

Sightings 2015

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December 2015

Tuesday 29th December December 2015

I was working in Tring this morning and opposite the Natural History Museum there in an Ivy clad garden a Brimstone could be seen whirling around in a sheltered patch of sunshine. My latest ever butterfly! - David James

I was quite convinced I had gone mad today when a **speckled wood** flew past me, so I gave chase and confirmed my id. It was a fresh individual clearly confused by this unseasonal weather. Seen at Burston Rose Garden centre Chiswell Green - Richard Geary

Monday 28th December December 2015

Saw a Small Tortoiseshell today flying beside Osprey Lake, Panshanger Park, Hertford - Allan Burrows

I have just seen a very fresh-looking Brimstone butterfly in our St Albans garden. It's 12.45hrs on a sunny but chilly day. Unfortunately I wasn't quick enough to take a photo. - David Curry

Saturday 19th December 2015

One Brimstone in our garden in Hertford this morning - Andrew Wood

Thursday 17th December 2015

I just saw a red admiral fly over my garden in Hertford! (sent at 09:33) Jenny Sherwen

Wednesday 16th December 2015

I saw a red admiral on my car bonnet yesterday in Thundridge Hertfordshire yesterday! Always reminds me of my dad but could not believe in December I was seeing one. Katie Sampford

Thursday 9th December 2015

Had a flypast from a red admiral this afternoon in the weak sunshine at the Pinetum at Bayfordbury. - Ian Flack

Friday 4th December 2015

Peter Elton photographed this Red Admiral near Pear Wood Stanmore today 4th Dec.
<https://twitter.com/HarrowNCF>
news via John Hollingdale

Wednesday 2nd December 2015

A Peacock butterfly was seen today at Stanmore Country Park by Steve Bolsover (news via John Hollingdale)

November 2015**Wednesday 25th November 2015**

Holly Blue seen at Aylett's Nursery, St Albans on Sunday 8/11/15 - Frank Tuck

Wednesday 18th November 2015

Had a Red Admiral in the Harpenden garden late morning braving the blustery conditions - Robin Pearson

Sunday 15th November 2015

One Small Tortoiseshell sunning itself this afternoon at Folly Lane allotments, St Albans - Malcolm Hull

A female Brimstone fluttering around ivy in our back garden in Hertford, probably disturbed from hibernation by the winds - Andrew Wood

Friday 13th November 2015

Having thought I had seen my last butterfly of the year, I could not believe it today when whilst at work as a teacher in a school at Bushey, I looked out of the window and saw a Red Admiral. With a squally wind, dark scudding clouds and a temperature I suspect was barely into double figures the last thing I was expecting to see was a butterfly. However, what I initially thought could be a leaf swirling around in the wind was clearly a butterfly flying in spite of the elements. Perhaps it had been dislodged from a quiet place of hibernation, I don't know but it was still a remarkable sight. - Roger Newbold

Thursday 12th November 2015

At Rye Meads today I saw a Peacock and a comma enjoying the sun - until it went in! I also saw a dragonfly - possible migrant hawk? Andy Brown

Recorded a comma butterfly in a garden in Little Hadham this morning. Clear and still, temp 15C. - Jono Forgham

One Red Admiral on my Harpenden garden Ivy today during a spell of sunshine
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/99486228@N06/22363877403/>
Robin Pearson

Sunday 8th November 2015

One Red Admiral flying around Hertford North Station on Sunday 8th, in very dull but mild conditions - Andrew Wood

Sunday 1st November 2015

Holly Blue in my Hemel Hempstead garden while I cut my grass! - Ashley Cox

We were thrilled to see a bright Comma fluttering in warm sunshine in our Hatfield garden outside our patio doors today. This is the latest record for any butterfly here - John Moss

Butterfly I have seen today (01 Nov 2015): 1 red admiral - Walsworth Common, Hitchin
TL19263038 - David Inward

Brimstone at Home Covert Hatfield Aerodrome today 13.00 - Rupert Pyrah

1 Red Admiral seen at Heartwood forest today east side of the road approx grid ref TL181110. Also had a Brimstone in my St. Albans garden at lunchtime - Andrew Steele

A male Brimstone, 3 Red Admirals and a Comma on my Harpenden garden Ivy today - Robin Pearson

Harpenden Common (St Johns Wood area): 1 female Brimstone fluttering around a bramble bush and then settling on a leaf to bask. Very relaxed! - David Hunt

October 2015

Saturday 31st October 2015

Red Admiral and Comma seen at car park near Letchworth Swimming Pool at approx 11.00 on 31st October - Patricia Clegg

King George V Reservoir, Enfield: 3 Red Admiral and 1 Small Tortoiseshell - Andrew Middleton

Two Red Admirals in my garden today. - Robin Pearson

Friday 30th October 2015

Today next to Patmore Heath I saw a comma or Red Admiral flying purposefully towards the heath. Andy Brown

Wednesday 28th October 2015

A sunny spell at lunchtime today brought out three Red Admirals and a Comma to my Harpenden garden Ivy. - Robin Pearson

Tuesday 27th October 2015

A Red Admiral was feeding on our Killarney strawberry tree yesterday (27 Oct) at Thorley Park, Bishop's Stortford - Chris Dee

On a warm and sunny afternoon, spotted a Red Admiral flying across a fairway at Little Hay golf course near Bovingdon. - Brendan Sheridan

Had a very tatty Speckled Wood in the Harpenden garden today, along with a Red Admiral and a Comma. - Robin Pearson

2 perfect condition Red Admirals at East End Green [TL295108] today. Flying around each other up and down the village green and sunbathing on the grass - Christopher Benton.

A balmy afternoon on Nomansland Common produced 2 Brimstone, 1 male and 1 female, but no Small Coppers, unfortunately - David Hunt

One sighting from a sunny Sunday walk, a fresh Comma in the fields at Wareside. Moths are still about, had 10 species in the trap over the weekend - Phil Macmurdie

Monday 26th October 2015

Watton-at-Stone: 1 Small White and 1 Peacock in field margins just SW of Watton-at-Stone (TL2918) - Aaron Clements-Partridge

Seen 11 individual butterflies of 4 species this afternoon, Monday 26th October 2015 as follows - 5 Comma (4 at Trent Park -2 nectaring on michaelmas daisies set-aside field near Triangular Wood, 1 nectaring on ivy flowers, Snakes Lane near Hockey Centre at 14:00 hrs, 1 nectaring on michaelmas daisies near Water Garden at 14:27 hrs, 1 at Park Farm at 15:19 hrs); 1 Peacock nectaring on michaelmas daisies, set-aside field near Triangular Wood, Trent Park at 13:25 hrs; 2 Red Admiral nectaring on ivy flowers, Snakes Lane near Hockey Centre, Trent Park at 14:00 hrs; 3 Small Copper at Trent Park (2 near Sports Field, 1 at 'Old Golf Course'). - Robert Callf

Red Admiral on my Harpenden garden Ivy flowers this morning, looks quite fresh.

<https://flic.kr/p/zji7hX>

Robin Pearson

Sunday 25th October 2015

A Peacock today at the birding pit at Tyttenhanger GP - Rupert Pyrah

A relatively warm lunchtime visit to Nomansland Common produced 1, rather torpid, Small Copper female basking in the hazy sunshine. The hornet nest I have been watching has been partially dug

out, presumably by a badger, although judging by the comings and goings, the lower storeys of the nest still survive - David Hunt

Just avoided the frost in St Albans last night, but too cool for butterflies to be active today. Inspected my shed and found 15 hibernating Small Tortoiseshells plus one Peacock. Visited Nomansland Common and found just a single Small Copper, which gratefully accepted the offer of resting on my hand for 10 minutes to warm up - Malcolm Hull

Tuesday 20th October 2015

Male Brimstone enjoying the sun today fluttering around some variegated yellow privet in my St Albans garden the colour match was brilliant - Mandy Floyd

On the 20th at Tewinbury a small white + a comma - Andy Brown

A mild and sunny lunchtime stroll on Nomansland Common produced 1 male Brimstone and 5 Small Copper, including a mating pair. The three remaining Coppers were busily laying eggs on sheep's sorrel. Nice to see that they had survived the cold and inclement weather of the past few days. - David Hunt

A Clouded yellow today at Waterford heath in the sunshine - Steve Kiln

'A good burst of early afternoon sun at last! I had not seen a butterfly since the 9th but today a Comma and Red Admiral in the northern part of Norton Green. - Peter Clarke

Wednesday 14th October 2015

One Red Admiral near Firing Range at Vicarage Farm, Enfield this morning at 10:12 hrs
Wednesday 14th October 2015, also three Comma (2 at Park Farm nectaring on bramble blossom at 11:35 hrs, 1 nectaring on Ivy at Water Garden, Trent Park at 12:23 hrs). - Robert Callf

A sunny but rather chilly morning search of Nomansland Common revealed nothing until about 11.00am when first one, then another Small Copper emerged from their overnight roosting places deep in the long grass and, in a rather languid fashion, flew off to nearby ragwort flowers for breakfast. Over the next 45 minutes I counted 8 Small Copper, 7 being females still replete with eggs (I think they will need to get a move on if they are to lay all their eggs). Amongst the 8 Small Coppers were 2 ab. caeruleopunctata. A Small White and a Comma, both basking in the weak sunshine, were also seen - David Hunt

Tuesday 13th October 2015

Two Red Admirals nectaring on Ivy at Snakes Lane near Hockey Centre, Trent Park (TQ 288 969)
Tuesday 13th October 2015, also one Comma nectaring on Bramble blossom at Park Farm, Enfield.
- Robert Callf

Bit of a surprise in my Ware garden was that at 09:45 this morning in dull weather and reading only 9 degrees Centigrade on my car thermometer, I had a Humming-bird Hawk-moth flying around my flowering lavender - it keeps flowering! - Liz Goodyear

Monday 12th October 2015

Had a Comma and a fresh-looking Red Admiral in the garden (Harpenden) today. - Robin Pearson

An afternoon ramble on Nomansland Common produced 17 Small Copper, including some very fresh-looking specimens and one with the left forewing rather more yellow than the usual coppery hue; and 1 extremely faded and almost scale-less Speckled Wood enjoying the autumn rays - David Hunt

Sunday 11th October 2015

A couple of butterflies on Sunday 11th October 2015 - 1 Comma nectaring on bramble at Park Farm, Enfield at 10:39 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park at 12:09 hrs - Robert Callf/Robin White.

Brent Reservoir, 1 Large White - Shailesh Patel

A few butterflies still around at Nicholls farm, Redbourn today. I saw a small white in the back

garden and a Comma in a horse paddock. Peter Tallantire

News from Friday 9th Oct. A fresh-looking Speckled Wood seen on ivy foliage in our Pinner garden
- Tony Porter

Friday 9th October 2015

I guess I was wrong, still 2 Small Heath at Trent Park (1 Sect 1 at 13:08 hrs, 1 Sect 6 at 13:37 hrs) this afternoon Friday 9th October 2015, also this afternoon between 13:00 - 14:00 hrs - 3 Comma (1 Sect 1 at 13:06 hrs, 1 nectaring on michaelmas daisies near Triangular Wood at 13:17 hrs, 1 nectaring on michaelmas daisies Sect 8 at 13:43 hrs); 2 Red Admiral (1 Sect 1 at 13:10 hrs, 1 nectaring on michaelmas daisies near Triangular Wood at 13:16 hrs); 3 Small Copper (2 near Sports Field 13:26 - 13:28 hrs, 1 Sect 6 at 13:36 hrs); Silver Y set aside field near Triangular Wood. - Robert Callf

Thursday 8th October 2015

Red Underwing moth last night in Stocking Pelham - Andy Brown

Two butterflies to report today Thursday 8th October 2015 - 1 Comma at Park Farm, Enfield at 10:32 hrs and 1 Peacock settled on grass at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 12:36 hrs - Robert Callf/Robin White.

A mono-specific morning on Nomansland Common with 13 Small Copper sited, 4 on the north side nectaring on and around heather and the remainder on the south side where they were feasting on ragwort and yarrow flowers. 1 Grey Shoulder-knot moth sitting on bark of an oak tree - David Hunt

Sunday 4th October 2015

Folly Lane St Albans - disturbed a very fresh Red Admiral from my Blackberry hedge, where I suspect it had been feeding overnight. After a short flight it settled on flowering Ivy. 4 Small Whites and a faded Small Copper all feeding on Verbena Bonariensis. Comma was the only other species spotted at this site this morning - Malcolm Hull

Still one Small Heath Sect 8 'New Fields' Trent Park at 12:59 hrs - I guess this will probably be the last date here? 1 Comma Sect 8 12:59 hrs, 5 Small Copper at Trent Park (2 Sect 5 at 13:15 hrs, 2 near Sports Field at 13:20 hrs, 1 nectaring on michaelmas daisies near Triangular Wood at 13:30 hrs). - Robert Callf

Butterfly I have seen today (04 Oct 2015): 1 red admiral - Highover Way, Hitchin TL19693045 - David Inward

Saturday 3rd October 2015

Still one Small Heath in Sect 8 at 13:30 hrs Saturday 3rd October 2015 (a new latest date for Trent Park!), also in Trent Park - 3 Comma (all nectaring on michaelmas daisies - 1 Sect 8 at 13:29 hrs, 1 Sect 3 at 13:57 hrs, 1 near Triangular Wood at 14:06 hrs); 1 Small Copper nectaring on ragwort near Sports Field at 14:00 hrs. Yesterday Friday 2nd October 2015 - 1 Comma nectaring on michaelmas daisies edge of Water Garden, Trent Park at 14:50 hrs. - Robert Callf

A fresh Comma seen flying across Pinn Meadows, Ruislip after a pond working party then 2 Speckled Woods in my Eastcote garden after an absence of a few weeks - Paul Busby

Nomansland Common - 29 Small Coppers, meadow brown, speckled wood and large white - Malcolm Hull

Friday 2nd October 2015

Some sightings for Friday 2nd October 2015 at Trent Park from 11:50 - 13:00 hrs - 2 Speckled Wood (1 near Oakwood entrance 11:59 hrs, 1 near Triangular Wood 12:39 hrs); 2 Small Heath Sect 8 'New Fields' 12:03 - 12:08 hrs; 4 Small Copper (1 Sect 5 12:22 hrs, 2 near Sports Field 12:29 - 12:30 hrs, 1 near Triangular Wood 12:39 hrs); 1 male Brimstone settled near Oakwood Lodge, Snakes Lane at 13:00 hrs. - Robert Callf

Small Tortoiseshells in St Leonards Road, Bengoe (video on Branch Facebook page) and Ware Cemetery, Commas at Chadwell Bank and Wulfrath Road, Ware, Brimstone at Chadwell Bank,

Green-veined White at Broadmeads, Ware and Small Whites at Broadmeads, Cromwell Road Allotments, Hertford and Ware Park Quarry. - Andrew Wood

Nomansland Common north side: 1 Meadow Brown; 1 Small Heath; 1 Speckled Wood; 8 Small Copper (mostly females briefly nectaring on a heather patch and then flying off for tens of metres, presumably to oviposit in the patches of sheep's sorrel growing in the bunny lawn. A good few hornets about but only one nest located. Nomansland Common south side: 1 Small Copper female nectaring on hawkweed. Heartswood Forest: 0 butterflies seen - David Hunt

Thursday 1st October 2015

One female Large White at Lakeside, EN2 Thursday 1st October 2015 at 15:25 hrs. - Robert Callf

Small Whites at Kimpton churchyard and outside Hatfield Galleria. A Speckled Wood also at the Galleria - Andrew Wood

Some sightings for Thursday 1st October 2015 - 2 Comma nectaring on michaelmas daisies edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park 11:58 hrs; 2 Small Heath - 1 Sect 8 at 13:03 hrs and 1 near Sports Field at 13:32 hrs - equals my latest ever date and of course I will be trying again tomorrow to extend this; 4+ Small Copper - 2 Sect 5 at 13:18 hrs, 2 near Sports Field, Trent Park; 1 male Meadow Brown near Sports Field, Trent Park 13:25 hrs - my latest ever date for this species! 1 Speckled Wood near Triangular Wood, Trent Park at 13:38 hrs. - Robert Callf

One hour stroll around Frogmore Gravel Pit early this afternoon yielded 2 Small Coppers including one *ab. caeruleopunctata* ('blue badges'), a solitary Small Heath, Small White and Comma. - Peter Clarke

Good variety of butterflies at Harmondsworth Moor, still with plants in flower, this sunny but blustery afternoon. I saw a Brown Argus, a Comma, at least one Small Tortoiseshell, a Small Copper and 3 Small Whites - Paul Busby

An afternoon visit to a sunny Harpenden Common yielded just 1 Speckled Wood. Nectar sources such as hawkweed and clover flowers regenerating after the annual cut, and a strongly fermenting fall of apples in the old orchard adjacent to the St Johns Wood section, had no takers - David Hunt

Recent butterflies on the ivy flowers, mainly red admiral and comma + the odd white As a foot note - we saw second brood orange tip this year and found some late caterpillars on some regenerating hedge mustard. The last caterpillar pupated last weekend along with the large whites. We had approx. 2 dozen eating the hedge mustard leaves, which then dispersed up the walls etc. We kept 5, four successfully pupated, one was parasitized, much to the consternation of my 5 year old. Interestingly, of the others we found on walls etc, 4 out of 5 were also parasitized. So our strike rate was good. - Phil Macmurdie

September 2015

Wednesday 30th September 2015

Visited Oakwood Park, N14 this afternoon Wednesday 30th September 2015 hoping to find third brood Small Copper, but despite having found them here in the summer none were present, just one Speckled Wood. - Robert Callf

Lunchtime walk at a sunny but blustery Butterfly World and saw 3 Small Whites, 2 Commas and a Peacock - Paul Busby

Tuesday 29th September 2015

Harrow Cemetery, 1 Small Copper - Shailesh Patel

Sightings for Tuesday 29th September 2015 at Trent Park: 3 Comma nectaring on michaelmas daisies near Triangular Wood 13:15 - 13:20 hrs, 4 Small Copper 'New Fields' 13:28 - 13:59 hrs, 5 Small Heath 'New Fields' - 2 near Sports Field 13:27 - 13:30 hrs, 1 Sect 6 at 13:53 hrs, 2 Sect 8 at 14:00 hrs - quite a surprising number for so late in the season, but perhaps not given the weather conditions? - Robert Callf

Sunny afternoon walk across Ickenham Marsh Fields and saw 2 Small Coppers, 6 Speckled Woods

including a trio spiralling up into the air for some minutes and 2 Small or Green-Veined Whites - Paul Busby

Heartwood (11:30am - 12:15pm) 2 Small white & 1 Common Blue. Nomansland north side (12:15pm - 13:15pm) 5 Small copper (In fringes), 1 Meadow brown, 1 Comma & 1 Small white. Nomansland South side (13:15pm - 14:00pm) No small coppers found - Peter Ewer

Monday 28th September 2015

Some sightings for Monday 28th September 2015 - 1 Comma edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park at 10:59 hrs; 2 Speckled Wood at Flash Lane, Enfield 14:03 and 14:15 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood at Hilly Fields Park at 14:45 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood at Gordon Hill Station at 15:08 hrs; 1 Large White at Windmill Hill, Enfield Town. Two Red-green Carpet near outside lights at ASDA Southgate Sunday 27th September 2015. - Robert Callf

I checked the south side of Nomansland Common this afternoon as it has now had its annual cut. Not much about as, except at the periphery, most of the nectar sources have been removed. The north side of the road was more productive with 2 Small White, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Meadow Brown, 2 Speckled Wood and about 15 Small Copper, mostly females going about their business laying eggs on the sheep's sorrel and with a couple of rather tattered males still jousting, but only half-heartedly, perhaps because of the stiff breeze. My Harpenden garden attracted a Red Admiral to the buddleia. - David Hunt

Sunday 27th September 2015

One Speckled Wood at Park Farm Saturday 26th September 2015. 2 Comma Sunday 27th September 2015 - 1 along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables at Vicarage Farm 11:19 hrs, 1 along Leeging Beech Gutter N of Williams Wood (TQ2997) at 12:26 hrs. - Robert Callf

Nomansland Common, near Sandridge - 20 people joined our last branch field trip of the year to look for Small Coppers. The weather was overcast but with sunny spells. We searched around the areas where heather and sheep sorrel (the larval food plant at this site) are plentiful. In total 25 Small Coppers were recorded, many posing obligingly for photos. Others were sun bathing or nectaring, mainly on heather, but ragwort and yarrow were also being used. We saw three spectacular aerial combats between rival males, one of which ended with both individuals disappearing over the top of the oak canopy. All individuals seen were very fresh and I would expect numbers to continue to build in the coming week, weather permitting. Other species recorded were Small Heath, Common Blue, Meadow Brown (3), Speckled Wood (3) and (a probable) Green-veined White. Elsewhere in St Albans area I saw Red Admirals nectaring on Ivy, Comma and Speckled Wood feeding on Blackberries and Large White - Malcolm Hull

Comma this morning at West End Essendon - Rupert Pyrah

Saturday 26th September 2015

A Comma and a Red Admiral in my Harpenden garden today - Robin Pearson

Butterfly I have seen today (26 Sept 2015): 1 speckled wood - verge between Kimbolton Crescent north and railway, Stevenage TL249216 - David Inward

In Stocking Pelham today a red admiral and a Brimstone - Andy Brown

Two Small Whites seen in playing field near Eastcote tube station - Paul Busby

Friday 25th September 2015

Some more sightings for Friday 25th September 2015 - 1 Red Admiral and 1 male Meadow Brown (fresher than the one a few days ago) nectaring on michaelmas daisies set-aside field near Triangular Wood, Trent Park at 14:13 hrs. Speckled Wood and Small White at Park Farm, Enfield (TQ2998) at 15:37 hrs. One Large Ranunculus at ASDA Southgate near outside lights. - Robert Callf

2 Speckled Wood at Oakwood Park, N14 this morning Friday 25th September 2015 at 09:05 hrs. 1 Speckled Wood at Boxer's Lake, Enfield at 11:18 hrs. - Robert Callf

The Nomansland Common **Small Copper** emergence continues apace **with 20+** seen this

morning showing some nice spot variations and a couple of ab. caeruleopunctata. Other butterflies seen included 3 Meadow Brown; 1 Small Heath; 1 Speckled Wood, 4 Small White; 1 Brown Argus, 3 Common Blue males, 3 Comma (although 2 were more Heartwood Forest than Nomansland) plus 1 Antler moth. The Meadow Brown were still in nice condition, which is rather more than could be said for the rather tatty Common Blue males, and the Commas were wonderful. As I left the common, a tractor and topper were preparing to enter, presumably for the annual cut. - David Hunt

A Hummingbird Hawk-moth inside the 'Age Concern' charity shop in North Watford at grid ref TQ 1095 9811 this afternoon, flying between the overhead lights and the shop windows (and occasionally investigating some of the more flowery clothes as potential nectar sources). Elsewhere, anyone searching for a late Clouded Yellow over the next month or so could consider visiting Pouchen End Lane west of Hemel Hempstead, where there is a field dominated by Red Clover just east of the lane (at grid ref TL 028 073); the field is private but can be viewed with binoculars from the lane. - Colin Everett

News from Sunday 20th September 2015, a Red Admiral feeding on ivy at Bullbeggars Lane east of Berkhamsted TL 006 071, another in flight along the canal nearby at Bankmill Bridge TL 008 071, and a Red Admiral and a Comma both on ivy by the canal at Little Heath Lane TL 016 067. - Colin Everett

Thursday 24th September 2015

Another trip to Nomansland Common to admire the emergence of the Small Copper third brood. Despite the windy day, the sunny intervals brought the butterflies out: 4 Small White; 1 Green-veined White; 1 Comma; 2 Small Heath; 10+ Small Copper, including 3 ab. caeruleopunctata; and 1 Antler moth - David Hunt

A few sightings for Thursday 24th September 2015 - 1 Red Admiral at Allotments, Vicarage Farm at 10:55 hrs, 1 Speckled Wood at Brooke Wood, Enfield (TQ 302 986) at 12:55 hrs, 1 Red Admiral at Strayfield Road, Enfield at 13:31 hrs. - Robert Callf

Saw a fresh Comma at Eastcote House walled garden this morning and 2 Speckled Woods, one at nearby Dovecote Copse, the other across the River Pinn bridge in Long Meadow. - Paul Busby

Butterflies I have seen today (24 Sept 2015): 1 small white - Arlesey Road, Ickleford TL183311, 1 red admiral - allotments off Arlesey Road, Ickleford TL18263111. - David Inward

20 Commas in a 300m stretch of Blackberries at Heartwood Forest today a great sight - Andy Steele

Wednesday 23rd September 2015

A few butterflies this morning Wednesday 23rd September 2015 - 2 Speckled Wood at Trent Park (1 edge of Icehouse Wood, 1 near Dew Pond); 1 Small White near Dew Pond, Trent Park and 1 Green-veined White set-aside field near Dew Pond, Trent Park. Between 12:40 - 14:00 hrs in Trent Park: 6 Comma (4 nectaring on michaelmas daisies near Triangular Wood 13:00 - 13:05 hrs, 2 near Sports Field); 3 Small Heath (including one fresh); 2 Meadow Brown male displaying to female near Sports Field (quite surprised to see two together given the rather late date?); 2 Small Copper near Sports Field 13:15 - 13:17 hrs - - Robert Callf

Nothing noteworthy relating to butterflies today at Norton Green but Tony and I spotted a Hummingbird Hawk moth feeding on honeysuckle down the track about 100 metres south of Norton Green Farm. Also a Raspberry Clearwing was seen near the same spot some weeks ago - Peter Clarke

Sunday 20th September 2015

1 Humming-bird hawk moth nectaring on buddleia in my south Harpenden garden (notified to MigrantWatch) - David Hunt

One Red Admiral edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park on Sunday 20th September 2015 at 11:10 hrs. - Robert Callf

Folly lane St. Albans - small copper ab. *Radiata* nectaring on sedum this morning. The orange

band on the edge of the upper side hindwing is replaced by a band of alternative brown and orange Quite striking and not something I've noticed before. Other butterflies on the wing included another small copper, two very fresh commas, speckled wood, several faded small whites and three very fresh looking large white, possibly the start of a third brood. Malcolm Hull

Saturday 19th September 2015

One Small Heath at Vicarage Farm, Enfield Saturday 19th September 2015 at 12:33 hrs. Both looking fairly fresh, so perhaps they will last until late September/early October. Also a 'worn' female Common Blue at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park Saturday 19th September 2015 at 14:37 hrs. - Robert Callf

A return trip to Nomansland Common to see if I could get a better photograph of the brown Argus aberration snelleni was not successful from that point of view but, on an almost perfect day, a good variety of butterflies were about their business, including 6 Small White; 1 male Brimstone; 3 Meadow Brown; 5 Small Heath; 7 Small Copper (including one female aberration caeruleopunctata - the one with the blue spots on the hind wing); 10+ Common Blue; 2 Brown Argus and 5 Antler moths. The Small Copper seemed to be a fresh emergence, the ab. caeruleopunctata female mating very rapidly with a normal male. Of note was a Common Lizard youngster from this years brood. The few ragwort plants proved very popular with the Small Coppers and Antler moths, a reminder that this oft-loathed plant has an important place as a nectar source for many insects.

<https://flic.kr/p/yNWY9t>

<https://flic.kr/p/xSQdB3>

David Hunt

Brief visit to Bridgewater Fields, Ruislip Gardens and saw 2 Small Whites and a Comma - Paul Busby

Friday 18th September 2015

A few Small Whites this afternoon Friday 18th September 2015 - 1 at Parkside Farm and 2 at Vicarage Farm. One Small Heath at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park Friday 18th September 2015 at 14:26 hrs. - Robert Callf

During the sunny intervals, Nomansland Common put on a reasonable show this afternoon with 10+ Small White; 3 Meadow Brown; 1 Small Heath, 6 Common Blue; 2 Brown Argus (one of which had pronounced areas of whitish scales around each of the black discal spots); 1 Comma and 3 Antler moths - David Hunt

Thursday 17th September 2015

Although a pleasantly sunny afternoon, Harpenden Common produced only one Small White, I think freshly emerged but at any rate in A1 condition, and a lonesome Speckled Wood. - David Hunt

Harrow Cemetery, 1 Common Blue - Shailesh Patel

Wednesday 16th September 2015

Millhoppers Pasture, Willstone near Tring - Despite the dire weather forecast, the sun was shining at the start of today's habitat management task at the branches own butterfly reserve. Large White and Speckled Wood both put in an appearance, together with 8 volunteers, mostly from the Chilterns Society. The rain held off until one and by then we'd made great progress cutting back the Blackthorn and other vegetation along the hedgeline. Many thanks to all those volunteers who came and dates for future tasks will be published soon. Malcolm Hull

Monday 14th September 2015

Ware garden, Speckled Wood - Liz Goodyear

During a brief sunny spell this afternoon went for a walk in Trent Park between 12:50 - 13:40 hrs which produced the following sightings for Monday 14th September 2015 - 1 male Large White near Triangular Wood at 12:58 hrs, 1 Comma nectaring on michaelmas daisies near Triangular Wood at 13:03 hrs, 4 Small Heath between 13:11 - 13:31 hrs. - Robert Callf

Ponders End garden, Hummingbird Hawkmoth - Andrew Middleton

Harrow Cemetery, 1 Small Copper and 1 Light Emerald moth - Shailesh Patel

Sunday 13th September 2015

Folly lane St. Albans - small copper, comma, speckled wood, large and small whites on my allotment this morning - Malcolm Hull

At Stocking Pelham today couple of Red Admirals some whites and a Brimstone - Andy Brown

Saturday 12th September 2015

A few sightings for Saturday 12th September 2015 - 1 Comma nectaring on blackberries near Water Garden, Trent Park at 14:18 hrs; 2 Small Heath at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 14:37 hrs. - Robert Callf

I was having a walk down in the Chilterns on Saturday and on route we stumbled upon the reserve of Aldbury Nowers. What a fantastic little site! We found 4 Brimstone, a single Red Admiral, 2 Common Blue, 6 Brown Argus and 2 Chalkhill Blue (male and female). Unfortunately we had a lot of ground to cover on our yomp so I couldn't stay for long. - David James.

Friday 11th September 2015

Some sightings for Friday 11th September 2015 - One Small Heath at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 14:34 hrs. 4 Speckled Wood and 1 female Green-veined White at Boxer's Lake, Enfield. One Small White at Merryhills Drive, EN2 at 11:47 hrs. - Robert Callf.

Yesterday I went to the crop-field (maize) south of Watery Grove and spotted a Clouded Yellow flitting between ragwort and other yellow flower-heads before it headed-off at speed south westward - Don Gregory

Two male Brimstones and a late(ish) Meadow Brown, all feeding on a flourishing colony of Devil's-bit Scabious at Bricket Wood Common TL 131 007; also a Painted Lady along Noke Lane near the entrance to Butterfly World TL 128 036. - Colin Everett

Thursday 10th September 2015

Saw a Small White, a Speckled Wood and a Comma by the River Pinn, Ickenham (TQ 0787) whilst river sampling on a sunny afternoon, then at Ickenham Marsh fields (TQ 0885) saw another 4 Speckled Woods, 3 Small Heaths and at least 5 Small Whites and a Large White. - Paul Busby

Found a Hummingbird Hawkmoth this morning Thursday 10th September 2015 at Rectory Farm, Enfield (TQ 311 988) seen in flight it soon settled on a hedgerow - my first views of one settled (right antenna was open and left retracted) at 10:15 hrs. Also one Red Admiral settled on Ivy at Flash Lane, EN2 at 10:37 hrs. Wednesday 9th September 2015 - 1 Red Admiral basking on wall at Oakwood Station at 16:17 hrs. - Robert Callf

Wednesday 9th September 2015

Saw two Red Admirals nectaring on buddleia from platform of Oakwood Station (TQ 293 959) on Tuesday 8th September 2015 at 16:30 hrs. Two Small Whites at Vicarage Farm, Enfield on Wednesday 9th September 2015. - Robert Callf

Half-hour stroll around Butterfly World in a brief sunny spell at lunchtime and was rewarded by seeing 2 Painted Ladies, 2 Red Admirals, 2 Commas, 1 Brown Argus, a female Brimstone, a Small Tortoiseshell on various Buddleia and also at least 5 Small Whites and 6 Common Blues (3 male and 3 female). - Paul Busby

Tuesday 8th September 2015

I must have become sensitised to autumn Brimstones... There was a male flying near the Ver at Redbournbury (TL1209) on Sunday afternoon (6th). Many Small Whites and quite a few Speckled Woods, too. - David Utting

Male Brimstone during a spell of sunshine in my Ware garden today - Liz Goodyear

Monday 7th September 2015

Jersey tiger in the garden this morning (High wych) - Laurence Drummond

Twenty minute walk at Bridgewater Fields, Ruislip Gardens and saw at least 5 Small Whites and 2 Speckled Woods late morning with sunny spells. - Paul Busby

2 Brown Argus at Vicarage Farm, Enfield (TQ3097) on Monday 7th September 2015 at 09:20 hrs. - Robert Callf

Sunday 6th September 2015

Some sightings for Sunday 6th September 2015 - 3+ Small Heath at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park; 1 Red Admiral edge of Rough Lot, Trent Park at 11:35 hrs; 1 female Meadow Brown at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 11:51 hrs; 1 Comma along bridle-path near Shaws Wood, Trent Park at 12:43 hrs; 8 Speckled Wood at Trent Park - Robert Callf/Robin White. Also female Large White and Common Blue in Trent Park - Robert Callf

An hours lunchtime stroll along the pylon path opposite Dew Farm Sandpits nature reserve, South Harefield (TQ0588) and along the field margins of rough pasture saw at least 9 Small Whites, 4 Common Blues, 2 Small Copper and a Brown Argus, plenty of dragonflies, damselflies and hoverflies as well. Back in my Eastcote garden saw 3 Speckled Woods. - Paul Busby

Bricket Wood Common St Albans - Speckled Woods were today's star performers, with many feasting on blackberries along the ride I counted a total of 16. I also saw 3 Brimstones, 2 faded Purple Hairstreaks, Red Admiral, Peacock, Vapourer moth, Meadow Brown, Small and Green veined Whites. In St Albans City I added a few more species this afternoon - Holly Blue, Painted Lady, Small Tortoiseshell, Comma and Large White - Malcolm Hull

A 2 hour stint on a warm and sunny afternoon on Nomansland Common produced a good haul considering the recent miserable weather: 10+ Meadow Brown (some looking very fresh); 8 Speckled Wood; 10+ Small Heath; 3 Large White; 10+ Small White; 1 Green-veined White; 2 female Brimstone; 1 Comma; 1 Small Copper (very fresh); 10+ Common Blue; 2 Brown Argus; and 1 Silver-Y moth. My south Harpenden garden had 1 Red Admiral and 2 Small White nectaring on the buddleia, and a Holly Blue male sunning itself on the grapevine - David Hunt

At the BBQ at Lemsford springs I saw a couple of large whites, a couple of commas, several speckled woods and a holly blue - Andy Brown

Thursday 3rd September 2015

A couple of sightings for Wednesday 2nd September 2015 at Town Park, Enfield: 1 Holly Blue and 1 Green-veined White. Thursday 3rd September 2015 - 1 Painted Lady flew S low over stubble at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 12:39 hrs. - Robert Callf

Saw a Large White and 4 Speckled Woods clashing in hedgerow at Manor Farm, Old Orchard area, Ruislip and then a solitary Common Blue and a further 3 Speckled Woods in the field bounded by Mad Bess Woods and Ducks Hill Road, Ruislip - Paul Busby

I saw 1 **silver washed fritillary** and lots of speckled woods at Danemead NR yesterday - Jenny Sherwen

Wednesday 2nd September 2015

Butterflies I have seen today (02 Sept 2015): 2 speckled wood, 1 large white - St Nicholas Park, Stevenage TL251270 - David Inward

Half-hour lunchtime stroll at Butterfly World and saw 2 Painted Ladies, 2 Red Admirals, a Peacock, at least 4 Small Whites, 15 Common Blues and a Brown Argus. Then onto a cloudy Normansland Common for an hours late afternoon walk and saw 2 Small Coppers, 2 Small Heaths, 3 Small Whites, a Brown Argus and 8 Meadow Browns. - Paul Busby

Tuesday 1st September 2015

Sightings for Tuesday 1st September 2015 - One Comma nectaring on blackberries near Water Garden, Trent Park at 15:51 hrs, Antler Moth at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park - freshly emerged and image taken by Mr DP Lowman. - Robert Callf

Today, a very faded Brown Argus (first of the year) and the blue-spotted form of a Small Copper (ab. caeruleopunctata) in the field south of Watery Grove. Small Coppers in general doing well here this year. - Peter Clarke

Quick visit to the Walled Garden at Eastcote House Gardens, Middlesex and saw 3 Small Whites, 2 Speckled Wood and a Holly Blue. - Paul Busby

One Large White nectaring on buddleia at Dalrymple Close, N14 this afternoon Tuesday 1st September 2015 at 13:48 hrs. - Robert Callf

August 2015

Sunday 30th August 2015

Faded female Gatekeeper at Parkside Farm, Enfield on Res banking Sunday 30th August 2015 at 10:02 hrs - quite possibly the last that I will see this year? Also The Vestal in long grass at Park Farm, Enfield (TQ2998) - the first that I have seen this year! - Robert Callf

Overcast afternoon walk at Yeading Brook Meadows, Yeading, Middlesex but saw a Small Copper, a Brown Argus, a male Common Blue, 3 Speckled Woods, 5 Small Whites and 8 Meadow Brown. - Paul Busby

Folly lane St. Albans - painted lady, holly blue and six small whites were the only butterflies active on a gloomy bank holiday weekend afternoon - Malcolm Hull

Great Ashby garden, a hummingbird hawkmoth visiting approx. every hour from 5.30pm to last sighting at 7.20pm to same buddleia bush as the 23rd but with no butterfly competition this time due to the overcast weather . - Colin Alderman

Saturday 29th August 2015

Saturday 29th August 2015 - 2 Small Heath at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park and 1 Common Blue by Lower Lake, Trent Park. - Robert Callf

Butterflies I have seen today (29 Aug 2015): 8 speckled wood - Icknield Way by railway near Ickleford TL1830, 1 small white - Icknield Way west of Letchworth TL1932 - David Inward

Croxley Common Moor Despite very cloudy conditions this afternoon, we saw: Small Heath (1), Gatekeeper (1), and Small Tort (1). - Graham Elcombe.

Following on from yesterday's morning trip, an afternoon visit to Nomansland Common, in rather warm and humid, if overcast conditions, produced many more Whites (mostly Green-veined with a few Small and Large), a few Meadow Brown and Speckled Wood, 5 Small Heath, 10+ Common Blue, 5 Brown Argus, 1 Small Copper, 3 Painted Lady (2 of which had been seen the previous day and were still nectaring in the same spot) and a rather nice Red Admiral basking on thistle down. My south Harpenden garden had few visitors, namely a Small White, Large White and a rather fresh Small Tortoiseshell. - David Hunt

Visited Bridgewater Fields, Ruislip Gardens at lunchtime and saw a Small Heath, 2 male Common Blues, at least 2 Large Whites and 6 Speckled Woods. Late afternoon saw a solitary Meadow Brown in the drizzle in the field next to Copse Wood, Ruislip, plenty of moths though. - Paul Busby

Stocking Pelham Saturday 29th - a few whites during the sunshine, then a Hummingbird Hawk Moth turned up when the rain started ! Andy Brown

Friday 28th August 2015

One Holly Blue settled on ivy at Bramley Road, N14 Friday 28th August 2015 at 12:45 hrs. 3, 2 males, 1 female, Common Blue at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 16:02 hrs and 1 Small Heath at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 17:09 hrs. - Robert Callf

...at last a good day to check out the butterflies! Nomansland Common produced a few rather tired Meadow Brown, several Speckled Wood, 3 Small Heath, a couple of Small White, 1 Peacock, 2 Painted Lady and 10+ Common Blue. A small group of Dark Bush-crickets were sunning

themselves on a bramble bush. A quick ramble over to Well Wood, part of the Heartwood Forest complex, revealed 2 Large White, 2 Meadow Brown, 1 Gatekeeper, 1 Small Heath, 1 Brown Argus female and 3 Common Blue males. Dutch Elm Disease is evident on the regenerating elms located along the south-west margin of the wood. - David Hunt

Saw 3 Small Whites and a Speckled Wood by the River Pinn, Ickenham (TQ 0787) on a blustery afternoon then at Ickenham Marsh fields (TQ 0885) saw another Speckled Wood, a Small White, a Small Heath and 2 Holly Blues in hedgerow with flowering Ivy. - Paul Busby

Went to Bencroft woods about noon, you realise summer is over, very few meadow browns left to be replaced by speckled woods, to my delight there was a jersey tiger moth on the buddleia and commas sunning it on old blackberries. Not a single silver-washed fritillary left in Broxbourne woods but plenty of common blues near the west car park - Steve Kiln

Thursday 27th August 2015

One female Common Blue at Parkside Farm on Res banking; 2 Speckled Wood together at Parkside Farm, Enfield (TQ 296 982); 2, male and female, Common Blue at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park and 1 Speckled Wood at Trent Park. - Robert Callf

Butterflies I have seen today (27 Aug 2015): 1 comma - Stevenage Road near Chantry Lane bus stop, near Little Wymondley TL22172710 1 speckled wood - track to horse field from Chantry Lane Wymondley Bury roundabout, near Todds Green TL21892693 - David Inward

This afternoon saw my first clouded yellow of the year on Waterford heath south - Steve Kiln

Tuesday 25th August 2015

First Painted Lady in my Ware garden this year - Liz Goodyear

One Small Heath at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park this morning Tuesday 25th August 2015, also I noticed 3 Speckled Wood in Trent Park. - Robert Callf

Butterfly I have seen today (25 Aug 2015): 1 green-veined white - Meadway Playing Field, Symonds Green South, Stevenage TL22192475. However I missed seeing Jeremy Corbyn et al by about a kilometer! - David Inward

Monday 24th August 2015

News from Diane Andrews. Overnight 22nd August in her north London garden moth trap, 2 more Jersey Tigers with yellow hindwings. 12th August Rammey Marsh near Enfield Lock, 14 Holly Blue and in the last few days seen double figures of Speckled Wood at Alexandra Park, Tottenham Cemetary and near Cheshunt Station. Previous weeks lower numbers until now.

Sunday 23rd August 2015

Butterflies I have seen today (23 Aug 2015): 1 small white - Walsworth Common, Hitchin TL1930 1 small white, 1 large white - Meadowbank/Common Rise/Cooks Way north, Hitchin TL1930 1 small white, 1 cinnabar moth caterpillar on ragwort - Meadowbank/Common Rise/Cooks Way south, Hitchin TL1929 - David Inward

One Painted Lady settled on track at Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm, Enfield Saturday 22nd August 2015 at 17:00 hrs. Sunday 23rd August 2015 - 3 Gatekeeper (2 at Parkside Farm 1 at Park Farm); 1 female Common Blue at Parkside Farm, Enfield at 08:45 hrs; 1 Small Heath at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 09:23 hrs. - Robert Callf

Saturday 22nd August 2015

Some sightings for Trent Park on Saturday 22nd August 2015 between 12:50 - 13:45 hrs - 4 Common Blue; 14 Small Heath; 1 Small Copper; 1 Red Admiral and few Meadow Brown. - Robert Callf

Butterflies I have seen today (22 Aug 2015): 2 large white, 1 speckled wood, 3 holly blue - Hampson Park, Pin Green, Stevenage TL2425 - David Inward

Bourne End slip road/A41 - 4 Small Blues, 5 Common Blues, 10 Six spot Burnet moths, 2 Brown Argus. Northfield Rd, Tring, Herts - 54 Common Blues, 4 Chalk-hill Blues, 2 Brown Argus, 2

Clouded Yellows, 1 Comma, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Small Heath, 3 Brimstones, 6 Treble Bar moths. The Clouded Yellows were both very fresh looking. The alternative larval food plant, Common Birds foot trefoil is abundant at this site and it is possible that the butterfly has bred there. Both of the CYs I saw were busy nectaring on Wild Basil alongside the Brimstones, unusual to see the two yellow species flying together. I ventured on to Pitstone Pit (Bucks) and saw 4 more Small Blues within 100 yards of the Herts border. Back into Herts at Aldbury Nowers HMWT reserve I saw 1 Dark Green Fritillary, 3 Peacocks, 3 Chalk-hill Blues, 21 Brown Argus, 41 Common Blues, 17 Brimstone and 2 Small Heath. A female Brown Argus was egg laying on miniature rock rose plants growing on top of an anthill - Malcolm Hull

The glorious weather brought out many butterflies at Norton Green Common today including 2 or 3 Silver-washed Fritillaries, 2 or 3 Purple Hairstreaks, Peacock, Comma, Holly Blue, Speckled Woods, Gatekeepers, Meadow Browns, whites (mostly Large) and faded Small Skippers (more difficult to distinguish from Essex now). Painted Lady seen here yesterday afternoon. In the field south of Watery Grove, Small Coppers and Common Blues were still flying as well. After discovering the Gatekeeper aberration on 11 August I have been looking hard at Gatekeepers at other places for this variation but none found until today at the same spot! A different specimen though as it has only one black spot below the eyespots but only on the left hand side. Even more unusual. - Peter Clarke

Therfield Heath (old rifle range): clouded yellow (flew through heading NW), 50+ common blues (fresh plumage), 30+ chalkhill blues (very tatty), brown argus, small skipper. Martin Johnson

Hummingbird hawkmoth for 3 mins only on small buddleia bush also pristine red admiral that stayed all day, Great Ashby (Stevenage) at 12.25pm - Colin Alderman

Friday 21st August 2015

Saw a Speckled Wood in Pymmes Park, Edmonton this afternoon Friday 21st August 2015. - Robert Callf

This afternoon (21/8/2015) was bright and sunny so I did a butterfly count at Bovingdon Brickworks: 5 x Red Admiral, 7 x Peacock, 9 x Large White, 7 x Small White, 2 x Small Tortoiseshell, 2 x Comma, 3 x Painted Lady, 10 x Meadow Brown, 9 x Gatekeeper, 1 x Holly Blue, 12 x Common Blue, 5 x Speckled Wood and 1 x Small Copper. There has also been an obvious passage of wandering Painted Ladies this week: 17/8/2015: 1 x Painted Lady; 19/8/2015: 1 x Painted Lady; 20/8/2015: A dull, dark day but notable were 2 x Painted Lady, 1 x Hummingbird Hawk-moth (already reported to HNHS). Photographs of the Hummingbird Hawk-moth and the Painted Ladies can be found at <http://www.naturalworldnotes.blogspot.co.uk/> - Lucy Flower

At Stocking Pelham this afternoon (Friday 21st) ; large whites, comma, 2 peacocks, red admiral, gatekeeper, Brimstone, 2 painted ladies and a hummingbird hawk moth mostly on my buddleia - Andy Brown

Thursday 20th August 2015

One Painted Lady Wednesday 19th August 2015 nectaring on buddleia along side of tube line at Oakwood Station (TQ 293 959) at 14:02 hrs. One female Common Blue at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park Thursday 20th August 2015 at 10:00 hrs. - Robert Callf

On Therfield Heath today Thursday 20th - on Church Hill (next to Fox Covert NR) quite a few Chalkhill blues, male and female flying despite the wind, plus a couple of meadow browns. Andy Brown

Wednesday 19th August 2015

A few butterfly sightings for Wednesday 19th August 2015 - 3 Common Blue (1 at Parkside Farm on Res banking, 2 at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park), 2 Purple Hairstreak settled on ground in Trent Park - both rather worn (1 edge of Moat Wood, 1 edge of Icehouse Wood). Otherwise a few Meadow Browns and Gatekeepers, Small White. - Robert Callf

Still 1 Ringlet and ! Silver washed Fritillary on my Balls Wood Transect today, also a few Gatekeepers, Meadow Browns, Speckled Woods and Green-veined White and Peacock. Also an Elephant Hawk-moth larvae on Hairy Willowherb. (See Larva and Silver-washed Fritillary on our Facebook page). At Ware Park Holly and Common Blues and a Small Heath as well as all the

Whites, Gatekeepers, Meadow Brown and Speckled Wood. - Andrew Wood

Butterflies I have seen today (19 Aug 2015): 1 common blue, 1 large white, 1 small white - Coreys Mill Lane east, Stevenage TL231264, 2 large white, 1 small white, 1 holly blue - footpath from North Road to St Nicholas (west end), Stevenage TL2326, 5 small white - footpath from North Road to St Nicholas (east end), Stevenage TL2426, 1 speckled wood - St Nicholas Church yard south, Stevenage TL241261. - David Inward

Went to pick blackberries this morning at Water Lane, Watford and came across = 1 x comma, 2 x holly blue, 1 x meadow brown, 2 x mother of pearl moths. At Bushey garden 3 x small white. - David Gower

Monday 17th August 2015

Tower hamlets cemetery park, Mile End - 9 holly blues, 5 common blues, silver washed fritillary, comma, large skipper plus whites and Browns. No sign of any kidney vetch - Malcolm hull

Three Holly Blues at Carr's Basin, Town Park, Enfield Monday afternoon 17th August 2015, including a female nectaring on Burdock. - Robert Callf

Last night 1 x riband wave moth found in bathroom. 1 x large white & 1 x holly blue in Bushey garden today. At Merryhill Fields once most of sun had gone = 6 x meadow brown, 7 x gatekeeper, 2 x large white, 2 x small white, 2 x yellow shell. - David Gower

On my walk around Tyttenhanger Gravel Pits today as well as many Large and Small Whites I saw 3 Small Heath, 1 Common Blue, 2 Brown Argus, 1 Essex Skipper, 2 Gatekeeper and 4 Meadow Brown. - Terry Wood

There was an adult male Brimstone on our buddleia today and yesterday (TL157086) in Sandridge Road, St Albans. Not something I can recall seeing in our garden in August before. - David Utting

Sunday 16th August 2015

A few sightings for Sunday 16th August 2015 - 1 Small Copper along Salmons Brook near Stables at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 11:15 hrs, also a female Common Blue here. Two male Common Blue at Parkside Farm, Enfield and one female at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park. One Comma at Park Farm, Enfield at 12:00 hrs. - Robert Callf

After the recent annual cut of Harpenden Common, the knapweed and other flowering plants are now largely confined to some uncut marginal areas. On a warm day, albeit with frequent cloud cover, butterflies were relatively few, the exceptions being 20+ of each of Common Blue and Green-veined White. A few faded Meadow Brown and about equal numbers of Gatekeeper were also seen plus 1 Small Heath, 1 Small Copper and 1 Speckled Wood. Skippers were notable by their absence and, I think, another bad year for Essex Skipper - David Hunt

Heartwood Forest, Sandridge - visited the Kidney Vetch field and searched for an hour before the sun went in. No luck with Small Blue, but good numbers of Common Blue (132), Small Heath (43), Small Copper (6) Holly Blue (8) and Brown Argus (3). also a few Browns, Whites, Essex Skipper and Silver Y. Cloudier after lunch at Sutton GP near Symonshyde, but good numbers of Brown Argus (11), Common Blue (17) plus Small Heath, Silver Y and 6 spot Burnet. - Malcolm Hull

Saturday 15th August 2015

At Waterford heath south, highlights - three recently emerged brimstones, a silver washed fritillary, holly blues 8 outnumbering Common blues 5. Good year for holly blues. and a small heath and a painted lady. Steve Kiln

Completed my August Wider Countryside Survey at High Cross today, highlights were 10 Holly Blue, 2 Brown Argus, 1 Small Heath and a Humming-bird Hawk-moth - Liz Goodyear

Three Common Blues, 2 males, 1 female, at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park this morning Saturday 15th August 2015 at 10:15 hrs. Had another walk over Trent Park this afternoon Saturday 15th August 2015 and recorded the following between 12:30 - 13:30 hrs - 4 male Common Blue (3 Sect 1, 1 Sect 6); 11 Small Heath including one opening and closing wings whilst settled (quite unusual to see this) - my first double figure count of the year at this site! 3 Small Copper incl. one

with row of blue dots on hindwing - var. caeruleopuncta? 1 Comma Sect 4 edge of Church Wood at 13:04 hrs; 2 Purple Hairstreak settled on Oak, Snakes Lane, 13:30 hrs. Robert Callf

Several Holly Blues in our Redbourn garden this morning. One fed on a white Heather in our rockery. One Painted Lady passed through - Ernie Leahy

Butterflies I have seen today (15 Aug 2015): 1 large white, 1 small white - St Faiths Close, Hitchin TL19863030 1 small white, 2 common blue (1 male, 1 female), 1 gatekeeper - Walsworth Common, Hitchin TL 1930 - David Inward

Jersey Tiger in Sawbridgeworth - Richard Hogg

Bricket Wood Common - Today's butterflies looked quite elderly, resembled an over sixties outing. Three Silver washed Fritillaries just one Purple Hairstreak and a dozen Meadow Browns and Gatekeepers, plus a Red Admiral, with so much wing missing it took some time to get a positive ID. Today's star species 22 Holly Blues, best total at this site in 20+ years of weekly recording. Also some fresh Small Coppers, Common Blues and Speckled Woods. 7 Brimstones and 2 Peacocks were all feeding greedily before their hibernation. Numbers of Large and Small Whites were well down, though Green-veined Whites put in a strong showing. Malcolm Hull

Back to Ruislip woods today and recorded 8 x speckled wood, 2 x holly blue, 5 x green veined white in Copse wood. At Poor's Field 3 x meadow brown, 7 x gatekeeper, 1 x small white, 1 x speckled wood, 1 x yellow shell, 1 x mother of pearl, 1 x straw dot. Next to Haste Hill station 1 x holly blue (caught by a dragonfly), 2 x large white, 4 x green veined white, 1 x speckled wood, 3 x gatekeeper, 3 x common blue, 1 x painted lady, 5 x small white, 3 x small copper, 1 x essex/small skipper, 4 x meadow brown, 1 x brown argus, 1 x peacock, 1 x silver y. - David Gower

Thursday 13th August 2015

Jersey Tiger moth inside Hanger Lane tube station - news via Paul Richens

Verulamium park, St. Albans - white letter hairstreak nectaring on creeping thistle at 10.15 this morning - Malcolm Hull

Wednesday 12th August 2015

Harrow Cemetery, 9 Common Blue, 6 Gatekeeper, 4 Brown Argus, 1 Small White, 1 Small Copper, 1 Holly Blue and 2 six-spot Burnet. Shailesh Patel

Half-hour lunchtime stroll around overcast Butterfly World and saw a fresh Painted Lady and a Peacock, 3 Small Tortoiseshells, 2 Essex Skippers, a Brown Argus, 3 faded Gatekeepers, 4 Large Whites, 15+ Small Whites, 20+ male and 6+ female Common Blues and at least 21 Small Blues. Then late afternoon a brief visit to Pinn Fields Ruislip, Middlesex and saw 6+ Small Whites and 2 Gatekeepers. - Paul Busby

Butterflies I have seen today (12 Aug 2015): 1 holly blue - St Faiths Close, Hitchin TL1987230303 1 large white, 2 green-veined white, 1 small white, 1 common blue - Graveley NE, near Stevenage TL2328 - David Inward

Tuesday 11th August 2015

At Fishers Field nature reserve, bushey = 2 x green veined white, 2 x large white, 2 x speckled wood. In Bushey garden = 1 x holly blue, 2 x large white, 1 x green veined white. Lastly at Merryhill Fields without any sun = 1 x Small Copper, 1 x small white, 6 x meadow brown, 5 x gatekeeper, 1 x green veined white, 1 x holly blue (extremely tiny about half the size of most), 30 x yellow shell, 1 x magpie moth, 1 x anania coronata. Photos on facebook. - David Gower

Late news from 27th July 2015, a **Purple Emperor** in an Enfield Southgate garden, then 3rd August a Jersey Tiger moth - Angela Parker (pictures on facebook page)

I found a Jersey Tiger moth on a hibiscus bush in my Enfield garden - Maureen Prior

A few sightings for Tuesday 11th August 2015 - 1 Small Copper at Parkside Farm, Enfield on Res banking; 1 Brown Argus at Bay Farm, Enfield; 4 Common Blue 3 males, 1 female, at Bay Farm, Enfield; 1 Small Copper at Bay Farm, Enfield; 1 Painted Lady nectaring on thistles at Bay Farm,

Enfield (TQ 2946 9870) at 11:38 hrs; 1 Purple Hairstreak at Rectory Farm, Enfield; 1 Jersey Tiger seen in flight and settled at Strayfield Road, EN2 (TQ 3155 9895) - my first of the year! 1 Comma at Flash Lane Aqueduct at 12:56 hrs; 1 Ringlet - quite fresh, edge of Whitewebbs Wood at 13:00 hrs; 2 Holly Blue S edge of Whitewebbs Wood at 13:00 hrs. - Robert Callf

Two Jersey Tigers in my Ware garden trap this morning - Liz Goodyear

Harrow Cemetery, 2 Small Copper, 1 Meadow Brown, 6 Gatekeeper, 4 Common Blue, 1 Speckled Wood and 2 Brown Argus. Shailesh Patel

A number of Gatekeepers seen today by Watery Grove included one of aberration excessa, two extra spots on forewings below the eye-spots - Peter Clarke

Monday 10th August 2015

A Purple Emperor report seen coming down to horse dung on the 21st July at Bloodhounds Wood, near Bishops Stortford, TL465223 by a horse rider who "knows what they are looking at" - news via Laurence Drummond

I went to Hexton Chalk Pit today and was pleased to see high numbers of Chalk Hill Blue (must of been 200+) still on the wing although most of them were quite tatty now. Other species seen; Brimstone x12, Gatekeeper x9, Meadow Brown x8, Small White x4, Common Blue x3, Large White x2, Green-Veined White x2, Small Skipper x1, Brown Argus x1 and Peacock x1. Daniel Cooper

Some sightings for Trent Park Sunday 9th August 2015 - 6 Common Blue; 9 Small Heath between 13:22 - 14:00 hrs; 2 Small Copper ('fresh' female, Sect 6 13:31 hrs, male, 13:55 hrs); 4 Six-spot Burnet; 1 Holly Blue Sect 4. Also saw a Hummingbird Hawkmoth briefly outside 184 Chase Road, N14 at 14:44 hrs yesterday 9th August 2015 (very near where I saw one in June!). One Painted Lady at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park this morning Monday 10th August 2015 at 09:04 hrs.- Robert Callf

Sunday 9th August 2015

Reports of the Emperors demise have been greatly exaggerated! I'm beside myself with joy; here's my news: I'm overjoyed to report after no sighting whatsoever yesterday that the Purple Emperor put on a right regal show today on Hampstead Heath. Photos I took today show much wear and tear but you'd never have known it from his behaviour. He seemed extraordinarily active, first appearing at 13:11 and chasing everything in sight: Woodpigeons seemed to really aggravate him, a Parakeet was escorted off the premises and Purple Hairstreaks and Red Admiral summarily dispensed with. Don't know what was eating him but he spent the day variously seeing off intruders and perching obligingly. HIM remained visible until 17:20 when I watched him leap from his perch and appeared to glide through one of the assembly trees to be seen no more. - Frank Nugent

Went to RICKNEYS QUARRY today, and saw 1 Clouded yellow, 6 Purple hairstreak, 1 Brown argus, 18 Common blue, 4 Holly blue, 2 Red admiral, 1 Painted lady, 7 Peacock, 3 Comma, 13 Gatekeeper, 14 Meadow brown, 2 Small heath, and 6 Ringlet. At WATERFORD HEATH NORTH PIT, 2 Brimstone (males), 1 Small copper, 5 Brown argus, 3 Holly blue, 2 Peacock, 3 Gatekeeper, 4 Meadow brown and 1 Ringlet. The north pit is suffering from scrub invasion again, mainly at the southern end. - Laurence Drummond

News from Diane Andrews. She has only seen three Painted Ladies this year in total. However 5 Jersey Tigers so far. 7th August in her garden trap with red hindwing. Last night 2 with the yellow hindwing.

Brent Reservoir, 1 Common Blue, 1 Meadow Brown, 3 Speckled Wood, 4 Gatekeeper and 1 Holly Blue. Shailesh Patel

Saturday 8th August 2015

News from Diane Andrews. Ringlet in her north London garden on the 18th July. Silver-washed Fritillary on 2nd August in TQ2797 east of Hadleigh Wood near pond. Toadflax Brocade and Jersey Tiger in her garden trap and on 7th August a Jersey Tiger at Turkey Street Station

Although I don't live that close to a wood, my front garden (Maple Cross) is partly shady due to

mature Hazel, Plum and Whitebeam trees. I also possess lots of violets. Yesterday lunchtime 7th August 2015, I saw a very tatty female Silver Washed Fritillary briefly visit and land in it, just long enough to get a positive identification, along with a Speckled Wood Butterfly. - Chris Bessant

A day of mixed fortunes on Hampstead Heath today. I watched for Purple Emperor all afternoon today in mostly decent weather but saw not the briefest glimpse of HIM. However...as I approached the assembly area I saw a male Silver Washed Fritillary basking in the sunshine at 10:30. This follows a sighting of a basking female not far from today's location last Sunday, 2nd Aug at 12:30. I'm not aware of any other records of SWF on the Heath though there have been odd sightings by others at nearby Highgate Wood over the years. The SWF is my 25th species for the Heath. - Frank Nugent

I arrived 2pm Northaw today, and at 3pm a rather worn and weary emperor turned up and did a good number of patrols until we left at 4.15pm. - Andrew Middleton

A couple of less common species at the Brickworks this morning... Bovingdon Brickworks (Box Moor Trust): 1 x Silver-washed Fritillary (male, decent condition except for small nick in right forewing) TL00720256; 2 x Painted Ladies (one with missing/stunted growth of right antenna). Otherwise, there's a good second generation of Common Blues at the site. Other species seen: Peacocks, Brimstones, Gatekeepers, Ringlets, Meadow Browns, Small Whites, Green-veined Whites, Small Tortoiseshell, Speckled Woods, Red Admirals, Small and Large Skippers and Six-spot Burnet moths. A41 Bourne End/Hemel Hempstead slip roads: 3 second generation Small Blues; 10+ Common Blues; 30+ Six-spot Burnets. - Lucy Flower

Friday 7th August 2015

Butterfly World, 8 Common Blue, 1 Gatekeeper, 1 Comma and 1 Small White. Shailesh Patel

1 x large white, 1 x mother of pearl moth in Bushey garden early evening. At Fishers field 1 x holly blue, 1 x speckled wood, 1 x mother of pearl. At water lane, watford 22 x mother of pearl all on nettles. - David Gower

Thursday 6th August 2015

St. Albans - seven purple and gold pyrausta moths on my kitchen ceiling this evening. An unusual sighting indoors and not one I have recorded before. Searching round for an explanation, I identified a bunch of marjoram I cut last weekend as part of my dried herbs project, as a likely source. Luckily the moths were all easily persuaded to vacate the kitchen in favour of the garden - Malcolm Hull

Some sightings for Thursday 6th August 2015 - 10+ Common Blue including two females, 2 Brown Argus, 1 Small Copper in a productive corner of a field of long grass and thistles at Bay Farm, Enfield (TQ 290 989); 1 Small Copper at Parkside Farm, Enfield near Res banking; 4 Holly Blue (1 at Strayfield Road, EN2, 1 at Flash Lane, EN2, 1 at Hilly Fields Park, 1 at Gordon Hill Station); 2 male Common Blue at Whitewebbs Park, 1 Peacock nectaring on thistles at Whitewebbs Park at 13:50 hrs, 1 Small Copper nectaring on ragwort at Whitewebbs Park; 2 Green-veined White (1 at Flash Lane Aqueduct, 1 at Hilly Fields Park). - Robert Callf

Harrow Cemetery, 12 Common Blue, 2 Brown Argus, 1 Small White and 7 Gatekeeper. Shailesh Patel

Butterflies I have seen today (06 Aug 2015): 6+ small white, 10+ large white, 6+ gatekeeper, 1 common blue, 1 meadow brown, 1 6-spot burnet-moth, 1 small blue - field SW of Highfield School, Letchworth and north of Hitchin Garden Centre TL2031. This field is about half a kilometer south of the Hillbrow Small Blue field. No Kidney Vetch seen. David Inward

Silver-washed Fritillary and White Admiral. Both butterflies had seen better days, but we were delighted to see these two together at Danemead, Broxbourne Woods late Sunday afternoon - 2/8/15. - Phil and Carrin Rhodes.

Ashwell springs NR today Thursday - lots of butterflies; 10+ Brimstones, 2 peacocks, 2 common blues, several large whites, 1 small tortoiseshell Andy Brown

Wednesday 5th August 2015

A few sightings for Wednesday 5th August 2015 - 1 Ringlet (worn) at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 1 male Common Blue and 1 Small Copper at Parkside Farm, Enfield on Res banking (TQ 2998), 1 Peacock near Dew Pond, Trent Park at 12:56 hrs. - Robert Callf

Today at Thorley Wash I saw 2 common blue, 5 peacock, 1 red admiral and 1 clouded yellow. I tweeted a photo of the c yellow at the branch Twitter - Jenny Sherwen

Tuesday 4th August 2015

Nomansland Common produced the usual complement of whites and browns, but of particular interest, 2 Purple Hairstreak flying around the top of an oak tree, 4 Brimstone (3 females, 1 male) nectaring on various wild flowers (curiously the male showed little interest in the nearby females), and a new emergence of at least 10 Common Blue males. A Hornet Mimic Fly was seen on a wild privet bush, a frequent haunt for this hoverfly species. - David Hunt

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane An early start in bright sunshine which soon gave way to heavy cloud and even a little rain so butterfly numbers not too bad given the weather:

Gatekeeper: 34 Meadow Brown: 15 Purple Hairstreak: 1 Small White: 9 Comma: 2 Speckled Wood: 5 Holly Blue: 3 Common Blue: 7 Red Admiral: 1 Peacock: 1 large White: 3 Brimstone: 1 - Pete Gore

Well after a number of years trying to find White letter hairstreaks, I find them when I'm not really looking or expecting them whilst out looking for purple hairstreaks. Am assuming the male chalkhill blue is a wanderer from therfield, it was my son Oliver (aged 5!!!) who spotted it first as I thought it was a holly blue, until we caught it in a moth pot that was still in my camera bag whilst nectaring. He was adamant that it was a chalkhill blue, and was right, because "it was bigger and a pale colour". I take my hat off.... Sunday 2nd August Marshland wood (Widford) (TL426153) At 10:30am Purple hairstreak - 4 Large Skipper - 1 Essex Skipper - 1 Small Skipper - 1 + various browns etc. Pegs lane and farmland (Widford) TL412164 Really good site - loads of trefoils, thistles agrimony etc. Brown Argus - 13 Common blue - 12 Essex Skipper - 3 Small Skipper - 6 Chalkhill Blue - 1 (male) Small copper - 2 White Letter Hairstreak - 1 nectaring on hemp Agrimony Holly blue - 2 Brimstone - 1 + various other regulars. Woods - Nr Mardocks Farm - TL391143 Small Skipper - 3 Peacock - 14 Common Blue - 2 Essex Skipper - 5 White Letter Hairstreak - 8 - most nectaring on thistles Purple Hairstreak - 5 Comma - 2 + various others Several of the WLH's looked reasonably fresh as they still had their tails, although were easily disturbed when trying to photograph. Wareside - Village Hall White Letter Hairstreak - 2 - both nectaring on Hemp Agrimony (photo's available). Monday 3rd August 2015 Therfield Heath - Church Hill (Just the important ones) Chalkhill Blue - 50+, including several mating pairs. Dark Green Fritillary - 1. Tuesday 4th August Broxbourne Woods - West Silver Washed Fritillary - 10 + - including egg laying on willow trunks, next to the main ride. Common blue - 1 Purple Hairstreak - 5 - Phil Macmurdie

Butterflies I have seen today (04 Aug 2015): 4 large white, 1 speckled wood, 1 small white, 1 peacock, 1 comma - St Albans Drive area including open space between Martins Way and Weston Road, St Nicholas, Stevenage TL2426. 5 gatekeeper, 2 large white, 1 unidentified blue, at least 3 5-spot burnet (many others which I was unable to count the spots, but probably 5) (no more small blues) - St Nicholas Churchyard, Stevenage TL2426 David Inward

One Holly Blue nectaring on michaelmas daisies at Lakenheath, N14 at TQ 296 952 on Sunday 2nd August 2015 at 18:30 hrs. Sightings for Tuesday 4th August 2015 in Oakwood Park, N14 between 12:40 - 13:30 hrs - 1 Holly Blue (W of 10 km line); 4 Common Blue, 3 males, 1 female (1 W of 10 km line, 3 E of 10 km line); 5 Small Copper (1 W of 10 km line, 4 E of 10 km line); also 1 Six-spot Burnet on knapweed (E of 10 km line). Two Holly Blues along Pennyfather Lane, EN2, Enfield Town yesterday afternoon Monday 3rd August 2015 at 16:20 hrs. Seems to be good numbers around at present - not recording all the ones I see. - Robert Callf

Monday 3rd August 2015

Butterflies I have seen today (03 Aug 2015): 1 peacock, 1 small white, 4 large white, 1 unidentified blue, 1 meadow brown - area around the Martins Way/Grace Way junction, St Nicholas, Stevenage TL2426. David Inward

In Bushey garden this morning= 1 x large white, 1 x green veined white, 2 x holly blue, 1 x peacock. This afternoon spent 3 hours at Bricket wood common and noted= 12 x green veined

white, 7 x ringlet, 3 x peacock, 24 x gatekeeper, 31 x meadow brown, 3 x small white, 1 x white admiral(damaged hindwing),6 x silver washed fritillary(my first this year),13 x holly blue, 3 x large white, 1 x marbled white, 1 x small copper(on heather),6 x speckled wood, 3 x essex/small skippers(unable to i.d), 33 x whites (unable to i.d), 1 x yellow shell, 2 x 6 spot burnet, 2 x silver y, 2 x common blue(f), 5 x brimstone(4f). No sign of emperors or hairstreaks unfortunately. - David Gower

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane Walked mid morning to mid afternoon mostly in cloud: humid, warm and breezy (typical Hounslow): Speckled Wood: 6 Green-Veined White: 2 Holly Blue: 3 Small White: 9 Gatekeeper: 27 Large White: 8 Common Blue: 4 Meadow Brown: 15 Brown Argus: 1 Red Admiral: 1 Comma: 2 Painted Lady: 1 Peacock: 1 - Pete Gore

Robin White saw a Jersey Tiger at Enfield Road, EN2 Monday 3rd August 2015 at 09:10 hrs. news via Robert Callf

News for Sunday 2nd August 2015 - 3 Large White nectaring on buddleia near Oakwood entrance, Trent Park, also other sightings in Trent Park included the following: 2 Red Admiral; 5 Peacock; 25 Six-spot Burnet (not including those too faded to identify with certainty); 3 Comma; 1 Small Heath; 3 Common Blue - 2 males, 1 female; 4 Small Copper; 2 Holly Blue; 1 female White-letter Hairstreak, flew from thistles and settled on Bramble, edge of Church Wood at 13:08 hrs - thought that I had missed out on this species this year, so pleasantly surprised. Also we did not see it in Trent Park last year. Robin White reported a Brown Argus along Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm, Enfield (TQ 298 967) Sunday 2nd August 2015 which was still present Monday 3rd August 2015. Sightings for Monday 3rd August 2015 include the following - 2 male Common Blue at Parkside Farm, Enfield (TQ2998) and 1 Peacock and 1 Comma at Parkside Farm, 1 Holly Blue at Park Farm, Enfield, 1 male Common Blue at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park, 1 Painted Lady nectaring on thistles at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 11:45 hrs, 1 Peacock nectaring on thistles at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 11:45 hrs, 2 Holly Blue at Trent Park, 1 Holly Blue along Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm, 1 Peacock nectaring on buddleia at Vicarage Farm, Enfield - Robert Callf/Robin White.

We had a Jersey Tiger in our Enfield garden yesterday 2/8/15 - Phil Rhodes

News from 2nd: On Harpenden Common there were many Small White, good numbers of Green-veined White, 3 Large White (the large assemblage present 2 days ago seems to have dispersed), 2 Brimstone females, many Meadow Brown and Gatekeeper, 4 tatty Ringlet, 5 fresh Speckled Wood, 7 male Common Blue, 1 Brown Argus, 2 Small Skipper and 1 Painted Lady, a slightly faded male, I think. A BBC for my south Harpenden garden produced 2 Large White, 5 Small White, 3 Green-veined White, 2 Gatekeeper, 3 Holly Blue and 1 Peacock - David Hunt

Sunday 2nd August 2015

Sunday in Stocking pelham - did my great big butterfly count: 8 Large Whites, 1 meadow brown, 1 gatekeeper, 5 small tortoiseshell, 4 red admirals and 9 Peacocks - Andy Brown

Lots of butterflies in my South Mimms garden today, with a first ever Gatekeeper, as well as Speckled Wood, Holly Blue, Comma, Peacock, Large and Small Whites - Terry Wood

Nomansland Common Wheathampstead - **Purple Emperor**, Small Copper 4, Purple Hairstreak 3, Brimstone 1, Common Blue 9, Small and Essex Skippers 18, Peacock, Silver Y plus many Browns and whites Folly Lane, St Albans - First ever Purple Hairstreak on my allotment after 20 years recording! This one nectaring on Hemp Agrimony. Dozens of Butterflies, with Gatekeepers, Large and Small Whites particularly prominent Malcolm Hull

Butterflies I have seen today (02 Aug 2015): 3 unidentified blue (probably common blue - definitely not small blue!), 1 gatekeeper - St Michaels Road, Hitchin TL1929 1 speckled wood, 2 large white, 3 small white, 1 unidentified blue - by pond on Walsworth Common, Hitchin TL197300 - David Inward

Danemead, Broxbourne Woods-1 White Admiral feeding on bramble flowers, with at least two Silver-washed Fritillary-late this afternoon. We also had several Comma, Peacock. Phil and Carrin Rhodes.

Hillbrow LGC - 16.30 to 17.45: Small Blue 15+; Brown Argus 3; Common Blue 10+. Roger Millard

Once again Iris overcame me and so I returned to Hampstead Heath. The **Purple Emperor** appeared shortly before 13:00 and flew excitedly over the Assembly area a few times. There were three further solo flights until at 14:42 I'm delighted to report a second Emperor arrived whereupon a spectacular chase and clash ensued. A terrific spiralling clash took place about 10 mins later after which both disappeared over the top of an oak. Only one Emperor returned and flew on and off until 15:54 after which I saw nothing more - Frank Nugent

As soon as walked out into our bushey garden this morning found a lot of sightings in short space of time majority on various buddleia = 1 x gatekeeper, 6 x large white, 3 x small white, 4 x peacock, 3 x holly blue. Onto fishers field nature reserve and a lot of activity on scabious etc = 12 x gatekeeper, 1 x peacock, 2 x holly blue, 4 x large white, 1 x speckled wood, 2 x red admiral, 1 x green veined white, 1 x common blue, 2 x essex/small skippers too fast to i.d. Spent a little over an hour at water lane, watford = 2 x red admiral, 12 x gatekeeper, 6 x peacock, 10 x green veined white, 3 x holly blue, 2 x brimstone(1m/1f), 2 x small white, 4 x large white, 3 x brown argos, 2 x 6 spot burnet, 2 x essex skipper, 1 x small copper. At least 30 more whites and 8 skippers unable to i.d. Lastly at friends garden in walthamstow,e17 = 1 x comma, 4 x large white, 1 x gatekeeper, 6 x holly blue, 1 x yellow shell. I have never seen so many holly blues in previous years in fact only 3 last year & over 40 so far! - David Gower

A great Transect today at Butterfly World. Small Skipper 1, Essex Skipper 3, Brimstone 9, Large White 19, Small White 25, Small Copper 2, Small Blue 52, Brown Argus 5, Common Blue 48, Holly Blue 2, Red Admiral 3, Small Tortoiseshell 1, Peacock 26, Comma 2, Gatekeeper 19, Meadow Brown 15. The second brood of Small Blues can be seen in many areas now. - Mandy Floyd

The rearranged Heartwood Forest walk produced 15 species with highlight a egg laying Purple Hairstreak with Holy Blues, Common Blues, 2 Brown Argus, 2 Essex Skippers, Gatekeepers, Meadow Browns, Peacocks, Commas, 1 Speckled Wood, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 4 Brimstones and Green-veined, Small and Large White. Also Six Spot Burnet moths, 2 Silver Y Moths, Garden Tiger and cinnabar caterpillars - Andy Steele

Friday 31st July a silver washed fritillary was seen at Grub Ground Ruislip Woods Ref TQ097887 - Sue and Steve Place

Saturday 1st August 2015

Saturday August 1, I was with Malcolm Hull doing the butterflies transect at Bricket Wood Common. I saw 2 Holly Blue, 9 Gatekeeper, 16 Meadow Brown, 1 Essex Skipper, 1 Peacock, 1 Small White, 1 Green-veined White, 3 Ringlet, 1 Small Skipper and 2 Large White. Malcolm's count could be different from mine. Shailesh Patel and Malcolm Hull

At Northwood hq , sandy lane 2 x gatekeeper, 1 x large white. Walked around Oxhey woods in afternoon when sun had mostly gone. Northern woodland spotted 1 x large white, 2 x green veined white, 5 x holly blue. Nothing in central woodland and just 1 x peacock, 1 x meadow brown in southern woodland - David Gower

Hampstead Heath, after a very brief glimpse of the **Purple Emperor** at 12:30, from 12:38 there could be no mistaking it. No clashes and no chases as only one Emperor was visible at any given time. Flights around the Assembly area were as follows: 4 flights between 12:38 and 13:00. 3 flights 13:00-14:20 but the largest number of flights were made 15:00-16:11 when HIM made no fewer than 10 flights. After that I saw nothing. So HIM made it into August and showed no sign of slowing down today. - Frank Nugent with Helen Bantock

Some sightings for Town Park, Enfield Saturday 1st August 2015 - 1 Painted Lady nectaring on flowers 12:41 - 13:00 hrs at least, 2 Comma nectaring on flowers, Gatekeeper, 2 Holly Blues, Large White, Small White and Speckled Wood - Robert Callf.

Butterflies I have seen today (01 Aug 2015): 1 small blue - male, stayed on a bit of grass whilst I could get a good view. Underwing silvery with very small black dots, upperwing blackish with very faint blue at base. Whitish fringe of wing. No orange anywhere. length of wing approx 1cm. Smaller than holly blue seen later. No kidney vetch seen, but birdsfoot trefoil present. Seen in SE corner of St Nicholas churchyard, near Stevenage TL24112615. 1 gatekeeper, 8 large white, 2 small white, 3 speckled wood, 1 holly blue, 1 green-veined white - St Nicholas Churchyard/Weston Road Cemetery, Stevenage TL2426. 1 green-veined white - St Albans Drive, St Nicholas, Stevenage TL244264. - David Inward

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane. After three consecutive Saturday morning walks that tended towards the apocalyptic (2 major fires followed by flooding) it was something of a relief to enjoy a perfectly normal August walk today: Gatekeeper: 59 Peacock: 7 Meadow Brown: 12 Purple Hairstreak: 1 Green-Veined White: 5 Small White: 11 Red Admiral: 2 Speckled Wood: 5 Large White: 7 Common Blue: 5 Brown Argus: 1 Brimstone: 2 Ringlet: 1 Comma: 1 Holly Blue: 6 Small Skipper: 1 The Hairstreak was a very faded, ragged specimen that spent quite a bit of time moving from one ripe blackberry to another. On the Marshalling Yards one female Common Blue was seen in one of the most blackened burnt areas moving steadily from one tiny green speck of green to another, shoots that seemed to be Birds Foot Trefoil. - Pete Gore

July 2015

Friday 31st July 2015

One Small Tortoiseshell nectaring on thistles at Vicarage Farm, Enfield on Thursday 30th July 2015 at 08:40 hrs. One Holly Blue at South Lodge Cres., Enfield Friday 31st July 2015 at 12:18 hrs. Also a number of Gatekeeper around Boxer's Lake, Enfield this afternoon Friday 31st July 2015 - they are probably at the height of their season at present - Robert Callf

I have been keeping an eye on the Small Blue colony along the verge of the A41 at Bourne End/Hemel Hempstead. In previous weeks, I've found numerous larvae with their heads buried in Kidney Vetch and today there were 3 fresh Small Blue but terflies. Also 1 Common Blue, 1 Small Skipper, 1 Six-Spot Burnet and 2 Pyrausta moth species (either aurata or purpuralis but couldn't get a decent look, unfortunately). Over on the opposite A41 slip road, I was very surprised to find at least 32 Six-Spot Burnets (incl. numerous mating pairs) all on Field Scabious, and 1 Common Blue - Lucy Flower

First Painted Lady of the year feeding on Knapweed at Norton Green Common today - Peter Clarke

Thursday 30th July 2015

Swallow-tailed Moth in bus-stop shelter at Chase Road, N14 (TQ 295 950) this morning Thursday 30th July 2015 - a common species, but what a beauty! - Robert Callf

On a sunny day, if suffering from a rather cool northerly wind, Harpenden Common produced a good crop of butterflies with 15 species seen. Good numbers of very nice condition Large White (great to see them making a comeback from 2014) and lower numbers of Small White and Green-veined White, Meadow Brown, Ringlet (now mostly rather worn), Gatekeeper, 5-6 Small Skipper, 2 Holly Blue, 2 Common Blue males, 5 Comma, 1 Peacock, 1 Red Admiral, 5 Speckled Wood, 1 Small Copper and 3 Purple Hairstreak. A rather worn female Purple Hairstreak, with very little purple-effect left, was basking on willow herb before flying up into an oak tree where two other individuals, at least one a male judging from the purple flashes, were also present. Brown Argus, which were rather common last year, are now decidedly scarce, although whether from an unusually late cut of the common in 2014 or a mild winter is not possible to say. - David Hunt

A few brief bursts of sunlight were enough to see 4 Silver-washed Fritillaries in Bramfield Park Wood today. Others highlights amongst all the whites and browns were Painted lady at Waterford Heath and Bramfield Woods, Purple Hairstreak at Bramfield Woods and a Brown Argus on the field margin outside Bramfield Park Wood Andrew Wood

Late news: I found a **Purple Emperor** on my wife's car bonnet, in our driveway in Walkern on 16th July 2015 - Simon Crockford (picture on FB page)

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane Although weather was mostly dull there was little sign remaining of the floods that turned Saturday's walk into a paddle through a seriously overflowing River Crane. Butterflies still quite good although most looking faded and worn: Gatekeeper: 55 Large White: 11 Small White: 15 Green-Veined White: 3 Meadow Brown: 6 Comma: 2 Brimstone: 1 Speckled Wood: 4 Small Skipper: 1 Peacock: 2 Holly Blue: 10 Ringlet: 1 Common Blue: 1 - Pete Gore

The following seen at Ellenbrook Fields (Former Hatfield Aerodrome) today 30/7/15: 1 off Painted Lady, 4+ Large White, 3+ Small White, 1 off Comma, 10+ Gatekeeper, 4+ Meadow Brown, 4 off Ringlet, 4 off Peacock - David Wheatcroft

Butterflies I have seen today (30 July 2015): 1 ringlet, 3 gatekeeper, 9 large white, 2 small white - footpath on edge of arable field south of cricket ground, Graveley, near Stevenage TL2327. - David Inward

Hummingbird hawkmoth nectaring on Phlox maculata in my Thorley Park garden at 1p.m. today. Not surprised as this plant was visited by single hummingbird hawkmoths on several days whilst in flower during both 2013 and 2014. Favoured also this afternoon by a single peacock and two large whites. Was however surprised yesterday by a 9 a.m. visit during sunny but cool and windy weather of a rather tiny large skipper, perhaps a shade under small skipper size. - Len Crouch.

Wednesday 29th July 2015

Today I recorded **Purple Emperor** in my home village of Abbots Langley. Had good views of a female as it searched through an apple orchard looking for egg laying sites. Time was 1230. In all my years in the village it's the first time I've recorded here. - Clive Burrows

A bright moment on an otherwise dull day at Broxbourne Woods. Walking down the main ride from the West car park I found a very raggedy female **Purple Emperor** hanging in the long grass. She allowed me to pick her up and posed for some photographs sitting on the back of my hand. With a little gentle stroking she opened her wings and let me place her on the wooden fence next to the ride. There she remained for a few minutes before fluttering up into the trees. Magic! - Christopher Benton.

Butterflies I have seen today (29 July 2015): 1 small tortoiseshell, 4 gatekeeper, 6 large white - NCN12 cycleway through arable fields south of Graveley TL2227 - David Inward

Some sightings for Tuesday 28th July 2015 - 2 Peacock at Trent Park (1 edge of Moat Wood, 1 edge of Williams Wood), 1 Small Copper at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 16:15 hrs, male Oak Eggar edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park at 16:38 hrs, 1 Shaded Broad-bar at Vicarage Farm. Today Wednesday 29th July 2015 - 1 Essex Skipper in 'wildflower meadow area' at Broomfield Park, Palmers Green, N13 at 10:44 hrs, 2 Holly Blue at Fox Lane, N13 (nr junction with Bourne Hill), 1 Holly Blue and 1 Comma at Grovelands Park, Southgate. - Robert Callf

Breezy overcast day, 20 minute lunchtime stroll around Butterfly World and saw 10 Small Blue, 4 Common Blue, 3 male and 1 female Brimstone, 6 Peacocks, a Large White, at least 10 Small Whites, 4 faded Gatekeepers, 5 Meadow Brown, 3 Small Skipper and a Red Admiral. Then an hours walk at Bricket Wood Common and saw at least 6 Green Veined and 4 Small Whites, 2 Large Whites, a Ringlet, 3 Meadow Brown, 3 Gatekeepers, a Comma, a Speckled Wood, 3 Peacocks and a Red Admiral - Paul Busby

Tuesday 28th July 2015

Big butterfly count for 15 minutes in breezy conditions in field opposite St Vincents Nursing Home, Northwood Hills, Middlesex and saw a male Common Blue, 2 fresh Peacocks, a Ringlet, 13 Gatekeepers and 7 Meadow Brown - Paul Busby

Morning at Ruislip Woods, 4 Speckled Wood, 4 Gatekeeper, 1 Meadow Brown, 1 Green-veined White and 2 Holly Blue and in the afternoon, Harrow Cemetery, 14 Gatekeeper, 4 Common Blue, 1 Speckled Wood, 2 Meadow Brown and 2 Six-spot Burnet - Shailesh Patel

Butterflies I have seen today (28 July 2015): 1 comma, 1 peacock, 1 large white, 1 small white - Roebuck Wood, Stevenage TL2422 - David Inward

Despite the cool breezy conditions, and following information posted below by Andrew, three Small Blues were easily located in the meadow below HillBrow, Letchworth late this afternoon on the way home from work. Thanks for the opportunity to see this scarce little butterfly - Phil Rhodes

25/7/2015 Lots of Holly Blues in my Hemel garden during sunny spells

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/naturecatcher58/19908532288/in/dateposted-public/>

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/naturecatcher58/19908614940/in/dateposted-public/>

Ashley Cox

Monday 27th July 2015

One Comma at Gentleman's Row, Enfield Town on Thursday 23rd July 2015 at 15:25 hrs. One Small Copper nectaring on thistle-head at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park this morning Monday 27th July 2015 at 10:48 hrs. Also today 2 Comma, 2 Holly Blue and 2 Gatekeeper in Town Park, Enfield this afternoon. - Robert Callf

Jane and I went up to the Hillbrow site in Letchworth today to see if the second brood Small Blues were flying despite the windy and cloudy conditions. We were not disappointed seeing nine individuals flying, roosting and taking salts from the path and dog poo. This is well above numbers of last year for this brood. Most of the Small Blues were in the shelter of the hedge separating the two fields. Large and Small Whites were common along with smaller numbers of Gatekeeper, Marbled White, Ringlet, Peacock, Common Blue and Brown Argus. Moths included Dusky Sallow, Yellow Shell, Silver Y, Nemophora metallica and numbers of Pseudargyrotoza conwagana swarming around privet. A visit to Norton Common added Holly Blue, Speckled Wood, Green-veined White to the day's list with virtually no sunshine in evidence. Some pictures on Facebook - Andrew Wood

I thought I should let you know of some Butterfly sightings that we have recently had at Maple Lodge Reserve (Members access only) 11th July 2015 Purple Hairstreak, seen and photographed by S and S Place. 18th July 2015 Silver-washed Fritillary. Seen and photographed by C.A.J. Hulls First for the reserve. 21st July 2015 White Letter Hairstreak. Seen and photographed by C.A.J. Hulls First for the reserve. There have been many recent improvements to the reserve and in one particularly spot there is now a warm sunny spot with plenty of nectaring flowers. Consequently this area attracts a great many butterflies. - Chris Bessant (photos will be posted on FB)

Sunday 26th July 2015

While I was looking out at the rain this morning (26th) I saw a Humming bird hawk moth buzzing around - apparently oblivious to the conditions in Stocking Pelham - Andy Brown

Saturday 25th July 2015

Following the heavy rain all day yesterday and knowing how that can decimate butterflies it was with some trepidation that I returned to Hampstead Heath to check on the Purple Emperors. While waiting to check the Master Territory all seemed well as every species I'd seen just a couple of days ago was out and about including a very confident Purple Hairstreak. On my last visit the Emperor appeared first at 12:16 but not today. Previous visits saw them appear around 13:00 but not today. As time passed, the heart sank. 14:00 came and went with the sun and cloud. To my great relief at 14:10 the **Emperor** appeared followed by a second a minute or so later. Lots of chasing and a few clashes ensued after which only one was visible whenever the sun came out, sometimes mostly just perching. More chases and clashing occurred just after 16:00 but both vanished from 16:40 when the sun was replaced by thick cloud. It's possible that one did cross the Spaniards Rd and alight in an oak directly in front of the sun on the Sandy Heath side at 17:30 but I'm not 100% sure as my view was obscured at that point and 2 Red Admirals were throwing me off the trail - Frank Nugent

Went back to Ruislip Woods today and sightings were = at St Vincents, Northwood Hills 1 x red admiral, 6 x speckled wood, 3 x purple hairstreak. At Park Wood 17 x gatekeeper, 2 x comma, 2 x small skipper, 4 x Essex skipper, 1 x holly blue, 2 x large white, 1 x small white, 3 x meadow brown. 1 x ringlet. Onto Poor's Field = 23 x meadow brown, 1 x silver y, 7 x gatekeeper, 1 x comma, 2 x ringlet, 1 x Essex skipper, 1 x large white, 1 x small white. Lastly in Copse Wood = 1 x white admiral, 1 x peacock, 3 x comma, 5 x green veined white, 2 x small white, 3 x meadow brown, 7 x holly blue (4 x females), 3 x ringlet, 4 x speckled wood, 3 x large white, 7 x gatekeeper, 1 x common white wave - David Gower

New Members' Day walk around the Butterfly World grounds produced a fantastic number of Small Blue in various locations. Also Common Blue, 1 Small Copper, Small and Essex Skippers, Gatekeepers, Meadow Browns, Peacocks, Comma, Small Tortoiseshells, a single Brimstone and Small and Large White. Also Six Spot Burnet moths, cinnabar caterpillars and Nemophora metallica long horned moths on the field scabious. A great day which everyone present enjoyed - Branch Committee

In Bencroft wood last Saturday saw my first white admiral why are they so poor this year? Today the highlight was in the field behind Bencroft wood on one ragwort flower (much maligned plant) were a small copper, a small skipper, a gatekeeper, a purple hairstreak and 2 six spot burnet moth

not a bad haul. A few common blues there as well as holly blues. Broxbourne wood still had 8 silver washed fritillaries but not as many as the 20 of last week - Steve Kiln

Thursday 23rd July 2015

A few butterfly sightings from Northaw on the 23rd between 12:30 and 2:30 PM. Purple hairstreaks seen around oaks in five or six different places. In the various clearings/glades small skipper common with some fresh Essex skippers, and a few tatty large skippers still left. Meadow Browns, ringlet, and gatekeepers all common in similar situations: a few speckled woods. Four or five sightings of silver-washed fritillaries, with a slightly tatty white admiral drinking from one of the few small muddy puddles found. A couple of peacocks, a comma, holly blue and small/green veined whites. One possible tantalising glimpse of a purple emperor - very high, fast flying, and dark and white but far too fleeting and unsure to count. Also lots of brown hawker dragonflies in open glades and hornets in at least three places. - Richard Wistow

Harrow Cemetery, 10 Gatekeeper, 4 Common Blue, 1 Ringlet, 1 Green-veined White and 4 Six-spot Burnet. Shailesh Patel

Broxbourne Woods. Fair numbers of Ringlets and Gatekeepers especially when the sun came out and a fair number of whites (mainly Small Whites, I think). Also about 10 or even 12 Silver Washed Fritillaries at the top end of the main ride, some looking rather worn. Also 1 Meadow Brown, 3 Small/ Essex Skippers but the highlight was a **Purple Emperor** by the pond - Roger Newbold

Made a further visit to Hampstead Heath today to check on the **Purple Emperors**. 17-22°C, intermittent sun and lots of cloud. HIM appeared at 12:16, earlier than on my previous visits. Tangled with a Purple Hairstreak at 12:35 and made regular flights. At 13:07 a second Emperor appeared and between then and 14:15 had 3 major chases and a couple of clashes, with a Red Admiral joining in at one point. A lull as the cloud loomed but a chase then at 15:00 & a clash at 15:34 before... the arrival of the third Emperor. All 3 in a chase at 15:38 after which one perched while the other two continued. After 15:50 I saw only one Emperor and that only briefly. I left at 17:30. I hope that these observations are helpful. I'm curious as to why I only see the third Emperor for a few minutes this visit and previous. - Frank Nugent

A few sightings to report for Thursday 23rd July 2015 - 2 Comma at Trent Park (1 edge of Moat Wood, 1 nectaring on buddleia by lower lake); 1 Six-spot Burnet at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park, 2 Peacock nectaring on buddleia by lower lake, Trent Park, 1 Red Admiral edge of Icehouse Wood, Trent Park, 1 Painted Lady nectaring on thistles at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 12:48 hrs, 2 Peacock nectaring on thistle at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 12:54 hrs - Robert Callf/Robin White.

Wednesday 22nd July 2015

Male Oak Eggar flew rapidly along edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park Wednesday 22nd July 2015 at 15:45 hrs. One Essex Skipper at Park Farm, Enfield at 16:23 hrs Wednesday 22nd July 2015. - Robert Callf

Jersey Tiger Kentish Town garden - Karen Han

Broadwater Gravel Pits, 1 Painted Lady - Chris Lamsdell

Butterflies I have seen today (22 July 2015): 3 small white, 1 small tortoiseshell, 1 meadow brown, many unidentified whites - Walsworth Common, Hitchin TL1930 - David Inward

Tuesday 21st July 2015

Abney Park Cemetery: **Purple Emperor** butterfly (female), NE edge of cemetery, viewed from adjacent garden. Flew into the cemetery late morning - ADH & Tony Butler Picture on facebook

A few sightings from the field trip to Trent Park with Andrew Wood for Tuesday 21st July 2015 - 2 Painted Lady (one nectaring on buddleia near Oakwood entrance at 09:30 hrs, another on thistles edge of Oak Wood), good numbers of Large Whites were seen, at least 10 Peacocks, 2 Small Copper (one 'New Fields' 09:45 hrs, and another edge of Oak Wood) - both newly emerged, 4 Six-spot Burnet, 2 Silver Y, 3 Holly Blue, 1 Common Blue at 'Old Golf Course' several Comma including two nectaring on buddleia near lower lake. Also some people saw a Red Admiral. A total of 16 species of butterflies. - Robert Callf and Shailesh Patel and others

I went up to Tring Park this morning more in hope than expectation and when I got to the seat that says 'peaceful' at the top of the escarpment I turned left for a change rather than going right and came to the area which has been cleared and has a noticeboard that says 'restore the view'. I then noticed a large dark butterfly flying just off the ground (10.15) and I moved quickly towards it at which point it glided down the path just over my head and the blue colours were unmistakably those of a **Purple Emperor**. I chased it down the glade and it almost came to ground at one point before flying off over the trees. It was rather a fleeting glimpse but a positive ID nevertheless and the first one I have seen here for 4 years. The numbers and variety of butterflies were very impressive up at Tring Park this morning with several Silver Washed Fritillaries gliding along the sides of the rides, a very worn Dark Green Fritillary, several Small Tortoiseshells, and good numbers of Commas, Red Admirals and Peacocks also starting to come out. Phil Woodward

A sunny morning at Bricket Wood Common, mostly along the gas wayleave, produced a tally of 16 species with good numbers of Large White, Small White, Green-veined White, Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper, Ringlet, Large Skipper and Small Skipper. Also seen were about 10 White Admiral, now rather ragged; about 5-6 female and 10-15 male Silver-washed Fritillary; 1 very fresh Speckled Wood; 2 Peacock; 3 Comma; 1 freshly emerged female Brimstone; about 5 Holly Blue; and 2 Purple Hairstreak. A White Admiral seemed to be laying eggs on honeysuckle growing on the ground beneath bracken, this near to the fence bordering the heath area - David Hunt

I was at Waterford today and noticed a large butterfly circling around the dog bins at the southern end of the south heath. When it settled it was clearly a **Purple Emperor** - a woodland butterfly. I think it may have drifted over from Great Molewood which is nearby. I also called in at Balls Wood and saw 3 silver washed fritillaries and a white admiral - Andy Brown

In Bushey garden late afternoon 1 x small tortoiseshell, 1 x holly blue, 1 x yellow shell. - David Gower

Butterflies I have seen today (21 July 2015): 1 holly blue, 1 gatekeeper - Purwell Meadows, Hitchin TL1994730063 1 gatekeeper, 3 large white - Burymead Recreation Ground, Stevenage Old Town TL2325 - David Inward

Monday 20th July 2015

A few sightings to report for Monday 20th July 2015 - 1 Six-spot Burnet settled on Res banking at Parkside Farm, Enfield (TQ2998) - new for the year and 1 Essex Skipper here also. 1 Antler Moth on thistle head at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park - new for the year - Robert Callf/Robin White.

Butterflies I have seen today (20 July 2015): 1 small tortoiseshell, 2 green-veined white, 1 gatekeeper - footpath along Ash Brook from Ashbrook to Wymondley Road, near Hitchin TL2028 - David Inward

Sunday 19th July 2015

Bardon Clumps woods, Sacombe Road, Grid ref=TL320157. Comma=3 Peacock=3 Red Admiral=2 Holly Blue=2 Gatekeeper=10+ Purple Hairstreak=6+ White Letter Hairstreak=1 Essex Skipper=1 Purple Emperor=1. The **Purple Emperor** was sunbathing at the top of the low oaks at the Chapmore End side of the woods where the bridleway runs along the edge of the quarry. Time about 4.30pm. - Christopher Benton

Visited Telegraph Hill today. The main hollow is getting rather scrubbed up but did see 3 Chalkhill Blues and a dark Green Fritillary and quite a few Marbled Whites. Good numbers of Marbled Whites at Hoo Bit on the other side of the track but the highlight was a count of 54 *Nemophora metallica* long horned moths all on scabious flowers. Then onto Hexton Chalk Pit where the blustery conditions were concentrating the the Chalkhill Blues in the more sheltered areas. There are plenty there but I would estimate numbers are around a third of those of the last two years. Several Dark Green Fritillaries there too. A walk along the footpaths on the other side of the road between Lion Hill and Moor Hill showed only 13 Chalkhill Blues but more remarkably I found a pair of mating Silver-washed Fritillaries that flew off just As I got the camera ready. Large numbers of the common butterflies along this path and alongside Burwell Plantation. Some pictures on Facebook - Andrew Wood

Just did my butterfly count at Harrow Cemetery on 19 July and what did I see in 15 minutes, 1

Meadow Brown, 9 Gatekeeper, 2 Small Skipper and 1 Small Copper - Shailesh Patel

20 six-spot burnet moths and one Common Blue in 5 minutes at Suttons GP, Near Symonshyde Clouds of butterflies at Cromer Hyde Farm Lemsford - perhaps 2000 whites, mostly large and small on an unsprayed field of brassicas. Also hundreds of meadow Browns, small/Essex skippers, gatekeepers small tortoiseshell and ringlets, plus lesser numbers of Comma, Painted Lady, Peacock, Green veined and Marbled White. freshly emerged Painted Ladies and Peacocks on my allotment in St Albans, but Large and Small Whites dominant here also with small clouds of them twirling around the Innula, Verbena And Buddleia - Malcolm Hull

Sightings for 18th July:- 1 Silver-washed Fritillary, 4 Comma, a nice fresh Red Admiral, Peacock, Large Skipper, Marbled White, Meadow Brown, Ringlet, and Green-veined, Small, Large Whites. During the afternoon at the main entrance gate to Great Ashby Park & my garden. 19th July:- White-letter Hairstreak, Peacock, Comma, Meadow Brown and Green-veined, Small, Large Whites. - Steve Lane

Butterflies I have seen today (19 July 2015): 1 small tortoiseshell, 1 holly blue - Walsworth Common, Hitchin, TL1930 1 gatekeeper - St Faiths Close, Hitchin TL19863029 - David Inward

Today I returned to Hampstead Heath for the first time since Saturday 11th July and thought I would submit this little report. I arrived at 11:30 which I knew to be a little early but useful in that I can record that there was no sign of the Emperors despite lots of other species on the wing. The weather was at least 22°C, very sunny but with quite a breeze swaying the tops of the trees. At 13:18 the show began! A bit surprising given that the sun had by now been replaced by cloud and for the next hour it became a bit of a battle between sun and cloud. An Emperor in flight around the usual trees was joined by a second and the most breathtaking clashes ensued for about 10 mins. Joy unconfined as at 13:30 a third Emperor joined the other 2 and all three flew together. After about 5 mins the the third Emperor was lost to sight and I never saw it again all day. But for the next hour constant sparring occurred between the other two. Sometimes peace and harmony was restored but pass a few minutes and the clashing would commence again. After about 14:30 only one Emperor was visible, sometimes perching, sometimes making short flights around the trees. The Emperor had to contend with quite a breeze and could be seen being tossed hither and thither oftentimes. The temperature had by now risen a few degrees and as the afternoon wore on the short flights became less regular. At 17:45 I witnessed something completely different. An Emperor flew to a tree (this tree now in full sun for the first time now that it had moved to the west) I had not seen it alight on before, just next to the other trees and settled on a leafless part of a branch about a third of the way from the top. Sometimes it was moving ever so slightly, sometimes motionless and sometimes it walked along the branch. Just after 18:00 the Emperor leapt into the sky and flew as if euphoric for a few minutes around the tree before disappearing from view somewhere near but not at the top. I stayed for another half an hour but did not see any Emperors again today. - Frank Nugent

Whitewebbs Field Trip Report: As quite common cloud built up exactly at the allotted time. We were joined by six interested people and went to the gap in the wood, but nothing happened unfortunately. With Laurence Drummond, we then went on to Northaw Great Wood, where at 2 o'clock a very dominant male Purple Emperor took up residence in the usual gap. Numerous flights and some perching took place for all to see. It was obvious there were other Emperors nearby and suddenly two chased through only for the dominant Emperor to chase after them - making a chase of three! Purple Hairstreak were present at both Whitewebbs and Northaw and a Silver-washed Fritillary flew through the canopy where we watching. Around 3, the others left and Andrew and myself stopped at Fir and Pond Wood where two males could be seen in the canopy in 'the usual place.' We then went back to Whitewebbs where around 4 o'clock we had brief glimpses of one Emperor - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

Saturday 18th July 2015

After river sampling at Yeading Brook, Bridgewater Fields. Ruislip Gardens, I saw 2 Holly Blue, Comma, Large White, dozen or more Small/Green-veined Whites, Speckled Wood, 20+ Gatekeeper, 4+ Meadow Brown, 3+ Ringlet and a fresh Peacock. Carried out 2x15 minute Big Butterfly Counts (already submitted on-line). First on Yeading Brook river bank, bramble patch with a small Buddleia and saw 2 Red Admirals, 4 Holly Blue, Small Tortoiseshell, Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper, Small and Green Veined White. Secondly in my Eastcote garden and was surprised to a fresh Brown Argus as well as usual 2 Holly Blues, Comma, Speckled Wood, Large and 2 Small Whites, Green Veined White and 2 Gatekeepers. Then early evening walk from Baker Street to

Euston through Regents Park and saw a Comma and a Small White. - Paul Busby

The **BIG BUTTERFLY COUNT** starts today. After downloading the app I settled down in front of the buddleia bush in my garden in St Albans. First butterfly to arrive was a Painted Lady. Small Tortoiseshells appear to have been glued to the buddleia, Innula and thyme all week and I saw four of those in the 15 minute slot. But there are six more which have already gone into hibernation in my garden shed- should I count them too? Then a Holly Blue passed through and three Large Whites descended on the buddleia, followed in the fourteenth minute by a Red Admiral. Great fun, do give it a go and tell your friends, it's a great way to make more people aware of butterflies and moths - Malcolm Hull

White-letter Hairstreak at the Abbey View golf course site in King Harry Lane, St Albans. But only one sighting in 90 mins searching from 8am in good weather conditions. Bricket Wood Common - 25 Silver-washed Fritillaries, with males and females seen in roughly equal numbers, many nectaring along the gas pipe ride alongside 9 White Admirals. One female SWF seen flying low over violets and brushing them with her feet, but she flew high into the trees without laying an egg. Six sightings of **Purple Emperor** in the canopy gap in Mutchetts Wood during a 30 minute period at lunchtime. Storm damage during the winter has opened up the view and I saw the Emperor land on a high point in the oak canopy and perch for 5 minutes and then return several times to cruise round the crown of the same tree. Down on the ground, numbers of Gatekeepers and Peacocks were up, Marbled White, Ringlets and Large Skippers all down. I positively identified one Essex Skipper, though the vast majority today were Small Skippers - Malcolm Hull

A few sightings for Saturday 18th July 2015 - 2 Holly Blue at Hilly Fields Park, Enfield, 1 Red Admiral at Hilly Fields Park, Enfield at 14:05 hrs, 1 Large Skipper at Whitewebbs Wood, 1 Large Skipper at Hilly Fields Park, Enfield, 1 Peacock on thistle at Whitewebbs Wood at 15:05 hrs, 1 Silver Y at Hilly Field Park, Enfield, 2 Small Skipper together at Hilly Fields Park, Enfield at 15:30 hrs, 1 Comma at Hilly Fields Park, Enfield at 15:40 hrs, 1 Red Admiral at Strayfield Road, Enfield at 15:47 hrs. Also two male Beautiful Demoiselle along Turkey Brook at Hilly Fields Park and a male Southern Hawker at Beggars Hollow, Clay Hill. - Robert Callf

Butterflies I have seen today (18 July 2015): 2 small tortoiseshell, 3 small white, many unidentified whites - Walsworth Common, Hitchin, TL1930 - David Inward

Ruislip Woods NNR, this was part of LHNS walk joint with Ruislip NHS which was led by Neil Anderson. **2 Purple Emperor**, 2 White Admiral, 2 Purple Hairstreak, 1 Large Skipper, 1 Peacock, 2 Comma Butterfly and 1 Six-spot Burnet - Shailesh Patel

Friday 17th July 2015

A few notable finds at Bovington Brickworks. 14 *Nemophora metallica* (Brassy longhorn) on Field scabious (TL007025) (photos and details on my blog, here). 2 6-Spot Burnet (TL008026) and 1 worn Painted Lady (TL005026). - Lucy Flower

Silver-washed fritillary (male) in our garden on the western edge of Bishop's Stortford this afternoon around 4pm on buddleia. - Andrew Palmer

We visited Therfield Heath today in rather blustery but sunny conditions. There were many fewer Chalkhill Blues around than in the last two years. But we counted 60 on Church Hill and 108 on the Rifle Range with smaller numbers scattered around other spots. There were also 5 Dark Green Fritillaries, good numbers of Marled White, Meadow Brown and Gatekeeper and smaller numbers of Large and Small Skippers, Small heath, Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell, Large and Small White. Also present was one of the rare long horned moth *Nemophora metallica* and 2 Six Spot Burnet Moths (Burnets seem to be having a very poor year). Of the Chalkhills only 2 were females, so perhaps emergence is late. The one mating pair we found had a female either with deformed wings or possibly mated while still emerging. Pictures on Facebook and Twitter. A large area between the Golf Course and the path towards Therfield Road is surrounded by an electric fence and being grazed by sheep. Andrew Wood

I was very pleased to see at least six white admirals on the gas pipeline ride near Bricket Wood Common today (17th July). Thanks to all those who posted where to find these lovely butterflies. - Sharon Monahan

Cloudy morning at Eastcote House Gardens for London in Bloom judging, saw a Holly Blue at the

entrance to Dovecote Copse, then over River Pinn footbridge to Long Meadow seeing double figures of Meadow Brown, Gatekeepers and Whites. After judging, went onto River Pinn sampling at Pinn Meadows, Ruislip and saw a Small Copper, Holly Blue, Comma, 5+ Small Skipper, 40+ Gatekeepers particularly attracted to a few specimens of Ragwort, 30+ Meadow Brown, 6+ Ringlet, 20+ Whites including 1 Large, 7+ Small Whites and 4+ Green Veined Whites - Paul Busby

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane. A thoroughly enjoyable morning/early afternoon walk despite some cloud and strong breezes. Sightings included a first definite Purple Hairstreak on the Marshalling Yards a fresh male Common Blue and a memorable few minutes next to a small patch of Thistles on the Heath where I watched multiples of 10 species all nectaring in the morning sunshine: Gatekeeper: 110 Meadow Brown: 17 Comma: 13 Peacock: 8 Small White: 21 Green-Veined White: 3 Large White: 11 Large Skipper: 1 Ringlet: 5 Small Skipper: 21 Holly Blue: 6 Speckled Wood: 4 Painted Lady: 1 Brimstone: 1 Purple Hairstreak: 3 Red Admiral: 6 Common Blue: 1 - Pete Gore

I've been up to Reynolds Wood (Hitchwood area) five times so far this month and finally saw **Purple Emperor** yesterday; 8 single tree-top flight sightings between 12.50 and 13.30, so quite pleased. Earlier visits were rewarded by views of the 'more common' species - including Skipper, Purple Hairstreak and last Friday a beautiful male SWF. Watched it for over an hour as it flitted non-stop around the glade, challenging anything in its path - Donald Gregory

A somewhat windy, if intermittently sunny, morning stroll around Nomansland Common produced 16 species of butterfly: Large White; Small White; Green-veined White; Meadow Brown; Ringlet; Marbled White; Gatekeeper; Large Skipper; Small Skipper; 1 Holly Blue nectaring on bramble; several Small Tortoiseshell; 3 Red Admiral, 2 of which were very nice and the other tatty; 2 fresh Peacock; 1 rather worn White Admiral contentedly nectaring in a bramble patch; 1 male **Purple Emperor**, slightly scratched and with a couple of chunks missing from the wing margins, perched in a silver birch sapling (unfortunately not enough sun to persuade him to open his wings fully); and 2 Purple Hairstreak, one of which was definitely female (I suspect the other was as well), both perching relatively low on oak leaves. Pleasing to see the White Admiral, a species I have not previously been aware of on Nomansland, although they occur a couple of miles away in Symondshyde Great Wood. The Purple Emperor was a total surprise, although odd ones seem to turn up at unexpected locations - maybe an eviction from another wood? - David Hunt

Thursday 16th July 2015

Norton Green field trip report: Pretty good day: The weather forecast at the beginning of the day for our walk did not look too promising but as it turned out for ten of us we enjoyed at least 80% sunshine even if the wind at times was a little breezy. A few minutes after we set off at just after 10:30 we saw a Comma almost immediately basking on a bramble leaf. About two-thirds way down the track we viewed the blackthorn hedge on the western side and the tall oak trees behind for Purple Hairstreak and Purple Emperor. A Purple Hairstreak was seen near the top of a blackthorn hedge and it settled on one of its leaves, which most if not all of us spotted. We probably saw 2 or 3 Purple Hairstreaks flitting above the blackthorn and onto a nearby Poplar and Oak tree at this spot. As we entered the meadow between Watery Grove and Cannocks Wood more butterflies were about including many Meadow Browns, Ringlets, Whites of all kinds although only one Green-veined White. Marbled Whites, Small and Large Skippers and several fresh Gatekeepers were also on the wing, At least 3 Silver-washed Fritillaries with some Commas impressed us with their flight. In the field south of Watery Grove, we spotted a newly-emerged Small Copper and one of us saw a blue (probably Common Blue). Burleigh Meadow presented us with the usual common species as above plus a small colony of Essex Skipper. One of the highlights of the trip was finding the Dyer's Greenweed flower in good numbers at the SW end of the meadow. On our way back to the lay-by, near Pigeonswick Cottage a Speckled Wood was seen by the track. After everyone else left, Bob and I stayed behind for an hour and a half mostly to look for Purple Emperor on the SW edge of Watery Grove. I had laid down some salmon paste (my local Waitrose store didn't stock any of the shrimp variety) in the open area on the edge of the track but we didn't have any luck there either! Nevertheless, we saw at least couple more Purple Hairstreaks and a lovely Peacock on the brambles. Just before we reached the lay-by, we saw a Small Tortoiseshell on Creeping Thistle by the pond opposite Norton Green Farm. - Peter Clarke

In addition to the usual denizens of Harpenden Common (Large White, Small White, Green-veined White, Small Tortoiseshell, Comma, Meadow Brown, Ringlet, Small Heath, Marbled White, Large Skipper and Small Skipper) I saw my first Small Copper and Essex Skipper for the Common this year. Flying around an oak in the St John's Wood area of the Common was a solitary Purple

Hairstreak, the first time I have seen one at the southern end of the Common - David Hunt

Today my wife and I made our annual visit to Northaw Great Wood, to check for the **Purple Emperors**. At 1:30 we watched 2 males chasing about high above in the regular place near the main entrance, and this year they seem to be favouring the Ash rather than the Oaks. Regards Terry Wood ps I'd also like to report that one day last week we had 2 Ringlets in our South Mymms front garden, the first I've seen here. - Terry Wood

Great news - I was just doing my transect at Patmore Heath and I was looking up at the oaks as I had noticed the purple hairstreaks were out, when a purple emperor landed on the oak I was looking at. It was only there briefly before it flew strongly to another oak. I chased over there but lost it. However, no doubt - **purple emperor**. - Gavin Vicary

Plashies Wood - from about 4:00pm. Silver Washed Fritillary - 1 - not previously seen these here, one pristine male Ringlet - 40+ - realistically over a hundred Meadow Brown - 20 Gatekeeper - 2 Large White - 15 Green Veined White 20+ - sets mud puddling Small White - 3 Large Skipper - 5 Small Skipper - 3 Silver Y - 5 Comma - 8 Peacock - 3 Small Tortoiseshell - 10. Ware - Fanshaws - ground next to swimming pool Small Skipper - 18 Essex skipper - 5 Marbled White - 1 Large White - 4 Green Veined White - 3 Large Skipper - 2 Ringlet - 10+ Meadow Brown - 10+ Gatekeeper - 3. Wareside - (- my garden + orchard) Small Tortoiseshell - 12 Peacock - 5 Comma - 2 Red Admiral - 2 Large White - 3 Small White - 2 Green Veined White - 3 Large Skipper - 2 Small Skipper - 5 Ringlet - lots 10+ Meadow Brown - 5 Gatekeeper - 3 - Phil Macmurdie

Some sightings recorded for today Thursday 16th July 2015 - 1 Essex Skipper at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 08:25 hrs, 2 Red Admiral at Park Farm, Enfield at 09:28 and 09:53 hrs, 1 Essex Skipper at Park Farm, Enfield at 09:54 hrs, 2 Essex Skipper at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 10:15 hrs, 1 Small Skipper at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 10:15 hrs, Cinnabar caterpillars on ragwort in set-aside field near Williams Wood, Trent Park, 1 Comma edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park at 10:59 hrs, 1 Peacock at Shaws Wood, Trent Park at 11:03 hrs, 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Vicarage Farm, Enfield - Robert Callf/Robin White. P.S., Nice to have close up views of several Essex Skippers - which look fresh and newly emerged - Robert Callf

Fir and Pond Woods NR - a great butterfly session. My first gatekeepers this year on the Reserve, 6; meadow browns 15, marbled white 6, ringlet 13, large white 7, small white 1, gwv 1, small skipper 9, large skipper 2, common blue 1 and a purple hairstreak. - David Gompertz

A visit to Balls Wood revealed loads of butterflies, highlights were skippers, 2 White Admirals 4 marbled whites and a painted lady. Others included; ringlets, peacocks, meadow brown, gatekeepers, GV white and large whites - Andy Brown

Yesterday Wed 15th went to Broxbourne woods mid afternoon after rain good butterflies. Saw, many ringlets, gate keepers, 9 silver washed fritillaries , one **purple emperor** in glade, purple hair-streaks, commas, no white admirals but small and Essex skippers in open glade and a common blue and brown argus to my surprise. today at Rickneys purple and white letter hairstreaks, plenty of commas. At Waterford heath south - one silver washed fritillary and many commas - Steve Kiln

Butterflies I have seen today (16 July 2015): 2 gatekeeper, 2 ringlet, 1 small tortoiseshell - Stevenage Road, Ashbrook to Little Wymondley TL2027 David Inward

Wednesday 15th July 2015

Twenty minute lunchtime stroll at a cloudy Butterfly World and saw a Small Blue, faded Painted Lady, fresh Peacock, Large White, 2 Green Veined White, 10+ Gatekeepers, 5+ Meadow Brown, 2 Small Skippers and 3 Marbled Whites. Then an hour stroll with sunny spells along the Gas Pipeline ride and back over railway bridge at Bricket Wood Common and saw 3 White Admiral, 6 Silver Washed Fritillary, a Marbled White, a fresh Peacock, a Comma, 2 Holly Blue, 40+ Ringlet, 10+ Meadow Brown, 10+ Gatekeepers, 4+ Small Skippers and lots of (20+) Whites, including 7 Large White, a Small White and 6 Green Veined Whites. - Paul Busby

Went to Bardon Clumps today 13.40-14.40, in a brief sunny spell at 13.48 1 **Purple emperor** seen around the tallest Oaks, then nothing, quite a few Purple hairstreaks as well. Laurence Drummond

Bovingdon Brickworks: Butterflies: 14 Marbled White, 17 Ringlet, 1 Comma, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 2 Red Admiral, 1 Peacock (+ c8 Peacock caterpillars on nettle), 15 Meadow Brown, 6 Small Skipper (none candidates for Essex), 3 Large Skipper, 13 Gatekeeper, 1 Large White, 2 Small White, 3 Speckled Wood. Moths: 1 The Snout (*Hypena proboscidalis*), 4 Nettle-tap (*Anthophila fabriciana*) + 5/6 Spot Burnet sp. (in flight - couldn't tell which) - Lucy Flower

Baldock to Norton Bury road at TL236344; White-letter Hairstreak - many sightings over Elm on the NE side of the road from where it crosses the A1(M) for about 300m's. Hard to judge numbers, best estimate at least 10, at separate positions two groups of 3 spiralling together plus other sightings in different places - Roger Millard

Harrow Cemetery, 22 Gatekeepers, 1 Meadow Brown, 5 Small Skipper, 4 Green-veined White, 3 Holly Blue and 1 Speckled Wood. Shailesh Patel

Tuesday 14th July 2015

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane. After missing my walk for the first time in July yesterday but nevertheless managing to spot a Holly Blue in my own garden I didn't have high hopes for a cloudy afternoon today but was pleasantly surprised by relatively high numbers seen even if an awful lot were Gatekeepers: Gatekeeper: 81 Ringlet: 9 Purple Hairstreak: 1 Small Skipper: 7 Green-Veined White: 6 Small White: 12 Large White: 4 Meadow Brown: 14 Speckled Wood: 2 Peacock: 2 Comma: 1 Holly Blue: 5 Whites increasing. I watched a Red Kite circling slowly over the burnt section of the Marshalling Yards, somewhat adding to the already 'Gothic' feeling here -skeletal trees bearing nothing but cooked black apples being another example. - Pete Gore

I went up to the Hillbrow site today, it is awash with Kidney Vetch, including some good swathes on the area cleared last autumn. I was looking for larvae. Unfortunately it was very wet around midday in Letchworth which hampered my searching but I did find one full grown larvae being attended by an ant. I found two other seed heads with ants on but no more larva. I suspect I may have been a little early to find good numbers of full grown larvae - a project for others who visit in the next couple of weeks. I have a posted picture on the Facebook site. Also despite the poor weather there were many Marbled Whites, Small Whites and large Whites and smaller numbers of Gatekeeper, Ringlet and Meadow Brown, Small and Essex Skippers and one Red Admiral. Andrew Wood

Overcast, humid afternoon after a morning of drizzle. In Mad Bess Woods, Ruislip saw a single Purple Hairstreak fly up from a patch of bramble. However on adjacent field/meadow saw a Large White, couple of Small Skippers, 50+ Meadow Brown, 40+ Ringlet, 30+ Marbled Whites (mostly perched) and 12+ Gatekeepers (margin of field). Afternoon, brief sunny spell in garden brought out a Holly Blue, Green Veined White and a Speckled Wood - Paul Busby

Butterflies and moth I have seen today (14 July 2015): 2 meadow brown, 1 cinnabar moth caterpillar (on common ragwort) - NCN12 cycleway beside Hitchin Road, Stevenage TL2226 - David Inward

Some sightings for Tuesday 14th July 2015 - 5 Gatekeeper at Oakwood Park (W of 10 km line), 1 Small White here also (W of 10 km line), 3 Ringlet (W of 10 km line) and 1 Speckled Wood (E of 10 km line). Also 1 Ringlet and 1 Gatekeeper at Boxer's Lake, Enfield this afternoon. Some sightings for Saturday 11th July 2015 - 1 Red Admiral at Shaws Wood, Trent Park at 14:25 hrs, 1 Peacock edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park at 14:30 hrs, 2 Small Tortoiseshell together nectaring on buddleia by lower lake, Trent Park 14:55 hrs, 1 Comma by lower lake, Trent Park at 14:56 hrs, 2+ Purple Hairstreak at Park Farm, Enfield (TQ2998) at 15:30 hrs, 1 Red Admiral at Park Farm, Enfield at 15:37 hrs, 1 Peacock at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 16:14 hrs, 1 Painted Lady at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 16:30 hrs and 1 Small Tortoiseshell here, 1 Holly Blue near Firing Range at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 16:40 hrs. - Robert Callf

Sunday 12th July 2015

News from 10th Silver-washed Fritillary in Sherrard's Park Wood, Welwyn Garden City this afternoon. Grid ref: TL 23000 13716 Drew Lyness

Butterflies I have seen today (12 July 2015): 4 small white, 1 large white, 1 small tortoiseshell plus many unidentified whites - Walsworth Common, Hitchin TL1930 1 small tortoiseshell - Woolgrove Road, Hitchin TL19793023 - David Inward

First ever Marbled White in the garden today in Bengoe. - Simon Knott

No sunshine at all on today's branch field trip to Bricket Wood Common. 27 people joined the walk and as we made our way along the ride Ringlets started to appear, followed by Meadow Browns and a White Admiral. A large dark butterfly was seen by some in the tree canopy, but we didn't get a good enough view to be sure if it was a Purple Emperor. A nest of sawfly larvae attracted some interest. Asks we moved in to the clearing butterfly numbers started to increase with good numbers of marbled whites, Ringlets as well as Meadow Brown, Small and Essex Skipper, Small, Large and Greenveined Whites. After most of the party headed back a few of us searched further for Purple Emperor but with no luck. We did add Large Skipper, Peacock and Silver washed Fritillary to the days list. Rain started soon after 1pm and we headed home. We saw over a hundred butterflies in a morning with no sun and the temperature only 16 degrees - Malcolm Hull

Brent Reservoir, Holly Blue, Small Skipper, Ringlet, Marbled White, Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown and Common Blue - Shailesh Patel

Saturday 11th July 2015

I visited the Ruislip Woods complex on Saturday between 11 and 1.30, coinciding with it becoming overcast for much of the time. However I had several sightings of a **Purple Emperor** high up on the oaks at St Vincent's around 1130 and a female Silver-washed Fritillary looking for egg laying sites at the entrance to Mad Bess Woods off Ducks Hill. Otherwise low numbers of the expected species. Andrew Wood

Visited Bricket Wood Common on Saturday from 3.30 till 6.00. Saw 8 White admiral, two female Silver Washed Fritillary, 3 male silver washed fritillary, 1 red admiral, 1 comma, 1 beautifully fresh peacock, 3 Gatekeepers, 10 marbled whites, 5 large whites, 3 small whites, 6 meadow browns, 12 ringlets, 8 large skippers. The white admirals were now looking a bit tatty. A few pics at the following links:

Peacock; <https://www.flickr.com/photos/64663114@N03/19609054466/in/dateposted-public/>
White Admiral: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/64663114@N03/19628307282/in/dateposted-public/>

Female Silver Washed Fritillary:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/64663114@N03/19639533021/in/dateposted-public/>
Miles Attenborough

I spent the whole afternoon at Hampstead Heath watching **Purple Emperors**. An incredible experience made more so because the Heath is my local birding (and butterfly) patch and ironic because on the day they were found on my patch I had gone to Bookham to see them there! Which once again just goes to show what's under our noses! Just for the record, yesterday it was 2 Emperors best observed from the path leading down to a private house from Spaniards Rd. I saw nothing before 1pm just as you say but after that 1 or 2 were visible regularly in superb weather (never had to wait long before an individual glided by) until I left at 6pm. Clashes between two Emperors were a joy to behold as well as clashes with a particularly aggressive Red Admiral, which also highlighted just how much larger was the Emperor even though on occasion HIM did seem to be in retreat! Interestingly, the spats with the Admiral didn't occur until late pm. The clashes between Emperors were dramatic and as well as spirals both males would venture far further when clashing than I ever observed an individual venturing when activity seemed confined to just a few trees. Perching was often on the ends of the trees nearest the small break between trees as I'm sure you witnessed too. Amusingly, at one point a leaf was doing a very good impression of an Emperor as it glided between the trees and the Emperor must have thought so too since it had a go at it! - Frank Nugent

Robin White reported to have seen a male **Purple Emperor** at Williams Wood, Trent Park this morning Saturday 11th July 2015 at about 10:45 hrs, also he saw an Oak Eggar here. - news via Robert Callf

Decided to go to THERFIELD HEATH today to see the Dark green fritillary's, parked at the NR at 09.40 and walked east and onto the golf course where there is a small sheltered coombe, I found 5, 4 males and 1 female, also around 30 Marbled whites, 3 Gatekeepers and a single Small heath - Laurence Drummond

Back to Ruislip Woods this morning. At Copse Wood 5 x white admirals (mostly on hillingdon trail),

2 x red admirals (my first this year), 3 x gatekeeper, 1 x peacock, 1 x small white, 16 x ringlet, 6 x comma, 6 x speckled wood, 11 x meadow brown, 8 x large white, 4 x green veined white. On entering Hillingdon trail from Poors Field did meet up with 3 guys and a dog who had seen a purple emperor up in the canopy at this spot around 10.30am so just missed out!. At Poors Field 41 x ringlet, 2 x large skippers, 26 x meadow brown, 3 x marbled white, 1 x comma, 1 x small tortoiseshell, 1 x small white, 1 x large white, 1 x gatekeeper, 1 x white admiral which landed on honeysuckle (see facebook photo). At Northwood Hills, St Vincents area 2 x ringlet, 1 x large skipper, 6 x speckled wood, 4 x meadow brown, 1 x large white, 1 x **purple emperor** appeared at 2.36p.m. which I spotted 4 or 5 times until 2.45 (up in oak canopy). 4 x purple hairstreaks seen again lower down. At Bushey station (TQ118953) 1 x small tortoiseshell, 1 x comma and once arrived home was greeted by 1 x ringlet, 1 x meadow brown in Bushey garden. - David Gower

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane A memorable early morning walk for both good and bad reasons. Intent on identifying Purple Hairstreaks I found this pleasantly easy albeit with the aid of binoculars. After two failed attempts to focus on small silvery butterflies flying high in Oaks on my path across the Heath I found a tree with several butterflies and was able to establish that they were indeed the Purple Hairstreaks that had eluded me previously. I counted 5 flying in this tree and my total includes the 2 earlier individuals but not subsequent sightings above trees alongside the Crane and one on the Marshalling Yards. I will try to get a better sense of these in future days. They are, of course, well known over many years on the Heath - their absence hitherto in my records probably says more about me than them. On entering the Marshalling Yards I noticed there'd been what I took to be another grass fire (but bad enough even so to account for the Chicory seen flowering earlier in the week.) As I walked around the undamaged left-hand side of my loop misgivings grew as I noted signs of water that could only have come from the fire-services. I made my way down the right-hand side parallel with the railway and the scale of the disaster became increasingly apparent. Far more than just grass burned and many spots where I've counted butterflies have vanished: Broom, Brambles, Honeysuckle small trees all gone. The origin of the fire appears to be a bike: a new burnt out wreck has appeared since yesterday. The site will recover, left to itself and there may even be surprise reappearances of plants lost over the years in the scrubby areas now destroyed but inevitably butterfly numbers will be affected this year and next. Here are today's sightings: Holly Blue: 1 Meadow Brown: 18 Gatekeeper: 79 Small White: 9 Large White: 2 Purple Hairstreak: 7 Ringlet: 11 Comma: 7 Speckled Wood: 5 Peacock: 3 Small Skipper: 24 Large Skipper: 1 Green-Veined White: 2 and 1 Six-Spot Burnet moth - Pete Gore

St. Albans - I visited two more white letter hairstreak sites in suburban St. Albans this morning. At Temple view, Oyster fields, the elm was plentiful, but I saw just one WLH, in an hour. Vapourer moth out in force at this site. At Batchwood Drive/Green lanes junction the taller elms have died and I saw no WLH, tho I did see red admiral and holly blue. I'm beginning to think WLH are having another poor year round here - Malcolm Hull

Friday 10th July 2015

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane Another hot sunny walk from late morning to afternoon: Meadow Brown: 37 Small Skipper: 82 Small White: 13 Gatekeeper: 87 Large Skipper: 3 Comma: 9 Ringlet: 18 large white: 8 Holly Blue: 7 Green-Veined White: 2 Tortoiseshell: 1 Peacock: 1 Speckled Wood: 3 Small Heath: 2 Red Admiral: 2 - Pete Gore

I probably did see a **Purple Emperor** at the site today at around 12:25 pm at the southern end of the common between Watery Grove and Cannocks Wood but only for a second before I lost track of it.

Whilst working at Eastcote House Garden in the morning saw a Red Admiral, Comma, 3+ Small White, a Holly Blue and a Small Skipper keep returning to muddy river bank. At lunchtime, visited Cheney Field, Eastcote but saw relatively few butterflies including a Green Veined White, Small White, 2 Ringlet, a Speckled Wood, a Small Skipper, 4 Meadow Brown and 2 Gatekeepers. Then in my Eastcote garden pleased to see my first Meadow Brown, a Small White and 3 Large Whites duelling around Giant Knapweed patch, also a Speckled Wood and 2 Holly Blue. Later at Bishops Wood, Batchworth, Herts saw 2 White Admirals, a Large Skipper, Comma, Small Tortoiseshell, 3 Ringlet, 4 Meadow Brown and 3 Small Skippers. Onto the edge of the golf course and saw a large number of Gatekeepers (40+), 20+ Meadow Brown, 15+ Small/Essex Skipper, 6 Marbled White, 4 Ringlet, a Green Veined White and a Small Tortoiseshell. - Paul Busby

A short visit to Hexton CP this morning was rewarded by 50+ male Chalkhill Blue (only a couple of females were seen), several slightly tired-looking Dark Green Fritillary males and females, and the

usual Meadow Brown, Small Heath, Ringlet, Marbled White, Small Skipper gang, Of interest was a Hummingbird Hawk moth. The track on the opposite side of the road produced a Gatekeeper and Large White. plus numerous Small Tortoiseshell feasting on marjoram and creeping thistle blossoms. - David Hunt

Harrow Cemetery, Holly Blue, Ringlet, Gatekeeper, Small Skipper, Meadow Brown and 1 Small Copper - Shailesh Patel

Verulam Park, St Albans - looking for White letter Hairstreaks this morning and I had to work hard to find any. Eventually found two males clashing above the clump of elm halfway up Bluehouse Hill. Marbled White, Meadow Brown, Ringlet, Small Tortoiseshell and Large Whites all doing well here, but Skipper numbers seem very low. Also saw my first Herts Gatekeeper of the year Bricket Wood Common - Silver Washed Fritillaries are out in force, with 14 individuals recorded plus 7 White Admirals. Gatekeeper just out at this site and also saw my first new brood Peacocks and first butterflies of the year nectaring on buddleia (Large Whites). Purple Hairstreak numbers still seem very low with only 2 recorded and Purple Emperor is still proving elusive, despite watching its master tree clump for 1.5 hours. - Malcolm Hull

At Hawkins wood - near Therfield today (10th July) walking up from Chapel green there were several large whites and speckled woods together with a small skipper. At Hawkins wood there were about 15 speckled woods and by the bridleway there were 6 large whites and a large skipper - Andy Brown HMWT

On our way through Stanmore Country Park we had two sightings of Silver-washed Fritillary. Once going up and then coming back from Wood Farm. Was it the same one, dunno. Yesterday Margaret saw what she thinks was also a fritillary on Wood Farm - John Hollingdale

Thursday 9th July 2015

Balls Wood: **purple emperor** (around small pond at the west (far) end of the main ride), 3+ white admiral, 3 silver-washed fritillary, 10+ purple hairstreak (in oak along approach track to reserve entrance), 15+ comma, 10+ large white and literally hundreds of ringlets and large skippers along the rides, amongst 15 species seen. - Martin Johnson (Picture on the Facebook page)

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane Sunshine throughout with inevitable consequences:
Comma: 8 Meadow Brown: 39 Gatekeeper: 93 Small Skipper: 69 Speckled Wood: 2 Ringlet: 18
Holly Blue: 7 Small White: 9 Red Admiral: 2 Large White: 7 Green-Veined White: 1 Small Heath: 1
Large Skipper: 2 Painted Lady: 1 An afternoon walk with the Painted Lady appearing at the end in the early evening, unusually nectaring on Perennial Sweet Pea. - Pete Gore

At Northwood hq 1 x gatekeeper (my first this year), 1 x large white, 1 x meadow brown - David Gower

In my Thorley Park back garden this afternoon, two new male holly blues nectaring on geranium sp., a small tortoiseshell on Scabious, 2 gatekeepers reminding me that the grass needs cutting, and singles of large and small white passing through. Yesterday at Tottenham cemetery just a single speckled wood defying the blustery conditions - Len Crouch

Some sightings for Thursday 9th July 2015 - 1 Comma at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 09:31 hrs, 1 Red Admiral at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 09:50 hrs, 1 Red Admiral at Park Farm, Enfield at 11:13 hrs, 1 Comma nectaring on buddleia by lower lake, Trent Park at 11:47 hrs, 1 Red Admiral at Water Garden, Trent Park at 11:58 hrs, 1 Comma edge of Icehouse Wood, Trent Park at 12:08 hrs, 1 Peacock edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park at 12:15 hrs, 2 Purple Hairstreak at Trent Park (1 Icehouse Wood, 1 Williams Wood), 1 Red Admiral at Allotments, Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 13:09 hrs - Robert Call/Robin White.

A return visit to Symondshyde Great Wood produced 14 species: Small White, Large White, Green-veined White, Ringlet (many), Meadow Brown, Speckled Wood, Marbled White (one lost soul in the middle of a wood!), Gatekeeper, Large Skipper, Small Skipper, Comma, Red Admiral, White Admiral (3 sightings but I think only 2 individuals) and Silver-washed Fritillary (about 20 sightings with at least 5 males and 3 females, one of the latter only just emerged and still down amongst the grass stems drying off its wings). Disappointing to see so few White Admiral - maybe a late emergence is due, but it is beginning to look like they had a poor winter/spring. Oh. And one hare, seemingly as lost as the Marbled White! - David Hunt

A great butterfly afternoon at Fir & Pond Woods NR especially on the meadow. The list is :- Speckled woods 3, Large white 5, Small white 4, GVW 1, Marbled whites 16, Ringlets at least 28, Meadow brown 9, Comma 1, Purple hairstreaks 2. No PEs! - David Gompertz

Latest news Thursday July 9, Harrow Cemetery, Large Skipper, Small Skipper, Ringlet, Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown, 3 Holly Blue and 1 Six spot Burnet - Shailesh Patel

This afternoon we went to the St. Vincent's site in Park Wood hoping to see **Purple Emperors**. We arrived at 2.45p.m. and immediately saw one fly through the usual gap. At least 3 individuals were seen and one or two perched up and could be viewed with binoculars. Also seen here was a Purple Hairstreak. On our return home via the Pylon ride we saw a White Admiral at the junction with Grubb ground. Sue and Steve Place

Bright afternoon sunshine at Horsenden Hill, Greenford, Middlesex and saw at least 6 White Letter Hairstreaks across 2 locations. Also saw a Holly Blue, Six Spot Burnet Moth, 9 Commas, only 6 Marbled White, 4 Ringlet, 4 Speckled Wood, 5 Large and at least 7 Small Whites, 25+ Meadow Brown, 20+ Gatekeepers, 5+ Large Skippers and 30+ Small/Essex Skippers. In my Eastcote garden saw a Holly Blue, Comma, Large White and a Speckled wood - Paul Busby

A walk around Balls Wood revealed, loads of ringlets, meadow browns, skippers large whites, red admiral, a few commas and 3 White Admirals flying very fast - Andy Brown HMWT

(05/07/15): I saw large numbers of butterflies: (actual numbers will be much larger) Approx 50 marbled white, approx 50 ringlet, approx 10 large white, approx 10 small skipper, approx 10 small tortoiseshell, approx 10 meadow brown, 1 comma, 1 green-veined white - small triangular meadow east of A1(M) and south of Knights Templar School playing field, probably part of Knights Templar School nature reserve, Baldock TL239331. News from the 5th July, 4 meadow brown, 2 marbled white, 3 large white, 1 riband wave moth *Idaea aversata* - field west of Highfield School playing field, Letchworth TL2031 4 marbled white, 2 ringlet - Rosehill Hospital, Cambridge Road, Letchworth TL20793091 - David Inward

We went to Balls Wood at lunchtime today. We had three sightings of a White Admiral (my husband saw one first). They were seen within ten minutes along a 100 metre-or-so path so I couldn't say whether they were different individuals or the same one. Also saw loads of Ringlets and Meadow Brown, 10+ Skippers, a couple of Small White and Large White, Speckled Wood and Small Tortoiseshells, one Red Admiral and only one Marbled White. - Jill Sawyer

Saw a White Admiral in Scotts Road Ware on 6/7/15 - Neil Campbell

Wednesday 8th July 2015

A few sightings for Grovelands Park, Southgate for Wednesday 8th July 2015 - 2 Comma, 2 Ringlet, 3 Small Skipper and male Gatekeeper. - Robert Callf

Purple Emperor seen on Tuesday at 16:45 on a garden path in King's Langley. I'm so thrilled, it's the first one I've seen in real life! I only saw it, because instead of going in the front door, I went round the back, and he was just sitting on the path, with the sun on him. I panicked to get my phone out to take a pic, and just as I got him perfectly framed, the sun went in, and he closed his wings! I stayed there for a few minutes, and decided to risk just touching the edge of his wings, and he very obligingly opened them for me - Kim Seager Picture on Branch Facebook and Twitter (*it should be noted that Kim works with Amy Paterson who saw a female at her work place last year in Berkhamsted!*)

A few sightings for Tuesday 7th July 2015 - 1 Comma edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park at 18:03 hrs, 1 Comma at Park Farm, Enfield at 18:25 hrs and at least 2 Small Tortoiseshell at Parkside Farm, Enfield and 2 Shaded Broad-bar on Res banking here (TQ 2998). - Robert Callf

Butterflies I have seen today (08 July 2015): 1 marbled white, 2 meadow brown - tumuli at junction London Road/Six Hills Way, Stevenage TL237237 - David Inward

At TL344400 on 7th July - large numbers of Marbled White and Meadow Brown, three Dark Green Fritillary and a single Chalkhill Blue. - Patricia Clegg

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards (part) I had to cut short this morning walk after completing the outer Marshalling Yards loop so butterfly sightings much reduced accordingly. A Peacock on the Heath was the first of the summer brood I've seen: Holly Blue: 1 Speckled Wood: 1 Gatekeeper: 20 Small Skipper: 4 Peacock: 1 Meadow Brown: 8 Ringlet: 9 Green-Veined White: 2 Painted Lady: 1 Small White: 1 Comma: 3 - Pete Gore

Late afternoon/early evening stroll around Copse Wood, Ruislip and adjacent field. In the field saw a Red Admiral, Small White, 2 Commas, 60+ Marbled White, increasing number of Ringlets (70+), Gatekeepers (12+), Small and Essex Skippers (50+) with decreasing number of Meadow Brown (20+) and Large Skippers (5+). By early evening, sun had come out and in Copse Wood saw at least 6 Purple Hairstreaks, 4 Ringlets, 2 Meadow Brown as well as 2 Red Admiral, 2 fresh Commas and a Speckled Wood. - Paul Busby

Tuesday 7th July 2015

Butterflies I have seen today (07 July 2015): 1 meadow brown - Little Wymondley bypass verge (Titmore Green section) TL2126 6 ringlet - Little Wymondley bypass verge (Ashbrook section) TL2027 - David Inward

Some sighting for Tuesday 7 July at Harrow Cemetery, Large Skipper, Ringlet, Holly Blue, 1 Green-veined White, Gatekeeper and 1 Comma. Shailesh Patel

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane. With a strong breeze and much cloud, conditions were far from ideal but the promised rain never appeared and butterflies were quite good in an afternoon walk: Holly Blue: 4 Small Skipper: 29 Meadow Brown: 19 Ringlet: 19 Gatekeeper: 31 Small White: 3 Speckled Wood: 2 Green-Veined White: 5 Comma: 11 Tortoiseshell: 1 Large Skipper: 1 Red Admiral: 1 - Pete Gore

Saw a Red Admiral and Small White by the Victoria Road bridge (TQ 107862) over the Yeading Brook after a morning working party. Then further upstream in Roxbourne Park (TQ 1186) saw a Holly Blue, Comma, Large White, Small Skipper, Ringlet, Meadow Brown, 3 Speckled Wood and at least 8 Small Whites despite a cloudy, drizzly afternoon. - Paul Busby

Monday 6th July 2015

Butterflies I saw today (06/07/15): 1 comma, 2 ringlet - cycleway Stevenage Station to Stevenage Old Town TL2324 - David Inward

Harrow Cemetery, Ringlet, Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper, Large Skipper, 1 Holly Blue and 1 Silver Y moth. - Shailesh Patel

On a visit to Bricket Wood Common this morning I saw the following species;- White Admiral, Silver-Washed Fritillary, Marbled White, Ringlet, Meadow Brown, Comma, Large White, Speckled Wood, Large, Small and Essex Skipper - Terry Wood

Some sightings for Monday 6th July 2015 - 2 Small Tortoiseshell at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 2 Purple Hairstreak settled on oak at Parkside Farm, Enfield near Res (TQ2998) - our first of the year! 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Park Farm, Enfield, 2 Comma at Park Farm, Enfield at 09:29 hrs, 1 Clouded Silver at Park Farm, Enfield, 1 Red Admiral at Park Farm, Enfield at 09:34 hrs, Silver Y at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park, 1 Comma along bridle-path near Shaws Wood, Trent Park, 1 Shaded Broad-bar along Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 1 Painted Lady at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 11:43 hrs - Robert Callf/Robin White.

We went up to Hexton Chalk Pit this morning and saw 2 Chalkhill Blue, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 50+ Marbled White (they were everywhere!) and 20+ Meadow Brown and 3 Speckled Wood by the road entrance. - Jill Sawyer

Female Brimstone in Ware garden this morning (I have an Buckthorn in my garden!) - Liz Goodyear

I'm well behind with reports at the moment, but I promise to catch up even if they are just brief lists... However, today (6th) was notable in that there were three sightings of new broods on my local patch: Holly Blue, Peacock and Brown Argus.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=72143&mode=view>
<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=72127&mode=view>

Also a very pale Comma.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=72138&mode=view>

Dave Miller

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane A very pleasant morning walk, butterflies noticeably increasing in numbers and variety as the day warmed up: Meadow Brown: 24 Ringlet: 38 Gatekeeper: 45 Green-Veined White: 2 Large Skipper: 2 Marbled White: 1 Speckled Wood: 6 Small Skipper: 52 Comma: 4 Large White: 6 Small White: 3 Brimstone: 1 Red Admiral: 1 Holly Blue: 1. The Red Admiral only showed itself as it tried to get away from a very aggressive male Ringlet which was odd to watch to say the least. The Ringlet eventually gave up and reverted to normal Ringlet behaviour whilst the Red Admiral settled back in the grass where it had evidently been roosting before the unwelcome attention. - Pete Gore

A breezy yet relatively sunny day on Harpenden Common produced a good haul of butterflies with many Marbled White, Meadow Brown, Ringlet and Small Tortoiseshell; 10+ Small Skipper (no Essex as yet); 1 Common Blue male; 1 Comma; 1 Red Admiral; 2 Large White; 2 Small White, several Small Heath; 2 Large Skipper and a female Purple Hairstreak streaking about in the usual locality amongst a bramble bank. Also seen were almost mature Cinnabar moth larvae, although I don't recall seeing any adults this year (6-spot Burnets are also decidedly scarcer than usual) - David Hunt

Sunday 5th July 2015

Woodland assembly area close to A10, north of Ware, at least one **Purple Emperor** was present this afternoon - Liz Goodyear and Laurence Drummond

We took my mother in wheelchair to Butterfly World today all really impressed with designer gardens and meadows. Once sun came out recorded 47 x small tortoiseshell, 14 x ringlet, 5 x marbled white, 5 x large white, 18 x meadow brown, 7 x small skipper, 6 x small white, 1 x large skipper, 2 humming bird hawk moths, 2 x 5 spot narrow bordered burnets. 1 x comma, 1 x small tortoiseshell in Bushey garden late afternoon - David Gower

This morning's field trip attracted 8 hardy souls to a rather damp Balls Wood and Hertford Heath, although it did stop raining fairly early on. Not surprisingly no big woodland species but numerous Ringlets, a few Meadow Browns, several Small Skipper (positive ids aided by their reluctance to fly in the gloom), Large Skipper and a gatekeeper. Also a larval nest of Hawthorn Moth and a female Drinker moth (Moths on Twitter). Also Blue Damselfly, Blue tailed damselfly and Common darter. Common Cow wheat is now prolific on the heath following the last two year's clearances. Andrew Wood

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane. An afternoon walk starting in sun but ending in cloud and a few spots of rain so no butterflies on the return journey. Previously however: Meadow Brown: 16 Small Skipper: 51 Ringlet: 26 Small White: 3 Holly Blue: 3 Comma: 5 gatekeeper: 16 Large White: 3 Speckled Wood: 1 Green-Veined White: 1 Red Admiral: 4 - Pete Gore

Visited an old meadow immediately south of where the Hertfordshire Way footpath meets the Stort Navigation (TL491189). A 30 minute stroll round the perimeter revealed 4 large skippers, 5 large whites, 5 small whites, 2 green veined whites, 11 small tortoiseshells mostly nectaring on bramble blossom, 4 commas, 72 meadow browns including mating pairs, and 28 ringlets. A few of the ragwort were burdened with cinnabar larva, 19 nearly full grown on one plant and 10 sharing with 3 soldier beetles on another, although only 4 cinnabar moths seen. Len Crouch

I visited Symonshyde this afternoon. Good to see several SWF, White Admirals & the only species to add to David Hunts list was a Small Skipper. - Malcolm Hull

Saturday 4th July 2015

I enjoyed spending an hour in Broxbourne Woods on Saturday afternoon. The temperature was about 28 degrees and sunny but quite blustery. I wonder if this had something to do with the butterflies being unwilling to settle? The highlight though was seeing at least 8 Silver Washed Fritillaries (mainly on the main ride from the West car park across the almost dried up brook at the bottom.) They were hard to count though as they were flying up and down in the usual fashion. Other sightings included 20+ Ringlet and Meadow Brown, about 10 Large Skipper, several Small or Essex Skipper, several Large Whites and singles of Comma, Green Veined White and Speckled Wood. - Roger Newbold

Went to Ruislip Woods on sat afternoon and around St Vincents area were 21 x meadow brown, 19 x ringlet, 1 x small skipper, 1 x speckled wood, 2 x large white, 4 x purple hairstreak(my first this year), 3 of them at purple emperor hot spot. Onto Park Wood= 28 x meadow brown, 17 x ringlet, 3 x large white, 3 x comma, 1 x speckled wood, 4 x small skipper. At copse wood 2 x speckled wood and in Poors Field =10 x meadow brown, 16 x ringlet, 1 x speckled wood, 1 x large skipper, 1 x comma, 1 x small skipper. In Bushey garden 1 x meadow brown, 1 x silver y - David Gower

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane After thunderstorms in the night it was pleasant to have damp ground under my feet and standing water back on the Heath and the Marshalling Yards for the first time in weeks. Most of my walk was in the morning: Chicory flowers open when I arrived at the Marshalling Yards but closed by the time I started the return stretch. Butterflies: Meadow Brown: 30 Small Skipper: 53 Comma: 11 Ringlet: 32 Speckled Wood: 1 Green-Veined White: 2 Red Admiral: 3 Large White: 2 Gatekeeper: 15 Tortoiseshell: 1 Marbled White: 1 Small White: 1 Large Skipper: 2 A large grass fire on Pevensey Open Space, a smaller one on the Marshalling Yards, presumably before the rain last night. - Pete Gore

In 2012 we had a report of a Purple Emperor being seen at Kenwood, adjacent to Hampstead Heath. Today was the first time we had had an opportunity to visit Hampstead Heath in optimum conditions. The highest point is along the Spaniards Road next to the radio mast. We sat down in our chairs at 12:15 and started watching the canopy above the road, each of us looking in different directions. 1000s of cars drove past made worse by road works creating, a continuous traffic jam beside us. Also many joggers, cyclists and walkers!! By 13:45 having only seen dragonflies, a Purple Hairstreak or two, a possible White-letter Hairstreak and Vapourer moths we walked up the road, and onto the heath, watching more oaks slowly making our way back to the highest point but from within the wood. At 14:35 Andrew sat down to watch a gap and almost immediately saw a chase of two **Purple Emperors**. Further sightings were made and then moving towards the track that leads to a private house, we saw more flights of at least two individuals. This is 7.5k from the centre of London and probably one of our most significant finds made harder by the location. There is a video on the Facebook page but you really have to look very hard and replay it several times to see the Emperor which eventually perches on the left side. - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

Went to BALLS WOOD this morning and saw 4 White admirals, but only in the favoured area, not spread around so looks like they are just starting here. BROXBORNE WOODS west main ride full of Silver washed fritillary's about 14 all told but dashing around all over the place and hard to count, at one time I had six in one vista, also there singles of Small skipper, Comma, Painted lady and Small tortoiseshell. Laurence Drummond

10 Small Tortoiseshell in my Ware garden at 10:30 - Liz Goodyear

I arrived on Six Hills Common at just after 10am and within 5 seconds of viewing the elm tops I saw a White-letter Hairstreak in the 'gap' the spot I saw one on 25 June. I continued looking for another minute or two and 2 or 3 more specimens were flying around. Over the last few years I have never seen one in the afternoon or evening. I walked towards Norton Green and Knebworth Woods. Near Pigeonswick Cottage at around 1pm, a couple of male Silver-washed Fritillaries were patrolling an area of bramble and one of them even chased off a Large White! No sign of the purple species or the White Admiral but the site is renowned for fairly late emergences! However, a number of female summer-brooded Green-veined Whites appeared to be probing plants close to the ground presumably to find where to lay eggs, Garlic Mustard, one of its foodplants, is prominent on both sides of the track (Chadwell Road). Seems a bit early! - Peter Clarke

Friday 3rd July 2015

Friday 3rd July. Visited my Warren transect in near-perfect weather, 23C, light breeze. Found 100s of Marbled Whites mixed in with Meadow Browns & Ringlets. too many to count accurately. Transect record is Marble White 118, Meadow Brown 73, Small Skipper 37, Ringlet 23, Small Heath 5, Small Tort. 1, Small White 1, Large White 1. Skippers could well include Essex, but all too lively to view closely. It looks as though last autumn's scrub clearance combined with mild, dry winter and recent hot weather has benefitted butterflies and other inverts. I look forward to the next visit - John Moss

After reading DM report of a Purple Emperor in Copse Wood yesterday I decided to pay a visit to the wood this morning. I walked along the Hillingdon Trail to where it bears left(TQ085896). There

to my amazement i spotted a large butterfly land on the ground no more than 12ft away. Yes it was a **Purple Emperor**. It then decided to fly straight at me displaying its purple sheen glowing in the sunshine. Also there was a pristine Comma. I continued up the main N/S ride where fortunately I bumped into Dick Middleton (for the first time) and reported my sighting. He requested that I submit my sighting to you. He himself had been checking for White Admirals, but not seen any up to then. On my return journey I turned east down the main east/west ride. where after approx. 150meters, I could not believe my luck there on the ground was 2 very fresh White Admirals! - Ian Grant

Some sightings from yesterday evenings survey Wareside - disused railway track 1 - small skipper 8 - small tortoiseshell 2 - red admiral 1 - comma 7 - meadow brown 1 - ringlet But no hairstreaks - Phil Macmurdie

Highlights of a roundabout walk from Hatfield to Welwyn Garden City. A Purple Hairstreak on the road alongside Symondshyde Great Wood (see Branch Facebook page), 8 Silver-washed Fritillaries and 1 white Admiral along the Power way leave in the wood and a Gatekeeper in the Picnic area. Another gatekeeper and 2 White -letter Hairstreaks near the Crooked Chimney pub at Cromer Hyde. The hairstreaks flying around a low hedge almost on the road junction. - Andrew Wood

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane. A walk in almost continuous sunshine with a similar pattern of butterflies to Wednesday: Small White: 2 Holly Blue: 2 Meadow Brown: 28 Comma: 8 Ringlet: 38 Small Skipper: 88 Gatekeeper: 11 Red Admiral: 1 Speckled Wood: 4 Large Skipper: 2 Marbled White: 2 Tortoiseshell: 1 Large White: 1 Small Heath: 1 - Pete Gore

Went to Waterford heath south this morning a lot of butterflies. over 100 ringlets, and 65 marbled white a record there, and plenty of meadow browns and skippers, commas and small tortoiseshells starting to show - Steve Kiln

A few sightings for this morning Friday 3rd July 2015 - 2 Large Skipper, 5 female Meadow Brown together nectaring on knapweed at 09:15 hrs at Oakwood Park, N14. Also 1 Ringlet at Boxer's Lake, Enfield at 10:55 hrs. - Robert Callf

This friday lunchtime we had a red admiral, ringlet and meadow brown within a few mins of each other in Kings Langley. It pays to have a wild garden. :) - Elizabeth Debenham

Aldbury Nowers, Meadow Brown, Ringlet, 10+ Marbled White, 1 Small Copper, 1 Common Blue, 1 Brown Argus, 1 Gatekeeper, 1 Speckled Wood, 1 Small Heath and 1 Dark Green Fritillary. - Shailesh Patel

Did the butterfly transect at Thorley Wash N.R. just after mid-day and noted 2 small/essex skippers, 7 large skippers, 5 large whites, 7 small whites, 1 green veined white, 1 fresh small copper. 1 painted lady, 1 red admiral. 16 small tortoiseshells, 1 comma and 40 meadow browns. Proceeded to Pig Lane to check if any ringlets were flying in this part of the Stort Valley and walked northward through the set aside field immediately east of Twyford Bury Farm. After going only a short distance I was pleasantly surprised to see a marbled white, small heath and early gatekeeper all within a dozen yards of each other. I have visited this location (TL494194) every July for several years and have never seen a marbled white here before and also cannot recall seeing any small heath here in the last five years - Len Crouch

Bricket Wood Common, St Albans - Three new species emerged since last weekend - Silver-washed Fritillaries (4 seen, all males), Purple Hairstreak and new brood Brimstones. Numbers of Ringlets and Large Whites both increasing. Spent an hour at lunchtime in in Mutchetts Wood looking for Purple Emperor in its usual treetop haunts. Ideal weather conditions, but no luck today - I expect it to appear any day now - Malcolm Hull

A 4 hour stint in Symondshyde Great Wood produced 3 White Admiral, mostly imbibing from muddy ground or soil on the track rather than nectaring; 18 sightings of male Silver-washed Fritillary, although quite how this translates into individuals is another matter - I saw 2 males together on bramble on one occasion, but otherwise they were very active and sunning themselves in trees about 5-6 metres from the ground; Speckled Wood (many); Meadow Brown; Ringlet; Small White; Large White; Large Skipper; and a solitary Comma. Timber operations have been in progress of late, the usually clear and floriferous area near the gate being mostly under piles of conifer logs awaiting collection - David Hunt

The following seen at ELLENBROOK FIELDS (FORMER HATFIELD AERODROME) today: Comma x 2 Marbled White x 45+ Meadow Brown x 38+ Small Skipper x 20+ Ringlet x 50+ Red Admiral x 4+ Speckled Wood x 2 Large Skipper x 4+ Small Tortoiseshell x 10+ + Cinnabar Moth x 6 Gatekeeper x 5+ - David Wheatcroft

I was lucky enough to be invited to the US Ambassadors Independence Celebrations yesterday (02/07/15) at his residence at Winfield House, Regents Park. The gardens and grounds are impressive but I was taken with the fact that an area at the rear of the lawns is managed for wildlife and incorporates a wildflower meadow and thistle patch. Needless to say that I started looking around for butterflies and saw the following in the general area of TQ275828: Meadow Brown- 7, Large Skipper- 2, Large White- 1, Red Admiral-1, Small Tortoiseshell- 1. Comma-1, Speckled Wood-1, - Bill Stone, Suffolk Butterfly Recorder,

Thursday 2nd July 2015

Had a pleasant surprise this afternoon in Copse Wood, Ruislip (TQ082901) when a large butterfly coming along the track towards me turned out to be a male **Purple Emperor**, it even had the decency to land almost at my feet. - Dick Middleton

Two Hornet Moths in Black Poplars on path from Sacombe Road to Rickneys Quarry - the first tree I looked at - no more on the other 40 or so! Many Marbled Whites in the field on the landfill between Woodhall Park and Stapleford. (see twitter) A White Admiral and 2 Silver-washed Fritillaries in Bramfield Park Wood, 4 White Admirals in Bramfield Wood and one in Brickground Wood (see Facebook) - Andrew Wood

Harrow Cemetery, Ringlet, Gatekeeper, Marbled White, Large Skipper, Meadow Brown and at Harrow Recreation Ground, 1 Small Tortoiseshell. Shailesh Patel

Hounslow Heath/Marshalling Yards/Crane. Another morning walk in an unsuccessful attempt to avoid forecast rain which then didn't fall in the afternoon. Still plenty of butterflies though: Ringlet: 66 Meadow Brown: 34 Small Skipper: 59 Small White: 2 Gatekeeper: 6 Green-Veined White: 1 Painted Lady: 1 Marble White: 2 Small Heath: 1 - Pete Gore

Some sightings for today Thursday 2nd July 2015 - at least 7 Marbled White 'New Fields' Trent Park between 15:09 - 16:20 hrs, 1 male Common Blue Sect 8 'New Fields' Trent Park at 15:24 hrs, many Small/Essex Skipper (no Essex positively identified) including 12 Small settled on wet mud Sect 8, 'New Fields' Trent Park at 15:27 hrs, 1 Large White Sect 6 'New Fields' Trent Park, 10+ Small Heath at 'New Fields' Trent Park, 1 Small Tortoiseshell Sect 5 'New Fields' Trent Park at 15:40 hrs, 1 Large Skipper Sect 5 'New Fields' Trent Park, 1 Gatekeeper Sect 5 'New Fields' Trent Park at 15:44 hrs, 2 Comma together Sect 4 'New Fields' Trent Park, 2 Large Skipper Sect 4 'New Fields' - Robert Callf. P.S., Spent 15 mins watching edge of Church Wood for White-letters, but no success - Robert Callf

Wednesday 1st July 2015

Start off with some sightings from yesterday 1st July - Widford - cricket ground **5 purple hairstreak**, trooping across the ground at 7:30pm 2 red admiral 2 small tortoiseshell 1 large white 3 small white 2 meadow brown 2 ringlet. And one very large dark butterfly with white flashes, which if I was at Broxbourne woods would have been happy to conclude on as an A. Iris, but given the location and not getting a clear enough view will defer to large dark butterfly with white flashes. Moth trap was bulging this morning - lots in pots awaiting ID. Notables include:- Another cream bordered green pea, leopard moth, small yellow wave, small blood vein (new for garden, or bathroom to be precise), + approx. 80 other species - Phil Macmurdie

For those that attended the field trip at Marshalls Heath on Sunday 28th June - the moth list is available [here](#)

1 July, Harrow Cemetery, Meadow Brown, 3 Ringlet, 1 Marbled White, 1 Male Gatekeeper, 2 Small Skipper and 1 Burnet Companion. Shailesh Patel

Butterfly and moth I saw today (01/07/15): 1 meadow brown butterfly - garden, St Faiths Close, Hitchin TL1986130303, 1 silver-ground carpet moth Xanthorhoe montanata ssp montanata - door porch, St Faiths Close, Hitchin TL1985330307 - David Inward

Early stroll about 9am around Springwater Lake, Colne Valley Regional Park and saw my first Gatekeeper, 2 Red Admirals, 3 Comma, 6 Small and 1 Large White, 3 Large and 3 Small Skippers, 3 Speckled Woods, 5 Ringlet, 10+ Meadow Brown and Six-Spot Burnet Moth. Then mid-morning at Mad Bess Woods saw my first White Admiral along the bridleway path, 1 Large and 1 Small White, 4 Large and 1 Small Skipper, Speckled Wood, 40+ Meadow Brown and 3 Marbled White. In the meadow next to Ducks Hill Road, the majority of the butterflies had migrated to the field edges in really hot weather and included 20+ Marbled White, 60+ Meadow Brown and at least 4 Ringlet. After lunch walking to shops I saw 2 Holly Blue, a Small Tortoiseshell, 2 Large and 1 Small White and a Large Skipper along the Tube line edge of Park Way Common, Ruislip Manor (TQ 1087). - Paul Busby

Went back to Water Lane, Watford this evening at 6.30 and came across 63 x marbled white, 3 x ringlet, 2 x meadow brown, 2 x small white, 6 x essex skipper, 28 x small skipper(a few of these possibly essex). - David Gower