

Sightings 2013

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December 2013

Monday 30th December 2013

Saw a large butterfly near the sports field at Trent Park on Saturday 28th December 2013 at 13:20 hrs - only saw it briefly possibly a Red Admiral or Peacock. - Robert Callf

Wednesday 25th December 2013

I attended midnight mass on 24th / 25th Dec at Pinner Parish Church - my wife is a priest and was presiding at the service. I couldn't help but notice a butterfly that was flying around the church for the latter part of the service (i.e. after midnight). I managed to find it settled after proceedings were over and it was a Small Tortoiseshell. I also had an unidentified butterfly sp at Hilfield Park Reservoir on Sunday 22nd Dec. It was Peacock / Small Tortoiseshell / Red Admiral size, but silhouetted against the sky and, even with binoculars, I couldn't see any details. Tony Blake

Wednesday 11th December 2013

Spotted yesterday (10th December 2013) in Bisham Gardens, Highgate - an active **peacock**. The temperature was around 6 degrees C. I presume the butterfly had been disturbed in its roost. It was flying well, and I trust it found a suitable new perch. - Simon Bullivant

Monday 9 December: a **peacock** was seen, wings closed, on a sunny path alongside Fish Wood (approx 300m SE of the Codicote Road by Stocking Springs Wood). Ian Flack

November 2013

Tuesday 19th November 2013

A couple of recent sightings which I thought might be worth a report. 7th Nov - A decidedly cold looking Comma trying to find shelter in my hedge. I caught this with no trouble and put it in my shed, where it will hopefully survive the winter. 19th Nov - A Tortoiseshell sunning itself on the back wall of my house in Hitchin. - Dick Hawker

Friday 15 November: saw a comma sunning itself on the southern edge of Pismire Spring at Heartwood Forest - Ian Flack

Sunday 17th November 2013

Came across 1 x peacock in back room of Bushey house today and transferred it to shed - David Gower

Ware, a Peacock flying around outside the house this morning in cloudy conditions. Presume been disturbed from hibernation - Liz Goodyear

Robin White reported a Red Admiral Friday afternoon 15th November 2013 on the SW edge of Rough Lot, Trent Park. - Robert Callf

Tuesday 14th November 2013

Saw a large dark butterfly which flew through the trees on the SW edge of Rough Lot, Trent Park before 14:00 hrs this afternoon Tuesday 12th November 2013 - possibly a Peacock, but I could not be sure. - Robert Callf

Sunday 10th November 2013

Two more Red Admirals seen at Stanwell Moor on Sunday 10th November in exactly the same spot as the last one a week ago. Not the same insects either! - Dave Miller

A red admiral flew into a garden in Kings Langley. It fluttered against the window and over the bushes in the late morning sun - Elizabeth Debenham

Ware garden, 1 Red Admiral flew overhead - Liz Goodyear

Monday 4th November 2013

Saw a Red Admiral again today Monday 4th November 2013 at Trent Park nectaring on ivy at the top of Snakes Lane near the Staff Office, 13:12 hrs. - Robert Callf

Sunday 3rd November 2013

Seems I spoke too soon: another Red Admiral seen today in exactly the same spot as yesterday - but definitely a different individual. - Dave Miller

Two Red Admirals to report today Sunday 3rd November 2013 - one along Leeing Beech Gutter near 'Three-bridges' at Trent Park 10:28 hrs and another seen at Library Green, Church Street, Enfield Town 11:36 hrs. - Robert Callf

Saturday 2nd November 2013

Around lunchtime today (2nd), I took advantage of a burst of warm sunshine to look around my local patch at Stanwell Moor for the first time in ages. Very few flowers of any type are left, just the last of the ivy, which was attracting good numbers of bees. I had pretty well given up on seeing a butterfly, but right at the completion of my loop a Red Admiral buzzed me at high speed. I watched it set off after a large bumble bee before it curved back round again to settle ahead of me on the grass.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=41428&mode=view>

Maybe the last of the year - who knows? Dave Miller

October 2013

Thursday 31st October 2013

On 29th there were both Red Admiral and Brimstone flying in a cold wind in Tring and then another Red Ad (far more worn) on 30th (also Tring) in far warmer conditions, but I didn't spend so long outside looking on Wednesday - Nick Bowles

Robin White saw what was presumably the same Clouded Yellow as the other day at Vicarage Farm yesterday 30th October 2013 along Leeing Beech Gutter N of Williams Wood. He also saw a White sp (Small or Green-veined) in Trent Park at the 'Old Golf Course' - Robert Callf

Wednesday 30th October 2013

Unidentified White species (possibly Large White) fluttering round Oaks in bright sunshine outside houses opposite Northaw Great Wood at midday - John Moss

One Red Admiral in our Hayes garden today feeding on late flowering Buddleia 'Sungold' - Helen George

At least one Red Admiral again in my Ware garden, couldn't confirm that the second butterfly was the same species though - Liz Goodyear

Tuesday 29th October 2013

Borehamwood, Small Copper seen in flight close by around flowering Mahonia shrub - recorded once yesterday and again today in same place. interacting with feeding flies and Bee species - Jim Terry

In the calm before the storm came across 1 x red admiral on cosmos in Bushey garden on Sunday -David Gower

News for Saturday 26th October 2013 - Robin White saw the following: 1 Clouded Yellow in field N of Williams Wood at Vicarage Farm, also Small White and Comma at Vicarage Farm and 1 Red Admiral edge of Icehouse Wood at Trent Park. Today Tuesday 29th October 2013 - 1 White sp edge of Vault Hill Wood (only seen in flight at a distance); 1 female Brimstone settled in grass between Ride Wood and Lower Lake, Trent Park, 13:20 hrs (our latest record ever here!); 1 Peacock at Water Garden, Trent Park, 13:35 hrs - Robert Callf & Robin White.

Ware garden, two Red Admirals this afternoon nectaring on my Sweet Williams - Liz Goodyear

Sunday 27th October 2013

Plastic 2 - Real Flowers 0. Had two Red Admirals on my Meripac Butterfly Nectar dispenser this morning. They ignored the flowering Colletia Armata from which it hangs possibly to avoid tearing their wings on the sharp spines - Malcolm Newland

Ware garden, a Red Admiral spent most of the morning nectaring on a Sweet William plant - Liz Goodyear

Saturday 26th October 2013

Red admiral and small tortoiseshell still flying in my garden on 23rd October Central Hitchin - Stuart Pittman

A lovely male (I think - very yellow anyway) brimstone in my garden in Letchworth today fluttering around the broom bush - Jill Sawyer

Thursday 24th October 2013

Saw a Peacock and Comma in the Hemel Hempstead garden today, not on flowers, but enjoying the sunshine on a south facing brick wall - Malcolm Newland

A Comma fluttering round Ivy flowers in sunshine in my Hatfield garden today - John Moss

A thoroughly enjoyable walk in warm, bright sunshine with little breeze today. A male Brimstone flew across my path on Hounslow Heath and although that was the only butterfly I saw on the Heath a Speckled Wood on the footbridge across the stream followed by another Speckled Wood, 4 Small Coppers and a Small White on the Marshalling Yards made the walk well worthwhile. Three of the Small Coppers were close together in sparse vegetation and I watched one flitting and walking seeking Sorrel leaves although I couldn't convince myself she actually managed to deposit any eggs whilst I was there. Only the Small White was nectaring (on Hawkbit). - Pete Gore

In bright, warm sunshine today there were 2 male Brimstones and 2 Small Whites flying around the Coldharbour allotments in Harpenden. Back home in north Harpenden a Peacock was energetically flying around the rooftops - Alan Jackson

Male clouded yellow, roosting on a swede plant on my allotment in Therfield. It was in pristine condition, and was photographed on the 9th October. - Erwin Phillips

An outstanding number of butterflies seen today Thursday 24th October 2013 at Trent Park: 4 Peacock (3 different individuals in set-aside field near Triangular Wood, 12:15, 12:18 and 12:27 hrs and another one near Water Garden 13:30 hrs); 2 Red Admiral nectaring on Michaelmas Daisies set-aside field near Triangular Wood, 12:23 and 12:25 hrs; 3 Comma (1 nectaring on Michaelmas Daisies near Triangular Wood, 12:27, 1 nectaring on Ivy top of Snakes Lane near Ranger's Office, 13:00 hrs and another near Water Garden, 13:38 hrs); 2 different Speckled Wood near Triangular Wood, 12:30 and 12:33 hrs; 1 female Brimstone top of Snakes Lane near Ranger's Office, 13:05 hrs; 2 different Small Copper - one quite fresh and the other quite faded at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park, 13:50 and 13:52 hrs - so fourteen individuals of six species! - Robert Callf

There is a Painted lady on Ivy in my Harpenden garden this afternoon, possibly one of the five I released two weeks ago.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/99486228@N06/10458302483/>

Robin Pearson

Wednesday 23rd October 2013

A Red Admiral and a female Brimstone on SW edge of Watery Grove this afternoon - Peter Clarke

Tuesday 22nd October 2013

On Sunday 20th - a rather miserable looking speckled wood on Hertford Heath -(Roundings) - Andy Brown

Thursday 17th October 2013

One Peacock at Fir and Pond Woods Thursday 17th October - Andrew Wood

A few butterflies to report today Thursday 17th October 2013 - 1 Speckled Wood near Obelisk, Trent Park, 10:45 hrs, 2 Small White (1 edge of Icehouse Wood, Trent Park, 11:45 hrs, 1 Vicarage Farm, 12:00 hrs). Robin reported two Comma together at Vicarage Farm - Robert Callf & Robin White.

One Red Admiral in our Pinner garden this-afternoon - the first this year, here. (No sign yet of third-generation Holly Blues that we have seen here in recent years - as late as 19th Nov in 2011. On full alert!) Graham Elcombe

Another pleasant autumn walk today across Hounslow Heath to the Marshalling Yards and back. As has become my recent habit I paused at a patch of Asters on the Heath and today saw a Red Admiral. On Tuesday 15th the same flowers attracted a Small Copper and a surprisingly colourful (in flight) female Meadow Brown. On Saturday 12th a Comma was nectaring. On the Marshalling Yards themselves, 1 Speckled Wood (1 on Tuesday too)) and three Small Coppers, one of these on Yarrow, surprisingly resilient as a strong breeze caused its wings to blow. Today was the first butterfly-friendly day when I saw no Whites (1 on each of the earlier days at too great a distance to attempt to identify). - Peter Gore

Tuesday 15th October 2013

One Small Copper at Parkside Farm, Enfield on Res banking today Tuesday 15th October 2013 at 10:42 hrs - Robert Callf & Robin White.

Saturday 12th October 2013

St Albans, Folly Lane - Newly emerged Large White in a brief sunny spell on my allotment this morning. At lunchtime I returned to Nomansland Common. The Small Coppers were active despite a temperature of 13 degrees and intermittent sun. The main activities were sunbathing and nectaring, with Ragwort and Ling the two favourite nectar sources, though scabious, creeping thistle, antirrhinum, yarrow and cats ear were also being used. Retracing my route round the north eastern area of the site the number of sightings was 20 per cent down from last week at 24. Continuing round the western heath area I added another 24, so 48 today in total in one hour, with the sun out for a little less than half that time. Cool weather is a good time to study the butterflies closely as they are quite docile and easily come to hand - Malcolm Hull

Two Small Copper (looking very fresh) this afternoon Saturday 12th October 2013 at 14:30 hrs at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park on thistle head - Robert Callf & Robin White.

Thursday 10th October 2013

I was surprised to see a Red Admiral in my (Harpenden) garden at 10 o'clock this morning, in chilly, breezy conditions - Robin Pearson

Wednesday 9th October 2013

Two more walks, mostly in cloudy conditions, to Hounslow Heath and the Marshalling Yards as usual. Today one Small White on the way to the Heath followed by a Small Copper at rest, wings open and conspicuous near Asters on the Heath, and then a Peacock flying strongly apparently looking for shelter. Yesterday 2 Small Whites and a Painted Lady, all on the Marshalling Yards, the

latter close to a late blooming Buddleia where I saw one on Sunday. - Pete Gore

One Speckled Wood today Wednesday 9th October 2013 at Park Farm, Enfield at 11:15 hrs - Robert Callf & Robin White

I was working at Alpine Meadow yesterday, there were at least 7 commas together on the brambles surrounding the meadow and a few speckled woods - Paul Thrush

Sunday 6th October one very small speckled wood and one peacock in a clearing in a wooded area of Norton Common, Letchworth Garden City. Monday 7th October five large whites seen in a 10 minute walk down Hawthorn Hill and Longmead in Letchworth Garden City - Jill Sawyer Phypers

Tuesday 8th October 2013

1 x peacock in Bushey house today - David Gower

One Small Copper at Oakwood Park this morning Tuesday 8th October 2013 at 10:45 hrs. - Robert Callf

There was a Red Admiral with the Comma at South Lodge Farm, Enfield yesterday Monday 7th October 2013 nectaring on Michaelmas Daisies at 13:55 hrs - Robert Callf & Robin White

Monday 7th October 2013

Yesterday Sunday 6th October 2013 - 1 Small Tortoiseshell, nectaring on Michaelmas Daisies, set-aside field near Triangular Wood, Trent Park, 12:06 hrs; 1 Small Copper, set-aside field near Triangular Wood, 12:09 hrs; 3 Comma, at Trent Park (2 set-aside field near Triangular Wood, 12:09 and 12:17 hrs, 1 Sect 8, 12:47 hrs); 1 Peacock, Sect 4, Trent Park, 12:30 hrs; 5 Speckled Wood at Trent Park (3 near Triangular Wood, 12:17 hrs, 1 Sect 4, 12:31 hrs, 1 Sect 8, 13:05 hrs); 1 Small White, Sect 8, 13:01 hrs. Today Monday 7th October 2013 - 3 Comma (2 Trent Park, 1 by Lower Lake, 13:20 hrs and 1 Icehouse Wood, 13:30 hrs, 1 nectaring on Michaelmas Daisies at South Lodge Farm, 13:55 hrs); 1 Small White, settled at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 14:06 hrs. - Robert Callf

In the afternoon sunshine, I saw 2 Speckled Woods and a Small Copper at the south end of Fairlands Valley Park (part of my transect) - Peter Clarke

Amwell reserve - Sunday morning 5 commas and 2 red admirals nectaring on the Ivy - Steve Kiln

Sunday 6th October 2013

A walk around Woodhall Park, Sacombe Park and surrounding areas north of Hertford today produced 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 2 Peacocks, 1 Brimstone, 4 Commas, 5 Speckled Woods and 7 Small Whites. Andrew Wood

Nomansland Common - On a fleeting visit at lunchtime I saw 30 Small Coppers and 1 Peacock. The Meadow by the cricket pitch has been mown and the coppers are located on the sorrell/heather area north of Ferrers Lane and along the unmown banks of the ditches along the Lane itself where a few nectar sources remain. I only stayed for 15mins, so only saw a quarter of the site, I expect total numbers of Small Coppers will be significantly higher - Malcolm Hull

Over the weekend in and around my garden Small White, Comma, and a very fresh looking male Brimstone - Kevin Taylor

You may be interested in the following Butterflies I saw as I wandered round Nicholls Fm, Redbourn - 9 Peacock of which 5 were sheltering in a shed but the others were flying about in the orchard. - 1 Small Copper feeding on wild daisy - numerous small whites feeding on daisies and thistles in overgrown paddocks. As an aside, I have seen far fewer Red Admirals this year than is usually the case. However, Peacocks and Small Tortshells have been present in much larger numbers than usual. Peter Tallantire

Hemel Hempstead, today in the garden making the most of the sunshine were four Red Admirals, the most that I have seen together this year, two Commas, two Peacocks a Small White and both a male and female Brimstone. Nectar sources used were escallonia, buddleia, rudbeckia, Michaelmas daisy, yellow single dahlia, verbena bonariensis, and a "Meripac Butterfly Nectar" dispenser in the

form of a large yellow plastic flower which attracted a Comma! Malcolm Newland

Delighted to find a lovely new Comma mooching in my garden this afternoon, followed by a fast-flying Peacock on a mission & a rather aimless Small White. I also visited the Furze/Field/Warren management plan display At Colney Heath, presented by the Parish Clerk & CMS. The model appears to be Bricket Wood Common. DEFRA funding is available, so the provisional plan is to remove hawthorn & old gorse this winter, followed by fence installation next spring & light grazing by about 8 cattle for about 12 weeks from August. This should return the site to good quality heathy grassland in a couple of seasons, although I'm a bit twitchy about the initial impact on wildlife. Needless to say I saw no butterflies today, despite the warm sunny morning - John Moss

After a sunny start to the day it was perhaps inevitable that clouds would appear as soon as I stepped outside but despite that and the Butterfly-less Hounslow Heath it caused the Marshalling Yards made up for it a little: Painted Lady 1 Small Tortoiseshell 1 Small White 8 Small Copper 4 Comma 1 Red Admiral 1 - Pete Gore

Saturday 5th October 2013

Counted six Small Coppers on Michaelmas Daisies at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park yesterday afternoon Friday 4th October 2013 at 16:10 hrs. Also Robin White saw a Red Admiral at Vicarage Farm, Enfield yesterday Friday 4th October 2013. Today we saw a Speckled Wood at South Lodge Farm, Enfield and few Small Whites in the area - Robert Callf, Pete Lowman & Robin White.

Hemel Hempstead, the hour or so of warm sunshine produced two Red Admirals, a Peacock, Small White and a Comma which nectared on Escallonia, Buddlia and Verbena Bonariensis. The Comma continued to feed on Escallonia long after the sun had gone in - Malcolm Newland

Thursday 3rd October 2013

Hemel Hempstead, had a Hummingbird Hawk Moth on Buddleia Beijing this morning before the clouds rolled in, and after it had rained a Red Admiral visited Escallonia Bifida - Malcolm Newland

Wednesday 2nd October 2013

Unexpected sunshine at lunchtime was enough to encourage me to walk my usual route across Hounslow Heath to the Marshalling Yards. A thoroughly enjoyable autumn walk mostly in sun and relatively still, humid conditions. Butterflies: Comma 1 Small Heath 1 Speckled Wood 2 Small White 11 Small Copper 1 Common Blue 1 (male, fresh - Pete Gore

September 2013

Monday 30th September 2013

Three Clouded Yellows active with a Small Copper this morning at Bunkers Lane. - Clive Burrows

I had two Red Admirals nectaring on my Escallonia Bifida. A far cry from last year but better than nothing! - Malcolm Newland

One Small Copper nectaring on Michaelmas Daisies at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park, 12:06 hrs. Also several Speckled Wood still around (2 Park Farm, 1 Vicarage Farm) - Robert Callf & Robin White.

At Norton Green this afternoon, I saw 4 Commas, 5 Speckled Woods and a male Brimstone. - Peter Clarke

Tempted by warm sunshine to autumn flowers in my Hatfield garden 1 bright Comma, 1 fading Small Tort & 1 very worn Small White. Still no Red Admirals on the ivy flowers though. We usually have them right into October. - John Moss

I left work at half past four with just enough time to pop into Bedfont Lakes Country Park. The low sun had come out and despite a breeze it was quite warm. I saw three butterflies: a male Green-veined White that was impossible to approach, a female Meadow Brown nectaring on a scabious (one of the few flowers left), and [a very new male Common Blue](#). I suspect this was a third brood individual; the second brood was out about nine weeks ago now and there would have been enough time for the cycle to go round again. - Dave Miller

Sunday 29th September

St Albans - Small Tortoiseshell disturbed from its hiding place in my apple crate prior to today's harvest. Carefully placed it into my outhouse where there are now 30+ Small Tortoiseshells hibernating. Small Whites are still out in force on my allotment. A Red Admiral was eyeing up the rotting windfall apples and a fresh Comma flew up from the wild hop. Nearby a Peacock was sunning itself on the ground. This afternoon at Bricket Wood Common numbers of Speckled Wood (7), were well down from last week. However Commas are on the increase with 5 recorded, including one nectaring on ivy and another feeding on a Blackberry fruit. Interesting to note that Commas were the most common butterfly in April at the start of the season and also doing well right at the end - Malcolm Hull

Just 1 x speckled wood at Merryhill Fields this morning - David Gower

11 species. at Rickneys 2 common blue and a brown argus. At Waterford Heath clouded yellow, red admiral, peacock, comma, small copper, speckled woods and the whites. - Steve Kiln

Saturday 28th September

Saw a Comma at Vault Hill Wood, Enfield Chase this morning. - Robert Callf.

Did my transect of The Warren (locally known as Furzefield) today. Not much about - 2 Small Heath in hazy sunshine, temp 19C. However very pleased to find a notice at the entrance advertising a meeting on Sun 6 Oct to explain new plans to introduce "light summer grazing" with cattle. There has been no real management for some years & the site is rapidly scrubbing over so grazing could do wonders. If anybody is interested the meeting is 10.00-12.30 on the Common at Colney Heath, with refreshments & a guided tour of Furzefield. There was an attempt by CMS some years ago to introduce grazing, which collapsed under local opposition. Let's hope the new plan succeeds. - John Moss

1 x comma on buddleia in Bushey garden this morning - David Gower

12 Small whites, 1 large White and 2 Commas at Wood End near Benington. 1 Clouded yellow on conservation strip east of Wood End.- Andrew Wood

Friday 27th September 2013

[Here is a pic of a Small Copper](#) on Nomansland Common. - Robin Pearson

1 Peacock near Queen Hoo, Tewin today, 1 Red Admiral and 2 commas at Tewin Orchard. 1 Small Copper at Waterford Heath South Pit. 1 Red Admiral near Bramfield and 1 Green-veined White near Sele Broom Wood west of Sele Farm, Hertford. Small numbers of Speckled Wood and Small White generally around the Bramfield and Tewin areas. - Andrew Wood

Thursday 26th September 2013

One red admiral was sunning itself on a wall at 4.50pm in Kings Langley - Elizabeth Debenham

Another Clouded Yellow sighting today at lunchtime. This was at Bunkers Lane, where I have recorded it periodically ever since the explosion year of 1984. This was a single fresh specimen, wondering slowly along the clover heads. - Clive Burrows

Small white and a large white, again interested in the buddleia and a speckled wood on Norton Common (also Letchworth) on Thursday 26th. - Jill Sawyer Phipers

1 Small Copper at Hog Hill Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 15:25 hrs and 1 Speckled Wood at Park Farm, Enfield at 16:05 hrs. - Robert Callf.

Wednesday 25th September 2013

I saw a small tortoiseshell on the last of the buddleia in my garden in Letchworth Garden City. - Jill Sawyer Phipers

On Nomansland Common between 4-4:30 pm I counted 19 Small Coppers nectaring on the few remaining ragwort flowers, mostly near the cricket club. No other butterflies seen. - Robin Pearson

1 probable Painted Lady seen briefly in Sidhil's Field at Vicarage Farm, 09:43 hrs, 2 Small Copper at Trent Park (one near Ride Wood, 11:15 hrs and another at 'Old Golf Course', 11:25 hrs), 1 Common Blue at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park, 11:37 hrs.- Robert Callf.

Hounslow Heath - Marshalling Yards :Not as good as yesterday - too cloudy: Small White 17 Speckled Wood 2 Common Blue 2 Small Copper 1. - Pete Gore

Tuesday 24th September 2013

A Brimstone and Clouded Yellow seen on Tuesday will at work in gardens at Watford - Clive Burrows

Hounslow Heath - Marshalling Yards: Sunny throughout and virtually no breeze. Small White 21 Small Heath 1 Comma 2 Speckled Wood 2 Brimstone 1 Common Blue 1 Brown Argus 1. Despite being rather battered and faded the Argus was moving amongst low -growing isolated plants and eventually appeared to lay on an Erodium plant. -Pete Gore

Report from Stanwell Moor, 24th September: Nothing ventured... Though it was five o'clock, the sun still shone after I finished work, so I decided a walk round part of my local patch couldn't hurt. I hoped there might be the odd Speckled Wood or Red Admiral, but the shadows were right down over the ivy, the buddleia and the pathside verges and shrubs, and aside from two or three whites still flying at high level, I saw nothing. Nothing, that is, until I walked randomly across the middle of the last piece of meadow just before getting back home. This at least was fully lit by the lowering sun. Suddenly, right in front of me near the ground I saw a Clouded Yellow. It proved to be a brand spanking new male, which I was then able to admire from both sides at close range: absolutely beautiful in the strong golden light which enhanced its colour noticeably. On 4th August I saw my first Clouded Yellow of the year not far from this spot - a female which I suspected was laying eggs (though I couldn't find any in a brief search afterwards). Could this pristine male butterfly be the offspring of that female?

[See Picture here](#)

[See Picture here](#)

- Dave Miller

Widford meadow by ash several whites and Speckled Woods but also a Jersey Tiger moth - Steve Kiln

I was working up at Aldbury today, still quite a few butterflies about. Highlight was a clouded yellow, the first I've seen on the reserve. Other species about today were single brown argus, common blue -2, small copper - 2, small heath, speckled wood, small white, meadow brown, brimstone - 5+, red admiral and comma - 5+ - Paul Thrush

About noon in brilliant sunshine across several gardens in Kings Langley, there was a rapid flying sulphur yellow butterfly, probably a clouded yellow as it seemed smaller and brighter than a brimstone and there were several in Barnes lane a few weeks ago - Elizabeth Debenham

A few sightings to report today 24th September 2013 - 1 Red Admiral settled along Jubilee Path/London Loop at Park Farm, Enfield at 12:40 hrs, 3 Speckled Wood along Jubilee Path/London Loop at Park Farm, Enfield, 12:43 - 12:50 hrs, 1 Small Copper nectaring on Michaelmas Daisies at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park, 13:20 hrs. Also still a few Small Whites seen. - Robert Callf.

I saw 3 speckled woods and 2 commas at Danemead this afternoon. I also had a possible purple hairstreak, I shall look again tomorrow! - Jenny Sherwen

Friday 20th September 2013

Friday 20th September Hounslow Heath - Marshalling Yards: Sunny Meadow Brown 2 Comma 4 Speckled Wood 3 Small White 28 Small Copper 2 (1m,1f) Common Blue 2 Large White 3

I watched a particularly lovely female Small Copper perched with open wings on a Plantain seed-head amongst all the dead dull herbage.It was only when I spotted slight movement immediately

behind her and I moved a little that I realised she was engaged in much more important activity than mere sunbathing and had been masking from me the much smaller, duller male. I was surprised how different the two sexes in this species actually looked when seen close together like this. - Pete Gore

About 4pm, feeding on buddleia for about 30 minutes a Hummingbird Hawkmoth, Berkhamsted. The only other feeder was a single red admiral.- Chris Side

After waiting for more than a week for some decent sunshine, I visited Norton Green earlier today to find 20+ Speckled Woods, 5+ Small Whites, 2 Commas and a fresh female Meadow Brown (second brood?). For the record, the last time I saw a Silver-washed Fritillary here was on the 2nd Sept and Purple Hairstreak the 4th Sept- Peter Clarke

Today (20th) one bedraggled comma near Hawkins Wood (near Therfield village). Andy Brown

Popped into Merryhill Fields after work today and came across 1 x small white, 1 x speckled wood, 1 x small copper.- David Gower

I was at Stocker's Lake, Rickmansworth (TQ049939) today. On the south west side between 1.40PM and 2.20PM, I saw four speckled wood, a comma and a brimstone enjoying the sunshine and the blackberries. - Jill Sawyer

The sun shone today and at last it became quite warm. I found myself able to go out of the office for an hour and used the time to have a walk in Bedfont Lakes Country Park. On the first bit of wild ground I came across, I spotted a flash of orange, and soon tracked down a Small Heath, and then a second. There was a third very drab-looking butterfly with them, which turned out to be the most worn Small Copper I think I've ever seen. I wandered on a bit, and several whites appeared, none of which were close enough to identify for certain. A Meadow Brown erupted from the path and flew up into a tree, and then I glimpsed a flash of blue amongst the predominantly yellow flowers. This proved to be a very fresh-appearing male Common Blue. Whether this is a late emerging second brood individual or one from a new third brood, I couldn't say. I also found a very worn male of the same species, with barely a blue scale left. After a bit more walking, I turned around and headed back to the office. I encountered another two Meadow Browns and one more Small Heath away from where I'd seen the others earlier, and managed to spot a nectaring Green-veined White without disturbing it first. After such a spell without seeing anything much, it was good to find five, probably six or seven, different species still flying (in some cases, only just!). However, it was disappointing not to see a single Red Admiral on the masses of flowering ivy present, nor any Commas either. - Dave Miller

Thursday 19th September 2013

Approx. 25+ speckled wood butterflies in Balls Wood - disturbed while I was mowing.- Andy Brown

Oakhill Woods LNR East Barnet----2x fresh Large white-----3rd Generation??? 1x Holly blue-----
Hampden Square East Barnet---1x Red under-wing moth--rescued from the pavement---very large torpid specimen---I placed it on some Red valerian in a nearby garden Â Â -Kitt Jones

Wednesday 18th September 2013

Two or three speckled woods in Barnes Lane, Kings Langley. There were also some small whites. - Elizabeth Debenham

I'm still taking advantage of whatever sunshine there is to go for a walk across Hounslow Heath to the Marshalling Yards. Here are today's sightings: Green-Veined White:1 Small White:16 Gatekeeper:1 Comma:1 Small Copper:1 Speckled Wood:1 The Gatekeeper was a surprise. I first saw it in flight as a brightly coloured butterfly and when it landed, wings closed, wasn't expecting Gatekeeper at all but the eye spot was clearly visible and given the size of the butterfly I can't see any alternative to a rather late Gatekeeper. - Pete Gore

Sunday 15th September 2013

After a butterfly-less walk in cloudy conditions earlier in the week, on seeing sunshine this morning I decided to try again. I lost the sun for the last two thirds, along with the butterflies, and a strong

breeze throughout was no help, but the earlier sightings were still quite pleasing on a complete Hounslow Heath - Marshalling Yards walk: Speckled Wood 5 Small White 5 Small Copper 3 Green-Veined White 1 Comma 1 Meadow Brown 1 Common Blue 2 (1m,1f) - Pete Gore

Friday 13th September 2013

Yesterday afternoon along the River Colne at Tyttenhanger gravel pits I saw 6 Green Veined White and 2 Speckled Wood - Terry Wood

Wednesday 11th September 2013

At Tyttenhanger GPs yesterday had 7 Speckled Woods and a Angle Shades moth - Andy Steele

Robin White and myself saw a Small Copper at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park this morning Wednesday 11th September 2013 at 11:10 hrs. - Robert Callf

Tuesday 10th September 2013

In my Hatfield garden today 1 bright Comma, 1 GV White. Where are the Red Admirals? On Ellenbrook Meadows c11.30 hrs, 7+ Meadow Brown, 3+ Common Blue (M + F) - John Moss

Monday 9th September 2013

Seen today in my Little Hadham garden: 1 Humming-bird Hawk-moth feeding on buddleia for a few minutes at 12.05. I am now the very proud owner of 6 photos of buddleia flowers and no moth!! Weather: constant rain - Jono Forgham

Thursday 5th September 2013

I completed my usual Hounslow Heath - Marshalling Yards walk early today, partly to avoid the heat on a very still day. On Monday several fires were burning on the Heath when I was leaving. The fire brigade, in attendance, blamed children. I counted 8 separate fire sites on my walk alone, fortunately with fairly limited damage mostly to dry grass and thistles. Butterflies overall quite good: Large White 3 Small White 27 Meadow Brown 13 Small Heath 2 Speckled Wood 8 Common Blue 12 Small Copper 3 Clouded Yellow 4 Red Admiral 1 And Monday 2nd September: Meadow Brown 17 Small White 13 Large White 13 Common Blue 19 Speckled Wood 6 Clouded Yellow 1 Gatekeeper 2 Comma 1 - Pete Gore

Wednesday 4th September 2013

I left work at four and headed straight for Bedfont Lakes Country Park, a mere five minutes walk away, on what has been another really hot and sunny day. Everywhere was looking distinctly arid, and flowers for nectaring butterflies were few and far between now. I made for the path next to the railway, where some marjoram was still blooming and there were a sprinkling of scabious as well. Initially, everything I saw was in energetic flight, but towards five o'clock what butterflies there were started to settle and nectar. Meadow Browns sought out the scabious flowers, whereas Common Blues and the odd Brown Argus preferred the marjoram, or settled on birds-foot trefoil plants. Small Heaths were more in evidence than a fortnight ago, the only species seen for which this was true. I saw one nectaring, during which it repeatedly fidgeted and flicked its wings open and closed, affording the unusual view of its upperside. There were all three White butterflies around, and a bit of a kerfuffle amongst some of these resolved itself into a mating pair of Green-veined Whites being hassled by another male and a male Small White. The interlopers cleared off, leaving the couple resting on a bramble. The contrast in colour between the two was quite stark: the female was bright lemon-yellow underneath, the male plain white: both with grey veins. Finally, a couple of Clouded Yellows bowled by at speed and disappeared towards the sun and I lost track of them.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=39687&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=39685&mode=view>

Dave Miller

Just a couple of butterflies to report today Wednesday 4th September 2013 - 1 Clouded Yellow flew South at Parkside Farm, Enfield (TQ3098) at 14:43 hrs, East of the 10 km line which divides this site and 1 Small Heath at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, at 15:45 hrs. - Robert Callf

I saw a Painted Lady on a Buddleia in Blanche Lane, South Mimms this morning along with a Peacock, A Small Tortoiseshell and several Whites. - Terry Wood

When birdwatching on Tuesday 3 Sept at Croxley Common Moor I saw a Painted Lady & Small Heath - Geoff Lapworth

Tuesday 3rd September 2013

Walked my 'old' transect yesterday afternoon Monday 2nd September 2013 with Simon Pegg who is considering taking it on and we saw the following - 3 Common Blue (1 Sect 1, 2 Sect 8); 7 Small Heath, including two together; 2 female Meadow Brown and 3 Small Copper (2 Sect 5, 1 Sect 8). If only the cutting and baling of the grass was still carried out this would be a much better site! Today Tuesday 3rd September 2013 - 1 The Vestal at Rectory Farm, Enfield - the first that I have seen for many years of the pretty fragile looking moth; 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Rectory Farm, Enfield, 11:27 hrs. Still good numbers of White sp at this site. - Robert Callf

Sunday 1st September 2013

Nothing exciting to report during today's local walk. In Bushey garden 4 x large white, 5 x small white, 1 x speckled wood (first seen in garden this year). Onto Fishers Field = 3 x large white, 13 x speckled white, 3 x small white, 1 x silver y. Water lane, Watford = 6 x speckled wood, 3 x large white, 6 x small white, 1 x comma, 1 x green veined white, 1 x silver y, 1 x straw dot. Finch Lane, Bushey = 8 x speckled wood, 7 x large white, 2 x small white. Lastly Merryhill Fields when sun faded = 4 x common blue, 5 x meadow brown, 1 x small white, 3 x speckled wood, 1 x small copper, 2 x straw dot, 1 x silver y. - David Gower

Saw one Red Admiral flying South at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 11:35 hrs this morning Sunday 1st September 2013. - Robert Callf

Have had a Hummingbird Hawk Moth (Presumably the same one) in the Hemel Hempstead garden for six consecutive days. Is this a record? Speckled Wood, Comma, three Small Tortoiseshells, Peacock, Red Admiral, Large, Small and Green Veined Whites including some very small specimens also visited the garden today. Saw a Small White being attacked and carried off by a wasp. I've never witnessed that before. Malcolm Newland

August 2013

Saturday 31st August 2013

At Bricket Wood common Saturday morning not much around = 15 x speckled wood, 1 x comma, 1 x meadow brown, 1 x small white. At Drop Lane = 1 x green veined white, 1 x small white, 2 x speckled wood. Lastly at Bricket Wood station on buddleia = 6 x small white, 2 x comma, 2 x large white - David Gower

Well that's a new one for me or I've been out in the sun too long, just been joined on my driveway in Marshalswick, St. Albans by a fresh immaculate meadow brown - Richard Geary

Friday 30th August 2013

Counted three Speckled Wood in Oakwood Park, N14 this morning Friday 30th August 2013 and saw a Peacock settled at Park Farm, Enfield this afternoon at 12:57 hrs. - Robert Callf

Thursday 29th August 2013

Visited Enfield Town yesterday afternoon Wednesday 28th August 2013 and saw a Small Tortoiseshell and a Red Admiral nectaring on buddleia at 77 Southbury Road at 15:55 hrs. Today 29th August 2013 - 2 Comma at Park Farm, Enfield, 11:47 and 11:50 hrs, 3 Small Heath at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 12:12 - 12:15 hrs, 2+ Common Blue at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 2 Small Copper at 'Old Golf Course' and 1 Red Admiral by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 12:18 hrs. - Robert Callf

Rickneys Quarry, 2 Clouded yellow, 30+ Common blue, 4 Brown argus, 1 Brimstone (female), 1 Red admiral, 3 Green-veined white. Waterford heath north, 1 Clouded yellow, 4 Common blue, 2 Brown argus Waterford heath south, 1 Clouded yellow, 34 Common blue, 2 Brown argus, 1 Small tortoiseshell, 1 Purple hairstreak (on ash in the car park) - Laurence Drummond

Wednesday 28th August 2013

There has been a recent hatch of slightly undersized small tortoiseshells in this part of Thorley Park and this morning I counted 10 on a clump of white buddleia at the bottom of Appleton Fields.

Later at Thornbera Road allotments, B/St. 10+ small white, 2 large white, one comma, one peacock, -two normal sized small tortoiseshells favouring dahlia 'Teesbrook Audrey'- and single fresh specimens of red admiral and brimstone. - Len Crouch

Latest from Hounslow Heath - Marshalling Yards in sunshine with no breeze for once: Wednesday 28th August 2013 Small White 18 Meadow Brown: 16 Small Heath 1 Common Blue 14 Large White 13 Speckled Wood 6 Brown Argus 1 Painted Lady 1 Peacock 1 The Brown Argus was the first I've seen on The Heath as distinct from the Marshalling Yards Also, belatedly from Sunday 25th August, same walk after substantial rain: Small White 22 Meadow Brown 16 Common Blue 16 Large White 5 Speckled Wood 3 Gatekeeper 1 Small Copper 1 Clouded Yellow 1 - Pete Gore

While searching for Brown Hairstreaks at Norton Green this afternoon there were still some Silver-washed Fritillaries about albeit in a rather tatty state. Also a few Purple Hairstreaks low down including one gorging on blackberry for a good few minutes at around 3 pm - Peter Clarke

A few sightings for today Wednesday 28th August 2013 - 2 male Common Blue at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 11:02 hrs, 3 Small Heath at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 11:05 hrs; 2 female Meadow Brown (1 by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 11:27 hrs and another along Merryhills Brook/South Lodger Farm). - Robert Callf

Tuesday 27th August 2013

Had a Hummingbird Hawk Moth which spent ages in the Hemel Hempstead garden from 10.05 a.m. until lunchtime visiting some of my sixteen buddleias. Also seen were eight Small Tortoiseshells, two Red Admirals, two Peacocks numerous Small and a few Large Whites, a male Brimstone and my first Painted Lady of the year. Malcolm Newland

Saw another Chalk hill Blue male this time in Rickneys Quarry together with clouded yellows and many common blues. Also a Silver washed fritillary in lower part of Waterford Heath south by settling ponds, last Friday saw 15 brimstone there only 2 today - Steve Kiln

A painted lady feeding on buddleia at Hadham Ford at 11a.m. today. In company with 3 peacock, 9 sm tortoiseshells and 6 large whites - Jono Forgham

For the second time this year I had a Painted Lady in my Hitchin garden, plus Small Tortoiseshell - Kevin Taylor

I saw a very worn Silver-washed Fritillary in Rough Hills Meadows (TL3193510262) Bayfordbury yesterday (26/08/13) at around 4pm. - Shaun Dowman

Park Wood, Ruislip One Silver-Washed Fritillary seen this afternoon, in the Eastern section of the wood - Graham Elcombe

Saw a female Gatekeeper along the Jubilee Path/London Loop at Park Farm, Enfield this morning at 10:15 hrs. - Robert Callf

Monday 26th August 2013

Back to Merryhill Fields at 5 p.m today = 3 x large white, 7 x small white, 9 x meadow brown, 6 x small copper, 12 x common blue, 1 x peacock, 1 x speckled wood, 1 x yellow shell, 1 x brimstone moth, 1 x shaded broad bar, 1 x straw dot, 1 x silver y. - David Gower

See my Northaw Great Wood blog:

http://www.fongw.org.uk/?page_id=65

It's been a great year for Purple Hairstreaks - Peter Walker

Sunday 25th August 2013

Panshanger Airfield - Visited with Andrew Wood and Paul Why to check out this site, where there have been reports of Brown Hairstreak in recent years. This is a large unfertilised and unsprayed grassland site, with a significant amount of rabbit grazing around the perimeter. Small Heath were the most common butterfly - we recorded a total of 45, but there were probably many more on the site. Other short grass loving butterflies included Brown Argus (7), Small Copper (3) & Common Blue (6). Our main focus of attention was the considerable amount of Ash and Blackthorn around the airfield perimeter. Despite a couple of intriguing glimpses we had no confirmed Brown

Hairstreak sightings - the search continues! Malcolm Hull

I realised that with work and weather and other commitments, I hadn't had a good look at my local patch for nearly three weeks, and decided to make good the omission this afternoon. After a selection of Whites in the front garden on the dandelions, the walk started as it often does, with a territorial Red Admiral and a couple of Commas, and several Speckled Woods fluttering about in the shade. However, the next sighting was a bit of a surprise, with a Small Heath seen a considerable distance (a good km or so) from the usual area. Progressing along the edge of the river, there were more Commas (all quite worn ones) and several Common Blues, male and female, and far more than I've seen before in this particular part of the walk. One of the females was entirely brown, not a blue scale to be seen, and I had to make sure it wasn't a Brown Argus. Another was found wandering amongst the trefoil plants, and after she'd flown off, I found a tiny white dot on top of a leaf - a single egg. No doubt there were more if I'd looked, but they are very small and only by taking a photo and zooming in could I be sure it definitely was an egg. My attention was then grabbed by a small butterfly with a different type of flight altogether - a worn Small Copper. This was the first I've seen on my patch this year (but I had to wait until October for one in 2012...). Just before moving on to the open field north of the A 3113, a bright new Comma appeared, intensely orange and brown, and such a contrast to its faded cousins seen earlier. In the field area itself, I was greeted by a basking Small Tortoiseshell that looked to be freshly emerged. The abundance of Meadow Browns had now dwindled to a few very dull individuals, and there fewer than the were of Small Heaths - though there were not as many of these as I expected. Common Blues were all along the path at regular intervals, and having seen so many small ones this year, and so many dark females, I very nearly ignored the Brown Argus that jinked across in front of me. Again, this was the first of these I've seen here this year, and I'm glad to say the second and third followed quickly afterwards. Returning the way I'd come, I had a different perspective on a "wild" buddleia. There were several Whites and a couple of Peacocks enjoying the purple bloom, but my eye was drawn to a pinky-brown butterfly that periodically sailed off in great arcing flights before coming back to the same spray of flowers. It was a Painted Lady, and yet another species I'd not seen here this year. That brought my local species tally for the year to 23, with only Ringlets being absent this time round from my all time local list. A good afternoon! - Dave Miller

Painted lady (1st. sighting this year) in Welwyn Garden City garden all day; Male purple hairstreak also seen twice this afternoon - Denise Beynon

One Clouded Yellow at Nomansland this morning once the rain had stopped. I had to chase it for miles to get a piccy

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/naturecatcher58/9590663169/>

Still, I need the exercise - Ashley Cox

Went to Merryhill Fields at 4.30 this afternoon and came across = 1 x clouded yellow, 5 x small copper, 21 x common blue (7 females), 3 x large white, 4 x small white, 22 x meadow brown, 1 x yellow shell, 4 x shaded broad bar, 3 x silver y. In Bushey garden 5 x large white, 6 x small white, 1 x green veined white, 1 x small tortoiseshell, 5 x silver y, 1 x mint moth. - David Gower

Friday 23rd August 2013

Two sightings to report today 23rd August 2013 - 1 Comma at Park Farm, Enfield at 09:48 hrs and 1 male Common Blue at Rectory Farm, Enfield at 10:57 hrs. Also a good number of Whites at Rectory Farm. - Robert Callf

Tuesday 20 August. Another late report, in my Hatfield garden today 7+ Small Torts (very bright), 3+ Peacock, 1 Brimstone (bright male), 1 Comma (very faded), assorted Whites, probably including GVs - John Moss

Thursday 22nd August 2013

Saw a male Common Blue along Leeing Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm, Enfield this afternoon 22nd August 2013 at 14:08 hrs, during a bright interlude. - Robert Callf

Wednesday 21st August 2013

First Small Copper of the year on my transect at Shackledell Grassland, Stevenage earlier this afternoon - Peter Clarke

Several Clouded Yellows still present yesterday morning along with Small Copper and a couple Common Blues at Barnes Lane. A late afternoon visit today didn't produce any Clouded Yellows at the usual site but I did see one flying across KL School playing field and 2+ Purple Hairstreaks were once again at the edge of the Nucket, - Samuel Perfect

News from Diane Andrews, walking TL3002 east of Cuffley, saw 2 Clouded Yellow. Other butterflies included, whites, brimstone, small copper, common blue, small tortoiseshell as well. Ramney Marsh 31 Common Blue today.

Tuesday 20th August 2013

Tuesday 20th August 2013 My usual walk via Hounslow Heath to the Marshalling Yards. Despite favourable weather fewer sightings now as various species end. Small White 29 Small Heath 1 Meadow Brown 17 Gatekeeper 2 Speckled Wood 3 Common Blue 37 Brown Argus 1 Large White 5. - Pete Gore

Monday 19 Aug. Did my Warren transect. Nos. down but still a good range of species, with Meadow Brown 24 (mostly tatty), Common Blue 20 (including 7+ females), 8 Gatekeeper, Purple Hairstreak 1 (the only one I've seen this year, but I'm sure there are more), Large White 3, Small Heath 6 (mostly very fresh), GV White 2, Small White 7, Peacock 2, Small Tortoiseshell 1, Clouded Yellow 1 (a 1st for the site). No sign of Skippers or Coppers. In my Hatfield garden today, 20 August, 2 Painted Lady, 5+ Peacock, 3 Small Torts, Large, Small & GV Whites, all around Buddleia. Over last 2-3 wks have also seen occasional Red Admiral, Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper & Holly Blue (they breed here). Painted Ladies seem to be regulars. John Moss

My office has moved very close to Bedfont Lakes Country Park, so I was able to spend a lunchtime hour there today. Walking from one entrance to the other via the track adjacent to the railway, I managed to see four Clouded Yellows, several dozen Common Blues, six or seven Brown Argus in a variety of places, two Small Coppers, Meadow Browns, Gatekeepers and Large and Small Whites. However, despite lots of wild buddleia, I didn't see a single Nymphalid of any species. After work, a very quick look at my local patch in Stanwell Moor produced three Commas, two Speckled Woods and quite a few roosting Whites. However, it was nearly seven, and the sun had almost gone. Autumn is not so far away... - Dave Miller

Whilst making calls at Broxbourne common today, 1 male SWF flew out of the wood and across the gardens. Laurence Drummond

We visited both the St Vincents, Ruislip and Northaw territories today, hoping to see a male emperor still active - sadly none were seen - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

I did the transect today, totals were 401 on the transect with another 78 sightings off transect. Highlights include a total of 89 brimstones, they were everywhere today! Still plenty of meadow browns and various whites but much less than in previous weeks and I only saw 1 marbled white and 1 large skipper today. There were lots of common blue (39), brown argus (41), small heath (22) and small copper (13). I only saw 1 fritillary today - a male silver washed in the coppice area in the south, much fewer peacocks now - 19 and 6 small tortoiseshell. I forgot to let you know that last week (tuesday and thursday) I was working at wilstone reservoir and nectaring on hemp agrimony were quite a few peacocks and an immaculate red admiral. - Paul Thrush

On Nomansland Common today, 1 very obliging CLOUDED YELLOW (views down to 3 feet) otherwise many Common Blues, Silver Y's and the usual browns and whites.
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/99486228@N06/9555458068/>(Preview)
Robin Pearson

A few sightings for today 20th August 2013 - 1 female Common Blue at Parkside Farm, Enfield on Res banking, 08:32 hrs; 1 Red Admiral flew SW at Bay Farm, Enfield, 09:12 hrs; 1 Painted Lady at Plumridge Farm near Ash Wood, Enfield Chase, 09:55 hrs; 2 Small Heath at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park; 4 male Common Blue at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park; 1 Peacock, edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park, 10:23 hrs; 3 Small Copper at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park. - Robert Callf

Monday 19th August 2013

Still several Clouded Yellows on the wing when I visited them at the usual site down Barnes Lane this afternoon. Also 3 Purple Hairstreaks at the top of the oak trees at the edge of the Nucket, - Samuel Perfect

Prompted by recently reported sightings of Clouded Yellows in meadows adjacent to Barnes Lane, Kings Langley we visited the site this morning. On arrival the sky was ominously overcast & nothing appeared to be flying. After 5 or 10 minutes the sun re-appeared & we were treated to the sight of at least 15 CYs, about the same number of Common Blues & 2 Small Coppers. Whites incl. Green-veined & a few Meadow Browns were evident as were many unidentified micro moths. We would like to express our thanks to those members who bother to report sightings so that less well-informed members such as us can benefit from your expertise - Tony & Gill Porter

Sightings for today from Little Britain Lake & surrounding Colne Valley area: Small Copper 2 Brown Argus 2 Holly Blue Common Blue 7 Speckled Wood 17 Large White 16 Small White 2 Comma Peacock Small Tortoiseshell - Nige Sluman

Saw two Small Heath today Monday 19th August 2013 - 1 along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 07:42 hrs and another at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 09:50 hrs; 6 Small Copper, including five together at 'Old Golf Course' at 09:50 hrs and another one by Lower Lake 10:03 hrs, Trent Park - Robert Callf

Sunday 18th August 2013

I recently went to see the Clouded Yellows which I only found out were down the road from me yesterday! I counted at least 13, five in the field closer to Barnes Lane and eight in the adjacent field. Many of my butterfly sightings also go up on my blog

<http://samuelbirding.blogspot.co.uk/>

Samuel Perfect

Sightings this afternoon (Sunday 18 August) on Nomansland Common, Wheathampstead (west of the car park) included a pristine Painted Lady, a Small Skipper, 2 Small Coppers, 2 Small Tortoiseshells, 2 Peacocks, 2 Gatekeepers, 10+ Meadow Browns, 10+ Small Heaths, 10+ Large Whites, 50+ Small Whites, 50+ G-V Whites, 100+ Common Blues and several hundred Silver-Y moths. Most of these species were nectaring on the very large area of knapweed. - Alan Jackson

On Nomansland Common this morning, 1m Chalkhill blue, 4 Purple Hairstreaks including 2 egg-laying, 4 Painted Lady, 4 Essex Skippers, 5 Peacocks, 3 Small Tortoiseshells 40+ Silver Y moths, 40+ Large Whites 30+ Common Blues 20+ Small Coppers, 15 + Small Whites and a few GV whites, 10 + Meadow Browns and 7 Gatekeepers. At Tyttenhanger GP this afternoon 1 Clouded Yellow 1 Purple Hairstreak 25+ Peacocks, 10+ Small Tortoiseshells 10+ Silver Y moths, 15+ Large Whites 30+ Common Blues (including 1 very small looking one but not a small blue) 12 Small Coppers, 5 + Small Whites 30 + Meadow Browns, 10+ Gatekeepers. And in my St Albans Garden 2 Peacocks, 7 large Whites, 1 Small Tortoiseshell and a male Brimstone - Andy Steele

Clouded yellows are still in a Barnes Lane meadow, Kings Langley. I counted several on Friday 19th, common blues, small coppers too. Six small tortoiseshells on the Buddleia in a garden. Sunday 18th. Sadly, I found a dying elephant hawk moth caterpillar on the drive in Kings Langley. It was being eaten by wasps, but had been partly squashed. Just this week I had been wondering if there were any on my fuschia as we have had them in previous years although not recently. I had a further search and found one healthy elephant hawk caterpillar. I hope that one survives. I understand they are becoming rare so please everyone watch your garden fuschias as well as the willowherb in the countryside. Elizabeth Debenham

HMWT Danemead 14.45-15.30, 1 Clouded yellow, 1 Brimstone(male), 1 very fresh Small tortoiseshell, 3 Peacock, 1 Comma, 1 SWF (male, a bit washed out but otherwise intact) 3 Speckled wood, around 10 Meadow brown - Laurence Drummond

While doing some Blackberrying on Waterford heath north by the steep sandy cliff I saw to my surprise a male chalkhill blue, a bit off course. Also there common blues and brown argus. on the south pit plenty of common blues, and many whites, less peacocks than recently, 2 small tortoiseshell, 2 brimstones, 2 small copper, 3 small heaths and a holly blue - Steve Kiln

A single slightly faded male Purple Emperor, still on territory at Northaw this afternoon, plus numerous Purple Hairstreak flying around - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

Saturday 17th August 2013

Hatfield, 4 Purple hairstreaks around an Ash tree in the hedge between Notcutts garden centre and

Ellenbrook fields, caused a brief heart flutter at 8.40 this am(lots of Blackthorn in the landscape here!). Laurence Drummond

Counted at least three Common Blue, 2 males and 1 female, at South Lodge Farm, Enfield this morning Saturday 17th August 2013 between 10:52 - 11:00 hrs. - Robert Callf

Friday 16th August 2013

In Bushey garden late afternoon = 1 x small tortoiseshell, 1 x large white, 3 x silver y, 1 x mint moth, 1 x small white - David Gower

Thursday 15th August 2013

In Stocking Pelham on Thursday 15th a Clouded Yellow on the verge by the road - Andy Brown

Saw two Antler Moth at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park this morning Thursday 15th August nectaring on thistle heads in preference to Ragwort. - Robert Callf

Today I visit somewhere new Purwell ninesprings in Hitchin and saw many Gatekeepers, Large White, GV White, Meadow Brown, Brimstone, Red Admiral, Common Blue - Kevin Taylor

At about 12.30pm on Sunday my friend Giles Whalley phoned to tell me he had just seen a female purple emperor in his garden in Lemsford, near WGC. I quickly drove to his garden at the Brocket Hall gatehouse, but of course it had gone. Giles knows his butterflies, and I am sure he really did see a PE. He described it as very tatty. We hung around for half an hour but it did not return. However, we did have very good views of a SW fritillary. The area is very attractive for butterflies, with buddleia, nettles, sallows. etcetera - I counted 12 peacocks on one bush - Alex Lewis

August 14th another visit to the Barnes Lane meadow in Kings Langley produced at least 5 clouded yellow in the first part of the field and more in the second, although they may have flown over the fence. They were active and fluttering around each other and nectaring on clover. One was rather battered. A small copper saw off one clouded yellow and returned to ragwort to feed. Several blues were displaying and feeding on birdsfoot trefoil. I hadn't seen any in that field last year so I am pleased they are back. Meadow brown and gatekeeper were also present. Silver Y was also there. Three small tortoiseshells were on a Kings Langley buddleia along with several peacocks today and on 14th; some whites a gatekeeper, both yesterday and today along with silver Ys. I forgot to mention a week or two ago a red underwing was on the window. Elizabeth Debenham

Wednesday 14th August 2013

One Common Blue (a female) seen in my garden In Pinner - the last time I saw one here was nineteen years ago! Graham Elcombe

Therfield Heath, numerous Chalkhill Blues and several Common Blues and one Clouded Yellow - Jim Farr

From a walk along the River Stort this afternoon from about 1.30 - 3.30: Lots of large and small whites, and also lots of peacocks all over the place - I soon gave up counting. Near Spellbrook lock I saw a male common blue (the first I have seen at this location), and also what I assumed to be 2 females. One of which was confirmed as Brown Argus! At Bushy Mead nature reserve there were 4 small tortoiseshells, at least 2 commas and some more meadow browns - Chris Gleeson

1 x peacock and 1 x Old lady moth in Bushey house yesterday - David Gower

NOMANSLAND COMMON, Wheathampstead - 1m CHALKHILL BLUE, being mobbed by a couple of 2 male common blues but looked quite settled by the track that runs adjacent to Ferrers Lane, about 300 yards west from the car park (took photos). Also 3 PAINTED LADIES on the opposite side of the road. - Darin Stanley

Butterfly World update, I was pleased to see the Chalkhill Blue, Clouded Yellows and Small Heaths again. The totals are: Clouded Yellow 2 Large White 11 Small/Gn Veined White 12 Small White. 33 G V White 6 Small Blue 6 Common Blue 54 Chalkhill Blue. 1 Small Tortoiseshell 27 Peacock 29 Gatekeeper 2 Meadow Brown 6 Small Heath 2 - Mandy Floyd

This afternoon at 3pm having arrived 5 minutes earlier a Purple Emperor flew around the Northaw

territory. This was repeated on several more occasions until heavy cloud arrived at 3.20 and we left - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

On Nomansland Common, Wheathampstead this morning, 3 Clouded Yellows, Painted Lady, dozens of Silver Y moths, also Common Blues and Small Coppers. The area where the Clouded Yellows were is 100 yds from the main car park back towards Harpenden.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/99486228@N06/9510067269/>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/99486228@N06/9508165593/in/photostream/>

Robin Pearson

Some sightings for today Wednesday 14th August 2013 - 1 Peacock, edge of Rough Lot, Trent Park, 09:35 hrs; 7 Common Blue, including a pair copulating, 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 09:40 - 10:02 hrs; 5 Small Copper, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 09:40 - 09:50 hrs; 1 male Brown Argus, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 09:45 hrs; 1 Purple Hairstreak, settled on Bramble near Water Garden, Trent Park, 10:04 hrs; 2 Small Tortoiseshell, together, nectaring on thistles, along Merryhills Brook at South Lodge Farm, Enfield, 10:42 hrs; 1 Peacock, at South Lodge Farm, 10:45 hrs - Robert Callf

I saw 2 small coppers and 5+ common blues on Harpenden Common hayfield this morning. There are still good numbers of meadow browns and gatekeepers. Jenny Sherwen

Hemel Hempstead garden - Still large numbers of Large, Small and Green Veined Whites. Peacocks reached a maximum of twelve, mainly on various Buddleias. Two Small Tortoiseshells, a male and a female Brimstone, single Red Admiral and Gatekeeper completed the tally but no Painted Ladies - Malcolm Newland

Tuesday 13th August 2013

Saw a Peacock again today Tuesday 13th August 2013 on buddleia in Dalrymple Close, Southgate, N14 at 12:55 hrs. Also a Small Copper nectaring on Ragwort in Oakwood Park, N14 at 13:38 hrs. Saw three Speckled Wood in Grovelands Park, Southgate yesterday Monday 12th August 2013 between 13:57 - 14:02 hrs. - Robert Callf

First Painted Lady in my Ware garden since August 2009 - Liz Goodyear

Had a quick walk around the park late afternoon and saw 2 male Chalkhill Blues (I think this is a first record for Great Ashby Park and the nearest colonies I can think of are Hexton Chalk Pit or Royston Heath), also Essex Skipper, Common Blue, Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper and lots of Whites <http://www.flickr.com/photos/stevelane56/9502011889/>
Steve Lane

Lots of Common Blue at Nomansland Common, including some pretty blue females.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/naturecatcher58/9496082371/>

Good numbers of Small Copper and clouds of Large, Small and Green Veined Whites - Ashley Cox

Monday 12th August 2013

A complete walk across the Heath and around the Marshalling Yards. Butterflies generally looking faded and tattered but nevertheless still there in reasonable quantities despite a strong breeze and intermittent cloudiness: Large White:11 Small White:13 Meadow Brown:19 Small Copper:2 Gatekeeper:12 Painted Lady:3 Speckled Wood:6 Comma:2 Common Blue:15 Peacock: 7 Green-Veined White:1 Small Tortoiseshell:1 The Tortoiseshell is the first I've seen for a few weeks and looked fresh: More Please! - Pete Gore

We watched 2 sparring at the high point of the oaks by St Vincent's nursing home Park Wood on 11 Aug 13. This is the latest date we have seen them at this site. Sue & Steve Place

Just one sighting to report - 4 Comma, together on edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park at 10:28 hrs today 12th August 2013. Saw two Peacock yesterday afternoon Sunday 11th August 2013 on buddleia at Tresilian Ave., N21 at 14:15 hrs from W9 bus. - Robert Callf

Sunday 11th August 2013

Clouded Yellow - My first in Herts for a year or two, today at Beech Farm pits TL20Z - Rupert Pyrah

Sunday afternoon 11th Aug, I was about to go over to Nomansland again to have a clouded yellow search, but thought I would check out the Barnes Lane meadow in Kings Langley, just opposite the school playing field. I hadn't seen any common blue last year so hoped to find some. Looking over the gate I saw a dash of yellow. At first it could have been a gatekeeper in sunlight, but no, it was a Clouded Yellow. Rushing into the field to get a closer look I eventually notched up at least 5 Clouded Yellows and more as I walked into the second part of the field leading down to the woodland and circuiting the field. About 5 common blues, male and female were displaying near the path in the lower part of the field toward Rucklers Lane and 2 small coppers.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/7392841@N04/9487910959/>

An afternoon well spent! Catching up on the last week.... July 25th I thought I saw a purple emperor fly high above the trees in Barnes Lane. The wings were in silhouette and looked sharply triangular with cut out patches of white in the strong sunlight. It had a very direct flight across the road. Last week we had up to 12 peacocks on the buddleia in Kings Langley and 1 small tortoiseshell has visited for several days too including Sunday 11th; also 2 commas on the buddleia, Gatekeepers and meadow brown also visit the marjoram in the garden. 2 commas and a red admiral in Barnes Lane at the edge of a wheat field near oaks for two days running. Elizabeth Debenham

I was very lucky to find a male Chalkhill Blue at Norton Green in the field north of Pigeonswick Cottage (TL225227) this morning at 1050 hours - Peter Clarke

A few sightings for today 11th August 2013 - 1 male Small Copper at Plumridge Farm, Enfield, 10:10 hrs; 3 male Common Blue at South Lodge Farm, Enfield, 11:22 - 11:25 hrs; 1 Comma at South Lodge Farm, Enfield, 11:25 hrs; 1 Peacock at South Lodge Farm, Enfield, 11:25 hrs; 1 male Common Blue at 'Barracks' Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 11:42 hrs; 1 Peacock at 'Barracks' Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 11:45 hrs. - Robert Callf

I went up to Broxbourne Ride Thursday afternoon and there were a lot of peacocks in ride and silver washed fritillaries and 1 white admiral. I went further than I normally do as someone said there were tons of peacocks up there, beyond the stream there is a lot of hemp agrimony there and also water mint. I decided to go back in morning when it is usually better. I went today at 11am. I saw 15 species, plenty of gatekeepers, meadow browns and whites especially green veined whites. 32 peacocks, 1 white admiral, small tortoiseshell, red admiral, comma, brimstone and small skipper. 2 common blues, 2 silver washed fritillaries and 3 ringlets. but no purple emperors - Steve Kiln

Saturday 10th August 2013

National Moth Weekend - We spent two hours last night at Stanmore Country Park. A total of ten people came along; some with more knowledge of moths than they were prepared to admit. The highlight was a total of seven+ Tree-lichen Beauty's. This species has not been recorded there before although I have had this species in the back garden. Thirty three macros and sixteen micros ID'd. A friend, Peter Peretti saw a Clouded Yellow in Aylett Nurseries AL2 1DH on Aug 6th - John Hollingdale

Here are some records for Totteridge Valley (the area surrounding Darlands Lake in tetrad TQ2493). I did not record all the species seen on these days, just the more notable species/numbers as per below. 13th July 2013: 40+ Ringlets, 4 Marbled Whites, 4 Small Tortoiseshell, 3 Commas, and 30+ Small / Essex Skippers (some individuals of each confirmed). 10th August 2013: 1 Brown Argus, 1 Comma, plus lots of Snout moths in rank grasslands. I've never seen Brown Argus at this site before despite it being my 'local patch' for the last 8 years. Also I've only seen odd singles of Marbled White in previous summers and have never before seen anything like the number of Ringlets as on July 13th (but possibly I have not before visited in peak flight periods). - Ian Ellis

Waterford heath south pit, 1 Clouded yellow, 2 Brown argus and one male Common blue - Laurence Drummond

St Albans, Abbey View Rd - First Painted Lady of the year in my street, nectaring on Buddleia this morning. It was accompanied by 10 Peacocks 1 Small Tortoiseshell 5 Large Whites 2 Gatekeepers 1 Small White and 1 Silver Y moth. No Peacocks yet hibernating in my outhouse, but there are now 21 hibernating Small Tortoiseshells, an increase of 4 since last week. If you have a shed where Peacocks might hibernate, NOW IS A VERY GOOD TIME TO CLEAR OUT ANY SPIDERS

WEBS. later at Northfield Rd Tring, 2 Chalkhill Blues, 1 Silver washed Fritillary 80 Common Blues 3 Brown Argus and 20 Brimstones - Malcolm Hull

12 am 2 clouded yellows on Waterford Heath south, also common blues and brown argus of note - Steve Kiln

A few sightings for today 10th August 2013 - 1 Magpie Moth, found in grass border of field along hedgerow at Plumridge Farm - the first that I have seen for many years! 1 Peacock, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 10:25 hrs; 1 male Common Blue, along Merryhills Brook at South Lodge Farm, Enfield, 10:38 hrs. - Robert Callf

For some reason I was never quite in the right sort of mood for butterfly spotting on Friday, leaving Hounslow Heath with a grand total of 2 and not feeling enthusiastic enough to cover the inner portion of the Marshalling Yards. However as I was walking towards the Cavalry Tunnel to return home via the Heath my mood changed abruptly when a Clouded Yellow flew strongly towards me, landed close by for long enough for me to get a good view of the underside of its wings, before continuing its journey past me. When one flew towards me again a few yards further on I began to wonder what sort of a butterfly treat was in store for me but when I watched carefully I saw the butterfly turn and come back 50 yards to repeat yet again - so only 1 really! First of the year of course, second on the Marshalling Yards (2001?). Here are my other sightings, under-recording due to initial grumpiness: Meadow Brown 15 Gatekeeper 9 Small White 17 Common Blue 8 Painted Lady 3 Speckled Wood 1 Large White 7 Peacock 3 Red Admiral 1 Clouded Yellow (male) 1 - Pete Gore

KGV Reservoir, EN3: Painted Lady at 08.40 and Clouded Yellow at 10.13. Martin Shepherd

Friday 9th August 2013

Having been dragged by my wife this afternoon to an 'Open Garden' event in Woodside Place, Wildhill, I was overjoyed when a Clouded Yellow butterfly flew through the garden. The first Clouded Yellow I've seen in Hertfordshire. - Terry Wood

1 painted lady mixed in with 14 large whites, 2 commas, 2 small tortoiseshells, 1 red admiral, 5 peacocks and 4 silver y on the garden buddleia this afternoon. Garden in Chapel Lane, Little Hadham SG11 2AA, Weather; sunny intervals 21C Time: 3.45pm Date: 09.08.13 - Haven't heard of too many PL records in Herts this year. However,, a small invasion arrived at Dungeness on 1.08.13, so this maybe one from that group. Suspect there are more about. However, 1st record for the village since the huge invasion of May 2009 - Jono Forgham

8th August - On Hertford heath (Roundings) 2 white admirals and 1 Silver washed fritillary. In Balls Wood 5 White Admirals, 1 silver washed fritillary various whites skippers etc. + 1 painted lady - Andy Brown

No surprises; but I enjoyed seeing fourteen different species yesterday, 8th August, at the Buddleia Walk and adjoining waste ground, on the other side of the canal from Croxley Common Moor. They were: Large, Small and Green-Veined Whites, Brimstones, Peacocks, Commas, Small Tortoiseshell and Red Admirals; Meadow Browns, Gatekeepers and Speckled Wood; Common Blue (one only), Small Copper and finally, two or three Purple Hairstreaks high up in an oak tree - Graham Elcombe

Yesterday King George V Reservoir, EN3: Clouded Yellow on the Middlesex side at 09.50 on rough grass bank - very close views. Also 2 Common Blue. - Martin Shepherd

Saw a Peacock nectaring on buddleia at 77 Southbury Road, Enfield Town yesterday afternoon Thursday 8th August 2013 at 14:33 hrs. Seems to be good numbers about judging from recent reports. - Robert Callf

Thursday 8th August 2013

Seen today at Stockers Lake: 30+ Peacocks (mostly on Buddleia), large numbers of Whites, 3 male Brimstones, 4 Commas, 2 Speckled Woods, 1 Meadow Brown & fleetingly 1 unidentified small, blue butterfly (as opposed to a Small Blue butterfly). Many dragonflies seen. Tony & Gill Porter

I am very pleased to report a sighting of a male Chalkhill Blue on my Butterfly World Transect today, a new species for this site, also my first 5 Painted Ladies for this year looking very fresh. -

Mandy Floyd

I did the transect yesterday, another big total of 610 sightings! There are so many butterflies up there at the moment, highlights yesterday including 72 peacocks throughout the whole reserve, small copper, small heath, masses of whites, brimstones, skippers, red admiral, comma (3), common blue, chalkhill blue, brown argus and meadow browns. I saw 5 silver washed fritillaries (the highest number I have ever seen on the reserve) and they are making the most of the marjoram and thistles. At one point I had a dark green and silver washed nectaring on adjacent knapweeds which made for a good comparison opportunity. - Paul Thrush

Nomansland Common, Sandridge - **6 Clouded Yellows**, the most I have ever seen at one site in Herts! Also on the wing, hundreds, possibly thousands of Silver Y moth, Small Copper(18) Small Heath(5), Brown Argus (1), Common Blue (14), Purple Hairstreak(7, all in one tree), plus a mass of whites browns peacocks and a few shabby looking small and Essex skippers and Small Tortoiseshells - 15 butterfly species in total. Later at Bricket Wood Common I added Silver washed Fritillary, White Admiral, Ringlet, Brimstone, Speckled Wood, Holly Blue and Comma. The SWF males along the ride have been replaced by females looking for egg laying sites. one checked me out quite carefully, wisely deciding to deposit her eggs elsewhere. I saw another lay three eggs on an oak at heights of 1ft 18 inches and 2ft above ground. Malcolm Hull

I took a circular walk north of Tonwell. In the area between TL343180 and 349187 I saw hundreds if not thousands of butterflies. The most common species were large white, ringlet and meadow brown but I also saw comma, peacock, common blue and at least 2 clouded yellow. There were lots of Silver Ys - Barrie Stockwell

A Silver-washed Fritillary seen in Whomerley Wood, Stevenage (first since 2006) at about 3:40pm. Peter Clarke

Lots of butterflies at Thorley Wash today, mostly nectaring on purple loosestrife, hemp agrimony and fleabane. We saw 15+ clouded yellows, 2 painted ladies, 1 brown argus, 3 small coppers, and lots of peacocks and whites. - Jenny Sherwen

Holly blues today, in/around Great Amwell, 1 in Cautherly lane, in Gypsy lane and 1 along Pepper hill. Laurence Drummond

I had a quick trip to Hexton Chalk Pit on Tuesday morning and saw 1,000+ Chalkhill Blue, 1 male Brimstone, Meadow Browns, Ringlets, Gatekeepers, Comma, Peacocks, Marbled White, Large White, Small White, Green-veined White and Brown Argus.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/stevelane56/9462838957/> (Preview)

Steve Lane

Some sightings for today Thursday 8th August 2013 - 1 Painted Lady, settled on wall at Enfield Road, EN2, at 07:20 hrs; 1 male Common Blue, at Vicarage Farm, 08:20 hrs; 1 Peacock at Parkside Farm, 08:42 hrs; 1 female Brown Argus at Parkside Farm (TQ2998) at 08:50 hrs, basking on dry earth - first for the year locally! 1 male Yellow Tail Moth, edge of Ash Wood, Enfield Chase; 2 Antler Moth nectaring on Ragwort, 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park, 10:17 hrs; 1 Purple Hairstreak, settled on Ragwort, 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 10:17 hrs; 1 Small Heath at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 10:25 hrs; 1 Small Copper along Merryhills Brook at South Lodge Farm (TQ2996) at 11:15 hrs; 1 Painted Lady nectaring on thistles along Merryhills Brook at South Lodge Farm, 11:17 hrs; 5 Peacock together nectaring on thistles along Merryhills Brook at South Lodge Farm, 11:17 hrs - my largest group together so far this summer; 1 Comma at 'Barracks', Vicarage Farm, 11:35 hrs. - Robert Callf

Thought you may like to know I just spotted a Jersey Tiger moth on my BUDDLEIA Black Knight Davidii. Postcode NW11. - David Rosenthal

06.08.13 - weedy field, BATFORD-1 BROWN ARGUS, 2 Small Coppers, 4m (1f) Common Blues, 1 marbled White, numerous peacocks, large whites, small whites, 1 small skipper, Ringlets, Meadow Browns, 1 Red Admiral. Good years so far at Batford with species variety. Good year to for Common Blues. - Darin Stanley

Wednesday 7th August 2013

An explosion of Peacocks (50+) nectaring on thistles at Norton Green in the open area south-west

of Watery Grove earlier this afternoon. Also saw the first Brown Argus in the field west of Pigeonswick Cottage plus many whites, browns and a few skippers. A Marbled White was still flying as well as a few Silver-washed Fritillaries and Purple Hairstreaks - Peter Clarke

Thornbera Road allotments, Stortford, this afternoon, one Essex skipper nectaring on a lavender plant along with 5 small white males. Could not help noticing how dusky some of the small white females were, including one with upper fore-wing veins very strongly outlined in black, evident even from about 10 yards, underside when settled was typical small white. Yesterday there, disturbed a magpie moth which flew to a nearby blackcurrent bush and counted at mid-day 25+ small white, 4 large white, single comma in strawberry patch and 5 gatekeepers nectaring on a few sprigs of flowering mint. Added today one each of small tortoiseshell and peacock - Len Crouch

Record number of butterflies at Waterford Heath on my transect. Almost 300 butterflies 14 species 59 large whites and 50 peacocks but not a single red admiral and only one tortoiseshell - Steve Kiln

Upper Green garden, Tewin, Peacocks everywhere including 25+ on one White Buddleia bush! - Jim Farr

Seen a Holly Blue in Town Park, Enfield this afternoon Wednesday 7th August 2013 at 13:00 hrs. Robin White reported having seen a Clouded Yellow yesterday Tuesday 6th August 2013 at Vicarage Farm, Enfield (TQ3097). - Robert Callf

Tuesday 6th August 2013

While working out on the island on Great Hardmead Lake at Amwell this morning we saw a clouded yellow fly over. Jenny Sherwen

There was a botany survey of Ickleford Common north of Hitchin on Aug 1 carried out by members of the Herts and Middx Wildlife Trust. Butterflies seen were Comma, Gatekeeper, Peacock Meadow brown, one old Brown Argus, new second brood Common Blue colony. Large Small and Green Veined White, Brimstone Aug 5 Hertford Heath/Balls Wood. White Admiral, Comma, Meadow brown, Gatekeeper. Large and Small White. Nigel Agar

A few sightings for today Tuesday 6th August 2013 - 1 Common Blue at Parkside Farm on Res banking (TQ2998) at 08:50 hrs; 1 Comma at Park Farm, Enfield along Jubilee Path, 09:45 hrs; 1 Small Copper along Jubilee Path at Park Farm, 09:55 hrs; 1 male Antler Moth nectaring on Ragwort at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 10:35 hrs - the first that I have seen this year! 3 Small Copper together on Ragwort 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 10:35 hrs, including a courting couple; 1 Peacock nectaring on Ragwort 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 10:35 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood along bridle-path near Merryhills Brook/Trent Park, 11:10 hrs; 1 Peacock at South Lodge Farm, Enfield, 11:16 hrs. Some late news for Saturday 3rd August 2013 - 1 female Holly Blue, settling on Bramble flowers, Shaws Wood, Trent Park, 14:55 hrs; 1 Peacock at Park Farm, Enfield, 15:42 hrs; 2 Comma together along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables at Vicarage Farm, 16:35 hrs. - Robert Callf.

Oughtonhead today a bit sun in sun out but still saw Large and Small Whites every where lost count, Gatekeepers x8+, Commax1, Meadow Brown, Speckled Wood, Peacock, Brimstone - Kevin Taylor

Monday 5th August 2013

Whilst doing a plant survey yesterday at Aldbury I sneakily started counting butterflies once the sun came out. In the key butterfly area in the northern section there were 2+ brown argus, 5 chalkhill blue, meadow brown, large white, marbled white, green veined white, 5+ small white, 4 peacock, a male silver washed fritillary, dark green fritillary, 3+ common blue, brimstone, comma and small/Essex skipper. They were all nectaring on marjoram which is attracting large numbers of butterflies now it is flowering. In N3 there was another silver washed fritillary, 7 peacock, large, small and green veined white, gatekeeper and brimstone. In N1 there were 6 common blue, 7 brown argus, , 5 chalkhill blue, large white, large skipper, meadow brown, small/Essex skipper, red admiral, 5 gatekeeper, brimstone, peacock, and green veined white. In the south during the cloudy morning we saw a brown argus, meadow browns and a peacock and comma. The chalkhill blue total (10) is the highest I've had on the reserve, although this does seem small compared

to Hexton! - Paul Thrush My latest sightings from the Marshalling Yards after a lengthy walk when I avoided the rain until the last 100 metres along the road home and got thoroughly soaked. Conditions were not good on Hounslow Heath at the start - cloudy and breezy - so virtually all my sightings were on the Marshalling Yards: Monday 5th August Peacock 16 Meadow Brown 11 Gatekeeper 10 Common Blue 10 Speckled Wood 5 Brown Argus 1 Large White 10 Small White 17 Green-Veined White 1 Comma 4 Small Copper 1 Red Admiral 1 Painted Lady 4 The Argus is a first for me on the site although it's actually confirmation of one seen on 31st July. Then I wasn't able to eliminate Common Blue female completely; this time, with patience and crawling through the grass, I was. (Common Blue females seen here are in any event always a dull grey mix rather than brown). The butterfly doesn't really 'belong' here - I can't think of any Geraniaceae on site let alone Rock Roses but there are houses the other side of the tree belt so gardens are always a possibility. - Pete Gore

News for yesterday 4th August 2013 - 6 Small Copper at 'New Fields', Trent Park, 15:22 - 15:43 hrs; 1 Peacock, near Cockfosters entrance, Trent Park, 15:45 hrs; 1 Comma, edge of Church Wood, Trent Park, 15:55 hrs. Today Monday 5th August 2013 - 1 Red Underwing settled by the front door of 19 Enfield Road, EN2 at 07:00 hrs - 'shivering' its wings and displaying its underwing; 1 Comma at Little Beechill Wood, Enfield Chase, 08:40 hrs; 1 Peacock, at Parkside Farm, Enfield; 1 Peacock at Holly Hill Farm, Enfield, 09:05 hrs; 1 Ringlet, 'quite tatty' at Barvin Hill, Coopers Lane Road, 09:10 hrs; 1 Essex Skipper at Fir & Pond Woods, near Potters Bar; 3 Small Copper at Fir & Pond Woods, near Potters Bar. - Robert Calf

Sunday 4th August 2013

Am very pleased to report sighting 11 Small Blues, and two pairs mating, on the kidney vetch at Butterfly World this morning. - Mandy Floyd

This afternoon we were walking around Stockers Lake and we saw a clouded yellow (our first one) few gatekeepers and several peacocks. I took a good picture of the clouded yellow. Lovely place for wildlife! Cristina Budden

A female Silver washed fritillary at HMWT Danemead at 11.00. At Hertford Heath nr Mount Pleasant end, 10-15 Purple hairstreaks low down, around a small Oak. Laurence Drummond

At Chiswell Green lane (grid TL130045) 1 x gatekeeper, 1 x large white, 2 x small white. At Three Hammers pub (TL133045) nearby = 3 x peacock, 3 x small white. Butterfly world = 29 x small white, 28 x large white, 14 x gatekeeper, 3 x 6 spot burnet, 18 x 5 spot burnet (or narrow bordered?), 8 x meadow brown, 1 x comma, 2 x red admiral, 25 x peacock, 7 x common blue, 2 x small tortoiseshell, 1 x green veined white, 2 x silver y, 1 x brimstone (male), 1 x black veined white moth (although late flight season can't find anything else it could be)

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/bushey54>

David Gower

Spent the morning at Aldbury Nowers in the sheltered lower sections as very windy. Don't think I have ever photographed so many species in one day. 1 pristine female brimstone, 1 male brimstone, 1 red admiral, 3 peacocks, 2 commas, 5 tired looking marbled whites, 2 Brown Argus, 9 male common blues 1 female common blue, 5 small coppers all very fresh, 3 silver washed fritillary, numerous meadow brown and gatekeepers, few tatty ringlets, 5 small/Essex skippers, 5 large skippers, numerous large and small white 2 green veined white and 1 what I think was a chalk hill blue, it was flying off and distinctly lighter and larger than the common blues but I didn't get a good look. This afternoon walked through Tunnel Gardens near my home in Bounds Green North London, 13 Gatekeepers, 2 very fresh holly blues, 5 whites, 4 speckled woods and 3 meadow browns. A great day - Miles Attenborough

I'm very behind with my reports at the moment, but I thought I would let you know I saw a Clouded Yellow today on my local patch in Stanwell Moor, just a few feet from the River Colne. When first seen it was on a small Birds' Foot Trefoil plant, and as I'm pretty sure it was a female, it may have been egg-laying. I'm aware a few have been seen further south since last Thursday's strong hot southerly winds, so they may be moving gradually northwards now.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=37220&mode=view>

More reports of other (less exciting) things soon. - Dave Miller

At last a Red Admiral! Also a second brood Holly Blue together with a female Common Blue. Making up the numbers were lots of Whites, a Gatekeeper and several Peacocks. Malcolm.

1) HATFIELD AERODROME (D1SUSED) - ELLENBROOK FIELDS Green-veined White x 3 Marbled White x 1 Gatekeeper x 30+ Meadow Brown x 10+ 1) Sutton Farm GP - (TL19651007) Large White - 15+ Small White x 10+ Painted lady (On Buddleia) x 1 Comma x 1 Spotted Wood x 1 Gatekeeper x 10+ Meadow Brown x 7+ Common Blue x 1 David Wheatcroft

Saturday 3rd August 2013

Went to the Ruislip Lido today and walked around Park wood & Poors field finding = 38 x gatekeeper, 5 x small white, 2 x green veined white, 40 x meadow brown, 2 x red admiral, 2 x large white, 8 x speckled wood, 1 x shaded broad bar, 6 x ringlet, 8 x purple hairstreak, 1 x peacock, 3 x small skipper, 2 x silver y , 1 x comma & 1 x small copper (my first this year). - David Gower

Five Small Coppers this afternoon, at Croxley Common Moor. Graham Elcombe

Hummingbird Hawk moth feeding on phlox flowers in my Thorley Park garden at 7 p.m. this evening. Len Crouch

Holly Blue in the (Harpenden) garden today, first one since April. - Robin Pearson

A good Transect at Butterfly World on Thursday 1st August, my totals were: Small White 29 Large White 8 Peacock 27 Small Tortoiseshell 5 Common Blue 6 Small Blue 7 Brown Argus 1 Gatekeeper 25 Meadow Brown 12 Small Skipper 4 Essex Skipper 1 Large Skipper 2 Red Admiral 1 Comma 1 Brimstone 1 - Mandy Floyd

Yesterday, and again this morning, I tried to get a second sighting of the White Admiral at Westfield, Harpenden - but no luck. Whilst looking yesterday I did see a dozen or so Peacocks, a Red Admiral, a Small Tortoiseshell, a Comma, half a dozen Purple Hairstreaks, several Small Skippers, a couple of Ringlets, several Gatekeepers, Large, Small and G-V Whites, numerous Meadow Browns and three or four Marbled Whites. In our nearby North Harpenden garden we had a Comma (var. hutchinsoni) and the second Holly Blue of the year (they've had a very poor year here). This morning all the species seen yesterday were again present at Westfield apart from Small Tortoiseshell, Comma and Red Admiral. I was interested to read Chris Shortall's report of an Orange Tip on Harpenden Common yesterday. A fellow allotment holder at Coldharbour Lane, Harpenden, told me she'd seen an Orange Tip there this week. I politely said it would have been an exceptionally late record, but it seems she may indeed have seen one (few people would fail to identify an Orange Tip). - Alan Jackson

A few more sightings for yesterday Friday 2nd August 2013 - 1 Peacock at Dalrymple Close, N14 at 15:12 hrs; 4 Small Copper at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 18:00 - 18:05 hrs, nectaring on Ragwort. Also we disturbed a Bordered Beauty from long grass along Salmons Brook at Park Farm, Enfield (TQ2998) near Sallow bushes in the evening - Robert Callf & Robin White

Friday 2nd August 2013

Orange Tip, Harpenden Common - a very fresh **male orange tip** near the Walker's Road roundabout on Harpenden Common at around 13:20 today. Grid ref TL 136 130 Quite a surprise! - Chris Shortall

1 x red underwing in Bushey home this morning. In garden 2 x large white, 2 x small white, 1 x comma, 2 x peacock, 1 x pyrausta aurata moth. - David Gower

Copse Wood, Ruislip (approx TQ085901). A Silver-washed Fritillary this afternoon. - Dick Middleton

A few sightings for today 2nd August 2013 - Oakwood Park, N14: 1 Common Blue, 12:35 hrs - W of the ten km line; 3 Small Copper nectaring on Ragwort - 2 W of ten km line and 1 E; 1 Peacock, 12:42 hrs. Boxer's Lake, Enfield: 1 Comma, 13:25 hrs. - Robert Callf

On this morning's dog walk in Westfield, Harpenden (TL134158 - the edge of a field belonging to YWAM) my wife saw a White Admiral. She is very familiar with this species: we watched them a few days ago in North Norfolk. There are few sites in Harpenden from which they have been reported and I am not aware of any previous records from this one. I went there to look for myself and found none (no sun) - but I did see two worn Marbled Whites. I cannot recall seeing Marbled Whites in this locality before. Yesterday I saw several male Brimstones: at Coldharbour allotments

in Harpenden and in our garden in north Harpenden. Alan Jackson

Saw a clouded yellow near Sailor's Grove at Bayfordbury yesterday afternoon (Thur 1 Aug) - Ian Flack

Thursday 1st August 2013

Late sightings from the 27th of July at Hatfield Aerodrome 1 Silver Washed Fritillary a ragged female, 1 Red Admiral, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Common Blue, 3 6 spot Burnet moth, 5 Speckled Woods and good numbers of Marbled White, Ringlet, Meadow Brown, Peacocks, Small, Essex and Large skipper, Large and Green Veined White - Andy Steele

Another good day with whites into double figures, five Gatekeepers favouring candytuft, four Peacocks mainly on Buddleia "Buzz," a female Brimstone which spent over an hour nectaring on Betony, a worn Meadow Brown and an Essex Skipper which spent even longer on lavender Dwarf Munstead Blue, (new late record,) and finally a Comma. A Silver Y moth put in an appearance and there was still a solitary Peacock on "Buzz" at 7.30 p.m. Still haven't recorded a Red Admiral or Painted Lady this year. Malcolm Newland

At last first sighting this year of a holly blue in Bushey garden today - David Gower

I live adjacent to Hitch Wood, near Preston, south of Hitchin. Within 100yds of the house the following were observed today: 2 Common Blue, 12+ Peacock, 3 Essex Skipper, 2 Small Skipper, 1 Large Skipper, 5 Purple Hairstreaks, 15 Meadow Browns, 12 Gatekeeper, 6 Small White, 2 Green-veined White, 2 Ringlet, 1 Red Admiral. However, much more noteworthy, was a male Purple Emperor which visited my new, yet to be finished, pond where it spent over 10 minutes feeding. In the 15 years I have lived here this is my first sighting for Hitch Wood. - Colin Brackston

I did the transect today at Aldbury, still large numbers of butterflies of quite a few species. Highlights included 51 peacock, 48 brimstone and 66 large white of a total of 643 sightings today! (621 of these were on the transect). Like a few weeks ago there were so many butterflies it was very difficult keeping count! There were still good numbers of meadow browns which were covering the knapweed that is now in flower. I've never seen so many peacocks or brimstones (and the other whites) on the reserve, they were favouring marjoram and thistles, particularly on the northern side. Other sightings included brown argus, common blue, small copper, small heath, silver washed (5) and dark green fritillary (5), marbled white, ringlet, small, essex and large skipper, small and green veined white, comma and chalk hill blue. - Paul Thrush

My wife and I drove to Northaw Great Wood today at 1:30pm. At the recognised spot near the main entrance we were able to watch 2 Purple Emperors battling above the Oak and Ash trees- Terry Wood

Sighted today between 1300-1430 at Park Wood, Northwood Hills, at least three Purple Emperor, possibly up to six - Danton Briggs, John Edwards, Patty Briggs, Kelly Roberts

On my visit to Norton Green this afternoon I saw the following: 100+ whites (many of which were Large Whites), 30+ Gatekeepers, 20+ Meadow Browns, 10+ skippers, 8+ Silver-washed Fritillaries, 5+ Peacocks, 5+ Purple Hairstreaks, 5+ Ringlets, 1 Marbled White (probably a first in August!) and finally a Purple Emperor which flew past over my head just outside Pigeonswick Cottage towards Cannocks Wood. However, my main purpose today was to find a White Admiral but again to no avail. Maybe it is breeding in the more private or inaccessible parts of the woods. Peter Clarke

Today I saw another clouded yellow at Thorley Wash, this is the third I know of that has been seen there this year! I also saw a Common Blue and lots of Small tortoiseshell caterpillars on the nettles. Jenny Sherwen

A short walk around Balls wood today 1st August - I saw about 100 butterflies - a mixture of whites, skippers, commas, gatekeepers, peacocks, ringlets, meadow browns and best of all 3 White Admirals - Andy Brown HMWT

Whilst working in a private garden in Aldbury, Herts yesterday (31/07/2013) I saw at least **15 Small Coppers** around a few small Wild Marjoram plants in a small paddock adjoining the garden.

I was told by the owner that there were at least 25 the evening before. Quite a spectacular sight! - Charlie Jackson

July 2013

Wednesday 31st July 2013

Seen this afternoon Wed 31st July 2013 at Hexton Chalk Pit NR TL1029 between 4.30 and 5.10pm. A large number of Chalkhill Blue butterflies. There were probably many more than as I only walk along well worn tracks. Mostly they were settled on short grass or on grass stems. Rarely see so many in a small area 368 Chalkhill Blue 4 Common Blue 9 Meadow Brown 2 Ringlet 2 Brown Argus 1 Marble White 2 Large White 3 Gatekeeper - Peter Glenister, Butterfly Recorder for Bedfordshire

Normally I expect to see more butterflies in my Hemel Hempstead back garden which is next to a bridle path and small wood but today I saw far more in the front garden nearly all which were nectaring on the paler blue of my two Buddlia "Buzz." Numerous Large, Small and Green Veined Whites, two Peacocks, a Gatekeeper, a Comma but the "star" was a Marbled White, a rare visitor indeed. Sadly it was chased away by a couple of whites who objected to its presence. By a strange coincidence I had a Marbled White on the same day last year. - Malcolm Newland

Tuesday 30th July 2013

Saw two Comma this afternoon Tuesday 30th July 2013 on the edge of Whitewebbs Wood. - Robert Callf

1 x peacock in Bushey garden and 1 x least carpet moth in kitchen - David Gower

Monday 29th July 2013

Purple Hairstreaks showing well at Bricket Wood at lunchtime today (Monday) with 12 seen. White Admirals and Silver-washed Fritillaries, now past their peak but one and 5 seen respectively. Purple Emperor perched low, basking on Oak tree and a fresh Common Blue. All ended with another thunderstorm - Clive Burrows

A complete walk today (Hounslow Heath to Marshalling Yards) after a morning rain-shower with just a short interruption for rain whilst I sheltered in the wooded area near the river. From a butterfly point of view the breeze was much more disruptive. As I suspected Skippers survive in reasonable numbers, seeming to favour the dying flowers of Viper's Bugloss rather than fresh ones. A Roe Deer was a not unexpected first-ever definite sighting on the Marshalling Yards. I can't decide whether this is a welcome development or not. Meadow Brown: 24 Small White: 26 Gatekeeper: 40 Green-Veined White: 5 Speckled Wood: 10 Large White: 4 Small Skipper: 9 Comma: 4 Peacock: 19 Large Skipper: 1 Small Copper: 1 Painted Lady: 1 (My first of the year, 21st and likely last species of the year on this site unless we get a wanderer or a belated Essex Skipper recognised.) Common Blue: 1 Red Admiral: 4. 6 Spot Burnet: 23 Sadly, no Small Tortoiseshell again. It looks to me as if any recovery for this species will have to take place away from this corner of Middlesex - Pete Gore

Have seen a male silver washed fritillary in our Ickenham, Uxbridge back garden. Around 18.00hrs on Friday 26th July. Around for 20 minutes or so. Can't say which direction it went I'm afraid. Fed on a cone flower and rested on Ivy. Wind SW, weather good. David Glen

Some surprise sightings this weekend no doubt blown down by the wind on Sunday. In general I am finding several strong colonies of Essex Skippers, all appearing to be doing well in various places. Saturday 27th July Wareside: Amongst the grassland species Essex Skipper is doing well, good colonies along the disused railway track: (9) seen But more important I found over 20 larval webs in various stages of development all small tortoiseshell, most were on small new growths of nettles below 6 inches from the soil, some were huge with hundreds of caterpillars in the web. I hadn't seen as many as this ever brings back happy memories of my childhood. Lets hope the flies haven't visited them and they provide a bumper crop of hibernators. In the garden at home 20+ peacock all on the buddleia, also comma and red admiral seen egg laying on the nettles in the garden. Sunday - some highlights whilst tetrad bashing **Combs Wood:** grassland field verge. (TL136218) 1 Chalkhill blue: pristine male being blown about, doubtless emanating from Therfield heath 4 marbled white 1 purple hairstreak, although far from ideal conditions for these as the wind was very strong. Dane End Tributary (TL349230) There really isn't much in this square but was surprised to find (an photo) a very worn old lady Dark Green Fritillary nectaring on thistles and

knapweeds.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/77676448@N05/9390150121/>(Preview)

Lets hope she found some violets on her wind blown travels. Haultwick (TL335234) 1 Marbled white, 7 Essex skippers + various grassland species - Phil Macmurdie

Sunday 28th July 2013

Sunday 28th July 2013 An afternoon walk in cloudy, breezy conditions, leaving the central area of the Marshalling Yards to the bikers: these two factors no doubt helping to make this the first day for quite a while when I saw no Skippers.: Meadow Brown 6 Small White 11 Gatekeeper 33 Large White 3 Speckled Wood 6 Green-Veined White 1 Peacock 14 Comma 4 Small Copper 1 Red Admiral 1 6-Spot Burnet 12 Ate my first blackberries as Birch leaves showered down on me: positively autumnal! - Pete Gore

Saw a Red Admiral at Vault Hill Wood, Enfield Chase today 28th July 2013 at 10:45 hrs. Also found a nest of Small Tortoiseshell caterpillars at Plumridge Farm, Enfield in cut border of field - not much left for them to feed on! Yesterday 27th July 2013 - 1 Peacock at Chelmsfor Road, N14 at 15:55 hrs and another or the same at Chase Road, N14 Allotment site at 16:15 hrs. - Robert Callf

Saturday 27th July 2013

Had a Silver-washed Fritillary in my Great Ashby garden this afternoon for around 20 minutes before it headed off west towards Box Wood

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/stevelane56/9376382471/>

Steve Lane

Belated sightings report for Friday 26th July at Croxley Common Moor & the adjacent 'Buddleia Walk', Grid Ref. TQ 083 948. No specific count undertaken but a good variety of species evident- Large, small & probable Green-veined whites in abundance, many Meadow Browns, Ringlets, Gatekeepers, Small/Essex Skippers, several Commas, Peacocks mostly nectaring on one of the many Buddleia bushes together with 1 (seen twice?) or 2 fresh-looking male Brimstones. A few Speckled Woods & a collection of Cinnabar larvae busily demolishing a Ragwort growing alongside the River Gade. Disappointingly no Marbled Whites were seen which was the reason for our visit having been told there were lots there the previous week- a classic case of "You should have been here last week.....". Tony & Gill Porter

St Albans - I was fooled by the forecast of rain all day and spent the morning in St Albans City centre shops. Infact it turned out sunny, but all was not lost as butterflies have moved into the city centre big time. Large and Small Whites were everywhere with at least one or two always in view. Buddleia is really coming into its own, even though many bushes are not yet in flower. The best "bush", 30 ft high in the civic centre garden contained 7 Peacock, 2 Large White, 3 Small White, 1 Comma and a Hummingbird Hawkmoth (my first of the year). In total my inner urban haul (butterflies on Buddleia only) was 34 Peacock 2 Small Tortoiseshell, 3 Comma 29 Large White, 22 Small White 2 Gatekeeper 1 Brimstone, 1 Marbled White. I also spotted a Holly Blue on ivy This afternoon I headed off to Buddleia HQ (Butterfly World) where I saw (all on Buddleia) 61 Peacocks, 9 Small Tortoiseshell, 3 Comma, 24 Large White, 8 Small White 25 six spot burnet 3 Gatekeeper 4 Meadow Brown plus 2 very fresh Painted Ladies. Also at this site were hundreds of six spot burnet in the meadows plus new brood individual of Brown Argus, Small Blue and Common Blue. There have been several reports of Purple Emperor at this site during the week and I'd be interested to hear from anyone who has a confirmed or suspected sighting - Malcolm Hull

Ware garden this morning, White-letter Hairstreak nectaring on Hemp Agrimony, also 4 Peacocks and 1 Comma - Liz Goodyear

Not sure if this counts as a record. I just went to pick up a parcel and ended up giving a male white letter hairstreak a lift on my car window near London Rd, Hertford. I was about to look for an Elm to leave the butterfly on when it flew off. Jenny Sherwen

Friday 26th July 2013

A Jersey Tiger seen in an Enfield house last night - Carrin and Phil Rhodes

Bricket Wood Common - torrential rain during the week does not seem to have impacted butterfly numbers, though all the brown species were slightly down on last week. Silver washed Fritillary numbers are still high with 14 seen, including a female egg laying on a gnarled Birch tree. Eggs

were deposited at heights of 2,4,6 and 8 feet above the ground. I have waited over 16 years to see Purple Emperor on the transect. No sooner had I seen one perched on top of an oak than a second flew by and a chase ensued high above the ride. White Admiral numbers were down (6 seen), but they are often elusive in the afternoon. New generations of Peacocks, Brimstones and Green veined Whites were out in force, Purple Hairstreaks were active in every other tree and a few Holly Blues drifted through. Also spotted a Silver Y moth along the ride. Lots of butterflies on Buddleia today after the rain - 4 Peacocks, a Silver washed Fritillary and a Meadow Brown in Bricket Wood, lots of Peacocks a few Small Tortoiseshells, Large Whites and six spot Burnetts on Buddleia at Butterfly World and Five Peacocks and a Gatekeeper on Buddleia in my St Albans garden. Later, at Bricket Wood Common - I walked along the rides for half an hour between 8 and 8.30pm this evening and saw at least 63 Purple Hairstreaks. This species becomes very active in mid evening at this time of year and there were two or three on nearly every oak tree, positioned near the top of the tree in the last rays from the setting sun. There's probably some on an oak tree near you, so why not pop out during the evening over the next few days and have a look. You could be surprised, this species has can be recorded anywhere oaks grow, even in central London - Malcolm Hull

At Balls wood and Hertford Heath had 1 Purple Hairstreak, least 8 silver washed fritillary and 4 White Admiral, 15+ green veined white, 10+ small Whites 30+ meadow brown, 6 comma, 30+ large white, 20+ gatekeeper, 30+ large skipper, 30+ small skipper, 3 Essex skippers 6 brimstone, 15 ringlet and 8 speckled wood. At Amwell around the lake had easily 50 Peacocks loving the Buddleia, 40+ large White lots getting minerals from the mud, 6 Gatekeepers, 15+ Meadow Browns and 15+ comma - Andy Steele

Friday 26 July. In my Hatfield garden today, 4 Peacock, 3+ Small Torts, 2 Gatekeeper, several Small Whites, including at least 1 GV, several Large White. Buddleia is of course a special attraction & others seen on this and other garden flowers in the last few days include a pair of mating Meadow Browns, Commas, Ringlets & even a lovely new male Brimstone. Still no Holly Blue though, even though they've bred on our Holly/Ivy for years. Monday 22 July. Good results on my Warren transect again, with abundant Meadow Brown, 47 Small/Essex Skipper (ID'd 1 Essex which kindly sat still long enough for me to examine it), 31 Marbled Whites, only 19 Gatekeepers, + Ringlets, all 3 Whites, a Comma & even 3 Small Heath. No sign of Blues yet, but plenty of Burnetts & other moths, bees, grasshoppers etc. The site has been un-managed for 2 yrs now, apart from occasional mowing of surrounding rides. Scrub is developing but the site still hums with wildlife this summer. John Moss

Bushey garden sightings on buddleia = 4 x peacock, 2 x comma, 1 x meadow brown, 1 x brimstone(female), 2 x large white - David Gower

Apart from the five Gatekeepers in my Harrow garden (they like Marjoram) we have just seen a Fritillary; probably a Silver-washed. Must mow the lawn more often - John Hollingdale

Oughtonhead today. Butterflies were everywhere you looked Gatekeepers in there 100s, many Meadow Browns and Ringlets, Large White x4, Small Whites again many, GV Whitex3, Speckled Woodx3, Marbled Whitex5, Essex Skipperx2, Commax3, Brimstonex3, Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell x1 - Kevin Taylor

Another lengthy walk around Hounslow Heath, the River Crane and the Marshalling Yards in cloudy but warm weather. Butterflies particularly numerous (and undercounted) on the Marshalling Yards: Friday 26th July 2013: Small White 18, Tortoiseshell 1, Meadow Brown 12, Small Skipper 9, Peacock 19, Large White 4, Brimstone 1, Gatekeeper 29, Common Blue 1, Small Copper 1 (my second of the year), Red Admiral 1, Burnet Moth 40 - Peter Gore

Thursday 25th July 2013

Some sightings for yesterday Thursday 25th July 2013 - 6 Peacock (1 edge of Williams Wood, 16:32 hrs, 2 together, edge of Moat Wood, 17:10 hrs, 1 Park Farm, Enfield, 17:27 hrs, 1 field near Hadley Road/Vicarage Farm, 18:00 hrs, 1 at Barracks/Vicarage Farm, 18:25 hrs); 1 Essex Skipper at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 16:40 hrs; 1 Small Skipper at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 16:40 hrs; 1 Comma at Duncan's Wood, Enfield Chase, 17:20 hrs; 18 Small/Green-veined White on damp patch of mud at Park Farm, Enfield, 17:25 hrs - approximately 50/50 % of each; 2 Small Tortoiseshell together at Park Farm, Enfield, 17:35 hrs; 4 Comma together along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 18:10 hrs; 1 Marbled White nectaring on Burdock along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables at Vicarage Farm, 18:10 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell along

track South of Barracks at Vicarage Farm, Enfield. - Robert Callf

I did the transect this afternoon at Aldbury. I walked up from Aldbury village and counted butterflies along the footpath until I reached the reserve. Totals for this section were 15 small/green veined white, 34 meadow brown, 2 small tortoiseshell, 1 comma, 2 marbled white, 12 large white, 6 gatekeeper, 4 large skipper, 3 brimstone, 3 ringlet and 1 speckled wood (total 83). The transect total was 434, the commonest species were meadow brown. There were 3 dark green fritillary and 1 male chalk hill blue on the transect together with definite sightings of Essex and small skipper. Away from the transect the furthest northern enclosure had 3 ringlets, 8 marbled white, 15 small/ green veined white, 9 gatekeeper, 4 large skipper, 9 small/Essex skipper, 1 each definite of Essex and small skipper, 12 meadow brown, 9 brimstone and 4 male chalk hill blue. In the coppice area in the southern part of the reserve there was single peacock, ringlet, small white and silver washed fritillary, 5 large skipper and 2 gatekeeper - Paul Thrush

Park Wood, Ruislip - Three or four Purple Hairstreaks this afternoon - Graham Elcombe

A few sightings for yesterday 24th July 2013 - 2 Small Copper, at 'New Fields', Trent Park, 16:25 and 16:30 hrs, nectaring on Ragwort; 1 Peacock, at 'New Fields', Trent Park, 16:25 hrs; 1 male Oak Eggar, edge of Church Wood, Trent Park, 16:50 hrs; 25+ Six-spot Burnet, at New Fields', Trent Park; 5 Comma, at Trent Park (2 together edge of Church Wood, 1 Water Garden, 2 together edge of Williams Wood); 1 Marbled White at 'New Fields', Trent Park, 16:57 hrs; 1 female Purple Hairstreak, settled by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 17:22 hrs; 2+ Small Tortoiseshell at Vicarage Farm, Enfield. Today 25th July 2013 - 1 Peacock, again nectaring on Buddleia, Dalrymple Close, Southgate, N14 at 14:45 hrs and 1 Comma at Chase Rd, N14 at 14:47 hrs. - Robert Callf

Omitted news from Saturday 13th July, Wareside Marbled White I the orchard (a first) + 15 small tortoiseshell Also 5 Essex skipper in the fields. Sunday 14th July, Broxbourne woods 1 purple emperor who obliged for some pic's, + 1 white admiral. 8 (minimum) silver washed Fritillary, they were everywhere. We were treated to several enchanting nuptial flight displays where the male appears to fly under and over the female. Definitely one to video - Phil Macmurdie

Apologies for the delay in getting these sightings to you! On Monday evening I was working at Tewin Orchard, there were single peacock, comma, large white and small white, numerous meadow brown, a couple of marbled white, gatekeeper and large skipper. Also on Monday at Tewinbury there were numerous whites nectaring on thistles, small, green veined and large. At Hexton yesterday (24/7) there were thousands of chalkhill blue, it really is a good year for them! Also there were large white, small white, speckled wood, comma, marbled white, gatekeeper, meadow brown and peacock. At Hill end pit there were meadow browns and a comma whilst at Purwell there were speckled wood, small white, large skipper and meadow brown. - Paul Thrush

Wednesday 24th July 2013

A quick visit to Broxbourne Woods (1st car park after Brickendon G. C.) at 3.00pm - 4.00pm. Not too much about: Pair of silver washed fritillaries ensuring next year's specimens, 3 purple hairstreaks, 25+ meadow browns, 10+ ringlets, 2 small skippers, 7 gatekeepers, 2 large whites was about it. Surprised not to see any white admirals. However, few reasonable photos of swf's. Last one would make a good quiz question! Fairly high up, photo with 300mm lens! - Jono Forgham

I found a Marbled White this morning (24/7/13). Location was below the A10 where it crosses over Gore Lane, near Barwick, High Cross - Mark Wilkinson

News via Herts Birding yahoo group, Purple Emperor seen at Grove Lane carpark, Whippendell Woods today

Barnet Gate Wood, Arkley-----after many years of rumours and fruitless searching ----1 x Purple Emperor male on horse dung .----Kit Jones

Just returned from our allotment in Cheshunt. No sign of the adult small tortoiseshells that have been around for the last three weeks (at least four around our particular plot) but I was delighted to see a nest of young small tortoiseshell caterpillars on a clump of nettles by the shed - Roger Newbold

In Bushey garden late afternoon = 1 x comma, 3 x small white, 3 x peacock - David Gower

In case it hasn't been reported I and a couple of others saw a PE about 50yds from the front entrance of Balls Wood. it was displaying above an oak tree near the first seat that you come to. Look NW and it was near a conifer - Andy Brown HMWT

Saw a Peacock nectaring on Buddleia outside my window in Dalrymple Close, Southgate, N14 on Monday 22nd July at 15:10 hrs and today Wednesday 24th July 2013 at 12:00 hrs. Robert Callf P.S., Today also saw a Holly Blue in Oakwood Park, N14 at 13:35 hrs.

Tuesday 23rd July 2013

Today at Hertford Heath Goldington (HMWT) 23rd July - I walked the main ride north of the Hertford Road in the hope of seeing PEs but instead I saw : 10 + Gatekeepers, 2 Red Admirals, numerous Ringlets, Meadow Browns, Large Whites and a couple of Green veined whites- Andy Brown

Some news for today 23rd July 2013 - At Oakwood Park, N14 saw the following: 10+ Gatekeeper; 10+ Meadow Brown; 18+ Small Skipper; 2 Speckled Wood; 2 Small Copper, on Ragwort; 1 Peacock; 7 Six-spot Burnet. At Grovelands Park, N14 noted the following: 1 Comma at 13:22 hrs and 3 Six-spot Burnet - Robert Callf.

Monday 22nd July 2013

This morning at about 1030 I was very excited to find a Purple Emperor at the north end of Ruislip Lido. It was resting on the top of the name board for one of the stations (Haste Hill) for the miniature railway that runs round the lake. I have a photo taken with my mobile phone, I could not get closer than about 2m so it is not very good. I am willing to forward a copy if that would be useful. The observation was in a position near some willows and is about 0.6km from a high point in Copse wood. There are high oak trees there - Don Rutherford

In an hour and a half wonder through Bricket Wood at luncheon today had 3 Purple Emperors, 11 White Admirals, 21 Silver-washed Fritillaries, 6 Marbled Whites, 4 Brimstones and 5 Purple Hairstreaks amongst the butterflies seen. - Clive Burrows

News from 18th July, weedy field, BATFORD-2 PURPLE HAIRSTREAK, 2 WHITE LETTER HAIRSTREAK - Darin Stanley

Whilst doing a bit of gardening today, turned out to be a good day for Butterflies in my garden in Lucas lane Hitchin. Great to see a Marbled White I did not really have them down as a garden Butterfly also seen Large White, Small White, Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock, Ringlet, and Gatekeeper - Kevin Taylor

At least 1 Purple Hairstreak over the oak tops in Peartree Wood near the Canyon Play Centre, Fairlands Valley, Stevenage at 1830 hours - Peter Clarke

Saturday 20th July Wareside 1 - Marbled White in our orchard. New for the area Plus many ringlet (12), Gatekeeper (7), meadow brown(14), Large Skipper (3), Small Tortoiseshell (5) + large small and green veined white. Sunday 21st July Wareside-I went back to photo some of the marbled whites in the morning to be greeted by **2 wall browns** Photo on flick-<http://www.flickr.com/photos/77676448@N05/9345919954/> There are also currently 12 of what I believe to be the longhorn moth Nemophora metallica,, the highest count we made was 23 Again photo's on flickr <http://www.flickr.com/photos/77676448@N05/9343138505/> Elsewhere Sandon Fields (TL322343) In amongst the huge numbers of Ringlet (21), meadow Brown (84), Gatekeeper (54), there is a good colony of small skipper(21) and a small colony of Essex skipper (3). Also seen Brown Argus (1), small heath (2), Marbled White (5), and Small Tortoiseshell (10), including two egg laying on nettles. - Phil MacMurdie

A Chalkhill Blue has been seen at Hilfield Reservoir by Steve Murray as has Purple Emperor - news via Bob Cripps

A few sightings today 22nd July 2013 - 2 Peacock (1 Uni-lawns, Trent Park, 09:30 hrs and another at Allotments, Vicarage Farm, 10:20 hrs - the first of the summer-brood that we have seen); 1 Comma edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 09:40 hrs - Robert Callf & Robin White

Had a good butterfly day in my Great Ashby garden yesterday (21st July). A White-letter Hairstreak came in circled the pond several times, then landed on a lily pad and had a drink of water - never seen that before

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/stevelane56/9339605247/>

Also 2 Small Tortoiseshell, 5 Comma, 1 Marbled White on its way to Great Ashby park, Large White, Small White, Green-veined White, Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper, Ringlet and Large Skipper. On Great Ashby Park - lots of Marbled Whites, Large Skippers and Small Skippers. Also Six-spot Burnets - Steve Lane

Sunday 21st July 2013

Merry Hill Woodlands Trust site - Sightings of the usual heathland suspects, but of note were c4 Purple Hairstreak and one Clouded Yellow flying strongly south west along the main footpath from the Merry Hill entrance. - Danton Briggs

In Bushey garden today= 3 x large white, 4 x small white, 1 x meadow brown, 4 x small tortoiseshell, 1 x comma. At Fishers Field =gatekeeper x 22, ringlet x 3, large white x 6, small white x 12, small skipper x 13, essex x 5, large skipper x 2, small tortoiseshell x 6, meadow brown x 14, marbled white x 5, comma x 1, peacock x 1, narrow bordered 5 spot burnet x 1. At Water lane = narrow bordered 5 spot burnet x 5, shaded broad bar x 1, riband wave x 2, green veined white x 3, essex skipper x 15, small skipper x 4, marbled white x 24, small white x 11, comma x 1, gatekeeper x 16, meadow brown x 1, small tortoiseshell x 2, large white x 1. - David Gower

A female Purple Emperor seen at Norton Green probably egg-laying on a willow on the western edge of Watery Grove close to the track at about 2:15pm. Several Purple Hairstreaks also flying now. Peter Clarke

Sighting are as follows Friday 19th July 2013 - 3 Small Tortoiseshell at Park Farm, Enfield, 06:45 - 07:25 hrs; 1 Comma at Chase Road, N14 Allotment site, 16:25 hrs. Saturday 20th July 2013 - 7 Gatekeeper at Grovelands Park, Southgate, N14 also here 3 Speckled Wood, 22 Small Skipper (no Essex identified), 1 Large Skipper and 2 Six-spot Burnet. Also Small Tortoiseshell and Comma at Chase Road, N14 Allotment site. Sunday 21st July 2013 - 1 Six-spot at Parkside Farm, Enfield on Res banking (TQ2998); 3 male Gatekeeper at South Barvin Farm, Enfield; 2, male and female, Gatekeeper at Enfield Town Library Wildlife Garden, Church Street, 11:45 hrs. - Robert Callf

2 Marbled White at Totteridge Fields on Friday 19th July - Tony Clancy

Saturday 20th July 2013

I visited Hexton Chalk Pit this afternoon and was totally amazed at the numbers of Chalkhill Blues, not just hundreds but literally thousands and thousands all over the reserve, possibly even more than ten thousand! Being relatively hazy sun meant that many of them were resting and easy to get close to: stupendous! Also many Marbled White and a couple of Dark Green (?) Fritillaries. Phil Barron

In Bushey garden 3 x large white. At Merryhill fields from 3.30 to 6.30 p.m = small tortoiseshell x 7, comma x 3, small white x 12, narrow bordered 5 spot burnet x 28, essex skipper x 29, small skipper x 69 (much easier to id this time as mostly resting), shaded broad bar x 24, marbled white x 169, large skipper x 12, ringlet x 24, speckled wood x 3, meadow brown x 275, gatekeeper x 74, peacock x 1, yellow shell x 10. - David Gower

Friday 19th July 2013

Jane and I went for a walk around Bramfield Wood today. We saw 10 White Admirals, 2 Silver-washed Fritillaries and Jane spotted (as in almost kicked) a male Purple Emperor grounded on a dog poo on one of the tracks. We were able to observe it for several minutes happily sucking minerals.

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=10201014043465518&set=o.313540722064920&type=2&theater>

Andrew Wood

No luck with Purple Emperors in Bricket Wood today, but considerably more Purple Hairstreak activity, with 25 sightings in the canopy gap in 45 minutes. Elsewhere on the Common, 3 female Brimstones nectarine on thistles, the first of this summers new brood, also my first of this

summers Peacocks. near St Albans, my first second brood Common Blue of this year. Malcolm Hull

Another visit to Amwell today and saw my first Gatekeeper of the year also lots of Meadow Browns, Ringlets, Small Tortoiseshell, Large White, GV White, Large Skipper, Comma, Red Admiral. Kevin Taylor

1 x small tortoiseshell in Bushey garden today - David Gower

A bit of a surprise today I saw a Silver Washed Fritillary on the edge of Patmore heath nature reserve, sunning itself on a bush on the north side of the heath. Not really a heathland species ! Andy Brown HMWT

Thursday 18th July 2013

At Balls Wood today 18th July during a guided walk for staff and trustees of HMWT, there were 10+ White Admirals, several Silver washed Fritillaries, meadow browns, ringlets and skippers and definitely 2, possibly 3 Purple Emperors witnessed by 35 people ! 1 stayed on the ground for about 10 mins. (3.45 pm) Absolutely stunning! Andy Brown HMWT

Copse Wood, Ruislip - Four White Admirals this afternoon. Also second brood Holly Blues have appeared in my Pinner garden in the last few days. Graham Elcombe.

Ten Small Tortoiseshells, apparently hibernating in my out-house, all perched in dark corners on the ceiling. Earlier in the week I saw them gorging themselves all day on flowers in the garden, but hibernation this early is unexpected. This location is a favourite winter hibernating spot & I keep a count of the number of hibernating individuals each year. Over the last 15 years the highest number previously has been 7 (about 10 years ago) and the lowest 0 (for the last two winters). So a count of 10 suggests the species is doing very well just now. Also spotted a dead Small Tortoiseshell on the back door step this morning, the body neatly wrapped in a shroud of spiders web! - Malcolm Hull

At last some Purple Emperors at Broxbourne: two along the newly-opened path between Broxbourne Wood and Highfield Wood, and two on Broxbourne Wood main ride. All males. One was in flight, one on a tree trunk and two grounded. Also four White Admirals and large numbers of Silver-washed Fritillaries. Paul Why

. I went for a walk at Hertford Heath Nature Reserve/Balls Wood near the College Arms Pub and saw lots of Small or Essex Skippers, Ringlets, Meadow Browns, two small tortoiseshells and a Red Admiral and whites on Ermine Street - Dave and Alex

Latest butterfly sightings from Hounslow Heath To Marshalling Yards, morning only. Thursday 18th July, 2013 Most pleasing sight of the day was three Peacocks, an early sign, I hope, that we'll have at least as good numbers as the spring. Gatekeeper 39 Small Skipper 31 Meadow Brown 10 Large White 5 Ringlet 2 Green-Veined White 1 Small White 12 Comma 6 Tortoiseshell 3 Speckled Wood 1 Peacock 3 My spot count on the only of several Burnet moths to settle was 5 but I'm not convinced and will try again shortly. Pete Gore

A Purple emperor at the far end of the main ride Brox, seen by Paul Guban, around 8.30 am. - Laurence Drummond

Wednesday 17th July 2013

Brox main ride 08.05-08.50, plenty of SWF and now Small skippers and Gatekeepers on the wing, 2-3 male Purple emperors along the ride down to the stream, and my first grounded female in the car park, none of the emperors grounded on the track but were landing on vegetation, one male probed a thistle head for a couple of seconds then burrowed itself into the grass at the side of the path, they seemed desperate to find some moisture, I met Paul Guban there who took some snaps, a walk north along Ermine Street from Goose Green to Balls Wood gave nothing of note, PM I checked the territory's at Blackfan Wood and Broxbourne Common 14.30-15.30 to no avail, although Blackfan is now so overgrown you can't see the area where they used to perch - Laurence Drummond

Off to my local patch after work this evening (around 6 with the temperature touching 30 still), and I decided to check out the Essex Skipper colony right next to the roundabout between the A3044 and the A3113. There were about a dozen flying, and having examined all I could, I took

one last photo. Looking now, I find I had a Small Skipper amidst the crowd of Essex. Near to this spot, there is a patch of thistle and long grass next to the junction between the A3044 and the road into Stanwell Moor. Ten minutes here produced two Commas, a Small Tortoiseshell, a Gatekeeper, a Holly Blue and my first new Peacock of the summer. Despite a few largish hedgerow elms, I found no WLH. Back on the riverside part of my walk, I entered the usual glade to find two Red Admirals gliding around in the shade, accompanied by a Speckled Wood and two more Holly Blues. Further on, I came out into the open area north of the A3113 to be surrounded by dozens of Meadow Browns. Along the hedges there were also lots of Gatekeepers; Large Skippers still leapt at anything moving (though they are getting more ragged by the day) and several Commas joined in. There was also a Small Tortoiseshell nectaring on Ragwort: it remained there throughout my whole visit. There is also a colony of Essex Skippers here, and it did not disappoint - and once again there was a Small Skipper in the mix. Finally, only one Small Heath appeared, and there were several Large and Green-veined Whites seeking spots in the shade to nectar. I checked all three localities where Purple Hairstreaks are usually found, and saw a few high up in two out of the three.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=35833&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=35834&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=35830&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=35829&mode=view>

- Dave Miller

17.07.13 - weedy field in BATFORD - 3 WHITE LETTER HAIRSTREAKS (good to see them still around after being absent last year), Marbled whites, Gate keepers, Ringlets, Meadow Browns, large & small skippers also about. - Darin Stanley

For the last 2 days we have sighted a ringlet butterfly in the Wildlife Garden at the Natural History Museum SW7.- Larissa Cooper

Just a quick message to report some sightings tonight of 2 white letter hairstreaks nectaring on bramble at an entrance to great ashby park from 6pm to last sighting at 7pm at grid reference 264267 on brambles before the hump into grass of park - Colin Stratford

Numbers are on the increase both on Hounslow Heath and the Marshalling Yards but it's mainly Browns And Whites and on the way back I reflected I'd seen more Vanessids on dog poo (three Commas, separately) than on the many Buddleias on the site. Tortoiseshell 4 Small Skipper 36 Gatekeeper 27 Meadow Brown 12 Large White 10 Speckled Wood 2 Small White 8 Comma 5 Ringlet 3 A blue butterfly seen was a likely Common Blue male but I'm not optimistic of seeing many despite earlier numbers -the BF Trefoil is shrivelled and lost in the very successful taller grasses.I've also 'lost' the Sheep's Sorrel so may be lucky to see any Small Copper this year. Burnet moths doing reasonably well. - Pete Gore

My visit to Norton Green earlier yielded the following: 50+ Meadow Browns, Gatekeeper, 50+ Ringlets, 20+ Marbled Whites, 50+ Speckled Woods, 5+ Large Skippers, 5+ Small/Essex Skippers, 10+ Large Whites, 10+ other whites, 3 Small Tortoiseshells, 1 Comma, 2 Purple Hairstreaks and 2 male Silver-washed Fritillaries (first of the year in the clearing just off the track near Pigeonswick Cottage). By the way, saw the first Holly Blue on 12th. Searched hard for the Purple Emperor and White Admiral but with no success. Peter Clarke

Wider Countryside survey in TL1013 yesterday, Hexton Common (not Chalk Pits) Many Ringlets and Meadow Brown. Small Tortoiseshells. Interesting thing is that this green lane on the Gault clay has been surfaced with crushed chalk and has been colonised by Chalkhill Blues presumably from the Hexton Chalk Pits south of the village and about a mile away. Never seen Chalkhill Blues except on chalk grassland before - Nigel Agar Hexton Common has elm hedges and looks ideal for WL Hairstreaks. At one point saw a dark butterfly high up but probably a high flying Ringlet.

Tuesday 16th July 2013

This afternoon at Balls Wood amongst many Silver-washed Fritillary, White Admiral, Meadow Brown, Ringlet, Speckled Wood and skippers (uncounted numbers of each), 1f Brimstone and 5 Comma I saw 1 Red Admiral, only my second of the season. Earlier at Broxbourne Wood I'd seen 10 Silver-washed Fritillary, 6 White Admiral, 2 Large White, uncounted numbers of Meadow Brown, Ringlet, Speckled Wood and skippers, and 2f Purple Hairstreak, but still no Purple Emperors - Paul Why

Things picking up at last in the Hemel Hempstead garden with Speckled Wood, Meadow Brown, Comma, Small Tortoiseshell, many Large, Small, and the odd Green Veined White during the last few days and tonight at 6.25 p.m. a Hummingbird Hawk Moth on lavender. Rather worrying is the complete absence of Ladybird larvae and adults. The aphids are taking over! Malcolm Newland

Today I visit Amwell and saw my first Essex Skipper of the year also seen Small Tortoiseshell, Meadow Brown, Ringlet, Large Skipper, Comma, Large White, Speckled Wood - Kevin Taylor

Parked at Martins green car park 10.00, at HMWT Danemead 1 White admiral, walked north along the bridleway to Monks green, at the crossway 2 White admiral, 1 SWF (female) just north of the crossway a Purple emperor on the path flushed by a dragonfly. Brox woods main ride 10.50-11.30, 1 White admiral, 7 SWF 5 males 2 females, 1 Purple hairstreak, male down on the path near the car park. Laurence Drummond

I saw a Meadow Brown in Victoria Embankment Gardens Whitehall Section (TQ 303 802) this morning. As a visitor to London, this wasn't a butterfly I was expecting to see at this location! - Adrian Dexter

Bricket Wood - met up with Chris Newman to look for Purple Emperors in Mutchets Wood. We had about 20 sightings in three hours, probably all the same individual, apart from the last one at 3.45, which was of two together in a chase. We found an improved viewpoint across the railway line and were rewarded with several views of the Emperor perching near the crown of the oak, as well as long glides around the tree canopy and once across the railway line. Elsewhere on the common 11 Silver washed Fritillaries, 10 White Admirals, 5 Purple Hairstreak and increasing numbers of Gatekeepers - Malcolm Hull

12 Silver-washed Fritillaries and 2 White Admirals (10 last Friday) on the Balls Wood Transect today, but quite a number of White Admirals active during a more relaxed walk afterwards. Visitors to the wood came up the entrance ride saying they had seen a Purple Emperor drop down from high up and fly past them about 100 yards down the ride, around 1520. - Andrew Wood

Single Purple Emperors at Broxborne Woods, Northaw Great Wood and Whitewebbs Park. Many SWF,s at Broxbourne - Tony Clancy & Brian Dawton

A few sightings for today Tuesday 16th July 2013 - Several Gatekeepers (Parkside Farm, Park Farm and Trent Park); 1 Marbled White at Park Farm, between Hadley Road and Duncan's Wood, 08:57 hrs; 1 Purple Hairstreak settled on grass along vista near Obelsik Trent Park, 09:05 hrs - our first of the year here; 1 Comma edge of Rough Lot, Trent Park, 09:10 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell 'Show Field' Trent Park, 09:35 hrs; 1 White-letter Hairstreak, settled on Elm edge of Church Wood, Trent Park, 09:45 hrs - our first record at this site for several years! 4 Marbled White at 'New Fields', Trent Park; At least 3 Six Spot Burnets 'new Fields', Trent Park; 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Chase Green, Enfield Town, 11:30 hrs - Robert Callf & Robin White

Monday 15th July 2013

Had a grounded Purple Emperor at Bricket Wood today just after 2pm. - Clive Burrows

Best records for years on my Warren transect. 162 Meadow Brown (too many to count - they're everywhere), 67 Marbled White (biggest count since they arrived c5 yrs ago), 42 Small Skipper (probably include some Essex - too mobile to ID), 7 Ringlet (probably more mixed in with MBs), 2 :Large White, 9 Small Heath, 2 Small Tortoiseshell in a hurry, 1 Small White, 4 Gatekeeper (1st this year). 300+ on a small site has to be good. Also 7 6-spot Burnett 2 large Dragonflies (Southern Hawker?) & Damselles with lots of other small moths, bees, grasshoppers etc. Flowers are good too. Thank goodness for Transect Walker online. Saves a lot of work all round. John Moss

I had a report from Chris Newman of two Purple Emperors clashing in Mutchetts Wood, Bricket Wood Common yesterday afternoon. Today, Symonshyde Great Wood, nr Hatfield - a pair of male Silver washed Fritillaries clashing along the power cable ride. This continued for 5 mins before they were joined by a third and then a fourth SW fritillary. amazing side as they went up and down, back and forth along the ride trying to knock each others spots off, before finally breaking into two smaller fights. 12 SWFs in this wood today in total. White Admirals also out in force, but disappointingly no Purple Emperor, despite watching the high spot where I have seen it before for over an hour. Nomansland Common, nr Sandridge - a female Dark Green Fritillary, my first ever record of this species from St Albans District. Other butterflies include 2 new brood Common

Blues, new brood small copper, Purple Hairstreak, Essex Skipper, Gatekeeper 2 Small Heath and my first Silver Y moth of the year. Last but not least I had 4 Small Tortoiseshells in my St Albans garden to day, my first sighting this year of a butterfly nectaring on buddleia - I expect this will become a common sight If the weather holds - Malcolm Hull This morning I was carrying out a farmland bird survey at Hammonds End Farm (NW of Beesonend Lane, between Harpenden and Redbournbury). There were very large numbers of Marbled Whites around; nothing remarkable about that, they're doing well here - but this was at 6.15am! A little later they were joined by good numbers of Ringlets and Small Skippers. - Alan Jackson

At least a dozen Silver Washed Fritilleries and one fleeting glimpse of a White Admiral in Broxbourne Wood. plus Ringlets and Meadow Browns. Bencroft Wood had two more Silver Washed frits and numerous Ringlets. - Nigel Agar

Out with the old and in with the new! Saw a male orange tip flying at Gustardwood Common last Friday (12 July) and saw my first gatekeeper of the year today in Welwyn Garden City - Ian Flack

Just some highlights - fabulous counts of small tortoiseshells at the moment. Saturday 13th July Wareside Marbled White I the orchard (a first) + 15 small tortoiseshell Also 5 Essex skipper in the fields Sunday 14th July] Broxbourne woods 1 purple emperor who obliged for some pic's, + 1 white admiral. 8 (minimum) silver washed Fritillary, they were everywhere. We were treated to several enchanting nuptial flight displays where the male appears to fly under and over the female. Definitely one to video. - Phil Macmurdie Today (Monday 15th July) I saw a Gatekeeper at Butterfly World at about 12.45pm - out in the garden area - Brian Knight

Gatekeepers at Waterford heath and also saw a silver washed fritillary to my surprise by wood next to Rickneys quarry - Steve Kiln

Sunday 14th July 2013

Brox main ride 09.40-10.20, 4 SWF, 2 males and 2 females, went to Wormley wood and trudged up and down the rides without success so I decided to leave and join Andrew at Whitewebbs as I entered the Bencroft west car park at 11.40 I noticed a male Purple emperor flying around a Sallow, it came down, alighted briefly on a post and then settled on a log where it walked around and showed flashes of purple before finding something to its liking in a crevice in the log as it was still there when I left at 11.55 ! Incidentally, it totally ignored a large pile of dog poo 3ft away ! . - Laurence Drummond

Field trip ~ Whitewebbs Enfield 2 clashing purple emperors 12.50 onwards, later 2 clashing PEmps over Fir & Pond Wood also seen earlier by David Gompertz, 4.30 two chasing males through Northaw, purple emperors that is ~ Andrew Middleton

Bricket Wood this morning least 2 Silver-washed Fritillaries, 8 White Admirals, Male Brimstone, 2 Gatekeepers, 2 Small Tortoiseshell, 3 Large White and 2 Green-veined white and good numbers of Marbled White, Ringlets and skippers. Also in my garden this morning had Brimstone Moth, Elephant Hawk moth and Buff-tip - Andy Steele

St. Albans - better numbers of White letter Hairstreak out today. 5 at Temple View, Oysterfields (none seen at this site at similar time and weather conditions during the week). 3 at Verulamium Park, 5 at King Harry Lane and 4 at Watling St. Several sightings of **False Orange Hairstreak (aka Vapourer moth)**, a first for me for this year - Malcolm Hull

A BC guided walk with Welwyn Naturalists Soc and others Going from the Live and let Live at Pegsdon round the back of Hexton Village to Hexton Common. many Ringlets and Meadow Browns and some Small Tortoiseshells. Then through the village to Hexton Chalk Pits. Many Marbled Whites, Chalkhill Blues and some Dark Green Fritilleries. Nigel Agar

Bricket Wood Common 10:00-13:00 I recorded min.8 White Admiral, 7+ Silver-washed Fritillary (2 female), 2 Purple Hairstreak (1 on track to Bucknell's Lane. 1 on main ride adjacent to railway), 25+ Marbled White, 2 Gatekeeper, 6 Comma, 2-3 female Brimstone egg-laying + 1 male, 4 Speckled Wood, 7 Large White, 1 Green-veined White + numerous Ringlets, Meadow Brown, Large Skipper & small Skipper sp. Bob Harris

Sundays on the Marshalling Yards are often dominated by the motorbike scrambling community who have used the site for over 40 years and are in no small part responsible for the constant

churning of the topsoil which enables so many of the insect attracting atypical-for-the-locality plant species to survive and thrive. Today was no exception so a little less time spent there, more on the Heath. Sightings: Tortoiseshell 3 Ringlet 13 Small Skipper 14 Small White 5 Gatekeeper 6 Speckled Wood 6 Large White 3 Comma 1 Brimstone (male) 1 Marbled White 1 Small Heath 1. The absence of Meadow Brown isn't a clerical error or contempt for the common but a record of what I saw (or rather, didn't see.) - Pete Gore

Saturday 13th July 2013

Exciting news from Horsenden Hill today, where I discovered a **Dark Green Fritillary!** This was mid afternoon while doing the west transect in Batts Field. It was nectaring on knapweed but occasionally visiting bramble flowers. It was continually harassed by Marbled Whites. A good range of other butterflies inc at least 5 White-letter Hairstreaks, 3 Purple Hairstreak, several Small Skippers, 4 Ringlet and our first Gatekeepers of the year. - Andy Culshaw

Painted lady at Thornbera Road allotments, Stortford --16.00 hrs today--Len Crouch

There were two males cashing at Whitewebbs from 1.15 to 2pm when I was there, so it's now looking good for tomorrow Sunday. - Andrew Middleton

Bricket Wood - At 1 pm a male Purple Emperor glided powerfully across the canopy clearing in Mutchets Wood, followed by a second similar sighting a few minutes later. Two other first sightings for this site for this year - Purple Hairstreak, seen twice in the same canopy clearing and Gatekeeper, two seen in the main clearing on the common. Also at this site today, 7 Silver-washed Fritillaries, including a courting couple (first female this year) and 13 White Admirals. Marbled Whites now out in force and (amazingly late) female Brimstones still egg laying on Alder Buckthorn - Malcolm Hull and Mandy Floyd. This afternoon I visited Potters Crouch Plantations and Great Furzefield Wood between Bedmond and Potters Crouch. Pleased to record my first ever White Admiral from this site - Malcolm Hull

Saw a Small Tortoiseshell in Templewood, Welwyn Garden City around lunchtime today - John Yates

Brox main ride, 09.00-09.40 ,4 male Silver washed fritillary, 1 White admiral, Wormley wood sw area, 7-8 White admiral around the rides, 12.49 at the territory 1 male Purple emperor entered from the east and appeared to perch on the oak at the front of the gap out of view, stayed until 13.15 but no further sign, also 1 Purple hairstreak there. Laurence Drummond

This hot morning walked along public footpath to the Aubreys ,Redbourn and in the 150 meters I did counted 22 Marbled whites generally feeding on thistles. Also Meadow Browns ,Ringlets & Skippers. A broad Bodied Chaser also seen . OS ref approx TL096112. Good numbers of Small tortoiseshells locally. Ernest Leahy

Upper Green Tewin, Marbled White and Ringlet seen today and numerous Meadow Browns. Jim Farr

At 0900 hours this morning I decided to take a look at the elms by the Six Hills near Stevenage Police Station. Almost straight away I saw at least 5 White Letter Hairstreaks flitting around the tops with two of them spiraling up - Peter Clarke

Friday 12th July 2013

At lunch time today we went to Goldings wood. We entered by the entrance next to the school entrance and walked straight until we came to the corner of a horse field (lots of skewbald and piebald horses). At that point you can turn right onto a footpath or onto a bridleway running parallel to the footpath. We went on the bridleway and about 50-100 yards down on the left just before the path opens out to a wide ride, I saw a purple hairstreak and Henrik had a good view of a **purple emperor** - Nicky Chart

Much the same walk as Wednesday but with an extra area of Hounslow Heath added by turning right immediately after passing through the trees at the entrance. This takes me along a bramble and nettle filled area unsurprisingly more attractive to butterflies than the main Loop path which I rejoined further along. Comma 7 Tortoiseshell 2 Large Skipper 1 Small Heath 5 Ringlet 29 Small Skipper 40 Small White 5 Meadow Brown 3 Gatekeeper 3 Large White 1 Red Admiral 1 The Red Admiral seen on the way back through the Heath, when I'm normally avoiding double-

counting, was my first for this year. The walk was a little earlier than others c1.30 - 3.15 on site/s. - Pete Gore

Went to Wormley wood this afternoon but didn't stay long as someone was in the main ride strimming IN JULY, PART OF A NNR? I DON'T THINK SO!, just one White Admiral but I didn't stay, the strimmers have also been out at Broxbourne woods, along the sculpture trail, in the west car park an unusually pale Painted lady flying around some thistles and landing on the ground, along the main ride, 4-5 male Silver-washed fritillary and one Purple Hairstreak. Off to HMWT Balls wood, this site is increasingly superb, peaceful, one of the few woods I genuinely enjoy visiting, worth the membership money on its own, 2 male Silver washed fritillary, and an amazing 14 White admiral around the wood, but mostly north of the "fluttering butterflies" seat - Laurence Drummond

The first appearance of a Gatekeeper in my Hayes garden.
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/69131641@N04/9269035521/>
Helen George

Oak Hill Woods LNR-----12/7/13-----Ringlet are now in large numbers-----1x Marbled white----
2x Tshells----and the usual Skippers and Meadow browns. - Broxbourne Wood 1pm--no PE but 3x
SWF-----Bencroft Wood----1x Comma, 2x Tshells----Northaw Great Wood---No PE-----White-
Webs wood---no PE. T shells doing well this year----Anybody know what the fungi is that emerges
as a filament from T shell pupae?-----out of 10 captive larvae 5 were infected----five emerged
safely----Kitt Jones

Saw 3 Small Tortoiseshells today (12th) on nettles in the conservation area of Ravenscourt Park as well as 1 Small White - Michael Robinson

This afternoon I walked the Mopes Farm Bridleway at West Hyde and counted 80+ Small Tortoiseshell along a half mile stretch. They were mainly on the flowering thistles on the edge of the cereal crop and this is certainly a good year for the species everywhere. However, this is a record for me so far this summer - John Edwards

large numbers of Marbled Whites at Gibbet Hill, Baldock this morning. It is chalk grassland above the Weston Hills woodland. Site of a HMWT grasslands course. Hexton Chalk Pits had Chalkhill Blues, Dark Green Fritilleries and Marbled Whites. Also Small Tortoiseshell. Has any else noticed a considerable revival of Small Torts this year? Seen several times at Hitchin garden and allotment site recently and now at Hexton CP. Walk from Pegsdon to Hexton this Sunday. 10.00 a.m. at the Live and Let Live - Nigel Agar

I visited Hillfield park reservoir near Elstree, where there have been historic reports of Dark green fritillary. DGF appears to be increasing numbers and expanding in Herts and I was keen to find out if it has yet reached this site. A few tantalising glimpses of large orange butterflies all turned out to be Commas. But it's an interesting site including both short and long grassland, scrub and woodland, plus a large lake. Total count for the day were 11 Comma, 16 Small Tortoiseshell, 54 Marbled White, 275 Meadow Brown, 206 Ringlet, 18 Large Skipper, 23 Small/Essex Skipper (the only two I checked closely were Small), 3 Speckled Wood, 2 Common Blue, 4 Large White, 7 Small/Green veined White (the one I checked was Green veined), 5 ? Spot Burnett moth (the two I checked were narrow bordered five spots) plus one White Plume moth - Malcolm Hull

On my weekly walk at Tyttenhanger Gravel Pits today I was surprised to see at least a dozen Marbled Whites, more than ever before. As well as 6 Large Skipper, 8 Small Skipper, 1 Red Admiral, 7 Small Tortoiseshell, 7 Small Heath, 25+ Ringlets, 25+ Meadow Brown, 4 Speckled Wood and 5 Whites - Terry Wood

Sightings for today Friday 12th July 2013 - 1 male Marbled White at Vicarage Farm, Enfield (TQ3097) at 11:08 hrs; 2 male Gatekeeper (1 at Vicarage Farm, 1 at Parkside Farm) - my first of the year; 1 Comma at Park Farm, Enfield, 11:45 hrs; 2 Small Tortoiseshell at Park Farm; 40+ Ringlet, counted along the ride in Little Beechill Wood, Enfield Chase with smaller numbers of Meadow Brown; 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Little Beechill Wood, 12:30 hrs; 1 Small Skipper at Little Beechill Wood; 2 Small Tortoiseshell at Vault Hill Wood; 1 Comma at South Barvin Farm, Enfield, 13:00 hrs; 1 Comma at Ash Wood, Enfield Chase, 13:17 hrs; 1 Comma, on dogs muck, edge of Rough Lot, Trent Park, 13:25 hrs; 2 Small Tortoiseshell at Trent Park - 1 by Lower Lake and another near Dew Pond; 1 Comma, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 13:52 hrs. - Robert Callf

Thursday 11th July 2013

After work today I visited Harmondsworth Moor, primarily to see how the Marbled Whites were doing. It was around 5, but the heat was keeping them largely down in the grass, and they only appeared if disturbed. However, it became apparent that there were reasonable numbers (I counted into double figures) in a relatively small area, but they were outnumbered five to one at least by Meadow Browns. Having reassured myself that the colony was surviving well, I started to look at what else was flying. There were dozens of Small and Essex Skippers (probably a majority of the former, simply because I found them in more places), but both were clearly identified. The Essex were my first of the year. In amongst the myriad of Meadow Browns I then identified a solitary Gatekeeper - again a first for the year. Finally, I also saw several Small Tortoiseshells, and a Comma and a Large Skipper endlessly tussling over the same bit of path. They were there when I arrived, and still battling it out when I left an hour later.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=35408&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=35411&mode=view>

Dave Miller

Today at Aldbury had 11+ dark green fritillary, 9 small tortoiseshell, 8+ Speckled Woods, 40+ Large Skippers, 1 common blue, 6 small heath and a good number of Peacock caterpillars on the nettles and too many to count of the Meadow Browns and Marbled whites also a possible *Hedya ochroleucana* moth At Symondshyde Great Wood on the main track 1 White Admiral, 1 Marbled White, 1 Comma 15 + Ringlets and 7 Meadow Browns - Andy Steele

On a visit to Bricket Wood today I counted 9 White Admirals, more than I'd ever seen before. Also 15 Marbled White, 7 Large Skipper, 3 Small Skipper, 2 Brimstone (1 m, 1 f), 20 Ringlet, 14 Meadow Brown, 6 Speckled Wood, 3 Comma, 1 Peacock and 1 Cinnabar. On my return to South Mymms I had a quick visit to Mymms Wash and saw 8 Commas, 4 Small Tortoiseshell, 3 Large Skipper, 5 Ringlet, 6 Meadow Brown and 4 Small White. - Terry Wood

This afternoon on a strip of undisturbed rough grass & scrub between Green Lanes allotments & A1(M) Hatfield, 7+ Small Tortoiseshell, 10+ Meadow Brown, 1+ Ringlet, 3+ Large White, 1 Marbled White, 3 Small Skipper, 1 Essex Skipper, 1 Comma seen in 10 mins, nectaring on Brambles, Thistles, Meadow Scabious etc. This stretch was completely cleared, except for trees on the M-way bank, 3-4 years ago for M-way improvements. It has been undisturbed since & has regenerated into good habitat especially for birds, inverts etc - John Moss We have seen **two purple emperor** butterflies at the St. Vincents site in the Ruislip Woods today (11/7) between 2.00 p.m and 2.45 p.m. They perched high up and we managed to get reasonable views through our telescope. Also at the same spot one purple hairstreak. White admirals are also being seen in the woods - Sue & Steve Place

I was walking over the grasslands over the top of the north tunnel at Digswell/Welwyn North (TL249164), and there were clouds of marbled whites there feeding on the thistles & field scabious. I estimate >200 MBs in an area of a couple of acres, plus similar numbers of meadow brown, and 50+ ringlet and gatekeeper, plus maybe 20 large skippers feeding on the wood edge brambles and a few speckled wood, small tortoiseshell and large whites. Very nice to see this area of chalky grassland / wood edge supporting so many butterflies. - Stuart Warrington

This evening spent an hour at Water Lane finding = marbled white x 53, small skipper x 10, Narrow Bordered 5 spot burnet x 1, small tortoiseshell x 11, comma x 4, essex skipper x 7. Onto Fishers Field = small skipper x 5, essex skipper x 7, large skipper x 4, meadow brown x 7, marbled white x 3, small tortoiseshell x 2 - David Gower

Latest butterflies as follows: Thursday 11th July 2013 Walk as 10th but exiting Marshalling Yards to Pevensey Road Local Nature Reserve (TW13 5HB) then out to road. Small Tortoiseshell 2 Large Skipper 3 Ringlet 16 Small Skipper 6 Meadow Brown 9 Small White 3 Speckled Wood 4 Comma 2 - Pete Gore

Bricket Wood - White letter Hairstreak in Drop Lane and another in Smug Oak Lane. Silver-washed Fritillary on the Common, my first of the year! In fact 5 SWFs in total (all male) in the main ride. 8 White Admirals in the same. Ride plus another 4 elsewhere on the Common. But no Purple butterflies out yet - Malcolm Hull

Sightings for today 11th July 2013 - 3 Ringlet at Vicarage Farm, 09:25 hrs; 2 Small Skipper at Vicarage Farm; 2 Small Tortoiseshell at Vicarage Farm; 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Parkside Farm,

Enfield, 10:15 hrs; 2 Small Tortoiseshell at Park Farm, 10:35 and 10:50 hrs; 2 Comma at Park Farm, Enfield, 10:50 and 11:18 hrs; 1 Comma, edge of Rough Lot, Trent Park, 11:28 hrs; 4 male Small Skipper, settling on wet mud by Lower Lake, 11:45 hrs - presumably taking mineral salts - interesting behaviour; 1 Red Admiral by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 11:45 hrs; 1 Comma, by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 12:00 hrs; 1 Small Heath near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 12:25 hrs; 1 Comma, near Shaws Wood, Trent Park, 12:40 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell along Merryhills Brook at South Lodge Farm, Enfield, 12:50 hrs - Robert Callf & Robin White.

Wednesday 10th July 2013

Went to Merryhill Fields again to forget about the dentist. Ended up spending 3 hours there from 5pm. Spotted 116 x meadow brown, 38 x ringlet, 42 x marbled white, 2 x small tortoiseshell, 4 x comma, 19 x large skipper, 24 x small skipper, 16 more skippers unable to id but no Essex seen, 6 x yellow shell, 7 x shaded broad-bar (first this year), 2 x celpha lacunana (first), 29 x narrow bordered 5 spot burnet - David Gower

I did the transect today at Aldbury, the reserve was alive with butterflies. The total for the transect was 676 butterflies but there were so many more on the reserve and even doing the transect was difficult as there was so much activity! Highs included 296 marbled white, 57 large skipper, 145 ringlet, 144 meadow brown, 19 dark green fritillary, and 4 small tortoiseshell. It was great to see so many skippers and the fritillary numbers are a record for me on the transect. There were also single common blue, brown argus, 2 small heath, 4 small/Essex skipper, a white sp and 2 speckled wood. - Paul Thrush

A single Purple Emperor was present again today at Whitewebbs (field trip will be this coming Sunday 14th). There was however an imposter, a Small Tortoiseshell was trying to get in on the act. No sightings at Northaw when I visited - Liz Goodyear

St Albans, Batchwood Drive - 3 White letter Hairstreaks. Symondshyde Great Wood - 4 White Admiral and 2 Red Admiral, all flying in the same ride - Malcolm Hull

National Grid nature reserve at Stocking Pelham--all sightings in Herts part of reserve--Between 13.25 and 13.55 today my wife and I saw 10 large skippers , 7 small/Essex skippers(too fast to distinguish), 1 small white, 2 common blues, 97 meadow browns and 12 ringlets flying over the tall grass section west of the transformer station compound. Between 14.30 and 14.50 in the wooded south panhandle we added 2 green veined white, 2 commas and 8 speckled woods . On our return to the tall grass area we noted a single marbled white in this corner of N.E. Herts. - Len Crouch

Had an afternoon walk today around Hexton Chalk pits and saw maybe 40+ Marbled Whites, 20+ Dark Green Fritillaries, 30+ Chalkhill Blue, and also good numbers of Speckled Woods, Ringlets, Meadow Brown, Small Heath - Kevin Taylor

The Walk: Enter Hounslow Heath via Edgar Road entrance (TW4 5QQ). Proceed via signposted London Loop walk to River Crane turn left (off the loop) along the riverbank, crossing the railway via the Cavalry Tunnel into Feltham Marshalling Yards (Jubilee Mail Centre on part of original site is TW4 5XX). Then meander in an erratic and inconsistent manner for c2 hours. This last part I've been doing since 1997. Wednesday 10th July. Lack of sun and too much breeze so not as many butterflies as yesterday.: 4 Commas, 1 Small Heath, 3 Speckled Wood, 18 Small Skippers, 1 Large Skipper, 1 Marble White 2 Small Tortoiseshell, 2 Small Whites 1 Meadow Brown and **1 Gatekeeper**. The last was my first of the year and a very obliging fresh-looking specimen. On the way back (same route) I was at last able to resolve something that had been troubling me, when I got a clear look at a resting Ringlet - a personal first for me though it was on the Heath not the Marshalling Yards. It undoubtedly explains the quite large number of very dark Browns I've been conscious of in the last three days. The shortage of Meadow Browns is more worrying - no females seen at all yet. (there were three other Ringlets around the same patch of Bramble where I confirmed my first.) Tuesday 9th July Speckled Wood 3 Small Heath 1 Small Skipper 48 Small White 2 Comma 2 Meadow Brown 5 Marbled White 5 Holly Blue 2 Large White 1 Monday 8th July Didn't keep a record but saw my first ever Marbled White on the Marshalling Yards site. The species site total including the Ringlets is 22 all-time. 18 for me so far this year with a reasonable chance of seeing the other 4 yet although I'll need luck for Clouded Yellow. I have never seen anything which I felt was an Essex Skipper here although I believed I could identify them at another site in Greenford in the past. It would, of course be preposterous for me to claim I've eliminated the possibility of 1 or more amongst all the Skippers on the site, their numbers being a

lot bigger than my counts show. - Peter Gore

Some sightings for today Wednesday 10th July 2013 - 3 Ringlet at Forty Hall, Enfield; 2 Small Tortoiseshell at Forty Hall, Enfield, 12:48 and 12:56 hrs; 1 Essex Skipper at Forty Hall, Enfield; 3 Small Skipper at Forty Hall, Enfield; 1 Comma at Forty Hall, Enfield, 13:20 hrs; 4 Small Tortoiseshell at Guy Lodge Farm, Whitwebbs Road, 14:10 hrs; 1 Comma at Guy Lodge Farm, Whitwebbs Road, 14:10 hrs; 3 Comma, together, at Whitwebbs Wood, 15:05 hrs; 2 Large Skipper at Whitwebbs Park, 15:07 hrs; 2 Small Skipper at Whitwebbs Park, 15:10 hrs; 2 Small Tortoiseshell at Whitwebbs Park; 3 White-letter Hairstreak at Hilly Fields Park, Enfield, 15:43 - 15:50 hrs, settled and around Wych Elms - Robert Callf.

Tuesday 9th July 2013

1 x meadow brown at Northwood hq & 1 x small white, 1 x riband moth in Bushey garden - David Gower

A bumper day on my Warren transect at last; 117 Meadow Brown (at least - too many to count accurately), 38 Marbled White, 6 Ringlet (probably more - I have difficulty separating them from dark MBs flying briskly), 21 Small Skipper (possibly including Essex), 10 Small Heath, 1 Speckled Wood, 2 Peacock (1 faded, second bright), 1 Small/GV White, 7 6-spot Burnet. Also several Common Blue (?) Damselfly, 1 large high-flying Dragonfly, loads of bees, grasshoppers, small moths. Peered hopefully at tops of Oaks etc but no sign of Purple Hairstreak. 100% sun, light N breeze, 26C & everything very active - John Moss

Arrived at 13:00hrs at the north Enfield site found last year by Andrew Middleton and located what I hoped was the obscure gap in the canopy.....Waited, moved around and return and got a fleeting glimpse of something special. Then at 13:40 a **Purple Emperor** made his presence known high up in the neck breaking gap! I decided to then check out two other sites just over the M25 including the Northaw territory. Despite watching both for some time, nothing appeared, not even a Purple Hairstreak (present at Enfield though) so I went back. A 30 minute wait had to be endured but finally he appeared again, making several flights, perching and then a chase. I could not confirm that it was definitely a second emperor but his/their behaviour had been indicative of two being present (flying faster). After that activity subsided and I left the site at 16:30 very satisfied - Liz Goodyear

I just did a Wider Countryside survey in TL2222 today July 9 (My BTO circuit but it is in Hertfordshire) Knebworth Woods Species were:-- Meadow Brown 65, Ringlet 55, Speckled Wood 10, Small Skipper 8 Large Skipper 3, Small White 3 Marbled White 1, Small Tortoiseshell 3, Comma 1 Purple Hairstreak 2. Got a good picture of a male Purple Hairstreak that was on the grass - Nigel Agar

Painted Lady, one on footpath between Gosmore and Charlton 6.00pm Sunday 7th July, not many about - Stuart Pittman

Good numbers of Marbled White at Harmondsworth Moor, most in a flower-rich field at the SW corner of the site. I counted 19, but there must have been many more. Meadow Brown also abundant. Also seen: Large Skipper, Comma, Small Tortoiseshell (9), Small Skipper, Small Heath, Small White, Essex Skipper (1 positively identified), Green-veined White, Speckled Wood, Common Blue (2 only). - John Eborall

I went on my Wider Countryside transect walk this morning at Trimms Green and was delighted to record, among several other species, 34 Small Tortoiseshells. At one stage I counted 10 of them nectaring together on a swathe of Creeping Thistle. Is this an explosion we are having? I haven't seen them in such numbers for several years. And if they have been in such decline over the past few years and given the awful spring weather we had, where have they all come from? I did come across quite a number of ST larvae 3 or 4 weeks ago, more than I would normally notice. - Bob Clift

2 Comma's and the very welcome return of the Small Tortoiseshell, 2 in our Hayes garden today. <http://www.flickr.com/photos/69131641@N04/9248241810/>

Just to follow up on sightings of the Small Tortoiseshell. We had one in our Hayes garden last week, this is the second sighting we've had so far this year of a Tortoiseshell. They have been absent from our garden for quite a few years so good to see them making a welcome return. - Helen George

A Small Heath seen on my Stevenage transect today for the first time since 1999 - Peter Clarke

We saw 30+ small tortoiseshells, 5 peacock and 1 clouded yellow at Thorley Wash Nature Reserve today - Jenny Sherwen

Monday 8th July 2013

Today a short visit to park Wood, several Large Skippers, Small Tortoiseshell, Speckled Wood. Three White Admirals flying about. One flew around my legs but would not settle - Sezar Hikmet

At Balls Wood this afternoon, 6 sightings of White Admiral in 3 hours, almost all at various points along the main ride. The first was at 15:00 up in the trees almost opposite the new viewing platform, and the second was at 15:20 around the brambles farther along. The third was at 16:40 near brambles on the parallel ride to the west. While I was chatting to another (unsuccessful) spotter by the entrance ride, at 17:10 the fourth WA appeared in the trees, crossed the entrance path and flew northwards along the edge. My new acquaintance thanked me for pointing it out to him, but described it as the worst WA sighting he'd ever had. My fifth sighting was at 17:55 around the brambles at the southern end of the main ride, again in the trees, but it pleased me by landing on a path repair and probed the new surface. I managed a few record shots, then headed for home, relatively happy. As I turned up the entrance path at 18:10 a sixth WA landed virtually at my feet, again on a newly-patched piece of path, and allowed me to take a few more shots from ground level. I suspect that some of these sightings were the same individual although the locations were well-separated. It could be a good year for WAs at Balls Wood. Also present throughout were large numbers of Speckled Wood, Meadow Brown and Large Skipper, 10+ Comma and a handful each of Ringlet and Large White. Paul Why

I spotted a beautiful Red Admiral, 2 Small Tortoiseshells and a couple of Meadow Browns on the fields behind Ragged Hall Lane, St Albans all before 9 am this morning! - Mandy Floyd

Telegraph Hill, nr Lilley - 6 Dark Green Fritillaries, 150 Ringlets, 40 Marbled Whites, 26 Meadow Browns, Speckled Wood 7, Small Tortoiseshell 3, Large Skipper 2, plus singles of Common Blue, Comma, Small Heath, Small White, Burnet Companion and Cinnabar moth. Hexton Chalk pit - 32 Dark Green Fritillaries, **1 Chalkhill Blue** (my first of the year), Dingy Skipper, 5 spot Burnet moth plus similar range of other species to Hexton This afternoon at Therfield Heath the highlights were 1 DGF, **3 Chalkhill Blues**, 2 Brown Argus, 29 Small Heath, 2 Small Skipper - Malcolm Hull

At Northwood hq, Sandy Lane 1 x small tortoiseshell, 1 x garden carpet. 1 x small magpie moth in Bushey garden also - David Gower

At Norton Green today, counted 5+ Small Tortoiseshells, 40+ Ringlets, 3 Large Skippers, 20+ Meadow Browns, 2 Marbled Whites (first), 2 Common Blues, 3 Small Heaths, 2 Small Whites, 20+ Speckled Woods, 5+ Small Skippers (first), 3 Commas (at least one of which was the hutchinsoni form) and the first Purple Hairstreak. Peter Clarke

Just to let you know at Wilstone yesterday there were at least 6 small tortoiseshells along one section of track from the lower Icknield way to the reservoir - Paul Thrush

Broxbourne Woods this afternoon 8 July. Painted Lady in the newly cleared area and on the pond - literally it settled on the scum. No sign of WAs or PEs as yet. Newly minted Small Tortoiseshells on the flowers at Riverside Garden Centre, Hertford nr Bayfordbury - Nigel Agar

Went to Broxbourne Woods, in Bencroft wood and field nearby 50 ringlets, 80 plus meadow brown, 6 large skippers, one comma and a silver-washed fritillary. In Broxbourne glade plenty of ringlets, meadow browns and large skippers but also I think another silver washed fritillary both flying very fast - Steve Kiln

Marbled White and Dark Green Fritilleries active at Hexton Chalk Pits on 8/07/13 plus Common Blue, Large Skipper and Small Heath. Speckled Wood near the gate. - Nigel Agar

Some sightings for today 8th July 2013 - 1 Small Tortoiseshell, Sidhil's Field at Vicarage Farm, 07:45 hrs; 1 Green-veined White, at Barracks, Vicarage Farm, 07:50 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables at Vicarage Farm, 08:22 hrs; 1 Comma, near Hadley Road at Vicarage Farm, 08:28 hrs; 2 Small Tortoiseshell at Park Farm, Enfield, 09:10 hrs and

09:20 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell near Duncan's Wood, Enfield Chase, 09:25 hrs; 1 Comma, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 09:58 hrs; 2 male Marbled White, 'New Fields', Trent Park, 10:30 and 10:40 hrs - in different fields; 1 Comma, near Oakwood entrance, Trent Park, 11:20 hrs. Good numbers of Ringlet in Trent Park also and several Small Skipper positively identified. A few Narrow-bordered Five Spot Burnet Moths at 'New Fields', Trent Park - Robert Callf & Robin White.

I came across a large stand of very mature elm trees in Thorley just behind where my daughter lives a few months back and decided to give them the White Letter Hairstreak check yesterday (Saturday) at around 4.30pm. I wasn't surprised to see a colony of WLHs buzzing around the top of them. There were at least 5 or 6. - Bob Clift

A brief report on the BC walk at Horsenden Hill on Saturday 6th July. The good news was that we kept up our 100% record for White-letters on this event, with at least 6 seen in the usual spot behind Horsenden Farm. There were 8 participants who enjoyed fantastic views of perched white-letters through the telescope. Other than that, the numbers of butterflies were a bit on the low side. A total of ten species including 2-3 Ringlets (Paradise Fields) and a Small Tortoiseshell. No Marbled White were found, but later on we recorded several after the walk was finished. We showed off the contents of 3 x MV and 2 x actinic traps at the end of the event. Most people enjoyed Peach Blossom, Burnished Brass, Small Elephant Hawk and Poplar Hawk, but for us the major spectacle was the presence of 100 Buff Arches in just one MV trap. Our previous high count for this species being just 15 individuals! Later in the afternoon I had 3 White-letters on the West transect (top end of Batts Field), a Painted Lady on Horsenden West and a Purple Hairstreak behind Horsenden Farm. - Andy Culshaw

Sunday 7th July 2013

Took 6 locals out today for a butterfly walk, recording the following west of Hadham Ford and East of Westland Green (TL434218 to TL 419220) Meadow brown 100+, small tortoiseshell 9, small skipper 25+, ringlet 25+, small white 2, large white 2, speckled wood 1, small heath 1, Essex skipper 1 CLOUDED YELLOW 1 at TL426215. A fast flying specimen heading south. - Jono Forgham

At Fishers Field in 30 mins noted = 4 x small tortoiseshell, 1 x Essex skipper, 3 x small skipper, 6 x meadow brown, 1 x comma, 3 x speckled wood, 1 x yellow shell. Onto Water Lane for similar time = 11 x marbled white (my first of year), 4 x meadow brown, 1 x comma, 5 x small tortoiseshell, 1 x common blue. 1 x speckled wood, 1 x large white, 2 x common white wave, 1 x yellow shell, 1 x green veined white. Next up was Finch Lane = 1 x small tortoiseshell, 2 x marbled white, 14 x meadow brown, 2 x small skipper, 2 x speckled wood. At merryhill fields = 59 x meadow brown, 9 x burnet moths (looked like narrow bordered 5 spots but most didn't rest for long), 21 x marbled whites, 20 x ringlet, 2 x brimstone(males), 4 x speckled wood, 6 x small skipper, 5 x large skipper (lots more skippers i couldn't identify), 1 x common blue, 1 x small tortoiseshell , 1 x yellow shell. - David Gower

GU Canal (Aylesbury Arm) between Marsworth & Puttenham 2 DGFritillary, 2 Marbled White, many Meadow Brown, 7 Ringlet. Also 80+ White-legged Damselflies - Bob Harris

Hexton Chalk Pit today--12.30 to 13.00 in north/central area, 12+ meadow brown, 11+ marbled white, 10+ ringlets, 1 small white and within a 7 minute period disturbed two dark green fritillaries from grass and saw another flying north. ---13.00 to 13.10 along east side, several browns and marbled whites, 3 small heath, 6+ common blue and a single brown argus. --13.15 at southern limit of site along edge of barley field, two squabbling dark green fritillaries spiraling together 20 ft in air with another in view 25 yds away. Returning to car, 1 speckled wood near Hexton Road and 3 small tortoiseshells beyond gate on west side of road - Len Crouch

Late afternoon Ware garden butterflies: First Small Tortoiseshell just before 6. Just before 7 a Ringlet, the first garden record for over 12 years, then at 8.10 a Red Admiral checking out a wine glass - Liz Goodyear

Field trip report: Bricket Wood Common - Great weather for today's branch field trip. White Admirals were the star of the show, all looking very fresh, but generally they were up in the trees and not easy to photograph. We eventually saw one taking salts or moisture from a newly laid path and were able to get close to confirm the ID. Altogether we saw a total of at least 7 White Admirals. Also out today some newly emerged Marbled Whites, Commas Small Skippers and Small Tortoiseshell. Large Skippers were out in good numbers, with many Ringlets and a few Meadow Browns, Speckled Woods and Brimstones. The lunchtime extension to look for Purple Emperor was

not successful - as with many species, the poor weather earlier this year appears to have delayed its emergence - Malcolm Hull

Cheshunt Park, at least two active White-letter Hairstreak, but no Purple Emperors noted at the Northaw territory - Andrew Middleton, Liz Goodyear and Laurence Drummond

Marbled White on the window this mornng (Hitchin) - Nigel Agar

Friday was a busy day for news, we received an email from Paul Moss who had been visiting Heartwood Forest and has seen a **female Monarch**. *We would stress that having been in touch with Paul we are of the opinion this would have been a non naturally occurring insect - i.e. a released specimen! Several observers have been back to find the butterfly with no success Paul reported.* 'Unfortunately no shots, I had been photographing butterflies all afternoon and as my camera battery went flat 5 minutes earlier I was heading back to my car when I saw what I thought must be a silver washed fritillary because of the size, even though it was not a place I would expect a swf to be - right in the middle of a field! I tried to coax the camera back to life without joy and then came home, recharged it and returned to see if I could relocate it but it was 7:30 by then and clouding over with very few butterflies showing. From the car park walk uphill to the nearby information board and map and take the path that leads to the right and uphill at angle a cross the slope. This path joins another that runs alongside the hedge, the first oak is in the hedge and just right of the junction. Walk uphill to the very next oak and that is where it was. It was patrolling the area here circa 5pm and being chased by at least 1 painted lady. In size I would estimate the wing span as twice the size of the painted lady, strong flight with gliding and floating turns too. As I couldn't get a photo I waited for it to settle on the white flowers on the left of the bush here, can't tell you what plant I'm afraid, and carefully studied it through binoculars from a distance of some 20' whilst it fed, noting the white markings on the wing and the black rather than brown markings. When I got home to recharge my battery the very first thing I did was Google monarch butterfly as I was already confident that was what it was as I have seen pictures many times in the past.' Paul Moss (*However on UK Leps there is a report from Chris Lamsdell Insect News: London, Monarch still at Rainham Marshes RSPB in wildlife garden mid-afternoon*)

Sightings for Thursday 4th July 2013 at Vicarage Farm, Enfield - 5 Large Skipper, 1 Comma, 4 Small Tortoiseshell and 2 Ringlet. Yesterday 6th July 2013 - 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Allotments, Chase Road, Southgate, N14 at 16:05 hrs. Today 7th July 2013 - 1 White-letter Hairstreak at Hilly Fields Park, Enfield at 11:45 and still present around the same Wych Elm at 13:35 hrs (Sorry Andrew Wood this was correctly mapped last year!); 1 Ringlet at Whitewebbs Wood, 12:10 hrs; 1 Red Admiral at Whitewebbs Park, 12:15 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Whitewebbs Park, 12:15 hrs; 1 Ringlet at Hilly Fields Park, 13:45 hrs; 1 Comma at Lavender Hill Cemetery, Enfield, 13:47 hrs. Also several Small/Essex Skipper at Whitewebbs Park - only seen in flight. - Robert Callf

An hour and a half at Bricket Wood Common today produced 10+ Marbled Wlte, 10+ Ringlet, 10+ Meadow Brown, 10+ Speckled Wood, 1 Large Skipper, 1 Large White, but dissappointingly only 1 White Admiral and no Fritillaries at all, in spite of temperatures up to 28C ! - Pete Waldron

Saturday 6th July 2013

I motorbiked it to Park Wood where it was already heating up by mid morning. I saw my first skippers for 2 years. I didn't get a good view of all of them but I suspect they were all Large Skippers. The 'Meadlets' are either Meadow Brown or Ringlet (not sure which), so I decided to invent a new name... The highlight was at the western end of the main ride where a pair of White Admirals were very actively having multiple scraps above my head. I couldn't get near enough for decent photos. But one landed wings closed briefly looked like a purple emperor... Large skipper x8 Ringlet x7 Comma x3 White Admiral x7 Meadow brown x12 Speckled Wood x10 Meadlets x6 (Plus a Large White in the street East of the wood where I parked.) I nipped to Horsenden Hill before going home. Was nice to see Cinnabars and Burnets again. The Burnets were not stopping in the heat but I seem to remember they are all Narrow Bordered 5 spot ones there. Nice to bump into David Howdon on my way in. I briefly saw 2 White Letter Hairstreaks flitting around the top of an elm tree. That was all I saw of them. But much better than not at all! Large skipper x9 Comma x2 Meadow brown x5 Speckled Wood x2 Cinnabar x2 Burnet (probably Narrow Bordered 5 spot) **x4 White Letter Hairstreak x2** By 1:30pm it was too hot even in the shade and I was running low on water so I retreated home to my lovely aircon unit! - Mike Rubin

Had a **Silver-washed Fritillary** at a surprise site, of a garden at the back of Abbots Langley village on Saturday afternoon. - Clive Burrows

Aldbury Nowers - Encouraged by this weeks report from Paul Thrush, I visited Aldbury Nowers to establish how many **Dark Green Fritillaries** are now on the reserve. Starting at the southernmost end I walked the whole site and found DGF spread fairly evenly over the reserve & present in 7 of the 8 main compartments. Exact numbers are difficult as they hide in the grass & when they fly travel long distances quickly over a large area. By avoiding possible duplications I arrived at a count of 36 DGFs, although I suspect the actual number could be higher. I've certainly never seen anywhere near the number of this species in Herts before and if proof is still needed that they are now resident on site, I photographed a mating pair.. Ringlets were the most numerous species with over 500 recorded, followed by Meadow Browns(200+), Marbled Whites (145) and Large Skipper(30) I saw 56 (mainly) Small Skippers, though the last one I checked was definitely an **Essex Skipper** (my first of the year) Small Tortoiseshell (7) Speckled Wood (8), Narrow bordered 5 spot Burnet (14). As well as this profusion of early summer butterflies, there were also a small number of fairly tatty butterflies hanging on from the spring, including 1 Small Blue, Brown Argus (2), Small Heath (10), **Grizzled Skipper (1), Dingy Skipper**, Common Blue (7) and Brimstone(3) (inc male & female) - So I saw nearly 1000 butterflies in just over 2 hours, and the best news is that there are many more still to emerge! Malcolm Hull

Hatfield Aerodrome (Disused) - Ellenbrook Field 16/7/13: Larger Skipper - x 2 Common Blue x 1 Small Tortoiseshell x 8+ Meadow Brown x 9+ Marbled White x 1 Ringlet x 15+ Small Heath x 2 - David Wheatcroft

Thirty minutes on the Hay Field on Harpenden Common this morning (6 June) produced 1 Burnet Companion, 1 Comma, 1 Ringlet, 2 Small Whites, 3 Small Heaths, 3 Small Tortoiseshells and 47 Meadow Browns. But the highlight was a magnificent, flowering (Early Purple?) Orchid, the first I've seen there. - Alan Jackson

Hunsdon Lodge farm, concrete road west of Black hut wood, 30+ Small tortoiseshell!, large nettle beds here being the contributing factor. Wormley wood, sw area, 2 Comma, my first of the summer period, White admiral 0 also 0 at Bencroft, 0 at Balls wood, 0 at Broxbourne and 0 at Goldings wood. PHHH ! - Laurence Drummond

1 x white plume moth in Bushey front garden this evening - David Gower

Friday 5th July 2013

Short visit to Bricket Wood mid afternoon produced 4 Large Skppers, 2 Brimstone, 3 Meadow Browns, 7 Specked Wood and a single **White Admiral**, some 10 days later than my usual first sighting of this species here, over many years. - Clive Burrows

In Bushey garden this evening 1 x garden carpet, 1 x yellow shell, 2 x light brown apple moths - David Gower

Friday afternoon at Waterford Heath south pit 13 marbled white, 6 small tortoiseshell , a comma and 50 or so meadow browns - Steve Kiln

I had a very enjoyable Transect today at Butterfly World with large sightings of both the Common and Small Blue my totals today were| Small Tortoiseshell 28, Common Blue 26, Green veined white 2, Meadow Brown 29, Small Blue 10, Large Skipper 1, Marbled White 2 - Mandy Floyd

As the car thermometer was reading 24C I decided to have another attempt for **White-letter Hairstreak** at my local site on Napsbury Lane near St Albans (approx TL162055). Finally found at least 4 battling around the topmost branches of one of their favourite elms alongside the golf course, but could not catch them lower down or nectaring on flowers, so only poor silhouette shots, I'm afraid. Also seen on site were 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 2 Large Skipper, 2 Speckled Wood, several Cinnabar Moths, 5+Meadow Brown, 10+ Ringlet. - Pete Waldron

Park Wood, Ruislip One **White Admiral** this afternoon; and almost certainly a new brood Comma - Graham Elcombe.

At Norton Green this morning, 10+ Meadow Browns, 5+ Ringlets, 20+ Speckled Woods, 2 Small Whites, 3 Small Heaths, a Small Copper and a Small Tortoiseshell. However, surprisingly, I have not seen a Large Skipper here yet. In the afternoon, in Fairlands Valley Park, Stevenage, I saw the first Meadow Browns, Ringlets and a Marbled White (all at Shackledell Grassland) and a very

ageing Peacock (a year old perhaps?) about 50 metres north of the Canyon Play Centre. Peter Clarke

In a field in the Ruislip Common area (TQ084894) today I recorded the following: 5 Marbled White; 4 Small Tortoiseshell, 2 Small Skipper; 2 Large Skipper; 10+ Ringlet and 20+ Meadow Brown. Fields to the west (either side of Ducks Hill Road) produced another 6 Marbled White. - Dick Middleton

On my weekly walk around Tytttenhanger Gravel Pits I saw 25 Meadow Browns, the first there for the year. Also 8 Ringlets and 3 Speckled Woods - both also firsts there, as well as 3 Small Heath, 1 Peacock and 1 Large White - Terry Wood

High wych/Sawbridgeworth Rivers hospital/orchard site, 21 Large skipper, 1 very worn Large white, 2 Common blue(1 male 1 female), 6 Small tortoiseshell, 4 Speckled wood, 50+Meadow brown, and 12 Ringlet also 22 Six spot burnet and 11 Burnet companion - Laurence Drummond

Bricket Wood Common - Small Heath - my first record from this site after 18 years of regular visits and the 30th butterfly species I've seen there. The recent introduction of cattle grazing has resulted in areas of short grassland habitat which the Small Heath favours. Ringlet numbers are building with about 30 seen today. Meadow Browns, Large Skipper, Speckled Wood, Comma, Small Tortoiseshell, Brimstone and Green- veined White also flying. No sign yet of the larger summer butterflies, but with the weather set fair I have high hopes for the branch field trip on Sunday - see events page for details. Malcolm Hull

I just saw 2 marbled whites on Harpenden Common, my first of the year! Jenny Sherwen

I did spot three Small Tortoiseshells this very morning sunning themselves including one that spent a whole half hour on a window sill at Harwoods Road, West Watford. This is pleasing to see as they have been extremely scarce. I did spot one dead Small Tort last week with common garden ants disassembling the body. Perhaps the odd fluctuations in the weather may have affected it unfortunately leading to it's demise. - Balraj

Thursday 4th July 2013

I had a lunchtime walk at Mymms Wash behind the Services and saw my first Ringlet and Speckled Wood of this year. Also 8 Small Tortoiseshell, 6 Small White, 1 Large White and 1 Peacock - Terry Wood

Better results on my Warren transect today, but still well below previous years, with 36 Meadow Brown, 11 Small Heath, 2 Common Blue, 2 Large Skipper (1st this year), 1 Marbled White (1st this year). I was relieved to see the MWhite. They usually peak at 20-30 about now & I was beginning to wonder if they'd died out. Hopefully better figures all round next visit. John Moss

Very good view of a **purple hairstreak** in Park Wood, Ruislip this morning - Les Avey (pictures on facebook)

Visited Balls Wood today (4th) but still nor summer woodland species flying, just plenty of Speckled Woods and Large Skippers and the first Small tortoiseshell I have seen in the wood on a transect walk since 2006. Marbled White at Trenchern Hills on Wednesday 3rd Andrew Wood

A few sightings for yesterday 3rd July 2013 - 1 Comma near Shaws Wood, Trent Park, 14:43 hrs, 4+ Small Tortoiseshell at Vicarage Farm, including two together along track at Hog Hill. - Robert Callf

This afternoon, July 4th, on a visit to Brunel University's Bicentenary Gardens a Marbled White was seen, our first site record. Also present were Large and Small Skippers and several Ringlets. There was no sign today of a Brown Argus seen on Tuesday. Also found were 24 Bee Orchids and 13 Pyramidal Orchid flower spikes. - Sylvia and Roger Morton

I did the transecting today, good numbers of marbled white, meadow brown and ringlet, at least 6 dark green fritillary, large skipper, small skipper, small copper, speckled wood, small tortoiseshell and brimstone. Most surprising was quite a fresh looking dingy skipper in one of the southern enclosures. - Paul Thrush

Small tortoiseshell on the up, saw 14 individuals today, around Braughing, Hay street, Puckeridge, Cherry green, Westmill and Buntingford - Laurence Drummond

Sightings from Stanwell Moor: **30th June** A very late (1900) and brief trip round my local patch surprised me with no less than three new brood Commas all in the same area. Also seen was a Small Tortoiseshell, and several Large Skippers, Small Heaths and Meadow Browns.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=34744&mode=view>

1st July Another very quick sortie late afternoon (1700) over a different stretch from yesterday. I saw two Red Admirals and three Speckled Woods, and my small son spotted about a dozen Vapourer moth caterpillars in a shrub a few doors down from home.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=34749&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=34746&mode=view>

We have also been rearing a few Small Tortoiseshell caterpillars, and released these in ones and twos since the end of last week as they emerged.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=34438&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=34437&mode=view>

Dave Miller

Wednesday 3rd July 2013

There was a Clouded Yellow nectaring on the gardens at Silkin Court, Stevenage all afternoon on Wednesday 26th June 13. My first of the season. - Mike Harris

Monday 1st July 2013

I went to Balls Wood this afternoon, half-hoping for an early WA or SWF. But none seen, just 5 Meadow Brown (along the entrance path), 4 Large Skipper (along the main ride) and 30+ Speckled Wood all around the site - - Paul Why

I had a look at Broxbourne Wood today. It is looking less stark than it did last year and a lot drier - no seas of mud this time.. Butterflies included 1 Orange Tip (is this the first ever for July??) 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 6 Meadow Browns and 3 Large Skippers. Incidentally the management now say they will close and refurbish the car parks one by one. Just in time for the White Admiral and PE season - Nigel Agar

Sightings today 1st July 2013 - 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 10:05 hrs; 1 Painted Lady at Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm, 10:18 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Parkside Farm, Enfield, 10:50 hrs; 2 Large Skipper at Parkside Farm; 1 Narrow-bordered Five Spot Burnet at Parkside Farm, Enfield - our first of the year! 1 Peacock at Parkside Farm, 11:10 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Park Farm, Enfield, 11:17 hrs. 1 Speckled Wood near Obelisk, Trent Park; 2, male and female, Common Blue at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 11:56 - 12:00 hrs; 1 female Clouded Yellow at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 12:10 hrs - our first of the year! 1 Small Copper at 'New Fields', Trent Park, 12:40 hrs - Robert Callf & Robin White.

