

Sightings 2016

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December 2016

Thursday 22nd December 2016

Saw a red admiral in Bencroft Wood on 22nd December - Steve Kiln

Tuesday 19th December 2016

One red admiral spotted today Dec 19th on the upper section of the Amwell Loop just downstream of tumbling bay weir NGR TL 36419 14162 - Phil Belfield

Wednesday 14th December 2016

One Red Admiral seen at Westway Shopping, Greenford - Shailesh Patel

A male Brimstone stood out like a beacon on some dead vegetation in the sunshine on the northern edge of Burleigh Meadow at around 1:30 pm. As I was about to take a photo it flew off but returned to the same area within a few minutes. Probably my first ever record of a butterfly on the wing in December. - Peter Clarke

I saw a Red Admiral today in my neighbour's garden here at Miswell lane, Tring. Very pleasant sun and warmth at the time - Nick Bowles

Red Admiral still present today in the sun at the car park, Panshanger Park - Simon Knott

Taken today in Letchworth GC. Can't remember ever seeing a Brimstone in December before? [News via Branch FB page including photograph](#) - Simon Crockford

Brent Reservoir: male Brimstone, Red Admiral - Roy Beddard and Steve Leeke ([news via London Birders](#))

Friday 9th December 2016

Great news is that thanks to Surrey branch member Stephen Reisbach, we have a positive record of **Brown Hairstreak** in Middlesex. A small number of eggs of this nationally rare, and unrecorded for almost 20 years in our area, species have been located in the Middlesex part of Richmond borough. There have been records of it spreading northwards through South West London and it looks as if one brave female has crossed the Thames to the north side. If you are in Richmond, the

southern part of Hounslow or Spelthorne please take a look at local Blackthorns (sloes) and see if you can find the bright white pin head sized eggs laid near twig or thorn junctions. Any records please let us know. There is a moth the Blue Bordered carpet that lays white oval eggs on Blackthorn and is a confusion species but if in any doubt please let us know The local council ecologist is aware of this finding and we are assured that maintenance will not be done that could damage the blackthorn and the eggs. [See our Facebook page for photos](#) - Andrew Wood

No butterflies I'm afraid, but 2 December Moth males, a Light Brown Apple Moth and a Red-green Carpet in my trap last night - David Hunt

Red Admiral in St James' Park today at 14:15 - Frank Nugent

Thursday 1st December 2016

I saw a red admiral on Patmore Heath - Jenny Sherwen

Red Admiral in sun today at Panshanger Park next to car park. - Simon Knott

November 2016

Sunday 27th November 2016

St Albans - Small White caterpillar pupating in my kitchen. It arrived on Black Kale from my nearby allotment. At that stage it was hiding underneath the Kale leaf, resting lengthways along the midrib, which appeared to have been eating. It was quite still after several frosty days and had attached itself firmly to the leaf with silk Once indoors it soon revived and has actively chewed its way through the Kale during the week, growing several mm longer. At present the head and top end have turned into a pupa, whereas the other end is still like a caterpillar, which wriggled when I touched it. Once pupation has finished I will put it outside undercover so it will be dormant until the Spring - Malcolm Hull

Friday 25th November 2016

Saw a red admiral and a peacock flying within 5 minutes of each other in a sunny corner at Bayfordbury - Ian Flack

1 Red Admiral in fields off Widbury Hill, Ware this morning - Andrew Wood

Tuesday 22nd November 2016

1 Red-green Carpet at ASDA Southgate on Tuesday 22nd November 2016 - Robert Callf.

Thursday 17th November 2016

1 Feathered Thorn at ASDA Southgate on Thursday 17th November 2016 - Robert Callf.

Wednesday 16th November 2016

I saw a Red Admiral 16/11/2016 by Carpenders Park station on S Oxhey side - Joan Thompson

Sunday 13th November 2016

Saw a large butterfly, probably a Red Admiral, although not confirmed, flying around the canopy of a Sweet Chestnut in Rough Lot, Trent Park at 13:36 hrs on Sunday 13th November 2016. - Robert Callf.

A single Red Admiral today (13.11), at midday in Tring's central (St. Peter and St. Paul) churchyard - Nick Bowles

Stanwell, Staines-upon-Thames, Middlesex, Red Admiral on a window - Patricia Hearsom

Friday 11th November 2016

Marylebone Lane W1 - Surprised to see a Red Admiral fly past my third floor office window at lunchtime today. Bright sunny conditions and it flew off to the north - Malcolm Hull

Wednesday 2nd November 2016

A brimstone passed by in the Pinetum at Bayfordbury on Wednesday 2 November. Ian Flack

I saw a Red Admiral at Ellenbrook Fields on the 2nd November - Dan Cooper

1 Red Admiral in flight and settled near Dew Pond, Trent Park (TQ 293 972) this morning at 10:20 hrs - Robert Callf

Whilst I stood in the sun outside my back door about 12.30, soaking up vitamin D, a Red Admiral almost flew into me & disappeared over my head. A very pleasant surprise for November - John Moss

Tuesday 1st November 2016

One Red Admiral flying on Tuesday the 1st November near the St Albans hospital. TL143082 - David Anderson

October 2016

Monday 31st October 2016

Brimstone in my Watford garden - Peter Jenkins

2 Red Admirals in Ware today and 1 in Hertford - Andrew Wood

Early this afternoon, 2 Commas near the western tip of Watery Grove - Peter Clarke

I saw 2 red admirals in the sunshine at Amwell today - Jenny Sherwen

Friday 28th October 2016

Folly Lane allotments, St Albans - Four Red Admirals and One Small White on my allotment this morning. The Ivy has finished flowering and the Red Ads were all glued to the blue Buddleia, which still has a few flowers, due to some deadheading I carried out early last month. Interesting that they had all selected this in preference to the yellow Weyeriana Buddleia, which is in full bloom and their usual preference for nectar this time of year. - Malcolm Hull

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. A very pleasant sunny morning and more butterflies than I expected: Speckled Wood: 5 Comma: 1. As I turned into my own road to come home a small butterfly flew over a garden hedge. This is usually a Holly Blue here but it's been some weeks since I last saw one and unfortunately with the sun in my eyes all I saw was an anonymous colour-less butterfly. - Pete Gore

Thursday 27th October 2016

At Garston (Watford), a dead Red Admiral on the pavement along St Albans Road at grid ref TQ 113 998 (tetrad TQ19 E). - Colin Everett

Wednesday 26th October 2016

I saw a rather faded Speckled Wood at Stanmore Country Park today - John Hollingdale

A Red Admiral flying north-east over the A41 at Long Green near Berkhamsted, grid ref TL 004 063 (tetrad TL00 D). - Colin Everett

Sunday 23rd October 2016

A Red Admiral around ivy in a clearing at Chipperfield Common at grid ref TL 041 012 (tetrad TL00 K). - Colin Everett

2 Red Admirals nectaring on michaelmas daisies in set-aside field near Dew Pond, Trent Park (TQ 293 972) at 11:31 hrs and 1 Speckled Wood (fairly fresh) along Snakes Lane near Park Office (TQ 289 970) at 12:05 hrs on Sunday 23rd October 2016 - Robert Callf.

A male Brimstone in Fairlands Valley Park at 2pm today - Peter Clarke

Saturday 22nd October 2016

1 Speckled Wood (worn and faded) settled on edge of Moat Wood near Obelisk at Trent Park (TQ 286 979) this afternoon on Saturday 22nd October 2016 at 14:17 - 14:20 hrs, also Vapourer seen in flight at 'Old Golf Course' - Robert Callf.

Thursday 20th October 2016

1 Red Admiral at Whitewebbs Farm, Enfield (TL 330 000) this afternoon at 13:50 hrs - Robert Callf.

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Only a Speckled Wood today, flying in a relatively sunny period on the Marshalling Yards. On Tuesday 18th a Red Admiral on the Ivy in the Pevensey stretch of the River Crane and a Small Copper on the Heather again on the heath. 3 Kingfisher sightings on the river, one today (Pevensey) and one on each of my Crane sections on Tuesday - Pete Gore

Tuesday 18th October 2016

Had lunch today by the small pond in Tower hamlets Cemetery Park in the lovely autumnal sunshine and was pleasantly surprised to see a Common Blue basking on some old Knapweed and then 3 Small Whites in the meadow area flying then to the Buddleia in the pond area and back again, then finally watched a school party with butterfly nets find a tattered Red Admiral on the wood margin with much excitement - Paul Busby

1 Red Admiral flew S at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 12:45 hrs on Tuesday 18th October 2016 - Robert Callf.

Monday 17th October 2016

1 Red Admiral flew down a hedgerow at Vicarage Farm, Enfield this morning at 11:00 hrs - Robert Callf.

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey One of those afternoons when the best of the sunshine was in the middle of a rain-shower but butterflies were around nevertheless, all of them on the Marshalling Yards and including yet another Common Blue: Red Admiral: 1 Speckled Wood: 2 Common Blue: 1. On Saturday 15th, in much gloomier conditions, I saw a single Speckled Wood on the Pevensey loop. - Pete Gore

Saturday 15th October 2016

1 Red-green Carpet near outside light at Dalrymple Close, N14 this morning Saturday 15th October 2016. Also 1 Red Admiral at Vicarage Farm, Enfield this afternoon and 1 male Small White settled briefly at Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm (TQ 305 974) at 12:52 hrs - Robert Callf

Friday 14th October 2016

Butterfly I have seen today 14/10/2016: 1 Red Admiral - Codicote Community Orchard TL217187 - David Inward

Painted Lady nectaring on Verbena Bonariensis in my Garden for an hour this morning N.W.Bishop's Stortford. Jim Fish

On 13 October I saw a Hummingbird hawk moth in my garden in Hoddesdon, the first I have seen this year - Jackie Clark

Wednesday 12th October 2016

Painted Lady in Royston Wednesday 12 October - Dave Cording

Panshanger Park, 2 Red Admirals and 1 Speckled Wood - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

1 Red Admiral at Vicarage Farm, Enfield on Wednesday 12th October 2016 at 09:18 hrs - Robert Callf.

Tuesday 11th October 2016

Lunchtime visit to Yeading Brook, Bridgewater Fields, South Ruislip and saw a Green Veined White settling on flowering plants at base of old hedgerow - Paul Busby

Butterfly I have seen today 11/10/2016: 1 Red Admiral - on ivy in hedge on north side of Lilley Cricket Club Ground, Lilley TL118263 - David Inward

Jeacocks Orchard, Cow Lane Tring - news from Sunday, the branch sales and publicity stall visited Tring Apple Day. A Small White flew through the orchard and a Red Admiral was seen in the lane.

Roger Prue and Martin Hicks had both run moth traps the night before and there were many moths on display with Merveille du Jour the undoubted star attraction - Malcolm Hull and Nick Bowles

Monday 10th October 2016

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Enough afternoon sunshine and warmth to encourage a few butterflies to fly today: Red Admiral: 2 Speckled Wood: 3 Small Copper: 1. Yesterday was less favourable: Speckled Wood: 2 Small Copper: 1 Red Admiral: 1 - Pete Gore

Red Admiral zooming round trees and spent buddleia in bright sunshine in my Hatfield garden today - John Moss

Another Speckled Wood (again faded and worn) on Sunday 9th October 2016 at Carr's Basin, Town Park, Enfield (TQ 323 963) at 14:43 hrs. 1 Red Admiral settled on sycamore at Gordon Hill Station (TQ 318 977) at 12:45 hrs. 1 Red Admiral flew S at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 15:50 hrs on Monday 10th October 2016 - Robert Callf

Sunday 9th October 2016

3 Red Admirals, and 1 Painted Lady Nectaring on ivy blossoms by farm track to Wickham Hall Bishop's Stortford. - Jim Fish

1 Speckled Wood (worn and faded) along Leeing Beech Gutter near 'Three-bridges' Trent Park (TQ 295 977) at 12:12 hrs on Sunday 9th October 2016 - Robert Callf.

Saturday 8th October 2016

1 Red Admiral near Long Garden, Trent Park at 13:57 hrs on Saturday 8th October 2016 - Robert Callf

Thursday 6th October 2016

1 x twenty-plume moth seen in Bushey home in evening - David Gower

A few sightings for Thursday 6th October 2016 - 1 Speckled Wood field near Dew Pond, Trent Park at 11:25 hrs, 2 Red Admiral disturbed from flowering ivy at Water Garden, Trent Park at 11:38 hrs, also here 1 Volucella zonaria on ivy - Robert Callf.

One Painted Lady (in excellent condition) near Royston Hospital. Also two Red Admirals, a Small White and a Speckled Wood in the surrounding area - Martin Johnson

Butterfly I have seen today 06/10/2016 - 1 Red Admiral - edge of grazed field off Rectory Lane, Datchworth TL26191912 - David Inward

Small copper at Hadham Hall on 2 occasions: 1st and 4th October. TL457227, the latter date being breezy. Good record for the parish, just 4th and 5th sighting since I started recording all nature within the parish and my 1st record from this site that I visit weekly for Odonata. - Jono Forgham

Wednesday 5th October 2016

Berkhamsted at 7.50 this morning in bright sunshine. Just got off bus for work and walking over canal bridge on Billet Lane and a Red Admiral shoots over my head and heads along towpath towards town. Chris Hilling

A sunny of breezy day on Nomansland Common resulted in 4 Small Copper busying themselves around the few remaining heather flowers and 2 Red Admirals either nectaring on ivy flowers or taking the rays. This year seems to have been quite good for Red Admirals, at least in the St Albans/Harpenden area, perhaps due to a substantial migration - certainly the best for the last 4-5 years in my experience - whereas Peacock numbers seem to have taken a huge hit - David Hunt

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. With strong winds and some cloud I was rather surprised to see slightly more butterflies today than yesterday: Red Admiral: 7 Speckled Wood: 3 Small Copper: 3 plus one unidentified White and a probable but unidentified Blue. Yesterday without the wind but similar sunshine was: Small White: 3 Speckled Wood: 2 Red Admiral: 3 - Pete Gore

Tuesday 4th October 2016

Two Red Admirals and a pair of Speckled Woods seen by River Pinn near Ruislip Golf Course (TQ 07 87) during morning working party - Paul Busby

In my Hatfield garden today 1 Red Admiral, 1 Small(?) White, both blown about a bit in sunshine - John Moss

Butterfly I have seen today 04/10/2016 - 1 Red Admiral - Jersey Farm Woodland Park, St Albans TL17320982 - David Inward

9 Red Admirals on Tuesday 4th October 2016 - 1 at Vicarage Farm, 1 at Parkside Farm, 2 at Park Farm and 5 at Trent Park (4 together settled on oak edge of Ride Wood, 1 nectaring on ivy flowers at Water Garden) - Robert Callf.

Monday 3rd October 2016

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Another sunny afternoon and somewhat similar butterflies to yesterday's: Small White: 1 Small Copper: 3 Speckled Wood: 6 Red Admiral: 3 Common Blue: 1 - Pete Gore

Warm sunny lunchtime at Pinn Meadows, Ruislip (TQ 09 88) and saw a Red Admiral and a Small White outnumbered by tens of Common Darter dragonflies. Then at Highgrove Wood, Eastcote (TQ 10 88) saw a pair of Speckled Woods then another Speckled Wood on the wood margin with the Swimming Pool car park - Paul Busby

1 Orange Sallow at bus shelter at Chase Road near Charter Way, N14 this morning Monday 3rd October 2016. Really pleased to find this one - a new species for me! Lime tree grows next to the bus shelter. Another moth was present, which I have not checked yet - looked like a worn Lunar Underwing. - Robert Callf

Sunday 2nd October 2016

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Pleasant autumnal afternoon sunshine and the following butterflies still to be seen: Small White: 1 Speckled Wood: 6 Small Copper: 3 Red Admiral: 2. Good to see a Small Copper nectaring on Heather. We don't have a lot of Heather but there's also Sheep's Sorrel in the same area so perhaps some possibility of the butterfly increasing as both plant species increase due to management of Heather. - Pete Gore

Saturday 1st October 2016

2 Red Admiral (1 at Parkside Farm, 1 at Park Farm, Enfield) both migrating on Saturday 1st October 2016 - Robert Callf

We saw several Red Admirals and a Painted Lady today at an old orchard in Stanmore. Painted Lady seen yesterday nearby on Wood Farm, Stanmore, - John Hollingdale

September 2016

Friday 30th September 2016

A short walk on Nomansland Common late afternoon we saw 3 Small Copper, mainly on the heather, and a Speckled Wood. Mandy Floyd

4 Red Admiral (3 at Vicarage Farm, including two flying S, 1 flew S at Park Farm, Enfield), 1 Small White at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 12:49 hrs. A few sightings for Trent Park - 1 Red Admiral nectaring on michaelmas daisies near Triangular Wood (TQ 289 964) at 14:36 hrs, 1 female Small Copper and 1 Speckled Wood near Sports Field (TQ 286 968) at 14:50 hrs - Robert Callf.

Butterflies I have seen today 30/09/16 - 1 Red Admiral, 1 Comma - bridleway east from Gresley Way, Chells Manor, Stevenage TL27092510 - David Inward

In my Hatfield garden today in bright sun, but windy 1 Red Admiral, 1 Small White - John Moss

Thursday 29th September 2016

A couple of butterflies to report for Thursday 29th September 2016 - 1 Red Admiral at Ferny Hill Farm, Enfield at 13:03 hrs and 1 female Clouded Yellow seen in flight and settled at Vicarage

Farm, Enfield (TQ 304 973) between 14:15 - 14:19 hrs, was able to approach close enough to touch it! - Robert Callf.

Wednesday 28th September 2016

1 Speckled Wood at Town Park, Enfield on Wednesday 28th September 2016 at 14:35 hrs - Robert Callf.

On probably my last visit to The Warren on a sunny afternoon I saw no butterflies or moths, several caddis fly, a couple of bees, a dragonfly, 6 cows & 2 small calves. This has been by far the worst season for butterflies in the c14 years I've been visiting. Perhaps next will be better? John Moss

In Tewin orchard 3 red admirals on apples and small white and a comma in nearby ivy patch on ivy flowers 4 red admirals - Steve Kiln

After attending a very informative Thames 21 morning conference at City Hall on Rainscapes, Sustainable Drainage including Rain Gardens, I emerged at lunchtime to find a beautiful sunny day. Crossed Tower Bridge and saw a Small White, then another 2 at St Katharines Docks (TQ33 80) and then along the river to Wapping and at a sandwich stop in Hermitage Memorial Gardens saw another 2 Small Whites (TQ34 80). Clouded over so settled for a pint at the Prospect of Whitby Secret Garden - Paul Busby

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. A sunny morning start but a cloudy afternoon finish so these are all morning sightings: Speckled Wood: 11 Small Copper: 1 Red Admiral: 4 (plus 2 or 3 unidentified Whites.) - Pete Gore

A few Red Admiral sightings for Wednesday 28th September - 2 at Vicarage Farm, 2 flew S at Park Farm, Enfield, 1 near Water Grdn, Trent Park, also today 1 female Small Copper nectaring on thistle head at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 11:22 hrs, 2 Speckled Wood (1 at Water Grdn, Trent Park, 1 at Vicarage Farm) - Robert Callf.

Tuesday 27th September 2016

A lone Red Admiral seen today at lunchtime (1.30) in Berko. It seemed very skittish...here, there and everywhere in one small tree by the canal for about 2 minutes then flew off towards town center. - Chris Hilling

Monday 26th September 2016

1 Speckled Wood at Trent Park on Monday 26th September 2016 at 12:26 hrs - Robert Callf.

Sunday 25th September 2016

Had three Red Admirals in my Harpenden garden on Sunday warming up on wooden fence panels. Apart from that just one small white. Robin Pearson

Nomansland Common near Sandridge - heavy showers and a stiff breeze provided an unpromising start to the final Herts and Middx Butterfly Walk of the season. Nonetheless, 8 people showed up in the hope of seeing the target species, Small Copper. Our first butterfly sighting was a large dark butterfly hurtling south at a rapid speed, which we agreed was probably an emigrating Red Admiral, a sure sign that summer has come to an end. When we reached the heather area favoured by Small Copper the heavens opened and we spent 20 minutes sheltering under a tree. But much of the heather was still flowering, which is the Small Coppers favoured nectar source. There was also much sheeps sorrel, the larval food plant which is used by the Small Copper at this site. When the sun came out we were rewarded by the site of a Small Copper sunbathing. Over the next hour we saw a total of 37 Small Coppers, mostly nectaring on heather or sunbathing. One female appeared to be looking for egg laying sites on the Sheeps Sorrell, but we did not see an egg laid. We also witnessed an attempted courtship, which unfortunately resulted in a rejection. Although this butterfly is often considered to be a bit of a loner, there were several times we encountered 3 or 4 close together on a favoured patch of heather. To add to the days tally we saw a second fast flying Red Admiral, one Small White and one Large White - Malcolm Hull

Spent an hour at Merryhill Fields, Bushey this afternoon as was very pleased to see 1 x small copper, also 1 x speckled wood - David Gower

Saturday 24th September 2016

Narrowboat trip along Grand Union Canal between Harefield and Rickmansworth on Saturday with 6th Eastcote Cubs and saw at least 3 Red Admirals, a Comma and at least 1 Small White. (TQ 0491) - Paul Busby

Some sightings for Saturday 24th September 2016 - 1 Small Copper nectaring on flowering ivy near Allotments at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 11:25 hrs, also 1 Red Admiral here and another seen flying S. 2 Speckled Wood at Vicarage Farm, 1 Red Admiral E edge of Ride Wood, Trent Park at 12:39 hrs, 1 Red Admiral near Parks Office at Trent Park - top of Snakes Lane at 13:35 hrs, 1 Speckled Wood at Snakes Lane, Trent Park - Robert Callf.

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Morning sunshine and more butterflies: Speckled Wood: 7 Common Blue: 3 (2m1f) Small White: 5 Small Copper: 3 Painted Lady: 2 Brown Argus: 1 Red Admiral: 3 - Pete Gore

Bricket Wood Common - a new flush of Commas feeding on blackberries at the start of my last transect walk of the year. Speckled Woods still hanging on, with an elderly couple sunbathing on golden privet, the only plant apart from grass which consistently attracts the attention of this butterfly species. Five Red Admirals, with two nectaring on Ivy, a courting couple in a nettle patch and one perched high up in ash. Folly Lane St Albans - two other species making the most of the late warm weather at this site. Small White (20) and Large White(11), have both produced new broods, much to the dismay of my fellow allotment holders - Malcolm Hull

Butterfly I have seen today 24/09/16 - 1 Red Admiral - Walsworth Common, Hitchin TL19263039 - David Inward

At Regent's Park 1 x red admiral (TQ285 918), 1 x small white seen at Penguin beach area, London Zoo (TQ282 834). Last night 1 x garden carpet in Bushey garden - David Gower

Friday 23rd September 2016

1 Red Admiral flew S at Roundhill Drive, EN2 (TQ 307 960) at 10:42 hrs, 1 Speckled Wood at Boxer's Lake, Enfield. 2 Small Copper male and female together, Sect 3 'New Fields' Trent Park at 13:05 - 13:08 hrs. Surprised not to see at least one Small Heath, but perhaps a bit late? 1 Comma E edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park at 13:39 hrs, 2 Red Admirals nectaring on flowering ivy near Allotments at Vicarage Farm, Enfield (TQ 309 970) at 14:12 - 14:15 hrs at least - Robert Callf.

Small White near entrance to Cutthroat Wood, Hillingdon (TQ 08 84) and then at Gutteridge Wood Meadow, Red Admiral on flowering Ivy, Comma on bramble and at least 2 Speckled Wood as well as a dozen or so Common Darter dragonflies by pond. A further Red Admiral on bramble in field near River Pinn and railway Ickenham TQ07 87 - Paul Busby

In my Hatfield garden today 1 Red Admiral, 1 Tortoiseshell, 2+ Small Whites. John Moss

Nomansland Common was basking in autumn sunshine so I had high hopes of butterfly heaven. A good haul comprised 11 Small Copper feasting on the heather; 3 Comma; 2 Red Admiral; and 3 Small White. A Yellow Shell was also seen working its way along a hedgerow and a variety of blister, blotch and serpentine leaf mines were evident on hazel, hornbeam, bramble, wych elm and alder - David Hunt

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Pleasant late morning sunshine encouraged a mix of butterfly activity. Four actively flying small orange/brown ones, unusual behaviour on the Heath, are listed as Small Coppers; the Red Admiral total is a realistic minimum seen separately and likely attracted by flowering Ivy on the Pevensey stretch of the river; the Common Blue was a fresh-looking male: this species seems to have been doing this for weeks now, never quite disappearing but only ever present in the smallest numbers. Full list: Small White: 2 Speckled Wood: 8 Common Blue: 1 Small Copper: 5 Red Admiral: 5 - Pete Gore

Thursday 22nd September 2016

Some sightings for Thursday 22nd September 2016 - 1 Red Admiral flew S at Trent Park at 10:56 hrs, 1 Comma settled on bramble at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 11:10 hrs, 1 Speckled Wood at Park Farm, Enfield at 11:40 hrs, 1 Small Heath (fresh) at Parkside Farm, Enfield (TQ 299 982) at 12:08 hrs - Robert Callf.

Wednesday 21st September 2016

Miswell Park, Tring SP916116 at midday - Red Admiral x2 and Small White x1 Little Tring on path to Tringford Res. SP918130 at 4.30pm - Red Admiral x1, Speckled Wood x2 and two Small White - Chris Hilling

Speckled Wood and Small White near Yeading Brook, Brookside Rec, Hayes (TQ 11 81) and further 3 Speckled Wood on half hour visit to Willow Tree Pond (TQ 12 81) - Paul Busby

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Not much sun around this afternoon but still a few butterflies: Speckled Wood: 11 Small White: 3 Meadow Brown: 1(a large fresh-looking female but she'll need luck if she's still looking for a mate!) Small Heath: 1 Red Admiral: 1 - Pete Gore

Today at Thorley Wash I saw 6 small copper, 1 common blue, 1 small white and 4 red admiral - Jenny Sherwen

Some sightings for Wednesday 21st September 2016 - 8 Speckled Wood at Trent Park, 1 male Small Copper nectaring on michaelmas daisies at set-aside field near Dew Pond, Trent Park at 11:49 hrs, 1 Red Admiral at Ferny Hill Farm near Obelisk in Trent Park at 12:45 hrs, 1 Red Admiral at Park Farm, Enfield at 12:52 hrs, 1 female Small Copper at Parkside Farm on Res banking at 13:20 hrs, 1 male Common Blue at Parkside Farm on Res banking at 13:24 hrs, 1 Red Admiral flew S at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 13:37 hrs, 1 Speckled Wood at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 1 Red Admiral flew from flowering ivy and settled on metal gate near Allotments at Vicarage Farm at 14:54 hrs - Robert Callf.

Comma and Red Admiral in my Harpenden garden this afternoon. Alan Jackson

Holly Blue in our garden this afternoon (21/9/16), Sandridge Road, St Albans. I'll keep an eye out for later autumn sightings. - David Utting

In my Harpenden garden yesterday (20th) 2 Red Admiral, 1 Comma all on Ivy. - Robin Pearson

Tuesday 20th September 2016

1 Red Admiral at Vicarage Farm, Enfield (TQ3097) at 10:42 hrs on Tuesday 20th September 2016. - Robert Callf.

Solitary Speckled Wood at this morning Yeading Brook working party in South Ruislip (TQ 1186) - Paul Busby

In cloudy conditions in my Hatfield garden today 1 Red Admiral, 1 Small White. John Moss

Monday 19th September 2016

1 Speckled Wood at Town Park, Enfield at 13:13 hrs on Sunday 18th September 2016. Robert Callf.

Butterfly I have seen today 19/09/16 - 1 Comma - bridleway off Great Ashby Way, Stevenage TL2552732 - David Inward

Sunday 18th September 2016

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Very little sunshine but butterflies just made it into double figures and included a Small Copper on Tansy - the third time I've seen this particular combination. Here's the full list: Green-Veined White: 1 Small White: 5 Speckled Wood: 1 Meadow Brown: 1 Small Copper: 2 - Pete Gore

Just 1 Speckled Wood this morning on Sunday 18th September 2016 at Trent Park. - Robert Callf.

Not expecting much with only occasional sunshine but fairly warm... New Mill, Tring...4 Red Admiral in front garden plus 2 Large White. On to Marshcroft Lane leading out of Tring and 4 more Red Admiral and also 5 Speckled Wood. Then at Aldbury Nowers...1 Green-veined White, 9 Speckled Wood, 2 Brown Argus and 4 Red Admiral. - Chris Hilling

St Albans - A cloudy day produced hundreds of crane flies and only a few butterflies. Speckled

Woods were the most common, with several pairs courting and at least 3 females egg laying. I found one egg laid on couch grass. Red Admirals were feeding avidly on both buddleia and ivy. One was seen flying south to south-west rapidly in a straight line at about tree top height. This could be part of a return migration and it would be interesting to hear of any other reports of similar behaviour. The only other species seen flying today was a single Small White. Meanwhile in my outhouse, the number of hibernating Small Tortoiseshells is still creeping up with two more appearing during the week to take the total to 29, plus one Peacock â€" Malcolm Hull

Thursday 15th September 2016

Butterflies I have seen today 15/09/16 - all at Norton Common, Letchworth: 1 Comma at TL21943353, 3 Speckled Wood (2 at TL21753313 and 1 at TL21613299), 2 Red Admiral at TL21573320. - David Inward

A couple of sightings for Thursday 15th September 2016 - 1 Red Admiral at Bramley Road, N14 (TQ 295 961) at 14:52 hrs, 1 female Brown Argus at Vicarage Farm, Enfield (TQ 307 972) at 15:19 hrs - Robert Callf.

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Extremely humid with hazy morning/early afternoon sunshine. 2 Red admirals in view at the same time was unusual but was easily explained by the Apple Tree with rotting windfalls on one side of the path and flowering Ivy on the tree opposite. One very tatty Gatekeeper was a tired remnant of the summer: Small White: 2 Speckled Wood: 9 Green-Veined White: 1 Meadow Brown: 1 Brown Argus: 1 Small Copper: 2 Gatekeeper: 1 Small Heath: 1 Red Admiral: 2 Comma: 1 - Pete Gore

Wednesday 14th September 2016

A couple of sightings for Wednesday 14th September 2016 - 1 Comma settled on Bramble at 'Barracks' Vicarage Farm, Enfield (TQ 307 971) at 16:40 hrs and 1 Painted Lady along track at Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm (TQ 305 974) at 17:00 hrs - Robert Callf.

In my Hatfield Garden today 1 Red Admiral, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Comma, all very bright + 3 Small White also looking fresh - John Moss

Butterflies I have seen today 14/09/16: 2 Speckled Wood - Lea Valley Walk, Harpenden 1 at TL139157, 1 at TL142153; 2 Red Admiral - Batsford Springs, Harpenden 1 at TL144152, 1 at TL146150. - David Inward

At Northwood HQ Sandy Lane 1 x red admiral today - David Gower

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Another sunny morning, this time with a few Small Coppers. The first I saw won't be seen again however. It flew across my path straight into a spider's web where a particularly ugly large spider had it wrapped in a small tight orange bundle in a matter of a few seconds. After that I was rather pleased to see three others elsewhere, including a rather tatty and small presumed female busy searching out tiny Sorrel leaves on the edges of one of the burned areas. Here's today's full list: Speckled Wood: 7 Small White: 1 Small Heath: 2 Green-Veined White: 2 Brown Argus: 5 Small Copper: 4 Meadow Brown: 1 Common Blue: 1 Red Admiral: 3 - Pete Gore

Tuesday 13th September 2016

A few sightings for Alexandra Park (TQ 302 901) on Tuesday 13th September 2016 - 2 Red Admiral and 4 Speckled Wood. - Robert Callf

Batford, weedy field (by B653) - at least 1 CLOUDED YELLOW remains in the largish area with minimal grass on site. Assumed for its 3rd day. Very flighty & mobile. - Darin Stanley

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. A sunny, very warm morning and early afternoon with the following sightings: Speckled Wood: 10 Comma: 1 Small White: 7 Red Admiral: 1 Brown Argus: 5 Common Blue: 1 Meadow Brown: 1. No Small Copper today although a small bright orange butterfly flying above the Blackthorn was probably one. A few more whites missed today, particularly along the roads where I suspect they're almost all Small Whites - Pete Gore

Butterflies I have seen today 13/09/16: 1 Small White, 1 Large White - west of Cottered Church TL31692922 - David Inward

Bright sunshine, early morning and saw 2 Small Coppers (one on Ragwort, another on Water Mint flower), 2 Commas, a Red Admiral, a Speckled Wood and at least 1 Small White in the fields next to the Frays River near Denham Lock Wood and a single Meadow Brown at Uxbridge Golf Course both TQ 05 86. Then visited Friends of Yeading Brook in South Ruislip at TQ 10 86 and saw a Red Admiral, a couple of Speckled Woods and at least 2 Small Whites. At Willow Tree Pond, Yeading saw another 2 Speckled Woods and at Gutteridge Wood Meadow, Hillingdon near the pond saw another Small Copper, a Red Admiral and a Speckled Wood . - Paul Busby

In my Hatfield Garden today 1 Red Admiral, 1 Tortoiseshell, 2 Small White - John Moss

A few butterfly sightings from today (13 September) in my neighbourhood, which may be of interest. Also, for your records, I saw a clouded yellow on Therfield Heath on 26 August. Butterfly Sightings Between Royston and Therfield: one clouded yellow, flying rapidly south up the Icknield Way towards Therfield. Also along the Icknield Way 16 red admiral (9 on the same ivy bush), 2 comma, 2 small tortoiseshell and various whites. Few butterflies left on Therfield Heath during a brief visit, although 2 common blues were still present on Church Hill. - Martin Johnson

Monday 12th September 2016

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. An afternoon walk in cloudy humid conditions was generally poor for butterflies but I did see my third Clouded Yellow of the year, a female on the Marshalling Yards, completing this year's full 25 species on this one site. Here are the day's full sightings: Small White: 1 Speckled Wood: 5 Brown Argus: 1 Small Copper: 2 Clouded Yellow: 1 Comma: 1 Painted Lady: 1. A swan on the river was unusual and I was pleased to see some (American) Orange Balsam in flower at the water's edge despite the colour clash with the much more abundant Indian Balsam. - Pete Gore

A few sightings for Monday 12th September 2016 - 1 Red Admiral near Triangular Wood, Trent Park at 13:44 hrs, 1 Small Heath Sect 3 'New Fields' Trent Park at 13:49 hrs, 2 Small Copper male and female Sect 3 'New Fields' Trent Park - Robert Callf.

Brief visit to the walled garden at Eastcote House Gardens and saw a Red Admiral and a Small White - Paul Busby

Sunday 11th September 2016

Batford, weedy field - 1 CLOUDED YELLOW (in low foliage area), Small Heath and Common Blues. - Darin Stanley

Counted 13 Red Admiral on Sunday 11th September 2016 (most of which were flying south) - 6 at Vicarage Farm, 1 Trent Park, 3 at Park Farm and 3 at Parkside Farm. Also 2 Speckled Wood (1 at Trent Park, 1 at Park Farm). 1 Brown Argus at Parkside Farm, Enfield (TQ 298 982) at 11:49 hrs. 2 Small Heath at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park, 1 Comma at Vicarage Farm, Enfield (TQ 3097). Also 1 Red Admiral at Town Park, Enfield at Carr's Basin at 14:22 hrs - Robert Callf.

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. After yesterday's rain a fresher feel to the walk with almost continuous sunshine from late morning to mid afternoon: Speckled Wood: 8 Comma: 4 Brown Argus: 5 Small Copper: 1 Small Heath: 2 Green-Veined White: 5 Meadow Brown: 2 Common Blue: 1 Small White: 2 Red Admiral: 1 Peacock: 1 - Pete Gore

Speckled Wood, Red Admiral and Comma Butterfly at Brent Reservoir - Shailesh Patel

Butterfly I have seen today: 1 Small White - Woolgrove Road, Hitchin TL19253051. - David Inward

Five Speckled Woods and at least 1 Small White at Denham Lock Wood and at least 2 Commas on a brief visit to Frays Farm Meadows (TQ05 86) - Paul Busby

St Albans - Bricket Wood Common - Speckled Wood - 21, Red Admiral - 10, Comma - 6, plus 1 each of Large, Small and Green-veined White. Nomansland Common - Small Copper - 29, Common Blue -14, Small Heath - 2, Meadow Brown - 1, plus all the same species as Bricket Wood (apart from Red Admiral). JOIN ME for the last Herts and Middx BC Butterfly Walk of the year to see the Small Coppers in 2 weeks time on Sunday 25th September. By then I'm expecting Small Copper numbers will have increased significantly. Full details on the Walks and Talks section of this website - Malcolm Hull

In my Hatfield garden today, in glorious sunshine, 2 Red Admiral, 3 Small White and possible Small Tortoiseshell (too quick to ID properly). John Moss

Saturday 10th September 2016

1 Red Admiral flew S through the 'mizzle' at Ferny Hill Farm, Enfield at 12:06 hrs on Saturday 10th September 2016. - Robert Callf

Friday 9th September 2016

Early morning Speckled Wood at entrance to Cutthroat Wood, Hillingdon (TQ 08 84) then midday a Small Copper and 2 Small Whites at Long Meadow, Eastcote (TQ 10 88) and finally at the boundary fence between railway and Sainsburys South Ruislip saw a Small White landing on the parked cars and a Red Admiral and another Small White around Buddleia - Paul Busby

In my Hatfield garden today, 2 Red Admiral, 2 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Small White. Reds and Torts attracted to flowering Ivy on my garage roof. John Moss

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Mid morning/early afternoon in breezy but sunny conditions although eventually giving way to dark clouds, butterflies surprisingly good really: Speckled Wood: 8 Small White: 7 Comma: 2 Brown Argus: 1 Meadow Brown: 6 Small Copper: 3 Small Heath: 2 Green-Veined White: 3 Painted Lady: 1 Peacock: 1 - Pete Gore

Some news for Friday 9th September 2016 - 1 Small Heath at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 10:47 hrs, 1 Painted Lady along 'The Vista' at Trent Park (TQ 287 978) AT 10:56 hrs, 1 Comma edge of Rough Lot along 'The Vista' Trent Park at 11:01 hrs, 1 Red Admiral near Obelisk, Trent Park (TQ 285 980) at 11:01 hrs. Visited Bush Hill Park, Enfield (TQ 337 963) this afternoon in search of a reported Pied Flycatcher yesterday - did not see the Pied Flycatcher, but saw a Red Admiral at 14:19 hrs - Robert Callf.

Thursday 8th September 2016

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Another sunny afternoon walk but today with a breeze that was certainly better for walkers - and slightly more butterflies were identified. Meadow Browns are now clearly coming to an end but more Small Coppers today, a very welcome development: Meadow Brown: 2 Small White: 6 Small Copper: 6 Comma: 3 Large White: 1 Brown Argus: 4 Speckled Wood: 2 Small Heath: 1 Holly Blue: 1 Red Admiral: 1 Painted Lady: 2 - Pete Gore

News from Diane Andrews on the 8th September Rammey Marsh: 1 Clouded Yellow and then walking towards Enfield Lock, 2 Painted Ladies and 2 Red Admirals

A few sightings on my Warren transect, sunny, 22C, blustery - 7 Small White (some nectaring on last of Ragwort), 2 Small Heath. Don't expect much more this season as site exposed, well-grazed & trampled. Dwarf Furze & Heather, only flora currently flowering, don't seem to appeal to butterflies. Slightly peeved tht Small Whites go for Ragwort, whilst they ignore flowers in my garden, including with Sedum in glorious flower and heaving with bees & other flying insects. John Moss

Some sightings for Thursday 8th September 2016 - 1 Comma at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 11:04 hrs, 1 Small Heath at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 11:09 hrs, 2 Speckled Wood (1 at Park Farm, 1 at Vicarage Farm), 1 Small Copper at Parkside Farm on Res banking at 11:50 hrs, 1 male Common Blue at Parkside Farm on Res banking at 11:54 hrs - Robert Callf.

Bovingdon Brickworks 10:20-11:20am, warm, sunny but very gusty. No sign of last Thursday's Clouded Yellow unfortunately (the link I provided for the photos didn't work previously, apologies. For anyone still interested: <https://twitter.com/WildlifeLucy/status/771332382502846464>). 9 Speckled Wood; 2 Small Tortoiseshell; 1 Red Admiral; 15+ Common Blue & half a dozen Whites. - Lucy Flower

However, Dick Ashford following Lucy's directions he found a Clouded Yellow at the Bovingdon Brickworks today and comparing photos with Lucy's it is a different individual - news from Dick Ashford and Lucy Flower

Sunny day and whilst sampling in the River Pinn, Philpots Farm, Cowley (TQ 0681) saw a Red Admiral and at least 4 Small Whites. Further upstream, I visited St Andrews Park (former RAF Uxbridge, TQ 0684) to visit the development of the site, which will include a 40 acre park, but still a building site, however along the road close to the river saw another Red Admiral and 2 Small Whites. Then at a windy Stanmore Country Park Wood Farm section (TQ 1793) saw in Pear Wood section a Red Admiral and 5 Speckled Woods; in Ten Acre Field section saw 2 Small Coppers, a Large White, at least 1 Small White and another Red Admiral, then in Wood Farm section where most of meadow has been cut short saw in marginal areas another Small Copper, a Red Admiral, at least 2 Small Whites and a female Common Blue - Paul Busby

Wednesday 7th September 2016

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Sunny, humid, very warm. Should be ideal butterfly weather, pity it's September. Here are today's - there were a few more active Whites unidentified: Small White: 1 Painted Lady: 1 Small Copper: 3 Comma: 4 Meadow Brown: 3 Speckled Wood: 4 Brown Argus: 7 Common Blue: 1 Small Heath: 2 plus 1 Holly Blue seen in my garden on Sunday 4th September which deserves a mention as the only one of its kind in September positively identified so far. - Pete Gore

Muggy, cloudy, late morning walk around Gutteridge Wood Meadow, Hillingdon, but did see a Silver Y Moth, a female Common Blue and 2 Small Whites. By early afternoon, the sun had come out and I saw numerous Small Whites as I drove to my afternoon walk location of Willow Tree Open Space, Yeading and then saw at least 7 Small Whites and a Speckled Wood in half hour close to the Grand Union Canal - Paul Busby

2 bright Red Admirals this pm round the last of the buddleia in my Hatfield garden. A welcome addition to the 2 regular Small Whites - John Moss

1 Red Admiral at Park Farm near Duncan's Wood at 10:31 hrs, 1 Garden Carpet at Water Garden, Trent Park, 1 Clouded Yellow at Vicarage Farm, Enfield (TQ 3097) at 12:05 hrs. 1 Speckled Wood along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 09:32 hrs, 1 male Meadow Brown at Vicarage Farm, Enfield (TQ 3097) at 12:33 hrs - Robert Callf.

Tuesday 6th September 2016

2 Red Admiral nectaring on buddleia at Halewood House, Southbury Road, Enfield Town (TQ 333 965) - one at 14:27 hrs had been joined by a second at 14:51 hrs, also 3 Large White here. 1 Small Heath along track at Vicarage Farm, Enfield (TQ 3097) at 09:21 hrs - new for the tetrad in this 5 year recording period, 1 male Clouded Yellow seen in flight and settled at Vicarage Farm (TQ 3097) at close quarters through bins 11:17 - 11:19 hrs and 1 Silver Y here also. Monday 5th September 2016 - 1 Gold Triangle at ASDA Southgate. - Robert Callf.

Warm, muggy but cloudy day but did see at least 2 Speckled Woods at morning pond clearing event at Highgrove Woods, Eastcote then mid afternoon saw at least 3 Small Whites at Pinn Meadows, Ruislip - Paul Busby

Sunday 4th September 2016

Butterflies I have seen today 04/09/16: 2 Small White - 1 at TL19273042, 1 at TL19703013 on Walsworth Common, Hitchin David Inward

1 Painted Lady seen at North Mymms Park 4th Sept TL21490297 - Rupert Pyrah

A couple of sightings for Sunday 4th September 2016 - 1 male Common Blue at Parkside Farm, Enfield on Res banking (TQ2998) and 1 Clouded Yellow at Vicarage Farm, Enfield in different 10 km square to yesterday's one at (TQ 305 973) - Robert Callf.

Saturday 3rd September 2016

Early morning Common Blue roosting on the tall dead grass at Gutteridge Wood meadow, Hillingdon. Then at lunchtime alongside the River Pinn at Ruislip Golf Course, Ickenham TQ07 87 saw a Green Veined White and 5 Speckled woods before afternoon drizzle set in - Paul Busby

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Out in morning sunshine but returning in cloud, lower numbers as expected: Speckled Wood: 7 Comma: 2 Green-Veined White: 4 Meadow Brown: 9 Small Heath: 2 Red Admiral: 2 Small White: 8 Brown Argus: 3 Common Blue: 1 Small

Copper: 1. All before mid-day. - Pete Gore

A few sightings for Saturday 3rd September 2016 - 1 Painted Lady at Vicarage Farm, Enfield (TQ 306 973) at 09:47 hrs, 1 female Meadow Brown at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 11:44 hrs, 1 Small Heath at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 11:44 hrs, 1 Comma over bramble near Water Garden, Trent Park at 11:51 hrs, 1 male Meadow Brown at Vicarage Farm near Shaws Wood at 12:16 hrs, 1 male Clouded Yellow at Vicarage Farm near Shaws Wood (TQ 298 970) at 12:17 - 12:18 hrs - flew around rapidly and settled twice - my first of the year! 1 male Common Blue at Vicarage Farm near Shaws Wood at 12:18 hrs, 1 Small Heath at Vicarage Farm near Merryhills Brook (TQ 297 968) at 12:22 hrs - Robert Callf.

Friday 2nd September 2016

A single Painted Lady has been visiting our Redbourn garden on 1 and 2 Sept. A few Small Tortoiseshells daily - Ernie Leahy

At home in Bengoe, 2 painted ladies on the cerostigmata and jersey tiger moth settling on the cars headlights while off - Steve Kiln

Thursday 1st September 2016

My Warren transect very parched & close grazed today. Only flora now Heather, Dwarf Furze & a few Ragwort. Counted 2 Small White (on Ragwort), 6 fast moving GV/Small White (probably all SMs), 8 Small Heath (including 4 on one spot, possibly fighting over territory), 3 Meadow Brown. Temp 23C, mostly sunny, light breeze. Disappointed no Common Blues, but could be anywhere on this open site. Also 1 Small Tort fluttering against my garage window & liberated around 10.00 am - John Moss

Some sightings for Thursday 1st September 2016 - 5 Small Heath at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park 10:18 - 10:45 hrs, 1 Comma edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park at 10:36 hrs, 1 Common Blue at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 10:42 hrs - Robert Callf.

Batford - weedy field by B653 - Batford Mega, 1 CLOUDED YELLOW! - upper wings white with black edge markings. Located around the centre of the field, feeding on Hawkweed Oxtongue. Attempted photos but yet to confirm if any turned out. Confirmed as 1 'HELICE' CLOUDED YELLOW in weedy field - Darin Stanley

Bovingdon Brickworks, 11-11:45am, warm with sunny spells: at least 7 Speckled Woods; 2 Small Tortoiseshell; 2 Gatekeeper; 2 Red Admiral; numerous Whites; 1 Painted Lady; 20+ Common Blues and the best of the bunch (a site first) 1 Clouded Yellow ([photos: https://twitter.com/WildlifeLucy/status/771332382502846464](https://twitter.com/WildlifeLucy/status/771332382502846464)). I didn't manage to walk the whole site so numbers/species are incomplete. - Lucy Flower

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. A warm sunny afternoon with over half our local butterfly species flying into September including Clouded Yellow, my second sighting of this year, once again on the little meadow before the Cavalry Tunnel. Grass fires are getting commoner on both the Heath and the Marshalling Yards, the whole area being now very dry. Here's my full list: Meadow Brown: 8 Speckled Wood: 8 Purple Hairstreak: 1 Clouded Yellow: 1 Brown Argus: 13 Small Copper: 2 Common Blue: 5 Small White: 4 Small Heath: 3 Comma: 3 Peacock: 1 Painted Lady: 1 Red Admiral: 1. In the sunnier weather Whites were more energetic than yesterday so the low total here somewhat understates the actual number amongst which there may well be Green-Veined Whites - Pete Gore

Had a first for Bayfordbury this year: a Clouded Yellow in one of the Rough Hills meadows - Ian Flack

Visited Gutteridge Wood, Hillingdon today to help London Wildlife Trust with their Vole Patrol small mammal project and after walking the Wood Butterfly transect seeing mostly Speckled Woods, I went to the meadow and pond area (TQ 09 84) for 10 minutes and only saw a faded Brown Argus and a male Common Blue - Paul Busby

August 2016

Wednesday 31st August 2016

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Cloudy morning conditions leading to reduced and varied sightings: Speckled Wood: 7 Meadow Brown: 10 Green-Veined White: 3 Small White: 11 Brown Argus: 6 Holly Blue: 1 Small Copper: 1 Comma: 1. Small Tortoiseshell staying just a not very common receding summer memory here - Pete Gore

1 Meadow Brown (tatty) at 'Old Golf Course' at Trent Park on Wednesday 31st August 2016 at 09:51 hrs - Robert Callf.

Butterfly I have seen today 31/08/16: 1 Small White - south of shops, Scarborough Avenue, Stevenage TL22422525 - David Inward

Bit cloudy today, but in my Hatfield garden 1 Small Tort, 1 Painted lady, on buddleia, 1 Small White, 2 Holly Blue. Also, when counting House Martins over Ellenbrook Park, 1 very tatty & faded Meadow Brown, 1 Small/GV White - John Moss

Tuesday 30th August 2016

BATFORD - 2 Small Heath in the weedy field. first time this has been seen here for approx 6 years! - Darin Stanley

In our Hatfield garden today 3 bright Small Torts (around buddleia), 1 Red Admiral, 1 Painted Lady, 3+Small White, 1 GV White, 1 Large White, 1 bright Silver-washed Fritillary (seems unlikely, but our back gardens are like a long, broad stretch of open woodland with tall trees & shrubs, Green Lanes is a stretch of tall woodland & Great Braitch Lane round the corner is effectively ancient native woodland. Symonshyde Wood isn't far away & I've seen SWFs round Ellenbrook Meadows recently. So we have convinced ourselves!). John Moss.

1 x setaceous hebrew character moth in Bushey garden tonight - David Gower

Today 30 Aug, a S.T. was seen at TL163 288 Offley Bottom Farm, Carters Lane, Hitchin, flying near the lane and then across the stubble fields. Also at Pirton Village, a residential area Darefield Road, (off Priors Hill) a S.T. flew across the gardens there. - Val Fullforth

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. A sunny afternoon walk producing what is, I think, a first for me in that I have sightings of Brown Argus some way ahead of all other species even allowing for unidentified Whites: Small Heath: 8 Speckled Wood: 8 Comma: 2 Brown Argus: 18 Meadow Brown: 8 Common Blue: 4 Small White: 1 Holly Blue: 2 Green-Veined White: 1 Large White: 1 - Pete Gore

Re BC asking for news of STs, I have had a week of 3 or 4 visiting my garden in Tring each day, all in good condition. There have been 1 or 2 red admirals daily over the same period. John Scafe

A rather dried-up and crispy Nomansland Common had few butterflies on show apart from 2 Meadow Brown, 2 Speckled Wood, 1 Small Heath, 2 Small White, 3 Common Blue and 1 Small Copper (my first sighting of the year!). Quite a few crambids flitting amongst the dried grass stems, all that I caught up with being *Agriphila geniculea* - David Hunt

1 female Common Blue at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 09:35 hrs - Robert Callf.

Monday 29th August 2016

Monday 29th August 2016 - 2 Small Heath together at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 11:06 hrs, 1 female Common Blue at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 10:58 hrs, 1 female Small Copper at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 11:09 hrs, 1 Antler at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park, 1 Silver Y field N of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 1 Red Admiral at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 12:26 hrs. - Robert Callf

Ellensbrook Fields, Hatfield - 2 Clouded Yellows, 3 Small Heath, 4 Speckled Wood, 3 Common Blue, 2 Small Tortoiseshell. Aldbury Nowers (North section) 1 Silver-washed Fritillary, 5 Common Blue, 11 Brown Argus, 3 Small Heath, 8 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Red Admiral, 9 Speckled Wood. Northfield Rd, Tring - 4 Clouded Yellow, 31 Common Blue, 6 Small Heath, 43 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Painted Lady, 3 Brimstone, 1 Red Admiral, 60 Treble Bar moths. Back home in St Albans I noticed a Holly Blue laying on ivy and 3 more Small Tortoiseshells. All the Clouded Yellows seen today were in areas with good concentrations of Birds foot trefoil. So if you want to see a Clouded Yellow, head to a good Common Blue site. Great to see over 50 Small Tortoiseshells in a day and

every single one feeding on buddleia. The number of ST's hibernating in my outhouse has also gone up during the last week from 17 to 24 - Malcolm Hull

Today at Cassiobury Park nature reserve 4 x speckled wood, 1 x green veined white, 2 x small white, 1 x small tortoiseshell, 1 x red admiral, 2 x mother of pearl, 1 x snout moth - David Gower

Sunday 28th August 2016

Butterfly I have seen today 28/08/16: 1 Large White - St Faiths Close, Hitchin TL19853029 - David Inward

Moths attracted to our bathroom light from Bushey garden in last evening were 1 x heart and dart, 1 x small dusty wave, 2 x light brown apple, 2 x *carcina quercana*, 1 x twenty-plume - David Gower

Saturday 27th August 2016

I note that Butterfly Conservation are asking for garden sightings of S T's - One sat on the Hitchin garden garage wall for a while on 27th Aug which I managed to photograph - quite dark colouring and the "blue" edging not very apparent. Val Fullforth

Female Brown Argus in field margin along Leeging Beech Gutter near Water Garden, Trent Park on Sunday 28th August 2016 at 10:10 hrs - Robert Callf

New England Street Recreation Ground, St Albans - several hundred horse chestnut leaf miner moths flying round a horse chestnut tree at 8am this morning. Numbers are well down this year and the tree is still predominantly green and healthy, although there are many leaf mines on the lower branches. Later at Lords Cricket Ground, St Johns Wood NW8, Small White flew over the top of the Mound stand, across the pitch and along the edge of the wicket during England's victory over Pakistan - Malcolm Hull

Friday 26th August 2016

I am somewhat unbelieving myself but I have just seen a **Silver-spotted Skipper** in my garden (Tring)! Quite probably the only Herts record this year. Took some OK phone images but it had gone when I got back with SLR. - Nick Bowles (*pictures and more information on Branch FB page*)

Butterflies I have seen today 26/08/16: 1 Small White - TL253146, 1 Gatekeeper - TL253145 both by footpath by Tewin Water Farm, near WGC. - David Inward

Clouded yellow flying south along dried river Ver at Redbourn golf club 3.00pm - Derek Pratt

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Another sunny morning and early afternoon. Several Commas seen looked bright, fresh and colourful in contrast to most of the other fading species: Green-Veined White: 1 Small Heath: 7 Meadow Brown: 22 Comma: 5 Speckled Wood: 11 Large White: 2 Red Admiral: 2 Small White: 2 Brown Argus: 17 Small Copper: 2 Common Blue: 13 Holly Blue: 2 (plus 1 in my garden yesterday) Painted Lady: 1 - Pete Gore

1 Red Admiral by Lower Lake, Trent Park at 09:41 hrs and 1 Painted Lady settled on flowers at Vicarage Farm, Enfield (TQ 304 973) at 10:20 hrs - Robert Callf.

Thursday 25th August 2016

2 Holly Blue on Thursday 25th August 2016 - 1 Town Park, Enfield and 1 Horse Shoe Lane. 1 Jersey Tiger nectaring on white buddleia at Water Garden, Trent Park (TQ 292 975) at 10:30 hrs, 1 male Common Blue set-aside field N of Williams Wood, Trent Park at 10:44 hrs. - Robert Callf.

Clouded Yellow seen in same place south of Watery Grove as on 15 August, at 3:10 pm today - Peter Clarke

Wednesday 24th August 2016

1 Painted Lady probing late Bramble blossom at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park (TQ 288 978) at 09:31 hrs on Wednesday 24th August 2016, also 1 male Brown Argus (newly emerged) nectaring on ragwort with 1 Small Copper (faded and worn) on field near Dew Pond, Trent Park at 10:15 hrs, 1 Brown Argus at Vicarage Farm on field near Shaws Wood (TQ 297 970) at 10:24 hrs and 1 Silver Y here also. 2 Small Heath on Tuesday 23rd August 2016 at Trent Park (1 at 'Old Golf Course' and

1 field near Dew Pond) - Robert Callf.

Stocking Pelham - 10 small tortoiseshells + a couple of whites enjoying the buddleia in my garden
- Andy Brown

Painted Lady and Red Admiral on white buddleia in my back garden this afternoon. I also have the blue and mauve varieties of buddleia in flower as well but the white one has larger florets which may account for the attraction. - Peter Clarke

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. A hot very sunny morning walk saw increased numbers but continuing decline in species despite the reappearance of Small Heath at three locations. Two Meadow Browns seen mating. Speckled Wood: 11 Meadow Brown: 17 Small Heath: 4 Holly Blue: 5 Red Admiral: 1 Comma: 4 Common Blue: 13 Brown Argus: 15 Small White: 7 Small Copper: 2 Green-veined White: 4 - Pete Gore

Visited my Warren transect this pm in blistering heat in this open site (32C, 100% sun, little wind). Whole site pretty dried up and little standing vegetation left by cattle. Nil return on first 2 legs of usual route, so diverted round flowering Heather patches & Dwarf Furze (beautiful). Recorded 5 Common Blue, 2 Small Heath, 1 Meadow Brown, 1 GV White, 1 Small White (both on flowering Ragwort, 1 Small/GV White, 1 probable Gatekeeper (elusive and tatty). Hope it's cooler next time!
John Moss

Tuesday 23rd August 2016

A few sightings for Tuesday 23rd August 2016 - 1 Red Admiral by Lower Lake, Trent Park at 10:01 hrs, 2 Small Copper (1 nectaring on ragwort set-aside field near Dew Pond, Trent Park at 10:20 hrs, 1 at Vicarage Farm, Enfield near Merryhills Brook - Robert Callf.

Whilst river and pond surveying, had a couple of surprise sightings, a close-up view of a Clouded Yellow patrolling fast along flowering plants next to River Pinn near Ruislip Golf Course, Ickenham then half mile away a male Brimstone at back of gardens at Hoylelake Crescent (TQ 07 87), also saw 5 Speckled Wood and 5+ Small White here, also one unlucky Small white snatched out of air by a Hawker Dragonfly. Earlier in the day visited Willow Tree Open Space, Yeading (TQ 12 81) and saw a faded Gatekeeper, a Green-Veined White, 5+ Small Whites and 4 Speckled Woods - Paul Busby

Butterfly I have seen today 23/08/16: 1 Small White - Fairlands Valley Park, Stevenage TL25322467 - David Inward

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Continuous sunshine! Pleased to see quite good numbers of Brown Argus. The first brood had easy access to a lot of assorted Geraniaceae where last year's fires had removed Brambles and grasses. Around that time though there was substantial fly-tipping in places and I found a large pile of toddler-sized plastic trikes, bikes and cars particularly objectionable. A few weeks ago all of these were removed along with a little topsoil (such as it is). Today four or five Brown Argus chased around the resulting 'bare' patch and I wasn't at all surprised to see the familiar sprouting leaves of Storks-bill and Geraniums in which they were clearly interested if somewhat competitively. Here's the full list,(Gatekeepers more or less finished as usual -not a good year here for them): Speckled Wood: 8 Large White: 5 Meadow Brown: 18 Common Blue: 10 Brown Argus: 11 Green-Veined White: 3 Small Copper: 1 Comma: 3 Holly Blue: 2 Gatekeeper: 2 Painted Lady: 2 Small White: 1 - Pete Gore

Monday 22nd August 2016

Warm, humid and cloudy in Eastcote today but saw a Green Veined White and a Small White at Long Meadow, a further 3 Small Whites in the Walled Garden at Eastcote House Gardens. Onto Highgrove Wood and saw another Green Veined White and 4 Speckled Woods - Paul Busby

Coldharbour Lane, Harpenden: pristine male Clouded Yellow on my allotment at 0910 - flew off south. First sighting there in ten years! Alan Jackson

A few sightings for Monday 22nd August 2016 - 1 female Common Blue at Parkside Farm, Enfield near Res at 11:18 hrs, 1 Painted Lady settled on track at Park Farm, Enfield near Duncan's Wood (TQ 288 985) at 11:56 hrs, 2 Silver Y (1 at Park Farm, 1 at Vicarage Farm), 2 Small Copper (1 nectaring on ragwort set-aside field near Dew Pond, Trent Park at 12:52 hrs, 1 male at Vicarage Farm, Enfield near Merryhills Brook at 13:03 hrs). 1 Painted Lady nectaring on buddleia at Oakwood Station on Monday 22nd August 2016 at 15:10 hrs. - Robert Callf.

Sunday 21st August 2016

one very worn male silver-washed fritillary in woods near Hexton (approx. TL105 295) - a new species for this area?? - Martin Johnson

Whilst waiting for the library to open this morning on Sunday 21st August 2016 noticed a Jersey Tiger fly up and settle on orange banner over 61 Church Street, Enfield Town (TQ 325 965) at 11:20 hrs, it was still present when the library opened at 12:00 hrs. - Robert Callf

Butterflies I have seen today 21/08/16: 1 Small Tortoiseshell - Woolgrove Road, Hitchin TL194304; 1 Green-Veined White - Walsworth Common, Hitchin TL19723024; 1 Speckled Wood - Walsworth Common, Hitchin TL19493037. - David Inward

Watching wildlife is great medicine...after enduring crazy pain for two weeks with subsequent Sciatica diagnosis I finally managed to get out to Aldbury Nowers this afternoon for short walk. Usual friends there to greet me including Common Blue, Small White, Red Admiral and Speckled Wood, but also a new friend. Late to my party this year was my first Small Copper and just as I reached for my camera a Brown Argus decided to gatecrash and a wild aerial 'fight' of two rounds developed ending in a draw with the two settled just inches apart...fun to watch. Who needs Paracetamol? - Chris Hilling

Went to meet a friend in Royston and we went onto Therfield Heath for my first visit there (TL347 401). Weather was a mix of wind, sun and cloud but recorded 22 x chalkhill blue(4 females), 6 x meadow brown, 2 x gatekeeper, 37 x small heath, 7 x brown argus, 2 x small white, 1 x common blue, 1 x small tortoiseshell, 3 x yellow shell - David Gower

Saturday 20th August 2016

A few sightings for Saturday 20th August 2016 - 1 Red Admiral at Park Farm, Enfield near Ferny Hill at 12:47 hrs, 1 female Gatekeeper at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 13:05 hrs, 1 female Meadow Brown set-aside field near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 1 male Common Blue at Vicarage Farm near Merryhills Brook at 13:45 hrs - Robert Callf

Very windy morning and occasional drizzle at Yeading Brook Meadows but saw a Speckled wood and 6 Meadow Brown - Paul Busby

Friday 19th August 2016

Butterfly I have seen today 19/08/16: ! Small White - St Faiths Close, Hitchin TL19863030. - David Inward

1 male Common Blue still present at Parkside Farm, Enfield near Res on Friday 19th August 2016. 1 Holly Blue at Town Park, Enfield on Thursday 18th August 2016 at 13:14 hrs - Robert Callf.

Thursday 18th August 2016

1 Painted Lady on Wednesday 17th August 2016 at 18:57 hrs settled on track at Vicarage Farm, Enfield (TQ 304 972). A few sightings for Thursday 18th August 2016 - 3 Small White at Park Farm, Enfield at 09:45 hrs, 4 Small White edge of Icehouse Wood, Trent Park including a pair copulating at 10:37 hrs, 2 Small Copper male and female at Vicarage Farm, Enfield near Merryhills Brook (TQ 297 968) at 10:48 hrs. - Robert Callf

Moth I have seen today 18/08/16: 1 Magpie moth *Abraxas grossulariata* - St Faiths Close, Hitchin TL19843030. - David Inward

At Northwood HQ, Sandy Lane 2 x small tortoiseshell. Bushey garden 2 x large white, 1 x small white, 5 x light brown apple moths, 1 x pyrausta purpuralis - David Gower

On my Warren transect, 8 Gatekeeper, 2 Small White, 1 Small Tort, 11 Meadow Brown, 11 Common Blue (incl 3 females), 1 Small Heath, 1 GV White. Pleased to see Blues building up at last. Hot (26C) bright sun, little wind. Still hoping to see Purple Hairstreak, perhaps mid-afternoon not best time. Many large Oaks where I've seen them over the years unaffected by new management regime. In my Hatfield garden today 2+ Holly Blue, 2 Small/GV White, 1 Small Tort. So few butterflies other than Whites this year I haven't reported them. However Holly Blues seem to be doing well. On most days for a few weeks there have been upto 3, probably more, on flowers, vegetation or sniffing around Ivy buds. Probably the best for some years - John Moss.

Wednesday 17th August 2016

Ellenbrook Fields 17.08.16 Gatekeeper 4, Meadow Brown 10, Small Tortoiseshell 1, Common Blue 1, Green-veined White 4+, Large White 2, Speckled Wood 2 - David Wheatcroft

10 Clouded Yellow King George Reservoir - Tony Clancy (*please note access to the Reservoir is restricted to key holders*)

King George Reservoir, several small Tortoiseshell and a Clouded Yellow later just over the border in Essex at Gunpowder Park, at least 30 Holly Blue and 6 Clouded Yellow including a chase of two (both probably using the Goats' Rue for breeding) also several Common Blue and 3 Brown Argus and 2 Small Heath - Andrew Middleton

Butterflies and moths I have seen today 17/08/16: 2 Speckled Wood, 4 Holly Blue, 1 Small White, 2 Large White, 1 Green-Veined White - Nicky Line (old railway now path) west Harpenden TL1214 - David Inward

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Walked from mid-morning till afternoon, mostly in sun. Two Small Heaths seen on the Heath in a much-loved spot - the third brood there this year. I've listed three Painted Ladies although once again these were seen flying separately and strongly but well-spaced in both time and space. A fourth on the Buddlejias near the railway again didn't quite meet the time/space definition so isn't included. Any number from 1 to 4 is possible. On the Pevensey loop I had a brief sighting of a Holly Blue about half the normal size although it didn't settle for long enough for me to get a proper look. A second sighting of Jersey Tiger despite it seeming more faded in colour than Monday's was so close to the previous one that it seems very likely to be the same. Once again it retreated to deep shade, this time at the base of a tree where its stripes still meant it was conspicuous. Here is the full list: Small Heath: 2 Meadow Brown: 25 Speckled Wood: 8 Small White: 6 Small Copper: 3 Painted Lady: 3 Comma: 1 Gatekeeper: 5 Brown Argus: 8 Common Blue: 12 Green-Veined White: 2 Holly Blue: 2 and one Jersey Tiger moth. About once a year on my excursions I manage to fall heavily. Why, I ask myself, do I always land in nettles or brambles or, as on this occasion, both? I'd managed to trip over a 2 feet high ant-hill so had a few minutes contemplating thousands of angry ants as they explored my legs, one on each side of their home. I was very glad to see the ants were the yellow variety rather than red ones and equally pleased to discover that a single stem of Rose-Bay was strong enough to help me haul myself out of my contorted bramble-attached position. All this was part of a forlorn attempt to check out a possible Brown Hairstreak site for which the only evidence of the butterfly is my own feeling that it's so difficult to reach that it should be there just to justify my determined efforts. As usual there was no sign whatsoever but the Sloe crop is looking good - Pete Gore

Bookham Common, Surrey - brilliant weather for today's butterfly walk at the invitation of the Surrey branch of Butterfly Conservation - 24 people joined the walk and most were lucky enough to get a view of the single Brown Hairstreak seen. Clouded Yellow, Painted Lady, Common Blue, Silver washed Fritillary and Small Copper all put in an appearance. This is a great butterfly site, located conveniently close to junction 10 of the M25 and maintained by the National Trust. Well worth stopping by if you are in the area - Malcolm Hull

Tuesday 16th August 2016

A few sightings for Tuesday 16th August 2016 - 1 male Common Blue at Parkside Farm near Res at 08:40 hrs, 3 female Gatekeeper at Trent Park - Robert Callf.

Butterfly I have seen today 16/08/16: 1, possibly 2, Holly Blue - hedge by church hall, Churchfields, Hertford TL32861247 - David Inward

Monday 15th August 2016

At around 11:55 am this morning a Clouded Yellow turned up in the field south of Watery Grove - what a nice surprise. Far fewer butterflies than last week at Norton Green with only 3 Purple Hairstreaks - perhaps I wasn't looking in the right places around the upper parts of the oaks bearing in mind a fair breeze blowing from the east. Brown Argus, Small Copper, Common Blue and even a Ringlet were still present with Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown and whites in good numbers. - Peter Clarke

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey Contrasting highlights in sustained afternoon sunshine - the first Small Heath I've seen for a few weeks joining increasing numbers of

other small butterflies in the grasslands and a first ever Jersey Tiger moth. This actually behaved rather like a nocturnal moth; I probably disturbed it myself on one of the overgrown shady paths where I expect to see Speckled Woods but actually saw a flash of brilliant colours that for a second or two had me rapidly throwing up all manner of mental images of unlikely butterflies, before it settled deeper in the trees on Silver Birch leaves and its true identity became obvious. I watched for a little while, resisting the temptation to disturb it simply to see the hidden colours. It seemed perfectly happy at rest so I left it there in peace. Here are the full sightings: Meadow Brown: 22 Speckled Wood: 20 Green-Veined White: 3 Gatekeeper: 12 Brown Argus: 8 Common Blue: 9 Small Heath: 1 Holly Blue: 1 Small White: 5 Comma: 2 Large White: 3 Red Admiral: 1 and 1 Jersey Tiger moth. - Pete Gore

Some sightings for Monday 15th August 2016 - 1 male Common Blue at Parkside Farm, Enfield near Res (TQ 2998) at 09:08 hrs, 1 Red Admiral at Park Farm, Enfield at 09:26 hrs, 1 female Brown Argus at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 09:49 hrs, 1 male Small Copper at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 09:49 hrs, 1 Antler Moth nectaring on thistle at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 09:51 hrs, 1 male Common Blue at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 09:52 hrs, 2, male and female, Meadow Brown copulating edge of Icehouse Wood, Trent Park at 10:26 hrs, 3 Small White near Dew Pond, Trent Park at 10:30 hrs, 2 female Gatekeeper near Dew Pond, Trent Park - Robert Callf.

Sunday 14th August 2016

2 female Gatekeeper, 3 Meadow Brown at Trent Park on Sunday 14th August 2016 between 11:45 - 12:10 hrs. 1 female Gatekeeper at Monken Hadley Common at 12:41 hrs (TQ 266 973), 1 Green-veined White, 2 Speckled Wood here also and 1 Purple Hairstreak (tatty and worn) near Beech Hill Lake (TQ 270 970) at 12:55 hrs, 1 Holly Blue at Chalk Lane, EN4 (TQ 279 964) at 13:29 hrs - Robert Callf.

Butterflies and moths I have seen today 14/08/16: 7 Cinnabar moth caterpillars on ragwort, 4 Small White, 1 Common Blue on lavender, 1 Painted Lady on lavender - Cambridge Road verge between Rosehill Hospital and ex-Centre for the Arts, Hitchin TL2030 - David Inward

Enjoyed a successful afternoon at Aldbury Nowers today. Started off in lowest enclosure (S1) and findings were 2 x cinnabar caterpillars on ragwort, 19 x meadow brown, 2 x small white, 3 x small Heath, 9 x gatekeeper, 1 x ringlet, 7 x brown Argus, 6 x common blue (1 female), 1 x green veined white, 2 x brimstone (male), 1 x small copper, 2 x chalkhill blue (males), 2 x small/Essex skippers, 1 x silver y, 1 x yellow shell, 1 x common carpet. At enclosure S2, 1 x brimstone (female), 3 x small Heath, 1 x small white, 2 x meadow brown, 4 x common blue (males), 1 x silver y, 1 x common carpet. Onto S3 enclosure noting 13 x meadow brown, 9 x gatekeeper, 9 x common blue (males), 1 x green veined white, 2 x small copper, 2 x chalkhill blue (males), 8 x brown Argus, 1 x common carpet. Next was top enclosure seeing 20 x common blue (6 female), 47 x meadow brown, 25 x gatekeeper, 10 x brown Argos, 7 x chalkhill blue (3 female), 9 x small white, 4 x green veined white, 4 x large white, 8 x brimstone (4 females), 1 x small Heath, 1 x silver washed fritillary on wild thyme, 2 x speckled wood, on buddleia were 5 x peacock, 2 x red admiral, 2 x large skipper, 1 x dark green fritillary. Surprised no tortoiseshells but pleased to see a few coppers - David Gower

Saturday 13th August 2016

Near Wheathampstead, in a field of mixed scrub / meadow at TL194143: 10 Common Blues, 2 Brown Argus, 1 Small Copper, 2 Small Skipper, 10 Meadow Brown, 4 Gatekeeper and 4 'cabbage' whites that never settled for a more specific ID. - Aaron Clements-Partridge

6 Brown Argus 4 males, 2 females in field margin along Leeging Beech Gutter between Water Garden and 'Three-bridges' Trent Park 10:50 - 11:01 hrs - Robert Callf

Butterflies and moths I have seen today 13/08/16: 1 Large White, 7 Cinnabar moth caterpillars on ragwort, 1 Green-Veined White, 1 Speckled Wood, at least 3 Meadow Brown, at least 3 Gatekeeper - wildflower meadows at Rosehill Hospital, Letchworth TL208308 - David Inward

Back to Merryhill Fields Bushey hoping it would brighten up which it did eventually. Recorded 37 x meadow brown, 1 x holly blue (female), 1 x small skipper, 2 x gatekeeper, 10 x speckled wood, 4 x green veined white, 1 x yellow shell. In Bushey garden only 2 x large white, 1 x small white to report. David Gower

Friday 12th August 2016

1 Red Admiral nectaring on buddleia at Dalrymple Close, N14 on Friday 12th August 2016 at 15:15 hrs - Robert Callf

Friday 12th August. Did my Warren transect accompanied by 2 young grandsons, who wanted to meet the cattle and see butterflies. Not much about but pleased to see several bright and very active Common Blues, all male. Totals 6 Gatekeeper, 3 Small Heath, 8 Meadow Brown, 1 GV White, 9 Common Blue, 2 Small White. Temp 27C, 100% sun, quite windy. John Moss

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey/Crane Park/Little Park. A lengthy walk beginning early in the morning and finishing in late afternoon, all more or less in sun. Again the extra areas walked added relatively few butterflies (30), over half of them Speckled Wood. Here is the full list: Meadow Brown: 32 Green-Veined White: 6 Speckled Wood: 42 Peacock: 2 Gatekeeper: 18 Purple Hairstreak: 3 Holly Blue: 9 Brown Argus: 8 Small White: 2 Red Admiral: 2 Common Blue: 9 Comma: 3 Large White: 4 - Pete Gore

I decided to try to see one more Purple emperor this year, as I couldn't get out until after 1pm I went to Northaw, it being the best chance of a "late" sighting also it's nice and shady inside the wood, set up in the territory at 13.27, chair (no flask!), at 14.05 I saw what at first appeared to be a leaf drifting down through the gap, but it then started to rapidly flap and landed in an Ash spray, was it an Emperor? shape seemed right but colour was a bright bronze glow which didn't look right, another 20 mins another slow, weak flight across the gap, surely an Emperor, at 14.28 it made a flight and perched in full view I could now see it was an Emperor although not tatty he was very faded and see-through which gave him the strange colouring when the sun shone through his wings, high summer is over. - Laurence Drummond

The following at Ellenbrook Fields 12-08-16 - Common Blue x 1, Gatekeeper x 10+, Green-veined White x 1, Large White x 2, Meadow Brown x 3, Small White x 4 - David Wheatcroft

Butterflies and moth I have seen today 12/08/16: 1 Large White - Grove Road, Hitchin TL19093040; 1 Large White - Bancroft Recreation Ground, Hitchin TL18722975; 1 Cinnabar moth caterpillar on ragwort, 1 Holly Blue, 3 Large White, 1 Green-Veined White - Panshanger Park, near Hertford (Thieves Lane section) TL3012 - David Inward

A Silver-washed Fritillary feeding on bramble along a bridleway just inside Herts on the border with Bucks near Moneybury Hill at Ashridge (N of the monument), grid ref SP 9695 1376 (tetrad SP91 R). Nearby a Holly Blue near Aldbury at SP 965 129 (same tetrad). © Colin Everett

A few sightings for Trent Park 'New Fields' from 11:20 - 12:20 hrs on Friday 12th August 2016 - 1 Small Copper, 2 male Common Blue, 1 Small Heath. Male Gypsy Moth at bus shelter at Enfield Chase Station (TQ 321 966) yesterday Thursday 11th August 2016 - been seeing a few brown moths in flight during the daytime recently which I suspect are this species. 1 Jersey Tiger at Lonsdale Drive, EN2 (TQ 303 960) this morning Friday 12th August 2016 at 09:51 hrs - in a front garden. 1 male Common Blue at Oakwood Park, N14 on Friday 12th August 2016 at 08:07 hrs. - Robert Callf

Thursday 11th August 2016

Visited Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park to see Long tailed Blue. It's currently in captivity but due to be released this morning (Thursday). Hard to tell its sex, but the meadow in the park where it was captured contains everlasting sweet pea, one of the larval foodplants as well as a variety of nectar sources. It was captured while feeding on scabious. The character of this area of the park is very similar to Gillespie Park where this species was last recorded breeding successfully in the 1990s. If it has bred successfully the offspring will be seen in Sept/Oct, which coincides with the rush of sightings in Sussex last year - Malcolm Hull

I saw a white-letter hairstreak near Royston on Sunday. It was in a line of what I think is wych elm at about TL34663880. Andrew Taylor

A Painted Lady and a Red Admiral feeding (separately) on a garden buddleia on the Northchurch side of Berkhamsted, grid ref SP 978 091 (tetrad SP90 U). A butterfly which flew SW past me at speed near Kings Langley two days ago may also have been a Painted Lady. It will be worth looking out for a possible emigration of these butterflies over the next several days, especially during the warm weather forecast for the weekend and early next week. Pay particular attention to

open areas and hillsides, and watch for rapid flights to the SW. - Colin Everett

1 x clay triple-lines moth in Bushey garden today - David Gower

1 Red Admiral edge of Icehouse Wood, Trent Park on Thursday 11th August 2016 at 10:46 hrs - Robert Callf.

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Despite cloudy spells this afternoon plenty of butterflies around and although nothing terribly exciting I enjoyed the sight of a male and a female Brimstone more or less ignoring one another as they nectared close together on Buddleja. Here are today's sightings: Holly Blue: 4 Speckled Wood: 21 Small White: 2 Comma: 2 Peacock: 1 Gatekeeper: 27 Green-Veined White: 8 Small Copper: 2 Meadow Brown: 22 Brown Argus: 4 Common Blue: 5 Large White: 1 Red Admiral: 4 Brimstone: 2 Moths, by the way, seem to be conspicuous only in their absence. - Pete Gore

Seen today at 11:08 at Perivale Wood (Pond Field) (TQ158836) - 1 Jersey Tiger moth - John Eborall

Wednesday 10th August 2016

Terry Lyle caught a **Long-tailed Blue** this morning at Lockhart Field and is keeping it to view until 5pm today and between 9-11am tomorrow at the Soanes centre near the entrance news via Bob Watts

<http://www.towerhabitats.org/wild-things-wild-places/latest-wildlife-reports.htm>

A few sightings for Wednesday 10th August 2016 - 1 Purple Hairstreak settled on Bramble near Lower Lake, Trent Park at 09:42 hrs, 6 Brown Argus in field margin along Leeging Beech Gutter between Water Garden and 'Three-bridges' at Trent Park between 09:55 - 10:05 hrs, also here 1 Small Copper and 2 male Common Blue. 1 Large Skipper (rather worn) along bridle path near Shaws Wood, Trent Park at 10:19 hrs - Robert Callf.

White-letter Hairstreak recorded at Panshanger Park by William Bishop whilst looking for galls on elm. First site record since 1997

Butterfly I have seen today 10/08/16: 1 Speckled Wood - Angerland Common, Hatfield TL218062 - David Inward

I saw a Jersey Tiger moth this morning at Willowmead NR, Hertford - Barrie Stockwell

Tuesday 9th August 2016

3 Holly Blue at Gentleman's Row, Enfield Town at 13:21 hrs on Tuesday 9th August 2016 - Robert Callf.

We had a midday walk at Fir and Pond Wood near Potters Bar on Monday and saw 2 Purple Hairstreaks (my first of year), 2 Gatekeepers and many Green Veined Whites and Meadow Browns. Unfortunately we could not see any Purple Emperors - Terry Wood

The attached pics (see FB page) are of a Silver-washed Fritillary valezina along Old Copse Drive, Ashridge, just on the Herts side of the Herts/Bucks border. I first saw it last Wednesday (3rd) but didn't have my camera. I went every day until Sunday and it always put in an appearance, even in dull conditions, especially in the morning up to around 11am, usually for quite a short time. I am 99.9% certain it was the same individual every time. By Sunday it was fading and had some minor damage. There were up to 9 "normal" SWFs at once on the Buddleia which has an unusual woodland location. There were 12 other species on it over that period. - Richard Harrington

I was joined by Carol Walter at Norton Green at 0945 hours to check on the butterflies at the site. We encountered at least 18 species: 3+ Small Skipper (very worn), 2 Large Skipper, 2 Brimstone, about 10 Large White, 40+ Small White, 30+ Purple Hairstreak of which around 20 were flitting around half way down a large oak on the southern tip of Watery Grove, 8 Small Copper (all very fresh), 2 Brown Argus, 10+ Common Blue, 1 Holly Blue, 1 female Silver-washed Fritillary on buddleia outside Pigeonswick Cottage, 1 Red Admiral, 2 Comma, 2 Peacock, 1 Speckled Wood, 40+ Gatekeeper, 50+ Meadow Brown and 1 Ringlet. We spent a few minutes looking for the Purple Emperor, including its eggs and larvae on a willow but no such luck. Peter Clarke

1 x riband wave and 1 x mint moth in Bushey garden today - David Gower

My first survey of Willow Tree Open Space and Pond Nature Reserve, Yeading, Middlesex; a lovely area of mown paths through rough grassland and small areas of woodland and a pond area adjacent to Grand Union Canal and Willow Tree Marina (TQ1281). Around the pond nature reserve saw 2 Holly Blue, 3+ Gatekeepers, 1 Meadow Brown, 2 Speckled Wood, 5+ Green-Veined White and 2+ Small White, whilst in the Open Space area saw a Small Copper, a Speckled Wood, equal numbers of Gatekeepers and Meadow Browns (at least 7 of each), 6+ Small White and 2+ Green-Veined Whites. Later on did managed to see just a couple of Common Blues, one on each transect at Cranford and Lake Farm, London Borough of Hillingdon - Paul Busby

A sunny morning stroll on Nomansland Common resulted in the following: Meadow Brown (many and by far the most numerous butterfly); 2 Speckled Wood; 2 Gatekeeper; 8 Green-veined White; 1 Large White; 3 Common Blue (all males); 1 Brown Argus; 2 Comma; 1 Painted lady (very fresh) and about a dozen Purple Hairstreak cavorting around the oaks. Also, plenty of Silver Y moths. Resisting the distant call of a cold beer, I then went on to Heartwood Forest to see if there were any White-letter Hairstreak around the regenerating elm along the southeast boundary of Well Wood. No luck. Other butterflies seen included many Gatekeeper, a couple of Meadow Brown (the reverse of the situation on Nomansland); 2 Comma, 5 Green-veined White; 1 Large White; 2 Speckled Wood (in Pudler's Wood); 1 very tatty Ringlet; and 3 Holly Blue. Approaching the small pond at the southern tip of Well Wood I became aware of a substantial shadow flapping and gliding its way across the path. Looking up, I saw the owner - a Purple Emperor! It settled in the nearby Hornbeam tree, about 5m up, and sunned itself for a while before leaving and drifting about the adjacent oaks. I lost sight of it for a while but it then reappeared with, to my surprise, another Purple Emperor. They swooped languidly around each other a couple of times and then settled at separate locations in the foliage at the top of the tallest of the three adjacent oaks by the pond. After a couple more minutes, and not being equipped, like all good PE enthusiasts with folding chair, flask and bobble hat, I left for that cold beer I mentioned earlier. One happy bunny! David Hunt

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey/Crane Park. Out early again and a lot of sunshine although back to cloud by the time I was returning. I added an extra loop by crossing Hanworth Road and walking Crane Park out on the Southern/Hounslow side of the river to Great Chertsey Road then back on the Northern/Richmond side with a circle around the island in the middle. This added a dozen butterflies, all predictable - I'll probably need to stray from the main paths if I want more. Earlier the highlight had been three Purple Hairstreaks on the path in front of me with a fourth flying in the Oaks at the same time. Still hard to spot when I knew they were there almost at my feet. It was nice to see the grassier areas looking a bit more alive with Common Blue, Brown Argus and Small Coppers. Here are the details: Meadow Brown: 36 Speckled Wood: 25 Purple Hairstreak: 6 Peacock: 1 Gatekeeper: 32 Small White: 6 Green-Veined White: 10 Common Blue: 9 Small Copper: 2 Brown Argus: 7 Holly Blue: 3 Comma: 2 Red Admiral: 1 Brimstone: 1 - Pete Gore

Ellenbrook Fields, Gatekeeper 13+, Meadow Brown 8, Common Blue 3, Green-veined White 6, Large White 4, Small White 3 - David Wheatcroft

Bovingdon Brickworks, 09/08/2016, 11:30-12:30: 8 Common Blue; 1 Brown Argus (a wandering female, perhaps looking for a place to lay); 2 Painted Lady; 8 Peacock; 7 Red Admiral; 1 Comma; 1 Large Skipper; 5 Small Skipper; 2 Holly Blue; 4 Six-spot Burnet; 6 Speckled Wood; 15+ Gatekeeper; 15+ Meadow Brown; I didn't keep a tally of the Whites but seen all around the site. On 04/08/2016, lepidoptera of particular note were more than 12 fresh Peacock & at least 10 Red Admiral all around the same area of Buddleja; a worn but well marked Pyrausta purpuralis, another Brown Argus and what was most likely a Silver-washed Fritillary (big orange job, zooming through!). Most encouraged about the Brown Argus sightings - hopefully wanders will continue to colonise the site. - Lucy Flower

Butterflies I have seen today 09/08/16: 1 Green-veined White, 3 Common Blue, 4 Meadow Brown, 2 Gatekeeper, 1 Large White - Harpenden Common, Harpenden TL1313, 1 Large White - St Faiths Close, Hitchin TL19863030 - David Inward

News from Saturday 6th: Visited Cassiobury Park nature reserve, Watford today. Recorded 6 x meadow brown, 6 x gatekeeper, 12 x green veined white, 2 x red admiral, 2 x peacock, 6 x large white, 4 x speckled wood, 3 x comma, 4 x small white, 2 x holly blue, 1 x Essex skipper. Onto

Whippendell wood (TQ073 977) seeing 3 x speckled wood, 4 x small white, 3 x red admiral, 1 x green veined white, 3 x holly blue, 1 x comma, 1 x brimstone, 1 x silver washed fritillary, 3 x gatekeeper, 1 x meadow brown, 4 x large white, 1 x brown Argus. Lastly in Bushey garden 1 x red admiral, 1 x large white, 1 x mint moth, 1 x light brown Apple moth - David Gower

1 Jersey Tiger at Rectory Farm, Enfield (TQ 311 988) this morning Tuesday 9th August 2016 at 08:34 hrs - seen in flight and settled along hedgerow. Also today - 1 Purple Hairstreak at Whitewebbs Wood at 09:16 hrs, 1 Green-veined White at Guy Lodge Farm, Enfield at 09:28 hrs - Robert Callf

Monday 8th August 2016

I walked my second Wider Countryside Survey today at High Cross. As I was about to get in my car at home in Ware, a small brown butterfly flew through the front garden and stopped briefly for me to see it was a Brown Argus, my first garden record for 10 years. At High Cross, the number of butterflies seen was dreadful, in part due to dreadful barren field margins, however in section 10, the farmer changes, the margins are full of weeds and flowers, and 4 Common Blue and a single Small Copper were seen. However, the highlight was as I had just crossed the bridge over the A10, where there is a wall of willow by the embankment, a female Purple Emperor was seen! I stopped and watched for some time but it didn't reappear and needless to say the survey took a lot longer to complete. As a result it became cloudier and by the time I got to Northaw it was almost 100% cloudy and despite watching the assembly area for about 40 minutes, I gave up and came home - Liz Goodyear

My transect walk (hazy sun, but breezy) on Harpenden Common produced a disappointingly meagre haul: 2 Gatekeeper, 1 Speckled Wood, 1 Meadow Brown, 1 Common Blue (male). Nice to see the Speckled Wood as the species has been few and far between on the Common this year

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Out early this morning grabbing as much sun as possible in a walk completed before midday. Cloud and breeze still led to reduced numbers: Meadow Brown: 21 Gatekeeper: 22 Speckled Wood: 12 Red Admiral: 3 Common Blue: 1 Small Copper: 2 Green-Veined White: 5 Large White: 1 Painted Lady: 1 Small White: 4 Peacock: 2 The two Small Coppers, seen separately, were a welcome sight as numbers have been so low all year. The first was on a Plantain flower-head then moved to the top of a grass stalk; the second spent a little time on the scrawniest sorrel leaves around. Tempting to label them male and female accordingly but in truth I didn't spend sufficient time examining either to confirm this. - Pete Gore

After river sampling in the Pinn in Ickenham towards Ruislip Golf Course (TQ 0787) saw a Red Admiral, a Speckled Wood, a Meadow Brown, a Small White, 4 Gatekeepers and 2 Green-Veined Whites. Then over to a blustery Ickenham Marsh Fields and down to the Yeading Brook (TQ 0885) and saw a Small Copper (at last!) , 3 Small Skippers, a Red Admiral, 5+ Speckled and at least 3 small Whites, 1 Green-Veined White and a Large White, also quite faded Gatekeepers (7+) and Meadow Browns (15+). - Paul Busby

A female Silver-washed Fritillary feeding on Hebe in the garden of the well-known 'picture house' along School Lane at Bricket Wood, grid ref TL 1277 0043 (tetrad TL10 F) - v worn but v welcome, especially after six months in Scotland. Elsewhere nearby were Red Admirals (one each) by the River Lodge at Munden TL 1394 0045 (TL10 F) and in Berrygrove Wood near Aldenham TQ 1290 9858 (TQ19 J), and a female Small White ovipositing on unidentified non-flowering young crucifers at Aldenham Golf Course TQ 1318 9908 (also TQ19 J). - Colin Everett

Monday 8th August 2016 - 3 Common Blue, 2 males, 1 female at Trent Park, 5 Brown Argus 4 males, 1 female in field margin along Leeging Beech Gutter between Water Garden and 'Three-bridges', Trent Park 09:17 - 09:30 hrs and 3 Purple Hairstreak together around Ash edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park at 09:35 hrs - Robert Callf.

Sunday 7th August 2016

Butterfly I have seen today 07/08/16: 1 Green-veined White - path by railway, Walsworth Common, Hitchin TL19273042. David Inward

Two small Skippers at Bridgewater Fields, Ruislip Gardens - Paul Busby

I visited a private site east of St Albans this afternoon and recorded 19 Common Blues, all but one of them males. We have received very few records for this species in 2016 and its second brood

should be reaching peak numbers over the next week. So well worth visiting it's favourite sites and keeping an eye out generally. - Malcolm Hull

While reading the excellent book 'Rainbow Dust' by Peter Marren, for the second time, in the garden I was distracted by a large dark butterfly hovering overhead. For a split second I was thinking about Liz's amazing sighting yesterday but as it turned out it was a Peacock - my first of the year in the garden. Now 12 species in all (and the list doesn't include Red Admiral, Painted Lady or Comma) - not bad for a town garden! Peter Clarke

Time spent at Foxholes recently have been fruitless but Friday, on the way back from Foxholes at 1.45, I stopped to look up at the treetops close to Hitch Wood. Immediately I saw 2 silhouettes circling and then flying eastward and upward before losing them. This happened about 5 times before 2.00 with other single sightings in between. One appeared slightly larger than the other but as you know it is a long distance view so colour and shape is not possible but behaviour is consistent with previous sightings - Donald Gregory

My wife discovered a beautiful Red Underwing in our South Mimms garden this morning. Also seen here today several Small Whites and a Holly Blue - Terry Wood

Visited Broxbourne Woods this afternoon in hope of seeing P Emperor (no such luck) but plenty of SW Fritillaries, 3 Peacock, several Gatekeeper, 5 Meadow Brown and various Whites. Most of these were on a sunlit stretch of flowering Hemp Agrimony to left of main ride. Some Frits very tatty, others very fresh. John Moss

2 Holly Blue at Town Park, Enfield on Sunday 7th August 2016. 5 Brown Argus (my first of the year), 2 male Common Blue, 1 female Small Copper ab caeruleopunctata in field margin along Leeing Beech Gutter between Water Garden and 'Three-bridges' at Trent Park (TQ 298 977) and 1 male Common Blue at Vicarage Farm, Enfield near Merryhills Brook (TQ 297 968) - Robert Callf.

Saturday 6th August 2016

1 Green-veined White and 10 Speckled Wood at Town Park, Enfield on Saturday 6th August 2016 between 10:50 - 11:05 hrs - Robert Callf.

Butterflies I have seen today 06/08/16: 1 Small White, 1 Green-veined White, 2 Holly Blue, 1 Large White, 1 Comma, 2 Meadow Brown - Rothampsted Park (east part), Harpenden TL1313. - David Inward

News from Thursday 3rd August. Did my Warren transect. Temp 21C, breezy, intermittent sunshine. 7 Meadow Brown, 2 Small Heath, 2 Small White, 4 Gatekeeper, 1 Common Blue. Very disappointed at this poor result at peak time. Marbled Whites no doubt finished, but no sign of Small Skipper, which like others should be at peak. Site now well-grazed & trampled by cattle. Can only think lack of taller vegetation has driven butterflies off. Still loads of grasshoppers & fair numbers of bees etc on remaining large stands of Common Knapweed, but not one butterfly. I doubt whether things will improve this season. Will have to go elsewhere to keep my eye in! John Moss

Having returned from a week's sailing, the family were sitting having lunch on our Ware patio, when I saw this very large butterfly float across the top of the garden at 13:20, loud scream!! It was a Purple Emperor, and about 5 minutes it returned circled the patio and flew off towards the front garden! About an hour later I happened to look out of the bedroom window and saw it was still flying around the front garden, another loud scream and I flew out the house with husband in pursuit with camera (photo taken by him on FB). It then flew onto the pebble dash house front of our neighbours where the photo was taken - Liz Goodyear

Third time I've been to Broxbourne Woods in a row and seen a purple emperor. Last two times it was a female on the right of ride past stream often getting sap from a small oak tree. Plenty of gatekeepers and silver-washed fritillaries as well as an occasional small and large skipper. Yesterday at north pt at Waterford Heath at least 10 brown argus. On south pit plenty of common blue a few brown argus and many holly blues. I am sure holly blue lay their eggs on goats rhue - it has just been cut but holly blue are in areas it is. Plenty of common blues and brown argus at Rickneys - Steve Kiln

Apart from visiting red admirals, large whites and peacocks on buddleia in my garden recently I

have only seen one speckled wood in recent weeks and Holly blue yesterday and this morning in my garden. Also yesterday evening opposite B&Q in Hemel there was a huge caterpillar, probably an Elephant Hawk moth. I enclose a link. Type in @photoharvester on Facebook and you will find the image, or on <https://www.flickr.com/photos/7392841@N04/28185015313/in/dateposted-public/> - Elizabeth Debenham

Visited Warrender Park mid morning, Eastcote (TQ1087) on way to Odonata surveying for London Wildlife Trust and saw a male Common Blue on the remnants of last years wild flower meadow then a worn Gatekeeper on the old paddling pool community flower bed maintained by local 6th Eastcote Cub pack. In the park saw at least 6 Small Whites as well. Late afternoon visit to Bridgewater fields, South Ruislip (TQ1085) and saw 2 Brown Argus, 4 male Common blue, a Comma, 3 Speckled Wood, 10+ Gatekeeper, 2+ Large White, 6+ Small White, 4+ Green Veined White and a Meadow Brown - Paul Busby

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensy. Another sunny morning with plenty and varied butterflies: Gatekeeper: 21 Meadow Brown: 36 Red Admiral: 4 Speckled Wood: 13 Purple Hairstreak: 1 Small White: 6 Comma: 6 Green-Veined White: 5 Small Skipper: 1 Common Blue: 4 Brown Argus: 5 Small Copper: 1 Brimstone: 1 Holly Blue: 3 Painted Lady: 1 Peacock: 2 Large White: 2 Although it's never truly possible to be certain, one or two individual butterflies are starting to become familiar, including unusually a Painted Lady with whom I've had a daily meeting in the same spot on the Marshalling Yards for four days in succession. She likes Buddleja, not in itself unusual at all. - Pete Gore

Sharpenhoe Clappers - I joined Dave Chandlers Butterfly walk just over the border in Bedfordshire, run jointly for the Beds and Herts & Middx BC branches. It's a brilliant site, managed by the National Trust, with advice from Natural England. Chalkhill Blues were the most numerous species, I counted 500, though Dave had a count of 800 on his transect last week. Brimstones were also out in force and were jostling with the Chalkhills for the best nectaring sites on the Marjoram. Other butterflies were in much lower numbers with Common Blue, Dark green Fritillary, Painted Lady, Red Admiral, Comma, Brown Argus and Small Heath all spotted. On my way home I stopped at a couple of Herts sites. The abandoned nature reserve at Telegraph Hill, near Lilley produced masses of whites - Large Greenveined Small and Brimstone all numerous. Only one Dark green Fritillary, but I was pleased that Chalkhill Blue is still hanging on here with 21 recorded. Despite this the site is deteriorating and it is a source of concern that one of the very few Chalkhill Blue sites in our two counties could be lost. Much better news at Hexton Chalkpit near Hexton where my Chalkhill Blue count was 250. Also 20 Brimstones, all feeding intently and a single Dark green Fritillary. Several Silver Y and Shaded Broad Bar moths were also seen here. Now just finishing a brilliant day in my garden in St Albans with a record for the Big Butterfly Count -Painted Lady, Red Admiral, Small Tortoiseshell and Large White all on my Buddleia, with Holly Blue on the Hemp Agrimony and Small White fluttering round the cabbage - Malcolm Hull

Early morning walk produced the following sightings on Saturday 6th August 2016 - 1 Purple Hairstreak at Icehouse Wood, Trent Park at 08:46 hrs and 1 Holly Blue along bridle path near Shaws Wood, Trent Park at 08:58 hrs. 3 Small White and 1 Gatekeeper at Town Park, Enfield on Friday 5th August 2016 at 13:40 hrs. - Robert Callf

Friday 5th August 2016

We had high hopes of a butterfly bonanza when we visited Nomansland Common, Wheathampstead this afternoon (5 August 2016) as it was warm and sunny and there was a vast area of flowering knapweed and several fairly large patches of flowering of Solidago. Sightings were as follows: 1 Painted Lady (resting on charred wood from an illicit BBQ), 2 Brimstones (m and f), 2 Common Blues, 2 Small Heaths, 3 Commas, 3 Holly Blues, 5+ Peacocks, 10+ Gatekeepers, 20+ Meadow Browns, 20+ Large Whites - and good numbers of Cinnabar moth caterpillars on the ragwort. Could have been a lot better but, as they say, mustn't grumble...Alan Jackson

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yard/Pevensy. A sunny morning with little breeze and lots of butterflies, most notably half a dozen Brown Argus at various spots on the Marshalling Yards seeming rather lost amidst the grasses and plants such as Yarrow which have grown so well this year,swamping the lower growing Storks-Bill, Bird's Foot Trefoil and Sheep's Sorrel. Here's the full list of sightings: Speckled Wood: 21 Meadow Brown: 35 Green-Veined White: 12 Purple Hairstreak: 3 Gatekeeper: 23 Holly Blue: 6 Small White: 5 Red Admiral: 5 Brown Argus: 6 Common Blue: 2 Comma: 3 Peacock: 2 Painted Lady: 1 Large White: 1 Small Copper: 1 - Pete

Gore

A couple of Holly Blues by roadside trees in Feltham (TQ1076) by railway bridge. - Paul Busby

A few sightings for Friday 5th August 2016 - 1 Speckled Wood at Park Farm, Enfield at 09:55 hrs, 1 Painted Lady nectaring on burdock edge of Rough Lot, Trent Park at 10:30 hrs - pristine condition, 4 Peacock at Trent Park - nectaring on thistles at 'Old Golf Course' and on Burdock edge of Moat Wood, 1 Antler Moth nectaring on ragwort at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park, 1 female Large White nectaring on thistles at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park, 2 Green-veined White (1 at Park Farm, 1 at Trent Park). 1 Comma nectaring on buddleia at Water Garden, Trent Park at 11:04 hrs, 1 Purple Hairstreak at Icehouse Wood, Trent Park at 11:10 hrs - Robert Callf.

Sketty Road, Enfield - Jersey Tiger flying around in daylight this morning (5/8/16). - Phil Rhodes

Butterflies I have seen today 05/08/16: at least 3 Meadow Brown, at least 3 Gatekeeper, 1 Comma, 1 Speckled Wood - south part of field off Southern Way, Letchworth TL210339, 1 Brimstone - Southern Way, Letchworth TL21243379, 1 Small White, 1 Large White - St Faiths Close, Hitchin TL198303 - David Inward

This morning 1 x vapourer moth on window in Bushey garden. At Northwood HQ 1 x small copper on flowers in large flower basket(my first this year). At Merryhill this evening 1 x purple hairstreak, 5 x meadow brown, 9 x gatekeeper, 5 x yellow shell, 3 x shaded broad bar - David Gower

Thursday 4th August 2016

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Another afternoon walk with little sun until late; Speckled Wood weather perhaps: Speckled Wood: 21 Gatekeeper: 15 Green-Veined White: 12 Red Admiral: 3 Meadow Brown: 17 Peacock: 3 Common Blue: 4 Small Copper: 2 Small White: 1 Painted Lady: 2 Comma: 4 Holly Blue: 2 Brimstone: 1 Whites under-counted as usual, I doubt the proportion of Green-Veined to Small here is a true reflection overall but it has seemed to me for most of the year that Small Whites have been somewhat fewer than in past years - Pete Gore

Back from a family holiday in Cyprus, where it was great to see Swallowtails flying around the countryside. Today visited Wood Farm, Stanmore Country Park (TQ1793) and on a blustery, cloudy afternoon saw at Wood Farm section; finally a male Common Blue, a Red Admiral, at least 10 Gatekeeper, at least 14 Meadow Brown and at least 3 Small White. Then onto Pear Wood and in the Orchard area completed a 15 minute Big Butterfly Count (3 species, 8 butterflies) and then onto Grims Dyke path through a clearing in the wood and was surprised to see a Painted Lady and another 2 Gatekeeper and 3 Meadow Brown. Onto Ten Acre Field full of thistles, stinging nettles, bramble, Goats Rue and Dock and saw another 2 Red Admiral, a Comma, a Small White, a couple of Gatekeepers and a Green Veined White. Returning by the fishing lake and field/copse south of Pear Wood to see another Red Admiral, at least 4 Gatekeepers and another 5+ Meadow Brown - Paul Busby

Butterflies I have seen today 04/08/16: 1 Meadow Brown - Southern Way, Letchworth TL21143412, 1 Ringlet, 4 Gatekeeper - field off Southern Way, Letchworth TL21043405 - David Inward

A few sightings for Thursday 4th August 2016 - 2 Green-veined White mud-puddling along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 11:15 hrs, 1 Six-spot Burnet at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park - looking worn, 1 Peacock at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 12:26 hrs, 1 Red Admiral along bridle path near Shaws Wood, Trent Park at 12:58 hrs - Robert Callf.

The following seen at Ellenbrook Fields 01-08-16: Gatekeeper x 10+ Meadow Brown x 7+ Ringlet x 8+ Large Skipper x 1 - David Wheatcroft

Wednesday 3rd August 2016

Today 3rd August 2016 Broxbourne Wood. Down 'lane' from west car park. 3 Female Purple Emperors feeding on tree sap (?) in oak tree about 10 m up. Needed binoculars to see. Seen from about 12.30 to 2.30 pm. Usually just 1 on sap at a time. Kept getting driven away by hornet-like wasps also attracted to sap. When driven off PE would sometimes go into canopy and sit on a leaf. Alas, no males seen. Weather about 21oC, sporadic sunshine and windy. More activity when

sunny. Never came to ground level. What fun! - Vaughn Reade

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. An afternoon with this year's typical mix of cloud and sun together with a stronger breeze than recently. Plenty of butterflies: Red Admiral: 6 Meadow Brown: 30 Ringlet: 2 Speckled Wood: 17 Small Copper: 1 Common Blue: 4 Green-Veined white: 6 Large White: 1 Comma: 5 Small White: 3 Painted Lady: 2 Gatekeeper: 19 Holly Blue: 4 Peacock: 3 - Pete Gore

On 24th July 2016 I released a large butterfly from the fruit cage in my garden at Blackmore End. It flew to a nearby crab apple tree where I had time to take a few photographs before it flew away. I later identified it as a female Purple Emperor and this was confirmed by a member of staff at the HMWT - Kate Aylett

Butterflies I have seen today 03/08/16: 1 Large White, 1 Small White - Brick Kiln Lane east end, Hitchin TL186277, 1 Green-veined White - Black Horse Lane, Hitchin TL189279 - David Inward

Therfield Heath - 9 people joined Sharon Hearle and Alan Beale for today's Big Butterfly Count walk at Therfield Heath. Chalkhill Blues were the star turn with good numbers of males and females seen - I recorded 80, significantly less than previous years. Also 4 Dark Green Fritillaries, 4 Brown Argus, 8 Small Heath, 2 Common Blues, 3 Brimstones, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 2 Large Whites, 1 Marbled Whites, 1 Silver Y, 1 6-spot Burnett plus numerous Gatekeepers, Meadow Browns and Small Whites plus a few Small/ Essex Skippers. After lunch I added Small Copper and Painted Lady to my personal list for the site - Malcolm Hull

A few sightings for Wednesday 3rd August 2016 - 1 Mother of Pearl Moth at Park Farm, Enfield, 2 Red Admiral at Trent Park (1 Water Garden, 1 near Williams Wood), 1 Comma edge of Icehouse Wood, Trent Park at 11:06 hrs, 9 Speckled Wood at Trent Park including 5 together spiralling at Shaws Wood - Robert Callf.

Tuesday 2nd August 2016

1 x small dusty wave seen at Northwood HQ, Sandy Lane today - David Gower

Today Chestnut Road EN36SY and Friday 29th outside Bullsmoor care home in Bullsmoor Lane, Enfield Jersey tiger moths - Brian Dawton

Monday 1st August 2016

A41 Bourne End/Boxmoor (eastbound exit), 01/08/2016, 11:45-12:05: Overcast, breezy and cool but plenty to see. At least 7 second generation Small Blues; 1 Shaded Broad-bar (first spotted 26/7/2016); 1 Pyrausta aurata; 1 Six-spot Burnet; 2 Small Skipper; 2 Large White; 1 Meadow Brown; 1 Gatekeeper. On the westbound exit there was an additional mating pair of Six-spot Burnet. - Lucy Flower

Butterfly I have seen today 01/08/16: 1 Large White - King George V playing field, Stevenage TL239247 - David Inward

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. A cloudy afternoon with a few spots of rain, so far from ideal butterfly weather: Gatekeeper: 16 Meadow Brown: 8 Speckled Wood: 4 Purple Hairstreak: 1 Green-Veined White: 3 Common Blue: 1 Small Skipper: 1 Comma: 1 Ringlet: 1 - Pete Gore

Two Red Admirals on Monday 1st August 2016 - 1 at Park Farm, Enfield at 10:53 hrs, 1 at Rectory Farm, Enfield at 11:37 hrs, 1 Comma at Rectory Farm, Enfield at 11:49 hrs. 1 Peacock nectaring on buddleia at Oakwood Station on Friday 29th July 2016 at 15:35 hrs. - Robert Callf.

July 2016

Sunday 31st July 2016

I spent a couple of hours taking pictures at Coppett wood today, on my circular walk from the Colney Hatch lane entrance to the sports pitches and back again I spotted: 1 small copper, 3 red admirals, 1 peacock, 1 comma, 1 holly blue (mud puddling in a dried up pond), 5 large white, 4 green veined white, 6 small white, 13 speckled wood, 16 meadow brown, 14 gatekeepers, 2 large skipper, 2 Essex or Small Skippers. The highlight was the small copper which I have seen there

before (see pic)

Small Copper: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/64663114@N03/28639287886/in/dateposted-public/>

Miles Attenborough

A small group attended the Heartwood walk where we saw 16 species with Meadow Brown and Gatekeepers in the hundreds with Common Blue(4) and Brimstones (2) seen feeding on the flowers while in the brambles Red Admiral (2), Comma(2), Holly Blue, Ringlet (3) and Peacock(3) where seen resting. in the long grass all three species of whites where seen though only a single Small White along with Small and Essex skippers in good numbers allowing good views for ID and a brief view of a Purple Hairstreak was had and a Speckled was seen in Wells Wood. Andrew Steele

Visited Broxbourne wood again today. I was planning to leave around 2.15 and looking at a colourful bird in willow tree when "Steve" called out that a purple emperor was overhead and i was lucky to have a glimpse. Other sightings were 16 x silver washed fritillary, 1 x purple hairstreak, 6 x speckled wood, 35 x gatekeeper, 36 x meadow brown, 10 x ringlet, 9 x green veined white, 8 x small skipper, 3 x red admiral, 4 x small white, 4 x peacock, 2 x large skipper, 2 x large white, 1 x comma, 1 x silver y, 1 x brown china-mark which was seen near a pond and difficult to photo. At Bencroft wood were 2 x gatekeeper, 2 x red admiral, 2 x green veined white, 1 x meadow brown, 1 x peacock, 1 x speckled wood. At Brickendon green 3 x gatekeeper, 1 x meadow brown while at Bayford station 1 x gatekeeper, 1 x large skipper. - David Gower

Hitchin Lavender Farm, Ickleford - 2 Painted Ladies, 2 Peacocks and 1 Small White - not the butterfly bonanza I had hoped for, but it was a cloudy afternoon. An interesting site to visit - Malcolm Hull

Seen today at Therfield Heath TL337395. 2 x Dark Green Fritillary (1m 1f) 1 x Red Admiral 15+ Meadow Brown 3 Gatekeeper 20+ Chalkhill Blue - Patricia Clegg

Possible new colony of White-letter Hairstreak found today. Please see my blog below

<http://winowendyswildlifeworld.blogspot.co.uk/?m=1>

Wendy Marks

News for Saturday 30th July 2016 - 2 Red Admiral nectaring on buddleia at Dalrymple Close, N14 at 14:20 hrs. 1 Holly Blue, 5 Gatekeeper, 1 Small Copper, 1 male Common Blue and 1 Small Skipper at Oakwood Park, N14 on Saturday 30th July 2016 between 15:00 - 15:30 hrs. 1 Gold Triangle and 1 Small Magpie at ASDA Southgate on Saturday 30th July 2016. Some news for Sunday 31st July 2016 - 1 Comma and 1 Purple Hairstreak edge of Church Wood, Trent Park and 1 Holly Blue and 1 Antler Moth nectaring on ragwort edge of Triangular Wood, Trent Park - Robert Callf.

Butterflies I have seen today 31/07/16: 1 Green-Veined White - Walsworth Common, Hitchin TL19583028, 1 Green-Veined White - Triangle Community Garden, Hitchin TL19023021, 1 Meadow Brown - Ransomes Recreation Ground, Hitchin TL19053002 - David Inward

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. A morning walk with a reasonable amount of sunshine. Red Admirals are still appearing frequently, I had a small increase in Common Blue sightings and a first ever (I think) of Purple Hairstreak in the Oaks alongside the River Crane. I spent a little time looking at the trees on the Heath where I saw a possible White Letter Hairstreak earlier in July and at least established in my own mind that several are Wych Elm suckers. Unfortunately there are clear signs of Dutch Elm disease too so I'm not really sure I'm any closer to the butterfly. More exploring next year I think. Here are today's sightings: Red Admiral: 7 Small Skipper: 2 Meadow Brown: 29 Speckled Wood: 13 Gatekeeper: 29 Purple Hairstreak: 3 Comma: 6 Holly Blue: 2 Large White: 1 Green-Veined White: 6 Common Blue: 3 Small White: 4 Peacock: 1- Pete Gore

Saturday 30th 2016

We were at Panshangar Park on Saturday 30th July for the Festival of Wildlife and were lucky enough to see a Purple Emperor near Broadwater Lake. - Paul Thrush

St Albans - at last, butterflies starting to take an interest in buddleia. Those in my and my neighbours garden had Painted Lady, Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell, at least 6 Large Whites and Small White at lunchtime today. Also at lunchtime the count of Small Tortoiseshells already in

hibernation had risen to 15. Bricket Wood Common - 9 Silver washed Fritillaries, my best total of the year so far for this site. Included a couple of females, one of which was searching for violets on the ground near scrub, but 10 meters from the nearest large tree. I disturbed a couple of Brimstones who appeared to be attempting mating and then engaged in a courtship dance - more evidence to suggest they are attempting a second brood at this site - Malcolm Hull

Went to Ruislip woods today. Around oaks and along outer path at St Vincent's spotted 2 x purple hairstreak, 10 x speckled wood, 1 x large white, 2 x gatekeeper, 1 x peacock, 2 x green veined white, 1 x yellow shell, 3 x mother of pearl. In Park wood 1 x red admiral, 7 x gatekeeper, 1 x speckled wood, 2 x ringlet, 4 x small skipper, 8 x meadow brown, 1 x peacock, 1 x shaded broad bar, 1 x straw dot. Found 2 x gatekeeper, 7 x meadow brown, 1 x speckled wood, 1 x green veined white at Poor's Field. Lastly in Copse wood 2 x holly blue, 2 x white admiral, 7 x speckled wood, 15 x green veined white, 1 x peacock. - David Gower

I saw several small heath, several dark green fritillaries, one brimstone, multiple chalk hill blues, argus brown, lots of meadow browns, 1 solitary marbled white, and lots of whites. And most unusually a hummingbird hawk moth. - Laurie Browne

Clouded Yellow at Ellenbrook TL20540866. Also Marbled White nearby - Rupert Pyrah

Butterfly and moth I have seen today 30/07/16: 1 Leopard Moth *Zeuzera pyrina* - St Faiths Close TL19843030, 1 Comma - by path north of Osprey Lake, Panshanger Park TL298125 - David Inward

Friday 29th 2016

I had a Jersey Tiger Moth in my garden resting on my bungalow today. I live in Sawbridgeworth, Herts. - Tina Carter

1 Red Admiral at Park Farm, Enfield on Friday 29th July 2016 during a shower at 11:49 hrs. 1 female Green-veined White along bridle path near Merryhills Brook at Trent Park at 13:05 hrs - Robert Callf.

Butterflies I have seen today 29/07/16: 1 Small White - Kershaws Hill, Hitchin TL189288, 1 Comma, 1 Gatekeeper - St Andrews Place, Hitchin TL187289 - David Inward

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. I delayed until late afternoon but still encountered very dark skies and a rain-shower so butterfly sightings quite good in context: Gatekeeper: 24 Meadow Brown: 23 Speckled Wood: 5 Peacock: 1 Ringlet: 1 Green-Veined White: 2 Small White: 5 Red Admiral: 1 Comma: 1 - Pete Gore

Seen in Bushey garden today 1 x red admiral, 1 x light brown apple moth, 1 x endotricha flammealis moth - David Gower

Thursday 28th 2016

Lots of chalkhill blues, a few marbled white, common blue, meadow brown, small skippers and several gatekeepers at Hexton Chalk Pit yesterday, despite the showers. Fingers crossed for good weather for our butterfly walk this afternoon! A belated record, we saw a couple of purple hairstreaks on the oaks to the west of King's Lake at Panshanger Park last Friday - Jenny Sherwen

At Northwood HQ, Sandy Lane 1 x red admiral, 1 x small tortoiseshell. In Bushey garden 1 x red admiral, 1 x gatekeeper - David Gower

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Another sunny morning with large numbers flying: Meadow Brown: 36 Purple Hairstreak: 4 Gatekeeper: 52 Speckled Wood: 12 Green-Veined White: 11 Comma: 3 Red Admiral: 6 Small White: 14 Ringlet: 4 peacock: 5 Small Skipper: 4 Common Blue: 1 Large White: 2 - Pete Gore

We were really pleased with our sightings from Bricket Wood Common this morning, mainly along the gas pipeline clearing. The weather was warm, with sunny spells. The butterflies were just warming up and very cooperative for identification! We saw Silver Washed Fritillary 6, White Admiral 5, Meadow Brown 1, Comma 1, Small White 4, Large White 1, Green Veined White 2, (lots of whites but not able to ID all of them), Ringlet 3, Red Admiral 1, Speckled Wood 2, Gatekeeper 1, Small Heath 2 - Mandy Floyd

27.07.16 - weedy field, Batford - 8 PURPLE HAIRSTREAKS flitting between both oak trees located beyond the weedy field aligning the public footpath, best seen after 18.00. 08.07.16 - Weedy field, Batford - Late News due to ID issues - 1 Oak Eggar caterpillar crossing main public footpath by B653 next to weedy field - Darin Stanley

Wednesday 27th 2016

3 x red admirals on buddleia in Bushey garden this evening - David Gower

Some sightings for Wednesday 27th July 2016 - 1 Six-spot Burnet (fresh) at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park, 1 male Essex Skipper at Park Farm, Enfield (TQ 2898), 2 Purple Hairstreak at Park Farm, Enfield (TQ 2998), 1 Red Admiral at Vicarage Farm on edge of Williams Wood at 13:42 hrs, 1 male Brimstone at Allotments, Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 14:10 hrs - Robert Callf.

Walked through Tunnel Gardens in Bounds Green tonight at around 6.00pm, 7 gatekeepers, 4 speckled wood, 2 large whites. - Miles Attenborough

Hexton Chalk Pit on Sunday 24th...hundreds of Chalk Hill Blues, 20 plus fresh Brown Argus, 10-15 DG Frits, gatekeeper, plenty of Large Whites and superb wild flowers. Robin and Sandra Smith

Tuesday 26th 2016

On my Warren transect, despite warm (21C), still but cloudy weather, worst July showing ever -21 Meadow Brown, 7 Gatekeeper, 3 Small/Gv White, 4 Small Skipper, 1 Large White, 1 Small White, 2 Marbled White, 1 Red Admiral, 1 Common Blue 1. Surely this isn't just the result of the cold/wet May. John Moss.

Some sightings for Grovelands Park, Southgate this afternoon Tuesday 26th July 2016 - 8 Speckled Wood, 4 Gatekeeper, 2 Essex Skipper, 1 Small Skipper and 1 female Meadow Brown - Robert Callf.

Butterfly I have seen today 26/07/16: 1 Large White - St Faiths Close, Hitchin TL19823030 - David Inward

During a late morning walk from Cassiobury Park (Watford) to Whippendell Wood sighted near a wide, sunny woodland path intersection in the wood, 1 White Admiral, 3 red admirals (congregated all together on the grass) 1 comma and 2 Silver-washed Fritillaries. Location TQ07856 97932. - Brendan Sheridan

My first second-brood Brown Argus of the year in the field near Bareleigh, Aston at 11:20 am. - Peter Clarke

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Here's my latest from this morning, including, at last, the first male Common Blue of the month: Meadow Brown: 31 Speckled Wood: 13 Purple Hairstreak: 2 Gatekeeper: 36 Comma: 4 Small White: 13 Red Admiral: 3 Ringlet: 2 Common Blue: 1 Green-Veined White: 2 Holly Blue: 3 Painted Lady: 1 Peacock: 1 Small Skipper: 1 - Pete Gore

Monday 25th July 2016

Tring: Back 'garden' which is actually small patio area within communal grounds. I've never had a garden so have never developed green fingers but now having this space I have put out pots with Salvia, Lavender, Aster, Marjoram etc in the hope of attracting Butterflies. Up till now I've only had Bee's as guests but today at about 3.30pm I was thrilled to find one Red Admiral and one Small Tortoiseshell around my pots. Its a small step for conservation but a huge step for me. - Chris Hillings

On a lunchtime walk today at Bricket Wood Common I was pleased to see my first Small Copper of the year, also a Purple Emperor, 4 Silver-washed Fritillary, 2 Brimstone, 3 Gatekeeper, 2 Large Skipper, 2 Peacock, 3 Ringlet, 4 Meadow Brown, and many Small, Green-veined and Large Whites. Unfortunately no White Admiral showed- Terry Wood

Checked Bushey Manor Field late afternoon where grass has all been cut back. Recorded 6 x meadow brown, 1 x ringlet, 1 x comma, 1 x large white. Also in Bushey garden 1 x brimstone(male), 1 x small white, 1 x large white - David Gower

1 Red Admiral nectaring on buddleia at Dalrymple Close, N14 on Sunday 24th July 2016. Monday 25th July 2016 - 1 Red Admiral and 1 Large White at Dalrymple Close, N14 at 10:29 hrs, 1 Red Admiral at Parkside Farm, Enfield at 11:29 hrs, 3 Red Admiral at Park Farm, Enfield, 1 Comma at Duncan's Wood, Enfield at 12:29 hrs, 2 Peacock nectaring on burdock edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park at 12:43 hrs, 3 Antler Moth nectaring on thistles and ragwort at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park, 4 Peacock on and around buddleia by Lower Lake, Trent Park at 12:57 hrs, 1 Comma nectaring on buddleia by Lower Lake, Trent Park at 12:57 hrs, 1 Red Admiral edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park at 13:16 hrs, 1 Purple Hairstreak edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 1 Red Admiral at South Lodge Farm, Enfield at 13:35 hrs - Robert Callf.

A quick update for you (as I forgot my field note book), We were out and about tetrad bashing. But here are the main ones:

Saturday Plashes Wood 2 - White Admiral, a real surprise. We were looking around to see if we could find purple emperors but no luck. There were also no sign of any at Broxbourne woods. 5 Purple Hairstreak

Therfield Heath Church Hill (TL331396) 1 Dark Green Fritillary, seen egg laying on violets. 30+ Chalkhill blue. Main Heath (TL337402) and golf course area 50+ Chalkhill blue 5 Marbled White. Main Heath, Tumulus (TL 346401) 30+ Chalkhill blue 6 Dark Green Fritillary (including 1 seen egg laying) 5 Marbled White. Plus loads more grassland species. I'll send a more complete list. - Phil Macmurdie

Sunday 24th July 2016

Millhoppers Pasture, Wilstone - 23 people attended today's HMBC butterfly walk at our very own butterfly reserve near Tring. The wet weather has encouraged rampant growth in the grass, but we were able to navigate round the site on the mown paths. The weather was cloudy, but we managed a good range of species including Red Admiral (3), Comma (2), Small Tortoiseshell (1), Holly Blue (1), Meadow Brown (dozens), Gatekeeper (7), Essex Skipper (3 identified), Small Skipper (1), Unidentified Small/Essex Skippers (7), Marbled Whites (2), Silver Y moth (1), Large White (2) Small White (2 identified), Green-veined White (3 identified, Unidentified Small/ GVW (5) Ringlet (1) and a nest of Peacock caterpillars. We also heard about the rare Black Poplar trees on the reserve and learnt that the new trees planted over the winter have all survived (so far!) - Jez Perkins and Malcolm Hull

Butterflies I have seen today 24/07/16: 1 Speckled Wood - path west of Millstream PH, Hitchin TL19742998, 1 Green-Veined White, 1 Gatekeeper, Walsworth Common opposite Green Lane, Hitchin TL19703012, 3 Small White - Walsworth Common opposite new house TL19713021, 1 Large White - Walsworth Common opposite The Sailor PH TL19673024 - David Inward

Stocking Pelham Sunday 24th July ; small white, gvw, peacock, red admiral, several small tortoiseshell and gatekeeper mostly on my buddleia? - Andy Brown

At Bayford station 1 x silver washed fritillary was patrolling around the steps (TL135 082). No luck with spotting emperors after arriving at Broxbourne wood at 11.15 and someone else had been looking since 7am! Did see 17 x silver washed fritillary, 1 x purple hairstreak, 31 x ringlet, 41 x gatekeeper, 14 x green veined white, 3 x red admiral, 2 x speckled wood, 30 x meadow brown, 5 x small white, 6 x large white, 5 x peacock, 3 x large skipper, 8 x small skipper, 1 x comma, 1 x brimstone (male). At bricks don village 3 x meadow brown, 3 x green veined white, 1 x speckled wood, 1 x large white, 1 x small white, 1 x ringlet. Lastly in small field other side of Bayford station were 1 x marbled white, 2 x gatekeeper, 5 x meadow brown, 3 x large skipper, 2 x small skipper (TI314 082) - David Gower

Saturday 23rd July 2016

Had a White-letter Harestreak on my Harpenden lawn this afternoon, flew off before I could get a pic. - Robin Pearson

St Albans - 10 Small Tortoiseshells now hibernating in my shed. I've heard a couple of reports this week of people finding them indoors. Park St, St Albans - new brood of Common Blues out, 3 fresh males seen. Small Copper also at this site, both rare records so far this year. Bricket Wood Common - Purple Emperor at the oak high point in Mutchetts Wood at lunchtime. 7 Silver-washed Fritillaries 9 Purple Hairstreaks and 2 White Admirals today, plus newly emerged Brimstones and Peacocks. More Green-veined Whites than anything else on today's transect walk - Malcolm Hull

Butterflies I have seen today 23/07/16: 1 Meadow Brown, 1 Red Admiral, several unidentified whites - St Faiths Close, Hitchin TL198303. 1 Speckled Wood - St Georges Church/Stevenage Museum garden, Stevenage TL240241. 1 Small White, 2 Large Whites, several unidentified whites - Town Centre Gardens, Stevenage TL240243. - David Inward

6 x small white and 4 x large white in Bushey garden this morning - David Gower

Some sightings for Saturday 23rd July 2016 - 1 Green-veined White at Dalrymple Close, N14 at 11:25 hrs and sightings for Trent Park from 11:45 - 13:00 hrs - 2 Large White Sect 1, 1 Purple Hairstreak Sect 1, 2 Essex Skipper identified, 1 Shaded Broad-bar, 1 Yellow Shell, 1 male Small Copper at 12:00 hrs - my first of the summer brood, 1 male Marbled White at 12:42 hrs, 1 male Large Skipper near Triangular Wood. 1 Small Tortoiseshell at South Lodge Farm, Enfield at 15:02 hrs, 1 Comma along bridle path near Merryhills Brook at Trent Park at 15:04 hrs, 1 male Holly Blue settled on mud near Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm at 15:09 hrs, 2 Peacock at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 1 Painted Lady at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 15:23 hrs, 2 Small Tortoiseshell at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 1 Essex Skipper at Vicarage Farm, Enfield - Robert Callf

Friday 22nd July 2016

Early evening visited Fishers field nature reserve, Bushey recording 1 x green veined white, 4 x essex skipper, 2 x small skipper, 3 x marbled white, 5 x narrow bordered 5 spot burnet. Onto Water Lane and fighting through nettles found about 80 skippers positive ID being 10 x essex and 7 x small, 1 x large white, 2 x small white, 1 x small tortoiseshell. 2 x comma, 2 x green veined white, 4 x marbled white, 1 x silver y, 2 x mother of pearl. At Northwood HQ were 2 x red admiral, 5 x green veined white, 1 x large white. In bushey garden 1 x holly blue(male), 2 x riband wave moth hiding in nettles. - David Gower

Regents Park, Camden - the select group who attended today's HMBC butterfly walk saw over 80 butterflies, an impressive total for a short walk in central London. Extensive areas of wildflower meadows have been created in the park and there are many butterfly friendly plants in the formal flower beds. Meadow Browns (51) were the most numerous species, enjoying the many areas of long grass. Essex Skippers (13) were the next most common species, posing nicely for identification and photos. Large Skipper (1), Small Skipper (2) and Gatekeeper (4) were seen in the meadows and around the bramble banks. Small White (8) dominated in the flowerbeds and Small Tortoiseshell(1), Red Admiral (1), Speckled Wood (1) and Silver Y moth (1) were also recorded. We only visited a small area of the park and conditions were mostly cloudy. There is much more at this site to explore! - Malcolm Hull

A few sightings for Boxer's Lake, Enfield on Friday 22nd July 2016 from 11:25 - 11:45 hrs - 4 Gatekeeper, 1 Holly Blue, 1 female Green-veined White, 1 Large White. 2 Speckled Wood along bridle path near Merryhills Brook at Trent Park, 1 Purple Hairstreak edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 1 Silver Y set-aside field near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 1 Peacock nectaring on buddleia by Lower Lake at Trent Park 14:25 hrs, 1 Green-veined White at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park, 1 male Antler Moth nectaring on ragwort at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park, 1 Peacock nectaring on burdock edge of Rough Lot, Trent Park at 14:40 hrs, 1 male Oak Eggar at Park Farm, Enfield at 15:07 hrs - Robert Callf.

Thursday 21st July 2016

Afternoon drive over to Southlands Art Centre, West Drayton TQ 0579 and in grounds saw a Red Admiral, 2 Comma, 4 Gatekeeper (including a pair), 2+ Large White, 3+ Small White, 5+ Meadow Brown. Stopped by the River Colne, Donkey Lane, West Drayton (TQ 0578) and another Red Admiral and lots of Whites including 7 Small Whites, 2 Large Whites and a Green-Veined White. Then a visit to the LWT nature reserve at Mabey's Meadow and Frays Island and saw 3 Red Admirals, a Speckled Wood, 4+ Small White, 1+ Green-Veined White and a Comma. Late afternoon, on way home stopped at Stockley Park 1km jogging trail (TQ 0780) and saw 2 Peacocks, a Speckled Wood, 5+ small white and 2+ Large White (shame about the massive loads of fly-tipping) - Paul Busby

Two White Admirals in Bramfield Wood today, also more surprising a White-letter hairstreak taking minerals from the track, first I've seen in the wood or doing that. There was some elm close by. I had assumed it was a Purple Hairstreak until I took a close look in the shadowy light. Two fresh Brown Argus on Watton Green, the first summer generation ones I've seen this year. Peacocks also now becoming more numerous despite the seeming dearth of caterpillars earlier in the year. â€ Andrew Wood

Martin Warren emailed to say he received a phone call from an observer that a Purple Emperor was seen between Harpenden and Kimpton "He has only seen one in his life, so was very chuffed to have seen this one, which hit him hard on the forehead then landed on his hand!"

1 x painted lady at Northwood HQ today and 1 x small dusty wave, 1 x least carpet in bushey garden - David Gower

Just spent another hour at Trent Park 'New Fields' this afternoon Thursday 21st July 2016 between 14:25 - 15:20 hrs - 1 male Oak Eggar seen in flight 14:47 hrs (TQ 285 965) and 1 Purple Hairstreak settled low down in young oak edge of Church Wood at 14:53 hrs - Robert Callf.

A surprise in my moth trap at 5.00am this morning - a very nice Red Admiral parked-up on the egg cartons and next to a Privet Hawk-moth. Presumably the Admiral had been migrating during the (moonlit) night and hove-to for a rest. Other beasts in my south Harpenden garden included Large White (4), Small White (4), Green-veined White (1), Small Tortoiseshell (1) and Gatekeeper (1), these all being maximum counts at any one time. - David Hunt

Nomansland Common, Sandridge - Purple Hairstreaks were very active early afternoon, with many sightings and a total of at least 8 individuals. I was unable to repeat last years sighting of a Purple Emperor. Elsewhere on the site Meadow Browns were numerous and there were reasonable numbers of Small/ Essex SKippers, with both species identified. Small Copper, Red Admiral, Gatekeeper, Ringlet, Large, Small Green-veined and Marbled Whites also seen. At Symonshyde Great Wood, Ringlets were the most common species and I counted 10 Silver-washed Fritillaries. 5 newly emerged Peacocks, plus Red Admiral, Comma, Marbled White, Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown and Speckled Wood. The first time in many years I've failed to see White Admiral at this site - Malcolm Hull

Saw a Jersey Tiger in our garden in North Kensington, which was a surprise - Don Anderson

Some sighting that may be of interest in Whippendale Woods, Watford, 18th July Silver Washed Fritillary (approx 4) White Admiral (1) 19th July Silver Washed Fritillary (approx 7-8) Hope this is of some use haven't seen that they have been recorded there, at least not for a while - Rick Vickers

A few sightings for Thursday 21st July 2016 - 2 Green-veined White at Parkside Farm, Enfield, 1 Red Admiral at Park Farm, Enfield at 10:46 hrs, 1 female Large White edge of Rough Lot, Trent Park at 11:17 hrs, 2+ Purple Hairstreak at Trent Park (1 edge of Ride Wood, 1+ edge of Williams Wood), 2 Red Admiral at Trent Park (1 Water Garden, 1 edge of Williams Wood), 1 Small Tortoiseshell, set-aside field near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 1 female Gatekeeper edge of Williams Wood. One Green-veined White identified at Oakwood Park, N14 on Wednesday 20th July 2016 at 16:39 hrs (W of 10 km line which divides site) - Robert Callf.

Wednesday 20th July 2016

Absolute minimum 15 Silver washed frits on Wednesday, and probably 20 plus. Difficult to count how many there are in the cleared area under the power lines as they were shooting around at high speed. Also seven in one sunny part of the main path about 150m before the path splits at the end. Robin and Sandra Smith

1 Clouded Yellow seen at Woodberry Wetlands/Stoke Newington Res N16 TQ328876 c10 a.m. 19.7.16 by Tony Butler. Also Marbled White (by TB & CF). Both sp rare here.

Weedy field, Batford - 2 PURPLE HAIRSTREAK in Oak further along the hedge line beyond the weedy field. 4 White letter hairstreaks around the large area of bramble. Plenty of Marble White, Gate Keeper, Large skipper, Ringlets and Red Admirals around. - Darin Stanley

Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park, Mile End in East London. Also only the 2nd or 3rd definite record. My first definitive sighting of White-letter Hairstreak after searching the area near Round Glade where one was reported on Sunday. It was feeding on the path, where they have laid sandy soil recently, for 15+ minutes, presumably after the salts. Terry Lyle netted one a few years ago a few hundred yards away in Monument Glade so presumably breeding in v low numbers - Bob Watts

Very warm afternoon walk along Jackets Lane, Northwood, Middlesex and the public footpath

across field (TQ 0791); saw Small skipper (2), Holly Blue (1), Red Admiral (4), Small Tortoiseshell (1), Speckled Wood (4), Marbled White (1), Gatekeeper (3), Meadow Brown (15+), over ten Whites including Large White (1) and Small White (3+). Then across the road to Bishops Wood Country Park (TQ 0691) and saw a White Admiral, Silver Washed Fritillary (3), Small Skipper (2+), more Whites including Large White (1+), Small White (2+), Green=Veined White (1+), Ringlet (3), Meadow Brown (7+). Further North in wood (TQ 0692) saw another White Admiral which briefly settled on me, 2 more Silver Washed Fritillary and a Red Admiral. Then in fields and rough area around Golf Course (TQ0692) saw a Peacock (first for weeks), an Essex Skipper, another Red Admiral, Marbled White (4), Gatekeeper (8+), Ringlet (3+) and Meadow Brown (7+) - Paul Busby

At last a better sighting from Bushey garden! 1 x small white, 1 x large white, 1 x comma, 1 x small tortoiseshell, 1 x red admiral- David Gower

Tuesday 19th July 2016

News coming in of a Purple Emperor sighting yesterday between Buntingford and Baldock - a new area for the butterfly in Hertfordshire. My first sighting of a Purple Emperor at Southern Green Farm - John Dingemans

More Red Admirals seen most places and more Summer Holly Blues and a Brimstone. Morning sightings along River Pinn near Ruislip Golf Course TQ 0787; Red Admiral (2+), dozen whites including 1 Large White, 1 Green-veined White, 2 Comma, Small skipper, Gatekeeper (2+), Meadow brown (1+). Driving down Hayes by-pass towards Cranford Park transect in slow traffic, when a red Admiral overtook me (TQ 1079). Late afternoon visited Horsenden Hill, Middlesex and saw 2 Holly Blue. brief glimpse of White Letter Hairstreak, Red Admiral, 4 Marbled White, 3 Comma, a Speckled Wood, dozen or so Whites including at least one of each, Gatekeeper (12+), Meadow Brown (20+) and Small Skipper (8+). - Paul Busby

I'm emailing to report the positive sighting of a male purple emperor at Broxbourne Woods: Butterfly was flying around the car park for most of the morning. Can sort out a photo of it if required. - Michael Iseard (Projects Officer Countryside Management Service Office)

In Bencroft wood one white admiral. In Broxbourne west car park ride 4 silver washed fritillary, but the star was a male purple emperor sunning it in the car park on the ground, on the signs and low in an oak tree at 11.30 onwards - Steve Kiln

The highlights of visits to Broxbourne and Bencroft Woods on the hot, sunny morning of Monday 18 July were the frequent sightings of Silver-Washed Fritillaries: 15 in all. All were males, apart from one female by the pond in the enclosure. By the West CP there were 3 Marbled Whites, a Red Admiral and a Purple Hairstreak. In the main ride and elsewhere Meadow Browns were especially plentiful. There were also good numbers of Large, Small and G-V Whites, Gatekeepers and Ringlets plus Large and Small/Essex Skippers. Surprisingly, considering how many butterflies were about, no sign of Speckled Wood, Brimstone, Small Tortoiseshell, Comma, White Admiral - or PE. Common Blue Damsels were plentiful over the pond. A visit to Bencroft Wood added Peacock to the list. Alan Jackson

10 of us set off at 10.35am for the walk around Bishop's Stortford Southern Country Park yesterday, with a starting temperature of 22C rising to 27C by the finish at 1.00pm. Not enough wind to make the park's Green Flag fly, but plenty of butterflies to be seen, which probably because of the heat were mostly on the move and looking for shade, so not too many opportunities to check out the difference between the widespread Skippers! A rough count of the species seen was: 40+ Large White, 20+ Small White, 5+ Green-veined White, 100+ Meadow Brown, 100+ Ringlet, 10+ Gatekeeper, 30+ Marbled White, 10+ Small Tortoiseshell, 4 Red Admiral, 150+ Small/Essex Skipper, 5+ Small Skipper, 1 Essex Skipper. Also seen were 2 Silver-Y moths and from the newly installed boardwalk across the reed bed, 3 Emperor dragonflies, 1 Brown Hawker, 4 Black-tailed Skimmers, 1 Broad-bodied Chaser and 15+ Common Blue and Azure Damselflies. - Bob Clift

Monday 18th July 2016

We saw a hummingbird hawk moth in the afternoon at Thorley Wash - Jenny Sherwen

14.07.16 - Weedy Field Batford - Briefly seen on Thursday 14.07.16 and confirmed on 17.07.16 to be a PURPLE EMPEROR at the weedy field - Batford. Initially seen at 15.30 from the Oak tree at the entrance of the public foot path that runs to the west of the weedy field, by the B653, heading

north along the hedge/tree line. 45 mins later, seen around elms surrounding large patch of brambles, fairly near the oak tree (where the WLH's can be found). Landed a couple of times, then south toward the oak tree and GONE - Darin and Charlie Stanley

Having seen the report of the field trip to Norton Green last Thursday, I took a walk there myself this morning. I was fortunate to have 2 very clear sightings of a male Purple Emperor. On the first occasion, it settled on the track in front of me, but too fleetingly to enable a photograph (I have one of track it had just left !). I stayed there, and it came back again 10 minutes later, but this time did not land, instead 'patrolling' the track, before disappearing over a gate an into the meadow beyond. All of this was within a few yards of Pigeonswick Cottage, which is shown on the OS maps. I was coming from Norton Green, and the section of track was just as you come out of the trees, before getting to the cottage. The first sighting was just before 11.30. There was no point in hanging around longer, as the track is very popular with joggers and walkers at lunchtime. Ian Small

After work I headed to Merryhill Fields, Bushey. For the first time in Bushey have seen purple hairstreaks although seen them reported before here. At 6.10 three quarters up in medium sized oak tree I noticed 3 at once. Returned at 7.30 and had 2 individual sightings. Other findings were 128 x meadow brown, 67 x gatekeeper, 40 x ringlet, 16 x marbled white, 3 x small white, 3 x large skipper, 3 x small skipper, 4 x essex skipper, 1 x comma, 1 x yellow shell, 18 x shaded broad bar. In Bushey garden 1 x mother of pearl. - David Gower

Visited Tring park yesterday and clouds cleared around 11.30. Sightings were 2 x Purple Emperor (seen along path at back of park amongst the trees), 2 x silver washed fritillary, 231 x meadow brown, 42 x ringlet, 112 x marbled white, 5 x gatekeeper, 6 x essex skipper, 8 x small skipper (over 100 skippers but unsure which), 1 x large skipper, 3 x small tortoiseshell, 7 x large white, 15 x small white, 1 x comma, 3 x red admiral, 8 x speckled wood and 1 x light emerald moth. In field next to Tring station car park 1 x small tortoiseshell, 1 x meadow brown, 2 x green veined white. - David Gower

Starting to see an increase of Red Admirals at most locations, usually one or two seen each day for last week. Late morning, a fresh Holly Blue seen fluttering over River Pinn and settling on muddy wet bank, Dovecote copse, Eastcote House Gardens. Good number of butterflies seen on a weekly Long Meadow, Eastcote survey including a Red Admiral. After Lake Farm transect including another Red Admiral (surprisingly first record for site). went onto Gutteridge Wood and Meadows, North Hillingdon TQ0984. In the woods and clearing saw a fresh male Brimstone, a Marbled White flying over, a Purple Hairstreak, Comma (3), Gatekeeper (9+), Speckled Wood (6), Small White (2+), Meadow Brown (11+), Ringlet (5+), at least one Essex Skipper, Small Skippers (3+) whilst on the meadow and pond area; a female Brimstone on Red Clover, Gatekeeper (9+), Meadow Brown (14+), Ringlet (6+), Essex Skipper (2+), Speckled Wood (1), Green-Veined White (1+). Finally at Ten Acre Wood and Meadows saw a Small Tortoiseshell, Meadow Brown (3+), Green- Veined White (1+), Large White (1) and another Speckled Wood - Paul Busby

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. A morning walk, still with some cloud but no breeze whatsoever. By the time I was coming back there seemed to be a lot more butterflies around : Red Admiral: 8 Meadow Brown: 25 Small Skipper: 34 Small White: 10 Gatekeeper: 29 Purple Hairstreak: 2 Speckled Wood: 5 Comma: 8 Ringlet: 21 Large Skipper: 2 Peacock: 1 Large White: 1 Green-Veined White: 6 Holly Blue: 3 Tortoiseshell: 1 . Whilst there are plenty of 'maybes' I'm still unable to get any definite sightings of Purple Hairstreak away from the 'core' group of Oaks on the Heath. - Pete Gore

St Albans - As today was very warm and sunny I decided to checkout my local Elms for hairstreaks. Tall Elm on corner of Batchwood Drive & Green Lane at 12:00pm. White-letter hairstreak X 2 (1 high up near top + 1 moving around at 3m level). Later at 15:00pm same tree W-LH X 3 (2 spiralling together above high point + 1 at 3m level). At 13:00pm W-LH X 2 in Elm on Bluehouse Hill. Going down the hill the tree being just past third lamp post on left, below bus stop - Pete Ewer

Bricket Wood 10:30-14:00 Drop Lane; 1 White-letter Hairstreak, 1 Comma, 1 Speckled Wood. Bricket Wood Common; 3 Silver-washed Fritillary, only 2 brief sightings of White Admiral, 2 Purple Hairstreak, 8 Marbled White, 5 Large Skipper, 30 Ringlet, 18 Meadow Brown, 4 Gatekeeper, 5 Holly Blue, 1 Red Admiral, 1m Brimstone, 1 Comma, 2 Silver Y Moth, large numbers of all 3 Whites. Also Odonata noted; 1 Brown Hawker, 1f Southern Hawker, 1m Broad-bodied Chaser,

several Common Blue Damsels. - Bob Harris

Butterfly I have seen today 18/07/16: 1 Meadow Brown plus many unidentified whites - Walsworth Common, Hitchin TL19703012 - David Inward

At Northwood HQ Sandy Lane 1 x green veined white, 1 x small tortoiseshell and 1 x gatekeeper today - David Gower

Some sightings for Monday 18th July 2016 at Trent Park from 12:35 - 14:10 hrs - 1 Red Admiral near Oakwood entrance at 12:36 hrs, 3 Large Skipper, 4 Comma, 9 Marbled White, 1 Green-veined White near Triangular Wood, 1 Purple Hairstreak settled on edge of Church Wood, 1 female Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing settled on edge of Church Wood, 1 Small Heath, 4 Essex Skipper identified. A few more sightings for Monday 18th July 2016 - 2 Small Tortoiseshell at Vicarage Farm, Enfield and a nice fresh looking Shaded Broad-bar here also. 1 Red Admiral at Enfield Road, EN2 near Jolly Farmer's PH at 17:07 hrs. A brief visit to Town Park, Enfield on Sunday 17th July 2016 produced the following sightings between 14:50 - 15:00 hrs - 2 male Gatekeeper, 1 Green-veined White, 1 Small White, 1 female Meadow Brown nectaring on flowers near main entrance at Cecil Road - Robert Callf.

Sunday 17th July 2016

Butterfly I have seen today 17/07/16: 1 Large White on watercress plus many other unidentified whites - Walsworth Common, Hitchin TL19563031 - David Inward

Fluttering around hedgerow in Sacombe Road just passed Bullsmill Lane about 12.30 a purple emperor. - Steve Kiln

Symondshyde Great Wood, late afternoon. SWF 9 all in short section of the corridor under power lines. Around the wood, Gatekeeper 10, White Admiral 1, Comma 2, Green Veined White 2, Whites 20+, Holly Blue 1, Speck Wood 2, Ringlet many. A and P Ewer

Northaw Great Wood, Purple Emperor gave excellent sightings right in the main car park opposite the centre. About 9.45am on Friday 15th July. - Peter Walker

Bricket Wood Common, St Albans - First female Silver-washed Fritillary of the year, fluttering low in the grass along gas pipe ride. I examined the area she had been and found small violet plants growing beneath the grass. Interestingly there were no trees suitable for egg laying within 10 meters of the violets. Male Silver-washed were behaving oddly, they had all abandoned their usual perches along the ride and dispersed round the wood, mooching around in small clearings. Two males had found the golden privet in Keepers Cottage clearing and were taking turns to nectar on it and then jousting with each other. They both joined in a game of intimidate me, flying at full speed towards my eyes and then veering away at the last minute, clearly trying to get rid of me from their secret spot. At 1.25 a Purple Emperor flew languidly round a high point in the oak in Mutchetts Wood and glided along the top edge of the oak canopy. Moments later there were two flying high into the sky and away to the west. One was chasing the other and they remained a few feet apart with no signs of a clash. Three minutes later one of them returned to the high point in the oak. Also seen, 2 White and 1 Red Admirals, a Green-veined White laying on Hedge Garlic, a fresh flush of Holly Blues, including one taking salts from mud where a puddle had evaporated. Also saw 5 Purple Hairstreak, 1 Small Tortoiseshell and 2 Commas. Gatekeeper numbers are slowly increasing and there are many more whites of all three species this week. Numbers of skippers and Browns are low for this time of year, probably linked to the changes in the cattle grazing regime which has removed much of the long grass and wildflower and the wet weather - Malcolm Hull

Inspired by the walk at Ellenbrook Fields I decided to look for Emperor at Tring Park...no luck I'm afraid but in a 2 hour walk I managed well over 100 butterflies. Marbled White 50+, Meadow Brown 50+, Ringlet 30+ Small/Essex Skipper 20+, Red Admiral x2, Comma x1, Large White x1, Small White x6, Speckled Wood x5, Small Tortoiseshell x1 - Chris Hilling

Harpenden Common: Large White; Small White; Green-veined White, Meadow Brown; Ringlet; Marbled White; Gatekeeper; Large Skipper; Small Skipper; Small Tortoiseshell; Comma (1); Red Admiral (2). My south Harpenden garden: Large White (1); Small White (2); Brimstone (1 male); Holly Blue (1) - David Hunt

Brent Reservoir, 12 Gatekeeper, 2 Speckled Wood, 1 Green-veined White, 1 Comma, 6 Ringlet, 2 Red Admiral, 2 Marbled White and 1 Small Skipper - Shailesh Patel

Visited Tunnel Gardens in Bounds Green between 8.30 to 10.00 today 17th July 2016 (Grid Reference TQ292914). 6 male gatekeepers, 4 small white, 1 large white, 1 comma, 6 speckled wood, 5 large skipper, 1 male Essex skipper, 1 red admiral, 2 meadow brown, 6 ringlets
Red Admiral Photo: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/64663114@N03/28328268866/in/dateposted-public/>

Essex Skipper Photo:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/64663114@N03/28328218866/in/dateposted-public/>

Gate Keeper Photo: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/64663114@N03/27726982943/in/dateposted-public/>

Miles Attenborough

Pinner, Middlesex. We saw the first second generation Holly Blue in our garden in Pinner, yesterday - Graham and Bridget Elcombe

A few more sightings for Saturday 16th July 2016 - 1 Small Heath at Vicarage Farm, Enfield (TQ 297 968) and 1 male Oak Eggar flew towards Williams Wood at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 16:03 hrs (TQ 300 972), also 1 Peacock, 2 Small Tortoiseshell and 1 male Gatekeeper at Vicarage Farm. Sunday 17th July 2016 - 1 female Large White and 2 Small White near Oakwood entrance at Trent Park, 2 Small Heath near Cockfosters entrance at Trent Park. 4 male Gatekeeper at Monken Hadley Common (TQ 266 971) and 1 Comma here also. 1 male Gatekeeper at Covert Way LNR - Robert Callf.

Saturday 16th July 2016

Did my Warren transect. Best day yet. Temp 26C, sunny intervals. 54 Marbled White, 37 Meadow Brown, 3 Small Heath, 16 Small Skipper, 9 Large White, 12 Small/GV White (very lively), 5 Ringlet, 1 Small Tort, 1 Gatekeeper (1st this year), 5 cows, 1 small calf. Also several Common Blue Damselles and loads of Grasshopper. - John Moss

Northaw Great Wood - Dark Green Fritillary and 2+ Silver-washed Fritillary - Simon Knott

2 Silver Washed Fritillary today at Home Covert / Ellenbrook Fields TL199087. also Marbled White, Ringlet and Meadow Brown - Rupert Pyrah

Went to Bricket Wood Common today. Sightings were 3 x white admiral (2 came down together in main ride onto brambles and ferns), 3 x silver washed fritillary in same area, 1 x purple hairstreak, 39 x ringlet, 16 x small white, 11 x large white, 1 x green veined white, 16 x meadow brown, 2 x large skipper, 3 x small skipper, 17 x marbled white, 1 x brimstone(male), 4 x gatekeeper, 3 x small tortoiseshell, 1 x speckled wood, 1 x silver y. Earlier in drop lane were 3 x small white, 1 x gatekeeper, 1 x meadow brown, 1 x green veined whitem 1 x holly blue. In Bushey garden 2 x large white, 1 x small white, 1 x yellow shell. 1 x small dusty wave , 1 x emerald moth disturbed on nettles (not enough time to id species) - David Gower

Following on from Martin Webb's Purple Emperor grounding a few days ago, I visited Ellenbrook Fields today and just after 1 o'clock I located an assembly area in Home Covert where over a period of 1 hour 2 males were seen fighting, it was windy so they kept quite low - Liz Goodyear

After a enjoyable New Members butterfly walk at Ellenbrook Fields, on the way home, I stopped at Wood Farm, Stanmore Country Park, lots of flowering plants but by 4pm it was a bit breezy and overcast. However, saw my first female Clouded Yellow for a couple of years, as well as Gatekeeper(5+), Marbled White (3), Small White(2+), Ringlet (1), Meadow Brown (5+), Small Skipper (8+). In adjacent Pear Wood saw a Red Admiral (1), Large Skipper (1), Green-Veined White (1), Comma (2), Ringlet (1), Meadow Brown (2), Small Magpie Moth (1), mostly in the Old Orchard area - Paul Busby

Butterfly I have seen today 16/07/16: 1 Green-veined White plus many other unidentified whites - Walsworth Common, Hitchin TL19723025 - David Inward

1 Purple Emperor seen at 12.39 at Hampstead, by mast no further sightings. Also White-letter Hairstreak - Tony Clancy

Purple Emperor seen this morning in Sherrardspark Woods. Seen at 10.25 this morning Saturday 16 July and was on Garrods walk at the top of the rise approaching six ways. - Barbara Wilton

Just spent an hour and forty minutes at Trent Park 'New Fields' from 12:50 - 14:30 hrs and recorded the following - 101 Six-spot Burnet including many mating pairs, 9+ Gatekeeper including one female, 9 Comma, 1 male Essex Skipper identified and several Small Skipper seen, 7 Marbled White, 1 male Antler Moth nectaring on ragwort - my first of the year, 1 male Silver-washed Fritillary at approx TQ 286 970 - patrolling edge of Church Wood and clashing with a Comma 13:50 - 13:53 hrs - only my second record of this species in Trent Park after one (also a male) on 29th - 30th July 2001! 2 Purple Hairstreak edge of Church Wood (still no White-letters yet), 2 Small Heath and 1 Red Admiral near Triangular Wood 14:17 hrs - Robert Callf

Friday 15th July 2016

This morning I helped supervise the Barnhill School Year 12 Green Day, tidying up at Yeading Brook Meadows Nature Reserve and saw a dozen Meadow Browns and a Holly Blue flying over the Yeading Brook. Then at lunchtime stopped at Polski Park by the Polish War Memorial on the A40 at South Ruislip and completed a 15 minute Big Butterfly Survey (7 butterflies 4 species including Red Admiral, Meadow Brown, Green Veined White and Small White). Results entered on the interactive map. - Paul Busby

Butterflies and moths I have seen today 15/07/16: at least 10 meadow brown, at least 2 small/essex skipper, at least 6 marbled white, 6 cinnabar moth caterpillars on common ragwort - all in field behind St Mary's church, Kinsbourne Green TL112160 - David Inward

Norton Green Butterfly Walk Report (14.07.16) It was quite an eventful day as it turned out at Norton Green today in intermittent sunshine and a light breeze. Six of us arrived by 10:30 am to start our walk down the track. Just a few Ringlets and a Comma to begin with but about three-quarters of the way down the track we stopped near where there are tall oaks on both sides. In an alcove on the right we saw at least 3 Purple Hairstreaks dancing around about 10 feet up one of these oaks just before 11 am. We were also starting to see quite a few Purple Hairstreaks low down. Did the heavy rain on Tuesday wash off the honeydew on the oak leaves and hence force the insects to come down? We headed towards Pigeonswick Cottage and crossing Burleigh Meadow on the way. It was clouding over now at around 11:30 am so we didn't see too many butterflies flying around as we entered the meadow but many Skippers and Marbled Whites were about just sitting on a grass stem or flower head affording good photo opportunities. Returning towards Norton Green Common in the open area I had noticed that my generous offerings of shrimp paste and tuna were apparently ignored by any Purple Emperors. As we entered the meadow at just after noon the sun reappeared. Someone spotted a Silver-washed Fritillary glide over the western side so perhaps things were starting to look up. At 12:15 pm, Helen Lumley saw something dark and big flying towards a tall silver birch tree on the south-western edge of Watery Grove about 20 metres in from the track. And there he was, a beautiful male Purple Emperor, about 15 feet up the birch and stayed there for at least 45 minutes opening and closing its wings. Magnificent views were obtained of this very fresh specimen, possibly emerging from a nearby fallow earlier today. We ventured into the field south of Watery Grove at about 12:30 pm and aside from many Skippers, Marbled Whites, some Ringlets and Meadow Browns we saw a magnificent male Silver-washed Fritillary, again freshly emerged, on a clump of brambles on the eastern edge of Newton Wood. We returned to the common half an hour later to check on the Purple Emperor, and he was still there - slightly further up, in all his glory. Species counts: Small Skipper 30+, Large Skipper 2, Large White 1, Small White 10+, Green-veined White 1+, Purple Hairstreaks 10+, Silver-washed Fritillary 3+, Purple Emperor 1, Comma 5+, Marbled White 20+, Gatekeeper 3+, Meadow Brown 30+, Ringlet 50+ - Peter Clarke and Bob Clift

Walked my Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey today near High Cross just before the cloud cover took over. Quite a good count of butterflies, but what amazing contrasts between different habitats. Amongst nothing as usual in the built up section (sections 1 and 2). Then again almost nothing where the farmer, cuts all his wide margins back to the ditch so there is no nectar or habit (sections 3-8). The amazing banks of the A10 where I have to detour round so can't be included and the second farmer, who looks after his land for wildlife and butterfly numbers just rocket despite now nearly 100% cloud cover (section 9 and 10) - Liz Goodyear

A few sightings for the afternoon of Friday 15th July 2016 - 3+ Small Tortoiseshell at Vicarage Farm, 1 male Essex Skipper, 1 Small Skipper and 1 Ringlet here also. 1 Comma at Town Park, Enfield on Thursday 14th July 2016 at 15:13 hrs. 1 male Large White in Oakwood Park, N14 (W of

10 km line) this morning Friday 15th July 2016. - Robert Callf.

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Another morning walk, once again starting in sunshine that didn't last beyond half-way. As expected I saw the first definite Peacocks of the month and was also pleased to see another Brown Argus and a Marbled White - the latter tends to finish early here. Not much luck with Purple Hairstreak despite searching throughout the walk there was just one possible sighting (not counted). Alongside the river I found myself mesmerised for a few minutes by 2 Speckled Woods skirmishing together so rapidly and closely that at times there seemed to be several more than 2. They were still skirmishing, oblivious to all distractions, when I walked on. Here are today's sightings: Meadow Brown: 20 Red Admiral: 4 Small Heath: 2 Small Skipper: 21 Ringlet: 28 Green-Veined White: 7 Speckled Wood: 5 Comma: 10 Holly Blue: 1 Gatekeeper: 14 Small White: 6 Peacock: 2 Large Skipper: 2 Brown Argus: 1 Large White: 1 Tortoiseshell: 2 Marbled White: 1 - Pete Gore

Thursday 14th July 2016

Frogmore Meadow (HMWT reserve), in Herts section of Chess Valley.) TQ022988. Several Marbled Whites, Large Whites, Ringlets, Meadow Browns and Small Skippers. One beautiful male Silver Washed Fritillary on woodland edge of reserve on bramble flowers. Jill Saunders.

Breezy but more sunny intervals than recently, decided to walk the majority of the public footpaths in square TQ 05 89 centred on St Marys Church and ANZAC Cemetery, South Harefield. There is an abundance of Elm along the hedgerows and mature Oaks at the top of hill but no Hairstreaks were observed. For a couple of hours walk the count was reasonable; Small Skipper (1), Large Skipper (2), Large White (4), Small White (8+), Red Admiral (5), Small Tortoiseshell (3), Comma (5), Speckled Wood (1), Gatekeeper (11+), Meadow Brown (40+), Ringlet (47+). On the other side of Harvil Road, same square, in the Goat Rue infested meadow surprised to see a Marbled White, others; Small Tortoiseshell (1), Large Skipper (1), Gatekeeper (2), Ringlet (5+), Small White (2+) and Meadow Brown (10+). Locally, there seems to be a complete absence of Common Blue, Brown Argus and Small Copper so far this year - Paul Busby

Ellenbrook Fields. Plenty of butterflies in the sun among grass and on brambles. 2 SWF together on brambles at southern edge of main woods. One a female, other not clear enough. Also 4 purple hairstreaks in oaks along edge of wood - Martin Webb

A male Purple Emperor seen at Norton Green on south-western edge of Watery Grove on birch for at least two hours after 12:15 pm. A fuller report of field trip later - Peter Clarke

Weedy field Batford, brief glimpse of a LARGE BLACK & WHITE BUTTERFLY through the trees by the public footpath - west side of weedy field, Batford. Disappeared behind some of the trees & did not reappear. Spent a further 5 mins on site but had to return to work. Don't you just hate it when things like that happen! Plenty of White letter hairstreaks in the area. - Darin Stanley

Some sightings for Thursday 14th July 2016 - 2 Small Tortoiseshell at Vicarage Farm, Enfield (1 at 10:49 hrs and another at 11:11 hrs), 1 male Essex Skipper at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 11:00 hrs, 1 female Large White at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 2 Gatekeeper at Parkside Farm, Enfield (TQ 2998), 2 Small Tortoiseshell at Park Farm, Enfield, 1 Red Admiral at Park Farm, Enfield at 11:59 hrs, 1 Green-veined White and 1 Small White on damp mud at Park Farm, Enfield at 12:02 hrs, 1 Vapourer at Park Farm, Enfield, 1 Comma at Park Farm, Enfield at 12:15 hrs, 6+ Small Skipper at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park, Cinnabar caterpillars feeding on ragwort at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park, 1 Marbled White at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 12:36 hrs, 1 Red Admiral near Dew Pond, Trent Park at 12:59 hrs, 2 Purple Hairstreak edge of Williams Wood and near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 1 female Purple Emperor flew along edge of Williams Wood just above head height and settled in sallow near Dew Pond (TQ 293 973) at 13:02 hrs, 1 Shaded Broad-bar set aside field edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park - Robert Callf

Bricket Wood Common 10:30-12:30 - 4 Silver-washed Fritillary, 2 White Admiral, 5 Marbled White, 1 Small Skipper, 2 Large Skipper, 12 Ringlet, 7 Meadow Brown, 8 Large White, 4 Green-veined White. Drop Lane 13:00 - 2 White-letter Hairstreak - Bob Harris

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Another morning/early afternoon walk with sun and cloud evenly spread throughout. Highlights included what I at first thought was a Purple Hairstreak but was ultimately not surprised when, after it took to pursuing several larger butterflies, on settling it showed itself to be the first Brown Argus I've seen in July this year. Later

a male Brimstone nectared for quite a while, colourfully, on Perennial Sweet Peas; another July first leaving only Peacock for the month - and I'm pretty sure they're around too. (Only worn Common Blues have been seen so far in July.) I felt a little guilty after I noted a Tortoiseshell on the path in front me, then disturbed it in passing, only to see it grabbed in mid-air by a dragonfly - Pete Gore

Temple View, St Albans - 2 White-letter Hairstreaks chasing along the Elm canopy. One settled about three quarters of the way up an elm tree and seen clearly at rest. Millhoppers Pasture, Wilstone - Gatekeeper, Large Skippers, Small Skipper, Speckled Wood and many Meadow Browns and Ringlets - Malcolm Hull

Butterfly I have seen today 14/07/16: 1 Comma, St Faiths Close, Hitchin - David Inward

My yearly visit today to the fantastic Hexton Chalk pits again another great day and saw **Many Chalkhill Blues plus one Female**, good numbers Dark Green Fritillary, Marbled Whites, Ringlets, Meadow Browns, Large Whites, Small Heaths, Gatekeepers, Small Skippers, and a Speckled Wood - Kevin Taylor

Wednesday 13th July 2016

Made an estimated count of 200/300 Large Whites on Ovaltine fields. Looked very much like they were migrating individuals - Clive Burrows

Drop Lane, Bricket Wood - A single White-letter Hairstreak, perched 2 feet below the top of the tallest elm in the hedge at 9am. Bricket Wood Common - First Silver-washed Fritillaries (7, all males) and Gatekeepers (2) of the year on my transect this morning. White Admirals (3), Marbled Whites (16) and Purple Hairstreak (1) also spotted on the route. Too cloudy for Purple Emperors today with rain around lunchtime - Malcolm Hull

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Another morning walk, again with unfavourable weather after the Marshalling Yards although only dark clouds and a little rain rather than yesterday's soaking. Plenty of butterflies taking advantage of the sun when it was available: Small White: 14 Meadow Brown: 29 Ringlet: 18 Small Skipper: 37 Small Heath: 2 Comma: 8 Large Skipper: 2 Speckled Wood: 3 Small Copper: 1 Green-Veined White: 3 Holly Blue: 1 Gatekeeper: 5 Marbled White: 2 Lack of any migrants makes me wonder if they've all moved on looking for our summer. Good luck with that if so! Pete Gore

Afternoon visit to a boggy in places Mad Bess Woods, Ruislip and saw a Large White, a Ringlet, 2 Meadow Browns and a Purple Hairstreak high in the Oak canopy - Paul Busby

Tuesday 12th July 2016

Between the downpours this morning, the River Pinn working party saw a Southern Hawker dragonfly, a Banded Demioselle in Ruislip. On the way to coffee break we saw a couple of Meadow Browns and a possible Holly Blue fly over the field TQ089879. - Paul Busby

A few sightings for Tuesday 12th July 2016 - 3 male Gatekeeper (1 Vicarage Farm - TQ 3097, 2 together at Parkside Frm/Res - TQ 2998), 1 Small White at Vicarage Farm, 1 Comma at Vicarage Farm, 1 Green-veined White at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 13:50 hrs, 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 14:17 hrs - Robert Callf.

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards. A morning walk, initially with sunny periods but steady rain forced me home after completing the Marshalling Yards loops. Earlier spent a little time looking for Purple Hairstreaks and although I was unable to extend their known territory I did have the small satisfaction of seeing a very faded specimen briefly with its wings open. Regrettably with little colour left this was a decidedly dull individual. Here are the full details: Tortoiseshell: 1 Small White: 4 Ringlet: 25 Small Skipper: 8 Comma: 9 Purple Hairstreak: 5 Meadow Brown: 9 Large White: 4 Speckled Wood: 3 Gatekeeper: 11 Green-Veined White: 2 Holly Blue: 1 Marbled White: 1 Small Heath: 1 - Pete Gore

Sighted a male Purple Emperor on the ground whilst playing golf at Hadley Wood Golf Club on 5 July. Was able to hold it in my hands. When released it flew onto the golf buggy and after a short time launched safely away. A great experience - Robert Browning

Monday 11th July 2016

1 x small white and 1 x small magpie moth in Bushey garden. 1 x large white at Northwood ha, Sandy Lane - David Gower

Just a solitary Meadow Brown at lunchtime, on Scabious, around the margins of the car park at Mount Vernon/Bishops Wood Hospitals TQ076920. Did have a brief look at the Elms and Oaks but it was so windy with occasional drizzle that it was not surprising I saw no Hairstreaks or other woodland butterflies. Back home, sun briefly came out and saw Green Veined White, Small White and Speckled Wood in my garden. I have added these sightings to the Garden Butterfly Survey on the main BC website. It can be found on "The difference we make" and then "Recording and monitoring". tabs. There are about 1000 gardens in the survey so far, but it gives some useful stats and records about your own garden in relation to other gardens in the UK - Paul Busby

1 Large White and 1 Comma at Grovelands Park, Southgate on Sunday 10th July 2016. Monday 11th July 2016 at Oakwood Park, N14 (13:00 - 14:00 hrs) - After checking several Small Skippers identified 2 male Essex Skipper (both E of 10 km line which divides this site) - the shorter and straighter sex brands in the males is another good feature to check in this species, 2 Large Skipper, 2 male Marbled White, 1 male Gatekeeper and 1 Large White. 1 Red Admiral at Boxer's Lake, Enfield (TQ 304 962) at 14:23 hrs and 2 Comma on edge of Enfield Golf Course near Slades Rise (TQ 312 966) at 14:48 hrs - Robert Callf.

Sunday 10th July 2016

I had to inspect New Mill meadow after news from Andrew about the hay cutting. Nothing to see now on the meadow itself but thankfully the lower edge around the footpath left uncut so all activity was there... Small White x1, Marbled White 20+, Ringlet 10+, Small Skipper x3 Moved on to Little Tring and a small area of scrubland and rough track that leads into the disused dry canal and got my first Red Admiral of the year... Red Admiral x1, Small Tortoiseshell x5, Small Skipper x1, Ringlet x8, Meadow brown x5, Small White x1 - Chris Hilling

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Rained off in the morning so had to make the best of afternoon sun with cloud and breeze. Fewer sightings as might be expected but pleasing all the same. A Gatekeeper appropriately just inside my front gate surprised me so early in its species' emergence; I normally expect them here several weeks later. Better still was the first **Clouded Yellow** I've seen since 2014. This was conspicuous in the small flowery meadow just before the Cavalry Tunnel. I discovered last year that this meadow exists, whilst the rest of the flooding-susceptible riverbank is scrub or shallow woodland, because the bridge requires regular maintenance and the piling companies etc need to get elaborate equipment close to site. When they're away they leave an ideal location for butterflies, all 6 local White species including Clouded Yellow previously seen here. Towards the end of my walk I was pleased to see a Small Copper, the first in July. Here are the full details: Gatekeeper: 4 Red Admiral: 3 Meadow Brown: 13 Comma: 12 Small White: 2 Ringlet: 23 Small Skipper: 15 Clouded Yellow: 1 Small Heath: 3 Large White: 1 Holly Blue: 1 Tortoiseshell: 2 Small Copper: 1 - Pete Gore

On a blustery afternoon walked the Minet Country Park butterfly transect with Abigail from A Rocha and Louise from GiGI and pleased to see first Gatekeeper and a Red Admiral, a Comma, Green-Veined White, number of Small Whites, Skippers, Ringlets and Meadow Browns. Lovely to see a number of Marbled Whites in this country park between Southall and Hayes in quite an urban area. On way home, stopped to investigate the recently opened Polski Memorial Garden, TQ109845 (just by Polish War Memorial on A40) and despite windy conditions in 10 minutes saw 4 Small Whites in the two small wildflower beds - Paul Busby

Saturday 9th July 2016

Bricket Wood Common, St Albans - Mostly cloudy conditions for today's HMBC Butterfly walk. 36 people attended, but the butterflies were slow to appear. Ringlets dominated the early stages of the walk along the ride, later joined by Meadow Browns, Large and Green-veined Whites. Cattle were grazing in the clearing, where we also saw Large Skipper and Marbled White. A female Brimstone was seen egg laying on an Alder Buckthorn and we all saw the small white egg - unusual as they do not usually lay at this time of year. We captured a couple of moths, one of which was identified as a Dun-bar. Over lunch several of us moved on to Mutchetts Wood, where we were rewarded with multiple sightings of Purple Emperor, probably two distinct individuals, although they were 100 yards apart and did not clash during the 75 minutes we watched them. One individual was seen at least 15 times in as many minutes, gliding across and around the canopy gap and circling a high point in the oak. A White Admiral flew past while we were watching

the tree tops and Purple Hairstreak was also recorded there - Malcolm Hull

In a windy dull hour on The Warren transect route, 46 Marbled White, 24 Meadow Brown, 4 Small/GV White, 2 probable Large White, 5 Small Skipper, 4 Ringlet, 2 Small Heath. Most except Whites were disturbed as I walked through long grass, so probably more, especially small species. John Moss

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Cloud dominated and a strong breeze which always tends to clear the Heath in particular of its butterflies. Still, numbers surprised me in the end: more, fresh-looking, female Meadow Browns could be momentarily disconcerting after looking at so many smaller, darker males and Ringlets. Commas continue to do well with frequent sightings of 2-3 together as well as the usual solitary ones at any point throughout my walk. Here are the full details: Meadow Brown: 19 Comma: 15 Ringlet: 41 Small Skipper: 29 Small Heath: 4 Large White: 2 (mating) Small White: 5 Red Admiral: 1 Green-Veined White: 2 Speckled Wood: 1 Marbled White: 1 Gatekeeper: 2 Large Skipper: 1 Tortoiseshell: 2 - Pete Gore

1 red admiral at Bushey Station today - David Gower

A decidedly breezy couple of hours on Nomansland Common produced the following: 2 Large White; 3 Comma; 4 Small Tortoiseshell; 1 Small Heath; 1 Large Skipper; 3 Small Skipper (confirmed); 2 Essex Skipper (confirmed); 5 Small/Essex Skipper (too windy to examine these properly); 2 Common Blue; many Ringlet; many Marbled White; many Meadow Brown; and several groups of Cinnabar larvae. And then on to Heartwood Forest: many Marbled White, many Meadow Brown; 20+ Ringlet (much less common than on Nomansland); 2 Small Tortoiseshell; 2 Small/Essex Skipper; 1 Large Skipper; and several groups of Cinnabar larvae - David Hunt

Friday 8th July 2016

In Bencroft Wood two white admirals, in field behind my first gatekeeper and purple hairstreak plus 30 small skippers and ten or so Essex skippers. In Broxbourne Wood ride 5 silver-washed fritillaries and two more in glade - Steve Kiln

Despite mostly cloud cover (blue sky all around!) 1 Purple Emperor made a brief visit. I gave up after an hour and went to Broxbourne Common, here it was on the cloud edge, unfortunately the wrong edge but just after 4 the sun managed to light up the big oaks and 1 Purple Emperor flew across. No Purple Hairstreaks seen - Liz Goodyear

Things are starting to move on Harpenden Common, with Ringlet being the most numerous butterfly followed by Meadow Brown (although still fewer than last year) and Small Tortoiseshell: 8 Small Tortoiseshell, several laying batches of eggs; 3 very nice Comma; 1 Large White; 6 Small White nectaring on Water Forget-me-not; 5 Small Skipper (but still no Essex); 3 Common Blue (males); many Ringlet; 20+ Meadow Brown and a nest of young Cinnabar larvae on one of the very few ragwort plants left on the Common - they will need a lot of luck to find another - David Hunt

Two Marbled Whites and two Meadow Browns on Harpenden Common yesterday evening (7 July '16) - Alan Jackson

Blustery afternoon hours walk around Park Wood (behind Grangewood School section) - TQ0988 and saw an Essex Skipper, a Large Skipper, 2 Large Whites, a Comma, a Speckled Wood, at least 18 Meadow Browns and at least 27 Ringlets. Then up to St Vincents - TQ 0989 and in the field opposite saw another Essex Skipper, a Large Skipper, a Comma, 3 Marbled Whites and at least 20 Meadow Browns and at least 10 Ringlets. Across to the margins of Haste Hill Golf Course and saw another Essex Skipper, a couple of Meadow Browns and at least 3 Ringlets. Very windy and no Purple Emperors observed - Paul Busby

Thursday 7th July 2016

Surprised to see. Ellenbrook fields, track south of main wood. Stayed a couple of minutes on track. Male Purple Emperor - looked fresh. Seen at 2 o'clock - Martin Webb

A late morning stroll around Symondshyde Great Wood: many Ringlet; many Meadow Brown; 3 Speckled Wood; 3 Green-veined White; 1 Small Tortoiseshell; 1 Comma; 1 White Admiral; 1 Large Skipper. Not a sign of SWF which were frequently seen at this time last year - hopefully they are just a little tardy at this site - David Hunt

Missed news from Tuesday 5th; Rayners Mead Allotments, Imperial Drive, Harrow 1 Ringlet - a first for me in London suburbia, also 1 Large White - Pauline Schofield

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey Late morning/afternoon in sun/cloud mix. Numbers still increasing overall, more unidentified Whites than identified but not large numbers yet. The Common Blue seen was a faded female, the Holly Blue is the first of the new brood in my own garden.: Tortoiseshell: 5 Small White: 6 Ringlet: 46 Small Skipper: 47 Purple Hairstreak: 1 Meadow Brown: 18 Red Admiral: 1 Comma: 15 Speckled Wood: 2 Marbled White: 1 Common Blue: 1 Small Heath: 4 Large White: 1 Large Skipper: 1 Gatekeeper: 1 Green-Veined White: 1 Holly Blue: 1 A Kingfisher was a welcome sight, darting up-river as I headed down. - Pete Gore

A few selected counts for Trent Park this afternoon Thursday 7th July 2016 (15:30 - 16:30 hrs) - 3 male Large Skipper, 7 Marbled White, 4 Comma, 5 Small Heath and 5+ Six-spot Burnet - they have just started to emerge in the last few days (last checked the area on 2nd July 2016 when just cocoons were present. 1 Red Admiral at Oakwood Station on Wednesday 6th July 2016 at 15:45 hrs fluttering against a window. 2 Small Tortoiseshell nectaring on buddleia at Dalrymple Close, N14 this morning Thursday 7th July 2016 at 11:30 hrs - Robert Callf.

Yesterday while at Norton Green I saw 3 Purple Hairstreaks (at last) clashing over one of the tall oaks on the western side of the track at around 1015 am but then saw none in the next 5 hours while scouring over dozens of oaks searching for the other purple one! Still no Silver-washed Fritillaries. Saw a Comma feasting on a dead hedgehog. 2 Red Admirals as well as scores of Ringlets and some Speckled Woods and Meadow Browns. Peter Clarke

Wednesday 6th July 2016

Hillbrow, LGC. - Marbled White 100+; Ringlet 100+; Meadows Brown 100+; Large Skipper 10+; Small Skipper 3; Small Tortoiseshell 2; Small Blue 10+. Roger Millard

The following seen during short half hour visit to Ellenbrook Fields 05-06-16: Large Skipper x 6 Meadow Brown x 7 Marbled White x 6 Ringlet x 20+ Small Tortoiseshell x 1 Cinnabar x 2 - David Wheatcroft

News from the 4th: Tyttenhanger GP (south) TL198044 11am along trackside rank vegetation at edge of pits now being restored. Up to six Marbled White butterflies together along c. 50 yards of rank mature vegetation at edge of gravel extractions now being restored. Noted as unusual as I have been through this and adjacent areas over many years and not encountered the species here before - James Terry

The branch meeting at Ruislip Woods NNR was very well supported today. Highlights included numerous Marbled Whites; a Painted Lady; a Comma; four White Admirals and a Red Admiral in Copse Wood and Purple Emperor at the usual spot at St Vincents. The latter was best seen from the roadway by the Nursing Home (thanks to the small breakaway group who initially found it) above the nearest oak tree by the entrance to the woods. Initially only intermittent sightings of just one PE during sunny intervals were had and the group gradually dispersed but, at the last throw of the dice, a sighting of two PEs spiralling above the tree produced a grand finale. Dick Middleton

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/ Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. A lovely summer morning. An early surprise was a Purple Hairstreak close to ground level amongst the grass and flowers where I expect to see Skippers and Small Heaths. I was able to get within a few inches of this one and although its wings were closed as it walked amongst the grass, my position above it meant that when it did finally fly I got brief glimpses of beautiful fresh purple colouring. Purple Hairstreaks were easier to spot today, with several possibilities at various locations throughout the walk (not listed). Near the end one butterfly, not on Oak, seemed to show orange colouring but I was tiring by this time (If there isn't a condition called 'Hairstreak Neck' there should be!) and my view was brief and partially obscured, so I'll need much better evidence before convincing myself of a local new species. A slight boom in Skippers suggests I should look more closely at them too. 'Skippers Knees' is another proposed medical condition. Here are the full details: Red Admiral: 2 Meadow Brown: 12 Purple Hairstreak: 6 Small Skipper: 42 Small Heath: 3 Ringlet: 68 Comma: 14 Green-Veined White: 1 Speckled Wood: 5 Painted Lady: 1 Large White: 2 Marbled White: 1 Small White: 2 Holly Blue: 1 - Pete Gore

Some sightings for Wednesday 6th July 2016 - 4+ Small Tortoiseshell at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 1 female Essex Skipper at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at Hog Hill, 1 Painted Lady at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 10:58 hrs, 2 Small White at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 2 Large Skipper along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 11:14 hrs, 1 Comma at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 11:15 hrs, 1 Shaded Broad-bar at Parkside Farm/ Res, Enfield - my first of the year! 1 Small White at Park Farm, Enfield, 4+ Small Tortoiseshell at Park Farm, Enfield, 1 Gatekeeper at Park Farm, Enfield at 11:50 hrs - my first of the year! 1 Purple Hairstreak settled in grass at Park Farm, Enfield (TQ 289 988), in perfect condition and obviously newly emerged at 12:02 (good views of both underside and upperside of wings), 1 Comma at Park Farm, Enfield at 12:18 hrs, 1 Hummingbird Hawkmoth nectaring at Bramble blossom at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park (TQ 288 977) at 12:38 - 12:39 hrs - perhaps surprisingly my first record for this site! 1 Comma edge of Icehouse Wood, Trent Park at 12:56 hrs, 1 Red Admiral along bridle path near Shaws Wood, Trent Park at 13:10 hrs, 1 Comma along bridle path near Shaws Wood, Trent Park at 13:10 hrs - Robert Callf

Weedy field, Batford: upto 5 White-letter Hairstreak so far, in small trees by public footpath to the west side of the weedy field, plenty of marbled whites about to - Darin Stanley

Tuesday 5th July 2016

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. An afternoon walk with a mix of sunny and cloudy conditions. I felt a little foolish chasing what was obviously a Gatekeeper backwards and forwards along the footpath but it did eventually settle on a bramble above my head providing me with a slightly peculiar view for a first of the year. The next several hundred are unlikely to attract similar attention. This is the 24th species here this year the same as last year. Only Clouded Yellow, last seen in 2014, is outstanding. Here's today's full list: Holly Blue: 1 Meadow Brown: 18 Ringlet: 54 Small White: 6 Small Skipper: 15 Comma: 8 Red Admiral: 1 Green-Veined White: 1 Marbled White: 3 Large White: 2 Small Heath: 3 Gatekeeper: 1 Painted Lady: 2 The two Painted Ladies were not seen together: one rested on the footpath, the next several minutes later flew vigorously high and far away over trees never to be seen again - they could have been the same individual. There were more Whites flying today but unfortunately many went unidentified. I suspect Small White was dominant. - Pete Gore

Two White Letter hairstreaks at Six Hills Common, Stevenage this afternoon. A Hummingbird Hawkmoth very active around a Privet bush in Byde Street, Bengo, Hertford - Andrew Wood

I sighted a hummingbird hawkmoth in my conservatory at about 20.00h today (5/7/16) in How Street, St Albans - Clare Byrne

Some sightings for Tuesday 5th July 2016 - Oakwood Park, N14 (12:00 - 12:50 hrs) - 10 Ringlet (most were W of 10 km line), 3 Large Skipper 2m 1f (E of 10 km line), 9 Small Skipper (E of 10 km line), 1 male Marbled White E of 10 km line. Grovelands Park (13:00 - 14:35 hrs) - 1 male Large Skipper, 1 Ringlet - Robert Callf

2 Purple Emperors flying high over one of the tall oaks near Rusling End between 2:15 and 2:30 pm in intermittent sunshine but no further activity for half an hour afterwards. - Peter Clarke and Don Gregory

New Mill, Tring (SP923131) A very productive 15min walk at 5.30 this evening - Small Tortoiseshell x2 both pristine, Marbled White 25+, Ringlet 20+, Meadow Brown 20+, Small Skipper x6 and also Six Spot Burnet x3. This meadow has quite a lot of field scabious. - Chris Hilling

Monday 4th July 2016

News from 3rd - This morning my wife and I made a visit to the Sapporro Autumn Gold Elm trees at The Ride entrance to Durants Park in Ponders End. Over a period of 40 minutes we saw several White Letter Hairstreaks on and around the two trees and several times observed them spiralling upwards. Also there we saw a Comma and a Large White - Terry Wood

Norton Rd., Baldock (TL237344) - 09.30 to 10.00. White-letter Hairstreak - a few sightings two seen spiraling together on two occasions - Roger Millard

On The Warren 32 Meadow Brown, 45 Marbled White, 11 Ringlet, 5 Small Heath, 5 Small Skipper, 2 Common Blue. Marbled White & Ringlet only appeared a few years ago but seem well established

now. Cattle resting across my transect route which is now pretty elastic. Unfortunately no sun by the time I got there, but temp 20C with blustery wind. Also this morning in bright sunlight in my Hatfield garden 1 pristine Small Tortoiseshell & 1 pristine Red Admiral, both nectaring on flowers in pots, a welcome sight for sore eyes - John Moss

I would like to report I took this photo (on branch FB page) of a **Purple Emperor** on Hertford Heath this morning. This was close to the Balls wood entrance. I saw a white admiral in Balls wood also today. - Steve Wooderson

Some sightings for Monday 4th July 2016 - 2 Small Tortoiseshell at Rectory Farm, Enfield, 1 Speckled Wood at Rectory Farm, Enfield at 11:51 hrs, 1 male Small Skipper settled on wet mud at Rectory Farm, Enfield at 11:55 hrs, 11+ Meadow Brown at Rectory Farm, Enfield, 1 Comma at Flash Lane, Enfield at 12:24 hrs, 1 Holly Blue at Flash Lane, Enfield at 12:25 hrs, 1 female Large White at Flash Lane Aqueduct, 1 Ringlet at Flash Lane Aqueduct, 2 **Purple Emperor** at assembly area near North Lodge, Whitewebbs Wood (TQ 324 998) at 13:02 hrs (several sightings between 12:55 and 13:03 hrs, then no further sightings up until 13:14 hrs), 2 Purple Hairstreak at Whitewebbs Wood in the same area, 1 male Large Skipper at Whitewebbs Farm, Enfield (TL 327 001) at 13:31 hrs, 2 Small Tortoiseshell at Whitewebbs Farm, Enfield, 1 Ringlet at Whitewebbs Farm, Enfield, 1 Small White at Whitewebbs Farm, Enfield at 13:34 hrs, 3 Large Skipper edge of Archery Wood, Forty Hall Park, 4 Ringlet, edge of Archery Wood at Forty Hall Park, 2 Meadow Brown edge of Archery Wood at Forty Hall Park, 6+ Ringlet at Forty Hall Park, Enfield, 1 Speckled Wood at Forty Hall Park, Enfield and 1 Holly Blue at Myddleton Ave, EN2 opposite Adelaide Close (TQ 334 980) at 14:56 hrs. A couple of butterflies in Dalrymple Close, N14 this morning - 1 Ringlet and 1 Small Tortoiseshell. One Speckled Wood settled on wall near outside lights at ASDA Southgate on Saturday 2nd July 2016 - Robert Callf

We saw several dark green fritillaries at Hexton CP today on our grassland survey. There were also lots of marbled white, ringlet and meadow brown. Jenny Sherwen

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. A morning walk, outward in bright sunshine (but plenty of shade as the sun rises), return journey from the river onwards mostly cloud. A good first sighting of Purple Hairstreak. I'd been looking up at several likely Oaks through binoculars but saw nothing until I put them aside and noticed an anonymous little butterfly flying above the Brambles beneath the trees. Thankfully it settled on a leaf, predictably in the middle of the Bramble patch, but even from several feet away I was able to see a conspicuous eye-spot on its hind-wing, thus giving me a positive identification and no bramble scratches! Despite further checking tree-tops in the sun I saw no more signs of Purple Hairstreak so I suspect we're only just starting here. Right at the end of my walk I was mildly surprised to see a Holly Blue. Here are the full details: Comma: 12 Small White: 4 Small Heath: 6 Large Skipper: 4 Small Skipper: 33 Large White: 3 Purple Hairstreak: 1 Ringlet: 59 Green-Veined White: 3 Tortoiseshell: 2 Meadow Brown: 14 Speckled Wood: 3 Marbled White: 1 Red Admiral: 1 Holly Blue: 1. (15 species today, 17 in July so far.) - Pete Gore

Sunday 3rd July 2016

Stanwell Moor **2nd July** Comma - 5 Red Admiral - 5 Small Heath - 1 Meadow Brown - 10+ Small/GV White - 5+ Whilst watching three Commas and a Red Admiral tussling over a patch of bramble, I spotted something smaller and less energetic. This was my first **Gatekeeper** of the year.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB//download/file.php?id=90530&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB//download/file.php?id=90531&mode=view>

Dave Miller

Morning visit to BALLS WOOD, 1 White admiral, on the ground then flew up into an Oak tree, looked very fresh and bright, lots of Ringlets, Meadow browns and Large skippers, BROXBORNE WOODS MAIN RIDE. 6 Silver washed fritillary, all males. 1st July, quick visit to THERFIELD HEATH EAST just 1 Dark green fritillary motoring around in a small coombe, also at least 20 Marbled white, plenty of Meadow browns, Ringlet, 3 Small tortoiseshell and 1 Small heath. - Laurence Drummond

Aldbury Nowers, south enclosure between 11 and 12 this morning - Dark Green Fritillary x4, Marbled White x19, Meadow brown x16, Ringlet x13, Small Skipper x6, **Essex Skipper x1**, Speckled Wood x2, Small heath x9, Brown Argus x1 - Chris Hilling

Verulamium Park, St Albans - Up early to look for White-letter Hairstreaks. 8.30am, Abbey View

Golf Course, King Harry Lane - 2 male WLH's clashing high above the elm, circling round each other they went so high up that they disappeared from my view. 9.00 am Bluehouse Hill - 2 WLH's, one chasing the other along the full length of the elm canopy. Elsewhere in the park 40+ Meadow Browns, 6 Small Tortoiseshells, 2 Marbled Whites and 3 Ringlets - Malcolm Hull

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. A morning walk without rain or strong breezes but still too much cloud. I spent some time looking for Purple Hairstreaks but, despite 2 or 3 unidentified sightings in likely spots, saw nothing which really convinced me. Ringlets seem to be colonising more of the Heath and its good to see Marbled White there too. The single Common Blue seen was a very worn, faded specimen: Large White: 4 Ringlet: 51 Small Skipper: 20 Small Heath: 8 Marbled White: 4 Small White: 4 Large Skipper: 6 Comma: 14 Meadow Brown: 10 Common Blue: 1 Green-Veined White: 1 Speckled Wood: 1 - Pete Gore

Went to Horsenden Hill today. Sightings were 5 x white letter hairstreak, 110 x meadow brown, 4 x comma, 2 x small tortoiseshell, 1 x small skipper, 26 x marbled white. 28 x ringlet, 6 x large skipper, 2 x large white, 1 x speckled wood, 1 x small white, 1 x silver y - David Gower

This morning in field adjacent to St Vincent's - 5 fresh Marbled Whites, 20+ Meadow Browns & a single pristine Small Tortoiseshell. Later, in Ruislip Woods - many Meadow Browns and Ringlets, 1 Small Skipper, 1 Large White and 1 brand new Red Admiral mud-puddling - in some places most paths are currently ankle deep in mud! No White Admirals seen - Tony and Gill Porter

Butterflies I have seen today 03/07/16: 1 Meadow Brown, 1 Comma, 1 Green-veined White, 1 Speckled Wood - Walsworth Common Hitchin TL1930. - David Inward

Saturday 2nd July 2016

Just to say that I spent about two hours at Ruislip St Vincents from 1.00pm without seeing a Purple emperor. Apart from brief spells it remained sunny throughout although the treetops were swaying vigorously at times! Like you and Andrew I had a single Purple hairstreak at intervals. No White admirals in the wood either so far. - Dick Middleton

Therfield Heath: 1 male **chalkhill blue** near the Therfield Road. Also 80+ marbled whites, 50+ small heath, 30+ ringlet, 1 small skipper, 6 large skipper, 4 common blue (3m, 1f), 4 brown argus (very tatty), 4 small tortoiseshell, 3+ dark green fritillary, 1 large white and hundreds of meadow browns. - Martin Johnson

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Several rain-showers, lots of cloud, strong breezes and over 100 sightings for the first time this year: Comma: 16 Small Heath: 3 Marbled White: 3 Ringlet: 42 Red Admiral: 2 Small White: 4 Small Skipper: 12 Speckled Wood: 2 Large Skipper: 5 Meadow Brown: 6 Tortoiseshell: 4 Large White: 2. Given the weather, true numbers of butterflies probably much higher - there were large stretches without sightings when it was raining or cloudy. Absence of Purple Hairstreak shouldn't be taken as a reliable indication that they're not yet flying here. It'll need the right combination of sunshine in appropriate spots and my alertness which is not necessarily as simple as it should be. Ditto but more so, Essex Skipper but Skippers generally are not doing as well as I would expect even allowing for the weather (Could be last year's serious fires in later summer to blame.) - Pete Gore

Went to Bricket Wood Common today but no sign of white admirals or emperors. Did record 2 x painted lady, 1 x red admiral, 1 x large white, 8 x speckled wood, 1 x small white, 12 x marbled white, 2 x small tortoiseshell, 6 x large skipper, 42 x ringlet, 27 x meadow brown, 2 x brimstone males. In field just past old fox pub next to underpass, Garston noticed 4 x meadow brown, 11 x ringlet, 3 x marbled white, 1 x common blue, 1 x comma surprisingly my first this year! David Gower

Greyish day in Broxbourne woods, plenty of ringlets and meadow browns and a few large skippers but **3 silver washed fritillaries** in glade and one in ride, plenty of marbled whites in field behind Bencroft wood - Steve Kiln

Some butterfly counts for Trent Park 'New Fields' this afternoon Saturday 2nd July 2016 between 12:25 - 13:20 hrs - 39 Ringlet, 27 Meadow Brown, 1 female Common Blue at 12:33 hrs, 9 Small Heath, 43 Small Skipper, 11 Marbled White, 2 male Large Skipper, 3 Comma in Sect 4 at 12:53 hrs. 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Allotments near ASDA Southgate on Friday 1st July 2016 at 14:45 hrs. 6 Small Tortoiseshell at Vicarage Farm, Enfield on Saturday 2nd July 2016 between 15:11 and

15:40 hrs, also 2 Large White and 3 Ringlet here. - Robert Callf.

6 Ringlet, 1 Speckled Wood and 3 Large Skipper, Harrow Cemetery - Shailesh Patel

Plenty of butterfly activity on Harpenden Common for a change and good to see a reasonable brood of Small Tortoiseshell. Butterflies seen: 10+ Marbled White; 10+ Ringlet; 10+ Meadow Brown; 10+ Small Tortoiseshell; 1 Large White; 1 Large Skipper (male); & 2 Small Skipper (both males). Several Small Tortoiseshell females were busy laying eggs on the nettles - even a sharp squall failed to deter one which merely closed its wings until the rain had ceased - David Hunt

Butterfly I have seen today 02/07/16: 1 small tortoiseshell - Old Park Road, Hitchin TL18092930 - David Inward

Friday 1st July 2016

In between the lengthy bouts of dreadful weather, here are a few sightings.

Stanwell Moor 21st June (late afternoon). Large Skipper - 5 Small Heath - 5+ Meadow Brown 10+
The first female of this species seen today

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB//download/file.php?id=89862&mode=view>

Common Blue - 5 Small Tortoiseshell - 3

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB//download/file.php?id=89864&mode=view>

Stanwell Moor 22nd June. Large Skipper - 4 Small Heath - 5+ Common Blue - 3 Small
Tortoiseshell - 5 Meadow Brown - 15+ Comma (hutchinsoni form) - 1

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB//download/file.php?id=89867&mode=view>

The new brood of Comma to me marks the true onset of summer - a pity the weather doesn't agree.

Stanwell Moor 27th June. Large Skipper - 1 Small Tortoiseshell - 1 Comma - 1 Meadow Brown - 20+

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB//download/file.php?id=90407&mode=view>

Stanwell Moor 1st July. This evening I visited the verge of the LHR T4 roundabout (on Stanwell Moor Road) where there is a reliable colony of **Essex Skippers**. I managed to see two in the late intermittent sunshine and stiff breeze. The first on my patch this year.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB//download/file.php?id=90409&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB//download/file.php?id=90414&mode=view>

Dave Miller

Marbled White at Withy beds LNR Rickmansworth - Joan Thompson

This afternoon at Danemead I saw 1 **Silver washed fritillary** and lots of ringlets and meadow browns Jenny Sherwen