2016

2 brimstones, 1 male orange-tip, at least 2 small whites. St James's Park from 1.20-1.40pm - Jo

Lawrence

Strong emergence of Holly Blues at Chells Park, Stevenage with at least 5 seen in 2 or 3 minutes at about 11 am. They were probably all males with one or two on the ground - Peter Clarke

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Another beautiful day and much better for butterflies. Today's included my first **Small Copper** of the year, colourful on a Marshalling Yards Dandelion: Holly Blue: 11 Small White: 6 Peacock: 5 Comma: 2 Orange-Tip: 7 Small Copper: 1 Brimstone: 1 Speckled Wood: 1 Tortoiseshell: 2 Green-Veined White: 2 - Pete Gore

Harrow Cemetery, 1 Peacock, 1 Orange Tip and 1 Pterophoridae moth species - Shailesh Patel

Seen my first female Orange Tip this afternoon Thursday 5th May 2016 at 14:29 hrs settled on E edge of Shaws Wood, Trent Park. Did not note much else this afternoon apart from a Speckled Wood at Park Farm, Enfield at 15:26 hrs. - Robert Callf

Butterflies I have seen on 03/05/16: 2 brimstone - junction of B158 and track to Kennel Hill Farm, near Essendon TL28650978 David Inward

Wednesday 4th May 2016

Another Holly Blue seen on Wednesday 4th May 2016 at Bramley Parade, N14 at 17:11 hrs. Red-green Carpet at ASDA Southgate, N14 on Wednesday 4th May 2016 near outside lights. - Robert Callf.

In own SG4 Hitchin garden - 1 Orange Tip, 2 Holly Blues - Val Fullforth

Brendan Sheridan and I took part in a Box Moor Trust training day yesterday, which involved a visit to Roughdown Common (Hemel Hempstead). Brendan spotted a couple of Green Hairstreaks in the chalk dell but we didn't have the opportunity to observe thoroughly. I returned this morning (04/05/2016 @; 11:00-12:25) and found at least **3 Green Hairstreaks** in the chalk dell (TL04640569), **1 Small Copper**, 1 Orange-tip (m), 2 Large White, 1 Small White, 1 Brimstone & 2 Holly Blue. The Small Copper and Green Hairstreaks were my first of the year. As I left, Brendan was arriving, so he may well have additional sightings. No sign yet of Small Blues at the A41 site but conditions were such that emergence may be a little late this spring. - Lucy Flower

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Mostly sunny, higher temperature and little wind but butterflies rather disappointing especially as a quarter of them were actually seen in streets and gardens en route: Holly Blue: 5 Comma: 2 Peacock: 7 Orange-Tip: 3 Brimstone: 2 Green-Veined White: 1 Tortoiseshell: 1. About a dozen Whites being very uncooperative, refusing to be identified. - Pete Gore

Lovely warm sunny albeit breezy day on the Lake Farm and Cranford Park transects seeing over 20 butterflies at each site. Prior to that, some early morning butterflies, a Peacock and 2 Speckled Woods in a clearing in Pear Wood, Stanmore (TQ 17 93) whilst surveying with London Wildlife Trust. At lunchtime, I saw 2 roadside Holly Blues, one at Botwell Lane, Hayes (TQ 09 80) and at Harlington Road, Hillingdon (TQ 0782). Then onto River Pinn at Philpots Farm (TQ 062 819) and whilst river sampling saw a Peacock basking on a gravel bank and a Green Veined White and Speckled Wood flew by. Finally before completing a Butterfly transect for the Friends of Eastcote House, seeing a further 10 butterflies, I saw a male Orange Tip at Dovecote Copse, Eastcote (TQ 107 888) - Paul Busby

Six sightings in my Harpenden garden on Wednesday: Male Brimstone, Speckled Wood, Peacock, Small White, Holly Blue, Male Orange Tip. - Robin Pearson

1 male Orange Tip, 1 male Brimstone and 1 Holly Blue in St James's Park today - Frank Nugent

On a walk today at Tyttenhanger gravel pits I saw 3 Orange-tip, 2 Peacock, 1 Comma and my first Speckled Wood. Also today and yesterday 2 Orange-tip in my South Mimms garden - Terry Wood

Noted three holly blues today, all males, one in my Thorley Park garden, one at the bottom of the road and a third at Thornbera Road allotments. This last was a large insect for its type which repeatedly returned to an area of spread cow dung. Also at the allotments singles of small white and brimstone plus two small tortoiseshells which was a disappointment because in late March

before April's poor weather 5 or 6 ST's could be seen here - Len Crouch

Butterfly I have seen today 04/05/16: 1 peacock - outside Superdrug (not a prime butterfly habitat!), Bancroft, Hitchin TL18452925. - David Inward

Today at Thorley Wash we saw - 6 orange tip, 8 brimstone, 3, small tortoiseshell, 5 small white and 5 peacock. - Jenny Sherwen

I couldn't believe my luck when I got home after some butterfly hunting around north and west of Stevenage today. In my back garden I was examining the buckthorn I planted the previous winter. I saw one Brimstone egg almost immediately then on further inspection I spotted at least a dozen more on the one plant with some leaves having 2 or 3 eggs laid on them. I understand that usually eggs are laid singly so was it just one Brimstone female laying the eggs I wonder? - Peter Clarke (*pictures will be on facebook in the next 24hours*)

City of London - My first Large White of the year, flew across Bank junction at lunchtime and landed on No1 Poultry. You can't get a more urban location than that - Malcolm Hull

Saturday 30th April- Wareside. Orange Tip - 6 Small White - 2 Peacock - 1 Small Tortoiseshell - 1 Green Veined White - 1 Brimstone - 6. Sunday - 1st May Wareside Orange Tip - 2 Small White - 1 Brimstone - 2. TODAY - May 4th - London EC2 - Bunhill Row cemetery Small White - 2 Green Veined White - 1 Peacock - 1. Rye House Railway Station Holly Blue - 1. My moth trap has been empty for nearly 2 weeks - largest count being 1 early grey and 1 hebrew character. Shocking, but hopeful for the weekend - Phil Macmurdie

Some sightings (a fairly good variety of species but low numbers given the weather conditions) for Wednesday 4th May 2016 - 1 freshly emerged Speckled Wood at Icehouse Wood, Trent Park at 12:51. 1 Peacock at Vicarage Farm at 10:46 hrs, 1 Peacock at Parkside Farm, Enfield at 11:02 hrs, 1 Peacock at Park Farm, Enfield at 11:14 hrs, 1 male Orange Tip at Ferny Hill, Enfield (TQ 288 982) at 12:02 hrs, 1 Green-veined White at Ferny Hill, Enfield at 12:02 hrs, 1 male Orange Tip edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park at 12:10 hrs, 2 Green-veined White, pr copulating edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park at 12:10 hrs, 1 male Brimstone at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 12:19 hrs, 1 female Large White at Nature Trail, Trent Park at 12:38 hrs, 2 male Orange Tip edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park at 13:02 hrs, 1 male Orange Tip along bridle path near Shaws Wood, Trent Park at 13:11 hrs, 1 Comma along bridle path near Merryhills Brook at Trent Park at 13:14 hrs, 1 Holly Blue at South Lodge Farm, Enfield (TQ 298 964) at 13:21 hrs. A few more sightings for Wednesday 4th May 2016 at Trent Park - 2 male Orange Tip (1 'New Fields' at 14:53 hrs, 1 Sect 7 at 15:04 hrs), 2 Speckled Wood Sect 7 at 15:05 hrs, 1 male Large White Sect 5 at 15:13 hrs, 1 male Brimstone at Sports Field near Hockey Centre at 15:26 hrs - Robert Callf.

News from 1st May: Bricket Wood Common - 2 Orange Underwing sp seen in flight, both took off from muddy ground close to areas of birch trees. 13 Brimstones, mostly female including one seen egg laying. Several of the females were flying low exploring young saplings 1-2 feet tall looking for very young Alder Buckthorn plants to lay on. However the three eggs I saw being laid were all on a mature Alder Buckthorn. All were deposited at the base of one of the leaf buds which had just started to burst open. The sites chosen were all 9-12 feet above ground on new growth probably one year old. I also saw a female land twice on different species of saplings, touch them with her abdomen and then quickly fly off realising they were unsuitable. Also on the Common today, 4 Peacocks, 2 Orange Tips, 1 Green-veined White. Earlier on my allotment in St Albans I saw a Holly Blue, Small Tortoiseshell and Peacock. I checked the hibernating butterflies in my outhouse at lunchtime and 5 of the original 17 are still fast asleep. They started hibernation in early July last year, so some of these individuals could have been there for almost 10 months. - Malcolm Hull

Tuesday 3rd May 2016

Orange Tip observed flying across River Pinn towards Long Meadow, Eastcote whilst river sampling at lunchtime, then a Peacock further along river at Cheney Field, Eastcote - Paul Busby

Sightings for Tuesday 3rd May 2016 - 1 Peacock settled at South Lodge Farm, Enfield at 11:35 hrs, 2 male Orange Tip at Vicarage Farm, Enfield (1 along S edge of Williams Wood at 11:59 hrs, 1 field near Enfield Road, EN2 at 13:06 hrs), also a few unidentified Whites - Robert Callf

The following at Ellenbrook Fields (Former Hatfield Aerodrome) 3-5-16: Orange Tip x 7+, Peacock x 3+, Green-veined White x 1 - David Wheatcroft?

Monday 2nd May 2016

Saw my first **Grizzled skipper** of the year in Rickneys quarry on the wild strawberry on Sunday 1st May. Also saw orange tip and peacocks. brimstones, peacocks, orange tips and small white on Waterford heath south. Steve Kiln

Two (probably three) Holly Blues this afternoon, in my garden in Church Lane, Pinner. - Graham Elcombe

1 Holly Blue at Town Park, Enfield on Sunday 1st May 2016 at 14:18 hrs. 1 Green-veined White at Little Beechill Wood, Enfield Chase (TQ 288 993) on Monday 2nd May 2016 at 12:39 hrs and 1 Peacock here at 12:45 hrs. 1 Peacock at Park Farm on Monday 2nd May 2016 at 13:01 hrs and 1 Peacock at Vicarage Farm at 14:00 hrs, 1 Large White at Enfield Road, EN2 at 14:15 hrs on Monday 2nd May 2016 - Robert Callf.

1 x male holly blue in Bushey garden. Nothing seen at Water Lane as sun had vanished by then. 1 x small tortoiseshell at Fishers Field - David Gower

Sunday 1st May 2016

Pinner, Middlesex One Speckled Wood this morning, in my garden in Church Lane. Also (belated report) first Orange Tip here, on 20th April; and two more (both males) on 27th April. Graham Elcombe

Late morning walk across Yeading Brook Meadows Nature Reserve, Yeading and no butterflies were seen, but on the way home stuck in traffic jam on the Hayes by-pass dual carriageway (TQ 11 82) saw at least 7 White butterflies, 3 of which were confirmed sightings of Orange Tips. Then a late afternoon walk around the newly opened Wood Farm Country Park, Stanmore (TQ 17 93) and saw a Peacock and a Small Tortoiseshell. Fantastic views of London and the distant North Downs from here. - Paul Busby

In my Hatfield garden today 1 Holly Blue (m. brand new), 2 tatty Small Tortoiseshell. These are first since 1st April. Hope today is a better omen. John Moss

Some sightings for Sunday 1st May 2016 - 2 Peacock at Park Farm, Enfield at 10:09 and 10:38 hrs, 1 Peacock along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm at 11:34 hrs, 1 female Large White at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 12:07 hrs - Robert Callf

A sunny and reasonably warm day for a change produced 2 Holly Blue and 1 male Brimstone in my south Harpenden garden and 5 Peacock, 2 Small Tortoiseshell, 2 male Brimstone and 1 Holly Blue on Harpenden Common/St Johns Wood. David Hunt

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey Much better today with continuous sunshine and higher temperatures: Holly Blue: 6 Green-Veined White: 2 Comma: 4 Brimstone: 10 Orange-Tip: 4 Speckled Wood: 3 Large White: 1 Peacock: 6 Tortoiseshell: 1 Plenty of unidentified Whites, including more than usual in front gardens so I'm sure the 'missing' Small White was present amongst them. Surprising absence of humans in the earlier part of my walk which perhaps explains how I was lucky enough to be accompanied by a Muntjac on the opposite side of a small field on the Heath and then preceded by a Little Egret and a Kingfisher along the river. - Pete Gore

Harrow Cemetery, 2 Peacock, 1 Speckled Wood, 1 Holly Blue and 1 male Orange Tip. Shailesh Patel

April 2016

Saturday 30th April

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey A complete walk but several showers so just one Orange Tip as I was leaving the Heath to pass through the golf course. May must be better mustn't it?! - Pete Gore

Walked round Coppetts Wood Local Nature Reserve in London Borough of Barnet this afternoon and saw 4 peacock butterflies, 3 white butterflies in flight and one large white and one small white landed. One of the peacocks had faded colour patches in the centre of its wings. Link to photo attached:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/64663114@N03/26131077423/in/dateposted-public/>
Miles Attenborough

Twenty minute walk at Bridgewater Fields, Ruislip Gardens.(TQ 103 858) and saw a Peacock and a Small White - Paul Busby

Brent Reservoir, 1 male Orange Tip and 2 Small Tortoiseshell. Shailesh Patel

Visited Water Lane, Watford for 30 mins this morning and came across 4 x small tortoiseshell and 2 x male orange tips - David Gower

Butterfly I have seen today 30/04/16: 1 small tortoiseshell - Burymead Recreation Ground, Stevenage TL233257. - David Inward

In my Harpenden garden today, one Peacock, one White (assume Small) one Holly Blue. - Robin Pearson

Some sightings for Saturday 30th April 2016 - 1 Speckled Wood at Grovebury Court, N14 (TQ 296 950) in sub-urban garden at 10:49 hrs, 1 male Orange Tip at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 11:25 hrs, 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 11:27 hrs, 1 Small White at Vicarage Farm at 12:13 hrs, 1 Peacock at Parkside Farm, Enfield at 12:26 hrs, 1 Peacock at Park Farm, Enfield at 13:17 hrs. Another couple of Whites seen - probably Small, but not positively identified - Robert Callf

April 30th around noon a male and female holly blue rested for about an hour in the camellia in my garden, Kings Langley. Also of interest a female tawny mining bee settled on the windowsill. Elizabeth Debenham

April 2016

Thursday 28th April 2016

Male Orange Tip at South Lodge Farm, Enfield (TQ 297 965) on Thursday 28th April 2016 at 12:36 hrs - Robert Callf

Whilst working for the London Wildlife Trust in a Stanmore Wood (TQ 17 93) I saw a Green Veined White in a clearing - Paul Busby

Wednesday 28th April 2016

One Small Tortoiseshell at Park Farm, Enfield this afternoon Wednesday 27th April 2016 at 12:11 hrs - Robert Callf

My first garden Speckled Wood during a sunny but still chilly spell in my Eastcote Garden so I have a record for the new "Garden Butterfly Survey" at last - Paul Busby

Sunday 24th April 2016

Male Orange Tip at Hatfield Aerodrome TL201087 today - Rupert Pyrah

Saturday 23rd April 2016

One Small White along Salmons Brook at Enfield Road near Jolly Farmers PH (TQ 310 967) Saturday 23rd April 2016 at 15:30 hrs - the only butterfly I saw this afternoon during a 2 and a half hour walk. - Robert Callf

Another chilly day: there was however a lengthy sunny spell around lunchtime, and I had a look around my local patch near Heathrow. White butterflies predominated, with perhaps a dozen seen altogether: I definitely identified two Small Whites, three GVW and no less than four female Orange Tips. I also saw three males, so the numbers are slowly rising at last. There was a single Comma, too, which appeared to be a female searching the nettle beds for a suitable spot to lay.

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The weather has definitely held back emergences across the board - I hope the walk on 15th May will have something to offer... Dave Miller

Thursday 21st April 2016

My first Green-veined White of the year in St James's Park plus 1 male Brimstone. Orange-tip male seen by Jo Lawrence here Tuesday 19th - Frank Nugent

Identified Adela reaumurella along SW edge of Rough Lot, Trent Park (TQ 283 975) at 11:45 hrs Thursday 21st April 2016, also 1 Speckled Wood at Shaws Wood, Trent Park at 12:23 hrs. - Robert Callf

After having walked the Lake Farm transect in Hayes, Middlesex and seeing 7 species at lunchtime, I went on to Philipots Farm Open Space, Cowley (TQ 06 81) by the River Pinn and saw 5 Tortoiseshells, 3 Peacocks, 2 Small Whites and a Speckled wood. No Orange Tips today in the breezy conditions - Paul Busby

Wednesday 20th April 2016

Bricket Wood Common (the pipeline ride) Lots of work done since last year to cut back the ride to widen it. Beautiful sunny early afternoon & still. 3 Orange tips, 1 Small white, 1 Comma, 5 Brimstone, Peacocks 2 pairs plus a few individuals. Very muddy with lots of surface water around so boots a must - Paul Gibson

St James's Park, singles of Small Tortoiseshell, Comma and Small White today - Frank Nugent

Breezy but warm and sunny day, but still managed to see 9 species of butterfly on a lovely Spring day. At Eastcote House walled garden saw a Small White and then in nearby Dovecote Copse by the River Pinn footbridge saw a Comma and male Brimstone (TQ 10 88). Then at Cheney Fields, Eastcote (TQ 11 89) saw a Holly Blue, a Speckled Wood, at least one Peacock, 2 Commas, 2 male Brimstones, a Green Veined White and 3 male Orange Tips plus a pair on the only flowering Cuckoo Flower in the meadow. Finally, at Pine Gardens Recreational area, Eastcote (TQ 110 870) area saw 2 Small Tortoiseshells on the rough bramble covered mound - Paul Busby

Butterfly I have seen today 20/04/16: 1 male Brimstone - St Faiths Close, Hitchin TL19823024 - David Inward

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey Similar sunshine to yesterday but with stronger breezes possibly discouraging butterflies. My first Green-Veined White of the year seen on the Crane/Pevensey loop. Holly Blue: 3 Peacock: 9 Brimstone: 1 Small White: 2 Green-Veined White: 1 Comma: 1 Tortoiseshell: 1 and 1 fresh-looking Orange Underwing moth - Pete Gore

A few butterflies seen in Trent Park on Wednesday 20th April 2016 - 2 Speckled Wood (1 Sect 7 at 12:26 hrs, 1 near top of Snakes Lane at 13:09 hrs) - my first ones of the year! 1 Peacock Sect 5 at 12:36 hrs and what was quite possibly the same in Sect 4 at 12:43 hrs. Another Speckled Wood this afternoon Wednesday 20th April 2016 at Boxer's Lake, Enfield at 15:22 hrs. - Robert Callf

Tuesday 19th April 2016

Late news from 12th April (*originally posted on the FB page*) **Grizzled skipper** seen on early dog violet at Aldbury Nowers nature reserve (Southern compartments), near Tring (SP 95005 13176) at approximately 1pm today - Laura Baker

Large White reported by Darren Bast on our Twitter page on the 14th April (also using i-Record!)

Morning working party at Swakeleys Park, Ickenham (TQ 073 859) and saw a male Brimstone. Lunchtime on the tube and saw another 2 male Brimstones in the trackside copse near Northolt Underground station (TQ 130 846). Afternoon walk in the glorious sunshine around Wormwood Scrubs Local Nature Reserve (first time visit) and saw in square TQ 2181 a male Orange Tip, a Speckled Wood, a Comma, a Small White and a male Brimstone; in square TQ 2282 saw another 2 Commas, another Speckled wood, another Small White and a Peacock; in square TQ 2281 saw at least another 5 Commas, 4 peacocks, a Small Tortoiseshell and another Speckled Wood. - Paul Busby

19th April, morning, Norton Common, Letchworth - male Orange-tip in flight (first I've seen this year), and 2 Small Tortoiseshells settled. Lunchtime, Wheat Hill, Letchworth - Holly Blue (first I've seen in the UK this year - I saw one last week in the Netherlands) and a Brimstone. Late afternoon, Pix Brook Meadow, Letchworth - Speckled Wood (again, first I've seen this year), and a Peacock. - Jill Sawyer

Therfield Heath Tuesday 19/4/16 10:00-13:00. Noted on a birding walk today were the following butterflies - 8 Small Tortoiseshell, 5 Brimstone, 3 Peacock, 1 Small White. - Bob Harris

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Excellent sunny weather and the best day for butterflies here so far with 3 year firsts seen: an Orange-Tip accompanied me across the golf course, my first Speckled Wood was spotted in a favoured spot on the Marshalling Yards and a Holly Blue away from the trees for a change near the entrance to Pevensey Open Space. Here are the full details: Peacock:13 Brimstone: 4 Orange-Tip: 1 Comma: 3 Speckled Wood: 1 Holly Blue: 1 Small White: 4 - Pete Gore

Our first sighting this year of a Holly Blue in our Pinner garden. Also a single Small White - Tony and Gill Porter

2 beautiful male Brimstones in St James's Park today - Frank Nugent

Some sightings for Tuesday 19th April 2016 - 1 Peacock nectaring on blackthorn blossom at Whitewebbs Park at 11:21 hrs, 1 Green-veined White settled at Whitewebbs Park near King & Tinker PH (TQ 329 996) - my first of the year! 2 Small Tortoiseshell (1 at Guy Lodge Farm at 12:26 hrs, 1 at Whitewebbs Farm at 12:34 hrs), 1 male Brimstone at Whitewebbs Park settled 13:17 - 13:22 hrs, 1 male Orange Tip at Whitewebbs Park at 13:37 hrs - Robert Callf

A sunny lunchtime stroll around Harpenden Common produced 4 Peacock, 3 Small Tortoiseshell, 2 Small White (both female, both confirmed) and a male Brimstone resolutely patrolling the rides in St John's Wood - I have yet to see a female Brimstone this year - David Hunt

1 Speckled Wood and 1 Holly Blue. Harrow Cemetery - Shailesh Patel

Sunday 17th April 2016

Had three Small Tortoiseshells at Tyttenhanger Gravels Pits two at TL197052 and one at TL190041 and a peacock at Stanborough GP TL216109 - Andrew Steele

Brent Reservoir, 1 Peacock and 1 Small Tortoiseshell - Shailesh Patel

Cool but sunny intervals and saw 2 Commas by Blackthorn scrub near railway line at Bridgewater Fields, Ruislip Gardens.(TQ 103 858) - Paul Busby

One Peacock at Park Farm, Enfield on Sunday 17th April 2016 at 11:15 hrs. - Robert Callf

On a walk in Panshanger Park on Friday morning (15th) we saw Male Orange Tip and a Speckled Wood at TL291121 - Bob Pedder

Wednesday 13 April. First visit to my Warren transect this season. Recorded 2 fast flying Small Tortoiseshell and 2 fencing Peacocks which had occasional rests on damp mud. During the winter the whole site has been mowed and thoroughly raked, clearing regenerating scrub. Bramble scrub cut back further on 3 sides and new stout wire fencing installed c5m in on 2 sides with pedestrian gates. There is a single strand of stout barbed wire at top inside of the fence. 2 strong gated forming a livestock pen have been installed opposite the farm entrance. This all suggests "light summer grazing" by cattle is still planned in line with the management planned announced about 4 years ago. This will be good for ground flora. I'll find out this summer the effect on butterflies etc. The loss of mature bramble in the margins will reduce the appeal to inverts - John Moss

Thursday 14th April 2016

In the morning a small white and female brimstone visited my Thorley Park garden. During the afternoon, at least five small tortoiseshells plus singles of small white and male brimstone at Thornbera Road Allotments, Stortford - Len Crouch

Stanwell Moor, I was able to go out again this afternoon, and had a much better tally. I saw the first Holly Blues of the year, three altogether. One was puddling for minerals, quite a common sight..

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This was followed by around six Peacocks, nine Commas, two Green-veined Whites and a single

Speckled Wood - Dave Miller

Lunchtime at a Froglife event at Yeading Brook Meadows (TQ 10 82) saw a Small Tortoiseshell and 2 Peacocks, then early afternoon saw at least 10 Peacocks on the Cranford Park, Middlesex transect walk despite it clouding over. - Paul Busby

Some sightings for Thursday 14th April 2016 - 1 Peacock at Flash Lane Aqueduct at 11:24 hrs, 1 Small White settled at Whitewebbs Farm, Enfield at 12:15 hrs, 1 Peacock at Whitewebbs Farm, Enfield at 12:35 hrs, 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Guy Lodge Farm, Enfield (TQ 330 999), 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Brayside Farm, Enfield at 13:39 hrs - Robert Callf

Wednesday 13 April; first Holly Blue of the year at Bayfordbury. Also saw 2 Peacock and 2 Brimstone. Thursday 14 April: first Orange Tip, Speckled Wood (2) and Comma (2) of the year at Bayfordbury - Ian Flack

1 Peacock and 2 Small Tortoiseshell, Harrow Cemetery - Shailesh Patel

Wednesday 13th April 2016

At Waterford Heath NR I saw a small tortoiseshell, a couple of Brimstones and a couple of small whites - Andy Brown

A few sightings from April so far (all from Stanwell Moor). I seem to have missed the best days or bits of days by being at work or up in Yorkshire...

2nd April - a sunny day.. The first butterfly seen was a **Green-veined White**, swiftly followed by a Brimstone. Before lunch, at least another ten Brimstones were seen, plus around six or seven Whites (all those seen close two were Small Whites). After lunch, the Brimstones disappeared completely, but Commas and Peacocks both showed well, with six or seven of each, plus two Small Tortoiseshells. I watched a pair of Commas courting until the patient approaches of the male to the settled female were disturbed by an over-active Peacock.

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8th April - One Brimstone and my first **Speckled Wood** of the year in a copse by the River Colne.

A record shot from some way off:

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB//download/file.php?id=84998&mode=view>

13th April - One Comma and one Peacock seen this evening under cloudy skies - thought it was quite warm - Dave Miller

The following today at Ellenbrook Fields (Former Hatfield Aerodrome) 13-4-16. 4 x Brimstone (Males), 2 x Peacock, 2 x Orange Tip (Male/Female) David Wheatcroft

Saw my first **Holly Blue** of the year today in St James's Park. Yesterday brought out singles of Peacock, Comma, Small White and Brimstone in situ. Frank Nugent

I saw 2 brimstone, 2 orange-tip, several peacocks and a **holly blue** at Amwell today - Jenny Sherwen

Late morning visit to the Walled Garden (TQ 107 888) and saw a Small White and then a male Brimstone along hedgerow along Field End Road, Eastcote House Gardens. Then across River Pinn to Long Meadow (TQ 11 89) and saw another male Brimstone and a Small Tortoiseshell, as well as a Kingfisher, Little Egret, Nuthatch and Greater Spotted Woodpecker, lovely morning - Paul Busby

Here are my sightings for today, 13th April: A lovely sunny day at Maple Cross today brought out many butterflies, including Brimstone, Small White, Comma, Orange-tip, Peacock, Red Admiral and **Speckled Wood** - Sharon Monahans

A couple of firsts of the year today. At around 1350 hours I saw a Small White at Six Hills Common then a few minutes later a mating pair of the same species on nettles by the public footpath parallel to Six Hills Way near the Leisure Park. By the A1 underpass at Norton Green a **Green-veined White** was seen just after 2 pm.. Earlier at Shackledell Grassland a female Brimstone appeared with the greenest undersides I have ever seen! - Peter Clarke

Butterflies I have seen today 13/04/16: 1 Brimstone - Walsworth Common, Hitchin TL19713023, 1 Brimstone - Whitney Drive, Stevenage TL23102603, 1 Peacock - Whitney Drive, Stevenage TL23102607, 1 Brimstone - road verge, Monkswood Way, Stevenage TL24282298, 1 Brimstone - Monks Wood, Stevenage approx TL247235 - David Inward

In my south Harpenden garden this morning, a male Brimstone and a very freshly emerged male Orange Tip (I think a home-grown one judging from the initial very weak flight and the fact that the end of my garden has become a haven for garlic mustard). Encouraged by the Orange Tip, I did the Nomansland Common/Bull Lane/Down Green Lane triangle on a warm and sunny afternoon. Alas, no pierids at all, apart from 9 sightings of male Brimstone (corresponding to at least 4 individuals), plus 3 Peacock and 1 Small Tortoiseshell. A very small, rather nondescript moth evaded all attempts to pin it down, but maybe one of those dreadful pugs - David Hunt

Some sightings for Wednesday 13th April 2016 - 1 Peacock edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park at 11:28 hrs, male Brimstone edge of Rough Lot, Trent Park at 11:31 hrs, 1 Small Tortoiseshell edge of Water Garden, Trent Park at 11:45 hrs, 1 Peacock Williams Wood, Trent Park at 12:04 hrs, 1 male Orange Tip edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park at 12:10 hrs - my first sighting of the year, 1 Comma edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park at 12:10 hrs, 1 Small Tortoiseshell at South Lodge Farm, Enfield (TQ 299 966) at 12:31 hrs, also a possible Small White seen in flight at a distance, Parkside Farm, Enfield - Robert Callf.

Tuesday 12th April 2016

I saw 3 small tortoiseshell and 1 peacock at Thorley Wash. I also saw a Brimstone in Sawbridgeworth - Jenny Sherwen

Responding to the sunny intervals today on Harpenden Common and the adjacent St John's Wood were 2 male Brimstone, 2 Small Tortoiseshell and 1 Peacock - David Hunt

Sunny morning working by the River Pinn in Ickenham and the working party saw at least 2 male Brimstones and a Peacock in square TQ 07 86 and further upstream in square TQ 07 87, by the railway bridge and field saw another 2 male Brimstones, a Comma, a Small White, a Small Tortoiseshell and 2 male **Orange Tip** butterflies - Paul Busby

Regents Park this afternoon I saw 1 male Brimstone and 1 Small White - Chris Gleeson

Harrow Cemetery, 4 Peacock, 1 Brimstone - Shailesh Patel

A few sightings for Tuesday 12th April 2016 - 2 Small Tortoiseshell together (a courting couple) at Vicarage Farm at 11:39 hrs, 1 male Brimstone at Park Farm, Enfield at 12:33 hrs, 1 Peacock at Park Farm, Enfield at 12:34 hrs, 1 Small Tortoiseshell near Dew Pond, Trent Park 13:28 hrs, 1 Peacock on willow blossom at Dew Pond, Trent Park at 13:29 hrs, 1 Comma nectaring on willow blossom at Dew Pond, Trent Park at 13:30 hrs, possible Large White seen distantly at Park Farm - Robert Callf

Monday 11th April 2016

1 Comma at Park Farm, Enfield on Monday 11th April 2016 at 12:55 hrs - Robert Callf

Butterfly I have seen today 11/04/16: 1 female brimstone - The Settlement, Nevells Road, Letchworth TL22013302. - David Inward

Sunday 10th April 2016

Male Brimstone, Brent Reservoir - Shailesh Patel

Butterflies I have seen today 10/04/16: 2 small tortoiseshell Purwell Meadows, Hitchin, 1 at TL200299, 1 at TL201298. - David Inward

Saturday 9th April 2016

One butterfly to report for Saturday 9th April 2016 - 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Holly Hill Farm, Enfield at 13:08 hrs. - Robert Callf

I saw 3 small tortoiseshells at Thorley Wash today - Jenny Sherwen

Friday 8th April 2016

Some butterfly sightings for Friday 8th April 2016 - 1 Peacock near Dew Pond, Trent Park at 12:55 hrs, 2 Small Tortoiseshell on willow blossom at Dew Pond, Trent Park at 12:57 hrs, 1 Comma near Dew Pond, Trent Park at 12:58 hrs - Robert Callf

Just one Peacock today in mostly cloudy conditions, although this one was benefiting from a little sunshine on the Marshalling Yards - Pete Gore

Wednesday 6th April 2016

Yesterday I saw 2 small tortoiseshells at Amwell and 1 Brimstone near Lemsford village. Today I saw my first small white of the year at Amwell - Jenny Sherwen

A couple of sightings for Wednesday 6th April 2016 - 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 11:05 hrs and **1 Orange Underwing** watched in flight and settled on Beech branch edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park (TQ 295 972) at around 13:35 hrs - observed through binoculars for several minutes down to less than 2 metres - confident that I have ruled out Light Orange Underwing. This moth was in pristine condition and obviously newly emerged. - Robert Callf

Tuesday 5th April 2016

At Waterford Heath south pit this afternoon: 8 peacocks, 1 brimstone, 1 small tortoiseshell and two commas, and my first **orange tip** on the north pit - Steve Kiln

I had a walk at Tyttenhanger gravel pits this afternoon and saw 2 Small Tortoiseshells, 1 Peacock, my first Comma of the year, and then a beautiful newly-emerged **Orange Tip** butterfly - Terry Wood

1 Brimstone, Bramfield, Hertford, TL2915 - Shailesh Patel

Rather less sunshine than I'd hoped and what little there was came at the beginning and end of my walk so butterflies were limited to Hounslow Heath, 1 each of the four hibernators with an additional Peacock seen on the way back home via St. Stephen's Road (roughly TW3 2BN). - Pete Gore

Saw a Small Tortoiseshell and a Peacock by the River Pinn in Ruislip (TQ 078 874) during a morning working party. Then on a lunchtime return walk from St Mary's Church, Harefield to Black Jacks Lock on the Grand Union Canal saw a number of butterflies in the sunshine. In the old Harefield Pit woodland saw a Comma, 2 male Brimstone and 3 Peacocks and a further Peacock and 3 Small Tortoiseshells on the nearby rough grassland overlooking the Colne Valley gravel lakes (TQ 04 89). Further along walk saw another 3 Small Tortoiseshells nectaring in the pasture field with buttercups and another 2 Small Tortoiseshells, a Peacock and a male Brimstone along the drive to the Old Orchard pub (TQ 04 90). Finally on way home, stopping at Queens Walk bridge over the Yeading Brook saw at least another 3 Small Tortoiseshells in a 10 minute break. (TQ 113 865) - Paul Busby

Some sightings for Tuesday 5th April 2016 - 1 Small Tortoiseshell, set-aside field near Dew Pond, Trent Park at 12:01 hrs, 1 Comma at 12:03 hrs and 1 Peacock at 12:06 hrs here also, 2 Comma in a clearing in Rough Lot, Trent Park at 12:55 hrs and 1 Peacock here also. 1 male Brimstone in Moat Wood, Trent Park at 13:07 hrs. 1 Small Tortoiseshell near Duncan's Wood at Park Farm 13:22 hrs. 1 Peacock at Park Farm, Enfield at 13:35 hrs, 1 Comma and 1 Peacock along Salmons Brook at Parkside Farm, Enfield at 14:00 hrs - Robert Callf

The following seen Ellenbrook Fields (Former Hatfield Aerodrome) 5-4-16, 1 x Brimstone, 1 Peacock - David Wheatcroft

On a sunny but breezy day, a solitary Small Tortoiseshell taking life easy on Harpenden Common - David Hunt

Monday 4th April 2016

A couple of butterflies to report for Monday 4th April 2016 - 1 Peacock by lower lake, Trent Park at 11:22 hrs and 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Park Farm, Enfield (TQ2998) at 12:28 hrs - Robert Callf

A single Small Tortoiseshell flying along Yeading Brook, South Ruislip (TQ 108 862) at lunchtime before drizzle set in - Paul Busby

News from Saturday 2 April. Female Brimstone nectaring on Bluebells etc in my Hatfield garden. Bright male passing north up Green Lanes - John Moss

Sunday 3rd April 2016

Not so much sun today although noticeably warmer. Just 3 Peacocks, 2 on the Marshalling Yards, 1 on my Pevensey loop. - Pete Gore

Lunchtime visit to Church Hill Field opposite the ANZAC graveyard in Harefield (TQ 05 89) and saw a Small White, a Comma and 3 Small Tortoiseshells. Then in field near Dews Farm Sandpits nature reserve (TQ 05 88) saw another Small Tortoiseshell, but there were a lot less nettles along the field fence where tens of Small Tortoiseshells were seen in previous years. Then finally, at Pinn Meadows, south of the river (TQ 09 87) saw another 3 Small Tortoiseshells. - Paul Busby

First butterflies for my Hitchin garden Brimstone, 26/3/16 (two weeks later than last year), Comma 2/1/16 - Martin Banthorpe

Saturday 2nd April 2016

Mid day, map ref TL028055 Box Moor Trust Old Barn, 4 Small Tortoiseshells. 2.00 pm in my St Albans garden 2 Peacocks, 2 Brimstones and 2 Small Tortoiseshells enjoying the warm sunshine. - Mandy Floyd

Visited Oakhill Woods and Coppetts Wood and Glebelands Local Nature Reserves in Barnet today. Oakhill Woods: 2 brimstones. Coppett's Wood: 3 Commas, 3 Peacock 3 small tortoiseshell.

Comma Photo: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/64663114@N03/26099211902/in/dateposted-public/>

Glebelands: 4 Peacocks, 7 Commas, 1 Female Brimstone, 3 white butterflies one of which darker possibly a female orange tip.

Peacock Photo: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/64663114@N03/25587178514/in/dateposted-public/>

Every clearing in Glebelands had a comma in it, watched three spiralling around near one of the ponds. A great day butterfly watching - Miles Attenborough

A Brimstone male in my south Harpenden garden plus, on Nomansland Common, 5 sightings (minimum of 3 different insects) of male Brimstone and a Small Tortoiseshell. - David Hunt

Two Small Tortoiseshells seen today on a walk around Springwell Lake and Lock, Harefield (TQ 04 92), one on rough grassland meadow area near lake, the other basking on log in field next to Springwell Lane. - Paul Busby

1 Speckled Wood, 1 Brimstone and 2 Peacocks at St Lawrence Church, Ayot St Peter. - Aaron Clements-Partridge

Butterflies I have seen today 02/04/16: 1 male Brimstone - Woolgrove Road, Hitchin TL19843019, 1 small tortoiseshell - Willian Road by former Centre of the Arts TL19933008. - David Inward

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Warmer and sunnier so lots of butterflies including my first Small White of the year: Peacock: 4 Brimstone: 4 Comma: 3 Small White: 1 Tortoiseshell: 3 plus around half a dozen unidentified very likely to be more of the same - Pete Gore

Some sightings for Saturday 2nd April 2016 - 1 Peacock and 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Rectory Farm, Enfield; 1 Peacock and 1 male Brimstone at Strayfield Road, EN2 (TQ315989); 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 male Brimstone and 1 Peacock at Whitewebbs Farm (TL327003). - Robert Callf

St Albans - First hibernating butterflies emerged from my shed, although 80% are still fast asleep. 2 Peacocks and 2 Small Tortoiseshells enjoying themselves on the spring flowers in the garden. One Small Tortoiseshell flew straight to the pond, landed on some floating pondweed, up curled its proboscis and drank for 5 minutes before heading off to feed on the nearest primroses. I guess it must be pretty thirsty after 9 months hibernation. Elsewhere in the city I saw a Brimstone and Small White. Bricket Wood Common - First transect of the year saw 8 Commas basking and

jousting, one signalled its aggression by setting up a territory on my leg. 7 Peacocks and 2 male Brimstones, one nectaring on some remarkably early flowering bluebells - Malcolm Hull - Malcolm Hull

Along the river Stort this afternoon, in and around Rushy Mead nature reserve, 1 Comma and at least 1 Peacock. Queen bumblebees were scouting for nest sites and we also saw a rather confused bat flitting around in the afternoon sunshine. - Chris Gleeson

Friday 1st April 2016

News from the 30th March, two sightings of "new" Brimstones in Pinner area, one in our garden and one in the front garden of a vets surgery (awaiting an appointment?!) Tony and Gill Porter

Very similar to yesterday except that the butterfly on the Marshalling Yards was a Comma. - Pete Gore

March 2016

Thursday 31st March 2016

At last! first sightings today 31 March in my garden at in Hitchin - 2 pristine male Brimstones. A number of Brimstones seen at Oughtonhead Common last Thursday 24 March - Val Fullforth

On Hertford Heath today (31st) 3 peacocks and a Brimstone - Andy Brown

Ashwell today, 3 male Brimstone, 1 in Hodwell, 1 in Ashwell street and 1 in West End - Laurence Drummond

A brimstone in Sandridge at lunchtime today, checking over an ivy covered wall. - Tim Hill

We saw 1 brimstone (male) and 2 small tortoiseshells in Verulamium park today - Jenny Sherwen

Several Small Tortoiseshells to report - 1 at Enfield Grammar School Playing Fields, Enfield Town (TQ325968) on Wednesday 30th March 2016 at 15:27 hrs and 2 together at Vicarage Farm, Enfield on Thursday 31st March 2016 at 12:46 hrs. - Robert Callf

A lengthy walk, mostly in cloudy conditions - just one Small Tortoiseshell seen, on the Marshalling Yards. - Pete Gore

Butterfly I have seen today 31/03/16: 1, possibly 2, male Brimstone - St Faiths Close, Hitchin - David Inward

Tuesday 29th March 2016

Late news: 13:00 Friday 25th March, St Ippolyts Garden - Brimstone - 1; 10:00 Saturday 26th March, St Ippolyts Church porch - Small Tortoiseshell - 1 - Michael Hooper

1 Comma and 2 Small Tortoiseshells at Vicarage Farm, Enfield on Friday 25th March 2016 - Robert Callf.

Sunday 27th March 2016

Late news: I have an earlier **Small White** record than the one listed. Saw one flying weakly on March 22nd by a garden near Fulham Broadway, London SW6. My first butterfly of the year + the first time my first hasn't been one of the hibernating species. I did see another Small White on the 25th at the London Wetland Centre (+ 3 other species) but these are in the Surrey sector. - Neil Anderson

Friday 25th March 2016

2 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Comma at Watton-at-Stone rail station. 1 Brimstone in my Welwyn Garden City garden. - Aaron Clements-Partridge

Finally spring arrives some sightings, and our first butterflies of the year. Friday 25th March - Wareside 6 Brimstones, 3 Comma, 1 Peacock and 3 small tortoiseshell - Phil and Oliver MacMurdie

My garden, Letchworth Garden City, at least 5 sightings of Brimstone (male) and **1 Small White**

(male) - Roger Millard

Today in Bengeo: Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock, Brimstone and 2 Comma - Simon Knott

A pristine Brimstone and a small tortoiseshell in my Stocking Pelham garden today (25th) enjoying the sun - Andy Brown

Visited Coppetts Wood in Barnet late afternoon today and saw one Small Tortoiseshell and one Comma. I later watched them duelling high into the air. My first butterflies of the year. Picture of the Comma at: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/64663114@N03/26031080095/in/dateposted-public/>
Miles Attenborough

A Comma sunning itself on a table in my Hatfield garden today. Glorious weather at last! John Moss

The following seen at Hatfield Aerodrome (Former Hatfield Aerodrome) 25-3-16: 2 x Comma, 1 x Peacock - David Wheatcroft

Butterflies I have seen today 25/03/16: 8 small tortoiseshell - Walsworth Common, Hitchin TL196302, 1 male Brimstone - Ransoms Recreation Ground, Hitchin TL18953009, 1 male Brimstone - Church of Our Lady Immaculate lawn, Nightingale Road, Hitchin TL18712977, in sunshine. - David Inward

In Morven Park, Potters Bar today we saw 2 Brimstones and a Peacock, and then back home in our South Mimms garden a Small Tortoiseshell - Terry Wood

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Similar sunny weather to Tuesday. My first Small Tortoiseshell of the year on the footpath from Pevensey Open Space where I often see them. 3 Peacocks, a Comma and a male Brimstone on the Marshalling Yards, the rest of my usual walk being without butterflies. - Pete Gore

Lovely sunny day today for a lunchtime walk around Bridgewater Fields, Ruislip Gardens and saw 2 Small Tortoiseshells on the bankside short vegetation alongside the Yeading Brook. (TQ 104 859). Then onto Ickenham Marsh Fields and saw another Small Tortoiseshell by a small pond (TQ 089 859), then another by the path along hedgerow by railway line (TQ 090 861) and finally 3 Commas, 2 in a clearing in the Blackthorn thicket towards Ruislip Gardens and 1 on the edge of the thicket. (TQ 09 85) - Paul Busby

Tuesday 22nd March 2016

First sighting this year of any butterfly. **Holly blue.** Alma Cut, St Albans - Alison Hill

The following seen at Ellenbrook Fields (Former Hatfield Aerodrome) - 22nd March 2016 2 x Brimstone (Male) - My First First Butterflies of the season) - David Wheatcroft

My first sighting of the year: a brimstone in the sunshine at Bayfordbury - Ian Flack

In garden N.W. Bishop's Stortford. 2x Brimstones (M), 1x Peacock, 1x Small Tortoiseshell, 1x Comma - Jim Fish

On Tuesday saw first butterfly of year - a Small Tortoiseshell in my South Mimms garden - Terry Wood

I saw my first Brimstone of the year today. It was along the River Lea near the Glaxo bridge TL347142. - Ian Edwards

1st Little Hadham Brimstone this morning. Male at Chapel Lane, Little Hadham - Jono Forgham

A lovely spring day on Harpenden Common produced two Small Tortoiseshell and a rather gorgeous Comma, the latter taking the rays on a bramble bank. My butterfly year has started! - David Hunt

A Brimstone appeared in my Hemel garden this morning. This was the first butterfly I have seen

flying this year - Roger Prue

I saw a Brimstone in flight by Vincent Van Hire, Works Road/Green Lane, Letchworth, SG6 1HP - Jill Sawyer

My first sighting of the year today, a very beautiful female Brimstone enjoying the morning sun in my St Albans garden. - Mandy Floyd

Looks like March 22nd is the new March 12th. A Comma and Small Tortoiseshell in Bengoe, Small Tortoiseshell at Hertford castle and Comma, Small Tortoiseshell and Brimstone on the Warren, Hartham Common, Hertford. Some video on our Facebook page - Andrew Wood

Hurrah! My first butterfly day of the year. Brimstone and Peacock between 11 and 1145 am this morning in Whomerley Wood. This afternoon, at least 3 Small Tortoiseshells 2 of which paired up and one settling very briefly on a primrose in my back garden. Yet one Small Tortoiseshell is still hibernating above dustbin cupboard. - Peter Clarke

A few butterflies to report for Tuesday 22nd March 2016 - 3 Small Tortoiseshell at Rectory Farm, Enfield (TQ 310987) between 11:17 - 11:22 hrs, including two in close proximity to one another. Also 1 Comma along bridle path at Whitewebbs Wood at 12:39 hrs. Both new species for the year for me! - Robert Callf

Lovely sunny day today. At lunchtime, our Friends of Yeading Brook observed a Small Tortoiseshell, a male Brimstone and surprisingly a Small White at the Queens Walk Recreational area by the Yeading Brook (TQ 113 865). Then an hours stroll along the Yeading Brook and saw 3 male Brimstones (2 along the brook and one along a hedgerow) plus an unidentified dark butterfly in Roxbourne Park (TQ 122 872) and a further 3 male Brimstones in Roxbourne Rough Nature Reserve and surrounding residential street (TQ 119 875). - Paul Busby

Hounslow Heath/Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. After a walk with no sun and no butterflies yesterday, today was much better with 2 2016 firsts for me: Peacock: 4 Comma: 2 and Brimstone (male): 1 - Pete Gore

Opened my account for the year with two each of Brimstone, Peacock and Small Tortoiseshell plus a single Comma in Park Wood, Ruislip - Dick Middleton

1 Small Tortoiseshell, Harrow Cemetery - Shailesh Patel

Two male brimstones passed each other over my Thorley Park Garden this morning, one heading east and the other going westward. One p.m, two small tortoiseshells at Thornbera Road allotments, one on my plot and the other on a neighbour's and 20 minutes later spotted a peacock there. My first butterfly sightings for this year - Len Crouch

Butterflies I have seen today 22/03/16: 1 small tortoiseshell and 1 unidentified - field opposite Harwood Park Crematorium, near Stevenage TL26042081, in sunshine. - David Inward

Monday 21st March 2016

My first butterfly of the year: a **Peacock** in Sherrardspark Wood, just above "Muddy Bottom": TL232144 - Charlotte Fox

Friday 18th March 2016

A work colleague showed me a photo today of a **Comma** photographed in Ware town centre on Monday 14th March 2016 - news via Liz Goodyear

Thursday 17th March 2016

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane. A rather reduced Marshalling Yards site now but still enough to provide my first identified sighting of the year, a female Brimstone. - Pete Gore

Small Tortoiseshell in my Letchworth Garden City Garden. The first butterfly I've seen this year. - Jill Sawyer

1 Small Tortoiseshell seen at Harrow Cemetery - Shailesh Patel

My first sighting this year - a Brimstone flying across our Ruislip garden today (17th March) - Philip Toms

One male Brimstone in my Harringay garden this morning - Diane Andrews

My first butterfly of the year this afternoon. A rather intellectual Small Tortoiseshell choosing a discarded newspaper to bask on. Sunny, 11C on the ground which was extremely muddy (thank goodness for wellies). Location is approx TQ195877, in the field immediately North of the car park, close to the border with Fryent Way. This has always been a good Tortoiseshell hotspot for me - - Mike Rubin (*photos on the branch facebook page*)

Monday 14th March 2016

Thanks to Nick Bowles' report of yesterday, and living in Tring, I visited the same place in Tring around 14.30, in bright sunshine and with a cold breeze (SP917116) and saw 4 Small Tortoiseshells and managed to photograph one. My first butterflies of the year - John Scafe

Brimstone butterfly seen briefly flying through my Ware garden at 12:45. Nothing seen in the afternoon - Liz Goodyear

Sunday 13th March 2016

No butterflies seen at Bedfont today, but I saw two male **Brimstones** on my local patch at Stanwell Moor at lunchtime. My first sightings of the year. - Dave Miller

There were **5 Small Tortoiseshell** around the football pitch behind my house in Tring this lunchtime and there were 2 there on Friday 11th. Stiff and chilly breeze probably explains the lack of Brimstone (to date). No doubt some parts of Tring were less exposed to the wind and had more species. - Nick Bowles

I had a **Small Tortoiseshell** in my Letchworth garden across lunchtime today (Sunday 13th), nectaring and sunning itself - my first of the year. - Ian Small

One **Red Admiral** in Ware Park Sunday 13th March - Andrew Wood

I saw a rather pristine **Small Tortoiseshell** sunning itself by a footpath at about 2.00pm today (13 March) near Jockey End (TL 0415 1333). - Paul Cross

It certainly is a **Brimstone** day, just seen my first one this year in my Harpenden garden, a male, also the first butterfly I've seen this year. Robin Pearson

My first **Brimstone** of the year (in fact my first butterfly of the year) through my Ware garden at about 12:45. I was just dealing with my washing but watching the nearby hedgeline for Brimstones and next thing one flies right past me!!! Came back into the garden a few times, checked out the celandines and inspected my neighbour's ivy but didn't see it again after about 14:00 - Liz Goodyear

Friday 11th March 2016

Seen my first moth of the year on Friday 11th March 2016 - an Early Grey on wall near outside light at Dalrymple Close, Southgate, N14, a new species for me! - Robert Callf

I saw a male **brimstone** flying around this morning at Aldbury Nowers in the southern coppice area. - Paul Thrush

Friday 4th March 2016

Seen my first butterfly of the year today Friday 4th March 2016 - Red Admiral at Gough Park, Forty Hill, Enfield (TQ 331 985) at 11:57 hrs. - Robert Callf

February 2016

Tuesday 23rd February 2016

I saw a **Red Admiral** in St James's Park on **16th February** - Frank Nugent

Monday 15th February 2016

I saw a rather woozy and cold-looking **Peacock** on Monday lunchtime in Little Bushey, quite a surprise - Nathan Gibson

Sunday 7th February 2016

A **Red Admiral** almost landed on me behind the cafe opposite The Holme in The Regent's Park at about 10:00 on Sunday 7th February 2016. - Frank Nugent

Thursday 4th February 2016

Pleased to see a smart male **Brimstone** float into our Hatfield garden today about 1.30 pm today. Did a brief circuit and vanished. Warm sunshine, temp 13C. This is my earliest ever sighting - John Moss

January 2016

Saturday 30th January 2016

I saw a flying **Small Tortoiseshell** at Mardley Heath today (TL245183). - Joe Gray (Herts County Bug Recorder)

Monday 25th January 2016

Very large **Red Admiral** in back garden lunch time today 25 1 2016. Edgware also a Fairly Large Bee at the same time. Lots of small moths been around last and this week. Very strange but interesting - John Rockett (reported via our FB page)

Wednesday 20th January 2016

On a walk today with the Chiltern Society, coming across Batchwood Golf Course on the north side of St Albans shortly after 12:00 midday a butterfly flew over. I'm pretty sure it was a red admiral, but it could possibly have been a peacock. Last night was the coldest our Weather Station has measured this winter, at -4.3°C! - Chris Newman

Saturday 17th January 2016

A Peacock was flying in my neighbour's house (Enfield Lock) last night - she put a photo on Facebook which is how I know. - Martin Shepherd

Monday 4th January 2016

While checking around the lights at work (BFI National Archive, Berkhamsted) looking for moths today (Monday 4th January 2016) I found a resting **Speckled Wood**. On taking it indoors it perked up and became lively. Another very worrying unseasonal record! Ian Gamble

