

Archive Page

Sightings and news from January to June 2008

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This page contains sightings details of all the butterflies and moths reported to the [Sightings page](#) between January and June 2008.

Note: These pages have been copied from the original sightings page and some links will no longer work. All images of butterflies or moths have been removed, but most can be found in the [Photo House](#)

June 2008

30th June 2008

One Small Tortoiseshell in Ware Park at 1700 tonight. A few Meadow Browns, Ringlets and Large Skippers on Kings Meads at lunchtime. But I did count 43 Narrow bordered 5 spot burnets on the path below the A10 flyover - Andrew Wood

Therfield Heath, excellent numbers of Marbled White, at the north east corner of the reserve TL351402. As soon as the sun came out, up to 5 seen in the air. Hard to estimate total size of colony but it must be 100+. It is a STRONG colony and the limitation to further expansion could be shortage of favourite nectar plants, Knapweed - Jack Harrison

6+ White letter Hairstreak at Coppetts Wood clashing over Ash at 9.45 am on Thurs 26th June - Tony Clancy

Horsenden Hill, headline of the day: My first Gatekeeper of 2008 spotted in Upper Thrifts! Just the one spotted. A beautiful pristine Male. But didn't stay still long enough for a picture. Otherwise the whole hill was swarming with Meadow Browns and miscellaneous Skippers (large and small atleast). Plenty of Speckled Woods too. Plus one fresh new Comma, and a dark blue/grey lep hairstreaking its way high over a hedge. Dunno exactly what it was. Purple Hairstreak maybe? (Oak wasn't that far away.) Also plenty of Burnets on the move too. But nothing much else to report. I was looking out for Ringlets to repeat last year's record, but none spotted. - Mike Rubin

Oakhill Wood Woods EN4 LNR, Central area/ stream confluence next to snapped off London Plane tree /flying in canopy of large Wych elm-----these elms are dying off this year-----as are the suckers---- - Kit Jones

News for today (Monday 30th June 2008) at Trent Park, 'New Fields', between 12:05 - 13:30 BST - At least 30 Ringlet, although not individually counted; 7 Large Skipper; 1 Gatekeeper, Sect.8 - My first of the year, only seen in flight, but 100% sure; 3 Comma, all summer-brood, (1 Sect.7, 12:41 BST, 1 Sect.6, 12:47 BST, 1 Sect.4, 13:00 BST); 5 Small Heath, between 12:50 - 13:15 BST; 1 Red Admiral, Sect.3, near Church Wood, 13:06 BST; 1 Purple Hairstreak, Snakes Lane, 13:22 BST. A number of Small Skipper and Meadow Brown. News for yesterday (Sunday 29th June 2008) at Oakwood Park, N14, between 16:00 - 17:00 BST - 1 male Purple Hairstreak; 1 Red Admiral, at 16:05 BST; 3 Large Skipper; 3 Small Skipper and Meadow Browns - Robert Callf

Kings Langley: I know this sounds incredible but I visited my mother on Saturday and she told me she had seen a big black and white butterfly with white stipes last week [Thursday June26th]. I asked her was it a Marbled White but she said no it was bigger than that and added it was as large as a Peacock. She went into the bedroom and looked on the butterfly chart and she pointed out a White Admiral! I asked mum "are you sure because I would not expect to see a WA in Barnes Rise" and she said she had got a very good look at it because it was trapped in the greenhouse and I had to let it out.. Mum is convinced she saw a WA; she even commented that just like the PE that passed through her garden in July last year she knew it was different from what she had seen in the garden before. Again I'm amazed, the nearest White Admirals are in woods a few miles away near Watford, but that said I know that WAs are flying at present in the Watford area

because I saw a half dozen on my BC field trip to Ruislip about a week ago. ps Only Meadow Browns flying in Vi's garden on Saturday 28th..... not a white to be seen! - David Chandler

Horsenden Hill: The joint BC/LNHS walk on Saturday morning, 28th June, went well with 13 participants in addition to Dave Howdon and myself. After showing off the contents of the overnight moth trap (highlights Small Elephant Hawk Moth, Poplar Hawk, Scarce Silver Lines) we successfully checked out a spot for Slow-worm, seeing about 9-10 in total. Then off to our first stop for White-letter Hairstreak, our prime target species for the day. We quickly found four individuals over the low elms alongside the footpath/cycle path near the Horsenden Lane canal bridge. One or two sat up briefly to allow views through binoculars or through the telescope, but most people were more satisfied when we got a nectaring individual at head height on bramble. A very obliging Purple Hairstreak was sat in the elms in the same area and allowed prolonged scrutiny using the telescope. We crossed the road into Batts Field, picking up commoner stuff like Meadow Brown, Speckled Wood, Large White and Large Skipper, along with Burnet Companion. This area of the site used to be one of the better spots for W-IH, but the elm habitat here has deteriorated in recent times and we found none here. Great Bramstons was relatively unproductive (as usual!) but once we got out onto Home Mead we quickly discovered three Marbled Whites along with Small Skipper and Narrow-bordered 5-spot Burnet Moth. After a successful morning I set out to do the Horsenden West transect just after noon and found 6 White-letters on section one (the same spot where we had four examples in the morning). This was quickly eclipsed by the appearance of a White Admiral in Section 2 (Batts Field). This was my first confirmed White Admiral for the site (following a tantalising glimpse of a high flying individual a few years ago), though I know of one or two records here over the last few years. Unfortunately it did not linger and was only seen by one other lucky individual. On my way back home I netted my first Essex Skipper of the year and also picked up a couple of **Gatekeepers**. - Andy Culshaw

News from Diane Andrews: walking from Tring Station to Aldbury Nowers across the fields 263 Ringlets and 72 Marbled Whites were counted in an hour in cloudy and windy conditions. Also at Ally Pally on the 25th 2 Painted Ladies.

About 5 White-letter Hairstreaks were seen around noon on the east side of the overpass where Lord Street crosses the A10 (TL359087) (both sides of the road). A nice spot: many tree tops are at head height! Between 2 and 3 pm, single White Admirals were seen three times in or over a large patch of bramble in Highfield Wood. Also present there: 1 Red Admiral, 1 very worn Comma, 2 Large and 1 Small Skipper and plenty of Common Ringlets - Jan Hein van Steenis

Just completed my first walk for Herts & Mdx BC at Ladywalk Wood in Maple Cross on Sunday morning. The weather was alternately hot and humid then cloudy and windy! In the 2 hours or so we saw the following butterflies - 1 comma, 2 red admirals, 1 lone large white. There were a few large skippers but a great many meadow browns and ringlets. We lost count after a couple of dozen of each. Our target species for the walk was white letter hairstreak. We saw several pairs spiralling above the trees and got a closer look through binoculars at one which was settled on ash. I was also very pleased to see several dozen marbled whites throughout the area. In fact they seemed as common as the meadow browns. It was disappointing to see no signs of peacock or small tortoiseshell caterpillars on any of the nettles. Finally we also saw a narrow bordered 5 spot burnet and a shaded broad bar moth, some black tailed skimmers and a skylark - Ann Piper

A walk round Wheathampstead LNR produced 20+ Marbled Whites, numerous Meadow Browns and Ringlets, 1 Small Skipper, 10+ 5-spot Burnet Moths, 1 Shaded Broad Bar, 1 Red Admiral

News for Fri 27th June 2008 - 2 Ringlet, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 13:46 BST; 1 Small Skipper, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 14:09 BST; 1 Small White, at Park Farm; 1 Speckled Wood, at Park Farm, 14:44 BST; 1 Painted Lady, at Park Farm, 14:48 BST - only my second record for the year!; 1 Small Heath, at Parkside Farm, 15:10 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, at Parkside Farm, 15:17 BST; 3 Large Skipper, at Vicarage Farm (1 along Leeging Beech Gutter near Williams Wood, 15:30 BST, 1 along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, 15:34 BST, 1 at 'Barracks', 15:55 BST); 1 Small Heath, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 15:37 BST; 1 Red Admiral, near Firing Range, at Vicarage Farm, 16:00 BST, also a Weasel here.

Thursday 26th June

A White Admiral seen in Knebworth Woods at around 1050 am today plus several Meadow Browns and Ringlets. - Peter Clarke

Monday 23rd. Ruislip Woods. Finally things have started picking up. 2 **Purple Hairstreak**, 1 Red Admiral, 1 Comma, many Speckled Woods, a dozen or so Ringlets and 15 White Admiral sighted throughout Park, Mad Bess and Copse Woods plus Large and Small/Essex skippers and many Browns along the fringes. A solitary Common Blue seen clinging on for life out of the wind in the scrubby area on the steep eastern hillside of Haste Hill golf course. 5 Marbled Whites and many Mother Shiptons and Browns on Ruislip common (north west of the Lido car park). Highlight of this 3 hour observation was having a 'fresh as a daisy' White Admiral basking on my leg but much too quick for me to photograph - Nick Furtek

Just visited the 'New Fields', Trent Park between 14:05 - 15:20 BST and recorded the following - 12 Ringlet, (6 in Sect.1, 14:11 - 14:17 BST; 5 'New Fields', between 14:25 - 14:57 BST, 1 set-aside field near Triangular Wood, 15:12 BST); 7 Large Skipper, between 14:11 - 15:02 BST; 12 Small Heath, between 14:15 - 15:05 BST; 4 Small Skipper; 2 Speckled Wood, Sect.7, 14:34 - 14:36 BST; 2 Comma, Sect.4, one 'faded', 14:52 BST and one 'fresh', 14:58 BST; 1 Narrow-bordered Five-Spot Burnet, Sect.1; 1 Burnet Companion, Sect.6 - Robert Callf

Went over to Oak Hill Park, East Barnet again yesterday (Weds 25th June 2008) with Bob Husband and saw the following - 3 Large Skipper, including a female; 1 Comma - the first 'summer-brood' I have seen; Meadow Brown and at least four Speckled Wood - Robert Callf

Wednesday 25th June

Found 6 White Admirals in an early morning trip to Bricket Wood. Settling frequently in the ideal sun/cloud conditions. Also 2 Ringlets and a pair of Large Skippers. - Clive Burrows

Whilst picking my granddaughter up from school today, we saw 4 Marbled Whites, 3 Ringlets and a Meadow Brown all by the Welcome to Stevenage sign, between Sainsbury's and Stevenage North/A1 junction - Steve Lane

Batford, seen in my lunch: ½ hr. 2 Marbled White, 4 Large Skipper, 1 Ringlet, 1 Common Blue, 2 Small Heath, Numerous Meadow browns - Darin Stanley Popped down to Waterford Heath south pit, this morning 25th, it was cloudy and windy with little sun. saw 30 plus meadow browns, a couple of small heath ,ten ringlets a small white and to my surprise a marbled white. photos attached - Steve Kiln

News for yesterday (Tues 24th June 2008) - 1 Red Admiral, bridle-path near Merryhills Brook, Trent Park, 15:34 BST; 3 Speckled Wood,(2 together, bridle-path near Merryhills Brook, 15:34 BST, 1 near Shaws Wood, Trent Park, 15:39 BST); 4 Ringlet,(3 edge of Williams Wood, 15:48 BST, 1 near Dew Pond, 15:53 BST); 1 male Large Skipper, edge of Williams Wood, 15:48 BST; 1 Common Blue, at Parkside Farm - on Res banking, 16:40 BST; 1 Large Skipper, at Parkside Farm - on Res banking, 16:45 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, at Parkside Farm, near Hadley Road Pumping Station, 16:55 BST; 2 Small Heath, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 17:01 and 17:03 BST; 5 Large Skipper, along gravel-track, at Vicarage Farm, 17:19 - 17:25 BST, including at least one female - Robert Callf.

Tuesday 24th June

On 24th June Tuesday, at Balls Wood, I saw my first White Admiral of the year at 1.55pm. 1 newly emerged Comma plus 1 very worn, lots of Speckled Woods, Large Skippers, Ringlets & Meadow Browns Plus a Buzzard . Yesterday I walked through Balls wood along Ermine Rd to Goose Green and then into Broxbourne Woods taking the path right of the pond. The track to start with was very muddy and overgrown but I managed to walk to the top of the hill, my sighting were 1 Large White, Large Skippers, Meadow Browns and Ringlets. I also saw puddles along the track that contained many Tadpoles and baby Newts. (I hope the puddles don't dry out.) - Sandra Standbridge.

Horsenden Hill, nothing as exciting as yesterday but it still had its moments... Nice to see the return of the Marbled White. 22x Meadow Brown 2x Speckled Wood 1x Unidentified Skipper. 1x Unidentified White 1x Straw Dot 1x Silver Y - got very close to it unusually. 1x Suspected White Letter Hairstreak 1x MARBLED WHITE! My first of 2008. Tracked it for more than 5 minutes around the field closest to the tennis courts (north end) but it wasn't stopping at all. Several Crambid type moths. Several dragonflies always nice to see. - Mike Rubin

3 fresh Marbled White on my transect in exactly the area where I recorded large numbers last summer for the first time. My hope that a new breeding species on the site is establishing could be

correct. Otherwise not a lot - 1 Large Skipper, 7 Small Heath, 21 Meadow Brown, 2 Common Blue (m), 1 Small White, but best score so far this year - John Moss

Monday 23rd June

Quite a few marbled whites, meadow brown and ringlets at Alpine Meadow yesterday (23/06) - Paul Thrush

On the way home about 4:45'ish I saw a large Red Admiral sized lep chasing cars on Kenton Road between Harrow and Kenton Station. It looked black apart from a faint white edge all around. It was briefly flying alongside me in the adjacent lane so got a reasonable view of it for a second or two. The first thought was Camberwell Beauty but surely not such a rare vagrant in such an urban environment? Never seen one before except in pictures. Anyone got any idea what else it could have been? A large moth perhaps? It was quite a strong flyer. I so wanted to stop to try and photograph it but had no chance as it was moving fast, and I couldn't stop anyway. Ah well made the commute home more interesting... - Mike Rubin

This afternoon, Mon 23 June, I recorded the first Marbled Whites of the year (6) on my Bunkers Park transect. The total of six seen is very much in line with the totals of first-day sightings of previous years, which gives hope for the year as a whole. Numbers of Large Skippers were seen, but not a single Small/Essex Skipper. I recorded only one Common Blue, which seems to indicate the probable end of the CB's early flight period for this year. If this proves to be the case, 2008 will have been the CB's worst early season showing since 1999, the first year of Bunkers Park's existence. Michael Pearson

Observations for yesterday (Sun 22nd June 2008) between 11:40 - 14:35 BST, at Oakhill Park and Wood, East Barnet - 5 Speckled Wood; 1 Meadow Brown; 1 Small White and 1 Holly Blue. News for today (Monday 23rd June 2008) - 1 Large Skipper, near Oakwood entrance, 12:56 BST; 5 Small Heath, at 'New Fields', Trent Park, between 13:01 - 13:40 BST; 4 Large Skipper, Sect.4, 'New Fields', Trent Park; 4 Small Skipper, Sect. 4, 'New Fields', Trent Park - my first of the year!; 2 Ringlet, (1 Sect. 4, 'New Fields', 13:55 BST, 1 on Bramble, by Lower Lake, 14:45 BST - my first of the year!); 1 Large Skipper, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 14:40 BST; 1 Red Admiral, near 'Old Nursery', Trent Park, 14:13 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Water Grdn., 14:55 BST; 1 Small Heath, at Parkside Farm, 15:12 BST; 1 male Large Skipper, at Parkside Farm, 15:15 BST; 3 Small Heath, at Vicarage Farm (2 along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, between 15:42 - 15:45 BST, 1 along gravel-track, 15:50 BST); 1 male Large Skipper, at 'Barracks', Vicarage Farm, 16:02 BST; 1 Holly Blue, at Enfield Road, 16:13 BST. 5 Speckled Wood in Sect. 7 and 8 between 13:09 - 13:13 BST, Trent Park - Robert Callf

Was pleased to find a small colony of small heaths north of furnace pelham (TL 4228) at the boggy end of a field - Phil MacMurdie

Monday lunchtime saw 2 Marbled Whites, 13 Meadow Brown and 2 Common Blue at work, Stevenage - Trevor Chapman

Horsenden Hill, gorgeous day outside at lunchtime today. And at last some positive White Letter Hairstreak sightings. All over too quickly. Back to work... 15x Meadow Brown - at least 1 female. 6x Speckled Wood 4x White Letter Hairstreak. 2 dogfighting, 1 resting high up in elm but visible. Managed long range photograph I think. 4x 5 spot Burnet, 2 mating. 2x Large Skipper 1x Female Common Blue 1x Red Admiral 1x Unidentified White - my first white in ages. Manyx Fast moving Skippers that I couldn't ID. And a darkish blueish tinted unidentified butterfly flying low across the mown grass just south of the tennis courts carpark (Horsenden Lane North). From the colour and size my closest match is White Letter Hairstreak but behaviour seemed wrong (if it had zig zagged a bit more and flown a bit higher I would have said yeah as elm trees close by). Definitely not Common Blue. - Mike Rubin

Fir and Pond Woods Nature Reserve. Monday AM June 23 Several meadow browns and ringlets on the meadow. Also there were a common blue, 2 or 3 large skippers, a small skipper and a marbled white. Speckled woods seen throughout the Reserve - David Gompertz

Sunday 22nd June

Small numbers of White-letter Hairstreak continue at Horsenden Hill today (22nd June) with 3 on the cycle path close to the gates of Horsenden Farm, 1 further uphill from here but still viewable

from the cycle path and 2 seen by David Howdon at another area to the rear of the farm building. Good numbers of Speckled Woods on site and at least 7 Red Admirals today - Andrew Culshaw

Friday 20th June

On 20th June Friday, at **Park Wood, Ruislip** lots of speckled wood, two large skippers, 1 comma very fresh looking specimen with lovely colours - Sezar Hikmet

A few sightings for Friday (20th June 2008) - 1 Large Skipper, near Oakwood entrance, Trent Park, 13:47 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, near Triangular Wood, 13:48 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, 14:46 BST; 4 Large Skipper, at Vicarage Farm (2 along Leeing Beech Gutter near Stables, 14:52 BST and 15:00 BST, 2 at 'Barracks'); 2 Small Heath, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Stables, Vicarage Farm, 14:57 BST and 15:00 BST; 1 Red Admiral, at Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm, 15:08 BST - flew off NW strongly (My first record in the Enfield Area since April). A number of Meadow Brown - it is easy to take for granted how attractive this common grassland species is? Robert Callf

Thursday 19th June

Horsenden Hill, most of walk in cloud shadow. Fairly cool and breezy. 4x 5 Spot Burnet, all on the wing. 2x Large Skipper (Males) 2x Speckled Wood 2x Meadow Brown (Both Males) 1x Red Admiral (Cloud-bathing on path) **1x Small Skipper** (Photographed - male, pale brown antennae - > Not an Essex) Saw several more 'Suspected Skippers' but in the cloud shadow they more readily resting. One was my first Small Skipper of the year. Some were almost certainly Large Skippers too. - Mike Rubin

News for today (Thurs 19th June 2008) - 2 Speckled Wood, near Oakwood entrance, Trent Park, 10:26 BST; 9 Large Skipper,(8 at 'News Fields', Trent Park, between 10:32 - 11:10 BST, 1 at Parkside Farm, 12:42 BST); 1 Speckled Wood, near Triangular Wood, 10:36 BST; 11 Small Heath,(5 at 'New Fields', Trent Park, between 10:40 - 11:00 BST, 2 at Park Farm, between 12:19 - 12:30 BST, 4 along Leeing Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, between 13:08 - 13:12 BST); 1 Speckled Wood, by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 11:45 BST; 1 Green-veined White, near Obelisk, Trent Park, 12:10 BST; 1 Large White, near Obelisk, Trent Park, 12:10 BST, with Green-veined White; 4 Speckled Wood, at Park Farm, between 12:22 - 12:30 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, at 'Barracks', Vicarage Farm, 13:23 BST. Also a number of Meadow Brown at various localities - Robert Callf.

Stopped at the **Ware** elm tree on the way to work, and despite overnight gales, three White-letter seen clashing high up in the canopy at 8.40am, at 5.30 just one was seen jittering around - Liz Goodyear

Wednesday 18th June

A few observations for today (Weds 18th June 2008) - 2 batches of Peacock catapillars at Vicarage Farm - one contained 23 larvae; several Meadow Brown; 3 Large Skipper, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Stables, Vicarage Farm, between 14:43 - 14:54 BST. 1 unidentified White species. News for yesterday (Tues 17th June 2008) - 7 Large Skipper, at 'New Fields', Trent Park, between 13:20 - 14:00 BST; 8 Speckled Wood, at Trent Park (2 near Oakwood entrance, 13:20 BST, 1 near Triangular Wood, 13:24 BST, 2 Sect. 7, 13:25 BST; 2 Nature Trail, 14:10 BST, 1 near Dew Pond, 14:52 BST); 12 Small Heath, at 'New Fields', Trent Park, between 13:28 - 14:00 BST; 3 Meadow Brown, at 'New Fields', Trent Park, between 13:28 - 14:04 BST; 2 Large Skipper, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 14:25 BST; 1 Small Copper, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 14:56 BST; 3 Large Skipper, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 14:58 - 15:00 BST; 1 Burnet Moth (probably Narrow-bordered Five-spot - only seen in flight), set-aside field near Dew Pond, Trent Park; 1 Emperor Dragonfly, near 'Barracks', at Vicarage Farm - Robert Callf

Tuesday 17th June

Hornet moth! I found some likely looking trees in Hertford and this morning at about 0830 I struck lucky, though only this one specimen, but still the first I've seen. A very obliging photographic model too. Some pictures are here:

<http://homepage.ntlworld.com/zoothorn/hornet.htm> Andrew Wood

No White Admirals yet on my **Balls Wood** transect, walked today 17th June. Mainly Speckled Woods, a few large Skippers and Meadow Browns and **2 Ringlets**. Small Heath, Red Admirals and Meadow Browns at Ware Park Quarry yesterday 16th June This has to be the worst year I have

ever had for recording common butterflies - Andrew Wood

Today at **Park wood** Large skippers 5, **white admiral** - Sezar Hikmet

Park Wood, Ruislip: Saw two **White Admirals** this-afternoon, in the main ride - probably the same two seen by Dick Middleton on Sunday. (Definitely two, and not one, twice.) I watched one of them on the ground for ten or fifteen minutes. It was drinking from a mud puddle, and then feeding off droppings on the nearby path - like a newly emerged Purple Emperor- Graham Elcombe

News for yesterday (Monday 16th June 2008) - 2 male Large Skipper, Sect. 1, 'New Fields', 14:15 BST and 14:20 BST, ; 1 Speckled Wood, 14:32 BST, 'New Fields'; 2 Small Heath, 'New Fields', (1 Sect. 8, 14:36 BST, 1 Sect. 5, 14:49 BST); 1 Meadow Brown, at Park Farm, 15:42 BST; 8 Meadow Brown, at Parkside Farm - on Res banking; 4 male Common Blue, at Parkside Farm - on Res banking; 1 Burnet Companion, at Parkside Farm - on Res banking; 1 Shaded Broad-bar, at Parkside Farm - on Res banking; 1 Small Heath, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 16:15 BST; 1 Peacock, very old and tatty, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 16:18 BST; 2 male Meadow Brown, at Vicarage Farm, near 'Barracks', 16:35 BST and 16:38 BST also my first immature Common Darter at Parkside Farm yesterday (Mon 16th June 2008) on Res banking - Robert Callf.

1.15-3.15pm spent in **Balls Wood** looking for W.A but none seen. I did see plenty of Speckled Woods, 1 Meadow Brown and at least 10 Large Skippers also 2 Black-Tailed Skimmer and a Broad bodied Chaser. Sandra Standbridge

Monday 16th June

3 White-letter Hairstreaks between 10-10.30am this morning at **Horsenden Hill**. All three around the 'usual' haunt - close to or alongside the cycle path by the main entrance to Horsenden Farm ranger station. Couldn't find any around the back of the farm or on Batts Field or Upper Mead, but still early, I guess. Also photographed a Small Heath on Home Mead, the first I have seen at the site for many years. Maybe Mike Rubin's Small Heath/Small Copper from last week was the former species after all? Pretty quiet otherwise - Meadow Browns, Speckled Woods and a few Large Skippers. For those who get further afield, up to 5 Black Hairstreaks were flying in Cambs, yesterday - Andy Culshaw

News for Friday (13th June 2008) - 1 Small Heath, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 15:14 BST; 1 female Large Skipper, at Park Farm, 16:04 BST; 14 Meadow Brown, at Parkside Farm - on Res banking; 1 Common Blue, at Parkside Farm - on Res banking; 1 Small Heath, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, Vicarage Farm, 16:43 BST. The BC guided walk in conjunction with Enfield Parks Dept on Saturday (14th June 2008) produced 1 Small Copper and 1 Common Blue, at 'New Fields', Trent Park, several Meadow Brown and Speckled Wood and c6 Large Skipper and at least 10 Small Heath, including four together. News for Sunday (15th June 2008) - 7, 4 males and 3 females, Large Skipper, at Oakwood Park, between 12:37 - 12:49 BST; 1 male Meadow Brown, at Oakwood Park, 12:47 BST; 1 male Common Blue, at Oakwood Park, 12:52 BST. At Grovelands Park, Southgate, N14 - 3 Speckled Wood; 1 male Large Skipper, at 13:46 BST - Robert Callf.

Sunday 15th June

Saw one or two **White Admirals** in flight this afternoon (Sunday) along the main ride in **Park Wood, Ruislip**. There were a few Meadow Browns, Speckled Woods and Large Skippers to be seen as well - Dick Middleton

Started the day by stopping at my Ware elm at 8.40 to see if there was any activity, just one White-letter seen in the top of the canopy. Then met Andrew at Forty Hall, in north Enfield and watched the elms by the road, which the previous day had not had any activity. This was about 9 o'clock and within a minute or so active males were seen. We then drove down the A10 to Edmonton where there are two elms by the busy road! We watched for a few minutes and then there was activity across the canopy. This was a new 2km square for Andrew so we moved onto to another 2km square in TQ39, which skirts the edge of Alexandra Palace. This was a lot harder, lots of scrappy elm but all really hard to view. Eventually after over an hour of walking around the site we gave up and continued to Totteridge and just selected a 2km square at random. We searched really hard but the only elm was pretty poor and being so early in the season we realised that we would have been very lucky to be successful. Finally we went to Crews Hill, another site visited yesterday on the hope that White-letter would be seen but still nothing - Liz Goodyear & Andrew Middleton (hardly any butterflies were flying!)

Saturday 14th June

Tristan Bantock saw at least 2 **White-letter Hairstreak** clashing, **Crouch End, north London** this morning at 10 o'clock. I then visited my 'elm tree' in **Ware** and had at least 6 flights/clashes across the canopy at 1 o'clock. None were seen by Andrew Middleton at sites in Enfield though - Liz Goodyear

Wednesday 11th June

News for today (Weds 11th June 2008) - 15 Speckled Wood,(1 at Hilly Fields Park, 10:50 BST, 1 at Flash Lane, 10:53 BST, 5 at Whitewebbs Wood, 11:40 - 11:48 BST; 1 Whitewebbs Road, 11:50 BST, 2 'Archery Wood', 12:05 BST and 12:30 BST, 5 at Goff Park, Forty Hill, 14:10 - 14:15 BST); 1 Common Blue, set-aside field near 'Archery Wood', 12:45 BST - Robert Callf

I spent 1 1/2 hours in **Balls Wood** and saw 4 Large Skippers, 1 Meadow Brown and 9 Speckled Wood. On the outskirts 1 Oak Roller Moth - Sandra Standbridge

Tuesday 10th June

Nothing very interesting on butterfly front. Down at **Waterford Heath** I saw only one brown Argus on North pit, better on South sit, 9 common blue, 2 meadow brown and 1 grizzled. But in the middle part where it is fenced off, and where I saw, meadow brown, grizzled skipper and 3 common blue - Steve Kiln

News for today (Tues 10th June 2008) between 15:00 and 16:00 BST - 3 Speckled Wood,(1 near Oakwood entrance, 15:01 BST, 1 near Triangular Wood, 15:15 BST, 1 Sect 7, 15:21 BST); 9 Small Heath,'New Fields', Trent Park, between 15:10 - 15:44 BST; 4 Large Skipper, at 'New Fields', Trent Park, between 15:17 - 15:32 BST; 1 male Meadow Brown, 'New Fields', Sect 4, 15:37 BST; 1 Small Copper, near Church Wood, 15:42 BST; 2 Burnet Companion, near Sports Field - Robert Callf

Horsenden Hill, correction for yesterday. After observing today's only Small Copper I think yesterday's 'Small Heath' was actually a copper not a heath. Today down in the meadows West of the hill was very disappointing for June. 4 Speckled Woods, 1 Small Copper and just as I was heading back, 1 elderly Peacock. Thazzit. No moths to speak of. Zillions of unrelenting horseflies made the walk very unpleasant. - Mike Rubin

Sunday 8th June at **Little Britain Lake in Cowley** I saw 2 Speckled Wood, 1 Large and 1 Small White. At **Minet Country Park** in Hayes I spotted 1 Small Heath and 2 Small White - Helen George

Monday 9th June

Forty Hall, 105 chimney sweepers, 2 meadow browns, 2 large skippers, 1 small heath. No sightings yet of WLH at Crews Hill, Enfield, today. **Thu 5th June 08** in dull weather, **Frogmore** 2 grizzled skippers & 5 common blues, **Waterford Heath** south 3 grizzled skippers - Andrew Middleton

Horsenden Hill - Gasp! Too hot. And way too quiet. Despite 25C+ and almost unbroken sunshine was very quiet. 6-8 Speckled Woods. 1 each of Male Common Blue, Small Heath, Holly Blue and Meadow Brown (My first of 2008). Moths on the otherhand were abundant. Lots of Crambids in the grasses. Most notable again were quite a few Burnet Companions, and scores of Green Oak Tortrix's in the oak trees on the North side of the hill. Every time I shook a branch lots of them flew out and scrambled for the grass. - Mike Rubin

Sunday 8th June

Friends of Tring Reservoirs held a moth trap at Wilstone Reservoir for National Moth Night. The following were trapped: Silver-ground Carpet (3) Cream Wave, Twin-Spot Carpet, Common Marbled Carpet, Eyed Hawkmoth, Green carpet, Common Swift, Pale Prominent, Rustic Shoulder Knot, Marbled Minor agg (3) Brimstone moth, Setaceous Hebrew Character, Small Angle Shades, Buff Ermine, Large Nutmeg, Small-Square Spot, Flame Shoulder, Fox-glove Pug (2) Broken-barred Carpet, Cloded Silver, Straw Dot, White Ermine, Garden Carpet, Square-spot Rustic, Heart & Dart, Common Rustic. Lynne & Colin Lambert

Saturday 7th June

Went to Park Wood, **Ruislip**, Middlesex just before lunchtime. 8-10 Speckled Woods. Otherwise

nothing! Honeysuckle in bloom so hopefully not long the White Admirals appear? Mid afternoon after a grey spell the sun re-appeared and I decided to walk up **Barnhill** for some exercise. Glad I did as I saw my first Red Admiral for over 6 months. A little worn so almost certainly an immigrant. Also saw more Speckled Woods, lots of Burnet Companions, my first Straw Dots of the year. No Large Skippers or Meadow Browns yet (both common on the hill in previous years). Plus more moths I have yet to ID. And lots of Blue Damselflies as well as my first Large Reds of the year. All the blues I photographed were male Azures. Suspected Emperor dragonfly patrolling the pond at the summit. - Mike Rubin

News for today (Sat 7th June 2008) - 1 male Common Blue, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Stables, Vicarage Farm, 13:07 BST; 1 Peacock, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 13:08 BST; 3 Small Heath, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 13:10 - 13:11 BST; 11 Common Blue, at Parkside Farm, on Res banking, 13:30 - 13:40 BST; 1 Burnet Companion, at Parkside Farm, on Res banking; 3 male Meadow Brown, at Parkside Farm - on Res banking; 1 Cinnabar, at Parkside Farm - on Res banking; 2 Green-veined White, at Duncan's Wood, 14:00 BST; 1 Small White, at Duncan's Wood, 14:00 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, edge of Moat Wood, 14:15 BST; 1 Small Heath, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 14:19 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 15:11 BST - Robert Callf.

Friday 6th June

News for today (Fri 6th June 2008) - 1 Small Heath, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Stables, Vicarage Farm, 14:53 BST; 1 Green-veined White, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 14:58 BST, were the only butterflies I saw today - Robert Callf

Thursday 5th June

Observations 5th JUNE 2008 - 3 Small Copper, at 'New Fields', Trent Park, between 14:52 - 15:29 BST; 8 Small Heath, at 'New Fields', Trent Park, between 14:57 - 15:33 BST; 2 Small Heath, along Leeing Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm, between 16:58 - 17:00 BST; 1 male Large Skipper, Sect. 4, 'New Fields', Trent Park, 15:20 BST; 1 Small Copper, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 15:47 BST; 2 Speckled Wood,(1 along hedgerow N of Williams Wood, 16:10 BST, 1 field near Hadley Rd., 16:14 BST); 9 Common Blue, at Parkside Farm - around Res banking, 16:30 BST; 1 Small Heath, at Parkside Farm, 16:32 BST; 1 Mother Shipton, along Leeing Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm, 4 Burnet Companion at the 'New Fields', Trent Park, 2 Cinnabar,(1 set-side field near Dew Pond, 1 at Parkside Farm - on Res banking); 1 Burnet Companion, at Parkside Farm - on Res banking. - Robert Callf.

Butterflies - Not a lot seen recently continuing to tetrad bash the two target squares and will be hunting out any white admirals this month. Moths - much more so - I regularly set up the moth trap in the back garden (Wareside). 31st May 2008 Privet Hawk Moth - (although got eaten by a bat !!!!) Poplar Hawk Moth - 4 Barred Hook Tip Blood Vein Clouded Border Pale Tussock (4) Brimstone (4) Ermines etc A total of 27 different species have been identified, and 51 moths. Last night 5th June Poplar Hawk Moth 2 Privet Hawk Moth 1 Elephant Hawk 1 Common footman 1 - (understand this doesn't normally flu until July, but have photos of it) Buff and White ermine (10+) Pale Tussock 1 Scorched wing 4 White spotted Pug 2 (have photos) Again 20+ species so far identified, and 50+ moths. Having fun with these moths - as I'm slowly learning some of the names, most of which I had never heard of before and certainly not seen. Nothing rare seen (as far as I know) - Phil MacMurdie

I wasn't looking today, but did spy 1 Speckled Wood in the garden this evening in **Kenton** - Mike Rubin

Found **7 Chimney Sweepers** at **Totteridge Fields** today, also C. Blue, Burnet Companion and Cinnabar - Tony Clancy

Wednesday 4th June

4 Small Copper, at 'New Fields', Trent Park, between 14:48 - 15:25 BST; 10 Small Heath, at 'New Fields', Trent Park, between 14:54 - 15:20 BST; 1 Small Heath, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, 16:06 BST; 3 Small Heath, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Stables, Vicarage Farm, between 16:31 - 16:36 BST; 1 Chimney Sweeper, near Church Wood; 1 Cinnabar, near Sports Field; 2 Speckled Wood,(1 near Shaws Cottages, 15:42 BST, 1 Williams Wood, 15:47 BST); 2 Brown Argus, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, 16:15 BST - My first for the year!; 1 Black-tailed Skimmer, set-aside field N of Williams Wood,16:20 BST - Robert Callf.

Went to **Bencroft Wood** 4th June, as is typical in June very little there, just one speckled wood. However I ventured firstly into field bordering on Bencroft wood and saw a **meadow brown** and a common blue, because of this I tried next field up near Wormley wood, saw 5 common blues and a small copper - Steve Kiln

Horsenden Hill, 4 x Speckled Wood, 2 x Common Blue females. Lots of crambid type moths. Lots of pesky horseflies. Guess the ground was a bit too damp after yesterday's downpour - Mike Rubin

Monday 2nd June

News for today (Mon 2nd June 2008) at Trent Park - **52 Chimney Sweeper**, at 'New Fields'; 8 Small Heath, (7 at 'New Fields', between 12:25 - 13:16 BST, 1 at 'Old Golf Course', 13:51 BST); 4 Burnet Companion, at 'New Fields'; **3 male Large Skipper**, (1 at 'New Fields', Sect 4, 12:50 BST, 2 at 'Old Golf Course', 13:50 and 13:52 BST); 1 Green-veined White, edge of Church Wood, 12:53 BST; 1 Small Copper, near Church Wood, 13:11 BST; 2 Speckled Wood, (1 near Long Grdn car-park, 13:25 BST, 1 near Sports Field, 13:10 BST) - Robert Callf

Horsenden Hill, high teens, sun occasionally briefly breaking through. Just 7 Burnet Companions, 4 Small Coppers and 1 Speckled Wood. Always a pleasant walk though. This time despite the horseflies getting more and more active now. Oh yeah and saw my first blue damselflies of the year. The individual male I photographed was an Azure Damsel, not a Common Blue one. - Mike Rubin

May 2008

Saturday 31st May

Aldbury Nowers 1 dingy skipper, several brimstones, 1 grizzled skipper west enclosure of south part of reserve, **large skipper**, orange tip; also good numbers of small heath, common blue, mother shipton, burnet companion all sites; 1 orange tip and several brown argus; nearby in **Bucks**, Pitstone area, 6 small blue, 4 dingy skipper, 1 green hairstreak; Church End Quarry, 25 small blue, 3 dingy skipper, 1 green hairstreak, 2 large skipper - Andrew Middleton & Tony Clancy

Observations for today (Sat 31st May 2008) are as follows - 1 Cinnabar, set-aside field near Dew Pond, 14:03 BST; 2 Small Heath, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 14:27 BST; 1 Small Heath, at Parkside Farm, 15:26 BST; 1 Peacock, at Park Farm, 15:06 BST; 1 Large White, at Ferny Hill Farm, 14:50 BST; 4 Common Blue, at Parkside Farm - on Res banking, 15:28 - 15:35 BST - My first of the year. Also a number of Small / Green-veined White seen - Robert Callf.

Friday 30th May

Visited **Northaw Great Wood** today (Fri 30th May 2008) and saw two Speckled Yellow. Only saw two butterflies - a Speckled Wood and an unidentified white, probably Green-veined. - Robert Callf

Poor conditions today, very cloudy. Went to **Waterford heath** South Pit 3pm. Saw 6 common blue, 1 brown argus, 1 grizzled skipper, 1 peacock and my first small copper. If anyone finds my maroon jumper it is somewhere amongst the goats rhue on south Pit. Steve Kiln

Thursday 29th May

Frogmore, nr Stevenage, 1-2pm overcast but humid 4 Grizzled Skippers, 4 Brown Argus, 1 Common Blue and 1 Mother Shipton moth - Trevor Chapman

Trent Park, setaside fields, a Cinnabar ab *flavescens* (red replaced by yellow) seen today by Robin White - news via Robert Callf

Horsenden Hill, ahh nice to have summer return again. Still rather soggy out there. Felt rather humid. Not that much around but they are there somewhere. 6x Small Copper, 4x Speckled Wood, 3x Peacock 1x Holly Blue 1x Small White 1x Tatty Male Orange Tip 1x Unknown White 1x Small Yellow Underwing 1x Burnet Companion. Loads of small Crambid type moths in the grass. At least 5 other red / brown leps in Batts Field that could have been Burnet Companion or Small Copper. **Several of those dreaded horse flies. They're back!!!** Now it's clouded over. Timing! - Mike Rubin

Not much to report today (Thurs 29th May 2008) - 1 Small Copper, near Oakwood entrance, Trent

Park, 14:06 BST; 1 Small Heath, at 'New Fields', Trent Park, 14:20 BST; 2 Burnet Companion, at 'New Fields', Trent Park - Robert Callf.

Wednesday 28th May

I spent 3 1/2 hours in **Balls Wood** yesterday, not much on the butterfly side only 1 Speckled Wood, 1 Common Blue, 15 Drinker moth Caterpillars and lots of other Caterpillars which I cannot identify - Sandra Standbridge

Tuesday 27th May

Took doggie for a walk up **Bunkers Park** after work, she didn't get one yesterday in that bank holiday deluge. All green and verdent, quite humid with the sun not quite able to peep through, it's looking a picture though in the wild flower meadow, with the Trefoil, Medicks & Clover in luxuriant beds. Only saw 3 Common Blues, all male and all looking stunning. If we get a bit of sun this week I reckon this place will burst into life. Still female Orange Tips about & 1 Small White - Keep an eye out for the Broomrape - Ashley Cox

Sun 25th May - managed 1 small heath at **Cheshunt Park** in the rain; Tue 27th May - surprise of a **large skipper** just into **Essex** at Yardley Hill, Chingford, plus a common blue - Andrew Middleton

A few observations for today (Tues 27th May 2008) - 1 Small Yellow Underwing, near Dew Pond, Trent Park; 1 Small Heath, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 14:22 BST; 2 Small Copper, together, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 14:25 BST; 1 Green-veined White, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Water Grdn; 1 Small Heath, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Stables, Vicarage Farm, 15:20 BST; 1 male Orange Tip, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Stables, Vicarage Farm, 15:23 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, along track at Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm, 15:45 BST; 1 Green-veined White, along hedgerow off 'Barracks', 15:51 BST. Also of interest was a Hairy Dragonfly, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Stables, Vicarage Farm - Robert Callf

News from 22nd May, first Common Blue seen on the grassy bank south of **Monks Wood** very near the football ground at around 1130 am. A possible Painted Lady seen in the **Roebuck Woods area** (TL 225244) at about 11am. Probably a little early in the season for the Painted Lady but the winds have been blowing in from the east in the last few weeks. Peter Clarke

Monday 26th May

Nice to see dingy skippers out at last at **Highdown** on Saturday 24th MAY six in all along with 2 female orange tips & 9 Brimstones and my 1st Common blue of the year - Stuart Pittman

At **Therfield Heath** on Saturday: 1 Orange Tip, 1 Large White, 3 Small Heath, 3 Brown Argus. Also quite a few Mother Shipton moths - Jan Hein van Steenis

Waterford Heath north, Saturday 24th - 1 bedraggled Grizzled Skipper seen in brief visit - Christine Shepperson

News for today (Fri 23rd May 2008) - 1 Holly Blue, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Stables, Vicarage Farm, 12:30 BST; 1 Small Heath, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Stables, Vicarage Farm, 12:32 BST; 1 female Orange Tip, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Stables, Vicarage Farm, 12:37 BST; 1 male Orange Tip, at Parkside Farm, 12:46 BST; 1 Small Copper, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 13:25 BST; 3 Small Heath, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 13:30 BST; 4 Speckled Wood, (1 edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 14:00 BST, 2 along Merryhills Brook at South Lodge Farm, 14:08 BST and 14:13 BST, 1 along Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm, 14:17 BST); 2 Small Heath, in set-aside field along Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm; 1 Peacock, along track at Vicarage Farm, 14:35 BST; 1 male Orange Tip, in Sidhil's Field, Vicarage Farm, 14:45 BST. Also seen today 2 Blood-vein Moth, 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park; 1 Burnet Companion, 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park; 2 Silver-ground Carpet, Water Grdn and Icehouse Wood; 1 Small Yellow Underwing, near Dew Pond, Trent Park ; a male Broad-bodied Chaser, at Water Grdn, Trent Park and numerous Red-eyed Damselfly by the edge of Lower Lake, Trent Park - Robert Callf.

Friday lunchtime (23rd May) 1-1:50pm. **Frogmore**, Stevenage 6 Grizzled Skippers mostly on lower area NE of lake. A good showing of strawberry plants here this year. One GS seen laying egg on higher ground North of lake. Also seen Common Blue 3, Small Copper 1, Peacock 1, Small White, and 3 Fallow deer, 1 Buzzard - Trevor Chapman

Thursday 22nd May

Waterford North – 11 grizzled skippers, 4 common blues, 2 small heaths, 1 small tortoiseshell; **Waterford South**, only had time to search the main bank area, 15 grizzled skippers, 2 common blues, 1 small heath, 2 brown argus, 5 latticed heath, 5 burnet companion, 2 mother shipton, 1 black tailed skimmer – Andrew Middleton

This afternoon near **Maple Cross**, Peacock, Brimstone, Orange tip, Holly blue - Sezar Hikmet

I recorded the first of this year's Common Blue (2 only) on my **Bunkers Park** transect. The only other butterflies I saw were a few Small/GV whites: I suspect 2008 may turn out be a "thin" year, but I hope I'm wrong. - Mike Pearson

Wednesday 21st May

A little cold in the morning at **Forty Hall** for a field trip, but had a good range of songbirds, and a few butterflies including 2 small coppers. At **Frogmore** pm we saw 11 grizzled skippers (1 egg on bramble, 1 on agrimony), 3 brown argus, 3 common blue, 2 small coppers, comma, peacock and orange tip. Andrew Middleton, later with H & T Bantock and Diane Andrews

At my garden today Holy blue, small white, and comma, at **Ickenham** Middlesex. Photo of comma & small white attached - Sezar Hikmet

Went to **Telegraph Hill** today. Small Heaths appeared on the Pegsdon Hills today but otherwise I only saw Brimstones and Peacocks. However I met a wildlife photographer I know slightly at Telegraph Hill and he told me he had been taking pictures of Green Hairstreaks, Dingy and Grizzled Skippers in the gullies earlier this morning. c10.30 a.m. It was getting slightly more overcast and we saw none while we were both there - about half an hour around midday. I was rather puzzled not to see any grassland butterflies as there was intermittent sunshine and have personally never seen Grizzled Skips at Telegraph although Dingys and GH are frequent enough. This man is knowledgeable and I think his record should stand - Nigel Agar

Royston, Holly Blue today - Guy Manners

Some more observations for today (Weds 21st May 2008) - 2 Peacock, at Vicarage Farm (1 N of Williams Wood, 14:40 BST, 1 along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, 14:57 BST); 2 Small Tortoiseshell, at Vicarage Farm (1 along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, 14:55 BST, 1 near Firing Range, 15:20 BST); 1 Small Copper, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, Vicarage Farm, 15:00 BST; **1 Painted Lady**, at 'Barracks', Vicarage Farm, 15:15 BST - pristine condition and my first for the year! - Robert Callf

Aldbury Nowers had 3 green hairstreak this afternoon in the key butterfly area (northern part of the reserve), also a brown argus there. Had single dingy skipper in S1 (1st large paddock to right of ridgeway). Got some pics of the hairstreaks, will send a few next week once I've uploaded them (am out of the office now til tues). Still no grizzled skippers! - Paul Thrush

News for today (Weds 21st May 2008) for Trent Park - 1 Small Copper, near Oakwood entrance, 11:40 BST; 7 Small Heath, at 'New Fields', between 11:48 - 12:11 BST; 3 Speckled Wood, (1 near Oakwood entrance, 11:35 BST, 1 Sect 7, 11:57 BST, 1 Sect 5, 12:05 BST); 1 Burnet Companion; 1 Mother Shipton. No sign of any Chimney Sweeper yet - Robert Callf

Horsenden Hill, much of today's walk in cloudshadow. Given the conditions (quite mild and 4-5/8ths cumulus) the word 'pants!' comes to mind. Plenty of moths but none stopping for photos or ID's. In the end I think I found the back of the line for Noah's ark. All 2 by 2. 2x Small Copper, 2x Speckled Wood, 2x Peacock - I thought they had finished for the spring. 2x Shield bugs mating (photographed), 2x Harlequin ladybirds on the same baby elm as the bugs. In Batts field one shot by me. Wasn't sure if it was a 3rd Small Copper or a Burnet Companion or something else. - Mike Rubin

Tuesday 20th May

Just to say that I found a single Orange-tip egg in **Hitchin** on 20/05/2008. It was on Garlic Mustard by Butt's Close - Andy Banthorpe

During a hour after lunch found impressive numbers of Orange Tips in a sheltered field at ovaltine fields **Abbots Langley**. With a later emergence this year, this species has been very common over

the last few weeks. Today 12 were noted along with 15 Green-veined Whites and singeltons of Large and Small White - Clive Burrows

I did my transect walk around **Great Ashby Park** today, weather was warm and sunny, but a little windy. I saw 1 Small Heath, 1 Common Blue (both 1st for year), 1 Holly Blue, 1 Speckled Wood, 2 Orangetip, 2 Green-veined White, 5 Large White, 6 Small White and 10+ Burnet Companion - Steve Lane

Horsenden Hill, slightly better today. A fair bit warmer. (14-15C?). Still not that much about though. The sun came out for the middle 15-20 min's or so of my walk. Otherwise overcast. 7x Speckled Wood - Many of which were very pale - more like white spots instead of yellow. 3x Small Copper, 2x Green Veined White - positive ids when settled. 1x White (Suspected 3rd Green Veined on the wing, 1x Holly Blue, 1x Small Yellow Underwing, 1x Burnet Companion (my first of 2008) - Mike Rubin

Had 2 dingy skipper at **Aldbury** today, in the southern section close to the large field you walk across from the layby. Attached is a pic. Also had brown argus, orange tip, small heath and brimstone - Paul Thrush

Monday 19th May

Another early morning start to count roosting butterflies but this time in the Aldbury Nowers/Pitstone area. Started searching at 6.45 in clear but cold conditions and located 2 Grizzled Skipper roosting in the Hertfordshire Pitstone 'area.' In total we counted 25 Dingy Skipper over a 2 hours period, most were roosting but by 8.30 the sun was shining and the site warming up so the last few individuals were either basking, nectaring and two were seen clashing. Also seen were 1 Brown Argus, 17 Common Blue, 6 Small Heath and 6 Burnet Companion. In the Bucks section, 3 Dingy, 1 Common Blue, 2 Small Heath and a Cinnabar moth. However by now the wind had got up, the clouds come over and it was really quite cold! We then went to Church End which is in Buckinghamshire but only just and sightings included 8 Dingys and 2 Small Blue. From here we walked up to the Pitstone Hill end of Aldbury Nowers, where it started sunny but quickly clouded over and just 1 Dingy Skipper was seen and a further 5 at the bottom of the hill close to the field edge. No Green Hairstreaks were seen, and we left Tring at about 1 o'clock - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

Very cloudy and windy but popped up to **Waterford heath**. On north pit saw 1 small heath and a grizzled skipper and a green veined white. On south 8 grizzled skippers, well spread and 1 brown argus on eastern bank, first I have seen - Steve Kiln

7 Grizzled Skippers this morning at **Frogmore Pits** in breezy conditions with sunny intervals. Also present was 1 Brown Argus - Darrel Bryant

Grove Farm, barely worth reporting yet again. Grand total was 1 Green Veined White. Nothing else despite the sun coming out. Too cold. Maybe 12C. I am also visiting Grove Farm less and less often now as it is getting very dodgy and unpleasant there now. Fly tipping and litter everywhere, and last year's practice of razing the vegetation completely to the ground has almost certainly impacted the butterflies. (The first in the county sightings there were very common species that occur away from the affected areas.) The meadow on the slope looks gorgeous now, but almost nothing there to speak of. No moths or butterflies much at all. Unlike last year. Shame that. - Mike Rubin

Sunday 18th May

Despite cool & cloudy weather 19 people showed up for the Branch field trip at **Aldbury Nowers**. In the sunny spells a good range of species were seen, though none in high numbers. These included Dingy Skipper (4), Orange Tip, Brimstone, Large White, Small White, Green-veined White, Holly Blue, Common Blue (1), Brown Argus (2), Green Hairstreak (2), Speckled Wood, Small Heath (7) Moth sightings, expertly identified by Diane Andrews included, Common Carpet, Green Carpet, Cinabar Pyrausta Nigrata & Mother Sipton. Common Blue Damselflies were also in evidence. A passing rambler informed us he had seen a Small Tortoiseshell just outside the reserve on the Ridgeway path. There was also a report of a **Wall Brown** at **Shrubbs Hill Common** near Hemel Hempstead last week. - Malcolm Hull

Wednesday 14th May

Went out for two hours yesterday evening and saw only two butterflies - 1 Peacock at Vicarage Farm, 17:45 BST and 1 Green-veined White, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, Vicarage Farm, 18:40 BST - Robert Callf

Had an early start at **Frogmore Pit**, on Weds 14th between 9.30-11am, and had at least 10 Grizzled Skippers at various locations of the pit. Also Orange Tip and Green Vined White were present. Then onto **Pegsdon Hills** arrived at around 12 midday, quite breezy and overcast walked from the pub along the central valley only to find 1 Dingy Skipper 2 Brimstones 3 Peacocks and several Small Heath - Darrel Bryant

Green Hairstreak and Dingy Skipper at **Hexton Chalk Pits** this morning. Speckled Wood on the woodland path at the entrance - Nigel Agar

A **very early** morning roost count at **Hexton Chalk Pit** produced **31 Dingy Skipper** (our highest ever count anywhere) and 1 Small Heath. Too early for Green Hairstreak. We then moved onto the **Pegsdon Hills** (still cloudy) and found just 2 roosting Dingy using a majoram seed head (2 on the same head) in the absence of any knapweed. A further 3 were found in another paddock. By now the day was warming up and we arrived at **Telegraph Hill** to find Dingy flying, just a minimum of 2 seen, and probably 6 Green Hairstreak, also 1 Small Heath. 1 Dingy at **Hoo Bit**. Back to Pegsdon via a different slope, in sun but quite fresh, and just 2 Green Hairstreak, 2 Small Heath and just 1 Dingy in the first paddock we had visited where we found 2 roosting first thing. Finally visited **Knocking Hoe**, where in total we saw 10 Dingy, 11 Green Hairstreaks and 22 Small Heath. It then became cloudy.... Liz Goodyear & Andrew Middleton

Out of county butterflies (Tuesday 13th May): Went to sheltered gully near top of **Ivinghoe Beacon** and saw pristine Duke of Burgundies, Grizzled and Dingy Skipper, Small Heaths, Large White, and several Brimstones and Peacocks. Malcolm Newland

Wet Horsenden Hill, barely worth reporting today. But what the hey. 2x Speckled Wood seen in the big field just north of **Horsenden Lane North** before it started raining. I then abandoned the walk and made a beeline back to base. Oh well it was a good run of weather while it lasted. - Mike Rubin

Tuesday 13th May

Walked both pits of **Waterford Heath**. North pit quite exposed to north wind. Only saw three grizzled skippers but 2 in new areas. South Pit more sheltered from wind, **Grizzled skippers everywhere, I saw 23** but must be many more. saw five on glade going down to settling pits, 13 on east bank by Sacombe road, and in many other new places. Saw many orange tips and green veined whites and three holly blues, but also first Small heath on eastern bank at north end - Steve Kiln

Not sure if I got to see the single Small Heath in **Stevenage** before Andrew at lunchtime today. I didn't see him at work but also saw a Small Heath and one Holly Blue at about 12:30 - Trevor Chapman

Butterflies seen this afternoon 12 May 2008 between 2 & 4pm at **Therfield Heath, Royston**: Peacock (several); Large White (3); Small White (2); Green-veined White (2); Orange Tip (2); Brimstone (several); **Small Heath (2) & Brown Argus (5)**. Weather, fine and sunny with a moderate breeze in exposed parts, but very warm and wind free in protected areas.....Randy Drew

Frogmore - an hours search found **13 Grizzled Skipper** scattered across the whole site, including egg laying females, also 1 of each Small Copper and Brown Argus. Lots of Holly Blue around today, also egg laying on Dogwood flowers and Mother Shipton was present on another site! Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

News for yesterday (Monday 12th May 2008) - 1 Speckled Wood, at Lakeside, Oakwood, N14, 16:28 BST; 1 male Orange Tip, at Lakeside, Oakwood, N14, 16:30 BST. 2 Speckled Wood, near Equestrian Centre, Trent Park, 16:35 BST. 1 Peacock, at Vicarage Farm, 16:55 BST. 1 Peacock, at Parkside Farm, 17:13 BST. 1 male Orange Tip, at Parkside Res., Enfield, 17:30 BST. 1 Small Tortoiseshell, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, Vicarage Farm, 17:50 BST. Observations for today (Tues 13th May 2008) are as follows - 1 male Orange Tip, at Hilly Fields Park, Enfield,

12:37 BST. 1 Speckled Wood, at Flash Lane, 12:42 BST. 1 Speckled Wood, at Whitewebbs Wood, 13:50 BST. 1 Speckled Wood, at Archery Wood, Forty Hall, Enfield, 14:00 BST. 2 male Orange Tip, near Archery Wood, Forty Hall, Enfield, 14:00 BST. 1 Holly Blue, along bridle-path, Forty Hall, Enfield, 14:16 BST. 2 Holly Blue, together, at Forty Hall, 14:45 BST. 1 Speckled Wood, at Forty Hall, 14:50 BST. 1 Holly Blue, at Myddleton Avenue, Enfield, 15:00 BST - Robert Callf.

Horsenden Hill, another sunny day another lunchtime walk. Highlight of the lunchbreak was first Small Coppers. One at the bottom of the grazing field, and one at the north end of Batts field. Otherwise pretty quiet. I wonder if the Peacocks have started to die off? 4x Speckled Wood 3x Peacock 3x Holly Blue 3x White 2x Small Copper (my first of 2008) 1x Green Veined White 1x Male Orange Tip - Mike Rubin

Monday 12th May

Stevenage, lunchtime Monday 12 May. **1 Small Heath**, 5 Holly Blues, including one egg laying on Dogwood flowers, 1 Cinnabar Moth, 100s of Horse Chestnut leafminer moths on a Chestnut trunk and flying around the tree. Many Scarce Umber caterpillars on Maple, Ash, Hawthorn, Hornbeam and Rose - Andrew Wood

In hot sunshine I went down to **Mudchute LNR** today (May 12th) during my lunch-hour looking for spring butterflies. I was very fortunate and found a new species for the site - an Orange Tip. I also saw 2 Holly Blues, 8 Speckled Woods, 16 Green Veined Whites & 2 Small Whites. The total number species sightings I have made at the Mudchute site this butterfly season is now 6. - David Chandler

Sunday 11th May - just over the county border into Beds, **3 Small Heath** seen at Pegsdon Hills - Ian Small **Saturday 10th May** I spotted the following butterflies: A Large White butterfly and an Orange tip in **Hillingdon**. In my garden in Hayes an Orange Tip and a number of Holly Blues, its turning out to be a good year for them! **Sunday the 11th May** a visit to **Ruislip Woods** yielded 5 Speckled Wood, 3 Large Whites, 1 Small White and as I walking away from the woods much to my surprise I spotted a male Meadow Brown, rather early to see them in mid May. I also also saw a Small White Wave moth - Helen George

Saturday 10th May

Visited **Hexton chalk-pit** this afternoon. Saw about 5 Dingy Skippers, but no Green Hairstreak (perhaps not looking in the right area). Most abundant Lepidoptera was the Pyralid moth *Pyrausta nigrata*, which was very common. Photos of each attached. One Burnet Companion. Other butterflies were Brimstone, Orange Tip, Speckled Wood, Holly Blue, Green-veined White, Peacock - Ian Small

Waterford Heath - training day with the HMWT: We visited the north pit first and although 'normal' butterflies were hard to find, at least 10 Grizzled Skipper were seen, the majority close to the bramble bank near the railway. We then went across to the south pit, by now it was very hot, but 10 Grizzleds were seen on the south pit on or close to the Sacombe Road bank. Two more were seen clashing on the path that leads to the old 'silt beds' away from the main area which was a nice surprise. One latticed heath and a burnet companion were seen but no Brown Argus, Small copper or Common Blue which was very disappointing - several recorders.

Frogmore Pit, 5 Grizzled skipper, 1 Brown Argus and 1 Small copper found - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

Painted Lady basking on farm track, near Hoggates Wood **Bishop's Stortford** - Jim Fish

Observations for today (Sat 10th May 2008) are as follows - 4 male Orange Tip, at Vicarage Farm (1 along hedgerow off 'Barracks', 09:50 BST; 2 males, together, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Stables, 12:00 BST; 1 near firing range, 12:32 BST); 1 Peacock, at Vicarage Farm, 09:52 BST; 1 Small White, at Vicarage Farm, 09:55 BST; 1 Green-veined White, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Stables, Vicarage Farm, 10:10 BST; 1 Holly Blue, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Williams Wood, at Vicarage Farm, 10:10 BST; 1 Small White, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 10:15 BST; 8 Speckled Wood,(6 at Trent Park, including three together, Shaws Wood; 1 at Parkside Farm, 12:03 BST; 1 along track at Vicarage Farm, 12:15 BST); 1 Peacock, at Park Farm, 11:25 BST; 1 female Orange Tip, at Park Farm, 11:38 BST; 2 male Orange Tip, at Parkside Farm; 1 Large White, Sidhil's Field, Vicarage Farm. Also of some interest - saw my first Brown Silver-lines today in Williams Wood, Trent Park. Saw my first Common Blue Damselfly of the year today at

Park Farm, Enfield. Later, Just spent an hour (14:30 - 15:30 BST) over the 'New Fields', Trent Park and recorded the following: 9 Speckled Wood,(1 near Oakwood entrance, 14:42 BST, 7 in Sect. 7 at 15:00 BST, 1 Snakes Lane, 15:26 BST); 1 male Orange Tip, edge of Church Wood, 15:10 BST and my first Small Copper of the year near the Sports Field, 15:16 BST. Also saw a Holly Blue at Bramley Road, Oakwood at 14:30 BST. - Robert Callf

Friday 9th May

In the gloomy but very mild and humid 8/8 lunchtime overcast I saw 2 Holly Blues (or could be the same one?) fly past in the garden while I munched, as well as loads of Horse Chestnut Leaf Miner moths under the conker tree, and a Carnation Tortrix moth in the front driveway at **Kenton** - Mike Rubin

Went to **Waterford heath -south** 3pm today 9th . Saw the usual but on the eastern bank saw 9 grizzled skippers including mating pair on photos attached. Bit out of focus unfortunately. In wood saw my first comma. The south is much more productive than the north and not nearly as good as it was last year same time. I saw two grizzled skippers today about 5pm and they were on middle bank about 30-40 yards from wher steep gravelly path goes down. Have seen little butterflies at far end. On path down to river seen whites, brimstones & orange tips,protected from wind. At top in woods holly blues,orange tips and whites. In glade walking through near car park peacocks,speckled woods,holly blues, seen small coppers there - Steve Kiln

In a 15 minute visit to **Waterford North Pit** in still and heavy conditions found 5 on the bank, at least 3 individuals, otherwise just 1 Peacock. Passing through the South Pit **1 Grizzled Skipper** at the bottom of the east bank, I though I had a another but close examination showed the small Pyralid moth *Pyrausta purpuralis* feeding on Wild Strawberry. I though the absence of Latticed Heaths and Brown Arguses was making spotting Grizzled easier, hadn't reckoned with that one - Andrew Wood

Butterflies seen today (Fri 9th May 2008) include the following - 1 Speckled Wood, at Parkside Farm, 12:06 BST; 2 Large White, at Park Farm; 1 female Orange Tip, near Duncan's Wood, 12:47 BST; 1 female Orange Tip, at Park Farm near Hadley Road, 12:52 BST; 1 Peacock, near Lower Lake, Trent Park, 13:25 BST; 4 Speckled Wood, at Trent Park (1 edge of Williams Wood, 13:40 BST, 1 near Shaws Wood, 13:45 BST, 2 near Equestrian Centre, 13:50 BST); 1 Small Yellow Underwing, near Dew Pond. Also on Weds 7th May 2008 one Small Yellow Underwing, edge of Shaws Wood, Trent Park, 14:30 BST - my first of the year. Whilst waiting for a train at Edmonton Green Station (Thurs 8th May 2008) saw a Speckled Wood settle near the platform at 12:41 BST - Robert Callf

Thursday 8th May

Saw my 1st green hairstreaks x 5 at Highdown on **6th May** plus 14 brimstones and a few orange tips, no dingy skippers yet though Stuart Pittman

Herts border, Church End quarry, 11 dingy skippers, 1 green hairstreak, small copper and common blue, red kite, no small blues seen yet; adjacent chalk pit, 16 dingy skipper, 3 green hairstreak including egg laying on birdsfoot trefoil, 1 grizzled skipper base of bank at SP948139; 1 Duke Ivinghoe Beacon (4 seen by others); Aldbury Nowers NW section only, 1 green hairstreak (10 reported across site) - Andrew Middleton & Tristan Bantock.

Having met Andrew Palmer at **Hexton Chalk Pit** yesterday (8 May), I was kindly asked to submit a list of the eleven butterflies species I recorded there on Wednesday 7 May 2008 between the hours of 11 and 12am. These are:- Large White (3); Small White (1); Green-veined White (3); Orange Tip (4); Brimstone (several); Speckled Wood (1); Peacock (2); Small Tortoiseshell (2); Holly Blue (several); Green Hairstreak (3) & Dingy Skipper (4). Weather was warm approx 22C with a gentle breeze - Randy Drew

Hexton Chalk-Pit: 6 Green Hairstreak and **6 Dingy Skipper**. We met someone who had both species there yesterday (7 May). **Telegraph Hill: 3 Green Hairstreak and 1 Dingy Skipper**. - Diane Andrews and Andrew Palmer

Quick stroll around **Hexton Chalk pit nature Reserve** after work at 18.30 found me **2 Dingy Skippers** (rubbish photos to follow), 1 Green Hairstreak, 1 Holly Blue. shows these things stay up late - Darin Stanley

Fir and Pond Woods NR..... 1 brimstone, 2 speckled woods, orange tips, 1 peacock, and a pair of **small copper** butterflies on the Meadow - David Gompertz

Yesterday 7th May at **Colne Valley park** Holly Blue (1), Orange tip (3 males), Green veined white (3), Comma (2) picture attached. Same day at **Ickenham** in my garden, Orange tip (1), Holly blue (2 males) picture attached, comma (1) - Sezar Hikmet

Been tetrad bashing and whilst it hasn't exactly yielded anything special as such, the results have been ok, In summary - **3rd May 2008: Plashes wood (TL 3620 & 3820)** 11 orange tip, 12 peacock 1 Small tortoiseshell 1 Large White. **Wareside** Orange tip 10 Peacock 3 Small White 1 Large white 1 Brimstone 3 Comma 1. Lots of other sightings elsewhere but I'll spare you the details. Of more peacocks and orange tips - Phil MacMurdie

Horsenden Hill: Gasp! Too hot! And I think the butterflies agreed. Not so many around again. Walked over the summit this time. 10x Speckled Wood, especially in and around the woods. 3 having a tangle together at one point. 7x Peacock. Again either moving fast or resting wings closed, except for one basker. 5x Holly Blue 2x Male Orange Tip. No whites! - Mike Rubin

Wednesday 7th May

I went to **Waterford Heath** today at 3pm very hot but quite windy. In north part, a bit disappointing but saw the usual suspects orange tips, whites, peacocks, and a brimstone and a speckled wood, but returned after walking south part and saw 1 **grizzled skipper** on the middle bank. At the south side saw 2 **grizzled skippers** on eastern bank amongst the wild strawberries. Saw the same species as the north but also my first **common blue** and a holly blue - Steve Kiln

Horsenden Hill, bit warmer today. I walked the meadows below the hill this time. Didn't do quite so well. Again most of the butterflies in the meadows immediately West of Horsenden Lane North. Peacocks and Speckled Browns were not basking today. Too warm. Generally resting close to the shadows wings closed if not on the wing. 9x Peacock. 3 spotted together resting on the shady side of a log. Tried to take photo but scared them away instead. Doh! 5 x Speckled Wood mostly in the shadows. 4 x Holly Blue, 2 x Orange Tip, one Male, one Female, both nectaring. Got a shot of the Male but looked overexposed. Failed to get the female. 1 x Green Veined White, with rather squashed looking wings. 3 x unidentified whites - Mike Rubin

Balls Wood - 4 Peacock, 2 Green-Veined White, 3 Speckled Wood, 3 Orange Tip - Sandra Standbridge.

Tuesday 6th May

I seem to have a number of Holly Blue butterflies probably due to the abundance of wild Ivy. On Sunday 4th May several Holly blue in the garden in Hayes Tuesday the 6th of May two Orange Tips in my friends garden in Ruislip - Helen George

Waterford Heath north – 2 **grizzled skippers**; Waterford Heath south along main bank, 8 grizzled skippers mostly basking / nectaring low down, 1 latticed heath, 1 burnet companion, 1 small copper, peacock, orange tip; **Frogmore** 1 grizzled skipper; **Stapleford** 1 large white, peacock – Andrew Middleton & Martin Greenland

Observations for today (Tues 6th May 2008) - 1 Peacock, near Triangular Wood, 11:00 BST; 1 Holly Blue, 'New Fields', at 11:02 BST; 2 Speckled Wood, together, Sect. 7, along tube-line near Cockfosters entrance, 11:10 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, at Prince George Ave., N14, 11:53 BST. 4 Peacock, at Vicarage Farm; 2, male and female, Orange Tip, at Vicarage Farm; 1 Speckled Wood, along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, along hedgerow off Hog Hill, at Vicarage Farm, 13:47 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, Williams Wood, at Trent Park, 14:10 BST; 2, male and female, Orange Tip, together, along bridle-path near Shaws Wood, 14:30 BST; 2 Speckled Wood, along bridle-path near Equestrian Centre, 14:43 BST; 3 Holly Blue, together, at Lakeside, N14, 14:52 BST. Also today (Tues 6th May 2008) saw a female Muslin Moth on the edge of Church Wood, Trent Park this morning at 11:20 BST - in flight and settled. Just a couple of observations to report amongst many. Saw three Holly Blue together along River View, Enfield Town yesterday (Mon 5th May 2008) at 17:10 BST, flying around Ivy and Holly. - Robert Callf

Felt good on **Horsenden Hill** this lunchtime. No longer humid, and atleast 20C+. (Northolt METAR says 22C at 12:50pm.) Unbroken sunshine. Albeit rather windy. But pleasant. 9x Peacock, almost all on the move. Warm enough that they were not basking even when at rest (wings closed). 7x

Orange Tip, including 1 nectaring female. But failed to get a shot! 6x Speckled Wood, 3x Holly Blue, 1x Green Veined White nectaring, 4x Fast flying or fighting nymphs, probably Peacocks too. 3x Unidentified whites - Mike Rubin

Monday 5th May

At **Waterford Heath South**, I saw **4 Grizzled Skippers** (got very hard after 13:35 h), 2 Holly Blues and 1 Small Tortoiseshell. Latticed Heath tried to fool me into taking it for a skipper as well. At **Hertford Heath SSSI** I had 2 Speckled Wood (and 1 Large Red Damselfly). I lost count of Orangetips and Peacocks today, but a displaying male Peacock at Waterford Heath was interesting - Jan Hein van Steenis

Today (5th May) I saw a Holly Blue in **Northolt**, Middlesex. Don't know how well reported that grid is so thought I'd let you know. Was at a friend's place at the time and it was fluttering around a Laurel bush outside. - Mike Rubin

I would like to report that I saw my first ever **Humming Bird Hawk Moth** in our garden in **Harpenden** today - Euan Bruce

A long walk this pm took me miles and miles from **Pitstone church to Aldbury Nowers** by a very convoluted route. Important details: i.e. not listing every Brimstone etc There were **5 Dingy Skipper and 1 Green Hairstreak** at Pitstone. No sign of Small Blue - though I started here in very weak sun - so possibly they are out now a few hours later. The kidney vetch there is in flower. Crossing the road I walked the edge nearest Herts. (in fact I probably walked almost exclusively in Herts.) and saw 1 Green Hairstreak and 1 Grizzled Skipper. I don't have GPS but feel sure from the map that both these key species were inside the Herts. border. If I had time and the legs for it a traverse of the south west facing slope may well have provided a Bucks record too - but my ankles protested the angle of the hillside and I had to give up. Old age? If I had persisted I think I would have been too focussed on staying upright on the slippery hillside, to look carefully for tiny butterflies. I walked the buffer strip at the top of the quarry where it meets Pitstone Hill and saw **13 Green Hairstreaks** in about 20 mins - all definitely different individuals - and all in Bucks. I walked a big circle around Pitstone hill but saw little, only 1 Green Hairstreak worthy of note here. Quite blowy up there. Then into what I still think of as Turlhanger Wood - adjacent to Pitstone Hill and referred to as Aldbury Nowers by many. I still think of Duchies Piece as Aldbury N. Anyhow, it was getting late now and I was losing sun into hazy clouds, though 4 poss 5 species of whites and Peacocks still very active (3.30 -ish) and again a solitary Green H of note. It will be very interesting to see how the scraped areas and in particular the shaped scrapes develop. I fear that the already common thistles (several already in flower) will dominate much of the lightly scraped area, in two years time. The deeper scrapes should be far longer gaining vegetation. Home to rest and find Peacock, Orange Tip and Holly Blue in garden plus, the only one seen all day, - a Small Tort - Nick Bowles

Bencroft wood today 3.30 saw 2 speckled wood, one orange tip, 2 green veined white and a peacock. **Waterford Heath North** 3rd May 11.30 am: 1 large white, 2 orange tips, 1 holly blue, 1 brimstone, 3 peacock and a speckled wood. **South today 5th May late** 4pm: 6 orange tips, 3 peacocks, 1 brimstone, holly blue, speckled wood and green veined white- Steve Kiln

Saw our first Green Hairstreaks at Pegsdon Hills on Sunday, also went onto Bison Hill and saw more there. Picture attached - Sandra and Kevin Standbridge

Saturday 3rd May

I did my Bird Atlas square at **Walkern village** and surrounds (TL22Y) and saw my first Holly Blue for the year, also 1 Brimstone, 9 Peacocks, 4 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Speckled Wood, 2 Large White, 3 Small White and 5 Orangetips (all males) - Steve Lane

Hexton Chalk Pit, **1 Green Hairstreak**, 2 Holly Blues & numerous Brimstone seen this afternoon. No Dingys though - Darin Stanley

We went to **Waterford South** and arrived at 2.25 and immediately saw our first **Grizzled Skipper** of the year at 2.30. Over the next 1 1/2 hours we had 11 sightings and we believe this was 4/5 individuals. Also saw 3 male Orange Tips and 1 female, 3 Peacocks and an Angle Shades. We enclose a couple of record shots - Sandra and Kevin Standbridge

Sightings for today are as follows - 2 Small Tortoiseshell, at Vicarage Farm (1 at 'Barracks', 10:55

BST, 1 along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, 11:27 BST); 2 Peacock, at Vicarage Farm (1 along gravel-track, 11:00 BST, 1 along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, 11:25 BST); 2 Peacock, at Parkside Farm (1 at 11:35 BST, 1 at 11:48 BST); 6 Orange Tip,(2 at Vicarage Farm, 1 near Hadley Road, 11:30 BST, 1 at Sidhil's Field, 14:12 BST); 2 females at Park Farm,(1 at 12:02 BST, 1 at 12:13 BST); 1 male along Hadley Road at Park Farm, 12:37 BST; 1 male, at Uni-lawns, Trent Park, 13:20 BST); 2 Brimstone,(female nectaring on dandelion, at Parkside Res., 11:57 BST, 1 male, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 13:23 BST); 1 male Large White, at Ferny Hill Farm, 12:40 BST; 1 Peacock, at Ferny Hill Farm, 12:40 BST; 1 Peacock, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 13:26 BST; 2 Speckled Wood, at Shaws Wood, 13:30 BST - Robert Callf.

Friday 2nd May

News for today (Fri 2nd May 2008) - 3 male Orange Tip,(2 males, at Parkside Farm, 11:55 BST, 1 along bridle-path near Shaws Wood, 13:58 BST); 1 female Large White, at Parkside Farm, 11:57 BST (My first of the year); 5 Peacock,(1 at Parkside Farm, 12:00 BST; 2 together, edge of Moat Wood, 13:10 BST; 1 'Old Golf Course', 13:17 BST; 1 near Dew Pond, 13:45 BST); 1 Small White, by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 13:31 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 13:50 BST - Robert Callf.

No Grizzleds at Waterford Heath yet - Andrew Middleton

Thursday 1st May

Today at Stockers Lake orange Tips 2 males. Peacock and two green-veined white. Photos of two attached. Could not get a picture of Orange tip - Sezar Hikmet

April 2008

Tuesday 29th April

Kenton Saturday 26th April - A warm 20C+ day, already 15+ early morning. An unidentified white (Small or Green veined) flew past the garden around 8AM. Grove Farm - Monday 28th April: Fairly overcast and showery conditions. Despite that found a Speckled Wood in the wooded section of the area. Horsenden Hill Meadows - Tuesday 29th April: Lunchtime walk in the wake of a big heavy shower. Cool and damp but strong sunshine making the gravel paths steam. Saw nothing except for one single Male Orange Tip on the wing just below the grazing field near the road / entrance to Batts field - Mike Rubin

<http://piccies.flybywire.org.uk/ButterfliesMoths/index.html>

Monday 28th April

Had a walk around the Great Ashby Park and Box Wood between 11am and 3pm, weather sunny intervals and some light showers. I saw 2 Speckled Wood, 1 Brimstone, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Small White and 10+ Peacocks. Not a transect walk, a bird atlas walk - Steve Lane

Only got out late yesterday (Mon 28th April 2008) and saw the following: 1 male Orange Tip, along bridle-path near Merryhills Brook, Trent Park, 16:10 BST; 1 Speckled Wood, at Shaws Wood, Trent Park, 16:20 BST - Robert Callf.

Sunday 27th April

Seen around a sunny Watford (Central Park) on Saturday 26th; Orange Tip, Green Veined White (2) Small White (2) Brimstone and a Red Admiral - David Chandler

News for the weekend is as follows: Saturday 26th April - 1 Speckled Wood at Lakeside, Oakwood, N14, 15:45 BST; 1 Small White, settled, along Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm, 16:00 BST; 3 Peacock at Vicarage Farm (1 along Merryhills Brook, 16:01 BST, 1 at 'Barracks', 16:07 BST, 1 along Leeging Beech Gutter, 16:20 BST); 2 Peacock, together at Parkside Farm, 16:53 BST. 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Vicarage Farm, 16:02 BST. Sunday 27th April 2008: 1 male Orange Tip at Parkside Farm, 09:41 BST; 1 Peacock at Parkside Farm 09:52 BST; 2 Peacock at Park Farm (1 at 10:10 BST, 1 near Duncan's Wood, 10:27 BST)- Robert Callf.

Amwell 26th April TL31, I believe (TL3712) At last some warm sunshine and good weather for butterflies. 15 orange tip - the orange tips were very fresh, one particularly stunningly bright individual seen in front of the central viewing area. They were very active in the warm sunshine, mostly over nettles but also all along the meadow on the opposite side of the lane from the reserve. 5 Brimstone including 2 in a mating flight/contest, 6 Peacock including two spiralling

together, 2 Green Veined White nr Hollycross Lake, 4 Small White 3 Holly Blue - 2 in meadow opposite reserve and one on path up to the railway crossing point - Alun & Chrissie

News from Saturday April 26th - spring trio of Orange Tip, Brimstone & Holly Blues on the wing in Hemel Hempstead - Ashley Cox

Still relatively easy to see Small Tort here. Just walk out of my garden into field behind - at least 4 within two mins. Or stay in garden seat with a mug and wait 30 mins for one to come in and nectar. a real breath of spring here in Tring too; similar species around Tring, Herts., and in Wendover Woods a large forest area about 2 crow flying miles west of Tring (but in Bucks not Herts.) on 26th April: Brimstone, un-id Small or Green-veined White, Orange-tip, Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock, Speckled Wood. I also visited BUCKS sites with colonies of Grizz/DIngy/Green Hstrk/Small Copper, but no sign of any. Simply more of the same species as above. No sign of Holly Blue anywhere. Slow worm and Grass snake, Buzzard, Red Kite and my first singing Whitethroats of the season added to the fun NO species of particular interest yet but at least Orange Tip and Speckled wood now under my belt for the year. I will keep you posted - Nick Bowles (*Green Hairstreak has been seen out of county*)

Saturday 26th April

Some more species in the last few days but no time to post photos - did see my first Red Admiral in St. Augustine though - LG

Arrived at Waterford Heath South at 2.45pm, weather was sunny and a few clouds, saw 6 Peacocks and Small Tortoiseshell searched for 1/2 hour but no GS. Then went over to Waterford Heath North and saw 12 Peacocks, Male Orange Tip, Female Brimstone, Small Tortoiseshell and a White but too far away to ID, alas no GS. However, we saw our first 2 Large Red Damselflies of the year and we believe a Ruby Tiger Moth. Sandra and Kevin Standbridge

1st holly blue in my Harpenden garden today (26th April), 1st comma (I always seem to be late with them), 1st large white (not a female brimstone) and 1st small or green veined white (not a female orange tip). 1st orange tip (a male) today just outside St Albans abbey. Heaps of peacocks and brimstones, three commas and three small tortoiseshells whilst running on the Nickey line and thereabouts. At last! - Richard Harrington

Friday 25th April

Observations for today (Fri 25th April 2008) - 10 Peacock,(1 near Shaws Wood, 12:40 BST; 1 Shaws Wood, 12:47 BST; 1 along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, Vicarage Farm, 13:06 BST; 2 Park Farm, 13:28 BST and 13:33 BST; 2 at Parkside Farm, 13:11 BST and 13:32 BST; 1 at Ferny Hill Farm, 14:05 BST; 1 at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 14:33 BST; 1 edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 14:57 BST). 1 Speckled Wood at Park Farm, 13:37 BST - Robert Callf

On St Georges Day (**23rd**) In Bencroft wood 2 peacock. In Broxbourne Wood 1 comma, 3 peacock, 1 orange tip. At home in Bengoe, 3 peacocks pursued by cats and a holly blue. On **25th April** Waterford heath, 8 peacocks, 1 brimstone and 1 orange tip. Steve Kiln

Orange Tip - Seen at Millstream close in Hertford 21.4.08 - Craig Hornby

Thursday 24th April

Had a walk around Great Ashby Park, Stevenage. Between 2pm & 2.30pm (Transect bashing). I saw 1 Orange tip, 2 Green-veined White (both first for the year), 5 Brimstones and 9 Peacocks. Also 4 Buzzards circling around the park - Steve Lane

Had an evening walk yesterday (Weds 23rd April 2008) and saw the following: 1 Small Tortoiseshell, along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm, 17:20 BST; 1 Peacock, at Vicarage Farm, 17:25 BST; 2 Peacock, together at Parkside Farm, 17:55 BST - Robert Callf

Wednesday 23rd April

Front clearing as I set off at lunchtime. Explored the meadows between Greenford Road and Horsenden Lane North. Despite big cloudshadow found 2x Speckled Wood 'basking' (cloudbathing?) and 1x Peacock just off Greenford Road (close to the canal). closer to the hill the

sun came out properly and was quite warm. But just 1 Peacock. The bluebell patch where yesterday's Peacock acrobat and orange tip were were deserted. Final score 2 all. - Mike Rubin

Tuesday 22nd April

21st April A Speckled Wood, a Brimstone, a Comma, and three Peacocks, all seen in quick succession, in the field NW of Ruislip Reservoir car park. 22nd April Eight Peacocks and one Comma seen in half an hour (but nothing else) in the old railway sidings North of Croxley Common Moor. Graham Elcombe.

Afternoon of Tues. 22nd April, Thornbera Road Allotments, Bishops Stortford, one small white, one male brimstone and one rather big small tortoiseshell settled on cow manure that I got within one foot of before it flew off. - Len Crouch

More sightings for today (Tues 22nd April 2008) - 1 male Orange Tip, at Lakeside, Oakwood, N14, 14:02 BST (My first of the year); 5 Peacock,(4 at Vicarage Farm, 1 at 'New Fields', Trent Park); 2 Small Tortoiseshell, together, along Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm, 14:16 BST; 2 Speckled Wood,(1 at 'Barracks', Vicarage Farm, 14:25 BST; 1 near Oakwood entrance, Trent Park, 15:45 BST); 1 Small White, along Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm, 14:12 BST, also three other whites seen but not specifically identified - Robert Callf

MUDCHUTE REPORT The sun came out from behind the clouds at long last and I went down to Mudchute LNR today (April 22nd) during my lunch-hour looking for any butterflies I could - having not seen a single butterfly in Herts or Middx this year at all. I was very fortunate and found 17 butterflies: 3 Holly Blues, 3 Speckled Woods, 1 Brimstone, 8 Green Veined Whites & 2 Small Whites. The total number species sightings I have made at the Mudchute site this butterfly season is now 5. Dave Chandler

Had a short walk round Hertingfordbury at lunchtime, spotted 1 small white, 1 large white, 1 holly blue, 1 red admiral, 1 comma and 3 peacock, must be the warm weather bringing them out - Robin Pearson

Saw ten Peacocks today but nothing else - where are all the Whites? The Peacocks were all seen in Trent Park - 1 south edge of Rough Lot, 11:00 BST, 1 near Dew Pond, 11:35 BST, 3 edge of Williams Wood, 11:40 BST, 5 at Shaws Wood, between 11:45 - 11:50 BST - Robert Callf

Yesterday at Grove Farm, despite fairly warm and sun breaking through thin cloud, no butterflies at all! Today on Horsenden Hill, warm (16C+), light wind and nearly unbroken sunshine. A dizzy total of 31 butterflies. 25 Peacocks (including one upside down hanging from a bluebell wings open), 2 Male Holly Blues (my firsts of 2008), 1 very pale Speckled Wood, 1 Comma, 1 Big white (suspected female Brimstone from the angular wings and fast flight pattern - my first of 2008 if so) and 1 Male Orange Tip also feeding on bluebells (first confirmed of 2008). The Orange Tip was so busy feeding on the bluebells that my camera lens pretty much touched it without it flinching. All in full sunshine too. (Normally they don't stop moving in sun and impossible to get near!) - Mike Rubin

Monday 21st April

Saw three butterflies today (Monday 21st April 2008) - 2 Peacock and 1 Speckled Wood, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park at 13:45 BST - Robert Callf

I went for a wander up **Barnhill** (TQ18) in the afternoon when the sun broke through. But butterfly numbers were very poor despite mild conditions (15C). 2 Speckled Woods, 1 Peacock and 1 White (suspected Orange Tip female from rounded wings and flight pattern) - Mike Rubin

Thursday 17th April

Last weekend - 12th April 2008 TL3024 - St Johns Wood, 1 Comma, 1 peacock, 1 speckled wood. Some roe deer also. TL3426 - Wakeley - (path) 1 Peacock - Phil MacMurdie (whilst tetrad bashing!)

Went to Waterford Heath (South) at approx 2pm, saw 5 Peacocks but no early GS. Did see 1st Male Orange Tip over Fishers Green near Bittern hide today. Sandra Standbridge

Horsenden Hill (15th April)Yah boo a cloud followed me around for much of the walk. But when it

finally shooed away and warm sun came out there were plenty of Peacocks west of the hill. At least 12 counted in total. No other species at all though! - Mike Rubin

News for today (Tues 15th April 2008) - 1 Small Tortoiseshell, along track at Vicarage Farm, 11:50 BST. 1 Comma, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 12:52 BST. 3 Peacock, at Trent Park (2 edge of Williams Wood at 13:20 BST and 1 edge of Shaws Wood, 13:30 BST) - Robert Callf

Monday 14th April

I saw my first **Orange-tip** of the year today in the grounds of **Brunel University**. Peacock, Brimstone and Small White also seen - Steve Pash

A few butterflies were seen today (Monday 14th April 2008) - 1 White sp., seen at distance at Vicarage Farm, also a Peacock here at 11:55 BST. 2 Comma, together in clearing, Rough Lot, Trent Park at 13:00 BST and 1 Peacock, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park at 13:45 BST. Also heard a Cuckoo singing at Vicarage Farm this morning - Robert Callf

Grove Farm today, 3 Peacocks and a tiny and battered looking Speckled Wood spotted before showers threatened to spoil the walk. Didn't feel very warm out there either. But better than the miserable weekend just gone! - Mike Rubin

Saturday 12th April

Only one butterfly seen today (Saturday 12th April 2008) - 1 Comma, in a clearing in Rough Lot, **Trent Park** at 13:40 BST. - Robert Callf

Had a Red Admiral in the garden (**Harpenden**) today - Robin Pearson

Thursday 10th April

Hitchin garden 12.30 on 10 April 2008 11 deg. Sunny 1 Peacock drew warmth from curtain protection over a shrub and perched for 2/3 minutes - Val Fullforth

Sightings for today [10/4]. Had a walk around **Great Ashby Park**, Stevenage this afternoon and saw **1 Large White**, 1 Comma and 5 Peacocks - Steve Lane

News for today (Thurs 10th April 2008) - 1 Peacock, basking in Dalrymple Close, Southgate at 10:40 BST. Also one Peacock at Vicarage Farm at 11:45 BST. Saw my first **Speckled Wood** of the year in Shaws Wood, Trent Park at 14:30 BST, also a Red Admiral here simultaneously - Robert Callf.

Wednesday 9th April

Hemel Hempstead, had my first Peacock of the year in the back garden today, also saw my first **Speckled Wood**, a small but pristine specimen, but this was on the bridle path behind the house. Pity, as it would have beaten my earliest record by 14 days - Malcolm Newland

A **male Orange Tip** in **Letchworth** at midday today - Brian Sawford

Today a walk along the railway line from **Turkey Street Station** to Carterhatch Lane produced some good sightings: 2 Small Tortoiseshells behind Enfield Cemetery, 8 sightings of Peacock all the way along, a Small White and a very obliging Comma (shame I only had the work's camera). Also, before I left home, a Male Brimstone in my garden at Eliot Road, **Royston** - Simon Rasch (*please note this is Simon's job!*)

Wood Green at 3.30 this afternoon a **female Orange Tip** (100% sure!) settled on Spanish Bluebell - phone call from Diane Andrews

At **Balls Wood** Wednesday lunchtime **1 Orange Tip**, 1 Small White, 7 Peacocks, 2 Commas and **1 Orange Underwing Moth**. **Broadmeads, Ware** on **Tuesday** lunchtime 2 Small Tortoiseshells, 1 Small White and 1 Peacock - Andrew Wood

Maple Cross, looked out onto the back garden lunch time and saw a **male orange tip** fluttering around our daffodils! Is this the first sighting this year? It's certainly the first one I've seen - Ann Piper

News for today (Weds 9th April 2008) - 5 Peacock,(1 at Vicarage Farm at 12:00 BST; 1 at Parkside Farm at 12:35 BST; 3 at Trent Park - (1 in Moat Wood at 13:25 BST, 1 by Lower Lake at 14:02 BST, 1 edge of Williams Wood at 14:30 BST); 4 Small Tortoiseshell,(2 together at Vicarage Farm at 12:03 BST, 1 at Parkside Farm at 12:25 BST, 1 at Trent Park, edge of Williams Wood at 14:30 BST); 2 Comma at Trent Park - (1 by Lower Lake at 14:05 BST, 1 near Dew Pond at 14:15 BST). Also **1 Orange Underwing** on the ground near the Dew Pond, Trent Park at 14:25 BST - my first of the year! - Robert Callf

A Peacock in the garden in **Hayes** and a Small White flying in **Pield Heath Road near Hillingdon Hospital**. Helen George

Saw Small Tortoiseshell yesterday (08/04/08) at Oak Farm **St Albans** while carrying out a roving visit to the TL10Z tetrad. My first one this year - Alan Gardiner

Horsenden Hill, a tad warmer today. 10-11C according to xcweather but felt warmer in the strong sun and light winds. 4 Peacocks on the West and Southwest sides of the hill. The last one happily sat on my finger and posed while a cloud attacked the sun. Then got my camera very close to one resting Small White by Horsenden Lane North while reluctantly returning to the office. - Mike Rubin

Tuesday 8th April

Despite it being only 8-9C, I saw 1 **Speckled Wood** (my first of 2008, basking in a sunny sheltered part of the woods) and 1 Peacock (only my 2nd of 2008) during my lunchtime walk through **Grove Farm, Greenford, TQ18**. - Mike Rubin ([18 reasons why there were no butterflies reported on Sunday!](#))

(Missed by mistake the other day) **News from 4th April**, inspired by seeing the holly blue this morning I had a local walk around **Maple Cross** this afternoon. The thermometer said nearly 20*c . I netted over a dozen peacocks (not literally!) many of them spiralling in pairs. Also saw 3 whites - one was a definite small white and the others could have been small or green-veined, I was not quick enough for a proper ID. Then a male brimstone appeared and lastly a small tortoiseshell. So a good start to April!! - Ann Piper

Monday 7th April

News from the **4th: Marshalls Heath, 1 Holly Blue, 1 small tortoiseshell** - Darin Stanley

News for **Friday 4th April 2008** is as follows: 10 Peacock,(9 at Vicarage Farm - seven of which were along Merryhills Brook; 1 at Trent Park - on the edge of Shaws Wood, 17:23 BST). 1 Comma, along Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm. Fridays weather was in stark contrast to yesterday's - Robert Callf

Friday 4th April

In my **Maple Cross** garden this morning in Maple Cross I saw my first **Holly Blue** of the year on a holly bush! More sightings - last Tuesday April 1st, a friend in **Mill End** saw a small white in her garden and the previous Thursday March 27th there was a small tortoiseshell in the neighbour's garden - Ann Piper

One **Holly Blue** seen this morning, April 4th, in my garden in **Pinner**, (Middlesex) - Graham Elcombe

Thursday 3rd April

Sightings for today (Thurs 3rd April 2008) are as follows: 5 Peacock - 2 edge of Williams Wood at 13:52 BST, 1 edge of Rough Lot, 14:20 BST, 1 in clearing, Moat Wood, 1 at Park Farm at 15:25 BST. 2 Comma,(1 in Shaws Wood, 13:48 BST and 1 edge of Williams Wood at 13:53 BST) - Robert Callf

Things are starting to move now, with 4 Peacock and **1 Green-veined White** at **King's Meads** this morning. Couldn't find any Red Arrows or Typhoons but did manage 1 Chinook - Alan Reynolds

Saw my first **Small White** of the year and a Peacock at **Turnford Brook in Cheshunt** - Sandra Standbridge

Tuesday 1st April

Horsenden Hill, phew it was warm today. Nice! Rather a lot of cloud and breezy at times but enough sun to make it rather pleasant. And the result for Horsenden Hill at lunchtime: 1 Peacock, 2 7-spot ladybirds, 9 red arrows and 4 typhoons! This is not an April Fool! Near the end of my walk (soon after 1pm) I heard a huge roar. Scrambled the camera and powered up and hammered the shutter when they appeared. Managed a lucky shot which I'll check out later. Had no time to think focus or zoom. Cool to get anything at all as I had no idea they were coming (or else I would have waited at the top of the hill!). - Mike Rubin

Only one butterfly seen today (a bit too breezy) - a **Small Tortoiseshell** along the gravel-track at **Vicarage Farm** this afternoon at 14:15 BST. - Robert Callf

News from **Sunday 30th March - Carpenders Park** Brimstone, **Park Street** Brimstone, **Potters Bar Small/GV White** - Jez Perkins

March 2008

Monday 31st March

Grove Farm, Greenford, and more today at lunchtime. A cloudy day. But the sun shone through a gap for a few minutes during a short lunchtime walk. One Comma and One Small White (my first of 2008) positively id'd. Got a good close look at the **Small White** when it landed to nectar less than a metre from me - Mike Rubin

Saw two Peacocks in Trent Park this afternoon (Mon 31st March 2008) - 1 along bridle-path near Merryhills Brook and another on the edge of Williams Wood - Robert Callf

Maple Cross, I have just seen my first butterfly of the year. At last! It was a peacock sunning itself on a daffodil at the bottom of my garden in Maple Cross. I'm not sure that I can ever recall seeing any butterfly on a daffodil before. Normally their seasons don't often overlap! Ann Piper

I saw in **Balls Wood** today 2 Comma and 3 Peacock. Over Fishers Green yesterday near Normans pond 1 Male Brimstone - Sandra Standbridge

Sunday 30th March

Saw three butterflies yesterday (Sunday 30th March 2008) - 1 Small Tortoiseshell, settled along Leeing Beech Gutter at **Vicarage Farm**, at 15:15 BST; 1 Peacock at **Parkside Farm**, at 15:25 BST; 1 Comma, in Moat Wood, **Trent Park** at 16:20 BST. My first dates for the year for these species - Robert Callf

First butterflies of the year. Brimstone at Old Hale Way, allotments **Hitchin** Brimstone and Red Admiral my **Hitchin** garden - Nigel Agar

In the sunshine on **Poors Field, Ruislip** I saw 4+ Peacock, 2 Comma and 2 male Brimstone - Steve Pash

Visited **Purwell Ninesprings HMWT Nature Reserve** this morning 11.30 am, Saw 2 x Brimstone, 1 Comma basking in the sun at ground level, and 1 Red Admiral. At 1.30 am at **The Millstream P.H. Hitchin** in the car park, adjacent the stream and garden, 1 Brimstone and 1 Red Admiral. 2.20 pm arrived home and saw 1 Brimstone in own **Hitchin garden** - Val Fullforth

In the garden in **Hayes** a Peacock basking on the ground and what looked like a small White or perhaps a day flying moth? flying into Honeysuckle before disappearing into the bushes - Helen George

Weather also much better than I dared hope, here in **Tring**, Herts. - virtually sunny all day from 9am. A Peacock by 9.30 basking in garden and then several Brimstone 'fly throughs' and a Comma in the afternoon. Walked around the field behind the house at about 12pm and I could see 5 Brimstones flying simultaneously and 2 Small Torties chasing about. Also a single Comma. (Previous years have returned early April sightings of 10 -15 STorties so the numbers might be down this spring). On a shortish drive (20 mins) to nearby Ivinghoe (Bucks) I saw 14 Brimstones; only one a female - obviously today was a good day for male Brimstone spotting in this area. Searched nettle beds that held Red Admiral larvae this time last year but nothing except some

tents of green moth larvae (of Burnished Brass I think). Hope everyone else enjoyed the day as much as me - Nick Bowles

1 Brimstone, 1 Comma and 1 Peacock at **Waterford Heath** and 2 Peacocks and 1 Brimstone in various parts of **Bengeo** today - Andrew Wood

Park Wood, Ruislip - Woo hoo! March is saved! Having royally screwed up the forecast and not gone gliding thinking we were in for heavy showers all day, I decided to pay Park Wood a visit. In the areas surrounding the coppiced area I saw 5-6 flighty Commas basking in strong sun and having good scraps. Also saw 1 small dark nymph near the Fore Street entrance to the Bridleway. No idea what it was. Looked too small for Peacock or Red Admiral. I guess Small Tortoiseshell is a possibility. I didn't go too far as further West the bridleway was impassable without seriously big wellies. (Glad I didn't come in from the South entrance!) The clearing West of the coppiced area was also badly flooded in the middle. But the Commas were found in dry areas. - Mike Rubin (trying not to look at that sky...)

2 male Brimstones, one on Gresley Way, **Stevenage** by Box Wood and the other in my Great Ashby garden - Steve Lane br />

Thursday 27th March

Recorded my first butterfly of the year, a **small tortoiseshell** adjacent to Muggins Wood, 1 mile east of **Little Hadham Ford** on 27th March. 3.00pm on a relatively mild and sunny afternoon - Jonathan Forgham

I saw 3 Peacock Butterfly on the outskirts of **Balls Wood** on the **27th March** - Sandra Standbridge.

One Peacock in Lower Bourne Gardens, **Ware** lunchtime today - Andrew Wood

Single Peacocks at Beech Farm near **St Albans** (TL 18 08) and by Knights Wood near **Tyttenhanger** (TL 18 05) - Colin Everett

Stevenage, saw my first butterfly this year - a Comma in Millennium Wood (adjacent to Whomerley Wood) at around 3:10pm today. The area is part of my transect (Stevenage). - Peter Clarke

Fir and Pond Woods, a comma by the Old Pond ... first butterfly seen on the Reserve this year - David Gompertz

The hot sunshine is bringing out the butterflies. A Peacock and a Comma in the garden in **Hayes** - Helen George

Sunday 23rd March

National news

Humming-bird Hawk-moth and Painted Lady online survey with BBC Radio 4

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/worldonthemove/>

Butterfly Conservation has developed an exciting online survey of these two migrant species in association with Radio 4's major series World on the Move and as part of the Garden Moths Count initiative. The survey will run throughout 2008 on the Butterfly Conservation website and gives us a great opportunity to raise awareness and engage with the general public. Anyone who sees a Humming-bird Hawk-moth or Painted Lady butterfly can use the simple but amazing interactive mapping on the website to zoom in on satellite images (down to the scale of your own garden) and log their sightings. This will enable us to track the arrival in the UK of these wonderful creatures on their journey from North Africa and southern Europe, and then to map their spread here during the summer. We are also keen to hear observations of interesting behaviour (such as courtship, mating, egg laying, plants used for nectaring, reverse migration in the autumn or hibernation) which can be recorded in a comments box in the online recording system. What we do know about the migration of these spectacular insects comes from observations over the centuries from amateur recorders, but there is still much to learn and we hope that the public will help in 2008.

National Butterfly Recorder's Meeting 29 March 2008

Final call for bookings for this popular annual event. It is not too late to book and we would appreciate any quick promotion you can achieve locally via email/websites. Details of the meeting

and booking are: Booking is still open for the ever-popular annual National Recorders' Meeting. It will take place at the Birmingham and Midland Institute (see www.bmi.org.uk for a map). The National Recorders' Meeting provides feedback about both butterfly recording and monitoring undertaken through the Butterflies for the New Millennium and UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme projects (including progress in the wider countryside monitoring pilot). Butterfly population trends for 2007 will also be unveiled for the first time at the meeting! In addition, we will hear from guest speakers about exciting butterfly projects making use of recording and monitoring data to assess the impacts of climate change, habitat management and other issues. Anyone interested in butterflies is welcome; you don't have to be an active recorder. However, we do require advanced booking and there is a (heavily subsidised) registration fee of £5 per person, made on the day, to help cover the costs of venue hire, tea/coffee and buffet lunch. If you would like to book a place please contact Diane Garland at Butterfly Conservation (01929 400209 or info@butterfly-conservation.org) AS SOON AS POSSIBLE providing your name, address and contact number.

Monday 17th March

One **Brimstone** seen flying around **Hillingdon Hospital, Uxbridge** on Saturday morning - Helen George

News from Saturday 15th - A single **Brimstone** here in **Tring** Herts both today and yesterday and today a brief glimpse of dark silhouette that appeared from shape to be a Peacock, on its way into the shelter of a thick conifer after the sun vanished. Even if we are headed back towards colder weather, spring is on its way (at last) judging by the plants and various invertebrates that are out and about- Nick Bowles

On **Friday 14th March**, one lone brave **Brimstone** at **King's Meads** - Alan Reynolds

Wednesday 12th March

One **Peacock** travelling at 60mph at **Nettleden 12th March**. Here's a little aside for anyone who fancies braving the March winds, there's a nice show in Stocking Springs and the adjacent Round Spring at the moment. A nice taste of old Hertfordshire coppiced woodland - Ashley Cox

Tuesday 4th March

Tring, 1st March, I should have been at UTB event, I couldn't believe my doubly bad luck when I spotted the rotary washing line snapped and fallen over. Went out to retrieve washing and very nearly stepped on **Comma** basking on bare ground. About 5 mins later it flew fairly strongly into a pyracantha bush, or so I thought but I couldn't find it so possibly it doubled back or went straight through and out the other side. So, not such bad luck and my species count for 2008 has doubled. I don't keep records accessible so not certain but probably my earliest Comma - Nick Bowles

I saw my first Red Admiral of the year at Hall Marsh Scrape, **Fishers Green** on **Tuesday 26th February** - Sandra Standbridge

February 2008

Tuesday 26th February

Hemel Hempstead garden, 11.20 a.m. in the back garden a **Red Admiral** was flying in the sunshine while I was pruning eleven of my buddleias! - Malcolm Newland

One slightly tatty **Peacock** in a sheltered spot in The Hyde at **Ware** lunchtime today (26th). I managed to get a quick shot of it - Andrew Wood

Sunday 24th February

At **Amwell Nature Reserve** ... **2 red admirals** - David Gompertz

Saturday 23rd February

My friend in **Mill End** who records in her garden for me reported a butterfly which darted past her as she opened her garden shed this **Tuesday Feb 19th**. She caught sight of a flash of red and is pretty certain it was a red admiral but is not 100% sure. Nevertheless it was a butterfly! She is fairly sure it must have been hibernating in the shed and was woken up by the sunshine! - new via Ann Piper

Wednesday 20th February

Early sighting records - **9th February** - nr **Waltham Abbey** just inside the Herts border :) : Red Admiral (single) **17th February** - **Lemsford Springs** : **Peacock** and Red Admiral sighted. Both singles. Both spotted while birdwatching. The first one literally crossed the lens as I (Alun) was counting geese in a field. It just drifted through, causing me to snatch up the binoculars and follow its progress as it headed over the brambles and out of sight - Alun & Chrissie

Monday 18th February

Whilst watching a male Lesser Spotted Woodpecker in **Grovelands Park, Southgate** this afternoon a **Red Admiral** flew past at 15:25 GMT - Robert Callf

We saw a **Red Admiral** today, nectaring on Oregon Grape against a sunny wall in a sheltered housing complex in **Hayes** Middx - John Hollingdale

Sunday 17th February

Sighting of fresh **brimstone** on **10th Feb 2008** in our garden at **Hitchin** - Martin Banthorpe

Thursday 14th February

News from **Monday 11th February**, Ordnance Road, **Enfield Lock**: **Red Admiral** at 12.45 in flight close to the railway station - Martin Shepherd

Tuesday 12th February

I finally saw my first butterfly of the year today – a **Red Admiral** floated past me in **Stocking Pelham** around lunchtime - Tony Moverley PS and yes, it's just inside the Herts border!

A male **Brimstone** was seen today, 12 Feb, at 1pm flying in **Gubblecote** in the far NW corner of the county - Peter Bygate

We had a **Peacock** at **Aldbury Nowers** yesterday, in the northern enclosures, at around 14.30. We're back there today so might see some more! - Paul Thrush

My wife saw a **Red Admiral** on **Sunday February 10th** flying near our home on the Rosedale estate, **Cheshunt** - our first sighting of the season. Hopefully there will be many more to come - Roger Newbold

Monday 11th February

We saw a very smart male **Brimstone** flying south down our road in **Hatfield** around **midday on 8 Feb**. It was a welcome complement to the bumblebees & honey bees buzzing round crocus & heather flowers in our garden - John Moss

I saw a lovely pristine **peacock** butterfly sunning itself by lower **Spring Pond** on **Saturday (Feb 10th)** - Steve Bolsover

Horsenden Hill, on the south side of **Horsenden Hill** there are some blossoming bushes near the summit in full sun. Just before 1pm today I saw and photographed a **Comma** nectaring on one bush. My first ever February butterfly
<http://piccies.flybywire.org.uk/ButterfliesMoths/2008/20080211/EarlyComma.jpg> - Mike Rubin

I saw a very fresh **Brimstone** in my garden on **Saturday (Wheathampstead)** and so a few flaps and it was probably made it to Marshalls Heath - Paul Unwin

Sunday 10th February

No butterflies to report I'm afraid but I saw at least a dozen honey bees feasting on gorse this morning in the lovely sunshine! Maybe this is a sign of good things to come! This was along the main road in Maple Cross - Ann Piper

At about 4pm (**9th February**) in **Bishop's Stortford cemetery**, I caught sight of what I thought was initially just one **Red Admiral**. But as it flew past I saw that there were actually two, in tandem, as if joined together and flying as one - Mary Moverley

Saturday 9th February

I had a **Brimstone** in my garden here in **Tring** at just before 12 and so did two others I met this pm (1 from just North of Aylesbury Bucks and the other Oxford). So presumably plenty about in our neck of the woods today. It might be of interest that I joined the Upper Thames Branch trip to Bucks in search of Black Hairstreak eggs. 12 man hours turned up just two eggs. Not an easy species to monitor at this stage. No sign of vanessids (or blackthorn flower and the latter probably not for several weeks; plenty of bullace blossom in Tring though) - Nick Bowles

Just (12.30) had a stunning **male Brimstone** butterfly flutter over our back garden in **Harpenden** in bright sunshine - exactly eight weeks earlier than in 2007 and 2006! - Alan Jackson

Guessing you might have a relative flood of sightings in today's beautiful weather. We had a **male Brimstone**, early afternoon, flying through **Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park** - Keir Mottram

Friday 8th February

At lunchtime today a **fast flying butterfly** flew past me from behind and disappeared over a fence into a field at **Broadmeads Ware**. Too fast to positively identify and could not give chase but almost certainly either peacock or red Admiral by its size - Andrew Wood

January 2008

Wednesday 30th January

Saw my first butterfly of the year today (**Weds 30th January 2008**) a worn and tatty **Red Admiral** basking on an ornamental shrub at **Forty Hall, Enfield** this afternoon at 12:25 GMT - Robert Callf

Sunday 20th January

At lunchtime today I spotted a **butterfly** on the wing close to the **Bridgewater Monument above Aldbury**. I think I was just inside Herts. It didn't stop but it came fairly close and I am 90% sure it was a Peacock. Local conditions were 8/8 overcast low cloud but mild at about 13C. (It wasn't raining at the time although later in the walk it did!) That was a pleasant January surprise bonus. Wish it would have settled so I could have been 100% sure. But the deep red/purple velvety hint, very dark underside, flight pattern and the motion-blurred white pattern at the tips hinted at Peacock rather than Red Admiral. Then the wind blew it away into the woods and it was lost from view - Mike Rubin