

Sightings 2017

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June 2017

Friday 30th June 2017

Bricket Wood Common St Albans - 9 Silver washed fritillaries, including 3 females laying, one on ash and two on birch, 4 White Admirals. Small skipper the only new butterfly out this week - Malcolm hull, Chris Newland, Mandy and Nigel Floyd

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Despite a lot of cloud this was another good butterfly day with numbers under-counted including Whites which are starting to increase noticeably: Ringlet: 72 Speckled Wood: 8 Green-Veined White: 4 Comma: 8 Purple Hairstreak: 12 Holly Blue: 2 Small White: 7 Marbled White: 2 Gatekeeper: 3 Small Heath: 1 Meadow Brown: 17 Small Skipper: 25 Red Admiral: 3 Tortoiseshell: 1. Very few moths around. - Pete Gore

St Albans - I know everything is early this year but this is ridiculous! NINE Small Tortoiseshells hibernating in my garden shed late morning today. And it's been a nice sunny morning here, so they are not just late up. Also female Brimstone in the garden - Malcolm Hull

Thursday 29th June 2017

Chorleywood Common, 2 Marbled White - Anna Maret/David Neal

Did my Warren transect in poor conditions (T 16C, no sun, light NW wind) with reasonable results - 33 Meadow Brown, 11 Ringlet, 10 Small Heath, 25 Marbled White, 2 Small Skipper. Most resting in longish grass. Many more off transect, including 12+ very active Small/Essex Skipper on & around a beautiful colony of Betony in full boom. Bees love this for its nectar. It presumably has the same attraction for butterflies - John Moss

Some sightings for Thursday 29th June 2017 in Oakwood Park, N14 between 13:25 - 14:20 hrs - 1 Large Skipper W of 10 km line, 4 Small Skipper W of 10 km line and many more E of 10 km line, 1 Comma at 13:45 hrs W of 10 km line, 3 Marbled White E of 10 km line, 1 male Gatekeeper E of 10 km line - my first of the year! 1 Silver Y E of 10 km line, Cinnabar caterpillars E of 10 km line, 1 male Small Copper fresh 2nd brood individual nectaring on ragwort E of 10 km line which divides the site at 14:00 hrs. 1 Green-veined White at Boxer's Lake, Enfield at 14:56 hrs - RM Callf

Judy Howlett saw a Purple Emperor at the willow plantation in Ickleford on 26th June 2017 - photo on Branch Facebook page

Wednesday 28th June 2017

A cloudy and cooler day at a London Rivers week event with TCV Green Gym at Uxbridge Leisure Centre Pond and Meadow (TQ 06 84) but saw a Marbled White, Small Skipper, Gatekeeper, 4+ Meadow Browns. The TCV project officer mentioned that 10's of Marbled Whites were seen during recent sunny spell at the pond meadow. Further along by the River Pinn Pond (TQ 06 85) we saw another Gatekeeper and 2+ Meadow Brown. Great to see a Kingfisher too. - Paul Busby

Tuesday 27th June 2017

1 Ringlet in flight at Grovelands Park, Southgate this afternoon during rain - Robert Callf

Batford, weedy field - weather condition: dull, 1 Gate Keeper - Darin Stanley

Monday 26th June 2017

Bumper day for butterflies on the Lake Transect with over 270 seen with big increases in Meadow Brown, Ringlet and Small Skipper and the first recorded 4 Marbled Whites on this transect. Then Gutteridge Wood Pond Meadow (TQ 09 84), where pond was dry, saw another wandering Marbled White, at least 4 Small Skippers, a Small White, a Speckled Wood, at least 10 Meadow Browns and 7 Ringlets. Then over to Cutthroat Wood, Hillingdon (TQ 08 84) and saw at least 50 Ringlets, at least 20 Meadow Browns, 2 Speckled Wood, 4 Commas, 4 Large Skippers, 4 Small Skippers, a Small Tortoiseshell, a Six-spot Burnet Moth and a single Gatekeeper in the clearing area. Finally, evening event with 8th Hayes Beavers and saw a Red Admiral perched on Himalayan Balsam by the Yeading Brook (TQ 10 82). - Paul Busby

At around 1315 hours I was scanning the tops of some tall oak trees NE of the footpath from Norton Green leading towards Kitching Lane by Newton Wood. When I approached the middle one I saw a Purple Emperor (unmistakable) in front of me about head high before entering the wood (Pigeonswick) - Peter Clarke

A Silver Washed Fritillary flew into the cottage this afternoon at Rustling End. Male I believe? He has been released back into the garden now - Julie Wise (photo on FB page)

Ruislip Woods One Silver Washed Fritillary (male) this afternoon - Graham Elcombe

On a walk around Tyttenhanger Gravel Pits today I saw approximately 20 Marbled Whites - more than I've seen here before. Also seen were 30 Ringlets, 1 Essex Skipper, 1 Small Skipper, 5 Comma, 6 Meadow Brown, 5 Small White, 3 Green-veined White - Terry Wood

Visited Parkfields Thorley this afternoon. (Large arable field under an impressive crop of barley). TL 467206. Cut off ground between east boundary ditch and by-pass fence, a 400 yds. by 30 yds. piece of tall grass with oak and ash saplings. 34 marbled white, 19 meadow brown and singles of ringlet and large skipper. Continuing for about 200 yds. further along north boundary access track, another 4 marbled white, 8 meadow browns, 7 ringlets plus single large skipper, single small skipper, and a few no I.D. skippers. Thorley Wash transect this morning, For this site, good numbers of meadow brown and ringlet butterflies were seen. Also a few large skippers, 2 gatekeepers and 2 small heath noted. Summer small tortoiseshell numbers diminishing already - Len Crouch

Batford, Weedy field - during solid sunshine & a speedy ramble around the trees during lunch break, found me 4 WHITE LETTER HAIRSTREAK at two separate locations on site, fairly close to each other. First being in trees surrounding a large clump of bramble near the SW corner of the site (where they usually are). Given time, am sure there are several more dotted around. Marbled whites, Ringlets & skippers galore in the area. - Darin Stanley

Some sightings for Monday 26th June 2017 - 2 Small Tortoiseshell at Vicarage Farm, Enfield (TQ 305 975), 1 Comma at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 1 Red Admiral at Park Farm, Enfield at 13:22 hrs, 1 Marbled White at Park Farm, Enfield (TQ 29 98) at 13:24 hrs, 2 Small Tortoiseshell nectaring on thistles at Park Farm, Enfield at 13:39 hrs, 1 Large White at Park Farm, Enfield, 6 Marbled White at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park, 1 Small Tortoiseshell at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park, 2 Red Admiral edge of Ride Wood, Trent Park, 4 Comma at Trent Park, 2 Purple Hairstreak at Trent Park (1 edge of Ride Wood, 1 edge of Shaws Wood), 1 female Green-veined White at Water Grdn, Trent Park, 5 Ringlet near Shaws Cottages at Trent Park, 1 Cinnabar in flight edge of Shaws Wood, Trent Park, 1 Small Heath and 1 Marbled White at Vicarage Farm, Enfield near Shaws Wood (TQ 297 970), 1 male Small Copper freshly emerged at Vicarage Farm, Enfield near Merryhills Brook (TQ 297 968)

- my first of the summer brood and 1 male Oak Eggar in flight at South Lodge Farm, Enfield (TQ 298 964) at 14:52 hrs - my first of the year and perhaps earliest ever! - Robert Callf

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. A sunny walk starting in the morning and finishing in the afternoon. Purple Hairstreaks were easier to see than normal, flying around Oaks across the walk, the best count being 6 which I just about managed to keep in view simultaneously around a tree on the Heath. One ventured lower down for a change, settling on a Bramble leaf and even briefly opened its wings before I suspect I disturbed it in my enthusiasm for a closer look. Here are the full details: Ringlet: 53 Small Skipper: 41 Meadow Brown: 37 Purple Hairstreak: 14 Speckled Wood: 4 Comma: 21 Red Admiral: 4 Small White: 6 Tortoiseshell: 1 Marbled White: 1 Gatekeeper: 2 Holly Blue: 1 Small Heath: 2 - Pete Gore

Sunday 25th June 2017

Male Purple Emperor seen at 11.15 today at the Grimsdyke hotel in Harrow Weald Middlesex. It was resting on a gravel path for a good 10 minutes. News reported via the Devon Butterfly Recorder

No time to travel today so decided to try my nearest high spot wood near Sawbridgeworth, I can actually see this wood from my landing window, despite the strong winds and very little sun I managed to find a Purple emperor battling its way around a large Ash at the highest point, I got three reasonable sightings between 14.00 and 15.30, hopefully I will try a quick visit tomorrow in better conditions - - Laurence Drummond

Whitewebbs, north Enfield two Purple Emperor in the canopy - Andrew Middleton

Ellenbrook Fields 2 silver washed fritillaries (both male) and one white admiral on brambles on eastern edge of Round Wood - Martin Webb

Harpenden Common: A quick ramble on the Common produced the following butterflies: 6 Comma, freshly emerged and nectaring on the brambles or sunning themselves on the nettles; good numbers of Meadow Brown, Ringlet and Marbled White; 1 Gatekeeper (my first of the season) and a couple of weeks ahead of 2016; 4 Small Tortoiseshell; and 3 Small White. A quick check of a sallow bush revealed several hawkmoth eggs, either Poplar or Eyed, I suspect - David Hunt

Friday 23rd I visited Wormwood Scrubs and was impressed by the high numbers of Small and Essex Skippers around both Creeping Thistle and Knapweed. I positively identified 34 Small Skippers and 24 Essex Skippers which were probably about 10% of those flying. Saturday 24th, an encouraging 4 White Admirals on the Transect plus a 5th on the newly created ride in the south of the wood. Sunday 25th 9 White Admirals on a walk around Bramfield Woods, again an encouraging total, especially in variable weather. 2 Silver-washed Fritillaries nearby too. Videos on our facebook page. - Andrew Wood

Visited Tunnel Gardens this afternoon and identified around 20 ringlets, 5 commas, 2 red admirals, 1 holly blue, 4 small skippers, 1 Essex Skipper, 6 large skippers, 4 meadow brown, 1 white butterfly, and 8 speckled wood.

Photo Male Small Skipper:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/64663114@N03/35366244922/in/dateposted-public/>

Photo Female Small Skipper:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/64663114@N03/35366235072/in/dateposted-public/>

Miles Attenborough

Went to Ruislip woods today including 12.45 - 2.15 around St Vincent's. No sign of emperors although sun patchy only spotted 4 x speckled wood, 3 x meadow brown and 1 x ringlet. In meadow opposite nursing home 1 x comma, 1 x small tortoiseshell, 2 x small skipper, 2 x large skipper, 22 x meadow brown, 6 x ringlet, 2 x marbled white, 7 x 5 spot narrow bordered burnet moths. Along footpath R40 at top of St Vincent's (TQ 096 898), 30 x ringlet, 7 x meadow brown, 3 x speckled wood, 1 x large skipper, 1 x comma, 1 x large white. Further on past golf course and next to cemetery ventured into small meadow (TQ 098 900) and was surprised to see 1 x white admiral fly past into brambles. Also seen were 32 x ringlet, 11 x meadow brown, 2 x 5 spot narrow bordered burnet, 8 x large skipper, 3 x comma, 1 x large white. Around Haste Hill station were 18 x ringlet, 11 x meadow brown, 1 x comma, 4 x small skipper, 1 x marbled white. At Poor's field 22 x ringlet, 26 x meadow brown, 2 x marbled white, 2 x large skipper, 2 x comma, 1 x small

tortoiseshell, 3 x small skipper. Lastly at Bushey garden tonight 1 x lesser carpet moth - David Gower

Saturday 24th June 2017

Arrived on Hampstead Heath at 13:00 which was a bit later than I'd have liked and saw nothing. Then at 14:50 an Emperor flew onto one of the usual assembly trees. Over the course of the next half hour I watched a few flights over the canopy. The Sun disappeared and down came the rain, the Emperor perched all the while it rained. Once the rain stopped and the sun returned, he leapt over to a different tree and hidden from view. I took my leave but not before checking the Elms nearby and happy to report 2, probably 3 White-letter Hairstreaks. - Frank Nugent

A Silver-washed Fritillary on my Knebworth Woods transect off the track between Pigeonswick Cottage and Norton Green Common - Peter Clarke

First Chalkhill Blue reported at Therfield Heath by Andy Symes on Twitter
<https://pbs.twimg.com/media/DDGGHqxXYAAUPsu.jpg>

Saw 6+ Meadow Browns at Pinn Meadows pond and river dipping event. (TQ09 88). - Paul Busby

Some sightings for Saturday 24th June 2017 between 11:50 - 13:00 hrs at Trent Park 'New Fields': 17 Marbled White, 11 Small Heath, 4 Comma, 1 Purple Hairstreak settled on bramble Sect 4 at 12:22 hrs - my first of the year and at least 3 Essex Skipper - my first of the year, among many Small Skipper. Also 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Trent Park 'New Fields.' 1 Comma edge of Williams Wood 14:42 hrs, 1 Green-veined White near Dew Pond, Trent Park at 14:49 hrs, 1 Comma near Water Garden, Trent Park at 14:57 hrs, 1 Red Admiral taking minerals from wet mud by lower lake, Trent Park at 15:05 hrs, 3 Marbled White at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park, 2 Comma at Park Farm, Enfield, 6 Small Tortoiseshell at Park Farm, Enfield, 1 Peacock at Park Farm, Enfield at 15:42 hrs, 1 Red Admiral at Park Farm, Enfield at 15:44 hrs, 1 Purple Hairstreak at Park Farm, Enfield at 15:47 hrs, 3+ Ringlet at Park Farm, Enfield, 1 Painted Lady settled on N bank of Parkside Res., Enfield (TQ 29 98) at 16:00 hrs, 1 Comma along Salmons Brook at Parkside Farm, Enfield at 16:06 hrs, 3 Small Tortoiseshell including 2 together along Leeging Beech Gutter and 1 at Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 1 Marbled White at Vicarage Farm, Enfield (TQ 30 97) at 16:37 hrs. - RM Callf

In Bushey garden this morning 1 x large white, 1 x mint moth, 1 x small magpie on the usual nettles - David Gower

Friday 23rd June 2017

Hampstead Heath: 2-3 Purple Emperors 1-2 from gateway by mast viewing back to trees over track as previously clashing at 1pm also 1 visible on territory just inside first trees viewed from footpath just in wood by white tissue - Andrew Middleton

Some sightings for Friday 23rd June 2017 - 3 Small Tortoiseshell at Vicarage Farm, Enfield and 2 Small Tortoiseshell at Park Farm, Enfield. Cinnabar larvae seen on Common Ragwort at Park Farm, Enfield and at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park, also 1 Meal Moth at ASDA Southgate - an appropriate place for one to be? - RM Callf

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensy. Despite the welcome drop in temperature, breezy conditions and cloudy spells this was a memorable walk with a totally unexpected first-ever and a first of the year shortly following. Unusually I had to wait until the Pevensy loop for the highlights although I'd already been pleased by high numbers and variety throughout the walk. In Pevensy I was trudging along looking vaguely up at the trees when I became aware of a butterfly landing on the nettles alongside the path. I prepared myself to note one of the usual suspects but was shocked to find myself looking at a White Admiral! It perched on the flower-head of a nettle for a little while with wings open, then closed before flying off out of sight. In truth it wasn't an impressive specimen, rather worn and also I thought a little smaller than I'd expect. I'm guessing a wandering male and have no idea where it came from. As far as I know there is no Honeysuckle in Pevensy. I'm not sure about Crane Park. The Marshalling Yards has two or three lots of Honeysuckle but despite willing White Admirals to visit in past years I've never seen any hint and the location and nature of the Honeysuckle seems wrong. Further along in Pevensy I saw my first **Gatekeeper** of the year and one other unexpected sight was a fresh looking male Common Blue as I headed back to the tunnel. I can't be sure which brood this belongs to - there were tatty females around last week. - Pete Gore

Only 1 White-letter Hairstreak (female about knee-height) this time at Six Hills Common at 9:50 am but none in the canopy - possibly due to the breezy conditions. At Norton Green, saw my first Purple Hairstreak about halfway up a large oak on the right of the track. The Ringlet appear to be more common now than the Meadow Brown in the common and several golden skippers (mostly Small but at least one Essex) in the field south of Watery Grove. Other species seen: 2 Red Admiral, 3 Small Tortoiseshell, 2 Marbled White, 1 Comma and 1 Common Blue. - Peter Clarke

Being somewhat cooler, if decidedly windy today, my long-planned salutation to the fabled 'weedy field' site, as frequently reported by Darin Stanley in these pages, took place. I had hopes of a White-letter Hairstreak, having previously seen but a single example in an eyeball to compound eye confrontation at the top of an elm tree via a Forestry Commission tower used for investigating the Dutch Elm Disease vectors in the 1970s. It was not to be, however, and most of the (rather puny) elm on site has either died or is beginning to show signs of the malaise. It was by no means a wasted walk as there were abundant Marbled White, Ringlet, Meadow Brown, Small Skipper, Large Skipper, Small Tortoiseshell, and Comma, plus a solitary Small White on this surprisingly neglected patch of land (= earmarked for development?). There were also many Yellow Shell, a few Crambus perlella and a rather gorgeous male Agrion splendens damselfly - if that is not a contradiction. Also on view was a Hornet Mimic Hoverfly nectaring on the bramble. Interestingly, both Large and Small Skippers were abundant, in contrast to the report from the same site by Alan Jackson just two days ago - perhaps indicative of an emergence or wind focusing. On the way back I noted: 2 Small Skipper; 1 Small White; 1 Small Tortoiseshell; 3 Marbled White; and 7 Meadow Brown in the field located between Marquis Lane, Harpenden, and the River Lea (TL151149). Further along, beside Piggottshill Lane (TL150143), a small patch of scrubby land supported veritable swarms of Ringlet plus a few Marbled White, Meadow Brown, Small Skipper, Green-veined White, Comma and Small Tortoiseshell. A freshly dead slow-worm lay on the track, my next vertebrate encounter being a cat lurking a few yards away... Several Common Spotted orchid, by now well into seedhead stage, were visible in the more open areas. An afternoon excursion on Harpenden Common produced Ringlet, Marbled White, Meadow Brown, Small Heath, Small Skipper, Comma, Small Tortoiseshell, Common Blue, and larvae of Cinnabar Moth on ragwort plants. - David Hunt

Butterflies I have seen today 23/06/2017: 2 comma, 1 small skipper (picture on irecord), 2 meadow brown (picture on irecord), 1 small tortoiseshell, 1 unidentified white, 1 speckled wood (picture on irecord) - Westmill Recreation Ground, Hitchin TL1730. - David Inward

First **Gatekeeper** of the year seen at lunchtime on the Belmont Trail, London Borough of Harrow (TQ 16 90). Then late afternoon walk along the River Colne and the Slough Branch of the Grand Union Canal at Cowley Peachey (TQ 05 80) saw at least 4 Commas, 2 Red Admirals, a Large White and at least 3 Small Whites - Paul Busby

Thursday 22nd June 2017

6+ Small Tortoiseshell and 7 Ringlet at Vicarage Farm, Enfield. 1 Shaded Broad-bar at Parkside Farm/Res., Enfield (TQ 297 983) - my first of the year, and 1 Ringlet here. 1 Vapourer at Library Green, Enfield Town this afternoon - my first of the year - RM Callf

A much cooler but rather blustery afternoon on Harpenden Common still produced a good haul of butterflies with many Marbled White (including mating pairs); many Meadow Brown; many Ringlet; 1 Small Heath; 1 Small Tortoiseshell; 1 Red Admiral; and 3 Small Skipper (2 males, 1 female). Also good to see 2 Narrow-bordered Five-Spot Burnet, the first ones I have seen on the Common for a good few years (the Six-spot Burnet is usually the one to see, although it has not had a good year since 2014 - and much longer since it was so abundant as to find several of the straw-coloured cocoons on just a single grass stem). Also, a Red Admiral in my Harpenden garden - David Hunt

Harrow Cemetery, 4 Meadow Brown, 11 Ringlet, 1 Comma and 1 Peacock butterfly - Shailesh Patel

Twenty minute visit to the meadow area at Cutthroat Wood, Hillingdon (TQ 08 84) and saw at least 20 Meadow Brown, at least 25 Ringlets, 3 Commas, a Green Veined White, a Large White, 2 Small Tortoiseshell, at least 5 Large Skippers, a Red Admiral, a Speckled Wood and a Brimstone Moth - Paul Busby

Evening stroll around Nomansland Common I saw at least 5 Purple Hairstreaks at 7pm in last sun

rays at top of oaks to east of road. Also plenty of Meadow Browns, a few Marbled Whites and Small Skippers and a Common Blue - Trevor Chapman

Late report, **Clouded Yellow** seen by Andrew Wood in Essendon on 16th June - picture on FB page

Wednesday 21st June 2017

Today on the Mardley Heath transect a Silver Washed Fritillary on bramble flowers. - Caroline Phillips and Sue Stephens

Seen in Bushey garden today 1 x comma, 1 x small tortoiseshell , 1 x red admiral - David Gower

A few butterflies in Grovelands Park, Southgate this afternoon between 16:30 - 17:55 hrs - 2 Small Tortoiseshell, 3 Comma, 2 Ringlet and 1 Meadow Brown, also a male Beautiful Demoiselle along woodland ride - Robert Callf

After noticing plenty of kidney vetch on the western side of Heartwood, I looked for small blue. Mon 19 June - fairly confident I saw 4, but not 100% as they only transiently settled if at all. Following Andrew Steele's report, I went again: Wed 21 Jun totally confident 2 small blue and humming bird hawk moth on the same patch of vetch. Walked about 250 m south along an approximate line of kidney vetch and saw one more - Martin Webb

Temple View, St Albans -5 White letter Hairstreaks including two pairs of clashing males. Bricket Wood Common - 7 Silver-washed Fritillaries have set up territories along the main ride. 4 White Admirals, all hiding in the woods to escape the 30 degree temperatures. 1 Purple Emperor, hanging round the oak high point in Mutchetts Wood at 1.30. Many more Ringlets emerged in the last few days. And nice to see a new brood Large White, quite a rare sighting in this area in 2017 so far. - Malcolm Hull

A quick visit to Heartwood Forest at lunch time produced 3 Marbled White and 40+ Meadow Brown. There were large numbers of brown butterflies everywhere, but without binoculars and obeying the "Keep out of the long grass" signs made identification difficult. Every one I did manage to ID was a Meadow Brown. Ah well. - Robert Bull

Drawn by an earlier report of a large tree-top butterfly, this morning I visited the 'weedy field' at Batford. Marbled Whites and Ringlets were abundant. Meadow Browns were also plentiful; there was the odd Small Tortoiseshell and Speckled Wood but no Skippers or Gatekeepers. There was not a single butterfly on the buddleias, yet shortly afterwards I had a Comma on my nearby allotment. But this was no 'vinegar trip' (a useful Yorkshire expression for a failed mission): for several minutes I watched a Hornet Mimic Hoverfly (*Volucella zonaria*) beside the footpath. OK, it's not a butterfly and it's not the rarity it once was - but the fact is I've seen more PEs than I have Hornet Mimic Hoverflies! And it was a spectacular insect. Alan Jackson

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Too hot, despite starting earlier. A very fresh Holly Blue seemed almost impossibly blue after so many oranges and browns: Comma: 14 Tortoiseshell: 4 Ringlet: 72 Large White: 3 Meadow Brown: 20 Purple Hairstreak: 2 Small Skipper: 33 Red Admiral: 1 Small Heath: 4 Holly Blue: 1 Marbled White: 6 Green-Veined White: 1 also 1 Yellow Shell moth. - Pete Gore

Tuesday 20th June 2017

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Both sides of midday and far too hot and humid though losing the sunshine for a time was perhaps more responsible for reduced sightings. The one that gave me most pleasure was a Marbled White, the first I've seen on the Heath this year and I think the first ever in TQ 1175 although not a surprise given their presence elsewhere. Here are the full details: Large White: 2 Ringlet: 68 Small Heath: 3 Comma: 11 Meadow Brown: 15 Speckled Wood: 1 Large Skipper: 2 Small Skipper: 47 Marbled White: 7 Tortoiseshell: 1 Red Admiral: 2 Green-Veined White: 1 - Pete Gore

Spent 2 hours at Merryhill Fields, Bushey from 6pm today. Findings as follows : meadow brown x 503, ringlet x 90, small tortoiseshell x 2, large skipper x 23, small skipper x 11 (no sign of Essex yet), marbled white x 58, small heath x 1, comma x 2, speckled wood x 1, red admiral x 1. Moths were shaded broad bar x 16, cinnabar x 2, 5 spot narrow bordered burnet x 1, yellow shell x 7, clouded border x 1. - David Gower

I had a walk around Balls Wood, Hertford Heath late this afternoon (20 June, 2017). During the walk I spotted three White Admirals and one White-letter Hairstreak. Also several Purple Hairstreaks high in the oaks on Hertford Heath as you walk out of Balls Wood. - Phil Rhodes

Jersey (Farm) Playground, St Albans. 2 Marbled White, 1 Meadow Brown at TL 176097, 8 Ringlet and 1 Meadow Brown at TL 177097 - David Utting

Nicholls Farm, Redbourn. Lots of butterflies around today, in particular Ringlets (at least 10), Gatekeeper (3), Meadow Brown (6), large skipper (1), marbled White (3), small Tortoiseshell (8), Red admiral (1), small white (5) - Peter Tallentire

An amazing walk round Balls Wood - i saw over 150 butterflies (prob over 200), in order of abundance : meadow brown, ringlet, skippers small + large 20 +, comma 6, speckled wood 10+, large white, a marbled white and 2 White Admirals. There were 17 butterflies in the brand new ride at the southern end of the wood. I met a couple of ladies who showed me a butterfly they had photographed right near the entrance?? A beautiful pic of a **Purple Emperor!** I must have missed it by 5 mins. I then went to Hobby Horse Wood and in 5 mins saw a similar mix of butterflies - over 40.. Andy Brown

Marbled white, Elliotts field allotments Freezywater Enfield EN3 7.30 am 20/06/ 17 - Brian Dawton

Saturday 17th June. Male Brimstone flying along grass verges of Sandridge Road, St Albans TL157086. A very late over-winterer or a very early summer butterfly? - David Utting

Monday 19th June 2017

Batford - Oak Egg caterpillar in my small front garden. A garden first. - Darin Stanley

White Letter Hairstreak x 2 - around top of elm on corner of Batchwood Drive and Green Lane, St Albans - Peter Ewer

Therfield Heath (east side): 120+ marbled white, 80+ meadow brown, 60+ small heath, 30+ small skipper, 18 dark green fritillary (including a mating pair - picture on FB), 9 ringlet, 5 small tortoiseshell, 3 common blue (tatty), 2 brown argus (tatty), 2 red admiral, 1 comma (fresh), 1 large skipper, 1 unid. white. Also a few hundred yards up the Icknield Way towards Therfield at least 12 white-letter hairstreak in 3 separate colonies (on the wing since at least the 15th - my earliest sighting by 2 weeks) and several speckled wood. For some reason large skippers are in very short supply here this year, whilst DGFs must be almost at saturation point (I saw 5 males together, fighting for territory, at one point). It wouldn't surprise me to see them spreading to the surrounding area, where suitable habitat occurs - they certainly like it here!

Had 2 small Blues (1 male and 1 Female) today at Heartwood 1 at approx TL 15772 11528 and TL 16001 11722 - Andrew Steele

Late afternoon at Fishers Field nature reserve were 2 x ringlet, 19 x meadow brown, 1 x speckled wood, 1 x Essex skipper, 2 x small skipper(6 more unable to id), 11 x marbled white. Onto Water Lane finding 3 x Essex skipper, 1 x small skipper, 1 x large skipper, 2 x comma, 6 x small tortoiseshell, 2 x gatekeeper, 16 x meadow brown, 6 x ringlet, 15 x marbled white, 1 x yellow shell, 1 x white plume, 1 x nettle-tap. In Bushey garden 1 x white plume, 2 x small magpie - David Gower

Copse Wood, Ruislip Four or five, White Admirals this-afternoon (including two at once). Graham Elcombe

1 Red Admiral at Town Park, Enfield on Sunday 18th June 2017 at 14:28 hrs. Sightings for Monday 19th June 2017 - 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Oakwood Park, N14 W of 10 km line at 13:21 hrs, 2 male Common Blue E of 10 km line here, 2 Orange Conch (*Commophila aeneana*) settled well but unfortunately more faded now, 5 Marbled White 3 males, 2 females including a pair mating. 1 Red Admiral at Lonsdale Drive, EN2 (TQ 303 960) at 14:14 hrs, 1 Red Admiral at Boxer's Lake, Enfield (TQ 304 961) at 14:30 hrs - RM Callf

Bricket Wood Common 10:30-14:00 Weather: Very hot, sunny, still 3 Silver-washed Fritillary, 2 White Admiral, 2 Marbled White, 7 Large Skipper, 25+ Ringlet, 1 Red Admiral, 3 Brimstone, 2

Comma, 1 Speckled Wood, Meadow Brown very numerous. - Bob Harris

Batford, weedy field - 2 WHITE LETTER HAIRSTREAKS (in surrounding trees around large patch Bramble), Abundance of Marbled white, 1 large butterfly at the tops of trees at west of field (ID unconfirmed, too quick before disappearing!!) - Darin Stanley

Before I set off to Six Hills Common at 7:30 am I was asking myself if the White-letter Hairstreaks would be active in the elm canopy. When I arrived at 7:45 am I was amazed to find around 20 individuals flitting around in the middle section of the south-eastern sunny side of the elm clump with only a few (say 3 or 4) in the canopy. I re-visited the site at 9:15 am there was hardly any activity at all with just a couple taking very short flights between basking and possibly feeding. Later, I visited Norton Green and didn't find any of my target species - White Admiral, Purple Emperor, Purple Hairstreak or Silver-washed Fritillary. However, a Comma had pleasure taking salts from my arm - see attached. At one point it landed on the tip of my nose! - Peter Clarke

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. On site at 7.15 this morning in full sunshine. Butterfly numbers clearly increasing, under counting inevitable: Red Admiral: 3 Ringlet: 86 Small Heath: 5 Small Skipper: 66 Purple Hairstreak: 1 Meadow Brown: 28 Comma: 8 Large Skipper: 2 Marbled White: 11 Tortoiseshell: 5 Speckled Wood: 1 Large White: 1 Also one caterpillar about 4cms long on Linaria, likely Calophasia lunula Toadflax Moth. I don't know which Linaria except probably not vulgaris. One other butterfly sighting from yesterday after I submitted walk details: I was tidying in my garden and saw a Holly Blue fly along above the fence in the usual fashion. I presume this is the first of the next brood although I saw not the slightest sign of others on my walk today. - Pete Gore

Sunday 18th June 2017

I investigated the **Essex Skipper** colony on the roadside at the southwest corner of Heathrow this evening, and found half a dozen roosting butterflies in this tiny but reliable spot. They are very early this year: when I first found them in 2012, it was 12th July!

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB//download/file.php?id=105187&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB//download/file.php?id=105191&mode=view>

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<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB//download/file.php?id=105189&mode=view>

Dave Miller

Brent Reservoir: 23 Marbled White, Large Skipper, Ringlet, Meadow Brown, 1 Speckled Wood, 1 Red Admiral, Comma, 2 White-letter Hairstreak and 1 Small Tortoiseshell - Shailesh Patel

I would just like to pass on that I found my first ever Marbled White butterfly at Stanstead Innings today (TL389112) - Jane Free

Millhoppers Butterfly Reserve, Wilstone Village near Tring - Glorious pair of courting Commas, swooping up and down around the reserve this afternoon. New brood Small Tortoiseshells and Brimstones, Ringlets emerged since last week and very good numbers of Large Skippers and Meadow Brown. Speckled Wood, Small Skipper and Green-veined White also now flying - Malcolm Hull, Chris Hilling, Paula Reid, Chris Ridley, Peter Melitus

2 male **Purple Emperors** seen perching very well in the tops of the oak trees at the usual location by St Vincent's nursing home in Ruislip Woods at approx. 13.00 hrs. Weather hot and sunny with a few wispy clouds. This is the earliest date we have seen them, how does this compare with other sites. - Sue & Steve Place

Butterflies I have seen today 18/06/2017: 3 small tortoiseshell, several unidentified whites - Walsworth Common, Hitchin TL1930. - David Inward

A few sightings for Sunday 18th June 2017 - 4 Marbled White at Trent Park 'New Fields'. 9 Ringlet, 10 Small Skipper and 2 Marbled White at Monken Hadley Common (TQ 267 973). 4 Ringlet and 1 Small Skipper at Covert Way LNR. 1 Small Tortoiseshell and 1 Red Admiral at Oakwood entrance, Trent Park 12:43 - 12:50 hrs. 1 Treble Brown Spot at Dalrymple Close, N14 on Saturday 17th June 2017 1 Dark Arches at ASDA Southgate on Sunday 18th June 2017 and 1 Least Carpet at Chase Road near West Grove Primary School - Robert Calf

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Another morning walk in similar

conditions to yesterday although the sun disappeared for a time on the return journey. No surprise the sightings are similar too: Ringlet: 67 Tortoiseshell: 3 Red Admiral: 4 Small Heath: 4 Meadow Brown: 33 Speckled Wood: 4 Comma: 12 Peacock: 1 White-letter Hairstreak: 1 Small Skipper: 48 Purple Hairstreak: 3 Green-Veined White: 3 Marbled White: 3 Large Skipper: 3 Large White: 4 - Pete Gore

Several Meadow Browns, Brown Argus and a Hummingbird Hawk moth Waterford Heath North Heath on 16th June - Andy Brown

Saturday 17th June 2017

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Arrived on site in perfect weather and thereafter it was mostly a case of sheer numbers - virtually all species likely under-counted. Two highlights for me were the first **Purple Hairstreaks** of the year and the number of Marbled Whites seen (10), all on the Marshalling Yards but it would have been hard to set foot there without seeing at least one - not an experience I've ever had before: Comma: 14 Ringlet: 59 Small Heath: 9 Small Skipper: 53 White-letter Hairstreak: 1 Speckled Wood: 4 Purple Hairstreak: 4 Meadow Brown: 33 Red Admiral: 4 Large Skipper: 5 Marbled White: 10 Tortoiseshell: 2 Small White: 1 - Pete Gore

HIGH WYCH, Pole hole Elms, 6 White letter hairstreak, some low down giving good views, BROXBORNE WOODS, main ride ,6 Silver washed fritillary, 1 White admiral and 1 Marbled white. - Laurence Drummond

Butterflies I have seen today 17/06/2017: 1 small tortoiseshell - St Faiths Close garden, Hitchin, Herts TL19863030. 1 comma - Walsworth Common, Hitchin TL19243038. - David Inward

Verulamium Park, St Albans - Two White-letter hairstreaks clashing high above King Harry Lane at 8am this morning. Two more sightings of individuals on the elms at the rear of Abbey view golf course. But no other sightings in or around the park. Bricket Wood Common - new species for the year on this weeks transect - white admiral, silver washed fritillary, Ringlet and Marbled white. Also the first of the second brood green veined white and the first Brimstone of this years brood. All very early, but low numbers of everything except Meadow Brown which is out in force - Malcolm hull

1 Silver Y and 2 Common Emerald at ASDA Southgate on Friday 16th June 2017 and 1 Small Blood-vein at Dalrymple Close, N14. Some sightings in Trent Park this afternoon Saturday 17th June 2017 between 13:50 - 14:45 hrs - 33 Small Skipper, 15 Small Heath, 18 Ringlet, 8 Large Skipper, 3 Marbled White, 1 Burnet Companion, 2 Comma (1 Sect 4, 1 Sect 8) - Robert Callf

Friday 16th June 2017

BALLS WOOD, **4 White admiral**, good numbers of Meadow brown, Ringlet, Large skipper and Speckled wood, 5 Comma, and 5 Red admiral. - Laurence Drummond

Harpenden Common: many Meadow Brown, mostly males looking for freshly emerged females; 6 Marbled White; 1 Small Heath; 4 Small Tortoiseshell; 1 Comma; 5 Common Blue males; 2 Large Skipper males; 1 Small Skipper male; 1 Yellow Shell. - David Hunt

Some sightings for Friday 16th June 2017 - 1 Ringlet, 3 Small Tortoiseshell, 2 Comma, 1 Speckled Wood and 10 Meadow Brown at Rectory Farm, Enfield. 2 Comma and 1 Large Skipper at Flash Lane Aqueduct, Enfield at 14:18 hrs. 11+ Ringlet, 5 Small Skipper and 5 Large Skipper at Whitewebbs Park, 1 Red Admiral at Whitewebbs Park at 14:23 hrs, 1 Small Tortoiseshell at King & Tinker PH at Whitewebbs Lane at 15:17 hrs, 1 Comma near of Archery Wood, Forty Hall CP (TQ 332 992) at 15:34 hrs - RM Callf

Thursday 15th June 2017

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Much less sunshine than yesterday and breezier too but I don't think Ringlets and Meadow Browns mind all that much as I ended up with more sightings overall. Particularly pleased to see 3 Marbled Whites which rose together as I crossed a small patch of flowery grass heading back to the Tunnel. The White-Letter Hairstreaks were only seen because I waited a while and looked in the known area. In all previous years they would have remained unnoticed by me. Here are the full details: Small Heath: 3 Comma: 7 Speckled Wood: 5 White-Letter Hairstreak: 2 Ringlet: 22 Large Skipper: 3 Meadow Brown: 12

Small Skipper: 4 Marbled White: 4 Common Blue: 1 Red Admiral: 4 Tortoiseshell: 5. - Pete Gore

I returned to the Six Hills site this morning and saw 3 White-letter Hairstreak in a vista in the canopy for a few seconds and that was all I saw in quarter of an hour. The wind was stronger than yesterday so most of the White Letters were probably hiding but one was basking on a well sheltered spot about head high on the eastern side. I was able to take two photos - Peter Clarke (*will be posted on our FB page*)

Ellenbrook Fields (Old Hatfield airfield), near Home Covert. A bit blustery today, so only 3 Meadow Brown, 1 Common Blue & 1 Red Admiral. The old BT field and the paths around it were busier (and slightly more sheltered?), producing 4 Ringlet, 8 Small Heath, 3 Small Tortoiseshell & 4 Meadow Brown. Having said that, there were a large number of butterfly shaped blurs that passed by at twenty to thirty miles an hour in the teeth of a small gale. A couple looked distinctly skipper-like, but can't be sure. Robert Bull

1 Treble Brown Spot at ASDA Southgate on Thursday 15th June 2017 - Robert Callf

Wednesday 14th June 2017

Busy day visiting project sites, at Philpots Farm Meadow, north entrance, Cowley (TQ 06 81) saw at least 4 Small Whites, 5 fresh Small Tortoiseshells, 6 Meadow Brown, a Large Skipper and a Comma in 15 minute visit. Then south entrance, Yiewsley (TQ 05 80) saw a Small Tortoiseshell, at least 4 Meadow Brown, a common Blue and 4 Large Skippers - Paul Busby

Saw two Small Blue this afternoon on the public footpath at side of former butterfly world site at TL124042. Links to the one that settled on my shoelaces.

https://twitter.com/Alang_46/status/874666047621738498

https://twitter.com/Alang_46/status/874666047621738498

Pleased to see they are still there, on a walk along the field flowering Kidney Vetch is visible through the fence. Alan Gardiner

A sweltering afternoon on Harpenden Common produced my first Marbled White of the year, a freshly emerged male trying out his wings for the first time at my blundering approach. In 2016 my first Marbled White on the Common was not seen until 24 June, confirming the general feeling that many butterflies (and moths) are about 1 to 2 weeks ahead this year. Other butterflies: 10+ Meadow Brown; 3 Ringlet; 1 Speckled Wood; 2 Small Heath; 2 Small Tortoiseshell; 1 Red Admiral; 4 Common Blue males - David Hunt

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Very hot, humid with occasional cloudy periods in mid to late afternoon. Lots of butterflies but mostly common species, numbers building rapidly: Tortoiseshell: 5 Ringlet: 12 Speckled Wood: 8 Large Skipper: 8 Meadow Brown: 4 Large White: 1 Common Blue: 2 Marbled White: 2 Small Skipper: 12 Comma: 5 Small Heath: 2 - Pete Gore

News from Diane Andrews: Monday 12th June she visited Trent Park and recorded 25 Chimney Sweepers, 29 Small Heath, 1 Ringlet, 1 Marbled White and 1 Small Skipper. Tuesday 13th she visited Kings George's Field, Hadley and record 5 Chimney Sweeper and 1 Large Skipper. Today she visited Forty Hall and only saw 5 Chimney Sweeper. Of note she hadn't seen an Orange Tip since the 10th May!

Between 9:05 and 9:25 this morning at Six Hills Common, were at least 8 White-letter Hairstreaks, including clashing pairs, in different gaps in the elm canopy. This is probably the earliest record for the species in the Stevenage area at least since 1995 and possibly ever. - Peter Clarke (*check out Peter's new website <http://www.stevenagebutterflies.co.uk/>*)

Batford, Weedy field - 1 Marbled White - Darin Stanley

1 Speckled Wood, 1 Small Copper, 1 Meadow Brown and 2 Ringlet, Harrow Cemetery - Shailesh Patel

1 male Large Skipper in 'wild meadow area' in Broomfield Park, Palmers Green, N13 at TQ 302 929 on Tuesday 13th June 2017 at 18:01 hrs. Some sightings for Wednesday 14th June 2017 at Oakwood Park, N14 between 13:35 - 14:30 hrs - 6 Large Skipper (several of each on both sides of 10 km line which divides the site), 1 Comma W of 10 km line at 13:48 hrs, 2 Ringlet - one on each

side of the 10 km line, 4+ Small Skipper E of 10 km line, Orange Conch - *Commophila aeneana* - three sightings, including good views of them settled briefly - nice to confirm this nationally notable species at a local sub-urban park , 2 Common Blue male and female, 3 Burnet Companion. 2 Speckled Wood together at Grovelands Park - Robert Callf.

Butterflies I have seen today 14/06/2017: 5 small tortoiseshell - 3 at TL19573028, 2 at TL19653025 - Walsworth Common, Hitchin, Herts - David Inward

Tuesday 13th June 2017

Aldwyckbury Pond near Batford - 2 Marbled white, 3 Small Heath - Darin Stanley

The following seen on 13-06-17 at Ellenbrook Fields: Marbled White 5, Meadow Brown 5, Ringlet 3, Small Heath, Common Blue 1, Large Skipper 2, Small Skipper 3, Speckled Wood 2 - David Wheatcroft

Royston. 1 **Dark Green Fritillary** on the Greenwich Meridian Trail at Flint Hall Farm (TL366 395) - a new location for this species, although it may just have been passing through. Also 1 Ringlet nearby and 30+ Small Tortoiseshell. - Martin Johnson

Morning working party along Yeading Brook, South Ruislip (TQ 10 86) and saw a Small Tortoiseshell on nettles and a faded Peacock on bramble. Then lunchtime walk along Yeading Brook, Roxbourne Park, Eastcote (TQ 11 86) and saw a Comma, a Red Admiral, a Large Skipper, a Meadow Brown and at least 9 speckled Woods. Then over to Yeading Brook, Cutthroat Wood, Hillingdon (TQ 08 84) and saw a Speckled Wood, 2 Ringlets and at least 3 Meadow Browns in the clearing area. Then finally, on Gutteridge Wood Pond Meadow (TQ 09 84) saw 2 Common Blue, my first Small Skipper, 2 Cinnabar moths and at least 6 Meadow Browns - Paul Busby

Some sightings this afternoon from Grovelands Park, Southgate (13:45 - 16:00 hrs): 2 Speckled Wood, 2 Burnet Companion, 1 female Large Skipper at 14:00 hrs, 6 Meadow Brown, 1 Holly Blue, 1 male Common Blue - Robert Callf

Orange Tip caterpillars feeding on Honesty seed pods in garden now getting nearly full grown and Toadflax brocade caterpillars on Purple toadflax. - Martin Banthorpe

New Mill Meadow, Tring - strong sunshine and very light breeze made for an excellent 40 minute midday stroll. Highlight being my first 2 Marbled White of the year...a very welcome sight. Also there were 48 Meadow brown, 2 male Common Blue, 5 Large Skipper (all male), 3 small Tortoiseshell, 2 Speckled Wood, 1 very tatty Small Copper scrapping with one of the 3 Brown Argus. Plus Burnet Companion and some 6 Spot Burnet enjoying the Scabious - Chris Hilling

I also had a sighting of a **Marbled White on Saturday 10 June**. I was out recording on my transect in Bishop's Stortford Southern Country Park and recorded 2 of them in different sections of the transect. Impossible to photograph them in the force 4 wind as they were very anxious to get hidden deep in the grass again, trying many times to find the best location. This recording was 11 days earlier than my first MW last year. Happily this species continues to grow in numbers each year and spread throughout the park. - Bob Clift

Monday 12th June 2017

Stanwell Moor, I visited my local patch on both days this weekend, and despite this being the "June Gap", managed to see 14 species: Small Tortoiseshell, Red Admiral, Comma (both old and new brood individuals), Peacock, Painted Lady, Speckled Wood, Meadow Brown, Small Heath, Common Blue, Brown Argus, Small White, Brimstone, Large Skipper and finally, on Saturday 10th, the first Small Skipper of the year. On Sunday, I managed to photograph a second Small Skipper in a different location.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=104941&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=104942&mode=view>

Other images: <http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=104853&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=104926&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=104932&mode=view>

Dave Miller

Breezy day walking though Ducks Hill Meadow, Ruislip, alongside Mad Bess Woods (TQ 08 89) and saw my first 2 Ringlets, 2 Large Skippers, at least 42 Meadow Brown, 3 Burnet Companion and a

Straw Dot Moth. On the other side of the road in the meadow alongside Copse Wood saw another 4 Ringlets, at least 9 Meadow Brown, 4 Large Skippers, 2 Cinnabar, 1 Silver Y and another Burnet Companion moth. In Mad Bess Woods itself (TQ 07 89) saw at least 12 Speckled Wood, a Red Admiral, 2 Meadow Browns and a Brimstone Moth - Paul Busby

This afternoon at Broxbourne Wood. Meadow Brown 10+. Speckled Wood 5. Large Skipper 3. Common Blue 1. **Silver-washed fritillary** 1. Christopher Benton.

A sunny afternoon on Harpenden Common produced a good number of butterflies: 10+ Meadow Brown; 1 Small Heath; 3 Speckled Wood; 1 Ringlet; 6 Small Tortoiseshell, happily nectaring on the bramble flowers; 1 Red Admiral; 4 Common Blue males; 3 Yellow Shell; many Nettle-tap; and 1 Chrysoteuchia culmella. Nice to see the Speckled Wood coming back after a couple of poor years (2015, 2016) - David Hunt

Some sightings for Monday 12th June 2017 - 1 Nettle-tap near Allotments, Vicarage Farm, 2 Large Skipper at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 1 Small Tortoiseshell along track at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 14:06 hrs, 1 Small Skipper along track at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at Hog Hill (TQ 305 975) at 14:08 hrs - my first of the year, 1 male Large Skipper at Parkside Farm, Enfield, 1 Yellow Shell at Parkside Farm/Res., Enfield, 2 Nettle-tap at Park Farm, Enfield, 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Park Farm, Enfield at 15:17 hrs, 1 Burnet Companion at Park Farm, Enfield, 1 Comma edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park at 15:26 hrs, 1 Large Skipper at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 15:28 hrs, 1 Ringlet settled by lower lake, Trent Park at 15:35 hrs - my first of the year and the earliest one I have ever seen, 1 Small Tortoiseshell at South Lodge Farm, Enfield at 16:07 hrs - RM Callf

Box Tree moth spotted on the lawn next to Westminster Abbey this morning - Frank Nugent

Sunday 11th June 2017

Millhoppers Butterfly Reserve, Wilstone village near Tring - Large, Skippers, numerous meadow Browns, a fresh looking male brimstone, several red admirals including a courting pair and numerous speckled woods spotted during an afternoon cutting the paths on the reserve. These are now all done and the reserve is open for members to visit at any time. If you do visit, please report your sightings to the website so we can keep up to date with what's flying on our branch reserve. More details how to get there etc are listed under Millhoppers Pasture on the left hand menu bar - Malcolm Hull

Pristine Painted Lady sunning itself today (11 June) on a scaffolding plank at Coldharbour allotments, Harpenden. - Alan Jackson

In my Hatfield garden today, 1 Large Skipper, 1st for some years, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, both very bright - John Moss

Butterflies I have seen today 11/06/2017: 1 small tortoiseshell TL192303, 1 meadow brown TL193303 - Walsworth Common, Hitchin, Herts - David Inward

Brief visit to Water lane, Watford today spotting 3 x speckled wood, 1 x meadow brown, 1 x brimstone, 1 x small tortoiseshell, 2 x snout moths - David Gower

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Still breezy and less sunshine but more butterflies. I proceeded directly to the Elms at 11.00 A.M. when spotting White-letter Hairstreaks was as simple as looking up at the trees. They were flying near the top usually but sometimes lower. I stayed for about 20 minutes but couldn't confirm more than three. I tried walking around the Elms but gained nothing other than the unwelcome sight of more dying trees, some quite small. For the rest of the walk there were Whites flying today and more Skippers the latter were restless and prone to fleeing to cover but I was able to confirm **Small Skipper**. Actual numbers of both Skippers will have been somewhat higher than shown. Full list: Comma: 3 Tortoiseshell: 4 Speckled Wood: 10 White-letter Hairstreak: 3 Holly Blue: 1 Red Admiral : 2 Small Heath: 2 Large Skipper: 4 Meadow Brown: 4 Common Blue: 1 Small Skipper: 4 Small White: 1 Peacock: 1 Green-Veined White: 1 - Pete Gore

1 Comma at 14:00 hrs and 3 Speckled Wood at 14:17 hrs in Town Park, Enfield this afternoon - Robert Callf.

Saturday 10th June 2017

Some sightings for Oakwood Park on Saturday 10th June 2017 - 1 Small Tortoiseshell at 15:49 hrs - E of 10 km line which divides this site, 2 Large Skipper E of 10 km line which divides this site, 1 Small Heath at 16:00 hrs - W of 10 km line which divides this site at TQ 299 651, 5 Common Blue E of 10 km line which divides this site, 1 Yellow Shell, 1 Red Admiral W of 10 km line which divides this site - Robert Callf

On The Warren today, 15 Small Heath, 11 Meadow Brow, 3 Common Blue, 1 very battered Peacock. Weather 24C, brilliant sunshine, very blustery wind. Pleased to see so many Small Heath this year and the 1st Common Spotted Orchid. John Moss

Bushey sightings today as follows. St James churchyard only 2 x meadow brown & 2 x speckled wood. At Bushey Manor field 30 x meadow brown, 1 x common blue, 1 x yellow shell, 1 x cinnabar moth, 1 x straw dot. Lastly at Merryhill fields 129 x meadow brown, 10 x common blue (all male), 7 x speckled wood, 2 x brimstone (males), 12 x large skipper, 1 x small tortoiseshell. Moths seen were 1 x clouded border, 1 x brimstone, 11 x straw dot, 86 x yellow shell, 1 x plum tortrix, 1 x burnet companion, 1 x light brown apple, 1 x celypha lacunada - David Gower

Some sightings for Saturday 10th June 2017 at Trent Park 'New Fields' between 12:00 - 13:00 hrs - 7 Large Skipper, 13 Small Heath, 5 Chimney Sweeper - most looking rather faded now, 1 Small Tortoiseshell - fresh summer-brood Sect 6 near Cockfosters entrance 12:42 hrs, 3 Common Blue including a beautiful fresh female Sect 6 at 12:46 hrs. At least 2 Small Tortoiseshell, 2 Large Skipper and several Meadow Brown at Vicarage Farm, Enfield - Robert Callf

Bricket Wood Common - large skipper 2, meadow brown 7, peacock 2, speckled wood 10, brimstone (all female) 3, small tortoiseshell 2, red admiral 2. No unusual species, but what is unusual is to see so many of the remnants of the spring butterflies (peacocks, Brimstones) flying with the early summer species (large skippers, meadow Browns and small tortoiseshell. The June gap, for so long a blight on the uk butterfly spotters calendar seems to have disappeared! - Malcolm Hull

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Highlight of the year (so far!) on a breezy but sunny walk straddling mid-day: three year firsts including one first-ever. I walked most of my Heath outward stretch before a first identified butterfly, a very fresh Comma. I continued to see Commas throughout my walk. We may be in for a welcome large brood. On the Marshalling Yards I saw my first Ringlet of the year and towards the end of the inner loop there a first **Marbled White** briefly seen and beautiful in flight as ever. It seems worth mentioning that the next sequence of significant events almost certainly wouldn't have occurred if I hadn't read the local sightings before leaving and noticed Andrew Middleton's report. ("Too early in the year, wrong time of day," I'd have thought to myself.) As I reached the Elms not far from the railway line -those who attended the recent Branch Walk will know where I mean - I looked up and initially winced with 'pain' as I saw one tree is clearly freshly dying from Dutch Elm disease. Then I thought I saw a small butterfly in the trees and decided that at least this now merited putting in a bit of effort with binoculars. As I began extricating these from my pack a butterfly landed on the path a few yards in front of me. Immediately I thought " White Letter Hairstreak" but I needed to get closer for confirmation, whereupon the butterfly did a rather strange thing. It had landed on Clover and short growing (cut) grass. It proceeded to crawl lower as if trying to get at the roots, and out of sight of me but enabling me to get my head right up close at ground level. I was shortly rewarded by the sight of a tangle of antennae and legs emerging from this strange location (and reminding me of how I must look resurfacing after one of my occasional unplanned descents into a Bramble patch). As the butterfly's hind-wings finally came into view I got the confirmation of bright orange markings I'd sought. It promptly flew strongly off and away as if to say all this had been purposeful and planned. I thought empathy (masking elation) was the best I could offer. Here is my full list of sightings: Comma: 8 Speckled Wood: 5 Red Admiral: 3 Ringlet: 1 Common Blue: 3 Meadow Brown: 2 Marbled White: 1 Large Skipper: 1 Tortoiseshell: 2 Small Heath: 2 **White-letter Hairstreak**: 1 - Pete Gore

Moth I have seen today 10/06/2017: 1 Least Carpet Moth (*Idaea rusticata*) - St Faiths Close, Hitchin, Herts TL19853030 - David Inward

Friday 9th June 2017

Had brief views in flight and settled of a orange and black micro-moth at Oakwood Park, N14 (TQ 301 952) which I can only identify as *Commophila aeneana* yesterday afternoon Friday 9th June

2017 at about 15:00 hrs - will go back to try and get further views. A distinctive micro unlikely to be confused with any other? - Robert Callf

Harlesden, Brentfield Rd/Hillside junction, 1 or 2 **White-letter Hairstreak** flying on 2 elms by traffic lights about 6pm - Andrew Middleton

4 Common Blue and 3 Burnet Companion at Oakwood Park this afternoon - Robert Callf

One Red admiral in my south Harpenden garden and a report from Roland Perry of a Hummingbird Hawk-moth in his north Harpenden garden at TL13759 - David Hunt

Thursday 8th June 2017

Exploratory walk to rediscover the Roxbourne Rough Nature Reserve butterfly transect between Eastcote and Rayners Lane just in the London Borough of Harrow in cloudy, windy, sometimes drizzly conditions, but despite this did see 5 Meadow Browns in the grassy meadow as well as a Burnet Companion moth - Paul Busby

Catch up news.....Friday 2nd June: A walk round my local patch near Heathrow produced Speckled Woods, Red Admirals, Common Blues, Small Heaths and the first Meadow Browns of the year.

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<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=104418&mode=view>

Surprisingly, one of these was a female - they usually don't appear until several days after the males.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=104420&mode=view>

One fresh Red Admiral was unusually friendly.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=104426&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=104427&mode=view>

Sunday 4th June: Another local walk brought out four new second brood Small Tortoiseshells.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=104550&mode=view>

Also seen: Large Skippers, Small Heaths (very numerous - over 30 seen) Common Blues and a Brown Argus.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=104540&mode=view>

Wednesday 7th June: After yesterday's atrocious weather, there was a bit of sun late on and I went out locally again. In shelter from the wind I found a couple of Red Admirals, a very old Peacock, a Common Blue, a few Meadow Browns, and a Large Skipper.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=104677&mode=view>

Best of all though was my first second brood Comma of the year, a fine almost glowing hutchinsoni.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=104676&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=104674&mode=view>

Dave Miller

Wednesday 7th June 2017

I ran a butterfly walk for the South East Herts local rspb group. We went to Bencroft wood and field and then onto Broxbourne west car park and the glade there. A very surprising day, in Bencroft wood we saw a red admiral, speckled woods and meadow browns. In the field behind we saw, 40 plus meadow brown, 10 plus small heath and large skippers, one small copper, and 6 or so common blue. On the moth side we thought we saw a clearwing with a red tail but it was a scorpion fly and several burnet companion. Then the highlight was when we went to Broxbourne glade and saw our first **silver washed fritillary** (*photo evidence seen*) our first of the year and our first **ringlet**. We also saw there 5 plus small heath, 5 plus speckled woods, 2 holly blue, 4 common blue, several burnet companions and a mother shipton moth - a good morning - Steve Kiln

1 Painted Lady at Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm at 10:49 hrs and 1 male Large Skipper at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 11:00 hrs, 1 female Holly Blue E edge of Icehouse Wood, Trent Park at 12:17 hrs, 2 Red Admiral at Trent Park (1 Shaws Wood, 1 along bridle path near Shaws Wood) - RM Callf

After an excellent Odonata training course with LWT at the Welsh Harp Community Hub, West Hendon, London Borough of Barnet, the group walked either side of Cool Oak Bridge and saw 5 species of Odonata, plus the following butterflies; a Painted Lady, a Holly Blue, a Speckled wood, a really bright freshly emerged Comma and 2 Small Whites (TQ 22 87) and on the other side of the

bridge saw 2 Meadow Brown, a Speckled Wood, 2 Burnet Companion moths, a Common Blue and a Vapourer Moth caterpillar (TQ 21 87) - Paul Busby

Monday 5th June 2017

16 Meadow Brown and 1 male Common Blue, 1 Burnet Companion and 1 Yellow Shell in Oakwood Park this afternoon - E of 10 km line which divides the site. - Robert Calf

Unusually for our Harpenden garden I have seen Painted Lady on a few occasions since my previous report in May, normally disturbed as we go out. Settles on Erysium flowers or on footpath. Seen yesterday - Ann Doubleday

SUNSET VIEW, ESSENDON HILL, 2 Small tortoiseshell, 2 Painted lady. Laurence Drummond

Painted Lady on shrubs outside Fleetville Morrisons at 0800 in early morning sunny interlude. Martin Gore

Sunday 4th June 2017

New Mill meadow, Tring from 9.30 > 10...6 Meadow Brown, 1 Brown Argus, 1 Small Heath, 1 Speckled Wood and 2 Large Skippers dueling. Also numerous damselfly and 1 beautiful large Banded Demoiselle - Chris Hilling Lunchtime saw a Red admiral and at least 5 Speckled Wood near the Welsh Harp Education Centre (TQ 20 87) on their Community Open Day - Paul Busby

Went back to Merryhill Fields, Bushey midday today. Recorded 40 x meadow brown, 4 x common blue (males), 2 x brown argus, 4 x large skipper, 18 x speckled wood, 1 x peacock. Moths were nemophora degeerella x 2, plum tortrix x 10, yellow shell x 28, straw dot x 5, shaded broad bar x 1, celypha lacuna x 3 - David Gower

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Not as much sun as promised this morning so slightly fewer butterflies; a Meadow Brown on the Marshalling Yards and a Large Skipper on the Heath spread their species a bit further across this area. I keep forgetting to mention Burnet Companion moths - 2 today on the Marshalling Yards which has been usual for several days now with others going unidentified I think. Here's the full list: Small Heath: 2 Speckled Wood: 14 Common Blue: 4 (1 female had brownish fore wings with blueish hind wings as a result looking quite exotic although likely got like that from wear and tear rather than any original aberration) Tortoiseshell: 1 Meadow Brown: 1 Small White: 1 Red Admiral: 1 Large Skipper: 1 - Pete Gore

Saturday 3rd June 2017

I had a Hummingbird Hawk Moth on garden valerian in Kings Langley about 8.15pm June 3rd! It was too quick for a photo - Elizabeth Debenham

Saw a Painted Lady on Gutteridge Wood transect early afternoon. At Cutthroat Wood, saw a Meadow Brown, a female Common Blue and 2 Speckled Woods with another 4 Speckled Wood on the new section of Hillingdon Trail by the Yeading Brook with another Speckled Wood at Elephant Park (all these at TQ 08 84). In square (TQ 09 84) saw a male Brimstone on the boardwalk out of Gutteridge Wood and a male Common Blue, a Meadow Brown and an active Red Admiral by the pond/meadow area with some newly emerged female Broad-bodied Chasers- Paul Busby

Sightings for Saturday 3rd... I ventured out to some new sites today and was rewarded... First to Bricket Wood Common where the Gas main ride proved to be the best area...16 Speckled Wood, 5 Brimstone (2 male and 3 female), 1 Red Admiral and 2 unidentified whites. Plus what I think was a large broad bodied Chaser. I then stopped off at Roughdown Common above Hemel Hempstead rail station and found 3 Red Admiral, 3 Speckled Wood, 2 Common Blue, 1 Painted Lady and 1 each male/female Brimstone. Finally, as I was in the area I had to check out the Small Blue colony at the Bourne End/Boxmoor A41 junction. In the 30min I had before my bus came I saw 18 Small Blue - Chris Hilling

Thorley Wash transect, Sat.3rd June, 13:30 hrs, Butterflies seen:- 5 red admirals including two impressively large individuals, single painted lady, 3 fresh small tortoiseshells, 4 holly blue, and a single male small copper which flushed from the grass my first brown argus for this year. After squabbling for about 20 seconds they went their separate ways. Walking through succeeded in putting up 8 silver ground carpets from comfrey/nettles. Many banded demoiselle males holding

territory (about 5 yards apart in some long stretches and flying up and away when I pass). Rough estimate 80+males and ratio of about 7 to 3 m & f. Also plenty of white tailed bumble bees busy working the comfrey.- Len Crouch

Colney Heath, near River Colne, This morning I saw 1 red admiral, 4 yellow shell and 5 meadow browns - my first for the year! Jenny Sherwen

A few sightings for Saturday 3rd June 2017 - 1 Red Admiral at Strayfield Road, EN2 at 13:44 hrs, 2 Speckled Wood at Flash Lane, EN2, 1 Comma at Flash Lane Aqueduct at 14:20 hrs, 3 Meadow Brown and 1 male Large Skipper at Whitewebbs Park, 2 Red Admiral at Hilly Fields Park, Enfield, 1 Speckled Wood at Hilly Fields Park - Robert Callf

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. A walk in full sun on either side of mid-day with two firsts. When I saw 3 Large Skippers together on the Marshalling Yards I thought there might be a major emergence but these first 3 proved to be the last until I was leaving the Heath to come home when I saw one more. I did another extra walk around a different part of the ex-golf course and it was here I saw my first Meadow Brown. Like last year these two firsts have occurred on the same day but 16 days earlier than 2016. The golf course was notable for a Brown Argus, only the second I've seen so far. It also seems worth mentioning the 3 Small Tortoiseshells: along with Thursday's these look fresh although with such small numbers it isn't easy to tell when the hibernators finished and the next brood began. Here are the full details: Tortoiseshell: 3 Small Heath: 4 Red Admiral: 1 Speckled Wood: 16 Large Skipper: 4 Common Blue: 3 Small Copper: 1 Peacock: 1 Brown Argus: 1 Meadow Brown: 1 Large White: 1 - Pete Gore

Butterfly I have seen today 03/06/2017: 1 brimstone - Old Park Road/Crabbs Close junction, near Waitrose, Hitchin TL18112930. - David Inward

At St James churchyard, Bushey. 5 x meadow brown, 3 x speckled wood. Moths in Bushey garden 1 x small dusty wave, 1 x small magpie - David Gower

Friday 2nd June 2017

This morning at Tyttenhanger GPS had 1 Painted Lady, 1 Large Skipper, 6 Small Heath, 2 Common Blues and a Small Tortoiseshell - Andrew Steele

2 x light brown apple moths at Northwood HQ Sandy Lane. At Merryhill Fields, Bushey my first meadow browns x 10, 1 x large skipper. Moths seen were 69 x straw dots that seemed to be everywhere, 4 x yellow shell, 6 x celypha lacunana, 1 x clouded border - David Gower

Harpenden Common: 3 male Common Blue; many Crambus lathoniellus; many Glyphipterix simpliciella on buttercup flowers; 1 Tischeria ekebladella - David Hunt

Brief visit to Highgrove Wood and ponds to survey any dragonflies (TQ 10 88) and saw a female Common Blue on the raised bank surrounding car park and 2 Speckled Woods in the wood itself. Then onto St Mary's Church, Harefield (TQ 05 89) for a half hour walk around the field north of the church and saw at least 17 Meadow Brown, at least 12 Large skippers mostly male and around bramble on field margin, a Small Tortoiseshell and a Painted Lady on bramble flower. Then across the road to the meadow overlooking the Colne Valley, infested with Goats Rue and only saw 2 male Brimstones, 2 male Large Skippers, a Small Tortoiseshell and a Speckled Wood. Finally, overgrown Church Hill Field with a pair of Speckled Woods, a Small Tortoiseshell and a Large Skipper. Literally hundreds of blue damselflies across the 3 fields - Paul Busby

Some sightings in Trent Park this afternoon between 14:55 - 15:55 hrs - 7 Chimney Sweeper - my first of the year! 8 Small Heath 'New Fields', 2 male Meadow Brown, 3 male Common Blue, 2 Painted Lady - 1 Sect 6 at 15:21 hrs and another near Oakwood entrance at 15:54 hrs nectaring on bramble blossom, 3 Large Skipper incl at least two males and 4 Speckled Wood near Oakwood entrance - RM Callf

Thursday 1st June 2017

Looking for grizzleds on north pit Waterford Heath, no joy but had 2 speckled wood, 1 red admiral, 1 holly blue and 3 shaded broad bar moths - Steve Kiln

Grizzled Skippers (7), Large Skippers (3), Small Heath (12), Brown Argus (4). Common Blue (8), Small Copper (2), Cinnabar (4), Speckled Wood (1). Large Skippers and Small Heath very fresh;

Grizzlies now worn. Plenty of wild strawberry. - David Newland

A few moths seen late afternoon. 1 x cinnabar moth on wall at Bushey station, 2 x burnet companion at Water Lane, Watford. In Bushey garden 3 x garden carpet, 1 x yellow shell - David Gower

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. An early morning walk mostly in sunshine. Good to see Small Heath and Common Blue back at the start of the London Loop part of my walk. Here is the full list: Common Blue: 4 Small Heath: 3 Speckled Wood: 14 Red Admiral: 2 Green-Veined White: 2 Large White: 1 Tortoiseshell: 1 Small White: 1 Peacock: 1. The Peacock was the sole result of an extra loop around part of the ex-Golf Course so not quite the butterfly attraction I thought it might be at the moment. I enjoyed several large Weld plants flowering in quite central positions where the fairways used to be, they had a pleasing air of Triffid-like menace I thought. Also on the Marshalling Yards a Mother Shipton moth and what I assume was another Rose Chafer seen at a distance of several feet trundling around on a Bramble flower-head - Pete Gore

Ellenbrook fields (Old Hatfield airfield) - Home Covert area, 2 Peacocks, 3 Common Blues, 3 Small Heath, 1 Burnet Companion and 1 (probably) Small White. In BT field and surrounding paths - 1 Peacock, 2 Small Heath and 1 female Brimstone - Robert Bull

Some sightings for Thursday 1st June 2017 - 1 Holly Blue and 1 Small Tortoiseshell - my first of the summer brood and 1 Nettle-tap at Potters Bar near New Cottage Farm (TL 272 002). 7 Meadow Brown at Potters Bar near New Cottage Farm (TL 272 005) - my first of the year, also here 1 male Orange-tip, 1 Red Admiral and 7 Speckled Wood. 2 Meadow Brown including a female edge of Fir Wood (TL 275 007). 2 Red Admiral, 1 Yellow-barred Longhorn, 1 Large Skipper - my first of the year, 1 Mint Moth and 1 Small Copper at Fir & Pond Woods near Potters Bar - Robert Callf.

Half hour walk around the meadow area at Welsh Harp (TQ 21 87) and saw a couple of Speckled Wood, a Red Admiral and a Common Blue. Late afternoon, after leaving Thames21 course on Invasive Species saw a Meadow Brown and a Speckled Wood near the Welsh Harp Education Centre (TQ 20 87) on the walk back - Paul Busby

May 2017

Wednesday 31st May 2017

Batford - weedy field - 3 Meadow Brown - Darin Stanley

A fresh Red Admiral on Pyracantha flowers in Garden centre at Chapel Croft, Chipperfield on May 28th. Five orange tip caterpillars growing well on my garden honesty seedpods; 31st May, Kings Langley - Elizabeth Debenham

In Ellenbrook Park next to Salisbury Village on former Hatfield Airfield, 11 m. Common Blue, 1 m. Orange Tip, 1 unidentified White this afternoon. T. 22C, bright sun, light breeze. Various nectar plants, including Birds-foot trefoil and Red Clover, flowering in short grass. John Moss and Alfred Moss.

Wallington Rd. Nr. Baldock (TL267344), a short stop produced - Painted Lady (3 all together); Common Blue (2m). Roger Millard

Good day today. In field behind Bencroft Wood in Broxbourne Woods saw 3 large skippers, **7 meadow brown**, 3 small heath, 3 common blue and burnet companion, speckled woods in Bencroft wood, plus a common blue. In Broxbourne west ride, 3 common blue, 3 speckled wood, small heath and meadow brown and burnet companion - Steve Kiln

Today at Danemead we saw 2 Large skippers, 4 common blues and 1 red admiral. - Jenny Sherwen

A single Small White and a Speckled Wood in my Pinner garden today. Last evening our cat presented us with a pristine and completely undamaged Lime Hawk Moth! Tony/Gill Porter

Tuesday 30th May 2017

On Monday, just a mint Moth in my Eastcote garden. Today, morning working party at Hillingdon House Farm and saw a Large Skipper and a Holly Blue near the Leisure Centre meadow (TQ 06 84) then towards the River Pinn near the A40 saw at least another 2 male Large Skippers and a Speckled Wood, as well as 5 Banded Demioselle nymphs in the river and an adult by the pond. Then late afternoon, cloudy, breezy and cool, but the sun eventually came out visited Duck Hills Road meadow adjacent to Mad Bess Woods (TQ 08 89) and saw an impressive number of butterflies and moths including my first Meadow Brown, a male of the year, at least 3 male Large Skippers, at least 5 Small Coppers, at least 10 male and 4 female Common Blue butterflies, plus a couple of Mother Shipton and Straw Dot moths, at least 8 Burnet Companion Moths and plenty of Crambid grass moths. - Paul Busby

Butterfly I have seen yesterday 30/05/2017: 1 large white - recreation ground NW of St Helens church, Wheathampstead. - David Inward

1 x lozotaenia forsterena and 2 x light brown apple moths in Bushey garden this evening - David Gower

1 Yellow-barred Longhorn (Nemophora degeerella) at Monken Hadley Common (TQ 261 970) on Saturday 27th May 2017 - my first of the year! 1 Snout at ASDA Southgate on Saturday 27th May 2017 - my first of the year and three weeks earlier than the my first last year! 2 Burnet Companion at Grovelands Park, Southgate on Monday 29th May 2017 and 1 male Common Swift at ASDA Southgate on Monday 29th May 2017 - my first of the year - Robert Callf

A few sightings for the last few days - 2 Small Copper and 2 Small Heath at 'New Fields' Trent Park between 15:30 - 15:55 hrs on Saturday 27th May 2017. 1 Red Admiral at Covert Way LNR on Saturday 27th May 2017 at 16:36 hrs. 1 Red Admiral, 3 Common Blue 2 males and 1 female and 1 Small Copper on Monday 29th May 2017 at Grovelands Park, Southgate. Some sightings for Tuesday 30th May 2017 - 3 male Common Blue 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park, 1 Red Admiral settled near lower lake, Trent Park 13:20 hrs, 1 Small Copper at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 13:26 hrs, 1 Small Heath at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park, 1 female Common Blue at Park Farm, Enfield, 3 Silver Y at Park Farm, Enfield, 2 Red Admiral at Park Farm, Enfield, 1 Snout at Parkside Farm, Enfield near Res (TQ 296 983), 1 Alabonia geoffrella at Parkside Farm, Enfield on Res bank - my first of the year! 1 Yellow-shell at Parkside Farm, Enfield on Res bank - my first of the year! 1 Mother Shipton at Parkside Farm, Enfield, 4 Nettle-tap at Vicarage Farm, Enfield near Leeging Beech Gutter - Robert Callf

Monday 29th May 2017

4 Holly Blue, 1 Orange Tip and **1 Meadow Brown**, RSPB Rye Meads NR - Shailesh Patel

Visited Long Deans in overcast conditions this morning on the hope of photographing female common blues. No females but 4 male common blues and 1 red admiral.

Common Blue Photo:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/64663114@N03/34929692656/in/dateposted-public/>

Miles Attenborough

Sunday 28th May 2017

I went back to Westbrook Hay Sunday to have get a better estimate of the Small Blue on this site and one photo would not do it justice. So I send these to you with our story on the Small Blue from the A41 Westbrook Hay so hopefully you can share that on your facebook page and beyond. For it does seem worthy of noting for the Small Blue only being discovered there in 2015! What a weekend it's been for butterflying! I went up to Salcey Forest Saturday to seek Wood White's with Rik Vickers, we were not disappointed and did find this endangered British species and with luck the good management of the forest will continue for the Wood White at this location. Sunday after last weeks preliminary scout at Westbrook Hay, I returned with Rik for the Small Blue for a much more thorough search. Anyway we did a sweep along the slip road and extended down as far as the green road sign on the A41. We were both astonished by the numbers seen there over a hundred! Sightings became less frequent towards the sign but I saw one right beneath it. Which does beg the question are there more beyond the traffic sign? Better still we went onto the reserve directly above and found a small number there too about eight between us suggesting that the Boxmoor Trusts work is a step in the right direction for the Small Blue. Much courtship display was apparent and would seem Cupido Minimus wants to become Cupido Maximus at this site! One early male Meadow Brown and a battered Peacock seen along the A41 as well as numerous species

of moth. Back on the Boxmoor Trust reserve Orange-Tip and two Small Copper (one of which was barely bigger than the Small Blue) just off the car park. The Common Blue are gathering in numbers above that A41 stretch where around 30 seen mainly males. There I also got this years first sighting of a Painted lady too. This is also a great place for moths an well worth a visit if your looking to get a good photo of a Small Blue this season. The time is now and wont last long! - Peter Fewell

Hillbrow LGC 15.30 to 16.30, Sunny start but by the time I left there was complete cloud cover. Small Blue (30+), 8 seen together in roost, Kidney Vetch just starting to flower. Common Blue (3m); Brimstone (3); Burnet Companion (5). Roger Millard.

Did the Broxbourne NNR circular walk this afternoon, the meadows at Pembridge Lane Farm looked beautiful with yellow bird's-foot trefoil and buttercups with 3 small copper, 3 small heath, 7 common blue and 2 burnet companion moths as we walked through, elsewhere 7 speckled wood and 1 red admiral.

Common blue photo at:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/64663114@N03/34138728173/in/dateposted-public/>

Miles Attenborough

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yard/Pevensey. On site very early to complete my walk before the Branch Walk on the Heath, unsurprisingly sightings were limited at this time: Speckled Wood: 6 Peacock: 1 Green-Veined White: 1 plus a Large White seen flying over Hounslow Heath open space (children's playground etc) on my way home. I didn't attempt to record sightings on the group walk but Orange-Tip, Brimstone, Small Heath and Red Admiral were all seen as well as sundry moths including Mother Shipton and a couple of caterpillars. Sadly no Small Coppers which have so far been very elusive here and no Green Hairstreaks - conditions were not very favourable and it's possible they've finished. I've seen so very few on the Heath this year and never more than 1 a day. Although it was unpleasantly humid for much of the branch walk, at this time of year with more and more plants flowering, being out amongst them is always enjoyable and it provided an excellent setting to meet butterfly enthusiasts - Pete Gore with Paul Busby

Hounslow Heath NR, 1 Red Admiral, 2 Small Heath, 3 Speckled Wood, 1 Peacock, 3 Brimstone, 1 Orange Tip, 1 Small White, 2 Green-veined White, 1 Silver Y and 2 Mother Shipton. This walk was led by Paul Busby and Pete Gore - Shailesh Patel

Saturday 27th May 2017

Tring - Pitstone Hill, 13 Speckled Wood, 1 Comma, 4 Common Blue, 3 Brimstone and 2 Small Heath - Shailesh Patel

First Common Blue, Small Copper and **Large Skipper** on today's Cranford Park transect. Link to my blog below.... <http://winowendyswildlifeworld.blogspot.co.uk/2017/05/woodpeckers-and-butterflies-at-cranford.html?m=1>

Wendy Marks

The first **Large Skippers** were flying at Stanwell Moor today: at least one male and one female seen. Also seen were building numbers of Common Blues and Brown Argus, and several Small Heaths.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB//download/file.php?id=103934&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB//download/file.php?id=103933&mode=view>

Dave Miller

Nothing seen in garden or St James churchyard today. A few to report at Merryhill Fields, Bushey. 1 x **large skipper** (first this year), 1 x comma, 1 x speckled wood, 1 x male brimstone. Moths able to identify were 2 x straw dot, 6 x plum tortrix, 1 x yellow shell, 2 x light emerald (still green colour) - David Gower

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Late afternoon in breezy conditions with intermittent sun: Holly Blue: 1 Red Admiral: 4 Common Blue: 1 Peacock: 3 Green-Veined White: 1 Speckled Wood: 4. Increasing numbers of Burnet Companion moths - Pete Gore

On 26th May in Kings Langley, a female holly blue was prospecting to lay eggs on dogwood buds. I didn't find any, but she tried. A male also fluttered with her for a few moments. [Holly blue butterfly with egg-laying thoughts](#) - Elizabeth Debenham

Breezy, sunny afternoon in Hillingdon, at Freezeland Covert by A40 saw a Speckled Wood and female Brimstone, then along Hillingdon Trail and Cutthroat Wood saw a Peacock and 4 Speckled Woods (TQ 08 84). In square (TQ 09 84) saw a male Brimstone and a 3 male common Blue plus 2 emperor Dragonflies at the pond by the meadow area - Paul Busby

1 Holly Blue and 2 Speckled Wood in Southbury Road, Enfield (TQ 333 965) this afternoon - Dobrina Dobrova

Friday 26th May 2017

Walked through Tunnel Gardens in burning sunshine at 2.00pm disturbed 6 speckled wood. - Miles Attenborough

A Red Admiral along the way at Ducks Hill Road, Ruislip (TQ 07 90). A Large White and 3 Speckled Wood along Yeading Brook, Eastcote (TQ 11 86) and then surprisingly few butterflies in the field opposite St Vincents, Haste Hill (TQ 09 89) with just 2 male Common Blue and at least 5 Burnet Companion moths - Paul Busby

Despite the continuous sunshine and heat and an extra 2 hours spent on the Heath this was a poor day for butterflies although with the usual perversity of butterflies a Comma was seen, the one species I'd given up on earlier this week. Here's the full list: Comma: 1 Speckled Wood: 9 Common Blue: 6 Small Heath: 3 Green Hairstreak: 1 Orange-Tip: 2 Small White: 1 Brimstone: 1 - Pete Gore

A few more moths last night, Friday 26th May 2017 - 1 Common Marbled Carpet at Chase Road, N14 near Chelmsford Road (TQ 296 948) and 3 Common Marbled Carpet, 2 Brimstone Moth, 2 Willow Beauty and 1 Knot Grass at ASDA Southgate - the last species a new one for the site! Robert Callf

Thursday 25th May 2017

Frogmore Quarry, Thursday 25th May 2017 Lunchtime 1hr - Grizzled Skippers 12 (most at NE end), Red Admiral 1, Small Heath 11, Small Copper 1, Common Blue 22, Brown Argus 3 (one photographed egg-laying, Orange-tip 2, Cinnabar 2 and Treble-bar 1 moths. - Trevor Chapman

Managed my 1st proper transect of the Warren this season (rained off last week with zero wildlife). Recorded 7 Common Blue, 8 Small Heath, 1 probable Comma. Blues & Heaths all pretty fresh. T. 25C, 100% sun, light breeze. Plenty of seasonal ground flora in bloom. All vegetation very short after last summer's grazing & dry winter. Pleased to see much young scrub hand-pulled over the winter (the cattle refused to eat it). Also Male Holly Blue and Small White in my Hatfield garden today - John Moss

Day off work today, so headed north for an hours walk in Hertfordshire and then a 2 hours on Whipsnade Downs over the border in Bedfordshire, a total of 17 species seen in the glorious sunshine. The 12 Hertfordshire species were at lunchtime around the old Butterfly World perimeter on the footpath from the Rose Gardens (TL12 04) and saw at least 9 Brimstones, one Large White, one male Orange Tip, a Small Copper, just the one Small Blue, a Brown Argus, 6 Common Blues, 3 Red Admirals, a Painted Lady heading northwards, 2 Small Tortoiseshells, 3 Peacock and a Speckled Wood. For completeness, the additional Bedfordshire sightings were Duke of Burgundy, Dinky Skipper and Small Heath a plenty, couple of Grizzled Skippers and a single Green Hairstreak - Paul Busby

1 x garden carpet moth in Bushey garden today - David Gower

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Another walk, largely in the morning, not quite as rewarding as yesterday as the sunshine was intermittent rather than continuous as forecast. Butterflies: Holly Blue: 1 Small White: 1 Peacock: 1 Red Admiral: 3 Speckled Wood: 14 Small Heath: 2 Common Blue: 3 Small Copper: 1 Orange-Tip: 1. A first Dragonfly of the year seen on the Marshalling Yards. One of the Common Blues was investigating Clovers flowering on the ex-Golf Course. We've progressed here from the earlier Daisies and Dandelions to many other flowering plants with possibly White Clover dominant as you might expect. It's not destined to last for long like this but undoubtedly worth a walk or two whilst we have it. Yesterday I encountered a female Stag Beetle as I walked the street home - the only one seen this year. Much more remarkable though was a sighting in my own bathroom: on lifting both seat and lid I was

confronted by a floating Rose Chafer. Although entering the bathroom would have been simple, how it ended up where it was is truly baffling. I rescued it and admired its emerald green iridescence - in many many years of familiarity with this habitat I can certainly say it's the only beautiful thing I've ever seen there! It seemed none the worse for its swim and had departed from the window sill to the garden when I next checked. Its offspring are welcome to "chafe" my roses as much as they like especially if I can meet them next year in a more normal habitat. - Pete Gore

Some sightings for Thursday 25th May 2017 - 1 Holly Blue at Chase Road, N14 at 09:11 hrs, 7 Common Blue 6 males and 1 female at Oakwood Park this morning, also 2 Small Copper here and 8 Burnet Companion including four together nectaring on buttercups at 09:35 hrs and at least 3 Mother Shipton, 3 Speckled Wood at Lonsdale Drive, EN2 at 10:02 hrs and 1 Speckled Wood at South Lodge Cres., EN2 at 10:54 hrs. Some sightings for Trent Park this afternoon (12:15 - 13:15 hrs) - 1 Red Admiral at Snakes Lane (TQ 293 960), 1 Painted Lady settled on bare earth near Oakwood entrance (TQ 291 961), 1 Small White, 20 Small Heath, 2 Mother Shipton, 3 male Common Blue, 2 Small Copper and 1 Speckled Wood - RM Callf

Wednesday 24th May 2017

Batford - Weedy Field - 1 small Heath, 1 Silver Y moth - Darin Stanley

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Out early this morning for a very pleasant and rewarding morning walk. After several Red Admiral sightings I was feeling slightly disappointed not to see a Painted Lady but in the last field before I left the Heath I was finally rewarded for my efforts with a 17th first of the year exactly as last year and just three days earlier. It's the midsummer lot next so probably a few weeks of enjoying what we have. Of the 17 species 12 were flying today. I doubt I'll see any more Commas until the next brood but otherwise any of the remaining 16 are plausible for **Sunday's Branch walk** - or should be except that the weather forecast currently is three days of sun and warmth followed by rain on Sunday! Here are today's butterflies: Green Hairstreak: 2 (1 Heath, 1 Marshalling Yards) Peacock: 2 Red Admiral: 4 Common Blue: 3 (2m,1f) Speckled Wood: 11 (morning makes a difference with this species), Small Copper: 1 Large White: 1 Small Heath: 3 Brimstone: 1 Orange-Tip: 1 (both females) Painted Lady: 1 Small White: 1 A Small Heath was exploring the uncut grass on the stretch of the closed golf course I cross. Several moths around including a probable first Burnet moth which wouldn't settle for closer inspection and somehow managed to disappear despite its conspicuous nature. - Pete Gore

Some sightings for Wednesday 24th May 2017 - 1 Holly Blue at South Lodge Farm, Enfield at 15:35 hrs, 2 Small Heath, 1 Small Copper, 1 Painted Lady (my first of the year!) and 2 Silver Y at Vicarage Farm, Enfield near Merryhills Brook (TQ 297 969), 2 Speckled Wood edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park, 2 male Common Blue and 1 Small Copper at Parkside Farm, Enfield on Res banking at 16:40 hrs, 1 Comma along Salmons Brook at Parkside Farm, Enfield, 1 Nettle-tap along Salmons Brook at Parkside Farm, Enfield (TQ 300 982), 1 Painted Lady along track at Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm, Enfield (TQ 305 974) at 17:15 hrs, 1 male Orange-tip at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 17:21 hrs - Robert Callf.

Ellenbrook Fields (Old Hatfield airfield) - 4 Common Blue, 5 Small Heath near Home Covert whence emanated the call of a cuckoo. I love this time of year - Robert Bull

A Painted lady dashing across rooftops in Norris Rise Hoddesdon today - Laurence Drummond

1 x comma, 1 x orange tip male, 3 x light brown apple moths in Bushey garden today - David Gower

Morning sunshine along Fray's River, Cricketfield Lane, West Drayton (TQ 05 78) and saw a Red Admiral, 2 Holly Blues and at least 1 female Orange Tip and a Green-Veined White along the overgrown riverbank vegetation. Then in the afternoon, hot but clouding over, saw a Large White, 2 male Common Blue, 1 male Orange Tip, at least 2 male and 2 female Brimstones at Willow Tree Open Space, Yeading (TQ 12 81) - Paul Busby

Hillbrow, Letchworth this afternoon, 2:30 to 4:00 in warm, mostly sunny conditions. A good number of Small Blues now (about a dozen seen) although kidney vetch is decidedly patchy. Also Small Copper and Brown Argus (1 each) and Common Blue (mating pair), Brimstone (5), Red Admiral (2), Peacock (2) and Small White and Orange Tip (1 each) - David Newland

I walked through Tunnel Gardens on my way to Bounds Green tube at 7.30am this morning I watched two Speckled Woods duelling for territory they were still at it when I finally decided I needed to get to work. - Miles Attenborough

Tuesday 23rd May 2017

Therfield Heath (Old Rifle Range): 11 brown argus, 5 common blue, 7 small heath, 1 brimstone, 3 red admiral, 2 peacock, 1 orange tip and 1 green-veined white. Also one silver-ground carpet moth nearby and loads of latticed heaths. Therfield Heath (Church Hill): 15 brown argus, 12 common blue, 3 small heath. Reed End (Mardleybury Manor pond area, approx. TL353 363): 2 common blue and 1 small copper (locally rare). Also 100+ common blue damselflies around the pond amongst wild flowers at this rapidly developing and very promising wildlife site. - Martin Johnson

Field margins adjacent to the old Butterfly World site at Chiswell Green produced 8 Small Blue, 1 Red Admiral, 1 Peacock, 4 Common Blue, 1 Brown Argus, 1 Brimstone, 1 Orange Tip and Small Yellow Underwing moth, further along the path, 1 Small Copper. Then the day went cloudy! - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

Small Copper in the garden near Kings Walden on Sunday 21st May 2017 - Martin Ketcher

While walking my WCBS route this morning I saw only one butterfly in the cloudy conditions - a Painted Lady in the village of Aston. - Peter Clarke

Cloudy but warm morning at Philpots Farm Meadow (TQ06 81) clearing up River Pinn, but saw a male Orange Tip and at least 2 Small Whites and 2 Speckled Woods - Paul Busby

On a morning walk at Tyttenhanger gravel pits I saw the first appearance of a Small Heath, plus a Peacock and a distant White. I also saw 3 Silver Ground Carpet Moths - Terry Wood

Monday 22nd May 2017

1 Silver-ground Carpet near upper lake, Trent Park - my first of the year! 1 Small Heath near Water Garden, Trent Park, 1 female Orange-tip edge of Water Garden, Trent Park at 18:03 hrs - Robert Callf.

Two Painted Ladies and a Mint moth together on garden valerian at lunchtime today in Kings Langley - Elizabeth Debenham

BATFORD - weedy field - 1 Small Heath, several Brimstone - Darin Stanley

1 Toadflax Brocade at ASDA Southgate on Sunday 21st May 2017 - my first of the year! 1 Holly Blue at Lakenheath, N14 on Sunday 21st May 2017 at 17:33 hrs. Some sightings for Monday 22nd May 2017 - 3 Small Copper at 'New Fields' Trent Park and 18 Small Heath at 'New Fields' Trent Park, 1 Peacock at 'New Fields' Trent Park at 13:48 hrs, 1 Silver Y near Cockfosters entrance, Trent Park, 1 Comma at Church Wood, Trent Park at 14:20 hrs, 1 male Orange-tip Sect 3 'New Fields' Trent Park at 14:27 hrs, 1 Red Admiral near Sports Field Trent Park at 14:32 hrs - RM Callf.

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Out in the midday sun today. A Small Copper was a welcome sighting on the Pevensey loop, only the second of its kind seen so far this year. Here is the full list: Holly Blue: 8 Tortoiseshell: 1 Orange-Tip: 2 Peacock: 3 Speckled Wood: 3 Green Hairstreak: 4 (3 Marshalling Yards, 1 Heath) Brimstone: 2 Common Blue: 1 Small Copper: 1 Large White: 1. I saw the first of the year's Blue Damselflies yesterday, another today - Pete Gore

A41 Bourne End/Boxmoor slip roads, 15:05-15:35, 26 deg C, sunny and breezy: David Kirk and I visited the Small Blue colony. We easily tallied 41+ Small Blues with a likely total of 50-60+ individuals. The site really is thriving, with numbers increasing each year. After that we wandered the north corner/quadrant (TL029059) of Dellfield Meadow at Westbrook Hay (part of the Box Moor Trust estate), 15:40-16:05. It was alive with Grass Rivulets! There were easily 5 for every 2 square metres. Within that small quadrant the total was in the region of 45+ individuals. Last year, in the first week of June, my highest count, in this same small area of the meadow, was 11! Also, today, 2 Small Yellow Underwing and 3 Burnet Companion moths.

(<https://twitter.com/WildlifeLucy/status/866693853843206149>)

Lucy Flower

Harpenden Common on a sunny afternoon. Butterflies: 1 Peacock; 1 Small Tortoiseshell; 1 male Common Blue; 1 male Orange Tip; 3 Speckled Wood, 2 of which were clashing. Diurnal moths: the Grey Gorse Piercer moths have reappeared in swarms around the gorse bushes, but with some around the broom; 5 *Cauchas rufimitrella* nectaring on hedge garlic. Also, a hornet nest in the trunk of an old chestnut tree - David Hunt

Had a painted lady butterfly in garden late afternoon in Harpenden - Ann Doubleday

I saw my first Common Blues today, 2 male at Gutteridge Wood Meadow Pond Area with a Speckled wood (TQ 09 84) and another male Common Blue and another Speckled Wood at the Welsh Harp Environmental Centre (TQ 20 87). Also saw another 6 Speckled Wood at Cutthroat Wood, Hillingdon (TQ 08 84) and a male Brimstone at Chalkhill Open Space, Wembley (TQ 20 86) - Paul Busby

Sunday 21st May 2017

Bovingdon Brickworks Field Trip. We were joined by David Kirk and his grandson Aidan, and three other members for 2 1/2 hour walk around the site. Although the sun did shine there were several periods of cloud and Dingy Skipper at times were quite elusive. The final tally of species were 10 Dingy Skipper, 5 Common Blue, 2 Brown Argus, 3 Speckled Wood, 1 Large White, 1 Green-veined White, 2 Orange Tip, 1 Holly Blue, 1 Peacock, moths included a mating pair of Phoenix moths, Silver-ground Carpet, Burnet Companion, Mother Shipton, Small Yellow Underwing and *Adela fibulella*. Also one cuckoo and Great-spotted Woodpecker youngsters calling - Andrew Middleton and Liz Goodyear

After the Bovingdon Field Trip we went on to Aldbury Nowers and walked through all the paddocks to the Bucks/Herts border and back. The lower sections were quite poor for butterflies considering the weather conditions had improved and of the specialist species, just 1 Grizzled Skipper was seen near the fenced sheep field and a Dingy Skipper in one other paddock. However in the top sections sightings improved especially when the sun came out properly. Total counts were 10 Grizzled Skipper including some clashes, 11 Dingy Skipper, 4 Green Hairstreak, 9 Brimstone, 10 Brown Argus, 6 Common Blue, 1 Small Copper, 11 Small Heath, 2 Peacock, 1 Red Admiral, moths included Burnet Companion, Mother Shipton, Small Yellow Underwing. On the way home we stopped at the Bourne End sliproad and recorded 8 Small Blue - Andrew Middleton and Liz Goodyear

Aldbury Nowers...the post rain sunshine brought more people than usual here, including a HMWT group studying solitary Bees. Across the whole site I saw 6 male Orange Tip, 4 small heath, 5 male Brimstone, 3 small White, 2 male Common Blue, 1 female Holly Blue, 2 Brown Argus, 3 Dingy Skipper. Also a Treble Bar moth but not sure if it was lesser or not - Chris Hilling

I'm afraid my reports have dropped off rather since April - I will attempt to provide a table of sightings for you from both Stanwell Moor and Bedfont Lakes. The weather has been conducive to seeing butterflies almost every day since mid-March, so there is quite a lot of data. However, here is one noteworthy report from 18th May from Bedfont Lakes CP (north side). Having seen Green Hairstreaks in 2016 on the north side of the railway in the main part of the country park, I was pleased to find one again this year, and laying eggs to boot. I even managed to get a photo of one of the minute bright green eggs on the chosen foodplant (birds-foot trefoil). Also seen were Common Blues, Brown Argus and Small Heaths.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=103363&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=103360&mode=view>

Dave Miller

At Aldbury Nowers lower sections I recorded 1 x large white, 11 x brimstone (7 male), 1 x male orange tip, 1 x brown Argus, 2 x common blue males, 1 x dingy skipper, 2 x small Heath, 1 x small copper, 1 x grizzled skipper. Also 2 x common carpet and 1 x yellow shell moth. Onto Duchie's Piece coming across 2 x green veined white, 2 x large white, 3 x small Heath, 2 x brown Argus, 1 x male orange tip, 1 x male brimstone. Moths were 1 x scoparia pyralella, 1 x silver y. Lastly at higher enclosure noted 2 x brimstone(1 male), 3 x brown Argus, 1 x peacock, 1 x green hairstreak, 5 x male common blue, 6 x small Heath, 2 x dingy skipper, 1 x small white. Moths seen were 1 x scoparia pyralella, 1 x treble bar, 1 x straw dot, 2 x common carpet, 1 x burnet companion. Spent 7 hours at Aldbury and walking onto Ivinghoe and back seeing 18 different butterfly species which wasn't bad! - David Gower

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. After a rain restricted walk yesterday with just one female Orange-Tip seen, today was rather better in the late afternoon sunshine. I omitted the central Marshalling Yards loop which was heavily infested with bike-loving folk but added an extra section on the Heath in a search for Green Hairstreak -I found just 2 Small Heaths there. Three Green Hairstreaks were seen, two on the Marshalling Yards and 1 on the Heath all of them interested in the shoot tips of young non-flowering Broom bushes. Here are the full details: Holly Blue: 5 Orange-Tip: 1 Green Hairstreak: 3 Speckled Wood: 1 Red Admiral: 2 Tortoiseshell: 1 Small Heath: 3 Peacock: 1 Small White: 1 The Holly Blues were mostly around the top of a lengthy stretch of Holly hedge flowering at the end of St. Stephens Road. - Pete Gore

A brief 20 minute visit to Wood Farm, Stanmore Country Park (TQ 17 93) and saw a red Admiral basking on fence and a Peacock on Red Clover, also 2 Burnet Companion Moths. Then a male Brimstone flying past my stationary vehicle on the A1 at Five Ways Corner, Mill Hill (TQ 22 90) - Paul Busby

Hillbrow LGC 10.30 TO 11.30; Small Blue (mating pair only); Orange Tip(1fm); Common Blue(1m); Brimstone(3) - Roger Millard

Saturday 20th May 2017

6 Green Hairstreak, 1 Small Blue, 2 Brown Argus, 1 Red Admiral, 1 Cinnabar Moth, 2 Dingy Skipper, Small Heath and Grizzled Skipper. Pitstone Hill and Aldbury Nowers. This walk was an invitation of the Upper Thames Branch which was led by Dennis Dell - Shailesh Patel

Butterfly I have seen today 20/05/2017: 1 Red Admiral - Walsworth Common, Hitchin - David Inward

After a lunchtime rain shower at the Friends of Pinn Meadows pond dipping event, a female Orange Tip fluttered by before landing on a tall grass seed head to give everyone a good view of the under-wing pattern - Paul Busby

Tring Park Extension...arable farm land recently bought by the Woodland Trust situated between Tring Park and Stubbings Wood...40 minute walk at 11am before the weather turned for the worse... I saw 2 Red Admiral, 1 Large White and 1 Painted Lady. - Chris Hilling

Thursday 18th May 2017

Butterflies and moths I have seen today 18/05/2017: 2 small tortoiseshell, 3 unidentified whites, 1 orange tip, 3 peacock butterflies, 1 silver-ground carpet moth (*Xanthorhoe montanata*), 1 burnet companion moth (*Euclidia glyphica*) - footpaths NW of Great Offley and south of A505 TL1327. - David Inward

Hillbrow LGC 10.30 TO 12.00, after several visits this month at last sightings of Small Blue, 2fm's in pristine condition. The kidney vetch is well retarded with very little evidence of flower buds forming, perhaps yesterdays rain will help. Other sightings were; Brimstone(3); Orange Tip(2fm); Burnet Companion(2); Mother Shipton(2); Common Carpet(3). Roger Millard.

In the Hayes garden today, 1 Red Admiral, 1 Holly Blue, and very surprised to see, **1 Painted Lady** - Helen George

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey, After yesterday's rain it was a rather changed walking environment today, with water lying in places on Heath for the first time in months. The river was high and had evidently flooded across the path and into the tunnel in places but I only found it necessary to paddle in the Pevensey section. Conditions were less than ideal for butterflies with little sun but nevertheless I saw 8 species including my first Common Blues of the year, both males. Two Green Hairstreaks were seen on the Marshalling Yards. Here are the full details: Holly Blue: 1 Orange-Tip: 1 Large White: 1 Small White: 1 Common Blue: 2 Peacock: 3 Green-Veined White: 1 Green Hairstreak: 2 - Pete Gore

1 Red Admiral clashing with another nymphalid (probably another Red Admiral) at Strayfield Road, EN2 this afternoon at 13:37 hrs, 1 male Orange-tip at Whitewebbs Park at 14:24 hrs and Common Carpet and Mother Shipton here also. - Robert Callf

Cooler day following yesterdays downpour of rain and only saw 5 butterflies on the Lake Farm transect, Hayes, Middlesex, but one was a **Painted Lady** resting on the grass path before zooming

off. The other 4 were a female Brimstone keeping the bumblebees company on a field of purple flowering Common Vetch, a Green veined White, Holly Blue and Speckled Wood by the Park hedges - Paul Busby

I went to Waterford Heath with the volunteers today and just before it started drizzling I saw a lovely Grizzled Skipper butterfly. It was on the se corner down the hill from the picnic table. We actually saw two and a Red admiral. - Andy Brown

Yesterday in truly horrible conditions we did our annual trackside survey north of Hertford for Grizzled Skipper. Thanks to Network Rail and our escort for the day. In total we found 21 roosting Grizzled Skipper which was one of our best counts. Also roosting were 3 Small Heath, 2 Brown Argus, 1 Small Copper and 1 Toadflax Brocade. We disturbed 2 Cinnabar moths - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton.

Tuesday 16th May 2017

Brimstone, Speckled Wood and Common Blue (1) at Hexton CP this morning. Green Hairstreak and Dingy Skipper seem to be over - Nigel Agar

Hunsdon Meads, 5 pristine Small Coppers seen. Seem very small....are sizes affected by drought conditions? - Robin Smith

On the way to Gutteridge Wood transect saw a Red Admiral by bramble hedge at rear of Berkeley Road garages, Hillingdon and a Speckled Wood at Cutthroat Wood (both TQ 08 84) and then a Small White on arrival at the Welsh Harp Environmental Centre (TQ 20 87) - Paul Busby

Went back to Water Lane, Watford late afternoon to take a few photos of orange tips (6 males seen) as well as 2 x small tortoiseshell, 1 x peacock, 1 x small white, 1 x green veined white - David Gower

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Mostly a morning walk with intermittent sunshine, high humidity, breezes and high temperatures. Not very appealing to humans or butterflies seemingly: Orange-Tip: 3 Green Hairstreak: 1 Speckled Wood: 2 Peacock: 3 Brimstone: 3 Red Admiral: 2 Small White: 3 Comma: 1 Large White: 2 Tortoiseshell: 1 - Pete Gore

Some sightings for Tuesday 16th May 2017 - 1 Mother Shipton at 'New Fields' Trent Park nectaring on buttercup, 2 male Small Copper at 'New Fields' Trent Park 13:29 and 13:45 hrs, 1 female Muslin Moth seen in flight near Triangular Wood, Trent Park - my first of the year! 11 Small Heath 'New Fields' Trent Park 13:37 - 14:00 hrs, 1 female Brimstone near Sports Field, Trent Park (TQ 288 969) at 14:05 hrs, 1 Speckled Wood by lower lake, Trent Park 14:26 hrs, 1 Speckled Wood at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 15:09 hrs, 1 male Brimstone along Salmons Brook near Jolly Farmers PH (TQ 310 968) at 15:32 hrs - Robert Callf

Butterfly I have seen today 16/05/2017: 1 brimstone - St Faiths Close, Hitchin TL19833030, - David Inward

This morning, I set off to Shackledell Grassland not expecting to find too much in the way of butterflies due to the wind and cloud. So it proved to be with just a couple of male Orange Tips, but I was pleased to see a tame female Holly Blue appearing to be laying eggs on a Dogwood plant in an open situation even though there were other much taller Dogwood plants nearby. It took place at around 1045 am. - Peter Clarke

Monday 15th May 2017

1 male Brimstone at Carr's Basin, Town Park, Enfield on Sunday 14th May 2017 at 15:19 hrs. 1 female Small Copper (quite worn) at Grovelands Park, Southgate near tennis courts (TQ 307 946) on Monday 15th May 2017 at 13:51 hrs - RM Callf

Sunday 14th May 2017

Highlights of my transect (Hedgeswood Common to Jockey End) on Sunday 14 May included my first Dingy Skipper of the year (looking surprisingly damaged and on exactly the same date I saw my first one last year) and a mating pair of Common Blues.

<https://flic.kr/p/UCwjZ2> <https://flic.kr/p/TAuTmx>

Paul Cross

Frogmore am: 21 Grizzled Skippers, 9 Common Blue, 2 Brown Argus, 4 Small Copper, 1 Orange tip, 1 Speckled Wood, 2 Small Heath. Andrew Middleton

Some sightings for Sunday 14th May 2017 at Oakwood Park between 12:25 - 13:05 hrs - 1 Burnet Companion W of 10 km line which divides the site at TQ 299 951 - my first of the year! 2 Silver Y - E of 10 km line which divides the site - my first of the year! 3 Small Copper E of 10 km line which divides the site, 1 male Common Blue E of 10 km line which divides the site - my first of the year! 2 Mother Shipton together nectaring on buttercups E of 10 km line which divides the site - Robert Callf

Breezy afternoon on the Thames 21 butterfly walk at Stanmore Marsh North (TQ 17 91) and saw a male Brimstone, 4 Speckled Woods and a Holly Blue plus a few unidentified Whites in the distance. Then late afternoon, a 40 minute walk at Wood Farm, Stanmore Country Park (TQ 16 93) saw a Green-veined White, Small Copper, a Peacock, a Holly Blue and at least 3 Orange Tip butterflies. Finally, a lone Peacock in the Orchard area of Pear Wood (TQ 1793) before it clouded over. - Paul Busby

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Yesterday, after completing the Marshalling Yards outer loop with nothing better than a single Cinnabar, I cut short the walk and returned rather sulkily home - butterflies were slightly better on the way back but only to the extent of 1 Red Admiral, 2 Small Whites and an Orange-tip. Today, however, was much better with 12 species seen including firsts for Small Heath and Brown Argus - the latter particularly pleasing because it was a rarity on the Heath. 3 Green Hairstreaks were all on the Marshalling Yards where they've continued to appear unexpectedly in different locations, often seeming more interested in nectaring than anything else; one looked briefly beautiful on a Mignonette (*Reseda lutea*) flower-head. The third one seen though, surely a female, was on a small (1-2 year-old) Broom bush about a foot high. There she moved from one short branch to another, close to the growth tip, a process which took several minutes before she flew to an even smaller Broom 'bush.' I tried to find eggs without disturbing anything but failed to do so. Here are the full details: Holly Blue: 4 Peacock: 8 Large White: 1 Red Admiral: 1 Small White: 1 Green-Veined White: 2 Brimstone: 3 Green Hairstreak: 3 Small Heath: 1 Speckled Wood: 4 Orange-Tip: 3 Brown Argus; 1 - Pete Gore

Brent Reservoir, 3 Holly Blue, 2 Orange Tip, 2 Green-veined White, 2 Speckled Wood and 1 Peacock butterfly - Shailesh Patel

Went back to yesterdays sites and was more successful. At Fishers Field 1 x orange tip female, 1 x red admiral on hawthorn, 1 x small white, 1 x peacock. Water Lane, Watford counted 20 x orange tip (12 males), 2 x peacock, 1 x large white, 3 x brimstone (2 male), 7 x small tortoiseshell, 3 x small white, 5 x green veined white, 1 x silver y. Lastly 1 x holly blue in Bushey garden- David Gower

Saturday 13th May 2017

Small Copper at Croxley Common Moor, today about 1430....relatively calm and warm, no rain with occasional sunshine. - Peter Jenkins

1 Small Yellow Underwing at Park Farm, Enfield (TQ 286 983) this afternoon Saturday 13th May 2017 at 14:16 hrs - my first of the year! 1 Mother Shipton at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park - Robert Callf

Denis and I went to Bencroft Wood pond today. Sadly no dragonflies but we saw a Speckled Wood and a Speckled Yellow in a brief burst of sunshine - Christine Shepperson

At Fishers Field nature reserve only sightings were 1 x small white and 1 x speckled wood. Onto Water Lane, Watford and was about to give up when sun returned. Recorded 5 x orange tips (4 males), 1 x red admiral, 2 x small tortoiseshell, 2 x small white - David Gower

Late afternoon walk along Long Meadow (TQ11 89) and saw a solitary Red admiral basking on path then a Small White flew past and settled on some Cow Parsley by the River Pinn. - Paul Busby

Friday 12th May 2017

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Managed to avoid the rain but cloudy

conditions restricted butterfly activity: Holly Blue: 2 Orange-Tip: 1 Speckled Wood: 1 Peacock: 1 - Pete Gore

Thursday 11th May 2017

Brief footage of mating Dingy Skippers at Hexton on Wednesday taken by Andrew Middleton

Small Copper, one at Potwell's, North Mymms Park yesterday - Rupert Pyrah

Yesterday Margaret Nash and I saw a pair of mating moths in a Colney Heath garden. They were beside an empty larval case, so we think the female was mated as soon as she emerged - Christine Shepperson

A few butterflies in Grovelands Park this afternoon Thursday 11th May 2017 between 13:40 - 15:40 hrs - 1 Holly Blue, 2 Speckled Wood, 2 Peacock and 1 Green-veined White - Robert Callf

Harpenden Common: 2 female Orange Tip laying eggs on Lady's Smock; 2 male Orange Tip; 2 female Green-veined White laying eggs on Hedge Garlic; 1 Small Heath; 1 female Brimstone. Diurnal moths: several Grey Gorse Piercer (the swarms of the weekend have gone); 1 Nettle-tap; 1 *Cauchas rufimitrella* on Hedge Garlic flowers; and swarms of *Cameraria ohridella* around the horse chestnut trees - David Hunt

Wednesday 10th May 2017

Saw 2 Small Coppers, a Holly Blue, a male Brimstone and my first Large Red Damselfly in Uxbridge, Hillingdon House Farm Fields and River Pinn (TQ 06 84) then onto Cutthroat Wood, Hillingdon (TQ 08 84) saw a Peacock and a Speckled Wood and finally at Polski Park, Polish War Memorial next to A40 saw another male Brimstone and a male Orange Tip - Paul Busby

A trip to Hexton Chalk Pit today, produced 26 Dingy Skipper and 4 Green Hairstreak, also 4 **Small Purple-barred and Burnet Companion** moths as well as *Pyrausta nigrata*. Numerous Brimstones, Orange Tip, Holly Blue, Small Heath and Small Tortoiseshell. Whilst having lunch near the Icknield Way, we watched several birds, flying into the elms, and searching the seed discs for White-letter Hairstreak larvae!! Later a visit to Hillbrow in Letchworth produced no Small Blue, but Brimstones were everywhere. Here we saw more Burnet Companion and **3 Small Yellow Underwing** moths - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

Butterflies I have seen today 10/05/2017: 1 brimstone, 1 unidentified white - St Faiths Close, Hitchin TL19863030, 1 orange tip - coppiced bit of woodland south of Lancaster Way, near Tesco, Bishops Stortford TL46972162, in one of Andrew's 2km squares with no records 2015-2016. - David Inward

Ellenbrook Fields (Old Hatfield airfield), Home Covert area - 4 Orange Tip (3 male, 1 female); 3 Peacock; 1 Comma. Old BT field area - 2 Small Tortoiseshell; 1 Brimstone (female); 1 Small Heath, first this year and I nearly trod on it. In my defence, I was distracted by a kestrel flying off from a nearby tree. I hadn't seen that either (the kestrel, not the tree). Optician's appointment made. - Robert Bull

Some butterfly sightings for Wednesday 10th May 2017 - 17 Small Heath at 'New Fields' Trent Park between 12:39 - 13:22 hrs, including a pair copulating and six together in the same small area - my first of the year! 3 Small Copper 2 males and 1 female at 'New Fields' Trent Park between 12:46 - 13:12 hrs, 2 male Orange-tip, 1 Small White, 2 Speckled Wood and 1 Comma. 1 male Brimstone along Merryhills Brook at South Lodge Farm, Enfield at 15:08 hrs, 2 Speckled Wood at Trent Park (1 near Merryhills Brook and 1 edge of Williams Wood), 1 male Orange-tip edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park at 15:21 hrs, 1 Comma near Water Garden, Trent Park at 15:32 hrs, 2 Holly Blue at Trent Park (1 edge of Rough Lot, 1 edge of Moat Wood), 1 Comma edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park at 16:14 hrs, 1 Green-veined White edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park at 16:14 hrs, 1 Speckled Wood at Park Farm, Enfield at 16:19 hrs, 1 Peacock at Park Farm, Enfield at 16:29 hrs, 1 Speckled Wood at Parkside Farm, Enfield at 16:38 hrs, 1 male Orange-tip along Salmons Brook at Parkside Farm, Enfield at 16:54 hrs, 1 Red Admiral nectaring on Hawthorn blossom along track at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 17:25 hrs, 1 Small Tortoiseshell along track at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 17:27 hrs, 2 male Orange-tip along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 17:44 hrs - - Robert Callf

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Sunshine throughout and only moderate

breezes so a little disappointed by relatively small numbers seen. The Green Hairstreak could well have been the same individual spotted on Sunday on the Marshalling Yards, judging from behaviour and precise location. Here are the full details: Holly Blue: 7 Green-Veined White: 3 Orange-Tip: 9 Small White: 3 Speckled Wood: 3 Peacock: 5 Green Hairstreak: 1 Red Admiral: 1 Large White: 1. Yesterday in my garden there was the obligatory Holly Blue and, slightly more surprising for the time of year, a Red Admiral - Pete Gore

This morning in warm sunshine Denis and I went to Waterford. Extensively spread across the north pit we saw 8 Grizzled skippers. There was also one Small Heath, 3 Peacocks, a Small White and a Slowworm. On the south pit in the small enclosure beside Vicarage Lane were 2 Grizzled skippers spiralling together and further into the pit were 2 more and 3 Small Heaths. In the afternoon Denis went to Frogmore Hall pit and saw 9 Grizzled Skippers, a Brown Argus, **4 Common Blues**, 5 Small Heaths, one Small Copper and a Small White. It was a good day!
Christine Shepperson

Monday 8th May 2017

Couple of Small Blues out at the Chiswell Green site today at lunchtime, in rather poor weather conditions - Clive Burrows

Looked at the Welwyn Tunnel area this afternoon for roosting Grizzled Skipper, which proved negative. However, along the footpath beside the cutting between the tunnels, there are a lot of windfall elm seeds on the ground and found a White-letter Hairstreak larva amongst the seeds! Put the seeds in a safe place and hopefully the larva will survive - Liz Goodyear

Sunday 7th May 2017

Good afternoon butterfly hunting in Broxbourne Wood. A small heath, **5 speckled yellows**, speckled wood, orange tips and green veined whites a small white and peacocks in ride near west car park. In Bencroft Wood, a large white, green veined white and speckled woods, 5 small heath in field nearby - Steve Kiln

Panshanger Park. Orange Tip 15. Peacock 10. Small Tortoiseshell 4. Brimstone 2. Small Copper 1. Speckled Wood 2. Red Admiral 2. Small Heath 2. Comma 5. - Christopher Benton.

Butterflies I have seen today 07/05/2017: 1 brimstone, plus 1 unidentified white and 1 dark butterfly - St Faiths Close, Hitchin TL19863030, 1 brimstone - Walsworth Road, opposite Hitchin Station TL19292974. - David Inward

12.15 > 2pm. A very productive walk in unexpected and unforecast warm sunshine... Marshcroft Lane, Tring - 5 male Orange Tip, 5 male Brimstone and 1 Small White. Aldbury Nowers, lower compartment - 7 male Brimstone and 3 female, 6 male Orange Tip, 1 Small White and 1 Small heath. Aldbury Nowers, upper compartment - 13 male Brimstone and 7 female, 9 male Orange Tip and 3 female, 2 Brown Argus and a mating pair GV White...returning home found Holly Blue in garden. I must mention the 'Sensational Butterflies' at Nat. History Museum, London. Was there Saturday and it is the closest I've ever been to Blue Morpho...only inches away. Superb for up close photography - Chris Hilling

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Sunnier and warmer today although cloud on the return journey - together with the inevitable decline of several species (most noticeably Orange-Tip) meant that overall numbers were not high but varied and included the first Large White of the year for me. Here are the full details: Holly Blue: 5 Small White: 2 Peacock: 6 Comma: 2 Orange-Tip: 4 Speckled Wood: 6 Green-Veined White: 3 (2 of which were mating) Green Hairstreak: 1 Red Admiral: 1 Brimstone : 3 Large White: 1 Tortoiseshell: 1 - Pete Gore

Harpenden Common butterflies: 1 male Brimstone; 1 Comma; 2 Green-veined White; and 1 Holly Blue. Diurnal moths: swarms of Grey Gorse Piercer enjoying the sunshine and 1 Dark Gorse Piercer, the latter at a different location to yesterday's observation - photos on flickr
Grey Gorse Piercer: <https://flic.kr/p/Uo14Fk>
Dark Gorse Piercer: <https://flic.kr/p/Uo14Hz>
David Hunt

A few sightings for Sunday 7th May 2017 - 2 Holly Blue at Oakwood Park (one at TQ 298 952 and another at TQ 304 953), 1 Small White, 2 female Orange-tip and 1 male Brimstone all E of 10 km line in Oakwood Park. 1 Speckled Wood, 1 Small White and 1 male Orange-tip at Boxer's Lake and

1 male Orange-tip at Lakeside, EN2 - Robert Callf

I saw my first Dingy Skipper of the year today at Shrubhill Common, Hemel Hempstead. This is my earliest ever record for this site. - Roger Prue

At last some decent sun! Spent an hour at st James churchyard, Bushey and came across 2 x male orange tip, 4 x holly blue, 2 x male brimstone - David Gower

Bovingdon Brickworks, 14:35-15:00, 15 deg C, sunny and breezy. In a short visit to the Brickworks this afternoon, I came across the first of this year's Dingy Skippers, 3 in total. 9 Orange-tips and 5 Peacocks were the only other butterflies I saw around the pits area (I didn't walk the open meadow sections) (<https://twitter.com/WildlifeLucy/status/861229128497975296>). - Lucy Flower

Saturday 6th May 2017

Although a cold and chilly day I decided to check Harpenden Common for the two species of diurnal Gorse Piercer tortricid moths that I found on Nomansland Common yesterday. Virtually every gorse clump had a swarm of Grey Gorse Piercer (*Cydia ulicetana*) and, with much satisfaction, I eventually realised the main, and much scarcer, objective of my search in the form of a single Dark Gorse Piercer (*Grapholita internana*). - David Hunt

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. I managed to find a little sunshine and although I had a rather uneven walk with no butterflies at all seen on the Heath I still just about got to double figures plus a first of the year **Cinnabar moth**. This was rather more energetic than they often are, flying past above my head whilst I was in amongst the Gorse on the Marshalling Yards forlornly looking for Green Hairstreaks. Here are the full details: Small White: 1 Peacock: 1 Holly Blue: 2 Speckled Wood: 1 Orange-Tip: 4 Brimstone: 1 and 1 Cinnabar moth. - Pete Gore

1 Small White at Park Farm, Enfield at 14:48 hrs and 2 Nettle-tap at Park Farm, Enfield (TQ 288 985) - Robert Callf

Friday 5th May 2017

At Rickneys Quarry I saw my first Brown Argus of the year together with 3 grizzled skippers - Steve Kiln

A41 Bourne End/Boxmoor exit, 5/5/2017, 13:45-14:15: Very breezy, cool wind & intermittent sunshine, c14 deg C. With my car in for repairs for the last 7 days, this was my first chance to check the A41 site for Small Blues. The first emergence last year was the 12th May. I was delighted to find that at least **22 Small Blues** were present today. Many were roosting, clinging to stems in the strong winds (<https://twitter.com/WildlifeLucy/status/860501505228623872>). - Lucy Flower

Hexton Chalkpit - 09.00 to 10.30: Green Hairstreak (3); **Dingy Skipper** (9 including a mating pair). Roger Millard

1 Holly Blue near Triangular Wood, Trent Park at 14:53 hrs and 1 **Mother Shipton** at 'New Fields' Trent Park (TQ 286 965) at 15:08 hrs - my first of the year! 1 male Longhorn Moth (*Adela reamurella*) at Covert Way LNR (TQ 265 973) - Robert Callf

Nomansland Common, on a cool and breezy day with sunny intervals, produced the following butterflies: 1 Green-veined White; 1 female Brimstone; 1 Small Tortoiseshell; 1 Peacock; and 2 Speckled Wood. Lots of small moths flying around the gorse bushes with two species identified: *Cydia ulicetana*, the Grey Gorse Piercer, and several of the apparently scarce *Grapholita internana* (Dark Gorse Piercer) at two well separated sites - David Hunt

A few of the butterflies that I saw on Therfield Heath today are listed below. Unfortunately I can't help with the transect counts but I'll try to put in more reports when something interesting crops up on The Heath. You beat me with your brown argus find, but 5 May is unusually early for this butterfly in my part of the world... Seen on Therfield Heath (5 May): 1 brown argus (Church Hill), 3+ small heath, 4+ orange tip, 3 green-veined white, 4 peacock, 2 small tortoiseshell, brimstone, red admiral as well as several unidentified whites. - Martin Johnson

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Plenty of sunshine but strong breezes

may have discouraged butterflies, particularly on the Heath. Nevertheless I saw my first Small Copper of the year there, one that for some reason favoured the well trodden dry stony footpath as did the only Green Hairstreak seen on the Heath. The other 4 Hairstreaks were all in different parts of the Marshalling Yards, two of them new for this year but favoured in other years. A male and female Brimstone flew slowly just a few inches apart at head height, enabling me to detect both the wing shape and the pale green of the underside of their wings whilst in flight for a change. Here are the full details: Holly Blue: 6 Speckled Wood: 5 Red Admiral: 2 Peacock: 5 Green Hairstreak: 5 Comma: 2 Brimstone: 2 Tortoiseshell: 3 Orange-Tip: 4 Small Copper: 1 Green-veined White: 2 - Pete Gore

Butterfly I have seen today 05/05/2017: 1 holly blue - garden of Elmside Care Home, Hitchin TL18342941 - David Inward

Thursday 4th May 2017

My first Small Copper of the year in the field adjacent to Watery Grove this morning. Other butterflies seen in the Norton Green area: 7 Orange Tip including one roosting on bluebell at around 1015 am just before the sun came out, 3 male Brimstone, 2 Green-veined White and 1 Small White - Peter Clarke

Wednesday 3rd May 2017

On a truly unpleasant day, with temperatures rarely exceeding 10° C, we undertook some extensive Grizzled Skipper roost counts. Starting at Rickneys in 3 hours (including time spent checking our regular elm for larva) and covering most of the pit we found 26 Grizzled Skipper roosting, 1 Small Copper, **1 Brown Argus** and an Orange Tip. We then went to Waterford Heath North and spent 2 hours looking and finding 16 Grizzled Skipper and **1 Brown Argus**. At Frogmore, the visit was relatively shorter with just over 1 hour spent looking and only 10 Grizzled Skipper and 2 Small Copper (one flying in some brief warmth). Although the large majority of Grizzleds (31) were roosting on Perforate St John's Wort, 7 were on bramble heads and the remainder on some interesting and different choices including hawthorn regrowth, the top of a cut stem, bramble leaf, evening primrose seeds, Carline thistle, figwort stem, ragwort stem, thistle and teasel! Of a more serious note, considering the poor weather, 3 of the Grizzleds found were dead have succumbed to either the cold or a predator. This was the highest number of dead Grizzled ever recorded in one visit - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

Tuesday 2nd May 2017

Sunny spells this morning at Brackenbury Moat site, Ickenham (TQ072867) clearing invasive vegetation and saw at least 3 Speckled Woods, a Peacock, 2 Orange Tips, at least one Green veined White and 1 Small White - Paul Busby

2 Small Copper at Little Mead, Kings Meads today. This is my only regular local site for species. - Simon Knott

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Some good morning sunshine which unfortunately didn't last for my full walk, the best of it and hence the best of the butterflies coming on the Marshalling Yards. I was particularly pleased that after making a minor seasonal detour for the last 3 years to check out a patch of Gorse and Broom without ever seeing a Green Hairstreak there, today I finally managed to do so although even then it was resting on a Bramble leaf. A second one on the opposite side of the Yards spent a lot of time at ground level moving from plant to plant with a slight preference for Ribwort Plantain - more reminiscent of Small Copper than its own species. The third one, after a skirmish with a Holly Blue, settled for Bramble leaf again. Here are the full details: Holly Blue: 7 Speckled Wood: 4 Orange-Tip: 6 Tortoiseshell: 2 Brimstone: 2 Comma: 1 Green Hairstreak: 3 Peacock: 3. A few unidentified Whites but apart from them I had no Impression of any other species flying today. The absence of Green Hairstreak on the Heath may be due solely to bad timing re sunshine on my part - Pete Gore

1 Brimstone Moth at ASDA Southgate on Saturday 29th April 2017. A few sightings for Sunday 30th April 2017 - 1 Comma and 1 Speckled Wood at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 12:45 hrs and 1 Peacock at Parkside Farm, Enfield at 14:35 hrs - Robert Callf & Bob Husband

1 female Small Copper at Parkside Farm, Enfield on Monday 1st May 2017 at 10:11 hrs - most probably the individual that I first saw on 25th April 2017. A few sightings for Tuesday 2nd May 2017 - 2 male Orange-tip along Leeging Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 12:22 hrs and 1

male Brimstone along Salmons Brook at Parkside Farm, Enfield near Hadley Road Pumping Station (TQ 302 980) at 12:29 hrs - Robert Callf

Five roosting Grizzled Skippers on the east bank of Waterford Heath South Pit around 1600 today.
- Andrew Wood

Butterfly I have seen today 02/05/2017: 1 brimstone - St Faiths Close, Hitchin TL19863030 - David Inward

Took advantage of the morning sunshine to record Orange Tip in TL41 which were out in force! Having parked at the old station at Widford (TL4015), first followed the path south towards Wareside, and recorded 4 Orange Tip, 2 Small Copper, 1 Peacock and 1 Small White. Then taking the path northwards still by the railway and River Ash towards Widford, found some nice elm and resting under the seeds on the twig was a relatively small White-letter Hairstreak larva. Despite searching more elm during my walk, this was the only find! Also seen was another Orange Tip and Green-veined White. Entering TL 4116, I recorded 11 Orange Tip, 1 Green-veined White, 3 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Small Copper, 3 Brimstone and 1 Peacock. By now the cloud was getting thicker (as forecast) and got to Hunsdon Church carpark just in time to see 4 Orange Tip. It was nice and a slight surprise to see 3 Small Copper! - Liz Goodyear

Ellenbrook Fields 02/05/17, 2 Green-veined White, 9+ Orange Tip - David Wheatcroft

April 2017

Sunday 30th April 2017

3 Grizzled skippers at Waterford heath NR today. All in the clearing at the old silt beds - Christopher Benton.

Very windy this morning at Rickneys but saw 4 grizzled skipper sheltering from the wind. everywhere very dry. The north heath at Waterford Heath was very parched minimal wild strawberries, no butterflies. The south heath better, 2 grizzleds there, plus 2 brimstones, 6 small whites, 2 green veined, holly blue, 4 peacocks, small tortoiseshell and 5 orange tips. - Steve Kiln

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. I sought the morning sunshine and did quite well for butterfly sightings compared to yesterday: Holly Blue: 6 Speckled Wood: 8 Comma: 2 peacock: 6 Orange-Tip: 4 Small White: 2 We've had a very dry April. The river is lower than I can remember, the 4 Pevensey ponds more or less dried up and the grass brown in many places - all quite normal for August but not April. - Pete Gore

Aldbury Nowers, Lower compartment 1.45pm...warm hazy sunshine rapidly disappeared with increasing wind so little to see today. 1 Brimstone, 1 Peacock and 4 Common Carpet moth. - Chris Hilling

Spent the morning today exploring the Lee Valley Park circular walk from Pinder Car Park in Cheshunt through Thistly Marsh to the head of Bowyer's Water, across the Lee Navigation around Friday Lake, past Hooks Marsh Lake and Turnershill Marsh, across the Lea Navigation, detour to North Metropolitan Orchid Meadow and back to Pinder Car Park EN8 9AJ. I saw 3 holly blue (watched one mud puddling alongside a battered old comma), two commas seen in total, 1 female small tortoiseshell laying eggs on nettles, two Brimstones, 7 male orange tips, 4 female orange tips watched one egg laying, 1 speckled wood, 1 large white.

Brimstone: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/64663114@N03/34236262211/in/dateposted-public/>
Egg laying Orange tip:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/64663114@N03/34208932562/in/dateposted-public/>

Miles Attenborough

Saturday 29th April 2017

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. A rather odd walk - despite some sunshine, only 2 butterflies were seen until the the last few minutes when some combination of sunshine and setting persuaded quite a few to become active: Small White: 1 Speckled Wood: 1 Holly Blue: 2 Orange-Tip: 10. The Orange-Tips, both males and females, seemed to be drawn to Hoary Cress (*Cardaria* or *Lepidium draba*) which is just beginning to flower. Even the males are remarkably well camouflaged on this if they both close their wings and leave only the hind wings

visible amongst the flower buds. - Pete Gore

South Harpenden: a freshly emerged mint moth (*Pyrausta aurata*) flying around my herb patch this morning. Moths fly where butterflies fear to flap... David Hunt

Stanmore Country Park lead by John Hollingdale. The group saw 1 male Orange Tip, 1 Peacock and 1 Small White - Shailesh Patel

A couple of butterflies to report for Saturday 29th April 2017 - 1 Comma and 1 Speckled Wood at Vicarage Farm, Enfield. 1 Nettle-tap along Merryhills Brook at Vicarage Farm, Enfield (TQ 299 968) this afternoon Saturday 29th April 2017 - my first of the year - Robert Callf

Friday 28th April 2017

A few butterflies to report for Friday 28th April 2017 - 1 male Orange-tip edge of Shaws Wood, Trent Park at 13:55 hrs, 2 Speckled Wood (1 field near Dew Pond, Trent Park, 1 at Vicarage Farm, Enfield) - Robert Callf & Richard Callf

Thursday 27th April 2017

1 male Orange-tip at Vicarage Farm, Enfield on Thursday 27th April 2017 at 12:04 hrs - Robert Callf

Solitary Green Veined White on banks of River Pinn, Park Wood, Ickenham on a cool morning working party with students - Paul Busby

Tuesday 25th April 2017

I can't see any records yet listed for 2017 so you might be interested to know of a **Small Heath** at Hexton Chalk Pit on **Saturday 22nd April** - Andy Symes

At least 3 Orange Tip eggs under the flowerheads of one Garlic Mustard plant at Norton Green Common by the byelaws sign near the open area. All laid by a single female?

1 Brimstone Moth at Oakwood Station (TQ 293 959) on Tuesday 25th April 2017 - my first of the year and possibly my first April record? Two moths to report for Monday 24th April 2017 - 1 Least Black Arches at Dalrymple Close, N14 (TQ 297 951) - a new species for me! 1 Garden Carpet at ASDA Southgate - my first of the year. 1 female **Small Copper** at Parkside Farm, Enfield (TQ 297 983) at 11:40 hrs on Tuesday 25th April 2017 - not a species I usually see in April! 1 male Orange-tip along Leeing Beech Gutter at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 12:01 hrs on Tuesday 25th April 2017 - Robert Callf

Sunday 23rd April 2017

A couple more sightings for Sunday 23rd April 2017 - 2, male and female, Holly Blue at Library Green, Enfield Town (TQ 325 965) at 14:38 hrs, 1 male Orange-tip at Ivy Road Recreation Ground, N14 (TQ 295 946) at 15:55 hrs - Robert Callf

A few sightings for Sunday 23rd April 2017 - 1 male Orange-tip at Parkside Farm, Enfield at 10:54 hrs, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, male Orange-tip and 1 Speckled Wood at South Lodge Farm, Enfield 12:30 - 12:40 hrs - Robert Callf

My first of the year on Saturday 22nd. April at Waterford Heath (South) Wild strawberry just coming into flower here close to the 'cliffs' bordered by Sacombe Rd. - Chris Holtby

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. A good day for butterflies with continuous sunshine despite forecasts to the contrary. The highlight was 3 more Green Hairstreak sightings, 2 on the Marshalling Yards and what I think was a first ever on the River Crane section. Despite walking very slowly in the appropriate area I saw none on the Heath but did not explore away from my normal walk on this occasion. Here are the full details: Holly Blue: 17 Peacock: 8 Speckled Wood: 7 Green-Veined White: 3 Comma: 3 Brimstone: 6 Orange-Tip: 12 Green Hairstreak: 3 Tortoiseshell: 1 . A few more unidentified Whites around and 2 or 3 glimpses of small butterflies/moths on the Marshalling Yards left me feeling that there are more emerging to join the established species - Pete Gore

Butterflies I have seen today 23/04/2017: 1 speckled wood - path by railway, Walsworth Common,

Hitchin TL19283044, 2 orange tip - Ransoms Recreation Ground, Hitchin TL19033019. - David Inward

Late morning sunny spell by Yeading Brook, South Ruislip and saw a pair of Speckled Woods clashing (TQ 10 86), then a further 4 Speckled Woods at Bridgewater Fields (TQ 10 85). Then early afternoon saw a Holly Blue in Northwood (TQ 09 90) - Paul Busby

Visited St James church Bushey churchyard this afternoon seeing 5 x holly blue, 3 x speckled wood, 1 x comma, 6 x orange tip (2 females). At Merryhill Fields, Bushey were 3 x speckled wood, 3 x male brimstone - David Gower

Saturday 22nd April 2017

Aldbury Nowers - Visited the lower compartment and Duchie's Piece where I saw 3 Peacocks, 21 Brimstone, 13 male Orange Tip, 2 GV White and 4 Comma. Also here I saw a sparkling 'Small Purple and Gold' moth. Late afternoon between 5 and 5.30 at New Mill meadow, Tring...3 Small Tortoiseshell, 4 male Orange Tip, 2 GV White and 1 Holly Blue - Chris Hilling

Butterflies I have seen today 22/04/2017: 5 Brimstone - L-shaped field west of Highfield School playing field, Letchworth TL2031 - David Inward

Denis and I went to Rickneys pit up near Bardon Clumps today in intermittent sunshine and saw only Orange tips and a Peacock, sadly no Grizzled Skippers. We then went on to Frogmore Hall pit at Aston, where Denis saw Orange tips, a Peacock and just one Grizzled Skipper before the sun went in. We also explored Panshanger Park along the footpath that goes from Poplars Green over towards Birch Green, as the Park is an historic Grizzled Skipper site, but no luck, just Orange tips, a Peacock and a Comma - Christine Shepperson

Only 1 butterfly seen on Gutteridge Wood transect this afternoon with some sunny intervals and adjacent Cutthroat Wood, but did see a number of butterflies on the Hillingdon Trail (HT) walking to transect. At Freezeland Covert by A40 saw a Holly Blue and female Orange-Tip, then at Elephant park saw a tatty male Brimstone, 2 Comma and a Peacock on then on wooded section of HT along Yeading Brook, saw 2 Speckled Wood and a Comma (all these at TQ 08 84). In square (TQ 09 84) saw another male Brimstone and a male Orange Tip on the boardwalk out of Gutteridge Wood and an active Peacock and Speckled wood by the pond/meadow area - Paul Busby

A few sightings for Saturday 22nd April 2017 - 1 Small White at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 12:07 hrs, 1 Speckled Wood at Hog Hill, Vicarage Farm (TQ 305 975) at 12:17 hrs, 1 male Orange-tip at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 12:25 hrs, 1 Peacock at Park Farm, Enfield at 13:26 hrs, 1 Peacock at 'Old Golf Course' Trent Park at 13:47 hrs, 1 Small Tortoiseshell edge of Icehouse Wood, Trent Park at 13:58 hrs, 3 Speckled Wood together Shaws Wood, Trent Park at 14:05 hrs, 1 male Orange-tip along bridle path near Shaws Wood, Trent Park at 14:10 hrs - Robert Callf

At Water Lane, Watford when sun disappeared again but did spot 1 x speckled wood, 1 x male orange tip and 1 x small white. Outside Wellington pub in Woodford road, Watford my first Red Admiral of year was seen (TQ111970). 1 x male orange tip in Bushey front garden this morning during brief appearance of the sun! - David Gower

3 Orange Tip in my Ware garden this afternoon, 2 females at the same time seeking out the honesty and garlic mustard. Also 1 Holly Blue - Liz Goodyear

Friday 21st April 2017

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. No sun today so despite higher temperatures the best I could do was 2 Speckled Woods on the Marshalling Yards - Pete Gore

1 Speckled Wood at Bush Hill Park on Thursday 20th April 2017. - Robert Callf

Wednesday 19th April 2017

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Much more sun today and butterflies responded accordingly: Holly Blue: 15 Peacock: 5 Orange-Tip: 17 Speckled Wood: 10 Green-Veined White: 1 Comma: 1 Brimstone: 1 Tortoiseshell: 1 - Pete Gore

On 19th April at Therfield Heath: two Orange Tip, one Peacock and at least four wonderful Emperor Moths (attracted by a lure) - Sharon Monahan

I noted the first Speckled Wood and Holly Blue today at Nicholls Farm, Redbourn - Peter Tallantire

One, possibly two **grizzled Skipper** at Waterford Heath north pit below the steep bank on the east side. A **Small Copper** at Stonyhills a couple of miles north. Both pictured on the branch facebook page. A very lively Red Admiral in Little Munden churchyard, could this be a migrant one? - Andrew Wood

Lovely sunny day at the TCV, Green Gym event at Hillingdon House Farm behind Uxbridge Leisure Centre (TQ 06 84) and we saw the following butterflies; 1 Speckled Wood, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 male Orange Tip, at least 4 Small White and 2 Holly Blues. Later on, after river sampling on the River Pinn at Robbie Bell Bridge, Philpots Farm Meadow, Cowley (TQ 06 81) I saw at least 10 Orange Tip (4 male, 5 female), a Peacock, 2 Holly Blue, 1 Small Tortoiseshell and 2 Speckled Wood. In the middle meadow section (also TQ 06 81) saw a further 3 male Orange tip, 2 Small White, a Speckled Wood, 3 Holly Blue and at least 6 Small Tortoiseshell including a trio chasing each other - Paul Busby

This afternoon at 2 saw three **grizzled skippers** in Rickney Quarry, then half an hour later saw 4 in Waterford Heath south one on main bank low down and three near settling beds including a mating pair - Steve Kiln

A walk through scrub land and woods off Ragged Hall Lane, St Albans yielded 4 Speckled Woods, 2 Orange Tips (M), 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Peacock, 1 Holly Blue and lastly, but the most exciting sighting, a pristine **Small Copper** which is the first I have seen in this area. Mandy Floyd

Today (19th April) at Hawkins Wood, several orange tips, one red admiral, a speckled wood and 2 possible peacocks - Andy Brown

Smallford, Old BT site (and bridle paths adjacent) - 2 Orange Tip (male), 2 Peacock, 4 Small Tortoiseshell - Robert Bull

1 Red-green Carpet at ASDA Southgate on Tuesday 18th April 2017. A few sightings for Wednesday 19th April 2017 - 1 female **Large White** at Whitewebbs Park today at 12:03 hrs. 3 male Orange-tip at Hilly Fields Park, Enfield, 1 male Brimstone at Whitewebbs Farm, Enfield (TL 327 003) at 12:29 hrs, 1 Green-veined White near Archery Wood, Forty Hall CP at 12:52 hrs, 1 male Orange-tip at Whitewebbs Road at 12:45 hrs and 1 male Orange-tip at Whitewebbs Lane, Enfield at 12:48 hrs - Robert Callf

Tuesday 18th April 2017

Today, 18th April, I saw at least four small tortoiseshells and one speckled wood in Cassiobury Park - Sharon Monahan

Sunny spell on a cooler. blustery day at Cutthroat Wood, North Hillingdon (TQ 08 84) and saw 8 Speckled Wood, 4 Green-Veined White and a Brimstone in the woodland clearing, particularly settling on Stitchwort, now flowering - Paul Busby

Denis and I were on Waterford Heath South pit late this afternoon and in a warm sheltered spot we saw one, possibly two, **Grizzled skippers** on the plentiful wild strawberry at TL317148. We had a quick look at the North pit but it was about 1630 and not so warm and we didn't see any - Christine Shepperson.

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Intermittent sunshine and none too warm so I was a little surprised by variety and numbers of butterflies: Holly Blue: 5 Orange-Tip: 5 Speckled Wood: 6 Red Admiral: 2 Peacock: 3 Comma: 2 - Pete Gore

Decided to visit one of the [2km squares in TL41](#) with no recent records today. Despite a cold fresh wind, sheltered areas were warm so I took these sections slowly and the open areas more quickly. I started in Eastwick Village (TL4311) and in total saw 1 Speckled Wood (almost immediately and not one again), 3 Orange Tip, 1 Red Admiral, 1 Peacock and 1 Small White. I then walked up Eastwick Hall Lane to TL4212 (my target 2km), across towards Gilston Park and Home Wood, and then north-west towards Hunsdon Airfield, stopping short as it was far too exposed and back down

the delightful Cock Robin Lane and then returned down Eastwick Hall Lane. In total across the square I recorded an amazing 14 Small Tortoiseshell, 5 Peacock, 13 Orange Tip (mostly but not all males), 1 Brimstone (male), 1 Holly Blue, 2 Green-veined White, 2 Small White and the star of the day in the most unlikely barren location on the edge of arable fields although close to the edge of Home Wood near Gilston Park a pristine **Small Copper**. Considering how poor numbers were last year, this really was a surprise. Also the 2km square has a very high elm count, all of which is heavily seeded at the moment - Liz Goodyear

Some sightings for Tuesday 18th April 2017 - 1 Speckled Wood near Merryhills Brook at Trent Park at 13:16 hrs, 1 Speckled Wood edge of Williams Wood, Trent Park at 13:26 hrs, 1 Small Tortoiseshell edge of Icehouse Wood, Trent Park at 13:31 hrs, 3 Orange-tip, 2 males and 1 female, at Parkside Farm, Enfield, 1 Speckled Wood at Vicarage Farm, Enfield. Some butterfly sightings for the Easter weekend - 1 male Orange-tip set-aside field near Dew Pond, Trent Park at 12:45 hrs on Friday 14th April 2017. 1 female Orange-tip at Bramley Road, N14 at 12:40 hrs on Saturday 15th April 2017 and 1 Speckled Wood at Southgate Chase Allotments at 13:28 hrs. Sunday 16th April 2017 - 1 male Orange-tip at Oakwood Park, N14 at 12:26 hrs and 1 Speckled Wood here at 12:38 hrs, 2 male Holly Blue settled near to one another at Boxer's Lake, Enfield at 13:00 hrs and 1 Speckled Wood here at 13:00 hrs. 1 Speckled Wood at ASDA Southgate settled near outside lights on Monday 17th April 2017 at 12:36 hrs. - Robert Callf

Nice to see a male Orange Tip in my south Harpenden Harden this morning (link below). On a more belated garden-related note, two wild male Emperor Moths assembled to a captive bred female last week

<https://flic.kr/p/TVeP4J>

Harpenden Common: 1 Comma; 3 Small Tortoiseshell; 1 Speckled Wood; 1 female Orange Tip, the latter curiously attracted to nettle leaves for some reason - David Hunt

Sunday 16th April 2017

Brent Reservoir, 1 Green-veined White, 1 Peacock, 4 Speckled Wood and 5 Orange Tip - Shailesh Patel

Butterfly I have seen today 16/04/2017: 1 speckled wood - Walsworth Common, Hitchin TL19473037 - David Inward.

Thursday 13th April 2017

A few sightings for Thursday 13th April 2017 - 3 male Orange, 1 Small Tortoiseshell and 1 Speckled Wood along path E edge of Little Beechill Wood, Enfield Chase (TQ 289 992) between 10:58 - 11:10 hrs, also a freshly dead Tawny Owl here with beautiful rufous plumage - Robert Callf

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Left it a little late today: cloud all the way back meant no butterflies but the outward journey was more rewarding: Holly Blue: 6 Orange-Tip: 2 Speckled Wood: 11 Comma: 1 Green-Veined White: 1 - Pete Gore

Saw a Speckled wood and a Small White on a very brief visit to the area south of Little Britain Lake, Cowley, Middlesex (TQ 04 80) - Paul Busby

Wednesday 12th April 2017

1 lonely Grizzled Skipper at Frogmore Quarry this morning - Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton

2 Speckled Wood together at Oakwood Station on Tuesday 11th April 2017. Some sightings for Wednesday 12th April 2017 - 1 Speckled Wood at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 10:59 hrs; 2 Small Tortoiseshell at Vicarage Farm, Enfield, 1 Speckled Wood at Park Farm, Enfield; 3 Speckled Wood at Flash Lane, Enfield; 1 male Orange-tip at Wildwoods Lake, Enfield (TQ 321 994) and 1 Peacock at Flash Lane Aqueduct, Enfield at 13:33 hrs; 3 Comma at Whitewebbs Park; 2 male Orange-tip at Whitewebbs Park - Robert Callf

Ellenbrook Fields (Old Hatfield airfield), near Home Covert - 2 Small Tortoiseshell, 3 Peacock, 1 Orange Tip (male), 1 Green-Veined White. Also 2 whites mating on a high bramble leaf, difficult to see but appeared to be Small Whites. Old BT site, 3 Small Tortoiseshell and 1 Peacock - Robert Bull

Tuesday 11th April 2017

Some sightings for Tuesday 11th April 2017 - 1 Speckled Wood at Park Farm, Enfield at 11:08 hrs; 4 Small Tortoiseshell at Park Farm, Enfield; 1 male Orange-tip at Park Farm, Enfield; 1 Peacock edge of Rough Lot, Trent Park at 11:41 hrs; 1 Small Tortoiseshell edge of Icehouse Wood, Trent Park at 12:06 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood near Dew Pond, Trent Park at 12:08 hrs; 1 Speckled Wood at Shaws Wood, Trent Park - Robert Callf

On 11th April: 1 speckled wood on Hertford Heath (Rroundings) together with an orange tip. On Waterford Heath (north) 2 speckled wood butterflies in the pine forest - Andy Brown

A ramble on a rather cool and breezy Harpenden Common produced 1 Comma, 1 Small Tortoiseshell and 1 female Orange Tip - David Hunt

Butterflies I have seen today 11/04/2017: all in Buntingford NW: 2 speckled wood - 1 at TL358298, 1 at TL357298, 2 orange tip - 1 at TL355298, 1 at TL355296 - David Inward

Monday 10th April 2017

Sightings for Monday 10th April 2017 - 1 male Orange-tip at South Lodge Cres, EN2 at 11:45 hrs and 1 male Orange-tip at Parkside Farm, Enfield near Hadley Road Pumping Station (TQ 301 980) at 14:42 hrs - Robert Callf

Sunday 9th April 2017

A few more sightings for Sunday 9th April 2017 - 1 Holly Blue at Library Green, Cecil Road, Enfield Town (TQ 324 965) at 14:01 hrs, 1 male Orange-tip and 1 Speckled Wood at Town Park, Enfield - Robert Callf

The following are the first for this year in our garden in Hitchin, 08/04/17 Orange tip, 09/04/17 Holly blue. - Martin Banthorpe

Stocking Pelham: several Brimstones, a small tortoiseshell, a couple of orange tips and a holly blue - Andy Brown

On 9th April in Kings Langley two holly blues at same time in the morning; also a fast flying butterfly probably a small tortoiseshell, but not sure. In afternoon a speckled wood appeared for the first time for me this year and another holly blue. Late afternoon in Barnes Lane, Kings Langley a peacock butterfly flew at the car window. Elizabeth Debenham

Perfect conditions for walking the Roughdown transect this morning. Sighted **1 Green Hairstreak** (disturbed by two Holly Blues and saw them off!), 4 Brimstone, 1 Orange Tip, 3 Holly Blue, 2 Small Tortoiseshell, 2 Green Veined White Brendan Sheridan - Brendan Sheridan

Some sightings for Sunday 9th April 2017 between 11:45 - 12:45 hrs - 1 Holly Blue at Oakwood Park, N14 (TQ 299 951) and 1 male Brimstone at (TQ 300 952). 1 Holly Blue, 2 Comma and 2 Speckled Wood at Lonsdale Drive, EN2 (TQ 302 959), 1 male Orange-tip at Boxer's Lake, Enfield (TQ 305 962) and 1 male Orange-tip at Lakeside, EN2 (TQ 298 963) - Robert Callf

Thorley Wash transect, 11:30 this morning. Twenty five butterflies counted in the sunshine - 8 small tortoiseshells, 7 orange tips (6m,1f), 5 peacocks, 2 brimstone (both m.) and one each of small white, green veined white and red admiral. Especially pleased about the peacock count and noted a further two in slumbers mead (the other side of the railway track from the reserve) - Len Crouch

In my south Harpenden garden on this gloriously sunny day: 1 Peacock; 1 Small White; 1 Small Tortoiseshell; 1 female Orange Tip exploring the hedge garlic; and 2 Holly Blue - David Hunt

Butterfly I have seen today 09/04/2017: 1 orange tip - St Faiths Close, Hitchin - David Inward

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Not so much concentration on Green Hairstreak today and none seen. Unsurprisingly, given the sun and the high temperatures, the highest numbers of the year to date, over a quarter of them in or near suburban gardens en route to and from the above destination: **Holly Blue: 27** Orange-Tip: 17 Speckled Wood: 14 Tortoiseshell: 3 Peacock: 16 Brimstone: 3 Small White: 3 Comma: 2 - Pete Gore

At Bushey station (TQ118 953) 1 x small tortoiseshell seen while waiting for Tring train. Seen at Aldbury Nowers lower enclosures were : 9 x male brimstone, 11 x male orange tips, and 1 x speckled wood. In and around Duchie's piece : 8 x male orange tip, 6 x Brimstone (1 female), 1 x large white. Lastly at higher area : 4 x male Brimstone, 3 x male Orange tip, 2 x large white, 1 x Comma. Spent an hour in Merryhill Fields Bushey also and recorded 5 x Peacock, 6 x Speckled wood, 2 x Small tortoiseshell. 1 x male Orange tips on forget me not in Bushey garden. Was good to get out on such a pleasant day - David Gower

1 Holly Blue, 1 Orange Tip and 1 Speckled Wood, Stanmore Marsh, Harrow - Shailesh Patel

Saturday 8th April 2017

A lovely day with quite a few butterflies seen during the course of the day, including: **1 large white**, 8 small tortoiseshell incl. group of 4 chasing each other skyward, 2 Peacock together, 3 Brimstone, 2 Orange tip (males) - Peter Tallantire

Seen in St Albans garden (near City Hospital) this afternoon: 2 x Orange Tip (male), 2 x Brimstone (1 male, 1 female), 1 x Holly Blue, 1 Speckled Wood - Robert Bull

[Twitter report](#) from Lee Browne reporting **Grizzled Skipper** seen at Frogmore Pit near Watton at Stone

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. **Green Hairstreak** duly spotted today although I must say this was just about the least memorable first sighting I'm ever likely to report, a mere brief flutter from one unseen spot in some Broom ahead of me to another. I'd devoted at least an extra hour to Green Hairstreak so it didn't quite feel like full reward. For once though it was at least in the main area near the railway on the Heath. Here's today's sightings in full: Holly Blue: 10 Orange-Tip: 19 Speckled Wood: 10 Tortoiseshell: 6 Peacock: 11 Brimstone: 5 Green-Veined White: 1 Green Hairstreak: 1 Comma : 1 . There are some unidentified whites too but far fewer than I would expect in the circumstances. The walk was also notable for the first fire of the year, this one on the Marshalling Yards but everywhere looks dry and vulnerable, including notably on the Heath. - Pete Gore

4 Speckled wood at St Ippolyts churchyard, 1 Orange Tip (m) and 1 Holly Blue at Hill Rise, St Ippolyts - Michael Hooper

Butterflies I have seen today 08/04/2017: 1 brimstone, 1 holly blue - St Faiths Close, Hitchin - David Inward.

Some sightings for Saturday 8th April 2017 - 2 Peacock at Parkside Farm, Enfield, 1 male Orange-tip at Parkside Farm, Enfield at 10:55 hrs, 2 male Orange -tip at Park Farm, Enfield, 2 Peacock at Park Farm, Enfield, 1 male Brimstone edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park at 12:00 hrs, 1 male Orange-tip near lower lake, Trent Park at 12:04 hrs, 1 Peacock by lower lake, Trent Park, 4 Speckled Wood at Trent Park, 1 Small Tortoiseshell set-aside field near Dew Pond, Trent Park at 12:22 hrs, 1 male Brimstone at Trent Park Equestrian Centre at 12:40 hrs, 1 Holly Blue at South Lodge Farm, Enfield at 12:42 hrs, 1 female Large White at South Lodge Farm, Enfield at 12:44 hrs - Robert Callf

1 x peacock seen next to lavender in Bushey front garden this morning - David Gower

Friday 7th April 2017

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Very similar to yesterday: Holly Blue: 13 Speckled Wood: 11 Brimstone: 6 Orange-Tip: 19 Comma: 10 Peacock: 9 Tortoiseshell: 1 - Pete Gore

In the garden at Kings Langley on 7th April in afternoon we saw one male Orange tip bombed by a Peacock butterfly on wildflowers and then we saw a male Holly Blue high in the bushes. - Elizabeth Debenham

Some sightings for Friday 7th April 2017 - 1 Speckled Wood near Merryhills Brook at Trent Park at 15:17 hrs, 2 Comma together edge of Shaws Wood, Trent Park at 15:25 hrs, 1 Peacock edge of Shaws Wood, Trent Park at 15:27 hrs, 1 male Orange-tip edge of Shaws Wood, Trent Park at 15:27 hrs, 1 Comma near Water Grdn, Trent Park at 15:46 hrs, 2 male Orange -tip together edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park at 16:25 hrs, 1 Green-veined White edge of Moat Wood, Trent Park at 16:25 hrs, 2 Small Tortoiseshell at Park Farm, Enfield 16:31 - 16:35 hrs, 1 Peacock at Park Farm,

Enfield at 16:48 hrs, 1 Speckled Wood at Park Farm, Enfield at 16:49 hrs, 2 Peacock at Parkside Farm, Enfield - Robert Callf.

Butterfly I have seen today 07/04/2017: 1 orange tip - junction of Cambridge Road and St Michaels Road, Hitchin TL19592988 and now identified, 1 common plume moth *Emmelina monodactyla* - St Faiths Close - David Inward

Sunny afternoon sampling River Pinn by Ruislip Golf Course, Ickenham end (TQ 07 87) and saw a male Brimstone, a male Orange Tip, a Peacock and 4 Small Tortoiseshells - Paul Busby

Another sunny afternoon on Harpenden Common produced nearly as many Small Tortoiseshell butterflies as yesterday, including a couple pairing in one of the more extensive nettle beds. Butterflies seen were as follows: 11 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Comma, 1 Peacock, 1 Holly Blue. - David Hunt

News from 21/03-17 - Ellenbrook Fields - 1 x Peacock - David Wheatcroft

Thursday 6th April 2017

I visited Tunnel Gardens nature reserve this morning and saw 9 speckled wood, 4 holy blue, 2 brimstones, 1 orange tip, 1 green veined white, 1 very tatty peacock, 1 comma. This afternoon I went to Coppetts Wood nature reserve and saw 2 brimstones, 3 male orange tip, 2 speckled wood, 4 peacock, 4 commas, 3 holly blues, 3 green veined white (2 sadly dead after a passer by trod on them by accident on the tarmac lane while I was photographing a comma, I assume they must have been mating or possibly could have been attracted to something on the ground?)

Orange Tip Photo: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/64663114@N03/33495531160/in/dateposted-public/>

Miles Attenborough

Hackney - corner of Morning Lane and Link St - male Brimstone in the morning sunshine - Malcolm Hull

Exploring poorly recorded areas north of Baldock today, there were plenty of Small Tortoiseshells and Peacocks, but the big surprise was a pale looking **Painted Lady** near Caldecote (picture on our Facebook page). - Andrew Wood

Ellenbrook Fields (Old Hatfield airfield), near Home Covert, 5 x Peacock, 1 Small Tortoiseshell. Old BT field, 5 x Small Tortoiseshell, 1 x Brimstone (female), 2 x Orange Tip (1 male, 1 female) - Robert Bull

Some sightings for Thursday 6th April 2017 - 1 male Orange-tip and 1 Holly Blue near Oakwood entrance, Trent Park at 11:46 hrs, 1 Speckled Wood Sect 7, Trent Park at 12:11 hrs. 1 male Brimstone at Chalk Lane, Cockfosters, EN4 (TQ 278 965) at 12:24 hrs, 5 Speckled Wood including two together E end of Monken Hadley Common between Jack's Lake and Games Road (TQ 273 968), 2 male Orange-tip near Jack's Lake, Monken Hadley Common (TQ 270 969) at 14:23 hrs, 1 male Brimstone near Jack's Lake at 12:48 hrs, 1 male Brimstone W of railway line at Monken Hadley Common, 1 Peacock at Monken Hadley Common (TQ 258 971) at 14:08 hrs, 1 female Green-veined White egg laying at Monken Hadley Common (TQ 264 970) at 14:18 hrs, 1 Holly Blue near Jack's Lake, Monken Hadley Common at 14:24 hrs - Robert Callf

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Lots of sunshine, lots of butterflies as follows: Holly Blue: 11 Speckled Wood: 16 Orange-Tip: 17 Comma: 10 Brimstone: 7 Peacock: 11 Green-Veined White: 4 Tortoiseshell: 3 - Pete Gore

In the warm sunshine this afternoon 6th April, in Kings Langley I spotted a female Holly Blue on ivy and a male Orange tip flitting about among Lady's Smock, aka. Cuckoo Flower. Both settled - Elizabeth Debenham

Today, 6th April on the Munden Estate near Bricket Wood I saw 4+ Small Tortoiseshells, 1 Holly Blue, 3 Peacock and 1 Brimstone. On Monday 3rd April in Maple Cross I saw 1 Holly Blue, 2 Commas, 2 Brimstone and 2 Small Tortoiseshells - Sharon Monahan

Harpenden Common: 13 Small Tortoiseshell; 3 Peacock; 2 Comma; 3 male Brimstone; 1 male Holly Blue. On a botanical note, it was good to see the *Ophioglossum vulgatum* (Adder's Tongue

fern) appearing once again, although still only in a very small area and just a few individuals - the only site on the common I am aware of for this unusual species. - David Hunt

Butterflies I have seen today 06/04/2017: 1 orange tip - St Faiths Close, Hitchin, 1 orange tip, 1 small tortoiseshell, 1 Brimstone plus several unidentified - Singlers Marsh LNR, Danesbury, near Old Welwyn TL2216, 2 brimstone - Link Road, Old Welwyn TL230164, 2 orange tip, 1 Brimstone - by most northern eastbound bus stop, Church Street, Old Welwyn TL23381651. - David Inward

Wednesday 5th April 2017

Two firsts for Bayfordbury this year: an orange tip and a speckled wood in the Pinetum. Also a red admiral for good measure. - Ian Flack

Pinner, Middx. One male Orange Tip in my garden today; and two Holly Blues - Graham Elcombe.

I saw this beautiful Orange Tip in my garden (in Potten End) this morning. It's my first go with Flickr - so I hope I've got the link right!!

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/153451990@N03/33698904012/in/dateposted-public/>

Paul Cross

Visited Grovelands Park, Southgate today and recorded the following - 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Comma, 3 Speckled Wood and an unidentified White sp. Then 1 Green-veined White along bridle path between Merryhills Brook and Shaws Wood, Trent Park at 13:50 hrs, 1 Red Admiral at Shaws Wood, Trent Park at 13:56 hrs, 1 Speckled Wood at Shaws Wood, Trent Park at 13:56 hrs, 4 Peacock at Trent Park, 2 Small Tortoiseshell at Trent Park, 1 Comma at Camlet Hill, Trent Park at 14:26 hrs, 1 Small White at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 15:35 hrs, 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Vicarage Farm, Enfield at 15:40 hrs - Robert Callf

Monday 3rd April 2017

Some sightings for Monday 3rd April 2017 - 2 Small Tortoiseshell at Rectory Farm, Enfield 10:48 hrs, 1 Speckled Wood at Rectory Farm Road, Enfield (TQ 312 989) at 10:58 hrs, 1 Green-veined White at Whitewebbs Park near North Lodge (TQ 326 997) settled several times between 12:03 - 12:08 hrs, 1 Speckled Wood at Whitewebbs Farm, Enfield at 12:29 hrs, 1 male Orange Tip at Archery Wood, Forty Hall CP (TQ 334 994) at 12:56 hrs, 2+ Peacock at Forty Hall CP - Robert Callf

In Kings Langley a holly blue flew over the garden around 2.30pm. on Monday 3rd April, but didn't stop. As much of our ivy went brown this winter through some sort of disease this was a rather pleasing sighting. Forgot to mention a Comma on the house wall last week - Elizabeth Debenham

The following seen Ellenbrook Fields 03/04/17: Small Tortoiseshell 3, Brimstone 4, Orange Tip 1 - David Wheatcroft

1 Green-veined White and 1 Holly Blue seen at St. Margaret's Tennis Club this morning. 1 male Orange-tip at West Street, Hertford. Christopher Benton.

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Similar to yesterday with a bit more cloud and breeze: Holly Blue: 9 Speckled Wood: 6 Comma: 7 Red Admiral: 1 Brimstone: 3 Orange-Tip: 5 Small White: 1 Peacock: 11 Green-Veined White: 1 Tortoiseshell: 1 Pete Gore

Yesterday, in St Albans garden (near City Hospital), 1 Holly Blue. News from Thursday 30th April, In St Albans Garden (near City Hospital), 3 Brimstone (2 male, 1 female), 1 Comma, 1 Small Tortoiseshell - Robert Bull

Sunday 2nd April 2017

Sightings for Trent park on Transect today..... Trent Park transect today, Peacock section 5, Male Orange tip section 7, comma section 8. - Simon Pegg

On my first visit to Water lane, Watford this year I recorded 3 x peacock, 6 x small tortoiseshell, 1 x comma, 8 x orange tip (all male), 1 x small white, 2 x **green veined white**. Onto Fishers Field nature reserve spotting 2 x small tortoiseshell, 1 x peacock, 1 x comma - David Gower

Sunny intervals of Fray's River walk from Uxbridge and saw a Holly Blue near Braybourne Close (TQ 05 84) then numerous sightings in the Alder glade area (TQ 05 85) where I saw my first

Speckled Wood, 4 Holly Blues, 1 male Brimstone, 2 Comma, 1 Small Tortoiseshell and 4 Peacocks, including a pair. Then into Bucks before returning to Middlesex through Denham Lock Wood and saw 6 Small Tortoiseshells and another Peacock at Fray' Farm Meadow nature reserve (TQ 05 86). Also on the Lake Farm transect saw more Speckled Woods. - Paul Busby

Visited Tunnel Gardens in Bounds Green (London Borough of Haringey) this morning and saw 5 speckled wood. Visited Broxbourne Woods this afternoon and did the NNR trail through Cowheath Wood to Bencroft Wood and Broxbourne Wood NNR and saw 2 female brimstones, 2 commas and 1 speckled wood.

Photo of speckled wood:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/64663114@N03/33405889000/in/dateposted-public/>

Miles Attenborough

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Despite periods of cloud this was easily the most successful day for sightings in 2017 so far, with 2 firsts. Speckled Woods were suddenly relatively easily spotted whilst a **Green-Veined White** posed a slightly different challenge. I'd been trying to confirm a likely Comma on Brambles a few feet in front of me and not doing very well at it because the log I was standing on kept moving under me, when a white butterfly flew rapidly in from my left and effectively replaced the now confirmed Comma with its unidentified self. Stubbornly determined, I scrambled through Brambles and fallen Buddleja towards the 10 Feet drop into the Mill Stream and amazingly avoided the drop, didn't disturb the butterfly and did manage a clear enough view to confirm its identity. I do have a few doubts about my sanity however. Here are the full butterfly details: Holly Blue: 8 Brimstone: 8 Tortoiseshell: 1 Comma: 8 Orange-Tip: 12 Peacock: 12 Speckled Wood: 6 Red Admiral: 1 Green-Veined White: 1. A small number of unidentified whites but not nearly enough to provide Brimstones and Orange-Tips with mates, all those seen above were males - Pete Gore

Butterfly I have seen today 02/04/2017: 1 holly blue - St Faiths Close, Hitchin - David Inward

1 Speckled Wood - freshly emerged in Oakwood Park (TQ 300 952) this afternoon at 13:00 hrs, 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Lakeside, EN2 (TQ 298 963) at 13:51 hrs - Robert Callf

Orange tip (male) flying in our garden today in St Ippolyts. Looked a rather small specimen - Michael Hooper

Saturday 1st April 2017

I visited Coppetts Wood and Glebelands nature reserves in London Borough of Barnet this afternoon where I saw 1 male orange tip, 1 female Brimstone, 3 Peacocks, 5 Commas and 1 white butterfly in flight, it was small so possibly a female orange tip.

Comma: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/64663114@N03/32968272213/in/dateposted-public/>

Peacock: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/64663114@N03/33781151015/in/dateposted-public/>

Miles Attenborough

1 Common Quaker at ASDA Southgate on Friday 31st March 2017. Saturday 1st April 2017 - 1 Comma near Water Garden, Trent Park at 12:01 hrs, 1 probable Orange Underwing settled briefly on ground SE edge of Rough Lot, Trent Park 12:23 hrs - birches nearby but no aspen, so unlikely to be Light Orange Underwing, 1 Peacock edge of Rough Lot, Trent Park 12:26 hrs, 2 Peacock at Parkside Farm, Enfield along Salmons Brook and 1 Small Tortoiseshell here 13:35 hrs - Robert Callf

Pinner, Middx., one Holly Blue in my garden this afternoon - Graham Elcombe

Butterflies I have seen today 01/04/2017: 2 brimstone - Ippollitts Brook, Hitchin, 1 at TL20202861, 1 at TL20272873 - David Inward

A male Holly Blue briefly visited flowers on our rockery this afternoon, Sandridge Road, St Albans - David Utting

At Tyttenhanger GP 1 peacock, 3 orange tips and at least 7 small tortoiseshells were seen in the afternoon - Andrew Steele

1 x comma in Bushey garden today - David Gower

March 2017

Friday 31st March 2017

Cooler, cloudier windier day than yesterday, but did see 10 butterflies on the Gutteridge Wood transect, equal numbers of Comma and Peacocks. One additional Comma recorded on the boardwalk to Gutteridge Wood Meadow (TQ 09 84) - Paul Busby

1 Peacock at Parkside Farm, Enfield at 14:36 hrs along Salmons Brook at TQ 298 984 - Robert Callf

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yard/Pevensy. Not so much sun today but still a good selection of butterflies with the most notable one being my first female Orange-Tip of the year, a rather small beautiful one, nectaring on red Dead-Nettle. Here are the full details: Holly Blue: 1 Orange-Tip: 2 Comma: 7 Red Admiral: 1 Peacock: 1 and Tortoiseshell: 1 - Pete Gore

Thursday 30th March 2017

Despite the sunshine, the only butterfly I saw was a Holly Blue in Kensal Green Cemetery - Don Anderson

In bright sunshine in my Hatfield garden today 1 Peacock, 1 Comma - John Moss

Small White in my Thorley Park Garden this morning - Len Crouch

I am reliably informed by my husband that a male Orange Tip visited our Ware garden today on several occasions - Liz Goodyear

Harpenden Common: 4 Brimstone; 3 Small Tortoiseshell, 1 Comma and 1 Peacock. My south Harpenden garden: 1 Brimstone; 1 Small Tortoiseshell - David Hunt

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensy. Another sunny, very warm day unsurprisingly led to more butterflies: Holly Blue: 6 Brimstone: 10 Comma: 9 Peacock: 10 Orange-Tip: 4 Small White: 1 Tortoiseshell: 1 - Pete Gore

I took the same walk around Fairlands Valley Park this afternoon as I did earlier in the month and remarkably recorded exactly the same number of butterflies - 44! However, far fewer Commas were around - only 8 in all but I saw one female trying out different young nettle leaves for possible egg-laying. This time, the Peacock and Small Tortoiseshell were stars of the show - 17 and 15 respectively. Later in the afternoon, I saw my first Small White of the year in the back garden. - Peter Clarke

Brief visit to Welsh Harp Environment Education Centre, (TQ 20 87) mid-morning, cloudy, windy but warm and saw my first female Orange Tip of the year. Then a short walk to Welsh Harp Open Space, Brent (TQ 21 87) and saw my first Holly Blue and also a Red Admiral, Comma and Small Tortoiseshell. After lunch the sun came out but still windy and walked the Lake Farm transect in Hayes and saw 6 species; Orange Tip, Brimstone, Holly Blue, Comma, Peacock and Small Tortoiseshell. On way home, briefly stopped at Polski Park off the A40 (TQ 10 84) and saw a Comma and 2 Peacocks fly into manicured lawn area from nearby scrubland and finally Bridgewater Fields, South Ruislip (TQ 10 85) and saw 8 Small Tortoiseshells, 3 Peacock, 3 Comma and a Holly Blue - Paul Busby

We repair footpaths in different parts of Hertfordshire. At Kimpton just south of Cottage Farm we saw 3 brimstones and two small tortoiseshell and later at edge of Harepark Spring Wood on blackthorn flowers, 4 peacocks, 3 small tortoiseshell, one comma with two brimstone flying by - Steve Kiln

Wednesday 29th March 2017

Cloudier and breezy today and only saw a Small Tortoiseshell, disturbed from undergrowth south of Little Britain Lake (TQ 04 80) - Paul Busby

Tuesday 28th March 2017

Yesterday, March 27th we had two Holly Blues in our Cowley, Uxbridge garden, which was followed today by our earliest record ever of a male Orange-tip - Roger and Sylvia Morton

Visited Fir & Pond Woods near Potters Bar today Tuesday 28th March 2017 and saw the following butterflies - 1 Peacock at 13:54 hrs (TL 278 005) and 1 Red Admiral at 14:15 hrs (TL 276 010) - Robert Callf

Friends of River Pinn saw at least 4 male Brimstone, a Peacock and a Comma along the River Pinn during a morning working party at Park Wood, Ickenham (TQ 06 85) - Paul Busby

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Cloudier and breezier today. I walked across the Heath in both directions with nothing better than a single unidentified dark butterfly seen. Fortunately the rest of the walk was a bit more rewarding: Orange-Tip: 2 Peacock: 5 Comma: 6 Tortoiseshell: 1 - Pete Gore

Monday 27th March 2017

Waverley Road, St Albans, front garden near Bernards Heath, 1 Brimstone (male). 1 Comma near entrance to woods. Robert Bull

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Another good sunny day. Although numbers were slightly lower it was pleasing to see at least 1 of each of the 8 species currently flying here: Red Admiral: 3 Comma: 9 Small White: 1 Peacock: 8 Tortoiseshell: 2 Orange-Tip: 1 Holly Blue: 1 Brimstone: 1 - Pete Gore

St Albans - Holly Blue in my garden at 2pm, showing great interest in the winter honeysuckle. At New England St recreation ground - my first **Speckled Wood** of the year, plus 3 Peacocks, 2 Comma and 7 Small Tortoiseshells. 6 more hibernating Tortoiseshells have left my garden shed this week. There are 17 remaining, which is about half the total number which overwintered there. - Malcolm Hull

Afternoon sunshine at the Welsh Harp Environmental Education Centre and saw 4 Peacocks and 2 Commas in a 10 minute break. (TQ 20 87). Paul Busby

Butterflies I have seen today 27/03/2017: 1 small tortoiseshell - Elmside Walk, Hitchin TL18222942. - David Inward

Some sightings for Monday 27th March 2017 at Trent Park between 13:30 - 15:00 BST - 3 Peacock, 6 Small Tortoiseshell and 3 Comma - several finding the blackthorn blossom attractive. Also a probable Small Tortoiseshell seen briefly at Parkside Farm, Enfield - Robert Callf

Sunday 26th March 2017

Single Red Admiral and Small Tortoiseshell and numbers of Brimstone, Comma and Peacock all seen today in a walk taking in Kings Meads, Post Wood, Ware, Hertford Heath, Balls Wood, Hertingfordbury and Hertford. Highlight was a pair of **Holly Blues** in the footpaths near Hertford North station. Much Orange Underwing/Light Orange Underwing moth activity in Balls Wood (see our Facebook page) and a Brimstone moth, not far from the Holly Blues - Andrew Wood

At Tyttenhangers GP 2 Small Tortoiseshells and a Peacock were seen - Andrew Steele

On the 'Celandine Walk' in Eastcote/Pinner this afternoon (MR 114 892), one Brimstone - Graham Elcombe

Some urban sightings just a stones throw away from the busy North Circular Road and A1 roads, exploring and investigating the water quality of the Mutton Brook. Bit windy, but saw a ragged Peacock in Hampstead Garden Suburb (TQ 26 88) and a Comma near Henly's Corner (TQ 24 89), not forgetting the dark butterfly that whizzed past whilst having a coffee at Lyttleton Playing Fields - Paul Busby

Butterflies I have seen today 26/03/2017: 10 small tortoiseshell, 1 comma - Walsworth Common, Hitchin TL1930. - David Inward.

Male Brimstone seen this morning (26 March) around the flowering plants at Carpenter's Nursery, Sandridge. TL163096 - David Utting

We saw Small Tortoiseshell, Red Admiral and Peacock in our South Mymms garden today - Terry

Wood

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. A second day of continuous sunshine so no surprise this was the best day for numbers of butterfly sightings so far. The highlight was my first **Holly Blue** of the year, seen at one of my favourite spots on the Pevensey loop and another later as I left the Heath to come home. I also saw the first two of a slightly less welcome category, unidentified Whites, probably Small Whites but too active for me to get close, so they can be founder members of this year's U.W.s for me. Here are the full details: Comma: 14 Brimstone: 4 Peacock: 8 Tortoiseshell: 3 Holly Blue: 2 - Pete Gore

This morning in my garden in Bengeo my first **Holly Blue** of the year seems early - Steve Kiln

A sunny if breezy ramble around my local haunt of Harpenden Common produced 3 Comma, 2 Small Tortoiseshell and 1 male Brimstone, all sheltering in a more protected and warmer spot and enjoying the spring rays The nearby St John's Wood area had a solitary male Brimstone patrolling the rides - David Hunt

Saturday 25th March 2017

Stanwell Moor, a morning stroll around my local patch today. First up was my first **Holly Blue** of 2017, which even posed nicely for a picture. The other highlight today was to see nine Small Tortoiseshells, possibly more than I saw here during all of the summer months last year. Also seen were seven Brimstones, tirelessly patrolling, plus three Peacocks and three Commas, one of which was laying on low growing nettles.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=99610&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=99612&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=99608&mode=view>

Dave Miller

I had my first butterfly sighting of the year today, a male Brimstone at the Sunshine garden centre on Durnsford Road Bounds Green (N11 2EL). This encouraged me to visit Coppetts Wood in Barnet this afternoon where I saw 6 commas and 3 peacocks. Some pictures at the following links: Comma: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/64663114@N03/33604623786/in/dateposted-public/> Peacock: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/64663114@N03/32802389014/in/dateposted-public/> Miles Attenborough

After nearly 1 week in Lister Hosp I sat in the sun in my Hatfield garden watching a Comma nectaring on Celandine flowers. Pure therapy - John Moss

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Another good butterfly day at last, one which included 2 more year firsts for me, a male **Orange-Tip** and a Red Admiral seen more or less simultaneously as I turned from a breezy empty stretch of the Heath to a more sheltered area. More Red Admirals followed later. Here's the full list: Orange-Tip: 1 Red Admiral: 3 Brimstone: 2 Peacock: 4 Tortoiseshell: 2 Comma: 6 - Pete Gore

Two brimstone butterflies seen today. AL2 - Carol Ann Irving

Some butterfly sightings for Saturday 25th March 2017 - **1 Small White** settled on blackthorn, Flash Lane, Enfield (TQ 319 988) at 10:20 hrs - my first of the year, 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Brayside Farm, Enfield (TQ 320 990) at 10:23 hrs, 3 Comma at Whitewebbs Park 10:53 - 11:17 hrs - Robert Callf

Butterflies I have seen today 25/03/2017: 1 small tortoiseshell, 2 brimstone - Walsworth Common, Hitchin TL1930, 2 brimstone - St Faiths Close, Hitchin TL198303, 1 brimstone - Pondside, Graveley TL23062779, 1 brimstone - Milksey Lane, Graveley TL230281, 1 brimstone - junction of Baldock Road/Avenue One, Letchworth TL23253260 - David Inward

Friday 24th March 2017

Had 1 small tortoiseshell sunning its self late afternoon at Frogmore gravels pits near Radlett - Andrew Steele

Stanwell Moor, I nipped out after work today locally as the sun came out and managed to see a Small Tortoiseshell, five Commas and a Red Admiral.

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=99552&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=99551&mode=view>
Dave Miller

1 Comma at Oakwood Park, N14 (TQ 299 951) at 15:20 hrs today Friday 24th March 2017 - Robert Callf

Tuesday 21st March 2017

Had my first Middlesex sighting today, south of Little Britain Lake (TQ 04 80), a Red Admiral and a Small Tortoiseshell - Paul Busby

Sunday 19th March 2017

Butterflies I have seen today 19/03/2017: 1 small tortoiseshell, 1 comma, 1 brimstone - Walsworth Common, Hitchin TL1930. - David Inward.

Saturday 18th March 2017

Butterflies I have seen today 18/03/2017: 3 small tortoiseshell (picture on irectord) - Walsworth Common, Hitchin TL1930. - David Inward

Friday 17th March 2017

St Albans - first Clothes Moth of the year - a male perched upside down on the ceiling of my sitting room. Identified and summarily dispatched at 16.10 this afternoon - Malcolm Hull

Wednesday 15th March 2017

In the westernmost reaches of Herts in my shirtsleeves in lovely sunshine. 3m from the Bucks border (near Hulcott) I saw 2 Small Tortoiseshell chasing each other. SP 8653 1646. Helen Hyre

At Ashwell Nature Reserve on the 15th 3 Brimstones and one Peacock butterfly - Andy Brown

3 Small tortoiseshells and a Brimstone in Verulamium Park late morning today - Andrew Steele

I spent ninety minutes on my local patch at Stanwell Moor this afternoon, and the warmth and sunshine had brought the butterflies out in force. The (conservative) tally at the end was: 11 Commas 6 Peacocks 4 Small Tortoiseshells 4 Brimstones 2 Red Admirals

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=99284&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/download/file.php?id=99289&mode=view>

Dave Miller

Ellenbrook Fields, (Old Hatfield Airfield) - 1 Brimstone near Home Covert; 1 Small Tortoiseshell in old BT field (although I saw several, there was only ever one at a time and it could be stalking me). - Robert Bull

Butterflies I have seen today 15/03/2017: 4 Brimstone, 1 small tortoiseshell, 1 peacock (pictures of peacock on irectord) - Mardley Heath LNR TL2418. - David Inward.

At 1.10pm...Berkhamsted workshop carpark by the canal (HP4 1EH)...while I was sunbathing (yes, really) a Brimstone flew along canal followed one minute later by a second. Both flying in Tring direction. - Chris Hilling

1 Speckled Wood, 1 Comma and several visits from Brimstone to my Stevenage garden today. Photo links attached.

Speckled Wood - <https://www.flickr.com/photos/stevelane56/32611562094/in/dateposted-public/>

Comma - <https://www.flickr.com/photos/stevelane56/33414122956/in/dateposted-public/>

Steve Lane

Harpenden Common/St John's Wood; at least three, maybe four male Brimstone and one very tatty Red Admiral - my first butterfly sightings for the year. My Harpenden garden moth trap, on the other hand, has produced in the last week: Clouded Drab, Common Quaker, Small Quaker, Hebrew Character, Pale Pinion, Early Grey, Pale Mottled Willow, March Moth, Emmelina monodactyla, Tortricodes alternella, Oak Nycteoline, Double-striped Pug, Acleris cristana and, best of all, a single Acleris literana, the latter, I believe, being somewhat scarce in Herts - David Hunt

Therfield Heath: 7 Brimstones (one female), 3+ Small Tortoiseshells, 2+ Comma, 2+ Peacock butterflies - Martin Johnson

St Albans - Small Tortoiseshells and Peacocks are really getting going in the Spring sunshine -14 degrees here today. The Tortoiseshells are most numerous, I counted 9 on a short walk round my garden and local park at lunchtime, including one courting couple. I counted the Tortoiseshells hibernating in my shed and six had left since last Sunday, though 21 are still fast asleep. One had become trapped in cobwebs behind a fixed window and appeared dead. But once I'd carefully removed the cobweb it shot off, flying three times round the garden at high speed before sunbathing on the fence. Judging by the numbers of Tortoiseshells which hibernated through the winter, 2017 promises to be a very good year for this species. But don't expect numbers on the wing to increase rapidly. Tortoiseshells now vary their flight times enormously and based on recent years experience it's likely to be another two months before they have all left hibernation. A very different story for Peacocks. Just two seen on the wing today and the only one hibernating in the shed vanished during the winter. My expectation is that this species will have a poor year locally. One Red Admiral also seen today, but the Commas and Brimstones from last week were not seen at all - Malcolm Hull

Today I've seen 3 large Brimstones in Fryent Country Park north west London - Joan Hope

Brimstone and first Peacock of the year in the Harpenden garden today - Robin Pearson

Bovingdon Brickworks (15/03/2016, 2:30pm): 2 Small Tortoiseshell and 2 Comma - Lucy Flower

A 2-hour walk in Fairlands Valley Park this afternoon yielded 44 butterflies (22 Comma, 9 Small Tortoiseshell, 8 Brimstone, 4 Peacock and 1 Red Admiral). Quite a few Commas have paired up already so will there be a larger proportion of hutchinsoni specimens than usual come June? Very pleased to find the Red Admiral which I disturbed and was possibly feeding on blackthorn blossom. Only 4 Peacocks? - Peter Clarke

Today at Hexton or just south 12 brimstone and 4 comma. In Broxbourne Woods 6 commas, and 1 peacock, small tortoiseshell and brimstone - Steve Kiln

We saw 2 brimstone and 1 small tortoiseshell at Lemsford Springs today - Jenny Sherwen

A few sightings for this afternoon Wednesday 15th March 2017 - 1 male Brimstone settled edge of Triangular Wood, Trent Park 14:02 hrs, 1 Small Tortoiseshell settled near Cockfosters entrance, Trent Park 14:24 hrs, 3 Comma edge of Church Wood, Trent Park - Robert Callf.

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Continuous sunshine on today's walk and rather too many unidentified butterflies although all likely to be from the three darker species seen: Brimstone: 5 (includes first 2 females) Comma: 6 Tortoiseshell: 1 Peacock: 3 Willow, Celandines, Cowslips and, I think, at least one Elm, all flowering well - Pete Gore

Tuesday 14th March 2017

1 Red Admiral by lower lake and upper lake, Trent Park 12:53 hrs onwards - Robert Callf

Butterflies I have seen today 14/03/2017: 3 Brimstone - SE corner, Great Hayes Wood, Putteridgebury TL114247. - David Inward

Today, 14th March in very hazy sun, a Small Tortoiseshell in Ware Cemetery and 3 near Lower Bourne Gardens, Ware. 1 Orange Underwing moth in Ware Park. - Andrew Wood

Monday 13th March 2017

I saw 2 Small Tortoiseshells at Tyttenhanger gravel pits Monday morning - Terry Wood

My first butterflies of the year (latest ever) in Hertford today, a male Brimstone in Byde street, a Peacock in Wellington Street and a Small Tortoiseshell in Molewood Road. - Laurence Drummond

On a warm day with plenty of hazy sunshine, I saw three Commas and a male Brimstone on a walk around my local patch at Stanwell Moor on 11th March. One Comma obliged with a photo. <http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB//download/file.php?id=99120&sid=90ff7abfb4d3560f56c3e4736a10ad&mode=view>

Dave Miller

3 Brimstones, 1 Comma and 1 Small Tortoiseshell near Reed and 1 Comma. 9 Small Tortoiseshells (including several pairs, *see our Facebook page*), a Comma and a Brimstone around the Rifle Range area of Therfield Heath. - Andrew Wood

Comma butterfly in my Northwood garden - Carole Holton

Butterfly I have seen today: 1 Brimstone butterfly, seen three times so may be more than 1 - St Faiths Close, Hitchin - David Inward.

Sightings from Michael Hooper: 13th March Stevenage Road, St Ippolyts. Sightings from Mary Hooper: Garden in St Ippolyts. Comma 1 Brimstone 1 - Michael Hooper

1 Comma and 1 Small Tortoiseshell, Brent Reservoir - Shailesh Patel

Kings Meads : 2 Small Tortoiseshell Hartham : 2 Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock and Comma on sallow Bengoe: Comma - Simon Knott

Some sightings for Monday 13th March 2017 - 1 Double-striped Pug at bus-shelter at Chase Road, N14 near Charter Way - my first of the year. 8 Comma at Whitewebbs Park between 12:48 - 13:45 hrs, 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Whitewebbs Park at 12:54 hrs, 1 Small Tortoiseshell at Whitewebbs Farm (TL 320 004) at 14:03 hrs, 1 Comma near Archery Wood at Forty Hall CP (TQ 333 992) at 14:45 hrs - Robert Callf

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Sunshine throughout, so very good for butterflies if a little lacking in variety: Comma: 11 Tortoiseshell: 2 and one presumed Orange Underwing moth. - Pete Gore

Withey Beds LNR, Moor Lane, Rickmansworth TQ078939, 1 Red Admiral, 2 Small Tortoiseshell, chasing and. 1 male Brimstone. TQ078938, 1 Peacock and 1 Comma - Anna Marett and Joan Thompson

Fir and Pond Woods NR...Monday 13th...PM.. Peacocks, 4; Commas, 3; Brimstone 1 - David Gompertz

Ruislip Woods (Park Wood:) Three Commas this afternoon (each in different areas); and also one Peacock - Graham Elcombe

Spring must be here. In my Hatfield garden today, 1 bright Brimstone, 1 tatty Comma, 2 feisty Small Tortoiseshell, 1 possible Peacock, all first this year - John Moss

Waterford Heath south, brimstone and peacock on the bank, 2 commas and 1 small tortoiseshell near settling beds, in Great Molewood 5 brimstone and 2 commas - Steve Kiln

A male Brimstone was flitting round my (Harpenden) garden this morning - Robin Pearson

A few days late letting you know but there was a single Brimstone Butterfly opposite my house in the hedge around Dell Field St Ippolyts last Wednesday 8th March. Isn't it great, spring bulbs pushing through, frogs leaping about in our ponds, great tits calling constantly, blue tits sparing and our first butterflies. - Michael Hooper

Saturday 11th March 2017

Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. Warmer but with much less sunshine than Thursday so only: Brimstone: 2 Comma: 2 - Pete Gore

One Male Brimstone butterfly seen on Sat 11 March at Queensbury Park, Harrow - Shailesh Patel

Two more butterflies today Saturday 11th March 2017 - 1 Comma basking in clearing in Moat Wood, Trent Park (TQ 286 980) at 12:38 - 12:41 hrs, 1 Small Tortoiseshell nectaring on Sallow at Park Farm, Enfield (TQ 292 983) at 13:15 hrs - Robert Callf.

Thursday 9th March 2017

First brimstone butterfly of the year for me seen flying along hedgerow in Little Hadham 2pm in 14C temp. TL432219. - Jono Forgham

A lunchtime walk in Letchworth today produced 15+ Brimstone, 2 Small Tortoiseshells and this **Comma** - Simon Crockford (*picture on FB page*)

First **Comma** and male Brimstone today in Bengoe - Simon Knott

First butterfly of the year for me - a male Brimstone seen this morning in my Pinner garden. Another (or possibly the same one on a return visit?) seen this afternoon which followed an identical route around the garden as this morning's one - Tony Porter

Two **Commas** in my Harpenden garden this morning, will send any more news later. Now a male Brimstone.. Robin Pearson

My first butterflies of the year: **3 Comma** and 3 Brimstone (all males) in Fairlands Valley Park just before midday, and a Peacock and Comma at Norton Green in the afternoon. In between, a male Brimstone in my back garden at around 1230 pm. Peter Clarke

Thursday 9th March 2017 Hounslow Heath/River Crane/Marshalling Yards/Pevensey. After a good many walks in apparently favourable sunny weather without any butterflies it was particularly pleasing to get off to a good start today with 5 species firsts although even then I'd reached the Marshalling Yards before I was greeted by my first of the year at the Tunnel entrance, a male Brimstone. Here is the summary: Brimstone: 3 Comma: **2 Small White**: 1 Peacock: 1 Tortoiseshell: 1. There were also 3 smaller brightly orange sightings, the first doing a believable imitation of a Small Copper, rising from the short grass in front of me and flying strongly over an Oak tree. The next two were much less convincing in that role however, circling around the top of a group of Silver Birches: **Orange Underwing moths** all three, I presume although I got no close up view of any of them. - Pete Gore

Today's warm sun brought a Brimstone to my Harpenden garden this morning - it was quickly followed by four more. First garden butterflies of the year - Alan Jackson

We saw 1 small tortoiseshell and **4+ commas** while working at Danemead today - Jenny Sherwen

My first butterfly sighting of the year today - 1 Red Admiral at Shaws Wood, Trent Park (TQ296971) at 12:53 - 12:55 hrs - Robert Callf.

St Albans - **Comma** in my garden at 9.30 am, my first butterfly of the year. Male Brimstone mid morning, hurtling down the road. Red Admiral and Comma sunbathing in my garden at lunchtime. And a 10 minute stroll round the local park produced 3 more Commas and 2 Small Tortoiseshells. What a great start to the butterfly season, I hope the rest of the year goes as well - Malcolm Hull

One Small Tortoiseshell near Newgate Street and one Peacock near Brickendon today - Andrew Wood

Tuesday 7th March 2017

I saw a Small Tortoiseshell on Hertford Heath today enjoying the sunshine - Andy Brown

Saturday 4th March 2017

Just had my first butterfly of the year at Cranford Park. Red Admiral. Temp approx 10. - Wendy Marks

1 Red Admiral at Bickerdikes Garden Centre, Norton Road, Letchworth SG6 1AG outside cafe at 11.45 - Patricia Clegg

February 2017

Sunday 26th February 2017

Butterfly and moth I have seen today 26/02/2017,: 1 **Peacock** butterfly - Ransoms Recreation

Ground, Hitchin TL19103007 and 1 unidentified adult moth - St Faiths Close, Hitchin. - David Inward.

Friday 24th February 2017

I saw 1 brimstone at Aldbury Nowers today - Jenny Sherwen

Two Brimstone out aback of Oakfield Avenue, Hitchin day before yesterday - Nigel Agar

1 Red Admiral on The Warren at Hartham Common Hertford as early as 9am, my first Herts butterfly of the year - Andrew Wood

Late news: On **2nd January** and 7th February 2017 I saw one red admiral in our garden Feltham. The weather on 2 January was sunny with a cold wind and on 7th February was mild with sun and cloud. - Linda Chester

Tuesday 21st February 2017

Male Brimstone on the wing Hemel Hempstead this morning - David Hutchinson

Monday 20th February 2017

I thought you might be interested in the following observation from this morning, Monday 20th February: 4 male Brimstone butterflies plus one probable female at the Purwell Ninesprings reserve in Hitchin - Alan Garner

10.20 - 2 Brimstone seen on trees behind Roy Chapman garage, Tring High Street - Chris Hilling

Brimstone spotted in Chiswell Green Garden at midday today - Nigel Floyd

3 Male Brimstone seen in Letchworth Town Centre approx 11.00 - 11.30. One at Mrs Howard Memorial Hall Norton Way South SG6 1NX; another in grounds of Free Church directly opposite and the third outside Council Offices in Gernon Rd SG6 3JF - Patricia Clegg

Butterflies I have seen today 20/02/2017, my first of the year, on warm spring-like morning: 1 male Brimstone and 1 unidentified blackish butterfly - St Faiths Close, Hitchin - David Inward

On my travels this morning, I saw 2 brimstones and 1 red admiral in Lemsford village then 1 brimstone near Blackmore End and another 1 in Kimpton! - Jenny Sherwen

A mild day or two to tempt me out of hibernation and set the moth trap up in my Harpenden garden. Quite a good start to the year last night (19th Feb) with a March Moth, Pale Brindled Beauty and 2 Acleris cristana. Spring is sprung! - David Hunt

1100 First Brimstone seen flying strongly Berkhamsted Common /Frithsden Beeches - Mike Spittles

Brimstone and **Small Tortoiseshell** in the Hitchin garden this morning - Martin Banthorpe

Male Brimstone in the Harpenden garden just now (11:49). And now a Red Admiral (12:03), my first two butterflies of the year! - Robin Pearson

1 Brimstone here in Berkhamsted this morning - Michael Anderson

Friday 17th February 2017

Stanwell Moor: The weather was fine and sunny - probably warmer than yesterday in fact. I was lucky enough to have a day off work and decided to look around my local patch to see if an old adage was right: one fine day to wake them up and a second fine day to make them fly. It certainly seemed to be true and my season was quickly off to a cracking start with a nice **Red Admiral** basking on the brambles. Shortly afterwards I spotted a **Comma** low down on some ivy - unusual for me to see a Comma before any Peacocks. Further on again, two more butterflies: another Red Admiral on some metal piping, and behind it a **female Brimstone** fluttering around. The latter came to ground a little way off, just within the range of the zoom. Unusual again to see a female before a male, especially so early in the year. I carried on to the area I have dubbed Comma Corner, and appropriately at the apex of the eponymous spot sat another Comma. It

didn't stay long as it soon set off after another of the species and I lost track of them both. Six butterflies: three species. The season doesn't start better than this!

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB//download/file.php?id=98469&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB//download/file.php?id=98466&mode=view>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB//download/file.php?id=98465&mode=view>

Dave Miller

A **Red Admiral** flying through a garden in Northchurch near Berkhamsted, grid ref SP 978 091 (tetrad SP90 U) at 15:44 hours - Colin Everett

1 **Brimstone** seen flying strongly this morning at Alpine Meadow (SP 989103) near Berkhamsted - Michael Anderson

Thursday 16th February 2017

Enfield Island Village: **Red Admiral** at 11:12 basking in brief bit of sunshine on house front just off Martini Drive - Martin Shepherd

Tuesday 14th February 2017

Red Admiral today in Panshanger Park by Panshanger Oak - Simon Knott

Monday 13th February 2017

Two butterflies in Tring today. One unknown species of Nymphalid flew across the road near Tesco and the second was settled in my garden (the other side of Tring) and that was very definitely a **Small Tortoiseshell** - Nick Bowles

I failed to catch it on camera, but a **Red Admiral** fluttered against a sunny window in Kings Langley around noon on Monday - Elizabeth Debenham

Wednesday 8th February 2017

1 male Pale Brindled Beauty at ASDA Southgate on Tuesday 7th February 2017 - the first for this site and me - Robert Callf

Tuesday 7th February 2017

Red Admiral seen flying in my Freezywater, Enfield garden - Brian Dawton.

Sunday 5th February 2017

St Albans - checked out the Small Tortoiseshells hibernating in my shed. Total number visible is now 26 compared to 31 at the end of November. Quite a bit of movement over the last 2 months, with most of those relocating just a short distance to darker positions. The one exception is now outside the shed in the porch, where it is quite light, but never in direct sun. No signs of any dead butterflies and it may be the 5 which I can no longer see have just moved to darker spots where I can't record them - Malcolm Hull

January 2017

Tuesday 24th January 2017

I spotted a **Red Admiral** basking in the sunshine in the centre of Balls Wood on 24th Jan. Probably disturbed by the works going on near the rides - Andy Brown HMWT

Spotted a **Red Admiral** in the garden today, in Tring. Just as the Small Tortoiseshell had two weeks back it settled on the windowsill; and then flew to a flowering viburnum - Nick Bowles (*Picture on FB Page*)

Saturday 21st January 2017

Anna Hull reports a **Red Admiral** from Grosvenor Square W1. Another example of this species seeking refuge from cold weather in the London heat island.- Malcolm Hull

Sunday 15th January 2017

An unusual sighting today 15 January 2017 was a **Red Admiral** flying at terminal 3 London Heathrow Airport at 1415 hrs in the rain. I am unsure if it came from an aircraft or was disturbed from its roost - Andrew Bashford

Monday 9th January 2017

St Albans - surprised to find a Small Tortoiseshell fast asleep and clinging to the outside of my back door this morning. For some reason it must have decided to abandon its more secure hibernation position in the nearby shed - Malcolm Hull

Thursday 5th January 2017

Watching lunchtime news (05.01.17) and a **Small Tortoiseshell** flew across in front of window, looped about and settled on the window sill for ten minutes then flew off on its (chilly) way. Frost hasn't lifted here all day, in areas in shade in Tring - Nick Bowles