

Archive Page

Sightings and news from January to June 2013

[📁 Archive Index](#)

[📷 Photo House Index](#)

This page contains sightings details of all the butterflies and moths reported to the [Sightings page](#) between January and June 2013.

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 2013

Sunday 30th June 2013

Sightings for Saturday 29th June 2013 - 2 Speckled Wood at Fir & Pond Woods, near Potters Bar, 12:55 hrs; 1+ male Large Skipper at Fir & Pond Woods, 13:20 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Fir & Pond Woods, 13:23 hrs - summer-brood; 11+ Meadow Brown at Fir & Pond Woods; 2 Small Tortoiseshell, together, at Holly Hill Farm, Enfield, 14:25 hrs; 1 Large Skipper, at Little Beechill Wood, 15:08 hrs; 3 Peacock at Vault Hill Wood, Enfield Chase; 1 Ringlet at South Barvin Farm, Enfield, 15:30 hrs; 2 Large Skipper at South Barvin Farm, Enfield, 15:35 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Plumridge Farm, Enfield, 15:45 hrs; 1 Large Skipper at Ferny Hill Farm, Enfield, 16:03 hrs. Sightings for Sunday 30th June 2013 - 1 Small Tortoiseshell, Sect 1, Trent Park, 14:17 hrs; 15 Large Skipper at Trent Park, 14:20 - 15:12 hrs; 15 Small Heath at Trent Park, 14:35 - 15:20 hrs; 3 Ringlet at Trent Park; 1 Small Copper, Sect 6, Trent Park, 15:05 hrs. - Robert Callf & Robin White.

News from 29th June 2013, Large Skipper on Common Spotted Orchid in Upper Green garden, Tewin. Speckled Wood seen most days - Jim Farr

At field other side of bridge from Garston station 1 x large skipper, 1 x red admiral, 1 x meadow brown, 2 x speckled wood. Onto Bricket Wood common where i found 3 x speckled wood, 5 x meadow brown, 6 x brimstone (4 female), 1 x ringlet, 1 x comma, 1 x green oak tortrix. 2 x small tortoiseshell at Water Lane just after 6 pm. - David Gower

At Bricket Wood Common this am 10+ speckled woods, 8+ brimstones, 4 Meadow Brown, 1 large Skipper and **a possible Purple Hairstreak** also 1 Small Tortoiseshell in my St. Albans garden early evening - Andrew Steele

Clouded Yellow near Panshanger today, looked like a helice pale female form - Andrew Wood

Clouded Yellow, at Heartwood today - west side of site on large area of clover - Martin Webb

We saw a female Clouded yellow nectaring on comfrey at Thorley Wash Nature Reserve this afternoon - Jenny Sherwen

Small Tortoiseshell in the Hitchin garden this mornng - Nigel Agar

A worn Small Copper (my first of the year) seen in the field north of Pigeonswick Cottage and 2 Small Whites, 10+ Speckled Woods and 2 Peacocks elsewhere in Norton Green today - Peter Clarke

High Wych, my largest count of Small tortoiseshell for many years today with a mind blowing 7 (this was a years worth of sightings only a few years ago) sunning along the path between the rapeseed fields ENE of the village on the way to the Rivers hospital/orchard site this morning, at the site on the main fields the sward has been allowed to grow very high this year and this has shaded out the clover and thyme plants, floral diversity has taken a hit here, the only butterflies seen, fitting in with the new long sward, 11 Large skipper, but surprisingly 1 Brown argus in their

usual spot but where none were seen last year, across the rest of the site in a more favorable sward, 3 Large skipper, 19 Meadow brown, 3 Common blue all males, 5 Speckled wood (in the shady track between the fields), 1 Small tortoiseshell, and a large pinky Nymphalid that whizzed through most likely a Painted lady, also 2 Bee orchids and 3 Pyramidal orchids - Laurence Drummond

Saturday 29th June 2013

At Merryhill Fields, Bushey = 26 x meadow brown, 10 x large skipper, **2 x small skipper** (my first of year), 6 x brimstone (1 female), 3 x common blue, 1 x ringlet (my first of year), 2 x peacock, 2 x speckled wood, 2 x small tortoiseshell, 1 x burnet companion, 3 x straw dot, 2 x green oak tortrix, 1 x yellow shell. - David Gower

Bricket Wood Common - Speckled Woods are the stars of the show today, with 20 recorded on today's transect walk. Brimstones are still out in force with a total split evenly between males and females. A few summer butterflies have started to emerge with just 1 Ringlet, 2 Meadow Browns and 4 Large Skippers. Other sightings included a Green veined White and a Small Magpie Moth. Butterfly World, Chiswell Green - only a mile away, but in butterfly world this site is on a different planet this week with little overlap in terms of species. Today I saw **7 Small Blues, 27 Common Blues, 1 Clouded Yellow, 7 Small Tortoiseshells** 4 six spot Burnet moth, 5 Yellow Shell, 3 Burnet Companion, 21 Meadow Browns and. 2 Large Skippers - Malcolm Hull

A walk round Oughtonhead today, saw good numbers of Brimstone, 2x Red Admiral, 2x Meadow Brown, 1x Speckled Wood and Common Blue - Kevin Taylor

Took an enjoyable walk across Hertford heath and round Balls wood. Balls wood looks superb now with the work that has been done there, Speckled woods made up the vast majority of the sightings with 50+ around the area, the late spring has certainly slowed things down, others included just 2 Large skipper, 2 Meadow brown and a Small tortoiseshell. Danemead could only give 1 Speckled wood. I tried my local elms at Pole hole farm but no WLH seen, also 1 fresh Small tortoiseshell here - Laurence Drummond

Sightings 29/6/13 - Hatfield Aerodrome (Disused) - Ellenbrook Fields Small heath x 5 Speckled Wood x 1 - David Wheatcroft

I saw a male orange tip today at Bayfordbury and another male orange tip near Essendon this afternoon. - Shaun Dowman

In Barnes Lane, Kings Langley between 1-2pm we saw many small tortoiseshells. Two were mud puddling by the roadside near nettles and brambles and further up the lane near the A41 bypass a field full of scentless mayweed and pineapple weed revealed at least 9 small tortoiseshells! On the verge opposite there was a late cinnabar moth and a my first ringlet - Elizabeth Debenham

A catch up listing. June 9th, We saw less than 20 common blues at Bunkers Lane, Hemel Hempstead ox eye daisy field. June 16th, also in Bunkers Lane Hemel Hempstead we saw a few common blues. June 17th, found a Burnet Companion at Bunkers and about 10 common blues. June 19th, a green veined white in Kings Langley nectaring on Herb Robert. June 24th, in Bunkers field about 9 common blues and several burnet cocoons. June 25th, No common blues in Bunkers, but a large hungry red admiral caterpillar munching through a nettle stalk which it later broke.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/7392841@N04/9154047624/in/photostream/>

Numerous burnet cases on grass. June 26th A small tortoiseshell was nectaring on valerian in a Kings Langley garden. My first large skipper in pristine condition on brambles in a Barnes Lane field in Kings Langley. Also a fast flier probably a small tortoiseshell as there are plenty of nettles.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/7392841@N04/9151771983/in/photostream/> June 27th in the garden in Kings Langley several Nemophora degeerella micro moth males with long antennae. More photos in an Exhibition which includes a few butterflies and an Aldbury Nowers view.

http://www.watfordobserver.co.uk/events/Kings_Langley/875415.Photographs_of_Chiltern_Views_and_Wildlife/

Elizabeth Debenham

Thursday 27th June 2013

At Bricket Wood Common this pm despite the cloud I saw 1 Painted Lady, 8 Large Skippers, 8+ Speckled Wood, 6 Brimstone at least 1 pair dancing and 3 Meadow browns plus a Hornet in the woods and at least 4 Broad-bodied Chaser on the common - Andy Steele

East of Redbourn today I saw my first meadow browns (3), ringlets (2) and large skippers (3) of the year, along with 2 brimstones and 3 speckled woods. Ian Flack

At Balls Wood today my first large skipper of the year - Andy Brown

Two Speckled Wood in Tottenham Cemetery today Thursday 27th June 2013 at 11:58 hrs. - Robert Callf

Wednesday 26th June 2013

I had some very good sightings yesterday at Butterfly World, over the whole Transect I recorded 41 Common Blues, 6 Small Blues, 1 Large White, 2 Small Whites, **Clouded Yellow**, Small Heath, 4 Meadow Browns, 2 Small Tortoiseshell, 3 Large Skippers - Mandy Floyd

Seen today (26th June) at Bedfont Lakes country park was a single **Clouded yellow**, along the path adjacent the railway line posing for several minutes before flying onto the nearby hedgeline. - Rob Solomon

In Bushey garden 1 x yellow shell , 1 x light brown apple moth. At Merryhill Fields, Bushey 4 x meadow brown (my first of year), 2 x speckled wood, 3 x large skipper (my first of year), 1 x small tortoiseshell, 1 x brimstone(male). At Water Lane 15+ nettle tap moths, 2 x speckled wood, 1 brimstone (male), 1 x small tortoiseshell, 1 x yellow shell, 3 x treble bar, 1 x common blue, 1 x large skipper. Lastly 3 x speckled wood at Fishers Field - David Gower

Last Wednesday (19th June) on the transect I saw a **dark green fritillary**, 2 green hairstreak, 3 dingy skipper, 1 grizzled skipper, large skipper, green veined white, 3 brimstone, small copper, 5 brown argus, 8 common blue, 21 small heath and 9 meadow brown. Today was very productive, I had my first **marbled white and ringlet**, lots of meadow brown and small heath, small copper, brimstone, white sp, large skipper, brown argus, common blue, 3+ dark green fritillary and 2 very fresh looking grizzled skipper. - Paul Thrush

In an hour spent at Bricket Wood Common I saw 3 Large Skippers, 2 Speckled Wood, 8 Brimstone (mostly female). No sign of White Admiral or SW Frit but the brambles are just coming into flower so shouldn't be long now - Robin Pearson

A few sightings today 26th June 2013 - 1 Speckled Wood at Oakwood, N14 at 11:58 hrs. 1 Speckled Wood at Houndsden Gutter, N21 at 12:25 hrs. 3 Speckled Wood at Grovelands Park, N14 and 1 Burnet Companion here. - Robert Callf

Very little sunshine at Norton Green earlier this afternoon so very few butterflies were flying but saw 3 Small Whites, 1 Large White, 1 Speckled Wood and 1 Common Blue (which I failed to find here last year!) - Peter Clarke

Tuesday 25th June 2013

News from Diane Andrews. A visit to Forty Hall meadows today recorded 76 Chimney Sweeper moths, 1 Mother Shipton, 1 Silver Y, 1 Large Skipper, 5 Speckled Wood and 3 Meadow Brown. In a different tetrad the New River Walk she found 50 Peacock larvae on nettles.

Baas Hill area of Broxbourne, 1 **Clouded Yellow** - Andrew Middleton

1 x large white, 1 x large yellow underwing & 2 x light brown apple moths in Bushey garden - David Gower

On my walk around Tyttenhanger Gravel Pits today I saw 2 Small Heath, 4 Whites, 2 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Peacock, 1 Cinnabar and my first Large Skipper of the year - Terry Wood

Sightings for today Tuesday 25th June 2013 - 2 Speckled Wood, together, at Sidhil's Field, Vicarage Farm, 08:58 hrs; 2 Small Tortoiseshell at Vicarage Farm, Enfield (1 along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, 09:28 and 1 along Merryhills Brook, 13:15 hrs); 2 Large Skipper at Vicarage Farm, Enfield (1 along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables, 09:30 and 1 along Merryhills Brook, 13:28 hrs); 2+ male Meadow Brown at Parkside Farm, Enfield; 1 Peacock at Parkside Farm, Enfield, 09:45 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood, at Bay Farm, Enfield, 10:28 hrs and another at Park Farm, Enfield, 10:40 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood, at Little Beechill Wood, Enfield, 10:45 hrs; 1 male Large

Skipper, at Little Beechill Wood, Enfield Chase, 10:55 hrs; 3 male Meadow Brown at Little Beechill Wood, 10:55 - 11:00 hrs; 1 Large White, at Vault Hill Wood, Enfield Chase, 11:03 hrs; 1 Peacock, at Vault Hill Wood, 11:04 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood, at Vault Hill Wood, 11:05 hrs; 1 Small Copper, set-aside field near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 12:35 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip, at South Lodge Farm and Vicarage Farm, along Merryhills Brook, 13:25 hrs onwards; 1 Peacock, along Merryhills Brook/Vicarage Farm, 13:28 hrs. Robert Callf & Robin White

I did my weekly walk across the Hay Field on Harpenden Common this morning (Tuesday 25 June). The scorching sun (the temperature reached 14 degrees) brought out 1 Meadow Brown, 1 Small Heath and 1 Green-veined White. Apart from a couple of yellow Shell moths there were few other insects around. The good news is that the flowers in the Hay Field are very spectacular indeed and it is well worth going there to see them - Alan Jackson

Wood Lane, Pirton, nice to see a late Orange tip + Red Admiral, speckled woods there on 20th June - Stuart Pittman

Monday 24th June 2013

Sightings for Monday 24th June 2013 - 1 Small Tortoiseshell, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Stables at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 10:35 hrs - our first of the summer-brood; 1 male Meadow Brown, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Stables at Vicarage Farm, 10:40 hrs; 1 Clouded Border, at Parkside Farm, on Res banking; 1 Speckled Wood, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 13:12 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood, along Merryhills Brook/Vicarage Farm, 13:50 hrs; 2 Large Skipper, along Merryhills Brook/Vicarage Farm, 13:52 hrs. Robert Callf & Robin White

Went back to Water Lane, Watford early evening. Sightings were 1 x skipper (probably large but not 100% sure), 3 x common white wave, 9 x yellow shell, 40 x nettle tap. At fishers field 1 x yellow shell & 8 x nettle tap. 4 x light brown apple moths in our Bushey garden tonight - David Gower

Saw a male Orange Tip at Park Farm, Enfield (TQ285983) near Ferny Hill on Thursday 20th June 2013 at 15:45 hrs - still looked fresh, also a male Common Blue at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 15:30 hrs. - Robert Callf

We (wife and family) visited Aldbury Nowers NR on **16 June 2013** (late morning). Overcast but occasional bright spells. Spotted 2 Peacock, 1 Common Blue (male), 2 Dingy Skippers, 10 Small Heath and **one large fritillary (accepted as Dark Green)** on the wing which I would probably say was a Dark Green Fritillary. It didn't look like a Silver-washed Fritillary. Unfortunately, only saw it for 20-30 secs before losing sight of it when it went to ground so I never saw it's underwing. David Smith County Butterfly Recorder (Yorkshire)

Sunday 23rd June 2013

At 4p.m had a look around Water Lane, Watford. Noted 4 x speckled wood, 6 x yellow shell moths, 2 x common white wave, 6 x nemophora degeerella. Actually spotted 70-100 micro moths but despite photos unable to id yet (The 70-100 moths seen in Water Lane were nettle tap moths.!) - David Gower

Bricket Wood Common - at last, the start of summer! But today's weather was more typical of early Spring, mostly cloudy with showers and sunny spells and the temperature struggling to get to 17 degrees. New species for the year on this site today were Large Skipper (1 seen) and Silver Ground Carpet Moth (1). Also a new flush of Speckled Woods (7). Male and Female Brimstone both still out - 3 seen all nectaring on creeping thistle, also a single Small White, nectaring on Meadow Vetchling - Malcolm Hull

Oak Hill Woods---LNR East Barnet-----23/6/13 -20 final instar L White larvae on single small Garlic mustard plant----- --2x Peacock first instar nests on nettle in centre of field away from hedgerows----- 20x Tshell 3rd instar larvae---on same nettle bed----- -4x 2nd instar Brimstone larvae on very small P Buckthorn cutting isolated in woodland glade - Kitt Jones

Saturday 22nd June 2013

Wednesday 19 June. Late report, but on my Warren transect I recorded 21 Small Heath & 3 fresh male Common Blue. Small Heaths seem to be thriving this year - I've already recorded many more than in the whole of last year. Hopefully the Blues will make a similar recovery. Otherwise a few

assorted Whites, 1 Peacock & 6 Cinnabars. Hopefully Marbled White & Meadow Brown will show soon - John Moss

I walked around Stocker's Lake this afternoon and saw two butterflies during the occasional brighter interludes: a small tortoiseshell and a red admiral (my first of the year) - Ian Flack

Friday 21st June 2013

Saw two male Large Skippers at Whitewebbs Park this afternoon Friday 21st June 2013 at 14:03 and 14:05 hrs. - Robert Callf

Thursday 20th June 2013

1 x brimstone moth in Bushey garden tonight - David Gower

Very few butterflies encountered on my walk around Tyttenhanger Gravel pits today - 1 Peacock, 1 Small Heath, 1 Common Blue, 1 Large White and 1 Cinnabar. But I have to add that yesterday in my South Mimms garden I saw 1 Comma, and 1 fairly late Orange Tip. - Terry Wood

Wednesday 19th June 2013

Had a walk around Therfield heath today on a rare sunny day and saw Small Heaths were everywhere a good few Common Blues, 2 Large White, 2m Brimstone, and 2 Brown Argus - Kevin Taylor

My first painted lady of the year, at 17.40 **18th June** on precisely the same 20m stretch of path on the Rothamsted Estate, Harpenden, where I always see them first. There is undoubtedly something special about this spot. - Richard Harrington

News from Diane Andrews, visiting King George Field, Hadley. 12 Chimney Sweepers, 1 Silver Y, 1 Burnet Companion, 1 Yellow shell, Speckled Wood and a **Meadow Brown**

Sightings for today Wednesday 19th June 2013 - 1 female Green-veined White, along Merryhills Brook/Vicarage Farm, 10:09 hrs and 1 male here, 10:20 hrs; 3 Speckled Wood, at Shaws Wood, Trent Park, 10:45 hrs; 2 Large Skipper, together, set-aside field near Shaws Wood, Trent Park, 10:50 hrs - our first of the year; 1 Cinnabar, edge of Icehouse Wood, Trent Park; at least 4 male Common Blue, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 11:25 - 11:30 hrs, but probably more; 1 Peacock, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 11:32 hrs; 2 Small Heath, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park; 19 Small Heath, at 'New Fields', Trent Park, 12:10 - 12:30 hrs; 5 Chimney Sweeper, at 'New Fields', in usual field, Trent Park - our first of the year; 2 Small Copper, at 'New Fields', Trent Park, 12:29 - 12:35 hrs and another Sect 7, along board-walk near tube-line, 12:43 hrs; 2 male Common Blue, at 'New Fields', Trent Park, 12:40 and 12:51 hrs; **2 male Meadow Brown**, at 'New Fields', Trent Park, 12:35 and 12:51 hrs - our first of the year. - Robert Callf

Saw my first **Meadow brown** and large skipper in field next to Bencroft wood. At Waterford heath south very late orange tip and grizzled skipper, plenty of common blues - Steve Kiln

A couple of common blues and a couple of whites plus one peacock on the chalk bank at King's Meads today 19th - Andy Brown

Tuesday 18th June 2013

2 Small Heaths in the Hay Field, Harpenden Common, this morning (18 June) - Alan Jackson

An afternoon walk at Oughtonhead only the two Butterflies seen again 1 Common Blue, 1 Brimstone - Kevin Taylor

Monday 17th June 2013

News from Diane Andrews, a visit to Trent Park today, found **5 Chimney Sweeper** moths but no butterflies other than 18 Small Heath, also 1 Mother shipton and 1 Straw Dot moth

Sunday 16th June 2013

I had a quick look at the Grizzled skipper site near Hoo Wood today on the way back from my walk. Unfortunately I didn't see any - in fact I only saw three butterflies all day. The only butterfly I saw on the Grizzled Skipper site - was an extremely worn Dingy Skipper. It would be nice to see some common butterflies there! - Ian Carle

Butterfly World, Chiswell Green, St Albans - HMBC Branch Field Trip - Despite the dire weather forecast, 8 people showed up. The weather was mostly cloudy, but a few sunny spells allowed us to see a few butterflies. Common Blues were the most numerous with 12-14, mostly males seen sunbathing & occasionally nectaring in the meadows. We had three, possibly five sightings of Small Blue, the main target species. They were seen in two distinct areas of the site & posed obligingly for photographers. The larval food plant, Kidney Vetch is still plentiful on the chalk slopes & on other areas of the site. Brown Argus & Large Skipper were both recorded, as were Large, Small & Green-veined White, Common Carpet, Cinnabar Moth & many Burnet Companions. The sheer variety of wild flowers, birds & insects makes this a very rewarding site to visit - Malcolm Hull - Malcolm Hull

Saturday 15th June 2013

Stanwell Moor, sunshine really was at a premium again today, it was windy, and mid-afternoon there was a prolonged downpour. However, I set off round my local patch regardless, knowing there'll always be something. I started off with the sheltered glade by the River Colne today, where the wind at least couldn't reach. This was occupied by a couple of Speckled Woods and a Red Admiral: as I've commented before there is always one in residence here year in year out. Moving on to the more open areas, when the sun shone the Small Heaths appeared - an attempt at counting them reached 25, but they were so wind-blown it was difficult to be sure. I counted ten Common Blues as well, including two females, and two Large Skippers keeping to the more sheltered bits. Other than that, a couple of Green-veined, one Small and one Large White completed the picture. I had seen a group of three Holly Blues close to home yesterday, but none appeared today. I kept an eye out for Orange Tip caterpillars too, and found them on most clumps of garlic mustard I examined. Oddly, I have yet to find a Green-veined White caterpillar on these plants, though it is certainly one they eat.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=33683&mode=view>

Dave Miller

A couple of hours around Oughtonhead common today, again not a lot of sun and windy and only 2 Butterflies seen. 1 Small White & 1 GV White - Kevin Taylor

Friday 14th June 2013

Transects today Friday. Grizzled skippers and orange tips at Rickneys and Waterford Heath south my latest for these.. also plenty of small heath and common blue - Steve Kiln

1 x small magpie moth in our Bushey garden this evening - David Gower

Hatfield Aerodrome (Disused) - Ellenbrook Fields. Sighting on 14th June 2013 - Constant cool breeze not ideal for Butterflies: Green-veined White - 2+ Peacock - 1 Small Tortoiseshell - 2 + Few 'Skipper' species & 'Blues' briefly in flight - unable to give certain ID - David Wheatcroft

News for Friday 14th June 2013 - 1 Peacock at Whitewebbs Park, 17:00 hrs, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, at Whitewebbs Park, 17:02 hrs - worn! 1 male Brimstone at Hilly Fields Park, Enfield at 17:15 hrs. Also saw an 'orange' butterfly around Flash Lane Aqueduct briefly - probably just a Comma. - Robert Callf

Thursday 13th June 2013

News for Thursday 13th June 2013 - 1 Speckled Wood, at Park Farm, Enfield, at 15:07 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip, at Park Farm, Enfield, at 15:10 hrs; 2 Silver-ground Carpet, at Little Beechill Wood, Enfield Chase; Silver Y, at Little Beechill Wood, Enfield Chase; 1 Speckled Wood, at Vault Hill Wood, Enfield Chase, at 15:37 hrs. - Robert Callf

At the weekend I found a single orange egg of an orange tip butterfly underneath the flower head on five separate garlic mustard plants in my garden in Bounds Green North London. Four days later I now have five caterpillars sitting on the now flowerless heads of five plants ranging in length from 6 to 12mm. The attached photos are of the larger one. In the close up you can see droplets of what Jeremy Thomas discusses in "The Butterflies of Britain and Ireland" as possibly being a sweet liquid to attract ants, but as he says in his book there is no signs of ants taking an interest as yet. My son and I will follow their development with interest!

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/64663114@N03/9035655134/in/photostream/>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/64663114@N03/9035655654/in/photostream/>
Miles Attenborough

Wednesday 12th June 2013

Saw a Burnet Companion at Oakwood Park, N14 this morning Wednesday 12th June 2013 at 11:10 hrs. Also one Speckled Wood in Oakwood Park, N14 this morning Wednesday 12th June 2013 at 10:47 hrs. - Robert Callf

Monday 10th June 2013

Friday 7th June 2013 - 1 Mother Shipton, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Stables at Vicarage Farm, 10:55 hrs; 2 male Orange Tip (1 at Parkside Farm, 11:25 hrs, 1 at Park Farm, 11:33 hrs): 4 Small White, together, at Rectory Farm, Enfield at 12:25 hrs; 2 Large White, at Rectory Farm, Enfield at 12:25 hrs; 2 Speckled Wood, at Strayfield Road, Clay Hill, Enfield, 12:30 hrs. Saturday 8th June 2013 - 3 Small Heath, at Vicarage Farm, Enfield - one at 12:08 hrs and two in a different area at 15:15 hrs; 1 Peacock, at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 12:10 hrs; 1 female Orange Tip, at Park Farm, Enfield, 12:35 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip, at Vault Hill Wood, Enfield, 13:25 hrs; 1 Peacock, at Park Farm, Enfield, at 12:55 hrs; 1 Silver Y, at Little Beechill Wood and 3 Silver Y at South Barvin Farm, Enfield. Monday 10th June 2013 - 1 Green-veined White, at Little Beechill Wood, Enfield, 11:45 hrs. - Robert Callf

Sightings at Hexton Chalk pits yesterday evening, 6 Dingy Skippers, 5 Small heaths and 1 Common Carpet Moth - Andy Steele

Went to Aldbury Nowers lower sections late Sunday afternoon and found 24 x small heath, 1 x common blue, 1 x large white, 6 x brown argos, 12 x common carpet moths, 1 x treble bar, 6 x burnet companion - David Gower

Saturday 8th June 2013

On Weds 5th June in evening a quick trip along the lower hedgeline of Aldbury Nowers found no resting butterflies, but several unidentified moths. On Thursday 6th June walked along the grass at bottom of Ivinghoe Beacon near the cattle grid and saw 2 resting common blues and 3 small heaths. Friday 7th June a quick evening walk through the centre of the sloping field from the seat down to Bunkers Lane, Hemel Hempstead found 3 roosting common blues and 8 burnet moth cases on tall grasses and ox eye daisies - Elizabeth Debenham

St Albans News - Despite the cold north wind and clouds, most Spring Butterflies are still around, though numbers are down on previous weeks. At Bricket Wood Common Brimstones are still the main attraction with 8 on today's transect. Holly Blue, GV White and Common Carpet also at this site. At Smug Oak Lane nearby I saw Orange Tip and Small White. At Colney St I added Speckled Wood, Cinnabar moth, Small Heath and Comma - Malcolm Hull

1 x large white in Bushey garden and at Cassiobury Park, Watford 3 x large white & 1 x brimstone late afternoon - David Gower

Friday 7th June 2013

First **Large skipper** of the year for me this evening at the old Rivers nursery site, High Wych/Sawbridgeworth, being blown along on the breeze. - Laurence Drummond

At Ashwell Quarry today : 3 Large Whites, 5 Brimstones, 3 small heath 1 common blue and 1 orange tip - Andy Brown

Thursday 6th June 2013

On a quick tour of my local patch (Stanwell Moor) this afternoon, I saw my first **Large Skipper** of the season. Also seen were four Speckled Woods, six Small Heath, a Peacock, a Red Admiral, a Large White, a Common Blue, and several Small/GV Whites. This may be the first UK sighting of a Large Skipper, as no date is yet shown on the BC website for a first sighting.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=32964&mode=view>

Dave Miller

During a visit to Sarratt Bottom this afternoon we encountered at least 6 Peacocks mud-puddling by the footbridge where the river has burst its banks- all appeared to be in good condition, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 4-5 Orange Tips, 3 Common Blues & 1 Small Copper together with a few 'whites'. A

single White Ermine moth & 2 Cinnabar were also seen. In our garden in Pinner for the last 2-3 weeks we have had 1,2 or occasionally 3 Holly Blues whenever the weather is suitable. Also, a number of Orange Tips which have appeared most days have kindly deposited their eggs on several Lady's Smocks - Gill & Tony Porter

Had a good walk around Waterford Heath today, most of the Butterflies I saw was on the bank by the picnic table. 6+ Brown Argus, 3 Grizzled Skipper, 3 Small Heath, 2 Small Copper, 2 Common Blue, Holly Blue, and a Peacock - Kevin Taylor

Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park - 8 Common Blues, 3 Burnet Companions, 13 Brimstones, 2 Speckled Woods, 4 Large Whites, 17 Small/Green-veined Whites, 1 Holly Blue, 1 Large Red Damselfly. I saw about 40 Kidney Vetch plants, but no sign of Small Blue - Malcolm Hull

Today Thursday 6th June 2013 - Grovelands Park, Southgate - 1 Speckled Wood, at 12:20 hrs and 1 Green-veined White at 12:48 hrs, otherwise very quiet for leps - Robert Callf

Wednesday 5th June 2013

News via Malcolm Hull from Butterfly World: **4th June** 3 Common Blues and a **Small Blue** recorded by Mandy Floyd on the Transect **5th June** First Small Heath on the site see report from Louise Hawkins below : *I have just returned to my office after an exciting walk around the site. Along with about half a dozen Common Blues, a brimstone and whites I saw a Small Copper and Small Heath!*

Just over the county border but of interest: Just had to report clouds, (well dozens anyway) of small blue in the tall grass and hawthorn at the eastern edge of Church End Quarry, Pitstone this evening. I know it's just over the border in Bucks but hey! Counted 11 catching the last of the sun in one small clump of grass - poor picture taken with my phone attached - I think you see 8 of them (*picture on facebook page*). - Colin Sturges

2 Speckled Wood, together at Fir & Pond Woods at 11:36 hrs; 2 Peacock, here at 12:20 hrs and 2 male Orange Tip, also Mother Shipton here. - Robert Callf.

Walked on the track NE of Ayot St Lawrence to find a few orange tips, a small heath and a small copper - Ian Flack

Bit of catching up again! **21st May Stanwell Moor**: Around 1800: Five GVW and five Orange Tips, all looking to settle down for the evening.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=31875&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=31874&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=31866&mode=view>

23rd May Stanwell Moor : Around 1700: poor weather day, but a burst of late sun. Two GVW and a Small White.

26th May Stanwell Moor: A glorious day, which I limited to looking around my local patch. It was a day dominated by white butterflies, with all three species much in evidence, plus several Orange Tips and Brimstones. Completing the picture were ten or so Holly Blues, five rather tatty Peacocks and a couple of Speckled Woods. I'm still waiting for Small Heaths, Brown Argus and Common Blues to make an appearance.

1st June Stanwell Moor 1800 or so: One Peacock and four Orange Tips (including a female).

2nd June Stanwell Moor: I stayed local today, and walked along the extended version of my usual ramble by the River Colne right up to the road through Colnbrook. I was pleased to see that at long last the Common Blues were out (but only two thus far, a male and a female about half a mile apart unfortunately!), and also the Small Heaths. This is one long colony, or a series of linked colonies, and in full swing can boast butterflies into three figures. Today, I counted 30 or so over quite a wide area, and in some of the hotspots (by the link bridge to Heathrow T5, for example), five or six were jousting together. It is clear they prefer areas where the soil is poor and the grass grows thinly, so what is after all just an enormous spoil heap suits them pretty well. The other species in any numbers seen today was the Peacock. I counted eight in various places, basking, nectaring on buttercups, or just swooping and diving just for the hell of it. Most were rather worn, but others still amazingly bright with life in them still - quite possibly a whole year on from when they were black and spiny, munching the riverside nettle beds. Also seen were a couple of Holly Blues, a Speckled Wood, a variety of Whites and a Brimstone or two, but not one Orange Tip. I also found a Small Tortoiseshell larval web.

2nd June Harmondsworth Moor: Still local, I had an afternoon wander around Harmondsworth

Moor. This is normally good for Common Blues and Brown Argus, but none were to be seen today. Four or five Small Heaths were out, but nothing like the numbers I had seen earlier not that far away. In fact, there really wasn't much to be seen at all - a couple of Peacocks and a few Whites. Most of these appeared to be Large Whites, and as the sun was a bit come-and-go, I tracked a female, then a male down and managed some reasonable pictures of this relatively awkward customer.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=32790&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=32789&mode=view>

3rd June Stanwell Moor: A gentle stroll today around the shorter version of my local area walk. Before long I encountered what I took to be a Holly Blue, flying around and over the nettles, brambles and ivy-entwined shrubs by the river. Just to check, I took a long shot of it when it settled, and discovered that it was in fact a Common Blue some considerable distance from where I normally see them. I can only speculate where the colony actually is... There were ten or so Small Heaths in the small fraction of their habitat here that today's walk took in, popping up out of the grass each time the sun re-emerged from a cloud, plus an inevitable Peacock still defending the same patch of path that he did yesterday. With sun forecast for some days to come, he could still be around next week. Aside from that there was a genuine Holly Blue, and several Whites. These included the whitest male Small White I've ever seen, to the extent that the photos I tried to take were so over-white that no detail showed at all. There was also a very bright white Green-veined male, with which I had (marginally) more success, and a more standard Small White with a lovely lemon underside.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=32851&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=32853&mode=view>

Dave Miller

Tuesday 4th June 2013

I decided to have a good look around Bovingdon Brickpits this afternoon. Two years ago, I recorded a Dingy Skipper there, but today I recorded no fewer than 13 Dingy Skippers. In fact, I saw more Dingy Skippers than any other Butterfly species. I also managed to see a Small Yellow Underwing. - Roger Prue

News from Diane Andrews, 2nd June at Trent Park: 9 Small Heath and 1 Small Copper (no Chimney Sweepers yet). 3rd June at Ally Pally, 2 Common Blue, 1 Small White, 1 Peacock, 1 Comma, 1 Large White and 1 Small Copper.

I was working up at Aldbury Nowers today, so many butterflies! Best of all I saw a **small blue** in the furthest northern enclosure. We were working only in the north, there were grizzled and dingy skippers in every enclosure, a single green hairstreak, at least 5 brown argus, 4+ common blue, 5+brimstone, 8+small heath, small white, orange tip and speckled wood - Paul Thrush

Saw a male Common Blue on the south-facing grass verge south of Monks Wood, near the football ground roundabout, Stevenage at about 1:45 pm - the first of the year - Peter Clarke

At the weekend we saw some orange tips around Kings Langley and Sarratt; some Small white and green veined as well. Evidence of eggs in Holly Hedges Lane, between Belsize and Flaunden. Last evening June 3rd an Angle Shades moth flew in Kings Langley house. I managed to set it free - Elizabeth Debenham

Some sightings for today Tuesday 4th June 2013 - 1 male Common Blue, at Sidhil's Field, Vicarage Farm, 09:35 hrs - First sighting of the year; 1 female Large White, Sidhil's Field, Vicarage Farm, 09:35 hrs; 1 Peacock, at Barracks, Vicarage Farm, 10:02 hrs; 2 Large White, along Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm, female at 10:17 hrs and a male at 10:25 hrs; 2 male Orange Tip, along Merryhills Brook/Vicarage Farm, 10:20 hrs; 1 Green-veined White, along Merryhills Brook/Vicarage Farm; 1 Small Copper, along Merryhills Brook at South Lodge Farm, 10:35 hrs; 1 Small Copper, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 11:02 hrs; 1 Green-veined White, along bridle-path near Merryhills Brook at Trent Park, 10:45 hrs; 2 Speckled Wood, at Shaws Wood, Trent Park, 10:50 - 10:52 hrs; 1 female Large White, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 10:58 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 11:04 hrs; 1 Peacock, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 11:32 hrs; 2+ Small Heath, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 11:33 - 11:35 hrs; 1 Burnet Companion, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park; 1 Small Yellow Underwing, at 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park; 1 Peacock, at 'New Fields', Trent Park, 12:41 hrs; 11+ Small Heath, at 'New Fields', Trent Park, 12:43 - 13:01 hrs; 2 Small Copper, together, at 'New Fields', Trent Park; 1 male Brimstone, near Oakwood entrance, Trent Park, 13:38 hrs. Encouraging to see a few more Small Heath today - Robert Callf & Robin White

Monday 3rd June 2013

Stevenage - Small Heath 11, Holly Blue 1, Brown Argus 2, Common Blue 1, Small White 1, GV White 1. Cinnabar and Burnet Companion moths also flying - Trevor Chapman

News via Malcolm Hull from Butterfly World, two male common blues seen around the steps leading to the giant ant. They were reported as having a right go at each other! Also seen a few Burnet Companions.

Saw a Holly Blue, settled on nettles at Town Park, Enfield at 16:36 hrs on Saturday 1st June 2013. Today Monday 3rd June 2013 - 1 Holly Blue, at Strayfield Road, Clay Hill, Enfield, 12:17 hrs; 2 male Orange Tip, at Clay Hill/Flash Lane, Enfield, 12:30 hrs; 1 Peacock, at Flash Lane, Enfield, 12:35 hrs; 1 Mother Shipton, edge of Archer's Wood, N of Forty Hall, Enfield, 14:30 hrs; 1 Holly Blue, at Archer's Wood, N of Forty Hall, Enfield; 1 male Orange Tip, along Turkey Brook at Forty Hall, Enfield, 15:13 hrs; 1 Holly Blue, at Bulls Cross, Enfield, 15:15 hrs; 1 Holly Blue, at Gough Park, Forty Hill, Enfield, 15:45 hrs - Robert Callf

Today at Tyttenhanger Gravel Pits I found a Brown Argus on the meadow between the main pit and the model railway, the first I have seen here. There were also 3 Peacocks, 3 Orange Tips, 6 Small Heaths, 4 Small Whites and 1 Cinnabar. In the afternoon a walk at Mymms Wash (behind the Services) produced 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 4 Orange Tips, 2 Peacocks and 4 Small Whites. - Terry Wood

A walk around Oughtonhead today and saw about a dozen male and 3/4 female Brimstone, Holly Blue, Comma, GV White, Orange Tip, Peacock plus a Small White on the way - Kevin Taylor

Balls Wood - various butterflies though low numbers despite the weather : Large White, Speckled Wood, Orange Tip, Comma, Peacock and one Holly Blue. Danemead HMWT reserve - 5 Peacocks - very disappointing! Andy Brown

Sunday 2nd June 2013

I saw two grizzled skippers today (02/06/2013) in a meadow north of Hoo Wood near Gaddesden - Ian Carle Of note very late orange tips Broxbourne woods and Waterford heath, first **common blues** of year for me 2 in Waterford Heath one in Rickneys, 7 brown argus in Waterford heath. Also saw 3 small heath and 7 grizzled skippers on Waterford heath south but in different areas from normal in glade near settling beds and near picnic table and low on left of bank - Steve Kiln

Gardening all day but only 2 x large white & 1 small white seen in Bushey garden - David Gower

Saturday 1st June 2013

Some butterfly and moth reports for today (Saturday 1st June 2013) - 1 Brown Silver Lines, Moat Wood, Trent Park; 1 Small Heath, 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 11:57 hrs; 1 Cinnabar, 'Old Golf Course', Trent Park, 12:00 hrs; 2 Small Copper, together, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 12:30 hrs; 1 Green-veined White, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 12:37 hrs; 1 Green-veined White, along Merryhills Brook/South Lodge Farm, 12:57 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip, along Merryhills Brook at South Lodge Farm, 13:03 hrs; 1 Comma, along Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 13:18 hrs; 1 Peacock, at Barracks, Vicarage Farm, 13:40 hrs. - Robert Callf.

May 2013

Friday 31st May 2013

On Friday 31st May - visit to Frogmore quarry, Stevenage for one hour at lunchtime. Sunny and warm. Finally the Grizzled Skipper are out. 12 in all - 7 NorthEast, 1 in the middle, 1 at South West entrance and 3 together half way up West rim path, though these three appeared a little less fresh. Also a good number of Brown Argus 8 in central open areas, Orange-tips 3, GV White 1, Small Whites 3, Peacock 4 and a Small Heath. A few P.niger moths also flying - Trevor Chapman.

Saw three Speckled Yellow together at Northaw Great Wood today Friday 31st May 2013 at 14:50 hrs, also 2 Peacock, 1 Comma and 2 Speckled Wood here. - Robert Callf

Roughdown Common, a single **Common Blue (male)** flitting amongst Common Bird's foot Trefoil on the sunny embankment. - Brendan Sheridan

Visited Hexton Chalk Pit in early afternoon and counted 6 Green Hairstreaks (4 low lying individuals near entrance and two over head high on sycamore/maple close to the road), 30+ Dingy Skippers, 10+ Brimstones, 5+ Small Whites, 5+ Green-veined Whites, 3 Small Heaths, 2 Peacocks and 1 Speckled Wood. Later went to Telegraph Hill and saw 2 Green Hairstreaks, 10+ Dingy Skippers, 5+ Brimstones, 5+ Small Whites, 5+ Green-veined Whites and 5+ Orange Tips - Peter Clarke and Bob Clift

On my walk around Tyttenhanger Gravel Pits Small Heaths had emerged in force. I counted 5 as I walked around Pits, together with a selection of about 15 mixed Whites and Orange Tips, and a couple of Peacocks - Terry Wood

Monday 27th May 2013

Some sightings for Sunday 26th May 2013 - 1 Green-veined White, near Triangular Wood, Trent Park, 10:40 hrs; 1 Small Copper, near Triangular Wood, Trent Park, 10:50 hrs; 1 Peacock, near Triangular Wood, Trent Park, 10:55 hrs; 2 Green-veined White, (1 Sect 8, 11:00 hrs, 1 Sect 7, 11:05 hrs, Trent Park): 2 Speckled Wood, Sect 7, Trent Park, 11:05 - 11:08 hrs; 1 Small Heath, Sect 6, Trent Park, 11:10 hrs - my first of the year! 1 Small White, Sect 6, Trent Park, 11:12 hrs; 1 Common Carpet, Sect 6, Trent Park; 1 male Brimstone, edge of Church Wood, Trent Park, 11:39 hrs; 1 female Orange Tip, Church Wood, Trent Park, 11:41 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip, near Hockey Centre, Trent Park, 11:50 hrs; 1 Peacock, edge of Nature Trail, Trent Park, 12:05 hrs; 1 female Orange Tip, around Garlic Mustard, arching abdomen, Rough Lot, Trent Park, 13:03 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip, Rough Lot, Trent Park, 13:12 hrs; 3 Peacock, at South Barvin Farm, Enfield, 13:14 - 13:18 hrs; 1 Comma, at Vault Hill Wood, 13:29 hrs; 1 Peacock, at Vault Hill Wood, 13:30 hrs; 3 Peacock, at Park Farm, Enfield, 14:02 - 14:19 hrs; 1 female Orange Tip, at Park Farm, Enfield, 14:18 hrs. 27th May 2013: saw the following in Oakwood Park, N14 - 2 Holly Blue, 1 male Large White and 2 Speckled Wood - Robert Callf

Another look at Hexton Chalk Pits today. 12 Dingy Skippers, 2 Brimstone and 1 Small Heath. Holly Blue and Speckled Wood in the wood and by the road. No Green Hairstreaks. Saturday's Green Hairstreaks were low flying egg laying females and rather tatty so perhaps the season is now over for them. It is nice that the colony has survived because there were sightings last year. Holly Blue at St Albans Abbey gardens yesterday - Nigel Agar

Oak Hill Woods LNR East Barnet-----I female Brimstone egg laying on very small self set Alder Buckthorn plants whilst ignoring the large and luxurious mature shrubs-----Female orange tip egg laying on Garlic mustard-----Every year the woodland floor beneath the Wych Elms is carpeted with the leaf buds and flowers of the trees-----these are bitten off by grey squirrels. These shoots often contain the doomed larvae of WLH----which cannot make it back to living shoots still on the trees.-----The Wych elms near footpaths are not so badly affected, due to the presence of dog walkers and pedestrians disturbing the squirrels. Even though the "footpath trees" appear to be in less favourable aspects for WLH---they always produce WLH in season. The trees that are stripped by the squirrels although being in sheltered sunny areas hardly ever have WLH adults. The hypothesis is that grey squirrels can have a significant negative impact on small local populations of WLH-----Kitt Jones

Inspired by (and jealous of) Andrew Wood's discovery of Silver-washed Fritillary larvae, I visited Balls Wood today in the hope of finding a White Admiral larva. Although I'd read up on the egg-laying habits of the females and I was confident that the larvae would by now be large enough to spot, in my four hours there I didn't find a single one. But I did see 20+ Speckled Wood, 15+ m Orange-tip, 15+ 'small white butterflies', 6 Peacock, 5 Large White, 2 Green-veined White, 1 Comma and 1 Mother Shipton - Paul Why

Tring Park 17C 14.10 Scarp Orange Tip 11, Green Hairstreak 1, Peacock 5, Brimstone 14, Comma 1, GVWhite 6, Small White 2, Large White 2. Parkland Orange Tip 1, Small Heath 1 probable Mother Shipton or Dingy Skipper 1 poss? - Nick Bowles

Sunday 26th in afternoon we saw a holly blue in Kings Langley garden. Male and female orange tips fluttering in woodland among "Jack by the Hedge" with one male feeding on bluebells in Sarratt. Brimstone in flight along Chipperfield Road in Kings Langley. Monday 27th a CINNABAR moth flying in Kings Langley garden at 8.30am!

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/7392841@N04/8854555393/>

- Elizabeth Debenham

Fir & Pond Wood NR. A good butterfly count in spite of the wind. Lots of orange-tips again across the Reserve, 9 males counted and 1 female. Small whites 2, peacocks 2, speckled woods 2 and 9 assorted but unidentified "whites". - David Gompertz

Today 27/5/2013 - Bricket Wood Common 11:30-13:30. In Sunny but blustery conditions I recorded 17 Brimstone (7 female), 4 Speckled Wood, 7 Large White, 4 Green-veined White, 5 Orange Tip, 6 Peacock, 1 Holly Blue Sat 25/5/2013 between 13:00-15:00 at Aldbury Nowers I recorded the following. 6 Grizzled Skipper, 2 Dingy Skipper, 1 Green Hairstreak, 3 Small Heath, 11 Orange Tip (2 females), 10+ Brimstone (1 female), 6 Green-veined White, 4 Small White, 2 Peacock, plus 1 Burnet Companion. - Bob Harris

Here are the butterflies and moths seen at Aldbury Nowers on Mondayday 27th May: Green Hairstreak, Small Heath, Large White, Orange-tip, Brimstone, Common Carpet Dingy Skipper - <http://www.flickr.com/photos/81377128@N03/8857956188/>
Grizzled Skipper - <http://www.flickr.com/photos/81377128@N03/8857347091/>
Mother Shipton - <http://www.flickr.com/photos/81377128@N03/8857339825/>
Sharon Monahan

In a short time in the garden (Harpenden) I noticed Speckled Wood (first of year) Brimstone, Peacock, Comma, Holly Blue, plus a few whites.
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/robinp2009/8853542703/>
Robin Pearson

Sunday 26th May 2013

I walked my Butterfly transect at Shrubhill Common, Hemel Hempstead today and was pleased to see at least three Dingy Skippers, one of which I managed to photograph. My only previous record was of one specimen, two years ago. I also saw a **Small Yellow Underwing** moth, my first since 2006. (Photo on facebook page) - Roger Prue

Seen this morning at Heartwood Forest during botanical survey of regeneration area beside Puddler's Wood, 7+ Orange Tip (m), 1 Brimstone (m), 2 Peacock, 10+ Small/GV White or Orange Tip (f), 1 Holly Blue. A glorious morning with Skylarks, Blackbird, Chiff Chaff, Whitethroat etc singing & no sign of disease in the young & old Ash trees. The strip of young Elms along Well Wood appears pretty healthy. Don't know if it harbours WL Hairstreak. John Moss

Bushey garden sightings were 2 x large white, 2 x small white, 1 x orange tip. Merryhill fields, bushey 3 x peacock, 8 x orange tip (5 females), 2 x large white, 6 x small white, 3 x brimstone (all males), 2 x speckled wood, 1 x small toiteseshell, 2 x holly blue. Finch lane, bushey 3 x large white, 4 x small white, 3 x peacock, 1 x holly blue, 4 x orange tip (1 female), 1 x brimstone, 3 x green veined white. David Gower

Better butterfly day. Highlights in field by Bencroft Wood, 5 small coppers, 2 small heath, and lacewing, **speckled yellow and burnet companion** moths. At Waterford Heath south 5 grizzled skippers and at Rickneys 1 grizzled skipper, plus 3 brown argus my first this year very late by four weeks - Steve Kiln

In Stocking Pelham, one small copper, several orange tips + a couple of whites enjoying the sunshine - Andy Brown

Saturday 25th May 2013

In field next to Tring Station 1 x orange tip(male), path leading to Aldbury Nowers 2 x brimstone (males), 2 x small white. At Aldbury Nowers totals were 10 x small heath, 8 x common carpet moth, 15 x brimstone (1 x female), 4 x small white, 13 x orange tip (2 female), 1 x green hairstreak, 5 x green veined white, 4 x grizzled skipper, 1 x dingy skipper - David Gower

Saw 2 Speckled Woods in Grovelands Park, Southgate, on Thursday 23rd May 2013 at 13:55 and 14:15 hrs. Today Saturday 25th May 2013 recorded the following butterflies - 1 female **Small Copper**, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Williams Wood, at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 10:40 hrs - our first of the year; 1 female Orange Tip, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Williams Wood, at Vicarage Farm, 10:41 hrs; 1 Peacock, at Parkside Farm, Enfield, 11:10 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip, at Parkside Farm, 11:10 hrs - both settling in Oil seed rape field; 1 Green-veined White, by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 12:35 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 13:01 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 13:01 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip, at South Lodge Farm,

Enfield, 13:58 hrs; 1 Green-veined White, along Merryhills Brook/Vicarage Farm; 1 female Large White, hedgerow off Barracks, at Vicarage Farm, 14:23 hrs - Robert Callf & Robin White.

Bricket Wood Common, St Albans - Brimstones out in force, with equal numbers of males and females now flying. 19 recorded on the transect walk, but there were many more flying on the site. Orange Tips and Green-veined Whites also doing well plus small numbers of Large White, Peacock, Holly Blue and Speckled Wood. This last species appears to be having another poor year at this site. also my first Treble Bar Moth of the year. Just up the road at Butterfly World, Chiswell Green, I saw 3 Brimstones, 2 Orange Tips, 5 Small White, 2 Treble Bar moths and my first Burnet Companion moth of this year - Malcolm Hull

Had a walk around Hexton chalk pit today and saw x12/15 Dingy Skipper, x3 Green Hairstreak, x3 Brimstone, and Specked Wood, Orange Tip. - Kevin Taylor

Hexton Chalk Pits today, Brimstone 6, GV White 2, Green Hairstreak 4, Dingy Skipper 10+, Orange Tip 1, Large White 1 - Nigel Agar

Friday 24th May 2013

On **Thursday, 23rd** - lousy butterfly weather but some sun at 4 o'clock at Waterford Heath south on bank high up two grizzled skippers and a green veined white then cloud came again - Steve Kiln

On **Wednesday 22nd May** - visit to Frogmore quarry, Stevenage at lunchtime. Overcast but bright. The only butterfly I saw was a fresh **Brown Argus** - Trevor Chapman

On **Wednesday**, Waterford Heath South in the early afternoon in cool and windy conditions, 5 Grizzled Skippers roosting - 4 high up on seed heads and one low down on speedwell.

<http://www.facebook.com/ButterflyConservationHertsMiddlesex>

Andrew Wood

On **Tuesday** two Silver-washed Fritillary larvae (the first I've ever seen) and more signs of feeding activity on Dog Violets at Balls Wood.

http://sphotos-f.ak.fbcdn.net/hphotos-ak-frc3/971126_10200660758593617_328980967_n.jpg

Also one Orange Tip egg on Lady's Smock - Andrew Wood

Whilst conducting a private survey on **Monday** two roosting **Small Copper** were observed - Liz Goodyear

Penny George on the facebook page reports a **Small Heath** from Aldbury Nowers on the **12th May**

Sunday 19th May 2013

Some sightings for Sunday 19th May 2013 - 1 Small White, at Cheyne Walk Open Space, N21 at 12:50 hrs; 1 Green-veined White, at Cheyne Walk Open Space, N21 at 12:52 hrs; 1 female Holly Blue, at Boxer's Lake, Enfield, 14:00 hrs; 3 Speckled Wood, together, at Boxer's Lake, Enfield, 14:00 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip, at Boxer's Lake, Enfield, 14:03 hrs - Robert Callf

Here are some of the butterflies and moths I saw at Aldbury Nowers today, Sunday 19th May: Green Hairstreak, Orange-tip (f), Grizzled Skipper

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/81377128@N03/8754009207/>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/81377128@N03/8754010341/>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/81377128@N03/8754012051/>

also Brimstone, Large White, Peacock. Moths: Pyrausta Nigrata, Mint Moth, Common Carpet

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/81377128@N03/8755129704/>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/81377128@N03/8755136292/>

Sharon Monahan

I saw a **Small Heath** in Aldbury Nowers (Herts) on **16th May** and noticed that it wasn't in the first sightings list - Paul Cross

Was in St Albans today and noted 3 x small white, 2 x large white, 1 x holly blue in Russell Avenue

back garden - David Gower

Hexton, at least 15-20 Dingy Skippers widespread over site.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/robinp2009/8753905681/>

Robin Pearson

I visited Hexton Chalk Pit 9.30 to 11.30 today mixture of sun and cloud. I saw 1 peacock, 3 green hairstreaks, 1 male holly blue, around a dozen dingy skippers and a male brimstone who was content to let a fly rest on his wing. Some links to pics below.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/64663114@N03/8755194690/in/photostream/>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/64663114@N03/8755190020/in/photostream/>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/64663114@N03/8754068511/in/photostream/>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/64663114@N03/8754066223/in/photostream/>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/64663114@N03/8754069431/in/photostream/>

Miles Attenborough

Saturday 18th May 2013

Didn't see anything in our garden today but popped into Fishers Field nature reserve just before 5pm and noticed 3 x male orange tips & 1 x speckled wood as well as 3 "whites" i couldn't identify - David Gower

Thursday 16th May 2013

A few sightings for Thursday 16th May 2013 - 1 male Orange Tip, at Chequers Mead, Potters Bar, 12:45 hrs; 4 Peacock, at Fir & Pond Woods, between 13:10 - 13:45 hrs; 2+ Green-veined White, at Fir & Pond Woods; 3 Speckled Wood, at Fir & Pond Woods; 1 male Orange Tip, at Fir & Pond Woods, 15:00 hrs. - Robert Callf

At Hexton Chalk Pit today were at least **20 Dingy Skipper**, 5m/1f Brimstone, 1m Orange-tip and 2 Green Hairstreak, one of which was an egg-laying female. I watched her with interest, then spent a long time unsuccessfully trying to photograph one of her eggs, which had been laid on Common Rock-rose. Also present were large numbers of the moth *Pyrausta nigrata*. - Paul Why

Had a walk around the Hexton chalk pits today first time ever been there. I saw at least a **dozen Dingy Skippers** today 2x Green Hairstreak, 3x Brimstone one being a female, 1x Orange Tip and Peacock - Kevin Taylor

Tuesday 14th May 2013

An orange tip egg on a cuckoo flower stem.... Fir & Pond Woods May 14th (low power stereo microscope)

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=464745246941471&set=o.313540722064920&type=1&theater>

David Gompertz

Monday 13th May 2013

Stanwell Moor, today was a different sort of day: I didn't get out round my local area until three, and it was windy, quite cool, but with longish sunny spells. I saw a few Holly Blues (but not like yesterday's abundance), five or six Speckled Woods, one Peacock, and a selection of Whites. I approached one or two - the first was a female Orange Tip, and all the others identifiable turned out to be Green-veined Whites today. In addition, I saw six or seven male Orange Tips, battling against the wind and settling fairly readily every time the sun dimmed. Photo opportunities increased - but the wind made things very trying!

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=31423&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=31422&mode=view>

Dave Miller

Saw a Speckled Wood on East edge of Icehouse Wood, Trent Park this morning at 11:20 hrs and a male Orange Tip along Hadley Road at Parkside Farm, Enfield, 13:35 hrs (Monday 13th May 2013). Also a couple of White sp - Robert Callf & Robin White.

Sunday 12th May 2013

Stanwell Moor, an hour or so around my local patch on a reasonably sunny Sunday morning provided a fair bit of interest. Once again, by far the most numerous butterfly was the Holly Blue.

There must have been twenty or more altogether, often in groups of two or three, both males and females. They were more inclined than usual to settle lower down for some reason, which was good. In addition, Small and Green-veined Whites were frequent, along with Orange Tips of both sexes. There was also a solitary male Large White, only just bigger than his cousins. Speckled Woods were also well in evidence, definitely a better showing than last year, but with no Peacocks and only one Comma (a female I suspect, as it was crawling over low-level nettle and hop leaves), they may well have had their time in the sun. Finally, there was one Red Admiral, occupying a riverside glade territory that has attracted his forebears certainly since I started walking this route seven years ago. He had to share it with a couple of Speckled Woods and several Holly Blues - which kept him very busy.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=31364&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=31363&mode=view>

Dave Miller

Sunday morning at Fir & Pond Woods NR....13 orange tips ... perhaps reflecting the number of cuckoo flowers in bloom on the Reserve. Also 1 peacock, 4 gwws and 8 unidentified whites. - David Gompertz

Despite the unpromising weather forecast I ventured out to Bricket Wood Common this morning. Three new species recorded for the transect this year - Orange Tip (2, both female, 1 nectaring on Garlic Mustard), Holly Blue (1, taking moisture/salts from a patch of mud) & Orange Underwing moth sp. (1, flew up into a birch tree). This later sighting is unusually late - I normally see Orange Underwings in March/April. Also good numbers of Brimstones flying today. 13 males, mostly congregating in the Brimstone meadow near School Lane. I finally recorded my first female Brimstone for this site in 2013, initially nectaring on a Dandelion, but soon fighting off the attentions of an amorous male. The rejected suitor then turned up a second female further along the ride, only to suffer a second rejection. With male Brimstone sightings on the common outnumbering females by about 10 to 1 this year, its been a frustrating time for the male Brimstones. The conservation grazing (10 English Longhorn cattle) has resumed on the site & will be present for the next six weeks. Last autumn the cows caused concern by attacking the Brimstones foodplant, Alder Buckthorn. Fortunately their winter retraining programme appears to be working & there is no sign of further damage this year. Also spotted - Peacock (6) Speckled Wood (2), Green-veined White(10, including a mating pair), Large White (1) & Comma (1, egg laying on wild hop). The temperature on the Common reached 14 degrees & the sun lasted until 1.30. The forecast was 10 degrees max & no sun after midday and this made a crucial difference. Important lesson - don't take the weather forecast too literally! - Malcolm Hull

1 x orange tip in Bushey garden today - David Gower

Dingy Skippers (2) active at Hexton Chalk Pits around mid day today. Plus Orange Tips and a Peacock. Dingy Skippers are on the grassy west bank of the upper pit - Nigel Agar

Friday 10th May 2013

Hatfield Aerodrome (Disused) - Ellenbrook Fields: 3 x Green-veined White, 2 x Orange Tip (Males) - David Wheatcroft

Tuesday 7th May 2013

1 x Holly Blue in Ye olde Green Man pub garden, Batchworth Heath - David Gower

I did the transect today at Aldbury Nowers, it was fantastic. Highlights included 8 grizzled skipper, 16 Brimstone, 10 orange tip, large white, green veined white, green hairstreak and a peacock. There were probably a lot more orange tips and brimstones across the whole reserve. I also saw a comma near Grebe House in St Albans and there was a holly blue there last Thursday (2/5). - Paul Thrush

News from the 6th. In our Bushey garden= 2 x green veined white, 3 x orange tip (males), 1 x large white. Finch Lane, Bushey = 9 x orange tip(1 female), 5 x speckled wood, 2 x small white, 2 x large white, 1 x holly blue. In Aldenham Road, Bushey TQ127964 =1 x holly blue(my first this year), 1 x large white. Walk from Finch Lane to Patchmore Heath via cemetery = 2 x peacock, 2 x orange tip(males), 2 x small tortoiseshell, 2 x small white. Lastly Merryhill Fields, Bushey = 2 x orange tip(males), 1 x large white, 8 x peacock, 2 x comma, 7 x brimstone(2 females),4 x speckled wood, 2 x small white - David Gower

Last Thursday I was poll clerking in a church in Gt.Munden, Herts. Immediately I noticed 3 butterflies trapped against one of the stain glass windows. As we were not rushed off our feet my main concern was to rescue the butterflies. A couple of them appeared to be caught up in some dust and spiders webbing. As the window was quite high up it wasn't easy to get them to come down. In the meantime I found 2 dead ones on the floor and both of them were Peacocks. Eventually between me and the Presiding Officer (I think he thought I was quite obsessed, which I probably was)we managed to get the 3 butterflies to a lower area and I managed to cup them in my hands and take them outside, (not all at once !)Amazingly all 3 were Peacocks. Later we noticed another one flitting around in the church and realised a window was open. We managed to close it and then also rescue this butterfly; again, it was a Peacock - Jan Geggus

Another synopsis of a week with a lot of butterflies. Apologies for the sheer bulk of this message, but it's a good reflection on the weather and the numbers and variety seen.

30th April Staines - Three Holly Blues, one posing right next to where I was parked:

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=30698&mode=view>

One Peacock, Two Whites

1st May Harmondsworth Moor - After work, I popped into Harmondsworth Moor, as I had exactly a week ago. Within five minutes, I had seen five butterflies of five different species: a Peacock, A Comma, an Orange Tip (at long last!), a Brimstone and a White (Small or Green-veined). This boded well: I set off along the same circuit as last week, and saw many of the same butterflies, mostly Peacocks and Commas, tussling with each other over the same stretches of path. However, I also came across two further Brimstones and several Whites, another Orange Tip and a very worn Small Tortoiseshell. At least two of The Whites were definitely of the Green-veined persuasion, and one obligingly settled to "puddle" on a patch of damp mud. Returning to the car along a shadier part of the path, a Speckled Wood passed in the opposite direction, and near the car park, I spotted a Holly Blue over a tall stand of brambles.

2nd May Stanwell Moor - A stroll around my local patch. The first butterfly I saw was a Red Admiral.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=30819&mode=view>

I imagine this was a migrant, as any that overwintered would have appeared before now if they hadn't perished in the prolonged cold winter. This was an aggressive insect, repeatedly diving at me as I tried to photograph a Speckled Wood and seeing off a Holly Blue and then even an unsuspecting Robin. Moving on, it was clear that there had been a significant emergence of Green-veined Whites and Orange Tips. Two of the latter had wasted no time at all, and I found them in flagrante on a bramble - looking somewhat uncomfortable, it must be said. As the sun lowered, the Orange Tips stopped their patrolling and came to a stand of Garlic Mustard where they basked, nectared and settled down - beautifully camouflaged on the flower heads. I also watched a Brimstone make its way amongst the leaves of an ivy plant - effectively disappearing so good was the camouflage. On top of all this, I lost count of the Peacocks and Commas. They were everywhere along the paths, tussling with each other over overlapping territories. Finally, I encountered a Small Tortoiseshell over the nettle beds - looking decidedly worn now.

3rd May Stanwell Moor - Early morning for a change, but I just had time for a brief tour of the local patch. Yesterday's Speckled Wood was up and about, but apart from four or five Green-veined Whites, an Orange Tip, and a couple of Holly Blues fluttering around a neighbour's box hedge, nothing else was stirring.

4th May Bedfont Lakes (northern part) - Only a Peacock and a couple of Commas seen at Bedfont.

4th May Stanwell Moor - I returned home and did the usual circuit here, which proved a better idea, as I saw two Speckled Woods (both seemed a bit pale, and one had larger spots than usual), and several Commas and Peacocks. I checked a small patch of Cuckoo Flower to find the Orange Tips had got there first: two eggs were in evidence, still quite pale.

5th May Stanwell Moor - Within a few metres of the start of today's walk, I had seen a Speckled Wood, a Holly Blue, a Green-veined White, a Peacock and a Comma. As I walked, the sun started to break through a little and it became quite muggy. I saw five or six more Green-veined Whites, a couple of Orange Tips (including one basking way up in a hawthorn tree), two more Holly Blues, and more Peacocks and Commas. I also saw another first for the year, a male Large White which I disturbed nectaring on a dandelion. I also found another Orange Tip egg, quite orange this time, and a couple more of these butterflies roosting amongst the garlic mustard.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=30972&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=30969&mode=view>

6th May Stanwell Moor - After my trip to Aldbury Nowers, I went out locally again. Every day is different: today Holly Blues were the most numerous species (thirteen seen altogether), and several more Speckled Woods had emerged too (seven seen in all). Brimstones, Orange Tips, GVW

and Large Whites, Commas and Peacocks completed the picture. It has been a real joy to see so many Peacocks and Commas in recent weeks, and I shall miss being dive-bombed by the former and hustled by the latter when they disappear, probably fairly soon. The Commas in particular are looking very tired now.

7th May Stanwell Moor - Work today. However, as it was still warm at six when I returned home, I had to venture out round my home patch just in case. I soon encountered a Speckled Wood and a Green-veined White, both headed for the trees, presumably to roost. A little further on, I found a couple of Orange Tips on a variety of wild parsley. The male was persistently bothering the female, who was displaying the typical abdomen-in-air rejection attitude. Eventually, she became fed up, and flew off across the river. The thwarted male then fluttered around the spot where she'd been for a good five minutes before he gave in and went up into the trees. I carried on to the patch of garlic mustard where I'd seen roosting Orange Tips a few days ago. Sure enough, there were another pair here. The female was still settling down, but I imagine the male had preceded her as he was oblivious to her presence a few flowerheads away. Moving on again I spotted two more, this time a mating pair settled on a bluebell in the low sunshine. Oh, and I also saw three Peacocks, defending their various bits of path to the end of the day.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=31130&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=31129&mode=view>

Dave Miller

Just 2 Grizzled Skippers and 1 Dingy Skipper at Aldbury Nowers 11am today.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/robinp2009/8716540881/>

Robin Pearson

My Norton Green visit (1320-1410 hrs) yielded a Small White, 6 Orange Tips, 6 G-V Whites and 3 Peacocks. No Speckled Woods today although one was seen here last week on 2 May - Peter Clarke

Some news for yesterday (Monday 6th May 2013) - 1 Holly Blue, at Allotments, Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 09:25 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip, at Barracks, Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 09:42 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, at Barracks, Vicarage Farm, 09:43 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood, at Williams Wood, Trent Park, 10:50 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood, at Shaws Wood, Trent Park, 11:03 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip, edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park, 12:05 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip, at Duncan's Wood, Enfield Chase, 12:20 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip, at Parkside Farm, Enfield, 13:10 hrs; 1 Silver Y, at Park Farm, Enfield, 12:45 hrs - my first of the year! 1 Holly Blue, at Southbury Road, Enfield Town, 15:07 hrs - Robert Callf. A few sightings for today (Tuesday 7th May 2013) - 2 Peacock, together, along Leeing Beech Gutter near 'Three-bridges', Trent Park, 08:32 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood, at Rough Lot, Trent Park, 09:10 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip, at Plumridge Farm, Enfield, 09:45 hrs; 1 Silver Y, at Plumridge Farm, Enfield, 09:50 hrs; 2 Speckled Wood, together, at Vault Hill Wood, Enfield Chase, 10:00 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood, at Little Beechill Wood, Enfield Chase, 10:13 hrs; 1 Comma, along Jubilee Path at Park Farm, 10:20 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, at 11:10 hrs; 3 Small White, together, along track at Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm, 11:20 hrs; 2 Green-veined White, together, at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 11:25 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip and 1 Holly Blue, at St Andrew's Churchyard, Enfield Town, 13:45 hrs - Robert Callf

Monday 6th May 2013

I walked across from the NT car park at Pitstone Hill to Aldbury Nowers. The Buckinghamshire hillside was almost devoid of butterflies, but... Once over the county boundary and into the reserve, with its south-facing, sheltered, chalk scree slope (try saying that a few times after a glass of ale), things changed. Within a minute or two, I spotted a Grizzled Skipper, and over the next hour or so I saw at least four definite individuals. There were probably more, but I only photographed four of the nine or ten separate encounters. Brimstones abounded (15+), with both sexes represented, and there were plenty of Orange Tips (12+) and Green-veined Whites (10+) too. At the bottom of the slope, I found two Green Hairstreaks, and as I left the reserve later, another passed me, crossing the county boundary from Bucks into Herts. A sighting record for both counties?

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=31083&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=31080&mode=view>

Dave Miller

At Hexton Chalkpit this afternoon (6 May) there was a single **Dingy Skipper**, but no sign of Green Hairstreaks. Large numbers (>100) of the pyralid moth *Pyrausta nigrata*. Orange Tips and Brimstones common, plus a few Green-Veined and Small Whites and a single Comma. Earlier

today at Weston Hills, Orange Tips and Brimstones again common, with lesser numbers of Green-veined and Small Whites, but also a single Holly Blue and a few Peacocks. Ian Small

Quite a few sightings on a walk in the countryside around Braughing today. Lots of peacocks (every 20 - 30 metres along the bridle way, with quite a few territorial disputes). Plenty of large and small whites and orange tips (including one mating pair) plus 3 brimstones, at least 2 small tortoiseshells and 2 speckled wood. As I was driving there I saw what was probably a holly blue. Quite a few bumble bees on the wing as well. All in all a very pleasant afternoon - hopefully the first of many this year. Chris Gleeson

In my Hayes garden, 4 Holly Blues, 1 Large White, 2 Orange Tips, male and female, and 1 Speckled Wood.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/69131641@N04/8714054911/in/photostream>

Helen George

Had an amazing day for butterflies in Kings Langley in Barnes Lane. My husband saw a red admiral; we both saw up to about eight orange tips including male and female, two commas, a few peacocks flying over the road and hedges with one settling on nettles. I think it was laying eggs as there were already quite large clusters of eggs on the nettles. Later in the afternoon one more orange tip in the garden and two holly blues - Elizabeth Debenham

Aldbury Nowers, Tring - 1 Green Hairstreak, 7 Grizzled Skippers. Northfield Rd, Tring - **7 Dingy Skippers** (2 in Herts, 5 in Bucks), 4 Grizzled Skippers (3 in Herts, 1 in Bucks), 1 Pyrausta Aurata moth. Brimstones, Peacocks, Orange tips out in force on all sites plus a few Whites - Malcolm Hull

Following up on Rob Solomon's report from 03 May, I visited Bedfont Lakes Southern section this morning and eventually saw a **Green Hairstreak**. It only gave its position away when it decided to pick a fight with one of the numerous Holly Blues around. - John Eborall

Sunday 5th May 2013

Kings Langley garden we had a speckled wood, large white and male orange tip within moments - Elizabeth Debenham

Today only spotted 5 x orange tips(1 female) at Aldbury Nowers, no other species - David Gower

A few selected sightings to report today (Sunday 5th May 2013) - 1 Small Tortoiseshell, along track at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 08:30 hrs; 1 Comma, at Park Farm, Enfield, 09:15 hrs; 3 Peacock, together, East edge of Little Beechill Wood, Enfield, 09:50 hrs; 1+ Green-veined White, at Little Beechill Wood, 09:55 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip, at Vault Hill Wood, Enfield, 10:00 hrs; 1 male Large White, at Vault Hill Wood, 10:05 hrs; 3 Peacock, together, at Plumridge Farm, Enfield, 10:25 hrs; 1 Green-veined White, at Ferny Hill, Enfield, 10:55 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 12:10 hrs; 2 Speckled Wood, together, Shaws Wood, Trent Park, 12:15 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip, at Barracks, Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 12:50 hrs. - Robert Callf

Whilst working in my Thorley Park back garden this morning, a holly blue, small white, male orange tip and male brimstone passed through. The first three occasionally returning - Len Crouch

Saw my first Speckled Wood of the year today whilst walking back down Andrews Lane, Cheshunt with the Sunday morning paper. I was quite surprised to see any butterfly as it was just after 8 15 a.m. and the temperature according to the weather station at home was just above 8 degrees celsius. It flew down to the ground as I walked past. Later on our allotment in Dark Lane, Cheshunt we saw a number of Small Whites. As we were there for over two hours it was difficult to say exactly how many as some could have been the same butterfly seen twice but I would estimate probably about half a dozen different individuals. We also saw a Red Admiral and a Holly Blue. - Roger Newbold

At Waterford Heath had 1 Grizzled Skipper (north side) 7 Orange tips, 8 Peacocks, 3 Large White, 3 Brimstone including 1 female and 1 comma today - Andrew Steele

Saturday 4th May 2013

Saw a Holly Blue from the bus at Slades Hill, Enfield, EN2 today (Saturday 4th May 2013) at 12:50 hrs. - Robert Callf

At Fishers Field nature reserve, Bushey 2 x orange tips (relaxing around forget me nots), 1 x small white, 1 x comma. Onto Water Lane, Watford where found 2 x orange tip, 2 x small white, 1 x green veined white, 2 x peacock and 1 x small tortoiseshell - David Gower

Bricket Wood Common St Albans - Not a great day weather wise and the butterflies didn't get going until mid afternoon. Peacocks were the most numerous species with 8 recorded, including two females egg-laying on nettles in Pear Tree Wood. I recorded 5 Brimstones, all male - curiously I have yet to see a single female this year. 4 Green-vein Whites, one nectaring on Prunus and the others a courting trio - my first sighting of this species in 2013. 2 Small Tortoiseshells, which is a fairly rare species on the Common. 2 Small Whites, 1 Speckled Wood and 1 Large White - the latter two species also my first sightings this year. And finally a single Comma- having emerged from hibernation before the other species and peaked early, numbers of this species are now tailing off - Malcolm Hull

Friday 3rd May 2013

A single **Green Hairstreak** seen on the south side of Bedfont Lakes country park (just inside the gate off of challenge road) - Rob Solomon

In our Hatfield garden today, 1 Peacock, 3+ Orange Tip (1m, 2f), 2 Small White, 1+ Holly Blue (they breed here & were never sure if one near house is the one seen a couple of minutes earlier elsewhere. There are certainly m & f about). A good day - John Moss

Waterford heath (south) 1.30-15.00, **4-5 Grizzled skippers** along the eastern bank, 2 spiraling together on two occasions, 2 Orange tip, 4-5 Peacock - Laurence Drummond & Paul Why

Saw a Peacock at Scratch Wood near Sterling Corner yesterday (Thursday 2nd May 2013) at 11:45 hrs - Robert Callf & Bob Husband. Today (Friday 3rd May 2013) - 1 male Orange Tip, at Lonsdale Drive, EN2, at 10:35 hrs - my first of the year; 1 Speckled Wood, at Boxer's Lake, Enfield, 10:37 hrs; 1 male Orange Tip, at Boxer's Lake, Enfield, at 10:45 hrs; 1 Comma, at Boxer's Lake, Enfield, at 10:45 hrs; 1 Peacock, at Boxer's Lake, Enfield, at 10:48 hrs; 1 Holly Blue, at Merryhills Drive, EN2, at 10:58 hrs. - Robert Callf

Possibly out of Herts and just into Bucks on 1st May in Chenies Manor garden a male orange tip. Two or more peacocks flying round each other and several on dandelions and basking on a gate in Chess valley on road leading to Flaunden. One small tortoiseshell in field just of forestry commission track on border of Herts and Bucks just off the road to Flaunden as above. May 2nd two orange tip males and two females during the day in Kings Langley garden on honesty flowers. One of the males and females decided not to pair up and the male fluttered high over the garden. Also attracted to honesty were a brimstone and two large whites. Peacock nectaring on dandelion in Barnes Lane - Elizabeth Debenham

Spring has really got going now. First time this year around my local patch Oughtonhead Common had nine species today. Brimstones seem to be doing very well this year they were everywhere also 3x peacock 3 or 4 Orange Tips, 2x Comma, Small White, Small Tortoiseshell, Red Admiral, Holly Blue, Speckled Wood - Kevin Taylor

1 x brimstone at Northwood HQ in Sandy Lane seen during my lunch break - David Gower

Thursday 2nd May 2013

More lunchtime surprises in London zone 2 today. Near Primrose Hill I saw my first Holly Blue of the year. Then along Regents Canal just west of the London Zoo aviary I saw a male Orange tip. 2 Commas, a Large White, a Male Brimstone and 3 Whites (1 maybe a female OT, the others were probably not). - Mike Rubin

St Albans - 3 butterflies in my garden at lunchtime and each one a first for me this year - Orange Tip (male) Holly Blue and Large White - Malcolm Hull

I did the Aldbury Nowers transect yesterday, I recorded brimstone, orange tip, peacock and green veined white and in addition 3+ orange tip and 3+ brimstone in the coppice area. At Wilstone yesterday there were peacock and small tortoiseshell on the reservoir banks. Today there were more brimstones about in the southern enclosures at AN and **green hairstreak** (very kindly pointed out to me by a visitor so I can't take the credit for finding it! He'd seen one yesterday in the same place). - Paul Thrush

At Heartwood Forest had 20 Peacocks, 11 Orange tips, 3 Brimstones, 2 Small Tortoiseshells, 2 Large Whites, 1 Green Veined White and 1 Specked Wood - Andrew Steele

Wednesday 1st May 2013

Saw my first Orange Tips of the year, during a lunchtime walk in Regents Park. A tiny male seen near the SE corner of London Zoo. Then saw 3-4 whites near the NW end of the park, but I suspect these were all the same female OT on patrol. So I'll say 2 OT's, one male one female. - Mike Rubin

At Hexton Chalk Pit this afternoon I saw fewer butterflies than hoped for. My totals were: 5 Peacock, 1 Comma, 1 Red Admiral, 4 Brimstone (one busy egg-laying) and **2 Green Hairstreak**. Nice to see them there again having failed to find any at all in 2012. I later searched for GHs at Telegraph Hill but saw none, although I did spot one over the border on the Pegsdon Hills, along 'anthill ridge' - Paul Why

One **Grizzled Skipper** early on this morning on Waterford Heath South Pit. Despite our work party being around the bank for much of the morning no more were seen - Andrew Wood

2 Grizzled skippers on the Waterford Heath north. Lots of other butterflies on both Heaths (Peacocks, whites, orange tip, Brimstone, tortoiseshell and holly blue) - Andy Brown

My wife & I having been members for less than a week have today been diligently scanning our garden & the area adjacent to the River Chess at Sarratt Bottom. As "newbies" I thought I would convey our findings. In our garden in Pinner today we have had a Holly Blue constantly returning to a holly bush, small whites & one Orange tip (male) which spent a long time on an as yet unopened Aquilegia bud. Our foray to Sarratt yielded 5 Brimstones (including a "courting" trio - 2 males, 1 female), at least one Peacock & one Comma puddling on mole hill soil close to the river bank. There were also whites & a small orange/brown butterfly which disappeared too quickly to be identified - Tony Porter

A single Small Tortoiseshell near the playground at Ruislip Lido today - Nigel Sluman

Had a pre-lunchtime walk at Mymms Wash behind the Services and saw 3 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Brimstone and first times for 1 Orange Tip and 3 Small Whites. Then after lunch in my South Mimms garden had another Orange Tip and Small Tortoiseshell, and a first Holly Blue! - Terry Wood

Sightings for today (Wednesday 1st May 2013) - 2 Peacock, at Barracks, Vicarage Farm, 11:05 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, at Barracks, Vicarage Farm, 11:40 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 12:30 hrs; 1 Comma, along Leeging Beech Gutter near 'Three-bridges', Trent Park, 12:35 hrs; 1 Green-veined White, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Water Garden, Trent Park, 12:43 hrs; 1 female Brimstone, by Lower Lake, Trent Park, 12:58 hrs and 1 male Brimstone, edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park, 13:15 hrs. Also a number of Peacocks which I did not record - Robert Callf & Robin White.

In my Harpenden garden at lunchtime today: Holly Blue, male Orange Tip, Peacock and 1 unidentified white (poss female Brimstone). Add male Brimstone to previous list please Here's a pic of the aforementioned Holly Blue in my garden.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/robinp2009/8697949583/>

Robin Pearson

April 2013

Tuesday 30th April 2013

I was working at Wilstone Reservoir today, I saw a brimstone, small tortoiseshell, comma and peacock - Paul Thrush

I saw my first holly blue of the year in Harpenden - Jenny Sherwen

On my walk at Tyttenhanger Gravel Pits on Monday 29/4/13 I encountered my first Green Veined White of the year, along with a Comma, a Small Tortoiseshell and 3 Peacocks. - Terry Wood

On Monday in Pinner: Orange Tip (male) in my garden in Church Lane - Graham Elcombe

A few sightings to report today (Tuesday 30th April 2013) - 1 Peacock, along Leeging Beech Gutter near 'Three-bridges', Trent Park, 10:38 hrs; 1 Comma, along Leeging Beech Gutter near 'Three-bridges', Trent Park, 10:38 hrs; 1 Small White, along Leeging Beech Gutter near 'Three-bridges', Trent Park, 10:40 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, along Leeging Beech Gutter near Water Garden, Trent Park, 10:43 hrs; 1 Peacock, Rough Lot, Trent Park, 11:27 hrs; 1 Comma, at Plumridge Farm, Enfield, 12:03 hrs; 1 Peacock, at Vault Hill Wood, Enfield, 12:15 hrs; 1 Peacock, along hedgerow opposite Williams Wood, at Vicarage Farm, 13:30 hrs; 2 Small Tortoiseshell, together, at Bay Farm, Enfield, 12:42 hrs; 1 Comma, at Bay Farm, Enfield, 12:43 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, along hedgerow opposite Williams Wood, at Vicarage Farm, 13:28 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, along track at Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm, 13:40 hrs; 2 Small Tortoiseshell, together, at Barracks, Vicarage Farm, 13:46 hrs; 1 Peacock, near Firing Range, at Vicarage Farm, 13:50 hrs. Also a number of Whites were seen - Robert Callf

3 Holly Blues and 1 Small White at the same time here in Hoddesdon next to Sainsburys petrol station, despite walking around in the vicinity I could not find any Holly, plenty of Ivy though - Ben Sale

On Sunday 28th April - Hatfield Aerodrome (Disused) - Ellenbrook Fields 1 x Small Tortoiseshell
David Wheatcroft

Monday 29th April 2013

A brief synopsis of recent sightings in the south-west corner of Middlesex... 23rd April: Park Avenue, Staines - A Holly Blue in the shrubbery of Riverbridge School, a Small Tortoiseshell, a Small White and two Peacocks. 23rd April: Stanwell Moor - Six Peacocks, a Small White, a Comma and a Holly Blue 25th April: Harmondsworth Moor - Twelve Peacocks (possibly more), six Commas and a Brimstone 28th April: Stanwell Moor - One Comma and the first Speckled Wood of the year 29th April: Stanwell Moor - One Green-veined White, another first here this year. Hopefully as the weather gently improves this week, there might actually be an Orange Tip! - Dave Miller

Just seen a large white nectaring on honesty in Kings Langley around noon April 29th - Elizabeth Debenham

Saw my first Speckled Wood of the year yesterday (Sunday 28th April 2013) in Shaws Wood, Trent Park, at 15:35 hrs - Robert Callf. Today (Monday 29th April 2013) - 1 Peacock, at Park Farm, Enfield at 12:56 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, at Whitewebbs Park, 14:56 hrs; 1 Comma, at Flash Lane, Enfield, at 15:13 hrs - Robert Callf

Small white/female orange tip in Balls Wood plus 3 peacocks on Waterford Heath south - very quiet generally - Andy Brown

I saw 2 peacocks, a comma and brimstone at Tewin Orchard last Thursday (25th April) - Paul Thrush

Sunday 28th April 2013

News from 21/04/2013 Peacock at Stotfold Mill. 28/04/2013 Speckled Wood ([pic on facebook](#)) at Digswell Lake - Helen Cope

Saturday 27th April 2013

I am reporting a sighting of a male Orange Tip yesterday 26th April at 1 30 pm on the Par 3 at Redbourn Golf Club, Kinsbourne Green Lane. I understand that there have not been many sightings so far. The area was sheltered and very warm in the sun - Mandy Floyd

Friday 26th April 2013

I thought it may be of interest to you that I saw a fresh looking **Grizzled Skipper** halfway up the main footpath on Aldbury Nower on the afternoon of 25/4/13. Fresh as in freshly emerged - I first saw it when it was disturbed and flew weakly about a short distance and settled on a blade of grass where it remained for a long time even though I approached closely, so I wonder if it's wings had fully hardened. I wish I'd brought my camera along! - Frank Tuck

A few butterflies to report today (Friday 26th April 2013) - 1 Comma, at Park Farm, Enfield, at 12:35 hrs; 1 Peacock, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 13:38 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 13:44 hrs; 1 Peacock, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 13:44 hrs. Still no sign of any Orange Tips or Speckled Woods - Robert Callf & Robin White

It has been good week of sightings for me. On 20th April a fast white butterfly flew over the Duchies Piece path at Aldbury Nowers. It was either a small white or a female orange tip. It didn't stop for a closer look. 23rd April a large male brimstone flew over a garden in Kings Langley, then either a comma or small tortoiseshell was on the patio, but it didn't stop long enough for a proper ID. 25th April the weather was so warm it brought out several butterflies in the vicinity, namely brimstone, holly blue landing on a grape hyacinth and comma on the patio. Two chasing large butterfly silhouettes were above my head in The Nap, Kings Langley. I could only guess at peacock by its behaviour, but unsure - Elizabeth Debenham

Upper Green Gardens, Tewin, first Holly Blue seen yesterday - Jim Farr

Thursday 25th April 2013

At Devil's Dyke, Wheathampstead on a botanical survey this morning, 4 Brimstone (3m+1f), 5+ Peacock, **1 Speckled Wood**, 1 Holly Blue. Encouraged by this & despite high winds did my Warren transect & recorded 5 more Peacock. They must be having a good year (so far!)- John Moss

I did the transect yesterday at Aldbury Nowers, despite the warm conditions it was pretty quiet, I saw single orange tip, small tortoiseshell, brimstone and peacock. There was also a peacock at Alpine Meadow. - Paul Thrush

First Brimstone on my Stevenage transect at about 11am along the eastern edge of Whomerley Wood - Peter Clarke

A few butterflies to report today (Thursday 25th April 2013) - 1 Peacock, near Merryhills Brook at Trent Park, 10:57 hrs; 1 Peacock, at Plumridge Farm, 12:18 hrs; 2 Peacock, at Vault Hill Wood, Enfield Chase, 12:45 hrs; 1 Red Admiral, edge of Icehouse Wood, Trent Park, 11:16 hrs - my first of the year - a rather worn specimen; 2 Comma, edge of Icehouse Wood, Trent Park, 11:20 hrs; 1 Comma, at Vault Hill Wood, 12:45 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, at Park Farm near Little Beechill Wood, 13:05 hrs; 1 Comma, at Park Farm near Little Beechill Wood, 13:05 hrs; 1 Comma, at Park Farm, 13:20 hrs; 2 Peacock, at Park Farm, Enfield, 13:20 hrs - Robert Callf. P.S., Also a few Whites including Large and Small.

Yesterday at King's Meads orange tip, tortoiseshells, peacocks and brimstones, Today 25th Waterford Heath commas, peacocks and brimstones - Andy Brown

Wednesday 24th April 2013

News from Diane Andrews, **2 Speckled Wood** in Tottenham Cemetary today, one had it's left hind wing missing but still flying well. Also 1 Peacock, a white and 4 Holly Blue. Diane also has 6 small Alder Buckthorn plants which she would like to rehome. Anyone interested please contact Liz Goodyear

Yesterday, Holly Blue in my garden in the morning, first this year. On my Green Lanes allotment this afternoon, Small White, 2 Comma/Small Tortoiseshell - not sure which. They were very energetic & made no attempt to settle - John Moss

Only recorded a few of the butterflies that we saw today (Wednesday 24th April 2013) - 1 female Large White, flying around an oilseed rape field, Ferny Hill Farm, Enfield, 11:10 hrs - my first of the year! 1 Small Tortoiseshell, along ditch near Seedfield Spinney, Trent Park, 11:40 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, along Merryhills Brook/Vicarage Farm, 12:57 hrs. Also a number of Peacock and Comma seen - Robert Callf & Robin White. Yesterday (Tuesday 23rd April 2013) - 1 male Green-veined White, Shaws Wood, Trent Park, 16:06 hrs - my first of the year! 3 Comma, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 16:11 - 16:15 hrs; 1 Peacock, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 16:15 hrs; 2 Small Tortoiseshell, together, Plumridge Farm, Enfield, 17:25 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, along track, at Vicarage Farm, 19:05 hrs - Robert Callf.

3 Small Tortoiseshell + 4 Peacock on nettles alongside R. Ver, just N. of Shafford Farm near Redbournbury this morning - Pete Waldron

At Norton Green earlier this afternoon, spotted 4 Brimstones (all male), a Comma, a Peacock and a Small Tortoiseshell - Peter Clarke

Pinner, Middx. A single Holly Blue in my garden in yesterday (April 23rd); and previously (on Saturday 20th April) a single Comma - Graham Elcombe

Tuesday 23rd April 2013

At Amwell Nature Reserve today had 1 Small White, 3 Peacocks and 1 Comma and at Therfield Heath had 8 Peacocks, 2 Brimstone and 2 comma - Andy Steele

Thornbera Road allotments, Stortford, warm and Sunny, 1 p.m. today, 3 Peacocks, 2 Small Tortoiseshells; 2,15 p.m., one comma nectaring on the first gooseberry flowers and ignoring a nearby Majorie plum in almost full bloom. 2.45 p.m. Female brimstone lazily crossed full width of allotments heading in a NNE direction. Whites conspicuous by their absence - Len Crouch

Lincoln Inn Fields WC2 Small White. Grays Inn Gardens WC1 - 2 male Peacocks, clashing with each other and a passing Comma. 1 Small White - Malcolm Hull

Despite the new Hitchin railway extension devastating the site ie loss of all small copper/common and blue and brown argus habitat. The usual early suspects still abound 15 Brimstones/12 Peacocks, 5 Commas, Small Tortoiseshell and my 1st Large White of the year - Stuart Pittman

1 x Peacock and 1 x Small Tortoiseshell at Ellenbrook Fields (Hatfield Aerodrome) today - Shaun Dowman

I was working at Hexton Chalk Pit today, we saw a small tortoiseshell, peacock, comma, 3+ Brimstone (male and female). On the drive back between Hexton village and Hitchin I counted 8 Brimstone and there were 2 near Jersey Farm. - Paul Thrush

Had a morning walk around Amwell today and saw 2 male Orange Tips, male and female Brimstones and lots of Peacocks - Steve Lane

Peacocks everywhere today. At Broxbourne Wood, 5 peacocks, green veined white, brimstone, small tortoiseshell. At Bencroft wood my first orange tip. At Waterford Heath 4 commas, 7 peacocks, 1 small tortoiseshell, 1small white. Great Molewood - 6 commas, 4 peacocks and Rickneys 6 peacocks - Steve Kiln

Monday 22nd April 2013

News for yesterday (Sunday 21st April 2013) - 1 Small Tortoiseshell, basking on black plastic sheeting, edge of shelter-belt, Vicarage Farm, 10:55 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, hedgerow opposite Williams Wood, Vicarage Farm, 11:10 hrs; 1 Peacock, near Williams Wood, Vicarage Farm, 11:03 hrs; 1 Peacock, hedgerow opposite Williams Wood, Vicarage Farm, 11:10 hrs; 3 Peacock, at Parkside Farm, 1 at 11:23 hrs, and 2 at 11:33 hrs; 1 Comma, at Parkside Farm, 11:33 hrs; 2 Comma, at Park Farm, 11:56 and 12:20 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, at Park Farm, 12:10 hrs; 2 Peacock, together, at Little Beechill Wood, Enfield Chase, 12:25 hrs; 4 Peacock, at Vault Hill Wood, Enfield Chase, 2 at 12:40 and 2 at 12:50 hrs; 2 Peacock, at Plumridge Farm, Enfield, 12:55 and 13:14 hrs; 1 Peacock, edge of Ash Wood, 13:18 hrs; 1 Comma, at Ash Wood, 13:30 hrs; 1 Comma, edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park, 13:45 hrs; 1 Comma, near Water Garden, Trent Park, 14:00 hrs; 1 Comma, nectaring on Sallow, along Leeging Beech Gutter N of Williams Wood, 14:15 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, set-aside field N of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 14:17 hrs - Robert Callf. Today (Monday 22nd April 2013) - 1 Peacock, Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm, 09:40 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, at Park Farm; 1 Peacock, at Park Farm, 11:08 hrs; 1 Comma, at Park Farm, 11:15 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, at Park Farm, 11:23 hrs; 1 Peacock, along Merryhills Brook/Vicarage Farm, 12:45 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, at Barracks, Vicarage Farm, 13:20 hrs - Robert Callf & Robin White.

Saturday 20th April at Old Park Wood, Harefield. 2 Peacocks & 1 Comma. For anyone interested the Bluebells look like they won't be fully out for another 3 weeks. Sunday 21st April in my Hayes garden, 1 Comma, 1 Peacock and a **Green-veined White**.
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/69131641@N04/8667989959/in/photostream>
Helen George

Over the weekend at Stocking Pelham, I saw several small tortoiseshells, a couple of Brimstones, a

couple of Peacocks a **green veined white** and a possible speckled wood - Andy Brown

News from Diane Andrews, 14th April at Alexandra Palace, 1 Brimstone, 2 Small Tortoiseshell, 3 Peacock and 3 Comma. 20th April Brunswick Park 6 Peacock, 6 Comma, 3 Small Tortoiseshell and a **Holly Blue**. Today at Tatum Park, 3 Peacock and 2 Comma

Sunday 21st April 2013

In the garden this weekend (Hemel Hempstead) I saw my first Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell and **Large White** of the year together with a Brimstone and Comma. Yellow Hyacinths and Primulas were popular nectar sources. Malcolm Newland

You may be interested that I today found a peacock butterfly trying to get out of my closed garage window. I opened a window hoping that the fresh air would help it to find the escape route but it did not help. I called my daughter & granddaughter to come and see this beautiful creature. My granddaughter took several photos before my daughter carefully picked it up when it closed its wings & released it into the atmosphere. It flew away at great speed & height across two gardens & then we lost sight of it. It occurred at 2.30pm on 21.4.13 I live in Ruislip Middlesex - FS

Yesterday walked along Finch lane, Bushey but no sightings. Today my first sighting of year 1 x peacock in our Bushey front garden - David Gower

A small male **Orange Tip** visited my Harpenden garden today, picture included.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/robin2009/8668298810/>

Robin Pearson

I was able to spend more time ambling around my local patch today. The Peacocks were suddenly the most numerous, appearing regularly at intervals all along the route I take. Where territories overlapped, spiralling dogfights ensued, and by the time I returned home I had seen thirteen individuals; to this I could add six Commas and five Small Tortoiseshells. I also saw three Brimstones, including a female, plus three Whites. The only one of these I managed to approach closely was a male Small White with deformed wings - this did not seem to inconvenience him at all. At one point a male Brimstone set off in hot pursuit of a White, and showed no sign of giving up, even forcing it to the ground a couple of times. They normally call it a day quite quickly when they realise the error.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=30390&mode=view> - Dave Miller

Saturday 20th April 2013

my first trip out for a few days and not as long as I would have liked: just a quick ramble locally on the home patch produced a couple of Peacocks and Small Tortoiseshells, plus a Brimstone and an unidentified White seen a bit of a way off. Once again, one of the Small Tortoiseshells was on a dandelion on my front lawn, within a metre of the house. I think I've already seen more of these than in the whole of last year (which was itself better than 2011).

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=30348&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=30347&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=30346&mode=view>

- Dave Miller

Saw a Comma hovering over some primulas in my back garden at about 10 am. Very sunny but cold at around 7 degrees so very brave! Peter Clarke

Looks as though spring is here at last, bringing our first butterflies this year. At 10.00 am a handsome Peacock sunbathing in our Hatfield front garden, followed at 12.30 by a splendid male Brimstone, on a mission over the back garden. 2.00 - 2.40 pm on my Warren transect, 5 Peacock, 2 Small Tortoiseshell, 2 Comma, all very bright & brisk. Brilliant sunshine all day, with light breeze, temp at 10.00 am 10C, rising to 15C this afternoon. I hope it lasts! - John Moss

News for today (Saturday 20th April 2013) - 1 Comma, near Triangular Wood, Trent Park, 12:35 hrs; 2 Peacock, near Triangular Wood, Trent Park, 12:35 hrs and 12:40 hrs; 1 male Brimstone, nectaring on Dandelion, near Triangular Wood, Trent Park, 12:45 hrs - my first of the year! 1 Peacock, near Cockfosters entrance, Trent Park, 12:57 hrs; 1 Peacock, near Church Wood, Trent Park, 13:08 hrs; **1 female Small White**, near Obelisk, edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park, 14:00 hrs - my first of the year! 1 Peacock, near Obelisk, Trent Park, 14:02 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, nectaring on Dandelion, at Plumridge Farm near Ash Wood, 14:08 hrs (TQ2898); 2 Peacock,

together, edge of Ash Wood, 14:15 hrs; 1 Comma, at Plumridge Farm, Enfield, 14:20 hrs; 2 Peacock, at Plumridge Farm, 14:24 and 14:30 hrs; 1 Peacock, at Vault Hill Wood, 14:38 hrs; 1 Comma, at Vault Hill Wood, 14:45 hrs; 3 Peacock, at Park Farm, Enfield, 1 at 15:07 and 2 together at 15:25 hrs; 2 Comma, together, at Park Farm, 15:25 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, at Parkside Farm, Enfield, 15:43 hrs; 1 Peacock, at Parkside Farm, 15:43 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Stables at Vicarage Farm, 16:03 hrs; 1 Peacock, along Leeing Beech Gutter near Stables, at Vicarage Farm, 16:05 hrs; 2 Small Tortoiseshell, together, along track at Vicarage Farm, 16:08 hrs. - Robert Callf

Alleluia! Saw my first butterflies of the year today. It's been a long wait - two small tortoiseshells and one comma on our allotment in Dark Lane, Cheshunt enjoying the sunshine - Roger Newbold

Ruislip Woods: At least fifteen Commas this afternoon, plus ten Peacocks and one female Brimstone - Graham Elcombe

Bricket Wood Common, St Albans - I recorded Small Tortoiseshell (2) and Peacock (6) at this site today for the first time in 2013. Comma is still the most numerous species on the Common with 13 recorded, including two courting couples and a female egg laying on nettles. 5 Brimstone also recorded - all males, four of them patrolling & one nectaring on Forget-me-not. The females appear to still be in hibernation. Its interesting that the emergence of Brimstones appears to have been delayed by the long winter, whereas the Comma, which is having an excellent year is much closer to its "normal" timescale. Usually Brimstones are out before Commas. The two species emergence appears to be well aligned to their larval food-plants. The nettles used by the Comma are in perfect condition for egg laying, whereas the Alder Buckthorn used by the Brimstone appears to be several weeks away from being in suitable condition for egg laying. Malcolm Hull

First butterfly I've photographed in 2013, a Comma in my Harpenden garden (the Brimstones just won't stay still).

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/robinp2009/8665990964/>

Robin Pearson

The following this morning at Hatfield Aerodrome *(Disused) 1 x Peacock 1 Small Tortoiseshell - David Wheatcroft

Friday 19th April 2013

I can report that last Sunday 14th April on Horsenden Hill, David and I finally clinched the ID of some 'Orange Underwings' that we had been noting in small numbers over previous years. We succeeded in netting two examples and they proved to be Light Orange Underwing. Besides the two netted, we saw at least another 10 individuals, presumably of the same species as they were flying around aspen. We had suspected that they would be Light Orange over the preceding years due to the aspen connection, but nice to have concrete proof at last. The location is the western hedge of Batts Field, which is shown on the various signs located around the site. They are mainly around the higher aspens but occasionally coming down to almost ground level around some suckering aspen on the edge of the field. - Andy Culshaw and Dave Howdon

The only butterfly which I was able to identify Wednesday 17th April 2013 was a Peacock settled near Flash Lane Aqueduct at Whitewebbs Wood, 13:07 hrs, otherwise had brief views of two others elsewhere. - Robert Callf

At Tyttenhanger GP yesterday had 1 Comma and 1 Small Tortoiseshell - Andy Steele

Wednesday 17th April 2013

It was definitely a Peacock day today, with 2 in my South Mimms garden, and 4 at Tyttenhanger Gravel Pits - Terry Wood

Tuesday 16th April 2013

Upper Tewin Green garden, Small Tortoiseshell seen today - Jim Farr

Monday 15th April 2013

Comma sunbathing in the early morning sun on shrubs in front of Morrisons cafe, Fleetville, St. Albans at 0800 this morning. Flew off after 10 minutes as it became too breezy - Martin Gore

I attempted the transect at Aldbury Nowers today, saw 2 male brimstones and a peacock (all in the south). At Alpine Meadow this morning there was a peacock with another along the farm track on the way down to the meadow - Paul Thrush

Today (Monday 15th April 2013) - 1 Small Tortoiseshell, along track at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 09:00 hrs; 1 Peacock, at Parkside Farm, Enfield, 09:25 hrs; 1 Peacock, at Plumridge Farm, Enfield, 10:58 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, at Uni-lawns, Trent Park, 12:08 hrs; 1 Comma, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 12:15 hrs; 1 Peacock, along Merryhills Brook/Vicarage Farm, 12:45 hrs - Robert Callf & Robin White

Sunday 14th April 2013

Well spring has finally sprung, Sunday 14th April, Wareside: 2 brimstone, 1 peacock, 1 small tortoiseshell. Standon Mill Lane walk: 6 Small Tortoiseshell, 5 Brimstone, 4 Peacock, 1 Comma, **1 SMALL WHITE** - Hopefully more news this week - Phil, Lorraine and Oliver Macmurdie

Sunday 14th April 2013 - 1 Comma, at Plumridge Farm (TQ2999) settled on Bramble, 10:05 hrs; 1 Comma, at Moat Wood, Trent Park, 10:32 hrs; 1 Comma, along Leeging Beech Gutter near 'Three-bridges', Trent Park, 11:00 hrs; 1 Peacock, along Leeging Beech Gutter near 'Three-bridges', Trent Park, 11:00 hrs; 1 Comma, near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 11:12 hrs; 1 Comma, near Shaws Wood, Trent Park, 11:37 hrs - Robert Callf

A brimstone and a comma in Stocking Pelham - Andy Brown

Had first butterflies in my garden in South Mimms today. 1 Comma and 1 Small Tortoiseshell - Terry Wood

I am very pleased to report from my Hayes garden 2 small Tortoiseshells. This is amazing news for me as sightings of Small Tortoiseshells in this area in recent years, has been very rare. Also today 1 Comma - Helen George

The season is finally underway here near Heathrow: As promised by the weather forecast, the sun shone and the temperature here at Heathrow reached the dizzy heights of 19.5 degrees. A stroll around my local patch was in order, and I covered a fair part of it in two hours this morning. The butterflies were out at long last. In all, I counted 21 individuals along the route, with little chance of there being any "repeats". Four species were out and about, and the overall tally was five Brimstones, four Peacocks, four Small Tortoiseshells and no less than eight Commas. A couple of the Commas were indulging in what I took to be courting behaviour, one following the other through the branches of a flowering pussy willow, alighting regularly: one would sidle up close behind the other before the other flew on to another twig where they would repeat the exercise. Eventually, the chasing male (I assume) gave up and went to bask in the sun, whilst the female disappeared into the trees. I was pleased to see so many Small Tortoiseshells (especially as two were at the end of the walk on the grass outside my house!). In recent years, to see one before the summer months around here has been unusual. A long-awaited start to the season here, but a good one. - Dave Miller

My first garden butterfly of the year today. 18C already at 10:30AM. Comma spotted nectaring on heather flowers before a local Meerkat decided the Comma would make a good broach![Link on facebook](#) Mike Rubin

Brimstones and peacocks were seen distributed throughout Sherrardspark Wood today - Ian Flack

Despite the windy conditions, four more male Brimstones flew through the garden in Harpenden during the day. That's as many as we'd ever get at this time of year, so no complaints about the season so far! Quite a few bumble bees in the garden, too (nectaring mainly on the Pulmonaria): but a dearth of insects in the nearby farmland and hedgerows - Alan Jackson

Bricket Wood Common - 10 Commas, all sunbathing, 4 male Brimstones, all patrolling rapidly. Butterfly World - Two Small Tortoiseshells, first nectaring on Colts-foot and then courting on the ground nearby - Malcolm Hull

Sunny but windy, Bencroft Wood 4 commas 2 peacocks. Broxbourne Wood ride 1 comma 1 peacock. Waterford Heath 1 brimstone, 4 peacock, 1 comma and a couple of chiff chaffs. Great Molewood nearby, 3 comma, 1 peacock and 3 commas. Nice to see some butterflies again - Steve

Kiln

I hope we all have a good 2013 for butterflies. I am delighted to report my first sighting of a healthy small tortoiseshell in Kings Langley. It was in a parked canvas topped vehicle where it may have hibernated. When the door opened it flew high over the houses before I could photograph it. You may be interested to know that my photo of Aldbury Nowers which I entered into the International Garden Photographer of the Year Competition 6, (IGPOTY) won 2nd place in the Breathing Spaces category. It shows one of the butterfly enclosures. Do take a look. The image is also on my website.

<http://www.photoharvester.co.uk/>

Elizabeth Debenham

At HMWT Amwell viewpoint today 2 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Peacock, at Bramfield woods 1 male Brimstone - Laurence Drummond

Berkhamsted Common, Comma, Brimstone (x2) - Michael Spittles

Several sightings today: A brimstone on the B1256 through Takely. On a 10 km walk around the village of Tilty, I saw 7 peacocks and one small tortoiseshell - Chris Gleeson

1 x Brimstone Butterfly (Male) seen in flight near Harpenden Road, St Albans - David Wheatcroft

Had 1 female Brimstone and 1 Peacock at Maple Lodge this morning and at Heartwood Forest 5 Peacocks and 1 Small Tortoiseshell despite the wind this afternoon - Andy Steele

We saw a female Brimstone, a Peacock and a Small Tortoiseshell at Ball's Wood NR this afternoon - Jenny Sherwen

A male Brimstone by the Dome roundabout near North Watford at 1130 hours. (My first - and probably only - butterfly during a two-week spring break between bird survey contracts.) - Colin Everett

I had just popped indoors and through the kitchen window I saw a '**white**' butterfly shoot through the garden (not female Brimstone). A female Brimstone and Peacock have also been seen in my Ware garden today - Liz Goodyear

At last! Male Brimstone in our sunny Harpenden garden early this morning - - Alan Jackson

I recorded a Small Tortoiseshell and a Comma this morning in a couple of the more sheltered parts of my Bishops Stortford transect. Lovely out at 17C, but a stiff force 5 to 6. - Bob Clift

I saw a Brimstone fluttering across the road and into Bancroft Gardens in Hitchin yesterday at 12:30 lunchtime. First butterfly I've seen this year so very exciting! Eilidh McIntosh

Peacock and Brimstone in my Harpenden garden this morning - Robin Pearson

Wednesday 10th April 2013

Male Brimstone in my Harpenden garden today - Robin Pearson

Saw a Comma flying around the Hemel Hempstead garden today - Malcolm Newland

Three butterflies to report today (Wednesday 10th April 2013) - 1 Comma, Shaws Wood, Trent Park, 12:50 hrs; 1 Peacock, along Merryhills Book/Vicarage Farm, 13:20 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, at Barracks, Vicarage Farm, 13:35 hrs - Robert Callf & Robin White

A fresh small tortoiseshell at Roundwood Close Hitchin at mid day - Martin Banthorpe

Today 10th - at Ridlins Mire we saw a Brimstone during a work party then after the volunteers had left I saw a comma - Andy Brown (PS. Andy - you just missed the comma!)

Monday 8th April 2013

One Small Tortoiseshell in fields north of St Nicholas church Stevenage today - Andrew Wood

Two Orange Underwings were flying at the top of some mature birches on Hampstead Heath at 2.30 pm . It was sunny but still with an east wind - Helen Bantock

News from Sunday 7 April: Saw two Brimstones in Sherrardspark Wood today Ian Flack

News from April 6th 2013, Croxley Common Moor Two very fresh looking Small Tortoiseshells; and a Brimstone flying high in nearby Moor Lane - Graham Elcombe

Finally the sun comes out - 1st report for 2013 Saturday 6th April, 3 small tortoiseshells at Braughing of which 2 were preparing for nuptials... Let how the weather holds out and the season can finally get started - Phil Macmurdie

Sunday 7th April 2013

Hemel Hempstead, having just put my camera away after failing to photograph the female Goldcrest which is a regular visitor to my bird feeders I was delighted to see a **Hummingbird Hawk Moth** nectaring on a clump of Primulas flowering by the back door. Of course by the time I had grabbed my camera it had departed but I have never seen one this early before. (*On checking my records I had forgotten that I saw a hummer on 6th March 1997!*) Would have made a great photo, ah well.... Malcolm Newland

2 Commas out today in my garden in Woodside Park (N12), plus 2 more near Folly Brook south of Darlands Lake - Ian Ellis

Had 1 comma in the garden (St Albans) today - Andy Steele

I saw a Comma on the south side of Horsenden Hill on Saturday 6th April at about 4pm - Michael Robinson

No butterflies out at all on Bricket Wood Common this afternoon. However Anna Hull reported a Brimstone this lunchtime in the garden of The Old Bell PH on Luton Rd, Harpenden - Malcolm Hull

A brief visit from a male Brimstone in my Ware garden today - Liz Goodyear

Five Commas and an **Orange Underwing species** in Balls Wood today and one Comma in Ware Park - Andrew Wood

I also saw my first butterflies of the year today. 3 Commas near a still rare nectar source and 1 Small Tortoiseshell on Barnhill in TQ18. All basking in warm hazy sunshine, about 10C on the ground and almost no wind. That plus my first cross country glider flight of the year yesterday makes it officially end of winter for me! - Mike Rubin

Saw three butterflies this afternoon (Sunday 7th April 2013) - 1 Comma, edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 14:03 hrs; 1 Comma, along Merryhills Brook/South Lodge Farm, Enfield, 14:25 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell, settled along Merryhills Brook/Vicarage Farm, 14:33 hrs. Also yesterday (Saturday 6th April 2013) Robin White saw a Comma in his garden afternoon around some Ivy. - Robert Callf

Saturday 6th April 2013

Brimstone in garden today in Wheathampstead - Paul Unwin

First butterfly of the year for Stocking Pelham - comma - very active in the sun - Andy Brown

Had a small tortoiseshell in my sunny Welwyn Garden City garden at midday - Ian Flack

Small Tortoiseshell on Waterford Heath (South) today - Jenny Sherwen

Yellow Brimstones in my Hitchin garden on 5 March 2013 saw 2 in front garden at 11.15 a.m. and 12.30. Today 6 April again saw 2 in back garden one at 12 noon and another at 3 pm. Enjoying the long awaited sunshine (8 deg in the shade) - Val Fullforth

One male Brimstone this afternoon. At Oughtonhead Lane. First of the year hopefully it gets better from here - Kevin Taylor

Tuesday 2nd April 2013

One **Holly Blue** through my Harpenden garden today - Robin Pearson

2pm Fir & Pond Woods NR, our first butterfly of the year, a welcome **Comma** - David Gompertz

The welcome sight of a **small tortoiseshell** seen basking in the mid afternoon sun on Roughdown Common (Boxmoor). A nice way to start the 2013 Transect. - Brendan Sheridan

March 2013

Sunday 10th March 2013

2 male Brimstone along Redcar Drive Stevenage at 1pm on Tuesday 5th March - Mike Harris

Friday 8th March 2013

This is to let you know that whilst walking around the GSK site at Stevenage last Tuesday (5th March), I saw a Small Tortoiseshell butterfly - Chris Bessant

Wednesday 6th March 2013

I saw a male Brimstone yesterday Tuesday in Thundridge along Cold Christmas Lane. Here's hoping for a better summer than last year - Julie Wise

Robin White saw three butterflies yesterday (Tuesday 5th March 2013) - 1 Red Admiral, along Leeging Beech Gutter near 'Three-bridges', Trent Park and 2 Small Tortoiseshells - one in Shaws Wood - probably just emerged from hibernation and another along Merryhills Brook at South Lodge Farm, Enfield. - Robert Callf

Tuesday 5th March 2013

I disturbed a Comma on a patch of crocuses in my Hemel Hempstead front garden at 12.45 pm this afternoon. Quite made my day! - Malcolm Newland

First butterfly of the year for me; a male Brimstone along the Yeading Brook, South Ruislip - Dick Middleton

One Comma sunning itself at Hoo Bit this afternoon. My first of the year - Paul Why

I saw a brimstone butterfly in rough ground behind Woodlands Road in Thundridge today 5.3.13 at 2pm - Katie Sampford (Nick's daughter :))

Fleeting view of a Comma in my Harpenden garden today (5 March) - Alan Jackson

I saw a male Brimstone today in Eliot Road, Chells area, Stevenage, Approx midday - Colin Alderman

Saw my first butterfly of the year today: a comma sunning itself in my Welwyn Garden City garden - Ian Flack

We saw 1 male brimstone and a comma on Harpenden Common today! - Jenny Sherwen

Tuesday lovely spring day. In Bencroft Wood three commas in mid afternoon, Also one at Waterford Heath and one at Great Molewood nearby. A Brimstone in Bengeo at home.. - Steve Kiln

5 Commas seen on my Stevenage transect earlier this afternoon - Peter Clarke

We were working up in the north at Aldbury Nowers today in the key butterfly area and had **4 male brimstone** together - Paul Thrush

Male brimstone in Harpenden garden today - Rob Pearson

Today 1 Peacock at Capons Wood near Wyddial, 1 Comma in Layston churchyard and 1 Brimstone in Buntingford - Andrew Wood

A male Brimstone at Thorley Park (housing estate), Bishop's Stortford, this lunchtime - Chris Dee

Monday 4th March 2013

Baas Hill area of Broxbourne, 1 **Small Tortoiseshell** - Andrew Middleton

A **Small Tortoiseshell** at Port Hill, Hertford today - Laurence Drummond

Sunday 3rd March 2013

St Albans - I noticed what looks like a Large White pupa stuck onto the underside of my shed roof. This prompted a wider search of the shed, which revealed two hibernating Peacocks. I was concerned to see a large number of cobwebs surrounding one of them, so fetched my feather duster to clean the away. BIG MISTAKE. The Peacock opened its wings & hissed loudly at me & repeated the behaviour seven or eight times, leaving its wings open for several seconds each time so I got a full "stare" from its eye spots. It made me feel quite nervous, so must be truly intimidating for any small creature which disturbs the butterfly. I recall reading that the hiss is produced by expelling air from a compartment in the Peacocks body. I cant think of any other butterfly I know which makes a sound. I've also read that this behaviour uses up a lot of precious energy, which is not good. So if you are lucky enough to have Peacocks hibernating in you shed, leave them well alone! - Malcolm Hull

I saw my first **Comma** of the year today, at Colney Heath in a hedgerow by the river Colne - Jenny Sherwen

February 2013

Thursday 28th February 2013

If you have trouble seeing the menu bar on Internet Explorer 10 click the compatibility view icon next to the refresh symbol!

Tuesday 19th February 2013 Just to let you know that I saw a **Small Tortoiseshell** at 12.30pm, Tues 19 February 2013 flying strongly in the full sunshine at Sunnyside allotments, Berkhamsted. It was surprisingly speedy as I chased along the paths to try and keep up! - Darren Flint

Wow, **4 Small Tortoiseshell**, it cant have been more than 9C in Tring but the Miswell footie field margins had at least 4 and possibly 5 males spread around its perimeter. 2 were decidedly unhappy and hardly moving but the others were flying strongly (which is why I am unsure about total number as I lost sight of one before connecting with what seemed a darker 5th(?) that might have been the 4th driven along the field boundary ahead of me - Nick Bowles

A **Peacock** in my neighbours front garden this afternoon in Ware - Liz Goodyear

I saw a **Brimstone** butterfly heading south east in the Chaulden area of Hemel Hempstead at approx midday today 19/02/2013..... - Peter Gatehouse

January 2013

Sunday 27th January 2013

I saw a **Red Admiral** today (27th Jan) flying along Cleveland Street, W1 near the junction with Riding House St. at about 1pm not far from the Telecomm Tower. The temperature was about 10 degrees C - Michael Robinson

Monday 14th January 2013

I saw a **Red admiral** flying in G block..Loftus Road Stadium. QPR on Saturday 12th Jan 2013 about midday - Graham Bellamy

Wednesday 9th January 2013

I saw a **Red Admiral** fly into my Maple Cross garden and sun itself on my south facing garage wall before it was chased off by a Blue Tit - Christina Bessant

Tuesday 8th January 2013

I just thought I would let you know that we had a **Red Admiral** sunning itself on our garden wall in Hitchin at lunchtime today - Dick Hawker

Friday 4th January 2013

Have just been told that a **Red Admiral** was sunning itself in my garden this morning (Stevenage)
- Phil Bishop

On the evening of the 3rd of January was suprising to find a Small Tortoiseshell inside my St Albans house released into my shed so it should survive the winter - Andrew Steele

Not, perhaps, the first genuine 'new butterfly of 2013', but a hibernating Comma was still present on the underside of a dead branch in Perivale Wood on 1st January. We first found it during a dusking trip to the wood on 15th December 2012 - Andy Culshaw

Some moth sightings for a change - I have seen single Spring Ushers both in the garden and Stanmore Country Park - John Hollingdale